

:: Max the African Flower Bulldog Pattern ::

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 doggies, made by yourself. Please respect the pattern itself, including instructions, words, photographs, diagrams and the actual construction of the doggie, 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 actual doggie pattern to modify and/or alter in any way to create or design and sell derivative patterns, including using a different hexagonal / polygonal motif to make a bulldog like Max. Thank you for respecting the hard work that has gone into designing this pattern. I hope you will love making your own little bulldog ☺

Please add a credit link to any finished items that you are selling, linking to my Ravelry pattern shop:

<http://www.ravelry.com/designers/heidi-bears>

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



I have written this pattern with all the kinds of crocheters that may want to make a little bulldog, in mind. Crocheters have different abilities to follow patterns...some folks have visual spatial concerns, some are able to follow text better and some are newbies who need a bit of extra help. The pattern has been written in the best way I know, to address these differing skill levels. If this pattern contains more than what you need, especially if you are an experienced crocheter, please bear with the detail...someone else may find it helpful. ☺

Max the bulldog is the fifteenth 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 ☺ Max 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 to start making your own little bulldog ☺

:: Steps to making your own Max ::

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, heptagon, octagon, square and triangle ... for clarity: the pentagon has five petals and five sides and the heptagon has seven petals and seven sides and so on.... The difference is simply the number of "petal" repeats that you crochet...pentagons, hexagons 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-penatgon-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, which can be found at the end of this pattern. 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 bulldog, **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 bulldog that has been crocheted for this pattern, was made using sock weight/fingering/#1 weight yarn. Using this weight yarn will give you a bulldog measuring approximately **25cm nose to bum and 18cm from the top of the head to the feet.**

[ALL THE CROCHET STITCHES USED IN THIS PATTERN ARE BASED ON AMERICAN CROCHET TERMS](#)

Sock weight / Fingering weight yarn/ #1 in colors of your choice... this little bulldog 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 bulldog 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 Max easier. Try to use a yarn with a similar yardage per 100g. If you use a heavier weight yarn and a larger hook, the doggie will be bigger than the one made in sock yarn, and you will obviously need more polyester stuffing.

Crochet Hook 1.75mm

If you are planning to make your bulldog 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. Note that the hook size recommended by the yarn manufacturer would not be the correct size to use for this project...Since the bulldog 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 **Curved sewing needle** **Long tapestry needle**

Eyes (plastic safety eyes or glass wire-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 **12mm 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** double crochet (if you have never done a foundation double crochet chain before, here is a wonderful tutorial for you to learn...it's easier than you think!)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YGPkRHF0rUw>

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 doggie. 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.*

Number of Motifs Required for Max

Hexagons = 12

Pentagons = 22 (including 4 pentagons for the ears)

Heptagons = 2

Square = 12 (including the tail square)

Triangles = 8

Nose Motif = 1

Octagon = 1

TOTAL REQUIRED MOTIFS: 58

:: General Tips ::

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

NOTE: The nose triangle, triangle and the square are not flat motifs, but “cup” into a semi-rounded shape...the nose triangle and the triangle specially, will become a pointy-ish shape, as a little nose would be!

I strongly recommend that you work through the Joining Tutorial...because Max 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 you are a happy bulldog maker, so please take the time to be a joining superstar!

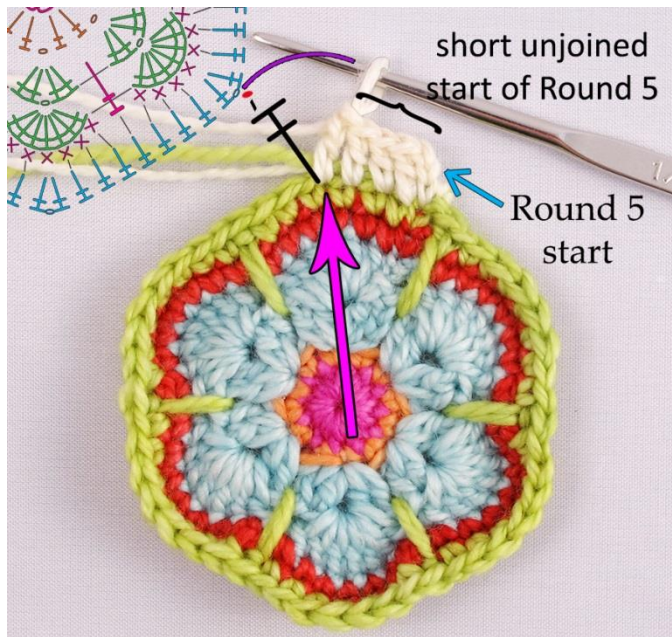
If you prefer, you can make the motifs as required and sew them up with yarn and needle instead.



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 Max 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 Max 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 Max 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 Max partly, mostly to show the motifs more clearly for reference purposes...this does not mean you need to stuff your dog as well...only stuff him when the pattern instructs you to do so...☺

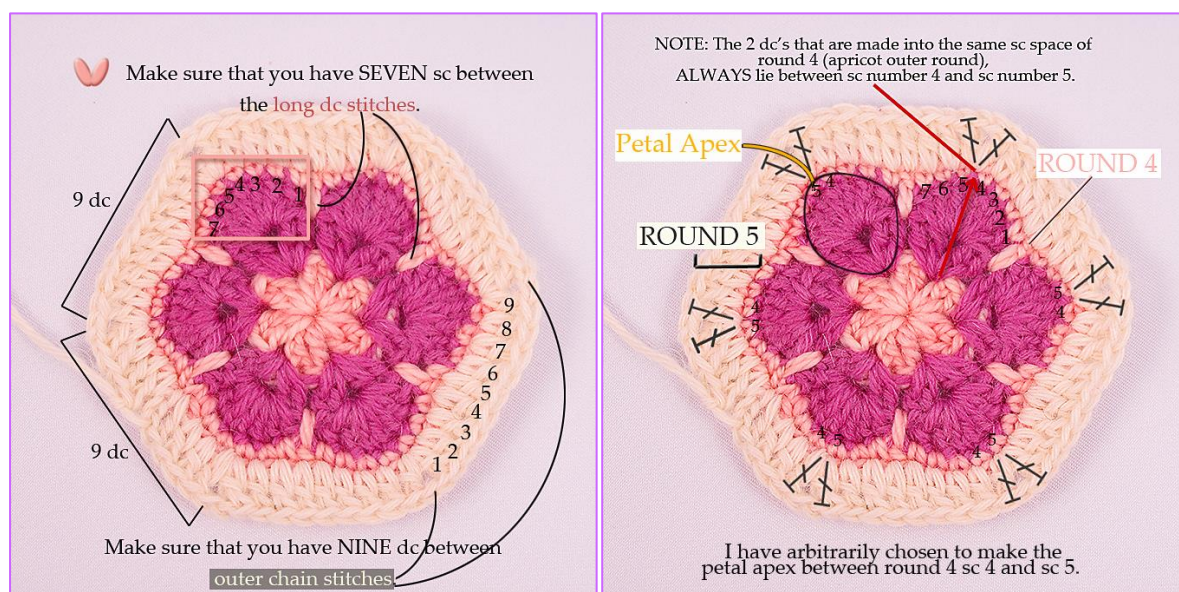
TIP 11: ORIENTATION: When I talk of Max's left and right or left and right -hand sides, I use the terms as anatomically correct, ie if you are standing behind Max and looking at his back end , all motifs on the right hand side are "Right side / Right-hand side" motifs, and all motifs on the left side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

TIP 12: TURNING THE CORNER: Some of the motifs are joined along three sides to each other, eg a foot or leg...here are some photos that will help you "turn the corner" so to speak...

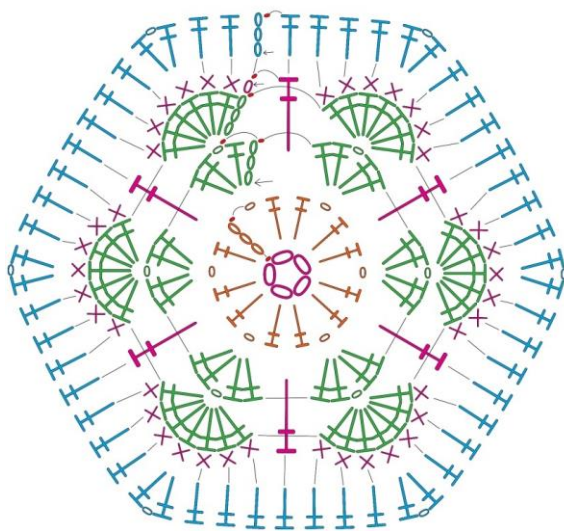


The numbers are the order of steps you take when turning the corner.

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



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

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).

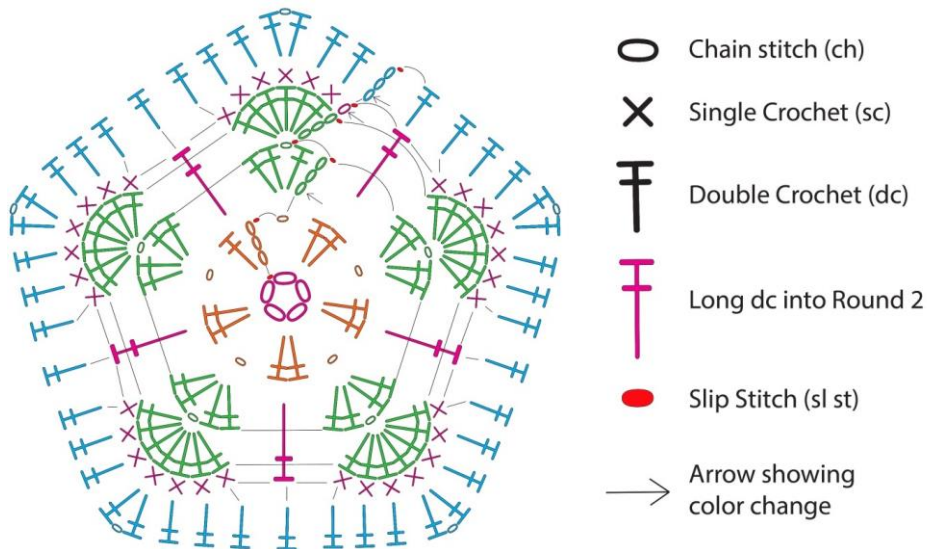
Round 2: Join next color in the ch1 space (just to the right of the previous round's ch3 beginning) and ch3 (counts as first dc). Make a dc in that same chain space then ch1. Make 2 dc (still in the same chain space). Move on to the next chain space of the previous round, and make the following: 2 dc, 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).

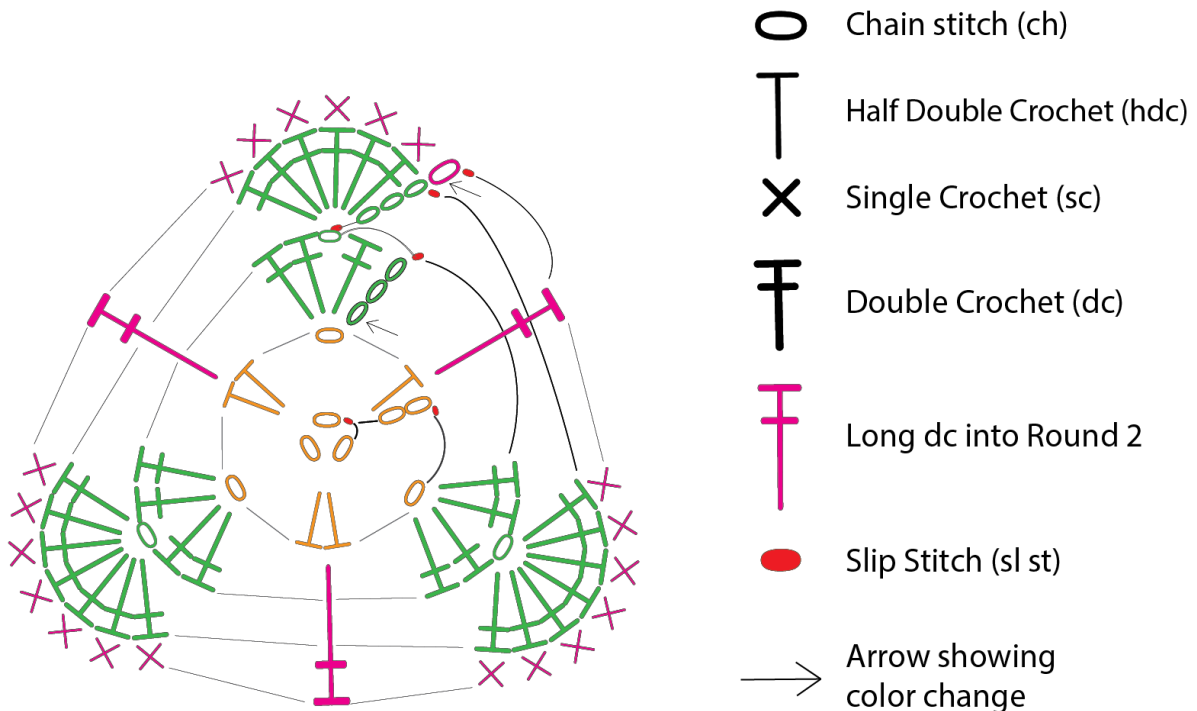
Round 2: Join next color in the ch1 space (just to the right of the previous round's ch3 beginning) and ch3 (counts as first dc). Make a dc in that same chain space then ch1. Make 2 dc (still in the same chain space). Move on to the next chain space of the previous round, and make the following: 2 dc, 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).

Max's Nose Crochet Motif Instructions



NOTE: I HAVE USED VARIOUS COLORS IN THE CHART ABOVE TO MAKE IT EASIER TO READ...AS THIS IS MAX'S NOSE, IT SHOULD BE MADE IN ONE COLOR FROM BEGINNING TO END.

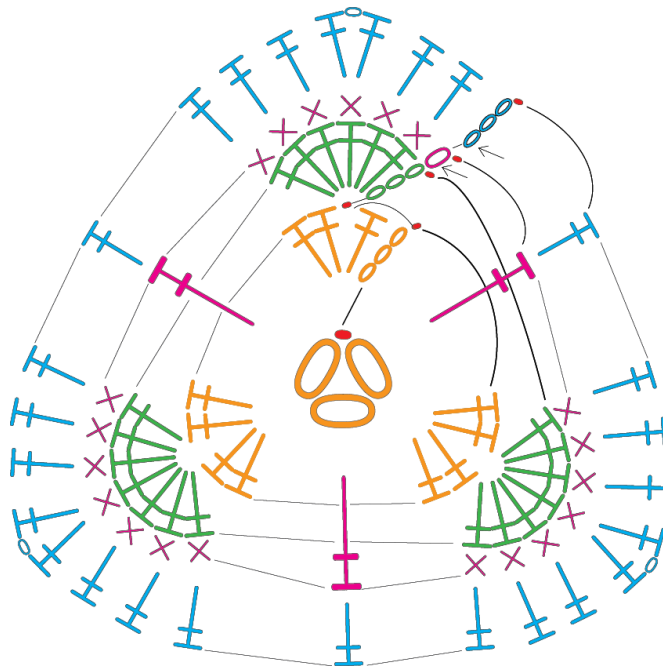
Round 1: Chain 3 and join with a slip stitch to form a ring. Ch2 (counts as first hdc). Then make a hdc into the ring. Ch1. Make 2hdc into the ring. Ch1. Make 2 hdc into the ring. Ch1. Join with a slip stitch to the second chain of the "Ch2" at the beginning of the round. (3 sets of 2 hdc's separated by chain stitches).

Round 2: 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: 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. (3 sets of 7 dc's).

Round 4: 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. (21 sc and 3 long dc).

African Flower Triangle Motif Crochet Instructions



- Chain stitch (ch)
- × Single Crochet (sc)
- T Double Crochet (dc)
- T Long dc into Round 1
- Slip Stitch (sl st)
- Arrow showing color change

Round 1: Chain 3 and join with a slip stitch to form a ring. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make 11 dc's into the ring. Join with slip stitch to third chain of beginning "ch3" of the round. (12 dc's)

Round 2: Join a new color. Slip stitch into the space between the second and third dc's of the previous round. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make 6 dc in same space (total of 7 dc's). * Skip four dc's and make 7 dc's into the next space. Repeat once more from *. Join with slip stitch to the third chain of the beginning "ch3". Cut yarn and pull through. (3 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 1 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 1 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. (21 sc and 4 long dc)

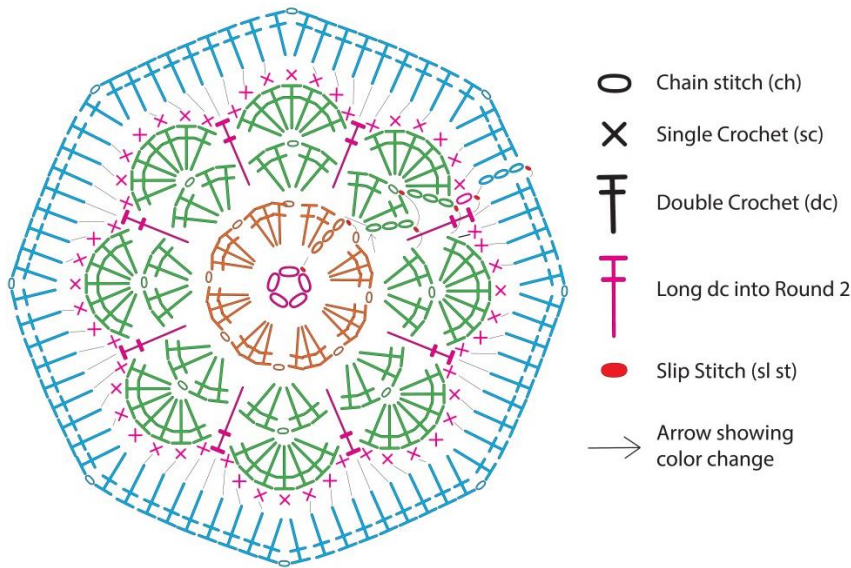
Round 4: Join next colour to the slip stitch at the end of the previous round. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make one dc into each of the next 2 sc's, then (dc, ch1, dc) into the next sc (this forms the "apex" of the flower petal). Then make one dc into each of the next three sc. Make one dc into the previous 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 * once more. 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 27 dc's 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).

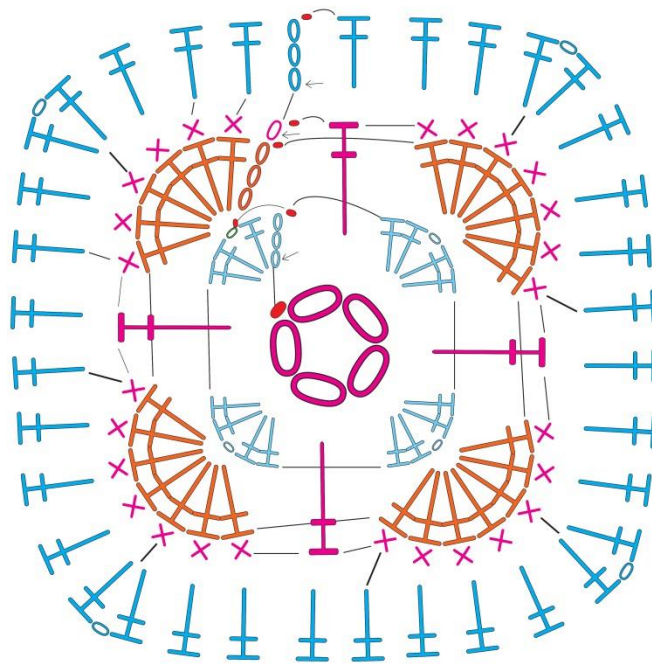
Round 2: Join next color in the ch1 space (just to the right of the previous round's ch3 beginning) and ch3 (counts as first dc). Make a dc in that same chain space then ch1. Make 2 dc (still in the same chain space). Move on to the next chain space of the previous round, and make the following: 2 dc, 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)
- T Double Crochet (dc)
- T Long dc into Round 2
- Slip Stitch (sl st)
- Arrow showing color change

Round 1: Ch5 and join with a slip stitch to make a ring. Ch3 (counts as first dc), then make 1dc into the ring, ch1. Make * 4 dc into ring, ch1. * Repeat from * to * twice more. Make 2 dc into ring and join with a slip stitch to the third chain of the "ch3" of the beginning of the round. (4 sets of 4dc's separated by chain stitches)

Round 2: Join a new color yarn. Slip stitch to the first-along chain space. Ch3. Make 6 dc into this same chain space. Make 7dc's into each of the three remaining chain spaces of Round 2. Join with a slip stitch to the third chain of the "Ch3" beginning of Round 2. (4 clusters of 7 dc's)

Round 3: Join a new color yarn. Ch1 (counts as the first sc). Sc into each of the dc's of this cluster. Make one long dc into Round 1 of the motif. Sc into each of the 7 dc's of the next cluster. Make one long dc into Round 1 of the motif. Repeat these steps for the remaining two clusters. Join with a slip stitch to the ch1 at the beginning of the round. (4 sets of 7 sc's, separated by long dc's)

Round 4: Join a new color yarn. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make a dc into each of the next four sc stitches. Ch1, then * make a dc into the same sc space as the previous dc. Make a dc into each of the next 7 sc's from Round 3. Ch1. * Repeat from * to * two times more. Make a dc into the same sc space as the previous dc. Make a dc into each of the next three sc stitches of Round 3. Join with a slip stitch to the third chain of the "ch3" at the beginning of the round. (4 sets of 9 dc's separated by 4 chain stitches, ie four "9dc repeats")

:: Making your bulldog: Illustration Meanings ::

Max is worked from the bum end up towards the head. In the instructions that follow, I have used the following illustration keys to indicate certain things...please be sure you know what each of these things show...it will make it easier for you to follow the pattern ☺

Bright Pink Arrows: These pink arrows always show the point on the work, where you will start joining your next motif. Remember that a joining side is the distance between the chain space {dc, ch, dc} at a petal apex to the next along chain space {dc, ch, dc} of a petal apex. So the pink arrow will always point to the **chain space** at a petal apex.

Colored lines: Colored lines on motifs are used to show which sides will be joined together with JAYG or sewing. So for example, sides bearing green lines are joined together etc...remember that a side is always the distance from a chain space at a petal apex to a chain space at a petal apex, so a colored line will always indicate this distance, even if it doesn't look like that in a photo.

Black Numbers: Black numbers show what the motif is...so a "6" means that the motif is a hexagon as it has six sides. This may seem like an obvious thing ☺, but sometimes the photos may not be showing the whole motif, and a number can help orient you in where things are. If the number is **black**, it means that the photo is taken with the RIGHT (as opposed to wrong) side of the motif showing / facing you. Occasionally I will label a motif using a white number...this is simply because the background of the motif may be too dark for the number to show if it were black, so instead I have used white...it means the same thing as a black number!

Red Numbers: Red numbers show what the motif is in the same way as the black numbers (see above), EXCEPT, that they indicate the WRONG side of the motif (as opposed to the right side). Sometimes in photos you will be facing the wrong side because the work has curled or assumed a non-flat shape...again, this is to help you with orientation and the placement of the motifs.

ONE BIG THING TO REMEMBER: When you JAYG, you will ALWAYS be facing the RIGHT (as opposed to wrong) side of the motif you ARE JOINING TO! Read the tips section again at the beginning of the pattern if you need to for further clarification on this ☺

Black Lines: The black lines are used to show where the joining sides lie after a motif has been joined. It helps you to orient the work and the motifs visually, as the architecture of the work may look different once the motif has been joined as compared to the how the "unjoined" area looks.

Black lines may also be used to show "un-joined" or "free" sides of a motif.

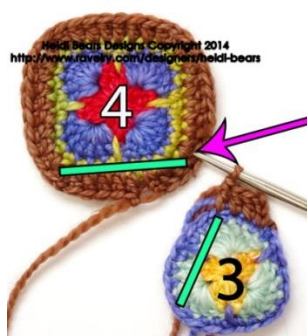
In some of the photos I may have used white lines instead of black lines...this is simply because the background of the photo is too dark and the black lines will not show clearly...the white lines mean exactly the same thing as the black lines.

In some of the photos I have placed a yellow-green card behind the work for clarity's sake...this lessens the distraction from the parts of the work that are not relevant to the current instructions.

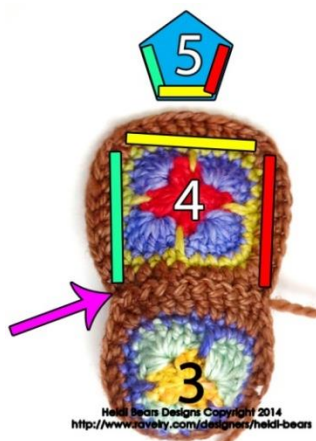
:: Making a Left-hand Side Leg ::

Requirements: **FOR ONE LEG-** Triangle x 1, Square x 2, Pentagons x 3, Hexagon x 1

Both left-hand side legs (left front leg and left back leg) are made in exactly the same way. Although you need to make two (obviously! ;) , you'll only be working with the left hind leg initially when starting to assemble your bulldog.

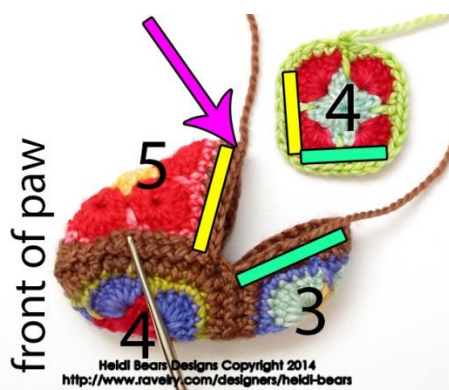


Start by crocheting a square motif, as per the charted and/or written instructions, up to Round 4 (the last round), photo above far left. Now join a triangle motif to the completed square, along **ONE SIDE** (photo above middle). The pink arrow shows the point where you will start to join the triangle to the square, and the colored lines indicate the two sides that will be joined. Then complete the rest of the round of the triangle without joining. Your work now looks like this (photo above far right).



front of paw

Next, join a pentagon to the square, along **THREE SIDES** as shown in the photo far left. Again, the starting point for joining is shown by the pink arrow. Once the pentagon is joined, and you are facing it, your work should look like this (photo left)...the black lines indicate the joined sides.



front of paw

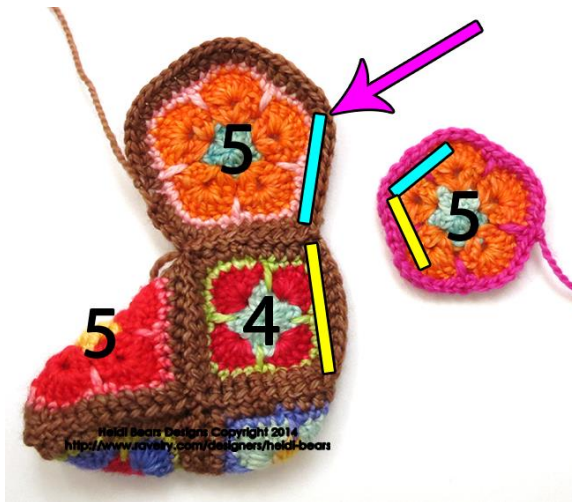


Turn the work and squash it flat so that it looks like the photo far left. Join a square to the work along **TWO SIDES** as shown, starting by joining to the pentagon, then to the triangle. Things should now look like this (photo left).

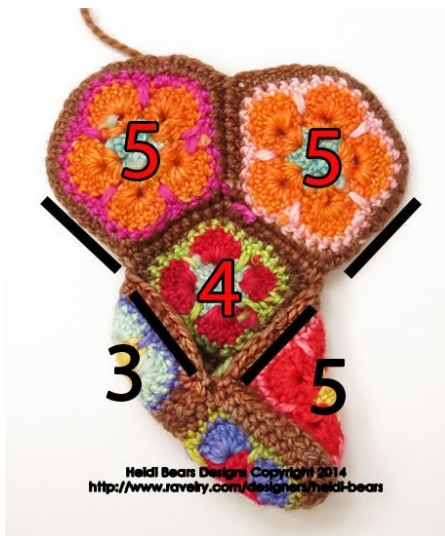


Now, join a pentagon the leg, along ONE SIDE to the square motif as shown far left.

Once joined, the leg should look like this (photo left).



The next step is to join another pentagon to the leg, this time along TWO SIDES as shown in the photo above left...the first side is joined to the pentagon you added in the previous step, and the second side is joined to the square...once joined, the leg now looks like this (photo above right).



Turn your work over so that you are facing the wrong (as opposed to right) side of the pentagons (far left). Join a hexagon to FOUR SIDES (photo left)...the first and last sides are joined to the pentagons, the second side is to the triangle and the third side is to the foot pentagon.



Once joined, the left-hand side leg looks like this ...the four black lines indicate the four joined sides...

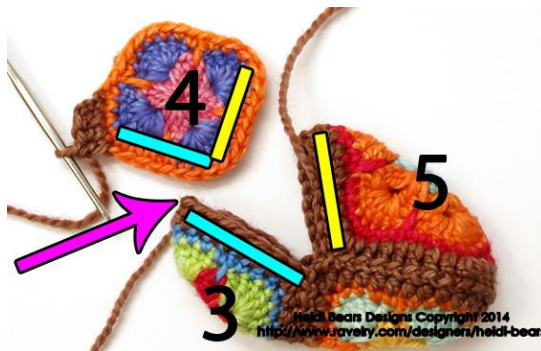
Make a second left-hand side leg in exactly the same way ☺

:: Making a Right-hand Side Leg ::

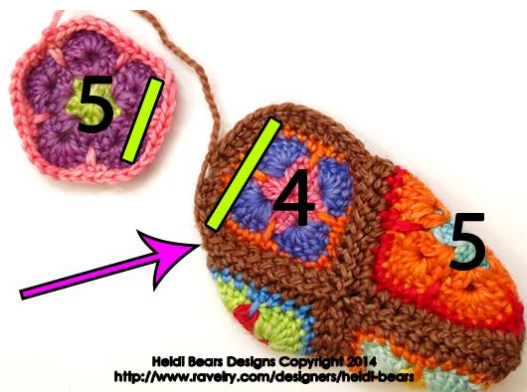
Requirements: FOR ONE LEG- Triangle x 1, Square x 2, Pentagons x 3, Hexagon x 1

NB: This first right-hand side leg you are working on is THE RIGHT FRONT LEG...you will proceed slightly differently for the RIGHT HIND LEG, so work on one leg at a time!

Start by making the leg exactly as you did for the left-hand side leg up to the point where you have joined the first pentagon (first five photographs shown previously in the instructions on how to make a left-hand side leg...page 15).

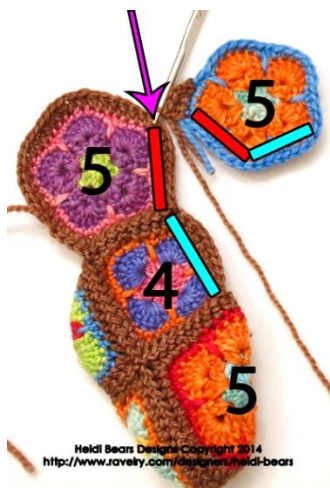


Now turn the work and squash it flat so that it looks like the photo above left. Join a square to the work along TWO SIDES as shown, starting by joining to the triangle, then to the pentagon. Things should now look like this (photo right).

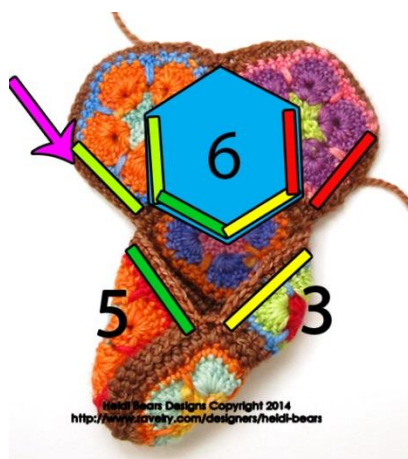


Next, join a pentagon to the leg, along ONE SIDE of the square motif as shown far left.

Once joined, the leg should look like this (photo left).



The next step is to join another pentagon to the leg, this time along TWO SIDES as shown in the photo far left...the first side is joined to the pentagon you added in the previous step and the second side is joined to the square...once joined, the leg now looks like this (photo left). The black lines indicate the joined sides.



Turn your work over so that you are facing the wrong (as opposed to right) side of the pentagons (far left). Join a hexagon to FOUR SIDES of the work (photo left)...the first and last sides are joined to the pentagons, the second side is to the foot pentagon and the third side is to the triangle.

NB: This first right-hand side leg you have been working on is THE RIGHT FRONT LEG...complete round 5 of the hexagon you just joined, without joining (ie, the last two sides of the hexagon are "free / un-joined" sides. This completes your **right-hand side FRONT leg**. Put it aside for now...you will use it later in making the front of Max's body.

Next, start making the right-hand side HIND leg in exactly the same way, **BUT**, when you have joined the four sides of the hexagon (photo above on the right), **STOP!** The right side HIND leg will look like this now...



The four joined sides are indicated by the black lines in the photo on the left.



Place the **left hind leg** on your work surface as shown in the photo to the left. Take note of the side of the hexagon on the left hind leg (yellow line)...you will join the right hind leg hexagon to this side of the left hind leg hexagon (two yellow lined sides together).

In the photo below I have started joining these two sides...this join will bring the hind legs together.

Now continue to crochet (without joining), the last side of the right hind leg hexagon....



Once these two hind leg hexagons have been joined, the work should look like that in the photo on the left...the joined sides have been shown using a **black line**, and you can see that there is still one "free / un-joined" side on each of the hexagons.



Bring the two hind legs together and face the back of them (photo on the left). The triangle motifs form the "heels" of the hind legs. Note the "V-shaped" area lying between the two pentagons ...you will join a square motif to this "V-shaped" area next...

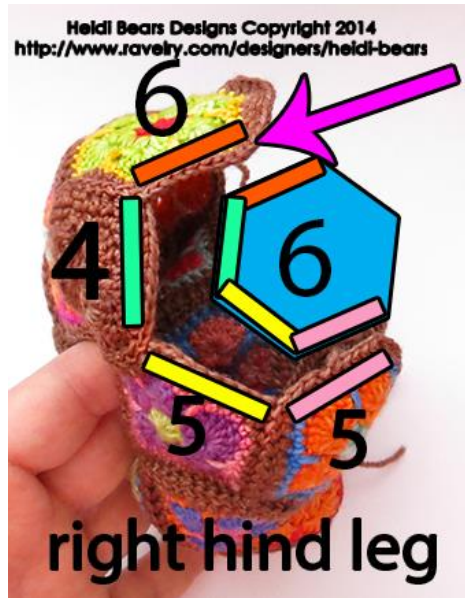


Using the photo above left for guidance, join a square to the “V-shaped” area between the two pentagons...once joined your work should look like this (photo above right).



At this point you can very lightly stuff the toes using polyester stuffing. This will help top give them a bit of shape and make it easier to handle the growing body ;)

Turn the work so that you are facing the left-hand side of the body...you are looking at the left-hand side hind leg (photo above far left)... Using the photo above in the middle for guidance, join a hexagon to this side of the body along **THREE SIDES** as shown. Once joined, the left-hand side of the body will look like this (photo far right above).



Next, you will join a hexagon to the right-hand side of the body along **FOUR SIDES** as shown in the photo above left...note that the **first side is joined to the hexagon** you joined in the previous step, the **second side** is joined to the **square** and the last two sides are joined to the right hind leg pentagons...once completed, your doggie looks like this (photo above right).

:: Sewing and shaping the feet ::

Lightly stuff the feet of the front legs (you have already lightly stuffed the hind legs feet). Now, facing the front of a leg, push your thumb into the leg at the top of the foot pentagon (photo below left). Using spare yarn and a tapestry needle (a curved sewing needle will be easier to use), sew the square motif's edge and the hexagon's edge to the top of the foot pentagon, such that these two motifs edges lie about half way across the foot pentagon...essentially you are "tucking" a part of the foot pentagon under the square and hexagon of the leg.

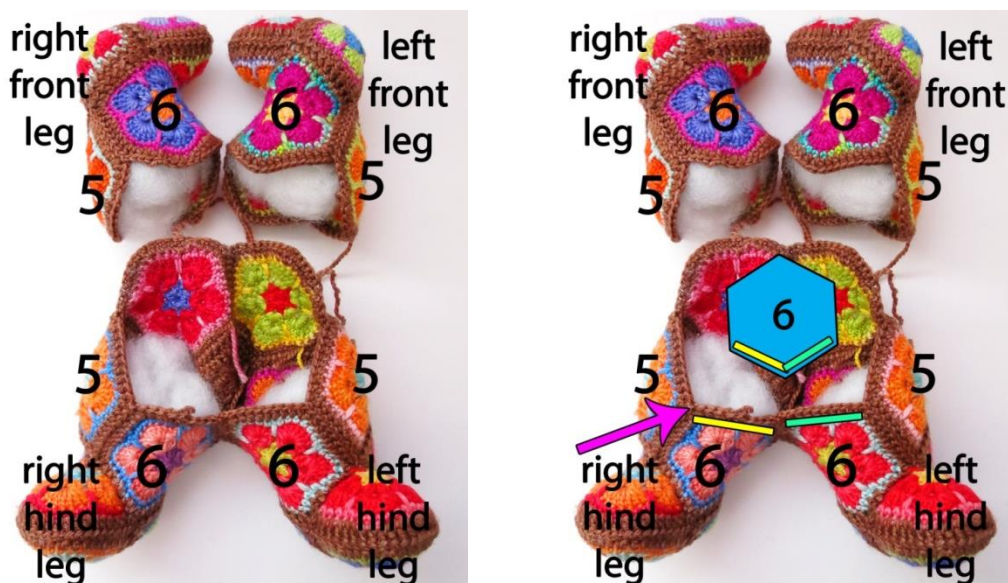


Once you have sewn these sides down onto the foot pentagon, your doggie leg should look like those shown below. Do the same for all four legs.



:: Joining the front and hind legs ::

The next step involves joining the front and hind legs, by adding a belly motif...a hexagon.



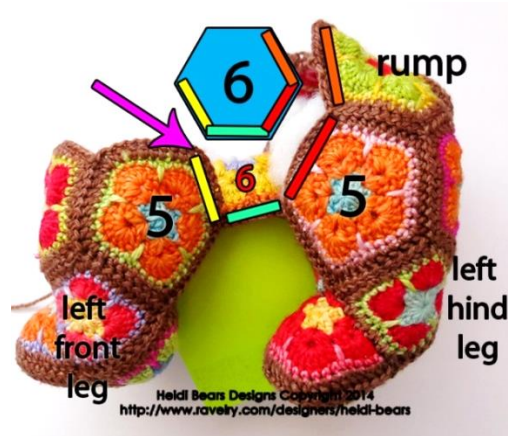
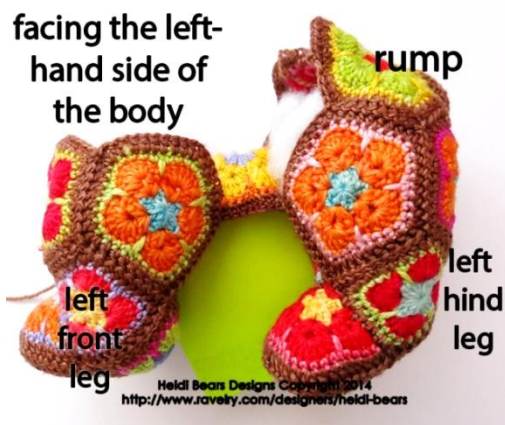
Place the legs on your work surface as shown in the photo above left. The front legs are at the top of the photo and the joined hind legs are at the bottom. Join a hexagon (the belly motif) to the hind legs along **TWO SIDES**, as shown in the photo above right...the starting point for joining the first side is to the right hind leg hexagon (pink arrow). Once the two sides have been joined, crochet **ONE FREE** side (photo below on the left...light pink line).



Now continue to join the belly hexagon to the front legs along **TWO SIDES** as shown above left (one side is joined to the left front leg hexagon and the other side is joined to the right front leg hexagon). Then finish crocheting the rest of Round 5 of the belly hexagon, without joining. Your work now should look like that in the photo above right...there are still two "free / un-joined" sides on the belly hexagon (black lines).

:: Making the rest of the Body ::

Requirements: Hexagons x 4, Octagon x 1, heptagons x 2



Turn the doggie so that you are facing his left-hand side (photo above left). Join a hexagon to this side of the body, along **FOUR SIDES**, as shown in the photo above on the right. This will be called the left-hand side “waist” hexagon.

Once this hexagon has been joined, your work should look like this (photo on the left).

facing the right-hand side of the body



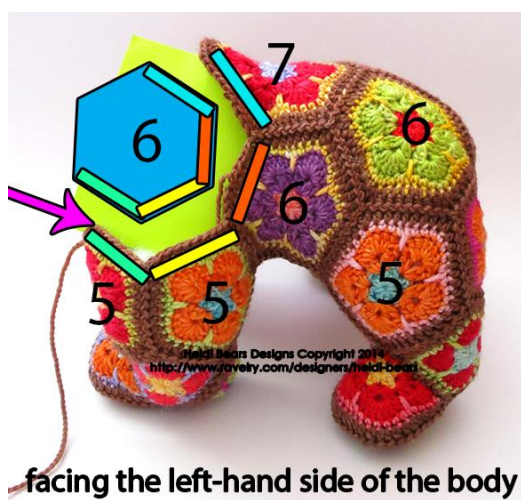
Now turn the doggie so that you are facing his right-hand side (photo above left). Join a hexagon to this side of the body, along **FOUR SIDES**, as shown in the photo above on the left. This hexagon will be called the right-hand side “waist” hexagon. Note that the third side is joined to the belly hexagon.

Once this hexagon has been joined, your work should look like this (photo above on the right).



Now turn your attention to the top of the body...in the photo above left, you are looking at the top of the body from above. The tail end of the bulldog is at the upper part of the photo. Join a heptagon to the top of the body as shown, along **FOUR SIDES**...the first side is joined to the left-hand side “waist” hexagon you added previously and the last side is joined to the right-hand side “waist” hexagon you joined the previous step.

Next, face the right-hand side of the body...join a hexagon to the work, along **FOUR SIDES** as shown in the photo above right. The first side you join, is to the heptagon you joined in the photo above left....the second side is joined to the right-hand side “waist” hexagon.



Next, you will join a hexagon to the left-hand side of the body, along **FOUR SIDES** as shown in the photo above left. This time your starting point for joining is on the left front leg pentagon...this is because you are always facing the right (as opposed to wrong) side of the work when joining and you are crocheting in an anti-clockwise direction. Once joined, the work should look like that in the photo above right. The black lines indicate the four joined sides.

At this point you can start to stuff the body using polyester stuffing. Start at the hind legs and work your way to the front of the body, making sure that it is evenly and symmetrically stuffed

© Leave some room for yourself to still be able to work at the front of the body...so don't stuff the front all the way to the neck. Look at your bulldog from all sides and make sure you are happy with the shaping!

Let's continue with making the body....

facing the front of the body



Face the front of the body (photo far left). Join an octagon to the front of the body (the "chest" area) along **SIX SIDES** as shown. Once joined, the front of the body will look like this (photo left).

front of the body



view of the top of the body



view of the top of the body



Ok, one more motif to add to the work, then the body is all done! Face the top of the body again (photo above far left). Join a heptagon the front of the body, along **THREE SIDES** as shown in the photo in the middle above. Once joined, things now look like this (photo above on the right).

:: Making the Head ::

Requirements: Pentagons x 6, Hexagons x 1, Squares x 2 (not including the ears motifs)



Ok, let's make the head ☺
The last motif you added, was the heptagon at the front of the body (photo far left). There are still FOUR "free / un-joined" sides on this heptagon, and if you flatten it out somewhat, there will be a kind of "point" at the very front. The two sides that form this "point" will be the sides that we will work on first.

Join a square to the heptagon along **ONE SIDE** as shown in the photo above on the right. Your work will then look like this (photo below on the far left). Next, join a square to the other side of the heptagon that made up the "point" mentioned previously, along **TWO SIDES** ...use the photo below in the middle as a guide. The work now looks like this (photo below far right).





facing the left side of the head



Turn to face the right-hand side of the body (photo above on the left). Join a pentagon to this side of the head, along **THREE SIDES** as shown. The first side is joined to the square you added in the previous step, the second side is to the neck heptagon and the third side is joined to the chest octagon. Repeat this for the left-hand side of the head (photo above on the right)...join a pentagon to the head as shown, along **THREE SIDES**...this time the first side is joined to the chest octagon, the second side is joined to the neck heptagon and the third side is joined to the square.



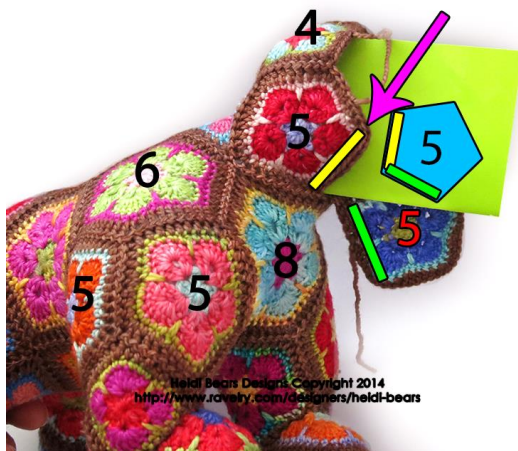
The work should now look like that in the photo on the left.



Place your little bulldog on his hind legs and look at the underside of his head area (photo far left)...see the "V-shaped" area lying between the two pentagons? Join a pentagon to the one pentagon along **ONE SIDE** as shown.



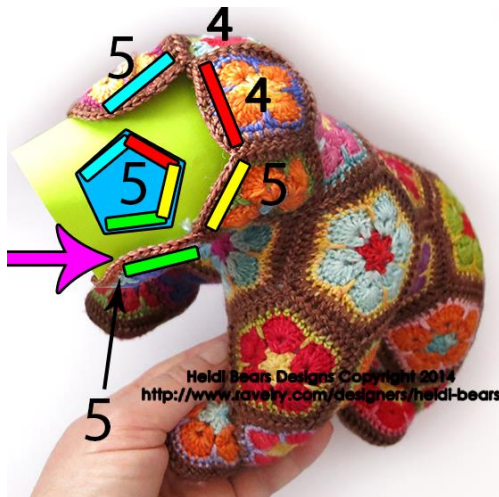
The work should now look like that in the photo on the left.



Now face the right-hand side of the head and body (photo above left)...join a pentagon to the head, along **TWO SIDES** as shown...the first side is joined to the right-hand side head pentagon (yellow line) and the second side is joined to the pentagon you added in the previous step. Once joined, the head looks like this (photo above right)...the black lines show the two joined sides.



Staying on the right-hand side of the head, join a pentagon to this side, along **THREE SIDES** as shown in the photo above on the left. Once joined it looks like this (photo above right). This is the right eye motif.



Return to the left-hand side of the head (photo far left). Join a pentagon to this side, along **FOUR SIDES** as shown. This is the left eye motif. This is where it is placed, (just for reference) in the finished doggie (photo above on the right).

Whoohoo! You have one more motif to join, then your little bulldog's body is all done ☺

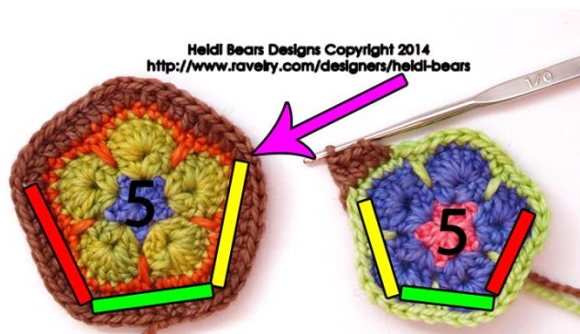
If you look at the front of the head, you will see that there are six sides left over at the nose opening...(photo below on the left, black lines)...join a hexagon to this nose opening **ON ALL SIDES**. If you need to refresh your memory on how to join a motif on all sides, please take a look at the Joining Tutorials at the end of the pattern. When there are still two sides to join, stop. Without losing the stitches you've crocheted, carefully stuff the rest of the front of the body and head, making sure that you have stuffed it evenly and moderately firmly. Use small tufts of stuffing, not big clumps and work carefully to fill all the little angles and corners of the head. Then continue to carefully join the last two remaining sides.



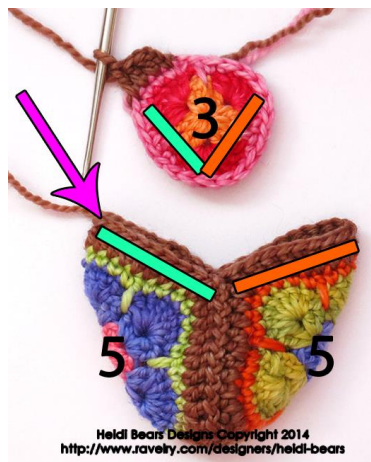
Your doggie's nose will look like this when the hexagon has been joined on all sides ☺ Well done!

:: Making the Ears ::

Requirements: FOR ONE EAR- Pentagons x 2, Triangles x 2



Start by crocheting a pentagon up to Round 5, then join a pentagon to this completed pentagon, along **THREE SIDES** as shown in the photo above left. Now flatten the work out so that you can see half of each of the pentagons (use the photo above right for guidance).



Next, join a triangle to the "V-shaped" area between the pentagons **along TWO SIDES** (photo far left). Once joined, the work looks like this (photo left).



Take a look at the remaining opening...there are three free sides left (photo above far left)...join a triangle to this opening **ON ALL SIDES...DO NOT STUFF THE EAR!**. Once joined your doggie ear looks like this (photo above middle)...if you now press your thumb into the middle of the ear, you can create a cupped shape (photo above on the right). Make a second ear in exactly the same way ☺



Use the photos on the left as a guide in pinning the ears to the head...**note that the triangle motifs are at the top!** Use spare yarn and a tapestry needle to sew the ears to the head along the edge of the triangle (a curved sewing needle might make it easier to sew on the ears).

:: Making and attaching the Tail ::

Requirement: Square x 1 (modified)

Using the instructions for the square motif, crochet a square up to Round 3. You will crochet a modified Round 4 as follows: Simply make one dc into each stitch of Round 3 (in other words, don't make a [dc,ch,dc] at each flower apex...just crochet all around with one dc in each Round 3 stitch.

Then crochet two more rounds of dc, exactly as you did for the modified Round 4 mentioned above...the tail should now look like that in the photo below far left. Cut the working yarn, BUT, LEAVE A LONG TAIL!



Use the tail of yarn to make a running stitch all along the outer edge of the last crocheted round (photo above in the middle). When you reach the beginning of the place you started the running stitch, gently pull the tail yarn...you'll see the outer edge of the tail gather together. Use polyester stuffing to stuff the tail ...don't stuff it too firmly, just enough for it to hold its shape. Now draw the gathering thread tight to close the hole. Over-sew the hole area with the tail yarn to secure.



Use the photos below and left as a guide to where you should sew the tail onto the tail end of the bulldog. Use the tail yarn to sew all around the outer edge of the little tail, making sure that it is very securely attached to Max's bottom.



:: Making and attaching the Nose ::

Requirements: Nose Triangle x 1

Make a nose triangle using the instructions for the nose motif. Use the photos below for guidance in placement, then sew the nose securely to the area indicated. You can place a small amount of polyester stuffing into the nose just before closing the final seam area.



:: Making and attaching the face skin fold ::

You will use a foundation dc to make the nose fold. The exact number of stitches you will need will depend on a number of factors, including what weight yarn you are using and also what your personal preference is for how far the nose fold will extend around the nose. For my Max, made in sock weight yarn, and with the nose fold extending slightly more than four of the hexagons' sides, I started with 38 foundation dc stitches.

Once you have made the required number of foundation dc stitches you need, **continue to crochet around to the base of the work, in an anti-clockwise spiral as follows:**

Make four dc's into the base of the next-along stitch, then crochet one dc into each stitch along the length of the nose fold, until you get to the last stitch (which is also the very first stitch you made at the beginning of the work). Make four dc's stitches into this last stitch, then continue to make one dc into each of the stitches, until you reach the place where you made the first set of four dc's together. Slip stitch join into the first of the "four dc's set", cut the yarn (leaving a long tail) and pull though.



The schematic above shows the basic outline of the nose fold...you are effectively making a long spiral...

Use the photos below as a guide to placement of the nose fold. Start by sewing the upper free edge , then sew the lower free edge of the nose fold to the face, leaving a small distance between the sewn on edges...this will give the nose fold a bit of a fullness that adds to the appeal.





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

I have used 12mm wire looped glass eyes.

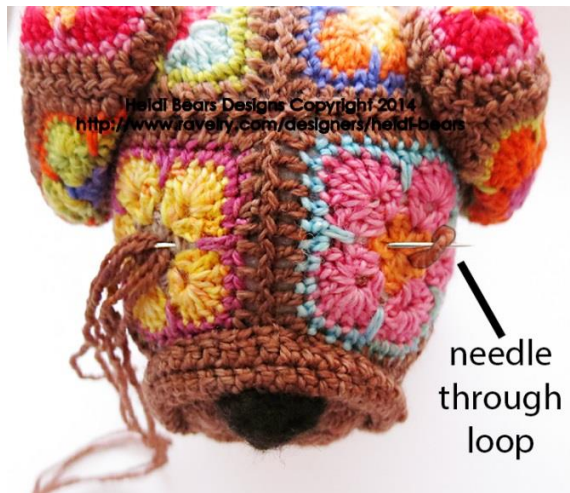
The single best bit of advice that I can give you in making this little bulldog, is to take the time to sculpt the eye sockets...it really is easy and quick to do and adds a realistic look to your Max's face that triples the cuteness factor!

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 Max between your knees to hold in place, facing the head. Insert the needle into the left eye area (Round 1 of the left eye pentagon), just to the side of the very centre (photo below on the left).



Push the needle all the way through the head, exiting at the right eye area, just to the side of the centre of Round 1 (photo above on the right).

Pull the yarn through the head, leaving a small loop at the left eye as seen below left. Now re-insert the needle into the right eye area, on the opposite side of Round 1 from where your needle exited, and push across the head back to the left eye area, again exiting on the opposite side of where you initially inserted the needle in Round 1 of the left eye motif, putting the needle **through the yarn loop** (photo below on the right).



Pull up the yarn gently, and you will see the eye sockets indent (photo below on the left) 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 motif, 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 (photo below on the right).



Repeat the process for the right eye...thread the needle and yarn through the right 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!



Heidi Bears Designs Copyright 2014
<http://www.ravelry.com/designers/heidi-bears>

Well done clever Max-maker! Your cute little bulldog friend is all completed and beautiful 😊

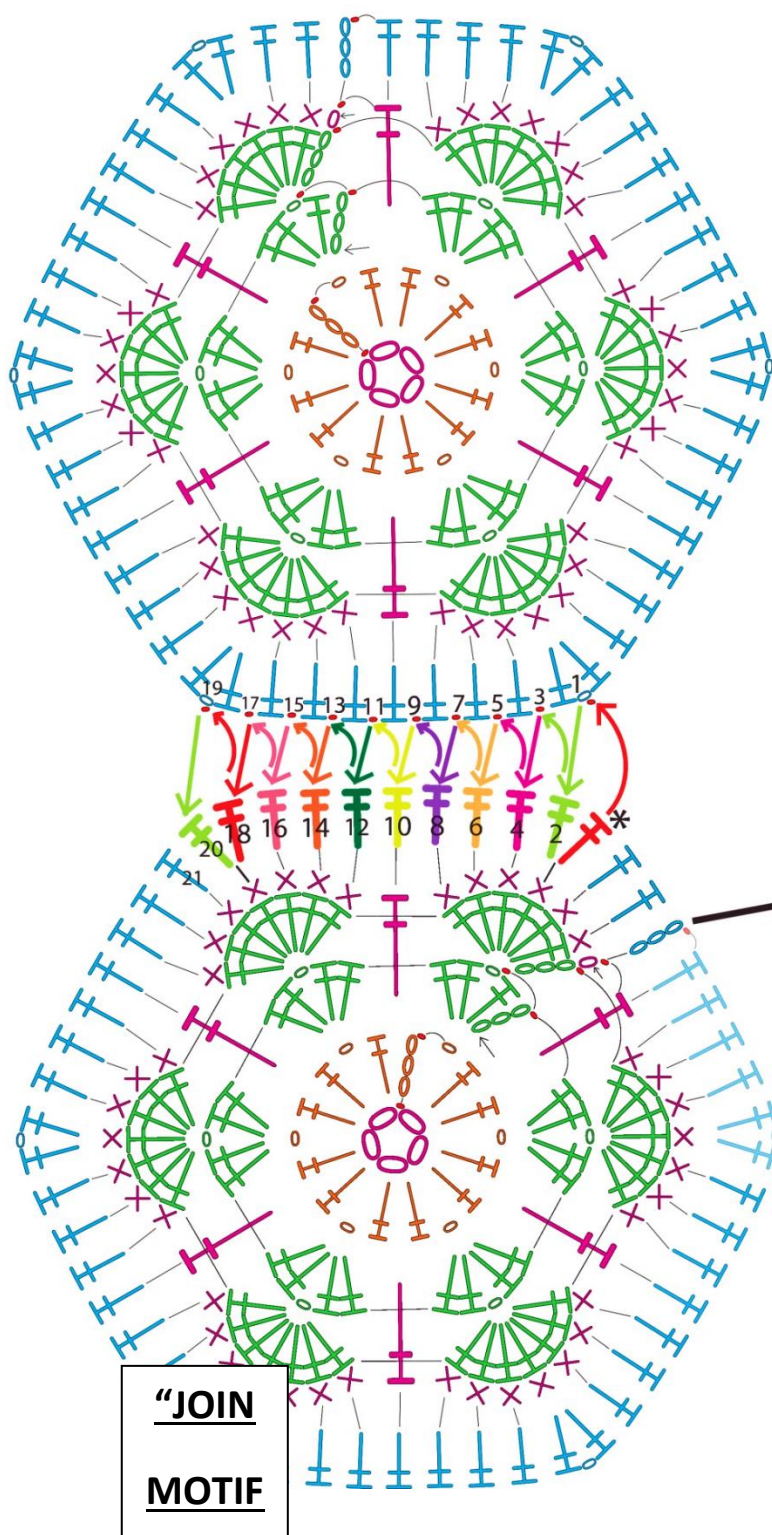
Well done for making a lovely project! I hope you have enjoyed crocheting sweet little Max and that you have found the pattern clear and easy to follow...if you have any questions , please pm me on Ravelry and I will be happy to help 😊

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!

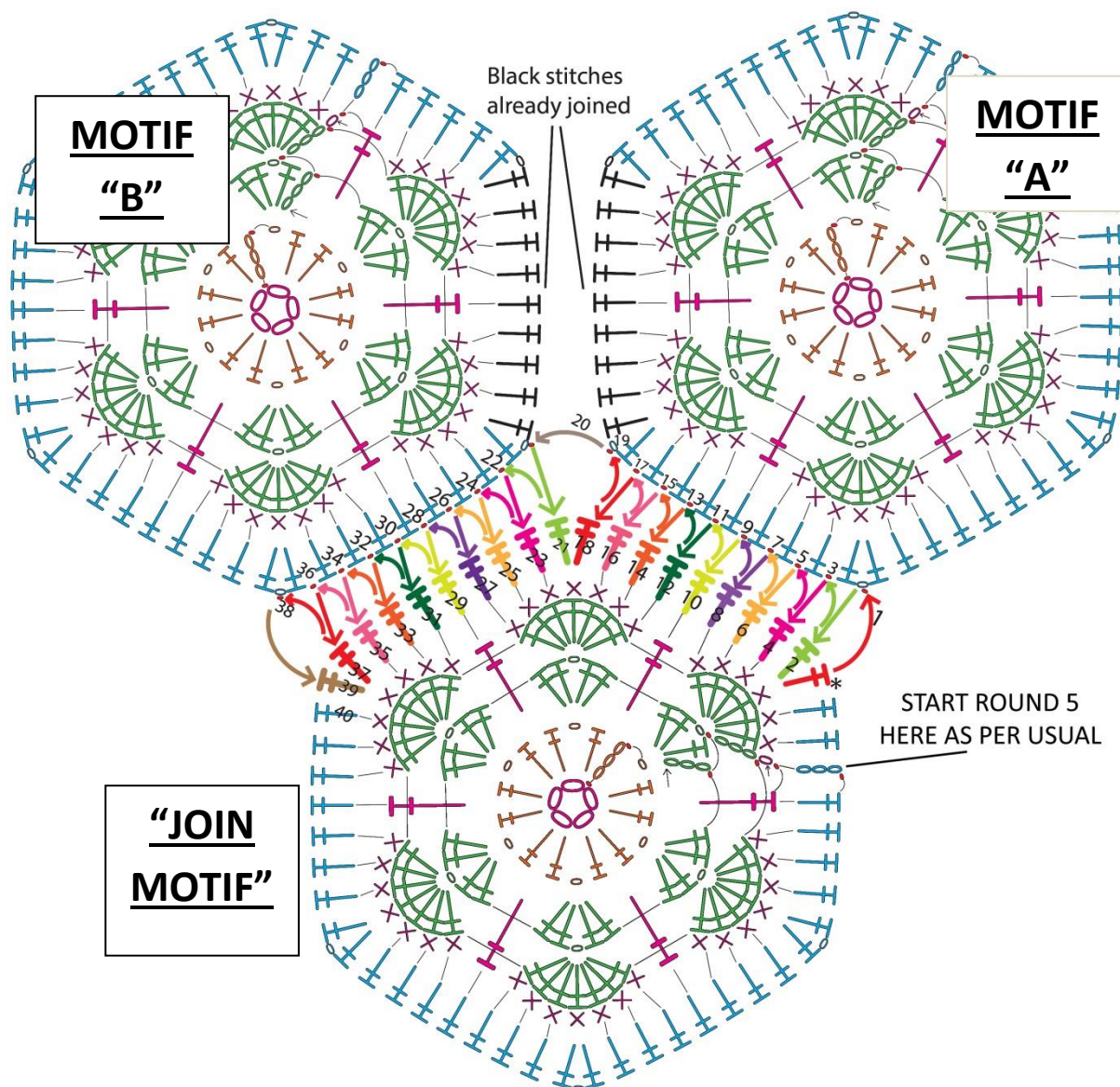


When you join a motif stitch for stitch, to another motif on one side only, you need to start crocheting Round 5 of the “join motif” at the usual point, which is where your Ch3 starts the round. Work as usual up until the first dc of the [dc,ch,dc in same space] set, and make **ONLY** the first dc of 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.

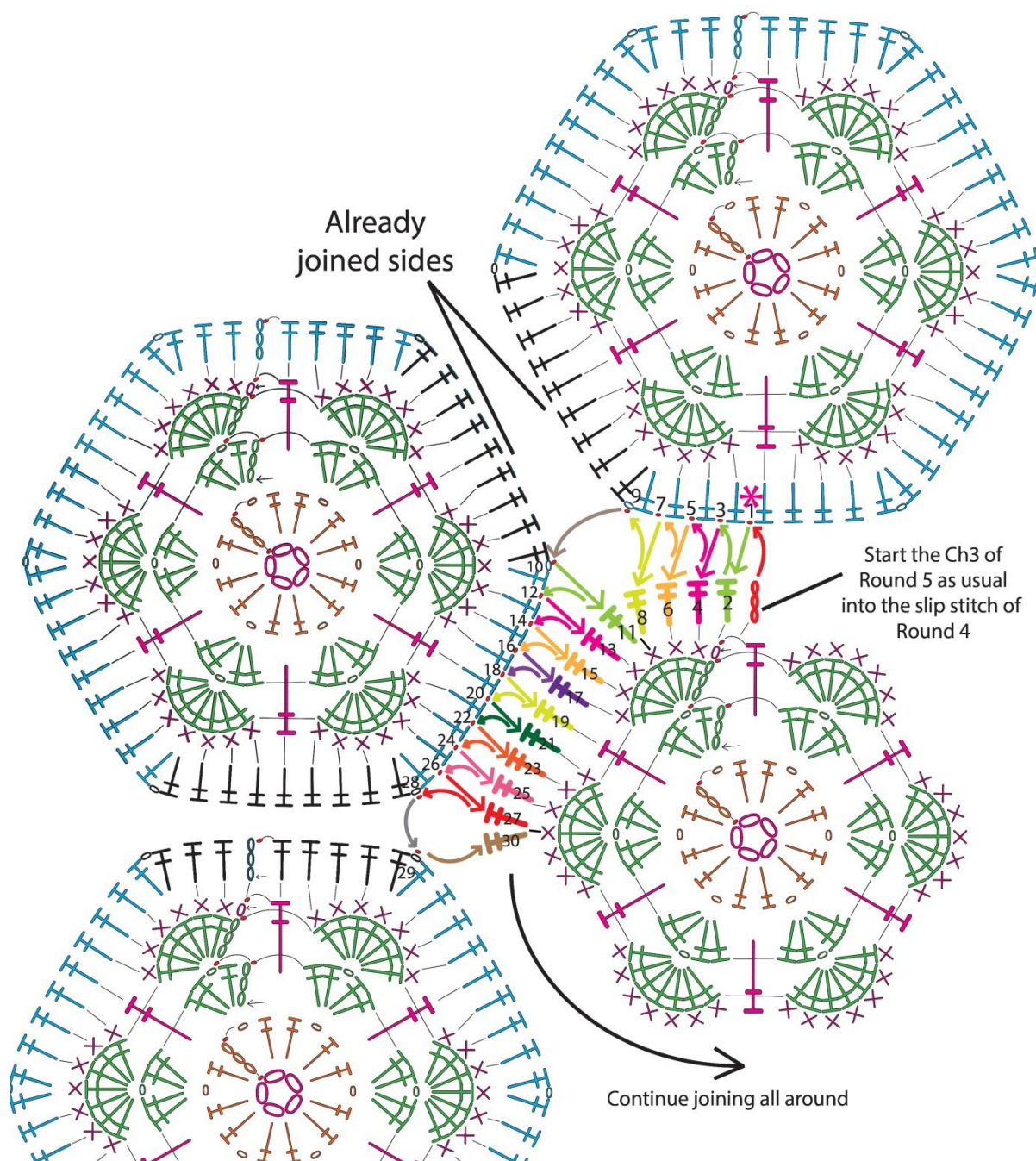
JOINING A MOTIF ON TWO OR MORE SIDES



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.