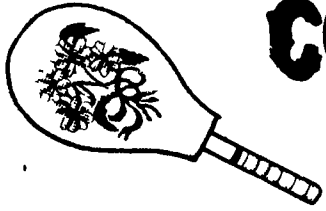


CRAFT CORNER



How to substitute yarns

If you like a pattern, but not the yarn indicated in the instructions, it's possible to substitute another yarn.

For one reason or another, most knitters make substitutions from time to time. Either the yarn shown is impossible to find, unavailable in your favorite color or so high-priced that you wouldn't have enough money left to buy groceries for the month.

Rather than switch to another pattern, you can just switch yarns. Many yarns often work with the same sweater pattern.

The sweater shown, for example, is made of "Cassino" 100 percent cotton yarn from Bernat. Another choice for the sweater however, is "Sweetie," a brand-new yarn of acrylic, mohair and wool.

To order the sweater kit in your choice of yarn, further details follow this column. Further details about making substitutions follow below.

Success in switching yarns depends mainly upon two factors: The stitch gauge and suitability of the new yarn to the garment.

To determine suitability, you must visualize the new yarn in the finished sweater. The look and drape should be consistent with the style and stitch of the pattern. Rough tweeds and brushed yarns, for example, do not work well in sweaters with precisely detailed stitch patterns.

The stitch gauge, an even more significant consideration, refers to the number of stitches per inch across your work. When yarns work to the same gauge, even

though different size needles are used, they are called interchangeable.

Even if you use the yarn indicated in a pattern, checking the stitch gauge is extremely important. Because measurements in a pattern are planned according to the gauge indicated, if your stitch gauge is off, even by a small amount, your finished sweater will not fit properly.

The row gauge, also indicated for many patterns, specifies the number of rows per inch, up and down your work. It is less important than the stitch gauge, because you work to reach a given measurement, no matter how many rows it takes.

The row gauge is important when you are increasing or decreasing over a specific measurement to shape a garment. Unless you're working under these conditions, however, you can generally ignore slight differences

in the two gauge.

Whether or not you're substituting yarns, the only way to check gauge is to knit a sample of your work. You must use the same yarn and needles for your sample that you plan to use in your sweater.

If, after knitting the swatch, your gauge is off, you can try another size needle. As long as your stitch gauge is correct, the needle size doesn't matter.

The time to learn whether or not you can knit the new yarn to gauge is before you begin the sweater. If you know from your swatch that the gauge is correct and your pattern pretty with the new yarn, you'll know your substitution is likely to be a success.

Here are directions for knitting a sample swatch:

DIRECTIONS: 1. Cast on 20 stitches, using the yarn and needles that will be used for the body of the work. 2. Work in the pattern stitch specified for 3 inches. 3. Bind off and measure your results. 4. Adjust if necessary.

ADJUSTMENTS: If you have more stitches per inch than the directions indicate, try a larger needle. If you have few stitches per inch than directions indicate, try a smaller needle. In other words, use whatever size needle is necessary for the correct stitch gauge.

THE SWEATER KITS, complete with Bernat yarns and instructions are available in white, pale yellow, peach, misty blue, pale pink, pearl gray, marsh purple (amethyst), stormy teal (turquoise) or ruby claret.

KIT S929-273 in "Sweetie" Acrylic/ Mohair/Wool blend: small (8-10) \$10, medium (12-14) \$13 or large (16-18) \$13.

KIT C929-273 in "Cassino" 100 percent cotton yarn: small (8-10)

\$26, Medium (12-14) \$35 or large (16-18) \$35.

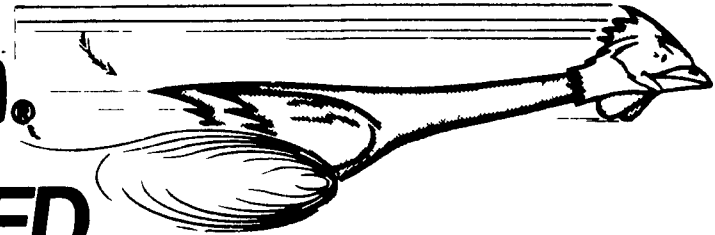
To order, send kit price, plus \$2.50 postage and handling, to Ellen Appel Crafts, your

newspaper's name, Box 1144, Laguna Beach, CA 92652. Specify kit number, size and color. California residents, please add 6 percent sales tax.



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