

new ideas for
Crochet



stylish projects
for the home

DARSHA CAPALDI

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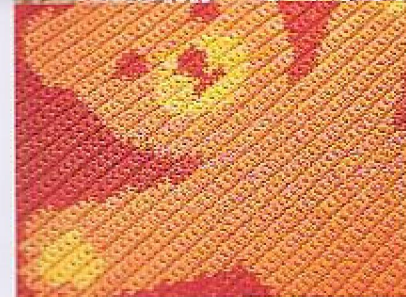
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Guild of Master Craftsmen Publications Ltd

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useful to do with it and a lack of understanding of the chain's use as a basic building block to which rows or circles of stitches can be attached. Today, I realize that this grounding taught me how to hold and use the materials, as well as the basic principles from which all of crocheter's stitches emerge.

Crochet was not simply about making stitches. As my chains became a succession of squares and circles (which usually ended up undone or in the bottom of my grandmother's yarn bag) she would tell me how her mother had taught her. She would point to an old black and white picture and tell me about my great-grandmother back in Cyprus (my grandmother's birthplace), still living at what seemed like an ancient age to me. I became uniquely aware of keeping alive a precious link between generations of women in the stitches that imitated their connection.

Also commonly known as single-needle knitting, the craft of crocheter has a rich, vibrant history. In medieval times, it was combined with knitting to create clothing for the poor and became known as 'nun's work'. During the Renaissance, its increase in popularity across social boundaries meant that both peasant women and ladies practised the craft. Originating in Ireland around 1820, crocheted lace was made using decorative tools with carved handles to create a diverse range of effects.

made, from fine, lace-like garments to heavyweight afghan throws and rugs.

While formal patterns didn't feature significantly as I was learning the craft, I have included many pattern-based projects here. As you work on each project, you will learn more about the way the hook, yarn and stitch interact to create very different textures. By the end of this book you will be able to create any effect you desire without consulting a pattern, and have the skills necessary to follow any of the vast range of patterns available on the market.

Each of the chapters in the first part of the book explores a different aspect of crocheter. Those on getting started and mastering the main stitches, for example, illustrate the basic principles which you will need for all of the following chapters. Read through the instructions for new skills and acquaint yourself with them before moving on. Remember, you can refer back through the chapters at any point.

Practise your skills by working the patterns in the second part of the book. The projects range in complexity, but begin with something straightforward, take your time and you will soon be ready to produce a wealth of attractive garments, furnishings and fabric.

Good luck and happy crocheting!

Androniki Mouzourou,
née Trakla, my
grandmother



Getting Started





The Vocabulary of Crochet

The information in this reference section will help you make sense of this book, as well as other crochet patterns

APPROACHING CROCHET

This preliminary section of the book aims to introduce the beginner to the craft of crochet to the basic guidelines and terminology which will enable you to work through this book.

While the vocabulary of crochet is standard (by which I mean here the familiar symbols used to make up the patterns), each individual crocheter will have a preference as to how they approach the craft. For example, some prefer to be guided by the text pattern, while others favour following the symbol pattern. Perhaps you prefer a combination of both, side by side? In this book, the project chapters have been formatted so that each includes a text and a symbol pattern, supported by finished and detail photography, as well as diagrams where necessary. By following these in sequence as you work, I hope you will build a clear picture of what you are aiming to achieve, and will help you figure out how best you like to approach a crochet pattern. Those of you who are accomplished knitters will already be familiar with the process of following a pattern, and may already have their own approach. This means you are one step ahead!

Whatever stage you are at, familiarize yourself with these basics. Of course this takes time, but don't be intimidated by learning so many new things, there's no rush, and you can always refer to these early chapters at any time.

MEASUREMENTS

All measurements in this book are given in metric first and their imperial equivalents in brackets, with the exception of yarns which are given in metric.

A mixture of metric and imperial measurements should never be used; remember to always use either one or the other.

The sizes for crochet hooks are given for three sizing systems in a conversion table, page 10. These are the metric sizing system, which is the most commonly used; the UK sizing system which I have included even though modern patterns rarely refer to it, and finally, the US system.

APPROXIMATE CONVERSIONS FOR MEASUREMENTS AND WEIGHTS

Metric	Imperial
10 centimetres (cm)	4 inches (")
1 metre (m)	1.1 yards (yd)
100m	109yd
25 grams (g)	0.9 ounce (oz)
50g	1.75oz
100g	3.5oz
1 kilogram (kg)	2.2 pounds (lb)

The afghan projects. Made up of crocheted squares, these give you ample opportunity to practise basic stitches



GLOSSARY

As you work through the projects in this book, you may come across terms that you do not understand. Many are standard to crochet and it will be helpful for you to familiarize yourself with them as you go along.

Afghan Wool or cotton throw or rug.

Back loop The loop that features behind the top part of a stitch.

Decreasing Reducing the number of stitches.

Dye lot Batch of balls of yarn dyed at the same time to obtain the same shade.

Fastening or finishing off Tying or neatening yarn ends.

Free loops The strip of unworked loops that remain in a previous row after working that row in the front or back loops only. These may be elaborated upon at a later stage to enhance the patterns.

Front loop The loop that features in front of the top part of a stitch.

Hook Steel, aluminium, plastic, wood or bamboo needle used for crochet.

Increasing Adding to the number of stitches.

Leg The vertical part of a stitch (also known as a post). 'Leg' normally appears in patterns whereby a stitch is composed of multiple legs, for example, a cluster stitch, or in textured patterns.

Multiple The number of stitches you need to form one repeat of a pattern.

Multiple + The number of stitches you need to form one repeat of a pattern, plus extra stitches to ensure the pattern is centred on the row.

Post Vertical part of the stitch (also known as a leg).

Right/Left This refers to the side of a garment as if it is being worn.

Right side This is the show side of the finished piece. Some patterns tell you which side is the right side, while many crocheted items have interesting textures on both sides and ultimately it is your choice which you would like to show. As long as the different pieces of the same piece are consistent, it is flexible.

Round Series of stitches that, once added, form a spiral which enlarges the piece of work, working from the centre to form a circle.

Row Series of stitches forming a line which enlarges the piece of work as stitches are added.

Seam The join between two pieces of fabric. Seams may be sewn or crocheted.

Tension The particular relationship between the size of hook, the stitches and the tightness of the yarn for a given pattern or piece. The correct sizing of a piece can depend on achieving the correct tension. There is a tension guide at the beginning of each pattern.

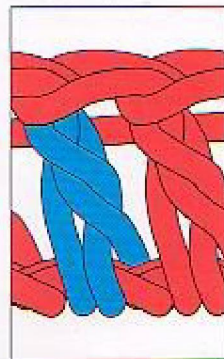
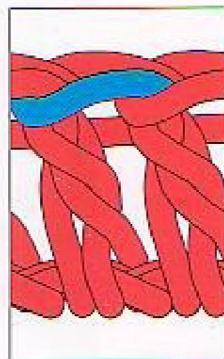
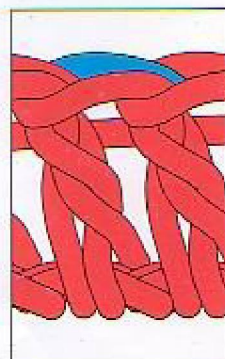
Test patch A piece of crochet worked as a test to find the right tension.

Work even To continue working the pattern established in the row or round just completed without decreasing or increasing.

Wrong side The reverse side to the right side. This is the side of the piece that will remain hidden on the finished article.

Yarn Wool, cotton, synthetic or metallic thread used for crochet.

Back loop, front loop and leg (or post) respectively



ABBREVIATIONS

The following list includes abbreviations for many of the stitches used in this book.

chain	ch	picot	P
cluster	cl	popcorn	no abbreviation
crossed treble	no abbreviation	puff stitch	pf
variation on crossed treble	no abbreviation	variation on puff stitch	no abbreviation, but I use pvar
decrease	dec	quadruple treble crochet	qtr
double crochet	dc	slip stitch	sl st
double treble crochet	dtr	treble crochet	tr
half treble	htr	triple treble crochet	ttr
increase	inc	yarn over	yo

ADDITIONAL ABBREVIATIONS

You may find the following abbreviations helpful when working other crochet patterns.

alternate	alt	half double crochet	hdc
begin(ning)	beg	half Elmore	hE
back loop only	blo	hook	hk
back post	bp	linked double crochet	Ldc
back post double crochet	Bpdc	loop(s)	lp(s)
back post treble crochet	Bptr	main colour	MC
crossed stitch	c	pattern stitch	pat st
contrast colour	CC	picot single crochet	Psc
chain(s)	ch(s)	relief stitch	rf
chain space	ch sp	remaining	rem
cluster	cl	repeat	rep
continue	cont	round(s)	rnd(s)
double crochet two together	dc2tog	right side	RS
double single crochet	dsc	reverse single crochet	Rsc
double single crochet two together	dsc2tog	spike	s
double Elmore	dE	single crochet	sc
Elmore	E	single crochet two together	sc2tog
Elmore double treble	E d tr	skip	sk
Elmore treble	E tr	space(s)	sp(s)
each	ea	stitch(es)	st(s)
every other row	eor	turning chain	tch
established	est	together	tog
front loop only	flo	treble crochet two together	tr2tog
front post	FP	triple treble	tr tr
front post double crochet	FPdc	Tall Texan	TT
front post treble crochet	FPtr	wrong side	WS
front	frt	yarn round hook (yarn over)	yrh



The soft basket and beaded trinket box projects make use of three-dimensional techniques later on in the book

USING THE SYMBOLS

The symbols I have used in this book are based on those used internationally in patterns, with some individual variations. They should all, however, be recognizable to the more experienced crocheter and easy to follow for the beginner. Because they often make sense visually, they are easy to remember. For example, a chain stitch is represented by a slightly flattened oval and, just as you might expect, a series of these stitches in a pattern resembles chain mail.

Once you are familiar with them, they will enable you to follow any crochet pattern – even those in another language. Most often a pattern provides you with text instructions as well as the pattern, but you might also find the table below helpful for checking commonly used symbols. Please note that the abbreviations for puff variation and variation on the crossed treble are my own and not standard.

The symbols assume the crocheter is right-handed. See tips for left-handed crocheters opposite.

	chain	ch		increase (dc)	inc		variation on the crossed treble	xctr
	double crochet	dc		increase (dc)	inc		attach thread here	
	treble crochet	tr		increase (tr)	inc		slip stitch	sl st
	double treble crochet	dtr		increase (tr)	inc		picot	p
	puff variation	pfvar		decrease	dec		picot	p
	puff variation	pfvar						

SYMBOLS IN PATTERNS

As you work through a pattern, you will sometimes come across various symbols (*†#), which indicate that you should repeat the instructions immediately succeeding it, and the number of times it should be repeated in addition to the first instruction. For example, a pattern might read "dc in the next 2 sts, ch 2, rep from * 2 times" means to work two double crochets, and then two chains, three times in total.

PARENTHESES AND BRACKETS IN PATTERNS

Sometimes, a pattern will make use of parentheses and brackets to support an instruction, as follows:

- ◆ Instead of an asterisk or other symbol to indicate the number of repeats. Therefore, '(tr in the next 2 sts, ch2) 3 times' means that you need to work two treble crochets, then two chains, a total of three times, as described above, but the information is presented slightly differently.
- ◆ To list a range of sizes and the corresponding number of stitches or inches that should be worked for each size. Therefore, 'sizes 6 (8, 10, 12) etc.' shows the extent of sizes to which the pattern can be adapted.
- ◆ To signify a repeat within a repeat in more complex patterns, parentheses and brackets may be used together.
- ◆ To indicate that you need to work several stitches as one. For example, '(tr, ch, tr) in the ch sp' means that you must work every stitch within the parentheses in the next chain space.
- ◆ To clarify or explain an instruction in the pattern more fully.

TIPS FOR LEFT-HANDED CROCHETERS

If you are a left-handed crocheter, you should be able to complete the crochet patterns in this book with very little problem, but if you are new to crochet, you might find the following tips helpful.

- ◆ If you are following an instruction that is diagrammatic, and you are worried about doing everything in the opposite direction, have the pattern reversed and printed in a copy shop. This should make following your patterns much easier.
- ◆ If you know a right-handed crocheter, try asking he or she to help you by letting you mirror their crochet techniques as you work.
- ◆ If you reverse the instructions so that you work in the opposite direction to a right-handed crocheter, you should be fine. If the slant of the stitch looks different, it doesn't matter. The important thing when working the patterns is maintaining consistency.

Essentials

When you first decide to take up crochet, there are so many things to keep in mind that it can seem daunting. This chapter will help you through the preparatory stages

SELECTING MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

The relationship between the yarn and the crochet hook you select can create a broad spectrum of possible effects. Thick yarn combined with a small, thin hook will result in a stiff, coarse fabric, whereas a soft or thin yarn combined with a wide or thick hook will create a soft, loose fabric.

If you factor in your choice of stitch, the effect will be different again, and might range from small, tight stitches to more open, loose ones. The former would be useful for making items like the cotton table settings (see pages 63 and 67), while the latter would be great for the bedspreads and pillow covers (see pages 99, 105, 111, 115 and 119). As you work through the patterns, the relationship between these factors will become clear and you will develop a greater understanding of how to achieve a specific effect for your own future projects.

HOOKS

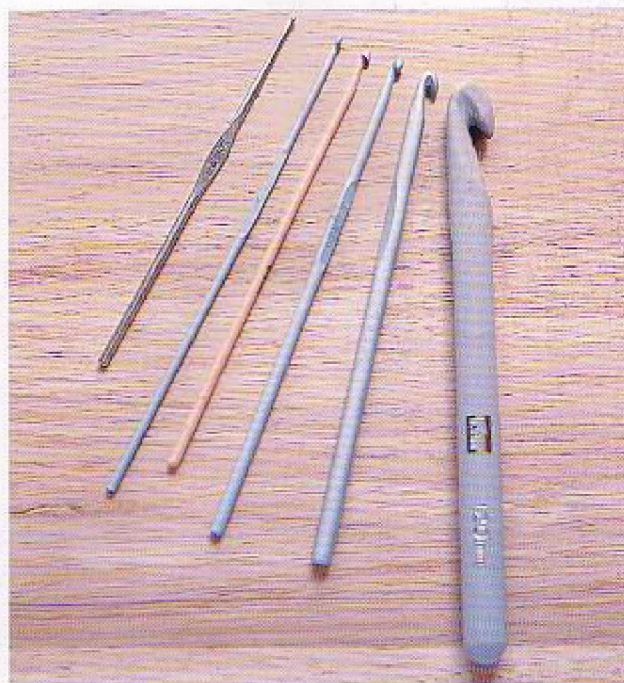
Each pattern tells you which size crochet hook to use for that piece and this size is usually found printed on the hook. There are three sizing systems: the metric European system, the UK system and the US system. In this book I use the first, in which the hook sizes are given in millimetres (mm) throughout.

Whether you choose a hook made of metal (coated aluminium or steel), wood, bamboo or even plastic, is a matter of personal preference. There is no difference between hooks of the same size in any of the materials, although some patterns specify a brand preference. Generally, steel hooks are used with finer yarns to produce more delicate, lace-like

work. Plastic and aluminium hooks are more commonly used with thicker and chunkier yarns. Wooden hooks are usually found in sizes used for specialized effects. There may be some variance between brands of hook. To account for these subtle variances, use the charts (see over) as a guide

SKILLS FOR THIS CHAPTER

- Selecting materials and equipment
- Following patterns
- Washing and drying finished pieces
- Starching
- Ironing



A selection of metal, plastic and bamboo crochet hooks



CROCHET HOOK CONVERSION CHART

Metric (mm)	US	UK
0.60	14 steel	—
0.75	12 steel	—
1	10 steel	—
1.5	6 steel	—
1.75	5 steel	—
2.5	B/1	12
3	C/2	11
3.25	D/3	10
3.5	E/4	9
4	F/5	8
4.5	G/6	7
5	H/8	6
5.5	I/9	5
6	J/10	4
7	K/10.25	2

only and always check your tension and change hooks accordingly. Crochet is a craft and, as with any craft, its value lies in its handmade character, so my recommendation is to maintain a flexible approach and, as a result, each piece of work will be totally unique.

YARNS

The range of available yarns is extensive. Once you have selected your thickness, fibre and texture there is a wide choice of colours. Each type of thread absorbs colour in a different way, so the same colour in one yarn may look very different in another. Add into the equation the varying techniques of dyeing and the range of possibilities multiply again.

The pattern will usually instruct you as to which yarn is required and the quantity. Colours of yarns are referred to by name or number, the latter of which should not be confused with a yarn's dye lot number. Dye lot numbers indicate which batch a ball of yarn belongs to, in other words which batch has been dyed together. Slight variations in colour can occur across dye lot batches and most patterns will assume that you stick to a single dye lot number (slight changes in colour do show). However, for a more rustic and handmade effect, you might choose to make this an advantage.

Some yarns may be dyed before spinning, others afterwards. Some are dyed in one solid colour,

others may include flecks or glitter. Fibres dyed prior to spinning can be combined to produce a subtle mixture (heather, for example). Stripes are obtained when coloured fibres are plied together (marl). Bursts of colour can be added randomly to spun yarn, in sprays, which gives the effect of delicate patches, or in prints, which produces more distinctive patches.

PATTERNS

The vocabulary of patterns does vary slightly, although it is based upon standard, universal terminology. That is to say, one pattern may be very brief and almost 'telegraphic', while others may offer a full explanation to say the same thing. The common element to all patterns you use are the stitch abbreviations.

Patterns consist of a type of shorthand. For example, 'yo' tells you to put the 'yarn over' the hook or '1 ch' tells you to make 1 'chain' (see the list of abbreviations, page 5). Learning the language of crochet may seem daunting at first, but it becomes easier the more patterns you follow. Eventually you will surprise yourself by no longer having to refer to the key accompanying each project. An unhurried and relaxed approach will serve you well at first while deciphering the pattern's abbreviations. All patterns are logical and, if you adopt a systematic approach, you will soon master the most complex of patterns.



Thicknesses of yarn. From two-ply to chunky, cotton or wool, there is an exciting range to tempt you

YARN WRAPPER

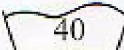
A typical yarn wrapper will include many of the elements shown here.

This refers to the yarn's care after it has been used. In this case, the yarn may be washed at 40°, ironed with a warm iron, and dry-cleaned but not tumble-dried.

The name of the manufacturer and the range and type of yarn appear here. A 'chunky' yarn is one that is quite dense and fuzzy in texture. Other available thicknesses include two-ply (two fibres plied together) which is quite fine, three-ply (two fibres plied together), four-ply (four fibres plied together), double-knit (DK), a medium thickness yarn with the largest and most diverse range, and double-double-knit, which is even more dense. Chunky knit is the thickest of all, and available in some very funky colour combinations. Texture is very important to some yarns. You can buy yarns that are knobbly (slubs), contain coils, loops, twists and gimps or metallic chips and coloured flecks.

The weight is always clearly marked in grams. BS984 refers to legislation controlling the standardization of weight. This means that this ball of yarn weighs 100g at a controlled degree of humidity. This may also appear as B.S.985.76. The latter two figures, 76, refers to the year the bill was passed.

Quality 032
SH561 LOT048



Warm Wash
Minimum Washing
Conditions



May Be Dry
Cleaned



Warm Iron
Steam Under
Damp Cloth



Do Not
Tumble Dry

6mm
4UK J10 US

3 UK
US
10

10 x 10 cm
4 x 4 in
14 sts

MACHINE WASHABLE

CHUNKY

DENIM

SIRDAR

Made in Wakefield, England by SIRDAR plc

171 yds.
approx.

100g

156 m
approx.

In accordance with BS 984

100 grams nett at standard condition

60% Acrylic

25% Cotton

15% Wool

This identifies the colour and batch of yarn. This particular ball is from loc 48. If you were buying a quantity of this colour (561) for a particular pattern that required the same shade of colour throughout, you must buy balls with the same loc number.

This section gives you an indication of how the yarn should be worked up and what you can expect from it. In this case, the manufacturer recommends using a 6mm crochet hook or 6/10mm knitting needles to achieve a standard effect. The symbol that looks like a grid tells you what tension to use with the recommended size hooks/needles.

The tag also indicates what the yarn is made from. This may be a mixture of two or more substances or just a single element, for example cotton or wool. Fibres may be produced from either animal, plant or synthetic sources. Some may be spun together to form a thicker thread, while others may be woven or perhaps slightly twisted. All are manufactured in different thicknesses and textures, which means that a four-ply yarn might in fact be thinner than one made of two-ply.

A second form of instruction takes the shape of a diagram which is normally accompanied by a key of international symbols. Each stitch is represented by a symbol. The position of each stitch, or where it is to be worked, is clearly marked on the diagram. The best way to learn how to read this type of pattern is to tackle one, but first study the symbols (see page 6).

WASHING AND DRYING

Washing instructions and directions for the care of your finished product are clearly marked on the wrapper securing the ball of yarn (see illustration, left). These instructions should always be followed carefully. Generally speaking, crochet cotton is fast-dyed and resistant to washing. Non-biological washing agents are safest, particularly when washing coloured cotton. Your work should be washed on completion and not during its making. When drying crochet, bear in mind the type of finished article you are dealing with. Plain pieces can easily be dried flat. Detailed, fine crocheted articles may require a little more care. Accurately trace the correct shape and size of the object onto a clean, thick piece of paper or card, then use rustproof pins to pin the article into position over the paper and onto a board or other flat surface padded with towels (you could use a cork board as your pinning surface, if you like); this will keep the object in shape as it dries. Remember to be systematic when pinning out; regularity is key. If your piece has scallops, make them the same size, the loops even and stitches uniform. Use your best judgement to ensure your piece remains well-formed and visually pleasing.

STARCHING

Once dry, it is a good time to add starch. I use spray starch, the type commonly sold in supermarkets, crafts shop or the haberdashery section of a department store. Your local dealer will be able to advise you. Raise the fabric slightly off the paper to prevent sticking and follow the instructions on the can or packet. Common sense will tell you when you need to use starch or go to the trouble of pinning out (and if it doesn't, the pattern will).

The patterns for the bedspread, child's coverlet and fringed table piece are ideal patterns to have a go at pinning out and starching. Damp and iron (very carefully, steaming rather than flat ironing) the table piece once complete. For the coverlet, lightly starch each individual motif once you have pinned out each shape to size, then damp and iron it as a whole, paying particular attention to the trim. It may need reshaping.

IRONING

Remember to be careful when ironing; you can easily spoil the texture of a piece by being overly heavy with the iron. Use a light and judicious hand. You may like to try one or two of the following methods:

- ◆ iron through several clean tea towels
- ◆ raise the iron above the work and allow its steam to do the job for you
- ◆ press the piece of work by placing it beneath something flat and heavy, with an even distribution of weight, a large book for example, and leave it there to dry flat.

Basic Techniques

Be sure that you feel comfortable with all the basic techniques in this chapter before you start on a piece of crochet. Practice makes perfect!

HAND POSITIONING

The very first thing you need to master to get you started with crochet is how to hold your hook and yarn correctly.

Take the crochet hook in your right hand (or your left hand if you are left-handed) and hold it like a pen between your thumb and forefinger (or, if you prefer, like a knife). In your left hand (right if you are left-handed) place the yarn over your forefinger, under your middle, over your fourth and under your little finger. This lattice-style effect should start with the end of the yarn nearest to you and the ball of yarn furthest away, close to your little finger. The yarn should feed through your hand easily as you work.

CASTING ON

Take the yarn in your left hand (right hand if you are left-handed). Hold the end between your thumb and forefinger, with the yarn's end facing down. Loop the yarn over your forefinger, under your middle, over your fourth and under your little finger as described above. Take the crochet hook (the pattern will tell you which size to use) in your right hand (left if you are left-handed). While holding the hook like a pen or a knife, insert it

between your yarn and your forefinger. The hook end should face your little finger and the flat end should point towards your thumb. The hook should go under the yarn from wrist-side through to the fingernail side. Turn the hook 360° anticlockwise, creating a loop around the hook with the yarn. Put the hook under the yarn on the left of your forefinger again from the wrist side to the nail side, and using the hook-pull the yarn through the loop already encircling the hook. Pull the yarn firmly making a slipknot. One loop should now be on the hook.

There are alternative methods of casting on. This is the method I have always used and found most effective. It requires a firm grasp and some practice. Don't expect to get it right straight away. I certainly didn't, but after a while it will come easily to you.

CHAIN STITCHES

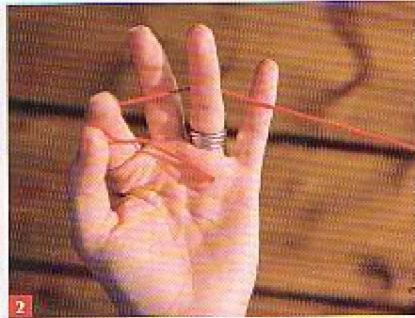
Crochet is basically very simple. It always begins with a succession of chain stitches, which forms a primary chain. A second line of stitches is then worked into this primary chain and the fabric of crochet is built up with the addition of line upon line of various types of stitches. Crochet can either

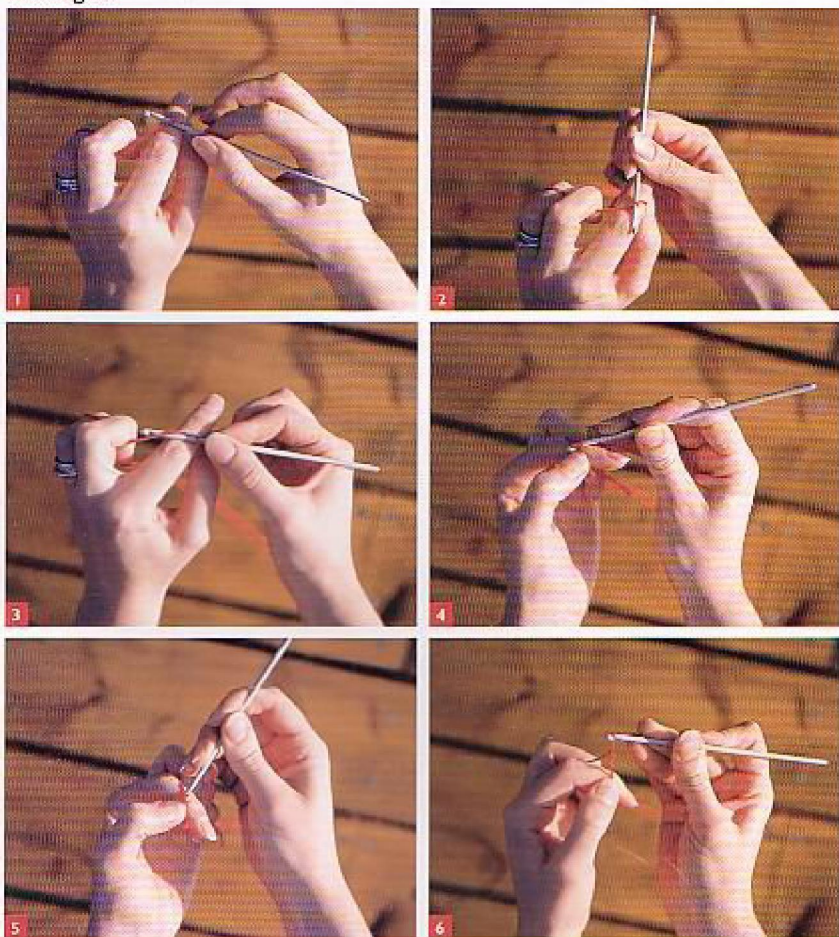
SKILLS FOR THIS CHAPTER

Forming the basic stitches

Casting on, fastening off and substituting in yarn

Hand positioning



Casting on

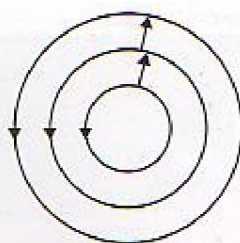
be worked in rows (a snake-like trail turning back and forth) or in rounds (a coil of progressively longer rows).

STITCH	NUMBER OF TURNING (ELEVATING) CHAINS
dc	1 turning ch
htr	2 turning ch
tr	3 turning ch
dtr	4 turning ch
trr	5 turning ch
qtr	6 turning ch

STITCH	NUMBER OF TURNING (ELEVATING) CHAINS
dc	1 turning ch
htr	2 turning ch
tr	3 turning ch
dtr	4 turning ch
trr	5 turning ch
qtr	6 turning ch

When working in rows, chain stitches (the number depends on the stitch being worked and sometimes the yarn being used) are used to elevate the yarn and the hook to the next row to be worked. These are called turning chains and they form the first stitch of the next row about to be worked. Once the chains have been created and the hook and yarn elevated, the crochet piece is turned, in the same way one turns to work the next row in knitting, and the next row is worked on the reverse side of the piece.

When working in rounds, a slip stitch is used to join the first and last stitch of each row and then a chain stitch is used in the same way, to elevate the yarn and hook to the level of the next row.



Working chains in rows (left) and in rounds (right)

It is important to remember to work into or under these chains in succeeding rows, as though they actually are the stitch they represent. That means that you must work into, or under, the last of the group of turning chains. Patterns often tell you to continue or repeat to the end of a row. This assumes that you are aware of the function of the previous row's turning stitches, and that you will automatically work them as such. For example, for the cherry red table settings, the pattern is composed of a number of rows of double crochet stitches. The final chain stitch in your first row of chains is, in effect, a turning chain. This chain elevates the hook to the level of the first row. You will not be required to work into this chain until the end of the second row.

Once you have worked one double crochet into each of the primary chains, made the one turning chain at the end of the first row, and worked one double crochet into each of the double crochet stitches made in the first row, you will encounter the first turning chain. The pattern instructs you 'Row 2. Work 1 dc into the second dc on the left of the hook and into each subsequent dc until the end of the row... 1 turning ch. Turn.' This means that you should work one double crochet into the turning chain as well as its neighbouring double crochets. It is assumed that you will perceive the turning chain as the double crochet it represents even though it is not literally one of the subsequent

double crochet stitches to which the pattern refers. If this pattern had been made up of treble crochet stitches and each row had finished with three turning chains, all three of these stitches would be considered the equivalent of one treble crochet. It means that you would be expected to work into the third chain as though it was the top of the stitch. The same would be true of the fourth turning chain (representing one double treble crochet) or the sixth turning chain (representing a quadruple triple crochet) or indeed, the second of two turning chains (which again represents one treble crochet), as may be the case.

Always keep the turning chain in mind as you work. Bear in mind the overall shape of your piece; if you are crocheting a piece with straight edges and you neglect to work into the turning chains at the end of each row you are effectively dropping one stitch per row and will end up with an increasingly narrow piece of crocheted fabric. When the pattern requires you to decrease stitches, it will always instruct you when and where to do so.

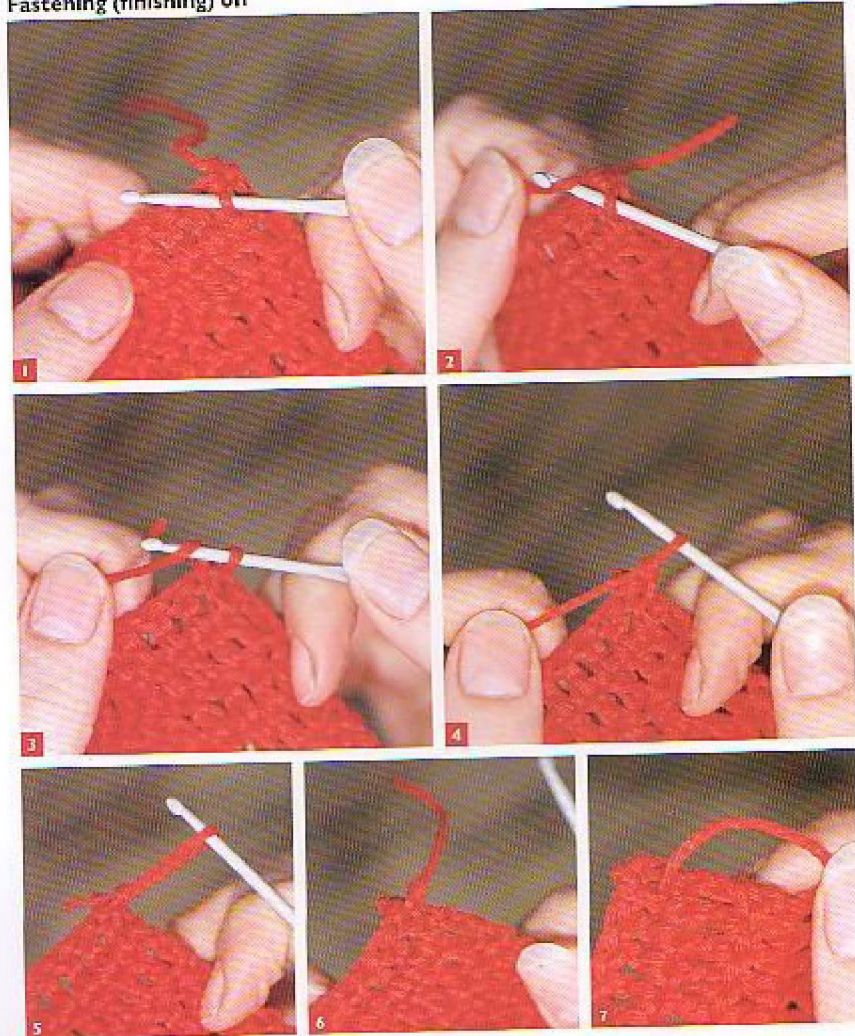
CASTING OFF

Having completed your piece, you will need to cast off. In order to do this, snip off the remaining yarn, being sure to leave approximately 10cm (4in) excess to finish off. Enlarge the final loop remaining on the hook until the end of the yarn comes through, leaving you a single strand.

Casting off



Fastening (finishing) off

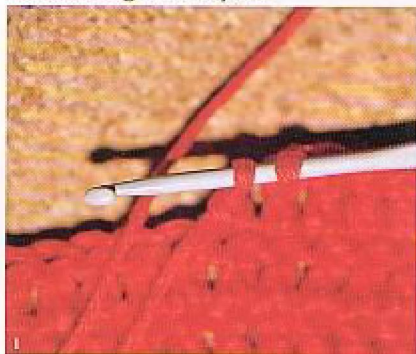


FASTENING (FINISHING) OFF

Choose which side of the piece you would like to be the right, or good, side and fasten the final strand of yarn to the reverse, or wrong, side. To complete this, insert your hook under a nearby stitch. Pull the remaining strand of yarn under the stitch, creating a loop. Insert the hook back into this loop and pull the end of the strand of yarn through. Pull the loose end firmly, thereby securing the knot. Repeat once more and snip off any excess yarn.

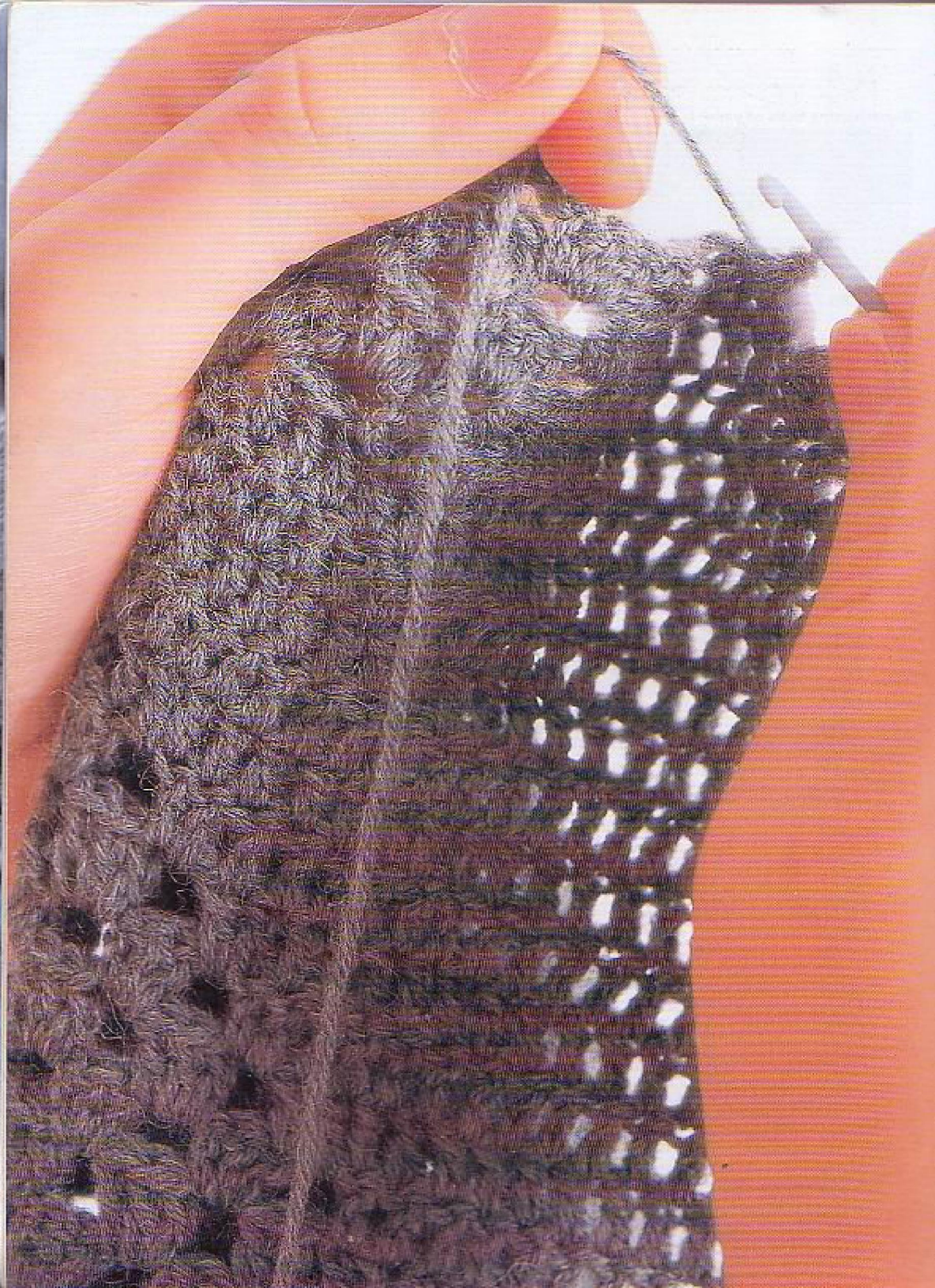
SUBSTITUTING BALLS OF YARN

As one ball of yarn comes to an end, simply hold the loose end to one side. Substitute the position of your first ball of yarn with a second, fresh one, place the loose end of your new thread directly next to the end of the first, and continue to crochet as though there is no change. You can do this at any point in the stitch, although it is usual to change balls just before the final yarn over hook (the new yarn is then drawn through the two loops of old yarn already on the hook, leaving one new loop on the hook).

Substituting balls of yarn

Once you have completed your piece and decided which side is your right side, thread the two loose ends through the piece to the wrong, or reverse, side. If they are already on the wrong side, leave them as they are. Secure the two ends as if fastening off, or simply tie them together firmly and cut off the excess.

You will need to join yarn in this way throughout the patterns that feature in this book. Do not wait for a pattern to tell you when to change yarns unless it instructs you to make a colour change or yarn texture; simply move onto the next ball of yarn as and when it is necessary.



Mastering the Main Stitches

Using a range of stitches offers the potential for a variety of crochet effects.

This book will not teach you every stitch and decorative effect, but will encourage you to gain confidence with the basic stitches

SKILLS FOR THIS CHAPTER

Understanding tension

Forming chains and other stitches

TENSION FOR ROWS

How tightly you work the stitches (the tension) affects the size of your finished piece. To achieve a look and shape consistent with a pattern, it is often useful to work a test patch before you begin.

When working with a pattern that uses rows rather than rounds to create pieces of crochet, I recommend you make test squares, measuring at least 10cm (4in). Each project provides you with a tension guide alongside the patterns. This tells you how many stitches and rows will make up a square; you can then crochet a larger square. Mark off the recommended number of rows and stitches with pins (or by eye if size isn't vital) and carefully measure that area. Alternatively, you can mark off the required area and count the rows and stitches.

If the measured area has fewer stitches than recommended, or the required number of stitches cover a larger area than necessary, you will need to rework the test patch with a smaller hook. If the measured area has more stitches, or the required number of stitches cover a smaller area than necessary, you will need to rework the test patch with a larger hook. Continue to rework the patches until you strike the right balance, and then use that hook throughout the pattern. For example, the pattern for the cherry red table settings requires a tension of 13 stitches over 16 rows, which measures 10cm (4in) square. This means that if you measure across 13 double crochet stitches, made with the correct tension, it should measure 10cm (4in). If it is more than 10cm (4in), your hook is too large and you should try again with a smaller size before starting your project. If your measurement is less than 10cm (4in), your hook is too small and you should substitute with a larger one.

You do not often have to be accurate to the nearest millimetre; just use the recommended tension as a guide. However, if you are working a pattern for a piece of clothing, a sweater for example, the tension and final size is obviously

significant. If you leave the ball of yarn attached to your trial swab while you make your measurements and adjustments, you can save yarn by undoing the test patch when you are satisfied your stitches are in keeping with the tension guide. Just remove the crochet hook, gently pull the ball of yarn and the patch will unravel.

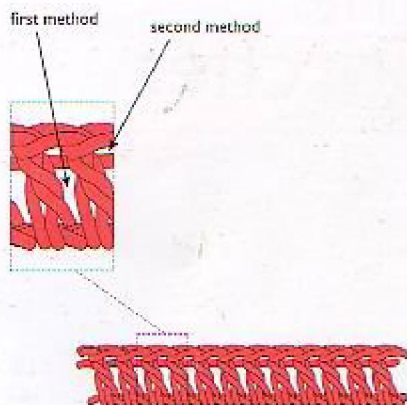
TENSION FOR ROUNDS

When working a pattern made up of rounds rather than rows, the tension is assessed slightly differently. If the pattern consists of a series of motifs (a small pattern that is repeated and joined together to form a whole), then you may complete one motif and compare it to the measurement given in the pattern. Again if the end result is too small, rework the test motif with a larger hook, and if too large, use a smaller hook. Once you have the correct size, use the same hook consistently throughout the pattern.

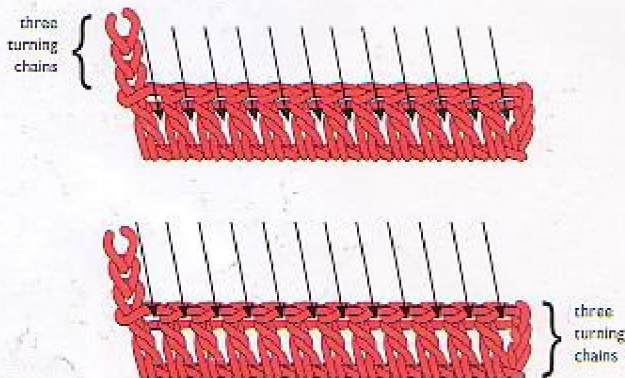
Patterns for circular objects normally give the diameter of the piece. Again, if the end result is too small, rectify this with another, and vice versa. For larger pieces, the measurements are given for the first few rows to set you on the right track. Slight size variations in pieces like this are not usually significant. Patterns sometimes suggest alternative hook size and cotton thickness, offering you a range of sizes to make.

INSERTING THE HOOK IN A PREVIOUS STITCH

Patterns will instruct you to insert the hook into a previous stitch for almost every type of stitch. You can achieve this by two different methods. The first requires that you insert the hook below, or between, the appropriate stitch(es), while the second method demands that you work into the stitch. Each creates a different pattern in the finished piece. It is more usual to work into the stitch and, generally, I favour this method, but I



recommend you try both to decide for yourself. If you use the first method, it is not possible to use the turning chains of the previous row as a foundation. Instead, work the first stitch in the first position, forgetting that the two turning chains actually create the first stitch; in effect creating two first stitches. This allows you to omit the final position while still creating the correct number of stitches for the row. This method creates a less uniform edge (it is not commonly employed). If you try it for yourself, don't forget to account for the altered positions in the pattern and stitch description. Note also that the final stitch of the second method can be a little tricky to achieve. This is because you make the final stitch by the turning chains of the previous row rather than in the usual way. A useful tip here is to give the final turning chain a little more slack than the other stitches, which will help you to locate and use this stitch.



BASIC STITCHES

Yarn over (yo)

Pass the hook under the yarn. Move the hook away from your wrist, so the hook end is facing towards your little finger rather than your thumb and away from your hand. Catch the yarn with the hook.

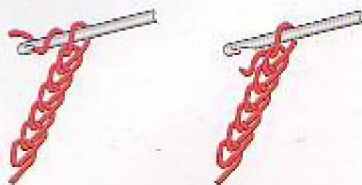


Chain (ch)

Virtually all crochet work begins with a chain foundation.

Cast on. Yarn over hook and pull the yarn back through the existing loop on the hook. Repeat until the chain is the required length, counting the first chain made (not the original slip knot made during casting on) as chain 1.

When making a chain, remember to work the stitches loosely. Beginning with a series of chains that is too tight while working in rows will create a wedge in later rows. Similarly, a loose chain of stitches will create the same problem in reverse.



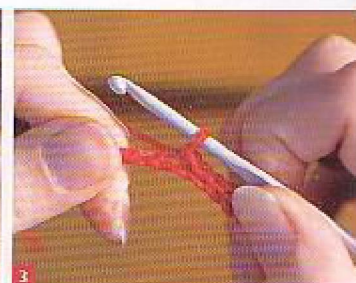
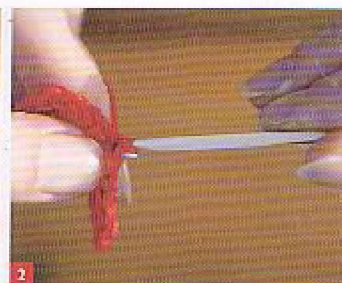
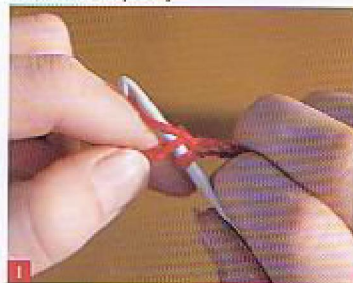
Slip stitch (sl st)

This stitch is commonly used when a number of chains need to be joined together into a circle.

Insert the hook into the stitch. Yarn over hook. Draw the yarn back through the stitch and the loop on the hook. One new loop is now on the hook.



Slip stitch (sl st)



Double crochet (dc)

With one chain made for turning, put the hook into the second chain on the left of the hook.
* Yarn over hook. Pull loop back through the stitch. There are now two loops on the hook. Yarn

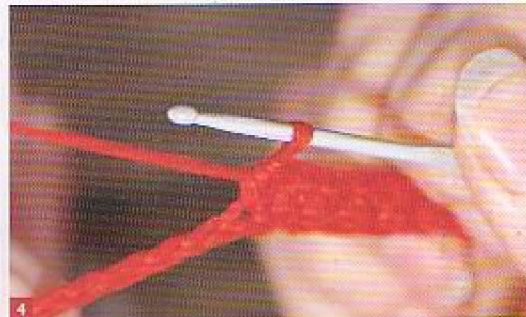
over hook and pull loop through both of the existing loops on the hook. There should now be one loop on the hook (you have made one double crochet). Put the hook into the next stitch on the left and repeat from * until the end of the row.



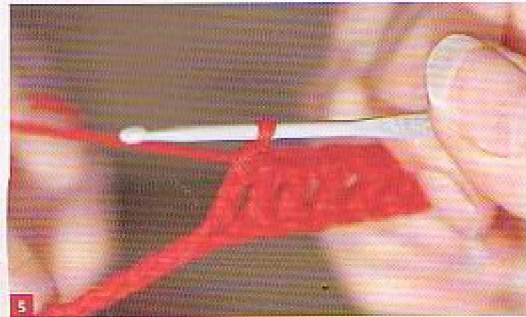
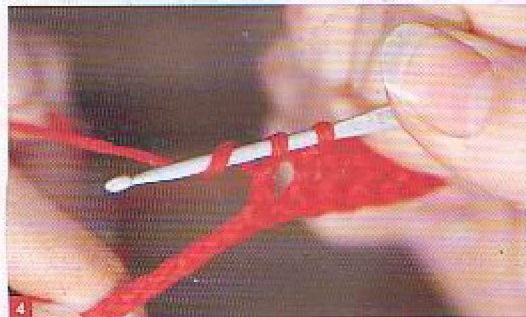
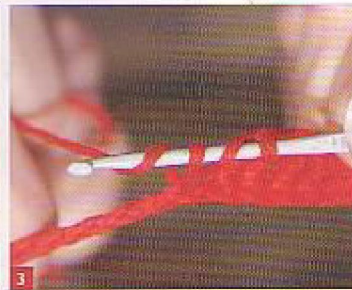
Double crochet (dc)



Half treble (htr)

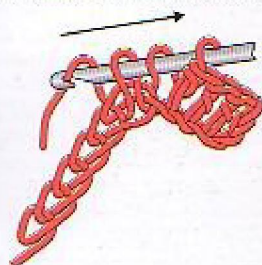


Treble crochet (tr)



Half treble (htr)

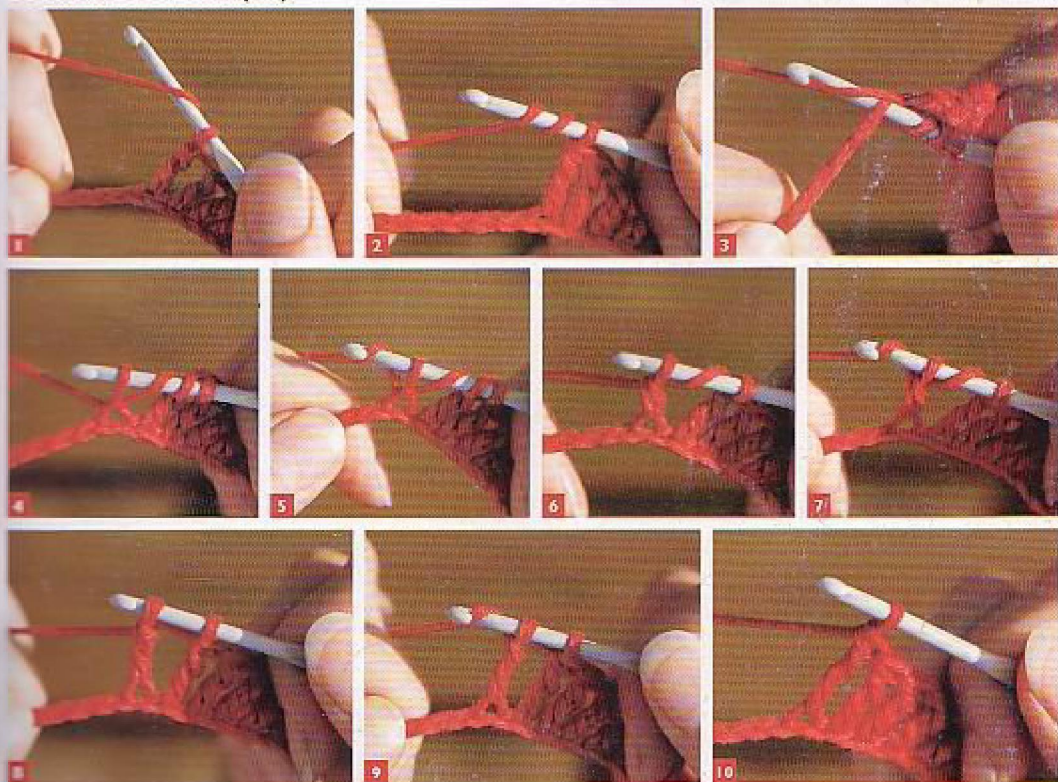
With two chains made for turning, wrap the yarn over hook. Put the hook into the third chain on the left of the hook. * Yarn over hook. Pull the loop back through the stitch. There are now three loops on the hook. Yarn over hook and pull the loop through all three of the existing loops on the hook. There should now be one loop on the hook (you have made one half treble). Yarn over hook and put the hook into the next stitch on the left of the hook. Repeat from * until the end of the row.

**Treble crochet (tr)**

With three chains made for turning, wrap the yarn over hook. Put the hook into the fourth chain on the left of the hook. * Yarn over hook. Pull the loop back through the stitch. You have three loops on the hook. Yarn over hook and pull the loop through the first two of the existing loops. You now have two loops on the hook. Yarn over hook. Pull the loop through the two other loops, leaving one on the hook (one treble crochet). Yarn over hook and put the hook into the next stitch on the left of the hook. Repeat from * until the end of the row.

Double treble crochet (dtr)

With four chains made for turning, wrap the yarn over the hook twice. Put the hook into the fifth chain on the left of the hook. * Yarn over hook. Pull the loop back through the stitch. There are now four loops on the hook. Yarn over hook and pull the loop through the first two of the existing loops on the hook. There should now be three

Double treble crochet (dtr)

loops on the hook. Yarn over hook. Pull the loop through the next two loops on the hook, leaving two loops on the hook. Yarn over hook. Pull the loop through the remaining two loops on the hook, leaving one loop on the hook (one double treble crochet). Yarn over hook twice and put the hook into the next stitch on the left of the hook. Repeat from * until the end of the row.

Triple treble crochet (ttr)

With five chains made for turning, wrap the yarn over the hook three times. Put the hook into the sixth chain on the left of the hook. * Yarn over hook. Pull the loop back through the stitch. There are now five loops on the hook. Yarn over hook and pull the loop through the first two of the existing loops on the hook. There should now be four loops on the hook. Yarn over hook. Pull the loop through the next two loops on the hook, leaving three loops on the hook. Yarn over hook. Pull the loop through the next two loops on the hook. There should now be two loops on the hook. Yarn over hook. Pull the

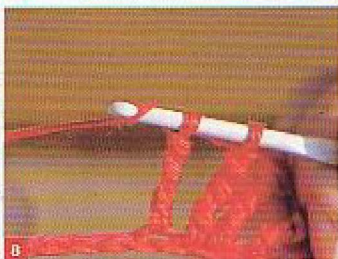
loop through the last two loops on the hook, leaving one loop on the hook (you have made one triple treble crochet). Yarn over hook three times and put the hook into the next stitch on the left of the hook. Repeat from * until the end of the row.

Quadruple treble crochet (qtr)

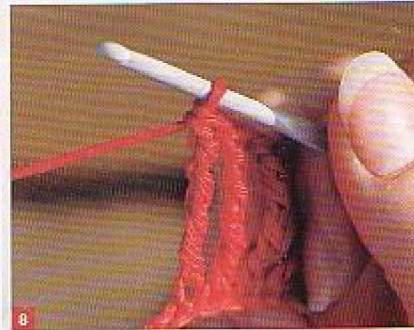
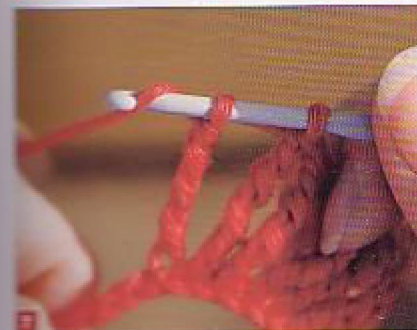
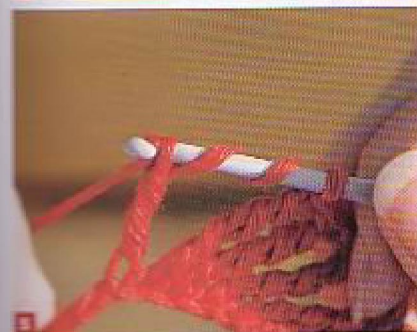
With six chains made for turning, wrap the yarn around the hook four times. Put the hook into the seventh chain on the left of the hook. * Yarn over hook. Pull the loop back through the stitch. There should now be six loops on the hook. # Wrap the yarn over the hook and pull the loop through the first two of the existing loops on the hook. Repeat from # four further times (this is now five times in total). There should be one loop remaining on the hook (you have now made one quadruple treble crochet). Yarn over hook four times and put the hook into the next stitch on the left of the hook. Repeat from * until the end of the row.

There you have it: the treble crochet stitches!

Triple treble crochet (ttr)



Quadruple treble crochet (qtr)



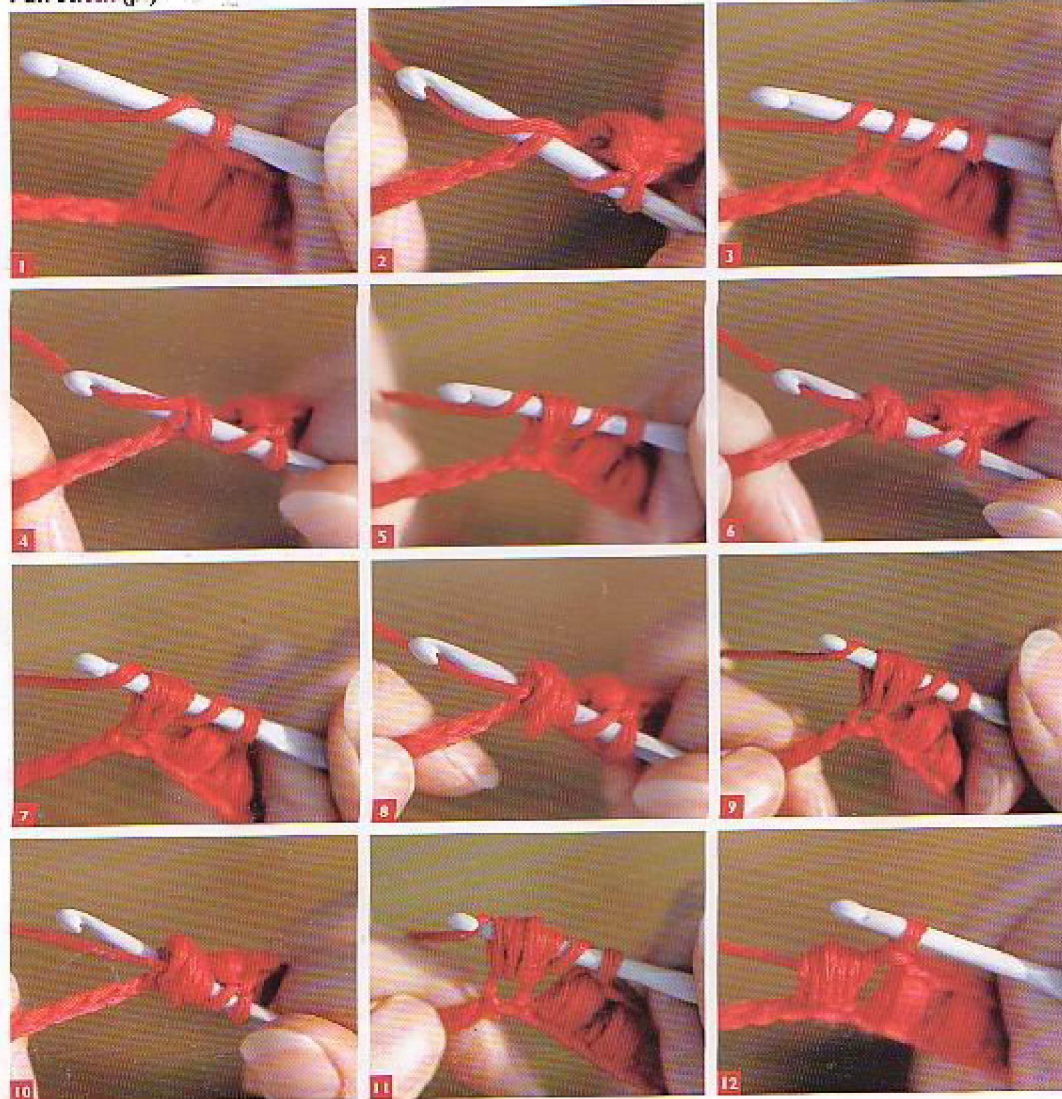
DECORATIVE STITCHES

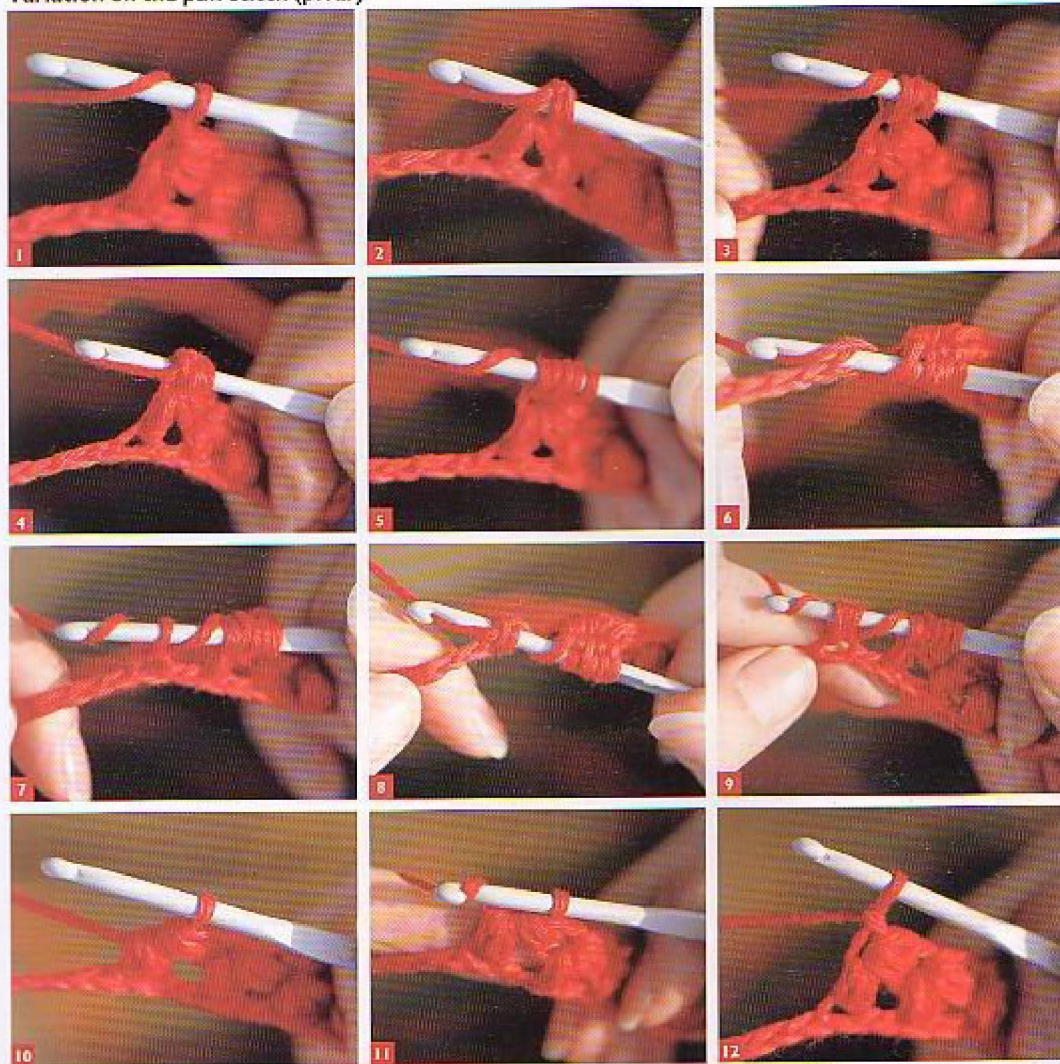
Some stitches are used for decoration. These may be introduced mid-row as a decorative feature or used throughout a pattern. The following instructions refer to one stitch.

Puff stitch (pf)

Yarn over hook. Insert the hook into the stitch to be worked. Yarn over hook. Pull the loop and hook

back through the stitch raising the yarn over 1cm (½in) out of the stitch. * Yarn over hook. Insert the hook into the same stitch. Yarn over hook. Pull the loop and hook back through the stitch, raising the yarn around 1cm (½in) out of the stitch. Repeat from * three times. Yarn over hook and draw loop through all loops on the hook (you have made one puff stitch). One chain may be used to tighten the stitch and form an eye.

Puff stitch (pf)

Variation on the puff stitch (pfvar)**Variation on the puff stitch (pfvar)**

Please note that the abbreviation used here is my own; there is no standard version.

Yarn over hook. Put the hook into the eye of the previous stitch in the same row (first eye). Yarn over hook. Pull the loop and hook back through the eye. Yarn over hook. Put the hook into the eye of the same stitch (first eye). Yarn over hook. Pull the loop and hook back through the eye. Yarn over hook. Put the hook into the next eye in the

previous row (second eye). Yarn over hook. Pull the loop and the hook back through the eye. Yarn over hook. Put the hook into the same eye (second eye). Yarn over hook. Pull the loop and the hook back through the eye. There are nine loops on the hook. Yarn over hook and pull the loop through all nine loops, leaving a single loop on the hook. Yarn over hook. Pull the new loop through the loop on the hook creating the eye of this stitch (the first eye of the next stitch). One stitch has been made.

Popcorn stitch (no abbreviation)



Popcorn stitch (no abbreviation)

Work one stitch. Work the type and number of stitches stated in the pattern into the next stitch. Drop the final loop on the hook and insert the hook into the stitch made before the group of stitches, and then back into the dropped loop. Draw the previously dropped loop through the initial stitch.

Cluster (cl)

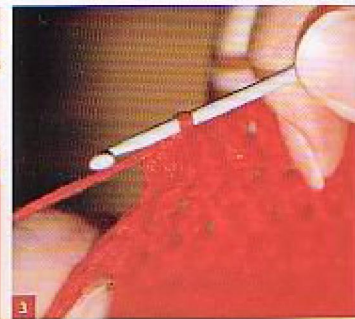
Clusters can be made with differing numbers of stitches and in a variety of types of stitches (although they are usually made with treble crochet

or double treble crochets). Simply leave the final loop of each stitch on the hook until you have completed the last stitch. Wrap the yarn over the hook and pull this loop through all the loops currently on the hook. This forms one cluster. Do not confuse a cluster with a decrease in stitches.

Decrease (dec)

You will find a decrease in stitches is used in the pattern for the fringed table piece. It is similar to the cluster, the difference being that a cluster is made into a single stitch while a decrease is made across several stitches.

Cluster (cl)



Decrease (dec)



Increase (inc)

An increase in stitches also has similar features to a cluster. Like the cluster, all the stitches are worked into the one stitch. They are not joined into a single loop however; each individual stitch is worked to its conclusion.

Increase (inc)



Picot (p)

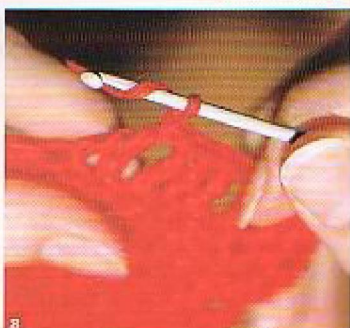
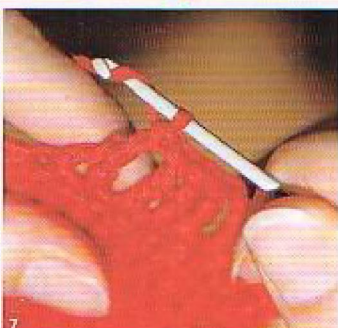
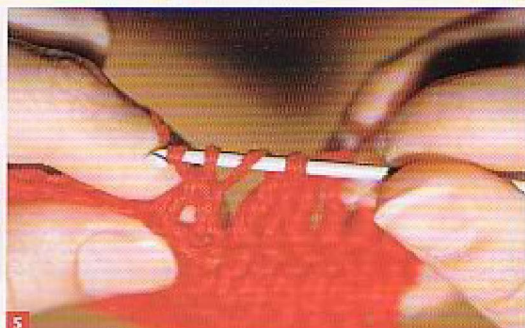
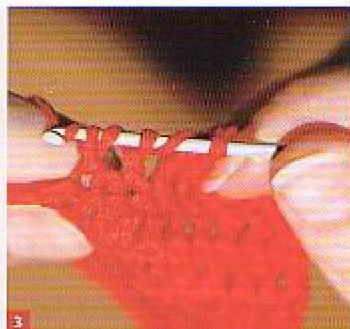
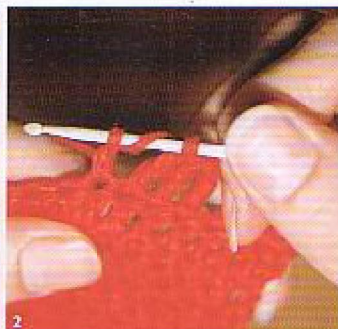
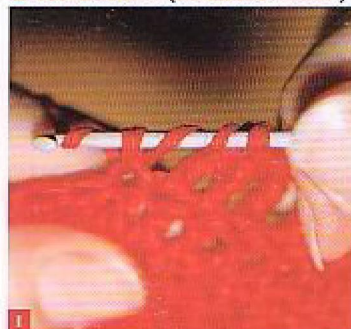
The picot has been used on the short trim for the traditional white bedspread and Aztec table runner.

Make a number of chains (usually three, four or five). Work one double crochet into the first chain to form a ring.

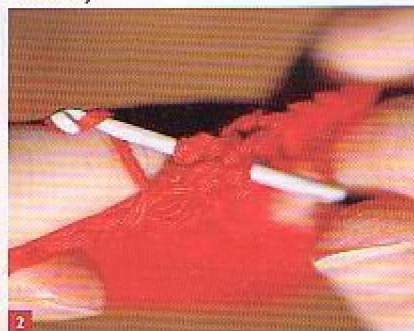
Picot (p)



Crossed treble (no abbreviation)



Variation on the crossed treble (no abbreviation)



Crossed treble (no abbreviation)

Yarn over twice and insert hook into the next stitch. Yarn over and pull loop through stitch (there should now be four loops on the hook). Yarn over and draw loop through two of the loops already existing on the hook. Yarn over. Miss the next stitch and insert hook into stitch following that. Yarn over and pull loop back through stitch. * Yarn over and draw loop through the two loops on the hook. Repeat from * three times. One chain. Now work one treble crochet into the centre of the cross.

Variation on the crossed treble (no abbreviation)

I have used a variation on the crossed treble in the pattern for the child's coverlet (see page 99).

Work one double treble crochet into the appropriate stitch on the left of the hook. One chain. Miss one treble and work one double treble crochet stitch into the next stitch on the left of the hook. One chain. Miss one treble crochet. Yarn over hook twice. Insert hook into the next stitch. Yarn over hook. Pull hook back through, and there should now be four loops on the hook. Yarn over hook and pull loop through two of the loops on the hook. Put the hook around both of the last two double treble crochets and yarn over hook. Pull that loop back around the two double treble crochets. Yarn over hook and pull through three of the loops on the hook. There should now be two loops left on the hook. Yarn over hook and pull through the last two loops.

Mixing Stitches, Joining Pieces

In this chapter you can build on skills and individual elements of crochet you have learned so far. Find out how to combine different stitches, join together pieces of work and incorporate buttonholes, buttons, ribbons and zip fasteners

Many of the skills outlined here are utilized to good effect in some of the later projects, the afghans in discrete buttoned and ribbon-tied cases, for example (see pages 71 and 77). Although the size and elaborate effect of the afghans may seem daunting, be reassured that they are, in fact, very straightforward. The afghan's construction bears some similarity to the cherry red and blue table settings (see pages 63 and 67), though these are much smaller projects. The difference here is that you create squares rather than rectangles, and in greater number. The design of each square is also more elaborate, using chain stitches to create a 'gappy' pattern against a block of stitches. Simply follow the patterns, working the stitches as indicated.

MIXING STITCHES

You can incorporate different stitches to enhance your patterns. Each pattern will make use of a different combination, but fundamentally, the method is the same.

Using the afghans as an example, when you have cast on, made 41 chains with your 4mm crochet hook, worked the first row of 39 treble crochet stitches followed by two turning chains, then move

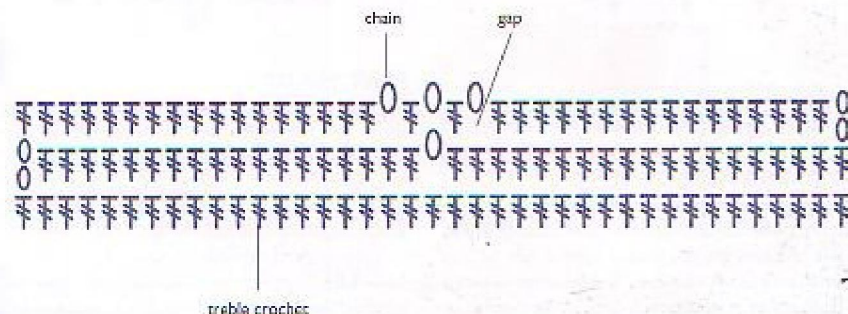
onto the second row. The second row uses two types of stitches. Having worked 18 treble crochets into the appropriate spaces, follow this series with a single chain. Work a further 19 treble into the appropriate spaces, in this case omitting one stitch from the previous row and crocheting until the end of the current row. The third row takes this approach further, as demonstrated in the diagram at the bottom of this page.

JOINING PIECES OF CROCHET

Once you have followed the pattern and created the desired number of squares, your next step is to join the pieces together to create one whole piece.

POSITIONING THE PIECES

Always be sure to create your seams to show more joining yarn on the reverse, or wrong, side of the crocheted piece. Achieve this by placing the right side of one square against the right side of a second while placing the pattern of each square in line with one another, and working the join from this perspective. It doesn't matter if you start with the pattern upside down or right side up as long as all the pieces are the same way up and your seams are on the correct side.

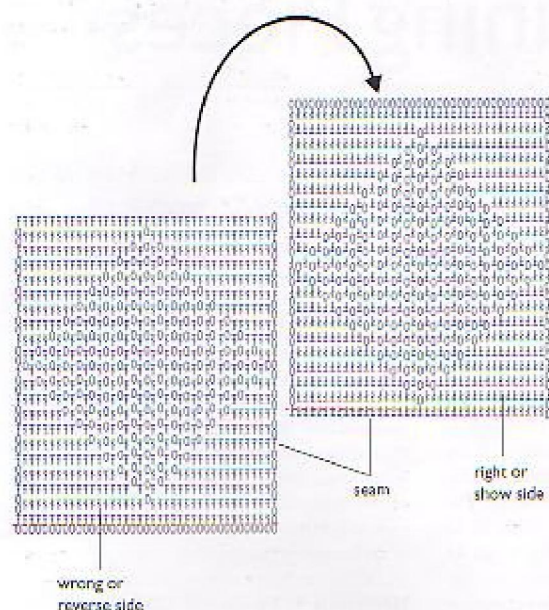


SKILLS FOR THIS CHAPTER

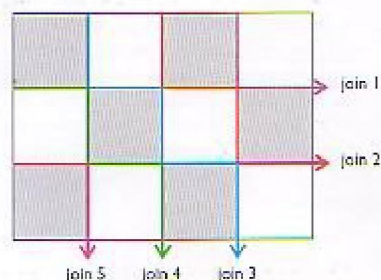
Mixing stitches

Joining crochet pieces with seams

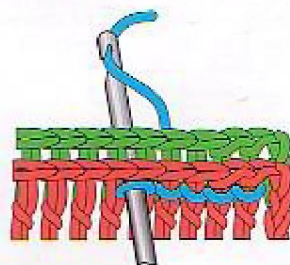
Using buttons, ribbons and zips for fastening



When joining more than two pieces together, save yarn and time (fastening on and off) by maximizing the length of join, as follows.



stitches along the two sides to be joined to create a neat and even edge. Be careful not to pull the stitches too tightly or you will create a gathered, rather than straight, edge.



Seams are created in one of two ways; they may be either crocheted or sewn flat.

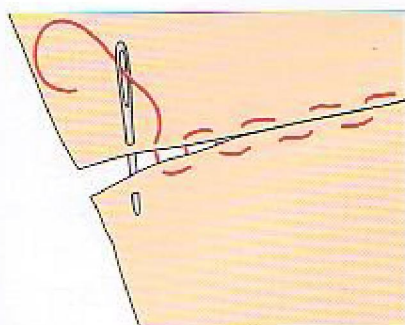
CROCHETED SEAMS

With leftover yarn (or any spare yarn of a similar texture and colour) and the same crochet hook, join the two edges together with a row of slip stitches. It is important to be consistent between the number of stitches you use and the number of

FLAT SEAMS

To join two edges together without forming a ridge, sew the edges together as shown in the diagram on the next page, above right. Use the same or similar yarn to create the crocheted pieces (leftover yarn is ideal) and a blunt-ended wool needle. Again, do not pull the edges too tightly.

Your method depends on your desired effect. Personally, I opt for the crocheted seam wherever possible; the result is sturdier (and sewing is not my



forte!). There are cases when this is not appropriate. When you need a flat or invisible join (eg. a tablecloth that needs to lie completely flat on a table) the flat seam is the better choice.

If you like, you can also create a crocheted seam on the right, or show, side of a finished piece, forming an integral part of the pattern. For example, a seam of double crochet stitches will frame a group of squares very elegantly and offers an interesting alternative.

You could use either method for the afghan patterns, so I suggest you try both and assess the two effects for yourself, then you will make an informed choice for future projects.

MAKING DISCRETE CASES

Again, the construction of a discrete case for holding throws and afghans is very similar to that of the table settings, but you will need to crochet a

larger rectangle. The design of each rectangle is basic. Simply follow the patterns as you have already, then fold the rectangle as illustrated in the diagram, below.

The good side of your case should always be folded inwards revealing the wrong side of the crocheted piece on the outside where you create your seams.

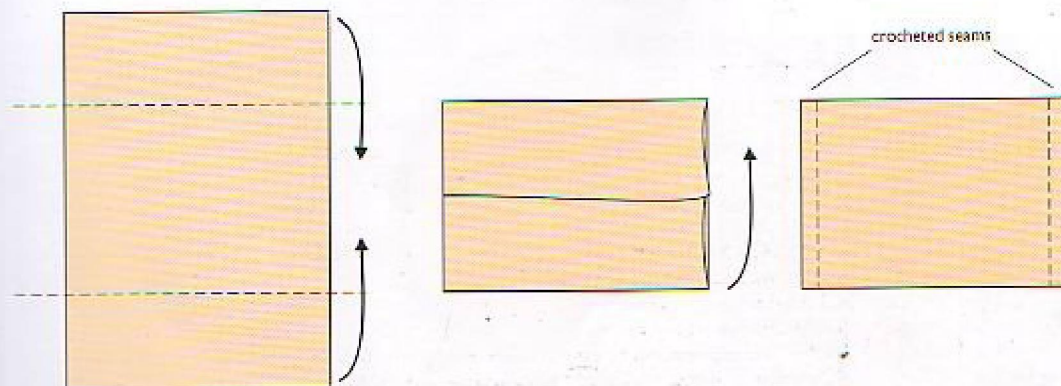
Join the two edges together along the blue dotted line and turn the piece inside out, revealing the right, or show, side of the garment.

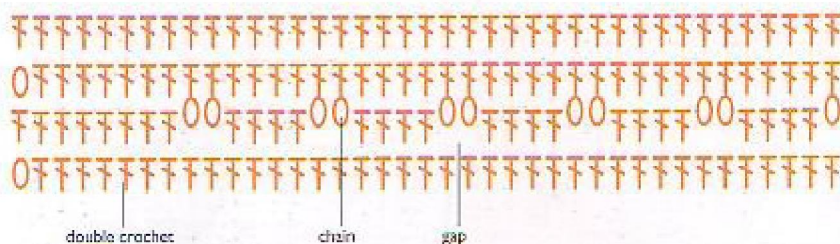
You may choose to secure your afghan cases by one of any number of means. I like to vary this by using buttons, zips and ribbons as both functional and decorative devices.

Buttons

If you choose to fasten your crocheted pieces with buttons, you need to work the holes into the crocheted piece itself as demonstrated on the following page, and in the cream afghan case (see page 71). In that pattern, row 111 requires larger gaps in-between the stitches at regular intervals with the use of chain stitches. These gaps are then strengthened by the following rows, leaving a firm and secure buttonhole.

Fold the piece, being sure to place the edge with the button holes in the correct position, in other words folding this edge in first so the button holes end up on the outside. Secure the seams as you have before and turn the crocheted case the right way around. Sew the buttons into the appropriate place (in stitches corresponding to the holes).



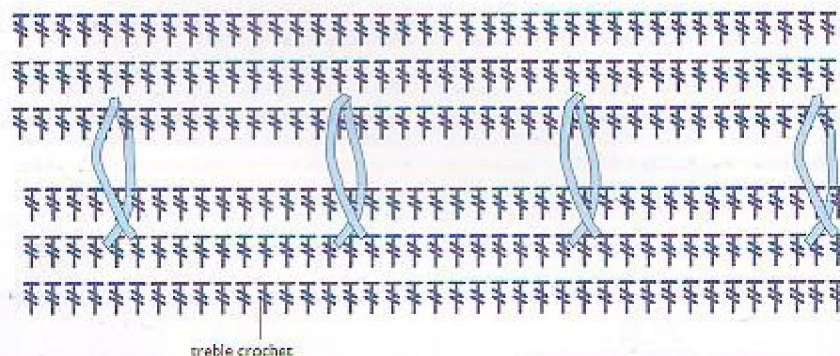


Ribbons

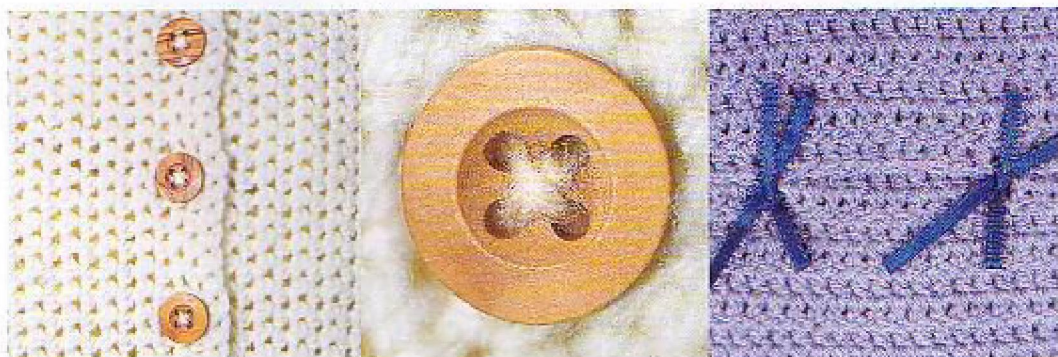
If you want to use ribbons to secure your work or as a decorative feature, you do not need to alter the pattern in any way as you do with buttons, provided that the stitches aren't worked so tightly that there is no space to thread the ribbon between them, but this is unlikely. I use ribbons to tie together the opening in the discrete case for the blue afghan (see page 77). Once the case is complete, the seams in place and the cover turned the right way out, you can attach the ribbons.

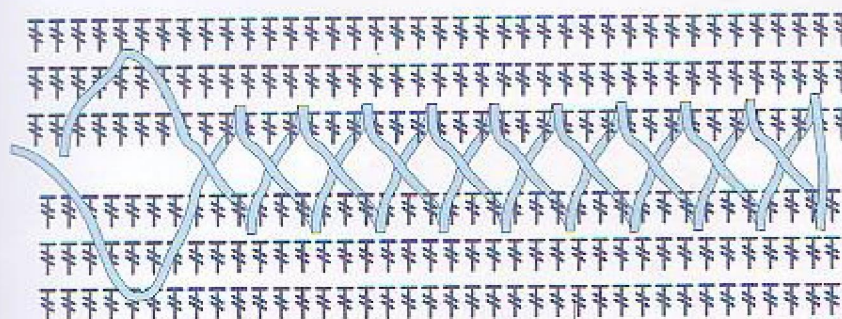
There are at least two different ways to secure the ribbon. With the first you cut lengths of ribbon of your choice and then simply thread through the second and last rows of the piece and then tie them in bows to secure the join, as shown below.

A second alternative is to use one long length of ribbon and then thread it continuously through the fabric of the crochet at equal intervals like a coil, as above. Once complete, tie the ends together and thread them back through. This creates a neat effect.



For the cream afghan case, you must allow for special buttonholes in the crochet, but this is unnecessary for the blue ribboned case





treble crochet

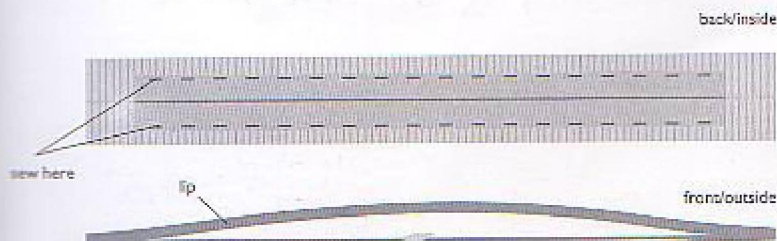
Zips

As with ribbons, you do not need to alter the pattern in any way when using a zip to secure an opening. Once you have made your crocheted piece and correctly aligned the seams, carefully attach your zip.

There are various zips available on the market; concealed, transparent, reversible and side-opening are just a few. There is also a selection of weights; feather, light, dress, medium and heavy weight adds to the choice. Each requires you to sew into place differently. For an afghan case for example, you might use a nylon dress-weight zip, which, as it suggests, is used for dresses, skirts, pockets and soft furnishings. Pin the zip into place, following the perforations along the two

edges of the zip, which you can then use as a guide to sew into the correct position as shown in the accompanying diagrams, below. Before you begin, remember to make sure that you match your sewing cotton to the colour of your zip and chosen yarn.

If you like, you can add an additional row of stitches on one edge of the zip when joining pieces with an extended edge. This forms a lip which disguises the zip that is hidden underneath. If you wish to duplicate this, be sure to fold this edge in before you add your seams, so that the lip rests on the outside edge once the case is turned right side out. When you sew the zip into place, remember to position this additional row correctly.





Crochet for Texture

As a child, one of the first crochet techniques I learned was how to make crochet squares. They often ended up as the multicoloured patchwork blankets that were popular during my childhood. Usually made with leftovers, these holey day blankets are actually a great way of using up the ends of yarn collected over time

SQUARES AND CIRCLES

In this section you learn to work in rounds to form squares and circles, as opposed to the more familiar rows. They can be combined to make some beautiful patterns in crochet, and turned into traditional bedspreads, throws and rugs.

Squares are given their shape by grouping stitches together into four corners. This has the effect of filling out the corners to a point. This becomes increasingly enhanced as the rows build upon one another, reinforcing the shape. Circles simply don't have these 'bunched' groupings. Otherwise, they

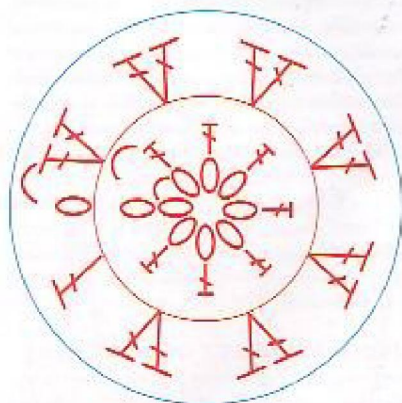
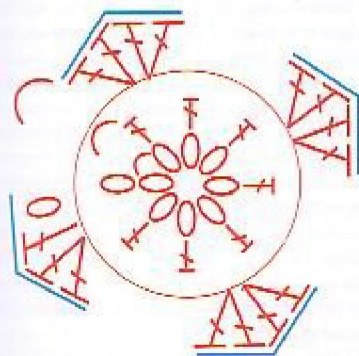
SKILLS FOR THIS CHAPTER

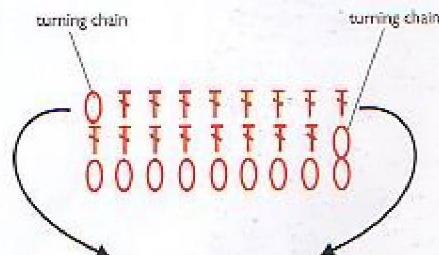
Working squares and circles

Joining shapes

Making trims and tassels

Thinking about texture





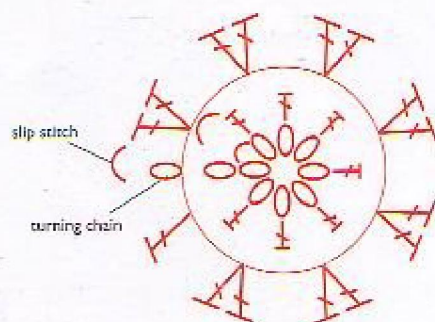
are very similar in construction, which is why you may encounter squares within circles or circles within squares.

The principle behind crocheting in circles and squares is virtually the same as working in rows; the primary difference being that the rows are joined together. The turning chains at the end of each row still raise the hook and yarn to an elevation appropriate for working the next row; you merely work them over a slip stitch (in most cases) that joins the row into a round. There is no turning of the work in progress. Each row progressively increases the number of stitches used, so that the circles become larger as the piece grows in size.

To work the technique, imagine that, having completed the first row, you join the last stitch to the first to form a circle. You now build on this first row, until you again complete and join the circle. Of course you must increase the number of stitches in each subsequent row or you will build a tower. Too many stitches will create pleats!

USING A VARIETY OF STITCHES

Regardless of the uniformity you may expect to find within these shapes, fine, elaborate and complicated stitch work may be used within rounds or squares. Each row must equal a precise number of progressively increasing stitches or the piece will rise in the centre where it should remain flat, and these stitches must be uniformly distributed in the previous row and in harmony with the next to form a visually pleasing effect. Think of the tablecloths or lace-like doilies you have seen; these patterns stem from traditions that have been passed down from generation to generation. My pattern for a fringed table piece (see page 91) makes up a large crocheted circle, suitable for use as either a tablecloth or decorative covering on a round table. The pattern makes use of a variety of stitches, including slip stitch, double crochet and treble crochet.



JOINING SHAPES WITH FILL-IN MOTIFS

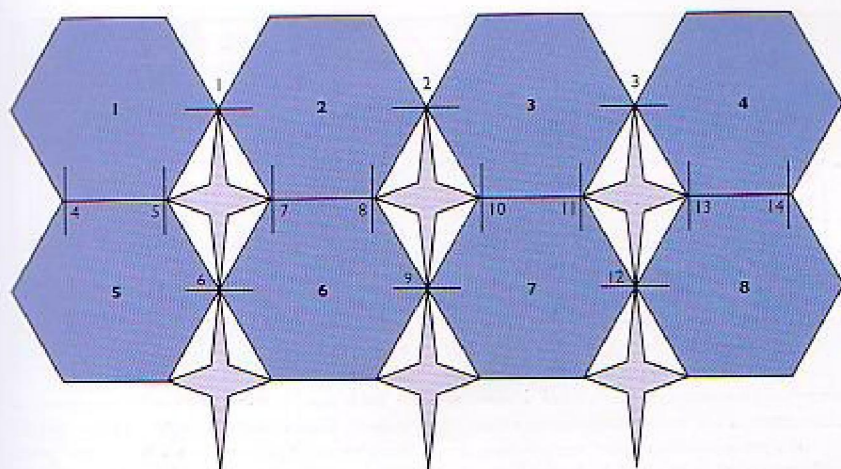
It is also possible to create a number of small circles or other shapes (eg. a snowflake) and join them together to form a larger piece. I have not included a pattern here, but the circular principle is the same. Making a large circle from a series of smaller circles requires you to join each shape together with a more elaborate seam, one that creates a pattern and fill-in shape in itself. As the edges are not flat and will not fit neatly alongside each other, you have no choice but to fill in these gaps. One way of doing this is to join each shape together in sequence as you crochet it, see the diagram, left. The pattern does not give you explicit instructions, so you must understand for yourself how to join each shape as you create it. Shape one stands alone. Shape two joins to the first by using a double crochet. Join them together when you reach the appropriate position in each individual circle and then continue to the last row and the end of that shape. Shape three joins to shape two and so on, until the first string of shapes is complete.

The second row is complicated further by the fact that you must additionally join it to the first row of shapes. This means that shape five joins to shape one in two places mid-row as you work the final row of the shape. Shape six joins to both shape two and five. Repeat until you achieve the desired size and shape.

Make and join the star-shaped fill-in motifs in the same way as the primary motifs.

JOINING WITH HIDDEN SEAMS

In many of the patterns in this book, I have opted to use seams that appear to be invisible on the surface of the piece so that they do not detract from its design. Therefore, with the exception of the pattern for the traditional white bedspread (see page 105), most of the patterns in this book have a



different focus, which demands that the seams in fact appear to be almost *seamless*. The traditional white bedspread differs because it does not use the seam as an integral part of the pattern. For the bedspread, you work a basic, crocheted seam onto the right, or show, side as you make the bedspread. This demonstrates one of the many possibilities for joining individual crocheted pieces or motifs. Individual patterns always instruct you how to achieve a specific effect.

MAKING SQUARES

For a basic square, a good pattern to follow is my design for the coverlet for a child's bed (see page 99). Most crocheted squares tend to be quite loose and gappy, but I have tried to avoid this here by keeping the pattern tight and more compact by using a smaller crochet hook than the yarn label suggests, which produces small, tight stitches and utilising fewer turning chains. This is a matter of personal preference. You will certainly encounter the loose square at some point, and there are many patterns to try.

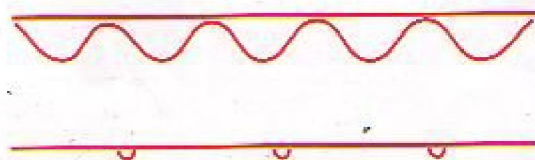
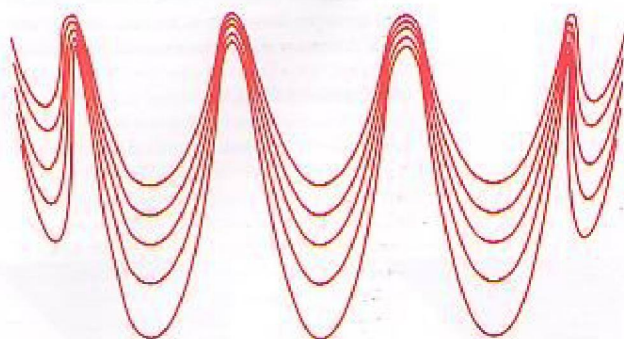
The pattern for the coverlet instructs you to repeat this pattern a number of times and then to join each individual piece to form a whole. To join this pattern, refer to the section on making seams for afghans (see page 35). This shows you the most efficient way to organize squares, and gives instructions on creating seams.

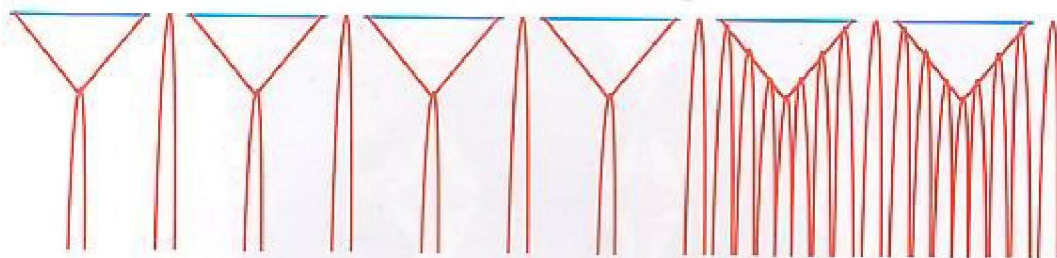
ADDING TRIMS

It is always fun to add an attractive border to a circular or square creation. The fringed table piece uses very simple chains as a decorative effect which

progressively increase in size with each new row to create a looped outline (see diagram, below top).

The pattern for the child's bed coverlet has two different trims. This is quite common with bedspread patterns because often the edge of the piece that runs along the head of the bed is less elaborate than the side and bottom edges. Both bedspread patterns in this book demonstrate this; the child's coverlet has a scalloped edge, while the traditional white bedspread makes use of a thin, picot effect





(see diagrams, bottom of previous page). The longer trim, used on three of the four sides of the child's bed coverlet, is what I consider to be a typical crocheted trim, and have examples of it on many pieces of my family's home-crafted furnishings.

Sadly, my grandmother died while making the traditional white bedspread, and I finished it for her as a tribute to an exceptional woman. She probably would have opted for the type of trim used for the coverlet to complete the look. I, however, have chosen tassels with a difference. Tassels are my favourite trim so this bedspread is a true joining of generations, something she would have appreciated.

Rather than simply attach tassels to each straight edge of the completed piece, I have first created a border to the bottom edge of three sides, made up of small crocheted triangles, from which I then attach the tassels. In this pattern, they are attached at two levels and made at varying lengths to align at the bottom (see diagram, above). You can add as many as you like to create a thick fringe.

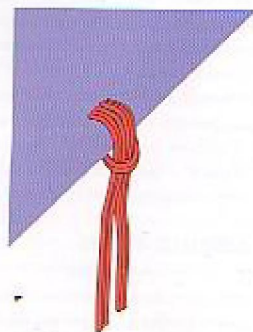
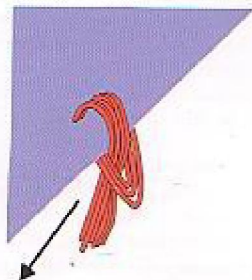
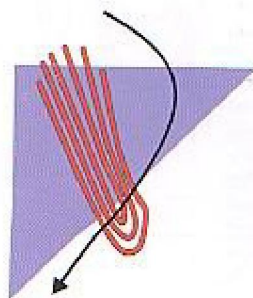
MAKING TASSELS

I make a very basic tassel that is a hybrid of both crochet and tassel-making (which is a beautiful

and fascinating craft in its own right). Quick and easy to make, these tassels look effective and are extremely versatile.

Each tassel is made from varying numbers of strands. You can either create a uniform look by using the same yarn as your main crocheted piece, or create a contrast by using one or more different types of yarns.

The length and number of strands of yarn in a tassel can determine the character of the piece. In this instance, fold your strands in half, so that you double the original thickness of the strands. Cut the number you require, all measuring the same length. The pattern for the piece should advise you on how many, at what length and in which yarn. Fold all the strands in half, creating a loop at one end and with the loose ends at the other. Again, the pattern will advise you about how to correctly space your tassels. Following the diagrams below in sequence, insert your hook into the appropriate stitch from the back of the piece. The hook end should now be on the right side. Hook the loops, making up one end of the group of strands, and pull them back through. Thread the loose ends through the loop and pull them firmly. You have completed your first tassel!





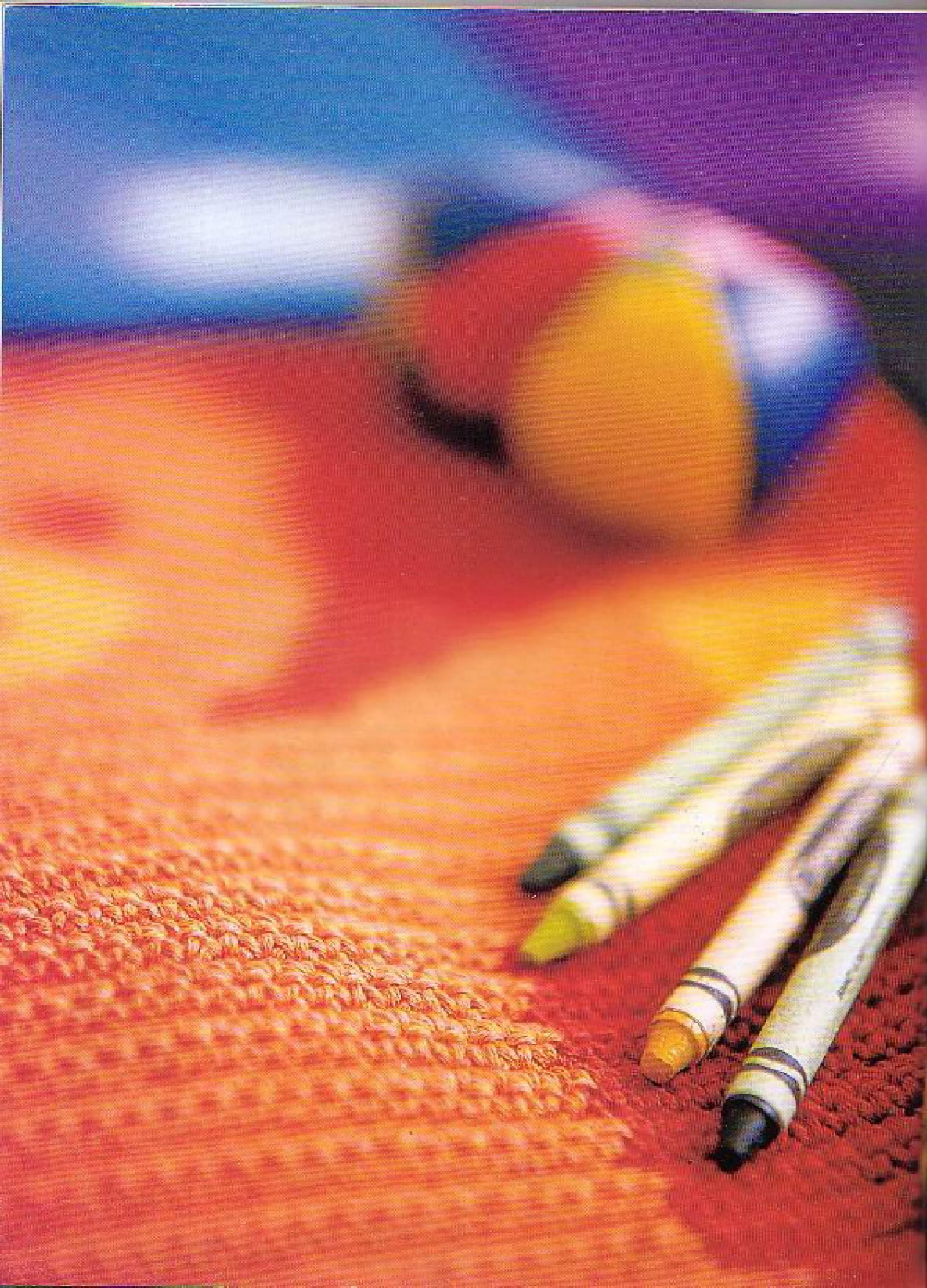
The 'lifted' motifs and tasselled fringe of the traditional bedspread

TEXTURES

Texture is very important in crochet and there are many effects you can employ to enhance your pieces. And once you have made a couple, compare the effects you have created in each; the loose effect of the fringed table piece in contrast to the sturdier, plain squares of the child's bed coverlet. For the bedspread, for example, the central elevation in each square in the pattern was one of my grandmother's favourite quirky techniques. Throughout her active life, she used the underlying principles to make an array of imaginative things – small yellow chickens were used as a motif for

Easter table decorations, coasters with raised edges clung cleverly to small pieces of glass, and little baskets were filled with treats. The textural 'lifted' areas that feature on the traditional bedspread provide a small indication of the possibilities for creating the more tightly knit, three-dimensional shapes like the soft basket and trinket box featured later in this book (see pages 141 and 145).

As you work, keep thinking about the different stitches, materials (and combinations of both) available to you – and importantly the desired function of your piece – to create imaginative looks, textures and thicknesses for pieces for the home.



Crochet in Colour

Making imaginative use of colour adds another dimension to your work and opens up all kinds of exciting design possibilities

USING MORE THAN ONE COLOUR

There are two methods for creating multicoloured pieces of crochet.

The first method is most applicable to working in blocks of colour, for example if you want to create a thick stripe of colour, or where a colour is used only sporadically, or in rows where changes are easily disguised in the seams. Begin by picking up and dropping alternative colours mid-row, and then neaten the work by threading the loose ends through to the reverse, or wrong, side and fastening them. By fastening off you save yarn, rather than keeping it attached for reuse later.

The second method is best used where colour changes are frequent, or where the wrong side of the piece is visible, knots and all. For this method, you keep all the yarns attached. Take these dormant yarns with you as you work so they are at the appropriate point in the piece when you require them once more.

Some patterns require you to use both methods for changing colour within a single square; it simply depends on the requirements of the individual pattern. Keep this in mind and you will soon learn for yourself which method is best for a particular piece.

SKILLS FOR THIS CHAPTER

Using more than one colour in a piece

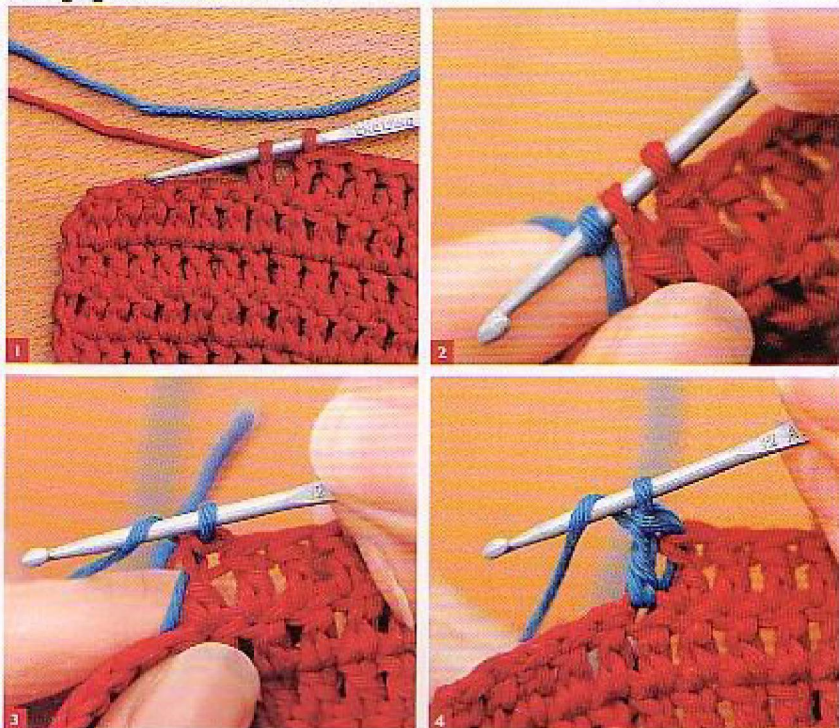
Changing colours

Using colour for design



The blue shades cushion makes bold use of colour in varying thicknesses of stripe

Changing colour mid-row



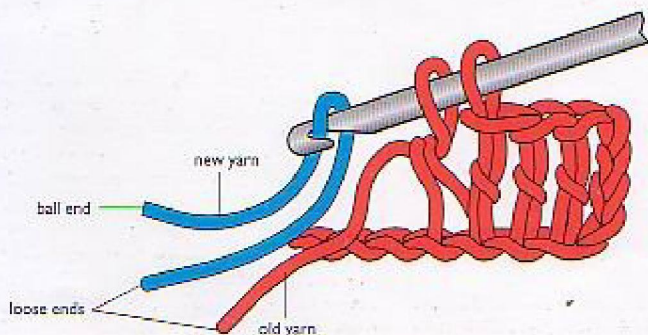
CHANGING COLOUR MID-ROW

First, let's look at simple colour changes for rows or blocks of colour. This will prepare you for the next section on colour where you will learn to manipulate it to create recognizable images in the crocheted fabric.

Creating different rows of colour within a crocheted piece of fabric is actually quite straight-

forward. Simply follow the same method you use to introduce a new ball of yarn when one ball has finished (see page 18). The only difference here is that you decide when and where your current yarn will end and which yarn you choose to continue.

As you come to the end of one colour, cut the yarn leaving an excess of 10–15cm (4–6in) in length in order to later tie-in the ends. Do not



remove the loops from the hook. Place the loose end of the new yarn against the loose end of the old yarn, leaving a similar excess length to finish the ends later. Work seamlessly with the new yarn as though there is no break.

WHEN TO CHANGE COLOUR

When transferring to a new colour, you must make the change before the final yarn over of the last stitch in the existing colour. The diagram, below left, shows how this works with a treble crochet stitch, but the principle is the same for all stitches. When you reach the point in the stitch where two loops remain on the hook, drop the existing colour and pick up the new one. Make this yarn over in the new colour and continue to work as though you have made no change at all. Leave the two loose ends where they are, or tie them together temporarily to tidy them out of the way, and continue with the new yarn.

The patterns tell you when to make these changes, but as a rule you can do them anywhere in a crocheted piece. If, however, you change colour at the end of a row, be aware that the turning chains that raise your work to the height of the next row actually form the beginning of the new row, not the end of the old, and must be treated as such.

CHANGING BOTH YARN AND COLOUR

While this approach is straightforward when working with multiple colours of the same yarn, it is complicated by mixing different yarns. As you will learn, the yarns you use work with your choice of stitches and hook size to create very different textures. This means that an inappropriate combination of two different yarns can produce an undesirable effect, for example a baggy patch or a tightened effect in the middle of the piece. This is not to say that using different yarns is impossible, simply that it pays to be aware of the potential hazards and to be judicious in your choices.

SECURING LOOSE ENDS

Having completed the crocheted piece, neaten and secure the loose ends. Where a change has occurred mid-row, ensure that the loose ends are threaded through to the wrong side of the piece (the back of your work). This is not crucial at the end of the row if you wish to join the piece to another and create a seam, but if, however, you want the edge to stand alone, it is best to secure the loose ends to the back of the piece.

You may either fasten the loose ends as if casting off the end of your work (a necessity for a straight



edge where a change has occurred), or you may tie together the two loose ends in a secure knot. There will always be two loose ends to join together, one from the old yarn and the other from the new yarn. Be certain to not under- or over-pull the yarn but to tie it off firmly to create a neat, flat plane consistent with the overall piece. Finally, cut off any leftover yarn.

The patterns for the blue shades cushion cover and the striped pillow cover both have seams where colour changes occur. For these, the easier option is to tie the loose ends together. Any knots or loose ends can be easily hidden inside the covers. All the colour changes in these patterns occur at the ends of rows and in blocks as opposed to frequent dropping and picking up of the same yarn. In this way you do not have to worry about taking the colour with you as you work. As discussed, if gaps between colours are sufficiently large, they warrant

The striped pillow cover also makes use of bold changes in colour for a striking, contemporary look

a complete break. If you must change colour for only a few stitches, perhaps three or four, cutting and fastening is a lot of trouble for such a short break in colour.

MANIPULATING COLOUR FOR DESIGN

You do not have to restrict changes in colour to the beginning of a new row; they can occur at any point in the pattern. The patterns I've designed for the Aztec cotton runner and the teddy bear play rug both require you to work with more than one ball of yarn.

As you will see, this technique can be applied to create an abstract design (as with the Aztec cotton runner) or an image (the teddy bear rug). These patterns use fine cotton and the same-sized needle and stitches. If you follow the patterns, you will

learn how to produce individually patterned squares that can be used in any combination you like to create something unique. This is much easier than it sounds and you will soon be working this technique to create beautiful designs.

CHANGING COLOURS AND CARRYING DORMANT YARNS

This method enables you to keep attached new or existing colours, ready to be picked up, while keeping them tidy (and the work reversible) by crocheting over the loose unused yarns. You must keep the to-be-used yarns on the same side of the piece and this means crossing over at the beginning of every other row. Be systematic and keep the yarn taut and under control. In some patterns you will work with more than two colours, and it is very easy to become muddled. The yarns will be crossing over one another continually and this can lead to frustrating knots. Take your time and disentangle regularly.

Regardless of the stitch you work or the number of yarns you use (within reason), you work the dormant yarns into the piece in the same way. With the crocheted piece facing you, and the dormant yarns kept on the back, insert your hook into the stitch about to be worked, and place any dormant yarns over the hook. Yarn over hook and pull it through in the normal way. As you then yarn over hook and pull it through the first two (or single) loops on the hook, you will encase the dormant yarns in the stitch, thus hiding them. Continue to work the stitch as usual until it is complete. Again, consistency and neatness are important so that the dormant yarns are well hidden. Continue to crochet in this manner until the next colour change. When you reach this point, simply swap your existing yarn for a dormant yarn and continue as before.

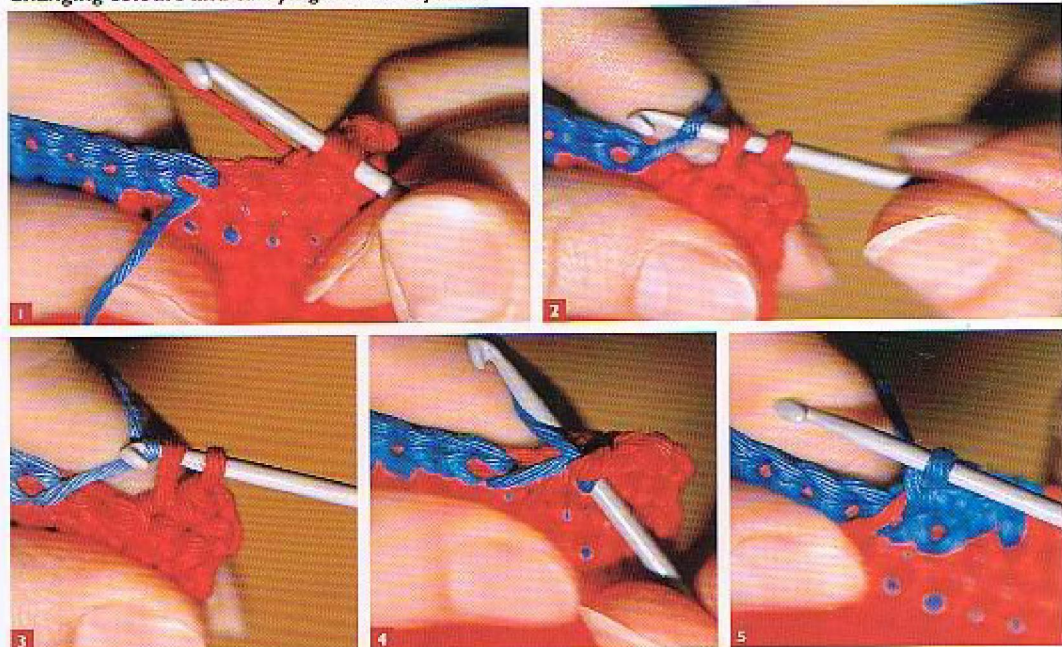
KEEPING THE REVERSE SIDE NEAT

Keep your dormant yarns consistently on the same side of your crocheted piece. This ensures neat coverage and even if the consistent side is the wrong side, it is best to keep your options for making your piece reversible as far as possible – you sometimes don't know how you will feel about the right, or good, side until the end. In order to do this, work as normal with the existing yarn, and when you need to change yarns, simply swap them over as neatly as possible. If the dormant yarns face you as you work, insert the hook under them before you insert the hook into the stitch you are about work, then continue as above, encasing the dormant yarns on the side of the work facing you.

By manipulating colour you can create all kinds of abstract designs, like this Aztec-inspired cotton runner



Changing colours and carrying dormant yarns



SUBSTITUTING COLOURS

When substituting colours, the transfer must take place within the existing stitch before the first stitch of new colour. The final loop in any stitch is actually a part of the next stitch so, naturally, you must work this in the next colour. For example, a treble crochet would be worked as follows:

Yarn over. Insert hook into the next stitch on the left to be worked. Yarn over and pull back through the stitch. There are three loops on the hook. Yarn over and pull through the first two loops on the hook. There are two loops on the hook. With the new colour yarn, yarn over and pull through both loops on the hook. You are left with one loop in the new colour on the hook. Continue to crochet with the new colour yarn.

This method is just the same as changing a ball of yarn, whether a colour change or because one ball is coming to an end.

COLOUR WORK IN DOUBLE CROCHET

In the patterns for the Aztec cotton runner and the teddy bear play rug, I have chosen to use only one stitch (double crochet). Not only does this simplify things while you are learning a new technique, but

creates more compact blocks of colour which I find looks better. Work the double crochet as follows:

Insert hook into the next stitch on the left to be worked. Yarn over and pull back through the stitch. There are two loops on the hook. With the new colour yarn, yarn over and pull through both loops on the hook. You are left with one loop, in the new colour, on the hook. Continue to crochet in the usual way with the new colour yarn.

CONTROLLING TENSION

Remember, you will naturally crochet different tensions when working with plain, single-coloured pieces compared with multicoloured, patterned pieces. Be aware of this and alter your tension accordingly if you wish to combine plain and patterned squares in a single piece.

I find that my tension alters depending on how many colours I use. If you, too, find this, one way to correct the problem is to use all your intended colours right from the first row of the work. However, I try to avoid this where possible to save yarn. There are other ways to counteract the effect, but my advice is to simply be aware of the problem and do your best, and remember that a trim will go a long way towards hiding any slight unevenness.

ADAPTING THE TECHNIQUE

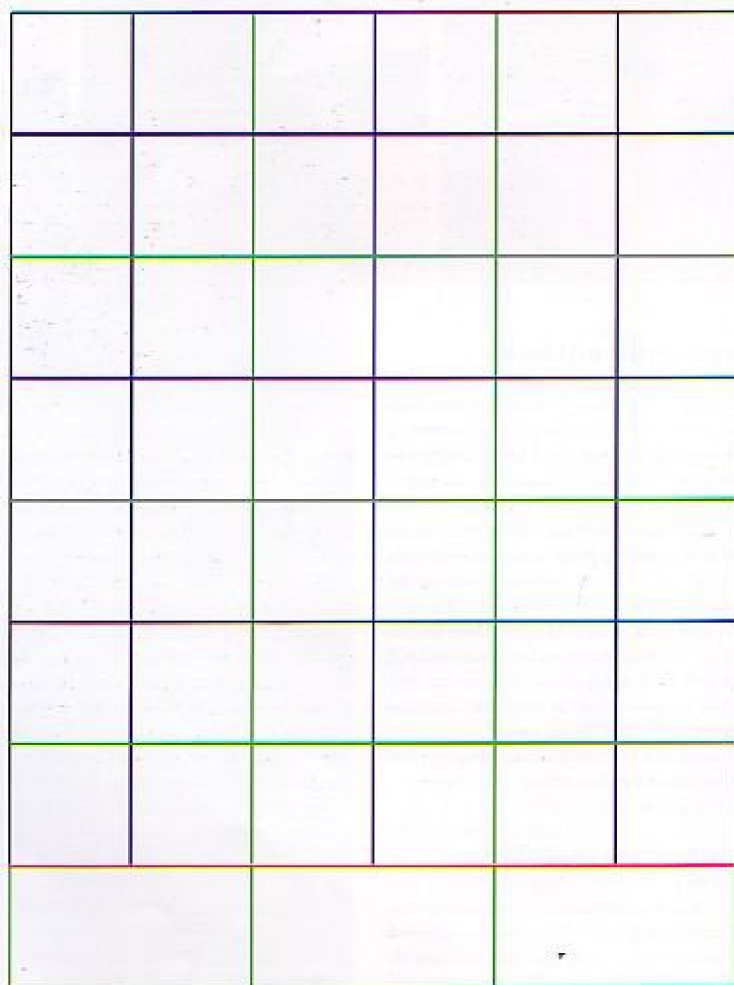
There are many ways to adapt the techniques we have looked at in this chapter. Why not adapt the coloured squares featured in a number of projects in this book, the Aztec runner or teddy bear play rug, for example, to make up matching pieces for the home. The latter would be particularly appealing for a child's bedroom or playroom.

CURTAINS

Curtains to fit a window measuring 120cm (47in) across, with a drop of 130cm (51in), consist of two rectangular pieces, each measuring 120cm (47in) wide (to allow for gathers when drawn) by 140cm

(55in) long. If you wish to make use of the Aztec design, to match a table or floor runner, you will require 42 crocheted squares, each 20cm square in size. Adapt the squares making up the crocheted piece to any combination you like; they can be patterned, plain or a combination of the two. See the diagram below.

The pattern for the teddy bear rug requires larger squares, each measuring 40cm square, which gives an additional drop of 20cm (8in) to the original dimensions. This is ideal if you require a longer pair of curtains. You will need 12 of the teddy bear play rug squares to fulfil the same dimensions. Again, you might like to try a combination of





Experiment with different-coloured wools to make matching or contrasting squares for your designs

different-sized and coloured squares. Why not try nine of the Aztec runner squares and trim the bottom edge with six teddy bear squares? All you have to do is match the colours.

To hang your crocheted curtains securely from a curtain pole, you require curtain clips. These are widely available in the soft furnishings department of department stores, and elsewhere.

FURTHER IDEAS

I hope that by experimenting with combinations of squares, you will be stimulated to think more about the possible design elements you can bring to your pieces. Ultimately, it is exciting to see

beyond written patterns and to use your creativity to make things to your own needs and taste.

The main thing is to not feel restricted; if you want to create something different, go for it. All you need are the correct dimensions, and the skills you gain with practice. There are endless ideas for adapting the coloured and patterned squares. Cushions are an obvious example, but you might also design and make rugs for children's buggies, cars, and for your pets, too. In a softer thread, the Aztec runner might equally make a stylish shawl. Once you begin crocheting coloured and patterned squares, you can make anything you like.



Crochet into Three Dimensions

In this chapter we push the boundaries of crochet closer to its limits to create distinctive, textural, three-dimensional pieces which will, I hope, inspire you to make all kinds of unusual crocheted items

CREATING TEXTURAL EFFECTS

The four factors that make the character of a piece of work are the stitches, the yarn, the size of the hook and the imagination of the person holding it. The combination of the first three will directly determine the form of the crochet design you are able to create.

As we have discussed, small stitch work produces a tight, compact effect, thin yarn produces a loose texture, and a small hook tightens the finished piece. For example, a small-sized stitch like double crochet (dc), worked in thick yarn (something chunky), with a small hook (it would be hard to work this in anything smaller than 2.5mm) would result in a hard, firm, thick fabric. A large-sized stitch like quadruple treble crochet (qtr), worked in a thin yarn (10 count crochet cotton) with a large hook (4mm) would create a very loose, net-like fabric.

It is unlikely that you will actually need to make use of these extreme combinations, but it is worth experimenting. If you use just two of these in combination, you might produce something quite

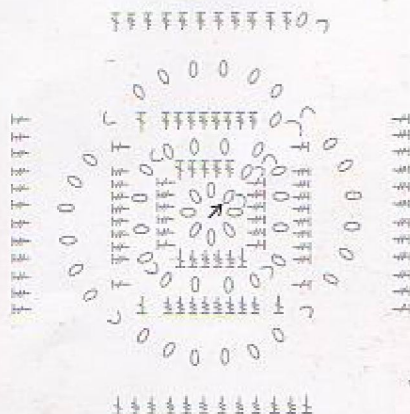
unusual. For example, the pattern for the soft basket uses an unexceptional yarn and stitch, but the unique effect is achieved by using an exceptionally small hook.

Stitches are used in combination for the two-tone floor rug. The alternate rows of double crochets act as a kind of spine on which to hang the rows of treble crochets, retaining a thick, firm texture. This is reinforced by a thick yarn and a moderate (rather than large) hook.

The importance of the stitch is two-fold. Not only can it affect the character of the piece, as I've described above for the two-tone floor rug, but it can also create other effects, like the unique, raised centre of each square in the pattern for the traditional white bedspread, see below and page 105. For example, you might take this technique further by adapting the flower motif used in that project, with petals. To do so, repeat the instructions for row 1, followed by rows 2 and 1 and increase the stitches per repetition of each of the four edges. This three-dimensional feature is effected by 'lifting' the stitchwork, rather than by forming a firm, compact texture.

SKILLS FOR THIS CHAPTER

Experimenting with tension and texture
Creating lipped objects
Beading

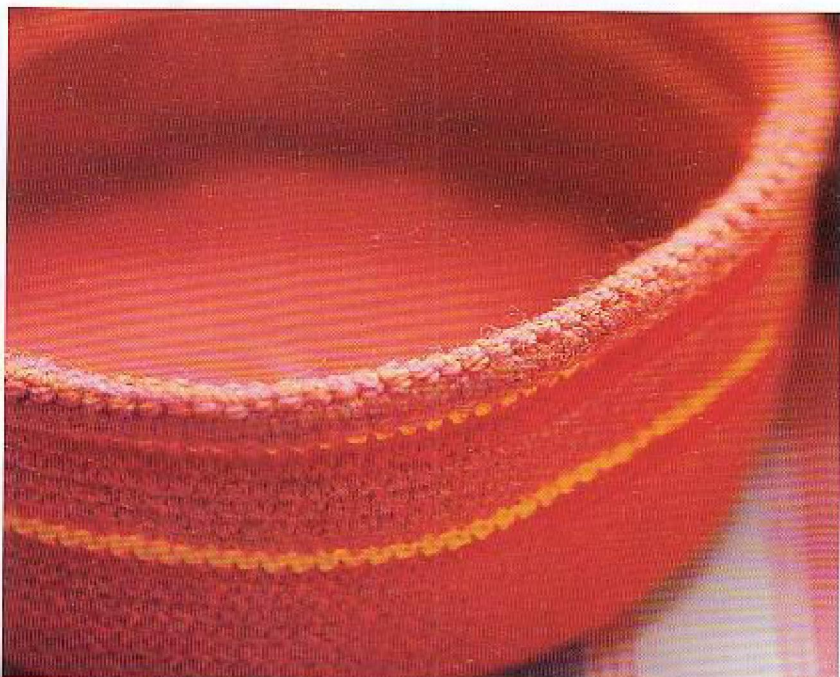


Enhance your designs with textural features like this raised petal motif. It was made with a thick cotton and a 2.5mm hook

KEY

- ch
- ∩ sl
- ⌘ dc
- ⌘ tr
- attach thread here

*Creating a lip enhances
the tactile character of
this soft basket*



*Adding beads to
decorate the trim of
your piece*



CREATING LIPPED EDGES

You can raise the edge of a circular piece of crochet with several repetitions of the last row. (Without increasing the stitches per row, the circle will not remain flat.) This principle can be used to create a coaster or bowl with the lip turning inwards, suitable for holding a glass or bottle. The lip can even be pulled tightly in by reducing the number of stitches in the final row. This will then hold an object neatly in place underneath the crocheted lip.

You can easily make a lip that rolls outwards, too. If you want to make the soft basket (see page 141), you might vary the design by adding a lip to it. Simply roll down the edge of the completed basket, and then starch it into place. Roll it down as much or as little as you like, depending on the desired effect.

CREATING PLEATS

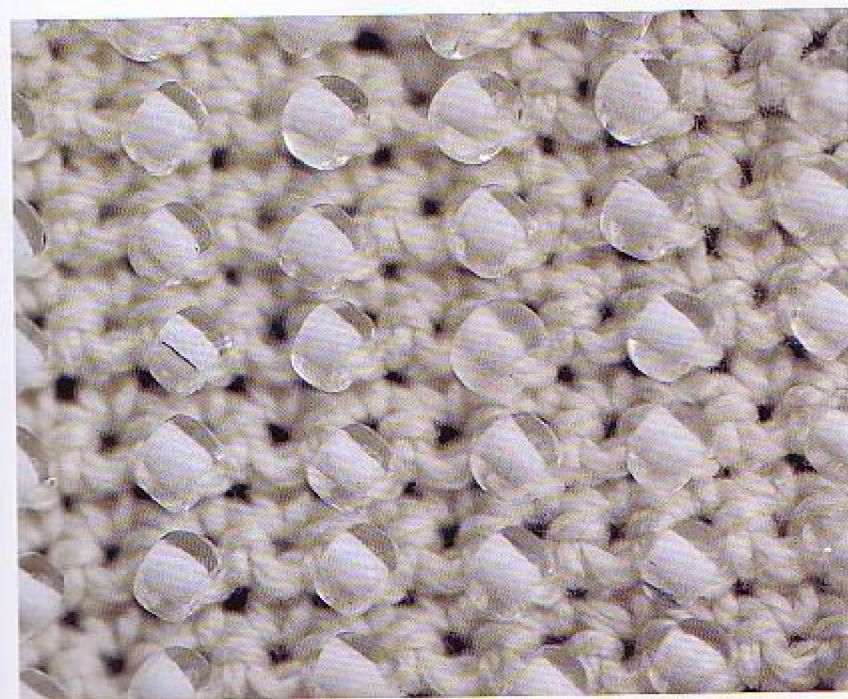
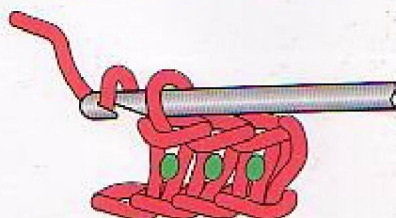
For pleats, you over-increase the number of stitches in a row. This may be appropriate for a tablecloth, for example. You might sit the flat crocheted circle on the round part of the table and have the pleats cascading down over the edge. You may also work pleats for a skirt, although a skirt

may be made in rows as well as rounds. Once complete, you can seam together the fabric to finish the garment.

BEADING

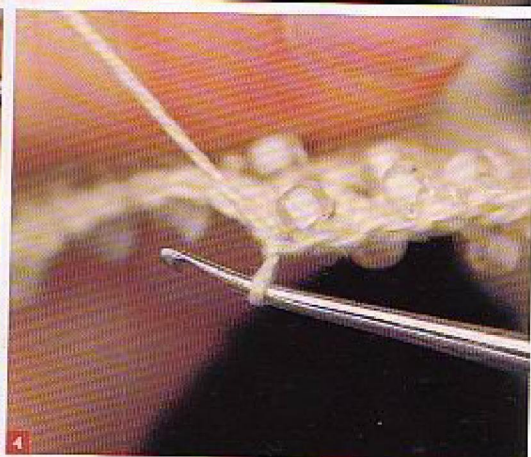
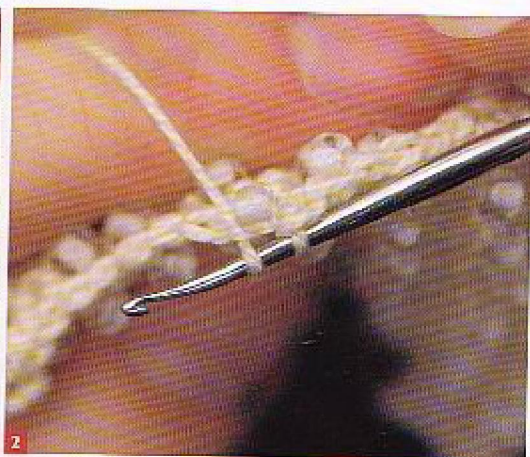
Accessorizing your crochet projects with beads is another great way to add interest to your work. It is effective both as an integral feature of the design or as a trim to work around the edge of your piece.

You can add beads to your crochet by working into the trim of a piece, or by integrating it into the fibre of the crochet itself (see the photograph, below, using transparent glass beads). If you want to do the former, I recommend working them into the stitches at the end of each, or every other,



This shows what can be achieved by making imaginative use of different beading techniques. It was made with thin cotton, a 1.5mm hook and 200, small glass beads

Incorporating beads

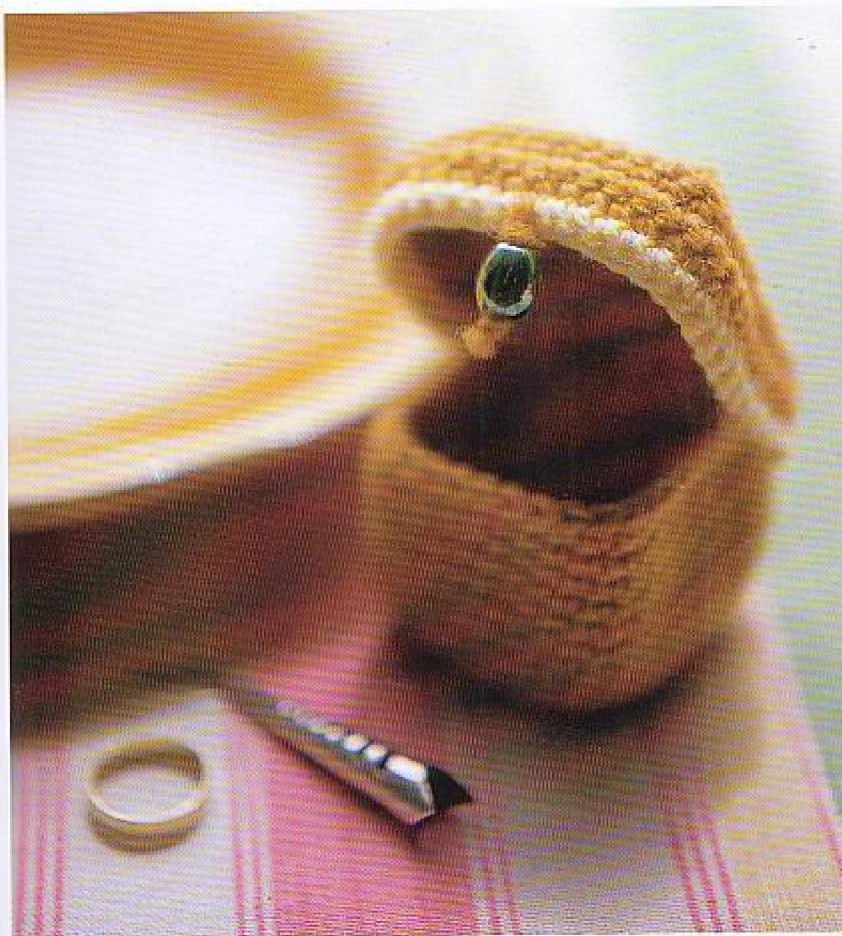


row. As you reach the point in your existing yarn at which you want to add in your bead, move the bead up, ensuring that it is placed flush against the stitch about to be worked. Insert the hook into the stitch. Yarn over. Draw the loop back through. Yarn over. Draw the loop through the two stitches and over the bead. You can use this method for any stitch. (See diagrams, above, which demonstrate how to work a bead into the fabric of the crochet by incorporating into each stitch, here a double crochet stitch.)

Additionally, you can work the beads into the first of the two turning chains at the end of each row. More precisely, move the bead forward

before the chain's yarn over and then work it over as you draw that loop through the existing loop. Always remember to thread the beads onto the yarn you are going to use before you begin the work, regardless of your desired effect.

If you are working beads into every row in this way, you will end up with beads on both sides of the finished piece. This may or may not be the effect you hope to achieve, but can be quite effective as both a decorative and functional affect. It would make a great drinks coaster, raising a glass or hot mug away from the surface of a table. If you want to ensure the beads remain on one side only, either include them in every



The beaded tassel on this trinket box is both useful and decorative

other row (those that feature on the good, or show side of the piece) or, more simply, you can push them through the fabric of crochet once you have finished.

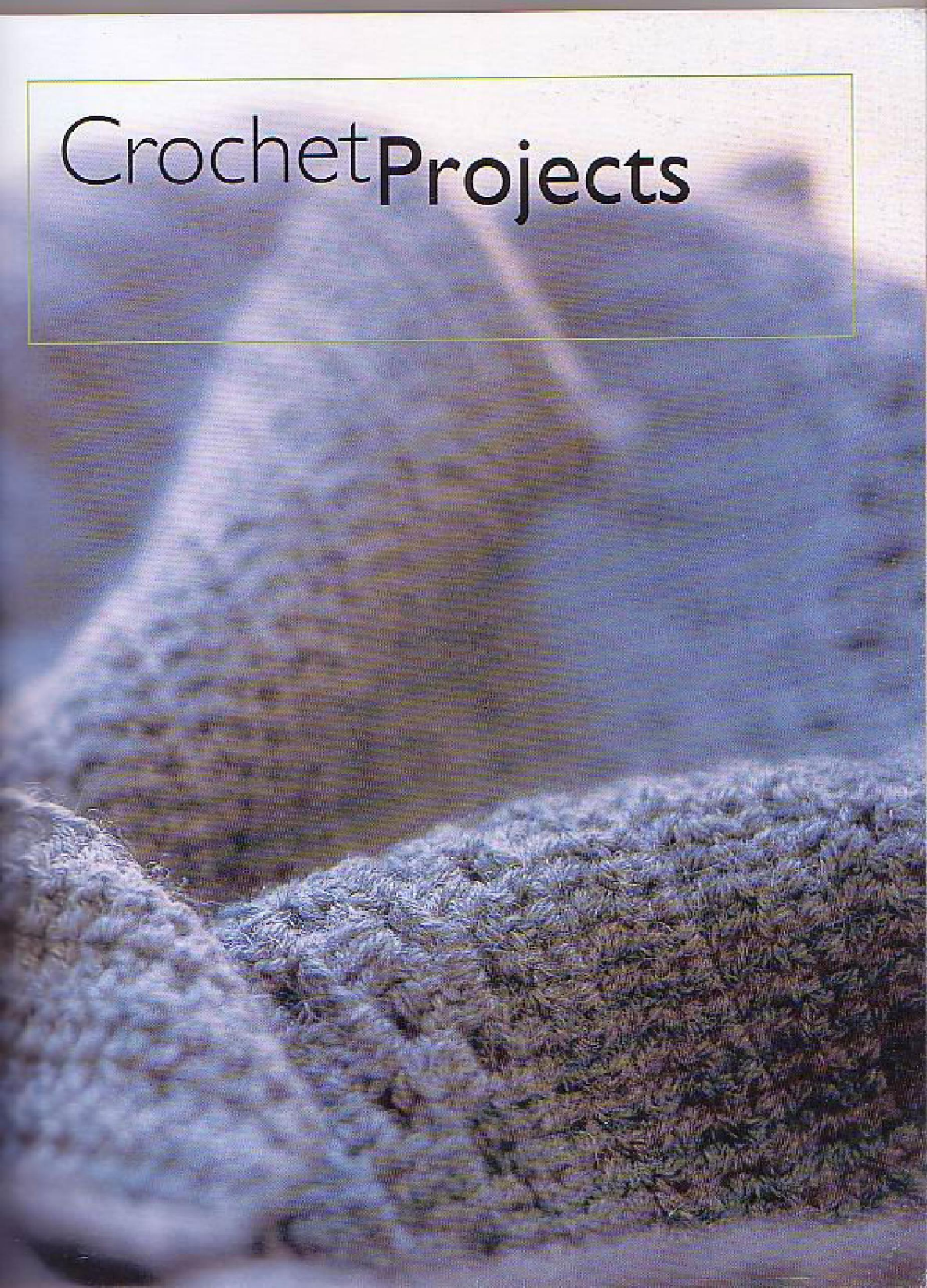
MAKING A BEADED TASSEL OR PULL

A beaded tassel or pull is a decorative little accessory, which can also perform a useful function. Attach your own to the lip of crocheted boxes of all shapes and sizes, as I have for the trinket box project (see page 145), or adapt it to form a fringed border for tablecloths, cushions, and many other items around the home.

To make a beaded tassel or pull for an item like the one shown above, begin by taking a pair of scissors and cutting a single piece of leftover yarn (the length can vary, depending on the scale of your project and the effect you want to achieve). Fold it in half and thread a bead over both strands as though it is one thick strand. Knot the two loose ends together so that the bead cannot pass over the knot. Thread the looped end through the halfway point of the lid's front-facing edge (from the front through to the inside of the lid). Thread the bead through the looped edge and pull it firmly, thereby creating a pull to open the lid of your item.



CrochetProjects





Cherry Red Table Settings

This bright, cheery table set looks equally attractive at the breakfast table or as a table setting for a dinner party. The set includes two place mats and one square centre piece

PLACE MAT

Repeat this pattern to make two place mats.

With the 4mm crochet hook and your first ball of wool, cast on and make 56 chains.

Row 1 Work 1 dc into the third chain on the left of the hook and into each subsequent chain until the end of the row. (There should be 55 dc in total, 54 made in this row and 1 made with a turning ch in the previous row.) 1 turning ch. Turn.

Row 2 Work 1 dc into the second dc on the left of the hook and into each subsequent dc until the end of the row (there should be 55 dc in total, 54 plus 1 made by the turning chain of the previous row). 1 turning ch. Turn.

Rows 3–48 Repeat row 2 another 46 times, omitting the final turning chain on the last row. Cast off your yarn and fasten it off to finish the piece properly.

MATERIALS

4mm crochet hook
3 balls of cherry red
Jonelle Superwash
Chunky (100g) or other
similar single colour yarn

STITCHES AND ABBREVIATIONS

ch chain

dc double crochets

TENSION

13 stitches over 16 rows
= 10cm (4in) square

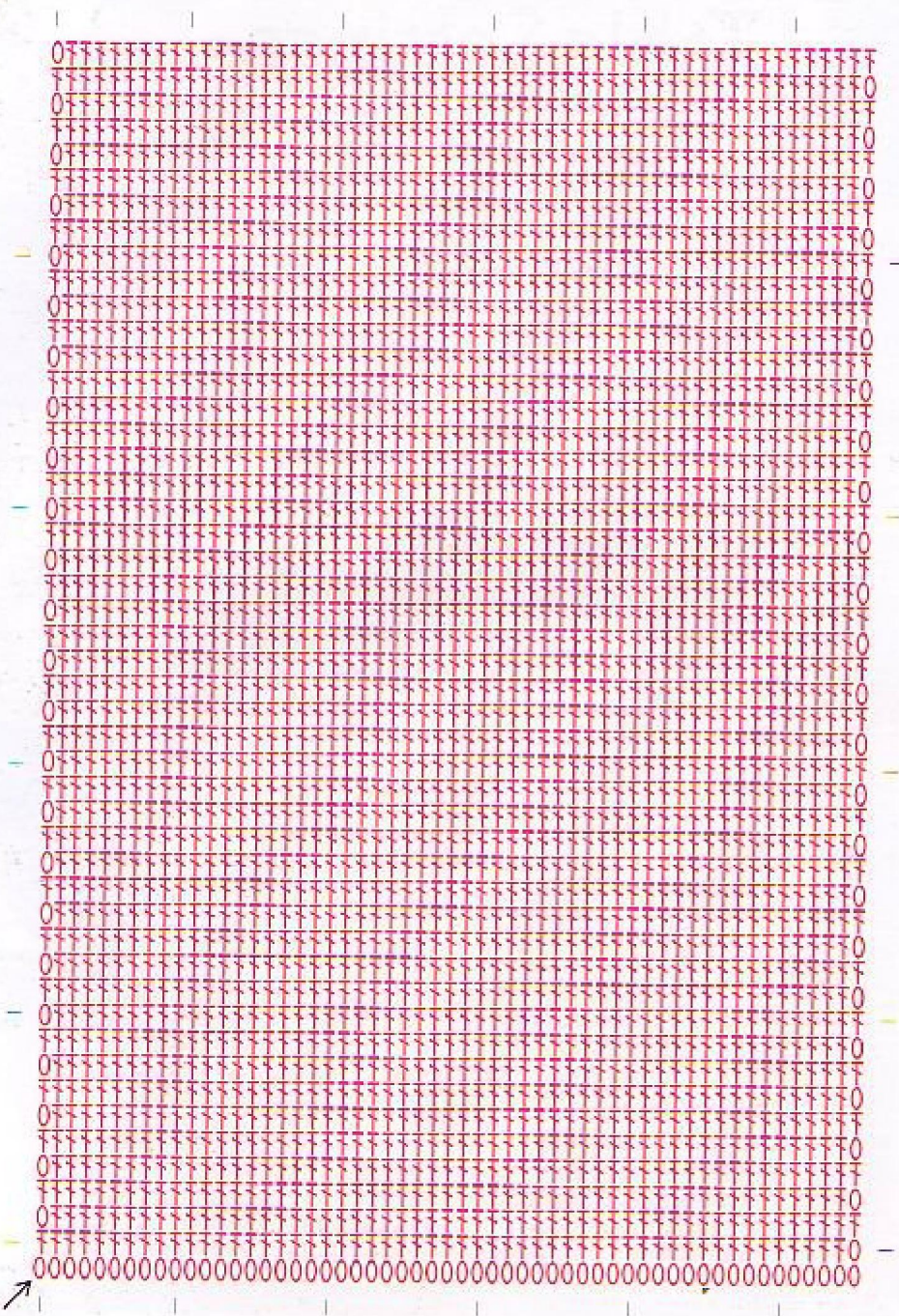
SIZE

Place mat
43 x 30cm (17 x 12in)
Square centre piece
14cm (5.5in) square



The cherry red table setting works beautifully for a grand supper

Place mat



SQUARE CENTRE PIECE

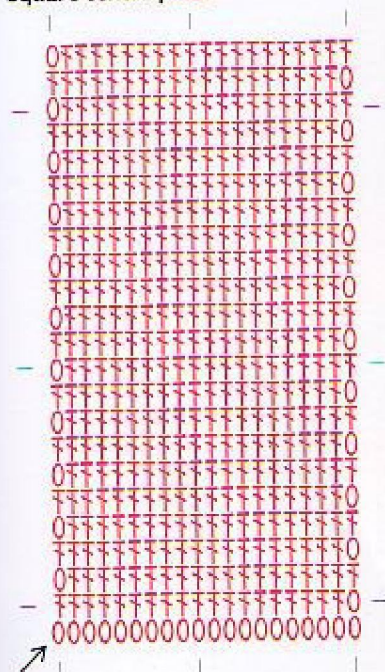
Repeat the pattern for the place mat, incorporating the following changes:

With the 4mm crochet hook and your first ball of wool, cast on and make 21 chains.

Row 1 As above but there should be 20 dc in total, 19 made in this row and 1 made with a turning ch in the previous row.

Row 2 As above but there should be 20 dc in total, 19 plus 1 made by the turning chain of the previous row.

Rows 3–22 Repeat row 2 as above but stop after the 20th repetition. Omit the final turning chain on the last row. Cast off and fasten.

Square centre piece**KEY**

F dc
O ch

↗ attach thread here



Matched to this dining ware, the table settings have a clean, contemporary look



The small hook, stitch and tension produce a tightly knit character



Blue Table Settings

The blue table set makes use of cotton yarn and a combination of stitches for a more complex design. The set includes four place mats, four drinks coasters, one wine coaster and one square table centre piece.

PLACE MAT

Complete this pattern four times to create four place mats.

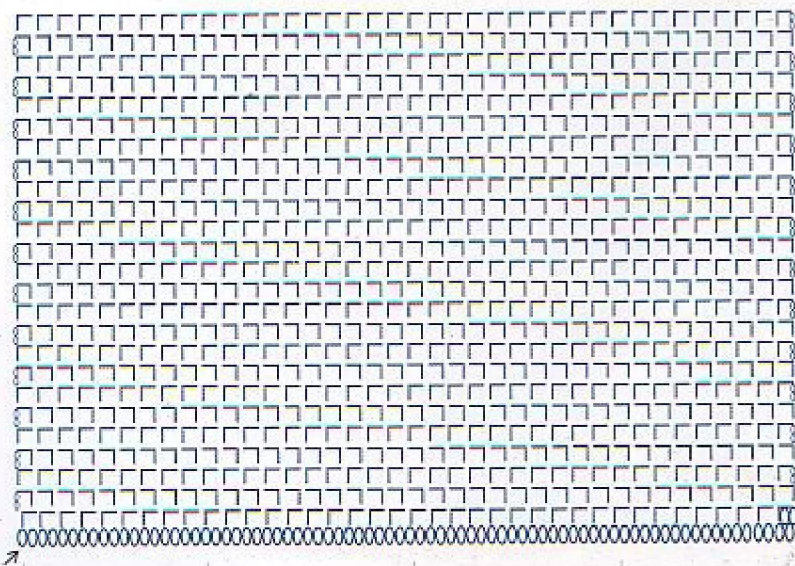
With the 3.5mm crochet hook and first ball of wool, cast on and make 78 chains.

Row 1 Yarn over hook. Hook into the second stitch on the left of the hook. Yarn over hook. Pull loop and hook back through. Miss one chain. Yarn over hook. Hook into next chain. Yarn over hook. Pull loop and hook back through. Yarn over hook. Hook into same chain. Yarn over hook. Pull loop and hook back through. There should be 7 loops on the hook. Yarn over hook. Pull through all 7

loops on the hook. There should now be 1 loop on the hook. Yarn over hook. Pull through the loop on the hook creating your first eye and finishing your first puff stitch. There should be 1 loop on the hook.

*Yarn over hook. Hook into the eye just made. Yarn over hook. Pull loop and hook back through eye. Repeat from *. Miss 1 chain. Yarn over hook. Hook into next chain. Yarn over hook. Pull loop and hook back through. Yarn over hook. Hook into the same chain. Yarn over hook. Pull loop and hook back through. There are now 9 loops on the hook. Yarn over hook and pull loop through all 9

Place mat



MATERIALS

3.5mm crochet hook
8 balls of new blue
Janelle knitting cotton
(100g) or other similar
single-colour yarn

STITCHES AND ABBREVIATIONS

ch chain
sl slip stitch
dc double crochet
pvar puff stitch variation
(my abbreviation)

TENSION

10 stitches over 9 rows =
10cm (4in) square

SIZE

Place mat
39 x 29cm (15.5 x 11.5in)
Coaster
10cm (4in) square
including trim
Wine coaster
12cm (5in) square
including trim
Square centre piece
39cm (15.5in) square

KEY

- ch
- 1 pvar
- ▣ 1 pvar
- attach thread here

loops leaving a single remaining loop on the hook. Yarn over hook. Pull through the last loop creating this stitch's eye. Repeat from # until the end of the row (38 pfar in total). 2 turning chains. Turn.

Row 2 Yarn over hook. Hook into the first eye on the left of the hook. Yarn over hook. Pull loop and hook through. Yarn over hook. Hook into next eye. Yarn over hook. Pull loop and hook through. Yarn over hook. Hook into same eye. Yarn over hook. Pull loop and hook back through. There should be 7 loops on the hook. Yarn over hook. Pull through all 7 loops on the hook. There should now be 1 loop on the hook. Yarn over hook. Pull through the loop on the hook creating your first eye in the second row. There should be 1 loop on the hook.

Work 1 pfar in each eye until the end of the row (37 in addition, or 38 in total). 2 turning chains. Turn.

Rows 3–25 Repeat row 2 another 23 times, omitting the final 2 turning chains on the last row. Cast off and fasten.

SQUARE CENTRE PIECE

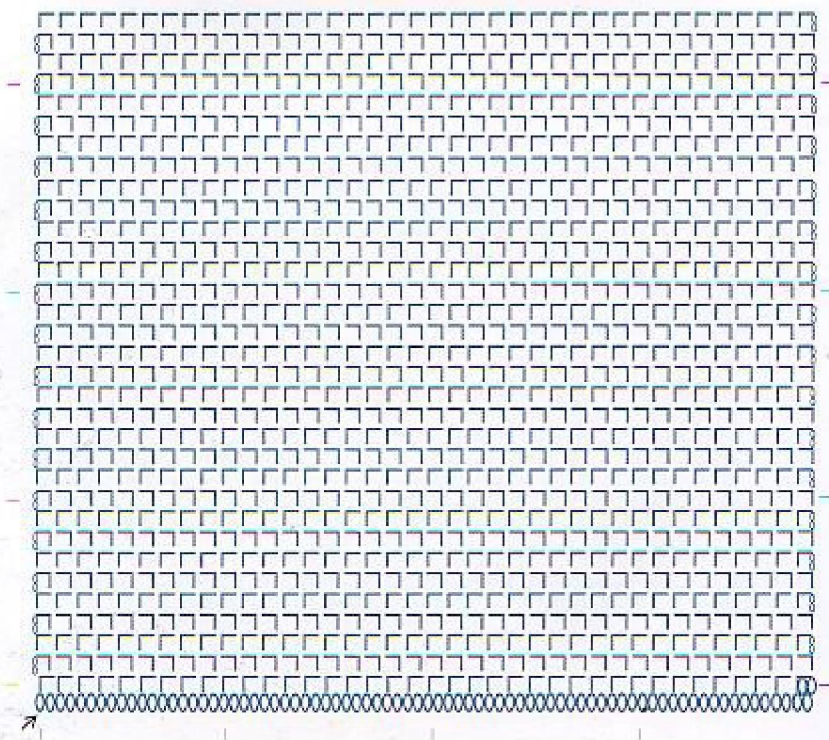
With the 3.5mm crochet hook and your ball of wool, cast on and make 78 chains.

Rows 1–2 As for the place mats, follow rows 1 and 2.

Rows 3–33 Repeat row 2 another 31 times, omitting the final 2 turning chains on the last row. Cast off and fasten.

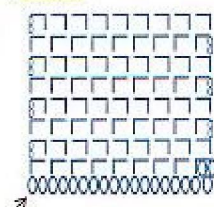
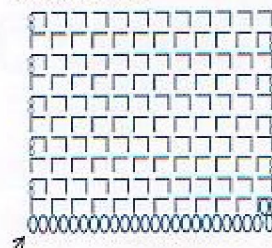


Square centre piece



KEY

- ch
- 1 pfar
- ◻ 1 pfar
- ↗ attach thread here

Coaster**Wine coaster****KEY**

- ch
 □ 1 pfvar
 □ 1 pfvar
 ↗ attach thread here

COASTER

With the 3.5mm crochet hook and your ball of wool, cast on and make 20 chains.

Rows 1–2 As for the place mats, follow rows 1 and 2 (there should only be a total of 9 pfvar in each of the completed rows).

Rows 3–8 Repeat row 2 another 6 times, omitting the final 2 turning chains on the last row. Either cast off and fasten or follow the instructions below to create a trim.

TRIM (OPTIONAL)

2 ch. Work 2 dc in each pfvar all the way around the piece. Complete the circle by making 1 sl st into the second ch you made at the beginning of the row.

WINE COASTER

With the 3.5mm crochet hook and your ball of wool, cast on and make 26 chains.

Rows 1–2 As for the place mats, follow rows 1 and 2 (there should only be a total of 12 pfvar in each of the completed rows).

Rows 3–10 Repeat row 2 another 8 times, omitting the final 2 turning chains on the last row. Either cast off and fasten or follow the instruction below to create a trim.

TRIM (OPTIONAL)

Follow the pattern for the coaster, left.

Trim**KEY**

- ch
 ◡ sl st
 □ 1 pfvar
 □ 1 pfvar
 ▼ inc



The blue place settings add a fresh look to this summer lunch



Cream Afghan in a Buttoned Case

This is a wonderful piece to crochet as winter approaches and you dream of evenings wrapped up warm indoors. The set includes two matching pieces; the afghan itself and a discrete buttoned case in which to keep it neatly stowed away

PATTERN

The pattern is made up of two differing patterns, which I have split into two parts: A and B. Follow both patterns 12 times to create a total of 24 squares.

PART A

With the 4mm crochet hook and the first ball of wool, cast on and make 41 ch.

Row 1 Work 1 tr into the fourth ch on the left of the hook and into each subsequent ch until the end of the row (making a total of 39 tr, including 1 made by the last 2 ch in the previous row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 2 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook and into the next 17 tr. 1 ch. Miss the next tr and work 1 tr into the following tr and each subsequent tr until the end of the row (19 tr in total after the missed stitch). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 3 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook and into each of the following tr until you have worked 1 tr into the third tr before the gap in the previous row. 1 ch. Miss 1 tr and work the next tr into the following tr. 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. 1 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into each of the remaining stitches until the end of the row. 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 4 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook and into each of the following tr until you have worked 1 tr into the third tr before the gap in the previous row. 1 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. * 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * until you have worked 1 tr into the first tr after the last gap in the previous row. 1 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into each of the remaining stitches until the end of the row. 2 turning ch. Turn.

Rows 5–11 Repeat row 4 another 7 times.

Row 12 Work 1 tr into the first space on the left of the hook and into the following tr. * 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * until the last

chain space. Work 1 tr into this space and into each subsequent tr until the end of the row. 2 Turning ch. Turn.

Row 13 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook, into each following tr, into the first space and the following tr in the previous row. * 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * until the last chain space. Work 1 tr into this space and into each subsequent tr until the end of the row. 2 turning ch. Turn.

Rows 14–20 Repeat row 13 another 7 times.
Row 21 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook and into each subsequent stitch until the end of the row (making a total of 39 tr, including 1 made by the last 2 ch in the previous row). Cast off and fasten.

PART B

With the 4mm crochet hook and the first ball of wool, cast on and make 42 ch.

Row 1 Work 1 tr into the sixth ch on the left of the hook. * 1 ch. Miss 1 ch in the previous row and work 1 tr in the next ch. Repeat from * until the end of the row (making a total of 20 tr). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 2 * 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr on the left of the hook. Repeat from * 8 times. Work 1 tr into the next gap in the previous row and 1 tr into the next tr. * 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr in the previous row. Repeat from * until the end of the row. 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 3 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook. * 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr on the left of the hook. Repeat from * until the last gap before the block of stitches in the previous row. Work 1 tr into this gap, each tr in the previous row until you reach the next gap, work 1 tr into that gap and the following tr. * 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * until the end of the row. 2 turning ch. Turn.

MATERIALS

4mm crochet hook
3 balls of cream (3005)
Stylecraft Special Aran
knitting wool (400g) or
similar single-colour yarn
8 wooden buttons, each
2.5cm (1in) in diameter

STITCHES AND ABBREVIATIONS

ch chain
dc double crochet
tr treble crochet

Note: A gap refers to a space between two treble crochet stitches made by a chain stitch.

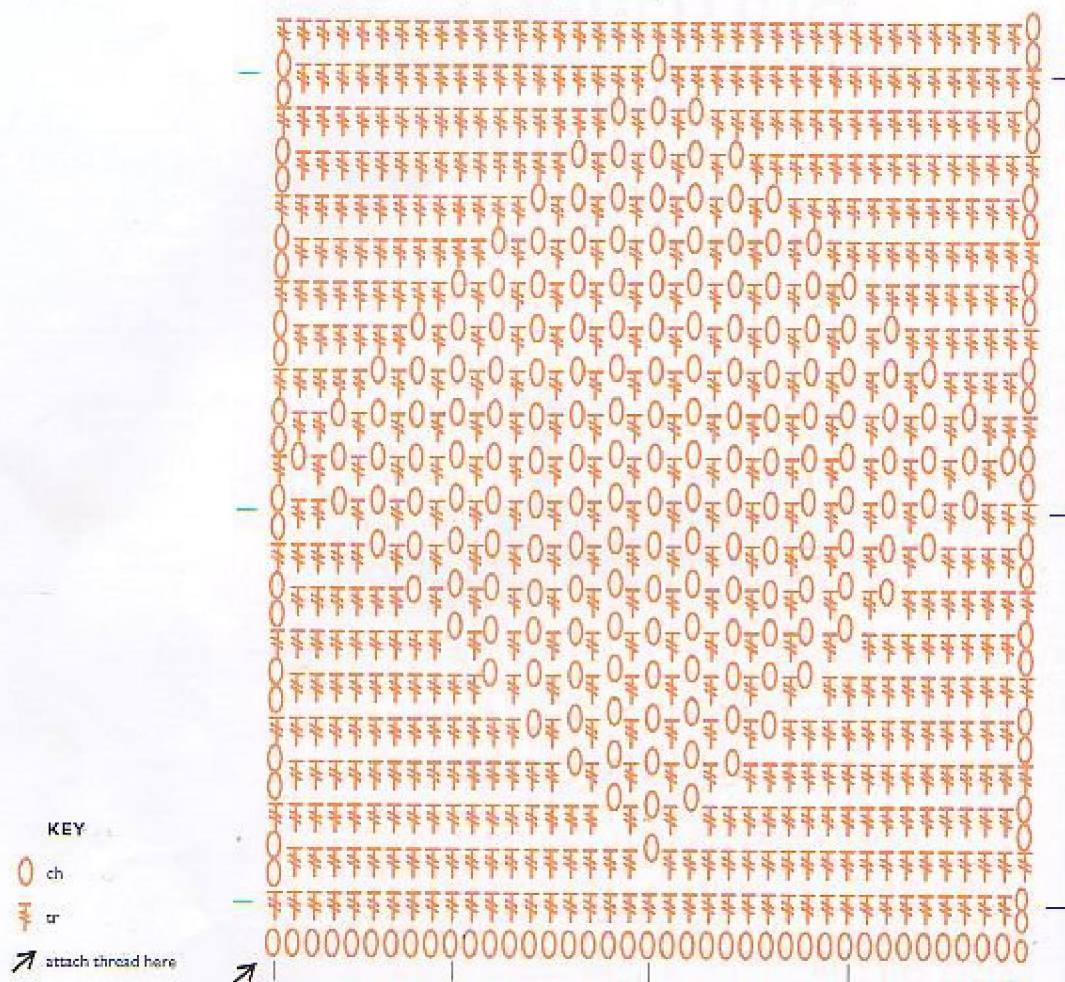
TENSION

Afghan
13 stitches over 8 rows =
10cm (4in) square
Buttoned case
12 stitches over 15 rows
= 10cm (4in) square
One square motif
39 stitches over 21 rows

SIZE

Afghan
110 x 155cm
(43.5 x 61.5in)
Fitted buttoned case
53 x 36cm (21 x 14.5in)
One square
28 x 26cm (11 x 10in)

Part A



Rows 4–11 Repeat row 3 another 8 times.

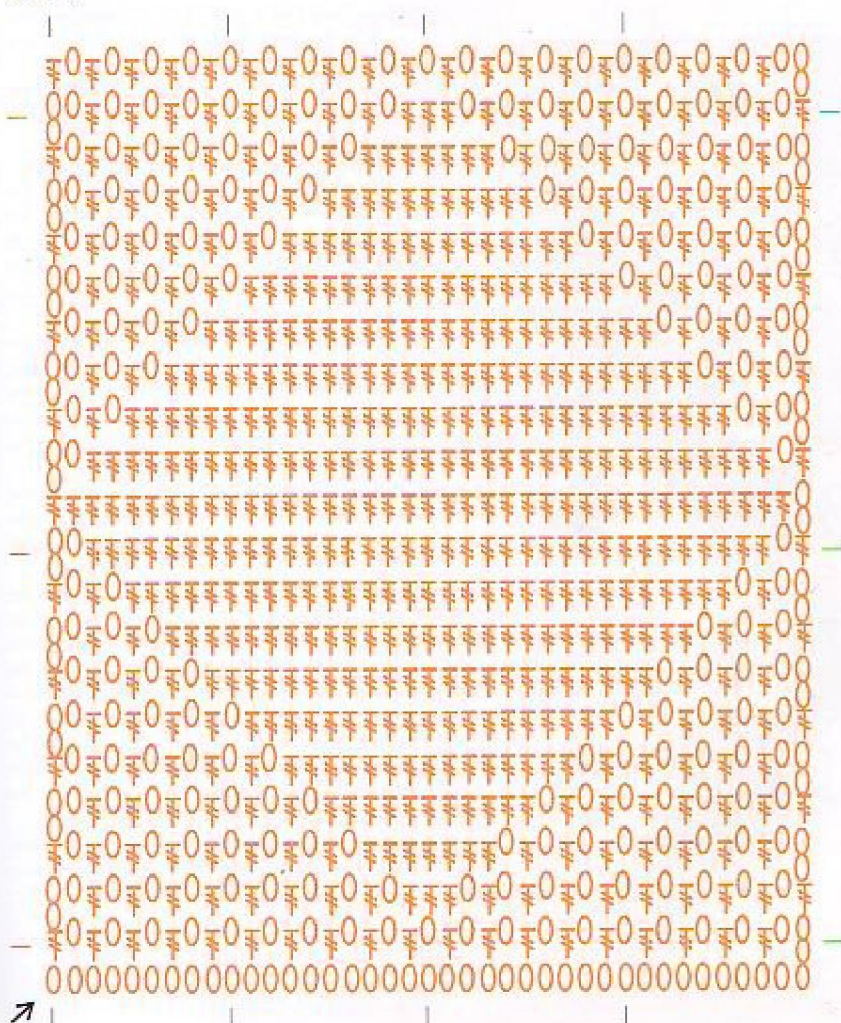
Row 12 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the third tr in the previous row, on the left of the hook. Work 1 tr into each of the following 34 tr in the previous row (until you have worked a tr into the third treble from the end in the previous row). 1 ch. Work 1 tr in the last tr. 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 13 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook. 1 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. Work 1 tr into each of the following 30 tr until the second tr before the last

gap in the previous row. 1 ch. Miss the next tr and work 1 tr into the following tr in the previous row. 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 14 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr on the left of the hook. Repeat from * until you have worked over the last gap before the block of stitches in the previous row. 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook. Work 1 tr into each following tr until the second tr before the

Part B



KEY

O ch

tr

↗ attach thread here

next gap in the previous row. 1 ch. Miss the next tr and work 1 tr into the following tr in the previous row. * 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * until the end of the row. 2 turning ch.

Rows 15–20 Repeat row 14 another 6 times.

Row 21 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook. * 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * until you have passed over the last gap in the previous row before the block of stitches in the centre. 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook. * 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next

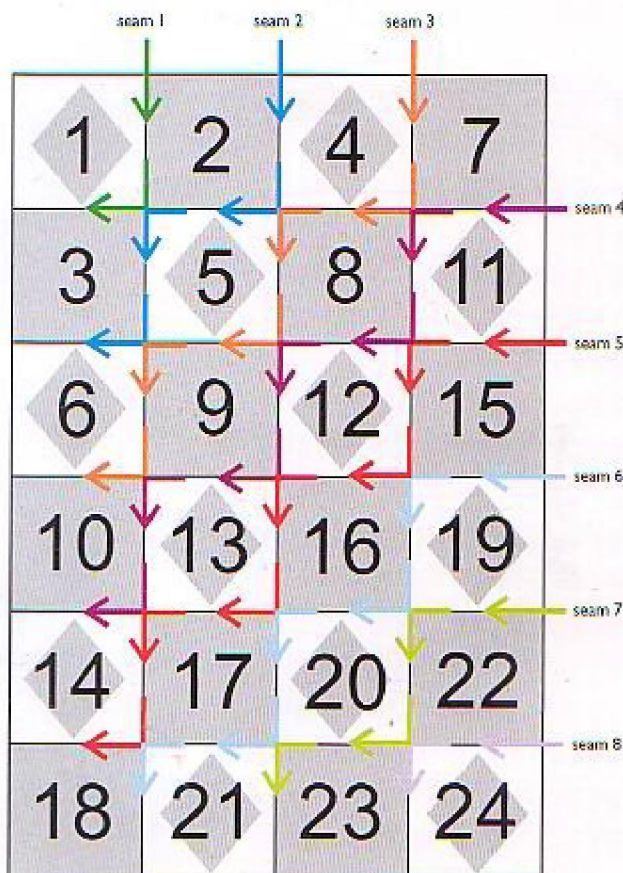
tr. Repeat from * until the end of the row. Cast off and fasten.

Once you have made all 24 squares, join them together (see page 35). The numbered diagram, over, shows you where to make your seams to maximize your yarn.

BUTTONED CASE

With the 4mm crochet hook and the first ball of wool, cast on and make 61 ch.

Row 1 Work 1 dc into the third ch on the left of



the hook and each ch until the end of the row (there should be a total of 60 dc including one made by the last ch in the previous row). 1 turning ch. Turn.

Row 2 Work 1 dc into the second dc on the left of the hook and into each dc until the end of the row. 1 turning ch. Turn.

Rows 3–110 Repeat row 2 another 108 times.

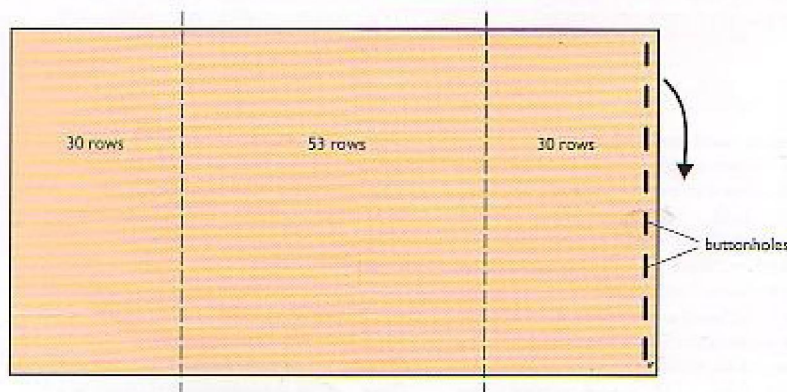
Row 111 Work 1 dc into the second dc on the left of the hook. Work 1 dc into each of the following 6 dc. * 2 ch. Miss the next 2 dc and work 1 dc into each of the next 4 dc. Repeat from * 7 times. Work 1 dc into each stitch until the end of the row. 1 turning ch. Turn.

Row 112 Work 1 dc into the second dc on the left of the hook and 1 dc into each of the following 6 dc. * Work 1 dc into each of the next 2 ch. Work 1 dc into each of the next 4 dc. Repeat from * seven times. Work 1 dc into each of the next stitches until the end of the row. 1 turning ch. Turn.

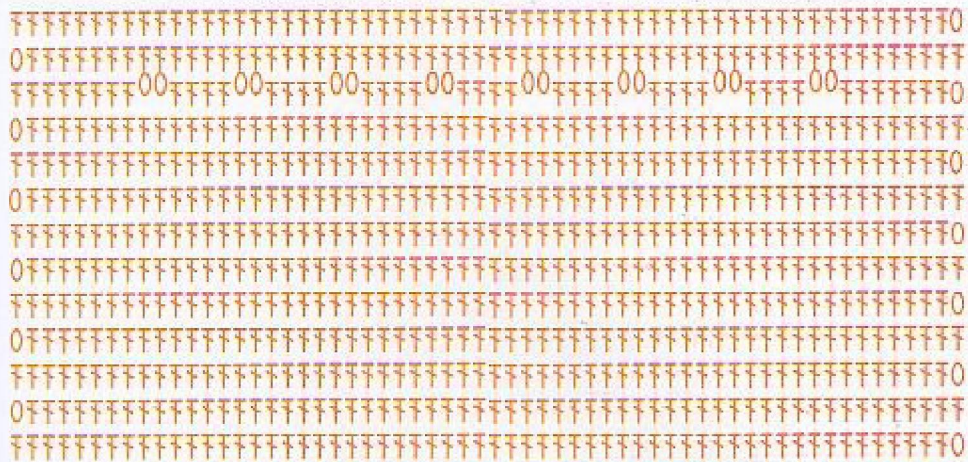
Row 113 Work 1 dc into the second dc on the left of the hook and 1 dc into each of the following stitches until the end of the row. Cast off and then fasten.

Following the diagram below, fold and secure the case (see page 37). Remember to fold the edge with the buttonholes over first, positioning them on the inside. Place the other folded edge where the buttons will be sewn over the first while you sew or crochet the two edges. When you have finished the seams, turn the case right side out and the buttonholes should show on the outside. Sew eight buttons (I have chosen wooden ones) onto the opposite edge at equal intervals.

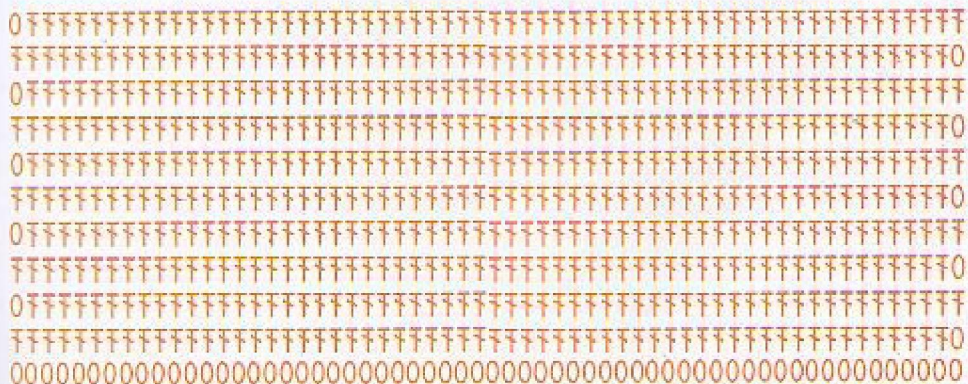
Finally, fold the afghan into a rectangular shape, two squares wide by one square long, fit it neatly inside the case and button it up.



Buttoned case



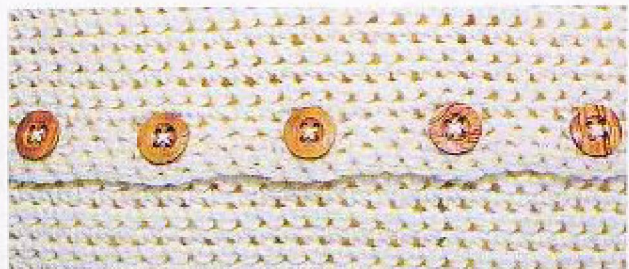
13 rows

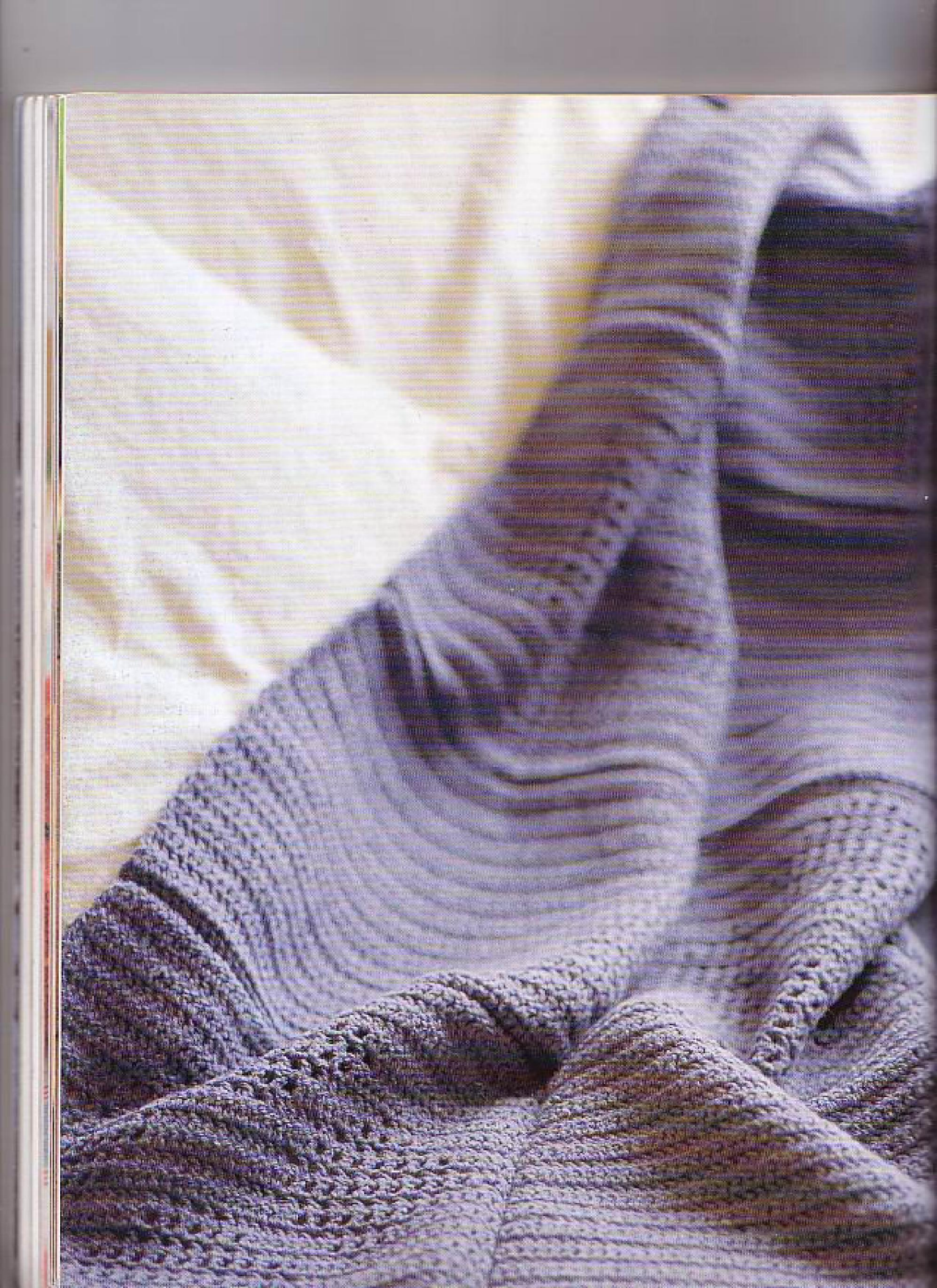


KEY

-  ch
-  dc
-  attach thread here

The completed afghan case, all buttoned up





Blue Afghan in a Ribbon-tied Case

This afghan makes use of similar techniques, but incorporates a pretty windmill pattern. The discrete case is joined together with a picot-edged ribbon

PATTERN

The pattern is made up of two differing patterns, which I have split into two parts: A and B. Follow both patterns 9 times to create a total of 18 squares.

PART A

With the 3.5mm crocheter hook and the first ball of wool, cast on and make 55 ch.

Row 1 Work 1 tr into the fourth ch on the left of the hook and into each subsequent ch until the end of the row (creating a total of 53 tr including one made by the last two ch worked in the previous row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 2 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook and 1 tr into each subsequent tr until the end of the row (there should be a total of 53 tr including one made by the turning chains of the previous row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Rows 3-27 Repeat row 2 another 25 times omitting the 2 turning ch in the final row. Cast off and fasten.

PART B

With the 3.5mm crocheter hook and the first ball of wool, cast on and make 55 ch.

Row 1 Work 1 tr into the fourth ch on the left of the hook and into each subsequent ch until the end of the row (creating a total of 53 tr including one made by the last two ch of the previous row of ch). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 2 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook and into the following 24 tr. 1 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into each of the following 26 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 3 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 22 tr. 1 ch. Miss the next tr and work 1 tr into the following tr. 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the following tr. 1 ch. Miss the next tr and work 1 tr into each of the following 24 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 4 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 20 tr. 1 ch. Miss the next tr and work 1 tr into the following tr. * 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the following tr. Repeat from * 2 times. 1 ch. Miss the next tr and work 1 tr into each of the following 22 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 5 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 18 tr. 1 ch. Miss the next tr and work 1 tr into the following tr. * 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the following tr. Repeat from * 4 times. 1 ch. Miss the next tr and work 1 tr into each of the following 20 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 6 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 16 tr. 1 ch. Miss the next tr and work 1 tr into the following tr. * 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the following tr. Repeat from * 6 times. 1 ch. Miss the next tr and work 1 tr into each of the following 18 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 7 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 14 tr. 1 ch. Miss the next tr and work 1 tr into the following tr. * 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the following tr. Repeat from * 8 times. 1 ch. Miss the next tr and work 1 tr into each of the following 16 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 8 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 14 tr. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row). Work 1 tr into the next tr. * 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the following tr. Repeat from * 8 times. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into each of the following 16 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

MATERIALS

4mm and 3.5mm
crochet hooks

4 balls of blue (7071)
Wendy Aran wool
(400g) or similar single-
colour yarn

1m (39.5in) of polyester
satin ribbon with picot
edge (4mm width)

STITCHES AND ABBREVIATIONS

ch chain

dc double crocheter

tr treble crocheter

TENSION

Afghan

16 stitches over 10 rows
= 10cm (4in) square

Ribbon-tied case

14 stitches over 10 rows
= 10cm (4in) square

One square motif

53 stitches over 27 rows

SIZE

Afghan

100 x 170cm
(39.5 x 67in)

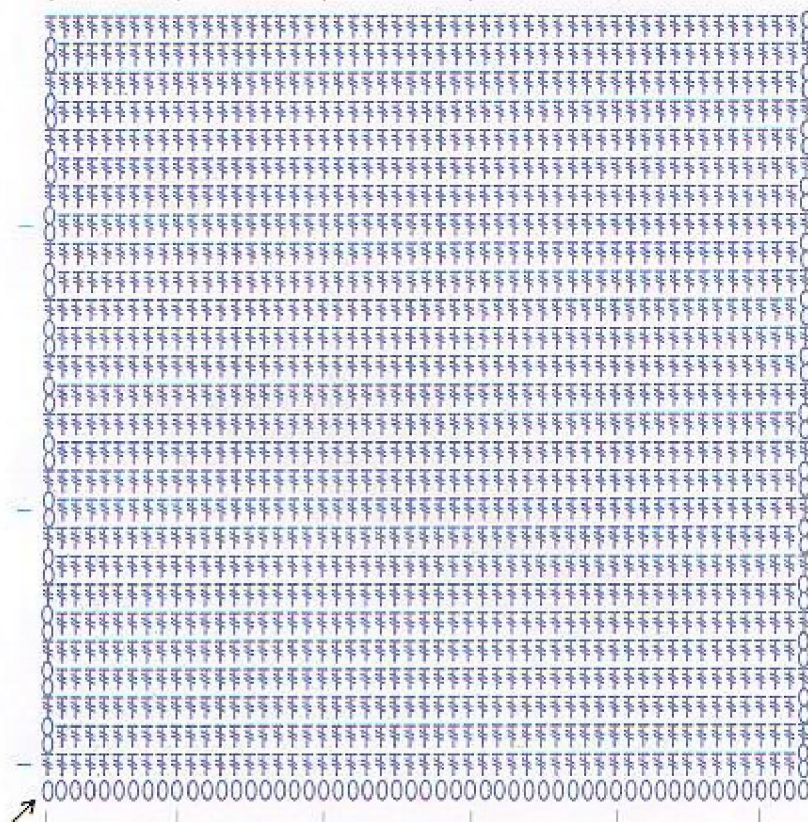
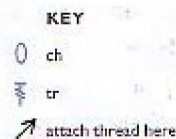
Filled ribbon-tied case

42 x 40cm
(16.5 x 15.75in)

One square

34 x 30cm (13.5 x 12in)

Part A



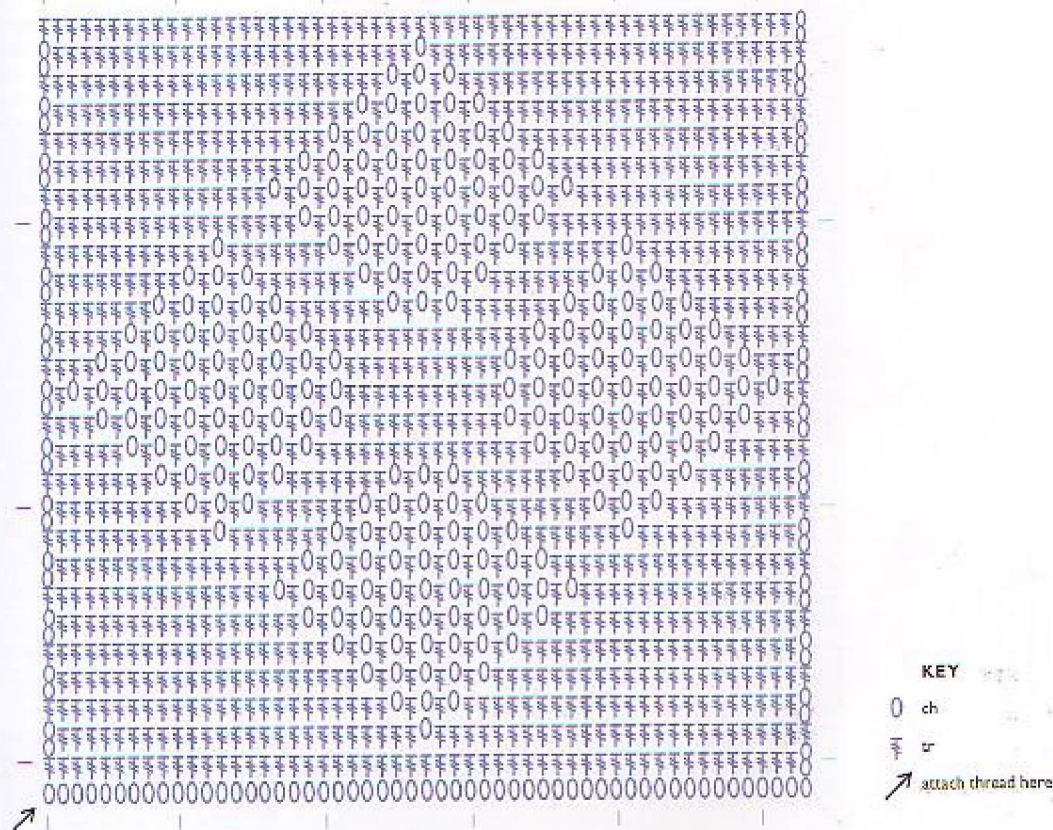
Row 9 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 10 tr. 1 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into each of the following 5 tr. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into the following tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 6 times. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and into each of the following 5 tr. 1 ch. Miss the next tr and work 1 tr into each of the following 12 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 10 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 8 tr. 1 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. 1 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into each of the following 5 tr. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into

the next tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 4 times. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into each of the following 5 tr. 1 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into the following tr. 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. 1 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into each of the following 10 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 11 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 6 tr. 1 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 2 times. 1 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into each of the following 5 tr. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into the next tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 2 times. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into each

Part B



of the following 5 tr. 1 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into the following tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 2 times. 1 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into each of the following 8 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 12 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 4 tr. 1 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * four times. 1 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into each of the following 5 tr. *Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * once. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into each of the next 5 tr. 1 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into the following tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 4 times. 1 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into each of

the following 6 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 13 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 2 tr. 1 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 6 times. 1 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into each of the following 11 tr. 1 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into the following tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 6 times. 1 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into each of the following 4 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 14 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook. 1 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 8 times. Work 1 tr into each of the following 10 tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 8 times. 1 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1

tr into each of the following 2 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

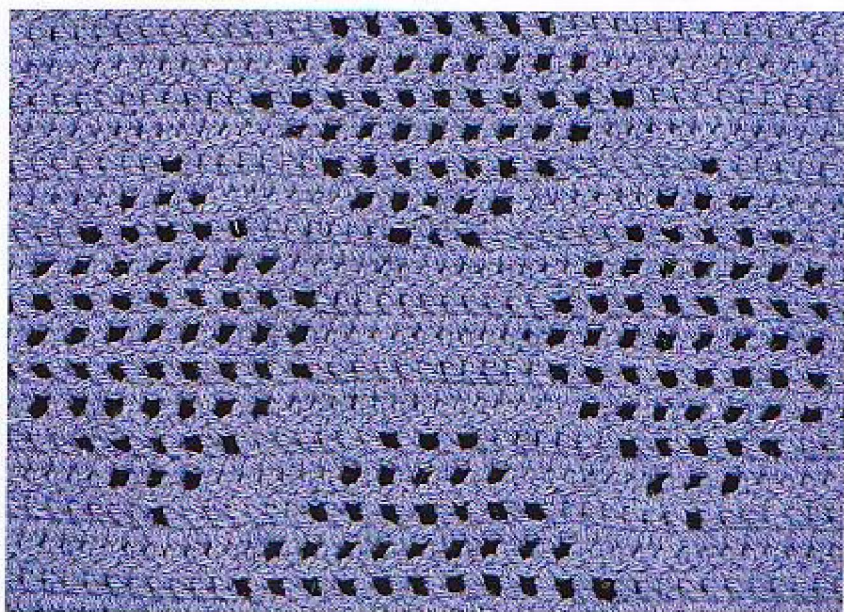
Row 15 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into the following gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into the next tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 8 times. Work 1 tr into each of the following 10 tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 8 times. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into each of the following 2 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 16 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 2 tr. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into the next tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 6 times. Work 1 tr into the following gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row), 1 tr into each of the following 11 tr, 1 tr in the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into the next tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 6 times. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into each of the next 4 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 17 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left

of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 4 tr. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into the next tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 4 times. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into each of the following 5 tr. *1 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 2 times. Work 1 tr into each of the next 4 tr, 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into the next tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 4 times. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into each of the following 6 stitches. 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 18 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 6 tr. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into the next tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 2 times. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into each of the following 5 tr. 1 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 2 times. 1 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into each of the next 5 tr. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1



Detail of the
windmill pattern
in the blue afghan



The blue afghan in its discrete case

tr into the next tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 2 times. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into each of the following 8 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 19 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 8 tr. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into the next tr. 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr and 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row). Work 1 tr into each of the following 5 tr. 1 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 4 times. 1 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into each of the next 5 tr. Work 1 tr into

the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into the next tr. 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into each of the next 10 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 20 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 10 tr. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into each of the following 5 tr. 1 ch. Miss the next tr and work 1 tr into the following tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the following tr. Repeat from * 6 times. 1 ch. Miss the next tr and work 1 tr into each of the following 5 tr. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row)

and 1 tr into each of the following 12 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 21 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 14 tr. 1 ch. Miss the next tr and work 1 tr into the following tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the following tr. Repeat from * 8 times. 1 ch. Miss the next tr and work 1 tr into each of the following 16 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 22 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 14 tr. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in

other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into the following tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into each of the following 16 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 23 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 16 tr. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into the following tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the following tr. Repeat from * 6 times. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into each of the following 18 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

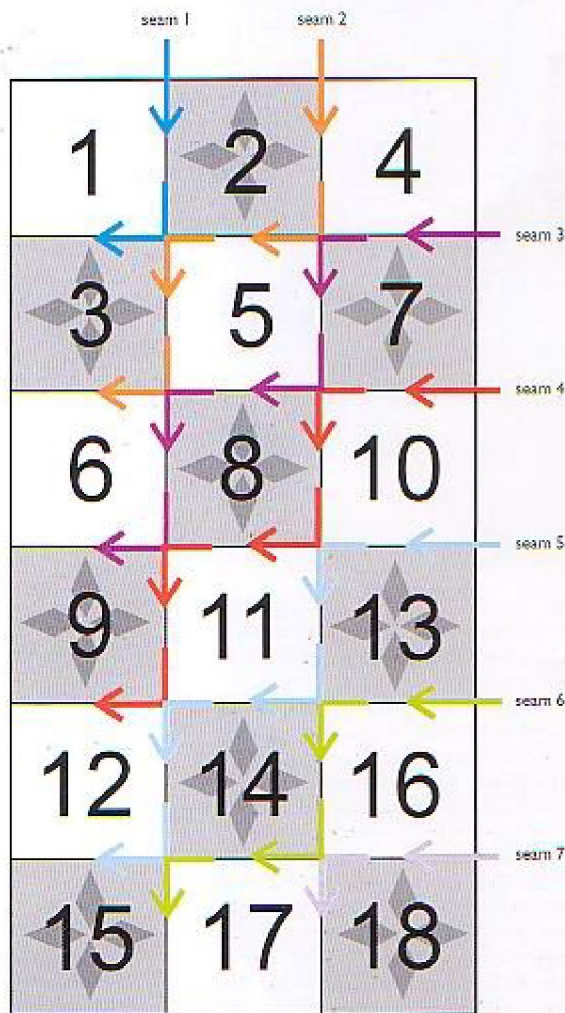
Row 24 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 18 tr. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into the following tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the following tr. Repeat from * 4 times. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into each of the following 20 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 25 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 20 tr. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into the following tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the following tr. Repeat from * 2 times. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into each of the following 22 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

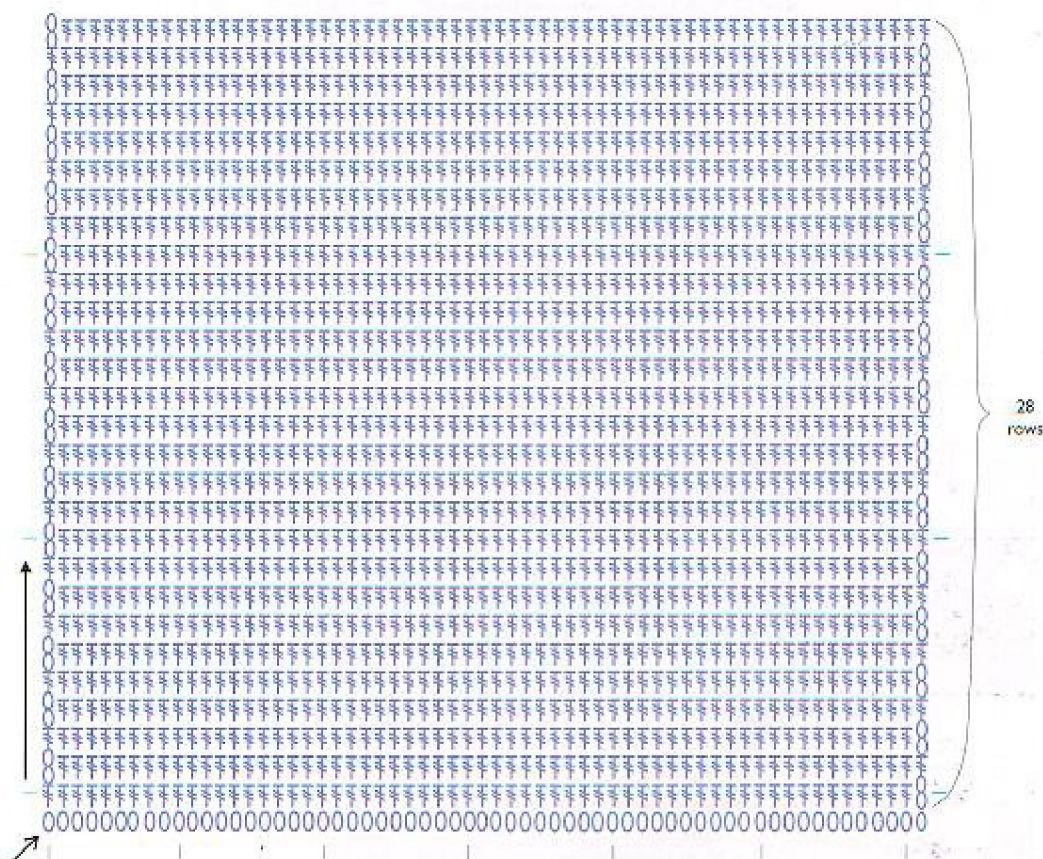
Row 26 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 22 tr. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into the following tr. 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the following tr. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into each of the following 24 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 27 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 24 tr. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into each of the following 26 stitches (until the end of the row). Cast off and fasten.

Once you have made all 18 squares, join them together (see page 35). Follow the diagram, left, for the positioning of each square and its seams.



Ribbon-tied case, rows 1–28



RIBBON-TIED CASE

With the 4mm crochet hook and the first ball of wool, cast on and make 63 ch.

Row 1 Work 1 tr into the fourth ch on the left of the hook and into each subsequent ch until the end of the row (creating a total of 61 tr including one made by the last two ch of the previous row of ch). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 2 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook and into each subsequent tr until the end of the row (creating a total of 61 tr including one made by the last two ch of the previous row of ch). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Rows 3–28 Repeat row 2 another 26 times.

Row 29 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook and into the following 28 tr. 1 ch.

Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into each of the following 30 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

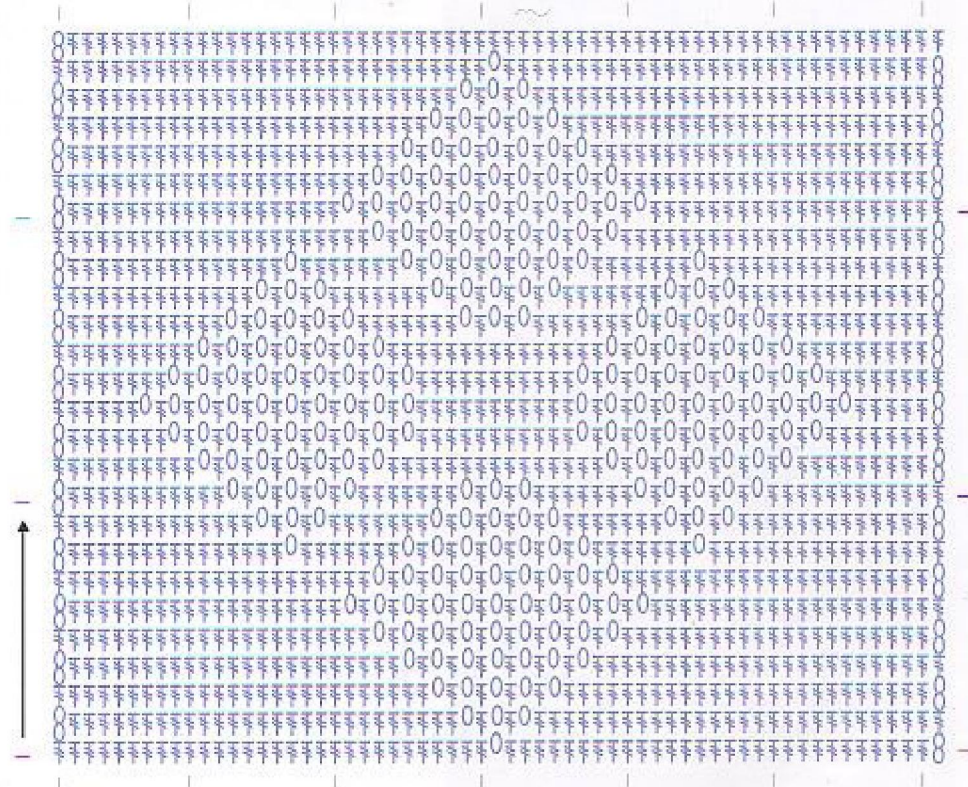
Row 30 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 26 tr. 1 ch. Miss the next tr and work 1 tr into the following tr. 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the following tr. 1 ch. Miss the next tr and work 1 tr into each of the following 28 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 31 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 24 tr. 1 ch. Miss the next tr and work 1 tr into the following tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the following tr. Repeat from * 2 times. 1 ch. Miss the next tr and work 1 tr into each of the

KEY

- ch
 ┆ tr
 ↖ attach thread here

Ribbon-tied case, rows 29-54



Repeat from * 8 times. Work 1 tr into each of the following 10 tr. * 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 8 times. 1 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into each of the following 6 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 42 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 4 tr. Work 1 tr into the following gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into the next tr. * 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 8 times. Work 1 tr into each of the following 10 tr. * 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into each of the following 6 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 43 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 6 tr. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in

other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into the next tr. * 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 6 times. Work 1 tr into the following gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row), 1 tr into each of the following 11 tr, 1 tr in the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into the next tr. * 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 6 times. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into each of the next 8 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 44 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 8 tr. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into the next tr. * 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 4 times. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into each of the following 5

KEY

○ ch
 7 tr



The picot-edged ribbon ties the case securely and lends the piece a fresh, pretty look

tr. *1 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 2 times. Work 1 tr into each of the next 4 tr; 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into the next tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 4 times. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into each of the following 10 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 45 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 10 tr. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into the next tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the

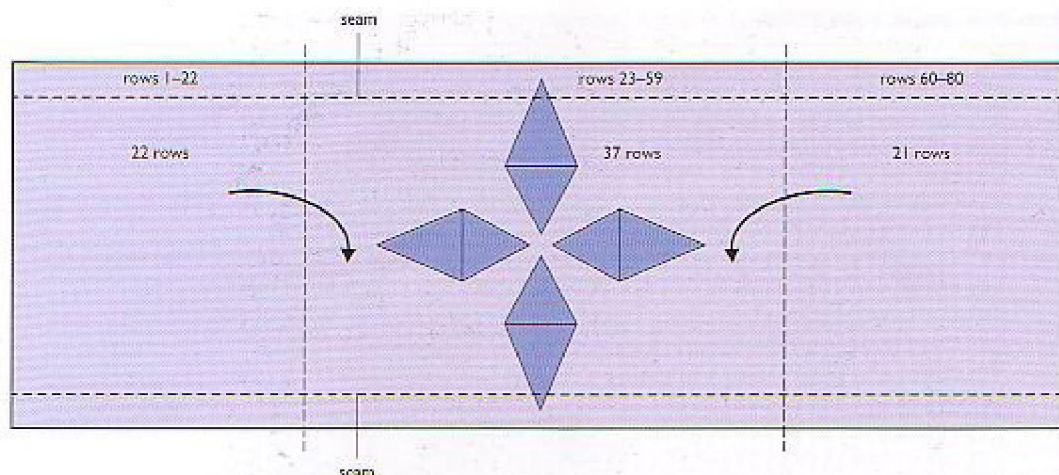
next tr. Repeat from * 2 times. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into each of the following 5 tr. 1 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 2 times. 1 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into each of the next 5 tr. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into the next tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 2 times. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into each of the following 12 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 46 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 12 tr. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into the next tr. 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr and 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row). Work 1 tr into each of the following 5 tr. 1 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 4 times. 1 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into each of the next 5 tr. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into the next tr. 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr, 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into each of the next 14 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 47 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 14 tr. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into each of the following 5 tr. 1 ch. Miss the next tr and work 1 tr into the following tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the following tr. Repeat from * 6 times. 1 ch. Miss the next tr and work 1 tr into each of the following 5 tr. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into each of the following 16 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 48 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 18 tr. 1 ch. Miss the next tr and work 1 tr into the following tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the following tr. Repeat from * 8 times. 1 ch. Miss the next tr and work 1 tr into each of the following 20 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

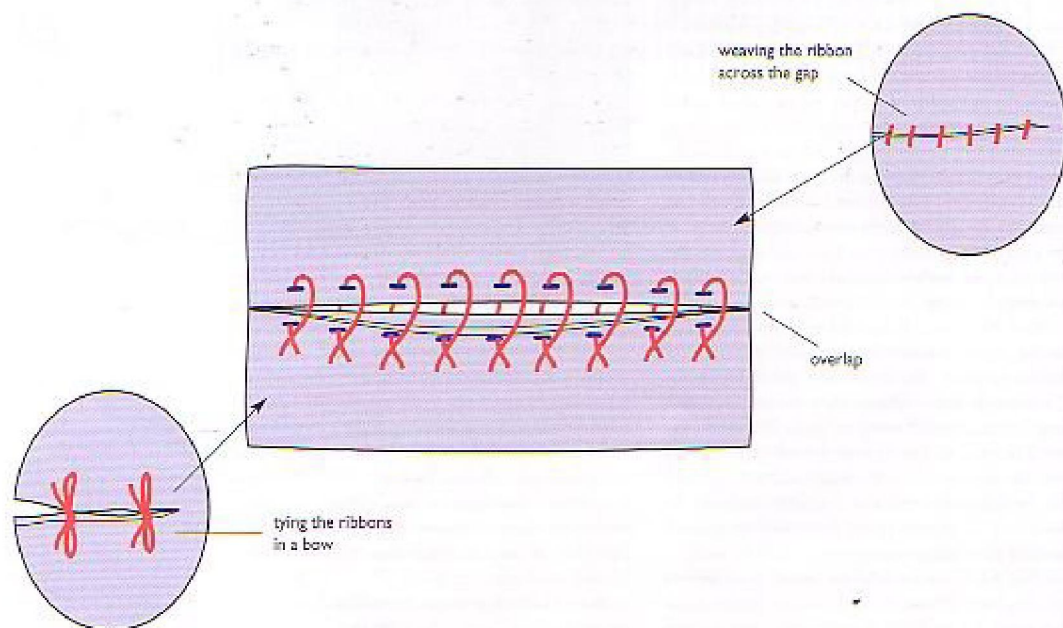
Row 49 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 18 tr. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row)

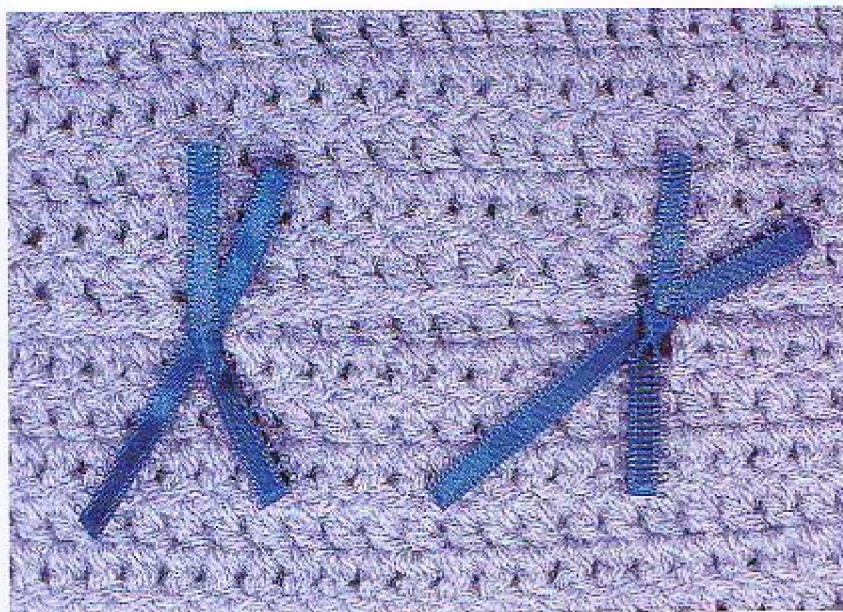


following 26 tr. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into the following tr. 1 ch. Work 1 tr into the following tr. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into each of the following 28 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 54 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 28 tr. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into each of the following 30 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 55 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left





The ribbon provides both function and decoration

of the hook followed by 1 tr into each tr until the end of the row (creating a total of 61 tr including one made by the last two ch of the previous row of ch). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 56–80 Repeat row 55 another 25 times, omitting the final 2 turning ch in the last row. Cast off and fasten.

To fold and fasten, see page 88. Fold the shorter of the two back sections over first, positioning it on the inside. Place the other edge over the first while you sew or crochet the two seams together. When you have finished creating the seams, turn the case right side out and the shorter overlap should now be on the outside.

To thread ribbon through the discrete case, follow one of these two methods (see page 38 and

the diagram, left.) Thread four pieces of your desired ribbon (I have chosen 1 metre of 4mm width polyester satin ribbon with picot edge), cut into four lengths, at equal intervals across the opening. Pass the ribbon through both edges of crocheted fabric at the edge of the outwardly facing piece.

Alternatively, you might thread a single, uncut piece of ribbon at equal intervals through the row of stitches on either side of the gap, creating a spiral over the gap in the case. Pull until the gap is closed; tie firmly and thread the ribbon back through until the knot or bow is hidden inside the afghan case.

Fold the blanket until it is 1 square wide and 1 square long. Fit it neatly into the case and tie bows in the ribbon.



Fringed Table Piece

This pattern is based upon more traditional crochet designs, but works well in a contemporary setting, too

PATTERN

With the 1.75mm crochet hook and your first ball of wool, cast on and make 4 chains. Join the last stitch to the first with a sl to form a ring.

Row 1 3 ch. Into the ring work 7 tr. Work 1 sl under the third of 3 ch.

Row 2 3 ch. Work 1 tr into the third of 3 ch from the previous row. *Work 2 tr between the next 2 tr. Repeat from * until the end of the row (ending by working 2 tr between the last tr and the chains of the previous row). Work sl under the third of 3 ch.

Row 3 4 ch. *Work 1 tr between the next 2 tr. 1 ch. Repeat from * until the end of the row (1 tr should be worked in every gap between existing tr, ending by working 1 tr between the last tr and the chains of the previous row followed by 1 ch). Work sl under the third of 4 ch.

Row 4 4 ch. Work 1 tr under the fourth of 4 ch from the previous row. 1 ch. *Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr under the next ch. 1 ch. Work 1 tr under the same ch. 1 ch. Repeat from * until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 4 ch.

Row 5 5 ch. *Miss 1 ch, 1 tr and 1 ch. Work 1 dc into the next tr. 4 ch. Repeat from * until the end of the row. Work sl into 1st of 5 ch.

Row 6 6 ch. Work 1 tr under the chains before the 1st dc. 3 ch. Work 1 tr into the next gap (under the next group of ch). 3 ch. Work 1 tr into the next dc. 3 ch. * Work 1 tr into the next gap (under the next group of ch) between 2 dc. 3 ch. Repeat from * once. Work 1 tr into the next dc. 3 ch. Repeat from # until the end of the row ending after 3 ch. Work sl under the third of 6 ch.

Row 7 3 ch. Work 2 tr under the last 3 ch of the 6 ch from the previous row. # Work 5 tr into the next gap between 2 tr. * Work 3 tr into the next gap between 2 tr. Repeat from * once. Repeat from # until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 3 ch.

Row 8 5 ch. Miss 2 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. # Work 1 tr into the next tr. Work 2 tr into each of the next 2 tr (2 inc made). Work 1 tr into each of the next 2 tr. * 2 ch. Miss 2 tr and work 1 tr

into the next tr. Repeat from * once. Repeat from # until the end of the row (ending after 2 ch). Work sl into third of 5 ch.

Row 9 6 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. # 3 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1 dec over the next four tr. 3 ch. Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. * 3 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * once. Repeat from # until the end of the row (ending after 3 ch). Work sl under the third of 6 ch.

Row 10 3 ch. Work 2 tr under the last 3 ch of the 6 ch in the previous row. *Work 1 tr into the next tr. Work 3 tr into the gap between that tr and the next tr (the first tr of the dec). Work 1 tr into the next tr. Work 1 tr into the eye of the next dec. Work 3 tr in the gap between the dec and the next tr. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Work 3 tr into the next gap between that tr and the next tr. Work 3 tr into the gap between the next 2 tr. Repeat from * until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 3 ch.

Row 11 5 ch. * Miss 1 tr and work 1 tr into each of the next 12 tr. 2 ch. Miss 2 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. 2 ch. Repeat from * until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 5 ch.

Row 12 5 ch. * Work 1 tr into the next tr. 2 ch. Miss 2 tr and work 1 tr into each of the next 6 tr. 2 ch. Miss 2 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. 2 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. 2 ch. Repeat from * until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 5 ch.

Row 13 6 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. 3 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. # 3 ch. Work 1 dec over the next 4 tr. * 3 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 4 times. Repeat from # until the end of the row (ending after 3 ch). Work sl into the third of 6 ch.

Row 14 3 ch. Work 3 tr under the last 3 ch of the 6 ch in the previous row. # * Work 1 tr into the next tr. Work 3 tr into the gap between that tr and the next tr. Repeat from * once. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Work 1 tr into the eye of the next dec. Work 3 tr in the gap between the dec and the next tr. * Work 1 tr into the next tr. Work 3 tr into the next gap between that tr and the next tr. Repeat from * twice. Repeat from # until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 3 ch.

MATERIALS

1.75mm crochet hook
2 balls of cream (53823)
DMC Petra crochet
cotton, No 5 (100g) or
similar cotton

STITCHES AND ABBREVIATIONS

sl slip stitch
ch chain
dc double crochets
tr treble crochets
dec decrease
inc increase

Note: for this pattern a decrease in stitches refers to the following:

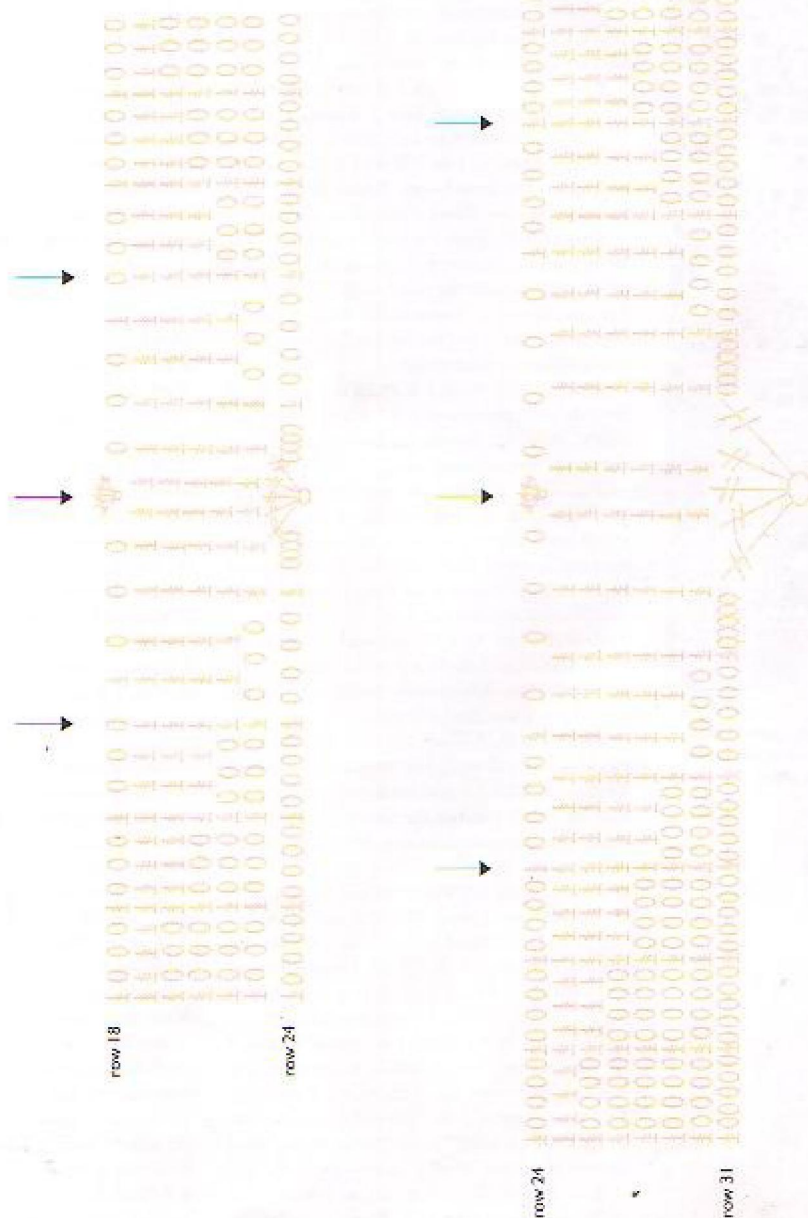
* Yo and insert hook into the next stitch. Yo and draw loop back through stitch. Yo and draw loop through 2 loops on the hook. Repeat from * once. Yo and insert hook between the last stitch worked into and the next stitch. Yo and draw loop back through stitch. Yo and draw loop through 2 loops on the hook. *Yo and insert hook into the next stitch. Yo and draw loop back through stitch. Yo and draw loop through 2 loops on the hook. Repeat from * once. There should be 6 loops on the hook.

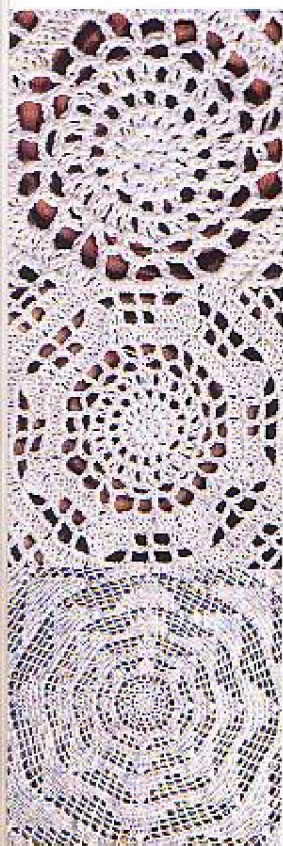
Note: for this pattern an increase in stitches will refer to the following:

Work 1 tr into the next stitch followed by a second tr into that same stitch.

TENSION

First 3 rows = 2.5cm
(1in) in diameter
Table piece = 86cm
(34in) in diameter





Details of the spider-like web of the centre of the piece

Row 15 6 ch. * Miss 3 tr and work 1 tr into each of the next 18 tr. 3 ch. Miss 3 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. 3 ch. Repeat from * until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 6 ch.

Row 16 6 ch. * Work 1 tr into the next tr. 3 ch. Miss 2 tr and work 1 tr into each of the next 12 tr. 3 ch. Miss 2 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. 3 ch. Repeat from * until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 6 ch.

Row 17 6 ch. # * Work 1 tr into the next tr. 3 ch. Repeat from * once. Miss 2 tr and work 1 tr into each of the next 6 tr. 3 ch. Miss 2 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. 3 ch. * Work 1 tr into the next tr. 3 ch. Repeat from * once. Repeat from # until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 6 ch.

Row 18 6 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. * 3 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * once. # 3 ch. Work 1 dec over the next four tr. * 3 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 6 times. Repeat from # until the end of the row (ending after 3 ch). Work sl into third of 6 ch.

Row 19 3 ch. Work 3 tr under the last 3 ch of the 6 ch in the previous row. # * Work 1 tr into the next tr. Work 3 tr into the gap between that tr and the next tr. Repeat from * twice. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Work 1 tr into the eye of the next dec. Work 3 tr in the gap between the dec and the next tr. * Work 1 tr into the next tr. Work 3 tr into the next gap between that tr and the next tr. Repeat from * 3 times. Repeat from # until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 3 ch.

Row 20 6 ch. * Miss 3 tr and work 1 tr into each of the next 26 tr. 3 ch. Miss 3 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. 3 ch. Repeat from * until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 6 ch.

Row 21 6 ch. * Work 1 tr into the next tr. 3 ch. Miss 3 tr and work 1 tr into each of the next 18 tr. 3 ch. Miss 3 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. 3 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. 3 ch. Repeat from * until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 6 ch.

Row 22 6 ch. # * Work 1 tr into the next tr. 3 ch. Repeat from * once. Miss 2 tr and work 1 tr into each of the next 12 tr. 3 ch. Miss 2 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. 3 ch. * Work 1 tr into the next tr. 3 ch. Repeat from * once. Repeat from # until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 6 ch.

Row 23 6 ch. # * Work 1 tr into the next tr. 3 ch. Repeat from * twice. Miss 2 tr and work 1 tr into each of the next 6 tr. 3 ch. Miss 2 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. 3 ch. * Work 1 tr into the next tr. 3 ch. Repeat from * twice. Repeat from # until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 6 ch.

Row 24 7 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. # * 4 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * twice.

4 ch. Work 1 dec over the next four tr. * 4 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 5 times. Repeat from # until the end of the row (ending after 3 ch). Work sl into third of 7 ch.

Row 25 3 ch. Work 3 tr under the last 4 ch of the 7 ch in the previous row. # * Work 1 tr into the next tr. Work 3 tr into the gap between that tr and the next tr. Repeat from * 3 times. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Work 1 tr into the eye of the next dec. Work 3 tr in the gap between the dec and the next tr. * Work 1 tr into the next tr. Work 3 tr into the next gap between that tr and the next tr. Repeat from * 4 times. Repeat from # until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 3 ch.

Row 26 7 ch. * Miss 3 tr and work 1 tr into each of the next 34 tr. 4 ch. Miss 3 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. 4 ch. Repeat from * until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 7 ch.

Row 27 7 ch. * Work 1 tr into the next tr. 4 ch. Miss 3 tr and work 1 tr into each of the next 26 tr. 4 ch. Miss 3 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. 4 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. 4 ch. Repeat from * until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 7 ch.

Row 28 7 ch. # * Work 1 tr into the next tr. 4 ch. Repeat from * once. Miss 3 tr and work 1 tr into each of the next 18 tr. 4 ch. Miss 3 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. 4 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. 4 ch. Repeat from * once. Repeat from # until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 7 ch.

Row 29 7 ch. # * Work 1 tr into the next tr. 4 ch. Repeat from * twice. Miss 2 tr and work 1 tr into each of the next 12 tr. 4 ch. Miss 2 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. 4 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. 4 ch. Repeat from * twice. Repeat from # until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 7 ch.

Row 30 7 ch. # * Work 1 tr into the next tr. 4 ch. Repeat from * 3 times. Miss 2 tr and work 1 tr into each of the next 6 tr. 4 ch. Miss 2 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. 4 ch. * Work 1 tr into the next tr. 4 ch. Repeat from * 3 times. Repeat from # until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 7 ch.

Row 31 8 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. # * 5 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 3 times. 5 ch. Work 1 dec over the next four tr. * 5 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 6 times. Repeat from # until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 8 ch.

Row 32 5 ch. Work 3 tr under the last 5 ch of the 8 ch in the previous row. # * Work 1 tr into the next tr. Work 3 tr into the gap between that tr and the next tr. Repeat from * 4 times. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Work 1 tr into the eye of the next dec. Work 3 tr in the gap between the dec and the next tr. * Work 1 tr into the next tr. Work 3 tr into the next gap between that tr and the next tr. Repeat

from * 5 times. Repeat from # until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 3 ch.

Row 33 7 ch. * Miss 3 tr and work 1 tr into each of the next 42 tr. 4 ch. Miss 3 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. 4 ch. Repeat from * until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 7 ch.

Row 34 7 ch. * Work 1 tr into the next tr. 4 ch. Miss 3 tr and work 1 tr into each of the next 34 tr. 4 ch. Miss 3 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. 4 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. 4 ch. Repeat from * until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 7 ch.

Row 35 7 ch. # * Work 1 tr into the next tr. 4 ch. Repeat from * once. Miss 3 tr and work 1 tr into each of the next 26 tr. 4 ch. Miss 3 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. 4 ch. * Work 1 tr into the next tr. 4 ch. Repeat from * once. Repeat from # until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 7 ch.

Row 36 7 ch. # * Work 1 tr into the next tr. 4 ch. Repeat from * twice. Miss 3 tr and work 1 tr into each of the next 18 tr. 4 ch. Miss 3 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. 4 ch. * Work 1 tr into the next tr. 4 ch. Repeat from * twice. Repeat from # until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 7 ch.

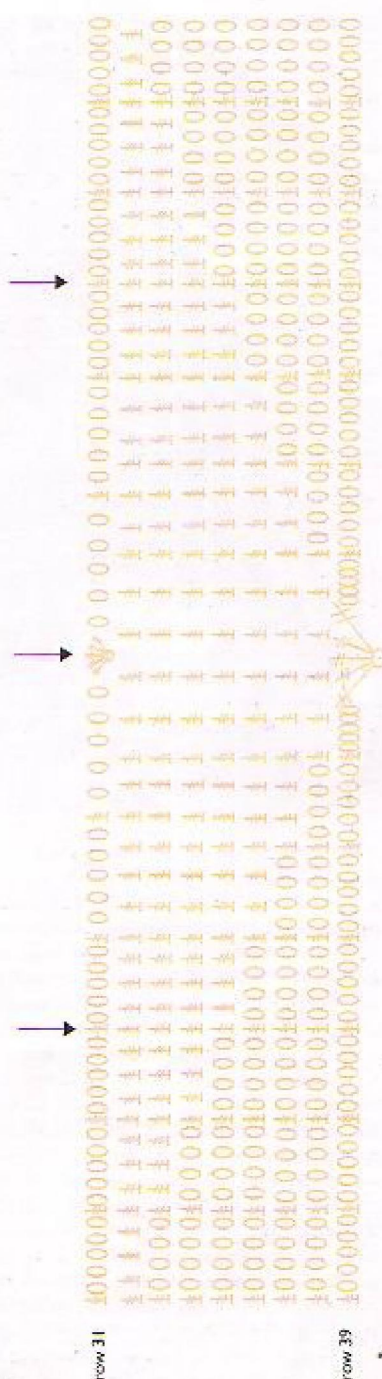
Row 37 7 ch. # * Work 1 tr into the next tr. 4 ch. Repeat from * 3 times. Miss 2 tr and work 1 tr into each of the next 12 tr. 4 ch. Miss 2 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. 4 ch. * Work 1 tr into the next tr. 4 ch. Repeat from * 3 times. Repeat from # until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 7 ch.

Row 38 7 ch. # * Work 1 tr into the next tr. 4 ch. Repeat from * 4 times. Miss 2 tr and work 1 tr into each of the next 6 tr. 4 ch. Miss 2 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. 4 ch. * Work 1 tr into the next tr. 4 ch. Repeat from * 4 times. Repeat from # until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 7 ch.

Row 39 8 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. # * 5 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 4 times. 5 ch. Work 1 dec over the next 4 tr. * 5 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 7 times. Repeat from # until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 8 ch.

Row 40 3 ch. Work 3 tr. under the last 5 ch. of the 8 ch. in the previous row. # * Work 1 tr. into the next tr. Work 3 tr. into the gap between that tr. and the next tr. Repeat from * five times. Work 1 tr. into the next tr. Work 1 tr. into the eye of the next dec. Work 3 tr. in the gap between the dec. and the next tr. * Work 1 tr into the next tr. Work 3 tr. into the next gap between that tr. and the next tr. Repeat from * 6 times. Repeat from # until the end of the row. Work sl. into third of 3 ch.

Row 41 8 ch. * Miss 3 tr and work 1 tr into each of the next 50 tr. 5 ch. Miss 3 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. 5 ch. Repeat from * until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 8 ch.



KEY



KEY



Row 42 8 ch. * Work 1 tr into the next tr. 5 ch. Miss 3 tr and work 1 tr into each of the next 42 tr. 5 ch. Miss 3 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. 5 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. 5 ch. Repeat from * until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 8 ch.

Row 43 8 ch. # * Work 1 tr into the next tr. 5 ch. Repeat from * once. Miss 3 tr and work 1 tr into each of the next 34 tr. 5 ch. Miss 3 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. 5 ch. * Work 1 tr into the next tr. 5 ch. Repeat from * once. Repeat from # until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 8 ch.

Row 44 8 ch. # * Work 1 tr into the next tr. 5 ch. Repeat from * twice. Miss 3 tr and work 1 tr into each of the next 26 tr. 5 ch. Miss 3 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. 5 ch. * Work 1 tr into the next tr. 5 ch. Repeat from * twice. Repeat from # until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 8 ch.

Row 45 9 ch. # * Work 1 tr into the next tr. 6 ch. Repeat from * 3 times. Miss 3 tr and work 1 tr into each of the next 18 tr. 6 ch. Miss 3 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. 6 ch. * Work 1 tr into the next tr. 6 ch. Repeat from * 3 times. Repeat from # until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 9 ch.

Row 46 9 ch. # * Work 1 tr into the next tr. 6 ch. Repeat from * 4 times. Miss 2 tr and work 1 tr into each of the next 12 tr. 6 ch. Miss 2 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. 6 ch. * Work 1 tr into the next tr. 6 ch. Repeat from * 4 times. Repeat from # until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 9 ch.

Row 47 9 ch. # * Work 1 tr into the next tr. 6 ch. Repeat from * 5 times. Miss 2 tr and work 1 tr into each of the next 6 tr. 6 ch. Miss 2 tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. 6 ch. * Work 1 tr into the next tr. 6 ch. Repeat from * 5 times. Repeat from # until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 9 ch.

Row 48 9 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. # * 6 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 5 times. 6 ch. Work 1 dec over the next 4 tr. * 6 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 8 times. Repeat from # until the end of the row. Work sl into third of 9 ch.

Row 49 (Trim) 31 ch. Miss 3 tr and work 1 dc into the next tr. * 30 ch. Miss 3 tr and work 1 dc into the next tr. Repeat from * until the end of the row fastening the final loop by working 1 sl into the 1st ch of the 1st 31 ch.

Row 50 (Trim) 36 ch. Work 1 dc into the next dc. * 35 ch. Work 1 dc into the next dc. Repeat from * until the end of the row fastening the final loop by working 1 sl into the 1st ch of the 1st 36 ch.

Row 51 (Trim) 41 ch. Work 1 dc into the



Detail of the looped trim of the fringed table piece. Note how the loops join to the rest of the crocheted piece

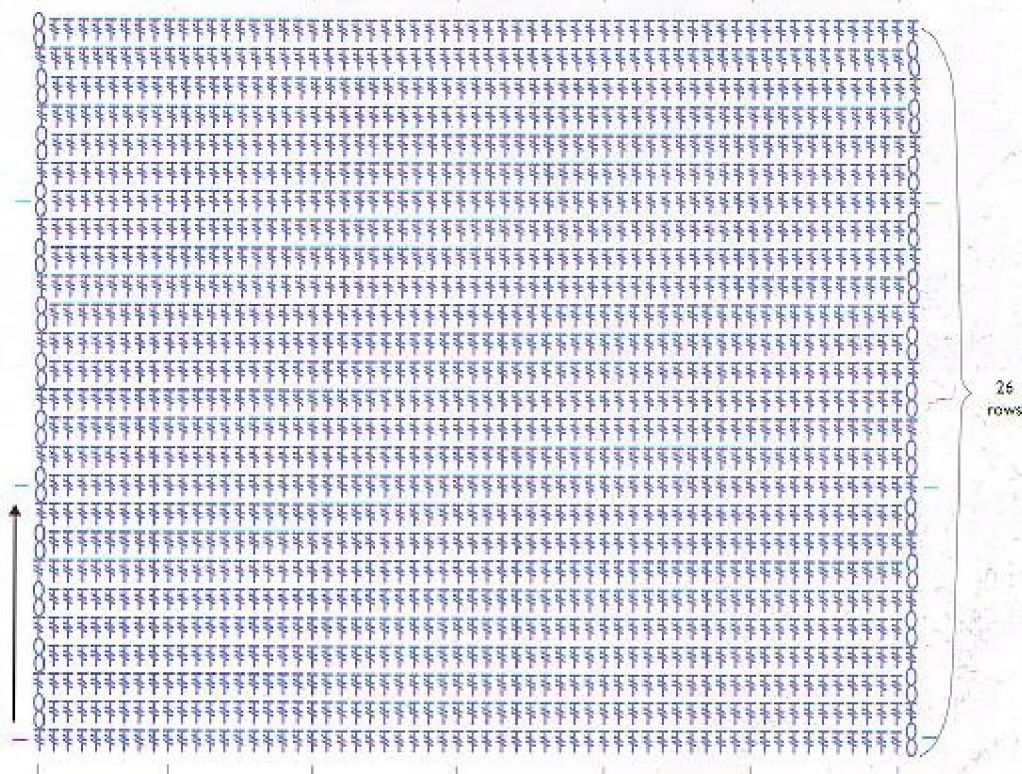
next dc. * 40 ch. Work 1 dc into the next dc. Repeat from * until the end of the row fastening the final loop by working 1 sl into the 1st ch of the 1st 41 ch.

Row 52 (Trim) 46 ch. Work 1 dc into the next dc. * 45 ch. Work 1 dc into the next dc. Repeat from * until the end of the row fastening the final loop by working 1 sl into the 1st ch of the 1st 46 ch.

Row 53 (Trim) 51 ch. Work 1 dc into the next dc. * 50 ch. Work 1 dc into the next dc. Repeat from * until the end of the row fastening the final loop by working 1 sl into the 1st ch of the 1st 51 ch. Cast off and fasten.

To finish your work properly, first damp and then iron, paying particular attention to the trim (see Essentials, page 13). If required, starch your work, too.

Ribbon-tied case, rows 55–80



and 1 tr into the following tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the following tr. Repeat from * 8 times. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into each of the following 20 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 50 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 20 tr. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into the following tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the following tr. Repeat from * 6 times. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into each of the following 22 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 51 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 22 tr. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in

other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into the following tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the following tr. Repeat from * 4 times. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into each of the following 24 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 52 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the following 24 tr. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into the following tr. *1 ch. Work 1 tr into the following tr. Repeat from * 2 times. Work 1 tr into the next gap (in other words under the next ch in the previous row) and 1 tr into each of the following 26 stitches (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 53 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each of the

KEY

○ ch
 1 tr



Coverlet for a Child's Bed

This is the perfect heirloom piece. When I bought the cotton for it, I was lucky enough to be visiting Italy, where good quality crochet cotton is plentiful and reasonably priced

PATTERN

The following pattern makes a coverlet intended for use on a child's bed measuring around 80 x 140cm (31.5 x 55.5in). You may adapt the pattern to create a larger version, but remember that you require more cotton. As a rough guide, one 100g ball will be enough for almost five squares. One repetition of the following pattern will create one square. Repeat the pattern 28 times.

I have opted to use a single turning chain on each row. This is quite unusual as three turning/raising chains are commonly used with this pattern's stitch work. The discrepancy is intentional; I find it creates a more uniform effect.

With the 2.5mm crochet hook and your first ball of wool cast on and make 10 chains. Join the tenth ch to the first with a sl.

Row 1 1 ch. Work 23 tr into the round rope of chains just made. Join the last tr to the first ch made in this row with a sl.

Row 2 1 ch. Work 1 tr into each of the next 4 tr on the left of the hook. Work 2 tr in the next gap between 2 tr. * Work 1 tr into each of the next 6 tr. Work 2 tr in the next gap between 2 tr. Repeat from * twice. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Join the last tr to the first ch made in this row with a sl.

Row 3 1 ch. Work 1 tr into each of the next 5 tr on the left of the hook. Work 4 tr in the next gap between 2 tr. * Work 1 tr into each of the next 8 tr. Work 4 tr in the next gap between 2 tr. Repeat from * twice. Work 1 tr into each of the next 2 tr. Join the last tr to the first ch made in this row with a sl.

Row 4 1 ch. Work 1 tr into each of the next 7 tr on the left of the hook. Work 2 tr in the next gap between 2 tr. * Work 1 tr into each of the next 12 tr. Work 2 tr in the next gap between 2 tr. Repeat from * twice. Work 1 tr into each of the next 4 tr. Join the last tr to the first ch made in this row with a sl.

Row 5 1 ch. Work 1 tr into each of the next 8

tr on the left of the hook. Work 4 tr in the next gap between 2 tr. * Work 1 tr into each of the next 14 tr. Work 4 tr in the next gap between 2 tr. Repeat from * twice. Work 1 tr into each of the next 5 tr. Join the last tr to the first ch made in this row with a sl.

Row 6 1 ch. Work 1 tr into each of the next 10 tr on the left of the hook. Work 2 tr in the next gap between 2 tr. * Work 1 tr into each of the next 18 tr. Work 2 tr in the next gap between 2 tr. Repeat from * twice. Work 1 tr into each of the next 7 tr. Join the last tr to the first ch made in this row with a sl.

Row 7 1 ch. Work 1 tr into each of the next 11 tr on the left of the hook. Work 4 tr in the next gap between 2 tr. * Work 1 tr into each of the next 20 tr. Work 4 tr in the next gap between 2 tr. Repeat from * twice. Work 1 tr into each of the next 8 tr. Join the last tr to the first ch made in this row with a sl.

Row 8 1 ch. Work 1 tr into each of the next 13 tr on the left of the hook. Work 2 tr in the next gap between 2 tr. * Work 1 tr into each of the next 24 tr. Work 2 tr in the next gap between 2 tr. Repeat from * twice. Work 1 tr into each of the next 10 tr. Join the last tr to the first ch made in this row with a sl.

Row 9 1 ch. Work 1 tr into each of the next 14 tr on the left of the hook. Work 4 tr in the next gap between 2 tr. * Work 1 tr into each of the next 26 tr. Work 4 tr in the next gap between 2 tr. Repeat from * twice. Work 1 tr into each of the next 11 tr. Join the last tr to the first ch made in this row with a sl.

Row 10 1 ch. Work 1 tr into each of the next 16 tr on the left of the hook. Work 2 tr in the next gap between 2 tr. * Work 1 tr into each of the next 30 tr. Work 2 tr in the next gap between 2 tr. Repeat from * twice. Work 1 tr into each of the next 13 tr. Join the last tr to the first ch made in this row with a sl. Cast off and fasten. Pin out and starch.

MATERIALS

2.5mm crochet hook
(the tag recommends
3.5mm, but 2.5mm
creates a tighter effect)

9 balls of pure white
cotton Egypt 3 by Mafil
(100g) or other similar
cotton yarn

STITCHES AND ABBREVIATIONS

sl slip stitch

ch chain

dc double crochets

tr treble crochet

dc tr double treble

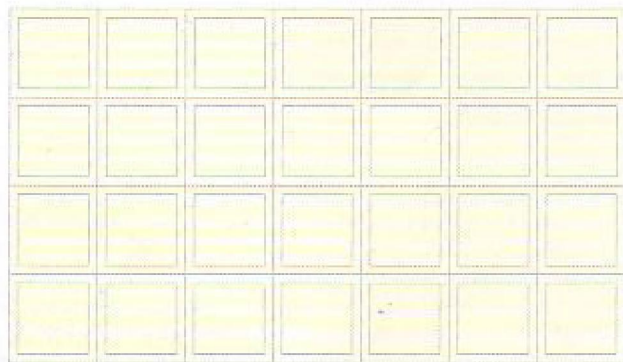
adtr (introduced here
for simplicity, this is the
three double treble
cross variation on the
crossed treble)

inc increase

TENSION

One motif =
20cm (8in) square

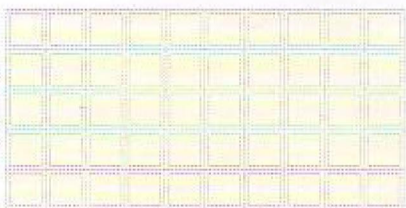
Once you have crocheted all 28 squares, join them together. To work the seams, refer to the instructions that follow, and to page 35. Flat seams are unnecessary, but you may prefer to join them this way, otherwise use a simple crocheted seam.



When planning a bedspread, it is sometimes quite difficult to work out how many 20cm (8in) squares one might need to fit a specific bed. Fortunately, most beds are made to standard sizes.

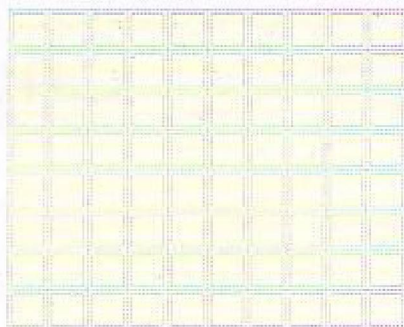
For a single bedspread measuring 100 x 200cm (39.5 x 79in), you require 50 squares, plus the trim, for which just over 10 x 100g balls of cotton is sufficient, plus the trim. Work it out as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} 100/20 &= 5 \text{ squares wide} \\ 200/20 &= 10 \text{ squares long} \\ 5 \times 10 \text{ squares} &= 50 \text{ squares} \end{aligned}$$



For a double bedspread measuring 160 x 200cm (63 x 79in), you require 80 squares, plus the trim for which just over 16 x 100g balls of cotton is sufficient, plus the trim. Work it out as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} 160/20 &= 8 \text{ squares wide} \\ 200/20 &= 10 \text{ squares long} \\ 8 \times 10 \text{ squares} &= 80 \text{ squares} \end{aligned}$$



By following this simple equation, you can manipulate the pattern to fit any bed, assuming that the size of your squares are consistent, about 20cm (8in) square.

$A = \text{bed's width}/20\text{cm (8in)} = \text{number of squares wide (rounded up)}$

$B = \text{bed's length}/20\text{cm (8in)} = \text{number of squares long (rounded up)}$

$C = A (\text{number of squares across}) \times B (\text{number of squares long}) = \text{total number of squares}$

$C = \text{total number of squares}$. As a rough guide, you will need five 100g balls of yarn, but keep in mind that this does not include the trim.

TRIM

Follow these patterns to create the trim regardless of the size of your bedspread.

FIRST TRIM, ACROSS THE TOP

Row 1 Insert the hook into the first stitch. Yarn around the hook and pull it through. Make 3 ch. Work 1 tr into each of the stitches across the top of the previously joined squares. 5 ch. Turn.

Row 2 * Work 1 dc into the fourth tr on the left of the hook. 5 ch. Repeat from * until the end of the row, ending with 1 dc. 1 turning ch. Turn.

Row 3 Work 6 dc into the first group of 5 ch in the previous row followed by 7 dc into each of the next 5 chain loops. Cast off and fasten.

SECOND AND THIRD TRIMS, SIDES AND BOTTOM

Follow this pattern for all three remaining sides. Begin the third trim (across the bottom) at either end of the joined squares. Begin both second trims (down either side) at the end closest to the third.

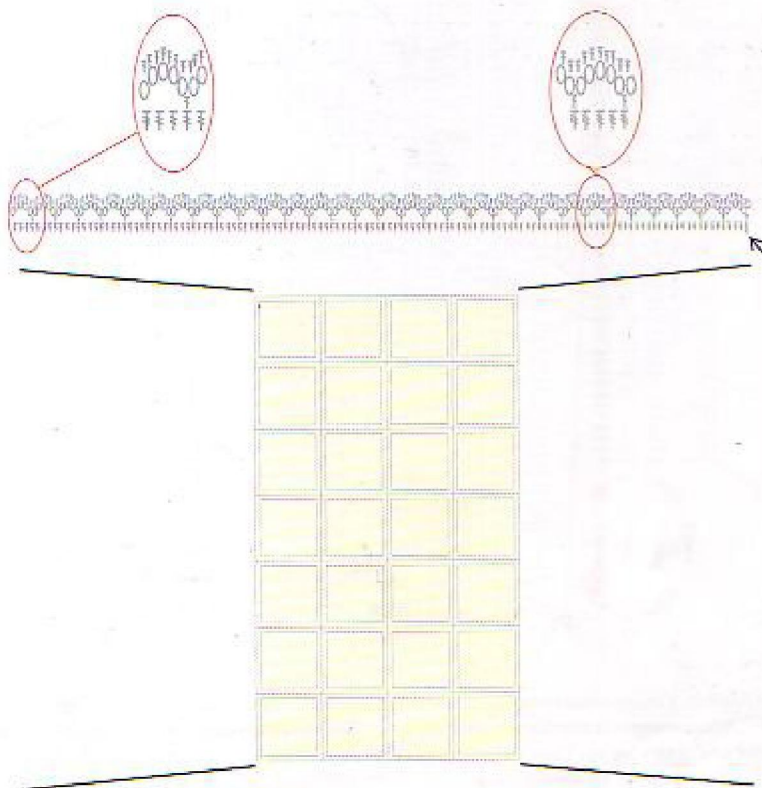
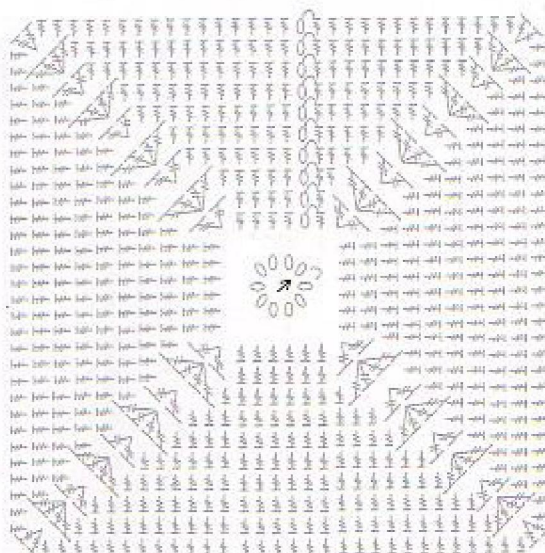
Row 1 Insert the hook into the first stitch. Yarn around hook and pull it through. 3 ch. Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the

hook followed by 1 tr into each tr on the left of the hook until the end of the row. 3 turning ch. Turn.

Row 2 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook. # * 1 ch. Miss the next tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 13 times. Work 1 tr into each of the next 5 tr. * 1 ch. Miss the next tr and work 1 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 13 times. Work 1 tr into each of the next 3 tr. Repeat from # until the end of the row. 3 turning ch. Turn.

Row 3 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook followed by 1 tr into each stitch on the left of the hook until the end of the row. 6 turning ch. Turn.

Row 4 # * Miss the next 2 tr on the left of the hook (3 tr if you have just made the 6 turning chains at the end of row 3) and work 1 xdr into and over the next 5 tr on the left of the hook. 2 ch. Repeat from * 3 times. Miss the next 2 tr on the left of the hook and work 1 dtr into each of the next 2 tr. Repeat from # until the end of the row (finishing with a single dtr into the final tr). 3 turning ch. Turn.



KEY

- 0 ch
- ∩ sl st
- tr
- inc
- inc
- attach thread here

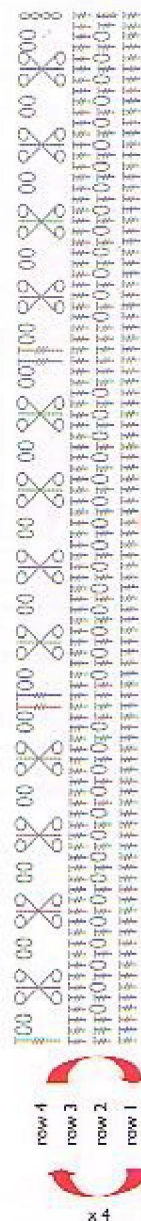
KEY

- 0 ch
- tr
- tr
- attach thread here

KEY



↗ attach thread here

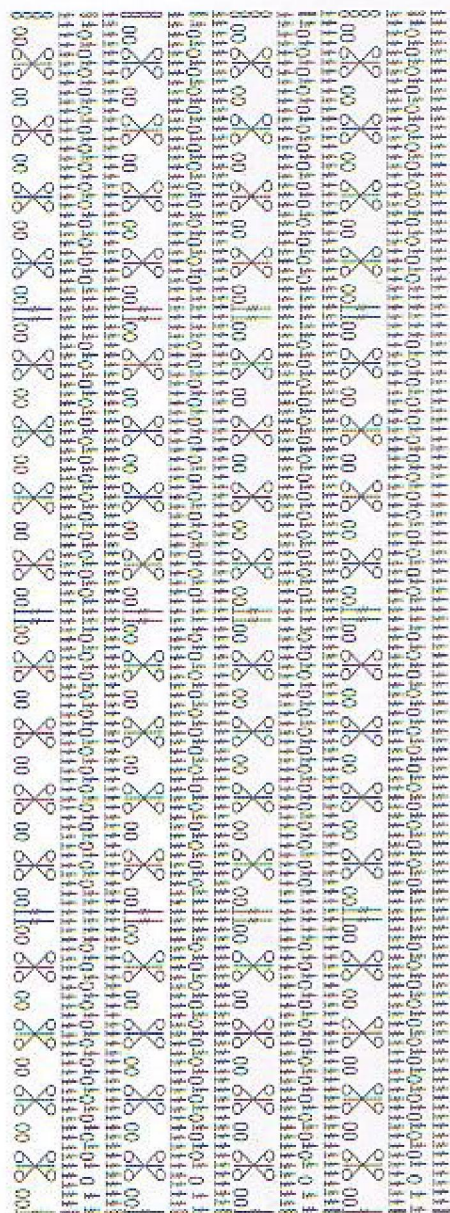


Row 5 Work 1 tr into each stitch on the left of the hook beginning with the first ch until the end of the row, 3 turning ch. Turn.

Rows 6, 7, 8 & 9 Repeat rows 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Rows 10, 11, 12 & 13 Repeat rows 2, 3, 4 and 5 consecutively.





KEY

- ch
 7 σ
 7 dtr
 xdr

↗ attach thread here

Rows 14, 15 & 16 Repeat rows 2, 3 and 4 consecutively, omitting the final turning chains. Cast off & fasten.

Pinning out and starching will give a good square shape to your coverlet and enhance its presentation (see page 13).



Traditional Bedspread

This bedspread is one of my favourite pieces. It was begun by my grandmother who died before it was completed and I have finished it as a tribute to an exceptional woman. I consider it a true joining of generations of women, something she would have appreciated

PATTERN

The following pattern will create a bedspread intended for use on a king size bed measuring about 270cm x 220cm (107in x 87in). A single

repetition of the following pattern will create one square. Repeat the pattern 775 times.

With the hook and your first ball, cast on and make 8 chains. Join the eighth ch to the first with a sl.

MATERIALS

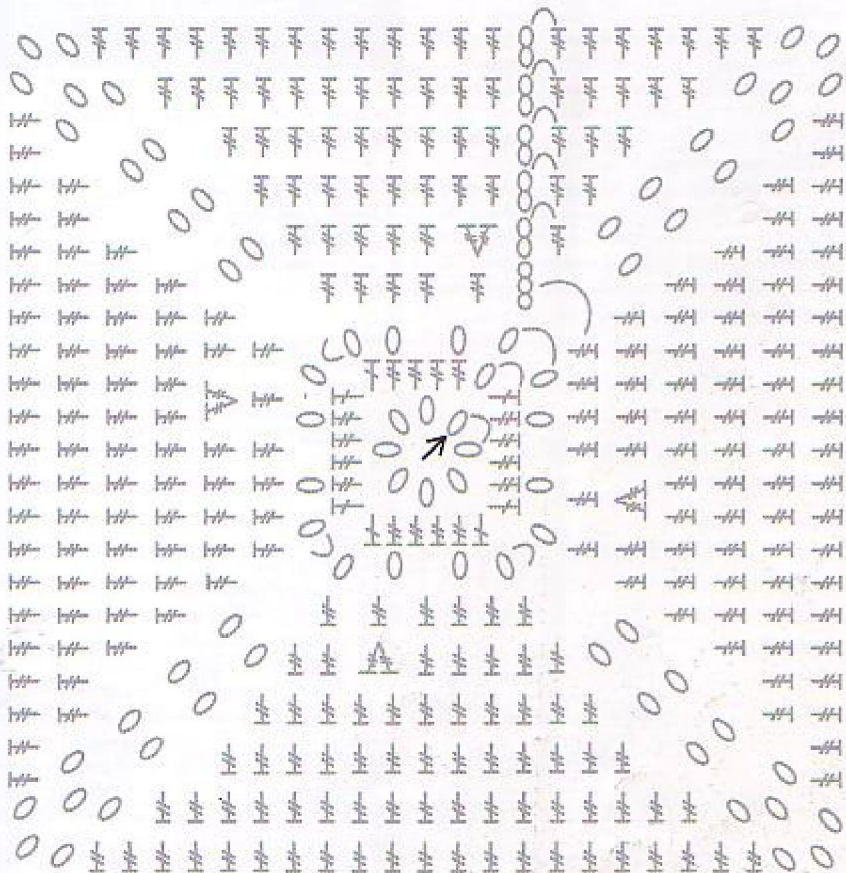
1.5mm crochet hook
52 balls of Jonelle
crochet cotton, 10 count
in lustre (50g)

STITCHES AND ABBREVIATIONS

sl slip stitch
ch chain
dc double crochet
tr treble croch

TENSION

One motif =
9 cm square (3.5in square)



KEY

- ch
- ⌋ sl st
- ⌋ tr
- ⌋ inc
- ➔ attach thread here

Row 1 1 ch. * Work 4 tr followed by 2 dc into the round made with the ch of the previous row. Repeat from * 3 times omitting the final dc. Join the last dc to the first ch made in this row with a sl.

Row 2 Turn the piece over and work this row on the back. * 4 ch. Join between the next 2 dc with 1 sl. Repeat from * twice. 4 ch. Join to the first ch made in this row with 1 sl. Turn the piece back the right way and proceed with this pattern as normal.

Row 3 3 ch. Work 5 tr under the first 4 ch of the previous row. * Work 6 tr under the next four chains of the previous row. Repeat from * twice. Join to the third ch made in this row with 1 sl.

Row 4 2 ch. Work 2 tr into the next tr. * Work 1 tr into each of the next 4 tr. Work 1 tr, 2 ch & 1 tr between the last tr worked in and its neighbouring tr. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Work 2 tr into the next tr. Repeat from * 3 times omitting the final 3 tr. Join to the second ch made in this row with 1 sl.

Row 5 2 ch. Work 1 tr into each of the next 7 tr. * Work 1 tr, 2 ch & 1 tr under the next 2 ch. Work 1 tr into each the next 9 tr. Repeat from * twice. Work 1 tr, 2 ch & 1 tr under the next 2 ch. Work 1 tr into the next tr. Join to the second ch made in this row with 1 sl.

Row 6 2 ch. Work 1 tr into each of the next 8 tr. * Work 1 tr, 2 ch & 1 tr under the next 2 ch. Work 1 tr into each the next 11 tr. Repeat from * twice. Work 1 tr, 2 ch & 1 tr under the next 2 ch. Work 1 tr into each the next 2 tr. Join to the second ch made in this row with 1 sl.

31 squares



25 squares



The raised, or 'lifted', motif gives this piece its distinctive character

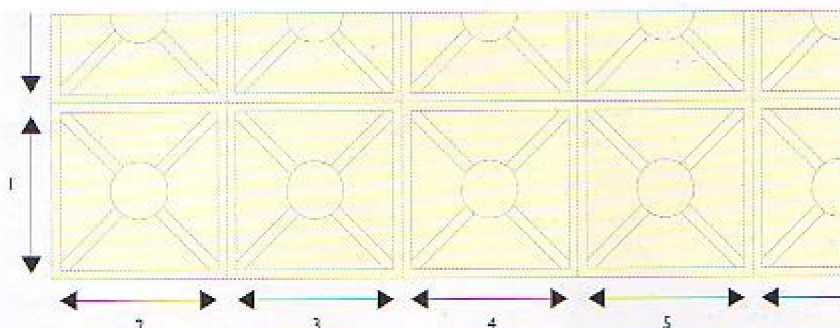
Row 7 2 ch. Work 1 tr into each of the next 9 tr. * Work 2 tr, 3 ch & 2 tr under the next 2 ch. Work 1 tr into each the next 13 tr. Repeat from * twice. Work 2 tr, 3 ch & 2 tr under the next 2 ch. Work 1 tr into each the next 3 tr. Join to the second ch made in this row with 1 sl.

Row 8 2 ch. Work 1 tr into each of the next 11 tr. * Work 2 tr, 3 ch & 2 tr under the next 3 ch. Work 1 tr into each the next 17 tr. Repeat from * twice. Work 2 tr, 3 ch & 2 tr under the next 3 ch. Work 1 tr into each the next 5 tr. Join to the second ch made in this row with 1 sl. Cast off and fasten.

Once you have created all 775 squares, join them together as follows.

Crochet a seam of double crochet stitches (rather than slip stitches) on the wrong side of the squares so that you can see the raised crocheted seam on the good side of the finished bedspread. The seam, in this case, is an integral part of the pattern. Used in this way, it offers possibilities for the seam as a decorative effect in itself for future projects.

You can divide up the whole piece by working in smaller groupings of motifs. For example, groups of 5 by 5 (25 squares) is more manageable, and leaves you a single line of 25 squares to add to the end later.



TRIM

There are two trims: a first trim that forms the edge to three lengths that fall down the sides of the bed and one edge that tucks behind the pillows.

FIRST TRIM

This is made in two parts; the first comprising a pyramid-shaped motif and the second with additional optional tassels.

PART A

Row 1 Insert the hook under the first 3 chain groupings. Yo the hook and pull it through. Make 3 ch. Work 1 tr between each of the stitches across the edge of a smaller, previously joined square (ending with a final tr under the next 3 ch grouping). 3 ch. Turn.

Row 2 Miss the first 2 tr and work 1 tr into each

of the following tr finishing before the final chains. Leave these stitches alone and make 3 ch. Turn.

Rows 3–11 Repeat row 2 a further 9 times, omitting the final turning chains. Cast off and then fasten off.

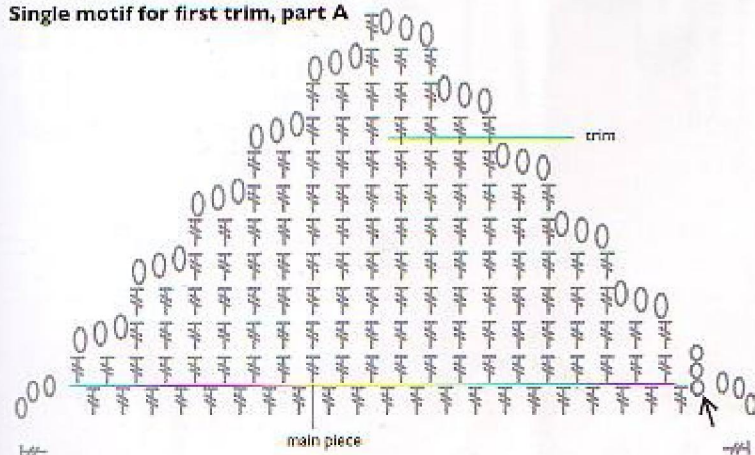
Repeat this pattern along the exposed edge of each motif over three of the four edges of the bedspread (the three edges that hang over the sides of the bed).

PART B

This part adds tassels along the same edges of the bedspread as part A, and they should be worked in two lengths to accommodate the pyramid-shaped motif used on the trim.

With three strands measuring 30cm (12in) each in the same cotton you have been using (another colour would also be very effective), create one tassel (see page 44) between the treble

Single motif for first trim, part A



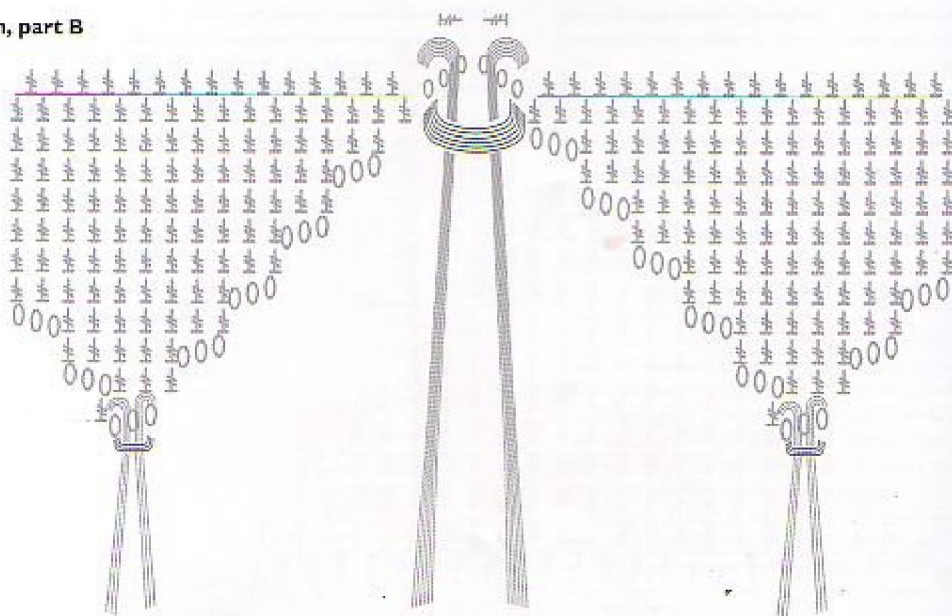
KEY

- ch
- tr
- ↑ attach thread here



The first trim is made up of a series of pyramid motifs and two lengths of tassel to hang over the edge of the bed

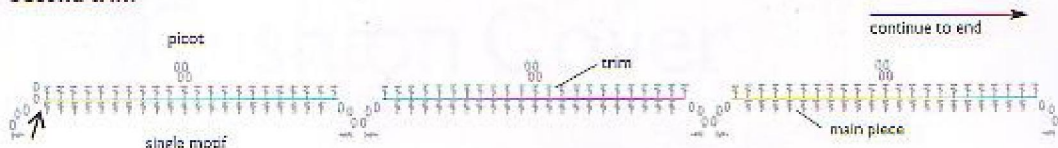
First trim, part B



KEY



Second trim



crochet and the three turning chains in the final row in each pyramid shape.

With six strands of yarn measuring 40cm (16in) each of the same cotton, create a single tassel as follows:

With three strands folded in half, thread the looped end under the exposed three chains in the corner of one motif. (Thread through the right side and out of the wrong side.) With the remaining three strands folded in half, thread the looped end under the neighbouring three chains on the next motif. Combine both sets of looped ends and thread both sets of loose ends through the loop, creating one larger tassel.

SECOND TRIM

Work this trim across the one unworked edge of the finished piece.

Row 1 Insert the hook under the first set of 3 chains in the first motif. Loop around the hook and pull it through. Make 2 ch. Work 1 dc into each of the next 11 tr. 4 ch. 1 sl into last dc made (1 picot made). Work 1 dc into each of the next 10 tr. Work 1 dc under the next ch. * Work 1 dc under the first 3 ch grouping of the next motif. Work 1 dc into each of the next 11 tr. 4 ch. Work 1 sl into last dc made (1 picot made). Work 1 dc into each of the next 10 tr. Work 1 dc under the next ch. Repeat from * until the end of the row. Cast off and fasten.

KEY

ch

dc

p

↑ attach thread here



Blue Shades Cushion Cover

This funky cushion cover will look fabulous in any interior – for a chair in a study, or on a long, leather sofa in your lounge

BASIC TECHNIQUE

The pattern is made up of a series of rows of treble crochet stitches which is very straightforward and can be adapted to any size and shape. I have designed it this way to allow you to experiment with changes in colour rather than focus on any single technical aspect of the pattern.

To simplify the pattern, I have written the colour changes into a table, over the page. The guide tells you what shade you need to use in each row, and at what row you need to substitute one colour with another. Colour changes are complete. Cut loose ends; do not take them with you. Simply follow the pattern and refer to the colour guide as you work, remembering to keep your eye on where you are now and then! Note that each colour change occurs at the end of the row. For further reference it may help you to refer to the section earlier in the book on working in colour (see page 47).

With the 2.5mm crochet hook and 4225, cast on and make 50 chains.

Row 1 Work 1 tr into the fifth chain on the left of the hook and 1 tr into each and every subsequent chain until the end of the row (47 tr in total). 3 turning chains. Turn.

Row 2 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook (the penultimate tr in the previous row) and 1 tr into each subsequent tr. Yo and insert hook into the next ch. Yo and draw loop back through stitch. Yo and draw loop through 2 loops. Drop 4225. Pick up 4216. Yo and draw loop through two loops on hook. 3 turning chains. Turn.

Row 3 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook and 1 tr into each subsequent tr. Yo and insert hook into the next ch. Yo and draw loop back through stitch. Yo and draw loop through two loops. Drop 4216. Pick up 4225. Yo and draw loop through two loops on hook. 3 turning chains. Turn.

Row 4 Work 1 tr into the second tr on the left of the hook and 1 tr into each subsequent tr. Yo and insert hook into the next ch. Yo and draw loop

back through stitch. Yo and draw loop through 2 loops. Drop... etc.

A colour change occurs at the same point in each row where there is one. Each row is exactly the same; a row of treble crochet stitches with three turning chains at the end. This means that having cast on and established your first row, you need only refer to the colour guide, to tell you where the colour changes occur. You need only remember at what point in the last stitch to make the change over.



MATERIALS

2.5mm crochet hook
5 balls of Jonelle Superblend double knitting (169m each) (4225/4216/3171/4323/4210) or similar yarn in varying shades of blue
35cm (14in) square feather pillow

STITCHES AND ABBREVIATIONS

ch chain

tr treble crochet

TENSION

13 stitches over 12 rows
= 10cm (4in) square

The loose, even fabric of the blue shades cushion cover

PATTERN

Change the shade of blue wool in line with the colour guide (eg. crochet rows 5, 6 and 7 in 4216. At the end of row 7, change to 3171 and crochet rows 8, 9 and 10. On completion of row 10, change to 4323 etc., until complete).

With the 2.5mm crochet hook and the first of your wool (4225), cast on and make 50 chains.

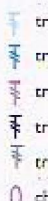
Row 1 Work 1 tr into the fifth chain on the left of the hook and 1 tr into each and every subsequent

COLOUR GUIDE

Row	Shade
1 & 2	4225
3	4216
4	4225
5-7	4216
8-10	3171
11	4323
12 & 13	4210
14-16	4323
17-26	4210
27-29	4225
30	4216
31 & 32	4225
33-35	4216
36 & 37	3171
38 & 39	4216
40-44	3171
45	4323
46-51	3171
52	4323
53	4210
54-57	4323
58-67	4210
68-71	4225
72-79	4216
80-90	3171

90 rows

KEY



attach thread here

48 treble crochets

chain until the end of the row (47 tr in total). 3 turning chains. Turn.

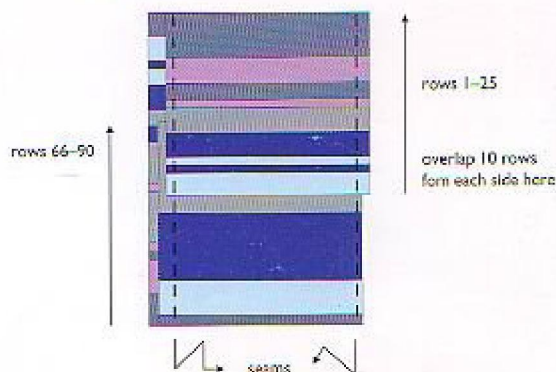
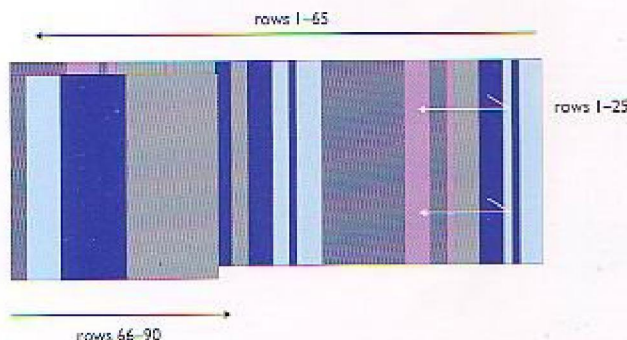
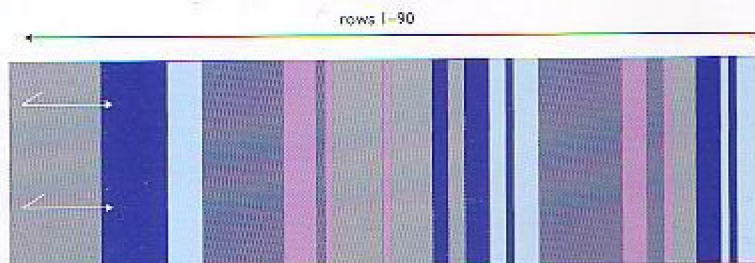
Row 2 Work 1 tr between the 1st and second tr on the left of the hook and 1 tr. between every subsequent stitch until the end of the row, working any colour change into the final tr (refer to the colour guide). 3 turning chains. Turn.

Rows 3–90 Repeat row 2 another 88 times, omitting the final turning chains. Cast off and fasten.

Fold the finished crocheted piece as shown and join the seams. Turn inside out and insert the pillow.

SEAMS

The blue shades cushion cover is composed entirely of a single, rectangular crocheted piece. Because of the way I have constructed the folds and seams, enclosing the cushion pad or pillow within, they do not require the integration of features such as buttons, zips or ribbons as the discrete cases for the cream and blue afghans do. By folding the finished fabric twice and creating seams along the edges, the single piece of crochet is transformed into a cover.





Striped Pillow Cover

This design is an extension of the blue shades cushion cover, but is transformed by warm, North African colours. Because of its extended shape I have called it a pillow cover, but it could be easily adapted for the lounge as a stylish floor cushion

BASIC TECHNIQUES

To help get you started on this pattern, please refer to the section on basic techniques outlined in the first part of the blue shades cushion cover project (see page 111).

PATTERN

For reference on working in colour changes for this pattern, it may help you to refer to the section earlier in the book on changing colour (see page 47).

COLOUR GUIDE

Row	Shade	Row	Shade
1-3	4223	84-119	4223
4	4220	120	4220
5	4223	121	4223
6-10	4220	122-142	4220
11	3039	143	3039
12	4220	144	4220
13-22	3039	145-154	3039
23	3197	155	3197
24	3039	156	3039
25-45	3197	157-161	3197
46	4205	162	4205
47	3197	163	3197
48-83	4205	164-186	4205

MATERIALS

2.5mm crochet hook
16 balls of Jonelle Superblend double knitting (169m each) (3 x 4223, 3 x 4220, 2 x 3039, 3 x 3197, 5 x 4205) or similar yarn in different shades
2 pillows, 40 x 60cm (16 x 23.5in) each

STITCHES AND ABBREVIATIONS

ch chain

tr treble

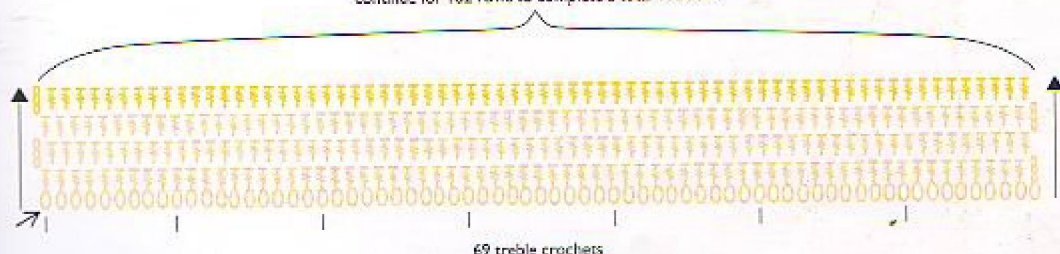
TENSION

17 stitches over 14 rows
= 10cm (4in) square

KEY

-  ch
-  tr
-  tr
-  attach thread here

continue for 182 rows to complete a total 186 rows



As you work, change the shade of wool according to the colour guide (eg. crochet rows 1 to 3 in 4223. At the end of row 3, change to 4220 and crochet row 4. At the end of row 4, change to 4223, etc., until complete).

With the 2.5mm crochet hook and the first of your wool (4223) cast on and make 72 chains.

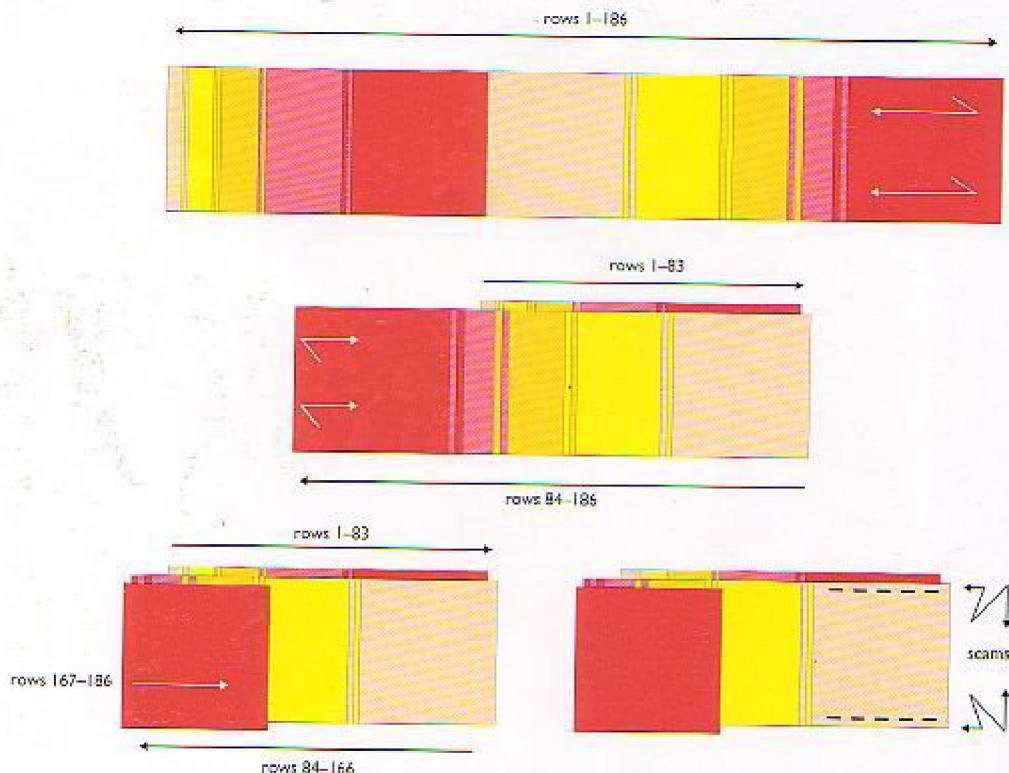
Row 1 Work 1 tr into the fifth chain on the left of the hook and 1 tr each and every subsequent chain until the end of the row (69 tr in total). 3 turning chains. Turn.

Row 2 Work 1 tr between the first and second

tr on the left of the hook and work 1 tr between each subsequent stitch until the end of the row working any colour changes into the final tr (refer to the colour guide). 3 turning chains. Turn.

Rows 3–186 Repeat row 2 another 184 times. Cast off and fasten.

Following the guidelines for seams as outlined in the previous project for the blue shades cushion cover, complete the seams for the pillow cover. Fold the piece and join the seams using 3039. Turn inside out. Your striped pillow cover is now complete.







Aztec Cotton Runner

Inspired by an Aztec motif, this elegant blue cotton runner works really well displayed the length of a kitchen or dining room table, but might also be used across the back of a chair or sofa

PATTERN FOR AZTEC SQUARE

Repeat this pattern 6 times. Colour changes are indicated throughout the pattern, which uses two shades of blue. Always take the dormant colour with you as you work the other. For further reference it may help you to refer to the section earlier in the book on working in colour (see page 47).

With the 2.5mm crochet hook and your first ball of navy, cast on and make 42 chains.

Row 1 Work 1 dc into the fourth chain on the left of the hook and into each subsequent chain until the end of the row (there should be 40 dc in total, including 1 made by the last chains in the previous row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 2 Work 1 dc into the 2nd dc on the left of the hook. Work 1 dc into each of the following dc until the end of the row (there should be 40 dc in total, including 1 made by the turning chains in the previous row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 3 Repeat row 2.

Row 4 Work 1 dc, dropping the navy, 607, and picking up the turquoise, 542. (Always change colour in the following way, which I will refer to as '1 dc with a colour change'. Insert hook into stitch. Yo. Draw loop back through stitch. Drop existing colour and pick up dormant colour. Yo. Draw loop through two loops on hook.) One loop now on hook, into the second dc on the left of the hook. Work 1 dc into each of the following 10 dc and 1 dc with a colour change into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 2 dc and 1 dc with a colour change into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 7 dc and 1 dc with a colour change into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 2 dc and 1 dc with a colour change into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 10 dc and 1 dc with a colour change into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 2 dc (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Rows 5 & 6 Repeat row 4 twice.

Row 7 Work 1 dc with a colour change into the

second dc on the left of the hook. Work 1 dc into each of the following 10 dc and 1 dc with a colour change into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 13 dc and 1 dc with a colour change into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 10 dc and 1 dc with a colour change into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 2 dc (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 8 Repeat row 7.

Rows 9–11 Repeat row 4 another 3 times.

Rows 12 & 13 Repeat row 7 twice.

Row 14 Work 1 dc into the 2nd dc on the left of the hook and work 1 dc into each of the following 13 dc. Work 1 dc with a colour change into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 7 dc and 1 dc with a colour change into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 16 dc (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Rows 15–17 Repeat row 14 another 3 times.

Row 18 Work 1 dc with a colour change into the 2nd dc on the left of the hook. Work 1 dc into each of the following 2 dc and 1 dc with a colour change into the following dc. Work 1 dc into the next dc and 1 dc with a colour change into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 2 dc and 1 dc with a colour change into the following dc. Work 1 dc into the next dc and 1 dc with a colour change into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 15 dc and 1 dc with a colour change into the following dc. Work 1 dc into the next dc and 1 dc with a colour change into the next dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 2 dc and 1 dc with a colour change into the following dc. Work 1 dc into the next dc and 1 dc with a colour change into the next dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 2 dc, and 1 dc with a colour change into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 2 dc (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Rows 19–23 Repeat row 18 another 5 times.

Rows 24–27 Repeat row 14 another 4 times.

Rows 28 & 29 Repeat row 7 another 2 times.

MATERIALS

2.5mm crochet hook
12 balls of Jaeger Pure Cotton double knitting (50g), 9 x navy (607), 3 x turquoise (542), or similar cotton in different shades

STITCHES AND ABBREVIATIONS

ch chain

dc double crochet

TENSION

One motif =
20cm square (8in square)



Aztec square

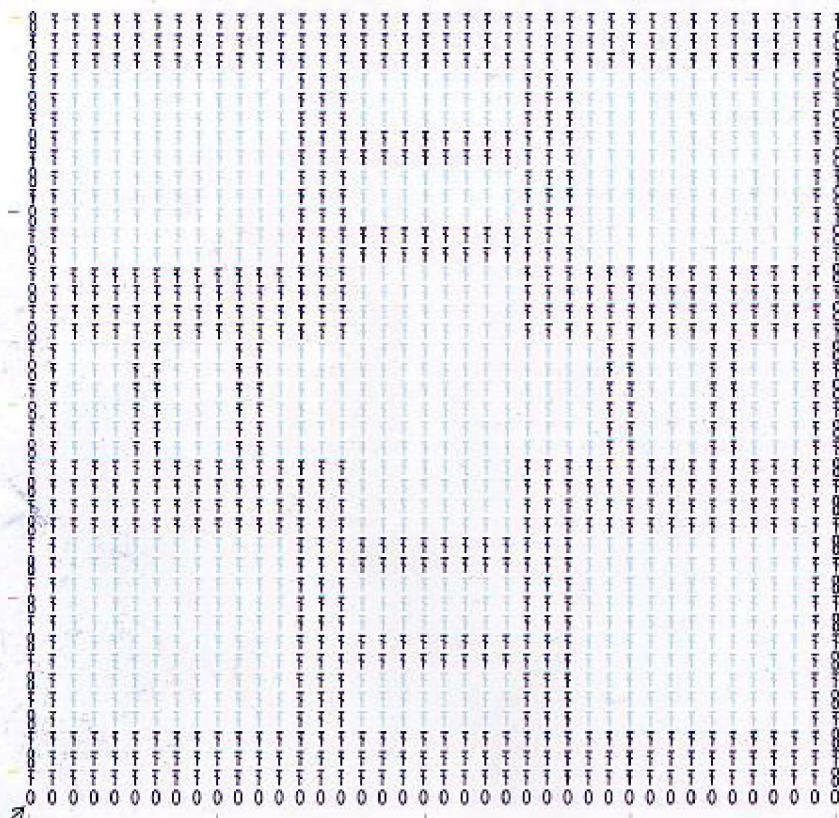
KEY

0 ch

T dc

dc

↗ attach thread here



Rows 30–32 Repeat row 4 another 3 times.

Rows 33 & 34 Repeat row 7 another 2 times.

Rows 35–37 Repeat row 4 another 3 times.
Drop and cut 542 at the end of row 37. Remember to leave enough yarn to fasten.

Rows 38–40 Repeat row 2 another 3 times, omitting the final turning chains. Cast off and then fasten.

THE RUNNER

Having repeated the above pattern 6 times, follow the pattern for a small plain square 10 times. I have used 9 balls of navy (607) and 3 balls of turquoise (542) in total. This includes enough yarn to create 10 plain squares in navy. You can use alternative colours if you wish. Join the squares as illustrated, using crocheted or flat seams.



PLAIN SQUARE FOR THE RUNNER

Cast on and make 42 ch.

Row 1 Work 1 dc into the fourth ch on the left of the hook. Work 1 dc into each ch until the end of the row (creating a total of 40 dc including 1 dc made by the last ch in the previous row). 1 turning ch. Turn.

Row 2 Work 1 dc into the 2nd dc in the previous row and 1 dc into each dc until the end of the row (creating a total of 40 dc including 1 dc made by the turning ch in the previous row). 1 turning ch. Turn.

Rows 3–40 Repeat row 2 another 38 times, omitting the final turning ch. Cast off and then fasten off.

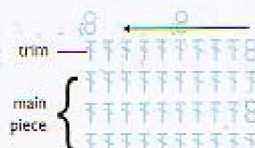
TRIM

Follow this pattern for the two long edges

Row 1 Insert the hook into the first stitch (start in one of the corners of the pre-joined square). With the remaining turquoise yarn (542), yo and pull it through. 2 ch. Work 1 dc into each of the next 4 stitches on the left of the hook. 2 ch. Work 1 sl into the last dc made (1 picot made). * Work 1 dc into each of the next 5 stitches or rows. 2 ch. Work 1 sl into last dc made (1 picot made). Repeat from * until the end of the row. Cast off and fasten. Repeat for the opposite side.

TASSEL

If you wish, add a series of tassels to the two short edges (see page 44). I have used 4 strands of navy and 2 strands of turquoise, each measuring 40cm (16in) and attached to each end, every fourth stitch.

Trim**KEY**

T dc
P



The picot stitching gives the runner a simple, neat edge while adding a little decoration



Teddy Bear Play Rug

Small children will love to play on this colourful rug with its bold, friendly teddy bear motif

PATTERN

Repeat the same pattern for each of the squares, making reference to the colour guide as you work. For further reference it may help you to refer to the section earlier in the book on working in colour (see page 47).

With the 2.5mm crochet hook and your first ball of wool (yarn A) cast on and make 81 chains.

Row 1 Work 1 dc into the fourth chain on the left of the hook and into each subsequent chain until the end of the row (there should be 79 dc in total, including 1 made with the last chains in the previous row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 2 Work 1 dc into the second dc on the left of the hook. Work 1 dc into each of the following dc until the end of the row (there should be 79 dc in total, including 1 made by the turning chains in the previous row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Rows 3 & 4 Repeat row 2 twice.

Row 5 Work 1 dc into the second dc on the left of the hook. Work 1 dc into each of the following 12 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. (Insert hook into stitch. Yo. Draw loop back through stitch. Drop existing colour and pick up new colour. Yo. Draw loop through two loops on hook. One loop now on hook. Always change colour in this way.) Work 1 dc into each of the next 6 dc and 1 dc with a colour change into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 34 dc and 1 dc with a colour change into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 6 dc and 1 dc with a colour change into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 15 dc (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 6 Work 1 dc into the second dc on the left of the hook. Work 1 dc into each of the following

11 dc and 1 dc with a colour change into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 9 dc and 1 dc with a colour change into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 30 dc and 1 dc with a colour change into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 9 dc and 1 dc with a colour change into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 14 dc (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 7 Work 1 dc into the second dc on the left of the hook. Work 1 dc into each of the following 10 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into the next dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn C) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 6 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 3 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn A) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 26 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 3 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn C) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 6 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into the next dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn A) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 13 dc (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 8 Work 1 dc into the second dc on the left of the hook. Work 1 dc into each of the following 9 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into the next dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn C) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 8 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 3 dc and

MATERIALS

2.5mm crochet hook
20 balls of Jagger Pure
Cotton double knitting
(50g) or similar yarn

TRIM

Leftover shades

STITCHES AND ABBREVIATIONS

ch chain
dc double crochet

TENSION

One motif =
40cm (16in) square

COLOUR GUIDE

Yarn	Quantity	Square 1	Square 2	Square 3	Square 4
A	2	606 black	553 dark purple	551 burnt orange	542 turquoise
B	2	552 dark brown	536 mid-purple	549 bright orange	557 blue
C	1	0538 light brown	534 light purple	550 yellow	535 light blue

left of the hook. Work 1 dc into each of the following 10 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 2 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn C) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 4 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 14 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn A) into the following dc. Work 1 dc

into each of the next 6 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 14 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn C) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 4 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 2 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn A) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 13 dc (until the end of the

KEY

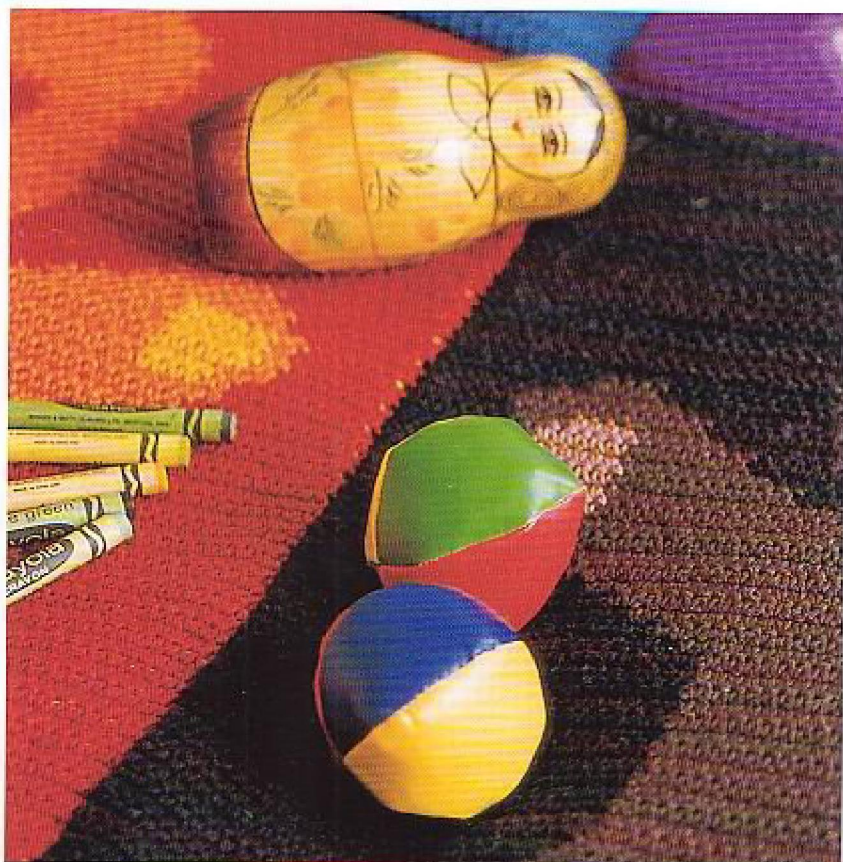
○ ch

⌞ dc (yarn A)

⌞ dc (yarn B)

⌞ dc (yarn C)

↗ attach thread here



The bold shapes and bright colours of the toys and the play rug will ensure that a small child keeps amused

row). 2 turning ch, Turn. (Cut off yarn C, leaving enough loose yarn to fasten later.)

Row 17 Work 1 dc into the second dc on the left of the hook. Work 1 dc into each of the following 11 dc and 1 dc with a colour change into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 21 dc and 1 dc with a colour change into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 6 dc and 1 dc with a colour change into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 21 dc and 1 dc with a colour change into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 14 dc (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch, Turn.

Row 18 Work 1 dc into the second dc on the left of the hook. Work 1 dc into each of the following 13 dc and 1 dc with a colour change into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 20 dc and 1 dc with a colour change into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 4 dc

and 1 dc with a colour change into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 20 dc and 1 dc with a colour change into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 16 dc (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch, Turn.

Row 19 Work 1 dc into the second dc on the left of the hook. Work 1 dc into each of the following 15 dc and 1 dc with a colour change into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 18 dc and 1 dc with a colour change into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 4 dc and 1 dc with a colour change into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 18 dc and 1 dc with a colour change into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 18 dc (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch, Turn.

Row 20 Work 1 dc into the second dc on the left of the hook. Work 1 dc into each of the following 16 dc and 1 dc with a colour change into



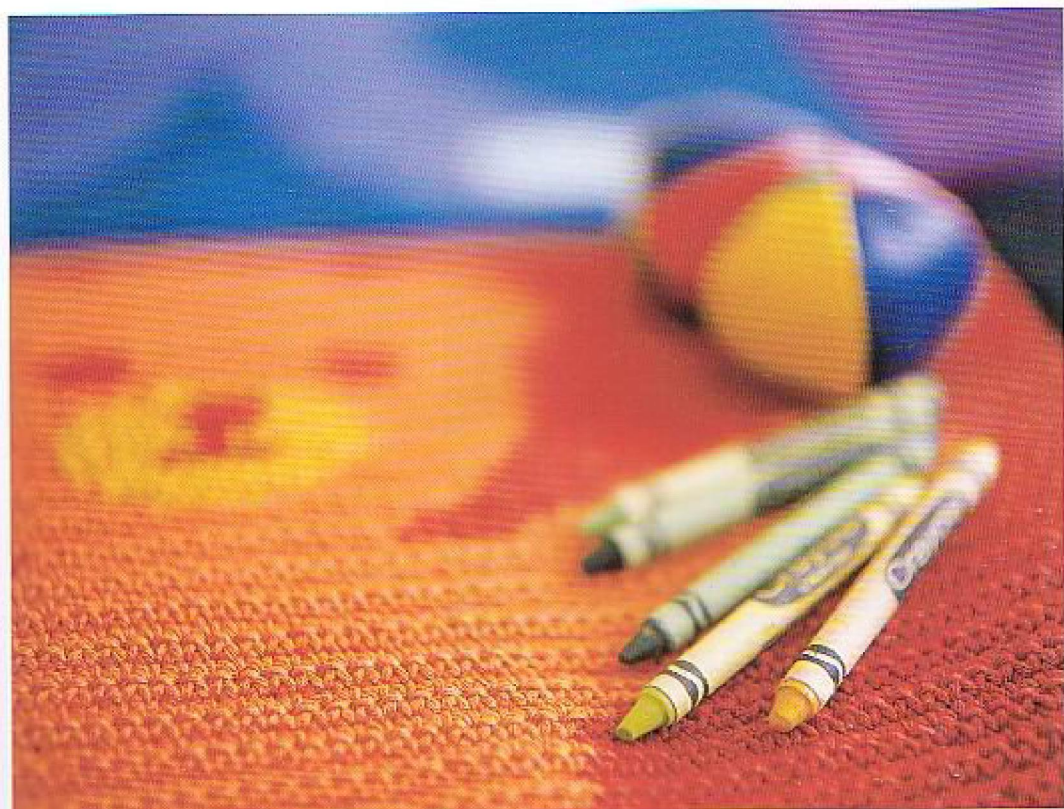
The play rug's soft texture will encourage little ones to nod off to sleep

Work 1 dc into each of the next 7 dc (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 54 Work 1 dc into the second dc on the left of the hook. Work 1 dc into each of the following 4 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into the next dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn C) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 5 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 7 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn A) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 5 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 20 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn A) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 5 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 7 dc and 1 dc with a

colour change (yarn C) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 5 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into the following dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn A) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 7 dc (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 55 Work 1 dc into the second dc on the left of the hook. Work 1 dc into each of the following 4 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the next 3 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn C) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 3 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 5 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn A) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 6 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each



1 dc into each of the following 6 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn A) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 26 dc (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 61 Work 1 dc into the second dc on the left of the hook. Work 1 dc into each of the following 23 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 7 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn C) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 2 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn A) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 2 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 7 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn A) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 26 dc (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 62 Work 1 dc into the second dc on the

left of the hook. Work 1 dc into each of the following 23 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 8 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn C) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 2 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn A) into the following dc. Work 1 dc in each of the next 2 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn C) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 2 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 8 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn A) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 26 dc (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 63 Work 1 dc into the second dc on the left of the hook. Work 1 dc into each of the following 23 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 10 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn C) into the following dc. Work 1 dc

Thankfully, the play rug is very hard-wearing



Join the four coloured squares as shown here

into each of the following 4 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 10 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn A) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 26 dc (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn. (If you prefer, you can drop yarn C at the end of this row.)

Row 64 Work 1 dc into the second dc on the left of the hook. Work 1 dc into each of the following 23 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 5 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn A) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 2 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 8 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn A) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 2 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 5 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn A) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 26 dc (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 65 Work 1 dc into the second dc on the left of the hook. Work 1 dc into each of the following 23 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each

of the following 4 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn A) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 4 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 6 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn A) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 4 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 4 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn A) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 26 dc (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 66 Work 1 dc into the second dc on the left of the hook. Work 1 dc into each of the following 23 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 5 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn A) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 2 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 8 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn A) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 2 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 5 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn A) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 26 dc (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 67 Work 1 dc into the second dc on the left of the hook. Work 1 dc into each of the following 23 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 26 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn A) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 26 dc (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 68 Work 1 dc into the second dc on the left of the hook. Work 1 dc into each of the following 22 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 28 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn A) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 25 dc (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 69 Work 1 dc into the second dc on the left of the hook. Work 1 dc into each of the following 21 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 30 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn A) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 24 dc (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 70–73 Repeat row 69 another 4 times.

Row 74 Work 1 dc into the second dc on the left of the hook. Work 1 dc into each of the

following 22 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 28 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn A) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 25 dc (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 75 Work 1 dc into the second dc on the left of the hook. Work 1 dc into each of the following 23 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 26 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn A) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 26 dc (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 76 Work 1 dc into the second dc on the left of the hook. Work 1 dc into each of the following 24 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 3 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn A) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 2 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 10 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn A) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 2 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 3 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn A) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 27 dc (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 77 Work 1 dc into the second dc on the left of the hook. Work 1 dc into each of the following 34 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn B) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 4 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (yarn A) into the following dc. Work 1 dc into each of the following 37 dc (until the end of the row). 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 78–80 Repeat row 2 another 3 times, omitting the final turning chains. Cast off and then fasten securely.

Join the four squares together using flat seams, in the order shown in the diagram, top left.

PLAIN SQUARE

Here is a simple pattern to create a plain square. It can be worked in any colour and used in conjunction with the patterned sections for the teddy bear rug.

Cast on and make 81 ch.

Row 1 Work 1 dc into the fourth ch on the left of the hook. Work 1 dc into each ch until the end of the row (creating a total of 79 dc including 1 dc made by the last ch in the previous row). 1 turning ch. Turn.



Row 2 Work 1 dc into the second dc in the previous row and 1 dc into each dc until the end of the row (creating a total of 79 dc including 1 dc made by the turning ch in the previous row). 1 turning ch. Turn.

Row 3–80 Repeat row 2 another 78 times, omitting the final turning ch. Cast off and fasten.

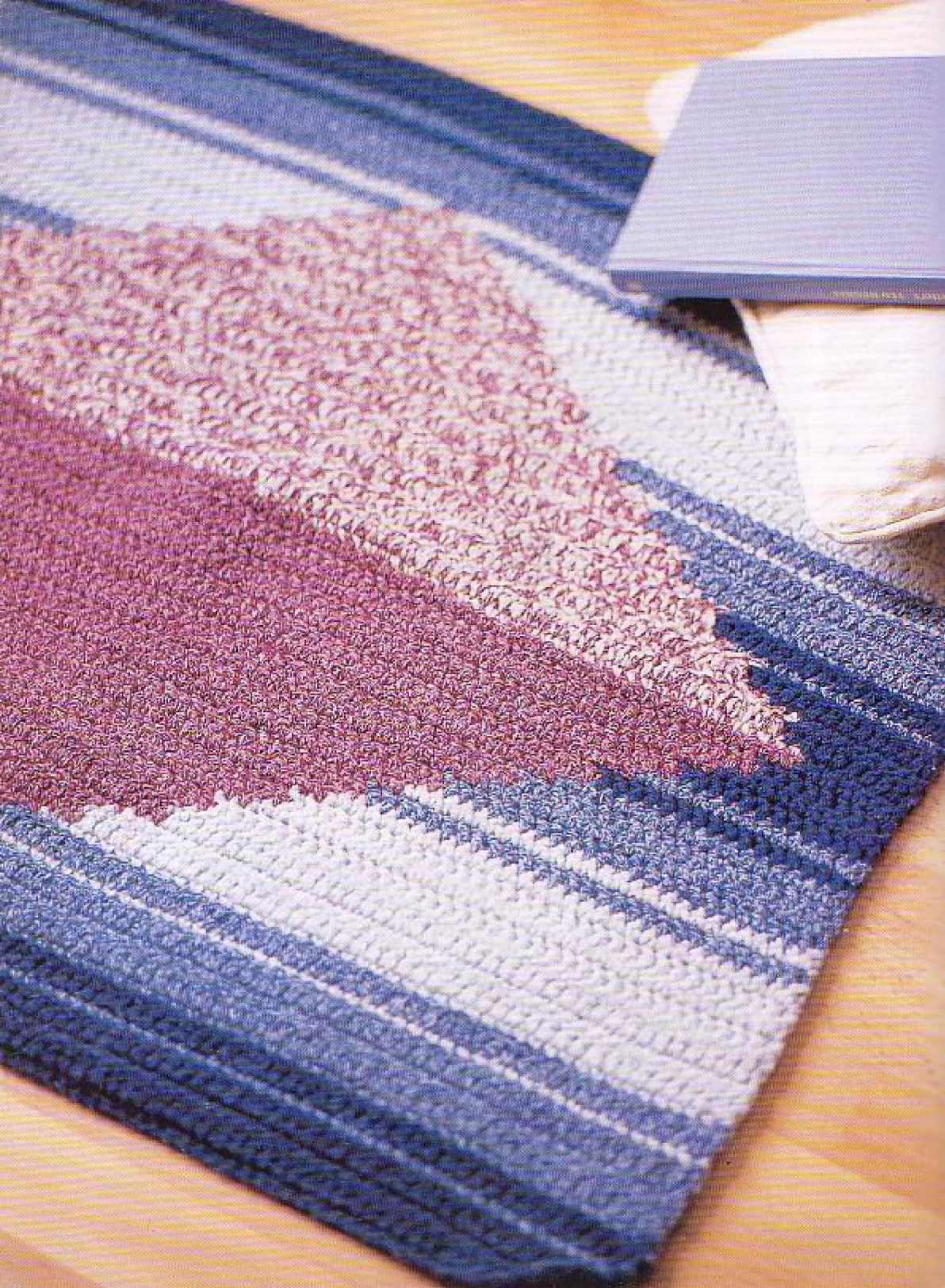
TRIM

I have edged the piece with short tassels. If you intend the play rug for a very small child, keep in mind that babies love to chew things and you may want to protect against possible choking or even strangulation. I am very aware of this, and have therefore opted for short lengths of yarn.

I have used 3 strands each 9cm (3.5in) long per tassel, placed at intervals of 2 rows or stitches.

You can complete your tassels in one of two ways. The first method involves alternating the different-coloured tassels, whereby the trim of a square panel includes a tassel in each of the different colours you are using. For the second method, each square is edged with the same colour tassels as that used in the square itself. Whichever you choose, you will have enough leftover yarn to complete the pattern.

Keep the tassels on the trim short to discourage little ones from chewing



Two-tone Floor Rug

The striking textural effect of this two-tone rug will enhance any floor in your home, and also works well as a wallhanging

COLOUR CHANGES

Because of the relative simplicity of the piece, instructions for colour changes are found within the pattern. I have cast off with some changes and taken other dormant colours with the existing colour in use. As a rule, cast off where a colour change occurs at the end of a row, for example at the end of using rp in row 32 and rw in row 54.

Where a colour change occurs mid-row, ie. to create the diamond in the centre of the design, drop, for example rw and rp at the edges of the diamond, but do not cast off. Pick them up again in the next row where the shape begins again.

Where you need to re-employ a colour from a position on the right of the hook, pick the colour up ahead in the stitch directly above the last stitch it was worked in. Bring this colour with the existing yarn and then reuse it in the appropriate stitch.

Where you reuse a colour from a position on the left of the hook, pick the colour up and reuse it in the appropriate stitch, then work the stitches to come over the yarn that originates from the position on the left until it meets the stitch directly above the stitch it comes from.

PATTERN

The dimensions of this pattern makes a small rug 76cm x 63cm (30in x 25in). If you wish to increase the dimensions, please refer to the end of the pattern.

With the 4mm crochet hook and your first ball of wool (db), cast on and make 102 chains.

Row 1 Work 1 dc into the fourth chain (or second tr) on the left of the hook and 1 tr into each ch until the end of the row. 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 2 Work 1 tr into the second dc on the left of the hook and 1 tr into each dc until the end of the row. 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 3 & 4 Repeat row 1, followed by row 2, switching to mb before the final loop of the final stitch. Continue working with this stitch and the turning chains.

Row 5 Repeat row 1, changing to db before the final loop of the final stitch. Continue with this stitch and the turning chains.

Row 6 Repeat row 2, changing to mb before the final loop of the final stitch. Continue with this stitch and the turning chains.

Row 7 & 10 Repeat row 1, followed by row 2 twice more, changing to pb before the final loop of the final stitch. Continue with this stitch and the turning chains.

Row 11 Work 1 dc into the second tr on the left of the hook and 1 dc into each of the next 46 tr. Work 1 dc with a colour change (rp) into the next tr. (Insert hook into stitch. Yo. Draw loop back through stitch. Drop existing colour and pick up dormant colour. Yo. Draw loop through 2 loops on hook. 1 loop now on hook. Always change colour at the same point in the stitch.) Work 1 dc into the next tr and 1 dc with a colour change (pb) into the next tr. Work 1 dc into each of the next 48 tr and 1 dc with a colour change (mb) into the last tr. 2 turning ch. Turn.

MATERIALS

4mm crochet hook

6 balls of Sirdar Denim Chunky (100g), 1 x pale blue (560), 1 x red/pink mix (565), 1 x dark blue (592), 1 x red/white mix (561), 2 x 566 (mixed blue), or similar yarn

STITCHES AND ABBREVIATIONS

ch chain

dc double crochet

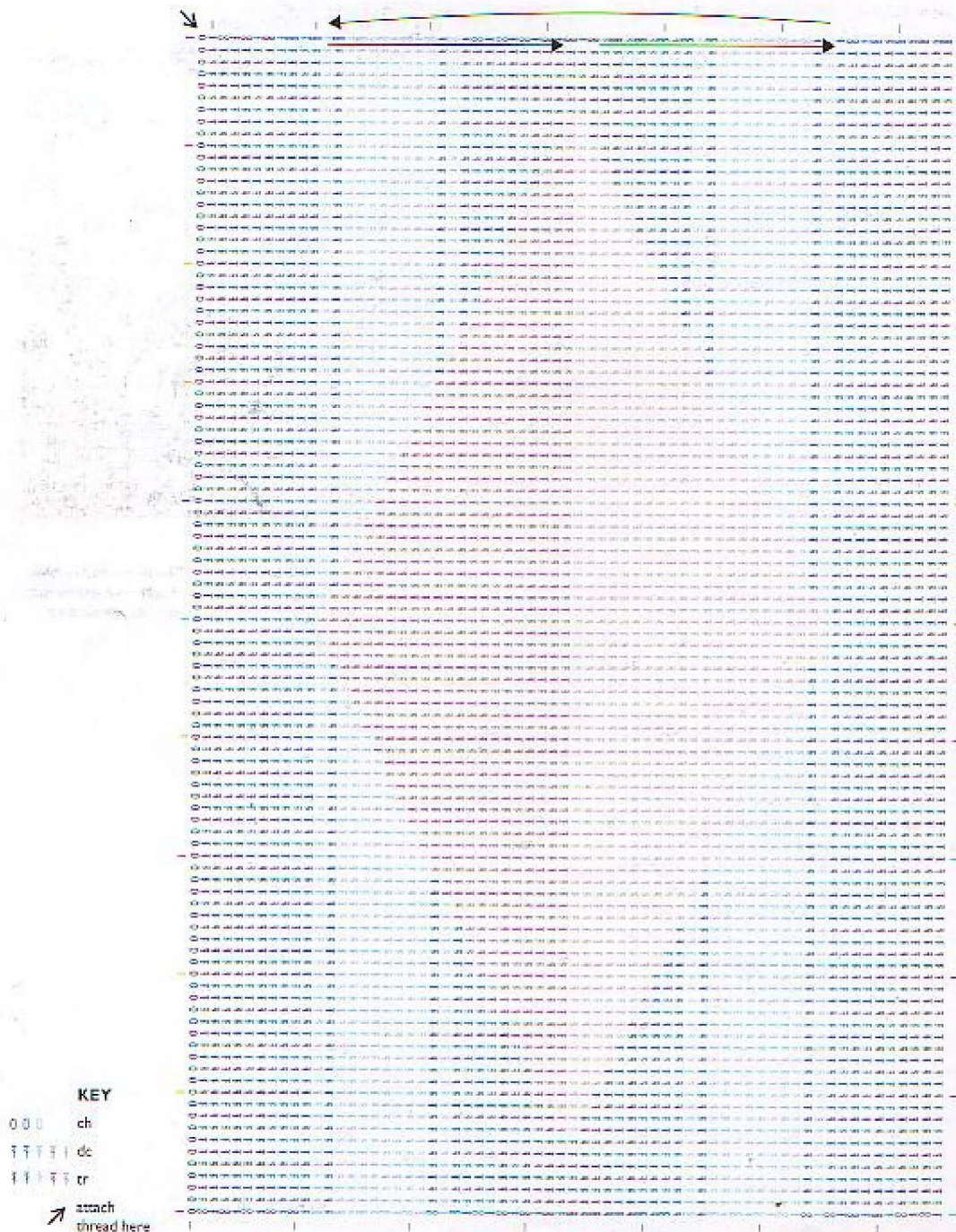
tr treble crochet

TENSION

13 stitches over 10 rows = 10cm (4in) square

COLOUR GUIDE

Abbreviation	Quantity	Shade
pb	1	560 pale blue
rp	1	565 red/pink mix
db	1	592 dark blue
rw	1	561 red/white mix
mb	2	566 blue mix



Row 12 Work 1 tr into the second dc on the left of the hook and 1 tr into each of the next 44 dc. Work 1 tr with a colour change (rp) into the next dc. Work 1 tr into the next 5 dc and 1 tr with a colour change (mb) into the next dc. Work 1 tr into each of the next 46 dc and 1 tr with a colour change (pb) into the last dc. 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 13 Work 1 dc into the second tr on the left of the hook and 1 dc into each of the next 42 tr. Work 1 dc with a colour change (rp) into the next tr. Work 1 dc into the next 9 tr and 1 dc with a colour change (pb) into the next tr. Work 1 dc into each of the next 45 tr. 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 14 Work 1 tr into the second dc on the left of the hook and 1 tr into each of the next 40 dc. Work 1 tr with a colour change (rp) into the next dc. Work 1 tr into the next 15 dc and 1 tr with a colour change (pb) into the next dc. Work 1 tr into each of the next 43 dc. 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 15 Work 1 dc into the second tr on the left of the hook and 1 dc into each of the next 38 tr. Work 1 dc with a colour change (rp) into the next tr. Work 1 dc into the next 17 tr and 1 dc with a colour change (pb) into the next tr. Work 1 dc into each of the next 41 tr. 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 16 Work 1 tr into the second dc on the left of the hook and 1 tr into each of the next 36 dc. Work 1 tr with a colour change (rp) into the next dc. Work 1 tr into the next 21 dc and 1 tr with a colour change (pb) into the next dc. Work 1 tr into each of the next 39 dc. 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 17 Work 1 tr into the second dc on the left of the hook and 1 tr into each of the next 34 dc. Work 1 tr with a colour change (rp) into the next dc. Work 1 tr into the next 25 dc and 1 tr with a colour change (pb) into the next dc. Work 1 tr into each of the next 37 dc. 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 18 Work 1 dc into the second tr on the left of the hook and 1 dc into each of the next 32 tr. Work 1 dc with a colour change (rp) into the next tr. Work 1 dc into the next 29 tr and 1 dc with a colour change (pb) into the next tr. Work 1 dc into each of the next 35 tr. 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 19 Work 1 tr into the second dc on the left of the hook and 1 tr into each of the next 30 dc. Work 1 tr with a colour change (rp) into the next dc. Work 1 tr into the next 33 dc and 1 tr with a colour change (pb) into the next dc. Work 1 tr into each of the next 33 dc. 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 20 Work 1 dc into the second tr on the left of the hook and 1 dc into each of the next 28 tr. Work 1 dc with a colour change (rp) into the next tr. Work 1 dc into the next 37 tr and 1 dc with a colour change (pb) into the next tr. Work 1 dc into



each of the next 30 tr and 1 dc with a colour change (mb) into the last dc. 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 21 Work 1 tr into the second dc on the left of the hook and 1 tr into each of the next 26 dc. Work 1 tr with a colour change (rp) into the next dc. Work 1 tr into the next 41 dc and 1 tr with a colour change (mb) into the next dc. Work 1 tr into each of the next 28 dc and 1 tr with a colour change (pb) into the last dc. 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 22 Work 1 dc into the second tr on the left of the hook and 1 dc into each of the next 24 tr. Work 1 dc with a colour change (rp) into the next tr. Work 1 dc into the next 45 tr and 1 dc with a colour change (pb) into the next tr. Work 1 dc into each of the next 26 tr and 1 dc with a colour change (mb) into the last dc. 2 turning ch. Turn.

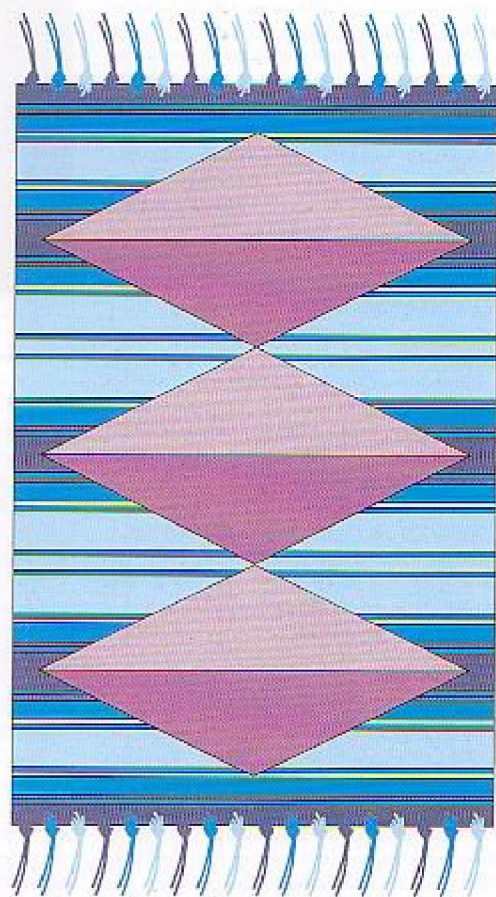
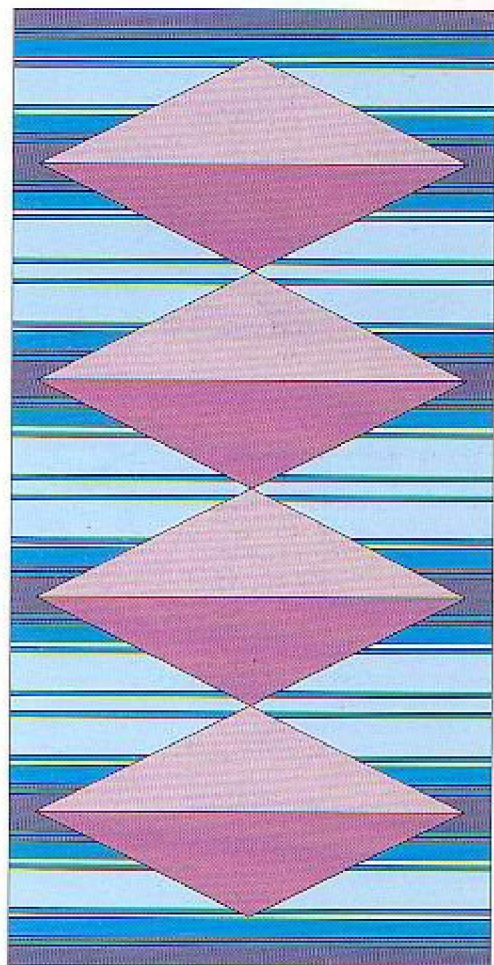
Row 23 Work 1 tr into the second dc on the left of the hook and 1 tr into each of the next 22 dc. Work 1 tr with a colour change (rp) into the next dc. Work 1 tr into the next 49 dc and 1 tr with a colour change (mb) into the next dc. Work 1 tr into each of the next 25 dc. 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 24 Work 1 dc into the second tr on the left of the hook and 1 dc into each of the next 20 tr. Work 1 dc with a colour change (rp) into the next tr. Work 1 dc into the next 53 tr and 1 dc with a colour change (mb) into the next tr. Work 1 dc into each of the next 23 tr. 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 25 Work 1 tr into the second dc on the left of the hook and 1 tr into each of the next 18 dc.

The tight stitches and chunky wool make this rug soft, yet durable

To fit your rug to a larger space, extend the design by three additional repetitions, or elaborate it with some tassels



Work 1 tr with a colour change (rp) into the next dc. Work 1 tr into the next 57 dc and 1 tr with a colour change (mb) into the next dc. Work 1 tr into each of the next 21 dc. 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 26 Work 1 dc into the second tr on the left of the hook and 1 dc into each of the next 16 tr. Work 1 dc with a colour change (rp) into the next tr. Work 1 dc into the next 61 tr and 1 dc with a colour change (mb) into the next tr. Work 1 dc into each of the next 18 tr and 1 dc with a colour change (db) into the last tr. 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 27 Work 1 tr into the second dc on the left of the hook and 1 tr into each of the next 14 dc. Work 1 tr with a colour change (rp) into the next dc. Work 1 tr into the next 65 dc and 1 tr with a colour change (db) into the next dc. Work 1 tr into each of the next 16 dc and 1 dc with a colour change (mb) into the last tr. 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 28 Work 1 dc into the second tr on the left of the hook and 1 dc into each of the next 12 tr. Work 1 dc with a colour change (rp) into the next tr. Work 1 dc into the next 69 tr and 1 dc with a colour change (mb) into the next tr. Work 1 dc into each of the next 14 tr and 1 dc with a colour change (db) into the last tr. 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 29 Work 1 tr into the second dc on the left of the hook and 1 tr into each of the next 10 dc. Work 1 tr with a colour change (rp) into the next dc. Work 1 tr into the next 73 dc and 1 tr with a colour change (db) into the next dc. Work 1 tr into each of the next 13 dc. 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 30 Work 1 dc into the second tr on the left of the hook and 1 dc into each of the next 8 tr. Now work 1 dc with a colour change (rp) into the next tr. Work 1 dc into the next 77 tr and 1 dc with a colour change (db) into the next tr. Work 1 dc into each of the next 11 tr. 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 31 Work 1 tr into the second dc on the left of the hook and 1 tr into each of the next 6 dc. Work 1 tr with a colour change (rp) into the next dc. Work 1 tr into the next 81 dc and 1 tr with a colour change (db) into the next dc. Work 1 tr into each of the next 9 dc. 2 turning ch. Turn.

Row 32 Work 1 dc into the second tr on the left of the hook and 1 dc into each of the next 4 tr. Work 1 dc with a colour change (rp) into the next tr. Work 1 dc into the next 85 tr and 1 dc with a colour change (db) into the next tr. Work 1 dc into each of the next 7 tr. 2 turning ch. Turn.

Rows 33–54 Repeat rows 32–11 (inclusive) backwards, replacing rp with rw in each row.

Rows 55–64 Repeat rows 10–1 (inclusive) backwards, omitting the final turning chains. Cast off and fasten.

If you wish to increase the dimensions of the rug, you can do so in sections of 46cm (18in) by repeating rows 11–54 and then continuing with rows 55–64. For example, to create a rug measuring 155cm (62in) long, repeat this block of rows 3 times in total. You would complete rows 1–10 then work through rows 11–54 3 times. Now complete rows 55–64. For repetitions in a pattern, you will require extra yarn.

Try following the table below as a guide to how much yarn you will require for the whole pattern to include two additional repetitions, three repetitions in total. Replace the figures in the 'No. of repetitions' column with the number you intend to use to calculate the amount of yarn. You need only alter these figures in your own calculation, which in turn will alter your total required.

If you have any leftover yarn, you might like to decorate your piece further by finishing off with simple tassels (see page 44 for reference).

ENLARGEMENT GUIDE

Abbreviation	Colour	Quantity	No. of repetitions	Total required
db	dark blue	22g	x 3 + (rows 1–10 & 55–64)	= 66g + 56g = 122g
mb	blue mix	52g	x 3 + (rows 1–10 & 55–64)	= 156g + 56g = 212g
pb	pale blue	88g	x 3	= 264g
rp	red/pink mix	58g	x 3	= 174g
rw	red/white mix	58g	x 3	= 174g



Soft Basket

This colourful, soft-textured basket is not only a pleasure to look at, it is extremely useful for displaying cherished collections of objects, or storing everyday items

PATTERN

Throughout this pattern, fasten off the second (db) and third (tq) colours where they finish, i.e. at the end of rows 35, 37, 43 and 44. You also need to fasten off where new colours begin. When a change occurs that renders the primary yarn dormant, drop the yarn but do not cut it or bring it with you; just pick it up again when necessary (see diagram, below).

With the 1.5mm crochet hook and your first ball of wool (do), cast on and make 8 chains. Join the last stitch to the first with a sl to form a ring.

Row 1 1 ch. Into the ring work 11 dc. Work 1 sl into the chain made at the beginning of this row.

Row 2 1 ch. Work 2 dc into the first dc on the left of the hook. * Work 1 dc into the next dc. Work 2 dc into the next dc. Repeat from * until the end of the row. Work 1 sl into the chain made at the beginning of this row.

Row 3 Repeat row 2.

Row 4 1 ch. Work 1 dc into the first dc on the left of the hook and 1 dc into each dc until the end of the row. Work 1 sl into the chain made at the beginning of this row.

Row 5 Repeat row 2.

Row 6 & 7 Repeat row 4 twice.

Row 8 Repeat row 2.

Row 9, 10 & 11 Repeat row 4 another 3 times.

Row 12 1 ch. Work 2 dc into the first dc on the left of the hook. * Work 1 dc into each of the next 4 dc. Work 2 dc into the next dc. Repeat from * until the end of the row. Work 1 sl into the chain made at the beginning of this row.

Row 13 Repeat row 4.

Row 14 Repeat row 12.

Row 15 & 16 Repeat row 4 a further 2 times.

Row 17 Repeat row 12.

Row 18–32 Repeat row 4 another 15 times. At the end of the last row change to db before joining the final stitch to the beginning chain with 1 sl. Work the final stitch made in the existing colour. Insert the hook into the first ch made in this row. Drop first colour. Pick up db. Yo. Draw loop back through stitch making 1 sl. Continue in db. Always change colour in this way.

Row 33–35 Repeat row 4 another 3 times. At the end of the last row, switch colours to tq before joining the final stitch to the beginning chain. Make this sl in tq.

MATERIALS

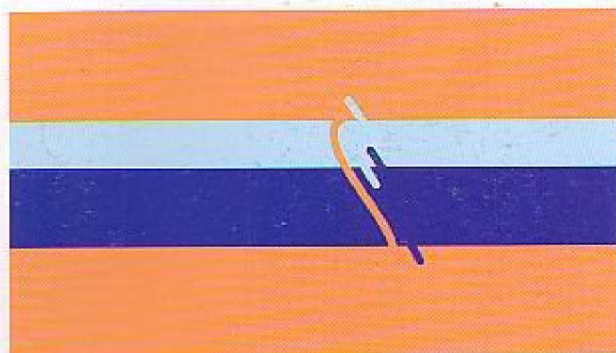
1.5mm crochet hook
3 balls of Jonelle Superblend double knitting (50g), (3197, 3091 & 3171), or similar yarns

STITCHES AND ABBREVIATIONS

sl slip stitch
ch chain
dc double crochet

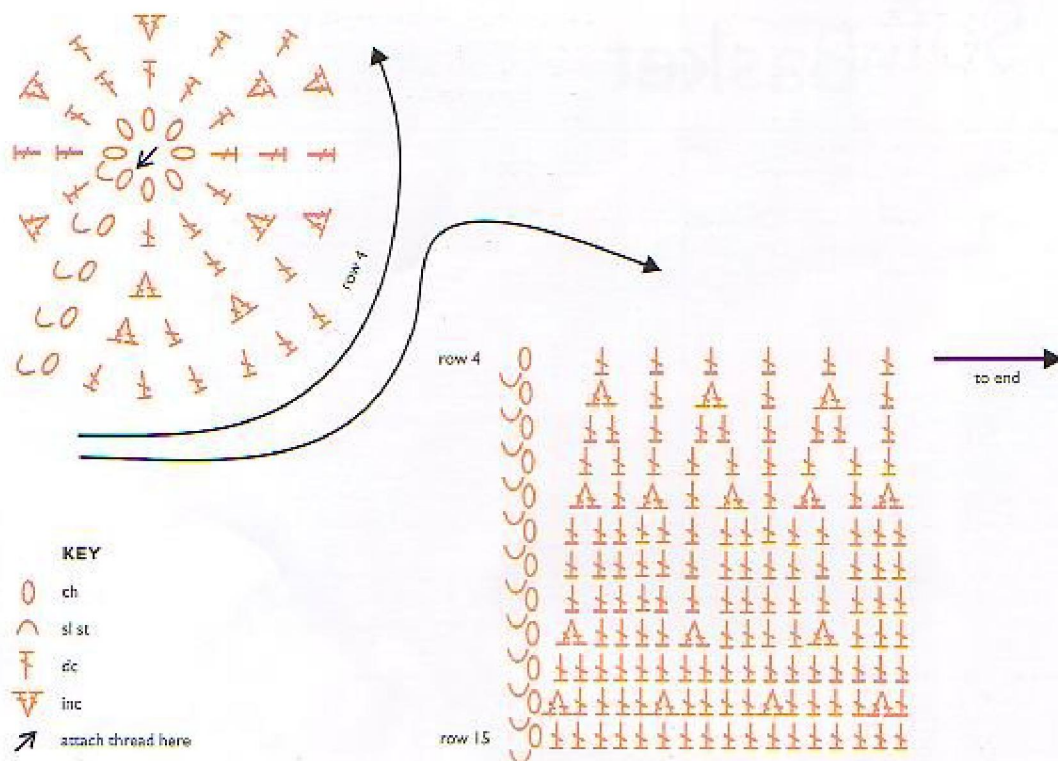
TENSION

First 3 rows =
1cm (3/8in) in diameter



COLOUR GUIDE

Abbreviation	Quantity	Shade
db	1	dark blue
tq	1	turquoise
do	1	dusty orange



You can elaborate on the design for the soft basket by adding a lip around the top edge



Row 36 & 37 Repeat row 4 twice. At the end of the last row make a colour change (do) before joining the final stitch to the beginning chain. Make this sl in do.

Row 38–41 Repeat row 4 another 4 times. At the end of the last row change to db before joining the final stitch to the beginning chain. Make this sl in db.

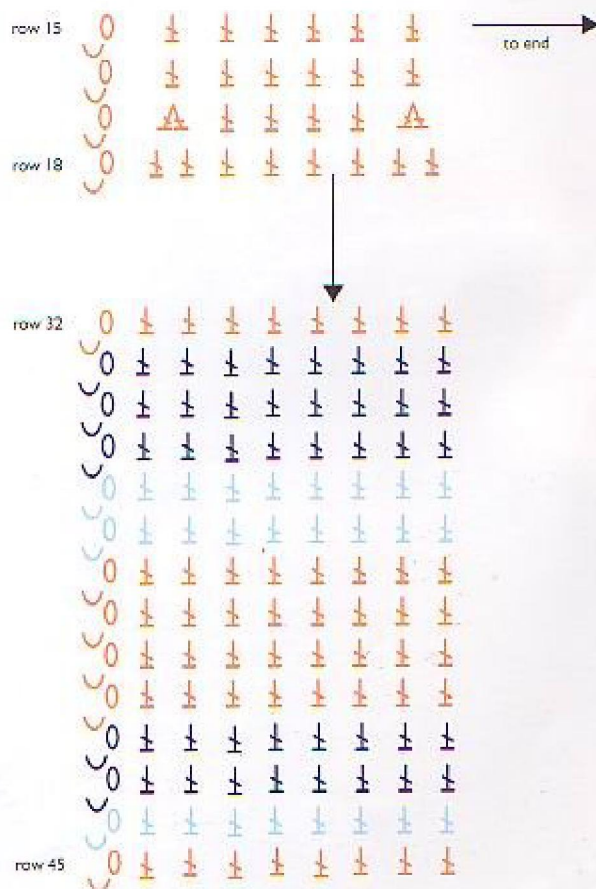
Row 42 & 43 Repeat row 4 twice. At the end of the last row, switch over to tq before joining the final stitch to the beginning chain. Make this sl in tq.

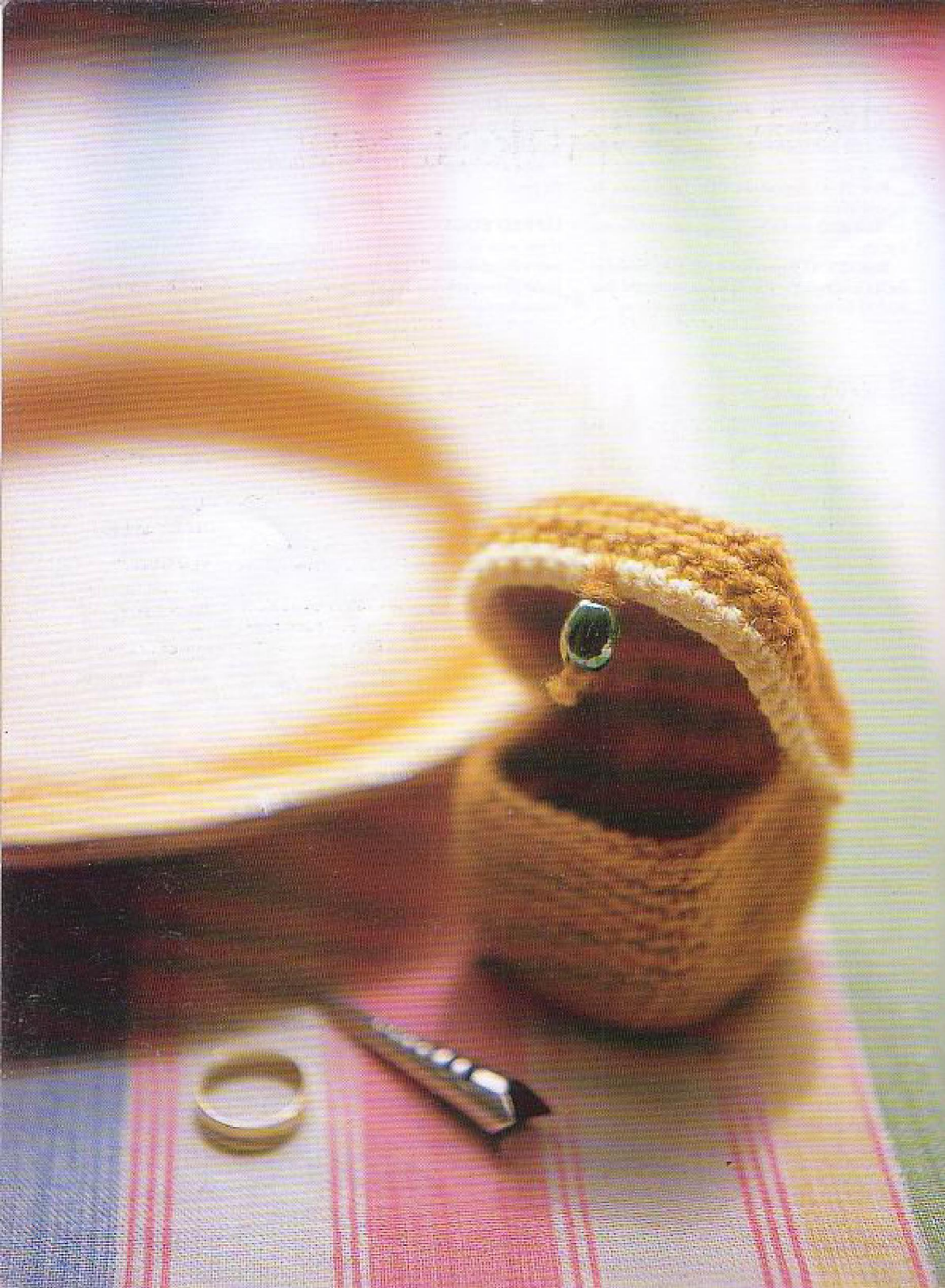
Row 44 Repeat row 4. At the end of the last row change to dn before joining the final stitch to the beginning chain. Make this sl in dn.

Row 45 Repeat row 4. Cast off and fasten off the piece.

LIPPED EDGE

If you want to make a decorative lipped edge for your soft basket, like the one shown on the example in the photograph, bottom left, please refer to the instructions given on page 57.





Beaded Trinket Box

This simple design is ideal for using up leftover wool and you can create all kinds of colour combinations for a funky look. I have used a bead for opening the lid, but you might like to experiment with an alternative trim

PATTERN

With the 1.5 mm crochet hook and your first ball of wool (gd), cast on and make 6 chains. Join the last ch to the first with 1 sl.

Row 1 1 ch. Work 15 dc into the central hole made by the initial chains. Join the last dc to the first with 1 sl.

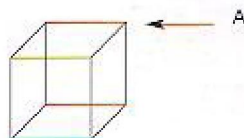
Row 2 The stitches in this row will seem very tight; work slowly to ensure you make the correct number of stitches. 1 ch. Work 1 dc into the next 2 dc on the left of the hook. *Work 4 dc between the last dc worked in and the next. Work 1 dc into each of the next 4 dc. Repeat from * 2 times. Work 4 dc between the last dc worked in and the next. Work 1 dc into the next dc. Join the last dc to the first with 1 sl.

Row 3 1 ch. Work 1 dc into each of the following dc on the left of the hook until the end of the row. Join the last dc to the first with 1 sl.

Row 4 1 ch. Work 1 dc into the next 4 dc on the left of the hook. *Work 2 dc between the last dc worked in and the next. Work 1 dc into each of the next 8 dc. Repeat from * 2 times. Work 2 dc between the last dc worked in and the next. Work 1 dc into each of the next 3 dc. Join the last dc to the first with 1 sl.

Row 5 1 ch. Work 1 dc into each of the following dc on the left of the hook until the end of the row. Join the last dc to the first with 1 sl.

Rows 6–15 Repeat row 5 a further 10 times. Cast off and fasten. Mould the piece into a box shape with your fingers. Reattach your yarn to any top corner stitch as shown in the diagram below and continue working in rows.

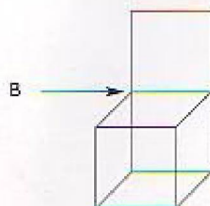


COLOUR GUIDE

Abbreviation	Quantity	Shade
gd	1	3039 gold
oc	1	4220 ochre
py	1	4223 pale yellow

Row 16 1 ch. Work 1 dc into each of the following 9 dc on the left of the hook until the end of the row. 1 turning ch. Turn.

Rows 17–28 Repeat row 16 another 12 times. Omit the final turning ch. Cast off and fasten. Reattach your yarn to the following corner stitch as shown below and continue as follows.



Row 29 1 ch. Work 1 dc into each of the following stitches on the left of the hook all the way around the three unattached sides of the box lid. 1 turning ch. Turn.

Row 30 Repeat row 30 once. Work the final dc in row 31 with a colour change (oc) and continue with the turning ch and turn.

Row 31 Work 1 dc into the second dc on the left of the hook and 1 dc into each subsequent stitch all the way around the 3 unattached sides. 1 turning ch. Turn.

Row 32 Repeat row 30 once. Work the final dc with a colour change (py). Continue with the turning ch and turn.

MATERIALS

1.5 mm crochet hook
3 balls of Jonelle Superblend double knitting (50g), (3039, 4220, 4223), or similar yarns

STITCHES & ABBREVIATIONS

sl slip stitch

ch chain

dc double crocheter

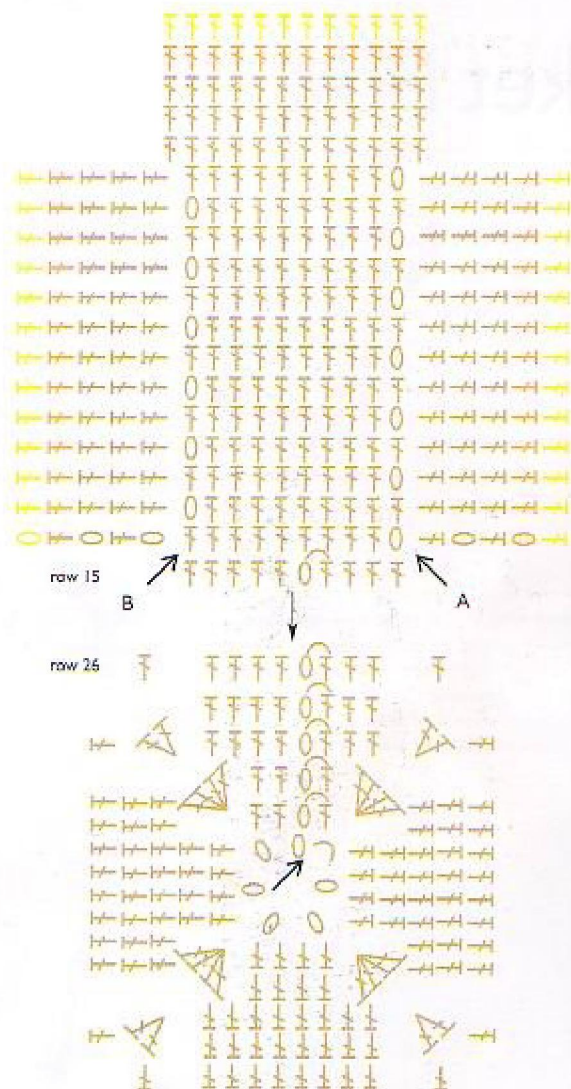
TENSION

First 3 rows –

3cm in diameter

Box –

around 4 x 4 x 4cm



Row 33 Repeat row 29 once. Omit the final turning ch. Cast off and fasten. Mould the piece with your fingers until you are happy with its shape and then liberally apply starch.

DECORATIVE FEATURE

If you want to attach a beaded pull to open your trinket box, please refer to the instructions given on page 44.

If you would like to experiment with other kinds of trim, you might like to try working a

picot stitch edging, or create a different-coloured band in a contrasting metallic thread (as long as the thickness of thread works with the primary yarn). Alternatively, you might also like to try using other kinds of beads, baubles and buttons to secure your trinket box. Why not take some leftover thread to make a short basic tassel, or attach a length of pretty ribbon in a matching colour which you can either sew into place or work into the design itself.

Be as adventurous as you like!



The combination of warm, spicy yellows and bauble-style bead lend the trinket box a Middle Eastern feel

About the Author

Darsha Capaldi was born in Kent, England. As a young child, she was taught the traditional craft of crochet by her Greek grandmother.

After completing a degree in psychology, Darsha spent two years travelling in the Middle East, which exposed her to a variety of Arabic crafts and inspired her to make a career of her talents. Upon

her return to England, she became a freelance writer and decided to write a book about crochet. She remains fascinated by traditional crochet because of the versatility it offers for individual interpretation and experimentation.

Darsha lives in the Kent countryside with her husband, Mac and daughter, Ella.



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Taught to crochet as a child by her grandmother, DARSHA CAPALDI has over twenty years' experience in the craft.



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