Kids Knitting: I-Cord and Garter Stitch Bugs with Faith Hale

Chapter 1 - Kids Knitting: I-Cord and Garter Stitch Bugs

Overview

- When I was a brand new knitter, I had a hard time finding projects that were fast, fun, and super cute, but in this class, we're going to do four projects that absolutely meet this criteria. I'm Faith Hale. I'm a professional crafter and the only thing I love more than knitting is teaching other people how to knit. Whether you're a kid or teaching a kid how to knit or just a kid at heart. These projects are customizable and are skill building, so you'll learn as we go along. We'll knit an I-cord that will turn into a worm and a snail. Then we'll knit a flat garter panel that turns into a butterfly, and we'll finish up combining the two, making a dragonfly. We'll also learn how to increase, bind off and weave in our ends. Each of these projects use a small amount of yarn and you'll end up with a tiny treasure.

Materials

- When I'm teaching knitting, I prefer to use a single ply worsted weight yarn. I think that's the easiest. You avoid a lot of the common pitfalls of splitting a multi-ply yarn, but I do think that the very best yarn to use is what you already have on hand. If you're really excited to learn. If you're really excited to teach somebody else, it just takes that extra step to go out and get a worsted weight, single ply yarn. So as long as you're worsted weight and you have size eight needles, you should be good to go. In this class, we're going to be making a worm using pink, a snail, using this beige and red. Our butterflies are going to be blue and red, or blue and green, and our dragonflies are going to be green and yellow. You'll also need a little bit of black yarn for our butterflies. This is about 10 yards. You don't even need that much. We'll need a yarn needle, a pair of scissors, size eight double pointed needles. We need them to be double pointed because we're going to be making some I-cords and it needs to be able to slide back and forth on the needle. And if you'd like, as a bonus, get some teeny tiny googly eyes and Fabri-Tac to glue them onto our worms.

Knit a worm or snail

- I love a worm as a first project because it knits up pretty fast and it has so much personality the instant you add googly eyes. We're not going to be going back and forth into garter stitch, like with most first projects, we're going to be knitting in the round with an I-cord. An I-cord is made by knitting into the same side of the knitting instead of going back and forth, you'll see what that looks like in a second. We'll begin by making a slip knot. A slip knot can be made by twisting our yarn in a loop. So we have it crossing over from left to right and then we'll poke up a loop from the underside, slip it onto our needle to pull it taut, and then being sure you have the ball of yarn on your left hand side. We take our thumb go over and under and we go up from the bottom of our thumb. We'll do that two more times, like this. We just cast on four stitches, and this row is always the hardest, so just be patient with yourself. We're going to be sliding our stitches to the right hand side of our needle. This is our working needle. This we're using this yarn. Now, normally you'd work with the yarn that's coming out closest to the side, but because we're doing an I-cord, our yarn will always be ending up on this side and will just be starting to knit using this yarn. We'll enter our needle into the first stitch, go over our needle, pull through and jump off. We're going to repeat that three more times. So go up essentially from left to right, go over through and off. I've heard the

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rhyme before in through the front door, out around the back, peek through the window and off jumps Jack. One more time through, around and off. Then we'll take our tail to give it a little tug. It's gonna look funky, chunky, weird, not like anything at first. That is absolutely fine. That's how it's supposed to look. For our second row, we again move the whole thing to the right side of our needle. Our working yarn is on the left. This isn't usual, but it is usual for an I-cord. So we begin knitting again. We will continue this way until our worm is as long as we want. I think anywhere between 20 and 30 rows is terrific. If you wanna end it sooner to get a little nubby worm, that's fine. If you wanna knit all of your yarn and have a super mega ultra worm, that's fabulous too. We're going to be doing 30 rows total. Make sure you're pulling it down at the end of each row. And when you start knitting into just one stitch, we're going to knit until we have approximately 30 rows. And here's how we count how many rows we have. Each of these loops is a stitch. The loops going across are how many stitches we have in our needle. The loops going up are how many rows, so I can see that I have 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 rows. So we're going to do 22 more. Yarn needles are unique in that they have really blunt ends and a big eye. It can still be kind of tricky to get the yarn through sometimes. So what I like to do is fold the yarn over the needle and pull it taut and push it through. Then we'll take our stitches going right to left, and we'll slip each one one at a time onto our yarn needle. And then we'll pull through, should cinch it up nicely, and then we're going to bury our tail. So it's really tempting to do a little knot and to cut it short, I never like to do that because it can unravel very easily. But I do like to bury my tails as far as I can. So you're going to go into the middle of the worm. I can't see my needle on any of the sides and come out about two inches away. And you'll see by pulling it in, it actually makes it a little bit more rounded, a little bit more wormy. And we'll cut as close to our worm as we can get. Look at that cute guy. We'll repeat the process on the other side. I think this is just so fun and cute. What's really gonna send it over the edge is adding these googly eyes. Now Fabri-Tac is a pretty permanent glue, so if you're helping out a kid, maybe you do this part. If you are a kid, maybe ask a grownup. Because these eyes are so teeny tiny, I'd apply the glue to the worm and then put the eye on the glue. If you have a bubble, wipe it off 106 00:06:26,275 --> 00:06:26,685 It brings me so much joy and it will be so tempting to want to play with this right away, but give it at least 10 minutes for it to dry. What a, what a special worm. The snail will be made in exactly the same way. We're just assembling it a little bit differently. We have a beige base that's just about three inches long and a colorful shell that's almost six inches long. Weave in your ends like I showed you for the base, and leave your ends long for the shell. We'll use these tails to assemble. Here's our little snail base, and we're going to coil up this shell. I'll go right on top like that. I'll begin by threading one side onto my needle and we'll curl him up just a little bit, half an inch. Put the yarn all the way through, and I'm gonna go down about one stitch further and come back up. We will roll it about another half inch. Repeat the same process through the base through here, and back down. When we get to the very end, we'll probably be close to that original tail. Make sure it's firmly anchored to our coil. And you can tie a double knot, left over right, under and through. Right over left, under and through. Now the tail that is now short, we're going to sink into the shell to hide the end, we're gonna push it all the way through and we'll squish it down just a little bit when we're pulling it so that way when we snip it, we can unsquish it and it disappears in there. Oh, it's so cute already. We're going to be using this tail to attach our shell. I like to start all the way at the end of the coil. This might not be all the way at the end of the coil if it isn't stitch through until we get there. And we're going to be going through a stitch, so two legs of the stitch, right? We see how they're shaped in a loop or a V. We're going to go through two parts of the V and we're going to go back through our shell. Sometimes it's clearer to see where the V is. I don't

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know that it matters so much on the shell because the shell is already a bit bunched up. We're going to go through the next V stitch through. I like to do this at least five times, but if you leave it a little bit more detached, it's more of an adventurous snail. If you sew it farther up, it's more of a snail at rest. When you have it where you want it, I think this works for me, double that last stitch, and when you come out of the shell, we'll sew a loop. We'll go through a stitch. Oh, if you catch any other yarn, you can just back out gently. And before the loop closes entirely, we will stick our needle in it to make a little knot. And then we go back through our shell. We're just burying the tail here. Look at him, he is so sweet. If we want to add one more bit of detail, we can add little feelers. Get a piece of yarn that's about six inches, and we're going to tie a triple knot in the middle, or actually three single knots. So make a knot. We'll make a knot on top of it. And one more knot. You can see these are side by side. We're just gonna try to make this as chunky as we can. Actually, I think maybe one more. You'll see why we need it to be so big in a second. And then we'll thread our needle on one side and our goal is for this knot to end up on the inside of this snail head. So we'll go in through a stitch and out the other side. And if we are patient and we wiggle us enough, we should be able to pop it on the inside. If this is feeling like too much stress too, it's not required, you'll be able to tell this is a snail without it. So our knot is buried on the inside, and I'll trim down the feelers. Look at these happy buddies. Coiling and stitching down the shell can be really fiddly, but once you get the hang of it, it's super fun to play with different kinds of yarns. Try something really fuzzy or maybe something striped.

Knit a butterfly

- When we make the butterfly, we'll be knitting back and forth and we're knitting into every stitch and we're working into the front side and the backside. That is called garter stitch. We'll begin by casting on 13 stitches. Begin with a six inch tail and make a slip knot. To review, cross one side over the other, pull it through. This counts as our first stitch. So we're going to cast on an additional 12. We have our working yarn on the left hand side, and we scoop our thumb forward and go up from the bottom 3, 4, 5, and make sure you're not doing this too tightly. Orient it so that all of these bumps are on the bottom. They have a tendency to spiral around. And then we'll begin knitting all the way across. Now remember, this first row is always the hardest. It doesn't mean you're doing something wrong, it's just, it's the hardest and it always will be. You might notice some space opening up in between your stitches. That's absolutely fine. And what sets garter stitch apart from the I-cord is if we were making an I-cord, we'd slide it to the end of the needle. Because it's garter stitch, we turn it around. So we're going to work 1, 2, 3 more rows. So four rows total. Continue knitting exactly like we've been knitting, and make sure you start off with your stitches all pointing to the bottom. This first stitch can often be tricky if you're not pulling your stitches all the way down. This one stitch can look like two stitches. Keep an eye out for this first tricky stitch and make sure you pull it down so you're only knitting into one stitch. You'll know you've knit the correct number of rows when you have the working yarn on your right, the tail on your right, and there's 1, 2, 3 ridges visible. Cut your yarn at about six inches and we're going to start a new color. We're knitting with the blue now. Give yourself about six inches and we're going to make a little loose knot. So just an overhand knot over, under, and through. And before you cinch it all the way closed, we're slipping it over the old yarn. So ignore this one. Slip it over here and tighten it. You don't have to do this step, but it does make it easier to work with the new yarn. So push the knot all the way to the top and snug it up. This will give us a nice anchor for working with our new yarn. It doesn't really feel floppy or loosey goosey, and we will weave in these ends afterwards. Knit five rows exactly like

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we did with the green portion, and then we'll be ready to cast off. And casting off or binding off is a really important skill, it's how we finish our projects. You'll knit a stitch as normal, knit another stitch as normal, and then use your left hand needle to pick up the stitch and bring it over this stitch. So we've cast off one stitch. Repeat the process, and knit another stitch and pull it over. We'll never have three stitches on this right hand needle. We'll only have one or two. When you get to the last stitch. We will pull our yarn through until we've made a loop that's about six inches tall. That and snip it. And then gently pull out this yarn. So there we have our tiny scrappy butterfly shape. Now we'll turn this into a butterfly by cinching the middle and giving it some antennae. But before we can do that, we're going to weave in our ends. This process can take a long time, but it's totally necessary and worth it so that we don't cut our yarn too short and it doesn't disappear or unravel. This is the back of our work. We can tell because we have these two colors overlapping right here. This is the front of the work. And because this has a definite front and back, we don't have to be too careful about weaving in our ends. We're going to go through a few stitches, maybe six, and we're just going up and down. So find a loop, go under it. Find a loop up, go under it, pull it gently. We don't want it too tight or else it'll interrupt what it looks like on the front, and then we'll snip it close to our surface. We'll always have to do this at the beginning of a project and at the end of a project and if there are any color changes in the middle. So this is the same process. Also, this loop is extra big. That's totally fine. That's usually how it ends up looking. When you cast off, if it really bothers you, you can tuck it in by going through and then beginning your weaving in the ends. I also think it's best to weave in the ends, not on the edge of the project, but towards the middle. But when you get a bit more experienced, you can make that decision for yourself. You can even go up two stitches, down two stitches. We've made this little knot here to join it. I'm gonna keep the knot and I'm pulling the green towards the green and the blue towards the blue. Weave in the rest of your yarn tails. To turn this from a rectangle into a butterfly, we'll need our black yarn. Just about a yard is fine. And give yourself maybe a six inch tail. It's easier to make a knot when we have a little bit longer of a tail and hold it in place. We're going to wrap it 1, 2, 3 times around. Oh, it's so cute. Cut our tails even. And we're gonna make two knots. First, a double knot, so left over right, under and through, right over left, under and through. And then we'll make an overhand knot with both ties to give it a little bit of a head. So hold these together and tuck them both through. And make this knot as close to the wings as you can get. And then we'll cut our ties at about an inch, because these are just a small rectangle, they make an excellent blank canvas. Play around with different colors, with maybe three colors, maybe five colors, or all in one color. You can also experiment with the number of rows or the number of stitches. You can add a bit more stitches to make it wider, more rows to make it taller. And I think that they would look really cute on a hair clip or a magnet or even stitched to a hat.

Knit a dragonfly

- We are going to combine our I-cord skills with our garter skills to make a super cute tiny dragonfly. We'll begin by casting on two stitches. So before we did a four stitch I-cord, now we're going to start off with a two stitch I-cord. Begin, of course, by making a slip knot and we'll cast on just one stitch. We'll knit these two stitches three times and make sure you tug down at the end. It'll make it nice and pointed. That's exactly what we want. - 1, 2, 3. And on this next round we're going to make an increase. This is a new skill. This increase is called knit front and back. So in one stitch, we're going to knit in the front leg and we're going to knit in the back leg before we slide it off into the second needle. Here is what that looks like. So this is the knit into the front part. Instead of

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sliding this off, we go around to the back and we knit into this back stitch. This is one of those things that is harder to do in slow motion. Once you figure out how it works, it'll make so much more sense. And then we knit our second stitch. Now we knit these three stitches for three rounds or rows. Make sure you tug it down. 1, 2, pull it down. And 3, we're going to repeat our increase. We're gonna repeat the knit front and back. We're going to do it in the middle stitch this time. So we'll knit one as usual through and off. And then with the second one, we knit into the front and then we knit into the back and knit our fourth stitch. Knit these four stitches for 15 more rows or rounds. - 15. Trim your thread, load it onto your yarn needle and go from the right to the left, going through each stitch and pulling it tight. We're gonna bury our ends just like we did last time, going right through the middle, popping it out, trimming it close. And then when we do the very tail, and this is gonna be a little trickier, but it's not a different method at all. We just have to take more care when pushing it into our stitches that it stays in the middle of the body. It can be a little harder to hold too, just be patient. And if you need to do it two stitches at a time, so put it in and come back out and then go a little further, put it back in and come back out. That's fine too. Whatever works for you, just don't cut it at the end or it will unravel. There we go. I love how it just curves naturally because of how we increased it. I think it makes a lot of sense for a dragonfly to look like this. For the wings, you'll cast on 15 stitches, work two rows and then we'll cast off. Once you've done that and woven in your end, you'll have something that looks like this. We have a pair of wings, so we have two wings here, and we're going to first sew them together and then sew them on our dragonfly body. So get about 12 inches of yarn, thread it onto your yarn needle, give yourself a tail of about two inches, and then we'll fold our wings in half to see where the middle is. So here's our middle. We're going to go up through a stitch and up through a stitch. We're going to repeat that with our second wing, fold in half to find the middle, you could also count. Up through a stitch, up through a stitch. We're going to repeat that on the back. So you see now how they have a tendency to curl inwards. Once we do that on the back, it should stay a little bit more flat, so we flip it over, down through, you'll see the stitches look a little bit different because this is the cast off edge and this is the cast on edge. So just pick, just pick some loops. So one of these V loops can do one on the bottom. We'll pull it through and then we turn it back over. Oh, look, pulling it a little bit instantly gives it so much more shape and personality. I love how that works. We can make a little knot here. You can keep your yarn needle on too, if that doesn't bother you. Or you can unthread it if you need to. Left over right under and through, right over left, under and through. And we're going to sew in both tails. So here we have our dragonfly with its curly little tail. We're going to put it up towards the top, flip it over. And I'm going to go through kind of how we coiled our snail. I'm going to just go through the center of the dragonfly, see that? It's just going right through the dragonfly. And we're going to go through these stitches. When you pull it tight, it's gonna be a little bit harder to see where to go in. We'll go around maybe four times. So we've just gone through the body, now we go back through the wings, through the body, through the wings. Oh, that's perfect. It looks so good. I'm going to stitch down the edge. So we're back to where we started from. I'm gonna do one more knot, over and under and through, and I'm going to bury this tail in this wing. So it's like weaving in ends. Well, it is weaving in ends. And then I'll repeat with the final tail. So dignified! I love knitting tiny because these projects are near instant gratification. But even though they're small, there's still plenty of room to customize. You can play around with color, with yarn, or even just embellishment. I think that this dragonfly would look amazing covered with sequins. I think the butterflies would look fabulous dangling from fishing wire, and I think that the worms would look wonderful in any context.

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