

Simply Crochet

CUTE & CRAFTY

HOOKED ON HANDMADE



DIY Christmas
motif jumper

10 CHUNKY GIFTS

QUICK
& COSY

START YOUR FESTIVE
HOOKING NOW!

30
PATTERNS
INSIDE

SPOTS & STRIPES

Hats, backpack, mitts, wrap, teddy & more

PLUS!

PONCHO
GARLAND &
BABY DRESS



Baubles Pattern by Jane Crowfoot



Christmas is coming

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Simply **Crochet**

HOOKED ON HANDMADE

There's a chill in the air so wrap up warm and get down to some serious hooking. This issue, we're making cosy cover-ups and super-chunky gifts, getting to grips with textured stitches and learning more about British wool. Get comfy and take a moment or two to relax with your hook and yarn.



Simply Crochet

ISSUE THIRTY-SEVEN

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



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CONTRIBUTORS

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO THESE GEMS . . .



ERIKA KNIGHT

Brighton-based designer and yarn mogul Erika is sharing the secrets of her creative process and her fave fibres this month on page 58. Plus, see page 16 for some scrummy designs using her yarn.



KATH WEBBER

Writer and crochet designer Kath has been pompom-wrangling this month, hooking a dynamite duo of slouchy beanies as part of our super-chunky collection. Find them on page 26.



LOUISE SMITH

Kitty-loving crocheter Louise Smith has been getting into the festive spirit, creating a brilliant DIY Christmas jumper project for us. Hint: it involves snowflakes. In a big way. See page 51.



BECKY GARRATT

Becky is an illustrator and amigurumi whizz. This issue, she's whipped up an incredible crochet cuckoo clock for us with a distinct festive flavour. Turn over to page 66 to make it yourself.

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS

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Stylecraft

NEW AUTUMN/WINTER
CROCHET DESIGNS



HOOKED

IDEAS ♡ INSPIRATION ♡ ACCESSORIES ♡ WEBSITES ♡ EVENTS ♡ STUFF



STAY TOASTY

Stitcher and author Yvonne Eijkenduijn's Yvestown blog should be your first port of call if you're in need of a fix of yarn loveliness. We spotted these bobbly mitts of hers online and were thrilled to discover that her free pattern for these is part of a special tutorial on three-dimensional crochet. You can find it at www.yvestown.com. For more on textured stitches, see page 80.





PIN A POPPY

■ An important date for your diary: 8 November 2015 is Remembrance Sunday. Be sure to wear a poppy this November as a sign of remembrance for the sacrifice of those in the armed forces. If you're going to make some poppies to sell, or are keen to hook one to wear yourself, you can find our free poppy pattern at bit.ly/SCpoppy. We'd also encourage you to make a donation at www.britishlegion.org.uk if you feel you would like to.



HARE-RAISING CROCHET

Artist Shauna Richardson is a self-styled **crochetdermist** who creates unique crochet sculptures with a traditional taxidermy feel. In fact, her term Crochetdermy® is now a Registered Trademark. We're loving this collection of crocheted hares – there's such variety and personality in these creatures. To see (and purchase, if you're feeling mega flush) more of Shauna's amazing, life-size animal makes and find out where you can see her work exhibited next, pay a visit to www.shaunarichardson.com



Emma Lamb's lovely blog www.emmallamb.com is always worth a visit for colour and design inspiration. We're big fans of her fresh, vibrant aesthetic and designs. The latest news is that you can now hold that inspiration in your own two hands as Emma has just released her first crochet pattern book, *Crochet Home*. It's every bit as beautiful as her blog would lead you to imagine and features designs for 20 fab home accessories including garlands, wall hangings and blankets. The projects are vintage-inspired but worked in a contemporary palette. It's published by David & Charles and is available for £14.99 at www.stitchcraftcreate.co.uk

HOLIDAY HOOKING

Are you starting to think about making Christmas gifts? Pick up a copy of top blogger and designer Salena Baca's first ever book *Crochet for Christmas*. You'll have 29 exciting crochet patterns at your fingertips from Salena and a whole host of talented Design Wars winners. There are fabulous garments, cosy accessories, toys and other gifts to make. Print and digital copies are available for £14.49 at www.amazon.co.uk. Psst, look out for a festive project from this book in our next issue.





HAPPY CRAFTING

Issue three of knitting and crochet magazine *Happy Crafting* is out now and it's a special Christmas edition, packed with 34 fun-to-make gift ideas including these cute crochet motif cards. The issue comes with six balls of yarn, a crochet hook and a pair of knitting needles, too, so you'll be all set to get crafting right away. Call 0844 815 0049 or visit www.buysubscriptions.com to grab a copy for £8.99.

MAKE IT SO SPEEDY

Got a lot of gifts to make? Try these simple ideas. You'll find more inspiration on page 16.

- 1 **FOR ARTY TYPES**
One hexie motif, some tassels and a twig – you've got a stylish wall hanging.
- 2 **FOR CAFFEINE ADDICTS**
Mug hugs or a stack of coasters will do the trick.
- 3 **FOR THE HOUSE PROUD**
Make festive decorations or garlands with basic shapes.
- 4 **FOR FASHIONISTAS**
A crochet flower and a pin makes a pretty brooch.
- 5 **FOR CRAFTY PALS**
A skein of extra-special yarn or a trip to a craft event are sure to go down a treat.

POM POWER

As pompoms go, this one's pretty mighty and we love the colour-pop aspect. Accessorize's Contrast Super Pom Crochet Beanie is £17 at (you've guessed it) www.uk.accessorize.com

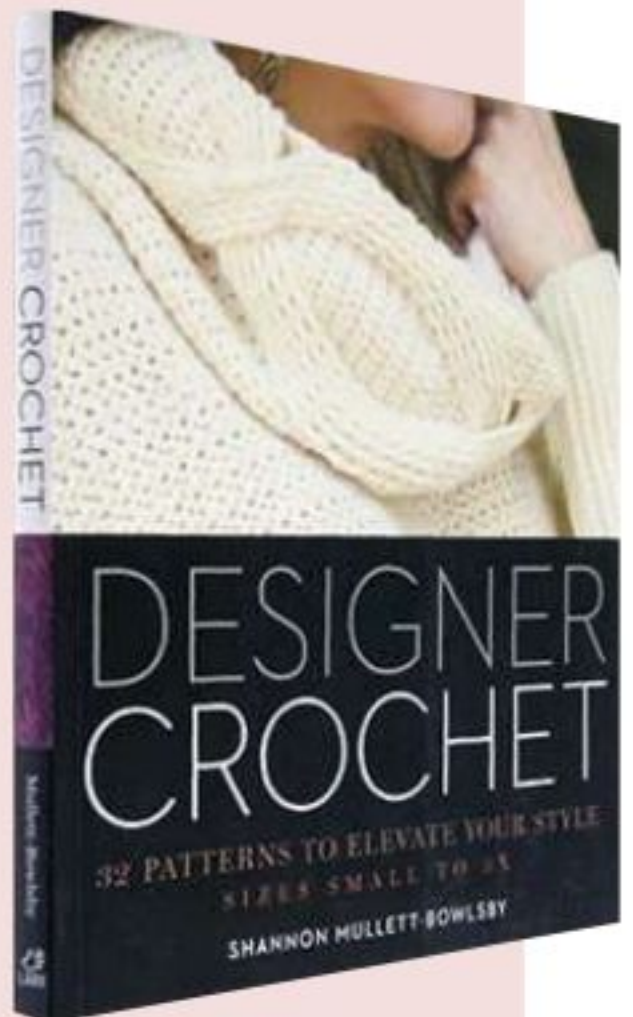


INSPIRING BOOKS

DESIGNER CROCHET

Shannon Mullett-Bowlsby (£16.99, Lark)

Easy-to-follow projects for those who'd like to try garments with drape and shape using an array of stitch patterns. Aimed at the intermediate stitcher comfy with increases and decreases. Find a cardigan, poncho, stylish sweater dress and much more.



MODERN NURSERY BABY BLANKETS

Tara Cousins

(£5.99, Leisure Arts)

Six cosy, reversible blankets for the nursery or play room that use simple colour changes, shaping or charming appliqué. Choose from bright designs such as a ladybird, chicks or sailing boat.



LET'S GO CAMPING!

Kate Bruning

(£9.99, Kyle Books)

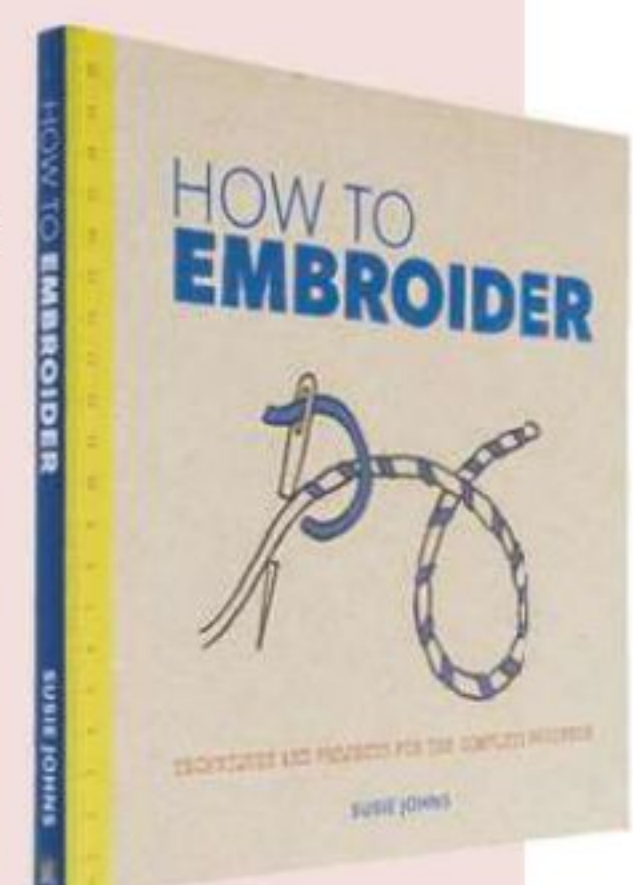
In need of another holiday? Hook your own adventure with this adorable set of camping-themed toys. There's a caravan, ice cream van and more to make, plus handy diagrams to help with the construction.



HOW TO EMBROIDER

Susie Johns (£7.99, GMC)

If you fancy giving embroidery a go, this is the place to start. Nine pretty yet practical projects (tea cosy, pinny, baby blanket) highlight a different technique so you'll try chain stitch, cutwork, couching and much more. Includes how to transfer motifs to your fabric.





LIGHTEN UP

■ Isn't this upcycled lamp incredible? It's £48.40, made by Wood Wool Design and yes, that is indeed a jam jar covered in crochet, hooked up to a tree branch. What's not to love? You can track down lots more charming creations by these inventive makers at en.dawanda.com



EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNT!

CORNISH TREASURES

West Country woolmongers Blacker (www.blackeryarns.co.uk) are celebrating their 10th anniversary as a Cornish mill with an extra-special yarn spun in Cornwall. Cornish Tin is a wonderful wool-mix blend of 10 British fibres including Jacob, Shetland and Black Welsh Mountain. It's super-soft, has a fine halo and comes in 100g skeins of both 4ply and DK weights. We're struggling to pick a favourite from the five fabulous shades, each named after a Cornish mine.



COTTONING ON

Fancy stocking up on some top-quality cotton yarn? The fine folks over at DMC are offering *Simply Crochet* readers a third off their lovely Natura Just Cotton yarns at Hobbycraft this month. Perfect if you're hooking our patchwork stitch craft collection (see above) on page 63. To claim your exclusive discount, visit www.hobbycraft.co.uk or call 0330 026 1400 and use the code SCOCT15. This offer is valid from October 12 to November 20 2015.

HAVING A BALL



2



3



Go back to basics and show your appreciation for the thing that started it all: the humble ball of yarn. Here are a few crafty treasures that most definitely have balls.

1. This cool, monochrome print by Ticktacktoe would look fab in your craft corner. It's £12.75 at www.noths.com. There's also a card, cushion and tea towel in the same ballsy design.
2. We adore Kelly Connor's collection of witty, printed project bags. A lot of the slogans are knit-centric, but this cute tote is hookster arm candy for sure. Yours for the sum of £10.75 at www.etsy.com/kellyconnordesigns
3. The fantastically-named Frilly Industries are responsible for these laser-cut brooches. They come in a variety of sizes and there are wool-themed earrings and collar clips, too. From £7 at www.frillyindustries.com



EDWARD'S MENAGERIE BIRDS



Over 40 soft toy patterns for crocheters
Kerry Lord

CAUGHT IN A FLAP

Amigurumi lovers take notice – we've got three copies of Kerry Lord's new *Edward's Menagerie Birds* book up for grabs. Inside, there are more than 40 patterns for feathered creatures that are full of personality. Visit <http://competition.immediate.co.uk/sc37books> to enter.

Time to get out AND ABOUT...

A GOOD YARN

I'm making some simple granny square cowls as gifts. Can you recommend a chunky yarn that will make them look fancier?

How about Rowan's Fazed Tweed (£5.50 per 50g)? It's a fuzzy wool and alpaca blend with a fun, tubular construction and pretty tweedy effect. For stockists, call 01484 681881 or visit www.knitrowan.com



SKILLS, SHOWS & EVENTS

NOV 7 Crochet Polar Bear Workshop, £37, TOFT Studio, Dunchurch, Warwickshire, 01788 810626 www.thetoftalpacashop.co.uk

NOV 14 Festiwool, from £3, North Herts College, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, 0789 017 6704 www.festiwool.com

NOV 18 Make Your Own Lampshade, £35, Wistow Gallery, Wistow, Leicestershire, 0741 117 9021 lilacpearl01@btinternet.com

NOV 21 Tunisian Crochet Workshop, £25, Wool-n-Things, Baldock, Hertfordshire, 01462 612889 www.wool-n-things.co.uk

NOV 22 Bobbin Lace Christmas Decoration, £111, West Dean College, Chichester, 01243 818300 www.westdean.org.uk

NOV 26-29 The Knitting & Stitching Show, £14, Harrogate International Centre, www.theknittingandstitchingshow.com

5 FAB FINDS

Winter warmers

Cosy handmade treats that would make fantastic gifts.



TRY A LITTLE TEXTURE

This snuggly Wilma's Cable Scarf by Annette is a real beauty. For the pattern, see www.myrosevalley.blogspot.co.uk



WRAP IT UP

Hook Tamara Kelly's brilliantly named Alpaca Your Wrap. Visit www.mooglyblog.com to find the lacy pattern.

FELT IT GOOD

How cute are these bunnies? Visit www.oliverbonas.com to pick up a pair of adorable felt baby slippers.



CABLE CAP

Don't you just love Charmed by Ewe's Uptown Cable Beanie? www.charmedbyewe.com is the place to go.



BOBBLE BEAUTY

Make a pretty textured cowl with this pattern from *Simply Crochet* issue 24. See page 94 for back issues info.





BLINGING IT

■ Rowan have teamed up with glitz purveyors Swarovski to create a dazzling selection of special yarns and notions. As well as Kidsilk Haze Shine yarn (a rather decadent, crystal-studded version of their popular Kidsilk Haze), you can also get your hands on luxurious selections of co-ordinated beads and crystals to add sparkle to your wintry makes. For further details and stockists, visit www.knitrowan.com



MAKE YOUR MARK

Stitch markers are a bit of a lifeline when it comes to amigurumi projects and working stitches in a spiral. Frankly, we don't know what we'd do without them. And if you're going to be using stitch markers, they might as well be easy on the eye. We're loving this rainbow set from Berylune (www.berylune.co.uk). It's only £1.75 for a set of eight bright, locking stitch markers. Now that's a bargain.



This distinguished chap is Antarctic explorer Tom Crean. He's the wool-wearing poster boy for the Palace Green Library's latest crafty endeavour. As part of their Antarctica: Explorers, Heroes, Scientists exhibition, they're calling for submissions of all kinds of warm, handmade hats to be sold in aid of Walking with the Wounded. Julie Biddlecombe-Brown, Exhibitions Officer, said: "Seeing photographs of explorers on Shackleton and Scott's Antarctic expeditions wearing unique knitted hats has inspired us. We hope that lots of crafters will join in and make a hat to support wounded servicemen and women." Find out how you can hook to help at www.dur.ac.uk/palace.green/headstart

FESTIVE NOTIONS

Dip your toe into the early stages of Christmas crafting (card making and Advent projects) with these finds.

1. Sumptuous velvet ribbon will take your projects up a notch. See the full range at www.berisfords-ribbons.co.uk
2. These numbered wooden craft buttons would be cracking for Advent bunting. Visit www.oakroomshop.co.uk
3. Create pretty cards or gift tags with an East of India rubber wreath stamp from www.luckandluck.co.uk





Crocheted Jewellery



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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.

WorldMags.net

Pattern's featured: 4412



BEAR WITH US

We're just dotty about this portly teddy bear. He's got stripy paws and ears, and a delightfully bemused expression. Hook him a jumper with contrasting spots, stitch on those all-important eyebrows and he's ready to be cuddled.

GIVE IT SOME WELLY

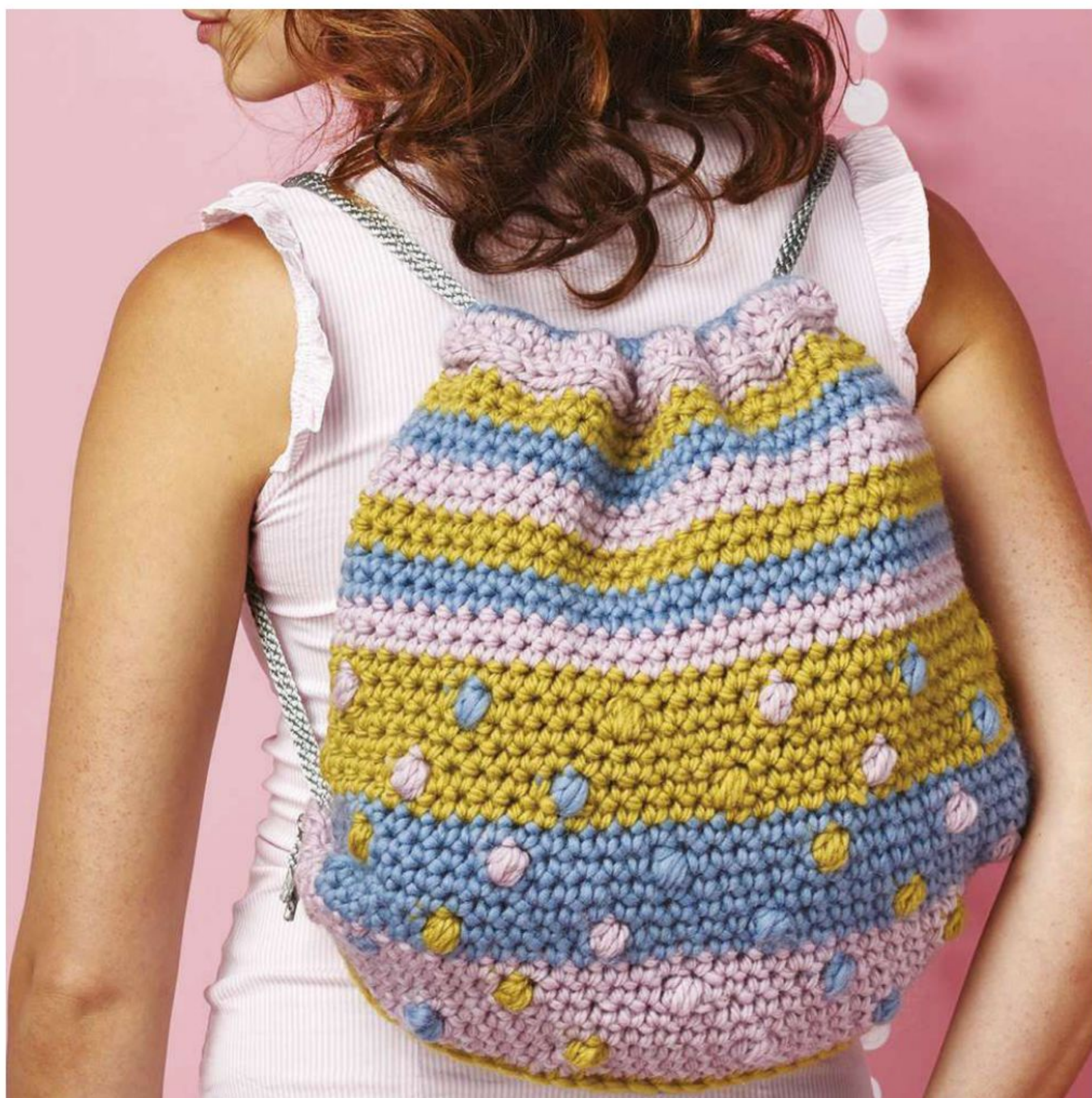
Pick three shades you love and whip up a pair of stripy welly toppers. This simple, speedy project will make a great gift for puddle-splashers, or those who just like to stay warm. You could fit them to your favourite winter boots, too.



SPOTS & STRIPES

Play with colour and pattern to create a whole host of gorgeous, super-chunky gifts in warm wool.

GIFT IDEAS



BABY GOT BACKPACK

Cool stripes and contrasting bobbles make this drawstring bag a gem for both adults and kiddos alike. How about working it in monochrome for a more chic look? If you've never made a bag before, hook this one.

ALL WRAPPED UP

This super-cosy wrap is sure to be the snuggliest thing you'll wear this winter. It's not quite a blanket, not quite a scarf, but it's so warm and comforting to wear. Plus, the bobbles and ribs provide scrummy texture.





GIFT IDEAS



MIGHTY POM

Spots or stripes – choose your allegiance. There are two fantastic slouchy beanie hats to make in this cosy collection, each worked in two colours with a ribbed cuff and a rather sizeable pompom. Can't pick a favourite? You'll have to hook both.

WE'RE SMITTEN

As soon as the cold weather hits, we reach for a pair of fingerless mittens. These two simple designs are both winners – super-quick to make and lots of fun to wear. They're perfect gifts and great projects if you're new to stripes or bobbles.

TUBBY TEDDY BEAR

Make Sara Huntington's sweet ted with stripy paws and ears. So cute.

- Twilley's Freedom Wool (100% wool, 50g/50m), 8 balls of Yarn A Oyster (1122), 1 ball of Yarn B Misty Morning (1120)
- Erika Knight Maxi Wool (100% wool, 100g/80m), 1 skein of each: Yarn C Artisan (206), Yarn D Pretty (212)
- A 6mm (US J/10) hook
- Polyester toy stuffing
- Stitch markers

MEASUREMENTS

40cm (15¾in) tall

ABBREVIATIONS

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

NOTES

The Head, Body, Legs, Arms and Ears are worked in the round using the spiral method without closing off each round with a slip stitch. It will help to place a marker in the first st of each round and move it up as you work.

The jumper is worked back and forth with the sleeves worked in the round. Change yarn colour in the last yrh of the previous stitch.

HEAD

The Head is worked from the back of the Head to the nose.

Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.

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

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [16 sts]

Round 3 *1dc in next dc, 2dc in next dc; rep from * 7 more times. [24 sts]

Round 4 *1dc in next 2 dc, 2dc in next dc; rep from * 7 more times. [32 sts]

Round 5 *1dc in next 3 dc, 2dc in next dc; rep from * 7 more times. [40 sts]

Rounds 6-12 Dc in each st around.

Round 13 (Dc in next 6 sts, dc2tog over next 2 sts) 5 times. [35 sts]

Rounds 14-16 Dc in each st around.

Round 17 (Dc in next 5 sts, dc2tog over next 2 sts) 5 times. [30 sts]

Round 18 (Dc in next 4 sts, dc2tog over next 2 sts) 5 times. [25 sts]



Round 19 (Dc in next 3 sts, dc2tog over next 2 sts) 5 times. [20 sts]

Stuff the Head firmly.

Round 20 (Dc in next 2 sts, dc2tog over next 2 sts) 5 times. [15 sts]

Round 21 (Dc in next st, dc2tog over next 2 sts) 5 times. [10 sts]

Complete the stuffing.

Round 22 (Dc in next st, dc2tog over next 2 sts) 5 times. [5 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail. Using a tapestry needle, run the tail through the rem sts and pull tight.

BODY

Worked from bottom to top.

Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.

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

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [16 sts]

Round 3 *1dc in next dc, 2dc in next dc; rep from * 7 more times. [24 sts]

Round 4 *1dc in next 2 dc, 2dc in next dc; rep from * 7 more times. [32 sts]

Round 5 *1dc in next 3 dc, 2dc in next dc; rep from * 7 more times. [40 sts]

Round 6 *1dc in next 4 dc, 2dc in next dc; rep from * 7 more times. [48 sts]

Rounds 7-14 Dc in each st around.

Round 15 Dc in next 30 sts, *dc in next 4 sts, dc2tog over next 2 sts; rep from * twice more. [45 sts]

Rounds 16-19 Dc in each st around.

Round 20 (Dc in next st, dc2tog over next 2 sts) 15 times. [30 sts]

Rounds 21-23 Dc in each st around.

Round 24 (Dc in next 3 sts, dc2tog over next 2 sts) 6 times. [24 sts]

Rounds 25-27 Dc in each st around.

Round 28 (Dc in next 2 sts, dc2tog over next 2 sts) 6 times. [18 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail. Stuff Body firmly.

FEET AND LEGS (MAKE 2)

FOOT

Using Yarn A, ch6.

Round 1 (RS) 2dc in second ch from hook (skipped ch does not count as st), dc in next 3 ch, 3dc in last ch, rotate to work into the other side of the foundation ch: dc in next 3 ch, dc in last ch, ss in first dc changing to Yarn B. [12 sts]

Round 2 2dc in first 2 sts, dc in next 3 sts, 2dc in next 3 sts, dc in next 3 sts, 2dc in last st, ss into first dc changing to Yarn A. [18 sts]

GIFT IDEAS

Round 3 2dc in next 3 sts, dc in next 5 sts, 2dc in next 4 sts, dc in next 5 sts, 2dc in last st, ss into first dc changing to Yarn B. [26 sts]

Round 4 Dc in each st around, ss into first dc changing to Yarn A.

Round 5 Dc in each st around.
Fasten off.

LEGS

Fold the oval Foot in half and identify the central st at both ends of the Foot and mark both with a stitch marker. There should be 12 sts in between each marker. Rejoin yarn to one of the marked sts and cont as follows:

Round 6 Dc in marked st, dc in next 8 sts, (dc2tog) 4 times removing the second marker, dc in next 9 sts. [22 sts]

Round 7 Dc in marked st, dc in next 7 sts, dc2tog over next 2 sts, dc3tog over next 3 sts, dc2tog over next 2 sts, dc in next 7 sts. [18 sts]

Rounds 8-19 Dc in each st around. Stuff Leg loosely. Fold top of Leg in half and ss through both layers to close.

ARMS (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.

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

Round 2 Using Yarn B, 2dc in each st around. [16 sts]

Round 3 Using Yarn A, dc in each st around.

Round 4 Using Yarn B, dc in each st around.

Round 5 Using Yarn A, dc in each st around.

Round 6 (Dc in next 2 sts, dc2tog over next 2 sts) 4 times. [12 sts]

Rounds 6-17 Dc in each st around. Stuff Arm loosely.

Fold top of Arm in half and ss through both layers to close.

EARS (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) 8dc into the loop. [8 sts]

Round 2 Using Yarn B, 2dc in each st around. [16 sts]

Round 3 Using Yarn A, dc in each st around.

Round 4 Using Yarn B, dc in each st around.

Rounds 5-7 Repeat Rounds 3 & 4 once more, then Round 3 again.

Round 8 (Dc2tog) 8 times. [8 sts]

Fasten off.

MUZZLE

Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.

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

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [16 sts]

Round 3 *1dc in next dc, 2dc in next dc; rep from * 7 more times. [24 sts]

Rounds 4-6 Dc in each st around.
Fasten off.

TO MAKE UP

Sew Head to Body. Attach Legs and Arms. Lightly stuff Muzzle and sew to front of face. Sew Ears to top of Head. Stitch a face onto your bear using Yarn B, and the image as a guide.

JUMPER FRONT AND BACK (MAKE 2)

Clusters are worked on WS rows.

Using Yarn C, ch20.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook (skipped ch does not count as st) and in each ch to end, turn. [19 sts]

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), (with Yarn C dc in next 3 sts, with Yarn D 2-tr cl in next st) 4 times, with Yarn C dc in each st to end, turn.

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

Row 4 Ch1, dc in next 5 sts, (with Yarn D 2-tr cl in next st, with Yarn C dc in next 3 sts) twice, with Yarn D 2-tr cl in next st, with Yarn C dc in each st to end, turn.

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

Rows 6-7 Rep Rows 2-3.

Row 8 Using Yarn C, ch1, ss into the first 3 sts, dc in next 2 sts, with Yarn D 2-tr cl in next st, (with Yarn C dc in next 3 sts, with Yarn D 2-tr cl in next st) twice, with Yarn C dc in last 2 sts, leave last 3 sts unworked, turn. [13 sts]

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

NECK SHAPING

Work each side of the neck separately:

Next row (WS) Ch1, dc into next 3 dc, turn leaving rem sts unworked. [3 sts]

Next row Ss into first dc, dc into next 2 dc, turn. [2 sts]

Next row Ch1, dc in next 2 dc.

Fasten off.

With WS facing, rejoin yarn to third st on the opposite side of the neck and repeat above, reversing shapings.

JUMPER SLEEVES (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn C, ch18, ss into first ch to join, being careful not to twist. Mark

the beginning of the round with a st marker and work 5 rounds in dc.

Fasten off.

TO MAKE UP JUMPER

Position the front and back of the jumper on the bear and sew up the shoulder and side seams around him. Insert the sleeves into the sleeve hole and sew into position.

WELLY TOPPERS

This pair of cosy, colourful boot toppers designed by Hannah Cross is perfect as a stocking filler project.

- Twilley's Freedom Wool, (100% wool, 49m/50g), 1 ball of Yarn A Oyster (1122)
- Erika Knight Maxi Wool (100% Wool, 80m/100g), 1 ball of Yarn B Pretty (212), 1 ball of Yarn C Artisan (206)
- A 9mm (US M/13) hook

TENSION

11 sts and 7 rows to 10x10cm (4x4in)

MEASUREMENTS

Each topper measures 26x40cm (10¼x15¾in) around with plenty of stretch

TOPPERS (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn A ch29.

Row 1 (RS) Htr in 2nd ch from hook



GIFT IDEAS

and next 13 ch, dc in next 14 ch, turn. [28 sts]

Row 2 Change to Yarn B, ch1 (does not count as st), htr in back loop only of first 14 sts, dc in front loop only of rem 14 sts, turn.

Row 3 Change to Yarn C, rep Row 2.

Rows 4-24 Repeat Row 2 working through each colour in this order: A, B, C. Do not fasten off.

TO MAKE UP

Fold the topper in half and dc into the foundation ch to join into a tube.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

DRAWSTRING BAG

Contrasting stripes and bobbles make one cool backpack. By Anne Egan.

- Twilley's Freedom Wool (100% wool, 50g/50m), 3 balls of Yarn A Misty Morning (1120)

- Erika Knight Fat Maxi Wool (100% wool, 100g/80m), 2 skeins of Yarn B Pretty (212) and 1 skein of Yarn C Artisan (206)

- A 10mm (US N/15) hook

- Cord, 3.5m long for draw string

MEASUREMENTS

38x40cm (15x15¾in)

ABBREVIATIONS

Bobble (Yrh, insert hook in st indicated, yrh, pull up loop) 3 times, yrh and draw through all loops on hook, ch1 to close. All bobbles will need to be pushed through to the RS.

NOTES

Bag is worked up from a semi-circular base. The bottom half of the bag is decorated with spots.

A drawstring is added to close the top and provide shoulder straps. The top edge of the bag is folded down to make a run for the cord – 2 gaps are left for the cords to enter and exit.

Change colour in last yrh of prev st.

Colour changes for the bobbles are not included in the pattern. The bobbles on front of bag are worked in a rep pattern: Yarn B, Yarn A, Yarn C, Yarn B, Yarn A, Yarn C, etc. Colours are shifted once to the left at each subsequent bobble row so that the same colour bobble appears diagonally down the bag. You will need approx 50cm of contrast colour yarn for each bobble. No change is required for bobbles the same colour as the background.

BASE

With Yarn B, ch2.

Row 1 (RS) Ch4 (counts as ch1 and tr), 5tr in fourth ch from hook, turn. [6 tr]

Row 2 Ch3 (counts as first tr throughout), tr in st at base of ch-3, 2tr in each tr to end, turn. [12 tr]

Row 3 Change to Yarn A, ch3, tr in st at base of ch-3, tr in next tr, (2tr in next tr, tr in next tr) to end, turn. [18 tr]

Row 4 Change to Yarn C, ch3, tr in st at base of ch-3, tr in next 2 tr, (2tr in next tr, tr in next 2 tr) to end, turn. [24 tr]

Row 5 Change to Yarn B, ch3, tr in st at base of ch-3, tr in next 3 tr, (2tr in next tr, tr in next 3 tr) to end, turn. [30 tr]

Row 6 Change to Yarn A, ch3, tr in st at base of ch-3, tr in next 4 tr, (2tr in next tr, tr in next 4 tr) to end, turn. [36 tr]

Row 7 Change to Yarn C, ch3, tr in st at base of ch-3, tr in next 5 tr, (2tr in next tr, tr in next 5 tr) to end, turn. [42 tr]

Change to Yarn B, rotate piece to work 24dc evenly along straight edge into row ends. Do not fasten off.



BAG

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), working in back loop only: dc in each tr of Row 7 and each Yarn B dc just worked, skipping first and last dc sts, ss to first dc. [64 dc]

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

Round 3 Ch1, dc in next 4 dc, (bobble in next dc, dc in next 5 dc) 7 times, dc in each rem dc around, ss to first dc.

Rounds 4-5 Ch1, dc in each dc around, ss to first dc.

Round 6 Ch1, dc in next dc, (bobble in next dc, dc in next 5 dc) 7 times, dc in each rem dc around, ss to first dc.

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

Change to Yarn A.

Rounds 8-13 Repeat Rounds 2-7.

Change to Yarn C.

Rounds 14-19 Repeat Rounds 2-7.

Rounds 20-33 Starting with Yarn B, work in rounds of dc, changing colour every 2 rounds and ending with Yarn B.

Round 34 Change to Yarn A, ch1, 11dc, ch2, skip 2 dc, 29dc, ch2, skip 2 dc, dc in each st to end, ss to first dc, turn.

Round 35 (WS) Ch1, dc in each st and ch around, ss to first dc.

Change to Yarn B.

Rounds 36-37 (WS) Ch1, dc in each dc around, ss to first dc.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

Fold last 2 rounds over to outside of bag and using Yarn B, sew in place.

Cut cord in half, taping the ends so they don't fray. Thread one half into, around and out through one side space. Repeat for the other half through the opposite space.

Attach first pair of cords to one of the bottom corners of the bag. Repeat for the second pair on the other corner.

BLANKET SCARF

Wrap up warm in this jumbo woolly scarf designed by Hannah Cross.

■ Twilley's Freedom Wool (100% wool, 49m/50g), 12 balls of Yarn A Oyster (1122), 4 balls of Yarn B Misty Morning (1120)



■ Erika Knight Maxi Wool (100% Wool, 80m/100g), 2 balls of Yarn C Pretty (212), 2 balls of Yarn D Artisan (206)
■ A 10mm (US N/15) hook

TENSION

10sts and 10 rows to 10x10cm (4x4in)

MEASUREMENTS

The finished wrap meas 40x175cm (15¾x69in)

ABBREVIATIONS

3-tr cluster (Yrh, insert hook in st

indicated, yrh and pull up loop, yrh and draw through 2 loops) 3 times, inserting the hook in the same st each time, yrh and draw through all 4 loops on hook

SCARF

Using Yarn A ch41.

Row 1 (WS) Dc in second ch from hook and each ch across, turn. [40 dc]

Row 2 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in back loop only of each dc across, turn.

Rows 3-9 Rep Row 2.

Rows 10-12 Change to Yarn B, rep



CHUNKY BOBBLE HATS

Huge pompoms and a slouchy fit make Kath Webber's hats unbeatable.

- Twilley's Freedom Wool (100% wool, 50g/50m), 2 balls each of Yarn A Oyster (1122) and Yarn B Misty Morning (1120) for Striped Hat
- Erika Knight Fat Maxi Wool (100% wool, 100g/80m), 2 skeins of Yarn A Pretty (212) and 1 skein of Yarn B Artisan (206) for Spotty Hat
- An 8mm (US L/11) hook for small/medium size
- A 10mm (US N/15) hook for large/extra-large size
- A 8.5cm (3¼in) pompom maker

MEASUREMENTS

Small/medium: 53cm (20¾in) circumference and 32cm (12½in) length (excluding pompom)

Large/extra-large: 60cm (23½in) circ and 32cm length (excluding pompom)

NOTES

These supersized hats can be worn in two ways: turn up the stretchy, chunky cuff for a snug bobble hat, or leave it down for a loose, slouchy beanie.

The ribbed cuff is worked first, using rows of half treble sts in the back loops only. This strip is then joined tog and the rest of the hat is worked along the long edge in the round.

Use a stitch marker to mark the end of each round to help count rows. Rather than cutting the yarn after each colour change, leave it hanging behind, ready to pick up at next colour change.

STRIPY HAT

Using Yarn A, ch12 to begin ribbed cuff.

Row 1 (RS) Htr into 3rd ch from hook (skipped ch do not count as st), htr into each ch across, turn. [10 sts]

Row 2 (WS) Ch2 (does not count as htr), htr into back loop of each htr across, turn.

Rows 3-31 As Row 2.

Row 32 (WS) Place short edges tog, ch1, htr into front loop of each st across, and into the ch row of short end at same time. Do not fasten off. Turn cuff piece so you're now working on long edge.

Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr), work 35tr evenly around, ss to top of beg

Row 2.

Rows 13-14 Change to Yarn A, repeat Row 2.

Row 15 Change to Yarn B, rep Row 2.

Row 16 Change to Yarn A, rep Row 2.

Row 17 Change to Yarn C, rep Row 2.

Row 18 Change to Yarn A, rep Row 2.

Row 19 Change to Yarn C, rep Row 2.

Row 20 Change to Yarn A, rep Row 2.

Row 21 Change to Yarn B, rep Row 2.

Row 22 Change to Yarn A, rep Row 2.

Row 23 Change to Yarn C, rep Row 2.

Row 24 Change to Yarn A, rep Row 2.

Row 25 Change to Yarn C, rep Row 2.

Row 26 Change to Yarn A, rep Row 2.

Row 27 Change to Yarn B, rep Row 2.

Rows 28-29 Change to Yarn A, repeat Row 2.

Rows 30-32 Change to Yarn B, repeat Row 2.

Rows 33-41 Change to Yarn A, repeat Row 2.

Rows 42-43 Change to Yarn D, repeat Row 2.

Row 44 Change to Yarn A, rep Row 2.

Row 45 Change to Yarn D, ch1, ss in first 2 dc, *3-tr cluster in next st, ss in next 3 dc; rep from * across to last 6

sts, (3-tr cluster in next st, ss in next 2 dc) twice, turn.

Rows 46-48 Change to Yarn A, rep Row 2.

Row 49 Change to Yarn C, ch1, ss in first 4 dc, *3-tr cluster in next st, ss in next 3 dc; rep from * across, turn.

Rows 50-51 Change to Yarn A, repeat Row 2.

Rows 52-53 Change to Yarn B, repeat Row 2.

Row 54 Change to Yarn A, rep Row 2.

Row 55 Repeat Row 49.

Rows 56-58 Change to Yarn A, repeat Row 2.

Row 59 Repeat Row 45.

Row 60 Change to Yarn A, rep Row 2.

Rows 61-62 Change to Yarn D, repeat Row 2.

Rows 63-113 Change to Yarn A, rep Row 2.

Rows 114-174 Starting at Row 62, repeat the rows in reverse order, working backwards to Row 2. When you reach Row 9 you will need to change to Yarn A.

Row 175 Rep Row 2.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

GIFT IDEAS

ch-3. [36 sts]

Round 2 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc into back loop of each st around, ss to first dc.

Round 3 With Yarn B, ch3 (counts as tr), tr into each st around, ss to top of beg ch-3.

Round 4 Ch1, dc into back loop of each st around, ss to first dc.

Rounds 5-6 As Rounds 3-4 in Yarn A.

Rounds 7-8 As Rounds 3-4 in Yarn B.

Rounds 9-10 As Rounds 3-4 in Yarn A.

Rounds 11-12 As Rounds 3-4 in Yarn B.

Round 13 With Yarn A, ch3 (counts as tr), tr into each of next 3 sts, tr2tog, (tr into each of next 4 sts, tr2tog) 5 times, ss to top of beg ch-3. [30 sts]

Round 14 Ch1, (dc into each of next 3 sts, dc2tog) 6 times, ss to first dc. [24 sts]

Round 15 Change to Yarn B, ch3 (counts as tr), tr in next st, tr2tog, (tr into each of next 2 sts, tr2tog) 5 times, ss to top of beg ch-3. [18 sts]

Round 16 Ch1, dc2tog around. [9 sts]

Fasten off Yarn B.

Round 17 With Yarn A, ch1, (tr2tog) 4 times, tr in last st.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

TO FINISH

Using a large blunt tapestry needle, pass the tail of yarn through the rem sts and pull tightly to close. Weave in ends.

Using pompom maker or cardboard disc method, make an 8.5cm pompom and fasten securely to top of hat using large, blunt tapestry needle.

SPOTTY HAT

The hat is made using tapestry crochet and there is a Chart on page 93. On the Chart, each square represents 1dc st. Read all rows from right to left. When changing colour mid-row, twist ends of two colours tog. Pick up new colour in last yrh of prev st. Carry unused strands of yarn across WS of work.

Using Yarn A, work cuff as given for striped hat. **Fasten off** Yarn A.

Round 1 (RS) Join in Yarn B in any stitch, ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc into each row end around, ss to first dc. [32 sts]

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

Rounds 3-13 Work as given for Rnd 2, following the Chart for each round, beginning at bottom-right edge.

Round 14 Cont with colour changes as given in Chart, this row begins to decrease. Ch1, dc into each of next 3 sts, skip 1 st, (dc into each of next 7 sts, skip 1 st) 3 times, 1dc into each of next 4 sts, ss to first dc. [28 sts]

Round 15 Cont in Yarn B only, ch1, dc into each of next 2 sts, (dc2tog, dc into each of next 5 sts) 3 times, dc2tog, 1dc

into each of next 3 sts, ss to first dc. [24 sts]

Round 16 Ch1, (dc into next st, dc2tog) 6 times, ss to first dc. [18 sts]

Round 17 (Dc2tog) 9 times. [9 sts]

Round 18 Ch1, (dc into next st, dc2tog) 3 times. [6 sts]

Round 19 (Dc2tog) 3 times. [3 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

TO FINISH

Using a large, blunt tapestry needle, pass the tail end of yarn through the rem sts and pull tightly to close. Use an 8.5cm pompom maker or cardboard disk method to make a large pompom, and sew to hat top. Weave in ends.

STRIPY MITTS

Fingerless mitts make great gifts for hooksters. Designed by Anne Egan.

- Erika Knight Fat Maxi Wool (100% wool, 100g/80m), 1 skein of Yarn A Artisan (206)
- Twilley's Freedom Wool (100% wool, 50g/50m), 1 ball of Yarn B Misty Morning (1120)
- A 10mm (US N/15) hook
- Tapestry needle

MEASUREMENTS

Approx 22cm (8½in) circ, 18cm (7in) length





NOTES

Mitts are made in rows lengthways with space left for thumb when joining and a narrow cuff added in the round. Change colour in last yrh of prev stitch.

MITT 1

With Yarn A, ch13.

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

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

Row 3 Change to Yarn B, ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

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

Row 5 Change to Yarn A, ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

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

Rows 7-18 Repeat Rows 3-6 three more times.

Row 19 Repeat Row 3.

JOINING ROW

Fold WS together so that current row aligns with first row.

Working through both current row and the remaining loop of the foundation ch, ch1, dc in next 2 sts, ss in next 3 sts of current row only to leave gap for thumbhole, dc through both layers of each rem st to end, do not fasten off.

WRIST EDGING

Continuing with Yarn B and with RS facing, work a round of dc evenly into the ends of the rows, and then work a further 2 rounds of dc on these stitches. **Fasten off.**

TOP EDGING

Rejoin Yarn B to top edge at seam, with RS facing and work a round of dc

evenly into the ends of the rows.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

MITT 2

For the second Mitt, repeat Mitt 1 pattern from Rows 1-19.

JOINING ROW

Fold WS together so that current row aligns with first row.

Working through both current row and the remaining loop of the foundation ch, ch1, dc in next 7 sts, ss in next 3 sts of current row only to leave gap for thumbhole, dc through both layers of each rem st to end, do not fasten off. Repeat Edgings as given for Mitt 1.

SPOTTY MITTS

We love the playful texture on Anne Egan's simple, bobbly mitts.

■ Erika Knight Fat Maxi Wool (100% wool, 100g/80m), 1 skein of Yarn A Artisan (206)

■ Twilley's Freedom Wool (100% wool, 50g/50m), 1 ball of Yarn B Misty Morning (1120)

■ A 10mm (US N/15) hook

■ Tapestry needle

MEASUREMENTS

Approx 21cm (8¼in) circumference, 14cm (5½in) length

ABBREVIATIONS

Foundation dc (fdc) Worked instead of foundation ch: Ch2, dc in second ch from hook, adding ch1 before last yrh of dc. *Dc in ch-1 of previous st, adding ch1 before last yrh of dc; repeat from * until you have the number of dc stated.

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

NOTES

Mitts are made in the round from top down, with a thumbhole and a contrast bobble on back of mitt. Change colour in the last yrh of the previous stitch.

LEFT MITT

With Yarn A, place a slipknot onto hook

leaving a 15cm tail.

Foundation round 1 15fdc, ss into first fdc to join into the round, being careful not to twist. Use tail to sew the gap at the base of the round closed. [15 sts]

Rounds 2-4 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in each st around, ss to first dc.

Round 5 Ch1, 2dc, ch5, skip 3 dc, 3dc, change to Yarn B, 3-tr cluster in next dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each st to end, ss to first dc.

Round 6 Ch1, dc in each st and ch around, ss to first dc. [17 sts]

Round 7 Ch1, 8dc, change to Yarn B, 3-tr cluster in next dc, change to Yarn A, 3dc, change to Yarn B, 3-tr cluster in next dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each st to end, ss to first dc.

Rounds 8-9 Ch1, dc in each st around, ss to first dc.

Round 10 Ch1, 4dc, dc2tog, 11dc, ss into first dc. [16 sts]

Round 11 Ch1, 3dc, dc2tog, 11dc, ss into first dc. [15 sts]

Round 12 Ch1, 3dc, dc2tog, 10dc, ss to first dc. [14 sts]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

RIGHT MITT

Rounds 1-4 Work as for Left Mitt.

Round 5 Ch1, 6dc, change to Yarn B, 3-tr cluster in next dc, change to Yarn A, 3dc, ch5, skip 3 dc, dc in each st to end, ss to first dc.

Round 6 Ch1, dc in each st around ch around, ss to first dc. [17 sts]

Round 7 Ch1, 4dc, change to Yarn B, 3-tr cluster in next dc, change to Yarn A, 3dc, change to Yarn B, 3-tr cluster in next dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each st to end, ss to first dc.

Rounds 8-9 Ch1, dc in each st around, ss to first dc.

Round 10 Ch1, 11dc, dc2tog, 4dc, ss to first dc. [16 sts]

Round 11 Ch1, 11dc, dc2tog, 3dc, ss to first dc. [15 sts]

Round 12 Ch1, 10dc, dc2tog, 3dc, ss to first dc. [14 sts]

Fasten off and weave in ends.



STOCKISTS

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Chunky cardigan



THE BIG CHILL

Envelop yourself in an oh-so wearable, relaxed-fit jumbo cardi designed by Simone Francis.

Chunky cardigan



YOU WILL NEED

■ Debbie Bliss Roma
(70% wool, 30% alpaca,
100g/80m), Steel (53003)
See table for yarn quantities
and measurements

■ A 10mm (US N/15) hook

■ A 12mm (US O/17) hook

■ Tapestry needle

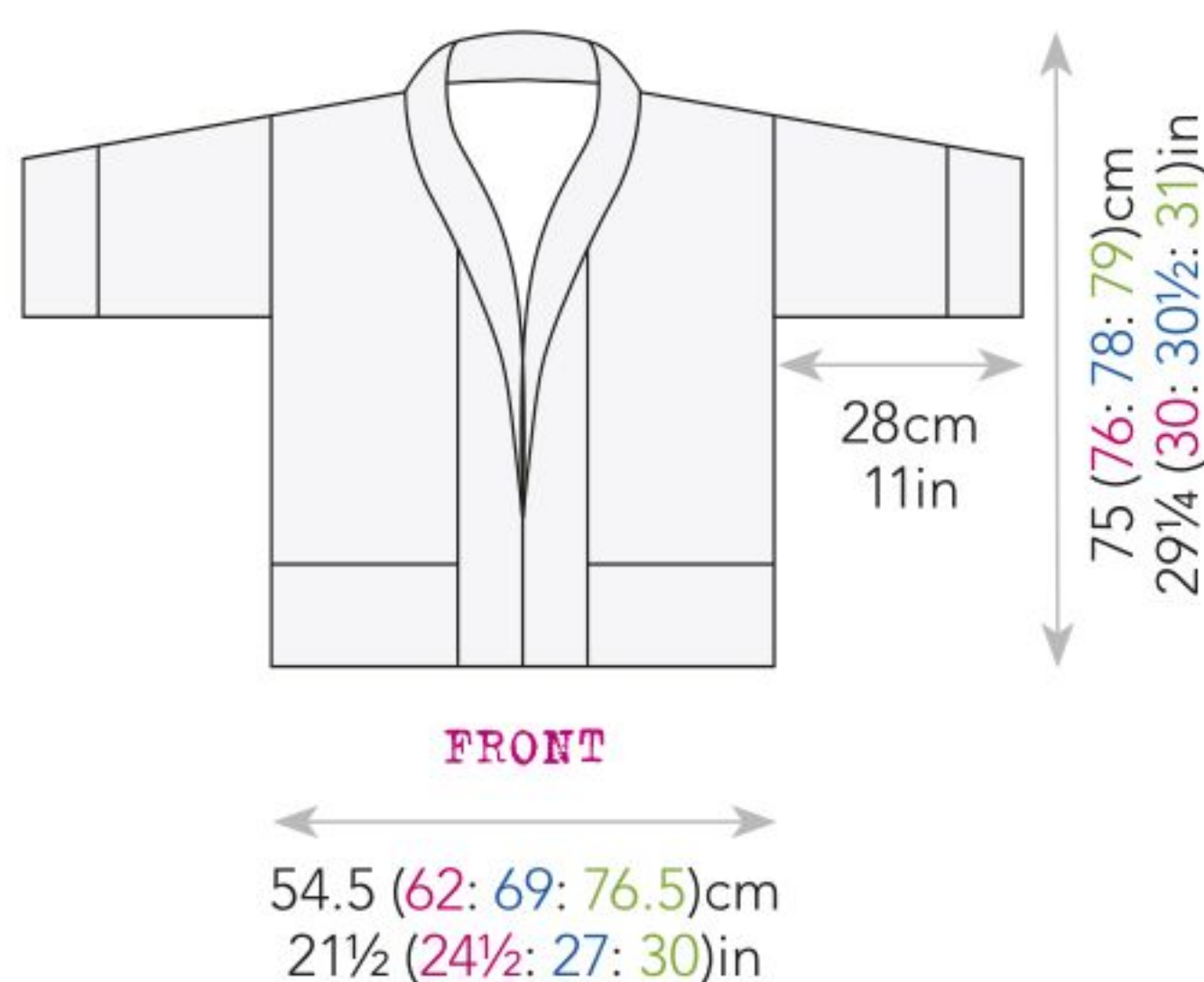
For yarn stockists, contact
Designer Yarns 01535 664222
www.designeryarns.uk.com

TENSION

6½ sts and 5½ rows to measure
10x10cm (4x4in) over htr using a
12mm hook or size needed to
obtain tension

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.



What happens when you mix relaxed, everyday style with dressing gown levels of comfort? A rather marvellous snuggly cardigan, that's what. This understated design by Simone Francis boasts three-quarter-length sleeves, a chic shawl collar, and super-chunky wool and alpaca mix softness. You'll be using front and back post trebles to achieve the scrumptious ribbed texture around the cuffs and hem, and half trebles to create the rest of the garment. What are you waiting for? Get your hooks out.

NOTES

The main body of the Cardigan is worked sideways: one Front side and half of the Back, then repeated for the opposite side.

A seam is worked to join the Back sections. The Sleeves are then worked separately, from the bottom up.

Once sewn together, a rib welt is then picked up around the lower edge and then a shawl collar added.

Each row is started with (ss, ch1) into the first st – this forms the first st with a neat st. The final htr st is worked into the ch-1 of the (ss, ch1).

C LEFT FRONT AND BACK

When finished, this piece will be folded at the shoulder with the foundation chain joined to form the side seam.

With a 12mm hook, ch 78 (80: 82: 84) with a loose and even tension.

Foundation row (WS) Htr into the 3rd

ch from hook (skipped ch do not count as st), htr in each st to end, turn. [76 (78: 80: 82) sts]

Row 1 (RS) (Ss, ch1) into first st (counts as a st throughout), htr into each st to end, turn.

Repeating Row 1, work 4 (6: 8: 10) more rows.

SHOULDER SHAPING

Row 1 (WS) (Ss, ch1) into first st, 36 (37: 38: 39) htr, (2htr into next st) twice, htr in each st to end, turn. [78 (80: 82: 84) sts]

Row 2 Work in htr st, without shaping: (Ss, ch1) into first st, htr into each st to end, turn.

Repeat Rows 1-2. [80 (82: 84: 86) sts]

Row 5 Work as Row 2.**

DIVIDE FOR BACK

Row 1 (RS) (Ss, ch1) into first st, 37 (38: 39: 40) htr, turn leaving remaining sts unworked for Front. [38 (39: 40: 41) sts]

Row 2 (Ss, ch1) into first st, htr in each st to end, turn.

Repeating Row 2, work two more rows in htr st.

Fasten off, leaving a long end for sewing the Back seam.

RIGHT FRONT AND BACK

Work as given for Left Front and Back to **.

DIVIDE FOR BACK

Break yarn and skip 42 (43: 44: 45) sts, rejoin yarn to the following st with a ss and cont as follows:

SIZE		S	M	L	XL
TO FIT BUST	cm	81-91	97-102	107-112	117-122
	in	32-36	38-40	42-44	46-48
ACTUAL BUST	cm	109	124	138	153
	in	43	48¾	54½	60
LENGTH	cm	75	76	78	79
	in	29¼	30	30½	31
SLEEVE LENGTH	cm	28	28	28	28
	in	11	11	11	11
YARN	100g balls	11	12	13	14

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

Chunky cardigan

Row 1 (RS) (1dc, ch1) into first st, htr in each st to end, turn. [38 (39: 40: 41) sts]

Row 2 (Ss, ch1) into first st, htr in each st to end, turn.

Repeating Row 2, work 2 more rows in htr st.

Fasten off, leaving a long end for sewing the Back seam.

SLEEVES (MAKE 2)

RIB WELT

With a 10mm hook, ch30 (32: 34: 36).

Foundation row Tr into the 4th ch from hook (counts as 2 tr), tr in each st to end, turn. [28 (30: 32: 34) sts]

Row 1 Ch2 (counts as first st), *1FPtr in next st, 1BPtr in next st; repeat from * to end, working 1tr into turning ch, turn.

Repeat Row 1, four more times.

MAIN SLEEVE

Change to 12mm hook.

Row 1 (RS) (Ss, ch1) into first st, htr in each st to end, turn.

Row 2 (Ss, ch1, htr) into first st (increase st), htr in each st to last st, 2htr in last st, turn. [30 (32: 34: 36) sts]

Rows 3-4 Work in htr st, without shaping, as Row 1.

Row 5 (Ss, ch1, htr) into first st, htr in each st to last st, 2htr in last st, turn. [32 (34: 36: 38) sts]

Repeat Rows 3-5 once more.

[34 (36: 38: 40) sts]

Work 2 rows in htr st, without shaping.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing up.

TO MAKE UP

Join Back and Side seams, using your preferred seaming method.

Set in Sleeves, carefully pinning in place before sewing them in.

LOWER RIB WELT

With Right Side facing and 12mm hook, join yarn with a ss to lower Left Front corner.

Foundation row Ch2 (counts as first st), tr evenly 73 (83: 91: 101) sts around lower edge, turn. [74 (84: 92: 102) sts] Change to a 10mm hook.

Row 1 Ch2 (counts as first st), *1FPtr in next st, 1BPtr in next st; repeat from * to end, working 1tr into turning ch, turn.

Repeat Row 1, eight more times.

Fasten off.

COLLAR

With Right Side Facing and 12mm hook, join yarn with a ss to lower Right Front corner.

Foundation row Ch2 (counts as htr), htr 8 sts evenly along Rib welt, 44 (45: 46: 47) htr up Right Front, 14htr around Back Neckline, 44 (45: 46: 47) htr down Left Front, 9htr along Rib welt, turn. [120 (122: 124: 126) sts]

Row 1 (Ss, ch1) in first st, htr into each st to end, turn.

Repeat Row 1, five more times.

Fasten off.

TO FINISH

Weave in all ends neatly.

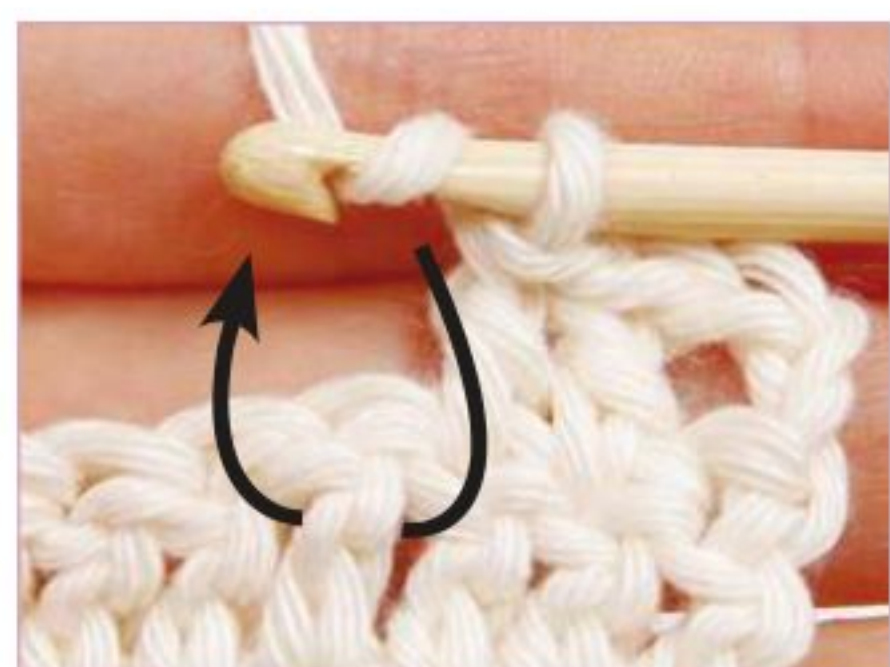


The generous, relaxed fit of this cardigan means you can really wrap up warm in it.



The cardigan's three-quarter-length sleeves are topped off with wide ribbed cuffs.

SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO WORK A FRONT POST TREBLE STITCH



1 Identify the post of the next stitch. Then work yrh (as usual for a treble stitch) and insert hook into the front of the fabric, around the back of the post, and bring out hook on other side of post.



2 Work the rest of the stitch as you usually would for a treble, so yrh and carefully pull the loop of yarn out of the fabric – it should loop around the post of the stitch.



3 Work yrh again and pull the yarn through the first 2 loops. Yrh and pull the yarn through the remaining 2 loops to complete the front post treble stitch.



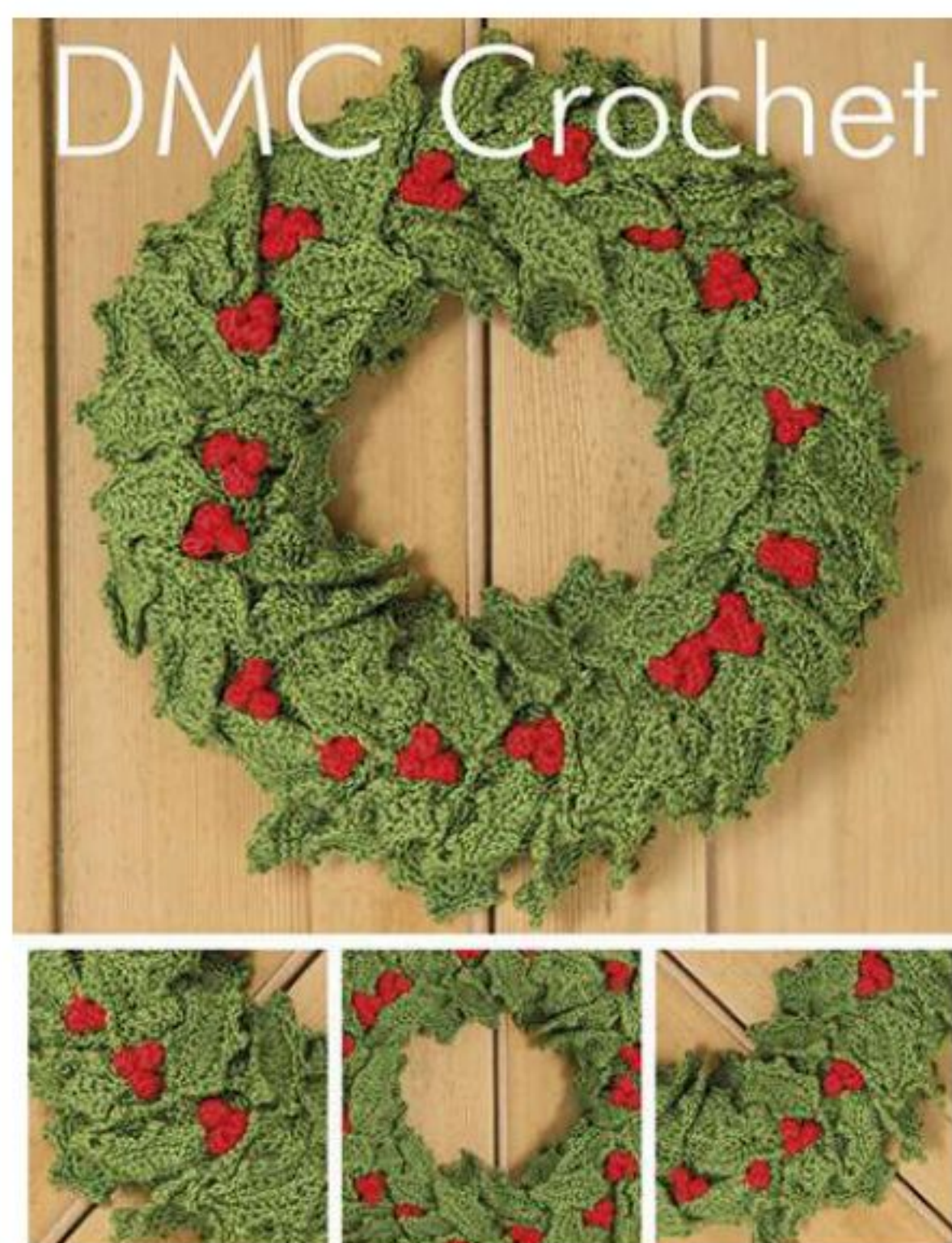
4 You'll see how the stitch is raised up, compared to the rest of the fabric. Work more front post treble stitches in the same way, repeating from Step 1.

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LITTLE ACORNS

Hook Sara Huntington's tiny woodland bundles of joy.



Amigurumi babies



YOU WILL NEED

- Sirdar Cotton DK (100% cotton, 100g/212m), 1 ball of each:
 - Honeysuckle (508)
 - Sundance (507)
 - Galore Red (510)
 - Cottonfield (517)
 - Blossom (526)
- A 2.5mm (US B/1 or C/2) hook
- Toy stuffing
- Red and black marker pens/embroidery thread for facial features

For yarn stockists, contact
Sirdar 01924 231682
www.sirdar.co.uk

MEASUREMENTS

Each baby in its leaf bed
measures 12cm (4¾in) tall

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

Each one of these little sleeping dolls is tucked up in an oak leaf bed and topped with an acorn cap. Hibernation suddenly looks like a very good idea. Hook up one or two of these drowsy darlings before bedtime.

NOTES

The head, body and hat are worked in the round using the amigurumi method, without closing off each round with a ss. You may find it helpful to use a stitch marker in the first stitch of the round, moving it up as you work.

C HEAD

With Blossom, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 8dc into loop.

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [16 dc]

Round 3 *Dc in next st, 2dc in next st; repeat from * to end of round. [24 dc]

Rounds 4-9 Dc in each st around.

Round 10 *Dc in next st, dc2tog over next 2 sts; repeat from * to end of round. [16 dc] Stuff head firmly.

Round 11 (Dc2tog) 8 times. [8 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Using a tapestry needle, work a running stitch around the remaining 8 sts and pull to close. **Fasten off**.

BODY

Using the colour of your choice, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 8dc into the loop.

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [16 dc]

Rounds 3-13 Dc in each st around.

Fasten off and stuff the body firmly. Sew Body to Head.

HAT

Using the colour of your choice, ch4.

Foundation round Dc in the second ch from the hook, dc in next ch, 8dc in final ch, ss into first of 8 dc working behind the 2 st 'tail'.

Round 1 Working on the 8dc only, 2dc in each st around. [16 dc]

Round 2 *Dc in next st, 2dc in next st; repeat from * to end of round. [24 dc]

Rounds 3-8 Dc in each st around.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

LEAF FRONT

Using the colour of your choice, ch12.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in the second ch from the hook and next 9 ch, 3dc in last ch.

Rotate to work into the other side of the foundation chain, dc in next 10 sts, turn. [23 dc]

Row 2 Ch2 (counts as htr), htr in next 9 dc, 2htr in each of next 3 dc, htr in next 10 dc, turn. [26 htr]

Row 3 Ch2 (counts as htr), htr in next 10 htr, 2htr in each of next 4 htr, htr in next 11 htr, turn. [30 htr]

Row 4 Ch2 (counts as htr), htr in next 11 htr, 2htr in each of next 6 htr, htr in next 12 htr. [36 htr]

Fasten off.

LEAF BACK

Using same colour as Leaf Front, ch16.

Round 1 (RS) 3dc in second ch from hook, dc in next 13 dc, 3dc in next ch, rotate to work into other side of foundation chain, dc in the remaining 13 dc, ss into first dc. [32 dc]

Round 2 Ch2 (counts as htr), htr into st at base of ch, 2htr into next 2 sts, htr in next 13 sts, 2htr into next 3 sts, htr into next 13 sts, ss into top of beg ch-2. [38 htr]

Round 3 Ch2 (counts as htr), 2htr in next 4 sts, htr in next 15 sts, 2htr in next 4 sts, htr in next 14 sts, ss into top of beg ch-2. [46 htr]

Round 4 Ch2 (counts as htr), htr in next st, 2htr in next 2 sts, 3htr in next st, 2htr in next 3 sts, htr in next 17 sts, 2htr in next 2 sts, 3htr into next st, 2htr into next 3 sts, htr into next 15 sts. [60 htr]

Fasten off.

JOIN LEAF FRONT & BACK

Place the front and back leaf together, wrong sides together.

Rejoin the yarn at any point and work the following edging, working through both layers to join the front and back together, and then continuing around the top of the back leaf:

Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr), 6tr in same st, *skip 2 htr, ss in next htr, skip 2 htr, 7tr in next htr; repeat from * to last 5 sts, skip 2htr, ss in next htr, skip 2htr, ss into top of beg ch-3.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

Using the image as a guide, mark on the eyes and mouth using red and black marker pens, or stitching with embroidery thread if you prefer.

Place the hat on the baby and insert into leaf bed.



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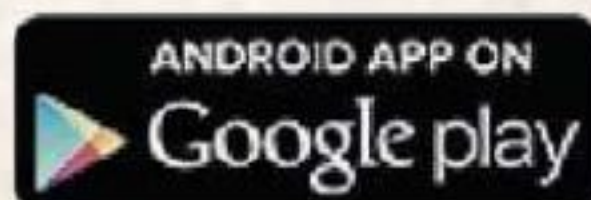
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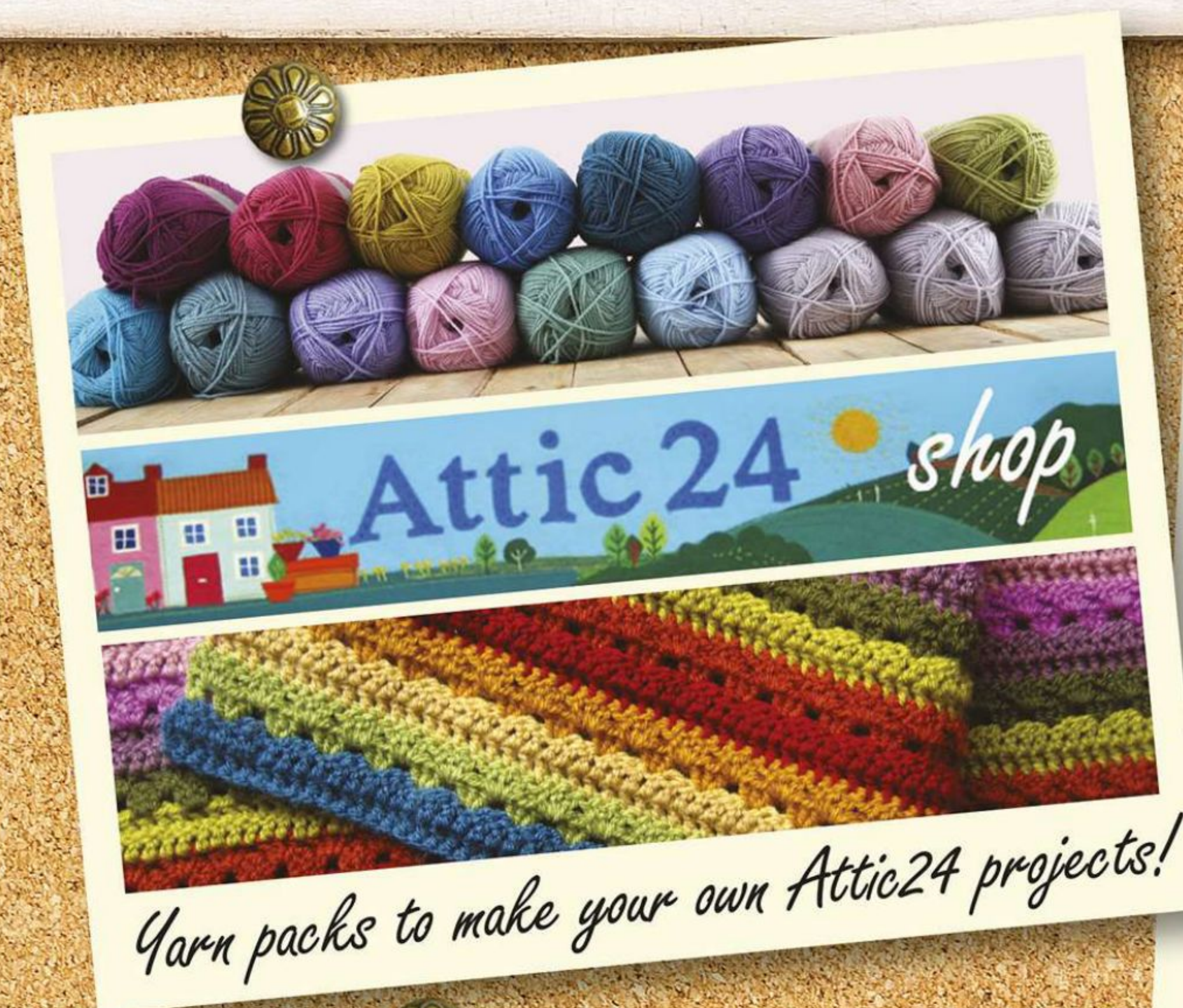
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KAT'S JOURNAL

...FROM THE STUDIO

Handmade giving can be tricky at any time of year. Kat Goldin shares tips to help you get sorted for Christmas.



The days are turning shorter and the weather is turning colder, so inevitably my mind turns to the C word. I feel slightly embarrassed to bring it up because I'm not one of those people who look forward to Christmas throughout the year. In fact, I sort of dread it. Not being an organised person by nature, the sheer amount of thinking ahead required puts me in a bit of a panic-induced stasis, where I know I need to get my act together, but simply can't, and end up buying everything last minute online.

MAKING TIME

Historically this inertia has made me, quite frankly, a terrible handmade gift giver. It's probably not the best thing to admit having written a book about giving crochet gifts, but you know, the good intentions have always been there. I have a Ravelry queue as long as my arm solely made up of things I would like to make and give to the people I love. I have stockpiles of wool bought with the sole purpose of making something specific for my children, husband, best friend or mother. I just can never get my act together to make more than a few of the gift items that are on my list.

Even when I do have enough time available for the making, in the past I have found the act of handmade giving a bit of a tricky one to navigate. There is nothing worse than spending your time and money making something for someone and then getting a less than warm response. Being the melodramatic

sort, I may have told my eight-year-old son recently that it was like a "dagger in my heart" when he told me that my proposal for his handmade winter hat would "make him look like a dork". And then my father's less than warm response to a pair of socks I made for him even rendered me a wee bit tearful.

IT'S GOOD TO GIVE

There is no question that making for giving is a special kind of journey. You give up your most precious resource – your time – to make something that it

could well have been easier or cheaper to buy. It's not just about the finished object though, it's about the love, thought and care that goes into each step in the process – from picking out the yarn to sewing in the final ends. Experience has taught me to think carefully about a couple of things when planning my handmade gift giving. Here are my top hooking-to-give tips.

Be organised. There is nothing worse than deciding to make something at the last moment and pulling an all-nighter to get it done. It's always super-stressful

"Think about the person.
Do they love handmade,
one-of-a-kind things?"



COLUMN



"Fit your gifts
to your yarn stash."

and it never gives great results. Instead, try to organise your gift-giving thoughts and make sure you have enough time to get all of your projects done.

Think about the person. Do they love handmade, vintage or one-of-a-kind things? Do they wear a lot of knitwear, scarves or accessories? Do they comment on your own or other people's crocheted items? If so then it's a great indication that they would love to receive a handmade gift.

Unless you are confident that the person knows how to wash 100% wool

items, it's best to choose yarns that are pretty hard-wearing and ideally machine washable for gift-giving. I speak from experience – a friend of mine felted her Christmas jumper two years running. You can buy sweet sew-in labels that tell the receiver how to care for their items. Check out www.notsogranny.etsy.com for some great examples.

Be realistic. While I would dearly love to knit my mother a jumper for Christmas and she would love to receive one, it is simply not going to happen and the time I could spend starting and not finishing a

garment would be better spent starting and finishing a smaller accessory.

Set a budget. Christmas is expensive, so, as with all Christmas gifts, set a budget for your projects and your overall spend and stick to it. If the budget is tight, choose a less expensive yarn or buy everything you need in a sale. As much as possible, fitting your gifts to your existing yarn stash is a good way to make room in your budget.

Most importantly, start now! Don't shoot me for saying it, but Christmas will be here before we know it!

A LOCH AT MY MONTH

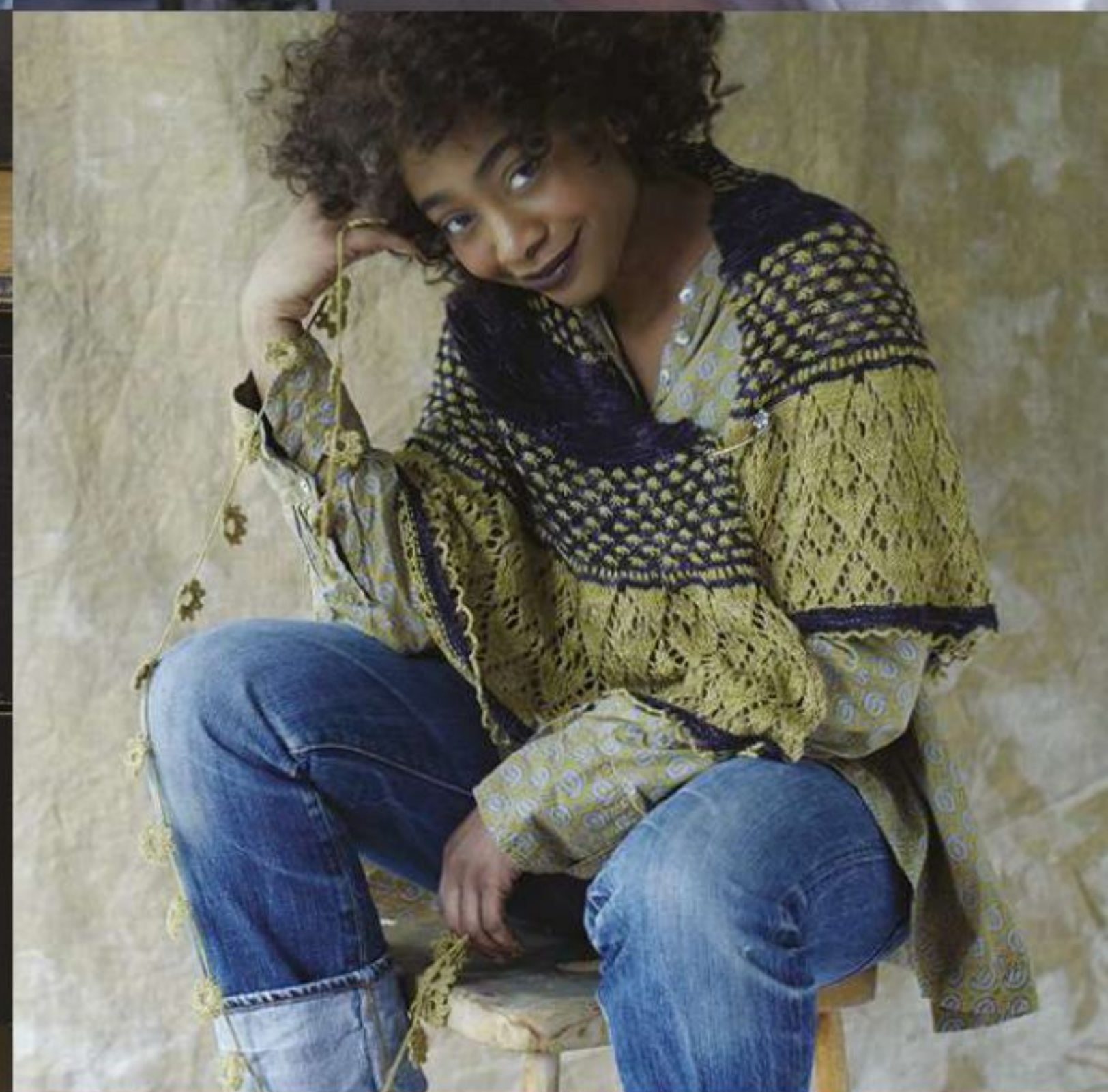
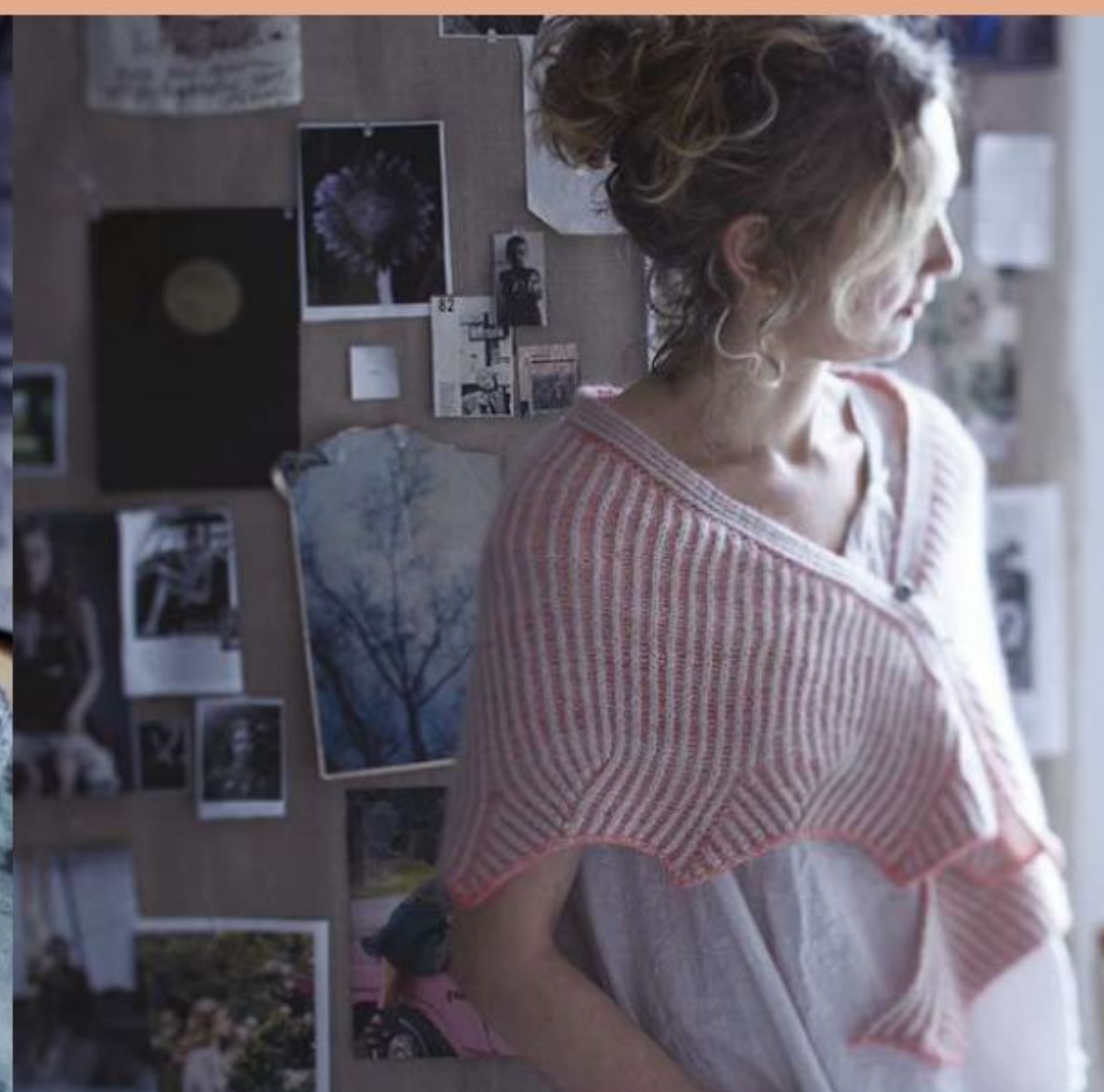
"Wool full of kinks (I can't stand it), a new design in the works, and 'tis the season for chopping wood and making little Christmas stars."



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Selection of patterns from Loop's Anniversary book '10'

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JEWEL PURPOSE

Drape yourself in diamonds by
Elisabeth Davis de Herraiz.



Lacy shawl



YOU WILL NEED

- Madelinetosh Tosh Sock (100% wool, 100g/361m), 2 skeins of Vermillion (011)
 - A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- For yarn stockists, contact
Loop 020 7288 1160
www.loopknittingshop.com

TENSION

One motif measures 10x12cm

MEASUREMENTS

Finished shawl meas 80x145cm
(31½x57in) after blocking

ABBREVIATIONS

5-tr cluster (Yrh, insert hook in space indicated, yrh and pull up loop, yrh and draw through 2 loops) 5 times, inserting the hook in the same space each time, yrh and draw through all loops on hook.

Picot Ch3, ss in first ch.

For a full list, see page 92.

The question is, who wants to be a vermillionaire? Pick up two skeins of gorgeous scarlet 4ply and hook your own diamond motif shawl. You'll join the motifs and add a picot border.

NOTE

The shawl is made up from individual motifs, which are worked from bottom to top in rows. These are then joined together and an edging is added all the way around.

C DIAMOND MOTIF (MAKE 28)

Ch3, ss to first ch to join into a ring.

Row 1 Ch3 (counts as tr throughout), 4tr into ring, turn.

Row 2 (RS) Ch3, 4tr in first tr from Row 1, skip next tr, dc in tr, skip next tr, 5tr in last tr, turn.

Row 3 Ch3, 4tr in first tr from Row 2, skip next tr, dc in tr, ch5, skip 4 tr, dc in next tr, skip next tr, 5tr in last tr, turn.

Row 4 Ch3, 4tr in first tr from Row 3, skip next tr, dc in next tr, ch5, 5-tr cluster in ch-5 sp, ch5, skip 2 tr, dc in next tr, skip next tr, 5tr in last tr, turn.

Row 5 Ch3, 4tr in first tr from Row 4, skip next tr, dc in next tr, ch5, dc in first ch-5 sp, ch5, dc in next ch-5 sp, ch5, skip 2 tr, dc in next tr, skip next tr, 5tr in last tr, turn.

Row 6 Ch3, 4tr in first tr from Row 5, skip next tr, dc in next tr, ch5, dc in next ch-5 sp, ch5, 5-tr cluster in next ch-5 sp, ch5, dc in ch-5 sp, ch5, skip 2 tr, dc in next tr, skip next tr, 5tr in last tr, turn.

Row 7 Ss in next 2 tr, dc in next tr, skip 2 tr, 5tr in dc, (dc in next ch-5 sp, ch5) 3 times, dc in next ch-5 sp, 5tr in next dc, skip next 2 tr, dc in next tr, turn.

Row 8 Ss in dc and next 2 tr, dc in next

tr, skip 2 tr, 5tr in dc, dc in ch-5 sp, ch5, 5-tr cluster in ch-5 sp, ch5, dc in ch-5 sp, 5tr in dc, skip 2 tr, dc in next tr, turn.

Row 9 Ss in dc and next 2 tr, dc in tr, skip 2 tr, 5tr in dc, dc in next ch-5 sp, ch5, dc in next ch-5 sp, 5tr in next dc, skip next 2 tr, dc in next tr, turn.

Row 10 Ss in dc and next 2 tr, dc in next tr, skip 2 tr, 5tr in dc, dc in ch-5 sp, 5tr in next dc, skip 2 tr, dc in next tr, turn.

Row 11 Ss in dc and next 2 tr, dc in next tr, skip 2 tr, 5tr in next dc, skip next 2 tr, dc in next tr. **Fasten off.**

HALF DIAMOND MOTIF (MAKE 6)

Repeat Rows 1-6 of Diamond Motif. **Fasten off.**

JOINING MOTIFS

Lay out motifs: 1 motif at bottom, 2 motifs on second row, 3 on third row, etc, until you have placed all 28 motifs and have a triangle with a total of 7 motifs along the top. Place the 6 half motifs along the top to form a straight edge. The motifs are joined using the zigzag chain method as follows: See Chart on page 93.

With RS facing, *dc in the edge of motif 1, ch2, dc in the corresponding point of motif 3, ch2; repeat from * a total of 12 times evenly spaced along the join of these two motifs. Continue the seam in the same fashion, joining motifs 2 and 5 next, and repeating for further motifs in these two rows. **Fasten off** once you have joined the half motif at the top. Repeat the process to join the rest of the motifs, working the seams in the direction of the black arrows on the diagram first. Repeat, starting at the bottom-left edge of the shawl to work the seams in the other direction.

BORDER

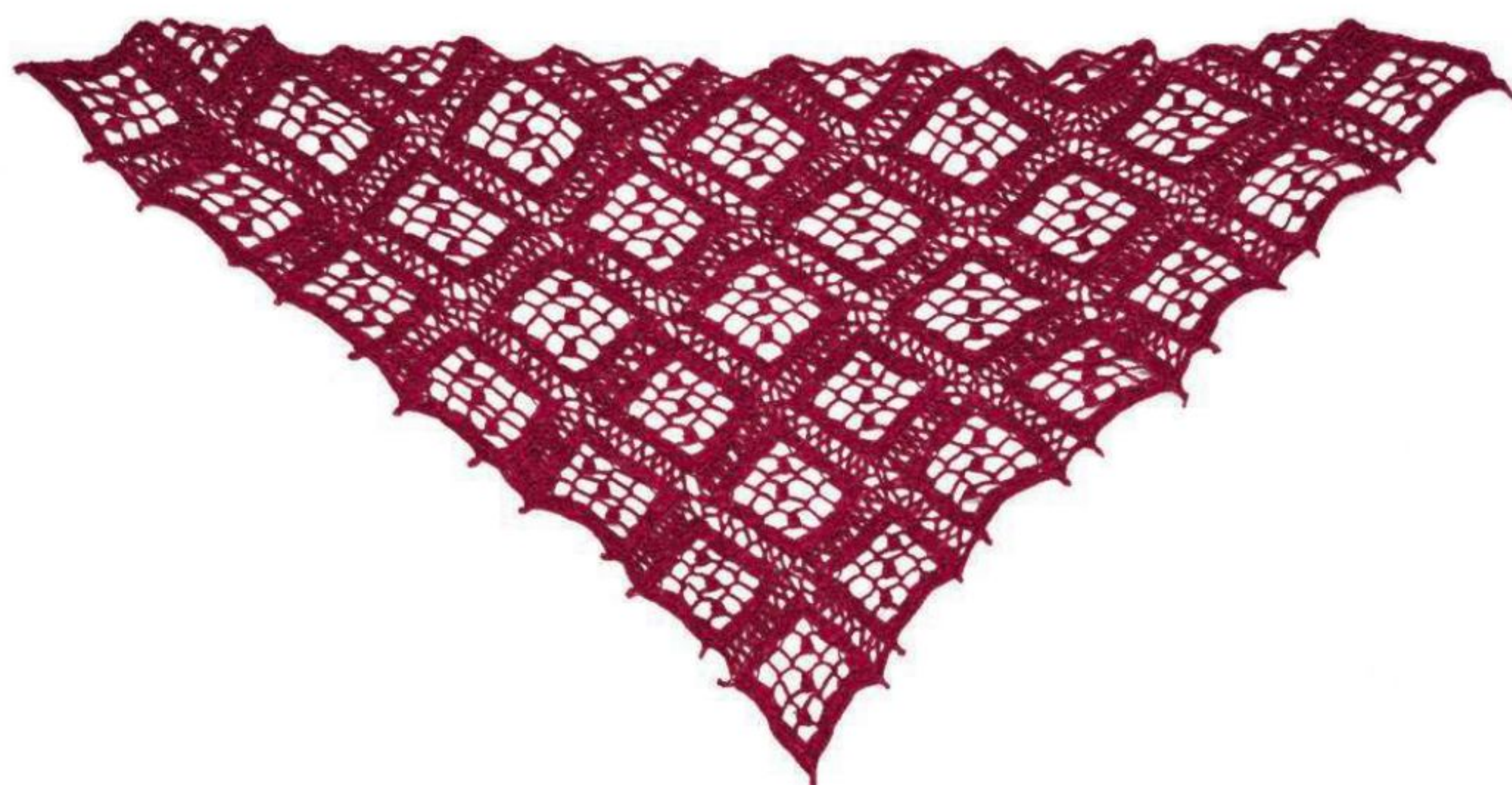
Join yarn at one of the points of the shawl and dc evenly all around, working a picot at each point of every motif.

TO FINISH

Weave in ends. Block to measurements.



Loop are offering *Simply Crochet* readers 10% off Madeleinotosh Tosh Sock yarn from www.loopknittingshop.com using the code: SCLOOP. Offer valid from 15 Oct to 12 Nov 2015.



Flower garland



A BIT WHIMSICAL

Raid your stash – it's yarn playtime with these pretty motif garlands by Rachel Atkinson.

Flower garland



DOUBLE,
TREBLE



4PLY, DK,
ARAN



2.5, 3, 4
& 4.5MM

YOU WILL NEED

- An assortment of 4ply, DK and aran-weight yarns
- A 2.5mm (US B/1 or C/2) hook for the garland chain
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- A 4.5mm (US 7) hook
- Tapestry needle

For yarn stockists, contact
Loop 020 7288 1160
www.loopknittingshop.com

TENSION

Not crucial for this pattern, but adjust the hook size to produce a firm fabric that will hold its shape for the motif

MEASUREMENTS

Finished motif measurements:
2.5-6.5cm (1-2½in) diameter

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

Loop founder Susan Cropper says: "Designed by Rachel Atkinson and shown here crocheted in the DyeForYarn shade 'Golden Beehive', these Whimsy Garlands are a beautiful way to play with colour, bits of leftover yarn, and to practice different motifs." There are nine pretty shapes to make and they can be hooked in any yarn weight. This is your chance to raid your stash and experiment with shape and colour to create something unique.

C GARLAND

Pick and mix from the 9 motif patterns, working with different weight yarns to create varying sizes and quantities, and making as many as you like.

6-PETAL FLOWER 01

Make a magic loop.

Round 1 Ch3 (counts as 1tr), 11tr into the loop, join with a ss to top of beg ch-3. [12 sts]

Round 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc in each st around, join with a ss to first dc. [24 sts]

Round 3 (Skip 1 st, 5tr in next st, skip 1 st, ss in next st) 6 times, join with a ss in ss from previous round.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TINY 6-PETAL FLOWER 02

Make a magic loop.

Round 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), (1dc, ch3, 1tr, ch3) 6 times into the loop, join with a ss to the first dc.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

5-PETAL LAZY DAISY 03

Make a magic loop.

Round 1 Ch3 (counts as 1tr), 19tr into the loop, join with a ss to top of beg ch-3. [20 sts]

Round 2 *Skip 1 st, 5tr in next st, skip 1

st, ss in next st; repeat from * around, join with a ss in ss from previous round. **Fasten off** and weave in ends.

COG WHEEL 04

Special Stitches

Picot Ch4, ss in 4th ch from hook.

Ch8, ss to first ch to form a ring.

Round 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), 16dc into ring, join with a ss to first dc. [16 sts]

Round 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), (dc in next st, picot, skip next st) 8 times, join with a ss to first dc.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

HEART 05

Make a magic loop.

Round 1 Ch3 (counts as 1tr), 16tr into loop, join with a ss to top of beg ch-3. [17 sts]

Round 2 Ch3 (counts as 1tr), 1tr in next st, 4dtr in next st, 2tr in next st, 1htr in each of next 4 sts, 3tr in next st, 1htr in each of next 4 sts, 2tr in next st, 4dtr in next st, 1tr in each of next 2 sts, join with a ss to base of beg ch-3.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

STAR 06

Make a magic loop.

Round 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), 10dc into the loop, join with a ss to the first dc. [10 sts]

Round 2 (Ch4, 1dc in second ch from hook, 1htr in next ch, 1tr in next ch, skip next st, ss in next st) 5 times, working last ss in ss from previous round to join.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

FLOWER IN A FLOWER 07

Special Stitches

3-ttr cluster *(Yrh) 3 times, insert the hook in next sp, yrh, draw up a loop,

01



02



03



04



05



Flower garland

(yrh, draw yarn through 2 loops on hook) 3 times; repeat from * twice more in same sp, yrh, draw through 4 loops on the hook.

4-ttr cluster (Yrh) 3 times, insert the hook in next sp, yrh, draw up a loop, (yrh, draw yarn through 2 loops on hook) 3 times; repeat from * a further 3 times in same sp, yrh, draw through 5 loops on the hook.

4-dtr cluster *(Yrh) twice, insert the hook in next sp, yrh, draw up a loop, (yrh, draw yarn through 2 loops on hook) twice; repeat from * a further 3 times in same sp, yrh, draw through 5 loops on the hook.

Ch6, ss to first ch to form a ring.

Round 1 Ch5 (counts as 1tr), 3-ttr cluster into ring, ch5, (4-ttr cluster, ch5) 5 times into ring, ss to top of first cluster st to join. [6 clusters]

Round 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), *1dc in cluster st, ch4, 4-dtr cluster st in next ch-5 sp, ch4; repeat from * around, join with a ss to first dc.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

CLOVER 08

Ch6, ss to first ch to form a ring.

Round 1 (Ch2, 2tr, ch1, 2tr, ch2, ss) 4 times into ring, working last ss into ss of ring.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

POINTED 5-PETAL FLOWER 09

Special Stitches

3-tr cluster *(Yrh) twice, insert the hook in next dc, yrh, draw up a loop, (yrh, draw yarn through 2 loops on hook) twice; repeat from * twice more in same dc, yrh, draw through 4 loops on the hook.

Picot (Ch2, ss to 2nd ch from hook)

Make a magic loop.

Round 1 Ch1, 10dc into the ring, join with a ss to first dc. [10 sts]

Round 2 (Ch4, 3-tr cluster in next st, picot, ch4, ss in next st) 5 times, working last ss in ss from the previous round to join.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

Make sure all ends are woven in and steam block the motifs.

Arrange them in the order you want them to be on the garland, or work freestyle and place them as you go. You can position the motifs as close together or far apart as you like, the following is just a guide:

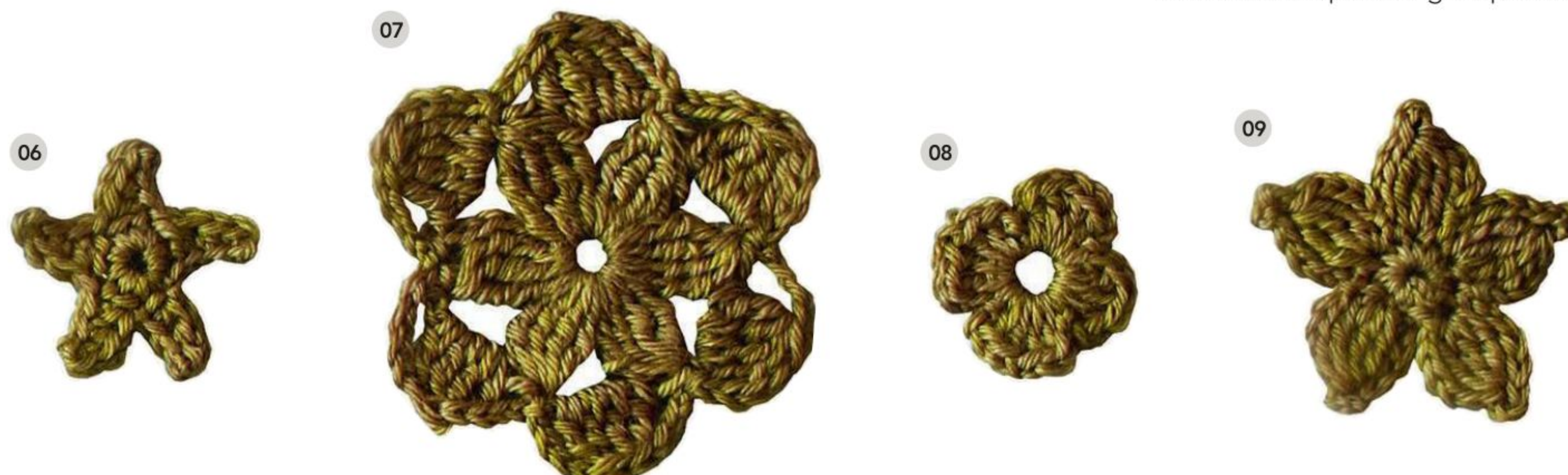
Using 2.5mm hook and a 4ply-weight yarn, ch20, join with a ss in first ch to create a hanging loop, ch20, ss to a stitch on the outer edge of the first motif, *ch20, ss to a stitch on the outer edge of the next motif; repeat from * until all motifs are joined, ch40, ss in the 20th ch from hook to form the second hanging loop.

Fasten off.

Weave in any remaining ends.



Create a garland from your motifs by joining them to a long chain with slip stitches.



Rachel Atkinson's pretty Whimsy Garlands pattern is from the book *Loop's 10* by Susan Cropper, published by Loop. It's a celebration of Loop's

10th anniversary and is available for £20 from www.loopknittingshop.com



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LET IT SNOW

Customise your own Christmas jumper with Louise Smith's pretty appliqué project.

Embellish an outfit



YOU WILL NEED

- Wendy Supreme Luxury Cotton Sparkle DK (100% mercerised cotton, 100g/201m), 1 ball of 1910 (white)
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- A plain jumper

For yarn stockists, contact
TB Ramsden 01943 872264
www.tbramsden.co.uk

MEASUREMENTS

Overall motif measures 25cm (9¾in)
Snowflake motifs measure 4cm (1½in), 5cm (2in), 6cm (2¼in) and 9cm (3½in) diameter from Small to Extra Large

ABBREVIATIONS

Front and Back loop stitch (fbl)

Insert hook in the front loop of the next st, yrh and draw yarn through, insert hook in the back loop of the same st, yrh and draw yarn through, yrh and draw yarn through all loops on hook. You can replace this stitch in the pattern with a double crochet stitch if you find it easier.

Picot stitches

Work the number of ch stated (eg 5 ch for a ch-5 picot), ss in the first of those ch.

For a full list, see page 92.

Love them or hate them, it seems Christmas jumpers are here to stay. Why not put your own handmade twist on the trend by decorating an old plain jumper to make a new festive favourite? A flurry of fairly simple motifs is arranged to create a subtle bauble shape. There are six different shapes to make, each one worked in white cotton DK yarn with a hint of sparkle. As novelty jumpers go, this one is firmly at the stylish end of the spectrum – something we'd be proud to wear. Get hooking.

SMALL SNOWFLAKE (MAKE 4)

Make a magic loop and ch1 into loop to secure.

Round 1 (RS) *Ch4, tr in second ch from hook, ss in each of 2 ch down to first ch, ss in magic loop; repeat from * 7 more times.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

MEDIUM SNOWFLAKE (MAKE 3)

Make a magic loop and ch1 into loop to secure.

Round 1 (RS) *Ch2, (ch-2 picot) twice, ss at base of picots, dc into magic loop, ch1, (ch-2 picot) twice, ss at base of picots, dc in magic loop; repeat from * 4 more times, omitting the very last dc, ss to the first dc to join.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

LARGE SNOWFLAKE (MAKE 3)

Make a magic loop and ch1 into loop to secure.

Round 1 (RS) *Ch2, (ch-3 picot) 3 times, ss at base of picots, ss in each of beg ch-2 towards loop, dc in magic loop; repeat from * 7 more times, omitting the very last dc, ss to the first dc.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

EXTRA LARGE SNOWFLAKE (MAKE 3)

Ch5, ss to first ch to form a ring.

Round 1 Ch3 (counts as tr), 17tr into ring, ss to the top of the beginning ch-3. [18 tr]

Round 2 *Ss in next 3 tr, ch-5 picot, ch-7 picot, ch-5 picot, ss at base of picots, ss in next 3 tr, ch-7 picot, ch-9 picot, ch-7 picot, ss at base of picots; repeat from * twice more.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

SNOWDROPS (MAKE 16)

Make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as

st), 6dc in magic loop, ss to the first dc. [7 dc]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

BAUBLE TOP (MAKE 1)

Ch10.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in the second ch from the hook and each ch to end, turn. [9 dc]

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

Repeat Rows 1 & 2 twice more.

Row 3 Ch1 (does not count as st), 5dc, ch13, ss in the first ch of ch-13, dc in same st as previous dc, dc in each st to end.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

Block the Snowflakes before sewing on – this will give a neater finish. Or you could just gently iron the jumper on the reverse afterwards.

Arrange each Snowflake and Snowdrop to form a circle on the jumper. You might find it helps to tack a temporary circle onto the jumper, using a plate as a guide, and then arrange the snowflake shapes within the circle.

Sew each Snowflake and Snowdrop to the jumper, then sew the Bauble Top at the top of the circle.

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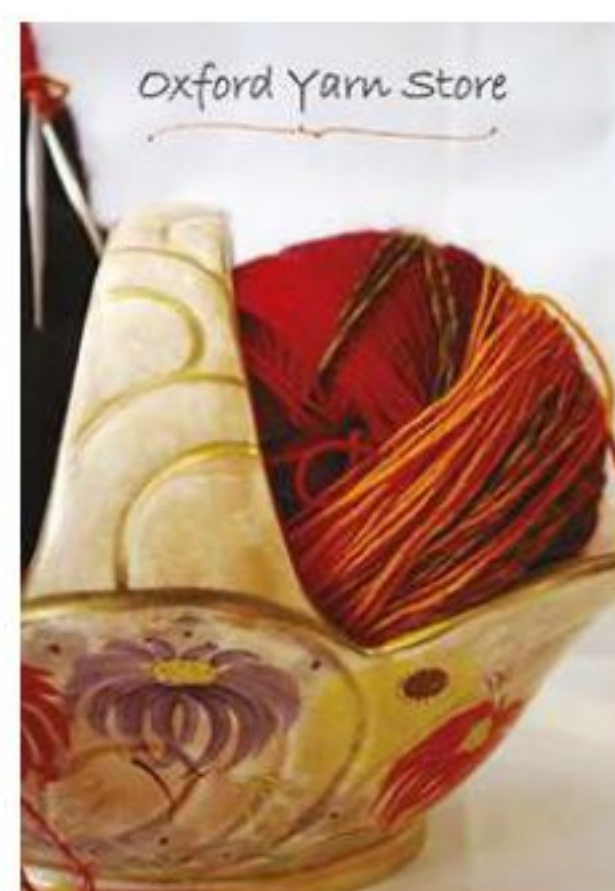
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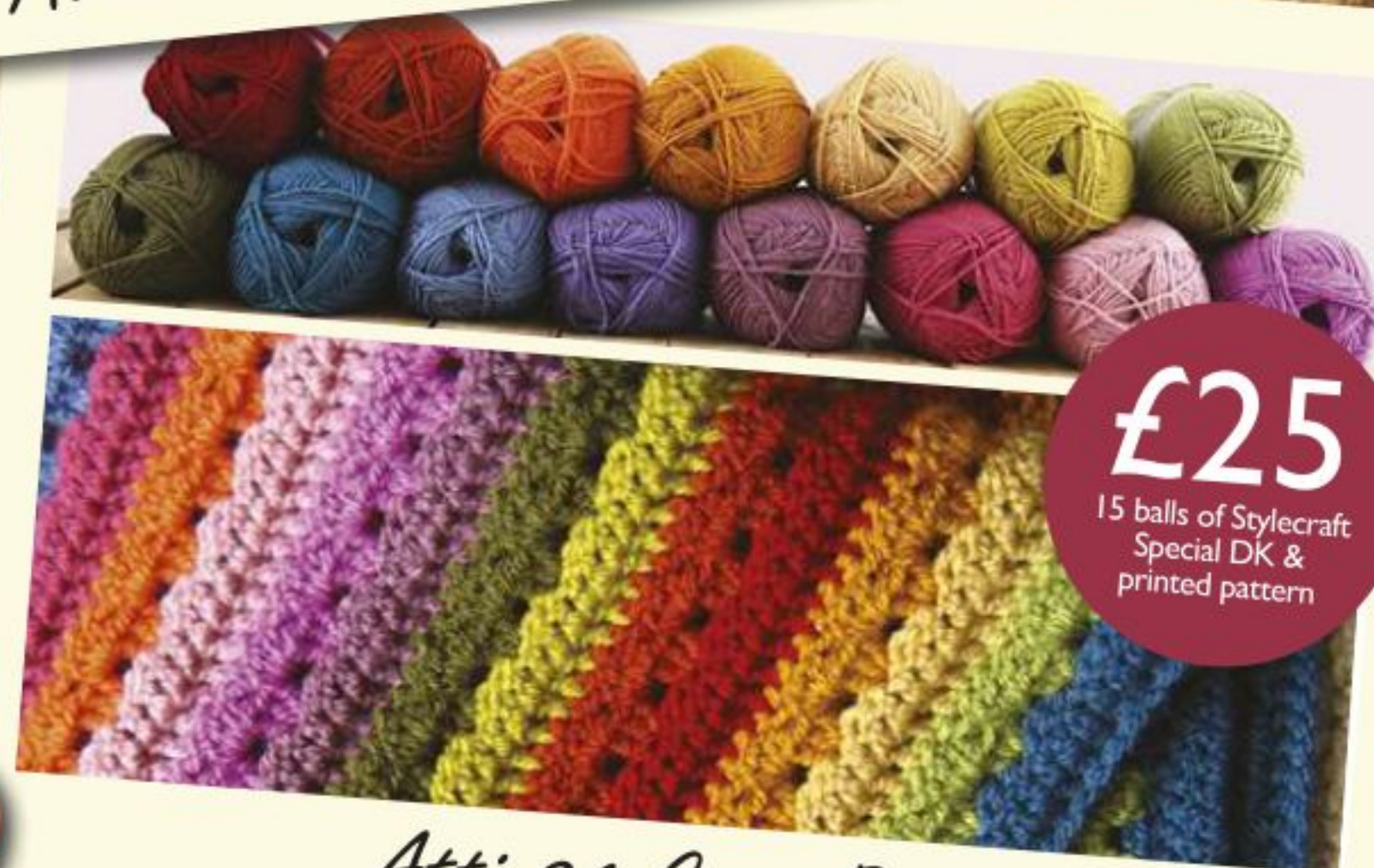
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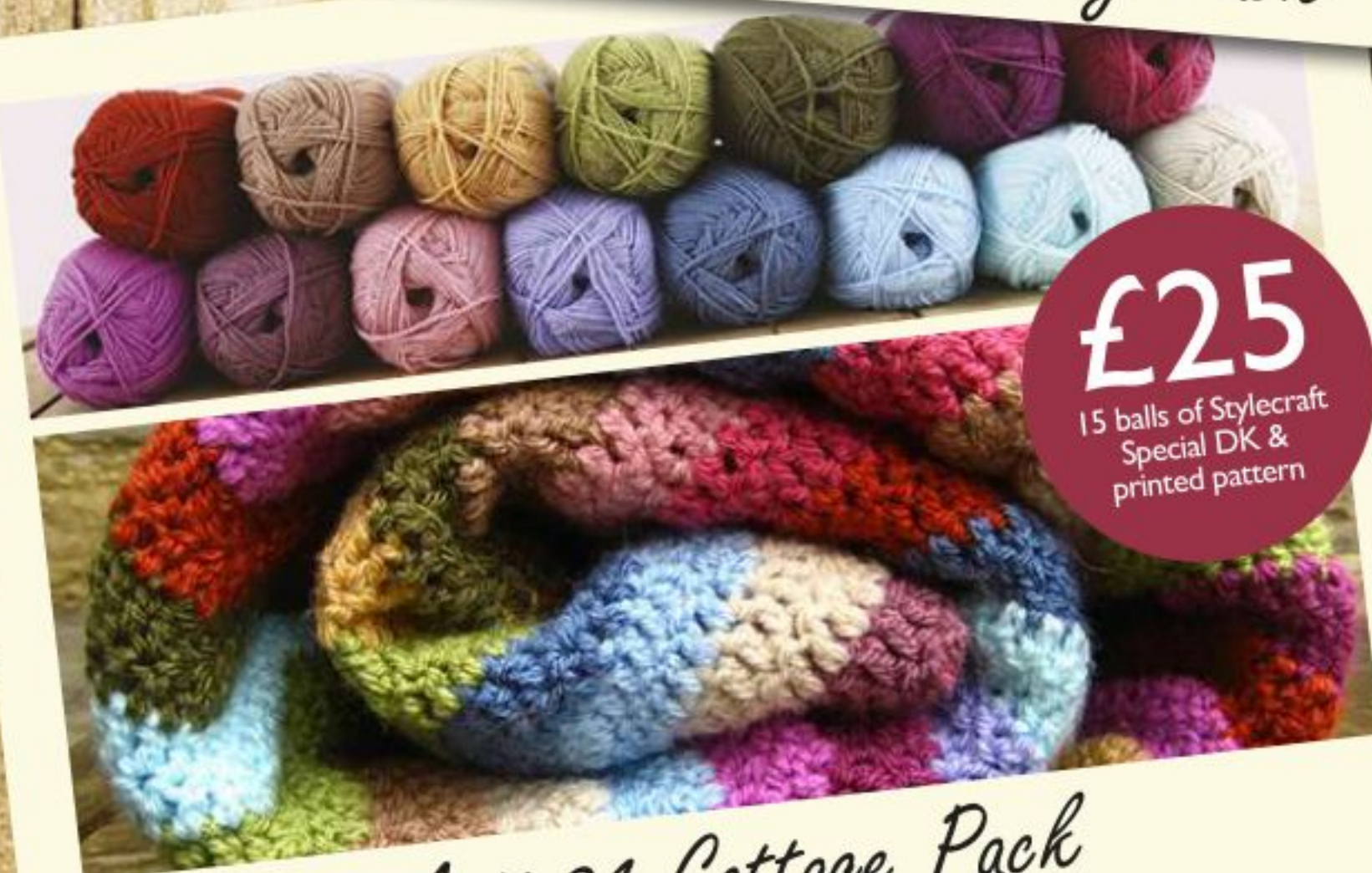
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POP ART

Hook Ann Morgan's gorgeously drapey Merino top with popcorn stitches and a pretty picot edging.

Motif poncho



YOU WILL NEED

- Cleckheaton Australian Superfine Merino 8ply (100% superfine merino wool, 65g/130m), 11 balls of True Blue (50), see table for measurements
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook

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

TENSION

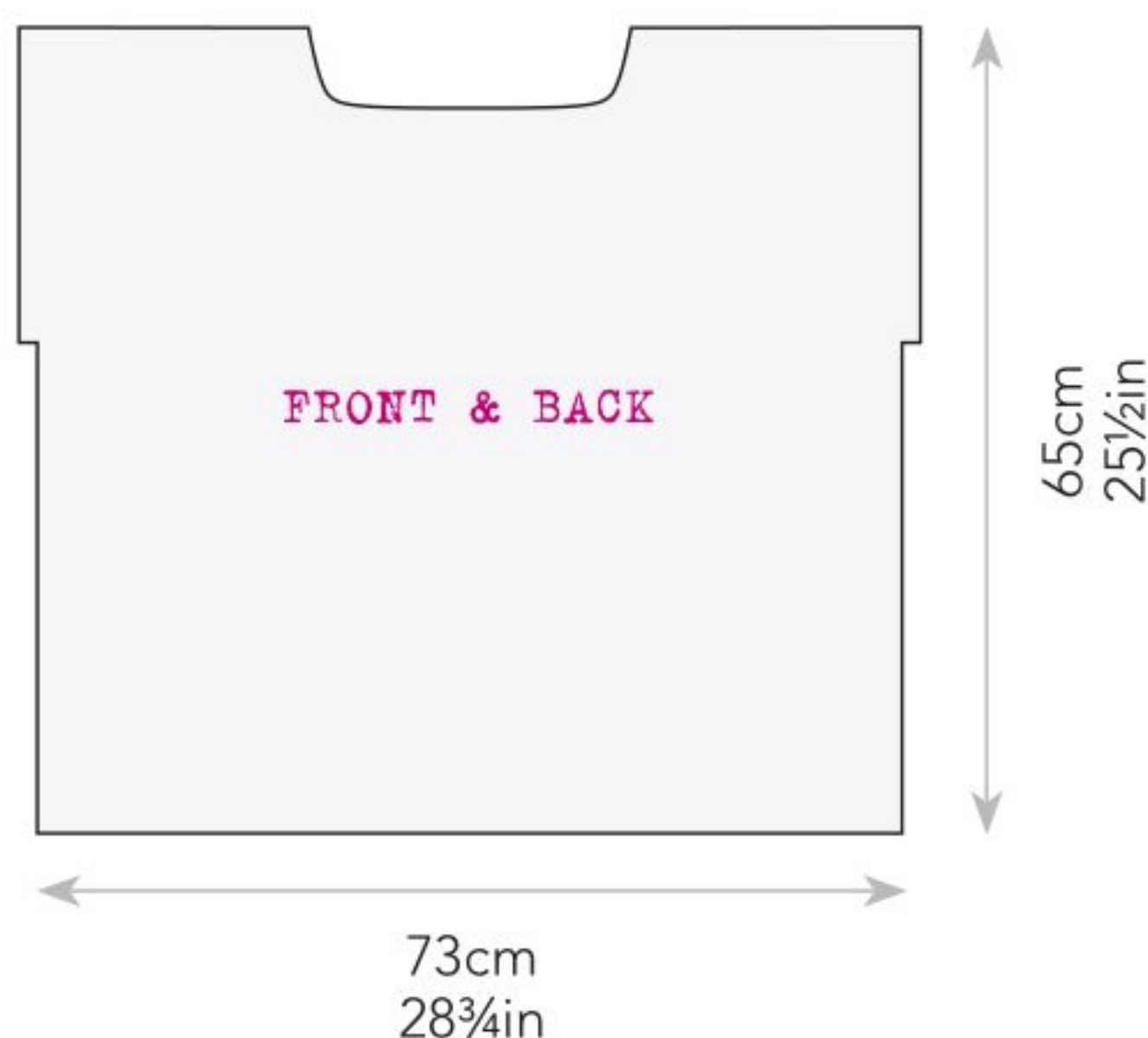
The first 4 rounds of the motif measure 11cm across, using a 4mm hook or size needed to obtain correct tension. 18 sts and 9 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) in stitch pattern using a 4mm hook or hook size needed to obtain correct tension.

ABBREVIATIONS

Popcorn 5tr in sp indicated, remove hook from loop then insert hook from front to back through first of 5tr, replace loop on hook and draw through st

Picot Ch3, ss in first ch

For a full list, see page 92.



The construction of this loose-fit top is centred around a textured block motif made with mesh and popcorn stitches. The rest of the top is worked in solid panels, punctuated with pretty lace rows. It's sure to be your new fave as the merino hangs beautifully and is so comfy to wear. It's all topped off with delicate picot edgings. Gorgeous.

NOTES

The garment is a loose-fitting top in one size which would fit sizes 8-16. Allow for an extra 5cm to be added to the stated length for dropping when worn.

Back and Front are identical, and are started by working the central motif. Two panels are worked from opposite sides of the motif to create a piece the width of the garment, and then the lower and upper sections are worked from this piece.

Edgings are added to armholes, neck and lower edge after seaming.

C MOTIF (MAKE 2)

Ch10 and join with a ss in first ch to form a ring.

Round 1 (RS) Ch3, 4tr into ring, remove hook from loop then insert hook from front to back through top of beg ch-3, replace loop on hook and draw through st (first popcorn made), ch1, (popcorn in ring, ch5, popcorn in ring, ch1) 3 times, popcorn in ring, ch5, ss in top of first popcorn.

Round 2 Ch4 (counts as first tr and ch1 in following rounds of motif), skip ch-1 sp, *1tr in next popcorn, ch1, (popcorn, ch5, popcorn) in next ch-5 sp, ch1, 1tr in next popcorn, ch1; repeat from * twice more, 1tr in next popcorn, ch1, (popcorn, ch5, popcorn) in next ch-5 sp, ch1, ss in third ch of beg ch-4. [5 sts between popcorn groups]

Round 3 Ch4, 1tr in first tr, 1tr in first popcorn, ch1, *(popcorn, ch5, popcorn)

in corner ch-5 sp, ch1, 1tr in next popcorn, (ch1, 1tr in next tr) twice, ch1, 1tr in next popcorn, ch1; repeat from * twice more, (popcorn, ch5, popcorn) in corner ch-5 sp, ch1, 1tr in last popcorn, ch1, ss in third ch of beg ch-4.

[9 sts between popcorn groups]

Round 4 Ch4, (1tr, ch1) in each tr to first popcorn, 1tr in popcorn, ch1, *(popcorn, ch5, popcorn) in corner ch-5 sp, ch1, 1tr in next popcorn, ch1, (1tr, ch1) in each tr to next popcorn, 1tr in next popcorn, ch1; repeat from * twice more, (popcorn, ch5, popcorn) in corner, ch1, 1tr in last popcorn, ch1, (1tr, ch1) in each tr to end, ss in third ch of beg ch-4. [13 sts between popcorn groups]

Rounds 5-9 Repeat last round 5 more times. [33 sts between popcorn groups after Round 9]

Round 10 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr in each st and ch around with 7tr in each ch-5 sp, ss in top of beg ch-3. [41 tr on each side and 4 corner tr]

Round 11 Ch3 (counts as tr), * 1tr in each tr to centre tr at next corner, 3tr in centre tr, repeat from * 3 times, 1tr in each tr to end, ss in top of beg ch-3. [43 tr on each side and 4 corner tr]

Fasten off.

BACK/FRONT (MAKE 2)

SIDE PANELS

With RS of Motif facing, join yarn with a ss in centre tr of first corner.

Row 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as first tr), 1tr in each of next 44 tr, turn. [45 tr]

Row 2 (1dc, ch1) in first tr (counts as first tr), *ch1, skip 1 tr, 1tr in next tr; repeat from * to end, turn.

Row 3 (1dc, ch1) in first tr, *1tr in ch-sp, 1tr in next tr; repeat from * to end, turn.

Row 4 (1dc, ch1) in first tr, 1tr in each st to end, turn.

Row 5 Repeat Row 4.

Rows 2-5 form patt.

Continue in patt until work measures approx 36cm from **centre** of Motif, ending with a Row 5.

Fasten off.

With RS of Motif facing, join yarn with a ss in centre tr of third corner.

Work as for first side panel, but do not fasten off.

LOWER PANEL

With RS facing, turn to work across second side panel row ends, ch3, work

SIZE		8-16
TO FIT BUST	cm	81-102
	in	32-42
GARMENT WIDTH	cm	73
	in	28 3/4
LENGTH	cm	65
	in	25 1/2

41tr evenly across second side panel, work 49tr across Motif (including 3 tr in each corner st of the Motif), then work 42tr evenly across first side panel.

[133 tr]

Work in patt as for side panels, beginning with a Row 2, until lower panel measures approx 40cm from **centre** of Motif, ending with a Row 5.

Fasten off.

UPPER PANEL

With RS facing, join yarn with a ss in corner of first side panel row ends, ch3, work 41tr evenly across first side panel, work 49tr across motif, then work 42tr evenly across second side panel.

[133 tr]

Work 3 rows of patt as for side panels, beginning with a Row 2.

SHAPE NECK AND SHOULDERS

Row 1 (RS) Ss in each of first 4 tr, 1dc in each of next 4 tr, 1htr in each of next 4 tr, 1tr in each of next 37tr, tr2tog, 1tr in next tr, turn, leaving remaining sts unworked. [51 sts]

Row 2 (1dc, ch1) in first tr (counts as first tr), tr2tog, (ch1, skip 1 tr, 1tr in next tr) 12 times, 1htr in each of next 4 sts, 1dc in each of next 4 sts, turn, leaving remaining sts unworked. [34 sts]

Row 3 Ss in each of first 12 sts, (1dc in next tr, 1dc in next ch-sp) twice, (1htr in next tr, 1htr in next ch-sp) twice, (1tr in next tr, 1tr in next ch-sp) 5 times, 1tr in next tr, tr2tog, 1tr in last st, turn. [21 sts]

Row 4 (1dc, ch1) in first tr, tr2tog, 1htr in each of next 2 tr, 1dc in each of next 4 tr, turn leaving remaining sts unworked. [8 sts]

Row 5 Ss in each st to neck edge, turn. Work 1 row of tr across all sts of the previous 4 shaping rows, working the last st in the first ss of Row 1.

Fasten off.

With RS facing, skip the next 29 tr at centre, join yarn with a ss in next st.

Row 1 (1dc, ch1) in same st as ss, tr2tog, 1tr in each tr to last 12 sts, 1htr in each of next 4 tr, 1dc in each of next 4 tr, turn, leaving remaining 4 sts unworked. [51 sts]

Row 2 Ss in each of first 17 sts, 1dc in each of next 4 tr, 1htr in each of next 4 tr, (1tr in next tr, ch1, skip 1tr) 12 times, tr2tog, 1tr in last st, turn. [34 sts]

Row 3 (1dc, ch1) in first tr, tr2tog, (1tr in

next tr, 1tr in next ch-sp) 5 times, 1tr in next tr, (1htr in next ch-sp, 1htr in next tr) twice, (1dc in next ch-sp, 1dc in next tr) twice, turn, leaving remaining sts unworked. [21 sts]

Row 4 Ss in each of first 12 sts, 1dc in each of next 4 tr, 1htr in each of next 2 tr, tr2tog, 1tr in last st. [8 sts]

Work 1 row of tr across all sts of the previous 4 shaping rows, working the last st in the outermost st of the last complete tr row before the neckline shaping. **Fasten off.**

ARMHOLE EDGINGS

Using a flat seam, join shoulder seams. At armhole edge, measure 25cm down each side from the shoulder seam and tie a coloured thread to mark beginning of armhole opening. Join side seams up to the coloured threads. Remove

coloured threads. With RS facing, join yarn at top of side seam and work picot armhole edging as follows:

Ch1 (does not count as st), (1dc in next st or sp) 3 times, *picot, (1dc in next st or sp) 3 times; repeat from * evenly around armhole opening, ss in first dc.

Fasten off.

NECK EDGING

With RS facing, beginning at shoulder seam, work picot edging as given for armhole evenly around neck.

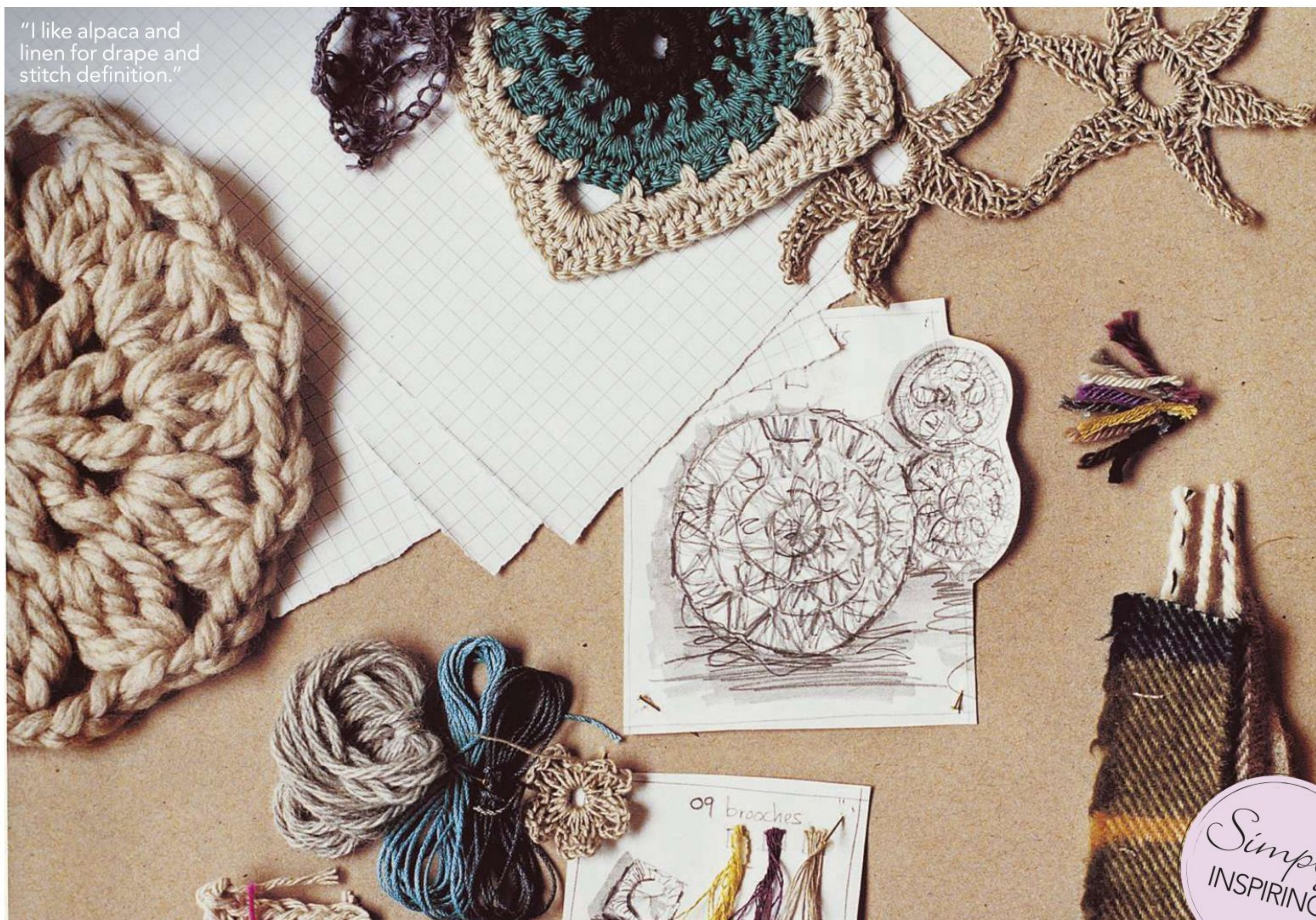
LOWER EDGING

With RS facing, beginning at side seam, work picot edging as given for armhole evenly around lower edge.

TO MAKE UP

Weave in all ends.





COMPLEX SIMPLICITY IN YARN

Designer Erika Knight celebrates yarn crafts in all areas of her life. We find out more about her successes, love of texture and her passion for design.

Elegant colourways and intricate stitch patterns are what springs to mind when we think of designer Erika Knight. She has a passion for "the simple stitches – like double crochets and trebles," and loves to pair them with natural fibres. "I think it adds more drape to a garment and a bit more sophistication," she comments. "I like the extremes – the same stitches can look so different when worked in fine, laceweight yarns or in chunky wools."

An old box in a charity shop drew Erika to crochet initially. "The box was full of the most beautiful, fine pieces of craft work for just a few pence," she remembers. "These pieces weren't treasured, but

considered mere 'women's work'. I was intrigued by this love and endeavour."

She's not sure she was ever formally instructed in crochet. "I don't remember ever being taught," she says. "But what I love about crochet is that it is so easy to get going and you can very quickly create motifs and from these build up a fabric."

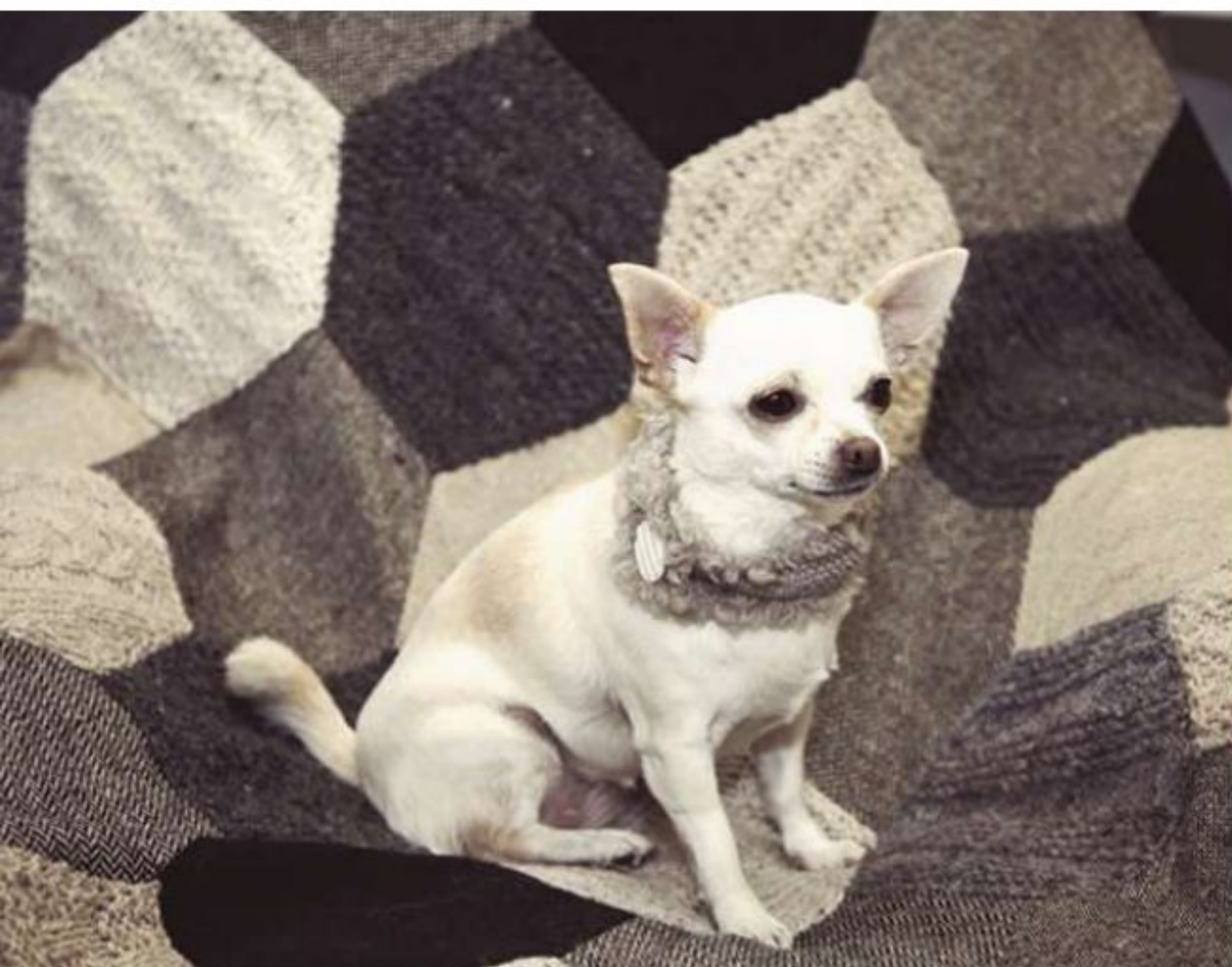
A CREATIVE SPIRIT

Since those early discoveries, Erika has remained in awe of craft practitioners and especially crocheters "who just seem to create instinctively". Her crochet heroes include Sophie Digard, "an obvious choice", and Cécile Balladino of Eclectic Gipsyland. "They've made crochet

contemporary and covetable," Erika says. "But I also owe a debt to those unsung, anonymous women whose beautiful pieces ended up in charity boxes."

After leaving school, Erika went to Brighton to study fine art and believes that time formed the foundation of her output today. "The same elements of design apply to whatever medium you choose, whether it's paint, print, pencil or yarn," she says. "I experimented with 3D and 2D design, and this knowledge of shape and form is integral to designing a garment because one has to consider the body inside it and how it will move."

Erika's earliest experiences of crochet design "were very much trial and error,"



she admits. "Even getting to know about yarns was a very steep learning curve. I was very excited and perhaps a little over enthusiastic when first purchasing wool directly from a mill in Yorkshire – and only later discovered it was surplus yarn left over from the carpet industry!"

Getting to know the yarn was part of her development as a crafter, she says. "Once you understand the yarn, it's

about identifying which stitches will work best for that material – and the purpose of the item," she says. "I think hard-wearing

materials such as string and leather work well for homewares in crochet, but for garments I like soft alpaca and fine linen for drape, shape and stitch definition."

What was the first item she designed? "A vest in a bright ribbon yarn – it was viscose! This was the 1980s – what can I say?" By this point, Erika was already well-known for designing ready-to-wear knitwear, producing two collections a year and showing in London, Paris and Milan, as well as selling to stores. "The crochet vest was part of a collection and it was considered very cool at the time."

SUBTLE CHIC

These days, the viscose and acid brights are gone as Erika draws on her own style preferences. "I like pared-back elegance," she says. "For me, texture is always the starting point of design – whether it be the texture of the material or of the stitch. I enjoy basic motifs in different textures and using any kind of material – from string, to leather, to fabric, to cashmere."

As the author of over 20 crochet and knitwear books, including *Crochet*

Workshop published by Quadrille, the design element remains Erika's favourite part of her work. "Designs are often progressions of what I have done before," she comments. "A new yarn can influence a design, or it might be something outside of the studio – such as visiting an art exhibition. It's only when collating recent experiences and visual material that trends and ideas begin to emerge.

Sometimes a design is instinctive and other times, one wants to set a clear challenge to achieve something a little bit different."

Developing a pattern and a wearable, desirable garment from those initial ideas is a distinct part of the pleasure. "It's all about experimentation!" she exclaims. "I start with a drawing and then try out several swatches of different stitches and yarns or colour to see what works."

The swatching stage is crucial, she advises. "I've learnt that although you may presume a shape or colour will work as a garment, you have to try making it in the yarn," she says. "Each design goes through many stages of reviewing and

modifying. Even then, many don't make it to print – they may not be commercially viable or easily translated to a pattern. In short," she adds, "it's a complex and lengthy process to achieve simplicity."

These days, Erika spends a lot of time at her "quirky studio in Brighton", home to the Erika Knight yarn collection, which she launched in 2012 in a bid to support British manufacturing. "It's a hive of activity where I, with my team, develop yarns and designs. Here, I'm surrounded by my archive and books, ever-growing yarn stash and a small Chihuahua called Winnie. She always comes to the studio."

She says her favourite crochet project is "always the one I'm about to start!" and adds: "I'm currently working on a crochet collection of womenswear garments – something I haven't done before."

Upcoming delights include "more time to design", which she says is "a fabulous outcome" of collaborating with Thomas B Ramsden, who distribute her yarn "and who are the best people to work with". With a strong team behind her and an ever-increasing thirst for craft, Erika is continually challenging herself creatively and enjoying every moment of it.

Interview by Judy Darley

"FOR ME, THE TEXTURE OF THE STITCH OR MATERIAL IS ALWAYS THE STARTING POINT OF A DESIGN."



A FEW OF HER FAVOURITE THINGS

"I really like crocheting and designing on trains. All I need is a hook and a ball of yarn.

I'm an avid Instagrammer and Pinterest pinner, but it takes up much more of my time than is healthy!

I would love to be able to say that I am a great cook or that I enjoy cooking, but I

don't. But I do love to invite friends over – even if they do have to bring the food. I'm very good at table settings!"

You can find out more about what Erika's up to at www.erikaknight.co.uk, and turn to page 16 to find our crochet designs using Erika's own scrummy Fat Maxi Wool.

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PARTY GIRL

Make a flouncy dress with pretty eyelet rounds by Sara Huntington.



Baby dress



YOU WILL NEED

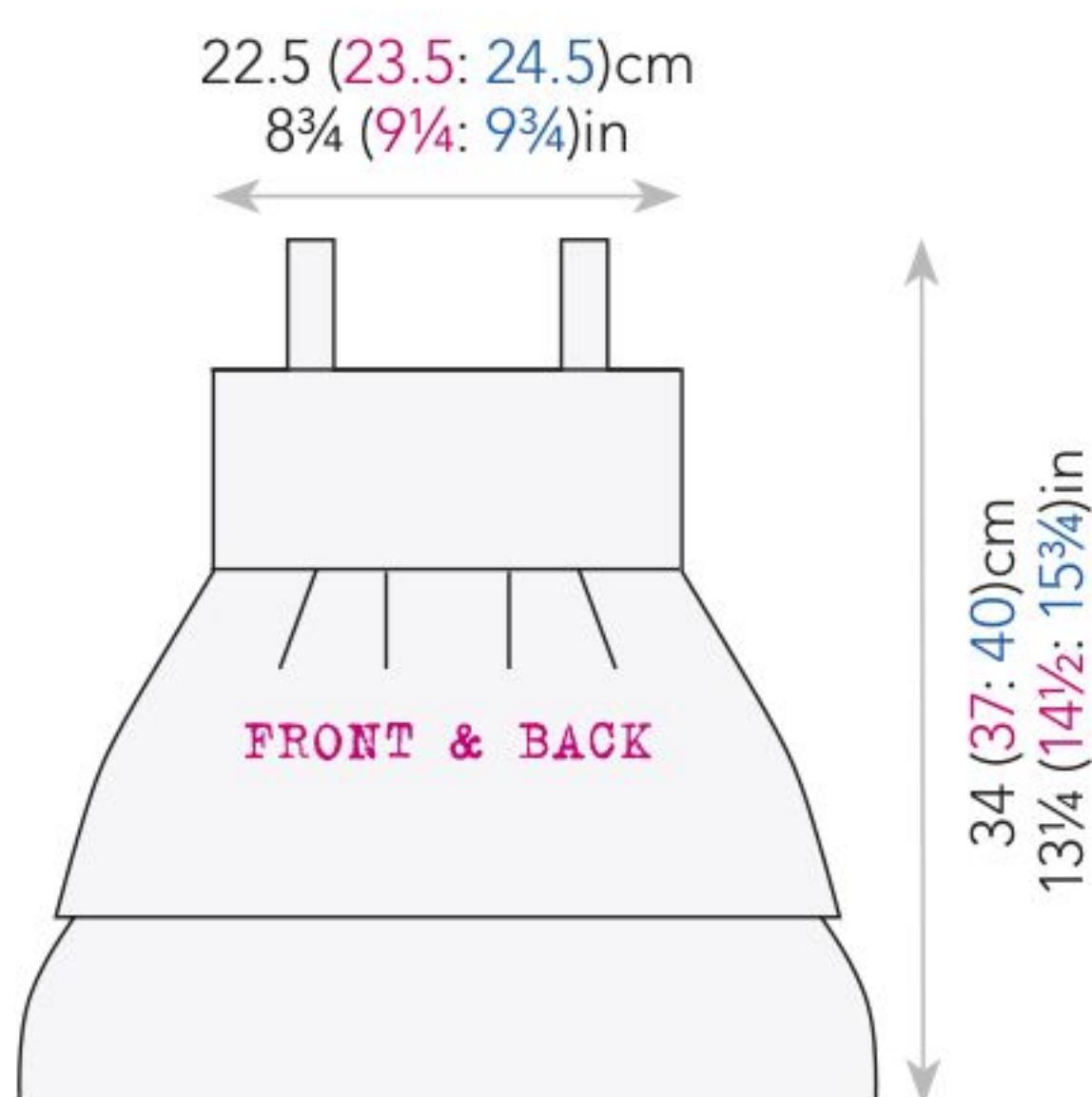
- Debbie Bliss Baby Cashmerino (55% wool, 33% acrylic, 12% cashmere, 50g/125m), 5 balls of Mist (057)
 - A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
 - Ribbon 1m (1yd)
 - 3 small buttons
- For yarn stockists, contact
Designer Yarns 01535 664222
www.designeryarns.uk.com

TENSION

21sts and 24 rows to measure
10x10cm (4x4in) over double
crochet with a 3mm hook or size
needed to obtain tension
19 sts and 11 rows to measure
10x10cm (4x4in) over stitch
pattern with a 3mm hook or size
needed to obtain tension

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.



SIZE (MONTHS)	6-12	12-18	24
TO FIT			
CHEST	cm 43-45.5	45.5-48	50
	in 17-18 3/4	18 3/4-19	19 3/4
ACTUAL			
CHEST	cm 45	47	49
	in 17 3/4	18 1/2	19 1/4
LENGTH			
	cm 34	37	40
	in 13 1/4	14 1/2	15 3/4

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

This versatile frock can be worn on its own or layered over a tee in cooler weather. The super-soft yarn, ribbon detail and tiered skirt make this dress ideal for special occasions.

C DRESS BODICE

The bodice is worked in rows and joined once the buttonholes are done. Ch96 (100: 106).

Row 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in each st to end, turn. [96 (100: 106) sts]

Row 2 Work as Row 1.

Row 3 (Buttonhole row) Ch1, dc in each st to last 2 sts, ch1, skip 1 dc, dc in last st, turn.

Row 4 Ch1, dc in first st, dc in ch-1 sp, dc in each st to end, turn.

Rows 5-8 Work as Row 1.

Row 9 (Buttonhole row) Work as Row 3.

Row 10 Work as Row 4.

Rows 11-14 Work as Row 1.

Row 15 (Buttonhole row) Work as Row 3.

Row 16 Work as Row 4.

JOINING THE BODICE

Round 1 (RS) Overlap short ends of the bodice with the buttonholes on top, so that you can work a dc st through both layers in the first 2 sts. Cont working a dc in each st for the rem sts around, ss to first dc. [94 (98: 104) sts]

Round 2 (Eyelet round) Ch3 (counts as htr and ch1), *skip 1 dc, htr in next dc, ch1; rep from * to end, ss into second ch of beg ch-3.

Round 3 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc into each st and ch around, ss to first dc.

SKIRT

Round 4 (Increase round) Ch3 (counts as tr), *4tr into next dc, tr into next dc; rep from * to last dc, 3 (3: 4) tr into last dc, ss into top of beg ch-3. [234 (244: 260) sts]

Round 5 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr into each st around, ss into top of beg ch-3.

Round 6 (Eyelet round) Ch3 (counts as htr and ch1), *skip 1 tr, htr in next dc, ch1; rep from * to end, ss into 2nd ch of beg ch-3.

Rounds 7-8 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr into each st around, ss into top of beg ch-3.

Round 9 Repeat Round 6.

Rounds 7-9 form the pattern.

Repeat these pattern rounds until skirt



The dress is fastened at the back with three small buttons. These ones match the ribbon.

section measures 14.5 (17: 19.5)cm, ending on a Round 9. **Fasten off.**

UNDERSKIRT

Working behind the sts of 3rd eyelet row from bottom of skirt, rejoin yarn to inside of skirt at back of dress and with RS facing, work 1tr in each missed tr and 1tr into same st as each htr. [234 (244: 260) sts]

Cont in patt for a total of 4 more reps [12 rows]. **Fasten off.** Weave in ends.

STRAPS (MAKE 2)

Ch29 (31: 35), leaving a long tail.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch to end, turn. [28 (30: 34) sts]

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

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

After making first strap, check length. It should measure 14 (15: 16.5)cm long. You may need to adjust hook size or number of sts if it is much different. You may also wish to check fit for length on the child and adjust accordingly, remembering that strap will stretch with the weight of the dress when worn. The top of the bodice should sit snugly underneath the arms. To identify where the straps should go, lie the dress flat with buttonholes at centre back and identify the central st at each armhole side, marking them with stitch markers. There should be 46 (48: 51) sts between each marker on the front and back. Using the tails of yarn, sew each strap to the armhole edge 9 sts away from the marker at both front and back.

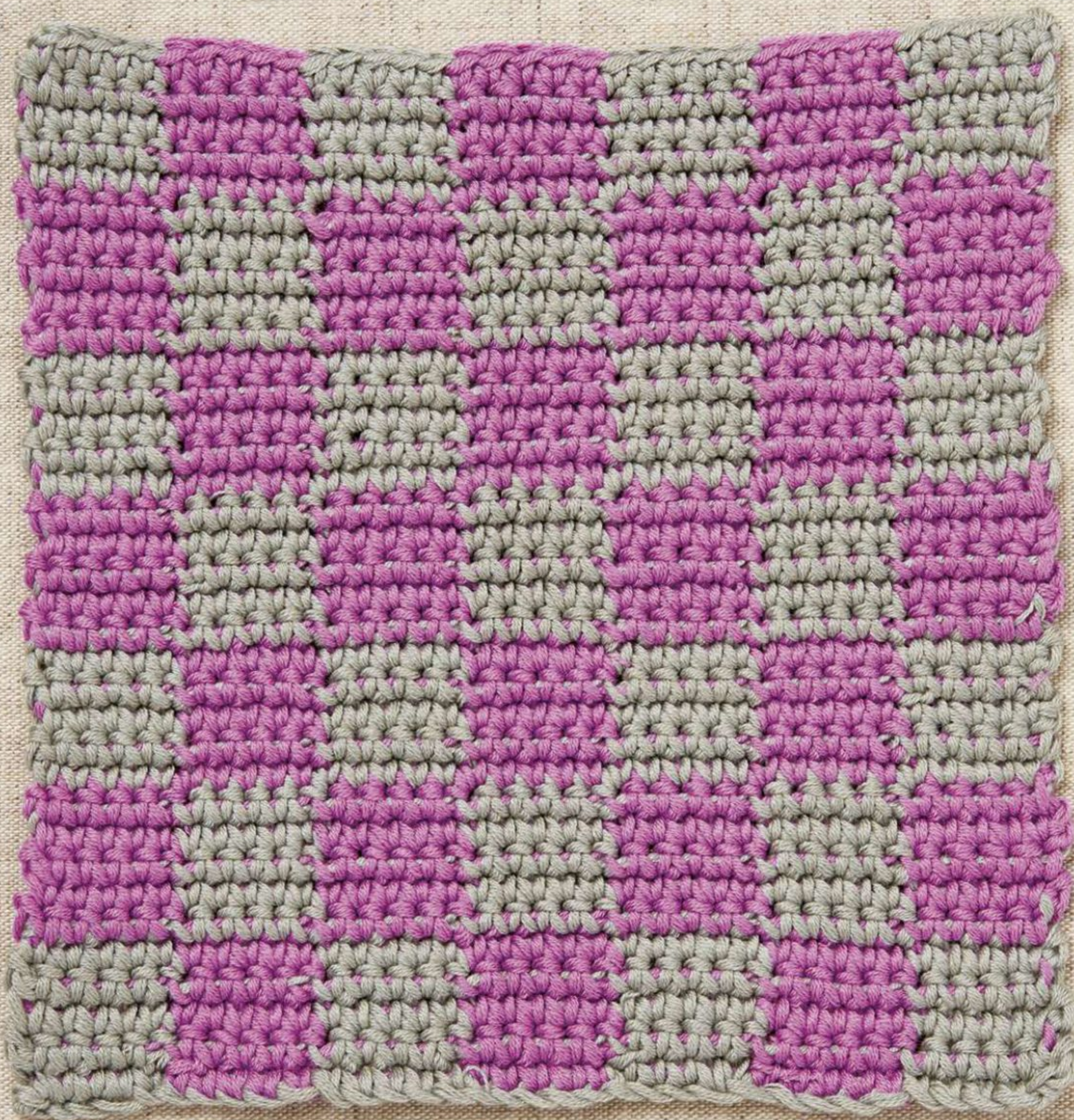
TO FINISH

Sew 3 small buttons on back opening to correspond with buttonholes.

Thread ribbon through eyelet round beneath the bodice and sew ends tog.

PATCHWORK STITCH

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



BASIC PATCHWORK STITCH PATTERN

The pattern is worked with 2 shades of Yarn (Yarn A and Yarn B), and a multiple of 5 sts. When changing to a new shade, pick up the new colour in the last yrh of the prev st, and lay the yarn you are not using over the sts of the prev row to encase it as you work.

With Yarn A, ch a multiple of 5 sts + 1.

We used 36 ch on the sample above.

Row 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in second ch from hook and next 4 ch, *with Yarn B dc in next 5 ch, with Yarn A dc in next 5 ch; repeat from * to end, turn.

Rows 2-5 Ch1, work a dc in Yarn A in every Yarn A stitch of the previous row, and a dc in Yarn B in every Yarn B stitch of the previous row.

Row 6 Ch1, work a dc in Yarn B in every Yarn A stitch of the previous row, and a dc in Yarn A in every Yarn B stitch of the previous row. Rows 2-6 set pattern.

Patterns by Ruth Maddock.

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



Pick two contrasting shades and get busy hooking up our three crafty essentials using pretty patchwork.



Mastered the stitch? This makes a fab last-minute gift for a fellow crafter.



For hooksters, sewists and knitters alike, this design really measures up.

CHEQUERED HOOK ROLL

Keep your crochet essentials neat in a stylish handmade hook roll.

- DMC Natura Just Cotton (100% cotton, 50g/155m), 2 balls of Yarn A Gris Argent (N09), 1 ball of Yarn B Malva (N31)
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook

MEASUREMENTS
22x18cm (8½x7in)

CROCHET HOOK ROLL

With Yarn A, ch56.

For the Outside Cover, follow the Basic Stitch Pattern for a total of 40 rows.

Fasten off Yarn A and dc evenly with Yarn B around the entire edge with 3dc in each corner. **Fasten off.**

For the Hook Holder, work a plain piece of dc in Yarn A, 50 sts by 30 rows.

For the Flap, make another piece of plain dc in Yarn A, 50 sts by 12 rows.

TO MAKE UP

Sew the Hook Holder piece to the outside cover along the bottom and two sides. Work lines of embroidered chain stitch in Yarn A to divide this pocket into separate sections for the hooks.

Sew the Flap along the top edge of the outside cover.

Using Yarn B, make a length of 100dc stitches. Fold this in half and fasten at the halfway point to the centre of the Outside Cover to form the ties.

PATCH PINCUSHION

A pincushion that's really simple to make but looks pretty impressive.

- DMC Natura Just Cotton (100% cotton, 50g/155m), 1 ball of each: Yarn A Gris Argent (N09) Yarn B Malva (N31)
- For yarn stockists, contact DMC 0116 275 4000 www.dmccreative.co.uk
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- Polyester toy stuffing

MEASUREMENTS
9x10cm (3½x4in)

PINCUSHION FRONT

With Yarn A, ch21.

Follow the Basic Stitch Pattern for a total of 20 rows.

Fasten off Yarn A and dc evenly with Yarn B around the entire edge with 3dc in each corner. **Fasten off.**

PINCUSHION BACK

For the Back, make a piece of plain dc in Yarn A, 18 sts by 22 rows.

TO MAKE UP

Sew the Back and Front pieces together, leaving a gap for the stuffing.

Stuff and sew up seam.

For a firmer pin cushion, use a small bag of sand and surround it with stuffing for the filling.

EXCLUSIVE
DISCOUNT
PAGE 37

BATTENBURG TAPE

Put a firm crochet stamp on your tape measure with this cute cover.

- DMC Natura Just Cotton (100% cotton, 50g/155m), 1 ball of each: Yarn A Gris Argent (N09), Yarn B Malva (N31)
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- Square tape measure (approx 5cm/2in square)

MEASUREMENTS
5.5cm (2¼in) square

TAPE MEASURE COVER

With Yarn A, ch11.

For the Front, follow the Basic Stitch Pattern for a total of 10 rows.

Fasten off Yarn A and dc evenly with Yarn B around the entire edge with 3dc in each corner. **Fasten off.**

For the Back, make a piece of plain dc in Yarn A, 9 sts by 12 rows.

For the Side, make a piece of plain dc in Yarn A, 4 sts wide, by the length needed to fit around the tape measure.

TO MAKE UP

Starting at the tape measure opening, sew the Front to the Side piece all around. Sew on the Back, inserting the tape measure before finishing the seam. For the tab pull, make a piece of plain dc in Yarn B, 3 sts by 14 rows. Fold in half and sew along the two sides, enclosing the tape measure tab inside.

WINTER TIME

Deck the halls with a Swiss-inspired cuckoo clock by Becky Garratt.



Cuckoo clock



YOU WILL NEED

- Rico Creative Cotton Aran (100% cotton, 50g/85m), 1 ball of each: Nougat (056), Nature (060), Tangerine (076), Red (005), Cherry (065), Light Pistachio (044), Light Green (040), Green (049); 2 balls of Brown (058)
 - A 4mm (US G/6) hook
 - Toy stuffing
 - Small amount of black felt
- For yarn stockists, contact Rico www.rico-design.co.uk

MEASUREMENTS

30cm (11¾in) wide by 40cm (15¾in) tall, without pine cone weights, 65cm (25½in) tall with pine cone weights

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

Hook a Christmassy wall-hanging decoration that will make you smile year after year. This fun design is all about the details – there are icicles, snow-dusted evergreens, a red-breasted robin and even Father Christmas himself to make. And how about swapping that crochet clock face for a real one? The holidays are coming.

C MAIN PIECE

Using Brown, ch45.

Row 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in the second ch from the hook and in each ch to end, turn. [44 sts]

Rows 2-44 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

Rows 45-61 Ch1, skip next st, dc in each st to last 2 sts, dc2tog, turn. [Decrease by 2 sts on each row, 10 sts after Row 61]

Rows 62-64 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn. **Fasten off.**

BOTTOM BORDER

Join Cherry to bottom-right corner of Main Piece.

Row 1 (RS) 5htr in next st, skip next st, dc in next st, (skip next st, 5htr in next st, skip next st, dc in next st) 10 times. **Fasten off.**

ROOF SIDES (MAKE 2)

Using Cherry, ch8.

Row 1 (RS) 2dc in 2nd ch from hook, 4dc, dc2tog, turn. [7 sts]

Row 2 Ch1, dc2tog, 4dc, 2dc in last st, turn.

Row 3 Ch1, 2dc in first st, 4dc, dc2tog, turn.

Row 4 As Row 2.

Rows 5-22 Repeat Rows 3 and 4.

Row 23 Ch1, 2dc in first st, 4dc, dc2tog. **Fasten off.**

You can make 2 Roof Sides exactly the same, or reverse the shaping on the second piece (Row 1 would be dc2tog, 4dc, 2dc in last st) so that both of the pieces have RS facing.

ROOF TOP

Using Tangerine, ch21.

Row 1 Dc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch to end, turn. [20 sts]

Rows 2-10 Ch1, skip next st, dc in each st to last 2 sts, dc2tog, turn. [Decrease by 2 sts each row, 2 sts after Row 10] **Fasten off.**



Instead of the traditional cuckoo, this festive version of the clock has a resident robin.

CLOCK FACE

After Round 1, work in a spiral without closing off each round with a ss. Use a marker in the first st of the round to help you keep track of rounds.

Using Tangerine, make a magic loop.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Round 8 (2dc, 2dc in next st, 4dc) 6 times. [48 sts]

Round 9 (Skip next st, 5htr in next st, skip next st, dc in next st) 11 times, skip next st, 5htr in next st, skip next st, ss in the first st of the round.

Fasten off.

Use Brown and backstitch to form the clock hands. Sew a circle of felt at the centre over the top of the stitching.

FATHER CHRISTMAS

BODY

Work in a spiral without closing off each round with a ss. Use a marker in the first st of the round to help you keep track. Using Red, ch7.

Round 1 (RS) Dc in the second ch from the hook and in each ch to end, rotate to work into the other side of the foundation ch: dc in other side of each existing st. [12 sts]

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

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

Cuckoo clock

Round 4 (3dc, 2dc in next st) 6 times. [30 sts]
Ss in the next st to smooth the edge.
Fasten off.

BEARD

Work in a spiral without closing off each round with a ss. Use a marker in the first st of the round to help you keep track.
Using Nature, ch6.

Round 1 (RS) Dc in the second ch from the hook and in each ch to end, rotate to work into the other side of the foundation ch, dc in other side of each existing st. [10 sts]

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

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

Round 4 Dc in next st, skip next st, (5htr in next st, skip next st, ss in next st, skip next st) 4 times, 5htr in next st, skip next st, ss in first st of next round. [5 shells]

Fasten off.

HAT

Join Red to the third htr of last shell on the Beard.

Rows 1-2 Ch1 (does not count as a stitch throughout), 8dc, turn.

Rows 3-4 Ch1, skip first st, dc in each st to last 2 sts, dc2tog, turn. [4 sts after Row 4]

Row 5 Ch1, skip first st, 3dc, turn. [3 sts]

Row 6 Ch1, skip first st, 2dc. [2 sts]

Fasten off.

BOBBLE

Using Nature, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) 5htr into loop, ss to first htr to join.

Fasten off and sew onto top of Hat.
Sew the Beard/Hat onto the Body at a jaunty angle and add felt eyes.

TREES

LEFT TREE

Using Light Green, ch9.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in the 2nd ch from the hook and in each ch to end, turn. [8 sts]

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

Rows 3-4 Ch1, skip first st, dc in each st to end, turn. [6 sts after Row 4]

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

Rows 6-7 As Rows 3-4.

[4 sts after Row 7]

Rows 8-9 Ch1, dc in each st to end,

turn.

Change to Nature.

Rows 10-12 Ch1, skip first st, dc in each st to end, turn. **Fasten off.**

With Nougat, join onto 4th st of foundation ch.

Rows 1-4 Ch1, 3dc, turn. **Fasten off.**

MIDDLE TREE

Using Green, ch11.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch to end, 10dc, turn. [10 sts]

Rows 2-7 Ch1 (does not count as a stitch throughout), skip first st, dc in each st to end, turn. [4 sts after Row 7]
Change to Nature.

Rows 8-10 As Row 2. **Fasten off.**

Join Nougat to 5th st of foundation ch.

Rows 1-6 Ch1, 3dc, turn.

Fasten off.

RIGHT TREE

Using Light Green, ch9.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from the hook and in each ch to end, turn. [8 sts]

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

Rows 3-4 Ch1, skip first st, dc in each st to end, turn. [6 sts after Row 4]

Row 5 As Row 2.

Row 6 As Row 3. [5 sts]

Change to Nature.

Rows 7-10 As Row 3. **Fasten off.**

Join Nougat to 4th st of foundation ch.

Rows 1-5 Ch1, 3dc, turn.

Fasten off.

MAIN WINDOWS (MAKE 2)

Using Nature, ch8.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in the second ch from the hook and in each ch to end, turn. [7 sts]

Rows 2-9 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn. **Fasten off.**

SHUTTERS (MAKE 4)

Using Light Pistachio, ch5.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch to end, turn. [4 sts]

Rows 2-11 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn. **Fasten off.**

Using Green, work long straight stitches across the width of each shutter, using the image as a guide.
For the window frames, use Light Pistachio to make a length of ch to fit vertically and horizontally across each window. Sew into place.

Make another length of ch to fit around the outside of each window.
Sew into place.

TOP WINDOW

Using Nature, ch11.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in the second ch from the hook and in each ch to end, turn. [10 sts]

Rows 2-13 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn. **Fasten off.**

For the window frame, use Light Pistachio to make a length of ch to fit around the outside of the window.
Sew into place.

ROBIN

After Round 1 on each piece, work in a spiral without closing off each round with a ss. Use a marker in the first st of the round to help you keep track of rounds.

BODY

Using Nougat, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1, 5dc into loop, ss to first dc to join. [5 sts]

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

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

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

Rounds 5-6 Dc in each st around.

Round 7 (3dc, 2dc in next st) 5 times. [25 sts]

Rounds 8-11 Dc in each st around.

Round 12 (3dc, dc2tog) 5 times. [20 sts]
Stuff.

Round 13 (Dc2tog) 10 times. [2 sts]

Fasten off, top up the stuffing and sew across the gap to close.

BELLY

Using Red, ch6.

Round 1 (RS) Dc in the second ch from the hook and in each ch to end, rotate to work into the other side of the foundation ch, dc in other side of each existing st. [10 sts]

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

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

Ss in next st to smooth the edge.

Fasten off.

Sew the Belly onto the Body. Add circles of felt for eyes. Use Tangerine and straight stitches to sew on a beak.

Cuckoo clock

ICICLES UNDER ROOF

Using Nature:

Row 1 Ch6, 3ss, ch5, 2ss, ch6, 4ss, ch5, 3ss, ch3, 2ss, ch5, 3ss, ch8, 5ss, ch7, 3ss, ch6, 4ss, ch5, 3ss, ch7, 4ss, ch5, 3ss, ch6, 4ss, ch5, 2ss, ch5, 3ss, ch7, 5ss, ch5, 2ss, ch6, 4ss, ch5, 3ss, ch6, 4ss, ch5, 2ss, ch6, 4ss, ch4, 2ss, ch7, 4ss, ch6, 4ss, ch4, 2ss, ch6, 4ss, ch5, 2ss, ch6, 4ss, ch5, 3ss, ch7, 4ss, ch2.

Check that this length will fit under the apex of the roof and add more random ch and ss stitches if necessary.

Row 2 Ss back across the top of this chain. **Fasten off.**

ICICLES UNDER LEFT WINDOW

Using Nature:

Row 1 Ch6, 4ss, ch4, 2ss, ch6, 4ss, ch5, 2ss, ch6, 4ss, ch5, 3ss, ch7, 4ss, ch2.

Check the fit under the window.

Row 2 Ss back across the top of this chain. **Fasten off.**

ICICLES UNDER RIGHT WINDOW

Using Nature:

Row 1 Ch6, 3ss, ch5, 2ss, ch6, 4ss, ch5, 3ss, ch3, 2ss, ch5, 3ss, ch8, 5ss, ch7, 3ss, ch2.

Check the fit under the window.

Row 2 Ss back across the top of this chain. **Fasten off.**

PINE CONES (MAKE 3)

BASE

Work in a spiral without closing off each round with a ss. Use a marker in the first st of the round to help you keep track.

Using Brown, make a magic loop.

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

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

Rounds 3-11 Dc in each st around.

Stuff.

Round 12 (Dc2tog) 6 times. [2 sts]

Top up stuffing.

Fasten off, sewing the gap closed.

OUTER DETAIL

Using Nougat, ch102.

Row 1 (Skip 2 ch, 5tr in next ch, skip 2 ch, dc in next ch) 17 times. **Fasten off.**

Wrap this around the main piece, sewing in place as you go.

TO FINISH

Pin Roof Sides onto the Main Piece so that they follow the roof apex (they might be a little curved before you pin them but they will pull straight). Sew into place. Sew Roof Top across Sides and Main Piece.

Sew Clock Face centrally onto Main Piece so the bottom row is level with Row 9. Sew Father Christmas to the right of the Clock Face. Sew the Trees to the left of the Clock Face, with their trunks on the bottom row of Main Piece.

Sew on the Window and Shutter pieces so that the outside Shutter is about 2 sts in from edge and Shutters sit on Row 31. Place the base of the Windows slightly higher so that there are equal lengths of Shutter above and below each Window.



The three-dimensional pine cone weights have fantastic texture and are fun to hook.

Sew the Top Window into the centre of the space left at the top.
Sew the Robin into the Top Window.

Sew the Icicles onto the bottom of the Roof and under the Windows.

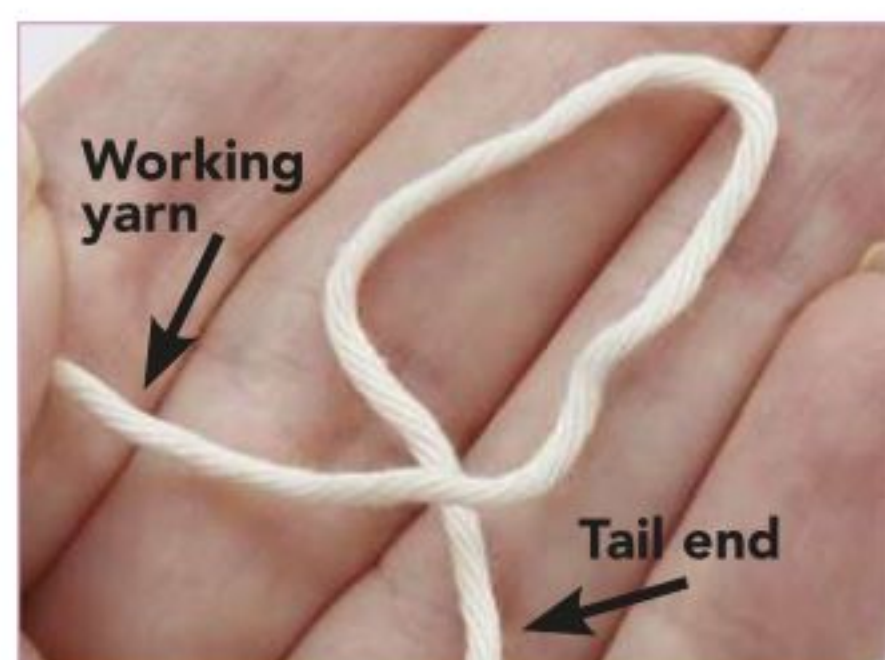
To attach the Pine Cone Weights, use Green and ch25 for the central Pine Cone and ch20 for the outer two Pine Cones. **Fasten off.**

Sew one end of the chain to the Pine Cone and the other end to the Main Piece of the clock. Sew on the central one first, so you can make sure it's in the middle, and then attach the other two on either side.

To hang the clock, use Brown and ch20. Ss back along this ch and **fasten off.** Sew onto the top of the Main Piece at the back, level with the top of the top window.

Weave in any remaining ends.

SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO WORK A MAGIC LOOP



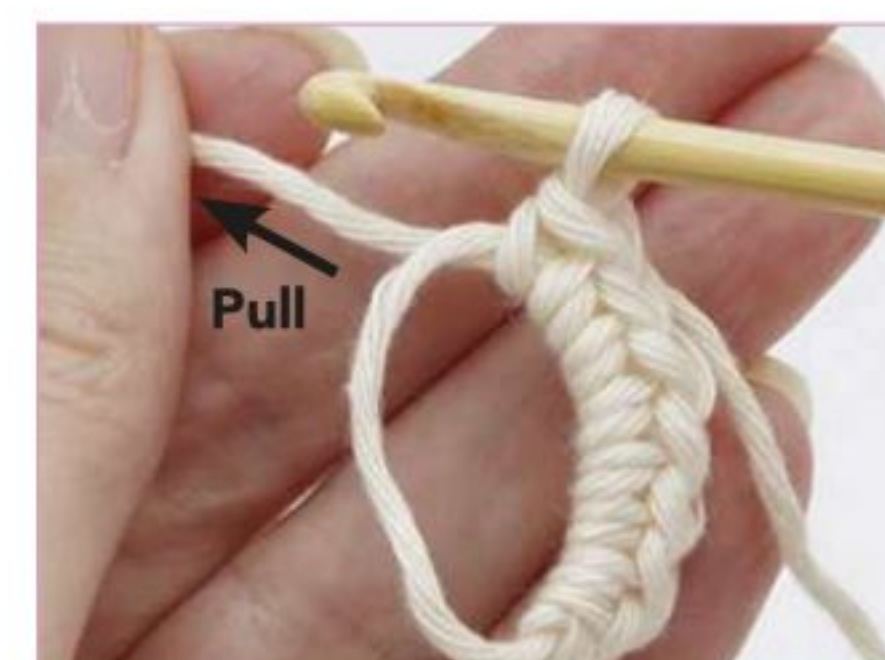
1 To start a Magic Loop, don't make a slipknot. Instead, make a loop with the yarn, leaving a tail around 10cm long. Make sure the tail end is under the working yarn.



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 to join the first and last stitches and finish the first round.

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"Our colours include brights and classics."



A WOOL SPINNER'S DAY

Our yarn choices make a big difference to Britain's spinning industry – and we can all do our bit to help it thrive. We talk to the folks at West Yorkshire Spinners to gain an insight.

Let's be honest, a big chunk of our crafting time is spent lusting after luscious yarns, but have you ever wondered how they get turned from raw fleece into skeins that are ready to become your next crochet project? We spent a very woolly day with West Yorkshire Spinners to find out just that.

West Yorkshire Spinners was founded in 1997 in Oxenhope, a small village just outside Keighley, West Yorkshire. They spun on a commission basis for a variety of companies, then in early 2013 launched their own award-winning yarn label, WYS, using British-bred wool blends such as

Bluefaced Leicester. "Following the textile crash of the early nineties, a large number of manufacturing units were closed, and in many people's eyes this was a strange time to set up a new worsted spinning factory," says Peter Longbottom, Managing Director of West Yorkshire Spinners. "However, we identified that there would now be a gap in the market as very few companies were now actually producing their knitting or crochet yarn in the UK."

KEEPING AN INDUSTRY ALIVE

West Yorkshire Spinners had a broader goal in mind as well, and one we can

heartily get on board with. "To put it bluntly, it's of paramount importance to keep manufacturing in the UK and to keep the worsted spinning industry going," Peter says. "Without the few spinning mills that are left here, the entire skill set would die out in the UK, which would be such a great shame – we used to be world leaders in this field and we have some fantastic knowledge and talent in this area."

He points out that this expertise isn't confined simply to the actual spinning process, but also encompasses "the ancillary activities in the production chain, such as clipping the fleeces, raw material

processing, spinning and dyeing – all these precious skills would be lost!”

As it happens, the timing of their yarn label launch was ideal, with yarn crafts then growing ever more popular in the UK and continuing to do so. Peter comments: “Stitchers are becoming more and more discerning and want to crochet and knit with a product that is produced in the UK using the best quality natural fibres.”

He adds: “Part of the attraction of buying British wool is knowing that the product hasn’t had to clock up any air miles to get to you. Here at West Yorkshire Spinners, our whole operation is carried out within a 40-mile radius, which reduces the yarn’s carbon footprint substantially, allowing you to crochet away with a clean conscience!” In fact, most of West Yorkshire Spinners’ fleeces come from suppliers in Bradford, with the spinner carrying out the remainder of the process,

including spinning, dyeing and balling (or reeling the yarn into skeins), at the factory in Keighley, where West Yorkshire Spinners has been based since 2011.

The goal of keeping their manufacturing firmly in Britain, and being as eco-friendly as possible, is the key to the success of West Yorkshire Spinners. “The main advantage for us is that we have total control over the entire yarn research and development process,” Peter explains. “We’re not beholden to any developments in Turkey and China to make up our product range for us, so we can be really dynamic and react to our customers’ demands, developing a wonderfully unique selection of yarns which stand out from the pack,

and which are designed and produced right here in Great Britain.”

This personal approach is carried through into many other aspects of the yarn company. The total West Yorkshire Spinners workforce comprises only 40

people. “This includes myself and two fellow directors, general production staff who do the spinning and dyeing, production supervisors, our marketing, financial

and administration departments as well as our small sales team,” Peter says.

Sourcing the raw materials is a vital part of the job. “It enables us to select the individual qualities which best fit the different yarns we are producing,” says Peter. “Depending on the yarns being

“WITHOUT THOSE FEW SPINNING MILLS, THE ENTIRE SKILL SET WOULD DIE OUT IN THE UK.”



Opposite: Scrummy Signature 4ply yarn by West Yorkshire Spinners in the Spice Rack colour palette. **This page, clockwise from left:** The Muratec Murata machine cleverly maintains an even diameter of yarn; bundles of wool tops waiting to be processed; the natural, undyed range of 100% Bluefaced Leicester wool.



produced, most of our raw materials are sourced locally where possible. The varied landscapes of the UK give British wool a unique variety and versatility."

This includes beautifully soft wool from specific breeds such as Bluefaced Leicester, one of Peter's personal favourites. "People are starting to realise that the quality of these British breeds is on a par with some of the finest breeds in the world."

DAY-TO-DAY

As managing director, Peter's working day is long and varied, beginning when he arrives at the factory at 7.45am. But how would he describe the factory environment to someone who's never been there? "I think many people have the wrong impression of a spinning and dyeing factory," he says. "Some people still have

'the dark satanic mill' concept in their minds. I must say, when I take visitors around the factory, they are amazed at all the high-tech machinery all together on one floor. They also comment regularly on how clean the plant looks."

Peter begins his morning with a walk around the factory with the production director, "to establish that all the machinery is working correctly and there are no absentees. We then have a look at the production and dye house schedule and plan accordingly what we are producing".

At present, one of Peter's main activities is controlling the cash flow and watching the currency as it fluctuates. "My day is not planned out, as such, unless there are appointments or meetings already in the diary," he says. "When you're running a

business like ours, there are many factors that need constant control and attention, including research and development for new products, and production control with set meetings if necessary."

Peter is also responsible for overseeing all the duties associated with ensuring the raw wool is dealt with and delivered on time and at the desired quality, including purchasing the raw materials, "for which you have to watch the markets very closely," Peter explains.

The early stage processing of the raw fleece involves sorting, washing and combing, and this is all carried out by specialists in nearby Bradford before arriving at the WYS factory in the form of a web of wool known as a top. "Then we can take care of the rest of the process!"

Quality control is a vital part of yarn production. "Many checks have to be put into place and done on a regular basis. The factory machinery has got to be monitored very closely and if any parts of it need

"THE SORTING, WASHING AND COMBING OF THE FLEECE IS CARRIED OUT NEARBY."

BRITISH WOOL

some special attention or maintenance then that has to be planned in."

Staffing is also important, with shift patterns changing on a regular basis to meet the fluctuations in demand for the processed yarn. "One of my main challenges here is to carefully maintain the momentum on our production and delivery programmes, to ensure that our customers are not let down on late or unfulfilled orders of our yarns."

READY TO HOOK

So how is the fleece transformed into scrumptious yarn that's ready to be

crocheted or knitted with? "Once the material arrives in the form of tops, we then draw or gill the material ready for the next operation, which is spinning, followed by automatic winding and twisting."

The twisted yarn is then ready to be dyed and printed "in a fantastic array of colours, which includes brights, naturals, neutrals and some of the more classic colourways, too".

It's a hugely satisfying job, Peter tells us. "To develop a new product from scratch, watch it evolve and eventually see it launched into the market place and be well-received by our customers is truly wonderful," says Peter.

"Our main criteria at West Yorkshire Spinners is to develop products that are unique and contain something different. We also work hard to ensure as much as possible that everyone involved with the process of producing the yarn, from raw fleece to your local yarn shop, gets a fair deal along the way."

With such a positive ethos in mind, the future of the British spinning industry promises to remain secure, with those diverse and vital skill sets continuing to be passed on to the next generation of spinners. As a result, crocheters can enjoy wonderful wool, sourced, spun and dyed in Britain for years to come – a thought which makes us very happy indeed.

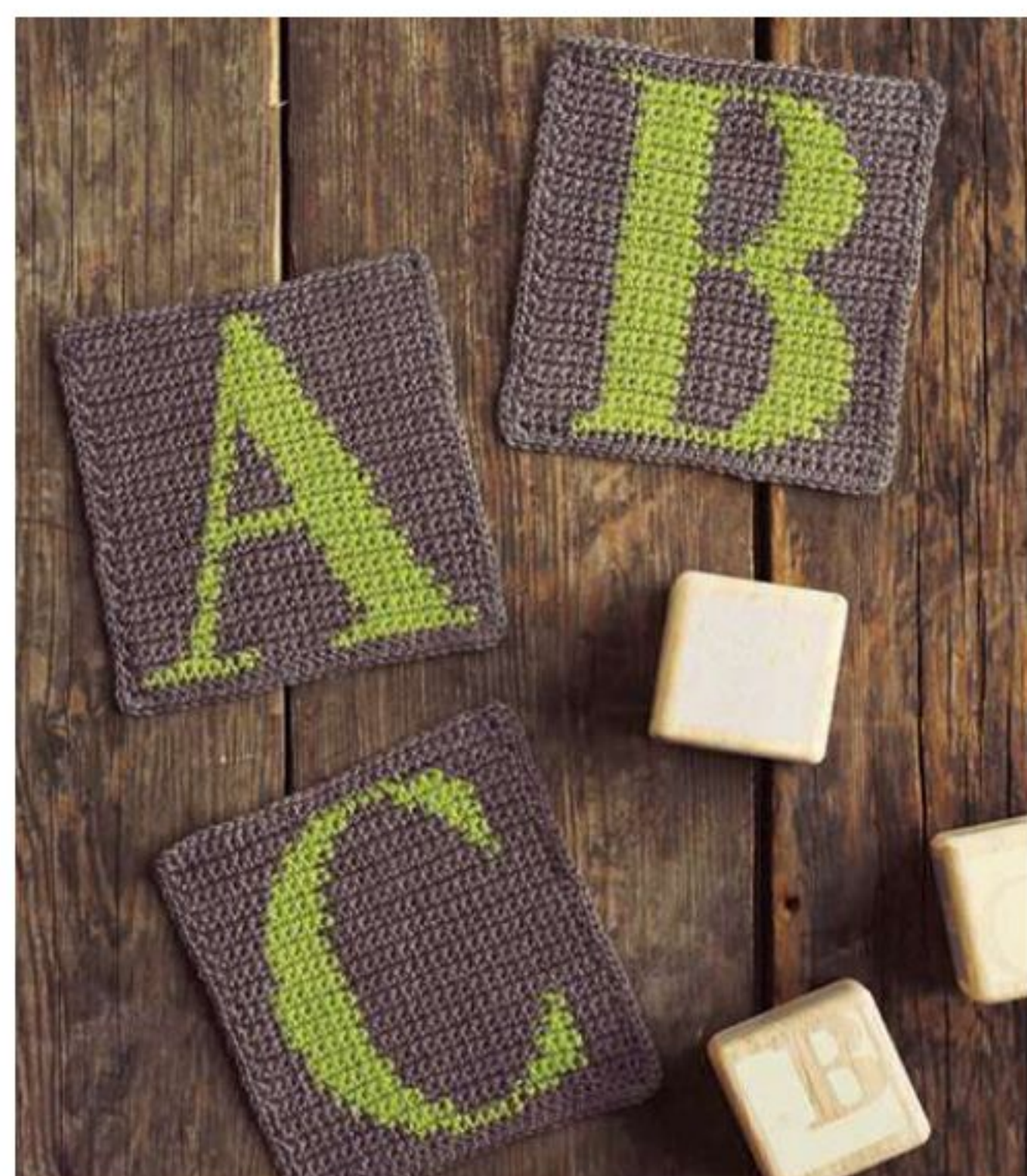
Visit www.wyspinners.com to check out their selection of beautiful British yarns.

Written by Judy Darley

"OUR VARIED LANDSCAPES GIVE BRITISH WOOL A UNIQUE VARIETY AND VERSATILITY."

Opposite: WYS Signature 4ply yarn is blended with 35% Bluefaced Leicester wool.

Clockwise from below left: In *Simply Crochet* issue 27, we got creative with WYS Signature 4ply to make fab monograms; 100% Bluefaced Leicester DK in new season shades; sweet shop shades of WYS Signature 4ply.



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is coming

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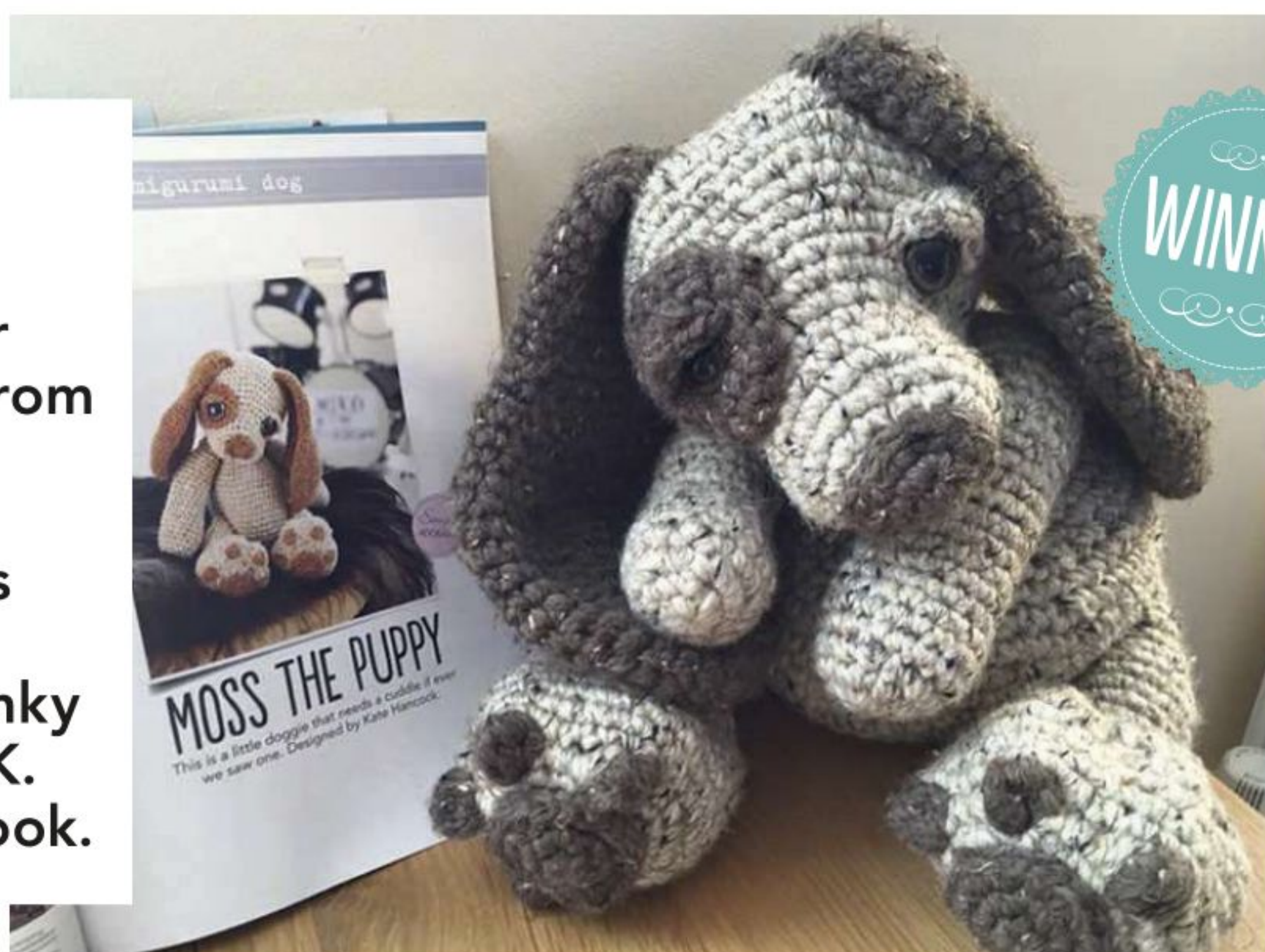
Baubles Pattern
by Jane Crowfoot

SHOW US YOURS!

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

PERFECT PUP

Do you remember Moss the Puppy from issue 22? What a cutie. Reader Zoe Webb hooked this bigger, cuddlier version using chunky yarn instead of DK. Shared via Facebook.



THIS MONTH WE ASKED YOU...

What's your fave
yarn for hooking
in autumn?

"Caron Simply Soft is my all-time favourite. It really is very soft, worsted weight, perfect for afghans and I never have trouble finding the beginning of the yarn. Plus it rarely has tangles."

Mary Whisler Maxwell via Facebook

WHAT A FOX

▼ @Claredare has made the Henry J. Fox amigurumi toy from issue 35 as a gift for a little one. We think he looks especially dapper in those dreamy blues. Fantastic. Shared with us via Twitter.



▲ Keen stitcher Jorina Twigt has created a truly stunning rainbow accessory using the Sea Glass motif shawl pattern from *Simply Crochet* issue 33. It looks like it will be a joy to wear. She shared this lovely pic with us on Facebook.

THE LOWDOWN

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





TOTALLY VEG-TASTIC

Hookster Emily Forrester has been busy crocheting The Hooky Harvest Bunch for her village flower show. Don't her fruit and veg look amazing? The patterns are from our special amigurumi booklet that came with issue 35, although the mushroom is a very cute extra. Turn to page 94 for more details about *Simply Crochet* back issues.

GRANNY COOL

Amanda Benham favoured brights over pastels to make her fab rainbow blanket from issue 30. Via email.



DOUBLE TAP

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



DOUBLE IT

For her twin girls, @jackandvioletcrochet hooked the Sugar and Spice cardigan from issue 32 in two different colour palettes – ace.



BIG SPLASH

Don't you think this Humpback Harry toy looks right at home by the bathtub? @bowdle_1 made him using issue 30's amigurumi whale pattern.



IN THE BAG

Wow – we almost didn't recognise this flowery bag from issue 26. Nice work @ladybirddiaries, these colours are marvellous.

TALK TO US!



Post a pic on our Facebook page facebook.com/simplycrochetmag



Tweet us @SimplyCrochet_ twitter.com/SimplyCrochet_



Add to our Finished Projects board ravelry.com/groups/simply-crochet



Use the hashtag #SCtreblemaker instagram.com/simplycrochetmag

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

Email us at:
simplycrochet@immediate.co.uk

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Rupert Reindeer by
Amanda Berry



FANCY YARNS

Stitch with luxurious fibres and a hint of sparkle.

TREE MOTIF

Ch4, ss to first ch to form a ring.

Round 1 Ch3 (counts as tr), 2tr into ring, ch3, 3tr into ring, ch3, 3tr into ring, ch3.

Ss to top of beg ch-3.

Round 2 Ss into next 2 sts and next ch-3 sp, ch3 (counts as tr), (2tr, ch2, 3tr) into same ch-3 sp, ch2, (3tr, ch2, 3tr) into next ch-3 sp, ch2, 3tr into next ch-3 sp, ch5, ss into 3rd ch from hook, ch2, 3tr into same ch-3 sp, ch2, ss to top of beg ch-3.

Fasten off.

TRUNK

Row 1 Rejoin yarn with a ss into ch-2 sp at bottom of triangle. Ch4, 2dtr.

Fasten off and weave in ends.



ADD A TREE TO
YOUR CARDS OR
GIFT WRAP



YARN REVIEWS

CASHMERED CASHMERED

WEIGHT 3ply
CONTENT 100% cashmere
BALL 25g/160m
HOOK 3mm
RRP £13.95



Cashmered only produce one yarn but oh, what a yarn: decadent 100% cashmere, in an unusual 3ply weight that's perfect for fine, exquisite garments and accessories. It's available in a punchy palette of 22 wearable shades, not just tame pastels.

Watching those pennies? A little bit of luxury can go a long way. We like the idea of giving a single ball of this fancy fibre to a crafty friend, rather than splurging on a whole project's worth.
www.cashmered.net
01242 256797

ALPACA SELECT CUSCO FINE

WEIGHT 4ply
CONTENT 100% alpaca
BALL 50g/170m
HOOK 3mm
RRP £5.95



100% pure Peruvian alpaca fibre makes this an incredibly soft 4ply. The yarn has a fine, fuzzy halo and feels very light. It comes in a selection of 38 stunning colours. There are solid neutrals and brights to choose from, as well as a handful of multi-tonal,

twisted shades. We'd use this yarn to make a dainty pair of mittens or a bright beret. Cusco is also available in DK weight, in both natural and dyed shades. This yarn should be washed by hand.
www.alpacaselect.co.uk
024 7641 1776

THE FIBRE COMPANY KNIGHTSBRIDGE

WEIGHT DK
CONTENT 65% baby llama, 25% merino, 10% silk
BALL 50g/110m
HOOK 4mm
RRP £12



A handful of colourful fibres are blended together before being spun into this yarn, resulting in a heathered effect that looks and feels luxurious. It has a delicate halo, a plied construction and is a fairly generous DK weight. The silk in the mix

provides an understated sheen and soft drape, while the llama and merino fibres keep things cosy. A cowl or wrap hooked in this yarn would be beautiful. It comes in 14 sophisticated colours.
www.thefibreco.com
07749 466037

STYLECRAFT CABARET

WEIGHT DK
CONTENT 98% premium acrylic, 2% polyester
BALL 100g/230m
HOOK 4mm
RRP £4.95



For glamorous sparkle without the glamorous price tag, Stylecraft's Cabaret is the yarn to go for. The single-ply DK is wound with a fine metallic thread that catches the light, but the real magic of this yarn is the impressive array of rainbow colour

options. Take your pick from six variegated prints. Each of the prints is paired with a co-ordinating metallic thread and boasts a palette of at least three different shades. It's even machine washable.
www.stylecraft-yarns.co.uk
01535 609798

LOTUS YARNS HANDSPUN CASHMERE

WEIGHT Aran
CONTENT 100% cashmere
SKEIN 50g/110m
HOOK 5mm
RRP £34.95



As the name suggests, this super-soft yarn is spun by hand. It's made with plush, 100% Mongolian cashmere and has a rustic, thick and thin texture. This may well be one of the priciest yarns we've reviewed, but the

quality is definitely there. We'd reserve this yarn for extra-special projects only, such as a wrap or shawl for a winter bride. Take your pick from 17 chic, solid shades.
www.intercontinentalyarns.co.uk
01535 664222

LION BRAND GOLD LEAF

WEIGHT Super chunky
CONTENT 90% acrylic, 10% wool
BALL 75g/45m
HOOK 9mm
RRP £5.50



Lion Brand's Gold Leaf is generously daubed with strokes of shining gold or silver foil. This unusual super chunky yarn has a plied, rope-like construction. It's plump and soft with a little bit of wool in the mix for

extra warmth. We reckon this yarn would be a great choice for making speedy slippers, cowls, mittens or other gifts. There are seven dramatic colourways to choose from.
www.lovecrochet.com
0845 544 2324



PUFFS AND POPCORNS

Follow our step-by-step guide to add extra dimension to your crochet with textured popcorn and puff stitches.

WHAT COULD I LEARN?

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

Textured crochet stitches are one of the joys of hooking yarny fabrics. You can combine all sorts of stitches to create infinite effects of tempting texture in your fabric. This issue, we'll show you just how easy it is to work puff stitches and popcorn stitches. Once you've practised the techniques, you can use these simple stitches to create our adorable little popcorn Christmas tree on page 85, topped with a puff stitch flower.



PUFF STITCHES

These smooth stitches use a technique similar to working half trebles, so it will help to know how to work half trebles before trying puff stitches. They look similar on the front and back of the fabric.



POPCORN STITCHES

These big, bumpy stitches use trebles, so you'll need to know how to work trebles before trying popcorn stitches. You can work them so they 'pop' out on the front or back of the fabric.

WHICH STITCH SHOULD I USE?

Take your pick from these four 'lumpy' stitches...

There are various ways to create clumps and bumps in crochet fabric. The four most-used methods are puff stitches **01**, popcorns **02**, clusters **03** and bobbles **04** (which we showed you how to work in issue 13's workshop). Each stitch creates a slightly different look, making each one better for certain projects and stitch patterns.

Each stitch uses a different technique to pack several stitches or part stitches into the width of one stitch, which tends to raise up away from the fabric. Once you finish working each of these textured stitches, you'll have one stitch to work into on the next row or round, so counting stitches is easy!

Cluster and bobble stitches are both worked using part trebles. Start a treble in the



01



02



03



04

usual way: *yrh, insert hook in next st, yrh, pull up loop, yrh, pull through first 2 loops (2 loops on hook). Without finishing the previous part treble, work more part tr in the same way from *, into the same stitch. To work a cluster, you usually need to

work 3 part tr. For a bobble, work 6 part tr (or follow the instructions in your pattern). To finish the stitch, yrh, pull through all loops on hook. For a bobble stitch, you also need to work ch1 to secure it and form a neat st to work into on the next row.

HOW DO I MAKE PUFF STITCHES?

Master this strokeable stitch with these simple steps.

To practise puff stitches, make one row of 16 treble stitches (so ch18, work a treble into the 4th chain from the hook and in each chain to the end). On the second row, make the 3-ch t-ch. Now work a puff stitch into the top of the next stitch on the row below, as follows:

*Work yrh, insert hook into next stitch, yrh and pull up a loop of yarn (3 loops on hook). Bring the loop of yarn up to the same height as a treble stitch (match the height of the turning chain and you should be fine) 01.

Now repeat from * twice more. You should have 7 loops on the hook. Now work one more yrh 02 and pull this through all the loops on the hook 03. To secure the stitch, chain 1 (yrh and pull through one loop) 04. Your puff stitch will be complete and you'll be ready to work your next puff stitch.** To do this, repeat from * to ** but skip one stitch on the row below and work into the following stitch – this will help to space out your puff stitches.

In this swatch, we're going to count both the puff stitch top loop and the ch1 as stitches, so each puff stitch will count as 2 sts and skipping a stitch on the row below after each puff stitch will maintain the same stitch count. Some patterns may only count the ch1 as a stitch so follow the instructions in the pattern you're working with.

Make more puff stitches in the same way to the end of the row (make 7 puff stitches), then work a plain treble stitch into the top of the turning chain on the row below 05. You'll see how the stitches look like little puffs of yarn – if you lie your fabric flat, the puffs should stand out a little from the treble stitches in the fabric.

Turn your work and then you can either make another row of puff stitches in the same way, or work a plain row of 16 treble stitches like

we did. From the wrong side of the fabric 06, you'll see that the puff stitches look very similar, so you can work them on the right side or wrong side of your fabric – very handy!

In a pattern, you'll usually see a puff stitch like the one above written as follows: (Yrh, insert hook in next stitch, yrh, pull loop of yarn through stitch) 3 times, yrh, pull through all loops on hook.

This sort of puff stitch has 3 repeats, which means you pulled a loop of yarn through the stitch on the row below 3 times. You can make larger puff stitches by increasing the number of times you work this part of the technique.

Use the swatch you've already started to practise working a puff stitch that has 4 repeats. Start the next RS row with the 3-ch t-ch, then work a puff stitch into the top of the next stitch on the row below, as follows: (Yrh, insert hook in stitch, yrh, pull loop of yarn through stitch) 4 times. You should have 9 loops on the hook. Remember to pull the loops of yarn up to the same height as a treble stitch. Yrh, pull through all loops on hook. Chain 1.

Now work yrh, skip 1 stitch and work another 4-repeat puff stitch into the next stitch. Continue in this way to the end of the row (make 7 puff stitches), and work a plain treble stitch into the top of the turning chain on the row below. Turn and make a row of 16 treble sts.

Then try making a row of puff stitches with 5 repeats – simply work each puff stitch in the same way as before, but repeat the bracketed section 5 times instead of 4 times, as follows: (Yrh, insert hook in stitch, yrh, pull loop of yarn through stitch) 5 times. You'll notice that the puff stitches get larger and closer together, which creates a slightly different effect in your fabric 07.



01



02



03



04



05



06



07

HOW DO I WORK POPCORN STITCHES?

Here's how to work stitches that 'pop' out of your fabric.

These little stitches are so much fun, they 'pop' right out of your fabric. The small bumps look similar to bobble stitches, but you can work them using any stitch, even double crochet, so you can create much smaller bumps. We're going to show you how to work them using treble crochet. You can make popcorn stitches on right side or wrong side rows, so that they 'pop' out of the front or the back of your fabric. We'll show you how to work both types so that the bumps only show on the front or right side of the crochet fabric.

To practise working popcorns, make one row of 14 treble stitches (so ch16, work a treble into the 4th chain from the hook and in each chain to the end). On the second row, make the 3-ch t-ch and work a treble into the next stitch. Now work a **front popcorn stitch** into the top of the next stitch on the row below, as follows:

*In the next stitch, work 5 whole treble stitches as usual **01**. After the final treble is finished, carefully remove the hook from the working loop. ^ Insert the hook into the top of the first treble you made in this group of 5 trebles. Make sure you insert the hook into the loop from front to back **02**. Insert the hook back into the working loop **03** and pull it through the top of the first stitch **04**. Finish the stitch by making 1 chain – this will form the top of the stitch that you'll work into on the next row.

Space out your popcorn stitches by a working plain treble into the next two stitches. Then you can work a popcorn stitch into the next stitch in the same way as before, repeating from *. Continue the row in this way and make 4 popcorn stitches in total **05**.

These popcorn stitches will all pop out on the front of the work as you make them, so if you work them on the right side they will 'pop' out of the front of the work. To make popcorn stitches that will 'pop' out on the reverse side of the work as you make them, you will need to work a **back popcorn stitch**.

To do this, turn your work, make the 3-ch t-ch and treble into the next stitch. Now work a back popcorn stitch into the next stitch (this will be the ch1 part of the popcorn stitch on the row below, don't work into the popcorn stitch loop that lies next to it). Now work in the exact same way as the front popcorn stitch above, from * **06**, but when you reach ^, you need to insert the hook from back to front, into the top of the first of the 5 trebles you made **07**, then back into the working loop **08** and pull through **09**. Chain 1 to complete the stitch, then work more back popcorn stitches and trebles across the rest of the row as before. Turn and you'll find that this gives you two rows of popcorn stitches that all 'pop' out on the front or right side of the fabric **10**. Now try making our Christmas tree project...



Written by Becky Skuse

Mini Christmas tree



YOUR NEXT STEPS!

Perfect your pretty popcorn stitches by making our cute Christmas tree.

PINE SO FINE

Becky Skuse's dinky evergreen creation will have you hooking textured stitches lickety-split.

Mini Christmas tree



EASY-PEASY
TO MAKE



DK
WEIGHT



3MM
4MM

YOU WILL NEED

- Adriafile Classic Mirage DK (55% wool, 45% acrylic, 50g/125m), 1 ball of each:
Green (85),
Red (17)

- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook

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

MEASUREMENTS

Tree measures 8cm (3in) tall
without flower

ABBREVIATIONS

Picot Ch2, ss to first ch

Puff stitch (Yrh, insert hook in stitch, yrh, pull up a loop) 3 times working into the same stitch as indicated, yrh, pull through all loops on hook

Popcorn stitch Work 5tr into the next stitch, carefully remove working loop from hook, insert hook in top of first of the 5 tr from front to back, insert hook back into working loop and pull through the first tr, ch1 to secure popcorn. (On following rounds, work sts into the ch1 part of the popcorn stitch, not into the treble loops of the popcorn stitch.)

For a full list, see page 92.

Designer Becky Skuse says: "I love working with textured stitches and popcorns are perfect for creating the bobbly texture of a tree. Leave it plain to add a touch of greenery to your home or desk all year round, or add the puff stitch poinsettia to the top for a festive feel. The flower is quick and simple to crochet so you can use it to decorate other projects or even a real Christmas tree! You could try making it in yellow yarn to form a star shape." This mini make will help you master popcorn stitches and get you in a festive mood.

NOTES

Tree uses 12g of yarn, Flower uses less than 2g of yarn.

To make a larger tree, simply add more rounds in the pattern as set.

To make a larger flower, use a 4mm hook instead.

C POPCORN CHRISTMAS TREE

Using Green and 4mm hook, make a magic loop.

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

Round 2 Ch3 (counts as first tr throughout), tr into st at the base of ch, 2tr into each remaining dc around. [8 tr]

Round 3 Ch3, popcorn st in next st, (tr in next st, popcorn st in next st) around, ss to the top of the beginning ch-3. [4 popcorn sts, 4 tr]

Round 4 Ch1, (dc in next st, 2dc in next st) around, ss to first dc. [12 dc]

Round 5 Work as given for Round 3. [6 popcorn sts, 6 tr]

Round 6 Ch1, (2dc in next st, dc in each of next 2 sts) around, ss to the first dc. [16 dc]

Round 7 Work as given for Round 3. [8 popcorn sts, 8 tr]

Round 8 Ch1, (dc in each of next 3 sts, 2dc in next st) around, ss to the first dc. [20 dc]

Round 9 Work as given for Round 3. [10 popcorn sts, 10 tr]

Round 10 Ch1, (2dc in next st, dc in each of next 4 sts) around, ss to the first dc. [24 dc]

Round 11 Work as given for Round 3. [12 popcorn sts, 12 tr]

Round 12 Ch1, (dc in each of next 5 sts, 2dc in next st) around, ss to the first dc. [28 dc]

Fasten off and weave in ends.



Forget the traditional star or angel – this tree is topped with a pretty poinsettia bloom.



The popcorn tree is completely hollow, ready to be filled up with tasty festive treats.

POINSETTIA FLOWER

Using Red and 3mm hook, make a magic loop, leaving a long tail.

Round 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), 10dc into the loop, ss to the first dc. [10 dc]

Round 2 (Ch2, puff st in next dc, picot, ch2, ss to next dc) 5 times, working final ss into dc at base of beg ch-2. [5 petals]

Fasten off and weave in end.

Use long tail from the magic loop to sew the flower to the top of the tree.

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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.

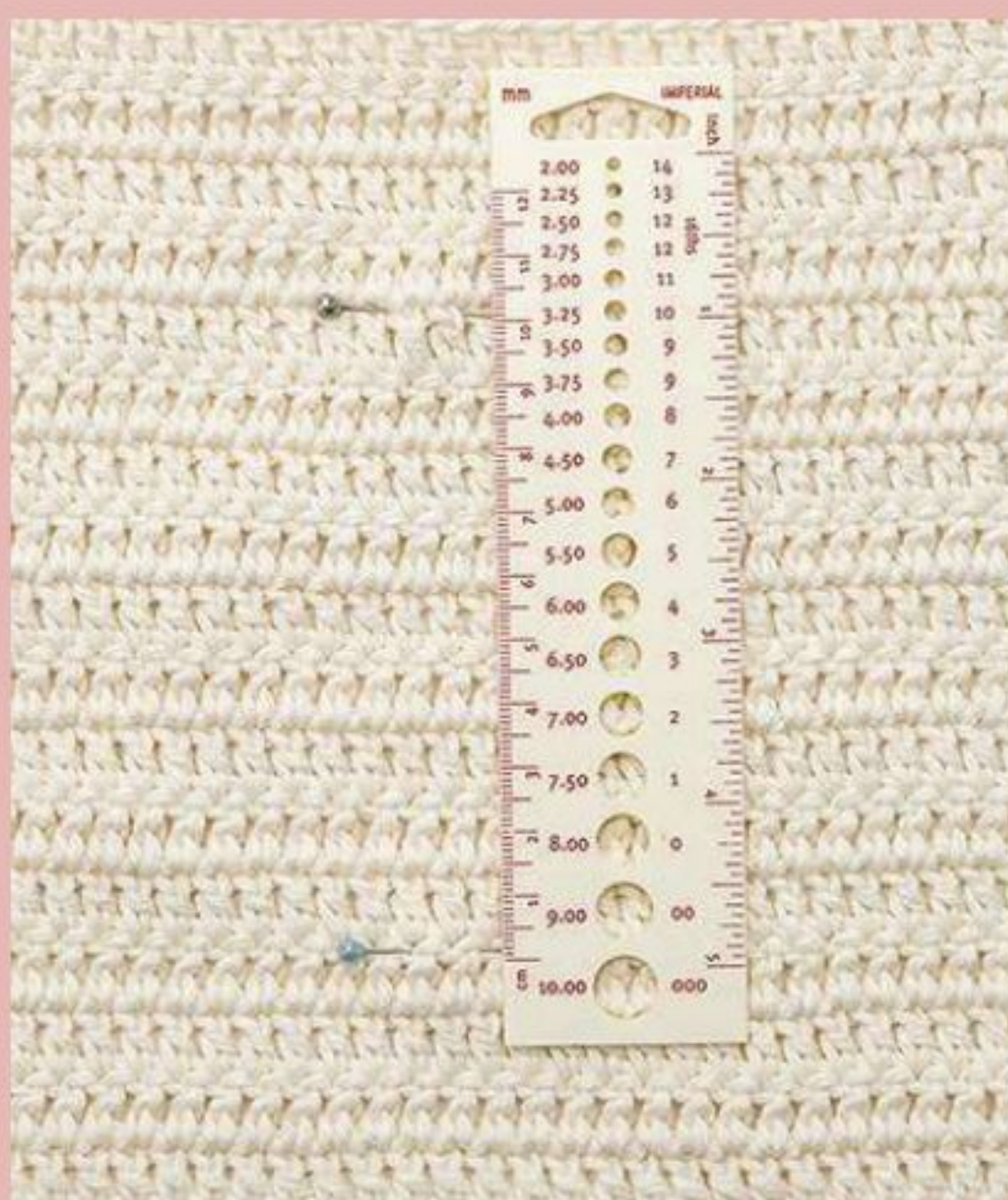


4 A useful variation on the dc seam, the dc and chain seam is used when less bulk and/or greater flexibility is needed. Work 1 double crochet and 1 chain alternately.

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.



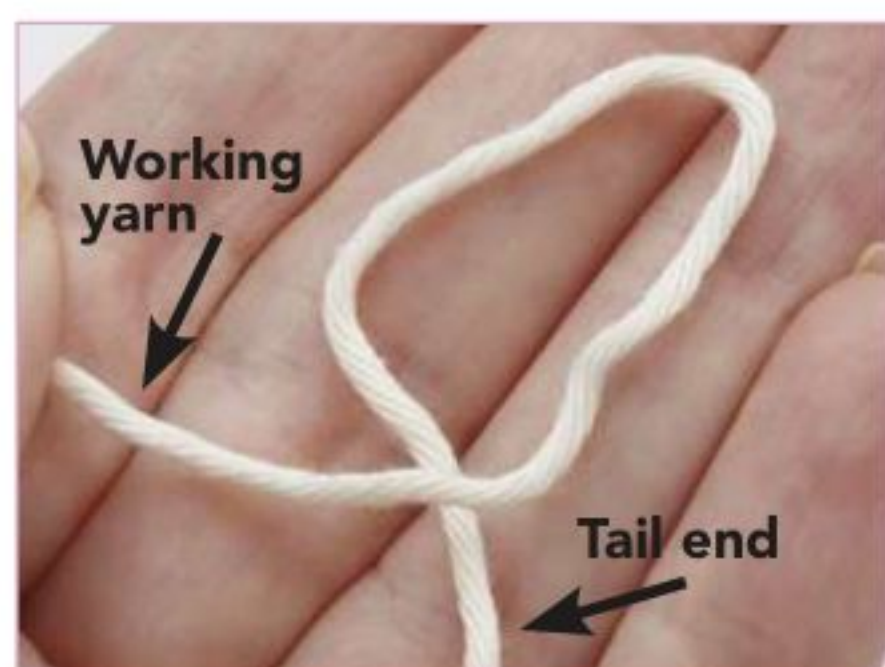
1 Make a foundation ring and work the t-ch (3ch for treble sts). Work a treble st as usual, but insert hook into centre of ring. For treble sts, yrh, insert hook into ring.



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.



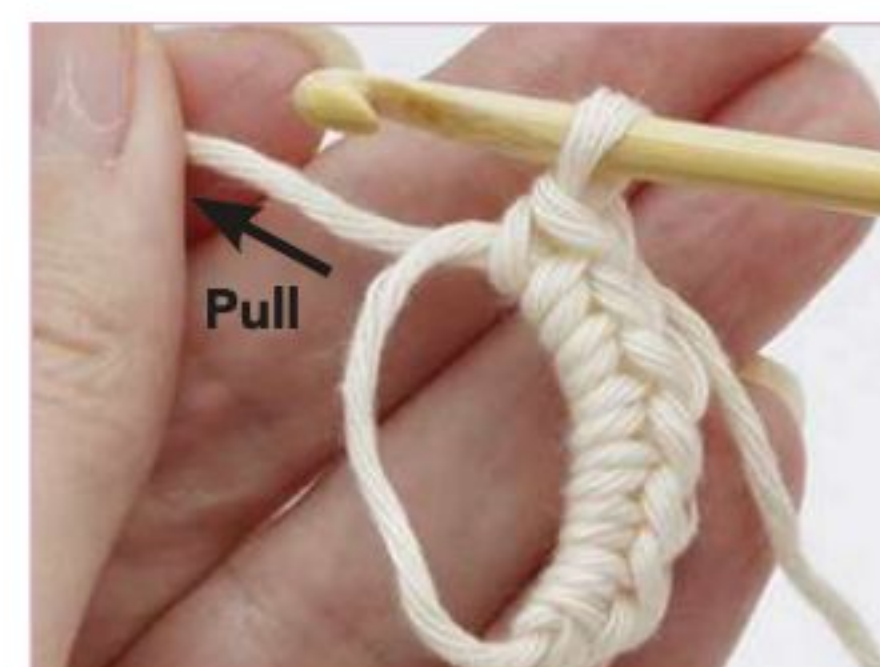
1 To start a Magic Loop, don't make a slipknot. Instead, make a loop with the yarn, leaving a tail around 10cm long. Make sure the tail end is under the working yarn.



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 the same stitch
beg	beginning	inc	increase
bl	insert hook under back loop only	LH	left hand
BPtr	Back Post treble: yrh, starting from the back, insert hook from back to front to back around post of st in row below, complete as treble st	lp(s)	loop(s)
ch(s)	chain/chain stitch(es)	meas	measures
ch-sp(s)	chain space(s)	p or pc	picot
ch-	refers to ch made previously, eg. ch-3	patt(s)	pattern(s)
cl(s)	clusters	pm	place marker
4-tr cl	(yrh, insert hook in sp/st, yrh & pull up loop, yrh & draw through 2 loops) 4 times, inserting hook in same sp/st, yrh & draw through all loops on hook	prev	previous
cont	continue	rem	remain(s)/remaining
dc	double crochet	rep	repeat
dc2tog	(insert hook in next st, yrh and draw a loop through) twice, yrh and draw through all 3 loops on hook	RH	right hand
dec	decrease	rnd(s)	round(s)
dtr	double treble crochet	RS	right side
dtr2tog	work 2dtr together	sk	skip
fl	insert hook under front loop only	sp(s)	space(s)
foll/folls	following/follows	ss	slip stitch
FPtr	Front Post treble: work in opposite way to BPtr	st(s)	stitch(es)
		tbl	through back loop
		t-ch(s)	turning chain(s)
		tog	together
		tr	treble crochet
		tr2tog	(yrh, insert hook in next st, yrh and pull up loop, yrh and draw through 2 loops) twice, yrh and draw through all loops on hook
		ttr	triple treble crochet
		WS	wrong side
		yoh	yarn over hook
		yrh	yarn round hook
		*	work instructions immediately foll *, then rep as directed
		[] or ()	work or repeat all instructions in the brackets as directed

Crochet hook conversions

UK	METRIC	US
14	2mm	–
13	2.25mm	B/1
12	2.5mm	–
–	2.75mm	C/2
11	3mm	–
10	3.25mm	D/3
9	3.5mm	E/4
–	3.75mm	F/5
8	4mm	G/6
7	4.5mm	7
6	5mm	H/8
5	5.5mm	I/9
4	6mm	J/10
3	6.5mm	K/10½
2	7mm	–
0	8mm	L/11
00	9mm	M/13
000	10mm	N/15

Which hook do I use?

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

UK/US conversions

UK		US	
chain	ch	chain	ch
slip stitch	ss	slip stitch	ss
double crochet	dc	single crochet	sc
half treble	htr	half double	hdc
treble	tr	double	dc
double treble	dtr	treble	tr
triple treble	ttr	double treble	dtr

HOW TO GET A PERFECT FINISH

To prevent your hard work unravelling once you've finished crocheting, fasten the end off carefully.



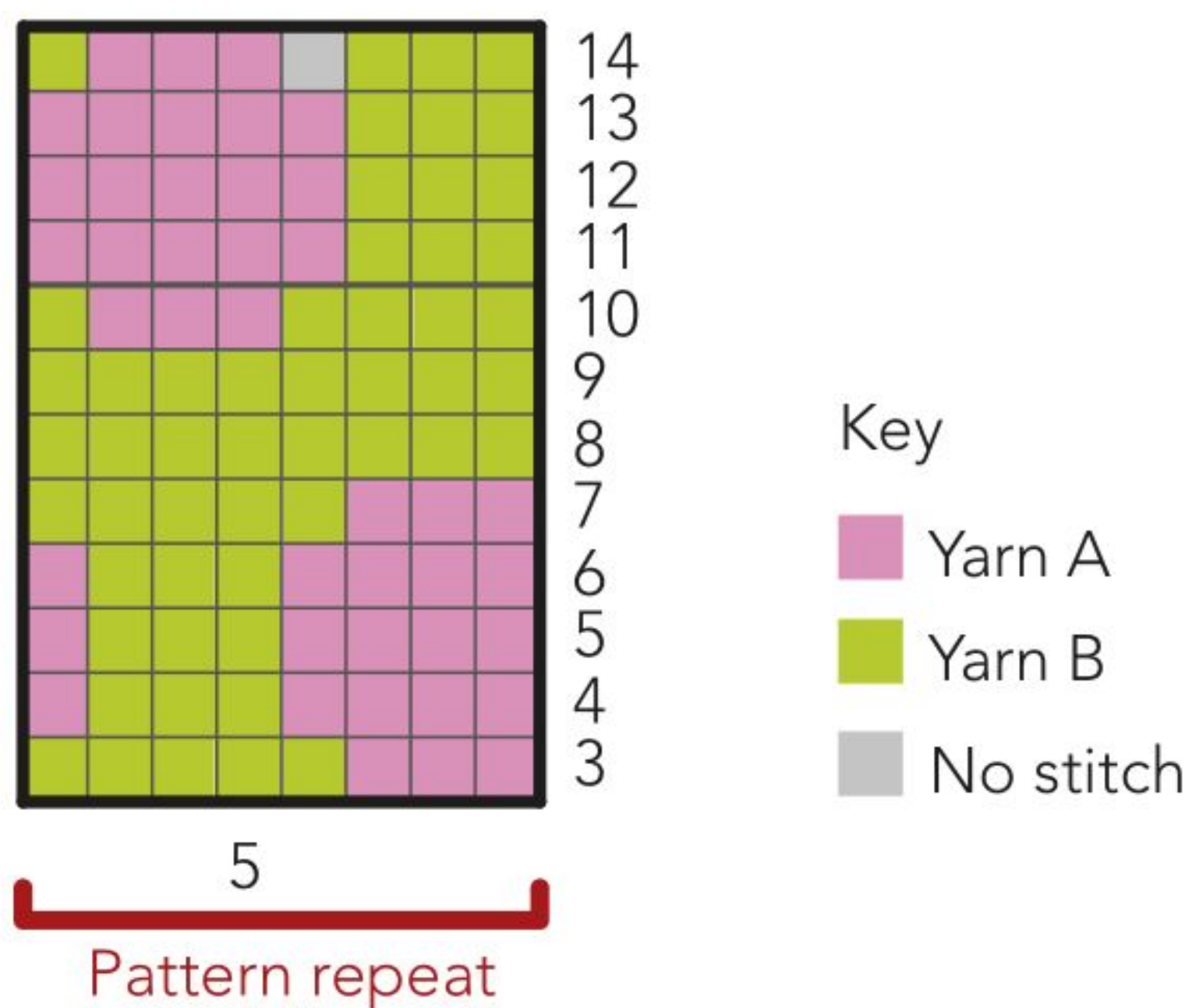
Complete the final stitch, then cut the yarn about 15cm from the work. Pull it through the last loop on the hook and pull to close the loop. Thread the yarn tail onto a tapestry needle and weave into the back of the work. Most crochet items don't need a lot of blocking, but cotton lace work usually does. 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 are the handy charts and diagrams you'll need to make the dotty beanie and shawl this month.

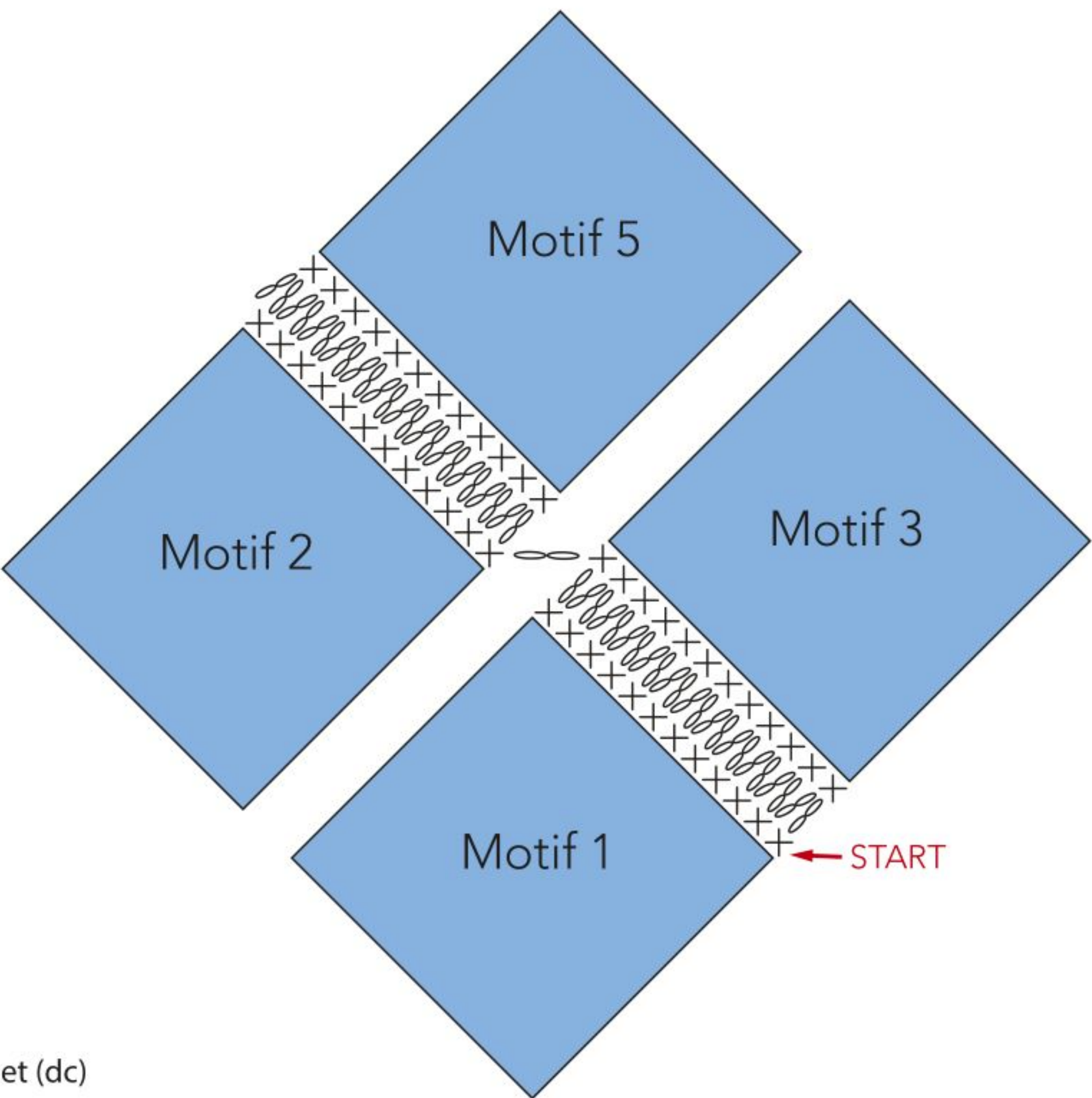
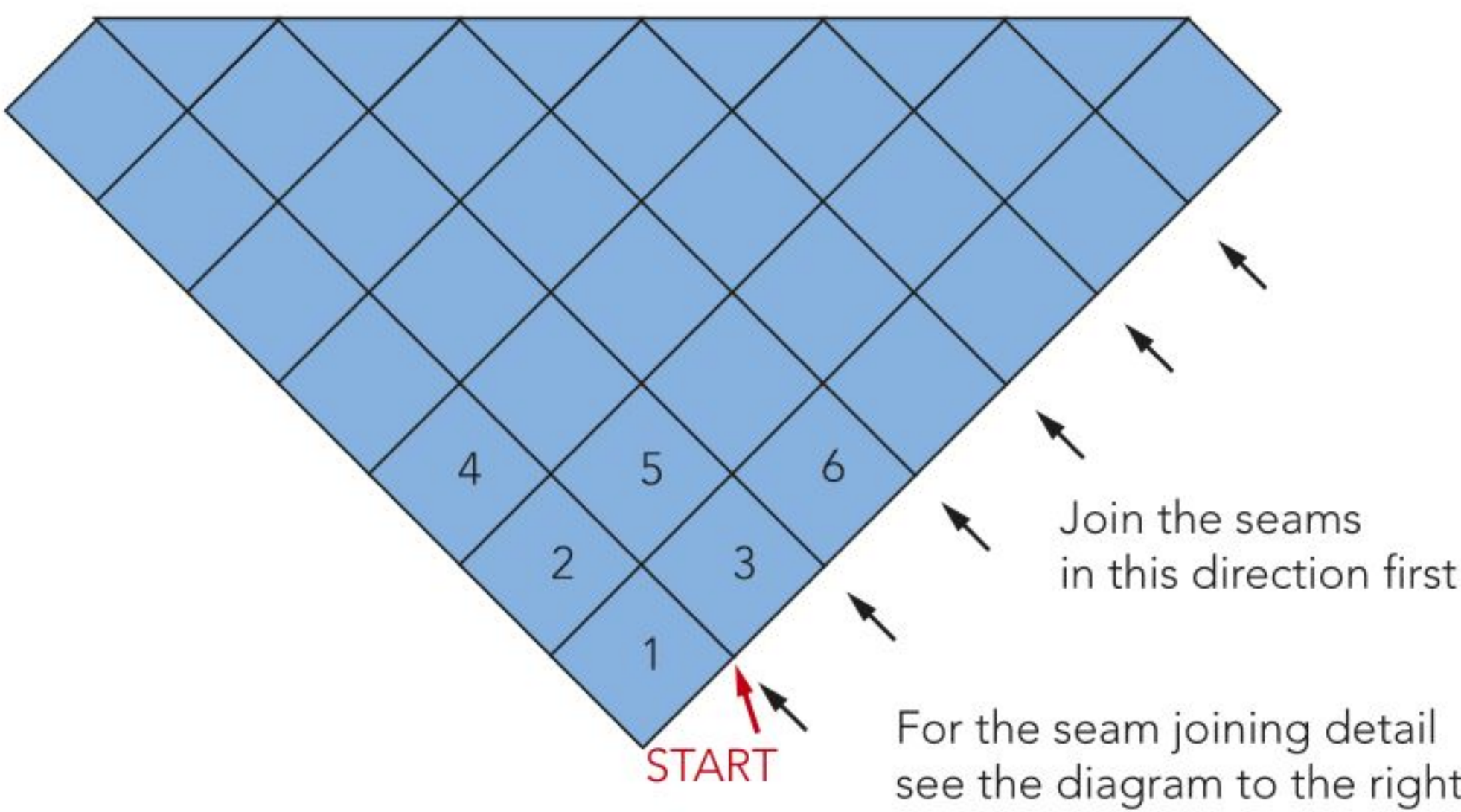
SPOTTY BOBBLE HAT PAGE 27

Chart



JEWEL PURPOSE SHAWL PAGE 45

Joining Shawl Motifs



- Key
- Chain (ch)
 - Double crochet (dc)



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ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

The numerous petals and pinky-blue shades of this motif instantly reminded us of hydrangeas. The shape is worked in three rounds with four-treble and five-treble clusters creating petal effects. The chains crocheted in the final round will make your joining much simpler and add a touch of laciness to your final design, whether that's a rug, blanket or shawl.

SPECIAL STITCHES

4-tr cluster (Yrh, insert hook in space indicated, yrh and pull up loop, yrh and draw through 2 loops) 4 times, inserting the hook in the same space each time, yrh and draw through all loops on hook.

5-tr cluster As 4-tr cluster, working () 5 times.

FLOWER MOTIF

Make a magic loop.

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

Round 2 Ch5 (counts as tr, ch2), 5-tr cluster in next tr, ch2, *tr in next tr, ch2, 5-tr cluster in next tr, ch2; repeat from * 4 more times, ss to 3rd ch of beg ch-5 to join. [12 ch-2 sps]

Round 3 Ss to first ch-2 sp, ch2, 4-tr cluster in same ch-2 sp, ch5, *5-tr

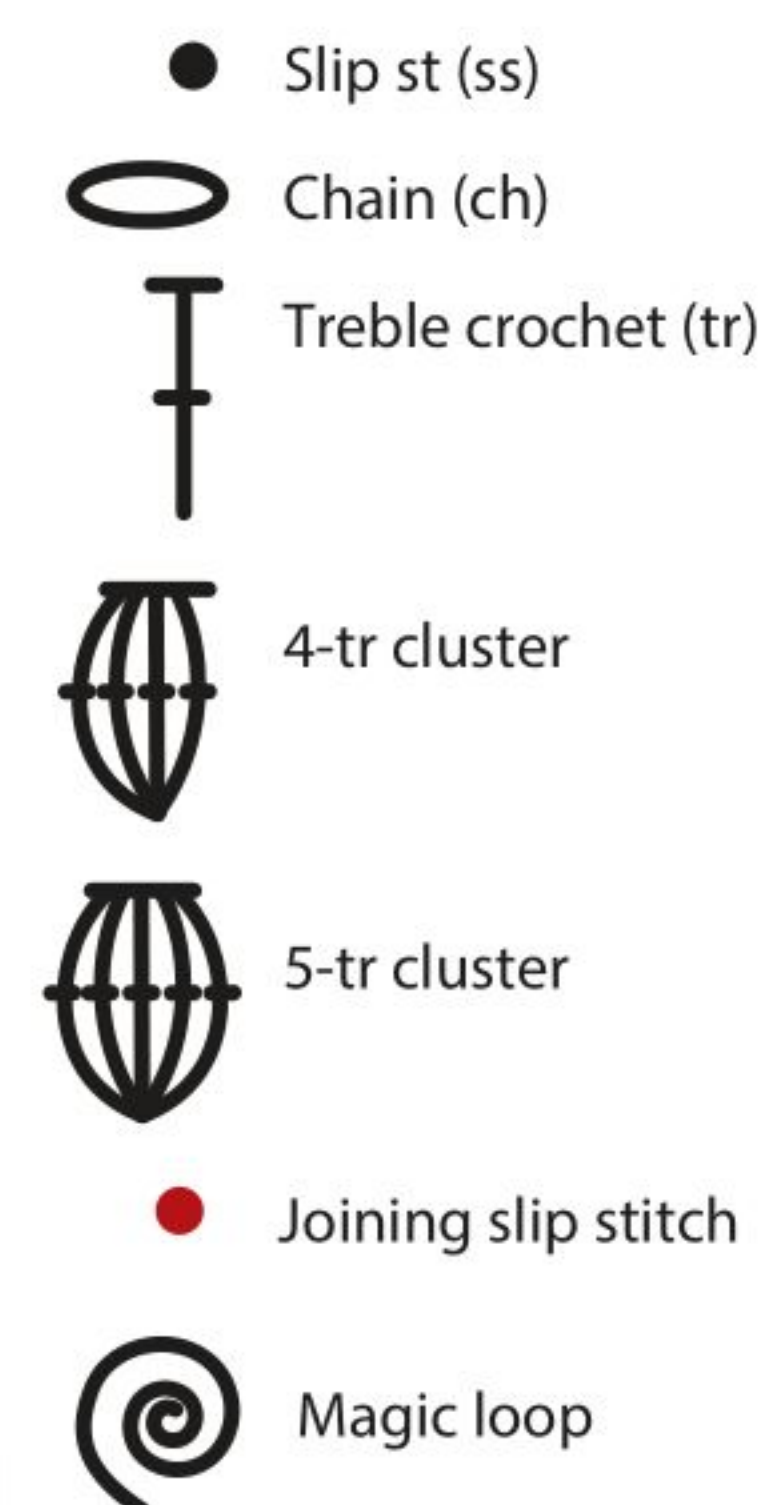
cluster in next ch-2 sp, ch5; repeat from * 10 more times, ss to top of first cluster to join.

Fasten off.

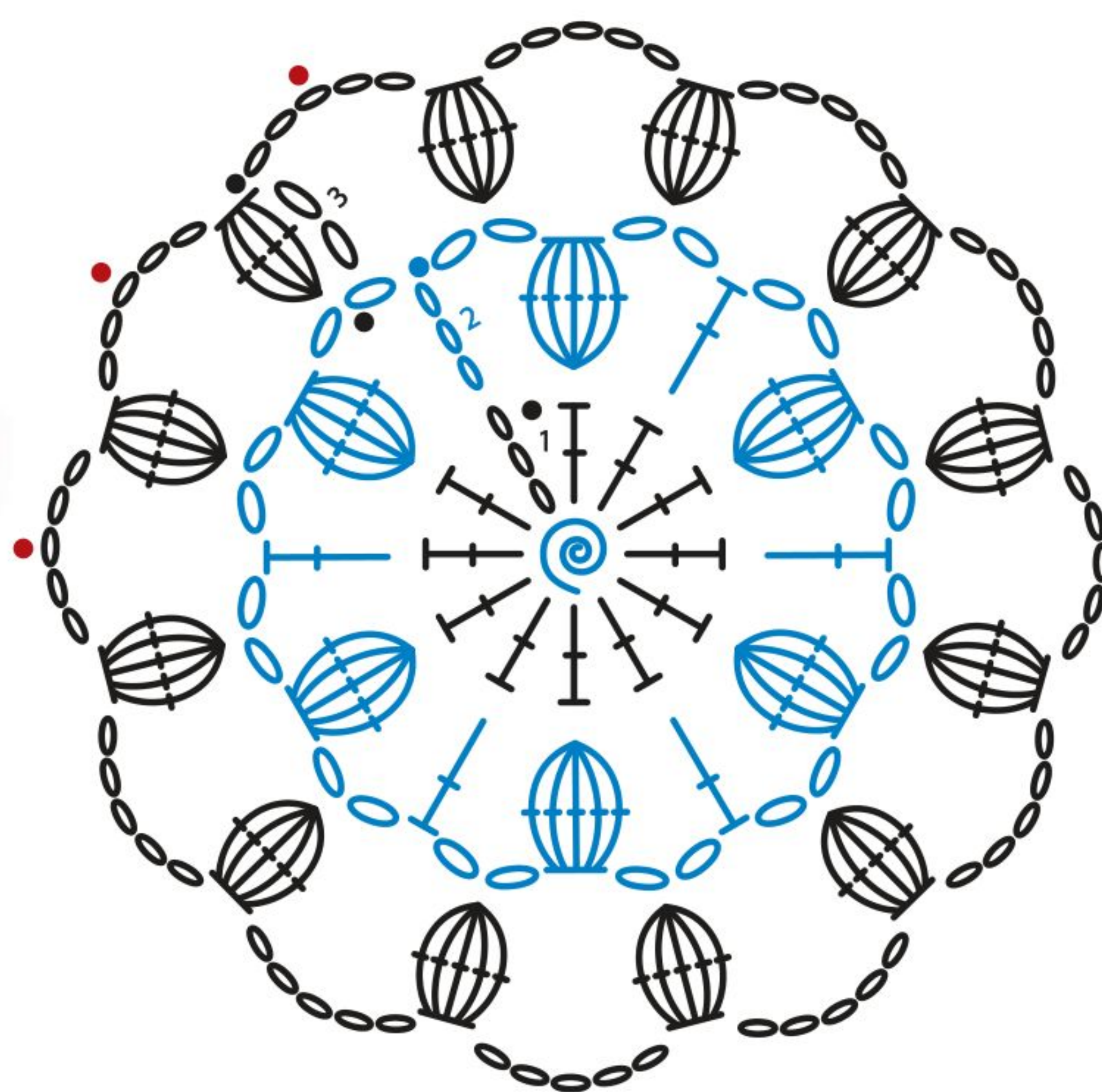
TO JOIN

Join motifs while working Round 3, by replacing the 3rd ch of each ch-5 with a ss to the corresponding ch on the next motif.

Key



On the chart, all rounds are read in an anti-clockwise direction.



Simply Crochet

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NEXT ISSUE

Scandi Christmas

Crimson cardigan

Basketweave stitch

Festive amigurumi

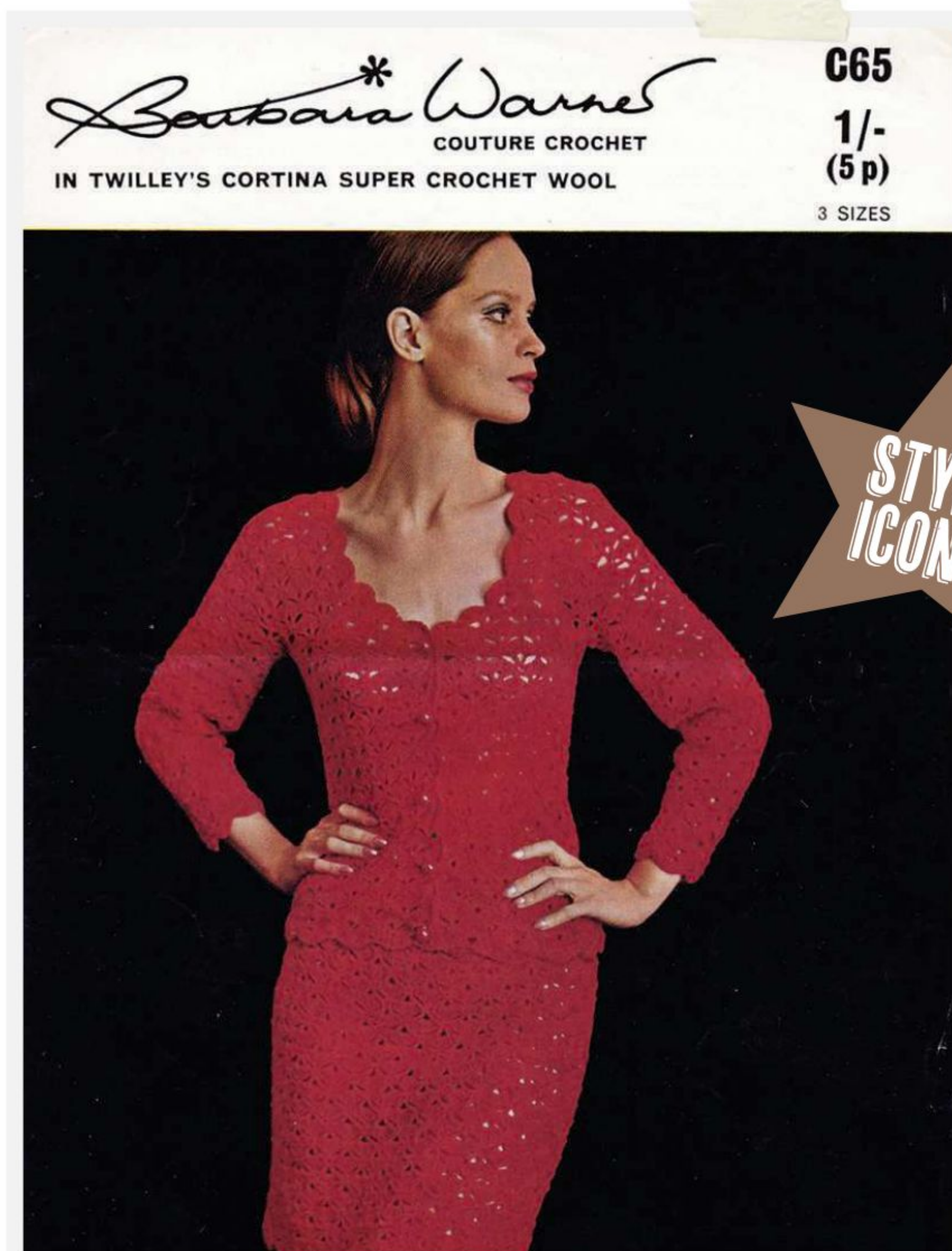
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LADY IN RED

Make like a Chris de Burgh muse and sport the most daring shade of all. It's not for wallflowers.

Classic pillar box lippy, the scarlet-lacquered soles of a pair of Louboutins and Marilyn's divine sequinned number in *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* – there's a lot to be said for red. Taking inspiration from this stunning, mid-sixties suit, we urge you to unleash your inner vintage dame and hook a matching jacket and skirt. The winter suit set is worked in a gorgeous lacy fan repeat with scalloped edges, using a wool yarn by Twilley's. The jacket alone is an utter treasure, but paired with that sensible-yet-vampy knee-length skirt the resulting outfit is a veritable knockout – *Mad Men* alert. If you fancy giving this project a spin, visit www.wonkyzebra.etsy.com to find the pattern. You'll receive another crochet suit pattern free if you purchase this one using the code SCred. Not quite convinced scarlet is for you? Audrey Hepburn once said: "There is a shade of red for every woman." We lesser mortals ought not argue with that.



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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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Chunky cotton makes, back to school projects, fruity bags and an amigurumi fox.



ISSUE THIRTY-FOUR

Crochet beach essentials, a bright mandala to wear and a lacy shawl.



ISSUE THIRTY-THREE

Modern doilies, filet crochet, a sweet girls' dress, a lacy cardi, cat, and neon brights.



ISSUE THIRTY-TWO

Wedding ideas, Granny Square top, girls' cardi, 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 cardi, and a waffle cowl.



ISSUE TWENTY-SIX

Slouchy beanie, bag and skirt, plus a baby blanket, cabled cardi, and amigurumi dogs.



ISSUE TWENTY-FIVE

Amigurumi elf, cowl-neck poncho, sawtooth-edge shawl, and kids' cable sweater vest.



ISSUE TWENTY-FOUR

Fair Isle jumper, home accessories, Tunisian crochet men's cardi, and a MyBoshi beanie.



ISSUE TWENTY-THREE

A statement swing coat, and hats, mitts and scarves for the whole family. Plus a colourful throw.



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