

# Colorful Caterpillar

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I was inspired to create this as a small baby shower gift. It seems everyone I know is having babies, and this nice washable rattle is perfect.



## Materials

*Knitting Loom:* Small gauge loom with at least 16 pegs. Markman Farms Adjustable Double Rake was used in sample.

*Yarn:* approximately a yard of worsted weight yarn in four different colors, or a skein of one color works as well, also a bit of yarn scrap for antennae. Red Heart Super Saver was used in sample.

*Notions:* Tapestry needle, knitting tool, crochet hook, scissors, Polyfil, nylon for stuffing, all plastic cat toy for the rattle.

*Gauge:* 3 ½ stitches and 4 rows = 1"

*Abbreviations:* CO: Cast On  
BO: Bind Off

*Pattern Notes:* Very simple, knits up in about an hour. You do need knowledge of crocheting to do the antennae, Gather method bind off, and Cinch Stitch.

## Instructions

Knitting:

### *Tail (Blue)*

CO 16 pegs using any method, leave a length of yarn 12" long for seaming tail closed at the end

Knit 4 rows

Do Cinch Stitch (instructions at end)

### *Second Segment (Yellow)*

Knit 6 rows

Do Cinch Stitch

### *First Segment (Green)*

Knit 8 rows

Do Cinch Stitch

## *Head (Orange)*

Knit 10 rows

BO using the Gather method

### **Stuffing the Caterpillar:**

1. Cut a piece of nylon the same length as the caterpillar, make sure one end is closed on the nylon
2. Place a cat toy in the nylon and stuff in head section
3. Cinch the section using the Cinch Stitch (see instruction at the end)
4. Stuff the first segment (in the nylon) with Pollyfil, cinch off
5. Stuff the second segment with Pollyfil, cinch off
6. Stuff the tail with Pollyfil, pick up the stitches with the 12" tail of yarn and gather closed
7. Hide ends
8. Antennae (any color yarn scrap)
9. Decide where you want your antennae on the top of the head
10. Pick up one bar on top of the head and chain 6 stitches, or as many as look good to you, tie off
11. Repeat for other antennae
12. You now have a cute washable rattle

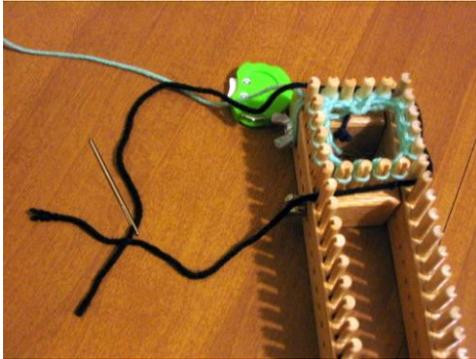


# The Cinch Stitch

## Description of Stitch:

To create the Cinch Stitch, you will run a strand of yarn through the loops on all the pegs, just as you would for the Gather Removal Method, but you will not remove the stitches.

## Instructions:

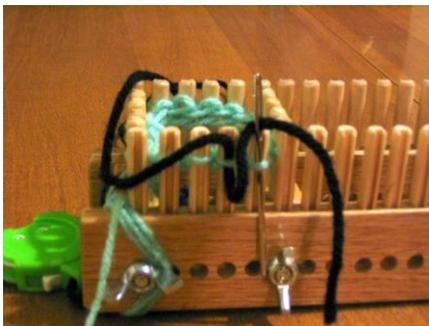


When your piece has the number of rounds (rows) that you desire, or that your pattern calls for, cut a piece of yarn the same color as you are using (I used a different color in the example so it would be better seen), and wrap it around the pegs leaving about 4-6 inches of additional yarn. (to be safe wrap around the loom twice until you get the hang of how much you will need, it is better to have more than to not have enough, or to have short ends).

Thread one end of the yarn onto a yarn needle or any blunt ended needle.

Starting on the opposite side from where your first peg is (starter peg), bring the needle through the loop just as you would to remove the stitch, but instead of lifting the loop up and over, pull the needle and the yarn through the loop.

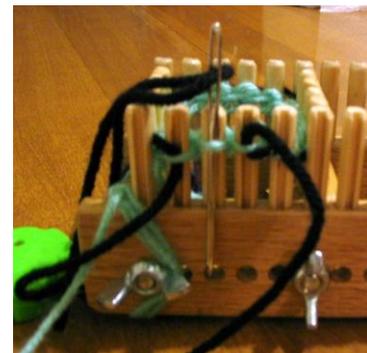
Be sure to keep about a 2-3" tail hanging below the first peg that you go through.

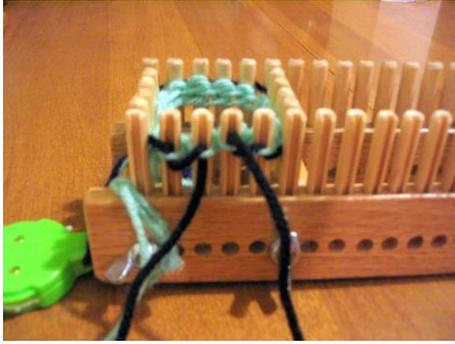


Do not remove the loop from the peg.



Continue in the same manner all the way around the loom until you reach the last peg.





You now have created the Cinch stitch.



Pull the ends of the yarn to the inside of the loom and leave hanging on the inside of the project to pull on when you need to cinch that area closed.

Continue wrapping the loom and knitting off as though the extra yarn was not woven around the loom, being careful when knitting off the cinch stitch row to not pull the two ends of yarn through the loops.

When your piece is finished you will be able to look at the inside of the tube and see the drawstrings hanging at various levels where you placed them, ready to be cinched when needed.



The drawstring being cinched.

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