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by Helen Boreham

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Issue 50

Winter Essentials

Over £2,000 in prizes to win this month!
See page 78



Winter is my **favourite** time of year to crochet! After the mad dash of Christmas, with presents all finished and gifted, it's the perfect time to grab my hook and indulge in a little **selfish crochet**. The delight of snuggling inside with a hot drink and a crochet blanket or jumper on my lap is pretty difficult to top. This is the season for those **must-have accessories** and garments to keep warm, which is why this month the designers and I put our heads together to bring you a collection of everything you will need to get you through the winter!

Start your **new winter wardrobe** with a classic design in the Snowcap Sweater (page 16) from Grace Kok – I love the **simplicity of design** that creates such a flattering, staple garment for your wardrobe. Then hook up a **new winter scarf** with the Brumal Scarf (page 14) that is crocheted with the yarn held double for a quick, snuggly make. Or perhaps the Tunisian Bubble Scarf (page 71) might be more to your taste? Then **complete your collection** with a pair of fluffy socks (page 24) or push your skills with Lir Shilton's amazing pair of Sleepy Sheep slippers (page 48)!

I hope you will love your **essential new crochet tools** too – your six new yarn bobbins are a great way to make colourwork projects easy to manage. Find out what your bobbins are and how to get the most out of them (page 18) along with four **fabulous patterns** to get started tonight, including a fun blanket (page 20), a hot-water bottle cosy (page 26) and two stunning cushions (pages 34 and 82). If you are familiar with bobbins, I am certain you will love using these **charming sheep bobbins** for all your projects.

Goodbye for now!

Jenny

Hook up your own Shakesbear (get it?) over on page 36



Editor
jenny.conduit@practicalpublishing.co.uk

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Make this chunky hat in as little as 45 minutes

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

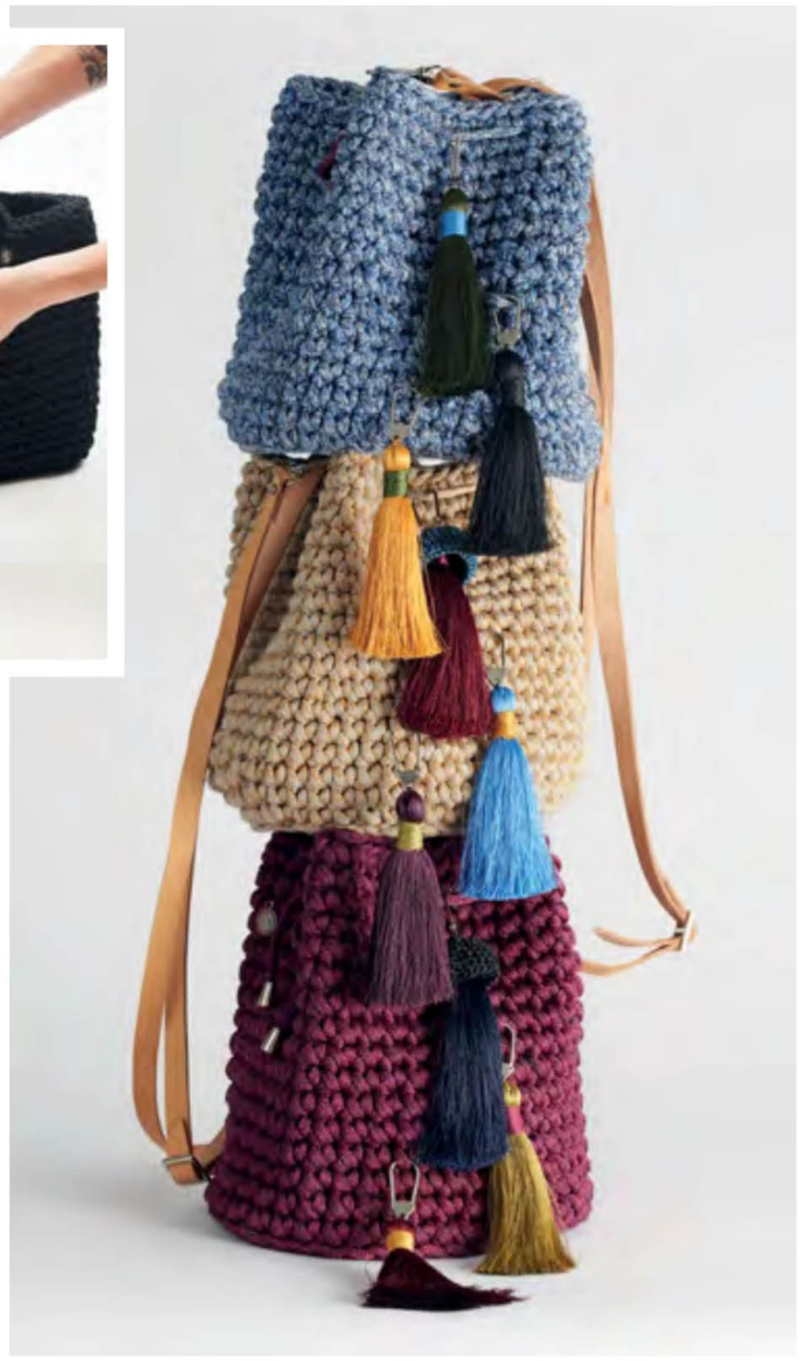


FRIENDS WHO MAKE TOGETHER...

The team at Stylecraft, along with the fabulous Blogstars, is excited to introduce the Blogstars Make Alongs – a brand-new ongoing collaboration running throughout the year. Join in as exclusive patterns are released throughout the year, supported with yarn packs to buy, from the likes of Helen Shrimpton, Helen Kurtz, Emma May and more! Plus, join the Facebook group (search for Stylecraft Make Along Group) to keep in touch with likeminded crafters and for additional help when you want it. We can't wait to get stuck into beautiful projects like the Cornish Comforts blanket shown here!
www.stylecraft-yarns.co.uk

iota





Meet iota – the social brand designing beautiful handmade objects for the home at the same time as creating jobs for otherwise unemployed people, particularly women in underprivileged communities. First founded in 2014, this socially and ecologically-conscious business is committed to sustainability and community support, with portions of profits directly providing mentoring and training programs to the communities it seeks to help. It's amazing to see the power of crochet and craft for women around the world! Check out the designer range and crochet kits online at **www.iotaproject.com**

BOOK review

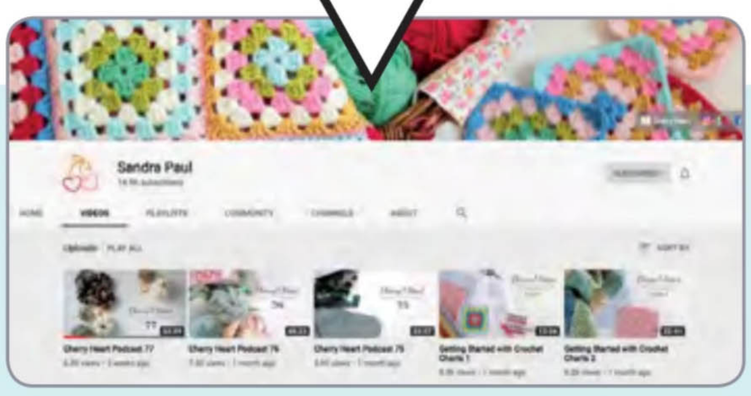


Crochet for Play by Sarah Pawlowski, £15.95, Stackpole Books

Kids love to play grown-up, and with this fun pattern book of 80 toys you can help build crochet collection of inspiring toys, from hairdresser and police to gardener and doctor, and more! The toys alone can be a little unusual (we'd never seen crocheted hair straighteners before!) but all together they make a fun set for play, and even alone they could make unique, fun gifts for the loved ones in your life. Available now from most good book shops.

HOOK UP WITH A PODCAST!

These are the hook-tacular podcasts and vlogcasts that are filling our airwaves this month

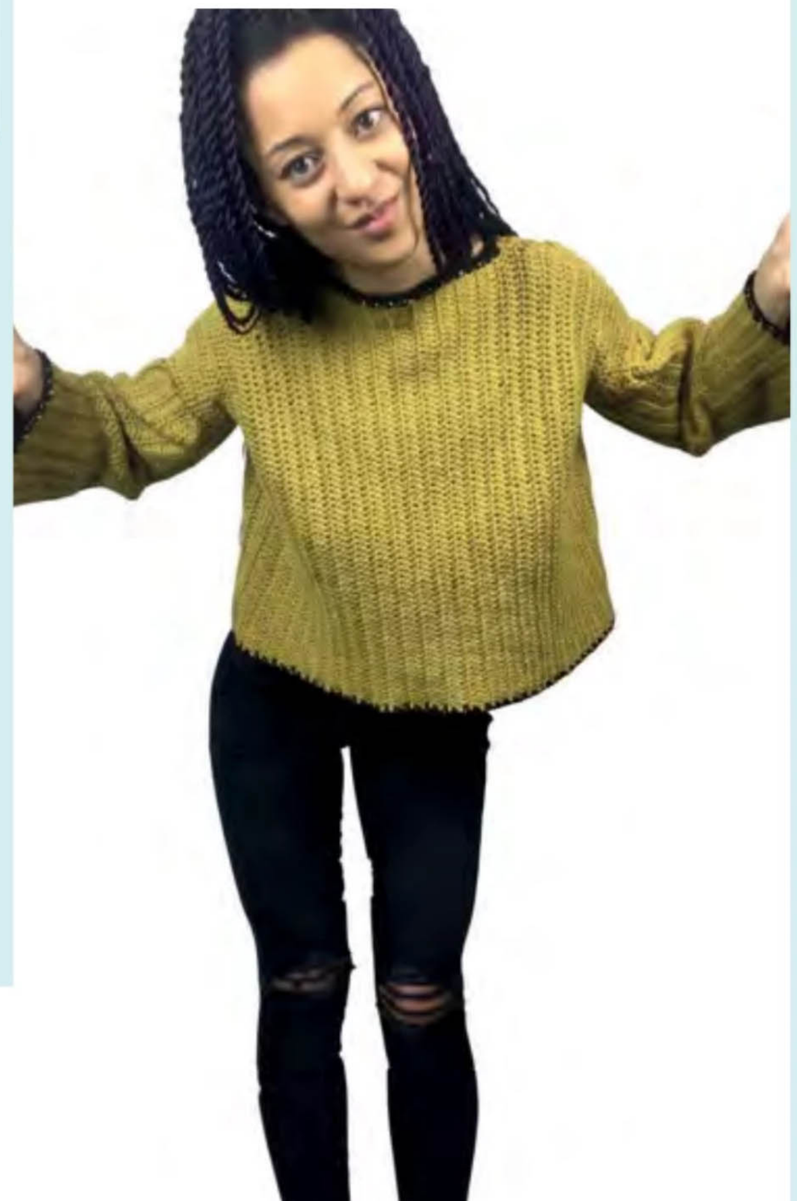


Cherry Heart

Join our very own Sandra Paul in her craft room every episode for chats about all things crochet, with some knitting thrown in there for good measure. Sandra's podcast is a great source of inspiration for what is a great pattern or yarn to be using at the moment, plus it's so easy to get lost in her pretty craft room as she speaks about what she's been working on at the moment.
www.cherryheart.co.uk

HG Designs Crochet

Host Heather is based in the UK, and over the last year of broadcasting, her soothing, lovely podcast to her self-named 'tribe' is a joy to listen to and keep up with what she is sewing, knitting, and crocheting. Her varied projects and honest approach to what sometimes can be a frustrating craft is so relatable. Check out October's round-up episode in particular to be introduced! **www.instagram.com/hgdesignscrochet**



Crochet Luna



Host Claudia shares friendly episodes of her vlogcast on YouTube to share what she is hooking up right now, interviews with hooky friends, and generally brings a piece of crochet joy to your screen! Claudia also regularly broadcasts live on www.twitch.tv so you can join in with the crochet chat, and her Instagram highlights feature a great list of BIPOC crochet designers you absolutely should follow.
www.instagram.com/crochetluna

Listen to these podcasts by searching their title on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, YouTube or wherever you find your podcasts



GOOD GRIEF, IT'S SNOOPY!

We've fallen in love with the exclusive Stitch & Story x Peanuts collection! The collection features the lovable Snoopy as an amigurumi kit and other patterns include knitted jumpers and scarfs that immediately call to mind Charlie M. Schulz's much-loved cartoon strip!

www.stitchandstory.com



LIGHT AND DREAMY

We love this new lace shawl design from the team at Patons. This is a classic design suitable for intermediate crocheters, so you are sure to stay super snuggly this winter! This pattern is featured in the Dream Light Moments collection and is available to download for free right now.

www.knitpatons.com

Cherry Heart's CORNER

Every month, Sandra Paul brings us her words of crochet wisdom

www.cherryheart.co.uk



Sandra Paul



Something that seems to have changed in crochet over the last few years is an increase in the number of patterns and projects using much more textured looks with stitches and yarn. Popcorns, bobbles, puff stitches and even crocheted cables are so much more evident now and it's so exciting to see all the possibilities these can bring. Not only do they add completely different visual and decorative elements to designs, they are also a wonderful way to add more depth, richness and warmth to them too. Stitches like these add thickness to the crochet fabric and when it comes to garments, that means lots more snuggly warmth to wrap around you. It's perfect for those sharp frosty mornings!

"I'm really enjoying how texture is being explored in yarn"

I'm really enjoying how texture is being explored in yarn lately too. There are so many different kinds available, using all sorts of fibres and ways of spinning to create more range than ever. Mohair has made huge comeback and is a wonderful winter yarn to add to projects. Its cloudlike fuzziness adds a touch of soft luxury and warmth when held with other yarn, or can also create a beautiful textural contrast with smoother yarn when used on its own.





Luxury Hand-Dyed Happiness

HAND-DYED HAPPINESS

Luxury Hand-Dyed Happiness is the brand-new yarn from Rico. Made from a twisted skein of high-quality Merino wool, the yarn's artisan look comes from the individual dyeing processes creating an individual print to every skein. Ask your local Rico stockist for more information!

www.rico-design.co.uk

AWARD-WINNING NETWORK

The Knitting Network has become the UK's first online retailer to achieve Green Mark certification, recognising its commitment to environmental sustainability! The fast-growing online crochet and knitting store is committed to using plastic-free, recyclable packaging for all customer orders, reducing waste, and partnering with organisations such as the Bumblebee Conservation Trust to do what they can to make a difference in the environment. And don't forget The Knitting Network sells yarn, patterns and exclusive projects too!

www.theknittingnetwork.co.uk

The knitting NETWORK

GREEN MARK 2019

CAL WATCH

We all love a great crochet-along, so every month we spotlight what's hot online right now!



Fiesta CAL

By Tinna Thorudottir Thorvalder



Although this CAL finished at the end of November, the creativity, enthusiasm and community based around this striking design is so inspiring – encouraging participants to use their own stash to complete – we simply had to make a special exception this time! Designer Tinna tells us more:

"What I like the most about doing a CAL is the feeling of community that the event creates. I'm hosting my Fiesta CAL in my own Facebook group and I absolutely love to see everyone's progr ess pictures! If you are thinking about joining a CAL, do not ever stress about keeping up. Everyone just works on their own speed and the most important part is to have fun and enjoy the journey. Really take advantage of all the help and support that is available. It's just beautiful to see how the group members also reach out to one another to lend a helping hand, encouragement and colour inspiration! A CAL really is a community project, where we all come together to work on the same project and it creates such a wonderful and joyful atmosphere!"

Join in at **www.facebook.com/groups/TinnaCrochetClub** and check out Tinna's blog at **www.tinnacrochet.com**

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Virus Shawl

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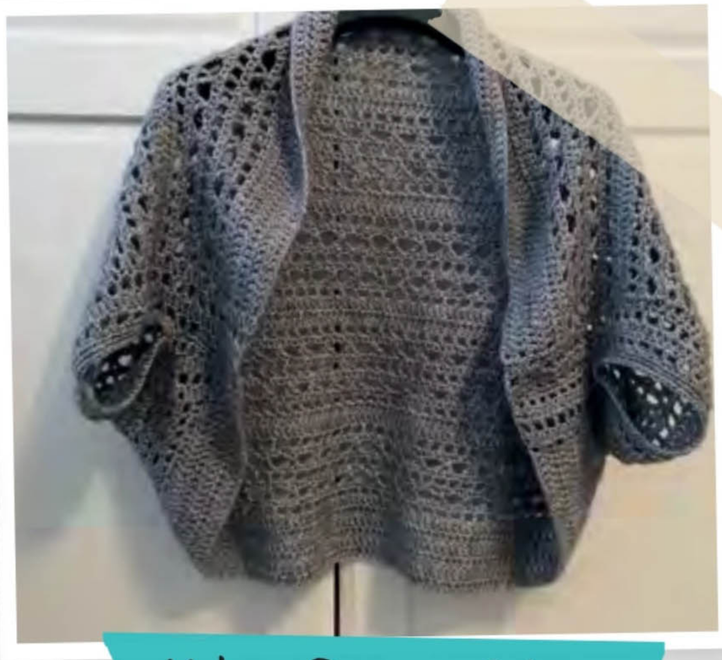
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SHOW US YOUR MAKES

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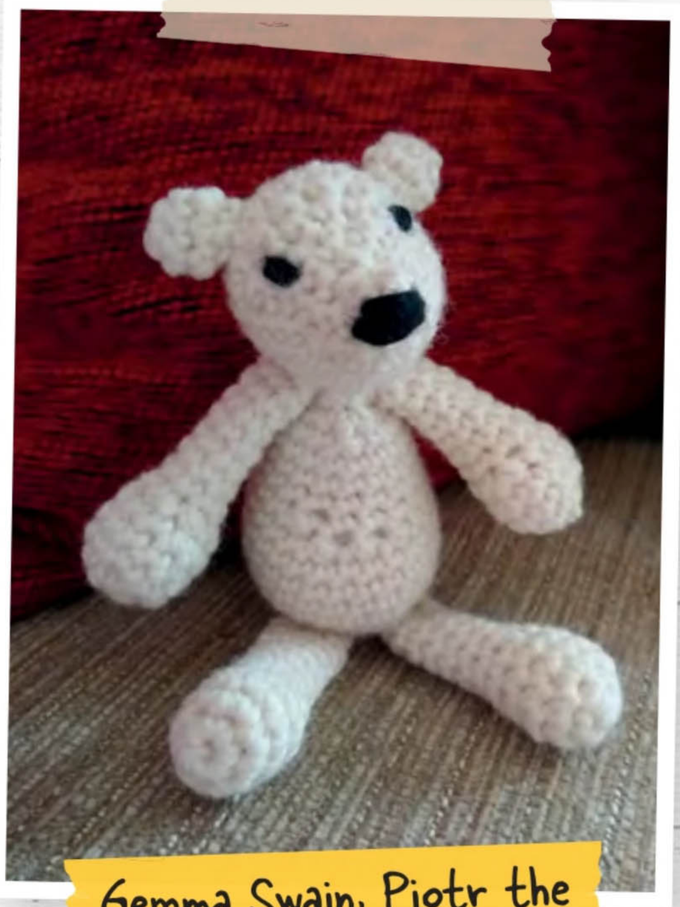




Melissa Pereira, Cabana Cardigan, issue 43



Amy Aithwaite, Poppy Brooch, issue 47



Gemma Swain, Piotr the Polar Bear, issue 46



Kathleen Wallaca, Very Hexie Blanket, issue 31



Vicky Mounsey, Stanley the Snowman, issue 34



Kizzy Whitehurst, Norwegian Star Wristwarmers, issue 47

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When crocheting the bobble stitches push them to the front of your work



Anne-Michelle Phelan

BRUMAL SCARF

A classic textured scarf is a must-have for your crochet wardrobe, and holding this yarn double means your scarf will grow in no time at all

DK 6.5mm

★★ Try something new

Yarn used

Wendy Fleur
4 balls in Stephanotis 3351
Visit **www.thehomeofcraft.co.uk** to find your local Wendy stockist

About the yarn

DK; 350m per 100g ball; 44% cotton, 28% tencel, 28% acrylic

Tension

11 sts x 12 rows = 10cm measured over dc with yarn held double

Hook used

6.5mm

Sizing

25cm wide x 205cm long

Start crocheting

With yarn held double throughout, chain 28.

Row 1 (WS): Starting in 2nd ch from hook and working into back bumps, 27 dc. *27 sts*

Row 2: 1 ch (does not count as a st here and throughout), 1 dc, 4 dc in BLO, 1 RtrF, 15 dc, 1 RtrF, 4 dc in BLO, 1 dc.

Row 3: 1 ch, 1 dc, 4 dc in BLO, 17 dc, 4 dc in BLO, 1 dc.

Row 4: 1 ch, 1 dc, 4 dc in BLO, 1 RtrF (around RtrF below here and throughout, always miss dc above RtrF worked into), 4 dc, 1 bbl, 5 dc, 1 bbl, 4 dc, 1 RtrF, 4 dc in BLO, 1 dc.

Row 5: As Row 3.

Row 6: 1 ch, 1 dc, 4 dc in BLO, 1 RtrF, 3 dc, 1 bbl, 2 dc, miss 1 st, 3 RtrF around next dc 2 rows directly below, miss 1 st, 2 dc, 1 bbl, 3 dc, 1 RtrF, 4 dc in BLO, 1 dc.

Row 7: As Row 3.

Row 8: 1 ch, 1 dc, 4 dc in BLO, 1 RtrF, 2 dc, 1 bbl, 2 dc, [1 RtrF, 1 dc] 3 times, 1 dc, 1 bbl, 2 dc, 1 RtrF, 4 dc in BLO, 1 dc.

Row 9: As Row 3.

Row 10: 1 ch, 1 dc, 4 dc in BLO, 1 RtrF, 7 dc, 1 RtrF around centre RtrF, 7 dc, 1 RtrF, 4 dc in BLO, 1 dc.

Row 11: As Row 3.



Wear it your way!

Rep rows 4-11 twenty-five more times.
Rep Row 2 once more.
Fasten off. Weave in ends.

Special stitches

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

Chart





Take your time to check your tension for a perfect fit

SNOWCAP SWEATER

If you've never crocheted a garment before, this simple boxy sweater with a classic silhouette is a great start



Grace Kok

DK 5mm

★★ Intermediate

Yarn used

Jody Long Ciao
7 (8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13) balls in
Chrome 004 (MC)
4 (5, 5, 5, 6, 6, 6) balls in
Cornflower 009 (CC)
Available from **www.deramores.com**

About the yarn

DK; 105m per 50g ball, 100% Merino wool

Tension

15.5 sts x 13.25 rows =
10cm measured over htr

Hook used

5mm

Other supplies

tapestry needle
stitch markers

Sizing

XS (S, M, L, XL, 2X, 3X)
To fit bust: 76 (86, 96, 106, 116, 126, 136) cm with 18cm of ease
Width: 46 (52, 57, 62, 67, 72, 77) cm
Body Length: 53 (53, 54.5, 54.5, 56, 56, 56) cm
Sleeve length: 44 (45.5, 45.5, 47, 47, 48.5, 48.5) cm
Armhole circumference: 32.5 (35, 37.5, 40, 42.5, 45, 47.5) cm

Start crocheting

Unless otherwise stated turning chains do not count as a stitch. The Body and Sleeves are worked from the bottom up. Feel free to make the Body longer by adding more rows of htr before the V-neck shaping. Just make sure that the Front and Back panels have the same number of rows.

Back

With CC, chain 74 (82, 90, 98, 106, 114, 122).
Row 1: Starting in 3rd ch from hook, tr to end. Turn. *72 (80, 88, 96, 104, 112, 120) sts*
Rows 2-3: 2 ch, 1 tr, *1 RtrF, 1 RtrB; rep from * to last st, 1 tr in last st. Turn.
Rows 4-21: 1 ch, htr across. Turn.
Change to MC. Fasten off CC.
Rows 22-70 (70, 72, 72, 74, 74, 74): With MC, 1 ch, htr across. Turn.
Fasten off.

Front

Rep Back instructions through Row 56.
Do not fasten off, continue directly to Left V-neck shaping.

Left V-neck shaping

Row 57 (RS): 1 ch, 32 (36, 40, 44, 48, 52, 56) htr, 2 htr2tog, pm in next st. Turn. *34 (38, 42, 46, 50, 54, 58) sts*
Row 58: 1 ch, 1 htr2tog, 32 (36, 40, 44, 48, 52, 56) htr. Turn. *33 (37, 41, 45, 49, 53, 57) sts*
Row 59: 1 ch, 29 (33, 37, 41, 45, 49, 53) htr, 2 htr2tog. Turn. *31 (35, 39, 43, 47, 51, 55) sts*
Row 60: 1 ch, 1 htr2tog, 29 (33, 37, 41, 45, 49, 53) htr. Turn. *30 (34, 38, 42, 46, 50, 54) sts*
Row 61: 1 ch, htr across to last 2 sts, 1 htr2tog. Turn. *29 (33, 37, 41, 45, 49, 53) sts*
Row 62: 1 ch, 1 htr2tog, htr to end. Turn. *28 (32, 36, 40, 44, 48, 52) sts*
Rep rows 61-62 another 4 (4, 5, 5, 6, 6, 6) times. *20 (24, 26, 30, 32, 36, 40) sts*
Fasten off.

Right V-Neck shaping

With RS facing, join MC with sl st in marked st.
Row 57 (RS): 1 ch, 2 htr2tog, 32 (36, 40, 44, 48, 52, 56) htr. Turn. *34 (38, 42, 46, 50, 54, 58) sts*
Row 58: 1 ch, 32 (36, 40, 44, 48, 52, 56) htr, 1 htr2tog. Turn. *33 (37, 41, 45, 49, 53, 57) sts*
Row 59: 1 ch, 2 htr2tog, 29 (33, 37, 41, 45, 49, 53) htr. Turn. *31 (35, 39, 43, 47, 51, 55) sts*
Row 60: 1 ch, 29 (33, 37, 41, 45, 49, 53) htr, 1 htr2tog. Turn. *30 (34, 38, 42, 46, 50, 54) sts*
Row 61: 1 ch, 1 htr2tog, htr to end. Turn. *29 (33, 37, 41, 45, 49, 53) sts*
Row 62: 1 ch, htr across to last 2 sts, 1 htr2tog. Turn. *28 (32, 36, 40, 44, 48, 52) sts*
Rep rows 61-62 another 4 (4, 5, 5, 6, 6, 6) times. *20 (24, 26, 30, 32, 36, 40) sts*

Sleeves (make 2)

With CC, chain 34 (38, 42, 44, 48, 52, 56).
Row 1: Starting in 3rd ch from hook, tr to end. Turn. *32 (36, 40, 42, 46, 50, 54) sts*
Rows 2-3: 2 ch, 1 tr, *1 RtrF, 1 RtrB; rep from * to last st, 1 tr in last st. Turn.
Row 4: 1 ch, htr across. Turn.
Row 5: 1 ch, 2 htr in first st, htr across to last st, 2 htr in last st. Turn. *34 (38, 42, 44, 48, 52, 56) sts*
Rows 6-9: As Row 4.
Rows 10-24: Rep rows 5-9 three more times. *40 (44, 48, 50, 54, 58, 62) sts*
Change to MC. Fasten off CC.
Row 25: With MC, as Row 5. *42 (46, 50, 52, 56, 60, 64) sts*
Rows 26-29: As Row 4.
Rep rows 25-29 another 4 (4, 4, 5, 5, 5, 5) times. *50 (54, 58, 62, 66, 70, 74) sts*
Rep Row 4 another 9 (11, 11, 8, 8, 10, 10) times.
Fasten off.

Making up

Use mattress stitch for all seams. Sew shoulder seams. Fold Sleeves in half, align fold with shoulder seam and sew Sleeves to Body. Starting at cuff, sew sleeve seam and cont down side seam to hem.

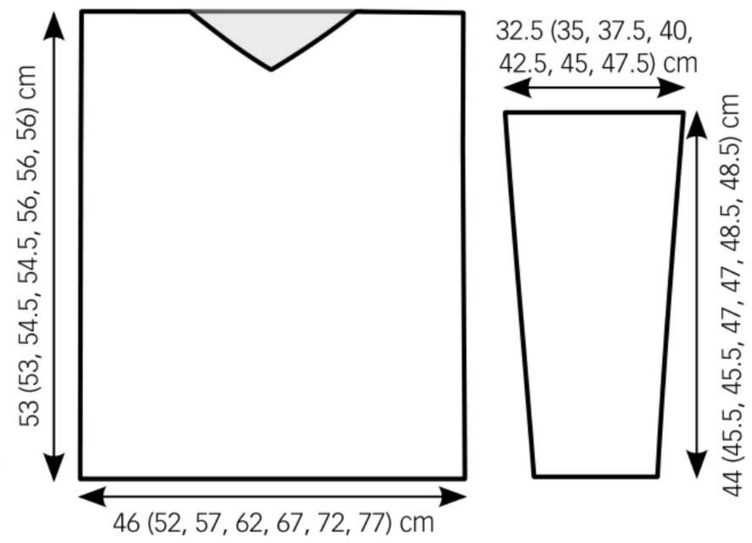
Edging

With MC, evenly work 1 round of dc around the V-neckline.

Finishing

Weave in ends. Block to finished measurements.

Schematic



How to...

Your guide to... YARN BOBBINS

Get the most out of your super-cute yarn bobbins with our quick guide to everything you need to know about them

What are yarn bobbins?

If you like to crochet (or knit) patterns that feature regular colour changes, such as corner-to-corner projects, intarsia or mosaic crochet, then you should definitely have a set of yarn bobbins in your collection! Yarn bobbins are a helpful way to keep track of yarn colour changes by minimising tangled strands and lessening the need for multiple balls of yarn rolling around the floor.







You can use many things as bobbins, such as pegs or small pieces of card, but you can get started right away with your new set of sheep bobbins. The idea is to wind yourself small skeins of yarn to use with various colour changes. You wouldn't need yarn bobbins with a striped blanket or granny square, but you might find them helpful in graphgan designs, such as our Golden Hour blanket (page 20) and intarsia projects such as the Glacial Sunrise Cushion (page 34).



Look out for this shout to let you know when to try out your bobbins!

Winding your bobbins

Wind the yarn on your bobbin starting from the left side, winding from left to right and back again. Fill the space between the sheep's legs as a guide, and use the ear as a mark to tell you when the bobbin is full.



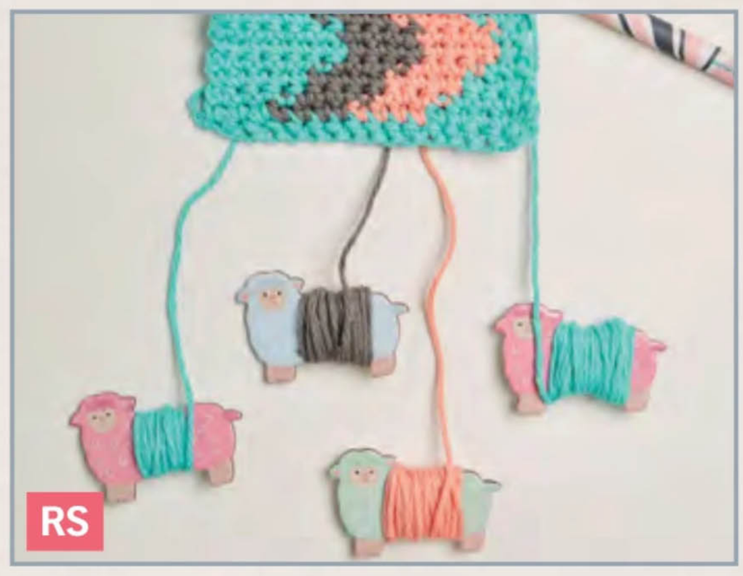


Take care not to overfill your bobbins. Bobbins with too much yarn wrapped round are likely to cause your tension to be uneven, and may unravel too quickly, tangling your yarn and defeating the object of using your bobbins. Instead, it is much better to keep bobbins light and reload often – this may mean more ends to wind in, but far fewer tears untangling yarn as you crochet!

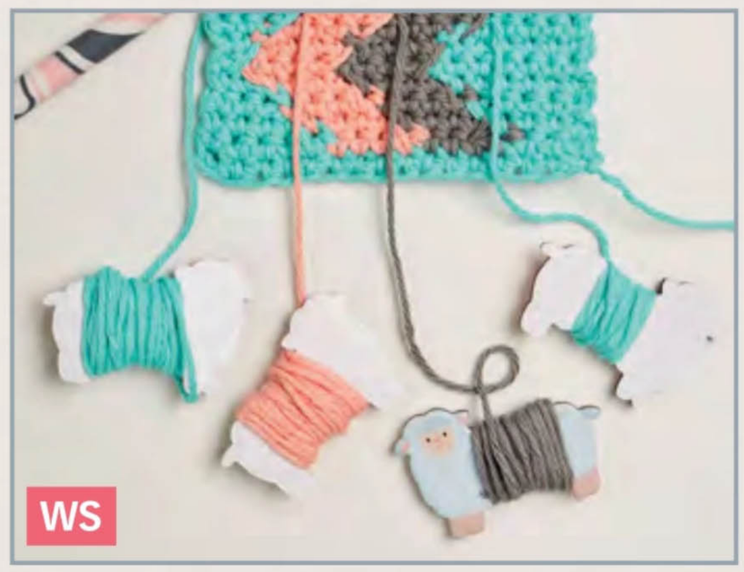
Using your bobbins

With your bobbins wound in the colours you need for your pattern, start crocheting following the pattern/chart, switching colours as needed from each bobbin.

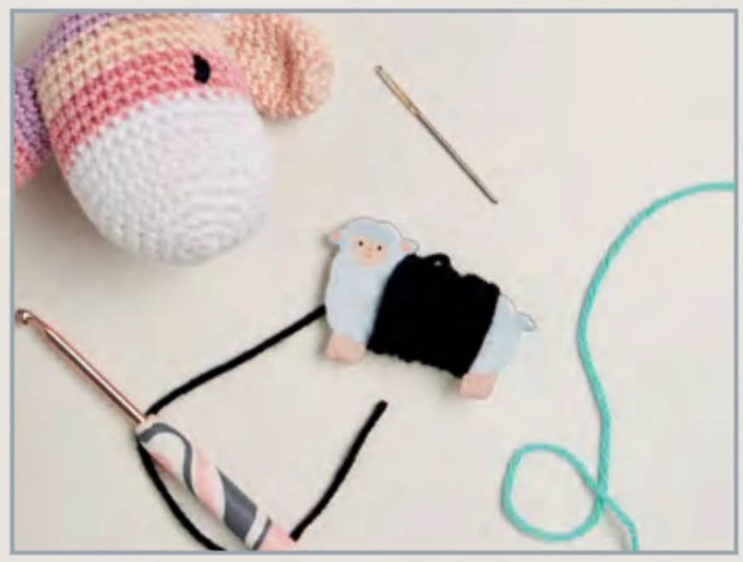
Make sure to keep the bobbins to the back of the work when crocheting the RS, and move them to either the right (if you are right-handed) or left (left-handed) as you finish each colour. You might want to keep one of your MC strands on the ball as you will use more of this colour.



When working on the WS, keep the bobbins to the front of the work and continue as for the RS – it's that easy! Using bobbins means you don't need to crochet over any colours between colour changes, keeping your colourwork designs neat and clear.



Why not keep small amounts of black yarn on a bobbin in your project bag all the time? It's a quick go-to for facial expressions for toys, or emergency stitch marker yarn if you need it!



Blanket





Emma Wilkinson

Golden Hour BLANKET

Inspired by golden winter light peeking through grey clouds, this blanket has a patchwork effect that is truly striking

DK 4.5mm

★★ Try something new

Yarn used

Cygnet DK
4 balls in Lt Grey 195 (MC)
3 balls in Coral 442 (CC1)
2 balls each in Lupin 235 (CC2) & Barley 4884 (CC3)
Available from **www.deramores.com/collections/crochetnow**

About the yarn

DK; 298m per 100g ball; 100% acrylic

Tension

10cm square = 6x6 tr blocks

Hook used

4.5mm

Other supplies

yarn bobbins, 6 stitch markers

Sizing

133cm square

Start crocheting

Follow chart for colour changes. The chart is read diagonally from the bottom right with each square representing one block (3 ch, 3 tr). Change colours by working last yrh of previous block with new colour. Colour changes during the row are perfect for your Sheep Bobbins. Wind lengths of CC yarn from the ball onto the bobbins before starting. MC can be used directly from the ball. Mark every 20th row with a stitch marker to keep track of your progress.

With MC, chain 6

Row 1: Starting in 4th ch from hook, 3 tr. Turn. *1 block*

Row 2: 6 ch, starting in 4th ch from hook, 3 tr, 1 sl st into ch-3 sp of previous row, 3 ch, 3 tr into same 3ch-sp. Turn. *2 blocks*

Row 3: 6 ch, starting in 4th ch from hook, 3 tr, *[1 sl st, 3 ch, 3 tr] into next 3ch-sp; rep from * once more. Turn. *3 blocks*

Row 4: 6 ch, starting in 4th ch from hook, 3 tr, *[1 sl st, 3 ch, 3 tr] into next 3ch-sp; rep from * to end. Turn. *1 block inc'd*

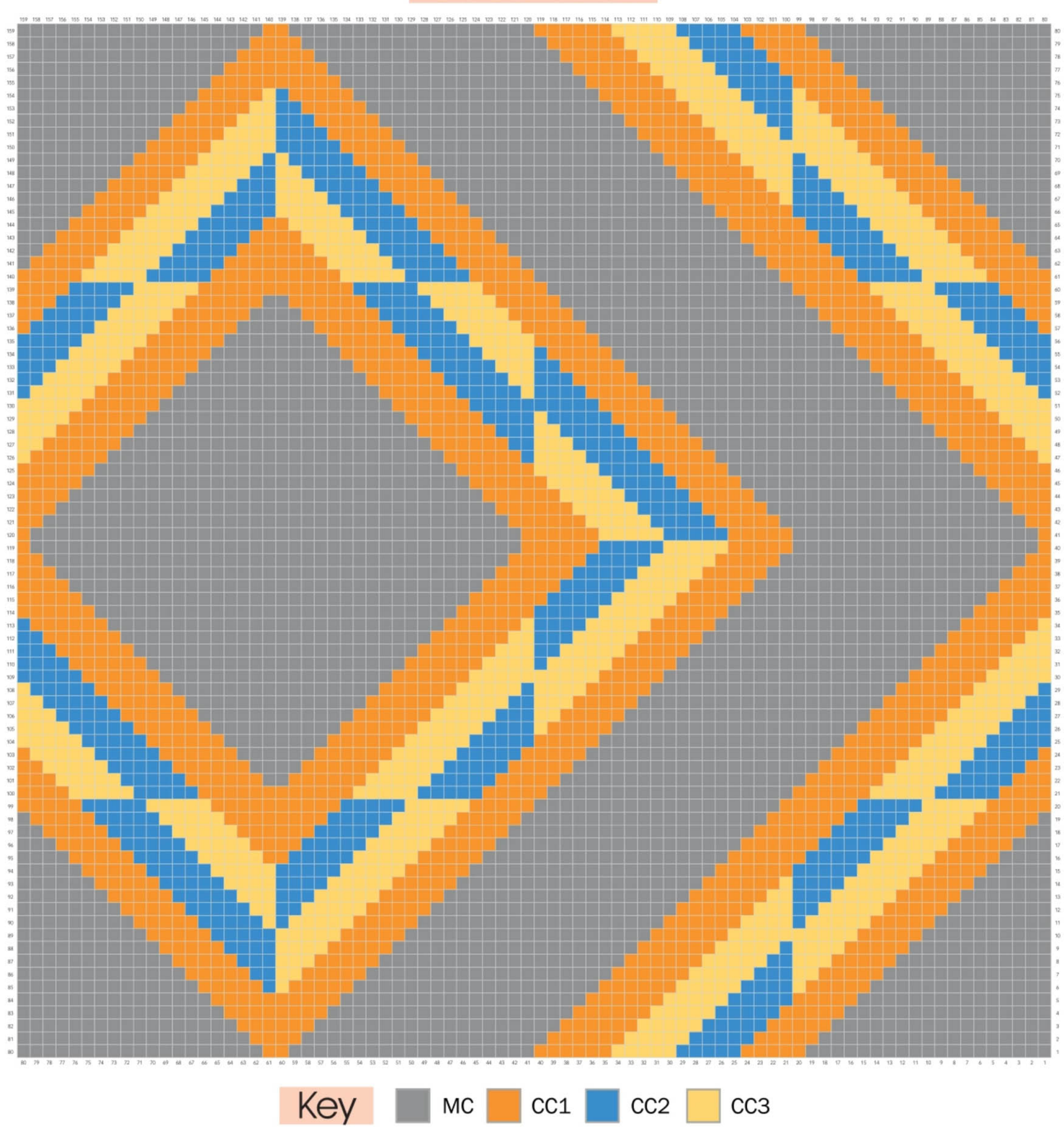
Rows 5-80: As Row 4.

Row 81: 1 sl st in each of next 3 tr, *[1 sl st, 3 ch, 3 tr] into next 3ch-sp; rep from * across to last 3ch-sp, 1 sl st in last 3ch-sp (do not make last block). Turn. *1 block dec'd*

Rows 82-159: Cont to dec as Row 81. *1 block*

Fasten off. Weave in ends.

Colour Chart



TREAT YOURSELF

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

King Cole Natural Alpaca DK
DK; 100m per 50g;
100% superfine alpaca
Cream 4324, £7.99
www.wool4less.co.uk

Rowan Island Blend
DK; 125m per 50g; 70% wool, 15% alpaca, 15% silk
Routemaster 909, £13.31
www.smdknitting.com

WYS Re:Treat
Chunky; 140m per 100g; 100% wool
Adore 552, £5.85
www.deramores.com

Novita 7 Brothers Raita
Aran; 200m per 100g; 75% wool, 25% polyamide
Berry Basket 854m £5.92
www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

Peter Pan Baby Cotton DK
DK; 160m per 100g; 50% cotton, 50% polyester
Lemon 3146, £3.69
www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

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Baby Blanket

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READICUT | OH SEW CRAFTY | PLUS MANY MORE


Tiam Safari

FLUFFY RIB SOCKS

Everyone needs a super-snuggly pair of socks to warm their toes on a winter's evening, and these supersoft socks are sure to do the trick

4-ply 3.5mm

★★★ Adventurous

Yarn used

Debbie Bliss Toast
2 balls in Sky 03
Debbie Bliss Angel
2 balls in Ecru 6
Available from **www.lovecrafts.com**

About the yarn

Debbie Bliss Toast
4-ply; 420m per 100g ball;
65% wool, 25% polyamide,
10% cashmere
Debbie Bliss Angel
Lace; 200m per 25g ball; 76% mohair,
24% silk

Tension

18 sts x 17 rows = 10cm measured over htr with 1 strand of each yarn held together

Hooks used

3.5mm

Other supplies

2 stitch markers

Sizing

Women's S (M, L)
To fit foot circumference:
17.5 (20.5, 23) cm
Foot length: 21 (23.5, 26) cm
Leg height: 16 (18, 20) cm

Start crocheting

Work with 1 strand of each yarn held together throughout.

These socks are worked toe up, continuously in the round to the heel, and then up the leg. An afterthought heel is worked at the end. This pattern is worked 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. Unless otherwise stated turning chains do not count as a stitch.

Toe

Rnd 1: Working into a magic ring, 5 (6, 6) dc.
Rnd 2: 1 ch, 2 dc in each st around. *10 (12, 12) sts*
Rnd 3: *2 dc in next st, 1 dc; rep from * to end. *15 (18, 18) sts*
Rnd 4: Dc around.
Rnd 5: *2 dc in next st, 2 dc; rep from * to end. *20 (24, 24) sts*
Rnds 6-7: Dc around.

SIZE S ONLY:
Rnd 8: *2 htr in next st, 3 htr; rep from * to last 4 sts, 2 htr in next st, 2 htr, 2 htr in last st. *26 (-, -) sts*

SIZES M & L ONLY:
Rnd 8: *2 htr in next st, 3 htr; rep from * end. - *(30, 30) sts*

SIZE L ONLY:
Rnd 9: *2 htr in first st, 4 htr; rep from * to end. - *(-, 36) sts*

Foot

Rnd 1: *1 RtrF, 1 RtrB; rep from * 5 (6, 7) more times, 1 RtrF, 13 (15, 19) htr. *26 (30, 36) sts*
Rep the last rnd 26 (30, 35) more times.

Next Rnd: *1 RtrF, 1 RtrB; rep from * 5 (6, 7) more times, 1 RtrF, 13 (15, 19) ch (creates 'hole' for heel), miss 13 (15, 19) sts, sl st in next st to join.

Leg

Rnd 1: *1 RtrF, 1 RtrB; rep from * to end.
Rep last rnd 26 (29, 33) more times.
Next Rnd: *1 RdcF, 1 RdcB; rep from * to end. Fasten off.

Heel

Join yarn to heel at point between foot and leg, where additional ch sts began, pm, 13 (15, 19) htr across foot section of heel, 3 htr in point between foot and leg, pm, 13 (15, 19) htr across leg section of heel, 3 htr in point between foot and leg. *32 (36, 44) sts*
Rnd 1: *1 htr2tog, htr across to 2 sts before marker, 1 htr2tog; rep from * one more time. *28 (32, 40) sts*
Rep Rnd 1 two (three, four) more times. *20 (20, 24) sts*
Next Rnd: *2 htr2tog, htr across to 4 sts before marker, 2 htr2tog; rep from * once more. *12 (12, 16) sts*
Rep Rnd 1, once more. *8 (8, 12) sts*
Final Rnd: Htr around.
Fasten off. Sew heel closed.

Finishing

Weave in all ends and block gently to finished measurements.

Special stitches

Raised double Front (RdcF): work the double around the post of the stitch inserting hook from front to back to front again
Raised double Back (RdcB): work the double around the post of the stitch inserting hook from back to front to back again



Liam Marshall

Hector the Owl COSY

Keep your hot-water bottles cosy with this charming C2C hot water bottle cover, a winner for all ages!

DK 3.5mm

★★ Take your time

Yarn used

James C Brett Double Knitting with Merino
1 ball each in DM10 (A), DM1 (B), DM11 (C), DM12 (D), DM30 (E), DM35 (F), DM2 (G)
Visit **www.jamescbrett.co.uk** to find your local stockist

About the yarn

DK; 290m per 100g ball; 70% acrylic, 20% polyamide, 10% Merino

Tension

8x8 blocks = 10cm measured over st patt (1 block = 3 ch and 3 tr)

Hook used

3.5mm

Other supplies

tapestry needle
hot-water bottle

Sizing

21x34cm
Fits standard hot water bottle

Start crocheting

Front

Follow the chart on the next page for colour changes. The chart is read diagonally from the bottom right with each square representing one block (3 ch, 3 tr). Change colours by working last yrh of previous block with the new colour. Use new balls or bobbins of yarn for each colour to avoid carrying any strand across back of work.

With A, chain 6.

Row 1: Starting in 4th ch from hook, 3 tr. Turn. *1 block*

Row 2: 6 ch, starting in 4th ch from hook, 3 tr, [1 sl st, 3 ch, 3 tr] into 3ch-sp from previous row. Turn. *2 blocks*

Row 3: 6 ch, starting in 4th ch from hook, 3 tr, *[1 sl st, 3 ch, 3 tr] into next 3ch-sp from previous row; rep from * across. Turn. *1 block inc'd*

Rows 4-17: Cont to inc as Row 3, changing colours as per chart. *17 blocks*

Row 18: As Row 3 to last 3ch-sp, 1 sl st in last 3ch-sp (do not make last block). Turn.

Row 19: 1 sl st in each of next 3 sts, *[1 sl st, 3 ch, 3 tr] in next 3ch-sp; rep from * to end. Turn.

Rows 20-27: Rep rows 18-19 four more times.

Row 28: 1 sl st in each of next 3 sts, *[1 sl st, 3 ch, 3 tr] in next 3ch-sp; rep from * to last 3ch-sp, 1 sl st in last 3 ch-sp (do not make last block). Turn. *1 block dec'd*

Rows 29-43: Cont to dec as Row 28. *1 block*

Row 44: Sl st across next 3 tr to finish corner.

Fasten off. Weave in ends.

Back Panel 1

With A, chain 6.

Rows 1-3: Work as for Front.

Rows 4-17: Cont to inc as Row 3. *17 blocks*

Row 18: 1 sl st in each of next 3 sts, *[1 sl st, 3 ch, 3 tr] in next 3ch-sp; rep from * to end. Turn. *17 blocks*

Row 19: 1 sl st in each of next 3 sts , [1 sl st, 3 ch, 3 tr] in next 3 ch-sp; rep form * to last 3 ch-sp, 1 sl st in last 3ch-sp (do not make last block). Turn. *16 blocks*

Rows 20-34: Cont to dec as Row 19. *1 block*

Row 35: Sl st across 3 tr to finish corner. Fasten off. Weave in ends.

Back Panel 2

With A, chain 6.

Rows 1-3: Work as for Front.

Rows 4-13: Cont to inc as Row 3. *13 blocks*

Row 14: Work as Row 3 to last 3 ch-sp, 1 sl st in last 3 ch-sp (do not make last block). Turn.

Row 15: 1 sl st in each of next 3 sts , *[sl st, 3 ch, 3 tr] in next 3 ch-sp; rep from * to end. Turn.

Row 16: As Row 14.



Use separate bobbins of yarn for each section when working the C2C colourwork

Row 17: As Row 15.
Row 18: 1 sl st in each of next 3 sts, *[1 sl st, 3 ch, 3 tr] in next 3ch-sp; rep from * to last 3ch-sp, 1 sl st in last 3 ch-sp (do not make last block). Turn. *1 block dec'd*
Rows 19-29: Cont to dec as Row 18. *1 block*
Row 30: Sl st across next 3 tr to finish corner.
Fasten off. Weave in ends.

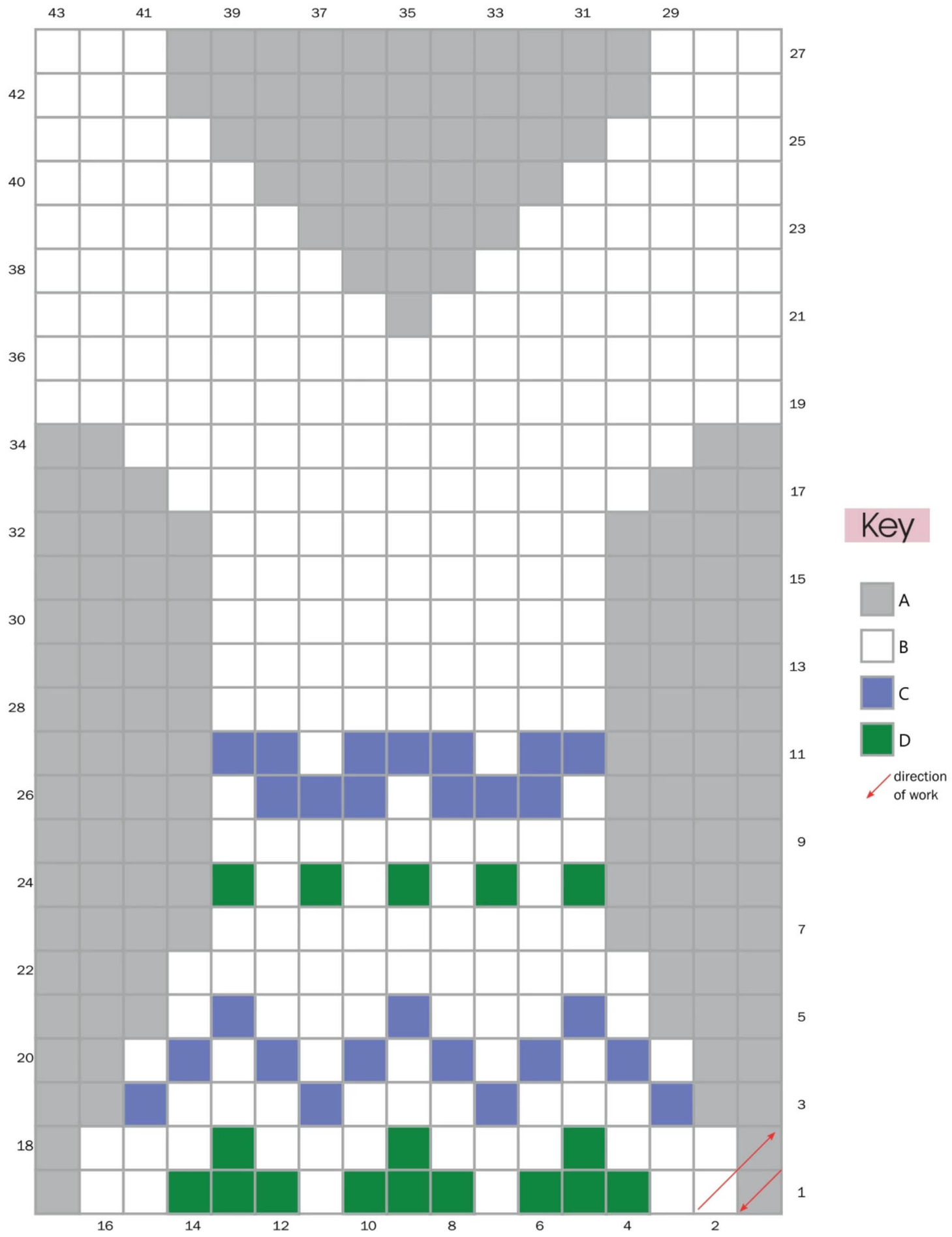
Eyes

Rnd 1: With G and working into a magic ring, 6 dc, join with sl st to beg dc. *6 sts*
Rnd 2: 1 ch (does not count as a st here and throughout), [2 dc in next st] 6 times, join with sl st to beg dc. *12 sts*
Rnd 3: 1 ch, [2 dc in next st] 12 times, join with sl st to beg dc. *24 sts*
Fasten off G and join B in any st.
Rnd 4: 1 ch, [2 dc in next st] 4 times, 5 htr, [2 tr, 2 tr in next st] twice, 5 htr, [2 dc in next st] 4 times, join with sl st to beg dc. *34 sts*
Rnd 5: 1 ch, dc around, join with sl st to beg dc.
Fasten off.

Beak

With F, chain 7.
Row 1: Starting in 2nd ch from hook, 6 dc. Turn. *6 sts*
Row 2: 1 ch (does not count as a st here and throughout), 4 dc, 1 dc2tog. Turn. *5 sts*
Row 3: 1 ch, 3 dc, 1 dc2tog. Turn. *4 sts*
Row 4: 1 ch, 2 dc, 1 dc2tog. Turn. *3 sts*
Row 5: 1 ch, 1 dc, 1 dc2tog. Turn. *2 sts*
Row 6: 1 ch, 1 dc2tog. *1 st*
Fasten off.

Front Chart



Scarf

With E, chain 10.
Row 1: Starting in 2nd ch from hook, 9 dc. *9 sts*
Rows 2-6: 1 ch (does not count as a st here and throughout), dc across. Turn.
Change to C.
Rows 7-8: 1 ch, dc across. Turn
Change to F.
Rows 9-13: 1 ch, dc across. Turn.
Change to D.
Rows 14-15: 1 ch, dc across. Turn.
Rep rows 2-15 ten times, then rows 2-13 once more. Fasten off.

Making up

Holding RS together, sl st around top three edges of Front and Back Panel 1 to join.

Place Back Panel 2 on top of Back Panel 1 (lined up with bottom of Front) and sl st around bottom three edges of Back Panel 2 and Front, working through 3 layers where Back Panel 2 and 1 overlap. Turn inside out. Using photographs as a guide, sew Eyes and Beak into place. Wrap Scarf around neck and with a spare piece of thread, sew to sts around the body to hold in place.

James C. Brett

Lazy Days



www.jamescbrett.co.uk

Scheepjes

Furry Tales



Once upon a time there was a little brown bear, whose snow-dusted fur glistened in the air. Through the grass he would scurry, never far away from mummy, till one day he met a girl with lovely golden hair...

Scheepjes Furry Tales is a fluffy, faux-fur yarn perfect for creating the snuggliest and cuddliest of soft toys, trims and homewares



Scheepjes Furry Tales is a Super Bulky Weight, 100% Polyester yarn sold in 100g balls. Available in a selection of vibrant monotones, space-dyed colourways inspired by fairy tales, and natural shades with contrasting white tips. Create everything from the most lifelike toy bears and cuddle blankets for infants, to faux-fur trims on garments and homewares.

Furry Tales is a durable yarn that pairs perfectly with other Scheepjes yarns, for example, Stone Washed and Catona.

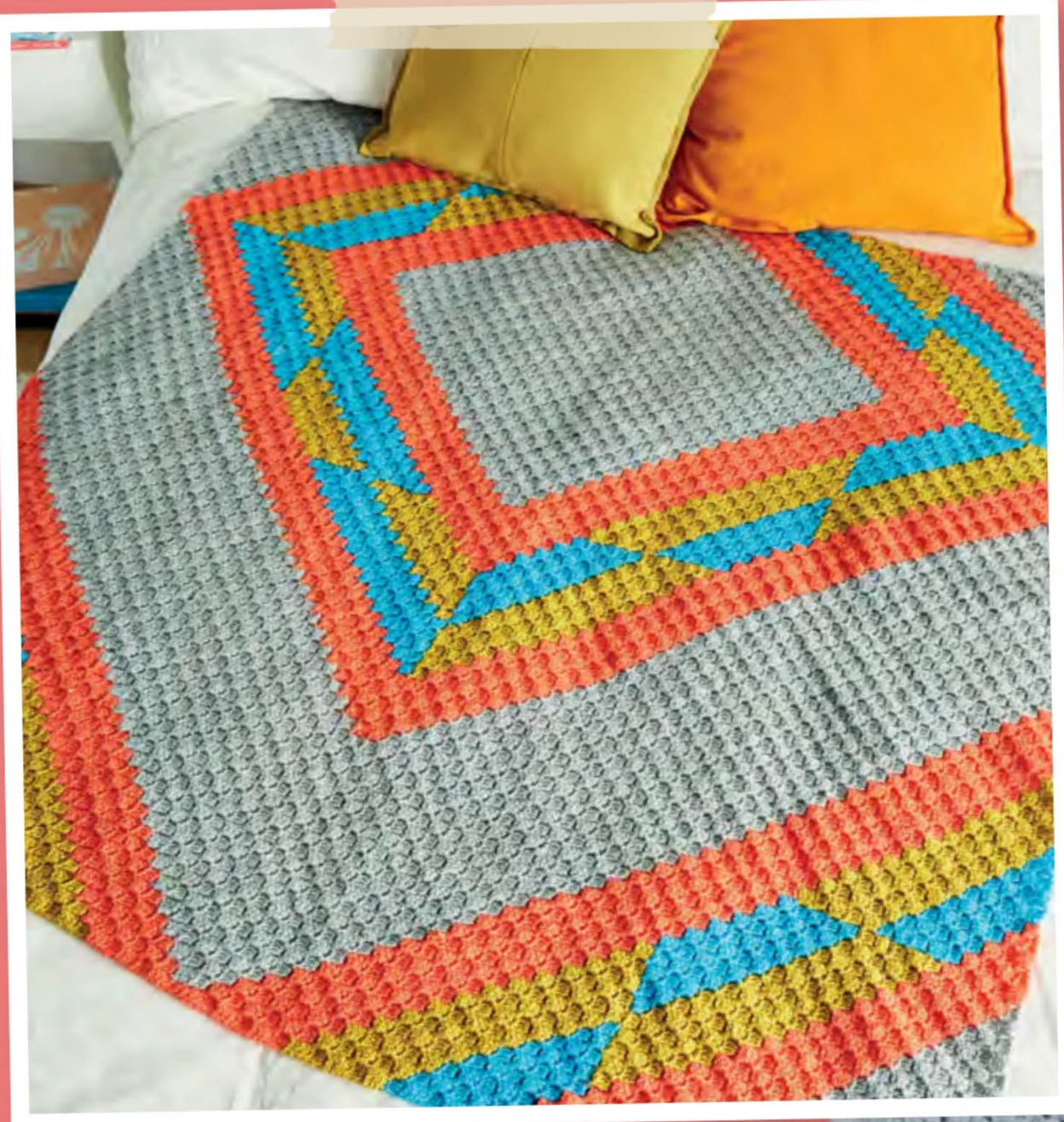
R.R.P £4.99, €5,95, $6.50.

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Sarah-Jayne



Bella Coco CROCHET CHRONICLES

This month, Sarah-Jayne is reflecting on the end of the year and working on her winter essentials, plus she shares a handy guide to C2C

www.bellacococrochet.com

Now that we are well and truly into winter, I've been enjoying the cosier things as I hide away from the cold weather, such as lighting candles and snuggling up under blankets with my family. We're also coming to the end of the year of course (where has the time gone?) and as 2019 draws to a close, I have become quite reflective and have started planning a few goals for next year. I'm a real goal-setter and love nothing more than having something to aim towards. My little girl is now two, so she's really getting into crafting… I'm wondering how long I have to wait until I can get a crochet hook in her hands! At present, she loves painting, sticking and baking – I am sure (hoping) that crochet is not far behind.



> "I'm a real goal setter and love aiming for something"



The Sundown Market bag is available on my website

I've finally plucked up the courage to start crocheting a cardigan and after YEARS of avoiding doing one, I'm pretty obsessed! I can't put it down – I'm really enjoying the challenge. It's my own design (going in at the deep end) so it will be fun to see if my ideas are going to work out. I have chosen to make it in King Cole Big Value Aran in the shade Berber, a really classic cream colour with tweedy flecks. It's a yarn I haven't tried before and I love the look it's giving. I hope to have it done within a few weeks so that I can release the pattern!



I've been thinking about any trends in crochet that I've spotted recently, and the Alpine stitch has been super popular lately, I feel like I can see it everywhere! I have seen it in a number of projects and it's simply stunning, it creates this beautiful textured fabric that would be a great choice for blankets, garments, scarves and more. I have a tutorial on my channel for the stitch and it is proving popular there too. Stephanie from All About Ami has taken this stitch and combined an aran and faux fur yarn to crochet a beautiful Lux Faux Fur Cowl and I love it! You can find her free pattern at **www.allaboutami.com**

I've had a long-standing love for aran-weight yarn and I still can't seem to pull myself away! I'm enjoying experimenting with different yarns at the moment, I think starting Crochet Society has broadened my horizons! We've featured DK, aran and chunky yarn in the box and I feel my love growing for other yarn, though aran still wins for me.

Before I finish this month, I've just released the Sundown Market bag pattern over on my website. This is my first bag design and I love how it's turned out, and I hope you will too!

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

CROCHET MASTERCLASS

Perfect Corner-to-corner

I love the sweet little yarn bobbins that are included with this month's issue – they are great for colourwork projects like you often find in C2C designs, so this month I thought it would be a good idea to give you my foolproof steps to increasing and decreasing in this fabulous technique.

Increasing



Chain 6



Starting in 4th ch from hook, work 1 tr



Work 2 more tr to reach the beg of the 6 ch

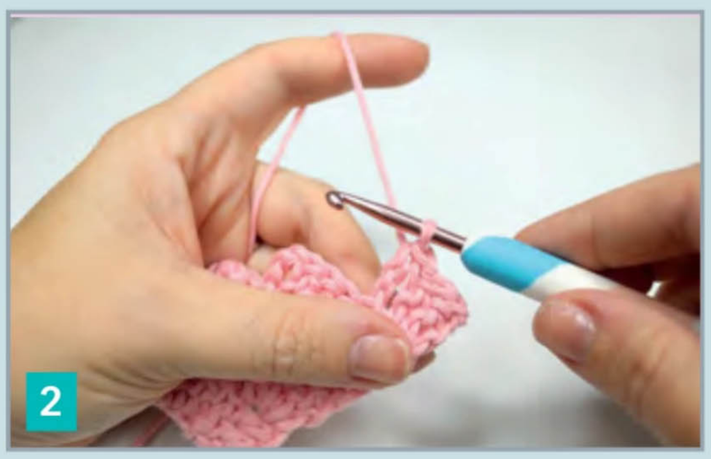


1 sl st into 2ch-sp of previous row. This finished block has increased your block count, so you can continue following the pattern as stated

Decreasing



Do not chain when decreasing, instead work 1 sl st into each of next 3 tr



Once you have worked 3 sl st, you are at the edge of the current block, having missed working into one and therefore decreasing the count



Work the next block as usual as stated in the pattern, 3 ch



Work 3 tr in 3ch-sp and join to next block with a sl st

Cushion



Joanna Cummings

Glacial Sunrise CUSHION

Inspired by the early morning sun on a frosty day, this charming cushion will put your intarsia crochet skills to the test with your new yarn bobbins

DK 4mm

★★★ Adventurous

Yarn used

Patons Fab DK
1 ball each in Glacier 2301 (A), Natural Tweed 2070 (B), gold 2369 (C), grey 2310 (D) & Grey-Blue Tweed 8372 (E)
Available at
www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

Tension

17 sts x 18 rows = 10cm measured over dc

About the yarn

DK; 274m per 100g ball; 100% acrylic

Hooks used

4mm

Other supplies

40cm-square cushion pad

Sizing

40cm square

Start crocheting

You will need to create separate balls of yarn for each section of colour on the front of the cushion. Use your yarn bobbins to minimise tangling and for smaller sections.

Front

With A, chain 66.
Row 1: Starting in 2nd ch from hook, dc across, 1 ch. Turn. *65 sts*
Rows 2-67: Following Intarsia Chart for colour changes, 1 ch (does not count as a st), dc across. Turn.
Fasten off.

Back

With B, chain 67.
Row 1: Starting in 3rd ch from hook, tr across. Turn. *65 sts*
Row 2: 2 ch (does not count as a st), tr across. Turn.
Rows 3-11: As Row 2.
Rows 12-13: With E, 1 ch (does not count as a st here and throughout), dc across. Turn.
Rows 14-15: With A, 1 ch, dc across. Turn.
Rows 16-17: With C, 1 ch , dc across. Turn.
Rows 18-26: With B, as Row 2.
Rows 27-32: Rep rows 12-17.
Rows 33-38: With B, as Row 2.
Fasten off.

Making up

Hold WS of Front and Back tog, join E with a sl st in st after any corner, working through both layers to join Front to Back, *dc evenly to next corner, 3 dc in next corner; rep from * around, adding cushion after 3rd side has been joined, join with sl st to beg dc.

Intarsia Chart



Toy



Jordon Graham & Mike Scriven

SHAKESBEAR

This charming little bear is channeling his inner Bard with his neat ruff and earring, complete with a little Hamlet skull too!



DK 3.5mm

★★ Intermediate

Yarn used

Ricorumi
2 balls in Light Brown 052 (MC)
1 ball each in white 001 (CC1), black 060 (CC2), cream 002 (CC3), Tangerine 026 (CC4) & Smokey Rose 010 (CC5)
Available from **www.deramores.com/collections/crochetnow**

About the yarn

DK; 57.5m per 25g ball; 100% cotton

Tension

20 sts x 22 rows =
10cm measured over dc

Hook used

3.5mm

Other supplies

toy stuffing
stitch markers
tapestry needle

Sizing

18cm wide x 6cm deep x 14cm tall

Special stitches

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

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. Tension is not critical for this project, but sts should be tight enough to avoid stuffing showing through.

Arms (make 2)

Rnd 1: With MC and working into a magic ring, 6 dc. *6 sts*
Rnd 2: *2 dc in next st; rep from * around. *12 sts*
Rnds 3-12: Dc around.
Fasten off, leaving a tail to sew to Body later.

Legs (make 2)

Rnd 1: With MC and working into a magic ring, 6 dc. *6 sts*
Rnd 2: *2 dc in next st; rep from * around. *12 sts*
Rnd 3: *2 dc in next st, 1 dc; rep from * around. *18 sts*
Rnds 4-6: Dc around.
Fasten off first Leg only, no need to leave a tail, cont to Body from 2nd Leg.

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

Body

Rnd 1: With MC, 6 ch, now working into first leg, 18 dc, 6 dc into ch, 18 dc around 2nd leg, 6 dc into the other side of the ch. *48 sts*
Rnd 2: *2 dc in next st, 7 dc; rep from * around. *54 sts*
Rnds 3-17: Dc around.
Rnd 18: *1 dc2tog, 16 dc; rep from * around. *51 sts*
Rnd 19: *1 dc2tog, 15 dc; rep from * around. *48 sts*
Rnd 20: *1 dc2tog, 14 dc; rep from * around. *45 sts*
Rnd 21: *1 dc2tog, 13 dc; rep from * around. *42 sts*
Rnds 22-26: Dc around.
Take your hook out of Body, do not fasten off, sew 4 sts of each Arm to 4 sts on either side of Body (it can be very helpful to plan this out using stitch markers). Leave rem 8 sts on each arm unsewn to work into on the next rnd.
There are 8 sts on each Arm and 17 on either side of Body, for a total of 50 sts.
Rnd 27: Dc around. *50 sts*
Rnd 28: *1 dc2tog, 23 dc; rep from * around. *48 sts*

Toy

Rnd 29: *1 dc2tog, 22 dc; rep from * around. *46 sts*
Rnd 30: *1 dc2tog, 21 dc; rep from * around. *44 sts*
Rnd 31: *1 dc2tog, 20 dc; rep from * around. *42 sts*
Fasten off, no need to leave a tail. Stuff, starting at feet, then Arms, then rem Body.

Ears (make 2)

Rnd 1: With MC and working into a magic ring, 6 dc. *6 sts*
Rnd 2: *2 dc in next st; rep from * around. *12 sts*
Rnds 3-5: Dc around.
Fasten off first Ear only, no need to leave a tail, cont to Head from Second Ear.

Head

Rnd 1: With MC, 6 ch, now working in first Ear, 12 dc, 6 dc across ch, 12 dc around Second Ear, 6 dc into the other side of the ch. *36 sts*
Rnd 2: Dc around.
Rnd 3: *2 dc in next st, 5 dc; rep from * around. *42 sts*
Rnds 4-19: Dc around.
Fasten off, leaving a long tail. No need to stuff Ears, stuff rest of Head.

Tummy

Rnd 1: With CC1 and working into a magic ring, 6 dc. *6 sts*



Rnd 2: *2 dc in next st; rep from * around. *12 sts*
Rnd 3: *[2 dc in next st] 3 times, 3 dc; rep from * around. *18 sts*
Rnd 4: *3 dc, [2 dc in next st] 3 times, 3 dc; rep from * around. *24 sts*
Rnd 5: *2 dc in next st, 3 dc; rep from * around. *30 sts*
Rnd 6: *2 dc in next st, 4 dc; rep from * around. *36 sts*
Rnd 7: *2 dc in next st, 5 dc; rep from * around, sl st in next st to end spiral. *42 sts*
Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Tail

Rnd 1: With CC1 and working into a magic ring, 6 dc. *6 sts*
Rnd 2: *2 dc in next st; rep from * around. *12 sts*
Rnds 3-4: Dc around.
Sl st in next st to end spiral. Fasten off, leaving a long tail. Stuff lightly.

Collar

With CC1, chain 43. Join with sl st in first st to work in the rnd.
Rnd 1: Miss ch with join, *2 htr in next st; rep from * around. *84 sts*
Rnd 2: *2 htr in next st; rep from * around, 1 dc, 1 sl to end spiral. *168 sts*
Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Muzzle

Rnd 1: With CC1 and working into a magic ring, 6 dc. *6 sts*
Rnd 2: *2 dc in next st; rep from * around. *12 sts*
Rnd 3: [2 dc in next st] 3 times, 4 dc, 2 dc in next st, 4 dc, sl st in next st to end spiral. *16 sts*
Fasten off, leaving a long tail. With CC2, embroider nose.

Skull

Rnd 1: With CC3 and working into a magic ring, 6 dc. *6 sts*
Rnd 2: *2 dc in next st; rep from * around. *12 sts*
Rnd 3: *2 dc in next st, 1 dc; rep from * around. *18 sts*
Rnds 4-6: Dc around.
Rnd 7: *1 dc2tog, 1 dc; rep from * around. *12 sts*
Rnd 8: 3 bbl, 3 dc2tog, 3 dc. *9 sts*
Rnd 9: *1 dc2tog, 1 dc; rep from * around. *6 sts*
Fasten off, no need to leave a tail. Stuff and sew closed. With CC2, embroider eyes and nose.

Earring

Row 1: With CC4, 10 ch. *10 sts*
Fasten off, pull yarn through and sew to one Ear.

Making up

Sew Head to Body. Place Collar over seam at neck, can be sewn if preferred.
With CC2, embroider eyes. With CC5, embroider cheeks. Sew Muzzle to face and Tail to back of Body.



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Where possible, crochet the ends in as you go

Winter Floral MANDALA

This Winter Floral mandala has been inspired by cold and frosty winter mornings, and is a reminder that even in winter there are flowers to brighten our day

Designed by Ashley Kelly

Aran 4.5mm

★★ Try something new

Yarn used

Lily Sugar n Cream
1 ball each in white 0001 (A), Tea Rose 042 (B), Tangerine 01699 (C), Teal 01133 (D), Stonewash 01118 (E) & Seabreeze 01201 (F)
Available from
www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

About the yarn

Aran; 70.9g per 109m ball; 100% cotton

Tension

Finished mandala approximately 27cm across

Hooks used

4.5mm

Sizing

27cm across

Start crocheting

With A, chain 5. Join with sl st in first ch to form a ring.

Rnd 1: 4 ch (counts as first htr, 2 ch), working into ring, [1 htr, 2 ch] 7 times, sl st in 3rd ch of beg 4 ch to join. Fasten off. *8 sts*

Rnd 2: Join B to any 2ch-sp, 1 ch (counts as first dc here and throughout), [1 tr, 1 dtr, 1 tr, 1 dc] in same 2ch-sp, *[1 dc, 1 tr, 1 dtr, 1 tr, 1 dc] in next 2ch-sp; rep from * 6 more times, sl st in beg 1 ch to join. *8 petals*

Rnd 3: *4 ch, working behind petals of Rnd 2, sl st into first dc of next petal; rep from * to end, sl st in first ch of beg 4 ch to join. Fasten off. *8 4ch-sps*

Rnd 4: Join C around post of any htr from Rnd 1, 4 ch (counts as first dc, 3 ch), [1 RdcF around next st from Rnd 1, 3 ch] 7 times, sl st in first ch of beg 4 ch to join. Fasten off.

Rnd 5: Join C to any 4ch-sp from Rnd 3, 1 ch, [3 tr, 1 dc] in same 4ch-sp, *[1 dc, 3 tr, 1 dc] in next 4ch-sp; rep from * 6 more times, sl st in beg 1 ch to join.

Rnd 6: *3 ch, working behind petals of Rnd 5, sl st to first dc of next petal; rep from * 7 more times, sl st in first ch of beg 3 ch to join. Fasten off. *8 3ch-sps*

Rnd 7: Join D to any 3ch-sp from Rnd 6, 1 ch, [1 tr, 1 dtr, 1 tr, 1 dc] in same 3ch-sp, *[1 dc, 1 tr, 1 dtr, 1 tr, 1 dc] in next 3ch-sp; rep from * 6 more times, sl st in beg 1 ch to join. *8 leaves*

Rnd 8: *3 ch, working behind leaves of Rnd 7, sl st into first dc of next leaf; rep from * 7 more times, sl st in first of beg 3 ch to join. Fasten off. *8 3ch-sps*

Rnd 9: Join A to any 3ch-sp from Rnd 8, 3 ch (counts as first tr here and to end), 3 tr in same 3ch-sp, 1 ch, *[4 tr, 1 ch] in next 3ch-sp; rep from * 6 more times, sl st in top of beg 3 ch to join. Fasten off. *32 tr*

Rnd 10: Join E to any 1ch-sp, [3 ch, 4 tr] in same 1ch-sp, 2 ch, *[5 tr, 2 ch] in next 1ch-sp; rep from * 6 more times, sl st in top of beg 3 ch to join. Fasten off. *40 tr*

Rnd 11: Join B to middle tr of any 5tr-group, 2 ch (counts as first dc, 1 ch), *[2 tr, 2 ch, 2 tr, 1 ch] in next 2ch-sp, miss 2 tr, 1 dc, 1 ch, miss 2 tr; rep from * 6 more times, [2 tr, 2 ch, 2 tr, 1 ch] in next 2ch-sp, sl st in first of beg 2 ch to join. Fasten off. *32 tr, 8 dc*

Rnd 12: Join F to any 2ch-sp, [3 ch, 1 tr, 2 ch, 2 tr, 1 ch] in same 2ch-sp, *{[2 tr, 1 ch] in next 1ch-sp} twice, [2 tr, 2 ch, 2 tr, 1 ch] in next 2ch-sp; rep from * 6 more times, {[2 tr, 1 ch] in next 1ch-sp} twice, sl st in top of beg 3 ch to join. Fasten off. *64 tr*

Rnd 13: Join C to any 2ch-sp, 3 ch, [1 tr, 2 ch, 2 tr, 1 ch] in same 2ch-sp, *{[2 tr, 1 ch] in next 1ch-sp} 3 times**, [2 tr, 2 ch, 2 tr, 1 ch] in next 2ch-sp; rep from * to end ending last rep at **, sl st in top of beg 3 ch to join. Fasten off. *80 tr*

Rnd 14: Join E to any 2ch-sp, 3 ch, [1 tr, 2 ch, 2 tr, 1 ch] in same 2ch-sp, *{[2 tr, 1 ch] in next 1ch-sp} 4 times**, [2 tr, 2 ch, 2 tr, 1 ch] in next 2ch-sp; rep from * to end ending last rep at **, sl st in top of beg 3 ch to join. Fasten off. *96 tr*

Rnd 15: Join A to any 2ch-sp, 3 ch, [1 tr, 2 ch, 2 tr, 1 ch] in same 2ch-sp, *{[2 tr, 1 ch] in next 1ch-sp} 5 times**, [2 tr, 2 ch, 2 tr, 1 ch] in next 2ch-sp; rep from * to end ending last rep at **, sl st in top of beg 3 ch to join. Fasten off. *112 tr*

Rnd 16: Join D to sp between 2 tr before any 2ch-sp, 1 ch, *[1 dc, 1 ch, 1 dc] in next 2ch-sp, 1 dc in next sp between 2 tr, [1 dc in next 1ch-sp, 1 dc in next sp between 2 tr] 6 times; rep from * to end omitting last dc on last rep, sl st in beg 1 ch to join. Fasten off. *120 dc*

Weave in ends, block and shape to measurements – taking care to encourage the 'star' shape.

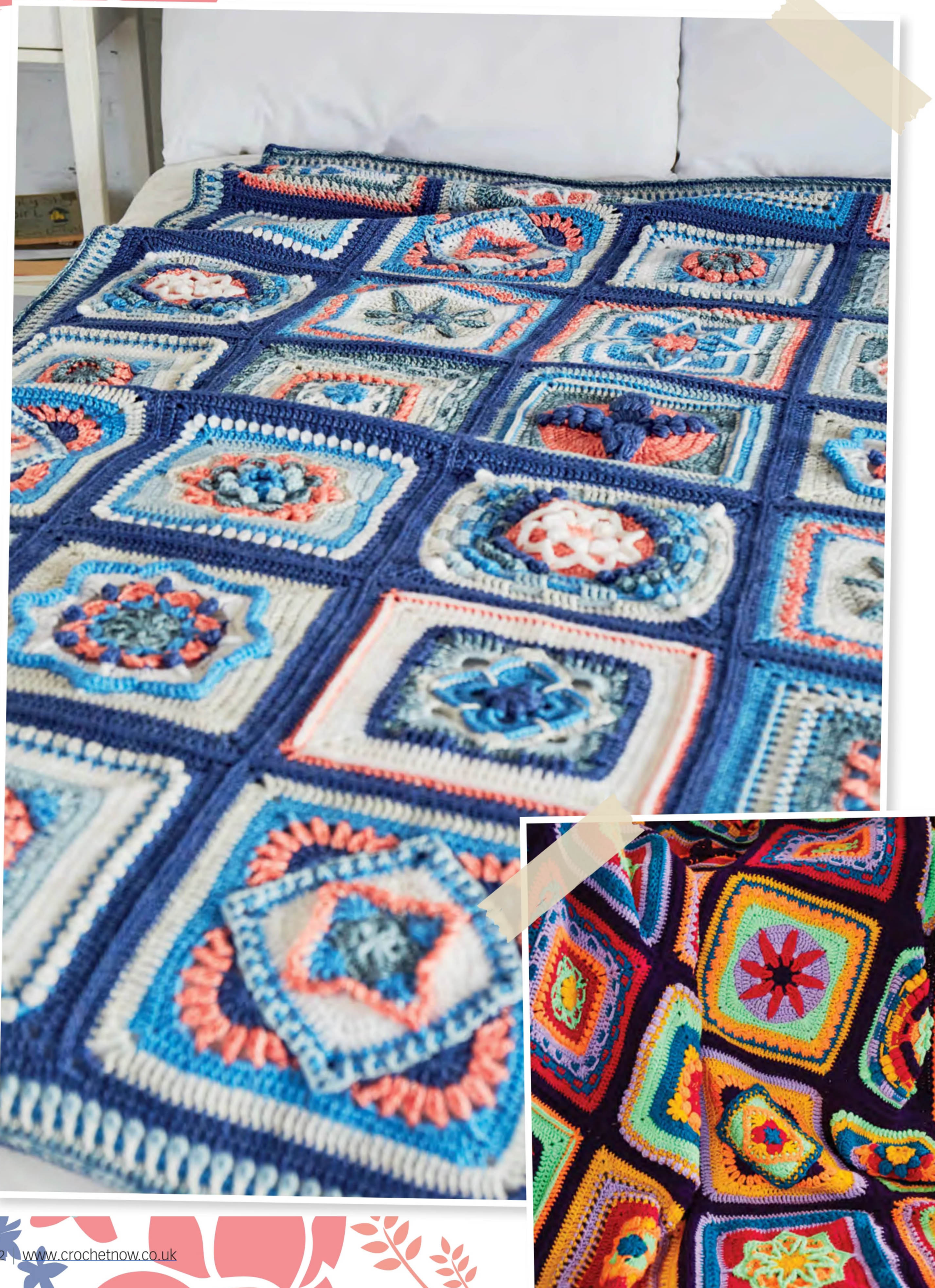
Special abbreviations

Raised double Front (RdcF): work the double crochet around the post of the stitch, inserting hook from front to back to front again



CALMING CROCHET

Take your time and enjoy the therapeutic process of crocheting a mandala. Mandalas are a great way to learn new crochet techniques, and to see how stitches from one round influence stitches in following rounds. There is a fantastic therapeutic process that comes with crocheting a mandala – you can also play around with colour and change palettes to suit your mood and style. But mandalas are not restricted to mindfulness purposes; they can be joined to create blankets or shawls, or used as stand-alone pieces for potholders or placemats.



A life inspired



Helen Shrimpton

We are coming up on the final sprint of out crochet-along, and this month's part 11 presents a pleasing challenge

www.crystalsandcrochet.com



Start crocheting

Connections (make 3)

Rnd 1: With A and working into a magic ring, 1 ch (does not count as a st here and throughout), 12 dc, join with sl st to beg dc. Do not tighten ring. *12 sts*

Rnd 2: 1 ch, working over Rnd 1 and into centre of ring, 24 long dc, join with sl st to beg dc. Fasten off. Weave in ends. *24 sts*

Rnd 3: Join F in any st with a beg dtr PC, [2 ch, miss 2 sts, 1 dtr PC] 7 times, 2 ch, miss 2 sts, join with sl st to beg PC. *8 sts*

Rnd 4: 1 ch, 1 RdcF around PC, [7 ch, miss 2ch-sp, 1 RdcF around next PC] 7 times, 7 ch, join with sl st to beg RdcF. *8 sts*

Rnd 5: Sl st into first 7ch-sp, 1 ch, *[5 dc, 1 ch, pm, 5 dc] in 7ch-sp, miss 1 st; rep from * around, join with sl st to beg dc. Fasten off. Weave in ends. *80 sts* 1

Rnd 6: Working behind rnds 4 & 5, join A with a standing dtr in any 2ch-sp from Rnd 3, [miss 1 st, 6 dtr in next 2ch-sp] 8 times omitting last dtr on last rep, join with sl st to beg dtr. *48 sts*

Rnd 7: 3 ch (counts as first tr here and throughout), 1 tr in first st, [3 tr, 2 tr in next st] 11 times 3 tr, join with sl st in top of beg 3 ch. *60 sts*

Rnd 8: 1 ch, 5 dc, [1 dc in marked 1ch-sp and next st at the same time, 7 dc, 1 dc in marked 1ch-sp and next st at the same time, 6 dc] 4 times omitting last 5 dc on last rep, join with sl st to beg dc. Fasten off. Weave in ends.

Keep long chains relaxed on rnds 9-16 to stop work from cupping.

Rnd 9: Join D with a beg PC in dc made in marked 1ch-sp that is after any 6 dc, *10 ch, miss 6 sts, [1 PC, 1 ch, miss 1 st] 4 times, 1 PC; rep from * 3 more times omitting last PC on last rep, join with sl st to beg PC. Fasten off. Weave in ends. *20 sts*

Rnd 10: Join E with a standing RdcF around 4th PC of any rep, 1 dc in next 1ch-sp, 1 RdcF around next PC, *working in front of 10ch-sp and into Rnd 8, 2 dtr , working behind 10ch-sp and into Rnd 8, [2 dtr in next st] twice, working in front of 10ch-sp and into Rnd 8, 2 dtr, [1 RdcF around next PC, 1 dc in next 1ch-sp] 4 times, 1 RdcF around next PC; rep from * 3 more times omitting last 2 RdcF and 1 dc on last rep, join with sl st to beg RdcF. *16 dc, 20 fpdc, 32 dtr*

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Rnd 11: [Sl-st, beg PC] in next st, *14 ch, miss 10 sts, [1 PC, 1 ch, miss 1 st] 3 times**, 1 PC; rep from * 3 more times ending last rep at **, join with sl st to beg PC. Fasten off. Weave in ends. *16 sts*

Rnd 12: Join C with a standing RdcF around 3rd PC of any rep, 1 dc in next 1ch-sp, 1 RdcF around next PC, *working in front of 14ch-sp and into Rnd 10, 1 dtr in next RdcF, working



1

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

8 locking stitch markers



behind 14ch-sp and into Rnd 10, [2 dtr in next st] twice, working in front of 14ch-sp and into Rnd 10, 4 dtr, working behind 14ch-sp and into Rnd 10, [2 dtr in next st] twice, working in front of 14ch-sp and into Rnd 10, 1 dtr in next RdcF, [1 RdcF around next PC, 1 dc in next 1ch-sp] 3 times, 1 RdcF around next PC; rep from * 3 more times omitting last 2 RdcF and 1 dc on last rep, join with sl st to beg RdcF. *12 dc, 16 RdcF, 56 dtr*

Rnd 13: [Sl-st, beg PC] in next st, *20 ch, miss 16 sts, [1 PC, 1 ch, miss 1 st] twice**, 1 PC; 2 rep from * 3 more times ending last rep at **, join with sl st to beg PC. Fasten off. Weave in ends. *12 sts*

Rnd 14: Join B with a standing RdcF around 2nd PC of any rep, 1 dc in next 1ch-sp, 1 RdcF around next PC, *working behind 20ch-sp and into Rnd 12, [2 dtr in next st] twice, working in front of 20ch-sp and into Rnd 12, 4 tr, working behind 20ch-sp and into Rnd 12, 4 tr, working in front of 20ch-sp and into Rnd 12, 4 tr, working behind 20ch-sp and into Rnd 12, [2 dtr in next st] twice, [1 RdcF around next PC, 1 dc in next 1ch-sp] twice, 1 RdcF around next PC; rep from * 3 more times omitting last 2 fpdc and 1 dc on last rep, join with sl st to beg RdcF. *8 dc, 12 RdcF, 48 tr, 32 dtr*

Rnd 15: [Sl-st, beg PC] in next st, [26 ch, miss 22 sts, 1 PC, 1 ch, miss 1 st, 1 PC] 4 times omitting last PC on last rep, join with sl st to beg PC. Fasten off. Weave in ends. *8 sts*

Rnd 16: Join G with a standing RdcF around first PC of any rep, 1 dc in 1ch-sp, 1 RdcF around next PC, [working behind 26ch-sp and into Rnd 14, 2 dtr in next st, working in front of 26ch-sp and into Rnd 14, 4 dtr, working behind 26ch-sp and into Rnd 14, 4 tr, working in front of 26ch-sp and into Rnd 14, 4 tr, working behind 26ch-sp and into Rnd 14, 4 tr, working in front of 26ch-sp and into Rnd 14, 4 dtr, working behind 26ch-sp and into Rnd 14, 2 dtr in next st, 1 RdcF around next PC, 1 dc in 1ch-sp, 1 RdcF around next PC] 4 times omitting last 2 RdcF and 1 dc, join with sl st to beg RdcF. Fasten off. Weave in ends. *4 dc, 8 RdcF, 48 tr, 48 dtr*

Rnd 17: Join F with a beg PC in any dc, *2 tr in next st, [2 htr in next st] twice, 20 dc, [2 htr in next st] twice, 2 tr in next st**, 1 PC; rep from * 3 more times ending last rep at **, join with sl st to beg PC. Fasten off. Weave in ends. *80 dc, 32 htr, 16 tr, 4 PC*

Rnd 18: Join D with a standing RttrF around any PC, *3 dtr in next st, 2 tr, 2 htr, 22 dc, 2 htr, 2 tr, 3 dtr in next st**, 1 RttrF; rep from * 3 more times ending last rep at **, join with sl st to beg RttrF. *88 dc, 16 htr, 16 tr, 24 dtr, 4 RttrF*

Rnd 19: [3 ch, 1 tr, 2 ch, 2 tr] in first st, *36 tr, [2 tr, 2 ch, 2 tr] in corner st; rep from * twice more, 36 tr, join with sl st in top of beg 3 ch. Fasten off. Weave in ends. *160 sts*

Weave in any rem ends. Block your square to aid joining.

Special stitches

Popcorn (PC): 5 tr in same st, remove hook from loop, insert hook from front to back of first tr and dropped loop, pull loop through st, 1 ch to close. This closing ch is not counted in any chains you are asked to make after the PC
To make a **beginning popcorn (beg PC)**, simply start with a standing tr or 3 ch as your first st
Dtr Popcorn (dtr PC): 5 dtr in same st, continue as for PC
Long dc: Insert hook into stitch or space one or more rounds below next st as instructed, yrh, pul to level of current round, yrh, draw through both loops on hook
Raised triple treble Front (RttrF): Work the triple treble around the post of the stitch inserting hook from front to back to front again
Standing tr: With slipknot on hook, yrh, securing both loops on hook with finger, finish tr in indicated st or sp as normal
Standing dtr: With slipknot on hook, yrh twice, securing all 3 loops on hook with finger, finish tr in indicated st or sp as normal
Standing RdcF: With slipknot on hook, RdcF around indicated st

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CHERISH ROMPER

Keep your little ones warm and snuggly this winter with this cute romper that would look adorable with long sleeved vests, woolly tights and a cosy cardigan

Special abbreviations

Treble three together (tr3tog): Work 3 treble crochet stitches together



Hayley Hall

DK 4mm

★★ Intermediate

Yarn used

Bernat Softee Baby
1 ball in Soft Red 30424
Available from
www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

About the yarn

DK; 331m per 140g ball;
100% acrylic

Tension

18 sts x 10 rows =
10cm measured over tr

Hooks used

4mm

Other supplies

4 buttons, 20mm
tapestry needle
1 locking st marker

Sizing

3 (6, 12) months
Finished waist measures
43 (46.5, 50) cm

Start crocheting

Beg 3 ch counts as 1 tr throughout unless otherwise stated. When making the main body of the romper chain 1 does not count as a stitch, this helps gives a less noticeable seam. Pattern is worked in 4 main sections and is made in 1 piece from the top down, following the order below. Add the straps and sew on buttons to finish.

Chest Panel

Chain 31 (33, 35).

Row 1: Starting in 4th ch from hook, tr across. Turn. *29 (31, 33) sts*

Row 2: 3 ch (counts as first tr here and throughout), 1 RtrF, 1 tr, 1 RtrF, 21 (23, 25) tr, [1 RtrF, 1 tr] twice. Turn.

Row 3: 3 ch, 1 RtrB, 1 tr, 1 RtrB, 21 (23, 25) tr, [1 RtrB, 1 tr] twice. Turn.

Rep the last 2 rows 4 (5, 6) more times. Do not fasten off, place loop on hold: remove hook from loop and pm in loop.

Waist Section

Chain 49 (53, 57), sl st to top of beg 3 ch of previous row. Turn. Fasten off after sl st.

Rnd 1: Rm from loop on hold, working across sts on Chest panel first, 3 ch, 1 RtrB, 1 tr, 1 RtrB, 21 (23, 25) tr, 1 RtrB, 1 tr, 1 RtrB, 50 (54, 58) tr, join with sl st to top of beg 3 ch. *78 (84, 90) sts*

Rnds 2-3: 3 ch, *1 RtrB, 1 tr; rep from * to last st, 1 tr in last st, join with sl st to top of beg 3 ch.

Rnd 4: 1 ch (does not count as st), tr to end, join with sl st to beg tr.

Rep the last rnd 7 (8, 9) more times. Fasten off.

Front Leg Shaping

(RS) Join yarn to 2nd to last st of previous row.

Row 1: 3 ch, 1 tr3tog, 31 (34, 37) tr, 1 tr3tog, 1 tr. Leave rem sts unworked. Turn. *35 (38, 41) sts*

Row 2: 3 ch, 1 tr3tog, tr across to last 4 sts, 1 tr3tog, 1 tr. Turn. *31 (34, 37) sts*

Rep the last row 5 (6, 6) more times. *11 (10, 13) sts*

SIZES 3 & 12 MONTHS ONLY:

Next Row: 3 ch, 1 tr2tog, tr across to last 3 sts, 1 tr2tog, 1 tr. *9 (-, 11) sts*

Fasten off.

Back Leg Shaping

(RS) Turn and join yarn to first unworked st on the back.

Row 1: 3 ch, 1 tr2tog, tr across to last 3 sts, 1 tr2tog, 1 tr. Turn. *37 (40, 43) sts*

Rep the last row 3 (4, 4) more times. *31 (32, 35) sts*

Next Row: 3 ch, 1 tr3tog, tr across to last 4 sts, 1 tr3tog, 1 tr. Turn. *27 (28, 31) sts*

Rep last row 4 (4, 5) more times. *11 (12, 11) sts*

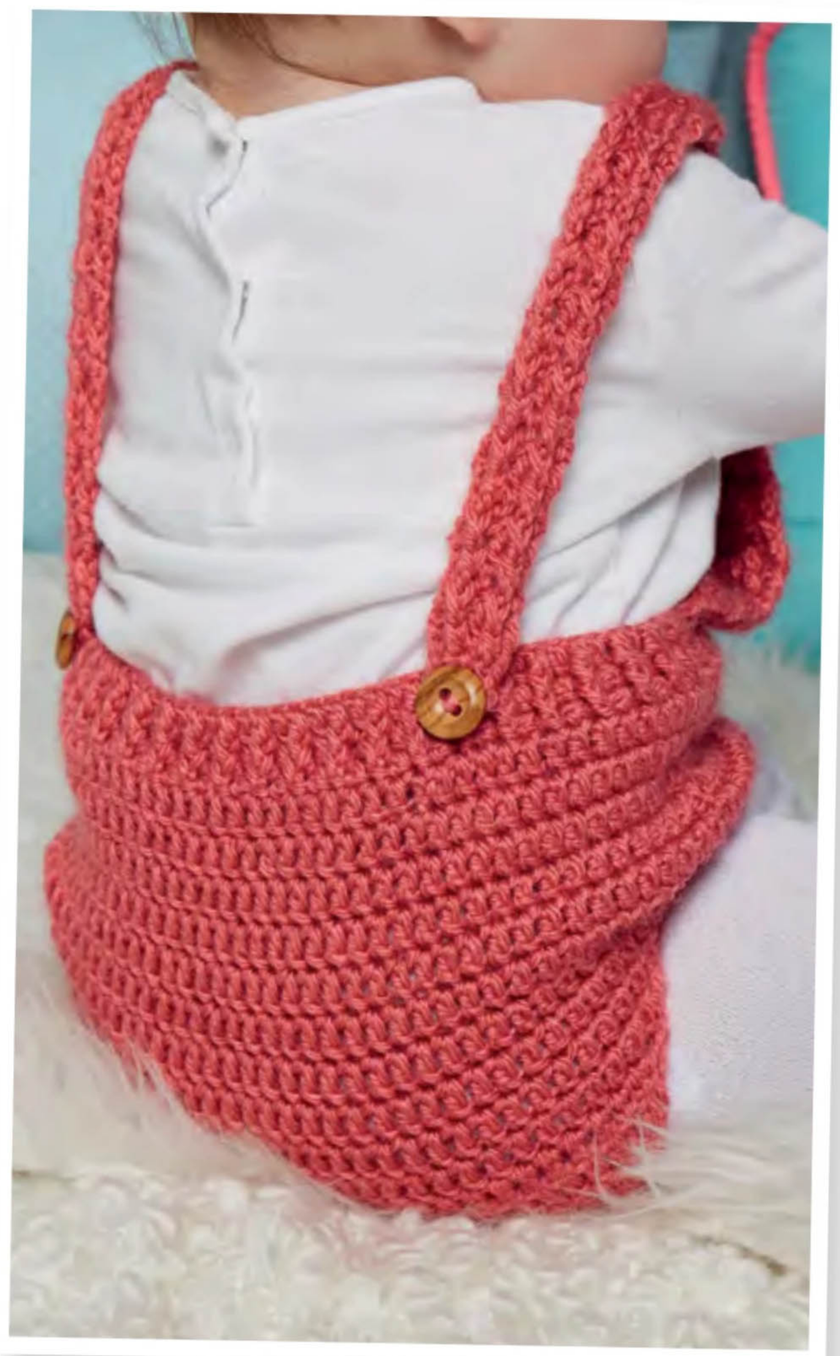
SIZES 3 & 6 MONTHS ONLY:

Next Row: 3 ch, 1 tr2tog, tr across to last 3 sts, 1 tr2tog, 1 tr. *9 (10, -) sts*

ALL SIZES:

Next Row: 3 ch, 2 (2, 3) tr, 1 ch, 3 (4, 3) tr, 1 ch, 3 (3, 4) tr.

Fasten off.



Straps

(RS) Join yarn to first st of Chest panel, working into the foundation chain.

Row 1: 3 ch, *1 RtrF, 1 tr, rep from * to end. Turn. *29 (31, 33) sts*

Row 2: 3 ch, [1 RtrB, 1 tr] twice. Leave rem sts unworked. Turn. *5 sts*

Row 3: 3 ch, [1 RtrF, 1 tr] twice. Turn.

Rep rows 2-3 until strap measures 24 (26, 28) cm.

Next row: 3 ch, sl st to top of beg 3 ch of previous row.

Fasten off.

For 2nd strap, join yarn to top of 3 ch of Row 1 of first Strap.

Row 1: 3 ch, [1 RtrF, 1 tr] twice, leave rem sts unworked. Turn. *5 sts*

Row 2: 3 ch, [1 RtrB, 1 tr] twice. Turn.

Rep rows 1-2 until strap measures 24 (26, 28) cm.

Next Row: 3 ch, sl st to top of beg 3 ch of previous row.

Fasten off.

Finishing

Sew 2 buttons on to front of last row of Leg Shaping section, lining up with 1 ch button-holes on Back panel. Sew 2 buttons on back ribbed section in line with straps. Weave in ends.


Lir Shilton

SLEEPY SHEEP SLIPPERS

Is there anything more essential for winter than a super-cute pair of sheep slippers?

DK 3mm

★★★ Looking for a challenge

Yarn used

Stylecraft Special DK
3 balls in cream 1005 (MC)
1 ball each in Mocha 1064 (CC1) & Candyfloss 1130 (CC2)
Available from **www.woolfull.com**

About the yarn

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

Tension

10 sts x 9 rows = 5.5cm measured over dc

Hooks used

3mm

Other supplies

toy stuffing, 250g
2 A4 sheets of 4mm-thick felt fabric in cream or white
Pearl cotton #8 in cream or white
black embroidery floss
tapestry needle
embroidery needle
2 stitch markers or waste yarn
pins
ruler or measuring tape
slicker brush (to fluff yarn strands)
hot-glue gun (to make anti-slip soles)

Sizing

Child (XS,S,M,L,XL)
To fit UK shoe size:
3/4 (4/5, 5/6, 6/7, 7/8, 8/9)

Start crocheting

Instructions are for making one slipper. Repeat instructions to make the second slipper. Different parts of slipper are worked in rnds, rows and in a spiral, using double crochet and bobble stitches. When working in a spiral, use a st marker to keep track of first st. Some basic sewing and crafting skills are also necessary.

SLIPPERS (make 2)

Body Side (make 2)

The first st of each rnd in worked in the first st of previous rnd. Your piece will be a bit wavy for the first few rnds but it will balance out as you work.
With MC, chain 15.

Rnd 1: 2 dc in 2nd ch from hook, 12 dc, 3 dc in next st, rotating as you go, work in the other side of the chain, 13 dc, join with sl st in beg ch. *30 sts*

Rnd 2: 1 ch (does not count as a st here and throughout), [2 dc, 2 dc in next st] 10 times, join with sl st in beg ch. *40 sts*

Rnd 3: 1 ch, [3 dc, 2 dc in next st] 10 times, join with sl st in beg ch. Turn. *50 sts*

Rnd 4: 3 ch (does not count as a st), beg bbl, 1 dc, *1 bbl, 1 dc; rep from * around, join with sl st in top of beg 3 ch. Turn.

Rnd 5: 1 ch, dc around, join with sl st in first ch. Turn.

Rnds 6–37 (41, 43, 45, 47, 49): Rep rnds 4-5.

Fasten off.

Ellipse

The Ellipse is worked 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.
With CC1, chain 13.

Rnd 1: 2 dc in 2nd ch from hook, 10 dc, 3 dc in next st, rotating as you go, work in the other side of the chain, 11 dc. *26 sts*

Rnd 2: [2 dc in next st] twice, 10 dc, [2 dc in next st] 3 times, 10 dc, 2 dc in next st. *32 sts*

Rnd 3: [1 dc, 2 dc in next st] twice, 10 dc, [1 dc, 2 dc in next st] 3 times, 11 dc, 2 dc in last st. *38 sts*

Rnd 4: [2 dc, 2 dc in next st] twice, 10 dc, [2 dc, 2 dc in next st] 3 times, 12 dc, 2 dc in last st, sl st in next st to end spiral. *44 sts*

Fasten off.

Head

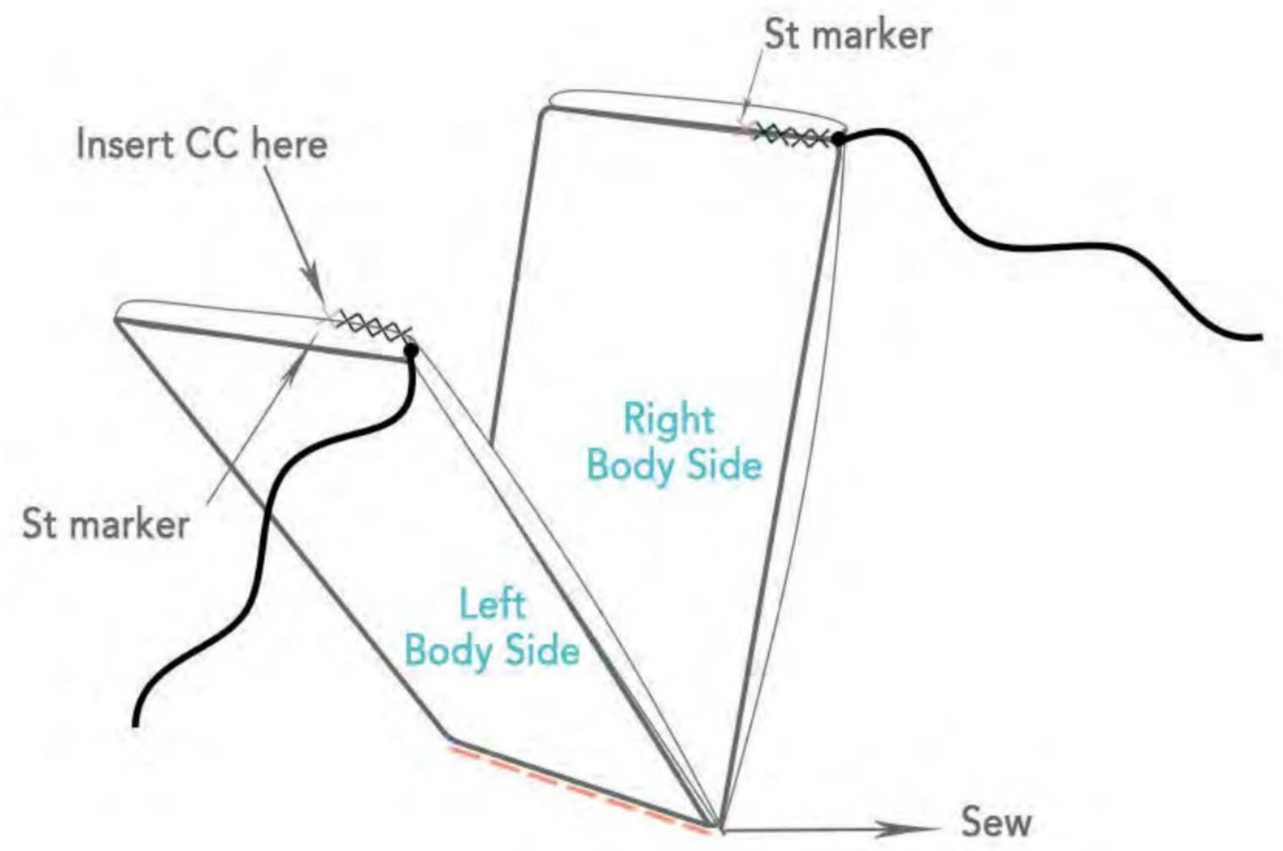
Place the two Body Sides on top of each other with the fasten off point on the same side. With MC, sew foundation ch of both Body Sides tog.
Hold the connected Body Sides so the fasten off points are both to the right – the Body Side that is in the front is considered the left side and the Body Side in the back is considered the right side.
On the right side: Mark the 5th st to the left of the fasten off st.

Special stitches

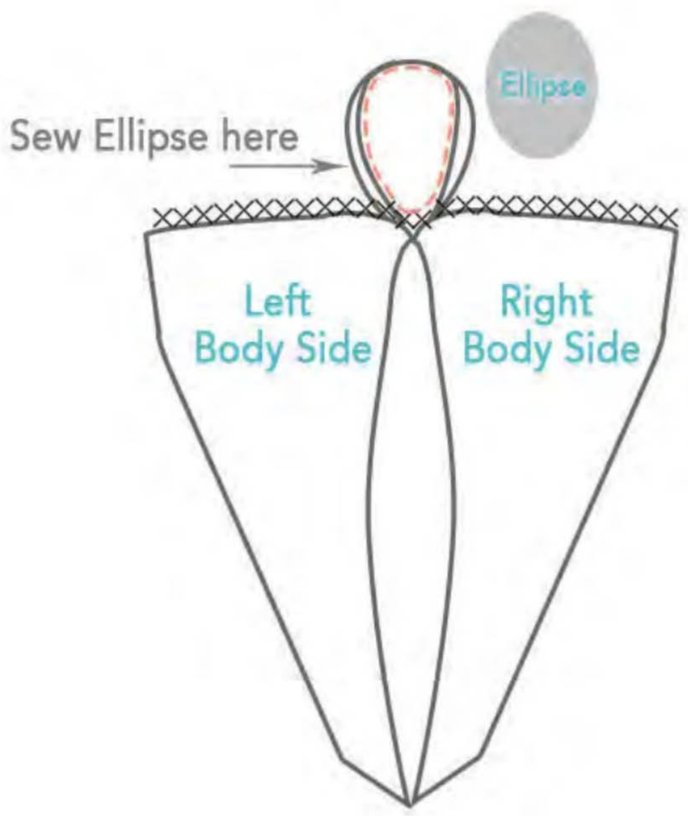
Beginning Bobble (beg bbl): [Yrh, insert hook into st, yrh, pul, yrh, draw through 2 loops] 3 times into first stitch, yrh, draw through all 4 loops on hook
Bobble (bbl): [Yrh, insert hook into st, yrh, pul, yrh, draw through 2 loops] 4 times into same stitch, yrh, draw through all 5 loops on hook

Slippers

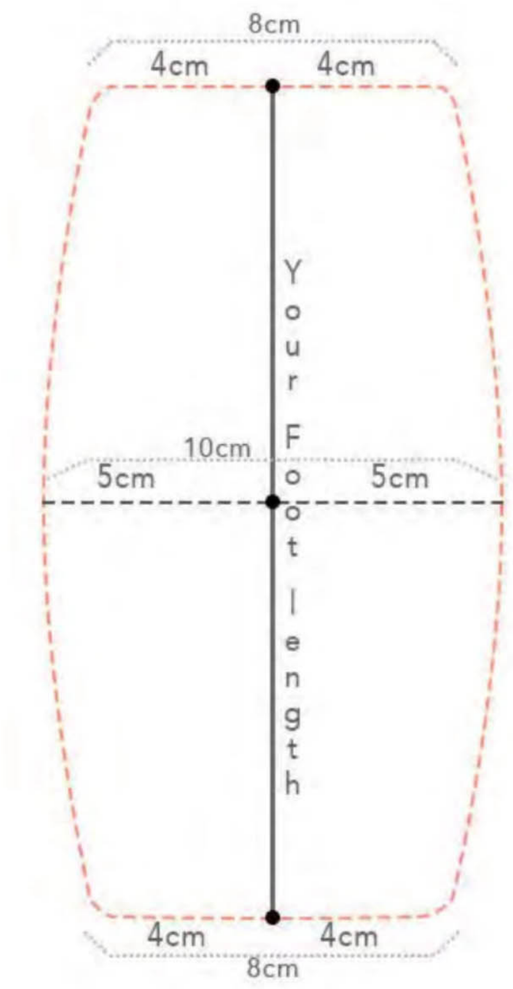
Schematic 1



Schematic 2



Schematic 3



On the left side: Mark the 5th st to the right of the fasten off st.
Note that both markers will be on the inner side of each piece.
See Schematic 1

The next part is worked in rows.
Join CC1 to marked st on the left side.
Row 1: 1 ch, starting in marked st, 10 dc. Turn. *10 sts*
Rows 2-40: 1 ch, 10 dc. Turn.
Row 41: 1 ch, 1 dc through both the st on Row 40 and the marked st on the right Body Side, 9 dc through both Row 40 and right Body Side.

Change to working 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.

Rnd 1: 40 dc (in the right Body Side), 40 dc (in the left Body Side), 40 dc across row ends.*120 sts*
Rnd 2: Dc around.
Rnd 3: 80 dc, 20 dc2tog. *100 sts*

Sew Ellipse to the oval-shaped gap created by the other side of 40-rows section.
See Schematic 2

Rnds 4-16: Dc around.
Rnd 17: [8 dc, 1 dc2tog] 10 times. *90 sts*
Rnd 18: Dc around.
Rnd 19: [7 dc, 1 dc2tog] 10 times. *80 sts*
Rnd 20: 3 dc, 1 dc2tog, [6 dc, 1 dc2tog] 9 times, 3 dc. *70 sts*
Rnd 21: Dc around.

Beg stuffing slipper. Stuff all the way down both Body Sides and Head but avoid stuffing under Ellipse. Cont stuffing as you go.

Rnd 22: [5 dc, 1 dc2tog] 10 times. *60 sts*
Rnd 23: 4 dc, 1 dc2tog, [8 dc, 1 dc2tog] 5 times, 4 dc. *54 sts*
Rnd 24: [7 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times. *48 sts*
Rnd 25: 3 dc, 1 dc2tog, [6 dc, 1 dc2tog] 5 times, 3 dc. *42 sts*
Rnd 26: [5 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times. *36 sts*
Rnd 27: 2 dc, 1 dc2tog, [4 dc, 1 dc2tog] 5 times, 2 dc. *30 sts*
Rnd 28: [3 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times. *24 sts*
Rnd 29: 1 dc, 1 dc2tog, [2 dc, 1 dc2tog] 5 times, 1 dc. *18 sts*
Rnd 30: [1 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times. *12 sts*
Rnd 31: 6 dc2tog, miss 2 sts, sl st in next st to close spiral. *6 sts*
Fasten off. Weave in ends.

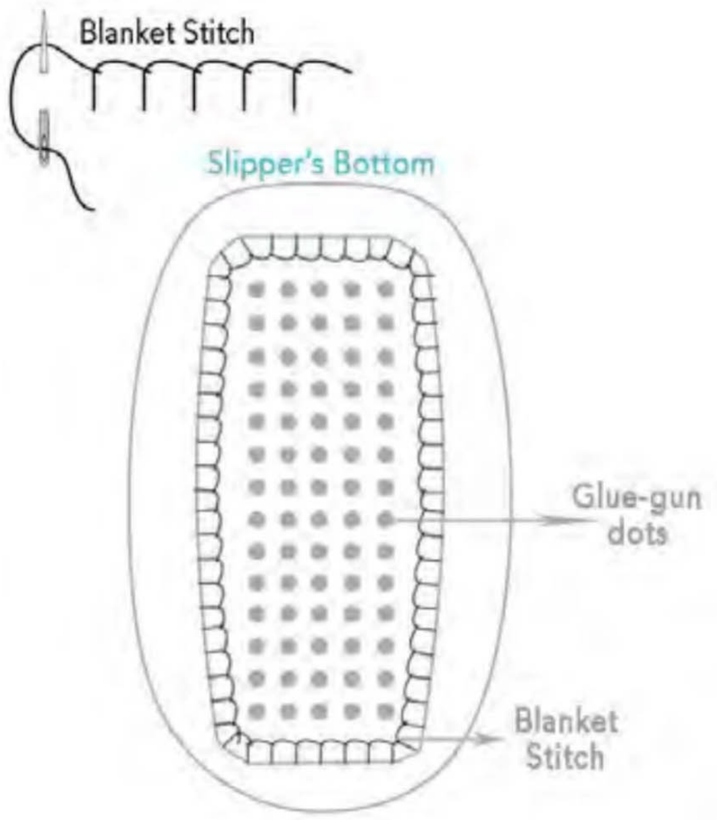
Sole

On the 4mm thick felt, draw a vertical line that is 21 (23, 24, 25.5, 26.5, 28) cm long and mark a dot at the top, bottom and middle of the line. From the top and bottom dot, draw a 4cm line on each side of both dots and from the middle dot draw a 5cm line on each side. Then connect the lines around the shape rounding the corners. Cut the shape out of the felt to create Sole.
See Schematic 3

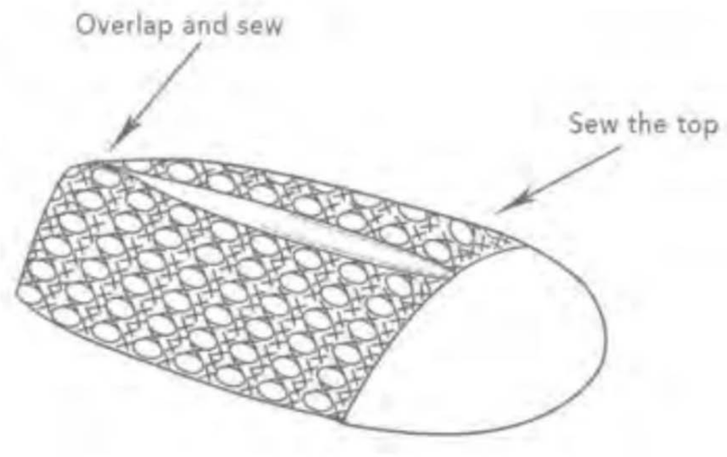




Schematic 4



Schematic 5



Place the Sole on the bottom of slipper and sew to slipper with double threaded Pearl cotton #8 thread using a blanket stitch. Use a hot-glue gun to make little dots on bottom of Sole, making the slipper anti-slip. See Schematic 4

Fit

With MC, minimise the slipper's foot hole by sewing the top part of 4 (5, 5, 6, 6, 6) bobble rows down from Head. The foot hole should be about half of your size length in cm.
Overlap the top back part of slipper (the two body sides) in the heel cap and use MC to sew them together, making the heel more fitted. This way the slipper will fit snugly and won't be falling off.
See Schematic 5

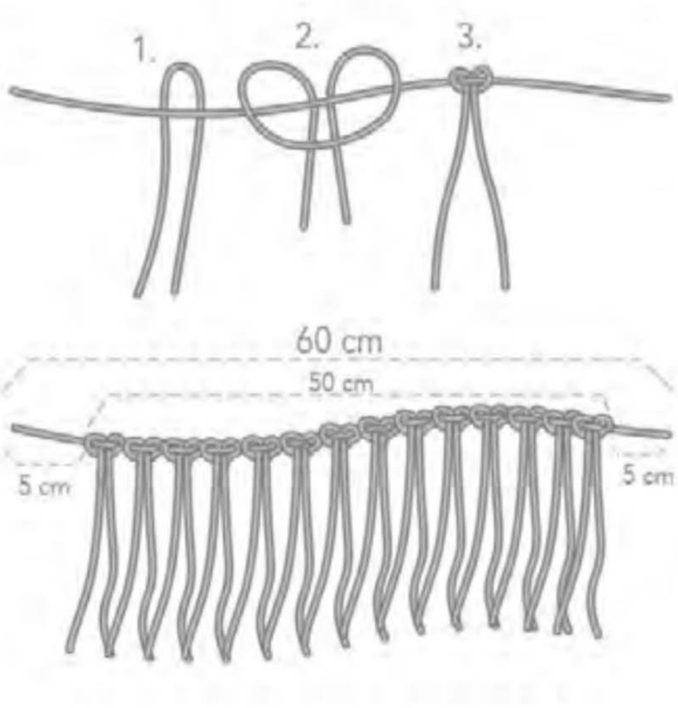
Ears (make 2)

The ears are worked 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.

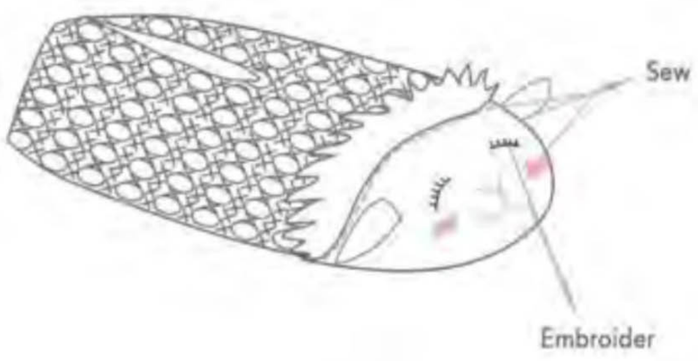
Give your slippers a cute face to finish off



Schematic 6



Schematic 7



Rnd 1: With CC1 and working into a magic ring, 6 dc. *6 sts*
Rnd 2: [1 dc, 2 dc in next st] 3 times. *9 sts*
Rnd 3: Dc around.
Rnd 4: [2 dc, 2 dc in next st] 3 times. *12 sts*
Rnd 5: Dc around.
Rnd 6: [3 dc, 2 dc in next st] 3 times. *15 sts*
Rnd 7: [4 dc, 2 dc in next st] 3 times. *18 sts*
Rnd 8: [5 dc, 2 dc in next st] 3 times. *21 sts*
Rnds 9-10: Dc around.
Rnd 11: [5 dc, 1 dc2tog] 3 times. *18 sts*
Rnd 12: [4 dc, 1 dc2tog] 3 times, sl st in next st to end spiral. *15 sts*
Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

Wool Trim

Cut a 60cm long strand of MC. Cut approximately 100 short strands of MC, each about 20cm long. *Fold 1 short strand in half forming a loop, bring the loop under the long strand and pull both ends of the short strand into the loop, fastening it over the long strand (Lark's head knot); rep from * across long strand leaving 5cm on each end.
See Schematic 6

Cheeks (make 2)

With CC2, chain 5.
Rnd 1: 3 dc in 2nd ch from hook, 2 dc, 3 dc in next st, rotating as you go, work in the other side of the chain, 2 dc, join with sl st in beg dc. *10 sts*
Fasten off.

Making up

Use photos and Schematic 7 as a guide throughout. Fold the wool trim down the middle, with white sewing thread, sew it from side to side over the beg of the Head section. Trim the length of the strands and brush them with a slicker brush, the more you brush, the more separated the strands will be creating a fluffier trim.
Sew Ears to sides of Head, in front of the wool trim. You can pinch the bottom part to create depth in the ear.
Embroider sleepy eyes with black embroidery floss.
With CC2 held double, embroider the nose and mouth, and sew Cheeks to Face.

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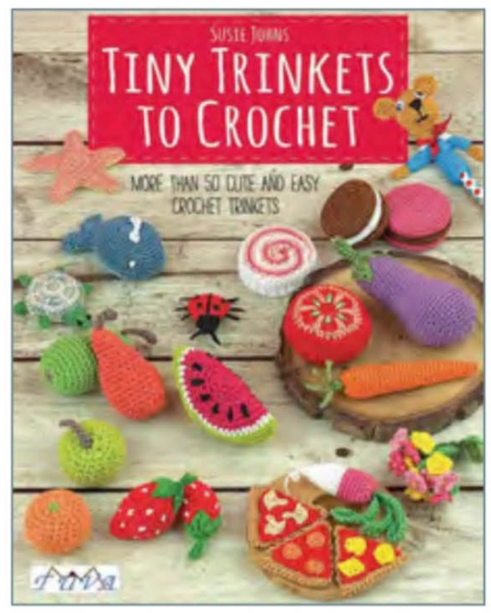
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THE BOOK CLUB

This month we're looking for quick makes to help us use up some of the leftover yarn from our stash



Tiny Trinkets to Crochet by Susie Johns, £12.95, Tuva Publishing

As crochet books go, this charming and colourful collection from experienced author Susie Johns offers such a fabulously broad choice of patterns that you can't help but fall in love with it from the very first project. In *Tiny Trinkets to Crochet*, you will find exactly that! This selection of 50 cute and easy crochet trinkets includes everything, from fun fruits to pencil toppers, food, gadgets and even jellyfish! So even the trickiest of friends to crochet for are sure to enjoy something that you make for them from this book. Knitters will also find something to love in this book – one of the projects is a mini 'Basket of Knitting' – talk about bringing the (yarn) family together!





Flicking through the glossy pages of this book, crocheters will appreciate the clear and fun photography that immediately inspires you to start hooking up one of these projects. Being small, they are ideal for keyrings, decorations, or just something a little silly and fun! The book is divided into three themed chapters – food, sea creatures and accessories, and patterns are clearly written – with an easy-to-follow format that runs through the entire book, making each project accessible for beginners all the way up to advanced. Projects will take very little time to complete, and use only small amounts of yarn – great in-between projects while you work on your current blanket or garment.

Make sure you before you start any patterns from this book that you are comfortable reading US crochet terms. Of course, if you need a helping hand, be sure to turn to page 95 of your copy of *Crochet Now* for a handy conversion chart. If you can't grab your magazine though, the book also has a conversion chart in its introduction, so you simply can't go without this charming collection.



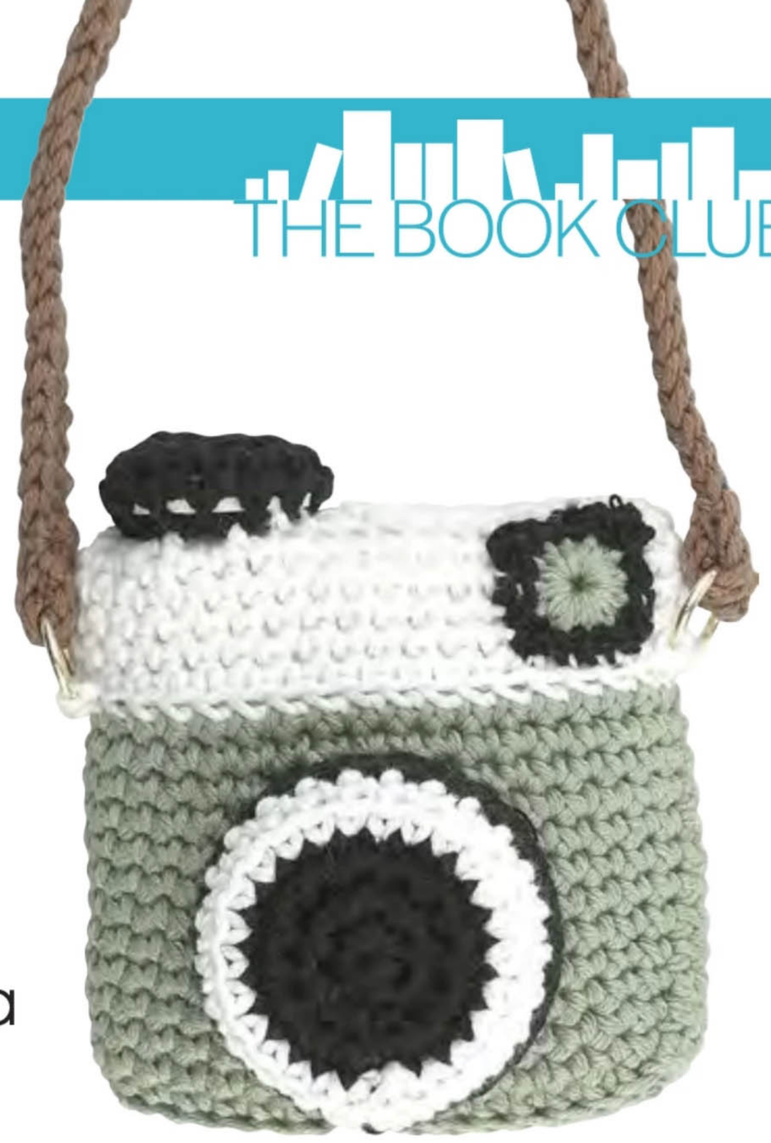





This can make a cute
toy or fun gift

Super-cute CAMERA

You can't take picture with this little camera, but it is a great mascot for a keen photographer



4-ply 3.25mm

★ Quick & easy

Yarn Used

DMC Natura Just Cotton
1 ball each in Gris Argent N09 (A), Ibiza N01 (B), Noir N11 (C) & Ombre N39 (D)
Visit **www.dmc.com** to find your local stockist

About the yarn

4-ply; 155m per 50g ball; 100% cotton

Tension

Tension is not critical for this project, but sts should be tight enough to avoid stuffing showing through

Hooks used

3.25mm

Other supplies

toy stuffing
2 pieces craft foam, 9cm square
2 plastic bottle tops, 3cm and 5cm in diameter
2 D-rings
tapestry needle

Sizing

Camera measures approximately 9x9cm, excluding strap

Start crocheting

Craft foam squares help create a neat square shape of Camera, while plastic bottle tops are used for neat round shapes for lens and winder knob.

Body

With A, chain 16.
Row 1 (WS): Starting in 2nd ch from hook, dc across. Turn. *15 sts*
Rows 2-3: 1 ch (does not count as st here and throughout), dc across. Turn. *15 sts*
Rnd 4 (RS): 1 ch, working in BLO dc across, rotating as you go, work 3 dc in sides of rows, work in the other side of foundation chain, dc across, work 3 dc in sides of rows, join with sl st to first st. *36 dc*
Rnds 5-16: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Top

With B, chain 16.
Rows 1-3: As rows 1-3 of Body. *15 sts*
Rnd 4: As Round 4 of Body. *36 sts*
Rnds 5-8: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Lens

Rnd 1: With C and working into a magic ring, 1 ch, 6 dc in ring, join with sl st to first dc. *6 dc*
Rnd 2: 1 ch, 2 dc in each st around, join. *12 sts*
Rnd 3: 1 ch, 2 dc in each st around, join. *24 sts*
Join B, do not fasten off C.
Rnd 4: With B, 1 ch, dc around, join. *24 sts*
Rnd 5: 1 ch, working in BLO dc around, join.
Fasten off B and continue with C.
Rnds 6-8: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Knob

Rnd 1: With C and working into a magic loop, 1 ch, 6 dc, join with sl st to first dc. *6 sts*
Rnd 2: 1 ch, 2 dc in each st around, join. *12 sts*
Rnd 3: 1 ch, 2 dc in each st around, join. *24 sts*
Rnd 4: 1 ch, dc around, join.
Rnd 5: 1 ch, 12 dc2tog. *12 sts*
Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Viewfinder

Rnd 1: With A and working into a magic loop, 1 ch, 12 dc, join with sl st to first dc. *12 sts*
Fasten off A and join C.
Rnd 2: With C, 1 ch, [2 dc, 3 dc in next st] 4 times, join. *20 sts*
Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Strap

With D, chain 96.
Row 1: starting in 2nd ch from hook, dc across. *95 sts*
Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Finishing

Place two pieces of craft foam inside Body and put stuffing between them. Place Top over foam sticking out of Body and stitch Top and Body closed, matching stitch by stitch all around. Attach D rings to either side of Camera, where Body and Top are joined together. Loop one end of Strap through each ring and stitch in place.
Place 5cm plastic bottle top inside Lens and stitch Lens in place on front of Camera.
Place 3cm plastic bottle top on wrong side of Knob, thread Knob's tail through each st of last round of Knob and pull to gather sts, fasten off securely. Attach to left hand side top of Camera. Sew Viewfinder to front of Camera, near top on right hand side. Weave in ends.

HEX IN THE CITY SHAWL

This bright and snuggly shawl uses funky motifs that are joined as you crochet, so you can watch this shawl grow in no time

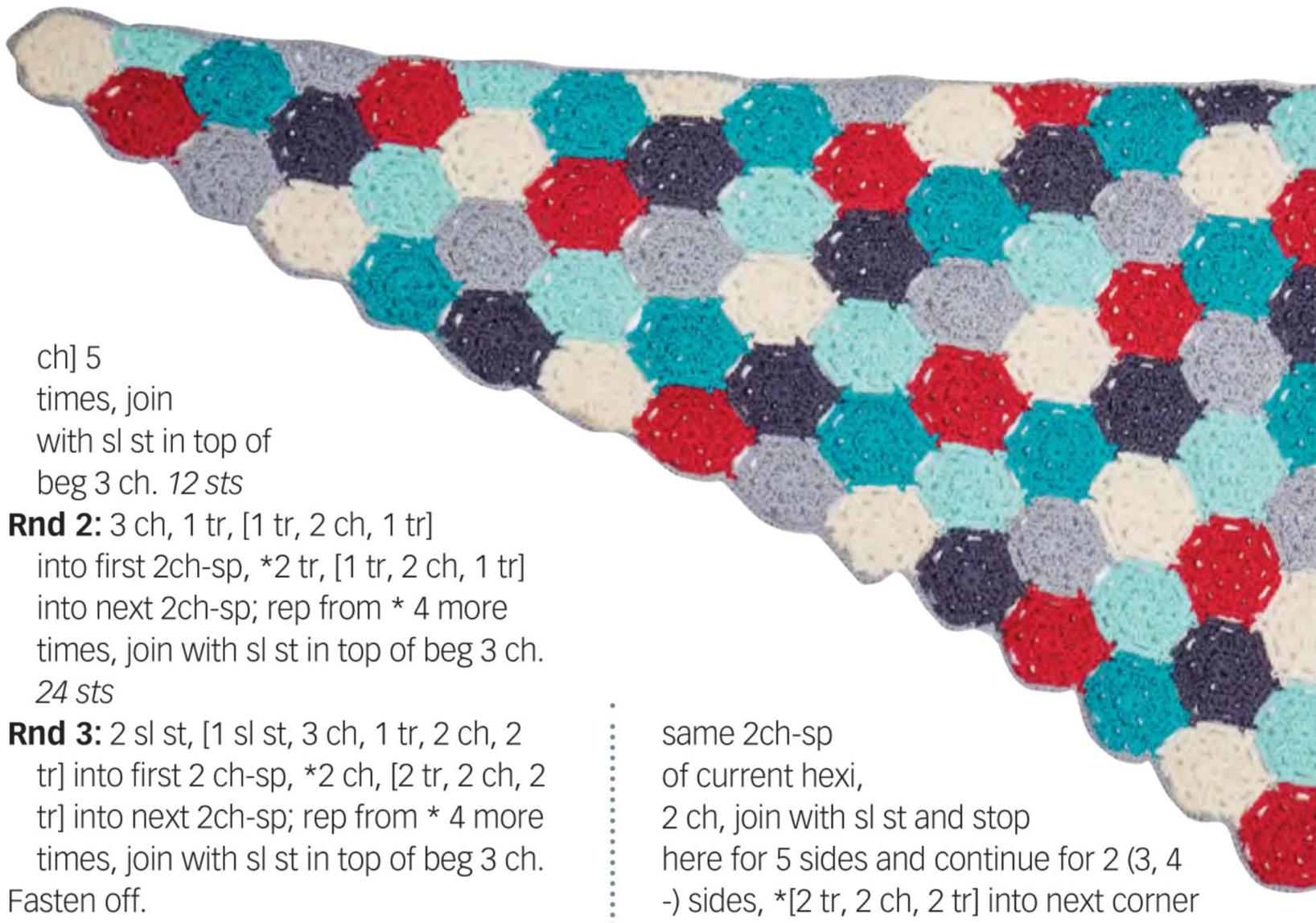




You could also make a cowl using these hexi motifs! Work 60 motifs in 11 columns of 5 hexis, joining the first and last column together as you finish. Try this pastel palette in West Yorkshire Spinners Bo Peep DK: Buttercup, Sailboat, Tin Man, Piglet, & Unicorn



Jenny Conduit



DK 3.5mm

★★★ Adventurous

Yarn used

West Yorkshire Spinners Colour Lab DK
1 ball each in Silver Grey 137, Deep Teal 716, Natural Cream 010, Aqua Green 705, Stormy Grey 373 & Crimson Red 556
Visit **www.wyspinners.com** to find your local stockist

About the yarn

DK; 225m per 100g; 100% British Wool

Tension

One Hexi Motif measures 6.5cm from opposite sides and 8cm from opposite corners
4 sts x 2 rows = 2cm measured over tr

Hook

3.5mm

Sizing

Approximately 185cm wide x 58cm deep at centre

Start crocheting

This pattern is made in join-as-you-go rounds. Work the first Hexi Motif as instructed, and all subsequent hexi motifs and half-hexi motifs by joining in as many corners as required. The colour order is random; as you join motifs together, make sure to not join two motifs of the same colour. The shawl is made up of 29 columns. Starting from one end, the first column is 1 hexi, the second is 1 hexi and 1 half-hexi, the third is 2 hexis, the fourth is 2 hexis and 1 half hexi, the fifth is 3 hexis, the sixth is 3 hexis and 1 half hexi, and so on. Continue increasing until you reach a column of 8 full hexis, then start decreasing, mirroring the increase side, until you reach 1 hexi. Work Joining Half Hexi Motifs after all Hexi Motifs are completed.

First Hexi Motif

With any colour, chain 4. Join with a slip stitch to form a ring.

Rnd 1: Working into ring, 3 ch (counts as 1 tr here and throughout), 1 tr, 2 ch, [2 tr, 2 ch] 5 times, join with sl st in top of beg 3 ch. *12 sts*

Rnd 2: 3 ch, 1 tr, [1 tr, 2 ch, 1 tr] into first 2ch-sp, *2 tr, [1 tr, 2 ch, 1 tr] into next 2ch-sp; rep from * 4 more times, join with sl st in top of beg 3 ch. *24 sts*

Rnd 3: 2 sl st, [1 sl st, 3 ch, 1 tr, 2 ch, 2 tr] into first 2 ch-sp, *2 ch, [2 tr, 2 ch, 2 tr] into next 2ch-sp; rep from * 4 more times, join with sl st in top of beg 3 ch. Fasten off.

Joining Hexi Motif (make 119)

Work hexis in columns as indicated at the beginning of this pattern. Work increase columns to the centre of the shawl, then decrease columns to the other end.

Rnds 1-2: Work as given for First Hexi Motif.

Continue to Rnd 3, depending on how many sides of the motif need to be joined.

To join 1 side

Rnd 3: 2 sl st, [1 sl st, 3 ch, 1 tr] into first 2ch-sp, [1 dc in corner 2ch-sp of adjoining Hexi, 1 ch, 2 tr into same 2ch-sp of current hexi, 2 ch, 2 tr into next 2ch-sp] twice, 2 tr into same 2ch-sp, *2 ch, [2 tr, 2 ch, 2 tr] into next corner 2ch-sp; rep from * twice more, 2 ch, join with sl st in top of beg 3 ch. Fasten off.

To join 2 (3, 4, 5) sides

The following rnd is written for joining 2 sides with changes for joining 3, 4 or 5 sides in parentheses, read as though following instructions for a garment with multiple sizes.

Rnd 3: 2 sl st, [1 sl st, 3 ch, 1 tr] into 2ch-sp, 1 dc in corner 2ch-sp of adjoining hexi, 1 ch, 2 tr into same 2ch-sp of current hexi, 2 ch, [2 tr into next 2ch-sp, 1 dc into corner 2ch-sp of same adjoining hexi, 1 dc into corner 2ch-sp of next adjoining hexi (**Note:** 3 hexis have been joined at this point), 2 tr into same 2ch-sp of current hexi, 2 ch] 1 (2, 3, 4) times, 2 tr into next 2ch-sp, 1 dc into corner 2ch-sp of same adjoining hexi, 1 ch, 2 tr into same 2ch-sp of current hexi, 2 ch, join with sl st and stop here for 5 sides and continue for 2 (3, 4 -) sides, *[2 tr, 2 ch, 2 tr] into next corner 2ch-sp, 2 ch; rep from * 2 (1, 0, -) more times more, join with sl st in top of beg 3 ch. Fasten off.

Joining Half-Hexi Motif (make 14)

All Half-Hexi Motifs are joined on 3 sides once all Hexi Motifs are completed. Half-Hexis are worked in turned rows.

With any colour, chain 4. Join with a slipstitch to form a ring.

Row 1: Working into ring, 3 ch (counts as 1 tr here and throughout), 1 tr, 2 ch, 2 tr, 2 ch, 2 tr. Turn. *6 sts*

Row 2: 4 ch (counts as 1 tr, 1 ch), 1 tr, [1 tr, 2 ch, 1 tr] in corner 2ch-sp, 2 tr, [1 tr, 2 ch, 1 tr] in corner 2ch-sp, 1 tr, 1 ch, 1 tr. Turn. *10 sts*

Row 3: 3 ch, 1 dc in corner 2ch-sp of adjoining hexi, 1 ch, 1 tr in first st, *2 ch, 2 tr in next corner 2ch-sp, [1 dc in corner 2ch-sp of next adjoining hexi] twice, 2 tr in same corner 2ch-sp; rep from * once more, 2 ch, 1 tr, 1 dc in corner 2ch-sp of adjoining hexi, 1 ch, 1 tr in same st.

Fasten off.

Finishing

Weave in all ends and block to relax hexis into a flat shape.

Edging

Join Silver Grey to any st on edge of shawl. Work 1 rnd of dc evenly around edge of shawl, working 2 dc into each 2ch-sp. Fasten off and weave in ends.

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Zoë Potrac

Winter Sky BABY BLANKET

Use colours and textures together to crochet this modern baby blanket

DK 4mm

★★ Intermediate

Yarn used

Patons 100% Cotton DK
2 balls each in cream 2692 (A), Nectarine 2723 (B) & Denim 2697 (C)
Visit **www.knitpatons.com** to find your local stockist

About the yarn

DK; 210m per 100g ball; 100% cotton

Tension

11 rows x 18 sts = 10cm

Hooks used

4mm

Other supplies

tapestry needle

Sizing

90x80cm. Each hexagon is 22cm in diameter

Start crocheting

Join each rnd with a sl st to 3rd of beg 4 ch for Plain Hexagons and the 3rd of beg 10 ch or beg 4 ch for the Star Patterned Hexagons.

Plain Hexagon

Make 4 each in A & C and 5 in B

Rnd 1: Working into a magic ring, 4 ch (counts as 1 tr, 1 ch here and throughout), [2 tr, 1 ch] 5 times, 1 tr, join. *12 sts*

Rnd 2: [1 sl st, 4 ch, 1 tr] in first 1ch-sp, {2 tr, [1 tr, 1 ch, 1 tr] in 1ch-sp} 5 times, 2 tr (working last tr in 3rd of beg 4 ch here and throughout), join. *24 sts*

Rnds 3-10: [1 sl st, 4 ch, 1 tr] in first 1ch-sp, {tr across to next 1ch-sp, [1 tr, 1 ch, 1 tr] in 1ch-sp} 5 times, tr to end, join. *120 sts*

Star Patterned Hexagon

Make 2 each in A & C and 1 in B

Leave all 7ch-sps on RS of work.

Rnd 1: Working into a magic ring, 10 ch (counts as 1 tr, 7 ch here and throughout), [2 tr, 7 ch] 5 times, 1 tr, join. *12 sts, six 7ch-sps*

Rnd 2: 10 ch, miss 7 ch, {[2 tr in next st] twice, 7 ch, miss 7 ch} 5 times, 2 tr in next st, 1 tr in base of beg ch, join. *24 sts*

Rnd 3: 10 ch, miss 7 ch, [2 tr in next st, 2 tr, 2 tr in next st, 7 ch, miss 7 ch] 5 times, 2 tr in next st, 2 tr, 1 tr in base of beg ch, join. *36 sts*

Rnd 4: 10 ch, miss 7 ch, [2 tr in next st, 4 tr, 2 tr in next st, 7 ch, miss 7 ch] 5 times, 2 tr in next st, 4 tr, 1 tr in base of beg ch, join. *48 sts*

Rnd 5: 10 ch, miss 7 ch, [2 tr in next st, 6 tr, 2 tr in next st, 7 ch, miss 7 ch] 5 times, 2 tr in next st, 6 tr, 1 tr in base of beg ch, join. *60 sts*

Rnd 6: 4 ch, miss 7 ch, [2 tr in next st, 7 ch, 8 tr, 7 ch, 2 tr in next st, 1 ch, miss 7 ch] 5 times, 2 tr in next st, 7 ch, 8 tr, 7 ch, 1 tr in base of beg ch, join. *72 sts*

Rnd 7: 4 ch, [2 tr in next st, 1 tr, miss 7 ch, 2 tr, 7 ch, 4 tr, 7 ch, 2 tr, miss 7 ch, 1 tr, 2 tr in next st, 1 ch, miss 7 ch] 5 times, 2 tr in next st, 1 tr, miss 7 ch, 2 tr, 7 ch, 4 tr, 7 ch, 2 tr, miss 7 ch, 1 tr, 1 tr in base of 4 ch, join. *84 sts*

Rnd 8: 4 ch, [2 tr in next st, 4 tr, miss 7 ch, 2 tr, 7 ch, 2 tr, miss 7 ch, 4 tr, 2 tr in next st] 5 times, 2 tr in next st, 4 tr, miss 7 ch, 2 tr, 7 ch, 2 tr, miss 7 ch, 4 tr, 1 tr in base of 4 ch, join. *96 sts*

> The stitch after the Jacob's ladder can be tricky to see on star-patterned hexagons, stretch the fabric to reveal it

At this point, create the Jacob's ladder (JL) effect: Starting at the chain loops closest to the centre, pull the loop on the next rnd through and cont up to braid them. At Rnd 6, you will need to pull two loops through the one Rnd 5 loop to split the braid in two directions, and at Rnd 8 they will come back together.

Rnd 9: 4 ch, [2 tr in next st, 7 tr, sl st through top loop of JL to secure, 7 tr, 2 tr in next st, 1 ch] 5 times, 2 tr in next st, 7 tr, sl st through top loop of JL to secure, 7 tr, 1 tr in base of 4 ch, join. *108 sts*

Rnd 10: 4 ch, [2 tr in next st, 8 tr, miss sl st, 8 tr, 2 tr in next st] 5 times, 2 tr in next st, 8 tr, miss sl st, 8 tr, 1 tr in base of 4 ch, join. *120 sts*

Making up

Lay the hexagons out in five columns. With A, join the columns into strips by sewing them together along one edge. Place RS together and sew back and forth in the back loops only (those on the outside) which should make the seam minimally visible. Once you have five strips, join the four zigzag lines between the strips in the same way.





KERRY'S JOURNAL

Kerry and the team at TOFT want to wish you a happy new year with some reflective thoughts about 2019 and the year to come

www.toftuk.com

"Take an evening to sit down and list all your craft achievements of the last 12 months"

New Year's Eve is a great time to sit back and have a think about everything you have made in the last year. I strongly recommend you take an evening to sit down and list all the achievements of the last 12 months, whether that be learning a new stitch, a big work-in-progress you finally got to finish, or just adding up how many new friends you made with your hobby (whether online or in person)! I have crocheted a lot again this year, adding lots of new dinosaur patterns to the TOFT collection, along with a whole host of exciting Easter, Halloween and Christmas seasonal designs. I have thoroughly enjoyed working collaboratively with my wider team on another four issues of our in-house magazine *TOFT Quarterly*, along with the pattern book for *Crochet Now* back in September.

2019 has been another very exciting year for TOFT as we have continued to grow, reach and teach even more people to crochet across the world. Perhaps I don't shout about it often enough, but our company vision at TOFT is to *enrich the lifestyles of as many people as possible with a new craft*, and in order to deliver



Did you get your Christmas guide with issue 46?





that, our mission is to produce inspiring products for people to create that make them happy. As we go into a new year, we refocus on our vision, and make our plans based on learning from any mistakes of the last year, and then building upon all of the successes.

One of the best ways to reach new people and pass on our passion for craft is through events. Early in 2020, we will be hosting another exclusive big crochet workshop at the Natural History Museum, London – stay tuned to my Instagram **toft_uk** for announcements very soon. We will sadly miss Edinburgh Yarn Fest in 2020, it most certainly was one of the most exciting events in our calendar, but we all look forward to welcoming it back into our programme when it returns in the future. We will once again attend the Crufts Dog Show, where we inspire people so much with the desire to crochet their own dog breed that we create thousands of new crocheters in one weekend, each one leaving with their first ball of TOFT yarn and customised advice on tweaking the patterns to match their dog. In May, I head out to Australia for the Craft and Quilt Fair in Perth, and look forward to joining a few of these events again as the guest artist throughout the year in Sydney and Brisbane. For a full guide to the TOFT events of 2020 see our website, I hope you can join us at some of them this year and share in a few stitches!

In 2020 we are making some huge changes to the company including the removal of all single use plastic. This has been something that we have been working very hard on reducing over the last few years, but have finally reached an innovative resolution for all the packaging of our kits, and we will be very proudly replacing all plastic with alternatives early next year. We continue to be committed to constantly trying to improve the way we do business to make it as sustainable as possible, and hope this is a welcome development for all our stockists and customers.

So, what's on my making list for the next few months? My next book is due to be published in autumn 2020 and is in the final stages of production, and I'll be able to tell you lots more about that soon. Having introduced new bright colours to the TOFT spectrum for the first time in five years, I've got all the inspiration I need to keep my list growing with new animals and ideas for new doll clothes. Our surprise subscription clubs go from strength to strength and I'm kept very busy thinking up the next new project a few parcels ahead of you.



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Alison North

ELLA THE GIRAFFE

Ella is a happy amigurumi giraffe always with her head in the clouds – and dreams of becoming a famous singer one day!

4-ply 2.5mm

★ Beginner friendly

Yarn used

Scheepjes Catona
1 ball each in Snow White 106 (A), Marshmallow 518 (B), Petal Peach 263 (C), Light Orchid 226 (D), Light Silver 172 (E), Yellow Gold 208 (F), Cyan 397 (G) & Jet Black 110 (H)
Available from
www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

About the yarn

4-ply; 62m per 25g ball; 100% cotton

Tension

24 rows x 25 sts = 10cm measured over dc

Hook used

2.5mm

Other supplies

locking st marker
toy stuffing
tapestry needle

Sizing

42cm tall when standing

Start crocheting

Head

Starting at the nose:
Rnd 1: With A and working into a magic ring, 6 dc. *6 sts*
Rnd 2: 2 dc in each st. *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*
Rnds 7-10: Dc around.
Change to B.
Rnds 11-13: Dc around.
Change to C.
Rnds 14-16: Dc around.
Change to D.
Rnds 17-19: Dc around.
Change to B.
Rnd 20: [4 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times. *30 sts*
Rnd 21: [3 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times. *24 sts*
Rnd 22: [2 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times. *18 sts*
Stuff, topping up as you go.
Change to C.
Rnd 23: [1 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times. *12 sts*
Rnd 24: 6 dc2tog. *6 sts*
Fasten off, leaving a long tail. Weave tail through front loops of last 6 sts, pull tight to close hole. Secure and hide tail inside Head.

Horns (make 2)

Rnd 1: With A and working into a magic ring, 6 dc. *6 sts*
Rnd 2: 2 dc in each st. *12 sts*
Rnds 3-5: Dc around.
Rnd 6: 6 dc2tog. *6 sts*
Rnds 7-9: Dc around.
Fasten off, leaving a long tail. Lightly stuff only the top, using the end of your hook to get the stuffing in. Sew Horns to top of Head.

Ears (make 2)

Rnd 1: With C and working into a magic ring, 6 dc. *6 sts*
Rnd 2: 2 dc in each st. *12 sts*
Rnd 3: [1 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *18 sts*
Rnds 4-7: Dc around.
Rnd 8: [1 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times. *12 sts*
Rnds 9-15: Dc around.
Fasten off, leaving a long tail. Do not stuff, flatten Ear and pinch bottom ends together. Sew through the pinched ends to close then sew to Head.

Body

Working towards Neck, from bottom up.
Rnd 1: With D and working into a magic ring, 6 dc. *6 sts*
Rnd 2: 2 dc in each st. *12 sts*
Rnd 3: [1 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *18 sts*
Begin repeated colour-change sequence of C, B, D, change colour after every 3rd rnd.
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*
Rnds 10-19: Dc around.
Rnd 20: [7 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times. *48 sts*
Rnds 21-22: 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.

Toy

Rnd 29: [4 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times. *30 sts*
Stuff firmly, topping up as you go.
Rnds 30-31: Dc around.
Rnd 32: [3 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times. *24 sts*
Rnds 33-34: Dc around.
Rnd 35: [2 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times. *18 sts*

Neck

Rnds 36-57: Dc around.
Sl st in next st to finish off spiral. Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing. Sew Neck to Head.

Arms & Legs

Make 2 each
Rnd 1: With A and working into a magic ring, 6 dc. *6 sts*
Rnd 2: 2 dc in each st. *12 sts*
Rnd 3: [1 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. *18 sts*
Rnds 4-6: Dc around.
Rnd 7: [1 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times. *12 sts*
Rnd 8: Dc around.
Change to B for arms and D for legs.
Rnds 9-27: Dc around. Stop here for Arms, do not fasten off.

LEGS ONLY:
Rnds 28-37: Dc around. Do not fasten off.

ALL LIMBS:
Stuff mainly in the hands and feet. Flatten the end of the limb, dc through both thicknesses to close. Fasten off.
Sew Arms to sides of Body at approximately Rnd 34 and sew Legs to bottom of Body.

Hooded Vest Top

With E, chain 16.
Row 1: Starting in 2nd ch from hook, dc across. *15 sts*
Rows 2-4: 1 ch (does not count as a st here and throughout), htr across. Turn.
Row 5: 1 ch, 2 htr in first st, 5 ch, miss 5 sts, 3 htr, 5 ch, miss 5 sts, 2 htr in last st. Turn. *7 htr*
Row 6: 1 ch, 2 htr in first st, 1 htr, 5 htr in 5ch-sp, 3 htr, 5 htr in next 5ch-sp, 1 htr, 2 htr in last st. Turn. *19 sts*
Row 7: 1 ch, 2 htr in first st, [8 htr, 2 htr in next st] twice. Turn. *22 sts*
Row 8: 1 ch, 2 htr in first st, [9 htr, 2 htr in next st] twice. Turn. *25 sts*
Row 9: 1 ch, 2 htr in first st, 23 htr, 2 htr in last st, change to F on last yrh, carry E up the side. Turn. *27 sts*
Row 10: 1 ch, 2 htr in first st, 11 htr, [2 htr in next st] 3 times, 11 htr, 2 htr in last st. Turn. *32 sts*
Row 11: 1 ch, 2 htr in FLO of first st, 30 htr in FLO, 2 htr in FLO of last st, change to E on last yrh. Turn. *34 sts*
Fasten off F.
Row 12: With E, 1 ch, 2 htr in first st, 15 htr, [2 htr in next st] twice, 15 htr, 2 htr in last st. Turn. *38 sts*
Row 13: 1 ch, 2 htr in first st, 36 htr, 2 htr in last st. Turn. *40 sts*
Rows 14-15: 1 ch, htr across. Turn.
Fasten off.

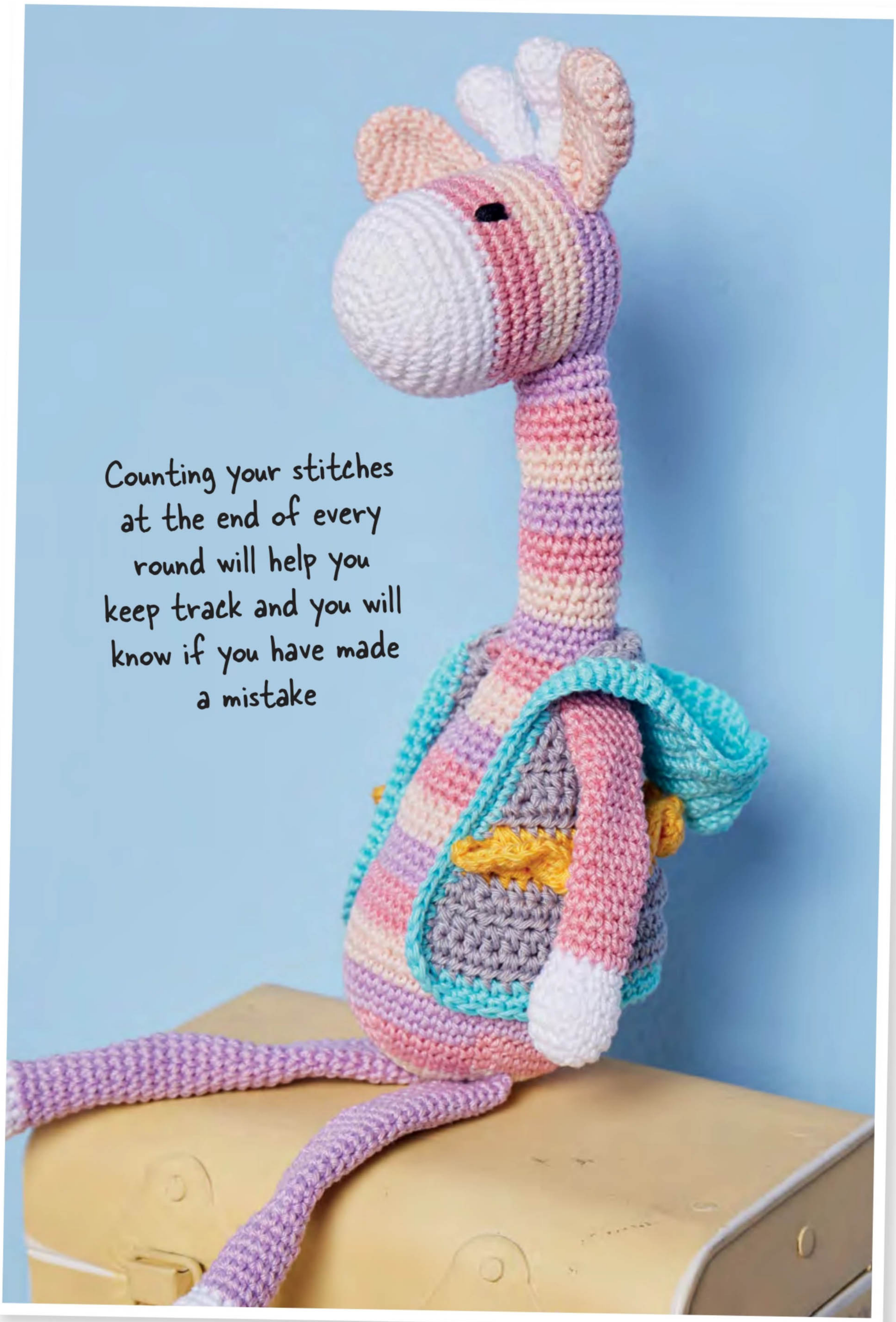
Ruffle

Row 1: Join F in first unworked BL from Row 11, 3 ch, *3 tr in BLO of next st; rep from * across, 3 ch, sl st in last st. Fasten off. *102 sts*

Hood

Row 1: Join G in underside of foundation ch, 1 ch (does not count as a st here and throughout), dc across. Turn. *15 sts*
Rows 2-14: 1 ch, dc across. Turn.

Rnd 1: 1 ch, dc across to last st, 2 dc in last st, rotate to work along row edges, [dc evenly to next corner st, 2 dc in corner st] 3 times, do not join.
Rnd 2: Dc across to corner, 2 dc in corner; rep from * around, join with sl st in first st. Fasten off.
Fold hood in half and seam top from fold toward front, matching sts as you go, to create hood. Weave in ends.



WINTER BUBBLES SCARF

This scarf is made using Tunisian crochet and shows off this subtle colour-changing yarn

Designed by Veruska Sabucco

4-ply | 5mm Tunisian

★★★ Adventurous

Yarn used

Rico Creative Wool Dégradé
1 cake in teal 003. Turn to page 74 to find your local Rico Stockist

About the yarn

4-ply; 800m per 200g cake;
70% acrylic, 30% wool

Tension

20 sts x 20 rows = 13x15cm measured over bubble pattern

Hook used

5mm Tunisian hook, 30cm long

Sizing

30x190cm

Start crocheting

Tss to Back Loop can be tricky if the yarn splits; twist the yarn between your fingers to crochet st more easily. Work Tsstbl sts tightly and eTks sts loosely to emphasise contrast between stitch groups. Place a marker in the first row of each rep. Lay the scarf flat to dry without blocking for a denser fabric. This pattern is worked RS always facing. Last st of forward pass is worked as follows: insert hook into the last st as you would to work Tks (two strands on the left of hook, 1 strand on the right), yrh, pul.

Chain 45.

Row 1 FP: Starting in 2nd ch from hook, and working into the 'back bump' of each ch, *insert hook in next ch, yrh, pul; rep from * to end. *45 loops on hook*

Row 1 RP & all RP: Standard RP.

Rows 2-6 FP: Trs across.

Rows 7-11 FP: 4 Tsstbl, [5 eTks, 5 Tsstbl] 3 times, 5 eTks, 4 Tsstbl, work last st of FP as in pattern notes.

Rows 12-16 FP: 1 ch, 4 eTks, [5 Tsstbl, 5 eTks] 3 times, 5 Tsstbl, 4 eTks, work last st of FP as indicated at start of pattern, 1 ch.

Rep rows 7-16 twenty-four more times.

Rep rows 2-6 once.

Last Row (casting off): *Insert hook into next st as if to work Tss, yrh, draw through st and loop on hookas a sl st); rep from * to end. Fasten off.

Finishing

Weave in ends and block.

Special abbreviations

Tss: Tunisian simple stitch
FP: Forward pass
RP: Return pass
Tunisian Simple Stitch through Back Loop (Tsstbl): Insert hook front to back through space before st, hook back vertical bar, bring forward (insert hook left to right at same time), yrh, pul
Extended Tunisian Knit Stitch (eTks): Insert hook right to left behind next vertical bar through to back of fabric, yrh, pul, 1 ch
Tunisian Reverse Stitch (Trs): Insert hook right to left into vertical bar at the back of work, yrh, pul



Your crochet COMMUNITY

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

LOCAL LOVELIES

Here at *Crochet Now*, we understand the importance of local yarn shops for the knitting and crochet community. With this in mind, we've started showcasing local shops on our blog! Now you can read all about hubs of woolly activity from all over the UK. Know of a shop that you think deserves some recognition? Nominate your local yarn shop! We are eager to hear from you about your local woolly heaven – be sure to get in touch with us at **contact@crochetnow.co.uk**
www.crochetnow.co.uk



Mary Joy Community Crafts Outlet, Macclesfield

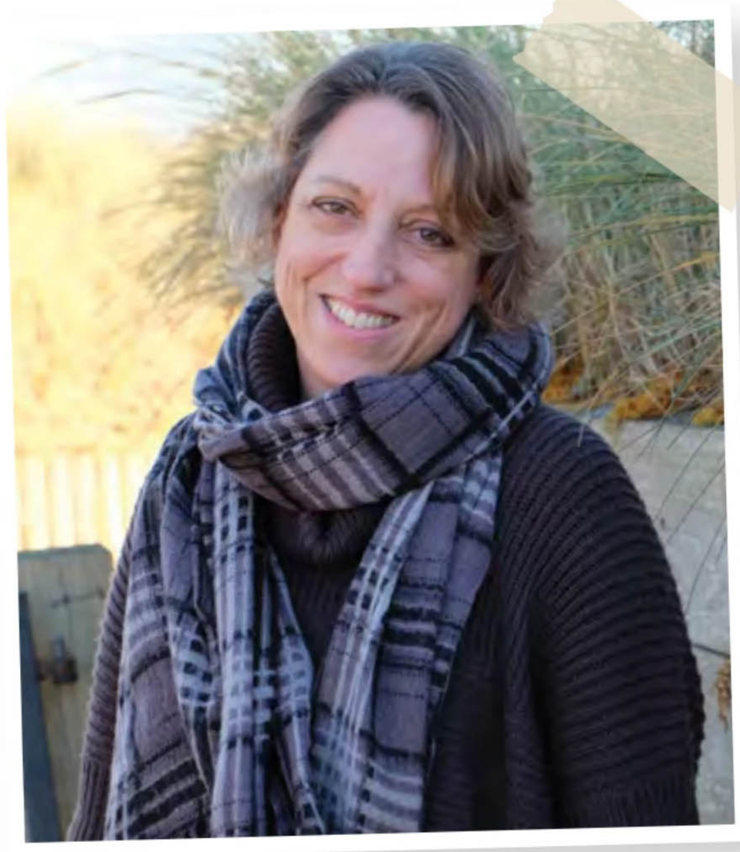


SHOW US YOUR WOOL!

It's great to start the new year right, and we think there would be nothing better than kicking off the year with a wool show! On Sunday 19th January 2020, enjoy a luxurious and inspirational day out in Waltham Abbey browsing luscious hand-dyed yarns, beautiful handmade wool and felt items, unique knit kits, and a wide selection of accessories from buttons to needles. Why not meet creative exhibitors and artisans, watch a craft demonstration or learn a new skill in one of nine inspiring workshops?
www.walthamabbeywool show.co.uk

WOOLLY AWAY

Woolly Away is a knitting and crochet retreat happening on 14th and 15th March 2020 in the relaxing and beautiful Hertfordshire countryside. Featuring five tutors over the two days, this is a great opportunity to take part in workshops by favourites such as Jane Crowfoot (Janie Crow), Jon Dunn-Balham (EasyKnits), Jane Lithgow (designer and teacher), Diana Bensted (The Crochet Chain) and Deb Cunningham (Crates of Wool)!
www.cratesofwool.co.uk



Don't forget!

9th January

Crochet Now issue 51 is on sale today!

17th January

Intermediate Crochet, Ammonite Yarns

So, you've learnt the basics of crochet and want to know more? This is the class for you! Each class is £20 or book the entire course for just £45.
www.ammoniteyarns.co.uk

18th January

Beginner's Crochet, Yarn etc

Whether you are an absolute beginner or returning to crochet after a long break, this class is just the ticket. For £30 all equipment and refreshments are included.
www.eweherditatyarnetc.com

21st February – 23rd February

unravel Festival, Birmingham

The talented people at unravel are gearing up to put on another jam-packed festival next year.
www.craft.farnhammaltings.com

TOP 3 YARNS

The best way to discover a new yarn is to give it a squish at your local yarn shop. This month we're head over heels for these gorgeous sock yarns!



Patons Diploma Gold 4-ply

With a touch of nylon, this easy-care wool is perfect for creating tough but cosy socks. With its deep, full colours this is a yarn that is ideal for colourwork and intarsia as well as anything requiring good stitch definition. It's an excellent sock yarn all rounder!

www.knitpatons.com



Cygnet Yarns Truly Wool Rich

This yarn is soft to the touch yet hard-wearing – in other words, the ideal crochet yarn! It's easy to handle and comes in gorgeously rich shades, so sitting next to a roaring fire while whipping up some cosy socks never seemed more appealing.

www.cygnetyarns.com



Stylecraft Boho Head Over Heels

We think you will be head over heels for this stylish sock yarn. With a stunning mix of colours, ordinary socks will be a thing of the past! This yarn makes a unique black and white pattern between multicoloured stripes. It creates a beautiful effect whilst not sacrificing on durability and warmth.

www.stylecraft-yarns.co.uk

5 REASONS TO SHOP LOCAL



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



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



3 Supporting local businesses keeps the high street vibrant and fun



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



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



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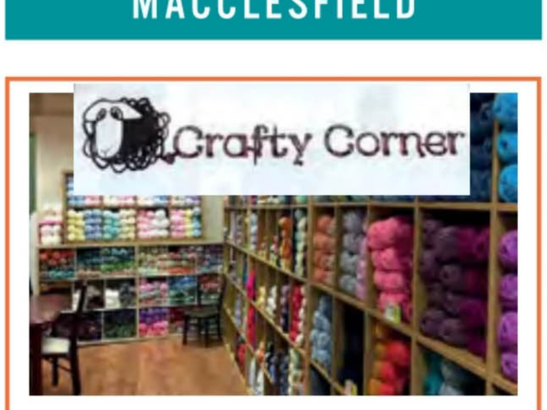
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Steely Stripes BLANKET

This chunky blanket hooks up in no time and pairs simple stitches with striking colour choices

Super chunky 12mm

★ Quick & easy

Yarn used

Cygnet Seriously Chunky
10 balls in Lt. Grey 195 (MC)
Cygnet Seriously Chunky Metallics
1 ball each in Zinc 155 (CC1), Magnesium 266 (CC2) & gold 388 (CC3)
Turn to page 74 to find your local Cygnet stockist

About the yarn

Super chunky; 48m per 100g ball; 100% premium acrylic

Tension

6 sts x 3 rows = 10cm measured over tr

Hooks used

12mm

Other supplies

cardboard, 20cm tall

Sizing

Approximately 90x120cm

Start crocheting

Miss first st at beg of each row as turning chain counts as st, last st of each row is worked in top of beg 3 ch of prev row.

With MC, chain 53.
Row 1 (RS): Starting in 3rd ch from hook, tr across. Turn. *52 tr*
Row 2 (WS): 3 ch (counts as tr here and throughout), tr across. Turn.
Rows 3-8: As Row 2.
Change to CC2.
Row 9: 3 ch, *miss next st, 1 tr, 1 tr in missed st in front of last st (creating a cross); repeat from * to last st, tr in last st. Turn.
Change to MC.
Rows 10-16: As Row 2.
Change to CC1.
Row 17: As Row 9.
Change to MC.
Rows 18-24: As Row 2.
Change to CC3.
Row 25: As Row 9.
Change to MC.
Rows 26-32: As Row 2.
Change to CC1.
Row 33: As Row 9.
Change to MC.
Rows 34-41: As Row 2.
Fasten off. Weave in ends.

Finishing

Make 4 tassels using yarns CC1, CC2 and CC3 held together. Wrap yarns approximately 10 times around card. Thread 15cm of any yarn through all loops and tie at top of cardboard, cut ends at bottom and remove card. Wrap another 20cm thread of any yarn around tassel five times, approximately 5cm from top, secure with knot and hide ends. Trim tassel and attach to each corner of Blanket.

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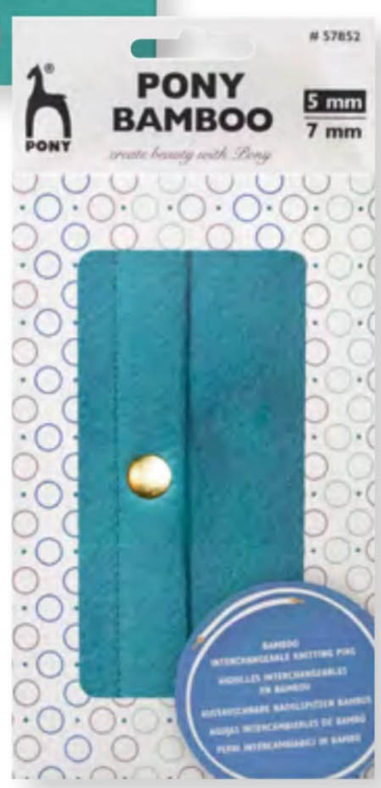




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9 TO BE WON!





3 TO BE WON!

'WHAT A WONDERWOOL WORLD'

We've teamed up with Wonderwool Wales, the top wool and natural fibre festival in Wales, to give away three pairs of tickets! It takes place on 25th – 26th April 2020 at the Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells so be sure to check out the huge range of exhibitors from raw and hand dyed fibres, yarn for knitting and crochet, embellishments, equipment, dye and books as well as finished textile art, craft, clothing and even some sheepy friends!
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LOVELY LYKKE

Lykke is known for its high-quality products and thoughtful design, and this beautiful giveaway of the new Interchangeable Knitting Needle Set is no different! The set includes nine pairs of knitting needles, five cords and two connectors worth £99.99 – the lucky winner will not be able to put these down!

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MARVELLOUSLY MAHOOSIVE!

This mahoosive bundle from our friends at Woolly Mahoosive includes a gorgeous wreath kit, 1kg of Get Stuffed, two rolls of recycled cotton cord and one skein each of some of its most popular yarns, Twisty Twisty, Wiggly and Squiggly, ideal for those wishing to complete a project in next to no time. Woolly Mahoosive, the home of arm knitting and chunky knit blanket supplies offers a range of yarn at different price points and this bundle worth £115 is great to get you going the mahoosive way.

www.woollymahoosive.com

Handy Hobbii Giveaway

This huge bundle from Hobbii worth £250 is just waiting to be snapped up! A fabulous knitting pillow provides fantastic back support while you indulge in your craft projects, plus the handy yarn bag is an ideal storage solution for all your WIPs. Including a huge range of essentials for any avid knitter or crocheter, from hand lotions to yarn and inspiration in abundance, this giveaway is packed full of self-care craft supplies and is the ultimate must-have for crafters.

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Cushion



Coastline CUSHION

Use your yarn bobbins to help crochet this classic nautical cushion design

Designed by Paintbox Design Team

Aran 4.5mm

★★ Intermediate

Yarn used

Paintbox Yarns Wool Mix Aran
2 balls in each Champagne White 802 (A)
& Royal Blue 840 (B)
Available from **www.lovecrafts.com**

About the yarn

Aran; 180m per 100g ball; 50% wool, 50% acrylic

Tension

6 x 6 squares = 10cm

Hooks used

4.5mm

Other supplies

cushion pad, 41cm square

Sizing

41.5cm square

Start crocheting

Stitch pattern is made of squares worked diagonally starting from bottom right-hand corner and increasing by 1 square each row to full diagonal width of cushion piece, then decreasing by 1 square each row until only 1 square remains at top left-hand corner of cushion piece. Follow chart diagonally from bottom right corner to top left corner, working all even rows from top-right to bottom-left, and all odd rows from bottom-left to top-right.

Front

With A, chain 6.

Row 1 (WS): Starting in 4th ch from hook, 3 tr. Turn. *1 square*

Row 2: 6 ch, starting in 4th ch from hook, 3 tr (first square), sl st in 3ch-sp at beg of prev row, 3 ch, 3 tr in same 3ch-sp (2nd square). Turn. *2 squares*

Row 3: 6 ch, starting in 4th ch from hook, 3 tr, *sl st in 3ch-sp at beg of next square of prev row, 3 ch, 3 tr in same 3ch-sp; rep from * one more time. Turn. *3 squares*

Row 4: 6 ch, starting in 4th ch from hook, 3 tr, *sl st in 3ch-sp at beg of next square of prev row, 3 ch, 3 tr in same 3ch-sp; rep from * until 1 square has been worked in last 3ch-sp at beg of prev row. Turn. *1 square inc'd*

Rows 5-9: Rep Row 4 five times, ending with a WS row. *9 squares*

Joining A and B as required, cont inc 1 square every row as set in Row 4, working anchor motif in squares as follows, or using chart on next page:

Row 10 (RS): Work 3 squares in A, 1 square in B and 6 squares in A. Turn. *10 squares*

Row 11: Work 7 squares in A, 1 square in B and 3 squares in A. Turn. *11 squares*

Row 12: Work 3 squares in A, 5 squares in B and 4 squares in A. Turn. *12 squares*

Row 13: Work 3 squares in A, 7 squares in B and 3 squares in A. Turn. *13 squares*

Row 14: Work 4 squares in A, 8 squares in B and 2 squares in A. Turn. *14 squares*

Row 15: Work 2 squares in A, 4 squares in B, 3 squares in A, 1 square in B and 5 squares in A. Turn. *15 squares*

Row 16: Work 6 squares in A, 1 square in B, 3 squares in A, 4 squares in B and 2 squares in A. Turn. *16 squares*

Row 17: Work 3 squares in A, 3 squares in B and 11 squares in A. Turn. *17 squares*

Check your tension before starting to ensure your work will cover cushion pad just right

Row 18: Work 11 squares in A, 4 squares in B and 3 squares in A. Turn. *18 squares*

Row 19: Work 3 squares in A, 5 squares in B and 11 squares in A. Turn. *19 squares*

Row 20: Work 11 squares in A, 5 squares in B and 4 squares in A. Turn. *20 squares*

Row 21: Work 4 squares in A, 2 squares in B, 1 square in A, 3 squares in B and 11 squares in A. Turn. *21 squares*

Row 22: Work 11 squares in A, 3 squares in B, 2 squares in A, 2 squares in B and 4 squares in A. Turn. *22 squares*

Row 23: Work 5 squares in A, 1 square in B, 3 squares in A, 3 squares in B and 11 squares in A. Turn. *23 squares*

Row 24: Work 5 squares in A, 2 squares in B, 4 squares in A, 3 squares in B, 3 squares in A, 2 squares in B and 5 squares in A. Turn. *24 squares*

Row 25: Work 6 squares in A, 1 square in B, 4 squares in A, 3 squares in B, 3 squares in A, 2 squares in B and 6 squares in A. Turn. *25 squares*

Start dec while continuing to work anchor motif as follows:

Row 26 (RS): With A, 3 sl st in sts of first

Cushion



square of prev row, sl st in 3ch-sp of same square (one square dec), 3 ch, 3 tr in same 3ch-sp (first square), work 5 more squares in A, 2 squares in B, 2 squares in A, 3 squares in B, 4 squares in A, 2 squares in B, 5 squares in A, sl st in 3ch-sp of last square of prev row. Turn. *24 squares*

Row 27: With A, 3 sl st in sts of first square of prev row, sl st in 3ch-sp of same square (one square dec), 3 ch, 3 tr in same 3ch-sp (first square), work 4 more squares in A, 1 square in B, 5 squares in A, 3 squares in B, 1 square in A, 2 squares in B, 6 squares in A, sl st in 3ch-sp of last square of prev row. Turn. *23 squares*

Cont dec 1 square every row as set in rows 26 & 27 and work anchor motif as follows:

Row 28: Work 6 squares in A, 5 squares in B, 4 squares in A, 4 squares in B and 3 squares in A. Turn. *22 squares*

Row 29: Work 3 squares in A, 3 squares in B, 5 squares in A, 4 squares in B and 6 squares in A. Turn. *21 squares*

Row 30: Work 6 squares in A, 3 squares in B, 6 squares in A, 2 squares in B and 3 squares in A. Turn. *20 squares*

Row 31: Work 3 squares in A, 1 square in B, 7 squares in A, 4 squares in B and 4 squares in A. Turn. *19 squares*

Row 32: Work 3 squares in A, 1 square in B, 2 squares in A, 2 squares in B and 10 squares in A. Turn. *18 squares*

Row 33: Work 9 squares in A, 3 squares in B and 5 squares in A. Turn. *17 squares*

Row 34: Work 2 squares in A, 1 square in B, 3 squares in A, 2 squares in B and 8 squares in A. Turn. *16 squares*

Row 35: Work 7 squares in A, 2 squares in B, [1 square in A, 1 square in B] twice and 2 squares in A. Turn. *15 squares*

Row 36: Work [2 squares in A, 2 squares in B] twice and 6 squares in A. Turn. *14 squares*

Row 37: Work 6 squares in A, 1 square in B and 6 squares in A. Turn. *13 squares*

Row 38: Work 6 squares in A, 1 square in B and 5 squares in A. Turn. *12 squares*

Fasten off B.

Rows 39-48: Working in A only, cont decreasing 1 square every row as set in rows 26 & 27, ending with a RS row. *2 squares*

Row 49 (WS): 3 sl st in sts of first square of prev row, sl st in 3ch-sp of same square, 3 ch, 3 tr in same 3ch-sp, sl st in 3ch-sp of second square. *1 square*

Fasten off.

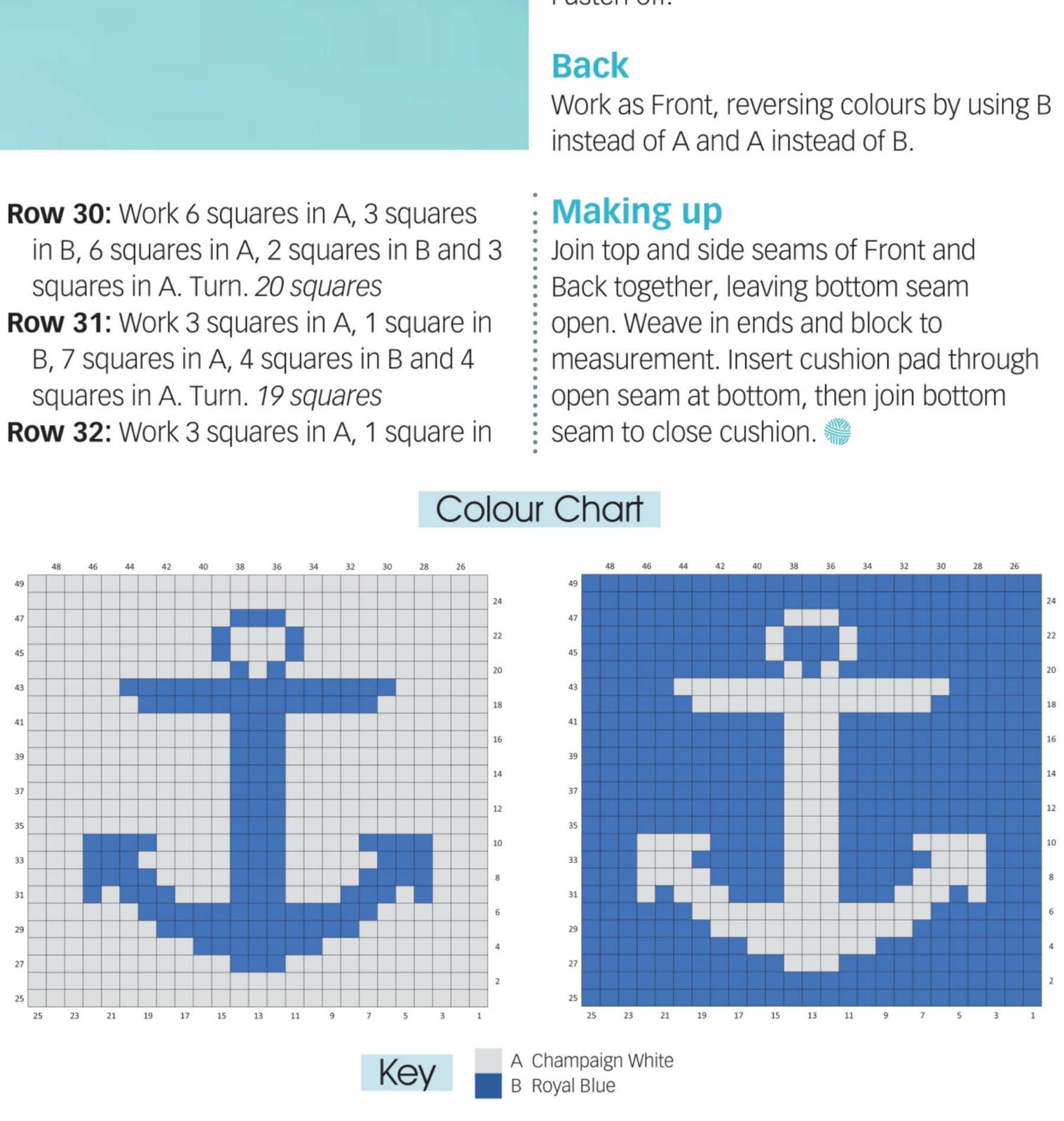
Back

Work as Front, reversing colours by using B instead of A and A instead of B.

Making up

Join top and side seams of Front and Back together, leaving bottom seam open. Weave in ends and block to measurement. Insert cushion pad through open seam at bottom, then join bottom seam to close cushion.

Colour Chart



HAPPY & HUGE HAT

Can you believe you can crochet this hat in 45 minutes?!

Designed by Sarah Shrimpton

Super chunky | 25mm

★ Quick & easy

Yarn used

Woolly Mahoosive Wiggly
2 skeins in mauve
Available from
www.woollymahoosive.com

About the yarn

Super chunky; 10m per 200g; 70% acrylic, 30% wool

Tension

3 sts x 2 rows = 10cm over tr

Hook used

25mm

Sizing

one size
55cm around x 26cm tall, excluding pompom

Start crocheting

Rnd 1: 4 ch (counts as 1 ch, 1 tr), 6 tr in 4th ch from hook, join with sl st in 4th ch. *7 sts*

Rnd 2: 2 ch (doesn't count as st throughout), [1 RtrF, 1 tr] in each st around, join with sl st. *14 sts*

Rnds 3-4: 2 ch, *1 RtrF, 1 tr; rep from * around, join with sl st.

Rnd 5: 2 ch, 1 RtrF, [1 tr, 1 RtrF] twice, 1 dc2tog, 1 tr, [1 RtrF, 1 tr] twice, 1 dc2tog, join with sl st. *12 sts*

Fasten off. Weave in ends. Make a large pompom and attach to top of Hat.

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



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.

❶ 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.

❷ 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.

❸ 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.

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.

How to read a chart

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



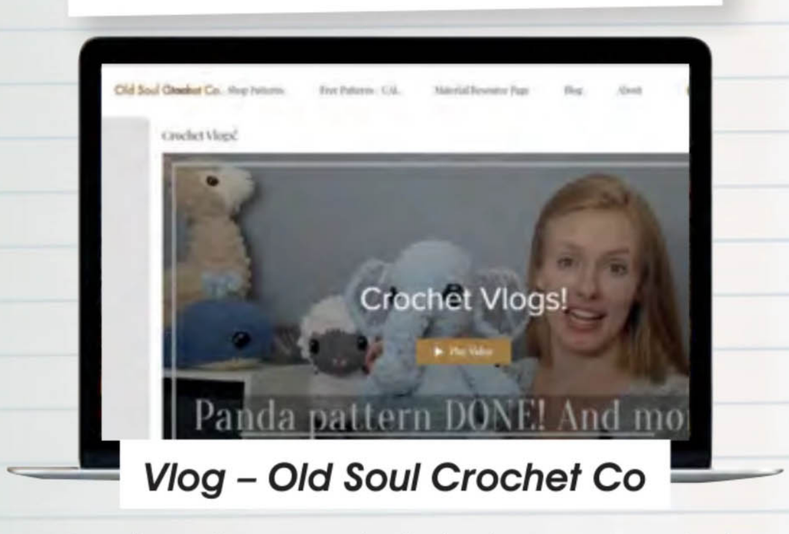
draw charts differently, and what meant a treble stitch before may mean a half treble now. It will also contain special information needed to make sense of the chart.

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



HOW-TO GUIDES WE LOVE



Vlog – Old Soul Crochet Co

Crochet vlogger Valerie is the mastermind behind Old Soul Crochet Co – the crochet vlog filled with cuddly amigurumi, tutorials and lots of crochet-related chat. Valerie's pieces are not only gorgeous, but also crochet up quickly, so they are perfect for anyone trying their hand at crocheting toys for the first time.

www.oldsoulcrochetco.com/vlog



Blog – Moogly

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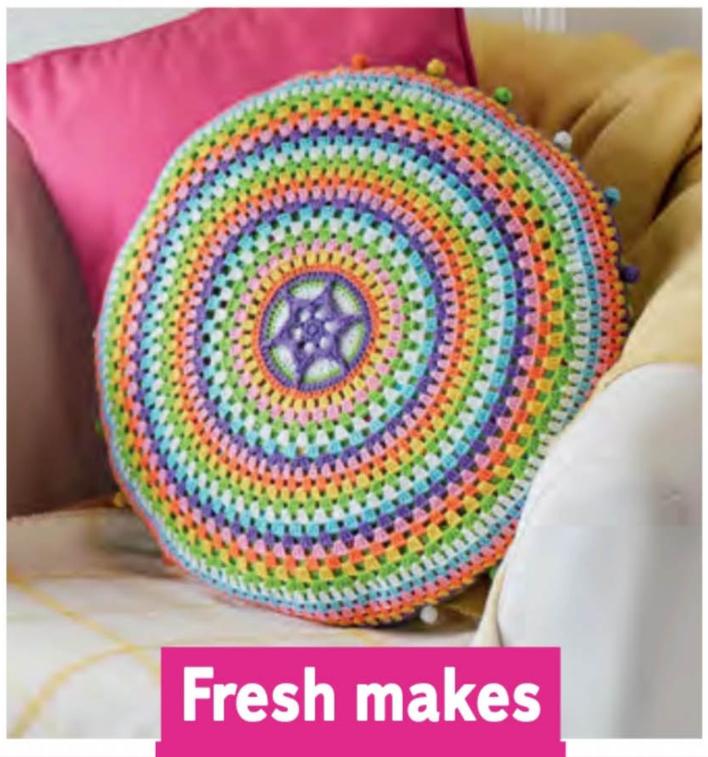
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LEARN the basics

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.

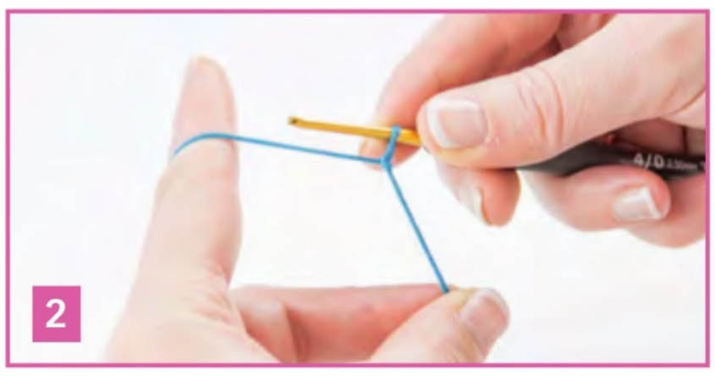
KNIFE METHOD

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.

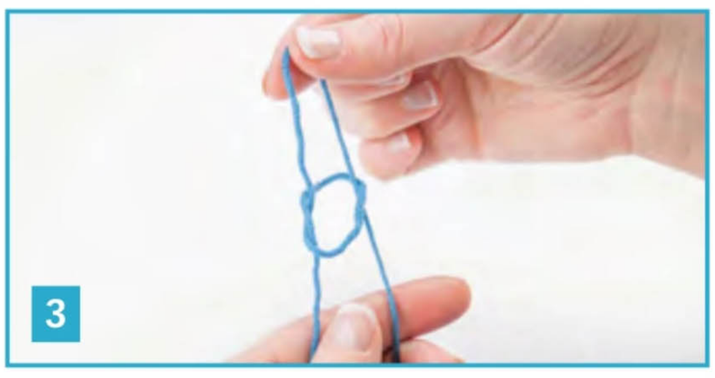


This technique shows the tail end held in between the thumb and middle finger and the working end wrapped around the index finger – see what works best for you!

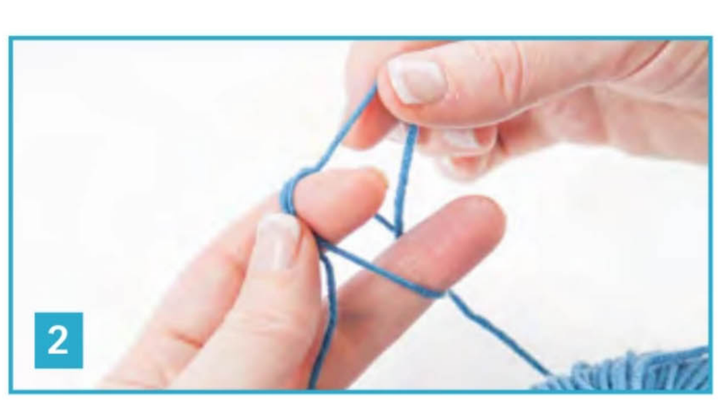
Making a slipknot



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.



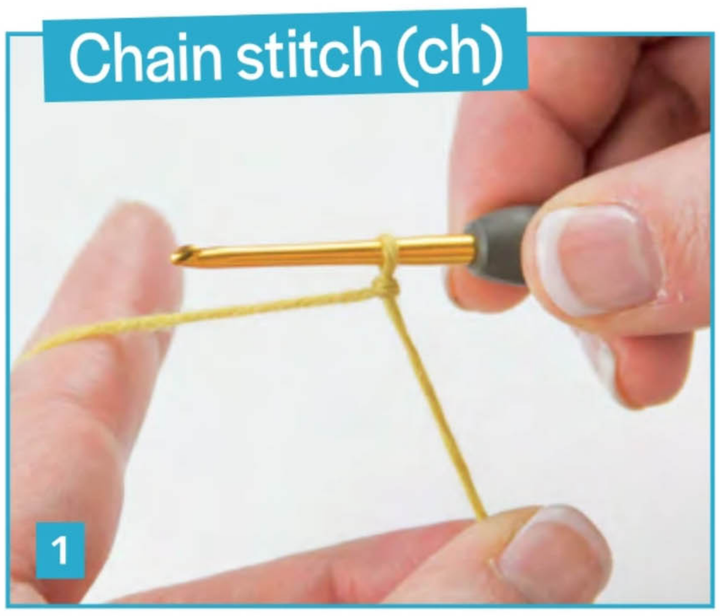
Pull a loop from the working end of the ball of yarn up through the centre of the loop you've just made.

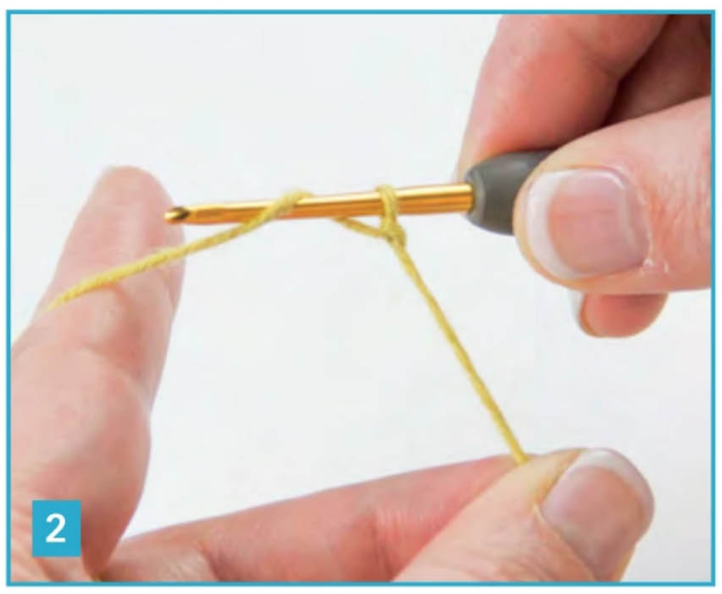


Pull the tail end of the yarn to close the slipknot – it's now ready to be popped onto your crochet hook and pulled tight to close.

Basics

Chain stitch (ch)

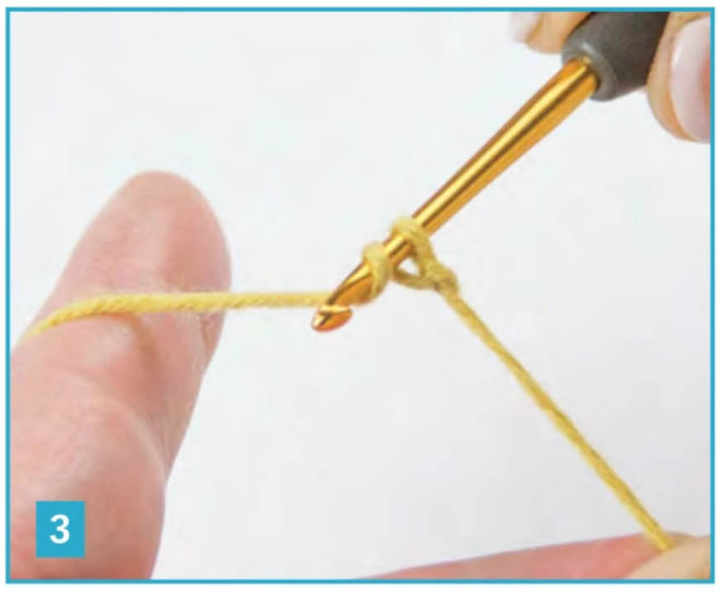


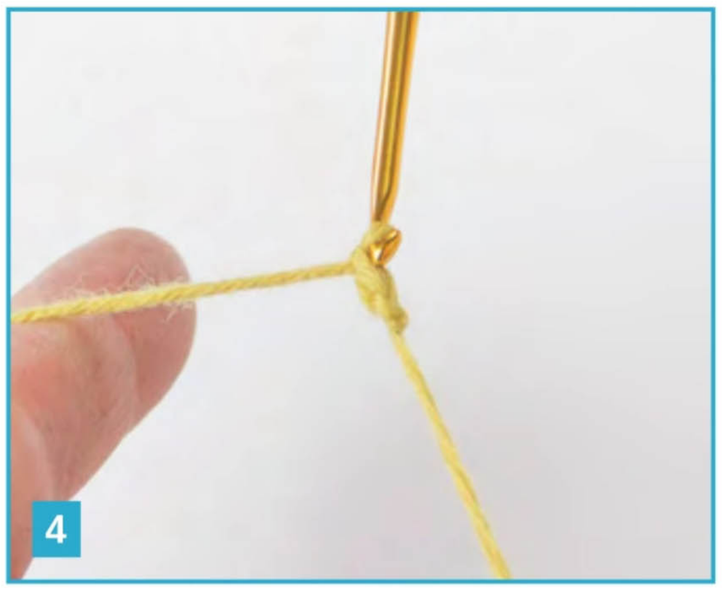


1 This is what the start of any crochet project looks like – a slipknot on a hook.

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.





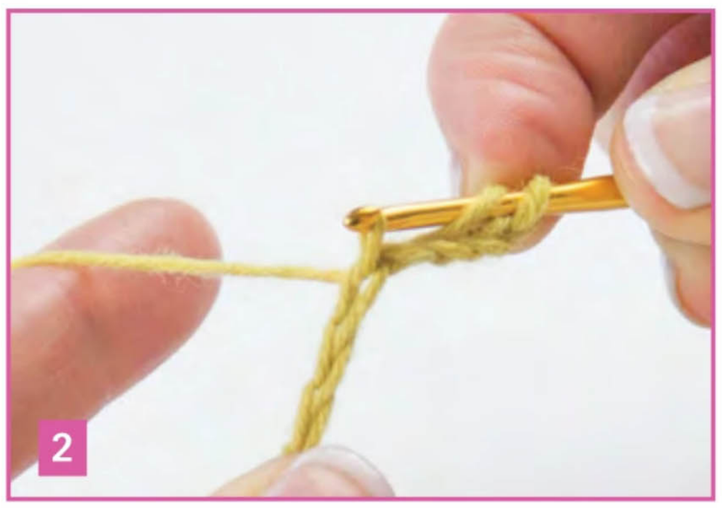
4 Continue to move the hook until you pull your yrh through the first loop on the hook – you've made your first chain stitch!



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.

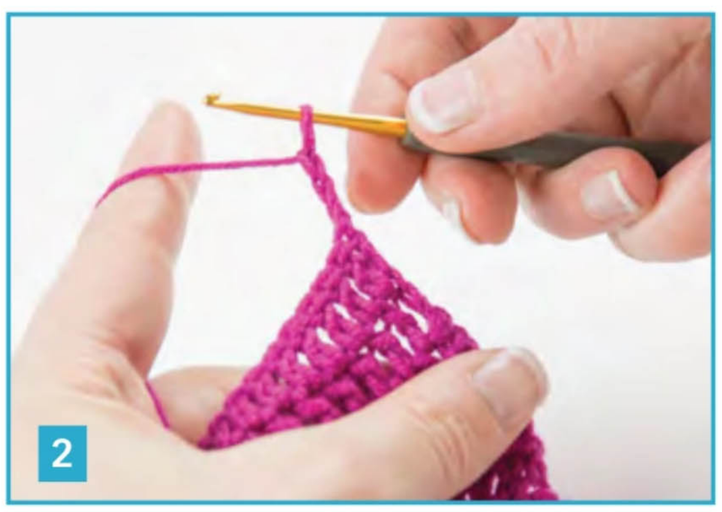


This is what the first treble stitch into a chain looks like – you will then continue to make the next stitch in the next chain all along to the end to create your first row.

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.



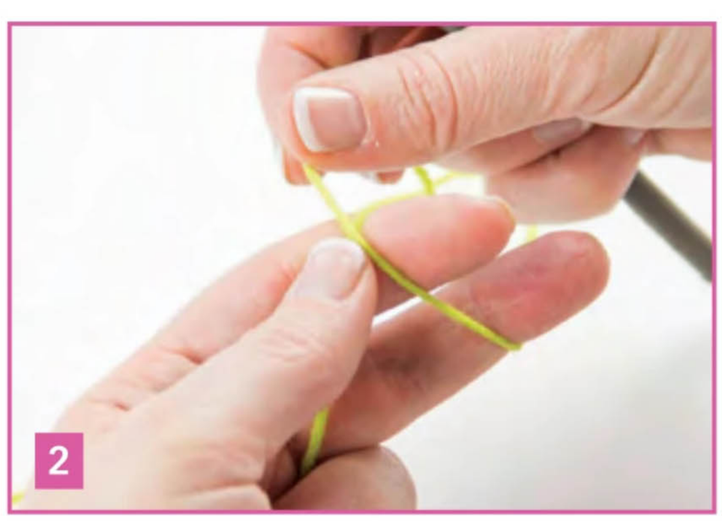




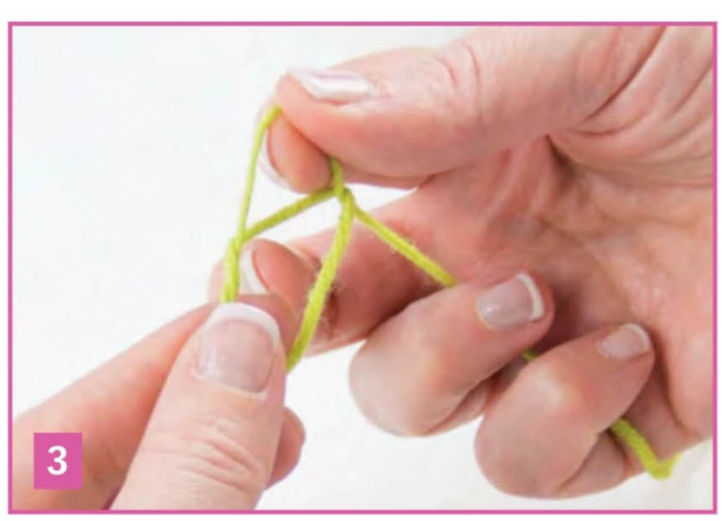
Magic ring



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.



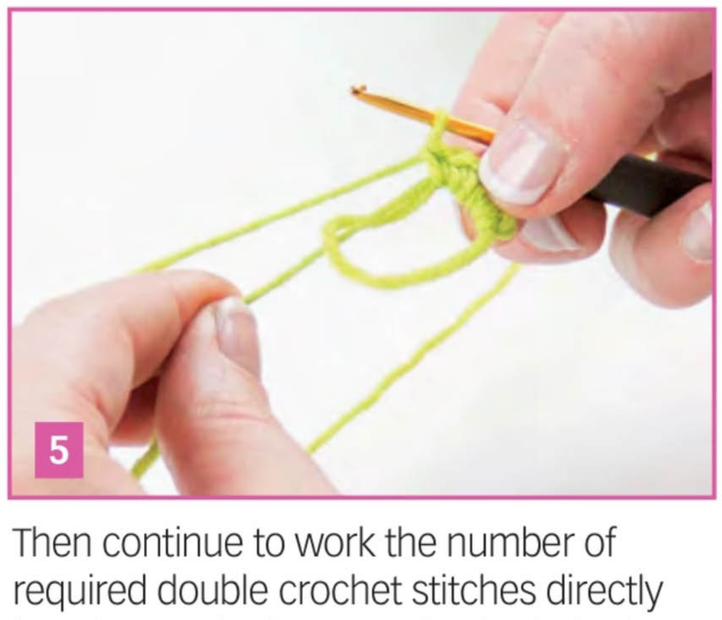
To start off, follow the first few steps for making a slip knot by making a loop around your fingers with the working end of the yarn.



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.



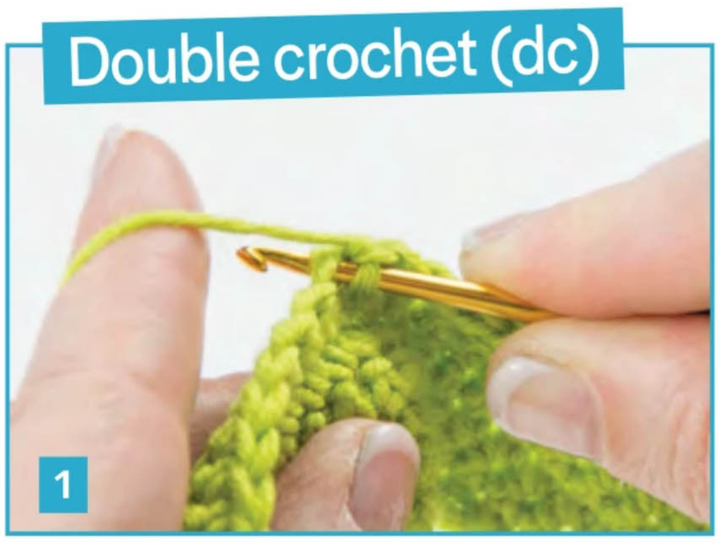
Then continue to work the number of required double crochet stitches directly into the magic ring, ensuring both the loop and the tail end are caught in the stitches.



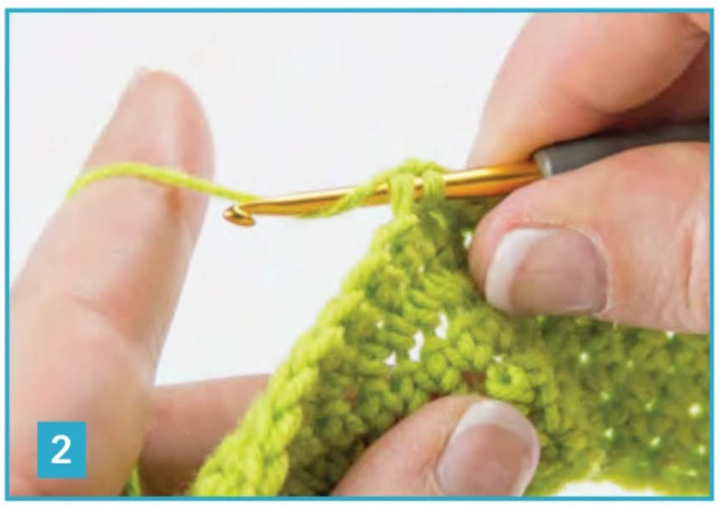
Pull the tail end of the yarn and the magic ring will close up as tightly as it is able, depending on the number of stitches.

Basics

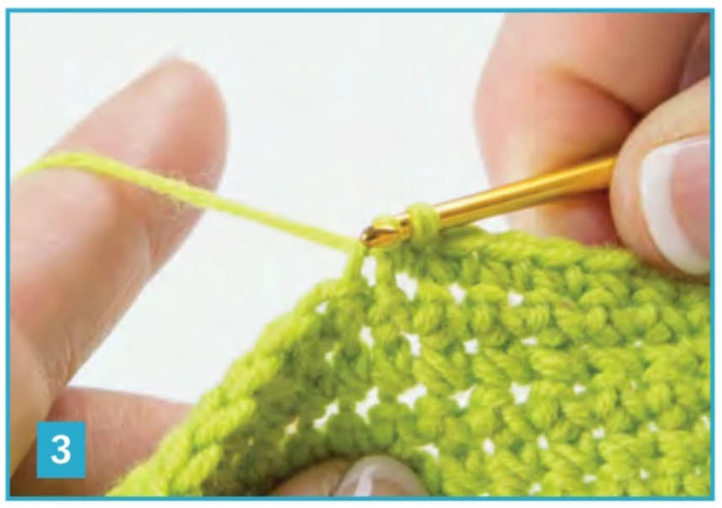
Double crochet (dc)



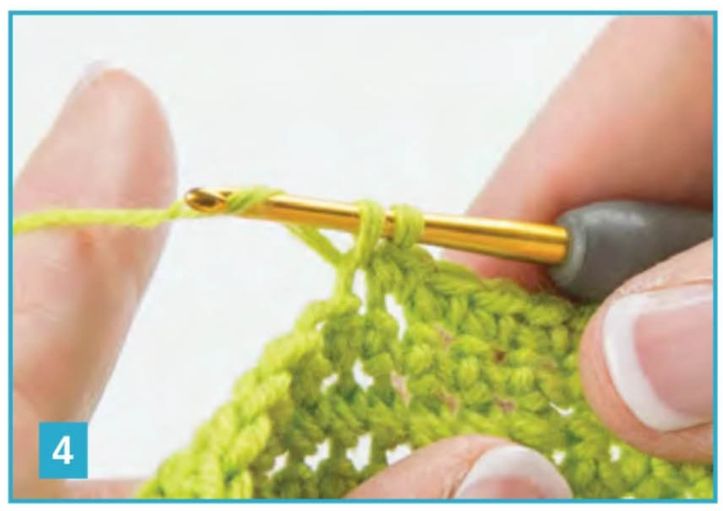
Insert your hook into the next stitch from front to back.



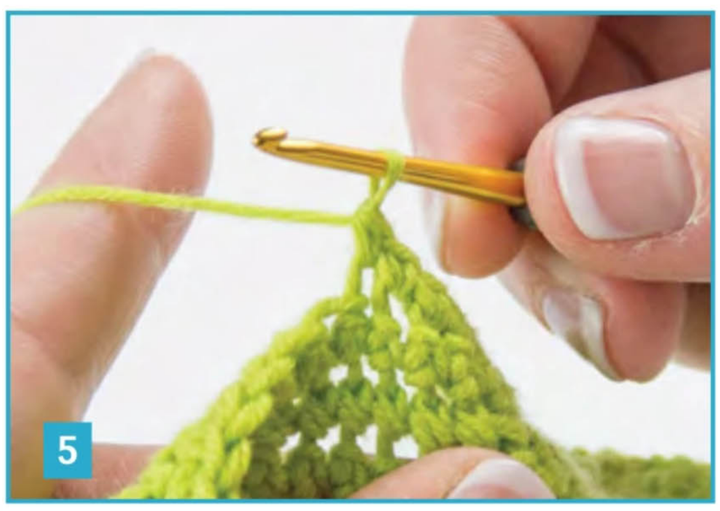
Wrap the yarn round the hook (yrh).



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.

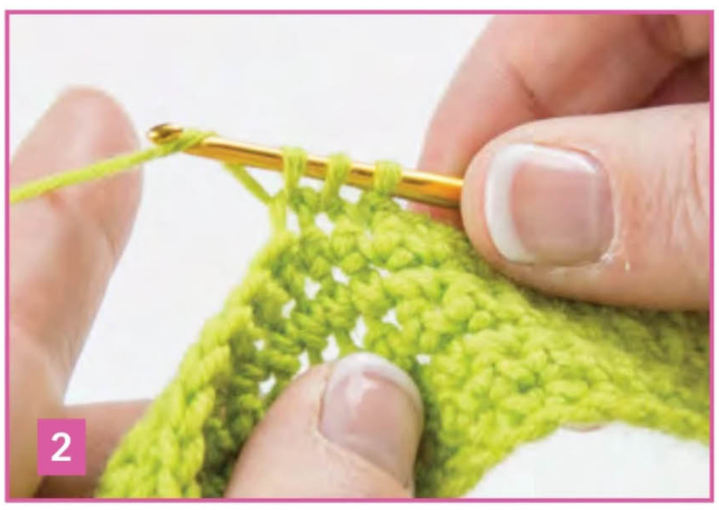


Double crochet is essential for amigurumi

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.

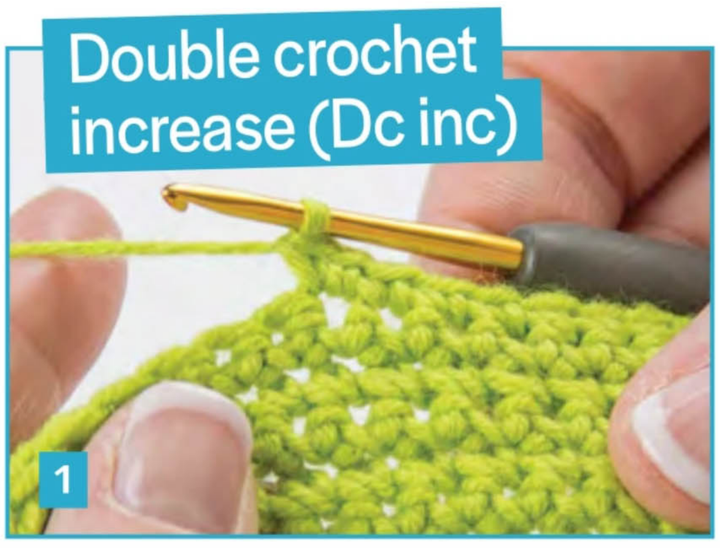


Yarn round the hook again.



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.

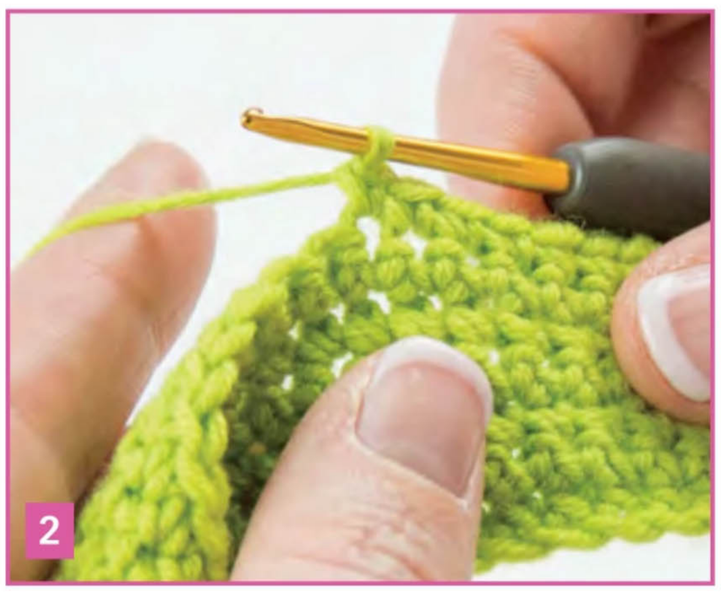


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Slip stitch (sl st)



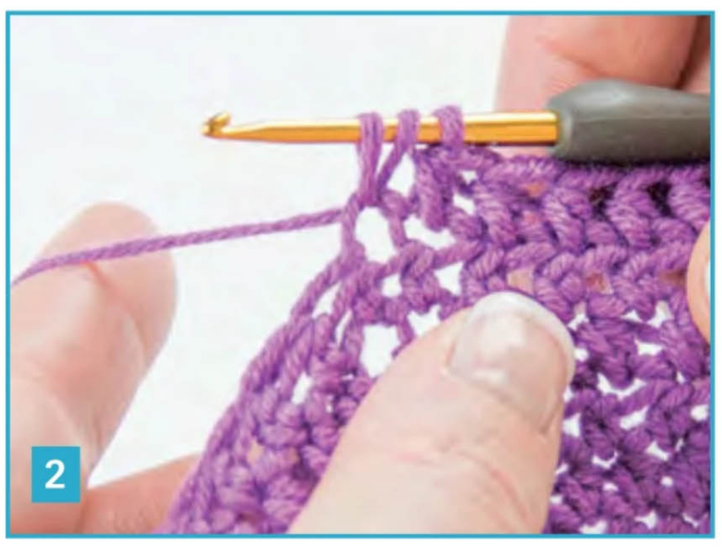


1 Slip stitches are used as joining stitches and in places where you need to move along a row or round without impacting the height of the row. Insert the hook into the next stitch.

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)





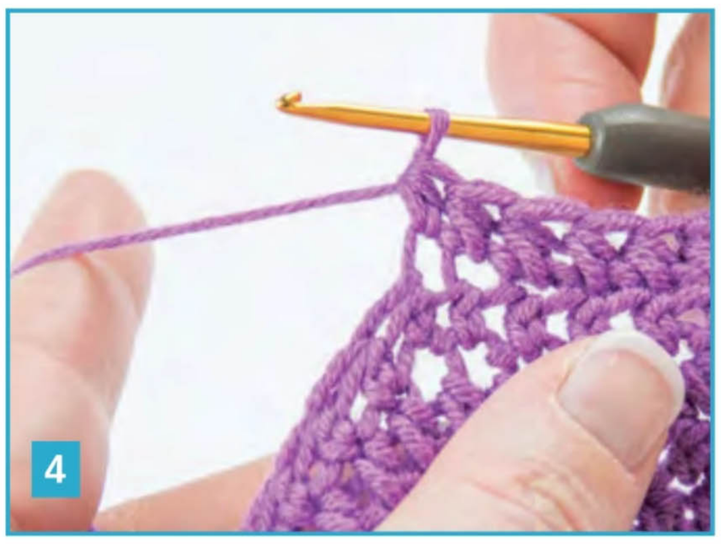
1 First up, yarn round the hook.

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)





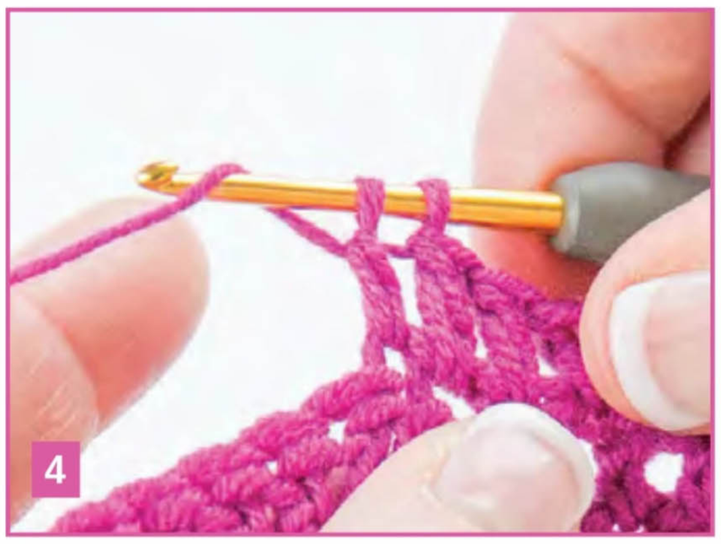
1 First up, yarn round the hook.

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.

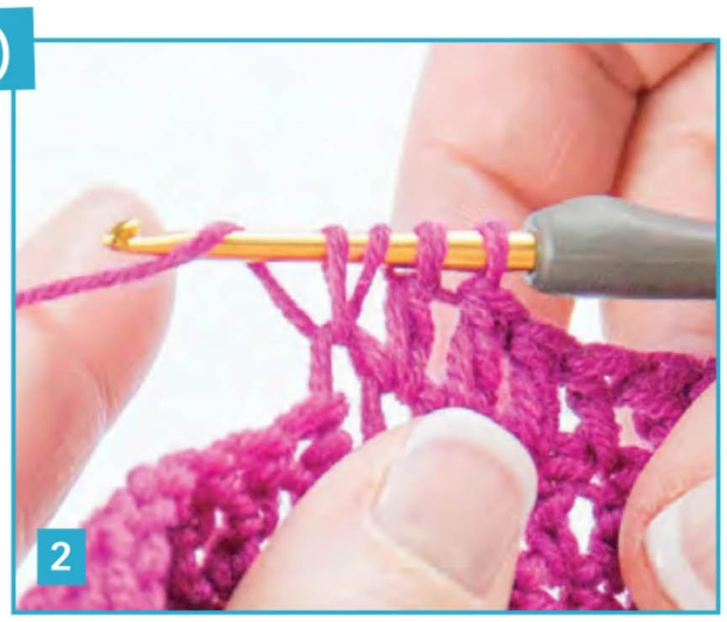


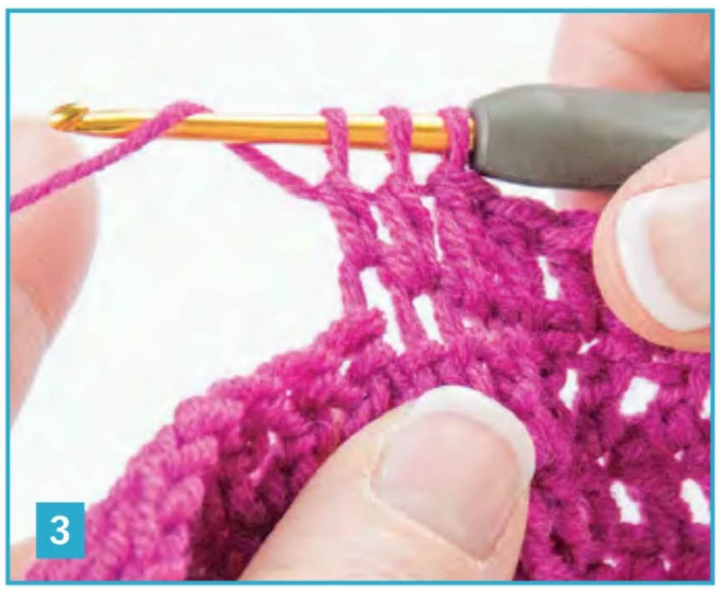


Basics

Treble 2 together (Tr2tog)







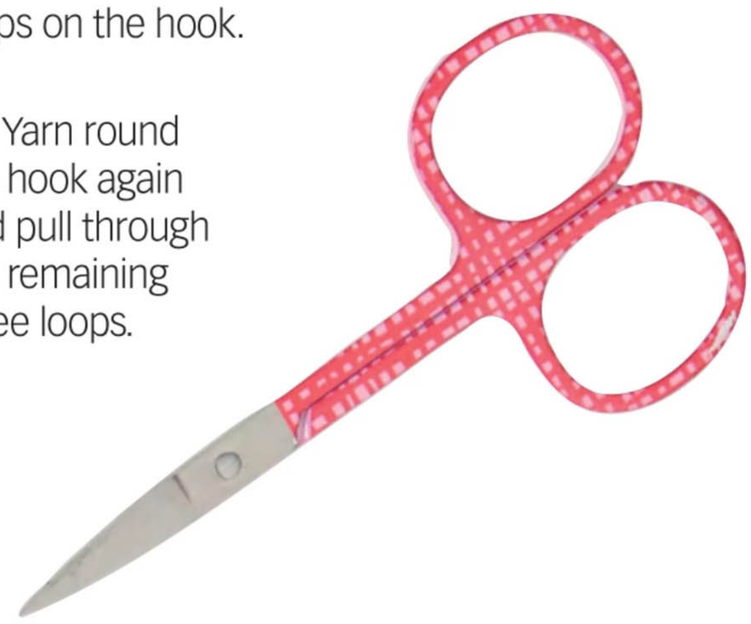


1 Work as for a treble crochet stitch up to Step 3.

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.



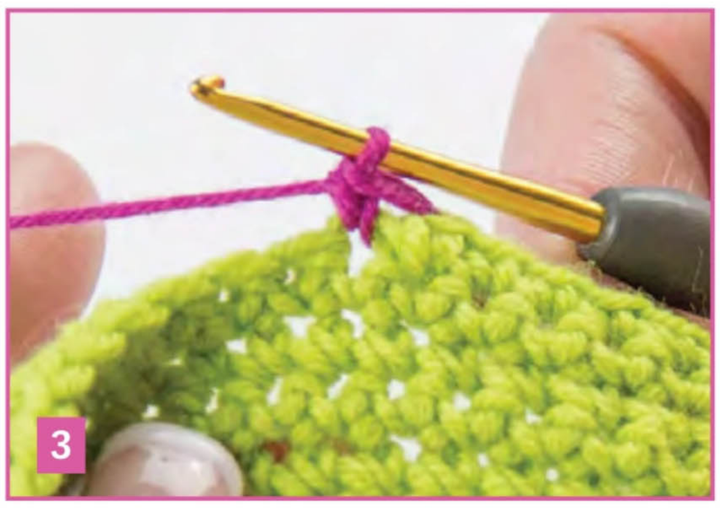
Changing colour



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.



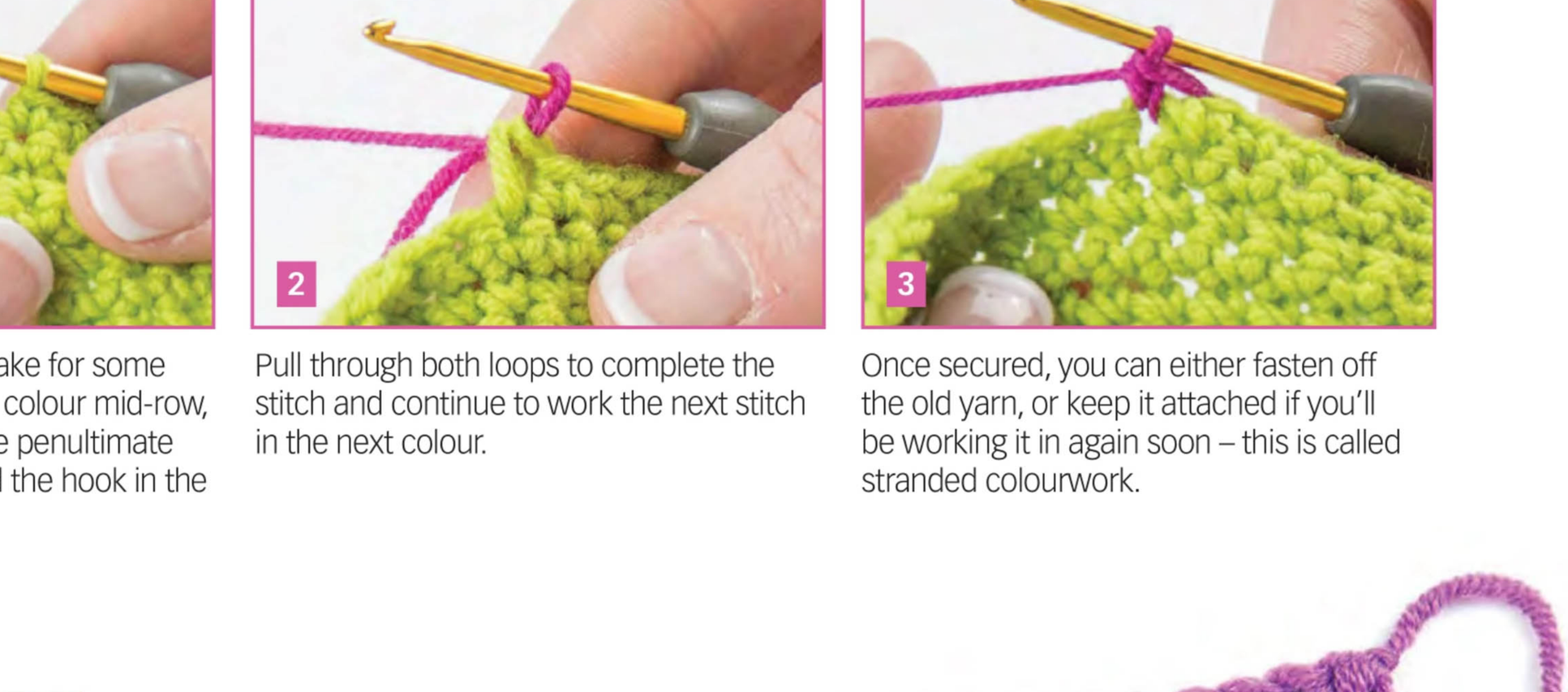
Pull through both loops to complete the stitch and continue to work the next stitch in the next colour.



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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Contributors

Sandra Paul, Helen Shrimpton, Kerry Lord, Sarah-Jayne Fragola, Sarah Shrimpton, Grace Kok, Anne-Michelle Phelan, Veruska Sabucco, Tiam Safari, Emma Wilkinson, Liam Marshall, Kate Rowell, Zoë Potrac, Mike Scriven, Jordan Graham, Alison North, Hayley Hall, Joanna Cummings, Lir Shilton, Ashley Kelly, Paintbox Design Team

Advertising

Account Manager Amanda Paul
amanda.paul@practicalpublishing.co.uk
Stocking Enquiries Jake Cooke
jake.cooke@practicalpublishing.co.uk

Publishing

Associate Publisher Softcrafts Kate Heppell
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Subscription Enquiries
Tel: 0161 327 0441
subscriptions@practicalpublishing.co.uk

Other Enquiries

customerservice@practicalpublishing.co.uk
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Distribution

Seymour Distribution Ltd
Craft Store Distribution
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Contact

Practical Publishing International Ltd,
Suite G2 Vitality House, 217 Wellington Road South,
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DAY TO DAY WITH THE BLOGSTARS

Stylecraft Blogstar and *Crochet Now* contributor Sarah Shrimpton writes about why winter is the essential season for her

www.annabooshouse.blogspot.com



Sarah Shrimpton

Winter is probably the best season for yarn folk because it's the chance to wrap up in the gorgeous projects we've been working on over the year. Whether it's a blanket for the family to snuggle under, or a fluffy scarf, winter for me means everything cosy. The yarns that immediately spring to mind are the big, squishy types – preferably with wool or angora mixed in to keep out the chill. I'm afraid anything below an aran weight doesn't even get a look-in from me in the colder months! The colours that inspire me tend to be the cooler side of winter classics – muted greys and creams, pale rose and pastel blue, but often with a hint of mustard to change up the palette slightly and add that much needed pop of warm sunshine.

What makes an essential? For me, it's hats, scarves, gloves or mittens, boot socks and a cosy cardi. So far, I've made most things on this list, except for the cardigan and socks. However, a quick look in my project bag actually reveals a single sock in the making, grey and cream, crocheted with a 7mm hook and some fluffy aran yarn from my stash. I plan to make a cardi or shrug-type thing soon and I know the perfect yarn for the job: Stylecraft's Cosy Delight. It's a beautiful, chunky (lightweight) yarn that is manufactured using an air jet process to give the yarn a light, fluffy feel – perfect for that comfy feel I'm after.

Another peek in my WIP basket reveals a cowl made from traditional granny squares, a shawl from the summer, a boxy jumper and even some knitted projects! A stashbuster sweater made from all the lovely Stylecraft Jeanie shades, and a sock, made from one of the Blogstars' shades of Head Over Heels. I also want to make wristwarmers, a slouchy beanie, a long scarf and a crocheted patchwork blanket (I'm inspired by beautiful South-Western quilts for this). I'm trying to be strong-willed and not start anything new, but I always end up 'just trying a few ideas' which end up becoming the beginning of a new WIP!

The most exciting project I have coming up is the release of my newest book, *The Modern Crochet Bible*. I'm thrilled to share it with everyone and am so proud of the fabulous techniques, ideas and projects we've been able to include.





SARAH'S CROCHET CORNER

On my blog Annaboo's House, I share ideas, tutorials and crochet patterns. I started to crochet just before Christmas 2010, I had given up my career in teaching to be a full-time mum and was in desperate need of something to keep my brain active. I decided on crochet and armed myself with a few good books and taught myself. I began writing a blog to record my progress and now it's become a place of ideas and inspirations.



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