18: 'Intermeshing' - Double Filet Basics

Double Filet 'intermeshing' consists of two layers of traditional filet mesh - both are made of a plain, squared, grid without even any of the usual blocks, bars, lacets or other variations. The two layers are made at the same time (one row of each alternately) and the stitches of each are worked so that the fabrics become 'intermeshed' in a simple, woven 'woven' pattern

Traditional Filet Mesh

The basic filet mesh consists of treble crochet stitches alternating with single chain spaces (You may find them elsewhere with 2 ch spaces). The basic pattern is:

Make a number of chains being twice the number of spaces (squares) required in the row, plus 4.

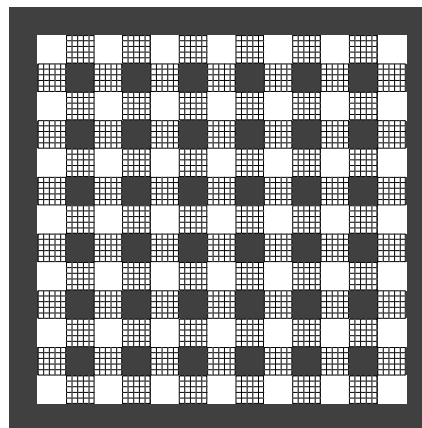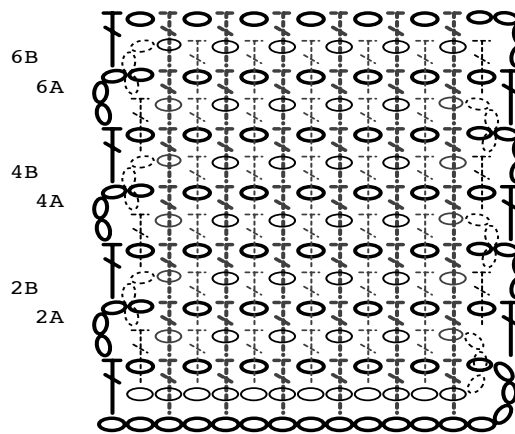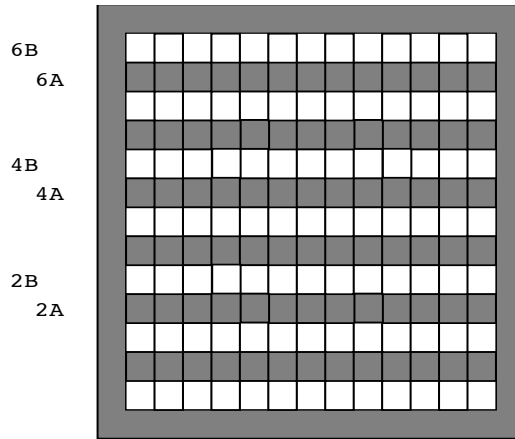**Row 1:** miss 5 ch, 1 tr into next ch, * 1 ch, miss 1 ch, 1 tr into next ch; rep from * to end, turn.

Row 2: 4 ch [counts as 1 tr and 1 ch sp], miss first tr and next 1 ch sp, 1 tr into next tr, * 1 ch, miss 1 ch, 1 tr into next tr; rep from * to last 4 ch, 1 ch, miss 1 ch, 1 tr into next ch, turn.

Rep row 2 for pattern.

Double Filet Mesh

Two mesh layers, 'L' (Light) and 'D' (Dark), identical in pattern, are offset both vertically and horizontally in relation to each other - the treble crochet stitches of one align with the spaces of the other and the tops and bottoms of the rows of one align halfway between those of the other.

To create 'intermeshing' each treble crochet is worked either in front of [tr/F] or behind [tr/B] the chain spaces of the previous row of the other fabric, but the hook is always inserted into a treble crochet stitch of the same fabric - and in just the same way it would be, if the other fabric were simply not there at all, ie from front to back and under the top two loops. **Never allow any part of the other fabric to become trapped inside any stitch** - each fabric must float free through the spaces of the other.

Hundreds of Patterns!

'Basic' patterns use only the simple mesh grid and simple permutations of the two basic stitch options, tr/F and tr/B. Once you understand the structure and know how to do the initial double filet 'set-up' rows (1A & B) and can make tr/F and tr/B accurately, you can easily manage hundreds of patterns. Since each option has to be applied to each layer, the following options for set-up and pattern repeats provide 225 patterns:

Foundation Row (2A & B) Options:
1 All trs/F
2 All trs/B
3 *1 tr/F, 1 tr/B; rep from *
4 *2 tr/F, 2 tr/B; rep from *
5 *3 tr/F, 3 tr/B; rep from *

Pattern Row (from 3A & B) Options:
1 All trs stay same side of fabric.
2 All trs stay switch to other side.
3 All trs stay same side for 2 rows, then switch

… and then you can think about getting really interesting! Here are some ways to take intermeshing further:

❀ So far we have been thinking only about 'repeat' patterns - and very simple ones at that. Large scale and 'picture' designs are also very effective in intermeshing, but they need planning and drafting. Use squared paper (or the equivalent in 'Stitch Painter' or other computer drawing programmes) and prepare it for drafting double fabric patterns by making every second square permanently 'D', ie black, and every intermediate second square permanently 'L', ie white. Now all you have to remember is that all the remaining squares (which you could 'hatch' or make temporarily grey) are the only ones which can change and they must all be made to switch to either 'D' or 'L'.

✿ Why stick with a totally 'plain' filet mesh - you could design in some 'blocks' and/or angled stitches/groups/clusters.

❖ Why stick with 'double' filet fabric - you can use a larger grid made of, say, double trebles and 2 ch spaces … and then there is room for a third layer and more options for each stitch, for instance each stitch can go at the front or at the back of each of two previous rows. (Don't worry that more layers might mean thicker combined fabric! Not so - however many layers there are, only two ever overlay each other in any one place.)

Top: chart for a basic Double Filet pattern. **Middle:** stitch diagram (international stitch symbols) of the same pattern. **Bottom:** squared chart prepared for drafting Double Filet patterns - 'D' and 'L' squares are fixed, hatched squares must be switched to 'D' or 'L'