

Joining squares

This tutorial will show you how I join my squares with a zipper join.

I created this tutorial for my FloralCAL but it can be used for any joining of squares, hexagons etc.

I did not come up with this method myself and do not take any credit for this. When you check YouTube or google 'Crochet Zipper join' you will find many tutorials of this method.

I tried to explain as clearly as possible. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out.

General info - tips

The zipper join is made with slip stitches. These are made in the 'back loop' of your stitches of both squares.

The squares are placed next to each other, not on top of each other for this stitch.

Your hook is inserted in the front of both loops.

The yarn stays on the back side of your work.

Don't make the slip stitches too tight, as they don't have a lot of wiggle room when you do, and your work will get too cramped up.

I find it easiest to make the zipper join while the squares are flat on a table or desk.

I always make long lines, so not joining separate squares, but the whole vertical or horizontal line of joining at once.

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Photo tutorial

For this tutorial, I crocheted 4 squares of one of the patterns included in my Scrappiness pattern. Before you begin any joining of squares (or other shapes), make sure you know what square (or hexagon, or any other shape) goes where.



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I work this zipper join best on a flat surface, where the squares can be flat in front of me. As I make my joining lines from top to bottom, the blanket is 'upside down' in front of me.

Make a slipstitch on your hook. I will be joining with a contrasting color so it is visible on the pictures. You can pick any color you like.



Square 2 will be on the left of square 1, like the picture on the left. We will start on the bottom of this pic, which is the top of the squares.

The Zipper join uses the back loop of all the stitches. The hook is inserted from the front of both loops.

To start, insert your hook into the back loop of the chain of the corner of square 2.





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Next, you will insert the hook in the back loop of the chain in the corner of square 1. Make sure you insert your hook from the front to the back.



Like this.





Make sure the yarn goes UNDER the work like you see on the picture on the left.

When the hook is through both corner chain loops of square 2 and 1, like this, make a slipstitch.

Make sure your slip stitches aren't too tight, as they do not give much room.



It should look like the picture on the right.
Make sure you keep the yarn under your work.

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The next stitch will go in the back loop of the next stitch. Shown on the left picture with the red arrow. Insert your hook from the front as shown on the picture on the right (in square 2).





Next, insert your hook, from the front in the back loop of the next stitch of square 1. The loop is pointed out by the arrow below. After inserting it should look like the right picture. .





Now, make a slip stitch again. It should look like this. Always remember to keep the yarn on the back side of the work.





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Now continue making slip stitches like this. When you reach the corner, make sure you make the stitch in the chain of the corner of square 2 and 1, before continuing to square 5 and 4. In the picture on the left I've shown where the last stitch of square 2 and 1 should go.





On the left, the hook is inserted for the last stitch of these squares. Finish with the slip stitch, do NOT cut the yarn, but grab the next squares.



As shown below, you're gonna start with the corner chain of the next squares, just like you did with the first two.

Make sure the squares are nice and close to the previous squares.







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After the first stitch, it should look like the picture on the right.
Now keep continuing until you reach the end of these squares and when you reach the end there, the final slip stitch will be in the corner chain of the squares.
After this, cut off your yarn, and pull it through the loop on your hook and pull tight.









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When you have the vertical line ready, you will continue with the horizontal lines.

It is important to keep your yarn under your work. Make sure it is also under the joins you will be crossing!

Start with the squares like you have done before with the other squares. I'm gonna skip to where you have to cross the join of your vertical line.



In this picture, you see I have made slip stitches until I have reached the corner chain. See my yarn is under the work.

Next I will make the last slip stitch before 'crossing' the vertical join. This is done in the back loop of the corner chain. These loops have already been used for the vertical lines, but we will use them again for the horizontal join



This part can be a bit tricky, but it is important to add this stitch for a nice close join.

After this, go over the join and make the next slipstitch in the back loops of the corner chain on the other side of the vertical join. Shown with the red arrows below on the right.



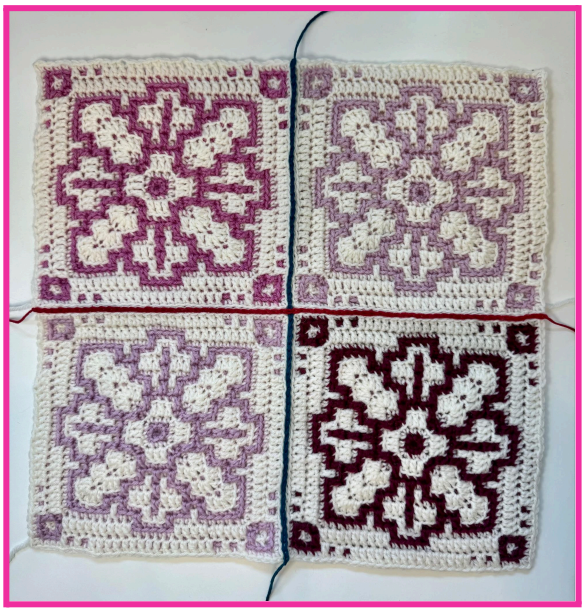
The crossing should look like below. After this, continue making the zipper join until you reach the end of the lines.



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The backside of crossing joins



4 squares joined

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