

TRANSCRIPT

Tutorial - Steam Blocking

Hi, my name is Tabetha Hedrick, design director for SweetGeorgia Yarns, and today I'm going to show you how I steam block a lot of my projects, not all of them. Sometimes I really like the water block. It just gives it that perfect touch. But when you're in a rush, have a little bit of space, not a whole lot of time, steam blocking really works well for a lot of fibres in a pinch.

First thing you need, obviously, is your knit project. The second thing that's really helpful that you'll need are knit blocking mats. You don't have to use these. You could use a guest mattress or some towels on the floor. But these, I guess they're rubber, these rubber mats hold onto the pins really, really well, so they stay in place like they're supposed to. Also, side note, gym mats at Walmart, Target, those kind of places, sometimes even TJ Maxx, I've seen gym mats or the child play mats with the alphabet letters in them, they work really well, too.

I use pins, especially the T top, T-pins. Make sure they're rust proof. My favorite pins in the whole wide world are the knit blockers. I think these are from Knitter's Pride. They come in long and some shorts, in the actual package that you buy. I've bought, I think I own four packs of these now, because I just use them so much. They just really speed up pinning time and blocking time and help with straight edges, really really well. I just love these so much. I can't say that enough.

You'll need a tape measure, especially if you're going to block to a particular size. Whether it's bust measurement or blocking out to a specific length, you'll lay out your tape measure and you will pin all of the corners of that particular piece, and then you can go in, get rid of the tape measure, and fill in with all of the other pins. You'll have the actual width and length, like it's supposed to.

Then, last but not least, is steam. Steamer, not a steam blocker. It's called a steamer. I got this at Target, I think, for \$35. You just fill the little reservoir with a bunch of water and plug it in. The light turns green, and then you just press the button, and it shoots out continuous steam. You could just use that to hit your knit piece very easily. An iron works just as well, a steam iron does, as long as it can shoot out steam from the bottom. Just make sure you don't press the actual iron to the piece that you are blocking, or you'll have scorched fibres, and that is no fun. Ask me how I know.

So, that's all you need, and a little bit of time and a little bit of space, and we're going to block a shawl. So, come with me, and I'll show you how to do it.