

:: Atuin the African Flower Turtle ::

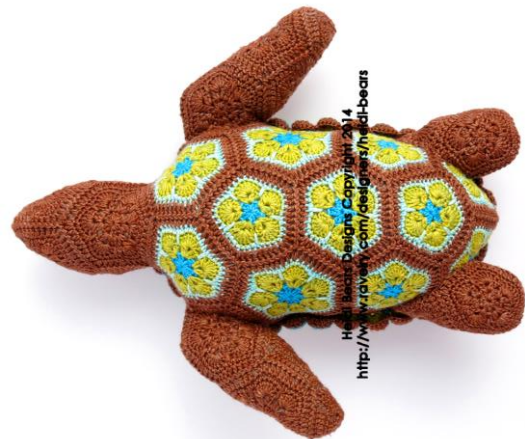
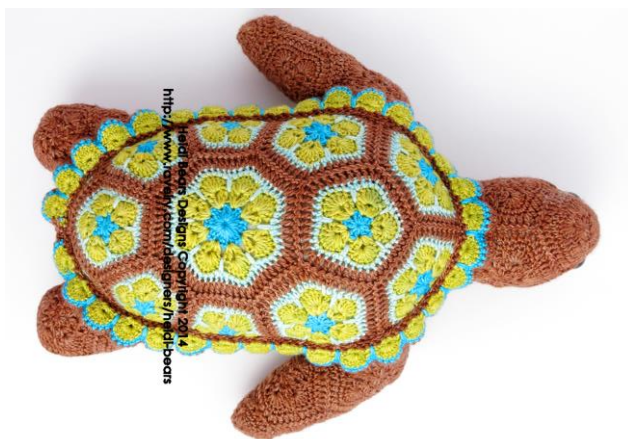
A Heidi Bears Design Pattern © Heidi Bears 2014

Please note that I have permission from the designers of this African Flower Crochet Hexagon to design patterns using the African Flower Hexagon motif, and to sell these patterns.

You are welcome to sell any finished turtles, made by yourself. Please respect the pattern itself, including instructions, words, photographs, diagrams and the actual construction of the turtle, and do not share, copy, post or distribute in any way, electronic or other that will infringe my right as the author and creator of this pattern. Please do not use the idea and actual turtle pattern to modify and/or alter in any way to create or design and sell derivative patterns, including the use of a different hexagonal / polygonal motif to make a turtle like Atuin. Thank you for respecting the hard work that has gone into designing this pattern. I hope you will love making your own Atuin ☺

You have permission to make and sell finished turtles, but with the proviso that you yourself have made the turtle **and that a credit link is added to any finished items**, linking to my Ravelry pattern shop: <http://www.ravelry.com/designers/heidi-bears>

Your finished item tag should state that this African Flower turtle is made from a Heidi Bears Design pattern. NO mass production is allowed.



Atuin the turtle is the eleventh of my patterns that makes use of the African Flower hexagon crochet motif and variations thereof, joined in a specific order to make a recognizable 3D item. I love this African Flower pattern and the creative possibilities of using it to make 3D items ☺ Atuin is an excellent stash buster project, as you only need to use very small amounts of leftover sock yarn to make a motif.

So, let's take a look at the important points and how you will start to make your own little turtle ☺

:: Steps to making your own Atuin the Turtle ::

1. **NB: First read the whole pattern through properly, so you have a good overview.**
2. Make sure you know how to crochet the African Flower hexagon crochet motif. I have included both written and charted instructions for the African Flower hexagon in this pattern. If you are a visual learner, you can see a step by step photo tutorial on my blog: <http://heidibearscreative.blogspot.com/2010/05/african-flower-hexagon-crochet-tutorial.html>
3. Make sure you are able to crochet an African Flower pentagon, octagon, heptagon, square and triangle... for clarity: the pentagon has five petals and five sides and the heptagon has seven petals and seven sides, the octagon has eight petals and eight sides and so on.... The difference is simply the number of "petal" repeats that you crochet...pentagons, octagons and heptagons etc are therefore equally easy to crochet. I have included written and charted instructions in this pattern on how to crochet an African Flower Pentagon (as well as all the other motifs). I have also posted a fully explained pentagon tutorial, on my blog, which can be found here:

<http://heidibearscreative.blogspot.com/2011/09/african-flower-pentagon-tutorial.html>
4. Make sure you have gone through and practiced the join-as-you-go technique. This has been explained and illustrated in the PDF named Appendix : Joining Tutorials. Since the joining method is really very important to the success of the project, I strongly suggest that you practice joining on scrap yarn motifs before starting the project. If you would prefer to sew your motifs together, you won't need to practice the join-as-you-go technique, but will need to be confident in your neat sewing ability. I have not included instructions on how to sew stuff together...there are plenty resources available on the internet...
5. Either choose your yarn for this project or use the sock yarn that you have left over from other projects. Make all the required motifs for your turtle **BUT only up to Round 4 of the African Flower motif if you are doing a join-as-you-go method**, or the full motif up to Round 5 if you are sewing up the motifs.

:: Materials Requirements ::

The turtle that has been crocheted for this pattern, was made using sock weight/fingering/#1 weight yarn. Using this weight yarn will give you a turtle measuring approximately 15cm measured from shoulder to shoulder, and approximately 30cm nose to tail.

ALL THE CROCHET STITCHES USED IN THIS PATTERN ARE BASED ON AMERICAN CROCHET TERMS

Abbreviations : sc = single crochet , dc = double crochet,

Sock weight / Fingering weight yarn/ #1 in colors of your choice... this little turtle is a great stash busting project as you can use small amounts of sock yarn for each motif, and the more colourful the prettier ☺ . Although I can't tell you how much yardage of each color I used I can tell you that the total weight of yarn for the turtle was around 150g (unstuffed).

The yardage for the sock yarn I used is around 320m/100g (350yds/100g). It is a superwash merino yarn, but you can use any alternative fingering weight yarn you like...I suggest that animal fibre yarns would be preferable, as they have more stretch, making the stuffing and shaping of the turtle easier. Try to use a yarn with a similar yardage / 100g.

Crochet Hook 1.75mm

If you are planning to make your turtle in a heavier weight yarn, adjust your hook size accordingly...however, use the smallest hook size possible for the weight of yarn that you can manage. Since the turtle is stuffed, your stitch density will need to be tighter than usual to prevent the stuffing from popping out. Make a test motif in your chosen yarn and hook to see which would be the best size to use.

Polyester toy stuffing **Haemostats (optional for stuffing)**

Scissors **Tapestry Needle** used for sewing in ends **Sewing Pins**

Sewing needle **Doll Making Needle or long tapestry needle**

Eyes (plastic safety eyes or glass looped eyes). PLEASE NOTE THAT ATTACHED EYES ARE NOT RECOMMENDED FOR TOYS CREATED FOR CHILDREN! They can be a suffocation hazard. If you are making this toy for a child, rather embroider the eyes using embroidery thread! I would still suggest sculpting the eye sockets before embroidering the eyes...it adds a lovely realistic element ☺ I have used 14mm wire looped glass eyes. These can easily be sourced from sellers on eBay and Etsy.

:: Skills Requirements ::

Basic Crocheting Skills: Chain stitch (ch) , Single Crochet (sc), Double Crochet (dc), Slip Stitch (sl st), joining a chain to make a ring, joining in a new color yarn, ***foundation*** single crochet (if you have never done a foundation single crochet chain before, here is a wonderful tutorial for you to learn...it's easier than you think!)

<http://www.purlbee.com/crochet-tutorials/foundation-single-crochet-fsc.html>

Join-as-you-go motif joining: This pattern will require that you join the crocheted motifs each stitch to each stitch. This is necessary to prevent the stuffing popping out of the turtle. It is imperative that you are confident in your join-as-you-go ability. The method I use is explained in the Appendix pages found at the end of the pattern. These tutorials are illustrated by using motif chart illustrations with explanatory notes. This cuts down on printing 😊

However, if you are scared witless by the thought of doing a join-as-you-go joining method, all is not lost...you can simply make all your motifs in full (including Round 5), then sew them together. *The order of motif placement and the number of sides needing to be joined stays exactly the same whether you join-as-you-go or sew up.*

Basic sewing skills Sewing the feet to the body, sewing the shell edging to the body.

Total Motifs Required for Atuin the Turtle

Hexagons = 18

Pentagons = 18

Heptagons = 2

Square = 3

Triangles = 2

Octagon = 1

TOTAL MOTIFS: 44

:: General Tips ::

There are a few tips that you will want to know, to make your life easier, when making Atuin the Turtle ☺ . Please read these tips through several times so you are really ofay with them.



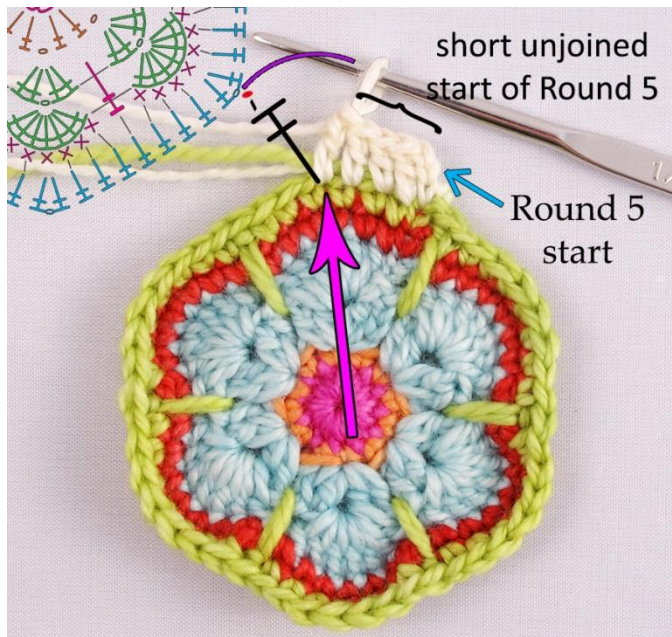
I strongly recommend that you work through the Joining Tutorial...because Atuin is stuffed, you will need to join the African Flower motifs, stitch to stitch, so that the stuffing doesn't pop out. Although this is really easy once you get the hang of it, if you aren't careful in having the correct stitch number etc, you will have a nightmare joining motifs, and more than likely give up in despair! I want to be sure that the elephants are smiling and you are a happy turtle maker, so please take the time to be a joining superstar!

If you prefer, you can make the motifs as required for each body part, and sew up the motifs with yarn and needle instead.

TIP 1: ROUND 4: When you crochet Round 4 of the African Flower Hexagon, ie the round of sc's on the outer edge of the flower petals, (in the photos on page 7, the apricot colored sc's), make sure that you end up with SEVEN sc's between the long dc stitches. In order for you to easily join the motifs, each stitch to each stitch, you will have to have the correct number of outer sc's separated by long dc's.

TIP 2: ROUND 5: When you crochet Round 5 of the African Flower motif (in the photos on pg 7, seen as the outermost round in cream colored yarn...), make sure that you have NINE dc's separated by the chain stitches as shown. NOTE that dc number 9 of a "9dc repeat", and dc number 1 of the next along "9dc repeat" (of round 5), are made into THE SAME sc space below of round 4. This point is what I have arbitrarily called the APEX of the flower petal.

TIP 3: JOINING-AS-YOU-GO PROCESS: When you join one motif to another, the motif you are joining **TO**, will **ALWAYS** have all its Rounds completed, ie Round 5 will always have been crocheted. The motif you are joining (ie the one you are **ADDING/JOINING** to the other), will only have been crocheted up to Round 4. The join-as-you-go process creates Round 5 of this motif. So when you see an instruction like "Join a hexagon on three sides", it means that you need to take a hexagon that has been crocheted only up to Round 4, and crochet Round 5 as you join to the other motifs. A "side" will always be the distance between two flower apices, ie you will start your joining at one chain space point, and work to the next chain space. This means that all motifs that are being joined will have a small part of Round 5 at the beginning that is unjoined (photo below). This does not apply to motifs that are joined ON ALL SIDES, only to motifs that are joined on less than ALL SIDES.



In the photo on the left, the blue arrow shows the starting stitches of Round 5 (cream yarn) of the ‘joining motif’. The first point at which you will join to the motif shown by the crochet chart (ie, the completed motif), is at the petal “apex”, which is where the two dc’s of Round 5 have their “feet” sitting in the same stitch space. In doing this you also “create” a petal apex on the “joining motif”, ie joining petal apex to petal apex. The purple curve and red dot show a slip stitch into the chain space of the opposite motif, after which you make the second dc of the “joining motif” petal apex. The pink arrow indicates the “joining motif” petal apex point.

TIP 4: JOINING-AS-YOU-GO: If you find the joining-as-you-go too difficult, then make up the completed motifs for each body part and sew them together using spare yarn and a tapestry needle.

TIP 5: 9dc REPEAT: When you are joining sides of motifs to each other, you will essentially be matching petal apex to petal apex (that is why you need to be sure that you have 9 dc between each petal apex...ie matching and joining 9dc's to 9dc's on the joined sides). Where I have indicated the sides of motifs to be joined, I am using colored lines to show which sides correspond to each other. Remember that the **lines will run from petal apex to petal apex** (sometimes it is hard to illustrate exactly the beginning and end of the side to be joined, because the crocheted work tends to naturally curl, so the work and therefore the photos can be a bit distorted...)

TIP 6: ALWAYS WORK WITH THE RIGHT SIDE FACING YOU: I have photographed the work from the RIGHT SIDE, up to the point where it has become impractical to keep the work flat for photographing...because you are creating a 3D shaped body and head, your work will curl up naturally after adding several motifs. The motifs are ALWAYS added/joined with their **right sides facing you**, and the “bottom” end of Atuin facing AWAY from you (once you have made the “bottom” ☺). If you look down at the work when starting to add a new motif, you will be crocheting in an ANTICLOCKWISE direction, starting the joining round at the point indicated in the photographs/illustrations by a pink arrow. If you have worked through the joining tutorial, you will have a clearer understanding of this tip.

TIP 7: CROCHET HOOK QUALITY: I strongly recommend that you use good quality crochet hooks. Your hooks MUST have good deep throats, or you might struggle with crocheting the smaller motifs. As Atuin is a stuffed animal, the motif stitch density has to be tight, to prevent the stuffing popping out. Unfortunately this means that your crochet will be quite tight, and if your hooks don't have good throats, you will struggle to pull the yarn through motif stitches.

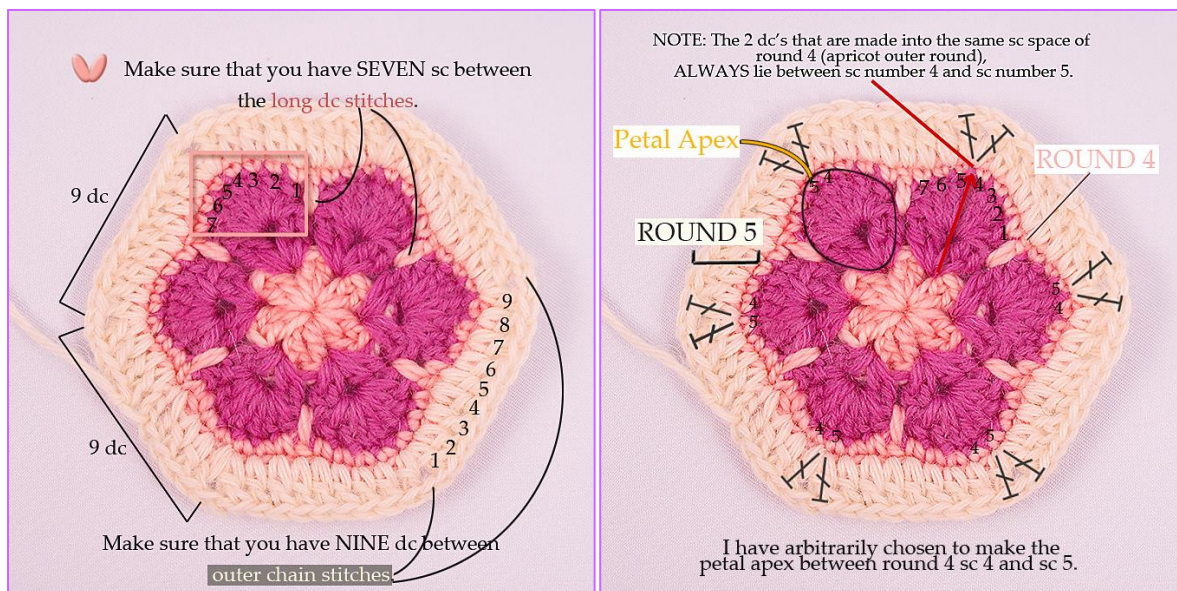
TIP 8: MOTIF SIZE: The exact size of each motif is not as important as that your tension should be the same over time as you crochet. Remember, the yarn and hook stay the same, the only variable for motif size is your tension.

TIP 9: COLOR VARIATIONS : I have made Atuin in a variety of colors, but the sky is the limit...choose your own color combinations, the making process remains the same ☺

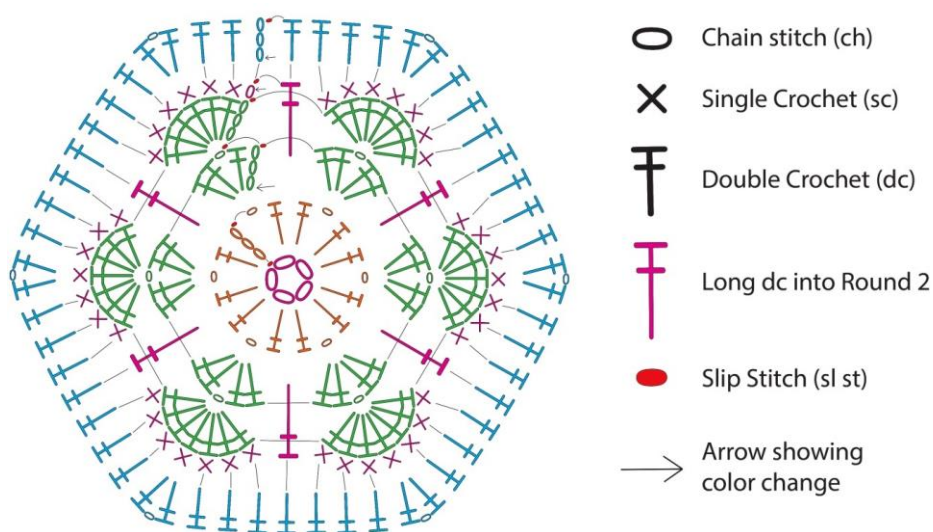
TIP 10: STUFFING: In some of the photos I have stuffed Atuin partly, mostly to show the motifs more clearly for reference purposes...this does not mean you need to stuff your turtle as well...only stuff the body and head when the pattern instructs you to do so...☺

TIP 11: ORIENTATION: When I talk of Atuin's left and right or left and right -hand sides, I use the terms as anatomically correct, ie if you are looking at Atuin's tail end, all motifs on the right hand side are "Right side" motifs, and all motifs on the left side are "Left side" motifs.

Please take a good look at the following photos for reference, they will save you a lot of frogging!



African Flower Hexagon Crochet Motif Instructions



Round 1: Ch5 and join with slip stitch to form a ring. Ch3 (counts as first dc), 1 dc in ring, ch1. Then, make * 2 dc in ring, ch1 *. Repeat from * to * 4 times more, slip stitch join to third chain of beginning "ch3" of the round. Cut yarn and pull through. (6 sets of 2dc's separated by chain stitches).

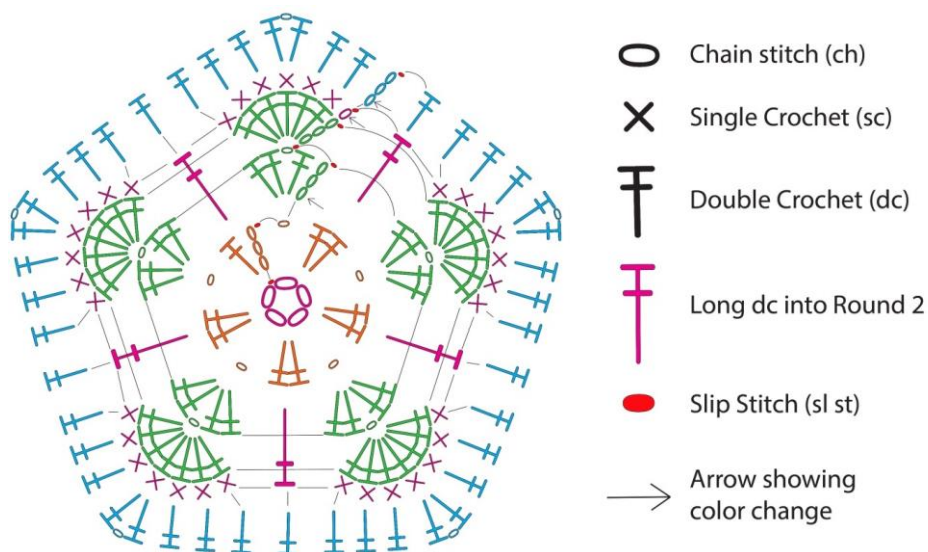
Round 2: Join next color in the ch1 space (just to the right of the previous round's ch3 beginning) and ch3 (counts as first dc). Make a dc in that same chain space then ch1. Make 2 dc (still in the same chain space). Move on to the next chain space of the previous round, and make the following: 2 dc, ch1, 2dc in that chain space. Repeat this in each of the next 4 chain spaces. Join with slip stitch to third chain of beginning "ch3" of the round. (6 clusters of [2dc,ch,2dc])

Round 3: Continue with the same colour. Slip stitch into the chain space in the middle of the first cluster of the previous round. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make 6 dc in same chain space (total of 7 dc's). Make 7 dc's into the chain space of the next cluster. Repeat 4 more times, so that each cluster has 7 dc's in its chain space. Join with slip stitch to the third chain of the beginning "ch3" of the round. Cut yarn and pull through. (6 sets of 7 dc's).

Round 4: Join new colour in the slip stitch of previous round's end, and ch1 (counts as a sc). Make one sc into each of the dc's of the cluster (this makes 7 sc including the ch1). Make one long dc (between clusters) that extends down into round 2 of the flower, so that it separates the round 2 clusters. * Sc into each of the 7 dc stitches of the next cluster. Make one long dc (between clusters) that extends down into round 2 of the flower, so that it separates the round 2 clusters. * Repeat from * to * four more times. Slip stitch to the beginning of the round "ch1" stitch. Cut yarn and pull through. (42 sc and 6 long dc)

Round 5: Join next colour to the slip stitch at the end of the previous round. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make one dc into each of the next 2 sc's, then (dc, ch1, dc) into the next sc (this forms the "apex" of the flower petal). Then make one dc into each of the next three sc. Make one dc into the previous round's "long dc" stitch. * Make one dc into each of the next petal's first three sc stitches, then (dc, ch1, dc) into the next sc (this forms the "apex" of the petal), then make one dc into each of the next three sc. Make one dc into the previous round's long dc stitch. * Repeat from * to * four more times. Slip stitch to the third chain of the "ch3" of the beginning of the round. Cut yarn and pull through. (You should have nine "dc" stitches between each petal apex, separated by a chain stitch, so 54 dc in all).

African Flower Pentagon Crochet Motif Instructions



Round 1: Ch5 and join with slip stitch to form a ring. Ch3 (counts as first dc), 1 dc in ring, ch1. Then, make * 2 dc in ring, ch1 *. Repeat from * to * 3 times more, slip stitch join to third chain of beginning "ch3" of the round. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (5 sets of 2dc's separated by chain stitches).

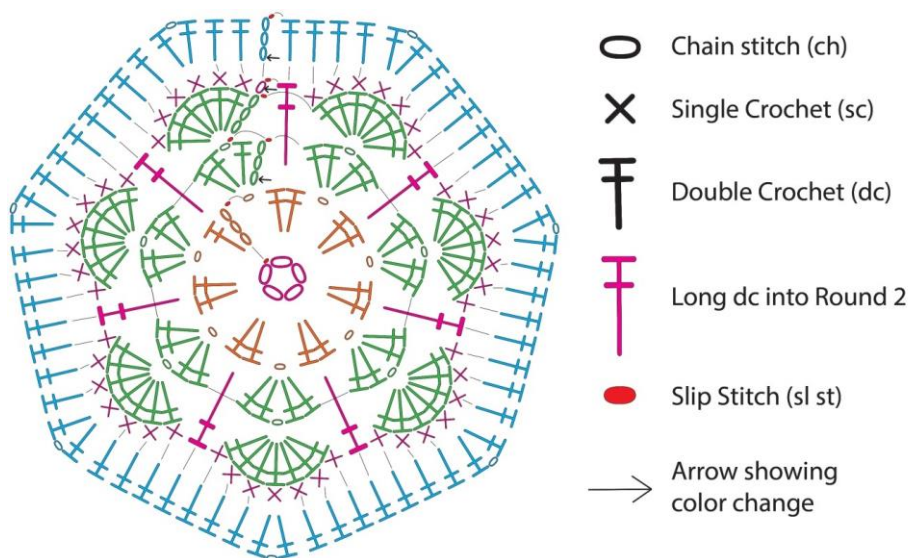
Round 2: Join next color in the ch1 space (just to the right of the previous round's ch3 beginning) and ch3 (counts as first dc). Make a dc in that same chain space then ch1. Make 2 dc (still in the same chain space). Move on to the next chain space of the previous round, and make the following: 2 dc, ch1, 2dc in that chain space. Repeat this in each of the next 3 chain spaces. Join with slip stitch to third chain of beginning "ch3" of the round. (5 clusters of [2dc,ch,2dc])

Round 3: Continue with the same color. Slip stitch into the chain space in the middle of the first cluster of the previous round. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make 6 dc in same chain space (total of 7 dc's). Make 7 dc's into the chain space of the next cluster. Repeat 3 more times, so that each cluster has 7 dc's in its chain space. Join with slip stitch to the third chain of the beginning "ch3". Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (5 sets of 7 dc's).

Round 4: Join new colour in the slip stitch of previous round's end, and ch1 (counts as a sc). Make one sc into each of the dc's of the cluster (this makes 7 sc including the ch1). Make one long dc (between clusters) that extends down into round 2 of the flower, so that it separates the round 2 clusters. * Sc into each of the 7 dc stitches of the next cluster. Make one long dc (between clusters) that extends down into round 2 of the flower, so that it separates the round 2 clusters. * Repeat from* to * three more times. Slip stitch to the beginning of the round "ch1" stitch. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (35 sc and 5 long dc)

Round 5: Join next colour to the slip stitch at the end of the previous round. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make one dc into each of the next 2 sc's, then (dc, ch1, dc) into the next sc (this forms the "apex" of the flower petal). Then make one dc into each of the next three sc. Make one dc into the previous round's "long dc" stitch.
* Make one dc into each of the next petal's first three sc stitches, then (dc, ch1, dc) into the next sc (this forms the "apex" of the petal), then make one dc into each of the next three sc. Make one dc into the previous round's long dc stitch. * . Repeat from * to * three more times. Slip stitch to the third chain of the "ch3" of the beginning of the round. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (You should have nine "dc" stitches between each petal apex, separated by a chain stitch, so 45 dc in all).

African Flower Heptagon Crochet Motif Instructions



Round 1: Ch5 and join with slip stitch to form a ring. Ch3 (counts as first dc), 1 dc in ring, ch1. Then, make * 2 dc in ring, ch1 *. Repeat from * to * 5 times more, slip stitch join to third chain of beginning "ch3" of the round. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (7 sets of 2dc's separated by chain stitches).

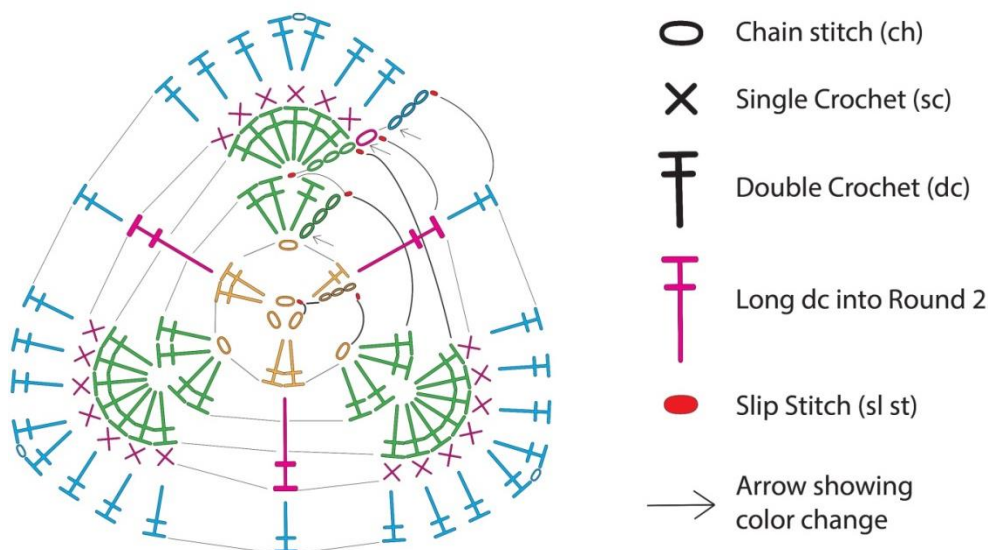
Round 2: Join next color in the ch1 space (just to the right of the previous round's ch3 beginning) and ch3 (counts as first dc). Make a dc in that same chain space then ch1. Make 2 dc (still in the same chain space). Move on to the next chain space of the previous round, and make the following: 2 dc, ch1, 2dc in that chain space. Repeat this in each of the next 5 chain spaces. Join with a slip stitch to third chain of beginning "ch3" of the round. (7 clusters of [2dc,ch,2dc])

Round 3: Continue with the same colour. Slip stitch into the chain space in the middle of the first cluster of the previous round. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make 6 dc in same chain space (total of 7 dc's). Make 7 dc's into the chain space of the next cluster. Repeat 5 more times, so that each cluster has 7 dc's in its chain space. Join with slip stitch to the third chain of the beginning "ch3" of the round. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (7 sets of 7 dc's).

Round 4: Join new colour in the slip stitch of previous round's end, and ch1 (counts as a sc). Make one sc into each of the dc's of the cluster (this makes 7 sc including the ch1). Make one long dc (between clusters) that extends down into round 2 of the flower, so that it separates the round 2 clusters. * Sc into each of the 7 dc stitches of the next cluster. Make one long dc (between clusters) that extends down into round 2 of the flower, so that it separates the round 2 clusters. * Repeat from * to * five more times. Slip stitch to the beginning of the round "ch1" stitch. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (49 sc and 7 long dc)

Round 5: Join next colour to the slip stitch at the end of the previous round. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make one dc into each of the next 2 sc's, then (dc, ch1, dc) into the next sc (this forms the "apex" of the flower petal). Then make one dc into each of the next three sc. Make one dc into the previous round's "long dc" stitch. * Make one dc into each of the next petal's first three sc stitches, then (dc, ch1, dc) into the next sc (this forms the "apex" of the petal), then make one dc into each of the next three sc. Make one dc into the previous round's long dc stitch. * Repeat from * to * five more times. Slip stitch to the third chain of the "ch3" of the beginning of the round. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (You should have nine "dc" stitches between each petal apex, separated by a chain stitch, so 63 dc in all).

African Flower Triangle Crochet Motif Instructions



Round 1: Chain 3 and join with a slip stitch to form a ring. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Then make a dc into the ring. Ch1. Make 2dc into the ring. Ch1. Make 2 dc into the ring. Ch1. Join with a slip stitch to the third chain of the “Ch3” at the beginning of the round. (3 sets of 2 dc’s separated by chain stitches). Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail to tie your new yarn color to.

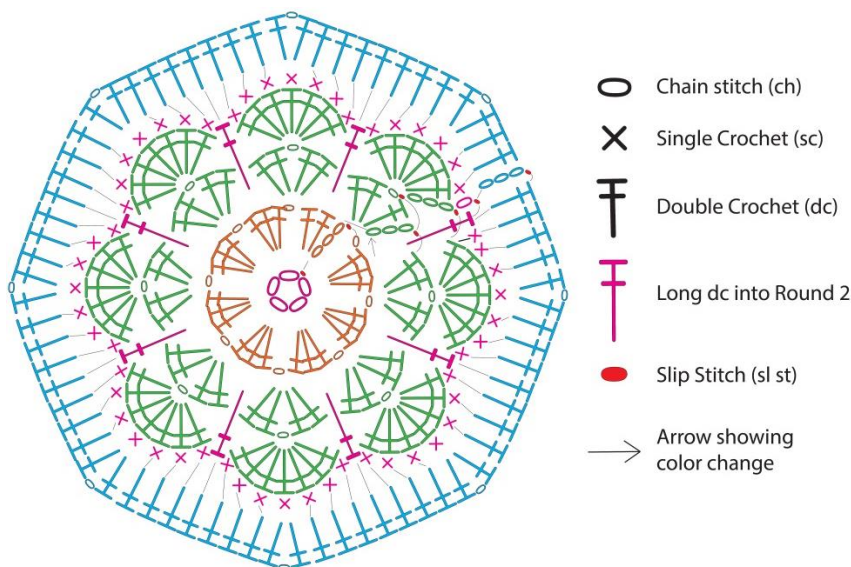
Round 2: Join the next color in a ch1 space. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make a dc in that same chain space then ch1. Make 2 dc (still in the same chain space). Move on to the next chain space of the previous round, and make the following: 2 dc, ch1, 2dc in that chain space. Repeat this in the next (and last) chain space... Join with a slip stitch to third chain of beginning “ch3” of the round. (3 clusters of [2dc,ch,2dc])

Round 3: Continue with the same colour. Slip stitch into the chain space in the middle of the first cluster of the previous round. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make 6 dc in same chain space (total of 7 dc’s). Make 7 dc’s into the chain space of the next cluster. Repeat once more in the last cluster, so that each cluster has 7 dc’s in its chain space. Join with slip stitch to the third chain of the beginning “ch3” of the round. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (3 sets of 7 dc’s).

Round 4: Join new colour in the slip stitch of previous round’s end, and ch1 (counts as a sc). Make one sc into each of the dc’s of the cluster (this makes 7 sc including the ch1). Make one long dc (between clusters) that extends down into round 2 of the flower, so that it separates the round 2 clusters. * Sc into each of the 7 dc stitches of the next cluster. Make one long dc (between clusters) that extends down into round 2 of the flower, so that it separates the round 2 clusters. * Repeat from* to * once more. Slip stitch to the beginning of the round “ch1” stitch. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (21 sc and 3 long dc).

Round 5: Join next colour to the slip stitch at the end of the previous round. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make one dc into each of the next 2 sc’s, then (dc, ch1, dc) into the next sc (this forms the “apex” of the flower petal). Then make one dc into each of the next three sc. Make one dc into the previous round’s “long dc” stitch. * Make one dc into each of the next petal’s first three sc stitches, then (dc, ch1, dc) into the next sc (this forms the “apex” of the petal), then make one dc into each of the next three sc. Make one dc into the previous round’s long dc stitch. * Repeat from * to * once more. Slip stitch to the third chain of the “ch3” of the beginning of the round. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (You should have nine “dc” stitches between each petal apex, separated by a chain stitch, so 27 dc in all).

African Flower Octagon Crochet Motif Instructions



Round 1: Ch5 and join with slip stitch to form a ring. Ch3 (counts as first dc), 2 dc in ring, ch1. Then, make * 3dc in ring, ch1 *. Repeat from * to * 6 times more, slip stitch join to third chain of beginning “ch3” of the round. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (8 sets of 3dc’s separated by chain stitches).

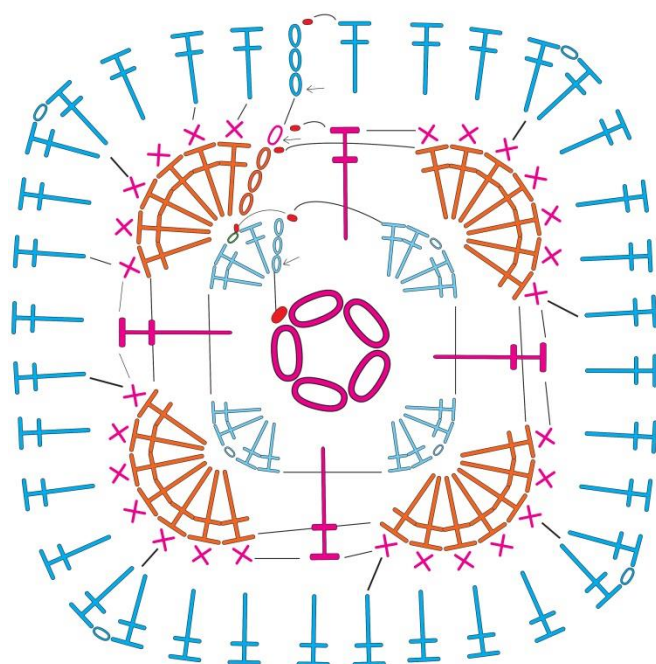
Round 2: Join next color in the ch1 space (just to the right of the previous round’s ch3 beginning) and ch3 (counts as first dc). Make a dc in that same chain space then ch1. Make 2 dc (still in the same chain space). Move on to the next chain space of the previous round, and make the following: 2 dc, ch1, 2dc in that chain space. Repeat this in each of the next 6 chain spaces. Join with slip stitch to third chain of beginning “ch3” of the round. (8 clusters of [2dc,ch,2dc])

Round 3: Continue with the same colour. Slip stitch into the chain space in the middle of the first cluster of the previous round. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make 6 dc in same chain space (total of 7 dc’s). Make 7 dc’s into the chain space of the next cluster. Repeat 6 more times, so that each cluster has 7 dc’s in its chain space. Join with slip stitch to the third chain of the beginning “ch3” of the round. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (8 sets of 7 dc’s).

Round 4: Join new colour in the slip stitch of previous round’s end, and ch1 (counts as a sc). Make one sc into each of the dc’s of the cluster (this makes 7 sc including the ch1). Make one long dc (between clusters) that extends down into round 2 of the flower, so that it separates the round 2 clusters. * Sc into each of the 7 dc stitches of the next cluster. Make one long dc (between clusters) that extends down into round 2 of the flower, so that it separates the round 2 clusters. * Repeat from* to * six more times. Slip stitch to the beginning of the round “ch1” stitch. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (56 sc and 8 long dc)

Round 5: Join next colour to the slip stitch at the end of the previous round. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make one dc into each of the next 2 sc’s, then (dc, ch1, dc) into the next sc (this forms the “apex” of the flower petal). Then make one dc into each of the next three sc. Make one dc into the previous round’s “long dc” stitch. * Make one dc into each of the next petal’s first three sc stitches, then (dc, ch1, dc) into the next sc (this forms the “apex” of the petal), then make one dc into each of the next three sc. Make one dc into the previous round’s long dc stitch. * Repeat from * to * six more times. Slip stitch to the third chain of the “ch3” of the beginning of the round. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (You should have nine “dc” stitches between each petal apex, separated by a chain stitch, so 72 dc’s in all).

African Flower Square Motif Crochet Instructions



-  Chain stitch (ch)
-  Single Crochet (sc)
-  Double Crochet (dc)
-  Long dc into Round 2
-  Slip Stitch (sl st)
-  Arrow showing color change

Round 1: Chain 5. Join with a slip stitch to form a ring. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make a dc into the ring then ch1. Make 2 dc (still in the same chain ring). * Make 2 dc, ch1, 2dc in the chain ring. Repeat from * two more times. Join with slip stitch to third chain of beginning "ch3" of the round. (4 clusters of [2dc,ch,2dc])

Round 2: Continue with the same color. Slip stitch into the chain space in the middle of the first cluster of the previous round. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make 6 dc in same chain space (total of 7 dc's). Make 7 dc's into the chain space of the next cluster. Repeat 2 more times, so that each cluster has 7 dc's in its chain space. Join with slip stitch to the third chain of the beginning "ch3". Cut yarn and pull through. (4 sets of 7 dc's).

Round 3: Join new colour in the slip stitch of previous round's end, and ch1 (counts as a sc). Make one sc into each of the dc's of the cluster (this makes 7 sc including the ch1). Make one long dc (between clusters) that extends down into round 2 of the flower, so that it separates the round 2 clusters. * Sc into each of the 7 dc stitches of the next cluster. Make one long dc (between clusters) that extends down into round 2 of the flower, so that it separates the round 2 clusters. * Repeat from* to * two more times. Slip stitch to the beginning of the round "ch1" stitch.
 Cut yarn and pull through.. (28 sc and 4 long dc)

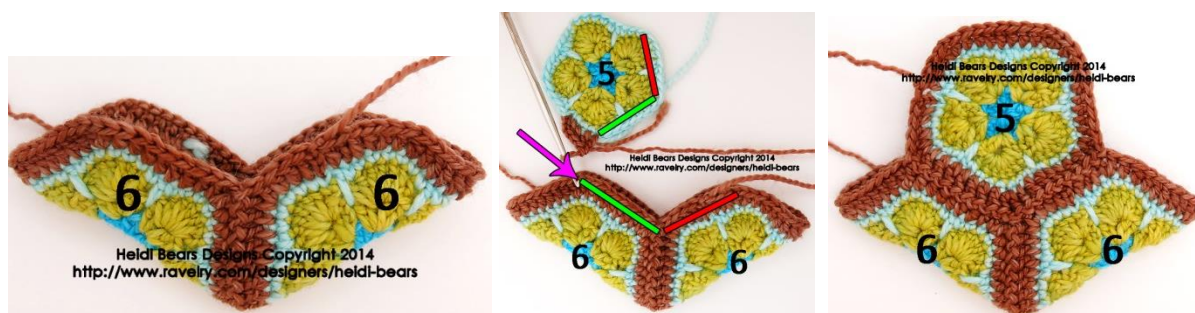
Round 4: Join next colour to the slip stitch at the end of the previous round. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make one dc into each of the next 2 sc's, then (dc, ch1, dc) into the next sc (this forms the "apex" of the flower petal). Then make one dc into each of the next three sc. Make one dc into the previous round's "long dc" stitch.
 * Make one dc into each of the next petal's first three sc stitches, then (dc, ch1, dc) into the next sc (this forms the "apex" of the petal), then make one dc into each of the next three sc. Make one dc into the previous round's long dc stitch. *
 Repeat from * to * two more times. Slip stitch to the third chain of the "ch3" of the beginning of the round.
 Cut yarn and pull through. (You should have nine "dc" stitches between each petal apex, separated by a chain stitch, so 36 dc in all).

:: Making Atuin Step by Step ::

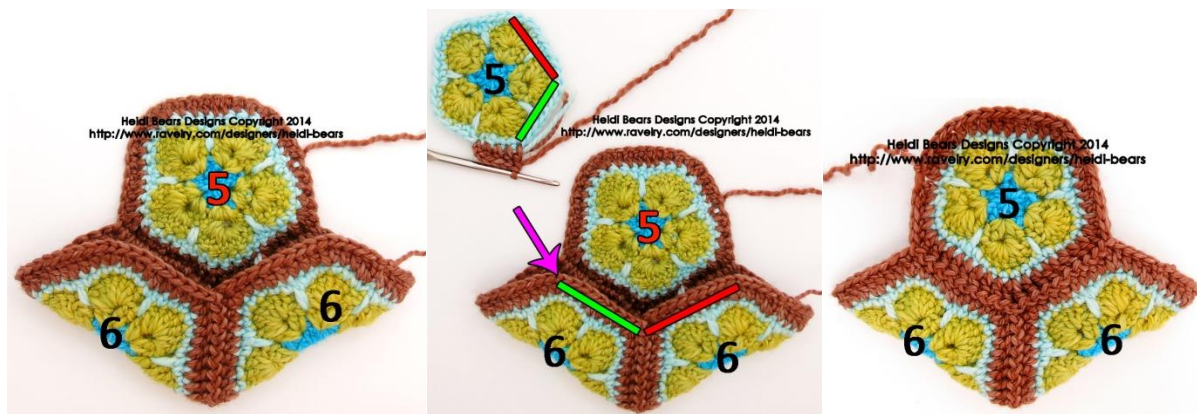
Atuin is made from the tail end to the head end. **Please NOTE: The black numbers on the motifs, eg, 5, 6, 7 etc indicate what the motif is, eg, a "6" means the motif is a hexagon (ie it has six sides). If that number appears in RED, it means you are facing the WRONG side of that motif...hopefully this helps with perspective ☺**



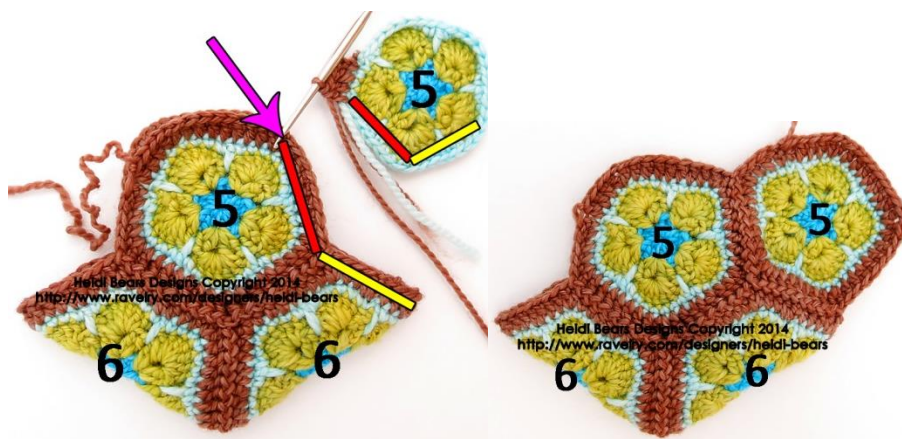
Take a hexagon and complete it by crocheting Round 5. This is the only motif that has Round 5 crocheted without it being joined to another motif. Now take a second hexagon and join it to the first hexagon on **TWO SIDES** (photo above left). The pink arrow indicates the point at which you will start to join your hexagons, and the colored lines indicate the corresponding sides that will be joined together (so the sides having red lines will be joined and the sides having green lines will be joined). Your work should look like the photo above right once the two sides have been joined.



Now flatten the work so that you can only see half of each of the hexagons (photo above on the left). See the "V"-shaped area lying between the two hexagons? You will join a pentagon on **TWO SIDES** to this "V"-shaped area, as shown in the photo above in the middle, again, starting your joining at the point shown by the pink arrow and joining the sides shown by the colored lines. Your work should now look like the photo above far right.



Now flip your work over. You are now facing the wrong (as opposed to right) side of the pentagon you joined on the last step, hence the red “5” alert to this (photo above far left). Notice again, on this side of the work, the “V”-shaped area between the hexagons. You will join a pentagon to this “V”-shaped space, just as you did before...on **TWO SIDES** as seen in the photo above in the middle. When the pentagon has been joined, your work should look like the photo above far right.



Now join a pentagon to the work on **TWO SIDES** (photo far left). As always, the starting point for your joining will be at the pink arrow point with the colored lines showing joining sides.

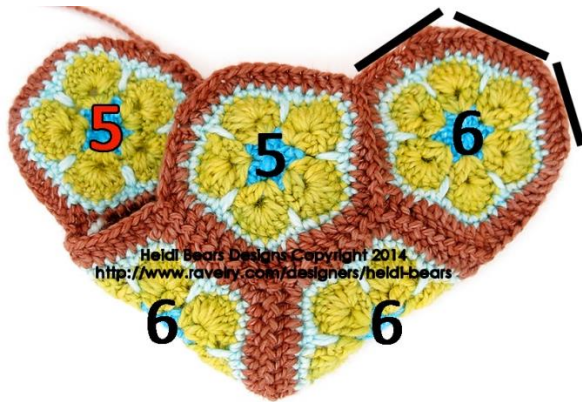
Your little turtle bottom is now looking like the photo above right.



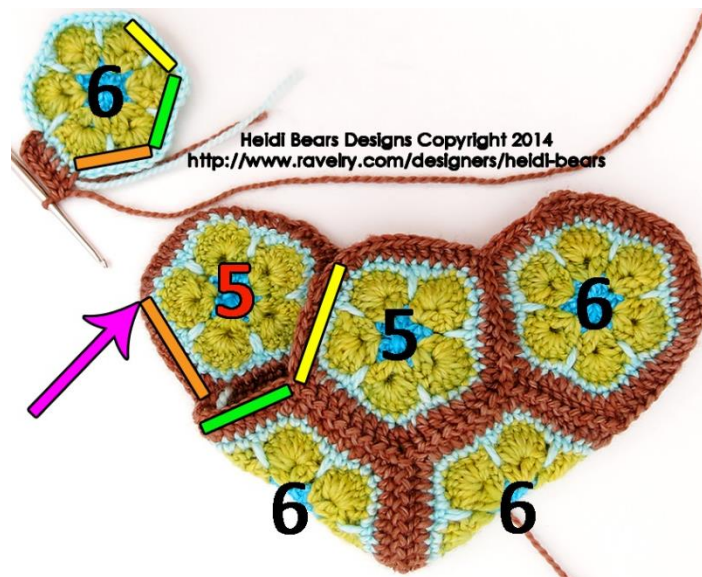
Next join a pentagon to the opposite side of the turtle bottom, (photo above left). When the pentagon has been joined, the work will look like the photo above right.



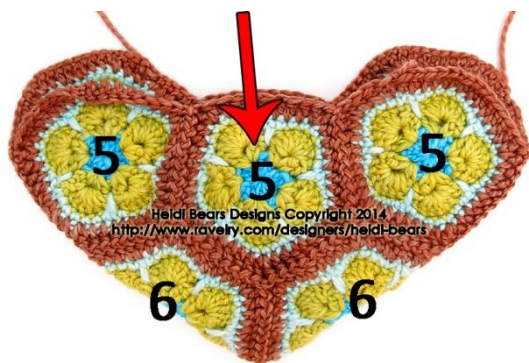
Flip the work over so that you are looking at wrong side of the two pentagons (red color 5s) you joined in the previous two steps (photo above left). The next step is joining a hexagon to your work, **ON THREE SIDES**, as shown above right. The starting point is on the central pentagon.



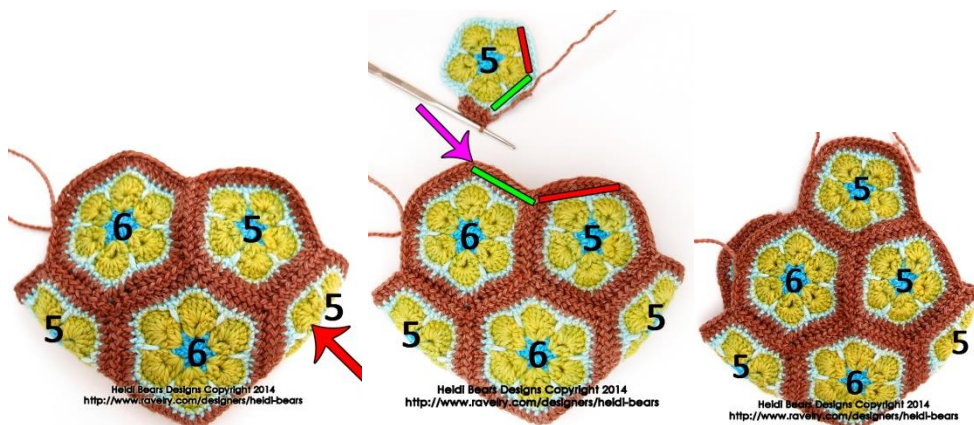
In the photo on the left, this hexagon has been joined...the sides shown by the black lines are “free” / unjoined sides...



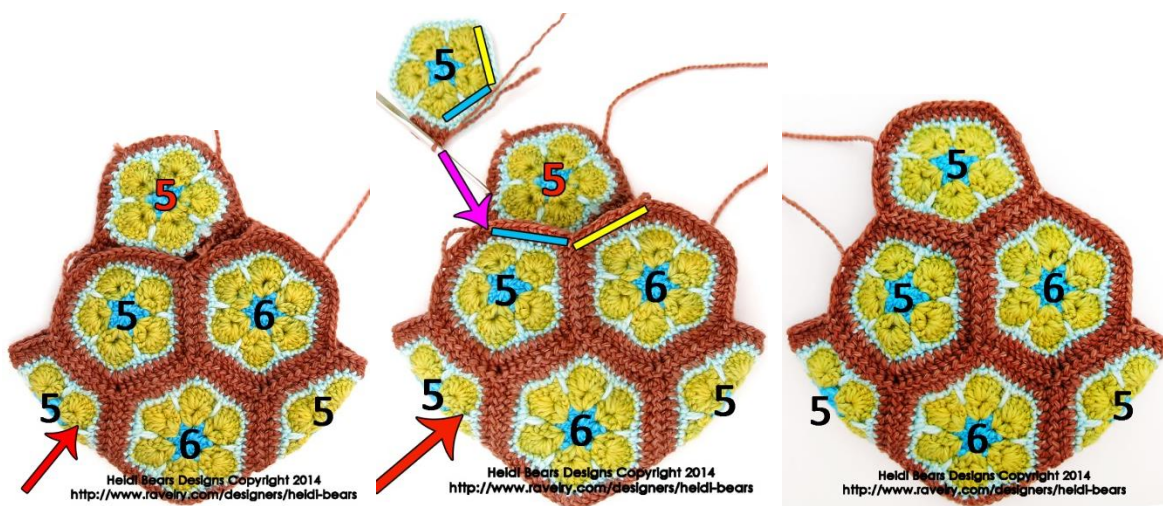
Next you need to join a hexagon to the other side of the turtle bottom, again joining it to **THREE SIDES** as shown above.



Flip your work over so that you are looking at the three pentagons in a row. Take note of the middle pentagon indicated by the **red arrow**. You are going to fold your work **open** so that this red-arrowed pentagon lies towards the right, and you can see one of the hexagons in full (photo below on the left).



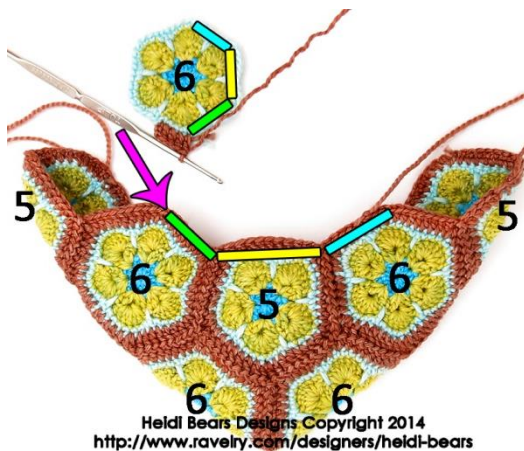
Join a pentagon on **TWO SIDES** to the area between the pentagon and the hexagon (photo above middle). Joining has been finished in the photo above on the right.



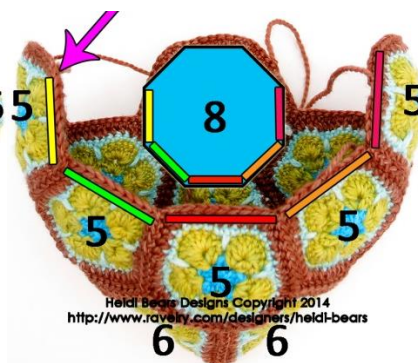
Right! You're doing well ☺ Let's now join a pentagon to the other side...Turn your work over so that you are looking at the wrong side of the just-added pentagon (photo above left). Notice again that the number on this pentagon is red? And take note of where the pentagon marked by the red arrow lies now...on the opposite side to before...just as a reminder ☺ Once more, join a pentagon to the area between the hexagon and the pentagon as seen in the photo above middle. Your work now looks like the photo above right.



Flatten out the work again so that you are only able to see half of each of the **tail point hexagons** (those are the two hexagons you joined right at the very beginning). Above on the left is the way one side looks and above right is how the other side looks.



Stick to the side that has the hexagon- pentagon- hexagon lined up in a row. Join a hexagon on **THREE SIDES** to the work, (photo above left). On the right above, it has been joined.



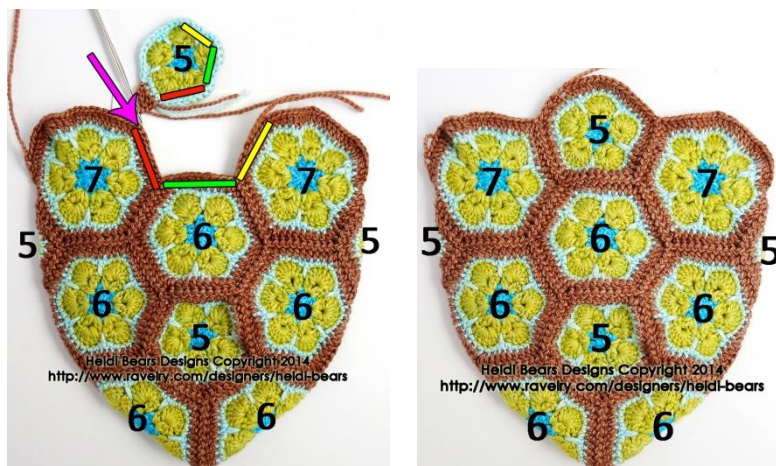
Now once more, turn your turtle over ☺ Join an octagon on **FIVE SIDES** to the work, starting at the point shown by the pink arrow and joining one side to each of the pentagons. The finished octagon can be seen in the photo far right.



Turn your work over. Things look like the photo above left. Join a heptagon on **THREE SIDES** as shown above middle...the first side is joined to the **central hexagon**, then to the **adjacent hexagon**, then finally to the **pentagon** right at the edge of the photo...

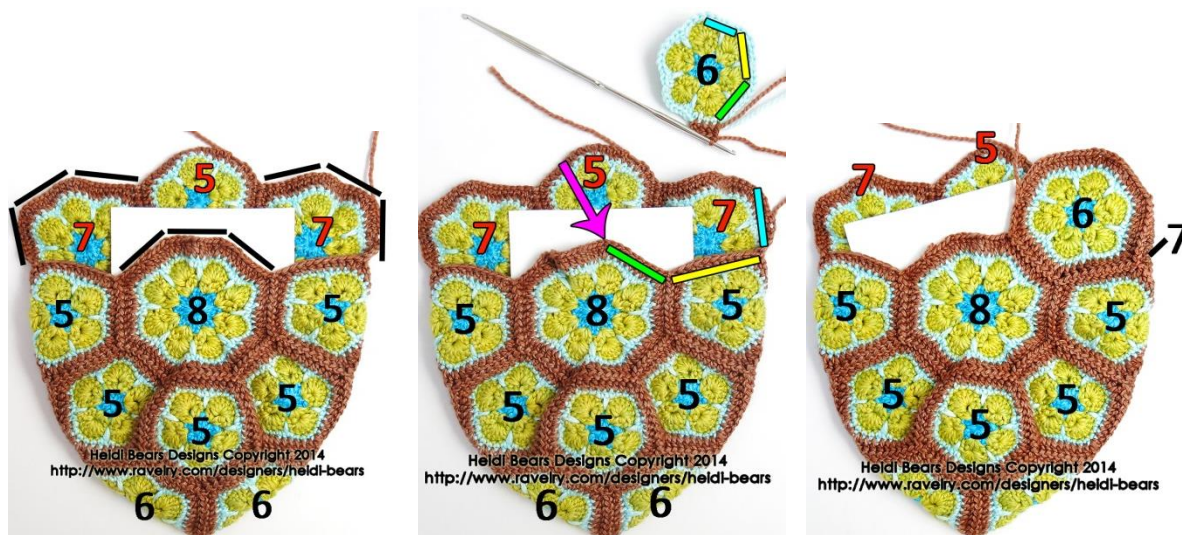


Join the other side's heptagon, also on **THREE SIDES** as shown above left, but this time the starting point for joining is the far left hand side **pentagon**...this is because you are always facing the right (as opposed to wrong) sides of the work and crocheting in an anti-clockwise direction as you join.



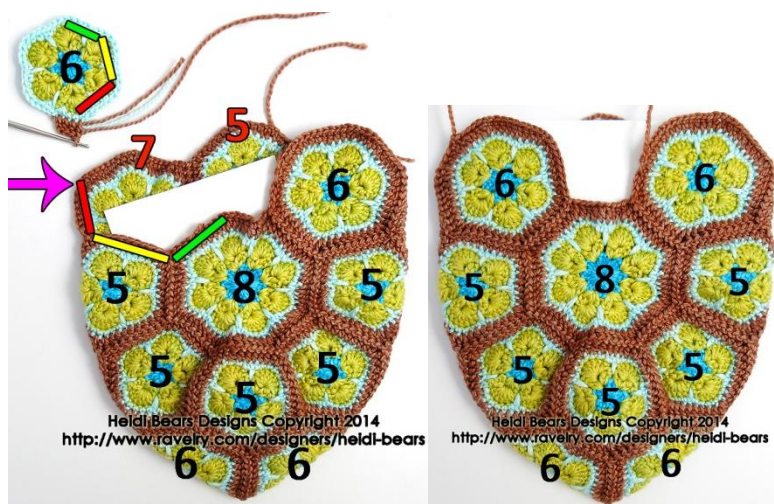
Notice the gap between the just joined heptagons? You will join a pentagon to this area, on **THREE SIDES**, as seen far left.

Your work now looks like the photo on the left ☺



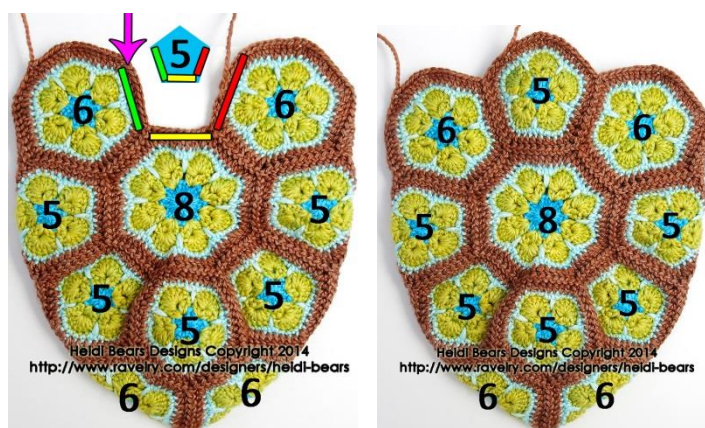
Turn your work over. You are now facing the side that has the octagon in the centre. In the photo above far left, I have indicated some of the “free / unjoined” sides by means of black lines. Note that the octagon has three free sides and the heptagons each have three free sides.

Join a hexagon to the work on THREE SIDES, starting your joining at the far right hand side “free” edge of the octagon, then on to the adjacent pentagon, and finally onto the adjacent heptagon. In the finished photo above far right, you can just see the edge of the heptagon peeking out ☺



You will now do the same to the other side of the work...join a hexagon on THREE SIDES, BUT, this time you start your joining at the heptagon (pink arrow), then join to the adjacent pentagon, and finally onto the adjacent octagon (photo far left).

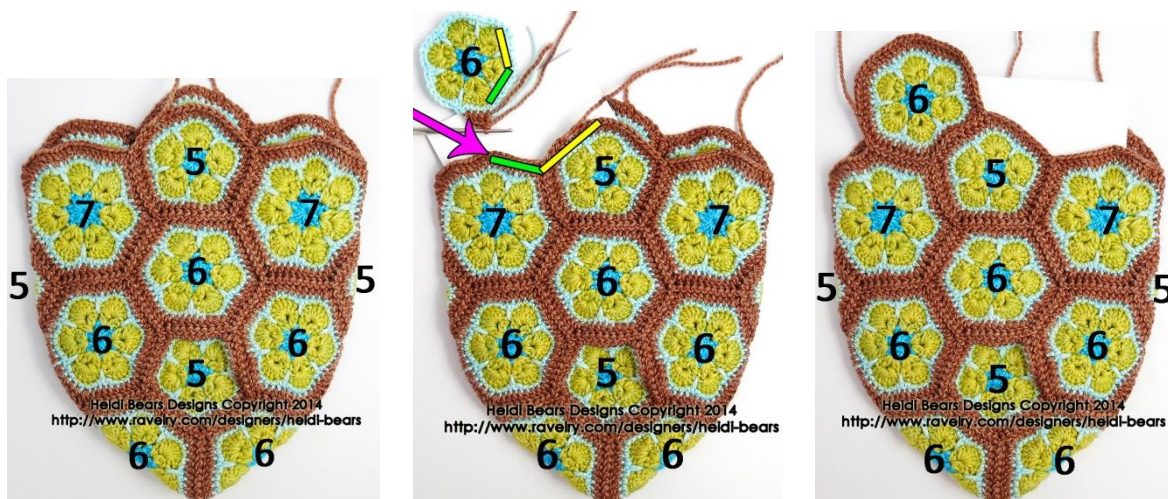
Once joined, the work looks like the photo on the left.



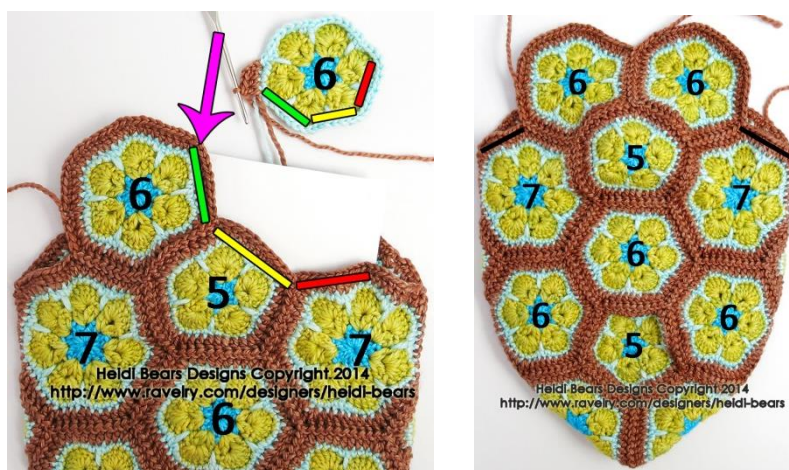
Okay! Nearly done with this side of the turtle for now...one more motif to join...

Join a pentagon on THREE SIDES to the gap between the hexagons and the octagon (photo far left).

Your work looks like this now (photo left).



Now turn your work over again. Remember in the previous photos, the heptagons each had three free sides? You used up one side on each heptagon when you joined the hexagons previously...so now there are two “free” sides left over. Join a hexagon to the work, on **TWO SIDES**, to the space between the **heptagon** and the **central pentagon** (photo above middle). Your starting point for joining is the heptagon’s free side which lies **closest** to the pentagon (**green lines**). Your work looks like the photo above right when the hexagon has been joined.

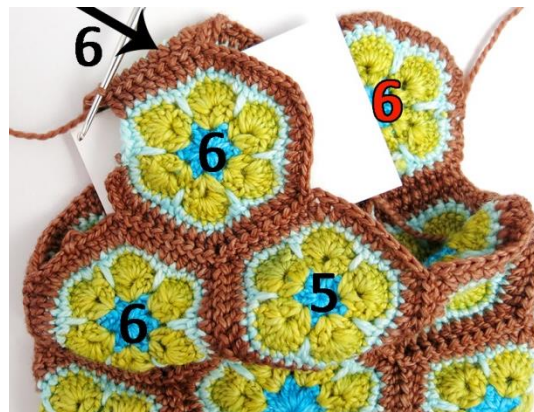


Next, join a hexagon to the other side of the work, on **THREE SIDES**, starting joining on the **hexagon** (photo far left).

In the photo on the left, the hexagon has been joined and you still have one free side left on each of the heptagons (black lines).



Awesome! You have two more motifs to add then the turtle shell is all done ☺ Turn your work over again. You are now facing the side with the central octagon. Join a hexagon to the area between the **hexagon** and the **central pentagon** (photo far left), **ON TWO SIDES**, then crochet **TWO MORE SIDES** without joining (photo left).

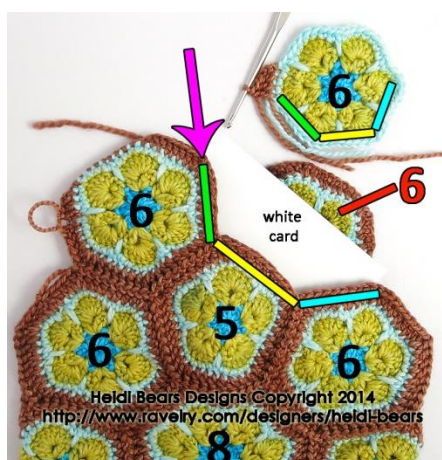


In the photo above on the left, I have squished the crochet fabric down a bit in order to show a clearer view of the next step. I have placed a small white card under the current motif to show its sides better. You will now join the current motif (the one you are crocheting Round 5 for), to the opposite body **hexagon** (wrong side facing you) **ON ONE SIDE ONLY**. Make sure that you are joining to the correct side (it's the second free side of this **red 6** hexagon)...start your joining at the point shown by the pink arrow. In the photo above on the right, this side has been joined.



Now crochet the rest of Round 5 without joining. In the photo far left, the joined edge is shown by the pink line.

Your work should look like the photo on the left now.



Next, join a hexagon on **THREE SIDES** as shown far left. Your starting point for joining is on the previously-joined **hexagon** (pink arrow).



Now crochet ONE unjoined side (above left...I have indicated the free side just crocheted by means of a red line). In the photo on the right, above, I have squished the working hexagon down a bit so that you can see the hexagon behind it (red number 6). Join the working hexagon to this side shown by the green line (again, starting your joining at the pink arrow point). Finally, crochet the last side of the working hexagon without joining.



Well done! The shell is all finished up and pretty ☺ Let's do a recap of how things look at this point in the game...

Above on the left, you can see the turtle back (has the central octagon), and above right you can see the turtle belly. Now you have two identifiable sides, so you should be able to tell immediately from the following photos, which is the back side or the belly side ☺

:: Making the front flippers ::

Atuin's front and back flippers are made from single color motifs, but really, if you want to make very colourful and bright flippers, go wild! Each front flipper is made up of three hexagons, a pentagon and a triangle.



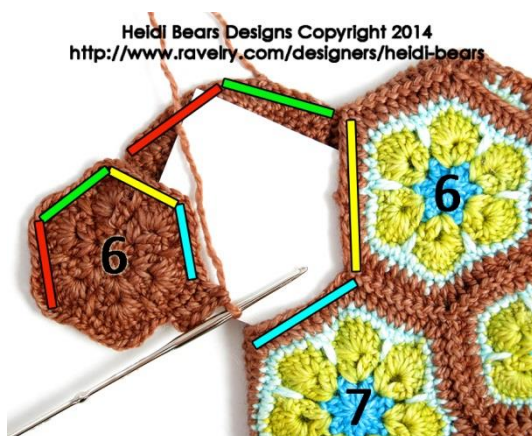
Start by facing the **turtle back**. Join a hexagon to the “V”-shaped area between the **hexagon** and the **hexagon** as seen above on the left. You will join on TWO SIDES only. Above right the joining is completed.



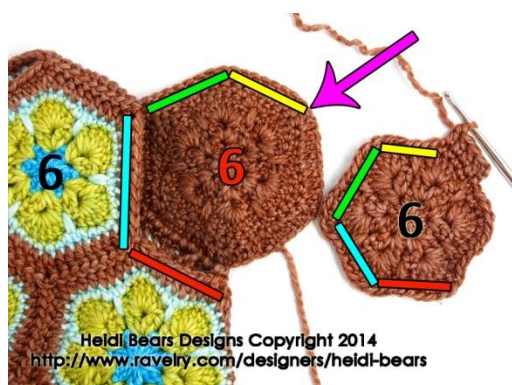
Now do the same for the other side...join a hexagon to the work, on TWO SIDES, to the “V”-shaped area between the **hexagon** and the **hexagon**. Above on the right, you can see the final picture so far...



Flip your work over, so that you are looking at the **turtle belly**. Note, that you are now facing the wrong (as opposed to right) sides of the flipper hexagons you joined before (**red numbers**). Start with the area on the left of the photo (**blue ring**) ...take a look at the place where the multi-colored hexagon and heptagon meet...(photo above on the right).



Join a hexagon on **FOUR SIDES** as seen above on the left. The first side is joined to the **heptagon**, then to the **hexagon**, then to two sides of the mono-colored hexagon opposite (**green** and **red** lines). Above right you can see the finished product. Let's join to the other flipper now (green ring above right)

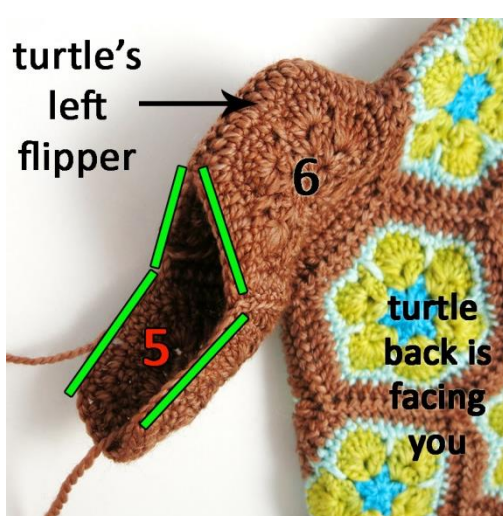


Join a hexagon to the other flipper, again on **FOUR SIDES**...however, this time your starting point for joining lies on the mono-colored **flipper hexagon** (photo far left, pink arrow).

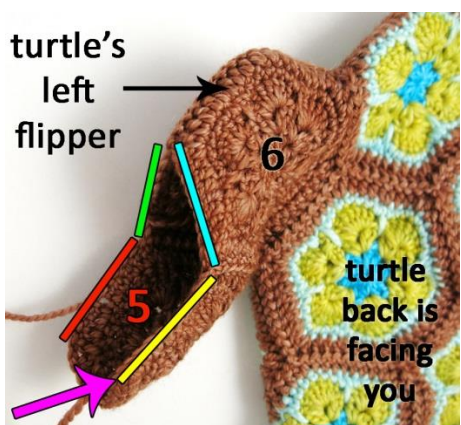
Above right, is how things look now...each flipper side has four "free", unjoined sides, and there is a neck opening in the middle of the body with four "free", unjoined sides left over.



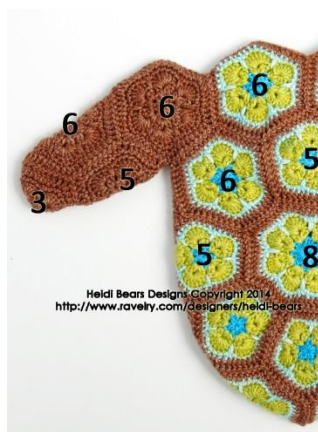
Still staying with the area you are working on, take a look at the flipper end. There are four “free”, unjoined sides as mentioned before (photo far left, **pink** lines). Note that there are two sides that are closer to the body...join a pentagon to these **TWO SIDES**, as shown on the left. (Remember, that when I say “turtle’s left flipper”, I mean it as anatomically correct). When you’re done, turn the turtle over so that you are facing its back. (photo below left).



I have shown the four sides of importance using the green lines (photo above right).



Join a hexagon to these **FOUR SIDES**, using the photo above left for guidance...the pink arrow shows your starting point (as always ☺). Your work now looks like the photo above on the right.



You now have an opening at the end of the flipper, that has **THREE SIDES**. Join a triangle to these three sides, **JOINING ON ALL SIDES**. If you need to, refresh your memory on how to join a motif on all sides, take a look at the Joining Tutorials at the end of the pattern.

Once joined, the turtle flipper looks like the photo on the left.

Now repeat the above steps for the right hand side flipper, starting again, with joining a pentagon to the two sides nearest the body...



Well done awesome turtle creator! Your turtle body is done and looking great! Above on the left, you can see the view of the turtle back. Above right is the view of the turtle belly.

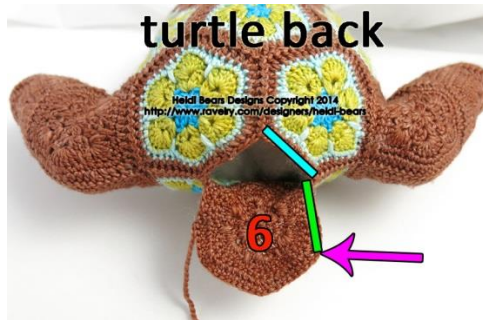
Now stuff the body and arms using small bits of polyester stuffing. Don't use great big clumps...they are much harder to manipulate to achieve a great looking shape ☺ Also, don't overstuff...just enough to get a nice smooth fabric surface. Start by stuffing from the tail end, working your way to the neck opening. When you have nearly reached all the way to the neck opening, gently stuff the flippers, again being careful to achieve **symmetry and evenness of shape** for both flippers.

:: Making the Head ::

Atuin's head is made up of one hexagon, one square motif and four pentagons.



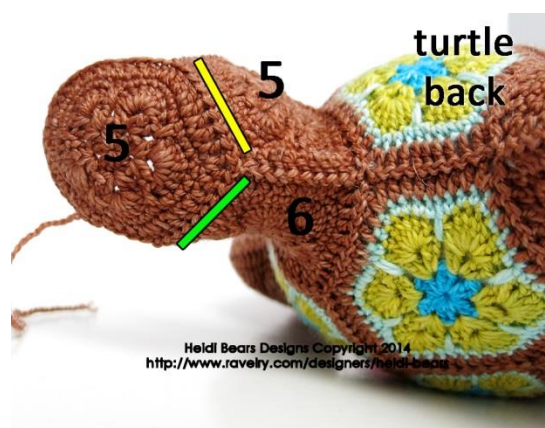
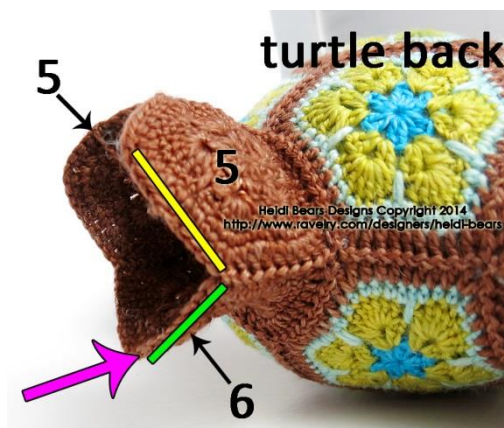
Join a **hexagon** to the neck opening, on **TWO SIDES**, making sure that the two sides are those lying on the **turtle belly** side of the body (photo above left).



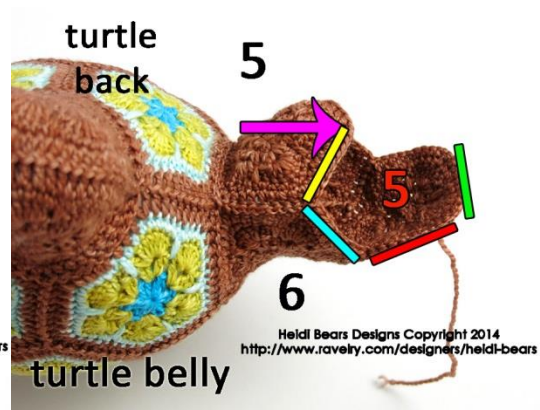
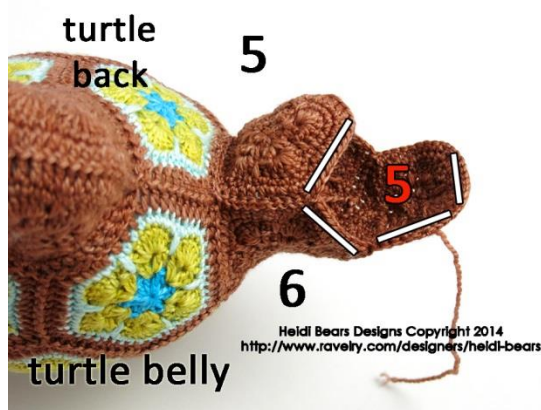
Now flip your turtle over so that you are looking at the back part of the body. Join a pentagon, on **TWO SIDES** as shown far left. One side is to the **previously-joined hexagon** and the second side to the turtle **back hexagon**. On the left, is a side view after the pentagon has been joined.



Next, you will join a pentagon to the other side of the head. Using the photo above on the left as a guide, join a pentagon to **THREE SIDES**...the first side is to the previously-joined **pentagon**, then to the turtle back **hexagon**, then to the head **hexagon**. In the photo above on the right, the pentagon has been joined and things look like this now ☺



Return to the left hand side of the head (remember, speaking anatomically!). Join a pentagon on **TWO SIDES**, the first side being to the **head hexagon** and the second side being to the left-hand side **head pentagon** (photo above on the left). Here's how your work should look now, once this pentagon has been joined (photo above right).



Now focus on the right hand side of the head. See the four sides of the motifs indicated by white lines? (photo above left). You will join a pentagon to these **FOUR SIDES**. Use the photo above on the right as a guide. The sides indicated by the **red** and **green** lines **ARE ON THE SAME PENTAGON** (the one you joined in the previous step).



Once joined, your turtle's head look like the photo on the left. The white lines correspond to the joined sides.

Now gently stuff the head, again paying attention to the symmetry and evenness of shape.



Okay! Last head motif to add and we're A-for-Away! Once the head has been stuffed, you will see a square shaped opening left over (photo above left). Join a square to this space, **ON ALL SIDES**.

If you need to, refresh your memory on how to join a motif on all sides...take a look at the Joining Tutorials at the end of the pattern. If this is too daunting, don't worry! Just finish the square motif up to the last Round, then, using a tapestry needle and some spare yarn, sew the square to the head opening...no-one will notice and your turtle will still look spectacular!

:: Sculpting the Eye Sockets and attaching the Eyes ::

The single best bit of advice that I can give you in making this turtle, is to take the time to **sculpt the eye sockets**...it really is easy and quick to do and adds a realistic look to your turtle's face that triples the cuteness factor!

Take a length of yarn around a meter long (around a yard) and fold in half so that the two ends are placed together. Thread these two ends into the eye of a long tapestry needle or doll making needle.

Place Atuin between your knees to hold in place, facing the head. Insert the needle into the left eye area (using the photo below left as a guide for position). Push the needle all the way through the head, exiting at the right eye area.



Pull the yarn through the head, leaving a small loop at the left eye as seen above in the right photo.



Now re-insert the needle into the right eye area, slightly to the side of where the needle exited (in order to catch a few stitches) , and push across the head back to the left eye area, again exiting slightly to the side of where you initially inserted the needle at the left eye area, putting the needle **through the yarn loop** . Pull up the yarn gently, and you will see the eye sockets indent. Don't pull too hard or the eyes will be placed too close together...



Thread the needle through the wire loop of the glass eye. Re-insert the needle into the centre of the left eye area, and push through the head to the right eye centre. Before you pull the yarn all the way through, use pointed nose pliers to pinch the wire loop narrower (this allows it to be pulled into the head more easily). Give a gentle tug on the yarn to “sink” the eye into the head.



Repeat the process for the right eye...thread the needle and yarn through the glass eye wire loop, re-insert the needle into the same hole that you exited from, and again, pinch the wire loop narrower, and push the needle all the way to the left eye, exiting under the left eye, just to the side of where the wire loop sits. Give a gentle tug on the yarn and see the right eye “sink” into the head. Make a triple stitch under the left eye to anchor the yarn and snip. The eyes are done!

:: Making the Shell Edging ::

You can either start the shell edging by crocheting a long chain of 134 chain stitches, or, if you hate working on a long chain as much as I do, you can make 134 foundation single crochets. If you have never done a foundation single crochet stitch before, here is a wonderful tutorial:

<http://www.purlbee.com/crochet-tutorials/foundation-single-crochet-fsc.html>

The foundation single crochet is very easy to make and give a much cleaner, neater edge to sew to the turtle’s back.

When making the shell edging, you will never turn your work. You’ll crochet one row at a time, then cut your yarn and start again at the beginning of the long row. This means you will always have the right (as opposed to wrong) side of the edging facing you.

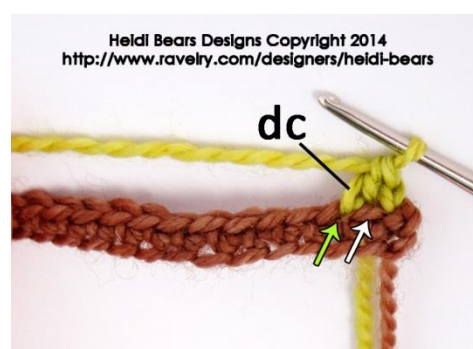
ROW 1:

Start by foundation single crocheting 134 stitches. Leave a tail of around a meter of yarn. You will use this to sew the shell edging to the turtle back later on.



ROW 2:

Take a new color. Tie to the tail end at the beginning of the work. Insert your hook into the first sc and pull through a loop of your new color yarn. Ch 1 (photo below left)



Now skip one sc (white arrow in photo above right) to the left and make a double crochet into the next along sc. (green arrow in photo above right). Yes, it will lean on its side, almost horizontal.



Make another dc into this same sc. Ch 1. Make two dc's into this same sc (photo above on the left).

*Now skip one sc to the left and slip stitch into the next-along sc (black arrow photo above left).

Skip one stitch and make the following into the next-along sc (black arrow photo above on the right):

2dc, ch, 2dc, repeat from * to the end of the work .



You should have 33 sets of [2dc,ch,2dc]. Slip stitch into the last sc (photo above), cut yarn and pull through.

ROW 3:

Start at the beginning of the work again. Insert hook into the chain stitch right at the beginning, then Ch1 (photo below left). Make 7 dc's into the chain space of Row 2 (photo middle below). * Make 7 dc's into the next along chain space of the adjacent [2dc,ch,2dc] cluster. Repeat from * to the end (photo below right). Slip stitch into the last foundation sc. Cut yarn and pull through.



ROW 4:

Take a new color yarn. Insert hook into the chain stitch right at the beginning, then Ch1. * Make a sc into each of the dc's of the first 7dc cluster of Row 3 (photo below left). Now make a long dc right down to Row 1 (photo below middle). Repeat from * to the end of the work. Slip stitch into the last Row 1 sc (photo below right). Cut yarn and pull through.



ROW 5:

Take a new color yarn. Insert hook into the chain stitch right at the beginning, then Ch3 (photo below left). Make a dc into each stitch of Row 4. Slip stitch into the last Row 1 sc, cut yarn and pull through.



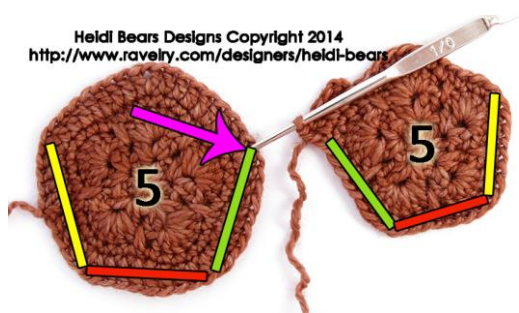
Starting at the tail end, pin the shell edging to the turtle back using the photos below as a guide to placement. Make sure that you have the wrong side of the shell edging facing you (the edging naturally wants to curl in one direction, so don't try and fight it ☺). Using the long tail you had from Row 1, sew the shell edging to the turtle back.

Sew in all the little colored ends. Your work should look



:: Making the Hind Feet ::

Atuin's hind foot is made from two pentagons and a square motif. Both feet are made in exactly the same way.



Make a pentagon all the way up to Round 5. Join a second pentagon to this, on **THREE SIDES** (photo above left). The two pentagons form a little "pocket" when joined. In the photo above on the right, the black lines indicate the joined sides.



Now squash the little pentagon pocket flat so that you can only see half of each of them (photo above far left). Join a square to the “V”-shaped area between the pentagon, on **TWO SIDES**. Your work now looks like the photo in the middle. Flatten the work again, so that you can see the whole of one pentagon (photo above far right).

You will pin each foot to the body and sew them to the tail end of the turtle.

There are four points of attachment that are shown in the following photos for guidance.



When you have about an inch and a half of sewing up to do, gently stuff the foot with polyester stuffing to give it a shape. Sew up the rest of the seam.

And now dear friends, your sea-faring (or space-faring as the case may be...) Atuin the turtle is done! Well done for making an awesome turtle!

I hope you have enjoyed making Atuin and that you have found the pattern clear and easy to follow...if you have any questions or have found any errors, please pm me on Ravelry or send me an email to heidibearscreativeblog@gmail.com and I will be happy to help ☺

Happy crocheting folks!

:: APPENDIX : JOINING TUTORIALS ::

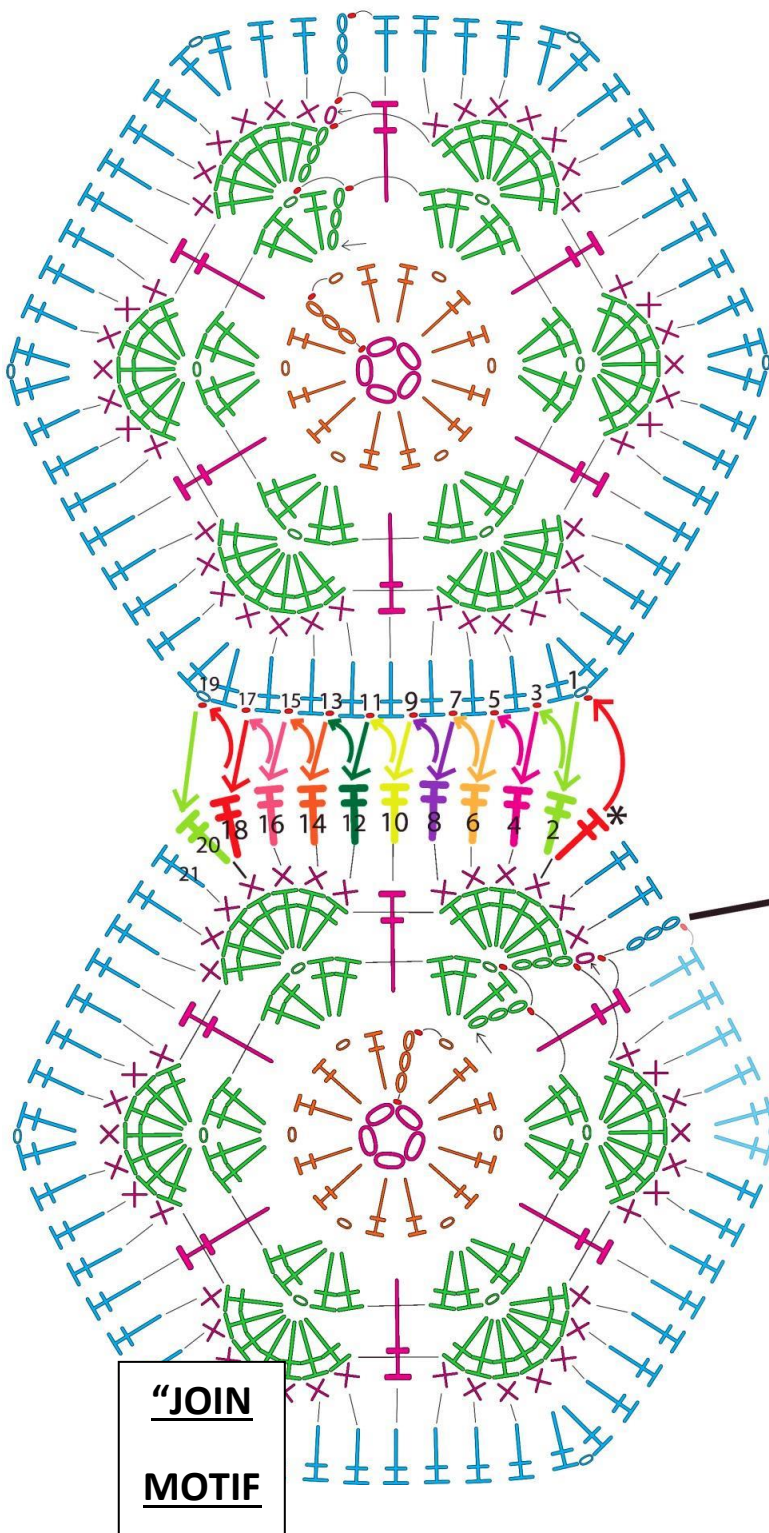
JOINING TWO MOTIFS ON ONE SIDE

NOTE: Slip stitches are made into the space BETWEEN the dc stitches of the motif you are joining to, NOT into the actual dc stitch!

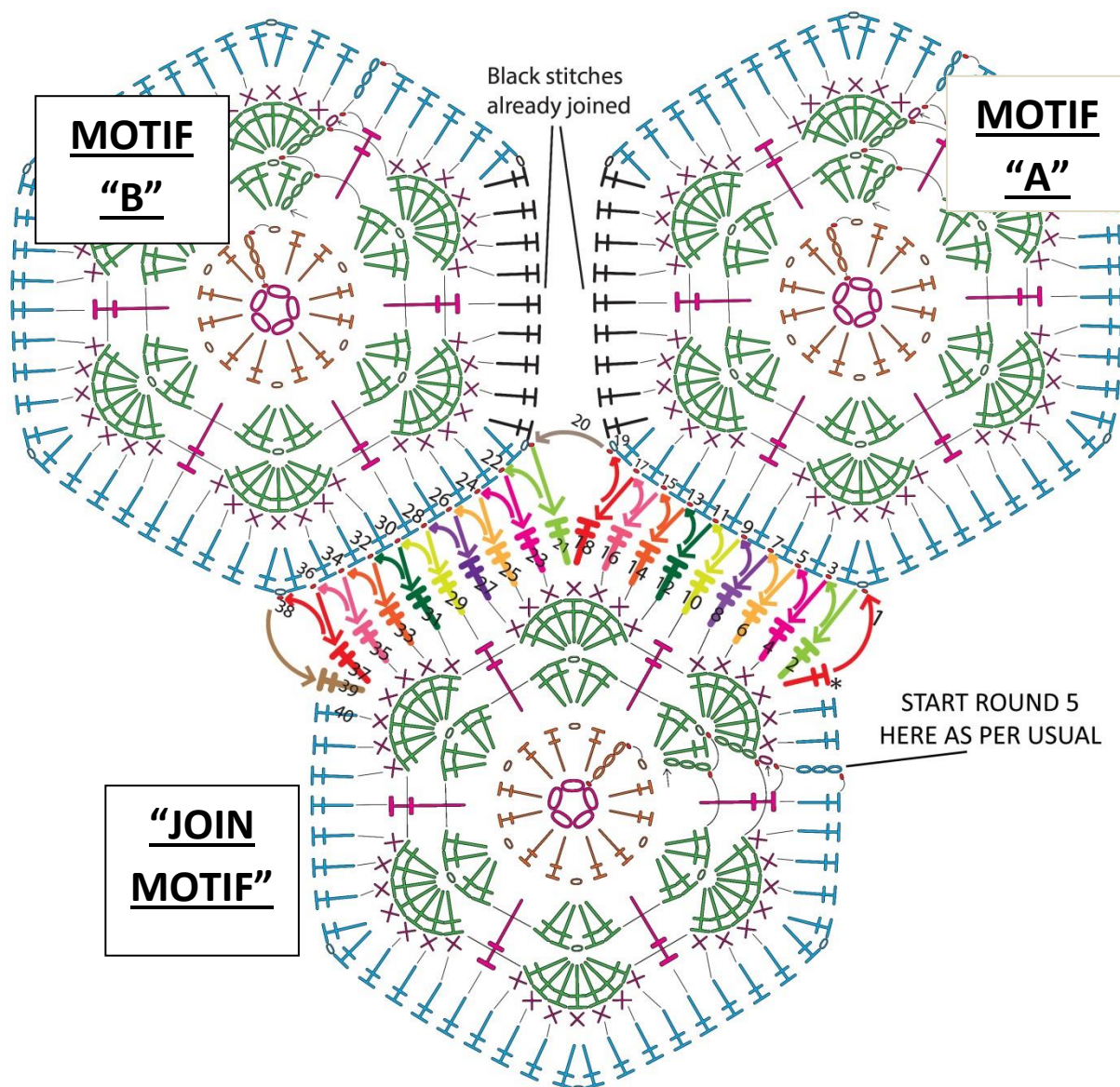
When you join a motif stitch for stitch, to another motif on one side only, you need to start crocheting Round 5 of the “join motif” at the usual point, which is where your Ch3 starts the round. Work as usual up until the first dc of the [dc,ch,dc in same space] set, and make **ONLY** the first dc of this set. This is the dc in red, with an asterisk. **DO NOT** crochet a chain stitch...instead join to the other motif’s flower apex chain space (1) using a slip stitch (shown by a red oval dot). Now crochet a dc (2, lime green) into the same space on the “join motif” as the previously made dc (red*).

START ROUND 5
HERE AS PER USUAL

Now slip stitch join to the space (3) on the opposite motif, which lies right next to where you slip stitch joined before. Make the next dc (4, pink) as you usually would on the “join motif”. Continue in this manner, alternating between slip stitch joining to the opposite motif and crocheting a stitch on the “join motif” The numbers will guide you step wise.



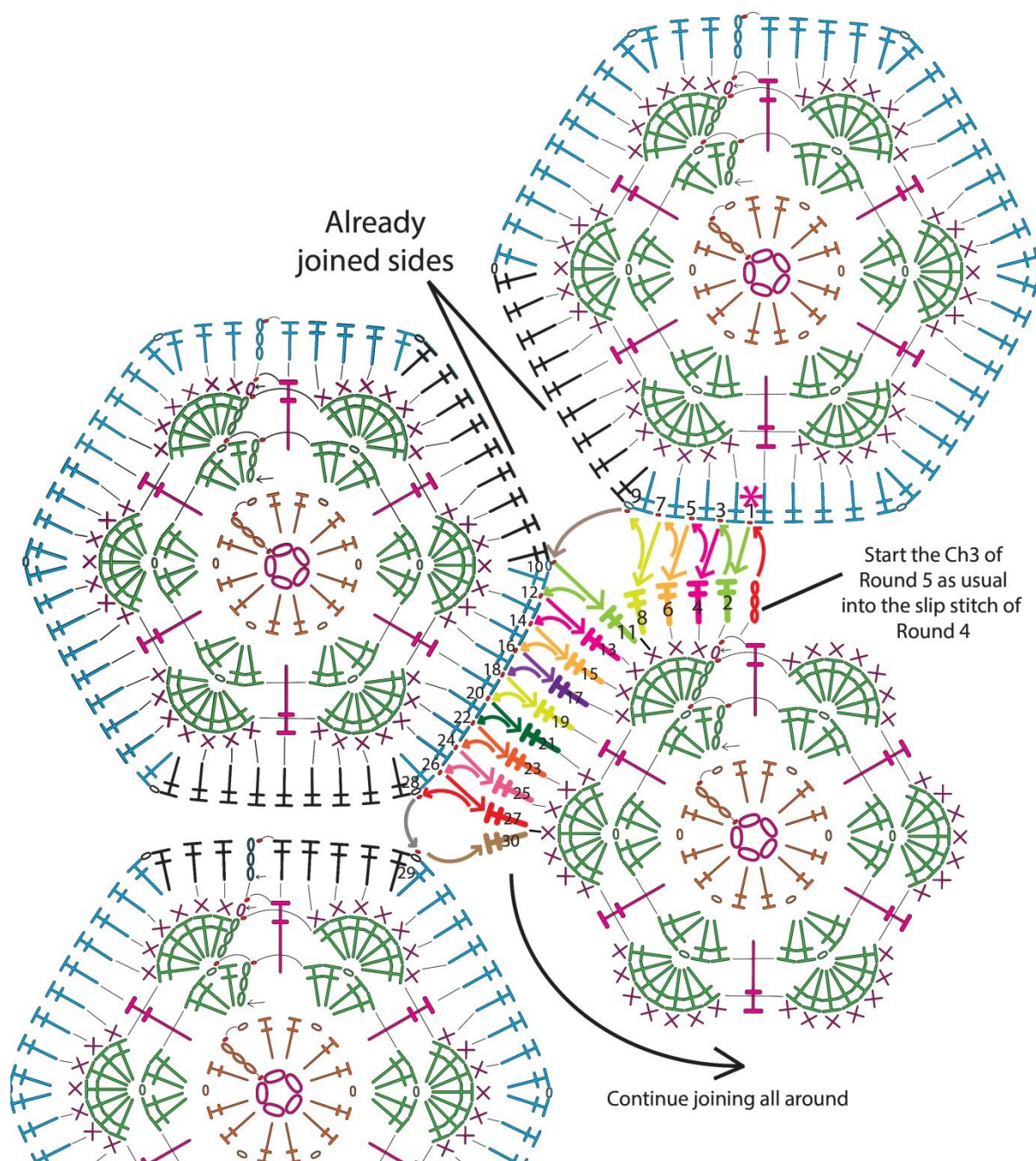
JOINING A MOTIF ON TWO OR MORE SIDES



Joining a motif to two other motifs "A" and "B" (which would already be joined to each other), involves exactly the same process as joining on one side. Proceed as per the instructions for joining on one side only, up until the point where you have made the first dc of the second set of [dc,ch,dc] of the "Join Motif", (marked 18, red). Now slip stitch join into the Motif "A" flower apex chain space (19). Next, instead of crocheting the green dc (21) on the "Join Motif", **FIRST SLIP STITCH JOIN TO THE flower apex chain space of "Motif B" (20).** **Now** you crochet the green dc (21) on the "Join Motif". This means you have joined on two slip stitch points at a multi-point intersection, making the joins strong and even. Continue as before joining on the second side (the black numbered steps will guide you).

So what do you do if you have to join a motif to 3 or even 4 sides, meaning you have 3 or 4 flower apex chain space points all together? Remember the rule...when you get to a flower apex chain space multi-point, **you slip stitch join INTO EACH OF THEM, from one to the next, to the next and so on, until you have slip stitch joined ALL OF THEM...**then you crochet the second dc of the [dc,ch,dc] set.

JOINING A MOTIF TO OTHER MOTIFS ON ALL SIDES



Joining a motif to others on all sides seems harder than it is...however, you are usually doing this kind of join when your hippo or other toy is already stuffed, making it harder to accomplish. Remember that you can sew in this last motif if this is easier for you ☺ That being said, the only thing to keep your eye out for is the correct placing of the first slip stitch join. Start the "Join Motif" Round 5 as usual, with a Ch3. Now slip stitch join this to the opposite motif, MAKING SURE IT IS JOINED AT THE SPACE JUST TO THE LEFT OF WHERE THE LONG DC OF ROUND 4 LIES. Because you are facing the right sides of motif when joining, and joining in an anti-clockwise direction (except if you are a left handed crocheter), this space will always lie to the left of the long dc stitch. In the diagram above, it is marked with a pink asterisk. A good way to check that you have placed the first

slip stitch join, is to look out for when you reach the flower apex chain space...you should have crocheted the first of the dc's that make up the [dc,ch,dc] set. So the next step would be to slip stitch join to the flower apex chain space of the opposite motif...if this is not the case, your placing of the first slip stitch join is incorrect...check again. If this is correct, then continue crocheting Round 5 of the "Join Motif" joining-as-you-go, all around.