



Line – Using knit and purl stitches to create line - Tasks

Introduction

In addition to colour, line is an important part of knitwear design. The stitch structure of knitting makes it perfect for interpreting lines whether it's tree bark, rock formations or the gills of a mushroom, through to the sharp angles of brutalist architecture or the smooth-worn edges of an old cobbled street.

Objective:

In this exercise you will be exploring mark-making through stitch. To encourage you to interpret line in a way that is not purely representational you will be using just knit and purl stitches to interpret the lines and marks in one of your paper samples.

Task one

1. Select one of your samples of line and mark-making from the design exercises (Module One, Assignment 3).
2. Using graph paper mark out a grid 40 sts wide and 30 rows high. Using a pen or pencil, lightly sketch the key lines and marks represented in your paper sample. You needn't capture every detail, the aim is to recreate the essence of your paper design.
3. Each square of your grid represents a stitch. Fill each square that contains a line or mark with a • (dot). On right side (odd-numbered) rows these stitches will be purled. On wrong side, (even-numbered) rows, these stitches will be knitted (for a refresher on how charted knitting works, see Module two, Lesson 1 - Colourwork and Fair Isle - M2.L01).
4. Choose a yarn of any colour in 4ply (sock/sport) or double knitting (worsted) weight.
5. Choose a pair of knitting needles that is appropriate for your yarn (you will find a guide in the Reference section two 'Yarns and yarn terminology').
6. Cast on 40 sts using your preferred cast on technique.
7. Working according to the chart you have just made, knit your sample swatch.
8. When you have completed your sample, cast off.
9. Block your sample and weave in any ends.

Task two - Record and reflect

Place your knitted sample together with the original paper version and the charted version. View them from a distance. How well does the knitted sample reflect the original paper sample? If there isn't much similarity, how do you feel this impacts the design? Would you change the knitted fabric to represent the paper sample more closely? If so, how might you do so?

Photograph your samples together and upload the image to your Pinterest board.

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