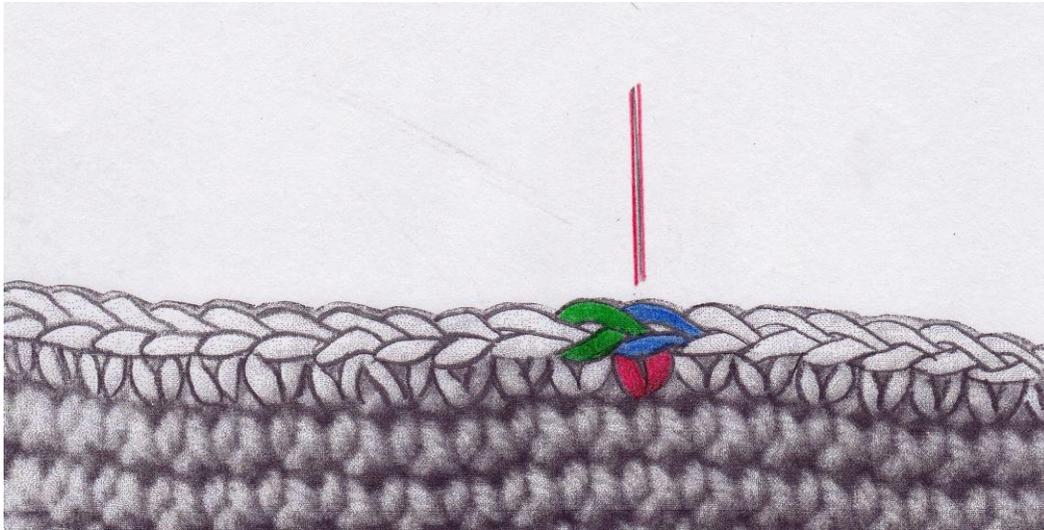


## ***Which Stitch is Which ??? Identifying the Top of a Crocheted Stitch***



Dilemma: "I need to know but can't figure out which loop on top belongs to the rest of the stitch below it. Which is the top of a stitch and where is the rest of it?"

In the photo the Red stitch is the stitch in question. The green loop and the blue loop seem to be centered directly over it. So which of these two is the top of the stitch?

Answer: the blue loop is the top of the red stitch. Here's a great way to remember this: Identify the two loops centered over a stitch. The loop to the right of center (or, the one on the right) will always be the top of the stitch.

If the remainder of the row (any stitches after the red stitch) was not complete in this photo, then the green stitch would be the **live** stitch on your hook.

Anything before the live loop on your hook is a completed stitch (or completed stitches).

**Bonus Tip:** There are many reasons for needing (or wanting) to rip back (aka frog/frogging). You are admiring your work and see a loop that looks a little loosey-goosey that you're just not satisfied with, or you were only supposed to work ten stitches of sc or whatever stitch and you worked too many, or oh darn you skipped a stitch!

To easily frog, using the above photo of the row of stitches as an example:

Let's say you need to get back to where you had just completed the red stitch.

So, do this: insert your hook into the green loop — which would be the **live** loop after the completed red stitch.

If you need to frog quite a bit, use a plastic safety pin style stitch marker and lock it into the loop.

The yarn will stop at the live loop and you're ready to begin again.

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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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