
Crochet Edge Scarf with Anna Maria Horner

Chapter 1 - Overview

Overview

(happy jingle) - Today we're gonna be making this charming Duval scarf and it's edged with a really beautiful little crocheted detail. To arrive at the crocheted detail though, first we're gonna learn a very basic embroidery stitch called the blanket stitch and guess what, absolutely no sewing machine for this so you can find a comfortable spot, your favorite fabric, needle, thread, and some scissors and we'll get to work. (happy jingle)

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

- For the crochet-edged scarf, we're gonna start by cutting out a piece of cotton voile. Cotton voile is just a lightweight material. I chose to use this solid because it's two-sided so you don't have to have a double-layer scarf and it's beautiful from either side. There are also several cotton voile prints, or lighter weight cotton lawn prints that look pretty much the same from the right side of the fabric as they do for the wrong side. So, that's a perfect opportunity to use that fabric for this project. I cut my scarf 84 inches long by 15 inches wide but maybe you already have a specific size scarf that you like. So, you'll just want to duplicate that measurement for your scarf. We're going to be edge stitching with a blanket stitch, using this pearl cotton. Pearl cotton is this beautiful two-ply twisted yarn, very, very, tiny yarn that is luminous. I really enjoy using it compared to embroidery floss because there are no strands to separate. You can use it right off the spool. To do the embroidery, all we're gonna need is a simple embroidery needle and, of course, any time you do embroidery, you're gonna want to have some little thread snips near by. To complete the project, we're gonna be doing crochet. This crochet project is gonna take a really tiny crochet hook. This is a B 2.25 millimeter, if you have something that's this size or even a little smaller, that's gonna help you out. Also, don't forget, we're gonna need an iron to steam press our edges and just your favorite cutting tools for cutting out your scarf.

Chapter 3 - Prep Scarf

Cut fabric length

- I'm beginning my cutting by having 2 1/2 yards of this 54 inch wide cotton voile fabric. The first thing that I do with any project is, I cut the selvages off my fabric. Now, if you are choosing to prewash the fabric, you should do that before you do any of these steps. It's not a necessity, but we all have our own way of starting projects. So what I'm gonna do first is cut these selvages off. And because I'm using this nice, thin fabric, I've got all my selvages stacked up over here. So I can use this clear quilting ruler, get a nice straight edge. And with one slice with a nice sharp blade cut through all these layers at once. Toss that scrap aside. Save it for some gift wrap. We have these really clean edges now. Ready to get cut into our scarf. I started with 2 1/2 yards. The final length of my scarf is 84 inches. So that's a few inches shy of 2 1/2 yards. But I'm gonna unfold my full fabric length now. And open it up to just a single layer. You know, it's not a big deal if you don't have the full length of yardage that you want for your scarf. It's kind of luxurious to be able to have your scarf from all one length of fabric, so that you don't have to have a seam in it, but if you just have a yard of fabric, it's absolutely no big deal to just cut crosswise the width of your scarf and put a seam

down the middle. So, to cut mine, I'm going to kinda fold it back up again. So I can just make one nice cut to get the length instead of having to hold the straight edge all along this continuous yardage. So I'm gonna fold it once. The most important thing here is to get your fresh-cut edges in line with one another. We're gonna do it again. I'm not gonna worry about my length yet. I'll get that next, after I've got a smaller piece of fabric to deal with. Now, the width of our scarf is a finished 15 inches. But we want to add an inch to that measurement, 'cause we're taking away a half inch on each side with our hem. So we're gonna cut 16 inches. So to do that, I'm gonna use my straightedge. And see, I folded the fabric down so that my straightedge can encompass this whole thing. I've got these pretty cool markings on my cutting mat here. And so I can see fifteens up here, sixteens there. So let me straighten out my fabric all the way up there. Slide this up to the 16 mark, and I've got it straight across here. So we're ready to cut. All right. We're gonna save all this wonderfulness for some other project. Or maybe this scarf again for one of your friends. Who's jealous by the time you're wearing yours. So now we have our 16 inch wide scarf, and I'm gonna cut the length. So again, I've got these awesome markings on my table. But it's no big deal if you don't, just use a straightedge, measure out 85 inches, not 84. Because again, we're adding an inch to accommodate our turned-in seam allowances. And we are going to cut at the 85 inch mark, which is right here. I'm just gonna grab my ruler. And I want a nice clean edge. So I'm gonna use this quilt ruler. I cannot say enough how much I love having these clear rulers around. It doesn't just give a straight edge, but it keeps your fabric in place. All right. So now, we have a piece of fabric that is gonna become a gorgeous scarf, so it's time to start pressing and then sewing.

Press edges

- To prepare the edge of the scarf to be hemmed with your embroidery stitch, we're first gonna be ironing the edge. What you'll want to do is turn the edge of your scarf in by about a quarter inch. I like to finger press it a little bit to get it ready for the iron. And you just press and continue around. What we're ultimately gonna do is turn this in twice all the way around the edge of the scarf. So, we're gonna turn it in again so that we've completely encased our raw edges and pressed again. What I like to do is actually turn it in a quarter inch all the way around once first before I go back and do it a second time. The reason that I don't like to go twice on one edge is 'cause then it's a little bit harder to turn it again twice on the other edge. So, I like to do it just one single time all the way around and then you're sort of alternating your folds at each corner. So, now I'm turning the second edge and pressing. And not burning myself. You can see, you can get a nice, neat corner. It's totally fine if you want to go ahead and poke a few pins here and there just to keep it in place. I do like to pin the corners. Once you have everything pressed and pinned as you may, it's time to move on to the hemming and the embroidery step which is all together in one.

Chapter 4 - Add Edging

Blanket stitch hem

- The blanket stitch that we're gonna be performing on the edge of this scarf actually acts to hem the scarf at the same time that you're performing this pretty edge stitch. And to begin embroidery stitch, this one or any of them, the ideal length of thread is gonna be roughly 18 inches, which for most of us, is from fingertips to elbow. The reason you don't want to cut it too long is because the act of pulling the thread through the fabric can actually wear on the thread just a bit. You want to keep your threads relatively short, so that they don't get too worn out by the time that they are finished. We're just using a single strand, so you can just knot one end. And we're gonna hide our

knot. You can begin the stitch literally anywhere along the length of the scarf. I'm just gonna start here. We're gonna start by nestling our needle between, you can't see it from the other side, and come out right at that crease. So we've already hidden the knotted end. The blanket stitch is kind of two parts. You're going to enter the needle in and then pass the needle above the slack, so that when you pull through, your thread catches the slack and it creates this L shape. So you see how I've entered the needle just short of that folded edge, so that I'm hemming? And then it looks the same from both sides. So, it's made a hem stitch and also, this pretty edge stitch that's gonna follow along. So because I want to catch the thread, I always kind of throw the slack over my left hand as I stitch, so it's already in position to be caught. And it's not a bad idea at all, if you'd like to go ahead and practice this stitch, on some scrap fabric before you get started on your scarf. While perfection isn't really what we're after here, we want to keep an eye out for keeping your stitches an even length and an even distance apart because that distance between the stems of your stitches is gonna determine how many crochet stitches we place between them. And we want to be able to put the same number, so that that scallop stays consistent all the way around your scarf. Don't worry if they feel like they're getting tight. While you still have that needle threaded, you can basically just kind of massage the fabric and the thread to get it in position and keep it smooth as you go. We're getting near the end of our thread and it's time to make a knot. To do that, it's pretty much as simple as we began the stitch. Do you remember how we came out the crease? We're gonna go back into the crease, and come out so that tension is gonna pull that stem back and put it where it needs to be. And then I sort of open up. Create a knot and you can hold the knot down where you want it against the base of the slack, by just keeping your thumb on top of it. And then it's time to snap. Keep it short, keep it well away from your fabric. And we've made our first run of blanket stitch. Okay, so we're gonna re-thread the next needle. I've already got my knot ready to go. And just like we began the first stitch. We're gonna slip the needle through, come out the crease, but we're gonna come out just to the right of that corner. So, it's as though we never ended to begin with. We're gonna continue. As you approach a corner, you want to kind of start keeping an eye out for where your stitch is gonna end before you turn the corner. So, it looks like based on this width, I have room for another stem right here, and then ideally, I want a stem to land through all this thickness right here, to anchor it in place, okay? So, it looks like I'm coming up on it in just about the right position. You don't have to pull those edges too tight. You want to leave just the tiniest bit of room because we're gonna be fitting lots of crochet into those loops. So you can see now, let my needle take the place of the pin, I'm through all the thicknesses. But I do the blanket stitch just the same way. How I treat the corner is just a little bit different. You can see I've left just about enough space to get one more stitch in. So we're gonna go ahead and do that. But to prevent this slack from coming all the way across at an angle, we want it to line the corner at a right angle. So we're gonna pull it just a little tighter. And we're gonna sneak back and grab it. To do that, just bury your needle into the crease again, come out at the very corner. And grab it. We're kind of anchoring it down. With a tiny little tacking stitch. Okay, so now we've got the loops on both edges. And then we're just gonna continue down the next side with the blanket stitch. And what that's gonna do on this new side that we're starting to stitch down, that's gonna put two loops there. But it doesn't make a difference. It's not gonna look any different because there are gonna be several crochet stitches going in and occupying that loop, so they'll be hidden. So we are going to continue this blanket stitch all the way around the scarf. I hope you like it. It might take awhile, but that's okay. All beautiful things are worth a little bit of time. The one scenario I haven't shown you is how to rejoin the beginning of your blanket stitch. So, I've set up that scene here for you. Let me just re-thread.

Okay, so. What we have now is the approach to where we began. And just like we approached the corner, we sort of want to count out by visualizing how many stitches, it looks like I could fit one in between and then a final one to replace that stem on our first stitch. So let's do that now. Then all we're gonna do because we have the beginning of the stitch but not the end of it happening, is you make just like you're creating another stitch. But now, we're gonna anchor it by entering the needle into the crease on the other side. Kind of nestling in. It's a little bit more of a challenge now because you've hemmed this guy down. See? Grab, grab, grab, anchor, gorgeous. And then we're gonna knot and finish just like we've already seen. Now let's clip it. Very carefully, away from your fabric. Okay, so. That's the blanket stitch. How we begin, end, and do all the in betweens. And this is an example of one scarf that has been blanket stitched all the way around. And honestly, it's kind of pretty like this too, but I say we make it prettier and go on to crochet.

Double crochet edging

- So let's have a closer look at this double crochet that's happening on the edge of this scarf. This scallop is created by making six double crochets into each loop of the blanket stitch. And the reason they taper down at the corner and make these little half moon shapes is because we slip stitch underneath that stem before we begin the next set of six double crochets under the next loop and that's what creates the mechanics of this. Now I chose to do six double crochets just because that seemed to work out about right, because my blanket stitch stems are roughly 1/2 an inch apart. So if you decide you want them packed in a little tighter or even spread out a little looser you can do more or less. It's not a bad idea to go ahead and practice a couple double crochets in your stem stitches before you decide how many crochets you wanna include in each loop of your blanket stitch. And to begin we wanna anchor the thread inside the edge of the scarf. And to do that we're gonna thread a needle first. You can really begin the crochet anywhere, but if you're crocheting from right to left you're gonna enter the thread at the very right edge into the crease of one of the blanket stitches. Just pull the end out. We're gonna tie a knot at the very end of this. And then we're just gonna tuck it through. Unlike embroidery where we continue to thread, knot, cut, thread, knot, cut, we're just operating off of a continuous spool here, just like knitting or crochet. So now that we've got it anchored we can begin the crochet process. To begin the double crochet I slide my hook underneath the loop and pull the working thread up, so that I have a loop in the front. And I like to just anchor the beginning by doing one single crochet. So the real double crochet begins now. I yarn over the hook, slide under the loop, yarn over and pull through again, so I now have three loops on the hook. Yarn over one more time, and pull through just two of the loops, yarn over again to pull through the last two. That's a double crochet. And we're gonna do it again. Yarn over, pass under the loop, pull up. You can see we have three on the hook. Yarn over and pull through two, yarn over and pull through two more. You might feel like you're stretching this out too much, but don't worry about that right now. Just try and keep your tension consistent for your crochet and all these stitches, the blanket stitch loops, will get evened out as you move onto the next stitch. I'm working on the fourth one now. I'm gonna do two more in the same loop. Pull through two, yarn over, pull through the last two, that's five. We're working on the sixth one, so that's the six double crochets all in that loop. So now to taper down the edge of this group of stitches we're gonna pass the needle underneath the stem, not a loop, underneath the stem, and then also the next loop, we're gonna yarn over, and pull through back to where we started. And instead of creating another yarn over and stitch, we're just gonna slip through, that's called a slip stitch. We haven't created any additional stitch, we've just slipped through. So now it's time to start the double crochet process

again in this next loop. So we yarn over, pass under the loop, pull through, we have three on the hook. Yarn over, pull through two, yarn over, pull through two more, there's one. If you're used to crochet with yarn, big yarn and big hooks, you might feel a little clumsy at first, but I've found the more that I did this it was just a matter of smaller motions and keeping your fingers a little closer together and probably keeping the tension of that thread over your finger tighter than you would normally on yarn. See how many we have now. One, two, three, four, five, we have one more before we taper down and slip stitch. Now it's time to slip stitch again by passing under the stem and the next loop, sliding through, and we're slip stitching through. You can see what's happening here, we are creating scallops, those rows of stitches are getting tapered down with every little slip stitch, and we're getting close to the corner here and I'm gonna show you how to work the corner. And if going around this whole scarf seems overwhelming, don't worry. Just crochet the ends of the scarf would be a really beautiful detail. We are heading into the last slip stitch on this side. We're gonna pass under the stem and the loop, grab that thread, pull through, and slip. Six more double crochets on this side. This stitch is actually looking a little bit short. I might only put four or five. That's totally fine to make it up as you go. In fact, the first scarf I made I think I switched from seven double crochets to six about halfway through, well maybe not halfway through, a quarter of the way through, because I think it was looking too bulky. So it is for certain a one of a kind. So I'm just gonna fit four in there, 'cause I think otherwise it's gonna get too tight. So you remember when we anchored that corner there, it's pretty hard to slide underneath that anchoring stitch, so here's it's okay to go ahead with our slip stitch and just pass through the next loop. It's still gonna work out. And now we've kind of turned and we're gonna start our double crochet down the next stitch. Let's see how many we have. You can count them by looking at those little links on top. One link equals one stitch, so I've got one, two, three, four. Two more. Don't worry if it feels like you're getting it a little displaced and scrunched up. That's just sort of the weight of your work pulling on the thread, these blanket stitch loops as you go, once you've completed the stitches and laid them out flat they're gonna line up and be gorgeous. If you are going to crochet all the way around the edges, all four edges of a scarf this size you are eventually going to run out of your spool. And I'm gonna show you how to deal with that. So let's make like our spool has run out and we're gonna snip this off. What you wanna be sure and do is to have completed one full set of six stitches. And I've done that here, and I've also just completed my slip stitch, but instead of having a loop and getting started again we're just gonna pull that all the way through. And now it's time again for our friend, the needle. We're gonna bury this thread into the crease, just like we did with our blanket stitches. And we're gonna knot it, just like we did the blanket stitches. And guess what? The way that you finish this entire project when your crochet sets come around to where you started again is just exactly like this. You're gonna bury that thread inside. All gone. And then you're gonna wanna dig up inside there, create a knot, keeping your thumb on top of that shrinking loop. And be done all ready. The way that we've just finished and knotted off the end of that thread is what you'll do simply when your spool runs out, but it's also what you'll do when you come all the way around and crochet the entire scarf, finished your last set of six double crochet stitches, knot off, finish and you're done. And this is the beautiful result. I absolutely love the process of doing this. I love how portable and small the materials are. You can take them with you wherever you go to get it complete. And the cool thing about using this particular thread and a cotton fabric is that they're the exact same fiber content, they're both 100% cotton, so that makes it really easy to care for this scarf when you're finished with it. You can machine wash it or hand wash it in cold water, let it drip dry. You can also put it in the dryer on a low gentle cycle and press it to get it nice and smooth.

They're also like, this fabric's kind of cool, I think if you scrunch it up a little bit and it looks nice a little bit worn through. This scarf and creating it is a very enjoyable process, so much so that I find myself adding this hem onto the edges of dresses, pillowcases, it doesn't have to be a long expansive project, like this one, it can be small, even at the bottom of a dish towel I think would be really pretty. It'd be something gorgeous to give as a gift or, of course, keep for yourself.