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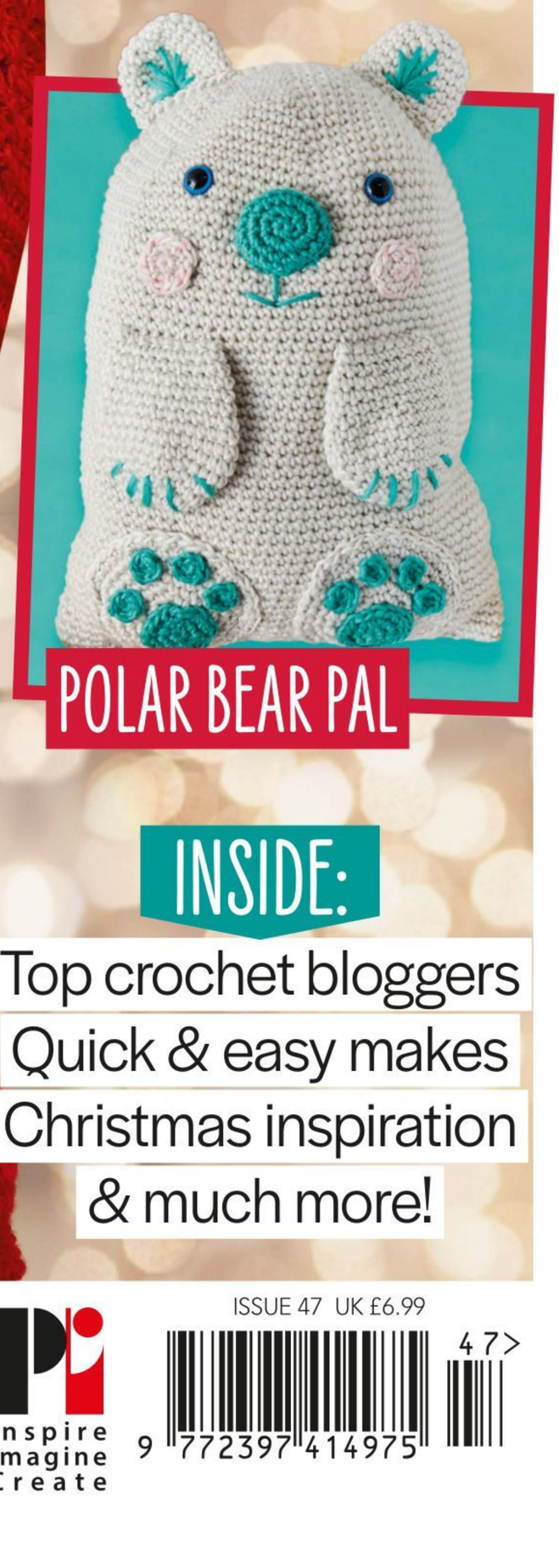
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- ☑ Expert guides
- ☑ Gifts for the family





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INSIDE:

- Top crochet bloggers
- Quick & easy makes
- Christmas inspiration
- & much more!

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Issue 47

Dear Santa

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See page 34



Can you believe that it's that time of year again? The weather is getting cooler, the nights longer, and there is just a slight sound of **jingle bells** on the air. Every year, I wish I started prepping my Christmas crochet earlier, but I hardly ever seem to manage to – not this year! This year, I've already **planned my gifts**, started crocheting some decorations, and I'm making sure everyone else gets into the **festive spirit** right along with me with our **biggest issue ever** that is simply bursting at the seams with Christmas delights!

Start right away with your **exclusive Sooty crochet kit** – I loved watching Sooty, Sweep and Soo while I was growing up, and Sachiyo Ishii's **charming design** captures his sprit perfectly (Santa's hat and all!). Find the pattern to make him on page 16, and if toys aren't your cup of eggnog, why not use your yarn to make the **Norwegian Wrist Warmers** on page 20 instead?

We have **something for everyone** inside this issue, from a sparkly festive Christmas blanket on page 66, to a classic elf toy on page 62, a stunning jumper design on page 22, and stylish winter accessories throughout. Plus, we **welcome back** Sarah-Jayne of Bella Coco Crochet with her crochet masterclass on page 28, and we're meeting some **amazing crochet bloggers** and designers this month, including Vincent from Knot Bad (page 78) and the charming Ashlee Elle of The Dream Crochet (page 50).

My **personal favourite** project this month has to be our very own Deputy Editor Liam's fabulous gadget case over on page 30 – writing to Santa is a very fun and **special family tradition** and to capture that in crochet is a delight.

Goodbye for now!

Jenny

I loved watching Sooty and the gang while I was growing up, and I hope you will love this little toy too!



Editor
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An asymmetric shawl that would make a lovely gift this Christmas, and only needs two balls of wool

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A super snuggly Fair Isle crocheted accessory set, great for ladies and gents this Christmas

NEED SOME HELP? Our patterns go through several checks for accuracy, but sometimes errors do slip through the gaps. Before contacting the Editor, head to **www.crochetnow.co.uk/category/errata** to see if there's already a fix – if not, let us know by email at **contact@crochetnow.co.uk**

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WHAT'S NEW?

These are the yarns, patterns, books and tidbits of woolly wonder that will make your month

IN FOCUS

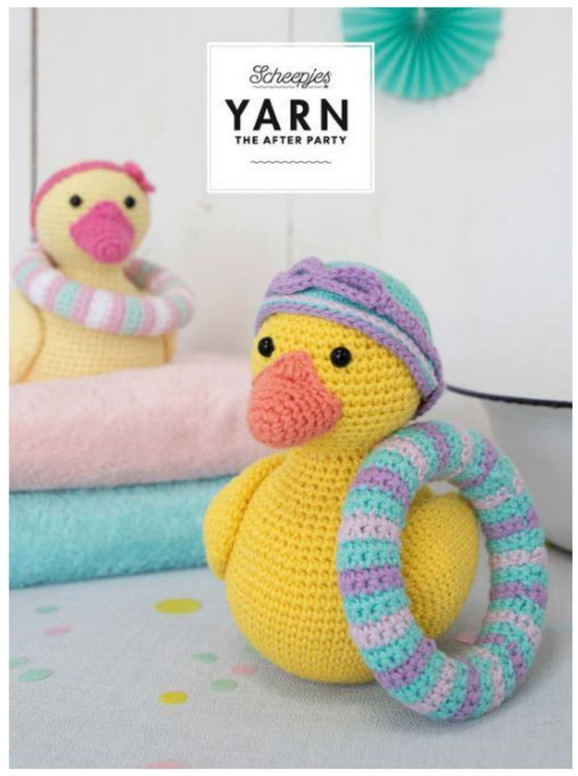
Rowan magazine has an exciting new look. Issue 66 consists of two separate publications – the main magazine and *Rowan Focus*. Both come together to create a new look, bound together with a Rowan wrap. Choose to have one or the other, or even both! *Rowan Focus – Natural Fibres* consists of 15 crochet and knitting designs by Lisa Richardson, all of which are designed using two of Rowan's latest yarn releases, Cashmere Haze and Island Blend. **www.knitrowan.com**

News

CUDDLE BUDDIES



This adorable duo from King Cole are a perfect gift idea for your little ones this Christmas. Made from King Cole's super soft and 100% cotton yarn, Cottonsoft DK, these toys are brilliantly cuddly and gentle on sensitive skin. The pattern leaflet includes full written instructions for making both the bunny and bear and are a great project for beginner toy makers. **www.kingcole.co.uk**



TOTALLY ORGANIC

Organicon is the brand-new 100% organic yarn from Scheepjes. Made from 100% organic cotton, this yarn is part of a global movement towards reducing resource consumption and conscious production methods. Organicon produces an exceptionally soft fabric that's a great choice for creating toys, blankets and garments for babies and toddlers. This yarn is available in a selection of 21 soft, fresh pastel tones varying from delicate pinks through to sunshine yellows. **www.scheepjes.com**



CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

The team at West Yorkshire Spinners is launching a new special edition Christmas colourway in their Signature 4-ply Country Birds collection. The new shade, Robin, features a mix of tonal colours inspired by nature to create a stunning variegated yarn. Crochet with Robin on it's own or combine it with other shades from the Signature 4-ply range to create gifts that are perfect for friends and family this Christmas. **www.wyspinners.com**

STRAIGHT FROM THE STUDIO

Deramores Studio Aran is the latest addition for the Deramores Studio range. This wonderfully soft acrylic yarn has been specially developed with anti-pilling technology and is a perfect choice for a range of crochet projects including garments, accessories and blankets. Made from 100% acrylic, Studio Aran is completely machine washable and can be tumble dried and is available in a variety of 15 bright and bold shades. **www.deramores.com**





CUTE CRITTERS

These cute little critters are a perfect gift idea for crocheters and knitters. The Knitty Critters kit range includes everything you need to make your very own cute companions. Kits range from woodland creatures to dragons, unicorns, bears and elephants and each one includes the yarn, stuffing, a crochet hook, knitting needles and written pattern needed to make the project. Any crocheter would be thrilled to find this under the Christmas tree!
www.knittycritters.co.uk

WHAT A CORKER

These brand-new, lightweight project bags from TOFT are perfect for travelling. Made from cork, the waterproof design is easy to clean and resistant to all weathers. Each bag can hold up to 200g of your favourite TOFT yarn and is perfect for keeping projects safe and sound while you're on the move. These sustainable bags are all individual and one of a kind thanks to the cork's natural prints and patterns. **www.toftuk.com**



Cherry Heart's CORNER

Every month, Sandra Paul brings us her words of crochet wisdom
www.cherryheart.co.uk

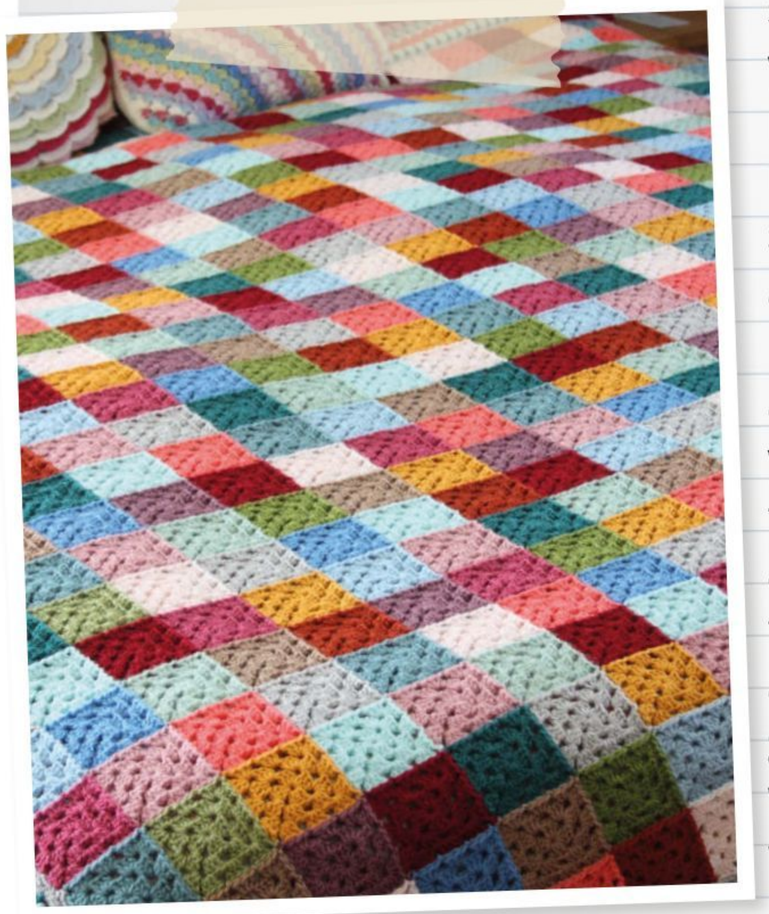


Sandra Paul



Who wants to be the first to say it? You know what I mean... the festive word! I'm afraid I'm one of those irritating people who likes to get ready for Christmas nice and early and if there are any crafty gift aspirations on your list then it certainly doesn't hurt to get going sooner rather than later as these are the months when time seems to just melt away!

"Whipping up a square when time is short can feel like a nice achievement"



The perfect project right now of course is a cosy blanket. Not only is this the time that you'll be wanting and needing one, it's also a project that can keep you warm while you work on it. Pick something nice and simple in rows so you can do small amounts and not lose your place, or maybe choose a motif that you love? Whipping up a square when time is short can feel like a nice achievement in itself. Not that I'm suggesting a blanket for a gift by the way. Not unless you are incredibly time rich that is – I'd stick to something a little more manageable for that. Cute little wrist warmers are my absolute favourite gift – so easy to wear, a welcome gift and quite quick to make too!

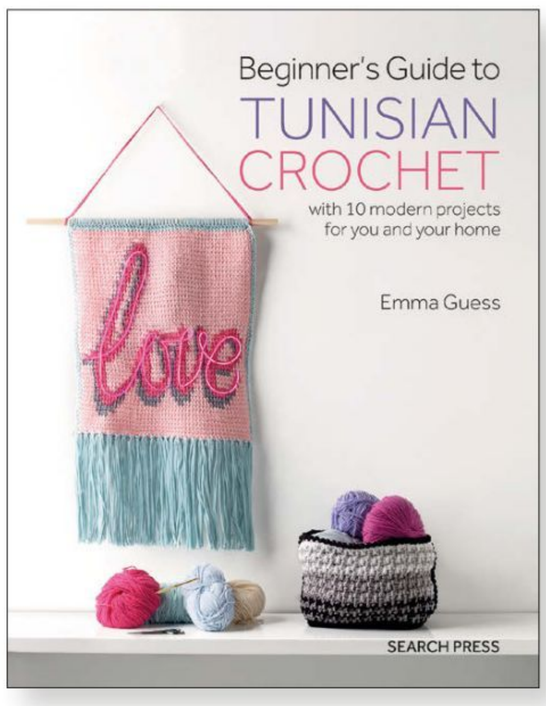
STOP THE PRESS



We adore the French Press CAL from designer Toni Lipsey of TL Yarn Crafts. This gorgeous cardigan has been designed with the Autumn seasons in mind and is a lightweight, flexible and stylish garment that will keep you warm as the seasons change. The pattern is being released over the course of six weeks, with the first part having launched on the 30th August. Get the full pattern from **www.tlycblog.com**



A BEGINNER'S GUIDE



Have you often thought about trying Tunisian crochet but not been sure where to start? *Beginner's Guide to Tunisian Crochet* is the brand-new book from Emma Guess that will help you master the basics of this technique. Practise with 10 stylish patterns for you and your home, each of which is accompanied with clear, step-by-step photography to help you learn the basics and create exciting new fabric and texture. **www.searchpress.com**

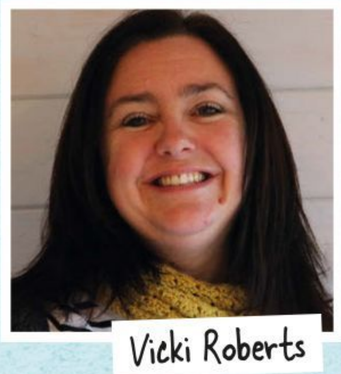
CAL WATCH

We all love a great crochet-along, and every month we will spotlight our favourite CAL online so you can get involved!



Cygnet BOHO CAL

by Vicki Roberts (Off the Hook for You)



Vicki Roberts

This brand-new CAL from Crochet Now designer Vicki Roberts and Cygnet Yarns is a perfect choice for beginners. Each instalment of the 8-part CAL will be released on a weekly basis starting from 23rd September. Each of the circle and square patterns has been designed to teach a new technique, producing a bright and colourful blanket that will measure 200x130cm.



Vicki's top tip

This is a great beginner project, as it increases in difficulty each week, expanding your crochet skills. Check your stitch counts, especially for circles and also check your hook size as the square that uses BLO goes down a size to accommodate the slightly bigger stitches.

Join in at **www.offthehookforyou.co.uk**
For additional yarn support visit
www.deramores.com

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Laura Robinson, Little Monster Sweater, issue 43



Jacqueline Stevens, Rocco the Raccoon, issue 44



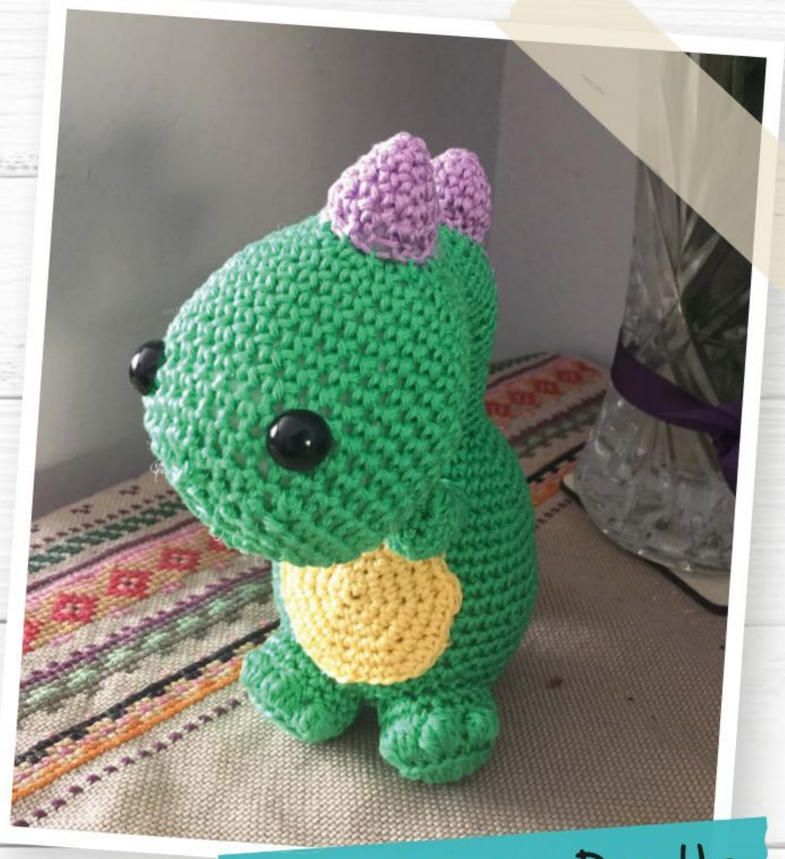
Jacqueline Neil, Pippa the Panda, issue 35



Renata Wrona, Step in Line Gloves, issue 44



Vicky Mounsey, Little Rainbow Delights, issue 45



Jayne Wilkinson, Dax the Dinosaur, issue 37

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Stretch the fabric out when crossing threads and allow them to remain loose so they do not pull the fabric before securing



Zoë Potrac

CHRISTMAS PLAID WRAP

This trendy wrap is perfect for the festive season and is inspired by traditional winter fabric prints

Aran 5mm

★ Beginner friendly

Yarn used

Cygnet Aran
2 balls in light grey 969 (B)
1 ball each in white 208 (A), red 1206 (C) & Sage 202 (D)
Available from
www.deramores.com/collections/crochetnow

About the yarn

Aran; 210m per 100g ball; 100% acrylic

Tension

12 rows x 17 sts (dc & ch) = 10cm measured over st patt

Hook used

5mm

Other supplies

tapestry needle or bodkin

Sizing

Finished shawl measures 145cm wide x 66cm deep at widest points

Start crocheting

Main Body

All dc sts are worked into the dc st on the row below, all chains are above the chain on the previous row to create a mesh effect.

With A, chain 2.

Row 1: Beg in 2nd ch from hook, 1 dc. Turn. *1 st*

Row 2: 1 ch (does not count as a st here and throughout), [1 dc, 1 ch, 1 dc] in first st. Turn. *2 sts*

Row 3: 1 ch, 1 dc, 1 ch, 1 dc. Turn.

Row 4: 1 ch, 1 dc, 1 ch, [1 dc, 1 ch, 1 dc] in last st. Turn. *3 sts*

Row 5 & all odd rows: 1 ch, 1 dc, *1 ch, 1 dc; rep from * to end.

Row 6 & all even rows: 1 ch, *1 dc, 1 ch; rep from * to last st, [1 dc, 1 ch, 1 dc] in last st. Turn. *1 st inc'd*

Cont as set by rows 5 & 6, changing colour as below:

Rows 7-20: Cont with A.
Rows 21-40: With B.
Rows 41-50: With C.
Rows 51-70: With A.
Rows 71-90: With B.
Rows 91-100: With D.
Rows 101-120: With A.
Rows 121-140: With B. *72 dc, 71 1ch-sp at end of Row 140*

Fasten off. Weave in ends.



Cross Threads

The striped main body is transformed into a plaid effect by creating lines of running stitches perpendicular to the stripes.

Section 1

With C held double, thread tapestry needle or bodkin. Starting at the 5th ch-sp on Row 140 (counting from the long edge), *work a line of running stitch loosely down the rows until you reach the diagonal edge, fasten off; rep from * in the next 7 ch-sps (6th-12th) beg on the Row 140 edge as before.

Section 2

Leave next 10 ch-sps unworked, then, with D held double, rep from * in Section 1 for 8 lines of running stitch in the next 8 ch-sps.

Section 3

With C held double, as Section 2.

Section 4

With D held double, as Section 2.
Fasten off. Weave in ends.

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Sachiyo Ishii

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4-ply 3mm

★★ Intermediate

Yarn used

Kit yarn
115m in yellow (A)
28m each in red (B), black (C) & white (D)

About the yarn

4-ply; 400m per 100g; 100% polyester

Tension

13 sts x 14 rnds = 5cm over dc

Hook used

3mm

Other supplies

amber toy eyes, 8mm (included in kit)
tapestry needle
toy stuffing

Sizing

15cm tall

Start crocheting

This pattern is worked in joined rnds, join with a sl st to first dc at end of each rnd. Beg 1 ch does not count as a st throughout.

Head

Head is worked from muzzle to back of head.

Rnd 1: With A and working into a magic ring, 6 dc, join. *6 sts*
Rnd 2: 1 ch (does not count as a st here and throughout), [2 dc in next st] 6 times, join. *12 sts*
Rnd 3: 1 ch, [1 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times, join. *18 sts*
Rnd 4: 1 ch, [1 dc, 2 dc in next st] 3 times, 6 dc, [1 dc, 2 dc in next st] 3 times, join. *24 sts*
Rnd 5: 1 ch, [2 dc, 2 dc in next st] 3 times, 6 dc, [2 dc, 2 dc in next st] 3 times, join. *30 sts*
Rnd 6: 1 ch, [3 dc, 2 dc in next st] 3 times, 6 dc, [3 dc, 2 dc in next st] 3 times, join. *36 sts*
Rnds 7-9: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Rnd 10: 1 ch, 12 dc, [1 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times, 12 dc, join. *42 sts*
Rnds 11-12: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Rnd 13: 1 ch, 12 dc, [2 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times, 12 dc, join. *48 sts*
Rnd 14: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Rnd 15: 1 ch, 12 dc, [3 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times, 12 dc, join. *54 sts*
Rnd 16: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Attach eyes between rnds 11 and 12, about 8 sts apart, using the photo as a guide.
Rnd 17: 1 ch, 12 dc, [4 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times, 12 dc, join. *60 sts*
Rnds 18-20: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Rnd 21: 1 ch, [8 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times, join. *54 sts*
Rnd 22: 1 ch, [7 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times, join. *48 sts*
Rnd 23: 1 ch, [6 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times, join. *42 sts*
Rnd 24: 1 ch, [5 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times, join. *36 sts*
Rnd 25: 1 ch, [4 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times, join. *30 sts*
Rnd 26: 1 ch, [3 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times, join. *24 sts*
Rnd 27: 1 ch, [2 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times, join. *18 sts*
Rnd 28: 1 ch, [1 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times, join. *12 sts*
Stuff.
Rnd 29: 1 ch, 6 dc2tog, join. *6 sts*
Fasten off.

Body

Work as for Head through Rnd 3.
Rnd 4: 1 ch, [2 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times, join. *24 sts*
Rnd 5: 1 ch, [3 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times, join. *30 sts*
Rnd 6: 1 ch, [4 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times, join. *36 sts*
Rnd 7: 1 ch, [5 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times, join. *42 sts*
Rnd 8: 1 ch, [6 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times, join. *48 sts*
Rnds 9-18: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Rnd 19: 1 ch, [6 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times, join. *42 sts*
Rnds 20-23: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Rnd 24: 1 ch, [5 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times, join. *36 sts*
Rnds 25-27: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Rnd 28: 1 ch, [4 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times, join. *30 sts*
Rnd 29: 1 ch, [3 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times, join. *24 sts*
Rnds 30-32: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Rnd 33: 1 ch, [2 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times, join. *18 sts*
Fasten off.

Ears (make 2)

With C, work as for Body through Rnd 4. *24 sts*
Rnds 5-7: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Fasten off.

Legs (make 2)

With C, chain 6.
Rnd 1: Starting in 2nd ch from hook, 4 dc, 3 dc in last ch, rotating as you go,



SootyShow ® Cadells Ltd / Entertainment Ltd. 2019.

Special abbreviations

Half treble 2 tog (htr2tog): Yrh, insert hook in next st, yrh, pul, yrh, draw through 2 loops, yrh, insert hook in next st, yrh, pul, yrh, draw through all 4 loops on hook

Leave a long yarn tail for parts that require assembly



work in the other side of the ch, 3 dc, 2 dc in last ch, join. *12 sts*

Rnd 2: 1 ch, 2 dc in first st, 3 dc, [2 dc in next st] 3 times, 3 dc, [2 dc in next st] twice, join. *18 sts*

Rnd 3: 1 ch, 1 dc, 2 dc in next st, 3 dc, [1 dc, 2 dc in next st] 3 times, 3 dc, [1 dc, 2 dc in next st] twice, join. *24 sts*

Rnd 4: 1 ch, dc around, join.

Change to A.

Rnd 5: 1 ch, dc around, join.

Rnd 6: 1 ch, 7 dc, 10 htr, 7 dc, join.

Rnd 7: 1 ch, 7 dc, 5 htr2tog, 7 dc, join. *19 sts*

Rnd 8: 1 ch, 7 dc, 1 dc2tog, 1 dc, 1 dc2tog, 7 dc, join. *17 sts*

Rnds 9-12: 1 ch, dc around, join.

Stuff.

Rnd 13: 1 ch, 1 dc2tog, [1 dc, 1 dc2tog] 5 times, join. *11 sts*

Fasten off.

Arms (make 2)

Rnd 1: With A and working into a magic ring, 8 dc, join. *8 sts*

Rnd 2: 1 ch, [2 dc in next st] 8 times, join. *16 sts*

Rnds 3-13: 1 ch, dc around, join.

Stuff.

Rnd 14: 1 ch, 8 dc2tog, join. *8 sts*

Fasten off.

Hat

Rnd 1: With B and working into a magic ring, 6 dc, join. *6 sts*

Rnd 2: 1 ch, dc around, join.

Rnd 3: 1 ch, [2 dc in next st] 6 times, join. *12 sts*

Rnds 4-6: 1 ch, dc around, join.

Rnd 7: 1 ch, [1 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times, join. *18 sts*

Rnds 8-10: 1 ch, dc around, join.

Rnd 11: 1 ch, [2 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times, join. *24 sts*

Rnds 12-14: 1 ch, dc around, join.

Rnd 15: 1 ch, [3 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times, join. *30 sts*

Rnds 16-18: 1 ch, dc around, join.

Rnd 19: 1 ch, [4 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times, join. *36 sts*

Rnds 20-22: 1 ch, dc around, join.

Rnd 23: 1 ch, [5 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times, join. *42 sts*

Rnd 24: 1 ch, [6 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times, join. *48 sts*

Rnd 25: 1 ch, [7 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times, join. *54 sts*

Rnd 26: 1 ch, [8 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times, join. *60 sts*

Rnds 27-28: 1 ch, dc around, join.

Change to D.

Rnds 29-30: 1 ch, dc around, join.

Rnd 31 (create holes for ears): 1 ch, 17 dc, fasten off, miss next 8 sts, rejoin with sl st in next st, 10 dc, fasten off, miss next 8 sts, rejoin with sl st in next st, 17 dc, join. *44 sts*

Rnd 32: 1 ch, 17 dc, 8 ch, 10 dc, 8 ch, 17 dc, join.

Rnd 33: 1 ch, 17 dc, [8 dc in next 8ch-sp, 10 dc] twice, 7 dc, join.

Rnd 34: 1 ch, dc around, join.

Fasten off.

Wand

Rnd 1: With D and working into a magic ring, 5 dc, join. *5 sts*

Rnd 2: 1 ch, [2 dc in next st] 5 times, join. *10 sts*

Rnd 3: 1 ch, dc in BLO around, join.

Rnds 4-9: 1 ch, dc around, join.

Change to C.

Rnds 10-18: 1 ch, dc around, join.

Change to D.

Rnds 19-25: 1 ch, dc around, join.

Stuff.

Rnd 26: 1 ch, dc in BLO around, join.

Rnd 27: 1 ch, 5 dc2tog, join. *5 sts*

Fasten off.

Making up

Use photo as a guide throughout. Weave tail through last rnd of Head and pull tight to close Head. Press Ears flat and sew to Head. With C, embroider nose and mouth. Sew Legs and Arms to Body. Sew Head to Body. With D, make a 2.5cm pompom by winding yarn around a fork about 60 times, tie tightly in centre of both looped ends, cut open both looped ends and trim neatly. Sew pompom to Hat. Dress Sooty in Hat. Sew Wand to hands.

Need an alternative?



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Keep the non-working yarn to the WS of your work when changing colours

Zoë Potrac

NORWEGIAN STAR WRISTWARMERS

Why not use your kit to make these wristwarmers? They are great when you need your fingers free but want to keep warm

4-ply 3mm

★★ Intermediate

Yarn used

Kit yarn
115m in yellow (A)
28m each in red (B), black (C) & white (D)

About the yarn

4-ply; 400m per 100g; 100% polyester

Tension

22 sts and 24 rows = 10cm
measured over dc

Hook used

3mm

Sizing

One size
8cm wide and 15cm in height from wrist to knuckles when laid flat

Special abbreviations

Fountain double crochet (fdc): Place slipknot on hook, 2 ch, insert hook in 2nd ch from hook, yrh, pul, yrh, pull through one loop, yrh, pull through two loops, *insert hook into loop made before dc, yrh pull through one loop, yrh, pull through one loop, yrh, pull through two loops; rep from * for number of sts stated

Start crocheting

Work the cuff (rnds 1-7) in joined rnds with RS always facing. Work the remainder of the wrist warmer in joined and turned rnds. Join each Rnd with a slip stitch to top of first st, except for rnds 12-26 which form the thumb opening.

When working the snowflake, take care to keep the non-working yarn to the WS of your work when changing colours.

Rnd 1 (RS): With A, 30 fdc. Join to work in the rnd, being careful not to twist. *30 sts*
Rnd 2: 3 ch (does not count as a st, here and throughout), 30 tr, join.
Rnds 3-6: 3 ch, *1 RtrF, 1 tr; rep from * to end, join.
Rnd 7: 1 ch (does not count as a st here and throughout), dc around, join. Turn.
You will now work back and forth in joined rnds.
Rnd 8 (WS): 1 ch, [4 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times, join. Turn. *36 sts*
Rnds 9-10: With B, 1 ch, dc around, join. Turn.
Rnd 11: With A, 1 ch, dc around, join. Turn.

LEFT HAND ONLY:
Rnd 12: 1 ch, 17 dc, work Row 1 of Snowflake Chart, do not join. Turn.
Rnd 13: 1 ch, work Row 2 of Snowflake Chart, 17 dc, do not join. Turn.
Rnds 14-26: Cont as set, working rows 3-15 of Snowflake Chart.

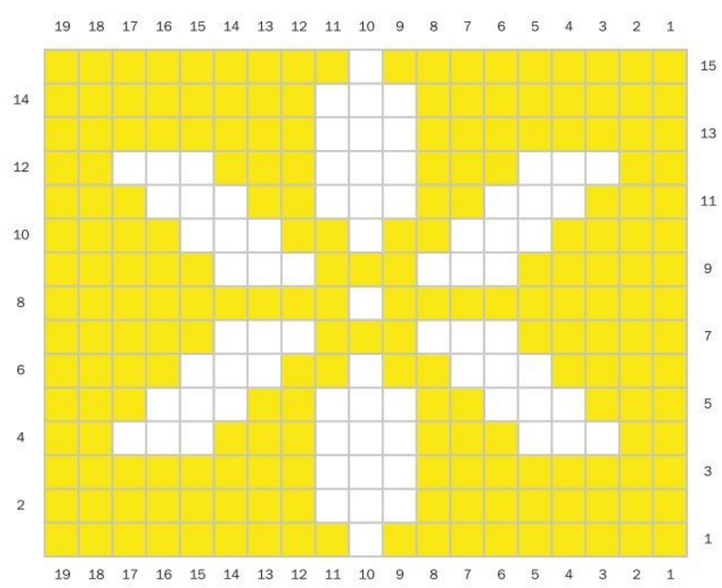
RIGHT HAND ONLY:
Rnd 12: 1 ch, 17 dc, work Row 1 of Snowflake Chart, 17 dc, do not join. Turn.
Rnd 13: 1 ch, 17 dc, work Row 2 of Snowflake Chart, do not join. Turn.
Rnds 14-26: Cont as set, working rows 3-15 of Snowflake Chart.

BOTH HANDS:
Rnd 27: With A, 1 ch, dc around, join. Turn.
Rnds 28-29: With B, 1 ch, dc around, join. Turn.
Rnd 30: With A, 3 ch, tr around, join. Turn.
Rnd 31: 3 ch, [1 RtrF, 1 tr] to end, join.
Fasten off. Weave in ends.

Thumb Border

Join B at edge of thumb opening, dc evenly around edge, join. *30 sts*
Fasten off. Weave in ends.

Chart



Key

A C

Garment

You can crochet the Back of the sweater the same way as the Front, bearing in mind you will need more yarn



Blazenka Simic-Boro

ALACRITAS SWEATER

From the Latin word for animation, you'll be mesmerised by the faux cables tumbling up and down this festive jumper

Chunky 7mm

★★★ Adventurous

Yarn used

Cascade 128 Superwash
10 (10, 11, 12, 13, 14) balls in Ruby 893
Available from
www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

About the yarn

Chunky; 117m per 100g ball; 100% Superwash Merino Wool

Tension

17 sts x 7 rows = 10cm measured over patt
11 sts x 7 rows = 10cm measured over tr

Hook used

7mm

Other supplies

tapestry needle

Sizing

S (M, L, XL, 2X, 3X)
Designed to be worn with positive ease.
UK size: 8-10 (12-14, 16-18, 20-22, 24-26, 28-30)
See schematic for finished measurements
Shown on Dee in size S who is UK 8

Start crocheting

The middle of the Front panel, made with a crossed stitch, looks like small flames that are blowing upwards. Two delicate lace stripes on the sides of the panel make this look complete. The back and sleeves are crocheted with a simple treble crochet, with the same stripe motif on the middle of the sleeves.

2 chain at beginning of row counts as first treble (tr) unless otherwise stated. Turn to page 28 for a guide to bcr and fcr.

Front

Chain 68 (72, 80, 88, 96, 104).

Row 1 (RS): Starting in 4th ch from hook (missed 3 ch counts as first tr), 9 (11, 13, 15, 17, 21) tr, 1 shell, 6 (6, 6, 8, 8, 8) tr, 6 (6, 7, 7, 8, 8) bcr, 6 (6, 6, 8, 8, 8) tr, 1 shell, 10 (12, 14, 16, 18, 22) tr. Turn. *2 shells, 56 (60, 68, 76, 84, 92) sts*

Row 2: 2 ch (counts as first tr here and throughout), 9 (11, 13, 15, 17, 21) tr, 2 ch, 1 dc in shell, 2 ch, 6 (6, 6, 8, 8, 8) tr, 6 (6, 7, 7, 8, 8) fcr, 6 (6, 6, 8, 8, 8) tr, 2 ch, 1 dc in shell, 2 ch, 10 (12, 14, 16, 18, 22) tr. Turn. *58 (62, 70, 78, 86, 94) sts*

Row 3: 2 ch, 9 (11, 13, 15, 17, 21) tr, 1 shell, 6 (6, 6, 8, 8, 8) tr, 6 (6, 7, 7, 8, 8) bcr, 6 (6, 6, 8, 8, 8) tr, 1 shell, 10 (12, 14, 16, 18, 22) tr. Turn.

Rows 4-36 (38, 38, 40, 40, 40): Rep rows 2-3 ending with a Row 2.

Shape Neck Left Shoulder

Row 1 (RS): 2 ch, 9 (11, 13, 15, 17, 21) tr, 1 shell, 6 (6, 6, 8, 8, 8) tr, 1 tr2tog. Turn, leaving rem sts unworked. *1 shell, 17 (19, 21, 25, 27, 31) sts*

Row 2: 2 ch, 1 tr in next st, 5 (5, 5, 7, 7, 7) tr, 2 ch, 1 dc in shell, 2 ch, 10 (12, 14, 16, 18, 22) tr. Turn.

Row 3: 2 ch, 9 (11, 13, 15, 17, 21) tr, 1 shell, 5 (5, 5, 7, 7, 7) tr, 1 tr2tog. Turn. *17 (19, 21, 25, 27, 31) sts*

Row 4: 2 ch, 5 (5, 5, 7, 7, 7) tr, 2 ch, 1 dc in shell, 2 ch, 10 (12, 14, 16, 18, 22) tr. Turn.

Row 5: 2 ch, 9 (11, 13, 15, 17, 21) tr, 1 shell, 6 (6, 6, 8, 8, 8) tr. Turn.

Row 6: As Row 4.

Row 7: 2 ch, 9 (11, 13, 15, 17, 21) tr, 2 tr in 2ch-sp, 1 tr, 2 tr in 2ch-sp, 6 (6, 6, 8, 8, 8) tr. Fasten off. *21 (23, 25, 29, 31, 35) sts*

Right Shoulder

Row 1 (RS): Re-join yarn to 3rd tr of last bcr, 2 ch (counts as 1 tr), 7 (7, 7, 9, 9, 9) tr, 1 shell, 10 (12, 14, 16, 18, 22) tr. Turn. *19 (21, 23, 27, 29, 33) sts*

Row 2: 2 ch, 9 (11, 13, 15, 17, 21) tr, 2 ch, 1 dc in shell, 2 ch, 7 (7, 7, 9, 9, 9) tr. Turn, Leaving rem st unworked. *18 (20, 22, 26, 28, 32) sts*

Row 3: 2 ch, 6 (6, 6, 8, 8, 8) tr, 1 shell, 10 (12, 14, 16, 18, 22) tr. Turn. *18 (20, 22, 26, 28, 32) sts*

Row 4: 2 ch, 9 (11, 13, 15, 17, 21) tr, 2 ch, 1 dc in shell, 2 ch, 6 (6, 6, 8, 8, 8) tr. Leave

Special stitches

Back Cross 1-Over-3 Treble (bcr): Miss 3 sts, 1 tr in next st, 3 tr in missed sts working behind the last tr just made.
When instructed to work 3 dc in bcr (hem trim), place dc in first tr, miss next tr, 2 dc

Front Cross 1-over-3 Treble (fcr): Miss 3 sts, 1 tr into next st, 3 tr in missed sts working in front of the last tr just made

Shell (shell): Miss 2 sts, [2 tr, 3 ch, 2 tr] in next st, miss 2 sts.
When instructed to work a dc in shell, place dc in 3ch-sp

Garment

rem st unworked. Turn. *17 (19, 21, 25, 27, 31) sts*

Row 5: 2 ch, 5 (5, 5, 7, 7, 7) tr, 1 shell, 10 (12, 14, 16, 18, 22) tr. Turn.

Row 6: As Row 4.

Row 7: 2 ch, 5 (5, 5, 7, 7, 7) tr, 2 tr in 2ch-sp, 1 tr, 2 tr in 2ch-sp, 10 (12, 14, 16, 18, 22) tr. Fasten off. *21 (23, 25, 29, 31, 35) sts*

Back

Chain 58 (62, 69, 77, 84, 92).

Row 1: Starting in 4th ch from hook, tr across. Turn. *56 (60, 67, 75, 82, 90) tr*

Rows 2-42 (44, 44, 46, 46, 46): 2 ch, tr across. Turn.

Shape Neck

Next Row (RS): 2 ch, 19 (21, 23, 27, 29, 33) tr, 1 tr2tog, leave rem sts unworked, right shoulder complete. Fasten off. *21 (23, 25, 29, 31, 35) sts*

Miss next 13 (13, 16, 16, 19, 19) tr, re-join to next tr, 2 ch (counts as 1 tr), tr to end, left shoulder complete. Fasten off. *21 (23, 25, 29, 31, 35) sts*

Sleeves (make 2)

Chain 31 (33, 35, 35, 37, 37).

Row 1 (RS): Starting in 4th ch from hook, 11 (12, 13, 13, 14, 14) tr, 1 shell, 12 (13, 14, 14, 15, 15) tr. Turn. *1 shell, 24 (26, 28, 28, 30, 30) tr*

Row 2: 2 ch, 11 (12, 13, 13, 14, 14) tr, 2 ch, 1 dc in shell, 2 ch, 12 (13, 14, 14, 15, 15) tr. Turn. *25 (27, 29, 29, 31, 31) sts*

Row 3: 2 ch, 1 tr in first st, tr to 2ch-sp, 1 shell, tr to last st, 2 tr in last st. Turn. *2 sts inc'd, 27 (29, 31, 31, 33, 33) sts*

Row 4: 2 ch,1 tr in next st, tr to shell, 2 ch, 1 dc in shell, 2 ch, tr to end. Turn.

Row 5: 2 ch,1 tr in next st, tr to 2ch-sp, 1 shell, tr to end. Turn.

Row 6: As Row 4.

Row 7: As Row 3. *29 (31, 33, 33, 35, 35) sts*

Row 8: As Row 4.

Rows 9-26: Rep rows 3-8 three times. *41 (43, 45, 45, 47, 47) sts*

Row 27: As Row 3. *43 (45, 47, 47, 49, 49) sts*

SIZE S ONLY:

Row 28: As Row 4. *43 (-, -, -, -, -) sts*

Row 29: 2 ch, tr to 2ch-sp, 2 tr in 2ch-sp, 1 tr, 2 tr in 2ch-sp, tr to end.

Fasten off.

SIZES M, L, XL ONLY:

Rows 28-30: Rep Rows 4-5 once, then Rows 4 once more. - *(45, 47, 47, -, -) sts*

Row 31: 2 ch, tr to 2ch-sp, 2 tr in 2ch-sp, 1 tr, 2 tr in 2ch-sp, tr to end.

Fasten off.

SIZES 2X, 3X ONLY

Rows 28-32: Rep rows 4-8. - *(-, -, -, 51, 51) sts*

Row 33: 2 ch, tr to 2ch-sp, 2 tr in 2ch-sp, 1 tr, 2 tr in 2ch-sp, tr to end.

Fasten off.

Making up

Weave in all ends and block to dimensions given in schematic. Sew shoulder seams. Pin centre of Sleeve head to shoulder seam and stitch in place. Sew Back and Front from hem to underarm, then sleeves from underarm to cuff.

Hem Trim

With RS facing, re-join yarn to underside of beg st at right bottom of Front.

Rnd 1: 1 ch (does not count as a st here and throughout), 1 dc, 9 (11, 13, 15, 17, 21) dc, 2 dc in 2ch-sp, 1 dc in shell, 2 dc in 2ch-sp, 6 (6, 6, 8, 8, 8) dc, [3 dc in bcr] 6 (6, 7, 7, 8, 8) times, 6 (6, 6, 8, 8, 8) dc, 2 dc in 2ch-sp, 1 dc in shell, 2 dc in 2ch-sp, dc to end, sl st to beg dc to join. *116 (124, 138, 154, 168, 184) dc*

Rnd 2-5: 1 ch, dc in BLO around, sl st to beg dc to join.

Fasten off.

Neck Trim

With RS facing, join yarn to any st of front of Neck.



Rnd 1: 1 ch (does not count as a st here and throughout), dc evenly around, sl st to beg dc to join.

Rnds 2-3: 1 ch, dc in BLO around, sl st to beg dc to join.

Fasten off.

Sleeve Trim

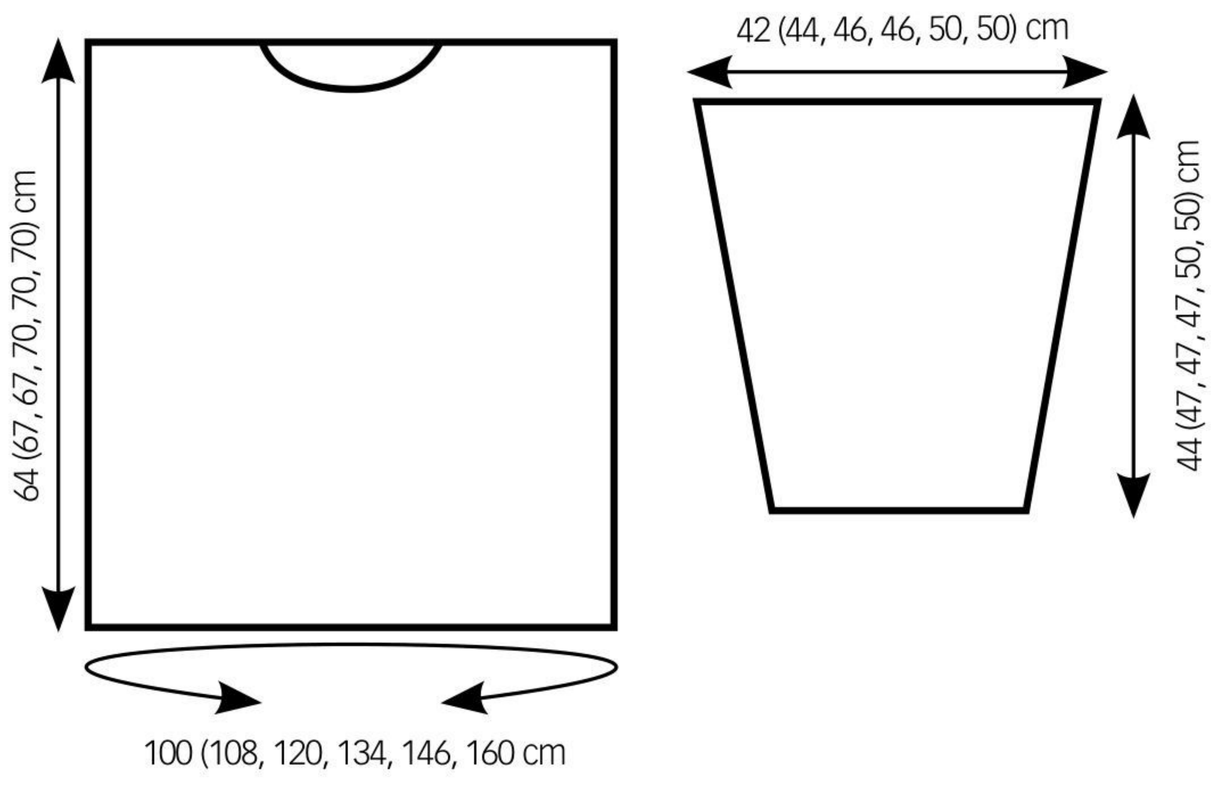
With RS facing, join yarn to any st at underside of Cuff.

Rnd 1 (RS): 1 ch (does not count as a st here and throughout), dc to shell, 2 dc in 2ch-sp, 1 dc in shell, 2 dc in 2ch-sp, dc to end, sl st to beg dc to join. *29 (31, 33, 33, 35, 35) dc*

Rnds 2-3: 1 ch, dc in BLO around, sl st to beg dc to join.

Fasten off.

Schematic



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Christmas Stripes BLANKET

You can't go wrong with a staple blanket for the festive season, and this is a winner for Christmas Day and as a gift for loved ones



DK 4mm

★ Beginner friendly

Yarn used

Stylecraft Special DK
3 balls in white 1001 (C)
2 balls each in Spearmint 1842 (A), Lipstick 1246 (B), Claret 1123 (D) & Teal 1062 (E)
Available from **www.smdknitting.com**

About the yarn

DK; 295m per 100g ball; 100% premium acrylic

Tension

19 sts x 12 rows = 10cm measured over st patt

Hook used

4mm

Other supplies

4 locking st markers

Sizing

102x152cm

Start crocheting

Blanket

With A, chain 184.

Row 1: Starting in 4th ch from hook, tr to end. Turn. *182 sts*

Row 2: 3 ch (counts as first tr here and throughout), tr to end, change to B. Turn.

Row 3: 3 ch, *5 RtrB, 5 RtrF; rep from * to last st, 1 tr. Turn.

Row 4: 3 ch, tr to end, change to C. Turn.

Row 5: 3 ch, *5 RtrF, 5 RtrB; rep from * to last st, 1 tr. Turn.

Row 6: 3 ch, tr to end, change to D. Turn.

Row 7: As Row 3.

Row 8: 3 ch, tr to end, change to E. Turn.

Row 9: As Row 5.

Row 10: 3 ch, tr to end, change to A. Turn.

Rows 11-170: Rep rows 3-10 twenty times, maintaining colour sequence of A, B, C, D, E throughout, ending with E to give 17 total reps of colour sequence.

Border

Work the border sts around the beg 3 ch and tr at the ends of each row. 5 dc around first and last tr on long sides counts as 2 dc for long side sts plus 3 dc for corner.

Rnd 1: Join A to first st on either short side, 1 ch (does not count as a st here and throughout), [dc across, rotate to work across row edges, 5 dc around post of first tr, pm in 2nd st of 5dc-group, 2 dc around each tr to last row edge, 5 dc around post of last tr, pm in 4th st of 5dc-group, rotate to work across short edge] twice, join with sl st to beg dc. *1056 sts*

Rnds 2-3: 1 ch, [dc across to marked st, 3 dc in marked st, pm in 2nd dc of 3dc-group] 4 times, dc to end, join with sl st to beg dc. *1072 sts*

Fasten off. Remove markers.

Rnd 4: Join B in any st, 1 ch, crab st around, join with sl st to beg st.

Fasten off. Weave in ends.

Special stitches

Crab stitch: Insert hook in next st to the right from front to back, yrh, pul, yrh, draw through both loops



Sarah-Jayne



Bella Coco CROCHET CHRONICLES

This month Sarah-Jayne is getting ready for Christmas and has some fun ideas for customising your gifts, plus don't miss her cross-over treble masterclass

www.bellacococrochet.com





How cute does Sarah-Jayne's daughter look in this hat?

"I always wish I started planning for Christmas earlier"

My friends and I spent a lovely weekend away last month – the husbands went to play golf, while we ladies relaxed by the pool. It was the perfect chance to pick up a crochet project that I hadn't touched for a while to work on. To my surprise, because it had been such a long time, I ended up frogging 10 rows! I spent more time working out where I had gone wrong than actually crocheting, which was a little disheartening, but I think it will be worth the effort. I've also continued going to the gym, and my fitness has been improving so much. I'm really pleased with how it's going, so I think it's ok to let people know when you are proud of what you achieve! I find exercising helps so much with both mind and body.

We're coming up to Christmas now, and I just love to use yarn to wrap presents! Whether it's using pompoms on top of gifts or making crochet ribbon to wrap around them, I think it's adds a unique touch, particularly when you run out of time to crochet every gift you want to. I have a Christmas series on my YouTube channel with tutorials on how to wrap with yarn. I also love making Christmas décor such as mini stockings and bunting.

I wish I started planning earlier for Christmas than I ever do. I'd love to say I handmake a lot of my Christmas gifts, but the truth is, life has been quite hectic the

last few years and Christmas seems to come around way too fast! That being said, I am working on a project at the moment that I would love to give to my grandma this Christmas, so I'm hoping I can get it finished on time. As far as Christmas Day itself goes, we've opted to get all the family together and go out. We did it last year and it was really chilled: no cooking, no pots to wash, just great family time. So at least I'm a little bit prepared.

I love to make things for my friends and family that I feel they can make use of, such as hand warmers, shawls or cowls. I often get an idea in my head after something they have said in conversation or if they've pointed something out while shopping. I've personally wanted a swift for a while for Christmas... it's one of those purchases that I keep going to buy and then stopping myself. Perhaps Santa will be kind enough to bring me one!

I have a few Christmas patterns on my blog to help get some gift ideas started. My favourite has to be the baby elf hat. I have the cutest picture of my little girl wearing it when she was only a few weeks old and it makes me so happy.



CROCHET MASTERCLASS

I fell in love with Blazenka's Alactricas Sweater (page 22) this month as soon as I saw the ruby red colour and beautifully textured fabric. This effect is easier to achieve than you think with some cross-over treble stitches.



The bcr is worked on the RS rows of the work, so you will see a raised stitch at the front. Miss 3 sts, 1 tr in next st



3 tr in missed sts working behind the last tr just made, positioning the hook as shown behind the tr and into the front of the st below. Work tr sts as usual



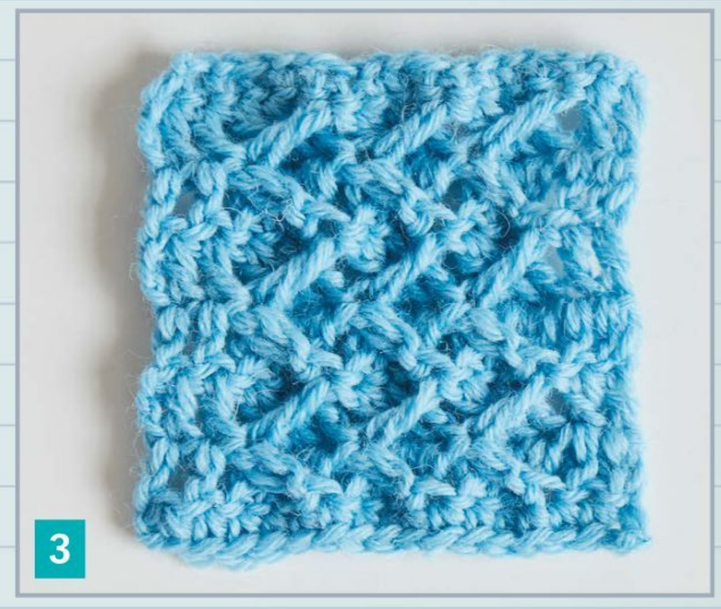
Back cross 1-over-3 treble complete, showing work from front



Fcr is worked on WS rows, so raised st will appear behind what you can see. Miss 3 sts, 1 tr into next st. 3 tr in missed sts working in front of last tr, positioning hook as shown into front of st below



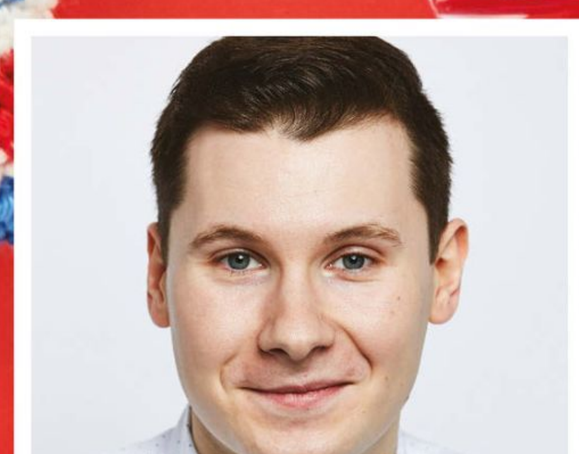
Bring the hook through and over the missed tr before the next yrh. Complete tr and next 2 tr in same way



By working bcr on RS of work, and fcr on WS of work, this textured fabric is achieved

Don't miss more top crochet tips from Sarah-Jayne next issue

S.CLAUS
NORTHPOLE
HMQ SHQ



Liam Marshall

Letter to Santa GADGET CASE

This case is a great way to get your little ones excited for Christmas and will keep tablet devices safe when they're not being used

4-ply 3mm

★★ Take your time

Yarn used

Patons 100% Cotton 4-ply
1 ball each in cream 01692 (MC), red 01115 (CC1), Royal 01751 (CC2) & black 01712 (CC3)
Available from
www.lovecrafts.com

About the yarn

4-ply; 330m per 100g ball; 100% cotton

Tension

27 sts x 30 rows = 10cm measured over dc

Hook used

3mm

Other supplies

tapestry needle
1 magnetic bag clasp

Sizing

Finished case measures
20cm wide x 18cm tall



Start crocheting

Case

Change colours as per Envelope chart on page 32 throughout. You can carry the non-working yarn across the work by laying it along the top of the previous row and working over it. This hides the carried yarn. Make sure you carry the non-working yarn to the correct place to pick it up on the next row. Always leave yarn on the WS. Alternatively, strand the non-working yarn across the WS. Lettering will be cross-stitched onto the evelope after completion.

With CC1, chain 59.
Row 1: Starting in 2nd ch from hook, dc to end. Turn. *58 sts*
Rows 2-109: 1 ch, dc to end. Turn.
Row 110: 1 ch, 1 dc2tog, dc to last 2 sts, 1 dc2tog. Turn. *2 sts dec'd*
Rows 111-137: Rep Row 110.
Row 138: 1 dc2tog (not shown on chart). *1 st*
Fasten off. Weave in all ends.

Finishing

With CC3 held three together, embroider lettering on front panel of Case using cross stitch. Use image as guide for placement of writing. Embroider nose on postage stamp.

Don't forget to write!

Did you know that the postcode featured on this case was Santa's official postcode last year? Why not get kids to write their letter to Santa and use the case as a special magic envelope? And be sure to check in with **www.postoffice.co.uk/write-to-santa** to find out Santa's address for this year and when to write to him by to make sure he has time to write back.

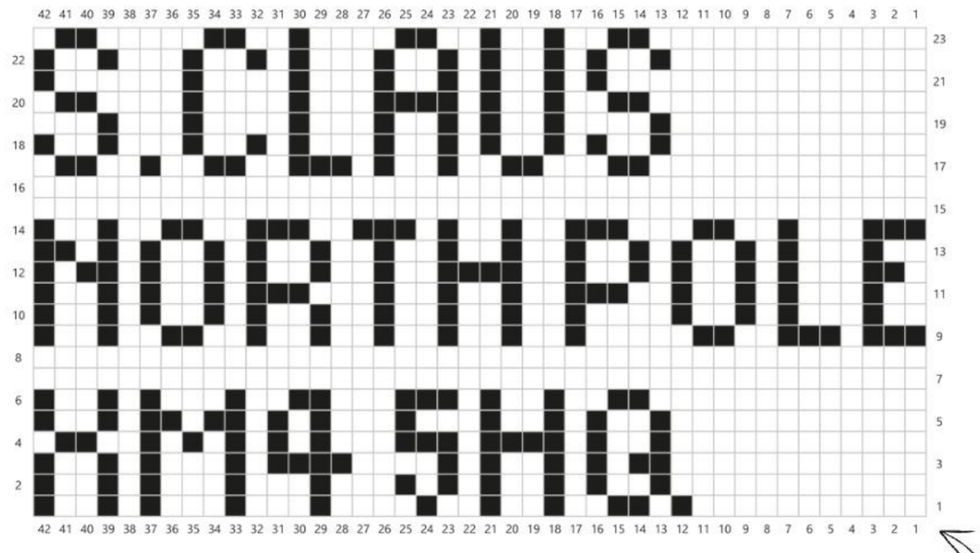


Décor

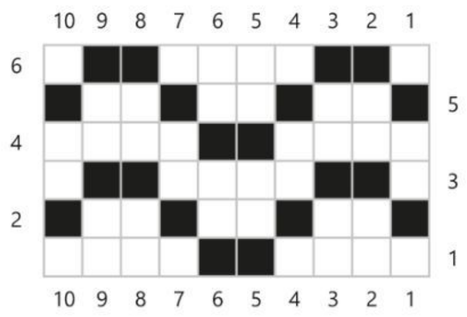
Envelope chart



Lettering chart



Postage chart



Follow these charts for cross stitching on the envelope

Key

MC CC1 CC2 CC3 No stitch

Follow this chart for colour changes when crocheting

Wax Seal

With CC1 held double and working into a magic ring, 5 dc, join with sl st to beg dc. *5 sts*

Rnd 1: 3 ch (does not count as a st here and throughout), [2 tr in next st] 5 times, join with sl st to beg tr. *10 sts*

Rnd 2: 3 ch, [5 tr in next st, 1 dc] 5 times, join with sl st to beg tr. *30 sts*

Fasten off.

Making up

Fold Case in half so that stripes at edge of work are aligned front and back and provide a continuous line around the side edge. Sew edges using mattress stitch. Block to measurements given. Add magnetic bag clasp to back of case and point of decrease section. Attach Wax Seal to cover Clasp.

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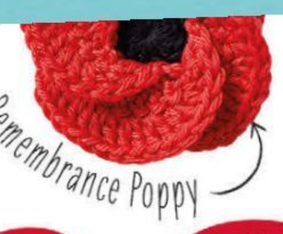
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Patty Polar Bear CUSHION



Alison Holloway

Patty is a super-soft toy that's large enough to be used as a cushion, great for little ones to open up and snuggle with on Christmas Day

Chunky 7mm

★ Quick & easy

Yarn used

Scheepjes Namaste
6 balls in Happy Baby 621 (MC)
1 ball in Upward Salute 630 (CC)
Visit **www.scheepjes.com** to find your local stockist

About the yarn

Chunky; 85m per 100g ball; 50% Virgin wool, 50% acrylic

Tension

12 sts x 14 rows = 10 cm measured over dc

Hook used

7mm

Other supplies

tapestry needle
polyester toy stuffing
2 blue safety eyes, 21mm
locking stitch marker
pink felt-tip pen or blusher

Sizing

Approximately 55cm tall

Start crocheting

This pattern is made in the amigurumi style, in a spiral without slipstitching or turning chains. Use a st marker or waste yarn to keep track of the first st of reach rnd.

Body

Rnd 1: With MC and working into a magic ring, 6 dc. *6 sts*
Rnd 2: [2 dc in next st] 6 times. *12 sts*
Rnd 3: [1 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *18 sts*
Rnd 4: [2 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *24 sts*
Rnd 5: [3 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *30 sts*
Rnd 6: Dc around.
Rnd 7: [4 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *36 sts*
Rnd 8: [5 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *42 sts*
Rnd 9: [6 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *48 sts*
Rnd 10: Dc around.
Rnd 11: [7 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *54 sts*
Rnd 12: [8 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *60 sts*
Rnd 13: [9 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *66 sts*
Rnd 14: Dc around.
Rnd 15: [10 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *72 sts*
Rnd 16: [11 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *78 sts*
Rnd 17: Dc around.
Rnd 18: [12 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *84 sts*
Rnds 19-63: Dc around.
Place safety eyes between rnds 17 & 18 approximately 12 sts apart.
Stuff. Flatten the bottom edge so that eyes are at the front, and sl st through both layers to close. Fasten off.

Foot (make 2)

Work as for Body through Rnd 5. *30 sts*
Rnd 6: 1 dc, 2 dc in next st, [4 dc, 2 dc in next st] 5 times, 3 dc. *36 sts*
Rnd 7: [5 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times, close spiral with sl st in next st. *42 sts*
Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

Large Foot Pad (make 2)

Rnd 1: With CC and working into a magic ring, 6 dc. *6 sts*
Rnd 2: [2 dc in next st] 6 times. *12 sts*
Rnd 3: [1 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times, close spiral with sl st in next st. *18 sts*
Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

Small Foot Pad (make 8)

Rnd 1: With CC and working into a magic ring, 6 dc, join with sl st to beg dc. *6 sts*
Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.
Sew Large Pad at the centre bottom of Foot, sew Small Pads spaced evenly above, 4 on each foot, using photo as a guide.

Arm (make 2)

Rnd 1: With MC and working into a magic ring, 6 dc. *6 sts*
Rnd 2: [2 dc in next st] 6 times. *12 sts*
Rnd 3: [1 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *18 sts*
Rnd 4: Dc around.
Rnd 5: [2 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *24 sts*
Rnd 6: [3 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *30 sts*
Rnds 7-9: Dc around.
Rnd 10: [3 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times. *24 sts*
Rnds 11-13: Dc around.
Rnd 14: [2 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times. *18 sts*
Rnd 15: Dc around.
Do not stuff. Flatten opening and sl st across, through both layers, to close. Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing. With CC, embroider 5 'claws' at tip of each arm.

Ear (make 2)

Rnd 1: With MC and working into a magic ring, 6 dc. *6 sts*
Rnd 2: [2 dc in next st] 6 times. *12 sts*
Rnd 3: [1 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *18 sts*
Rnds 4-9: Dc around.
Do not stuff. Flatten opening and sl st across, through both layers, to close. Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing. With CC, embroider seven straight stitches in a fan shape on the centre front of ear, using photo as a guide.

Tail

Beg as for Body through Rnd 4. *24 sts*
Rnds 5-7: Dc around.
Rnd 8: [2 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times. *18 sts*
Rnds 9-12: Dc around.
Do not stuff. Flatten opening and sl st across, through both layers, to close. Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

Nose

Rnd 1: With CC and working into a magic ring, 6 dc. *6 sts*
Rnd 2: [2 dc in next st] 6 times. *12 sts*
Rnd 3: *[2 dc in next st] 3 times, 3 dc; rep from * once more. *18 sts*
Rnds 4-5: Dc around, close spiral with sl st in next st.
Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

Cheek (make 2)

Rnd 1: With MC and working into a magic ring, 6 dc. *6 sts*
Rnd 2: [2 dc in next st] 6 times, close spiral with sl st in next st. *12 sts*
Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.
Add colour using a pink felt-tip pen or blusher.

Finishing

Sew Ears to top of Head three rnds to either side of Body's magic ring and approximately lined up with centre of eyes. Lightly stuff Nose and sew in between eyes, embroider mouth below Nose. Sew Cheeks under each eye. Sew Arms 3 rnds below mouth. Sew Feet at bottom of Body, centred with Arms. Sew Tail to centre bottom on back of Body.

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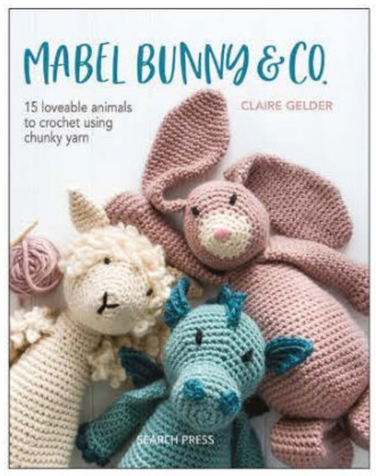
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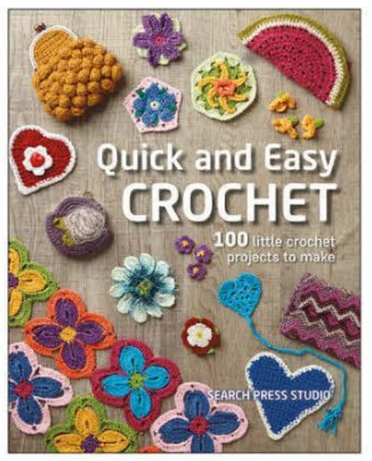
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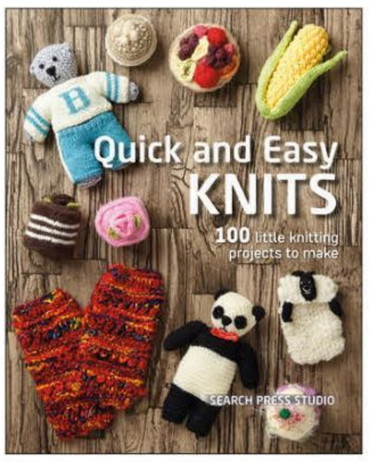
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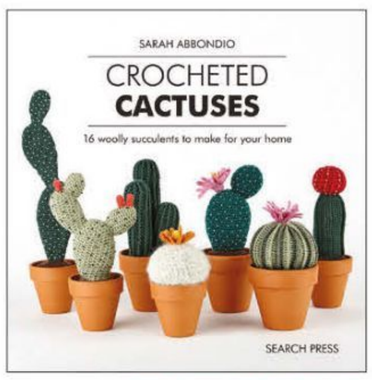
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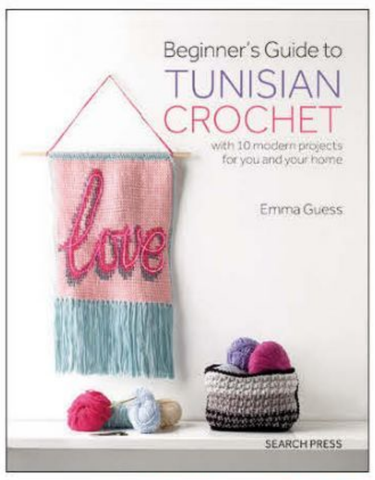
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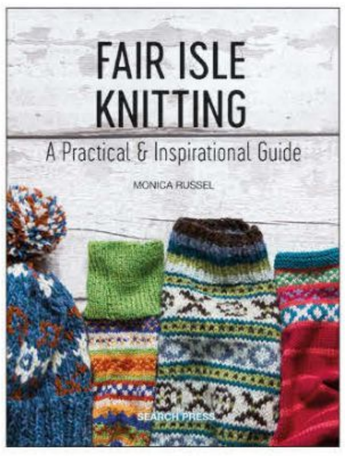
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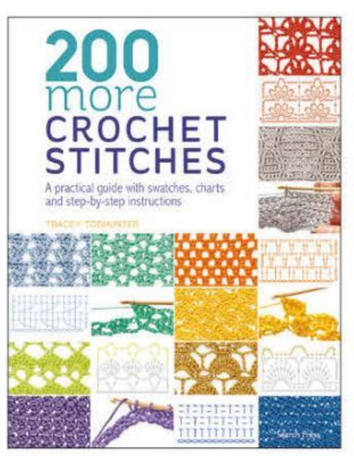
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POPPY BROOCH

This quick little project is just one of the ways you can show your support for Remembrance Day this year

Designed by Helen Yates



4-ply 3mm

★★ Intermediate

Yarn used

Scheepjes Catona
1 ball in Hot Red 115 (MC)
1 ball in Jet Black 110 (CC)
Visit **www.scheepjes.com** to find your local stockist

About the yarn

4-ply: 62.5m per 25g ball:
100% mercerised cotton

Tension

26 sts x 36 rows = 10cm measured over dc

Hook used

3mm

Other supplies

brooch pin, 2cm
sewing needle & matching thread

Sizing

6cm diameter

Start crocheting

Each petal is worked back and forth in two rows with no need to break yarn. When working a new petal, the previous petal should be at the back of the work. When joining a petal to the centre it should sit in front of the previous petal. 3 ch counts as a st unless otherwise stated.

Centre

Rnd 1: With CC, working into a magic ring, 12 tr, join with sl st to first tr. *12 sts*
Fasten off.

Petals

With WS of Centre facing, join MC to any tr from Rnd 1.
Row 2 (WS): 3 ch, 2 tr in same st, [3 tr in next st] twice. Turn. *9 sts*
Row 3 (RS): 3 ch, 1 tr in same st, [2 tr in next st] 7 times, 2 tr in top of beg 3 ch, miss 2 tr from Rnd 1, sl st in next tr. Turn. *18 sts*
Rep rows 2 and 3 three more times, working around the Centre of the Poppy.
Fasten off.

Finishing

Sew brooch pin on WS slightly above centre, weave in ends.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Every year, millions across the country come together to honour and remember the sacrifices made by the Armed Forces, with the physical representation of this act of remembrance of wearing a poppy. This year, Remembrance Sunday falls on Sunday 10th November, and in towns across the country people will come together in services and events. However, there are lots of ways you can support the work of The Royal British Legion and other Armed Forces charities in raising money. Purchase poppies, or make them yourself and donate money directly online to the charity. You can also visit their website to read stories and inspiration all about the work they do.
Visit www.britishlegion.org.uk for more information about Remembrance Day



KERRY'S JOURNAL



TOFT founder Kerry Lord shares her top plans for keeping your Christmas crochet as stress free as possible!

www.toftuk.com

"Next year, I'll be making a New Year's resolution to make more things for myself"

Top tips for Christmas

Christmas can be a very stressful time for all of us, and planning your making long before the Christmas parties and turkey roasting is essential. When it comes to my Christmas planning, I try my best to stick to these five tips:

1. Choose fast and realistic projects to make as gifts so you don't become demoralised. Consider smaller accessories such as headbands and amigurumi projects rather than blankets or scarves. *The Christmas Crochet* with TOFT collection that came with issue 46 last month is full of projects like this!

2. Make a list and stick to it – it's always a lovely idea to crochet gifts for everyone you know (and their children) at this time of year, but there's quite a strict deadline to get them finished!

3. Add a card or a tag to each handmade gift to ensure that the receiver appreciates the time you have put in. Chances are that person knows you love to crochet, but the more advanced your skills get the harder it will be to tell when something's shop bought or made.







4. Remember that if using a natural fibre, it really does make a difference if you wash and block the finished item (amigurumi excepted). Washing and blocking pure wool will completely alter the handle and drape of the piece and can also help to stern up any unevenness in tension.

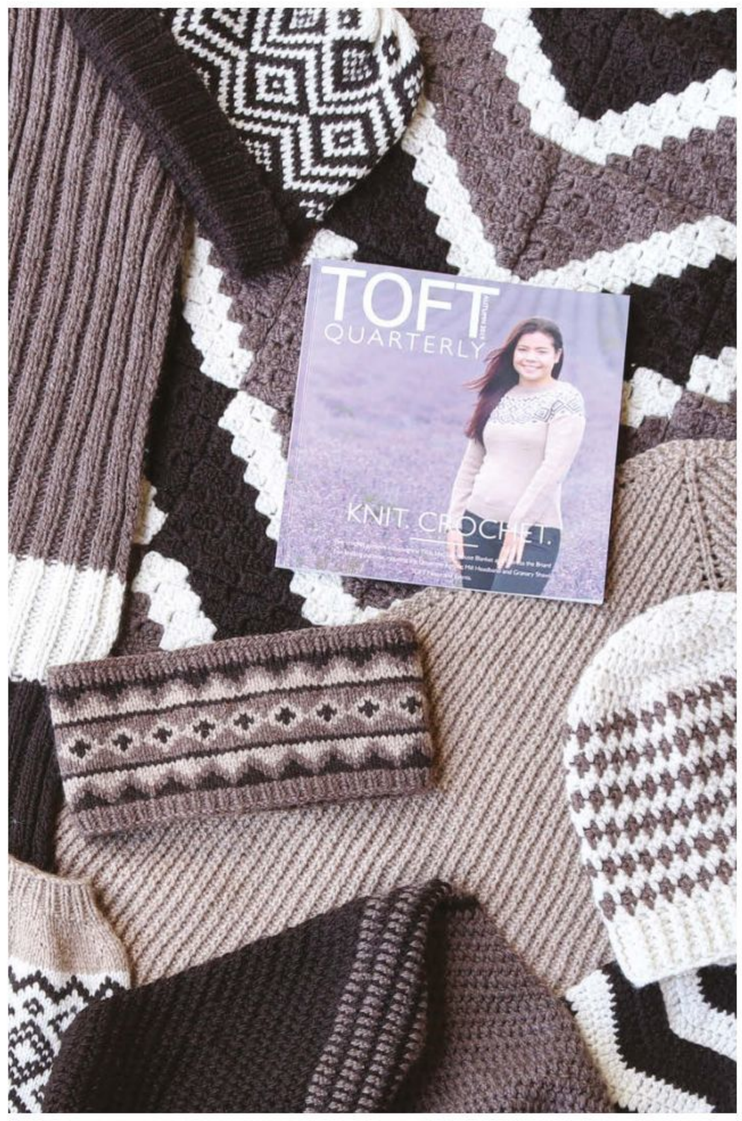
5. Make sure you give yourself enough time to do yourself justice and wrap them before Christmas Eve. Too many times I've been crocheting the last row of something when I should be sipping brandy and reading *The Night Before Christmas*!

This season I'm planning on crocheting elves for all the kids in my life! I love returning to the same pattern in different colours and marvelling every time about how different it looks. For myself this Christmas, I would really like some more hours in the day to crochet! Seriously though, I think this season I'll be making a New Year's resolution to make more things for myself next year. I'm sure many of you understand that same feeling of an ever-growing pile of yarn and Pinterest board of ideas and patterns bursting at the seams.

TOFT Quarterly

The latest *TOFT Quarterly* is out now, and is themed around colourwork in both knitting and crochet, with a real autumnal feel to it. Some are very simple techniques and others more challenging. My favourite pattern is the Byre shawl pattern. An easy pattern to follow, but with very sophisticated results when made in a muted palette.

I cannot wait to host this year's TOFT #edsadvent crochet-along in December. At the moment pre-orders are still open to join me to make two new mystery projects with a daily bite sized chunk of pattern throughout Advent. Don't miss out on your chance to join in and sign up online!





Kerry loves the sophisticated Byre Shawl

The 3rd loop of htr is the horizontal bar directly below the back loop

BRIGHT STAR HAT

This fun hat will show off your Christmas spirit and it features a unique construction



Alison Holloway

DK 4mm

★★ Try something new

Yarn used

King Cole Luxury Merino DK
2 balls each in Lava 2622 (MC) & Cobalt 2635 (CC)
Visit **www.kingcole.com** to find your local stockist

About the yarn

DK; 140m per 50g ball; 100% Merino

Tension

18 sts x 20 rows = 10cm measured over dc

Hook used

4mm

Other supplies

tapestry needle

Sizing

S (M, L)
25 (28, 31) cm diameter (flat) x 18 (19, 20) cm tall

Start crocheting

Star Panel (make 3)

You can use the chart or written instructions.
With MC, chain 26.
Row 1: Starting in 2nd ch from hook, dc across. *25 sts*
Row 2 & all even rows: 1 ch, dc across.
Row 3: 1 ch, 4 dc, 1 bbl, 1 dc, 1 bbl, 11 dc, 1 bbl, 1 dc, 1 bbl, 4 dc. Turn.
Row 5: 1 ch, 4 dc, 1 bbl, 3 dc, 1 bbl, 7 dc, 1 bbl, 3 dc, 1 bbl, 4 dc. Turn.
Row 7: 1 ch, 5 dc, 1 bbl, 4 dc, 1 bbl, 3 dc, 1 bbl, 4 dc, 1 bbl, 5 dc. Turn.

Special abbreviations

Bobble (bbl): [Yrh, insert hook into st, yrh, pul, yrh, draw though 2 loops on hook] 5 times into same stitch, yrh, draw through all 6 loops on hook
Half treble 2 together (htr2tog): [Yrh, insert hook into next st, yrh, pul] twice, yrh, draw through all 5 loops on hook

Row 9: 1 ch, 6 dc, [1 bbl, 5 dc] 3 times, 1 dc. Turn.
Row 11: 1 ch, 7 dc, 1 bbl, 9 dc, 1 bbl, 7 dc. Turn.
Row 13: 1 ch, 5 dc, 1 bbl, 13 dc, 1 bbl, 5 dc. Turn.
Row 15: 1 ch, 3 dc, 1 bbl, 17 dc, 1 bbl, 3 dc. Turn.
Row 17: 1 ch, 2 dc, [1 bbl, 1 dc] 3 times, 1 bbl, 7 dc, [1 bbl, 1 dc] 4 times, 1 dc. Turn.
Row 19: 1 ch, 9 dc, 1 bbl, 5 dc, 1 bbl, 9 dc. Turn.
Row 21: 1 ch, 10 dc, 1 bbl, 3 dc, 1 bbl, 10 dc. Turn.
Row 23: 1 ch, 11 dc, 1 bbl, 1 dc, 1 bbl, 11 dc. Turn.
Row 25: 1 ch, 12 dc, 1 bbl, 12 dc. Turn.
Rows 26-27: 1 ch, dc across. Turn.
Fasten off.

Edging Panels

Join CC in side of first st on either edge of Star Panel.
Row 1: 1 ch, placing 1 dc in each row end, dc across. Turn. *27 sts*
Rows 2-4 (5, 6): 1 ch, dc across. Turn.
Rep for opposite edge.
Rep for rem 2 Star Panels.

Joining Star Panels

Hold two panels with WS tog, making sure stars are oriented the same way on both panels, sl st through both thicknesses to join the panels tog.
Join third panel to second panel, then third to first in the same manner.

Crown

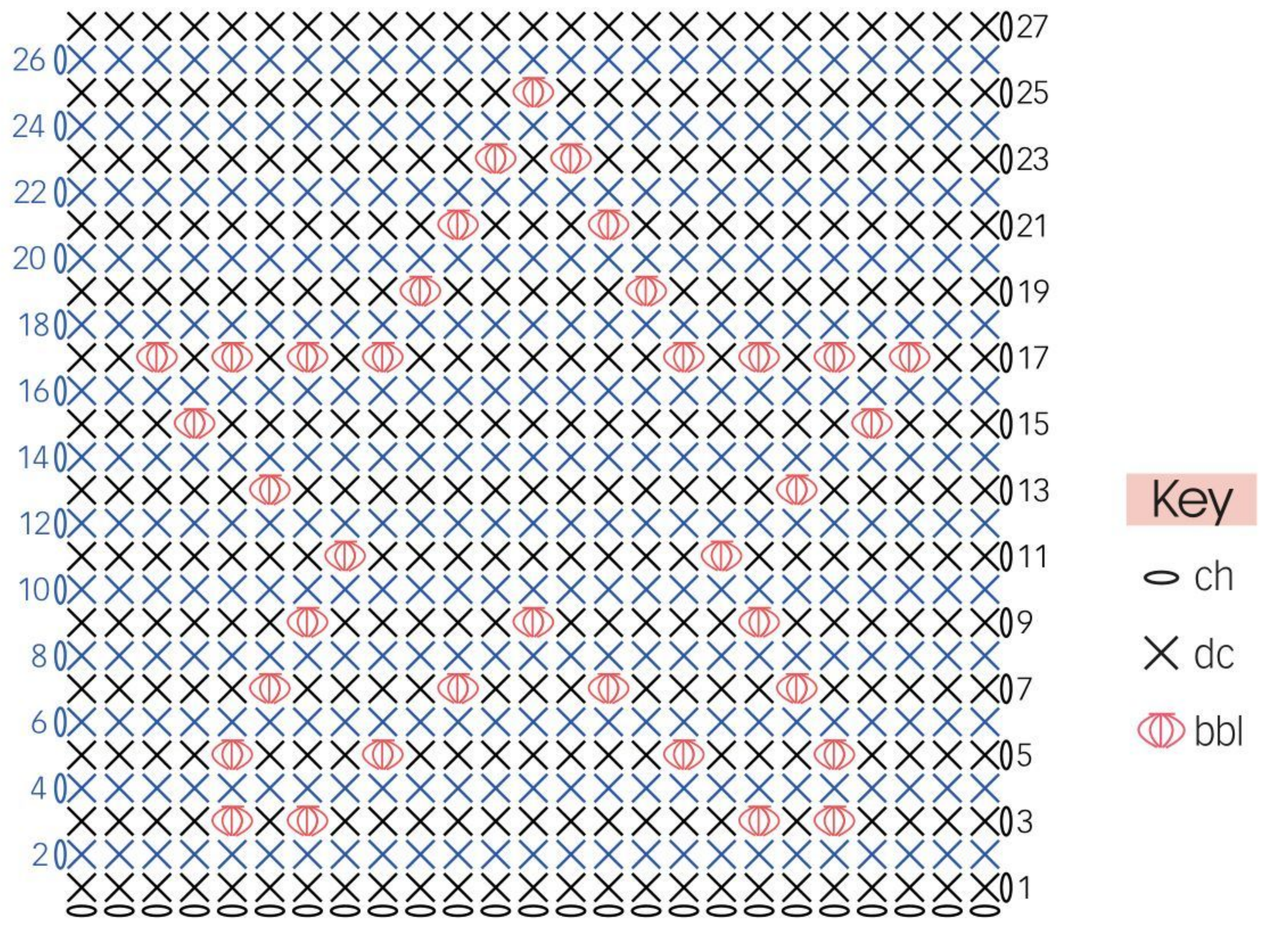
Join CC in any stitch at the top of any Star Panel.
Rnd 1: 2 ch (does not count as a st here and throughout), htr in each st and row-end around, join with sl st to beg htr. *99 (105, 111) sts*
Work into the 3rd loop at the back of the htr for all rem rnds.
Rnd 2: 2 ch, [1 htr, 1 htr2tog] 33 (35, 37) times, join with sl st to beg htr. *66 (70, 74) sts*
Rnds 3-4: 2 ch, htr around.
Rnd 5: 2 ch, 33 (35, 37) htr2tog, join with sl st to beg htr. *33 (35, 37) sts*
Rnd 6: As Rnd 3.
Rnd 7: 2 ch, 16 (17, 18) htr2tog, 1 htr, join with sl st to beg htr. *17 (18, 19) sts*
Fasten off leaving a long tail. Thread tapestry needle with tail, *run through rem sts and pull to close; rep from * once more through same sts. Fasten off securely.

Brim

Join CC in any stitch at the bottom edge of any Star Panel.
Rnd 1: 1 ch (does not count as a st here and throughout), dc in each st and row-end around, join with sl st to beg dc. *99 (105, 111) sts*
Rnd 2: 1 ch, dc in BLO around, join with sl st to beg dc.
Fasten off for S only.

SIZES M & L ONLY:
Rep Rnd 2 - (two, four) more times.
Fasten off. Weave in ends.

Chart





A life inspired



Helen Shrimpton

Take some time for yourself and get stuck in with the next square in Helen's crochet-along, featuring a stunning central motif and challenging stitches

www.crystalsandcrochet.com



Start crocheting

My Cup Runs Over (make 3)

Rnd 1: With E and working into a magic ring, 3 ch (counts as first tr here and throughout), 11 tr, join with sl st to top of beg 3 ch. *12 tr*

Rnd 2: 4 ch (counts as first tr and 1 ch), [1 tr, 1 ch] 11 times, join with sl st to 3rd of beg 4 ch. *12 tr*

Rnd 3: 3 ch, 1 tr in first st, [2 ch, miss 1ch-sp, 2 tr in next st] 11 times, 2 ch, join with sl st in top of beg 3 ch, pm in same st as sl st. Fasten off. *24 tr*

Do not weave in ends until after Rnd 6.

In next rnd, work behind rnds 2 & 3 and to the right of the Rnd 2 st (left, if left-handed). 1

Rnd 4: Join A with a standing tr in any Rnd 1 st, [2 ch, 1 tr in next Rnd 1 st] 11 times, 2 ch, join with sl st to beg tr. *12 tr*

In next rnd, work behind Rnd 3 and miss all ch-sps.

Rnd 5: 1 ch (does not count as a st here and throughout), 2 dc in first Rnd 4 st, [1 RdcB around next Rnd 2 st, 2 dc in next Rnd 4 st] 12 times omitting last 2 dc, join with sl st to beg dc. *36 sts*

Note: This round is fiddly, keep your work tilted slightly forward, and take it slowly.

Rnd 6: 1 ch, 1 dc in both 2ch-sps from rnds 3 & 4 at the same time 2, [miss next 2 tr from Rnd 3, 1 dc into next 2ch-sp from Rnd 3 & previous 2ch-sp from Rnd 4 at the same time, 1 dc into same 2ch-sp from Rnd 3 & next 2ch-sp from Rnd 4 at the same time], 12 times omitting last dc, join with sl st to beg dc. Fasten off. Weave in ends. *24 dc*

Note: The back of your work will now be flat and the front will sit like a cup.

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www.stylecraft-yarns.co.uk
www.deramores.com
www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

Rnd 7: Join C with a standing tr in any st from Rnd 6, 1 tr in same st, [2 tr in next st] 23 times, join with sl st to beg tr. Fasten off. Weave in ends. *48 tr*

Rnd 8: Join A with a standing dc in Rnd 7 st before marked st, [working in front of Rnd 7: 4dtr-cl in 2nd tr of next 2tr-group from Rnd 3, miss next Rnd 7 st, 3 dc in Rnd 7] 12 times omitting last dc, join with sl st to beg dc. Fasten off. Weave



1



2

DK 4mm

★★ Try something new

Yarn used

A Life Inspired pack
Stylecraft Batik DK
5 balls each in Storm (E) & silver (G)
4 balls in coral (A)
Stylecraft Life DK
4 balls in Denim (D), 3 balls in Cascade (C)
2 balls each in Ice Blue (B) & white (F)

Happiness pack
Stylecraft Special DK
5 balls in Emperor (D)
4 balls in Sunshine (C)
3 balls each in Jaffa (A), Empire (B), Bright Green (F) & Wisteria (G)
2 balls in Bright Pink (E)

Subscribers' pack
Stylecraft Special DK
4 balls in Lapis (D), 3 balls each in Aster (C), Waterfall (E), & Parchment (G), 2 balls each in Shrimp (A), Duck Egg (B) & white (F)

About the yarn

Batik DK
DK; 138m per 50g; 80% acrylic, 20% wool
Life DK
DK; 298m per 100g; 75% acrylic, 25% wool
Special DK
DK; 295m per 100g; 100% acrylic

Tension

17 sts x 10 rows = 10cm over tr
Square = 25.5cm

IMPORTANT: Check your tension to ensure you have enough yarn in the pack to finish your blanket

Hook used

4mm

Sizing

25.5cm square
Finished blanket: 185x133cm

Other supplies

4 locking stitch markers



in ends. *36 dc, 12 4dtr-cl*

Rnd 9: Join C with a standing dc in any 4dtr-cl, *miss 3 sts, {2dtr-cl, [1 ch, 2dtr-cl] 4 times} in next 4dtr-cl, miss 3 sts, 5 dc; rep from * 3 more times omitting last dc, join with sl st to beg dc. Fasten off. Weave in ends. *20 dc, 20 2dtr-cl*

Rnd 10: Join C with a standing RtrF around centre (3rd) 2dtr-cl of any corner, 2 ch, 1 RtrF around same centre st, *[2 tr in next 1ch-sp, 1 RtrF around next 2dtr-cl] twice, 5 tr, [1 RtrF around next 2dtr-cl, 2 tr in next 1ch-sp] twice**, [1 RtrF, 2 ch, 1 RtrF] around next 2dtr-cl; rep from * 3 more times ending last rep at **, join with sl st to beg RtrF. *76 sts*

Rnd 11: Sl st into corner 2ch-sp, 3 ch, [1 tr, 2 ch, 2 tr] in same 2ch-sp,*19 tr**, [2 tr, 2 ch, 2 tr] in corner 2ch-sp; rep from * 3 more times ending last rep at **, join with sl st in top of beg 3 ch. Fasten off. Weave in ends. *92 tr*

Rnd 12: Join F with a standing tr in last st of any side, *[2 tr, 2 ch, 2 tr] in corner 2ch-sp**, 23 tr; rep from * 3 more times ending last rep at **, join with sl st to beg tr. *108 tr*

Rnd 13: Sl st in next 2 sts, [sl st, 3 ch, 1 tr, 2 ch, 2 tr] in corner 2ch-sp, *27 tr**, [2 tr, 2 ch, 2 tr] in corner 2ch-sp; rep from * 3 more times ending last rep at **, join with sl st in top of beg 3 ch. Fasten off. Weave in ends. *124 tr*

Rnd 14: Join G with a standing tr in any corner 2ch-sp, 2 ch, 1 tr in same corner 2ch-sp, *[1 ch, miss next st, 1 tr] 15 times, 1 ch, miss next st**, [1 tr, 2 ch, 1 tr] in corner 2ch-sp; rep from * 3 more times ending last rep at **, join with sl st to beg tr. *68 tr*

Rnd 15: 3 ch, 1 tr in first st, *3 ch, miss corner 2ch-sp, [2 tr in next st, 1 ch, miss next 1ch-sp] 16 times**, 2 tr in next st; rep from * 3 more times ending last rep at **, join with sl st to top of beg 3 ch. Fasten off. Weave in ends. *136 tr*

In next rnd, work behind rnds 14 & 15.

Rnd 16: Join C with a standing tr in last missed st from Rnd 13 of any side, 1 RdcB around next Rnd 14 st, *working between sts in corner: 1 tr in corner 2ch-sp of Rnd 13, [1 RdcB around next Rnd 14 st, 1 tr in next missed st from Rnd 13] 16 times, 1 RdcB around next Rnd 14 st; rep from * 3 more times omitting last tr and RdcB, join with sl st to beg tr. *136 sts*

Rnd 17: 1 ch, miss next st, *enclosing corner ch-sps on rnds 14 & 15: 3 dc in corner tr, [1 ch, miss next st, enclosing 1ch-sps on rnds 14 & 15: 1 dc in next Rnd 16 dc] 3 16 times**, 1 ch, miss next st; rep from * 3 more times ending last rep at **, join with sl st to beg 1 ch. Fasten off. Weave in ends. Push all tr pairs (colour G) to front of work. *76 dc*

Rnd 18: Join D with a standing tr in first st of 3dc-group in corner, *[1 tr, 2 ch, 1 tr] in centre dc (corner st), [1 tr, 1 tr in next 1ch-sp] 17 times**, 1 tr; rep from * 3 more times ending last rep at **, join with sl st to beg tr. *148 tr*

Rnd 19: Sl st in next st, [sl st, 3 ch, 1 tr, 2 ch, 2 tr] in corner 2ch-sp,*miss next st, 36 tr**, [2 tr, 2 ch, 2 tr] in corner 2ch-sp; rep from * 3 more times ending last rep at **, join with sl st to top of beg 3 ch. Fasten off. Weave in ends. *160 tr*

Special stitches

Standing dc: With slipknot on hook, dc in indicated st

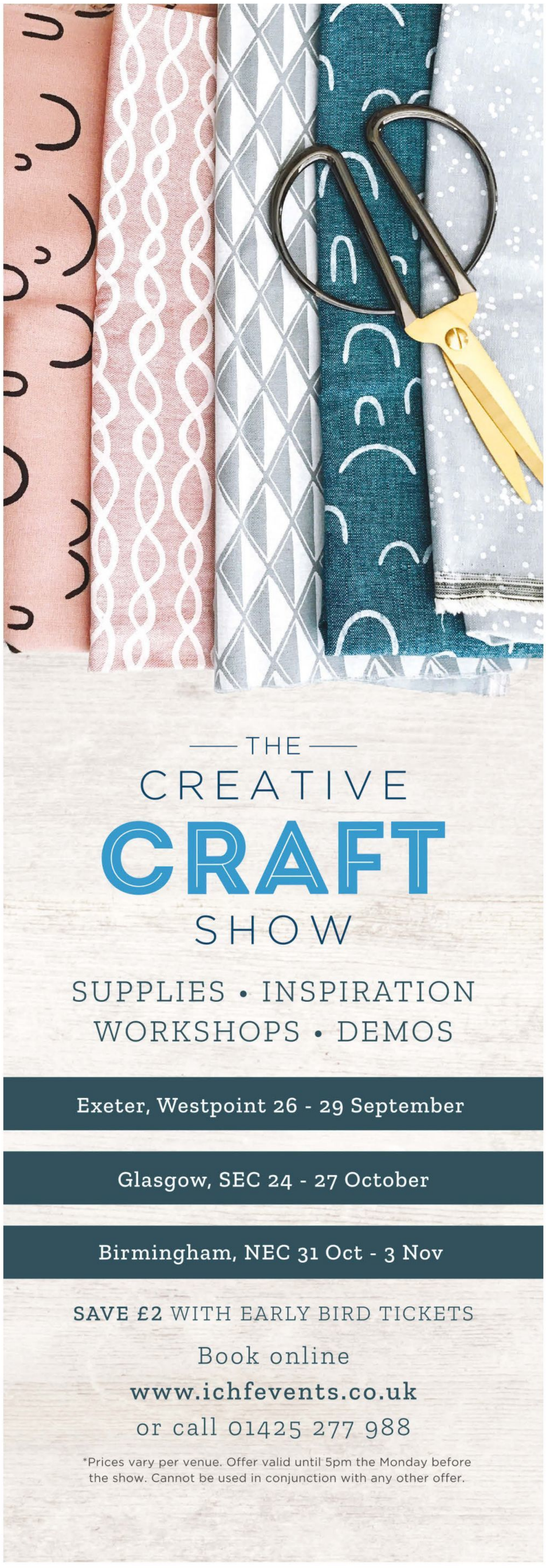
Standing RtrF: With slipknot on hook, yrh, securing both loops on hook with finger, finish RtrF around indicated st as normal

Standing treble crochet (standing tr): With slipknot on hook, yrh, securing both loops on hook with finger, finish tr in indicated st or sp as normal

Raised double crochet back (RdcB): Work the dc around the post of the stitch inserting hook from back to front to back again

4dtr cluster (4dtr-cl): *Yrh twice, insert hook in indicated st, yrh, pul, [yrh, draw through 2 loops on hook] twice; rep from * 3 more times in same st, yrh, draw through all 5 loops on hook

2dtr cluster (2dtr-cl): *Yrh twice, insert hook in indicated st, yrh, pul, [yrh, draw through 2 loops on hook] twice; rep from * once more in same st, yrh, draw through all 3 loops on hook



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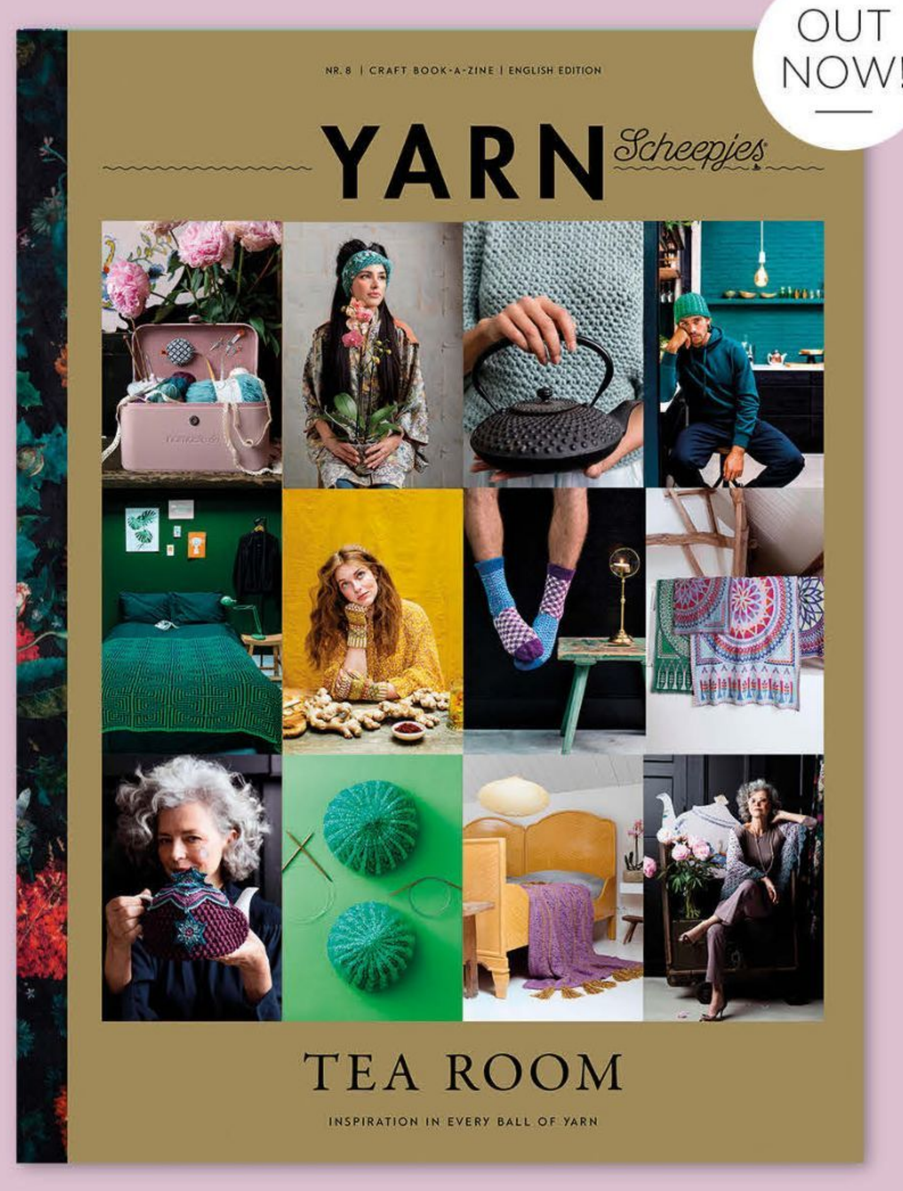
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Merry & Bright CUSHION

This bright cushion is made in one piece, ideal for crocheting with a mulled wine close by

Designed by DROPS Design Team

DK 4mm

★★ Try something new

Yarn used

Drops Muskat
7 balls in Red 12
Available from
www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

About the yarn

DK; 100m per 50g ball; 100% cotton

Tension

17 sts x 10 rows = 10cm measured over tr

Hook used

4mm

Other supplies

cushion pad, 40cm square
tapestry needle

Sizing

40cm square

Start crocheting

This pattern is worked back and forth in joined rounds so that the texture is the same on both sides. Join each rnd with a sl st in top of turning ch. Turning ch is not counted as a st throughout.

Special abbreviations

Cluster (cl): [Yrh, insert hook into st indicated, yrh, pul, yrh, draw through 2 loops] 3 times, inserting hook in same st each time, yrh, draw through all 4 loops on hook
Twisted treble (tw-tr): Miss next st, 1 tr, 1 tr in missed st

Chain 169. Join to work in the rnd, being careful not to twist. Turn.

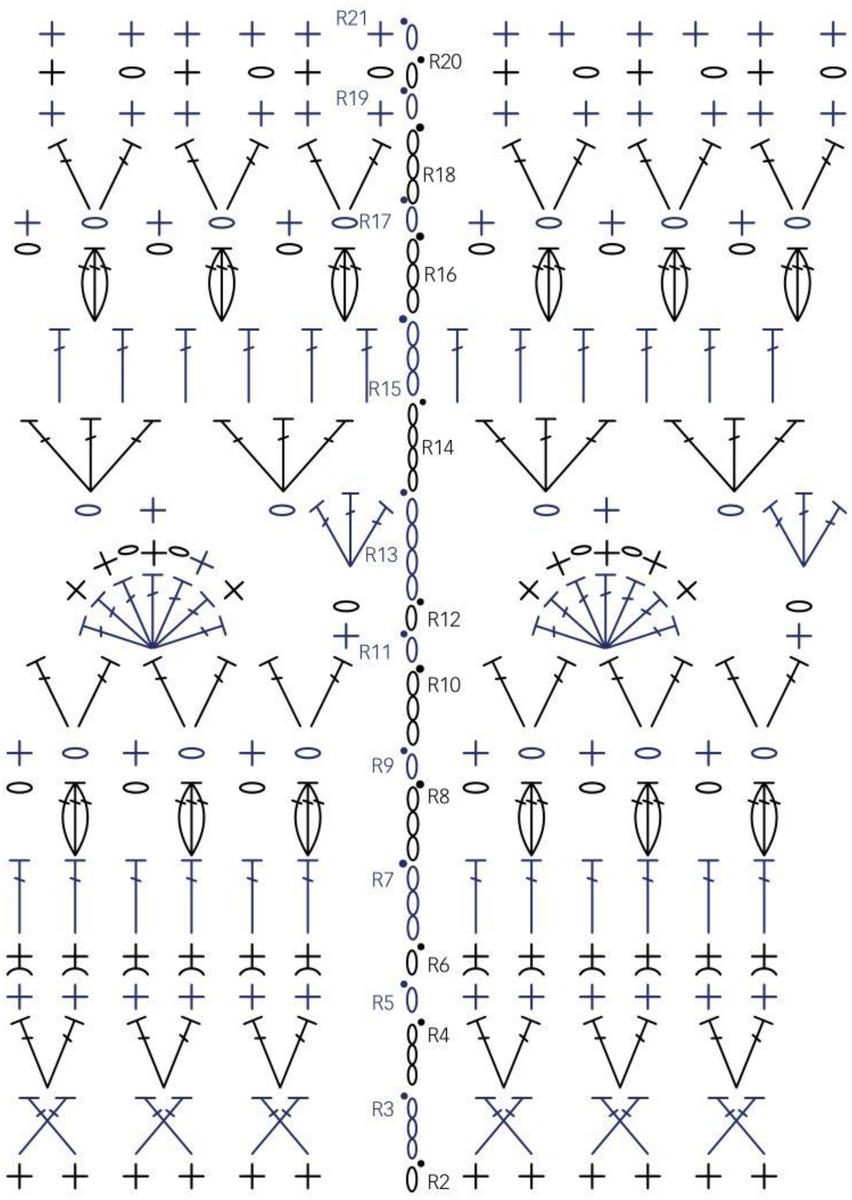
Rnd 1 (WS): 1 ch (does not count as a st here and throughout), leaving ch with sl st unworked, 6 dc, miss next ch, *6 dc, miss next ch; rep from * to end, join. Turn. *144 dc*
Rnd 2: 1 ch, dc around, join. Turn.
Rnd 3: 3 ch (does not count as a st here and throughout), *1 tw-tr; rep from * to end, join. Turn.
Rnd 4: 3 ch, *2 tr in sp between 2 tr (centre of tw-tr); rep from * to end, join. Turn.
Rnd 5: As Rnd 2.
Rnd 6 (RS): 1 ch, dc in BLO to end, join. Turn.
Rnd 7: 3 ch, tr around, join. Turn.
Rnd 8: 3 ch, *1 cl, 1 ch, miss next st; rep from * to end, join. Turn.
Rnd 9: 1 ch, *1 dc in 1ch-sp, 1 ch, miss next st; rep from * to end, join. Turn.
Rnd 10: 3 ch, *2 tr in 1ch-sp, miss next st; rep from * to end, join. Turn.
Rnd 11: 1 ch, *miss 2 tr, 7 tr in next st, miss 2 tr, 1 dc in next st; rep from * to end, join. Turn.
Rnd 12: 2 ch (counts as 1 ch and 1ch-sp), miss [1 dc, 1 tr], 2 dc, 1 ch, 1 dc (in 4th of 7 tr), 1 ch, 2 dc, *1 ch, miss [1 tr, 1 dc, 1 tr], 2 dc, 1 ch, 1 dc, 1 ch, 2 dc; rep from * to end, join. Turn.
Rnd 13: 5 ch (counts as 4 ch and 1ch-sp), miss 2 dc, 1 dc in next dc, 1 ch, miss 2 dc, 3 tr in next 1ch-sp, *1 ch, miss 2 dc, 1 dc in next dc, 1 ch, miss 2 dc 3 tr in next 1ch-sp; rep from * to end, join. Turn.
Rnd 14: 4 ch, *3 tr in next 1ch-sp; rep from * to end, join. Turn.
Rnd 15: 3 ch, tr in sp before next tr, *tr in sp between next 2 tr; rep from * to end, leaving sp between last tr and beg 3 ch unworked. Turn.
Rnds 16-18: Rep rnds 8–10.
Rnd 19: As Rnd 2.
Rnd 20: 2 ch (counts as 1 ch and 1ch-sp), miss first st, 1 dc, *1 ch, miss next st, 1 dc; rep from * to end, join. Turn.
Rnd 21: 1 ch, dc in each st and 1ch-sp around. Turn.

Rep rnds 3-21 until piece measures approximately 40cm. When Rnd 6 is worked with WS facing (on every other rep), work in FLO.
Last Rnd: Rep Rnd 2 once more.

Finishing

Hold top seam together and sew closed by working through only the outermost loops on each side. Insert cushion pad and sew bottom seam to close. Weave in ends.

Chart



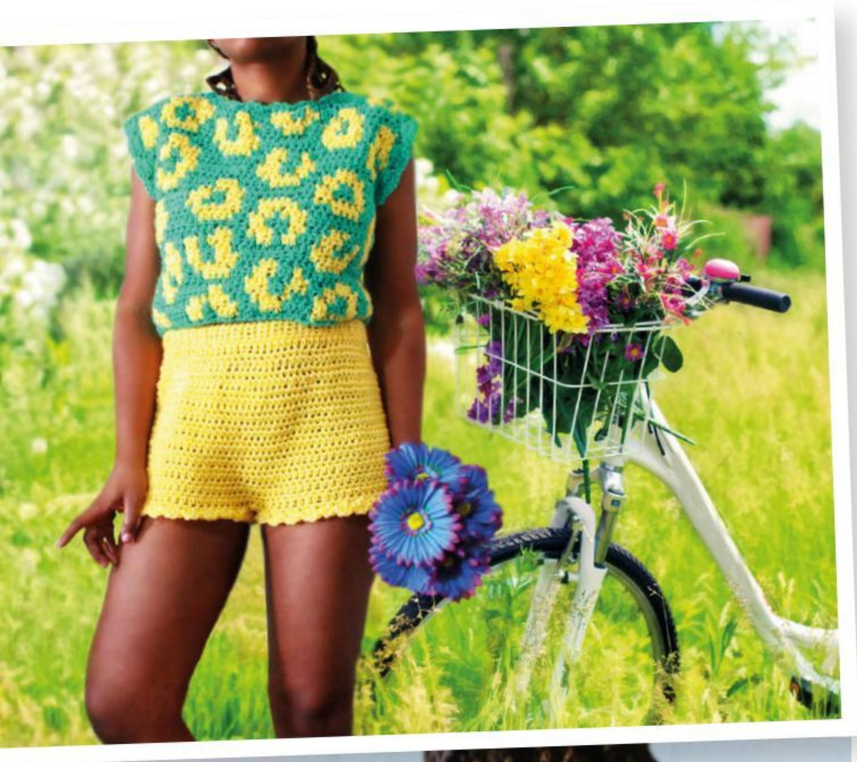
Key

- sl st
- chain
- dc
- RS: dc in BLO
  WS: dc in FLO
- tr
- tw-tr
- cl





Say hello to... The Dream Crochet



This month we've been chatting to Ashlee Elle, the crochet designer behind the bright and beautiful **thedreamcrochet** on Instagram

www.thedreamcrochet.blogspot.com



Can you tell us about yourself?

I'm Ashlee Elle, and I currently reside in Houston, Texas. I'm a free spirit that absolutely loves art in all its forms, and I extend my passion for that into my work as a crocheter. I'm a lover of all colours, especially ones that are vibrant, full of life and implement the same emotion I'm experiencing when I construct crochet designs with them.

Where did your passion for crochet begin?

It began with my family. It's been a time-honoured tradition for women in my family to meet up for arts and crafts night. They'd teach me what they knew and we'd bond over the creation of our projects, with them offering me encouragement along the way. As I spread my wings and flew out on my own, I took what they taught me and continued to educate myself, expanding on it. Now they ask me to make me things for them!

> "I want people to feel the photo and the fashion are telling a story"

You have amazing style on Instagram and your images are imaginative and stunning. How did this start and what was the inspiration?

One of my many loves is photography. I love capturing a moment in just the right way, with the perfect lighting, and dynamic composition. Growing up, my adoration for fashion definitely developed quite rapidly. I would construct little designs for my dolls and as I matured, expressing a unique style became a vital part in exhibiting my personality to the world. At the same time, I've always had a love of whimsy, the realm of fantasy where I'd escape to the marvellous worlds of *Harry Potter*, *Lord of the Rings* and *Willow* as a child. I attempt to express all of these imaginative inspirations in the images I put out onto Instagram. It's not just a pretty photo though, I want people to feel the photo and the fashion are telling a story beyond the surface. I hope to present a new, fresh, novel way to exhibit designs.











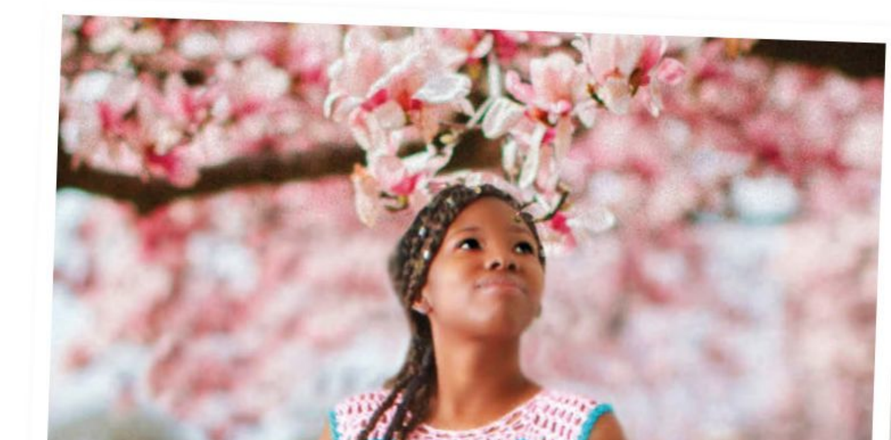
You offer free patterns on your blog. How do you go about picking a design?
I tend to offer free patterns for trendy or fun, swift and unique items that are easy to create. Sometimes while perusing a craft store, a certain yarn or item will just pop out to me and I immediately feel compelled to create a project to share. It's quite a random feeling and I love that I never know where that inspiration is going to arrive.

Are there any other creative outlets you enjoy?
Poetry is another outlet that I've expressed myself through from a young age. Being able to detail emotions and thoughts in a creative way is a freeing experience. I also love fashion and there are so many talented makers on Etsy who offer so much in the way of creativity. My photography is on Flickr as well and for numerous years, self-portraiture was such a key point within my existence. Pen and ink illustrations are an enjoyment I've encountered and have taken pleasure in creating as well as making music. I love art, in every single medium, expressing yourself is the greatest gift anyone could bestow upon this world and I truly adore every aspect of it.

What's on your hook at the moment?
Currently, I'm expanding designs into accessories such as purses, attempting to encounter notions that I've always conjured in my mind, but have yet to conquer. It's an exciting and challenging process, but that's truly the only way to learn and grow!

Do you have any exciting plans or projects coming up to share?
I'll be continuing to expand into new avenues within the crochet world, discovering new methods and designs. Creating another self-published crochet pattern book has also been on the table to work on very soon.

What does crochet mean to you?
Crochet means the world to me. I never thought as a child this would become so ingrained in my life. It started as a hobby, a creative outlet that also assisted with the stress of life, and now it's literally taken over my life. It's pulled me out of hard times and it gave me something to strive for that felt like a true representation of myself. I feel like there's no limitation to crochet. It can be as expressive and innovative as any other art form, and I hope I help in some small way to bring the about a crochet revolution.



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Jordon Graham & Mike Scriven

Hanging around the CHRISTMAS TREE

Crochet your Christmas a little differently this year with this whimsical bauble, complete with a cute winter sloth!

DK 2.5mm, 3.5mm

★★★ Looking for a challenge

Yarn used

Rico Ricorumi
1 ball each in light brown 052 (A), red 028 (B), green 049 (C), white 001 (D), Chocolate 057 (E) & Mastic 051 (F)
Rico Creative Lamé
1 ball in gold 002 (G)
Available from **www.deramores.com/collections/crochetnow**

About the yarn

Ricorumi
DK; 57.5m per 25g ball; 100% cotton
Creative Lamé
DK; 135m per 25g ball; 62% polyester 38% nylon

Tension

20 (28) sts x 22 (26) rows = 10cm measured over dc using larger (smaller) hook

Hooks used

2.5mm
3.5mm

Other supplies

tapestry needle
50g toy stuffing

Sizing

14cm long x 5cm wide x 10cm tall

Start crocheting

Unless specified, this pattern is worked in the amigurumi style, in a spiral without slip stitching or turning chains. Use a st marker or waste yarn to keep track of the first st of each rnd. This amigurumi is made from multiple pieces sewn together. Some of the pieces are made incrementally from other pieces. To avoid confusion, make the pieces in order.

Unless otherwise stated, finish each piece by pulling the yarn through the last loop leaving a long tail for sewing. Any loose tails at the end can be easily weaved into the amigurumi doll. When decreasing, use the invisible decrease technique of inserting hook into the front loop of stitches only. Use larger hook unless specified.

BAUBLE

Rnd 1: With G and working into a magic ring, 6 dc. *6 sts*
Rnd 2: *2 dc in next st; rep from * to end. *12 sts*
Rnd 3: Dc in BLO around.
Rnds 4-5: Dc around.
Rnd 6: With B, *2 dc in FLO of next st, 1 dc in FLO; rep from * to end. *18 sts*
Rnd 7: *2 dc in next st, 2 dc; rep from * to end. *24 sts*
Rnd 8: *2 dc in next st, 3 dc; rep from * to end. *30 sts*
Rnd 9: *2 dc in next st, 4 dc; rep from * to end. *36 sts*
Rnd 10: *2 dc in next st, 5 dc; rep from * to end. *42 sts*
Rnds 11-12: With D, dc around.
Rnds 13-18: With C, dc around.
Rnds 19-20: With D, dc around.
Rnd 21: With B, *1 dc2tog, 5 dc; rep from * to end. *36 sts*
Rnd 22: *1 dc2tog, 4 dc; rep from * to end. *30 sts*
Rnd 23: *1 dc2tog, 3 dc; rep from * to end. *24 sts*
Rnd 24: *1 dc2tog, 2 dc; rep from * to end. *18 sts*
Stuff.
Rnd 25: *1 dc2tog, 1 dc; rep from * to end. *12 sts*
Rnd 26: 6 dc2tog. *6 sts*
Fasten off and sew rem hole closed.

Bauble Chain

With G, chain 40.
Fasten off, tie to top of Bauble in a loop.

SLOTH

Body

Rnd 1: With A and working into a magic ring, 6 dc. *6 sts*
Rnd 2: *2 dc in next st; rep from * to end. *12 sts*
Rnd 3: *[2 dc in next st] 3 times, 3 dc; rep from * to end. *18 sts*
Rnd 4: 2 dc, [2 dc in next st] 3 times, 6 dc, [2 dc in next st] 3 times, 4 dc. *24 sts*

Special stitches

Bobble (bbl): [Yrh, insert hook into st, yrh, pul, yrh, draw through 2 loops] 5 times into same st, yrh, draw through all 6 loops on hook

Pin pieces in place before sewing together to find the perfect position and avoid pieces moving



Rnd 5: 4 dc, [2 dc in next st] 3 times, 9 dc, [2 dc in next st] 3 times, 5 dc. *30 sts*
Rnd 6: 6 dc, [2 dc in next st] 3 times, 12 dc, [2 dc in next st] 3 times, 6 dc. *36 sts*
Rnd 7: 26 dc, 1 bbl, 9 dc.
Rnds 8-10: Dc around.
Rnd 11: *1 dc2tog, 4 dc; rep from * to end. *30 sts*
Rnd 12: *1 dc2tog, 3 dc; rep from * to end. *24 sts*
Rnd 13: *1 dc2tog, 2 dc; rep from * to end. *18 sts*
Stuff.
Rnd 14: *1 dc2tog, 1 dc; rep from * to end. *12 sts*
Rnd 15: 6 dc2tog. 6 sts
Fasten off and sew hole closed.

Limbs (make 4)

Rnd 1: With B and working into a magic ring, 4 dc. *4 sts*
Rnd 2: *2 dc in next st, 1 dc; rep from * to end. *6 sts*
Rnds 3-4: Dc around.
Rnd 5: With D, 6 sl st, join with a sl st to first st.
Rnd 6: With A, dc around in sts from Rnd 4.
Rnd 7: Dc around.
Rnd 8: *2 dc in next st, 1 dc; rep from * to end. *9 sts*
Rnds 9-10: Dc around.
Rnd 11: *2 dc in next st, 2 dc; rep from * to end. *12 sts*
Rnds 12-13: Dc around.
Using photo as a guide, with B sew a few stitches onto side of red part of each limb to create a 'toe'.

Head

Rnd 1: With F and working into a magic ring, 6 dc. *6 sts*
Rnd 2: *2 dc in next st; rep from * to end. *12 sts*
Rnd 3: *[2 dc in next st] 3 times, 3 dc; rep from * to end. *18 sts*
Rnd 4: 2 dc, [2 dc in next st] 3 times, 6 dc, [2 dc in next st] 3 times, 4 dc. *24 sts*
Rnds 5-9: With A, dc around.
Rnd 10: 3 dc, 3 dc2tog, 6 dc, 3 dc2tog, 3 dc. *18 sts*
Stuff.
Rnd 11: 1 dc, 3 dc2tog, 3 dc, 3 dc2tog, 2 dc. *12 sts*
Rnd 12: 6 dc2tog. *6 sts*
Fasten off and sew rem hole closed.

Eyes (make 2)

Rnd 1: With E, smaller hook and working into a magic ring, 6 dc. *6 sts*
Rnd 2: 1 dc, 1 ch, turn, 2 dc. Fasten off.

Earmuffs (make 2)

Rnd 1: With B and working into a magic ring, 4 dc. *4 sts*
Rnd 2: *2 dc in next st; rep from * to end. *8 sts*
Rnd 3: With D, dc around, 1 sl st to close spiral. Fasten off.

Earmuff Band

With D, chain 12. Fasten off.

Scarf

This piece is worked in rows. With B, chain 52.
Row 1: With D, starting in 2nd ch from hook, dc across. Turn. *51 sts*
Row 2: With B, 1 ch, dc across. Turn.
Row 3: With D, 1 ch, sl st across.
Fasten off. Weave in ends.

Making up

Use photo as a guide throughout. Sew Limbs to Body. Sew Eyes to Head and embroider Eyes with A.

With E, embroider a nose in between Eyes. Sew one Earmuff to each side of Head. Sew each end of Earmuff band to Head near Earmuffs.

With A, sew a few strands of yarn to stick out of the sloth's Head as hair. Sew Head to Body. Sew each Hand of Sloth to Bauble. Wrap Scarf around Sloth's Neck, tying into a scarf knot.

FESTIVE FUN YARN

This issue, we've chosen our pick of the best festive-inspired yarn from some of our favourite brands to get you inspired



Novita Moominhouse
DK; 225 per 100g; 75% wool, 25% polyamide
Adore 552, £6.49
www.deramores.com



Louisa Harding Scintille
Aran; 230m per 100g; 49% acrylic, 39% polyester metallic, 12% wool £9.75
www.knittingfever.com



Stylecraft Special DK
DK; 295m per 100g; 100% premium acrylic
Lipstick 1246, £1.89
www.blacksheepwools.com



Sirdar Soiree
Aran; 110m per 50g; 36% acrylic, 30% wool, 30% nylon, 4% polyester
Celebration Wine 0204, £4.49
www.smdknitting.com



King Cole Zig Zag 4-ply
4-ply; 420m per 100g; 75% superwash wool, 25% nylon
Christmas 3408, £4.79
www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

go-to DK

ONLY £1.69



- Premium acrylic DK in 100g balls
- Recycled ball bands
- Made in Britain
- Suitable for most DK projects
- Available in 20 beautiful shades
- Exclusively at The knitting NETWORK

gotoyarns.com

THE BOOK CLUB



'Tis the Season Christmas Crochet
£12.99, Annie's Crochet

This month we're feeling festive with some inspiring Christmas crochet designs for your home

As the months tick by, we're thinking ahead to that most wonderful time of year – Christmas. We love planning and making gifts for all our loved ones and we can't wait to get our hooks out and get started! With time flying by, this month we were excited to get our hands on a copy of *'Tis the Season Christmas Crochet* from Annie's Crochet, a collection of fabulously festive crochet designs for your home.

This book brings together a selection of delightful Christmas-inspired projects for your home, including blankets, cushions, wreaths and decorations for your tree. Whether you're looking for something fun and whimsical or something a little more festive and refined, the varied assortment of designs from a selection of top designers guarantees there will be something to catch your eye and make you excited to pick up your hook and start crocheting right away.

Whether you're new to crochet or you've been hooking for years, each of the patterns are labelled with their own individual skill level to help you choose those most suited to your abilities. Find yourself a leisurely project to work on in front of the TV while you enjoy a festive film (or two), or push yourself and test your skills with a more complex design. Each of the patterns also features clear, bright photography that shows off the differing textures and details of each project, helping to guide you as you work and ensuring your chosen project is made to perfection.

All of the patterns featured in *'Tis the Season Christmas Crochet* are written using US terms and abbreviations so make sure to pay close attention if you're more used to following UK terminology. Don't worry if you find it difficult to translate as there's a handy stitch guide included at the back of the book to help you with the differences and any unfamiliar abbreviations. If you're a beginner, or looking to refresh your memory, there's also a selection of very helpful step-by-step guides for all of the basic stitches used throughout.

'Tis the Season Christmas Crochet is a must for the festive season and is a great way to get yourself motivated to finish those special makes for all of the family.

TURN TO PAGE 38 TO CLAIM YOUR FREE SEARCH PRESS BOOK WORTH £10.99!







Turn over to try Michele Wilcox's Christmas Tree Pillow





christmas tree PILLOW

Cosy up on the sofa while you watch Christmas films with this fun and simple novelty pillow

Aran **5mm**

★★ Beginner

Yarn used

Red Heart Super Saver
1 ball each in Guava 625 (MC), Coffee 365 (CC1), Saffron 234 (CC2), Aruba Sea 505 (CC3), Cherry Red 319 (CC4) & Aran 313 (CC5)

About the yarn

Aran; 333m per 198g; 100% acrylic

Tension

7 sts x 5 rows = 5cm measured over htr

Hook used

5mm

Other supplies

tapestry needle
toy stuffing
stitch marker

Sizing

38cm tall x 23cm wide

Chain 2 at beg of row counts as 1 htr unless otherwise stated. For Stars and Ball patterns, work in continuous rnds, do not join unless otherwise stated. Place marker in first st to indicate beg of each rnd.

Start crocheting

Tree Side (make 2)

With MC, chain 37.
Row 1: Starting in 3rd ch from hook, htr in each ch across. Turn. *36 sts*
Rows 2-5: 2 ch, 35 htr. Turn.
Row 6: 2 ch, 1 htr2tog, htr across to last 3 sts, 1 htr2tog, 1 htr. Turn. *2 sts dec'd*
Rows 7-8: 2 ch, htr across. Turn.
Row 9: As Row 6. *32 sts*
Rows 10-11: As Row 7.
Row 12: As Row 6. *30 sts*
Rows 13-14: As Row 7.
Row 15: As Row 6. *28 sts*
Rows 16: As Row 7.
Row 17: As Row 6. *26 sts*
Row 18: As Row 7.
Rows 19: As Row 6. *24 sts*
Row 20: As Row 7.
Rows 21-27: As Row 6. *10 sts*

Sew Tree Sides together leaving centre 15 sts of row 1 across bottom unsewn for Trunk opening. Stuff.

Trunk Side (make 2)

With CC1, chain 16.
Row 1: Starting in 2nd ch from hook, dc in each ch across. Turn. *15 sts*
Rows 2-9: 1 ch, dc across. Turn.
Fasten off.

Sew Trunk Sides together around 3 edges, leaving top unsewn. Stuff. With CC1, sew Trunk to Trunk opening left at bottom of Tree.

Large Star Side (make 2)

With CC2, chain 2.
Rnd 1: Starting in 2nd ch from hook, 5 dc in same st. *5 sts*
Rnd 2: 2 dc in each st around. *10 sts*
Rnd 3: [1 dc, 2 dc in next st] 5 times. *15 sts*
Rnd 4: [2 dc, 2 dc in next st] 5 times, sl st to join. *20 sts*
Rnd 5: Sl st in next dc, *[4 ch, 1 dc in 2nd ch from hook, 1 htr, 1 tr, miss next 2 sts], sl st in next 2 sts; rep from * to last 2 sts, rep between [] once more, sl st to join. Fasten off.

Sew Large Star Sides together, stuffing before closing. Sew to top of Tree.

Small Star (make 8)

With CC2, chain 2.
Rnd 1: Starting in 2nd ch from hook, 5 dc in same st. *5 sts*
Rnd 2: 2 ch, 1 dc in 2nd ch from hook, [sl st in next st, 2 ch, 1 dc in 2nd ch from hook] 5 times, sl st to join.
Fasten off.
Sew Small Stars to front of Tree as shown in photo.

Ball (make 4 in each of CC3, CC4 & CC5)

Chain 2.
Rnd 1: Starting in 2nd ch from hook, 6 dc in same st. *6 sts*
Rnd 2: 2 dc in each st around, join. *12 sts*
Fasten off.

Sew Balls to front of Tree as shown in photo.

STASHBUSTER
4-PLY

Leave a long yarn tail for parts that require assembly





Sachiyo Ishii

Ernie the Elf

Everyone needs a gift for Christmas and Ernie is no different, so get hooking this festive friend complete with his own little teddy bear tonight

4-ply 3mm

★★ Intermediate

Yarn used

Sirdar Snuggly 4-ply
10g each in Mini Monster 475 (A), Bunnykins 473 (B), Rascal 472 (C) & white 251 (D)
Visit **www.sirdar.co.uk** to find your local stockist
small amounts of 4-ply in yellow (E), dark brown (F) & white fleecy DK yarn (G)

About the yarn

4-ply; 226m per 50g ball; 55% nylon, 45% acrylic

Tension

14 sts x 11 rnds = 5cm measured over dc

Hook used

3mm

Other supplies

2 pairs of black beads, 6mm & 4mm
black cotton thread, tapestry needle
toy stuffing, 25mm pompom maker (optional), 20cm red ribbon

Sizing

Elf: 14cm sitting
Teddy: 8cm

Special abbreviations

htr2tog: Work 2 half treble sts together. *1 st dec'd*

Start crocheting

This pattern is worked in joined rnds, join with a sl st to first dc after each rnd. Beg 1 ch does not count as a st throughout.

ELF

Body & Head

Rnd 1: With A and working into a magic ring, 6 dc, join. *6 sts*
Rnd 2: 1 ch, [2 dc in next st] 6 times, join. *12 sts*
Rnd 3: 1 ch, [1 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times, join. *18 sts*
Rnd 4: 1 ch, [2 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times, join. *24 sts*
Rnd 5: 1 ch, [3 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times, join. *30 sts*
Rnd 6: 1 ch, [4 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times, join. *36 sts*
Rnd 7: 1 ch, [5 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times, join. *42 sts*
Rnds 8-12: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Rnd 13: 1 ch, [5 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times, join. *36 sts*
Rnd 14: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Rnd 15: 1 ch, [4 dc in BLO, 1 dc2tog in BLO] 6 times, join. *30 sts*
Rnds 16-22: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Rnd 23: 1 ch, [3 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times, join. *24 sts*
Rnds 24-25: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Rnd 26: 1 ch, [2 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times, join. *18 sts*
Rnd 27: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Rnd 28: 1 ch, [1 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times, join. *12 sts*
Change to B.
Rnd 29: 1 ch, [2 dc in next st] 12 times, join. *24 sts*
Rnd 30: 1 ch, [1 dc, 2 dc in next st] 12 times. *36 sts*
Rnds 31-36: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Rnd 37: 1 ch, 12 dc, [1 dc, 1 dc2tog] 4 times, 12 dc. *32 sts*
Rnds 38-41: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Rnd 42: 1 ch, [2 dc, 1 dc2tog] 8 times, join. *24 sts*
Rnd 43: 1 ch, [2 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times, join. *18 sts*
Rnd 44: 1 ch, [1 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times, join. *12 sts*
Stuff.
Rnd 45: 1 ch, 6 dc2tog, join. *6 sts*
Fasten off.

Shirt Piece Below Waist

Hold body upside down and join A to unused front loop of Row 15.
Rnd 1: 1 ch, [5 dc in FLO, 2 dc in FLO of next st] 6 times, join. *42 sts*
Rnds 2-6: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Fasten off.

Ears (make 2)

With B, chain 4.
Row 1: Starting in 2nd ch from hook, 3 dc. Turn. *3 sts*
Row 2: 1 ch, 3 dc. Turn.
Row 3: 1 ch, miss first st, 2 dc. Turn. *2 sts*
Row 4: 1 ch, miss first st, 1 dc. *1 st*
Fasten off.

Hat

Rnd 1: With C and working into a magic ring, 6 dc, join. *6 sts*
Rnd 2: 1 ch, [2 dc in next st] 6 times, join. *12 sts*
Rnd 3: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Rnd 4: 1 ch, [5 dc, 2 dc in next st] twice, join. *14 sts*
Rnd 5: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Rnd 6: 1 ch, [6 dc, 2 dc in next st] twice, join. *16 sts*

Rnd 7: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Rnd 8: 1 ch, [7 dc, 2 dc in next st] twice, join. *18 sts*
Rnd 9: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Rnd 10: 1 ch, [8 dc, 2 dc in next st] twice, join. *20 sts*
Rnd 11: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Rnd 12: 1 ch, [9 dc, 2 dc in next st] twice, join. *22 sts*
Rnd 13: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Rnd 14: 1 ch, [10 dc, 2 dc in next st] twice, join. *24 sts*
Rnd 15: 1 ch, [3 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times, join. *30 sts*
Rnd 16: 1 ch, [4 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times, join. *36 sts*
Rnds 17-20: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Change to G.
Rnd 21: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Fasten off.

Arms (make 2)

Rnd 1: With B and working into a magic ring, 5 dc, join. *5 sts*
Rnd 2: 1 ch, [2 dc in next st] 5 times, join. *10 sts*
Rnds 3-11: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Fasten off.

Sleeves (make2)

Rnd 1: With A and working into a magic ring, 6 dc, join. *6 sts*
Rnd 2: 1 ch, [2 dc in next st] 6 times, join. *12 sts*
Rnds 3-7: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Fasten off.

Legs (make 2)

With D, chain 16. Join to work in the rnd, being careful not to twist.
Rnds 1-4: 1 ch, dc around, join. *16 sts*
Rnds 5-9: With C, 1 ch, dc around, join.
Rnds 10-14: With D, 1 ch, dc around, join.
Repeat rnds 5-14 once more.
Fasten off.

Shoes (make 2)

With A, chain 7.
Rnd 1: Starting in 2nd ch from hook, 5 dc, 3 dc in next st, rotating as you go, work in the other side of ch, 4 dc, 2 dc in last ch, join. *14 sts*
Rnd 2: 1 ch, 2 dc in first st, 4 dc, [2 dc in next st] 3 times, 4 dc, [2 dc in next st] twice, join. *20 sts*
Rnd 3: 1 ch, 2 dc in first st, 5 dc, [2 dc in next st, 1 dc] 3 times, 4 dc, [2 dc in next st, 1 dc] twice, join. *26 sts*
Rnd 4: 1 ch, 6 dc in BLO, 10 htr in BLO, 10 dc in BLO, join.
Rnd 5: 1 ch, 6 dc, 10 htr, 10 dc, join.
Rnd 6: 1 ch, 6 dc, 5 htr2tog, 8 dc, 1 dc2tog, join. *20 sts*
Rnd 7: 1 ch, 6 dc, 1 htr2tog, 1 htr, 1 htr2tog, 9 dc, join. *18 sts*
Fasten off.

Belt

With E, chain 4.
Row 1: Starting in 2nd ch from hook, 3 dc. Turn. *3 sts*
Rows 2-40: 1 ch, dc across. Turn.
Fasten off.

Buckle

With F, chain 20. Fasten off.

Buttons (make 2)

With E and working into a magic ring, 6 dc, join.
Fasten off.

Making up

Use photo as a guide throughout. With F, embroider fringe using long backstitches. With B, make a French knot for the nose, using photo as a guide. Sew 6mm beads, as eyes, on the row above nose, spaced approx. 6 stitches apart. Sew Belt and Buckle to Body. Sew Buttons to Body centred above Buckle. Stuff Legs, keeping both ends open. Stuff toe of Shoe, insert one end of Leg and sew to Shoe. Sew Leg to Body. Rep for other Leg. Stuff Arm. Insert Arm into Sleeve and stitch together at edge. Sew Arms to Body. With D, make a pompom approximately 2cm in diameter. Attach to tip of Hat. Sew Hat to Head. Sew Ears to Head.

TEDDY

Body

Rnd 1: With D and working into a magic ring, 6 dc, join. *6 sts*
Rnd 2: 1 ch, [2 dc in next st] 6 times, join. *12 sts*
Rnd 3: 1 ch, [1 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times, join. *18 sts*
Rnd 4: 1 ch, [2 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times, join. *24 sts*
Rnd 5: 1 ch, [3 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times, join. *30 sts*
Rnds 6-8: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Rnd 9: 1 ch, [3 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times, join. *24 sts*
Rnds 10-12: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Rnd 13: 1 ch, [2 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times, join. *18 sts*
Rnd 14: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Fasten off.

Head

Rnd 1: With B and working into a magic ring, 5 dc, join. *5 sts*
Rnd 2: 1 ch, [2 dc in next st] 5 times, join. *10 sts*
Rnd 3: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Change to D.
Rnd 4: 1 ch, 3 dc, [2 dc in next st] 4 times, 3 dc, join. *14 sts*
Rnd 5: 1 ch, 5 dc, [2 dc in next st] 4 times, 5 dc, join. *18 sts*
Rnd 6: 1 ch, [2 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times, join. *24 sts*
Rnds 7-10: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Rnd 11: 1 ch, [2 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times, join. *18 sts*
Rnd 12: 1 ch, [1 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times, join. *12 sts*
Stuff.
Rnd 13: 1 ch, 6 dc2tog, join. *6 sts*
Fasten off.

Legs (make 2)

Rnd 1: With D and working into a magic ring, 6 dc, join. *6 sts*
Rnd 2: 1 ch, [2 dc in next st] 6 times, join. *12 sts*
Rnd 3: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Rnd 4: 1 ch, 4 dc, 2 dc2tog, 4 dc, join. *10 sts*
Rnds 5-7: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Fasten off.

Arms (make 2)

Rnd 1: With D and working into a magic ring, 6 dc, join. *6 sts*
Rnds 2-5: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Fasten off.

Ears (make 2)

With D and working into a magic ring, 2 ch, 5 htr, 2 ch, 1 sl st in ring. Fasten off.

Making up

Use photo as a guide throughout. Sew Ears and 4mm beads, for eyes, to Head. With F, embroider nose using a few small stitches. Stuff Body. Stuff Legs and Arms and sew to Body. Sew Head to Body. Wrap neck with ribbon and tie a bow.





CYGNET

CYGNET DK



Contact your Cygnet stockist for details **www.cygnetyarns.com**

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Festive Hexies BLANKET

The great thing about this blanket is you can work on it for yourself, in between your Christmas crocheting for others



Aran 5mm

★★ Take your time

Yarn used

Caron Simply Soft
5 balls in Blue Mint 9608 (A)
2 balls in gold 9782 (B),
1 ball in Autumn Red 9730 (C)
Caron Simply Soft Party
10 balls in Silver Sparkle 0008 (MC)
Available from
www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

About the yarn

Simply Soft: Aran; 288m per 170g ball; 100% acrylic
Simply Soft Party: Aran; 150m per 85g ball; 99% acrylic, 1% metalised polyester

Tension

16 sts x 9 rows = 10cm measured over patt

Hook used

5mm

Sizing

165x140cm

Special abbreviations

Popcorn (PC): 5 tr in same st, remove hook from loop, insert hook in first tr made, replace loop on hook, yrh, draw tightly through loop and st on hook

Start crocheting

As there are several popcorn stitches in the first round, you may need to start off with a larger magic ring and a longer tail than usual, this will ensure all the stitches fit and you'll be able to pull the ring tightly closed.

Hexie

Make 7 with A as CC1 & C as CC2, 5 with B as CC1 & A as CC2 and 5 with C as CC1 & B as CC2

Join each rnd with a sl st in top of beg 3 ch unless otherwise stated.

Rnd 1: With CC1 and working into a magic ring, 3 ch (counts as a tr here and throughout), 1 PC, 1 tr, [2 ch, 1 tr, 1 PC, 1 tr] 5 times, 2 ch, join. *18 sts*

Rnd 2: 3 ch, 2 tr, [1 tr, 2 ch, 1 tr] in 2ch-sp, *3 tr, [1 tr, 2 ch, 1 tr] in 2ch-sp; rep from * 4 more times, join. *30 sts*

Rnd 3: 3 ch, 1 PC, 2 tr, [1 tr, 2 ch, 1 tr] in 2ch-sp, *2 tr, 1 PC, 2 tr, [1 tr, 2 ch, 1 tr] in 2ch-sp; rep from * 4 more times, 1 tr, join. *42 sts*

Rnd 4: 3 ch, 4 tr, [1 tr, 2 ch, 1 tr] in 2ch-sp, *7 tr, [1 tr, 2 ch,1 tr] in 2ch-sp, rep from * 4 more times, 2 tr, join. *54 sts*

Fasten off.

Rnd 5: Join CC2 to any 2ch-sp, [5 ch (counts as 1 tr, 2 ch here and throughout), 1 tr] in 2ch-sp, 4 tr, 1 PC, 4 tr, *[1 tr, 2 ch, 1 tr] in 2ch-sp, 4 tr, 1 PC, 4 tr; rep from * 4 more times, join with sl st in 3rd of beg 5 ch. *66 sts*

Rnd 6: 3 ch, [1 tr, 2 ch, 1 tr] in 2ch-sp, *11 tr, [1 tr, 2 ch, 1 tr] in 2ch-sp; rep from * 4 more times, 10 tr, join. *78 sts*

Rnd 7: 3 ch, 1 tr, [1 tr, 2 ch, 1 tr] in 2ch-

Caroline Warren

Blanket

We love the subtle sparkle in Simply Soft Party



sp, *6 tr, 1 PC, 6 tr, [1 tr, 2 ch, 1 tr] in 2ch-sp; rep from * 4 more times, 6 tr, 1 PC, 4 tr, join. *90 sts*

Fasten off.

Rnd 8: Join MC to any 2ch-sp, [5 ch, 1 tr] in 2ch-sp, 15 tr, *[1 tr, 2 ch, 1 tr] in 2ch-sp, 15 tr; rep from * 4 more times, join with sl st in 3rd of beg 5 ch. *102 sts*

Rnd 9: 3 ch, [1 tr, 2 ch, 1 tr] in 2ch-sp, *8 tr, 1 PC, 8 tr, [1 tr, 2 ch, 1 tr] in 2ch-sp; rep from * 4 more times, 8 tr, 1 PC, 7 tr, join. *114 sts*

Rnd 10: 3 ch, 1 tr, [1 tr, 2 ch, 1 tr] in 2ch-sp, *19 tr, [1 tr, 2 ch, 1 tr] in 2ch-sp; rep from * 4 more times, 17 tr, join. *126 sts*

Rnd 11: 3 ch, 2 tr, [1 tr, 2 ch, 1 tr] in 2ch-sp, *10 tr, 1 PC, 10 tr, [1 tr, 2 ch, 1 tr] in 2ch-sp; rep from * 4 more times, 10 tr, 1 PC, 7 tr, join. *138 sts*

Rnd 12: 3 ch, 3 tr, [1 tr, 2 ch, 1 tr] in 2ch-sp, *23 tr, [1 tr, 2 ch, 1 tr] in 2ch-sp; rep from * 4 more times, 19 tr, join. *150 sts*

Rnd 13: 3 ch, 4 tr, [1 tr, 2 ch, 1 tr] in 2ch-sp, *12 tr, 1 PC, 12 tr, [1 tr, 2 ch, 1 tr] in 2ch-sp; rep from * 4 more times, 12 tr, 1 PC, 7 tr, join. *162 sts*

Fasten off.

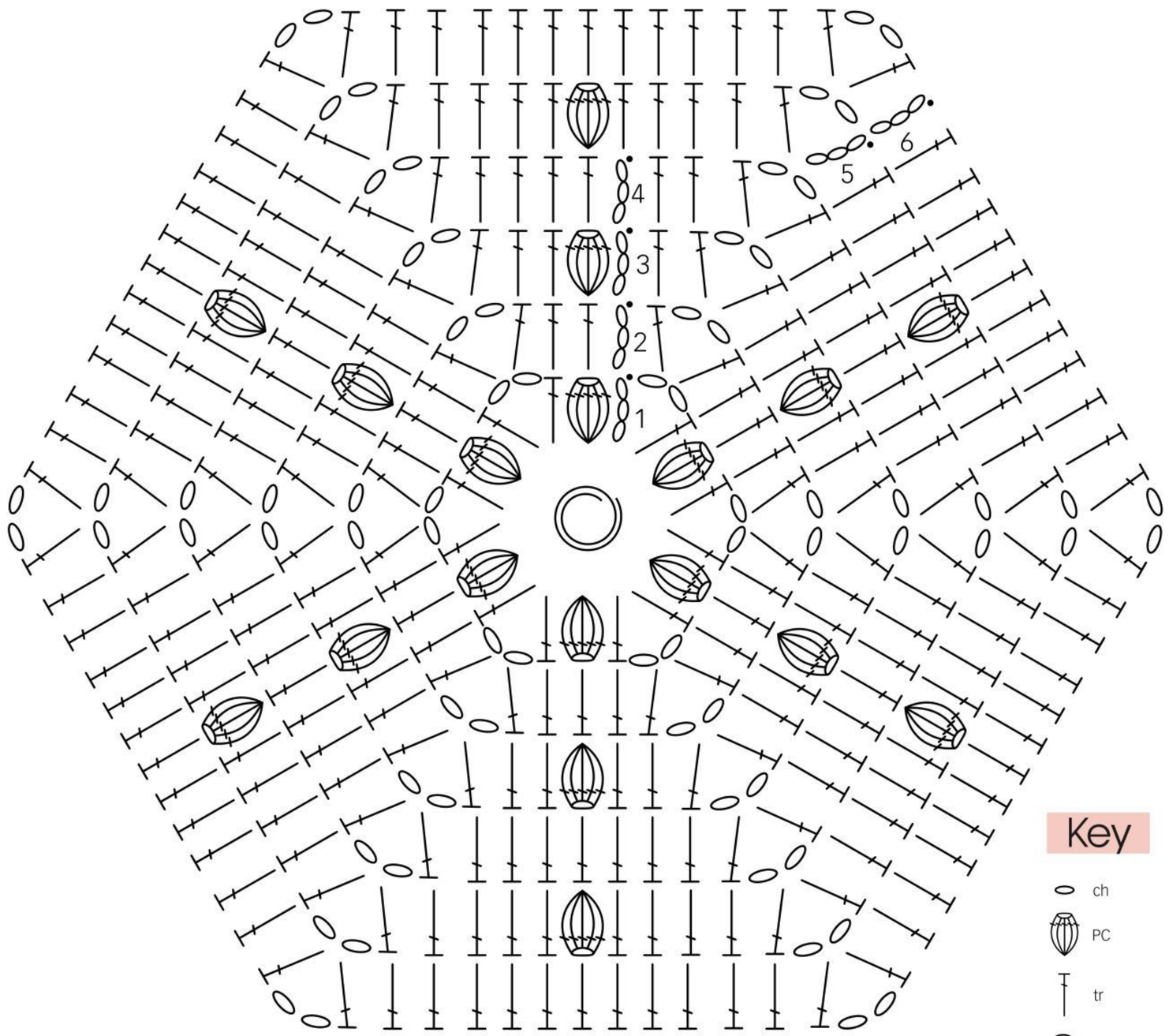
Rnd 14: Join A to any 2ch-sp, [5 ch, 1 tr] in 2ch-sp, 27 tr, *[1 tr, 2 ch, 1 tr] in 2ch-sp, 27 tr; rep from * 4 more times, join with sl st in 3rd of beg 5 ch. *174 sts*

Rnd 15: 3 ch, [1 tr, 2 ch, 1 tr] in 2ch-sp, *14 tr, 1 PC, 14 tr, [1 tr, 2 ch, 1 tr] in 2ch-sp; rep from * 4 more times, 14 tr, 1 PC, 13 tr, join. *186 sts*

Rnd 16: 3 ch, 1 tr, [1 tr, 2 ch, 1 tr] in 2ch-sp, *31 tr, [1 tr, 2 ch, 1 tr] in 2ch-sp; rep from * 4 more times, 29 tr, join. *198 sts*

Weave in ends. Block hexies.

Chart



Making up

With A and RS facing, join hexies together with sl st in BLO, working one sl st in each st or 2ch-sp. Weave in ends.

Border

Join B to top right 2ch-sp of blanket, [2 ch (counts as fist htr), 2 htr] in 2ch-sp, htr across to next 2ch-sp (at join), [1 htr in each of 2ch-sp and seam and next 2ch-sp], htr across to next 2ch-sp (corner of hexie), 3 htr in 2ch-sp; cont in this way around the rest of the blanket, join with sl st to top of beg 2 ch. *1080 sts*

Fasten off. Weave in ends.

NAUGHTY OR NICE SHAWL

This asymmetric shawl is a lovely Christmas gift idea and uses only two balls of wool

Designed by Elisabeth Davis de Herraiz



4-ply 4mm

★★ Intermediate

Yarn used

West Yorkshire Spinners Signature 4 ply
1 ball each in Blue Raspberry 333 (MC) & Cherry Drop 529 (CC)
Visit **www.wyspinners.com** to find your local stockist

About the yarn

4-ply; 400m per 100g ball; 75% wool, 25% nylon

Tension

17 rows x 12 sts = 10cm measured over stitch pattern

Hook used

4mm

Sizing

68cm deep x 130cm wide

Other supplies

pompom maker, 4cm (optional)

Start crocheting

With MC, chain 3

Row 1 (WS): Starting in 2nd chain from hook, 2 dc. Turn. *2 sts*

Row 2: 1 ch, (does not count as a st here and throughout), 2 dc in each st to end. Turn. *4 sts*

Row 3: 1 ch, 3 dc, 3 dc in last st. Turn. *6 dc*

Row 4: 1 ch, 3 dc in first st, [1 ch, miss 1 st, 1 dc] twice, 1 dc in last st. Turn. *6 dc*

Row 5: 1 ch, 1 dc, 1 ch, [miss 1 st, 1 dc in next 1ch-sp, 1 ch] twice, miss 1 st, 1 dc, 3 dc in last st. Turn. *7 dc*

Row 6: 1 ch, 3 dc in first st, 1 ch, miss 1 st, 1 dc, *1 ch, miss 1 st, 1 dc in next 1ch-sp; rep from * to last st, 1 dc in last st. Turn. *8 dc*

Row 7: 1 ch, 1 dc, *1 ch, miss 1 st, 1 dc in 1ch-sp; rep from * to last 3 sts, 1 ch, miss 1 st, 1 dc, 3 dc in last st. Turn. *9 dc*

Rows 8-27: Rep rows 6-7 ten times. *29 sts*

Row 28: With CC, rep Row 6. *30 sts*

Row 29: With MC, rep Row 7. *31 sts*

Rows 30-31: Rep rows 28-29. *33 sts*

Rows 32-35: With CC, rep rows 6-7 twice. *37 sts*

Row 36: With MC, rep Row 6. *38 sts*

Row 37: With CC, rep Row 7. *39 sts*

Rows 38-39: Rep rows 36-37. *41 sts*

Rows 40-63: With MC, rep rows 6-7 twelve times. *65 sts*

Rows 64-75: Rep rows 28-39. *77 sts*

Rows 76-99: With MC rep rows 6-7 twelve times. *101 sts*

Rows 100-111: Rep rows 28-39. *113 sts*

Rows 112-123: Rep rows 6-7 six times. *125 sts*

Fasten off.

Finishing

With CC, make seven pompoms and attach to shawl evenly along two shorter sides. Weave in ends and block to measurements given.

EXCLUSIVE FROM Deramores



Heather C Gibbs

Brandy the Black Cat

We can imagine Father Christmas having a cute feline friend like Brandy, who will make a lovely cuddly present

DK 3.5mm

★★ Intermediate

Yarn used

Deramores Studio DK
1 ball each in Frost (A) & Ebony (B)
Oddments in Oatmeal (C)
Available from
www.deramores.com

About the yarn

DK; 250m per 100g; 100% acrylic

Tension

9 sts x 8 rows =
5cm measured over dc

Hook used

3.5mm

Other supplies

toy stuffing
tapestry needle
amber safety eyes, 12mm

Sizing

Approximately 22cm tall when sitting

Start crocheting

Before you start: Your decreases will be smoother and less noticeable in this pattern if you use the Invisible double crochet decrease. Insert your hook in the FLO of the first stitch indicated and pull up a loop (two loops on hook), insert hook in the FLO of the next st, yrh, pull through three loops on hook. *1 st dec'd*
This project is made in the amigurumi style, in a continuous spiral without joining.

Body

Rnd 1: With B and working into a magic ring, 6 dc. *6 sts*
Rnd 2: [2 dc in next st] 6 times. *12 sts*
Rnd 3: [1 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *18 sts*
Rnd 4: [2 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *24 sts*
Rnd 5: [3 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *30 sts*
Rnd 6: [4 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *36 sts*
Rnd 7: [5 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *42 sts*
Rnd 8: [6 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *48 sts*
Rnd 9: [7 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *54 sts*
Rnd 10: 4 dc, 2 dc in next st, [8 dc, 2 dc in next st] 5 times, 4 dc. *60 sts*
Rnds 11-15: Dc around.
Rnd 16: [8 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times. *54 sts*
Rnds 17-18: Dc around.
Rnd 19: [7 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times. *48 sts*
Rnds 20-22: Dc around.
Rnd 23: [6 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times. *42 sts*
Rnds 24-25: Dc around.
Rnd 26: [5 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times. *36 sts*
Rnds 27-28: Dc around.
Rnd 29: [4 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times. *30 sts*
Rnds 30-31: Dc around.
Rnd 32: [3 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times. *24 sts*
Fasten off and stuff Body. Leave a long yarn tail for sewing Head to the Body.

Head

Rnds 1-6: With A, work as given for Body. *36 sts*
Fasten off. Attach B to any st.
Rnd 7: [5 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *42 sts*
Rnd 8: [6 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *48 sts*
Rnd 9: [7 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *54 sts*
Rnds 10-21: Dc around.
Rnd 22: [7 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times. *48 sts*
Rnd 23: [6 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times. *42 sts*
Rnd 24: [5 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times. *36 sts*
Rnd 25: [4 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times. *30 sts*
Add safety eyes between rnds 6-7, approximately 13 sts apart. Stuff head, cont to stuff as you work.
Rnd 26: [3 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times. *24 sts*
Rnd 27: [2 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times. *18 sts*
Rnd 28: [1 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times. *12 sts*
Rnd 29: [1 dc2tog] 6 times. *6 sts*
Fasten off leaving a long tail. Use yarn tail sew up the remaining 6 sts, weave in ends.

Muzzle

With A, chain 6.
Rnd 1: Starting in 2nd ch from hook, 3 dc in first ch, 3 dc, 3 dc in last ch, rotate piece, 3 dc across bottom of foundation ch, join with sl st to first dc. *12 sts*
Rnd 2: *[2 dc in next st] 3 times, 3 dc; rep from * once more. *18 sts*



Why not make Brandy in your family pet's colour?

Rnd 3: *[1 dc, 2 dc in next st] 3 times, 3 dc; rep from * once more. *24 sts*
Rnd 4: *[2 dc, 2dc in next st] 3 times, 3 dc; rep from * once more. *30 sts*
Rnds 5-7: Dc around.
Fasten off, leaving a long yarn tail for sewing Muzzle to the Head.

With C, embroider a nose on the Muzzle in a triangle shape. Stuff.

Ears (make 2)

Rnd 1: With B and working into a magic ring, 3 dc. *3 sts*
Rnd 2: [2 dc in next st] 3 times. *6 sts*
Rnd 3: [2 dc, 2 dc in next st] 3 times. *8 sts*
Rnd 4: [3 dc, 2 dc in next st] 3times. *10 sts*
Rnd 5: [4 dc, 2 dc in next st] 3 times. *12 sts*
Rnd 6: [1 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *18 sts*
Rnd 7: [2 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *24 sts*
Rnds 8-9: Dc around.
Fasten off, leaving a long yarn tail for sewing Ears to the Head.

Tail

Rnd 1: With A and working into a magic ring, 5 dc. *5 sts*
Rnd 2: [2 dc in next st] 5 times. *10 sts*
Rnd 3: [1 dc, 2 dc in next st] 5 times. *15 sts*
Rnds 4-10: Dc around.
Fasten off. Attach B to any st.
Rnds 11-38: Dc around.
Fasten off, leaving a long yarn tail for sewing Tail to the Body. Stuff Tail up to Rnd 28, leaving top unstuffed so it can bend.

Front Legs (make 2)

Rnds 1-5: With A, work as given for Body. *30 sts*
Rnds 6-10: Dc around.
Rnd 11: [3 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times. *24 sts*
Rnd 12: [2 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times. *18 sts*
Rnds 13-15: Dc around.
Fasten off. Attach B to any st.
Rnds 16-25: Dc around.
Rnd 26: [4 dc, 1 dc2tog] 3 times. *15 sts*
Fasten off, leaving a long yarn tail for sewing Legs to the Body. Stuff the Leg up to the top of Rnd 20.

Hind Legs (make 2)

Rnds 1-15: Working with A throughout, work as given for Front Legs. *18 sts*
Fasten off. Join B in any st.
Rnds 16-22: Dc around.
Rnd 23: [4 dc, 1 dc2tog] 3 times. *15 sts*
Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing Legs to the Body. Stuff the Leg up to the top of Rnd 16.

Making up

Stuff Muzzle and attach to Head below the safety eyes. Attach Ears either side of the Head over Rnd 15, curving them slightly at the bottom as you attach them. Join the Head to the Body at the open top, over rnds 12-19 of the Head. Sew the side edges of Front Legs together then attach to Rnd 24 approximately 1 st apart of the Body. Note that the Body leans forward slightly to rest on the front paws. Sew the side edges together of the Hind Legs then attach over rnds 9-15 approximately 20 st apart of the Body. Attach Tail onto the back of the Body over rnds 7-12. Weave in all ends.

DISCOUNTS & GIVEAWAYS

Enter today for your chance to win fab yarn goodies, and you can also use our exclusive discounts to save on your next big project!



DON'T HANG AROUND

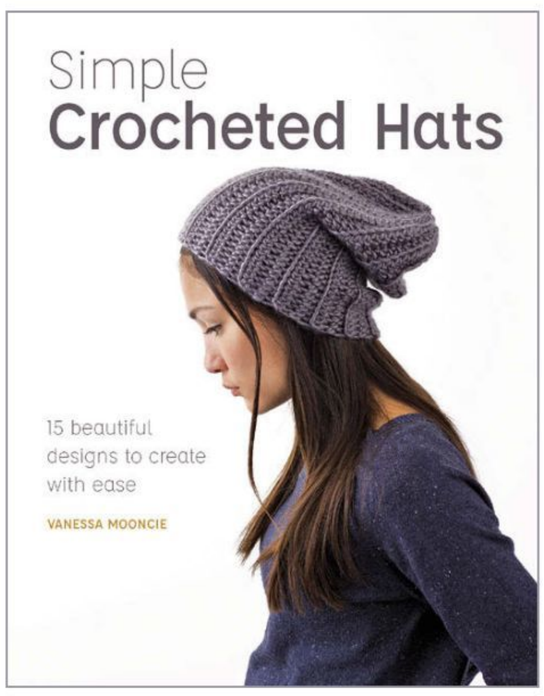
How much do you love this sloth-inspired Christmas tree decoration from Mike Scriven and Jordan Graham? This fun, unique design is guaranteed to be a great addition to your tree this year and we're giving you the chance to win all the yarn required to make your own. 10 winners will each receive six balls of Rico Ricorumi and one ball of Rico Creative Lamé in all the shades required to complete this project.

www.rico-design.co.uk

FIND ME ON PAGE 54

GET YOUR COPY

Simple Crochet Hats is the latest release from designer Vanessa Mooncie. This collection features 15 simple yet beautiful patterns that are just the thing for cold winter days. Each project has been designed with simplicity in mind meaning they're perfect for beginner crocheters who are looking to make a statement accessory. We've got three copies of this book to give away to three lucky readers. **www.thegmcgroup.com**



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Michelle White
www.doradoes.co.uk

CROCHET HACK

SUSTAINABLE FASHION

We meet Michelle from **doraexplored** on Instagram, who shows us how to make a shirt into a Christmas stocking





Hello! I'm Michelle (also known as Dora) and I blog about crochet, wellbeing, personal development and anything else that sets me alight. My favourite place to hang out is Instagram as **doraexplored** and I love chatting to people in my Facebook group My Crochet Wardrobe.

A couple of years ago I gave myself the challenge of not buying any new clothes for a year. It was easier than I thought, and it completely changed my attitude to shopping. I started looking into the fast fashion industry and quickly had my eyes opened to the unfathomable waste it creates. When I learned about chemical use, poor waste management and overproduction (not to mention the concerns about workers' rights), I was revolted. I think we've all become used to living in a disposable society and that worries me. The planet can't support that attitude for much longer; something needs to change. Using crochet hacks to upcycle items that would otherwise end up in landfill is a fun and practical way to start shifting people's mindset and showcase an alternative choice.

Inspiration is a tricky one to pin down because anything can trigger it! Ideas have come from dreams, TV shows, conversations, nature or realising I need something that doesn't exist elsewhere. With some of my hacks it's been refurbishing an item I love to give it new life rather than throw it away. Whatever the project, my biggest tip is to give it a go!

Why this refashion?

Christmas has become such a time of consumerism and 'buy buy buy', so I wanted to take it back to a time where Christmas was handmade. I was lucky enough to make Christmas decorations as a kid (paperchains!), and the time spent making was part of the joy and the best way to get into the festive spirit.

What was your inspiration?

For this project, I was thinking about some of my favourite festive makes and stockings came to mind as a classic. Tartan and plaid are great festive prints and I know flannel checked shirts have been everywhere, so it all just came together naturally.

Check out **#crochethacking** on Instagram

CROCHET HACK

CHRISTMAS STOCKING



This simple project creates something that can be brought out every year and will always have that memory of time spent together

You will need

Women's Institute Premium Acrylic DK, 1 ball in white ● 3.5mm hook ● some sewing experience ● fabric from old clothes and matching sewing thread ● sewing machine ● white sewing thread ● pins and needle ● tapestry needle ● iron

Start crocheting

Depending on the size and style, you can make up to 3 stockings with 2 shirts. You will need a stocking template to guide your fabric cutting; use a stocking from home or look for a free one online.

Crocheted Cuff

Chain 50

Row 1: Starting in 2nd ch from hook, 7 dc, 35 htr, 7dc, turn. *49 sts*

Row 2: 2 ch (does not count as st), htr in BLO across, turn.

Row 3: 1 ch (does not count as st), 7 dc in BLO, 35 htr in BLO, 7dc in BLO, turn.

Rep rows 2 and 3 until your piece reaches comfortably around the top of your stocking with 5cm ease. Finish on a Row 2 rep.

Fold the cuff down the centre so that the row ends meet. Sl st the row ends together along the length of the cuff to form a double layer of fabric with vertical ribbing.

Step One

Wash your chosen garment, cut up along the seams to maximise fabric and press creases out. Draw around an existing stocking or use a free pattern online, with 2 pieces of the outer fabrics placed RS together, pin your pattern to the material and cut out leaving a 1.5cm seam allowance. Repeat the process with the lining fabric (you can use the same fabric). 1

Step Two

Lay the front and back pieces out with the RS facing so the tops of the lining and outer align. For each side of the stocking, sew the tops of the lining and outer pieces together and lay flat with RS facing. 2 Place the front and back of the stocking RS together, pin around the seams and starting a few inches below the top on the back of the stocking, sew two sides together around the whole stocking, stopping a few inches for the top. Turn the stocking right side out by pulling the lining and outer through the hole you left at the top back. Tuck the lining into the outer. Cut a 23x6cm rectangle from the fabric remnants. Fold the rectangle in half along the long side, WS facing, press and sew together 2 sides, snip the corners of the seam allowance. Turn the loop the right side out through the open short side. Press and fold to make a loop. Set aside.

Step 3

Crochet the cuff using the pattern. Turn the stocking the wrong way around and, starting from back seam, pin the narrower, row end side of the cuff to the top of the stocking. Stitch securely in place leaving back seam open. 3 Take the loop you created earlier and stitch to the back seam.

Step 4

Starting in the layer the furthest away from you and working towards you, slip stitch the first and last rows if the cuff together, working in the BLO of the row closest to you and the FLO of the other row. Turn your stocking the right side around. Fold the cuff down over the top of the stocking, hang and wait for Santa!









Vincent Green-Hite

DESIGNER SKETCHBOOK



This month we speak with Vincent from Knot Bad Ami, a crochet designer and 'yarn punk' who shares fun, free patterns online

www.knotbadami.com

My home is in Portland, Oregon and I have been here all my life. I spend most of time working on my blog and crocheting. Outside of that, I enjoy reading manga, watching anime, finding new music, playing video games, and spending time with friends and loved ones to find the best boba tea around the city. My blog has been a work in process, which I feel will always be the case. On it, I offer free crochet patterns and tutorials.

I've recently started a new blog called **Yarn Punk**, which also includes tutorials and patterns from other artists in the community, along with interviews, round-ups, and I hope to be doing more music-related posts.

I began crocheting in August 2015 right after I left university (and my job as a pizza delivery driver). I taught myself from YouTube, my most compelling reason to crochet being to create Pokémon dolls! I started posting fun pictures of my creations on Instagram to my surprise, they were very popular. I started with Etsy to try and make some money and a few other platforms but decided to go in for the long haul and see if I could be successful with a blog. I love being able to offer free content for my audience – those free patterns that were available to me when I started were so helpful and I hope I can pay it back.

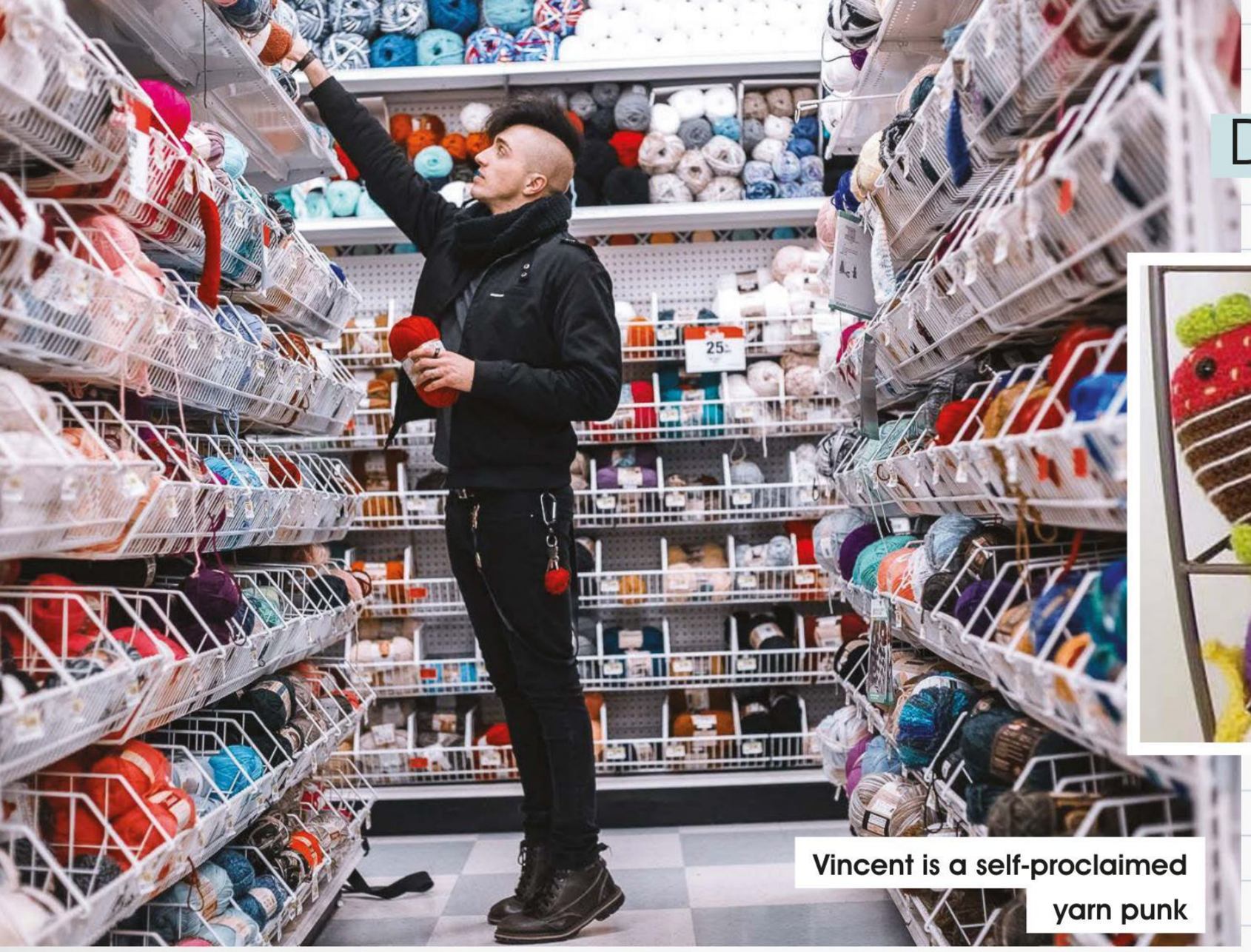
I'm a self-proclaimed Yarn Punk, which means I'm someone who expresses



Find this pattern and many more on Vincent's blog







Vincent is a self-proclaimed yarn punk



themselves through yarn. To be specific, I would say my style Is Kawaii Metal. My style has made a dramatic shift since I started – I wouldn't say it's important to maintain it necessarily, but I don't really know how to do any other kind. I love heavy metal and dressing with a little bit of edge, but I do love all things cute, so it's been fun to combine the two. Some people find it confusing, but it makes me happy and is my favourite way of expressing myself.

Inspiration comes from all over – sometimes I have a caption I want to use, sometimes a yarn calls to me, other times I see something fun from anime, but a lot of the time the idea comes first. I always make sure to sketch out a piece first – even if it doesn't turn out the way I envision it, I think it encourages me to bring it to life more than if it sits in my head. Aside from that, I don't have a structured way of creating. I keep an open mind and I'm okay with making last minute changes, but I do like to keep to one project at a time. I'm not good at going back and revisiting a piece if I've taken too much time away from it. My favourite pieces to make are scarves. I love the versatility of them, how mindless and therapeutic they can be once you get into the rhythm, and how much they can completely transform an outfit. During the colder months, I feel exposed without wearing one and I love having the options.

> "It's really amazing how one project can change your whole direction"

There are so many people that inspire me on a daily basis, I don't think naming them all would be fair just in case I miss someone. However, some artists do come to mind who have specifically caused me to make changes for the better. The first is Stephanie from **AllAboutAmi**, her blog offers a variety of fun, free crochet patterns and I followed a lot of them when starting. Her work inspired me and I don't think I'd have been as motivated without her to learn how to read patterns along with making my own. I'm fortunate to have met my best friend through this scene, Jessica from **The Hook Nook**. Aside from her incredible work, her character is truly inspiring – she's helped me overcome many obstacles, respects my artistry and allows me to make decisions for myself. To top it off, she pushes me – she dared me to quit my full-time day job to pursue this line of work (talk about believing in someone!). Finally, Ashleigh from **Sewrella** has inspired me on what it means to be a blogger – Her work convinced me to go down the blogging route and I'm so happy I did!

Everything I've made has a special place in my heart. I've been all over the place with what I've created – from amigurumi, wearables, home décor, and even upcycling clothes. Some make me happy knowing I made, some make me proud seeing what I was able to bring to life, and some were turning points in my career. It's really amazing how one project can change your whole direction. If I were to choose a favourite, I designed my first ever sweater this year and I'm still pretty proud of that!

I just recently finished filming with Bluprint for my own series. I have a few other things I'm not allowed to publicly talk about that I'm really excited for – but mainly, I'm working on creating content. I'm trying to grow Yarn Punk into something bigger than me and it's unfolding beautifully. I can't wait to see what shape it takes.



Turn over to make Vincent's jiggly jellyfish!

JIGGLY JELLYFISH

Experiment with different colour combinations with these adorable, beginner-friendly jellyfish



Designer sketchbook



Worsted 4mm

★ Beginner friendly

Yarn used

Lion Brand Vanna's Choice
1 ball each in either Periwinkle 183, Pink Grapefruit 104 or
Sky Blue 111 (MC) and Aquamarine 106, Lemon 159 or white 100 (CC), scraps of black & red (optional).
Available from
www.woolwarehouse.com

About the yarn

Worsted; 156m per 100g ball; 100% acrylic

Tension

Tension is not critical for this project

Hook used

4mm

Other supplies

1 pair of safety eyes, 12mm
toy stuffing
locking stitch marker or waste yarn
tapestry needle



Start crocheting

Unless otherwise stated, this pattern is worked in the amigurumi style, in a spiral without slipstitching or turning chains. Use a st marker or waste yarn to keep track of the first st of each rnd.

Head

Rnd 1: With MC and working into a magic ring, 6 dc. *6 sts*
Rnd 2: 2 dc in each st around. *12 sts*
Rnd 3: [1 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *18 sts*
Rnd 4: [2 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *24 sts*
Rnd 5: [3 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *30 sts*
Rnd 6: [4 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *36 sts*
Rnd 7: [5 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *42 sts*
Rnd 8: [6 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *48 sts*
Rnds 9-15: Dc around.
Rnd 16: [6 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times. *42 sts*
Insert safety eyes between rows 11-12, 8 sts apart.
Rnd 17: [5 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times. *36 sts*
Rnd 18: [4 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times. *30 sts*
Rnd 19: 1 ch, working in FLO, *2 htr in next st, 4 htr; rep from * around. *36 sts*
Fasten off.

Bottom

Rnd 1: With MC and working into a magic ring, 6 dc. *6 sts*
Rnd 2: 2 dc in each st around. *12 sts*
Rnd 3: [1 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *18 sts*
Rnd 4: [2 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *24 sts*
Rnd 5: [3 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *30 sts*
Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.
Stuff Head. Attach Bottom to underside of head. Sew through back loop not worked in final rnd of Head. Embroider smile and eyelashes to complete face details.

Stingers (make 4)

With MC, chain 35.
Row 1: 2 htr in 2nd ch from hook, 2 htr into each sts across. *70 sts*
Fasten off.

Bow

With CC, chain 21.
Row 1: Starting in 2nd ch from hook, 20 htr. Turn. *20 sts*
Rows 2-11: 1 ch, 20 htr.
Fasten off and weave in ends.
Pinch bow in centre and with a long piece of yarn, wrap tightly around until you reach desired thickness of wrap. Sew through the centre to hold in place. Attach bow to top of Head.

ROWAN

EST 1978

DESIGN COMPETITION

The entries are in, and the team at Rowan has picked its shortlist of designers for this year's design competition

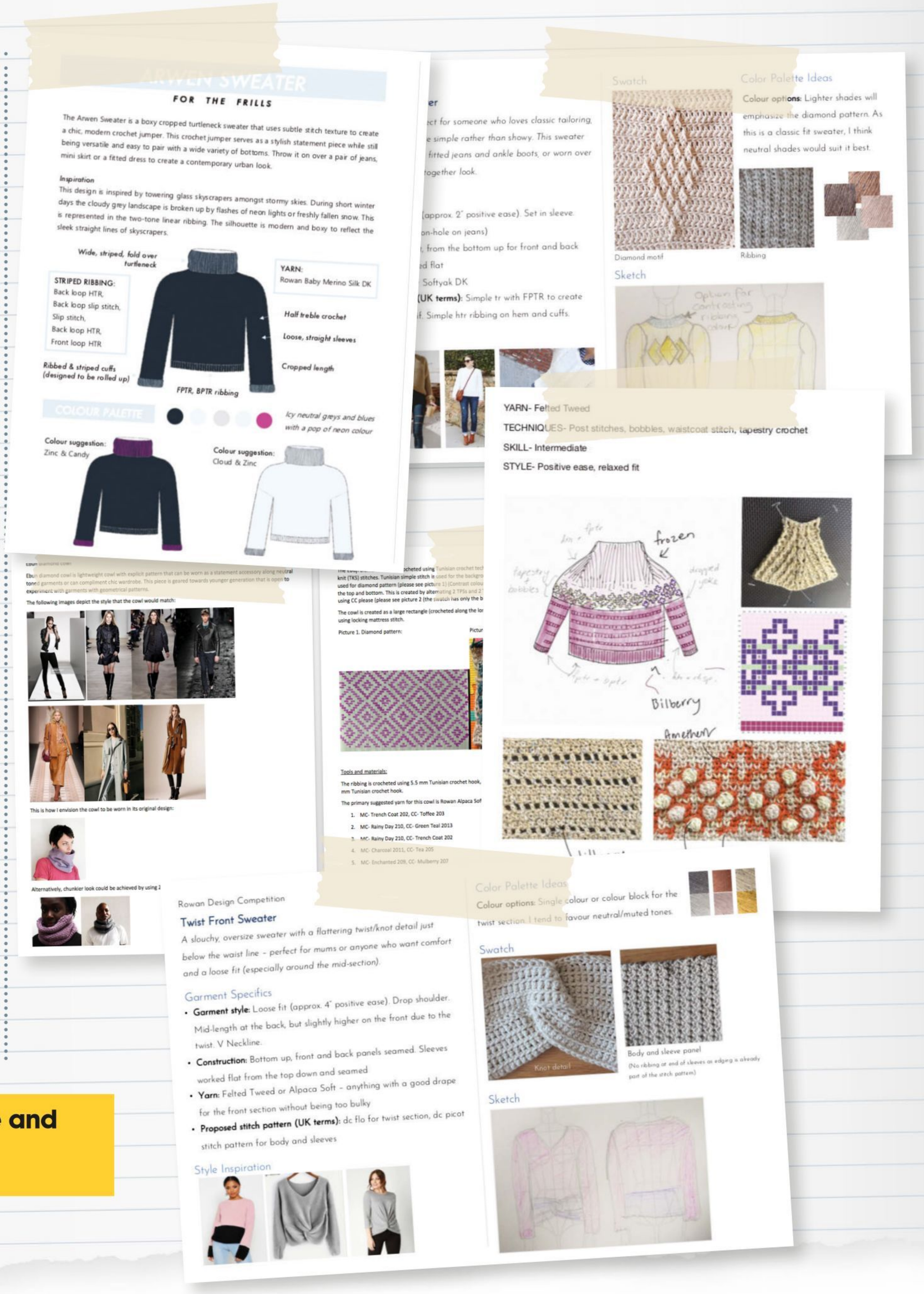
THE SHORTLIST

The team at Rowan along with *Crochet Now* was delighted to see so many wonderful submissions online for the Modern Winter crochet design competition we launched in issue 42! Together, we've picked our top seven designs from the entries to be on the shortlist, and the team at Rowan will start working with these designers on the next step.

Sarah Ruane – *Raised Diamonds Sweater*
Sarah Ruane – *Twist Front Sweater*
Miroslava Mihalkova – *Ebun Diamond Cowl*
Anne-Michelle Phelan – *Blackberry Picking Sweater*
Jordan English – *Southwestern Wrap*
Grace Kok – *Arwen Sweater*
Shabnam Mirzaei – *Men's Patterned Scarf*

We also want to know who your favourite designers are too, so head to **www.crochetnow.co.uk** to read more about each design and to vote for your favourite design idea! The winning design will be published in *Crochet Now* at a later date. Plus one lucky voter will win a bundle of Rowan yarn!

Vote online for your favourite and your chance to win!
Voting closes 24th October 2019



ROWAN

The Art Of Knitting



Harmony *by Lisa Richardson* | **Magazine 66 Rowan Focus** *Natural Fibres*



PRETTY IN PINK CARDIGAN

Get little ones Christmas party ready with this sweet little cardigan that looks great over party dresses

Designed by Robin Design Team

DK 3.5mm

★★ Intermediate

Yarn used

Robin Bonny Babe Sparkle DK
1 (1, 2, 2, 2) balls in pink 5601
Turn to page 88 to find your local Robin stockist

About the yarn

DK; 300m per 100g ball; 93% acrylic, 7% polyester

Tension

10 sts x 5 rows = 5cm measured over tr

Hook used

3.5mm

Other supplies

1 button, 15mm
tapestry needle

Sizing

To fit 0-3 months (6-12 months, 18-24 months, 2-4 years, 4-6 years)
See schematic for finished measurements

Start crocheting

Back

Chain 49 (55, 61, 65, 69).

Row 1: Starting in 4th ch from hook (missed 3 chs count as first tr), tr across. *47 (53, 59, 63, 67) tr*

Row 2: 3 ch (counts as a first tr here and throughout), *1 RtrF, 1 tr; rep from * to end. Turn.

Row 3: 3 ch, *1 RtrB, 1 tr; rep from * to end. Turn.

Rep the last 2 rows once more.

Row 6: 4 ch (counts as first tr, 1 ch), miss next st, 1 tr, *1 ch, miss next st, 1 tr; rep from * to end, working last tr into 3rd of beg 4 ch. *24 (27, 30, 32, 34) tr*

Row 7: 3 ch, *1 tr in next 1ch-sp, 1 tr; rep from * to end, working last tr into 3rd of beg 4 ch. *47 (53, 59, 63, 67) tr*

Rep the last 2 rows 8 (9, 11, 13, 15) times.
Fasten off.

Front (make 2)

Chain 25 (27, 31, 33, 35).

Row 1: As Row 1 of Back. *23 (25, 29, 31, 33) tr*

Rows 2-7: Rep rows 2-7 of Back.

Rep last 2 rows 6 (7, 9, 10, 12) more times.
Rep Row 6 of Back once more.

Neck shaping

Next Row: 3 ch, *1 tr in first 1ch-sp, 1 tr in next tr; rep from * 6 (7, 7, 8, 8) more times. Leave rem sts unworked. Turn. *15 (17, 17, 19, 19) tr*

Working on these sts only and rep rows 6 & 7 of Back, work 2 (2, 2, 4, 4) more rows.
Fasten off.

Sleeves

Chain 29 (31, 33, 35, 37).

Rows 1-5: Rep rows 1-5 of Back. *27 (29, 31, 33, 35) tr*

Row 6: 4 ch (counts as first tr, 1 ch here and throughout), miss next st, 1 tr, *1 ch, miss next st, 1 tr; rep from * to end. *14 (15, 16, 17, 18) tr*

Row 7: 3 ch, 1 tr in first st, *1 tr in next 1ch-sp, 1 tr; rep from * to last st, 2 tr in 3rd of beg 4 ch. *2 sts inc'd*

Row 8: 4 ch, miss next st, 1 tr, *1 ch, miss next st, 1 tr; rep from * to end.

Rep the last 2 rows 3 (4, 6, 7, 8) more times, then Row 7 once more. *37 (41, 47, 51, 55) sts*
Fasten off.

Front Bands

Row 1: Working from bottom edge up, work 39 (43, 47, 59, 63) dc evenly along edge. Turn.

Rows 2-4: 1 ch, dc across. Turn.

Fasten off.

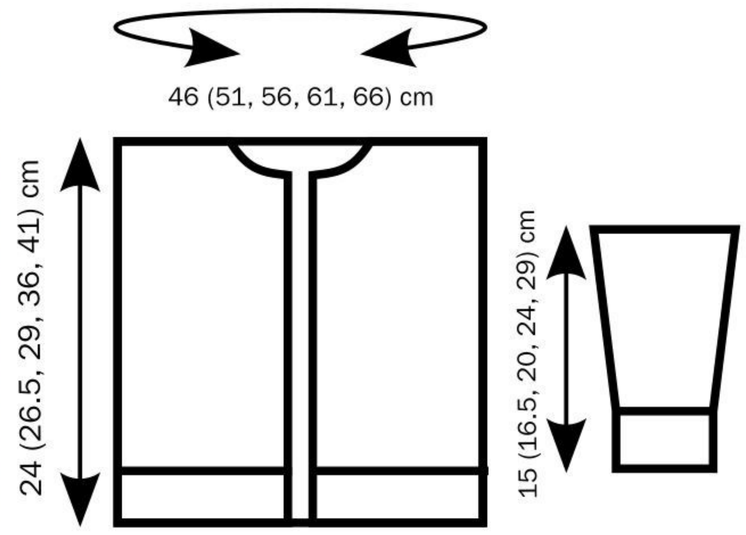
Making up

Join shoulder seams using top sewing or mattress stitch, taking care to have unworked sts of each Front at neckline. Set in sleeves. Commencing at neck edge (at top of bands) work dc evenly around front neck to shoulder seam, [1 dc, miss 1 st] across back to 2nd shoulder seam, dc evenly around to front edge. Turn.

Row 2: 1 ch, dc across.

Rep last row 0 (0, 0, 1, 1) more times.
Make a button loop at top of Right Front.
Sew on button.

Schematic



Your crochet COMMUNITY

Keep in touch with your local yarn community with our guide to workshops, news, charity events and more



CRAFT 4 CRAFTERS

The Craft4Crafters Show is returning to Bath and West Showground 17th – 19th October and is set to be the biggest show yet. With an amazing collection of craft businesses, displays, textile artists, workshops and competitions to get involved with you won't want to miss out. The showground is in a central location with plenty of free parking and easy access via public transport. Tickets are available to purchase now at **www.craft4crafters.co.uk**





BEAUTIFUL BLANKETS



Yarn Etc, Harrogate is now stocking all of Jane Crowfoot's blanket pattern designs in store. If you're looking for a new crochet project this autumn, Jane's designs are a perfect choice to keep you going and will allow you to make beautiful creations for your home that will be treasured for years to come. All of the patterns will be available in store in printed leaflets and the team at Yarn Etc. will also be looking at each of the blankets in turn on its website over the next few months. **www.eweherditatyarnetc.com**

CROCHET FOR CHARITY

Wool Zone, Rutland is proud to be supporting the charity Blue Light Babies as an official collection point. The charity aims to stock frontline ambulance services throughout the UK with baby hats and blankets and is looking for crocheters to help contribute to its numbers. You can drop your handmade items into the shop at Wool Zone and the team will forward them to the charity on your behalf. Find out how else you can support Blue Light Babies at **www.facebook.com/bluelightbabies**





WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT

On 1st November 2019, Natalie Morrison will be attempting to set the world record for the Longest Crochet Marathon. The event, which will raise funds for Knit for Peace and Rainbow Arch of Mind will see Natalie continuously crochet scarves that will be donated to local homeless charity St Petrock's. Natalie will undertake over 24 hours of continuous crocheting and needs your support to help raise funds for these fantastic causes. You can find out more and donate at **www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/crochet-marathon**

TOP 3 YARNS

The best way to discover new yarn is to give it a squish at your local yarn shop. This month, we've picked three of our favourite yarn in festive red

Scheepjes Chunky Monkey



This fun aran yarn from Scheepjes is a great choice for creating bold and bright projects for your loved ones at Christmas. Chunky Monkey is made from 100% acrylic and is super-soft and smooth to the touch. This yarn is available in an incredible range of 93 vibrant colours including everything from Christmas reds through to summer yellows and winter blues. **www.scheepjes.com**

Patons Merino Extrafine Aran



Patons Merino Extrafine Aran is a superbly smooth and soft yarn that will give your work excellent stitch definition thanks to its multi-thread construction. The 100% wool yarn is aran weight and is great for creating warm garments and cosy homewares. Merino Extrafine Aran is available in a collected palette of seven shades ranging from natural cream to red and blue. **www.knitpatons.com**

Rico Ricorumi DK



If you're planning on whipping up some toys to give as gifts this Christmas, then Rico's Ricorumi DK is the yarn you need. This 100% cotton yarn is available in 25g miniature balls and is perfect for adding a smooth texture and sturdy structure to your three-dimensional makes. Ricorumi is available in a huge range of over 60 shades, so no matter the project you'll be able to find a colour that fits. **www.rico-design.com**

STAR LETTER ★

We want to hear about people who have been having a positive impact in your community. Write to us at **contact@crochetnow.co.uk** to tell us about someone at your local yarn shop that has been making a difference.

5 REASONS TO SHOP LOCAL



1



It's the only way to get a real feel for the yarn before you buy

You won't find any better crochet experts than yarn shop owners!

2



3



Supporting local businesses keeps the high street vibrant and fun

Local shops often have exclusive products you won't find online

4



5



The community around local yarn shops is a great way to make friends

THE YARN CIRCLE

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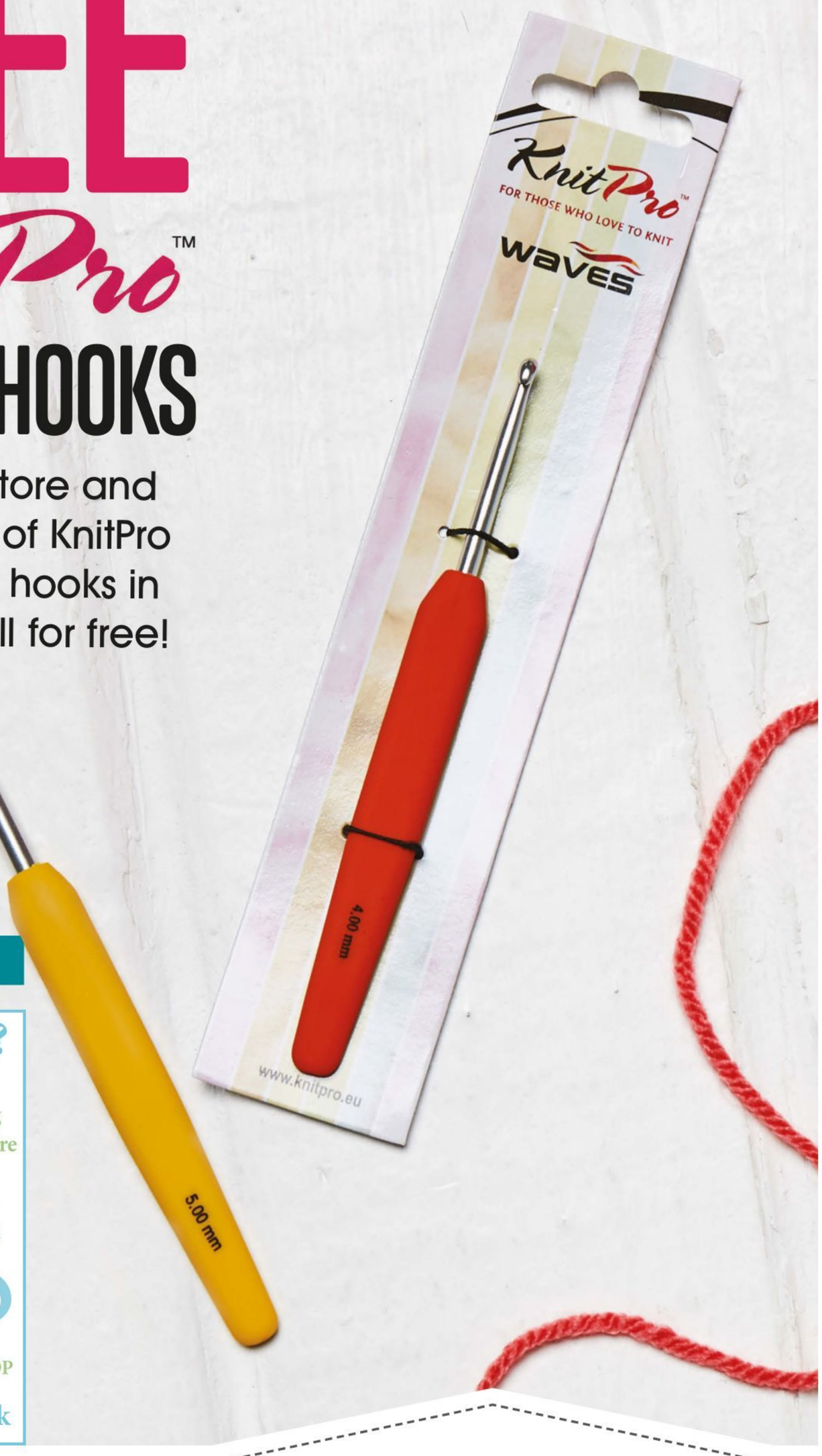
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TURN TO PAGE 102 TO SEE HOW TO MAKE PERFECT COLOUR CHANGES EVERY TIME

LAUREL LEAVES HAT & SCARF

Laurel leaves crowned victors in Ancient Rome and this snuggly crochet set will make you feel like a winner too!

Designed by Melissa Leapman

Aran 5mm

★★ Try something new

Yarn used

Patons Wool Blend Aran
2 balls each in black 099 (A), cream 002 (B), Cherry 131 (C) & grey 088 (D)
Turn to page 88 to find your local stockist.

About the yarn

Aran; 185m per 100g; 63% wool, 37% acrylic

Tension

15 sts x 15 rows = 10cm measure over dc in Fair Isle pattern

Hook used

5mm

Other supplies

tapestry needle
large pompom maker
st marker

Sizing

Hat: Finished circumference 49cm
Scarf: 15x141cm

Start crocheting

HAT

This hat is worked in joined rnds, use a st marker to mark beg of next rnd. Do not turn at the end of each rnd.

Ribbing

With A, chain 72.
Being careful not to twist ch, join with sl st to back ridge of first ch to form a ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 3 ch (counts as first tr), 1 tr in back ridge of next ch around, join with sl st to first tr. *72 sts*
Rnd 2: 2 ch (counts as first htr, now and throughout), 1 RtrF, *1 RtrB, 1 RtrF; rep from * around, join with sl st to first htr.
Rnds 3-4: 2 ch, 1 RtrF, *1 RtrB, 1 RtrF; rep from * around, join with sl st to first htr.
Fasten off.

Body

Only two colours are used per rnd. Change colours carrying the unused colour loosely on the back of the Hat and working over the floats on subsequent rnds. Yarn can be carried vertically for 2 rnds. Cut yarns when they are no longer needed.

Work in BLO throughout Body and Crown.

With RS facing, join B in first st of rnd.
Rnd 1: 1 ch (does not count as st), 1 dc in same st as joining, dc in each st around, join with sl st to first dc. *72 sts*
Rnd 2: 1 ch, 1 dc in same st as joining, dc in each st around, change to C, join with sl st to first dc.

Begin following Hat Chart from Rnd 3 as you work, repeating patt 12 times around.

Rnd 3: 1 ch, 1 dc in same st as joining, 2 dc, change to B, * 3 dc, change to C, 3 dc, change to B; rep from * around to last 3 dc, 3 dc join with sl st to first dc.
Rnds 4-22: 1 ch, 1 dc in same st as joining, dc around continuing to follow Hat Chart between rnds 4-22, changing colours as directed.
Rnd 23: With C only, 1 ch, 1 dc in same st as joining and in each dc around, change to B, join with sl st to first dc.

Crown

Continue to work in BLO throughout.
Rnd 24: 1 ch, beg in same st as joining, [1 dc2tog, 7 dc] 8 times, join with sl st to first dc. *64 sts*
Rnd 25: 1 ch, beg in same st as joining, [1 dc2tog, 6 dc] 8 times, with A join with sl st to first dc. *56 sts*
Rnd 26: 1 ch, beg in same st as joining, [1 dc2tog, 5 dc] 8 times, join with sl st to first dc. *48 sts*
Rnd 27: 1 ch, beg in same st as joining, [1 dc2tog, 4 dc] 8 times, with B join with sl st to first dc. *40 sts*
Rnd 28: 1 ch, beg in same st as joining, [1 dc2tog, 3 dc] 8 times, join with sl st to first dc. *32 sts*





Rnd 29: 1 ch, beg in same st as joining, [1 dc2tog, 2 dc] 8 times, with A join with sl st to first dc. *24 sts*

Rnd 30: 1 ch, beg in same st as joining, [1 dc2tog, 1 dc] 8 times, join with sl st to first dc. *16 sts*

Rnd 31: 1 ch, begin same st as joining, dc2tog around, join with sl st to first dc. *8 sts*

Fasten off, leaving a long end for sewing

Finishing

Thread yarn needle with long end and weave needle through sts on Rnd 31, gather tightly to close and secure end. With all 4 colours and pompom maker, make a large pompom. Attach pompom to top of Hat.

SCARF

Each row is worked across the length of the Scarf. Only two colours are used per row. Change colours carrying the unused colour loosely on the back of the Scarf and working over the floats on subsequent rows.

Always leave a 12.5cm end at the beginning and end of each row for fringe. Each row is a RS row and is worked in BLO throughout.

With A and leaving a 12.5cm end at beg, chain 204. Fasten off leaving a 12.5cm end.

Row 1 (RS): Re-join A with sl st into back ridge of first ch, 1 dc in same st as join, dc across to end. *204 sts*

Fasten off.

Attach st marker around any stitch to mark Row 1 as RS.

Row 2: Re-join A in first dc, 1 dc in same st as joining, dc across to end.

Fasten off.

Begin following Scarf Chart from Row 3 as you work, repeating patt 34 times.

Row 3: Rejoin A in first dc, 1 dc in same st as join, 2 dc, change to D, *3 dc, change to A, 3 dc, change to D; rep from * across to last 3 sts, 3 dc in next 3 dc.

Fasten off.

Rows 4-22: Following Scarf Chart rows 4-22 throughout, re-join yarn in colour indicated in first dc of next row, 1 dc in same st as join, dc across.

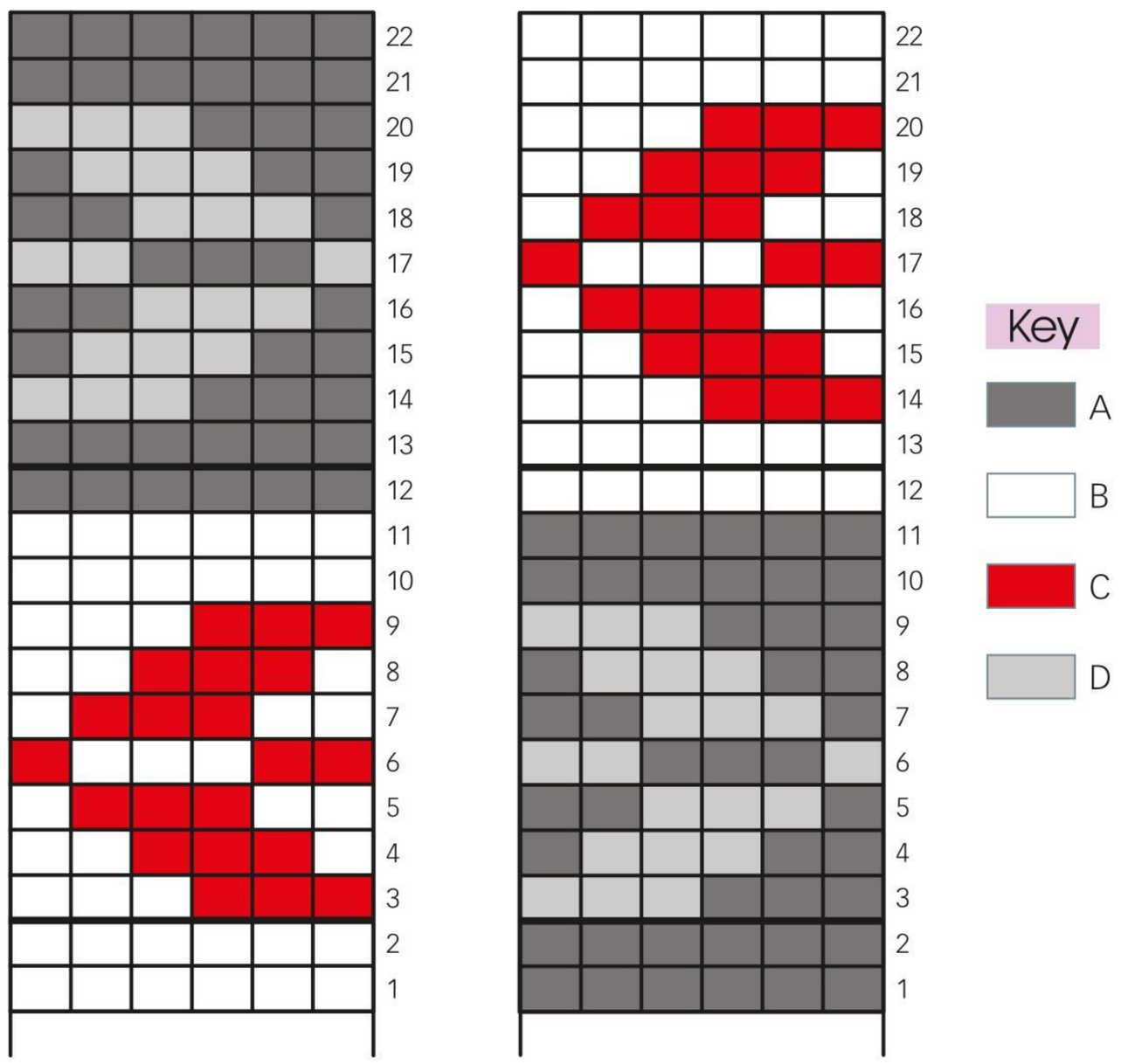
Fasten off.

Fringe

Tie groups of 2 ends together in an overhand knot close to Scarf edge to form fringe. Lay flat on a hard surface and trim the ends. Block to shape.

Fair Isle Crochet Projects by Melissa Leapman, £10.13, Leisure Arts





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HOW TO READ A PATTERN

If you're new to the world of crochet, here's a beginner's guide to getting started with a crochet pattern



1 About the yarn

If you can't get hold of the pattern yarn, or want to substitute it for another yarn, this is important. Not only does it tell you the weight of yarn, it also gives an insight into the fibre make up (in case you want to create something that looks similar) as well as the yardage, so you can ensure you buy enough yarn length in the substituted yarn. If not, you might find yourself with a different dyelot, which could cause a subtle, but noticeable shift in the colour of your project.

2 Tension

For most crochet projects, a tension square is important – especially with wearable items such as garments, accessories and baby clothes. How tightly or loosely you crochet is important for sizing, so crocheting a small square in the suggested pattern is an indicator of whether the final project will turn out the right size. If your tension does not match the suggested tension, adjust your hook size as required. Many people do not look at tension for amigurumi toys, however, yours may end up a different size if you have a looser or tighter tension.

3 Special stitches

If you come across a term outside of the common abbreviations included in this issue, it may be a special stitch. Look out for separate instructions outside of the pattern, which will explain how to make the stitch.

4 Finishing

Apart from toys, most projects should be blocked to relax the yarn into its new shape. This is done by wetting the object, either in warm water, with a spray bottle or by steaming it. Then shape it and leave to dry. This can be just laid out flat, pinned out on a blocking or foam board or, with the likes of hats, some people even pop them over inflated balloons. You can find this at the end of a pattern.

Reading a pattern line

There are many different ways to write a crochet pattern, but all the patterns inside *Crochet Now* use the same style, which we'll clarify here for easy reference.

Using numbered Rows or Rounds (Rnds) is the best way to keep your place in a pattern. Take notice of whether the pattern says Rows or Rnds, as it'll also signify whether you should be working the piece flat or in the round if not stated already.

In *Crochet Now*, the instructions for working a basic stitch will be given with the instruction of how many stitches are worked in succession. For example, the instruction '4 dc' will tell you to work a double crochet stitch into the next four available stitches on the row below.

Increases are signified by the instruction 'in the same st' or 'in the next st'. As an example, '4 dc in the next st' will mean working four double crochet stitches into the next available st.

Square brackets are used in patterns to show a complete instruction, which is then followed by a further instruction outside the bracket. For example, '[3 dc, 2 dc in the next st] 4 times' means that '3 dc, 2 dc in the next st' will be worked four times in succession.

Another way of indicating a repeat is to use *, followed by an instruction to repeat from * a certain number of times.

Round brackets within pattern instructions will signify sizing – so make sure you pay attention to the Sizing section of the project materials column. If a pattern states S (M, L) then in the instructions 20 (24, 28) dc, you work the number of stitches required that corresponds to the size you are working only.

How to read a chart

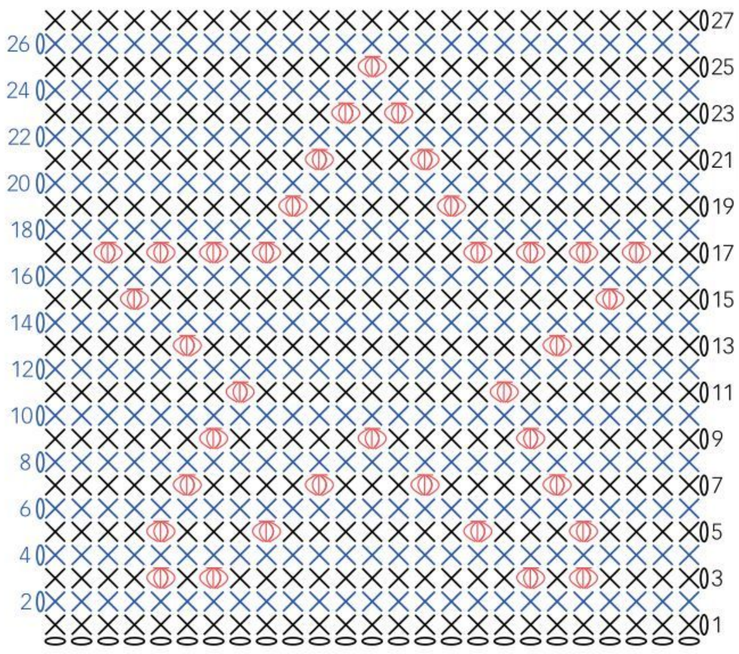
First, find the key. While you may recognise symbols from previous chart-reading experiences, remember that different people



draw charts differently, and what meant a treble stitch before may mean a half treble now. It will also contain special information needed to make sense of the chart.

You read a crochet chart from bottom to top when worked in rows, or from the inside out when working in rounds. Rows are worked from right to left first, then left to right, continuing as set unless otherwise stated, while rounds are worked anti-clockwise, as you would crochet them. Small numbers with arrows signify where each Rnd starts – helpful for making sense of more complex charts, while also giving a clue of where to fasten off and join in colours. If there's a jump between where you end the row and where you start the next, there's a good chance that the colour has changed – sometimes this is signified in the colouring of the chart, sometimes not!

Chart



Key

ch dc bbl

HOW-TO GUIDES WE LOVE



Vlog – Wilma Westenberg

Crochet designer Wilma Westenberg is known for her beautiful shawl, accessory and garment designs. On this channel, she shares tips and tutorials to help you create many of her gorgeous designs.

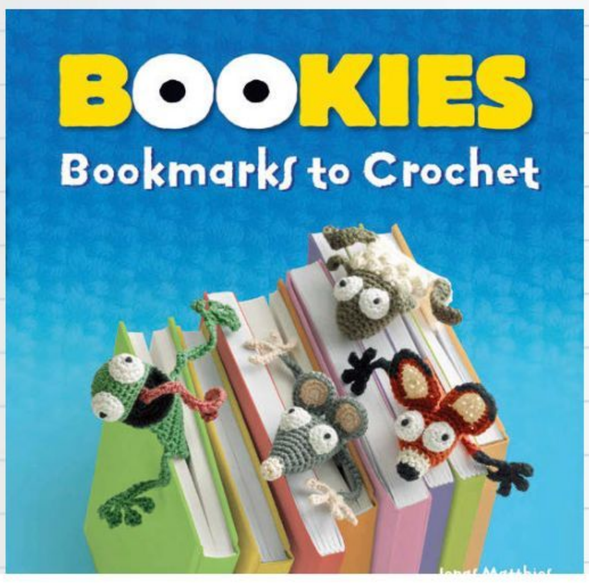
www.youtube.com/wilmahaha



Blog – Sweet Everly B

Meet Sierra, the crochet designer behind Sweet Everly B. On this blog she shares simple and modern crochet patterns, including makes for you, baby and your home, all of which are perfect for beginners who want to try their hand at something new.

www.sweeteverlyb.com



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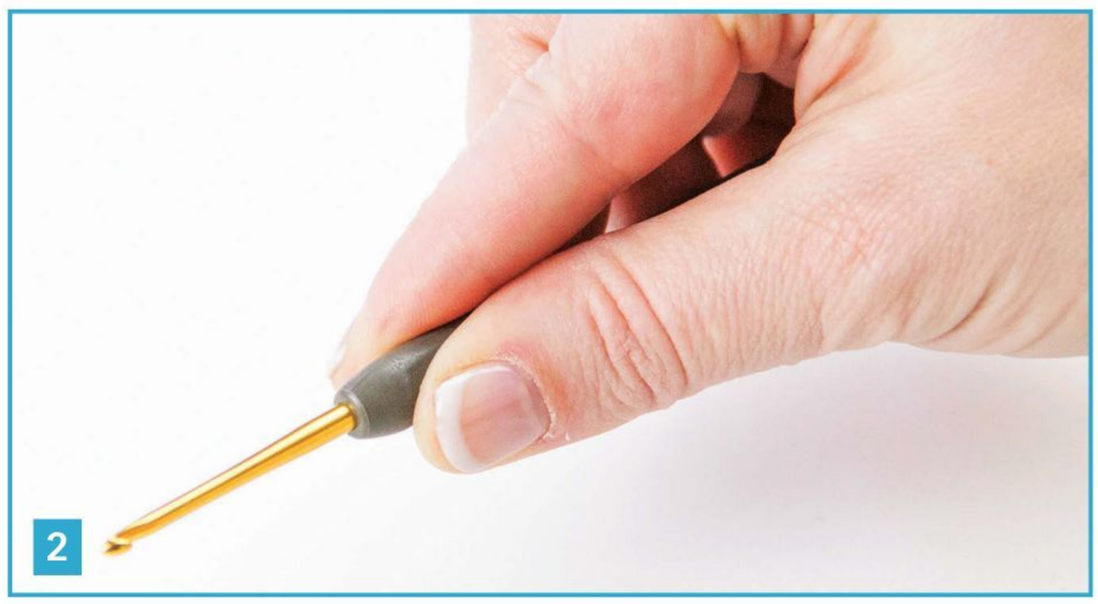
LEARN the basics

Master the essential crochet techniques you'll need to see you through your next project

Holding the hook

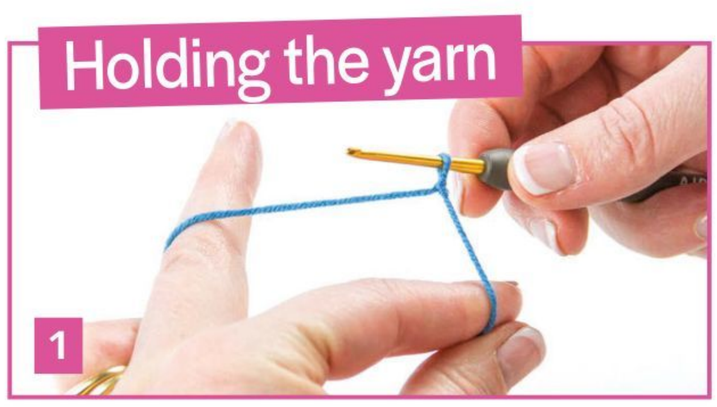


PEN METHOD
There's no right or wrong way to hold your hook, but many crocheters find it comfortable to hold it as they would a pen.

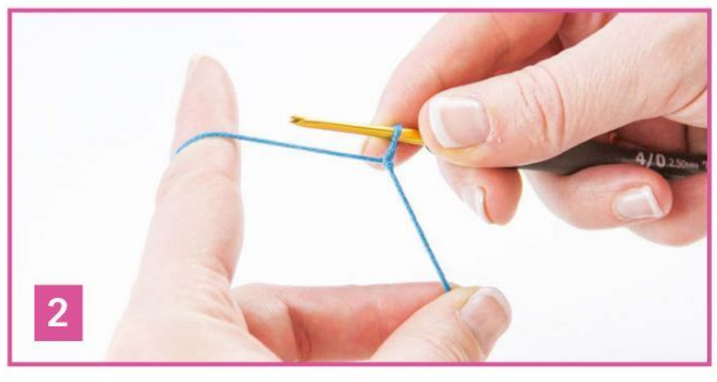


KNIFE METHOD
Others prefer the knife method, with the end of the hook resting against the palm of the hand for extra control of the hook.

Holding the yarn



The key is to ensure tension in the yarn. This technique shows the tail held between index finger and thumb, and working end over the middle finger.

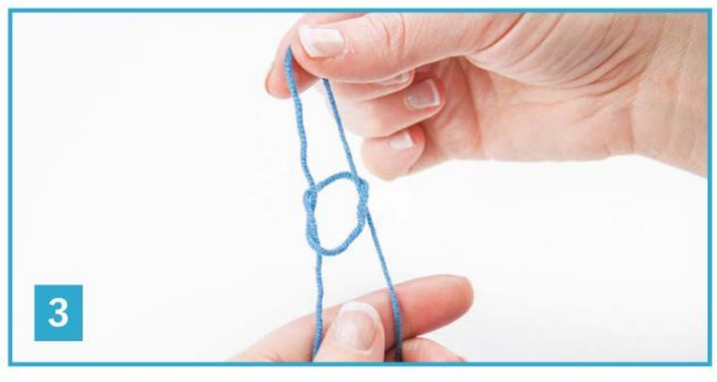


This technique shows the tail end held in between the thumb and middle finger and the working end wrapped around the index finger – see what works best for you!

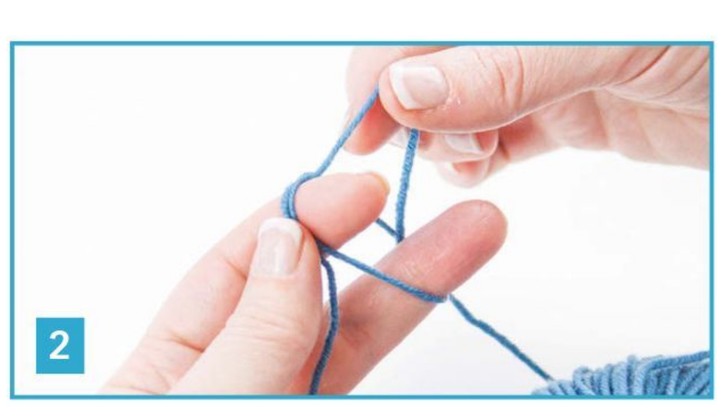
Making a slipknot



Holding the tail end firmly, wrap the working end of the ball of yarn around two fingers to make a loop.



Remove the loop from your fingers and you should have something that looks like this.



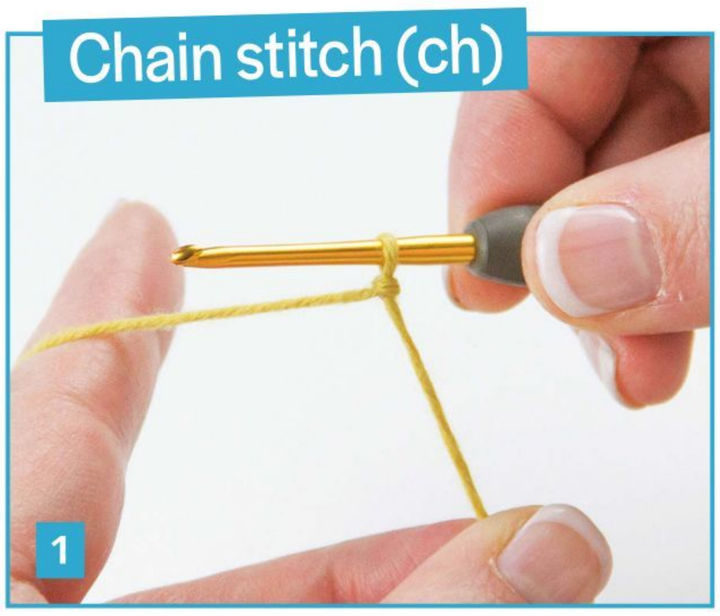
Pull a loop from the working end of the ball of yarn up through the centre of the loop you've just made.

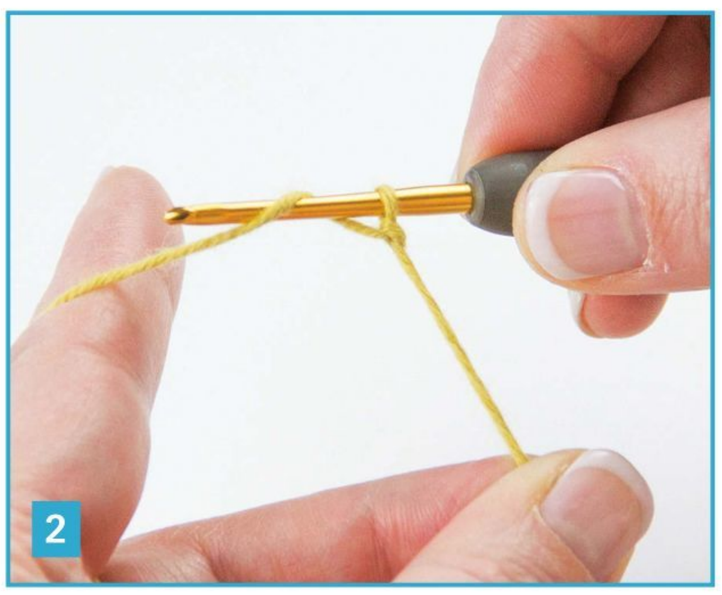


Pull the tail end of the yarn to close the slipknot – it's now ready to be popped onto your crochet hook and pulled tight to close.

Basics

Chain stitch (ch)

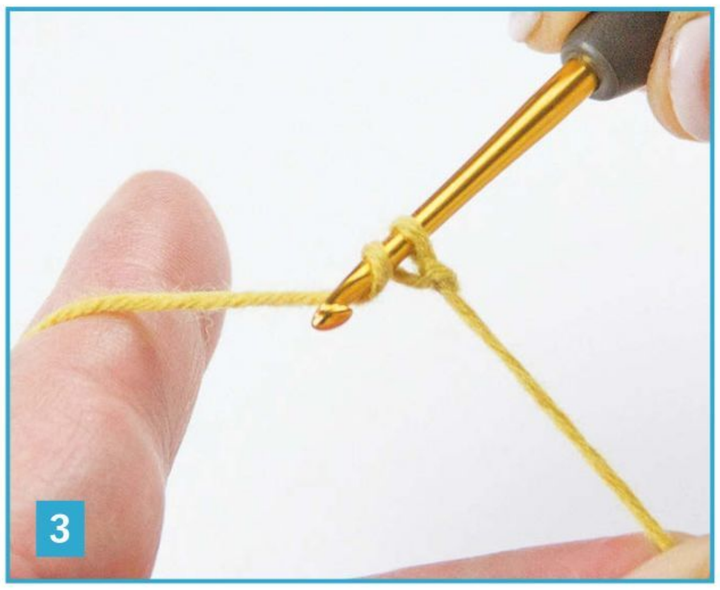


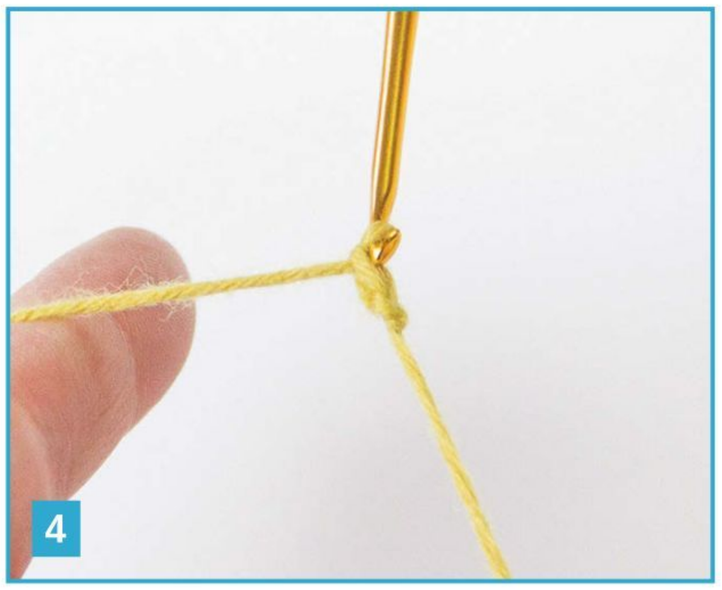


1 This is what the start of any crochet project looks like – a slipknot on a hook.

2 To begin making your first chain, first wrap the yarn around the hook (yrh).

3 Pull the hook towards the first loop on the hook – always be sure to move the crochet hook and not the yarn to make your stitches – this will catch the yrh in the head of the hook.





4 Continue to move the hook until you pull your yrh through the first loop on the hook – you've made your first chain stitch!



Working into a chain



Once you've made the required length of chain, you should be left with something looking like this. This is your foundation row, into which Row 1 is worked.



The starting chain instructions often include the turning chain in them already. This example shows a treble crochet, so the stitch is worked into the 4th chain from the hook to create the height needed for the first stitch.



This is what the first treble stitch into a chain looks like – you will then continue to make the next stitch in the next chain all along to the end to create your first row.

Working in rows



Once you reach the end of a row, it's time to work back along the other way. To do this you need to turn the work. This example shows a treble once again, so we've made a three chain turning chain.



Then simply turn the work before continuing to work the next row. This produces what is known as a right side (RS) and wrong side (WS) to the crochet fabric – something you'll come to recognise in no time at all.

Turning chains



Different stitches have different size turning chains; double crochet is one chain (which is often not counted as a stitch); half treble is two chains; treble is three chains and double treble is four chains.

Working in the round





1 To work in the round, first of all you need a centre ring, into which the first round of stitches are worked into. There are many ways to do this, but for this example, we are first making a chain of four stitches.

2 Next, slip-stitch into the first chain you made to create a centre ring.

3 We are creating treble stitches again, so next up we make a chain of three for the turning chain.





4 The stitches are then worked directly into the centre ring – not into the actual chain stitches themselves as we did when working into a row. This allows us to work many more stitches into the ring, without leaving a large hole in the centre.



Magic ring



A magic ring is a key technique used in the making of toys (also known as amigurumi). It allows you to have even greater control on the size of the hole at the centre ring of your project.



To start off, follow the first few steps for making a slip knot by making a loop around your fingers with the working end of the yarn.



Pull through a loop of the working end of the ball of yarn – place your hook into the new loop; however, this time don't pull the tail to make a slipknot. Hold the centre ring in your fingers to stop it moving.



In this example, we're double crocheting into the magic ring. To secure the magic ring, make one chain.



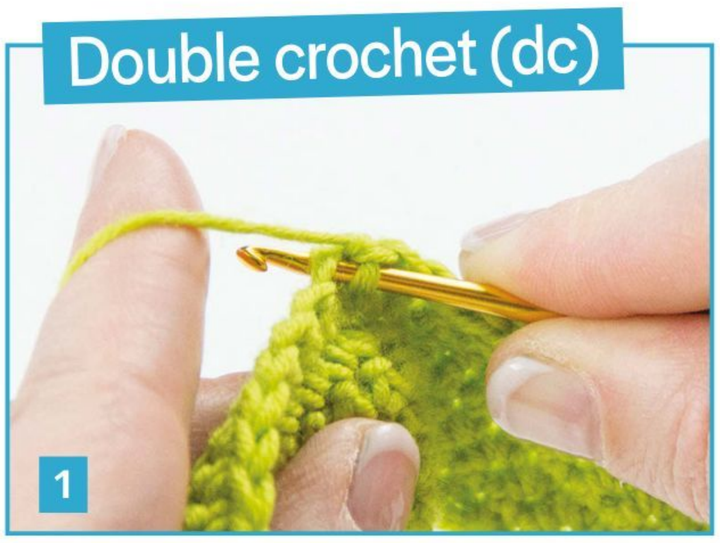
Then continue to work the number of required double crochet stitches directly into the magic ring, ensuring both the loop and the tail end are caught in the stitches.



Pull the tail end of the yarn and the magic ring will close up as tightly as it is able, depending on the number of stitches.

Basics

Double crochet (dc)



Insert your hook into the next stitch from front to back.



Wrap the yarn round the hook (yrh).



Pull up a loop through the stitch. You will now have two loops on the hook.



Yarn round the hook again.



Pull through both loops on hook. You've made your first double crochet.



Double crochet is essential for amigurumi

Double crochet 2 together (Dc2tog)



This stitch is a common decrease in double crochet. First up, work a double crochet stitch as far as Step 3. Then insert your hook into the next stitch, yrh and pull up a loop. You will have three loops on the hook.



Yarn round the hook again.



Pull through all three loops on the hook.

Double crochet increase (Dc inc)



To increase the number of double crochet stitches, simply make more than one double crochet in the same stitch as shown in this example.



crochet now TV

Keep an eye on www.crochetnow.co.uk for our YouTube channel with step-by-step videos

Slip stitch (sl st)





1 Slip stitches are used as joining stitches and in places where you need to move along a row or round without impacting the height of the row. Insert the hook into the next stitch.

2 Yarn round the hook, pull up a loop not only through the stitch, but also the first loop on the hook.

Half treble (htr)





1 First up, yarn round the hook.

2 Insert the hook into the next stitch, yrh and pull through one loop. There are three loops on the hook.

3 Yarn round the hook again.

4 Pull through all three loops. One half treble stitch made.





Half treble 2 together (Htr2tog)

1 Work as for half treble until Step 2.

2 Work steps 1 and 2 again in the next stitch. There are five loops on the hook.

3 Yrh and pull through all five loops.

Treble (tr)









1 First up, yarn round the hook.

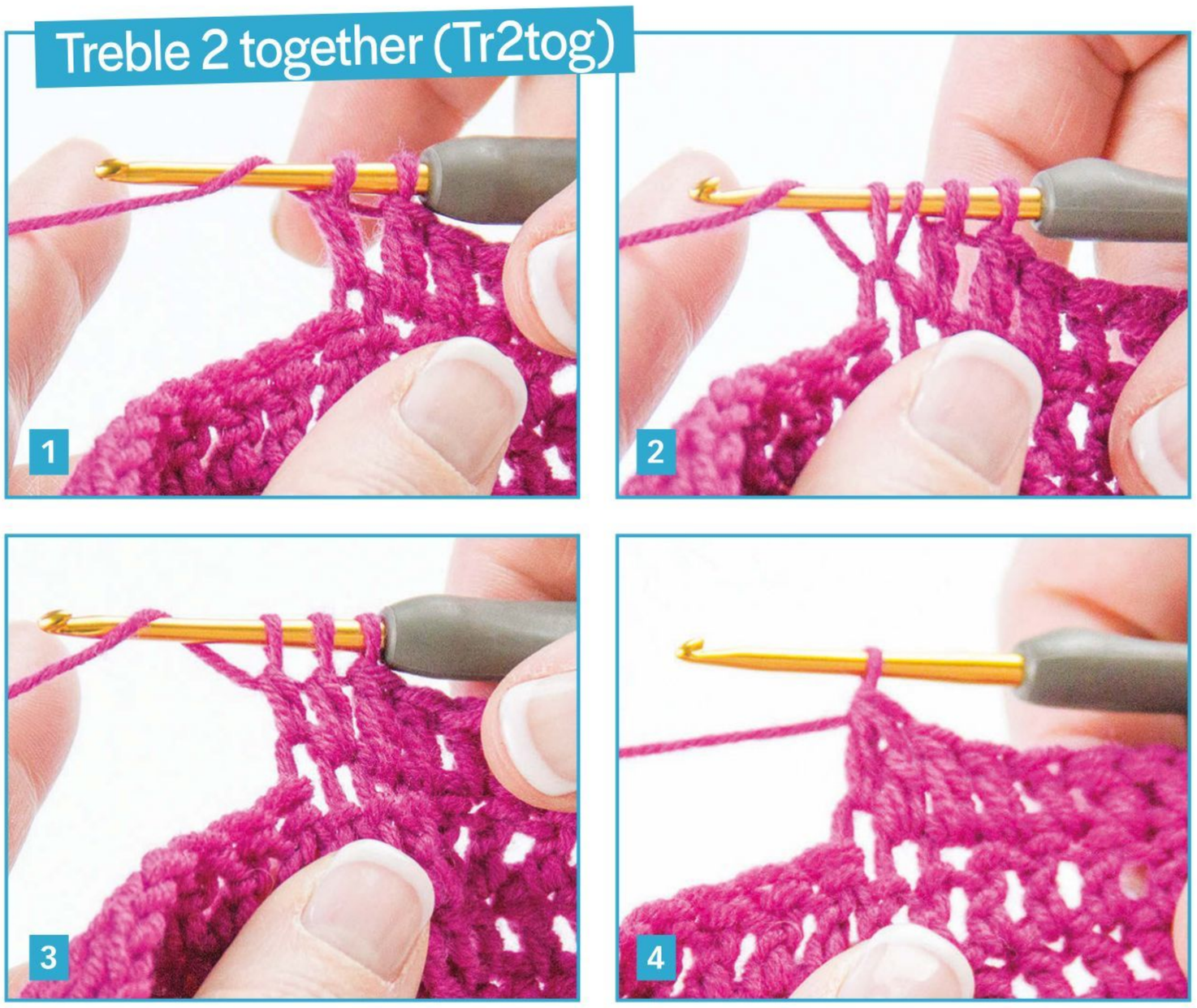
2 Insert the hook into the next stitch and pull up one loop. There are three loops on the hook.

3 Yarn round the hook and pull through two loops. There are two loops left on the hook.

4 Yarn round the hook again and pull through the remaining two loops. One treble crochet stitch made.

Basics

Treble 2 together (Tr2tog)

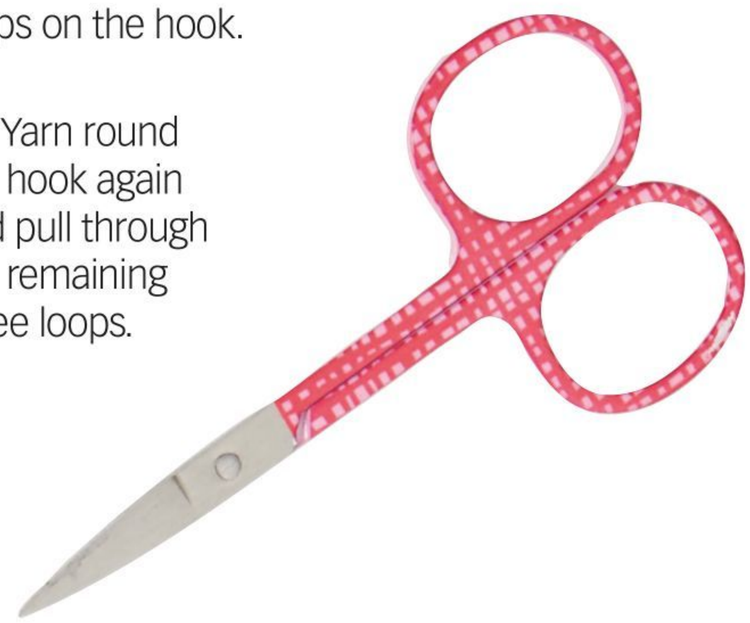


1 Work as for a treble crochet stitch up to Step 3.

2 Yarn round the hook again, insert into the next stitch and pull up one loop. There are four loops on the hook.

3 Yarn round the hook again and pull through two loops. There are now three loops on the hook.

4 Yarn round the hook again and pull through the remaining three loops.



Changing colour



Crochet colourwork can make for some fantastic results. To change colour mid-row, first work the stitch until the penultimate step in colour 1. Yarn round the hook in the new colour.



Pull through both loops to complete the stitch and continue to work the next stitch in the next colour.



Once secured, you can either fasten off the old yarn, or keep it attached if you'll be working it in again soon – this is called stranded colourwork.

Measuring tension

Tension squares are particularly important for projects where size does matter, so be sure to work up a square in pattern that's slightly larger than 10cm^2. Grab your ruler and count your stitches. Too many? Try a hook size up. Too few? Try a hook size down.



STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Get your head around these abbreviations that you'll find regularly in *Crochet Now* patterns

alt	*alternate*
beg	*beginning*
BLO	*work in back loops only*
CC	*contrasting colour*
ch	*chain*
ch-sp	*chain space*
cont	*continue*
dc	*double crochet*
dc2tog	*work two double crochet stitches together*
dec	*decrease*
dtr	*double treble crochet*
fdc	*foundation double crochet*
FLO	*work in front loops only*
foll	*following*
htr	*half treble crochet*
htr2tog	*work two half treble crochet stitches together*
inc	*increase*
LH	*left hand*
MC	*main colour*
patt	*pattern*
pm	*place marker*
prev	*previous*
pul	*pull up a loop*
rem	*remaining*
rep	*repeat*
RH	*right hand*
rm	*remove marker*
rnd	*round*
RS	*right side*
RtrF	*raised treble front: Yrh, insert around post of indicated st from front to back around to front again, yrh, pul, [yrh, draw through two loops] twice*
RtrB	*raised treble back: Yrh, insert around post of indicated st from back to front around to back again, yrh, pul, [yrh, draw through two loops] twice*
sl st	*slip stitch*
sp	*space*
st(s)	*stitch(es)*
tbl	*through the back loop*
tr	*treble crochet*
ttr	*triple treble*
tr2tog	*work two treble crochet stitches together*
WS	*wrong side*
yrh	*yarn round hook*

US to UK crochet terms

If you come across a 'sc' instruction, it's likely to be written in US crochet terms. *Crochet Now* is written entirely in UK terms, but here's a guide on how to translate them.

US		UK	
Single crochet	*sc*	Double crochet	*dc*
Half double	*hdc*	Half treble	*htr*
Double	*dc*	Treble	*tr*
Treble	*tr*	Double treble	*dtr*
Double treble	*dtr*	Triple treble	*ttr*

Crochet hook conversions

UK	In mm	US
14	2mm	-
13	2.25mm	B/1
12	2.5mm	-
-	2.75mm	C/2
11	3mm	-
10	3.25mm	D/3
9	3.5mm	E/4
-	3.75mm	F/5
8	4mm	G/6
7	4.5mm	7
6	5mm	H/8
5	5.5mm	I/9
4	6mm	J/10
3	6.5mm	K/10.5
2	7mm	-
0	8mm	L/11
00	9mm	M/13
000	10mm	N/15

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www.theknittingexploitsofjosiekitten.blogspot.com



Helen Kurtz

It's may only be autumn, but the shops are already starting to fill with festive goodies. So, let me help you plan your stress-free Christmas crochet. Start by making a list of everyone you'd like to make a gift for. Then look again at this list and be ruthless. Your time is precious so make sure you only crochet for people who will appreciate it. Come to think of it, have you ever seen your cousin wearing that shawl that took you weeks to make, or did it look suspiciously like their dog was snuggling into it last time you visited? Cross off anyone who isn't crochet-worthy!

Next, look at the things you've crocheted this year. Is there anything that you don't entirely love? If so, decide who on your list will be its new owner. Make things that you love to crochet and use patterns that you've tried and tested. Be realistic about the time it takes to crochet something and the time you have. It might be a lovely idea to crochet everyone a blanket, but unless you're the world's speediest crocheter, it won't end well. Make a blanket for that special someone and get that started right away, but plan much simpler and quicker things for the rest. Carry those projects around with you to crochet in spare moments.

Go through your stash and try to use yarn that you already have to keep the cost down. After all, you are already giving your time. If you really must crochet for everyone, I have a couple of ideas. My fellow Blogstar **Lucy at Attic24** has some beautiful star and bauble decorations that will be loved for years to come. Or you could make one of Lucy's crochet snowflakes and pop it inside a Christmas card. But for the perfect gift, you can't go far wrong than give some yarn, a hook and the promise of crochet lessons. Passing on a yarny skill is indeed a gift to be treasured.



HELEN'S CROCHET CORNER

On my blog, The Woolly Adventures of a Knitting Kitty, I mainly chat about knitting, crochet, spinning and sewing. I love to learn new skills and share what I've done with others. I'm a teacher by day but my spare time is filled with crafts. I live in rural Norfolk in a house well insulated with yarn and fibre, together with my yarn-loving cat Florence. Following the sudden death of Mr JK in 2016, I am learning to live alone.





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designer spotlight

Helen Shrimpton was taught to crochet as a child. As a free spirited designer with a passion for crafting, Helen describes crochet as her happy place.

Helen's detailed and colourful designs are hugely popular with all crocheters and come with easy-to-read instructions that cater for every skill level.

Find more of Helen's beautiful designs, including these crochet blanket patterns, at **www.crystalsandcrochet.com** or on Helen's **Deramores Designer Shop** at **www.deramores.com**.



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