

CROCHETER'S LIFE LISTS

This is an expanded version of [issue #97](#) of my *Crochet Inspirations Newsletter*. I've formatted the life list items into check lists, with room for you to write in your own. As explained in the newsletter, these are especially valuable experiences to have. See the list at the end of even more ideas that I didn't have room for in the newsletter.

Underlined words are links to more details or examples. [Pro:] indicates a meaningful experience as a professional crocheter.

"Day-Dreamy" Wish List

Think big! For example two of mine are: To see one of my crochet designs used in a movie or TV series. To experience crocheting with solid 24k gold wire.

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Experiences with Project Types

- [Convertible](#) & 'origami' garments to wear many ways.
- A [true möbius](#). (a.k.a. Infinity scarf)
- Make [jewelry](#) (also fancy cords, snowflakes).
- Structured items requiring hardware, such as fancy handbags. Sculptures: stiffened, wired, padded, stuffed, and/or super tight crochet stitches.
- Crochet a secret code (birthdate, etc.) into something.



Simple structured base of the [Big Hook Bucket](#).

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Experiences with Occasions

- Attend and volunteer at a [national](#) and a regional crochet conference.
- Take classes with prominent crochet teachers.
- Teach children and other beginners how to crochet. Crochet for school plays or [fundraisers](#).
- [Pro:] Crochet festival booth, designing for magazines, [production crochet](#), teaching locally & [nationally](#).



Participate in a CAL (crochet along).

- Join or start a [local crochet group](#).
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Life List of Construction Types

- Cut "self-healing" stitches to add armholes or a head opening, or for decorative effects.
- Use foundation stitches (all-purpose; star) and other alternatives to foundation chains (example: issue #89).
- Explore short rows, especially decoratively. Example: Slip Slope Scarf free pattern.
- C2C, P2P, S2S: Crocheting corner to corner, point to point (of a shawl), and side to side (shrug, capelet, etc.).
- Make a familiar item an unfamiliar way (move the foundation row; so many fun ways to end up with a hat!). Other fndtns: Covered rings, punched card/leather/fabric, clothesline crochet (padding cord), onto braid.
- Use ribbing to shape a garment: start with it, or crochet it on later.
- Try join-as-you-go strips, panels, and motifs.
- [Pro:] Having a mannequin to design with.
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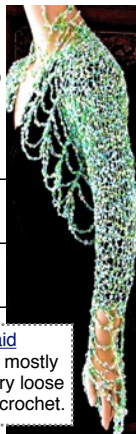
Learn blocking and stiffening effects: esp. on lace, loose gauges, and steam on acrylic yarn ("killing").



Crochet built-in finished edges as part of each row. So freeing! Examples.

Tools, Gauge, Patterns

- Learn to use stitch symbols, then follow the diagrams of a crochet pattern in Japanese.
- Figure out how crochet hook sizes really work. (I blogged my "five keys" to understanding this.)
- Try a crochet project in every weight of yarn and thread. (Try love knots with the finest threads of all!)
- Explore super tight and super loose stitching gauges.
- Try using 19th century crochet patterns!
- Crochet with a traditional flat Bosnian slip hook.



Mermaid Shrug: mostly just very loose single crochet.

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Fiber, Yarn, Color

- Experience crocheting every kind of fiber.
- Try different kinds of intentional pooling with variegated yarns.
- Crochet with pure silver wire.
- Discover twist energy: **s-** vs. **z-twisted** plies for crochet.
- Look for uncommon yarns like Jelly Yarn®, spaghetti, fishing line, cassette tape.
- Try yarns from every breed of sheep you can find.
- [Pro:] Work with a mill.



Crochet with different yarns held together.



Crochet an item in solid black yarn or thread.

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Experiences: Techniques, Stitches

- Tunisian:** [lacy filet](#), [double-ended](#), [extended](#), [linked](#), entrelac, cross-stitched, etc.
- [Slip stitch crochet](#).
- [Inverted/inverse stitches](#).
- [Invisible shaping method](#).
- [Bead crochet](#).
- [Different star stitches](#), especially *lacy*.
- [Fulling](#) (felting by hand), and needle felting.
- Intermeshing/interlocking**, and what I've called double-faced "[stitch merging](#)".
- Alternate stitch placements: [third-loop sc \("camel"\)](#) & [hdc](#); stem entry, crossed, spiked, shallow, stem entry, deep vs shallow, crossed, backtrack, reverse sc, etc.
- Polish Star and other woven chain-loops. Also finger-seaming.
- [Pulled loops](#): Love knots (especially beaded), hairpin lace, broomstick lace, loop stitch, etc.
- Alternative yo's (limpets and [half hitches](#)), [yarn unders](#); 'excess yarn overs' (for example bullion stitches and slipped hdc).
- [Clones Knots](#) and other types of [fancy clusters](#).
- [Pro:] [Re-tinkering stitch patterns](#) and [inventing new ones](#).
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knooking (provisional return passes)

More List Ideas

Ideas from my own life list are boxed in red.

More FIBER, YARN, COLOR

On my own list to experience:

- Qiviut fiber
- hand dyeing, various methods
- Make my own beads and pendants (with resin, dichroic glass, etc.)
- Fading (changing to a different color gradually by alternating them over several rows)

More CONSTRUCTION METHODS

- Internal shaping: mitered, darts etc.
- On the bias, offset, and diagonal rows.
- Flat in straight rows vs 3D tube/spiral rounds
- Asymmetrical shapes, and fractal-like shaping.
- Hyperbolic
- "fully fashioned" shaping
- Multidirectional, interrupted row
- Modular
- Eclectic: Mixed techn with mixed materials: weaving, braiding, knotting
- Finger seamed, finger crocheted
- Yoke first/top down
- Freeform additive piecework and scrumbles

On my own list to experience:

- Art of seams—creative and decorative
- Ingenious math formula uses
- Fractal-like shaping

More PROJECT TYPES

- Trendy fashion styles, for example, grunge style, steampunk, hippie/boho.
- Insertions, edgings
- Toys, amigurumi
- By age, recipient, by style, by season/event: men, office, baby, bridal, beach

On my own list to experience:

- Micro: dollhouse miniatures
- Macro: public installations
- Layered brooches
- Crescent shawl
- Edge a fleece blanket
- Lingerie
- Millinery

More OCCASIONS

- Yarn bombing
- Historical and fanfic re-enactments
- Contests and county fairs
- Style 'Tribes': distressed/street, steampunk, trousseau, Tudor, Indian subcontinent, goth, faerie
- [Pro:] Write a book, have a yarn line, contract crochet, peak efficiency.

On my own list to experience:

- Yarn bombing
- Crocheting for historical re-enactments
- County fair entries
- Work with art teachers and professors to teach crochet

More TECHNIQUES, STITCHES

- Mixed techniques and/or mixed materials: woven, braided, knotted; layered, embellished, smocked, needle felted, gilded/foiled.
- Surface crochet: tambour, 'wiggly crochet'.
- Varied row height as a shaping technique.
- Post sts, post st cables, 'embossed' stitches.
- Pineapples
- Nets, meshes: diamond, hexa, quinta, delta types.
- Scrap crochet
- Colorwork techniques: tapestry, intarsia, Fair Isle, mosaic, overlay, PULAD, argyles and gingham.
- Entrelac whether with single crochet or Tunisian crochet.

On my own list to experience:

- Cro-tatting
- Celtic knots and cables
- Colorwork techniques: intarsia, graphed block stitch, overlay
- Bruges lace
- Use thrums
- Tunisian in the round
- Romanian point lace