

# Finishing

- ✿ To Straighten Out Unraveled Yarn - wind it around a cake rack, or anything perforated, dip it in water and let air dry.
- ✿ To Soften an Itchy Sweater - add a little hair conditioner to the rinse water.
- ✿ Sewing Buttons on Sweaters - split yarn into separate strands and use to sew.
- ✿ Stitch Holder - to improvise, thread a needle with a spare piece of yarn and thread it through the stitches. Tie a bow to hold stitches.
- ✿ Sewing - use a blunt tipped needle to avoid sticking yourself and catching the yarn.
- ✿ Keep Spare Yarn and Care Instructions and enclose them when giving a gift.
- ✿ Binding Off at Neck - use a larger needle or bind off very loosely in the stitches as they face you. This will make it easier to pick up the stitches later.
- ✿ Picking Up Stitches -
  - ✿ BoundOff Stitches – slip needle under both loops of boundoff edges.
  - ✿ Side Edge - with right side facing you, go underneath 1<sup>st</sup> stitch.
  - ✿ Along Shaped Edge - go 1 stitch below decrease and between stitches because it will create a hole. If you can't see where, just go up the line of stitches to the top even if it looks funny to you at the time.
  - ✿ Around Neck - pick up every stitch possible fill in all spaces. On the next row, you can decrease to get the correct amount of stitches. The neck edge will look neater.
- ✿ Use the Mattress Stitch to sew together.
- ✿ To Block the Sweater - just steam it lightly with a regular iron. Wool and cotton can be ironed directly. Synthetics should have a cloth on top.