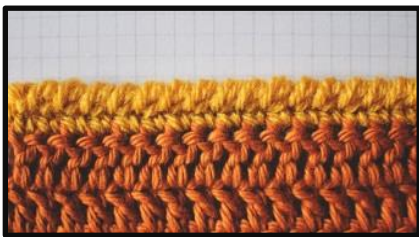# Edging: The Finishing Touch!

One of the many things I appreciate about our blankets is that they really show off the love and caring we have for homeless pets. Crafters tend to forget that not everyone is a "fiber artist", and so when an adoptive family meets a dog or cat, wrapped in a beautiful hand-crafted blanket, they are impressed! They are even more thrilled to find out their new family member gets to take it home!

A great finishing touch to a blanket is a decorative trim. It's a wonderful way to add color, cover some uneven side-stitches or make a small blanket a bit bigger. Here are four ideas for the perfect trim to add to the crocheted blankets you may be working on. Try one of these, or just do a simple half-double crochet around the perimeter. The only "trick" is to make sure you put three half-double crochets into every corner stitch. Enjoy!

CRAB STITCH

The Crab Stitch makes a wonderful edging and is quite easy to complete. It's clean, simple design nicely frames a blanket.

Work one row of SC in the edging yarn, around the blanket, putting three stitches into each corner. When you get to the end, do not turn. CH 1, skip the stitch directly to the RIGHT, and *reverse single crochet* (R-SC*) into each SC, ending with a SS into the beginning chain.

*R-SC (worked from left to right): Insert hook in next stitch to the right, yarn over, pull loop through, yarn over, pull through both loops on hook.
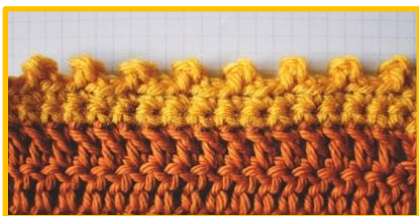
SHELLS

This edging is a bit fancy, but not much work. It's the perfect touch for many blanket styles.

It may be easier to work a row of SC along the perimeter of the blanket first. Be sure to put three SC into each corner. Then CH 1, SC in first ST, *skip 1 ST, 5 DC in next ST, skip 1 ST, 1 SC in next ST. Repeat from * to end, SC into last ST.

PICOTS

This is another great edging to add a bit of elegance to any blanket. Try using a surprising color, which will really be a contrast to the rest of the blanket. Remember, when you're an artist, there are no mistakes!

For this edging you're doing SC as the trim and adding a "picot" as you go! Create your first SC and then CH 4 or 5 (depending how large you want the Picot) and SS into the first CH. Now you have a Picot! Next work 3 or 4 SC into the next 3 or 4 stitches (depending how far apart you want the Picots) and then make another Picot. Continue around the perimeter of the blanket.

T-EDGE

This edging also gives a very clean line to a blanket and really looks best in a highly-contrasting color. It uses a simple "Spike Single Crochet" (S-SC) that's simple to do!

CH 1, SC in first 3 ST, *1 S-SC in next stitch (make the spike by inserting your hook about 1/4″ below the edge, or longer if you like!), 1 SC in each of the next 3 ST. Repeat from * to end.

Key:

CH = Chain	DC = Double crochet
R-SC = Reverse single crochet	SC = Single crochet
SS = Slip stitch	S-SC = Spike single crochet
ST = Stitch	