

Rochester Knitting Guild March 2018

BLOCKING

for fun and pro-fit

What does Blocking mean??

- Simply put, blocking is washing or wetting a finished garment and arranging it to dry flat and even.
- Washing/wetting and spinning out the excess water helps knitting "even out"
- Will not change gauge but even out the stitches over all

Some lace patterns knit up deeply 3 dimensional and dimpled, blocking changes everything







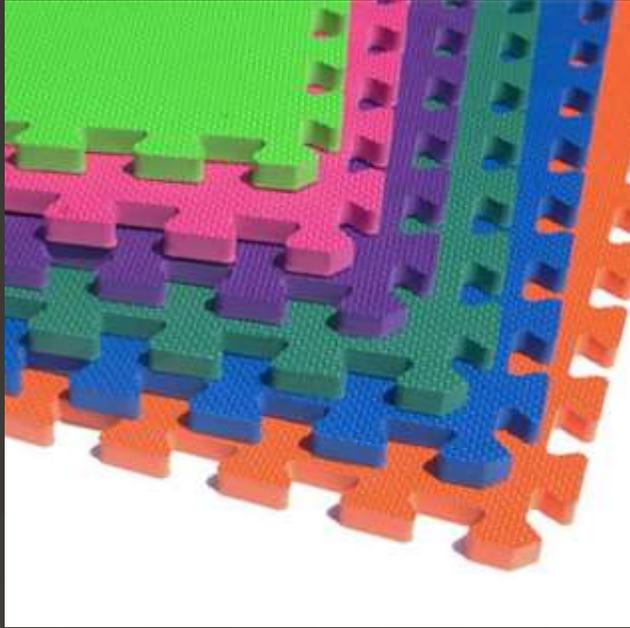
What do I need to block my knitting?

MUST HAVES

- Finished Object
- Sink or tub to wash and rinse FO
- Some way to spin water out
- A FLAT SURFACE you can pin to
- Pins of some sort (non-rusting)

NICE TO HAVE

- Foam mats
- Blocking Wires
- Blocking combs
- Various Pins, T-pins, straight, U
- A Room of Knits' Own
- Or cat repellent



Foam Mats come in various sizes up to 2 feet square and can be combined into various shapes to fit your garments.

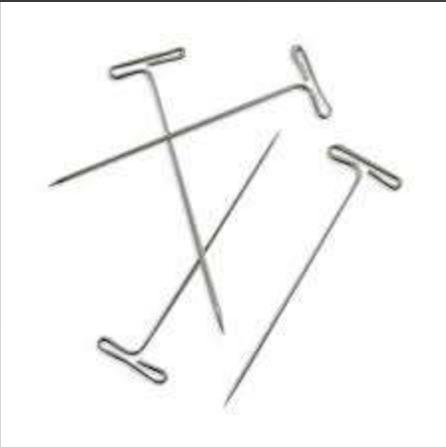
A friend and I split 3 sets of 4 so we each have 6 2x2 squares for more options (like my 8 foot long green hap shawl)

Foam Mats are available from specialty knit shops and craft stores both locally and online, home improvement stores and discount stores.

Air new mats outside for a day or two before using them, the odor of new foam is pretty potent.



Pins and Wires



T Pins



U Pins



Straight Pins

Blocking Wires

STAINLESS STEEL

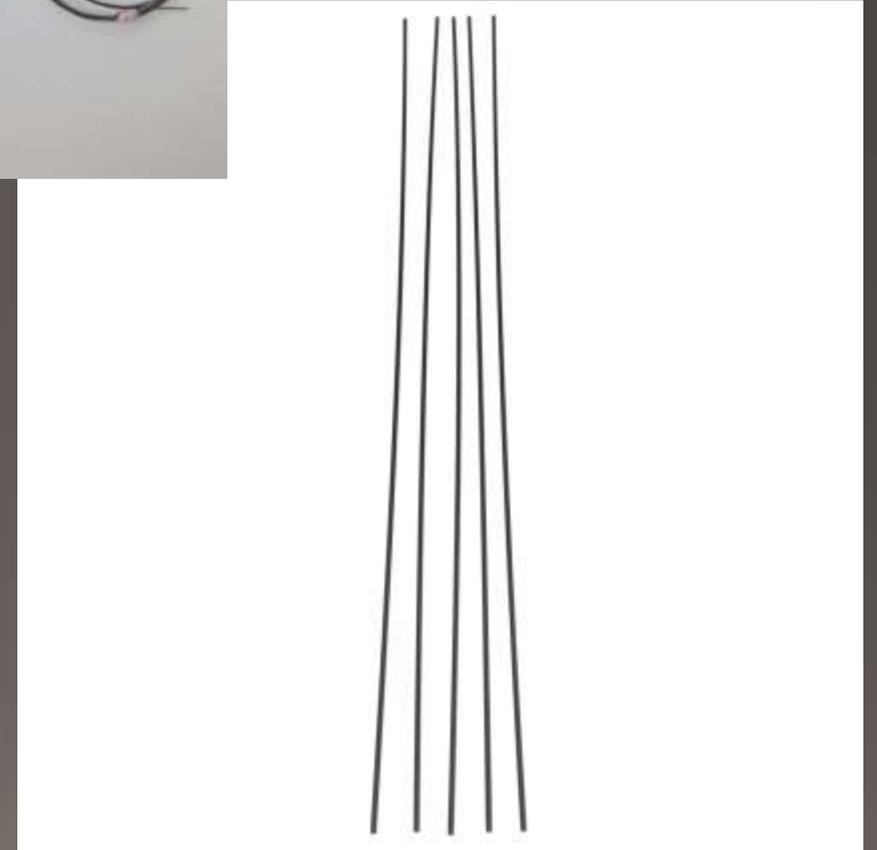


Rigid Steel
(or with a little bend
to them)

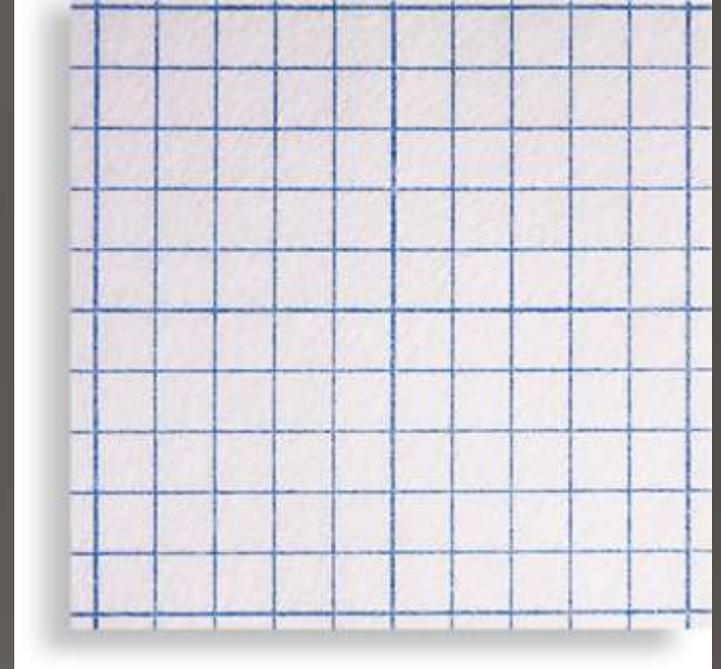


Flexible Steel
(with a LOT of bend
to them)

Carbon Fiber
Straight & very
flexible, strong



Knit Blockers or Blocking Combs



1 inch grid interfacing

Prep Steps

- Wash the knitted item
- Rinse the knitted item
- Spin out as much water from the knitted item as humanly possible either in the washing machine or whirling a net bag around your head like a madwoman in the front yard.
- Small items can be spun out in a salad spinner
- Always carry wet knitting in a colander, bowl or washtub to support it.

Why should your knitting have it's own room while blocking?

- It's got to dry on a flat surface to preserve the shape you want it to have and to avoid sagging into a shape you don't
- It takes time to dry
- It does not require help to dry once pinned out
- Table tops and beds are not cat, dog, or person proof



Larch Shawl – before blocking



Larch
Pinned, carbon
Fiber blocking wires

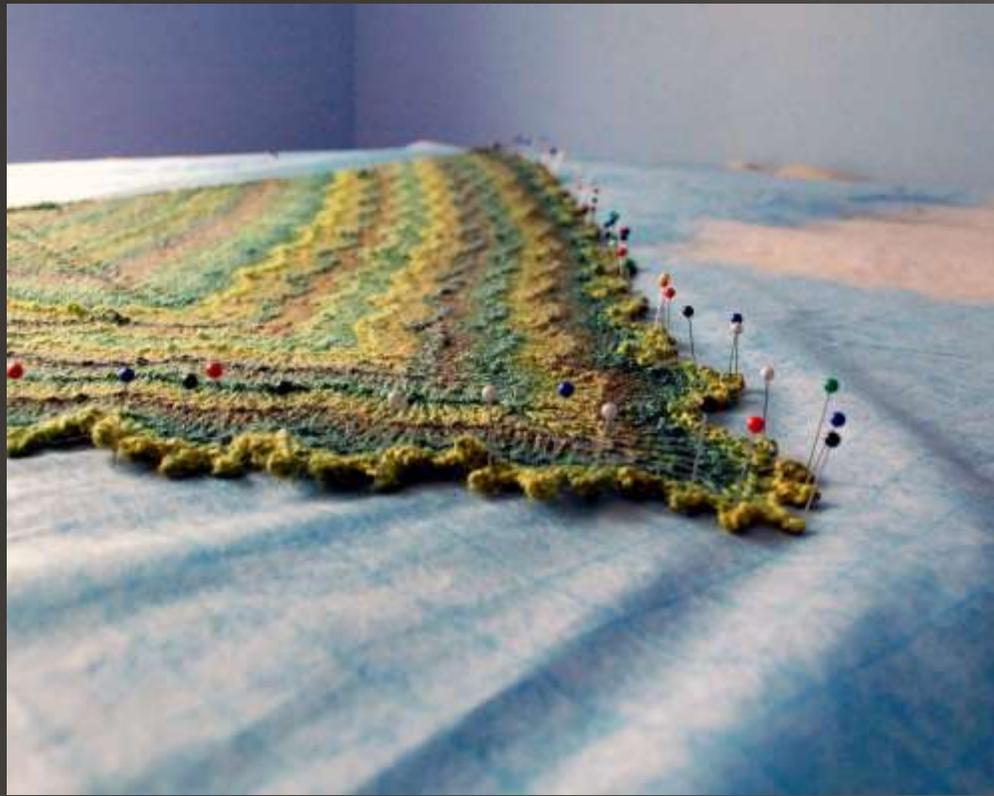


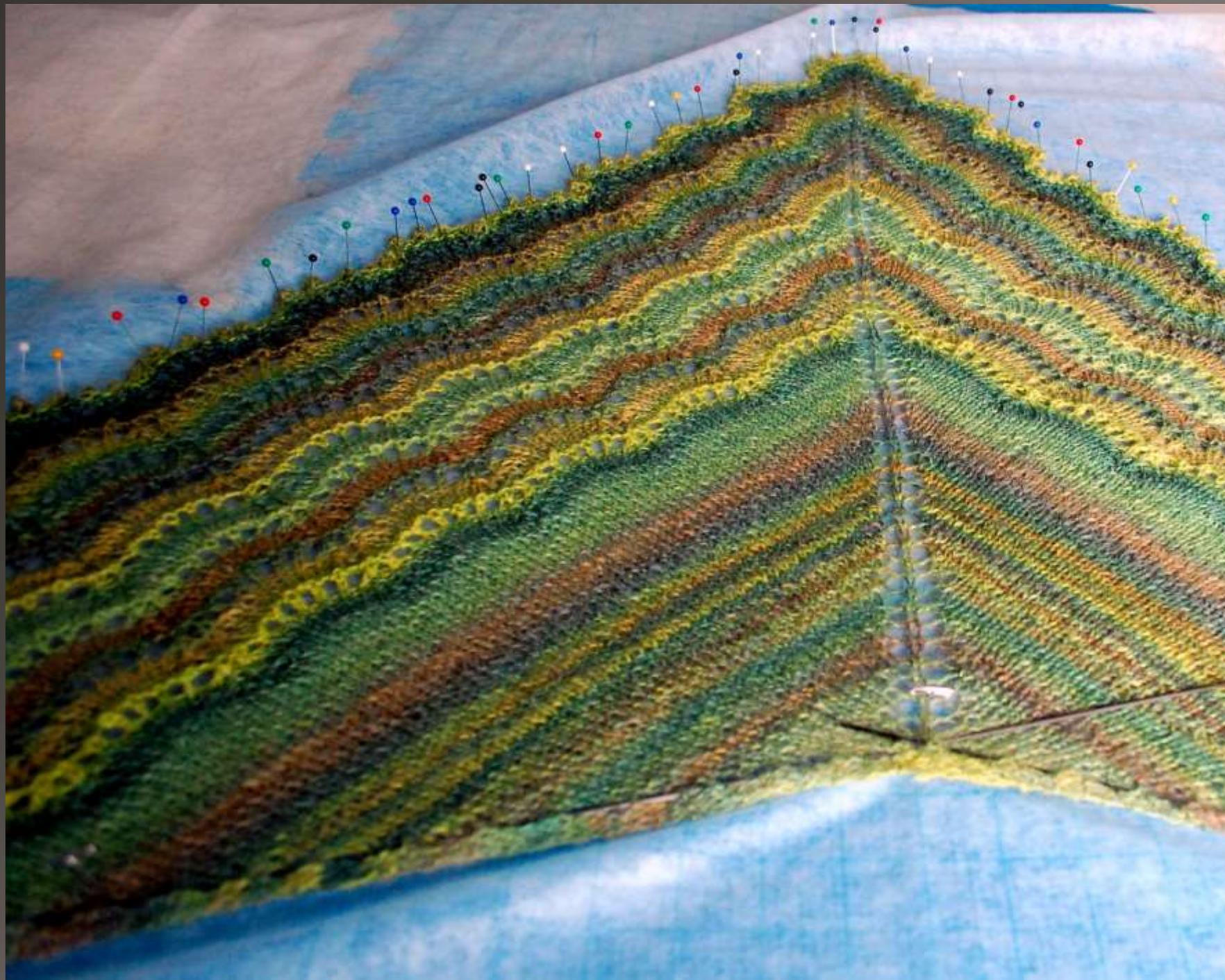
Detail of lace edging with wires threaded through points and held in place with T-pins



Pinning out points



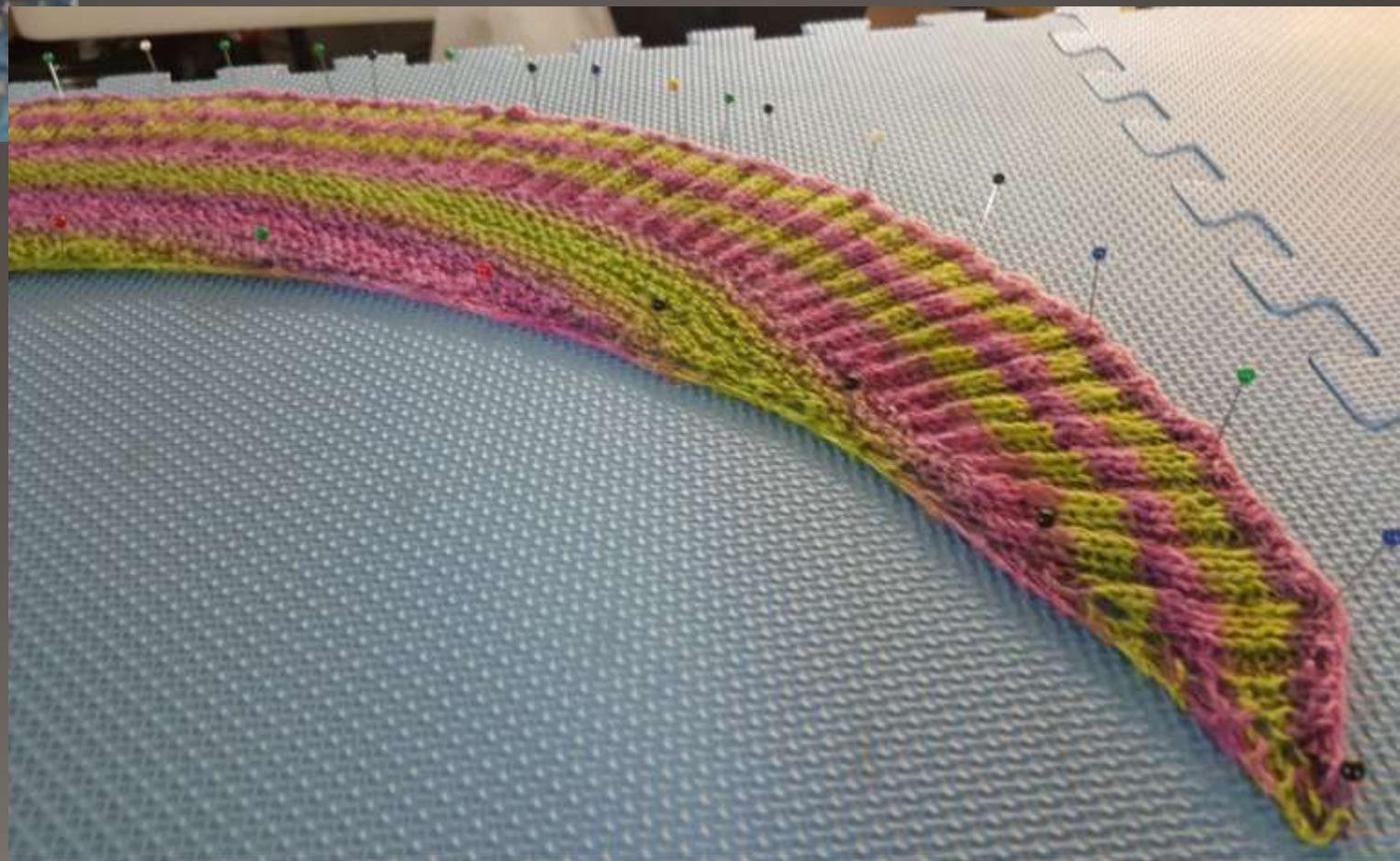




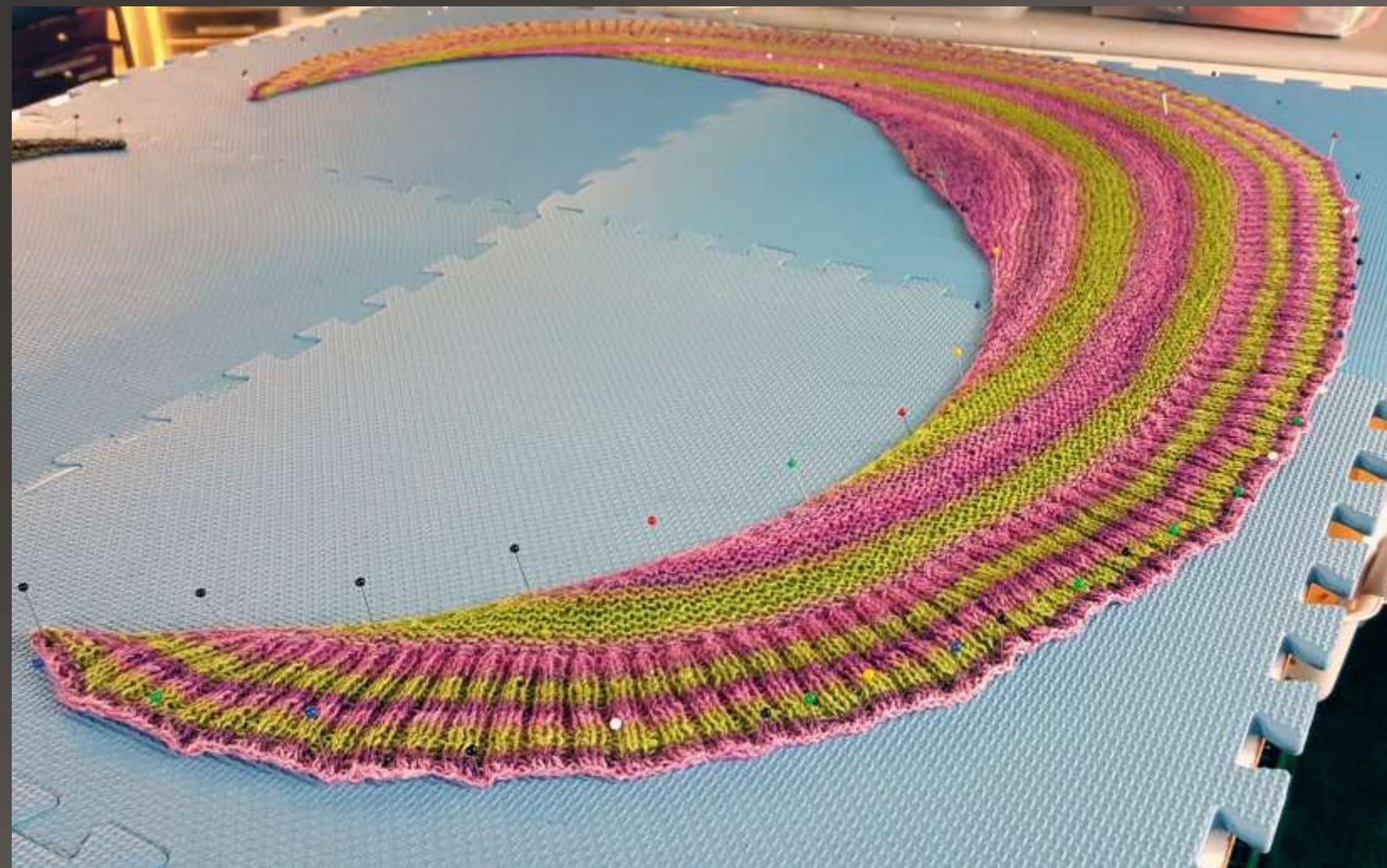




TGV – a very long crescent shaped scarf
No wires but lots of pins



Blocking asymmetrical or curved shapes
flexible wires and/or lots of pins





Long hap shawl



Blocking –

Is it difficult? No

Is it useful? YES

Will blocking fix every little thing in my knitting? No

Will blocking make up for a multitude of irregularities in my knitting? YES

Blocking improves drape, appearance of intricate (and not so intricate) stitch patterns and evens out your knitted fabric a great deal. It's worth taking the time to perform this simple task well.

