City & Guilds Foundation Programme - Knitting

CGI.M2.L04.A7: Shape – Intarsia – Assignment Seven



Introduction

For this assignment you'll be using the information you gained in the earlier colourwork tutorials and task to produce a new sample based on your own design and choice of colours, this time using the intarsia technique and thinking about reflecting shapes or motifs on a knitted fabric.

Part One – Design and make a geometric sample

- 1. Look back at your sketchbook work and find an image that has good geometric lines that you think will translate well into an intarsia pattern. Bear in mind that for intarsia techniques you are looking for blocks of shape and colour. If your chosen image is complex, it may need to be simplified and refined to create impact in your design.
- 2. Create a chart that will produce a sample at least 60 sts wide. This may be a repeating pattern in which case the chart itself may be a section of the design that will be repeated to create the finished pattern.
- 3. Either use the same image or a second image, to select a range of colours for your design.
- 4. Knit your sample according to the chart you have designed, using the colours you have selected.
- 5. Finish your sample by sewing in all ends, pressing and blocking.

Part Two – Make a second sample using fluid shapes

- 1. Select a second image, this time that uses fluid, curvy, or other, non-geometric shapes. Again, you can simplify your image as required.
- 2. Make a second sample. You can reflect the colours in your image or select a different range of colours.
- 3. Finish the sample as before.

Part Three - Reflection

Comparing your intarsia samples to your Fair Isle ones, what do you notice is different about them?

Do you think you made good choices in your intarsia design with regard to the size of the motifs, the choice of colour and the areas to use the intarsia technique?

How does the use of geometric and fluid shapes differ? What particular challenges are presented by each type of pattern?

Make notes of your findings, reflecting on what you liked or thought was successful, not just in your design but also in the use of colour. Was it too busy, too sparse? How well do you feel you interpreted your original images? What else would you like to try?

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