

# Simply Crochet



HIT THE BEACH



HOOKED ON HANDMADE



**BRIGHT  
MAKES**

**21  
PATTERNS  
INSIDE**

**SEASIDE STITCHES**

Bikini top, sarong, espadrilles and much more



Stitch this  
**ICE LOLLY  
BROOCH!**





# HOOKED ON HOME



Mustard Flower Cushion  
by Little Doolally

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# *Simply* **Crochet**

HOOKED ON HANDMADE

Gather your yarns and let the holiday hooking commence. There are bright and breezy garments, fruity accessories and tasty ice cream treats to make this issue. Plus, create your very own collection of crochet beach essentials. Hello summer.





# Simply Crochet

ISSUE THIRTY-FOUR

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All our patterns use **UK terms**. If you usually crochet from US patterns, turn to page 92 for a conversion table.





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# CONTRIBUTORS

THREE CHEERS FOR THESE TALENTED FOLKS . . .



**SIMONE FRANCIS**

Seasoned stitcher Simone has been a very busy bee this month. She designed the pretty bikini top for our summer beach collection on page 22 and the fabulous tasselled dress on page 38.



**ILARIA CALIRI**

We have a real treat for you from Italian designer Ilaria Caliri. Turn to page 29 to find the pattern for her adorable amigurumi ice cream doll. Just like the real thing, she's hard to resist.



**JON DUNN-BALLAM**

Jon (pictured here with his sidekick Sweep – cute!) is the colour-loving dyer behind independent yarn brand Easyknits. Turn to page 66 to find out how he made yarn dyeing his living.



**VITA APALA**

Crochet designer Vita seems to have a real gift for creating gorgeous accessories and baby garments. This issue, we're chatting to Vita to find out what inspires her designs. See page 56.

## OTHER CONTRIBUTORS

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# HOOKED

IDEAS ♡ INSPIRATION ♡ ACCESSORIES ♡ WEBSITES ♡ EVENTS ♡ STUFF

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## WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM

Who could resist the mournful little amigurumi faces of these dropped ice cream cones? They're the marvellously melty handiwork of talented You Cute crocheter Priscilla Ascuaga. Her Etsy store [www.youcute.etsy.com](http://www.youcute.etsy.com) is simply brimming with adorable and extremely tasty-looking amigurumi crochet patterns, including this design. You'll soon discover that we're all about the sweet frozen treats this month. Keep your eyes peeled for more delicious crochet morsels ahead.







## PARTY TIME

■ When it comes down to it, what is a party without ribbons and rainbows? Add full fiesta factor to any of your summer FOs with lengths of vibrant ribbon. Our current favourite is this Rainbow Chevron Ribbon (£2.99 for three meters) from online party store Candle and Cake ([www.candleandcake.co.uk](http://www.candleandcake.co.uk)). Admittedly, it's not the kind of place we'd usually go searching for crafty notions for crochet makes, but we can't deny that they've got a lot of fun, creative stuff.



**S**ometimes holding back the yarn tide long enough to get to our desks is a real challenge. In fact, rarely a day goes by when we're not attempting to dream up creative new ways to store our ever-growing yarn stash (we all know having less yarn is just not a viable option). Thankfully when we come up short, the internet often has the answer. Doesn't this retro-style wire fruit bowl look simply divine as a fancy fibre receptacle? We found it at Berylune ([www.berylune.co.uk](http://www.berylune.co.uk)). Their Wire Storage Bowls come in white or peach and are £16.95 a pop. Plus, they've got a collection of other equally stylish wire storage bits as well. We're going to get organised.

## ROCKING MOROCCAN

Do you ever find yourself stopped in your tracks by a stunning crochet pattern? This beautiful tapestry crochet bag is one such culprit. That bright gold-green-yellow shade paired with a graphic Moroccan design and a pair of sophisticated leather handles is a combination that cannot be ignored. And the even better news is that this Moroccan Tote pattern by talented designer and blogger Sol is available for free on her blog at [www.acrochetjourney.com](http://www.acrochetjourney.com). The chart you'll need is on there, too.

## FOND OF FILIGREE

If you love lacy garments, you must check out *Filigree*. It's the third independent collection from top designer Marie Wallin and it features 10 elegant and wearable designs. Some of the projects are purely crochet, while others are knit and crochet, but each one is worked in 4ply cotton which shows off the fancy stitches beautifully. Our highlights (pictured) are the Aster sweater and the Peony cardigan. The book is available from Rowan stockists or from [www.mariewallin.com](http://www.mariewallin.com)







## HAVING A BALL

Once upon a time, there was a gorgeous crochet book, filled with amigurumi patterns inspired by beloved fairy tales. Stitches, that time is now. *Amigurumi Fairy Tales* is a new book from Tessa van Riet-Ernst. It features over 20 patterns for favourites including Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, The Ugly Duckling and more. The PDF edition is available at [www.amigurumipatterns.net](http://www.amigurumipatterns.net)

## MAKE IT ON HOLIDAY

A few handy pointers to bear in mind if you're travelling with your crochet this summer.

- 1 **SNAP IT UP**  
No need to carry paper copies of patterns – take pics of them on your phone.
- 2 **FLY AWAY**  
Check if the airline permits crochet hooks and scissors.
- 3 **DITCH THE MOHAIR**  
Going somewhere hot? Pack cooler fibres such as cotton, silk and linen to work with.
- 4 **JUST IN CASE**  
Invest in a notions case to keep all your stuff together.
- 5 **LOCATE A YARN STORE**  
A local skein or two will be a lovely memento of your trip.

## LEAN ON ME

Spruce up the place with a Coco crochet cushion from Fearn Cotton's latest home collection. It comes in pink or cream and there are matching pouffes, too. £19 at [www.very.co.uk](http://www.very.co.uk)



## INSPIRING BOOKS

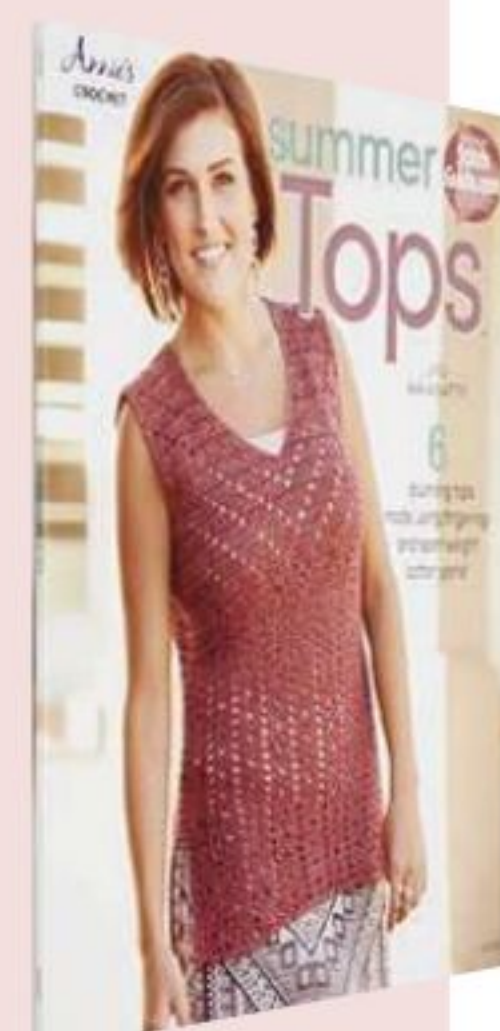
### LEARN TO CROCHET

Sue Whiting (£8.99, IMM Lifestyle Books)  
This is a wonderful introduction to the craft. You'll find it handy for reference or as an aid if you're teaching a newbie. There are step-by-step photo tutorials and 10 simple projects to try. The illustrated guide to stitch diagrams is a real gem.



### SUMMER TOPS

Jill Hanratty (£5.99, Annie's Attic)  
For intermediate to experienced crocheters, this book has six wonderful airy garment designs. There are clear instructions and diagrams throughout. Do bear in mind that these crochet patterns are written in US terms.



### CROCHETED PURSES

Anna Mikirowicz (£4.99, Search Press)  
A fab collection of crochet purse designs. These mini projects are great for sampling new techniques and stitches such as cross stitch, ripples or beading. This book will get your fingers working and stop your pockets jangling.



### 75 DECORATIVE KNOTS

Laura Williams and Elise Mann (£12.99, Search Press)  
Take your relationship with loops to the next level and have a go at knotting. It's a unique way to create accessories and decorations. This book has clear instructions to get you started, plenty of images to inspire and projects to try, too.







## FAIREST OF THE FAIRS

Excitement is building (and rightly so) for Kirstie Allsopp's Handmade Fair 2015. It's taking place at Hampton Court Palace again, 18-20 September. Have you booked in yet? As well as creative workshops and Grand Makes, there'll be opportunities to hear from lots of top crafters. This year's experts include Annie Sloan, Chinelo Bally and Emma Bridgewater. Plus, there's a boutique shopping village. Need we say more? See page 64 for further details.

## DOILY DREAM

■ Marks and Spencer have come up trumps with this dainty, doily-style placemat. It's ruddy fantastic that crochet is now right on trend and readily available, although we loved it before it was cool, of course. All the more reason to encourage a friend or two to grab a crochet hook and get started.

Meanwhile, you can pick up a stack of these lacy lovelies at [www.marksandspencer.com](http://www.marksandspencer.com). They're £6 a pop and there are matching coasters to be had, too.



## MAGIC MARKERS



**K**nitters seem to have all the fun with their fancy stitch markers. Well, we've tracked down a creative lady who makes whimsical markers for stitchers of a hooky persuasion, too. These creations are handmade by Nadia of Abso-knitting-lutely. To win one of three sets of four stitch markers (above), visit <http://competition.immediate.co.uk/markers-simplycrochet>. See [www.absoknittinglutely.etsy.com](http://www.absoknittinglutely.etsy.com) for more and page 6 for terms and conditions.

## HOLIDAY SHOP



Have you run out of time to hook your holiday wardrobe? Hit the high street and pick up some ready-made crochet bits. We won't tell a soul.

1. This mesh-like, dip-die effect crochet top by LASCANA would be smashing for layering over swimwear or a vest top. It has a loose fit and also comes in blue. You can pick one up for £49 at [www.lookagain.co.uk](http://www.lookagain.co.uk)
2. Seeking shade for a spot of poolside hooking? Create your own with a wide-brimmed hat. The brim is worked entirely in crochet shell stitches. This Floppy Crochet Hat is all yours for £22.50 at [www.whitestuff.com](http://www.whitestuff.com)
3. OK so it's totally not crocheted, but we love the pretty embroidered scallops on this Louche Kenya Straw Clutch Bag. It looks like it belongs somewhere with much nicer weather. Find it for £25 at [www.joythestore.com](http://www.joythestore.com)





## ECO FABULOUS

This month, we were delighted to stumble across ethical clothing brand Bibico. They champion natural materials and many of their handmade items are created in fair trade cooperatives. The textured Elsie Cropped Cardigan is by far our favourite of the crochet pieces. It's now £55 at [www.bibico.co.uk](http://www.bibico.co.uk). Keen on handmade that helps the planet? Turn to page 76 for our review of eco-friendly yarns that are prime for hooking.

Time to get out AND ABOUT...

## A GOOD YARN

Could you suggest a DK yarn that would make a simple summer cardigan look a bit more fancy?

Look no further than Sirdar's Beachcomber. It's a cool, 100% cotton yarn (£2.95 per 50g) that would be ideal for hooking summer garments. It has a thick and thin slubby texture that will give a unique finish to your makes. For stockists, visit [www.sirdar.co.uk](http://www.sirdar.co.uk) or call 01924 231682.



## SKILLS, SHOWS & EVENTS

**AUG 7-8** British Wool Show 2015, From £6, York Auction Mart, Murton, York, 07790 391142 [www.britishwool.net](http://www.britishwool.net)

**AUG 8-9** The Great British Craft Festival, From £7, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, 01772272577 [www.greatbritishcraft.co.uk](http://www.greatbritishcraft.co.uk)

**AUG 15** Popup Wool Show, £4, The Oval Leisure Centre, Bebington, Cheshire, [www.popupwoolshow.co.uk](http://www.popupwoolshow.co.uk)

**AUG 19-21** Next Steps in Crochet (residential), £369, Missenden Abbey, Bucks, 01296383582 [www.missendenabbey-al.co.uk](http://www.missendenabbey-al.co.uk)

**AUG 21** Erika Pask Advanced Crochet, £49.95, Black Sheep Wools, Warrington 01925 764231 [www.blacksheepwools.com](http://www.blacksheepwools.com)

**AUG 26** Crochet Heart Motif Workshop, £20, Truro Wool, Truro, Cornwall, 01872 270661 [www.wendy-poole.co.uk](http://www.wendy-poole.co.uk)

## 5 FAB FINDS

Sun, sea and stitches  
Beach treasures to keep  
your holidays creative.



### GET AHEAD

We adore Tara Murray's Easy Sunhat. Head to [www.mamachee.com](http://www.mamachee.com) to find links to all of Tara's crochet patterns.



### BATHING BELLES

A makeup bag can double as a travel case for hooks or WIPs. This one is from [www.swanky-maison.com](http://www.swanky-maison.com)

### GO BAREFOOT

Add crochet to your beach look with barefoot sandals. These beauties are from [www.fancyfeetsteam.etsy.com](http://www.fancyfeetsteam.etsy.com)



### ALL AT SEA

This simple shawl by Elisabeth Davis de Herraiz from issue 22 is a fab holiday make. See page 94 for back issues info.

### A LOTTA LOLLY

These pretty fairy lights will lighten the mood when typical gloomy British weather hits. Visit [www.berryred.co.uk](http://www.berryred.co.uk)







## NEW HOOKS, PLEASE

If you're passionate about crochet, it's worth making sure you have all the right tools to hand. Get properly kitted out with Pony's new Bamboo Crochet Hook Gift Set. The wooden handles are comfortable to use while the aluminium heads provide smooth precision. Plus, the crochet hooks come beautifully presented in a rolling cotton case with ribbon ties and each set includes six hooks from sizes 2.5-5mm (RRP £56). It's at the top of our wishlist. To track down a stockist near you, send an email to [groves@stockistenquiries.co.uk](mailto:groves@stockistenquiries.co.uk)

## TOTES FAB

■ Designing your own tote bag – how's that for a summer holiday craft project? This cool kit by Seedling is £29.99 from John Lewis and enables you to do just that. It includes a plain cotton tote, fabric, glue, fabric paints, and that all-important craft staple: glitter glue. The kit is available online only at [www.johnlewis.com](http://www.johnlewis.com). We know they're for kids, but we really want one of these bag kits to play with.

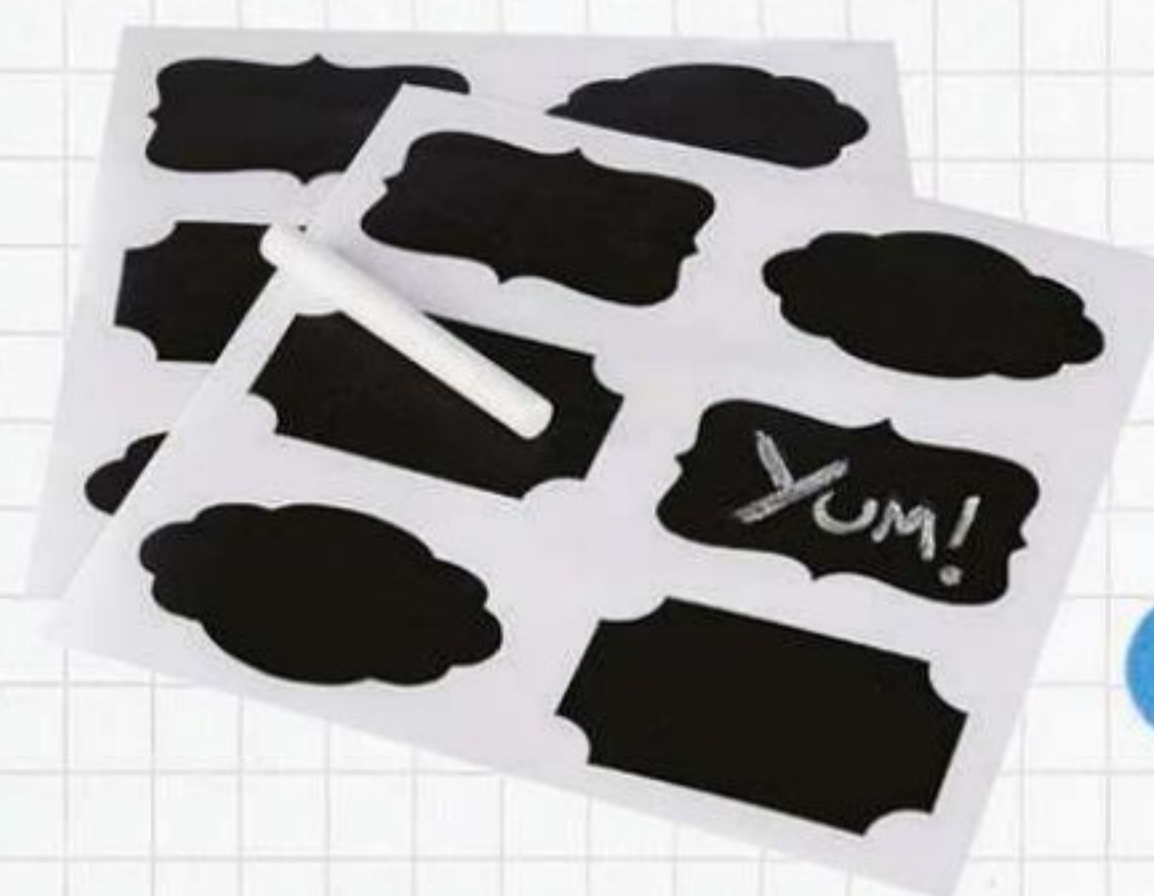


**Y**arn in the City's Great London Yarn Crawl is back for 2015. Does it sound like your cup of tea? Purchase a ticket (£18) and you'll join one of 12 groups visiting the city's top yarn shops on 5 September. This year, there will be an exclusive Pop-Up Marketplace and an Indie Designer Spotlight, too, giving you the chance to meet five independent designers and get a good look at their samples and patterns. As well as taking part in the Spotlight, designer and tech editor Kate Atherley will be teaching workshops as part of the event on 6 September. Net profit from The Great London Yarn Crawl will be donated to charity Refuge. For more information and to get tickets, head to [www.yarninthecity.com](http://www.yarninthecity.com)

## CRAFTING IT COOL

Stay ahead of the game with the latest notions and accessories. This month, we're loving these three.

1. Check out that granny. This beautiful bamboo crochet hook gauge is £9.21 from [www.katrinkles.etsy.com](http://www.katrinkles.etsy.com)
2. Organise your sprawling stash with pretty chalkboard labels. £5 for 12 at [www.weddinginateacup.co.uk](http://www.weddinginateacup.co.uk)
3. Get London Garden Trading Co's Crochet Storage Baskets – £14 at [www.noths.com](http://www.noths.com), or have a go at making one.







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### TOP NOTCH

A classic triangle bikini top worked in trebles is a cool summer look that's right on trend. Pick two contrasting shades and get going. Bear in mind that cotton gets quite heavy when it's wet, so this one's more for sunbathing than taking a dip.

### BEST FOOT FORWARD

Espadrilles are a summer favourite. They're cool, comfy and have none of those awkward between-the-toes issues of flip-flops. This stylish pair have an airy, lace-like panel in the top to keep things breezy.



## SUMMER IDEAS



# LIFE'S A BEACH

Hook hot summer accessories in the coolest cotton.  
Use two bold shades for maximum impact.



## SUMMER IDEAS



### UNDER WRAPS

A simple mesh stitch pattern is the perfect foundation for making a light beach sarong. The triangle shape makes it versatile – tie it around your hips or drape it over your shoulders as a shawllette.

### ALL TIED UP

Keep your hair back or disguise humidity frizz with a crochet headband. This stylish design is one long strip that can be wrapped and tied in a number of ways. The colourwork might look impressive but it's actually fairly easy to create.











## SUMMER IDEAS



### ARM CANDY

Scrummy textured stitches are used here to create a structured, super-sturdy bag. It's roomy enough for all your beach essentials and your holiday WIP, too. We wouldn't limit this one to the beach only – it'd be great as a shopping bag.

### THE EYES HAVE IT

Keep your sunglasses safe and scratch-free with a quirky case. The surface crochet detail on this zip-fastening one is very cute and you could try all kinds of other designs, too. How about personalising it with your name or initials?



BOLD BIKINI TOP

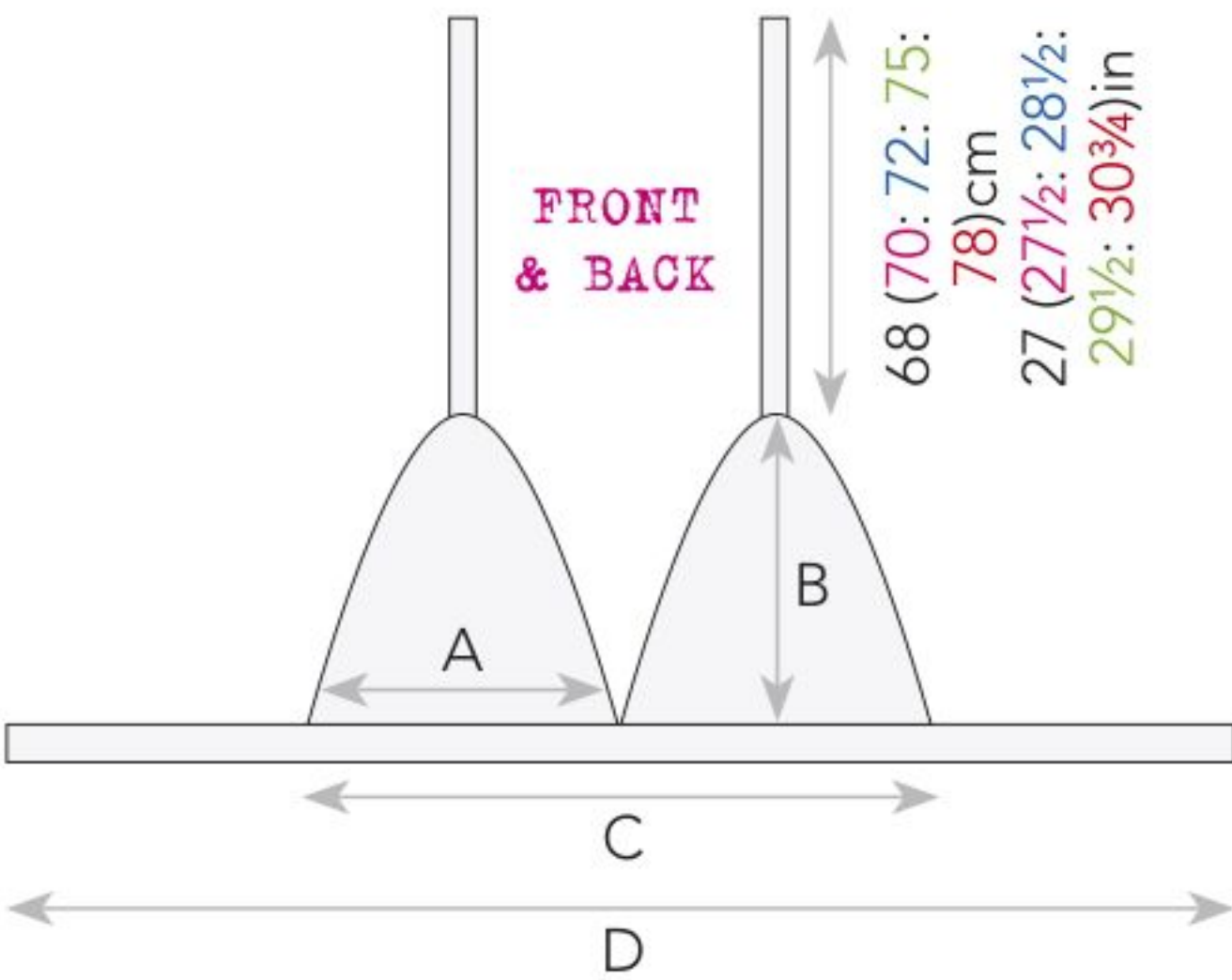
Get your tan on in this delightful turquoise number with contrasting edging. Designed by Simone Francis.

- King Cole Cottonsoft DK (100% cotton, 100g/229m), 1 ball of each:  
Yarn A Mint (715)  
Yarn B Black (746)
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- Tapestry needle
- 2 stitch markers

TENSION  
17sts x 10 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over treble crochet with a 3.5mm hook

NOTES  
The two Bikini cups are worked from the centre out. A lower band is added, followed by tie straps.

CUPS (MAKE 2)  
With Yarn A and a 3.5mm hook, ch9 (9: 9: 11: 11).  
Foundation row (WS) Tr into the 4th ch (counts as 2 tr), 4 (4: 4: 6: 6) tr, (3tr, ch1, 3tr) into the last ch, rotate to work in the other side of the foundation ch, 4 (4: 4: 6: 6)tr, 2tr into the final st, turn. [19 (19: 19: 23: 23) sts]  
Row 1 (RS) (Ch3, tr) into first st (counts as 2 tr), 8 (8: 8: 10: 10)tr, (2tr, ch1, 2tr) into ch-1 sp, 9 (9: 9: 11: 11) tr, turn. [24 (24: 24: 28: 28) sts]



|                      |                                                       |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| A Lower cup width    | 16 (18: 20: 22: 24)cm<br>6¼ (7: 7¾: 8½: 9½)in         |
| B Cup height         | 14 (15: 16: 17: 18)cm<br>5½ (6: 6¼: 6¾: 7)in          |
| C Front without ties | 32 (36: 40: 44: 48)cm<br>12½ (14: 15¾: 17¼: 19)in     |
| D Front with ties    | 178 (190: 202: 215: 221)cm<br>70 (75: 79½: 84½: 87)in |



BIKINI SIZE CHART

|                                     |    |     |    |     |     |     |
|-------------------------------------|----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| TO FIT BUST                         | cm | 81  | 86 | 91  | 97  | 102 |
|                                     | in | 32  | 34 | 36  | 38  | 40  |
| CUP HEIGHT                          | cm | 14  | 15 | 16  | 17  | 18  |
|                                     | in | 5½  | 6  | 6¼  | 6¾  | 7   |
| LOWER CUP WIDTH                     | cm | 16  | 18 | 20  | 22  | 24  |
|                                     | in | 6¼  | 7  | 7¾  | 8½  | 9½  |
| WIDTH OF BRA AT BASE (WITHOUT TIES) | cm | 32  | 36 | 40  | 44  | 48  |
|                                     | in | 12½ | 14 | 15¾ | 17¼ | 19  |

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



**Row 2** (Ch3, tr) into first st (counts as 2 tr), 10 (10: 10: 12: 12)tr, (2tr, ch1, 2tr) into ch-1 sp, 12 (12: 12: 14: 14) tr, turn. [29 (29: 29: 33: 33) sts]

**Row 3** (Ch3, tr) into first st (counts as 2 tr), tr in each tr to ch-1 sp, (2tr, ch1, 2tr) into ch-1 sp, tr in each st to end, turn. [34 (34: 34: 38: 38) sts]

Repeat Row 3, 3 (4: 5: 6: 7) more times, changing to Yarn B in the final st. [49 (54: 59: 68: 73) sts]

**Next row** Repeating Row 3, work 1 row in Yarn B, placing a stitch marker into the ch-1 sp. [54 (59: 64: 73: 78) sts]

**Fasten off.**

LOWER BAND

With Yarn B, ch125 (129: 135: 140: 145). With RS facing, work 27 (33: 37: 43: 47) dc along bottom edge of first cup, 27 (33: 37: 43: 47)dc along bottom edge of second cup, ch127 (131: 137 :142: 147), tr into the 4th ch from hook, tr into each ch and dc along work to end. [304 (324: 344: 366: 384) sts]

**Fasten off.**

TIES (MAKE 2)

With RS facing, rejoin Yarn B to the marked st with a ss.

**Foundation row** Ch3 (counts as tr), 2tr into the ch-1 sp, turn. [3 sts]

**Row 1** Ch3 (counts as tr), 2tr, turn. Repeat Row 1 until Tie measures 68 (70: 72: 75: 78)cm. **Fasten off.**

TO FINISH

Try on the bikini and sew a short centre seam between cups. Weave in ends and gently steam block work.

SUMMER ESPADRILLES

With sturdy soles, you can crochet your very own shoes. By Anne Egan.

- King Cole Cottonsoft DK (100% cotton, 210m/100g), 1 ball each of Yarn A Mint (715) and Yarn B Black (746)
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- Espadrille soles (Prym)
- Wide-eyed needle
- Small pliers (see note)

TENSION

24sts and 24 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over double crochet using a 3.5mm hook



**NOTE**  
Each upper is made from two pieces; the Back/Sides and the Front/Top. To help with sewing through the soles, use pliers for pulling the needle through.

BACK/SIDES (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn A, ch10.

**Row 1 (RS)** Dc in 2nd ch from hook, and in each ch across, turn. [9 sts]

**Row 2** Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in each st across, turn.

**Row 3** Ch1, 2dc in first st, dc in each dc across, turn. [10 sts]

**Rows 4-6** Repeat Row 2.

**Row 7** Ch1, 2dc in first st, dc in each dc across, turn. [11 sts]

**Rows 8-10** Repeat Row 2.

**Row 11** Ch1, 2dc in first st, dc in each dc across, turn. [12 sts]

**Rows 12-15** Repeat Row 2.

**Row 16** Ch1, dc in each dc across to last st, 2dc in last st, turn. [13 sts]

**Rows 17-20** Repeat Row 2.

**Row 21** Ch1, 2dc in first st, dc in each dc across, turn. [14 sts]

**Row 22** Ch1, skip 1 dc, dc in each dc across, turn. [13 sts]

Work 21 (25: 29) rows as Row 2.

**Next row** Ch1, 2dc in first st, dc in each dc across, turn. [14 sts]

**Next row** Ch1, skip 1 dc, dc in each dc across, turn. [13 sts]

Work 4 rows as Row 2.

**Next row** Ch1, dc in each dc across to last 2 sts, dc2tog, turn. [12 sts]

Work 4 rows as Row 2.

**Next row** Ch1, skip 1 dc, dc in each dc across, turn. [11 sts]

Work 3 rows as Row 2.

**Next row** Ch1, skip 1 dc, dc in each dc across, turn. [10 sts]

Work 3 rows as Row 2.

**Next row** Ch1, skip 1 dc, dc in each dc across, turn. [9 sts]

**Next row** Repeat Row 2, do not fasten off.

Dc evenly around the entire piece, ss to first dc. **Fasten off.**

Join Yarn B on the edge and dc around, working 2dc in each corner st, ss to first

| ESPADRILLE SIZES          |    | Small     | Medium    | Large     |
|---------------------------|----|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| TO FIT CONTINENTAL SIZES  |    | 36-37     | 38-39     | 40-41     |
| TO FIT UK SIZES           |    | 3-4       | 5-6       | 7-8       |
| FOOT LENGTH               | cm | 21.5-22.5 | 23.5-24.5 | 25.5-26.5 |
|                           | in | 8½-8¾     | 9¼-9¾     | 10-10½    |
| LENGTH OF BACK/SIDES      | cm | 27.5      | 28        | 29.5      |
|                           | in | 10¾       | 11        | 11½       |
| LENGTH OF FRONT/TOP PIECE | cm | 13        | 14        | 15        |
|                           | in | 5         | 5½        | 6         |

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



dc. **Fasten off** and weave in ends.

### FRONT/TOP (MAKE 2)

Worked from opening towards toe.

With Yarn A, ch38 (40: 42).

**Row 1 (RS)** Htr in third ch from hook and in each ch across, turn.

[37 (39: 41) sts]

#### Small Size only

**Next row** Ch2, htr in next 9 htr, ch1, skip htr, (htr in next st, ch1, skip htr) 8 times, htr in next 10 htr, turn. [37 sts]  
Continue working from Row 5 of pattern below.

#### Large Size only

**Next row** Ch1 (does not count as st), skip first st, htr in next 11 htr, (ch1, skip 1 st, htr in next htr) 9 times, htr in next 10 htr, skip beg ch, turn. [39 sts]

**Next row** Ch2 (counts as htr), htr in next 10 htr, htr in ch-sp, (ch1, skip htr, htr in ch-sp) 8 times, htr in next 11 htr, turn. Continue working from Row 2 of pattern below.

**Row 2** Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), skip first st, htr in next 10 htr, (ch1, skip 1 st, htr in next htr) 9 times, htr in next 9 htr, skip beg ch, turn. [37 sts]

**Row 3** Ch2 (counts as htr throughout), htr in next 9 htr, htr in ch-sp, (ch1, skip htr, htr in ch-sp) 8 times, htr in next 10 htr, turn.

**Row 4** Ch2, htr in next 9 htr, ch1, skip htr, (htr in ch-sp, ch1, skip htr) 8 times, htr in next 10 htr, turn.

**Row 5** Ch1, skip first st, htr in next 9 htr, htr in ch-sp, (ch1, skip 1, htr in next ch-sp) 8 times, htr in next 9 htr, leaving last st unworked, turn. [35 sts]

**Row 6** Ch2, htr in next 8 htr, ch1, skip htr, (htr in ch-sp, ch1, skip htr) 8 times, htr in next 9 htr, turn.

**Row 7** Ch2, htr in next 8 htr, htr in ch-sp, (ch1, skip htr, htr in ch-sp) 8 times, htr in next 9 htr, turn.

**Row 8** Ch1, skip first st, htr in next 8 htr, ch1, skip htr, (htr in ch-sp, ch1, skip htr) 8 times, htr in next 8 htr, leaving last st unworked, turn. [33 sts]

**Row 9** Ch2, htr in next 7 htr, htr in ch-sp, (ch1, skip htr, htr in ch-sp) 8 times, htr in next 8 htr, turn.

**Row 10** Ch2, htr in next 7 htr, ch1, skip htr, (htr in ch-sp, ch1, skip htr) 8 times, htr in next 8 htr, turn.



**Row 11** Ch1, skip first st, htr in next 7 htr, htr in ch-sp, (ch1, skip htr, htr in ch-sp) 8 times, htr in next 7 htr, leaving last st unworked, turn. [31 sts]

**Row 12** Ch2, htr in next 6 htr, ch1, skip htr, (htr in ch-sp, ch1, skip htr) 8 times, htr in next 7 htr, turn.

**Row 13** Ch1, skip first st, htr in next 6 htr, htr in ch-sp, (ch1, skip htr, htr in ch-sp) 8 times, htr in next 6 htr, leaving last st unworked, turn. [29 sts]

**Row 14** Ch2, htr in next 5 htr, ch1, skip htr, (htr in ch-sp, ch1, skip htr) 8 times, htr in next 6 htr, turn.

**Row 15** Ch1, skip first st, htr2tog, htr in next 3 htr, htr in ch-sp, (ch1, skip htr, htr in ch-sp) 8 times, htr in next 3 htr, htr2tog, turn leaving last st unworked. [25 sts]

**Row 16** Ch1, skip htr2tog, htr2tog over next 2 sts, htr in next 18 sts (both htr and ch-sps), htr2tog twice, turn. [21 sts]

**Row 17** Ch1, skip first htr2tog, htr2tog twice, htr in next 10 htr, (htr2tog) 3 times, turn. [15 sts]

**Row 18** Ch1, skip first htr2tog, dc in next st, htr in next 11 sts, dc in next st, turn leaving last st unworked. [13 sts]

**Row 19** Skip dc, ss in first htr, dc in next htr, htr in next 7 htr, dc in next htr, ss in

next htr, leave last st unworked.

**Fasten off** and weave in ends.

### EDGE

With RS facing and the opening edge at the top, rejoin Yarn A to the left corner. Dc evenly around curved edge and continue along unworked loops of the foundation chain as follows:

**Row 1 (RS)** 8 (9: 10)htr, 7dc, 7ss, 7dc, 8 (9: 10)htr, turn.

**Row 2** Ch2, 4 (5: 6)htr, 5dc, 7ss, 5dc, 5 (6: 7)htr. **Fasten off.**

Rejoin Yarn B on the edge and dc evenly around entire piece with 2dc in each corner st.

**Fasten off** and weave in ends.

### TO MAKE UP

Pin concave edge of Back/Sides evenly to sole matching middle back. Pin Front/Top to sole, overlapping Back/Sides. With black cotton and needle, tack crocheted uppers to sole passing the needle through to about half the depth of the sole and back again. Go around twice filling in the stitch gap the second time round. Stitch Back/Sides to Front/Top at their joins, using decorative straight stitches in Yarn B.



## STYLISH SARONG

A simple way to cover up at the beach or poolside. By Sara Huntington.

- King Cole Cottonsoft DK (100% cotton, 100g/210m), 1 ball of each: Mint (715), Black (746)
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook

### MEASUREMENTS

112x43cm (44x17in), excluding tassel

### SARONG

**Row 1 (RS)** With Mint, ch4 (counts as tr, ch1), (tr, ch1, tr, ch1, tr) in fifth ch from hook, turn. [4 tr, 3 ch-sps]

**Row 2** Ch4 (counts as tr, ch1), (tr, ch1) in each ch-sp to last ch-sp, (tr, ch1, tr) into last ch-1 sp, turn. [5 tr, 4 ch-sps]

**Row 3** Ch4 (counts as tr, ch1), (tr, ch1) twice in first ch-sp, (tr, ch1) in each ch-sp to last ch-sp, (tr, ch1) twice in last ch-sp, tr into same sp, turn.

Rep Rows 2 & 3 until work meas 42cm or desired length. Do not fasten off.

### EDGING

Work a round of dc stitches evenly along all sides, working 3dc into each corner st. **Fasten off.**

Using Black, work 2 rounds of dc stitches with 3dc into the central dc at each corner. **Fasten off** and weave in ends. Block and add a black tassel at the bottom point.

## TWO-TONE HEADBAND

Try some basic colourwork to make this band. By Sara Huntington.

- King Cole Cottonsoft DK (100% cotton, 210m/100g), 1 ball each of Yarn A Mint (715) and Yarn B Black (746)
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook

### MEASUREMENTS

Headband measures 8.5x136cm (3½x53½in)

### HEADBAND

Using Yarn A, ch193.

**Row 1 (RS)** Dc in second ch from hook and next 3 ch, tr in next 4 ch, \*dc in next 4 ch, tr in next 4 ch; repeat from \* to end of row, turn. [192 sts]

**Fasten off.**

**Row 2** Join Yarn B in first st, ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc2tog in first 2 sts, dc in next 2 sts, \*tr in next 4 sts, dc in next 4 sts; repeat from \* to last 4 sts, tr in next 2 sts, tr2tog, turn. [190 sts] **Fasten off.**

**Row 3** Join Yarn A in first st, ch1, dc2tog in first 2 sts, dc in next st, \*tr in next 4 sts, dc in next 4 sts; repeat from \* to last 3 sts, tr in next st, tr2tog, turn. [188 sts] **Fasten off.**

**Row 4** Join Yarn B in first st, ch1, dc2tog in first 2 sts, \*tr in next 4 sts, dc in next 4 sts; repeat from \* to last 2 sts, tr2tog, turn. [186 sts] **Fasten off.**

**Row 5** Join Yarn A in first st, ch1, tr2tog in first 2 sts, tr in next 3 sts, \*dc in next 4 sts, tr in next 4 sts; repeat from \* to last 5 sts, dc in next 3 sts, dc2tog, turn. [184 sts] **Fasten off.**

**Row 6** Join Yarn B in first st, ch1, tr2tog in first 2 sts, tr in next 2 sts, \*dc in next 4 sts, tr in next 4 sts; repeat from \* to last 4 sts, dc in next 2 sts, dc2tog, turn. [182 sts] **Fasten off.**

**Row 7** Join Yarn A in first st, ch1, tr2tog in first 2 sts, tr in next st, \*dc in next 4 sts, tr in next 4 sts; repeat from \* to last 3 sts, dc in next st, dc2tog, turn.

[180 sts] **Fasten off.**

**Row 8** Join Yarn B in first st, ch1, tr2tog in first 2 sts, \*dc in next 4 sts, tr in next 4 sts; repeat from \* to last 2 sts, dc2tog, turn. [178 sts] **Fasten off.**

**Row 9** Join Yarn A in first st, ch1, dc2tog in first 2 sts, dc in next 3 sts, \*tr in next 4 sts, dc in next 4 sts; repeat from \* to last 5 sts, tr in next 3 sts, tr2tog, turn. [176 sts] **Fasten off.**

**Rows 10-11** Repeat Rows 2-3. [172 sts] **Fasten off.**

### EDGING

**Round 1** With RS facing, join Yarn B in first st, dc in each st across, work dc evenly into the ends of rows across to the starting ch, dc into each ch across, work dc evenly into the ends of rows across to the first st, ss to first dc to join. **Fasten off** and weave in ends.





## BRIGHT BEACH BAG

Use textured stitches to create a stylish crochet bag that's perfect for holding everything you need for a day at the beach. By Hannah Cross.

- King Cole Cottonsoft DK (100% cotton, 210m/100g), 5 balls of Yarn A Mint (715), 1 ball of Yarn B Black (746) **used doubled**
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook

### TENSION

16sts and 8 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over Post Stitch pattern using a 4mm hook and the yarn doubled

### MEASUREMENTS

40x30x10cm (15¾x11¾x4in)

### NOTES

Yarn is used doubled throughout. To double the yarn taken from 1 ball, take end from the centre of the ball held tog

with end from the outside of the ball.

### FRONT AND BACK (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn A **held doubled**, ch60.

**Row 1 (RS)** Dc in second ch from hook and each ch across, turn. [59 sts]

**Row 2** Ch3 (counts as first tr throughout), tr in front loop only of each st across, turn.

**Row 3** Ch3, \*tr in back loop only, FPtr around next st; rep from \* to last 2 sts, tr in back loop only, tr in last st, turn.

**Row 4** Repeat Row 2.

**Row 5** Ch3, \*FPtr around next st, tr in back loop only of next st; rep from \* to last 2 sts, FPtr around next st, tr in last st, turn.

Rows 2-5 form the pattern.

**Rows 6-21** Repeat Rows 2-5, 4 more times.

**Row 22** Repeat Row 2.

**Row 23** Repeat Row 3.

**Row 24** Repeat Row 2.

**Row 25** Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in back loop only of each st across.

**Fasten off.**

### GUSSET STRIP

Using Yarn A **held doubled**, ch156.

**Row 1 (RS)** Dc in second ch from hook and each ch across, turn. [155 sts]

**Row 2** Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st across, turn.

**Rows 3-14** Repeat Row 2. **Fasten off.**

### TO MAKE UP

Align the edge of the Gusset Strip with the sides and bottom of the Front piece with WS together. Work a dc seam with Yarn A through both layers from the RS to join. Repeat for the Back.

### EDGING

Using Yarn B **held doubled**, join to any st around the top of the bag.

**Round 1 (RS)** Ch1 (does not count as st), dc evenly around the top of the bag, ss to first dc.

**Round 2** Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in back loop only of each st around, ss to first dc. **Fasten off.**

### STRAPS (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn B **held doubled**, ch10.

**Row 1 (RS)** Dc in second ch from hook and each ch across, turn. [9 sts]

**Rows 2-7** Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st across, turn.

**Rows 8-11** Repeat the stitch pattern







from Rows 2-5 of the Front and Back.

**Rows 12-27** Repeat the stitch pattern 4 more times.

**Row 28** Ch3 (counts as first tr throughout), tr in front loop only of each st across, turn.

**Rows 29-35** Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st across, turn. **Fasten off.**

Fold each handle lengthwise and sew the edges from Rows 7-29 together, leaving each end open.

Flatten the open ends of each handle and sew level with Row 21 on each side of the bag, spacing them evenly.

Weave in all ends.

## SUNGLASSES CASE

Keep your precious sunnies scratch-free with Anne Egan's cute case.

- King Cole Cottonsoft DK (100% cotton, 210m/100g), 1 ball of each: Yarn A Mint (715) and Yarn B Black (746)
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- Zip, 19cm/7½in long
- Matching thread and needle

### MEASUREMENTS

18.5x9.5cm (7¼x3¾in)

### NOTES

The case is worked using a small hook

to create a firm fabric with no holes.

The sunglasses design is added using surface crochet to the front of the case.

### SUNGLASSES CASE (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn A, ch34.

**Row 1 (RS)** Dc in 2nd ch from hook and each ch across, turn. [33 sts]

**Rows 2-14** Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in each dc across, turn.

**Row 15** Ch1, dc in first 15 dc, ss in next 3 dc, dc in next 15 dc, turn.

**Row 16** Ch1, ss in first dc, dc in next 13 dc, ss in next 5 sts, dc in next 13 dc, ss in last dc, turn.

**Row 17** Ch1, skip first st, ss in first dc, dc in next 12 dc, ss in next 5 ss, dc in next 12 dc, ss in last dc, turn leaving last ss unworked. [31 sts]

**Row 18** Ch1, skip first st, ss in first dc, dc in next 11 dc, ss in next 5 ss, dc in next 11 dc, ss in last dc, turn leaving last ss unworked. [29 sts]

**Row 19** Ch1, skip first st, ss in first dc, dc in next 10 dc, ss in next 5 ss, dc in next 10 dc, ss in last dc, turn leaving last ss unworked. [27 sts]

**Row 20** Ch1, skip first st, ss in first dc, dc in next 8 dc, ss in next 7 sts, dc in next 8 dc, ss in last dc, turn leaving last ss unworked. [25 sts] **Fasten off.**

### EDGING

**Round 1 (RS)** With RS facing, join Yarn A in top corner and dc evenly around

the edge of the cover. **Fasten off.**

**Round 2 (RS)** With RS facing, join Yarn B in first st, dc in each dc around, working 2dc into each of the top corners.

**Fasten off** and weave in all ends.

### SUNGLASSES DESIGN

Using Yarn B and the image as a guide, make the shape of a pair of sunglasses using surface crochet on one side (front) of the case.

### TO MAKE UP

Align the 2 pieces of the case, WS tog. Pin zip to the WS of upper edges of cover. Tuck under the ends of zip near the zip stopper and sew in place. Leave other ends of zip open and unfinished as you will attach hanging loop to these ends. With front of case facing, join Yarn B in the top corner through both front and back pieces, dc into each dc around the sides and bottom of the case, working each st through both pieces to join.

**Fasten off** and weave in all ends.

### HANGING LOOP

Using Yarn B, ch4.

**Row 1 (RS)** Dc in 2nd ch from hook and each ch across, turn. [3 dc]

**Rows 2-25** Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each dc across, turn. [3 dc]

**Fasten off** and weave in ends.

Attach each end of the loop to the loose ends of the open end of the zip.



### STOCKISTS

King Cole 01756 703670  
www.kingcole.co.uk

The Makery 01225 581888  
www.themakery.co.uk

The Makery are offering *Simply Crochet* readers 20% off all Espadrille Soles from [www.themakery.co.uk](http://www.themakery.co.uk) using code: SC20

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# GELATO GIRL

Let Ilaria Caliri's super-sweet ice cream cutie melt your hooky heart.





# Amigurumi doll



## YOU WILL NEED

- Rico Essentials Cotton DK (100% cotton, 50g/130m), 1 ball of each:
    - Yarn A Beige (91)
    - Yarn B Jade Green (47)
    - Yarn C White (80)
    - Yarn D Candy Pink (12)
    - Yarn E Fuchsia (14)
    - Yarn F Curry (61)
  - A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
  - White tulle fabric, 7x50cm (3x20in)
  - Safety eyes (approx 8mm diameter)
  - 2 small buttons
  - Sewing pins
  - Brown seed beads
  - Tapestry needle
  - Stitch markers
  - Toy stuffing
- For yarn stockists, contact Rico [www.rico-design.co.uk](http://www.rico-design.co.uk)

## MEASUREMENTS

27cm (10½in) tall

## ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

**W**ith her mint choc chip frills and pink hair, Ilaria's summer doll is already a fave. Her body and head are worked together and the other bits are sewn on afterwards.

## NOTES

The pattern is worked using the amigurumi method. Work in a continuous spiral without closing off each round with a ss. It may help to use a stitch marker in the first st of each round, moving it up as you work. The Body and Head are worked as one piece starting from the bottom of the Body. All the other pieces are sewn to the Body.

## BODY AND HEAD

With Yarn A, make a magic loop.

- Round 1 (RS)** Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc into the loop. [6 sts]  
**Round 2** 2dc in each st around. [12 sts]  
**Round 3** (2dc in next st, 1dc) 6 times. [18 sts]  
**Round 4** (2dc in next st, 2dc) 6 times. [24 sts]  
**Round 5** (2dc in next st, 3dc) 6 times. [30 sts]  
**Round 6** (2dc in next st, 4dc) 6 times. [36 sts]  
**Rounds 7-12** 1dc in each dc around.  
**Round 13** (Dc2tog, 4dc) 3 times, 18dc. [33 sts]  
**Round 14** (Dc2tog, 3dc) 3 times, 18dc. [30 sts]  
**Round 15** 1dc in each dc around.  
**Round 16** (Dc2tog, 3dc) 6 times. [24 sts]  
**Round 17** 1dc in each dc around.  
**Round 18** (Dc2tog, 2dc) 6 times. [18 sts]  
**Round 19** 1dc in each dc around.  
**Round 20** (Dc2tog, 1dc) 6 times. [12 sts]  
**Round 21** 1dc in each dc around, do not fasten off. Stuff the Body.

## HEAD

- Round 22** (2dc in next st, 1dc) 6 times. [18 sts]  
**Round 23** (2dc in next st, 2dc) 6 times. [24 sts]  
**Round 24** (2dc in next st, 3dc) 6 times. [30 sts]  
**Round 25** (2dc in next st, 4dc) 6 times. [36 sts]  
**Round 26** (2dc in next st, 5dc) 6 times. [42 sts]  
**Round 27** (2dc in next st, 6dc) 6 times.

[48 sts]

**Rounds 28-34** 1dc in each dc around.

**Round 35** (6dc, dc2tog) 6 times.

[42 sts]

**Round 36** (5dc, dc2tog) 6 times.

[36 sts]

**Round 37** (4dc, dc2tog) 6 times.

[30 sts]

**Round 38** (3dc, dc2tog) 6 times.

[24 sts]

Secure eyes between Rounds 29 and 30, approx 11 sts apart.

Stuff Head with toy stuffing and cont stuffing as you go.

**Round 39** (2dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [18 sts]

**Round 40** (1dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [12 sts]

**Round 41** (Dc2tog) 6 times. [6 sts]

**Fasten off** and weave in ends.

## ARMS (MAKE 2)

With Yarn A, make a magic loop.

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

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

**Rounds 3-12** 1dc in each dc around.

**Round 13** Dc2tog, 8dc. [9 sts]

**Round 14** Dc2tog, 7dc. [8 sts]

**Round 15** Dc2tog, 6dc. [7 sts]

Stuff. **Fasten off**, leaving a long tail for sewing and sew the Arms to the Body.

## LEGS (MAKE 2)

With Yarn A, make a magic loop.

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

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

**Round 3** (2dc in next st, 1dc) 5 times.

[15 sts]

**Rounds 4-5** 1dc in each dc.

**Round 6** (Tr2tog) 3 times to shape the foot, 9dc. [12 sts]

**Rounds 7-17** 1dc in each dc around.

**Round 18** (Dc2tog, 4dc) twice. [10 sts]

**Rounds 19-27** 1dc in each dc around.

**Fasten off**, leaving a long tail for sewing. Stuff. Sew the Legs to the bottom of the Body.

## HAIR CAP

With Yarn D, make a magic loop.

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

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

**Round 3** (2dc in next st, 1dc) 6 times.

[18 sts]

**Round 4** (2dc in next st, 2dc) 6 times.

[24 sts]

**Round 5** (2dc in next st, 3dc) 6 times.

[30 sts]



# Amigurumi doll

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

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

**Round 8** (2dc in next st, 6dc) 6 times. [48 sts]

**Rounds 9-15** 1dc in each dc around. [48]

**Fasten off**, leaving a tail for sewing.

The Hair Cap is used as a base for securing the hair. To make strands of hair, cut a 20cm piece of adhesive tape and fix it to your work surface sticky side up. Using equal amounts of Yarns D and E, cut lengths measuring approx 30cm. Place the centre of each yarn piece at right angles to the adhesive tape, positioning them close tog and alternating randomly Yarns D and E. Cover 14cm of the tape, then remove it from the work surface.

Split a strand of Yarn D, taking just 1 fine strand to use as sewing thread. With a needle and this thread, sew along the 14cm with backstitches, then remove the tape from the yarn.

Repeat this process once more so that you have 2 pieces of hair. Use sewing pins to fix these two hair pieces to the Hair Cap. Place the first one at the front with the stitching line in the position of the centre parting. Place the second one to cover the back of the head. Sew each piece in place with small sts along the prev stitching line. Divide hair into two ponytails and tie each with Yarn C. Then sew the Hair Cap onto the Head.

## HAIRBAND

With Yarn C, ch27, leaving a long starting tail for sewing.

**Row 1 (RS)** Skip the first ch, 4ss, 3dc, 12htr, 3dc, 4ss, cont on the other side of foundation ch to match the existing sts: 4ss, 3dc, 12htr, 3dc, 4ss.

**Fasten off**, leaving a long tail for sewing. Pin the Hairband on the Head and sew with a single st at each end.

## CONE HAT

With Yarn F, make a magic loop.

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

**Round 2** 2dc in next st, 3dc. [5 sts]

**Round 3** 2dc in next st, 4dc. [6 sts]

**Round 4** 2dc in next st, 5dc. [7 sts]

**Round 5** 2dc in next st, 6dc. [8 sts]

**Round 6** (2dc in next st, 3dc) twice. [10 sts]

**Round 7** (2dc in next st, 4dc) twice. [12 sts]

**Round 8** (2dc in next st, 5dc) twice. [14 sts]

**Round 9** (2dc in next st, 6dc) twice. [16 sts]

**Round 10** (2dc in next st, 7dc) twice. [18 sts]

**Round 11** (2dc in next st, 8dc) twice. [20 sts]

**Round 12** (2dc in next st, 9dc) twice. [22 sts]

**Round 13** (2dc in next st, 10dc) twice. [24 sts]

**Round 14** Reverse dc in each st around (work a dc in each st, moving in the opposite direction, so that if you are right handed each st will be on the right of prev st).

**Fasten off**, leaving a long tail for sewing. Stuff and sew the Hat to Head.

## SANDALS (MAKE 2)

### SOLE

With Yarn F, make a magic loop.

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

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

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

**Round 4** Ss in each dc.

**Fasten off** and weave in ends.

### UPPER

With Yarn B, ch28.

Take the Sole with WS facing and cont working in the front loops only of the ss from the last round: 1dc, 1htr, 3tr2tog, 1htr, 1dc. Leave the rem sts unworked and ch28.

**Fasten off** and put the Sandals on the doll, crossing the shoelaces behind the heels and making a bow at the front.

## DRESS

With Yarn B, ch25.

**Row 1 (RS)** Skip first ch, 8dc, ch8, count back 5 dc and ss in fifth dc to create a strap for the Dress, ss back along each ch of the strap, cont on foundation ch with 13dc, ch8, ss in fifth dc back to make second strap, ss back along each ch of the strap, cont on foundation ch with 3dc, ch6, ss into the side of last dc worked (the row end – this ch forms first buttonhole loop). [24 dc, 2 straps and a ch-6 buttonhole loop]



The doll's flouncy dress fastens neatly at the back with two cherry red buttons.

Rotate the piece and cont to work on the other side of the ch.

**Row 2 (RS)** Ch3 (counts as an increase st, so work next st in st at base of this ch), (3tr, 2tr in the next st) 5 times, 4tr, turn. [30 sts]

**Row 3 (WS)** Ch3 (counts as an increase st), (4tr, 2tr in the next st) 5 times, 5tr, ch6, ss into the side of the last tr worked (this is the second buttonhole), turn. [36 sts]

**Row 4** Ch3 (counts as an increase st), (5tr, 2tr in the next st) 5 times, 6tr, turn. [42 sts]

**Row 5** Ch3 (counts as st), working in front loops only: 2tr in st at base of ch, 3tr in each st across. **Fasten off**.

**Row 6** Turn and join Yarn C with RS facing in first st, ready to work in rem back loops of Row 4. Ch3 (counts as an increase st), (6tr, 2tr in the next st) 5 times, 7tr, turn. [48 sts]

**Row 7** Ch3 (counts as st), 2tr in st at base of ch, 3tr in each st across.

**Fasten off**, leaving an extra long tail for gathering the tulle and sewing to the Dress.

Sew the buttons to the opposite row end from the buttonholes.

Fold tulle fabric in half lengthwise and with a tapestry needle and tail of Yarn C, make long sts all along the fold. Pull yarn to gather fabric until it is the same size as the edge of the Dress (approx 25cm). With the same yarn, sew tulle to inside of Dress along hem, level with top of the white rows, so that it shows approx 1cm below bottom of the Dress.

## TO FINISH

Sew approx 30 seed beads to the Dress front, splitting a strand of Yarn B to use as sewing thread, and using the image as a guide. Put the Dress on the doll.



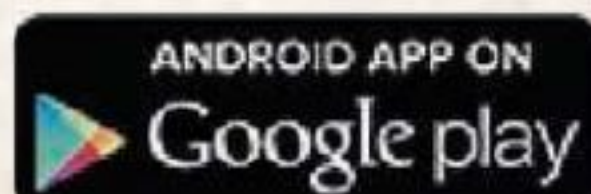
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# LUCY L♥VES... CROCHET BLANKETS

Lucy from Attic 24 spills the beans on her crochet blanket triumphs and disasters.

Blanket making is my true passion. My heart and soul are always happy when I'm working on a new blanket. Having said that, there often comes a point during blanket making when there is a strong desire to make something small and quick to satisfy the need for a ta-dah moment. Typically for me, this comes about two-thirds of the way through the blanket process and I've learnt to give in to the urge if it strikes.

The key to working successfully on a long-term project is to spend time planning and preparing. Make sure you are embarking on a pattern that you're going to enjoy working on month after month. Sample the pattern first, if necessary, to make sure you can: a) do it and b) that it's fun. Choose your colour palette carefully or use colours selected by someone else that you absolutely love the look of. The joy of the colours can be enough to make or break a blanket project, so spend time getting this right. It's often the zing of the colour combos that keeps me excited by a

lengthy blanket project and keeps me smiling after thousands of stitches.

## MY TOP BLANKET TIPS

Think about the timing of your blanket before choosing a design. For example, if you're going to be spending a lot of time out and about then a blanket worked in rows is not going to work because you'll get fed up with carting the thing around as it grows. Better to work on blocks that are portable and can be slipped into your bag. Similarly, if it's cold and you're crocheting at home, working on a growing blanket draped over your lap is very comforting. And working away under a super-warm ripple blanket in summer is a bit sweaty, I can tell you that from experience!

We should maybe discuss the dreaded business of darning in your ends. My top tip is to deal with your ends as you go, don't leave it all to the end or you'll end up

finishing your blanket with a heavy heart and a load of mundane darning. Keep a needle with your scissors and every time you snip that yarn, darn in the ends straight away. It takes mere seconds and once you get into the habit, you will never go back to leaving those ends dangling.

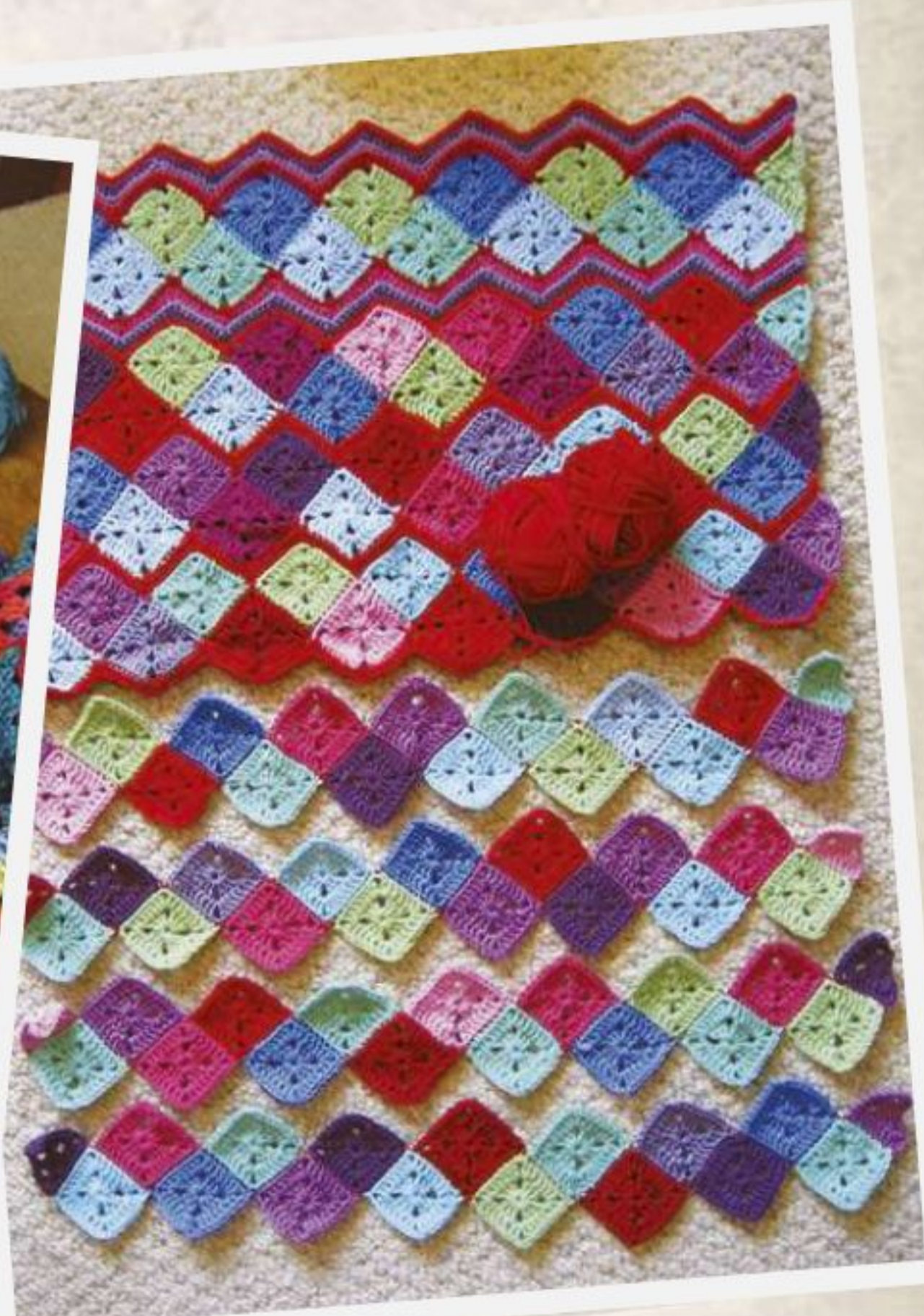
Keep a scrapbook or create a Pinterest board for yourself where you can gather blankety inspiration. If you come across a blanket you love or a selection of colours that make you swoon, stick it or pin it. You can add in other images that might spark a creative idea for a blanket – a bouquet of flowers with a particular colour scheme, or an interior that has colours that you like. The more familiar you become with the blankets and palettes that sing to you, the easier it will be to choose a successful project when the time is right.

Saying that I've never had any blanket disasters would be an outright lie. I've had



PART TWO

"I LOVE TO INSPIRE CROCHETERS TO EMBARK  
ON THEIR OWN BLANKET JOURNEYS."





"The key to working on a long term project is planning and preparation."

one particular 'epic fail' that I try to forget – the time I started a 6ft-square double bed blanket, crocheting large blocks edged in white. After months of work, I decided I really disliked the white and there was no option but to pull it all out. I've also had a disaster of the unravelling variety, and that's another tip for you – darn in your ends very securely. Having a hole unravel in the middle of a blanket is heartbreaking.

My blankets are all favourites when they come off the hook. Each one has its own personality and memories attached. If you forced me to choose one (I've crocheted 16 blankets, just counted them), I'd have to pick the Granny Stripe blanket (<http://bit.ly/SC34granny>). Without realising at the time, this was the start of my amazing journey into designing and selling blanket kits. I love to inspire new crocheters to embark on their own blanket journeys. And I really love the fact that I have inspired the creation of so many gorgeous crochet blankets that bring pleasure to people all around the world. That's a lot of colourful cosy comfort!



Special Attic24 packs, starting at just £6.50, are available from Lucy's Attic24 shop online at Wool Warehouse. Visit [www.woolwarehouse.co.uk/attic24](http://www.woolwarehouse.co.uk/attic24)



## MOODBOARD

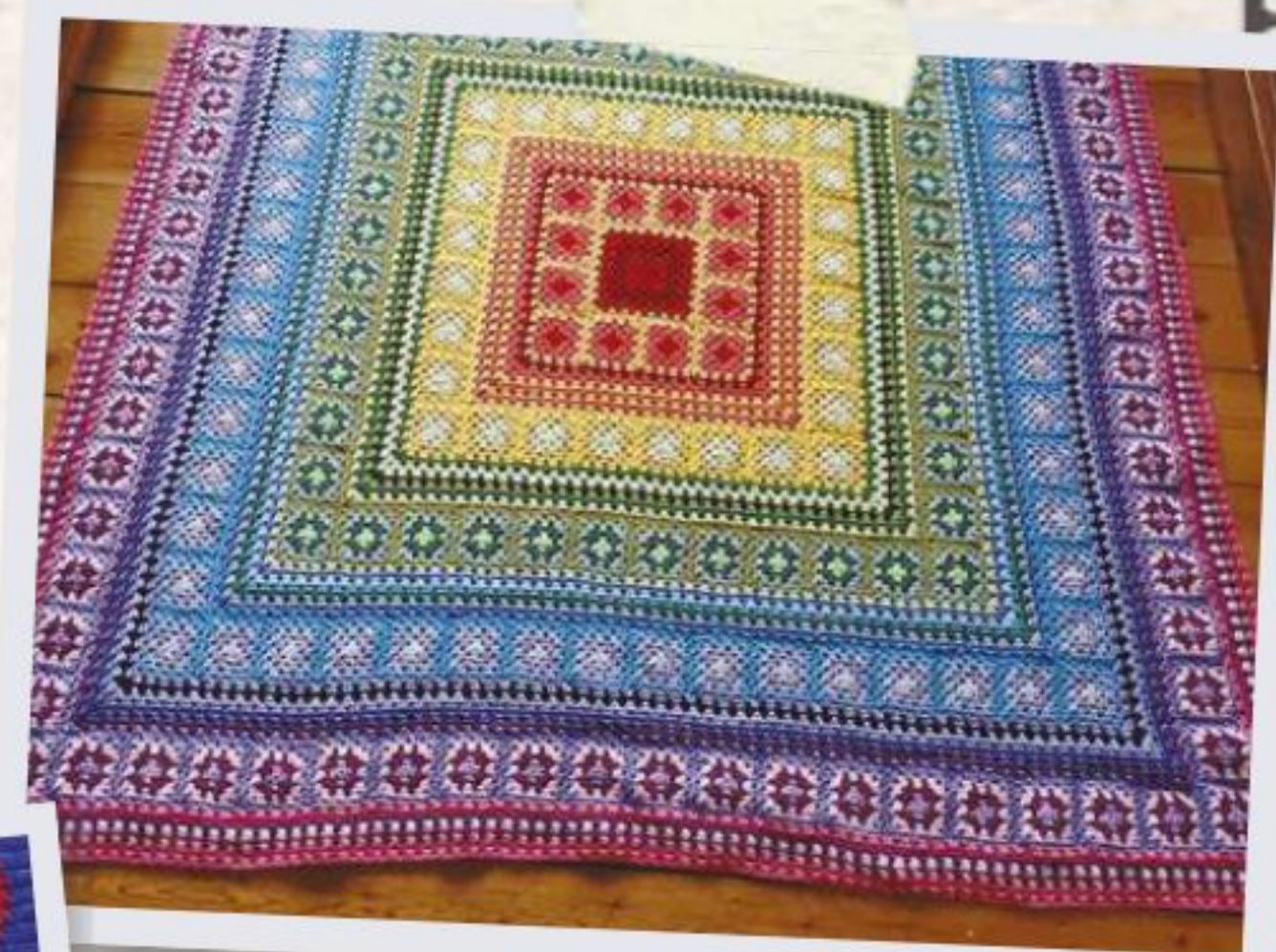
### INSPIRATION...

A CHEERY CIRCLE OF FRIENDS AFGHAN BY RAVELLER MOSSYOWLS. FIND PATTERN LINKS AT <http://bit.ly/mossyowls>



LEFT: RACHELE CARMONA'S BLANKET USES A SIMPLE HEXI MOTIF TO PLAY WITH COLOUR. CHECK OUT HER ETSY SHOP AT <http://bit.ly/SC34hexi>

RIGHT: BEAUTIFUL USE OF COLOUR MAKES THIS BLANKET SHINE. IT'S BY RAVELLER MORBIDSPARKS. TAKE A LOOK AT <http://bit.ly/morbidsparks>



LEFT: LITTLE WOOLLIE BLOGGER JULIE HARRISON'S BIG HEART BLANKET IN TAPESTRY CROCHET. YOU CAN FIND MORE DETAILS AT <http://bit.ly/littlewoollie>

RIGHT: ANNE SCHUELER'S CORNER TO CORNER THROW DESIGNED BY RED HEART - RAINBOW GORGEOUSNESS TO BRIGHTEN UP YOUR FURNITURE! SEE IT ON HER BLOG AT <http://bit.ly/>







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## Beach dress



# COAST TO COAST

Keep cool with a fringed mesh cover-up designed by Simone Francis. It's threaded with colour.



# Beach dress



## YOU WILL NEED

- Sirdar Cotton 4ply (100% cotton, 100g/335m), Yarn A Vanilla (502), see table for yarn quantities and measurements
- Sirdar Beachcomber (100% cotton, 50g/140m), 1 ball of each for all sizes: Yarn B Coral Bay (256), Yarn C Breeze (257), Yarn D Ultramarine (255)
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- A 5.5mm (US I/9) hook
- Tapestry needle
- 4 stitch markers

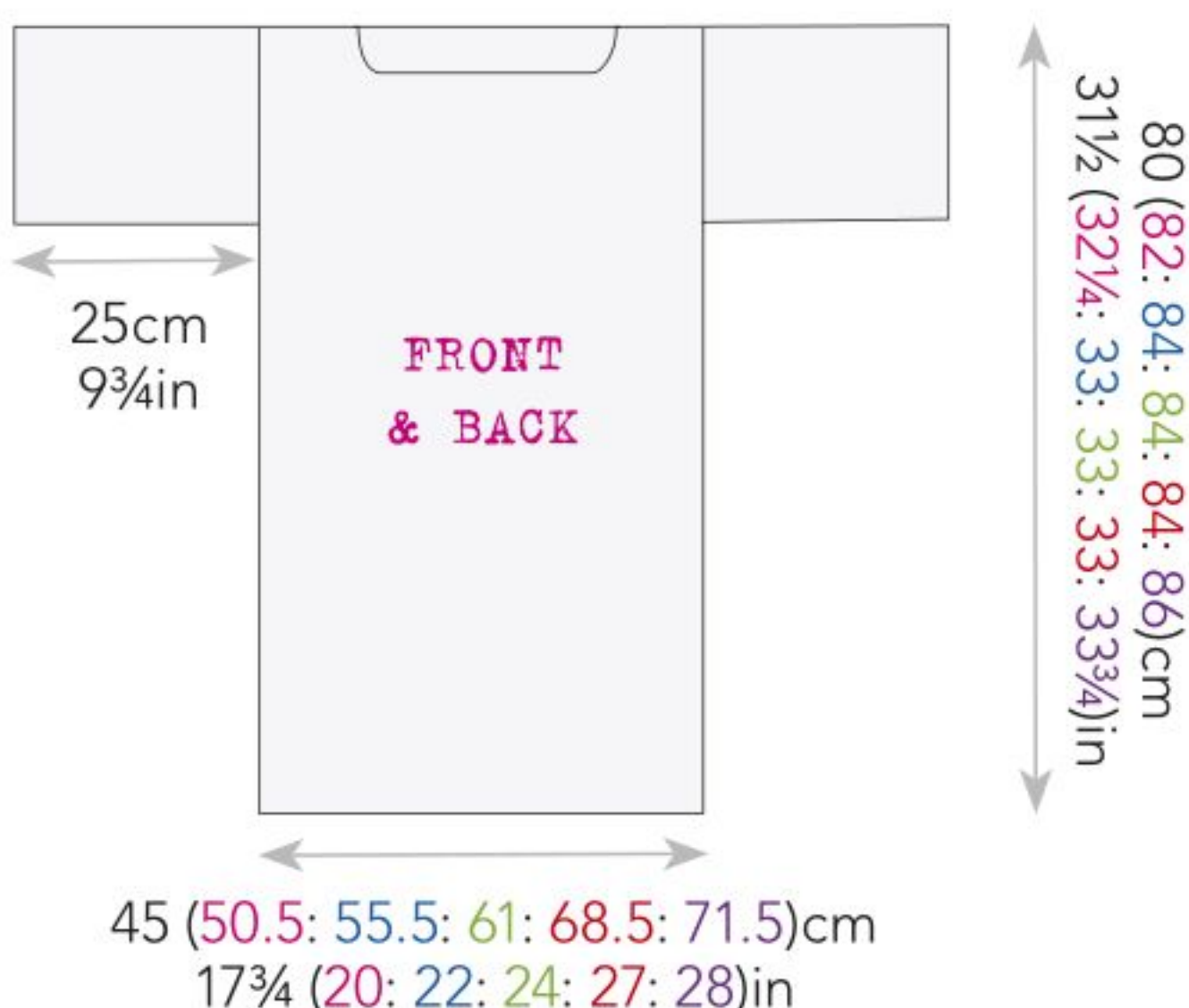
For yarn stockists, contact  
Sirdar 01924 231682  
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## TENSION

23 sts x 10 rows in pattern stitch to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) using a 3.5mm hook

## ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.



**C**heat your way to colourwork with this sweet and simple frock by Simone Francis. The breezy beach dress has bright stripes woven through the mesh fabric. It's worked in cool cotton and has a loose fit, making it the perfect cover-up to slip on and off in warmer weather. And let's not forget about that fabulous fringe detailing around the sleeves and hem – a playful touch that's easy to do and bang on trend for this summer. Get hooking.

## NOTES

The Dress is worked in four pieces from the bottom up.

Chains of contrasting yarn are woven up the front of the dress and a fringe is added along the lower edges.

Note that the measurements given do not include the fringe.

## BACK

With a 3.5mm hook and Yarn A, ch106 (118: 130: 142: 160: 166) with a loose and even tension.

**Foundation row (RS)** Tr into the fourth ch from the hook (counts as 2 tr), \*ch1, skip 1 ch, tr in each of the next 2 sts; rep from \* to end, turn. [104 (116: 128: 140: 158: 164)sts]

**Row 1** Ch3 (counts as first tr throughout), tr into second st, \*ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr in each of next 2 sts; rep from \* to end, turn.

Repeating Row 1, work 58 (58: 58: 57: 56: 56) more rows, mark each end of last row with a marker to show beginning of armhole. \*\*

Continue repeating Row 1 for 17 (19: 21: 22: 23: 25) more rows.

## NECKLINE SHAPING

**Row 1 (WS)** Ch3, tr into the second st, (ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr in next 2 sts) 8 (10: 12: 14: 16: 17) times, turn, leaving remaining sts unworked. [26 (32: 28: 44: 50: 53)sts]

**Row 2** Ch3, tr into second st, \*ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr in each of next 2 sts; rep from \* to end, turn.

Repeat Row 2 once more.

**Fasten off**, leaving a long tail for sewing shoulder seam.

Skip the centre 52 (52: 52: 58: 58) sts, rejoining yarn to the following tr with a ss.

**Row 1** Ch2 (counts as tr), tr into the following tr, (ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr in next 2 sts) 8 (10: 12: 14: 16: 17) times, turn. [26 (32: 28: 44: 50: 53)sts]

**Row 2** Ch3, tr into second st, \*ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr in each of next 2 sts; rep from \* to end, turn.

Repeat Row 2 once more.

**Fasten off**, leaving a long tail for sewing shoulder seam.

## FRONT

Repeat instructions as for Back to \*\*. Continue repeating Row 1 for 15 (17: 19: 20: 21: 23) more rows.

## NECKLINE SHAPING

**Row 1 (WS)** Ch3, 1tr, (ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr in next 2 sts) 8 (10: 12: 14: 16: 17) times, turn. [26 (32: 28: 44: 50: 53)sts]

**Row 2** Ch3, tr into second st, \*ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr in each of next 2 sts; rep from \* to end, turn.

Repeat Row 2 three more times.

**Fasten off**.

| SIZE          |            | 8-10  | 12-14 | 16-18   | 20-22   | 24-26   | 28-30   |
|---------------|------------|-------|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| TO FIT BUST   | cm         | 81-86 | 91-97 | 102-107 | 112-117 | 122-127 | 132-137 |
|               | in         | 32-34 | 36-38 | 40-42   | 44-46   | 48-50   | 52-54   |
| ACTUAL BUST   | cm         | 90    | 101   | 111     | 122     | 137     | 143     |
|               | in         | 35½   | 39¾   | 43¾     | 48      | 54      | 56      |
| SLEEVE LENGTH | cm         | 25    | 25    | 25      | 25      | 25      | 25      |
|               | in         | 9¾    | 9¾    | 9¾      | 9¾      | 9¾      | 9¾      |
| LENGTH        | cm         | 80    | 82    | 84      | 84      | 84      | 86      |
|               | in         | 31½   | 32¼   | 33      | 33      | 33      | 33¾     |
| YARN A        | 100g balls | 5     | 5     | 6       | 7       | 7       | 8       |

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



# Beach dress

Skip the centre 52 (52: 52: 52: 58: 58) sts, rejoining yarn to the following tr with a ss.

**Row 1** Ch2 (counts as tr), tr into the following tr, (ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr in next 2 sts) 8 (10: 12: 14: 16: 17) times, turn. [26 (32: 28: 44: 50: 53)sts]

**Row 2** Ch3, tr into second st, \*ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr in each of next 2 sts; rep from \* to end, turn.

Repeat Row 2 three more times.

**Fasten off.**

## SLEEVES (MAKE 2)

With a 3.5mm hook and Yarn A, ch85 (97: 109: 115: 121: 127) with a loose and even tension.

**Foundation row** Tr into the 4th ch from hook (counts as 2 tr), \*ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr in each of next 2 sts; rep from \* to end, turn. [83 (95: 107: 113: 119: 125)sts]

**Row 1** Ch3, tr into second st, \*ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr in each of next 2 sts; rep from \* to end, turn.

Work 23 more rows as Row 1.

**Fasten off**, leaving a long tail for sewing Sleeve seams.

## NECK EDGING

Sew together shoulder seams.

With RS facing and using a 3.5mm hook, rejoin Yarn A to left shoulder seam with a ss.

**Round 1 (RS)** Ch1 (does not count as st), dc evenly around neckline, ss to first dc.

Change to 3mm hook and work one more round as Round 1.

**Fasten off.**

## TO FINISH

Sew side seams up to the stitch markers.

Sew the underarm Sleeve seams and set in Sleeves, easing to fit.

Weave in all ends.

## WOVEN STRIPES

With 2 strands of Yarn D and a 5.5mm hook, ch100 (102: 104: 106: 110: 112), placing a marker to hold last ch in place.

The Ultramarine chains are in line with the 2 outermost chain spaces of the neckline.

Weave the chains up the front of the dress in the ch-sps loosely, adding more chain sts if necessary, to avoid the weave from becoming too tight when the dress is worn.

Leave an end of 30cm to add to the fringe.

Secure the top of the weave under the Neckline.

Repeat 2 more weaves with Yarn B and C, and mirror the weaves on the other side of the Neckline.

## FRINGING

Make a fringe using 272 (304: 336: 368: 416: 432) strands of Yarn A approx 60cm long.

Take 4 strands, fold in half and place into each ch-1 sp along lower edge of dress.

Repeat along lower edge of sleeves, using 216 (248: 280: 296: 312: 328) strands approx 40cm long.

Trim fringe to required length.



The elbow-length sleeves of the dress are finished with fringing to match the hem.



The bright woven stripes become part of the fringing as they fall from the hem.

## SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO SEW SEAMS



**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 hk through both edge stitches, yrh, 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 you need less bulk and/or greater flexibility in your seam. Work as for the dc seam, but work 1 dc and 1 chain alternately.





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# ROCKET POWER

Stay cool this summer with a tasty ice lolly brooch by Becky Garratt.





# Ice lolly brooch



## YOU WILL NEED

- King Cole Merino Blend DK (100% wool, 50g/112m), 1 ball of each: Scarlet (009), Gold (055), Copper (109)
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3 hook)
- Lolly stick
- Brooch back
- Craft glue
- Toy stuffing

For yarn stockists, contact King Cole 01756 703670  
www.kingcole.co.uk

## MEASUREMENTS

12x6cm (4¾x2¼in) including stick

## ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

Summer nostalgia coming your way, people. The iconic rocket ice lolly is a real classic and with Becky Garratt's sweet and simple pattern, you can hook one of your own that won't melt away in the heat of the midday sun. It's made with double and treble crochet stitches and the real lolly stick adds a bit of authenticity. This makes us rocket scientists now, right? Pretty cool.

## C LOLLY BROOCH (MAKE 2)

Using Gold, ch13.

**Row 1 (RS)** Dc in the second ch from the hook and in each ch to end, turn. [12 sts]

**Rows 2-6** Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in each st to end, turn. **Fasten off.**

Join Copper to the second st of the next row.

**Row 7** Ch1, dc in each st to the last st, turn leaving the last st unworked. [10 sts]

**Rows 8-11** Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn. **Fasten off.**

Join Scarlet to the second st of the next row.

**Row 12** Ch1, dc in each st to the last st, turn leaving the last st unworked. [8 sts]

**Row 13** Ch1, skip the first st, 5dc, dc2tog, turn. [6 sts]

**Row 14** Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

**Row 15** Ch1, skip the first st, 3dc, dc2tog, turn. [4 sts]

**Row 16** Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.



Super-neat colour changes help create this instantly recognisable summer treat.

**Row 17** Ch1, dc in the next st, tr in each of the next 2 sts, dc in the last st.

**Fasten off.**

## TO FINISH

Sew the brooch back onto the outside of the back piece and glue the wooden lolly stick on the inside of the back piece.

Sew the two pieces together, WS facing, adding a little stuffing as you go and making sure that you sew securely on each side of the stick.

## SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO DECREASE IN DOUBLE CROCHET (DC2TOG)



**1** Start by inserting the hook under the top two loops of the next stitch on the previous row. Begin to work a double crochet stitch in the usual way, working yrh and pull loop through (2 loops on hook).



**2** Without finishing the first dc, begin the next dc by inserting the hook in the next stitch on the previous row. Again, work yrh and pull loop through (3 loops on hook).



**3** Now complete both dc stitches together by working yrh and pull this loop through all 3 loops on the hook.



**4** This is how your completed dc2tog should look. You will have neatly decreased one stitch. On subsequent rows, you can simply work a stitch into the top of the dc2tog stitch as usual.



Embellish an outfit



# PINEAPPLE PUNCH

Hook Sara Huntington's totally tropical belt to add some summery zing to any outfit.



# Embellish an outfit



## YOU WILL NEED

- Phil Coton 4  
(100% cotton, 50g/85m),  
2 balls of Citron (63),  
1 ball of Mercure (08)

- A 4mm (US G/6) hook

For yarn stockists, contact  
Deramores 0800 488 0708  
[www.deramores.com](http://www.deramores.com)

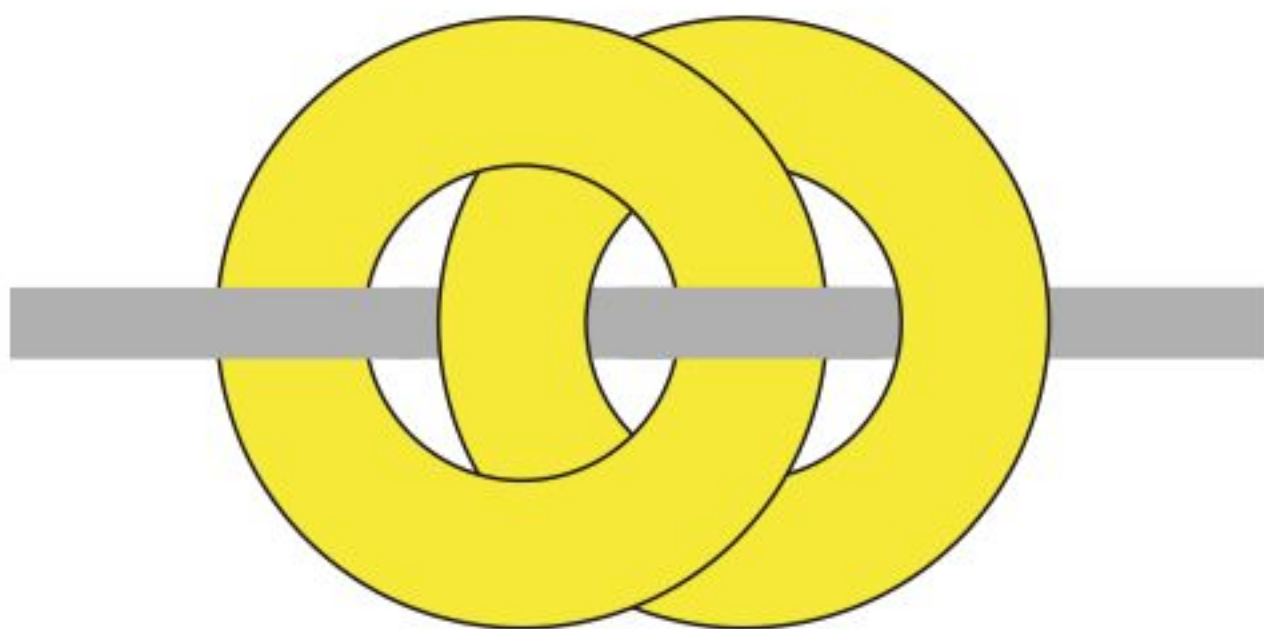
## MEASUREMENTS

Our belt measures 150cm (59in)  
but it can be made any length to  
fit you

## ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

## CIRCLES DIAGRAM



**P**ut some pep in your step with a shamelessly bright crochet belt. This one is made up of simple crochet rings with a cord to tie it all together. As it's adjustable and can be made to your size, it can be worn on the waist or on the hips. See what works for you. We just can't ignore the happy summer vibes of a pineapple-inspired project. You'll be using double and treble crochet stitches to make this belt. The yellow is a bit of a winner, but any shades of cotton DK yarn will work well.

## NOTES

The belt is made by threading a number of crochet circles onto a central cord.

We made 42 circles and a cord of 150cm long, but either can be adjusted to suit you.

A small circle is added to each end of the cord to stop the circles coming off.

## C CIRCLES (MAKE 42)

With Citron, ch13, ss to first ch to join into a ring.

**Round 1 (RS)** Ch3 (counts as tr), 25tr into the ring, ss to the top of the beginning ch-3.

**Fasten off** and weave in ends.

## CORD

With Mercure, make a ch of 150cm long when stretched. Double crochet in each st back along the chain.

**Fasten off.**

Alternatively, work a row of foundation double crochet to the desired length, as it is easier to judge the length of the cord using this method.

## THREADING THE CIRCLES

Take a pair of circles and overlap them as shown in the diagram (left), so that there are 3 spaces in which to thread the cord.



Wear the tie fastening at the back, front or side depending on what suits your outfit.

Thread the circles onto the cord in pairs. Thread half of the circles overlapped right over left, and half overlapped left over right, so that they 'flow' in opposite directions, meeting in the centre.

## END CIRCLES (MAKE 2)

With Mercure, make a magic loop.

**Round 1 (RS)** Ch3 (counts as tr), 12tr into the loop, ss to the top of the beginning ch-3.

**Fasten off**, leaving a long tail and use it to sew the circle to the end of the cord.





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# LITTLE MONSTER

A cushion that's made to be squeezed. By Becky Garratt.





# Stripy cushion



## YOU WILL NEED

- Lion Brand Vanna's Choice (100% acrylic, 100g/156m), 3 balls of each:
  - Lime (194)
  - Aqua (102)
  - 1 ball of each:
    - Rose (142)
    - Black (153)
    - White (100)
- A 5mm (US H/8) hook
- A stitch marker
- A 40cm (16in) square cushion pad

For yarn stockists, contact  
**LoveCrochet 0845 544 2324**  
[www.lovecrochet.com](http://www.lovecrochet.com)

## TENSION

13sts and 11 rows to measure  
 10x10cm (4x4in) over htr worked  
 in rows with a 5mm hook

## MEASUREMENTS

40x43cm (15¾x17in)

## ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

**M**ake a cushion that hugs back. This chap is fun to have around and simple to hook. Use half trebles for the base and dc amigurumi spirals for his limbs and features.

## C MAIN CUSHION COVER PIECE

Change colour every four rows, alternating between Aqua and Lime, and carrying the yarn up the sides. These yarn strands can be hidden when you make up the cushion later.

With Aqua, ch58.

**Row 1 (RS)** Htr into 3rd st from hook and in each st to end, turn. [57 sts]

**Rows 2-112** Ch2 (counts as htr), htr in each st to end, turn. **Fasten off.**

Lay the piece out RS facing up, fold so the last row is matched with Row 72 and sew along the sides. Fold first row to meet Row 80 (over the top of the piece you've already sewn) and sew along the sides. Turn the cushion RS out and the last row should now be on the outside of the cushion opening.

## EYES (MAKE 2)

From Round 2 onwards, work in a spiral without closing off each round with a ss. You may find it helps to put a stitch marker in the first st of the round, moving it up as you work.

Using White, make a magic loop.

**Round 1 (RS)** 5dc into loop, ss to first dc. [5 sts]

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

**Round 3** (1dc, 2dc in next st) 5 times. [15 sts]

**Round 4** (2dc in next st, 2dc) 5 times. [20 sts]

**Round 5** (2dc, 2dc in next st, 1dc) 5 times. [25 sts]

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

**Round 7** (4dc, 2dc in next st, 1dc) 5 times. [35 sts]

**Round 8** (2dc, 2dc in next st, 4dc) 5 times. [40 sts]

Ss in next 2 sts to even out the edge.

**Fasten off**, leaving a long tail.

## PUPILS (MAKE 2)

Using Black, work as for the Eyes up to the end of Round 4. Ss in next 2 sts to even out the edge. **Fasten off**, leaving a long tail for sewing later.



For a mischievous face, use our images as your guide when sewing on the features.

## CHEEKS (MAKE 2)

Using Rose, work as for the Eyes up to the end of Round 8.

**Round 9** (7dc, 2dc in next st) 5 times. [45 sts]

**Round 10** (5dc, 2dc in next st, 3dc) 5 times. [50 sts]

Ss in next 2 sts to even out the edge.

**Fasten off**, leaving a long tail.

## ARMS (MAKE 2)

Change colour every 4 rows alternating between Aqua and Lime. Don't worry about changing colour exactly at beg of every fifth row, but keep all colour changes in line on one side of the arm so there is a clear pattern of 4 rows of alternating stripes on the other side. Using Aqua, make a magic loop.

**Round 1 (RS)** Ch2 (counts as htr), 4htr into loop, ss to top of beg ch-2. [5 sts]

**Round 2** 2htr in each st around. [10 sts]

**Round 3** (1htr, 2htr in next st) 5 times. [15 sts]

**Round 4** (2htr, 2htr in next st) 5 times, change to Lime. [20 sts]

Htr in each st around, and cont working in same fashion until a total of 64 rounds have been completed, or the piece measures 60cm long.

**Fasten off**, leaving a long tail of yarn.

## LEGS (MAKE 2)

Work as for Arms for a total of 44 rounds, or until the piece measures 40cm long.

## TO MAKE UP

Use long tails to sew Pupils onto centre of Eyes. Use long tails to sew Eyes and Cheeks onto front of cover, using image as a guide. Add an embroidered mouth with 3 long straight sts in Black.

Use long tails to sew Legs and Arms onto cushion cover.



# KAT'S JOURNAL

## ...FROM THE STUDIO

Kat Goldin reveals her humble crochet beginnings and how she learnt to recognise her creativity.



When I was 12, I was taken unceremoniously aside in art class and told by my teacher that I wasn't creative and under no circumstances should I pursue art in High School. Looking over at the still life I had been working on, I could see her point. The bowl of fruit that had sprung to life on everyone else's page looked like it had been drawn by a pre-schooler on mine – a molten mass of colour and squiggles.

### NOT REMOTELY ARTISTIC

From that moment, I identified myself as in the 'not creative' camp. Creative people sat at a different table at lunch. They had funky clothes and drew incredible replicas of Hello Kitty. They sat with their journals, writing the latest version of their next novella. They hung out with art teachers at school events and talked about Rothko like he was a friend. I, on the other hand, sat with the geeks. We read a lot and talked about politics. Art and crafts were Just. So. Beneath. Us. We looked with disdain at anyone who spent any time doing anything that was remotely artistic.

After I left High School, I think I sat at that lunch table for many years afterwards. Art wasn't something I did or wanted to do. Despite marrying an artist, I felt a world apart. Creativity was something other people did. I learned to appreciate it, but never saw it in myself.

Then, in April of 2007, my oldest son was born. Ellis, with his gorgeous blue

eyes and freckled nose, was not an easy baby. He cried solidly for two years. Never in my entire life had I felt more like a failure or so totally unsuccessful at anything. I was drowning in a sea of new motherhood, adrift on endless piles of washing, in a fog of sleeplessness.

### A SHIFT IN IDEAS

And then I started making things. First of all, I made a crochet hat. It was so ugly and misshapen, made out of bulky blue acrylic yarn. Back then, I only knew one crochet stitch and I didn't realise that

you were supposed to work in both loops of the stitches below. The sizing seemed to grow and shrink with no rhyme or reason at all, but I wore that hat with such enormous pride. Next, I stitched myself a pair of crochet hand warmers, I think they might have been inspired by Attic 24 but I can't be sure. They were multi-coloured and one was significantly bigger than the other. Then after that came the crochet bowl phase where I would take Ellis for walks around the village, trailing behind him with a hook in my hands and yarn in my

"I appreciated creativity in other people, but never saw it in myself."





## COLUMN



"Creativity comes  
in so many forms."

pocket, endlessly making stacks of  
crochet bowls for felting.

I started a blog where I documented  
these creations, and at some point I  
became a full-time creative. It took years  
for it to stop rubbing like sandpaper  
when someone called me creative.  
Having identified as not creative, it was  
a difficult shift. Even now, when people  
ask me what I do, I often say I'm a  
technical writer. While it's true, it's  
certainly not the whole truth.

Over the last few years of working with  
some incredibly talented women,

designers and makers alike, it's amazing  
how many of them have stories that echo  
my own. "I just never saw myself as  
creative", or "I had my creativity  
drummed out of me at school", or "I hate  
it when people say I am an artist/ a  
creative" are common phrases that  
come up in conversation. And these  
same people are often dressed head to  
toe in beautiful accessories and  
garments that they've made themselves,  
or with an impressive design catalogue  
behind them. Or if they're not knitters or  
crocheters, I know they have other

incredible skills in things like cooking,  
baking or photography.

You don't need an art degree to be  
creative. You don't need to be able to  
draw a still life of a fruit bowl. Creativity  
comes in so many ways and forms –  
from scraping dinner together out of  
the contents of a near-empty fridge or  
making a blanket for a loved one, to  
connecting ideas in a new way and then  
executing them. And it most certainly  
isn't about which lunch table you sat at.

"Creativity is contagious. Pass it on."  
Albert Einstein. I think he's right.

## A LOCH AT MY MONTH

"Ellis, a crochet shawl I'm working  
on, dramatic sunsets, and yarn and  
ice cream taking over my desk."









## Mandala waistcoat



# COLOUR THEORY

Get a hit of vibrant hues and wrap yourself in a rainbow mandala by Sara Huntington.



# Mandala waistcoat



## YOU WILL NEED

- Cascade Ultra Pima (100% cotton, 100g/200m), 1 skein of each: Gold (3747), Tangerine (3750), Dark Sea Foam (3797), Sunshine (3764), Spearmint (3738), Delphinium (3706), Pansy (3779), Poppy Red (3751), Aqua (3732)
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- Stitch markers

For yarn stockists, contact  
Wool Warehouse 01926 882818  
[www.woolwarehouse.co.uk](http://www.woolwarehouse.co.uk)

## TENSION

The centre colour wheel measures 13cm (5in) diameter

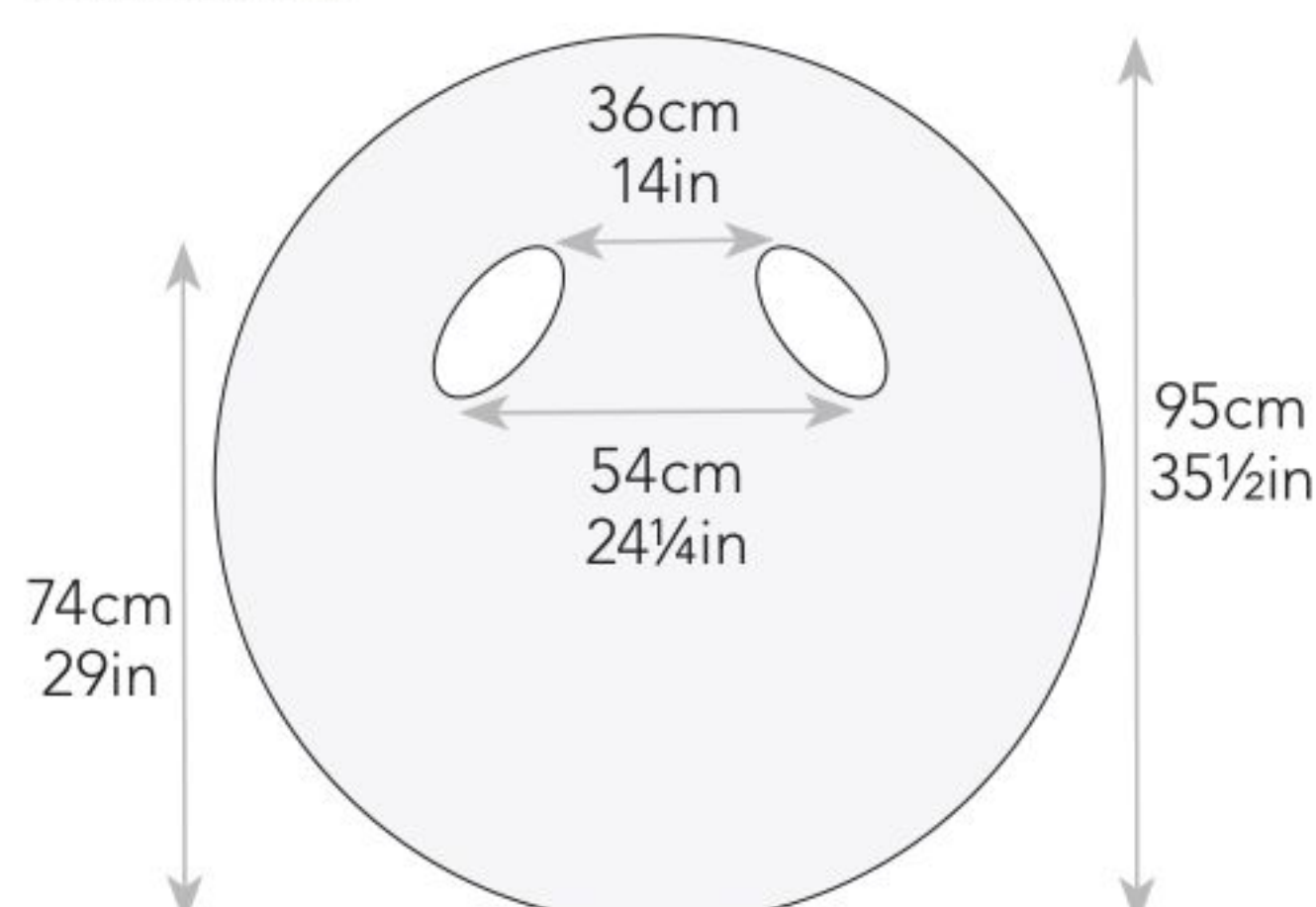
## MEASUREMENTS

Finished diameter is 95cm (35½in)  
See Notes for sizing details

## ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

## DIAGRAM



The soothing process of working the colourful stitches of a mandala is amplified with this creative project. Vibrant lacy rounds radiate from a central colour wheel, resulting in a breathtaking sleeveless garment that hangs beautifully and is a joy to make.

## NOTES

The shawl is worked in the round as a large circle with armholes positioned part way round the circle. Once you have your arms in the armholes, the top part of the shawl folds over to form a collar. See the diagram (below left) for the measurements: the length from the top of the shoulder to the lowest point of the shawl is 74cm (29in). The distance across the shoulders between the armholes is 36cm (14in) and the distance across the back at the bust between the armholes is 54cm (21¼in). Our model in the image is a size 8 and given these measurements, the shawl will comfortably fit up to a size 14.

## SPECIAL ABBREVIATIONS

**2-dtr cluster** (Yrh twice, insert hook in space/st indicated, yrh and pull up loop, [yrh and draw through 2 loops] twice) 2 times, inserting the hook in the same space/st each time, yrh and draw through all loops on hook

**Reverse dc** A dc in each st, working left to right (if you're right-handed)

## COLOUR WHEEL

The colour wheel is made up of 9 segments. Each segment is worked in rows onto a chain joined into the centre of the circle.

Work each segment in a different colour following this sequence: Poppy Red, Tangerine, Gold, Sunshine, Spearmint, Dark Sea Foam, Aqua, Delphinium, Pansy.

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

## FIRST SEGMENT

**Row 1 (RS)** Ch9, dc into next ch, htr into next ch, tr into next ch, 2tr into next ch, tr into next ch, 2dtr into next ch, dtr into next ch, 2ttr into next ch, ttr into last ch, do not turn.

**Row 2 (RS)** Reverse dc back along the row just completed (dc in each st to the

right of the previous one) and working in the front loop only of each st. Ss into the centre ring, change to Tangerine.

## SECOND SEGMENT

**Row 3 (RS)** Working behind the reverse dc and into the remaining back loops of Row 1, dc into first st, htr into next st, tr into next st, 2tr into next st, tr into next st, 2dtr into next st, dtr into next st, 2ttr into next st, ttr into next st, do not turn.

**Row 4 (RS)** Reverse dc in front loop only of each st of previous row, ss into centre ring, change to Gold.

Repeat Rows 3 and 4 for each of the remaining 7 colours in the sequence listed above.

**Fasten off** after the ninth segment leaving a long tail. Use the tail to sew the last segment to the first segment on the WS.

## MANDALA ROUNDS

**Round 1** Rejoin Poppy Red at the tip of any segment in the reverse dc row, ch1, dc into same place as ch-1, (ch7, dc into tip of next segment) 9 times, ending with a ss into first dc. [9 ch-7 sps]

**Round 2** Ch1 (does not count as first st throughout), 3dc in same place as ch-1, (7dc into next ch-7 sp, 2dc into next dc) 8 times, 7dc into last ch-7 sp, ss into first dc. [82 dc]

**Round 3** \*Ch4, skip 1 dc, dc into next st; repeat from \* to end of round, ss into top of beg ch-4. [41 ch-4 sps]

**Round 4** Ss into first 2 ch, ch4 (counts as dtr), dtr into same ch-4 sp, ch4, \*2-dtr cluster into next ch-4 sp, ch4; repeat from \* to end of round. Ss into top of beg ch-4. [41 clusters]

**Round 5** Ss into each of next 3 ch, change to Tangerine. Ch4 (counts as dtr), 2dtr into same ch-4 sp, 3dtr into each remaining ch-4 sp around, ss into top of beg ch-4. [123 dtr]

**Round 6** Ch1, dc into same sp, ch3, skip 1 dtr, \*dc into next dtr, ch3, skip 1 dtr; repeat from \* to last st, dc in last st, ch3, ss into first dc. [62 ch-sps]

**Round 7** Ss into each of next 2 ch, ch4, (dc into next ch-3 sp, ch4) around, ss into base of beg ch.

**Round 8** Ss into each of next 2 ch, ch3 (counts as tr), 2tr into same ch-4 sp, \*ch2, dc into next ch-4 sp, ch2, 3tr into next ch-4 sp; repeat from \* to last ch-sp, ending with ch2, dc into last ch-4



# Mandala waistcoat

sp, ch2, ss into top of beg ch-3.

[31 tr groups]

**Round 9** Ss into next tr, ch1, dc into same st, \*ch2, 3tr into next dc, ch2, dc into centre tr of next 3-tr group; repeat from \* ending with a ss into first dc, change to Gold.

**Round 10** Ch3 (counts as tr), 2tr into st at base of ch, \*ch2, dc into centre tr of next 3-tr group, ch2, 3tr into next dc; repeat from \* to end of round omitting last 3 tr on final repeat, ss into top of beg ch-3.

**Round 11** Repeat Round 9.

**Round 12** Ch3 (counts as tr), 4tr into st at base of ch, \*ch2, dc into centre tr of next 3-tr group, ch2, 5tr into next dc; repeat from \* to end of round omitting last 5 tr on final repeat, ss into top of beg ch-3.

**Round 13** Ss to third tr of 5-tr group, ch1, dc into same st, \*ch2, 5tr into next dc, ch2, dc into third tr of next 5-tr group; repeat from \* ending with a ss into first dc.

**Round 14** As Round 12, change to Sunshine.

**Round 15** Ss to third tr of 5-tr group, ch1, dc into same st, \*ch2, 7dtr into next dc, ch2, dc into third tr of next 5-tr group; repeat from \* ending with a ss into first dc. [31 dtr groups]

**Round 16** Ch4 (counts as dtr), 6dtr into st at base of ch, \*ch2, dc into fourth dtr of next 7-dtr group, ch2, 7dtr into next dc; repeat from \* omitting last 7 dtr on final repeat, ss into top of beg ch-4.

**Round 17** Ss to fourth dtr of 7-dtr group, ch1, dc into same st, \*ch2, 7dtr into next dc, ch2, dc into fourth dtr of next 7-dtr group; repeat from \* ending with a ss into first dc, change to Spearmint.

**Round 18** As Round 16.

**Round 19** Dc into next dtr, \*(ch3, skip 1 dtr, dc into next dtr) twice, (ch3, dc into next ch-2 sp) twice, ch3, skip 1 dtr, dc into next dtr; repeat from \* omitting dc at the end of last repeat, ss into first dc. [155 ch-sps]

**Rounds 20-21** Ss into each of next 2 ch, ch1, dc into the same ch-3 sp, \*ch3, dc into next ch-3 sp; repeat from \* ending with a ss into first dc.

**Round 22** Ss into each of next 2 ch, ch1, dc into the same ch-3 sp, ch3, dc into next ch-3 sp, ch40, skip 20 ch-3 sps (armhole made), dc into next ch-3 sp, (ch3, dc into next ch-3 sp) 27 times

(collar), ch40, skip 20 ch-3 sps, dc into next ch-3 sp, (ch3, dc into next ch-3 sp) repeat until dc has been worked in last ch-sp, ch3, ss into first dc.

**Round 23** Ss into each of next 2 ch, ch1, dc into the same ch-3 sp, ch3, skip next (ch, dc, ch), dc in next ch, (ch3, skip next ch, dc into next ch) 19 times, place marker in last dc, (ch3, dc into next ch-3 sp) 27 times, place marker in last dc, ch3, skip next (ch, dc, ch), dc in next ch, (ch3, skip next ch, dc into next ch) 19 times, (ch3, dc into next ch-3 sp) repeat until dc has been worked in last ch-sp, ch3, ss into first dc, change to Dark Sea Foam.

**Round 24** Ss into each of next 2 ch, ch1, dc into the same ch-3 sp, (ch5, dc into next ch-3 sp) repeat around to first marker, (ch3, dc into next ch-3 sp) repeat around to next marker, (ch5, dc into next ch-3 sp) repeat to end, ending with a ss into first dc.

**Rounds 25-29** Ss into each of next 3 ch, ch1, dc into same ch-5 sp, (ch5, dc into next ch-5 sp) repeat around to first marker, (ch3, dc into next ch-3 sp) repeat around to next marker, (ch5, dc into next ch-5 sp) repeat to end, ending with a ss into first dc. Change to Aqua.

**Round 30** Ss into each of next 3 ch, ch1, dc into same ch-5 sp, (ch7, dc into next ch-5 sp) repeat around to first marker, (ch5, dc into next ch-3 sp) repeat around to next marker, (ch7, dc

into next ch-5 sp) repeat to end, ending with a ss into first dc.

**Rounds 31-35** Ss into each of next 4 ch, ch1, dc into same ch-7 sp, (ch7, dc into next ch-7 sp) repeat around to first marker, (ch5, dc into next ch-5 sp) repeat around to next marker, (ch7, dc into next ch-7 sp) repeat to end, ending with a ss into first dc.

Change to Delphinium.

**Round 36** Repeat Round 31.

**Round 37** Ss into next ch-7 sp, ch4 (counts as dtr), 6dtr into same ch-7 sp, 7dtr into each ch-7 sp before first marker, 5dtr into each ch-sp to next marker, 7dtr in each ch-sp to end, ss to top of beg ch-4, change to Pansy.

**Round 38** Ch1, dc in each st around, ss to first dc.

**Fasten off** and weave in ends.

## ARMHOLE TRIM

**Round 1** Join Spearmint at underarm corner of armhole and working along the innermost side of the armhole: (dc in next ch-3 sp, dc in next dc) 20 times. Working along the outermost side of the armhole: dc into the remaining loop of each ch, ss into first dc. [80 dc]

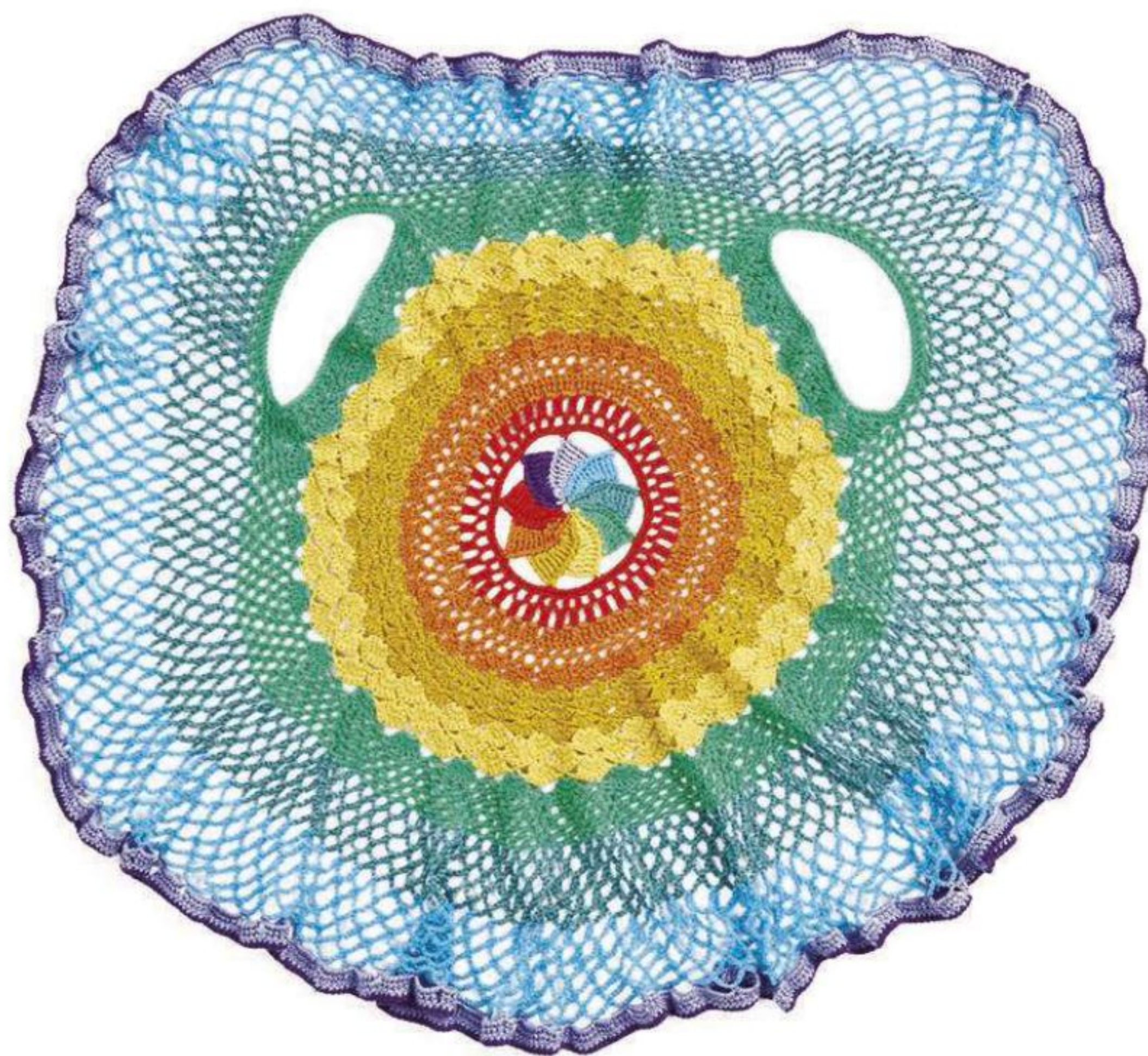
**Round 2** Ch1, dc into each st around, ss to first dc.

**Fasten off** and weave in ends.

Repeat with the other armhole.

## TO FINISH

Block to measurements and press.





"I've met so many interesting people through my blog."



# MAKING TIME TO MAKE

Sometimes there's nothing nicer than getting stuck into a crochet project you'll complete in a day. Designer Vita Apala is just the woman to turn to.

Whether it's something for a little one or an accessory we can sport ourselves, there's nothing so satisfying as a project we can hook up in next-to no time. Italian crochet designer Vita Apala understands this passion well. "I love crochet projects that are quick and pretty easy," she says. "I particularly like to make things for my kids – hats, scarves, gloves. I simply think there is nothing cuter than little ones wearing handmade items."

Vita also loves to design pretty items for adults, which we're very happy about, especially when she explains her enthusiasm for crocheted accessories.

"Great accessories can pull together any outfit," she says. "You can have very few items in your wardrobe, but if you have some great crochet cowls or shawls you can play with them and create many different looks. It's the same with hats – a great hat can really brighten your look!"

## A HARMONIOUS LIFE

Fortunately for us, Vita has been sharing her designs for projects that match this description perfectly since launching her business Mon Petit Violon. The story behind the business's name is one of the most romantic things we've heard – and reminds us what a beautiful team hooks and strings can be. "My husband is a

professional musician," says Vita. "He is a principal viola of the Trieste Opera House orchestra. When I started my business and was thinking about the name for it I thought it would be nice to call it 'my little violin', as he has his instrument and this would be mine. I discovered in French the expression 'mon petit violon' means 'my little hobby'. It was just the right thing."

In 2010, she launched monpetitviolon.com, her blog, "to let people know about my work. Over years, it has transformed quite a lot and I still have big plans for it."

The blog has been shifting focus recently to become increasingly crochet-centric. "There was a period of my life when I wanted to share more personal





stuff and not only crochet," she admits. "Lately, I've been transforming it to be only about crochet." We're endlessly impressed by Vita's generosity with her knowledge and designs, too. "I would like to share more of what I know, to help people learn something useful, to make more free tutorials and offer more free patterns," she says. "I love that it is my space where I can share what I'm about and I've met lots of interesting people through it!"

Vita is also keen to talk about the blogs she herself dips into for motivation. "There are so many talented crochet designers that it's hard to monitor just one or two," she comments. "It inspires me to see the creativity of others and I find that stimulates my own. I enjoy [www.abeautifulmess.com](http://www.abeautifulmess.com) and [www.onesheepishgirl.com](http://www.onesheepishgirl.com), and spend hours meandering through Pinterest."

She adds: "I always try not to look at others too much to avoid having my own style and ideas too strongly influenced. That's not always easy though!"

Fashion, nature and other crafts all spur on Vita's creativity, but there is one main influence on her crochet designs. Or rather, two: a son and a daughter. "My children are my major inspiration – very often they come up with an idea and ask me to crochet it for them. I love to make them modern accessories and clothes with a vintage twist! When children love what you've made them, it's priceless."

#### TINY TOOTSIES

Her pleasure in this prompted Vita to produce a book of crochet designs titled *Super Cute Crochet for Little Feet*,

published by Apple Press. "I'd wanted to write a book for some time, but, as always, when you do something for the very first time you don't really know where to start," she recalls. "I was pretty lucky that while I was trying to figure out everything by myself, I got an offer from a publisher and that made it so much easier! It was very exciting to work on it, and when I finally got my copy of the book I was

beyond happy. It is remarkable that the very first pattern I ever wrote was for baby booties, and my first book is all about booties."

Being a stay-at-home mum helps Vita's output, too, particularly now that her children are aged seven and four. "These days, it's not too difficult for me to find time for crochet, especially as my children grow they have more and more of their own interests," she says. "Of course, my family always comes first. In my daily life, crochet time is time when I relax, when I recharge myself. When my kids were smaller, crochet helped me to stay sane because all the duties mothers face with little kids can be overwhelming – those

rare moments of peace when you dedicate time to yourself and do something you love are really important."

As so many of her designs are for children, it makes sense to us that Vita is drawn to feather-soft yarns. "I like natural yarns – alpaca is my favourite," she says, "then comes wool and cotton. Lately I'm enjoying Ophelia Italy yarns. They're affordable, very soft, the colour choices are wonderful and it crochets really well."

Vita has made a corner of the family living room her craft space, where you'll find her "desk, inspiration board, books and chests of yarn. It's a place where I love to spend time crocheting and writing new patterns. I love that it is my space, everything is organised in the way I like it, with all of the things I need to realise my ideas or find inspiration."

Vita's philosophy about crochet is enticingly straightforward. "The best advice I ever received was 'do what you love and love what you do,'" she says. "If a new design isn't exciting me or if I'm not happy with something I crochet, I will work on it until I'm satisfied. If you really love what you create then most probably other people will love it, too."

**Interview by Judy Darley**

**"THOSE PEACEFUL MOMENTS YOU DEDICATE TO DOING SOMETHING YOU LOVE ARE SO IMPORTANT."**



#### A FEW OF HER FAVOURITE THINGS

"My husband and I both enjoy travelling and we didn't stop even with our small children! Now we are teaching them to love it as much as we do, and it looks they really enjoy it. Reading is another passion of mine and I am glad I got it back into my life. For some time, the only

books I could read were storybooks for kids or books about raising children. Fortunately, lately I'm able to focus on more serious literature as well!" You can find out more about Vita and check out her crochet designs on her blog at [www.monpetitviolon.com](http://www.monpetitviolon.com)







## HEART TO HEART

Welcome a precious new arrival with a very special blanket. Designed by Cécile Balladino.



**T**he colourful houses of Rue Cremieux in Paris are cited as the city's own Portobello Road. Their vibrant hues inspired this stunning design by Cécile Balladino. Even if you're not the biggest fan of hooking motif blankets, this pretty project will win your heart. It's made up of two different motifs using eight shades of cotton-mix yarn and there's plenty of scrummy texture to keep things interesting along the way. Roll up your sleeves and get to grips with popcorn stitch and reverse double crochet, too.





# Baby blanket



## YOU WILL NEED

- Scheepjeswol Stone Washed (78% cotton, 22% acrylic, 50g/130m), 8 (12) balls of: Yarn A Moonstone (801) 1 ball of each Yarn B colours: Lemon Quartz (812), Yellow Jasper (809), Coral (816) Red Jasper (807), Corundum Ruby (808), Deep Amethyst (811), Green Agate (815), Canada Jade (806)

- A 4mm (US G/6) hook

For yarn stockists, contact  
**Deramores 0800 488 0708**  
[www.deramores.com](http://www.deramores.com)

## TENSION

Each heart motif measures  
11x10cm (4¼x4in)

## MEASUREMENTS

Small (Large):  
85x70cm/33½x27½in  
(106x106cm/41¾x 41¾in)

## ABBREVIATIONS

**Popcorn stitch** Work 4tr in the same st, drop the loop from the hook, insert hook from front to back in top of first tr worked, put hook back in dropped loop and pull through the first tr

**Reverse double crochet** A dc in each st working from left to right (if you are right handed)

For a full list, see page 92.

## HEARTS

Make 48 hearts (6 hearts of each colour) for small version, or 81 hearts (10 hearts of each of 7 colours, 11 hearts of the eighth colour) for large version. Each heart is worked in one of the Yarn B shades, with Yarn A for Round 2 and Round 6.

With Yarn B, ch6, ss in first ch to form a ring.

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

**Round 2** Ch2 (does not count as st), (popcorn st, ch1) in each st around, ss to top of first popcorn. [12 popcorns]

**Fasten off** Yarn A.

**Round 3** Join Yarn B in the top of a popcorn, ch2 (counts as htr), work 2htr between popcorns and 1htr in each popcorn around, counting beg ch-2 as the first htr in the first popcorn, ss to top of beg ch-2. [36 htr]

**Round 4** Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in first htr, (htr, tr) in next st, 2tr in each of next 5 sts, tr in next 2 sts, htr in next 2 sts, dc in next 4 sts, htr in next st, tr in next st, 3tr in next st (tip of heart), tr in next st, htr in next st, dc in next 4 sts, htr in next 2 sts, tr in next 2 sts, 2tr in each of next 5 sts, (tr, htr) in next st, dc in next st, ss in last st. [50 sts]

**Round 5** Ss in dc, working in each st around: dc, htr, (htr, tr) in next st, 2tr in each of next 6 sts, 3tr, 2htr, 19dc (the 10th is the tip of the heart), 2htr, 3tr, 2tr in each of next 6 sts, (tr, htr) in next st, htr, dc, 2ss. **Fasten off** Yarn B. [64 sts]

**Round 6** With Yarn A, work a round of dc all around except at the dc st at the tip where you work (dc, ch1, dc). Don't crochet in the ss which is in the hollow of the heart. **Fasten off**. [64 dc]

## JOINING THE HEARTS

Each motif is joined to the next by working a small dc seam at the top and bottom of each motif, and at each side. Along the top and bottom, 10 dc are joined, and at each side, 6 dc are joined. Arrange the hearts in vertical columns to join tops and bottoms first. For the small blanket, you need 6 columns of 8 hearts; for a large version, you need 9 columns of 9 hearts.

To join bottom of one heart to top of next, identify 10 dc at centre bottom of first heart and centre top of next (skip

the ch-sp at the bottom, and the ss at the centre top). With RS tog, align the two motifs so these sts are tog, and from the WS, attach Yarn A. On the WS, work a dc st through both layers for these 10 sts. **Fasten off**. Rep until all motifs are joined into columns.

To join columns tog, you will need to join the side of one motif to side of the corresponding motif in next column.

There are 22 unjoined sts on each side of each motif. Identify central 6 sts on the side (skip 8 sts, join over the next 6 sts, skip 8 sts), and align them with RS tog, working a dc seam from WS with Yarn A as before over these 6 sts.

**Fasten off**. Rep until sides of all motifs are joined. You will now have all motifs joined part way along the edges, leaving spaces between the motifs to fill with the filler motif below.

## FILLER MOTIF

Make 35 (64).

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

**Round 1 (RS)** Ch2 (does not count as st), (popcorn st into the ring, ch5) 4 times, ss to top of first popcorn and to first ch-5 sp. [4 popcorn, 4 ch-5 sps]

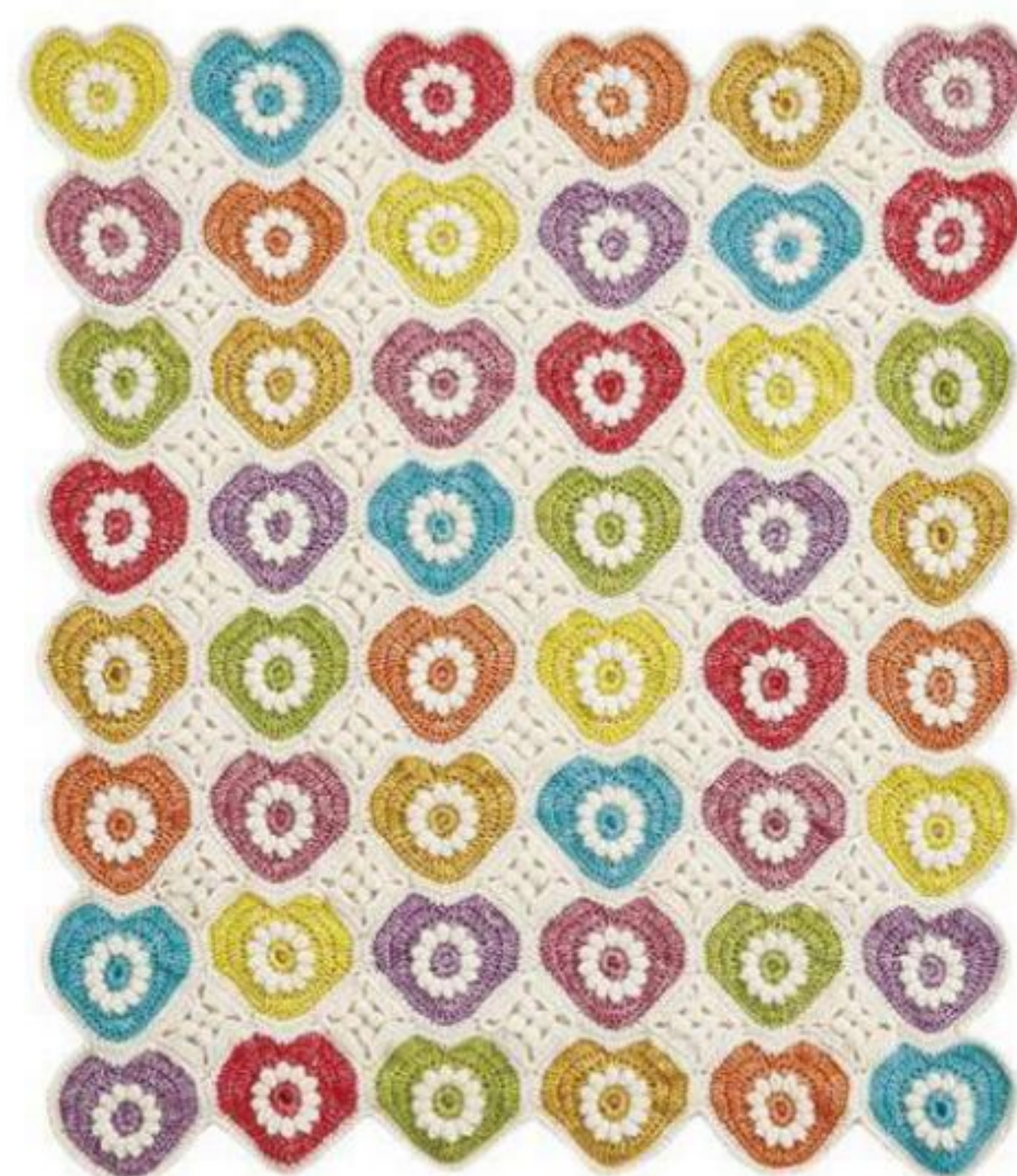
**Round 2** Ch3 (counts as tr), (tr, 3htr, 2tr) in ch-5 sp, ch4, (2tr, 3htr, 2tr, ch4) in each rem space, ss to top of beg ch-3.

**Fasten off**. Sew filler motifs in spaces between the heart motifs with Yarn A.

## TO FINISH

Rejoin Yarn A on the edge of the blanket and work a row of reverse dc around the entire edge.

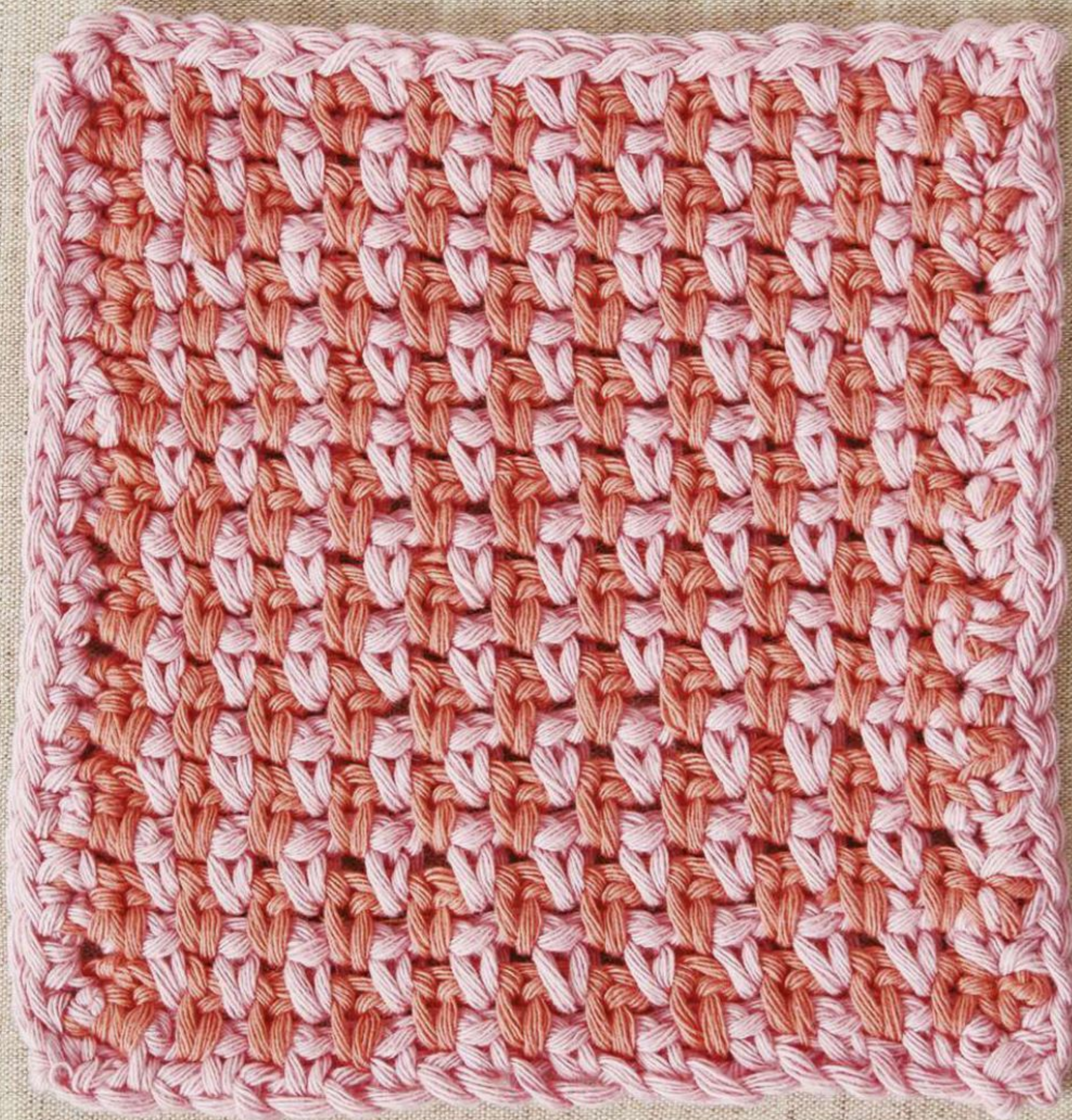
**Fasten off**, weave in all ends and block.





# TWEED STITCH

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



## BASIC TWEED STITCH PATTERN

The pattern is made using two shades of yarn (Yarn A and Yarn B) and an odd number of stitches.

Using Yarn B, ch24 (or number of chains instructed in pattern).

**Row 1 (RS)** Dc in the second ch from the hook, \*ch1, skip the next ch, dc in the next ch; repeat from \* to end,

change to Yarn A, turn.

**Row 2** Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in the first dc, dc in the next ch-1 sp, \*ch1, skip the next dc, dc in the next ch-1 sp; repeat from \* to the last st, dc in the last dc, change to Yarn B, turn.

**Row 3** Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in the first dc, \*ch1, skip the next dc, dc in the next ch-1 sp; repeat from \* to the last 2 sts, ch1, skip the next dc, dc

in the last dc, change to Yarn A, turn.

Rows 2 and 3 set pattern.

To make above sample, we also added a dc edging.

**Pattern by Elisabeth Davis de Herraiz.**

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





Use your green fingers to create a trio of accessories with decorative, two-tone tweed.





Practical and pretty – we may have found the perfect pocket.



One size fits most – this crochet mat will work for dining, too.

## FLOWERPOT COSY

Give your budding beauties the handmade treatment with a cute plant pot cover. It fastens at the side with buttons and adjustable straps. Use floral buttons for bonus points.

- DROPS Paris (100% cotton, 50g/75m), 1 ball of each:  
Yarn A Apricot (01)  
Yarn B Light Pink (20)  
For yarn stockists, contact  
Wool Warehouse 01926 882818  
www.woolwarehouse.co.uk
- A 5mm (US H/8) hook
- 3 buttons and matching thread

**MEASUREMENTS**  
25x10cm (9¾x4in)

### FLOWERPOT COSY

Using Yarn A, ch38.  
Work as given for Basic Stitch Pattern for a total of 15 rows on 37 sts.  
**Fasten off.**

### TO MAKE UP

With Yarn A, dc evenly along both short ends. On right-hand short side, sew on three buttons.  
On left-hand short side, attach Yarn A with ss in line with button, ch20. This forms the button loop.  
**Fasten off.**  
Repeat opposite the other two buttons. Weave in all ends.

## APRON PATCH POCKET

If you're busy gardening or cooking up a storm, an apron pocket really can be your best friend. Until they invent extra pairs of hands, that is.

- DROPS Paris (100% cotton, 50g/75m), 1 ball of each:  
Yarn A Apricot (01)  
Yarn B Light Pink (20)
- A 5mm (US H/8) hook

**MEASUREMENTS**  
15x16cm (6x6¼in)

### POCKET

Using Yarn B, ch22.  
Work a total of 8 rows following Basic Stitch Pattern on 21sts with Yarn B only.

Change to Yarn A and continue with Basic Stitch Pattern for a further 8 rows, changing yarns at the end of every row. Work another 5 rows of pattern using Yarn B only.

**Fasten off.**

### EDGING

Join Yarn A to top left and dc evenly around with 3dc in each corner st. Turn to work back along top edge (there should be 23 sts including the corner sts):  
Ch1 (does not count as st), (3dc, 4tr in next st) 5 times, 3dc.  
**Fasten off** and weave in ends.

## PLANT POT MAT

Hook one of these if you're after scratch-free, plant-friendly surfaces.

- DROPS Paris (100% cotton, 50g/75m), 1 ball of each: Yarn A Apricot (01)  
Yarn B Light Pink (20)
- A 5mm (US H/8) hook

**MEASUREMENTS**  
18x17cm (7x6¾in)

### PLANT MAT

Using Yarn B, ch16.

**Row 1 (RS)** Work Row 1 as given for St Patt but do not change yarn. [15 sts]

**Rows 2-8** Cont with Yarn B, ch1 (does not count as first st throughout), 2dc in first st, dc in next st (could be dc or ch), work ch above every dc and dc into every ch until last 2 sts, dc in next st, 2dc in last st, turn. [29 sts after Row 8]

**Row 9** Change to Yarn A, dc in first dc, dc in next dc, \*ch1, dc in ch-1 sp; rep from \* to last 3 sts, ch1, dc in next 2 dc, change to Yarn B, turn.

**Rows 10-15** Follow St Patt, starting with a Row 3, changing yarn after every row, ending with a Row 2. Change to Yarn B.

**Rows 16-22** Cont with Yarn B, ch1, dc2tog, dc in ch-1 sp, \*ch1, skip next dc, dc in next ch-1 sp; rep from \* to last 2 sts, dc2tog, turn. [15 sts after Row 22]

**Row 23** Work Row 3 of patt. **Fasten off.**  
Work a round of reverse dc around the outside edge using Yarn A.





# KIRSTIE ALLSOPP PRESENTS THE HANDMADE FAIR

18-20 September 2015 [www.thehandmadefair.com](http://www.thehandmadefair.com)

Crafters get ready – The Handmade Fair is back. Following on from a rather incredible first show at Hampton Court Palace in 2014, Kirstie Allsopp will be returning this September to once again run the country's most exciting craft event.

This isn't your average craft market by any means – sponsored by Hobbycraft and in association with *Mollie Makes*, it's a weekend-long extravaganza packed with hands-on workshops, entertaining interviews, 'make and takes', and all the shopping and fabulous food you can manage. Plus, Kirstie herself will be there on each day of the event to host some of the sessions and join in the fun.

## FULL EXPERIENCE TICKETS

What makes The Handmade Fair so unique is that you get a bespoke, hands-on experience.

A Full Experience ticket includes:

- 1 x Super Theatre session
- Pick from Q&As with creative visionaries such as Will Taylor and Fiona Cairns, demonstrations with top crafters including Lisa Comfort and Poppy Chancellor, and the *Mollie Makes* Mash-Ups, which will pit leading crafters up against each other as they take on the challenge of transforming bunting, tote bags and wreaths.
- 1 x Skills Workshop

Refine a skill or discover a new one. Pick from a variety of sessions in each of the six skills tents. There's Papercraft, Yarn & Textiles, Wedding with Hobbycraft, Seasonal, Upcycling with Annie Sloan, and Fashion Accessories.

- 1 x Grand Make

This is crafting on a BIG scale. Sit down to do a quick make and share your skills with 300 other crafters.

- Access to the boutique shopping village, plus delicious food and drink from artisan producers.

Full Experience tickets cost £29 and they include all the tools and materials you'll need to get the most out of every creative session.





**Clockwise from top left:** Bunting galore in the Hampton Court Palace grounds; Kirstie gets hands-on with pom-poms; Crafters at the 2014 Fair learn to crochet with Jane Crowfoot.



## VIP TICKETS

Alternatively, if you want to treat yourself and really indulge your love of crafting, go for a VIP ticket and you'll receive everything that's included in a Full Experience ticket, as well as:

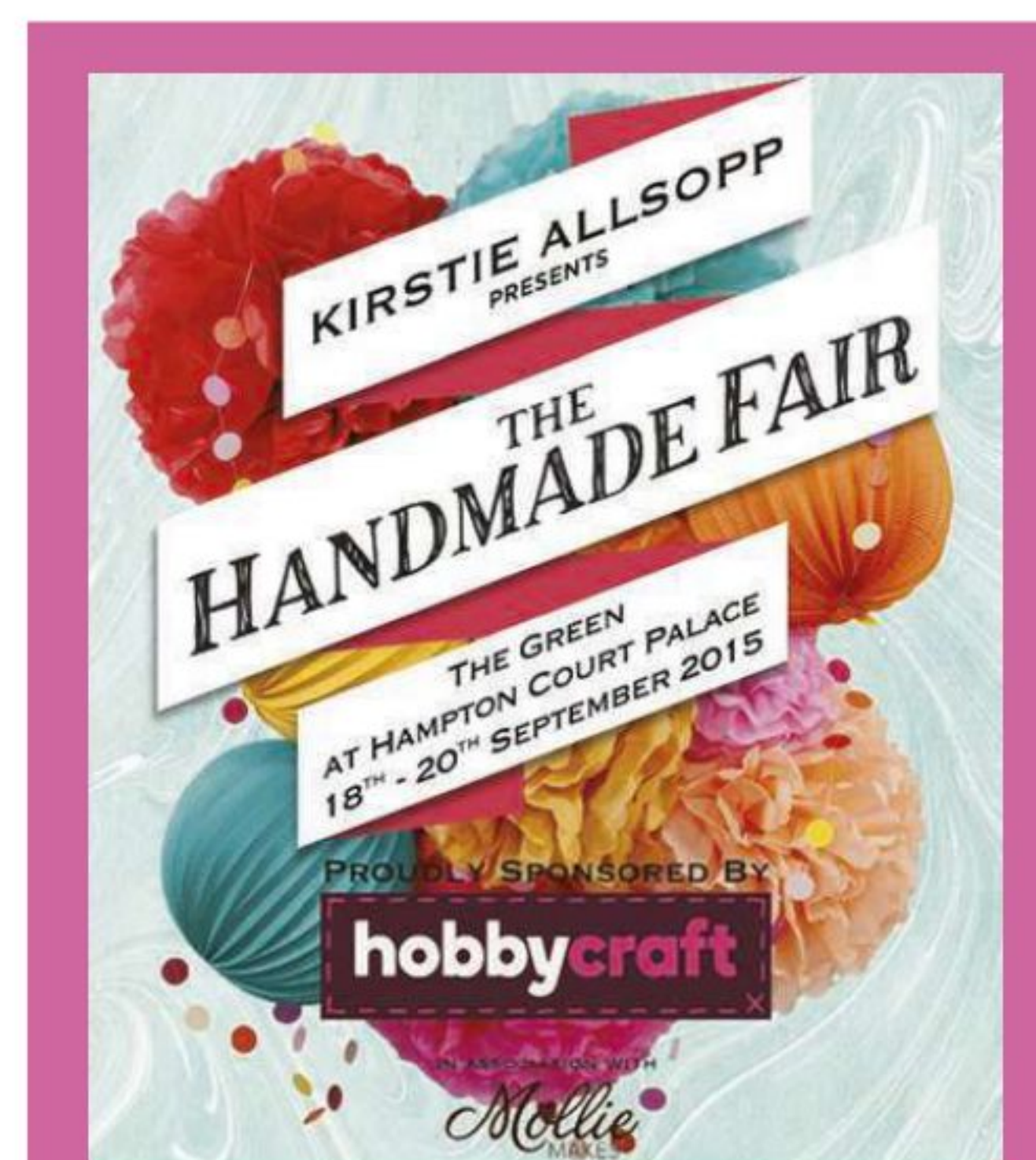
- A glass of bubbly with Kirstie.
- Afternoon tea (pick your session from either 12.30pm or 2pm).
- Exclusive gift bag.
- Fantastic front-row seating in the Super Theatre.
- Access to the VIP lounge, with refreshments and entertainment.

VIP tickets cost £95, but you'll need to hurry and book yours soon – they sold out in a flash last year.

## NOT TO BE MISSED

If you still need a bit of convincing, take a look at the full line-up over at [www.thehandmadeair.com](http://www.thehandmadeair.com) – you'll find the likes of Deadly Knitshade, Annie Sloan, Mr X Stitch, Jane Means, Rosy Nicholas and Zeena Shah, to name but a few, plus participatory projects including everything from making your own fascinators and lampshades to giftwrapping and Christmas crackers.

The sessions are starting to fill up fast already, so make sure you head on over to the website to secure the workshops that you'd love to participate in. The Handmade Fair team look forward to seeing you there. Happy crafting!



## BOOK YOUR TICKETS

A full selection of ticket types, including VIP tickets and 2-day tickets, are available now from the website: [www.thehandmadeair.com](http://www.thehandmadeair.com)



"I could create the exact hues I wanted for my projects."



# YARN WORTH DYEING FOR

Colour has a real impact on projects that catch our eye and the yarns we want to crochet them with. Meet the folks who put the pop in yarns we find irresistible – the indie dyers.

You're about to embark on a crochet project that will take the best part of the remainder of the summer. Surely you want to use a yarn that's been created with equal care and dedication? Meet the indie dyers – designer makers with a skill for selecting the ideal yarn and transforming it into something new and vibrant. They've got an eye for exquisite colourways and an impressive affinity with hard graft.

Many indie dyers are crafters who take up dyeing in a bid to create the yarn they can't find in the marketplace. "The first time I thought about dyeing yarn was while

learning to knit socks in 2006," says Jon Dunn-Ballam of [www.easyknits.co.uk](http://www.easyknits.co.uk). "I ordered some yarns but was sorely disappointed by what arrived – it didn't feel soft and the colours were just not me. I decided that I'd be much better off dyeing my own yarns."

It's a similar story for Cumbria-based Victoria Magnus of Eden Cottage Yarns ([www.edencottageyarns.co.uk](http://www.edencottageyarns.co.uk)), who began yarn dyeing after learning to knit while at university. "At the time, a lot of the indie dyed yarn was in jazzy, variegated colourways, which are good fun, but I just wanted a nice plain purple. I struggled to

find one, so I decided to dye my own. Everything grew from there!"

Linda Lencovic of Kettle Yarn Co ([www.kettleyarnco.co.uk](http://www.kettleyarnco.co.uk)) completed an MA in painting at Chelsea College of Art and Design, then spent much of her thirties "navigating London's crazy art world. I decided to try my hand at dyeing my own yarn because I had the colour-mixing skills and could create the exact hues I wanted for projects and garments."

Linda quickly realised that she found painting yarn even more satisfying than painting canvases. "There's something hugely rewarding about creating a product



that's not only very beautiful but also very useful," she explains.

Debbie Orr of Skein Queen ([www.skeinqueen yarns.co.uk](http://www.skeinqueen yarns.co.uk)) got started after spotting a feature by Debbie Tomkies about dyeing your own yarn with Kool Aid in our sister mag *Simply Knitting*. "It sparked my imagination," she says. "I decided to try to source some undyed cashmere/silk, which took me around three months back in 2007. And I'm still using that very same supplier today."

## DROPS OF COLOUR

Using food dye or an instant drink mix in a pan over the stove is a crucial step in most yarn dyers' journeys. Having begun with Kool Aid, Debbie "progressed to fibre-reactive dyes, before moving onto yet another type of commercial dye." She then attended a dyeing course run by Debbie Tomkies, "to ensure that my self-taught techniques were up to scratch." By this time, she recalls, she "was accumulating a

fair amount of hand-dyed yarn. I remember mentioning to my husband that there was this new marketplace called Etsy and that I was going to open a shop on it. That night lying in bed, the name Skein Queen just popped into my head." Within a few hours of launching the new shop, Debbie sold her first skein of yarn to a customer in the USA.

Linda, too, started out by selling "a few skeins on Etsy and as things took off, realised I could grow this into a full-time business if I worked hard enough." Nearly two years on, Linda is now solely working for herself and has opened her web shop at [www.kettleyarnco.co.uk](http://www.kettleyarnco.co.uk). "The business is still a fledgling, but I'm proud of what I've accomplished so far."

The transition from 'dyeing for pleasure' to 'dyeing for a business' is somewhat a

blurred line for Jon, he admits. "I can't remember the exact day it happened, but the owner of my local yarn shop fell in love with my yarn when he saw it at a craft group, and asked if I would dye the yarn for a sock club he wanted to run. I was

surprised, but decided to go for it."

At this point, Jon was still working full time as a graphic designer. "The dyeing was a fun hobby and the extra income felt a bonus

for enjoying it." By 2008, two years after dyeing his first skeins, Jon had launched a website, attended some shows, and started a Ravelry group. When his job came under threat in 2010, he was ready to take the business full time, "splashing out on a better website, attending more shows and beginning to offer wholesale to stores around the UK. The business is still

"A FEATURE ABOUT DYEING YOUR OWN YARN WITH KOOL AID SPARKED MY IMAGINATION."



**Opposite:** Beautiful, sunset-coloured skeins of hand-dyed yarn, photograph by Eden Cottage Yarns. **This page, clockwise from left:** Jon and his sidekick Sweep, photograph by Easyknits.co.uk; Get a load of those colours – it's Deeply Wicked yarn, photograph by Easyknits.co.uk; Another divine skein of Deeply Wicked yarn, photograph by Easyknits.co.uk





**This page, clockwise from left:** Well, aren't these yarns delectable? It's an Eden Cottage Yarns selection, photograph by Eden Cottage Yarns; Linda wearing a shawl made in her gorgeous Beyul 4ply yak, silk and merino blend, photograph by Kettle Yarn Co.



growing and I'm still learning lots. Some days I find it hard to believe that I actually do dye yarn for a living."

#### MAKING A GO OF IT

Choosing when, or whether, to take your yarn dyeing to the next level and make it a full-time job is one of the hardest decisions you'll make. As Jon advises: "Dyeing one skein in your kitchen is really fun, but re-dyeing that same colourway on 100 skeins in a week for a wholesale customer is very different."

Quite simply, it takes a lot of hard work, both physical and mental. "The dyeing itself is physically exhausting," says Victoria, "and it's something that requires full mental concentration, too. Of course everyone loves the exciting parts of running a business, but it's important to keep on top of the less glamorous tasks, such as tax and paperwork."

As Linda warns us, you'll need to be an excellent multi-tasker, especially in the

early days. "I do everything myself: marketing, photo shoots, graphic and web design, product development and planning, dyeing and preparing yarns for sale, customer service, wrapping parcels and postal runs, designing. The list seems endless!" she says. "Finding enough hours in the day can often be a challenge."

Then there's the marketing, because, as Victoria points out: "You can be the best dyer in the world, but if nobody knows you exist even, then it's not going to work."

A keen business mind is a vital part of the mix, too. "For every batch of yarn I sold, I reinvested the profit into buying more yarn and supplies," Debbie says. "I tried to build up a business based on good customer

service, adding nice little touches where I could. I attended yarn shows to get out there and meet customers and I raised the Skein Queen profile on social media. After two years, the opportunity to take redundancy came up – perfect timing! It's been a slow but steady process and now I

have a thriving business with a workshop and studio, and an assistant to help."

Ask yourself, do you love yarn dyeing enough to do it, and every task associated with it, day in, day out? "I work long hours, evenings and weekends to get all the dyeing and other tasks done," says Victoria. "That said, I absolutely love what I do so although it's a lot of work, it's extremely enjoyable. I think that's important if you want to build a successful business. It's not the easiest way of life and if you don't really like it, you should be doing something else!"

#### GETTING CREATIVE

There's a huge amount of joy to be found here, however, especially if you have bags of creative energy.

"I have many moments in the process which make me smile, make me do little happy dances, or clap my hands like an excited child," Jon confesses. "I LOVE to see yarns come off the skein winder, go from 'blocks of colour' to 'variegated skein' – it really is a transformation and a beautiful thing to see."

The inspiration-seeking stage is also a delight. "I like when I have time to think

"I HAVE MANY MOMENTS IN THE PROCESS THAT MAKE ME DO LITTLE HAPPY DANCES."



## INDIE DYERS

about the creative process and put a lot of thought into the colourways," says Debbie, who launched subscription-based Queen's Surprise Club seven years ago, for which members receive specially created yarns each month, inspired mostly by books. "Club members read along and then receive the accompanying yarn with an inspiration

sheet. My background is in literature and publishing, so the combination of the two brings me so much pleasure. I also really enjoy coming up with colourway names, which can be anything from Snow White's Lips to Neon Jelly Tots."

The creative process is a thrill for Victoria, too. "I love developing the colourways and seeing how the dyes react on different yarn bases," she says. "Sometimes the idea doesn't exactly go to

plan in the dyebath, and that's fine. Some of my very favourite shades have been created entirely by accident!"

For Linda, it comes down to relishing the chance to play with colour and the satisfaction of collaborating with designers. "Mixing and creating hues that work together – that sing together – always

excites me," says Linda, who is currently planning her first publication, The Boardwalk Collection, which will showcase designs using Kettle Yarn Co's Islington DK, a British

Bluefaced Leicester/Silk blend. "Creating with others is so rewarding and I love seeing the items come together!"

And for Jon, it all comes back to the yarn. "Each day, I get to play with yarn," he says. "The 12-hour days dyeing and preparing for a show are always made worthwhile when you can step back and look at the

display of your hand-dyed yarns and think 'yes, I did this, and I'm happy with it'. It's the best feeling there is."

### YARNING ON

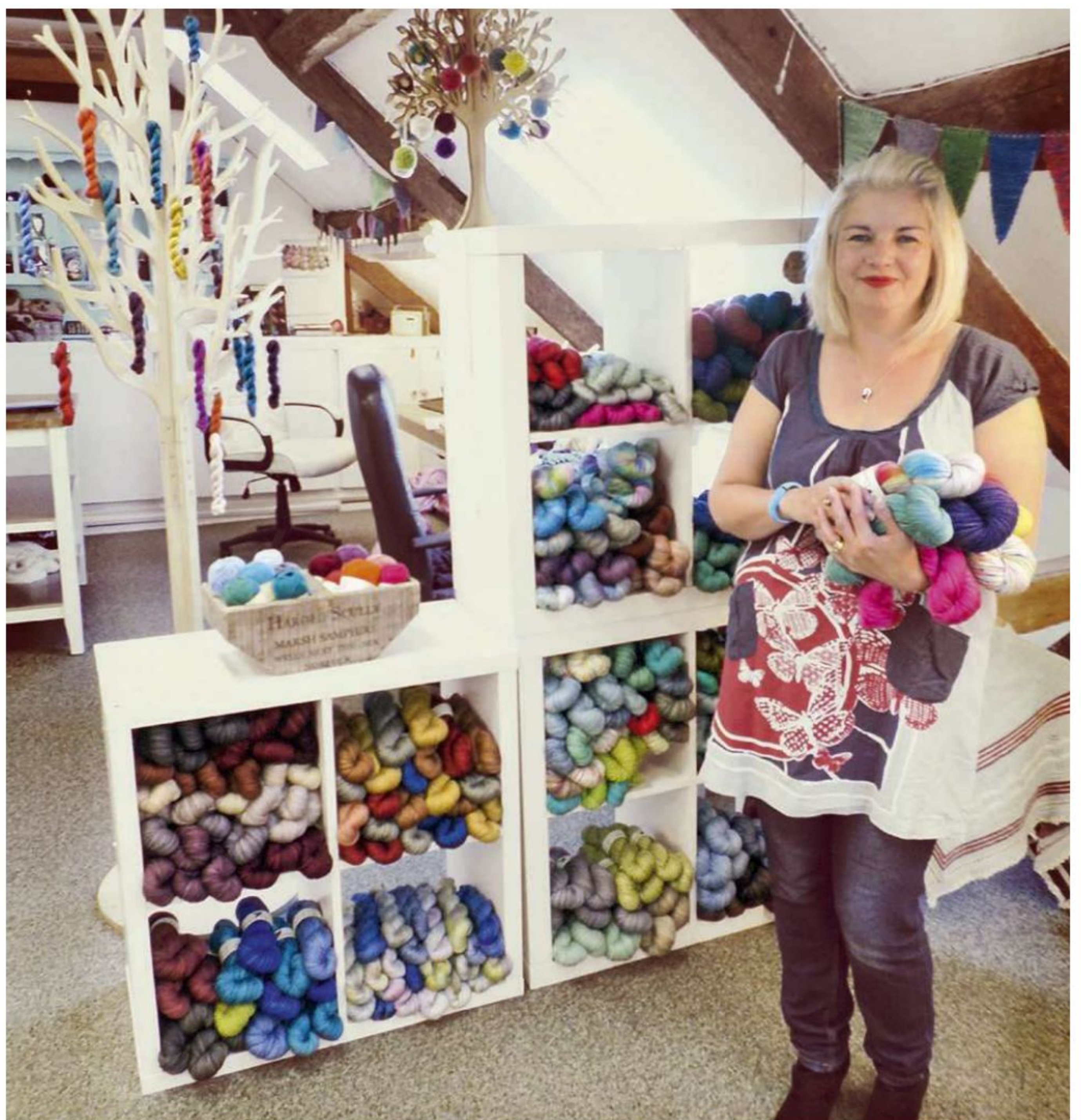
The true magic of the hand-dyeing process is the alchemy between yarn and hue, so it's no surprise that a love of the yarns themselves really shines through all of our dyers' beautiful collections.

"I enjoy dyeing most yarns," Jon says. "Right now, my absolute favourite to dye is my custom-blended exclusive for [www.easyknits.co.uk](http://www.easyknits.co.uk) base called 'smoke' – it's a gorgeous blend of British wools and has a naturally grey tone to the undyed yarn. When dyed, it has such rich depth and tone, and it looks amazing in any colour."

Linda is particularly well-known for her work with animal fibres such as yak and camel, which she came to partly for ecological reasons. "It's hugely important to me that my business has strong ethical and environmental principles," she says, explaining that camels and yaks are

"MIXING AND CREATING HUES  
THAT REALLY SING TOGETHER  
ALWAYS EXCITES ME."

**Clockwise from top left:** Skein Queen's glorious Voluptuous Skinny yarn, photograph by Skein Queen; The Skein Queen Debbie Orr, photograph by Skein Queen; Vibrant dyes, photograph by Kettle Yarn Co.







**This page, clockwise from left:** Three shades of Kettle Yarn Co's Beyul yarn, photograph by Kettle Yarn Co; Beating Hearts wrap from *Simply Crochet* issue 30, worked in Kettle Yarn Co Islington; A shawl in Eden Cottage Yarns, photograph by Eden Cottage Yarns.



farmed in environmentally conscious ways "which do not harm the animals or deplete resources. It's vital to me that Kettle Yarn Co supports animal welfare and the environment through these kind of informed choices."

Having given such thought to her yarn choices, Linda struggles when asked which she most likes to work with. "That's like asking which child is your favourite!" she says. "I couldn't possibly choose. All natural fibres have their own qualities and beauties."

Debbie agrees, saying: "Each yarn or blend absorbs colour in different ways. I love dyeing natural grey or beige yarns such as the Gotland or the camel/silk, because the base colour means that they produce intense, rich but muted shades. Then I love to switch back to a crisp, white

sock yarn base that produces a true colour. Producing a random spatter-dyed effect on high-twist yarns to get a couple of stitches of each colour is time-consuming, but a really fun technique."

Linda hopes that Kettle Yarn Co's yarns will help her customers enjoy their makes far into the future. "Along with the ethical issues that I try to educate my customers on, it's also my goal that Kettle Yarn Co yarns will always be a pleasure to create with and wear, and will continue to look

amazing for years to come for those who believe that fashion shouldn't be disposable," she says, before finishing on a note that we fervently agree with. "I want customers to take great pride in what they make and cherish their beautiful handmade items for generations."

**Written by Judy Darley**

**"EACH YARN OR BLEND ABSORBS COLOUR IN DIFFERENT WAYS. I LOVE DYEING NATURAL YARNS."**

## DYE WELL

**Thinking of taking up yarn dyeing? Here's some advice from the pros.**

"What are you supporting with your business? Even a small business can make a difference." Linda Lencovic, [www.kettleyarnco.co.uk](http://www.kettleyarnco.co.uk)

"Only ever sell a yarn that you are 100% happy with. I try to make sure every skein I sell is a skein I'd love to receive myself." Jon Dunn-Ballam, [www.easyknits.co.uk](http://www.easyknits.co.uk)

"There are ups and downs to working for yourself, but you CAN do it. You'll make mistakes, but it's how you deal with them that helps you learn. Try to find your own style – that way, you can always be proud of your achievements. And stay appreciative of your customers – they're the reason that you get to do what you love every day." Debbie Orr, [www.skeinqueen yarns.co.uk](http://www.skeinqueen yarns.co.uk)



# MELON SLICE

Refresh your look with a V-shaped shawl by Elisabeth Davis de Herraiz.





# Lacy shawl



HALF  
TREBLE



DK  
WEIGHT



4MM  
HOOK

## YOU WILL NEED

- Rico Essentials Cotton DK (100% cotton, 50g/130m), 5 balls of Emerald (45), 2 balls of Fuchsia (14)

- A 4mm (US G/6) hook

- Stitch marker

For yarn stockists, contact

Rico [www.rico-design.co.uk](http://www.rico-design.co.uk)

## TENSION

3½ stitch pattern repeats and 9 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over stitch pattern using a 4mm hook

## MEASUREMENTS

134x90cm (52¾x 35½in)

## ABBREVIATIONS

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

**Puff stitch** (Yrh, insert hook in st indicated, yrh and pull up loop) 3 times, yrh and draw through all loops on hook

**V-stitch** (Htr, ch3, htr) in same place

**Picot** Ch3, ss in first of those ch

For a full list, see page 92.



**F**resh, vibrant and summery – it's not just the green and pink colour combo of this gorgeous design by shawl queen Elisabeth Davis de Herraiz that has us dreaming of fresh, juicy watermelons. The cool cotton shawl forms a very versatile, long V shape, meaning it can be worn draped around the shoulders as an elegant wrap or wound around the neck as a scarf. Style it your way but always wear it with pride.

## NOTES

The shawl is worked from the centre top, increasing outwards to form a triangle. It may help you to use a stitch marker in the central ch-3 sp of the shawl pattern, moving it up on each row as you work.

## C SHAWL

Using Emerald, make a magic loop.

**Row 1 (RS)** Ch4 (counts as htr and ch2 throughout), working into the loop: htr, ch2, htr, ch3 (mark this ch-sp as centre of shawl), (htr, ch2) twice, htr, turn. [6 htr, 4 ch-2 sps, 1 ch-3 sp]

**Row 2** Ch4, htr in ch-2 sp, ch2, puff stitch in htr, ch2, htr in htr, ch2, V-stitch in centre ch-3 sp, ch2, htr in htr, ch2, puff stitch in htr, ch2, htr in ch-2 sp, ch2, htr in the last htr, turn. [2 puff stitches, 6 htr, 8 ch-2 sps, 1 V-stitch]

**Row 3** Ch4, htr in ch-2 sp, ch2, puff stitch in htr, ch2, htr in puff stitch, ch2, puff stitch in htr, ch2, htr in the first htr of V-stitch, ch2, V-stitch in centre ch-3 sp, ch2, htr in the second htr of V-stitch, ch2, puff stitch in htr, ch2, htr in puff stitch, ch2, puff stitch in htr, ch2, htr in ch-2 sp, ch2, htr in the last htr, turn. [4 puff stitches, 10 htr, 12 ch-2 sps, 1 V-stitch]

**Row 4** Ch4, htr in ch-2 sp, ch2, work (puff st, ch2) in every htr, and (htr, ch2) in every puff stitch until you reach the central V-stitch. In the V-stitch work (htr, ch2) in the first htr, V-stitch in ch-3 sp, (htr, ch2) in the second htr. Work (puff st, ch2) in every htr, and (htr, ch2) in every puff stitch until last ch-2 sp, (htr, ch2) in ch-2 sp, htr in the last htr, turn. [Increase by 2 puff stitches]

**Rows 5-22** Repeat Row 4, 18 more times. [42 puff stitches at the end of Row 22]

**Rows 23-24** Using Fuchsia, repeat Row 4, twice more. [46 puff stitches at the end of Row 24]



Block that hot pink edging with care to make sure you bring out its full lace potential.

**Rows 25-42** Using Emerald, repeat Row 4, 18 more times. [82 puff stitches at the end of Row 42]

## BORDER

**Row 43** Using Fuchsia, ch5 (counts as tr and ch2), dc in ch-2 sp, ch2, \*tr in htr, ch2, dc in ch-2 sp, ch2, tr in puff stitch, picot, ch2, dc in ch-2 sp, ch2\*\*; repeat from \* to the last htr before the V-stitch in the centre, ch2, tr in htr, ch2, dc in ch-2 sp, ch2, V-stitch in centre ch-3 sp, ch2, dc in ch-2 sp, ch2. Repeat from \* to \*\* to the last 2 htr, tr in htr, ch2, dc in the last ch-2 sp, ch2, tr in the last htr, turn.

**Row 44** Ch6 (counts as tr and ch3), work (dc, picot, dc, ch3) in every tr, and (3-tr cluster, picot, 3-tr cluster, ch3) in every picot to centre ch-3 sp. In centre ch-3 sp work (3-tr cluster, picot, 3-tr cluster) 3 times, ch3. Work (dc, picot, dc, ch3) in every tr, and (3-tr cluster, picot, 3-tr cluster, ch3) in every picot to the last tr, tr in the last tr.

**Fasten off** and weave in ends. Block to measurements.





KIRSTIE ALLSOPP  
PRESENTS

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# SHOW US YOURS!

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

## RETRO REVIVAL

Creative stitcher Evelien Breeman's version of the vintage-inspired Pinwheel Cushion from issue 31 is gorgeous. We just love those pinks and purples together and it looks really comfy. Shared with us via Facebook.



THIS MONTH WE ASKED YOU...

## What's your best summertime crochet story?

"When tough times hit a while ago, I dragged the family to a beach in Brittany, France. My hooks and crochet came with me and quickly became my therapy, even on the beach! It proved to be an enormous distraction and great conversation starter!"

Lynne Morris via Facebook

## MINI ME

▼ Poncho fever is still sweeping the nation. How utterly adorable are **Louise Deane's** little and large ponchos? She's done a grand job adapting the pattern from issue 25. Via Facebook.



▲ **Brenda Telford's** purple amigurumi pup is a real cutie. Look at those big, floppy ears. It's a totally different take on the Moss the Puppy pattern from issue 22. Shared via email.

## THE LOWDOWN

To be in with a chance of winning one of three £30 vouchers to spend at LoveCrochet ([www.lovecrochet.com](http://www.lovecrochet.com)), show us your *Simply Crochet* makes on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or via email or post by 7 September 2015. For all terms and conditions, and more information, visit [www.simplycrochetmag.co.uk/competitionrules](http://www.simplycrochetmag.co.uk/competitionrules)



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WINNER!



## SCANDI COOL

Holiday hookster Jo Worrall managed to make this very beautiful crochet jumper on a trip to Cornwall. She says: "It was easily altered to suit my taller frame. Already planning my next one!" The pattern is Snow Flowers by Simone Francis from *Simply Crochet* issue 24. Flip across to page 94 to find out how you can get hold of our back issues.

## PRETTY MAID

Sarah Smith made issue 32's mermaid with variegated blue yarn and beads. She looks great. Via Facebook.



## DOUBLE TAP

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



**LOVELY BUNCH**  
@rachelloves  
crochet has hooked some rather fabulous flowers from issue 32. We reckon they look blooming lovely together.



**SWEET STRIPES**  
@chrisie\_crafts used Louisa Harding's yarn Amitola to make the frilled neckerchief from issue 28. The stripes are so summery.



**SO SQUARE**  
Check out this simple granny square blanket by @cheryls prettynifty. It's amazing how a variegated yarn can transform a crochet project.

## TALK TO US!

-  Post a pic on our Facebook page [facebook.com/simplycrochetmag](https://facebook.com/simplycrochetmag)
-  Tweet us @SimplyCrochet\_ [twitter.com/SimplyCrochet\\_](https://twitter.com/SimplyCrochet_)
-  Add to our Finished Projects board [ravelry.com/groups/simply-crochet](https://ravelry.com/groups/simply-crochet)
-  Use the hashtag #SCtreblemaker [instagram.com/simplycrochetmag](https://instagram.com/simplycrochetmag)

Write to us at: Simply Crochet,  
Immediate Media Co, Tower House,  
Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN

Email us at:  
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# ECO YARNS

Be kind to the planet with these 'green' goodies.

## TREE MOTIF

Ch4, ss in first ch to form a ring.

**Round 1 (RS)** Ch3 (counts as tr), 13tr into ring, ss to top of beg ch-3. [14 tr]

**Round 2** Ch2, (1htr, 1tr, 1htr) in next st, ss into next st, (1htr, 1tr, 2dtr, 1tr, 1htr) in next st, ss in next st, (1htr, 1tr, 1htr) in next st, ss in next st, (1htr, 3tr, 1htr) in next st, ss in next st, (1htr, 1tr, 1dtr, 1tr, 1htr) in next st, ss in next st, (2htr, 1tr, 2htr) in next st, ss in next st, (3htr) in next st, ss in next st. **Fasten off.**

## TRUNK

Join yarn in second of 3htr just worked.

**Rows 1-5 (RS)** Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in next 2 sts, turn. [2 sts]

**Row 6** Ch1, 2tr in each dc.

**Fasten off** and weave in ends.

Pattern by Becca Parker



MAKE A FOREST  
OF LITTLE  
CROCHET TREES.



## SHILASDAIR LUXURY DK

**WEIGHT** DK

**CONTENT** 10% cashmere, 10% baby camel, 40% angora, 40% merino

**SKEIN** 100g/300m

**HOO** 4mm

**RRP** £7.95

Shilasdaire is based on the Isle of Skye and they specialise in natural dyeing, trying to source natural dyes as locally as they can. Their Luxury DK is an unusual blend of four different animal fibres, making it soft yet resilient and providing a fine halo. It's

a loosely twisted plied yarn but is not prone to splitting. Of the 26 gorgeous shades available, we tried Atlantic Spray. It's semi-solid and dyed with indigo. This yarn also comes in a 4ply weight.

**www.loopknittingshop.com**  
**020 7288 1160**



## KING COLE BIG VALUE RECYCLED COTTON

**WEIGHT** Aran

**CONTENT** 85% cotton, 15% other fibres

**BALL** 100g/160m

**HOO** 5mm

**RRP** £3.49

For the earth-conscious crocheter who's keen to save a few pennies, too, Big Value Recycled Cotton is a cracking choice. The smooth cotton blend is King Cole's first ever recycled yarn. It's a cool aran-weight yarn formed of four twisted strands and has

pretty tweedy flecks throughout, which add an interesting texture to your makes. We'd recommend this yarn for summer jumpers and cardigans. There are 12 solid colours to choose from.

**www.kingcole.co.uk**  
**01756 703670**



## CASCADE ECOLOGICAL WOOL

**WEIGHT** Chunky

**CONTENT** 100% undyed Peruvian Highland wool

**SKEIN** 250g/437m

**HOO** 6mm

**RRP** £15.99

Why not embrace the beauty of natural fleece and opt for an undyed yarn? Not only is Cascade's Ecological Wool delightfully plump and squashable, the natural Peruvian wool comes in 16 undyed sheepy shades – think creams, greys and

browns. Two of the colours are striking twist shades, where two contrasting lighter and darker tones have been twisted together. We also noted that the ball band for this yarn was made with 100% recycled paper.

**www.deramores.com**



## GARTHENOR 100% ORGANIC HERDWICK

**WEIGHT** Aran

**CONTENT** 100% organic

Herdwick wool

**BALL** 50g/73m

**HOO** 5mm

**RRP** £6.50

Welsh yarnsters Garthenor only stock organic pure wool from British sheep and all of their yarns are approved by the Soil Association. Their 100% Organic Herdwick is an undyed and unbleached aran-weight yarn that comes exclusively in this Mid Grey

shade. While the texture is fairly coarse and it has a right-off-the-sheep feeling to it, we were won over by the variety of beautiful tones in the fibre. Grab a few balls of this to make a trio of rustic baskets or a rug. **www.organicpurewool.co.uk**



## LION BRAND NATURE'S CHOICE ORGANIC

**WEIGHT** Aran

**CONTENT** 100% organically grown cotton

**BALL** 85g/94m

**HOO** 5mm

**RRP** £6.50

This single-ply cotton yarn is twisted with a fine thread, resulting in a pleasing rope-like texture. It's made in the US with 100% organically grown cotton and dyed with organic dyes in a choice of 10 solid, earthy tones. To the touch, Nature's Choice

Organic feels more like a super-soft acrylic blend than a crisp cotton yarn. The aran weight means it would be a great choice if you're wanting to hook up fairly speedy baby blankets and garments.

**www.lovecrochet.com**  
**0845 544 2324**



## DROPS PARIS RECYCLED DENIM

**WEIGHT** Aran

**CONTENT** 100% cotton

**BALL** 50g/75m

**HOO** 5mm

**RRP** £1.40

We like DROPS Paris for its wide range of colours and were thrilled to discover that four of their beautiful blue shades are in fact made from recycled jeans. Paris Recycled Denim is a multi-stranded aran yarn that's robust yet cool to wear. How about a

pair of crochet denim shorts? This yarn's also a good pick for making amigurumi and home accessories, too. Choose your favourite shade from Light Wash, Light Blue, Spray Blue and Dark Wash. **www.woolwarehouse.co.uk**  
**01926 882818**







# CROCHETING GARMENTS

Create gorgeous crocheted garments that fit perfectly and suit your style, with our simple guide.

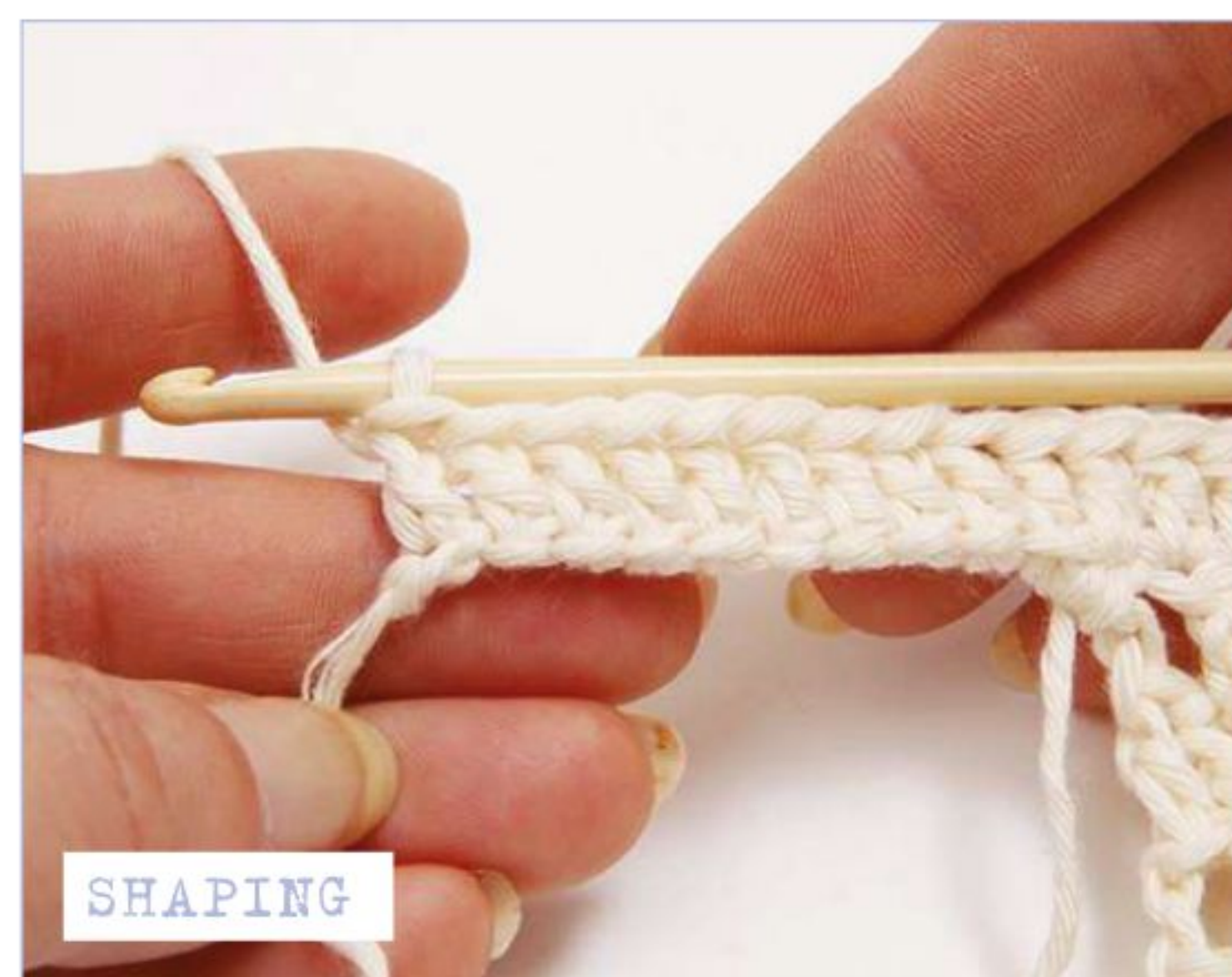
## WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

Here's the lowdown on what we'll show you...

Creating your own clothes is a dream come true for many crocheters, so we've put together this guide to help you, whether you've crocheted no garments or hundreds. Preparation is the key to making fab crochet garments that you'll love to wear. Here, we're going to have a look at a few different ways to ensure you get a great fit from the pattern that you're following. You can use your new skills to make our simple treble crochet top on page 82.



The first step to a great-fitting garment is knowing your measurements so you can choose the right size to make. Then you need to work swatches to make sure your tension will create the right size.



One of the key techniques in making garments is working large and small increases and decreases. We'll show you how to work these sorts of shaping and how to follow shaping instructions in patterns.

## HOW DO I TAKE MY MEASUREMENTS?

Here's what to do to find your vital statistics...

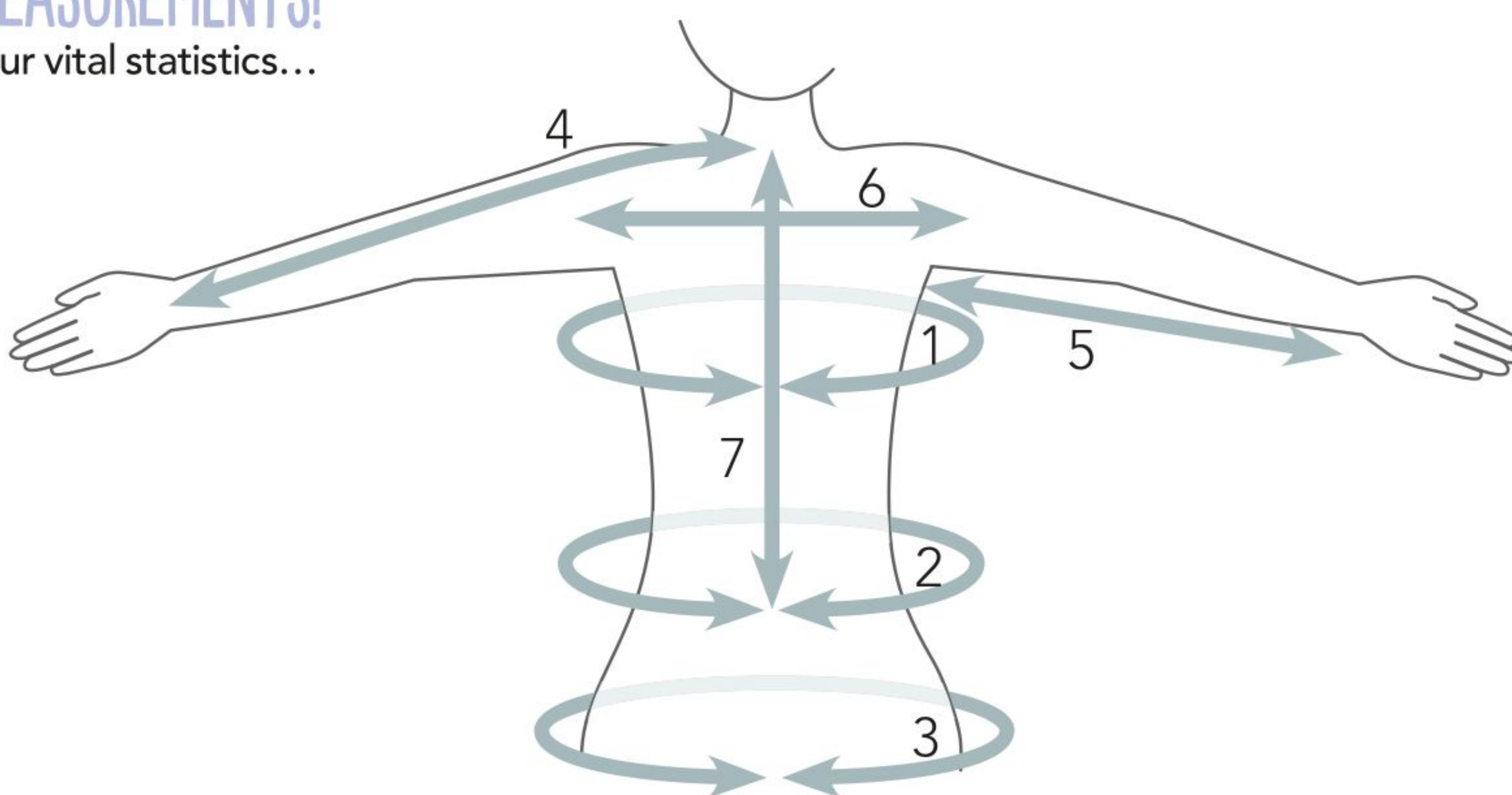
To take accurate measurements of yourself, you'll need a tape measure and ideally an extra pair of hands (ask a friend to help). Once you have these numbers, you'll be able to store them for all your future projects.

You may not need all the following measurements for every garment you make, but they'll all come in handy at some point. To measure yourself, wear your usual underwear and loose clothing, and stand up straight.

**Bust:** Wrap the tape measure around the fullest part of your chest, keeping the tape parallel to the floor. Make sure you don't draw the tape too tightly. **01**

**Natural waist:** Measure around your natural waistline, at the height of your navel. **02**

**Hips:** Measure around your lower hips at the widest point. **03**



**Neck to cuff:** Holding out one arm, measure from the back of the base of your neck, down your arm to the bump at the side of your wrist. **04**

**Sleeve length:** Bend your arm slightly and measure from your armpit to your wrist. **05**

**Shoulder to shoulder (cross back):** Measure across from one shoulder to the other. **06**

**Back to waist length:** Measure from the base of your neck to your natural waist, ending at the point where your waist is thinnest. **07**

You may also wish to measure from the base of your neck down to the point where you want your garment's hem to sit (to your hips or longer) – this is the garment length and can vary between items.



# HOW DO I CHOOSE A SIZE?

Make sure you pick the right size to make.

Once you have a list of all your measurements, you'll want to compare these against the sizes given in your chosen garment pattern. Most patterns will give you a 'to fit' size – this is the recommended size to make based on your bust circumference **01**. There may also be a table of measurements and a schematic of the garment, featuring actual measurements for each size **02**. All this information will help you to choose which size will work best for you.

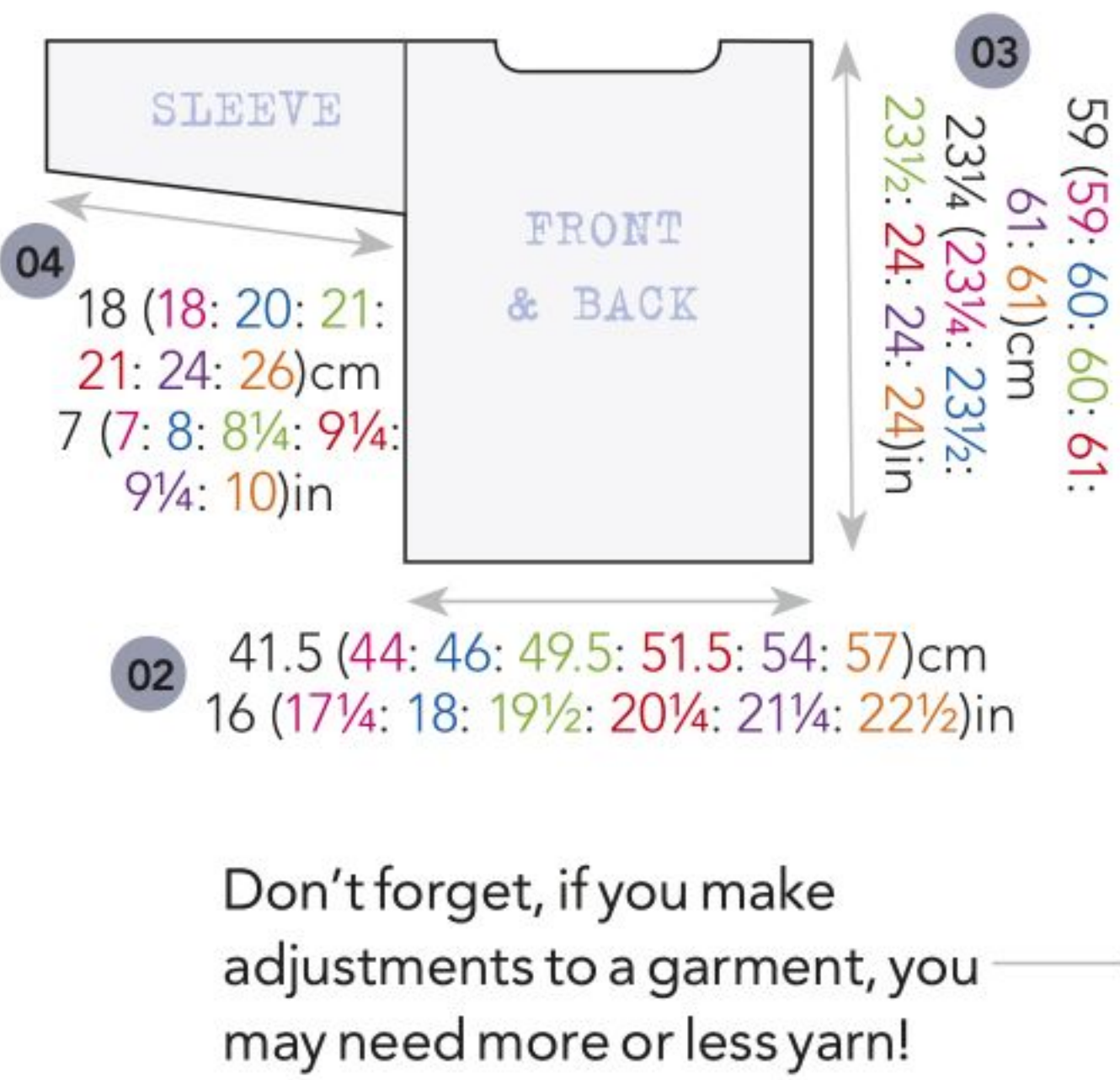
Starting with your bust measurement, work through the measurements given for your size in either the table or the schematic. This will help you to establish whether the pattern in its original format will give you the correct fit or whether, for example, you might want to make adjustments to the length of the body **03** or sleeves **04**. Note that any measurements for the width of the back or front of the garment on the schematic **02** will need to be doubled to get the actual bust **02**, waist or hip measurement.

You can also use the sizing information given to check the ease or 'looseness of fit' of a pattern and consider making a different size to suit your taste. Ease is a personal preference and while the designer will have considered ease in the writing of their pattern, you might prefer your garment to be figure-hugging or slouchy. There may be specific information provided on ease, but if not you can easily work it out from the measurements given (compare **01** and **02**).

Negative ease is achieved by making a garment smaller than your actual bust measurement, to produce a garment that is figure-hugging. A close-fitting garment may have no ease at all (neither positive or negative) so the actual garment will measure the same across the bust as your actual bust size. Positive ease can range from slim fit (with a couple of centimetres of positive ease, as in the example below) to very loose fit (20cm/8in larger than your bust size). Taking into account your own measurements and the desired ease for your garment, choose the pattern size that best suits you.

Having chosen the size that best suits your measurements, you're probably eager to get started and make that garment. Well, hang on a moment! There are still some essential points to consider before jumping right in. It's really important to read through the pattern from start to finish to make sure there are no stitches or construction methods you don't understand. It's also useful to photocopy a pattern and circle all stitch counts and measurements that relate to your chosen size to remove the potential for error.

If you do come across any techniques or stitches that you're unfamiliar with then get practising on some spare yarn until you're confident you can do them. You don't want your first attempt at a new stitch pattern to show up in your garment, because your stitches are certain to become neater with a bit of practice.



| SIZE                    |            | 8   | 10  | 12  | 14  | 16  | 18  | 20  |
|-------------------------|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| TO FIT BUST <b>01</b>   | cm         | 81  | 86  | 91  | 97  | 102 | 107 | 112 |
|                         | in         | 32  | 34  | 36  | 38  | 40  | 42  | 44  |
| ACTUAL BUST <b>02</b>   | cm         | 83  | 88  | 92  | 99  | 103 | 108 | 114 |
|                         | in         | 32¼ | 34½ | 36¼ | 39  | 40½ | 42½ | 45  |
| FULL LENGTH <b>03</b>   | cm         | 59  | 59  | 60  | 60  | 61  | 61  | 61  |
|                         | in         | 23¼ | 23¼ | 23½ | 23½ | 24  | 24  | 24  |
| SLEEVE LENGTH <b>04</b> | cm         | 18  | 18  | 20  | 21  | 24  | 24  | 26  |
|                         | in         | 7   | 7   | 8   | 8¼  | 9¼  | 9¼  | 10  |
| YARN                    | 100g balls | 4   | 4   | 5   | 5   | 5   | 6   | 6   |

# HOW DO I MAKE ADJUSTMENTS?

It's easy to master simple fit adjustments.

Crochet garments are designed in many different ways and knowing before you start how your pattern is designed will help you to keep on track and allow you to plan any personal adjustments before you start. If a schematic has been included with the pattern, this will be much easier. You may feel you want shorter sleeves, longer sleeves, a cropped version or one that falls below your hips. Read through a pattern carefully before you start to find out how the designer has constructed the garment, then you can plan your changes now.

For example, if a jumper is worked up from the hemline without waist shaping, you can easily make it longer or shorter by working more or less rows into the body, without worrying about

accommodating changes to the shape. If there is waist shaping, work any extra rows before you reach this point.

If the jumper has shaped sleeves then increasing or decreasing the length will take more thought because you will need to consider the shaping involved. Reading through the pattern should give you an idea of where you can sensibly add rows without affecting the overall pattern. For example, if the instructions involve repeating a row until the sleeve measures a certain length, this would be a logical place to add length. These minor changes will vary from garment to garment and having the confidence to make them will come as you crochet more clothes.



## WHY SHOULD I MAKE SWATCHES?

Swatching is vital to achieving a perfect fit.

You should always work up a swatch of fabric in the recommended stitch with the suggested hook and compare this to the tension stated by the designer. Many crochet projects (such as blankets, pot holders and toys) are not dependent on tension/gauge and many of us dive straight into making our first garment without making that all-important swatch. Most patterns state tension over 10x10cm (4x4in), but it is sensible to make a swatch a little larger than this to allow for accurate measurement. Place pins in the fabric 10cm apart and then count the number of stitches or pattern repeats and rows over the central 10x10cm area (see page 90 for more). Compare your resulting tension to that recommended in the pattern.

If your swatch has more stitches and rows, you are working too tightly and need to try a larger hook size. If your swatch has fewer

stitches and rows, you are working too loosely and should try a smaller hook size. You may need to make a couple of swatches using different hooks before you achieve the tension required for your project, but this is much better than completing the project and then realising your tension is wrong. Whatever you do, don't assume you will automatically achieve the tension stated by the designer.

As an example, below are three swatches, each worked in the same DK cotton yarn, with 10 treble stitches and 5 rows. The first swatch uses a 3.5mm hook and measures approx 5.5cm wide by 5.5cm tall **01**. The second swatch uses a 4mm hook and measures approx 6cm wide by 6.25cm tall **02**. The third swatch uses a 4.5mm hook and measures approx 6.5cm wide by 7cm tall **03**. These are only small differences but they have a big effect over a big project.



## HOW DO I WORK LARGE INCREASES?

A handy way to increase for sleeves or necklines.

In some circumstances, a garment pattern may ask you to increase by 20 stitches at the beginning and end of the row. You can do this by adding a chain, like your starting chain. So complete the previous row and without fastening off, chain 20 **01**. At the end of chain, turn, and work back along it in your stitch pattern **02**.

At the other end of the row, you can use the Foundation Row method to add more stitches (see our tech feature in issue 28). Or secure the working loop with a stitch marker and use another ball of yarn to work the 20 chains **03**, then work stitches into these chains **04** – this will allow you to continue the row without fastening off.





## HOW DO I WORK SMALL AND LARGE DECREASES?

We'll show you how easy it is to work seemingly complex shaping.

In an ideal world, every crochet pattern would have all instructions fully written out, but this is rarely the case. There are some shortcuts that may leave you stumped. A pattern may ask you to decrease five stitches at the beginning and end of a row without specifying how. A large decrease like this will usually require a stepped decrease, such as for armhole shaping, which is easy to work. At the beginning of the row, slip stitch over the required number of stitches to skip them and then begin the row with a turning chain as usual **01**. Work across until the same number of stitches remain at the end of the row – leave these stitches unworked and turn to crochet the next row **02**.

A gradual decrease for a neckline is likely to ask for a decrease of only two stitches per row, repeated over a number of rows – for example, 'decrease 1 stitch at each end of every 4th row'. In this case, you can crochet stitches together using the same stitch as the rest of the row, for example, tr2tog when working in treble fabric.

You may find it helpful to use a row counter to keep track of rows, moving it along after each complete row. In our above example,

you'd work the first decrease row, then work 3 rows without any decreases, moving along the row counter after each row. The fifth row is another decrease row, followed by 3 more 'straight' rows. Continue in this way, decreasing on the 1st, 5th, 9th, 13th row, etc.

When crocheting cardigan fronts, your pattern may require you to 'work the above decreases in reverse on the left-hand side, to match the right-hand side'. This is easier than you may think. If the right-hand side required decreases at the **end** of every 4th row to create a curved neckline **03**, you can mirror these decreases on the left-hand side by working the decreases at the **beginning** of every 4th row **04**.

Be aware of whether the pattern wants you to decrease a number of stitches at each end of the row or over the whole row. You want to end up with the correct number of stitches per row, so with any rows that require decreases or increases it is good to get into the habit of counting stitches after working each row. When you have lots of stitches, you might like to use stitch markers to mark every 10th stitch to help you keep track more easily **05**.



## HOW DO I ATTACH SLEEVES AND FINISH OFF?

Take your time over the final steps to achieve a fab finish.

Nowadays, many designers are opting for seamless garments that start at the neckline and are worked down, leaving space for the sleeves to be crocheted directly onto the body – after all, why sew your garment together when you can crochet it in one piece! But at some point or other, you'll need to seam sleeves into a body.

Many patterns just ask you to pin in place and sew, but isn't always the tidiest method. Logic would have it that you'd begin your seam at the underarm, but this isn't the best place to start. A tried-and-tested method is to start at the shoulder seam, so you definitely get the sleeve in the centre. Use both ends of a long length of yarn and

evenly sew a few stitches each side, working down to the underarm. You're more likely to keep the seams even this way and any minor tweak can happen under the arm where no one will see.

However, before you get to any seaming, you will need to block your garment pieces. Many garments will be perfectly wearable without it and crocheters who usually only make homewares may not be used to blocking. But blocking will bring out the definition in your stitch pattern, neaten up edges and allow you to fine-tune the size and shape of your garment to match your measurements. It can be the difference between homemade and handmade.







# Treble tee



## MAKE A MINT

Create a gorgeous top for summer in cool minty cotton. Designed by Simone Francis.



# Treble tee



## YOU WILL NEED

■ Cascade Ultra Pima  
(100% cotton 100g/200m), Cool  
Mint (3775)  
See table for yarn quantities  
and measurements

■ A 4mm (US G/6) hook  
■ 4 small glass beads  
■ Tapestry needle

For yarn stockists, contact  
Wool Warehouse 01926 882818  
[www.woolwarehouse.co.uk](http://www.woolwarehouse.co.uk)

## TENSION

17 sts and 9 rows to measure  
10x10cm (4x4in) over treble  
crochet using a 4mm hook  
The crossed tr section of 30 (30:  
30: 32: 32) sts measures 16 (16: 16:  
17: 17)cm wide using a 4mm hook

## ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.



**P**ut your new skills to good use and make a garment that fits you like a dream. Both the front and back of this cotton treble tee have form-flattering central panels worked with contrasting texture and the back has a stylish V-shaped neckline with ties.

## NOTES

The Top is worked from the bottom up in separate pieces with a set-in sleeve and waist shaping.

The Hip size of the garment is the same as the given Bust size.

All shaping can be adjusted to fit your specific measurements: work fewer or more waist decreases/increases over the set amount of rows for a better body fit.

Increase up one size if a larger bust fit is needed and increase rows for a longer tunic-style top.

All adjustment points are prompted in the pattern.

## SPECIAL STITCHES

**Crossed Treble (xtr)** Skip next st, tr in next st, treble in skipped st working in front of previous st. Crossed treble stitches are worked in pairs; if the pattern directs to work 14xtr, then work 7 pairs of xtr across 14 sts.

## Crossed Treble decrease (xtr2tog)

Work as for a standard tr2tog, but skip the next st and work the first 'leg' of the tr2tog in the next st, and then the

second leg of the stitch in the skipped st, working in front of the previous part of the stitch.

## Tr2tog at the beginning of a row

Where instructed to work tr2tog at the beginning of a row, work ch2, tr in next st, and count this as one stitch for the following row.

## BACK

Ch78 (86: 96: 106: 120).

**Foundation row (RS)** Tr into the fourth ch from the hook (counts as 2 tr), 21 (25: 30: 33: 40)tr, 30 (30: 30: 32: 32)xtr, 23 (27: 32: 35: 42)tr, turn.  
[76 (84: 94: 104: 118) sts]

**Row 1 (WS)** Ch3 (counts as first tr throughout), 22 (26: 31: 34: 41)tr, 30 (30: 30: 32: 32)xtr, tr in each st to end, turn. Row 1 sets the pattern st for the Crossed Treble Panel, continue working keeping this st pattern correct. Repeat Row 1, three more times. Work more rows here to add length to your garment (making a note of the amount of extra rows worked).

## WAIST DECREASE SECTION

The following 12 rows have a set amount of decreases, if you have a larger waistline, decrease fewer sts evenly over 12 rows.

**Row 1** Tr2tog, work in pattern to last 2 sts, tr2tog. [74 (82: 92: 102: 116) sts]

**Row 2** Work in pattern to end.

Repeat Rows 1 & 2, five more times.

| SIZE          |            | 8-10  | 12-14 | 16-18   | 20-22   | 24-26   |
|---------------|------------|-------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
| TO FIT BUST   | cm         | 81-86 | 91-97 | 102-107 | 112-117 | 122-127 |
|               | in         | 32-34 | 36-38 | 40-42   | 44-46   | 48-50   |
| ACTUAL BUST   | cm         | 86    | 96    | 107     | 119     | 135     |
|               | in         | 34    | 37½   | 42½     | 46¾     | 53¼     |
| WAIST         | cm         | 72    | 81    | 93      | 105     | 121     |
|               | in         | 28¼   | 32    | 36¾     | 41      | 47½     |
| SLEEVE LENGTH | cm         | 8     | 8     | 8       | 8       | 8       |
|               | in         | 3     | 3     | 3       | 3       | 3       |
| LENGTH        | cm         | 63    | 66    | 68      | 70      | 72      |
|               | in         | 25    | 25¾   | 26½     | 27½     | 28½     |
| YARN          | 100g balls | 4     | 5     | 6       | 6       | 7       |

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



[64 (72: 82: 92: 106) sts]

Work 3 (3: 3: 2: 2) more rows without shaping.

#### WAIST INCREASE SECTION

It is possible to increase up to a larger bust size over this section, make a note of any changes made in the pattern.

**Row 1** Ch3, tr in st at base of ch (increase st), work in pattern to the last st, 2tr into the last st, turn.

[66 (74: 84: 94: 108) sts]

**Rows 2-3** Work in pattern to end, turn.

**Row 4** Ch3, tr in st at base of ch (increase st), work in pattern to the last st, 2tr into the last st, turn. [68 (76: 86: 96: 110) sts]

Repeat Rows 2-4, four more times.

[76 (84: 94: 104: 118) sts]

Work 2 (2: 2: 1: 1) more row(s) without shaping.

#### ARMHOLE SHAPING

**Row 1 (WS)** Ss across and into the 6 (6: 7: 7: 8)th st, ch2 (counts as first st), work in pattern to last 5 (5: 6: 6: 7) sts, turn leaving remaining sts unworked.

[66 (74: 82: 92: 104) sts] \*\*

#### DIVIDE FOR NECKLINE

Each side of the neckline is worked separately as follows:

##### LEFT FRONT

**Row 2 (RS)** Tr2tog, 16 (20: 24: 28: 34)tr, 14 (14: 14: 16: 16)xtr, 1 (1: 1: 0: 0)tr into the next st, turn leaving the remaining sts unworked. [32 (36: 40: 45: 51) sts]

**Row 3** Ch3, 0 (0: 0: 1: 1) tr in next st, xtr in each xtr, tr in each tr to last 2 sts, tr2tog, turn. [31 (35: 39: 44: 50) sts]

**Row 4** Tr2tog, tr in each tr to crossed treble section, 12 (12: 12: 14: 14)xtr, xtr2tog, 1 (1: 1: 0: 0) tr in next st, turn. [29 (33: 37: 42: 48) sts]

**Row 5** Ch3, 1 (1: 1: 0: 0) tr in next st, xtr in each xtr, tr in each tr to last 2 sts, tr2tog, turn. [28 (32: 36: 41: 47) sts]

**Row 6** Tr2tog, tr in each tr to crossed tr section, 12xtr, xtr2tog, 0 (0: 0: 1: 1) tr into the last st, turn. [26 (30: 34: 39: 45) sts]

**Row 7** Ch3, 0 (0: 0: 1: 1) tr in next st, xtr in each xtr, tr in each tr to last 2 sts, tr2tog, turn. [25 (29: 33: 38: 44) sts]

**Row 8** Ch3, tr in each tr to crossed tr section, xtr in each xtr to last 3 (3: 3: 4: 4)sts, xtr2tog, 0 (0: 0: 1: 1) tr in next st, turn, leaving last st (t-ch) unworked.



[23 (27: 31: 36: 42) sts]

**Row 9** Ch3, 0 (0: 0: 1: 1) tr in next st, xtr in each xtr, tr in each tr to end, turn.

**Rows 10-17** Repeat Rows 8 and 9, 4 more times. [15 (19: 23: 28: 34) sts]

**Row 18** Ch3, tr in each tr to crossed tr section, 1 (1: 1: 2: 2)xtr, 1 (1: 1: 0: 0) tr in last st, turn.

Work 0 (2: 4: 6: 8) more rows without shaping.

**Next row (WS)** Ch3, 0 (0: 0: 1: 1) tr in next st, 2xtr, 2 (4: 6: 8: 10)tr, dc into the following st, ss in each st to end. [6 (8: 10: 13: 15) sts]

**Fasten off**, leaving a long tail for sewing.

##### RIGHT FRONT

Rejoin yarn to the next unworked st of Row 2 with RS facing.

Complete this section of Back, following the above instructions from Row 2, reversing all shaping.

##### FRONT

Work as for Back to \*\*, remembering to work any extra rows that you added in to the pattern.

Continue keeping stitch pattern correct, decreasing 1 st at each end on the following 6 rows.

[54 (62: 70: 80: 92) sts]

Work 2 (4: 6: 8: 10) rows without shaping.

#### DIVIDE FOR NECKLINE

Each side of the neckline is worked separately as follows:

##### LEFT FRONT

**Row 1 (RS)** Ch3, tr in each tr to crossed treble section, 2 (2: 2: 4: 4)xtr, 1 (1: 1: 0: 0) tr in next st, turn leaving remaining sts unworked. [15 (19: 23: 28: 34) sts]

**Row 2** Ch3, 0 (0: 0: 1: 1) tr in next st, 2xtr, tr in each st to end, turn.

**Row 3** Ch3, tr in each tr to crossed



# Treble tee

trebles, 2 (2: 2: 4: 4)xtr, 1 (1: 1: 0: 0) tr in next st, turn.

Repeat Rows 2 and 3, three more times.

**Next row (WS)** Ch3, 0 (0: 0: 1: 1) tr in next st, 2xtr, 2 (4: 6: 8: 10)tr, dc into the following st, ss in each st to end.

**Fasten off**, leaving a long tail for sewing. [6 (8: 10: 13: 15) sts]

## RIGHT FRONT

**Row 1 (RS)** Skip the centre 24 sts, rejoin yarn with RS facing to next st. Ch3, 0 (0: 0: 1: 1) tr in next st, 2xtr, tr in each st to end, turn.

**Row 2** Ch3, tr in each tr to crossed trebles, 2 (2: 2: 4: 4)xtr, 1 (1: 1: 0: 0) tr in next st, turn.

**Row 3** Ch3, 0 (0: 0: 1: 1) tr in next st, 2xtr, tr in each st to end, turn.

Repeat Rows 2 and 3, three more times.

**Next row (WS)** Ss in each of next 10 (12: 14: 16: 20) sts, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in st at base of ch, tr in each tr to crossed tr, 2 (2: 2: 4: 4)xtr, 1 (1: 1: 0: 0) tr in next st.

**Fasten off**, leaving a long tail for sewing. [6 (8: 10: 13: 15) sts]

## SLEEVES (MAKE 2)

Ch50 (52: 54: 58: 62: 70).

**Foundation row** Tr into the fourth ch from the hook (counts as 2 tr), 16 (18: 20: 22: 25)tr, 12 (12: 12: 12: 14)xtr, 18 (20: 22: 24: 27)tr, turn.

[48 (52: 56: 60: 68) sts]

**Row 1** Ch3, 17 (19: 21: 23: 26)tr, 12 (12: 12: 14)xtr, tr in each st to end, turn. Row 1 sets pattern.

**Row 2** Ch3, tr in st at base of ch

(increase st), work in pattern to last st, 2tr into the last st, turn. [50 (54: 58: 62: 70) sts]

**Rows 3-4** Work in pattern without shaping.

**Row 5** Repeat Row 2. [52 (56: 60: 64: 72) sts]

**Row 6** Work in pattern without shaping.

Increase sleeve length by adding more rows here if required.

## TOP SHAPING

Ss across and into 6 (6: 7: 7: 8)th st, work in pattern to last 5 (5: 6: 6: 7)sts, turn leaving remaining sts unworked. [42 (46: 48: 52: 58) sts]

**Row 1** Tr2tog, work in pattern to last 2 sts, tr2tog, turn. [40 (44: 46: 50: 56) sts] Work 1 (1: 2: 1: 0)row(s) in pattern without shaping.

Continue keeping st pattern correct decreasing 1 st at both ends of every row, until 22 (22: 22: 22: 24) sts remain.

**Next row** (Tr2tog) twice, 1tr, 12 (12: 12: 14)xtr, 1tr, (tr2tog) twice, turn. [18 (18: 18: 18: 20) sts]

**Next row** Ss in first st, tr2tog, 12 (12: 12: 14)xtr, tr2tog.

**Fasten off**, leaving last st unworked and a long tail for sewing up.

## TO FINISH

Sew together the front and back shoulder seams.

Mark halfway point at top of sleeve and align it with the shoulder seam, sew in sleeve from top-centre down.

Sew sleeve and side seam in one.



The sleeves are shaped at the top and joined from the top centre down to the underarm.



A sharp V shape fastened with chain ties adds interest to the back of the garment.

With RS facing, rejoin yarn with a ss to top-left shoulder seam: dc evenly around neckline and back 'V' shaping to neaten, ss into first st.

**Fasten off.**

Weave in all ends neatly.

## TIES (MAKE 2)

Ch70. **Fasten off.**

Add 2 small beads to the tie ends.

Secure the end of each tie to one side of the Back at the top of the shaping, using the images as a guide.

## SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO DECREASE IN TREBLE CROCHET (TR2TOG)



**1** Begin working a treble as usual: yrh, insert hook under top two loops of next stitch on prev row, yrh, pull loop through (3 loops on hook), yrh and pull through first 2 loops (2 loops on hook).



**2** Without finishing the first tr, begin the next tr, working yrh, insert hook in next stitch on prev row. Again, work yrh and pull loop through, yrh and pull through first 2 loops (3 loops on hook).



**3** Now complete both of the part treble stitches together by working yrh and pull this loop through all 3 loops on the hook.



**4** This is how your completed tr2tog should look. You will have neatly decreased one tr stitch. On subsequent rows, you can simply work a stitch into the top of the tr2tog stitch as usual.



# Crochet essentials

Over the next few pages, you'll find simple step-by-step guides to many useful stitches and techniques that you'll use every time you pick up a hook.

## HOLDING THE HOOK

Try these methods and see which works best.



### PENCIL METHOD

Hold the hook like a pencil, in your right hand (if you're right-handed), about 3-5cm from the hooked end. If your hook has a flat area, you'll find it comfortable to hold it here.



### KNIFE METHOD

Hold the hook between your thumb and forefinger, about 3-5cm from the hooked end, resting the end of the hook against your palm. This will give you lots of control.

## HOLDING THE YARN

Even tension results in even stitches.



### METHOD ONE

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



### METHOD TWO

Loop the ball end of the yarn loosely around the little finger of your left hand, then take it over the third finger, behind the middle finger and over your index finger.

## MAKING A SLIPKNOT The first loop on the hook.



**1** Hold the tail of the ball of yarn in your left hand and drape the yarn clockwise over the top of it to form a circular loop.



**2** Hold the loop between left thumb and forefinger, then insert the crochet hook through the centre of the loop from front to back.



**3** Catch the ball end of the yarn with the hook and pull it back through the centre of the loop, taking the yarn through with it.



**4** Pull both ends of the yarn to tighten the knot, then pull just the ball end to tighten the loop so it's close to the hook, but not touching it.

## CHAIN STITCH Use this stitch to make your foundation chain.



**1** Hold the hook in your right hand, and both the yarn end and the working yarn in your left hand. Move the hook under and over the yarn to wrap it around anticlockwise.



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



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

## How to count chains



Each chain or loop counts as one stitch. Never count your first slipknot or the loop on the hook (called the working loop). So that you can be accurate, make sure the chain is not twisted and that the front is facing you.



## SLIP STITCH (ss)

This stitch has no height – often used to join rounds.



**1** The slip stitch is used to join a length of chain into the round. Insert the hook from front to back into the first chain you worked. Wrap yarn round the hook (yrh) in an anticlockwise direction.



**2** Pull the yarn through the chain stitch (as shown) and then the loop already on the hook to make a slip stitch. You can also work this stitch into each stitch along a row to form a neat edging.

## WORKING IN ROWS

Follow these simple rules to construct crochet fabric.



**1** The first row is made by working across the foundation chain from right to left. At the end of the chain or row, turn the work so that the yarn is behind the hook.



**2** For the next row, first make the turning chain for the stitch you're about to work (see opposite). Now work the next stitch into the top of the stitches on your first row, missing the first stitch.

## DOUBLE CROCHET (dc) US term: single crochet

One of the key stitches in crochet, doubles are simple, compact stitches that form a dense fabric.



**1** To make a double crochet stitch, insert the hook under the top two loops of the next stitch on the previous row.



**2** Wind the yarn around the hook (yrh).



**3** Pull the yarn through the stitch, giving you two loops on your crochet hook.



**4** Yarn round hook again, then pull the yarn through both loops. There's your double crochet made and you'll have one loop left on the hook, ready to do the next stitch.

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

A handy stitch that's between double and treble crochet in size, and it looks slightly looser than double crochet.



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



**2** Insert the hook under the top two loops of the next stitch in the previous row. Wrap yarn around the hook again (yrh).



**3** Pull the yarn through the stitch only (3 loops on hook).



**4** Yarn round hook again, pull the yarn through all 3 loops. You've made a half treble crochet. Continue working htr into next and following sts to the end of the row.



## TREBLE CROCHET (tr) US term: double crochet

One of the most popular stitches in crochet, this simple stitch is twice as high as a double crochet stitch.



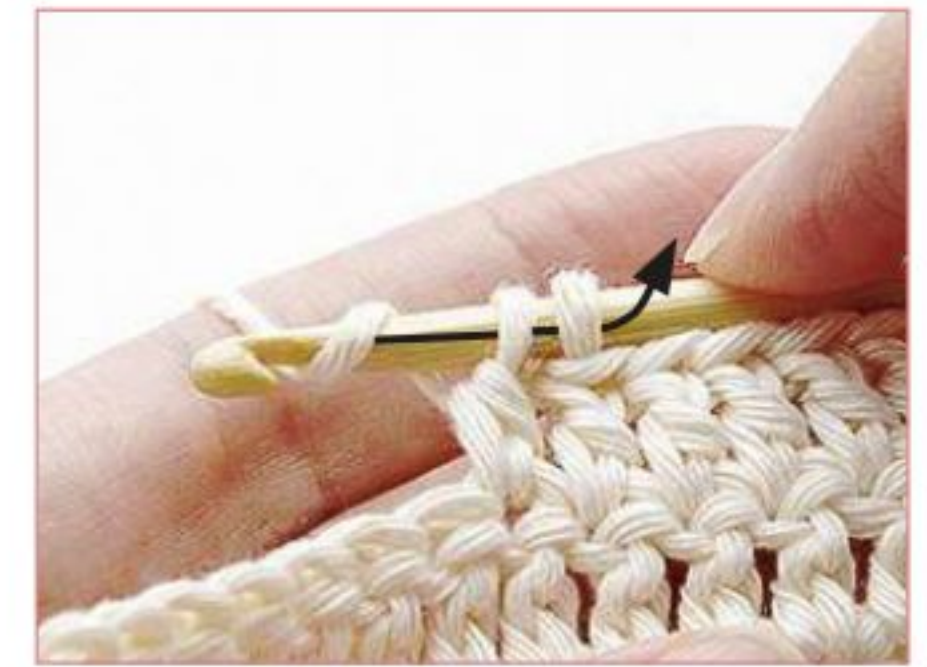
**1** To work a treble crochet, start by winding yrh and then insert the hook under the top two loops of the stitch on the previous row.



**2** Wrap the yarn around the hook (yrh) and pull the yarn through the stitch only.



**3** You will now have 3 loops on the hook. Yrh again, and draw the yarn through just the first 2 loops on the hook.



**4** You will now have 2 loops on the hook. Yrh again and draw the yarn through the remaining loops on the hook. Your treble crochet is complete.

## DOUBLE TREBLE CROCHET (dtr) US term: treble crochet

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

- 1** Make a foundation chain. Skip 4ch, \*yrh twice, and insert the hook under the top loop of the next ch.
- 2** Yrh, pull the yarn through the ch loop only (4 loops on hook).
- 3** Yrh and pull the yarn through 2 loops only (3 loops on hook).

- Yrh and pull the yarn through 2 loops only (2 loops on hook).
- 4** Yrh and pull the yarn through the remaining 2 loops. Repeat from \* to make more dtr sts.
- 5** To make the next row of dtr, turn work and ch4. This turning chain counts as the first dtr in a new row. Skip first st at the base of the t-ch, work 1dtr under the top two loops of the 2nd stitch in the previous row; continue to the end of the row.

## TRIPLE TREBLE CROCHET (ttr) US term: double treble crochet

This is one of the longest standard crochet stitches and is mainly used in fancy stitch patterns. It's taller than a double treble crochet stitch (described left) and is worked in a very similar way, as follows:

- 1** Make a foundation ch. Skip 5 ch, \*yrh 3 times, insert hook under top loop of next ch.
- 2** Yrh, pull yarn through ch loop only (5 loops on hook).
- 3** † Yrh, draw loop through 2

- loops only. Repeat from † 3 times more and your triple treble will be finished. Repeat from \* to make more ttr sts.
- 4** To make the next row, turn work and ch5. This turning chain counts as the first triple treble in a new row. Skip first st at base of the t-ch. Work 1 triple treble, inserting hook under the top 2 loops of the 2nd st in the previous row; continue to the end of the row.

## TURNING CHAIN (t-ch)

For an even finish, start each row with a turning chain.

In crochet, you need to add turning chains (t-chs) to the beginning of rows. The reason for this is to bring the hook up to the height of the stitches you're crocheting. Each basic stitch has its own number of

chains. The table below tells you how many t-ch sts form the first stitch. \*For dc, usually the turning chain does not count as a stitch, and the first stitch of the row is worked into the stitch at the base of the turning chain.

| STITCH         | Add to foundation chain before starting row | Skip at start of foundation row (counts as first st) | For turning chain (counts as first st) |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Double crochet | 1 ch                                        | 1 ch*                                                | 1 ch*                                  |
| Half treble    | 1 ch                                        | 2 ch                                                 | 2 ch                                   |
| Treble         | 2 ch                                        | 3 ch                                                 | 3 ch                                   |
| Double treble  | 3 ch                                        | 4 ch                                                 | 4 ch                                   |
| Triple treble  | 4 ch                                        | 5 ch                                                 | 5 ch                                   |

## How to count stitches

Check your work is correct.

Being able to count your stitches is very important and helps you to ensure that you're following a pattern correctly. It's a good idea to count your stitches at the end of every row. To count short stitches such as double crochet, look at the plaited tops (see above right). For taller stitches, count the upright 'stems' – each 'stem' is counted as a stitch (see right).





## HOW TO 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 is very simple – work one stitch into the next stitch on the row below. When you've finished, work another stitch into the same stitch.



**DECREASE** For a quick decrease, just skip one stitch. For a neater look, work the first part of one stitch and then begin the next stitch. Finish both together.

## SEWING SEAMS

You can join crochet seams by using a tapestry needle or a crochet hook, using one of these four methods.



**1** Sewing with a tapestry needle is the regular and neat way to join seams. Place two pieces of crochet right sides together and oversew them as shown above, using a tapestry or yarn needle.



**2** To slip stitch a seam, place the crochet pieces right sides together. \*Insert hook into both edge stitches, yrh and pull through to complete 1 slip stitch; rep from \* working into the next edge stitches, keeping work fairly loose.



**3** For a dc seam, place the crochet pieces right sides together, or wrong sides together for a visible seam. Work as for slip stitch seam, using double crochet instead of slip stitch.

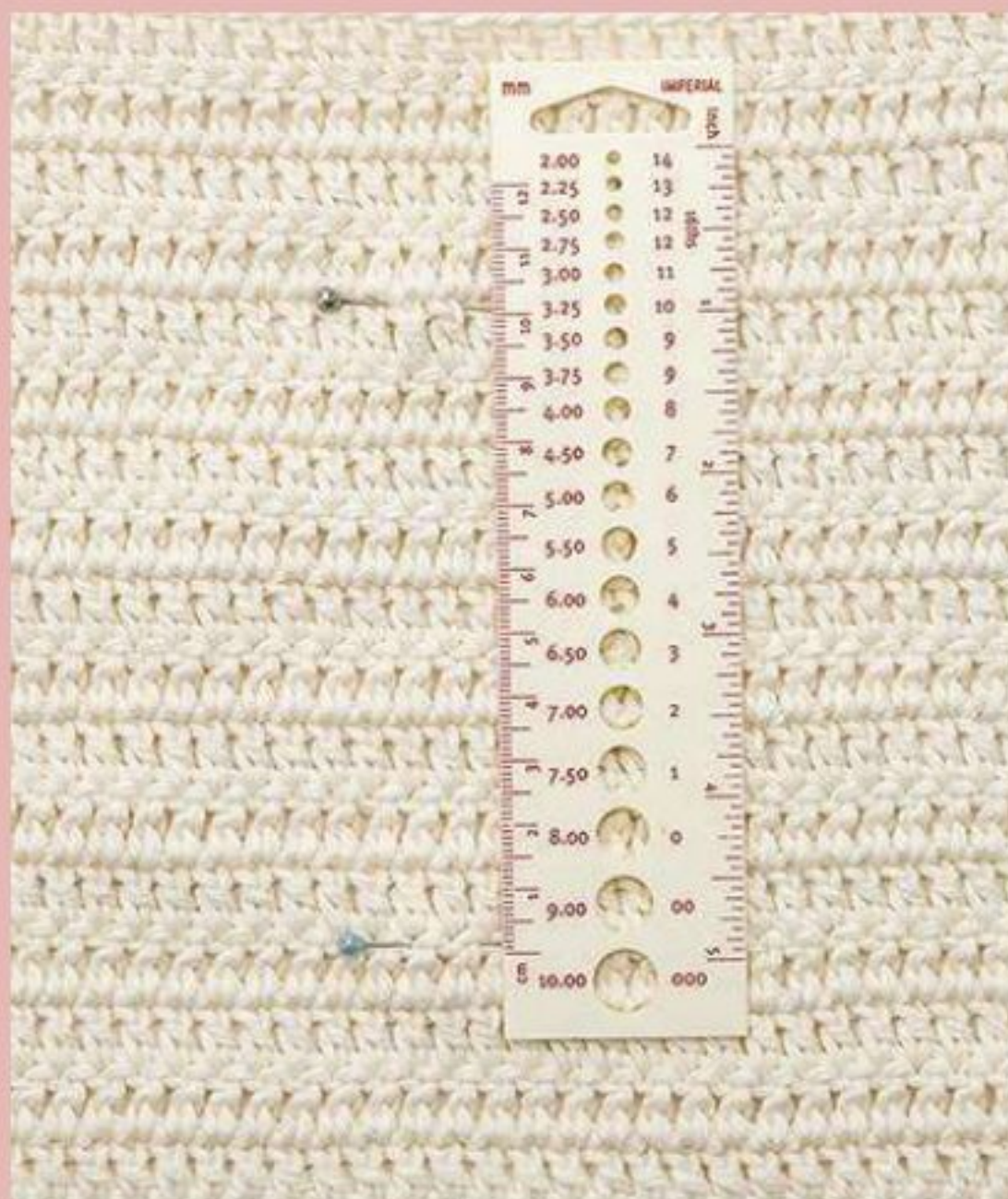


**4** A useful variation on the dc seam, the dc and chain seam is used when less bulk and/or greater flexibility is needed. Work 1 double crochet and 1 chain alternately.

## How to check your tension

Make and measure a swatch to check your tension.

Most crochet patterns state the tension required, in rows and stitches of a specific type. Make a swatch at least 15cm square and check that your tension matches. Place a ruler across the swatch and insert two pins, 10cm apart. Then place the ruler along a column of stitches and insert two pins 10cm apart. Count the stitches and rows between the pins – if you have less than the pattern, your tension is too loose so you need to use a smaller hook, but if you have too many, use a larger hook. It's usually better to match the stitches than rows, because you can always work more or fewer rows.





## HOW TO CHANGE COLOUR

Create stripes and other colour effects.



**1** Before you work the final yrh (yarn round hook) on the last stitch of a row in the old colour, drop the old yarn and pick up the new one with your hook.



**2** Pull through a loop of the new yarn to finish the old stitch. The working loop will be in the new colour. Continue, keeping the old yarn at the wrong side.

## FOUNDATION RING

Create a foundation ring for working in the round.



**1** Make a chain the length stated in the pattern instructions. Next, insert the crochet hook into the first chain. Close the ring with a slip stitch, working yrh...



**2** ...and pull yarn through 2 loops on hook. Now you're ready to start crocheting in the round, following the instructions given 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.



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



**4** Finish off the treble stitch by working yrh and pull yarn through 2 loops. Continue making stitches into the ring as instructed in your pattern.

## JOINING ROUNDS

Finish off each round of crochet stitches nice and neatly by using a slip stitch.



**1** To close a round of stitches, work a slip stitch into the top of the turning chain. To do this, insert the hook into the top stitch of the turning chain.



**2** Then place the yarn round the hook. Pull the yarn through the turning chain stitch and through the original stitch on your hook.



**3** You've slip stitched the round together! Before working another round, be sure to make the required turning chain. Always work rounds on the right side, unless you pattern instructs you otherwise.

## Rounds or spirals



Check which technique to use.

Some patterns are worked in rounds that are joined together at the end of each round (see left). Other patterns are worked in a spiral so you don't need to join the rounds at the end, just keep going, working into the next stitch on the previous row. Amigurumi toys are often worked in a spiral like this.

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## Abbreviations

|           |                                                                                                                                                         |            |                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| across    | to end of the row                                                                                                                                       | htr        | half treble                                                                                                                     |
| alt       | alternate/alternating                                                                                                                                   | htr2tog    | work 2htr together                                                                                                              |
| approx    | approximate(ly)                                                                                                                                         | in next    | sts to be worked into the same stitch                                                                                           |
| beg       | beginning                                                                                                                                               | inc        | increase                                                                                                                        |
| bl        | insert hook under back loop only                                                                                                                        | LH         | left hand                                                                                                                       |
| BPtr      | Back Post treble: yrh, starting from the back, insert hook from back to front to back around post of st in row below, complete as treble st             | lp(s)      | loop(s)                                                                                                                         |
| ch(s)     | chain/chain stitch(es)                                                                                                                                  | meas       | measures                                                                                                                        |
| ch-sp(s)  | chain space(s)                                                                                                                                          | p or pc    | picot                                                                                                                           |
| ch-       | refers to ch made previously, eg. ch-3                                                                                                                  | patt(s)    | pattern(s)                                                                                                                      |
| cl(s)     | clusters                                                                                                                                                | pm         | place marker                                                                                                                    |
| 4-tr cl   | (yrh, insert hook in sp/st, yrh & pull up loop, yrh & draw through 2 loops) 4 times, inserting hook in same sp/st, yrh & draw through all loops on hook | prev       | previous                                                                                                                        |
| cont      | continue                                                                                                                                                | rem        | remain(s)/remaining                                                                                                             |
| dc        | double crochet                                                                                                                                          | rep        | repeat                                                                                                                          |
| dc2tog    | (insert hook in next st, yrh and draw a loop through) twice, yrh and draw through all 3 loops on hook                                                   | RH         | right hand                                                                                                                      |
| dec       | decrease                                                                                                                                                | rnd(s)     | round(s)                                                                                                                        |
| dtr       | double treble crochet                                                                                                                                   | RS         | right side                                                                                                                      |
| dtr2tog   | work 2dtr together                                                                                                                                      | sk         | skip                                                                                                                            |
| fl        | insert hook under front loop only                                                                                                                       | sp(s)      | space(s)                                                                                                                        |
| fol/folls | following/follows                                                                                                                                       | ss         | slip stitch                                                                                                                     |
| FPtr      | Front Post treble: work in opposite way to BPtr                                                                                                         | st(s)      | stitch(es)                                                                                                                      |
|           |                                                                                                                                                         | tbl        | through back loop                                                                                                               |
|           |                                                                                                                                                         | t-ch(s)    | turning chain(s)                                                                                                                |
|           |                                                                                                                                                         | tog        | together                                                                                                                        |
|           |                                                                                                                                                         | tr         | treble crochet                                                                                                                  |
|           |                                                                                                                                                         | tr2tog     | (yrh, insert hook in next st, yrh and pull up loop, yrh and draw through 2 loops) twice, yrh and draw through all loops on hook |
|           |                                                                                                                                                         | ttr        | triple treble crochet                                                                                                           |
|           |                                                                                                                                                         | WS         | wrong side                                                                                                                      |
|           |                                                                                                                                                         | yoh        | yarn over hook                                                                                                                  |
|           |                                                                                                                                                         | yrh        | yarn round hook                                                                                                                 |
|           |                                                                                                                                                         | *          | work instructions immediately foll *, then rep as directed                                                                      |
|           |                                                                                                                                                         | [ ] or ( ) | work or repeat all instructions in the brackets as directed                                                                     |

## Crochet hook conversions

| UK  | METRIC | US    |
|-----|--------|-------|
| 14  | 2mm    | –     |
| 13  | 2.25mm | B/1   |
| 12  | 2.5mm  | –     |
| –   | 2.75mm | C/2   |
| 11  | 3mm    | –     |
| 10  | 3.25mm | D/3   |
| 9   | 3.5mm  | E/4   |
| –   | 3.75mm | F/5   |
| 8   | 4mm    | G/6   |
| 7   | 4.5mm  | 7     |
| 6   | 5mm    | H/8   |
| 5   | 5.5mm  | I/9   |
| 4   | 6mm    | J/10  |
| 3   | 6.5mm  | K/10½ |
| 2   | 7mm    | –     |
| 0   | 8mm    | L/11  |
| 00  | 9mm    | M/13  |
| 000 | 10mm   | N/15  |

## Which hook do I use?

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

## UK/US conversions

| UK             |     | US             |     |
|----------------|-----|----------------|-----|
| chain          | ch  | chain          | ch  |
| slip stitch    | ss  | slip stitch    | ss  |
| double crochet | dc  | single crochet | sc  |
| half treble    | htr | half double    | hdc |
| treble         | tr  | double         | dc  |
| double treble  | dtr | treble         | tr  |
| triple treble  | ttr | double treble  | dtr |

## Getting all kitted out

We're huge fans of KnitPro's wide range of comfy and easy-to-use crochet hooks. Be sure to check out their brand new Waves crochet hooks, made from light aluminium with rainbow handles. The 13 colourful, vibrant and trendy soft-feel grips are each unique to its size. The range extends from 2mm-12mm.

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# MISSED AN ISSUE?



## ISSUE THIRTY-THREE

Modern dainty doilies, filet crochet, and Catherine wheel stitch. Plus, there's a cute kitty to create and a shawl fit for a mermaid, a sweet swing dress for little girls, a clutch bag, and neon bright accessories. Our Bright Blankets supplement has five modern designs.



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ISSUE PROJECTS IN  
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# EVERY ISSUE IS AVAILABLE DIGITALLY, STARTING FROM ISSUE ONE!



## ISSUE THIRTY-TWO

Wedding ideas and flowers, a mermaid toy, stylish granny tee, and filet crochet.



## ISSUE THIRTY-ONE

Retro-style makes for your home, popcorn stitch and a shawl. Hook lacy fairy wings, too.



## ISSUE THIRTY

Granny treble top, a silky shawl, baby blanket, backpack, two cushions, and amigurumi whale.



## ISSUE TWENTY-NINE

Lacy linen top, blanket, bag, and shawl, plus a cotton vest, silk shawl, and a shell stitch beret.



## ISSUE TWENTY-EIGHT

Tunisian crochet top, beret, tapestry crocheted mittens, amigurumi frog, and a frilled scarf.



## ISSUE TWENTY-SEVEN

Beaded shawl, bag, alpaca baby hat, Shaun the Sheep, bird detail cardi, and a waffle cowl.



## ISSUE TWENTY-SIX

Slouchy beanie, bag and skirt, plus a baby blanket, cabled cardi, and amigurumi dogs.



## ISSUE TWENTY-FIVE

Amigurumi elf, cowl-neck poncho, sawtooth-edge shawl, and kids' cable sweater vest.



## ISSUE TWENTY-FOUR

Fair Isle jumper, home accessories, Tunisian top, men's cardi, and a MyBoshi beanie.



## ISSUE TWENTY-THREE

A statement swing coat, and hats, mitts and scarves for the whole family. Plus a colourful throw.



## ISSUE TWENTY-TWO

Hook a jumper with bobbles and a lacy vest top, a trio of cacti, cute puppy, and a lace shawl.



## ISSUE TWENTY-ONE

Moroccan garden projects, owl key ring, vintage cardi, plus baby sandals and cute dinosaurs!



## ISSUE TWENTY

Kitten travel top, sun hat, beautiful cardi and floral blanket, and a retro-style bikini.



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MAKE A MOTIF

# \* BEACHCOMBER \*

Have a go at Lucy Croft's dainty starfish shape.

MAKE AN AIRY  
SUMMER SHAWL





## MAKE A MOTIF



### YOU WILL NEED

■ Rowan Tetra Cotton  
(100% cotton, 50g/130m),  
1 ball of Iseo (001)

■ A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook

For yarn stockists, contact  
Rowan 01484 681881  
[www.knitrowan.com](http://www.knitrowan.com)

### ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

Doesn't this little shape look like the sort of natural treasure you might discover in a rock pool at the beach? Nets and buckets at the ready, stitchers – it could be a rare specimen. Either way, we'll be hooking some. These simple two-round motifs could make a pretty summer shawl, a lightweight throw or a table covering.

### C STARFISH MOTIF

Ch4.

**Round 1 (RS)** 11tr into the fourth ch from the hook, ss to the top of the beginning ch-3 to join. [12 tr]

**Round 2** \*Ch10, dc into the third ch from the hook, htr in the next ch, tr in the next ch, dtr in each of the next 2 ch, tr in the next ch, htr in the next ch, dc in the next ch, ss to the next tr, ch5, ss to the third ch from the hook and the next 2 ch, ss to the next tr; repeat from \* 5 more times. [12 petals]

**Fasten off.**

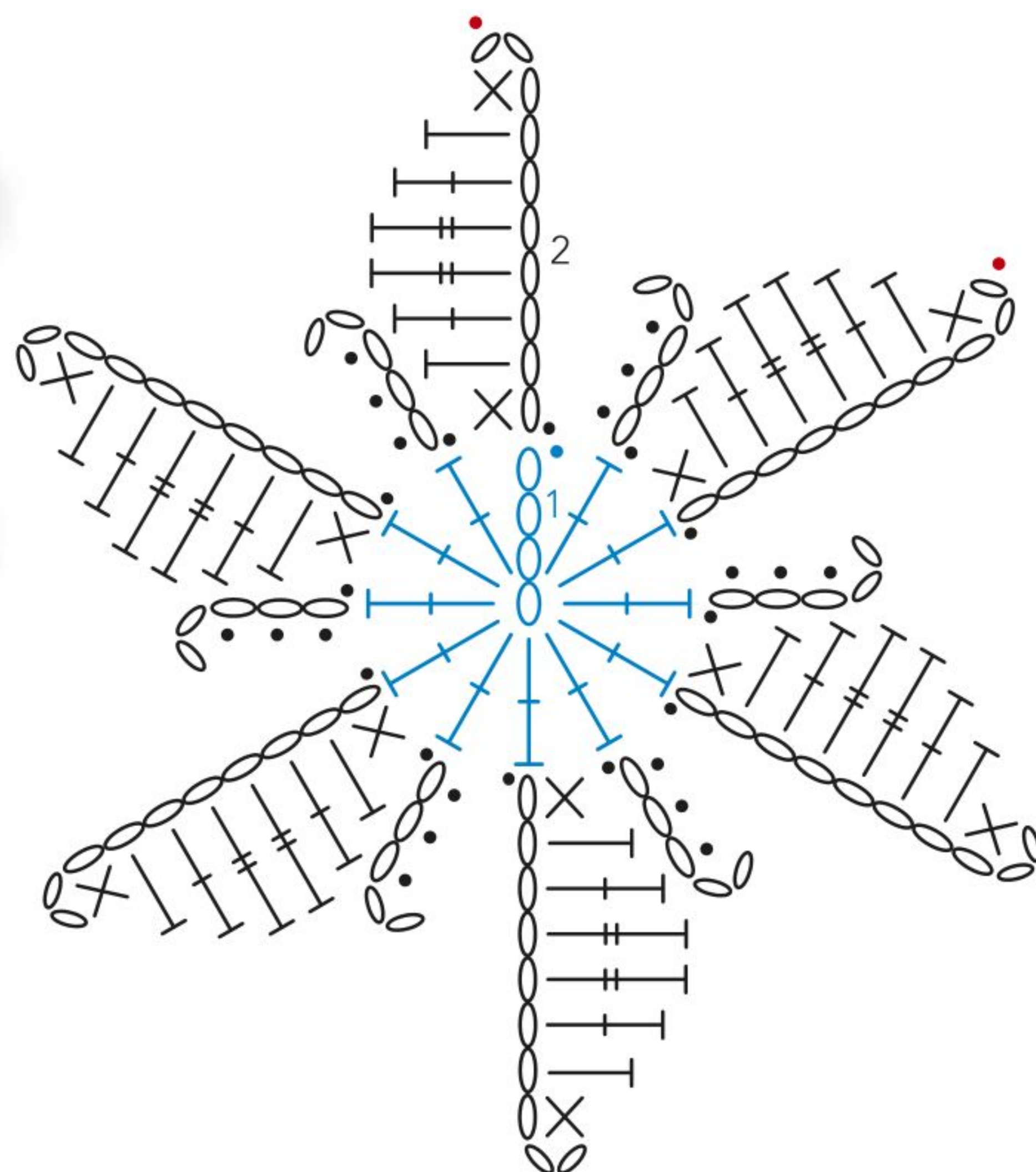
### TO JOIN

Join motifs while working Round 2, by replacing the last ch of the ch-10 with a ss into the corresponding ch on the next motif.

### Key

- Slip stitch (ss)
- Chain (ch)
- × Double crochet (dc)
- ┐ Half treble crochet (htr)
- └ Treble crochet (tr)
- ≡ Double treble crochet (dtr)
- Joining slip stitch

On the chart, all rounds are read in an anti-clockwise direction.





## NEXT ISSUE

Learn hairpin lace  
Back to school makes  
Gorgeous jumper  
Totally tropical bags  
Amigurumi fox  
And more...

## FRUIT & VEG

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STYLE  
ICONS

# BATHING BEAUTY

Deckchairs and wind breaks might not be the only things rocking bright stripes this summer.

Crochet cover-ups come in all shapes and sizes, but we've never seen one quite like this before. This treasure is a vintage crochet pattern by Sirdar and it looks smashing as a casual beach cover-up. Get a load of those outlandish rainbow stripes (a bit Attic-24-esque, no?) and those dramatic flared sleeves. We're also really liking the lacy stitches used throughout and the oh-so flattering swing silhouette. The colour changes, the sheer variety of stitches used and that pretty edging would surely keep you engaged all the way through hooking this project. And that's to say nothing of the stash-busting possibilities. The question is, what's your verdict? Do you think it's a beach babe or a coastal calamity? If you'd like to make one yourself, you can find the pattern for this jacket (and lots more vintage treats) at [www.wonkyzebra.etsy.com](http://www.wonkyzebra.etsy.com)



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