



## Knitting and Crochet By-Products: Swatch Boards and How to Make Them



### Swatch Boards – Knitting By-Products

Swatching is key to good knitting or crocheting results. The more projects you do, the more swatches you prepare. If you are experimenting with many stitch patterns multitudes of swatches will result.

When the swatch container begins to overflow, it may be time to create a swatch board. These are fun to do. The process provides a lot of reflection time; project memories return as swatches are recognized. Completed boards make for great inspiration. To boot, they make for great artwork worthy of prominent display.

### Here's How to Make Susan's Swatch Board

Supplies: for each swatch board you will need 2 sheets of white 20 x 30 x 3/8" foam core board, straight pins (hundreds of them), thimble, and your bin of swatches. Optional: background fabric material and duct tape.

1. Weave in all tails of all swatches
2. Block swatches
3. Tape two boards together at corners
4. If desired, cover board with a background fabric if you don't plan to make white space part of your layout design. Cut the fabric large enough to fold over each side, square the corners of the fabric and tape securely.
5. Decide how you want to create your design – move your swatches around the board and have fun with it. (Don't use pins yet.) Do you want everything tight with no space between? Do you want to layer and overlap? Some of both? Special themes? Keep going and when you think you are about 'there', go to the next step.
6. Pinning – pin swatches securely to board; use pins liberally. Don't let pins go through the bottom. Here's how I perfected pinning: with thimble and holding the pin straight, push the pin just enough to pierce the first layer of the board, then lay the pin down and push sideways toward the bottom until secure. Periodically check the bottom for pins sticking out.



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Susan Kerin

I've been knitting and crocheting since the age of eight. These fine arts and other genres of needlework have always been part of my life. I won a Singer Sewing contest when I was 12 years old. Previous background also includes commercial business ownership, management and writing and editing.

I am the recipient of multiple national awards for my afghan design work in both knit and crochet. My work has appeared with Mary Maxim, Herrschners and Caron. Afghanes I

designed have been featured on publication front covers. As well, my 'Floral Spray' was featured on the front cover of a Mary Maxim 'Best Of' book and my 'Shoots & Ladders' afghan appeared on the inside front cover of Herrschners 'Best Of' Book.

As to knitting and crochet, I am devoted to:  
teaching (individual, group, institutional) general and custom knit and crochet lessons at all levels and topics,  
researching and study (4,000 books and publications library),  
designing,  
writing and editing designs to final publication status, focusing on clearly written, comprehensive patterns,  
preparing new lessons and tutorials,  
lecture and presentations to interested groups



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