

Simply Crochet

HOOKED ON HANDMADE

25
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Simply **Crochet**

HOOKED ON HANDMADE

The festive season is officially here, so it's time to welcome stylish combos of red and white, sparkly yarns and some irresistible toys. This issue, we're treating you to Scandi-style decorations, a Christmas pudding hat and adorable elves. Let's make Christmas 2015 the hookiest ever.

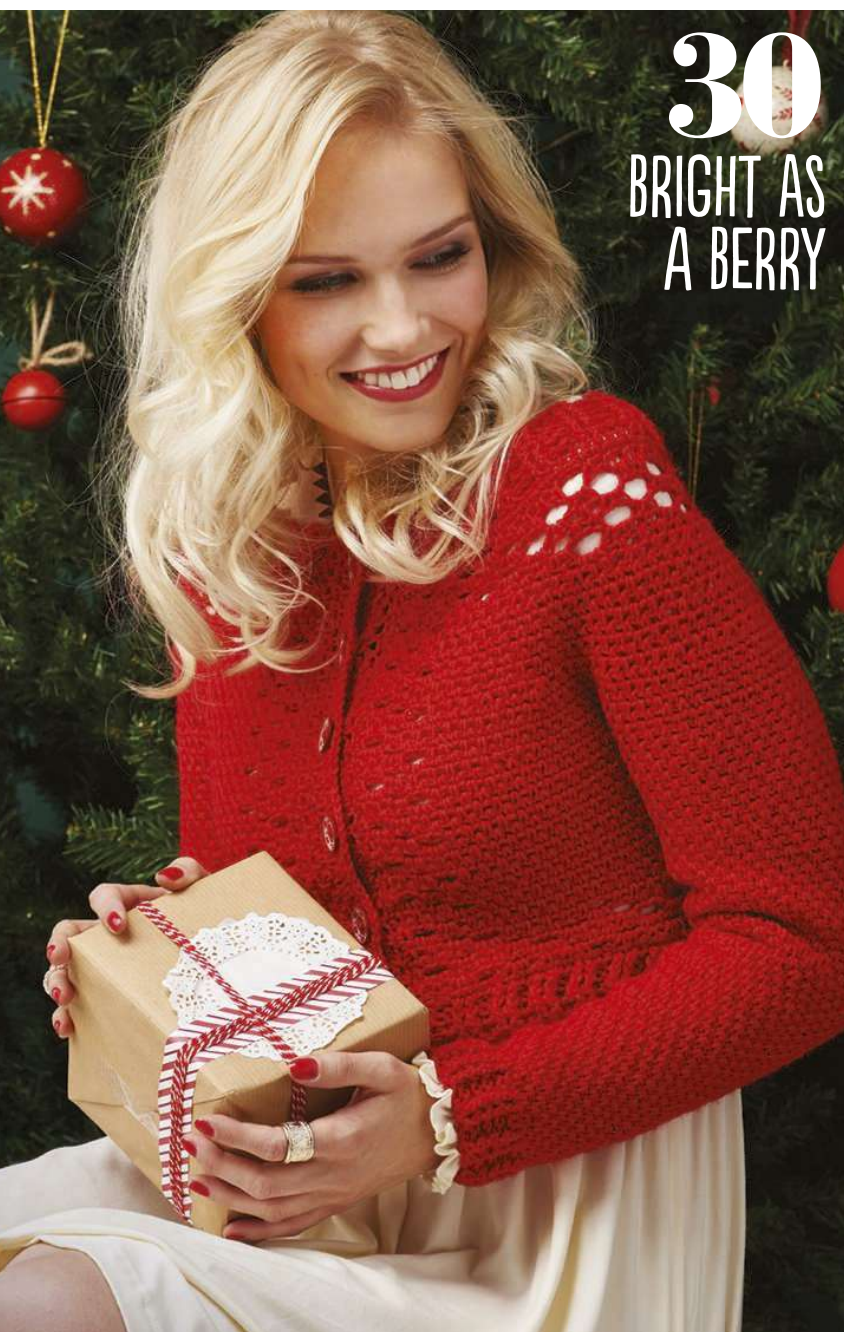


Simply Crochet

ISSUE THIRTY-EIGHT

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Sara Huntington, Editor



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MERRY & BRIGHT

I love this time of year and have had lots of fun this month dreaming up festive makes with our designers. It's all about keeping cosy and decking out your dining table, where you'll be toasting the season with your loved ones. Whether it's a bit of simple embroidery or fancy embellishment, you'll find the details make all the difference. One thing I'll definitely be hooking for the 25th is Ilaria Caliri's soldier bear. Isn't he cute? Merry Christmas, makers.



CONTRIBUTORS

WE TIP OUR HATS TO THESE MARVELLOUS PEOPLE . . .



STEPHANIE LAU

The queen of amigurumi reveals all this month about winter crocheting, to help you survive the season. Some of her family traditions are adorable – plaid onesies anyone? Turn to page 70 now.



HANNAH CROSS

Midwife and HanJan Crochet blogger Hannah is one of our awesome regular designers. This issue, she created the Scandi-inspired gnomes for us as part of our Christmas collection on page 16.



HELEN ARDLEY

From bags to scarves, hats to shawls, there's not much Helen hasn't designed. This month, she made us a gorgeous grey blanket with lacy details. Turn to page 63 for the pattern.



FRAN MORGAN

Designer and teacher, Fran is the fab designer behind our beautiful cropped cardigan on page 30. She says the secret to her success is patience, positive thinking and a sense of humour.

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS

Ilaria Caliri, Lucy Croft, Pamela Dajczak, Anne Egan, Becky Garratt, Kat Goldin, Sara Huntington, Becca Parker, Lisa Richardson, Becky Skuse, Louise Smith, Kath Webber, Sue Whiting, Wonky Zebra

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HOOKED

IDEAS ♡ INSPIRATION ♡ ACCESSORIES ♡ WEBSITES ♡ EVENTS ♡ STUFF



MRS TITTMOUSE'S GINGERBREAD HOUSE

A holiday treat with none of the festive calories? Hansel and Gretel would be all over this. Blogger Elizabeth's alter ego Mrs Thomasina Tittlemouse has been hard at work creating a delicious-looking gingerbread house. Fancy hooking it yourself? You can find the tutorial at www.mrsthomasinatittlemouse.blogspot.co.uk – we're a little disappointed that you can't actually eat it...





WHAT A GEM

■ Our homes might be covered in all things crochet, but maybe there's room for a little hidden gem? This Pink Mini Gem Vase is a mega-stylish way to add a bit of geometric cool to your home. It would look pretty with flowers in, but we suspect it may end up as a hook jar. Take your pick from three different styles or mix and match the collection. Find yours for just £5 online at www.oliverbonas.com



AN ILLUSTRIOUS YARN

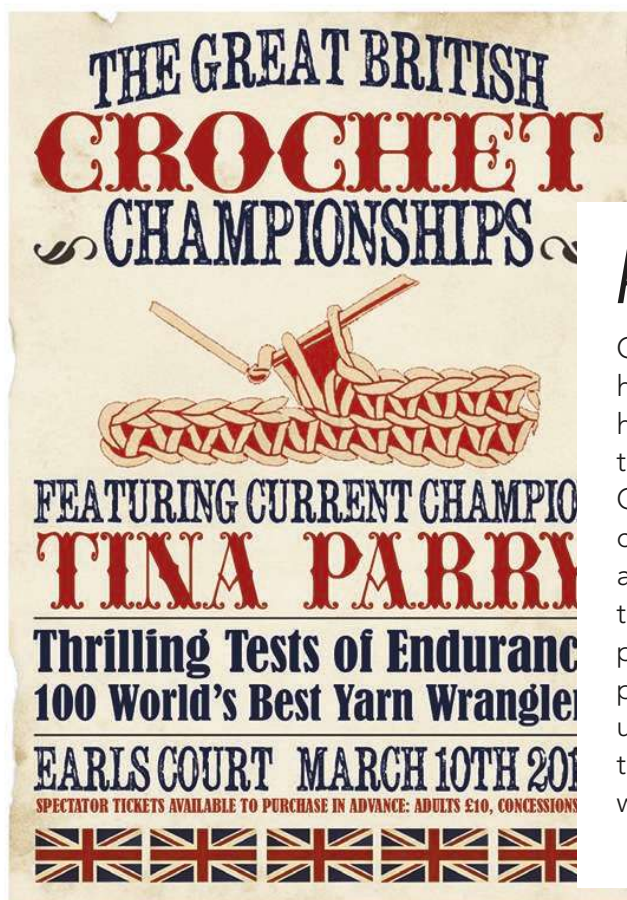
Ooh, we do love getting a scrummy new yarn on the hook, especially if it's from a great British brand. Have you heard about the West Yorkshire Spinners' new Illustrious range? It's a luxuriously soft yet robust DK yarn made with cosy Falkland wool and British alpaca fibres. The yarn comes in 13 gorgeous, sophisticated shades, some solid and some delicately twisted. They all complement each other beautifully and are dangerously wearable – perfect for making garments. Seriously, we simply cannot pick a favourite colour. See for yourself at www.wyspinners.com. 100g balls are £10.95 and Illustrious is machine washable, too.

Enviably inventive crocheter and craft tutor Melissa Gomez has developed an incredible new starting chain method that has blown our crafty little minds. She told us: "While practicing my knitting skills, I thought why isn't there a long tail cast-on for crochet? I did a front to back yarn over that is a big no-no in crochet, then a regular yarn over and pulled through. Voila! I couldn't believe how a simple 'breaking of the rules' in crochet could produce a great new technique." Wanna learn it? Watch Melissa's video tutorial at <http://bit.ly/SC38new> or head to our blog at www.simplycrochetmag.co.uk where you can find out more about it.

DECKING THE HALLS

On the hunt for cute crochet decorations to spruce up your gaff, or home accessories to give as gifts this year? Be sure to check out DMC's selection of creative, Christmassy patterns. There's some totally awesome amigurumi (just look at that star's happy little face) and some very stylish cushions and blankets, too. To get a good look at the whole range, visit www.dmccreative.co.uk. You'll be able to track down your nearest stockist while you're there, or call 0116 275 4000.





AWARD WINNING

Crocheters really do put the hours in and we reckon it's high time that dedication to the craft was recognised. Commend the number-one crochet champ in your life by awarding them with one of these personalised crafty posters. The vintage-style prints, and a range of other unique goodies, are available to order from just £14.50 at www.photofairytales.co.uk

MAKE IT SO THRIFTY

Rallying against Christmas excess? Here's some ideas for a more budget-friendly approach.

- 1 **STASH CHALLENGE**
See how many gifts you can create using yarn that's already in your stash.
- 2 **UPCYCLE IT**
Make your own T-shirt yarn and hook jumbo accessories.
- 3 **IN WITH THE OLD**
Scour charity shops for pretty vintage textiles.
- 4 **GET SCRAPPY**
Yarn odds and ends are perfect for mini makes.
- 5 **PASS IT ON**
Arrange to spend some time teaching a pal who's always wanted to learn to crochet.

NICE MICE

This wee chap is what's been missing from your tree all these years, because anyone in an acorn cup hat can't be wrong. The Festive Felt Mouse is £35.99 at www.oakroomshop.co.uk



INSPIRING BOOKS

ULTIMATE CROCHET STITCH BIBLE

Erika Knight
(£25, Collins & Brown)
This rather hefty hardback is rammed with an incredible array of crochet stitches, motifs, edgings and more, which are just begging to be hooked. It's great as a reference guide or if you'd like to learn something new.



CHRISTMAS CROCHET

Edie Eckman
(£10.99, Storey)
If bright, simple and stylish makes are your bag, pick up a copy of this festive volume. There are cute tree decorations, stockings, advent projects and more to make, each with clear instructions and crochet stitch charts.



CATS IN HATS

Sara Thomas
(£9.99, Hamlyn)
Creative feline lovers will adore this charming and shamelessly silly collection of 30 cat hats to be crocheted or knitted. The designs range from adorable to hilarious and would be fun to make. The shark hat is our fave.



BIG HOOK CROCHET

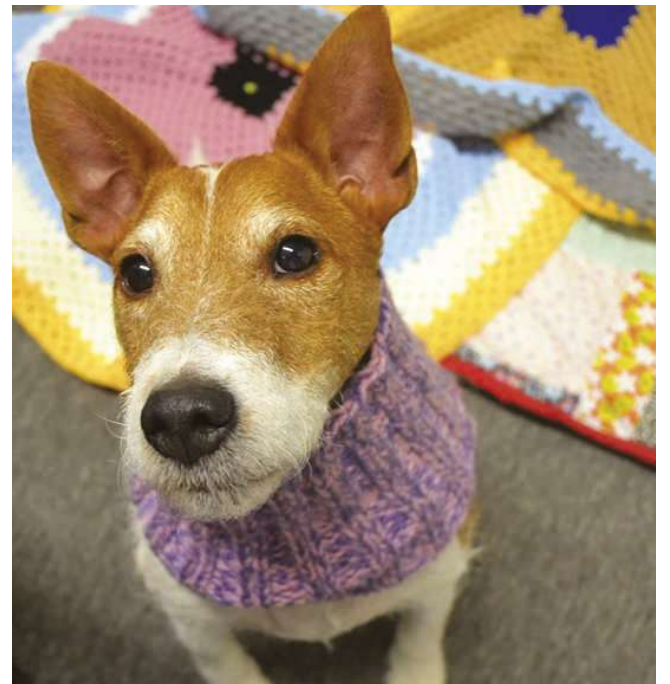
Emma Friedlander-Collins
(£12.99, Cico Books)
Go large with this playful selection of jumbo accessory projects. All 35 of the designs are worked with XXL yarn and a huge crochet hook. There are blankets, cushions and wearables, too. It's a great place to start if you're new to super-chunky hooking.





NEW HOOKS

■ If you're after a shiny new set of crochet hooks to complete your craft stash or give to a friend, consider bamboo. It's a very smooth, lightweight material that's really easy to crochet with (ideal for beginners) and has a certain rustic charm. You can pick up a full set of hooks by Quirky Boots for £9.95 at www.noths.com. This super set consists of bamboo crochet hooks in 12 different sizes, ranging from 3mm to 10mm and it's sweetly tied up with some pretty ribbon.



KEEP A CANINE COSY

The Great Doggy Knit Off is on. Help UK animal charity Jerry Green Dog Rescue keep elderly and short-haired pooches snug this winter by hooking blankets, dog jumpers, snoods and toys. Fundraiser Jenny Harris says: "Items are always gratefully received and help make life brighter for dogs in our care while we work to find them a forever home." Contact fundraising@jerrygreendogs.org.uk or 01652 650886 to find out where to send your contributions.

HANDMADE HAPPINESS

Kirstie Allsopp's Handmade Fair is back in time for Christmas. The Handmade Christmas Fair takes place in Manchester Central, November 20-22. Expect the usual Super Theatre, Grand Make and Skills Workshop events, plus that super-exciting Shopping Village, all with a crafty festive twist. For buying and making unique gifts, gift wrap, decorations and more, be at the fair or be square. Tickets are available now from www.thehandmadechristmasfair.com

STOCKING UP



Considering it's essentially just a big odd sock, it's amazing how much joy a stocking can bring, year after year. Notch up that joy by upgrading your stocking to a handmade wonder.

1. Take the ethical approach with a kantha stocking. These vintage sari makes are hand-sewn by an enterprise that helps victims of sex trafficking. See www.decoratorsnotebook.co.uk
2. For wrapping up presents, making greetings cards or embellishing your more festive creations, how perfect are these dinky wooden stocking buttons? To track down your nearest Groves stockist, telephone 01453 883581.
3. Pamela Dajczak has designed a few wonderful crochet stockings, but this one from her Dylan collection is by far our favourite. Featuring stripes and pompoms, what's not to love? Find the pattern at www.sincerelypam.com



SINGING RIBBON

We're approaching that limited window when it's acceptable to merrily sing Christmas songs/irritate friends and neighbours. Make the most of this precious time with cute sing-along, carol-themed Natural Charms ribbon. For details, visit www.berisfords-ribbons.co.uk

5 FAB FINDS

Stocking fillers
Thoughtful little gifts (and some stuff we want!)



HOOKY BIRTHDAY

Stitch a whole amigurumi Nativity scene by Carolyn Christmas. See her designs and patterns at www.pinkmambo.com

SWEET SNACKS

We loved Twinkie Chan's pretzel brooch pattern in *Simply Crochet* issue 30. See page 86 for back issue details.



HUG IT OUT

Make a mug hug that really can cuddle. This cosy cutie is by craft blogger Tanya at www.littlethingsblogged.com



JUST BOOTIFUL

Crochet wellie toppers with animal faces? Adorable. Find Eka's super-cute creations at www.noths.com



BORN SIPPY

Fuel up for your festive making and be queen of chic with a Kate Spade thermal mug from www.johnlewis.com



A GOOD YARN

I'm trying to find a really silky yarn to make a shawl with, but I want it to be nice and bright, too. Can you suggest something?

Alpaca Select's Kusi is irresistibly silky smooth. It's available in 20 hand-dyed shades in 4ply (170m) and DK (105m), both £4.95 for 50g. It's perfect for bright, luxurious shawls. Visit www.alpacaselect.co.uk or call 0247 641 1776.



Time to get out AND ABOUT...

SKILLS, SHOWS & EVENTS

DEC 4 North Norfolk Wool Loft Open Day, Free, Sheringham Community Centre, Norfolk www.norfolkknitters.org.uk

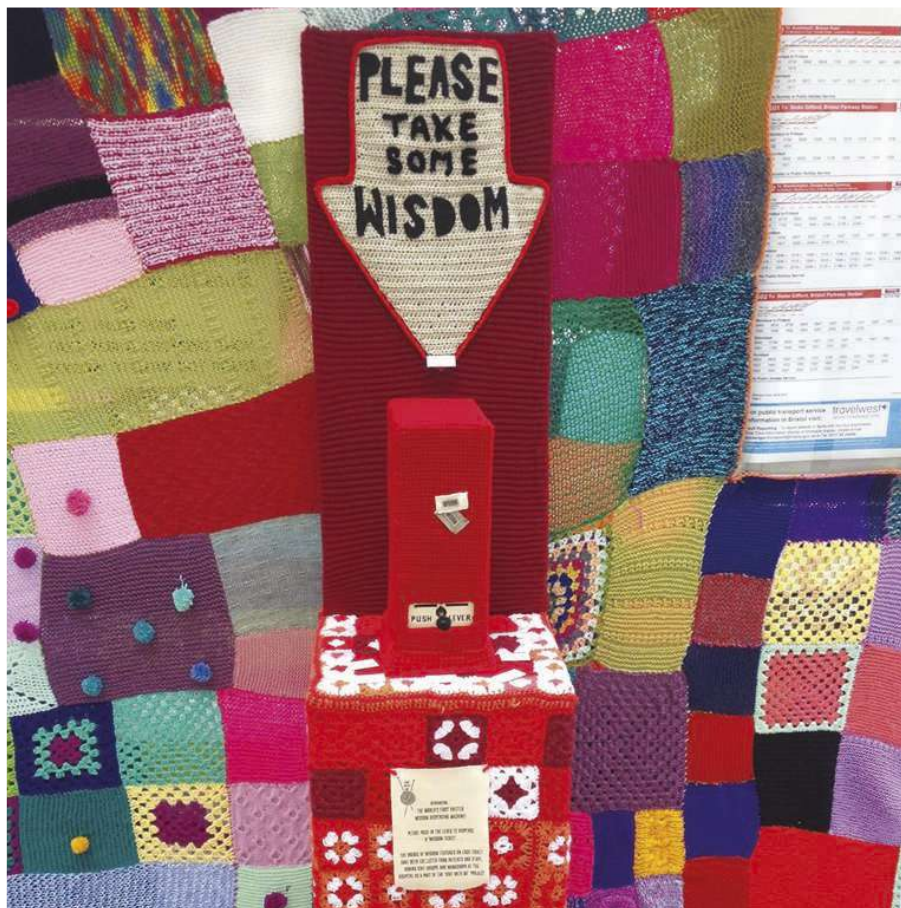
DEC 5 Lacemaking, Quilting & Needlecraft Christmas Fair, £7.50, Cranmore Park, Solihull, 01354 650 500 www.makitfairs.com

DEC 8 Crochet Bauble Workshop, £22, The Make It Shop, Chorlton, Manchester, 0161 881 6858 www.themakeitshop.co.uk

DEC 12 Christmas Crochet Workshop, £25, Oxford Yarn Store, Oxford, 01865 604112 www.oxfordyarnstore.co.uk

DEC 13 Crochet Edgings Workshop, £30, Knit Nottingham, Nottingham, 0115 947 4239 www.knitnottingham.co.uk

DEC 19 Reindeer Trail and Christmas Crafts, £2, Reed Base, Seaton Wetlands, Devon, 01395 517557 countryside@eastdevon.gov.uk



I LOVE LAMP

■ If you look closely, you can see that crochet stitches themselves have a distinct graphic quality. It seems we're not the only ones to have noticed the unique beauty in crochet's symmetry and repetition. Creatives Made By Ilze have incorporated some vintage crochet doily shapes into their gorgeous printed cotton lampshade design. You can get your hands on one of these babies for £60 at www.noths.com



A awesome crochet toys don't always have to be adorable, although, of course, it helps. How about a crocheted dumper truck or fire engine? We know a few little monsters who would be absolutely over the moon with toys that really roll along. Pick up a copy of *Honk! Beep! Vroom!* (now that's a title) by Cathy Smith and you'll find eight fantastic crochet patterns for cool toy vehicles with working wheels and moving parts, including a school bus, a classic yellow taxi and an ambulance. This fun, beginner-friendly pattern book is published by Martingale (RRP £12.52) and is available in both paperback and e-book forms online at www.shopmartingale.com. We'll race you.

TRAFFIC-STOPPING

A yarn-stormed bus stop isn't something you see everyday. The Knit Stop at Bristol's Southmead Hospital was put together by artist Ali Brown. She worked with over 300 patients and visitors to create these vibrant squares. Ali says: "The project celebrates the therapeutic benefits of craft and collaboration, and demonstrates what can be achieved when people work together!" We say bravo.

COMES IN KIT FORM

A cool kit is a great option to give as a crafty gift or to help you make presents of your own. We love these.

1. Hook a localised blizzard of 12 snowflakes with a cool alpaca kit from TOFT. £15 at www.thetoftalpashop.co.uk
2. Do you needle felt? Give Hawthorne Handmade's Rudolf Brooch a go. It's just £8.50 from www.noths.com
3. Pick up a Trees and Pegs Wrap Kit to take your wrapping up a gear this year. £5 at www.johnlewis.com



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IN THE LONG RUN

It's incredible – contrasting folksy embroidery transforms a basic table runner into a bona fide yuletide stunner. Sharpen your embroidery skills by working a sweet fir tree motif and some simple stars. It'll be a new festive favourite.

WOOD FOR THE TREES

A little crocheted tree or two can make a jolly centrepiece for your Christmas table, or liven up your mantelpiece. Raid your button stash ('fess up, we've all got one) and have fun embellishing your creations so they look decidedly handmade.

CHRISTMAS IDEAS



COMFORT & JOY

Celebrate Christmas Scandi style with embroidered home makes in cream, grey and sweet berry red.

CHRISTMAS IDEAS



JUST HANGING OUT

This hanging bauble basket will be the crowning glory of your festive hookery. Part chandelier, part mobile, part storage, it's a clever creation that will look rather magical reigning over your table, don't you think?

GNOME PUN INTENDED

Our mischievous gnomes were inspired by traditional Danish nisse (so Scandi right now), with their pointed hats, long white beards and remarkable felted noses. They're not to be sniffed at and every home should have one.





CHRISTMAS IDEAS



PARTY PEOPLE

A ring of cute Scandi ladies holding hands might not be the obvious choice to encircle your vase or candle holder, but it's actually a fantastic decoration. Amigurumi, wooden beads and a bit of embroidery magic brings this project to life.

WINNING WREATH

Forget five gold rings, you'll only need one ring this Christmas and it's our woodsy wreath. It's resplendent with poinsettias, pine cones, toadstools and mistletoe. The fun shapes in a limited palette make for a stylish project.



TREE TABLE RUNNER

Make Anne Egan's runner as long as you like to fit your table, then stitch on an abstract fir tree embroidery.

- King Cole Baby Alpaca DK (100% baby alpaca, 50g/100m), Yarn A Cranberry (510) (see Notes for quantities), 1 ball of Yarn B Fawn (501)
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- A wide-eyed needle

MEASUREMENTS

27cm (10½in) wide and 78cm (30¾in) long, or length to suit you.

ABBREVIATIONS

Spiked dc Instead of working the next dc into the dc on the row directly below, work the next dc into the dc one row below that.

NOTES

You can make this table runner as long as you like to fit your table. Amount of Yarn A you will need depends on the desired length of your table runner. The sample shown used 4 balls of Cranberry, so based on this tension 1 ball of this yarn will yield approx 19cm length in this pattern. Runner is made in rows of half treble with contrasting trim added at each end afterwards. Always join a new yarn ball on the WS.

TABLE RUNNER

Using Yarn A, ch56.

Row 1 Dc in second ch from hook and in each ch to end, turn. [55 dc]

Row 2 (RS) Ch2 (counts as first htr throughout), htr in each st to end, turn. [55 htr]

Repeat Row 2 to desired length, ending on a RS row, then work one more row of dc. **Fasten off.**

EDGING

With RS facing, join Yarn B at beginning of row, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in same st, (spiked dc in next st one row below, dc in next st) to end. **Fasten off.** Repeat the above edging at the other end of the table runner.

TO MAKE UP

Weave in all ends.

Using a wide-eyed needle and Yarn B,

embroider an abstract fir tree pattern using straight stitches and backstitch and using the photos as a guide.

MINI TREES

Padded, decorated and wedged in their own pots, Anne Egan's little trees come in two sizes.

- King Cole Baby Alpaca DK (100% baby alpaca, 50g/100m), 1 ball of each: Cranberry (510), Fawn (501), Grey (502)
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- Plastic plant pot (9cm/3½in diameter) for Large Tree
- Tiny clay pot for Small Tree
- Play clay
- Polyester toy stuffing
- Various small buttons
- Small bamboo cane

MEASUREMENTS

Without stand and pot:

Small Tree 11x11cm (4¼x4¼in)

Large Tree 13x15cm (5x6in)

NOTES

Each side of the tree is made from the top down. An increase of one st is made in the centre of the row, an increase of 2 sts is made evenly either side of the centre unless specified otherwise. Our pot for the larger tree was made by cutting down a bigger plant pot to size.

LARGE TREE

TREE SIDE (MAKE 2)

Each tree is made using Cranberry and Fawn as a main colour and contrast colour. The main colour is Yarn A, the contrast colour is Yarn B.

With Yarn A, ch2.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook, turn. [1 dc]

Row 2 Ch1, 2dc in next st, turn. [2 dc]

Row 3 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 4 Ch1, 2dc in first st, 1dc in last st, turn. [3 dc]

Row 5 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 6 Ch1, dc in first st, 2dc in next st, 1dc in last st, turn. [4 dc]

Row 7 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 8 Ch1, dc in first st, 2dc in next st, dc in each st to end, turn. [5 dc]

Row 9 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 10 Ch1, dc in each of next 2 dc,

2dc in next st, dc in each st to end, turn. [6 dc]

Row 11 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 12 Ch1, dc in each st across, and increase by one stitch in the centre stitch, or the stitch as near to the centre as possible. [7 dc]

Rows 13-23 Repeat Row 12. [17 dc]

Rows 24-26 Ch1, dc in each st up to st before centre st, 2dc in next st, dc in centre st, 2dc in next st, dc in each st to end, turn. [23 dc]

Rows 27-32 Ch1, dc in first st, 2dc in next st, dc in each st to last 2 sts, 2dc in next st, 1dc in last st, turn. [35 dc]

Fasten off.

POT COVER

With Grey, ch8, ss into first ch to form a ring.

Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr throughout), 23tr into ring, ss to top of beg ch-3. [24 tr]

Round 2 Ch3, 1tr in next st, 2tr in next st, (tr in each of next 2 sts, 2tr in next st) around, ss to top of beg ch-3. [32 tr]

Round 3 Working in back loops only: Ch3, tr in each st around, ss to top of beg ch-3.

Round 4 Ch3, tr in each st around, ss to top of beg ch-3.

Round 5 Ch3, 1tr in each of next 14 sts, 2tr in next st, 1tr in each of next 15 sts, 2tr in last st, ss to top of beg ch-3. [34 tr]

Rounds 6-10 Increase evenly by 2 sts on each round. [44 tr after Round 10]

Round 11 Ch3, tr in next 8 tr, tr2tog, (tr in next 9 tr, tr2tog) around, ss to top of beg ch-3. [40 tr]

Fasten off.



SMALL TREE

TREE SIDES (MAKE 2)

With Yarn A, ch2.

Rows 1-23 Work as for Rows 1-23 of Large Tree Sides. [17 dc]

Rows 24-25 Work as for Row 24 of Large Tree Sides. [21 dc]

Rows 26-27 Work as for Row 27 of Large Tree Sides. [25 dc]

Fasten off.

POT COVER

With Grey, ch8, ss into first ch to form a ring.

Round 1 (RS) Work as Round 1 for Large Tree Pot Cover. [24 tr]

Round 2 Working in back loops only: Ch3 (counts as tr throughout), tr in each st around, ss to top of beg ch-3.

Round 3 Ch3, tr in each of next 6 sts, 2tr in next st, (1tr in each of next 7 sts, 2tr in next st) twice, ss to top of beg ch-3. [27 tr]

Rounds 4-7 Increase by 3 sts evenly on each round. [39 tr]

Round 8 Ch3, tr in each st around, ss to top of beg ch-3.

CHRISTMAS IDEAS



Round 9 Ch3, tr in each of next 10 sts, tr2tog, (tr in each of next 11 tr, tr2tog) around, ss to top of beg ch-3. [36 tr]
Fasten off.

TO MAKE UP (BOTH TREES)

Weave in ends on WS.

With Yarn B, embroider straight stitches and add small buttons in the colour of your choice, on both side pieces.

Cut the plastic pot down in height to fit the Pot Cover and slip Cover over pot.

Cut bamboo cane to desired length, place between the WS of the two Tree Side pieces and surround with toy stuffing. With Yarn A, stitch the two pieces together around the stuffing and bamboo cane.

Place a lump of play clay in the pot and push the other end of the 'trunk' into it. Top up the pot with toy stuffing.

TREE DECORATION

Brighten up your pad with these sweet Christmas trees by Anne Egan.

- King Cole Baby Alpaca DK (100% baby alpaca, 50g/100m), 1 ball of each: Cranberry (510), Fawn (501), Grey (502)
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- Polyester toy stuffing
- Ribbon for hanging

MEASUREMENTS

Tree measures approximately 10x7cm (4x3in)

NOTES

Each Tree is made with a main colour, Yarn A, and a contrast colour, Yarn B. Use shades of your choice.

TREE SIDES (MAKE 2)

With Yarn A, ch8.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in eighth ch from hook (to form hanging loop), turn. [1 dc]

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), 2dc in next st, turn. [2 dc]

Row 3 Ch1, dc in first st, 2dc in next st, turn. [3 dc]

Row 4 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 5 Ch1, dc in each st, increasing by 1 stitch in the centre st, or as near as possible to the centre st. [4 dc]

Row 6 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

Rows 7-19 Repeat Rows 5 and 6. [10 dc]

Rows 20-21 Ch1, dc in first st, 2dc in next st, dc in each st to end, turn. [12 dc]

Row 22 Ch1, dc in first st, 2dc in next st, dc in each st to last 2 sts, 2dc in next st, dc in last st, turn. [14 dc]

Row 23 Ch1, dc in first st, 2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 4 sts, 2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 5 sts, 2dc in next st, 1dc in last st, turn. [17 dc]

Fasten off.

TO MAKE UP

Weave in ends on WS.

With Yarn B, embroider both Tree Side pieces using the images as a guide.

Stuff and stitch together around the entire edge with Yarn B.

Thread a piece of ribbon through chain loop to hang, if desired.

PADDED BIRD

Make a menagerie of festive birds to decorate your Christmas tree or hang from a centrepiece. By Anne Egan.

- King Cole Baby Alpaca DK (100% baby alpaca, 50g/100m), 1 ball of each: Cranberry (510), Fawn (501), Grey (502)
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- Polyester toy stuffing
- Various small buttons
- Ribbon for hanging

MEASUREMENTS

Bird measures approx 9x7cm (3½x2¾in)

NOTES

The wings on the bird are optional. Alternatively, you can embroider a wing shape with contrast yarn instead.

BIRD SIDE

Make 2 pieces, 1 in Cranberry and 1 in Fawn.

Ch7.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook and each ch to end, turn. [6 dc]

Row 2 Ch2, 2dc in second ch from hook, dc in each dc to last st, 2dc in last dc, turn. [9 dc]

Row 3 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), 2dc in next dc, dc in each dc to last st, 2dc in last dc, turn. [11 dc]

Rows 4-6 Repeat Row 3. [17 dc]

Rows 7-12 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

HEAD

Row 13 Ch1, dc in each of next 8 dc, turn leaving rem sts unworked. [8 dc]

CHRISTMAS IDEAS

Row 14 Ch1, skip first dc, dc in each st to end, turn. [7 dc]

Row 15 Ch1, skip first dc, dc in each of next 4 dc, dc2tog, turn. [5 dc]

Row 16 Ch1, dc in each of next 3 dc, dc2tog, turn. [4 dc]

Row 17 Ch1, skip first dc, dc in next 2 dc, ss in last dc. [2 dc]

Fasten off.

TAIL

Rejoin yarn with RS facing, 5 dc from end of Row 12.

Row 13 Ch1, skip first dc, dc in next 4 dc to end, turn. [4 dc]

Row 14 Ch1, dc in next 2 dc, dc2tog, turn. [3 dc]

Row 15 Ch1, skip first dc, dc in next 2 dc to end, turn. [2 dc]

Row 16 Ch1, dc2tog. [1 dc]

Turn by 90 degrees and dc evenly around outside of entire motif, making a ch-8 loop just behind the Head on one of the pieces.

Fasten off.

WING (MAKE 2)

With a contrast yarn colour of your choice, ch2.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook, turn. [1 dc]

Row 2 Ch1, 3dc in next dc, turn. [3 dc]

Row 3 Dc in each st to last 2 sts, 2dc in next st, 1dc in last st, turn. [4 dc]

Rows 4-7 Repeat Row 3. [8 dc]

Rotate on side and dc evenly to point of wing, 3dc in point and dc back down other side. **Fasten off.**

BEAK

With contrast colour, ch2, 2dc in second ch from hook.

Fasten off.

TO MAKE UP

Weave in ends on WS for one Wing and one Bird Side piece, and on RS for the other Wing and Bird Side piece.

With contrast yarn, stitch each Wing in place to each Bird Side piece, with one Bird Side piece facing in one direction and the other Bird Side piece facing in the opposite direction.

With Wings on the outside, place Bird Sides together, stuff and stitch around the edge with contrast yarn to join, stitching the Beak in place as you go. Stitch on button for eyes. Thread ribbon through ch loop for hanging.

STAR DECORATION

Hannah Cross's quick little make is fab for adding a touch of festive glee.

- King Cole Baby Alpaca DK (100% baby alpaca, 50g/100m), 1 ball of each: Cranberry (510), Fawn (501), Grey (502)
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- Polyester toy stuffing
- Ribbon for hanging

MEASUREMENTS

Round decoration measures 6cm (2¼in)

CIRCLE (MAKE 2)

Each decoration uses 3 shades of yarn of your choice: Yarns A, B and C.

Using Yarn A, ch4, ss to first ch to form a ring.

Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr throughout), 11tr into ring, ss to top of beg ch-3. [12 tr]

Round 2 Ch3, tr in st at base of ch, 2tr in each st around, ss to top of beg ch-3. [24 tr]

Fasten off Yarn A.

Join Yarn B.

Round 3 Ch3, tr in st at base of ch, tr in next st, (2tr in next st, tr in next st) around, ss to top of beg ch-3. [36 tr]

Fasten off.

STAR MOTIF (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn B, ch2.

Round 1 (RS) *Dc in second ch from

hook, ch3; rep from * four more times, ss in first st. [5 points on star]

Fasten off.

TO MAKE UP

Sew each Star to the centre of each Circle using Yarn C.

Place Circles WS together and work a dc seam around the outside. Before completing the seam, ch6, ss to first ch, stuff, and then finish the seam.

Fasten off.

With Yarn C, work a running stitch around the dc seam.

Thread a piece of ribbon through the chain loop to hang.

CHRISTMAS GNOMES

No celebration will be complete without Hannah Cross's cute gnomes.

- King Cole Baby Alpaca DK (100% baby alpaca, 50g/100m), 1 ball of each: Cranberry (510), Fawn (501), Grey (502)
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- Polyester toy stuffing
- Small amount of wool roving in cream and white for felting the nose and beard
- Craft glue (to attach beard if you do not want to needle felt it in place)
- 100g beans to fill the body



CHRISTMAS IDEAS

MEASUREMENTS

Large Elf measures 12x45cm (4¾x17¾in)

Small Elf measures 10x39cm (4x15½in)

TENSION

23 sts and 25 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over double crochet worked in the round – tension is not critical, but match the stated tension to achieve a similar finished size.

NOTES

The pattern is worked using the amigurumi method. Work in a continuous spiral without closing off the round with a ss. It may help to use a stitch marker in the first stitch of each round, moving it up as you work.

LARGE ELF

HAT

Using Yarn A, ch2.

Round 1 (RS) 3dc in second ch from hook. [3 dc]

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [6 dc]

Round 3 *Dc in next st, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [9 dc]

Rounds 4-7 Dc in each st around.

Round 8 *Dc in each of next 2 sts, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [12 dc]

Rounds 9-10 Dc in each st around.

Round 11 *Dc in each of next 3 sts, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [15 dc]

Rounds 12-13 Dc in each st around. [15 dc]

Round 14 *Dc in each of next 4 sts, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [18 dc]

Rounds 15-16 Dc in each st around.

Round 17 *Dc in each of next 5 sts, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [21 dc]

Rounds 18-19 Dc in each st around.

Round 20 *Dc in each of next 6 sts, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [24 dc]

Round 21 Dc in each st around.

Round 22 *Dc in each of next 7 sts, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [27 dc]

Round 23 Dc in each st around.

Round 24 *Dc in each of next 8 sts, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [30 dc]

Round 25 Dc in each st around.

Round 26 *Dc in each of next 9 sts, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [33 dc]

Round 27 *Dc in each of next 10 sts, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [36 dc]

Round 28 *Dc in each of next 11 sts, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [39 dc]

Round 29 Dc in each st around.

Round 30 *Dc in each of next 12 sts, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [42 dc]

Round 31 Dc in each st around.

Round 32 *Dc in each of next 13 sts, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [45 dc]

Rounds 33-40 Dc in each st around. [45 dc]

Fasten off.

BODY

Using Yarn C, ch4, ss to first ch to form a ring.

Round 1 (RS) 6dc into ring. [6 dc]

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [12 dc]

Round 3 *Dc in next st, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [18 dc]

Round 4 *Dc in each of next 2 sts, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [24 dc]

Round 5 *Dc in each of next 3 sts, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [30 dc]

Round 6 *Dc in each of next 4 sts, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [36 dc]

Round 7 *Dc in each of next 5 sts, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [42 dc]

Round 8 *Dc in each of next 6 sts, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [48 dc]

Round 9 *Dc in each of next 7 sts, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [54 dc]

Round 10 *Dc in each of next 8 sts, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [60 dc]

Round 11 *Dc in each of next 9 sts, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [66 dc]

Round 12 *Dc in each of next 10 sts, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [72 dc]

Continue working in the back loops only.



Rounds 13-16 Dc in each st around.
Round 17 *Dc in each of next 10 sts, dc2tog; rep from * around. [66 dc]
Rounds 18-20 Dc in each st around.
Round 21 *Dc in each of next 9 sts, dc2tog; rep from * around. [60 dc]
Rounds 22-24 Dc in each st around.
Round 25 *Dc in each of next 8 sts, dc2tog; rep from * around. [54 dc]
Rounds 26-28 Dc in each st around.
Round 29 *Dc in each of next 7 sts, dc2tog; rep from * around. [48 dc]
Round 30 Dc in each st around.
Round 31 *Dc in each of next 6 sts, dc2tog; rep from * around. [42 dc]
Round 32 Dc in each st around.
Round 33 *Dc in each of next 5 sts, dc2tog; rep from * around. [36 dc]

Stuff with two thirds beans and one third toy stuffing, then continue.

Round 34 Dc2tog around. [18 dc]
Round 35 Dc2tog around. [9 dc]
Fasten off, sew top together and weave in ends.

LEGS (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn A, ch2.

Round 1 (RS) 3dc in second ch from hook. [3 dc]
Round 2 2dc in each st around. [6 dc]
Round 3 *Dc in next st, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [9 dc]
Round 4 *Dc in each of next 2 sts, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [12 dc]
Rounds 5-7 Dc in each st around.

Now shape heel as follows:

Rounds 8-9 Htr in each of next 6 sts, dc in each of next 6 sts. [12 sts]
Round 10 Tr in each of next 6 sts, dc in each of next 6 sts.

Continue working leg as follows:

Rounds 11-12 Dc in each st around.
Rounds 13-15 Change to Yarn B, dc in each st around.
Rounds 16-18 Change to Yarn C, dc in each st around.
Repeat Rounds 13-18 five more times, ending with Yarn C.
Fasten off.

Instead of stuffing the legs with toy stuffing, just stuff with the tails left over from changing colours.

Sew together the top of the Leg and sew to the base of the Body.



ARMS (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn B, ch2.

Round 1 (RS) 3dc in second ch from hook. [3 dc]
Round 2 2dc in each st around. [6 dc]
Round 3 *Dc in next st, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [9 dc]
Rounds 4-5 Dc in each st around. Change to Yarn C.
Rounds 6-12 Working in back loop only: Dc in each st around.
Fasten off, sew together the top of the Arm and sew in place on the Body.

SMALL ELF

HAT

Work as for Large Elf in Yarn C, but omit Rounds 6, 7, 39 and 40.
Fasten off and weave in ends.

BODY

Work as for Large Elf Body in Yarn A up to Round 10. [60 sts]
Then work the following rounds:
Rounds 11-14 Working in the back loop only: dc in each st around.
Rounds 15-23 Work Rounds 25-33 of Large Elf Body. [36 sts after Round 23]
Round 24 *Dc in each of next 4 sts, dc2tog; rep from * around. [30 sts]

Stuff with two thirds beans and one third toy stuffing, then continue.
Round 25 Dc2tog around. [15 dc]
Fasten off, sew top together and weave in ends.

LEGS (MAKE 2)

Work as for Large Elf Legs, using Yarn C for the feet, and Yarns B and A for the stripes, but only repeat Rounds 13-18 four more times.

ARMS (MAKE 2)

Work as for Large Elf Arms, using Yarn A for the Sleeves, but stop at Round 10.

TO MAKE UP (BOTH ELVES)

Using some unworked white wool roving, create the beard and needle felt or glue onto the top of the body. Sew the hat in place, over the top of the beard so it looks like it's covered up his eyes.
Using a small amount of cream wool roving, create a ball for the nose – go as big as you like. Sew nose into place.

CHRISTMAS DOLLS

Add fun to the festivities with Santa's little helpers. By Becky Garratt.

- King Cole Baby Alpaca DK (100% baby alpaca, 50g/100m), 1 ball of each: Cranberry (510), Fawn (501), Grey (502)
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- Polyester toy stuffing
- Wooden beads (25mm diameter)
- Craft glue
- Black pen to mark eyes



MEASUREMENTS

Each doll measures 10x11cm (4x4¼in)

NOTES

Each doll is made using a main colour for the body and hat (Yarn A), a contrast colour (Yarn B), and Grey for the Arms and Boots.

The pattern uses the amigurumi method, where rounds are worked in a spiral without closing off each round with a slip stitch. You may find it helpful to use a stitch marker in the first st of each round, moving it up as you work.

DOLL

HAT (MAKE 1 FOR EACH DOLL)

Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 4dc into loop, ss to first dc. [4 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [8 sts]

Round 3 (1dc in next st, 2dc in next st) 4 times. [12 sts]

Round 4 (Dc in each of next 2 sts, 2dc in next st) 4 times. [16 sts]

Round 5 (Dc in each of next 3 sts, 2dc in next st) 4 times. [20 sts]

Rounds 6-8 Dc in each st around. Change to Yarn B.

Round 9 Dc in each st around.

Fasten off.

BODY (MAKE 1 FOR EACH DOLL)

Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc into loop, ss to first dc. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [12 sts]

Round 3 (1dc in next st, 2dc in next st) 6 times. [18 sts]

Rounds 4-6 Dc in each st around.

Round 7 (Dc in each of next 2 sts, 2dc in next st) 6 times. [24 sts]

Rounds 8-10 Dc in each st around.

Round 11 (Dc in each of next 3 sts, 2dc in next st) 6 times. [30 sts]

Rounds 12-14 Dc in each st around. Change to Yarn B.

Round 15 Dc in each st around.

Fasten off.

ARMS (MAKE 2 FOR EACH DOLL)

Using Grey, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 5dc into loop, ss to first dc. [5 sts]

Round 2 2dc into each st around. [10 sts]

Rounds 3-4 Dc in each st around. Change to Yarn B.

Round 5 Dc in each st around. Change to Yarn A.

Rounds 6-10 Dc in each st around.

Fasten off.

BOOTS (MAKE 2 FOR EACH DOLL)

Using Grey, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 4dc into loop, ss to first dc. [4 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [8 sts]

Round 3 (1dc in next st, 2dc in next st) 4 times. [12 sts]

Rounds 4-7 Dc in each st around.

Fasten off.

TO MAKE UP

Stitch a heart shape onto the front of the body using Yarn B.

Plait some strands of Yarn B and sew into the Hat.

Attach the Hat to the bead as follows: stitch the back of the Hat to the Body piece to hold in position, then glue the top of the bead to the inside of the Hat and the top of the Body.

Mark eyes on the bead using black pen. Sew Arms onto Body.

Keeping the Body relatively flat, add a little stuffing and sew across the bottom with the Boots in place so they are attached at the same time.

Join each doll to the next doll with a few stitches through their hands.

FESTIVE WREATH

Welcome Christmas into your home with Hannah Cross's pretty wreath.

- King Cole Baby Alpaca DK (100% baby alpaca, 50g/100m), 1 ball of each: Cranberry (510), Fawn (501), Grey (502)
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- Foam ring 25cm (9¾in) diameter
- Glue gun
- Small amount of ribbon for hanging

MEASUREMENTS

Wreath measures 25cm (9¾in) diameter

ABBREVIATIONS

Ch-4 picot Ch4, ss into the first of these ch.

3-tr cluster (Yrh, insert hook in space/st indicated, yrh and pull up loop, yrh and draw through 2 loops) 3 times, inserting the hook in the same st each time, yrh and draw through all loops on hook.

WREATH COVER

Using Cranberry, ch32.

Row 1 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), htr in second ch from hook and in each ch to end, turn. [32 htr]

Rows 2-88 Working in back loops only:

CHRISTMAS IDEAS

Ch1, htr in each st to end, turn.
Fasten off and weave in ends.

Sew the long sides together around the foam ring, positioning the seam at the centre back.
Sew the two short ends together.

POINSETTIA (MAKE 3)

PETALS (MAKE 3)

Using Cranberry, ch10.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in second ch from hook and each ch to end. [10 dc]

Ch11, dc in second ch of new ch-11 and each in each st end. [10 dc]

Ss in end of first ch-11, ch11, dc in second ch of new ch-11 and in each ch to end. [10 dc]

Ss in first ch of first ch-11.

Round 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), *dc in each of next 2 sts, htr in each of next 2 sts, tr in next st, htr in each of next 2 sts, dc in each of next 2 sts**, ch1, skip last st, working along other side, rep from * to **. Repeat all from the beginning of Round 2 for each of the other two petals.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Sew the 3 sets of Petals together to form one flower.

FLOWER CENTRE

Using Fawn, ch3.

Round 1 (RS) (3-tr cluster in third ch from hook, ss in same ch) 3 times, ss in

base of first cluster to join.
Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Sew Flower Centre on top of the Petals using long tail. Weave in ends.

MISTLETOE (MAKE 6)

LEAVES

Using Grey, ch12.

Round 1 *Dtr in fifth ch from hook, dtr in next st, tr in each of next 2 sts, htr in each of next 2 sts, dc in each of next 2 sts**, ch12, rep from * to **, ch9, dc in second ch from hook and each ch to end, ss in centre.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

BERRY

Using Fawn, ch3.

Round 1 (RS) 3-tr cluster in third ch from hook, ss in same ch.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Sew Berry on top of the Leaves using the long tail.

TOADSTOOLS

Make 3 with Cranberry as Yarn A and 3 with Grey as Yarn A.

Using Yarn A, ch2.

Round 1 (RS) 3dc in second ch from hook, ss to first dc. [3 dc]

Round 2 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), 2dc in each st around, ss to first dc. [6 dc]

Round 3 Ch1, *dc in next st, 2dc in next st; rep from * around, ss to first dc. [9 dc]

Round 4 Ch1, *dc in each of next 2 sts, 2dc in next st; rep from * around, ss to first dc. [12 dc]

Round 5 Ch1, *dc in each of next 3 sts, 2dc in next st; rep from * around, ss to first dc. [15 dc]

Round 6 Ch1, *dc in each of next 4 sts, 2dc in next st; rep from * around, ss to first dc. [18 dc]

Round 7 Ch1, dc in each st around, ss to first dc.

Change to Fawn.

Round 8 Ch1, (dc2tog) around, ss to first dc. [9 dc]

Round 9 Ch1, dc in next st, (dc2tog) 4 times, ss to first dc. [5 dc]

Round 10 Ch1, 2dc in next st, *1dc in next st, 2dc in next st; rep from *, ss to first dc. [8 dc]

Round 11 Ch1, dc in each st around, ss to first dc. [8 dc]

Stuff gently and stitch 5 French knots to top using Fawn.

PINE CONES

Make 3 in Fawn and 3 in Grey.

Ch15.

Row 1 (RS) Working the first tr of the row in the third ch from the hook, work as folls: *(tr, ch-4 picot) 3 times into the same ch; rep from * in each ch of the foundation ch.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Shape into a spiral and sew into place using the long tail.

FERN LEAVES

Make 3 in Fawn and 3 in Grey.

Ch21 to form the 'spine' of the leaf.

Round 1 (RS) Ss in second ch from hook and in each of next 3 ch; for first 'frond': ch3, ss in second ch from hook, in each ch back towards spine and in st at base of ch again; for second frond: *ss in each of next 2 unworked ch of spine, ch4, ss in each ch back towards spine and in st at base of ch again; rep from * 5 more times, but increase the number of ch in each frond by 1 each time, so you will be working ch5, ch6, ch7, and so on, ending with ch9. Ss in remaining 4 ch, and then repeat working up the other side of the spine to mirror the fronds on the first side.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

STARS (MAKE 6)

With Fawn, ch2.

Round 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook, (ch2, dc in second ch from hook) three times, ss in first dc.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

TO MAKE UP

Arrange items on wreath where desired and then glue or sew in place. It is best to start with the Fern Leaves as the base and then evenly space out the Poinsettias. Use the photographs as a guide, if needed.

Sew ribbon to top-back of Wreath for hanging up.



STOCKISTS

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Festive cardigan



CRANBERRY LACE

Fran Morgan's stylish and cosy cardigan is a must-have for a chilly Christmas morning.

Festive cardigan



YOU WILL NEED

■ West Yorkshire Spinners Aire Valley Aran (75% British Wool, 25% Nylon, 100g/200m), Red (549), see table for yarn quantities and measurements

■ A 4mm (US G/6) hook

■ 6 buttons

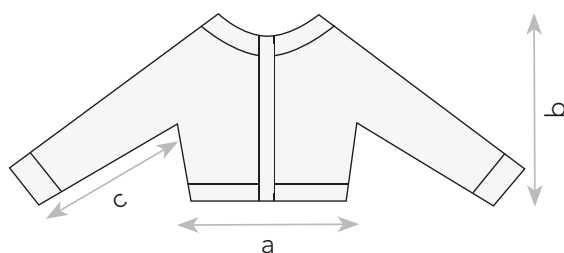
For yarn stockists, contact
WYS 01535 664500
www.wyspinners.com

TENSION

20sts and 16 rows to measure
10x10cm (4x4in) over moss st patt
using a 4mm hook or size
required to achieve tension

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.



FRONT & BACK

a: 43 (47: 53)cm, 16¾ (18½: 21)in
b: 34 (35: 36)cm, 13¼ (13¾: 14¼)in
c: 42cm, 16¼in

Made for yourself or someone special, our festive cardigan will transform anyone into the perfect Christmas hostess. Cut high at the waist, it's a wonderful little cover-up to wear over a dress or just a plain top. It's the little details you'll love though: the rib at the cuffs and hem, and the lacy pattern that runs around the yoke and down each front. Yuletide bliss.

NOTES

Cardigan is worked top down in one piece, dividing at base of armholes for Sleeves and Back/Front. If you prefer a looser waist fit, work with either less dec or no dec, adjusting accordingly so the stitch count for Border is a multiple of 12 sts plus 5. Stitch patts you need are written out below. Length stated is from shoulder to hem (without top rib).

MOSS STITCH PATTERN

Foundation row (Dc in next st, ch1, skip next st) repeat to end, turn.

Row 1 Dc in every ch-sp, ch1 above every dc, skipping that dc, unless stated otherwise.

Row 1 sets pattern.

Increasing in Moss Stitch Patt

(Dc, ch1, dc, ch1) in ch-sp to work one inc. Each inc worked increases by 2 sts.

Decreasing in Moss Stitch Patt

(Dc, ch1) in next ch-sp, skip next ch-sp, dc in next ch-sp. Each decrease worked decreases by 2 sts.

BORDER PATTERN

Worked over a multiple of 12 + 5 sts.

Row 1 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in first st, *ch3, skip each of next 3 sts, (dc in next st, ch1, skip next st) 4 times, dc in next st; rep from * to last 4 sts, ch3, skip next 3 sts, dc in last st, turn.

Row 2 Ch1, dc in first st, *(dc, ch1, dc) in next ch-3 sp, ch3, skip next 3 sts, dc in next ch-sp, ch1, skip next st, dc in next ch-sp, ch3, skip next 3 sts; rep from * to last 4 sts, (dc, ch1, dc) in next ch-3 sp, dc in last st, turn.

Row 3 Ch1, dc in first st, *ch1, dc in next ch-sp, ch1, (dc, ch1, dc) in next ch-3 sp, ch3, skip next 3 sts, (dc, ch1, dc) in next ch-3 sp; rep from * to last 4 sts, ch1, dc in next ch-sp, ch1, dc in last st, turn.

Row 4 Ch1, dc in first st, *dc in next ch-sp, ch1, dc in next ch-sp, ch3, skip next 3 sts, (dc, ch1, dc) in next ch-3 sp, ch3, skip next 3 sts; rep from * to last 4 sts, dc in next ch-sp, ch1, dc in next ch-sp, dc in last st, turn.

Row 5 Ch1, dc in first st, *ch3, skip next 3 sts, (dc, ch1, dc) in next ch-3 sp, ch1, dc in next ch-sp, ch1, (dc, ch1, dc) in next ch-3 sp; rep from * to last 4 sts, ch3, dc in last st, turn.

Rows 2-5 set pattern.

C BODY

RIB

Ch113 (121: 139).

Foundation row Tr in third ch from hook and in each ch to end, turn.

SIZE (UK DRESS)		8-10	12-14	16-18
TO FIT BUST	cm	81-86	91-97	102-107
	in	32-34	36-38	40-42
ACTUAL BUST	cm	86	94	107
	in	33½	36¾	42
WAIST	cm	67	77	87
	in	26¼	30¼	34¼
LENGTH	cm	34	35	36
	in	13¼	13¾	14¼
SLEEVE LENGTH	cm	42	42	42
	in	16¼	16¼	16¼
YARN	100g balls	5	5	6

To make this pattern easier to follow, we've colour-coded the sizing instructions – simply follow the relevant column.

Festive cardigan

[112 (120: 138) sts]

Row 1 (RS) Ch2 (counts as st for Rib section), *FPtr around each of next 2 sts, BPtr around each of next 2 sts; rep from * to last 3 sts, 1FPtr around each of next 2 sts, tr in last st, turn.

Row 2 Ch2, *BPtr around each of next 2 sts, FPtr around each of next 2 sts; rep from * to last 3 sts, BPtr around each of next 2 sts, tr in beg ch-2, turn.

Rows 3-4 Rep Rows 1-2 once more.

YOKE

Row 5 Ch1 (does not count as first st throughout), 1dc (2dc: 2dc) in first st, dc in each st to end, turn. [112 (121: 139) sts]

Row 6 (Inc row) Ch1, dc in next st, (2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 2 sts) repeat to end, turn. [149 (161: 185) sts]

Rows 7-12 Work Rows 1-5 of Border Patt, then rep Row 2 of Border Patt.

Row 13 (Inc Row) Work 10 sts as for the beg of Row 3 of Border Patt, work the Foundation Row of Moss Stitch Patt beg with a dc to last 10 sts, increasing 24 (26: 30) times evenly over these Moss sts, work the last 10 sts of Row 3 of Border Patt, turn. [Inc by 48 (52: 60) sts, total st count of 197 (213: 245) sts]

Row 14 Work 10 sts as for the beg of correct Border Patt row, work central stitches as for Row 1 of Moss Stitch Patt, work the last 10 sts as for the end of the correct Border Patt row, turn. Cont working 10 sts in Border Patt at beg and end of each row, keeping Patt correct, and working the centre sts by repeating Row 1 of Moss Stitch Patt: Work 6 (7: 8) more rows as the last row.

Next row (Inc row) Work 10 sts in Border Patt, work 33 (35:40) inc evenly along Moss St centre, ending with 10 sts in Border Patt. [Inc by 66 (70: 80) sts, total st count of 263 (283: 325) sts] Work 6 (7: 8) plain rows (as Row 14).

DIVIDE FOR FRONT AND BACK

Next row (WS) Work 10 sts in Border Patt, 29 (32: 38) sts in Moss St, ch8 (10: 10) for underarm, skip 54 (58: 66) sts for first sleeve, Moss St 77 (83: 97) for Back, ch8 (10: 10) for underarm, skip 54 (58: 66) sts for second sleeve, Moss St 29 (32: 38) sts, work 10 sts in Border Patt. [171 (187: 213) working sts]

Next row Work in Border Patt as set over first 10 and last 10 sts, and Moss St in each remaining st and chain. Fold

work flat and place a stitch marker in the ch-sp closest to each side fold, at the centre of each underarm.

Work 4 more rows in pattern as set.

WAIST DECREASES

Next row (Dec row) Work in pattern as set up to first marker, decreasing by skipping marked ch-sp as explained in Moss Stitch Patt Notes. Move marker up to second ch-sp of this dec. Work in patt up to second marker and dec as before, moving marker up to first ch-sp of this dec, work in patt to end, turn. [167 (183: 209) sts]

Next row Work in patt as set without shaping, moving markers up.

Repeat the last 2 rows 4 (5: 6) more times. [151 (163: 185) sts]

Work 9 (7: 5) rows without shaping.

Next row Work in patt as set with 1 (1: 0) decreases placed centrally in the Moss St section. [149 (161: 185) sts]

If you are adjusting the waist, your sts need to be a multiple of 12 +5 at this point. Work Rows 1-5 of Border Pattern.

Next row Work in patt as set (using Foundation Row of Moss St Patt) with 7 (3: 5) dec placed evenly across the Moss St section. [135 (155: 175) sts]

RIB

Work Rows 1-3 of Rib Patt. You'll need to adjust to an even number of sts for first row, so dec one st by skipping one st at the beginning of the next row. [134 (154: 174) sts]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

SLEEVES

Work out which sts of the underarm ch need to have a dc worked into them in order for the Moss Stitch patt around the Sleeve to remain correct. Rejoin yarn in most central of those underarm sts with RS facing ready to work in rounds. Do not close off each round with a ss, but continue working in a spiral. Use a st marker in the first st of each round, moving it up as you work.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in first st and continue in Moss st across underarm chain, skipped Sleeve sts and underarm ch at end of round. Once you've worked last ch1 of round, work an extra dc in same st as first dc of round. This is to make total number of Sleeve sts an odd number, which is

required in order to work Moss Stitch in the round. [63 (69: 77) sts]

Round 2 Ch1 (this is first st of Moss St of round, so mark this st), dc in next ch-sp, cont working Moss St around.

Rounds 3-11 Continue working in Moss St in the round.

Round 12 (Dec row) Continuing in Moss St, work a dec at the beg and end of the round. [59 (65: 77) sts]

Work a Dec row on every following 12th row, 4 more times. [42 (48: 56) sts]

Next row Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st and ch around, ss in next st to smooth edge.

RIB

Rounds 1-4 Ch2 (counts as st), *FPtr around each of next 2 sts, BPtr around each of next 2 sts; rep from * to last 3 sts, 1FPtr around each of next 2 sts, tr in last st, ss to top of beg ch-2.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

BUTTON BAND

Rejoin yarn with RS facing at top corner of Left Front. Work 60 (62: 64)dc evenly down Left Front.

Next row Ch1 (does not count as st), *dc in next st, ch1, skip 1 st; rep from * to last 2 sts, dc in last 2 sts, turn.

Repeat the last row 5 more times.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

BUTTONHOLE BAND

Rejoin yarn with RS facing at bottom corner of Right Front. Work 60 (62: 64) dc evenly up Right Front.

Next row Ch1 (does not count as st), *dc in next st, ch1, skip 1 st; rep from * to last 2 sts, dc in last 2 sts, turn.

Repeat the last row twice more.

Next row (buttonhole row) Ch1 (does not count as st), work 2 (3: 2) sts in Moss St beg with a dc, dc in next st, ch3, skip 3 sts, dc in next st (buttonhole made), *5 (5: 6) sts in Moss St, dc in next st, ch3, skip 3 sts, dc in next st; rep from * 4 more times, Moss St to last 2 sts, dc in last 2 sts, turn.

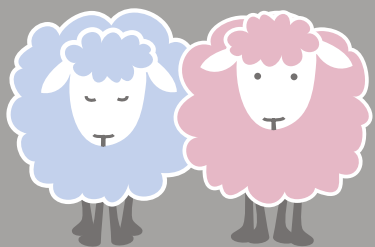
Next row Ch1 (does not count as st), *dc in next st, ch1, skip 1 st; rep from * to last 2 sts, dc in last 2 sts, turn.

Repeat last row.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

Sew on buttons to match buttonholes. Block to measurements.



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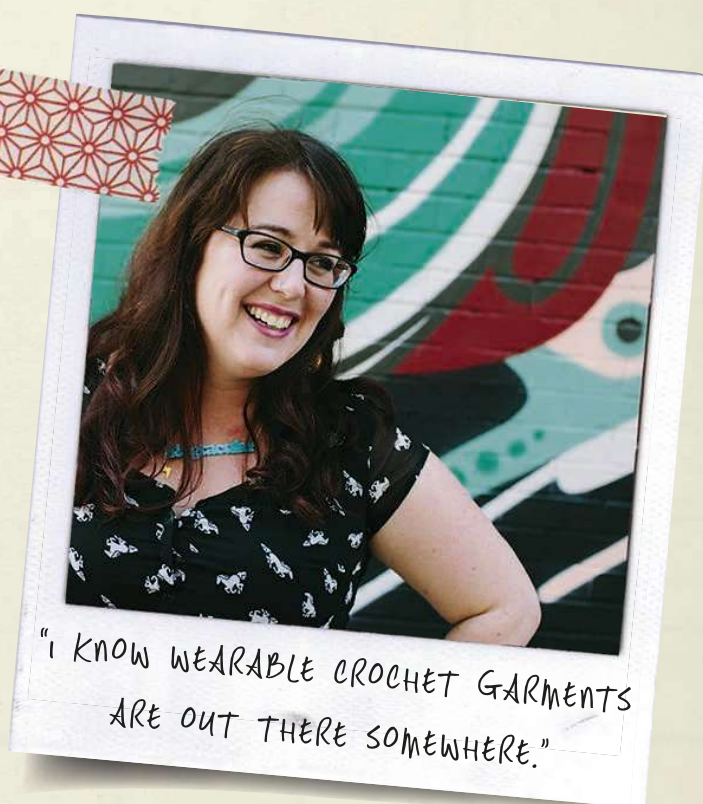
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The digital version of the magazine does not include the cover gift that you would find on newsstand copies, nor does it include access to Craft Circle.

KAT'S JOURNAL

...FROM THE STUDIO

When winter comes, Kat Goldin begins her search for the perfect cardigan, which means good drape.



When winter hits, my search for the perfect cardi pattern reaches fever pitch. Lightweight but warm, it needs a long line, set-in sleeves, deep pockets (for holding wool and a hook), and a shawl collar. Searching on Ravelry, I can find countless versions of this classic shape and it's a question of: do I want aran or 4ply? Hip length or mid-thigh? Lace panels? Cables? Patch pockets? So much choice... in knitting.

If I narrow my search down to crochet, my choices are limited. A few gorgeous garments exist, but hunting down the perfect one is nigh on impossible, with the vast majority of patterns boxy and unflattering or too lacy for my laid-back farm style. Where are the classic crochet garments? I know they're out there – they pop up in pages of magazines and on the sites of my favourite crochet designers, but the truly wearable ones just don't pop up on the 'hot right now'. Or, when you do find them, making a garment can be intimidating, even for a seasoned maker. Photos can lie and you may not get the garment you envision, even if you do find a pattern you like.

A GUIDE TO GARMENTS

Whether you favour long-line cardigans like me, or maybe some other garment type, there are some key things to look for when hunting down the perfect garment to make this winter.

One of the most crucial aspects of making a great crochet garment is its

drape. Drape is how the fabric flows and lays once it's worn. For most garments, you want something that has a smooth, loose drape. Because of the way in which a crochet fabric is constructed, it can lend itself to stiffer fabric than knitting. This is great for things like bowls, baskets and amigurumi, but isn't as useful when constructing a sweater. Improving the drape of your crochet will go a long way to making garments that fit and are a pleasure to wear. When you are looking at crochet and drape, you are aiming for a fabric where the stitches

move with some independence. In making things like crochet dolls or bowls, you don't want the stitches to move much (this helps the item retain its form), but with garments, the element of flow is crucial.

Without a doubt, tension or gauge is the most critical element when creating a flowing fabric. To achieve a good drape, the stitches need to be able to move, so if they are packed tightly, you will create a stiffer fabric. Ignore what the ball bands tell you. It's not uncommon to have to go up one or two

"Ignore the ball band. Go up one or two hook sizes for a drapey fabric."



COLUMN



"Taller stitches
have more drape."

hook sizes to achieve a drapery fabric, no matter what stitch you're using. If you're trying to make something with a nice, flowing drape then SWATCH. Try different hook sizes with your yarn and see how it changes. Depending on the pattern, you may get a better fabric using a finer yarn and larger hook (still meeting the pattern's gauge) than a thicker yarn and a smaller hook.

Another critical factor in drape is the yarn you are using so think about your yarn choices. Silk, bamboo and alpaca fibres will create more drape in a

garment than cotton or 100% wool. If you are looking to make something with lovely drape, using a yarn containing one of these fibres is a great first step. However, while a silk yarn will have more drape than a cotton one at the same gauge, it's still important to consider your gauge as you go.

Don't forget the importance of the stitches you are using in the pattern. In crochet, taller stitches and stitch patterns that have chains in them will have more drape than solid double crochet. The height of the stitches and

the chains allow them to move more independently of each other.

Don't forget to keep a set of your own measurements – this is key to knowing how a garment is going to fit. Most designers work to industry-set design averages, but you may not meet them exactly. Don't just compare your bust size to the garment's measurements, but look at other key points like upper arms, waist measurements and shoulder length to make sure you have something that is going to fit and be a joy to wear (and make!).

A LOCH AT MY MONTH

"Hot cups of tea and coffee to warm me up, the rhythmic motion of my swift as I wind skeins of yarn, icy cobwebs sparkling in the sunshine, and a new geometric shawl."





BANG BANG

Brighten up any holiday season with Ilaria Caliri's adorable nutcracker bear.



Striking the perfect balance between sweet and stately, our toy soldier is a great make for the festive season. Ilaria Caliri has captured in crochet a long tradition of nut-cracking at Christmas, using carved wooden fairytale figures. Our bear has just as much military charm and he looks very handsome in his highly-decorated uniform – not only does he have epaulettes, but his jacket also has gold frog fastenings and his hat has gold braiding. He makes a wonderful gift and will bring delight for years to come, so make him now – and that's an order!



Amigurumi bear



YOU WILL NEED

- DMC Natura Just Cotton (50g/155m), 1 ball of each:
Yarn A Canelle (37)
Yarn B Passion (23)
Yarn C Star Light (27)
Yarn D Noir (11)
Yarn E Tournesol (16)
Yarn F Ivory (02)

- A 2.5mm (US B/1 or C/2) hook
- Safety eyes or black beads (approx 4mm diameter)
- 2 skewers
- Pipe cleaners (optional)
- Toy stuffing

For yarn stockists, contact
DMC Creative 0116 275 4000
www.dmccreative.co.uk

MEASUREMENTS

25cm (10in) tall

NOTES

The pattern is worked using the amigurumi method. Work in a continuous spiral without closing off the round with a ss. It may help to use a stitch marker in the first stitch of each round, moving it up as you work.
Legs and body are worked as one piece starting from the feet.
Other pieces are sewn to body.
Hat and Drum are not sewn on.
If desired, cut shapes from plastic to strengthen the top of the hat, drum sides and foot soles.

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

C HEAD

Worked from nose to back of head.
With Yarn A, ch4.

Round 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook and next ch, 3dc in the last ch, rotate to work in the other side of the foundation ch, 1dc in next ch, 2dc in the last ch. [8 sts]

Round 2 (1dc in next st, 2dc in next st) 4 times. [12 sts]

Round 3 (1dc in each of next 2 sts, 2dc in next st) 4 times. [16 sts]

Round 4 (1dc in each of next 3 sts, 2dc in next st) 4 times. [20 sts]

Round 5 (1dc in each of next 4 sts, 2dc in next st) 4 times. [24 sts]

Rounds 6-7 Dc in each dc around.

Round 8 2dc in next st, 1dc in next st, (2dc in next st) 4 times, 1dc in next st, 2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 16 sts. [30 sts]

Round 9 (1dc in next st, 2dc in next st) 6 times, 1dc in each of next 18 sts. [36 sts]

Round 10 (1dc in each of next 5 sts, 2dc in next st) 6 times. [42 sts]

Rounds 11-18 Dc in each dc around.

Round 19 (1dc in each of next 5 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. [36 sts]

Round 20 (1dc in each of next 4 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. [30 sts]

Round 21 (1dc in each of next 3 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. [24 sts]

Secure the eyes, between Rounds 7 and 8, approx 9 sts apart.
If you're using black beads, sew them on once the Head is finished.

Stuff the Head with toy stuffing and continue stuffing as you go.

Round 22 (1dc in each of next 2 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 23 (1dc in next st, dc2tog) 6 times. [12 sts]

Round 24 (Dc2tog) 6 times. [6 sts]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Sew on black beads for eyes, if using.
Stitch the nose and mouth using Yarn D and long, straight stitches.

EARS (MAKE 2)

With Yarn A, ch3.

Round 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook, 3dc in next ch, rotate to work in the other side of the foundation ch, 2dc in the last ch. [6 sts]

Round 2 (2dc in next st, 1dc in next 2 sts) twice. [8 sts]

Rounds 3-4 Dc in each dc around.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Use the long tails to sew the Ears onto the Head, between Rounds 15 and 16, approx 10 sts apart. Weave in ends.

BOTTOM OF JACKET

With Yarn B, ch36.

Row 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in second ch from hook and in each ch to end, turn. [36 sts]

Rows 2-6 Ch1, 36dc, turn. **Fasten off**.

FIRST LEG

With Yarn C, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1, 6dc into loop. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [12 sts]

Rounds 3-20 Dc in each dc around.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

SECOND LEG AND BODY

Work as for First Leg, do not fasten off.

Ch2. Put First Leg next to Second Leg and work the next round starting on First Leg.

Round 21 1dc in each of next 10 sts, skip the last 2 sts of the First Leg, tr in each of next 2 ch, skip the first 2 sts of the Second Leg, 1dc in each of next 10 sts, dc in each remaining loop of the next 2 ch. You may need to use the tail from the First Leg to sew together any gaps in the stitching. [24 sts]

Round 22 (2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 3 sts) 6 times. [30 sts]

Round 23 (2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 4 sts) 6 times. [36 sts]

Rounds 24-30 Dc in each dc around. [36 sts] **Fasten off** Yarn C.

Stuff the legs and continue stuffing as you go (insert a pipe cleaner if you want to be able to bend the legs).

Place the Bottom of Jacket piece around the waist – with the open part at the front – and fix in place with pins. Join Yarn D in the middle of the back.

Round 31 Dc in each dc around, working each st through one st of Round 30 and one st of the Bottom of Jacket piece to join. [36 sts]

Round 32 Dc in each dc around.

Change to Yarn B.

Rounds 33-39 Dc in each dc around. [36 sts]

Round 40 (1dc in each of next 4 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. [30 sts]

Amigurumi bear

Round 41 (1dc in each of next 3 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. [24 sts]

Round 42 (1dc in each of next 2 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 43 (1dc in next st, dc2tog) 6 times. [12 sts]

Round 44 (Dc2tog) 6 times. [6 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail. Use the tail to sew the Head to the Body.

JACKET FASTENERS (MAKE 3)

With Yarn E, leave a long tail of yarn and ch6. **Fasten off**, leaving a long tail. Fix each piece to the chest with pins. Use the long tails to embroider a big French knot on each side of each piece, to fix each chain piece to the chest.

BOOTS (MAKE 2)

With Yarn D, ch4.

Round 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook and next ch, 3dc in the next ch, rotate to work in the other side of the foundation ch, 1dc in next ch, 2dc in the last ch. [8 sts]

Round 2 (1dc in next st, 2dc in next st) 4 times. [12 sts]

Round 3 (1dc in each of next 2 sts, 2dc in next st) 4 times. [16 sts]

Round 4 Working in back loop only: Ch1, 1dc in each dc around.

Rounds 5-6 1dc in each dc around.

Round 7 1dc in each of next 6 sts, (dc2tog) twice, 1dc in each of next 6 sts. [14 sts]

Rounds 8-15 1dc in each dc around.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Insert Leg inside Boot and sew in place using long tail.

ARMS (MAKE 2)

With Yarn A, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1, 5dc into loop. [5 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [10 sts]

Rounds 3-5 1dc in each dc around.

Change to Yarn D.

Round 6 1dc in each dc around. [10 sts]

Change to Yarn B.

Rounds 7-21 1dc in each dc around.

Stuff with toy stuffing (insert a pipe cleaner if you want to bend the arms).

Fasten off, leaving a long tail. Sew the Arms to the body using the long tails.

EPAULETTES (MAKE 2)

With Yarn E, ch5.

Row 1 1htr in third ch from hook (skipped ch do not count as a st), htr in next ch, 4htr in the next ch, rotate to

work in the other side of the foundation ch, 1htr in each of next 2 ch, turn. [8 sts]

Row 2 Ch1, 1dc in each of next 3 sts, (2dc in next st) twice, 1dc in each of next 3 sts, turn. [10 sts]

Row 3 Working in back loop only: Ch1, 1dc in each st. [10 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Cut 10 pieces of yarn, each approx 6cm long, fold each piece in half and pull through each st of the last row using a crochet hook, to make a tassel.

Repeat for the other Epaulette.

Sew on the Epaulettes at the shoulders.

HAT

With Yarn B, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1, 6dc into loop. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [12 sts]

Round 3 (2dc in next st, 1dc in next st) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 4 (2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 2 sts) 6 times. [24 sts]

Round 5 (2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 3 sts) 6 times. [30 sts]

Round 6 Working in back loop only: 1dc in each st around. [30 sts]

Rounds 7-16 1dc in each dc around.

Change to Yarn D.

Round 17 1dc in each dc around.

Cont with the visor working in rows.

Row 1 (RS) Working in front loop only: Ss in first st, dc in next st, htr in next st, tr in each of next 4 sts, htr in next st, dc in next st, ss in last st, turn. [8 sts]

Row 2 dc in each of next 2 sts, 2dc in next st, dc in each of next 2 sts, 2dc in next st, dc in each of next 2 sts. [10 sts]

Fasten off.

HAT BASE

With Yarn D, work Rounds 1-5 of Hat.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Stuff the Hat and sew the Base in place.

HAT STRING

With Yarn D, ch33.

Row 1 (RS) 1dc in second ch from hook and in each ch to end. [32 sts] **Fasten off**, leaving a long tail. Use the tail to sew each end of the Hat String to the Hat, 3 sts from each side of the visor.

HAT DECORATION

With Yarn E, ch16. **Fasten off**. Add a tassel at each end, approx 2cm long. Sew each end of Hat Decoration to front of Hat, using photos as a guide.



Take your time over the little details on the drum – they'll make your final bear look fab.

DRUM

With Yarn F, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1, 6dc into loop. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [12 sts]

Round 3 (2dc in next st, 1dc in next st) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 4 (2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 2 sts) 6 times. [24 sts]

Round 5 (2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 3 sts) 6 times. [30 sts]

Round 6 (2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 4 sts) 6 times. [36 sts]

Change to Yarn C.

Round 7 Working in back loop only: 1dc in each st around.

Rounds 8-13 1dc in each dc around.

Fasten off.

DRUM BASE

With Yarn F, work Rounds 1-6 of Drum.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail. Stuff the Drum and sew the Base in place.

DRUM STRING

With Yarn F, ch55.

Row 1 (RS) 1dc in second ch from hook and in each ch to end. [54 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Use the tail to sew the Drum String to the sides of the Drum, at an angle.

With Yarn E, embroider the drum with long stitches, using photos as a guide.

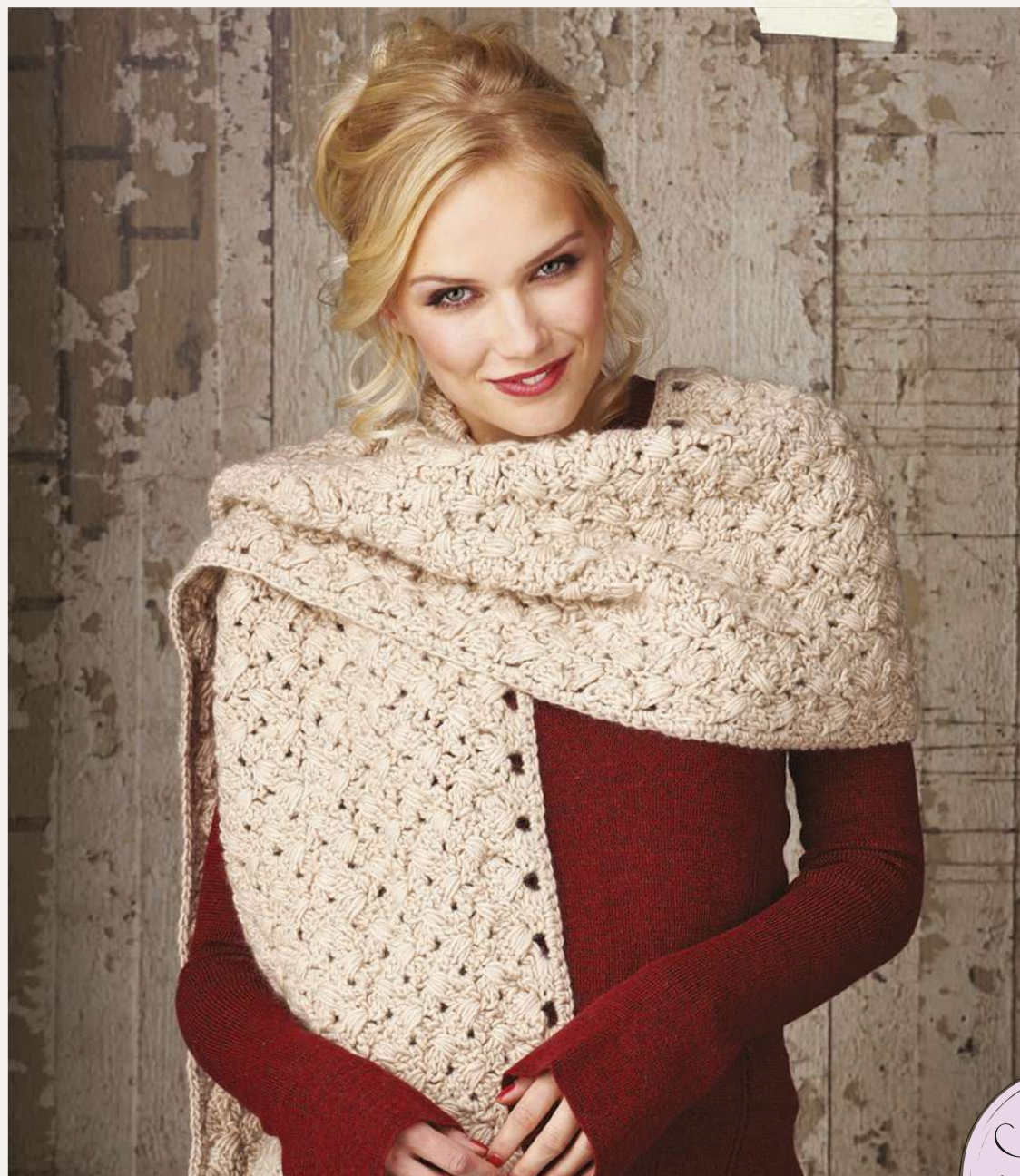
With Yarn E, add 2 French knots to each side of the Drum String, where they meet the Drum.

TO FINISH

Cut two lengths of skewer measuring 3.5cm (1½in) each to form drumsticks. Insert each one into a stitch at the centre of the bear's hand.



Lacy wrap



DOUBLE CREAM

Indulge yourself with the sumptuous woven texture of this wrap by Lisa Richardson for Rowan.

Lacy wrap



YOU WILL NEED

- Rowan Cocoon (80% merino wool, 20% mohair, 100g/115m), 10 balls of Frost (806)
 - A 7mm (US K/10½ or L/11) hook
- For yarn stockists, contact
Rowan 01484 681881
www.knitrowan.com

TENSION

12 sts and 4 rows (2 patt repeats)
to 9.5x9cm (3¾x3½in) using a
7mm hook

MEASUREMENTS

Finished scarf measures
39x200cm (15¼x78¾in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.



This elegant wrap designed by Lisa Richardson is from Rowan's *Knitting & Crochet Magazine* Number 58. To track down your nearest stockist, visit www.knitrowan.com or call 01484 681881.

Say hello to THE must-make winter accessory: Rowan's Shivery Wrap. It's made in super-soft and chunky Cocoon yarn, using simple crossed treble stitches for a gorgeous textured effect and a double layer of warmth. It's also wide enough to wear in all sorts of ways: draped over your arms like a stole, wrapped around your shoulders, or just knotted into a scarf. The styling options are endless... You're welcome.



WRAP

FIRST SECTION

Ch51.

Foundation Row (RS) Skip 4 ch (counts as 1 tr and 1 ch), *over next 3 ch work (3tr into third of these 3 ch, ch3, 3tr into first of these 3 ch), skip 1 ch, 1tr into next ch**, skip 1 ch, rep from * to end, ending last rep at **, turn. [8 patt reps]

Now work in patt as folls:

Row 1 Ch3 (counts as tr throughout), 3tr into st at base of ch-3, skip 3 tr, *1dc into next ch-sp**, skip 1 tr, over next 5 sts work (3tr into fifth of these 5 sts, ch3, 3tr into first of these 5 sts), skip 1 tr, rep from * to end, ending last rep at **, skip 3 tr, 4tr into top of beg ch-3, turn.

Row 2 Ch3, skip tr at base of ch-3 and next tr, *over next 5 sts work: (3tr into fifth of these 5 sts, ch3, 3tr into first of these 5 sts), skip 1 tr**, 1dc into next ch-sp, skip 1 tr, rep from * to end, ending last rep at **, 1tr into top of beg ch-3, turn.

Rows 1-2 form pattern.

Repeat these two rows until work measures 100cm.

Fasten off.

SECOND SECTION

With RS facing, rejoin yarn to ch at base of last st of Foundation Row of First Section and, work into foundation chain as follows:



This wrap is so versatile, you can even wear it like a cardigan by securing it with a belt. Fab.

Foundation Row (RS) Ch3, skip ch at base of ch-3 and next ch, *over next 3 ch work (3tr into third of these 3 ch, ch3, 3tr into first of these 3 ch), skip 1 ch, 1tr into next ch**, skip 1 ch, rep from * to end, ending last rep at **, turn. [8 patt reps]

Beg with Row 1, work Rows 1-2 as given for First Section until work measures 100cm from foundation chain.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Block gently.

SIDE EDGINGS (BOTH ALIKE)

With RS facing, rejoin yarn to corner of either long side edge. Ch1 (does not count as st), work one row of dc evenly into row ends, stopping at next corner.

Fasten off.

Repeat above process along the other long side edge.

Fasten off and weave in ends.



Stylecraft

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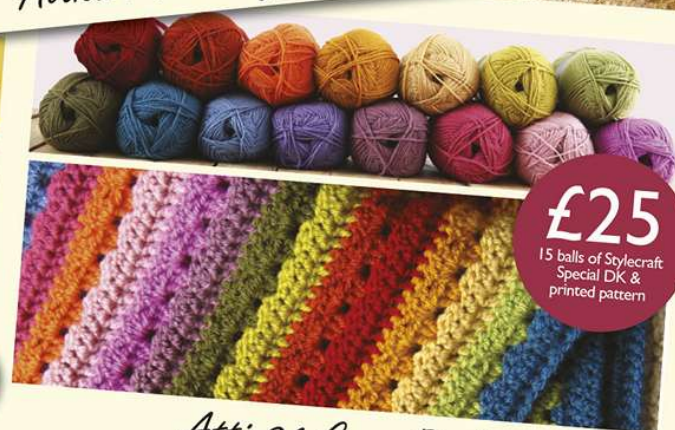
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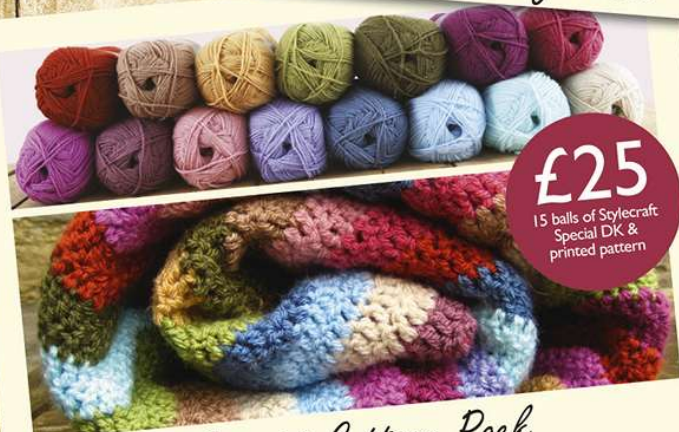
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FIGGY PUDDING

Get any Scrooge into the festive mood with Becca Parker's cute Christmas pudding hat.

Embellish an outfit



EASY-PEASY
TO MAKE



4PLY
WEIGHT



3MM
HOOK

YOU WILL NEED

- DROPS Baby Merino (100% wool, 50g/175m), 1 ball of each: Red (16), Vibrant Green (31), Off White (02)
 - A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
 - A plain beanie hat
 - Sewing needle and thread
- For yarn stockists, contact
Wool Warehouse 01926 882818
www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

MEASUREMENTS

Christmas pudding topper
measures approx 37cm (14½in)
circumference
Holly leaves measure 8cm (3in)
long

NOTES

The Cream Topper and Berries
are worked using the amigurumi
method – work in a continuous
spiral without closing off each
round with a ss. You may find it
helpful to place a marker in the
first st of each round and move it
up as you work.

ABBREVIATIONS

Leaf Point (Dc, ch4, ss into first
ch, dc) into st or sp as indicated
For a full list, see page 92.

Dressing up in silly outfits is an
essential part of festive fun, no
matter what your age. So what
could be more fun than a hat that makes
your head look like a Christmas
pudding? Becca Parker's novelty hat
embellishment is easy for anyone to
make and is sure to bring a smile of
delight to everyone's face. The cream
topper includes seemingly random
droplets for an authentic 'drizzled
cream' look, topped with holly and
berries of course. Just remember,
they're laughing with you, not at you...

C CREAM TOPPER

Using Off White, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1, 6dc into ring. [6 dc]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [12 dc]

Round 3 (1dc, 2dc in next dc) 6 times
around. [18 dc]

Round 4 (2dc, 2dc in next dc) 6 times
around. [24 dc]

Round 5 (3dc, 2dc in next dc) 6 times
around. [30 dc]

Round 6 (4dc, 2dc in next dc) 6 times
around. [36 dc]

Round 7 (5dc, 2dc in next dc) 6 times
around. [42 dc]

Round 8 (6dc, 2dc in next dc) 6 times
around. [48 dc]

Round 9 (7dc, 2dc in next dc) 6 times
around. [54 dc]

Round 10 (8dc, 2dc in next dc) 6 times
around. [60 dc]

Round 11 (9dc, 2dc in next dc) 6 times
around. [66 dc]

Round 12 (10dc, 2dc in next dc) 6 times
around. [72 dc]

Do not fasten off.

CREAM DROPLETS

The droplets of cream are now worked
one by one, back and forth in rows, as
part of the final round.

When you rejoin the yarn to work
Droplet 2 and all subsequent Droplets,
the first dc you are instructed to work
will be worked in the same stitch as the
last stitch on the end of the row of the
previous droplet.

DROPLET 1

Working in next 5 sts only: *dc in each
of next 5 dc, turn, ch1 (does not count
as st); repeat from * until droplet
measures 3cm long.

Next row 6tr in third of 5 dc, ss to last
dc. **Fasten off.**

DROPLET 2

With RS facing, rejoin yarn in st at
bottom-left edge of droplet just
worked. Ch1 (does not count as st
throughout), dc in same st, ss in each of
next 3 sts, 2dc in next st, dc in each of
next 2 sts, turn.

Next row Ch1, dc in next dc, skip 1dc,
dc in each of next 2 dc, turn. [3 dc]
Working in next 3 sts only: *Ch1, dc in
each of next 3 dc, turn; repeat from *
until droplet measures 2cm ending with
a WS row.

Next row (RS) Ch1, 5dc into second of
3 dc, ss to last dc.

Fasten off.

DROPLET 3

With RS facing, rejoin yarn in st at
bottom-left edge of droplet just
worked. Ch1, dc in same st, ss in each
of next 3 sts, 2dc in next st, dc in each
of next 4 sts, turn.

Next row Ch1, dc in next dc, skip 1dc,
dc in each of next 4 dc, turn. [5 dc]
Working in next 5 sts only: *Ch1, dc in
each of next 5 dc, turn; repeat from *
until droplet measures 4cm ending with
a WS row.

Next row (RS) Ch1, 6tr into third of 5
dc, ss to last dc.

Fasten off.

DROPLET 4

With RS facing, join yarn in st at
bottom-left edge of droplet just
worked. Ch1, dc in same st, ss in next
st, 2dc in next st, dc in each of next 6
dc, turn.

Next row Ch1, dc in each of next 7 dc,
2dc in next dc, ss in side of last droplet,
turn. [9 dc]

Next row 2dc in each of next 2 dc, 7dc,
turn. [11 dc]

Next row Ch1, dc in each of next 11 dc,
ss in side of last droplet, turn.

Next row Dc in each of next 11 dc,
turn.

Next row Ch1, dc in each of next 11 dc,
ss in side of last droplet, turn.

Next row Ss in each of next 4 dc, 2dc
in next dc, dc in each of next 6 dc, turn.
[8 dc]

Working in next 7 sts only: *Ch1, dc in
each of next 7 dc, turn; repeat from *
until droplet measures 4cm ending with
a WS row.

Next row (RS) Ch1, 9tr in fourth of 7
dc, ss to final dc. **Fasten off.**

Embellish an outfit

DROPLET 5

With RS facing, join yarn in st at bottom-left edge of droplet just worked. Ch1, dc in same st, ss in next 2 dc, 2dc in next st, dc in each of next 2 dc, turn.

Next row Ch1, dc in next dc, skip 1dc, dc in each of next 2 dc, turn. [3 dc] Working in next 3 sts only: *Ch1, dc in each of next 3 dc, turn; repeat from * until droplet measures 3cm ending with a WS row.

Next row (RS) Ch1, 5dc in second of 3 dc, ss to last dc.

Fasten off.

DROPLET 6

With RS facing, join yarn in st at bottom-left edge of droplet just worked. Ch1, dc in same st, dc in next st, ss in next 2 dc, 2dc in next st, dc in each of next 3 dc, turn.

Working in next 5 sts only: *Ch1, dc in each of next 5 dc, turn; repeat from * until droplet measures 2cm ending with a WS row.

Next row (RS) Ch1, 6tr in third of 5 dc, ss to last dc.

Fasten off.

DROPLET 7

With RS facing, join yarn in st at bottom-left edge of droplet just worked. Ch1, dc in same st, dc in next st, ss in each of next 3 dc, 2dc in next st, dc in each of next 4 dc, turn.

Next row Ch1, dc in next st, skip 1dc, dc in each of next 4 dc, turn. [5 dc]

Next row Ch1, dc in each of next 5 dc, turn.

Next row Ch1, 6tr in third of 5 dc, ss to last dc.

Fasten off.

DROPLET 8

With RS facing, join yarn in st at bottom-left edge of droplet just worked. Ch1, dc in same st, ss in next 2 dc, 2dc in next st, dc in each of next 4 dc, turn.

Next row Ch1, dc in next dc, skip 1dc, dc in each of next 4 dc, turn. [5 dc]

Working in next 5 sts only: *Ch1, dc in each of next 5 dc, turn; repeat from * until droplet measures 4cm ending with a WS row.

Next row (RS) Ch1, 6tr in third of 5 dc, ss to last dc.

Fasten off.

DROPLET 9

With RS facing, join yarn in st at bottom-left edge of droplet just worked. Ch1, dc in same st, ss in each of next 3 dc, 2dc in next st, dc in each of next 6 dc, turn.

Next row Ch1, dc in next dc, skip next dc, dc in each of next 6 dc, turn. [7 dc]

Working in next 7 sts only: *Ch1, dc in each of next 7 dc, turn; repeat from * until droplet measures 1cm ending with a WS row.

Next row (RS) Ch1, 9tr in fourth of 7 dc, ss to last dc.

Fasten off.

DROPLET 10

With RS facing, join yarn in st at bottom-left edge of droplet just worked. Ch1, dc in same st, ss in each of next 3 dc, 2dc in next st, dc in each of next 2 dc, turn. This should leave 1 st remaining between this droplet and the first.

Next row Ch1, dc in next dc, skip next dc, dc in each of next 2 dc, turn. [3 dc] Working in next 3 sts only: *Ch1, dc in each of next 3 dc, turn; repeat from * until droplet measures 5cm ending with a WS row.

Next row (RS) Ch1, 5dc in second of 3dc, ss to last dc.

Fasten off and weave in all ends.

HOLLY LEAF (MAKE 3)

Using Vibrant Green, ch14.

Round 1 Starting in second ch from hook, dc in each of next 3 ch, htr in each of next 2 ch, tr in each of next 3 ch, htr in each of next 2 ch, dc in each of next 3 ch, ch2, rotate to work into other side of foundation ch: dc in each of next 3 ch, htr in each of next 2 ch, tr in each of next 3 ch, htr into each of next 2 ch, dc in each of next 3 ch, ch2, ss into first dc. [16 sts and 2 ch-2 sps]

Round 2 Ss into next dc, dc in next dc, Leaf Point in next htr, dc in next htr, ss in next tr, dc in next tr, Leaf Point in next tr, ss in next htr, dc in next htr, Leaf Point in next dc, ss in next 2 dc, Leaf Point in next ch-2 sp, ss in next 2 dc, Leaf Point in next dc, dc in next htr, ss in next htr, Leaf Point in next tr, dc in next tr, ss in next tr, dc in next htr, Leaf Point in next htr, dc in next dc, ss in next 2 dc, ss in next ch-2 sp, ch4, (skip first ch, dc in each of next 3 ch) working back along ch-4, ss to ch-2 sp.



Try not to squash the berries when sewing them on – they should look plump and juicy.



If the whole pudding is too much, just make a few simple holly leaves to decorate your hat.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing up.

BERRY (MAKE 3)

Using Red, make a magic loop.

Round 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), 5dc into ring.

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [10 dc]

Rounds 3-4 1dc in each dc around.

Round 5 (Dc2tog) five times around. [5 dc]

Round 6 (Dc2tog) twice, 1dc.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing up.

TO MAKE UP

Using the needle and thread, carefully sew the cream topper to the top of the hat.

Arrange the leaves and berries on the top of the hat. Once you're happy with the placement, sew them in position using a needle and the long tails.

SNOW WAY

Decorate your domain with delicate snowflakes, by Louise Smith.



Winter garland



YOU WILL NEED

- Rowan Pure Linen (100% linen, 50g/130m), 1 ball of each:
Yarn A Gobi (390)
Yarn B Kalahari (391)
Yarn C Arabian (394)
Yarn D Arizona (395)

- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook

For yarn stockists, contact

Rowan 01484 681881

www.knitrowan.com

MEASUREMENTS

15cm (6in) wide and approx

160cm (63in) long

ABBREVIATIONS

Picot Ch stated number of sts (eg 4 ch for a ch-4 picot), ss into first of those ch

3-tr cluster (3-tr cl) (Yrh, insert hook in space/st indicated, yrh and pull up loop, yrh and draw through 2 loops) 3 times, inserting the hook in the same space/st each time, yrh and draw through all loops on hook

For a full list, see page 92.

Love it or hate it, snow goes hand in hand with winter. Whatever your opinion of the white stuff, we can all agree that snowflakes have a unique beauty and Louise Smith's project has really captured their intricate laciness. We used a yarn with subtle sheen to add a subtle 'watery' look – so authentic. We also love how the vibrant pink flakes stand out against the three shades of grey, to create an elegant colour scheme that's perfect for giving any room a subtle winter refresh. We can't wait for the next snow day.

NOTES

The Main Strip is worked on the RS except for Row 3.

C MAIN STRIP

Using Yarn A, ch288.

Row 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in second ch from hook and each ch to end, don't turn. [287 sts]

Fasten off Yarn A.

Join Yarn B at the start of the row.

Row 2 (RS) Starting in first st of Row 1: Ch1, dc in each st across, turn.

Row 3 (WS) Ch1, dc in each of next 2 sts, (ch2, skip next st, dc in each of next 2 sts) to end, turn. [95 ch-2 sps]

Fasten off Yarn B and join Yarn C.

Row 4 (RS) *Ss into next ch-2 sp, ch2, 3-tr cluster in same ch-2 sp, ch2, ss in same ch-2 sp; repeat from * across, don't turn. [95 clusters]

Fasten off Yarn C.

Join Yarn D at the start of the row, between the first 2 dc of Row 3.

Row 5 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr), tr in sp at base of ch, *ss in top of cluster, 2tr between the next 2 dc; repeat from * across, don't turn. [192 tr]

Fasten off Yarn D.

Join Yarn B at the start of the row, in the top of the beg ch-3 of Row 5.

Row 6 (RS) Ch1, dc in each st (including ss) across, don't turn. [287 dc]

Fasten off Yarn B.

Join Yarn A at the start of the row, in the side of the first st of Row 1.

For each picot in the following row, omit the ss, and dc in the st at the base of the ch instead.

Row 7 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc evenly along side of Main Strip, ch1, continue by working into Row 6 as follows: *1dc in each of next 3 sts, ch-4



The lacy look of the snowflakes comes from working multiple picots of different lengths.

picot, 1dc in each of next 3 sts, ch-2 picot, 1dc in each of next 3 sts, ch-8 picot, 1dc in each of next 3 sts, ch-2 picot, 1dc in each of next 3 sts, ch-4 picot, ** 1dc in each of next 3 sts, ch-6 picot; repeat from * across, ending the last repeat at **, 1dc in each of the next 2 sts, ch1, 6dc evenly along other side of Main Strip, ss in last st of Row 1.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

SNOWFLAKES

Make 4 in each colour.

Ch6, ss to first ch to make a ring.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), 12dc into ring, ss to first dc to join. [12 dc]

Round 2 Ch1, *dc in next st, (tr, ch3, tr) in next st; repeat from * around, ss to first dc to join.

When working Round 3, join each Snowflake to one of the ch-8 picots on the Main Strip. To do this, replace the second ch of each ch-4 picot on one 'branch' of the snowflake with a ss into the ch-8 picot on the Main Strip. Arrange the snowflakes randomly or in the following order: *Yarn A, Yarn B, Yarn C, Yarn D; repeat from * three more times.

Round 3 Ch1, *dc in next dc, ch-4 picot, dc in st at base of ch-4 picot, 2dc in next ch-3 sp, ch-7 picot, ch-6 picot, ch-5 picot, ch-4 picot, ch-4 picot, ss to first st of previous ch-4 picot, ch-5 picot, ss to first st of previous ch-5 picot, ch-6 picot, ss to first st of previous ch-6 picot, ch-7 picot, ss to first st of previous ch-7 picot, 2dc in same ch-3 sp; repeat from * around, ss to first dc to join.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

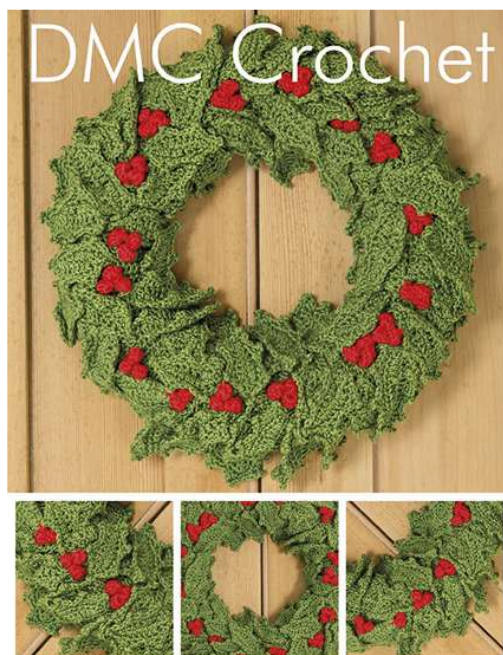
Press gently using a damp cloth.

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Baby blazer



SUNDAY BEST

Treat a special child to a very cute, blazer-style
crochet jacket. Designed by Sue Whiting.

Baby blazer



YOU WILL NEED

- Rowan Wool Cotton (50% wool, 50% cotton, 50g/113m), French Navy (909), see table for yarn quantities and measurements
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- 4 buttons

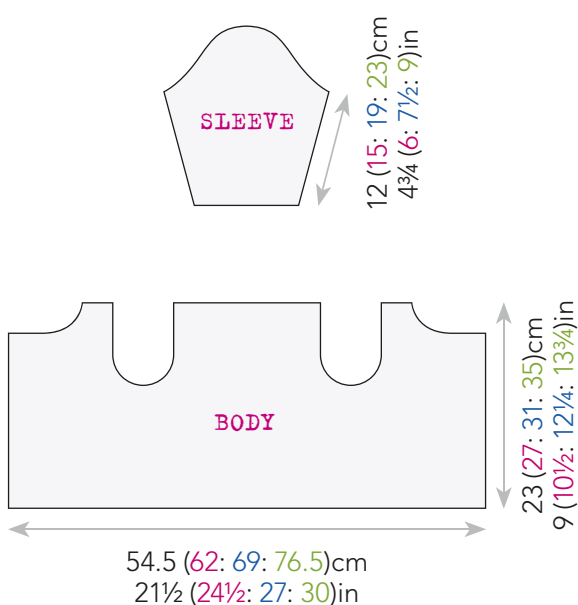
For yarn stockists, contact
Rowan 01484 681881
www.knitrowan.com

TENSION

17 stitches and 14 rows to
10x10cm (4x4in) measured over
pattern using 3.5mm hook

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.



Perfect for any special occasion, your little one will look so smart in this blazer. Designer Sue Whiting says: "Styled to echo a classic nautical blazer, this double-breasted jacket is made in a machine-washable yarn. The simple textured stitch combines just trebles and double crochet while the jolly brass buttons complete the stylish look." It's sized for newborns up to 18 months, and you can make it so that the buttons do up on the right for a boy or on the left for a girl. Either way, they'll be the centre of attention.

NOTES

As there are no edgings on this garment, it is important to keep the outer finished edges neat.

DECREASE NOTES

To dec 1 st at beg of row, work: 1ss into each of first 2 sts, make appropriate turning ch – this may or may not count as st depending on point in patt; if it does count as a st, skip st at base of turning ch; if it does not count as a st, work appropriate st into st at base of turning ch.

To dec 1 st at end of row, simply turn one st before end of row, leaving decreased st unworked.

To work a multiple dec at beg of row, break and **fasten off** yarn.

Skip the appropriate number of sts and rejoin yarn to next st, make appropriate turning ch (depending on point in patt) and complete row.

To work a multiple dec at the end of a row, simply turn the required number of

sts before the end of the row, leaving the decreased sts unworked.

INCREASE NOTES

Work all increases at beg and end of rows by working 2 sts into one st of previous row. Remember patt alternates between a dc and a tr and work sts accordingly. If first st of new row should be a dc, inc will be: "Ch3 (counts as tr), 1dc into st at base of ch-3." If first st of new row should be a tr, inc will be: "Ch1 (does not count as st), (1dc and 1tr) into st at base of ch-1."

C BODY

Worked in one piece to armholes.
Ch93 (107: 121: 135).

Row 1 (RS) 1dc into second ch from hook, *1tr into next ch**, 1dc into next ch; rep from * to end, ending last rep at **, turn. [92 (106: 120: 134) sts]

Now work in patt as follows:

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), 1dc into tr at base of ch-1, *1tr into next dc**, 1dc into next tr; rep from * to end, ending last rep at **, turn.

Row 2 forms pattern.

Work in pattern for a further 4 (6: 8: 10) rows, ending with RS facing for next row.

GIRLS' VERSION ONLY

Buttonhole row (RS) Work in patt over each of next 2 sts, ch1, skip 1 st (forms first buttonhole of first pair – on next row, work appropriate st into this ch-sp), work in patt over each of next 6 (8: 10: 12) sts, ch1, skip 1 st (forms second buttonhole of first pair – on

SIZE		0-3 mnths	3-6 mnths	6-12 mnths	12-18 mnths
TO FIT CHEST	cm	41	46	51	56
	in	16	18	20	22
ACTUAL CHEST	cm	47	54	61	68
	in	18½	21¼	24	26¾
LENGTH	cm	23	27	31	35
	in	9	10½	12¼	13¾
SLEEVE LENGTH	cm	12	15	19	23
	in	4¾	6	7½	9
YARN	50g balls	4	4	5	5

To make this pattern easier to follow, we've colour-coded the sizing instructions – simply follow the relevant column.

Baby blazer

next row, work appropriate st into this ch-sp), work in patt to end, turn.

BOYS' VERSION ONLY

Buttonhole row (RS) Work in patt to last 10 (12: 14: 16) sts, ch1, skip 1 st (forms first buttonhole of first pair – on next row, work appropriate st into this ch-sp), work in patt over each of next 6 (8: 10: 12) sts, ch1, skip 1 st (forms second buttonhole of first pair – on next row, work appropriate st into this ch-sp), work in patt over each of last 2 sts, turn.

BOTH VERSIONS

Work in patt for next 7 (9: 9: 11) rows, ending with RS facing for next row. Rep the Buttonhole Row once more.

Cont straight until Body measures 13 (16: 19: 22)cm, ending with RS facing for next row.

DIVIDE FOR ARMHOLES

Next row (RS) Work in patt over each of next 24 (28: 31: 35) sts and turn, leaving rem sts unworked. Work on these 24 (28: 31: 35) sts only for Right Front.

RIGHT FRONT

Keeping patt correct, dec 1 st at armhole edge of next 4 (5: 6: 7) rows. [20 (23: 25: 28) sts]
Cont straight until armhole measures 6 (7: 7: 8)cm, ending with RS facing for next row.

SHAPE NECK

Keeping patt correct, dec 10 (12: 13: 15) sts at front opening edge of next row. [10 (11: 12: 13) sts]
Dec 1 st at neck edge of next 4 rows, then on foll 0 (0: 1: 1) alt row. [6 (7: 7: 8) sts]
Cont straight until armhole measures 10 (11: 12: 13)cm, ending with RS facing for next row.
Fasten off.

SHAPE BACK

Return to last complete row worked, skip next 4 (4: 6: 6) sts, join yarn to next st, work in patt over each of next 36 (42: 46: 52) sts and turn, leaving rem sts unworked. Work on these 36 (42: 46: 52) sts only for Back.

Keeping patt correct, dec 1 st at each end of next 4 (5: 6: 7) rows. [28 (32: 34: 38) sts]

Cont straight until armhole measures 10 (11: 12: 13)cm, ending with RS facing for next row.

Fasten off, placing markers either side of centre 16 (18: 20: 22) sts to denote Back Neck.

LEFT FRONT

Return to last complete row worked, skip next 4 (4: 6: 6) sts, join yarn to next st, work in patt to end. [24 (28: 31: 35) sts]
Complete to match Right Front, reversing all shapings.

SLEEVES (MAKE 2)

Ch21 (23: 25: 27).
Work Rows 1-2 as given for Body. [20 (22: 24: 26) sts]
Cont in patt, shaping sides by inc 1 st at each end of next and foll 5 (4: 3: 2) alt rows, then on 0 (2: 4: 6) foll third rows. [32 (36: 40: 44) sts]
Cont straight until Sleeve measures 12 (15: 19: 23)cm, ending with RS facing for next row.

SHAPE TOP

Keeping patt correct, dec 2 (2: 3: 3) sts at each end of next row. [28 (32: 34: 38) sts]
Dec 1 st at each end of next 9 (11: 11: 13) rows, ending with RS facing for next row. [10 (10: 12: 12) sts]
Fasten off.

TO MAKE UP

Join shoulder seams.

COLLAR

Ch39 (43: 49: 53).
Work Rows 1-2 as given for Body. [38 (42: 48: 52) sts]
Cont in patt for 4 rows, ending with RS facing for next row.
Place markers at both ends of last row.
Dec 5 (6: 7: 7) sts at end of next 2 rows, then dec 6 (6: 7: 8) sts at end of next 2 rows. [16 (18: 20: 22) sts]
Fasten off.

Mark points along neck shaping 6 (7: 8: 9) sts in from front opening edges. Matching markers, sew shaped upper edge of Collar to neck edge between these points.



Four shiny gold buttons give the baby blazer a polished finish and a preppy feel.

TO FINISH

Join sleeve seams.
Matching top of sleeve seam to centre of sts missed at underarm and centre of last row of Sleeve to shoulder seam, sew Sleeves into armholes.

Sew on the 4 buttons so that the front opening edges overlap by 12 (14: 16: 18) sts.



This sweet jacket pattern is from the book *Weekend Crochet for Babies*, by Sue Whiting, published by New Holland (RRP £14.99). You can find out more

at www.newhollandpublishers.com

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HOOK A STITCH

BASKET WEAVE

Discover a new stitch and how to use it in every issue.



BASIC BASKET WEAVE STITCH PATTERN

The stitch pattern is worked over a multiple of 8 sts.

For this sample, we used 24 sts.

Ch26.

Row 1 (RS) Starting in the fourth ch from hook, tr in each ch across, turn. [24 tr]

Rows 2-4 Ch2 (does not count as tr), (1FPtr around each of next 4 sts, 1BPtr around each of next 4 sts) to end, turn.

Rows 5-7 Ch2 (does not count as tr),

(BPtr around each of next 4 sts, FPtr around each of next 4 sts) to end, turn. Rows 2-7 set pattern.

Patterns by Kath Webber.

Turn the page for more ideas using this stitch pattern. ➡



Stay warm in style this winter with our three fur-trimmed makes using brilliant basket weave stitch.



Started a hat but not finished it? Give it the basket weave treatment.



We're bringing foxy back. Combining faux fur with cosy tweed is the secret.

HAND MUFFLER

Keep fingers cosy with this retro muff à la Julie Christie in Dr Zhivago.

- Debbie Bliss Donegal Luxury Tweed Aran (90% wool, 10% angora, 50g/88m), 2 balls of Gold (36)
- King Cole Luxe Fur (100% nylon, 100g/110m), 1 ball of Polar (1040)
- A 5mm (US H/8) hook

MEASUREMENTS

28cm (11in) wide, 30cm (11¾in) circumf

MUFF

Worked from side to side.

Using tweed yarn, ch48, ss to first ch, being careful not to twist.

When working basic patt, at the end of each round, ss to first st and do not turn.

Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr), 1tr into each st around, ss to beg ch-3. [48 sts]

Rounds 2-29 Work in basic pattern.

Fasten off tweed yarn, join fur yarn.

Rounds 30-31 Ch3 (counts as tr), 1tr into each st around, ss to beg ch-3.

Fasten off.

EDGING

Rejoin fur yarn to any st of foundation ch and work as for Rounds 30 and 31 above.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

CORD

Fasten a single strand of yarn to each side of the Muff, or make a chain.

TEXTURED HAT

Give a classic winter warmer a fresh feel with basket weave texture.

- Debbie Bliss Donegal Luxury Tweed Aran (90% wool, 10% angora, 50g/88m), 2 balls of Gold (36)
- King Cole Luxe Fur (100% nylon, 100g/110m), 1 ball of Polar (1040)
- A 5mm (US H/8) hook

MEASUREMENTS

18cm (7in) high, 53cm (20¾in) circumf

BOBBLE HAT

Using tweed yarn, ch4, join with a ss to form a ring.

When working basic patt, at the end of each round, ss to first st and do not turn.

Round 1 Ch3 (counts as tr), 11tr into ring, ss to beg ch-3 to join. [12 sts]

Rounds 2-6 Work 5 more rounds in tr, increasing evenly by 12 sts on each round. [72 sts]

Rounds 7-18 Ch2 (does not count as tr), work in basic patt for 12 rounds.

Fasten off tweed yarn, join fur yarn.

Round 19 Ch1 (does not count as dc), 1dc into each st around, ss to first dc to join.

Rounds 20-23 Ch3 (counts as tr), 1tr into each st around, ss to beg ch-3.

Fasten off and weave in all ends.

Make a 6.5cm-diameter pompom with fur yarn and attach to top of hat.

CLASSIC COWL

Keep warm with this soft and cosy cowl for crisp winter's mornings.

- Debbie Bliss Donegal Luxury Tweed Aran (90% wool, 10% angora, 50g/88m), 2 balls of Gold (36)
- King Cole Luxe Fur (100% nylon, 100g/110m), 1 ball of Polar (1040)
- A 5mm (US H/8) hook

For yarn stockists, contact Designer Yarns www.designeryarns.uk.com or King Cole www.kingcole.com

MEASUREMENTS

20cm (7¾in) high, 60cm (23½in) circumference

COWL

Using tweed yarn, ch96, ss to first ch, being careful not to twist.

When working basic patt, at the end of each round, ss to first st and do not turn.

Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr), 1tr into each st around, ss to beg ch-3. [96 sts]

Rounds 2-18 Work in basic pattern.

Fasten off tweed yarn, join fur yarn.

Rounds 19-20 Ch3 (counts as tr), 1tr into each st around, ss to beg ch-3.

Fasten off.

Rejoin fur yarn to any st of foundation ch.

Edging round 1 Ch3 (counts as 1tr), 1tr into each ch around, ss to beg ch-3.

Edging round 2 Ch3 (counts as tr), 1tr into each st around, ss to beg ch-3.

Fasten off and weave in all ends.

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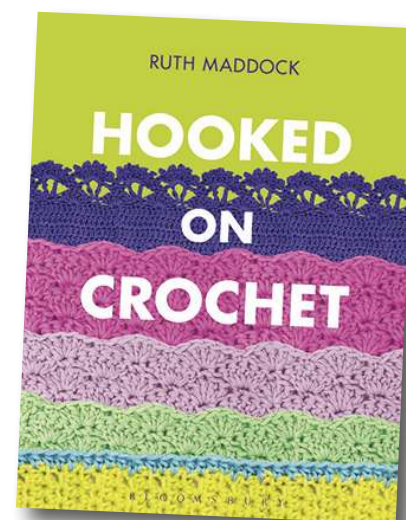


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BLUE STEEL

Stay warm this winter underneath
Helen Ardley's starry blanket.



Winter blanket



YOU WILL NEED

- Cascade 220 Heathers (100g/200m, 100% Peruvian highland wool), 6 hanks of Indigo Frost

- A 5mm (US H/8) hook

For yarn stockists, contact
Wool Warehouse 01926 882818
www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

MEASUREMENTS

Each square measures 26x26cm
(10¼x10¼in)

Finished blanket measures
80x108cm (31½x42½in)

ABBREVIATIONS

5-tr cluster (5-tr cl) (Yrh, insert hook in sp/st, yrh and pull up a loop, yrh and draw through 2 loops) 5 times, inserting hook in same sp/st, yrh and draw through all loops on hook

For a full list, see page 92

When the weather turns icy, there's nothing for it but to cosy up with your favourite film and this blanket project. The lacy treble rounds are quick to work and as it grows, it'll keep you warm while the temperature drops. In fact, you might not even notice the cold while you're hooking the pretty heathered yarn from Cascade, which has warm flecks of grey mixed with frosty blue. A perfect blend.

C SQUARE (MAKE 12)

Ch4, ss to first ch to form a ring.

Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as first tr), 7tr into ring, ss to top of beg ch-3.

[8 sts]

Round 2 Ch3 (counts as first tr), tr into st at base of ch-3, 2tr into each tr around, ss to top of beg ch-3.

[16 sts]

Round 3 Ch3 (counts as first tr), tr into st at base of ch-3, 2tr into each tr around, ss to top of beg ch-3.

[32 sts]

Round 4 Ch4 (counts as tr, ch1), 5-tr cl into next tr, (ch1, tr into next tr, ch1, 5-tr cl into next tr) around, ss to third of beg ch-4.

[16 tr, 16 5-tr cl]

Round 5 Ch3 (counts as first tr), 2tr into st at base of ch-3, *(ch3, dc into top of first 5-tr cl, (ch6, dc into top of next 5-tr cl) 3 times, ch3, 3tr into top of next tr;

rep from * twice more, ch3, dc into top of next 5-tr cl, (ch6, dc in next 5-tr cl) 3 times, ch3, ss to top of beg ch-3.

[3 ch-6 sp each side, 3tr each corner]

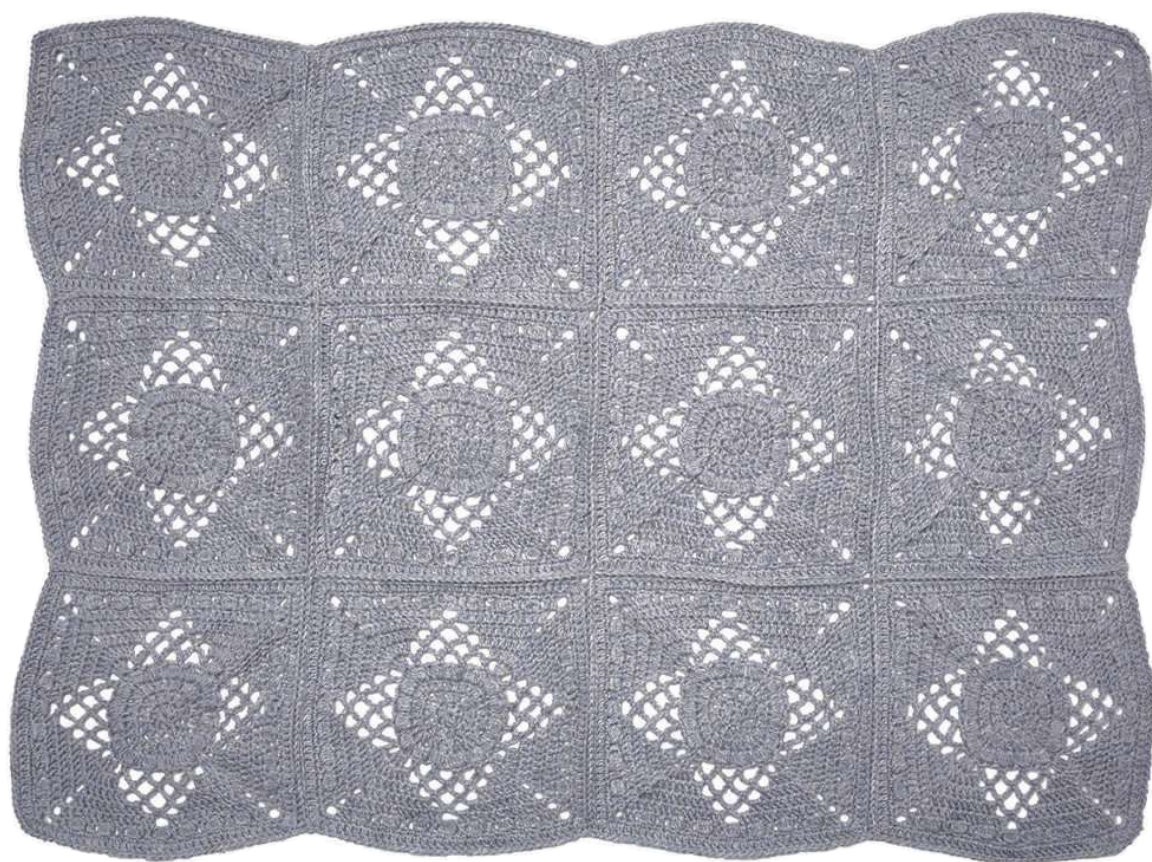
Round 6 Ch3 (counts as first tr), tr into st at base of ch-3, tr into next tr, 2tr into next tr, *2tr into ch-3 sp, ch3, dc into ch-6 sp, (ch6, dc into next ch-6 sp) twice, ch3, 2tr into next ch-3 sp, 2tr into next tr, tr into next tr, 2tr into next tr; rep from * twice more, 2tr into next ch-3 sp, ch3, dc into next ch-6 sp, (ch6, dc into next ch-6 sp) twice, ch3, 2tr into next ch-3 sp, ss to top of beg ch-3.

[2 ch-6 sp each side, 9 tr each corner]

Round 7 Ch3 (counts as first tr), tr into next tr, (tr, ch3, tr) into next tr, tr into each of next 4 tr, *2tr into next ch-3 sp, ch3, dc into next ch-6 sp, ch6, dc into next ch-6 sp, ch3, 2tr into next ch-3 sp, tr into each of next 4 tr, (tr, ch3, tr) into next tr, tr into each of next 4 tr; rep from * twice more, 2tr into next ch-3 sp, ch3, dc into next ch-6 sp, ch6, dc into next ch-6 sp, ch3, 2tr into next ch-3 sp, tr into each of next 2 tr, ss to top of beg ch-3.

[1 ch-6 sp each side, 14 tr and ch-3 sp each corner]

Round 8 Ch3 (counts as first tr), tr into each of next 2 tr, (tr, ch3, tr) into ch-3 sp, *tr into each of next 7 tr, 2tr into next ch-3 sp, ch3, dc into next ch-6 sp, ch3, 2tr into next ch-3 sp, tr into each



Winter blanket

of next 7 tr, (tr, ch3, tr) into ch-3 sp; rep from * twice more, tr into each of next 7 tr, 2tr into next ch-3 sp, ch3, dc into next ch-6 sp, ch3, 2tr into next ch-3 sp, tr into each of next 4 tr, ss to top of beg ch-3.

[2 ch-3 sp each side, 20 tr and ch-3 sp each corner]

Round 9 Ch3 (counts as first tr), tr into each of next 3 tr, (tr, ch3, tr) into ch-3 sp, *tr into each of next 10 tr, 2tr into next ch-3 sp, ch3, 2tr into next ch-3 sp, tr into each of next 10 tr, (tr, ch3, tr) into ch-3 sp; rep from * twice, tr into each of next 10 tr, 2tr into next ch-3 sp, ch3, 2tr into next ch-3 sp, tr into each of next 6 tr, ss to top of beg ch-3.

[1 ch-3 sp each side, 26 tr and ch-3 sp each corner]

Round 10 Ch4 (counts as tr, ch1), skip 1 tr, 5-tr cl into next tr, ch1, skip 1 tr, tr into next tr, *(tr, ch3, tr) into corner ch-3 sp, tr into next tr, (ch1, skip 1 tr, 5-tr cl into next tr, ch1, skip 1 tr, tr into next tr) 3 times, ch1, 5-tr cl into next ch-3 sp, ch1, tr into next tr, (ch1, skip 1 tr, 5-tr cl into next tr, ch1, skip 1 tr, tr into next tr) 3 times; rep from * twice more, (tr, ch3, tr) into corner ch-3 sp, tr into next tr, (ch1, skip 1 tr, 5-tr cl into next tr, ch1, skip 1 tr, tr into next tr) 3 times, ch1, 5-tr cl into next ch-3 sp, (ch1, tr into next tr, ch1, skip 1 tr, 5-tr cl into next tr) twice, ch1, ss to third ch of beg ch-4.

[31 sts each side, 4 corner ch-3 sps]

Round 11 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc into each st and ch around, working

3dc into corner ch-3 sps, ss to first dc to join.

[136 sts]

Round 12 Ch3 (counts as first tr), tr into each st around, working 3tr into each corner st, ss to top of beg ch-3.

[144 sts]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO MAKE UP

Place two squares WS tog and rejoin yarn to back loop of one corner st. Ch1 (does not count as st), insert hook in back loop of first tr and back loop of opposite tr on other square and work 1 dc. Work dc sts through the back loops of each stitch – at the end of this one edge, pick up another two squares and join in the same way as above. Repeat to join another two squares.

Repeat the above to join the rem 6 squares. Join the rem edges as above, to form a blanket 4x3 squares. When all squares are joined, rejoin yarn to any outer stitch. Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st around, with 3dc in each corner st.

Fasten off and weave in ends.



The combination of treble clusters and lacy chains creates different levels of texture.

SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO WORK A CLUSTER STITCH (3-TR CLUSTER)



1 Start a treble in the next stitch or space in the usual way: yrh, insert hook, yrh, pull loop through (3 loops on hook), yrh, pull through first 2 loops (2 loops on hook). Stop here, without finishing.



2 Start a 2nd treble in the same stitch/space: yrh, insert hook in the same stitch again, yrh, pull loop through (4 loops on hook), yrh and pull through first 2 loops (3 loops on hook). Stop here.



3 Start a 3rd treble: yrh, insert hk in same stitch, yrh, pull loop through, yrh, pull through first 2 loops (4 loops on hook). Now finish all three part tr tog: yrh, pull loop through all 4 loops on hook.



4 This is how your completed 3-tr cluster should look. For a 5-tr cluster, work 2 more part treble sts before you finish the cluster. On the next row, you can just work a stitch into the top of the cluster as usual.



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OH DEER ME

Hook a duo of covers for your crafty jar gifts –
Pinterest eat your heart out. By Pamela Dajczak.

Jar cosies



YOU WILL NEED

- Lion Brand Bonbons (100% cotton, 26m/10g)
- For Reindeer cosy:**
- 2 (3) skeins of Yarn A Chocolate Brown
- 1 (1) skein of each: Yarn B Tan, Yarn C Red, Yarn D White
- For Bauble cosy**
- 2 (3) skeins of Yarn A Green
- 1 (1) skein of each: Yarn B Red, Yarn C White
- A 3.75mm (US F/5) hook
- Tapestry needle
- Mason jars, pint or quart
- Buttons, three 1.25cm-diameter buttons for closing, for each Cosy
- Buttons, two 5cm-diameter black buttons for reindeer eyes

For yarn stockists, contact Deramores 0800 488 0708 www.deramores.com

TENSION

12 Star sts x 16 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) (adjust hook size if necessary to obtain tension)

MEASUREMENTS

Pint 9x25cm/3½x10in

Quart 9x30cm/3½x12in

YARN NOTE

Lion Brand Bonbons is only available in multipacks. As an alternative, you could use Rico Essentials Cotton DK.

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

With this project, you can take your pick from two festive embellishments: reindeer or Christmas bauble, and each can be made to fit around pint or quart-sized jars. The cosies are designed by Pamela Dajczak and feature in Salena Baca's new book, *Crochet for Christmas*. Design Wars co-ordinator Salena says: "A whimsical crocheted cosy on your Mason jar gift will make it stand out. The time you put into a thoughtful handmade gift is what makes it extra-special to the recipient."

NOTES

Rows 1-4 of Cosy Base comprise the Star Stitch. Study these rows to familiarise yourself with this stitch.

SPECIAL STITCHES

Surface Crochet

Insert hook from front through fabric at desired starting point and draw up a loop. Insert hook in next st and draw up a loop. Draw loop through loop on hook to complete one ss. Continue making slip stitches, maintaining tension and spacing and referring to pictures as reference. To finish, **fasten off** and weave in ends on WS.

C COSY BASE

Make 1 for each design you are working.

Using Yarn, ch23 (29).

Row 1 Insert hook in third ch from hook and pick up a loop, pick up a loop in each of the next 4 ch (6 loops on hook), yrh and pull through all loops on hook (star made), ch1 (this forms the eye of the star), *pick up a loop in the eye of the last star, pick up a loop in the back loop of the last star, pick up a loop in the same ch as the last star, pick up a loop in the next 2 ch (6 loops on hook), yrh and pull through all loops on hook, ch1; rep from * across, htr in same ch as last star st, turn. [9 (12) star sts]

Row 2 Ch1, dc in first st, dc in eye of first star st, *2dc in eye of next star st; rep from * across, dc in top of turning ch, turn. [19 (25) sts]

Row 3 Ch2, pick up a loop in the front loop of 2nd ch from hook, pick up a loop in the back loop of the 2nd ch from hook, pick up a loop in each of the next 3 sts (6 loops on hook), yrh and pull through all loops on hook, ch1,

*pick up a loop in the eye of the last star, pick up a loop in the back loop of the last star, pick up a loop in the same st as the last star, pick up a loop in the next 2 sts (6 loops on hook), yrh and pull through all loops on hook, ch1; rep from * across, htr in same st as last star st, turn. [9 (12) star sts]

Row 4 Ch1, dc in first st, dc in eye of first star st, *2dc in eye of next star st; rep from * across, dc in top of turning ch, turn. [19 (25) sts]

Repeat Rows 3-4 until cosy measures 24 (28)cm long.

Next row Ch1, dc across, turn. [19 (25) sts]

Pint Size Only

Next row Ch1, dc in first 4 sts, (ch1, skip 1 st, dc in next 4 sts) 3 times, turn. [19 sts]

Quart Size Only

Next row Ch1, dc in first 5 sts, (ch1, skip 1 st, dc in next 6 sts) 2 times, ch1, skip 1 st, dc in last 5 sts, turn. [25 sts]

Both Sizes

Next row Ch1 (does not count as st), dc evenly around the entire cosy working 3dc in each corner st and each ch-1 space, ss to first dc to join.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

Attach the three closure buttons on the RS of the Cosy, at the opposite end from the buttonholes, placing them 1.25cm apart so that they line up with the buttonholes.

REINDEER

EARS (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn A, ch5.

Round 1 Dc in 2nd ch from hook, htr in each of next 2 ch, 3dc in last ch, rotate to work on the opposite side of the foundation ch, htr in each of next 2 ch, dc in last ch, join with a ss to first dc. [9 sts]

Row 2 Ch1, dc around entire ear.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing onto the Cosy Base.

LEFT ANTLER

Using Yarn B, ch10.

Row 1 3htr in 2nd ch from hook, dc in each of next 3 ch, ch3, 2dc in 2nd ch from hook, dc in next ch, ss to next st

Jar cosies

to join to main part of Antler, dc in next 3 sts, 3dc in last st, rotate to work on opposite side of the foundation ch, dc in next 6 sts, ch2, 2dc in 2nd ch from hook, ss to next st to join back to main part of Antler, dc in last ch, ss to first dc to join. [24 sts]

Row 2 Slip stitch around entire Antler.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for attaching to Cosy Base.

RIGHT ANTLER

Using Yarn B, ch10.

Row 1 3htr in 2nd ch from hook, dc in next ch, ch2, 2dc in 2nd ch from hook, ss to next st to join back to main part of Antler, dc in next 5 sts, 3dc in next st, rotate to work on opposite side of foundation ch, dc in each of next 4 sts, ch3, 2dc in 2nd ch from hook, dc in next, ss to next st to join back to main part of Antler, dc in next 3 sts, ss to first dc to join. [24 sts]

Row 2 Slip stitch around entire Antler.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for attaching to Cosy Base.

NOSE

Using Yarn C, make a magic loop.

Row 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), into the loop work: dc, htr, 3tr, htr, dc, htr, 3tr, htr, ss to first dc to join. [12 sts]

Row 2 Ch1, dc in each of first 3 sts, 2dc in next st, dc in each of next 5 sts, 2dc in next st, dc in each of last 2 sts, ss to first dc to join. [14 sts]

Row 3 Slip stitch around entire nose.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing to Cosy Base.

Using Yarn D and a tapestry needle, add a small, straight stitch in one corner to add detail.

EYES (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn D, make a magic loop.

Row 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), into the loop work: 3htr, 5dc, ss to first htr to join. [8 sts]

Row 2 Ch1, 2dc in first 3 sts, dc in last 5 sts, ss in first st to join. [11 sts]

Row 3 Slip stitch around entire eye.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing to Cosy Base.

Attach a small black button near the bottom of the eye.

TO FINISH

Using a tapestry needle and the long

tails, attach pieces to the Cosy as follows:

Attach the Eyes side by side on the Cosy so the top of the Eyes are 2.5cm (1in) down from the top and centred halfway between the buttonholes and the buttons.

Sew on the Nose just below the Eyes so the top of the Nose is touching them.

Sew on the Antlers approx 0.5cm above the Eyes and 4cm apart.

Attach the Ears just below and to the side (but still touching) the Antlers.

Weave in all ends.

BAUBLE

Using Yarn B, make a magic loop.

Row 1 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), 8dc into the loop. [8 sts]

Row 2 *2dc in each dc; rep from * around. [16 sts]

Row 3 *Dc in next st, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [24 sts]

Row 4 *Dc in next 2 sts, 2dc in next st; rep from * around, ss to first dc to join. [32 sts]

Change to Yarn C.

Row 5 Ch1, dc in first 5 sts, turn. [5 sts]

Row 6 Ch1, dc2tog, dc, dc2tog. [3 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for attaching to Cosy Base.

TO FINISH

Using a tapestry needle and long tail, sew the Bauble to the Cosy Base on an angle and approximately 1.25cm up from the bottom of the Cosy, making sure that it is centred halfway between the buttons and buttonholes.

With Yarn C and your hook, attach the yarn just above the Bauble and surface crochet a tiny hook of around 6 sts at the top of your Bauble so that it looks like a Christmas ball.

Using a tapestry needle and Yarn C, make 2 small straight stitches on top of the Bauble to look like light reflecting off the surface of your Bauble.



These jar cosy patterns are from *Crochet for Christmas* by Salena Baca, published by Stackpole Books. It's £14.99 and is available from Amazon. See www.stackpolebooks.com for further details.



A cosy-covered jar filled with sweets, jam or craft goodies makes a thoughtful gift.



Love the star stitch effect? Leave off the embellishment and let your stitches shine.

"Pick a beautiful skein and make something warm."



WINTER SURVIVAL GUIDE

Pinterest, onesies and a whole lot of chunky yarn – some of our favourite crochet superstars spill the beans about their creative winter survival habits to help you through the season.

Whether your winter's shaping up to be busy with holiday prep, hosting, travelling or working, we're pretty sure you'll be taking some refuge with your hook and yarn, too. We've had a good natter with some of our favourite crocheters to find out how they survive the long, chilly months and more importantly, what they'll be hooking to stay cosy.

FESTIVE AND FRANTIC

Working on a queue of handmade pressies in time for December 25 can be stressful. Add in other holiday commitments and

gloomy weather and you've got a recipe for a crafter who's about ready to drop. So how do we avoid burnout? Planning ahead is one idea. Cherry Heart blogger Sandra Paul (www.sandra-cherryheart.blogspot.co.uk) is a very organised maker. "I'm one of those annoying people gets gifts all sorted nice and early," she admits. "That way, I can relax a little and soak up the holiday atmosphere during December."

Queen of amigurumi Stephanie Lau (www.allaboutami.com) is just the same. "I plan ahead so I know what items I want to make for each person. Last year, I gave my family crochet mittens and started making

them months in advance, so I wasn't scrambling at the last minute." This does sound ideal. "Time is a rarity with young children," she adds, "so we try to plan ahead and be selective about events we attend and avoid overbooking ourselves."

But what if we've already left it to the last minute or feel a bit overwrought? Regular *Simply Crochet* contributor Kath Webber (see her collection of basketweave makes on page 59) advises taking time out, where possible. "The best way to keep calm is to curl up with a much-loved blanket," she says. "Put on an old movie and make something quick and satisfying. It helps me

feel as though I have achieved something, even if it's small! A little amigurumi project or set of coasters is ideal."

Quick and easy makes are the order of the day, it seems, for last-minute stitchers (don't worry – we're guilty, too). In fact, you may be surprised both by what you can achieve under pressure and how much solace your hook can bring. A few stitches here and there can be enough to keep things progressing. And while we might not be as organised as we'd like, remember that we crochet because we love it and the holidays are there to be enjoyed.

THE PERFECT YARN FOR THE JOB

If you need to churn out projects quickly, super-cosy chunky yarns are ideal so it's no wonder they're at the top of most winter wish lists for our star crocheters. "I love using bulky yarn for cosy creations," says Stephanie. "Some of my favourites include

Lion Brand Yarn's Woolspun and Loops & Threads' Woollike Chunky. Nothing says snugly like thick yarn. It can keep you warm and has a very modern, stylish look." Kath's in agreement and says: "I love how quickly a pattern can be worked up with a 10mm hook and some Rowan Big Wool or Debbie Bliss Roma.

I like layering up with chunky makes and find DROPS Eskimo and Nepal yarns great for cosy accessories."

Matching up your stash treasures with exciting projects is all part of the fun. Once you've amassed some new goodies or unearthed a few old reliables, what can you hook with them? "I'll be making a lot of chunky, oversized projects with large crochet hooks," reveals Stephanie. "I love

designing wearable items in winter, such as cowls, sweaters and, this year, plenty of headbands because they're so stylish!"

Meanwhile, designer Ilaria Caliri (www.besenseless.blogspot.co.uk) has a garment in mind for the season ahead.

"I've just bought a bag of fluffy mohair-wool mix to make a jumper for myself. I think it will take me all winter! I'll work on it in between other projects, like winter accessories and amigurumi. In the last few months, I've

"I LOVE NATURAL, GOOD-QUALITY YARNS, IT'S THE FIRST STEP TO A PERFECT CREATION."

collected some beautiful skeins of yarn and I'm excited to use them." She's also a big believer in using the most appropriate fibre for each project. "I love natural, good-quality yarns, it's the first step to a perfect creation! Each kind is perfect for a



Opposite: Ilaria Caliri has stacks of cosy accessories. **This page, clockwise from left:** Stephanie Lau loves using extra-bulky yarn for cosy creations; Kath Webber keeps a small hot water bottle nearby to warm up her cold fingers; Ilaria Caliri has treated herself to a bag of mohair-wool mix yarn for winter.



This page, clockwise from left: Ilaria makes winter accessories while learning new skills, like this tapestry crochet neckwarmer; making a gingerbread house is tradition for Ilaria and she's even made a crochet version; Stephanie Lau loves extra-bulky yarn for cosy creations.



specific pattern: cotton for amigurumi, alpaca and wool for accessories."

The projects you choose are also key to your happy this winter and while staying warm is important, it's not the only consideration. "This winter, I'm planning to make a shawl to keep out the January chill and some super-chunky slippers," Kath says, adding: "I have friends who are expecting babies, so I find it's also a nice time of year to hook up something soft and colourful on a grey day, like a baby blanket or cardigan."

IT'S TRADITION

The familiar little activities that we look forward to year after year are often the real bright spots of winter. For Ilaria, these rituals are centred around the kitchen. "In

Italy, we love cooking Christmas recipes together and decorating the tree," she explains. "I've added a new tradition in recent years – every December now, I make a gingerbread house and decorate it with white icing. Last year, I also crocheted a gingerbread house. It wasn't edible but it was just as sweet!"

One to eat and one to keep – great idea.

Sandra's own winter habits involve a bit of creativity and a bit of relaxation.

"We have lots of new and old traditions.

Decorating the tree is a real family event and usually takes a whole weekend," she says. "Another favourite is snuggling up under the Christmas quilt, watching a film with hot chocolate while the lights twinkle. I can also guarantee I'll make a pair of wristwarmers at some point. I am addicted

to them. I love the snuggly warmth they give and they are perfect for wearing with shorter-sleeved cardigans and jumpers."

Keeping the family cosy is an annual challenge, but it's one Stephanie delights in. "I love making hats for my little girls every winter – they grow so fast and always outgrow the previous year's crochet items. Matching with my girls is so much fun and I enjoy adapting patterns for different sizes or using the same yarn with different patterns! One of our Christmas traditions as a family is to wear our matching plaid onesies the entire Christmas Day as we open presents!" Not all little ones are such happy recipients of handmade woollies, though, as Kath admits: "I make hats for my kids every winter, which they never wear!"

GO-TO REMEDIES

Once the sparkle of Christmas and New Year fades, there's still another few chilly months to face. For Canada resident

"ONE TRADITION AS A FAMILY IS TO WEAR MATCHING PLAID ONESIES ON CHRISTMAS DAY."

Stephanie, there's even snow to contend with, but it can be a blessing. "We try to embrace it by enjoying tobogganing, making snowmen and snow angels, and other outdoor activities while the weather is not too extreme," she explains. "It's wonderful to experience these things with our children. There's nothing quite like seeing a child's eyes fill with wonder as they see and play with snow for the first time!"

And this is where those warm crochet accessories come into play. "Layering is key when dressing for cold weather," adds Stephanie. "The items I crochet play a big part in this because my hats, cowls and mittens really help keep us warm and then

are easily removed when transitioning to a warmer area." When January gloom really takes hold, there's nothing for it but to reach for the crochet. Stephanie's got it all figured out. "When we have very cold weather and it's best to stay indoors, that's the perfect time for crochet. This is why everyone picks up their hooks again in winter – it's often too cold to enjoy the outdoors and cosy items are needed!"

Taking pure joy in yarn itself is another way to combat the January blues. "I pick a beautiful skein from my stash, wind it into a ball and start something like a shawl or accessory that will keep me warm," says Ilaria. "But the best remedy is a yarn-shopping session, obviously!" She adds: "I have a folder and

a Pinterest board where I put patterns I'd love to make that I find on blogs, Ravelry and Pinterest. This is my safety net when I want to start a new project immediately, or need a dose of beautiful things."

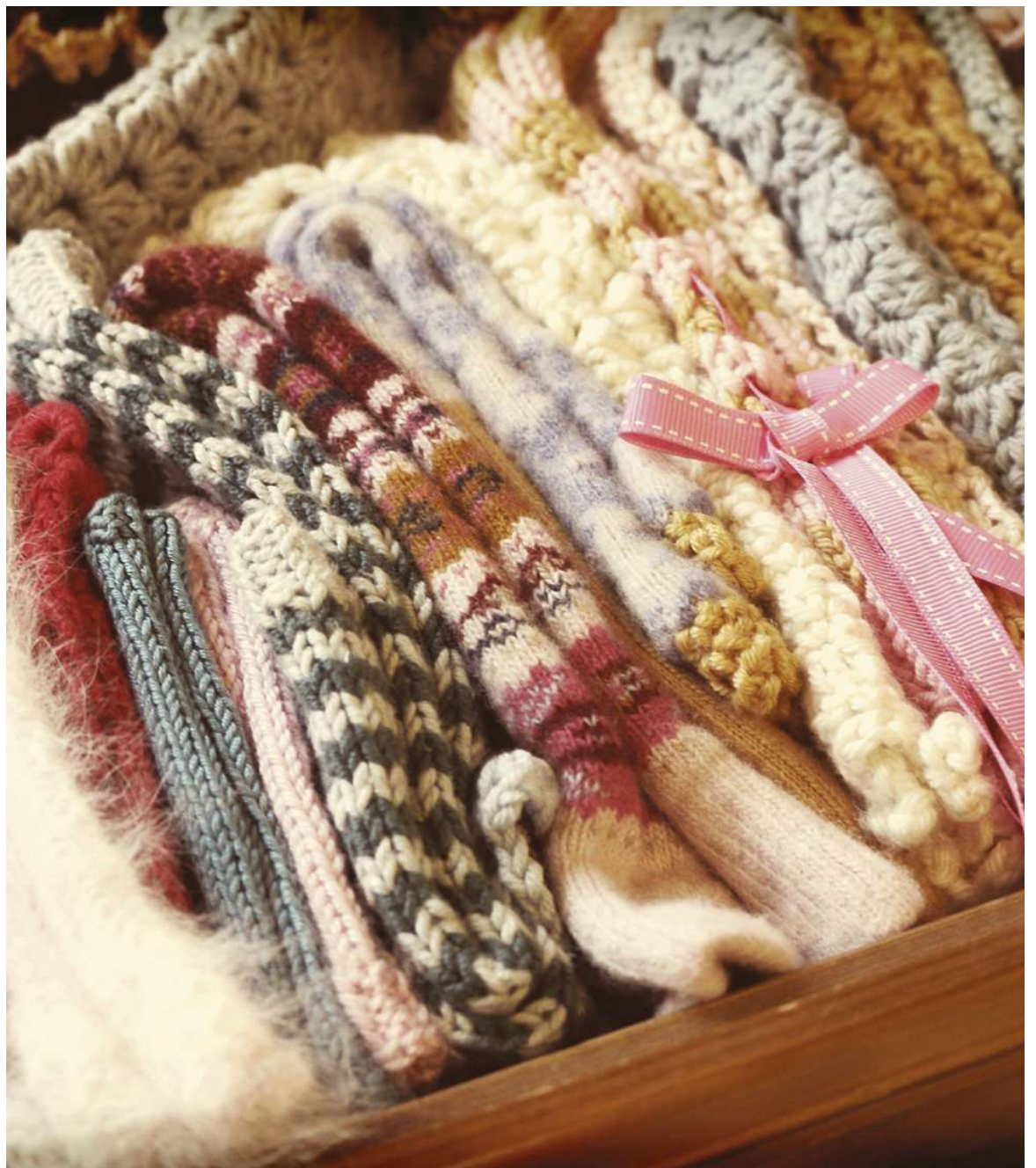
Kath's own set of essentials also includes yarn and a few more modern necessities. "I need a small hot water bottle nearby to warm up my cold fingers because I live in a cold, damp Victorian house! Soft yarns with alpaca are lovely to work with at this time of year because they're friendly to dry, chapped winter hands." Her other remedies include: "A hot cup of chai tea, a scented candle, snuggling on the sofa with a DVD box set and a simple, mindless crochet project. A blanket is perfect for keeping knees warm while you work!"

If you'll excuse us, we'll be retiring to the sofa for the rest of the season, staying cosy and crocheting away with all our might.

Written by Becca Parker

"MY WINTER REMEDIES ARE CHAI TEA, A DVD BOX SET AND A SIMPLE CROCHET PROJECT."

Clockwise from below left: Kath Webber has been dreaming up some super-chunky slippers; Sandra Paul is addicted to making wristwarmers and has a drawer full of them; Stephanie Lau and her family spend Christmas day wearing matching plaid onesies (too cute).



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Join our gang of Treble Makers and share your thoughts and makes with us, for a chance to be featured here.



SUPER SHAWL

How gorgeous is this Sea Glass shawl from issue 33? Crocheter Lazy Daisy Jones has done a great job making Cécile Balladino's design. She shared this fab picture on Facebook.

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THIS MONTH WE ASKED YOU...

How many of you
crochet gifts –
and if so, who
are they for?

"I'm doing a cushion for my mum, a set of tree decorations for my son and his girlfriend, and a Christmas colour cot blanket for my grandson. I love giving handmade pressies x."

Chris Bolton via Facebook

ALL ROUNDER

▼ @andreabridge has stitched the ruffle cushion by Susie Johns from issue 32 and finished it off with a giant wooden button. Such tasty crochet texture. This was shared via Twitter.



▲ Sherfox Holmes? Imaginative hookster Martha Hudson made an incredible foxy version of the famous sleuth with our toy pattern from issue 35. He's even got a deerstalker and mini magnifying glass – amazing. Via Facebook.

THE LOWDOWN

To be in with a chance of winning one of three £30 vouchers to spend at LoveCrochet (www.lovecrochet.com), show us your *Simply Crochet* makes on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or via email or post by 4 January 2015. For all terms and conditions, and more information, visit www.simplycrochetmag.co.uk/competitionrules



WINNER!



LIGHT MY FIRE

Cosy fireside crochet is what we're dreaming of right now. Reader Cat Swinburn has made that dream a reality. She has hooked the super-chunky basket from issue 30 in a stylish pale grey yarn to store her kindling in this winter. It's a beauty with a purpose – fantastic. She shared this picture with us on Facebook. Turn to page 86 for more details about our *Simply Crochet* back issues.

LITTLE LILLY

Ruth Tipton made the doll from issue 36 as a pressie for her mum. We love Lilly's lashes and boots. Via email.



TALK TO US!

- Post a pic on our Facebook page facebook.com/simplycrochetmag
- Tweet us @SimplyCrochet_ twitter.com/SimplyCrochet_
- Add to our Finished Projects board ravelry.com/groups/simply-crochet
- Use the hashtag #SCtreblemaker instagram.com/simplycrochetmag

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Immediate Media Co, Tower House,
Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN

Email us at:
simplycrochet@immediate.co.uk

DOUBLE TAP

We've been double tapping on Instagram and admiring your makes. Tag us @simplycrochetmag and use the hashtag #SCtreblemaker.



SO SPOOKY

The different expressions on these bunting spectres by @charliecraftdiy are a lot of fun. She used the crochet pattern from issue 23.



SUPER SOCKS

@abluebirdonmy shoulder made the granny socks from issue 26, then hooked this second pair to match her new jammies – love.



BLUE BEAUTY

@wellihadmyfun did a great job on this top from issue 30. She used a King Cole yarn to make hers and adjusted the pattern to fit.

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STAR MOTIF

Ch5, ss to first ch to form a ring.

Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr), 2tr into ring, ch2, (3tr into ring, ch2) four times, ss to top of beg ch-3. [5 3-tr groups, 5 ch-2 sps]

Round 2 Ss into next st, ch1 (does not count as st), dc into same st, *(3tr, ch2, 3tr) in next ch-2 sp, skip 1 tr, dc in next tr; rep from * 3 more times, (3tr, ch2, 3tr) in next ch-2 sp, skip 1 tr, ss to first dc to join.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

MAKE A FESTIVE
GARLAND WITH
SIMPLE STARS



KING COLE URBAN

WEIGHT Aran

CONTENT 45% polyamide, 25% polyester, 25% acrylic, 55% polyester (metallic)

BALL 100g/220m

HOO 5mm

RRP £6.99

Sparkling chainette tape, variegated eyelash yarn and a thick and thin texture – King Cole's Urban has got a lot going on. This exciting yarn forms wide stripes of colour and texture when worked flat. The unusual mix of effects will keep things



interesting while you're stitching and produce really unique items. We'd advise using a metal crochet hook and working in good light to make sure you don't get lost in those thick, eyelash fibres.

www.kingcole.com

01756 703670

SIRDAR BOUFFLÉ

WEIGHT Chunky

CONTENT 42% cotton, 33% acrylic, 15% wool, 10% nylon

BALL 50g/100m

HOO 6.5mm

RRP £4.18

Sirdar's new Boufflé is a delightfully fuzzy and light brushed bouclé yarn. It has all the benefits of a chunky yarn without the heft, making it ideal for hooking warm, wintry garments that won't weigh you down. The yarn comes in eight understated



colours, each adorned with contrasting cotton bouclé squiggles that will add plenty of playful texture to your makes. A special yarn like this must be treated accordingly – cold wash by hand only.

www.sirdar.co.uk

01924 231682

CONWAY + BLISS ELEKTRA

WEIGHT Super chunky

CONTENT 44% wool, 44% acrylic, 12% polyamide

BALL 50g/130m

HOO 8mm

RRP £4.95

Elektra is the first-ever yarn from Debbie Bliss design duo Conway + Bliss. It's an airy, brushed wool blend in a super-chunky weight. The yarn has a fine, chainette structure and a fluffy, candyfloss-like appearance.



It comes in a daring palette of clashing variegated shades named after music genres. Elektra would be perfect for making jumbo statement accessories or a fuzzy cardi.

www.designeryarns.uk.com

01535 664222

HABU WOOL POM POM

WEIGHT 4ply

CONTENT 87% wool, 13% nylon

SKEIN 14g/26m

HOO 3mm

RRP £9.75

This precious offering from Japanese brand Habu is fairly dear, but with good reason. It's a wonderfully soft, high-quality bouclé yarn with a very fine, knitted nylon core. Wool Pom Pom would be fantastic for adding fancy trims and edgings to



garments or accessories. Alternatively, you could combine it with another yarn for more substantial projects. Work loosely with this yarn and go up a hook size if you find yourself getting tangled.

www.loopknitting.com

020 7288 1160

STYLECRAFT ESKIMO KISSES

WEIGHT DK

CONTENT 100% polyester

BALL 50g/135m

HOO 4mm

RRP £3.29

What happens when velvety chenille meets eyelash yarn? Eskimo Kisses. It's Stylecraft's quirky twist on their eyelash-only yarn Eskimo. The two different elements are combined in nine shades – neutral solid hues and much wilder contrasting tones (as



above). The overall effect is very striking and makes for a soft, fuzzy yarn that will help your hooky creations to stand out. For fun furry collars or unusual edgings, Eskimo Kisses is the obvious choice.

www.stylecraft-yarns.co.uk

01535 609798

MONDIAL HURRÀ

WEIGHT Super chunky

CONTENT 50%

polyamide, 50% acrylic

SKEIN 150g/20m

HOO 10mm

RRP £9.95

We've never encountered a yarn quite like Hurrà before. Imagine a wide T-shirt yarn in printed fleece and you're halfway there. There are six bold prints to choose from, including camouflage, tribal patterns and animal print.



When crocheted, it forms a warm, thick fabric that would make a great rug. The fleecy yarn has a loopy, overlapped edge on one side that can be worked into to create ruffles.

www.intercontinentalyarns.co.uk

01535 664222



MORE EMBROIDERY

Grab a hook and some yarn – it's easy to work more embroidery stitches onto your crochet fabrics.

WHAT SORT OF STITCHES COULD I WORK?

We'll show you how to work these five embroidery stitches.

Embroidery is a wonderful way to embellish your crochet fabric. In issue 25's workshop, we looked at the basics of embroidery techniques and three simple stitches. This time, we're going to show you how to work five more embroidery stitches, to create colour, texture and motifs in your crochet fabric well after you've fastened off. Then you can put your new skills into practice by making our pretty festive coasters over on page 83.



RUNNING STITCH



BLANKET STITCH



CHAIN STITCH



LAZY DAISY



COUCHING

HOW DO I WORK RUNNING STITCH?

Master this stitch and you can create various lines and effects.

Running stitch is a very handy technique to learn, both for embroidery and seaming together your crochet fabrics. It's often used for outlining other motifs for appliqué, or forming straight lines.

To start off, weave the thread or yarn into the back of the crochet fabric so it's secure.

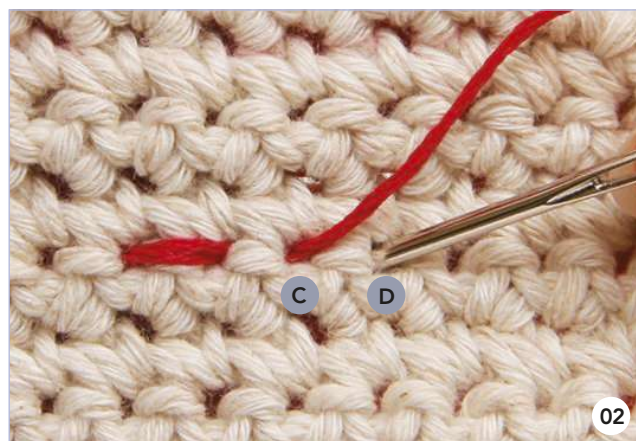
Step 1 Bring the needle through from the back to the right side of the fabric. Push the needle into the fabric one stitch to the right **01**.

Step 2 *Bring the needle from the back to the front one stitch to the right and then push the needle into the fabric one stitch to the right **02**.

Step 3 Repeat from * to form a line **03**. You can work the technique in any direction on your fabric.



01



02



03

HOW DO I WORK A CHAIN STITCH?

A quick and easy way to create shapes and motifs.

Chain stitch is a versatile stitch that's great for creating motifs, outlines and decorations. You may need to split the double crochet stitches so use a sharper tapestry needle.

To start off, weave the thread or yarn into the back of the crochet fabric so it's secure.

Step 1 Bring the needle to the front of the fabric. *Insert the needle back into the fabric, in the same hole or very close to it – pull gently and leave a small loop of your thread or yarn 01.

Step 2 Bring the needle to the front one stitch to the right, making sure the needle passes through the loop you made 02.

Step 3 Repeat from * to make more loops 03.

Step 4 Continue working in any direction. After the final loop, make a small stitch over the loop to secure it 04.



HOW DO I WORK A LAZY DAISY STITCH?

A nifty way to form little flower or star shapes in your fabric.

A dainty Lazy Daisy is a pretty, decorative stitch that's great for adding a floral look. Worked in a similar way to chain stitches.

To start off, weave the thread or yarn into the back of the crochet fabric so it's secure.

Step 1 Bring the needle to the front of the fabric. *Insert the needle back into same hole and pull gently to form a loop 01.

Step 2 Bring the needle to the front, two stitches up, making sure the needle passes through the loop. Take the needle over the loop and then insert the needle back down into the same hole 02.

Step 3 You will have secured the loop with a small stitch 03.

Step 4 Bring the needle to the front at the original hole and repeat from * working to the left, right and downwards to make three more loops 04.



HOW DO I WORK BLANKET STITCH?

A stitch used regularly for edging fabrics and motifs.

One of the most useful stitches for crocheters, blanket stitch can be used anywhere on your fabric, but is traditionally used at the edge. Once mastered, you can use it to form loops at the edge of any fabric, which you can then crochet into.

To start off, weave the thread or yarn into the back of the crochet fabric so it's secure.

Step 1 Bring the needle to the front of the fabric. *Insert the needle one stitch down and one stitch to the right. Bring the needle out of the fabric one stitch up, making sure you keep the thread or yarn underneath the needle tip 01.

Step 2 Repeat from *, pulling the thread gently to create a half-square stitch 02.

Step 3 After the final stitch, make a small stitch over the last loop to secure it 03.



HOW DO I WORK COUCHING?

A nifty way to form lines and shapes in your fabric.

A brilliant way to create lines and lettering, or to form various shapes and motifs. You can use one or more strands of thread or yarn to achieve different effects.

To start off, weave your working thread or yarn (the one making small stitches) into the back of the fabric so it's secure.

Step 1 Lay your couching thread across the front of the fabric, in the shape you want 01.

Step 2 Thread the needle with your working thread (we used a contrasting colour so you can see it). Bring the needle to the front of the fabric, near your couching thread and make a small stitch over it 02.

Step 3 This will work to secure the couching thread 03.

Step 4 Make more small stitches, evenly spaced, to hold the couching thread in the shape you want 04.



Embroidered coasters

YOUR NEXT STEPS!

Make these glitzy winter coasters and perfect your embroidery skills.



STAR LIGHT

Show your flair for embroidery stitches with these sparkly coasters by Becky Skuse.

Embroidered coasters



YOU WILL NEED

- Ella Rae Cozy Soft (75% acrylic, 25% superwash wool, 100g/195m), 1 ball of Pale Blue (33) (each coaster uses only 15g of this yarn)
- Anchor Artiste Metallic No 5 (80% viscose, 20% polyester, 25g/100m), 1 ball of Turquoise (312)
- DMC Lumina Metallic Thread No 3 (60% viscose, 40% metalized polyester Sinflex, 20g/150m), 1 ball of Silver (L168)
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- Tapestry needle (large eye and sharp point)

For yarn stockists, contact www.intercontinentalyarns.co.uk, www.makeitcoats.com or www.dmccreative.co.uk

MEASUREMENTS

Finished coaster measures approx 11.5cm (4½in) square.

TENSION

Tension is not important for this project, just make sure your coaster is square by working more or less than the 23 rows.

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

Designer Becky Skuse says: "Once you've mastered embroidery techniques, you can create any motif you like on your crochet fabrics (or anywhere else). These coasters are easy to make and then you can practise decorating them with the five stitches in the technical feature on pages 80-82. You can make as many coasters as you like, using any shade of metallic thread, and mixing up the different star shapes here to form your own, unique creation. Great for adding some pretty festive decoration for your Christmas table."

NOTES

When working embroidery with metallic thread, cut lengths no longer than 50cm – any longer than this tends to get tangled up. Weave each end into the back of the coaster to secure before working the embroidery. The dc fabric forms a natural grid of gaps to work the embroidery stitches into, but you may need to split stitches in places to get true straight lines.

COASTER (MAKE 2)

Using 3.5mm hook and Pale Blue yarn, ch21.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch to end, turn. [20 dc]

Rows 2-23 Ch1 (does not count as a stitch), dc in each dc to end, turn.

Row 24 Work as Row 2, but do not turn. Rotate piece to work dc edging around coaster, working 3dc in each corner space, 1dc into each row end and 1dc into each chain of the foundation chain. Ss to first dc of Row 24.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Make more coasters as desired.

COASTER 1 EMBROIDERY

Use lengths of Silver thread throughout. Work blanket stitch around the edge of the coaster, 1dc wide and 1dc tall, using the instructions given in the technical feature. You will need to use more than one length of thread, knotting the ends together at the back to secure them.

Work a large star at the centre of the coaster, 12dc tall and 8dc wide, using the couching instructions given in the technical feature.

Work two medium stars elsewhere on the coaster, 5dc tall and 3dc wide,



Coaster 2 lets you practise working running stitch, chain stitch and Lazy Daisy stitch.



Making Coaster 1 involves using blanket stitch, couching and Lazy Daisy stitch.

using the couching technique (just work one couching stitch at the centre of each star).

Work a small star elsewhere on the coaster, 2dc tall and 2dc wide, using the Lazy Daisy stitch instructions given in the technical feature.

Weave in all ends.

COASTER 2 EMBROIDERY

Use lengths of Turquoise thread throughout.

Work running stitch around the edge of the coaster, 1dc wide and 1dc in from the edge, using the instructions given in the technical feature.

Work a large star at the centre of the coaster, 12dc tall and 8dc wide, using the chain stitch instructions given in the technical feature. For a neat look, start each line of the star from the centre, working outwards.

Work two medium stars elsewhere on the coaster, 4dc tall and 4dc wide, using the Lazy Daisy stitch technique.

Work two small stars elsewhere on the coaster, 2dc tall and 2dc wide, using the Lazy Daisy stitch technique.

Weave in all ends.

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Crochet essentials

Over the next few pages, you'll find simple step-by-step guides to many useful stitches and techniques that you'll use every time you pick up a hook.

HOLDING THE HOOK

Try these methods and see which works best.



PENCIL METHOD

Hold the hook like a pencil, in your right hand (if you're right-handed), about 3-5cm from the hooked end. If your hook has a flat area, you'll find it comfortable to hold it here.



KNIFE METHOD

Hold the hook between your thumb and forefinger, about 3-5cm from the hooked end, resting the end of the hook against your palm. This will give you lots of control.

HOLDING THE YARN

Even tension results in even stitches.



METHOD ONE

Pass the ball end of the yarn between the little finger and third fingers of your left hand (if you are right-handed), then behind the third and middle fingers, over your index finger.



METHOD TWO

Loop the ball end of the yarn loosely around the little finger of your left hand, then take it over the third finger, behind the middle finger and over your index finger.

MAKING A SLIPKNOT The first loop on the hook.



1 Hold the tail of the ball of yarn in your left hand and drape the yarn clockwise over the top of it to form a circular loop.



2 Hold the loop between left thumb and forefinger, then insert the crochet hook through the centre of the loop from front to back.



3 Catch the ball end of the yarn with the hook and pull it back through the centre of the loop, taking the yarn through with it.



4 Pull both ends of the yarn to tighten the knot, then pull just the ball end to tighten the loop so it's close to the hook, but not touching it.

CHAIN STITCH Use this stitch to make your foundation chain.



1 Hold the hook in your right hand, and both the yarn end and the working yarn in your left hand. Move the hook under and over the yarn to wrap it around anticlockwise.



2 Pull the hook towards the slipknot, catching the yarn in the hook, and pulling it through the slipknot loop. This forms your first chain (ch) stitch. Repeat steps 1 and 2 to form a chain length.



3 This is what your row of chains will look like. Hold the chain with your left hand near the hook, to keep the tension. Keep going until you have the number of chains stated in your pattern.

How to count chains



Each chain or loop counts as one stitch. Never count your first slipknot or the loop on the hook (called the working loop). So that you can be accurate, make sure the chain is not twisted and that the front is facing you.

SLIP STITCH (ss)

This stitch has no height – often used to join rounds.



1 The slip stitch is used to join a length of chain into the round. Insert the hook from front to back into the first chain you worked. Wrap yarn round the hook (yrh) in an anticlockwise direction.



2 Pull the yarn through the chain stitch (as shown) and then the loop already on the hook to make a slip stitch. You can also work this stitch into each stitch along a row to form a neat edging.

WORKING IN ROWS

Follow these simple rules to construct crochet fabric.



1 The first row is made by working across the foundation chain from right to left. At the end of the chain or row, turn the work so that the yarn is behind the hook.



2 For the next row, first make the turning chain for the stitch you're about to work (see opposite). Now work the next stitch into the top of the stitches on your first row, missing the first stitch.

DOUBLE CROCHET (dc) US term: single crochet

One of the key stitches in crochet, doubles are simple, compact stitches that form a dense fabric.



1 To make a double crochet stitch, insert the hook under the top two loops of the next stitch on the previous row.



2 Wind the yarn around the hook (yrh).



3 Pull the yarn through the stitch, giving you two loops on your crochet hook.



4 Yarn round hook again, then pull the yarn through both loops. There's your double crochet made and you'll have one loop left on the hook, ready to do the next stitch.

HALF TREBLE CROCHET (htr) US term: half double crochet

A handy stitch that's between double and treble crochet in size, and it looks slightly looser than double crochet.



1 To make a half treble crochet stitch, work to where you want the htr and then wind the yarn round the hook (yrh).



2 Insert the hook under the top two loops of the next stitch in the previous row. Wrap yarn around the hook again (yrh).



3 Pull the yarn through the stitch only (3 loops on hook).



4 Yarn round hook again, pull the yarn through all 3 loops. You've made a half treble crochet. Continue working htr into next and following sts to the end of the row.

TREBLE CROCHET (tr) US term: double crochet

One of the most popular stitches in crochet, this simple stitch is twice as high as a double crochet stitch.



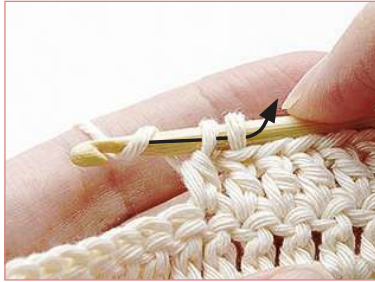
1 To work a treble crochet, start by winding yrh and then insert the hook under the top two loops of the stitch on the previous row.



2 Wrap the yarn around the hook (yrh) and pull the yarn through the stitch only.



3 You will now have 3 loops on the hook. Yrh again, and draw the yarn through just the first 2 loops on the hook.



4 You will now have 2 loops on the hook. Yrh again and draw the yarn through the remaining loops on the hook. Your treble crochet is complete.

DOUBLE TREBLE CROCHET (dtr) US term: treble crochet

This is a stitch regularly used as an elongated version of the treble (described above). It's worked in a very similar way to the treble, as follows:

- 1 Make a foundation chain. Skip 4ch, *yrh twice, and insert the hook under the top loop of the next ch.
- 2 Yrh, pull the yarn through the ch loop only (4 loops on hook).
- 3 Yrh and pull the yarn through 2 loops only (3 loops on hook).

- Yrh and pull the yarn through 2 loops only (2 loops on hook).
- 4 Yrh and pull the yarn through the remaining 2 loops. Repeat from * to make more dtr sts.
- 5 To make the next row of dtr, turn work and ch4. This turning chain counts as the first dtr in a new row. Skip first st at the base of the t-ch, work 1dtr under the top two loops of the 2nd stitch in the previous row; continue to the end of the row.

TRIPLE TREBLE CROCHET (ttr) US term: double treble crochet

This is one of the longest standard crochet stitches and is mainly used in fancy stitch patterns. It's taller than a double treble crochet stitch (described left) and is worked in a very similar way, as follows:

- 1 Make a foundation ch. Skip 5 ch, *yrh 3 times, insert hook under top loop of next ch.
- 2 Yrh, pull yarn through ch loop only (5 loops on hook).
- 3 † Yrh, draw loop through 2

- loops only. Repeat from † 3 times more and your triple treble will be finished. Repeat from * to make more ttr sts.
- 4 To make the next row, turn work and ch5. This turning chain counts as the first triple treble in a new row. Skip first st at base of the t-ch. Work 1 triple treble, inserting hook under the top 2 loops of the 2nd st in the previous row; continue to the end of the row.

TURNING CHAIN (t-ch)

For an even finish, start each row with a turning chain.

In crochet, you need to add turning chains (t-chs) to the beginning of rows. The reason for this is to bring the hook up to the height of the stitches you're crocheting. Each basic stitch has its own number of

chains. The table below tells you how many t-ch sts form the first stitch. *For dc, usually the turning chain does not count as a stitch, and the first stitch of the row is worked into the stitch at the base of the turning chain.

STITCH	Add to foundation chain before starting row	Skip at start of foundation row (counts as first st)	For turning chain (counts as first st)
Double crochet	1 ch	1 ch*	1 ch*
Half treble	1 ch	2 ch	2 ch
Treble	2 ch	3 ch	3 ch
Double treble	3 ch	4 ch	4 ch
Triple treble	4 ch	5 ch	5 ch

How to count stitches

Check your work is correct.

Being able to count your stitches is very important and helps you to ensure that you're following a pattern correctly. It's a good idea to count your stitches at the end of every row. To count short stitches such as double crochet, look at the plaited tops (see above right). For taller stitches, count the upright 'stems' – each 'stem' is counted as a stitch (see right).



HOW TO CHANGE COLOUR

Create stripes and other colour effects.



1 Before you work the final yrh (yarn round hook) on the last stitch of a row in the old colour, drop the old yarn and pick up the new one with your hook.



2 Pull through a loop of the new yarn to finish the old stitch. The working loop will be in the new colour. Continue, keeping the old yarn at the wrong side.

INCREASING AND DECREASING

Shaping stitches are vital for making garments.



INCREASE To increase one stitch is very simple – work one stitch into the next stitch on the row below. When you've finished, work another stitch into the same stitch.



DECREASE For a quick decrease, just skip one stitch. For a neater look, work the first part of one stitch and then begin the next stitch. Finish both together.

SEWING SEAMS

You can join crochet seams by using a tapestry needle or a crochet hook, using one of these four methods.



1 Sewing with a tapestry needle is the regular and neat way to join seams. Place two pieces of crochet right sides together and oversew them as shown above, using a tapestry or yarn needle.



2 To slip stitch a seam, place the crochet pieces right sides together. *Insert hook into both edge stitches, yrh and pull through to complete 1 slip stitch; rep from * working into the next edge stitches, keeping work fairly loose.



3 For a dc seam, place the crochet pieces right sides together, or wrong sides together for a visible seam. Work as for slip stitch seam, using double crochet instead of slip stitch.

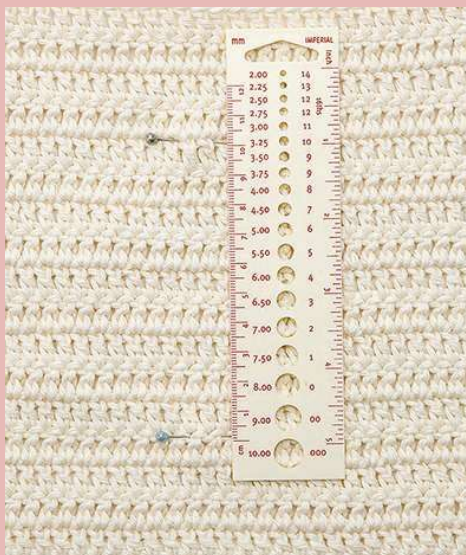


4 A useful variation on the dc seam, the dc and chain seam is used when less bulk and/or greater flexibility is needed. Work 1 double crochet and 1 chain alternately.

How to check your tension

Make and measure a swatch to check your tension.

Most crochet patterns state the tension required, in rows and stitches of a specific type. Make a swatch at least 15cm square and check that your tension matches. Place a ruler across the swatch and insert two pins, 10cm apart. Then place the ruler along a column of stitches and insert two pins 10cm apart. Count the stitches and rows between the pins – if you have less than the pattern, your tension is too loose so you need to use a smaller hook, but if you have too many, use a larger hook. It's usually better to match the stitches than rows, because you can always work more or fewer rows.



FOUNDATION RING

Create a foundation ring for working in the round.



1 Make a chain the length stated in the pattern instructions. Next, insert the crochet hook into the first chain. Close the ring with a slip stitch, working yrh...



2 ...and pull yarn through 2 loops on hook. Now you're ready to start crocheting in the round, following the instructions given right.

WORKING STITCHES INTO A RING

To make circles, tubes and other shapes.



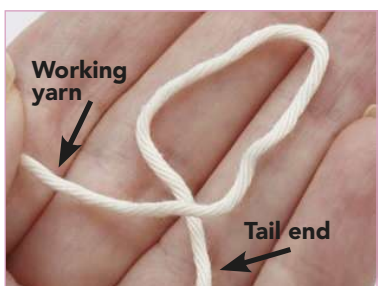
1 Make a foundation ring and work the t-ch (3ch for treble sts). Work a treble st as usual, but insert hook into centre of ring. For treble sts, yrh, insert hook into ring.



2 Finish the treble as usual (yrh, pull yarn through ring, yrh, pull yarn through first 2 loops, yrh, pull yarn through 2 loops). Work more sts into the ring as needed.

WORKING A MAGIC LOOP

An alternative foundation ring for working in the round.



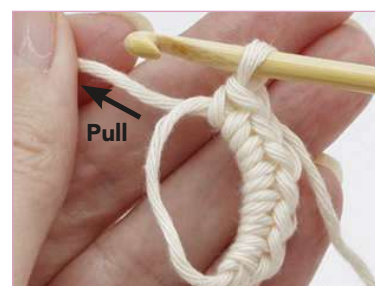
1 To start a Magic Loop, don't make a slipknot. Instead, make a loop with the yarn, leaving a tail around 10cm long. Make sure the tail end is under the working yarn.



2 Now insert your hook into the loop, from front to back. Wrap the working yarn around the hook and pull the yarn through the loop.



3 Make a t-ch for the sts you want to work (above, we made 1 t-ch for dc). Work your sts into the Magic Loop, over both the loop and the tail end (so two yarn strands).



4 Once you've worked the first round of stitches, simply pull the tail end of yarn to draw up the ring. Work a slip stitch to join the last and first sts to finish the first round (as instructed below).

JOINING ROUNDS

Finish off each round of crochet stitches nice and neatly by using a slip stitch.



1 To close a round of stitches, work a slip stitch into the top of the turning chain. To do this, insert the hook into the top stitch of the turning chain.



2 Then place the yarn round the hook. Pull the yarn through the turning chain stitch and through the original stitch on your hook.



3 You've slip stitched the round together! Before working another round, be sure to make the required turning chain. Always work rounds on the right side, unless your pattern instructs you otherwise.

Rounds or spirals



Check which technique to use.

Some patterns are worked in rounds that are joined together at the end of each round (see left). Other patterns are worked in a spiral so you don't need to join the rounds at the end, just keep going, working into the next stitch on the previous row. Amigurumi toys are often worked in a spiral like this.

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Abbreviations

across	to end of the row	htr	half treble
alt	alternate/alternating	htr2tog	work 2htr together
approx	approximate(ly)	in next	sts to be worked into
beg	beginning		the same stitch
bl	insert hook under	inc	increase
	back loop only	LH	left hand
BPtr	Back Post treble:	lp(s)	loop(s)
	yrh, starting from the	meas	measures
	back, insert hook	p or pc	picot
	from back to front to	patt(s)	pattern(s)
	back around post of	pm	place marker
	st in row below,	prev	previous
	complete as treble st	rem	remain(s)/remaining
ch(s)	chain/chain stitch(es)	rep	repeat
ch-sp(s)	chain space(s)	RH	right hand
ch-	refers to ch made	rnd(s)	round(s)
	previously, eg. ch-3	RS	right side
cl(s)	clusters	sk	skip
4-tr cl	(yrh, insert hook in	sp(s)	space(s)
	sp/st, yrh & pull up	ss	slip stitch
	loop, yrh & draw	st(s)	stitch(es)
	through 2 loops) 4	tbl	through back loop
	times, inserting hook	t-ch(s)	turning chain(s)
	in same sp/st, yrh &	tog	together
	draw through all	tr	treble crochet
	loops on hook	tr2tog	(yrh, insert hook in
cont	continue		next st, yrh and pull
dc	double crochet		up loop, yrh and
dc2tog	(insert hook in next		draw through 2
	st, yrh and draw a		loops) twice, yrh and
	loop through) twice,		draw through all
	yrh and draw through		loops on hook
	all 3 loops on hook	ttr	triple treble crochet
dec	decrease	WS	wrong side
dtr	double treble crochet	yoh	yarn over hook
dtr2tog	work 2dtr together	yrh	yarn round hook
fl	insert hook under	*	work instructions
	front loop only		immediately foll *,
foll/folls	following/follows		then rep as directed
FPtr	Front Post treble:	[] or ()	work or repeat all
	work in opposite way		instructions in the
	to BPtr		brackets as directed

Crochet hook conversions

UK	METRIC	US
14	2mm	–
13	2.25mm	B/1
12	2.5mm	–
–	2.75mm	C/2
11	3mm	–
10	3.25mm	D/3
9	3.5mm	E/4
–	3.75mm	F/5
8	4mm	G/6
7	4.5mm	7
6	5mm	H/8
5	5.5mm	I/9
4	6mm	J/10
3	6.5mm	K/10½
2	7mm	–
0	8mm	L/11
00	9mm	M/13
000	10mm	N/15

Which hook do I use?

Hook size	UK yarn weight
2.5-3.5mm hook	4ply yarn
3.5-4.5mm hook	double knitting yarn
5-6mm hook	aran yarn
7mm and bigger	chunky yarn

UK/US conversions

UK		US	
chain	ch	chain	ch
slip stitch	ss	slip stitch	ss
double crochet	dc	single crochet	sc
half treble	htr	half double	hdc
treble	tr	double	dc
double treble	dtr	treble	tr
triple treble	ttr	double treble	dtr

HOW TO GET A PERFECT FINISH

To prevent your hard work unravelling once you've finished crocheting, fasten the end off carefully.



Complete the final stitch, then cut the yarn about 15cm from the work. Pull it through the last loop on the hook and pull to close the loop. Thread the yarn tail onto a tapestry needle and weave into the back of the work. Most crochet items don't need a lot of blocking, but cotton lace work usually does. To do this, carefully pin out the item with rust-proof pins, mist with a water spray and leave to dry naturally.

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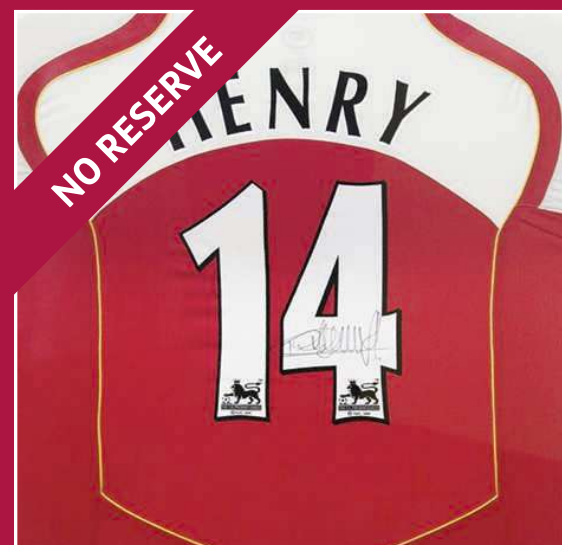
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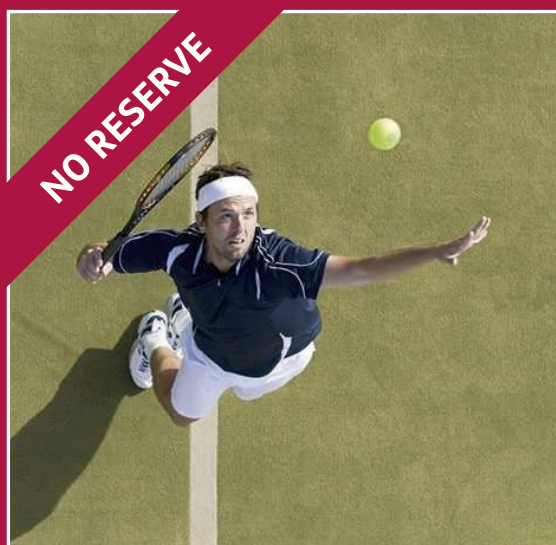
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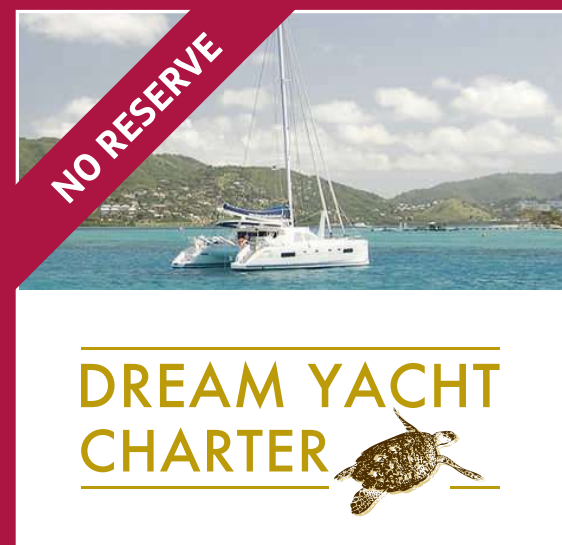
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MAKE A MOTIF

JOLLY HOLLY

Hook happy with Lucy Croft's pretty, festive triangles.



COMBINE TRIANGLES
TO FORM A LACY
CHRISTMAS TREE SKIRT

MAKE A MOTIF



YOU WILL NEED

■ UK Alpaca Alpaca Baby DK (80% baby alpaca, 20% superfine merino, 50g/112m),
Yarn A Grass Green
Yarn B Cherry Red

■ A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook

For yarn stockists, contact
UK Alpaca 01884 243579
www.ukalpaca.com

ABBREVIATIONS

Picot Ch2, ss to the second ch from the hook

For a full list, see page 92.

Christmas day wouldn't seem right without a touch of holly, but with this simple motif, you won't need the real thing – and it'll last for years. Our holly motif has loads of creative potential and is perfect for place mats, bunting, a tree skirt – the list is endless.

NOTE

When working Round 2, you will be working up one side of each chain/ss 'arm', and then down the other. You will need to find loops to work into on each side of this arm, so work into the remaining loop of the ch when you work out from the centre, and then into the ss of the previous round when you work back towards the centre.

TRIANGLE MOTIF

Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) *Ch11, ss into bump on reverse of second ch from hook and bump on reverse of each of next 9 ch; rep from * twice more. [3 chain 'arms']

Round 2 Working out from the centre: ss to first ch of Round 1, *ss to next ch, (dc, htr) in next ch, (tr, picot, tr) in next ch, (htr, dc) in next ch, ss to next ch, dc in next ch, (htr, picot, htr) in next ch, dc in next ch, ss to next ch, picot, skip next ch (this is the ch at the top of the arm, before the first ss), working back towards the centre (mirror the stitches on the other side): ss to next ss, dc in next ss, (htr, picot, htr) in next ss, dc in next ss, ss to next ss, (dc, htr) in next ss,

(tr, picot, tr) in next ss, (htr, dc) in next ss, ss to next 2 ss and first ch on next arm; repeat from * twice omitting last ss.

Fasten off.

Round 3 Join Yarn B in any picot at the tip of a holly leaf, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in same picot, *ch3, dc in next picot, ch3, (tr in next picot, ch3) twice, dc in next picot, ch3, (dc, ch3, dc) in picot at tip of leaf; repeat from * twice more omitting last dc, ss to first dc to join.

Round 4 Ch3 (counts as tr), *(3tr in ch-3 sp, tr in next st) 5 times, (tr, ch3, tr) into ch-3 corner sp, tr in next dc; repeat from * twice more omitting last tr, ss to top of beg ch-3 to join. **Fasten off.**

BERRIES (MAKE 1 FOR EACH MOTIF)

With Yarn B, make a magic loop.

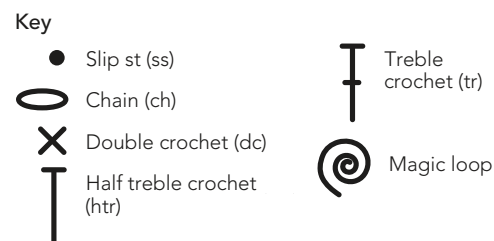
Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 5dc into loop, ss to first dc to join.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail. Sew berry to the centre of the motif using the long tail.

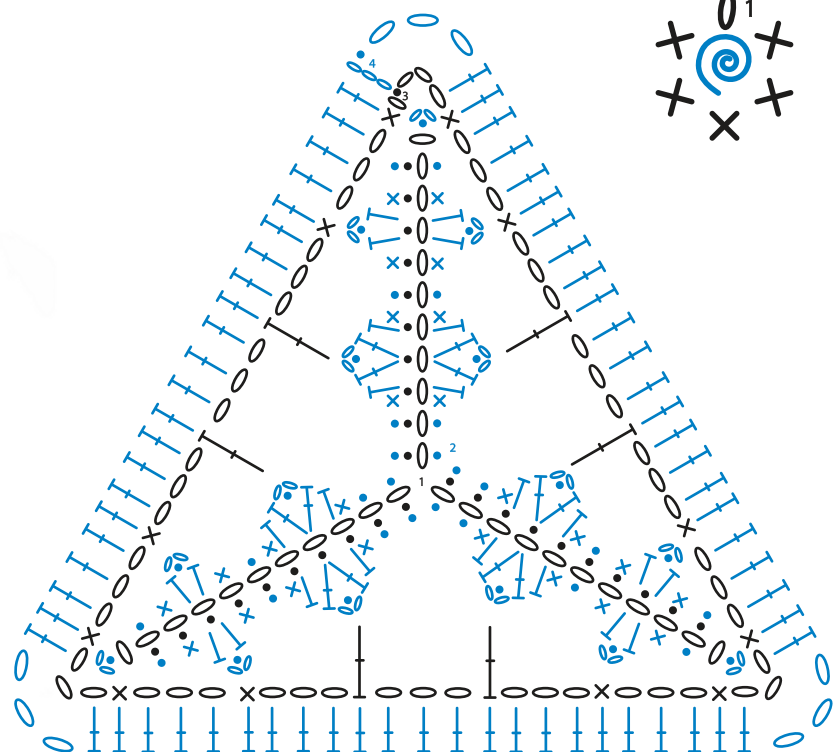
TO JOIN

Join motifs using whip stitch.

On the chart, all rounds are read in an anti-clockwise direction.



Berry



Simply Crochet

HOOKED ON HANDMADE



NEXT ISSUE

Lacy home makes
Openwork cardigan
Glamorous mesh stitch
Sparkly clutch bag
One skein hat
And more...

SIMPLE & SPEEDY
GRANNY SCARF



ON SALE THURS 10 DECEMBER





LACE LOVELIES

Step into a time warp of 1970s style, via a 17th-century-style yoke and a timeless shawl.

During the 1970s, a night out on the town wasn't complete without a touch of lace, if this retro pattern combo is anything to go by. Looking at this, we can only imagine that best friends going out on the razzle dazzle together were forced to choose between wearing a shawl or embellishing an outfit with lacy motifs. And really good friends would have shared the extortionate 10p cost of this Robin pattern. Actually, we love a good embellishing project (giving new life to old clothes and all that), but even we have to draw the line at that intricate lace yoke that has more than a hint of Elizabethan ruff (less 2015, more 1615). What do you think of this lacy pair? Would you and your friend wear these? Crocheted in a hand-dyed, variegated yarn, that shawl could look divine. The belt's not too bad either, if you've got the waist for it. Get your hands on a copy of these vintage crochet patterns by visiting www.wonkyzebra.etsy.com



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