

NEW!

Simply Crochet

HOOKED ON HANDMADE

ISSUE ONE DIGITAL EDITION



MAKE ME
NOW!



GREAT
MAKES

with simple
shapes

36 PATTERNS INSIDE
**YOU CAN
CROCHET**
STARTING IS EASY

MAKE A CUTE CORSAGE
in An evening!

**HEARTS &
FLOWERS**

Pretty designs
for accessories

New
ways with
**GRANNY
SQUARES**

BLANKET LOVE

3 projects for oh-so-cosy woolly warmers

**+
COWL
COLLAR &
CORSAGES**



Welcome



Simply Crochet

HOOKED ON HANDMADE

We love beautiful crochet designs and we want to share them with you. We hope to inspire you to make crochet part of your everyday. Every issue, we'll bring you our best creative ideas and patterns so you can enjoy making something for yourself, as a gift or to decorate your home.



Simply Crochet

ISSUE ONE

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SUBSCRIBE THIS MONTH LIMITED TIME 3 ISSUES FOR £5 SPECIAL OFFER. GET THE BEST BENEFITS WHEN YOU SUBSCRIBE... WHY WAIT? SEE PAGE 32.



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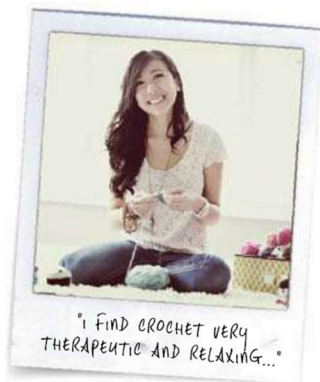
WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT THESE GIRLS (AND BOYS)...



"IT'S SUCH A PLEASURE TO MAKE A LIVING FROM CROCHET DESIGN"

NICKI TRENCH

We're lucky enough to have two of Nicki's designs in this issue: a delicate cardigan in silk and mohair yarn, and a divine baby blanket. Turn to pages 44 and 61 respectively.



"I FIND CROCHET VERY THERAPEUTIC AND RELAXING..."

STEPHANIE LAU

Stephanie is responsible for our cute green dragon on the cover. Plus, we chat with the young Canadian crocheter about life, family and amigurumi. Turn to page 49.



"I'VE ALWAYS HAD A LOVE FOR YARN AND ALL THINGS CRAFTY."

JANE CROWFOOT

Book author and knitting and crochet expert, Jane has her own column in which she invites us into her creative world and shares her tips and triumphs. See what she's been hooking this month on page 42.



"I DESIGNED THE BLANKET WHEN I WAS ON HOLIDAY IN ITALY"

AMANDA PERKINS

Amanda is the force behind The Natural Dye Studio, which creates luxurious yarns in beautifully subtle colours, using historical plant dyes. She designed our cover star – the lovely Lecchi blanket – see page 28.

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1420



9728



9741



9578

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LOOKING FOR MORE CRAFT?

TURN TO PAGE 40
TO MAKE ANNA'S
POLKA DOT SOCKS...

PURELY QUEEN
Give your parties some free with these eye-catching, spiced
biscuits by new author and the Absolute Best! **WILLIAMSON**
Having Mollie Makes' **WILLIAMSON**

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AND ENVELOPES

Making Thrifting Collecting Crafting

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MAKES

Happy New Year
Stitch our lucky felties

VELVET IS BACK!
LUSCIOUS LOOKS,
INSPIRATIONS
AND MAKES

HEART AND
SOUL QUILT
Sew Cassandra Ellis'
feel-good patchwork

MAKE IT

- Easy-knit baby blanket
- Crochet clutch bag & mitts
- Detachable faux-fur collar
- Quirky Japanese embroidery
- Tweedy Kindle case

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HOOKED

IDEAS ♥ INSPIRATION ♥ ACCESSORIES ♥ WEBSITES ♥ EVENTS ♥ STUFF



MUST-HAVE CROCHET CYCLING GLOVES

Cycling and crochet, crochet and cycling, who knew they'd go so well together? Practical and comfy, designed by racing cyclist Anna Glowinski, and worn by everyone from commuters to Olympic champions, we love them too.

They're £24.99 from AnaNichoola, www.ananichoola.co.uk



MAKE ME SMILE...

■ Bessie May's range of sumptuous yarns includes this irresistible 100% merino, Smile. Available in 12 shades, it's super soft and made from the best quality extra-fine merino fibres. It's as lovely to work with as it is to wear in a finished garment. Balls (50g) cost £4.88 each; for more details visit www.bessiemy.com or call 01903 816708.



SUPER-SIZE CROCHET

If you like quick results with your crochet, you'll love DMC's new yarn, Hooooked Zpagetti, as it's super thick. Great for beginners, this new range has good 'green' credentials too; it's made from recycled fabric left over from the fashion industry. Both elastic and strong, Zpagetti works well for accessories, handbags, cushions and rugs. Got to www.dmccreative.co.uk or call 0116 275 4000 for stockists.

New ways with granny squares couldn't get any better than this! Pictured above, EAT's (Emily & Amy's Treats) biscuits would be fun to bake, decorate and share with fellow crochet-loving friends. Follow their step-by-step tutorial online or download the pdf; either way, you're going to enjoy these tasty treats. EAT has loads more to offer too, with templates and recipes, as well as ideas to get your crafting and baking juices flowing. Yarn ball cupcakes or button biscuits anyone? – go to <http://sugarandmeringue.squarespace.com> to see them all...

SKIRTING THE ISSUE

Crochet inspiration can be found everywhere on the high street, from bargain stores to designer boutiques, and these two skirts from Anthropologie are simply gorgeous. The Doily Lace skirt is so wearable, and if you're feeling more adventurous look no further than the Dear Penny mini. Both look great teamed with a plain tee and denim jacket; visit www.anthropologie.eu or call 00800 0026 8476. You'll find similar patterns on Etsy, if you wish to make your own.





DESIGN INSPIRATION

Inspired by design collections from the catwalks, Rowan's diffusion brand has a new book, *Studio 29*. Yarns used include Rowan Cocoon, Pure Wool 4ply, Creative Focus Worsted and Kid Classic, so there's a good choice of weights to work with. The 10 varied designs from established designers include this statement Jane Crowfoot wrap. Visit www.knitrowan.com or call 01484 681881 for more details.

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

How's your new year shaping up? We rallied round the office for inspiring resolutions...

- 1 **MAKE A FULL GARMENT**
Yes, one with shaping, sleeves and everything.
- 2 **TIDY UP OUR STASH**
Be honest, do we even remember where it all is?
- 3 **LEARN A NEW TECHNIQUE**
Tunisian crochet can't be that hard, can it?
- 4 **CROCHET EVERY DAY**
Practice makes perfect... well – at least it will help us to improve.
- 5 **USE AN IDEAS NOTEBOOK**
We want to be more like Jane Crowfoot! (See page 42 for more design tips.)

STATEMENT SCARVES

Donna Wilson's designs are bursting with personality. We love her machine-knitted Swan scarves, for both adults and little ones (from £41.50). Visit <http://donnawilson.com> or call 0207 749 0768.



INSPIRING BOOKS

MERCHANT & MILLS SEWING BOOK

Carolyn Denham (Collins & Brown, £20)
Carolyn Denham's passion for traditional dressmaking bursts out of every page in this book, and contains 15 projects for you to make yourself. She explains essential equipment such as a Tailor's Ham, and the need for a comprehensive collection of scissors. The brand new Merchant & Mills shop is open too, so treat yourself at 14A Tower Street, Rye, East Sussex.



FASHION CROCHET: 30 CROCHET PROJECTS INSPIRED BY THE CATWALK

Claire Montgomerie (Carlton Books, £16.99)
Inspired by new catwalk trends, this book contains 30 projects from bangles and hats to dresses. It uses a wide range of techniques including lace work, granny squares and hairpin crochet, and they're all explained inside in detail.



AMIGURUMI ON THE GO: 30 PATTERNS FOR CROCHETING KIDS' BAGS, BACKPACKS AND MORE

Ana Paula Rimoli (Martingale & Co, £16.99)
Choose from 30 projects to create bags, pencil cases and purses, with adorable characters. There's an owl, octopus, monkey, penguin and even cute apple cosies.



COMPENDIUM OF CROCHET TECHNIQUES

Jan Eaton (Search Press Ltd, £12.99)
A bible for any crochet fan, this book is stuffed with technical info and clear instructions. Starting with the basics, it'll help you work from chain stitches through to Tunisian crochet, and on to mixing stitches and developing your own designs.





WELCOME HOME

Bring the rustic charm of rural Wales into your home, with gorgeous textiles and homewares from Blodwen. We love their hand-crocheted cushions and blankets, as well as their Welsh tapestry rugs and cashmere scarves. The company's earthenware, hand-turned wooden bowls and spoons, and sheepskin boots are all lustworthy too. View the whole range at www.blodwen.com or call 01239 622828.

BOOTILICIOUS

■ This super soft baby booties crochet pattern is a great last-minute gift to make for new babies in the family. Designed by Robyn Chachula, the pattern is a perfect project if you're new to crochet as it doesn't require any tricky techniques – you should be able to get them hooked up over a weekend. Better still, the pattern is free to download from www.themakingspot.com/crochet/pattern/gumdrop-booties. Perfect!



BRUNO, LENNY & TED

Fancy getting your hands on one of these cute Rico crochet kits? We have three to give away to our readers: Bruno the bear, Lenny the rabbit, and Ted the Dachshund! Worth £15.99 each from Wool Warehouse (www.woolwarehouse.co.uk, call 0800 505 3300), the kits include everything you need: Rico Cotton Aran, crochet hook, tapestry needle, fabric and instructions. To enter, text SCWW, then a space, then your name and address to 87474 or visit www.simplycrochetmag.co.uk, click Competitions, and use the keyword SCWW. For terms and conditions, see page 6.

COUNTING SQUARES

If you want the vintage look in your bedroom right now, and can't possibly wait to hook hundreds of granny squares, then this range of bedlinen from Heals is for you. Not the real thing, granted, but the design is a convincing photographic print on fabric that's wonderfully soft to the touch. There's bedlinen, a cushion and a co-ordinating rug; bedlinen from £75, rug £375. Count granny squares instead of sheep – call 08700 240 780; visit www.heals.co.uk





COSY CROCHET

As well as the alliteration, 'Cosy' and 'Crochet' belong together. And we couldn't think of anything better to represent this theme than a beautifully-made hot water bottle cover. Talented crafter, Vanessa Harvey, at Coco Rose Diaries, designs the most adorable covers to take to your bed. And, lucky for all of us, she's posted useful tutorials so we can stop coveting, and get crocheting! Go to www.cocorosetextiles.blogspot.co.uk



A GOOD YARN!

Where can I buy good quality, natural fibre yarn for large projects? I want a lovely range of bright colours (not neons!) and a bit of elasticity in the yarn.

Try SMC Soft Wool, from Laughing Hens (01829 740903, www.laughinghens.com) – an amazing range of bright colours in 100% pure wool, for £3.25 a ball. It's great for furnishings and garments too; we used it for our blanket on page 16.



Time to get out AND ABOUT...

SKILLS, SHOWS & EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2/13 Beginners' Crochet Classes
£35 with Susan Ritchie, Mrs Moon, Twickenham
0208 744 1190 www.mrsmoon.co.uk

FEBRUARY 2/16/23 Beginners (16)/
Intermediate Crochet (2/23) workshops
£90, with Nicki Trench, St Albans, Hertfordshire
www.nickitrench.com/nicki@nickitrench.com

FEBRUARY 9 Alpaca Introductory Husbandry
Workshop £40, Toft Alpacas, Dunchurch
01788 810626 www.toft-alpacas.co.uk

FEBRUARY 23/24 Unravel Festival
Tickets from £7, Farnham Maltings
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5 ETSY FINDS

Winter warmers
Keep your extremities
under cover



OWFULLY CUTE

Not just for nocturnal adventures, Beezy Mom's Creations' hats and hoods need to be seen to be admired.



COWL COVER-UP

Jackie Moon makes the cosiest cowls in Peruvian Highland wool. Choose soft shades like teal, plum and burnt orange.

LAYER ON LAYER
With great, simple designs for mums and minis, The Velvet Acorn is a useful resource for both patterns and finished products.



TREAT FOR FEET

Specialising in slippers and booties, bloggers Kris and Lorin at Two Girls Patterns have delightful ideas and makes.

FLOWER FINGERS
The accessory designs at Ms Weaver's Pattern Shop have pretty details, like these fingerless gloves.





COTTON ON

■ We love it when new yarns come to the UK, and this new range from Performance Yarns has caught our eye. The company makes top-quality cottons and cotton blends that are perfect for both crochet and for knitting. We are told we can expect a brand new range of colours every season, keeping us busy all year round. For more details and some free patterns, too, visit <http://performance-yarnhouse.com>



TABLE TALK...

You've got to be sitting comfortably to enjoy crochet and we find having a table to hand for a lovely cuppa (or glass of bubbly), plus nibbles and patterns, makes the whole experience more pleasurable. This trio of tables doubles up as stools, and brought a smile to our faces with their quirky looks and play on scale. Champagne cork £129 from www.thewinejournal.co.uk; tea table £135, www.designk.co.uk; cotton reel table £320, www.barnickle.co.uk

Fancy a weekend away with a difference? Then head down to the Sussex coast, to Hotel Pelirocco in Brighton where one of their unique rooms is devoted to yarn crafts. Although they've named the room 'Do Knit Disturb', it's almost all about crochet, complete with a crafted breakfast and seagull! The room's a single (£59-£75 a night), so you'll have it all to yourself, but if you feel like socialising, there's bound to be a lively crowd staying, with other room themes focusing on music genres such as rockabilly, Motown Soul, punk and reggae. For details, visit www.hotelpelirocco.co.uk

THE PERFECT SET-UP



Not essential, but lovely, this is our crochet room wish-list for 'one day...'

1. Comfortable seat. Try a Kelly Swallow patchwork chair, from £950, for a good comfy seat. Buy one ready-made, or choose your colours and patterns. It's a great investment piece from <http://kellyswallow.co.uk>
2. Table to hand. Try the Nordan metal nesting tables in green or grey, £189, from www.notonthehighstreet.com
3. Good lighting. Try an LED Desk Light, £49.99, www.daylightcompany.co.uk. This flexible lamp helps you see true colours and the tiniest of details.
4. Liquid refreshments. Try a Zoma corky carafe set (<http://zoma.co.uk>). A carafe and glasses set (£60) is the ideal companion for long winter days curled up with your crochet. The cork keeps your drink fresh however long you're engrossed in your project.



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PATCHWORK THROW

Crochet bedspreads add instant warmth as well as colour. We made our squares big, bold and basic so they're easy to follow even when you're watching telly.

(RIGHT) POSH PILLOWCASES

Simple, but so effective... Edge your pillowcases with oh-so-pretty crochet for a quality vintage look, especially suited to sweet bedrooms.





SWEET DREAMS

Create a colourful, cosy haven full of crocheted soft furnishings, accessories or works of art...

BEDROOM IDEAS



ANYONE FOR BUNTING?

Why should those who sew have all the fun? Crocheted bunting is the business, and the perfect way to use up odds and ends of yarn.

PRETTY PICTURE FRAMES

If you're like us, you'll have pictures or photos stashed away, ready to frame 'when you find the right thing'. We got bored of waiting and made our own. Crocheting around a basic bangle creates a dainty pattern to complement your image, and they make great gifts, too.

LOVELY LAMPSHADE

Just 15 granny squares make up this unique shade cover, which fits perfectly by adding an extra motif on the bottom row. Try a variety of colourways to suit your décor.





COVER A PADDED COAT HANGER

Some clothes are not meant to be tucked away, but kept out on display (after all, you *do* have excellent taste). We have kept our coat hanger simple, but you could add a mini corsage or extra ribbon to give it the real star treatment.

BEDROOM IDEAS



EVERYONE LOVES A CUSHION

If in doubt, crochet a cushion. You can never have too many and they look good in any room. We backed ours with floral fabric for a dreamy bedroom feel.

BEDROOM IDEAS

BRIGHT BLANKET

You can customise the size of this throw to suit your bed or sofa, and rearrange the geometric patterns.

- SMC Soft Wool (100% wool, 50g/110m)
12 balls of White (00001)
4 balls of Orange (00026)
3 balls each of: Turquoise (00065),
Royal (00051), Gold (00022),
Violet (00049), Fuchsia (00036)
- A 4mm (US 6) crochet hook

BASIC SQUARE

Ch6 using a 4mm hook, ss into the first ch to form a ring.

Round 1 Ch5 (counts as tr and ch2), * 3tr into the ring, ch2; rep from * 2 more times, 2tr into the ring, ss into 3rd ch. [4 groups of 3 tr, 4 ch-2 sp]

Round 2 Ss into ch-sp, ch5 (counts as tr and ch2), * 2tr into same ch-sp, 1tr into each tr, 2tr into ch-sp, ch2; rep from * 2 more times, 2tr into ch-sp, 1tr into each tr, 1tr into ch-sp, ss into top of beg ch-3. [28 tr, 4 ch-2 sp]

Round 3 As Round 2. [44 tr, 4 ch-2 sp]

Round 4 Ss into ch-sp, ch6 (counts as tr and ch3), * 2tr into ch-sp, 1tr into each tr, 2tr into ch-sp, ch3; rep from * 2 more times, 2tr into ch-sp, 1tr into each tr, 1tr into ch-sp, ss into top of beg ch-3. [60 tr, 4 ch-3 sp]
Rep round 4 until 13 rounds are complete. **Fasten off.**

COLOURED SQUARES

The blanket is made of 20 squares in total. Make the following number of squares in a single colour:
White (00001) x 6 squares

Turquoise (00065) x 1 square
Royal (00051) x 1 square
Gold (00022) x 1 square
Orange (00026) x 2 squares
Violet (00049) x 1 square
Fuchsia (00036) x 1 square

Make 1 each of the following squares:
SQUARE 1

Work 1 round White, 1 round Gold, 1 round White, 1 round Orange, 1 round White, 1 round Turquoise, 1 round White, 1 round Royal, 1 round White, 1 round Violet, 1 round White, 1 round fuchsia, 1 round White.

SQUARE 2

Work 3 rounds White, 2 rounds Turquoise, 1 round Royal, 2 rounds White, 1 round Royal, 2 rounds Turquoise, 2 rounds White.

SQUARE 3

Work 3 rounds White, 2 rounds Gold, 2 rounds Orange, 2 rounds White, 2 rounds Violet, 2 rounds White.

SQUARE 4

Work 2 rounds White, 3 rounds Fuchsia, 2 rounds White, 2 rounds Turquoise, 2 rounds Royal, 2 rounds White.

SQUARE 5

Work 2 rounds White, 2 rounds Orange, 2 rounds White, 2 rounds Violet, 2 rounds White, 2 rounds Turquoise, 1 round White.

SQUARE 6

Work 2 rounds White, 2 rounds Royal, 2 rounds White, 3 rounds Orange, 1 round White, 2 rounds Gold, 1 round in White.

SQUARE 7

Work 3 rounds White, 2 rounds Fuchsia, 2 rounds Violet, 1 round White, 3 rounds Gold, 2 rounds White.

Piece together the blanket using the diagram below as a guide.

BORDER

Join the White yarn and work a htr into each tr, and (2tr, ch2, 2tr) into each corner. **Fasten off.**

Weave in all loose ends. Press and block.

TURQUOISE	WHITE	7	ORANGE
5	ROYAL	WHITE	6
WHITE	4	GOLD	WHITE
ORANGE	WHITE	3	VIOLET
2	FUCHSIA	WHITE	1

 SQUARES NUMBERED 1-7

PILLOWCASE EDGINGS

Transform a plain pillowcase or cushion and give your bedroom a touch of crochet magic with these quick edging ideas.

- Rowan Wool Cotton 4 ply (50% merino wool, 50% cotton, 50g/180m)
1 ball of each Butter (488), Petal (484), Satsuma (489)
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) crochet hook
- Pillowcases
- Low-tack masking tape

BLANKET STITCH

First, work blanket stitch around the opening of the pillowcase. To do this, stick a strip of low-tack masking tape 1.5cm away from the opening edge of the case, all the way round. Mark 1.5cm intervals along the edge of the masking tape. When you reach the end, try to



space the markings evenly. Use this as a guide for working the blanket stitch. Use a **double** thread of yarn, making each straight stitch line up with the markings, and stitching between the edge of the tape and the edge of the pillowcase so that the stitches are 1.5cm deep. Remove the tape carefully once you have finished so you can re-use it on another pillowcase.

When working dc into the blanket st, insert your hook in the space between the two straight stitches (1 'blanket st space'), between the edge of the case and the strand of yarn running along the edge of the pillowcase.

Note on tension After working over several blanket st spaces in the first round, check that the tension of your stitches is not pulling up the edge of the case, or ruffling. If they are pulling up, the tension is too tight, so use a larger hook size; likewise if the edging is ruffling, change to a smaller hook.

TREBLE SCALLOP EDGING

First work the blanket stitch edging.

Round 1 (RS) With a **single** strand of yarn, join into one of the blanket st spaces at the end of the case with a ss, ch1 and work 3dc in the first blanket st space. Continue to work 3dc in each blanket st space all the way around the edge and ss to the first ch of the round to join.

Round 2 *Skip 2 sts of the previous round, 6tr in the next st, skip 2 sts, ss in the next st. Rep from * to the end of the round. If you have an odd number of blanket st spaces, you will need to adjust the end of the round to make the scallops fit. Work until the last 15sts or 5 blanket st spaces and continue as follows:

*Skip 2 sts, 6tr in the next st, skip 1 st, ss in the next st. Rep from * two times more.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TREBLE PICOT

Work blanket st and Round 1 as for the treble scallop edging.

Round 2 Ch3 (counts as tr), skip st at base of ch and tr in next st. Ch3 and ss in the first of those ch. *Skip 1 st of previous round, 2tr, ch3 and ss in the first of those ch. Rep from * to end, ss



into the top of the ch-3 at the beginning of the round to join.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

COOL CUSHIONS

Go granny chic or psychedelic stripes with these easy cushion patterns.

- Rowan, Pure Wool Aran (100g/170m, 100% super wash wool)
- To make two cushions:
- 2 balls of Yarn E: Ivory 670 (white)
- 1 ball each of:
- Yarn A: Splash 701 (blue)
- Yarn B: Banana 698 (gold)
- Yarn C: Burnt 700 (orange)
- Yarn D: Burlesque 689 (pink)
- A 5mm (US H/8) crochet hook
- Backing fabric, one fat quarter
- Sewing cotton and needle
- Cushion pad (38cm/15in square)

CUSHION 1

Using Ivory yarn, ch6, join into a ring with a ss.

Round 1 Ch5 (counts as 1tr, ch2), (3tr into ring, ch2) three times, 2tr into ring, ss to top of beg ch-3 to join. [4 groups of 3 tr, 4 ch2-sp]

Round 2 Ch4 (counts as 1tr, ch1), *(3tr, ch2, 3tr) into ch2-sp, ch1; rep from * 2 more times, 3tr, ch2, 2tr, ss to top of beg ch-3 to join. [8 groups of 3tr, 4 corner ch2-sp, 4 ch1-sp] Break yarn.

Change to Banana, join into the corner

ch-2 sp.

Round 3 Ch5 (counts as 1tr, ch2), 3tr into same ch-sp, ch1, *3tr into next ch-sp, ch1, (3tr, ch2, 3tr) into ch-2 sp, ch1; rep from * 2 more times, 3tr into next ch-sp, ch1, 2tr into corner ch-2 sp at start of round, ss to top of beg ch-3 to join. [12 groups of 3 tr, 4 corner ch2-sp, 8 ch1-sp]

Round 4 Ch5 (count as 1tr, ch2), 3tr into same ch-sp, ch1, *(3tr into next ch-sp, ch1) twice, (3tr, ch2, 3tr) into ch-2 sp, ch1; rep from * 2 more times, (3tr into next ch-sp, ch1) twice, 2tr into corner ch-2 sp at start of round, ss to top of beg ch-3 to join. [16 groups of 3 tr, 4 corner ch-2 sp, 12 ch-1 sp] Break yarn.

Change to Burlesque, join into the corner ch-2 sp and work 1 round as set, with (3tr, ch2, 3tr) in each corner ch-2 sp, and (3tr, ch1) in each side ch-1 sp. Break yarn.

Change to Ivory, join into the corner ch-2 sp and work 2 rounds. Break yarn.

Change to Burnt yarn, join into the corner ch-2 sp and work 3 rounds. Break yarn.

Change to Ivory, join into the corner ch-2 sp and work 2 rounds in htr, working 1htr into each st and ch-1 sp and (2htr, ch2, 2htr) into the corner ch-sp. Break yarn.

Continue working rounds of htr as set in the previous round, working 1 round of each colour in the following



sequence: Gold, Ivory, Gold, Ivory, Burlesque, Ivory, Burnt.

MAKING UP

Press and block the crochet cover. With the right sides facing, sew the fabric to the crochet cover – when three sides have been sewn, turn the cover the right way out. Place the cushion pad inside and slip stitch the cover closed. Secure the thread.

CUSHION 2

Working in colour sequence outlined below, make two sides of the cushion as follows:

Round 1 Ch6 and join with a ss to first ch to form a ring.

Round 2 Ch3 (counts as tr), 2tr in ring, ch1 (forming first corner), *3tr in ring, ch1; repeat from * twice, join with a ss to top of beg ch-3 and fasten off the first colour.

Round 3 and every following round Ch3 (counts as tr,) work 1tr in each tr and (2tr, ch1, 2tr) in each corner.

COLOUR SEQUENCE

Side 1

Yarn E, B, E, C, E, A, E, D, E, B, E.

Side 2

*Yarn A, B, C, D, E; rep once from * and then work the last round in Yarn A. Leave yarn attached to piece.

MAKING UP

With wrong side of two pieces facing,

and yarn A still attached to side 2, ss the 2 pieces together around three sides, leaving one side open. Place the cushion pad inside, then ss the remaining side to close the cover.

BEAUTIFUL BUNTING

Bunting works everywhere, indoors or out. Make it as long as you dare.

- Rowan, Pure Wool Aran (100g/170m, 100% super wash wool)
- Yarn A or B Banana (698) 1 ball
- Yarn A or B Splash (701) 1 ball
- Yarn A or B Burnt (700) 1 ball
- Yarn C Ivory (670) 1 ball
- A 5mm (US H/8) crochet hook

Use any colour combinations you fancy, using the picture for reference.

BUNTING

With Yarn A, ch6, ss into the first ch to form a ring.

Round 1 Ch3 (counts as tr), work 2tr into ring, (ch3, 3tr into ring) twice, ch3, ss to top of beg ch-3 to join. [3 groups of 3tr, 3 ch-3 sp]

Change to yarn B, joining the yarn into the ss from the previous round.

Round 2 *Ch3 (counts as tr), 1tr into next 2 tr, (3tr, ch3, 3tr) in next ch-sp; rep from * another 2 times replacing the first ch-3 with tr, ss to top of beg ch-3 to join. [27tr, 3 ch-3 sp]

Change to yarn C, joining the yarn into ss from previous round.

Round 3 Ch3 (counts as tr), 1tr into next 5 tr, (3tr, ch3, 3tr) into next ch-sp, *1tr into next 9 tr, (3tr, ch3, 3tr) into next ch-sp; rep from *, 1tr into next 3 tr, ss to top of beg ch-3 to join. [45tr, 3 ch-3 sp]

Round 4 Ch1 (counts as dc), *dc in each tr, (3dc, ch2, 3dc) into next ch-sp; rep from * around, ss to beg ch-1 to join. [63dc, 3 ch-3 sp]

Fasten off.

Weave in all loose ends.

Work a chain length to fit your design and thread the triangles onto the chain, sewing in place when you're happy with the arrangement of the triangles.

HANGER COVER

Treat wardrobe treasures to a brand new version of the padded hanger.

- Rowan Wool Cotton 4 ply (50% merino wool, 50% cotton, 50g/180m)
- 1 ball of each White (483), Butter (488), Flower (485), Petal (484), Violet (490), Paper (486)
- A 3mm (US D/3) crochet hook
- Padded coat hanger



BEDROOM IDEAS

Using Butter yarn, ch6, ss into the first ch to form a ring.

Round 1 Ch1, 12dc into the ring, ss into beg ch-1 to join. [12 sts]

Change to White.

Round 2 Ch1, 2dc into each dc, ss into beg ch-1 to join. [24 sts]

Round 3 Ch1, *2dc into next dc, 1dc into next dc; rep from * to end of round, ss into beg ch-1 to join. [36 sts]

Change to Flower.

Round 4 Ch2, work 1htr into each dc, ss into top of beg ch-2.

Round 5 Ch2, work 1htr into each htr, ss into top of beg ch-2.

Repeat round 5, working the striped pattern as follows:

2 rounds White, 2 rounds Petal, 2 rounds White, 2 rounds Violet, 2 rounds White, 2 rounds Paper, 2 rounds White, 2 rounds Butter, 2 rounds White, 2 rounds Flower, 2 rounds White, 2 rounds Petal, 2 rounds White, 2 rounds Paper, 1 round White.

MAKING UP

Weave in all loose ends, Slide the cover onto the padded coat hanger and sew together the centre join.

SWEET FRAMES

Make over your favourite pictures... or buy new ones for your frames.

- Rowan Wool Cotton 4 ply (50% merino wool, 50% cotton, 50g/180m)
1 ball of each Butter (488), Flower (485), Satsuma (489)
- A 3mm (US D/3) crochet hook
- Thin metal bracelets

FRAME 1 (FLOWER)

Using Flower (485), fasten the yarn to the bracelet with a dc, ch2 (counts as 1 htr), work 59 htr into the bracelet. (60 htr)

Round 1 (Ch2, miss 1 htr, 1dc into next htr, ch3, miss 1 htr, 1 dc into next htr), rep to end of round, ss into the first ch.

Round 2 *Miss the ch-2 sp, work (2tr, 2 ttr, ch3, 2ttr, 2tr) into the ch-3 sp, miss the next ch-2 sp, 1dc into dc between the ch-sp; rep from * to end of round.



Fasten off.

FRAME 2 (SUNSHINE)

Using Butter (488), fasten the yarn to the bracelet with a dc, ch2 (counts as 1 htr), work 59 htr into the bracelet. (60 htr)

Round 1 Work as for Round 1 of the Flower Frame.

Round 2 *Miss the ch-2 sp, work (3tr, ch2, 3tr) into the ch-3 sp, miss the next ch-2 sp, 1dc into dc between the ch-sp; rep from * to end of round.

Fasten off.

FRAME 3 (SCALLOPS)

Using Satsuma (489), fasten the yarn to the bracelet with a dc, ch2 (counts as 1 htr), work 59 htr into the bracelet. (60 htr)

Round 1 Work as for Round 1 of the Flower Frame.

Round 2 *Miss the ch-2 sp, work 6tr into the ch-3 sp, miss the next ch-2 sp, 1dc into dc between the ch-sp; rep from * to end of round.

Fasten off.

GRANNY LAMPSHADE

Create a unique lampshade to give your bedroom a vintage feel.

- Rowan, Pure Wool DK (100% superwash wool, 50g/125m)
1 ball of each Snow (012), Gold (051), Damson (030), Hyacinth (026), Dahlia (042), Orchid (052), Kiss (036), Indigo (010), Cypress (007)
- A 4mm (US 6) crochet hook
- Lampshade (about 60cm circumference)

NOTES Each square uses three colours: yarns A, B and C, plus Snow. Use any colour combinations you like. Each square measures approx 8cm. For special abbreviations, see page 76.

GRANNY SQUARE

Using yarn A, ch8, join with a ss into a ring.

Round 1 Ch1, work 16dc into ring, join with a ss into first ch. Break yarn.

Change to yarn B.

Round 2 Beginning Cluster, * ch2, miss 1 dc, Cluster into the next dc; rep from * 6 times, ch2, ss into top of beg ch-3. [8 Clusters, 8 ch2-sp] Break yarn.

Round 3 Join yarn C into first ch2-sp, ch3, 3tr into same sp, * ch3, 4tr into the next ch2-sp; rep to end of round, ss into top of beg ch-3. [8 groups of 4 tr, 8 ch3-sp] Break yarn.

Round 4 Join Snow into first ch3-sp, (ch3 [counts as tr], 4tr, ch2, 5tr) into the same sp, *5tr into next ch-sp, (5tr, ch2, 5tr) into next ch-sp; rep from * 2 more times, 5tr into next ch-sp, ss into top of beg ch-3. [12 groups of 5 tr, 4 ch2-sp] **Fasten off.**

Make 15 squares. Join in strips of 7 and 8 squares, sewing only at corners and centre of side. Join the two strips together lengthways to fit shade.



YARN STOCKISTS

Blanket: SMC Soft Wool, Laughing Hens
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All other projects: contact Rowan
01484 681881 www.knitrowan.com



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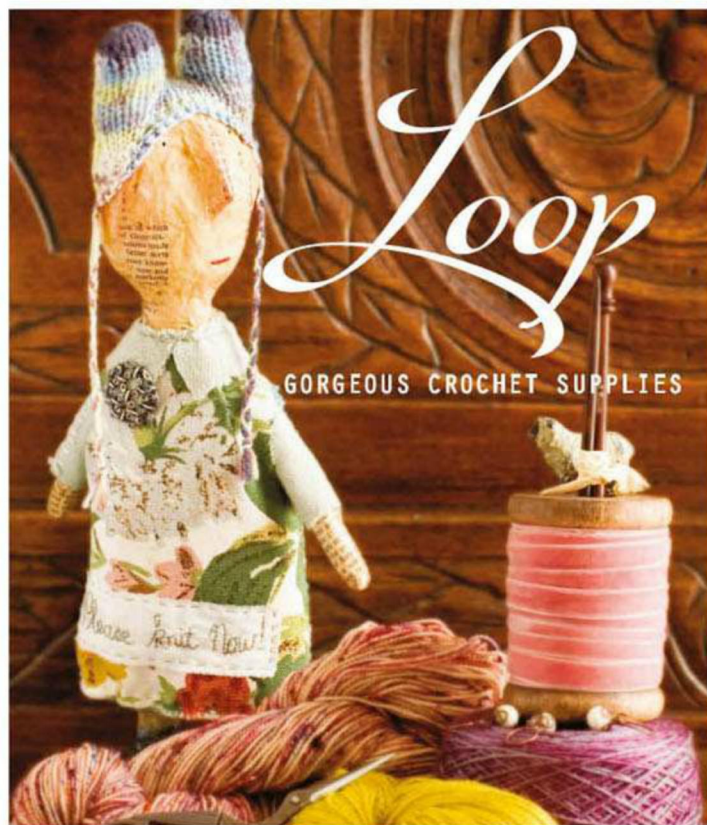


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Lovebird toys



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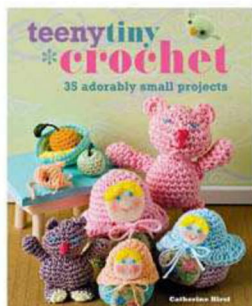
- Small amount of No.5 or fine cotton, such as DMC Petra No.5 100% cotton, in white
 - A 1.5mm (US 8 steel) hook
 - Toy stuffing
 - Sewing needle
 - Small pieces of orange and red felt
 - Oddment of 6-strand cotton embroidery thread in black, split into 3 strands
 - Craft/fabric glue
- For yarn stockists, contact
DMC 0116 275 4000
www.dmccreative.co.uk

ABBREVIATIONS

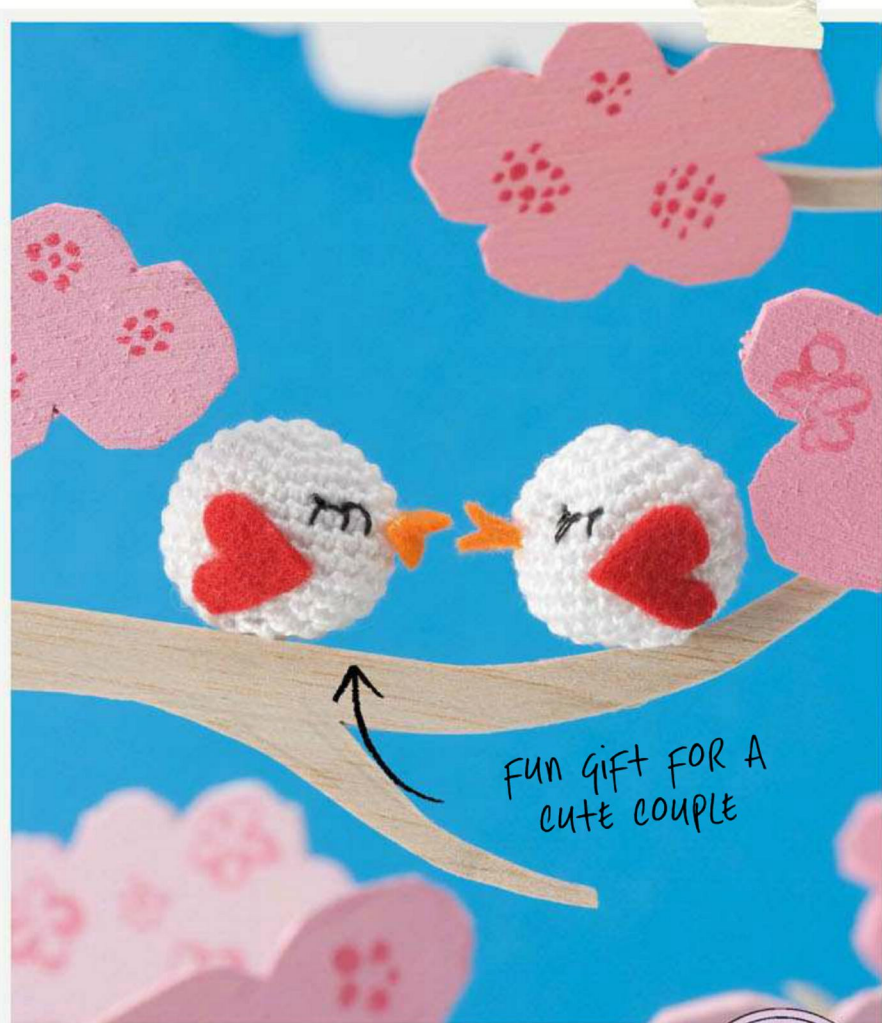
- **dc2tog** double crochet 2 together decrease. Insert hook in next st, yrh, pull through a loop. Without finishing st, insert hook in next st, yrh and pull through a loop. Yrh and pull through all three loops on hook
- For a full list, see page 94.

MEASUREMENTS

Size 2.5cm diameter



These adorable lovebirds come from the book *Teeny Tiny Crochet* by Catherine Hirst, published by Cico Books (£12.99, paperback), photography by Geoff Dann. Reader offer... Save £2 on *Teeny Tiny Crochet* – to order for £10.99 with free UK p&p, call 01256 302699 and quote code GLR6UJ. Visit www.cicobooks.co.uk.



LOVABLES



Catherine Hirst's birds are teeny, tiny and ever-so sweet. Puckering up has never been so adorable.



LOVEBIRD

Make 6dc in a magic loop; pull tail to close the loop.

Round 1 2dc in each dc. [12sts]

Round 2 *1dc in next dc, 2dc in next dc; rep from * to end. [18sts]

Round 3 *1dc in each of next 2 dc, 2dc in next dc; rep from * to end. [24sts]

Rounds 4–8 1dc in each dc. [24sts]

Round 9 *1dc in each of next 2 dc, dc2tog; rep from * to end. [18sts]

Round 10 *1dc in next dc, dc2tog; rep from * to end. [12sts]

Stuff lightly and flatten sphere into a

disc shape.

Round 11 Dc2tog around. [6sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

FINISHING

Use yarn end to close hole in lovebird. Cut two heart shapes from the red felt and use glue to attach one on each side of the lovebird as wings. Cut a diamond shape from orange felt, fold in half and sew to front of disc for beak. Embroider eyes using 3 strands of the black embroidery thread. Make a second lovebird to match.



SNUGGLE UP

Cosy up inside while it's cold outside, with this colourful blanket by Amanda Perkins.



Sitting down with this beautiful crochet blanket at the end of a long day, creative minds can't help but relax and unwind. For those with a bit of crochet experience the motifs are simple to make, and the small shapes are great for taking out and about.

The yarns we've used come from one of our favourite producers, The Natural Dye Studio. The creative talent behind the company is Amanda Perkins, who says: "I designed this blanket while I was on holiday in Italy. I called it 'Lecchi', which was the name of the pretty village in Tuscany where we stayed." We think a little bit of Amanda's Italian holiday experience has transferred to her blanket – it has style as well as comfort.





YOU WILL NEED

- The Natural Dye Studio Jubilee 4 ply/sock (75% Blue Faced Leicester Wool, 20% silk, 5% stellina, 150g/600m), 4 skeins of Porlock (Yarn A)
 - The Natural Dye Studio Dazzling 4ply/sock (55% Blue Faced Leicester Wool, 45% silk, 100g/400m), 2 skeins of Blackmoor Gate (Yarn B)
 - 1 skein of each: Lundy (Yarn C), Dulverton (Yarn D), Combe Martin (Yarn E)
 - A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- For yarn stockists, contact
The Natural Dye Studio
01598 752053
www.thenaturaldyestudio.com

TENSION

The blocked motifs measure approx 11.5cm (4.5in) from point to point. It is important to get the tension correct so you will need to make several swatches and block them to establish the correct hook size for you.

MEASUREMENTS

Finished blanket measures approx 117x135cm (46x53in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 94.

CONSTRUCTION NOTES

Lecchi is made up of 248 triangular motifs and is 12 motifs wide by 21 motifs long (reducing to 19 motifs along the edges).

There are 78 motifs along the edges made entirely out of the main colour (Yarn A).

The motifs in the centre are made out of two alternating colour palettes (85 of each).

Please refer to the Diagram opposite when joining the motifs.

When you join the motifs along the edges of the triangles, you will leave a space where 6 points of the motifs meet. This space is filled by a smaller filler circle. There are 104 filler circles. There are edging motifs on rounds 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, all in Yarn A, with 78 edging motifs in total.

If you prefer to work from charts, refer to Chart 1 for the main triangle motif and Chart 2 for the filler circle motif.



MAIN TRIANGLE MOTIF

Ch4 and join into a ring with a ss.

Round 1 Ch2 (counts as htr), 11 htr into the ring, ss to the top of beg ch-2 to join. [12 htr]

Round 2 Work the following into each gap between sts from round 1: *Ch2 (counts as htr), 1htr; rep from * another 11 times, replacing first ch-2 with 1htr, ss to the top of beg ch-2 to join. [24 htr]

Round 3 Working into the gaps between sts from round 2: *Into the next gap ch6 (counts as tr and ch3), 1 tr. 1htr in each of the next 2 gaps, 1dc in each of the next 3 gaps, 1htr in each of the next 2 gaps; rep from * another 2 times, replacing first ch-3 with 1tr. Ss to the top of beg ch-3 to join. Ss into the first st from round 3. [3 corner ch-3 sp, 6 tr, 12 htr, 9 dc]

Round 4 Working into the gaps between sts from round 3 (unless stated otherwise): *Into the corner ch-3 sp (ch2 [counts as htr], 1tr, ch3, 1tr, 1htr), 1htr in the next gap, 1dc in the next 6 gaps, 1 htr in the next gap; rep from * another 2 times replacing first ch-2 with htr. Ss to the top of beg ch-2 to join. 2ss into the first 2 sts from round 4. [3 corner ch-3 sp, 6 tr, 12 htr, 18 dc]

Rounds 5 & 6 Repeat round 4 but



Triangles in different colour sequences create beautiful contrasts and harmonies.

increase the number of dc sts on each side of the triangle by 3 (9 per side for round 5 and 12 per side for round 6).

Fasten off.

JOINING THE MAIN MOTIFS

Join the motifs by crocheting or sewing on round 6 along each side of the motif but do not join the corner ch-3 spaces.

MAIN MOTIFS COLOUR PALETTE A

Round 1 in a contrast colour (Yarn C, D or E)
Rounds 2, 3 & 4 in Yarn B
Rounds 5 & 6 in Yarn A
85 motifs in total.

MAIN MOTIFS COLOUR PALETTE B

Rounds 1 & 2 in a contrast colour (Yarn C, D or E)
Rounds 3 & 4 in a different contrast colour (Yarn C, D or E)
Rounds 5 & 6 in Yarn A
85 motifs in total.

FILLER CIRCLE MOTIF

When you have joined the motifs together, you will be left with hexagonal holes where the points of 6 triangles meet. A filler circle is made within each of these holes. The filler circle works inwards, unlike a normal motif which works outwards. Each side of the hexagonal hole comprises of a ch-3 sp.

Join Yarn A into a ch-3 sp.

Round 1 Into each ch-3 sp (ch1 [counts as dc], 2dc) replacing first ch-1 with dc. Ss to beg ch-1 to join. [18 dc]

Round 2 Working inside round 1 and working into the gaps between the sts: *ch1 (counts as dc), 1dc, miss a gap; rep from * another 5 times, replacing first ch-1 with dc. Ss to beg ch-1 to join. [12 dc]

Triangle motif blanket

CHART 1

Key

- Slip st (ss)
- Chain (ch)
- × Double crochet (dc)
- ┘ Half treble (htr)
- ┘ Treble (tr)

Follow the rounds on Chart 1 in an anti-clockwise direction.

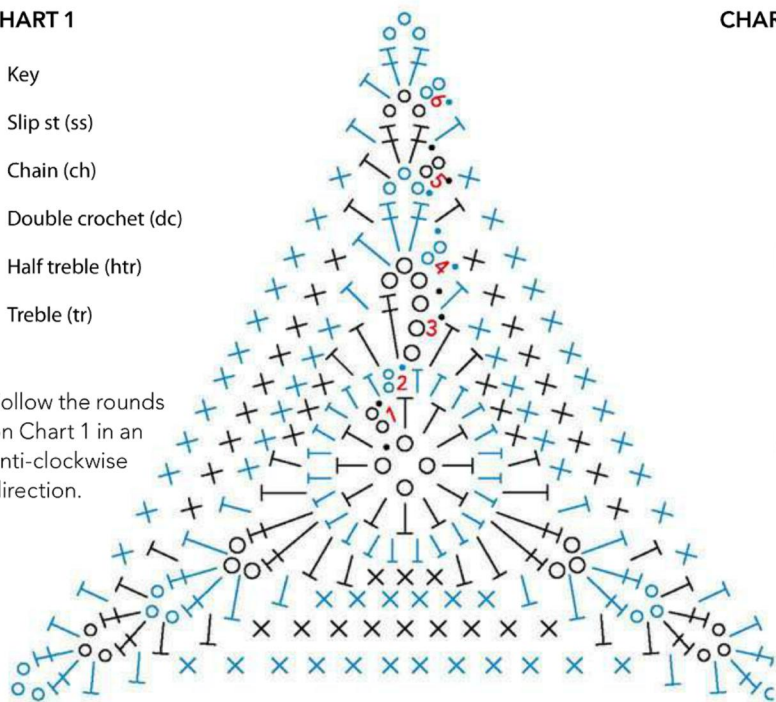
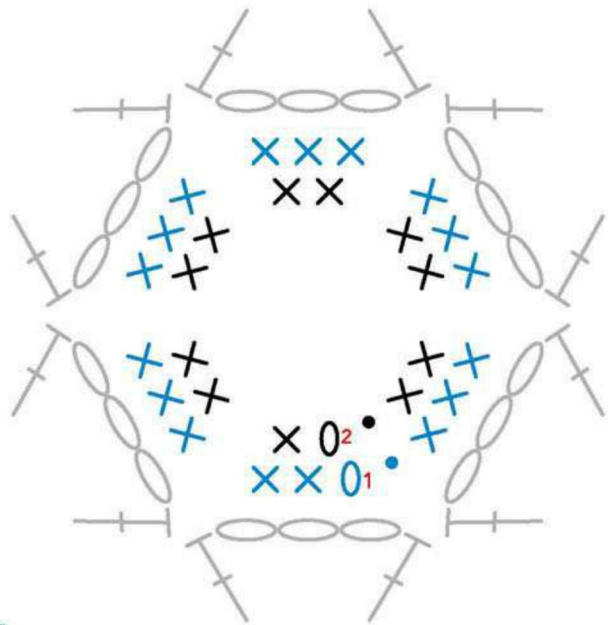
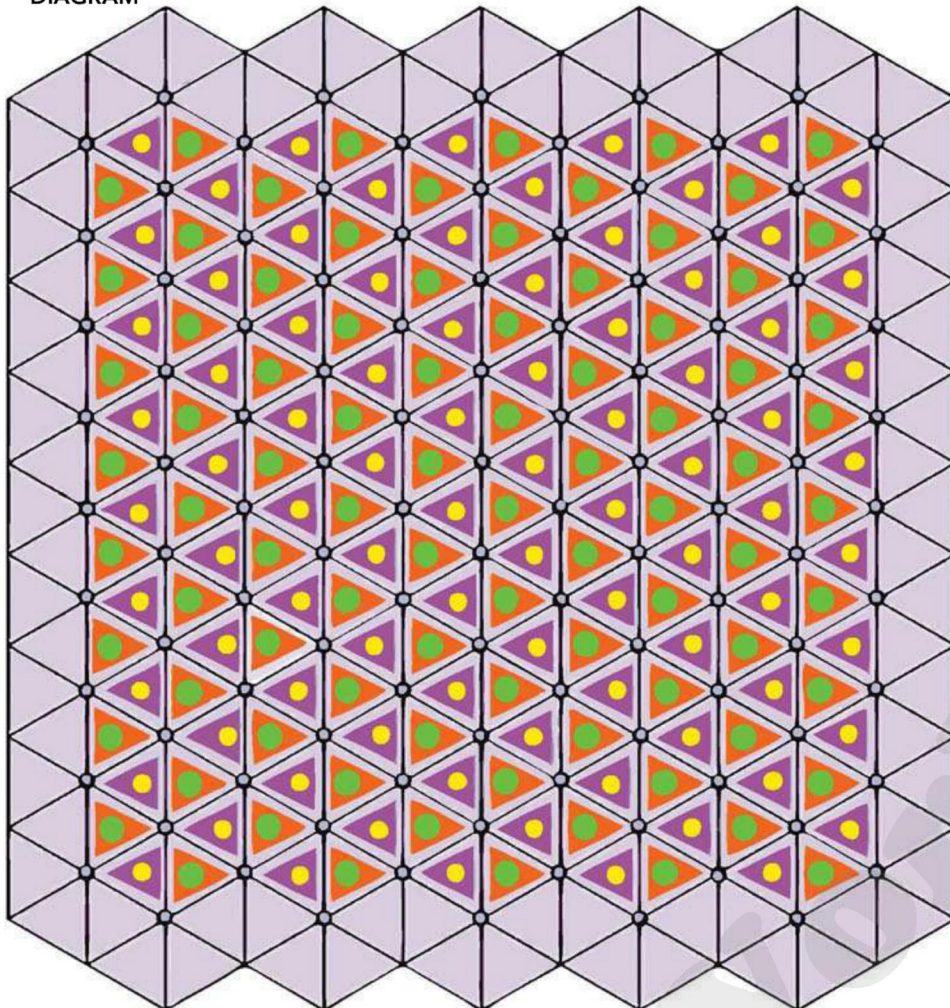


CHART 2

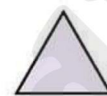


Follow the rounds on Chart 2 in a clockwise direction. Grey symbols denote the edges of the triangle motifs, already worked.

DIAGRAM



KEY



Edging motif (Yarn A)



Centre motif Colour Palette A



Centre motif Colour Palette B

○ Filler circle

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MAGICAL CIRCLES

It's not an illusion, the links on this scarf are seamlessly joined to create a unique look. Read through the pattern to find out how...

Chain link scarf



YOU WILL NEED

■ Toft Aran Yarn (100% British alpaca, 100g/115m), 1 ball each of 3 different colours

■ 3.5mm (US E/4) hook

■ 4.5mm (US 7) hook

■ 5.5mm (US I/9) hook

For yarn stockists, contact

Toft 01788 810626

www.thetoftalpachop.co.uk

MEASUREMENTS

Each link = 14cm (5½in) diameter

Hole in centre = 4.5cm (1¾in) diameter

Link = 4.8cm (1¾in) across

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 94.

Clever, cosy and fashionable – this scarf from Toft Alpaca will appeal to all tastes. Each link in the chain is crocheted in the round, with the shaping created easily by using gradually larger hooks. With three neutral colours of naturally soft alpaca, this is a scarf you'll love making and wearing. Use different weights of alpaca yarn with smaller or larger hooks, and experiment to get a different look.



The natural shades of yarn from Toft Alpaca work beautifully when put together.

LINK

Using first colour and 3.5mm hook, ch35, ss to the first ch to join, being careful not to twist.

Round 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), 1dc into each ch, ss into ch-1 at the beg of the round, turn. [35 sts]
Change to 4.5mm hook.

Round 2 Ch3 (counts as tr), 1tr into first st, *1tr into next each of next 3 sts, 2tr into next st; rep from * to end of round, ss to top of ch-3 to join, turn. [43 sts]
Change to a 5.5mm hook.

Round 3 Ch3 (counts as tr), 1tr into each st, ss to top of ch-3 to join, turn.

Round 4 Ch3 (counts as tr), 1tr into first st, *1tr into each of next 3 sts, 2tr into

next st; rep from * to last st, 1tr, ss to top of ch-3 to join. [53 sts]

Fasten off and sew in ends.

SECOND LINK

Using the next colour, work in the same way as for the first link but pass the initial 35 chain sts through the centre of this first link and join them together with a ss on the outside of the first link. Work the following rounds as for the first link.

Work the rest of the links in the same way as the second link to create the joined chain effect. Work with three alternating colours to desired length.



SIMPLE STEPS WORKING STITCHES INTO A RING



1 Making this scarf is a similar technique to working into a foundation ring. You'd usually work the correct number of chains for a t-ch, but here it's ch35.



2 Work the stitch as on a row, but insert the hook into the centre of the ring rather than each chain loop. For a treble, yrh, insert into the ring, yrh and pull yarn through loop.



3 Continue with the treble stitch, working in just the same way as you would on a row. So yrh, pull yarn through first 2 loops.



4 Finish off the treble stitch by working yrh, pull yarn through 2 loops. Continue making stitches into the ring as instructed.



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Upcycle an outfit



PLAIN jumpERS
REVITALIZED!



THE LBD GETS
A MAKEOVER

YOU'RE COLLARED!

Whether you're wearing a pretty party dress or a cosy cardigan, a cute crochet collar is an easy way to bring your wardrobe bang up to date.



DOUBLE
CROCHET



4PLY
WEIGHT



2.5MM
3MM

YOU WILL NEED

- Rowan Siena 4ply (100% cotton, 50g/140m)
 - 1 ball of cream (652)
 - A 2.5mm (US C/2) hook
 - A 3mm (US D/3) hook
 - 1 button for fastening
 - A selection of white/cream buttons to decorate (optional)
 - Brooch back (for corsage)
- For yarn stockists, contact
Rowan 01484 681881
www.knitrowan.com

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 94.

This simple collar by Jane Crowfoot is worked in two separate pieces.

The yarn is then rejoined to the right side and an edging round is worked all around both pieces to join them and create a pretty finish.

RIGHT SIDE OF COLLAR

Using 2.5mm hook, ch70.

Foundation row Skip 1ch, 1dc into each ch to end, turn. [69sts]

Row 1 Ch1, * 1dc into next st, ch1, skip next st; rep from * to last st, 1dc into last st, turn.

Row 2 (RS) Ch1, 1dc into next st, * 1dc into next ch-sp, ch1, skip next st; rep from * 32 times more, 1dc into next ch-sp, 1dc into last st, turn.

Row 3 Ch1, 1dc into next st, * ch1, skip next st, 1dc into next ch-sp; rep from * 18 times more, ss into next st, turn.

Row 4 Ch1, skip ss, ss into next st, 1dc into next ch-sp, * ch1, skip next st, 1dc into next ch-sp; rep from * 17 times more, 1dc into last st, turn.

Row 5 Ch1, 1dc into next st, * ch1, skip next st, 1dc into next ch-sp; rep from * 16 times more, ss into next st, turn.

Row 6 Ch1, skip ss, ss into next st, 1dc into next ch-sp, * ch1, skip next st, 1dc into next ch-sp; rep from * 15 times more, 1dc into last st, turn.

Row 7 Ch1, 1dc into next st, * ch1, skip next st, 1dc into next ch-sp; rep from * 14 times more, ss into next st, turn.

Row 8 Ch1, skip ss, ss into next st, 1dc into next ch-sp, * ch1, skip next st, 1dc into next ch-sp; rep from * 13 times more, 1dc into last st, turn.

Row 9 Ch1, 1dc into next st, * ch1, skip next st, 1dc into next ch-sp; rep from * 12 times more, ss into next st, turn.

Row 10 Ch1, skip ss, ss into next st, 1dc into next ch-sp, * ch1, skip next st, 1dc into next ch-sp; rep from * 11 times more, 1dc into last st, turn.

Row 11 Ch1, 1dc into next st, * ch1, skip next st, 1dc into next ch-sp; rep from * 10 times more, ss into next st, turn.

Row 12 Ch1, skip ss, ss into next st, 1dc into next ch-sp, * ch1, skip next st, 1dc into next ch-sp; rep from * 9 times more, 1dc into last st, turn.

Row 13 Ch1, 1dc into next st, * ch1, skip next st, 1dc into next ch-sp; rep from * 8 times more, ss into next st, turn.

Row 14 Ch1, skip ss, ss into next st, 1dc into next ch-sp, * ch1, skip next st, 1dc into next ch-sp; rep from * 7 times more, 1dc into last st, turn.

Row 15 Ch1, 1dc into next st, * ch1, skip next st, 1dc into next ch-sp; rep from * 6 times more, ss into next st, turn.

Row 16 Ch1, skip ss, ss into next st, 1dc into next ch-sp, * ch1, skip next st, 1dc into next ch-sp; rep from * 5 times more, 1dc into last st. **Fasten off.**

LEFT SIDE OF COLLAR

Using 2.5mm hook work as for Right



THE TREND CATWALK TO RED CARPET

COLLAR CONVERTS

As seen on the catwalk at Louis Vuitton and Marni, collars – any shape, any style – are the hottest thing to be wearing right now. While we don't do fashion for fashion's sake, we love this look and have spotted a few celebs who agree. But the best thing about collars is that they don't cost loads to make – in fact, they're a great

way of using up a single ball of yarn. A collar won't take an age to crochet either; we reckon a few nights with the hook and you'll have the job done.



TEAM YOUR NEW T OR VEST WITH
CUTE SHORTS OR A FULL SKIRT

ADDING A COLLAR CAN TOTALLY
TRANSFORM YOUR DRESS
COLLECTION, WHATEVER YOUR STYLE

Far left: catwalk model, by Alfred/SPA.
Left to right: Jaime King and Felicity Jones by Jim Smeal/BEI; Mollie King by Beretta/Sims; Katherine Kelly by Beretta/Sims; Frankie Sandford by Jonathan Hordle; Alexa Chung by Joseph Keriakian. All from Rex Features.

Side Collar to end of Row 2.

Change to 3mm hook (this helps to keep the slip stitches nice and loose).

Row 3 Do not work turning ch-1, 1ss into each next 2sts, [1ss into next ch-sp, 1ss into next st] 14 times, change to 2.5mm hook, 1dc into next ch-sp, * ch1, skip next st, 1dc into next ch-sp; rep from * 18 times more, working last dc into last st of the row, turn.

Row 4 Ch1, 1dc into next st; 1dc into next ch-sp * ch1, skip next st, 1dc into next ch-sp; rep from * 16 times more, 1ss into next st, turn.

Row 5 Ch1, skip ss, ss into next st, 1dc into next ch-sp, * ch1, skip next st, 1dc into next ch-sp; rep from * to end of row, working last dc into last st of the row, turn.

Row 6 Ch1, 1dc into next st, 1dc into next ch-sp, * ch1, skip next st, 1dc into next ch-sp; rep from * 14 times more, ss into next st, turn.

Row 7 Work as for Row 5.

Row 8 Ch1, 1dc into next st, 1dc into next ch-sp, * ch1, skip next st, 1dc into next ch-sp; rep from * 12 times more, ss into next st, turn.

Row 9 Work as for Row 5.

Row 10 Ch1, 1dc into next st, 1dc into next ch-sp, * ch1, skip next st, 1dc into next ch-sp; rep from * 10 times more, ss into next st, turn.

Row 11 Work as for Row 5.

Row 12 Ch1, 1dc into next st, 1dc into

next ch-sp, * ch1, skip next st, 1dc into next ch-sp; rep from * 8 times more, ss into next st, turn.

Row 13 Work as for Row 5.

Row 14 Ch1, 1dc into next st, 1dc into next ch-sp, * ch1, skip next st, 1dc into next ch-sp; rep from * 6 times more, ss into next st, turn.

Row 15 Work as for Row 5.

Row 16 Ch1, 1dc into next st, 1dc into next ch-sp, * ch1, skip next st, 1dc into next ch-sp; rep from * 4 times more, ss into next st. **Fasten off.**

EDGING ROUND TO JOIN

With RS facing, join yarn to Right Side of Collar piece by working 1ch into the first st at beg of Row 2, work 1dc into st at base of ch-1, 1dc into next 28sts of row (these sts are either ch or dc – do not work into ch-sp), stop at beg of shaping. Along shaped edge, work a further 24dc, then work 14dc along final row, working into either ch or dc (not ch-sp), stop 1 st before end of row, 3dc into next st, 16dc along side edge.

To join Left Side of Collar, continue to work along edge of Left Side as follows: 16dc along side edge, 3dc into next st (this is first st of final row), work 12dc along final row as before. Along shaped edge, work a further 25dc, work 1dc into each of next 30ss along top of Row 2, work 2 more dc into same st, 3dc

along side edge, 3dc into remaining part of next foundation ch. Into this side of foundation ch, work 1dc into each of next 11ch, dc2tog 12 times, ss into each of next 33ch – this should take you to end of first side of collar. Work second piece as follows: skip joining sts, ss into each of next 33ch, dc2tog 12 times, 1dc into each of next 10ch, 3dc into next ch, 3dc along side edge, ss into first dc at beg of row, turn.

BUTTON LOOP

Ch1, 1dc into next st, ch3, skip 3sts, 1dc into next st, ss into next st, turn. Ch1, 5dc into ch-sp, dc into final dc, ss into next st. **Fasten off.**

TO MAKE UP

Weave in yarn ends. Block and press. Decorate with buttons. Sew button in place opposite loop to act as fastening.

CORSAGE (OR ADD TO COLLAR)

Using 2.5mm hook, ch5, join with a ss to form a ring.

Foundation round Ch1, 10dc into ring, join with a ss to top of first dc.

Round 1 Ch1, skip st at base of ch-1, * 2dc into next st, ch3, skip 1 st; rep from * 4 times more, ss to top of first dc.

Round 2 * (2dc, 1htr, 1tr, 4dtr, 1tr, 1htr, 2dc) into next ch-sp; rep from * to end, ss to top of first dc. **Fasten off.** Sew button to centre, add brooch back.



THE LOOK UPDATE YOUR WARDROBE BASICS

WE WANTED TO SHOW YOU how effective our crochet collar and corsage (see right) are at turning plain wardrobe basics into stylish, wearable essentials. Our cream-coloured collar provides a nice contrast to the dark tones of these garments, but you could choose any coloured yarn and have a whole set to work with different outfits! Find different shapes and sizes of buttons or sequins to complete the look.



BRING YOUR OLD CLOTHES BACK TO LIFE BY EMBELLISHING WITH A COLLAR & CORSAGE

NOTEBOOK

By
JANE CROWFOOT

Our crochet maven muses on her creative essentials, and the joy of lists, and more lists...

At any time of year, I always have a long list of 'to dos'. The New Year, however, brings fresh ambitions and so the lists grow longer! My current list has 14 things on it, and includes notes to crochet squares for a friend who is making a patchwork blanket, as well as to complete the sample projects for a series of workshops I will be teaching at The Hertfordshire Craft Collective this year.

This is a minor list; it is written on a small piece of paper stuck into my diary. With less than 20 things written on it, it is a short list compared to a much longer one that is written in my design note pad. Two A4 pages long, this 'mother of all lists' includes all the things that have ever been on my small lists but have yet to reach fruition. This list includes things like 'launch a crochet fashion collection', 'design a crochet bag collection', 'clean the gutters out', and so on.

I am a bit of a list freak, but without one I feel out of control and, as I am prone to distraction (a common Gemini trait, apparently), my lists are extremely important to me. Drawing a line through jobs once they are complete is such a wonderful feeling, although once the list starts to look a little messy I write a new one and can't help but add more things to do. So it goes on – a life of list writing.

NOTE TO ONESELF: GET MORE DONE!

Adding new jobs to a list is often equally as rewarding as crossing things off. Seeing something new written down makes me feel stimulated and it can act as a reminder of how great something is likely to be.

To be able to add 'Write and compile a piece for *Simply Crochet* magazine' to my list was really exciting and it has already got me motivated to get more done. Having to write about what I've been up to might mean that more things get crossed off my lists, but even more thrilling is the anticipation that it will probably also mean that a whole load of new things get added – especially when we all start to see how many wonderful

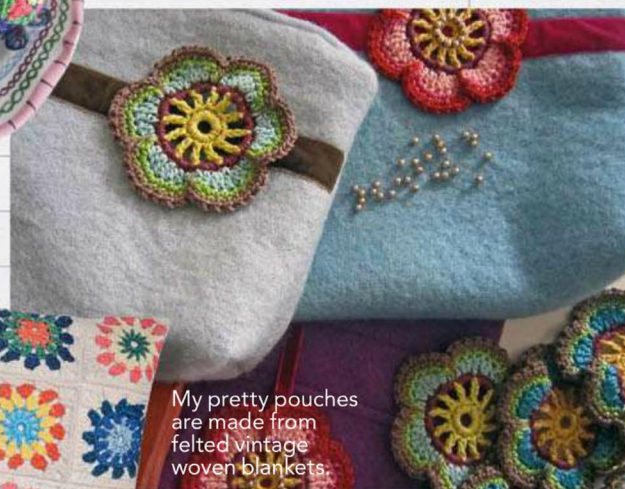


"My 2013 CROCHET CLUB DESIGN IS BASED ON PERSIAN & ISLAMIC CERAMICS"

"I've always had a love for yarn and all things crafty"



I love Greta Tulner's designs from her Etsy store, atterg crochet.



My pretty pouches are made from felted vintage woven blankets.



I've ordered this bedset from Heals!



ideas and projects this magazine will have to offer. Continuing on the theme of lists, and to offer some tips, I've detailed below the three things I couldn't survive without...

MY CROCHET ESSENTIALS

I couldn't be without my two Harmony Guide books; I refer to them constantly, both the guide to crochet stitches and the stitch motif book. These are really useful books, especially when learning a new stitch, but you do need to be careful as some of the patterns switch between UK and US terminology.

Then, there's my Soft Touch hooks, I am very

"My precious notebook is full of inspiration & ideas for projects"

definite about my favourite hooks! They are the Soft Touch range from Clover. I hold my crochet hook like a knife rather than a pencil and need somewhere flat to put my thumb (on old style hooks this is where the number is often conveniently, and uncomfortably, stamped). Doing the amount of crochet that I do it is really important that my hooks are comfortable.

Thirdly, there is my precious notebook. When I was an art student we were told how important it was to have a sketchbook 'on the go'. I have always had one since and use it all the time. Not only does it contain a few of my lists (!), it acts as a place for me to accumulate inspiration and ideas for future projects. I stick in magazine articles and inspiring bits and bobs I come across, along with yarn samples and sketches. I would be devastated if it got lost and often panic if it's been tidied up or left somewhere I can't see it. I suppose it's my comfort blanket and I often find myself flicking through it for reassurance that I am actually completing some of the things I want to get done!

Jane Crowfoot has written three crochet titles, including *The Ultimate Crochet Bible* and *Vintage Homespun*, new out now. Jane runs a yearly crochet club, which offers members the chance to work through an exclusive throw design; and she and husband, Andy, run an online store, www.janecrow.co.uk, offering exclusive patterns, kits and accessories.



"no, SCRAMBLE - THE SCARF IS NOT FOR YOU!"

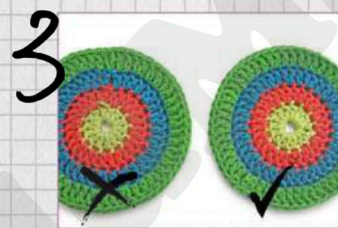
JANE'S TECHNIQUE TRICK. CREATE NEAT JOINS



The yarn shades on this crocheted piece have been changed at the same point on each round and are obvious. You can see the changeover at the 12 o'clock point on each round.



For a neat join, complete each round by working the slipstitch to join the round in the same shade yarn as the round. Sew yarn ends in. Use your new shade to start a new round at a different point.



Continue as set, working complete rounds in one shade and starting new rounds at a different point each time. As you can see in the picture above, the results are much neater.



PEARLY QUEEN

Nicki Trench's silk and mohair marvel is super soft to wear and looks so pretty.



Add a touch of glamour to an everyday outfit, with this beaded cardigan. It's worked in a Debbie Bliss silk and mohair yarn, which is available in plenty of delicious shades, from this palest of pinks, through to coral, deep plum and even vivid kingfisher blue. It's easy to choose one to suit your taste and skintone. With V stitches, double V stitches, and over 1,000 beads to add as you go, it's quite a challenging project, but the results are worth it. Sumptuous and warm, yet light as air, the three-quarter-length sleeves are flattering and versatile.





YOU WILL NEED

- Debbie Bliss, Angel (76% mohair, 24% silk, 25g/200m), Pale Pink (15), amounts in table
- A 4mm (US size G/6) hook
- A 4.5mm (US size 7) hook
- Debbie Abrahams white size 6 beads, amounts in table
- 130cm of 9mm wide double-faced satin ribbon

For yarn stockists, contact
Designer Yarns 01535 664222
www.designeryarns.uk.com

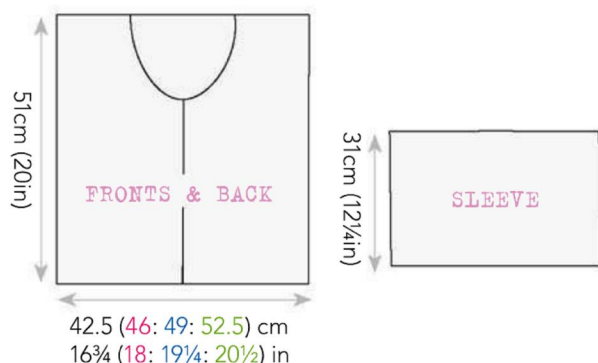
TENSION

19 sts x 9 rows over 10cm (4in)
square over V-st Patt using
4mm hook

ABBREVIATIONS

- **PB** (place bead) Bring a bead up to the hook and work next st
- **V-st** (V-stitch) (1tr, ch1, 1tr) in required space
- **DV-st** (double V-stitch) (2tr, ch1, 2tr) in required space

For a full list, see page 94.



BACK

Thread 300 (320: 340: 360) beads onto the working yarn and push them towards the ball so that you are working with the yarn between the beads and the hook.

Ch84 (90: 96: 102).

Row 1 (RS) V-st in fifth ch from hook, *miss 2 ch, V-st in next ch; rep from * to last 2 ch, miss 1 ch, 1tr in last ch, turn. [26 (28: 30: 32) V-sts]

Row 2 Ch3, miss 2 sts, DV-st in ch-sp at centre of next V-st, *PB, ch1, miss next V-st, DV-st in ch-sp at centre of next V-st; rep from * to last V-st, PB, ch1, miss V-st, 2tr in top of ch-3, turn.

Row 3 Ch3, V-st in each ch-sp to end, 1tr in top of ch-3, turn.

Row 4 Ch3, 1tr in the st at the base of the ch-3, *PB, ch1, miss next V-st, DV-st in ch-sp at centre of next V-st; rep from * to end, working the last tr of the last DV-st until there are 2 loops left on the hook, then start working 1tr in top of the ch-3, until there are 3 loops on the hook, yrh and draw yarn through all 3 loops, turn.

Row 5 Rep Row 3.

Rep Rows 2-5 until back measures 50cm.

Fasten off.

RIGHT FRONT

Thread 130 (130: 150: 150) beads onto the working yarn.

Ch45 (45: 51: 51).

Work first row of patt as for back.

[13 (13: 15: 15) V-sts]

Row 2 Ch3, miss 2 sts, DV-st in ch-sp at centre of next V-st, *PB, ch1, miss next V-st, DV-st in ch-sp at centre of next V-st; rep from * working the last tr of the last DV-st until there are 2 loops left on the hook, then start working 1tr in top of the ch-3, until there are 3 loops on the hook, yrh and draw yarn through all 3 loops.

Row 3 Ch3, V-st in each ch-sp to end, 1tr in top of ch-3, turn.

Row 4 Ch3, 1tr in the st at the base of the ch-3, *PB, ch1, miss next V-st, DV-st in ch-sp at centre of next V-st; rep from * to last V-st, PB, ch1, miss V-st, 2tr in top of ch-3, turn.

Row 5 Rep Row 3.

Rep Rows 2-5 until front measures 31cm, ending with a Row 5.

SHAPE NECK

Row 1 (WS) Ch3, miss 2 sts, DV-st in ch-sp at centre of next V-st, *PB, ch1, miss next V-st, DV-st in ch-sp at centre of next V-st; rep from * 3 (3: 4: 4) times more, PB, ch1, miss next V-st, 2tr in ch-sp at centre of next V-st, turn. [leaves 2 V-sts unworked]

Row 2 Ch3, V-st in each ch-sp to end, 1tr in top of ch-3, turn. [10 (10: 12: 12) V-sts]

Row 3 Ch3, 1tr in the st at the base of the ch-3, *PB, ch1, miss next V-st, DV-st in ch-sp at centre of next V-st; rep from

SIZE		8	10	12	14
TO FIT	cm	82	87	92	97
	in	32	34	36	38
ACTUAL	cm	85	92	98	105
	in	33½	36	38½	41
LENGTH	cm	51	51	51	51
	in	20	20	20	20
SLEEVE	cm	31	31	31	31
	in	12¼	12¼	12¼	12¼
YARN	Pale Pink (15)	5	5	6	6
BEADS	White size 6	1150	1200	1300	1350

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

Lightweight cardi

*, ending 2tr in centre of last V-st, turn.

Row 4 As row 2. [1 V-st dec]

Row 5 Ch3, miss 2 sts, DV-st in ch-sp at centre of next V-st, *PB, ch1, miss next V-st, DV-st in ch-sp at centre of next V-st; rep from *, ending 2tr in centre of last V-st, turn.

Row 6 As row 2. [1 V-st dec]

Rep Rows 3-6 twice more until 4 (4: 5: 5) V-sts rem.

Cont straight until Right Front measures same as back.

Fasten off.

LEFT FRONT

Work as for Right Front to neck shaping.

SHAPE NECK

Row 1 (WS) Break yarn, miss first 2 V-sts, rejoin yarn in ch-1 sp at centre of next V-st, ch3, 1tr in same place, work patt as set in Row 4 of Back.

Row 2 Ch3, V-st in each ch-sp to end, 1tr in top of ch-3, turn. [10 (10: 12: 12) V-sts]

Row 3 Ss into tr of first V-st and ch-sp at centre of first V-st. Complete as for Row 4 of Right Front.

Row 4 As row 2. [1 V-st dec]

Row 5 Ss into tr of first V-st and ch-sp at centre of first V-st. Complete as for Row 4 of Back.

Row 6 As row 2. [1 V-st dec]

Rep Rows 3-6 twice more until 4 (4: 5: 5) V-sts rem.

Cont straight until Left Front measures same as back. **Fasten off.**

SLEEVES (MAKE 2)

Thread 175 (190: 190: 200) beads onto the working yarn.

Ch84 (90: 90: 96).

Work in patt as for back (26 [28: 28: 30] V-sts) until sleeve measures 30cm.

Fasten off.

FINISHING

Weave in all ends. Join shoulder seams. Measure 21 (22.5: 22.5: 24)cm either side of shoulder seam and mark. Sew in sleeves between markers.

Join side and sleeve seams.

PICOT EDGING

Thread 170 (170: 180: 180) beads onto the working yarn.

Join yarn to bottom corner of left front, ch1, 1dc in ch at base of first tr, 1dc in ch-sp, *(1dc, ch1, PB, ch1, 1dc) in ch at base of V-st, 2dc in 2-ch sp; rep from * all along bottom edge, then spacing edging evenly, work up right front, around neck edge and down left front; join with ss in first dc.

Thread 28 (30: 30: 32) beads for each sleeve and work edging around lower edge of sleeves.

FINISHING

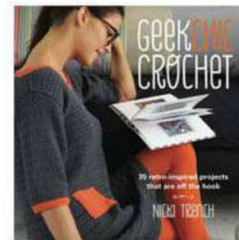
Cut ribbon into 2 equal lengths and sew to WS of last row of front before neck shaping.



A double-faced ribbon in a complementary tone is a luxurious finishing touch.



The beading and lacework is so light and intricate, with a beautiful picot edging.



This pattern comes from the book *Geek Chic Crochet* by Nicki Trench, published by CICO Books (RRP £12.99). The book is available from all good

bookshops or call 01256 302699 quoting GLR7QG to buy a copy at just £10.99 with free p&p. Visit www.cicobooks.co.uk.

SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO MAKE A TREBLE



1 To work a treble crochet, start by winding yrh and then insert the hook under the top 2 loops of the stitch on the previous row.



2 Yrh and pull the yarn through the stitch only (3 loops on hook), yrh.



3 Pull the yarn through the first 2 loops only (2 loops on hook), yrh. Pull yarn through these 2 loops. You've made a treble crochet. Continue working tr into next and all following sts to end of row.



4 At end of row, turn and ch3. This is the turning chain and counts as first tr in new row. Skip the first st at base of t-ch, work 1tr into 2nd st in prev row. Work 1tr in each st to end, including top of t-ch.



what is... AMIGURUMI?

Use double crochet stitches in the round to create adorable toys with human features and lots of charm.

A migurumi are crocheted or knitted stuffed toys with a big cute factor. They come from Japan – ‘ami’ meaning ‘crocheted or knitted’, and ‘nigurumi’ meaning ‘sew and wrap’. These cute dolls and animals soared in popularity during the 1970s in Japan, and it was from this craft form that the ‘Hello Kitty’ brand was born.

The toys are still hugely popular today and are characterised by an oversized head, with sweet human-like features and a small cylindrical body with undersized arms and feet, or no limbs at all. Some amigurumi toys just have a head and body that is crocheted as one piece. Animals are the most popular form, but there are many examples of other items, such as food, furnishings and household accessories, that are given human features.

Really quick and easy to make, amigurumi suits beginners because the technique only uses double crochet, and the figures are always small so materials are inexpensive and light to carry around. The dolls and animals are usually worked in the round using double crochet, but some makers prefer to work in a spiral.

Amigurumi uses crochet hooks that are smaller than you might normally choose and the result is a firm, dense fabric. The toys are then stuffed and sewn together – the dense construction means the polyester stuffing doesn’t show. Finally, the details are added to the stuffed forms, to bring the creature to life. The details are often added using embroidery thread, felt or beads. To make your own amigurumi toy, see our dragon pattern opposite.

Written by Emma Clegg



Find out more

THE BOOK

Amigurumi by Lan-Anh Bui and Josephine Wan (GMC Publications £9.99)

What A must-have book for amigurumi fans, full of cute creatures to make as gifts for boys or girls, or for yourself.



Why The patterns are straightforward and include charts. The contents pages handily show you all the 30 designs you can choose from.

THE WEBSITE

What Enter Stacey Trock’s world of stuffed animals at www.freshstitches.com where you can download free patterns and buy some brilliant starter kits.

Why Her designs are really sweet and there’s plenty of support for new crocheters, including online classes and tutorials, top tips and handy videos.

THE BLOG

What Be inspired by loads of adorable amigurumi designs at Sayjai Thawornsupacharoen’s crochet blog at www.kandjdolls.blogspot.co.uk

Why Worth a visit for a fix of new crochet characters, many designs are available for free or to buy on her Etsy shop.

01 Amigurumi creations by Laura is full of delightful creatures: www.happyamigurumi.blogspot.co.uk

02 Gretel provides plenty of free patterns on her blog, including this adorable egg that’s ideal for Easter: www.grietjekarwietje.blogspot.com.es

03 “My 2in1 pattern can be either a fox or a pig.” www.badmonkey-blogg.blogspot.com.es

04 Janie’s blog is full of inspiring photography and crafty makes: www.lemonstale-blog.blogspot.co.uk



POCKET PAL

Forget bunnies or bears, this fire-breathing little chap, by Stephanie Lau of All About Ami, has got all the cute boxes ticked.



YOU WILL NEED

- Green yarn, such as Patons Fab DK (100% acrylic, 25g/68m)
1 ball of Lime 02317
- A 2mm (US 4 steel) hook
- Yarn needle
- Polyester toy stuffing
- Beige felt (for wings and scaled body), dark brown felt (for horns), and pink felt (for cheeks)
- 7.5mm safety eyes
- Black embroidery floss (for mouth), white embroidery floss (for fang), tan embroidery floss (for scaled body)
- Glue gun
- Fabric glue

For yarn stockists, contact
Coats Crafts 01484 681881
www.coatscrafts.co.uk

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 94.

Now you've read all about amigurumi, you can start crocheting your first little creature. Stephanie's dragon is very cute and you'll soon realise why amigurumi is so addictive – nothing beats the feeling of bringing a little crochet creature to life. If you can bear to part with him, he makes a great gift.

NOTE Work in continuous rounds, in a spiral, without closing off each round with a slip stitch. You may wish to use a stitch marker to mark the first stitch of the round.

HEAD

01 Using green yarn, ch7.

Round 1 Starting with second chain from hook, 6dc. Turn and work 6dc along the other side of the foundation ch. [12 sts]

02 We are making an oval by crocheting around the chain.

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

Round 3 (2dc, 2dc in next dc) 6 times. [24 sts]

Round 4 (3dc, 2dc in next dc) 6 times. [30 sts]

Round 5 (4dc, 2dc in next dc) 6 times. [36 sts]

Rounds 6-8 36dc.

Round 9 (5dc, 2dc in next dc) 6 times. [42 sts]

Round 10 (6dc, 2dc in next dc) 6 times. [48 sts]

Round 11 (7dc, 2dc in next dc) 6 times. [54 sts]

Rounds 12-16 54dc. **03**

Round 17 (7dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [48 sts]

Round 18 48dc.

Round 19 (4dc, dc2tog) 8 times. [40 sts]

Round 20 (2dc, dc2tog) 10 times. [30 sts]

Position safety eyes and embroider mouth and fang. **04**

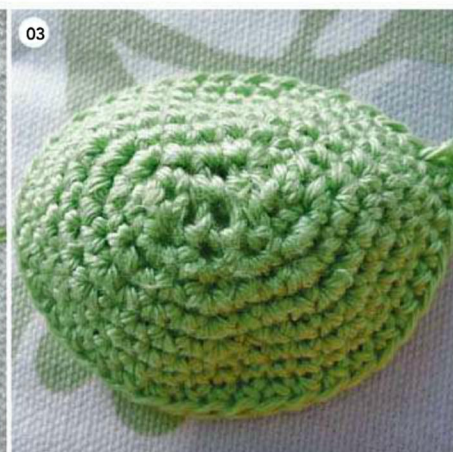
Round 21 (1dc, dc2tog) 10 times. [20 sts]

Stuff head firmly.

Round 22 (Dc2tog) 10 times. [10 sts]



GET STARTED



This is an original pattern © Stephanie Lau of All About Ami (January 2012). You may not claim it as your own, reprint it, sell or distribute it, or sell items made from it.

Amigurumi dragon

Round 23 (Dc2tog) 5 times. [5 sts]
Fasten off and weave in end. Cut two oval pieces of pink felt and glue onto face as cheeks.

WINGS (MAKE 2)

Cut out two isosceles triangles from beige felt. Using same yarn as head, cut 5 pieces of yarn for each wing and splay them outwards from the tip of the triangle. Using fabric glue, secure the yarn in place. ⁰⁵

Trim the felt cutting from one piece of yarn to the next and then scallop the edges between the yarn pieces. ⁰⁶
Secure wings onto the Dragon's head using a glue gun.

HORNS (MAKE 4)

Make 2 small and 2 large horns. With dark brown felt, cut pieces into the shape shown in Step ⁰⁷ below. Make two larger cones for the back and two smaller cones for the front. Apply glue with a glue gun and roll into cone shapes. ⁰⁸
Glue them onto the Dragon's head.

LEGS (MAKE 2) + BODY

Using green yarn, make a magic ring.

Round 1 6dc in magic ring. [6 sts]

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

Round 3 12dc.

For the first leg, fasten off (no need to leave long end for sewing). For the second leg, do not cut off the yarn. Ch1 and join with slip stitch to any dc on first leg. *Ss in next dc around on same leg, Chain 1, then slip stitch to next dc on opposite leg; rep from * another 2 times. ⁰⁹

The leg joins should take up 4 stitches on each leg, leaving 8 dc on each leg remaining. For the next round, work one complete round around the joined leg pieces as follows:

Round 4 Work 8dc around the leg, 3dc evenly across the join, 8dc around the other leg, 3dc across the join. [22 sts]

Rounds 5-12 22dc.

Fasten off and leave long end for sewing. Sew body to head.

ARMS (MAKE 2)

Using green yarn, make a magic ring.

Round 1 6dc in magic ring. [6 sts]

Rounds 2-4 6dc.

Fasten off and leave long end for sewing. Attach to sides of body.

TAIL

Using green yarn, make a magic ring.

Round 1 4dc in magic ring. [4 sts]

Rounds 2-3 4dc.

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

Round 5 (2dc, 2dc in next dc) 2 times. [8 sts]

Fasten off and leave long end for sewing. Attach to bottom-back of Dragon to help give him balance. If you want your Dragon to appear like he is leaning back and about to give out a puff of fire, angle the tail upwards.

¹⁰ Adding scaled detailing to body – cut out shape to fit from beige felt. Wrap tan embroidery floss around felt piece applying glue dots on the back along the way to secure the floss in place. Glue felt piece with embroidery floss onto body of Dragon when complete.



Stephanie loves her workroom flooded with natural light for creating amigurumi.



AN AMIGURUMI SENSATION

Creating adorable amigurumi while caring for an equally cute newborn? It's all in a day's work for crochet devotee Stephanie Lau.

Light and welcoming, the home of Canadian crochet artist Stephanie Lau is filled with her personality. New mum to two-month-old Myla, Stephanie is uncannily energetic, eagerly talking about her love of amigurumi: the Japanese art of creating crocheted stuffed toys.

"I always loved crafts as a child," she enthuses. "I learnt how to knit and crochet when I was 10, and I crocheted afghans, purses, stuffed animals and sweaters for my teddy bears." At high school and then university, however, crafting took a back seat as she focused on her studies. "It wasn't until after I got married and started working that I

delved back into my old hobbies, and discovered amigurumi. I found pictures of adorable stuffed crocheted animals online, from *Star Wars* characters to cupcake bears. They were all incredibly cute with their typically oversized heads and undersized extremities – it amazed me that people could design and make such cute creations, simply using yarn and a crochet hook!"

BRAND NEW CHALLENGES

Stephanie developed her new skills, and the next step was making creatures of her own. "Designing amigurumi really stretches my creativity when I'm figuring out how I want it to look and

what shapes I need. It can be time-consuming because I'm meticulous when writing out my patterns, but it's exciting seeing it all come together!"

Her latest challenge, however, lies in fitting her craft life around her family life, especially her new role as a mum. "It is difficult finding time to crochet with a newborn, but I've worked on a few projects here and there," she says. "I find crochet very therapeutic and relaxing, so I'm happy I can continue to pursue it – it's easy to pick up some yarn and a crochet hook when you have a few moments, and you feel so productive when you finish making something, like a baby hat."

These bunnies make adorable gifts, for Easter or Valentine's Day.



Stephanie's creations range from penguins to cupcake bears.



Her new daughter has also provided plenty of inspiration. "I've had a lot of fun crocheting items for Myla, from hats and sweaters to items such as her stork pouch. I made the pouch thinking it would cover Myla's entire body, but it barely covered half of her – we have a tall baby! I'm also very excited about a panda outfit I've made, and some matching mommy-and-baby hats and headbands!"

Stephanie enjoys connecting online with crafters across the globe.

"It's fun seeing what my fellow crochet and amigurumi artists are up to on their blogs, including Ana Paula Rimoli," she says. "Pepika and Berrysprite both have a great eye for design, and I get a lot of craft inspiration from CraftGawker. I'm on Ravelry a lot, and I've connected with other young amigurumi artists such as Wolfdreamer, A Morning Cup of Jo, and Sweet N Cute Creations. There's great camaraderie in the amigurumi community."

Through being an avid blog follower, Stephanie has founded her own – www.AllAboutAmi.tumblr.com. "I was taking many pictures of my amigurumi, and really wanted to share the story behind each project," she explains. "My blog is a way for me to document my own work, as a diary and portfolio."

Stephanie's blog features guides to her techniques to aid other amigurumi enthusiasts. "I thought people might benefit from seeing the step-by-step making instead of just the pattern and final product, and many people have told me they really appreciate this

aspect of my blog. It breaks the whole process down so people can see what a project looks like from start to finish."

LOVE AND SUPPORT

Stephanie's husband has encouraged her interests right from the beginning.

"Ryan was so excited when I picked up my love of crochet again, and helped me start the blog," she says. "We work together on our amigurumi – he helps with initial sketches and stitches the faces."

Ryan also takes the beautiful photos we've been enjoying on the blog, and helped Stephanie turn part of their home in Edmonton, Alberta, into a dedicated workspace. "It's wonderful working as a husband and wife team on these projects!" Stephanie exclaims. "We've created a bright atmosphere that I love working in. I use the space efficiently: I have my computer, a comfy chair, and a lot of storage for my yarn and crafting supplies. I love going into this special space!"

Ryan is even partly responsible for Stephanie's gorgeous Chinese New Year Dragon, which appears in this issue. "Ryan encouraged me to make the Dragon, as it seemed challenging," she admits. "I'm so thankful that Ryan always supports me."

Stephanie also enjoys making crocheted hats and scarves. "It's fun making things you can wear, especially because where I live gets very cold in winter. I love the richness and depth of really chunky projects. I love making items for the home, too, such as chair socks – to prevent chairs from scuffing the floors – and storage baskets."

Amigurumi remains her first love, though. "There's something so satisfying about an amigurumi project – you crochet all the separate parts, stuff them, position and assemble them, and stitch on the face. It's amazing to see a crocheted stuffed animal come to life!" Turn to page 49 to find out how to create Stephanie's amigurumi dragon, and find out more about Stephanie at www.AllAboutAmi.tumblr.com

Stephanie Lau was interviewed by Judy Darley.

"I FIND CROCHET VERY THERAPEUTIC AND RELAXING, SO I'M HAPPY I CAN PICK UP SOME YARN AND A HOOK WHEN I HAVE A FEW MOMENTS."

A FEW OF HER FAVOURITE THINGS...

"I follow fashion blogs such as Wendy's Lookbook and The Chriselle Factor for inspiration. I shop at many stores, and love layering pieces and putting together outfits to highlight my crocheted work for my blog posts! I enjoy working with Patons Grace, a mercerized

cotton that's a light yarn with a lovely sheen to it. Working with thinner yarn and a smaller crochet hook, I can make very tight stitches for small amigurumi, such as the Chinese New Year Dragon. My husband Ryan and daughter Myla give masses of support and inspiration!"





Your new go-to accessory



CHUNKY COWL

Carol Meldrum's mock cable cowl is so wearable. Made in Rowan Big Wool it hooks up super quickly, so you can be snuggly in no time.

Chunky cowl



YOU WILL NEED

- Rowan Big Wool (100% wool, 80m/100g ball)
 - 3 balls of White Hot (001)
 - A 8mm (US L/11) hook (for button placket and loops)
 - A 12mm (US 17) hook
 - 2 buttons, 3cm diameter
- For yarn stockists, contact
Rowan 01484 681881
www.knitrowan.com

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 94.

Modern yarns come in all shapes and sizes, but the chunky and super chunky varieties are some of the most fashionable. They're also brilliant to use because they work up so quickly. Our cosy cowl is the perfect chance to get your hooks into this sort of super-sized crochet. Carol Meldrum's design includes button details for a shop-bought feel, and a mock cable pattern, because why should knitters have all the fun?



One size fits all so anyone can feel snug (and smug) while wearing this cowl.

C Using 12mm hook, ch22.

Row 1 1dc into second ch from hook, 1dc into next 5 ch, 1tr into next 8 ch, 1tr into each ch to end of row, turn. [21 sts]

Row 2 Ch3 (counts as tr), 1tr into next 2 sts, *miss 1 st, 1tr into next 3 sts, 1tr into missed st (mock cable worked); rep from * 3 more times, 1tr into last 2 sts, turn.

Row 3 Ch1 (does not count as st), 1dc into next 6 sts, 1tr into next 8 sts, 1tr into each st to end, turn.

Rows 2-3 form pattern.
Repeat these two rows a further 12 times, then work row 2 once more.
Fasten off.

MAKING UP

Place the two ends together to form a side seam, being careful not to twist the length. Sew the side seams together from the bottom up, leaving approx 13cm open at the top.

BUTTON PLACKET

With RS facing and using 8mm hook, rejoin yarn to top of cowl and work approx 9dc down the opening towards the seam, turn.

Next row Ch1, 1dc into each st to end.
Fasten off.

Sew the bottom of the placket to the main fabric to complete the opening.

BUTTON LOOPS

With RS facing and using 8mm hook, rejoin yarn to other side of opening and work 9dc up towards the top of the cowl, turn.

Next row Ch1, 1dc into first st, *ch4, miss 1, 1dc into next 3sts; rep from * to end.
Fasten off.

FINISHING

Sew buttons into position to match up with the loops.
Weave in all ends.

SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO MAKE A HALF TREBLE



1 To make a half treble crochet stitch, work to where you want the htr and then wrap the yarn round the hook (yrh).



2 Insert the hook under the two loops of the next stitch in the previous row.



3 Pull the yarn through the stitch (3 loops on hook), yrh. Pull the yarn through all 3 loops. You've made a half treble crochet. Continue working htr into next and foll sts to end of the row.



4 At end of row, turn and 2 ch. This is the turning ch and counts as the first htr in new row. Skip the first st at base of t-ch, work 1htr into 2nd st in prev row and in each st to end, including in top of t-ch.

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SOUNDS LIKE LOVE

Music lovers will appreciate this cover by Brenda K. B. Anderson.



Heart headphones cover



YOU WILL NEED

- Red Heart Soft (100% acrylic, 100g/234m)
1 ball Wine (4608) (Yarn A)
1 ball White (4600) (Yarn B)
 - A 4mm (US G/6) hook
 - 16 buttons, 10mm diameter
 - 2 sets of press stud fasteners, size 4 (13-16mm)
 - White thread
 - Purchased headphones
 - Stitch marker
- For stockists, contact
Coats Crafts 01484 681881
www.coatscrafts.co.uk

TENSION

15 sts and 16 rows to 10cm (4in) in double crochet
Note: Make one piece and check the fit on your headphones.

MEASUREMENTS

Speaker Cover Approx 6.5cm (2½in) diameter
Headband Cover Approx 31cm (12¼in) long
Note: Designed to fit standard style headphones up to 33cm (13in), from top of one speaker, across underside of headband, to the top of the other speaker.

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 94.

SPECIAL TECHNIQUES

Adjustable Ring Method

Holding thread a few cm from end, wrap around your finger. Leaving wrap on finger, insert hook into wrap and draw up loop of working yarn. Ch 1 to secure the loop, and remove ring from finger. Work sts of first round in the ring. Pull gently, but firmly, on tail to tighten ring.

This pattern was originally in *Crochet Today* magazine,
www.crochettoday.com

PATTERN NOTES For charts turn to page 95. Work each Speaker Cover in the round from one side to the other. Create a vertical slit in middle of each Speaker Cover, which is positioned on the outside of each speaker. Headband is worked in rows back and forth. Each end is sewn to one Speaker Cover. Work sts around the assembled piece to edge and make evenly spaced Button Loops across Headband.

The white Hearts are made separately and hide the slit in the Covers. Half a Heart is sewn to the outside of each Cover; the stitching is continued around the other half of the Heart. Fasten the free side of the Heart to the other side of the Speaker Cover with a stud fastener, hiding the slit.

SPEAKER COVER (MAKE 2)

With Yarn A, make an adjustable ring.

Round 1 (RS) Work 6dc in ring; do not join, work in a continuous spiral. [6 dc] Pull gently on tail to tighten ring.

Round 2 Work 2dc in each dc around; join with ss in first dc. [12 dc]

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

Rounds 4 and 5 Dc in each dc around.

Round 6 Ch10, skip next 10 sts for vertical slit, place marker in bottom of first ch and top of first skipped st for top of vertical slit, dc in next 8 dc. [8 dc and 1 ch-10 sp]

Round 7 Dc in each dc and ch around.

Round 8 Dc in each dc around.

Round 9 (Dc in next dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [12 sts]

Round 10 (Dc2tog) 6 times. [6 sts]
Fasten off, leaving a 25.5cm tail.

With yarn needle, thread tail through the front loop of each of the 6 rem sts and pull to close opening. Secure end.

HEADBAND

With Yarn A, ch45.

Row 1 Working in back bumps only, dc in second ch from hook and in each remaining ch across, turn. [44 dc]

Rows 2 and 3 Ch1, dc in each dc across.
Fasten off.

With yarn needle, sew each end of Headband to the top edge of the vertical slit in a Speaker Cover between the markers and remove the markers.

EDGING

Note: Before beginning Edging, notice

there are 10 sts on either side of each of vertical slit (the back bumps of 10 ch on one side and 10 skipped dc on the other side). There are 44 sts on each side edge of the Headband (the back bumps of 44 ch on one side and 44 dc on the other side). Work the Edging into these sts, all the way around, beginning at the bottom of a slit.

Round 1 With RS of assembled piece facing, beg at a Cover end, insert hook in first st at bottom of one side of slit, draw up a loop, yarn over and draw through loop on hook, dc in same st, htr in next 9 sts of slit, htr in next 44 sts of Headband, htr in next 9 sts of one side of other slit, dc in next st (at bottom of slit), dc in first st on other side of slit, htr in next 9 sts of slit, htr in next 44 sts of other side of Headband, htr in next 9 sts of other side of first slit, dc in next st.

Button Loops Ss in next st (first dc of Round 1), ss in next 8 sts, [(ss, ch3, ss) in next st, ss in next 2 sts] 16 times, ss in next 7 sts.

Fasten off.

HEART (MAKE 2)

With Yarn B, make an adjustable ring.

Round 1 (RS) Work 6dc in ring, join with ss in first dc. [6 dc] Pull gently, but firmly, on tail to tighten ring.

Round 2 Ch1, (dc, htr, tr) in next dc, (2tr, htr) in next dc, 2dc in next dc, ch 2, ss in back bump of 2nd ch from hook, 2dc in next dc, (htr, 2tr) in next dc, (tr, htr, dc) in next dc; join with ss in beg ch.

Fasten off.

FINISHING

Note: Proceed with these steps after putting the cover on your headphones. With yarn needle and A, backstitch half a Heart to outside of half of a Speaker Cover. Backstitch around the other half of the Heart for decoration only. Do not attach this second half of the Heart to anything; it must remain free so that the Headphone Cover can be removed. With sewing needle and thread, sew half of a press stud fastener to underside of Heart and sew the other half of the snap to Speaker Cover. Repeat to attach other Heart and snap to other Speaker Cover. With yarn needle and Yarn A (or sewing needle and thread), sew buttons along Headband opposite Button Loops.

ISSUE 53
ON SALE 27 DECEMBER

The Knitter

Sizes
32"-46"



Gorgeous designs
STYLISH WINTER KNITS
YOU'LL LOVE TO MAKE

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CHUNKY CABLE JUMPERS
PRETTY BEADED ACCESSORIES
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16
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Cardigan
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NEW!
**Mini
MAG**
16 pages of
extra designs



COMFORT BLANKET

You'll want to keep Nicki Trench's throw for baby always to hand.



Cosy baby blanket



YOU WILL NEED

- Debbie Bliss Baby Cashmerino (55% wool, 33% acrylic, 12% cashmere, 50g/125m)
Blanket: 6 balls of Mink (064), 2 balls of Chocolate (011), 1 ball of White (100)
Flowers: 1 ball of each: Red (700), Rose (054), Peach Melba (068)

- A 3mm (US D/3) hook
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook

For yarn stockists, contact
Designer Yarns 01535 664222
www.designeryarns.uk.com

TENSION

Yarn used crochets as DK to the following stitch tension:
1 patt rep of a 7-tr shell and 7dc measures approx 4cm (1½in) using a 3.5mm hook.
Row tension is not critical.

MEASUREMENTS

91x67cm (36x26in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 94.

When a new star is born in your family, make sure they're the centre of attention with this sweet blanket. With a classic scallop stitch pattern in a neutral colour, it will suit boys and girls, and can become a family heirloom. Add a feminine touch with flowers around the border.



NOTE See page for 95 for chart.

Using Mink and 3.5mm hook, ch144.

Row 1 (RS) 3tr in fourth ch from hook (3 missed ch count as tr), miss 3 ch, 1dc in each of next 7 ch, *miss 3ch, 7tr in next ch (shell made), miss 3 ch, 1dc in each of next 7 ch; rep from * to last 4 ch, miss 3 ch, 4tr in last ch, turn. [13 patt rep of (7-tr shell and 7 dc), 7 dc and 2 4-tr 'half shells']

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), 1dc in first and each st, ending 1dc in top of first ch-3 from previous row, turn. [141 dc]

Row 3 Ch1 (does not count as st), 1dc in each of first 4 sts, *miss 3 sts, 7tr in next st, miss 3 sts, 1dc in each of next 7 sts; rep from * to last 11 sts, miss 3 sts, 7tr in next st, miss 3 sts, 1dc in each of last 4 sts, turn. [13 patt rep of (7-tr shell and 7 dc), 8dc]

Row 4 Ch1 (does not count as st), 1dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 5 Ch3 (counts as tr), 3tr in st at base of ch, miss 3 sts, 1dc in each of next 7 sts, *miss 3 sts, 7tr in next st, miss 3 sts, 1dc in each of next 7 sts; rep from * to last 4 sts, miss 3 sts, 4tr in last st, turn. [13 patt rep of (7-tr shell and 7 dc), 7 dc and 2 4-tr 'half shells']

Rep Rows 2-5 until work measures approx 86cm.

Fasten off.

EDGING

Round 1 With RS facing and using a 3.5mm hook, join White into top of ch-3 at beg of last row worked. Ch2 (counts as st), 1htr in each of next 2 sts, 1tr in next st, 1htr in each of next 2 sts, 1dc in each of next 3 sts.

Side 1

* 1htr in each of next 2 sts, 1tr in next st, 1htr in each of next 2 sts, 1dc in next st.
1htr in each of next 2 sts, 1tr in next st, 1htr in each of next 2 sts, 1dc in each of

next 3 sts; rep from * to last 2 sts before corner, 1htr in each of next 2 sts, 3dc in corner sp. [143 sts]

Side 2

Make 151dc evenly along long edge, 3dc in corner sp. [154 sts]

Side 3

(Working on underside of foundation ch)

1dc in next st, 1htr in each of next 2 sts, 1tr in next st, 1htr in each of next 2 sts, 1dc in next st. *1htr in each of next 2 sts, 1tr in next st, 1htr in each of next 2 sts, 1dc in each of next 3 sts. 1htr in each of next 2 sts, 1tr in next st, 1htr in each of next 2 sts, 1dc in next st; rep from * to corner, 3dc in corner sp. [143 sts]

Side 4

Rep Side 2 [594 sts in total]

Round 2 Ch2 (counts as first htr), 1htr into each st around blanket, 4htr in each corner st, join with ss into first ch-2. [608 sts]

Fasten off.

Round 3 With RS facing, join Chocolate into the fastened off st from previous round, *ch1, miss 1 st, (1dc, ch1, 1htr) in next st, miss 1 st, (1tr, ch1, 1tr) in next st, miss 1 st, (1htr, ch1, 1dc) in next st, ch1, miss 1 st, 1ss in next st; rep from * to end, ss last stitch into first ch. Do not fasten off.

Round 4 *1dc, 1htr in next ch-sp, 3tr in next sp (between dc and htr from previous round), (3dtr, ch1, 3dtr) in next ch-sp (between trebles from previous round), 3tr in next sp (between htr and dc from previous round), (1htr, 1dc) in next ch-sp, 1ss in same st as ss from previous row; rep from * to end.

Fasten off and weave in all ends.

FLOWERS

Make 38 flowers; 13 Red, 13 Peach Melba, 12 Rose.

Using 3mm hook, ch4, join with a ss to form a ring, *ch3, 1tr in ring, ch3, ss in ring; rep from * 4 times more. [5 petals]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO MAKE UP

Sew flowers onto each alternate shell of the edging on the right side.

MAKE A SHAPE

HAVE A HEART...

Give crochet heart shapes a go this month.



BASIC HEART PATTERN

For a large heart, follow the complete pattern from rounds 1-5.

For a medium heart, follow rounds 1-4 only.

For a small heart, follow rounds 1-3 only.

Round 1 Ch2, 5dc in 2nd ch from hook. [5sts]

Round 2 Ch1, 2dc in each st to end of round, ss to ch at beg of round to join. [10sts]

Round 3 Ch2 (counts as htr), tr into st at base of ch, (2tr, 1htr) in next st, 2dc

in next st, 1dc in next st, (1htr, 1tr, 1htr) in next st, 1dc in next st, 2dc in next st, (1htr, 2tr) in next st, (1tr, 1htr) in next st, ss in last st of round (centre st of heart). [20sts]

Round 4 Dc into top of ch-2 (counts as htr from previous round), 2htr in next st, 2tr in next st, 2htr in next st, 1dc in each of the next 5 sts, (1htr, 1tr) in next st, (1htr, 1dc) in next st, 1dc in each of the next 4 sts, 2htr in next st, 2tr in next st, 2htr in next st, 1dc in next st, ss in last st of round. [28sts]

Round 5 Ss into the first dc of the

previous round, 1dc in next st, 2dc in each of the next 4 sts, 1dc in each of the next 7 sts, (1htr, 1tr, 1htr) in next st, 1dc in each of the next 7 sts, 2dc in each of the next 4 sts, 1dc in next st, ss in next st.

Note If adding a chain for hanging, ss into the next st which is the centre st, and make a chain from there.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Pattern by Jennifer May.

Turn over for more great hearts ideas and patterns ➡

Forget jewellery or fiddly accessories, corsages are the way forward. Just create a couple of hearts and finish with a pretty button. That's it!





SET OF HEARTS

Start here with the designs above and the one on the first page. Sturdy cotton yarns make good hanging decorations or practical coasters.

- Wendy Supreme Luxury Cotton Chunky (100% cotton, 100g/83m), 1 ball of each: Steel (1425) and Shrimp (1424) www.tbramsden.co.uk
- Wendy Dishcloth Cotton (100% cotton 100g/147m) 1 ball of White (2000)
- A 6mm (US J/10) crochet hook

HEART 1

Using Steel and a 6mm hook, make a large heart (shown on first page of hearts section).

HEART 2

Using Steel and a 6mm hook, make a large heart. Using White Dishcloth Cotton and a 4mm hook, make a small heart. Sew the small heart to the centre of the large heart.

HEART 3

Using Steel and a 6mm hook, follow the Heart pattern from rounds 1-4. Join in Shrimp and work round 5.

HANGING CORD

On the last round, ss into the centre st, ch12, ss in same place as previous ss to make loop for hanging.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

HEART CORSAGE

This cute corsage may have become the most wanted item in the *Simply Crochet* office. It keeps going AWOL, and then we find it on someone's jacket or jumper... So, we are all making them for friends and family as gifts for Valentine's Day – it's not just for lovers, you know.

- Debbie Bliss Rialto DK (100% Merino wool extrafine superwash, 50g/105m) 1 ball of each: Grey (4) and Fuchsia (34) www.designeryarns.uk.com
- A 4mm (US G/6) crochet hook
- Heart button
- Brooch back
- Grey sewing thread

Using a 4mm hook, make 1 large heart in Fuchsia and 1 small heart in Grey.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO MAKE UP

Position the Grey heart in the centre of the Fuchsia heart, and attach it by sewing a running stitch just inside the edge of the Grey heart with Grey yarn. Position your button in the centre of the Grey heart and sew on with thread. Sew the brooch back to the reverse of the Fuchsia heart with thread. Try different colour combinations and various buttons to suit different outfits.

CARDS AND GIFT TIE

These cards and the gorgeous gift wrap tie are super easy and quick. The tie is the best thing we've seen in ages. Eat your heart out, Allsopp.

- DMC Natura Just Cotton (100% cotton, 50g/155m), 1 ball of each: Passion (N23) and Gardenia (N36) www.dmccreative.co.uk
- Card blank (ours are from Paperchase)
- A 3mm (US D/3) crochet hook

GIFT WRAP TIE

Using Passion and a 3mm hook, make 1 medium heart and 3 small hearts. Make the cord with Gardenia as follows, attaching the 3 small hearts at one end and the medium heart at the other: Start the cord at the end with the 3 small hearts: ch5, ss through the centre st of first heart, ss back along 4 of the chains (1 ch remains), ch4, ss through centre st of second heart, ss back along 4 ch, rep for third heart, ss in remaining ch. Make a chain the desired length of your cord, ss into centre st of medium heart, ss back along ch to the last ch. **Fasten off** and weave in ends.

HEART CARDS

Using Passion and a 3mm hook, make a medium or large heart. Stick the heart to the front of a card blank.

MAKE A SHAPE



Mirror, mirror... hearts are the fairest shape of all, right?



Away with your e-readers. Indulge yourself, properly.

MIRROR HANGING

Decorating a gorgeous boudoir or fighting for space with photos on a teenager's mirror, a heart hanging will make you smile in the mornings.

- Bessie May Smile Thea-bea (100% extra fine Merino, 50g/120m), 1 ball of each: Battleship (3170), Cloud (3180), Berry (3080)
www.bessiemay.com
- A 4mm (US G/6) crochet hook
- Ribbon (optional)

Using a 4mm hook, make 3 large hearts, 1 in each colour.

JOINING THE HEARTS

Attach with a chain running along the back. Start with a chain of 2 or 3 sts, attach the first heart as follows: Loosen the stitch on the hook, remove the hook, insert the hook through the centre st of the heart from front to back, put the chain loop back on the hook behind the heart, pull the loop through the heart for the next ch st. Ch20 and attach the second heart, ch20 and attach the third. Ch12 to make a hanging loop and ss back into the first of those 12 ch to join. **Fasten off** and weave in ends. Stitch the beginning of the ch to the bottom heart. Attach ribbon if you like.

HEART SACHETS

Go on, get your ladylike on and spoil yourself or a friend with a scented sachet or two. Artesano DK has tons of colours, and you'll get several sachets out of a ball. Tension is loose on purpose for that squishy feeling.

- Artesano DK (100% Merino wool superfine superwash, 50g/105m) 1 ball of each: Baby Pink (0043) and Grey (SFN41)
www.artesanoyarns.co.uk
- A 5mm (US H/8) crochet hook
- A 6mm (US J/10) crochet hook
- Small amount of toy stuffing or wadding
- Dried lavender in muslin bag (optional)

Using a 5mm hook, make 1 small heart in Baby Pink and 1 small heart in Grey. Using a 6mm hook, make 2 large hearts in Baby Pink and 2 large hearts in Grey. Weave in ends. For the loops, make a short chain (approx ch24) in each colour, leaving approx 10cm tail of yarn at either end.

TO MAKE UP

Position the small Grey heart in the centre of one of the large Baby Pink hearts, and attach it by sewing a running stitch just inside the edge of the Grey heart, using Grey yarn. Place the small Baby Pink heart in the

centre of one of the large Grey hearts, and attach it by sewing a running stitch just inside the edge of the Baby Pink heart with Baby Pink yarn. Placing the wrong sides of each sachet together, sew up around the edges with a running stitch. Leave a gap at one side of the base of the heart for stuffing. Insert loops of opposite colour when you reach the centre of the heart and secure tightly. Stuff lightly, and if using, insert lavender bag or put a few drops of essential oil on the stuffing and sew up gap. **Fasten off** neatly.

CUTE BOOKMARK

Make a few for presents in different colours – use ribbons new and old.

- Wendy Supreme Luxury Cotton 4ply (100% cotton, 100g/267m) 1 ball of each: Frost (1900) and Petal (1926)
www.tbramsden.co.uk
- A 4mm (US G/6) crochet hook
- Ribbon

Using a 3mm hook, make 2 medium hearts with Frost and 3 medium hearts with Petal. Overlap the hearts slightly and arrange them with alternating colours, then stitch together. Sew a length of ribbon to the reverse with tiny slip stitches.



Scented or plain, heart-shaped padded sachets add a pretty touch to a bedroom. Simply make two big hearts and one small one, sew together and stuff with wadding.



COSY YARNS

Our choice of snuggly yarns to keep you warm all winter.

MOTIF PATTERN

Ch8, join into a ring with a ss in first ch.

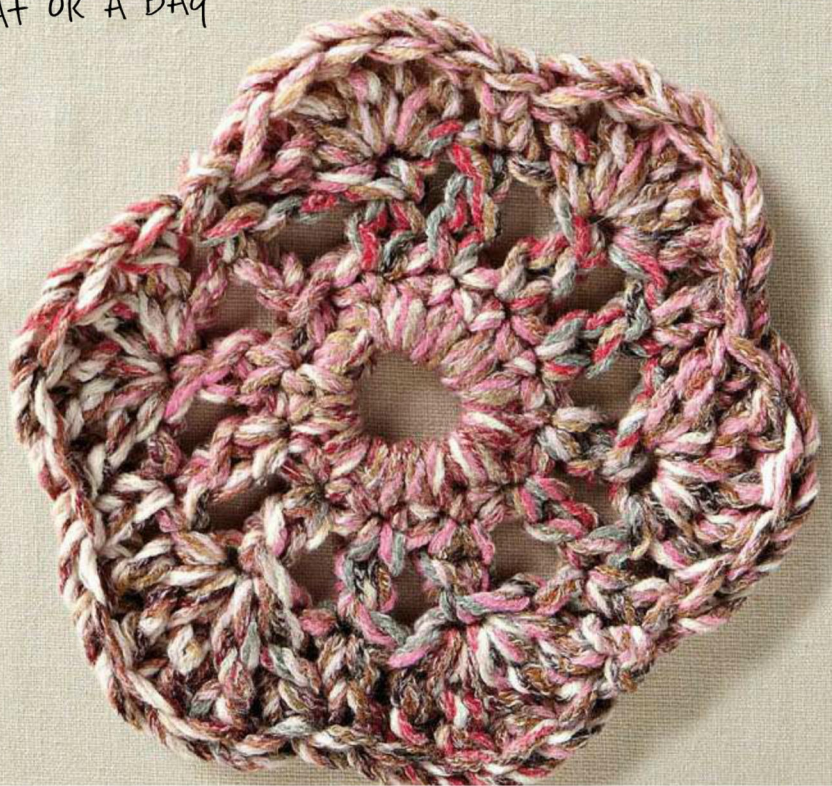
Round 1 Ch1 (counts as first dc), 11dc into ring, ss in beg ch-1 to join. [12 dc]

Round 2 Ch4 (counts as tr, ch1), *1tr in next st, ch1; rep from * around, ss to top of beg ch-3 to join. [12 tr, 12 ch-1 sp]

Round 3 Ch1 (counts as first dc), *skip next ch-1 sp, 5tr in next tr, skip next ch-1 sp, 1dc in next tr; rep from * around, omitting last dc, ss in beg ch-1 to join. [6 5-tr groups, 6 dc]
Fasten off.



THESE MOTIFS ARE SO
QUICK TO MAKE - TRY
ONE ON A HAT OR A BAG



ROOSTER ALMERINO ARAN

WEIGHT Aran
CONTENT 50% Baby Alpaca,
 50% Merino wool
BALL 50g/94m
HOOK 4.5-5.5mm
RRP £4.95



A plump yarn with good loft and a medium twist, this yarn will make stunning lacy items and garments because it blocks well with good drape. The length of the alpaca fibres gives Almerino Aran a soft halo. There are 19 colours (pastels, brights and

neutrals as well as darker shades such as Damson) and you can choose from three weights (Aran, Rooster Almerino DK and Rooster Baby Almerino, a 4ply yarn). Handwash and cool iron.
www.laughinghens.co.uk
01829 740903

ERIKA KNIGHT BRITISH BLUE WOOL

WEIGHT DK
CONTENT 100% British Bluefaced Leicester wool
BALL 25g/55m
HOOK 4mm
RRP £3.95



Machine washable at 30°C, these adorable little balls of yarn are perfect for baby clothes or as gifts themselves for mums-to-be. Beautifully packaged with a label ready to be sewn into the finished gift, the yarn is truly British – it's from fleeces collected

and spun in Yorkshire. On the fine side of DK, the palette is eight sophisticated colours from cream to navy, and the yarn has a slight halo and a little sheen. Best-dressed babes need look no further.
www.erikaknight.co.uk for stockist details

KING COLE MAGNUM CHUNKY

WEIGHT Chunky
CONTENT 75% premium acrylic, 25% wool
BALL 100g/110m
HOOK 6-8mm
RRP £3.69



Lightweight and lofty, this yarn has a rope-like structure, made up of three tightly-twisted plies, which gives finished items texture. The wool blend lends a touch of luxury; it has a pretty sheen and the stitch definition is good. It's great value and

practical, too. There are 20 shades, mostly muted tones and pastels with a bright red and fuchsia for contrast. A similar variegated yarn called Multi Chunky is available in 14 complementary shades.
www.kingcole.co.uk
01535 650230

BLACKER YARNS FALKLAND ISLANDS WOOL

WEIGHT DK
CONTENT 100% pure new wool
BALL 50g/110m
HOOK 4mm
RRP £8.00



Need a special yarn to create beautiful accessories and garments? It's right here. This pure wool yarn feels velvety, with great stitch definition and a tight twist. There are 4 natural and 13 dyed colours in the range including vibrant Sunset, shown here. Most are

named after the wild flowers found on the Falkland Islands – the yarn production is a new joint venture between Blacker Yarns in the UK and Swan Inlet Farm on the Falkland Islands.
www.blackeryarns.co.uk
01566 777635

ARTESANO SUPERWASH MERINO DK

WEIGHT DK
CONTENT 100% Merino wool
BALL 50g/112m
HOOK 4mm
RRP £4.75



Available in 25 luscious shades, from subtle neutrals and pastels to brights, this yarn would make beautiful multicoloured throws, as well as stunning garments and hats. The yarn has a medium twist and a slight halo. It's very soft and springy, as is

typical of quality Merino. You'll get very good stitch definition, so if you have a more complex pattern in mind, you won't go wrong with this. Wash in the machine and cool iron.
www.artesanoyarns.co.uk
0118 950 3350

SIRDAR FAROE SUPER CHUNKY

WEIGHT Super chunky
CONTENT 60% acrylic, 25% cotton, 15% wool
BALL 50g/43m
HOOK 10mm
RRP £3.49



The colourways of this yarn are inspired by the Faroe Islands and there are eight shades, from soft pinks to more contrasting colours. Ideal for women's and girls' outerwear, it will make great accessories and stunning furnishings, too. It doesn't

split, though it's made of four plies twisted together. The fibre blend gives a fresh feel to the yarn and the cotton makes it extra-breathable, which is important for chunky garments and accessories.
www.sirdar.co.uk
01924 231682



HOW DO I GET STARTED?

Grab a hook and yarn – here's our in-depth guide to the basics of crochet, whether you're right- or left-handed.

WHAT DO I DO WITH THE HOOK?

Think of the hook as if it's a pencil or a knife.

Crochet fabric is made from a combination of chains and basic stitches. To learn how to crochet, choose a smooth woollen yarn (aran weight is ideal) and a 5 or 6mm hook, so it's easy to see what you're doing. If this feels too bulky, try a 4mm hook and double knitting yarn. There is no right or wrong way to crochet – we'll show you commonly used methods that are a good place to start. Try out your new skills by making our bracelets on page 74.



RIGHT-HANDED

ARE YOU AN ARTIST OR A CHEF?

If you're right-handed, hold the hook in your right hand – hold it in your left if you're left-handed. Hold it as if it's a pencil (artist style) or a knife (chef style), about 3-5cm from the hooked end. If your hook has a flat area, hold it here. Try not to grip the



LEFT-HANDED

hook too tightly – aim for your hand to feel relaxed. Some people find that the pencil grip enables their movements to be more fluid and to crochet more quickly, while others find the knife grip gives them more control. Try both and see what feels more natural. You might end up using both!

HOW DO I HOLD THE YARN?

Follow our tips for getting even tension – it's not hard, you'll just need a little practice.

To create projects you can be proud of, it's important to be able to crochet with an even and consistent tension. The yarn needs to be able to unwind easily from the ball while you're working with it. At the same time, the yarn needs to have enough tension for the hook to be able to pick it up easily when making the stitches. For most crocheters, the easiest way to achieve this is to wind the yarn around your fingers in some way, so that you can both hold it firmly and release it slowly. We've suggested two methods (right), but you can find your own, natural way of holding the yarn. You can check it results in an even tension by making test swatches and checking that stitches are a similar size.



RIGHT-HANDED

01



LEFT-HANDED

01

METHOD 1

Pass the ball end of yarn between your little and third finger (on left hand if you're right-handed, or right hand if you're left-handed). Pass it behind the third and middle fingers and over your index finger.



RIGHT-HANDED

02



LEFT-HANDED

02

METHOD 2

Loop the ball end of the yarn loosely around the little finger of your left hand (if you're right-handed, or right hand if you're left-handed), then take it over your third finger and over your index finger.

HOW DO I MAKE THE FIRST LOOP?

Use your hook to make a simple slip knot.



IF YOU'RE RIGHT-HANDED...

Step 1 Crocheting is just a series of loops worked into other loops. To start crocheting, you need to make an initial loop. The first loop you make on the hook is called a slip knot. You'll probably have made one of these before, but perhaps not like this. Hold the tail end of the yarn in your left hand and drape the yarn clockwise over the top of it, to form a loop in a circle, as shown above.

Step 2 Holding the loop between your left thumb and your index finger, insert the crochet hook through the centre of the loop from front to back.

Step 3 Use the groove at the end of the hook to catch the ball end of the yarn, and then keeping the yarn on the hook, pull it back through the centre of the loop, bringing the yarn with it.

Step 4 Pull both ends of the yarn until the knot below the hook comes up close to the hook. Then pull on the ball end of the yarn only – this will tighten the loop on the hook. Don't pull the loop too tight though or you won't be able to get the hook through the loop to make any stitches. You're aiming for the knot to be close to the hook, but not touching it.

IF YOU'RE LEFT-HANDED...

Step 1 Crocheting is just a series of loops worked into other loops. To start crocheting, you need to make an initial loop. The first loop you make on the hook is called a slip knot. You'll probably have made one of these before, but perhaps not like this. Hold the tail end of the yarn in your right hand and drape the yarn clockwise over the top of it, to form a loop in a circle, as shown above.

Step 2 Holding the loop between your right thumb and your index finger, insert the crochet hook through the centre of the loop from front to back.

Step 3 Use the groove at the end of the hook to catch the ball end of the yarn, and then keeping the yarn on the hook, pull it back through the centre of the loop, bringing the yarn with it.

Step 4 Pull both ends of the yarn until the knot below the hook comes up close to the hook. Then pull on the ball end of the yarn only – this will tighten the loop on the hook. Don't pull the loop too tight though or you won't be able to get the hook through the loop to make any stitches. You're aiming for the knot to be close to the hook, but not touching it.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT!

Practise the techniques until you can do them without looking at the pictures for every stage. Make a slip knot without using the hook if you find it easier.

MAKE YOUR FIRST STITCH — CHAIN STITCH

Chain stitch is abbreviated as 'ch' in patterns.



Step 1 Make a slip knot, as shown on page 71, and hold the yarn as shown on page 70.

Step 2 Catch the ball end of the yarn with the hook, so that the yarn wraps anticlockwise around it. This movement is called 'yarn round hook', which you'll see abbreviated as 'yrh'. You'll do a lot of this.

Step 3 Gently pull the hook, and the yarn

wrapped around it, back towards the loop on the hook.

Step 4 When you get to the hook, pull the yarn through the first loop, to make a new loop on the hook. Congratulations, this is your first chain stitch.

Step 5 Repeat steps 1-4 until you've made about 20 chain stitches (also called chains).

Hold the stitches firmly, just below the hook, moving your fingers up the chain as you go.

Step 6 Keep making short chains like this until you can make even chain stitches and the whole process feels quite natural. Then you'll be ready to make our colourful bracelets on page 74.

CONTROLLING THE YARN ON THE HOOK

However you hold the hook and yarn, you need to control the loop on the hook.



RIGHT-HANDED



LEFT-HANDED

While you're crocheting, you will need to control the crochet loop with the same hand as the one that's holding the yarn. When making your first chain stitches (as shown left), hold the tail end of the yarn firmly between your thumb and index finger, or your thumb and middle

finger. Doing this enables you to control the position of the working loop on the hook as the hook moves in and out of the working loop. The hook should be around 3-5cm from the index finger of the other hand when you are crocheting.

ANATOMY OF A CROCHET CHAIN

Knowing this is the first stage in following any pattern.



This shows the front of a chain – you'll see that it looks like a plait. Have your chain this way round to count the stitches.



The back of a chain has a row of bumps. As you can see (shown right), sometimes it's easier to crochet into the bumps.



When you're crocheting from a pattern, you'll often be instructed to make a certain number of chains, so you'll need to be able to count them. When you're counting, ignore the loop on the hook and count backwards from the hook towards the slip knot. Don't count the slip knot either. Otherwise, each chain counts as one stitch. Make sure the chain isn't twisted and the front is facing you.

MAKING YOUR FIRST ROW

Work stitches into the foundation chain.



RIGHT-HANDED



RIGHT-HANDED



LEFT-HANDED



LEFT-HANDED

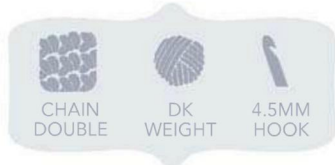
METHOD 1

Insert your hook into the centre of the chain, under both the loops of the stitch. Then catch the yarn with the hook and work your first stitch, as instructed. Some patterns will ask you to go into one loop rather than both. If your chain is too tight to go through both loops, try going under just the top loop of the chain.

METHOD 2

Insert your hook into the bumps on the back of the chain. Then catch the yarn with the hook and work your first stitch, as instructed. Working into these bumps gives the edge a more solid finish and maintains the plaited look of the front of the chain, which looks neater and gives a good finish to your work.

Jewellery in an hour



YOU WILL NEED

■ Rowan, Handknit Cotton (50g/85m, 100% cotton)
1 ball of each: Bleached (263),
Gooseberry (219), Sugar (303),
Slate (347)

■ A 4.5mm (US 7) hook
■ 2 glitter beads
■ Bracelet fastening
■ 6 assorted buttons

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

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 94.



BRACELETS

Decorate your wrists with a little crochet chic! Kirstie McLeod's easy bracelets are ideal for newbies.

PLAITED BRACELET

Using colours of your choice, make three lengths (one in each colour) as follows.

Leaving a long tail end, work a chain length for 30cm using a 4.5mm hook.

Fasten off yarn, leaving a long tail.

Plait together the chain lengths, being sure to plait together the yarn at the beginning and end of the chain.

Slip the beads on the end of the chain plait. Make a small loop with the yarn plaits and secure the unused ends to

the inside of the plait.

Sew the fastening to the yarn plaits.

DOUBLE AND CHAIN BRACELET

Using colours of your choice and a 4.5mm hook, ch31, ss into the first ch to form a ring.

Round 1 Ch1, work 1dc into the next 10 ch, ch21, ss into the first dc.

Rep this round 14 more times.

Fasten off the yarn.

Sew the buttons to the double crochet section in the centre of the bracelet.

HIP TO BE SQUARE

Lisa Gentry's granny square hat keeps you warm (yet cool).



Granny square beanie



YOU WILL NEED

■ Rowan Creative Focus Worsted
(75% wool, 25% alpaca,
100g/200m)
2 balls of True Purple (01800)
(Yarn A)
1 ball of Lavender Heather
(0712) (Yarn B)
■ A 5mm or 5.5mm hook
For yarn stockists, contact
Rowan 01484 681881
www.knitrowan.com

TENSION

Yarn used crochets as aran
weight to this tension:
Small: Square = 14cm (5½in), 14
dc = 10cm (4in) using 5mm hook
Large: Square = 15.25cm (6in),
13 dc = 10cm (4in) using 5.5mm
hook

MEASUREMENTS

Fits head circumference:
Small: 49.5cm (19½in)
Large: 53.5cm (21in)
Sizing note: Follow the same
instructions for both sizes.
Different sizes are achieved by
using different hook sizes – see
explanation under Tension.

ABBREVIATIONS

■ **Tr2tog** (treble 2 sts together):
*Yarn over, insert hook in next
stitch, yarn over and pull up loop,
yarn over and draw through 2
loops; rep from *, yarn over and
draw through all loops on hook.
■ **Cluster** (uses one sp): *Yarn
over, insert hook in space
indicated, yarn over and pull up
loop, yarn over and draw through
2 loops; rep from * twice more,
inserting the hook in the same
space each time, yarn over and
draw through all loops on hook.
■ **Beginning cluster** (uses one
sp): Work as for Cluster, replacing
the first of the 3 repeats with ch3.
For a full list, see page 94.

The humble granny square is such
a flexible creation, it looks great
in almost any shape or colour
combination. This simple hat uses just
two complementary shades of purple to
make squares for the band and a circle
for the crown. The slouchy look that
results is totally on trend and no one will
have any idea how easy it was to make.

SQUARE (MAKE 4)

With Yarn B, ch5 and join with ss to
form a ring.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1, 12dc in ring; join
with ss to first dc. [12dc]

Round 2 Ch4 (counts as tr and ch1), (tr
in next dc, ch1) around; join Yarn A with
ss to first tr; do not cut Yarn B. [12 tr
and 12 ch-1 sp]

Round 3 Ss in next ch-1 sp, work
Beginning Cluster, ch3, (work Cluster in
next ch-1 sp, ch3) around; join Yarn B
with ss to top of beginning Cluster; do
not cut Yarn A. [12 Clusters and 12 ch-3
sp]

Round 4 Ss in next ch-3 sp, ch1, 3dc in
same sp, (ch2, 3dc in next ch-3 sp)
around, htr in first dc to form last ch-2
sp, changing to Yarn A. Cut Yarn B.
[36 dc and 12 ch-2 sp]

Round 5 Ch3 (counts as tr), (tr, ch2, 2tr)
in same sp, ch2, 2dc in next ch-2 sp,
ch3, 2dc in next ch-2 sp, ch2, * (2tr, ch2,
2tr) in next ch-2 sp, ch2, 2dc in next
ch-2 sp, ch3, 2dc in next ch-2 sp, ch2;
repeat from * 2 times more; join with ss
to first tr. [12 ch-2 sp, 4 ch-3 sp, 16 tr,
and 16 dc]

Round 6 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr in next tr,
(2tr, ch2, 2tr) in corner ch-2 sp, tr in
next 2 tr, ch2, tr in next 2 dc, ch3, tr in
next 2 dc, ch2, * tr in next 2 tr, (2tr, ch2,
2tr) in corner ch-2 sp, tr in next 2 tr, ch2,
tr in next 2 dc ch3, tr in next 2dc, ch2;
repeat from * 2 times more; join with ss
to first tr. [48 tr, 12 ch-2 sp, 4 ch-3 sp,]

Round 7 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr in next 3
tr, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in corner ch-2 sp, tr in
next 4tr, 2tr in next ch-2 sp, tr in next 2
tr, 3tr in next ch-3 sp, tr in next 2 tr, 2tr
in next ch-2 sp, * tr in next 4 tr, (2tr,
ch2, 2tr) in corner ch-2 sp, tr in next 4 tr,
2tr in next ch-2 sp, tr in next 2 tr, 3tr in
next ch-3 sp, tr in next 2 tr, 2tr in next
ch-2 sp; repeat from * 2 times more;
join with ss to first tr. [92 tr and 4 ch-2
sp]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

CAP

Work the same as Square through to
Round 4. [36 dc and 12 ch-2 sp]

Round 5 Ch3 (counts as tr), 3 tr in same
sp, ch2, (4tr in next ch-2 sp, ch2)
around; join with ss to first tr. [48 tr and
12 ch-2 sp]

Round 6 Ch3 (counts as tr), 2tr in each
of next 2 tr, tr in next tr, ch1, * tr in next
tr, 2tr in each of next 2 tr, tr in next tr,
ch1; repeat from * around; join with ss
to first tr. [72 tr and 12 ch-1 sp]

Round 7 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr in next tr
and in each tr and ch-1 sp around; join
with ss to first tr. [84 tr]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

CONSTRUCTION

Place 2 squares with wrong sides
together. Using Yarn A and working
through both loops of both pieces,
oversew the squares together,
beginning in the second ch of first
corner and ending in first ch of next
corner.

Join remaining squares in same
manner, then join first and last squares
together to form a circle.

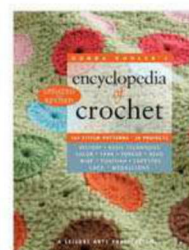
Join the Cap to one side of the circle,
easing to fit.

BORDER

Round 1 With RS facing, join Yarn A
with ss in any seam; ch1, work 20dc
evenly spaced across each Square; join
with ss to first dc. [80 dc]

Round 2 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr in next 3
dc, tr2tog, (tr in next 4 tr, tr2tog) twice,
* tr in next 6 tr, tr2tog, (tr in next 4 tr,
tr2tog) twice; repeat from * around to
last 2 dc, tr in last 2 dc; join with ss to
first tr. [68 tr]

Rounds 3-5 Ch1, dc in same st and in
each st around; join with ss to first dc.
Fasten off and weave in ends.



This pattern comes
from the book
*Encyclopedia of
Crochet* by Donna
Kooler, published
by Leisure Arts (RRP
£16.99). Contact GMC
01273 488005 www.thegmcgroup.com



LITTLE CHERUB

In baby and child sizes, Sirdar's sweet girl's cardigan has a vintage vibe.





YOU WILL NEED

- Sirdar, Snuggly 4ply (55% nylon, 45% acrylic, 50g/226m), Pearly Green (304), amounts in table
 - A 2.5mm (US C/2) hook
 - A 3mm (US D/3) hook
 - 1 metre of ribbon
 - Stitch markers or waste yarn
- For yarn stockists, contact
Sirdar 01924 231682
www.sirdar.co.uk

TENSION

21 sts and 10 rows to 10cm (4in) over block pattern using 3mm hook, and 23 sts and 11 rows to 10cm (4in) over square pattern on 3mm crochet hook, or the size

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 94.

This cute cardigan has been sized to fit little ones of various ages, from newborns up to seven-year-olds. So, you can crochet it in different sizes and shades to suit the occasion.

NOTE Border for the bottom edge of the back and front is worked first in one long strip. Strip is turned by 90 degrees and a series of ch loops added along the long side of the border. Back and front is worked in one piece into these ch loops, and continued to the armholes where it divides for back and fronts.

BACK AND FRONTS BORDER

Using 3mm crochet hook ch8, ss to first ch-1 to form ring, ch3, 7tr into ring, ch6, 1dc into ring, turn, * ch3, 7tr into ch-6 sp, ch6, 1dc into ch-6 sp, turn, * rep from * to * 19 (23: 27: 31: 35: 35) times, ch6, 1dc into top of ch-3 of last group of trebles worked, ** ch6, 1dc into top of ch-3 of next group of trebles, rep from ** to end, ch4, 1tr into first of ch-8, turn. [12 (14: 16: 18: 20: 20) loops].
Row 1 (RS) Ch2 (counts as 1tr), work 6 (5: 2: 3: 2: 6)tr into first loop, * ch1, 6 tr into next loop, rep from * to last loop, ch1, 7 (6: 3: 4: 3: 7)tr into last loop, turn. [85 (97: 105: 121: 133: 141) sts]
Row 2 Ch2, 1tr into each of next 6 (5: 2: 3: 2: 6)tr, * ch1, 1tr into each of next 6 tr, rep from * to last 7 (6: 3: 4: 3: 7)tr, ch1, 1tr into each of last 7 (6: 3: 4: 3: 7)tr, turn. Row 2 sets patt.
Work 1 (3: 5: 9: 11: 15) rows more.
Next row Ch1 (counts as 1dc), 1dc into each of next 6 (5: 2: 3: 2: 6)tr, 1dc into

next ch-1 sp, *1dc into each of next 6 tr, 1dc into next ch-1 sp, rep from * to last 7 (6: 3: 4: 3: 7)tr, 1dc into each of next 7 (6: 3: 4: 3: 7)tr, turn.

Next row Ch1, 1dc into each dc to end, turn.

Next row (eyelet row) Ch3 (counts as 1tr and ch1), miss 1dc, 1tr into next dc, * ch1, miss 1dc, 1tr into next dc, rep from * to end, turn.

Next row Ch1, * 1dc into next ch-1 sp, 1dc into next tr, rep from * to end, turn.

Next row Ch1, 1dc into each of next 6 (2: 7: 4: 10: 4)dc, 2dc into next dc, (1dc into each of next 9 (9: 7: 9: 9: 9)dc, 2dc into next dc) 7 (9: 11: 11: 11: 13) times, 1dc into each of next 7 (3: 8: 5: 11: 5)dc, turn. [93 (107: 117: 133: 145: 155)dc]

Next row Ch3, miss 1dc, 1tr into next dc, * ch1, miss 1dc, 1tr into next dc, rep from * to end, turn. [46 (53: 58: 66: 72: 77) squares]

DIVIDE FOR BACK AND FRONTS

SHAPE NECK AND ARMHOLE

Next row Ch2, 1tr into next tr, (ch1, 1tr into next tr) 9 (11: 12: 14: 16: 17) times, 1tr into next tr (place marker), turn.

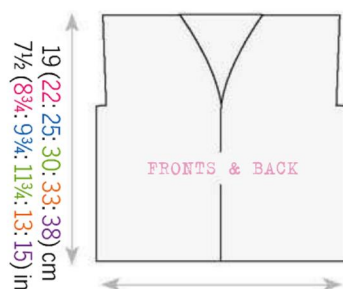
LEFT FRONT

Next row Ch3, miss 1tr, * 1tr into next tr, ch1, rep from * to last 3 tr, 1tr into each of last 3 tr, turn.

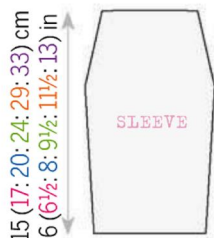
For 1st, 2nd and 3rd sizes only

Next row Ch3, miss 1tr, (1tr into next tr, ch1) 7 (9: 10) times, 1tr into next tr, turn.

Next row Ch3, * 1tr into next tr, ch1, rep from * to last 3 tr, 1tr into each of



21.5 (24: 26.5: 30: 32.5: 34) cm
8½ (9½: 10½: 12: 12¾: 13½) in



15 (17: 20: 24: 29: 33) cm
6 (6½: 8: 9½: 11½: 13) in

AGE		0-6	6-12	1-2	2-3	4-5	6-7
		mths	mths	yrs	yrs	yrs	yrs
TO FIT	cm	41	46	51	56	61	66
	in	16	18	20	22	24	26
ACTUAL	cm	43	48	53	60	65	68
	in	17	19	21	23¾	25½	26¾
LENGTH	cm	19	22	25	30	33	38
	in	7½	8¾	9¾	11¾	13	15
SLEEVE	cm	15	17	20	24	29	33
	in	6	6½	8	9½	11½	13
YARN	Pearly Green (304)	2	2	2	3	3	4

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

Girl's lacy cardigan

next 3 tr, turn.

Next row Ch3, miss 1tr, * 1tr into next tr, ch1, rep from * to last tr, 1tr into last tr, turn.

Rep last 2 rows 2 (3: 3) times more.

[5 (6: 7) squares]

Next row Ch3, 1tr into next tr, * ch1, 1tr into next tr, rep from * to end, turn.

Work 1 (0: 1) row more without

shaping. **Fasten off.**

For 4th, 5th and 6th sizes only

Next row Ch2, 1tr into next tr, * ch1, 1tr into next tr, rep from * to last 2 tr, 1tr into each of next 2 tr, turn.

Next row Ch3, miss 1tr, * 1tr into next tr, ch1, rep from * to last 3 tr, 1tr into each of last 3 tr, turn.

Next row Ch3, miss 1tr, * 1tr into next tr, ch1, rep from * to last 2 sts, 1tr into next tr, turn.

Next row Ch3, * 1tr into next tr, ch1, rep from * to last 3 tr, 1tr into each of next 3 tr, turn.

Next row Ch3, miss 1tr, * 1tr into next tr, ch1, rep from * to last tr, 1tr into last tr, turn.

Rep last 2 rows (1: 2: 2) times more.

Next row Ch3, 1tr into next tr, * ch1, 1tr into next tr, rep from * to end. [(8: 9: 10) squares]

Work (4: 3: 4) rows more without

shaping. **Fasten off.**

BACK

With WS facing, rejoin yarn to treble with the marker and proceed as follows: **SHAPE ARMHOLES**

Row 1 Ch2, 1tr into next tr, (ch1, 1tr into next tr) 22 (25: 28: 32: 34: 37) times, 1tr into next tr (place marker), turn.

Row 2 Ch3, miss 1tr, * 1tr into next tr, ch1, rep from * to last 2 tr, miss 1tr, 1tr into last tr, turn.

Rep Row 2, 1 (1: 1: 2: 2) times.

Next row Ch3, 1tr into next tr, * ch1, 1tr into next tr, rep from * to end, turn.

Work 7 (8: 9: 9: 10: 11) rows more without shaping. **Fasten off.**

RIGHT FRONT

With WS facing, rejoin yarn to tr with marker and proceed as follows:

SHAPE NECK AND ARMHOLE

Next row Ch2, 1tr into next tr, * ch1, 1tr into next tr, rep from * to last 2 tr, 1tr into each of next 2 tr, turn.

Next row Ch2, 1tr into each of next 2 tr, * ch1, 1tr into next tr, rep from * to

last 2 tr, miss 1tr, 1tr into last tr, turn.

For 1st, 2nd and 3rd sizes only

Next row Ch3, 1tr into next tr, * ch1, 1tr into next tr, rep from * to last 2 tr, miss 1tr, 1tr into last tr, turn.

Next row Ch2, 1tr into each of next 2 tr, * ch1, 1tr into next tr, rep from * to end, turn.

Rep last 2 rows 2 (3: 3) times more.

[5 (6: 7) squares]

Work 3 (2: 3) rows more without shaping. **Fasten off.**

For 4th, 5th and 6th sizes only

Next row Ch2, 1tr into next tr, * ch1, 1tr into next tr, rep from * to last 2 tr, 1tr into each of last 2 tr, turn.

Next row Ch3, 1tr into next tr, * ch1, 1tr into next tr, rep from * to last 2 tr, miss 1tr, 1tr into last tr, turn.

Next row Ch3, 1tr into each of next 2 tr, * ch1, 1tr into next tr, rep from * to end, turn.

Rep last 2 rows (2: 3: 3) times more.

[(8: 9: 10) squares]

Work (5: 4: 5) rows more without shaping. **Fasten off.**

SLEEVES (MAKE 2 ALIKE)

Using 2.5mm crochet hook ch34 (38: 40: 42: 46: 50).

Row 1 1dc into third ch from hook, 1dc into each ch to end, turn. [33 (37: 39: 41: 45: 49)ch]

Row 2 Ch1 (counts as 1dc), 1dc into each dc to end, turn.

Row 3 Ch3 (counts as 1 tr and ch1), miss 1dc, 1tr into next dc, * ch1, miss 1dc, 1tr into next dc, rep from * to end, turn.

Row 4 Ch1, * 1dc into ch-1 sp, 1dc into next tr, rep from * to end, turn.

Row 5 Ch1, * 1dc into each dc to end, turn. Change to 3mm crochet hook.

Row 1 Ch3, miss 1dc, 1tr into next dc, * ch1, miss 1dc, 1tr into next dc, rep from * to end, turn. [16 (18: 19: 20: 22: 24) squares]

Row 2 (RS) Ch3, 1tr into next tr, * ch1, 1tr into next tr, rep from * to end, turn.

Row 2 sets patt. Work 3 (5: 3: 3: 3: 5) rows more in patt.

Next row Ch2, 1tr in same tr on which ch-2 stands, * ch1, 1tr into next tr, rep from * to last tr, ch1, 2tr into last tr, turn.

Next row Ch3, 1tr into next tr, * ch1, 1tr into next tr, rep from * to end, turn.

[18 (20: 21: 22: 24: 26) squares]

For 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th sizes only

** Work (4: 4: 6: 6) rows more without shaping.

Next row Ch2, 1tr in same tr on which ch-2 stands, * ch1, 1tr into next tr, rep from * to last tr, ch1, 2tr into last tr, turn.

Next row Ch3, 1tr into next tr, * ch1, 1tr into next tr, rep from * to end. **

[(23: 24: 26: 28) squares]

For 4th, 5th and 6th sizes only

Work from ** to ** once. [(26: 28: 30) squares]

For all 6 sizes

Cont without shaping until sleeve measures 15 (17: 20: 24: 29: 33)cm, ending with a WS row.

SHAPE SLEEVE TOP

Row 1 Ch2, 1tr into next tr, * ch1, 1tr into next tr, rep from * to last tr, 1tr into last tr, turn.

Row 2 Ch3, miss 1tr, * 1tr into next tr, ch1, rep from * to last 2 tr, miss 1tr, 1tr into last tr, turn.

Rep Rows 1 and 2 2 (2: 3: 3: 4: 4) times more. **Fasten off.**

BORDER

Join shoulder seams. With RS facing, using 2.5mm crochet hook, starting at lower edge of right front border, work 19 (23: 27: 35: 39: 49)dc evenly along straight edge, 21 (23: 25: 27: 29: 31)dc along shaped edge, 19 (21: 23: 23: 25: 25)dc from back of neck, 21 (23: 25: 27: 29: 31)dc along shaped edge and 19 (23: 27: 35: 39: 49)dc along straight edge to fourth tr of tr-8 group in lower edge of border, turn. [99 (113: 127: 147: 161: 185)dc]

Row 1 Ch1, * 1dc into each dc to end, turn.

Row 2 Ch2, 1tr into next dc, * ch1, miss 1dc, 1tr into next dc, rep from * to last dc, 1tr into last dc, turn.

Row 3 Ch1, 1dc into next tr, * 1dc into next ch-1 sp, 1dc into next tr, rep from * to last tr, 1dc into last tr. **Fasten off.**

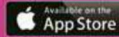
TO MAKE UP

Fold sleeves in half lengthways. With folds to shoulder seams, sew on sleeves. Join sleeve seams. Thread ribbon through eyelet row. Weave in ends and block.

THANK *Mollie*
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MAKE A MOTIF

★ FLOWER POWER! ★

Try a new motif pattern from Amanda Perkins.



CREATES COSY BLANKETS
AND SHAWLS



MAKE A MOTIF



YOU WILL NEED

- 300g Natural Dye Studio Dazzle HT Sock Yarn (100% Blue Faced Leicester wool, 100g/400m)
 - A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- For yarn stockists, contact
The Natural Dye Studio
01598 752053
www.thenaturaldyestudio.com

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 94.

Making motifs is one of the many joys of crochet, with infinite shapes and sizes possible. Every issue, we'll bring you a different motif to try out, and this pretty one is from Amanda Perkins from The Natural Dye Studio. It has a dense finish that makes it ideal for blankets and afghans. We used a 4ply yarn but if you'd like to make a heavier blanket, use a DK weight instead, with the relevant hook size.

ENID MOTIF

Ch6 and join into a ring with a ss.

Round 1 *Ch2 (counts as htr), working into the ring: 1htr, ch2, 2htr, ch4; rep from * another 5 times, replacing the first ch-2 with htr. Ss to the top of beg ch2 to join, turn. [24 htr, 6 ch-2 sp, 6 ch-4 sp]

Round 2 Ss into the first ch-4 sp, and work the first rep into the same sp: *Into a ch-4 sp (ch2 [counts as htr], 1htr, ch2, 2htr), into the next ch-2 sp (1dc, ch2, 1dc); rep from * another 5 times, replacing the first ch-2 with htr. Ss to the top of beg ch2 to join, turn. [24 htr,

6 ch-2 corner sp (between htr), 6 ch-2 sp]

Round 3 Ss into the first ch-2 sp, and work the first rep into the same sp:

*Into a ch-2 sp (ch3 [counts as dc and ch2], 1dc), into next ch-2 corner sp (2htr, ch2, 2 htr, ch2, 2 htr, ch2, 2htr); rep from * another 5 times, replacing the first ch-1 with dc. Ss to the first ch-1 to join. [48 htr, 12 dc, 24 ch-2 sp]

Fasten off and sew in ends.

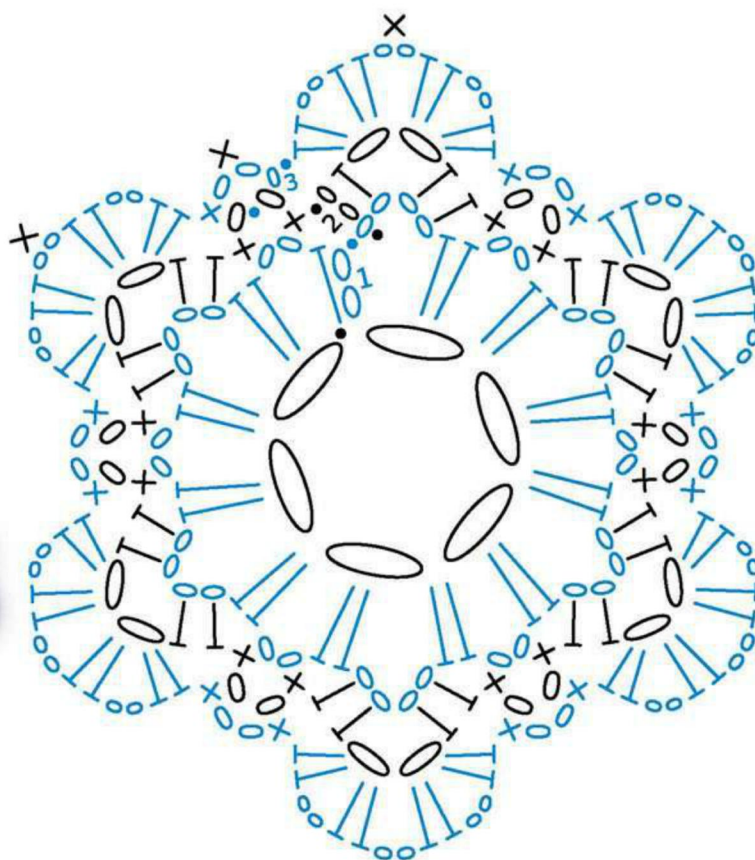
JOINING MOTIFS

Join the subsequent motifs on round 3 at the ch-2 sp marked with a black cross, replacing the ch2 with ch1 and ss into the corresponding ch-2 sp on the other motif.

Key

- Slip st (ss)
- Chain (ch)
- × Double crochet (dc)
- ┐ Half treble (htr)

On the chart, follow rounds 1 and 3 in an anti-clockwise direction, and round 2 in a clockwise direction.



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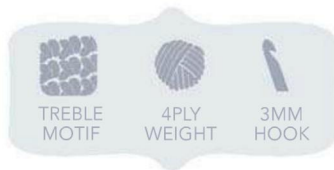
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HEART & HOME

Make an eye-catching hook board to brighten your hallway or a bedroom.



Wall hooks



YOU WILL NEED

- 4ply 100% cotton yarn (such as DMC Natura Just Cotton), 50g Small amounts of each: White, Aqua, Mint Green, Pink, Peacock Blue, Mandarin Orange, Sunshine Yellow and Bright Red
- A 3mm (US D/3) hook
- Medium density fibreboard, 30x13x1.5cm (11¾x5¼x¾in)
- 2 clothes hooks with matching screws
- 2 hanger loops with matching screws
- Lacquer, white
- Brush or roller for lacquer
- Sandpaper, 120 medium grade
- Craft glue

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

TENSION

1 square motif with 3 rounds measures 6.5cm (2½-2¾in) square using a 3mm hook
1 square motif with 6 rounds measures 13cm (5¼in) square using a 3mm hook

MEASUREMENTS

Approx 50x13cm (19¾x5¼in)

ABBREVIATIONS

Tr3tog (work 3 treble crochet stitches together) (decrease):
*Yarn over, insert hook in next stitch, yarn over and pull up loop, yarn over and draw through 2 loops; rep from * 2 times more, yarn over and draw through all loops on hook.

For a full list, see page 94.

BASIC SQUARE

Ch4 and join into a ring with a ss.

Round 1 Ch5 (counts as tr and ch2), *3tr into ring, ch2; rep from * 2 more times, ending 2tr, ss to top of beg ch-3 to join. [4 groups of 3-tr, 4 ch-2 sp]

Round 2 *(Ch3 [counts as tr] 2tr, ch2, 3 tr) into next ch-2 sp, ch1; rep from * another 3 times replacing first ch3 with tr, ss to top of beg ch-3 to join. 4ss over first 3 sts of round 2 and into the corner ch-2 sp. [8 groups of 3-tr, 4 corner ch-2 sp, 4 ch-1 sp]

Round 3 *(Ch3 [counts as tr], 2tr, ch2 3tr) in corner ch-2 sp, ch1. 3tr in next ch-1 sp, ch1; rep from * another 3 times, replacing first ch3 with tr. Ss to top of beg ch-3 to join, 4ss over first 3 sts of rnd and into corner ch-2 sp. [12 groups of 3-tr, 4 corner ch-2 sp, 8 ch-1 sp]
You can increase the size of the square by working more rounds in the same way as given for Round 3.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

To change colour for the multicoloured squares, see our guide on page 93.

HEART

Begin with a magic loop.

Round 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), 10dc into loop, ch3, 10dc into loop, ss to beg ch-1 to join. [20dc and a ch-3 sp]

Round 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in first dc, tr in next dc, (2dtr in next dc) twice, 2tr in next dc, (htr in next dc) twice, (dc in next dc) twice, skip next dc. In the ch-3 sp work (dc, tr, dc). Skip next dc, (dc in next dc) twice, (htr in next dc) twice, 2tr in next dc, (2dtr in next dc) twice, tr in next dc, dc in last dc. Ss to beg ch-1 to join. [8 dc, 7 tr, 4 htr, 8 dtr]

Do not pull the magic loop closed.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

CONSTRUCTION

Crochet four Basic squares with 3 rounds each: one each of Aqua, Mandarin Orange, White and Mint Green.

Make Basic squares in the following colour sequences:

1st square Round 1 in Bright Red, Rounds 2-3 with Aqua, Round 4 with Peacock Blue, Round 5 with Sunshine Yellow, Round 6 with Mandarin Orange.

2nd square Round 1 with Bright Red,

Rounds 2-3 with White, Round 4 with Mint Green, Round 5 with Aqua, Round 6 with Pink.

3rd square Round 1 with Bright Red, Rounds 2-3 with Mint Green, Round 4 with Pink, Round 5 with Sunshine Yellow, Round 6 with White.
Work Rounds 4-6 as for Round 3.
Make three Hearts with Bright Red and sew one at centre of each of the multicoloured squares.

Now arrange all the squares as in the photo and join. Steam press.
Weave in all ends neatly on WS.

EDGING

Crochet an edging around the block, using White:

Round 1 Attach yarn to any stitch on the edge with a ss, ch1, work 1dc in each tr and ch around, working 3dc at each corner. End with a ss to first dc.

Round 2 Ch3 (counts as tr), 1tr in each dc and, at each corner, work tr3tog into each of the 3 dc at corner. End round with ss to top of beg ch-3.

Fasten off and weave in all ends neatly on WS.

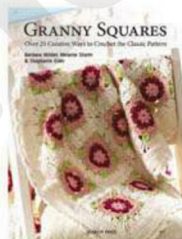
BOARD

Paint the fibreboard with the white lacquer, applying 3 layers and allowing each layer to dry completely before applying the next layer. Lightly smooth each layer with sandpaper.

Apply glue to the front and sides of the fibreboard and carefully attach the crocheted cover to the board, making sure that the crochet piece is squared at all corners.

FINISHING

When the glue is completely dry, attach a clothes hook at the centre of each of the small squares on the bottom.
Attach the hanging loops to the back, as shown on the photo.



This pattern comes from the book *Granny Squares* by Barbara Wilder, Melanie Sturm and Stephanie Gohr, published by Search Press (RRP £9.99). Visit www.searchpress.com

GET WEB SAVVY!

Discover a unique world of crochet goodies on the internet, and learn how you can make the most of what Etsy and Craftsy have to offer.

Crafting fans and folk who are gifted with the ability to create really beautiful, unique products have discovered a wonderful online marketplace, where they can buy exactly what they're looking for or flaunt their wares to like-minded people across the globe. Welcome to the world of Etsy and Craftsy, two gorgeous, user-friendly online experiences that have changed the face of crafty shopping for good. Fans of crochet in particular will love the easy access to an enormous range of both ready-made crocheted items and a broad selection of patterns, which can be delivered to your desktop within 24 hours – in some cases, for free!

The vast majority of Etsy and Craftsy traders are people whose dreams of turning their hobby into a business

finally became a reality – see our lovely panel of women on page 88 for some truly inspirational personal stories. Meanwhile, for customers who use either of the sites for shopping, the process of browsing and buying couldn't be easier.

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Once you're an Etsy member, you can enjoy and explore a range of friendly, informative networking opportunities via the Etsy Community menu. This section of the website incorporates online Labs, Teams, Events and Forums, while the lively Blogs section covers topics such as news stories from buyers and sellers, gifting tips, trading advice and much more. Meanwhile, a Conversations facility allows you to communicate directly with traders and other Etsy network members, making the site a fully personalised experience.

Working along similar lines, when

you're a Craftsy member, you have the opportunity to attend online classes (including some brilliant, user-friendly crochet classes

aimed at all skill levels), find expert advice at the click of a button, work your way through step-by-step craft projects and get inspired, courtesy of fascinating blogs from like-minded people. Both sites work as social networking sites, too, with many users making long-lasting friends on the two sites, but be assured that clear privacy policies mean that your online security is guaranteed.

You can, if you wish, choose to sign up to these sites through Facebook – an appropriate way for fans of social networking to join in the Etsy and Craftsy fun. Both fully-interactive sites offer far more than a shopping experience – you'll soon discover a range of online experiences specifically designed to appeal to crafty people.

Written by Melissa Blease

"ATTEND ONLINE CLASSES INCLUDING SOME BRILLIANT, USER-FRIENDLY CROCHET CLASSES FOR ALL SKILL LEVELS."



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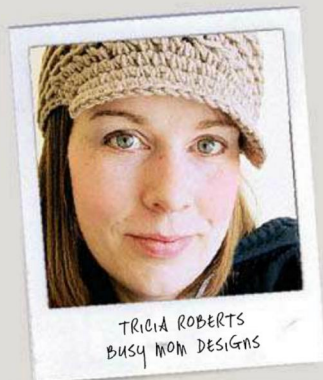


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Meet the women who have turned their hobby into a career.



TRICIA ROBERTS
BUSY MOM DESIGNS

"I started designing crochet patterns and selling them online two years ago through my shop, Busy Mom Designs. I discovered Craftsby shortly after it launched and was an instant fan. I've taken Craftsby classes and workshops and have loved each one, so I was very excited when Craftsby created a venue for independent designers to offer our patterns without charging fees; this enables me to list my designs at a lower cost to buyers than at other online venues and my customers love being able to download their patterns instantly after purchasing. I've been crafting most of my life and crochet is my absolute favourite!"



JESSICA DAINES
SEW GIFTED

"I've always been creative, but sort of fell into admin work when I finished university. Then, a couple of years ago, I decided it was time to do something I really wanted to do. I came across Etsy through a sewing website that I use and knew straight away that this was the avenue that would be best for my start-up venture. In 2013, I'll be taking the plunge into full-time self-employment, which is both scary and very exciting! It's been hard work and there's still lots I want to do. I'm on a continual learning curve, but I've found that doing something that I enjoy makes life so much more fulfilling – and it's all down to Etsy!"



LINDA PERMANN
LINDAMADE

"I was one of Craftsby's first crochet teachers – I had so much fun with my classes that I am now a full-time employee, planning and producing new classes for the site. As a teacher, I really enjoy being able to connect with crocheters from all around the world, especially because otherwise they may not have access to a knowledgeable teacher or even a yarn shop nearby. One of my first students lived in Paris and she wanted to know where she could get hooks like mine, so I used my Twitter following to help her find two stores. I love being able to help people pursue their passion, no matter where they are located."



STACEY TROCK
FRESHSTITCHES

"I'm a crochet designer by profession and I've been designing amigurumi patterns for FreshStitches for four years. I adore designing animals, but I'm an all-around crafter at heart; I knit, sew and spin. I love Craftsby because it allows me to share all of my crafting passions in one place. I teach crochet in classes across the country, but my students are often limited by their ability to get to the venue; this year, I taught two online crochet courses on Craftsby, and it was an amazing experience. I have students from all over the world and my students can ask me questions when it suits them. It's a very interactive format."



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 SLIP KNOT

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 and yarn end in your right hand, and the working yarn in your left hand. Move the hook under and over the yarn to wrap it around anti-clockwise.



2 Pull the hook towards the slip knot, catching the yarn in the hook, and pulling it through the slip knot loop. This forms your first chain (ch) stitch. Repeat steps 1 and 2 to form a chain.



3 This is what your row of chains will look like. Hold the chain with your right hand near the hook, to keep the tension. Keep going until you have the number of chains stated on your pattern.

How to count chains



Each chain or loop counts as one stitch. Never count your first slip knot 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 Insert the hook from front to back into the second chain from the hook. When working into a chain, insert the hook into the centre of the chain. Wrap yarn round the hook (yrh).



2 Pull the yarn through the chain stitch and the loop already on the hook to make a slip stitch. To carry on working a row of slip stitches, insert the hook into the next chain down and so on.

WORKING IN ROWS

Follow these simple rules to construct crochet fabric.



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.



For the next row, first make the turning chain for the stitch you're about to work. 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 first stitch on the previous row.



2 Wind the yarn around the hook and pull it through the stitch, giving you two loops on your crochet hook.



3 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 your hook ready to do the next stitch. Continue to the end of the row.



4 For following rows, turn and make 1 turning chain. For dc only, the t-ch does not count as a st. Work the first dc of the row in the st at the base of the ch. At the end of the row, do not work into the top of the t-ch.

HALF TREBLE CROCHET (htr) US term: half double crochet

A handy stitch that's between double and treble crochet in size, and that 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), yrh. Pull the yarn through all 3 loops. You've made a half treble crochet. Continue working htr into next and foll sts to end of the row.



4 At the end of the row, turn work and ch2. This is the t-ch and counts as the first htr in a new row. Skip the first st at the base of the t-ch, work 1htr into 2nd st in prev row and in each st to end, including into top of t-ch.

TREBLE CROCHET (dtr) 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 Yrh and pull the yarn through the stitch only (3 loops on hook).



3 Yrh and pull yarn through the first 2 loops only (2 loops on hook). Yrh and pull yarn through these 2 loops. Continue in each stitch to end of row, including t-ch.



4 At the end of a tr row, turn work, ch3 for t-ch (counts as first tr). Skip first st at base of t-ch, work 1tr into 2nd st in prev row, and into each st to end, including top of t-ch.

DOUBLE TREBLE CROCHET (dtr) US term: treble crochet

This is a stitch regularly used as an elongated version of the treble crochet stitch (described above). It's taller than a treble stitch and is worked in a very similar way, as follows:

1 Make a foundation chain. Skip 4ch, yrh twice, and insert the hook under the top loop of the 5th 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.

5 To make the next row of dtr, turn work and ch4. This t-ch 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 First, make a foundation chain. Skip 5 ch, yrh three times, insert hook under top loop of 6th ch.

2 Yrh, pull yarn through ch loop only (5 loops on hook).

3 *Yrh, draw loop through 2 loops only. Repeat from * three times more and your triple treble will be complete.

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. This table tells you how many turning-chain 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 in 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 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.

INCREASING AND DECREASING

Shaping stitches are vital for making garments.



INCREASE To increase one stitch, work two stitches into one stitch. Here, two treble stitches are worked into the same stitch on the row below, increasing by one.



DECREASE For a quick decrease, just skip one stitch. For a neater look, work part of one stitch, then begin next stitch. Finish both together. See tr2tog on page 76.

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 wrong 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 through both edge stitches, yrh and pull through to complete 1 slip stitch; rep from *, keeping your 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.



HOW TO CHANGE COLOUR

Create stripes and other colour effects.



1 Before you pick up the yarn for the last time 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 the new yarn through to finish the old stitch. The working loop is now in the new colour. Continue working, keeping the old yarn at the wrong side.

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.



2 Close the ring with a slip stitch (yrh and pull through). Now you are ready to start crocheting in the round, following the instructions given below.

WORKING STITCHES INTO A RING

Make circles, tubes and other shapes by working simple rounds of crochet stitches.



1 Make a foundation ring (as described above right) and then work the correct number of chains for the t-ch, for example, 3ch for a treble.



2 Now work the stitch as you would on a row, but insert the hook into the centre of the ring rather than each chain loop. For a treble, yrh, insert into the ring, yrh and pull yarn through the loop.



3 Continue with the treble stitch, working in just the same way as you would on a row. So yrh, pull yarn through first 2 loops.



4 Finish off the treble stitch by working yrh, pull yarn through 2 loops. Continue making stitches into the ring as instructed.

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 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.

Rounds or spirals

Check which technique to use.

Some patterns are worked in rounds, which are joined at the end. Other patterns are worked in a spiral so you don't need to join rounds, just keep going, working into the next stitch on the previous row. Amigurumi toys are often worked in a spiral like this. (You'll find the dragon on page 49!)



Abbreviations

across alt	to end of the row alternate or alternating	lp(s) meas nc	loop(s) measures not closed
approx	approximate(ly)	p or pc	picot
beg	beginning	patt(s)	pattern(s)
bet	between	pm	place marker
bl	insert hook under back loop only, such as bldc – back loop double crochet	prev	previous
		rem	remains or remaining
ch(s)	chain or chain stitch(es)	rep	repeat
ch-sp(s)	chain space(s)	RH	right hand
ch-	refers to ch previously made, eg ch-3	rnd(s)	round(s)
cl(s)	clusters	RS	right side
cont	continue	sk	skip
dc	double crochet	sp(s)	space(s)
dc2tog	work 2dc together	ss	slip stitch
dec	decrease	st(s)	stitch(es)
dtr	double treble crochet	tbl	through back loop
dtr2tog	work 2dtr together	t-ch(s)	turning chain(s)
fl	insert hook under front loop only, such as fldc – front loop double crochet	tog	together
		tr	treble crochet
foll/folls	following/follows	tr2tog	work 2tr together
gr	group	ttr	triple treble crochet
htr	half treble crochet	WS	wrong side
htr2tog	work 2htr together	yoh	yarn over hook
in next	sts to be worked into same stitch	yrh	yarn round hook
inc	increase	*	work instructions immediately following *, then repeat as directed
LH	left hand		work or repeat all instructions enclosed in brackets as directed immediately after

[] or ()

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?

Choosing the right size hook for the yarn you're crocheting is important.

Hook size	UK yarn weight
2.5-3.5mm hook	4 ply yarn
3.5-4.5mm hook	double knitting yarn
5-6mm hook	aran yarn
7mm and bigger	chunky yarn

Crochet abbreviations conversions

Use this handy table to convert UK crochet terms to US crochet terms, or vice versa. Also see individual stitch explanations on previous pages.

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

Crochet naturally

Work crochet stitches your own way.

Everyone has their own style when crocheting, so if you find any of our instructions hard to follow, just practise with a hook and some yarn to find a style you're comfortable with. Most people crochet with the hook in one hand and the working yarn in the other hand, but you don't have to. To get some ideas, look at how other crocheters work, or watch some videos on the internet. As long as you have some tension between the working yarn and your work, your crochet results should work out fine.

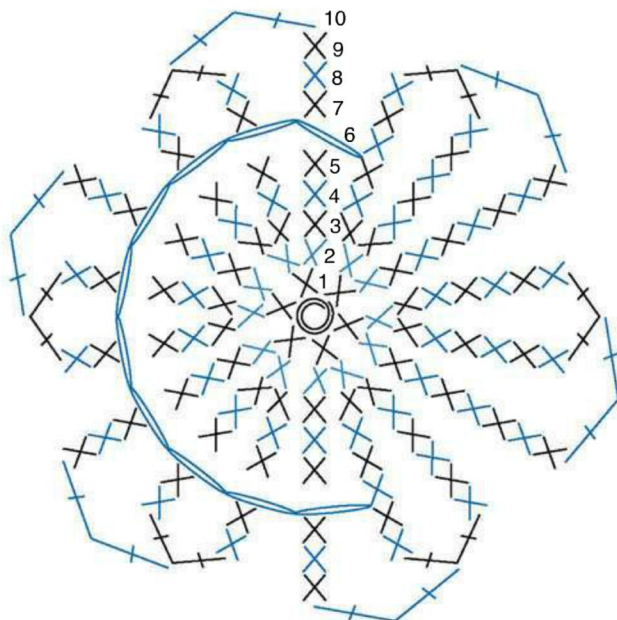
CHARTS & KEYS

We know some of you prefer to use charts once you're set up to get started, so here they are for the headphones and baby blanket patterns this issue.

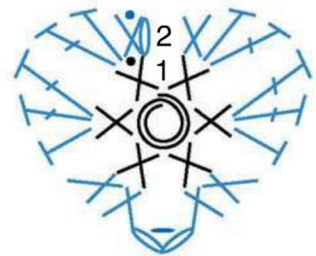
SOUNDS LIKE LOVE

Headphones, page 58

- Key
- Adjustable ring (magic loop)
 - Slip st (ss)
 - Slip st in back bump
 - Chain (ch)
 - × Double crochet (dc)
 - ∧ Double crochet 2 sts together (dc2tog)
 - ⏏ Half treble (htr)
 - ⏏ Treble (tr)



SPEAKER COVER

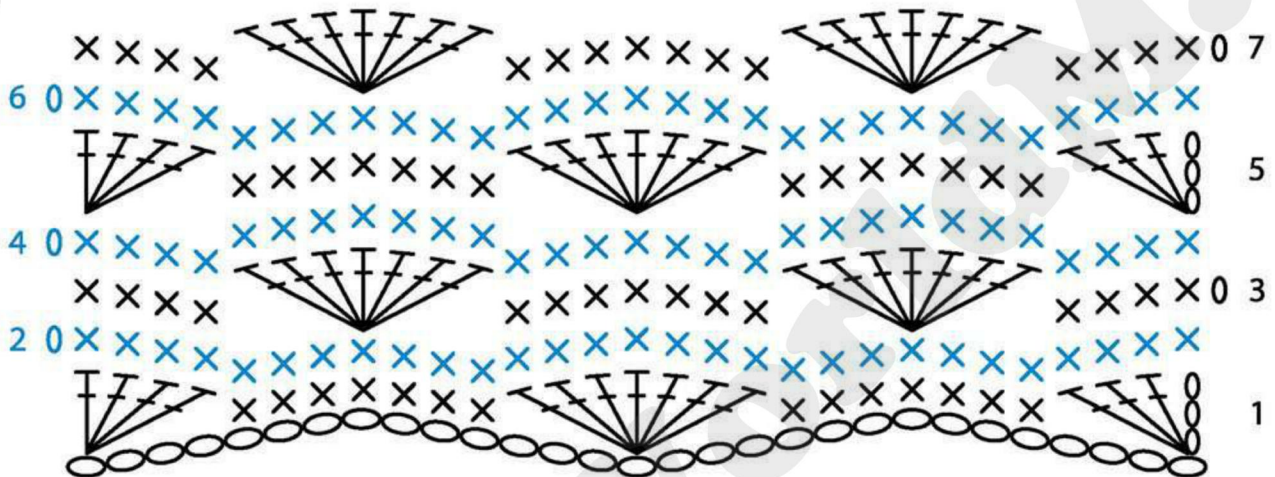


HEART

COMFORT BLANKET

Baby blanket, page 61

- Key
- Chain (ch)
 - × Double crochet (dc)
 - ⏏ Treble crochet (tr)



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**UK READERS
SEE PAGE 32**

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Simply Crochet

HOOKED ON HANDMADE

NEXT ISSUE

Colourful creations
for your kitchen!

Lacy shawl

Pretty wrist warmers

Cosy slippers

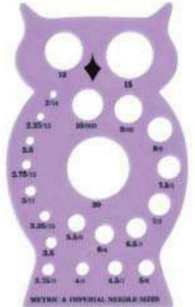
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CUTE OWL
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STYLE
ICONS

FUNKY COATS

Ahhh... the Seventies. Platform shoes, mega flares and crocheted coats (and waistcoats).

Searching for the perfect crochet patterns has taken us to design resources near and far. Some routes led us to bygone eras when 'yarn' was called 'wool' but, if anything, was far from being the natural stuff! Manmade fibres – nylon and polyester mixes – made handmade clothes easy to wash and wear and changed garment design forever. We love a bit of retro styling; a funky vintage accessory or a silk scarf tied the old-fashioned way, but what about the real thing? Do patterns from decades past still look good enough to make? Every issue we'll show a pattern from the past and ask: is it a Vintage Vogue or a Fashion Rogue? Let us know what you think. You could also see your own vintage treasures featured; scan your patterns and send them to us at simplycrochet@futurenet.com. We'll be in touch.



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