

City & Guilds Foundation Programme - Knitting

CGF.M2.L18T: Texture – Experimenting with unusual materials - Tasks



Introduction

There are lots of creative ways to make your own yarn from items found around the house. Old sheets or curtains can be cut into strips to make great knitted rugs and bags. If you wish you can dye them first in the washing machine using an appropriate all-purpose dye (procion, RIT, Dylon etc.) to brighten up the colour.

Old wool blankets also make great yarn for bags and rugs. Stitch any short strips together to make a longer ball and knit using extra large needles.

Instead of throwing away old carrier bags, cut these into strips to make strong, colourful tote bags. Avoid using biodegradable bags or your knitting may disintegrate over time!

Thinner strips of plastic bags can be knitted into body scrubbing mitts or pot scouring cloths.

Video and audio tape can be knitted into ornamental flowers or other 3-dimensional objects such as pots and vases.

Objective

In this task we'll be using a range of unconventional materials and using them to create knitted fabrics.

Task One

1. For this task, find some items that you think could be knitted. At this stage we're not concerned with how (or indeed if!) you might use the finished fabric so anything goes.
2. Be as creative as possible, even if it seems like a totally impractical item is the likely outcome.
3. Make three samples using a range of your found materials. You can use whatever size needles you think would make an interesting fabric – don't be afraid to try some really large needles, small needles or even non-matching needle. You can also choose the stitch/es you want to use. Above all be playful!
4. You can use a single material in your sample, or mix up the materials. You can also combine your found materials with yarn (but found materials should be the dominant feature).
5. Aim to make your samples at least 15cm (6in) square (if your 'yarn' is very fine smaller will be okay).
6. Finish and, if appropriate/possible, block your samples.
7. Photograph your samples and upload the images to your Pinterest board.

Task Two

Reflect and record

Review your samples and make brief notes on how successful you think the techniques were in developing your initial design from your sketchbook into a resolved sample. Were there other stitches you could explore? Are there ways in which you might like to use this technique in your work? Do you see any opportunities for combining these techniques with others you have studied so far.