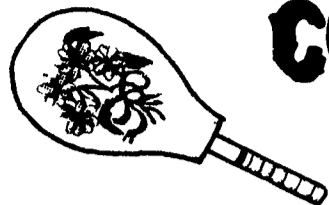


CRAFT CORNER



Crochet a cotton vest

According to statistics, there's a new resurgence in knitting and crochet.

A recent survey by the National Needlework Association says that there's someone who knits or crochets in one-third of all U.S. households. The survey also says that by and large, knitters knit sweaters and crocheters crochet afghans.

There's no reason, however, why you can't knit an afghan or crochet a sweater. The vest shown here, for example, is crocheted of "Cassino" 100 percent cotton yarn by Bernat.

Crochet is as relaxing and en-

joyable for a sweater as for an afghan. In a sweater, the crochet texture is fashionable as well as distinctive.

If you wish to crochet the sweater shown, information for ordering a kit follows this column. To learn more about crocheting sweaters, just read on.

Whether you make an afghan, doily or sweater, crochet stitches are fun and easy to do. Since it rarely matters if afghans or doilies vary in size, however, crocheters often plunge right into the pattern without checking the stitch gauge.

With wearables, on the other hand, the stitch gauge is the most

important part of the directions. Unless your gauge is accurate, your finished sweater may not fit you.

All the sizing in a sweater pattern is planned according to the gauge indicated in the directions. Checking the gauge takes time, but it's absolutely necessary.

If you've forgotten how to check the gauge, use the following instructions for your next pattern:

STITCH GAUGE: 1. Chain 20 stitches, using the yarn and hook specified. 2. Work in the specified pattern for 4 inches. 3. Bind off. 4. Steam swatch. 5. Using a ruler as a guide, count the number of stitches to the inch.

ADJUSTING: 1. If you have more stitches to the inch than specified, try a larger hook and again check your gauge. 2. If you have fewer stitches to the inch than specified, try a smaller hook and again check your gauge. 3. Change hooks as needed to reach the proper stitch gauge. The hook size doesn't matter as long as your stitch gauge is correct.

THE SWEATER KIT C1026-504, with "Cassino" cotton yarn, buttons and instructions, is available in peach, misty blue, pearl gray, pale yellow, pale pink, marsh purple (amethyst), stormy teal (turquoise), ruby claret, or white.

Small (8-10) \$35; medium (12-14) \$39.50; or large (16-18) \$44.



To order, send kit price in U.S. dollars, plus \$2.50 postage and handling, to Ellen Appel Crafts, your newspaper's name, Box 1144, Laguna Beach, CA 92652. California residents, please add 6 percent sales tax.

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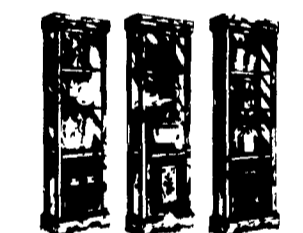
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