

♥ Lollo African Flower Bear ♥

A Heidi Bears Design © 2011

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

I do not have the right to give you as the purchaser of this pattern, permission to make Lollo Bear for any commercial gain. She is for personal use only.



:: Requirements ::

The Lollo Bear that has been crocheted for this tutorial, was made using sock weight/fingering/#1 weight yarn. Using this weight yarn will give you quite a large bear, measuring approximately 53cm tall when standing.

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... I have kept to three colors for clarity's sake, but you can choose whichever and as many colors as you like. Keep in mind that the African Flower pattern should still remain clearly visible. To be safe, you will need about 150-200g of each of the two dominant colors, in my case purple and white, and approximately 100g of the third colour, ie in this case apricot. The amount of yarn that you use will also be influenced by your tension, so be sure to have enough when making your first bear :) After that, you can gauge whether your yarn requirements are more or less.

Crochet Hooks 2.5mm 2.25mm 2.0mm 1.75mm 1.50mm 1.25mm

Polyester toy stuffing

Bear 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 bear for a child, rather embroider the eyes using embroidery thread!

Embroidery Thread

Scissors

Long sewing needle (doll making needles work well)

Tapestry Needle used for sewing in ends

African Flower Crochet Motif Pattern. I have posted a Step by Step photo tutorial on how to make the African Flower Pattern Motif , on my blog. If you are not sure how to go about the pattern please go to

<http://heidibearscreative.blogspot.com/2010/05/african-flower-hexagon-crochet-tutorial.html>



:: General Tips ::

There are a few tips that you will want to know, to make your life easier, when making Lollo Bear.

I strongly recommend that you work through the Joining Tutorials (Appendix A and appendix B)...because Lollo Bear is stuffed, you will need to join the African Flower hexagon 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 crying! I want you to be a happy Lollo Bear creator, 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 photo below, 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 hexagons, 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 hexagon (in the photo below , 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 1 and dc number 9 of each 9dc repeat (of round 5), are made into THE SAME sc space below from the previous round. This point is what I have arbitrarily called the APEX of the flower petal.**

TIP 3: 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 4: 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 photos can be a bit distorted...)

TIP 5: 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 cylindrically shaped body (and other body parts), your work will curl up naturally after adding Round 2 of the motifs. Don't be confused by the fact that the photographs are now showing joining indicator lines on the wrong side of your work...the motifs are ALWAYS added with the right side facing you, and the closed end of the body AWAY from

you (body upside down if you will....). 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 some of the photographs by a pink dot. If you have worked through Appendix A and B, you will have a clearer understanding of this tip.

TIP 6: INSTRUCTIONS REPEATED FOR BEGINNERS: I REPEAT STUFF ALL THE TIME! This is not to irritate you, but to keep reminders in place for absolute beginners...so if you can crochet in your sleep, please bear ☺ with the endless repetition, and skip to the next instruction! :)

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 Lollo 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.

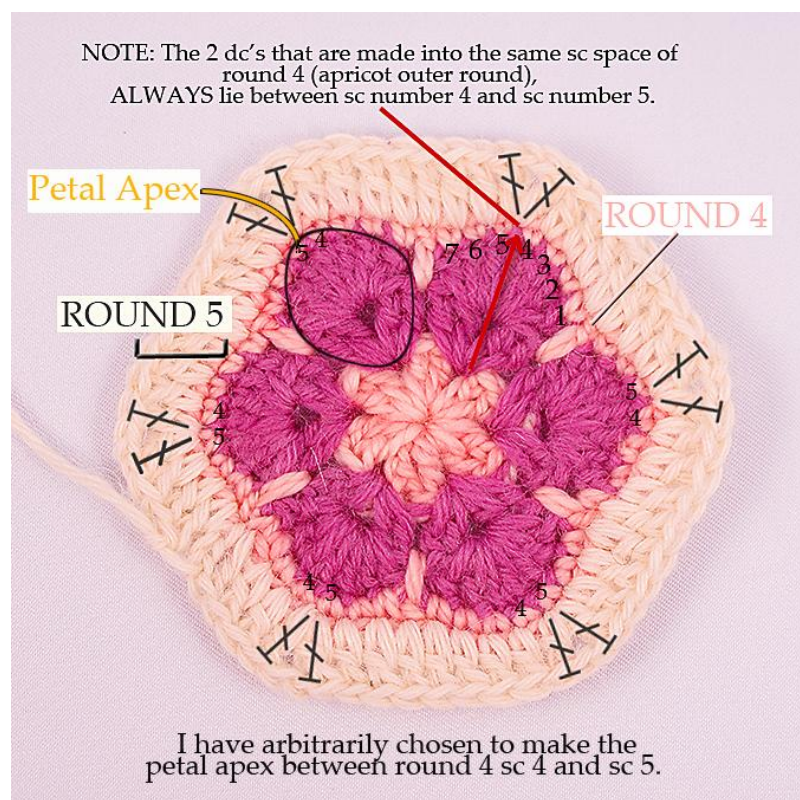
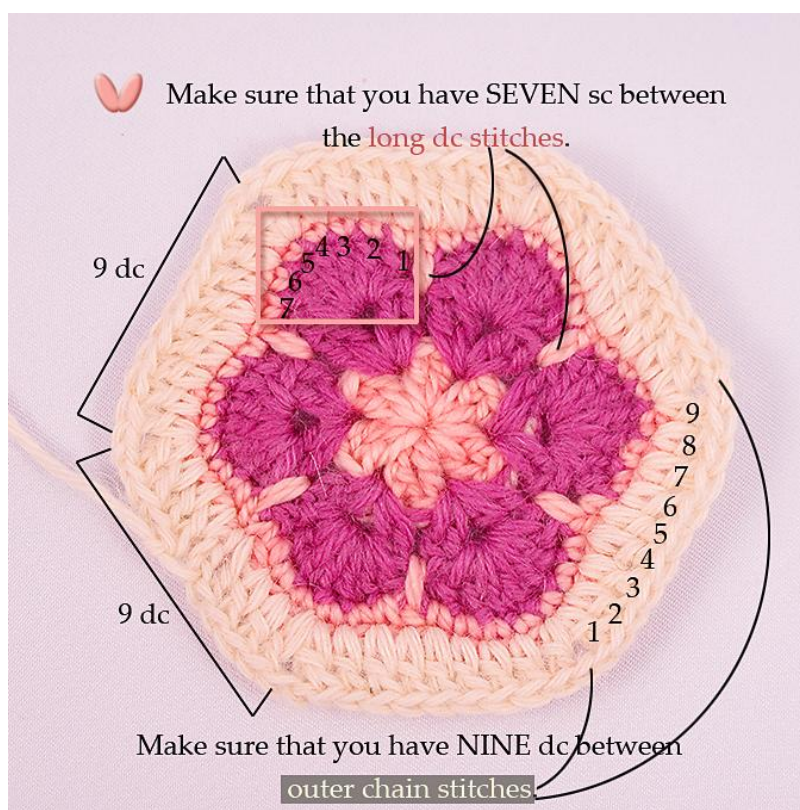
TIP 8: KEEPING TRACK OF YOUR MOTIFS: How do you keep track of which motifs are made with which hook? I have a collection of small decorated tins, with hinge lids, which I labelled with the shape and size of the motifs I kept inside it. All my 2.0mm hook hexagons were in one tin, all the 1.75mm hexagons in another tin and so on... Now all you have to do when you need a motif, is to take the correct sized one from the right tin.

TIP 9: 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 stays the same, the only variables for motif size is the crochet hook size and your tension. It may be a good idea to make all the same shape and hook size motifs all in one go, rather than jumping between sizes...

TIP 10: COLOR VARIATIONS : For uniformity sake I have made Lollo using the same colored yarn throughout her body, but you can change her look entirely by making only some of the motifs have colored flowers eg a white bear with pink flower eyes, a chocolate colored bear with white flowers for eye, nose and ears, or even just make her paw pads colored and the rest of her body a different color...the possibilities are obviously endless... find a picture with your favorite colors and use that for inspiration, or make a truly rainbow bear, with bright and over the top colors everywhere and perhaps leave her head a simple one color design (if you do this, tie a lovely ruff around her neck and you have a wonderful clown bear :)). Even if you change the colors, make the motifs and join them exactly as you would usually...

Play with possibilities, my fellow bear makers and enjoy!

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



Okay, so you can just as easily make the flower petal apex be between the 3rd and 4th sc's of Round 4...it really doesn't matter...what does matter is that you are consistent in where you crochet the outer round (Round 5) dc's that are in the same Round 4 sc space...they must always be between the same sc 's of Round 4, ie either between sc 3 and sc 4, or between sc 4 and sc 5...STAY consistent !

If you don't stay consistent, you will have a world of trouble trying to join the hexagons, matching space for space!

Below, I have included a photo of an African Flower Hexagon, where I have made the apex of the petals between the 3rd and 4th sc of Round 4 of each petal, just to clarify :)



**BEFORE YOU START CROCHETING LOLLO, PLEASE BE SURE
THAT YOU HAVE STUDIED APPENDIX A AND B...YOU MUST
BE CONFIDENT IN YOUR JOINING OF MOTIFS BEFORE YOU
START !**

:: Lollo Bear Body ::

You will need 4 different crochet hooks: 2.0mm 1.75mm 1.50mm 1.25mm

We are going to start at Lollo Bear's bottom, working up her body to her neck, adding rounds of motifs. The shaping of her body is achieved by combining pentagons and hexagons in different sizes.

The bottom of the body is made using hexagons and pentagons crocheted using a 1.75mm crochet hook.

The middle section or tummy is made using hexagons crocheted with a 1.5mm crochet hook, and finally the top part of the body is created by using hexagons and pentagons crocheted with a size 1.25mm hook.

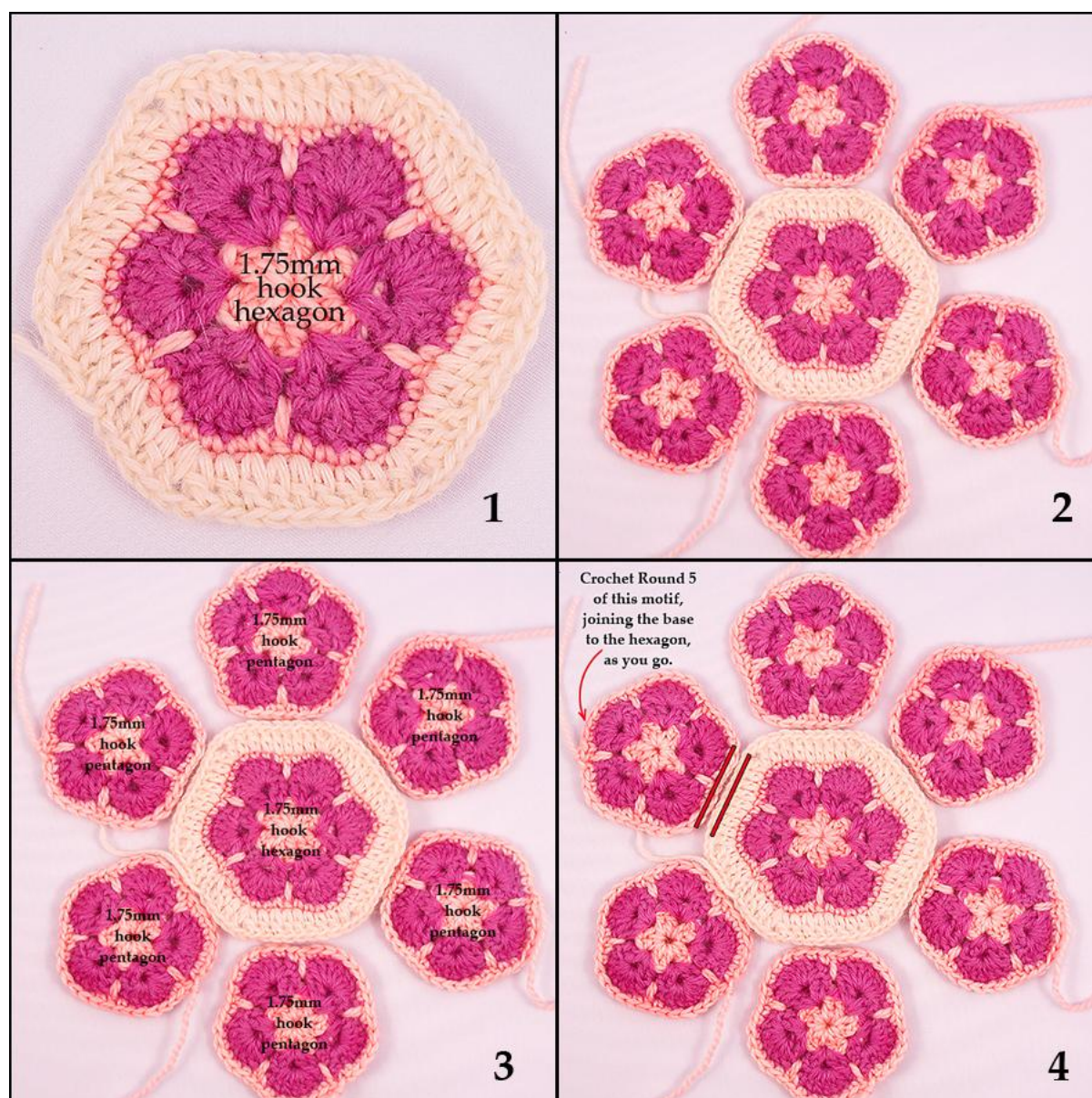
As a result, the body is shaped into a tapering cylinder, with the top narrower than the bottom. Throughout, sock weight/fingering weight/#1 yarn has been used, and when you use the smaller crochet hooks, it can become a little tricky...make sure that you have a steel crochet hook with a good throat (this will help to prevent the yarn from slipping off the hook when drawing the yarn through...)

I recommend that you make all your hexagons and pentagons before joining the final motifs together, but only work up to Round 4 of each motif...you will only add Round 5 (final round...cream colored yarn) as you join...ie Join-as-you-go...no sewing up ! Hoorah!

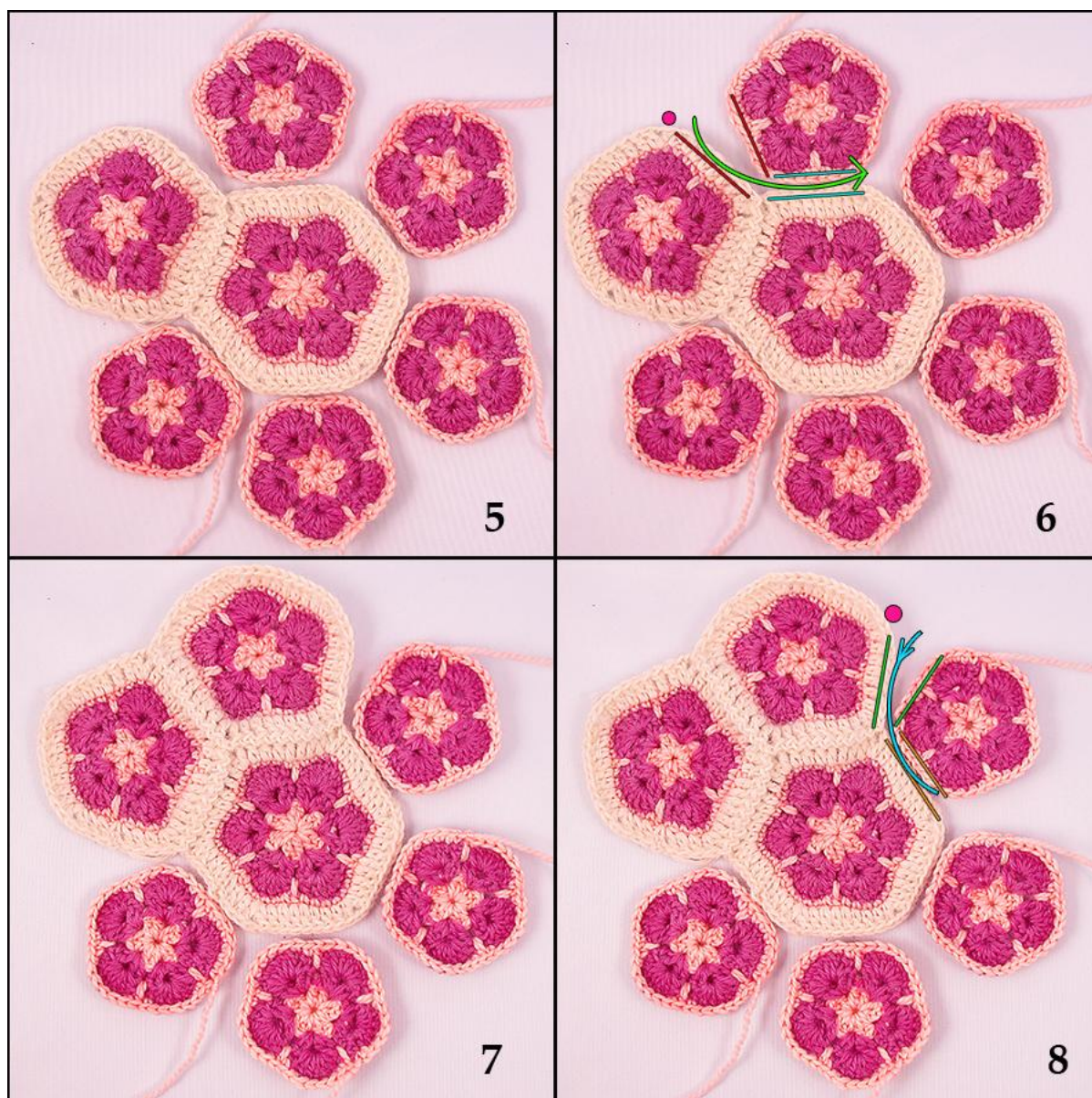
You will need the following motifs:

Crochet Hook size 2mm:	1 Hexagon (top-most motif, top of body/neck)
Crochet Hook size 1.75mm:	7 Hexagons, 6 Pentagons [base of body (1 hexagon) and Round 1(6 pentagons) and Round 2(6 hexagons)]
Crochet Hook size 1.50mm:	6 Hexagons (middle of body, Round 3)
Crochet Hook size 1.25mm:	6 Hexagons, 6 Pentagons (Rounds 4 and 5 respectively, upper part of body)

TOTAL MOTIFS FOR BODY = 32



1. Start by completing one hexagon (including Round 5/cream colored dc round), using a 1.75mm crochet hook.
2. You need 6 pentagons, all made using the 1.75mm crochet hook. They have been completed up to the end of Round 4. You will add the last cream colored yarn round (Round 5) onto each motif, as you join them to the hexagon.
3. Repeating...layout...
4. You are now going to start adding the pentagons (made using a 1.75mm crochet hook), joining-as-you-go ... (joining the pentagon bases to the hexagon motif). I have indicated the sides that are to be joined, by the red colored lines. You will be adding ONE pentagon at a time.



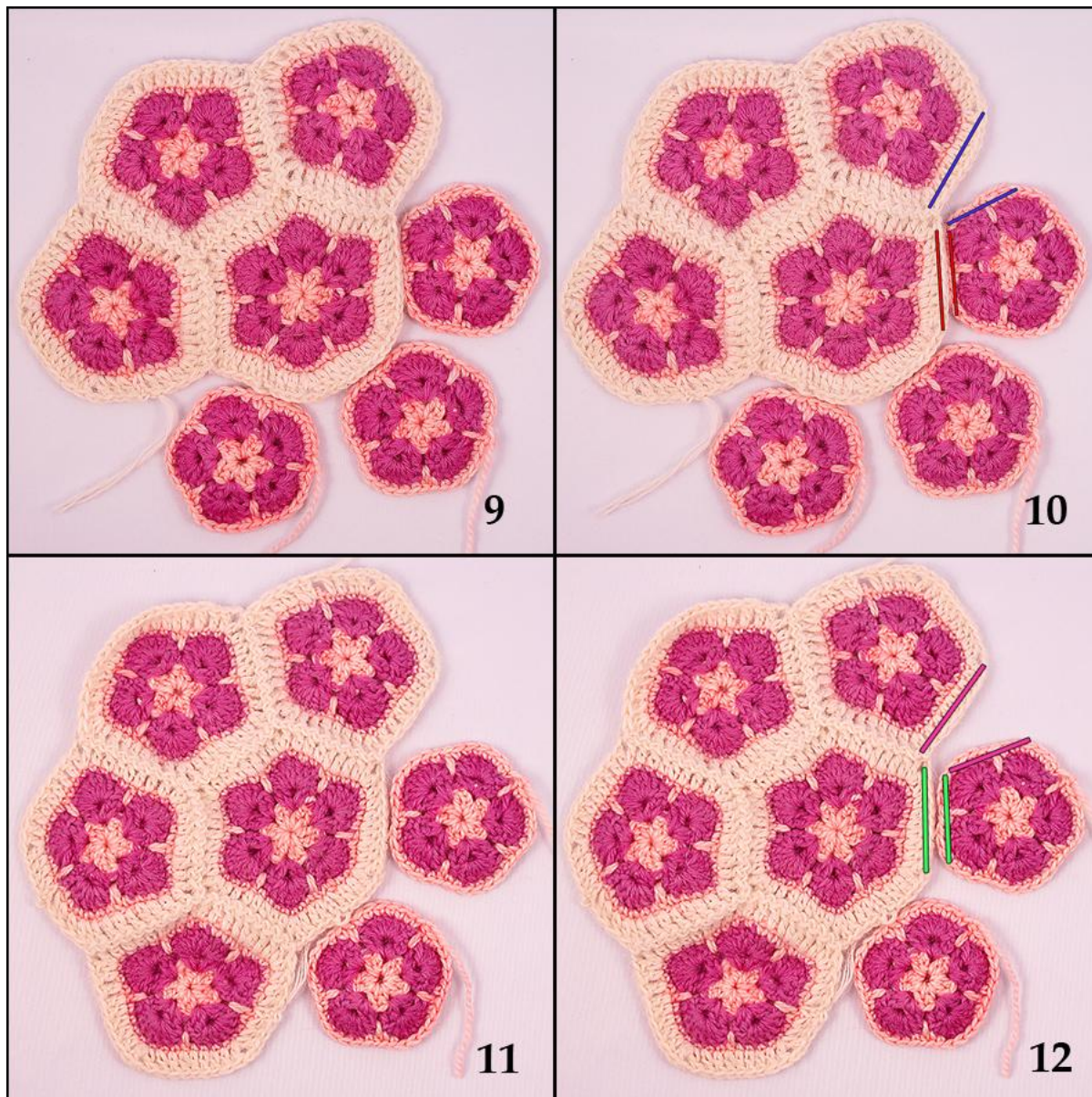
5. Your work should look like photo 5, after you have completed joining the first pentagon to the centre hexagon. Note how it is only attached to the hexagon at its base.

6. Next you will join the second pentagon, but notice how you will have to join **TWO sides**...one side to the previously joined pentagon and one side (base) to the centre hexagon. Your starting point for joining as-you-go, is indicated by the pink dot, and the arrow shows the direction you will join in.

Again I have indicated the corresponding sides that are to be joined, by colored lines.

7. This is how your work should look after joining the second pentagon. Please note that I have squashed the work flat to make it easier for you to see the progress, but your work will naturally want to curl up into a bowl shape...so don't worry if you see this happening...this is right!

8. Repeat the same process you did in the last step...join the next pentagon , crocheting the corresponding sides together as shown, by the colored lines. Again, the pink dot indicates the starting point for joining and the arrow, the direction you are joining in...

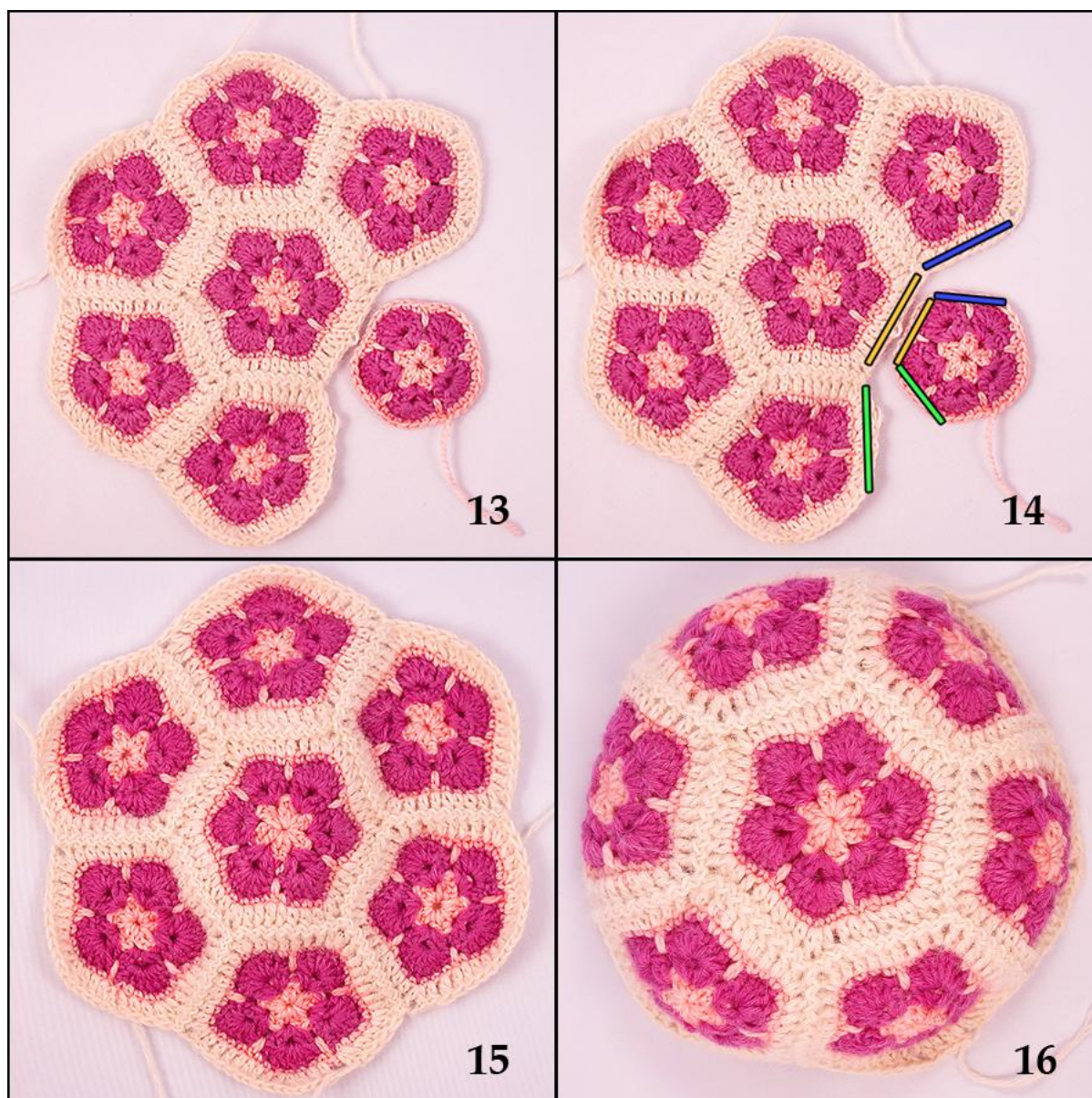


9. You have joined 3 pentagons to the central hexagon. Your work should look like this.

10. Join the next pentagon to the central hexagon, attaching corresponding sides as indicated by the colored lines.... just like before!

11. 4 Pentagons added...well done, you're doing great !

12. Join the next pentagon...



13. Fifth pentagon joined...your work is progressing nicely :)

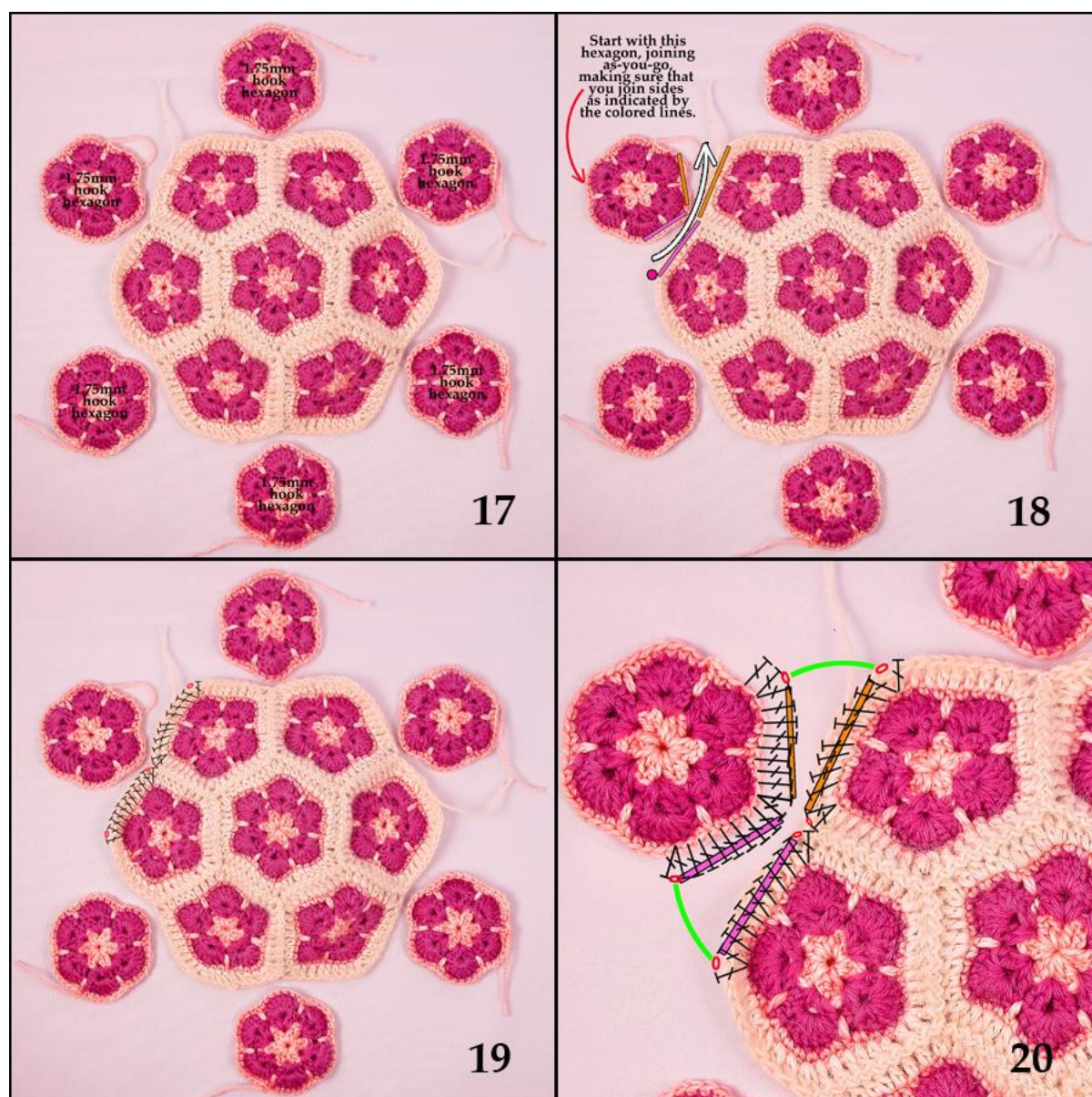
14. You have to join the last pentagon now...this is a little different from the previous joinings...as you can see you will have to join on THREE SIDES...two sides to neighboring pentagons, and the base to the central hexagon. Again, use the colored lines indicated on the photo to guide you.

15. When you have finished joining the last pentagon, your work will look like this photo...be aware that I have squashed it flat to show clearer photos, but the work will want to naturally curl up into a bowl shape...

16. When you allow the work to take it's natural shape, you can see how it forms a bowl shape! This is Lollo's little round bottom, viewed from the outside or right side.



Two more photos showing Lollo's bottom... the photo on the left shows the naturally curving bowl shape from the inside or wrong aspect...the photo on the right is at an angle, looking into the wrong side.

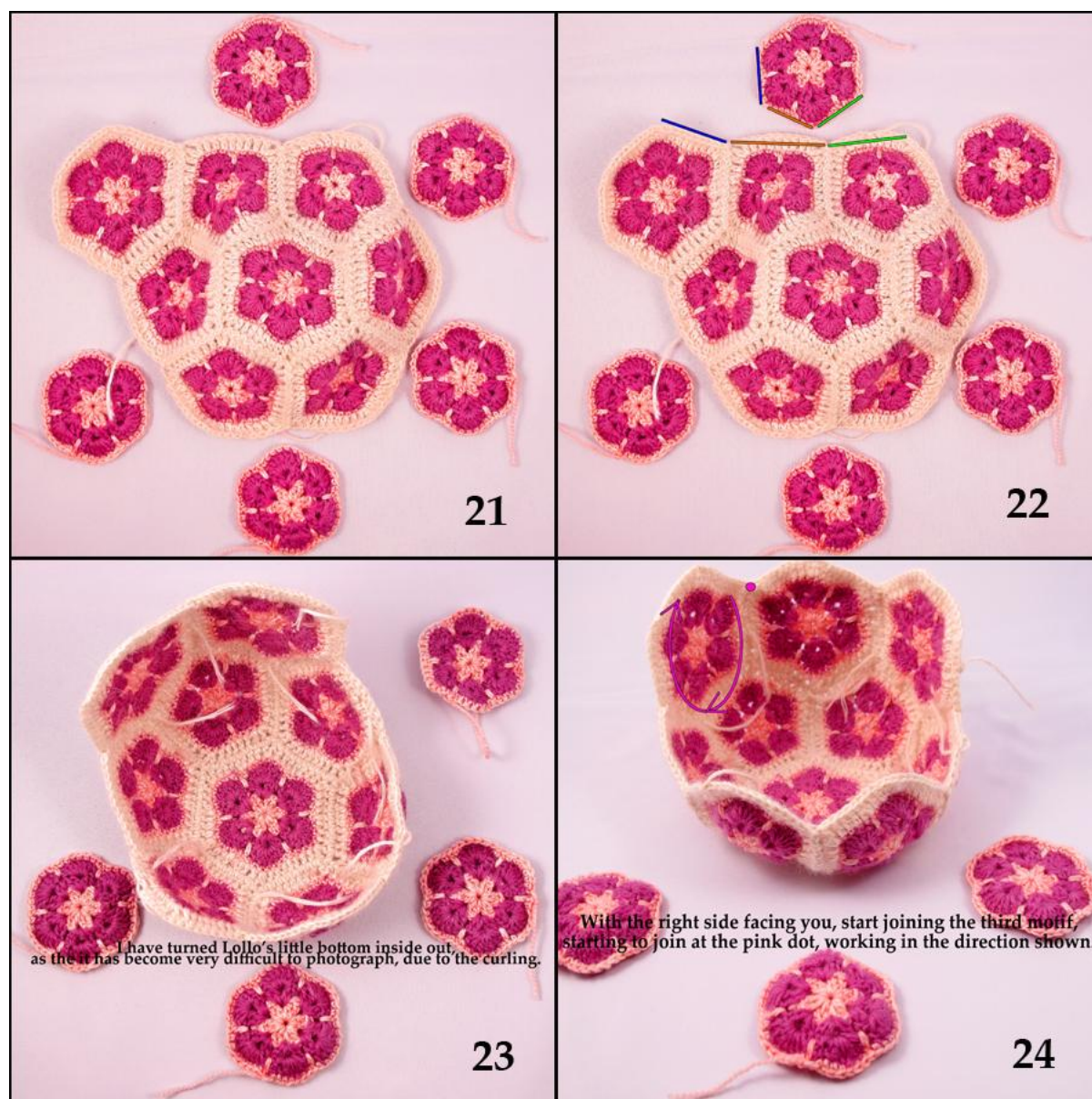


17. Ready to start adding Round 2 of the body? You will need 6 hexagons, made using the 1.75mm hook, again only crocheted up to the apricot colored row (Round 4)...you will do exactly as before...adding the last cream colored round (Round 5 of the African Flower Hexagon) to each hexagon, as you join the motifs to the body and each other.

18. At this point the photos are still taken with the right side of the work showing...I have still managed to squash the work flat, to show you the layout... The first hexagon will be attached on 2 sides (as shown by the colored lines).

19-20. I have superimposed the dc symbols on the sides to be joined, so that you can see that the sides are joined along the colored lines, from petal apex to petal apex. Remember the Tips above?

Please note : the green colored lines in photo 20, are NOT lines that are indicating joins...they are just there to show that the sides will line up when joined!

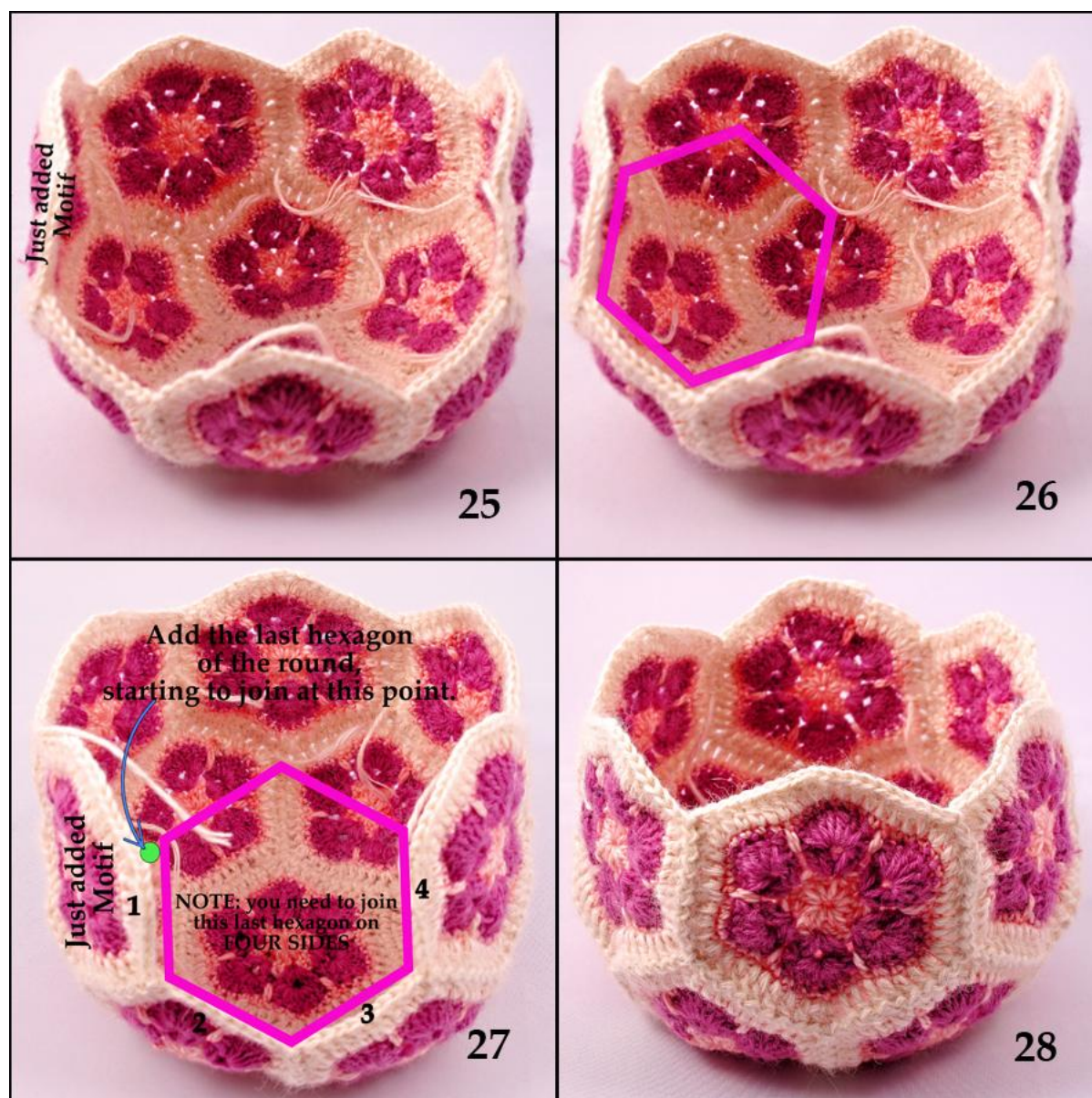


21. This is what your work should look like (from the right side), after the first motif has been joined.

22. Now join the next hexagon, again along the colored lines as indicated... Notice that you will need to join the hexagon along THREE SIDES... start joining at the blue line edge, then continue along orange edge and then finally the green line edge.

23. In this photo, I have turned the body "inside-out", so that the wrong or inside of the work is showing. DON'T be confused...each motif is still added with the right side or outside of the work facing you...it's just easier to do photos with the body forming the shape as you continue.

24. I have joined the next hexagon of Round 2, starting at the pink dot indicated, with the right side facing you as always...the arrow indicates the direction that the joining follows...when you start crocheting, the work will be positioned in such a way that the pink dot starting point will be closest to you and the very first base hexagon that started the whole project, farthest from you (upside down if you like...). Remember that with the right side of the work facing you, you will always **crochet in an anti-clockwise direction. The photos are taken with the wrong side facing us, so the arrow will appear to be indicating a clockwise direction...don't get confused, just always have your work's right side facing you when you crochet !**



25. When you have added this hexagon (Number 4 of Round 2), your work should look like this.

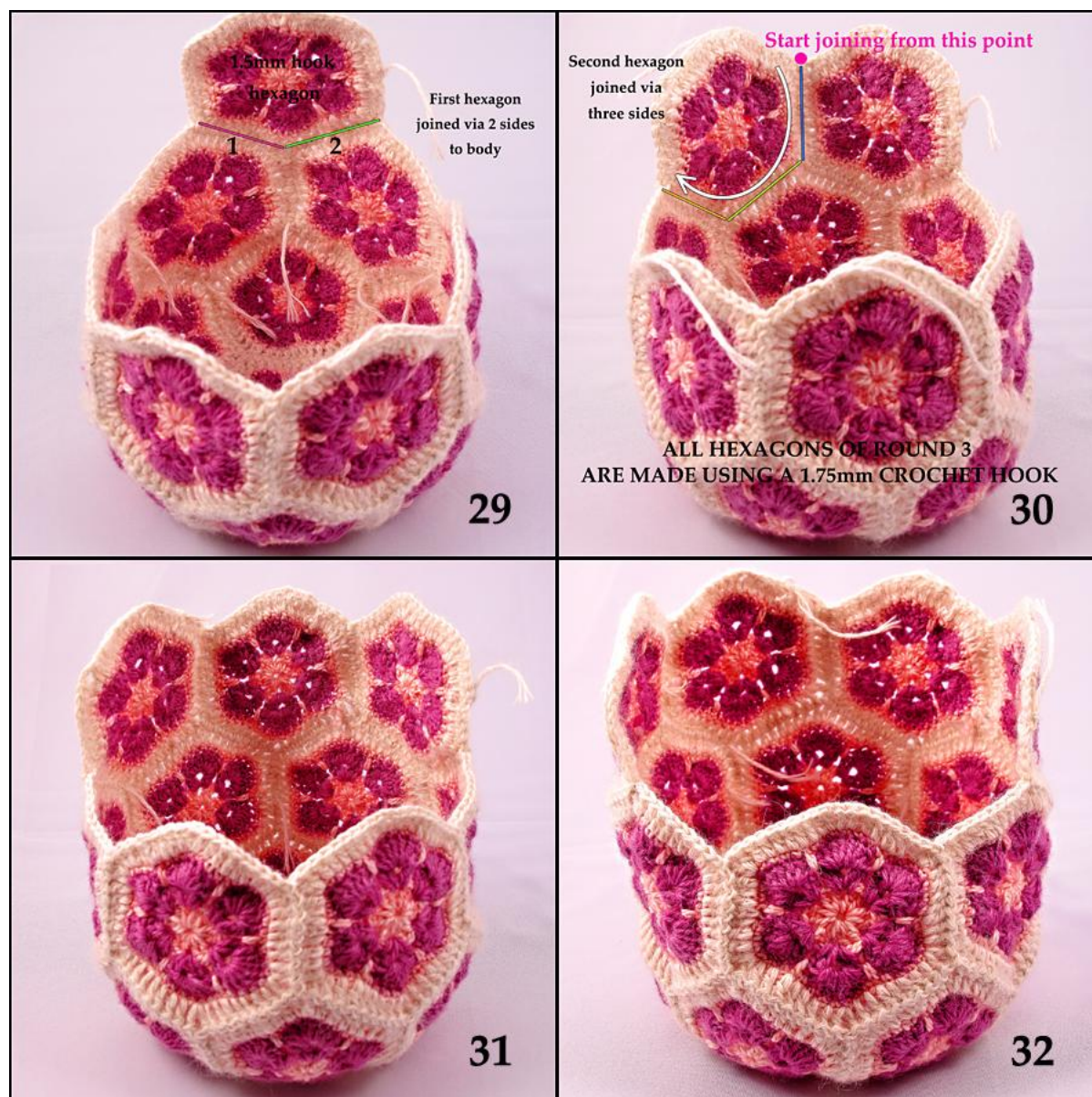
26. The next hexagon (number 5), will be joined in , as indicated by the pink outline.

27. You are ready to add the last hexagon of Round 2 of Lollo's body...do you see how the shape naturally forms a hexagon shape? The last hexagon needs to be joined on FOUR SIDES, not three sides as before, to complete the round. The order of the sides to be joined are numbered.

28. Round 2 completed! See how nicely the body shape is developing?

As previously noted, the body is shaped by adding smaller motifs as you move up the body. For Round 3, you will need 6 hexagons made with a size 1.50mm crochet hook. * (Just a reminder: you crochet them only up to the apricot colored round, only adding the final cream colored dc round when you join them to the body :))

The process of adding the hexagons is exactly as it was for Round 2... start by adding one hexagon (with 2 sides being joined to the body), then add another hexagon...and another etc (after the first motif has been joined, all motifs in the same round (except the final one), will be joined via 3 sides...the final motif is joined via 4 sides...exactly as in Round 2).

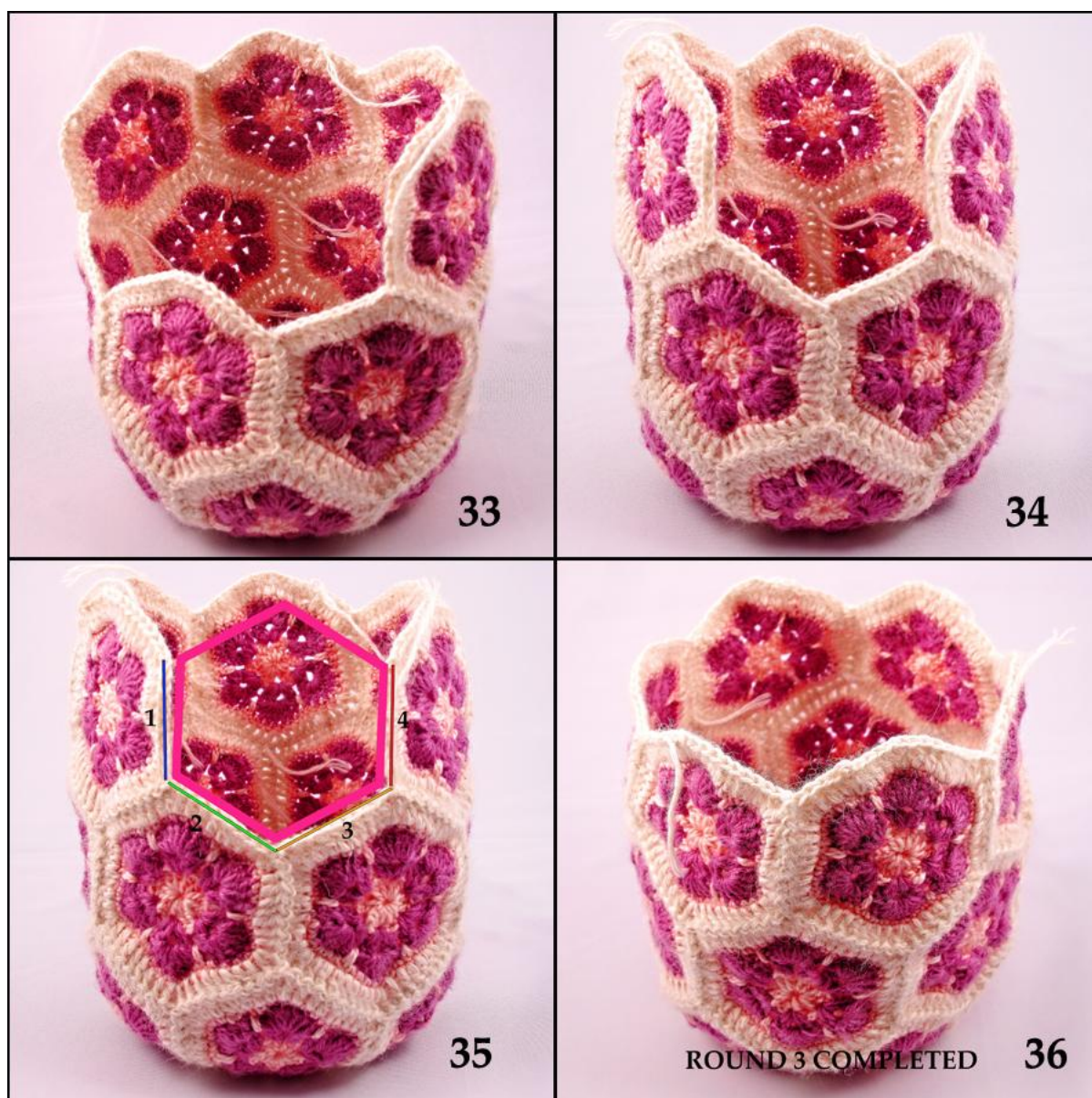


29. The first hexagon is joined...on two sides only. You will notice that as you add the hexagons in this round, your work will pull in towards the middle. This is because this round of motifs is smaller than before, and starts to create the tapering that will shape the body. Start the joining at the beginning of the GREEN line. The numbers are just to show you that the hexagon is joined on TWO SIDES only, and not indicative of the order of joining!

30. Again, face the right side to you, with the closed part of the body away from you, and starting at the pink dot point indicated, join the next hexagon...this time it will be joined on 3 sides...to its neighbour (one side) and to the body (two sides).

31. Join the third hexagon, exactly as before...on three sides. Your work should look like this photo.

32. Join the 4th hexagon...



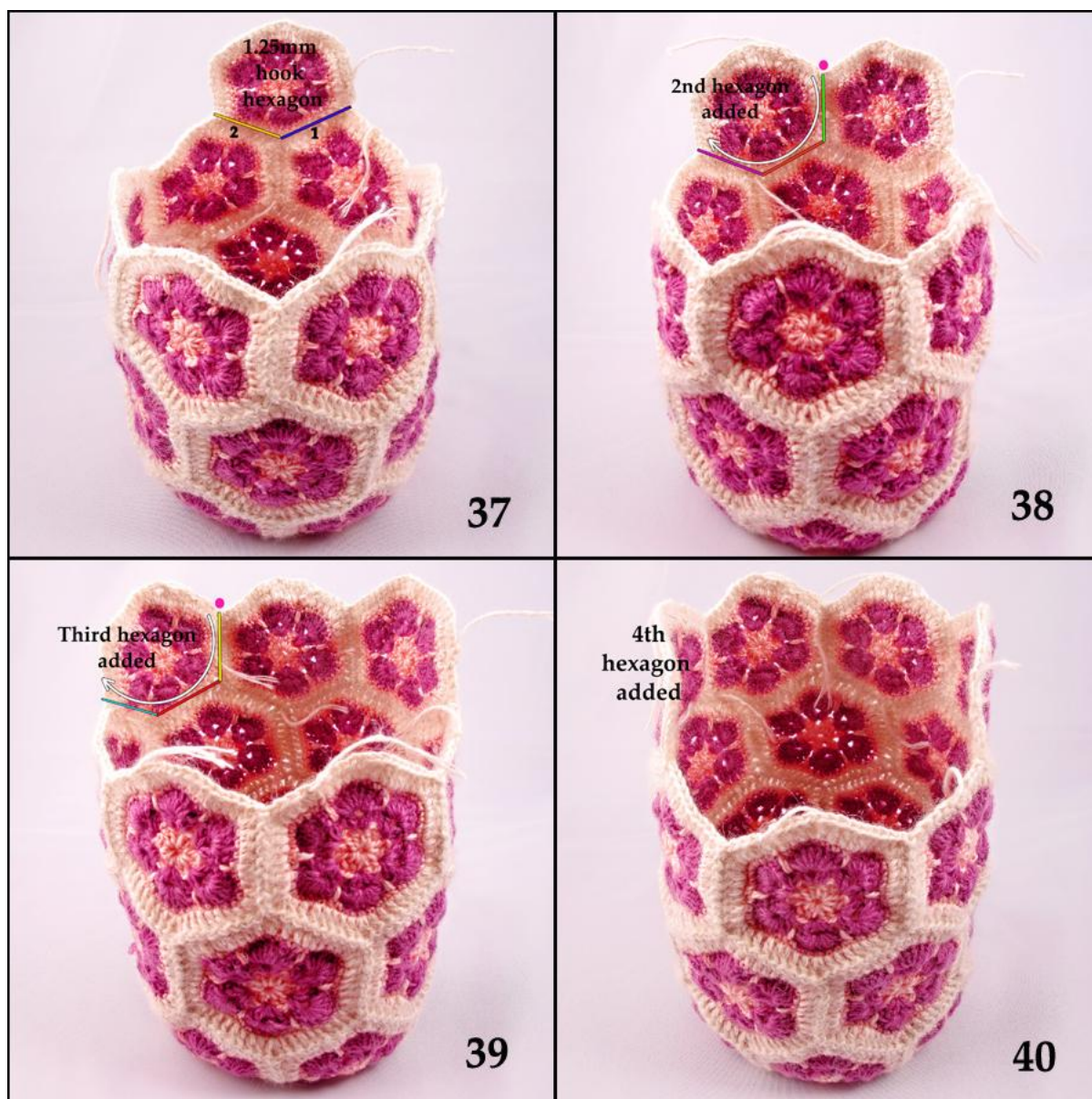
33. Now join the fifth hexagon...on three sides, exactly as before...getting the hang of this?

34. Fifth hexagon joined...Your work should look like this...you only have one space left to join, and see how nicely the space already takes on the shape of a hexagon?

35. When you join this last hexagon, remember that you will need to join it on 4 sides, as indicated. Here the numbers DO indicate the order of joining-as-you-go!

36. Round 3 completed! This photo has been taken from slightly above...don't worry! Round 1 is tucked up under there... :)

For Round 4, you will need to have ready, 6 hexagons made using a 1.25mm crochet hook..... Because these hexagons are again smaller than the previous round, you will notice your work tapering more as you join the round.



37. Join the first hexagon (make sure it is the one you made using a 1.25mm crochet hook!), again, only on two sides. Start joining at the beginning of the blue line.

38. Now join the second hexagon, this time on three sides, starting at the point indicated by the pink dot...just as before.

39. Join the third hexagon.

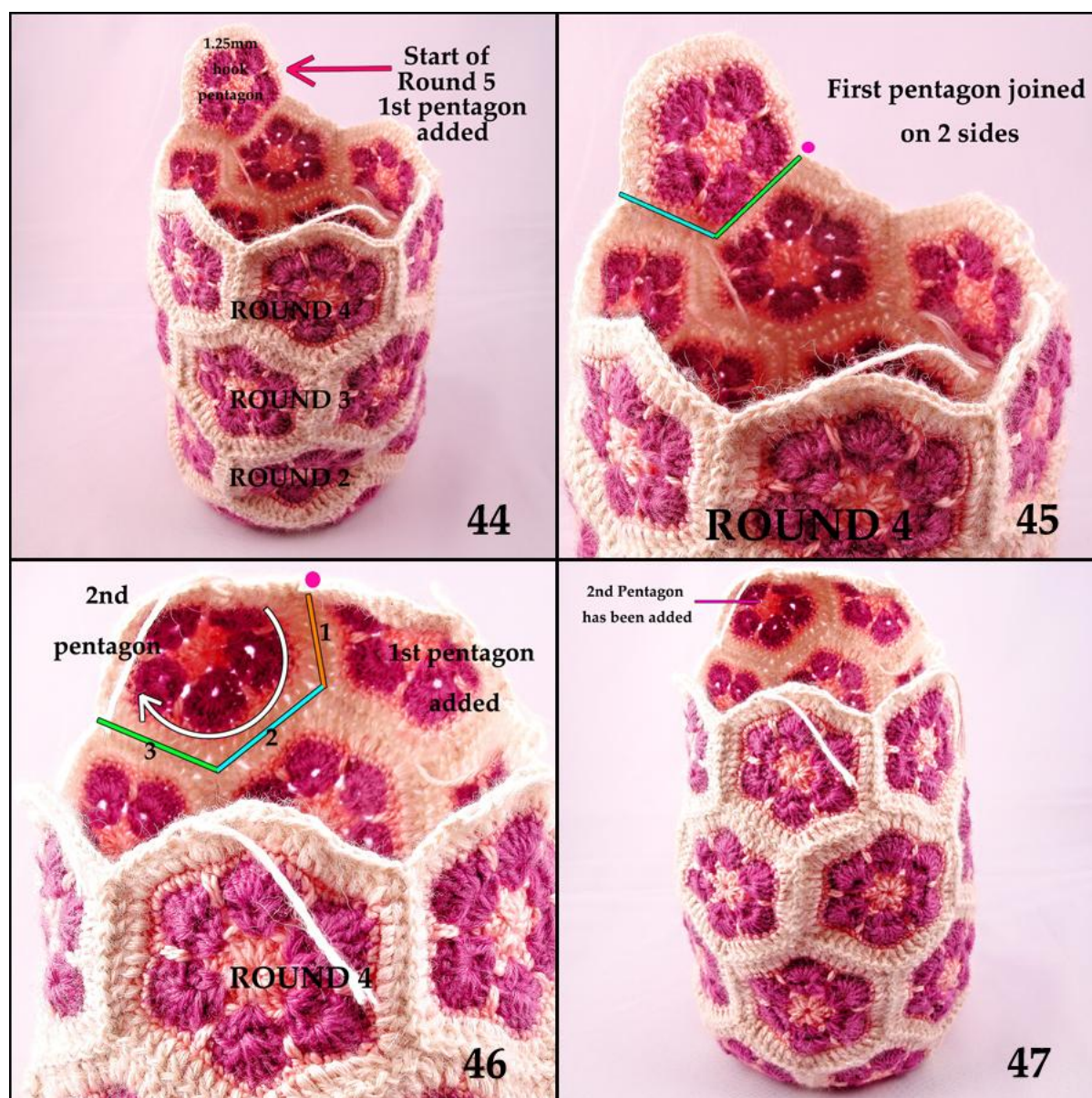
40. Join the fourth hexagon.



41. Add the fifth hexagon, again only on three sides. Notice how, after the fifth hexagon has been added, the space that is left (where you will add the sixth hexagon), is a perfect hexagon shape again!

42. Join the final hexagon, this time on four sides (indicated by the colored lines), in order as shown from 1 to 4. The white arrow shows the direction of your crocheting as you join.

43. Round 4 completed!

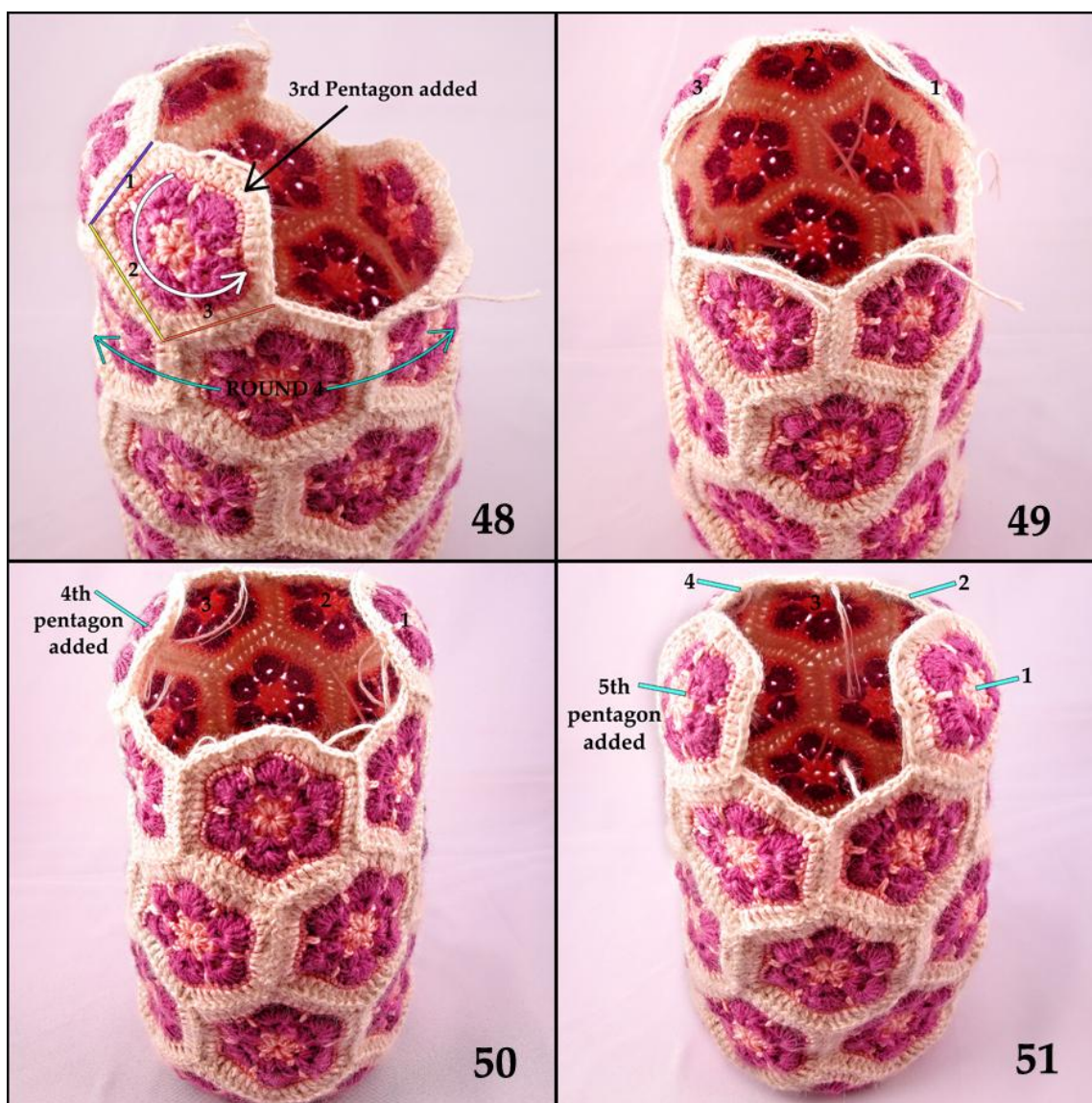


You are ready to start adding Round 5.

For this round we will use 6 PENTAGONS, made using a 1.25mm hook. Once again, because these are smaller still (by virtue of being pentagons, not hexagons, as well as being made with a 1.25mm hook), your work will start to shape the body into an even tighter taper, effectively creating Lollo's shoulders. As such it is quite difficult to photograph, but keep in mind that the method of joining-as-you-go, is exactly the same as that used before.

44. Add the first pentagon, again joining only on two sides as indicated.

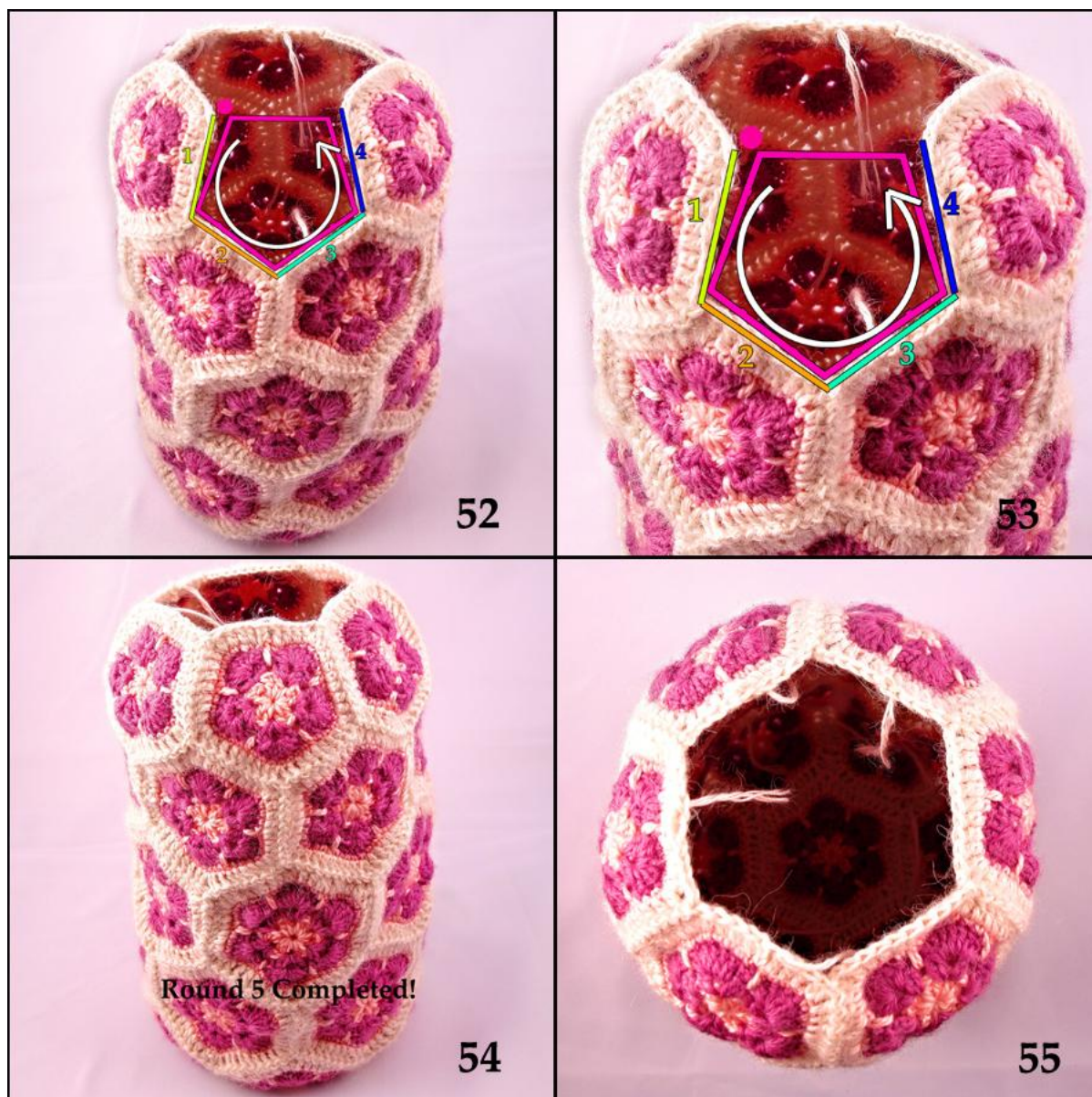
45. A close-up photo, showing Round 4 below (for reference, since the work will look distorted soon :)). The pink dot indicates where you start to join (remember to have the RIGHT SIDE of the work facing you, and Lollo's bottom away from you).
46. Join the second pentagon, again as before... by now you could join motifs in your sleep!
47. Can you see how the two pentagons that have been added, are turning inward, starting to shape the shoulders?



48. Add the 3rd pentagon, joining on three sides as shown. **NOTE:** Some of the photos from here on, will show the RIGHT SIDE of your work, and so the direction of crochet arrows will be showing anti-clockwise now...
49. This is what your work should look like after adding the 3rd pentagon.

50. Add the 4th pentagon, joining on three sides...this is what things should look like...

51. Add the 5th pentagon. I have labelled all the added pentagons...



52. The last pentagon needs to be added...see again how there is a perfect pentagon shape ...ready to be joined.

53. A closer look...Start at the pink dot and join on FOUR SIDES, as shown.

54. Last (sixth) pentagon added! Round 5 of the body is done :)

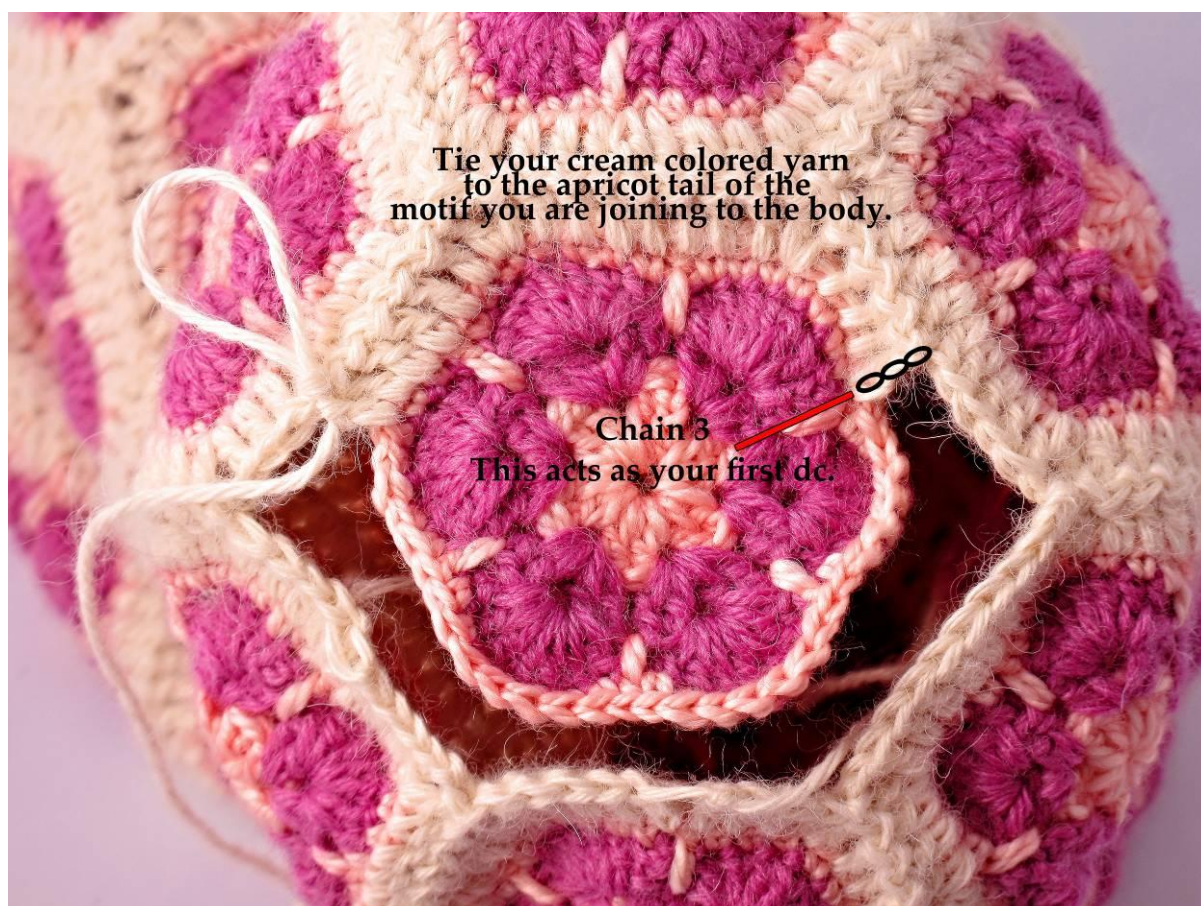
55. Photo taken from the top of the body...all you need to do is add a final hexagon, and Lollo's body is nearly finished.

Joining the Last Hexagon to the Body

JOINING THREE MOTIFS AT A JUNCTION, "AS-YOU-GO"

I have included a step by step tutorial on how to join 3 motifs at a meeting junction (as-you-go) at this point in the pattern (even though it forms Appendix B), because you need this knowledge to join the final hexagon of the body to the rest of the body. However, please take note that this same technique applies to any part of the pattern where you have to join 3 motifs at meeting point...this especially applies to the making of Lollo's head.

Although the photos are large and should be clear, the fuzziness of the yarn I have used, has resulted in less than ideal stitch definition, so I have superimposed the diagrams of how to proceed on top of the photos. Yes, the photo overall shows further progress than the steps discussed...it serves merely as a backdrop so that you can see the context of the steps.



Right! Off we go!

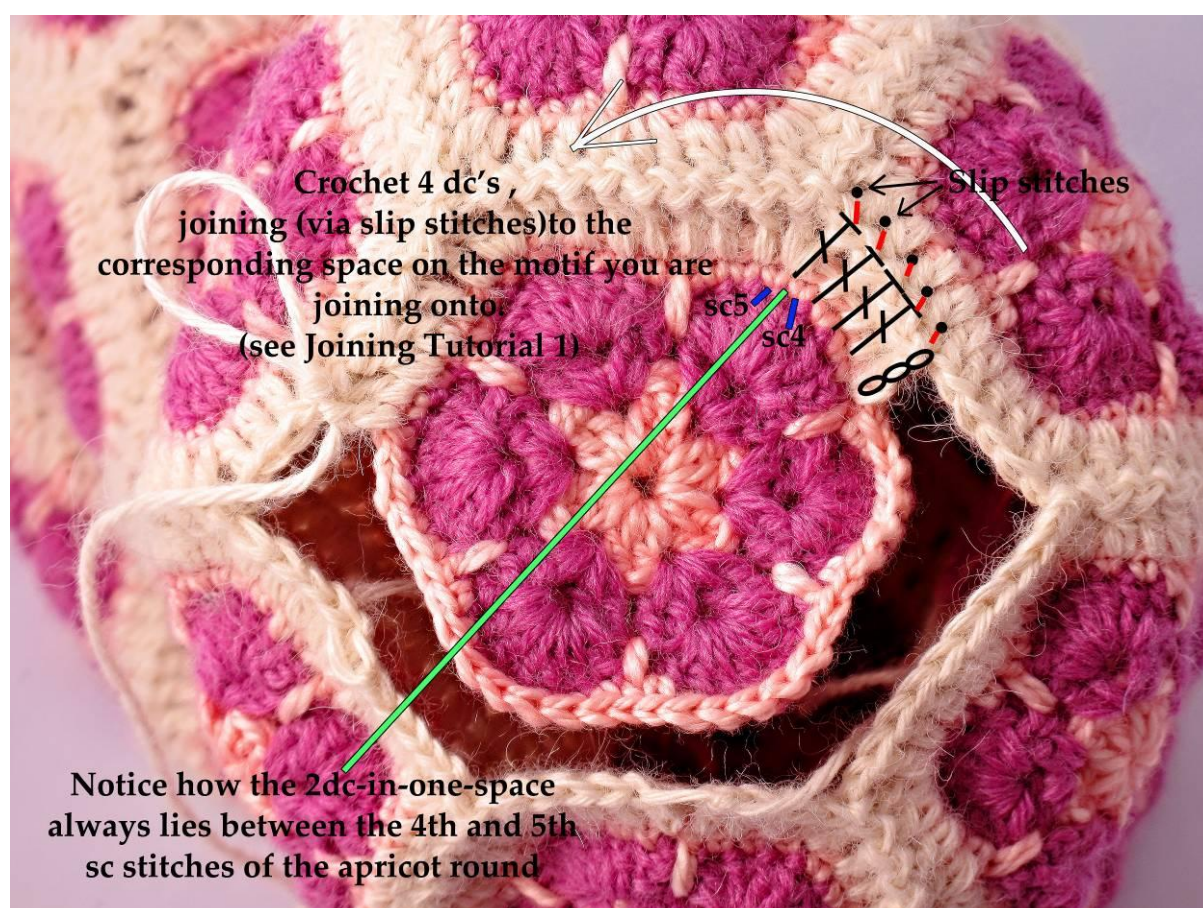
If you look at the Tutorial (Appendix A) on how to join motifs at every stitch, you will see that I have usually started crocheting part of the cream colored round, before I have started joining the motif to

the body. This is because only 2,(3) or(4) sides are needing to be joined, up to now. So, you have a small part of the cream colored final round of the African Flower motifs joined so far, that isn't attached to anything, up to the point where you are starting to join motifs. But when you arrive at the neck, you need to start joining every stitch of the motif to every stitch space of the motif you are joining to. You will find the same situation occurring when you add the final motif to the head, legs and arms.

**** IF THIS SCARES THE LIVING DAYLIGHT OUT OF YOU, don't despair! You can hand sew this last hexagon in (after crocheting the final cream colored Round 5 onto it before sewing it in), with a wool needle and some spare yarn. ****

Firstly, tie the cream/white colored yarn to the little apricot colored yarn tail of the final hexagon to be joined. With the right side of the hexagon facing you, make sure that you insert your hook into the space immediately to the left of the long dc stitch (of the apricot round). This will ensure that your stitches line up properly for joining. Pull your yarn through, and chain 3.

If you look at the photo below, you will see that the 3 chain bit acts as the first dc of the round.



Now make your first join to the opposite motif, by slip stitching into the space just to the left of the long apricot colored DC stitch of the motif you are **joining to**. The tiny red lines in the photos are

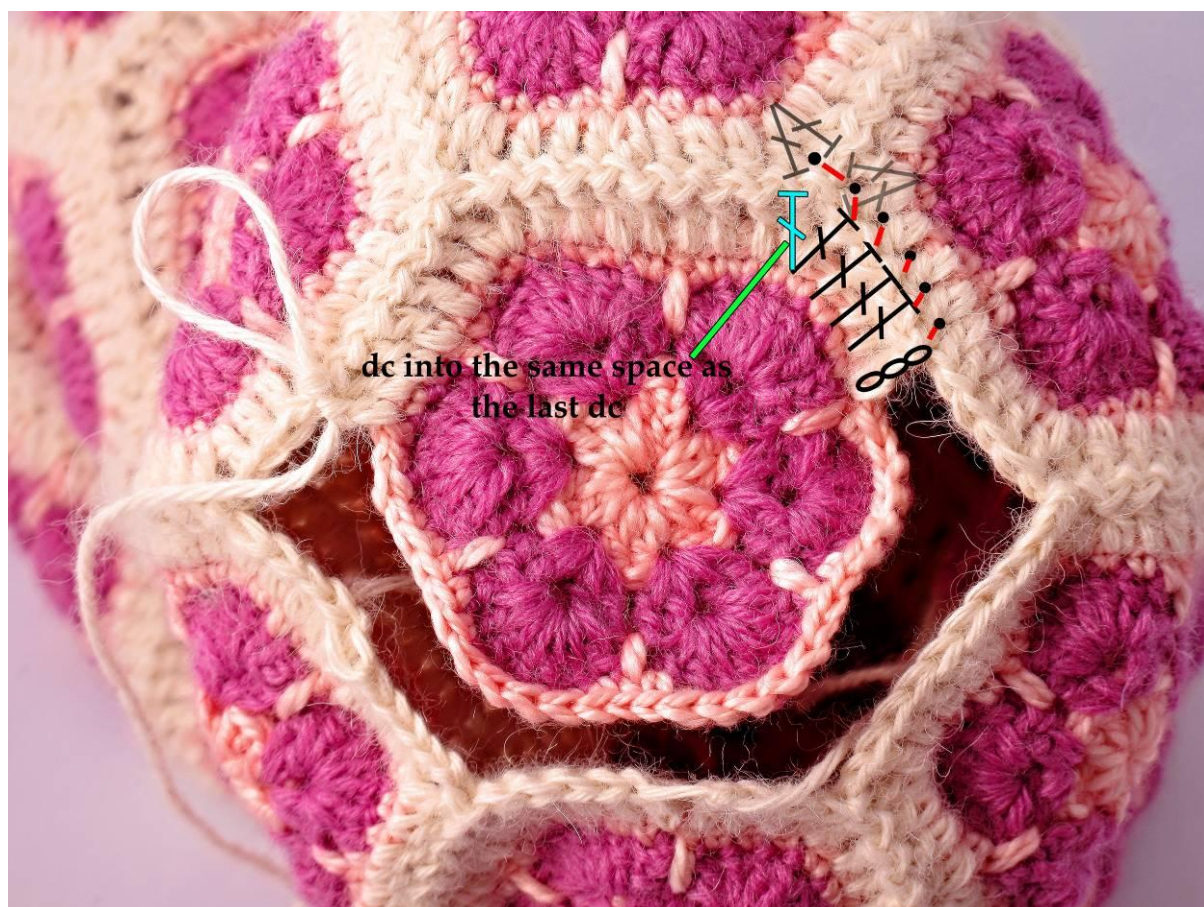
merely a direction guide of where the slip stitches are made...they are NOT stitches. The little black dots are the slip stitch symbols, and show WHERE the slip stitch is made. The white arrow indicates the crocheting direction, again, NOTE that the direction is anti-clockwise because the right side of the work is facing us.

Continue joining, in exactly the way seen in the Joining Tutorial (Appendix A to the pattern), each time you make a DC, you slip stitch it to the next space along on the opposite motif. You will notice that when you have made the fourth dc and joined it via slip stitch, you will have joined to the chain space of the opposite motif's "2dc's-in-1-space". This slip stitch is the last stitch you make on that particular motif.

You need to start joining onto the next motif in line. In Appendix A (Joining Tutorial), you would have seen that after this last step (slip stitch join), you just chain one, then make a new DC (with it's "foot" into the same space that you made the previous dc) and carry on crocheting as normal. **But**, here you have a junction of THREE motifs, not two, so you have to make a slip stitch again, this time joining your work to the next motif.



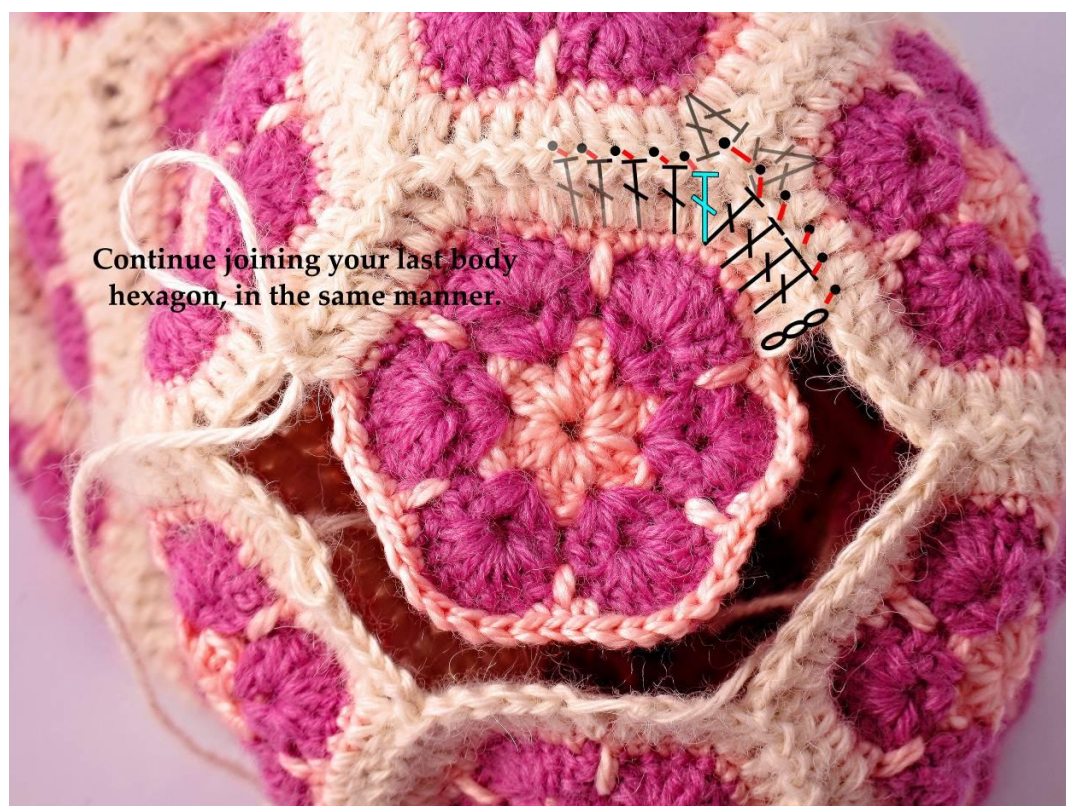
Look at the photo above, and if you are unsure of what I have just said, then read through the stuff above again...I hope it becomes clear at this point!



Okay, so you have joined three motifs at their meeting point! Now make your next DC (indicated in turquoise), INTO THE SAME SPACE as the last DC you made. Again, this will lie in the space between apricot colored stitches 4 and 5. Continue around, using the same method of joining as described. Well done!



With a slip stitch (as indicated above), join the newly made turquoise dc to the next space along...



Keep going ...joining as you know how to do now :) , and repeat the previous steps when you get to the next meeting point of the three motifs....



When you have passed the second to last meeting point, pull the stitch on your hook to make a big loop, as you don't want it to unravel for the next step. Again, if you are not happy to do or struggle with this step, continue to crochet the cream colored round WITHOUT joining to the body. You can always stitch up the hole by hand!

I hate seaming, so this is the way I do things...

Stuff the body with polyester stuffing, making sure that you stuff evenly and moderately firmly (you cannot undo this closure without a mess, so be happy with the stuffing before you close!).

Now pick up your loosened last stitch, place back on your hook, tighten and continue to crochet around, joining-as-you-go. It does take some patience and perseverance, but leaves you with a lovely closure. I have found that I tend to manage better if I hold my hook like a knife. As you crochet around, you will need to push the stuffing out of the way of the area you are joining to, or you won't see the stitches clearly.



As you finish the last join, cut your yarn and pull through the last stitch...you are a rock star! Well done...go and eat a whole slab of chocolate right now...you deserve it! (oh, forgot...sew the end in first! ;))



The finished body...how cute is that!?