

## Forked Fringe

In this fringe the yarn is wound in figure eights on a two-pronged device and held in place with a chain stitch down the center. It becomes a two-edged fringe, perfect for sewing to a base fabric and clipping and fluffing for fuzzy worms.

What should the fork be called? I found one reference to a “special device.” Another Swedish site described “gaffelfransar på en slags gaffel (fork-fringe on a type of fork).”

Johanne Ländin, in her *Born to Knit* blog, called it a “napped edge maker.” This post has useful and beautiful photos. <http://borntoknitblog.blogspot.com/2011/06/glad-midsommar.html>



We'll call it a fringe fork.

The fringe-making process is simple. Twist the yarn into a figure eight on the two rods. You can use one strand, or several. Here's the hard part - try to put NO tension on it - that makes the rods pull together and changes the width of the fringe. A slight change in the width along the row of fringe is not a big problem; often, the loops are clipped to make a fuzzy worm, and the trimming will solve any differences.

Once you have filled your fork, or made a piece in the length you desire, fasten the fringe with a chain stitch down the middle. With each stitch, catch a few loops. Important! With each stitch, be sure to get all the way underneath so you don't miss some of the figure eights.

You can also use the sewing machine to sew the seam down the middle of the figure eights. This is easy and fast.



I made a fuzzy worm by sewing down two rows of red forked fringe.

The first photo shows the lengths of fringe; the second photo shows the worm with clipped, untrimmed loops; and the third shows the finished fuzzy worm.

Below, forked fringes were used to create a fuzzy worm with zigzags.



## Using the fork fringe to make a striped mitten band

The trick is that you need a double layer of forked fringe to make a full enough band. In this mitten, I used two layers of white fringe for the majority of the band, and I sewed them on by machine. Then I used fringe of pinks and reds, but in those cases, I doubled them (and sometimes tripled them) and sewed them into place by hand.



## Using the fork fringe to make a twisted tassel

Melba Granlund was given several beautiful Swedish tapestries by a friend from her church, who obtained them from a weaver she had known on the East Coast. One piece had beguiling twisted tassels; I had to figure out how to reproduce them. Starting with fringe made on the two-pronged fork works well.

Add the yarn in figure eights to the fringe fork to the desired length. The tassels in the example are folded once in the center, so the fringe length is twice as long as the finished tassel length.

When you sew the chain stitch down the center, choose a thread color similar to the yarn, to avoid a contrasting color peeking out from the center. Be sure to catch all the figure eights in your chain stitch; if you don't, large loops will pop out from your coil.

Once you slip the forked fringe off the needles, gently twist it in the direction it seems to want to go. Fluff it, work it. You can also steam it to hold the twist.

### MAKE YOUR OWN FRINGE FORK

You can make a fringe fork for yourself. I used a 36" 3/16ths" steel rod from the hardware store, cut in half. Insert the two rods into holes drilled into a small block of wood. I had to find a friend with a drill press to make the holes straight through the wood. It was impossible to make the rods parallel when I used an electric drill to make the holes. There is no correct distance apart to drill the holes, but I after testing several sizes, I preferred to drill the holes 1-1/8" apart, center to center.

