



## CGF.M2.L17T:

### Texture – Fur and loop stitches - Tasks

#### Introduction

Loop stitches are great for adding a funky touch to edgings or trims. For a boa-like scarf or a flouncy collar, loop stitches are an easy way to add a bit of drama. They are also a super technique for toys and dolls – try them for doll's hair, sheep fleece or a poodle's curly coat!

Not for nothing is loop stitch also called fur stitch as it is often used to create a shaggy, furry texture for knits. Loops can be varied in size for different effects. They can also be cut for a dense pile texture. Loop stitches do need to be firmly anchored to prevent them pulling or unraveling. For this reason, loops are rarely worked on every row of knitting, but are interspersed with rows of garter or stocking stitch.

As well as making fun toys and edgings, cut piles and loops are a good addition to homewares. Cushions and rugs made from panels of loop stitches with panels of plain or other stitches can give very interesting creative effects. Playing with multi-coloured yarns can also create some exciting combinations. It is even possible to add beads to loop-knits for some real bling!

#### Objective

In the next tasks you will be researching loop and fur stitches and producing samples using these stitches.

#### Task One – Create a sample using a loop stitch

1. Spend some time researching loop stitches. You may wish to look through stitch dictionaries, pattern books, knitting patterns or online. (For suggested loop stitches, you may wish to explore long loop, Indian cross stitch, herringbone, bow stitch)
2. Plan the placement of your loops by first sketching then charting your choice of stitch pattern and make a swatch 30 or more stitches wide and 20cm or more, long.
3. Finish your sample by weaving in all ends, blocking and pressing.

#### Task Two – Create a second sample using a cut loop stitch or variation on standard loop stitch

1. Make a second sample, this time choosing an alternative loop stitch pattern. You may choose to try a different yarn, add beads or combine with some simple colourwork.
2. Fasten off and finish your sample by weaving in any ends, blocking and pressing as required.

#### Task Three

#### Reflect and record

Review the samples you have made. What do you like about the samples you have made? If you combined different stitches, was this successful? How might you adapt these techniques or combine them with different yarns? Would your pattern work with any yarn or would some yarns be more suitable than others? How might you use these techniques in future projects?