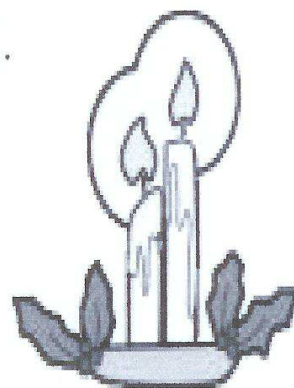


Pam's Patterns presents



Christmas in the Desert

An Original Design by Pam McClung

CHRISTMAS IN THE DESERT About 14" tall

YARN NEEDED: 4-PLY WORSTED WEIGHT YARN (I USED Red Heart Brand): 0631 Lt. Sage 3 ozs., 0633 Dark Sage 2 ozs., 0336 Warm Brown 3 ozs., 0311 White 1 oz., 0321 Gold 1 oz., 0319 Cherry Red 1 oz.

CROCHET HOOKS NEEDED: G

MISC SUPPLIES NEEDED: (1) package Styrofoam Extruded rods 24" x 1 1/2"; (1) 1 3/16"x 5 7/8" Styrofoam wreath; (1) 7 7/8" x 15/16" Styrofoam white disc; low-temp glue gun; (20) wooden toothpicks; (1) package 18 ga. Floral Stem Wire; (4) packages Mini Garland 3 feet long; (1) package mini foil wrapped packages; serrated knife; old candle stub; quilter's batting (1/8" or 1/4" thick).

Styrofoam Shapes for Saguaro Cactus:

1. Wax a serrated knife with an old candle for easier cutting of the Styrofoam pieces. Using a extruded rod, cut (1) 13 1/2" piece & (2) 3" pieces. Trim off the outside edge of each piece on one end to give them the rounded look. Do not trim off any of the length on the pieces (Fig. 1). Push a toothpick half way into center on **untrimmed** ends of the (2) 3" pieces.
2. Place the 13 1/2" rod piece on the center of the 7" disc. Draw around the rod and cut out the center of disc (Fig. 2). Glue the **untrimmed** end of rod into hole and secure with toothpicks pushed into rod from the bottom of disc (Fig. 3). Trim off ends of toothpicks.
3. Cactus Arms: Cut out the pattern on Page 4 (Curved part of Arms). Lay the pattern on the flat side of the 7" wreath and cut out (2) arms sections (Fig. 4). Push a toothpick into the ends marked "X" and glue to the 3" rod pieces (Fig. 5). Cut (2) strips of batting 2" x 24" each. Wrap the batting around the curved sections of arms only (Fig. 6) and glue in place, these should only be as **thick** as the rod piece. Set the shapes aside & let dry completely.

NOTE: Do not join rounds unless directions tell you to; mark the beginning of each round with a 3" strand of different-colored yarn. This is to mark your place in the directions. Work in both loops of sts unless directions tell you to work only in **BACK OR FRONT LOOPS**.

SAGUARO CACTUS: (Center section) Use G Hook & Lt. Sage yarn

Row 1: Ch 46, sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in next 7 chs, hdc in next 37 chs; ch 2, turn (45).

Row 2: Hdc in next 37 sts, sc in next 8 sts; ch 1, turn (45).

Row 3: (Work in **BACK LOOPS**): Sc in next 8 loops, hdc in next 37 loops; ch 2, turn (45).

Row 4: Hdc in next 37 sts, sc in next 8 sts; ch 1, turn (45).

Row 5: Repeat Row 3 (45).

Row 6: Repeat Row 4 (45).

Row 7: Repeat Row 3 (45).

Row 8: Repeat Row 4 (45).

Row 9: Repeat Row 3 (45).

Row 10: Repeat Row 4 (45).

Row 11: Repeat Row 3 (45).

Row 12: Repeat Row 4 (45).

Row 13: Repeat Row 3 (45).

Row 14: Repeat Row 4 (45).

Row 15: Repeat Row 3 (45).

Row 16: Repeat Row 4 (45). Fasten off & sew Row 1 to **BACK LOOPS** of Row 16. You will now have a tube shape. With matching yarn, sew a gathering stitch around the end of tube with the sc stitches, pull tight & sew close. Fasten off & weave in end of yarn.

Row 17: Join Lt. Sage yarn with a sc in other end of tube, work 16 sc evenly around, sl st in first sc (16). Fasten off & weave in ends of yarn.

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BROWN BASE OF CACTUS: Use G Hook & Warm Brown yarn

Rnd 1: (Work in **FRONT LOOPS OF RND 17**): Join with a sc in any **FRONT LOOP**, sc in same loop, 2sc in each loop around (32).

Rnd 2: Sc in each st around (32).

Rnd 3: (Sc in next st, 2sc in next st) repeat around (48).

Rnd 4: Repeat Rnd 2 (48).

Rnd 5: (Sc in next 2 sts, 2sc in next st) repeat around (64).

Rnd 6: Repeat Rnd 2 (64).

Rnd 7: (Sc in next 3 sts, 2sc in next st) repeat around (80).

Rnd 8: Repeat Rnd 2 (80).

Rnd 9: (Sc in next 4 sts, 2sc in next st) repeat around (96).

Rnds 10 & 11: Repeat Rnd 2 (96).

Rnd 12: (Sc in next 3 sts, sc next 2 sts tog) repeat around, sc in last st (77).

Rnds 13-17: Repeat Rnd 2 (77). Sl st in first sc and fasten off. Weave in ends of yarn. Slip crocheted cactus cover over 13 ½" rod and pull edges of base cover over edges of disc.

BOTTOM COVER OF BASE: Use G Hook & Warm Brown yarn

Rnd 1: Ch 2, 6sc in 2nd ch from hook (6).

Rnd 2: 2sc in each st around (12).

Rnd 3: (Sc in next st, 2sc in next st) repeat around (18).

Rnd 4: (Sc in next 2 sts, 2sc in next st) repeat around (24).

Rnd 5: (Sc in next 3 sts, 2sc in next st) repeat around (30).

Rnd 6: (Sc in next 4 sts, 2sc in next st) repeat around (36).

Rnd 7: (Sc in next 5 sts, 2sc in next st) repeat around (42).

Rnd 8: (Sc in next 6 sts, 2sc in next st) repeat around (48).

Rnd 9: (Sc in next 7 sts, 2sc in next st) repeat around (54).

Rnd 10: (Sc in next 8 sts, 2sc in next st) repeat around (60).

Rnd 11: (Sc in next 9 sts, 2sc in next st) repeat around (66).

Rnd 12: (Sc in next 10 sts, 2sc in next st) repeat around (72).

Rnd 13: (Sc in next 11 sts, 2sc in next st) repeat around (78).

Rnd 14: (Sc in next 12 sts, 2sc in next st) repeat around (84).

Rnds 15 & 16: Sc in each st around (84). Fasten off & sew **BACK LOOPS** of Rnd 16 to **BACK LOOPS** on Rnd 17 on Brown Base. Weave in ends of yarn.

SAGUARO CACTUS ARMS: (Make 2 pieces) Use G Hook & Lt. Sage yarn

Row 1: Ch 21, sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in next 4 chs, hdc in next 15 chs; ch 2, turn (20).

Row 2: Hdc in next 15 sts, sc in last 5 sts; ch 1, turn (20).

Row 3: (Work in **BACK LOOPS**): Sc in next 5 loops, hdc in next 15 loops; ch 2, turn (20).

Row 4: Hdc in next 15 sts, sc in last 5 sts; ch 1, turn (20).

Row 5: (Work in **BACK LOOPS**): Sc in next 5 loops, hdc in next 7 loops, skip next loop, hdc in next 5 loops, skip next loop, hdc in last loop; ch 2, turn (18).

Row 6: Skip first st, hdc in next 4 sts, skip next st, hdc in next 7 sts, sc in last 5 sts; ch 1, turn (16).

Row 7: (Work in **BACK LOOPS**): Sc in next 5 loops, hdc in next 6 loops, skip next loop, hdc in last 4 loops; ch 2, turn (15).

Row 8: 2hdc in first st, hdc in next 2 sts, 2hdc in next st, hdc in next 7 sts, sc in last 5 sts; ch 1, turn (17).

Row 9: (Work in **BACK LOOPS**): Sc in next 5 loops, hdc in next 6 loops, 2hdc in next loop, hdc in next 4 loops, 2hdc in last loop; ch 2, turn (19).

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Row 10: 2hdc in first st, hdc in next 13 sts, sc in last 5 sts; ch 1, turn (20).

Row 11: Repeat Row 3 (20).

Row 12: Repeat Row 4 (20).

Row 13: Repeat Row 3 (20).

Row 14: Repeat Row 4 (20). Fasten off & sew Row 1 to **BACK LOOPS** of Row 14. Note that one end of tube is curved, the **shorter edge goes on top of arm**, next to Center Section of Cactus. Sew a gathering stitch in end of tube with the sc stitches, pull tight & sew close. Fasten off & weave in ends of yarn. Join with a sc in other end of tube, work 14 sc evenly around, sl st in first sc (14). Fasten off. Slip crocheted piece over the Styrofoam Arm piece. Insert a toothpick into center of Styrofoam (Fig. 7), push arm into place on Center Section, place one arm 7" down from the top of Center Section and the other arm 8" down from top & on the opposite side of Center Section (Fig. 7). Sew the arms to the Center Section of Cactus, these will not be glued in place. Insert a couple of toothpicks into arm & Center Section to secure, trim off any ends showing and hide under the stitches. Wrap the lengths of mini garlands around the arms and center section of cactus, glue ends of garlands in place.

WHITE FLOWERS: (Make 7) Use G Hook & Gold yarn

Rnd 1: Ch 2, 6sc in 2nd ch from hook (6). Join White yarn in last half of last st, fasten off Gold yarn.

Rnd 2: (Work in **BACK LOOPS**): (Sl st, dc, sl st in next loop) repeat around, sl st in first loop (18). Fasten off & weave in ends of yarn. Sew or glue to top of arms & center section as shown in picture.

PRICKLY PEAR CACTUS (Bottom Section): Use G Hook & Dark Sage yarn

Rnd 1: Ch 2, 6sc in 2nd ch from hook (6).

Rnd 2: 2sc in each st around (12).

Rnd 3: Sc in each st around (12).

Rnd 4: (Sc in next st, 2sc in next st) repeat around (18).

Rnd 5: Repeat Rnd 3 (18).

Rnd 6: (Sc in next 2 sts, 2sc in next st) repeat around (24).

Rnds 7-12: Repeat Rnd 3 (24).

Rnd 13: (Sc in next 2 sts, sc next 2 sts tog) repeat around (18).

Rnd 14: (Sc in next st, sc next 2 sts tog) repeat around (12). Fasten off & weave in ends of yarn. Set aside for now.

PRICKLY PEAR CACTUS (Middle Section): (Make 2) Use G Hook & Dark Sage yarn

Rnd 1: Ch 2, 6sc in 2nd ch from hook (6).

Rnd 2: 2sc in each st around (12).

Rnd 3: Sc in each st around (12).

Rnd 4: (Sc in next st, 2sc in next st) repeat around (18).

Rnds 5-7: Repeat Rnd 3 (18).

Rnd 8: (Sc in next 2 sts, sc next 2 sts tog) repeat around, sc in last 3 sts (15).

Rnd 9: (Sc in next st, sc next 2 sts tog) repeat around (10).

Rnd 10: (Sc next 2 sts tog) repeat around (5). Fasten off & sew (off to the side of top over Rnds 3 & 4- Fig. 8)) of the Bottom Section of Prickly Pear Cactus as shown in picture.

PRICKLY PEAR CACTUS (Top Section): (Make 2) Use G Hook & Dark Sage yarn

Rnd 1: Ch 2, 6sc in 2nd ch from hook (6).

Rnd 2: 2sc in each st around (12).

Rnds 3-6: Sc in each st around (12).

Rnd 7: (Sc in next st, sc next 2 sts tog) repeat around (8).

Rnd 8: (Sc next 2 sts tog) repeat around (4). Fasten off & sew (off to the side of top over Rnds 2 & 3) on Middle

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Section as shown in picture (Fig. 8). Thread (1) floral wire stem thru Rnd 1 on Top Section and down thru the centers of Middle & Bottom Sections. Leave about 4" of stem on bottom of cactus. Bend wire to hold cactus shapes (Fig. 8). Push the bottom part of wire stem thru the Brown Base and secure on bottom of base. Trim top of wire to 1/2" and bend back into Top Section of Cactus. Use the extra Middle & Top Sections for the smaller Prickly Pear Cactus and follow the directions for the larger Cactus. Glue Mini Foil Packages around cactus as shown in picture.

RED FLOWERS: (Make 2) Use G Hook & Gold yarn

Rnd 1: Ch 2, 6sc in 2nd ch from hook (6). Join Cherry Red yarn in last half of last st, fasten off Gold yarn.

Rnd 2: (Work in **BACK LOOPS**): (Sl st, dc, sl st in next loop) repeat around, sl st in first loop (18). Fasten off & weave in ends of yarn. Sew or glue (1) flower to top of each Prickly Pear Cactus as shown in picture.

I hope you enjoyed making your cactus. Please look for my other patterns & **THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDER.**

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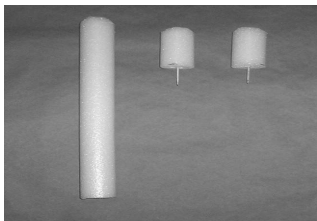


Fig. 1

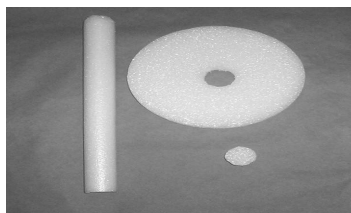


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

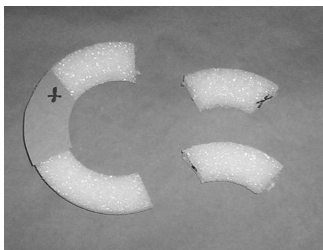


Fig. 4

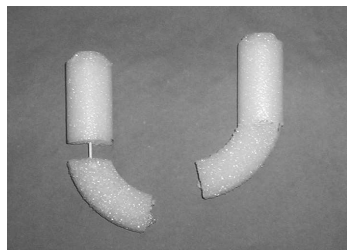


Fig. 5

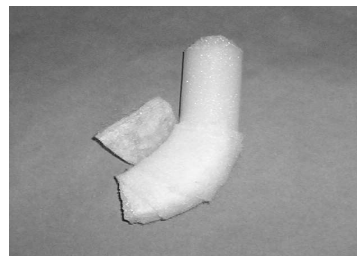


Fig. 6

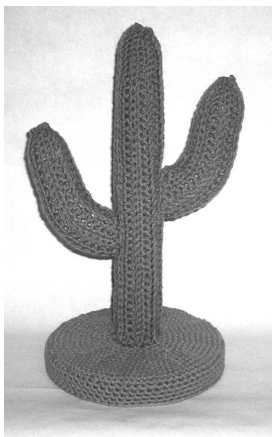


Fig. 7

ABBREVIATIONS:

Ch.....chain

Sc.....single crochet

Hdc.....half double crochet

Dc.....double crochet

Trc.....treble crochet

St(s).....stitches

Rnd.....round

Tog.....together

Yo.....yarn over

BACK LOOP.....this is the loop AWAY from you

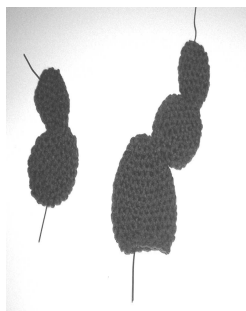
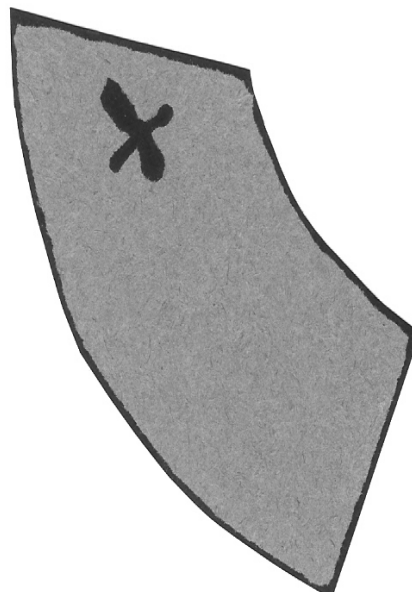


Fig. 8

Pattern for curved section of arms



Dec.....decrease

FRONT LOOP....this is the loop TOWARDS you.

