

How To Make a Fusion Throw / Quilt

Firstly, what is a Fusion Quilt? Quite simply it is a throw or quilt which incorporates different needlecraft fibres and techniques. More specifically, its fibres or techniques which would normally / traditionally be used on their own. For example: a crocheted throw will traditionally only be made of wool or crochet cotton OR a patchwork quilt will traditionally only be made up of patchwork fabric and batting. A Fusion throw / quilt, incorporates BOTH of these. Fusion throws can also incorporate cross stitch or embroidery in some of the blocks.

Now, I have seen many of these items being made with fleece blocks and wool for the crochet bit. But I was taught by someone who had experimented for a long time with the technique and who had, by the time she taught me, made 20 or more double and queen sized throws. So, effectively I was taught by a fundi! She advised, based on her experience, that its best for the throw to be made with materials that are ALL 100% cotton. It obviously washes better and you don't have a mixture of fibres pulling in all directions. Since I am a firm believer in 'if you are going to do something then do it correctly by using the best of what you can manage', this suited me. So, here goes:

Materials Needed:

- Patchwork fabric
 - If using 2 colours for a double bed, you will need about 6 metres of fabric in total (3m per colour)
- Fusible Woven Interfacing – about 3 metres
- Rotary Cutter
- Cutting Mat
- 6inch Square patchwork Ruler
- Iron
- Ironing Board
- Tacking Thread
- Sewing Needle
- Cross Stitched or embroidered squares - optional
- Crochet Hooks – Range of sizes from 0.50mm to 2mm
- 100% crochet cotton – DMC Petra #8 (1 Ball) DMC Petra #5 (10 or more balls, depending on size)
- **Option ONE:**
 - Sewing Machine
 - Wing Needle
- **Option TWO:**
 - Chenille Needle

Method:

- Iron your fabric to remove all creases etc
- Cut patchwork fabric into 14cm squares
- Cut fusible woven interfacing into 12cm squares
 - There has to be an equal amount of fusible interfacing squares for every fabric square
- Iron one fusible interfacing onto the back of each of the patchwork fabric squares. Try to get it centred as much as possible, but don't stress if its not dead centre
 - The fusible interfacing gives the patchwork fabric weight and body
- Turn over the 4 sides of the patchwork fabric to create a 2cm hem all round. Just press the hem
- Place two blocks together, WRONG sides facing. Ensure that the 2 blocks are 2 different fabric prints.
- Tack long tacking stitches around the block
- **OPTION 1:**
 - Insert your Wing Needle into your sewing machine.
 - Remove the bobbin
 - Remove the top thread
 - Set your stitch length to its widest length. (the measurement that determines how far apart your stitches are from each other)
 - Starting in a corner, dry run the block through the machine so that the wing needle creates holes around the entire block. You WILL NOT get an even amount on each side, necessarily. Chances are you will be one short on 2 sides, but that's okay.
- **OPTION 2:**
 - Thread up your chenille needle with a very long length of number 8 DMC Petra and blanket stitch all around the block, making sure you create an even amount of stitches on each side. This is your foundation row.
 - In the corners, be sure to create 3 blanket stitches in the same hole.
- If you opted for Option 1 then this next step is for you:
 - With a 0.50mm crochet hook and number 8 DMC Petra, crochet a foundation row as follows: Starting at one of the corners
 - Slip knot on hook
 - Insert hook into hole made by wing needle, pull through loop, yarn over hook, pull through 2 loops on hook. Repeat in SAME hole (5 times) in order to create a hemstitch for the corner.
 - In each of the other holes along the sides, repeat the hemstitch TWICE per hole only
 - This is only done for one round. Finish off

- For BOTH options – switch to DMC Petra Number 5 crochet cotton
 - If you opted for option one then crochet INTO the V created for the hemstitches in the foundation row
 - If you opted for option two then crochet into the loops created by the blanket stitch
- Crochet as follows: NO CHAINS except in the corners
 - Start in a corner: create a slip stitch. 2 treble, 1 chain 2 treble into corner stitch
 - 2 treble into each of the hemstitches / loops across the side...repeat all the way around
 - Slip stitch into first treble to end the row
 - Slip stitch into next treble and into corner chain
 - Start next row: in corner chain: 2 treble, 1 chain, 2 treble,
 - 1 treble into each treble along the side...repeat all the way around....repeat this last row as many times as preferred. I generally do 3 rows around every block (excludes foundation row)
- Once all your blocks are ready, you can arrange them as preferred and connect them in your chosen method.
- Crochet a border around the entire throw/quilt and remember to do a decorative edge to finish off

Some Notes:

- The interfacing creates weight and body – do not skimp on this process
- I encourage multiple crochet hooks initially so that you can test your tension. Remember crochet with cotton sometimes causes a different tension to crochet with wools.
- The crochet is very forgiving so if your blocks are slightly off, no stress...this is NOT patchwork
- You can create your own crochet pattern around your blocks, but there HAS to be a foundation row
- Because the fabric blocks are stitched with wrong sides together, it automatically makes the throw reversible, so you get a 2 for 1!
- You can run wild in terms of creativity as you can incorporate:
 - Cross stitched blocks
 - Appliqued blocks
 - Embroidered blocks
 - A mix and match of fabrics
 - A contrasting crochet cotton colour as opposed to white or ecru
- You can arrange your fabric squares as you wish, incorporating as much or as little crochet as you want.
- Fusion Throws DO NOT have to be made up into throws or quilts only. You can make:
 - An advent calendar
 - A set of place mats by doing a 4 or nine square design
 - A Bedrunner
 - A Tablerunner
 - A Tablecloth

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