

Simply Crochet



HOOKED ON HANDMADE



Get your
lace on

NEW SEASON

22
PATTERNS
INSIDE

AUTUMN
MAKES



ORCHARD COLOURS

Stripy tank top, unisex tie, cable mitts & more

+
BAGS
BLANKET
BABY HAT

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Simply **Crochet**

HOOKED ON HANDMADE

Another new season and it's time to get cosy. Grab your hook and get going with colourful Fair Isle, gorgeous garments in merino and tweed, and some very cute amigurumi. You'll also find three stunning bags – and this basket – to make, as well as a leafy wall hanging. How'd ya like them apples?

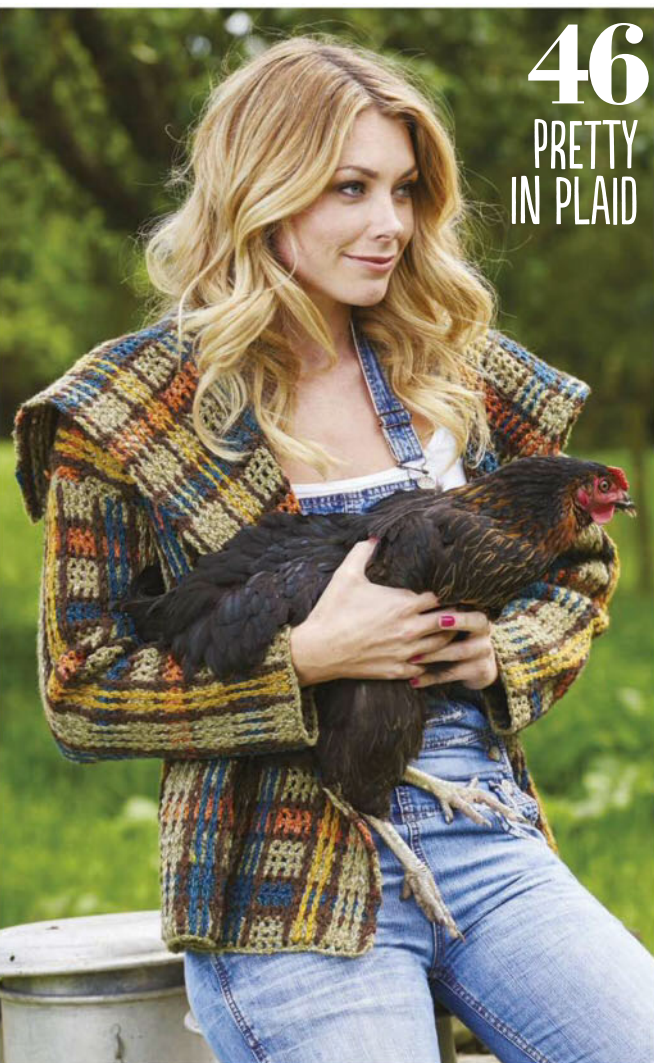


Simply Crochet

ISSUE THIRTY-SIX

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CONTRIBUTORS

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT THESE GUYS AND DOLLS . . .



SUSAN CROPPER

Susan is the founder of wonderful yarn boutique Loop. This issue, we're catching up with her to hear about how it all began and what her plans are for Loop's 10th anniversary. See page 50.



ANNE EGAN

Biker chick and regular *Simply Crochet* contributor Anne has designed an incredible pair of Fair Isle socks for us this issue. If you're feeling up to the challenge, find the pattern on page 28.



SIMONE FRANCIS

Talented garment designer Simone created the stunning Fair Isle vest on page 32. It's the perfect challenge if you want to improve your colourwork and become more familiar with charts.



SUSAN YEATES

Susan is a craft tutor and author who loves to pass on her creative skills. This issue, she's sharing a cute-as-a-button kitten pattern from her *Amigurumi Animals* book over on page 43.

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS

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NEW AUTUMN/WINTER
CROCHET DESIGNS



HOOKEED

IDEAS ♡ INSPIRATION ♡ ACCESSORIES ♡ WEBSITES ♡ EVENTS ♡ STUFF



FEELING SHEEPISH

Amigurumi pro Stephanie Lau (she made the super-cute dragon in our first-ever issue) has teamed up with artist Laura Uy to create The Lambert Collection – a range of yarn-themed accessories featuring her adorable crochet critter Lambert. There are T-shirts, tote bags, mugs, phone cases and more to be had, all bearing Lambert and a sweet yarny message. Get shopping at www.society6.com/allaboutami. All profits from sales of The Lambert Collection will go towards sponsoring a child in Guatemala.





KNITTING IT

One of our sister mags, *Knit Today*, has had a right royal spruce up and is looking better than ever. If you've ever fancied taking up the needles, be sure to check out their latest issue for beginner-friendly projects that are fun, fresh and mega stylish, plus you'll find everything you need to know to get started. Just visit www.knit-today.com to have a peek at their new look and head to your local newsie to track down issue 116.



Are you pining for autumn patterns? Then you'll love these simple little pine cones. We were astounded by how well these crochet creations capture the texture of prickly pine cones, thus proving that Pumpkin Spice Lattes aren't the most exciting thing about autumn (maybe). The Pine Cone Collection PDF pattern is by talented designer and blogger June Gilbank. Just visit www.planetjune.com to find June's blog and a vast library of free and paid-for patterns, as well as crochet tutorials. You could hook a bunch of them in natural tones this month to herald the arrival of autumn and they'll also look brilliant come Christmas.

BOUNTY OF BOOKS

Why pick just one crochet book when you could bag all four of these? This month, we're giving two lucky readers the chance to each win a copy of *20 Crocheted Purses*, *Hooked on Crochet*, *Learn to Crochet* and *Hook, Stitch & Give*. If you're already thinking about crocheting for Christmas then these books would be a cracking place to start. Visit www.competition.immediate.co.uk/SC36books to be in with a chance of winning these four crochet books. Turn to page six for full Ts & Cs.

WEDDING CROCHET

Have you ever hooked for a wedding? It can be quite a commitment. Beautiful bride Tania Jennings (@taniapdx) put in 1,000 hours to create an overlay for her gown using Irish crochet and Polish Star shapes. Each motif was made using fine thread and a 1.5mm crochet hook. You can read about the process on Tania's blog at www.taniapdx.blogspot.co.uk, where she shares her pattern sources and blocking tips. What a wonderfully individual project to mark such a special day.





IT'S SHOW TIME

Be sure to hot-foot it to Ally Pally this autumn to catch The Knitting & Stitching Show (turn to page 42 to find your special reader discount code). The five-day textiles extravaganza runs from 7-11 October. You'll be able to get your mitts on gorgeous yarns and notions, find fresh inspiration and maybe even learn a new craft skill or two. Discover more and purchase tickets at www.the-knittingandstitchingshow.com

MAKE IT THIS AUTUMN

Autumn is for cosy makes and woolly yarns. Here are five cosy ideas to try this season.

- 1 **BEAUTIFUL BLANKET**
Pick up that WIP blanket, or start a new one and you could be done by Christmas.
- 2 **PUT DOWN THE COTTON**
It's time to dig the wool and alpaca out of your stash.
- 3 **SNUGGLY SLIPPERS**
We defy anyone to survive October without a pair.
- 4 **FINGERLESS MITTS**
You can stay warm and keep on hooking, too. Result.
- 5 **GETTING AHEAD**
It might be wise to start thinking about Christmas gifts – see page 72 for help!

HOT DOG

Can we just talk about how cute these handmade pooches are for a second?

The crochet hound is designed by Anne-Claire Petit and they're £32 each from www.amara.com



INSPIRING BOOKS

CROCHET BEYOND THE BASICS

Rita Weiss and Susan Lowman (£9.99, Leisure Arts)
If you're after a fresh challenge, this book has what you need. Try your hand at Bruges and broomstick lace, Polish stars, filet crochet and more. You'll learn by making accessories using each of the techniques.



SWEET CROCHET

Sandrine Devez (£8.18, Peter Pauper Press)
This book is a real treat. There are 12 adorable projects to hook, full of whimsy and personality. Think blushing cheeks, bow ties and sparkly stars. There's even sushi to hook, too. Each design has clear step-by-step images.



ONCE UPON A TIME... IN CROCHET

Lynne Rowe (£9.99, Search Press)
These are the perfect toys for storytime. Find 30 fairytale favourites to hook in amigurumi. The patterns are easy to follow and there's a great how-to section that covers hair, pompoms and sewing up.



CRAFT FOR THE SOUL

Pip Lincolne (£16.41, Viking Australia)
Tuck into top crafty blogger Pip Lincolne's musings on making. Through a series of playful lists, recipes, craft projects and bright ideas, Pip encourages you to find more joy in the everyday and be inspired to work hard and try new things.





HOOT SWEET

■ Owls, yarn, some form of bag – what's not to like? This is House of Bath's canny Owl Yarn Holder. It means you can minimise those instances of lost or tangled yarn, plus there's a hole in the top to keep yarn neat while you work. It's £9.95 at www.houseofbath.co.uk



JANE'S PERSIAN TILES

Top crocheter Jane Crowfoot is known for her creative use of colour and stitch, and for her crochet-alongs. Her latest kit certainly does not disappoint on these counts. The Persian Tile Crochet Blanket Kit draws inspiration from Persian ceramics – a theme Jane used for her 2013 Crochet Club crochet-along. It's vibrant and totally original. You can even pick whether your kit comes with acrylic yarn or a wool blend. Find it from £26.50 at www.janecrow.co.uk



CELEBRATE WOOL WEEK

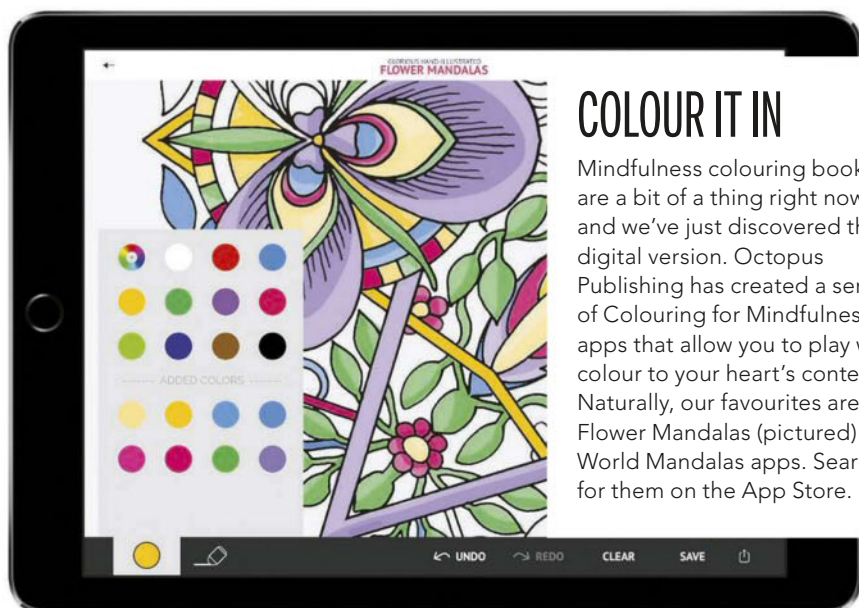
This year, The Campaign for Wool's sixth annual Wool Week runs from 5-11 October. You can show your support by hooking with British wool and by getting involved with woolly events around the country. There are exhibitions, films, talks and even a woolly hat day in the pipeline. Find out what's on during Wool Week at www.britishwool.org.uk. Also, keep your eyes peeled for our special behind-the-scenes look at the British wool industry next issue.

JUST FOR FUNGI



This autumn, we've spotted a bit of a trend for magical toadstools. Get in on the whimsical woodland action with these little crafty treasures.

1. Meet Paul the Toadstool – what a cutie. He's an awesome amigurumi creation by talented crochet designer Lalylala. You can download the pattern for Paul and lots of other crochet critters from £4 at www.lalylala.com
2. Classic red and white paper twine adorned with tiny wooden toadstool charms – now you can live out your wildest gift wrap dreams. It's £4.99 for a spool at www.oakroomshop.co.uk
3. Toadstool lamps are the last word in woodland chic. Maybe. Either way, this night light from Rigby and Mac is pretty darn delightful and sure to keep goblins at bay. There's also a gold version for the magpies among you. From £34.95 at www.rigbyandmac.com



COLOUR IT IN

Mindfulness colouring books are a bit of a thing right now and we've just discovered the digital version. Octopus Publishing has created a series of Colouring for Mindfulness apps that allow you to play with colour to your heart's content. Naturally, our favourites are the Flower Mandalas (pictured) and World Mandalas apps. Search for them on the App Store.

Time to get out AND ABOUT...

A GOOD YARN

I've decided to make some chunky crochet hats as Christmas gifts. Can you recommend a good-quality yarn, ideally with wool?

Give Vintage Chunky (£3.49 per 100g) by Deramores a go. It's a chunky blend with 50% merino wool and a vintage-inspired palette of muted, very wearable shades. Call 0800 488 0708 or visit www.deramores.com



SKILLS, SHOWS & EVENTS

OCT 9-10 Natural Fibre Company Open Days, Free, Launceston, Cornwall, 01566 777 635 www.thenaturalfibre.co.uk

OCT 10 Wonderful Wool Day, £2, Memorial Hall, Owestry, Shropshire, www.facebook.com/wonderfulwoolday

OCT 17-18 Bakewell Wool Gathering, £4, Bakewell Agricultural Centre, Derbyshire, 01629 813 777 www.bakewellwool.co.uk

OCT 22 Crochet Snowflakes and Stars, £25, Stitched By You, Alton, Hampshire, 01420 544033 www.stitchedbyyou.co.uk

OCT 24-25 Kendal Wool Gathering, £25, various venues in Kendal, Cumbria, www.kendalwoolgathering.co.uk

OCT 30 Advanced Crochet Workshop, £49.95, Black Sheep Wools, Warrington, 01925 764231 www.blacksheepwools.com

5 FAB FINDS

Frightfully good
Creepy, crafty treats for a
hooky Halloween.



NO SKULKING

Get cosy and creepy with a pair of Ann's skull-tastic slippers. For this pattern and more, visit www.glamour-4-you.com



OH MY GOURD

Subtly seasonal and kinda cute, you can pick up a pair of tatted pumpkin earrings at www.briella.soul.etsy.com

NINE LIVES

There's a range of home textiles in this 'Cat' print, or buy the fabric by the metre from www.sophie.allport.com



ON THE WEB

We love Sandra's super Spooky Bunting. Find the crochet pattern at www.sandra-cherryheart.blogspot.co.uk

HEADS UP

This amigurumi Marie Antoinette by Maïke van den Dries is creepily brilliant. Find it at www.creepyandcute.etsy.com





GET A POM

■ There's been an emergence of fab faux fur pompoms on the high street and it's no bad thing. Of course, yarny versions would be far more crafty, but we can't deny their fluffy charm. In fact, we've done some legwork and it seems that Accessorize stocks the most reasonable poms and the best range of pom-tastic accessories. Their Fur Pom Pom Scarf is £35 at www.uk.accessorize.com



Expressing yourself through crochet is one thing, but actually spelling it out, with a pretty word necklace for example, really gets the message across. This lovely design is the handiwork of talented Bulgarian hookster Vanessa. She's all about unconventional jewellery and most of her unique pieces are formed from crocheted tubes. She also makes custom name or initial necklaces in this way and stocks a bunch of other inspirational word necklaces in her online store at www.vanessahandmade.etsy.com (prices start at £11.13). It's got us thinking about what else we might be able to make or spell out with crocheted tubes. Sometimes the simplest ideas really are the best.

TRY TUNISIAN

If you like your crochet designs bright, bold and beautiful, then you are well overdue a visit to www.poppyandbliss.com. Aussie Poppy & Bliss designer Michelle clearly has a passion for hooking with colour. On her website, you'll find her latest patterns and projects, including this brilliant Tunisian Triangles cushion pattern. If this doesn't get you excited about trying Tunisian crochet, what will?

STAYING SHARP

A new bit of stationery might be what you need to get your creative juices flowing. How about these?

1. Not to put too fine a point on it, but this pencil scarf rules. They're made to order at www.pancoco.etsy.com
2. Obtain this Sir Badger notebook for scribbling your most inspired thoughts in. It's £3.50 at www.clareloves.co.uk
3. Geometric washi tape – what will they think of next? Pick up a handy roll for £2.50 at www.thefoxandstar.co.uk





New King Cole Amigurumi Patterns

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email: enquiries@kingcole.co.uk. www.kingcole.com



For every King Cole pattern you buy, a donation will be made to the Pink Ribbon Foundation.

Pattern featured: 9034



LITTLE LILLY

Lilly is the cutest amigurumi lady on the block. Designed by Janie Nabbe.

She may look a bit gloomy, but Janie Nabbe's mini amigurumi Lilly doll is a little ray of sunshine, making the best of a very rainy day. We love her bright hooded raincoat, super-neat hairdo and bendy legs. Use cotton yarn and a 2mm crochet hook for good stitch definition and a pristine finish. Lilly's charms are many but it's her facial expression that makes her so unique. When you're stitching her features, pay close attention to our images to make sure you get it spot on. She's the perfect rainy day project and will also make a thoughtful gift.

Amigurumi doll



YOU WILL NEED

- Use your kit or any 4ply cotton yarn in white, yellow and brown
- Black embroidery floss (for mouth and eyebrows)
- A 2mm (US 4 steel) hook
- 4mm glass beads or safety eyes
- Black pipe cleaner (for legs)
- Fabric glue
- Polyester toy stuffing
- Stitch marker
- Tapestry/sewing needle
- Tiny quilting pins (to shape Lilly's hair)

MEASUREMENTS

Approx 10cm (4in) tall

ABBREVIATIONS

Invisible decrease (invdec)

Insert the hook into the front loop of the first st (do not yrh), insert the hook into the front loop of the next st, yrh, draw through first two loops on hook, yrh, draw through both loops on the hook

For a full list, see page 92.

NOTES

The pattern is worked using the amigurumi method. Work sts continuously in a 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.

HEAD AND BODY

Using white, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st) 6dc in loop. [6 sts]

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

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

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

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

Round 6 3dc, (2dc in next dc, 4dc) 5 times, 2dc in next dc, 1dc. [36 sts]

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

Rounds 8-14 Dc in each st around.

Round 15 (5dc, invdec) 6 times. [36 sts]

Round 16 (invdec) 6 times. [18 sts]

Change to yellow for Body.

Rounds 17-18 Dc in each st around. Insert safety eyes, stuff the head and embroider the eyebrows and mouth.

Round 19 5dc, 2dc in next dc, 6dc, 2dc in next dc, 5dc. [20 sts]

Rounds 20-21 Dc in each st around.

Round 22 6dc, 2dc in next dc, 6dc, 2dc in next dc, 6dc. [22 sts]

Rounds 23-24 Dc in each st around.

Round 25 7dc, 2dc in next dc, 6dc, 2dc in next dc, 7dc. [24 sts]

Round 26 Dc in each st around.

Round 27 Dc in each st working into the back loop only.

Round 28 (2dc, invdec) 6 times. [18 sts] Stuff firmly.

Round 29 (1dc, invdec) 6 times. [12 sts] The following round makes two small gaps for the legs:

Round 30 Invdec, ch1, skip next two sts, (invdec) twice, ch1, skip next two sts, invdec. [6 sts]

Fasten off and weave in end.

ARMS (MAKE 2)

Using yellow, make a magic loop.

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

Rounds 2-8 Dc in each st around.

Fasten off, leaving long tail for sewing. Use tails to sew Arms to sides of body.



Use this image as a guide to help you when you stitch on Lilly's mouth and eyebrows.

HOOD

Using yellow, make a magic loop.

Rounds 1-14 Work as for Rounds 1-14 of Head and Body. [42 sts]

Round 15 36dc, turn, leaving rem sts unworked. [36 sts]

Rows 16-18 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st to end, turn. Ch25.

Fasten off. Rejoin yellow on opposite side of hood, ch25. **Fasten off.**

HAIR CAP

Hair cap is made first, then yarn strands are stitched to cap around edge to form the hairline.

Using brown, make a magic loop.

Rounds 1-6 Work as for Rounds 1-6 of Head and Body. [36 sts]

Round 7 (8dc, 2dc in next dc) 4 times. [40 sts]

Rounds 8-9 Dc in each st around.

Round 10 36dc, turn, leaving rem sts unworked. [36 sts]

Rows 11-12 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st to end, turn. **Fasten off.**

Turn cap inside out. Strands of hair are attached into 10 sts around outer edge of hair cap. Find what will be centre st of hairline, count 2 sts to the right of this, and mark this st with a marker.

Now count 9 sts to the left of this marker and mark this st, so that there are 10 sts marked in total.

Place a strand of yarn in each of these 10 sts as follows: Cut a strand of brown yarn approx 28cm, fold in half and pull loop end half way through st. Pass ends through the loop and pull tight. Glue hair cap onto Head.

Style hair using quilting pins.

LEGS

Shape pipe cleaner into 2 legs, each approx 4cm long. Glue them into the Body so 3cm of each leg is showing.



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FIRM BUT FAIR ISLE

A Fair Isle vest or tank top is a wardrobe must for the cooler months. This vintage-inspired design uses a contemporary palette with punchy pink and red to claim its position as a modern classic. Perfect if you need a fresh challenge.

RICH PICKINGS

Gather your harvest – whether that's yarn, craft notions or good old fruit and veg – in a stripy crochet basket. This simple yet sturdy design is a fab beginner project because it's worked in double crochet stitches using only two shades.





PICK YOUR OWN

Branch out and try your hand at Fair Isle this autumn, using cosy wool in warm shades.

AUTUMN IDEAS



WRAP YOUR CABLES

This pair of pretty, fingerless mitts would make a fantastic gift. Plus, you'll be getting familiar with a few different techniques as you work, such as colourwork for those pink stripes, and post trebles to create the ribbing and cables.

BEYOND THE SQUARE

There's a new blanket on the block and it's a bit of a looker. This cosy number is made up of 25 squares in a textured stitch pattern that's easy to learn. If you love to play with colour and are so over granny squares, this one's for you.





AUTUMN IDEAS



TREAT FOR FEET

Get cracking with colourful stripes and post stitches to rustle up these amazing calf-length socks. They're worked from the top down using a dazzling array of shades. Thinking about Christmas projects? Get these on your list.

GOLD DIPPED

This super-smart crochet tie, for him or for her, is our pick of the bunch. It's a skinny tie worked in double crochet stitches with three subtle stripes and a golden point. Choose two favourite shades for yours, or go understated and make it plain.

AUTUMN IDEAS

FAIR ISLE VEST

Please turn to page 32 for the Fair Isle vest pattern by Simone Francis.

APPLE BASKET

Hook a bright and sturdy basket by Hannah Cross. Where else would you store your prime harvest pickings?

- DROPS Karisma DK (100% wool, 50g/100m), 7 balls of Yarn A Light Beige Brown Mix (55), 1 ball of Yarn B Red (18)
- A 5mm (US H/8) hook

MEASUREMENTS

18x14cm (7¼x5½in)

NOTE

The basket is made in the round with the handles worked into the sides and stiffened with slip stitches.

BASKET BASE

Using Yarn A and 5mm hook, ch6, ss in first ch to form ring.

Round 1 Ch3 (counts as tr throughout), 11tr into ring, ss to third ch of beg ch3

to join. [12 tr]

Round 2 Ch3, tr in same tr, 2tr in each tr around, ss to top of beg ch3. [24 tr]

Round 3 Ch3, tr in same tr, tr in next tr, (2tr in next tr, tr in next tr) around, ss to top of beg ch3. [36 tr]

Round 4 Ch3, tr in same tr, tr in next 2 tr, (2tr in next tr, tr in each of next 2 tr) around, ss to top of beg ch3. [48 tr]

Round 5 Ch3, tr in same tr, tr in next 3 tr, (2tr in next tr, tr in each of next 3 tr) around, ss to top of beg ch3. [60 tr]

Round 6 Ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc in same tr, dc in each of next 4 tr, (2dc in next tr, dc in each of next 4tr) around, ss to top of beg ch3. [72 dc]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

BASKET SIDES

Using Yarn A and 5mm hook, ch73.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in fl of 2nd ch and fl of each ch across. [72 sts]

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in fl of each st in current and previous row to end. [72 sts] (This folds the work together and makes it really sturdy.)

Rows 3-9 Repeat Row 2.

Change to Yarn B.

Rows 10-12 Repeat Row 2.

Change to Yarn A.

Rows 13-23 Repeat Row 2.

Change to Yarn B.

Rows 24-28 Ch1 (does not count as st), htr in fl of each st in current and previous row to end.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

Sew the short ends of the Basket Sides piece together to create a cylinder, with RS facing out.

Join the Basket Base to Basket Sides using a slip stitch seam.

CABLED MITTS

Use clever cables by Hannah Cross to keep your wrists warm and your digits nimble. These would make a fab gift.

- DROPS Karisma DK (100% wool, 50g/100m), 2 balls of Yarn A Olive (57), 1 ball of Yarn B Cerise (13)
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook

TENSION

16sts and 11 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over stitch pattern using a 4mm hook or size needed to obtain tension

MEASUREMENTS

10x28cm (4x11in)

ABBREVIATIONS

Front Post Dtr (FPdtr) Work as for FPtr but work a dtr instead of a tr

NOTES

Mitts are made in one flat piece and then seamed afterwards, leaving an opening for the thumbhole.

LEFT MITT

Using Yarn A, ch38.

Row 1 (RS) Tr in fourth ch from hook and each ch across, turn. [36 sts]

Row 2 Using Yarn B, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 3 Repeat Row 2, using Yarn A.

Row 4 Repeat Row 2, using Yarn B.

Row 5 Using Yarn A, ch3 (counts as tr), tr in each st across.

Row 6 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr in next 20 sts, skip 3 tr, FPdtr in next 3 sts, FPdtr in 3 skipped tr, working behind existing sts, FPtr in next 3 sts, tr in each st to end, turn.

Row 7 Ch2 (counts as htr), htr in next 5 sts, BPtr in next 9 sts, htr in each st to



end, turn.

Row 8 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr in next 20 sts, FPtr in 3 sts, skip 3 sts, FPdtr in 3 skipped sts, tr in each st to end, turn.

Row 9 Repeat Row 7.

Rows 6-9 form the cable pattern.
Repeat the pattern rows 4 more times.

Row 26 Rep Row 2 using Yarn B.

Row 27 Rep Row 2 using Yarn A.

Row 28 Rep Row 2 using Yarn B.

Row 29 Using Yarn A, ch3 (counts as tr), tr in each st to end, turn.

Do not fasten off.

TOP RIBBING

Ch5.

Row 1 Dc in second ch from hook and each ch towards main piece, skip st at base of ch on main piece, ss in next st, turn. [4 sts]

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in back loop of each st to end, turn.

Row 3 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in back loop of each st to end, skip st on main piece, ss in next st, turn.

Repeat Rows 2 and 3 around the mitt.

Turn the work so that the cable is facing inwards and join the ribbing section together using a ss seam. **Fasten off.**

BOTTOM RIBBING

Join Yarn A to foundation chain and work as given for top ribbing, but start with ch3 instead of ch5 so the rib is only 2 sts deep.

TO MAKE UP

With the cable facing inwards, sew up the mitt seam, leaving a thumb opening in the last 9 rows of the main piece. Weave in ends.

RIGHT MITT

Work as given for the Left Mitt with the cable repeat pattern as follows:

Row 6 Ch3 (counts as st), tr in next 5 sts, FPtr in next 3 sts, skip 3 sts, FPdtr in next 3 sts, FPdtr in 3 skipped sts, tr in each st to end, turn.

Row 7 Ch2 (counts as st), htr in next 20 sts, BPtr in next 9 sts, htr in each st to end, turn.

Row 8 Ch3 (counts as st), tr in next 5 sts, skip 3 sts, FPdtr in next 3 sts, FPdtr in 3 skipped sts, FPtr in next 3 sts, tr in each st to end, turn.

Row 9 Repeat Row 7.



BRIGHT BLANKET

Sara Huntington's fab autumn blanket is made up of 25 vibrant blocks.

■ DROPS Karisma (100% wool, 50g/100m), 4 balls of each: Yarn A Cerise (13), Yarn B Dark Mustard (52), Yarn C Blue Turquoise (60), Yarn D Red (18), Yarn E Olive (57); 7 balls of Yarn F Light Beige Brown (55)

■ A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook

TENSION

16sts and 13 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over centre square pattern

MEASUREMENTS

Motif meas 20cm (8in) square without border, 26cm (10¼in) square with border
Blanket measures 130cm (51in) square

ABBREVIATIONS

Extended double crochet (Exdc)

Insert hook, yrh, pull through (2 loops on hook), yrh, pull through first loop only (2 loops on hook), yrh, pull through both loops

Reverse dc Work a dc in each stitch, working each stitch to the right of the previous one (if you are right handed)

Slanting cluster (Slcl) (Yrh, insert hook around stem of previous tr from right to left, yrh, pull loop through) 3 times in same place, yrh, pull through first 6 loops on hook, yrh, pull through both

loops on hook

NOTES

The centre of the square is worked in rows and the edging is worked in the round. Make 5 squares each in Yarns A-E (25 squares in total).

CENTRE SQUARE

Ch32.

Row 1 Dc in third ch from hook (counts as exdc), dc in next ch, *exdc in next ch, 1dc in each of next 2 ch; repeat from * to last ch, exdc in last ch, turn. [31 sts]

Row 2 Ch2 (counts as exdc here and throughout), skip first exdc, *tr in next dc, slcl, skip next dc, exdc in next exdc, repeat from * ending with exdc in turning ch, turn.

Row 3 Ch2, skip first exdc *dc in slcl, dc in next tr, exdc in next exdc; repeat from * ending with exdc in t-ch, turn. Repeat (Rows 2 and 3) 11 more times until the work measures 20cm.

SQUARE BORDER

Round 1 Using Yarn F, work 30dc evenly along each side of the square working an additional 3dc in each corner, ss to first dc.

Rounds 2-4 Ch2 (counts as htr), working in back loops only: htr into each st around, working 3htr in the centre stitch of corner sts from previous round, ss to top of beg ch-2.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

AUTUMN IDEAS



TO MAKE UP

Using the image as a guide, join the squares together in a 5x5 grid, using a ss seam and Yarn F.

BLANKET BORDER

Rounds 1-2 Using Yarn F, ch2 (counts as htr), working in back loops only: htr in each st around working a htr into each join between squares and 3htr in the centre st at each corner, ss to top of beg ch-2.

Round 3 Change to Yarn B, ch1 (does not count as st), working in back loops only: dc in each st around working 3dc in each corner st, ss to first dc.

Round 4 Repeat Round 1 using Yarn F.

Round 5 Working in back loops only: reverse dc in each st around working 3 reverse dc in each corner st.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

COLOURWORK SOCKS

Take stripes to a new level with these Fair Isle beauties by Anne Egan.

- DROPS Karisma (100% wool, 50g/100m), 2 balls of Light Beige Brown (55), 1 ball of each: Olive, (57), Blue Turquoise (60), Red (18), Dark Mustard (52), Cerise (13)
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- 2 stitch markers

TENSION

21 sts and 23 rows to 10x10cm (4x4in) over double crochet using a 4mm hook or size needed to obtain correct tension

MEASUREMENTS

Medium (UK size 5-6), 24cm (9½in) long

Large (UK size 7-8), 26cm (10¼in) long

Length can be adjusted by removing or inserting rounds before the toe section

ABBREVIATIONS

FPdtr2tog Worked as a dtr2tog, but inserting the hook around the post of each stitch from front to back to front

Spiked tr Work a treble stitch into the row/round specified, pulling the yarn up level with the current row/round

NOTES

Each sock is worked top down. The ribbing is worked back and forth in rows, joined into a tube and the leg is then worked in the round from the ribbing edge. The back of the heel is worked in rows. The foot is picked up from around the heel and leg stitches and worked in the round.

Change colour in the last yrh of the previous stitch and twist the ends of colours together when changing yarn mid-row.

RIBBING

Using Light Beige Brown, ch14.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook and in each ch to end, turn. [13 dc]

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

Row 3 Ch1, working in back loop only: dc in each st to end, turn.

Repeat Rows 2 and 3 until there are a total of 65 (73) rows. Do not fasten off.

LEG

Round 1 (RS) Working across the end of the ribbing, ch1 (does not count as st throughout), 64 (72)dc evenly around the ribbing edge, ss to first dc. [64 (72) sts]

Rounds 2-4 Ch1, (1dc in Light Beige Brown, 7dc in Red) around, ss to first dc.

Round 5 Continuing with red, ch1, dc in first 6 sts, dc2tog placing a marker in this st, dc in each st around to last 8 sts, dc2tog placing a marker in this st, dc in each st to end, ss in first dc. [62 (70) sts]

On the following 7 rounds, you will be decreasing by 2 sts each round. Work up to the first marker, decrease (dc2tog in a dc round, tr2tog in a tr round) over the marked st and the next st, move the marker to the decrease st just worked, work around to the stitch before the second marker, decrease over this st and the marked st, moving the marker to the decrease st just worked, continue to end.

Round 6 Using Blue Turquoise, ch3 (counts as first tr throughout), tr in each st around, decreasing at markers, ss to top of beg ch-3. [60 (68) sts]

Round 7 Using Cerise, ch1, dc in each st around, decreasing at markers, ss to first dc. [58 (66) sts]

Round 8 Ch3, tr in each st around, decreasing at markers, ss to top of beg ch-3. [56 (64) sts]

Round 9 Ch3, tr in next tr, (2tr in Blue Turquoise, 2tr in Cerise) around, decreasing at markers, ss in top of beg ch-3. [54 (62) sts]

Round 10 Ch3, tr in each st around, decreasing at markers, ss to top of beg ch-3. [52 (60) sts]

Round 11 Using Light Beige Brown, ch1, dc in each st around, decreasing at markers, ss to first dc. [50 (58) sts]

Round 12 Using Olive, ch3, tr in each st around, decreasing at markers, ss to top of beg ch-3. [48 (56) sts]

Remove markers.

Round 13 Ch3, tr in each st around

SIZE		M	L
TO FIT UK SHOE SIZE		5-6	7-8
ACTUAL LENGTH	cm	24	26
	in	9½	10¼
CIRCUMFERENCE AROUND BALL OF FOOT	cm	22	26
	in	8½	10¼

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

AUTUMN IDEAS

without decreases, ss to top of beg ch-3.

Round 14 Using Dark Mustard, ch1, skip first 2 sts of Round 12 and work a FPdtr around the next st of Round 12, *dc in next 3 sts (skip the st behind the FPdtr) of current round, FPdtr2tog in same st as last FPdtr, skip 3 sts of Round 12 and work second part of stitch around next st of Round 12; repeat from * around to last 3 sts, dc in next 3 sts, FPdtr around same st as last FPdtr, ss to top of first FPdtr.

Round 15 Using Olive, ch2 (counts as htr), *spiked tr in next 3 sts of Round 13, htr in next FPdtr2tog; repeat from * around omitting last htr on final repeat, ss to top of beg ch-2.

Round 16 Using Dark Mustard, ch1, dc in first 2 sts, *FPdtr2tog around posts of FPdtr2tog of Round 14 behind and ahead, dc in next 3 sts; repeat from * around, omitting last 2dc on final repeat, ss to first dc.

Round 17 Using Light Beige Brown, ch3, tr in next 5 sts, tr2tog over next 2 sts placing a marker in the st just worked, tr in each st around to last 8 sts, tr2tog over next 2 sts placing a marker in this st, tr in each st to end, ss to top of beg ch-3. [46 (54) sts] Continue moving markers up over the next 3 rounds.

Round 18 Using Blue Turquoise, ch3, tr in each st around, ss to top of beg ch-3.

Round 19 Using Red, ch3, tr in each st around, ss to top of beg ch-3.

Round 20 Using Dark Mustard, ch3, tr in each st around, ss to top of beg ch-3.

Round 21 Using Cerise, ch3, tr in each st around, decreasing at markers, ss in top of beg ch-3. [44 (52) sts] Remove markers.

Round 22 Using Olive, ch1, dc in each dc around, ss in first dc.

Fasten off.

HEEL

Rejoin Light Beige Brown in the 11th (13th) stitch before the end of the last round. Now work back and forth in rows as follows:

Row 1 (RS) Ch1, dc in each st to the end of the last round and continue working 11 (13)dc in the stitches of the next round, turn leaving remaining sts unworked. [22 (26) sts]

Rows 2-15 (17) Ch1, dc in each dc to

end, turn.

Row 16 (18) Ch1, dc in next 14 (16) dc, turn leaving remaining sts unworked. [14 (16) sts]

Row 17 (19) Ch1, dc in next 6 sts, turn leaving remaining sts unworked. [6 sts]

Row 18 (20) Ch1, dc in each st to last st of previous row, dc2tog in last st and first unworked dc of Row 15 (17), dc in next dc of Row 15 (17), turn leaving remaining sts unworked. [7 sts]

Row 19 (21) Ch1, dc in each st to last st of previous row, dc2tog in last dc and first unworked dc of Row 16 (18), dc in next dc in Row 16 (18), turn leaving remaining sts unworked. [8 sts]

Repeat the last 2 rows a further 3 (4) times. [14 (16) sts]

Fasten off.

FOOT

Join Olive with RS facing in the 8 (9)th dc of the last row, ready to work in the row ends of the Heel and unworked sts of the leg to join into the round:

Round 1 (RS) Ch1, dc in next 7 (8)dc, 12 (14)dc evenly along row ends of Heel to first row of Heel, tr2tog in end of first row and first unworked dc of Round 22 of Leg (mark this stitch), dc in next 20 (24)dc, tr2tog in last unworked dc and other end of first row of Heel (mark this stitch), 12 (14)dc evenly along row ends of other side of Heel, dc in remaining 7 (8)dc of last row of Heel, ss to first dc. [60 (70) sts]

On the following 7 rounds, you will be decreasing by 2 sts each round,



AUTUMN IDEAS

working the decrease st at each marker as explained for Round 6 of the Leg.

Rounds 2-5 Working in double crochet in the round and decreasing at the markers, work one round of each colour in the following sequence: Blue Turquoise, Red, Dark Mustard, Cerise. [52 (62) sts]

Round 6 Using Blue Turquoise, ch3, tr in each st around, decreasing at markers, ss to top of beg ch-3. [50 (60) sts]

Rounds 7-8 Working in double crochet in the round and decreasing at markers, work one round in Red and one round in Olive. [46 (56) sts] Remove markers.

Round 9 Ch3, (1tr in red, 1tr in Olive) around without decreasing, using Olive ss to top of beg ch-3.

Round 10 Ch1, dc in each st around, ss to first dc.

Rounds 11-13 Working in rounds of treble, work one round of each colour in the following sequence: Cerise, Dark Mustard, Light Beige Brown.

Round 14 Ch3, (1tr in Blue Turquoise, 1tr in Light Beige Brown) around, using Blue Turquoise ss to top of beg ch-3.

Round 15 Ch1, dc in each dc around, ss to first dc.

Rounds 16-18 Working in treble crochet in the round, work one round of each colour in the following sequence: Olive, Red, Dark Mustard.

For Large Size only

Repeat the last 2 rounds once more.

Both sizes

Working in double crochet in the round, work one round in each colour in the following sequence: Cerise, Blue, Turquoise, Light Beige Brown. Do not fasten off.

TOE

Fold sock flat so that the Heel is centred in bottom of foot. Mark the stitch at each side of the foot so that there are 23 (28) sts between markers.

Round 1 Ch1, *dc in each dc until 2 unworked sts before next marker, dc2tog over next 2 sts, dc in marked st, dc2tog over next 2 sts; repeat from *, dc in each dc around, ss to first dc. [42 (52) sts]

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

Repeat last 2 rounds twice more. [34 (44) sts]

Repeat (Round 1) 5 (7) more times. [14 (16) sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail. Turn inside out and sew up toe seam using tail. Weave in loose ends on WS.

GOLD TIPPED TIE

Make a skinny tie in two colours for him or her. Designed by Anne Egan.

- DROPS Karisma (100% wool, 50g/100m), 1 ball of each: Blue Turquoise (60) and Dark Mustard (52)
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- Tapestry needle

MEASUREMENTS

135cm long

NOTES

Tie is made from the narrow end, starting with a point in Dark Mustard. It is gently flared by increasing in the middle of a row, then decreased to a point at the wide end.

TIE

Using Dark Mustard, ch2.

Row 1 2dc in 2nd ch from hook, turn.

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as a stitch throughout), 2dc in each dc, turn. [4 dc] Change to Blue Turquoise.

Row 3 Ch1, 2dc in first dc, dc in each of next 2 dc, 2dc in last dc, turn. [6 dc]

Row 4 Ch1, dc in each dc to end, turn. [6 dc]

Repeat Row 4 until tie measures 85cm.

INCREASES

***Row 1** Ch1, dc in each dc to centre, 2dc in next dc, dc in each dc to end, turn. [7 dc]

Row 2 Ch1, dc across to end, turn.

Repeat (Row 2) 12 more times.**

Repeat from * to ** 3 more times. [10 dc]

Repeat from * to ** once more [11 dc] but work stripes over the last 6 rows as follows:

2 rows of Dark Mustard
2 rows of Blue Turquoise
2 rows of Dark Mustard

Change back to Blue Turquoise and repeat from * to ** once more [12 dc] but work stripes over the first 4 rows as



follows:

2 rows of Blue Turquoise
2 rows of Dark Mustard

Change back to Blue Turquoise and repeat from * to ** once more, but this time only working 9 rows in total. [13 dc]

DECREASES

Next row Ch1, skip 1 dc, dc in next 10 dc, dc2tog over last 2 sts, turn. [11 dc]

Next row Ch1, skip 1 dc, dc in next 8 dc, dc2tog over last 2 sts, turn. [9 dc] Change to Dark Mustard.

Next row Ch1, skip 1 dc, dc in next 6 dc, dc2tog over last 2 sts, turn. [7 dc]

Next row Ch1, skip 1 dc, dc in next 4 dc, dc2tog over last 2 sts, turn. [5 dc]

Next row Ch1, skip 1 dc, dc in next 2 dc, dc2tog over last 2 sts, turn. [3 dc]

Next row Ch1, skip 1 dc, dc2tog over last 2 sts. [1 dc]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Press with an iron on wool setting.



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Fair Isle vest



AUTUMN FAIR

Be the fairest of them all with this gorgeous colourwork tank top, designed by Simone Francis.

Fair Isle vest



YOU WILL NEED

- DROPS Karisma Uni Colour (100% wool, 50g/100m),
Yarn A Dark Mustard (52)
Yarn B Blue Turquoise (60)
Yarn C Light Beige Brown (55)
Yarn D Cerise (13)
Yarn E Olive (57)
Yarn F Red (18)
See table for yarn quantities and measurements.

- A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- A 4.5mm (US 7) hook
- Tapestry needle

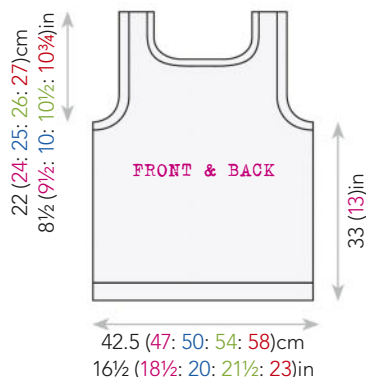
For yarn stockists, contact
Wool Warehouse 01926 882818
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TENSION

16 sts and 19 rows to measure
10x10cm (4x4in) over Fair Isle
pattern using a 4.5mm hook

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.



Get to grips with fabulous Fair Isle and hook a colourful tank top by Simone Francis. It's worked in patterned stripes using mainly double crochet stitches. You'll also be working front post trebles to create the ribbing around the neck, armholes and hem. Find the chart you need on page 93.

NOTES

The Vest is worked in 2 pieces from the bottom up.

Chain sts are not counted as sts, unless otherwise stated.

Keep the main colourwork pattern correct throughout.

BACK

With Yarn A and a 4mm hook, ch68 (74: 80: 86: 92).

Foundation row Tr into third ch from hook (skipped ch counts as tr), tr into each ch to end, turn. [66 (72: 78: 84: 90) sts]

Row 1 Ch3 (counts as tr), *1FPtr in next st, 1BPtr in next st; rep from * to last st, tr into top of beg ch-3, turn.

Row 2 Repeat Row 1.

MAIN PATTERN

Change to 4.5mm hook.

CHART

On the Chart (see p93), each square represents 1 dc stitch. Read all RS rows from right to left, and WS rows from left to right. When changing colour mid-row, twist the ends of the two colours together and pick up the new colour in the last yrh of the previous stitch. Carry the unused strands of yarn across the WS of the work.

For sizes 10 and 14, follow the Chart between the red pattern repeat lines (stitches 1-12 on the Chart) and then repeat this section to the end of the row. Do not use stitches 13-18.

For sizes 8, 12 and 16, on a RS row follow the Chart up to the red pattern repeat line (stitches 1-12), and then repeat this section until the last 6 sts of the row, when you follow stitches 13-18 on the Chart.

For a WS row, follow stitches 18-13 at the beginning of the row, then use the repeat section of the Chart (stitches 12-1) to the end of the row.

The first few rows have been written out in full to help you follow the Chart.

Row 1 (RS) Using Yarn B, ch1 (does not

SIZE		8	10	12	14	16
TO FIT BUST	cm	81	86	91	97	102
	in	32	34	36	38	40
ACTUAL BUST	cm	83	90	98	105	113
	in	32½	35½	38½	41¼	44¼
LENGTH	cm	56	57	58	59	60
	in	22	22¼	22¾	23	23½
YARN A	50g balls	2	3	3	3	4
YARN B	50g balls	2	2	2	3	3
YARN C	50g balls	2	2	3	3	3
YARN D	50g balls	2	2	3	3	3
YARN E	50g balls	2	2	2	3	3
YARN F	50g balls	1	1	2	2	2

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

Fair Isle vest

count as st throughout Main Pattern), dc into each st to end, turn.

Row 2 (WS) For sizes 8, 12 and 16: ch1, *2 dc in Yarn B, 2 dc in Yarn C; repeat from * to last 2 sts, 2 dc in Yarn B, turn. For sizes 10 and 14: ch1, *2 dc in Yarn C, 2 dc in Yarn B; repeat from * to end, turn.

Row 3 Using Yarn C, ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 4 Using Yarn D, ch1, dc into the front loop of each st to end, turn.

Row 5 Ch1, *2 dc in Yarn D, 1 dc in Yarn B; rep from * to end, turn.

Row 6 Using Yarn D, ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 7 Using Yarn C, ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 8 For sizes 8, 12 and 16: ch1, *2 dc in Yarn A, 2 dc in Yarn C; repeat from * to last 2 dc, 2 dc in Yarn A, turn. For sizes 10 and 14: *2 dc in Yarn C, 2 dc in Yarn A; repeat from * to end, turn.

Rows 9-32 Continue following Chart. Work a further 24 rows, repeating Rows 1-24.

SHAPE ARMHOLES

Row 1 (RS) Using Yarn C, ss across and into the sixth st, dc into the next dc and each following st to last 6 sts, ss in last 6 sts, turn.

Row 2 Using Yarn E, rejoin yarn to the first dc st with a ss (skipping the 6 slip sts), dc into the front loop only of each dc to end (do not work into last 6 ss), turn. [54 (60: 66: 72: 78) sts]

Keeping the colourwork pattern correct, dc2tog at each end of the next and following 1 (1: 2: 3) rows. If a decrease occurs over stitches of 2 different colours, work the stitch in the colour of the second of the two stitches on the Chart. [50 (56: 62: 66: 70) sts]

Work 2 rows in pattern without shaping.

Dc2tog at each end of the next row. [48 (54: 60: 64: 68) sts] **

Keeping the pattern correct, work 33 (35: 37: 38: 39) more rows, without shaping.

DIVIDE FOR NECKLINE

Row 1 (RS) Ch1, 9 (11: 13: 13) dc, turn, leaving remaining sts unworked.

Rows 2-3 Ch1, dc into each st to end,

turn.

Row 4 Ch1, 5 (6: 6: 7: 7) dc, 4 (5: 5: 6: 6) ss. **Fasten off.**

Skipping the centre 30 (32: 36: 38: 42) sts and keeping the pattern correct, rejoin yarn with RS facing to the following st with a ss.

Row 1 (RS) Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

Rows 2-3 Repeat Row 1, turn.

Row 4 4 (5: 5: 6: 6) ss, ch1, 5 (6: 6: 7: 7) dc. **Fasten off.**

FRONT

Work as for Back to **.

Keeping the pattern correct, work 17 (19: 21: 22: 23) more rows.

DIVIDE FOR NECKLINE

Row 1 (RS) Ch1, 11 (13: 14: 15: 15) dc, turn, leaving remaining sts unworked.

Row 2 Ch1, dc2tog, 9 (11: 12: 13: 13) dc, turn. [10 (12: 13: 14: 14) sts]

Row 3 Ch1, 8 (10: 11: 12: 12) dc, dc2tog, turn. [9 (11: 12: 13: 13) sts]

Work 16 more rows, keeping pattern correct.

Next row Ch1, 5 (6: 6: 7: 7) dc, 4 (5: 5: 6: 6) ss. **Fasten off.**

Skipping the centre 26 (28: 32: 34: 38) sts and keeping the pattern correct, rejoin yarn with RS facing to the following st with a ss.

Row 1 (RS) Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn. [11 (13: 14: 15: 15) sts]

Row 2 Ch1, dc into each st to last 2 sts, dc2tog, turn. [10 (12: 13: 14: 14) sts]

Row 3 Ch1, dc2tog, dc in each st to end, turn. [9 (11: 12: 13: 13) sts]

Work 16 more rows in pattern.

Next row 4 (5: 5: 6: 6) ss, ch1, 5 (6: 6: 7: 7) dc. **Fasten off.**

TO MAKE UP

Place Front and Back pieces together and sew up shoulder and side seams.

NECKBAND

Row 1 Using a 4.5mm hook, with RS facing and starting at right shoulder seam, join Yarn A with a ss to seam, ch3 (counts as tr), 4tr down back neck, 30 (32: 36: 38: 42) tr along neckline, 5tr up opposite side, 18tr down front, 1tr into corner, 26 (28: 32: 34: 38) tr along neckline, 1tr into corner, 18tr up opposite side, ss into top of beg ch-3.



The scoop neckline of the vest makes it perfect for layering over a plain shirt.



The front and back of the vest are worked alike, with the same sequence of stripes.

[104 (108: 116: 120: 128) sts]

Change to 4mm hook.

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), *1FPtr in next st, 1BPtr in next st; rep from * to last st, ss into top of beg ch. **Fasten off.**

ARMHOLE EDGING

Row 1 (RS) Using a 4.5mm hook, join Yarn A to underarm seam with a ss, ch3 (counts as tr), tr 91 (95: 99: 103: 107) sts evenly around armhole edge.

Change to 4mm hook.

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), *1FPtr in next st, 1BPtr in next st; rep from * to end, ss into top of beg ch.

Fasten off.

TO FINISH

Weave in all ends.

Block gently to measurements.

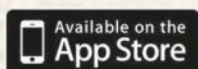
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KAT'S JOURNAL

...FROM THE STUDIO

Can you ever have too much wool?
Designer Kat Goldin chats about yarn
snobbery and taming her stash.



Free wool is definitely one of the best perks of being a crochet designer. My postman Bill jokes that he should be renamed 'The Yarn Delivery Service' because bags of wool are often the only reason he heads up our two-mile stretch of rural road. Cracking open a new ball of wool is still one of my greatest joys in this work. Even my children have started looking forward to the yarn deliveries, pawing through each parcel to claim their favourite hank, skein or ball.

AN OVERFLOWING STASH

As the years have gone by, my stash has grown a lot. I used to be able to confine my entire yarn collection to a filing system from Ikea, but now my bags and boxes of the stuff seem to be multiplying in the corners of my studio, where they're precariously jammed into wardrobes and piled up in laundry baskets on the floor. I currently have no proper system for storing it all away and I sometimes do wonder if anyone would ever find me under the wool mountain, if it should all collapse one day.

My yarn stash reads a little bit like a timeline of my designs. It used to be that I had very specific tastes in yarn. I liked alpaca-silk blends and very little else would turn my head. I was a certified yarn snob. In my early days of designing, I would use just whatever took my fancy. I was mostly drawn to single-ply, hand-dyed yarns. I didn't really pay any attention to where it came from or what the overall cost was, I simply bought (or

requested via yarn support) the things I liked and went with that. Looking back, I am now quite embarrassed about the cost of some of the projects I designed, having never considered then what the overall cost to makers would be if they used the suggested yarn.

While I still have a preference for natural fibres and hand-dyed yarns, the more yarns I use, the wider my tastes become and the better understanding I have of making more budget-conscious design decisions. Not only that, in the last few years, acrylic and acrylic mixes

have come a long way from the garish palettes and unpleasant, squeaky textures of my early designing days.

KICKING THE HABIT

I largely try to live by the often-quoted advice: "Choose the best yarn you can afford for the project." With the rise of cheap knitwear on the high street, handmade can seem like an extravagance. It is hard not to do the comparison: "I could buy a hat in town for £3, but to make it will cost more." Affordability takes on a whole new

"I do wonder if anyone
would ever find me under
the wool mountain."



COLUMN



"Acrylic has
come a long way."

dimension in this context because even a jumper made using an affordable acrylic-mix yarn can end up costing 10 times the price of a similar item in a shop.

As someone who doesn't wear much jewellery, I like to think of my yarn purchases as my wardrobe accessories. Those extra-special skeins of hand-dyed yarn are perfect for small crochet projects – a way to make a bit of a statement without costing the earth. A special skein of hand-dyed yarn can cost in the region of £12, but is perfect for a project that uses just 100g of yarn like a

crochet shawl, a pair of socks or a hat, and is far more practical than a diamond.

Some recent additions to my personal yarn mountain are acrylic and acrylic-wool mixes. If your budget is tight, acrylic is the place to go. It is cheap and hard-wearing, with many newer lines offering anti-pilling coatings so they hold up well to general wear. The colour palettes have evolved as well, moving from pastels to a mix that actually look good to wear and for around the home.

Perhaps the biggest change for me is that I have become much more

conscious of my consumption of wool. I have come to realise that there is actually such a thing as too much wool and I have found that there is something quite gluttonous about hoarding yarn and buying it with no real purpose. At yarn shows, I now try to restrain myself and go armed with a list of upcoming projects so I know what I can come home with. I'd much rather spend a larger amount on one project that I know I will make, than spend the same amount on several hanks that will only languish sadly in a drawer!

A LOCH AT MY MONTH

"Finding inspiration in Orkney, the new Crochet Project Acer Shawl and a winged visitor to the studio."





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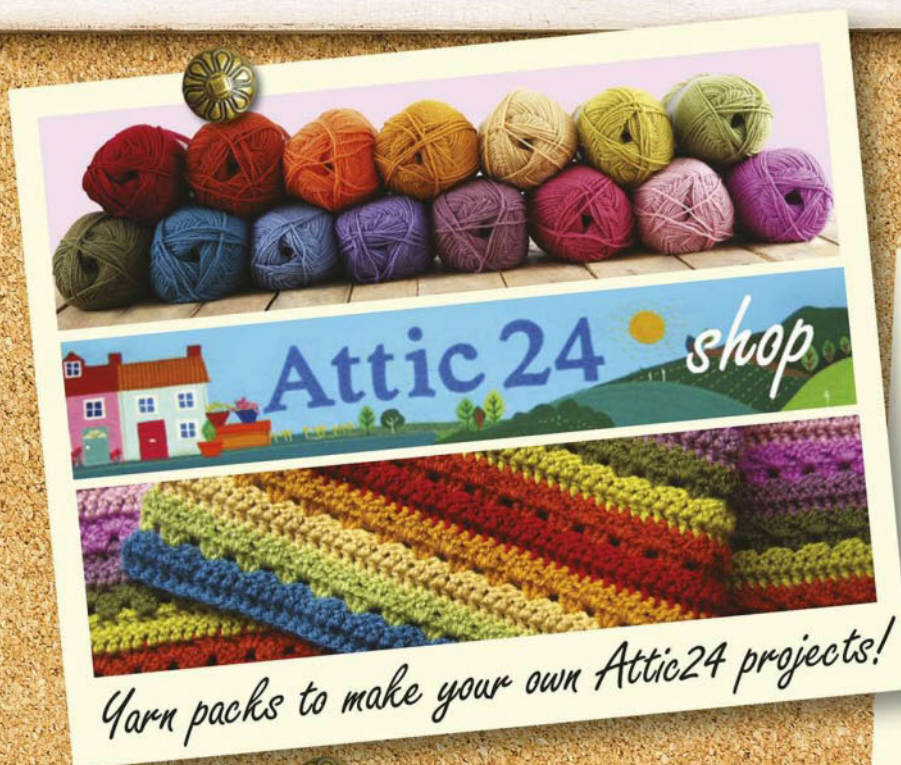
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PONY

by GROVES



MOOCHI KITTEN

Who doesn't need a cute crochet kitty in their life? This one's designed by Susan Yeates.

Amigurumi cat



YOU WILL NEED

- Debbie Bliss Rialto 4ply (100% wool, 50g/180m), 1 ball of Grey (04)
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- Stitch marker
- Toy stuffing
- Darning needle
- Black embroidery thread
- Toy eyes, two cat-like press-through eyes in green
- Scissors

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

ABBREVIATIONS

Invisible decrease (inv dec)

Insert the hook into the front loop of the first st (do not yrh), insert the hook into the front loop of the next st, yrh, draw through first two loops on hook, yrh, draw through both loops on the hook

For a full list, see page 92.

Designer Susan Yeates says: "I had a special request to make a tiny amigurumi cat for my book, so after a little searching to find the right yarn, here she is: Moochi, a cute kitten with a lovely long tail!" We can't deny that she's adorable and tiny enough to fit neatly in a teacup. There's plenty of time to make your spooky kitty for Halloween, too. Get hooking.

NOTES

Pattern is worked from the head down into the body. The legs, ears and tail are worked separately and sewn on afterwards.

The cat is made using the amigurumi method. Work sts continuously in a 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.

HEAD AND BODY

Make a magic loop.

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

Pull the tail end of the yarn tight to close the hole in the centre.

Place a stitch marker in the first stitch and move to first stitch of the new round as you progress.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rounds 8-13 Dc in each st around.

Round 14 (Dc in each of next 5 dc, inv dec over next 2 dc) 6 times. [36 dc]

Round 15 (Dc in each of next 4 dc, inv dec over next 2 dc) 6 times. [30 dc]

Round 16 (Dc in each of next 3 dc, inv dec over next 2 dc) 6 times. [24 dc]

Round 17 (Dc in each of next 2 dc, inv dec over next 2 dc) 6 times. [18 dc]

Insert the press-through eyes between Rounds 9 and 10, using the photos as a guide.

Stuff Head and continue stuffing as you work until the end.

Round 18 (Dc in next dc, inv dec over

next 2 dc) 6 times. [12 dc]

Round 19 Work as Round 3. [18 dc]

Round 20 Work as Round 4. [24 dc]

Round 21 Work as Round 5. [30 dc]

Rounds 22-27 Dc in each st around.

Round 28 Work as Round 16. [24 dc]

Round 29 Work as Round 17. [18 dc]

Round 30 Work as Round 18. [12 dc]
Finish stuffing.

Round 31 (Inv dec over next 2 dc) 6 times, ss to first dc. [6 dc]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Thread the tail through the last 6 dc and pull tight to close hole neatly.

Secure firmly and weave in ends.

FRONT LEGS (MAKE 2)

Make a magic loop.

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

Round 2 Dc in next dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next dc. [6 dc]

Round 3 (Dc in each of next 2 dc, 2dc in next dc) twice. [8 dc]

Rounds 4-5 Dc in each st around.

Round 6 Dc in each of next 3 dc, inv dec over next 2 dc, dc in each of next 3 dc. [7 dc]

Round 7 Dc in each st around.

Round 8 Dc in each of next 2 dc, inv dec over next 2 dc, dc in each of next 3 dc. [6 dc]

Round 9 Dc in each st around, ss to first dc.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Thread the tail through the last 6 dc and pull tight to close hole.

Secure firmly and weave in ends.

BACK LEGS (MAKE 2)

Make a magic loop.

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

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

Rounds 3-4 Dc in each st around.

Round 5 (Inv dec over next 2 dc) 6 times. [6 dc]

Rounds 6-7 Dc in each st around.

Round 8 Dc in each st around, ss to first dc.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing up later.

Stuff leg with a small amount of toy stuffing so that the round end is stuffed and the open end is flat.

EARS (MAKE 2)

Make a magic loop.

Round 1 Ch1 (does not count as st),

Amigurumi cat

6dc into loop. [6 dc]

Round 2 Dc in each st around.

Round 3 (Dc in next dc, 2dc in next dc) 3 times. [9 dc]

Round 4 Dc in each st around.

Round 5 (Dc in each of next 2 dc, 2dc in next dc) 3 times. [12 dc]

Round 6 Dc in each st around, ss to first dc.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail to sew the Ears onto the Head later. Do not stuff.

TAIL

Make a magic loop.

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

Round 2 Dc in each of next 2 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in each of next 2 dc. [6 dc]

Rounds 3-17 Dc in each st around, stuffing tail as you work.

Round 18 Dc in each st around, ss to first dc.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail to sew onto Body later.

TO MAKE UP

Sew the Front Legs onto the Body, using the photos as a guide. These are sewn on at the front of the Body approx 2-3 rows below the Head.

The open ends of the Front Legs are attached to the Body. Flatten the ends and sew through both sides when attaching and fasten off the yarn underneath so that it cannot be seen.

Sew the Back Legs onto the Body using the photos as a guide. These legs sit

underneath the Body, just 1-2 rows from the centre.

Sew the Ears to the Head. Flatten the Ears into a triangle before attaching. Sew through both edges of the Ears to secure fully, approximately 2 rows from the top centre of the Head.

Using a darning needle and some black embroidery thread, sew the nose and mouth onto the face of the cat using small backstitches and referring to the images as a guide.

Fasten off the thread so that your knots cannot be seen.

Attach the Tail to the back of the Body. This sits in line with the legs (at approx Round 3-4) so that when the cat is seated, the Tail helps it to sit up.



Be sure to use a pair of safety eyes so that your cute Moochi Kitten is child-friendly.



Sew the four legs on securely, using this image as a guide for their placement.



This cute crochet kitty project comes from the book *Amigurumi Animals* by Susan Yeates, published by CreateSpace. It features 21 adorable animal crochet

patterns and is available to purchase online for £14.95 from www.amazon.co.uk

SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO WORK DOUBLE CROCHET IN A SPIRAL



1 Make a foundation ring (see p89) and work the t-ch (1ch for dc). Now work dc stitches into the ring, but do not join the last stitch and first stitch of this first round with a slip stitch.



2 Instead, work the first dc stitch of the second round into the first stitch of the first round. To do this, insert the hook into the stitch, yrh, pull yarn through, yrh and pull the yarn through both loops.



3 You'll now be working in a spiral. Continue to work more rounds of dc stitches in a spiral, according to your pattern instructions.



4 On the last round, after you've worked the last dc stitch, you'll need to finish off the spiral with a slip stitch for a neat edge: insert the hook into the next stitch, yrh and pull through both loops.



Tweed jacket



PLAID ABOUT YOU

Crochet a stunning colourwork jacket using cosy tweed yarn. By Lisa Richardson for Rowan.

Tweed jacket



YOU WILL NEED

- Rowan Tweed (100% wool, 50g/118m), Litton 592, Keld 583, Wensley 590, Tissington 600
 - Rowan Fine Tweed (100% wool, 25g/90m), Leyburn 383
- See table for yarn quantities and measurements

- A 3.5mm (US E4) hook
- A 4.5mm (US 7) hook
- Stitch marker

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

TENSION

20 sts and 11 rows to measure
10cm (4in) square over pattern
using a 3.5mm hook

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

Lisa Richardson's clever tweed jacket design forms a mesh of horizontal stripes. Vertical lines of surface crochet are worked into this mesh at the end to achieve the stylish plaid look. The chic silhouette, wide collar and understated colours make this jacket a modern classic. It's worked in five shades of beautiful Rowan tweed.

STRIPE SEQUENCE

Rows 1-3 Use Yarn A.

Row 4 Use Yarn B.

Rows 5-6 Use Yarn C.

Row 7 Use Yarn B.

Rows 8-10 Use Yarn A.

Row 11 Use Yarn B.

Rows 12-13 Use Yarn D.

Row 14 Use Yarn B.

These 14 rows form stripe sequence and are repeated throughout.

BACK

Using a 3.5mm hook and Yarn A, ch122
(130: 142: 154: 170).

Row 1 (RS) Tr into 6th ch from hook (skipped ch counts as ch1, 1 tr, ch1), (ch1, skip 1 ch, tr into next ch) to end, turn. [119 (127: 139: 151: 167) sts]

Row 2 Ch4 (counts as 1 tr, ch1), skip next ch, tr into next tr, (ch1, skip 1 ch, tr into next tr) to end, working final tr into 4th of 5 ch at beg of previous row, turn.

Row 3 Ch4 (counts as 1 tr, ch1), skip next ch, tr into next tr, (ch1, skip 1 ch, tr into next tr) to end, working final tr into 3rd of 4 ch at beg of previous row, turn. Repeat Row 3 in stripe sequence (joining in and breaking off colours as required) until back measures 41 (42: 43: 44: 45)cm, ending with RS facing for next row.

ARMHOLE SHAPING

Place markers at both ends of last row to denote base of armhole openings.

Next row (RS dec row) Ch2 (counts as first half of dec st), skip next ch, tr into next tr (2 sts dec), (ch1, skip 1 ch, tr into next tr) to last 3 sts, tr2tog over next 3 sts (work first 'leg' into next tr, skip 1 ch and work second 'leg' into next tr) (2 sts dec), turn. [4 sts dec in total]

Repeat previous row, 1 (2: 4: 5: 8) more times. [111 (115: 119: 127: 137) sts]

Continue straight in pattern until armhole measures 22 (23: 24: 25: 26) cm, ending with RS facing for next row.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Place markers on both sides of centre 39 (39: 39: 39: 43) sts to denote back neck. There should be 36 (38: 40: 44: 44) sts beyond markers – these sts form shoulder seams.

LEFT FRONT

Using a 3.5mm hook and Yarn A, ch82.

Row 1 (RS) Tr into 6th ch from hook (skipped ch counts as ch1, 1 tr, ch1), (ch1, skip 1 ch, tr into next ch) to end, turn. [79 (83: 89: 95: 103) sts]

Work Rows 2 and 3 as given for Back.

Repeat Row 3, keeping stripe sequence correct, until Left Front matches Back to beg of armhole shaping, ending with RS facing for next row.

ARMHOLE SHAPING

Place marker at end of last row to denote base of armhole opening.

Keeping stripe sequence correct and working decreases in same way as Back Armhole Shaping, dec 2 sts at armhole edge of next 2 (3: 5: 6: 9) rows. [75 (77: 79: 83: 85) sts]

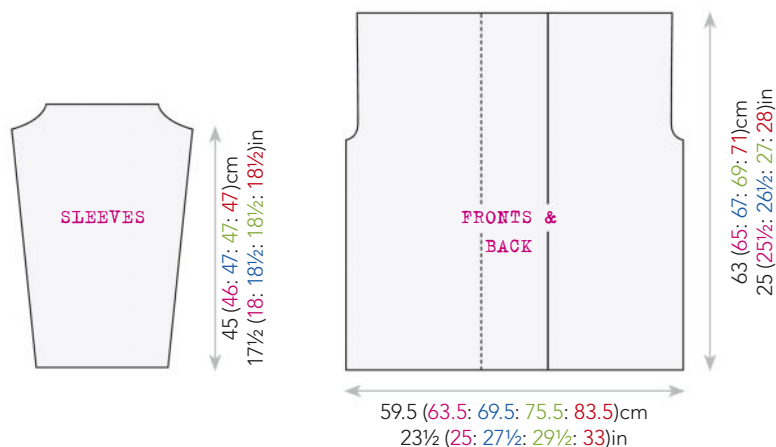
Continue straight until Left Front matches back to Shoulder fasten off row, ending with RS facing for next row.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Place marker 36 (38: 40: 44: 44) sts in from armhole edge to denote shoulder sts – there should be 39 (39: 39: 39: 41) sts at centre front beyond marker.

RIGHT FRONT

Work as given for Left Front, reversing shapings, but do NOT fasten off yarn – this will be used for collar. Place stitch marker in final stitch. (Note: If a stripe has just been completed, change to required new colour and set this new ball of yarn to one side.)



Tweed jacket

SLEEVES (MAKE 2)

Using a 3.5mm hook and Yarn A, ch54.

Row 1 (RS) Tr into 6th ch from hook (skipped ch counts as ch1, 1 tr, ch1), (ch1, skip 1 ch, tr into next ch) to end, turn. [51 (55: 55: 55: 59) sts]

Work Rows 2 and 3 as given for Back. Repeat Row 3, keeping stripe sequence correct, for 3 rows.

Next row (RS inc row) Ch4 (counts as 1 tr and ch1), tr into tr at base of 4 ch (2 sts increased), (ch1, skip 1 ch, tr into next tr) to last 2 sts, ch1, skip 1 ch, (1tr, ch1, 1tr) into 3rd of 4 ch at beg of prev row (2 sts inc), turn. [4 sts inc in total] Continue working in pattern, repeating inc row on 6th (6th: 6th: 4th: 4th) row and 3 (3: 6: 2: 2) foll 6th (6th: 6th: 4th: 4th) rows, then on 2 (2: -: 5: 5) foll 8th (8th: -: 6th: 6th) rows, taking the inc sts into the pattern. [79 (83: 87: 91: 95) sts] Cont straight until Sleeve meas 45 (46: 47: 47: 47)cm, ending with RS facing.

TOP SHAPING

Next row (RS dec row) Ss across and into 9th (7th: 5th: 3rd: 3rd) st, ch2 (counts as first half of dec st), skip next ch, tr into next tr [10 (8: 6: 4: 4) sts dec], (ch1, skip 1 ch, tr into next tr) to last 12

(10: 8: 6: 6) sts, ch1, skip 1 ch, tr2tog over next 3 sts (work first 'leg' into next tr, skip 1 ch and work second 'leg' into next tr), turn leaving rem sts unworked [10 (8: 6: 4: 4) sts dec]. [20 (16: 12: 8: 8) sts dec in total]

Rep last row 1 (3: 5: 7: 9) more times.

[39 (19: 15: 27: 15) sts]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

MAKING UP

Block pieces, foll instructions on yarn's ball band. Join shoulder seams using backstitch or mattress stitch.

COLLAR

Using a 3.5mm hook, pick up working loop from Right Front with RS facing. Beg and ending at front opening edges, patt across all 39 (39: 39: 39: 41) sts of Right Front neck, patt across 39 (39: 39: 39: 43) sts of Back, patt across 39 (39: 39: 39: 41) sts of Left Front neck. [117 (117: 117: 117: 125) sts]

Work straight in patt on all sts until collar measures 26cm. **Fasten off**.

VERTICAL LINE DECORATION

Basic patt will have formed a mesh of ch-1 sps. Vertical lines are surface



The top edge of the tweed jacket folds down to form an oversized, statement collar.

crocheted over the ch-1 sp 'holes' of the mesh as follows:

Using a 4.5mm hook and yarn held double, make a slipknot. Holding yarn at WS of work and with RS facing you, draw a loop through the first 'hole' above the lower edge. Insert hook into 'hole' directly above and draw a loop through both this 'hole' and loop on hook. Continue in this way, working up each vertical line of 'holes'. At top of work, **fasten off** and weave in ends.

Work all vertical lines in this way over Back section as follows:

Leave centre back neck 3 'holes' empty. Then, working towards the RH seam, fill next 'hole' using Yarn B, next 2 'holes' using Yarn C, next 'hole' using Yarn B, next 3 'holes' using Yarn A, next 'hole' using Yarn B, next 2 'holes' using Yarn E, next 'hole' using Yarn B, then leave next 3 'holes' empty.

Repeat this 14-band sequence towards the RH seam, then work towards LH seam in same way to match.

Fill 'holes' of Fronts in same way, ensuring lines of surface crochet match at shoulder. Add lines to Sleeves in same way, working out from centre and leaving centre 3 'holes' empty.

Sew Sleeves into shoulder seam. Join side and Sleeve seams.



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

SIZE		S	M	L	XL	XXL
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	119	127	139	151	167
	in	47	50	55	59	66
LENGTH	cm	63	65	67	69	71
	in	25	25½	26½	27	28
SLEEVE LENGTH	cm	45	46	47	47	47
	in	17½	18	18½	18½	18½
YARN A 592 LITTON	50g	7	8	8	9	10
YARN B 583 KELD	50g	5	6	6	7	8
YARN C 590 WENSLEY	50g	4	4	5	6	7
YARN D 600 TISSINGTON	50g	2	2	3	3	4
YARN E 383 LEYBURN	25g	2	2	2	3	3

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

"Opening Loop was a huge leap. I had to trust my instincts."



TOTALLY LOOPY ABOUT FIBRE

Susan Cropper, founder of Loop, gives us an insight into the yarn shop, workshop centre and design studio, on the brink of their 10th anniversary.

Susan Cropper has a simple but effective ethos – if something she wants doesn't exist then she'll look for a way to make it herself. It's an outlook that has worked spectacularly well with her business Loop. "I thought it would be wonderful to have a warm, friendly space where you could buy beautiful yarns in natural fibres, learn new techniques and see finished products from artisanal designers," she recalls.

The craving for the business that would become Loop began taking shape over a decade ago when Susan started "noticing beautiful, hand-dyed yarns whenever I travelled to the US, but

realising there was nowhere in London where you could buy that kind of thing."

In fact, however, the seeds of the business took root far earlier, during her childhood in New York. "I was always involved with textiles," she comments. "When I was growing up, my mother had a loom and she got into dyeing so there were often skeins of yarn in the bathroom, hanging from the shower rail. She was an interior designer and the house was full of fabric swatches. It was in my blood."

FIBRE FANATIC

Susan became aware of increasingly complicated and stylish crochet patterns appearing in the American market, as well

as at design fairs she attended through her work as an art director and stylist for magazines. "People were showcasing beautiful work," she says. "I was intrigued by what you could actually do with yarn."

As her ideas and interests caught hold, Susan began researching in 2004 and within a year, Loop had opened in its first premises on Cross Street, Islington. "I'd never done anything like it before – it was a huge leap," Susan admits. "I had to trust my instincts and hope other people would find the idea as thrilling as I did."

Fortunately, they did and within five years, the shop had outgrown that little space – it was time to move to a far larger property on Camden Passage. Susan says



this was an immensely important moment for her. "On Camden Passage, we have an entire building. On the day we opened it, more than 150 people were lined up outside, all just as excited as me."

Within eight months of opening the bricks and mortar shop, the online shop had launched as well, working seamlessly with the real-world version to sell yarns and haberdashery from all over the world.

"It's all dealt with by myself and my staff of nine – we take it in turns pulling, packing and shipping," Susan says. Having the

two elements of the shop so in tune is crucial. "It means we can keep a dialogue open with our customers, changing any things that aren't quite working."

It helps that the staff are as craft-obsessed as their customers. "We have some brilliant crocheters and knitters on the team, including several who teach our workshops as well." Loop's workshops have gained a legendary status, with people flocking to learn everything from crochet and embroidery led by Cécile Franconie to Tunisian techniques taught by Aoibhe Ní. "I hope people will develop new skills and feel inspired," says Susan. "The classes have been part of Loop from the start – I like to think they give people new pleasure in their craft through the confidence they come away with."

INSPIRED IDEAS

While Susan isn't a designer herself, she's always on the lookout for fresh ideas. "It might stem from wondering what will get a particular yarn into people's hands, or something that has nothing to do with craft might inspire a design – a photo of a

cabin by a lake or tea lights on a table," she says. "I have a very visual mind."

She doesn't find time to read many blogs, but Susan loves to dip into www.dottieangel.blogspot.co.uk by Tif Fussell and www.posiegetscozy.com by Alicia Paulson. Her other craft heroes include Parisian crochet artist Sophie Digard and Julie Arkell, the folk artist who creates the embellished papier-mâché dolls that

turn up on so much of Loop's branding.

Running the various aspects of Loop, while a delight, is very challenging. "The

sheer volume of work!" she exclaims. "For the first few years, I was always up late getting things done. As well as the fun bits the customers see, there's paperwork, logging stuff in, uploading and getting it ready to sell. Even now, ten years in, there are times when I'm just working a lot."

She tries to ensure she gets a day and a half off each week. "It means you have more energy and enthusiasm when you return." But even on those days, work can creep in. "I love museums and recently saw an exhibition by the artist Nathalie

Lété," she says. "Ideas are inevitable – they filter back through the shop."

As it happens, Susan has hired Nathalie to give the shop a makeover for Loop's upcoming anniversary. "Nathalie will be painting our front window on Saturday 19th September," she says. "She'll also have a pop-up shop with us that day."

Another venture spurred on by the anniversary is Loop's book *Ten*, due out in September to coincide with the revelries. "It's a nod to the independent designers and producers who have been involved with Loop over the years," she says.

The book contains 10 knitting and crochet patterns designed by Pam Allen, Ysolda Teague, Juju Vail, Stephen West, Tif Fussell and others. "There are crochet garlands, lace shawls, cardigans, fingerless mittens..." Susan reels off. "It's all very sumptuous, with gorgeous photography and snippets from people who have been part of Loop's journey."

It's the culmination of 10 extraordinary years for Susan and Loop, with many more great achievements on the horizon. When asked where she thinks she'll be in five years, however, Susan laughs, and says jokingly: "On an island in Bali, hopefully!"

Interview by Judy Darley

"I LIKE TO THINK OUR CLASSES GIVE PEOPLE CONFIDENCE AND NEW PLEASURE IN THEIR CRAFT."



A FEW OF HER FAVOURITE THINGS

"In my spare time, I like to mooch about vintage fairs, listen to audio books, watch box sets of shows like *Breaking Bad*, or watch films.

I also love to travel. My dad has a great cabin in Pennsylvania where there's absolutely nothing to do except help in the garden or

hang out on the porch – heaven. Or I might go over to France, catch an exhibition, then eat and sleep."

To find out more about what else is in store for Loop's 10th anniversary celebrations and to have a sneak peek at the new pattern book, visit www.loopknitting.com

DAYTIME IN PARIS

Lavish lace and texture – meet your new go-to bag by Mary Jane Hall.



Lacy bag



YOU WILL NEED

- Tahki Yarns Cotton Classic Lite (100% mercerized cotton, 50g/135m), 5 skeins of Deep Leaf Green (4725)
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- Fabric for lining, 0.9m (1yd) (optional, see notes)
- Stabilizer (optional, see notes)
- Sewing needle and thread
- Tapestry needle
- Leather tote handles, 61cm (24in) long

For yarn stockists, contact
LoveCrochet 0845 544 2324
www.lovecrochet.com

TENSION

1 shell with 5 popcorn sts at top to measure 5.5cm (2¼in) wide
1 patt rep to measure 14.5cm (5¾in), 6 rows to measure 5.5cm (2¼in)

MEASUREMENTS

Shoulder Bag measures 35.5cm (14in) tall and 28cm (11in) wide, not including handles
Larger Beach Bag/Carry-On measures 38cm (15in) tall and 56cm (22in) wide
Handles (from top of bag) measure 28cm (11in)

ABBREVIATIONS

Beginning popcorn (beg pop)

Ch3 (counts as tr), 4tr in designated st, remove loop from hook, insert hook from front to back in top of beg ch-3, insert hook in dropped loop and draw through top of first st, ch1 to close

Popcorn (pop) 5tr in designated st, remove loop from hook, insert hook from front to back in top of first tr made, insert hook in dropped loop and draw through top of first st, ch1 to close

Shell 11tr in same ch-5 sp

For a full list, see page 92.

Designer Mary Jane Hall says: "If you like texture, you'll love this bag. But if you don't enjoy making popcorn stitches or would just prefer a smoother surface, all you have to do is work a 3tr-cluster stitch in place of the popcorns. This fun project can be used as a shoulder bag or tote, and I've added easy instructions for making it larger (twice the size) to be used as a beach bag or carry-on." Pick the size of bag that suits you best and get hooking.

NOTES

Sample uses 0.5m (½yd) each of two different fabrics – a printed fabric for the inside lining and a solid-colour fabric to show through the front of the bag. You could also use a quilted fabric printed on both sides for the lining instead of 2 fabrics and stabilizer. If you're making the shoulder bag, you'll need 1.8m (2yd) of total fabric and 0.5m (½yd) of stabilizer (optional), such as Pellon or Peltex, depending on how stiff you want your bag to be. Fusible is best because you can adhere it to the fabric with an iron. If you're making the beach bag or carry-on, you'll need 0.9m (1yd) of stabilizer. If you are adding the lining fabric, make sure you sew the pocket to the inside lining before sewing the front, back and side pieces together.

If you would like less texture or don't like working popcorn sts, you can replace the popcorns with 3-tr clusters. You will always have a ch-2 before and after each popcorn st. When working into popcorns, always work sts into the ch-1 sp behind the popcorn, not into one of the popcorn's treble sts.

SHOULDER BAG BAG BOTTOM

Using 4mm hook, ch8.

Row 1 Tr in third ch from hook (skipped ch counts as first tr), tr in each ch across, turn. [7 tr]

Row 2 Ch2 (counts as tr throughout), tr in each tr across, turn. [7 tr]
Repeat Row 2 until work measures 26.5cm (10½in) from beginning, or 28 rows. Do not fasten off.

BODY OF BAG

Body is worked in rounds without turning.



The base of both the shoulder bag and beach bag is worked in solid rows of treble crochet.

Foundation round (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), rotate piece to work down the long side of the rectangle, *work 47dc evenly spaced down the long side, 2dc in corner st, 5dc across the short edge, 2dc in corner st; repeat from * around, ss to first dc to join. [112 dc]

Round 1 Ch1, dc in first dc, ch5, skip next 3 dc, *dc in next dc, ch5, skip next 3 dc, repeat from * around, ss to first dc to join. [28 ch-5 sps]

Round 2 Beg pop in first dc, *ch2, dc in next ch-5 sp, (ch5, dc) in each of next 2 ch-5 sps, shell in next ch-5 sp, dc in next ch-5 sp, (ch5, dc) in each of next 2 ch-5 sps, ch2**, pop in next dc, repeat from * around, ending last repeat at **, ss to first pop to join. [4 shells, 4 popcorn sts]

Round 3 Ch1, *dc in pop, (ch5, dc) in each of next 2 ch-5 sps, ch2, pop in next dc, ch2, skip next 3 tr, dc in next tr, ch5, skip next 3 tr, dc in next tr, ch2, pop in next dc, ch2, (dc, ch5) in each of next 2 ch-5 sps; repeat from * around, ss to first dc to join.

Round 4 Ss to centre of first ch-5 sp, ch1, dc in same ch-5 sp, *ch5, dc in next ch-5 sp, ch5, dc in next pop, (ch2, pop in next dc, ch2, dc in next pop) twice, (ch5, dc) in each of next 3 ch-5 sps, repeat from * around, omitting last dc, ss to first dc to join.

Round 5 Ss to centre of first ch-5 sp, ch1, dc in same ch-5 sp, *ch5, dc in next ch-5 sp, ch5, dc in next pop, ch2, pop in next dc, ch2, dc in next pop, (ch5, dc) in each of next 2 ch-5 sps, shell in next ch-5 sp (shell should be directly above pop 3 rows below)**, dc in next ch-5 sp; repeat from * around, ending last repeat at **, ss to first dc to join.

Round 6 Beg pop in first dc, *ch2, (dc, ch5) in each of next 2 ch-5 sps, dc in

Lacy bag

next pop, (ch5, dc) in each of next 2 ch-5 sps, ch2, pop in next dc, ch2, skip next 3 tr, dc in next tr, ch5, skip next 3 tr, dc in next tr, ch2**, pop in next dc; repeat from * around, ending last repeat at **, ss to first dc to join.

Round 7 Ch1, dc in first pop, *(ch5, dc) in each of next 4 ch-5 sps, ch5, dc in next pop, ch2, pop in next dc, ch2, dc in next ch-5 sp, ch2, pop in next dc, ch2**, dc in next pop; repeat from * around, ending last repeat at **, ss to first dc to join.

Round 8 Ss to centre of first ch-5 sp, ch1, dc in same ch-5 sp, ch5, dc in next ch-5 sp, *shell in next ch-5 sp, (dc, ch5) in each of next 2 ch-5 sps, ch5, dc in next pop, ch2, pop in next dc, ch2, dc in next pop**, (ch5, dc) in each of next 2 ch-5 sps; repeat from * around, ending last repeat at **, ch5, ss to first dc to join.

Round 9 Ss to centre of first ch-5 sp, ch1, dc in same ch-5 sp, *ch2, pop in next dc, ch2, skip next 3 tr, dc in next tr, ch5, skip next 3 tr, dc in next tr, ch2, pop in next dc, ch2, (dc, ch5) in each of next 2 ch-5 sps, dc in next pop, (ch5, dc) in each of next 2 ch-5 sps; repeat from * around, omitting last dc, ss to first dc to join.

Round 10 Ss to next pop, ch1, *dc in pop, (ch2, pop in next dc, ch2, dc in next pop) twice, (ch5, dc) in each of next 4 ch-5 sps, ch5; repeat from * around, ss to first dc to join.

Round 11 Ss to next pop, ch1, *dc in pop, ch2, pop in next dc, ch2, dc in next pop, (ch5, dc) in each of next 2 ch-5 sps, shell in next ch-5 sp, (dc, ch5) in each of next 2 ch-5 sps; repeat from * around, ss to first dc to join.

Round 12 Ss to next pop, ch1, *dc in pop, (ch5, dc) in each of next 2 ch-5 sps, ch2, pop in next dc, ch2, skip next 3 tr, dc in next tr, ch5, skip next 3 tr, dc in next tr, ch2, pop in next dc, ch2, (dc, ch5) in each of next 2 ch-5 sps, repeat from * around, ss to first dc to join.

Rounds 13-35 Repeat Rounds 4-12 twice, then repeat Rounds 4-8 once.

TOP EDGING

Round 1 Ch1, dc evenly around top of bag, keeping work flat, ss to first dc to join.

Rounds 2-5 Ch1, dc in each dc around, ss to first dc to join.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

LARGER BEACH BAG/CARRY-ON

Work as given for Shoulder Bag with the following exceptions:

BAG BOTTOM

Work as given for Shoulder Bag bottom until piece measures 53.5cm (21in) or 56 rows. Do not fasten off.

BODY OF BAG

Foundation round Ch1, (does not count as st throughout), rotate piece to work down long side of rectangle, *work 103dc evenly spaced down long side, 2dc in corner st, 5dc across short edge, 2dc in corner st; repeat from * around, ss to first dc to join. [224 dc]

Work remainder of pattern in the same way as the Shoulder Bag until the body of the bag measures 35.5cm (14in) tall without edging, or to desired height. Work the top edging in the same way as the Shoulder Bag.

OPTIONAL LINING

Each bag has a double lining so the RS of each fabric is on show, the inner lining and the outer lining through the front of the bag.

Measure each side of the bag and note the sizes of fabric you need for a front and back piece, two sides and a bottom panel. Add a seam allowance of about 1.3cm (½in) on all sides.

Cut out each of these pieces from your inside lining fabric.

POCKET (OPTIONAL)

You need to add this to the inner lining fabric before sewing pieces together.

Cut 2 pieces of fabric measuring 14x16.5cm (5½x6½in). Place pieces RS together and sew around the edges using a 1.3cm (½in) seam allowance, leaving a turning gap approx 5cm (2in) long along the bottom edge. Turn the pieces RS out through the gap. At the turning gap, tuck the fabric inside and press around all sides.

Pin the pocket where desired to the RS of the back piece of the inner lining. Stitch in place (using a sewing machine or by hand) close to the edges, down one side across the bottom and up the other side, leaving the top edge open. If you'd like to have 2 pockets inside the bag, repeat this process and attach to the front inner lining piece.



The lining is optional, but will add a bit of structure and a neater finish to your bag.

CONSTRUCT INNER LINING

Pin the front inner lining piece to one side inner lining piece, RS facing. Sew together down the long edges, using a 1.3cm (½in) seam allowance. Repeat to attach the back inner lining piece to the other side of the side inner lining piece. Add the remaining side piece between the front and back to form a tube.

Pin the bottom edges of the tube to the bottom panel and sew together, using a 1.3cm (½in) seam allowance. Fold the top edge to the WS by 1.3cm (½in) and press. Topstitch in place.

OUTSIDE LINING

If you want a double lining with contrast fabric showing through the crochet lace, repeat the steps above.

With the inner lining bag WS out, place inside the outer lining bag (RS out) so WS are facing. Sew together around the top edges.

ATTACH LINING

Place the lining inside the crochet bag, matching up the seams with the sides of the bag. Sew the lining to the bag around the top edge.



This beautiful bag pattern is from the book *Colorful Crochet Lace: 22 Chic Garments & Accessories* by Mary Jane Hall, published

by Interweave/ F+W (RRP £16.16). It's available from <http://amzn.to/1CrOKTG>

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FALLING LEAVES

Make Becky Garratt's
autumn wall hanging.



Leafy wall hanging



YOU WILL NEED

- Rico Essentials Cotton DK (100% cotton, 50g/130m), 1 ball of each:
 - Olive Grey (81)
 - Banana (63)
 - Pumpkin (87)
 - Curry (61)
 - Beige (91)
 - Nougat (68)
 - A 4mm (US G/6) hook
 - 61cm (24in) wooden dowelling with a hole drilled in each end
 - Fishing wire or thread
 - Cord or yarn for hanging
- For yarn stockists, contact Rico www.rico-design.co.uk

MEASUREMENTS

Oak and Beach Leaf 9cm (3½in) long
 Maple Leaf 7.5cm (3in) long

ABBREVIATIONS

Ch-3 picot Ch3, ss in the first of those ch

Lobe (dc, 4htr, dc) in indicated stitch

For a full list, see page 92.



Crunchy, coppery falling leaves are one of the best things about autumn, but they're not around for very long. Hook a host of colourful leaves to create a seasonal masterpiece that's here to stay. The three different types of leaf are easy to crochet and you can arrange them to your taste. And need we say stash-buster? Get hooking.

NOTE

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

LEAVES

Make 21 of each type of leaf using all the yarn colours as evenly as possible (3 or 4 of each colour for each leaf type)

OAK LEAF

Ch10.

Round 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook and in each ch to end, rotate to work on the other side of the foundation ch and dc in each st on the other side. [18 dc]

Round 2 (1dc, 2dc in next st) 9 times. [27 dc]

Round 3 (2dc, 2dc in next st) 9 times. [36 dc]

Round 4 Ss and dc into first st, ch5, dc into second ch from hook and next 3 ch, dc into st at base of ch-5, 3ss, Lobe in next st, (4ss, Lobe in next st) twice, (3ss, Lobe in next st) twice, (4ss, Lobe in next st) twice, ss in each st to end.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

BEECH LEAF

Ch15.

Round 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook and next 2dc, 8htr, 3dc, rotate to work on the other side of the foundation ch and mirror existing sts: 3dc, 8htr, 3dc. [28 sts]

Round 2 Ss and dc into first st, ch5, dc into second ch from hook and next 3 ch, dc in st at base of ch-5, (htr, tr) in next st, (tr, dtr) in next st, 2dtr in next st, dtr in next st, tr in next 2 sts, htr in next 2 sts, dc in next 2 sts, ss in next 2 sts, dc in next st, ch2, dc in same st as last dc, ss in next 3 sts, dc in next 2 sts, htr in next 2 sts, tr in next 2 sts, dtr in



All three pretty autumn leaf shapes are worked in rounds from the centre outwards.

next st, 2dtr in next st, (dtr, tr) in next st, (tr, htr) in next st, dc in next st.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

MAPLE LEAF

Make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) 6dc into loop, ss to first dc to join.

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

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

Round 4 (Dc, 3htr in next st, dc) 5 times, 3dc. [28 sts]

Round 5 *Ss in next st, htr in next st, (tr, dtr, ch-3 picot, tr) in next st, htr in next st, ss in next st; repeat from * 4 more times, ss in next st, dc in next st, ch5, dc into second ch from hook and next 3 ch, dc into st at base of ch-5, ss in next st.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

Block all the leaves.

Lay out your leaves in 7 columns and 9 rows and rearrange them until you like the layout. For a random look, try to not have two of the same leaf type and colour next to each other.

Sew fishing wire up the back of each leaf and tie around the dowelling. The leaves will slide along the thread so you can space them out.

Cut a piece of cord and thread into the hole at each end of the dowelling. Knot to fasten.

COOL FOR SCHOOL

Make an easy-peasy hat for a little one with this DK Crafts pattern.



Beanie hat



YOU WILL NEED

- Sirdar Hayfield Colour Rich Chunky (100% acrylic, 200g/325m), 1 ball of Plum Grey (0384)
 - A 6.5mm (US K/10½) hook
 - Stitch marker
 - Tapestry needle
- For yarn stockists, contact Sirdar 01924 231682
www.sirdar.co.uk

TENSION

13sts and 16 rows to measure 10cm (4in) square over double crochet using a 6.5mm hook

MEASUREMENTS

To fit child aged 1-4 years old

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

Made with self-striping yarn, this unisex children's beanie is super street-cool. The 100% acrylic yarn makes it machine washable, which is perfect for busy kids on the go. It's the simplest of hat patterns, made entirely from double crochet stitches worked in a spiral. Using a stitch marker is invaluable when working in a spiral as it's easy to miss where a round starts.

C HAT

Make a magic loop.

Foundation round Ch1 (does not count as st), 8dc into ring. [8 sts]

Place a stitch marker in the first st of the next round and continue in spirals from now on, without joining rounds with a ss. Move the stitch marker up on every round.

Round 1 2dc into each st to end. [16 sts]

Round 2 (Dc in the first st, 2dc in the next st) around. [24 sts]

Round 3 (Dc in each of the first 2 sts, 2dc in the next st) around. [32 sts]

Round 4 (Dc in each of the first 7 sts, 2dc in the next st) around. [36 sts]

Round 5 (Dc in each of the first 8 sts, 2 dc in the next st) around. [40 sts]

Round 6 (Dc in each of the first 9 sts, 2dc in the next st) around. [44 sts]

Round 7 (Dc in each of the first 10 sts, 2dc in the next st) around. [48 sts]

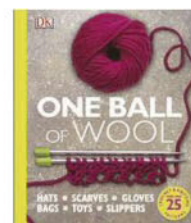
Round 8 (Dc in each of the first 11 sts, 2dc in the next st) around. [52 sts]

Rounds 9-27 Dc in each st to end. [52 sts]

Fasten off and weave in ends.



This variegated acrylic yarn from Sirdar will form fuss-free, subtle stripes as you work.



This simple child's beanie hat is from the book *One Ball of Wool* by DK Crafts, published by DK. The book features 25 one-ball patterns in both knitting and crochet. It's £9.99

and is available online from www.dk.com

SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO USE STITCH MARKERS IN SPIRALS

In this pattern, you'll work the stitches in spiral rounds. If you've never done this before, don't worry, it's easy! At the end of a round, don't join the first and last stitches with a slip stitch. Instead, just work the first stitch of a new round into the top of the first stitch of the previous round. Using stitch markers will help you to keep track of spiral rounds. Our step-by-step guide (right) will show you how to do this.



1 Work the first stitch of a round and place a stitch marker in this first stitch.



2 Work a spiral round of double crochet stitches until you've worked the last stitch of the round. The next stitch you'll want to work into will have the stitch marker in it.



3 You'll need to remove the marker, work the first stitch of the new round and then replace the stitch marker in this first stitch, to mark the start of the round again.



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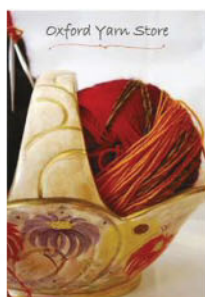
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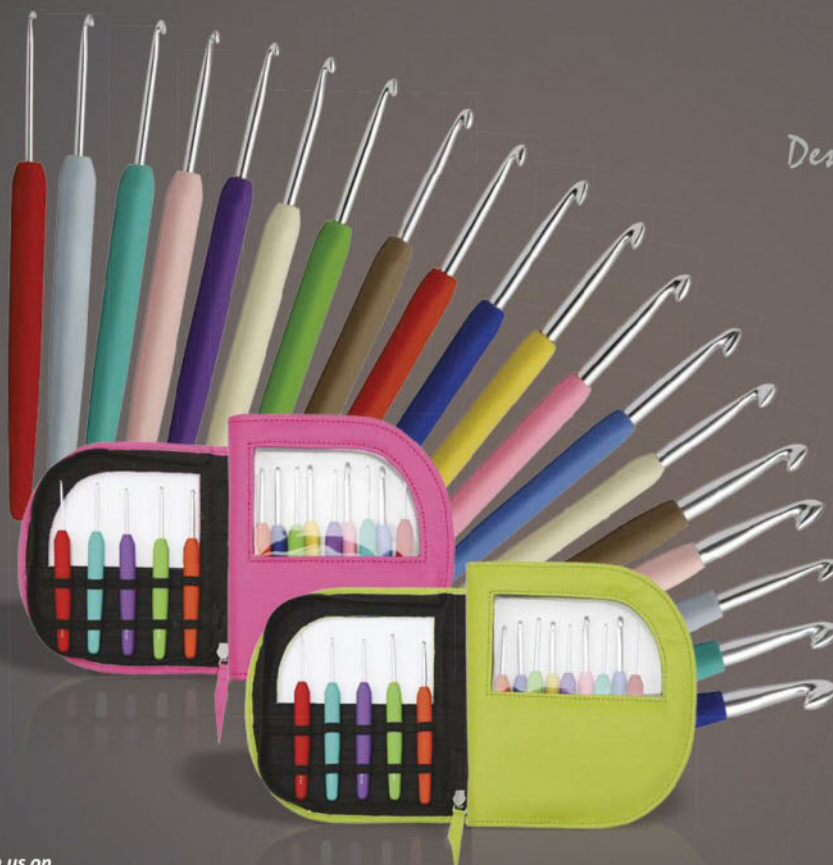
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LITTLE MONSTER

Add a bit of attitude to a child's wardrobe with Tanya Kalyan's playful monster patch. Grrrr.

Embellish an outfit



YOU WILL NEED

- DROPS Paris (100% cotton, 50g/75m), 1 ball of each: Dark Turquoise (10), Red (12), Brown (44), White (16), Orange (13)
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- Stitch marker (optional)

MEASUREMENTS

Patch measures 10x10cm (4x4in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

Whether you use it to fix a tear or a worn knee, or just to jazz up a plain garment, Tanya Kalyan's monster patch is sure to raise a smile. He's got wonky eyes, big sharp fangs and is a lot of fun to make. Try him on dungarees, T-shirts or even a bib. Plus, if you leave the top edge free when you stitch your monster patch on, he can be used as a pocket. You will be using simple double crochet stitches in rows to create this fiendish appliqué critter.

MONSTER PATCH

Using Dark Turquoise, ch13.

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

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as a stitch throughout), 2dc in first dc, dc in each dc to last dc, 2dc in last dc, turn. [14 dc]

Row 3 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn. [14 dc]

Row 4 Ch1, 2dc in first dc, dc in each dc to last dc, 2dc in last dc, turn. [16 dc]

Rows 5-6 Ch1, dc in each dc to end, turn. [16 dc]

Change to Red.

Row 7 Ch1, dc in bl of each dc to end, turn. [16 dc]

Change to Dark Turquoise.

Rows 8-17 Ch1, dc in each dc to end, turn. [16 dc]

Fasten off.

BIG EYE

Using Brown, make a Magic Loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1, 6dc into the loop, ss to first dc to join. [6 dc]

Change to White.

Round 2 Ch1, 2dc in each dc around, ss to first dc to join. [12 dc]

Round 3 Ch2 (counts as htr), htr in each dc around, ss to top of beg ch-2 to join. [12 htr]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

SMALL EYE

Using Brown, make a Magic Loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1, 6dc into the loop, ss to first dc to join. [6 dc]

Change to White.

Round 2 Ch1, 2dc in each dc around, ss to first dc to join. [12 dc]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

FANGS (MAKE 2)

Using White, ch4.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in the second ch from the hook and each ch to end, turn. [3 dc]

Row 2 Ch1, dc2tog, dc in last dc, turn. [2 dc]

Row 3 Ch1, dc2tog. [1 dc]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

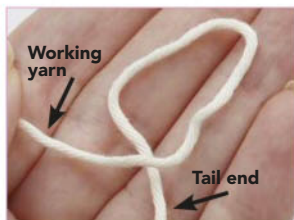
TO MAKE UP

Using the long tails, sew the eyes to the patch, slightly left of centre, referring to the image as a guide.

Position the fangs on the patch, over the red row, referring to the image as a guide. Sew in place using the long tails. Weave in all ends.

Sew to your garment.

SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO WORK A MAGIC LOOP



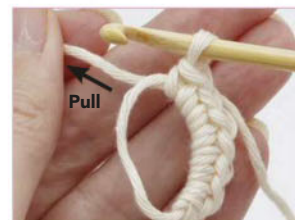
1 To start a Magic Loop, don't make a slipknot. Instead, make a loop with the yarn, leaving a tail around 10cm long. Make sure the tail end is under the working yarn.



2 Insert your hook into the loop, from front to back. Wrap the working yarn around the hook anticlockwise and pull the yarn through the loop.



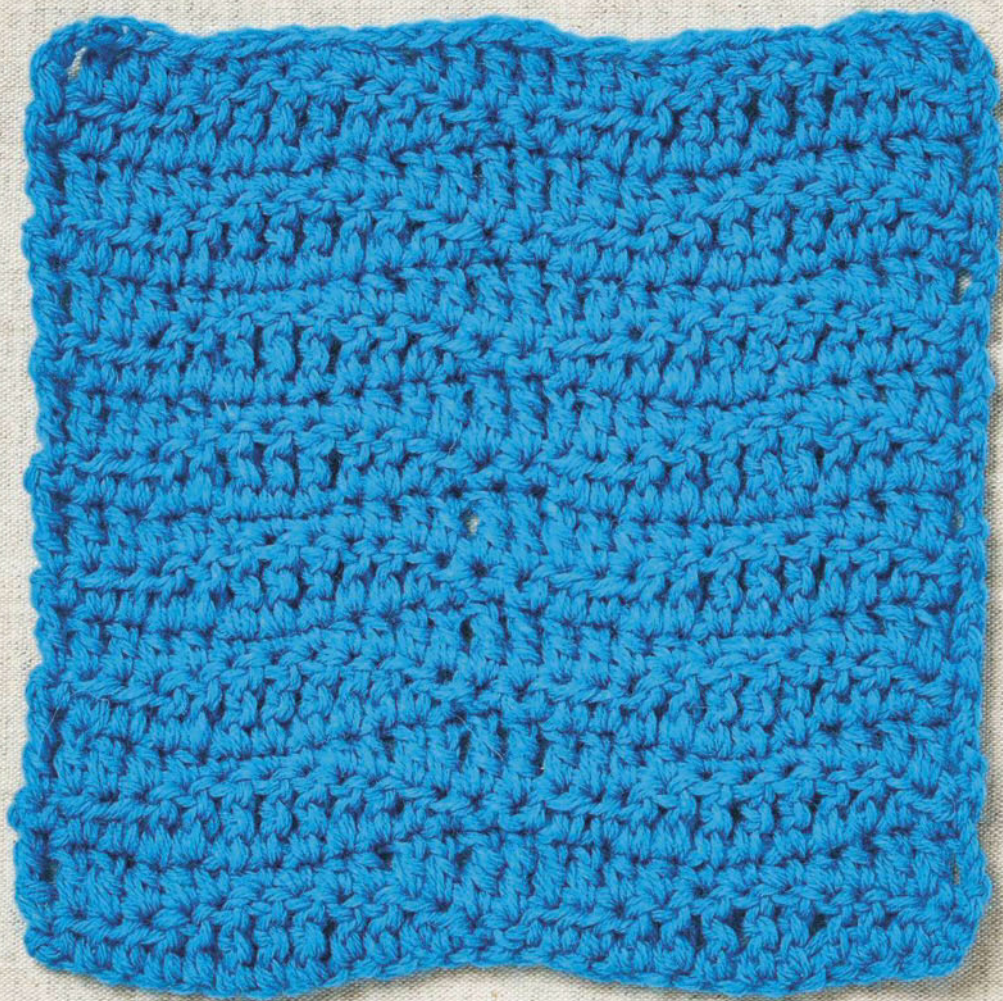
3 Make a t-ch for the sts you want to work (above, we made 1 t-ch for dc). Now work your sts into the Magic Loop, making sure you work over both the loop and the tail end (so two yarn strands).



4 Once you've worked the number of stitches you need, simply pull the tail end of the yarn to draw up the ring. Work a slip stitch into the top of the first stitch to join and finish the first round.

LONG WAVE STITCH

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



BASIC LONG WAVE STITCH PATTERN

The stitch pattern is worked over a multiple of 12 sts plus 1. For the sample, we used 25 sts.

Ch26.

Row 1 (WS) Starting in second ch from hook, *1dc into next st, 1htr into each

of next 2 sts, 1tr into each of next 2 sts, 1dtr into each of next 3 sts, 1tr into each of next 2 sts, 1htr into each of next 2 sts, 1dc into next st; rep from * to end, turn.

Row 2 Ch4 (counts as dtr), *1tr into each of next 2 sts, 1htr into each of next 2 sts, 1dc into each of next 3 sts,

1htr into each of next 2 sts, 1tr into each of next 2 sts, 1dtr into next st; rep from * to end, turn.

Rows 1 and 2 set pattern.

Patterns by Kath Webber.

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



Get to grips with pretty long wave stitch to hook a trio of stylish accessories in variegated stripes.



Penny for your thoughts? Just pop it in the purse, please.



At last, a clutch that will fit your phone, purse and keys.

SHORELINE TOTE BAG

Hook yourself a roomy shopper.

- Scheepjeswol Invicta Colour (75% wool, 25% polyamide, 100g/420m), 3 balls of Yarn A 965 (use 3 strands held together)
- Scheepjeswol Invicta Extra (75% wool, 25% polyamide, 50g/210m), 3 balls of Yarn B 1463 (use 3 strands together)
- A 5mm (US H/8) hook

MEASUREMENTS

37.5x40cm (14¾x15¾in)

TOTE BAG

Using 3 strands of Yarn A, ch50.

Rows 1-25 Foll Basic Patt. [49 sts]

Row 26 Change to 3 strands of Yarn B, cont in patt, turn.

Rows 27-44 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr into each st across, turn.

Row 45 As Row 1 of Basic Patt.

Row 46 Change to 3 strands of Yarn A, work Row 2 of Basic Patt, turn.

Row 47-69 Cont in patt.

Row 70 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr), tr into each st to end. **Fasten off.**

STRAPS

Using 3 strands of Yarn B, make 2 straps 5 dc stitches wide and 60cm long.

TO MAKE UP

Fold main piece in half widthways, and dc edges tog using 3 strands of matching yarn. Sew straps on securely.

CATCH A WAVE PURSE

Use a metal frame clasp to create this dinky purse for your loose change.

- Scheepjeswol Invicta Colour (75% wool, 25% polyamide, 100g/420m), 2 balls of Yarn A 965
For yarn stockists, contact Deramores 0800 488 0708 www.deramores.com
- Scheepjeswol Invicta Extra (75% wool, 25% polyamide, 50g/210m), 2 balls of Yarn B 1463
- A 4.5mm (US 7) hook
- Purse clasp, 6cm wide
- Strong glue

MEASUREMENTS

7.5x8cm (3x3¼in) (without frame)

COIN PURSE

Using Yarn B, ch16.

Work follows Basic Stitch Patt but with an extra st at both ends of each row:

Row 1 (WS) Dc into second ch from hook, work Row 1 of Basic Stitch Pattern, dc into last st, turn. [15 sts]

Row 2 Change to Yarn A, ch4 (counts as dtr), work Row 2 of Basic Stitch Pattern, replacing beg ch-4 with dtr, dtr into last st, turn. [15 sts] Change to Yarn B. Repeat Rows 1 and 2 until 15 rows have been worked in total. **Fasten off.**

With RS tog, match up side edges and ss the sides together. Turn right side out. Glue piece into the purse clasp to finish.

DEEP SEA CLUTCH BAG

When a handbag just won't do, opt for a clutch with a practical handle.

- Scheepjeswol Invicta Colour (75% wool, 25% polyamide, 100g/420m), 2 balls of shade 965
- A 4.5mm (US 7) hook
- Cotton fabric, 30x50cm (11¾x19½in)
- Matching thread and needle
- Magnetic clasp, 18mm diameter

MEASUREMENTS

28x43cm (11x17in) before joining

CLUTCH BAG

Ch50. Working into back loops only, work as given for Basic Patt for 45 rows. Do not fasten off.

Cut lining fabric to same size as flat piece, fold 1cm to WS on each edge and press. Pin lining and crochet piece WS tog. Fold bag into thirds (one third for flap and two thirds for bag section to be seamed tog). Mark position of fastening. Attach clasp to lining and crochet pieces. Sew lining in place. Fold up bottom third of bag, with fabric tog. Make a dc seam from bottom up to join on 1 side. When you reach top of seam, turn and work 4dc down side of bag. Turn and cont working in rows on these 4 sts until strap meas 25cm, ss to opposite side of bag. Join seam with dc on other side of bag. **Fasten off.** Weave in ends.

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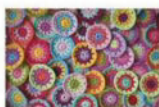


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PUMPKIN PIE

Hook Ann Morgan's stylish merino wool tee in a burnt orange shade, and you'll be ready for autumn.

Lacy top



YOU WILL NEED

■ Cleckheaton Australian Superfine Merino 8ply (100% superfine merino wool, 65g/130m), Burnt Orange (29)
See table for yarn quantities and measurements

■ A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook

■ A 4mm (US G/6) hook

For yarn stockists, contact Cleckheaton www.cleckheaton.com.au

TENSION

4 stitch patt reps to measure 11cm (4¼in), 14 rows to measure 10cm (4in) over stitch pattern using a 4mm hook. Adjust hook size to obtain correct tension.

ABBREVIATIONS

Htrdec (Yrh, insert hook in next st, yrh and draw up loop) twice, yrh and draw through all 5 loops on hook

For a full list, see page 92.



Say hello to your new wardrobe staple. This boxy tee from top designer Ann Morgan is balanced out with a lacy stitch pattern. It's worked in double and treble crochet in a two-row repeat, using scrummy merino yarn.

STITCH PATTERN

Foundation Row (WS) Ch6 (counts as tr and ch3), skip 4 htr, *(dc, ch3, dc) in next htr, ch3, skip 4 htr; rep from * to last 4 htr and turning ch, (dc, ch3, dc) in next htr, ch3, skip last 3 htr, tr in top of beg ch-2, turn.

Row 1 (Right Side Pattern Row) Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in first tr, *ch3, skip next ch-3 sp, (dc, ch3, 2dc, ch3, dc) in next ch-3 sp; rep from * to last ch-6 sp, ch3, skip 3 ch, dc in top of beg ch-3, turn.

Row 2 (Wrong Side Pattern Row) Ch6 (counts as tr and ch3), skip first ch-3 sp, *(dc in next ch-3 sp, ch3) twice, skip next ch-3 sp; rep from * to last dc, tr in last dc, turn.

Rows 1 and 2 set pattern.

BACK

Using a 4mm hook, ch78 (86: 96: 104).

Row 1 (RS) Htr in third ch from hook (skipped ch counts as first htr), htr in each ch to end, turn. [77 (85: 95: 103) htr]

Rows 2-6 Ch2 (counts as first tr throughout), htr in each st to end, turn.

Row 7 Ch2, 0 (15: 17: 3) htr, 2htr in next st, *24 (16: 18: 13) htr, 2htr in next st; rep from * to end, turn. [80 (90: 100: 110) htr]

Row 8 Work the Foundation Row of the

Stitch Pattern. [15 (17: 19: 21) patt repeats + 1 ch-3 sp]

Work Rows 1 & 2 of Stitch Pattern until Back measures 28cm from beg, ending with a Row 2.

ARMHOLE SHAPING

Keep the Stitch Pattern correct in the centre of the foll shaping rows. The pattern changes at beginning and end of row to accommodate the shaping:

Row 1 (RS) Ss in first tr, (ss in each of next 3 ch, ss in next dc) 1 (1: 3: 3) times, ss in next ch-3 sp, (dc, ch3, dc) in same ch-3 sp, ch3, skip next ch-3 sp, work Right Side Pattern Row to last 3 (3: 5: 5) ch-sps, ch3, skip next ch-3 sp, (dc, ch3, dc) in next ch-3 sp, turn, leaving rem sts unworked. [Dec by 1 (1: 3: 3) ch-sps on each side]

Row 2 Ss in first dc, dc in next ch-3 sp, ch3, skip next ch-3 sp, work Wrong Side Pattern Row to last two ch-3 sps, ch3, skip next ch-3 sp, dc in last ch-3 sp, turn, leaving rem sts unworked. [Dec by 1 ch-3 sp on each side]

Row 3 Ss in first dc, ss in each of next 3 ch, ss in next dc, (dc, ch3, dc) in next ch-3 sp, ch3, skip next ch-3 sp, work Right Side Pattern Row to last three ch-3 sps, ch3, skip next ch-3 sp, (1dc, ch3, 1dc) in next ch-3 sp, turn. [Dec by 1 ch-3 sp on each side]

Repeat (Rows 2 & 3) 0 (0: 1) times.

Next row Repeat Row 2. [11 (13: 13) patt repeats + 1 ch-3 sp]

Next row Ch1, dc in first dc, ch3, skip first ch-3 sp, (dc, ch3, 2dc, ch3, dc) in next ch-3 sp, work Right Side Pattern Row to last ch-3 sp, ch3, skip last ch-3

SIZE		S	M	L	XL
TO FIT BUST	cm	80	90	100	110
	in	31½	35½	39¼	43¼
ACTUAL BUST	cm	86	97	108	119
	in	33¾	38	42½	46¾
LENGTH	cm	50	52	53	53
	in	19¾	20¼	20¾	20¾
SLEEVE LENGTH	cm	6	7	7	7
	in	2¼	2¾	2¾	2¾
YARN	65g balls	6	7	8	9

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

Lacy top

sp, dc in last dc, turn.

Next row Ch6 (counts as tr and ch3), skip first ch-3 sp, dc in next ch-3 sp, work patt to last ch-3 sp, ch3, skip last ch-3 sp, 1tr in last dc.**

Work 20 (22: 24: 22) rows in pattern without shaping.

BACK NECK SHAPING

Row 1 (RS) Ch1, dc in first tr, *ch3, skip next ch-3 sp, (dc, ch3, 2dc, ch3, dc) in next ch-3 sp**; rep from * to ** once, (ch3, skip next ch-3 sp, 4dc in next ch-3 sp) 7 (9: 9: 9) times; rep from * to ** twice, ch3, skip 3 ch, dc in top of beg ch-3, turn.

Row 2 Ch6 (counts as tr and ch3), skip first ch-3 sp, (dc in next ch-3 sp, ch3) twice, skip next ch-3 sp, 1dc in next ch-3 sp, ch3, 1dc in next ch-3 sp, turn, leaving rem sts unworked. [4 ch-3 sps]

Row 3 Ss in first dc, 4dc in first ch-3 sp, ch3, skip next ch-3 sp, work Right Side Pattern Row to end, turn.

Row 4 Ch6 (counts as tr and ch3), skip first ch-3 sp, dc in next ch-3 sp, ch3, dc in next ch-3 sp, turn, leaving remaining sts unworked. [2 ch-3 sps]

Row 5 Ss in first dc, 4dc in first ch-3 sp, ch3, skip 3 ch, dc in top of beg ch-3.

Fasten off.

With WS facing, count back 6 ch-3 sps from left-hand edge and rejoin yarn with a ss in the sixth ch-3 sp and proceed as follows:

Row 2 (WS) Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in same ch-3 sp, ch3, dc in next ch-3 sp, work Wrong Side Pattern Row to end, turn. [4 ch-3 sps]

Row 3 Work Right Side Pattern Row to last ch-3 sp, 4dc in last ch-3 sp, turn.

Row 4 Ss in each of first 4 dc, ss in each of next 3 ch, dc in next ch-3 sp, ch3, dc in next ch-3 sp, ch3, tr in last dc, turn. [2 ch-3 sps]

Row 5 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in first tr, ch3, skip first ch-3 sp, 4 dc in last ch-3 sp. **Fasten off.**

FRONT

Work as for Back to ** in Armhole Shaping. Work 14 (16: 18: 16) rows in Stitch Pattern without shaping.

FRONT NECK SHAPING

Row 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in first tr, *ch3, skip next ch-3 sp, (dc, ch3, 2dc, ch3, 1dc) in next ch-3 sp**, rep from * to ** twice, (ch3, skip next

ch-3 sp, 4dc in next ch-3 sp) 5 (7: 7: 7) times; rep from * to ** 3 times, ch3, skip 3 ch, dc in top of beg ch-3, turn.

Row 2 Ch6 (counts as tr and ch3), skip first ch-3 sp, (dc in next ch-3 sp, ch3, dc in next ch-3 sp, ch3, skip next ch-3 sp) twice, dc in next ch-3 sp, ch3, dc in next ch-3 sp, turn, leaving rem sts unworked. [6 ch-3 sps]

Row 3 Ss in first dc, (dc, ch3, dc) in next ch-3 sp, ch3, skip next ch-3 sp, work Right Side Pattern Row to end, turn.

Row 4 Work Wrong Side Pattern Row to last two ch-3 sps, ch2, skip next ch-3 sp, dc in last ch-3 sp, turn. [4 ch-3 sps + 1 ch-2 sp]

Row 5 Ss in first dc, dc in ch-2 sp, (dc, ch3, 2dc, ch3, dc) in next ch-3 sp, work Right Side Pattern Row to end. [6 ch-3 sps]

Row 6 Work Wrong Side Pattern Row to last two ch-3 sps, dc in next ch-3 sp, ch3, dc in last ch-3 sp, turn. [4 ch-3 sps]

Rows 7-10 As Rows 3-6. [2 ch-3 sps]

Row 11 Ch4 (counts as tr and ch1), (2dc, ch3, dc) in first ch-3 sp, ch3, skip 3 ch, dc in top of beg ch-3, turn.

Row 12 Ch6 (counts as tr and ch2), skip first ch-3 sp, 1dc in next ch-3 sp, ch3, skip 1 ch, dc in top of beg ch-3, turn.

Row 13 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in first dc, 3dc in first ch-3 sp, ch3, skip 3 ch, dc in top of beg ch-3. **Fasten off.**

With WS facing, count back 9 ch-3 sps from left-hand edge, rejoin yarn with a ss in the ninth ch-3 sp and proceed as follows:

Row 2 (WS) Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in same ch-3 sp, ch3, dc in next ch-3 sp, work Wrong Side Pattern Row to end, turn.

Row 3 Work Right Side Pattern Row to last ch-3 sp, (dc, ch3, dc) in last ch-3 sp, turn.

Row 4 Ss in first dc, dc in next ch-3 sp, ch2, dc in next ch-3 sp, work Wrong Side Pattern Row to end, turn. [4 ch-3 sps + 1 ch-2 sp]

Row 5 Work Right Side Pattern Row to ch-2 sp, dc in ch-2 sp, turn. [6 ch-3 sps]

Row 6 Ss in each of first 2 dc, dc in next ch-3 sp, ch3, dc in next ch-3 sp, work Wrong Side Pattern Row to end, turn. [4 ch-3 sps]

Rows 7-10 As Rows 3-6.

Row 11 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in first tr, ch3, skip first ch-3 sp, (dc, ch3, 2dc, ch1) in next ch-3 sp, tr in next dc, turn, leaving rem sts unworked.



The sleeves, neckband and hem of this top are worked in solid rows of half trebles.

Row 12 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in first tr, ch3, dc in next ch-3 sp, ch3, skip next ch-3 sp, tr in last dc, turn.

Row 13 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in first dc, ch3, skip first ch-3 sp, 3dc in last ch-3 sp, dc in last tr. **Fasten off.**

SLEEVES (MAKE 2)

Using a 3.5mm hook, ch59 (63: 71: 79).

Row 1 (RS) Htr in third ch from hook (skipped ch counts as first htr), htr in each ch to end, turn. [58 (62: 70: 78) htr]

Rows 2-6 Ch2, htr in each st to end, turn.

Change to 4mm hook.

Repeat (Row 2) 2 (4: 4: 4) more times.

TOP SHAPING

Row 1 Ss in each of first 3 (3: 5: 6) htr, ch2 (counts as first htr), htr in each htr to last 2 (2: 4: 5) sts, turn, leaving rem sts unworked. [54 (58: 62: 68) htr]

Row 2 Ch3, htrdec over next 2 sts, htr in each htr to last 3 sts, htrdec over next 2 sts, tr in last st, turn. [52 (56: 60: 66) sts]

Repeat Row 2 until 18 (20: 22: 24) sts remain. **Fasten off.**

NECKBAND

Using a flat seam, join shoulder seams. With RS facing and using 3.5mm hook, work 1 round of dc evenly around neck edge, ss to first dc to join, turn.

Rounds 2-3 Ch2 (counts as first htr), htr in each st to end, ss to top of beg ch-2, turn.

Repeat Round 3, three more times, decreasing evenly as necessary to keep work flat. **Fasten off.**

TO MAKE UP

Do not press. Join side and sleeve seams and sew in sleeves evenly. Weave in all loose ends.

"Decide what you actually need to make and who for."



GET CHRISTMAS SORTED

Christmas might seem far off, but it will be here before you know it. Here are our best tips for getting ahead with your festive makes and staying serene as the season approaches.

Summer may only just be fading outside, but now is the perfect time to start planning for your Christmas crochet projects. After all, you don't want to still be frantically hooking when you should be celebrating. We've chatted to some expert crocheters to find out their top advice for making that to-do list achievable, stress-free and even a part of the festive fun that you'll relish.

CHOOSE YOUR MAKES

First things first, what do you actually need (or want) to make and who for? Designer Elisabeth Davis de Herraiz (www.elizyart.com)

loves to crochet small decorations for her home. "I love to hang crochet snowflakes on wreaths," she says. "I like to make something for the tree each year, too, like a crochet angel."

When it comes to gifts, shawls are very much on her agenda. "I make a couple as gifts and try to pay attention during the course of the year when people make comments about things I've made that they like, and then I can make them their own versions for Christmas."

Crocheted details also make thoughtful additions to bought presents, she points out, meaning you don't have to take on the

strain of making the whole item. "A festive candle with a pretty crochet doily is a great gift," she suggests. "Or, if you buy a coat or bag, a flower brooch can be made quickly to add a handmade touch."

Ilaria Chiaratti (www.idainteriorlifestyle.com) enjoys crocheting scarves, beanies and fingerless mittens for her friends. "They love to wear warm, handmade pieces. Last year, I also made a lovely Christmas stocking in white and pastels – unusual colours, maybe, but they fit perfectly with the rest of my house!"

For Salena Baca (www.salenabaca.com), this year's festive projects

have added weight because they're also the theme of her debut book, *Crochet for Christmas*, which is out now. "I wanted the focus to be timeless designs that will last for generations to come!" she enthuses. The projects include a wide variety of gifts, ornaments and garments. "There are Christmas staples, like coffee sleeves and boot cuffs, but also a few more unusual items, such as a cute hedgehog doorstop, a Tunisian crochet snowflake cardigan and a set of novelty letter pillowcases that spell out the word 'Noel'."

Variety really is the key to keeping your festive crafting a treat rather than a trial. Textile artist Steph Phillips (www.hookandscumble.co.uk) has this sorted, with her Christmas projects featuring not only gifts for family and friends, but also treasures to sell at craft fairs. "I enjoy finding a pattern I love and customising it for friends and family," she says of her personal work. "My three-year-old nephew is a dinosaur fan, so for Christmas last year I bought a pattern

from Etsy and made him a stegosaurus hat. I then took the theme a step further and designed a matching scarf and gloves with stegosaurus spikes. My Christmas makes for my family are practical but fun."

For Artist Network Bedfordshire (www.artsnetbeds.org.uk), Steph creates mainly freeform crochet items, including "framed pieces for hanging, wearable and usable art (such as bags, purses and scarves), as well as crocheted wire jewellery". For local tearoom, Cakestand and Crumb (www.cakestandandcrumb.co.uk), Steph tends to make pieces that she feels are "in keeping with the vintage look of the shop, including brooches, tree decorations, purses and Christmas bunting". And for local craft fairs, Steph makes a combination of all the above.

Since Steph creates such a variety of different projects, for family, friends and shoppers, being organised is key.

PRIORITISE YOUR PROJECTS

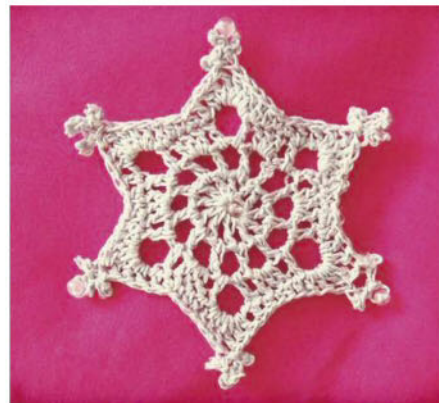
With so much to consider as Christmas

approaches, take some tips from Steph. For her, it's vital to ensure she has great mix of goods and has plenty of spares. If you receive an unexpected gift or

have somehow forgotten somebody, it's a great relief to find a pretty crocheted headband, phone case or little amigurumi critter you made earlier that you can wrap.

"I have a general idea of what's sold well in the past, but also have occasions when a number of pieces are bought in one go because someone wants to give my work to several recipients," says Steph. "Last

"I WANTED MY CHRISTMAS PROJECTS TO BE TIMELESS DESIGNS THAT WILL LAST."



Opposite: Ilaria's crocheted Noel decoration, photograph by Ilaria Chiaratti.

This page, clockwise from left: Jolly & Bright Stocking by Salena, photograph by Salena Baca; Lacy Christmas star, photograph by Elisabeth Davis de Herraiz; Salena Baca's bright boot cuffs, photograph by Salena Baca.



This page, clockwise from left: Christmas wreath and bunting by Steph Phillips, photograph by Emily Ward; Ilaria's pretty pastel hexagon stocking, photograph by Ilaria Chiaratti.



year, I crocheted a few tree decorations that could be bought individually or look fantastic together as a collection, and these sold well across shows and locally. I also have a few more highly-priced goods to show at bigger exhibitions and shows that are bought as main Christmas gifts."

It's not a bad idea to follow a similar pattern when making gifts for friends and family – making only a few sizeable items and having plenty of smaller items you can finish speedily, too. Not every person in your life needs gifts that take weeks to crochet. We know one crocheter who has a rota of friends, with a different one receiving a beautiful crocheted granny square blanket for Christmas each year. She discusses favourite colours with them when they reach the top of the list so they can get excited when their turn arrives.

Starting early on larger projects helps, too, just to make sure you finish before Christmas Day. "If it is a big project that's one of the main gifts I plan on giving that year, I make it my top priority to get it

finished on time," says Elisabeth. "The decorations I make are very little projects that normally only take half an hour or so to make, so they are perfect WIPs to do in between bigger projects."

Ilaria keeps her stress levels manageable by starting nice and early – in fact, round about now! "I normally start in September because I don't like to work in a hurry! I first start with the big projects and leave the small ones for later."

KEEP CALM AND CROCHET ON

Careful planning is crucial to staying serene as the festive season nears. "I typically need quite a lot of time to plan, prepare and process my ideas. Even so, I always end up feeling rushed!" admits Salena.

With shows coming up, workshops to teach and crocheting for her own loved ones to complete, Steph stays on track with a few simple tools. "I'm much better at working to solid deadlines, so I have a calendar of what I'm doing when," she says. "If it's a big show, I usually start

working towards that about six months in advance and reassess three months prior, at which point I usually feel I don't have enough stock and spend every available moment designing and making!"

Aside from the big day itself, Steph works towards other significant Yuletide dates. "Cakestand and Crumb has a rolling stock of my small gift items," she says, "but I aim to have my Christmas work in the shop to coincide with our town Christmas light switch on, usually about mid-November." She tends to start work on family gifts two weeks before Christmas: "By then, most of my work has wound down, but I'm usually still crocheting and weaving in ends on Christmas Eve!"

Elisabeth reminds us that it's a good idea to buy your yarn supplies well in advance. "Christmas craft season is a big thing and you'll often find that your favourite stockist will run low on certain items which can be a real pain if it's something you need to finish a gift," she says. "I try to get my WIPs under control by the end of the summer so I have plenty of time in the run up to Christmas to get everything that I want to make finished."

Elisabeth also has some cunning tricks for staying calm under pressure, but

"I NORMALLY START IN SEPTEMBER BECAUSE I DON'T LIKE TO WORK IN A HURRY."

admits that they don't always work. "I make lists of what I need to do and when," she says. "We all make mistakes though. In 2014, I started a granny square blanket for my sister-in-law that I had planned to give her last Christmas, but it's still not finished. I'll make sure I have it ready for Christmas Day 2015 though! Having said this, you can definitely crochet and drink mulled wine at the same time – that's multitasking at its best."

Ilaria agrees wholeheartedly. "It's so nice to work while singing and drinking! This year, I want to organise a crochet Christmas party with my friends so we can all work on our projects together but have a lot of fun at the same time, drinking and singing away."

ENJOY THE FESTIVE MAYHEM

Some pre-Christmas chaos can be part of the fun. "It wouldn't be Christmas without a little mayhem, would it?" Salena points out. "I enjoy the hustle and bustle of the

holiday season. Mayhem is often avoided when I plan, but I'm only organised enough to plan about every other year."

One of Salena's favourite ways to have a mayhem-free holiday is to follow an Advent calendar she received about 10 years ago. "Every day on the calendar gives you a task to complete, like singing carols, making cards, baking cookies,

giving to the needy and wrapping presents. When I follow the calendar, I have time to enjoy everything I love about Christmas."

Elisabeth has a particularly

delightful way to make the most of the festive jollity while ensuring all her festive crochet gets done. "I love to watch Christmas movies while working on gifts," she says. "It's such a special time of year and to be snuggled up at home with my husband, working on presents for people I love is wonderful. Even if I have a lot to get done and time is getting a bit short, the mayhem can be turned into magic. Then

the look on someone's face when they open a handmade gift is second to none!"

There's certainly plenty to enjoy at this most sparkling season. "I do love my workshops at this time of the year," says Steph. "Christmas can be so busy and stressful at times. Putting aside a few hours to make something for your home brings my students a sense of achievement, as well as providing time to recharge."

Most of us are guilty of putting too much pressure on ourselves at this time of year, she points out wisely. "I've learnt over the years that you can only do what you can do, and so although I plan what I want to achieve, I am mindful that these are my own expectations of myself and if I don't meet them all then that's OK!"

The moment when you watch your family and friends open their loving crocheted presents will make all those late nights frantically hooking worthwhile. "My nephew refused to take off his stegosaurus hat, gloves and scarf for the rest of Christmas day," Steph exclaims, "All we could hear was a boy stomping around shouting 'I'm a big dinosaur – raaawr!'"

Written by Judy Darley

"THE LOOK ON SOMEONE'S FACE WHEN THEY RECEIVE YOUR HANDMADE GIFT IS PRICELESS."

Clockwise from top left: Tunisian crochet cardigan (with snowflake motifs at the front); cup cosies, both from Salena Baca's book *Crochet for Christmas* book, both photographs by Kimberly Dierkhising.



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is Coming

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you covered



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www.lovecrochet.com/winter

SHOW US YOURS!

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

MEGA MANDALA

Reader Liz McPeake has hooked a fab version of the round blanket from issue 33's supplement. She's worked the pink rounds in silver, giving it a more understated look. Shared via Facebook.



this month we asked you...

Tell us about
your first
crochet project!

"My first crochet project was a scarf. I still have it because I did a really horrible job on it and could not give it away. But I keep it as inspiration and to see how far I've come!"

Ashley Mccleaster via Facebook

BUNNY LOVE

▼ Melissa Wheeler made this cute Rainy Day Rabbit as a special gift for her niece in Sicily. We love the glittery brooch! The pattern booklet was free with issue 29. Shared with us via email.



▲ @by_hook_crochet shared this picture of her latest project with us on Twitter. It's her first ever crochet sock. Can you believe it? It's just so neat. She used the Freshen Up stripy socks pattern from Simply Crochet issue 17.

THE LOWDOWN

To be in with a chance of winning one of three £30 vouchers to spend at LoveCrochet (www.lovecrochet.com), show us your *Simply Crochet* makes on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or via email or post by 2 November 2015. For all terms and conditions, and more information, visit www.simplycrochetmag.co.uk/competitionrules





A MERMAID'S TALE

Hookster Julia Elena emailed us to share pictures of her marvellous mermaids, Solei and Aqua. She told us they're her first amigurumi projects – we're impressed and we especially love their dreamy pastel hair. And don't they look right at home on the beach by the Baltic Sea? Julia used Ilaria Caliri's Make a Splash amigurumi pattern from issue 32. Turn to page 86 for more details about *Simply Crochet* back issues.

COOL CAPE

Helen Haydon made Kat Goldin's buttoned capelet from issue 26 to stay cosy at a folk festival. Via email.



DOUBLE TAP

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



SO SWEET
@hello_kerrin_bee has hooked an incredible coral and blue version of the Sugar and Spice cardi from issue 32. The colours are amazing.



IN GOOD ELF
Keen stitcher @jacqueskabee is getting into the Christmas spirit already, making not one but two little elves from issue 25. Such cuties.



SEA GREEN
Hooky mama @meandmy2guys whipped up a variegated Sundae Girl dress for her little daughter. The pattern is from issue 33.

TALK TO US!

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Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN

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simplycrochet@immediate.co.uk

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TWEED YARNS

Cosy, flecked and speckled blends for autumn.

SQUARE MOTIF

Ch6, ss to first ch to form a ring.

Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr), 2tr into ring, ch5, (3tr into ring, ch5) 3 times, ss to top of beg ch-3.

[4 3-tr groups, 4 ch-5 sp]

Round 2 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr in each of next 2 tr, (tr, ch7, tr) in ch-5 sp, *tr in each of next 3 tr, (tr, ch7, tr) in ch-5 sp; rep from * twice more, ss to top of beg ch-3. [4 5-tr groups, 4 ch-7 sp]

Fasten off and weave in ends.



MAKE A TWEEDY
SCARF WITH
YOUR SQUARES



SIRDAR HARRAP TWEED

WEIGHT DK

CONTENT 40% nylon, 30% wool, 24% acrylic, 6% viscose

BALL 50g/155m

HOOK 4mm

RRP £3.01



If you like yarn with a bit of heritage then this is the tweed for you. Sirdar's Harrap Tweed is inspired by and named after the Harrap brothers, who founded the company that later became Sirdar. It's a good-quality DK tweed with a bit of wool in

the mix. The yarn is fairly smooth and easy to work with, while each of the eight shades has a two-tone look and a sparse scattering of tweedy flecks, inspired by the Yorkshire landscape.

www.sirdar.co.uk
01924 231682

LANA GROSSA ROYAL TWEED

WEIGHT Chunky

CONTENT 100% virgin wool

BALL 50g/100m

HOOK 5-6mm

RRP £6.25



This high-quality tweed yarn by Lana Grossa has a plush, velvety appearance and comes in a rich colour palette of 22 tempting shades. It's made up of a fuzzy tweed single ply wound with a fine matching thread, which gives it a bobbly, bead-like texture.

Royal Tweed is plump and squashy, pleasant to work with and is suitable for felting. We'd use this chunky yarn for making luxurious hats and cowls. Wash by hand only. Iron on cool.

www.lovecrochet.com
0845 544 2324

DEBBIE BLISS PALOMA TWEED

WEIGHT Super chunky

CONTENT 50% alpaca, 30% wool, 14% acrylic, 6% viscose

SKEIN 50g/65m

HOOK 10mm

RRP £7.95



Paloma Tweed is deliciously soft, thanks to the helping of alpaca in the mix. It's a flecked version of the Paloma yarn from Debbie Bliss. The chainette construction provides a fair amount of stretch, which is worth

bearing in mind if you're thinking of hooking a garment. It feels luxurious and there are 14 shades to choose from, both earthy tones and jewel colours.

www.designeryarns.uk.com
01535 664222

ROWAN HEMP TWEED

WEIGHT DK

CONTENT 75% wool,

25% hemp

BALL 50g/95m

HOOK 4.5mm

RRP £4.50



Rowan's new Hemp Tweed is a smooth and light plied yarn with a heathered, tweed-like appearance. The unusual combination of cosy merino wool and cool hemp results in a yarn that's soft yet strong and has a pleasing texture. It has a dry handle, a wispy

halo and is available in 10 sophisticated, wintry shades. Hemp Tweed would be an ideal choice for garments because it has good stitch definition and can be worn in both warm and cool weather.

www.knitrowan.com
01484 681881

STYLECRAFT ALPACA TWEED CHUNKY

WEIGHT Chunky

CONTENT 77% premium

acrylic, 20% alpaca, 3% viscose

BALL 100g/135m

HOOK 6mm

RRP £4.90



Pick up a ball or two of Stylecraft's Alpaca Tweed Chunky for hooking speedy accessories (two balls is enough for a hat) or a big, cosy blanket. It's the chunky weight version of Stylecraft's popular DK yarn of the same name – a soft, speckled,

plied yarn that's really easy to care for. It can be machine washed, tumble dried and ironed on cool. Take your pick from five stylish colours, each with tweedy flecks in subtle, neutral tones.

www.stylecraft-yarns.co.uk
01535 609798

KING COLE CHUNKY TWEED

WEIGHT Chunky

CONTENT 72% premium acrylic, 25% wool, 3% viscose

BALL 100g/114m

HOOK 6mm

RRP £3.99



Got a chunky cardigan or jumper on your to-hook list this autumn? King Cole's Chunky Tweed would be a fantastic choice. It's a very reasonably priced, machine-washable, wool blend that doesn't compromise on

quality. The yarn is dotted with multicoloured tweedy flecks that really pop and make it stand out. There are eight classic, wearable colours to choose from.

www.kingcole.co.uk
01756 703670



MORE HAIRPIN CROCHET

This issue, you can learn how to join and edge your strips of hairpin crochet with our step-by-step guide.

WHAT COULD I LEARN?

Here's the lowdown on what you need to know...

Last issue, we showed you how easy it is to work hairpin crochet (see page 86 for back issues). This issue, we'll explain how you can join and edge strips to create larger lacy fabrics. Once you have a collection of hairpin strips, you can join and edge them in all sorts of ways and create lots of interesting effects—ideal for experimenting! We'll show you just what to do, then you can use your new skills to make our stylish neckerchief on page 83.



We'll show you three different ways to join hairpin strips together—each one is simple to work and creates a different look. This nifty cable join is one of our favourites and creates a fab braided look.



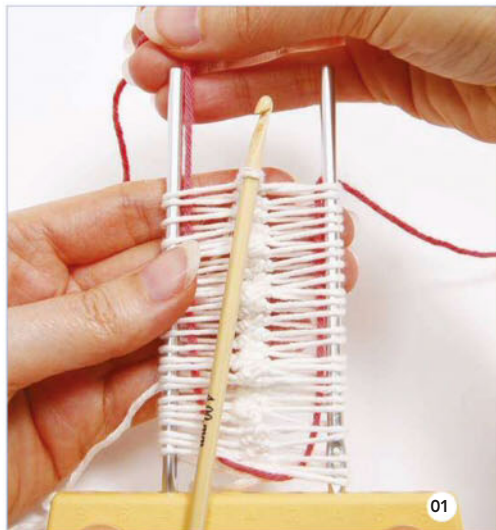
There are just as many ways to edge your hairpin strips and create interesting patterns—by working into different numbers of loops in different ways to twist the loops—or keep them open.

WHAT PREP DO I NEED TO DO?

Make sure you secure your loops before removing from the loom...

Once you've finished a strip of hairpin crochet, you'll need to remove a strip from the loom, securing the loops with spare yarn first. To do this, cut a length of spare yarn and thread onto a tapestry needle. Pass the needle along the inside of the right prong, making sure you catch all the loops of yarn. Take the yarn across the bottom of the strip and then pass the needle along the inside of the left prong, making sure you catch all the loops of yarn **01**.

Next, insert the top of the prongs into the top bar of the loom, making sure your prongs are secure and at the correct width. Now you're ready to remove the loops. Carefully remove the bottom bar from the loom and gently slide the loops off the prongs **02**. Some hairpin



loom make this process easier for you by including a small hole in each prong. Simply thread the ends of your spare yarn into each hole, then knot it to itself. When you slide the loops off, they will slide straight onto the spare yarn.



If your strip is finished, you can fasten off before removing the strip. To do this, cut the yarn leaving at least a 25cm tail, work yrh and pull the yarn through the last loop. It's helpful to have a long tail at both ends of the strip for sewing up later.

HOW DO I JOIN HAIRPIN STRIPS?

Master three joining techniques with these simple steps.

The joining and edging of your hairpin strips creates different effects and enables you to create various lacy projects, from garments to accessories. Whenever you're joining two hairpin strips, place them side by side so you can easily work into a loop on one strip and then a loop on the second strip.

The simplest joining method is the slip stitch join, which creates an effect that looks similar to the braided centre of the hairpin strip, which can be useful if you want a more consistent look. The slip stitches in this join are worked in a similar way to when you're doing surface crochet (see our guide in issue 31). To start, place a slipknot on the hook and insert hook into the bottom loop of the right strip, from front to back. Then insert hook into the bottom loop of the left strip, from front to back. Work yrh and pull through the loops and the slipknot. *Keeping yarn at back of strips, repeat the process by inserting hook through next loop of right strip from front to back **01**, then left strip from front to back **02**. Work yrh and pull through all loops on hook **03**. Repeat from * to end of strips. Fasten off.

For a slightly different slip stitch join, work into the loop of the right strip from front to back, then into a loop of the left strip from back to front **04**.

Alternatively, try working the cable join, which creates a chunkier effect. To do this, you don't need a separate length of yarn. Just insert the hook into the bottom 2 loops of the left strip, then insert hook into the bottom 2 loops of the right strip. Pull the loops from the right strip through the loops from the left strip (2 loops on hook). *Insert the hook into the next 2 loops of the left strip **05** and pull through the 2 loops on the hook from the right strip **06**. Insert the hook into the next 2 loops of the right strip and pull through the 2 loops on the hook from the left strip. Repeat from * to the end to neatly 'zip' the strips together.

Almost any crochet pattern could be worked between the two strips to achieve a lovely lacy look. For example, try working this lacy join **07**: *1dc in 2 loops of right strip, 3ch, 1dc in 2 loops of left strip, 3ch, repeat from *.

You can vary the look of any of these joins by working in more or fewer than 2 loops. The way you work into the loops will also affect the finished look. So if you insert the hook into loops from back to front (bottom to top), the loops will twist. But if you worked into the same 2 loops from front to back (top to bottom), the loops will stay open. We'll explain more on this overleaf.



HOW DO I EDGE HAIRPIN STRIPS?

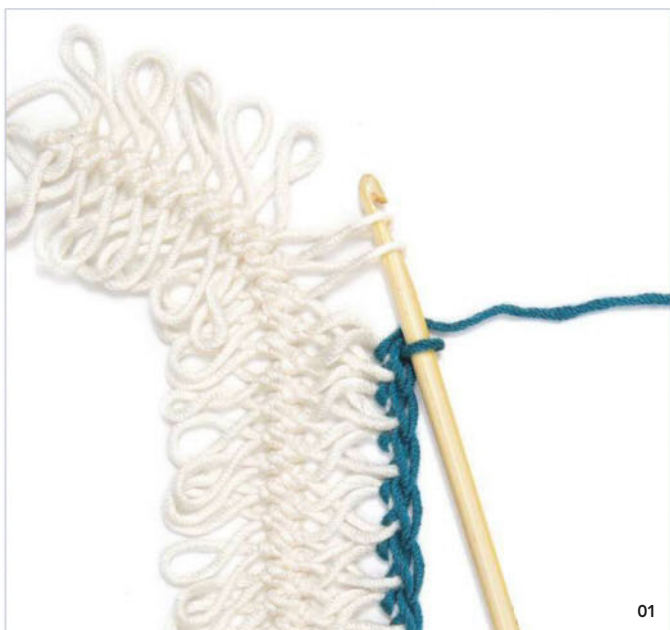
Here's how to work edging stitches into your strips.

If you're not going to join any of the loopy sides to another piece of crochet, you'll usually need to add an edging, otherwise the loops can twist in random directions – although if that's the look you want then don't add an edging. There are plenty of edging options and the simplest methods just work a slip stitch into each loop or a double crochet stitch into each loop.

To work a double crochet edging that twists the loop, insert the hook into two loops from back to front (bottom to top) **01**. To work a double crochet edging that keeps the loop open, insert the hook from front to back (top to bottom) **02**. Once you've got a base row of double crochet, you can build on it with fancy edging rows, such as scallops, picots or a lacy pattern.

You can also vary the number of loops you work into, to create a wavy edging, or even a wavy join between two strips. Try this wavy edging **03**: *dc into 12 loops, ch4, (dc into 3 loops, ch4) 4 times; repeat from * to end. Along the other edge, make sure you off-set the pattern with the 12 loop group opposite the four 3-loop groups.

Or you can incorporate hairpin strips into other crochet projects. Try making a circular crochet motif and join a strip of hairpin lace around the outside. Work a hairpin strip so there are 6 loops to each stitch on the outer round of your circle, then use the lacy join method and work into 6 loops rather than 2 loops of the hairpin strip. Add an edging (try dc, ch4) to the outside edge of the hairpin strip, working into 1 or 2 loops of the hairpin strip each time to create a flat circle.



Written by Becky Skuse

Hairpin neckerchief



SO JAUNTY

Use super-soft alpaca yarn to make a luxurious little hairpin accessory. Designed by Becky Skuse.

Hairpin neckerchief



YOU WILL NEED

- UK Alpaca Superfine DK (70% superfine alpaca, 30% Bluefaced Leicester, 50g/112m), 1 ball each of Lilac and Damson (one neckerchief only uses 12g of this yarn)
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- Hairpin loom with prongs set to 6cm

For yarn stockists, contact
UK Alpaca 01884 243579
www.ukalpaca.com

MEASUREMENTS

Finished neckerchief measures
6.5x55cm (2½x21½in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

Crochet designer Becky Skuse says: "Hairpin crochet creates such a pretty lacy effect, it's perfect for combining with lacy joins and edgings. Show off the stitch pattern by wearing it around your neck with this stylish neckerchief. It's made up of several short strips that only take five or ten minutes each. By the time you're finished, you'll be able to whip up hairpin strips in super-quick time!"

NOTES

Each hairpin strip has loops on either side of a 'spine' of dc sts. Make sure your strips have an equal number of loops on each side of the spine, as directed in pattern. Make sure you use spare yarn to secure the hairpin loops on each strip before removing them from the loom. Spare yarn can be removed later, as instructed in pattern. The hairpin strips do not have a right or wrong side but they all need to be orientated with the starting end at the bottom and the fasten off end at the top. This is to make sure you're working into the loops in the correct way to achieve the same effect as our joins.

HAIRPIN STRIPS

Using Yarn A, make two strips with 10 loops on each side of the spine. Make two strips with 8 loops, two strips with 6 loops and two strips with 4 loops. Using Yarn B, make one strip with 10 loops on each side of the spine. Make sure you leave tail ends of yarn measuring at least 25cm, at the start and end of the strip.

JOINING THE 10-LOOP STRIPS

Place your Yarn A 10-loop strips on either side of your Yarn B strip. Join these together with the cable join, as described in the technical feature. To do this, insert hook into the bottom 2 loops of Yarn A, from top to bottom. *Insert hook into the bottom 2 loops of Yarn B, from top to bottom. Pull the Yarn B loops through the Yarn A loops, keeping the Yarn B loops on the hook. Insert hook into 2 loops of Yarn A, from

top to bottom. Pull the Yarn A loops through the Yarn B loops, keeping the Yarn A loops on the hook. Repeat from * to the final 2 loops of Yarn B.

To secure the final 2 loops, take the top tail end of Yarn A (from fastening off), pass it through the 2 loops, then back through the fasten off knot and secure firmly. Repeat on the other side of the Yarn B strip with the other Yarn A strip.

JOINING THE 8-LOOP STRIPS

Place the two 8-loop strips on either side of the 10-loop joined strips. Join these together using Yarn B and the 3ch dc method, as described in the technical feature.

To do this, make a slipknot in Yarn B and place on hook. Insert hook into the bottom 2 loops of the 10-loop strip, from bottom to top. Yrh, pull through all loops on hook and tighten the slipknot. Ch3, dc into the bottom 2 loops of the 8-loop strip, from bottom to top. *Ch3, dc into next 2 loops of 10-loop strip, inserting the hook from bottom to top. Ch3, dc into next 2 loops of 8-loop strip, inserting the hook from bottom to top. Repeat from * ending with a dc in the last 2 loops of the 10-loop strip.

Repeat on other side to join the other 10-loop strip to the other 8-loop strip. See photo below as a guide.

JOINING THE REMAINING STRIPS

Arrange the rest of the strips on either side of the piece, in descending order. See photo below as a guide. Use same '3ch dc' method as above to join strips.

EDGING

Rejoin Yarn B with a ss in the central spine of the Yarn B strip. Ch1, dc in same spine. Now work an even edging of chains and dc, working chain lengths over the hairpin loops and the ch3 joins, and dc sts into each spine and each join point. We worked ch4 over the hairpin loops, and ch3 over the ch3 joins, but work what looks right for your tension. When you reach the end of the first side, work a dc into the 4 loops, inserting the hook from bottom to top. Ch1, dc into the 4 loops again. Cont the edging along the other side, working in the same way as above. Ss to first dc.

Fasten off.

Weave in all ends and block if desired.



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Crochet essentials

Over the next few pages, you'll find simple step-by-step guides to many useful stitches and techniques that you'll use every time you pick up a hook.

HOLDING THE HOOK

Try these methods and see which works best.



PENCIL METHOD

Hold the hook like a pencil, in your right hand (if you're right-handed), about 3-5cm from the hooked end. If your hook has a flat area, you'll find it comfortable to hold it here.



KNIFE METHOD

Hold the hook between your thumb and forefinger, about 3-5cm from the hooked end, resting the end of the hook against your palm. This will give you lots of control.

HOLDING THE YARN

Even tension results in even stitches.



METHOD ONE

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



METHOD TWO

Loop the ball end of the yarn loosely around the little finger of your left hand, then take it over the third finger, behind the middle finger and over your index finger.

MAKING A SLIPKNOT The first loop on the hook.



1 Hold the tail of the ball of yarn in your left hand and drape the yarn clockwise over the top of it to form a circular loop.



2 Hold the loop between left thumb and forefinger, then insert the crochet hook through the centre of the loop from front to back.



3 Catch the ball end of the yarn with the hook and pull it back through the centre of the loop, taking the yarn through with it.



4 Pull both ends of the yarn to tighten the knot, then pull just the ball end to tighten the loop so it's close to the hook, but not touching it.

CHAIN STITCH Use this stitch to make your foundation chain.



1 Hold the hook in your right hand, and both the yarn end and the working yarn in your left hand. Move the hook under and over the yarn to wrap it around anticlockwise.



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



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

How to count chains



Each chain or loop counts as one stitch. Never count your first slipknot or the loop on the hook (called the working loop). So that you can be accurate, make sure the chain is not twisted and that the front is facing you.

SLIP STITCH (ss)

This stitch has no height – often used to join rounds.



1 The slip stitch is used to join a length of chain into the round. Insert the hook from front to back into the first chain you worked. Wrap yarn round the hook (yrh) in an anticlockwise direction.



2 Pull the yarn through the chain stitch (as shown) and then the loop already on the hook to make a slip stitch. You can also work this stitch into each stitch along a row to form a neat edging.

WORKING IN ROWS

Follow these simple rules to construct crochet fabric.



1 The first row is made by working across the foundation chain from right to left. At the end of the chain or row, turn the work so that the yarn is behind the hook.



2 For the next row, first make the turning chain for the stitch you're about to work (see opposite). Now work the next stitch into the top of the stitches on your first row, missing the first stitch.

DOUBLE CROCHET (dc) US term: single crochet

One of the key stitches in crochet, doubles are simple, compact stitches that form a dense fabric.



1 To make a double crochet stitch, insert the hook under the top two loops of the next stitch on the previous row.



2 Wind the yarn around the hook (yrh).



3 Pull the yarn through the stitch, giving you two loops on your crochet hook.



4 Yarn round hook again, then pull the yarn through both loops. There's your double crochet made and you'll have one loop left on the hook, ready to do the next stitch.

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

A handy stitch that's between double and treble crochet in size, and it looks slightly looser than double crochet.



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



2 Insert the hook under the top two loops of the next stitch in the previous row. Wrap yarn around the hook again (yrh).



3 Pull the yarn through the stitch only (3 loops on hook).



4 Yarn round hook again, pull the yarn through all 3 loops. You've made a half treble crochet. Continue working htr into next and following sts to the end of the row.

TREBLE CROCHET (tr) US term: double crochet

One of the most popular stitches in crochet, this simple stitch is twice as high as a double crochet stitch.



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



2 Wrap the yarn around the hook (yrh) and pull the yarn through the stitch only.



3 You will now have 3 loops on the hook. Yrh again, and draw the yarn through just the first 2 loops on the hook.



4 You will now have 2 loops on the hook. Yrh again and draw the yarn through the remaining loops on the hook. Your treble crochet is complete.

DOUBLE TREBLE CROCHET (dtr) US term: treble crochet

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

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

2 Yrh, pull the yarn through the ch loop only (4 loops on hook).

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

Yrh and pull the yarn through 2 loops only (2 loops on hook).

4 Yrh and pull the yarn through the remaining 2 loops. Repeat from * to make more dtr sts.

5 To make the next row of dtr, turn work and ch4. This turning chain counts as the first dtr in a new row. Skip first st at the base of the t-ch, work 1dtr under the top two loops of the 2nd stitch in the previous row; continue to the end of the row.

TRIPLE TREBLE CROCHET (ttr) US term: double treble crochet

This is one of the longest standard crochet stitches and is mainly used in fancy stitch patterns. It's taller than a double treble crochet stitch (described left) and is worked in a very similar way, as follows:

1 Make a foundation ch. Skip 5 ch, *yrh 3 times, insert hook under top loop of next ch.

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

3 † Yrh, draw loop through 2

loops only. Repeat from † 3 times more and your triple treble will be finished. Repeat from * to make more ttr sts.

4 To make the next row, turn work and ch5. This turning chain counts as the first triple treble in a new row. Skip first st at base of the t-ch. Work 1 triple treble, inserting hook under the top 2 loops of the 2nd st in the previous row; continue to the end of the row.

TURNING CHAIN (t-ch)

For an even finish, start each row with a turning chain.

In crochet, you need to add turning chains (t-chs) to the beginning of rows. The reason for this is to bring the hook up to the height of the stitches you're crocheting. Each basic stitch has its own number of

chains. The table below tells you how many t-ch sts form the first stitch. *For dc, usually the turning chain does not count as a stitch, and the first stitch of the row is worked into the stitch at the base of the turning chain.

STITCH	Add to foundation chain before starting row	Skip at start of foundation row (counts as first st)	For turning chain (counts as first st)
Double crochet	1 ch	1 ch*	1 ch*
Half treble	1 ch	2 ch	2 ch
Treble	2 ch	3 ch	3 ch
Double treble	3 ch	4 ch	4 ch
Triple treble	4 ch	5 ch	5 ch

How to count stitches

Check your work is correct.

Being able to count your stitches is very important and helps you to ensure that you're following a pattern correctly. It's a good idea to count your stitches at the end of every row. To count short stitches such as double crochet, look at the plaited tops (see above right). For taller stitches, count the upright 'stems' – each 'stem' is counted as a stitch (see right).



HOW TO CHANGE COLOUR

Create stripes and other colour effects.



1 Before you work the final yrh (yarn round hook) on the last stitch of a row in the old colour, drop the old yarn and pick up the new one with your hook.



2 Pull through a loop of the new yarn to finish the old stitch. The working loop will be in the new colour. Continue, keeping the old yarn at the wrong side.

INCREASING AND DECREASING

Shaping stitches are vital for making garments.



INCREASE To increase one stitch is very simple – work one stitch into the next stitch on the row below. When you've finished, work another stitch into the same stitch.



DECREASE For a quick decrease, just skip one stitch. For a neater look, work the first part of one stitch and then begin the next stitch. Finish both together.

SEWING SEAMS

You can join crochet seams by using a tapestry needle or a crochet hook, using one of these four methods.



1 Sewing with a tapestry needle is the regular and neat way to join seams. Place two pieces of crochet right sides together and oversew them as shown above, using a tapestry or yarn needle.



2 To slip stitch a seam, place the crochet pieces right sides together. *Insert hook into both edge stitches, yrh and pull through to complete 1 slip stitch; rep from * working into the next edge stitches, keeping work fairly loose.



3 For a dc seam, place the crochet pieces right sides together, or wrong sides together for a visible seam. Work as for slip stitch seam, using double crochet instead of slip stitch.



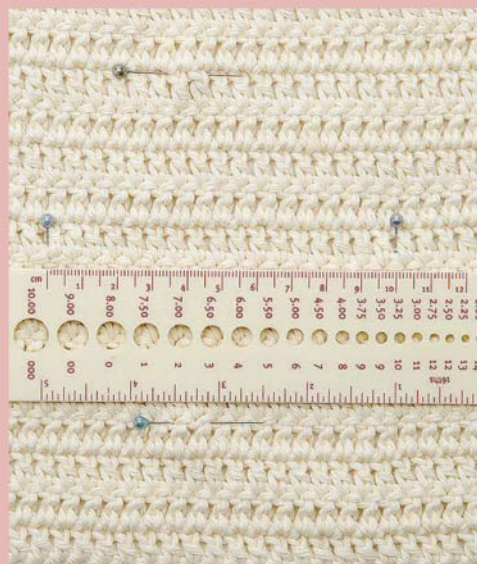
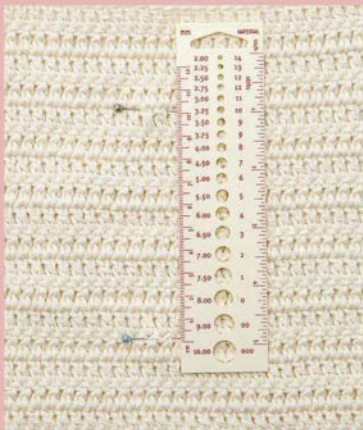
4 A useful variation on the dc seam, the dc and chain seam is used when less bulk and/or greater flexibility is needed. Work 1 double crochet and 1 chain alternately.

How to check your tension

Make and measure a swatch to check your tension.

Most crochet patterns state the tension required, in rows and stitches of a specific type. Make a swatch at least 15cm square and check that your tension matches.

Place a ruler across the swatch and insert two pins, 10cm apart. Then place the ruler along a column of stitches and insert two pins 10cm apart. Count the stitches and rows between the pins – if you have less than the pattern, your tension is too loose so you need to use a smaller hook, but if you have too many, use a larger hook. It's usually better to match the stitches than rows, because you can always work more or fewer rows.



FOUNDATION RING

Create a foundation ring for working in the round.



1 Make a chain the length stated in the pattern instructions. Next, insert the crochet hook into the first chain. Close the ring with a slip stitch, working yrh...



2 ...and pull yarn through 2 loops on hook. Now you're ready to start crocheting in the round, following the instructions given right.

WORKING STITCHES INTO A RING

To make circles, tubes and other shapes.



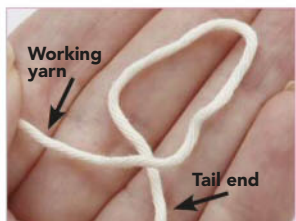
1 Make a foundation ring and work the t-ch (3ch for treble sts). Work a treble st as usual, but insert hook into centre of ring. For treble sts, yrh, insert hook into ring.



2 Finish the treble as usual (yrh, pull yarn through ring, yrh, pull yarn through first 2 loops, yrh, pull yarn through 2 loops). Work more sts into the ring as needed.

WORKING A MAGIC LOOP

An alternative foundation ring for working in the round.



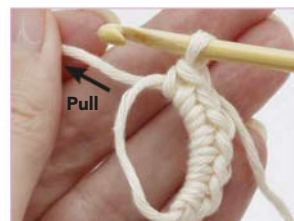
1 To start a Magic Loop, don't make a slipknot. Instead, make a loop with the yarn, leaving a tail around 10cm long. Make sure the tail end is under the working yarn.



2 Now insert your hook into the loop, from front to back. Wrap the working yarn around the hook and pull the yarn through the loop.



3 Make a t-ch for the sts you want to work (above, we made 1 t-ch for dc). Work your sts into the Magic Loop, over both the loop and the tail end (so two yarn strands).



4 Once you've worked the first round of stitches, simply pull the tail end of yarn to draw up the ring. Work a slip stitch to join the last and first sts to finish the first round (as instructed below).

JOINING ROUNDS

Finish off each round of crochet stitches nice and neatly by using a slip stitch.



1 To close a round of stitches, work a slip stitch into the top of the turning chain. To do this, insert the hook into the top stitch of the turning chain.



2 Then place the yarn round the hook. Pull the yarn through the turning chain stitch and through the original stitch on your hook.



3 You've slip stitched the round together! Before working another round, be sure to make the required turning chain. Always work rounds on the right side, unless 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
beg	beginning		the same stitch
bl	insert hook under	inc	increase
	back loop only	LH	left hand
BPtr	Back Post treble:	lp(s)	loop(s)
	yrh, starting from the	meas	measures
	back, insert hook	p or pc	picot
	from back to front to	patt(s)	pattern(s)
	back around post of	pm	place marker
	st in row below,	prev	previous
	complete as treble st	rem	remain(s)/remaining
ch(s)	chain/chain stitch(es)	rep	repeat
ch-sp(s)	chain space(s)	RH	right hand
ch-	refers to ch made	rnd(s)	round(s)
	previously, eg. ch-3	RS	right side
cl(s)	clusters	sk	skip
4-tr cl	(yrh, insert hook in	sp(s)	space(s)
	sp/st, yrh & pull up	ss	slip stitch
	loop, yrh & draw	st(s)	stitch(es)
	through 2 loops) 4	tbl	through back loop
	times, inserting hook	t-ch(s)	turning chain(s)
	in same sp/st, yrh &	tog	together
	draw through all	tr	treble crochet
	loops on hook	tr2tog	(yrh, insert hook in
cont	continue		next st, yrh and pull
dc	double crochet		up loop, yrh and
dc2tog	(insert hook in next		draw through 2
	st, yrh and draw a		loops) twice, yrh and
	loop through) twice,		draw through all
	yrh and draw through		loops on hook
	all 3 loops on hook	ttr	triple treble crochet
dec	decrease	WS	wrong side
dtr	double treble crochet	yoh	yarn over hook
dtr2tog	work 2dtr together	yrh	yarn round hook
fl	insert hook under	*	work instructions
	front loop only		immediately foll *,
foll/folls	following/follows		then rep as directed
FPtr	Front Post treble:	[] or ()	work or repeat all
	work in opposite way		instructions in the
	to BPtr		brackets as directed

Crochet hook conversions

UK	METRIC	US
14	2mm	–
13	2.25mm	B/1
12	2.5mm	–
–	2.75mm	C/2
11	3mm	–
10	3.25mm	D/3
9	3.5mm	E/4
–	3.75mm	F/5
8	4mm	G/6
7	4.5mm	7
6	5mm	H/8
5	5.5mm	I/9
4	6mm	J/10
3	6.5mm	K/10½
2	7mm	–
0	8mm	L/11
00	9mm	M/13
000	10mm	N/15

Which hook do I use?

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

UK/US conversions

UK		US	
chain	ch	chain	ch
slip stitch	ss	slip stitch	ss
double crochet	dc	single crochet	sc
half treble	htr	half double	hdc
treble	tr	double	dc
double treble	dtr	treble	tr
triple treble	ttr	double treble	dtr

HOW TO GET A PERFECT FINISH

To prevent your hard work unravelling once you've finished crocheting, fasten the end off carefully.

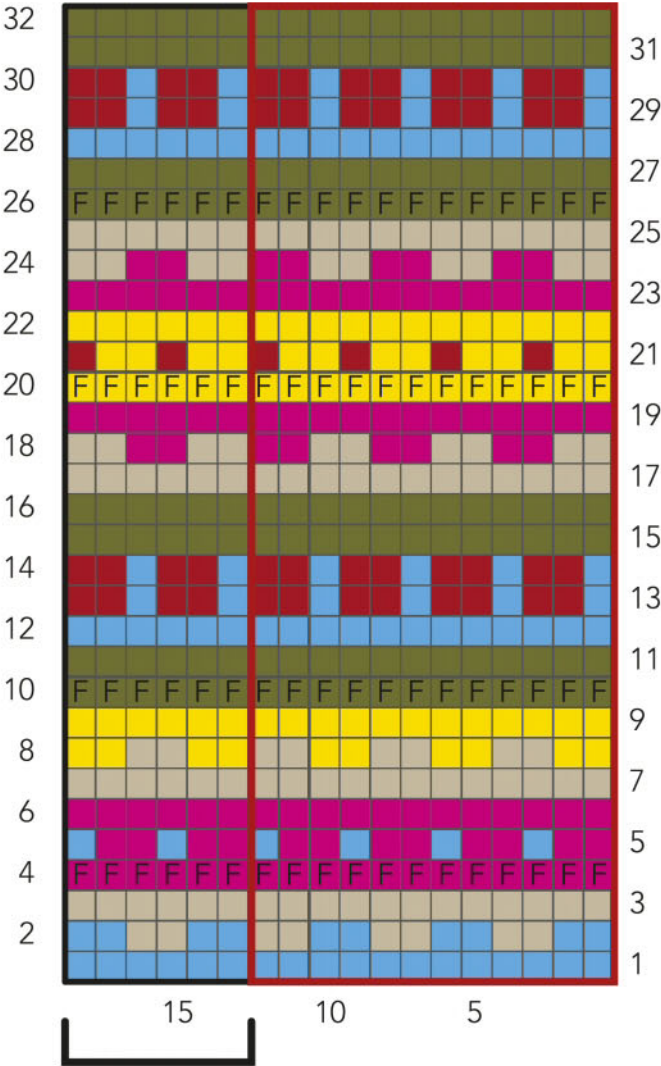


Complete the final stitch, then cut the yarn about 15cm from the work. Pull it through the last loop on the hook and pull to close the loop. Thread the yarn tail onto a tapestry needle and weave into the back of the work. Most crochet items don't need a lot of blocking, but cotton lace work usually does. To do this, carefully pin out the item with rust-proof pins, mist with a water spray and leave to dry naturally.

CHARTS & DIAGRAMS

Here's the colour chart you'll need to make the gorgeous Fair Isle vest this month.

FAIR ISLE VEST PAGE 32



- Key
- Yarn A Dark Mustard
 - Yarn B Blue Turquoise
 - Yarn C Light Beige Brown
 - Yarn D Cerise
 - Yarn E Olive
 - Yarn F Red
 - Pattern Repeat
 - F Work in Front Loop only

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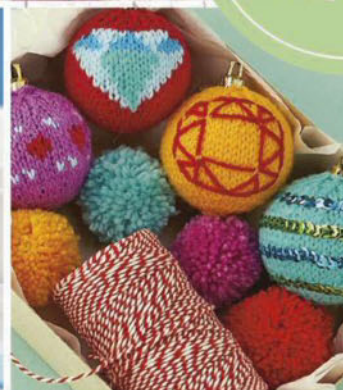


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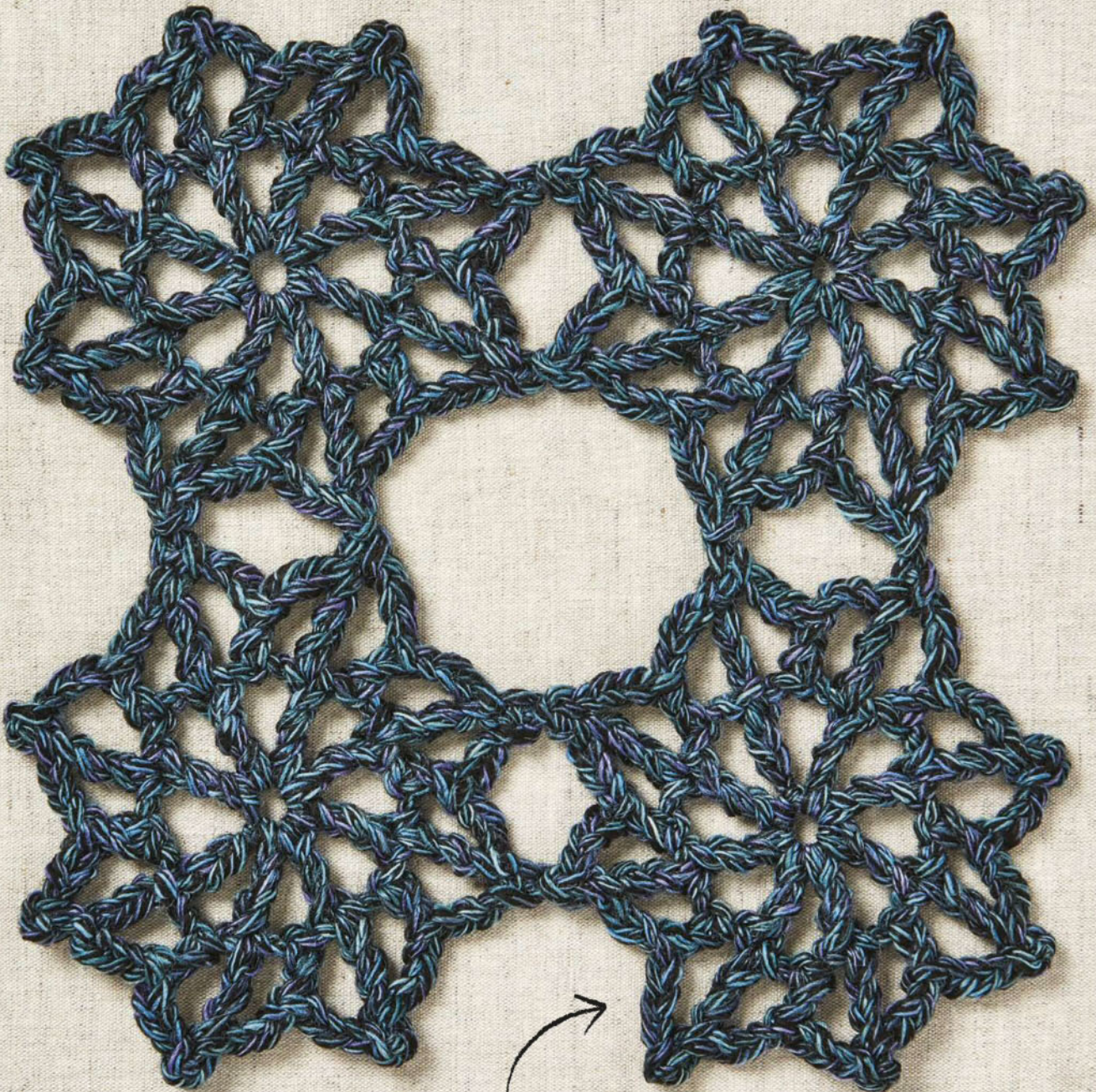
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Make a motif

On the Web

Have a go at Lucy Croft's lacy spider web shape.



Make a cool
tablerunner

Make a motif



YOU WILL NEED

■ Debbie Bliss Boheme
(52% wool, 34% acrylic,
14% polyamide, 50g/50m),
Benoit (09)

■ A 5mm (US H/8) hook

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

ABBREVIATIONS

Picot Ch2, ss to the second ch
from the hook

For a full list, see page 92.

This subtly spooky spider's web shape is very versatile. Join a bunch of web motifs to make a cosy scarf, shawl or blanket, or use individual ones as creepy coasters for Halloween. Boheme is a new yarn in an aran weight from Debbie Bliss. Its airy, chainette texture and lively colourways makes it perfect for experimenting with motifs. It will add interest to any shape.

WEB MOTIF

Round 1 (RS) Ch8 (counts as ch1, dtr, ch3), dtr into the eighth ch from the hook, ch3, *dtr in same ch, ch3; repeat from * 5 more times, ss to the fifth ch of the beginning ch-8 to join.

[8 dtr, 8 ch-3 sps]

Round 2 Ch4 (counts as dtr), picot, ch3, tr in the second ch of the next ch-3 sp, ch3, *dtr in the next dtr, picot, ch3, tr in the second ch of the next ch-3 sp, ch3; repeat from * 6 more times, ss to the top of the beginning ch-4 to join.

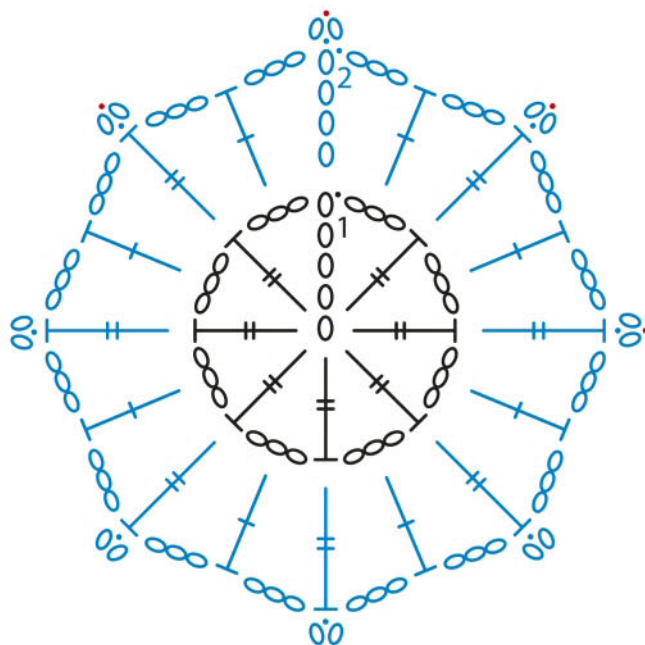
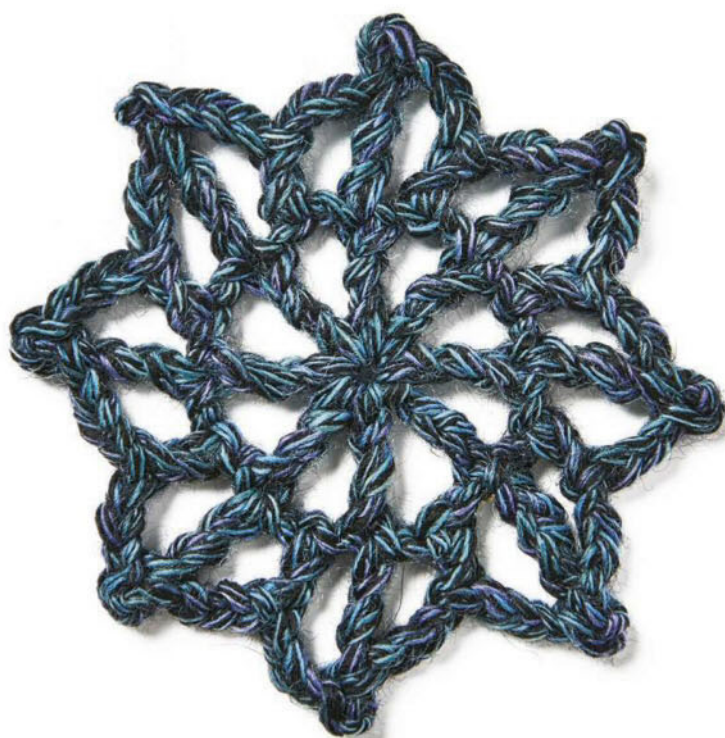
TO JOIN

Join motifs while working Round 2, by replacing the second ch of a picot with a ss to the corresponding picot on the next motif.

Key

- Slip stitch (ss)
- Chain (ch)
- Treble crochet (tr)
- Double treble crochet (dtr)
- Joining slip stitch

On the chart, all rounds are read in an anti-clockwise direction.





Simply Crochet

HOOKED ON HANDMADE

NEXT ISSUE

Spots and stripes

Chunky cushions

Slouchy cardigan

Patchwork stitch

Cuckoo clock

And more...

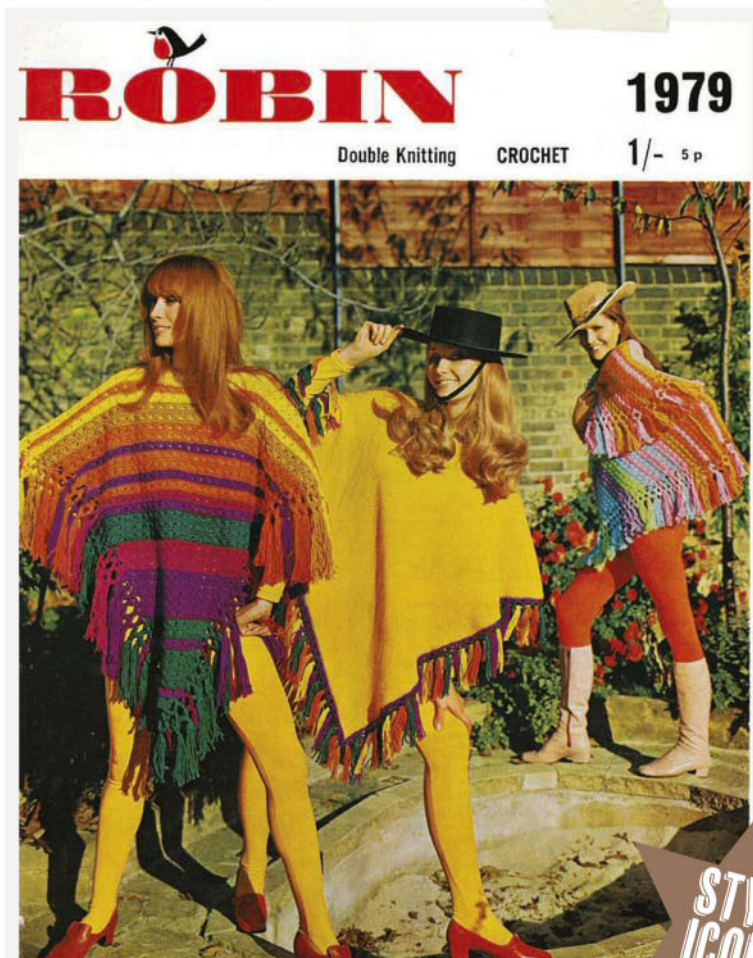


GORGEOUS
MERINO top!



ON SALE THURS 15 OCTOBER





TASSEL HASSLE

When ponchos attack, it can get ugly. But we're determined to see the retro charm in everything.

Admittedly, this trio of seventies ladies is ridiculous at first glance. We certainly won't be taking style cues from these bonkers broads anytime soon (anyone else thinking *Ugly Betty*?), but concentrate hard enough and you might just be able to see past the bizarre empty pond and the canary legs to glimpse what are actually three timeless vintage designs. There are two key factors that contribute to the appeal of a crochet poncho. The first is retro charm – is the seventies boho look ever really out of fashion? The second is achievability. Ponchos cleverly straddle the gap between blankets, accessories and garments, allowing you to create something warm and wonderfully wearable without fretting over shaping or seaming. In cream, grey, or any muted shade, any of these ponchos could be a beauty. Wanna take the plunge and hook one? Visit www.wonkyzebra.etsy.com to find the pattern. Let your freak flag fly.

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ISSUE THIRTY-FIVE

Super-chunky makes to spruce up your place including cosy cushions, slippers, baskets and more. Plus, hook playful back to school projects in bright shell stitches, make a duo of tropical fruity bags and a very distinguished amigurumi fox.



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ISSUE THIRTY-FOUR

Crochet beach essentials, a bright mandala to wear and a lacy shawl.



ISSUE THIRTY-THREE

Modern doilies, fillet crochet, a sweet girls' dress, a lacy cardigan, cat, and neon brights.



ISSUE THIRTY-TWO

Wedding ideas, Granny Square top, girls' cardigan, sweet socks, cushion, and cute mermaid toy.



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 crochet mittens, amigurumi frog, and a frilled scarf.



ISSUE TWENTY-SEVEN

Beaded shawl, bag, alpaca baby hat, Shaun the Sheep, bird detail cardigan, and a waffle cowl.



ISSUE TWENTY-SIX

Slouchy beanie, bag and skirt, plus a baby blanket, cabled cardigan, 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 crochet men's cardigan, 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.



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