
Crochet the Reignbow Vest with Tian Connaughton

Chapter 1 - Crochet the Reignbow Vest

Overview

(light music) - If you wanted to crochet your own sweaters and you are just a little shy about color combinations, this pattern is for you. My name is Tian Connaughton. I'm a designer, technical editor and author, and I love helping people just like you to make sweaters that actually fit the body you are in. In this class, we're going to make the Reignbow Vest. It's a fun and versatile piece that you can wear all seasons. The pattern uses a combination of a rainbow color changing yarn and a variegation for a striking effect. Some of the techniques you'll learn include corner to corner crochet, perpendicular ribbing, how to seam with flat slip stitches, and I'm gonna show you some of my secrets for dealing with those pesky ends, some of the ones that you probably shouldn't do. If you're ready to try a pattern that is so versatile, you can go from vest to sweater, this class is for you. Come crochet the rainbow with me.

Materials

- The materials you'll need are worsted weight yarn in a solid and a self-striping. I like these yarns from Red Heart. They give you a lot of yardage so you can go really far with just one skein each. But check the pattern for the amount you'll need for your size. You'll also need scissors, removable stitch markers, tapestry needle, measuring tape, T-pins, and a K hook. Download the PDF for the Reignbow vest.

Swatching

- Before you jump into making your vests, make a swatch. Don't go away just because I said the S word. Swatching is not punishment. It's a great way to see if you're on the right track for the gauge for the pattern. And what that mean is if you follow the instruction as written, will you get the same size as the sample? There'll be information in the PDF for you to make your swatch, but don't worry, we're gonna show you step by step how to make corner to corner crochet. Your swatch is complete. Measure it. We want our swatch to be approximately six inches by six inches. Mine is a little small, but it's close. The gauge in the pattern is one block equals one inch. This is one block, and that's about an inch. And I like to measure at a few different spots because sometimes your tension as you're working might get a little wonky. Maybe you're watching a scary movie so you're tensed up, so your stitches might be tight. So that's why I like to measure a few different spots to get an overall idea of am I on the right track? Maybe you just finished your swatch and you're measuring and your blocks are not one inch square. Try again, right? These swatches are so small and they're so fast. Make another one. If your swatch is too big, go down a hook size. If your swatch is too small, just go up another hook size. And just keep playing with it until you achieve the gauge in the pattern, and then you're ready to start your project.

Corner to corner striped panels

- The Reignbow vest is made of two identical panels. Once you've made the first panel, the second is so easy to follow. Included in the pattern packet for this class, there is a pattern graph. The pattern graph is what you'll follow if you're a more visual learner. You'll follow the pattern graph for each panel. So what you're looking at is one panel. Work from the bottom up in the directions given

here. Follow for the amount of rows you need for your size. Information is provided for your size in the pattern. Begin your chart at the lower right-hand corner. Start working in the directions of the arrow. The right side is going from top to bottom, right to left, and the wrong side goes from the bottom to top, from left to right. Grab your yarn, grab your pattern, and your hook. And let's get started. Begin with a slip knot. My slip knot is very simply made. Yarn over, pull the yarn through, and there you have your little slip knot. Begin with chain six. And these chain six are done pretty loosely. There's your six chains. Skip the first three chains and double crochet in the fourth. So to double crochet, we'll yarn over, insert your hook into that chain. Yarn over and pull up that loop. Yarn over, pull through two. Yarn over, pull through two. And we'll do that again. Nice and slow. This first row is pretty fiddly, so just take your time. And one more time, yarn over, insert your hook into that chain. Yarn over, pull through two, pull through two. And that is your first block. So row one of the pattern is complete. Let's work row two. Chain six. And again, these are pretty loose chains, right? And what I mean by loose chain is, you know, your chain could be super tight. That's gonna make it hard to get your hook into those stitches. So relax your shoulders and just work nice and slow, even tension. Okay, turn your work. And this time, we're working into the back bumps of your chain. I like to flip my work over and we're working into the fourth chain from the hook. And an easy way to know where to start is to count three from this direction. One, two, three. If you're counting four from the hook, you'll still end up in the same spot. I wanna put it here. So if I'm counting three this way, one, two, three, or if I'm counting four from this way, one, two, three, four, it's the same stitch. I find it personally a lot easier to count going this way. One, two, three. And work my stitch into that back loop. So yarn over, one, two, three. Work into that little bump there. Do it again. We want a total of three double crochets and then one more. And because we need three double crochets, that's why I find it so much easier to count this way so I know which three I need to work into. Okay, so that's your first block second row. To work your second block of your second row, this first loop or this first chain from block one, we're gonna insert our hook into that chain and do a slip stitch. Right, and a slip stitch is very easily done. Insert your hook, pull up a loop, and just pull through that loop on your hook. Now chain three and work three double crochets all in that opening. I love this stage because it looks like a little heart. But there you have row one and row two. And if you're looking at the chart, we have row one, which is this block. Row two is these two. And now we're ready to start row three, which the next color. And I'm gonna show you how to change colors. Remember, when you're working from the chart, we're working with two yarns. One is the gray and one is the multicolor. So wherever you see multiple colors on the chart, that's your variegated yarn. When you see the gray, that's your solid color yarn. On that last double crochet, we're changing color. Here's how we do it. Yarn over, insert your hook. Just like we do with a normal double crochet, yarn over, pull through two loops. When you have only two loops remaining on your hook, grab your new color and finish that double crochet with the new color. And you can just simply put that color on your hook and pull through. If you're not an experienced crocheter, you can give that a tiny little knot so they don't unravel as you're crocheting. But don't make it too tight. We're going to need to remove that and weave in our ends properly later. So continue with the pattern. We're on row three. So row three goes from top to bottom. So again, chain six. And this is an increase row that we're doing. At this point, we're increasing, we're going from one block to two block to three blocks. So now we're doing three blocks because it's row three. And again, we wanna work into the stitches on this chain that we just created. Count three from the end and insert your hook. Yarn over, pull up a loop, yarn over, pull through two, yarn over, pull through the last two. Do that again. Nice and slowly. And your last one. And just remember, you wanna be working three

double crochets. That's like the magic number you wanna remember, three and six. Six chains, three double crochets. So that block is complete. If you're looking at the chart, we're at this block. Now we're starting on this block here. Find that chain three, insert your hook, and make a slip stitch. Chain three, and work three double crochets all in that space. Your second block of row three is complete. So we've done one, two. Now let's do third block. Find that chain three opening. Insert your hook and make a slip stitch. One, two, three, three double crochets. And there you go. You've increased from one to two and from two to three. Now let's increase to four. And just to orient yourself, this is what we're working on. This is one, two, three, one, two, three. Okay. Start the new row, chain six, turn your work. Count these three back loops there and double crochet into that one. One, two. And you can see our colors changing already without us doing any work. Then that's what I love about the self-stripping, color changing yarn. It does all the work for you. We have two blocks done, two to go. Okay, there's our chart, there's our fourth row completed. So this is where we just ended. Let's switch colors and do row five. At this point, when you're changing colors, you have a couple of options. You can break your first color and rejoin it or you can carry it up along the edge, but you have to be super careful that you're not pulling too tightly. We don't want our piece to pucker and be too tight. So you decide how much do you trust yourself to be loose with your work? For me, I'm going to cut and I'm gonna show you what that looks like. You'll have more ends to weave in this way, but it's better safe than sorry. So cut that first yarn. And to join the new color, and we wanna go backwards and just undo that last yarn over pull through on your double crochet. We wanna stop at that point and pull in your new color. As you keep going with this project, you won't have to do the double crochet and then undo it. You'll be able to get to this point, stop, and just do it. It'll become very repetitive for you in a good way. Okay, so now we have our new color, our double crochet's complete, chain six. Turn your work. You want to find our three stitches we wanna work into, which is one, two, three. You can see those back bumps there. Just look for the bumps. So we'll go into this one first. And if you're feeling tense and your stitches are too tight, just take a break, come back to it, keep your tension nice and even as possible. Right? Now that's your first block on row five and you can see where you are because of the colors, right? So row five, we're here. Let's do our next block. Insert the hook, slip stitch, chain three, and work your three double crochets and keep going in that manner, changing colors every two rows until you have the number of blocks needed for your size, following the instructions in the pattern. I'm working on the smallest size. For that, you'll need seven rows. We've been increasing on both the right side and the wrong side rows. Because we have our seven blocks that we need, we're going to stop increasing on the bottom and only increase on the top, because we want our panel to be this wide, but keep going longer. If you're looking at the chart, for the smallest size, you'd work your seven blocks, count your seven blocks, and then at this point, you would stop increasing. But you'll keep increasing this way on this side only to make your panel longer without making your panel wider. And I'm gonna show you how to do that right now. Have our seven blocks for my size. Check the pattern for your size. When you get to the last double crochet in your three double crochet, instead of doing a chain six, don't do that. You'll stop at your three double crochets, turn your work and slip stitch into each of those double crochet stitches. You insert your hook, pull up a loop, and pull through the loop on your hook. And we wanna have three of those slip stitches and that just squares off the top of your block. Now we're gonna continue as normal. Slip stitch into that opening with your chain three opening here, chain three, and do three double crochets into that open end. And let's see what that looks like so far. So here you are at the bottom and we wanna go this way. So now you have this turn. Okay? Keep working in pattern. Here we are at the end of a color. So I

won't finish that third double crochet. I'll leave that last yarn over for the gray. Another option is to cut that yarn after you've completed the stitch. And we're still increasing on this side even though we're not increasing on this side. So the increase chain six, and if you look at your chart, we just completed row eight, we're on nine, which is an increase row. So we'll be going this way. So count our three. Sometimes those stitches get a little tight. There's the start of row nine, continue to work. Here we are at our squared off side. So this is not an increased side. Here's what you do. Insert your hook into that chain three corner slip stitch. Turn your work into slip stitch into those three double crochet. And then slip stitch into that chain three, chain three, and three double crochet and continue as normal. Continue to increase on the odd number of rows, because we want our panel to get longer while at the same time not increasing on the even number rows, because we don't want our panels to get any wider than what we have. For my size, I'm doing seven blocks wide and I'll continue to the number given in the pattern for the size I'm working and you'll do the same. Here's my panel. Now it's time to decrease on the top, because we don't want it to get any longer. For the number of rows that I'm working on, this is a color change row and I'm just making a longer loop that I'll just snip off later. Join your yarn, turn your work, and slip stitch into those three double crochet stitches. Find that chain three, slip stitch into that. Chain three and work three double crochets into that chain. And that's what it's starting to look like. Continue. Now let's just orientate ourself where we are in the pattern. Remember, we have been going straight up on this side. We'll continue to do that. So don't increase on this side of your work. Continue as you have been. Slip stitch into each of those double crochet stitches and just keep going in the pattern you've been working. Work in those three double crochets into that chain three space. Slip stitch, chain three, double crochet. At this point, your piece is getting smaller, because we're decreasing on both sides of your work. Here we are again at the top of our piece. So we want to essentially join those two pieces together and we'll do that with a slip stitch, so we're not increasing anymore. So join with a slip stitch and I'll show you how to change colors here. Turn your work, slip stitch in the three double crochets, then pause. I'm just gonna break my color from before and join it in here. Before we're joining our colors on the double crochet, now we're gonna join it on the slip stitch. Hold both your pieces in the back so they don't move on you. Chain three. And if you wanna be fancy, you could chain over that tail so you have one less tail to weave in, but that's optional. And you're starting to see our piece takes shape. So we're working less and less blocks each row at this point. This is another panel, I'm almost finished. I'm gonna show you how to work the last block. Work your final block same as we've been doing so far. So we'll chain our three, work three double crochet into that chain three space. And slip stitch into that chain three space here. And that creates your squared off edge. I like to finish my piece by working slip stitches along those double crochet edges and a slip stitch in that last three chain space. And then just fasten off, snip your yarn. Pull through and there you have it. Your corner to corner panel is complete. Yours might not look the same as mine, because your colors might change differently. But keep going. Work in your colors for the width that you need and for the length you need based on your size, check the pattern for all the details on sizing. Now go make your second panel.

Back seams and back opening

- Both panels are complete, hooray. Now let's seam them together. For my vest, I'm orienting the pieces so that I have this really fun geometric shaping going on. This will be the back of your vest, so you want that to be a show-stopper. I have laid out these two panels so that row one is at the outer edge, but you can do whatever you want. I can show you what it looks like the other way to

give you an idea if you decide to seam it the other way. As dramatic, maybe not as much, but you have some options here. I prefer it this way with row one at the ends. Now let's look at the schematic. And this will help you to figure out where you need to seam. So grab your tape measure, and we'll measure 10 inches from the top, place a stitch marker, and 10 inches from the bottom, place another stitch marker. And whatever is left in the middle is your armhole opening. So now you flip your piece. Line up your stitch markers. You can place stitch markers on both pieces. So when you're seaming your side, you'll seam from the bottom to the stitch marker on both sides. When you're seaming the back center, determine if you want an opening, like in the panel, or if you don't, then you'll just seam all the way to the top. Let's put our pieces together. Did you decide if you're going to leave a keyhole opening or not? For this sample, I am. But you can choose to seam the whole thing. I'm gonna turn my piece a little bit to the side to make it a little bit more comfortable for myself. We're gonna eyeball where we want our keyhole opening to be. So about here. You can try it on and see what feels good for you. This is a simple seam that we're doing, so you can work your seam and then, if you don't like it, rip it out, try again. So for me, that's where my keyhole will be. I'm going to use the solid color yarn, make a chain seam up to this marker, stop, single crochet along this edge, join both pieces together, and then come back this way in single crochet. Because I wanna give myself this really nice opening that's framed by this gray yarn. So we wanna have this solid line going up the middle, and then it's framing our keyhole. You'll see what I mean in a second. So take your two pieces, starting with the one that's closest to you. And I'm putting my hook, instead of through both loops, I'm just gonna put it through this loop, which is the one furthest away from me. Make a slip stitch. Make a chain. Then in that loop, I'm gonna insert my hook, gonna pull it through, and pull it through again. And that's really the start of my first stitch. And the way this stitch is worked, it's a flat slip stitch, okay? So we're gonna go back and forth. Insert your hook into the loop with your yarn in between. It gets a little fiddly, but be patient, you can do it. Insert your hook, pull through both and also that one. I'm gonna do it again. So if you missed it, just watch. Keep your yarn, your working yarn held straight in the middle. You're gonna insert your hook into one of those bars on the left side and also in the bar on the right side panel. Wrap your yarn over and pull through both those bars and that one. And what you're starting to see is this flat slip stitch. I'm gonna do a few more and I'll show you what that all looks like. Pull through. Keep your tension nice and even. And use your blocks, the color blocks, as a guide. So I only wanna join gray blocks to gray blocks and colored blocks to colored blocks. So after a couple inches, that's what it should start to look like. Let's do a few more. Keep your yarn in the center. Pick up a bar on the left side and one on the right, yarn over, pull through two and the third one. Keep working the flat slip stitches until you reach your first marker. We're at our stitch marker. Now let's work our single crochet around our opening. Feel free to remove that stitch marker. We don't need this one anymore. Now let's single crochet along this edge. Let's remove our stitch marker. Slightly turn our work. And work a slip stitch to join both sides. We're gonna turn our work again. And single crochet down the other side of that opening. Last single crochet. And work a slip stitch to close up this opening. Insert your hook, and I like to go into that base of this opening. Slip stitch. Snip that. And pull through. And we'll weave in that end later. And there you have your back seam and your opening. You can make that opening as big or small as you'd like.

Side seams

- Our vest is starting to take shape. I'm so excited, I hope you are excited too. The next things we're gonna do is seam up the sides and work around the arm hole opening. And if you've been

wondering about all those ends that we've had just hanging out, I'm gonna show you how to fix those without weaving in the end, and also another tip that you probably shouldn't do. Begin at the lower hem of your piece. We're gonna work to the point that we have open for our arm hole. We only marked one side. You can use a ruler to measure across, or you can just use your measuring tape to measure this side to make sure that you're matching. And the side seam is worked exactly the way we worked the seam in the back with that flat slip stitch. So let's get our yarn on our hook, insert our hook, make a slip stitch, insert it into the other side, keeping our yarn in the center, and just pull through too. And now we're just gonna go back and forth until we get to the point where our armhole starts. And as you can see, we already have a tail in the way, so here's what you do. Just lay that tail flat as you're working, and you'll work right over that tail. So here's our working yarn. There's a tail, just lay it flat, just work over it. That bit can be a little fiddly, but just give yourself some patience. As you go on, it'll get a little easier. So insert your hook into that stitch with your working yarn still in the center, hold that yarn tail or multiple yarn tails flat against the other side, and working underneath it. Pull through, pull through, and pull through. To lock in your tails, as you're inserting the hook onto the right side, 'cause that's the side I want to keep my tails, I'm gonna go under one time, then the next time I'm gonna go over with the yarn, and I'll show you how. So this time, I'm going under with the tail and my working yarn. It's a bit of gymnastics with your fingers, but if you don't wanna weave in those ends, it might be worth it. And then the next time I do it, I'm gonna have the tails be over so that I'm locking those tails in, over and under of this working yarn. And pick up that new color yarn as you go, just keeping that rhythm. And there, our seam is starting to take shape. It should look pretty much like your back seam. If you're thinking weaving in those ends is too much, or trying to lock them in is too much, just stick 'em on the inside of your work, just leave them there. They can just hang out, no one will see them. Make sure they are long enough that they won't come loose. But if they're long enough and they won't pull out, and you feeling sort of lazy, just tuck 'em on the inside. I've done that for so many projects. Just don't ask me to look on the inside of my sweaters. Here, we have some tails that we've locked in, and here are a few that we're just gonna let just hang out. This is not the way you should do it, but that's the way I do it sometimes, because there are too many tails. Don't say I told you to. Okay, so just keep going. I'm at the arm hole opening, working single crochet around the arm hole same as the keyhole. As you're working your single crochet, cover up those tails. Working the single crochet over the tails is much easier than the flat slip stitch, so I wouldn't skip weaving in those tails for the arm hole, 'cause you might see those, so either weave them in, or cover them with your single crochet, but don't leave those unworked. This is what it looks like after you've seamed the sides, and worked single crochet around the arm hole opening.

Hems and collar ribbing

- The bottom hem and the collar are both worked in perpendicular ribbing. Begin at the lower hem with the right side of your work facing out. Join your yarn with a slip stitch, and chain eight. Skip the first chain, and single crochet in the next seven. There's our initial single crochet. Here's our first rib. Now let's attach that to the body of our vest. So slip stitch into the next two stitches. Turn your work. We'll skip those first two slip stitches, I'll point them out here. Here's your first slip stitch, here's your second slip stitch. We're gonna skip those two and work into that single crochet in the back loop only, and we're gonna work in the back loop only of all seven single crochet stitches, four, five, six, seven. Chain one, turn your work. Working in the back loop of each stitch, single crochet, four, five. It's a good idea to count your stitches. I know it's only seven stitches, but it's easy to get

lost in those slip stitches. Now let's keep attaching our ribbing to the body. We've already worked into that stitch. If you're wondering how do you know, you can see the stitch being worked into it here, but I'm gonna show you a trick in case, in the future, you get confused, where you've already worked the stitch and you wanna be clear where to work your next stitch. So slip stitch two. Grab a stitch marker. Place that marker in that stitch that you just worked to indicate that you've already worked it, so when you come back to the body, you don't work into that stitch. Turn your work. Skip those first two slip stitches, stitch there and stitch there. We wanna work into that stitch, into the back loop. Single crochet, seven. There's our stitch marker. We've already worked into that stitch, let's skip that one, work into the next stitch, slip stitch. You can remove the stitch marker or you can leave it, and place the stitch marker in the next one. So that's one slip stitch. So second slip stitch. Turn your work, skip those two slip stitches, because we just wanna work into the single crochet stitches, and we're working in the back loops only. And you're gonna keep doing that all the way across the bottom hem of your piece. So you'll keep working your perpendicular ribbing all the way around the back, all the way to the other front, and we'll meet up here to show you the next step. We have our last two stitches. We'll work slip stitches in those last two stitches, turn our work, and work a single crochet through the back loop for the last time, at the hem. That's the last stitch. Break your yarn, fasten off. And there you have your bottom hem. Now we're gonna do the perpendicular rib on the collar. It's worked the same as the ribbing at the hem. Starting at the bottom hem, join your yarn, chain eight, and we're working around the collar. Skip the first chain and single crochet into seven chain, slip stitch into the next two stitches to join your work to the front edge. Turn your work. Skip the first two slip stitches. Single crochet in the back loop of seven stitches. Continue to work in this manner until all the stitches along the collar have been worked. Whoo-hoo, we're done! Here is the finished vest. This is a much bigger size than we were working on before. This is a size for my body. This is just to show you that you can make it in your size, regardless of what your body looks like, you can make one of these. There's the keyhole. There's our seams. Let's try it on. Here it is. The vest is finished, and it feels amazing, and it looks amazing in the back. What I love about this vest is that it's fast to make, you can whip one of these up in, probably, two weeks. The colors are fun, the shaping is fun. Why wouldn't you wanna wear this? And it's also very wearable in all weathers. When it gets cold, put on a long-sleeved tee, when it gets hot, put on a tank. Wear it all year round. I have another version of this sweater that I wanna show you. Wanna see? This is what it looks like. It's the exact same vest, except now it's a sweater. Let me show you the back. I've removed the keyhole for this version, so if you want something a little bit more modest, you can eliminate that. I've made it a lot bigger. The size of this version is two to three sizes bigger than this version. I've added sleeves, which is just the ribbing worked perpendicular around the armhole opening, and I've eliminated the ribbing on the front. So because it's a bigger size, it fits more like a sweater instead of a vest. Which version do you prefer? Is it the vest, or is it the sweater, for more coverage, or is it both? Let me know, I'd love to see what you make.