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GUIDE

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Expert tips and tricks

INSPIRING PROJECTS
for Creative Crocheters

Inside **crochet**

21

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YOUR FREE
RIC RAC



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MOTIFS

RETRO SHADES

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WEEKEND



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STASH!

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Adorable duckling ♦♦

Fun canal barge ♦♦



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inside crochet

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Welcome



It is widely believed that New Year's Resolutions are incredibly hard to keep. My own experience is to start each New Year with a lovely clean slate, or at least a brand new diary; I always have the best intentions to fulfil the long list of aims and achievements scribbled in its pages by the time the year is out. However, I have often given up on many of them by the time January is through. This year, I have decided to try to use crochet to keep me on the right track and this issue we have provided an array of projects designed to help you get organised, take more exercise, or even get a good night's sleep.

Esme Crick's simple baskets on page 47 are going to be perfect for keeping all my haberdashery close to hand in my new office, while I am going to be the envy of my pilates group when I stroll into class with the beautiful colourwork mat bag on page 74, sporting some pretty yoga socks (page 68). It's having darling pieces like this that make you look forward to exercise!

If your own crochet resolution is to try out a new technique, take a look at our feature for creating perfectly adorable amigurumi on page 78, with tips and advice from some of our favourite toy designers, then hook a cute duckling to try out what you have learned.

Finally, this month's free gift of ric rac ribbon will add a splash of colour to any crochet project. Turn to page 59 to learn how to craft ric rac roses and make this year's resolution to add a little more rainbow to your life!

Enjoy!

Claire x

Claire Montgomerie, Editor

 www.pinterest.com/insidecrochet

 www.facebook.com/insidecrochet

 @insidecrochet





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AMIGURUMI MASTERCLASS

Discover tips on how
to make cute critters
like these!

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24

*It's time to
start a new
mystery
blanket!*



SUBSCRIBE TODAY

Save money every month with
an *Inside Crochet* subscription.
Turn to page 56 for details

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Get your magazines sorted out ready
for the new year, and if any issues are
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IN THE LOOP



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SPOTTED!

→ We love seeing traditional yarn crafts combined with the latest technology, so we were thrilled to discover the app Woomi

Wins, a quirky tale about an amigurumi man attempting to conquer Earth with clones. The app was developed by Howie Woo, who also crocheted his own clone, Woomi, and blogs at www.woowork.com. Woomi Wins is available for Android and Apple phones and tablets.

£1.49, www.woomiwins.com



[NEW YARNS]

Laceweight luxury

→ Deramores is now stocking two great new yarns from Dutch company Scheepjes. Alpaca Rhythm and Mohair Rhythm are both laceweight yarns from Scheepjes's luxury yarn range, and are ideal for heirloom projects, or just when you want to indulge yourself! Alpaca Rhythm is 80% alpaca/20% wool, creating a super-soft fabric perfect for fine shawls, while Mohair Rhythm is 70% mohair/30% microfibre and will create a soft, semi-transparent fabric on its own, or combined with Alpaca Rhythm for a soft and fluffy fabric. www.deramores.com

[SHOPS WE LOVE]

Wool Warehouse

→ Online yarn store Wool Warehouse is a family-run business with a huge stock of yarns, patterns, hooks and accessories to choose from. Yarns include a great range of brands such as Drops, King Cole, Stylecraft, Rico Design and Scheepjes, all available in a rainbow of shades, while hooks include our favourite Clover Amour and Soft Touch models as well as gorgeous wooden and Tunisian styles. Manager Gill Bailey says, "We choose what to stock based on what our staff use and what they want to use, their opinion matters to us a lot." You can also buy yarn packs for popular Attic 24 and Look At What I Made designs. The store offers great customer service, fast despatch and free delivery on orders over £25.

Wool Warehouse is based in Leamington Spa and, although it's an online shop, has a small showroom where customers can collect orders and browse a selection of yarns.

www.woolwarehouse.co.uk



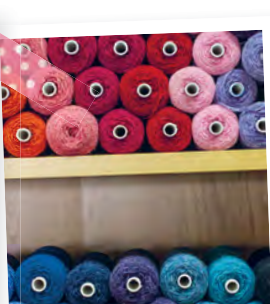
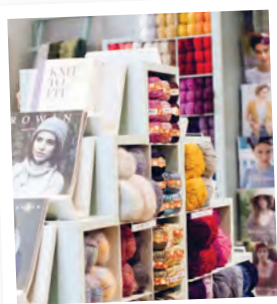
[CHARITY CROCHET]



→ There are lots of ways that crafts are used to raise money for charity – but these fundraisers by David Babcock are certainly unique! He recently ran the Kansas City Marathon while crocheting a giant doily, then two weeks later ran the New York City Marathon while finger crocheting flowers to raise money for The Alzheimer's Association. Though his fundraising site is now closed, he's encouraging everyone inspired by his story to donate to their local Alzheimer's charity.

David has knit and crocheted his way through a number of races, viewing his work as a combination of performance art and fundraising, and is sponsored by Lion Brand Yarn. Though he often knits and crochets with needles and hooks, some marathons forbid tools for security reasons, hence the finger crocheted flowers. David also broke the Guinness World Record for "Longest Scarf Knit While Running A Marathon" in 2013, knitting 3.7m while running the Kansas City Marathon. www.knittingrunner.com





[BOOK REVIEW]

London Stitch + Knit



↔ This useful book by Leigh Metcalf is both a handy reference tool for navigating the crafter's London and an irresistible source of inspiration. The images, illustrations and quotes are beautifully presented and make the reader instinctively reach for their hooks. *London Stitch + Knit* features over 40 fabulous gems, from famous department stores such as Liberty, to bijoux yarn boutiques like Loop and Nest and bargain fabric shops such as A to Z Fabrics. It also has an additional online resources section, which will ensure many a lost hour browsing the internet to bookmark new favourite blogs and sites. A must read for any crafter and/or Londonophile. Forget the city guide, this is a backpack essential for any craft-lover's trip to the big smoke. **£16.95, Black Dog Publishing**

WE LOVE...

Crochet with some sparkle! Sconch has collected a range of yarn perfect for glamorous accessories and glitzy trims, from glittery sequins to subtle shimmers. **www.sconch.com/sparkle**



[COMPETITION]

Chunky hooks for super-size crochet!



↔ Super-chunky crochet is always great fun, especially at this time of year when you can whip up cosy, snuggly blankets and winter accessories in just a few hours. However it's often difficult to find good quality hooks in larger sizes. Luckily Clover has just launched 12mm and 15mm versions of its popular Amour hooks, with their recognisable ergonomic, easy-grip handles for comfortable crochet. The hooks have a smooth finish and a deep notch, so you won't lose your stitches even with the thickest of yarn. We're planning a chunky hat, and some slippers, and a blanket for the sofa, and...

The 12mm hook is £8.25, and the 15mm hook £9.25, email clover@stockistenquiries.co.uk or phone 01453 883581 for stockists

WIN!

Clover has kindly given us five sets of the two new hooks to give away to lucky readers. For your chance to win, head to www.insidecrochet.co.uk/competitions. Closing date 27 January 2016.



DIARY

* 17 JANUARY 2016

WALTHAM ABBEY WOOL SHOW

This popular show is back for its third year, packed with hand-dyed yarns, crochet kits and accessories, as well as demonstrations of spinning and weaving plus a variety of workshops. 10am-4pm, tickets £3.50 in advance, £5 on the day. **www.walthamabbeywoolshow.co.uk**

* 12-19 AUGUST 2016

KNITTING & CROCHET IN THE FAROE ISLANDS

Join knit and crochet designer Carol Meldrum for seven nights. Trip includes workshops and visits to wool producers and Faroese knitting designers, Guðrun & Guðrun. From £1,899 per person. **www.arenatravel.com**

* UNTIL 28 FEBRUARY 2016

LIBERTY IN FASHION

Head to the Fashion and Textile Museum, London, for this exhibition exploring Liberty's impact on the fashion world, celebrating its 140th anniversary. More than 150 garments, textiles and objects demonstrate Liberty's relationships with designers since 1875, from Arthur Silver to Jean Muir, Yves Saint Laurent and Vivienne Westwood. **www.ftmlondon.org**

WORKSHOPS

* SATURDAY 23 JANUARY

ADVANCED AMIGURUMI TECHNIQUES

Improve your toy-making skills with this workshop, which covers loop stitches, colour changes, splitting rounds and more, plus the chance to ask questions about Toft amigurumi patterns. £15 including practice yarn and refreshments, 10am-12pm. **www.thetoftalpachashop.co.uk**

* SATURDAY 13 FEBRUARY

ECLECTIC GIPSYLAND CROCHET

Head to Loop, London to learn fun techniques including lace motifs, joining as you go, surface crochet, 2D flowers and puff stitches from Cécile Balladino. Also runs Sunday 14 February. £75, 11am-5pm. **www.loopknitting.com**

* SATURDAY 5 MARCH

TEXTURED CROCHET

Join Joanne Scrase to learn bobbles, popcorns, clusters, spikes, shells and more at The Sheep Shop, Cambridge. £25, 10am-1pm. **www.sheepshopcambridge.co.uk**

Don't Miss!

[CROCHET KITS]

A taste of Yorkshire



Online yarn store A Woolly Tail has joined forces with crochet designer Lynn Dyson-Bruce (www.singularone.blogspot.co.uk) to promote yarns from

Thomas B Ramsden. Lynn's designs will be packaged with a variety of yarns, so you can choose your favourite fibres (and suit your budget). The Geometry Bunting is available in Robin and Wendy Mode DK, Peter Pan and Moondust DK or Wendy Supreme Cotton DK, while the Lollo Rosso shawls are made in Wendy Roam and Roam Fusion. Lollipop shawls and hat are available in a selection of yarns including Wendy Merino DK.

www.awoollytail.com



[COMPETITION]

Say it with yarn



Pom-poms can be a great finishing touch to a project – but if you're making something special for someone you love, why not try a heart-shaped pom-pom for that extra personal finish? Clover – which already makes great plastic pom-

pom makers that make the wrapping and cutting of yarn ultra easy – has launched a fabulous heart pom-pom maker, which creates stunning shaped pom-poms that are sure to stand out! **£3.99 for small, £4.35 for large,** email clover@stockistenquiries.co.uk or phone 01453 883581 for stockists

WIN!

We have three of the large pom-pom makers to give away – just head to www.insidecrochet.co.uk/competitions for your chance to win. Closing date 17 January 2016.

[CAREERS]

CROCHET ENTREPRENEURS

We chat to designer and blogger Twinkie Chan about her amazing crocheted food designs.

www.twinkiechan.com



Twinkie Chan is a popular designer, blogger and YouTube personality who specialises in bright, quirky food-based crochet designs. Like many people who earn their living through crafts, she has a lot of strings to her bow, selling designs and finished objects on Etsy as well as writing books, working with yarn companies and branching into licensing and apparel with her diffusion line, Yummy You. "I'm really kind of all over the place!" she laughs. "I first started making my signature food-themed scarves in 2005 and sold one-offs on eBay just for fun. In 2010, I published my first crochet book, *Twinkie Chan's Crochet Goodies For Fashion Foodies*, and I also launched my line, Yummy You! to make my popular designs more affordable and accessible. In the past few years, I've also started blogging and vlogging free crochet projects."

Twinkie lives in San Francisco with her best friend and two dogs, and originally worked as a literary agent before moving into a yarn-based career. "I started to crochet more and more for fun on the side. There was a moment when I'd go to work, come home, study for the LSAT (because I thought I wanted to apply to law school), and then crochet until two in the morning to create scarves for my website," she explains. "I didn't end up taking the LSAT, and I just ended up buying more yarn instead. When someone approached me about mass-producing and licensing my work, I started to feel like maybe I had a second career."

She's become known for her colourful, food-themed scarves and

accessories, which started off as a personal quest to create the clothes she wanted and couldn't find to buy. "I'd moved to the city and needed something to keep me warm without being bulky," says Twinkie. "I've always had a love for faux food toys and retro food packaging, so I started figuring out how to crochet toast, cupcake, and salad scarves. I had no idea that other people would want to wear these designs, too. I think food imagery is funny, and I'm a big proponent of having fun with fashion and crafting."

Now that she's carved her niche in the yarn world, Twinkie is enjoying being her own boss, though self-employment is often a challenge. "Feeling like you have control over your life and your job can be really amazing. But tackling everything involved in running your own business can be overwhelming, too. The non-creative stuff is honestly not my favourite, like accounting, legal stuff, sales, but when you're essentially a one-person company, you have to tackle it all. Ultimately, being able to live a creative life and sharing that creativity with others is the best."

Having published her first book in 2010, Twinkie is currently looking forward to the release of her second, *Twinkie Chan's Crocheted Abode À La Mode*, which is due out in April 2016. "It focuses on cute, food-themed home decor, for people who enjoy my design aesthetic but who might not want to walk around wearing a cupcake hat or hamburger mitts," she says. "All the projects in the book are great for gifting, and I hope everyone really loves it!"



[YARN REVIEW]

Add to your stash

WORDS CLAIRE MONTGOMERIE



Louisa Harding Trenzar

Trenzar has an interesting construction – a loosely spun ply with a subtle sheen coils around a soft, 3ply matt core like a helter-skelter, creating a nubby yarn and textured fabric in which the shiny thread seems to glisten against the hairy base. This highly textured formation makes it a slightly slower hook but this is compensated by the fact that it is soft and bouncy to use.



35% wool/30% lyocell/23% alpaca/
12% acrylic • 100g/160m/174yds
£12.99 from www.tangled-yarn.co.uk

Wendy Evolve Chunky

The name of this yarn is derived from the fact that the shade gradually evolves as you work, with pretty colours shifting slowly to create a subtle, dappled effect. The fabric is hairy and crisp, but with a soft handle and the single ply construction works up swiftly, with little fuss, making this a great choice for wintry, warming accessories.



50% wool/40% acrylic/10% alpaca
100g/180m/197yds
£5.35 from www.blacksheepwools.com

Sirdar Sylvan

Sylvan is a lovely, characterful yarn, full of surprises. The fibre content is mainly man-made, but it almost gives the impression of silk in its sophisticated sheen. It is labelled as a chunky, recommending a 6.5mm hook, but the yarn has a highly slubbed, thick and thin texture. The smoky palette is classy and elegant with a fashionable ombre effect to the colour changes.



90% acrylic/10% wool • 50g/83m/91yds
£2.89 from www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

Purely Gorgeous Falklands Merino DK

This luxury yarn with a soft drape is available in both Aran and DK weights and is perfect for small batch dyeing, as it is only available in natural cream. We can see it making adorably soft and snuggly new baby gifts and blankets as well as accessories and garments.



100% Merino wool
100g/240m/262yds
£6.50 from www.gorgeousyarns.co.uk

Scheepjes Bloom

The chainette construction of this yarn makes Bloom very lightweight while remaining a chunky gauge cotton. The resulting fabric is quite rough, but with a good drape and great durability. It hooks up fast and very easily, and the palette is full of strong, solid shades, which are perfect for utilising in multicoloured motifs and projects.



100% cotton • 50g/80m/90yds
£2.79 from www.deramores.com

[QUESTION TIME]

WE ASKED OUR READERS...

Are you planning any crafty New Year's resolutions this January?

Don't forget, we are now offering a free one-year subscription to *Inside Crochet* for our favourite response on Facebook or Twitter, so send us your comments!

WINNER! KATHARINE HUMPHRIES

➡ Not to start so many projects all at once! [This seemed a common theme Katherine. We hope our New Year's projects will help you make a start – one at a time of course! *Inside Crochet* team]

Jen Higgins: *To make only for those who will appreciate.*

Vivienne White: *To make a blanket & actually keep it!*

Lisa Schofield: *I need to crochet a cotton/bamboo baby blanket for a relative expecting their first baby.*

Becky Robinson: *Learn to spin yarn!*

Dominique Riggs: *Mine for this past year was to not buy any yarn - exception was a gift card I got as a Christmas gift. It wasn't too hard considering I have quite a stash to choose from!*

Lisa Sheppard: *To make first and then give rather than promise something and then drag myself through the project!*

Catherine Waterfield: *Start only what I plan to finish!*

Michelle: *I have a "New Yarn Resolution" - try and use all the gorgeous yarn I bought at @yarnsale, before I go back next year!*

FOLLOW!

Visit the Facebook page of *Inside Crochet* designer Red Sparrow Crochet for yarny news and chat, plus plenty of inspirational photos.
www.facebook.com/redsparrowcrochet



[NEW KIT]

Give us a twirl!

➔ Toft has just released a gorgeous new amigurumi kit designed by Kerry Lord – this adorable ballerina hippo! The finished design would be perfect for any ballet-crazy little boys or girls you know, or just to brighten up a shelf or mantelpiece. If you're new to amigurumi, turn to page 78 for our beginner's tips and techniques.

The kit contains 100g of Toft's 100% wool DK yarn in your choice of colour, plus 25g of DK wool in pink for the tutu and ballet shoes, and a link to download the pattern. £24, www.thetoftalpacashop.co.uk

[NEW TO CROCHET] ***

Getting hooked

Beginner crocheter Caroline Bawn continues her crochet journey...



➔ "Well, it's been a fabulous year of learning to crochet! As a lifelong knitter, I thought I'd find crochet a bit limited, but the opposite has been the case. What has amazed me is how a few simple stitches can make so many different pieces.

"This cushion cover is my latest make, from issue 65. It's Sally Shepherd's Rainbow Stripes Cushion, but I've only used one colour on each side, and it looks totally different. I used Perran Yarns BFL and Silk DK and Merino and Tussah silk on the reverse. This yarn has worked with a closer texture than the original and gives a basket-weave effect. I love it!"

Read more at www.insidecrochet.co.uk and visit Caroline's shop at www.gorgeouslyarns.co.uk.



Michelle Robinson

www.poppyandbliss.com

Tell us about yourself... I live in a sleepy suburb in Melbourne, Australia with my wonderful partner, eldest daughter and our two fur babies who keep me company in my studio every day.

How long have you been blogging?

I've been blogging on and off for about seven years now but it's only been in the last four years or so that I've become more active.

What inspired you to start blogging and what keeps you motivated?

In the past, before crochet took over my life, I had another blog that I used as my "visual diary" for my other (now forgotten) hobby of drawing. When I ventured into designing my own patterns I started my crochet blog as a way of connecting

it's where I share most of my work in progress. I also have a Facebook page and waste too many hours on Pinterest.

How did you learn to crochet? When I was about six my very patient granny taught me how to crochet and knit. I remember I made a crochet scarf for my doll at the time but was more interested in knitting until about seven years ago when I picked up crochet again. I do still enjoy knitting but I've fallen in love with Tunisian crochet – it is the perfect marriage between knitting and crochet.

What do you love about crochet?

Crochet calms my busy brain and twitchy hands. I cannot just sit and do nothing so I love that crochet is so portable and I can whip it out anywhere.

"I love Tunisian crochet – it is the perfect marriage between knitting and crochet"

with the crochet community and I also wanted to create a crochet "hub" that would be a source of inspiration and information. I must admit I'm not the most disciplined blogger and haven't put all my big plans into action yet. I wish I had more hours in the day to do all the things I would like.

Do you use any other social media?

My favourite place to spend time is Instagram. There is such a wonderful creative community there and I have made so many beautiful friends. I tend to use Instagram as my "mini" blog and

What's your biggest source of inspiration?

I find inspiration everywhere and often in the most unusual places. I look for patterns and shapes in everything I see. One of my designs was even inspired by my migraine auras!

What are you working on at the moment? I'm focusing on building up my pattern designs. I have so many unfinished designs that need to be written up and published so this is my priority right now.

I'm also working on a secret project which is keeping me extremely busy and I'm bursting at the seams to share but my lips are sealed for now.

Who are your favourite other bloggers, designers or authors?

This is a hard one! My blog roll is full of wonderful creatives I follow and admire. To name just a few would be like choosing a favourite child. My favourites are those that use colour creatively, that think outside the box with their designs and bring a modern or interesting twist to their work.





Try to relax...

£11

This quirky mug pokes fun at just how hard it can be to clear your mind.

www.urbangraphic.co.uk



Float away

£4.25

Pamper yourself with the soothing and moisturising Ceridwen's Cauldron bath melt.

www.lush.co.uk



Night night

From £20

A good night's sleep after a busy day starts with fresh, clean bedding - mmmmmmm cosy!

www.thefinecottoncompany.com

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Welcome in 2016 with resolutions to get organised, get healthy and pamper yourself.



Don't forget!

£5.29

Get organised with this clever shopping tick list with magnetic back.

www.thegiftoasis.com



Save the date

f8

Make sure you don't miss any appointments this year with a funky felt diary.

www.paperchase.co.uk



Green fingers

£23

Make this the year you get the garden under control, with this pretty gloves and secateurs set.

www.tch.net



Inspired?

**To order
back issues
turn to
page 53**



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www.dotcomgiftshop.com

→ BOOKS

WE REVIEW NEW AND EXCITING RELEASES



Happy Crochet

Therese Hagstedt
Search Press, £12.99
UK terminology



♦♦ It might be the middle of winter, with everything outside cold, dark and gloomy, but there's no reason it has to be dull inside when we can crochet our own accessories and homewares in cheerful colours and vibrant shades. That's the ethos behind *Happy Crochet*, subtitled "Over 60 bright and colourful projects to make you smile" – and they certainly do!

There's a lot packed into this small book, from granny square throws and cushions in gorgeous colour combinations to cheery shawls, rainbow legwarmers for little ones and pretty-yet-practical market bags. Our favourite is probably the gorgeous retro-style long cardigan for toddlers – but it's a tough choice!

The chapters take you from decorations and homewares through seasonal accessories – "Spring Fresh and Summer Fine", "Autumn Lovely and Winter Warm", then "It's Christmas Time Again", so no matter what the time of year, you'll find the perfect project to hook. Patterns are clearly written out with plenty of bright, close-up photography.

The book includes basic crochet instructions as well as an introduction to working and joining granny squares, so this would make a great gift for anyone looking to take up crochet in the New Year.

WE ARE ALSO READING...

Sparkling Crochet

Mitsuki Hoshi
Harper Design, £8.99 • US terminology



Bring some sparkle to your crochet with this adorable collection of tiny amigurumi designs, all worked in glittering yarns! The book contains 19 super-cute creatures, from a quizzical looking sparrow to a cheeky bear. The book starts with a gorgeous set of photos showing off the designs before moving on to the patterns. These are written in a sparse Japanese style, and each piece is charted rather than written, but there are some great full-colour photographs to help beginners.

Take A Ball Of String

Jemima Schlee
GMC, £12.99 • UK terminology



This crafty book explores the multitude of possibilities that spring from a simple ball of string. From kitchen cloths and dish scrubs to purses and market bags, the projects are hardwearing, useful and interesting to work. Many designs use bakers' twine or garden twill to add colour, and half are crocheted, with the rest either knit or worked using other crafting techniques, and there are beginners' guides to knitting and crochet included. Gorgeous, homely photography is sure to inspire you.

Throws and Cushions

Wendy, £8 • UK terminology



Spruce up your home with a selection of throws and cushions from yarn company Wendy. All the projects in this pattern booklet are worked in aran, chunky and super chunky weight yarns, so will work up super-fast. The collection includes both knit and crocheted designs, and ranges from simple textured fabrics with diagonal stripes to a stunning poinsettia motif design that will add a real wow factor to your sofa! Our favourite is the Diamond Throw, a "tumbling blocks" design that's joined as you go.

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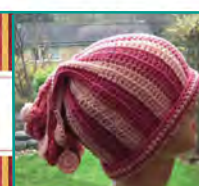
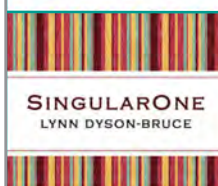


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Nicki Trench

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Nicki hopes that these resolutions at least should be achievable...



It's getting to that time of year when I'm thinking of the usual New Year's resolutions. I have made so many in the past – give up alcohol, spend less money on tango dresses, get thinner so I can fit into my tango dresses. So I'm thinking of changing my direction and instead of thinking what I can give up, I'm going down the track of what I can take up.

It's difficult to take up any more hobbies – time just doesn't allow it. I already crochet, knit, sew and dance tango. So it's all down to making really boring resolutions to be a better person: give more away; be more assertive; become more environmentally responsible. It's the same old blah, blah, blah.

Perhaps some more outlandish resolutions are a better option. I've been doing a survey with my friends to find out what they propose this year and I've had some hilarious responses: learn to twerk; sew one sequin onto every piece of clothing; find someone to kiss instead of the dog; wave at my fellow motorists; crochet sweaters for trees; don't pick my nose while in the car.

At the moment I'm deep in the middle of writing a new crochet book on scarves. So I'm obsessively crocheting nearly all of the time and all I can really think of is resolutions to make my crochet life easier. So if it's crochet resolutions you're looking for, how about my top tips:

- *Pick up the dropped pins off the floor – save your feet.*
- *Don't drink so much coffee and tea while reading crochet patterns. This avoids ruining your pattern, staining the wool and in my case crashing the computer.*
- *Definitely don't drink alcohol while crocheting. Even the slightest sniff will turn your work into a tangled mess.*
- *Don't stay up till 2am trying to work out a complicated pattern or stitch only to find how easy it looks in the morning after a decent night's sleep.*
- *Don't crochet while driving. I did crochet in a traffic jam once. The traffic was stationary and everyone had turned their engines off. Nevertheless, quite a few people took photos of me and I stressed for months waiting for a letter from the police.*

Happy New Year and the very best of luck with the resolutions, Expect to revert back to old habits, but this doesn't mean you need to give up on giving up. Tomorrow is another day. I wish you well!



BEADED KIT ROLL

Made with Nicki's favourite Catherine Wheel stitch, this kit roll is perfect for all your crafty bits and bobs.



This elegant pattern is taken from *Cute and Easy, Crochet with Flowers* by Nicki Trench, published by CICO Books. Photography by Caroline Arber © CICO Books

MATERIALS

- Rooster Almerino DK, 50% alpaca/50% Merino wool, 50g/113m/124yds
- Yarn A:** Cornish 201 x 1 ball
- Yarn B:** Strawberry Cream 203 x 1 ball
- 4mm hook
- 1.5cm/½in wide ribbon, 68cm/27in long
- Floral lining fabric, 23.5 x 28.5cm/9¼ x 11¼in
- Contrast pocket lining fabric, 13.5 x 28.5cm/5¼ x 11¼in
- Sewing needle and matching thread
- White felt, 6.5 x 6.5cm/2½ x 2½in
- 44 white seed beads, 4mm (size 6)

TENSION

Work 2 pattern repeats and 8 rows in Catherine Wheel stitch to measure 10 x 8cm/4 x 3¼in using



4mm hook, or size required to obtain tension.

MEASUREMENTS

20.5 x 25.5cm/8 x 10in.

SPECIAL STITCHES

Cluster (CL): *Yrh, insert hook in next st, yrh, pull yarn through, yrh, pull through first 2 loops on hook*; work from * to * over the number of sts given on patt rows, yrh and pull through all loops on hook.

Place bead (PB): Slide one bead close to the loop on the hook and continue with pattern, this will attach the bead and secure it in position. When changing colour, cut yarn, but do not take hk out of lp, join in new colour by drawing new yarn through lp on the hk and continue as instructed.

4ch, miss 3ch, 4tr in last ch, turn. Change to yarn B

Row 2: 1ch, 1dc in each of first 2 sts, *3ch, 1CL (see *Special Stitches*) over next 7 sts, 3ch, 1dc in each of next 3 sts; rep from * to last 4 sts, 3ch, 1CL over last 4 sts, turn. Cont with yarn B.

Row 3: 3ch (counts as 1tr), 3tr in top of 4trCL, *miss 3ch, 1dc in each of next 3dc, miss 3ch, 7tr in closing loop of next CL; rep from * to end, finishing miss 3ch, 1dc in each of last 2dc, turn.

Change to yarn A.

Row 4: 2ch (counts as 1tr), miss first st, 1CL over next 3 sts, *3ch, 1dc in each of next 3 sts, 3ch, 1CL over next 7 sts; rep from * to end, finishing 3ch, 1dc in next st, 1dc in top of first 3ch from previous row, turn. Cont with yarn A.

Row 5: 1ch, 1dc in each of first 2dc, *miss 3ch, 7tr in closing loop

of next CL, miss 3ch, 1dc in each of next 3dc; rep from * to end, finishing miss 3ch, 4tr in top of first 2ch, turn.

Change to yarn B.

Rep rows 2–5 until work measures approximately 25.5cm/10in, ending on a row 5. Fasten off.

EDGING

Thread approximately 44 beads onto yarn A.

With RS facing, join yarn A with a sl st in corner at beg of long row-end edge that starts at the scalloped edge.

Row 1: (RS) 1ch, work 39dc evenly along first long row-end edge, 2dc in corner st, work 30dc along short straight foundation chain edge, 2dc in corner st, work 39dc evenly along second long row-end edge (do not work along scalloped edge), turn.

Row 2: (WS) 1ch, 1dc in first st, *2ch, PB (see *Special Stitches*), 1ch, 1sl st into third ch from hook, miss 1 st, 1dc in next st; rep from * to end. Fasten off.

With WS facing, join yarn A with a sl st in first st of second long edge, 1ch, 1dc in same place as sl st; rep from * of row 2 to end. Fasten off.

LINING

Block and steam crochet piece. When working on the main crochet piece from here on, the longest side becomes the width and the shortest side is the height of the kit roll.

Measure crochet piece, cut main lining to same size adding 1.5cm/½in on each side for hem allowances. Fold under, pin and press a 1.5cm/½in hem along each side.

Cut pocket (inner) lining piece the

same width as main lining, but approximately 10cm/4in shorter in height. Fold under, pin, press a 1.5cm/½in hem along each side. Sew along top hem of pocket using a zig-zag stitch.

Sew a 6 x 6.5cm/2½ x 2½in piece of felt onto the end of the pocket lining along sides and bottom, using a zig-zag stitch and leaving top open to use as a pocket.

Pin inner lining to main lining, matching bottom edges and leaving a 10cm/4in gap at the top. Machine sew inner lining to main lining along all three sides of inner lining only (sides and bottom edges) using a straight stitch close to the edge and leaving top edge of pocket lining open.

SEWING POCKETS

Make pockets by machine stitching vertical lines at intervals large enough for two crochet hooks, a pair of scissors, a tape measure and two pencils.

Pin the whole lining piece onto the crochet piece with WS of lining to WS of crocheted piece.

FINISHING

Cut ribbon length in half. Insert approximately 2.5cm/1in of one end of one piece between the lining and crocheted piece, in centre of left-hand side (with lining facing).

Hand sew lining onto crochet piece using whip stitch, securing the end of the ribbon.

Starting from the opposite end to the ribbon, roll up the kit case. Pin and sew other ribbon end onto the crochet piece to correspond with first ribbon end.

Insert kit items into case and tie with ribbon.

START

ROLL

With yarn A, make 37ch.

Row 1: 1dc in second ch from hook, 1dc in next ch, *miss 3ch, 7tr in next ch, miss 3ch, 1dc in each of next 3ch; rep from * to last

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NICKI'S CROCHET WORKSHOPS

➔ Nicki holds regular workshops for beginners and intermediate crocheters in London and East Sussex. For more details visit www.nickitrench.com or email nicki@nickitrench.com.

END

A hand in a dark blue floral patterned sleeve reaches out to touch a bundle of dried, knobby roots hanging from a wooden shelf. The roots are tied with twine. In the background, a stuffed animal is visible on another shelf. The scene is set outdoors with green foliage and a wooden fence in the background.

SNUGGLE UP

Stay snug and warm through the winter months with our
oh-so-cosy garments and accessories.

PHOTOGRAPHS **LEANNE JADE PHOTOGRAPHY** AND **LUCY WILLIAMS**
STYLING **CLAIRE MONTGOMERIE**
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Tjockt Waistcoat
by Annelies Baes
Using Tjockt
Martta The Merino
Pattern page 38

Goldenrod Shawl
by Helda Panagary
Using Blue Moon Fiber
Arts Socks That Rock
and Patons Extrafine
Merino DK
Pattern page 46





Jessica Cardigan
by Catherine Waterfield
Using Kauni Unicolor and
Noro Kureyon Sock
Pattern page 42

A woman with long dark hair is smiling and looking at the camera. She is wearing a crocheted sleep mask with a grey body and a peach-colored ruffled border. She is also wearing a light-colored robe with a red and green floral pattern. Her right hand is raised, touching the side of her face near the mask.

Sublime Sleep Mask
by Ali Campbell
Using Sublime Baby
Cashmere Merino Silk DK
Pattern page 58



Linoleum Cowl

by Tracey Todhunter

Using Eden Cottage Yarns
Milburn 4ply and Askham 4ply

Pattern page 66



Hooded Cape
by Ruby McGrath
Using Debbie Bliss
Cashmerino Aran
Pattern page 50

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Ultimate Floorstanding Lamp D21098

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ANNELIES BAES, DESIGNER:
Annelies loves bright and vibrant
crochet designs. With this quilt
project, she has tried to create
an original pattern, colourful,
and designed to be a bit of a
challenge, because everything
is possible in crochet.
[www.ravelry.com/designers/
annelies-baes-vicarno](http://www.ravelry.com/designers/annelies-baes-vicarno)

*“Annelies has
become well
known for
creating quirky,
simple to make
and utterly
modern projects”*

Part One ♥

IT'S A MYSTERY...

Get hooked on our new mystery quilt design by Annelies Baes.

This issue we bring you the start of an exciting new mystery blanket project. Inspired by traditional patchwork quilts, Annelies Baes has designed a bold, modern geometric pattern, which will be sure to keep you hooked for the next three months! Annelies has become well known for creating quirky, simple to make and utterly modern projects and as this stunning blanket is revealed, it will become clear that it is no different. Composed of 12 differing yet harmonious geometric blocks, this month we reveal the first six variations, which provide a great exercise in playing with stitches, textures and colour.

WIN!

For your chance to win all the yarn needed for the entire mystery blanket design, courtesy of Deramores, head to www.insidecrochet.co.uk/competitions.
Closing date 27 January 2016.

ADD TO THE STASH

Buy all the yarn you need for this project as a great value pack from www.deramores.com



Mystery Blanket



MATERIALS

- Scheepjes Merino Soft,
50% Merino wool/
25% microfibre/25% acrylic,
50g/105m/115yds
- Yarn A:** Lowry 604 x 12 balls
- Yarn B:** Kandinsky 625 x 1 ball
- Yarn C:** Seurat 637 x 1 ball
- Yarn D:** Raphael 602 x 1 ball
- Yarn E:** Turner 610 x 1 ball
- Yarn F:** Constable 629 x 1 ball
- Yarn G:** Matisse 635 x 1 ball
- Yarn H:** Gauguin 619 x 1 ball
- Yarn I:** Copley 634 x 1 ball
- Yarn J:** Soutine 615 x 1 ball
- Yarn K:** Van Gogh 641 x 1 ball
- Yarn L:** Vermeer 612 x 1 ball
- Yarn M:** Ansingh 643 x 1 ball
- 4.5mm hook
- Yarn needle

YARN ALTERNATIVES

You can use any worsted/aran weight yarn to achieve a similar effect, although we advise a yarn with some natural stretch in it.

TENSION

Work each full motif to measure approximately 18 x 9cm/7 x 3½in using 4.5mm hook, or size required to obtain tension.

MEASUREMENTS

Motifs: 18 x 9cm/7 x 3½in.

Finished blanket: 90 x 142cm/
35½ x 56in.

SPECIAL STITCHES

See separate notes for each motif.

PATTERN NOTES

In part one, you will make six different motifs (29 full and 4 half motifs in total). In part two, you will





make another six different motifs (29 full and 6 half motifs in total). In part three, all motifs are joined, and you will work the border.

The finished quilt is made of 58 full motifs, and 10 half motifs. When all the motifs are finished, they are first blocked, then sewn together.

At the end, a grey border is crocheted around the edge.

START

MOTIF 1

Make five full motifs and two half motifs

NOTES

Use yarn A and yarn L.

Extended double crochet into front loop (ext dcflo): Insert hook in front loop of st, yarn over hook, pull through, (2 lps on hk), yarn over and pull through 1 loop, yarn over hook again and pull through 2 remaining loops.

2ch at beginning of row counts as 1 ext dc.

1ch at beginning of row does not count as a stitch.

FULL MOTIF

With yarn L, 33ch.

Row 1: (RS) 1dc in second ch from hook, dc in each ch to end, turn – 32dc.

Row 2: (WS) Working in flo, 2ch in first dc, 1 **ext dcflo** (see Notes) in every next dc, turn – 32 ext dcflo. Change to yarn A.

Row 3: 1ch, 1dcblo in every ext dcflo, turn – 32dcblo.

Row 4: 2ch in first dcblo, 1 ext dcflo in every next dcblo, turn – 32 ext dcflo.

Change to yarn L.

Rows 5–14: Rep last two rows, changing colour every two rows. Cut yarn, fasten off and weave in ends.

HALF MOTIF

With yarn L, 17ch.

Work as for Full Motif but working over 16 sts not 32 sts.

MOTIF 2

Make five full motifs

NOTES

Use yarn A and yarn I.

2ch at beginning of row counts as 1tr.

FULL MOTIF

With yarn I, 33ch.

Row 1: (RS) 1dc in third ch from hk, [1tr in next ch, 1dc in next ch] to end, turn – 32 sts.

Row 2: (WS) 2ch, 1dc in next tr, [1tr in 1dc, 1dc in 1tr] to end working last dc in 2ch, turn – 32 sts.

Change to yarn A.

Rows 3 & 4: Rep row 2, turn. Change to yarn I.

Rows 5–14: Rep last two rows, changing yarn every two rows. Cut yarn, fasten off, weave in ends.

MOTIF 3

Make five full motifs and one half motif

NOTES

Use yarn A and yarn D.

2ch at beginning of row counts as 1htr.

1ch at beginning of row does not count as 1 stitch.

FULL MOTIF

With yarn D, 35ch.

Row 1: (RS) 1dc in second ch from hk, 2ch, miss 2ch, [1dc in next ch, 2ch, miss 2ch] to last st, 1dc in last ch, turn – 12dc, 11 2ch-sps.

Row 2: (WS) 2ch, [3htr in each 2ch-sp] to end, 1htr in last dc, turn – 11 groups of 3htr, 1 beg and end htr.

Change to yarn A.

Row 3: 1ch, 1dc in first htr, 2ch, [1dc in space between next two 3htr groups, 2ch] to end of row, 1dc in second ch, turn – 12dc, 11 2ch-sps.

Row 4: Rep row 2, turn – 11 groups of 3htr, 1 beg and end htr. Change to yarn D.

Rows 5–14: Rep last two rows, changing yarn every two rows. Cut yarn, fasten off and weave in ends.

HALF MOTIF

With yarn D, 19ch.

Work as for Full Motif, but over 7dc and five 2ch-sps.

MOTIF 4

Make five

NOTES

Use yarn A and yarn H.

1ch at beginning of row does not count as 1 stitch.

2ch at beginning of row does not count as 1htr.

Puff stitch (P): (Yarn over hook, insert hook in stitch, pull up a loop) three times, yarn over hook and pull through all loops.

FULL MOTIF

With yarn H, 32ch.

Row 1: (RS) 1dc in second ch from hk, 1dc in every ch to end, turn – 31dc.

Row 2: (WS) Pull up loop longer, 1P (see Notes), 1ch, miss 1dc, [1P in next dc, 1ch, miss next dc] to end last dc, 1P in last dc, turn – 16P.

Change to yarn A.

Row 3: 1ch, 1dc in first P, 1dc in 1ch-sp, [1dc in P, 1dc in 1ch-sp] to end, turn – 31dc.

Row 4: 2ch, 1htr in first dc, 1htr in every dc to end, turn – 31htr.

Change to yarn H.

Row 5: 1ch, 1dc in first htr, 1dc in every htr to end, turn – 31dc.

Row 6: Rep row 2, turn – 16P. Change to yarn A.

Rows 7–14: Rep rows 3–6 twice, changing yarn every two rows. Cut yarn, fasten off and weave in ends.

MOTIF 5

Make five

NOTES

Use yarn A and yarn M.

Extended double crochet

(ext dc): Insert hook in next st, yarn over hook, pull through, (2 lps on hk), yarn over and pull through 1 loop, yarn over hook again and pull through 2 remaining loops.

2ch at beginning of row counts as 1ext dc.

FULL MOTIF

With yarn M, 33ch.

Row 1: (RS) **Ext dc** (see Notes) in third ch from hk, 1ext dc in every ch to end, turn – 32ext dc.

Row 2: (WS) 2ch, 1ext dc in every ext dc to end, ending with 1ext dc in 2ch, turn – 32ext dc.

Change to yarn A.

Rows 3 & 4: Rep row 2.

Change to yarn M.

Rows 5–14: Rep last two rows, changing yarn every two rows. Cut yarn, fasten off, weave in ends.

MOTIF 6

Make four full motifs and one half motif

NOTES

Use yarn A and yarn K.

Extended double crochet

(ext dc): Insert hook in next st, yarn over hook, pull through, (2 lps on hk), yarn over and pull through 1 loop, yarn over hook again and pull through 2 remaining loops.

2ch at beginning of row counts as 1ext dc.

1ch at beginning of row does not count as 1dc.

Row 1 starts on WS.

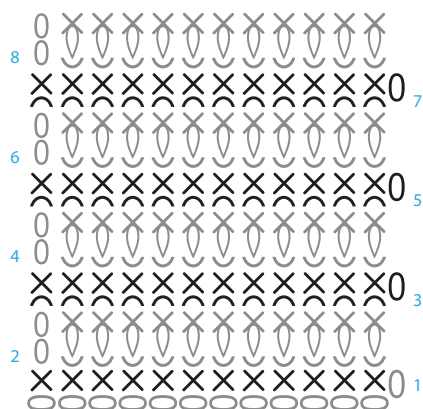
FULL MOTIF

With yarn K, 32ch.

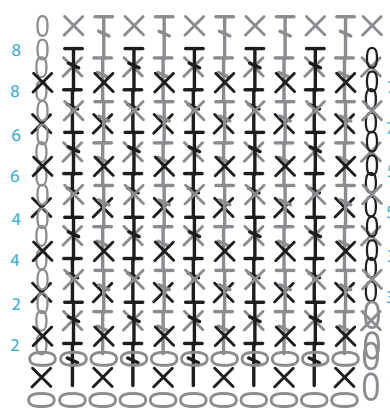
Row 1: (WS) **1ext dc** (see Notes) in third ch from hk, 1ext dc in every ch to end, turn – 31ext dc.

Row 2: (RS) 1ch, 1dc in first ext dc, [1trtrf around next ext dc, 1dc in next ext dc] to end of row, working

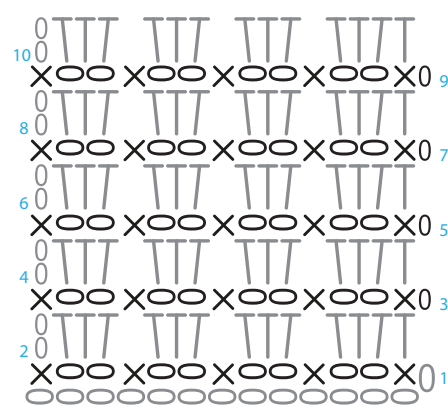
MOTIF 1



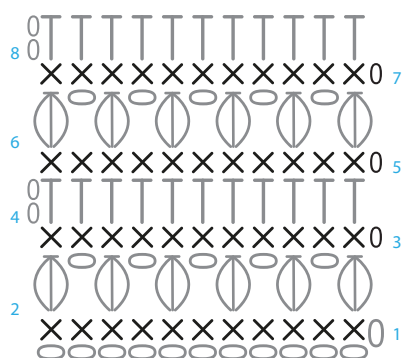
MOTIF 2



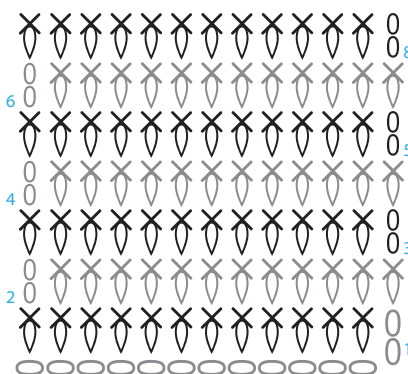
MOTIF 3



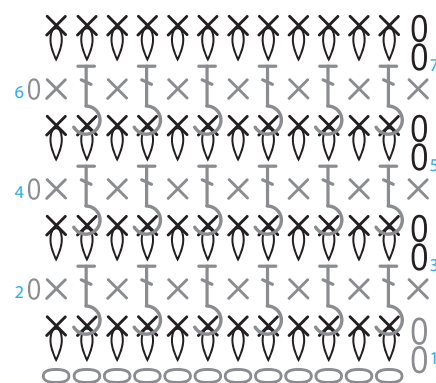
MOTIF 4



MOTIF 5



MOTIF 6



last dc in second ch, turn – 16dc, 15trrf.

Change to yarn A.

Row 3: 2ch in first dc, 1ext dc in every dc or rtrf, turn – 31ext dc.

Row 4: 1ch, 1dc in first ext dc, 1trtf around first ext dc, 1dc in next ext dc (you now have 2dc next to each other), [1trtf around next ext dc, 1dc in next ext dc] to end, ending with 1trtf around second ch and 1dc in second ch, turn – 17 dc, 16trrf.

Change to yarn K.

Row 5: 2ch in first dc, 1ext dc in next 32dc or rtrf, miss next rtrf, 1ext dc in last dc, turn – 31dc.

Row 6: Rep row 2, turn – 16dc and 15trrf.

Change to yarn A.

Rows 7–14: Rep rows 3–6, changing yarn every two rows.

Cut yarn, fasten off, weave in ends.

HALF MOTIF

With yarn K, 16ch.

Work as for Full Motif, but with 15 ext dc, 8dc and 7trrf.

END

MOTIFS 1, 2, 4 AND 4

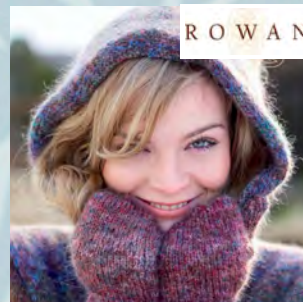


MOTIFS 3 AND 6



KEY

- chain stitch (ch)
- × double crochet (dc)
- ⌘ extended double crochet (ext dc)
- ⌘ worked in back loops
- ⌘ worked in front loops
- ⌘ treble crochet (tr)
- ⌘ half treble crochet (htr)
- ⌘ puff stitch (P)
- ⌘ raised treble front (RtrF)



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Resolution:
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ANDREW PERRIS AND LUCY WILLIAMS
STYLING **CLAIRE MONTGOMERIE**



Tryfan Bookmark
by Claire Montgomerie
Using Rowan Super
Fine Merino DK
Pattern page 52

Resolution: Get organised and sort my stash



ABOVE

Humbug Hanging Baskets

by Red Sparrow Crochet

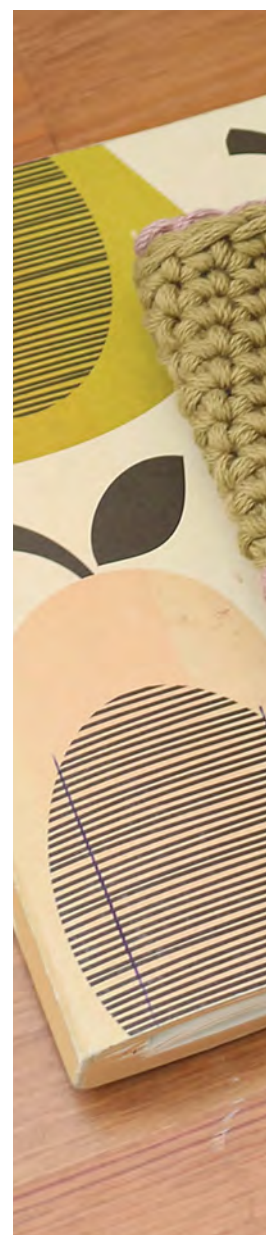
Using Stylecraft Special DK
Pattern page 47

BELOW
Granny Smith Bag
by Jo Bodley
Using Aran weight yarn
Pattern page 64

BELOW LEFT
Desk Trays
by Jemima Schlee
Using Bakers' twine or
household string
Pattern page 62



Resolution: Try a new crochet technique



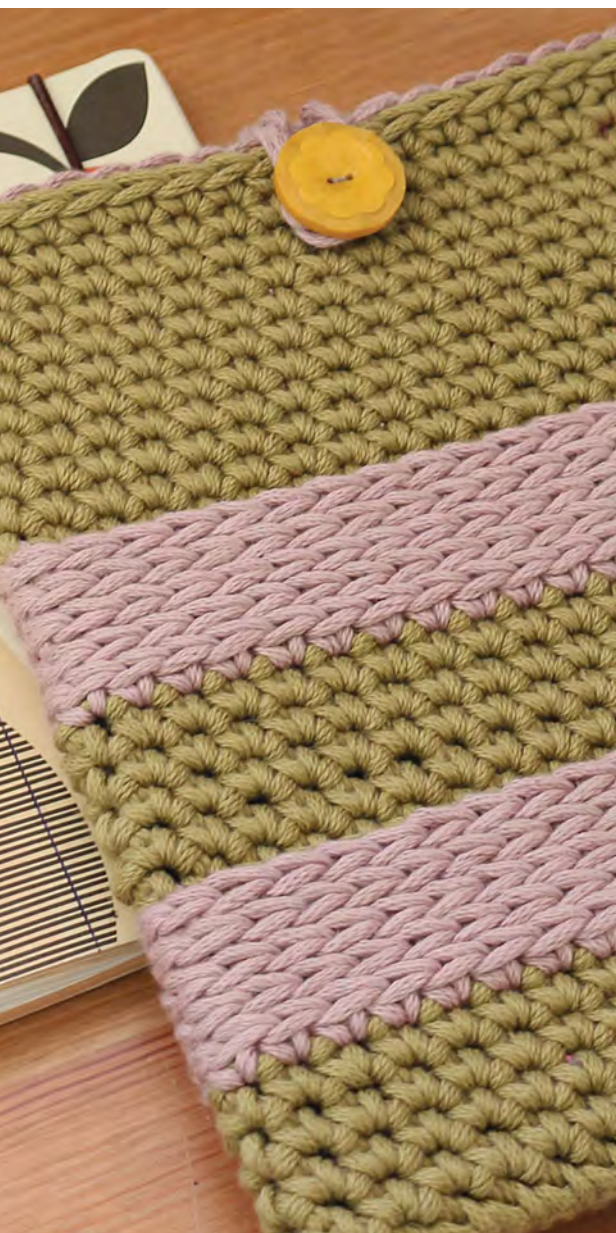
ABOVE

Sampler Blanket

by Ali Campbell

Using DMC Natura XL

Pattern page 70



BELOW
Ric Rac Flower Cushion
 by Cassie Ward
Using Yeomans Soft Cotton 4ply
Pattern page 59

BELOW LEFT
Tablet Cover
 by Claire Montgomerie
Using DMC Natura XL
Pattern page 55



Resolution: Look after myself and exercise more ♥



ABOVE

Isadora Exercise Socks

by Deborah Stuart

Using Stylecraft Alpaca Tweed DK

Pattern page 68

ABOVE RIGHT

Yoga Bag

by Alessandra Hayden

Using Scheepjes Catona

Pattern page 74

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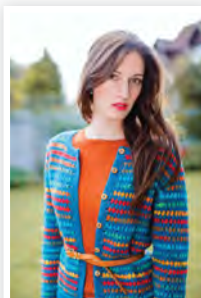


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Helda Panagary
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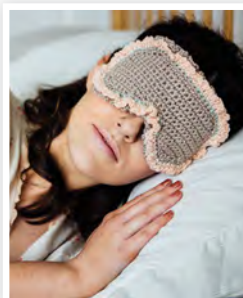
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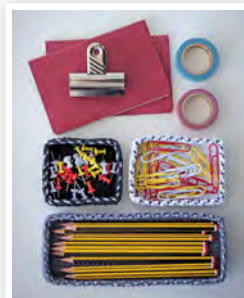
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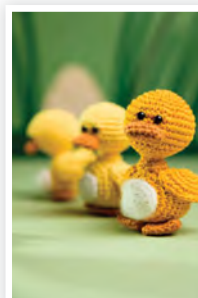
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**Beautiful
Duckling**

Tessa Van Riet-Ernst
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**Canal
Boat**

Kate Bruning
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Tjockt Waistcoat

BY ANNELIES BAES

This super-chunky gilet will keep you super-warm this winter!



ADD TO THE STASH

Buy this super chunky yarn from www.tjockt.com

MATERIALS

- Tjockt Martta The Merino, 100% Merino wool, 200g/140m/153yds
Shade: Natural Grey x 3 (4) skeins
- 10–12mm hook (depending on tension)
- Yarn needle
- Two toggle buttons, 6.5cm/2½in long

YARN ALTERNATIVES

You can use any super chunky weight yarn to achieve a similar effect, but choose a yarn with enough yardage (to avoid a heavy project) and great drape.

TENSION

Work 6.5htr and 5.5 rows to measure 10 x 10cm/4 x 4in, using 10–12mm hook or size required to obtain tension. If you work tightly try the 12mm hook, if loose, try a 10mm hook.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Annelies Baes believes everything is possible in crochet. Visit her website at www.vicarno.com and view more of her designs at www.ravelry.com/designers/vicarnos-mama.

PATTERN NOTES

2ch at beginning of row does not count as a stitch unless otherwise stated. Work first htr into same place as 2ch.

1ch does not count as 1dc; work first dc into same place as 1ch.

5ch counts as 1trtr unless otherwise stated.

Some weaving details are added on the upper back and upper front parts once the garment is finished.



BACK

Row 1: (RS) 23 (27)ch, 1htr in third ch from hk, htr in each ch to end, turn – 21 (25)htr.

Rows 2–6: (WS): 2ch, 1htr in every htr, turn – 21 (25)htr.

Row 7: 5ch, 1trtr in every htr, turn – 21 (25)trtr.

Row 8: 2ch, 1htr in every trtr, turn – 21 (25)htr.

Rows 9–10 (12): Rep rows 7 & 8, turn.

At the end of row 10 (12) cut yarn and fasten off.

RIGHT FRONT

Row 1: (RS): 8 (10)ch, 1htr in third ch from hk, htr in each ch to end, turn – 6 (8)htr.

Rows 2–6: 2ch, 1htr in every htr, turn – 6 (8)htr.

Row 7: (RS) 5ch, 1trtr in same st, 1trtr in every htr, turn – 7 (9)trtr.

Row 8: 2ch, 1htr in every trtr, 1htr in top of 5 ch, turn – 7(9)htr.

Row 9: Rep row 7 – 8 (10)trtr.

Row 10: 2ch, 2htr in first trtr, 1htr in next 6 (8)trtr, 2htr in 5ch, turn – 10 (12)htr.

Size S/M Only

Do not cut yarn, set work aside.

Size L/XL Only

Row 11: 5ch, 1trtr in every htr, turn – 12trtr.

Row 12: 2ch (does not count as st), 1htr in every trtr – 12htr.

Do not cut yarn, set work aside.

LEFT FRONT

Rows 1–7: Work as for Right Front.

Row 8: (WS): 2ch (does not count as st), 2htr in first trtr, 1htr in every trtr, do not work in 5ch, turn – 7 (9)htr.

Row 9: Rep row 7 – 8 (10)trtr.

Row 10: 2ch, 3htr in first trtr, 1htr in next 6 (8)trtr, 1htr in 5ch, turn – 10 (12)htr.

Size S/M only

Cut yarn and fasten off.

Size L/XL Only

Rows 11 & 12: Work as for Front 1.

Cut yarn and fasten off.

JOIN FRONTS TO BACK

Row 11 (13): (RS): Take Right Front, turn, 2ch, 2htr in first htr, 8 (10)htr, 2htr in last htr, now work over Back section, 2htr in first htr, 19 (23)htr, 2htr in last htr, now work over Left Front, 2htr in first htr, 8 (10)htr, 2htr in last htr, turn – 47 (55)htr.

Row 12 (14): 2ch, 1htr in every htr, turn – 47 (55)htr.

Row 13–20 (15–26): Rep row 12, turn.

Row 21 (27): 5ch, 1trtr in same st, 1trtr in every next htr to end – 48 (56)trtr.

Cut yarn and fasten off.

ARMHOLE EDGING

With right sides together, join

shoulder seams using sl st.

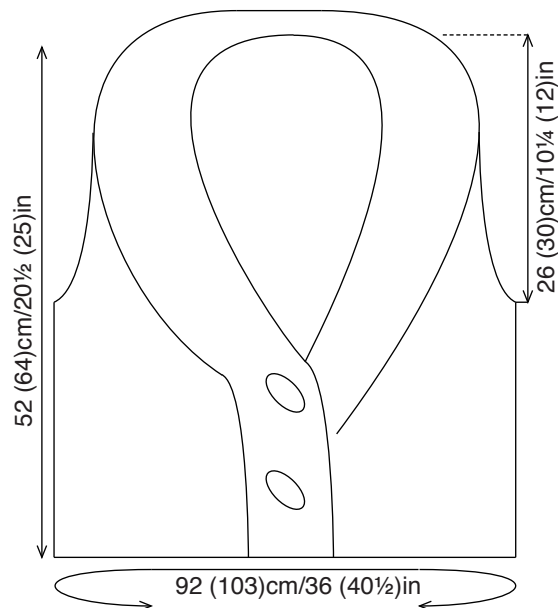
Rejoin yarn at underarm, work one rnd in dc working 3dc for every two rows of htr, 2dc for each trtr row and 2dc for every single htr row between the trtr rows. This makes roughly 36 (44)dc.

It is not a problem if you have a few stitches more or less, just make sure you have the same number of stitches on both arm openings.

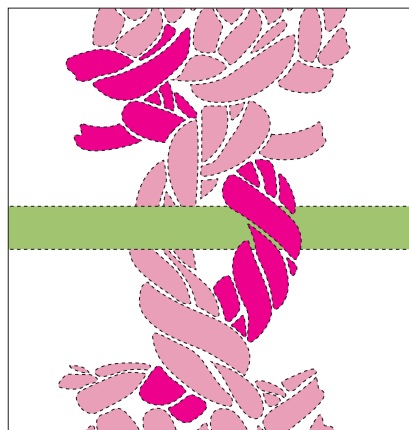
COLLAR

With RS facing, attach yarn with a sl st to Right Front bottom edge.

Row 1: Work one row of dc around both Fronts and neckline working 3dc in trtr rows, 3dc in every two htr rows (when there is



- First Stitch
- Second Stitch
- Loose Thread



only one htr row work 2dc, and 1dc in every ch, turn – 78 (107)dc.

Row 2: (WS) 2ch, 1htr in every dc, turn – 78 (107)htr.

Row 3: 5ch (counts as first htr), 1trtr in every next htr, turn – 78 (107)htr.

Row 4: 2ch (counts as 1 htr), 1htr in every trtr until you reach the open trtr part of Right Front (18 (24)htr), 1tr in next trtr, 1dtr in next trtr, [6 (8)trtr, 2trtr in next trtr] twice, 3 (5)trtr (passing the beginning of the neckline), 2trtr in next trtr, 2 (6)trtr, 2trtr in next trtr, 3 (5)trtr, [2trtr in next trtr, 6(8) trtr] twice, 1dtr in next trtr, 1tr in next trtr, 1htr in every trtr to end of row, turn.

Finishing Rnd: (RS) 1ch, work in sl st around entire edge of cardigan working 1sl st in every st.

Close rnd with sl st in first slst. Cut yarn, fasten off.

FINISHING

Weave in all ends.

Using the pictures and diagram (left) as a guide, take a loose thread, attach it on WS at one side, at “middle height” of a trtr row. Now take 2 trtr stitches and cross them over each other weaving the loose thread through. Do this from one side to the other. Secure yarn firmly. Repeat for both (or 3) trtr rows at upper part of Back, and for both (or 3) trtr rows at both Fronts. Weave in these last ends. Block cardigan and allow to dry naturally. Sew on two buttons.

END



	S/M	L/XL	
TO FIT BUST	80–96	95–110	cm
	31½–38	37½–43	in
FINISHED BUST	92	103	cm
	36	40½	in
LENGTH	52	64	cm
	20½	25	in

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Jessica Cardigan

BY CATHERINE WATERFIELD

This colourful cardigan brings bright rainbow shades to dull winter days.



ADD TO THE STASH
Buy the colourful Kauni yarn from
www.scandinavianknittingdesign.com

MATERIALS

- Kauni Unicolor, 100% wool, 150g/600m/656yds
Yarn A: Peacock ZZ x 2 (2, 2, 3, 3) balls
- Noro Kureyon Sock, 70% wool/30% nylon, 100g/420m/459yds
Yarn B: Shade S182 x 2 (2, 2, 3, 3) balls
(Unfortunately this yarn is discontinued – see below for alternative suggestions)
- 3mm hook
- Yarn needle
- Scissors
- 9 (10, 10, 10, 10) buttons

YARN ALTERNATIVES

This design would work well in a heavy 4ply/sportweight to light DK weight wool yarn. If using a self-stripping yarn for the contrast stripes, choose one with long colour changes so you can work whole rows in one shade. If using separate yarns for stripes, less than 50g is needed of each colour. We've also shown a version of the cardigan using Kauni Unicolor in Oatmeal NN3 as yarn A, with oddments of shades Turquoise YY1 (yarn B), Pink JJ4 (yarn C), Yellow KK2 (yarn D), Red MM2 (yarn E), Orange QQ (yarn F), Green RR (yarn G) and Lilac JJ2 (yarn H) to create the stripes.

TENSION

Work 9 sts and 9 rows in cluster st to measure 10 x 10cm/4 x 4in using 3mm hook, or size required to obtain tension.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Catherine is a keen crocheter who lives in Wiltshire with her family.

SPECIAL STITCHES

Cluster stitch (Cl)

First cluster of row: 2ch, (yoh, insert hk in st, yoh, pull up lp, yoh, draw through 2lps) twice, yoh, draw through all 4 lps.

All subsequent clusters in row:

*1ch, (yoh, insert hk in st, yoh, pull up lp, yoh, draw through 2lps) three times, yoh, draw through all 4 lps; rep from * to end.

Right slanted decrease (Rdec):

(1dc, 1htr, 1tr) in next st.

Left slanted decrease (Ldec):

(1tr, 1htr, 1dc) in next st.

PATTERN NOTES

When working cluster rows, **do not turn**, always work with right side facing, joining each new colour at beg of row on right side. At the beg of each yarn A row, new colour is joined with sl st in t-ch and a first cluster is worked, then (1ch, Cl) in each ch-sp across. Fasten off. At the beg of each contrast row, join new colour with sl st in top of first cluster, 3ch (counts as first tr, 1ch), 1 Cl in each ch-sp across, ending each row with 1 Cl in last ch-sp, 1ch, tr in last Cl. Fasten off.

Colour pattern (if using separate colours for stripes)

B, A, C, A, D, A, E, A, F, A, G, A, H, A.



BODY

With yarn A, 142 (156, 174, 196, 214)ch, turn.

Row 1: Dc in second ch from hook and each ch to end, turn – 141 (155, 173, 195, 213)dc.

Row 2: 1ch, dc to end, turn. Rep row 2 a further seven times.

Next Row: [1 Cl (see *Special Stitches*), miss next st] to last st, 1 Cl – 71 (78, 87, 98, 107) Cl. Break yarn, **do not turn**, join

yarn B at start of same row.

Patt Row 1: 2ch (counts as tr), 1 Cl in each ch-sp, 1tr in last Cl, break yarn, **do not turn**, join in yarn A – 69 (76, 85, 96, 105) Cl, 2tr.

Patt Row 2: 1 Cl in each ch-sp,

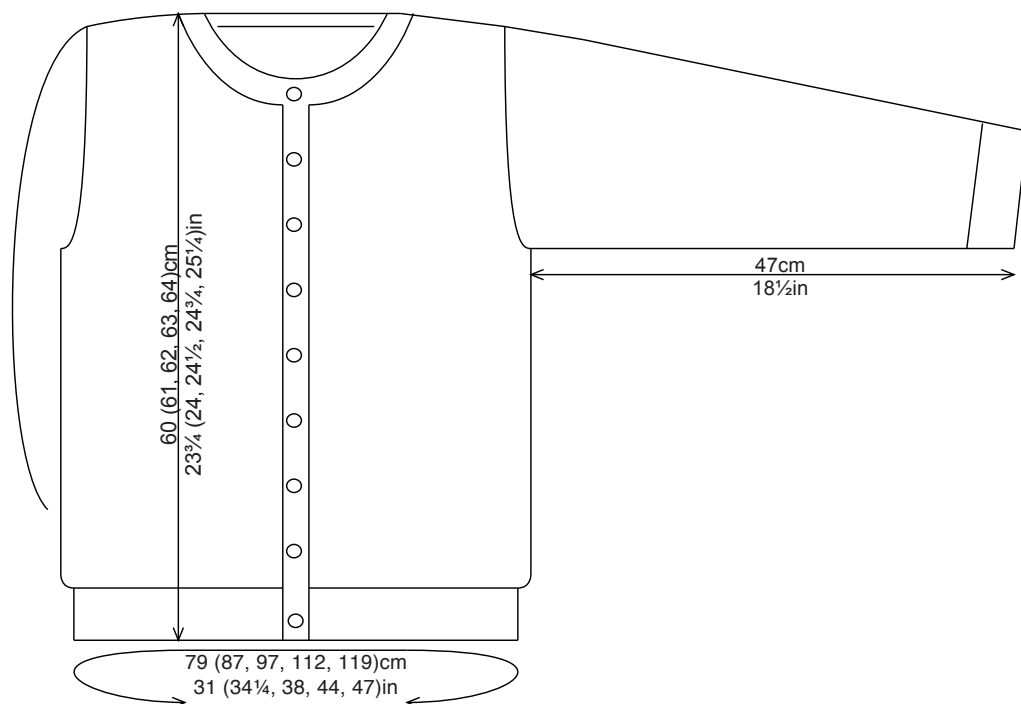
break yarn, **do not turn**, join new yarn at beg of row.

Rep patt rows 1 & 2, 14 times, then work Row 1 once more, working colour order as given in the Pattern Notes if needed.

DIVIDE FOR FRONT AND BACK

BACK

Dec Row: Miss 18 (20, 23, 26, 28) Cl. Join next yarn in sequence, **Rdec1** (see *Special Stitches*), 31 (34, 37, 42,





47) Cl, **Ldec1** (see *Special Stitches*). Break yarn. Rep dec row a further one (two, three, three, four) time(s) – 29 (30, 31, 36, 39) Cl. Work 14 (14, 14, 16, 17) rows in patt without shaping.

SHAPE SHOULDERS

Next Row: Miss 2 Cl, join in yarn, 3dc in ch-sp, 3dc in next ch-sp, 3htr in next ch-sp, 1htr in next ch-sp, 1 Cl in next 2ch-sp, Ldec in next ch-sp, fasten off. With RS facing rejoin yarn 9 ch-sps in from end. Work shoulder as before, reversing shaping.

RIGHT FRONT

Continuing colour patt as set:

Dec Row: 3ch, work 14 (16, 18, 21, 23) Cl, Ldec. fasten off. Rep dec row a further one (two, three, three, four) time(s) – 13 (14, 15, 18, 19) Cl. Work 8 (8, 8, 10, 11) rows without shaping.

NECKLINE

Row 1: Miss 2 (2, 4, 5, 5), 3dc in ch-sp, 3htr in ch-sp, Cl to end.

Sizes S, M, L and XL only

Row 2: Miss 1, 3dc in next ch-sp, 3htr in next ch-sp, Cl to end.

Row 3: Miss 1, Ldec1, Cl to end.

Size L and XL only

Row 4: Ldec1, Cl to end.

Size XL only

Row 5: Ldec1, Cl to end.

Work two rows without shaping.

All Sizes

Work until Front matches Back to shoulder shaping.

SHAPE SHOULDER

Next Row: 2Cl, 3htr in next ch-sp, 3htr in next ch-sp, (3dc in next ch-sp) twice. Fasten off.

LEFT FRONT

Work as for Right Front, reversing all shaping.

SLEEVES

Make two

With yarn A, make 37 (37, 38, 39, 41)ch, join with sl st, 1ch, turn.

Rnd 1: Dc around, join with sl st, 1ch, turn.

Rep this rnd eight times more, or until cuff measures approx 4cm/1½in.

Next Rnd: Join in yarn D and work (1 Cl, miss next st) 17 (17, 19, 21, 22) times, join in the round with sl st, do not turn. Break yarn.

Next Rnd: Join yarn A and work a Cl in each ch-sp, join rnd with sl st. Cont in colour patt from here.

Inc Row: 2 Cl in first ch-sp, 1 Cl in each ch-sp to end, join with sl st, turn – 1 Cl inc'd.

Inc as set every three (three, three, two, two) rows to 27 (28, 31, 34, 39) Cl.

Work without increasing until you have worked 39 rows of clusters.

SHAPE SLEEVE CAP

Row 1: Miss 1 (2, 3, 3, 4) Cl, Ldec1 in next ch-sp, (1 Cl, miss 1)

24 (24, 25, 28, 31) times, Rdec in next ch-sp, fasten off, leave rem sts unworked.

Row 2: Join next colour in first ch-sp, 1ch, (1dc, 1htr, 1tr) in same ch-sp, (1 Cl, miss 1) to last ch-sp, (1tr, 1htr, 1dc) in last ch-sp. Fasten off.

Rep last row seven (seven, nine, nine, ten) times.

Next Row: Sl st to first ch-sp, 3dc in ch-sp, 3htr in next ch-sp, (1 Cl, miss 1) to last 2 ch-sps, 3htr in next ch-sp, 3dc in last ch-sp. Fasten off.

Rep last row two (three, four, five, six) times. Fasten off.

FINISHING

Weave in ends. Use mattress stitch to seam shoulders and to set in sleeves.

BUTTON BAND

With RS facing and starting at top edge of Left Front, join yarn A with sl st and work 88 (90, 92, 96,

100)dc up opening – approx 2 dc to each Cl row, plus sts at welt.

Row 1: 1ch, turn, dc to end.

Rep row 1 three times, fasten off.

BUTTONHOLE BAND

With RS facing and starting at bottom edge of Right Front, join yarn A with sl st and work 88 (90, 92, 96, 100)dc evenly up opening – approx 2 dc to each cluster row, plus sts at welt, turn.

Row 1: 1ch, dc to end, turn.

Size XS only

Next Row: 1ch, 2dc, [2ch, miss 2, 9dc] to end, ending last rep 7dc.

Size S only

Next Row: 1ch, 2dc, [2ch, miss 2, 8dc] to end, ending last rep 6dc.

Size M only

Next Row: 1ch, 2dc, [2ch, miss 2, 9dc] twice, [2ch, miss 2, 8dc] to end, ending last rep 6dc.

Size L only

Next Row: 1ch, 2dc, [2ch, miss 2, 9dc] six times, [2ch, miss 2, 8dc] to end, ending last rep 6dc.

Size XL only

Next Row: 1ch, 2dc, [2ch, miss 2, 10dc] twice, [2ch, miss 2, 9dc] to end, ending last rep 6dc.

All sizes

Next Row: Turn, 1ch, dc in each st and ch to end.

COLLAR

With RS facing, dc evenly in each st across top of Buttonhole Band, Right Front, across Back, Left Front and top of Button band, turn.

Next Row: 1ch, dc to end, turn.

Next Row: 2dc, miss 2 (final buttonhole made), 2dc [dc2tog, 3dc] to top of Button band, dc to end, turn.

Next Row: 1ch, dc to end. Fasten off.

EDGING

Starting at the hem, join in yarn A, work one round of dc around entire opening edge of garment to neaten edges. Fasten off.

Sew buttons in place to match buttonholes. Block as desired.



	XS	S	M	L	XL	
TO FIT BUST	76	81–86	91–96	107–112	117	cm
	30	32–34	36–38	42–44	46	in
ACTUAL BUST	79	87	97	112	119	cm
	31	34¼	38	44	47	in
LENGTH	60	61	62	63	64	cm
	23¾	24	24½	24¾	25¼	in
SLEEVE SEAM	47	47	47	47	47	cm
	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½	in

END



Goldenrod Shawl

BY HELDA PANAGARY

This stunning shawl in pure wool is simple to hook and sure to keep you snug and warm this winter.



ADD TO THE STASH
Buy these yarns from
www.loopknittingshop.com
www.wisebadger.com

MATERIALS

- Blue Moon Fiber Arts Socks That Rock, 100% Merino wool, 146g/370m/405yds
Yarn A: KO Going For Gold x 1 skein
- Patons Extrafine Merino DK, 100% wool, 50g/120m/131yds
Yarn B: Medium Grey Heather 192 x 1 ball
- 4mm hook

YARN ALTERNATIVES

You can use any sock to 4ply yarn to achieve a similar effect.

TENSION

Work 19 tr and 10 rows in stitch pattern using 4mm hook, or size required to obtain tension.

MEASUREMENTS

Finished shawl is 63cm/25in deep and 102cm/40in across at widest point.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Helda lives in a house filled with yarn. She can be found buried under the stuff on her blog www.heldasland.blogspot.com.

SPECIAL STITCHES

Picot: 3ch, insert hook in third chain from hook, yarn over, draw the yarn through the stitch and through the loop on the hook.

PATTERN NOTES

This shawl is worked from the neck down, making it easily adaptable to the size you prefer.

SHAWL

START With yarn A, 4ch, join with sl st in first ch to form ring.

Row 1: 4ch (counts as tr), [4tr, 3ch, 5tr] in ring, turn – 10tr.

Row 2: 4ch (counts as tr), 2tr in same space, 4tr, (2tr, 3ch, 2tr) in 3ch-sp, 4tr, 3tr in last tr, turn – 18tr.

Row 3: 5ch (counts as 1tr, 1ch), (1tr, 1ch, 1tr) in same st, [1ch, miss next st, 1tr in next st] to 3ch-sp, 1ch, (1tr, 1ch, 1tr, 3ch, 1tr, 1ch, 1tr, 1ch) in 3ch-sp, [1tr in next st, 1ch, miss next st] to last st, ([1tr, 1ch] twice, 1tr) all in last st, turn – 18tr & 17ch-sps.

Row 4: 3ch (counts as first tr), 2tr in same st, 1tr in each st and every ch-sp to 3ch-sp, (2tr, 3ch,

2tr) in 3ch-sp, 1tr in each st and every ch-sp to last st, 3tr in last st, turn – 42tr.

Rep rows 3 & 4 until you run out of yarn or you reach desired size, ensuring you finish with a row 3.

BORDER

Row 1: Change to yarn B and rep row 4 of main shawl pattern.

Row 2: As row 3.

Rows 3 & 4: As row 4.

Row 5: As row 3.

PICOT EDGING

6ch, sl st in third ch from hk, 2tr in first tr, miss next tr, 1dc in next

ch-sp, * miss next tr, (2tr, **picot** (see *Special Stitches*), 2tr) all in next tr, miss next tr, 1dc in next ch-sp; * rep between * and * to 3ch-sp, (2tr, 3ch, 2tr) in 3ch-sp, 1dc in same ch-sp, miss next tr, (2tr, picot, 2tr) all in next tr, miss next tr, 1dc in next ch-sp; rep between * and * to last st, (2tr, picot) in last st. Fasten off.

NECK EDGING

With yarn B, work evenly in dc along entire neck edge.

Fasten off.

Weave in ends.

END



Humbug Hanging Baskets

BY RED SPARROW CROCHET

A sweet storage basket which can hang on a peg, a door handle, or even at the end of the bed for teds!





MATERIALS

- Stylecraft Special DK, 100% acrylic, 100g/295m/323yds
- **Basket 1**
Yarn A: Parchment 1218 x 1 ball
Yarn B: Pomegranate 1083 x 1 ball
Yarn C: Walnut 1054 x 1 ball
- **Basket 2**
Yarn A: Parchment 1218 x 1 ball
Yarn B: Midnight 1011 x 1 ball
Yarn C: Teal 1062 x 1 ball
- **Basket 3**
Yarn A: Parchment 1218 x 1 ball
Yarn B: Grey 1099 x 1 ball
Yarn C: Lime 1712 x 1 ball
- 5mm hook

YARN ALTERNATIVES

You can use any DK weight yarn to achieve a similar effect.

TENSION

Exact tension is not essential here. However, work all sts fairly tightly to create a “woven” effect.

MEASUREMENTS

Approx diameter: 19cm/7½in.

Approx height from base to top of handle: 18cm/7in.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Red Sparrow works in Suffolk, and is determined to get the entire world crocheting.

SPECIAL STITCHES

Extended Treble (etr): Yoh, insert hook in next stitch or chain, yoh and pull up loop (3 loops on hook), yoh and draw through first loop on hook, yarn over and draw through 2 loops, yarn over and draw through final 2 loops.

PATTERN NOTES

Use two strands of yarn together throughout pattern. You can either wind the balls into two smaller balls before you begin, or use the yarn from the centre and outside of the ball together.

Basket is made from the base up, working in rnds with RS facing throughout. Make first st of every rnd into same st as joining st from previous rnd. Join at the end of every rnd with a sl st into top of first st of rnd (unless instructed not to). 1ch at start of rnd does not count as st.

BASKET

START With two strands of yarn A work 4ch, join with sl st into first ch to make ring.

Rnd 1: 1ch, 8dc into ring, join.

Rnd 2: 1ch, 2dc into each st, join – 16 sts.

Rnd 3: 1ch, *1dc in next st, 2dc in next st; rep from * to end of rnd, join – 24dc.

Rnd 4: 1ch, *1dc in next 2 sts, 2dc in next st; rep from * to end of rnd, join – 32dc.

Rnd 5: 1ch, *1dc in next 3 sts, 2dc in next st; rep from * to end of rnd, join – 40dc.

Rnd 6: 1ch, *1dc in next 4 sts, 2dc in next st; rep from * to end of rnd, join – 48dc.

Rnd 7: 1ch, *1dc in next 5 sts, 2dc in next st; rep from * to end of rnd, join – 56dc.

Rnd 8: 1ch, *1dc in next 6 sts, 2dc in next st; rep from * to end of rnd, join – 64dc.

Rnd 9: 1ch, *1dc in next 7 sts, 2dc in next st; rep from * to

end of rnd, join – 72dc.

Rnd 10: 1ch, 1dc in each st, join.

Rnds 11–16: Repeat rnd 10.

Fasten off yarn A.

Rnd 17: Join yarn B into top of any st, 1ch, 1dc in each st to end of rnd, join – 72dc.

Rnd 18: 1ch, work the following sts into the first 6 sts (joining st counts as first st): *1dc, 1htr, 1tr, 1etr (see *Special Stitches*), 1tr, 1htr; rep from * to end of rnd, join with sl st into first dc.

Fasten off yarn B.

Rnd 19: Join yarn C into top of any etr from previous rnd and rep rnd 18 using yarn C. Keep yarn C attached at end of rnd.

Rnd 20: 1ch, 1 dc into each st, join.

Rnd 21: Sl st into next st and rep rnd 18 in yarn C. (Sl st just made counts as first st.)

Fasten off yarn C.

Rnd 22: Join yarn B into top of any etr from previous rnd and rep rnd 18.

Rnd 23: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end of rnd, join.

Fasten off yarn B.

Rnd 24: Join yarn A into any st, 1ch, 1dc in each st to end of rnd, join.

Rnds 25–28: 1 ch, 1dc in each st to end of rnd, join.

Rnd 29: 12ch (to make handle), miss first 9 sts (joining st counts as first st), 7dc, dc2tog, *6dc, dc2tog; rep from * five more times, 7dc (including final dc in joining st from end of prev rnd), do not join – 66 sts.

Rnd 30: Work 12dc evenly around ch for handle, miss first dc after handle, dc2tog, 51dc, dc2tog, miss final dc before handle, do not join.

Rnd 31: 3htr, 2htr in next dc, 4htr, 2htr in next dc, 3htr, 53dc, do not join.

Rnd 32: 1sl st (made quite tightly) into each st to end of rnd.

Fasten off.

Sew in all ends.

END



Crochet Design

The image is divided into three vertical panels. The left panel, labeled 'Part I - TECHNIQUES', shows four vertical strips of fabric with different braided patterns in colors like red, blue, and yellow. The middle panel, labeled 'Part II - COMMERCIAL DESIGN', shows a pink garment with a braided belt and a piece of lace. The right panel, labeled 'Part III - MIXED MEDIA', shows a red felt hat and a piece of red leather.

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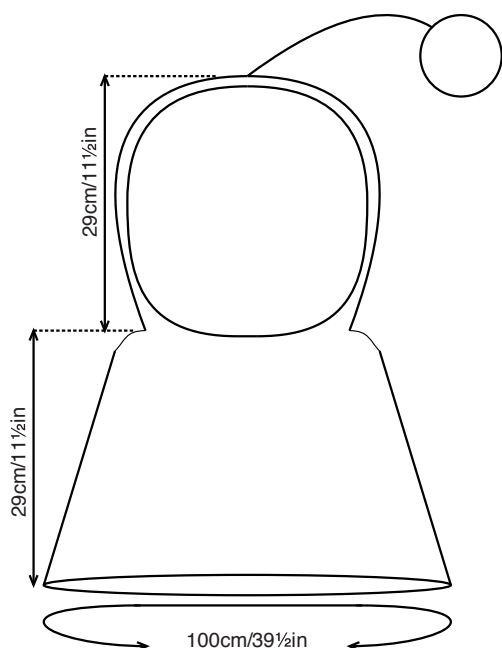
www.rememberwhenshop.co.uk



Hooded Cape

BY RUBY MCGRATH

Your little one will love this fun cape, hooked in super-soft, machine washable yarn.



MATERIALS

- Debbie Bliss Cashmerino Aran, 55% Merino wool/ 33% acrylic/12% cashmere, 50g/90m/98yds
- **Shade:** Mint 81 x 5 balls
- Small amounts of any two contrast yarns
- 4mm hook
- Yarn needle
- Pom-pom maker or card circles

YARN ALTERNATIVES

Any soft and cosy, washable Aran weight yarn will work well here. A wool mix or acrylic fibre would be perfect.

TENSION

Work 12tr and 8 rows to measure 10 x 10cm/4 x 4in using 4mm hook, or size required to obtain correct tension.

MEASUREMENTS

Circumference at hem: Approx 100cm/39 1/2in.

Length to neck: 29cm/11 1/2in.

Depth of hood: 29cm/11 1/2in.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Ruby is a crochet designer and the owner of handmade fashion label Frank&Olive. She is a work-at-home-mum, naming her business after her daughter Olive and her

son Frank. Visit her website at www.frankandolivecrochetblog.com.



BODY

66ch, sl st to first ch to form large ring – 66ch.

Rnd 1: 3ch (counts as tr here and throughout), 1tr in each ch around – 66tr.

Rnd 2: 3ch, 4tr, 2tr in next st, [5tr, 2tr in next st] to end, sl st to first st – 77tr.

Rnd 3: 3ch, 5tr, 2tr in next st, [6tr, 2tr in next st] to end, sl st to first st – 88tr.

Rnd 4: 3ch, 6tr, 2tr in next st, [7tr, 2tr in next st] to end, sl st to first st – 99tr.

Rnd 5: 3ch, 7tr, 2tr in next st, [8tr, 2tr in next st] to end, sl st to first st – 110tr.

Rnd 6: 3ch, 8tr, 2tr in next st, [9tr, 2tr in next st] to end, sl st to first st – 121tr.

Rnds 7–23: 3ch, 1tr in each st around, sl st to first st. Fasten off.

HOOD

With RS facing rejoin yarn to bottom of any chain around neck edge for start of hood.

Row 1: (RS) 3ch (counts as tr), 27tr, turn – 28tr.

Row 2: 3ch, (counts as tr), tr to end, turn.

Rows 3–45: As row 2.
Do not fasten off or turn.

Hood edging: 3ch (counts as first tr), work 84tr evenly back along the long side edge of the hood flap, then work 1tr in each of the next 10 sts around the neck edge, working into the bottom of foundation chain – 94tr. Fasten off.

FINISHING

Take the long hood “flap”, fold it over and sew the top edge to the neck edge of the body making sure the row ends and the hood edging join up.

Sew up the back seam of the hood leaving the edged side open. Sew the end of the hood edging to the neck edge of the body.
Weave in all ends and block lightly to shape.

POM-POM

Join contrasting yarn to the point of the hood with a sl st, work 15ch and fasten off.

Make a pom-pom of approximately 4cm/1½in diameter using a contrast yarn. Sew pom-pom securely to the end of the chain.

END



Errata

CORRECTIONS IN BOLD

MOLLY SKIRT

ISSUE 71 page 42

SKIRT

With 3.5mm hook, **136** foundation dc, join with slip stitch making sure not to twist.

Rnd 1: 1ch, dc in each **dc** around.

Rnd 2: 1ch, dc around.

Rnd 3: 3ch, **1tr**, [3ch, miss 3dc, 2tr] around – **26** sets of 2tr.

BELT

Row 1: 1dc in second st from hook, dc in each ch to end, turn.

Row 2: 1ch, dc to end, turn.

We have all our patterns checked professionally and try our hardest to ensure all pattern text is correct at time of going to press. Unfortunately mistakes do occasionally occur and any errata that we are aware of can be found at www.insidecrochet.co.uk/errata. Please do let us know if you find any mistakes by emailing claire@tailormadepublishing.co.uk.

The result of the finished project will vary depending on the yarn used. We always recommend swatching before beginning a new crochet project and using the yarn suggested for best results. However, if you decide to use an alternative, ensure you swatch thoroughly to achieve the correct tension provided in the pattern.

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Tryfan Bookmark

BY CLAIRE MONTGOMERIE

Use scraps of yarn to create a beautiful marker to save your place when reading.



MATERIALS

- Rowan Super Fine Merino DK, 100% wool, 50g/115m/126yds
- Yarn A:** Lilac 163 x 1 ball
- Yarn B:** Zing 146 x 1 ball
- Yarn C:** Marble 143 x 1 ball
- 3.5mm hook
- Yarn needle

YARN ALTERNATIVES

Any 4ply to DK weight yarn will work here to create a similar sized marker. The bookmark only uses around 5g of yarn in total, so is great for using up stash scraps.

TENSION

Exact tension is not essential for this design.

MEASUREMENTS

Bookmark is approximately 10 x 5cm/4 x 2in.
With tassels, marker is a total of 36cm/14in long.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Claire Montgomerie is a textiles designer and editor of *Inside Crochet*. Her main aim is to reinvent the products of ancient and traditional needlecraft processes, while retaining all their intricacies and comforting charm! Find out more at www.montyknits.blogspot.com.

SPECIAL STITCHES

Cluster (cl): [Yoh, insert in ch-sp, draw up a loop, yoh, draw through 2 lps] three times, 4 lps on hook, yoh and draw through all 4 loops. Cluster complete.

Cluster decrease (cldec): [Yoh, insert in st, draw up a loop, yoh, draw through 2 lps] twice in same stitch, then twice in following stitch, 5 lps on hook, yoh and draw through all 5 loops. Cluster decrease complete.



BOOKMARK

With yarn A and 3.5mm hook, make 12ch.

Rnd 1: 3htr in third ch from hook, 3ch, 1htr in each of the next 8 ch, 3ch, 3htr in next ch, 3ch, rotate the work 180 degrees and work in the remaining bottom loop of chain, 1htr in each of the next 8 ch, 3ch, join rnd with sl st and fasten off yarn.

Rnd 2: Join yarn B to 3ch-sp after the one where yarn has just been

fastened off, *(1dc, 3ch, 1dc) in 3ch-sp, [1dc in between post of next 2 htr] seven times, (1dc, 3ch, 1dc) in 3ch-sp, 1ch; rep from * once more, join rnd with sl st and fasten off yarn.

Rnd 3: Join yarn C in 3ch-sp where yarn has just been fastened off, 3ch, (cl (see *Special Stitches*) 3ch, cl) all in same 3ch-sp, 1ch, [cldec (see *Special Stitches*) over next 2 sts, 1ch] four times, (cl, 3ch, cl) in next 3ch-sp, 1ch, cl in 1ch-sp, 1ch, (cl, 3ch, cl) in next 3ch-sp, 1ch, [cldec over next 2 sts, 1ch] four times, (cl, 3ch, cl) in next 3ch-sp, 1ch, cl in 1ch-sp, 1ch, join rnd with sl st and fasten off yarn.

Rnd 4: Join yarn A in 3ch-sp where yarn has just been fastened off, (3dc, 1ch, 3dc) in 3ch-sp, 1dc in each 1ch-sp and cldec across to next 3ch-sp, (4dc, 1htr, 1tr) in next 3ch-sp, 1tr in cl, 1dtr in 1ch-sp, (1dtr, 3ch, 1dtr) in central cl, 1dtr in 1ch-sp, 1tr in next cl, (1tr, 1htr, 4dc) in next 3ch-sp, 1dc in each 1ch-sp and cldec across to next 3ch-sp, (3dc, 1ch, 3dc) in 3ch-sp, [1dc in cl, 1dc in 1ch-sp] twice, 1dc in cl, join rnd with sl st and fasten off yarn.

FINISHING

Weave in all ends and block lightly to shape.

With yarn B, make a chain of approximately 45cm/18in long. Make two tassels with eight strands of yarn 8cm/3in long and attach them to each end of the chain.

Fold chain in half and insert the middle loop through the 3ch-sp in rnd 4 of bookmark from front to back. Draw ends of chain through the loop and pull tight to secure.

END



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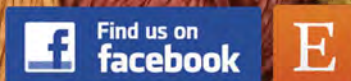




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Tablet Cover

BY CLAIRE MONTGOMERIE

A simple project using an interesting technique that creates an unusual, almost knitted, texture, this cosy can be easily adapted for differently sized gadgets.



ADD TO THE STASH

Buy this chunky cotton yarn from www.purplelindacrafts.co.uk

MATERIALS

- DMC Natura XL, 100% cotton, 50g/75m/82yds
- Yarn A:** Natural 32 x 1 ball
- Yarn B:** Aqua 07 x 1 ball
- 6mm hook
- Yarn needle
- Sewing needle and matching thread
- Button, at least 3cm/ 1¼in diameter

YARN ALTERNATIVES

Any chunky weight yarn will substitute here.

TENSION

Work 10.5dc and 13 rows to measure 10 x 10cm/4 x 4in using 6mm hook, or size needed to obtain tension.

MEASUREMENTS

Cosy is adaptable to different sized gadgets, but sample shown is (unstretched): 19 x 25cm/ 7½ x 10in.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Claire Montgomerie is the editor of *Inside Crochet*, a textiles teacher and designer specialising in knit and crochet. Find out more at www.montyknits.blogspot.com.

SPECIAL STITCHES

Short double crochet (sdc):

Work a regular double crochet through the horizontal "bump" at the back of stitch. (See below).



PATTERN NOTES

Cover is worked in the round in spirals. Do not join round unless stated otherwise. Place marker in first stitch of each round and move up each round to mark beginning of round.

To adapt the pattern to any size of phone, tablet or laptop, make the starting chain the same length as the bottom edge of gadget, then add one chain and follow the main pattern.

When making the cosy, ensure that it is slightly smaller or the same size as the gadget for which it is intended, to allow for a snug fit, so that the cover does not fall off.



COSY

With 6mm hook and yarn A, 20ch.

Rnd 1: 3dc in second chain from hook, 1dc in each ch to last ch, 3dc in last ch, rotate work 180 degrees so that bottom of chain can be worked into. 1dc in bottom loop of each ch to end, do not join rnd – 40dc.

Rnd 2: 1dc in first dc, pm, 1dc in each stitch around – 40dc. Rep last rnd three times more, moving up marker each rnd. On last rnd, join rnd with sl st and fasten off yarn.

Change to yarn B.

Rnd 6: Dc around.

Rnds 7–10: 1sdc (see *Special Stitches*) in each st around – 40sdc. On last rnd, join rnd with sl st and fasten off yarn.

Change to yarn A.

Rnd 11: Sdc around.

Rnds 12–15: Dc around.

Change to yarn B.

Rnd 16: Dc around.

Rnds 17–20: Sdc around.

On last rnd, join rnd with sl st and fasten off yarn.

Change to yarn A.

Rnds 21–31: Dc around.

Join yarn B to central stitch at one side seam.

Rnd 32: 10sdc, 12ch, sl st to bottom of ch, 1sdc in each dc to end of rnd, join rnd with sl st. Fasten off yarn and weave in all ends.

FINISHING

Sew button to corresponding place on opposite side of cosy to button loop.

Insert gadget and fasten button.



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BY ALI CAMPBELL

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www.lovecrochet.com

MATERIALS

- Sublime Baby Cashmere Merino Silk DK, 75% Merino wool/20% silk/5% cashmere, 50g/116m/126yds
- Yarn A: Buttercream 437 x 1 ball
- Yarn B: Pebble 006 x 1 ball
- Yarn C: Sweet Leaf 456 x 1 ball
- 3.75mm & 4mm hooks
- Yarn needle
- Blocking pins

YARN ALTERNATIVES

You can use any DK weight yarn for this design, but ensure that it's silky soft to the touch!

TENSION

Work 16dc and 11 rows to measure 10 x 10cm/4 x 4in using 3.75mm hook, or size required to obtain tension. Please note that exact tension is not essential for this pattern.

MEASUREMENTS

Width: 29cm/7½in.
Height: 4.5cm/12in.
Tie backs: 32cm/12½in.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Ali loves teaching crochet and designing unique crochet patterns. She lives and teaches crochet in North Dorset. See www.gethookedoncrochet.co.uk or www.macscrochet.blogspot.com for more details, and turn to page 98 for our interview with Ali.

PATTERN NOTES

1ch at the beginning of every row does not count as a stitch unless stated. Use any colour combination as you prefer.

EYE MASK

START

Make two

With 4mm hook and yarn A, 17ch. Change to 3.75mm hook.

Row 1: 2dc in second ch from hk, 1dc in next 14 ch, 2dc in last st, turn – 18dc.

Row 2: 1ch, 2dc in first st, 16dc, 2dc in last st, turn – 20dc.

Row 3: 1ch, 2dc in first st, 18dc, 2dc in last st, turn – 22dc.

Row 4: 2dc in first st, 20dc, 2dc in last st, turn – 24dc.

Rows 5–7: 1ch, dc to end, turn.

Row 8: 1ch, 2dc in first st, 22dc, 2dc in last st, turn – 26dc.

Rows 9–11: 1ch, dc to end, turn.

Row 12: 1ch, 10dc, dc2tog, turn, leave rem 14dc unworked – 11dc.

Row 13: 1ch, dc to end, turn – 11dc.

Row 14: 1ch, miss first dc, 8dc, dc2tog, turn – 9dc.

Row 15: 1ch, miss first dc, 6dc, dc2tog, turn – 7dc.

Row 16: 1ch, miss first dc, 4dc, dc2tog, turn – 5dc.

Row 17: 1ch, miss first dc, 2dc, dc2tog, turn – 3dc.

Row 18: 1ch, miss first dc, 2dc, turn.
Fasten off and sew in ends.

Row 19: Rejoin yarn to first st in row 13, 1ch, 1dc in same place, 10dc, turn leaving rem sts unworked – 11dc.

Rows 20–24: Rep rows 14–18. Do not fasten off.

EDGING

Work evenly around the edge, working into stitches and row ends as follows:

1ch, 2dc in next place, 1dc in next 4 sts, 2dc in each of next 3 places, 7dc, 2dc in each of next 3 places, 1dc in next 17 ch (ie back loops of foundation ch), 2dc in each of next 3 places, 7dc, 2dc in each of next 3 places, 1dc in next 4 places, 2dc in

next place, 6dc, dc2tog over next 2 places, 1dc in next 2 sts, dc2tog over next 2 places, 6dc. Fasten off and sew in ends.

OUTER EDGING

Rnd 1: Join yarn B to any st on edging, [1dc, 3ch] in each st around. Fasten off, sew in ends.

Work another piece using yarn B for the mask and yarn A for Outer Edging.

TIE BACKS

Make two

With 3.75mm hook and yarn C, 3ch.

Row 1: 1dc in second ch from hook, 1dc in last ch, turn – 2dc.

Row 2: 1dc in first st, 1dc in loop directly to left of st just made, turn, *1dc in first st, 1dc in two lps directly to left of st just made; rep from * until cord is 32cm/12½in.

FINISHING

Pin both tie backs to one eye mask. Pin the other eye mask on top.

With yarn C, surface crochet both eye masks together, ensuring that you catch the tie backs in place.

With yarn A, make two mini pom-poms and attach to the ends of the tie backs.

Block lightly.

END



Ric Rac Flower Cushion

BY CASSIE WARD

This simple pattern uses a zig-zag style stitch pattern combined with colourful ric rac and vibrant flowers.



ADD TO THE STASH

Make three colourful cushions with a yarn pack from www.yeoman-yarns.co.uk



MATERIALS

- Yeomans Soft Cotton 4ply, 100% cotton
- Yarn A:** Turquoise 7 x 50g
- Yarn B:** Sunrise 11 x 50g
- Yarn C:** Hot Pink 8 x 50g
- Yarn D:** Apple 10 x 50g
- Yarn E:** White 1 x 50g
- Yarn F:** Jaffa 12 x 50g
- 1.75mm & 3mm hooks
- Cushion pad, 40 x 30cm/16 x 12in
- Ric rac, assorted colours, 3m/118in long
- Yarn needle

YARN ALTERNATIVES

You can use any 4ply cotton yarn for this design. If you go to www.yeoman-yarns.co.uk, you can buy a pack with 150g of each of the colours needed – enough to make three matching or complementary cushions.

TENSION

Exact tension is not essential, but base your starting chain on double the width of the cushion.

MEASUREMENTS

Cover measures 50 x 27cm/19½ x 10½in including trims.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Cassie learnt to crochet about five

years ago after trying and failing many times. Her love of design stems from never being able to find something “quite right”.

PATTERN NOTES

If using a different sized pad, your starting chain should be roughly double the width of your cushion. The cover is slightly smaller than the cushion pad to ensure it fits snugly and isn't too baggy.



CUSHION COVER

With 3mm hook and your choice of yarn, 129ch.

Row 1: 1dc in second ch from hook, dc in each ch to end, turn – 128dc.

Row 2: 2ch (counts as htr), 1htr in same st, [3htr in next dc, miss 2dc] to last st, 2htr in last st, turn – 41 x 3htr clusters and 2htr at each end.

Row 3: 2ch (counts as htr), 3htr in space between each 3htr cluster to end, work 1htr in top of 2ch, changing colour on last pull through. Fasten off first yarn.

Row 4: 2ch (counts as htr), 1htr in same space, work 3htr clusters along, working 2htr in last space, turn.

Row 5: 2ch (counts as htr), 3htr in each space to end, work 1htr in top of 2ch, changing colour on last pull through. Repeat rows 4 & 5 until cushion measures desired length. Fasten off.

CUSHION TRIM

Cut ric rac to width of cushion. With 1.75mm hook and using a contrast shade of yarn around the ric rac, work as folls, wrapping the yarn around the ric rac when indicated as if working a dc around a ring:

Row 1: 4ch, [yo ric rac, 4ch] to 1cm from end of braid, yo ric rac, 1ch to secure, turn.

Row 2: [1dc, 1htr, 1tr, 1ch, 1tr, 1htr, 1dc] in each 4ch-sp to end, turn.

Fasten off yarn, join new colour yarn to 1ch-sp.

Row 3: [4ch, 1dc in 1ch-sp] to end.

Row 4: 3dc in each 4ch-sp to end. Fasten off.

ROSES

Make the same way as Cushion Trim, with same length of ric rac, but use one yarn of the same colour as the ric rac. Roll up the resulting braid to form a rose, securing with a few small stitches on the underside.

LEAVES

With yarn D and 1.75mm hook, 9ch.

Row 1: 1dc in second ch from hook, 1dc in each ch to end, turn – 8dc.

Row 2: 1tr, 2tr in next dc, 1tr, 1htr, 2dc, sl st in last dc, 2ch, sl st back in each of these 2ch, then work back along other side of foundation chain working 1sl st, 1dc, 1htr, 1tr, 2tr in next st, 1tr, 1dc, sl st to base of leaf and fasten off leaving a tail to sew on cushion.

DAISIES

With yarn B and 1.75mm hook, 2ch.

Rnd 1: 6dc in second ch from hook – 6dc.

Rnd 2: 2dc in each dc around – 12dc.

Fasten off yarn B.

Join in yarn E.

Rnd 3: 3ch (counts as 1tr), 2tr in same space, [1dc, 3tr in next dc] to last st, 1dc, sl st to bottom of 3ch. Fasten off.

FINISHING

Sew on flowers and leaves. Sew up side and bottom seam leaving top seam open for cushion pad.

Sew top seam once cushion is inside.





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Desk Trays

BY JEMIMA SCHLEE

These shallow trays will help to keep all your bits and bobs in order, and the design is very easy to adapt to different shapes and sizes.



These simple designs are taken from *Take A Ball Of String* by Jemima Schlee (GMC, £12.99).

MATERIALS

● Bakers' twine or household string

Yarn A: White x 32m/35yds
(for Medium Tray)

Yarn B: Black x 28m/30yds
(for Small Tray)

Yarn C: Grey x 60m/65yds
(for Large Tray)

Yarn D: Contrasting shade
x 2 (2, 3)m/2 (2, 3)yds

- 3.5mm hook
- Liquid starch or cornstarch
- Yarn needle
- Sharp scissors

TENSION

Exact tension is not essential.

MEASUREMENTS

Small Tray is approximately

7.5 x 6 x 2.5cm/3 x 2½ x 1in.

Medium Tray is approximately

10 x 6 x 2.5cm/4 x 2½ x 1in.

Large tray is approximately

18 x 6 x 2.5cm/7 x 2½ x 1in.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Jemima is a freelance writer and designer who has written several books of craft patterns. Read her blog at www.jemimaschlee.blogspot.co.uk.



SMALL TRAY

With yarn B, make 15ch, turn.

Rows 1–11: Dc into second ch from hook, dc to end, 1ch, turn.

Row 12: Dc into second ch from hook, dc to end, turn.

Row 13: Continuing in dc, work the next row through the front loop only of each stitch to begin the sides and form the corners. Pick up and work 15dc along each of the next three sides – 60 sts. Work four rounds of dc. Cut string to 10cm/4in and pull through the last loop on the hook.

MEDIUM TRAY

With yarn A, make 20ch, turn.

Rows 1–11: Dc into second ch from hook, dc to end, 1ch, turn (fig 1).

Row 12: Dc into second ch from hook, dc to end. Turn.

Row 13: Continuing in dc, work the next row through the front loop of each st from the row below to begin the sides and form a corner (fig 2).

Row 14: Pick up and work 15dc along the next edge, 20dc along the third edge and 15dc from the

final edge (fig 3) – 70 sts.

Row 15: Join with a sl st to first dc, make 1ch, dc to end.

Rep last row three times more (fig 4).

Fasten off. Cut the string to 10cm/4in and pull it through the last loop on the hook.

LARGE TRAY

With yarn C, make 35ch, turn.

Rows 1–11: Dc into second ch from hook, dc to end, 1ch, turn.

Row 12: Dc into second ch from hook, dc in each dc to end working last st into turning ch of previous row, 1ch, turn.

Row 13: Continuing in dc, work the next row through the front loop of each st from the row below to start the sides and form a corner. Pick up and work 15dc along the next side, 35dc along the third side and 15dc along the last side – 100 sts.

Work as row 15 of the medium tray and then rep three times more. Cut string to 10cm/4in and pull through the last loop on the hook.

TOP EDGE DETAIL (ALL TRAYS)

Using a length of contrasting string threaded on a large yarn needle, run through several stitches just below the top row of crochet stitches, halfway along one edge of the tray (fig 5). Work around the top edge by overstretching, working through every second stitch (fig 6). To finish off, run needle through several stitches just below top row. Cut thread flush using sharp scissors.

Finish off the thread tails using the needle or a small hook (fig 7).

STARCHING TRAYS

Strengthen the trays with liquid starch, or make your own by mixing a heaped teaspoon of cornstarch into approximately ¼ cup of water at room temperature and stir until completely dissolved.

Add 1¾ cups of boiling water and leave to cool to room temperature before pouring it into a spray bottle.

Saturate the finished work with the starch. Manipulate the sides to straighten and push out the corners to make them sharp. Leave to dry.

END

FIG 1



FIG 2



FIG 3



FIG 4



FIG 5



FIG 6



FIG 7





Granny Smith Bag

BY JO BODLEY

Inspired by the bright greens of autumn apples, this bag is pretty and practical and makes a great stashbuster.



MATERIALS

- Aran weight yarn, 350g total in variety of colours
- 6mm hook
- Blunt yarn needle
- Eight pieces thick felt fabric, 7 x 7cm/2¾ x 2¾in

TENSION

Exact tension is not essential for this project, but aim for a firm fabric to give the bag structure.

MEASUREMENTS

Base is approximately 24cm/9½in across, and bag is approximately 30cm/12in deep.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Jo Bodley is a freelance textile designer who teaches crochet at CALAT in south London. She occasionally trades at Greenwich Market, blogs and has a Facebook page under the name Carminabiryani.

PATTERN NOTES

The sample bag uses a random selection of 10–12 colours, joining yarn randomly and crocheting over the ends of yarn to aid with weaving them in at the end.

Measurements are approximate as this is a project that can be easily adapted – any section of the bag could have more or fewer rows, and different textured yarns could work really well, too!

There are very few stitch counts included in the pattern so you can adapt the basic “recipe” to suit. Adjust the pattern repeats as necessary to keep them neat and lined up – you may find you have to increase or decrease a stitch occasionally.

The tubular handles begin flat and are then worked in the round in Granite Stitch.



FELT SQUARES

Using colour or colours of choice, sew blanket stitch around the edge of each felt square with a blunt needle – aim for approximately 8 sts on each side.

Rnd 1: Using hook and colour of choice, work 1ch, 1dc in each



blanket stitch around and 3dc at each corner, join with sl st in first st. Fasten off.
Rep for all eight squares.
With RS together, join the squares working dc through both layers, until you have a "ring" of felt squares.

BAG BASE

Using colour of choice, make 6ch, join with a sl st in first ch to make a ring.

Rnd 1: 1ch (does not count as st throughout), 8dc into ring, join with sl st in first st – 8 sts.

Rnd 2: 1ch, 2dc in ea st around, join with sl st in first st – 16 sts.

Rnd 3: 1ch, *1dc, 2dc in next st; rep from * around, join with sl st in first st – 24 sts.

Rnd 4: 1ch, *2dc, 2dc in next st; rep from * around, join with sl st in first st – 32 sts.

Rnd 5: 1ch, *3dc, 2dc in next st; rep from * around, join with sl st in first st – 40 sts.

Continue as set, working 1 more stitch between each inc with each rnd, changing colours as desired. Cont until base meas 24cm/9½in across, or until it matches the diameter of the felt ring. If the circle begins to ripple around the edge, work fewer incs on next rnd, and if it begins to curl over, work more increases, so that it lies flat.

Next Rnd: 1ch, 1dc in ea st around, join with sl st in first st. Rep last rnd, using the same colour throughout, until piece measures 3cm/1¼in from last inc rnd.

With RS together, using same yarn as last rnd or changing colour, attach felt square ring to top edge of bag base by working dc through both layers.

GRANNY STRIPE LAYER

Rnd 1: 1ch, 1dc in ea st around

top edge of felt square band, join with sl st in first st.

Rnd 2: 2ch, 2htr in next st, *miss 2 sts, 3htr in next st; rep from * to end, join with sl st in first st.

Rnds 3–10: With a new colour, 2ch, 2htr in first ch-sp, 3htr in next and every foll ch-sp to end, join with a sl st to top of 2ch.

TOP BAND

Worked in Granite Stitch.

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

Rnd 2: 1ch, 1dc, *miss 1 st, 1ch, 1dc; rep from * to end, join with sl st in first st.

Rnd 3: 1ch, *1dc in next ch-sp, miss 1 st, 1ch; rep from * to end, join with sl st in first st.

Rnds 4–12: Rep rnds 2 & 3.

HANDLES

Fold Bag in half to find centre point and measure 5cm/2in from either side to mark space between handles.

Place a pin or stitch marker to indicate these points.

Row 1: Continue in Granite Stitch as set up to first marker, turn.

Rows 2–6: Work Granite Stitch across next 6 sts, turning at end of each row until row 6, then commence working Granite Stitch in a spiral (1dc in next ch-sp, miss 1 st, 1ch) until handle measures 28cm/11in, or to desired length. Work six rows, turning, as at start of handle.

Lay flat part of handle adjacent to marker with a 10cm/4in gap between handles and with RS together. Attach handle edge to top edge of bag working dc through both layers. Repeat for handle on the other side.

FINISHING

Weave in all loose ends and steam block if required.

END



Linoleum Cowl

BY TRACEY TODHUNTER

Sometimes the inspiration for a design comes from the most unusual places: the colours of this cowl were inspired by an old linoleum floor in vivid grey and orange.



ADD TO THE STASH

Buy these luxurious yarns from
www.edencottageyarns.co.uk

MATERIALS

- Eden Cottage Yarns Milburn 4ply, 85% wool/15% silk, 50g/200m/218yds
Yarn A: Harvest Gold x 1 skein
Yarn B: Steel x 1 skein
- Eden Cottage Yarns Askham 4ply, 70% alpaca/30% silk, 50g/200m/218yds
Yarn C: Crocosmia x 1 ball
- 2.75mm hook

YARN ALTERNATIVES

You can use any 4ply weight silk blend yarn to achieve a similar effect – the silk is important to achieve a nice drape in the fabric. Yarns without silk can be used but will result in a stiffer fabric.

TENSION

Work 10 pattern repeats (1 bobble, 1ch) and 12 rows to measure 10 x 10cm/4 x 4in using 2.75mm hook, or size required to obtain tension. One square motif should measure 6 x 6cm/2¼ x 2¼in.

MEASUREMENTS

Finished circumference: 66cm/26in.

Finished depth: 17.5cm/7in.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Tracey Todhunter is a designer specialising in crochet homewares and accessories. Her latest collection for Eden Cottage Yarns is now available and her next book (a crochet encyclopaedia) is due for publication in January. Visit www.grannycrochet.com for more information.

SPECIAL STITCHES

Beginning bobble (bbo): 3ch, [yoh, insert hook in stitch, yoh and pull up loop, yoh and pull through 2 loops] twice, yoh and draw through all 3 loops on hook.

Bobble (bo): [Yoh, insert hook in stitch, yoh and pull up loop, yoh and pull through 2 loops] three times, yoh and draw through all 4 loops on hook.

PATTERN NOTES

When changing colours in the main section of the cowl, do not cut yarn. After row 3, the correct colour will always be waiting for you at the end of the row. Change colours on the last yoh

of last stitch of each row. Unused colours should be carried loosely up the side of your work. When working the edging row before making up, enclose the carried yarns within each dc for a neater edge.



SQUARE MOTIFS

Make one in yarns A & B, and two in

yarns B & C

With 2.75mm hook and yarn A, make 6ch, join with sl st in first ch to make a ring.

Rnd 1: 3ch (counts as 1tr), 11tr into ring, join with sl st in top of 3ch – 12tr.

Rnd 2: 3ch (counts as 1tr), 1tr in same place as 3ch, 2tr in each of next 11tr, join with sl st in top of 3ch – 24tr.

Rnd 3: 1ch (does not count as a st), [2dc in first tr, 1dc in second tr] 12 times, join with sl st in first dc – 36dc. Fasten off.

Join yarn B in top of any dc from rnd 3.

Rnd 4: Work 6ch (counts as 1dtr, 2ch), 1dtr in same st, *1tr in ea of next 2dc, 1htr, 1dc in ea of next 2dc, 1htr, 1tr in ea of next 2dc, [1dtr, 2ch, 1dtr] in next dc (corner made); rep from * twice more, 1tr in ea of next 2dc, 1htr, 1dc in ea of next 2dc, 1htr, 1tr in each of next 2dc, join with sl st in third ch of 6ch – 40 sts, 4 2ch-sp corners.

Rnd 5: Sl st in next corner ch-sp, 1ch (does not count as a st), [1dc, 2ch, 1dc] in same corner ch-sp, *1dc in top of ea st to next corner ch-sp, [1dc, 2ch, 1dc] in corner ch-sp; rep from * twice more, 1dc in top of ea st to last corner ch-sp, join with sl st in first dc. Fasten off yarn and weave in ends.

Rep rnds 1–5 twice more to make two more motifs, using yarn B in place of yarn A for rnds 1–3, and yarn C in place of yarn B for rnds 4 & 5.

Pin the motifs to size, spray lightly with water and leave to dry.

Join the three squares together using a double crochet or hand-sewn seam.

MAIN COWL

The same colour sequence of one row each in yarns A, B and C is

worked throughout. Remember to change colour on the last yarn over of last tr of each row.

With yarn A and 2.75mm hook make 116ch.

Row 1: (RS) Make **bbo** (see *Special Stitches*) in fourth ch from hook, *1ch, miss next ch, make **bo** (see *Special Stitches*) in next ch; rep from * ending with 1tr in last ch and changing colour, turn – 55 bobbles, 1bbo, 1tr.

Row 2: Make bbo in first ch-sp, *1ch, bo in next ch-sp; rep from * ending with 1tr in top of bbo and changing colour, turn.

Rows 3–19: Rep row 2, keeping stripe sequence correct – row 19 will be worked in yarn A.

SIDE EDGING

With RS facing, join yarn B to last st of row 19. Work 2dc in ea st to bottom edge (this will alternate between working in final tr and 3ch of each bbo). Fasten off. Turn work and repeat for opposite edge.

JOIN MOTIFS

With RS together, join motif strip to side edge of main cowl using a using a double crochet or hand-sewn seam. Repeat for opposite edge to form a tube.

TOP AND BOTTOM EDGING

Work both alike

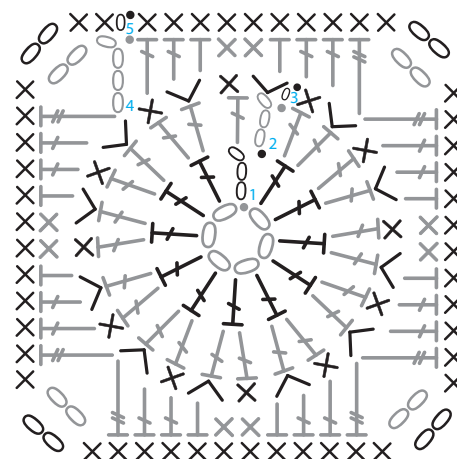
Rnd 1: With RS facing, join yarn C in any ch-sp of outer edge of main cowl away from the motif strip to give a neater edge. Work 1ch (does not count as st), 2dc in each ch-sp and 1dc in each dc of motif, join with sl st in first dc. Fasten off.

Rnd 2: Join yarn A in top of any dc. Work 1ch (does not count as st), *1dc in ea of next 2dc, [1dc, 3ch, 1dc] in next dc; rep from * around adjusting the last repeat as required to finish the rnd.

FINISHING

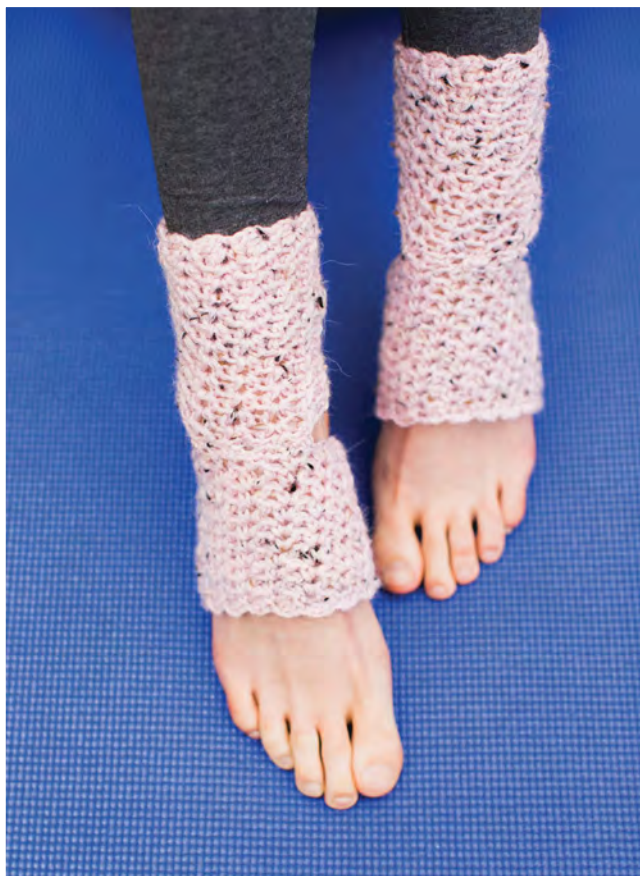
Weave in ends. Soak cowl in lukewarm water and lay flat to dry, taking care to pin out the edging points.

END



- O chain stitch (ch)
- slip stitch (sl st)
- X double crochet (dc)
- V double crochet increase (2dc)
- T half treble crochet (htr)
- f treble crochet (tr)
- F double treble crochet (dtr)





Isadora Exercise Socks

BY DEBORAH STUART

These pretty socks will help you look the part for yoga – perfect for a healthy mind and body resolution.



MATERIALS

- Stylecraft Alpaca Tweed DK, 75% acrylic/20% alpaca/5% viscose, 100g/240m/262yds
- **Shade:** Blush 1668 x 1 ball
- 4mm hook
- Stitch marker
- Tape measure
- Yarn needle
- Scissors

YARN ALTERNATIVES

Any DK weight of yarn worked to the same tension would work for these socks, but choose something with some natural elasticity.

TENSION

Work six repeats and 12 rows in the main Scallop Stitch pattern to measure 10 x 10 cm/4 x 4in using a 4mm hook, or size required to obtain tension.

MEASUREMENTS

One size, to fit a woman's shoe size 5–6.

There is a good deal of stretch in these socks. The sample shown measures 20 x 10cm/8 x 4in for the foot and 23 x 9cm/9 x 3½in for the ankle section.

Note: The size and length of the socks are easily adjusted.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Coming from a long line of talented crafters and needlewomen who invented their own designs, it was only a matter of time before Deborah did the same. An enthusiastic crocheter, knitter, sewer and jewellery maker, she takes inspiration from the glorious countryside around her home in the Vale of Glamorgan and enjoys designing quick, practical and stylish items.

SPECIAL STITCH PATTERNS

Scallop Cast-on: *3ch, 1tr in the first of 3-ch, first scallop cast-on formed; rep from * for required length, sl st to join rnd.

Scallop Stitch

Foundation Rnd: (1tr, 2ch, 1dc) in the same ch the tr of the Scallop Cast-on was worked into; rep from * to end, sl st to base of first tr to join rnd.

Pattern Rnd: *(1tr, 2ch, 1dc) in 2ch-sp; rep from * to end, sl st to base of tr to join rnd. This rnd forms the pattern.

PATTERN NOTES

The sock is worked in two sections; the wider, shorter part is designed to go round the ankle and the longer, narrower part around the foot, although this can be switched if needed, and the pattern is easily adaptable to individual sizes.

The two parts are sewn together at the centre front of the foot.

The socks are worked in rounds throughout. The top part is worked from the ankle down and the lower part from the toes up. The cast-off edges are partially joined at the centre front.



TOP

Make two

Rnd 1: Work Scallop

Cast-on (see *Special Stitch Patterns*) 14 times – 14 scallops. Place marker between the seventh and eight scallops. This marks the centre front.

Rnd 2: *(1tr, 2ch, 1dc) in the same ch the tr of the Scallop Cast-on was worked into; rep from * to end, sl st to base of first tr to join rnd – 14 reps.

Rnd 3: Work *(1tr, 2ch, 1dc) in 2ch-sp; rep from * to end, sl st to base of tr to join rnd – 14 reps.

Rnds 4–12: Rep rnd 3 nine more times, or to desired length. Fasten off.

FOOT

Make two

Rnd 1: Work Scallop Cast-on 12 times, turn – 12 scallops.

Place marker between the sixth and seventh scallops. This marks the centre front.

Rnd 2: *(1tr, 2ch, 1dc) in the same ch the tr of the Scallop Cast-on was worked into; rep from * to end, sl st to base of first tr to join rnd, turn – 12 reps.

Rnd 3: *(1tr, 2ch, 1dc) in 2ch-sp; rep from * to end, sl st to base of tr to join rnd, turn – 12 reps.

Rnds 4–14: Repeat rnd 3 eleven more times or the number of rnds for the length required. Fasten off.

FINISHING

Matching cast-off edges, join the centre front four scallops only (two either side of the centre fronts) by stitching at the point where each of the scallops touch.

Do not fasten off between scallops but run the yarn neatly along the back of the stitches at the top edge.

Secure and conceal any yarn ends using the yarn needle.



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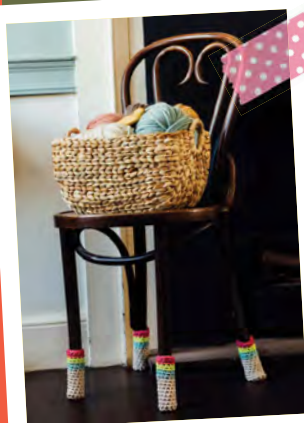
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Sampler Blanket

BY ALI CAMPBELL

This vibrant blanket is designed especially for beginners to practise basic stitches and combinations, with a stunning end result.



ADD TO THE STASH

Buy this soft cotton yarn from
www.knitandsew.co.uk

MATERIALS

- DMC Natura XL Just Cotton, 100% cotton, 100g/75m/82yds
- Yarn A:** Orange 10 x 2 balls
- Yarn B:** Pale Lime 82 x 2 balls
- Yarn C:** Fuchsia 43 x 2 balls
- Yarn D:** Duck Egg Blue 07 x 3 balls
- Yarn E:** Red 05 x 2 balls
- Yarn F:** Peachy Pink 04 x 2 balls
- Yarn G:** Turquoise 81 x 2 balls
- Yarn H:** Cream 03 x 2 balls
- Yarn I:** Yellow 09 x 2 balls
- Yarn J:** Lime 83 x 2 balls
- Yarn K:** Purple 06 x 2 balls
- 6mm, 7mm & 8mm hooks
- Yarn needle

YARN ALTERNATIVES

You can use any super chunky weight cotton or cotton blend yarn to achieve a similar look.

TENSION

Work 11tr and 6 rows to measure 10 x 10cm/4 x 4in using 7mm hook, or size required to obtain tension. Exact tension is not essential for this pattern.

MEASUREMENTS

Width: 136cm/53½in.

Height: 108cm/42½in.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Ali loves teaching crochet and designing unique patterns. She is also the founder of an online crochet course, see www.gethookedoncrochet.co.uk or www.macscrochet.blogspot.com for more information, or follow her on Twitter @CrochetAli.

SPECIAL STITCHES

Spiked Double Crochet (spk):

Insert hook into row directly below, pull up a loop, bring hook back to row you are working on and work 1dc to secure it.

Bobble: *Yrh, insert hook in next st, yrh, pull up a loop, yrh, pull thorough 2 loops on hook; rep from * inserting hook into the same stitch each time, yrh and pull through all 5 loops on hook.

Popcorn (PC): Work 3htr in same stitch, remove hook from loop, insert hook through both loops of first stitch of 3htr set made then through working loop again and draw hook through loops to close.

PATTERN NOTES

All turning chains made at the beginning of a row count as a stitch and are worked into.

Tip: Mark the top chain of the turning chain with a stitch marker, so that you don't miss it as a stitch. Change colours on the last stitch of a row by working the new colour in last yrh of final stitch.



BLANKET

With yarn A and 8mm hook, make 121ch.

Row 1: (RS) Change to 7mm hook, 1dc in second ch from hook and in each ch to end changing to yarn B on final pull through, turn – 120 sts.

Fasten off yarn A.

Row 2: (WS) 3ch, 1tr in each st to end changing to yarn C on final pull through, turn – 120 sts.

Fasten off yarn B.

Row 3: 3ch, 1tr in each of next 3 sts, *1dc in each of next 4 sts, 1tr in each of next 4 sts; rep from * to end, turn.

Row 4: 1ch, 1dc in each of next 3 sts, 1tr in each of next 4 sts, *1dc in each of next 4 sts, 1tr in each of next 4 sts; rep from * to end changing to yarn D on final pull through, turn.

Fasten off yarn C.

Row 5: Rep row 4 but do not change colour at the end and continue with yarn D.

Row 6: Rep row 3 changing to yarn E on final pull through.

Fasten off yarn D.

Row 7: (RS) 2ch, 1htr in each dc and sl st in each tr to end changing to yarn F on final pull through, turn.

Fasten off yarn E.

Row 8: 2ch, 1htrflo in each st to end, turn.

Row 9: 2ch, 1htrblo in each st to end changing to yarn G on final pull through, turn.

Fasten off yarn F.

Row 10: 3ch, 1trtf in each st to end changing to yarn H on final pull through, turn.

Fasten off yarn G.

Row 11: 3ch, 1trtb in each of next 2 sts, *[1trtf in each of next 3 sts, 1trtb in each of next 3 sts]; rep from * to end changing to yarn G on final pull through, turn.

Fasten off yarn H.

Row 12: Rep row 11 but change to yarn I on final pull through, turn.

Fasten off yarn G.

Rows 13 & 14: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end changing to yarn J on final pull through of row 14, turn.

Fasten off yarn I.

Row 15: 1ch, 1dc in next st, 1spk in next st, *1dc in each of next 2 sts, 1spk in next st; rep from * to end, turn.

Row 16: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end changing to yarn K on final pull through, turn.

Fasten off yarn J.

Row 17: (RS) 4ch (counts as 1tr, 1ch), *miss 1 st, 1tr in next st; rep from * to end, 1tr in last st, do not turn.

Fasten off yarn K.

Row 18: (RS) With RS facing, return to beg of row 17. Rejoin yarn C in third ch of 4ch made at beg of row 17. Work 3ch, *1tr in sp, 1tr in next st; rep from * to end, do not turn.

Fasten off.

Row 19: (RS) With RS facing, return to beg of row 18. Rejoin yarn A in third ch of 4ch made at beg of row 18. Work 3ch, 1tr in same sp, *miss 2 sts, 3tr in next st; rep from * to last 2 sts, miss 1 st, 1tr in last st, do not turn.

Fasten off.

Row 20: (RS) With RS facing, return to beg of row 18. Rejoin yarn H in third ch of 4ch made at beg of row 19. Work 3ch, *3tr in next sp; rep from * to end working 2tr in last st and changing to yarn D on final pull through, turn.

Fasten off yarn H.

Row 21: (WS) 2ch, 1htr in each st to end changing to yarn B on final pull through, turn.

Fasten off yarn D.

Row 22: 1ch, 1dc in next st, 1spk in next st, *1dc in each of next 2 sts, 1spk in next st; rep from * to end, changing to yarn E on final pull through, turn.

Fasten off yarn B.

Row 23: 2ch, 1htr in each st to end changing to yarn G on final pull through, turn.

Fasten off yarn E.

Row 24: Rep row 23 but do not turn at end.

Fasten off yarn G.

Row 25: (RS) With RS facing, return to beg of row 24. Rejoin yarn C in second ch of 2ch made at beg of row 24. Work 3ch, 1tr in next st, 2ch, miss 2 sts, *1tr in each of next 2 sts, 2ch, miss 2 sts; rep from * to end working 1tr in each of last 2 sts changing to yarn I on final pull through, turn.

Row 26: (WS) 1ch, 1dc in next st, *2dc in 2ch-sp, 1dc in next 2 sts; rep from * to end changing to yarn F on final pull through, turn.

Row 27: Using yarn F, 3ch, *miss 1 st, 1tr in next st, 1tr in missed st; rep from * to end working 1tr in last st changing to yarn H on final pull through, turn.

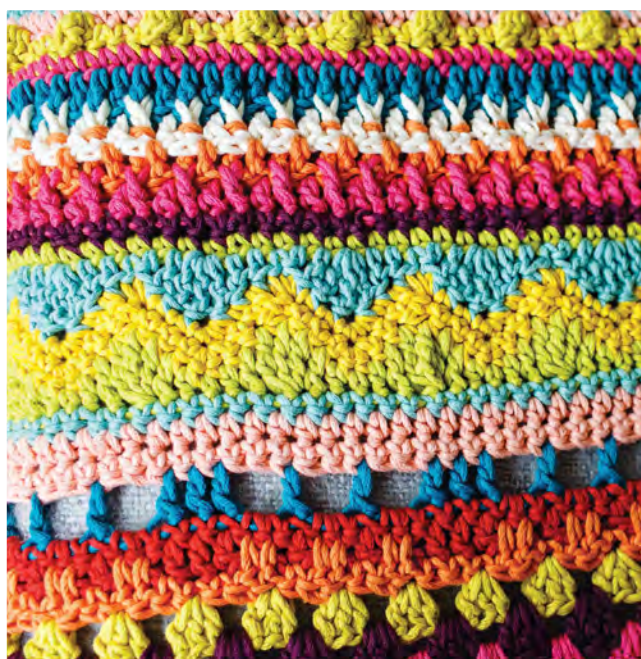
Row 28: 3ch, 1tr in each of next 3 sts, *Bobbie in next st, 1tr in each of next 5 sts; rep from * to end, changing to yarn K on final pull through, turn.

Row 29: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 30: Rep row 29.

The following rows are worked using tapestry crochet with yarns K and J used along the row. Carry the yarn not in use behind and work over it, trapping it behind.

Row 31: Using yarn K work 1ch, 1dc in each of next 5 sts, *using yarn J work 1dc in each of next 6 sts, using yarn K work 1dc in each next 6 sts; rep from * to end, turn.



Row 32: Using yarn J work 1ch, 1dc in each of next 5 sts, *using yarn K work 1dc in each of next 6 sts, using yarn J work 1dc in each of next 6 sts; rep from * to end. Fasten off yarn J and cont in yarn K only.

Rows 33 & 34: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end changing to yarn A on final pull through of row 34, turn. Fasten off yarn K.

Row 35: 4ch, 1dtr in each st to end changing to yarn E on final pull through, turn. Fasten off yarn A.

Row 36: Rep row 35 changing to yarn I on final pull through, turn. Fasten off yarn E.

Row 37: (RS) 4ch, *miss 1 st, 1dtr in each of next 3 sts, 1dtr in missed st pulling up the loop so that it stretches across the back of the 3dtr made; rep from * to last 3 sts, miss 1 st, 1dtr in each of last 2 sts, 1dtr in missed st, do not turn. Fasten off yarn I.

Row 38: (RS) With RS facing, return to beg of row 37. Rejoin yarn D in third ch of 4ch made at beg of row 37. Work 2ch, 1htr in each st to end changing to yarn F on final pull through, turn. Fasten off yarn D.

Row 39: (WS) Rep row 38 changing to yarn B on final pull through, turn. Fasten off yarn F.

Row 40: 1ch, 1dc in each of next 2 sts, *1PC in next st, 1dc in each of next 3 sts; rep from * to last 4 sts, 1dc in each of last 4 sts changing to yarn C on final pull through, turn. Fasten off yarn B.

Row 41: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end changing to yarn G on final pull through, turn. Fasten off yarn C.

Row 42: 3ch, 1tr in each st to end changing to yarn H on final pull through, turn. Fasten off yarn G.

Row 43: 3ch, *1trtrf in next st, 1tr in next st; rep from * to end changing to yarn A on final pull through, turn. Fasten off yarn H.

Row 44: 3ch, 1tr in next st, *1trtrf in next st, 1tr in next st; rep from * to end changing to yarn C on final pull through, turn. Fasten off yarn A.

Row 45: Rep row 42 changing to yarn K on final pull through, turn. Fasten off yarn C.

Row 46: 3ch, 1htr in each st to end changing to yarn J on final pull through, turn. Fasten off yarn K.

Row 47: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end changing to yarn D on final pull through, turn. Fasten off yarn J.

Row 48: 1ch, *1htr in next st, 1tr in next st, 3dtr in next st, 1tr in next st, 1htr in next st, 1dc in next st; rep from * to last 5 sts, 1htr in next st, 1tr in next st, 3dtr in next st, 1tr in next st, 1dc in last st, changing to yarn I on final pull through, turn. Fasten off yarn D.

Row 49: 1ch, 1dc in base of ch (counts as dc2tog), 1dc in each of next 2 sts, *3dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 2 sts, dc3tog, 1dc in each of next 2 sts; rep from * to last 5 sts, 3dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 2 sts, dc2tog, turn.

Row 50: Cont with yarn I, work 1ch, 1dc in each of next 3 sts, *3dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 2 sts, dc3tog, 1dc in each of next 2 st; rep from * to end changing to yarn J on final pull through, turn. Fasten off yarn I.

Row 51: 4ch, 1dtr in next st (counts as tr2tog), *1tr in next st, 1htr in next st, 1dc in next st, 1htr in next st, 1tr in next st, tr3tog; rep from * working tr2tog over last 2 sts, changing to yarn D on final pull through, turn – 121 sts. Fasten off yarn J.

Row 52: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end working a dc2tog anywhere along the row, changing to yarn F on final pull through, turn – 120 sts. Fasten off yarn D.

Row 53: 1ch, 1htr in each st to end, turn

Row 54: Cont with yarn F, work 1ch, 1dc to end changing to yarn G on final pull through, turn. Fasten off yarn F.

Row 55: 5ch (counts as 1tr, 2ch), miss 2 sts, *1tr in each of next 3 sts, 2ch, miss 2 sts, 1tr in next st, miss 2 sts, 1tr in next st, 2ch, miss 2 sts; rep from * to end working 1tr in each of last 2 sts changing to yarn E on final pull through, turn. Fasten off yarn G.

Row 56: 1ch, 1dc in next tr, *2dc in 2ch-sp, 1dc in each of next 3 sts, 2dc in 2ch-sp, 1dc in next st, 2dc in 2ch-sp, 1dc in next st; rep from * to end, 1dc in t-ch.

Row 57: Cont with yarn E and

rep row 55 changing to yarn A on final pull through, turn. Fasten off yarn E.

Row 58: 1ch, 1dc in next st, *1tr in each of 2dc from row 56 pulling up a long loop as you work over the 2ch-sp created in row 57, 1dc in each of next 3 sts, 1tr in each of the next 2dc from row 56, 1dc in next tr, 1tr in each of next 2dc from row 56, 1dc in next tr; rep from * ending with 1dc in t-ch and changing to yarn B on final pull through, turn. Fasten off yarn A.

Rows 59–62: Rep rows 19 & 20 using yarns B, K, C and H in this sequence and changing to yarn I on final pull through, turn. Fasten off yarn H.

The following rows are worked using tapestry crochet with yarns I, G, F and E used along the row. Carry the yarn not in use behind and work over it, trapping it behind.

Row 63: *2ch, 1htr in each of next 29 sts, using yarn G work 1htr in each next 30 sts, using yarn F work 1htr in each of next 30 sts, using yarn E work 1htr in each of next 30 sts, turn. Keep the same colour above the colour of the row before.

Rows 64–66: Rep from * in row 63 changing to yarn D on final pull through, turn.

Fasten off yarns I, G, F and E.

Row 67: With yarn D, rep row 27

changing to yarn J on final pull through, turn. Fasten off yarn D.

Rows 68 & 69: 1ch, 1dc to end changing to yarn A on final pull through of row 69, turn. Fasten off yarn D.

Rows 70 & 71: 1ch, 1dc in each to end, turn. Fasten off.

BORDER

Rnd 1: (RS) With 6mm hook, join yarn I in any corner. Work 3ch, [2tr, 3ch, 3tr] in same place, 1tr in each st around, working evenly down the sides. To work evenly down the side of the blanket, work 3tr along the height of a treble, 2tr along the height of a htr and 1tr in the side of a dc, join with sl st in third ch of 3ch changing to yarn C on final pull through.

Fasten off yarn I.

Rnd 2: 1ch, 1dc in each st around, working [2dc, 2ch, 2dc] in each 3ch corner sp, join with a sl st in first dc and change to yarn D on final pull through.

Fasten off yarn C.

Rnd 3: 2ch, 1htr in each st around, working [2htr, 2ch, 2htr] in each 2ch corner space, join with a sl st in second ch of 2ch. Fasten off.

FINISHING

Weave in ends and block to measurements.

END



9100



Alex & Wanda

9101



Lisel & Peter

9102



Lotte & Hans

9103



Rupert & Heide

9104



Dana & Rob

9105



Micha & Conny

9106



Bernd & Vroni

9107



Laura & Chris

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Yoga Bag

BY ALESSANDRA HAYDEN

This Fair Isle yoga mat bag is practical and stylish. Bright colours and geometrical designs are the perfect combo.



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MATERIALS

- Scheepjes Catona, 100% mercerised cotton, 25g/63m/69yds
- Yarn A:** Snow White 106 x 4 balls
- Yarn B:** Cyan 397 x 1 ball
- Yarn C:** Apple Green 389 x 1 ball
- Yarn D:** Shocking Pink 114 x 2 balls
- Yarn E:** Vivid Blue 146 x 1 ball
- Yarn F:** Lemon 280 x 1 ball
- Yarn G:** Tangerine 281 x 1 ball
- 3.5mm hook
- Yarn needle
- Scissors
- Stitch marker

TENSION

Work 22dcblo and 16 rows to measure 10 x 10cm/4 x 4in using 3.5mm hook, or size required to obtain tension.

MEASUREMENTS

Fits a standard sized yoga mat.
Finished bag is 66cm/26in long.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Alessandra is a Brazilian designer who has been passionate about crochet since she was a child. Visit her website at www.justbehappycrochet.com and view more of her designs at www.ravelry.com/designers/alessandra-hayden.

PATTERN NOTES

The yoga bag is worked in continuous rounds, using a stitch marker to mark the end of each rnd.

Work main bag body in the back loops of each double crochet stitch, except for the handle and tie. Read chart from the bottom up and from right to left.



BAG

Work in dcblo throughout.

Rnd 1: With yarn A, make an adjustable loop, 8dc in ring – 8dc.

Rnd 2: 2dcblo in each dc around – 16dc.

Rnd 3: [2dcblo in next st, 1dcblo] eight times – 24dc.

Rnd 4: [2dcblo in next st, 2dcblo] eight times – 32dc.

Rnd 5: [2dcblo in next st, 3dcblo] eight times – 40dc.

Rnd 6: [2dcblo in next st, 4dcblo] eight times – 48dc.

Rnd 7: [2dcblo in next st, 5dcblo] eight times – 56dc.

Rnd 8: [2dcblo in next st, 6dcblo] eight times – 64dc.

Rnd 9: [2dcblo in next st, 7dcblo] eight times – 72dc.

Rnd 10: [2dcblo in next st, 8dcblo] eight times – 80dc.

Rnds 11–13: Dcblo around. Fasten off yarn A, join in yarn B.

Rnds 14 & 15: Dcblo around. Fasten off yarn B, join in yarn A.

Rnds 16–22: Dcblo around. **Rnds 23–35:** Work from Chart.

Rnds 36–42: With yarn A, dcblo around.

Rnds 43–55: Work from Chart. **Rnds 56–62:** With yarn A, dcblo around.

Rnds 63–75: Work from Chart. **Rnds 76–82:** With yarn A, dcblo around.

Rnds 83–95: Work from Chart. **Rnds 96–102:** With yarn A, dcblo around.

Rnds 103 & 104: With yarn B, dcblo around.

Fasten off yarn B.

Rnds 105–107: With yarn A, dcblo around.

Rnd 108: [6dcblo, 2ch, miss 2 sts] ten times – 80 sts.

Rnd 109: Dcblo around – 80dc. Fasten off, weave in ends.

TIE

With yarn A, 86ch, sl st in second st from hook and in each st across – 85sl sts.

Weave the Tie through loops created on rnd 108.

HANDLE

Row 1: With yarn A, leave a 30cm/13in tail, 111ch, dc in second st from hook and in each st across, 1ch, turn – 110dc.

Row 2: Dc to end, change to yarn B on last pull through, 1ch, turn.

Rows 3 & 4: Dc to end, 1ch, turn.

Row 5: Dc to end, change to yarn A on last pull through, 1ch, turn.

Row 6: Dc to end, 1ch, turn.

Row 7: Dc to end.

Fasten off, leave a long tail.

FINISHING

Using yarn needle, sew the handle at the end of rnds 15 and 104.

COLOUR CHART

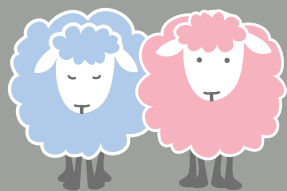
								13
								12
								11
								10
								9
								8
								7
								6
								5
								4
								3
								2
								1

8 ST PATT REPEAT

- Yarn A: Snow White
 - Yarn C: Apple Green
 - Yarn D: Shocking Pink
 - Yarn E: Vivid Blue
 - Yarn F: Lemon
 - Yarn G: Tangerine
- Read all rows from R to L



END



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ONCE YOU'VE
MASTERED AMIGURUMI,
TRY BILL THE PINEAPPLE
BY MEGAN BARCLAY, OR
ADORABLE BUNNIES BY
STEPHANIE LAU



© Kerry Lord, from
Edward's Menagerie: Birds



MINI MASTERCLASS



All about amigurumi

New to hooking amigurumi? Rhian Drinkwater examines the techniques you'll need for flawless – and super-cute! – results.

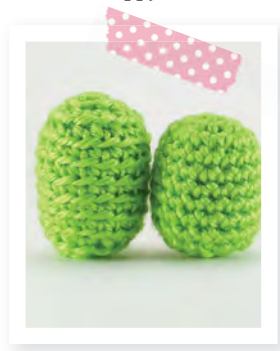
Amigurumi are some of the most popular crochet projects around: cute, portable and ideal presents for young and old. They can seem a bit tricky for “ami” newcomers, but don't worry – they're really not! We've put together a collection of hints and tips from some of our favourite amigurumi designers, ensuring you a perfect finish even if it's your very first go.

One of the first things you'll notice about amigurumi designs is that they're worked almost entirely in one stitch – the double crochet. When we're crocheting garments or accessories, we're often aiming for a looser, drapery finish but when hooking toys, you need to aim for a much firmer fabric with smaller stitches, to allow the finished piece to keep its shape and stop any stuffing escaping. Dc is the perfect stitch for this, and you'll often use a smaller hook size than normal for the yarn weight as well. Many amigurumi designs won't recommend a tension to work to, but instead advise you to concentrate on getting a tight-finished fabric you're happy with.

You may see some amigurumi designs that ask you to work all your dc stitches through the back loop (blo). This generally isn't an essential – it's a preference of some designers, who find that it can offer several advantages. Megan Barclay of Hookabee designs all her amigurumi in this way for a number of reasons. “The fabric created when working through the blo is different than when working in both loops – with blo stitches the fabric is thinner and softer, making the amigurumi more squishy and nice to touch.” (see her photo, right, for illustration). It also helps

when you're attaching parts of your finished piece together. “I am not a talented sewer,” says Megan, “but using the blo method makes attaching pieces easy because you have the handy front loops on the surface of the piece for stitching into. The exposed front loops also allow you to place stitch markers on the surface of the amigurumi and leave them there, which is useful for counting rounds and with the placement of pieces when assembling them all together.”

Stacey Trock of Fresh Stitches agrees. “When you attach through the back loop, the front loop remains on the piece (creating the ‘ridges’ you see on the work). These are perfect little bits to attach pieces onto!” Stacey also finds that working this way allows you to use a larger hook size while still creating a dense fabric: “Early on, I became very frustrated with the achy wrists I got by crocheting very tightly with a tiny hook. By crocheting through the back loop, you can use a much larger hook and let your wrists be happy!”



Left: Megan shows the difference working in blo can make. Below: Stacey's adorable dragons are all worked through the back loop.



"I love that amigurumi are so simple and give stunning results."

Liz Ward, www.amigurumibarmy.blogspot.co.uk

A PERFECT FINISH

There are a number of techniques amigurumi designers use to achieve a professional look to their finished pieces, the first of which is the adjustable ring, also known as the magic loop (see page 94). As most ami designs are worked in the round, this helps to give a seamless looking start with no holes. "It makes a huge difference as you can pull that initial circle tight so that there is no visible hole when you start your pieces," says Stephanie Lau, of All About Ami. If you're not confident with the adjustable ring, you can also work a 2ch and then hook your initial stitches into the first chain, but it's worth practising the adjustable ring – it will become second nature in no time!

Another great technique is the invisible decrease, which gives a much more polished look than the traditional dc2tog. June Gilbank of PlanetJune recommends this: "Although it can be slightly tricky at first, it will make a world of difference to the look of every amigurumi piece you make, making all your stitches look neat and even." The invisible decrease is created by working through the front loops of the stitches only. As such, it isn't suitable when you're working dcbls stitches, but the normal decrease is less obvious than anyway.

To work the invisible decrease, follow this simple step-by-step (below) from Stephanie Lau.



LIMBER UP

Once individual pieces are crocheted, you'll often need to attach limbs or other body parts to finish the design. It is worth taking your time here, as getting the placement right can make a huge difference to the finished look of your amigurumi. And remember, if you don't like the way it looks, just pull out your stitches and start again.

June says "With paired pieces (arms, legs, ears, etc), I hold both up to the body at once before I start sewing, to make sure they look good together at the position I've chosen, and I take care to make sure both pieces are symmetrical as I sew them on."

Megan recommends using locking stitch markers to hold the pieces in place as you position them and start to sew, "but this only works well when your amigurumi is worked in the blo and you have those handy front loops to hook your stitch markers onto!"

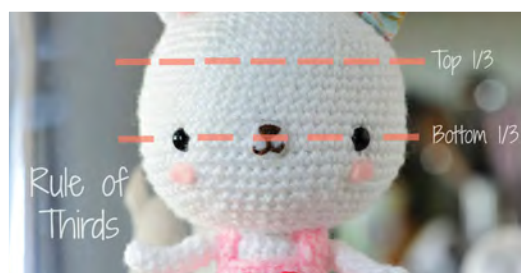
Once everything's in place, use whip stitch to attach the body parts. Jackie Laing of Amidorable Crochet says: "I like to make sure I sew every stitch onto the body of my amigurumi. I also like to use wire in my limbs to make them poseable!"

If you're after a completely seamless look, June has developed a joining technique that gives a professional finish without any visible whip stitches. Head to www.planetjune.com/blog/how-to-make-a-seamless-join-in-amigurumi to watch a video.

SMILE PLEASE!

The final part of your design will be to complete the face of your amigurumi. This might involve a few embroidered stitches, or sticking on small pieces of felt or other pieces of crochet. The features will have a huge impact on the finished look and cuteness of your toy, so make sure you take your time!

Stephanie says, "Where you place the eyes and embroider the features is important as placing them too low or too high can alter the overall look. We like to follow the 'rule of thirds' in which we place the eyes and embroider features along the bottom third of the head (see image below). Generally we also like to ensure that the middle of the nose lines up with the middle of the eyes as placing the nose too high or too low greatly affects the overall look of the amigurumi."



WE LOVE AMIGURUMI!

♥
We asked some of our favourite designers just what they loved about making amigurumi

✦ "I love the creative process. Getting the idea of a project in your head, and then figuring out how you can make it come to life with yarn."

Jackie Laing, www.amidorablecrochet.ca

✦ "Amigurumi can make lovely decorative pieces as well as wonderful handmade toys, and it really shows you care when you pick the perfect amigurumi design to make as a gift for someone special."

June Gilbank, www.planetjune.com

✦ "Even though everyone may follow the same amigurumi pattern, each creation looks different as the crocheter adds their own special touches to it!"

Stephanie Lau, www.allaboutami.com

✦ "When I discovered amigurumi it completely changed my view on making. I love the way I can carry everything in my handbag on the go with only one tool and without the risk of dropping stitches! I really enjoy bringing characters to life and relish the moments when I sew on the eyes and sit a new animal down in front of me and decide what he/she will be called."

Kerry Lord, www.thetoftpacashop.co.uk

✦ "I love turning yarn into characters! The reason I picked up a hook in the first place and learned to crochet was to make cute creatures. It also helps that you don't have ends to weave in when you are done (just hide them inside the body!) and you don't have to worry about gauge at all."

Megan Barclay, www.hookabee.com

✦ "I love that amigurumi are so simple and give stunning results."

Liz Ward, www.amigurumibarmy.blogspot.co.uk

✦ "Such simple stitches and techniques are required! And they're great portable projects that you can work on while riding the train or in a few spare moments on a lunch break!"

Stacey Trock, www.freshstitches.com

Facial tips

"For a realistic animal, my rule of thumb is to position the eyes halfway up the head, level with the top of the muzzle, and with at least half the width of the face between the centres of the eyes," says June, while Stephanie's photos show how she lines up the features across the face.

Middle of nose lines up with middle of eyes

Liz's tiger uses felt features for detail.

Yarn type can add character!



YARN CHOICE

✦ Most amigurumi is worked in wool, cotton or acrylic, and they each have their advantages. Kerry Lord of yarn company Toft, and the designer behind *Edward's Menagerie*, prefers wool and alpaca yarns for their warmth and natural elasticity. "Toft's lofty natural fibre yarns allow you to crochet a very closed fabric that is supple and soft," she says, adding, "When learning, go for a thick and well spun yarn that will make it easy to see and work your stitches." *Inside Crochet* designer Liz Ward prefers cotton. "Cotton yarn gives a great finish, and doesn't stretch so when it comes to stuffing you won't get holes!"

Some amigurumi designs will use a fuzzy yarn for a soft, fluffy finish, such as June's penguin, above. This can be tricky to work with if you're not used to it, but June recommends working "inside out" for the best finish. "When you crochet with a fuzzy yarn, most of the fluff ends up on the back of the piece. To get a very fluffy result, turn your work so the 'wrong' side of the stitches is on the outside of the finished piece."

Jackie Laing creates amazing replicas of TV characters in crochet, such as the stars of *The Big Bang Theory*.

TURN THE PAGE FOR AN ADORABLE AMIGURUMI DUCKLING. REMEMBER TO SHARE SOME PICTURES OF YOUR FINISHED AMIGURUMI PROJECTS ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE.





Beautiful Duckling

BY TESSA VAN RIET-ERNST

Brother to the “ugly duckling”, we think this adorable amigurumi is completely irresistible!



This cute design is taken from *Amigurumi Fairy Tales* by Tessa van Riet-Ernst, where you can also find a pattern for the ugly duckling opposite! (Amigurumipatterns.net, £12.99).

MATERIALS

- Sport weight/light DK yarn
- Yarn A:** Off white x 5g
- Yarn B:** Orange x 10g
- Yarn C:** Yellow x 20g
- Black round safety eyes, 5mm/1/4in
- 2.5mm hook
- Sewing pins
- Yarn needle
- Toy stuffing

TENSION

Exact tension is not essential for this design, but ensure you have a firm fabric so the stuffing does not show through.

MEASUREMENTS

Finished duck is 9cm/3½in tall.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Tessa is a self-described “amigurumi addict” who has written several books of amigurumi patterns. View more of her designs at www.ravelry.com/designers/tessa-van-riet.

SPECIAL STITCHES

Inc: 2dc in next stitch.

Invisible decrease (dec): Insert the hook in the front loop of your first stitch, then immediately insert your hook in the front loop of your second stitch (3 loops on hook). Yoh, draw through first 2 loops

on hook. Yoh, draw through remaining 2 loops on hook.



HEAD

Start at the top of the head.

Rnd 1: With yarn C, 6dc in an adjustable ring – 6 sts.

Rnd 2: Inc (see *Special Stitches*) six times – 12 sts.

Rnd 3: (Dc in next st, inc in next st) six times – 18 sts.

Rnd 4: (Dc in next 2 sts, inc in next st) six times – 24 sts.

Rnd 5: (Dc in next 3 sts, inc in next st) six times – 30 sts.

Rnd 6: (Dc in next 4 sts, inc in next st) six times – 36 sts.

Rnds 7–10: Dc around – 36 sts.

Rnd 11: (Dc in next 4 sts, dec (see *Special Stitches*)) six times – 30 sts. Insert the safety eyes between rnds 8 & 9 with 2 sts between them.

Rnd 12: (Dc in next 3 sts, dec) six times – 24 sts.

Rnd 13: (Dc in next 2 sts, dec) six times – 18 sts.

Rnd 14: (Dc in next st, dec) six times – 12 sts.

Stuff the head.

Rnd 15: (Dc in next 2 sts, dec) three times – 9 sts.

Rnd 16: Dc around – 9 sts.

Rnd 17: Inc nine times – 18 sts. Sl st in next st. Fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing. Finish stuffing the head.

BEAK

With yarn B, 7ch. Crochet around both sides of the foundation chain.

Rnd 1: Starting in second ch from hook, dc in next 5 sts, inc in next st. Continue on other side of the foundation chain, dc in next 5 sts – 12 sts.

Rnds 2 & 3: Dc around – 12 sts. Sl st in next st. Fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing.

Flatten the beak and pinch it in a semi-circle shape. Pin the beak in between rnds 9 & 10 of the head, underneath the eyes. Sew the beak on with the yarn tail.

BODY

Rnd 1: With yarn C, 6dc in adjustable ring – 6 sts.

Rnd 2: (Dc in next 2 sts, inc in next st) twice – 8 sts.

Rnd 3: (Dc in next 3 sts, inc in next st) twice – 10 sts.

Rnd 4: (Dc in next 4 sts, inc in next st) twice – 12 sts.

Rnd 5: (Dc in next st, inc in next st) six times – 18 sts.

Rnd 6: (Dc in next 2 sts, inc in next st) six times – 24 sts.

Rnd 7: (Dc in next 3 sts, inc in next st) six times – 30 sts.

Rnd 8: Dc in next 10 sts, dec five times, dc in last 10 sts – 25 sts.

Rnd 9: (Dc in next 4 sts, inc in next st) five times – 30 sts.

Rnd 10: (Dc in next 4 sts, inc in next st) six times – 36 sts.

Rnd 11: Dc around – 36 sts.

Rnd 12: (Dc in next 4 sts, dec) six times – 30 sts.

Rnd 13: (Dc in next 3 sts, dec) six times – 24 sts.

Rnd 14: (Dc in next 2 sts, dec) six times – 18 sts. Stuff the body.

Rnd 15: (Dc in next st, dec) six times – 12 sts.

Sl st in next st. Fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing.

Finish stuffing the body.

Using your yarn needle, weave the yarn tail through the front loop of each remaining stitch and pull it tight to close the hole. Fasten off and weave in the yarn end.

The decreases in rnd 8 of the body face down.

Sew rnd 17 of the head over rnds 5–9 of the body.

WING

Make two

Rnd 1: With yarn C, 6dc in an adjustable ring – 6 sts.

Rnd 2: (Inc) six times – 12 sts.

Rnd 3: (Dc in next st, inc in next st) six times – 18 sts.

Rnd 4: (Dc in next 2 sts, inc in next st) six times – 24 sts.

Rnd 5: (Dc in next 3 sts, inc in next st) six times – 30 sts.

Flatten the wing. The wing does not need to be stuffed.

Rnd 6: Dc through stitches on both sides at once to join, dc in all 14 sts – 14 sts.

Sl st in next st. Fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing.

Pin the wings to both sides of the body. The round side faces downward and the front touches rnd 13.

Sew only the front to rnds 11–13. Leave the rest of the wing untouched.

If you make more ducklings, you can sew the wings in different positions.

FOOT

Make two

Rnd 1: With yarn B, 6dc in an adjustable ring – 6 sts.

Rnd 2: (Dc in next 2 sts, inc in next st) twice – 8 sts.

Rnd 3: (Dc in next 3 sts, inc in next st) twice – 10 sts.

Rnd 4: (Dc in next 4 sts, inc in next st) twice – 12 sts.

Rnd 5: Dc around – 12 sts. Flatten the foot. The foot does not need to be stuffed.

Rnd 6: Crocheting through stitches on both sides at once to join, dc around – 5 sts.

Sl st in next st. Fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing.

Pin the feet underneath the body, the back side touching rnds 10–12 of the body.

Sew the feet on with the yarn tail.



BELLY

Rnd 1: With yarn A, 6dc in an adjustable ring – 6 sts.

Rnd 2: (Inc) six times – 12 sts.

Rnd 3: (Dc in next st, inc in next st) six times – 18 sts. Sl st in next st.

Fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing.

Pin the belly to the body, the bottom side touches rnd 15 of the body. Sew the belly on with the yarn tail.

END



Canal Boat

BY KATE BRUNING

Hook this sweet canal barge and dream of lazy holidays, drifting along the water and enjoying the countryside...



This fun design is taken from *Let's Go Camping* by Kate Bruning. (Kyle Books, £9.99). Photography by Keiko Oikawa.

MATERIALS

- DK yarn, 50g
- Yarn A:** Navy Blue x 1 ball
- Yarn B:** Sea Green x 1 ball
- Yarn C:** Pale Blue x 1 ball
- Yarn D:** Pink x 1 ball
- Yarn E:** Dusty Yellow x 2 balls
- Yarn F:** Sky Blue x 1 ball
- Yarn G:** Red x 1 ball
- 4ply yarn, 50g
- Yarn H:** Pale Blue x 1 ball
- Yarn I:** Silver x 1 ball
- 2.5mm & 3.5mm hooks
- Three paper drinking straws
- Cardboard
- Lightweight cotton fabric, 45 x 40cm/17¾ x 15¾in
- Mini bobble trim or ric rac
- Bead
- Duct tape
- Craft knife
- Fabric glue
- Hot glue gun

YARN ALTERNATIVES

A bamboo/wool mix yarn works wonderfully well in this project

as its sheen makes the boat look as though it has just had a fresh coat of paint!

TENSION

Exact tension is not essential for this pattern.

MEASUREMENTS

The boat is sized to fit traditional Playmobil toy figures.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Kate is an Australian crochet designer who lives in New Zealand with her husband and their children. Read her blog at www.greedyforcolour.blogspot.co.uk.

SPECIAL STITCHES

3tr together (3tr tog): Wrap yarn around hook, insert hook through stitch and grab yarn. Draw the hook back through the stitch and then grab the yarn again. Pull yarn through the first 2 sts. *Wrap yarn around hook again

and insert the hook through next st. Grab yarn and draw hook back through st again. Pull yarn through first 2 sts. Repeat from * one more time then grab the yarn and pull it through all 4 loops on hook.



BOAT BASE

Foundation Row:

Using yarn A and

3.5mm hook, 19ch.

Row 1: Starting in second ch from hook, 18dc. 1ch, turn – 18 sts.

Rows 2–60: 1dc into every st. 1ch, turn.

Rows 61 & 62: 1dc, miss 1 st, dc across to the last st, miss 1 st, 1dc, 1ch, turn – 14 sts.

Row 63: 1dc into every st, 1ch, turn.

Rows 64–69: Repeat rows 61–63 twice more – 12 sts.

Row 70: As for row 61 – 4 sts.

Row 71: 1dc, miss the next 2 sts, 1dc, 1ch.

Trace around the crochet base panel onto cardboard. Cut out two cardboard templates.

Rnd 72: 71dc down the first side, 17dc across the back, 71dc up the other side, sl st back into the first dc – 159 sts.

Rnds 73–76: 1dc into every st.

Rnd 77: Change to yarn D, 1dc into every st.

Rnd 78: Change to yarn B, 1dc into every st.

Rnds 79 & 80: 1dc into every st.

Rnd 81: 1dc, miss 1 st, 10dc, miss 1 st, 27dc, miss 1 st, 30dc, miss 1 st, 16dc, miss 1 st, 30dc, miss 1 st, 27dc, miss 1 st, 9dc, miss 1 st, 1dc – 151 sts.

Rnd 82: 1dc into every st.

Rnd 83: Change to yarn C, 1dcblo into every st.

Rnds 84–90: 1dc into every st.

Rnd 91: 3ch, 3tr tog, 63tr, 3tr tog, 13tr, 3tr tog, 63tr, 3tr tog, sl st back into the first of 3ch – 143 sts. Fasten off.

BASE FRAME

Measure the width from the beginning of rnd 81 to the end of rnd 82 (it should be approximately 1cm/½in).

Take one cardboard base template

and trace this margin around the inside of the template.

Using a craft knife, carefully cut around the margin to create two intact pieces – one outer ring, one inner piece. Measure the width between rows 72–80.

Take the other base template.

Now make the following three measurements: the length down either side of the base and the length across the straight end of the base.

Cut three pieces of cardboard to these lengths and the width between rows 72–80.

Gently bend the sides of the longer pieces of cardboard to suit the curve of the base. Tape them together and repeat with the straight end.

Measure between the gap inside the base frame from the bottom to the top.

Cut lengths of paper straws to fit and tape them inside. This gives the top rim more strength.

Take the cardboard outer ring that was removed from the first cardboard template.

Tape this to the top of the sides to form a rim.

Take the leftover inner piece of cardboard and trace around it onto fabric, adding an extra 1cm/½in margin on the outside.

Glue the fabric onto the cardboard, snip around the depth of the margin on the curves and then fold over and glue the margin to the back of the cardboard.

Insert the cardboard base frame into the crochet base.

Stretch the sides around the cardboard frame and then down into the frame. Secure the inside edge of the crochet (rnd 91) with little dabs of hot glue.

Glue the fabric covered cardboard base to the base frame making sure that the crocheted edges from rnd 91 are covered.

Measure between the gap inside



the base frame from the bottom to the top. Cut lengths of paper straws to fit and tape them inside. This gives the top rim more strength.

BACK FLAP

This section forms a platform between the back door of the cabin and the back of the boat base. The Captain does need somewhere to stand after all!

Foundation Row: Using yarn B and 3.5mm hook, 15ch.

Row 1: Starting in second ch from hook, 14dc. 1ch, turn – 14 sts.

Row 2: 1dc into every st, 1ch, turn.

Row 3: 1dc into every st.

Fasten off.

Sew to the edge of the blo rim along the straight back end.

Sew the ends of the step to both sides of the rim.

CABIN

SIDE PANEL

Foundation Row: Using yarn E and 3.5mm hook, 13ch.

Row 1: Starting in second ch from

hook, 12dc, 1ch, turn – 12 sts.

Rows 2–121: 1dc into every st, 1ch, turn.

Row 122: 1dc into every st. Fasten off.

Measure a length of cardboard to match the side panel.

Cut out a piece of fabric using the cardboard template, adding an extra 1cm/½in margin to the piece. Glue the fabric to the cardboard template, then fold and glue the extra margin of fabric around to the back of the cardboard template. Establish where the template will need to bend for the back wall and lightly score the backside of the cardboard template in those places. Glue the cardboard template to the crochet panel.

FRONT PANEL

Foundation Row: Using yarn E and 3.5mm hook, 20ch.

Row 1: Starting in second ch from hook, 19dc, 1ch, turn – 19 sts.

Rows 2–11: 1dc into every st, 1ch, turn.



Row 12: 1dc into every st.
Fasten off.

Measure a length of cardboard to match the front panel.
Cut out a piece of fabric using the cardboard template, adding an extra 1cm/½in margin to the piece.

Glue the fabric to the cardboard template and fold and glue the extra margin of fabric around to the back of the cardboard template.

Glue the cardboard template to crochet panel.
Sew the front panel to the two ends of the side panel.

ROOF

Foundation Row: Using yarn E and 3.5mm hook, 14ch.

Row 1: Starting in second ch from hook, 13dc, 1ch, turn – 13 sts.

Rows 2–51: 1dc into every st, 1ch, turn.

Row 52: 1dc, miss 1 st, 11dc, 1ch, turn – 12 sts.

Row 53: 1dc into every st, 1ch, turn.

Row 54: 10dc, miss 1 st, 1dc, 1ch, don't turn – 11 sts.

Row 55: 53dc down the first side, (1dc, 2ch, 1dc) into the corner st, 11dc, (1dc, 2ch, 1dc) into the corner st, 53dc, 2ch, sl st back into the first dc – 121 sts.

Rnd 56: Using yarn F, 1dc into every st.
Fasten off.

Measure a length of cardboard to match the side panel.

Cut out a piece of fabric using the cardboard template, adding an extra 1cm/½in margin to the piece.
Glue the fabric to the cardboard template and fold and glue the extra margin of fabric around to the back of the cardboard template.

Glue the cardboard template to crochet panel.

Sew one side of the roof to the side panel.

Glue mini bobble trim around the

top front and side panels.

DOOR

Foundation Row: Using yarn G and 3.5mm hook, 8ch.

Row 1: Starting in second ch from hook, 7dc, 1ch, turn – 7 sts.

Rows 2–8: 1dc into every st, 1ch, turn.

Row 9: 1dc into every st.
Fasten off.

Rnd 10: Using yarn F, 1dc into every st around each side, (1dc, 2ch, 1dc) into every corner st – 32 sts.

Glue to the outside back wall of the cabin. Sew on a bead for a door knob.

RECTANGULAR WINDOWS

Make 12

Foundation Row: Using yarn H and 2.5mm hook, 9ch.

Row 1: Starting in second ch from hook, 8dc, 1ch, turn – 8 sts.

Rows 2–6: 1dc into every st, 1ch, turn.

Row 7: 1dc into every st.
Fasten off.

Rnd 8: Using yarn I, work 1dc into every st around each side, (1dc, 2ch, 1dc) into every corner st – 32 sts.

Glue into place on the inside and outside of the cabin using photos as a guide.

ROUND WINDOWS

Make eight

Using yarn H and 2.5mm hook, 2ch.

Rnd 1: Work 6dc into the second ch from hook, sl st back into the first dc.

Rnd 2: 2dc into every st – 12 sts.

Rnd 3: *1dc, 2dc into the next st; rep from * until end of round – 18 sts.

Rnd 4: Using yarn I, *2dc, 2dc into the next st*; rep until the end of rnd – 24 sts.

Fasten off.

Glue into place on the inside and outside of the cabin following the photographs.

FRONT WINDOW

Make two

Foundation Row: Using yarn H and 2.5mm hook, 9ch.

Row 1: Starting in second ch from hook, 8dc, 1ch, turn – 8 sts.

Rows 2–13: 1dc into every st, 1ch, turn.

Row 14: 1dc into every st.
Fasten off.

Rnd 15: Using yarn I, 1dc into every st around each side, (1dc, 2ch, 1dc) into every corner st – 46 sts.

Glue into place on the inside and outside of the cabin following the photograph.

JOINING BASE AND CABIN

Run a fine line of hot glue around the bottom of the cabin and the line inside the base rim. Place the cabin on top of the base so that the back of the cabin lines up with the back flap.

Hold firmly until the glue sets.

Sew the back flap along the bottom of the cabin (under the door).

END

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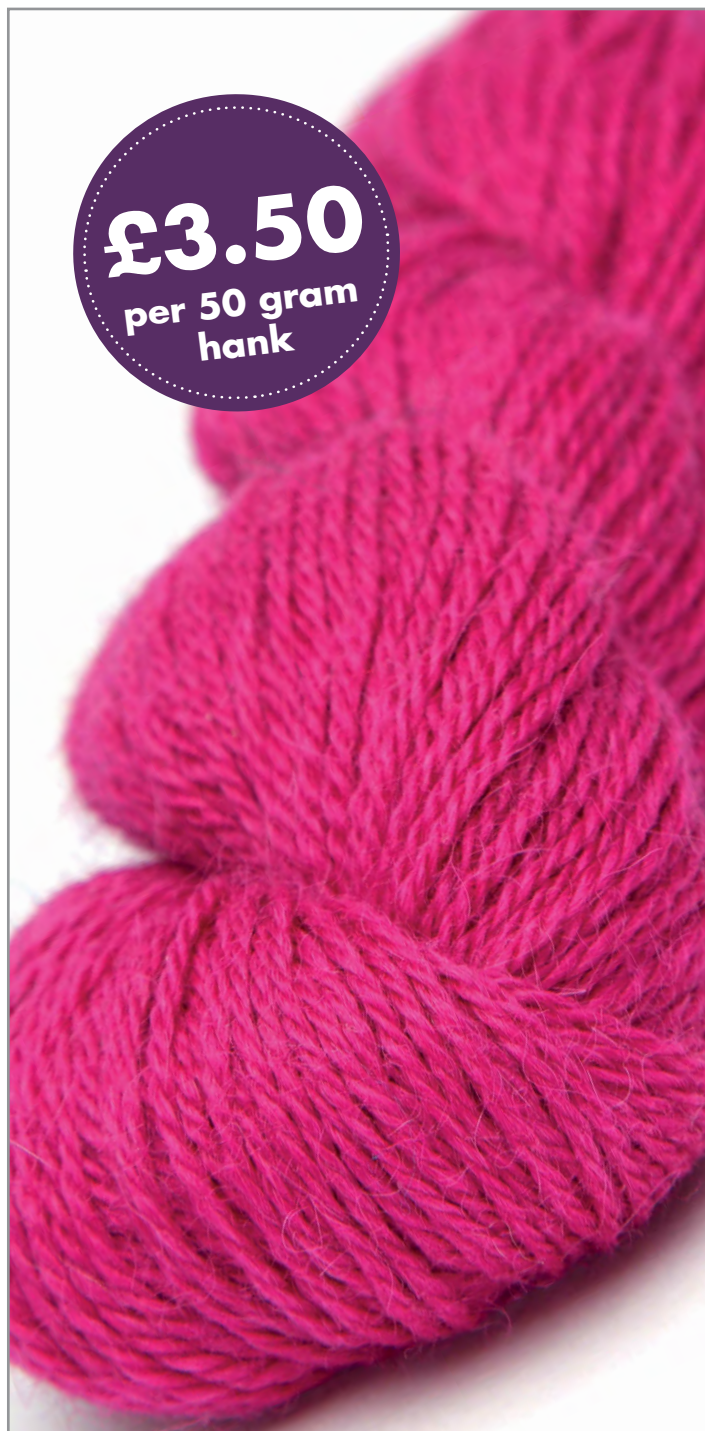


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How to Crochet

♥
Liz Ward's
Cowl Neck Poncho
(issue 71) uses chunky
yarn and a large
hook to create a
big impact



I have always believed that anyone can learn to crochet, so long as you follow one simple rule: don't try to run before you can chain! The chain is the most simple of

stitches and therefore ideal for practising the all-important hold, which helps create the perfect tension for forming all the following stitches. When my mother taught me to crochet, she followed her grandmother's lead and helped me to hook metre upon metre of chain before I was shown any further stitches. It was a fantastic foundation for learning the more difficult techniques. Once your chains are looking even and feel comfortable to create, then progressing on to the stitches becomes much easier.

If at any point you feel as if you have lost your hold, go back to those comforting lengths of chain until your confidence returns. My biggest tip is to remember that this wonderful craft is well known for being relaxing and fun, which is why crochet is completely addictive, so enjoy it!

Claire x

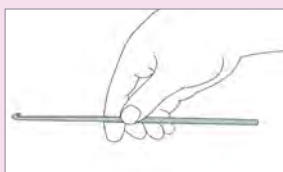
TEACH YOURSELF
How to hold the work,
chains, double
& treble crochet,
slip stitch

TURN THE PAGE FOR ALL
YOU NEED TO GET STARTED

THE BASICS

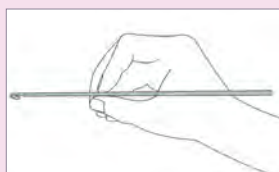
To crochet smoothly and efficiently, you must hold the hook and yarn in a relaxed, comfortable and consistent fashion. This will also ensure that your tension is even and accurate. There are two main ways of holding the hook and two main ways to tension the yarn. You can choose whichever combination feels more natural for you, or a variation on these.

HOLDING THE HOOK



KNIFE GRIP

Hold the hook in your dominant hand as you would a knife.



PENCIL GRIP

Hold the hook in your dominant hand as you would a pencil.

HOLDING THE YARN



FOREFINGER METHOD

Wrap the ball end of the yarn around the little finger of your opposite hand, under the next two fingers and over the forefinger. Hold the work steady with your middle finger and thumb, then raise your forefinger when working to create tension.



MIDDLE-FINGER METHOD

Wrap the ball end of the yarn around the little finger of your opposite hand and over the other fingers. Hold the work steady with your forefinger and thumb, then raise your middle finger while you are crocheting to create tension.

Working left-handed

To crochet left-handed, simply do the opposite to the right-handed holds. Hold a mirror up to any picture in this guide to see how to work.

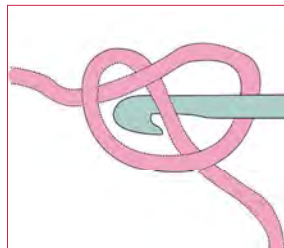
TOPTIP

It doesn't matter if your stitches tend towards being slightly tight or even a little loose; you are aiming for an even tension throughout to achieve a professional finish.

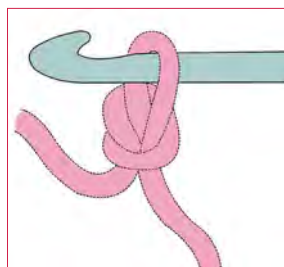
GETTING STARTED

SLIPKNOT

A slipknot creates the first loop on the hook.



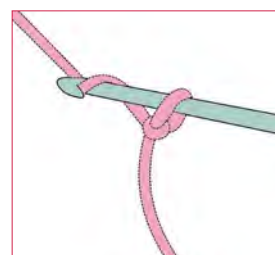
1 Make a loop in the yarn around 10–20cm/4–8in from the end. Insert hook through loop, catch the back strand of yarn and pull it through to the front.



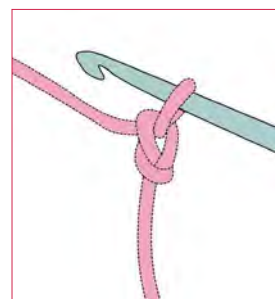
2 Pull the ends of the yarn to secure the knot around the hook, but not too tightly or it will be hard to pull the first loop of chain through.

CHAIN

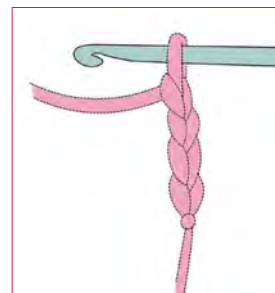
Most crochet projects begin with a length of chain. This is the perfect stitch to practise your hold and tension with.



1 Holding just the hook with point up in your dominant hand, and the yarn in the other, grip the slipknot with the yarn holding hand. Work a yarn round hook (yrh or yoh) by passing the hook in front of the yarn, under and around it.



2 Roll the hook round in your fingers towards you to catch the yarn and pull through loop on hook. One chain made.



3 Ensuring the stitches are even – not too loose or tight – repeat to make a length of chain.

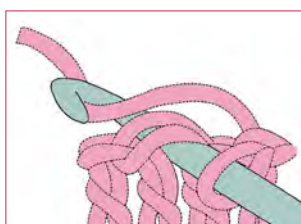
TOPTIP

The action of working stitches causes a constant rolling of the hook in your fingers; hold the hook pointing up when performing the yrh, then roll it round towards you to point down when pulling through the loops so that you don't catch the hook in the stitches.

THE MAIN STITCHES

SLIP STITCH (sl st)

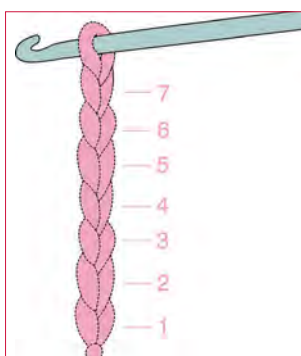
A slip stitch is usually used to join one stitch to another, or to join a stitch to another point. It is generally made by picking up two strands of a stitch but when used all over, you usually only pick up the back loop.



1 Insert hook into st or chain required. Yarn over hook, as when you make a chain. Pull a loop through all stitches/loops/work on hook to finish slip stitch.

COUNTING A CHAIN

The right side of your chain is the one that looks like a little plait of “v” shapes. Each “v” is a stitch and must be counted. When you are working the chain, you do not count the slipknot, but begin to count your chain when you pull through the first loop. To count the chain afterwards you count the slipknot as the first stitch, but not the loop on the hook, or “working” loop.



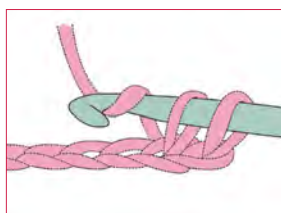
Double crochet stitches are perfect for making amigurumi, while treble crochets are used to create the classic granny square design

Make Irene Strange's adorable Hand Hotties from issue 61, worked in double crochet stitches

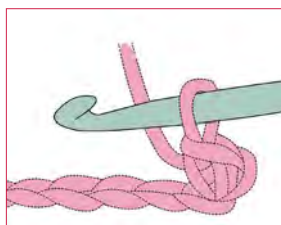


DOUBLE CROCHET (dc)

The smallest stitch, creating a dense fabric perfect for amigurumi.



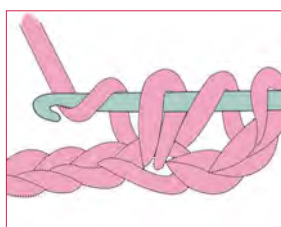
1 Insert hook into chain or stitch, front to back. Yarn over hook and draw through stitch to front, leaving you with two loops on the hook. Yarn round hook.



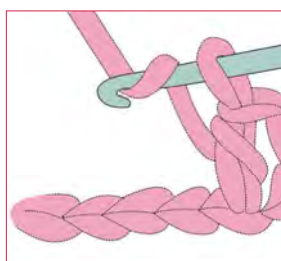
2 Draw through both loops to finish the stitch. Double crochet completed.

HALF TREBLE CROCHET (htr)

Slightly taller than a double crochet stitch, with a softer drape to the resulting fabric.



1 Yarn over hook, insert hook into st from front to back and draw loop through stitch only. This gives you three loops on the hook. Yarn round hook.



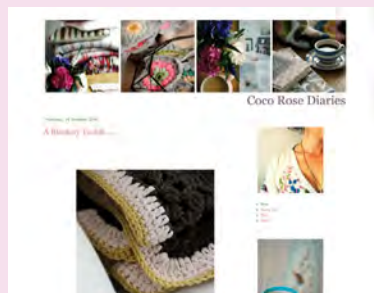
2 Draw yarn through three remaining loops on the hook together to complete half treble.

Top crochet websites

slugs on the refrigerator



⇒ Kat Goldin's beautiful and colourful site showcases her work as well as the varied projects she is involved with. The Crochet Camp tutorials alone are well worth a visit. www.slugsontherefrigerator.com



⇒ This pretty blog is the go-to site for inspiration and tutorials for many a crafter. Spend a happy few hours browsing all the colourful makes and sweet photography. www.cocorose textiles.blogspot.co.uk



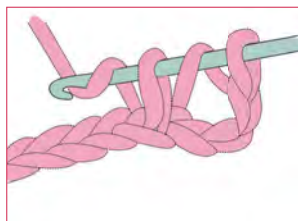
⇒ Follow Heike on her colourful travels, be inspired by her beautiful motifs and hook some gorgeous free patterns. www.madewithloops.co.uk

⇒ The UK Hand Knitting Association website is packed with helpful information on shops, workshops and craft teachers near you. www.ukhandknitting.com

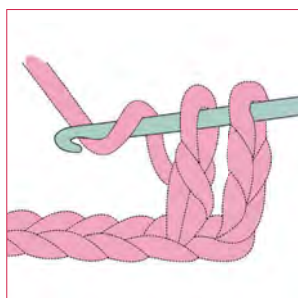
⇒ Purplelinda Crafts' crochet-centric store is a treasure trove of crochet-related haberdashery, patterns and threads. www.purplelindacrafts.co.uk

TREBLE CROCHET (tr)

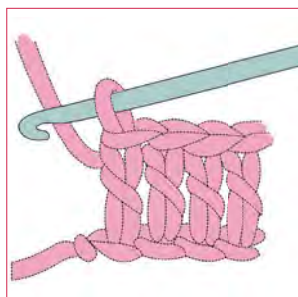
The tallest of the basic stitches, great for using within more complex patterns.



1 Yarn round hook, insert hook into stitch from front to back and draw loop through stitch only. This gives you three loops on the hook. Yarn round hook.



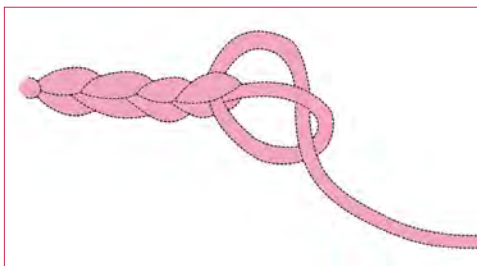
2 Pull loop through two loops. Two loops on hook. Yarn round hook.



3 Pull loop through the remaining two loops to complete treble, repeat to end of row.

FASTEN OFF

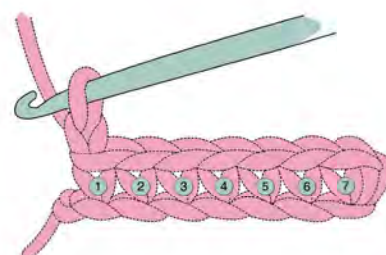
Pull up final loop of last stitch to make it bigger and cut the yarn, leaving enough of an end to weave in. Pull end through loop, and pull up tightly to secure.



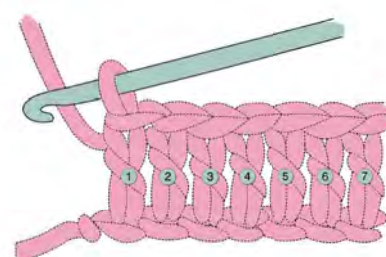
COUNTING STITCHES

Count the post or "stem" of each stitch from the side of your work. Each post counts as one stitch.

Double crochet



Treble crochet



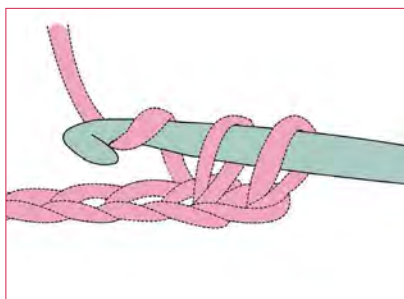
TOP TIP

Try to count your stitches at regular intervals, usually at the end of every, or every other, row and especially after an increase or decrease row. It is best to try to catch any mistakes as quickly as possible, as this will make them much easier to rectify!

USING THE STITCHES

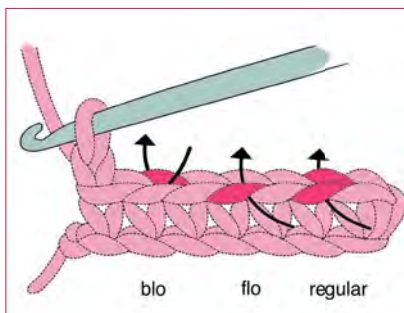
WORKING INTO A CHAIN

When working into a chain, you need to miss out the appropriate number of chain stitches called for with your particular stitch (see the information on turning chains, to the right). Now insert the hook from front to back into the next chain, under the top loop of the chain. Yarn over and draw a loop through to the front of the chain.



WORKING INTO WHICH LOOP?

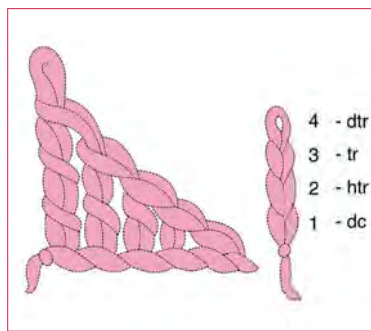
Crochet stitches are always worked through both loops of the next stitch (this looks like a “v” on top of the stitch), unless the pattern tells you otherwise.



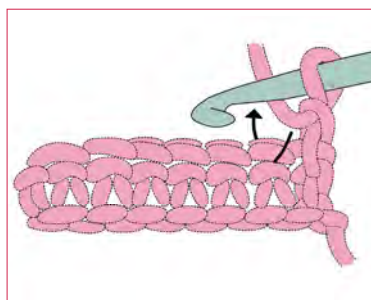
Sometimes a pattern will ask you to work only through one loop of the stitch. To work through the front loop only (flo), insert your hook under the front loop of the next stitch, then bring it out at the centre of the stitch, then complete. To work through the back loop only (blo), insert your hook through the centre of the stitch, then under the back loop to the back, then complete the stitch. Sometimes you are even asked to work in between the stitches. In this case, ignore the top loops of the stitch and insert your hook between the posts of adjoining stitches.

WORKING STRAIGHT

When working straight, you need to turn your work at the end of a row and then work a turning chain (t-ch) to the height of your intended stitch so that you can continue working along the next row. This chain often counts as the first stitch of the row and each type of stitch uses a different number of chain stitches for the turning chain.



With htr and taller stitches, you now miss out the first stitch of the row, then work into every following stitch. This is because the turning chain is tall enough to count as the first stitch itself, so is counted as the first stitch of the row. This also means that you must remember to work the last stitch of a row into the top of the previous row's turning chain.

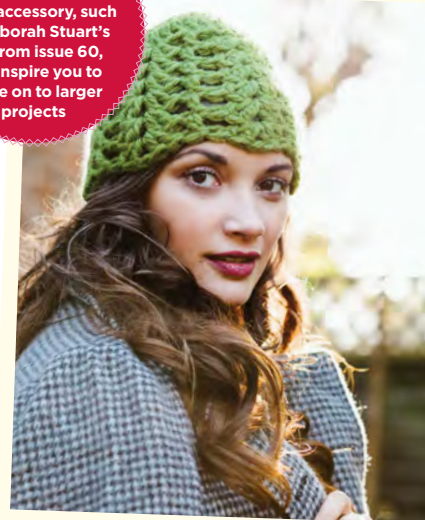


WORKING INTO A SPACE

Sometimes you are asked to work into a space or a chain space. To do this simply insert your hook into the hole underneath the chain, then complete your stitch normally.

This is similar to working into a ring, as shown on page 94.

Starting off with a small accessory, such as Deborah Stuart's hat from issue 60, will inspire you to move on to larger projects



Sometimes you are asked to work into a space or chain space.

To do this, simply insert your hook into the hole underneath the chain and complete the stitch normally

KEEPING STRAIGHT EDGES

Knowing which stitch to work into when working straight can be a problem for beginners, because the turning chain has such a role to play. If you don't know which stitch to work into after making your turning chain, simply unravel back to the last stitch from previous row and insert a thread or stitch marker into that stitch. Make your desired turning chain then miss out the stitch with the thread in (except with dc stitches), as your turning chain now counts as the first stitch of the row. Once you have worked across all stitches in the row, you must remember to put a stitch into the top of the previous row's turning chain, as this also counts as a stitch.

*Beginner
books we
recommend*



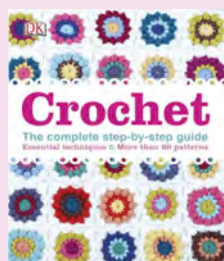
CROCHET WORKSHOP
Erika Knight
(Quadrille, £16.99)

One of the most stylish crochet books on the market, this has easy-to-follow instructions and modern, desirable patterns to practise your skills on.



HOW TO CROCHET
Emma Varnam
(GMC, £7.99)

This guide is a simple-to-follow, project-based book. These projects take you through all the essential techniques, which are explained with the help of clear illustrations.



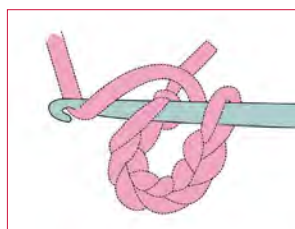
CROCHET
(Dorling Kindersley, £25)
A clear, comprehensive guide using UK terms, with over 80 simple patterns to try, this contains all you need to know to become an accomplished crocheter.

WORKING IN THE ROUND

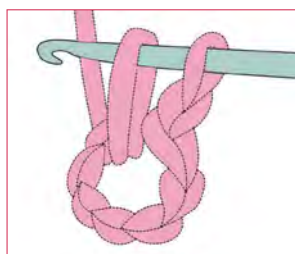
When working in the round, instead of working backwards and forwards along the work, turning at the end of each round, you simply work with the right side facing you at all times and you do not turn. When working in the round, you generally begin one of three ways:

WORKING AROUND A RING

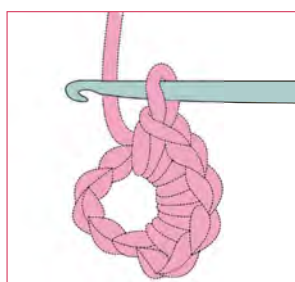
This method of working in the round creates a large hole at the centre of your work. Its size is dependent on the length of chain used.



Make a length of chain as required, then insert your hook into the first chain stitch you made. Yarn round hook.



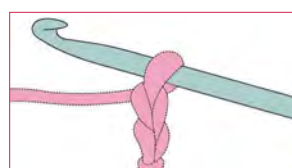
Work a slip stitch to join, creating a ring, and then work your turning chain dependent on which stitch you will be working into the ring. Insert hook into the centre of the ring and work the first stitch into this ring.



Work required number of stitches into the centre of the ring and join round with a slip stitch. Do not turn, but continue the next row around the last.

WORKING INTO A SHORT CHAIN

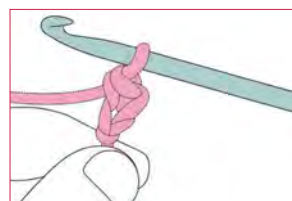
You can create a smaller hole in the centre of your work by working into a chain as short as 2ch long.



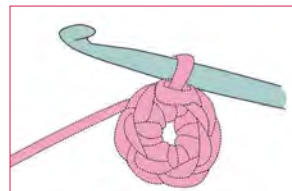
For double crochets, as in this example, work 2ch. For htr you would work 3ch and for trebles, 4ch.



Insert hook into the top loop of the first chain as shown. Yarn round hook.



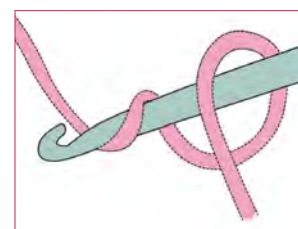
Complete the first stitch in the chain as shown (illustrations show dc, but can be any stitch).



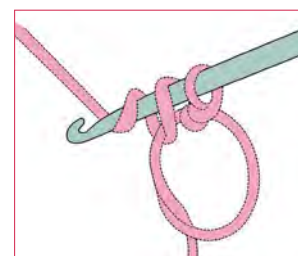
Now work the required amount of stitches into the same chain. The sheer amount of stitches worked into one place will cause them to fan out into a round. Now join this round with a slip stitch and continue with the pattern.

ADJUSTABLE RING

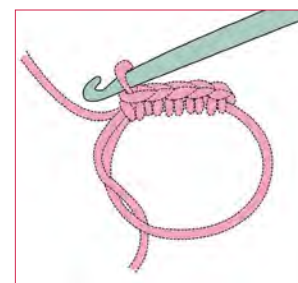
This method is also referred to as the magic loop or ring, as it creates a round with no hole at the centre. Here it is demonstrated with double crochet.



Make a loop in your yarn, at least 15cm/6in from the tail end. Insert hook through the loop from front to back.



Pull yarn though to front of loop and complete the stitch around the loop and the tail end of yarn held double.

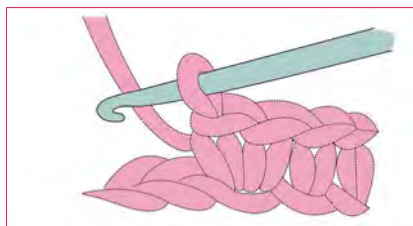


Work all the following stitches into the ring in the same way, over the two strands of yarn in the loop. Once all stitches have been worked, pull the loose tail end of the yarn to close the ring and join the round with a slip stitch.

SHAPING, COLOURWORK & TENSION

Once you've learned simple shaping stitches, you can create almost any garment – and add in different colours as you go with our simple technique. Make sure to check your tension first though, or your finished piece could be completely the wrong size!

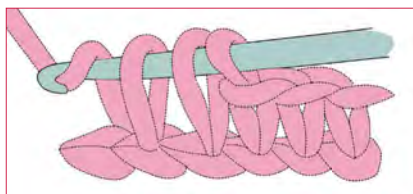
INCREASING



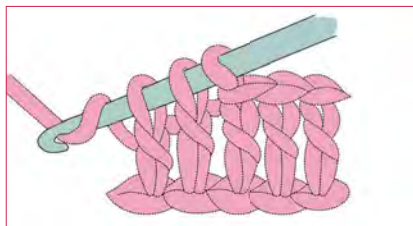
To work an extra stitch, you simply need to work into the same stitch more than once. Work one stitch as normal. Insert hook into same stitch you've just worked and complete another stitch. One stitch increased.

DECREASING

To decrease a stitch, you need to work into two stitches without finishing them, then work them together.



For a double crochet (above), insert hook into next st, yarn over hook and draw a loop through the stitch, but do not finish the double crochet stitch as usual. Insert hook into following st, yarn over hook and draw a loop through the next st, so there are three loops on the hook in total. Yarn over hook and draw the loop through all loops on hook, drawing two stitches together. One stitch decreased.



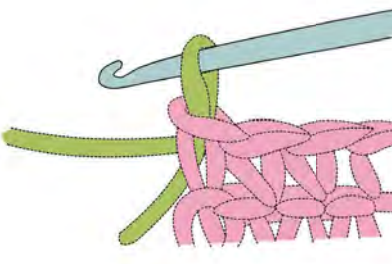
For a treble crochet, work a treble into the next stitch until the last step of the stitch, two loops on hook. Do the same into the following stitch, three loops on hook. Draw through all three loops on hook to draw the two trebles together. One stitch decreased.

JOINING IN A NEW COLOUR

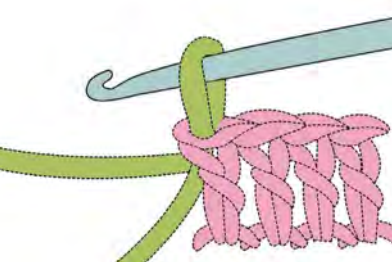
To join in a new colour (or a new ball of the same colour), you can simply fasten off the old yarn and then attach the new colour with a slip stitch into the top of the last stitch made. However, for a neater join, you can also work the colour change as follows:

Work the last stitch in the colour you are using first, up to the final step, so that the stitch is unfinished. Pull the new colour through the loops on your hook, completing the stitch and joining the new colour at the same time.

Working a new colour over double crochet

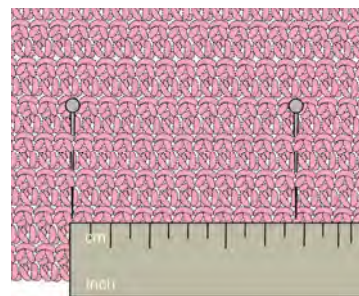


Working a new colour over treble crochet



Once you have joined in the new yarn, you can weave in the ends of both yarns as you go, by holding them on top of your stitches and working round them as you work into the following stitches. Do this for at least 5cm/2in then cut the remaining ends.

TENSION/GAUGE



A tension swatch is used to ensure that you are working at the tension called for in the pattern. It is essential to check this, otherwise your finished garment is likely to be the wrong size! Crochet a small square of just over 10 x 10cm/4 x 4in in the main yarn and stitch used in the pattern, then count and calculate the average amount of stitches per cm.

Chain a few more stitches and work more rows than the tension in the pattern suggests you'll need for this size. Once you have completed the swatch, use a measuring tape or ruler, place some pins at 0 and 10 and take some average measurements – count how many stitches and rows to 10cm at different points over the swatch.

If you find you have more stitches per cm than indicated in the pattern, then your tension is too tight and you need to work more loosely. The best way to do this is to increase the size of hook you're using by a quarter or half millimetre until the tension is as close as you can get it. If there are fewer stitches than required, then you are crocheting too loosely, and you need to decrease the size of hook used in the same way.

TURN THE PAGE FOR CLUSTER STITCHES, TIPS AND A FULL GLOSSARY OF CROCHET ABBREVIATIONS, UK VS US TERMS AND HOOK SIZES

CLUSTERS

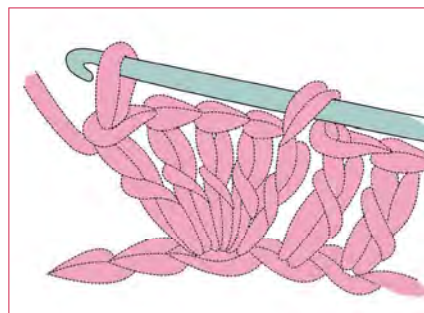
Clusters are groups of stitches worked into the same stitch, but rather than an increase, they still only equate to one stitch overall. Clusters can be confusing to work, so here are the details of some of the main cluster stitches.

BOBBLE

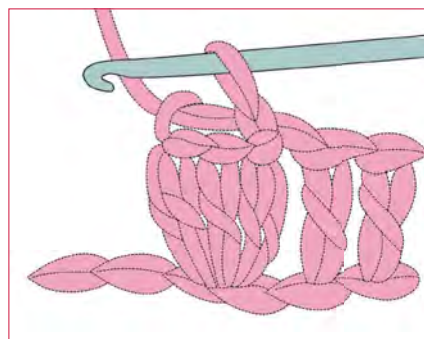
A bobble is a number of stitches (generally trebles), half finished and all worked into the same stitch. Work each stitch until the last step, omitting this final step. Once the desired number of half finished trebles have been completed, you will have one more loop on your hook than you have half finished trebles. Yarn round hook, then pull through all loops on hook to complete the bobble.

POPCORNS

Popcorns are a number of complete stitches worked into one stitch.



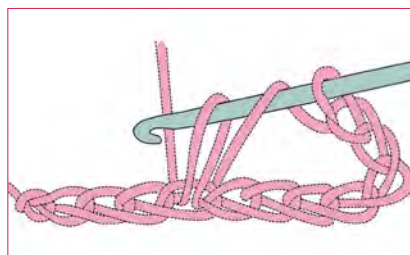
1 Once the sts are completed, remove your hook and insert back into the first stitch worked, then through the final loop.



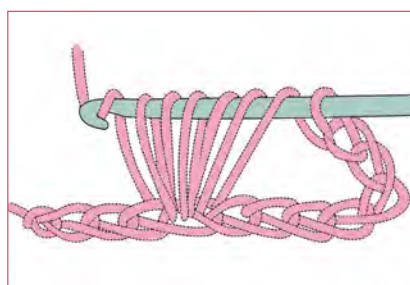
2 Yarn round hook and pull through everything on the hook. Popcorn complete.

PUFFS

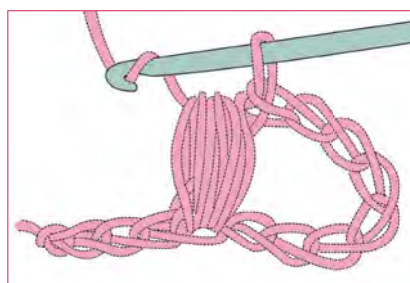
A puff is a number of elongated half trebles worked into the same stitch and then finished together, as follows:



1 Yarn round hook, insert into next stitch, pull a loop through the stitch and then pull it up to the height of all other stitches in the row.



2 Yarn round hook, insert into same stitch, pull a loop through stitch and pull it up to the height of all other stitches in the row. Repeat this step the desired number of times.



3 Yarn round hook and pull through all loops on hook. Puff made.

Choose light-coloured yarn for your first few projects to make sure that you can see all of your stitches easily – this helps prevent mistakes occurring

TIPS AND TRICKS

Working from a pattern

➤ Once you have “cracked the code” and understand the stitches’ abbreviations, a pattern becomes much easier to read. Don’t read a pattern fully before starting it as it may make it seem more complex, but do take a brief look through to check if there are any abbreviations you are unfamiliar with. Consult the abbreviations tables opposite before beginning.

➤ Purchase yarn with the same dye lot number on the balls to avoid unwanted colour changes and choose light coloured yarn for your first projects to make sure that you can see your stitches easily – this helps prevent mistakes occurring.

➤ If you are attempting a project with multiple size options, circle or highlight the instructions for the size you are making throughout the pattern to avoid confusion. The smallest size is listed first, then all following ones inside brackets, increasing in size and separated by commas.

➤ Where a pattern has an accompanying chart, use this for reference, as it shows the formation of the stitches as they will be worked and can help with tricky instructions.

➤ Finally, and most importantly, for projects that need to have a good fit, always check your tension by swatching before you begin.

ABBREVIATIONS

Note: *Inside Crochet* uses UK terms throughout

alt · alternate	etr · extended treble	prev · previous
bef · before	est · established	rem · remain(s); remaining
beg · begin(s); beginning	fdc · foundation double crochet	rep(s) · repeat(s)
bet · between	flo · front loop only	rev dc · reverse double crochet
blo · back loop only	foll · follows; following	rnd(s) · round(s)
ch(s) · chain(s)	fttr · foundation treble crochet	RS · right side
ch-sp(s) · chain space(s)	g · gram(s)	rtf · raised treble front
cl(s) · cluster(s)	gp(s) · group(s)	rtb · raised treble back
cm · centimetre(s)	hk · hook	sl · slip
cont · continue(s); continuing	htr · half treble crochet	sl st · slip stitch
dc · double crochet	htr2tog · work two htr together	sp(s) · space(s)
dc2tog · work two dc together	inc(s) · increase(s); increasing; increased	st(s) · stitch(es)
dec(s) · decrease(s); decreasing; decreased	in · inch(es)	t-ch(s) · turning chain(s)
dtr · double treble crochet	lp(s) · loop(s)	tog · together
dtr2tog · work two dtr together	m · stitch marker	tr · treble crochet
ea · each	mm · millimetre(s)	trtr · triple treble
ech · extended chain	nc · not closed	tr2tog · work two trebles together
edc · extended double crochet	patt · pattern	WS · wrong side
	pm · place marker	yd(s) · yard(s)
		yoh · yarn over hook
		yrh · yarn round hook

BREAKING THE LANGUAGE BARRIER

UK and US terms have differing meanings which can create difficulty for the crocheter. Here's a handy reference guide to overcome any misunderstandings.

UK TERMS

Chain
Miss
Slip stitch
Double crochet
Half treble crochet
Treble crochet
Double treble crochet
Triple treble crochet
Raised treble back/front

US TERMS

Chain
Skip
Slip stitch
Single crochet
Half double crochet
Double crochet
Treble crochet
Double treble crochet
Back/front post dc



Hook sizes

Hook sizes and their designations vary from country to country. When following the recommendations in a pattern or on a ball band, make sure to check which size convention is being used.

CROCHET HOOK SIZES

Metric (mm)	UK	US
0.60		14
0.75		12
1		11
1.25		7
1.50		6
1.75		5
2	14	
2.25		B/1
2.5	12	
2.75		C/2
3	10	
3.25		D/3
3.5	9	E/4
3.75		F/5
4	8	G/6
4.5	7	7
5	6	H/8
5.5	5	I/9
6	4	J/10
6.5	3	K-/101/2
7	2	
8	0	L/11
9	00	M/13
10	000	N/15
11.5		O
12		P
15		Q
20		S

CHARTS KEY

adjustable ring	fl only	tr	rtf	tr2tog	3-tr cl
sl st	dc	dtr	rtb	tr3tog	popcorn
ch	fdc	trtr	dc2tog	puff	linked tr
bl only	htr				

"I love seeing a beginner or an improver smile when they crack the stitch that they've been having trouble with."



Above: Crochet designer and teacher Ali Campbell.

Below: Ali loves colour, and thinks outside the box to do things differently. She says: "I just throw colours together from my stash and they just seem to work."

Ali Campbell

A COLOURFUL RETREAT

We chat to *Inside Crochet* designer Ali about her vibrant patterns and lifelong love of teaching.

Tell us about your life...

I live in an old school house in Shillingstone in Dorset. I live with my husband Ian, who is very supportive of my crochet work. I also have two rescued Lurchers, Scrumpy and Perry, and seven Indian Runner ducks.

How did you get into a career of crochet design and teaching?

I was fortunate enough to email Claire Montgomerie (editor of *Inside Crochet*) at the right time, on the right day with the right design. Since then I have continued to create designs for *Inside Crochet* and other magazines and many books too.

Teaching is important to me and I am lucky enough to have a dedicated crochet classroom right here at the Old School House! I started small scale and taught on a one-to-one basis, until my husband converted our dining room into my classroom.

What's a typical day like for you?

After getting up and walking the dogs, I then muck out my ducks and search the garden for eggs. After breakfast, I make sure my classroom is ready. A typical class lasts for two hours but it does run over most times, especially when we all get chatting! I then grab a quick lunch and prepare for my next class. Then it's back to walk the dogs and lock the ducks away. If it's my turn to cook, then I make dinner, or if it's my husband's turn I grab a glass of wine and catch up with emails and phone calls.

What's your favourite thing about teaching people to crochet?

It's definitely seeing a beginner or an improver smile when they've cracked the stitch that they had been having trouble with. Their smile lights me up and makes me so proud of them and happy, too.

What's your top piece of advice to beginner crocheters?

To breathe! I have taught thousands to crochet and the thing I notice the most, whether you are teaching yourself, or whether you are in a class, is that you are so tense, you forget to breathe! One more thing – every 20 minutes or so, put your work and hook down and wiggle your fingers, wrists, elbows, shoulders and neck, and also roll your head.

Could you tell us about your upcoming crochet weekends in Dorset?

I will be holding two weekends: one in March for Improvers – although I may have to think about adding a further weekend in June, as places are being snapped up more quickly than I thought – and one in April for Beginners.

Beginners will learn all the basic stitches, learn to crochet in rows with straight edges, work in the round flat, hook granny squares, join as you go and more! They will be able to make a mobile phone cover or spectacles case, a tin pot cover and granny squares and will have learned lots of tricks of the trade by the end of the weekend.

Improvers will be bringing in work that they are stuck on as well as being given unique patterns to work on that I will design specifically for the weekend workshop. All hookers will take home any of the patterns that they use and a fab goodie bag.

You also run an online crochet course...

I kept reading on Facebook and Twitter, things like: "I wish I lived closer to you so that I could learn" or "I would really love to come to one of your classes but I live so far away," or "I don't have the time to come to a class." So it inspired me to create my online course, which runs on exactly the same schedule as my workshops. You pay a fixed fee per course: Course 1, The Basics; Course 2, The Next Step; Course 3, The Finishing Touches.

All three courses are made up of the written word, detailed photographs and videos. There is the added bonus of being able to put photos of your work in the comments section. Once you do this, I get an email, so as soon as I put my hook down I can become a "virtual" teacher to the pupil online. I always reply in person.

The online course is available 24/7 so you can log in to your course at any time of the day or night. You can log in as many times as you like. Once you have purchased the course it's yours for life.

I have pupils from all over the world and if you look at some of my feedback, you'll see that the course is perfect for busy mums, shift workers and others that don't have the time to get to one of my classes in person.

Read more about Ali's designs and courses at www.gethookedoncrochet.co.uk.



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