

Simply Crochet

HOOKED ON HANDMADE



CUTE HAT & MITTS P59



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EXCITING IDEAS
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27
PATTERNS
INSIDE



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Simply **Crochet**

HOOKED ON HANDMADE

We've got plenty of creative crochet ideas to inspire you, no matter how dreary winter gets. This issue, we're treating you to dainty lace makes for your home and glamorous party accessories. Plus, playful penguins and a crochet-loving doll who will inspire your own scarf making. Let it snow...



Simply Crochet

ISSUE THIRTY-NINE

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PINK



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

STOCKMAN
PARIS
BOUTIQUE SUIVRE
50459



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UP



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chunky rug p20



A HOOKY NEW YEAR

Isn't it chilly? This is when we crocheters reach for the warmest fibres and really come into our own! Whether you fancy cosying up with chunky makes or super snuggly yarns, we've got you covered this issue. Our gorgeous Winter Lace collection was inspired by delicate snowflakes; while some patterns use a 4ply, we used a scrumptious baby alpaca silk yarn to keep things feeling toasty. Wrap up, find a cosy spot and settle in for a dose of 2016 crochet inspiration.

Sara

Sara Huntington, Editor

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The lady behind Claireabellemakes

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CONTRIBUTORS

Merci beaucoup to these fantastic folks . . .



BECKI SCHOOLEY

Designer and yarn lover Becki has created arguably the cutest trio of amigurumi penguins the world has ever seen. Seriously. Flick ahead to page 66 and make sure you have a hook to hand.



EMMA POTTER

Emma's passionate about crochet and the colour yellow. She's the blogger behind Potter & Bloom and has designed some beautiful baby projects. Find her sweet blanket on page 54.



RACHEL WHITECHURCH

Rachel's a designer and keen tweeter who loves the countryside. She's made a wonderful wrap for us this issue, which would be perfect for winter walks. Turn to page 56 to hook it.



CLAIRE WILSON

Claireabellemakes blogger, maker and all-round crafty gal Claire chats to us this issue about working hard, hooking to relax and finding inspiration online. Read all about it on page 52.

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS

Annelies Baes, Ilaria Caliri, Lucy Croft, Hannah Cross, Judy Darley, Elisabeth Davis de Herraiz, Anne Egan, Kat Goldin, Sara Huntington, Becca Parker, Lynne Rowe, Becky Skuse, Louise Smith, Kath Webber, Wonky Zebra

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HOOKEED

IDEAS ♥ INSPIRATION ♥ ACCESSORIES ♥ WEBSITES ♥ EVENTS ♥ STUFF



MAKE A MEGA MANDALA

This mesmerising design by Hannah Cross played a starring role in our *Bright Blankets* collection in issue 33. Those glorious rainbow rounds are pretty hard to resist. Missed out? Fear not. We loved this dreamy project so much we wanted everyone to be able to hook it, so it's now available as a Ravelry download. Visit <http://bit.ly/SCmandala> to purchase the crochet pattern. And if you're making this blanket, don't forget to share your progress with us online using the hashtag #megamandala.





CROCHET OR BUST

A huge 'hurrah' is due to the ladies of Swindon Stitch 'n' Bitch for collectively hooking what's being billed as the largest-ever crochet bra. Isn't it a beauty? The group created this wondrous 6.2 metre undergarment to support (see what we did there?) the Against Breast Cancer charity. The bonkers brassiere hung proudly in Swindon's Brunel Shopping Centre throughout October as part of the 'Bra the Brunel' exhibition and will be auctioned off for charity on eBay, or exhibited elsewhere to raise further awareness. Pay a visit to www.againstbreastcancer.org.uk to make a donation and learn more about the charity.

IN A HAZE

Just when you thought you couldn't love Kidsilk Haze any more, Rowan paired it with cotton, scattered Swarovski crystals on it and called it Shine. Could this be the most decadent yarn ever? Maybe. But we don't think that's necessarily a bad thing. If you're lacking a bit of luxury, or have suddenly gained a mysterious benefactor, you can find stockists of Rowan's spangly new Shine yarn at www.knitrowan.com. Watch this space for a crochet pattern using Shine.



The approach of January means panto season is also close at hand. Oh yes it is. And you could be hooking yourself a slice of the magical action with Lynne Rowe's imaginative *Once Upon a Time... in Crochet* book. It features 30 fantastic amigurumi patterns for fairytale favourites including Snow White, Rapunzel, The Three Little Pigs and more. The step-by-step techniques section at the front is pretty great, too. The even better news is that we have some shiny copies of it to give away. Three readers will each receive a copy of this book. To be in with a chance, enter at <http://competition.immediate.co.uk/sc39books>

IT'S TWICE AS NICE

Shawl fans take note – following its super-successful launch at Yarnale in September, *The Shawl Project: Book Two* is now on sale. It's the second shawl-centric pattern collection from The Crochet Project dream team Kat Goldin and Joanne Scrace. This book features beautifully photographed projects from both designers, plus tips for designing shawls of your very own. Each of the five accessories can be hooked with 200g of 4ply. Buy a print copy at www.thecrochetproject.etsy.com





GET ZIGGY WITH IT

Guys, you need to know about The Wool Kitchen (www.thewoolkitchen.etsy.com). Urban hand-dyer Helen creates fantastical, vibrant skeins from her kitchen in East London. She uses British wool where possible and her over-dyeing and hand-painting techniques result in some truly amazing colour effects. If unicorns could crochet, we reckon they'd be using The Wool Kitchen's Ziggy yarn (pictured).

MAKE IT PARTY TIME

Five quick and easy crochet ideas to add sparkle to any event. It's your time to shine...

- 1 **DIY COUTURE**
Whip up two motifs in a fine metallic yarn and turn them into unique earrings.
- 2 **BUNTING BLING**
Add a festive touch to any space with glam decorations.
- 3 **DAINTY TOUCH**
Find pretty doilies in charity shops to place under bowls.
- 4 **DAZZLING ACCESSORIES**
Make sure you sparkle at any do with a glitzy hairband, belt or shoe decorations.
- 5 **FOND FAREWELL**
Give your guests hooked party bags filled with treats.

IN THEORY

To find harmony and colour inspiration while you sip, pick up a Colour Wheel Mug in a Box from www.dotcomgiftshop.com for £6.95.



INSPIRING BOOKS

EDWARD'S MENAGERIE BIRDS

Kerry Lord
(£15.99, David & Charles)
Fancy hooking a flock of feathered friends? Kerry Lord's second *Edward's Menagerie* book has fun amigurumi patterns to suit most abilities. Each bird has an entertaining back story, such as Tricia the aerobics-mad hen.



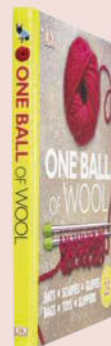
GRANNY SQUARES & SHAPES

Susan Pinner
(£14.99, GMC)
Get to grips with granny squares and motifs, and be inspired by this book. There are 20 simple and stylish projects to make, including accessories and treats for the home, plus an illustrated techniques section at the front.



ONE BALL OF WOOL

(£9.99, DK)
Bust through your stash with this collection of easy accessory patterns, in both crochet and knitting. Not a knitter? The book has all the how-to info you need to get started, with clear step-by-step images. We love the beanie designs.



AMIGURUMI ANIMALS

Susan Yeates
(£11.99, CreateSpace)
Get hooked on amigurumi (if you're not already) with this army of adorable animals. Learn all the know-how to work your way through teddies, monsters and more. The handy guide to making basic shapes will help if you're thinking of designing your own, too.





SAY 'AHHHH'

■ John Lewis thinks this is a toothbrush holder. Isn't that strange? We know the true destiny of this noble vessel lies in a long and happy future of crochet hook holding, or, at the very least, being a desk tidy. You see, the utterly superb combination of wonky chevrons and splashes of gold means it must have a purpose beyond the sink side. Get your hands on a Medina Tumbler at www.johnlewis.com for a cool £12.



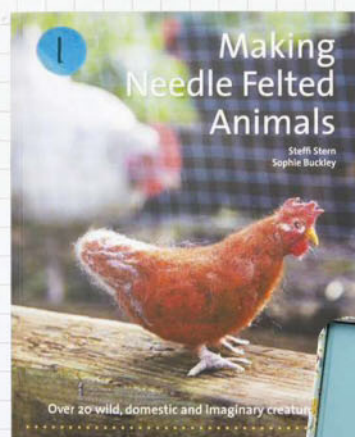
IN THEIR DREAMS

Glittery, pink-haired amigurumi unicorn toy, plus adorable matching rattle and booties – erm, where do we sign up? Sadly, the booties don't come in adult sizes (we checked), but if you visit www.albeta.co.uk, you can feast your eyes on Albeta's whole selection of magical crochet goodies for baby. Albeta is really big on ethical trading and all of their crochet designs are fantastic, with an emphasis on both the fun and the practical. The unicorn toy is £20, while the cute rattle and booties will be available in spring.

FRESH FROM QUINCE & CO.

US Yarnsters Quince & Co. have an undeniable knack for producing luxurious natural fibres in covetable colourways, but did you know that they also sell patterns, too? This delightful shawl is Gated, their latest crochet pattern designed by Rebecca Velasquez. We adore that fine lace and the beautiful drape of the piece. To purchase a PDF of this pattern and to check out the other Quince & Co. designs, get yourself over to www.quinceandco.com pronto.

LEARN A NEW SKILL



Find a new hobby to fall for this year and you won't need a resolution to keep you on track – you'll be busy getting creative whenever you can. Beats going to the gym any day.

1. Go further with fibre and make a fuzzy menagerie with *Making Needle Felted Animals*. This book by Steffi Stern and Sophie Buckley is full of fun, beginner-friendly projects. Buy a copy for £14.99 at www.hawthornpress.com
2. Nope, we're still not over succulents yet. This cute kit by OH NO Rachio! is serving only to further our obsession. It includes the illustrated teacup planter. £32 at www.ohnorachio.etsy.com
3. Fans of cutting and sticking, form a queue – Cath Kidston's got a sweet Woodland Rose Scrapbook Kit out. It's spectacularly floral and would be fab for documenting 2016 happenings. Yours for £18 at www.cathkidston.com



CROCHET COLLAGE

Rejoice – it's easier than ever to get your hands on Knit Collage's quirky and creative art yarns as their entire range is now available to order online from www.knitcollage.com. Their slub-tastic Pixie Dust yarn (pictured) is right at the top of our wishlist at the moment.

A GOOD YARN

I'm making a crochet cardigan that requires a lot of yarn. Can you suggest something woolly that's good but not too pricey?

Wool DK (£2.99 per 50g) from Patons is made with 100% wool and is machine washable – ideal for making garments. It comes in 24 classic, solid shades and is available in an aran weight, too.



Time to get out AND ABOUT...

SKILLS, SHOWS & EVENTS

JAN 12 Filet Crochet Panel Workshop, £10, Sooz in the Shed, Hobbycraft, Carlisle, 07963883324 www.soozintheshed.co.uk

JAN 16 Beginner's Knitting, £35, Lupin and Rose, Bromyard, Herefordshire, 01885 488103 www.lupinandrose.co.uk

JAN 17 Waltham Abbey Wool Show, from £3.50, Marriot Hotel, Waltham Abbey, www.walthamabbeywoolshow.co.uk

JAN 19 Beginner's Crochet, £25, Stitched By You, Alton, Hampshire, 01420 544033 www.stitchedbyyou.co.uk

JAN 23 Crochet Picture Frames, £TBC, The Particle Press Studio, Falmouth, 07971 477393 www.kittyclarke.co.uk

JAN 29-30 Felt Making: Hats, £90, National Wool Museum, Carmarthenshire, 01970 623303 lorraine@greenweeds.co.uk

5 FAB FINDS

Sparkle and shine
A sprinkle of glitter to see you through party season.



SUPERB SEQUINS

Ooze mirror ball chic with East's Disco Sequin Cardigan. And yes, it's crocheted. Head to www.east.co.uk



BE ADORNED
www.elizajean.co.uk is the place to go for crochet neckpieces and brooches. We like the shiny ones best.

HELLO TWINKLE

Moderation is key, except where glitter is concerned. Pick up this glitzy star bag at www.newlook.com



LUXE HOOKERY
Sparkle as you stitch with Addi's plastic glitter crochet hooks. You can find them at www.deramores.com

TAKE NOTE

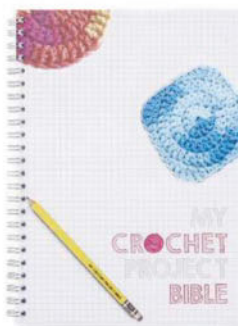
Guarantee a bright start to the new year by scribbling your plans in a golden book. See www.sainsburys.co.uk





DULY NOTED

■ Note-taking and list-making is all part and parcel of being a crafter – it's good to get it all down on paper. Stationery Geek's My Crochet Project Bible is a special spiral-bound planner with space to log all the nitty gritty project details, plus grid paper for your notes, doodles and charts. The front cover can even be personalised, too. www.stationery-geek.co.uk is the place to go to find one for just £7.49.



Did you know that you could be using your crochet skills to help support others through the colder months? Shakti's Melody is an organisation that works to support India with aid and education. They're currently seeking donations of six-inch crocheted or knitted squares and completed blankets to send out to Nepal and India this winter. A bit short on time but keen to get involved? Shakti's Melody also welcome donations of yarn and crochet hooks for their blanket-making. Any contributions can be sent to Music Corner, 17 Melbourne Street, Stalybridge, Cheshire SK15 2JE. For further details about what Shakti's Melody, head to www.shaktismelody.com

GETTING INVOLVED

The start of a new year is an exciting time. Fresh projects and crochet-alongs are cropping up everywhere and we don't feel quite so intimidated by different techniques and bigger projects. Why not join in with The Mercerie's Folklore Shawl CAL? It starts in January and you can sign up to receive the pattern for free and purchase a vibrant merino yarn kit for the project online at www.themercurie.net

THIS MONTH WE LOVE ...



For colour inspiration, gorgeous styling ideas and a good dose of sunshine, talented Aussie hookster @crochetgirl99 (aka Robyn) is our current Instagram crush. Feast your eyes on these crocheted beauties.

1. Hook the rainbow – her colourful daisy blanket hooked with a mix of floral grannies.
2. Robyn's a fan of crocheting outdoors and snapping a pic or two while she's at it.
3. Using cool cotton to hook a pretty daisy cushion cover – these tones look ace together.

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A GOOD SPREAD

A crochet bedspread worked in 4ply is a commitment, certainly, but when the outcome is this beautiful it really is worth putting the time in. Butter-soft alpaca silk yarn ensures this project feels every bit as luxurious as it looks.

VERY ILLUMINATING

Ultra-fine cotton is what you'll need for whipping up this set of delicate cosies. Wrap them around empty jam jars to create fancy-looking candle holders or vases for small posies. We finished ours off with velvety ribbon in soft grey.



WINTER LACE IDEAS



FINER FEELINGS

Give your boudoir a lavish lace makeover with our collection of vintage-inspired accessories.

WINTER LACE IDEAS



SITTING PRETTY

Square or round? It's not just a consideration for the nail salon. Decide whether your home's in need of a dainty motif cushion, or a round one with a doily effect. The only complication is that they look so lovely together. So, both?

FLYING THE FLAG

Little bunting flags are fantastic projects for experimenting with different shapes and techniques. This design incorporates lacy star motifs and filet crochet. Try something new and you'll have exquisite bunting to show for it.







WINTER LACE IDEAS



SIZING UP

This impressive chunky rug has a secret. Don't spread it about, but it's actually made using the same pattern as the round, doily-style cushion. Can you believe it? Now we're wondering what else we could make with that pattern.

IN THE FRAME

Super-fancy wall art is well within your grasp. Simply hook a trio of square swatches in different airy stitch patterns, block them well and have them framed. We left out the glass altogether so the various textures can really shine through.



LACY BEDSPREAD

Add a luxurious layer to your bed with Sara Huntington's delicate project.

- DROPS Baby Alpaca Silk (70% alpaca, 30% silk) 50g, White (1101)
Single Bed 25 balls
Double Bed 45 balls
- A 2.5mm (US B/1 or C/2) hook

MEASUREMENTS

Blocked motif meas 14x14cm (5½x5½in)
Single bedspread size 1.40x2.24m
(4ft7inx7ft4in), 160 motifs arranged 10x16
Double bedspread size 2.52x2.24m
(8ft3inx7ft4in), 288 motifs arranged 18x16

ABBREVIATIONS

4-tr cluster (4-tr cl) (Yrh, insert hook in space/st indicated, yrh and pull up loop, yrh and draw through 2 loops) 4 times, inserting the hook in the same space/st each time, yrh and draw through all loops on hook

5-tr cluster As above, working () 5 times

NOTES

Block and press all motifs individually and then again in sections as they are joined together

FIRST MOTIF

Ch10, ss in first ch to form a ring.

Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr), 31tr into ring, ss into top of beg ch-3. [32 tr]

Round 2 Dc into same place as ss, *ch5, skip 3 tr, dc into next tr; repeat from * 7 more times, ss into first dc. [8 ch-5 sps]

Round 3 Ss into the first ch-5 sp, ch2, (4-tr cl, ch2, 5-tr cl) into same ch-5 sp, ch2, (5-tr cl, ch2) twice into each rem ch-5 sp, ss into top of first cluster. [16 ch-2 sps]

Round 4 Ss into next ch-2 sp, ch3 (counts as tr), 4tr into same ch-2 sp, 5tr into each rem ch-2 sp around, ss into top of beg ch-3. [80 tr]

Round 5 Dc in same place as ss, *ch3, dc into next 5 tr; repeat from * 14 more times, ch3, dc into next 4 tr, ss into first dc. [16 ch-3 sps]

Round 6 Ss into next ch-3 sp, ch2, tr in next ch-3 sp (counts as tr2tog), *ch5, tr2tog working first tr in same ch-sp as previous tr and second tr in next ch-sp; repeat from * until all ch-sps have been worked, ch5, ss to top of first tr2tog. [16 ch-5 sps]

Round 7 Ss into first ch-5 sp, *7dc into ch-5 sp, dc into top of tr2tog, 7dc into next ch-5 sp, ch14, ss into the first of the 15dc just worked, ss into the ch-14 sp, (8dc, ch3, 8dc) into same sp, dc into top of next tr2tog (corner made), (3dc into next ch-5 sp, ch3, 3dc into same ch-5 sp, dc into top of next tr2tog) twice; repeat from * three more times, ss into first dc. [12 joining ch-3 sps]

Fasten off.

SUBSEQUENT MOTIFS

Motifs are joined at the ch-3 sps from Round 7 at the appropriate points to form the required shape. Work as for first motif to Round 6, then work Round 7, joining motifs to corresponding ch-3 sp by working ch1, dc into ch-3 sp, ch1, in place of working ch3.

BORDER

Round 1 (RS) Dc evenly around the outside edge of the bedspread with 32 sts spaced evenly along the edge of each motif and 3 additional sts into each corner, ss to first dc.

Rounds 2-5 Dc into each st around working 3dc into each central corner st, ss to first dc.

Round 6 Ch3 (counts as tr), ch1, skip 1 dc, (tr into next dc, ch1, skip 1 dc) around, working (tr, ch1, tr) into each corner st, ss into top of beg ch-3.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

JAZZY JAR COVERS

Make jam jars a real treasure with this sweet design by Hannah Cross.

- DMC Petra #8 (100% cotton, 100g/800m), 1 ball of 54460 (white) used doubled
- A 0.75mm (US 14 steel) hook

MEASUREMENTS

The finished lace measures 28x8cm (11x3in) and will stretch to fit a 30cm (11¾in) jar

JAR COVER

Use thread held doubled throughout. Ch24.

Row 1 (WS) Tr in 5th ch from hook (counts as tr2tog), ch3, skip 3 ch, 3tr in next ch, ch3, skip 3 ch, tr3tog over next 3 ch, ch3, skip 3 ch, 3tr in next ch, ch3, skip 3 ch, tr2tog over last 2 ch, turn. [9 tr, 4 ch-3 sps]

WINTER LACE IDEAS

Row 2 (RS) Ch6 (counts as tr, ch3), tr in next 3 tr, ch7, skip tr3tog, tr in next 3 tr, ch3, tr in top of last tr2tog, turn. [8 tr, 2 ch-3 sps, ch-7 sp]

Row 3 Ch3, tr in st at base of ch, ch3, tr3tog over next 3 tr, ch3, skip 3 ch, 3tr in next ch, ch3, skip 3 ch, tr3tog over next 3 tr, ch3, skip ch-3 sp, 2tr in third ch of beg ch-6, turn. [9 tr, 4 ch-3 sps]

Row 4 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr in next tr, ch7, skip tr3tog, tr in next 3 tr, ch7, tr in last 2 tr, turn. [7 tr, 2 ch-7 sps]

Row 5 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr in next tr, ch3, skip 3 ch, 3tr in next ch, ch3, skip 3 ch, tr3tog over next 3 tr, ch3, skip 3 ch, 3tr in next ch, ch3, skip 3 ch, tr2tog over last 2 sts, turn. [9 tr, 4 ch-3 sps]
Rows 2-5 form the pattern.

Rows 6-28 Repeat Rows 2-5, ending with a Row 4.

Block the lace before adding the edging to make it even.

EDGING

Work along each long side with RS facing:

Row 1 (RS) Ss into side of first st, ch5, ss in same place, *ch7, ss in side of next st, ch5, ss in same place; rep from * across, turn.

Row 2 Ch6, ss in first ch-7 sp, *ch3, ss in same place, ch3, ss in next ch-7 sp; rep from * to last ch-7 sp, ch6, ss in first st of Row 1.

Fasten off and weave in ends.
Secure around the jar.

SQUARE CUSHION

Nine lacy blocks make one stunning cushion. Designed by Hannah Cross.

- Drops Baby Alpaca Silk (30% silk, 70% alpaca, 50g/167m), 2 balls White (1101)
- A 2.5mm (US B/1 or C/2) hook
- Cushion pad, 30cm (12in) square
- Plain cushion cover

TENSION

A single square motif measures 9.5cm (3¾in) using a 2.5mm hook

MEASUREMENTS

30x30cm (12x12in)

ABBREVIATIONS

3-tr cluster (3-tr cl) (Yrh, insert hook in space/st indicated, yrh and pull up loop,

yrh and draw through 2 loops) 3 times, inserting the hook in the same space/st each time, yrh and draw through all loops on hook.

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

5-dtr cluster As 3-dtr cluster above, but work () 5 times.

NOTES

Motifs are joined in the centre of each side of the motif as you work the final round. Once joined, the corners of each motif are joined with a separate ch, then a border is worked around the outside edge of the entire piece.

SQUARE MOTIF

Make 9, joining them into a 3x3 grid as you go in Round 6, as explained below. Using White, ch8, ss to first ch to join into a ring.

Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr), 15tr into the ring, ss to top of beg ch-3 to join. [16 tr]

Round 2 Ch4 (counts as tr, ch1), tr into st at base of ch-4, (tr, ch1, tr) into each remaining tr, ss to 3rd ch of beg ch-4. [32 tr and 16 ch-1 sps]

Round 3 Ss in next ch-1 sp, ch4 (counts as tr, ch1), tr in same ch-1 sp, (tr, ch1, tr) in each remaining ch-1 sp around, ss to 3rd ch of beg ch-4. [32 tr and 16 ch-1 sps]

Round 4 Ss in next ch-1 sp, ch6 (counts as tr, ch3), (tr in next ch-1 sp, ch3) around, ss to 3rd ch of beg ch-6. [16 tr and 16 ch-3 sps]

Round 5 Ch3 (counts as tr), *(tr in each of next 3 ch, tr in next tr) twice, ch3, skip next ch-3, (2dtr, ch2, 2dtr) in next tr, ch3, skip next ch-3, tr in next tr; rep from * 3 more times omitting last tr on final repeat, ss to top of beg ch-3 to join. [36tr, 8 ch-3 sps, 4 corners of (2dtr, ch2, 2dtr)]

Round 6 Ch4 (counts as tr, ch1) skip next tr, tr in next st, *ch1, skip next tr, (tr, ch3, tr) in next tr, (ch1, skip next tr, tr in next tr) twice, ch4, (3-tr cl, ch3, 3-tr cl) in next ch-2 corner, ch4**, tr in next tr, ch1, skip next tr, tr in next tr; rep from * around, ending last rep at **, ss to 3rd ch of beg ch-4. [24tr, 16 ch-1 sps, 4 ch-3 sps, 4 ch-4 sps, 4 corners of (3-tr

cl, ch3, 3-tr cl)]

Join motifs while working Round 6, by replacing the central ch of each ch-3 with a ss.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

CORNER JOINING CHAINS

See diagram on page 93, which shows the (ss, ch5) joins.

Rejoin the yarn in a corner ch-3 sp where it needs to be joined to an adjacent square. *Ch5, ss to corner ch-3 sp of adjacent square; repeat from * to continue if necessary. **Fasten off.**

BORDER

With RS facing, join Yarn A with a ss to any ch-3 corner space.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), (3-tr cl, ch3, 3-tr cl) in same corner sp, *ch5, (3-tr cl, ch1) in each of next 2 ch-1 sps, (3-tr cl, ch1) in next ch-3 sp, (3-tr cl, ch1) in each of next 2 ch-1 sps, ch5,** 3-tr cl in next ch-3 corner sp, ch2, skip next 2 ch of joining ch, 3-tr cl in next ch, ch2, skip next 2 ch of joining ch, 3-tr cl in next ch-3 corner sp; rep from * twice more, ending at **, then (3-tr cl, ch3, 3-tr cl) in next ch-3



WINTER LACE IDEAS

corner sp. Repeat this for each side, ss to top of beg 3-tr cl to join.

Round 2 Ss in next corner sp, ch1 (does not count as st), (3-dtr cl, ch1, 3-dtr cl, ch1, 3-dtr cl) in same corner sp, *ch2, skip next 2 ch, ss in next ch, ch2, 3-tr cl in next 3-tr cl, ch2, ss in next 3-tr cl, ch3, 5-dtr cl in next 3-tr cl, ch3, ss in next 3-tr cl, ch2, 3-tr cl in next 3-tr cl, ch2, skip next 2 ch, ss in next ch, ch2**, ss in next 3-tr cl, ch3, 5-dtr cl in next 3-tr cl, ch3, ss in next 3-tr cl; rep from * across to corner, ending last rep at **, then (3-dtr cl, ch1, 3-dtr cl, ch1, 3-dtr cl) in corner sp. Repeat this for each side, omitting last corner group on final side, ss to first 3-dtr cl to join.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO MAKE UP

Block to measurements and sew piece to the front of the covered cushion.

ROUND CUSHION

Embrace vintage doily style and hook a ravishing round cushion for your boudoir. Designed by Hannah Cross.

- DROPS Baby Alpaca Silk (30% silk, 70% alpaca, 50g/167m), 1 ball of White (1101)
- A 2.5mm (US B/1 or US C/2) hook
- Round cushion pad, 30cm (12in) diameter

TENSION

First 4 rounds of cushion measure 24cm (9½in) in diameter, using a 10mm hook

MEASUREMENTS

30x30cm (12x12in)

ABBREVIATIONS

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

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

Ch-3 picot Ch3, ss in 3rd ch from hook.

LACE MOTIF

Ch4, ss into first ch to join into a ring.

Round 1 (RS) Ch4 (counts as tr, ch1), (tr, ch1) into ring 7 times, ss to 3rd ch of beg ch-4 to join. [8 tr, 8 ch-1 sps]

Round 2 Ch3 (counts as tr) tr in st at base of ch, (ch1, tr, ch1) in next ch1-sp, *2tr in next tr, (ch1, tr, ch1) in next ch-1 sp; rep from * around, ss to top of beg ch-3. [24 tr, 16 ch-1 sps]

Round 3 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr2tog (over same st and next tr), tr in second st just used in tr2tog, ch1, tr in next tr, ch1, *tr

in next tr, tr2tog (over same st and next tr), tr in second st just used in tr2tog, ch1, tr in next tr, ch1; rep from * around, ss to top of beg ch-3.

[32 tr and 16 ch-1 sps]

Round 4 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr in same st, ch1, skip next st, 2tr in next tr, ch1, tr in next tr, ch1, *2tr in next tr, ch1, skip next st, 2tr in next tr, ch1, tr in next tr, ch1; rep from * around, ss to top of beg ch-3. [40 tr and 24 ch-1 sps]

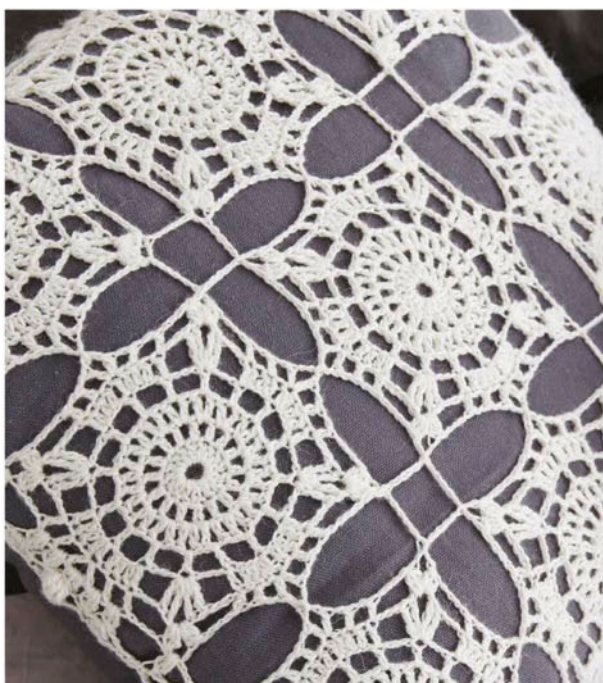
Round 5 Ss in next tr, ss in next ch-1 sp, ch3 (counts as tr), 2tr in same ch-sp, ch2, skip (2tr and ch-1), (tr, ch1, tr) in next tr, *ch2, skip next (ch-1 and 2 tr), 3tr in next ch-1 sp, ch2, skip next (2 tr and ch-1), (tr, ch1, tr) in next tr; rep from * around, ch2, ss to top of beg ch-3.

[40 tr, 16 ch-2 sps and 8 ch-1 sps]

Round 6 Ss in next tr, ch6 (counts as tr, ch3), skip next (tr, ch-2, tr), (tr, ch1, tr, ch1, tr) in next ch-1 sp, ch3, skip next (tr, ch-2, tr), *tr in next tr, ch3, skip next (tr, ch-2, tr), (tr, ch1, tr, ch1, tr) in next ch-1 sp, ch3, skip next (tr, ch-2, tr); rep from * around, ss to 3rd ch of beg ch-6.

[32 tr, 16 ch-3 sps and 16 ch-1 sps]

Round 7 Ch7 (counts as tr, ch4), skip next ch-3 and tr, *(tr, ch1, tr) in next ch-1 sp, ch2, skip next tr, (tr, ch1, tr) in next ch-1 sp, ch4, skip next ch-3 sp**, tr in next tr, ch4, skip next ch-3 sp and tr; rep from * around; ending last rep at **, ss in 3rd ch of beg ch-7. [40tr, 16 ch-1 sps, 16 ch-4 sps, 8 ch-2 sps]





Round 8 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in same st, *ch3, (tr, ch1, tr) in next ch-1 sp, (5dtr, ch-3 picot, 4dtr) in next ch-2 sp, (tr, ch1, tr) in next ch-1 sp, ch3**, dc in next tr; rep from * around, ending last rep at **, ss to first dc.

[16 ch-1 sps, 8 dc, 8 ch-3 picot]

Round 9 Ch6 (counts as dtr, ch2), *(tr, ch1, tr) in next ch-1 sp, ch6, ss in ch-3 picot, ch6, (tr, ch1, tr) in next ch-1 sp, ch2**, dtr in dc, ch2; rep from * around, ending last rep at **, ss to 4th ch of beg ch-6. [8 dtr, 8 ss, 16 ch-1 sps]

Round 10 Ch4 (counts as tr, ch1), *htr in next ch-1 sp, ch6, 3dc in ss in ch-3 picot, ch6, htr in next ch-1 sp, ch1, tr in dtr, ch1; rep from * around, ss to 3rd ch of beg ch-4. [24 dc, 8 tr]

Round 11 Ch11 (counts as tr, ch8), *dc in next dc, ch1, htr in next dc, ch1, dc in next dc, ch8**, tr in next tr, ch8; rep from * around, ending last rep at **, ss to 3rd ch of beg ch-11.

[8 tr, 16 ch-1 sps, 16 ch-8 sps]

Round 12 Ch3 (counts as tr), 5tr in same st, *ch2, skip next 3 ch, ss in next ch, ch2, (tr, ch2, tr) in next ch-1 sp, ch3, (tr, ch2, tr) in next ch-1 sp, ch2, skip next 3 ch, ss in next ch, ch2**, 6tr in next tr; rep from * around, ending last rep at **, ss to 3rd ch of beg ch-3. [8 6-tr groups, 48 ch-2 sps, 8 ch-3 sps]

Round 13 Ch1 (does not count as a st), *htr in each tr of next 6-tr group, ch6, skip next 2 ch-2 sps, htr in next ch-2 sp, 4htr in ch-3 sp, htr in next ch-2 sp, ch6; rep from * around, ss to top of first htr. [96 htr, 16 ch-6 sps]

Round 14 Ss in each of next 2 htr, ch4 (counts as dtr), 7dtr in same st, ch1, 8dtr in next htr, dc in next ch-6 sp, (tr, ch1) in each of next 5 htr, tr in next htr, dc in next ch-6 sp, *skip 2htr, 8dtr in next htr, ch1, 8dtr in next htr, dc in next ch-6 sp, (tr, ch1) in each of next 5 htr, tr in next htr, dc in next ch-6 sp; rep from * around, ss to top of beg ch-4. [48 tr, 56 ch-1 sps]

Round 15 Ss in each of next 7 dtr, ss in next ch-1 sp, ch1 (does not count as a st), *(3-tr cl, ch4, 3-tr cl) in ch-1 sp, ch6,

3dtr in next tr, ch2, dtr in next tr, ch2, tr in next tr, ch2, tr in next tr, ch2, dtr in next tr, ch2, 3dtr in next tr, ch6; rep from * around, ss to top of first 3-tr cl.

[64 dtr, 16 tr, 16 ch-6 sps, 8 ch-4 sps]

Round 16 Ss in next ch-4 sp, ch1 (does not count as a st), *3-tr cl in ch-4 sp, ch4, dc in next ch-6 sp, ch4, dtr in next dtr, 2-dtr cl in next dtr, dtr in next dtr, ch2, (skip ch-2 sp, 2-dtr cl in next st, ch2) 4 times, dtr in next dtr, 2-dtr cl in next dtr, dtr in next dtr, ch4, dc in next ch-6 sp, ch4; rep from * around, ss to top of first 3-tr cl.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO MAKE UP

Block to measurements and sew piece to the front of the covered cushion.

BEAUTIFUL BUNTING

Alternate between a filet crochet and a star motif flag to make this pretty lace bunting. Designed by Anne Egan.

- DROPS Baby Alpaca Silk (30% silk, 70% alpaca, 50g/167m) White (1101), 2 balls will make 11 flags
- A 2.5mm (US B/1 or C/2) hook
- Ribbon, 4cm (1½in) wide, 2.2m (7ft 3in) long
- Thread to match ribbon

MEASUREMENTS

Filet flag measures 12x20cm (4¾x7¾in)
Star motif flag measures 20x17cm (4¾x6¾in)

ABBREVIATIONS

Ch-5 picot Ch5, ss to 5th ch from hook

NOTES

To decrease at the beginning of a row: ch2, skip st at base of ch and next st, then work first tr into next tr (this counts as tr2tog).

To decrease at the end of a row: work up to the last 3 sts, tr2tog over next st and the 3rd of beg ch-4, skipping the st

in between.

You will decrease at the beginning and end of Row 4 and every following third row. Flag is worked from the base.

CHART NOTES

See Chart on page 93.

Read all RS rows from right to left.

Read all WS rows from left to right.

On the Chart, an empty square represents an open square of 'ch1, skip 1 st, tr in next st', while a dotted square represents a filled square of 'tr in next st, tr in next tr'.

For rows without decreasing, begin each row with ch3, which counts as the first tr. The first 4 rows are written out in full to help you to follow the Chart.

FLAG

Using Yarn A, ch37.

Row 1 Tr in 4th ch from hook (skipped ch counts as tr), tr in each ch to end, turn. [35 sts]

Row 2 Ch3 (counts as tr), ch1, skip next tr, tr in next tr, ch1, skip next tr, tr in next tr, tr in each of next 4 tr, (ch1, skip next tr, tr in next tr) 9 times, tr in each of next 4 tr, (ch1, skip next tr, tr in next tr) twice. [13 open squares, 4 filled squares]

Row 3 Ch3 (counts as tr), ch1, skip next ch-1 sp, tr in next tr, (ch1, skip next st, tr in next tr) twice, tr in each of next 3 tr, tr in next ch-1 sp, tr in next tr, (ch1, skip next ch-1 sp, tr in next tr) 7 times, tr in next ch-1 sp, tr in each of next 3 tr, (ch1, skip next st, tr in next tr) 3 times. [13 open squares, 4 filled squares]

Row 4 Ch2, skip next ch-1 sp, tr in next tr, (ch1, skip next st, tr in next tr) 3 times, tr in each of next 2 tr, tr in next ch-1 sp, tr in next tr, (ch1, skip next ch, tr in next tr) 5 times, tr in next ch-1 sp, tr in each of next 3 tr, (ch1, skip next st, tr in next tr) twice, ch1, skip next ch-1 sp, tr2tog over next tr and 3rd of beg ch-4. [11 open squares, 4 filled squares]

Follow the Chart from Row 5, using the instructions at beg to work the open squares, the filled squares and the



decrease rows. When you reach the end of the Chart, do not fasten off.

EDGING

Rotate flag and working around the outside edge: (ch4, ss to top of st at end of next row) along the side edge, then working into rem loops of the foundation ch: (ch3, skip next st, ss in next st) across bottom of flag, (ch4, ss to top of st at end of next row) along the rem side to top, then work one more repeat at point of flag, ss to base of first ch-1 of edging.

Fasten off and weave in ends. Block.

STAR MOTIF FLAG

STAR MOTIF (MAKE 3)

Make first motif following the pattern below. The 2nd and 3rd motifs are joined to the others to make a triangular shape, by replacing ch3 on Round 4 with a ss to the corresponding ch3 on neighbouring motif, ch1. Using Yarn A, ch8, ss in first ch to join into a ring.

Round 1 (RS) Ch5 (counts as tr, ch2), (tr in ring, ch2) 11 times, ss to third of beg ch-5 to join.

Round 2 Ch1, (2dc in next ch-2 sp, ch4, skip next tr) 11 times, 2dc in next ch-2 sp, ch2, htr in first dc.

Round 3 Ch1, *dc in next ch-4 sp, ch1, (tr, ch1, dtr, ch3, dtr, ch1, tr) in next ch-4 sp, ch1; rep from * around, ss to first dc.

Round 4 Ch1, *dc in next dc, dc in next ch-1 sp, dc in next tr, dc in next ch-1 sp, dc in next dtr, (2dc, ch3, 2dc) in next ch-3 sp, dc in next dtr, dc in next ch-1 sp, dc in next tr, dc in next ch-1 sp; rep from * around, ss to first dc.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Make second and third motifs and join as instructed above.

EDGING

Only 2 sides are edged so the rounds are incomplete and are turned, leaving the bottom edge unworked.

Choose a bottom edge. With WS facing, join yarn with a ss to any ch-3 star point. This will be the bottom-right corner of the flag.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1, dc in same ch-3 sp, (ch12, dc in next point) 8 times, turn.

Round 2 Ch1, (3dc, htr, tr, dtr, ch-5 picot, tr, htr, 7dc) in next ch-12 sp, dc in next dc, ch-5 picot, *(10dc, htr, tr) in next ch-12 sp, dtr in next dc, ch-5 picot, (tr, htr, 10dc) in next ch-12 sp, dc in next dc, ch-5 picot; repeat from * twice more, (7dc, htr, tr, dtr, ch-5 picot, tr, htr, 3dc) in last ch-12 sp, ss to last dc.

Fasten off and weave in ends. Block.

TO FINISH

Make as many flags as you need (one pair will give you approx 32cm of bunting) and lay them alternately along the ribbon no deeper than halfway across the width. Tack in place and fold the ribbon over the top and pin. Machine stitch through all layers, making sure you have the bottom edges of the flags firmly attached.

BIG LACY RUG

This rug is made with the same pattern as the Round Cushion – just amazing.

■ DROPS Andes (65% wool, 35% alpaca, 100g/96m), 10 balls of White (1101) used doubled

■ A 10mm (US N/15) hook

TENSION

First 4 rounds of rug measure 8cm (3in)

diameter using a 10mm hook.

MEASUREMENTS

104cm (41in) diameter

NOTE

The abbreviations and pattern are the same as for the Round Cushion.

For the rug, the yarn is held doubled throughout.

STARRY PICTURE

Stitch a block of lacy star motifs to create a piece of unique wall art.

Designed by Anne Egan.

■ DROPS Baby Alpaca Silk (30% silk, 70% alpaca, 50g/167m), 1 ball of White (1101)

■ A 2.5mm (US B/1 or US C/2) hook

■ Picture frame, 18cm (7in) square

TENSION

Tension is not critical for this project

MEASUREMENTS

18x18cm (7x7in) square

NOTES

Make first motif following the pattern below. The 2nd, 3rd and 4th motifs are joined to the others to make a square, by replacing the ch-3 on Round 3 with 'ch1, ss in the corresponding ch-3 of adjacent star, ch1'.

The lace border is added around the outside once the 4 motifs are joined.

STAR MOTIF (MAKE 4)

FIRST MOTIF

Ch8, ss to first ch to join into a ring.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 16dc in the ring, ss to first dc to join.

WINTER LACE IDEAS

[16 sts]

Round 2 Ch10 (counts as tr, ch7), (skip next dc, tr in next dc, ch7) 7 times, ss to top of beg ch-10. [8 tr and 8 ch-7 sps]

Round 3 Ch1 (does not count as st), *(3dc, ch3, 3dc) in next ch-7 sp, dc2tog over same ch-sp and next ch-sp; repeat from * around, ss to first dc. [8 points of (3dc, ch-3, 3dc), 8 dc2tog] **Fasten off.**

For the remaining 3 motifs, join to 2 points of the adjacent star in Round 3 by replacing ch-3 with 'ch1, ss in ch-3 sp of adjacent star, ch1'. Use image as a guide to joining motifs.

BORDER

Join yarn with a ss at a point as indicated in Joining Diagram below.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), (dc in ch-3 sp, ch10, dc in next ch-3 sp, ch6) around, ss to first dc to join. [8 ch-10 sps and 8 ch-6 sps]

Round 2 Ch1, *dc in next dc, ch2, (tr, [ch2, dtr] 4 times, ch2, tr) in next ch-10 sp, ch2, dc in next dc, ch3, dc in next ch-6 sp, (ch2, dtr) 9 times in next ch-10 sp, ch2, dc in next ch-6 sp, ch3; repeat

from * 3 more times, ss to first dc.

Round 3 Ch4 (counts as dtr), *ch7, skip 3 ch-2 sps, dc in next ch-2 sp, ch7, skip 3 ch-2 sps, dtr in next dc, ch7, skip next ch-3 sp and next ch-2 sp, dc in next ch-2 sp, ch7, skip next ch-2 sp, dc in next ch-2 sp, ch9, skip next 2 ch-2 sps, dc in next ch-2 sp, ch7, skip next ch-2 sp, dc in next ch-2 sp, ch7, skip next ch-2 sp and next ch-3 sp, dtr in next dc, repeat from * 3 more times, omitting last ch-7 and dtr, ch3, dtr to top of beg ch-4. [24 ch-7 sps and 4 ch-9 sps]

Round 4 Ch1, dc in dtr, *(ch7, dc in next ch-7 sp) 4 times, ch7, dc in next ch-9 sp, ch7, dc in same ch-9 sp, (ch7, dc in next ch-7 sp) twice; repeat from * 3 more times omitting last ch-7 and dc, ch3, dtr to first dc. [28 ch-7 sps]

Round 5 Ch1, dc in dtr, *ch7, dc in next ch-7 sp; repeat from * around, ch3, dtr to first dc.

Rounds 6-8 Repeat Round 5.

Fasten off. Weave in all ends. Block.

TO FINISH

Stretch square over a board, carefully staple in place at the back and frame.

FILET PICTURE

Never tried filet crochet before? This framed mesh block by Anne Egan is a really great project to start with.

- DROPS Baby Alpaca Silk (30% silk, 70% alpaca, 50g/167m), 1 ball of White (1101)
- A 2.5mm (US B/1 or US C/2) hook
- Picture frame, 15cm (6in) square

TENSION

Tension is not critical for this project

MEASUREMENTS

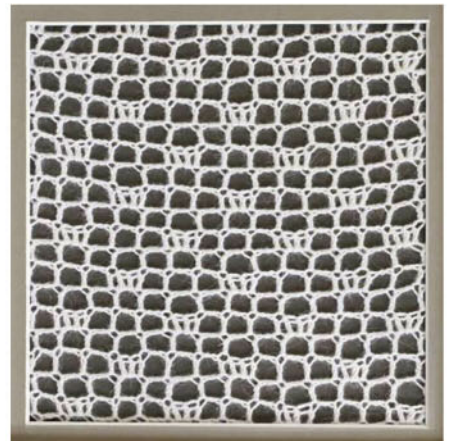
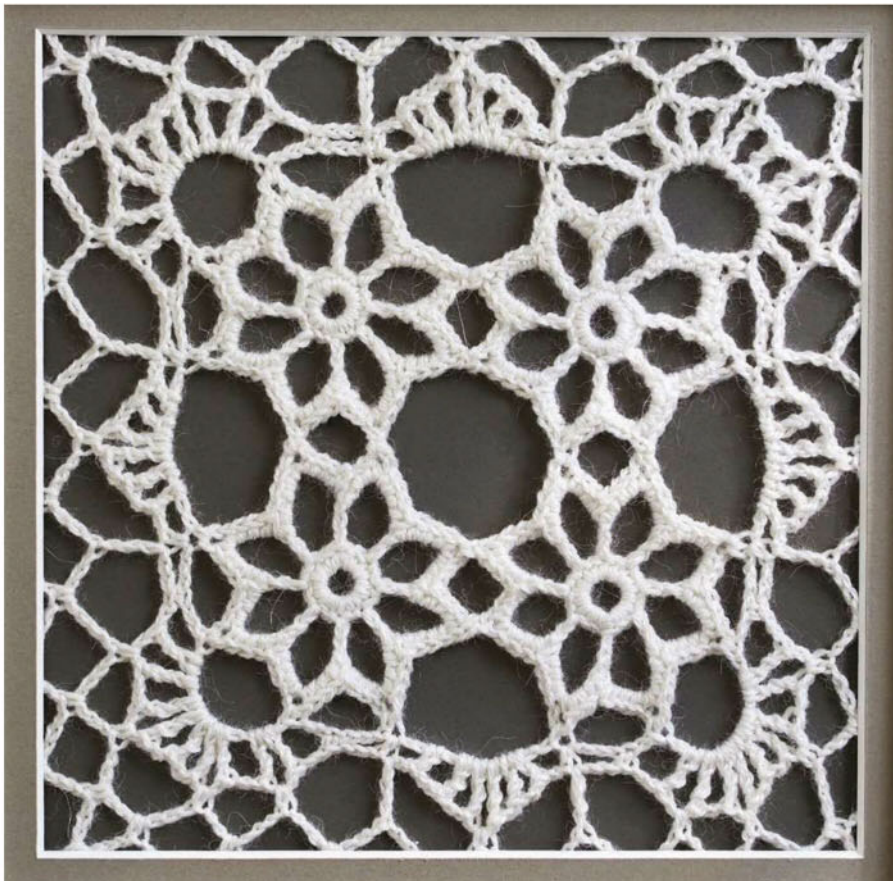
15x15cm (6x6in) square

NOTES

Basic filet crochet comprises of treble crochet stitches and chain spaces. Each square shares outer treble stitches with the adjacent block.

In this pattern, the mesh is made up of rows of squares which are either left open with 2 chains between the outer trebles or filled in with 2 trebles.

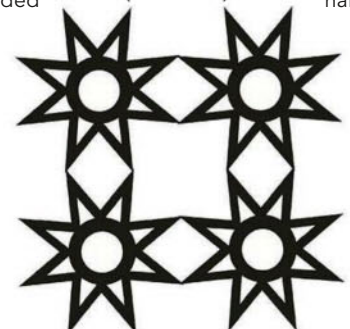
See issue 32 of *Simply Crochet* for our in-depth guide to Filet Crochet.



JOINING DIAGRAM

Join here if left handed

Join here if right handed





FLOWER PICTURE

Anne Egan's mock Irish Lace flower with popcorns takes centre stage.

- DROPS Baby Alpaca Silk (30% silk, 70% alpaca, 50g/167m), 1 ball of White (1101)
- A 2.5mm (US B/1 or US C/2) hook
- Picture frame, 18cm (7in) square

TENSION

Tension is not critical for this project

MEASUREMENTS

18x18cm (7x7in) square

ABBREVIATIONS

Popcorn stitch (pc) 4tr in same st, remove hook and insert in first of 4 tr from front to back, replace loop and pull through.

Front Post double crochet (FPdc)

Starting from the front, insert hook from front to back to front around post of st in row below, complete as for a dc st

Back Post double crochet (BPdc)

Starting from the back, insert hook from back to front to back around post of st in row below, complete as for a dc st

NOTES

Basic lace grid is made separately to the flower and leaf sections which are attached afterwards.

BASIC LACE GRID

Ch57.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in 2nd ch from hook, (ch7, skip next 4ch, dc in next ch) to end, turn. [11 ch-7 sps]

Row 2 Ch7 (counts as dtr, ch3), dc in first ch-7 sp, (ch7, dc in next ch-7 sp) 10 times, ch3, dtr in first dc, turn. [10 ch-7 sps, 2 ch-3 sps]

Row 3 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in first dtr, (ch7, dc in next ch-7 sp) 10 times, ch7, dc in 4th of beg ch-7, turn. [11 ch-7 sps]

Rows 4-21 Repeat Rows 2 and 3.

Fasten off and weave in ends. Block.

FLOWER

Ch8, ss to first ch to join into a ring.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 16dc in ring, ss to first dc. [16 dc]

Round 2 Ch4 (counts as tr, ch1), *pc in next dc, ch1, tr in next dc, ch1; repeat from * 6 more times, pc in last dc, ch1,

ss to 3rd of beg ch-4.

[8 pc, 8 tr, 16 ch-1 sps]

Round 3 Ch7 (counts as tr, ch4), *skip (ch-1, pc, ch-1), tr in next tr, ch4; repeat from * 6 more times, ss to 3rd of beg ch-7. [8 ch-4 loops, 8 tr]

Round 4 Ch3 (counts as tr), 5tr in next ch-4 sp, *2tr in next tr, 5tr in next ch-4 sp; repeat from * 6 more times, tr in base of beg ch-3, ss in top of beg ch-3. [56 tr]

Round 5 Ch2 (does not count as st), BPdc around the post of each tr (skip ch-3 at base of beg ch-2 and skip 1 tr halfway around, opposite the beg ch), ss to first dc. [54 dc]

Round 6 (Skip next 2 dc, 10dtr in next dc, skip next 2 dc, ss in next dc) 9 times, ss to previous ss. [9 petals]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TENDRILS (MAKE 2)

Ch8, ss to first ch to join into a ring, ch25.

Row 1 (WS) Dc in second ch from hook, dc in each ch to ss, 16dc in ring, turn. [40 dc]

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), skip first dc, dc in next dc, htr in next dc, (2tr in next dc, tr in next dc) 6 times, (2tr in next dc, tr in each of next 2 dc) 5 times, (2tr in next dc, tr in next dc) 3 times, 2tr in each of next 4 dc, turn. [57 sts]

Row 3 Ch2 (does not count as st), skip first tr, FPdc around the post of each tr to htr, dc around post of htr, turn. [56 sts]

Row 4 (Skip next 2 dc, 8tr in next dc, skip next 3 dc, ss in next dc) 8 times.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

While the background grid is being blocked, pin flower and tendrils in place. Once blocking is finished, stitch these in place from the back with matching thread or matching yarn. Weave in ends.

Stretch over a board, staple at the back to fix in place and frame.



STOCKISTS

Wool Warehouse 01926 882 818
www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

PurpleLinda Crafts
www.purplelindacrafts.co.uk

CHART NOTES

See Chart on page 93.

Read all RS rows from right to left.

Read all WS rows from left to right.

Begin each row with ch3, which counts as the first tr.

On the Chart, an empty square represents an open space of 'ch2, skip 2 sts, tr in next st', while a dotted square represents a filled square of 'tr in each of next 2 sts, tr in next tr'.

Always work the last st of the row into the third turning ch.

Repeat the four squares on the Chart to the end of the row.

When you have completed the four rows on the Chart, repeat (Rows 1-4) 4 more times, then Row 1 once more.

The first 2 rows have been written out in full to help you to follow the Chart.

PICTURE

Ch53.

Row 1 (RS) Tr in 8th ch from hook (skipped 7ch counts as tr, ch2, skip 2 ch), (ch2, skip 2 ch, tr in next ch) to the end, turn. [16 open squares]

Row 2 Ch5 (counts as tr, 2 ch), skip next ch-2 sp, tr in next tr, ch2, skip next ch-2 sp, tr in next tr, 2tr in next ch-2 sp, tr in next tr, *(ch2, skip next ch-2 sp, tr in next tr) 3 times, 2tr in next ch-2 sp, tr in next tr; repeat from * twice more, ch2, skip next ch-2 sp, tr in top of the beginning ch-3, turn. [12 open squares, 4 filled squares]

Now follow Chart from Row 3.

Fasten off and weave in ends. Block.

TO FINISH

Stretch the square over a board, carefully staple at the back to fix in place and then frame.

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Bracelet trio



YOU WILL NEED

- Debbie Bliss Donegal Luxury Tweed Aran (90% wool, 10% angora, 50g/88m), 1 ball of each: Denim (09), Silver (10)
 - A 5mm (US H/8) hook
 - Three bangles
 - Tapestry needle
- For yarn stockists, contact Designer Yarns 01535 664222
www.designeryarns.uk.com

MEASUREMENTS

To fit bangles with 8.5cm (3¼in) diameter

SPECIAL ABBREVIATIONS

3-tr colour cluster Change to Denim on final yrh of previous stitch; (yrh, insert hook in space/st indicated, yrh and pull up loop, yrh and draw through 2 loops) three times, inserting the hook into the same space/st each time, yrh in Silver and draw through all loops on hook. Continue in Silver.

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.



NEED FOR TWEED

Pep up your winter look with three chunky bangles in pretty flecked wool. By Becca Parker.

THIN BANGLE

Using Silver, ch7 or length required to fit around width of bangle.

Row 1 Dc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch to end, turn. [6 dc]

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each dc to end, turn. [6 dc]
Rep Row 2 until work measures 25.5cm (10in) or to fit length of bangle.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

MEDIUM BANGLE

Using Denim, ch9 or length required to fit around width of bangle.
Work as for Thin Bangle.

CHUNKY BANGLE

Using Silver, ch14 or length required to

fit around width of bangle.

Row 1 Tr in 4th ch from hook and each ch to end, turn. [12 tr]

Row 2 Ch3 (counts as tr throughout), 3tr, 3tr colour cluster in next st, 2tr, 3tr colour cluster in next st, 4tr, turn. [12 sts]

Row 3 Ch3, tr in each st to end, turn. [12 tr]

Repeat Rows 2-3 until work measures 25.5cm (10in) or to fit length of bangle.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

TO MAKE UP

Using long tail, sew short ends of each bangle cover tog. Do not fasten off. Stretch each cover over corresponding bangle and sew together long edges using long tail. Weave in ends.



Choose bracelets a bit too big for you – the crochet covers will make them snug.

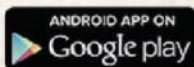
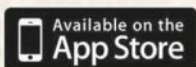
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KAT'S JOURNAL

...FROM THE STUDIO

What really happens when your hobby becomes your job? Crochet designer Kat Goldin tells it like it is.



What's on your New Year's resolutions list? Starting a crochet business, perhaps? Despite working full-time as a designer for the last four years, it still catches me a bit by surprise that this is what I do for a living. I remember the day I realised that my crochet design was more than just a flash in the pan for me, to get through some hard times. I'd started selling crocheted hats a few months earlier. I'd been made redundant and we couldn't afford to buy groceries. After hearing friends say over and over, "You should sell your work", I finally caved as a means to put food on the table.

Initially, it was just that. I was designing and making things as a temporary measure. I assumed, once we were back on our feet and at least one of our three children was in school, I would go back to work. In a 'real' job. But then an email landed in my inbox. It was early November 2011, less than a month into starting my business in earnest, and Etsy was asking to use my designs in the Spring 2012 lookbook and magazine campaigns. And I realised that this could be something more than just a stopgap.

THE GOOD WITH THE BAD

I feel like my crafting life divided into two on that day – Before Business and After Business. Pre-business, crochet was an obsession. I couldn't put it down, carrying my project around the village when out with the children, staying up late to queue designs on Ravelry,

making presents for anyone that would let me. After business, I still crocheted every waking moment, but it became less and less about the things I wanted to make and all about meeting deadlines, completing orders and squeezing in as much working time as I possibly could. On the odd occasions when I did have a free moment, the last thing I wanted to do was make.

There is no question that being a crochet designer is my dream job. I love what I do. I work with amazing people, get yarn in the post most days, spend a

lot of time making things and then have the ultimate pleasure of seeing them made by other people. I have flexibility to be with the kids and have met the life goal of publishing books.

But making your hobby your job is not without its downsides. After many generations of being devalued, crochet design isn't terribly well paid and most of the designers I know don't earn enough to pay income tax. If you go down the handmaking route, it can also be hard to make a sustainable living, with commissions via main sales

"Initially, I was making
and designing things as
a temporary measure."



COLUMN



"But it is worth
it, all of it."

platforms and competition from the high street coming in much more cheaply. You also have to learn to let go – your own tastes, timelines and preferences take second seat to those of the customers or clients.

FINDING A BALANCE

It can be hard to turn off – working for yourself and at home means that work is always there and I find it hard to switch off, often working long days that result in me being grumpy or anxious that not everything is done. My yarn stash is

overflowing to the point that I cried when a recent delivery came for an upcoming cardigan design because I just didn't know where to put it.

Turning your passion into a job is still that: a job. You will have bad days, long days, sometimes you'll work into the night for days, and some days it will all suck very much. I can't tell you the number of times in the last four years I have quit or cried or sworn at myself for not keeping my civil servant job. Whoever coined the phrase, "Do what you love and the money will follow",

quite obviously does not work in the world of handmade.

But it is worth it, all of it. The late nights, the hard work. Turning what you love into a job is a rare privilege. Seeing something you've made or designed on someone else and earning money for it... there is no greater feeling in the world. If you have the will and the means, I urge you to make the leap because there is just nothing better. Although, could someone remind me of that next time I am crocheting through the night to finish a blanket?

A LOCH AT MY MONTH

"Duckling takes a dip, a view of the Northern Lights from the cow field, yarn from The Wool Kitchen, and a last-minute costume for Charlie and the Chocolate Factory day."





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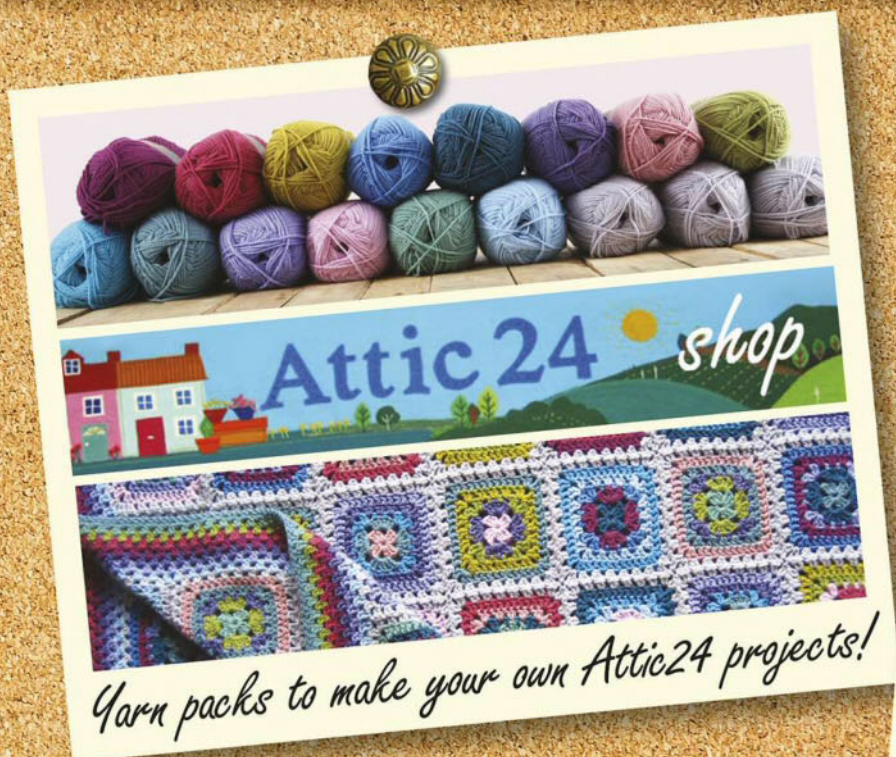
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Lacy cardigan



PINK BERRIES

Try your hand at openwork lace to make a stunning long-line cardi. Designed by Annelise Baes.

Lacy cardigan



YOU WILL NEED

■ Juniper Moon Farm Moonshine (40% wool, 40% alpaca, 20% silk, 100g/180m), Cotton Candy (10)

See table for yarn quantities and measurements

■ A 5mm (US H/8) hook

■ Stitch markers

For yarn stockists, contact Intercontinental Yarns

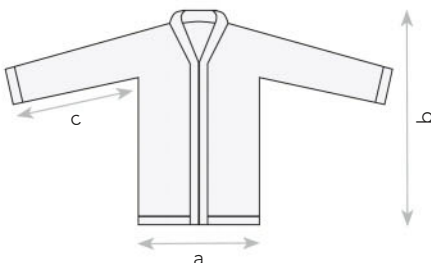
01535 664222 www.intercontinentalyarns.co.uk

TENSION

4 stitch patt repeats to 12cm (4¾in) and 9.5 rows to 10cm (4in) worked over Basic Pattern using a 5mm hook or size needed to obtain correct tension

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.



a (Half bust):

42 (48: 54: 57)cm,
16½ (19: 21½: 22½)in

b (Length):

71 (73: 77: 79)cm,
28 (28¾: 30½: 31¼)in

c (Sleeve length underarm):

42cm, 16½in

Wow, aren't these stitches beautiful? This brilliant seamless cardigan (hooray for minimal sewing up) is worked from the top down in a lovely lacy stitch pattern. The solid double crochet front edging and matching belt add a bit of structure, resulting in a comfy, stylish garment that looks and feels extra special. We love it.

SPECIAL ABBREVIATIONS

2-tr cluster (2-tr cl) (Yrh, insert hook in space/st indicated, yrh and pull up loop, yrh and draw through 2 loops) twice, inserting the hook in the same space/st each time, yrh and draw through all loops on hook. Where a 2-tr cluster occurs at the beginning of the row, work (ch2, tr in first st)

Pm Place marker

Raglan Increase (RInc) (2-tr cl, ch2) 3 times in dc indicated, dc in next ch-5 sp, ch2. Where this occurs at the beginning of a row replace the first 2-tr cl with (ch2, tr in first st)

NOTES

This is a seamless open-fronted cardigan, worked top down with raglan shaping. When you reach the end of the raglan shaping, the work is divided to leave stitches skipped for the Sleeves. You continue working on the Front and Back in one piece to the hem, and then rejoin to work the Sleeves in rounds. An edging is added to the Front and neckline edge and a Belt is made for tying.

It is possible to alter the length of the Body as indicated in the pattern, but remember that the yarn quantities

stated apply to the measurements given in the sizing table.

The model is wearing the Medium size. The stitch patterns you will need are written out at the beginning before the start of the pattern instructions.

STITCH PATTERNS

BASIC STITCH PATTERN

Worked over a multiple of 4 + 1 sts. Ch25 to make a tension swatch.

Row 1 (RS) Ch2, tr in third ch from hook (counts as 2-tr cl), ch2, skip next ch, dc in next ch, ch2, skip next ch, *2-tr cl in next ch, ch2, skip next ch, dc in next ch, ch2, skip next ch; rep from * to last ch, 2-tr cl in last ch, turn.

Row 2 (WS) Ch1 (does not count as st), (dc in next 2-tr cl, ch5) to last st, dc in last 2-tr cl, turn.

Row 3 Ch2, tr in st at base of ch (counts as 2-tr cl), ch2, dc in ch-5 sp, ch2, (2-tr cl in next dc, ch2, dc in ch-5 sp, ch2) to last dc, 2-tr cl in last dc, turn.

Row 4 Ch1 (does not count as st), (dc in next 2-tr cl, ch5) to last st, dc in last 2-tr cl, turn.

Rows 3 and 4 set pattern.

RAGLAN INCREASE PATTERN

The Raglan Increases are worked over the 2-row pattern repeat as follows:

Row 1 *Work as for Row 3 of Basic Pattern up to marked st, RInc in marked st; rep from * 3 more times, work in Basic Pattern to end, turn. [4 RInc]

Row 2 Work as for Row 4 of Basic Pattern. [Inc by 8 Patt repeats]

FRONT INCREASE PATTERN

The Front Increases are worked over

SIZE (UK DRESS)		S	M	L	XL
TO FIT BUST	cm	81-86	91-97	102-107	112-117
	in	32-34	36-38	40-42	44-46
ACTUAL BUST	cm	85	97	109	115
	in	33¾	38	43	45¼
LENGTH	cm	71	73	77	79
	in	28	28¾	30½	31¼
SLEEVE LENGTH	cm	42	42	42	42
	in	16½	16½	16½	16½
YARN	100g	5	6	7	8

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

the 2-row pattern repeat as follows:

Row 1 Ch2, tr in st at base of ch (counts as 2-tr cl), ch2, 2-tr cl in same st, work as for Row 3 of Basic Pattern to last dc, (2-tr cl, ch2, 2-tr cl) in last dc, turn. [2 increase sts]

Row 2 Work as for Row 4 of Basic Pattern. [Inc by 2 Patt repeats]

C YOKE

Ch 43 (51: 51: 63).

Rows 1-2 Work Rows 1-2 of Basic Stitch Patt. [10 (12: 12: 15) st patt repeats + 1 stitch]

Pm in first dc, skip 1 (2: 2: 3) dc, pm in next dc, skip 5 (5: 5: 6) dc, pm in next dc, skip 1 (2: 2: 3) dc, pm in last dc. [4 markers]

Continue moving markers up to central cluster of each RInc, or outside cluster of each Front Increase, and then to corresponding dc sts in the following row.

Row 3 Work as for Row 3 of Basic Stitch Patt, with a RInc in the first 3 marked sts. In the last st, work a RInc, omitting the last (ch2, dc, ch2), turn.

Row 4 Work as for Row 4 of Basic Stitch Patt. [18 (20: 20: 23) st patt repeats + 1 stitch]

Rows 5-6 Work Rows 1-2 of Front Increase Patt. [20 (22: 22: 25) st patt repeats + 1 stitch]

Rows 7-8 Work Rows 1-2 of Raglan Increase Patt. [28 (30: 30: 33) st patt repeats + 1 stitch]

Rows 9-10 Work 2 rows of Basic (Front Inc: Front Inc: Front Inc) Patt. [28 (32: 32: 35) st patt repeats + 1 stitch]

Rows 11-12 Work Rows 1-2 of Raglan Increase Patt. [36 (40: 40: 43) st patt repeats + 1 stitch]

Rows 13-14 Work 2 rows of Basic (Basic: Front Inc: Front Inc) Patt. [36 (40: 42: 45) st patt repeats + 1 stitch]

Rows 15-16 Work Rows 1-2 of Raglan Increase Patt. [44 (48: 50: 53) st patt repeats + 1 stitch]

Rows 17-18 Work 2 rows of Basic Stitch Patt.

For size S, Yoke finishes here. Skip to Divide for Sleeves.

Sizes M, L and XL only:

Rows 19-20 Work Rows 1-2 of Raglan Increase Patt. [- (56: 58: 61) st patt repeats + 1 stitch]

For size M, Yoke finishes here. Skip to Divide for Sleeves.



Sizes L and XL only

Rows 21-22 Work 2 rows of Basic Stitch Patt.

Rows 23-24 Work Rows 1-2 of Raglan Increase Patt. [- (-: 66: 69) st patt repeats + 1 stitch]

For size L, Yoke finishes here. Skip to Divide for Sleeves.

Size XL only

Rows 25-26 Work 2 rows of Basic Stitch Patt.

DIVIDE FOR SLEEVES

In the following row, keep markers in the dc stitches from the previous row and leave them in this position while you work the Body.

Next row (RS) Work 5 (7: 9: 9) repeats of Basic Stitch Pattern up to first marker, tr2tog over first and second marked st, skipping 10 (13: 15: 16) patt reps for first Sleeve, work 13 (16: 18: 19) patt reps for Back, tr2tog over third and fourth marked st, skipping 10 (13: 15:

Lacy cardigan

16) patt reps for second Sleeve, work in Basic Stitch Pattern to end, turn. [24 (30: 36: 37) working patt reps + 1 stitch after divide. Each tr2tog in this row counts as a 2-tr cl.]

BODY

Continue working in Basic Stitch Patt for a further 46 rows, or to required length, ending on a RS row.

Next row Work as for a WS row of the Basic Stitch Patt, but work ch-4 between each dc, instead of ch-5, turn, do not fasten off.

BOTTOM EDGING

Row 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), ss in each st or ch to end, turn.

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), ss in front loop only of each st to end, turn.

Row 3 Ch1 (does not count as st), ss in back loop only of each st to end.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

SLEEVES (MAKE 2)

Rejoin yarn with RS facing by slip stitching the 2 marked dc sts at the underarm tog, ready to work in the round.

Follow the Basic Stitch Pattern, but to work in the round rather than in rows you will need to omit the last st of the row as written in the patt and ss to the first st of the round. Turn after every round. You may find it helpful to mark the beginning of the round with a stitch marker.

Rounds 1-3 Work 3 rounds of Basic Stitch Pattern starting with a RS row, turning after every round. [10 (13: 15: 16) stitch patt repeats]

DECREASE ROUNDS

Round 4 (WS) Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in first 2-tr cl, ch3, continue in Basic Stitch Patt to last cluster, dc in last cluster, ch3, ss to first dc, turn.

Round 5 Ch2, tr in st at base of ch, skip ch-3 sp, 2-tr cl in next dc, ch2, dc in next ch-5 sp, ch2, continue Basic Stitch Patt to last dc of the round, 2-tr cl in last dc, ss to first tr, turn.

Round 6 Skip first (ch2, tr), dc in first 2-tr cluster, ch5, continue in Basic Stitch Patt to last 2-tr cl of the round, skip last cluster, ss to first 2-tr cluster, turn. [2 patt reps decreased: 8 (11: 13: 14) stitch patt repeats]

Continue working rounds in Basic Stitch

Patt without decreasing, ending with a RS row, until the sleeve measures 30cm from the underarm.

Size S only

Work 3 rows in Basic Stitch Pattern.

Sizes M, L and XL only

Repeat the Decrease Rounds 4-6. [- (9: 11: 12) stitch patt repeats]

All sizes

Work a further 5 rounds in Basic Stitch Patt without decreasing.

Next round Work as for a WS row of the Basic Stitch Patt, but work ch-4 between each dc, instead of ch-5, turn, do not fasten off.

SLEEVE EDGING

Continue working in a spiral in the round without closing off the round, and without turning.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), ss in every st and ch around.

Round 2 Ss in back loop only of each st around.

Repeat Round 2 a further 4 (5: 7: 9) times.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Fold over the edging as a cuff and secure with a few stitches.

FRONT EDGING

Rejoin yarn at the bottom Front edge with RS facing. Work the following edging pattern evenly up the Front edge, around the neckline and down the other Front edge. When working in the row ends of the stitch pattern, treat every 2 rows as the space for 3 sts; 2 in the 'cluster' row, and 1 in the 'dc' row.

Row 1 (RS) Ch2, skip st at base of ch, 2dc in next st, (skip next st, 2dc in next st) repeat to end, turn.

Repeat Row 1 a further 6 (6: 8: 10) times, or more if you want a larger collar.

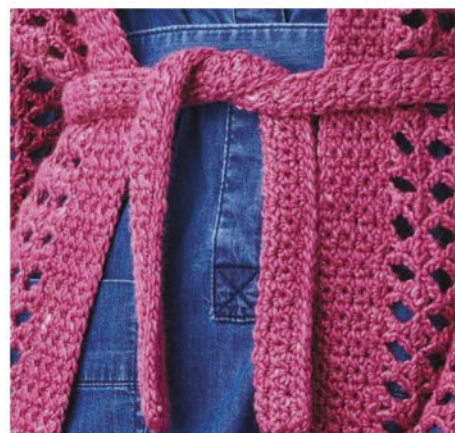
Fasten off and weave in ends.

BELT

You can make the Belt any length you want as long as you use a multiple of 2 +1 sts. 221ch will make a belt approx 160cm long.

Please note that the belt in the image measures 114cm.

Row 1 (RS) 2dc in third ch from hook, (skip next ch, 2dc in next ch) to end,



The cardigan fastens with a matching belt, worked in simple double crochet stitches.

turn.

Row 2 Ch2, skip st at base of ch, 2dc in next st, (skip next st, 2dc in next st) to end, turn.

Repeat Row 2 a further 7 (7: 9: 11) times.

Fold the Belt in half lengthwise and dc evenly around the outside, with 3dc in each corner st, through both layers to join.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

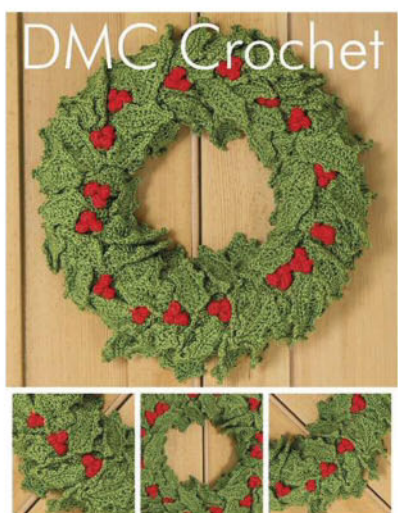
Weave in all ends and block to measurements.

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ALL DOLLED UP

Make Ilaria Caliri's little amigurumi crocheter. Isn't she the cutest?



Amigurumi doll



YOU WILL NEED

- DMC Natura Just Cotton (100% cotton, 50g/155m), 1 ball of each:
 - Yarn A Gardenia (36)
 - Yarn B Aguamarina (25)
 - Yarn C Malva (31)
 - Yarn D Ivory (02)
 - Yarn E Prussian (64)
 - Yarn F Safran (47)
 - Yarn G Cerise (62)
- A 2.5mm (US B/1) hook
- Safety eyes, approx 8mm diameter
- Pipe cleaners (optional)
- Recycled plastic sheet (optional)
- Wooden crochet hook or skewer carved into a hook shape, for doll to hold (optional)
- Stitch marker
- Toy stuffing

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

MEASUREMENTS

Finished doll is 25cm (9¾in) tall

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

Say hello to Miss January. You might recognise this delightful redhead from the pages of our 2016 calendar and she's the cover star, too. Create your own mini maker, complete with little granny square scarf and tiny crochet hook. What a doll.

NOTES

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

The Body and Head are worked as one piece starting from the bottom of the Body. All the other pieces are sewn to the Body.

BODY AND HEAD

With Yarn B, make a magic loop.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rounds 7-11 Dc in each dc around. [36 dc]

Fasten off Yarn B, join Yarn C.

Round 12 Dc in each dc around. [36 dc]

Round 13 (Dc2tog, dc in each of next 4 dc) 3 times, dc in each of next 18 dc. [33 dc]

Round 14 (Dc2tog, dc in each of next 3 dc) 3 times, dc in each of next 18 dc. [30 dc]

Round 15 As Round 12. [30 dc]

Round 16 (Dc2tog, dc in each of next 3 dc) 6 times. [24 dc]

Round 17 As Round 12. [24 dc]

Round 18 (Dc2tog, dc in each of next 2 dc) 6 times. [18 dc]

Round 19 As Round 12. [18 dc]

Fasten off Yarn C, join Yarn A.

Round 20 Working in the back loop only: (Dc2tog, dc in next dc) 6 times. [12 dc]

Round 21 As Round 12. [12 dc]

Stuff the Body.

Rounds 22-25 Work as for Rounds 3-6. [36 dc]

Round 26 (2dc in next dc, dc in each of

next 5 dc) 6 times. [42 dc]

Round 27 (2dc in next dc, dc in each of next 6 dc) 6 times. [48 dc]

Rounds 28-34 Dc in each dc around. [48 dc]

Round 35 (Dc in each of next 6 dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [42 dc]

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

Round 37 (Dc in each of next 4 dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [30 dc]

Round 38 (Dc in each of next 3 dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [24 dc]

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

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

Round 39 (Dc in each of next 2 dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [18 dc]

Round 40 (Dc in each of next dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [12 dc]

Round 41 (Dc2tog) 6 times. [6 dc]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

ARMS (MAKE 2)

With Yarn A, make a magic loop.

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

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

Rounds 3-5 Dc in each dc around. [10 dc]

Fasten off Yarn A, join Yarn C.

Round 6-12 Dc in each dc around. [10 dc]

Round 13 Dc2tog, dc in each of next 8 dc. [9 dc]

Round 14 Dc2tog, dc in each of next 7 dc. [8 dc]

Round 15 Dc2tog, dc in each of next 6 dc. [7 dc]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Stuff and insert pipe cleaners if you want to be able to bend the Arms.

Sew Arms to the Body.

LEGS (MAKE 2)

With Yarn D, make a magic loop.

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

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

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

Round 4 (partial round) 1htr, 3tr in each of next 2 dc, 1htr, dc in each of next 2 dc, ss in next st. [19 sts]

The first st of the next round will count as the new first st of each round, so move your marker to this st.

Round 5 Dc in each of next 10 sts,

Amigurumi doll

dc2tog, dc in each of next 2 sts, dc2tog, dc in each of next 3 sts. [17 sts]

Round 6 Dc in each of next 10 dc, (dc2tog) twice, dc in each of next 3 dc. [15 dc]

Round 7 (Dc2tog, dc in each of next 3 dc) 3 times. [12 dc]

Round 8 Dc in each dc around.

Fasten off Yarn D, join Yarn A.

Round 9 Working in back loop only: dc in each st around. [12 dc]

Rounds 10-11 Dc in each dc around. [12 dc]

Fasten off Yarn A, join Yarn B.

Rounds 12-18 Dc in each dc around. [12 dc]

Round 19 (Dc2tog, dc in each of next 4 dc) twice. [10 dc]

Rounds 20-29 Dc in each dc around. [10 dc]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Stuff and insert pipe cleaners if you want to be able to bend the Legs. Sew Legs to the Body.

SHOES (MAKE 2)

With Yarn E, make a magic loop.

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

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

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

Round 4 (partial round) 1htr, 3tr in each of next 2 dc, 1htr, dc in each of next 2 dc, ss in next st. [19 sts]

The first st of the next round will count as the new first st of each round, so move your marker to this st.

Round 5 Working in back loop only: dc in each st around. [19 sts]

Round 6 Working in back loop only: dc in each of next 10 dc, dc2tog, dc in each of next 2 dc, dc2tog, dc in each of next 3 dc. [17 dc]

Round 7 (partial round) Dc in each of next 5 dc, ss to next dc.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

If desired, cut shapes out of recycled plastic and insert into the soles of the shoes to make them rigid. Insert Feet into Shoes and sew in place.

SKIRT

With Yarn E, ch12.

Row 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), ss in next 3 ch, htr in each of next 9 ch, turn. [12 sts]

Row 2 Working in back loop only: Ch2 (does not count as st), htr in each of

next 9 htr, ss in each of next 3 ss, turn. [12 sts]

Row 3 Working in back loop only: Ch1 (does not count as st), ss in next 3 ss, htr in each of next 9 htr, turn. [12 sts] Repeat Rows 2-3 another 20 times.

Join the last row to the foundation chain using a ss seam.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Place Skirt on the doll.

HAIR CAP

With Yarn D, make a magic loop.

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

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

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

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

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing up.

HAIR BUN CAP

With Yarn D, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc into the loop but don't tighten the loop. [6 dc]

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

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

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

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

Rounds 6-8 Dc in each dc around. [30 dc]

Round 9 (Dc2tog, dc in each of next 3 dc) 6 times. [24 dc]

Round 10 (Dc2tog, dc in each of next 2 dc) 6 times. [18 dc]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing up.

ATTACH HAIR

The Hair Cap is used as a base for securing the hair.

To make strands of hair, cut lengths of Yarn F measuring approx 20cm. Fold in half and use a crochet hook to apply these strands in each st of the last two rounds of the Hair Cap. Sew the Hair Cap to the Head.

Comb the hair to the centre of the Head and make a knot. Place the Hair Bun Cap over the knot and if necessary, stuff with toy stuffing to create a round shape. Secure the Hair Bun Cap with a



On the skirt, some of the stitches are worked in the back loop only for a pleated effect.

few stitches, then cut long lengths of Yarn F and sew from the edge of the Hair Bun Cap to the centre (into the magic loop).

Make a long chain using Yarn E.

Fasten off, and sew it around the bun to embellish.

SCARF

Make 13 squares, as follows:

With Yarn B, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), (1dc, ch2) 4 times into the loop, ss to first dc to join the round.

Fasten off Yarn B, join Yarn E.

Round 2 Ch1, *dc in next dc, (1dc, ch2, 1dc) in the next ch-2 sp of prev round; rep from * 3 more times, ss to first dc to join.

Fasten off Yarn E, join Yarn G.

Round 3 Ch1, *dc in each of next 2 dc, (1dc, ch2, 1dc) in the next ch-2 sp of prev round, 1dc; rep from * 3 more times, ss to the first dc to join.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Sew the squares together using a tapestry needle and Yarn G. Wrap scarf around doll.

Granny square scarf



KEEP IT SIMPLE

Ilaria Caliri's scrummy merino scarf matches the mini version worn by her craft doll. So sweet.

Granny square scarf



YOU WILL NEED

- DMC Woolly (100% merino wool, 50g/125m),
1 ball of Yarn A shade 73
2 balls of each: Yarn B shade 72,
Yarn C shade 77
3 balls of Yarn D shade 54

- A 5mm (H/8) hook

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

MEASUREMENTS

One square motif measures
approx 14x14cm (5½x 5½in)
Finished scarf measures approx
14x210cm (5½x47in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

The humble granny square scarf is something of a rite of passage for any would-be crocheter. But whether you're new to the game or well acquainted with the simple pleasure of granny squares, this straightforward design is charming nonetheless. It's worked in a handful of bright, punchy shades that match our little craft doll's scarf on page 44. The two would make a wonderful pair of gifts for a creative pal who's young at heart. Get hooking.

C SQUARE (MAKE 15)

Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as first tr), 3tr, ch3, (4tr, ch3) 3 times into the loop, ss in third ch of beg ch. [4 4-tr groups, 4 corner ch-3 spaces]

Fasten off Yarn A, join Yarn B.

Round 2 Ch3 (counts as first tr), tr in each of next 3 tr, *(2tr, ch3, 2tr) into corner ch-sp, tr in each of next 4 tr; rep from * twice more, (2tr, ch3, 2tr) into corner ch-sp, ss in third ch of beg ch. [4 8-tr groups, 4 corner ch-3 spaces]

Fasten off Yarn B, join Yarn C.

Round 3 Ch3 (counts as first tr), tr in each of next 5 tr, *(2tr, ch3, 2tr) into corner ch-sp, tr in each of next 8 tr; rep from * twice more, (2tr, ch3, 2tr) into corner ch-sp, tr in each of next 2 tr, ss in third ch of beg ch. [4 12-tr groups, 4 corner ch-3 spaces]

Fasten off Yarn C, join Yarn D.

Round 4 Ch3 (counts as first tr), tr in each of next 7 tr, *(2tr, ch3, 2tr) into corner ch-sp, tr in each of next 12 tr; rep from * twice more, (2tr, ch3, 2tr) into corner ch-sp, tr in each of next 4 tr, ss in third ch of beg ch. [4 16-tr groups, 4 corner ch-3 spaces]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO MAKE UP

Join the squares using Yarn D and a slip stitch seam, as follows: Place two squares together, right sides facing, and slip stitch together along one edge, through the back loop only of each stitch. **Fasten off.** Weave in ends.



Weaving in the yarn ends as you go will save you a lot of hassle when you're finishing off.





PANEL SHOW

Add a touch of hand-hooked pizzazz to your wardrobe with Louise Smith's motifs.

Embellish an outfit



YOU WILL NEED

- Cascade Ultra Pima (100% pima cotton, 100g/200m), 1 skein of Deep Coral (3767)
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- Any plain top

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

MEASUREMENTS

Large motif 13.5cm (5¼in) diameter
Small motif 8cm (3in) diameter
Edging 1.5cm (½in) wide by length required (see pattern)

ABBREVIATIONS

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 space/st each time, yrh and draw through all loops on hook

For a full list, see page 92.

Take a plain top from boring to brilliant with Louise Smith's pretty motifs and edging. When sewn on as shown, the different crocheted elements form an eye-catching panel that screams DIY couture. We reckon you could make this in an evening.

LARGE MOTIF (MAKE 2)

Ch6, ss in first ch to make a ring.

Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr throughout), 13tr into ring, ss in the top of the beginning ch-3. [14 tr]

Round 2 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), *2dc in next st, 1dc in next st; repeat from * around, ss to first dc. [21 dc]

Round 3 Ch3, tr in st at base of ch, 1tr in each of next 2 sts, *2tr in next st, 1tr in each of next 2 sts; repeat from * around, ss in the top of the beginning ch-3. [28 tr]

Round 4 *(Dc, ch1, tr, ch1, dtr, ch1, tr, ch1, dc) into next st, ss in next st; repeat from * around. [14 points]

Round 5 Ss evenly to top of first point, *ch7, ss in top of next point; repeat from * around. [14 ch-7 sps]

Round 6 Ch1, *10dc in next ch-7 sp; repeat from * around, ss to first dc. [140 dc]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

SMALL MOTIF (MAKE 1)

Ch6, ss in first ch to make a ring.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), 13dc into ring, ss to first dc. [13 dc]

Round 2 Ch1, 2dc in each st around, ss to first dc. [26 dc]

Round 3 *Ch2, (3-tr cluster, ch2, ss) in st at base of ch2, ss in each of next 2 sts; repeat from * around, omitting last ch2 and 3ss. [13 3-tr clusters]

Round 4 *Ch2, ss in top of next 3-tr cluster; repeat from * around. [13 ch-2 sps]

Round 5 Ch1, 3dc in next ch-2 sp, *4dc in next ch-2 sp, 3dc in next ch-2 sp; repeat from * around, ss to first dc. [45 dc]

Round 6 Ch1, dc in next st, ch1, skip next st, *dc in each of next 2 sts, ch1, skip next st, repeat from * to last st, dc in next st, ss to first dc. [15 ch-sps]

Round 7 Ss in first st, *3dc in next ch-sp, ss in each of next 2 sts; repeat from * around, omitting last ss.

Fasten off and weave in ends.



Block your finished motifs carefully to neaten up the stitches and open out the lace.



For an ultra-neat finish, sew on your motifs using a thread that matches the yarn.

EDGING (MAKE 2)

Ch87 or a multiple of 2 +1 to the length required. On our sample, there were 9 pattern repeats (the equivalent of 19 foundation ch) to 10cm (4in).

Row 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in second ch from hook and in each ch to end, turn. [87 dc]

Row 2 Ch1, dc in next st, *ch1, skip next st, dc in next st; repeat from * to end, turn. [43 ch-sp]

Row 3 Ss in next st, *3dc in next ch-sp, ss in next st; repeat from * to end. [43 shells]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

Gently block pieces and pin them to top, as desired.

Carefully sew all pieces into place using a matching thread or leftover Cascade yarn and a sharp darning needle.

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"I like quick makes because I can be an impatient crafter."



KEEP CALM AND PASTEL ON

Designer Claire Wilson designs pretty pieces in pastel shades. We discover how crochet keeps Claire calm and collected, whatever life throws at her.

Claire Wilson is relentlessly cheerful, in the nicest possible way. The Cambridge resident has cunningly devised a lifestyle for herself that ensures she's surrounded by beautiful, crafty things and constantly making more, so it makes sense to us that she's full of smiles.

At the core of her breezy demeanour, though, there's a keen business brain and some impressive organisational skills. The crafter launched handmade lifestyle brand *Claireabellemakes* – and its sister company *Cambridge Craft Parties* – shortly after graduating with a Masters in Arts Management with a specialism in marketing. "This helped to give me a

clear idea of branding and direction," she says. "I did a lot of research on running a creative business and immersed myself in the craft community, getting to know the people I wanted as customers."

At around the same time, Claire started her *www.claireabellemakes.com* blog: "To connect with those who enjoy a handmade lifestyle and to begin to build my brand. When people ask me how I've managed it all, I tell them I work as hard as I can. If you're going to start a business, you should put everything into it!"

A well-thought-out plan is a crucial part of the mix. "It requires a great deal of organisation!" she says. "This year, my focus has been to develop products in my

store (www.claireabellemakes.etsy.com) and to grow my profile as a craft writer."

DESIGN DELIGHTS

Last year saw Claire contributing designs to a number of craft books, including her *Granny Stripe Cowl* for the David & Charles book *Crochet Infinity Scarves*.

"There are often a few projects going on at once, so I plan ahead for my blog and writing work so I can free up time for craft parties and events at the weekends," she says. "I schedule my days carefully and track my progress to ensure I'm achieving my goals on a weekly and monthly basis."

Claire's nifty design skills are also vital, not least in maintaining her own delight in



the process. "I like to work on projects that are useful or pretty," she says. "I still consider myself a learner crocheter, so I create designs that are simple and suitable for beginners. I like muted colours and patterns with repetition."

She's already gaining a reputation for designing elegant accessories, especially scarves, mitts, jewellery and hair accessories. "My style isn't particularly bold or outgoing," she comments, "so I love to add to my outfits with handmade pieces. I like quick makes because I can sometimes be an impatient crafter!"

"I SUFFER WITH MIGRAINES REGULARLY AND USE CRAFT AS A DISTRACTION AND RELAXATION TECHNIQUE!"

WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS

Claire recently became an ambassador with the US Craft Yarn Council, helping to raise awareness of the #StitchAwayStress campaign by sharing squeezey lemon patterns by Twinkie Chan. "The Craft Yarn Council got in touch with me after another blogger recommended me," she explains. "I really liked the idea behind the campaign because I suffer with migraines regularly and use craft as a distraction and relaxation technique."

Until recently, Claire was afflicted with migraines two to three times most weeks: "Sometimes they would last for days. It was a difficult period for my creativity as I felt I could never really get into a project." Thankfully, Claire is feeling much better now, a factor she attributes at least partly to her crafting pursuits. "My migraine attacks have reduced by almost half the amount. I feel as though my life is in balance now and crafting helps to relax and distract me from the pain. Crochet especially has been particularly

meditative for my health and I am grateful to have it as a tool for my well-being."

Regular crocheting keeps her on track. "I feel odd if I haven't crocheted in a while, so I try to do a bit every day, even if it's just a few stitches," she says. "I work full time and have a very supportive boyfriend who is super-patient with my craft addictions. After I made a crochet R2-D2 (the little robot from *Star Wars*) and he helped to

stitch the details, he began to realise that crochet isn't all about granny blankets! I take projects on the go with me and try to

keep my WIPs in sight so I can't forget them. My Persian cat Tammy also likes to get involved, chasing yarn or playing with hooks, so I always have a helper."

Inspiration comes from a variety of sources, including: "Interior design for colour combination ideas, and the work of other crafty makers," she says, adding: "Seeing other people share their projects and ideas online is great for creativity." Favourite blogs include www.FallForDIY.com "for beautiful and original craft ideas," www.BeakUpCrafts.co.uk "for the

wonderful styling, crochet and business inspiration," and www.ABeautifulMess.com "to observe the awe-inspiring business journey bloggers can take".

But Claire's crochet hero is Joanne Scrase of Not So Granny. "I was lucky enough to learn to crochet in person with Joanne and she has inspired me ever since," she enthuses. "I love her seamless garment designs and adore her work with Kat Goldin on The Crochet Project. Joanne also worked with my local WI group on a project to develop a botanical crochet installation of plants we designed ourselves. We were challenged creatively over an entire summer and Joanne was encouraging and inspiring throughout."

She believes the best secret for crochet success is knowing when to back calmly away from a project. "If you're struggling, a bit of distance from a tricky pattern can often help," she advises. "I made a jumper last year from a *Simply Crochet* pattern and it was my first garment. I got stuck with the sleeves and needed to curb the frustration so I stepped away from it for a while. The important thing is remembering to come back to it, or it might join the UFO pile forever!"

Interview by Judy Darley



A FEW OF HER FAVOURITE THINGS

"I've recently taken up Project Life scrapbooking, which I enjoy a lot. Paper crafts and stationery are a big passion of mine.

Aside from craft, the boyfriend and I love to eat out and watch films, even though I like Bollywood and he likes Sci-Fi! I enjoy baking

and especially making macarons. I found a crochet macaron pattern last week, so I might just try a woolly version, too – it will be better for my waistline anyway."

You can find out what Claire's been making lately on her fab blog at www.claireabellemakes.com

LITTLE STRIPES

Treat a precious new arrival to this sweet blanket by Emma Potter.



Baby blanket



YOU WILL NEED

- Sublime Baby Cashmere
Merino Silk DK (75% wool, 20% silk, 5% cashmere, 116m/50g),
5 balls of Yarn A Vanilla (003)
1 ball of each:
Yarn B Buttercream (437)
Yarn C Little Duck Egg (436)
 - A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- For yarn stockists, contact
Sublime 01924 369666
www.sublimeyarns.com

MEASUREMENTS

60x45cm (23½x17¾in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

Crochet designer Emma Potter describes this lovely creation of hers as: "An heirloom newborn baby blanket, made using a stretchy, staggered shell stitch and super-soft luxury yarn for a happy, snuggly baby." What more could you want in a baby blanket? The simple stitch pattern repeat makes it ideal for beginners, or if you need to whip something up for baby in double-quick time. Get stitching.

C BLANKET

Using a 4mm hook and Yarn A, ch98.

Row 1 (RS) (Dc, ch2, 4tr) in the second ch from the hook, *skip next 3 ch, (dc, ch2, 4tr) in the next ch; repeat from * across to the last 4 ch, skip next 3 ch, dc in the last ch, turn.

Row 2 Ch3, 2tr in st at the base of ch-3, *skip the next 4 tr, (dc, ch2, 4tr) in the next ch-2 sp, skip 1 dc; repeat from * across to the last 4 tr, skip 4 tr, dc in ch-2 sp, turn.

Repeat Row 2 changing colour as follows:

Row 3 Use Yarn A.

Rows 4-5 Use Yarn B.

Rows 6-25 Use Yarn A.

Rows 26-29 Use Yarn B.

Rows 30-31 Use Yarn A.

Rows 32-35 Use Yarn C.

Rows 36-37 Use Yarn A.

Rows 38-41 Use Yarn B.

Rows 42-67 Use Yarn A.

Fasten off and weave in ends.



When changing colour, work the final part of the last double crochet in the new colour.



SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO CHANGE COLOUR IN ROWS



1 Start working the last stitch of the last row of the old colour, but stop before you work the final yrh of the stitch. Cut off the old yarn, leaving a tail about 7cm long.



2 Now loop your new yarn colour around the hook, leaving a long tail of yarn (about 7cm long).



3 Pull the new yarn loop through the remaining two loops to finish off the stitch. Pull the old and new yarn ends to tighten the loop on the hook.



4 Now you can work the turning chain of the new row in the new colour, for example, ch3. Then work the stitches of the new row in the new yarn colour.



Cosy wrap



CHIC TO CHIC

Hook Rachel Whitechurch's versatile buttoned wrap in a softer-than-soft, silk-blend yarn. Just divine.

Cosy wrap



YOU WILL NEED

- Louisa Harding Grace (50% silk, 50% merino wool 50g/100m), 5 balls of Willow (35)
 - A 4mm (US G/6) hook
 - 3 buttons, 35mm in diameter
- We used River Shell Buttons from Textile Garden
www.textilegarden.com

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

TENSION

Overall tension is not critical but will affect finished size and yarn quantities. To achieve the measurements stated, work 15sts to 10cm (4in) over double crochet using a 4mm hook or size needed to obtain this tension.

MEASUREMENTS

48x28cm (19x11in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

Rachel Whitechurch's silky wrap is a really versatile make. Wear it up around your neck as a cosy cowl, or pull it down over your shoulders for a stylish cover-up that's perfect for party season. A delicate edging and three bold buttons finish it off. You'll find Louisa Harding's Grace yarn a delight to stitch with and even lovelier to wear.

NOTES

The wrap is finished with mock buttons that are sewn on through both layers to join the wrap.

EDGING BAND

Ch43.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in the second ch from the hook and in each ch across, turn. [42 sts]

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

Rows 3-6 Repeat Row 2.

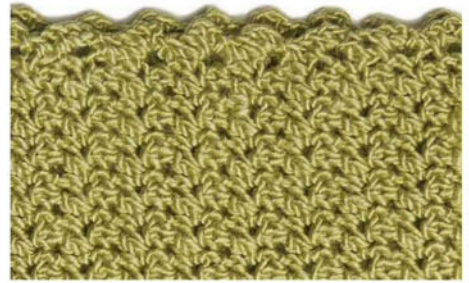
PATTERN

Row 7 Ch2 (counts as first st), *tr in next st, dc in next st; repeat from * to last st, tr in last st, turn.

Row 8 Ch2 (counts as first st), *tr in next dc, dc in next tr; repeat from * to last st, tr in top of beg ch-2, turn.

Row 8 forms pattern, continue working Row 8 until work measures 92cm from beginning, or until it fits snugly around your shoulders.

Repeat Row 2 another 6 times to form edging band. **Fasten off.**



This silk-blend yarn is ideal for defining the pretty stitch pattern and wavy edging.

TO FINISH

Fold the wrap in half, and place the left-hand edging band over the top of the right-hand edging band and pin together.

Spacing the buttons evenly from the top (see image below), stitch the buttons onto the edging band through both layers.

PICOT EDGING

Attach yarn to top-right side of edging band, *ch3, skip 2 rows of dc (or skip 1 row when you reach stitch pattern), (dc, ch3, ss) in next row end; repeat from * to end.

Fasten off.

Rejoin the yarn to the bottom edge of the wrap and repeat the picot edging as given above.
 Weave in all ends.



HOT PURSUIT

Beat the chill with this duo of chunky winter warmers by Hannah Cross.

USE YOUR
FREE HOOK!



Hat and mitts



YOU WILL NEED

- Rowan Thick 'n' Thin (100% wool, 50g/50m), 4 balls of Pyrite (960)
 - An 8mm (US L/11) hook
 - Tapestry needle
 - Pompom maker, 10cm (4in) diameter, or pieces of card
- For yarn stockists, contact Rowan 01484 681881
www.knitrowan.com

TENSION

12 sts and 11 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over stitch pattern using an 8mm hook or size required to achieve tension

MEASUREMENTS

Mitts measure 16x10cm (6½x4in)
Hat measures 24cm (9½in) tall and 48cm (19in) circumference, and will fit head circumference of 50-60cm (19½-24in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

Get to grips with chunky yarn and make a cosy hat and mitts set that you won't want to take off.

There's no shaping involved in either of these projects – just work rows of double crochet and half treble stitches and do all the seaming afterwards. Rowan's Thick 'n' Thin yarn provides a bit of scrummy texture, and then of course there's that fluffy pompom to make. Can you stop at just the one?

NOTES

Hat is worked in vertical rows and seamed to the foundation ch to join into a tube before being gathered at the top.

Mitts are also worked in vertical rows and seamed to the foundation ch, leaving a hole for the thumb.

C HAT

Ch29.

Row 1 Htr in 2nd ch from hook and next 21 ch, dc in last 6 ch, turn. [28 sts]

Row 2 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in back loop only of 6 dc, htr in back loop only of 22 htr, turn.

Row 3 Ch1 (does not count as st), htr in front loop only of 22 htr, dc in back loop only of 6 dc, turn.

Rows 2-3 set pattern.

Rows 4-29 Repeat Rows 2-3 another 13 times.

Row 30 Repeat Row 2.

Do not fasten off.

Join Row 30 to the foundation chain with a ss seam to create a tube.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Using a tapestry needle, thread the long tail through the dc ends of each row and gather together, then sew securely to form the top of the hat.

POMPOM

Using a pompom maker or pieces of card, create a pompom as big or small as you like (the one here is 10cm/4in diameter) and attach securely to top of the hat.

MITTS (MAKE 2)

Ch19.

Row 1 Htr in 2nd ch from hook and next 11 ch, dc in last 6 ch, turn. [18 sts]

Row 2 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in back loop only of 6 dc, htr in back loop only of 12 htr, turn.

Row 3 Ch1 (does not count as st), htr in



Fold up the brim of the beanie to keep things cosy, or leave it down for a slouchier look.



These simple chunky mitts leave your fingers and thumbs free for crocheting.

front loop only of 12 htr, dc in back loop only of 6 dc, turn.

Rows 2-3 set pattern.

Rows 4-11 Repeat Rows 2-3 another 4 times.

Row 12 Repeat Row 2.

Do not fasten off.

Join Row 12 to the foundation chain using a ss seam in only the 8 sts at the bottom of the mitt and 5 sts at the top, leaving a hole in the middle for the thumb. **Fasten off** and weave in ends.

BIGGER IS BETTER

Use super-chunky yarn to make a duo of lacy cushions by Kath Webber.



Chunky cushions



YOU WILL NEED

- DROPS Eskimo (100% wool, 50g/50m), 6 balls of each:
Light Grey (53)
Medium Grey (46)
2 balls of Dark Yellow Tweed (74)
 - A 10mm (US N/15) hook
 - 2 cushion pads, 45cm (18in) square
 - 6 buttons, 3cm (1in) diameter
- For yarn stockists, contact
Wool Warehouse 01926 882818
www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

MEASUREMENTS

Approx 45cm (18in) square after blocking and with border added

ABBREVIATIONS

Puff stitch (Yrh), insert hook into stitch, yrh, pull loop back through stitch) 3 times, yrh, pull through all 7 loops on hook

Popcorn stitch (pc) Work 5tr into next st, remove hook from final loop and insert into top loops of first st of 5-tr from right to left. Grab the loose loop from the fifth tr and pull tightly through the first st, ch1 to close

For a full list, see page 92.



Designer Kath Webber says: "Super-chunky yarn is made oh-so-soft and cosy with these squashably soft cushions in Scandi colours. Textural puff and popcorn stitches add to the squishiness and the motif can easily be downsized for a matching throw in DK or aran yarn."

FRONT MOTIF

Make 1 in Light Grey and 1 in Medium Grey.

Ch4, ss to first ch to join into a ring.

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

Round 2 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr in st at base of ch, 2tr into each rem st around, ss to top of beg ch-3. [24 sts]

Round 3 Ch2 (does not count as tr), (Puff st, ch1) into each st around, ss to top of first Puff st. [48 sts]

Round 4 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr into each st and ch around, ss to top of beg ch-3. [48 sts]

Round 5 Ch5 (counts as tr, ch2), (skip next st, *tr into next st, pc into next st, tr into next st, ch2) 12 times, omitting final (tr, ch2) on last repeat, ss to third ch of beg ch-5. [60 sts]

Round 6 Ch3 (counts as next tr), (2tr into ch-sp, tr into next tr, 2tr into next pc, tr into next tr) 12 times, omitting final tr on last repeat, ss to top of beg ch-3. [72 sts]

Round 7 (Ch10, skip 1 st, dc into each of next 3 sts, ch5, skip 4 sts, dc into each of next 3 sts, ch5, skip 4 sts, dc into next 3 sts) 4 times, ss to base of beg ch-10. [9 dc and 2 ch-5 sps each side, 4 corner ch-10 sps]

Round 8 Ch1 (counts as first dc), *(6tr, ch3, 6tr) into ch-10 sp, skip 1 st, dc into next st, ch1, 7tr into next ch-5 sp, ch1, skip 1 st, dc into next st, ch1, 7tr into next ch-5 sp, ch1, skip 1 st, dc in next st; rep from * 3 more times, omitting final dc on last repeat, ss to beg ch-1, turn.

Round 9 (WS) Ss into first dc, ch8 (counts as dtr, ch4), *dc into 4th tr of next 7-tr group, ch4, tr into next dc, ch4, dc into 4th tr of next 7-tr group, ch4, dtr into next dc, ch4, 3dc into corner ch-3 sp, ch4, dtr into next dc, ch4; repeat from * 3 more times omitting final (dtr, ch4) on last repeat, ss to 4th ch of beg ch-8, turn.

Round 10 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr), 4tr into ch-sp, 1tr into next dc, (tr, ch3, tr)



A contrasting fabric underneath your cover will show off the more open parts of the lace.

into next st to make corner, tr in next st. Continue working 4tr into each ch-sp around, and 1 tr into each st between ch-sps around, repeating (tr, ch3, tr) into each corner st.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

BACK PIECE 1

Make 1 in Light Grey and 1 in Medium Grey.
Ch36.

Row 1 (RS) Dc into 2nd ch from hook and in each ch to end, turn. [35 sts]

Rows 2-23 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc into each st to end, turn.

Row 24 Buttonhole row Ch1 (does not count as st), dc into each of next 5 sts, ch2, skip 2 sts, (dc into each of next 8 sts, ch2, skip 2 sts) twice, dc in each rem st to end, turn.

Row 25 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st and ch to end.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

BACK PIECE 2

Make 1 in Light Grey and 1 in Medium Grey.

Work as given for Back Piece 1 until 21 rows have been worked in total.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

Block Front Motif to size (42cm square). Pin Back pieces to Front Motif side, WS tog, with Piece 1 on top of Piece 2.

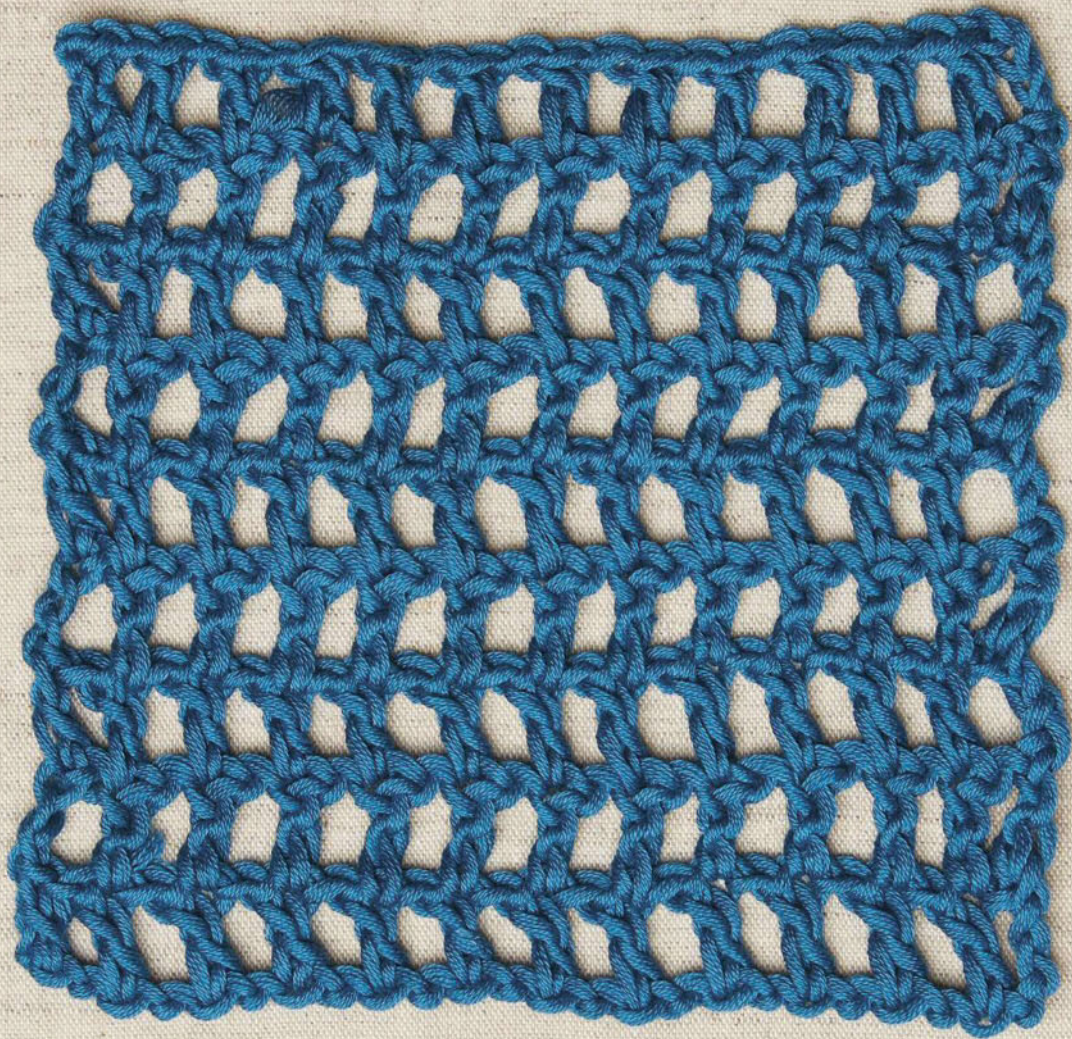
Beginning at the side, join in Dark Yellow Tweed ready to work with the front of the cushion facing. Work a double crochet seam, with a dc in each st through both layers, working 3dc into each ch-3 corner, ss to first dc.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Sew buttons onto Piece 2, to line up with the buttonholes on Piece 1.

MESH STITCH

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



BASIC MESH STITCH PATTERN

Make the number of foundation ch instructed in the pattern.
To make the sample above, ch28.
Pattern is a multiple of 2 + 1 sts.

Row 1 Tr in 6th ch from hook, *ch1,

skip next ch, tr in next ch; rep from * across, turn.

Row 2 Ch4 (counts as 1 tr and 1 ch), tr in next tr, *ch1, skip next tr, tr in next tr; rep from * across, turn.

Rows 3-9 Repeat Row 2 another 7 times or as instructed in pattern.

Fasten off and weave in all ends.

Patterns designed by Elisabeth Davis de Herraiz.

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



Hands up who loves mesh? Hook three glamorous makes in this airy, versatile stitch pattern.



Dance around it, or pop your latest crochet project inside – the choice is yours.



You, tassels and the dance floor – surely that's a mesh made in heaven?

TRIANGLE SHAWL

Fancy a simple cover-up with buckets of style? We've got just the thing. It's perfect if you're a shawl first-timer.

- DROPS Muskat (100% cotton, 50g/100m), 3 balls of Petrol (74)
For yarn stockists, contact Wool Warehouse 01926 882 818 www.woolwarehouse.co.uk
- A 5mm (US H/8) hook
- 3 silver beads

MEASUREMENTS

60cm (23½in) long and 105cm (41¼in) wide

SHAWL

Make a magic loop.

Row 1 Ch4 (counts as 1 tr and 1 ch), (tr, ch1, tr) into loop, turn.

Row 2 Ch5 (counts as 1 tr and 2 ch), tr in st at base of ch, ch1, tr in next tr, ch1, (tr, ch1, tr) in last tr, turn.

Rows 3-37 Ch5 (counts as 1 tr and 2 ch), tr in st at base of ch, ch1 *tr in next tr, ch1; rep from * across, (tr, ch1, tr) in fourth ch of t-ch on prev row, turn.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TASSELS

Cut 9 pieces of yarn, each 30cm long. Make groups of 3 pieces, fold each group in half and attach one tassel to each corner of the shawl. Attach a bead to each tassel.

DRAWSTRING POUCH

A lined evening bag with space for your keys, purse, phone and a lippy.

- DROPS Muskat (100% cotton, 50g/100m), 2 balls of Petrol (74)
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- 2 silver beads
- Fabric for lining, approx 50x20cm (20x8in)

MEASUREMENTS

17cm (6¾in) wide and 22cm (8½in) long

BAG SIDE (MAKE 2)

Ch30.

Row 1 Dc in the second ch from the hook and in each ch to end, turn. [29 dc]

Rows 2-5 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each dc across, turn.

Row 6 Ch4 (counts as 1 tr and 1 ch), skip next dc, tr in next dc, *ch1, skip next dc, tr in next dc; rep from * across, turn.

Rows 7-17 Work as for Row 2 of Basic Stitch Pattern.

Rows 18-19 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st across, turn. **Fasten off** and weave in ends. Join 2 pieces tog using a dc seam along sides and bottom.

To make tie, ch80. **Fasten off** and weave in ends. Thread tie through holes in mesh st. Cut 6 pieces of yarn, each 30cm long. Make groups of 3 pieces, fold each group in half and attach one tassel to each end of tie. Attach a bead to each tassel. Sew in fabric lining (see page 80).

VERY SWISHY BELT

This is a belt that's made for sashaying in. Work a long, narrow strip of mesh stitch and embellish it with beads and tassels. Job done.

- DROPS Muskat (100% cotton, 50g/100m), 1 ball of Petrol (74)
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- 4 silver beads

MEASUREMENTS

3.5cm (1¼in) wide and 135cm (53in) long

BELT

Ch202.

Row 1 Dc in the second ch from the hook and in each ch to end, turn. [201 dc]

Row 2 Ch4 (counts as 1 tr and 1 ch), skip the next dc, tr in the next dc, *ch1, skip next dc, tr in the next dc; rep from * across, turn.

Rows 3 Work as for Row 2 of Basic Stitch Pattern.

Row 4 Ch1 (does not count as a st), dc in each ch-1 sp and tr across.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TASSELS

Cut 24 pieces of yarn, each 30cm long. Make groups of 3 pieces, fold each group in half and attach to the short ends of the belt, to form 4 tassels at each end.

Attach a bead to the first and last tassel.



POLAR PALS

Make Becky Schooley's trio of wonderful waddling penguins. Aren't they cute?



Turn your back for one minute and you know these cheeky fellas will be causing utter chaos. With their round bellies and shining eyes, the three amigurumi penguins love nothing better than racing each other through the snow and settling down to a good fish supper. If you're new to amigurumi, this would be a brilliant project to start with. There are no fancy stitches or super-fiddly bits to contend with, just double crochet worked in spirals and some stuffing and sewing up. We know we shouldn't have favourites, but the tiny penguin has stolen our hearts.



Amigurumi penguins



YOU WILL NEED

- Rowan Handknit Cotton (100% cotton, 50g/85m), 1 ball of each: Atlantic (346), Florence (350), Ecrú (251)
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- Small amount of toy stuffing
- Safety eyes or black beads

MEASUREMENTS

Large Penguin approx 10cm (4in) tall

Medium Penguin approx 7cm (3¾in) tall

Small Penguin approx 5.5cm (2¼in) tall

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

NOTES

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

C LARGE PENGUIN

BODY & HEAD

With Atlantic, make a magic loop.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rounds 7-11 Dc in each st around.

Round 12 (Dc2tog, 1dc in each of next 2 sts) 9 times. [27 dc]

Rounds 13-15 Dc in each st around.

Round 16 (Dc2tog, 1dc in next st) 9 times. [18 dc]

Round 17 Dc in each st around.

Stuff Body and (if using) attach safety eyes at this point and then continue.

Round 18 (Dc2tog) around. [9 dc]

Fasten off and sew up Head.

WINGS (MAKE 2)

With Atlantic, make a magic loop.

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

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

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

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

Fasten off.

Fold Wing in half and seam edges together. Squash flat so that the seam is underneath the Wing and the centre of the circle is seen on top.

TUMMY PATCH

With Ecrú, work as given for Wings to the end of Round 4. **Fasten off.**

Sew flat onto Body (without folding in half), positioning so bottom of circle sits where shaping for Body begins.

FEET (MAKE 2)

With Florence, make a magic loop.

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

Round 2 (2dc in next st, 1dc in next st) 3 times. [9 dc]

Rounds 3-4 Dc in each st around.

Round 5 (Dc2tog, 1dc in next st) 3 times. [6 dc]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Don't stuff, squash flat and leave open.

Sew Feet at base of Body, either side of the Tummy Patch.

BEAK

With Florence, ch2.

Round 1 (RS) 5dc in second ch from hook. [5 dc]

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

Rounds 3-4 Dc in each st around.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Fold flat, don't stuff, pull middle of circle into a point.

Sew to Body above Tummy Patch, so that it hangs over slightly.

TO FINISH

Sew Wings to side of Body, on the same Round as the Beak.

If using black beads for eyes, sew on approx 3 rounds above Beak.

MEDIUM PENGUIN

BODY

With Atlantic, make a magic loop.

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

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

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

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

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

Rounds 6-14 Dc in each st around.

Round 15 (Dc2tog, 1dc in each of next 3 sts) 6 times. [24 dc]

Rounds 16-17 Dc in each st around.

Round 18 (Dc2tog) around. [12 dc]

Stuff Body and (if using) attach safety eyes at this point and then continue.

Round 19 (Dc2tog, dc in each of next 2 sts) 3 times. [9 dc]

Round 20 (Dc2tog, dc in next st) 3 times, ss in first dc. [6 dc]

Fasten off and sew up Head.

WINGS (MAKE 2)

Work as for Wings of Large Penguin, working only Rounds 1-3.

TUMMY PATCH

Work as for Tummy Patch of Large

Amigurumi penguins

Penguin, working only Rounds 1-3.

FEET (MAKE 2)

With Florence, make a magic loop.

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

Rounds 2-3 Dc in each st around.

Round 4 Dc in each st around, ss to first dc. **Fasten off.**

Sew Feet at base of Body, either side of the Tummy Patch.

BEAK

With Florence, ch2.

Round 1 (RS) 5dc in second ch from hook. [5 dc]

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

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Fold flat, don't stuff, pull middle of circle into a point.

Sew to Body above Tummy Patch, so that it hangs over slightly.

TO FINISH

Sew Wings to side of Body, on the same Round as the Beak.

If using black beads for eyes, sew on approx 2 rounds above Beak.

SMALL PENGUIN

BODY

With Atlantic, make a magic loop.

Round 1 Ch1, 6dc into loop. [6 dc]

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

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

Rounds 4-9 Dc in each st around.

Round 10 (Dc in each of next 2 sts, dc2tog) 4 times, dc in each of next 2 sts. [14 dc]

Rounds 11-12 Dc in each st around.

Stuff Body and (if using) attach safety eyes at this point and then continue.

Round 13 (Dc2tog) around, ss to first dc. [7 dc]

Fasten off and sew up Head.

WINGS (MAKE 2)

With Atlantic, ch5.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook and each ch across. [4 dc] **Fasten off.**

TUMMY PATCH

With Ecru, make a magic loop.

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

Round 2 2dc in each st around, ss in first dc. [12 dc] **Fasten off.**

Sew flat onto Body (without folding in half), positioning so bottom of circle sits where shaping for Body begins.

FEET (MAKE 2)

With Florence, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1, 6dc into magic loop, ss in first dc. [6 dc] **Fasten off.**

Sew Feet at base of Body, either side of the Tummy Patch.

BEAK

With Florence, stitch a small nose horizontally, 1 dc wide, at approx Round 9 of Body. Repeat to make more stitches in the same place 3 or 4 times.

TO FINISH

Sew Wings to side of Body, on the same Round as the Beak.

If using black beads for eyes, sew on approx 1 round above Beak.



The feet, belly, beak and eyes are positioned very close together for a tubby look.

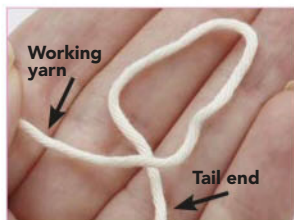


Squash the beak into a flat cone shape before stitching it in place on the face.



Each of the penguins has a flat, round base so they can sit up without any wobbles.

SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO WORK A MAGIC LOOP



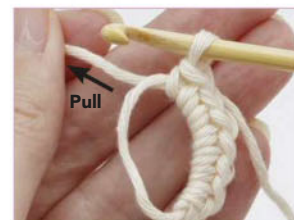
1 To start a Magic Loop, don't make a slipknot. Instead, make a loop with the yarn, leaving a tail around 10cm long. Make sure the tail end is under the working yarn.



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.

Make
yourself
a home

SHOW US YOURS!

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



PUP APPROVED

Tina Trim shared her current WIP with us on Facebook – the patchwork throw from issue 33's Bright Blankets collection. Her Mini Schnauzer Dizzee is supervising. We love them both!

This month we asked you...

Where's your
favourite place
to curl up with
your winter WIPs?

"On the sofa with a duvet round me, a hot water bottle, and the cat cuddled up next to me...usually trying to grab the end of my yarn! Bless him, he thinks he's helping!"

Corina Emma Manley via Facebook

LAYERED UP

Super stitcher **Michelle Stafford** has rustled up a very pretty lilac party frock using Sara Huntington's baby dress pattern from issue 37. Won't this treasure look mega cute when it's worn? Via Facebook.



Reader **Anna Harrison** emailed us a pic of the floral cushion cover she made. It was a Christmas gift for her parents. She told us she used a vintage doily made by her friend's grandmother to create the flower head part – we absolutely adore this idea. The crochet pattern was in issue 21.

THE LOWDOWN

To be in with a chance of winning one of three £30 vouchers to spend at LoveCrochet (www.lovecrochet.com), show us your *Simply Crochet* makes on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or via email or post by 4 February 2016. For all terms and conditions, and more information, visit www.simplycrochetmag.co.uk/competitionrules



 lovecrochet

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LoveCrochet.com
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WINNER!



LITTLE LILLY

We've loved seeing all the Little Lilly projects you've been sharing online. Reader Lesley Allison has made a particularly charming Lilly doll with her kit from issue 36. Her Lilly has a wonderfully glum facial expression and a cute contrasting edge on her hood. Lesley shared this picture with us via email. Turn to page 86 to find out how you can track down our *Simply Crochet* back issues.

MAGIC TREE

Laura Sutcliffe made a 3cm tall beaded version of the popcorn tree from issue 37. Wow. Via Facebook.



DOUBLE TAP

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



DOILY DREAM

@mungosplace got creative with one of the doily designs from issue 33, framing it with an embroidery hoop to show off her stitches.



BRIGHT ON

Instagrammer @bakingaitch hooked issue 36's Pumpkin Pie lacy top in a shade of orange that cannot be ignored. It looks awesome.



POPPY PARADE

@thriftycrochet made this bold poppy brooch with some aran weight yarn. The pattern is free at www.simplycrochetmag.co.uk

TALK TO US!

-  Post a pic on our Facebook page facebook.com/simplycrochetmag
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"Step out of your comfort zone and challenge yourself."



NEW YEAR, NEW IDEAS!

Ready to get your hook into something new? Read on to discover the hottest crochet trends, projects and happenings to look out for in 2016! It's going to be a hooky year.

With a brand new year looming just over the horizon, we're already looking forward to the next 12 months of crafty events, opportunities and challenges. This is a great time to consider where you're at with your crochet and how you'd like to see your skills develop. Whether you'd love to get your hands on some gorgeous yarns, try new techniques, head off on a crochet-centric holiday, get involved with crochet-alongs and charity makes, or simply seek out inspiration from some stunning creations, we've got plenty for you to get excited

about, as well as insights into what some fabulous designers are looking forward to. Set yourself some New Year goals and who knows what you could accomplish?

EXPLORE THE LUXURY SIDE

There are so many creative options with crochet, from vintage-style accessories to stunning, avant-garde garments. Why not make 2016 the year you take a step out of your comfort zone and challenge yourself with a new technique or two? "Crochet has many aspects to it, from the traditional afghans and colourful granny squares to amazing amigurumi and sculptural

freeform," says designer Erika Knight (www.erikaknight.co.uk). "Crochet is a very expressive medium and there are some very interesting crafters taking it up, so it is now enjoying a resurgence."

We love the idea of drawing inspiration from the fashion world. "I am so pleased that crochet now has more credibility on the runway and in ready-to-wear," says Erika. "Designers such as Giles Deacon and even Valentino and Prada have taken it to the next level and made it *de rigueur* again. Personally, I think that crochet can be most beautiful in its extreme – I love it in an ultra-fine yarn or over-scaled motifs.

Most people go to crochet for colour, but I really like it just for simple texture in natural yarns. Currently, I'm busy working on a new collection of refined crochet designs in luxury yarns with drape and fluidity."

RELISH HIGH-QUALITY YARNS

In 2016, why not sample the joy of natural fibres in your crochet projects? While acrylics are sometimes the most practical choice for a project, few experiences beat the tactile sumptuousness of using a truly beautiful yarn. "For 2016, I have the personal hope that I can educate a few more crocheters to explore the world of natural fibres, and to give them a little more confidence to make crochet choices for themselves," says designer and yarn producer Amanda Perkins (www.amandacrochetblog.blogspot.co.uk). "Cheap acrylic isn't the only yarn in the world! I like to use indie yarn but I do understand that it's outside of most people's budgets, so have been doing

some research and testing of more reasonable yarns. So far, my two favourite cheaper companies are DROPS and Cascade. For pricier options, there are my dyer and spinner friends at Skein Queen, Fiberspates, Posh Yarn and John Arbon Textiles. I'm hoping to do lots more research when I have the resources."

That's a goal we'd like to get on board with. Amanda also has exciting news about her own yarn ranges. "Currently, I'm working with Joy, The Knitting Goddess, on a colour wheel project. She is dyeing four colour wheels for me with the aim of selling the wheels as mini skein collections. The collections will be perfect for all my old designs and future kits, and I'm planning a set of colour wheel cushions to be published early next year. Joy will produce

them as kits and I will be selling the patterns in all of my online pattern shops."

ON THE WILD SIDE

Fancy giving yarn dyeing a go yourself? Crafter and former archaeologist Rosie Hazleton runs fascinating natural dyeing courses. She draws on historical methods and makes use of traditional ingredients to create skeins that seem to hum with colour. The dyeing courses are also designed to get

you out of your everyday life and deep into the countryside, adding to the enjoyment. We love the look of her natural dyeing workshops. Taking place in the Scottish Highlands over full weekends, these offer a chance to learn about the part natural dyeing has played in Scotland's heritage, and discover how plants such as nettles,

"ROSIE USES TRADITIONAL
INGREDIENTS TO CREATE SKEINS
THAT HUM WITH COLOUR."



Opposite: Lily Pond, photograph by Jane Crowfoot.
This page, clockwise from left: A natural dyeing workshop, photograph by Rosie Hazleton; Stunning hues, photograph by Rosie Hazleton; Crochet-along Afghan, photograph by Tamara Kelly of Moogly.



This page, clockwise from left: A chunky garment design from Erika Knight's *Crochet Workshop* book, photograph by Yuki Sugiura; A wonderfully vibrant handmade blanket for charity Project Linus.



bog myrtle, birch bark, heather tops, indigo, madder, marigold and elderberries can be used to transform wool with more than 30 shades. You'll be part of a team picking, processing, mixing, lighting fires and lifting pots – with exquisite results. We think it sounds pretty heavenly. The workshops run between May and September 2016, from 10am on Saturday to 4pm Sunday. You can find full details at www.wildrose-escapes.co.uk

Another place to look for crochet workshops in your area is www.craftcourses.com

JOIN A CAL

We believe every crocheter should take part in a crochet-along (or CAL) at least once in their life. Moogly blogger Tamara Kelly will be running an afghan CAL from January 2016. "We've done it for the past two years and it's been a big hit every year, getting bigger and bigger!" she says. "Over the course of the year, we make 24 different 12-inch squares, with a new pattern from a new designer every two weeks. By the end of the year, this adds up to one 4x6 throw, or two baby blankets, or you can add more squares to make a bedspread!" It's all free, and hosted at

www.mooglyblog.com. There's no official signup, but 2015's associated Ravelry group had more than 5,500 members.

Springtime (most likely April) will see the launch of Jane Crowfoot's latest Stylecraft Crochet Along project. "This follows the success of the Lily Pond blanket in 2015," says Jane. "I'm designing with Classique Cotton DK this time, and while I can't tell you the design theme just yet, I can say that I am REALLY loving this project!"

We've got an exciting bit of news for you, too – we're launching our first ever *Simply Crochet* CAL in spring 2016. The finer details of the crochet-along project are top secret

at the moment, but we can divulge it'll be a subscriber exclusive. Keep a close eye on our upcoming issues for the big reveal.

CROCHET FOR CHARITY

There are plenty of worthy causes eager for your crafty efforts. Project Linus UK is aptly named after the character from the *Peanuts* cartoon strip who always carries his comfort blanket with him. The charity began in the US, but now has coordinators across the UK, from Shetland to Jersey, who would love to hear from you. Project

Linus provide lovingly handmade blankets that are distributed to children in hospitals and hospices, to bereavement counsellors, children's homes, foster services, Social Services, women's refuges, ambulances, fire engines, "or anywhere else we hear of where a child might need that comfort". We love the idea of a soft crocheted blanket finding its way to a child and helping make them feel a bit better. Find out how you can use your skills to get involved at www.projectlinusuk.org.uk.

Loving Hands is a hub supporting charities across the UK. They welcome crocheted and knitted items. Recent ventures have invited participants to crochet and knit warm blankets and clothing for Knit for Peace, a charity aiding refugees from Syria and Iraq. Find details of all the great causes you can help out with at www.lovinghands.org.uk

GO ON A CROCHET HOLIDAY

Happily, an abundance of companies are catching onto the idea that crochet and the high seas are a perfect match. The ones that have caught our eye are run by Mikey Sellick at The Crochet Crowd, who also spearheads a number of craft-alongs. "We have three Crochet Cruises planned so far for 2016 – two in the Caribbean and one in Alaska." Participants will receive all the necessary workshop supplies,

including yarns and patterns, and the instructors include Dela, a Tunisian expert, and amigurumi pro Kevin. The voyages offer a really celebratory feel – we love the sound of the ‘Hook Away with Us Gala with Bubbly Beverages and H’Oeuvres’! Vessels depart from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, or Vancouver, Canada, so aren’t escapes to plan on a budget. Find details at www.crochet-cruises.com

Arena Travel (www.arenatravel.com) run dedicated Stitchtopia crochet holidays hosted by the likes of expert tutors Nicki Trench and Carol Meldrum. Recent options have even included a ‘Get Hooked in the Tuscan City of Florence’ getaway and there are more exciting trips planned for 2016.

Jane Crowfoot and Debbie Abrahams are launching a series of residential crochet

and knitting workshops a bit closer to home. “We will be releasing four or five weekend dates early in 2016 for workshops in Bournemouth and near Peterborough. We are hoping to find a Northern venue over the next few weeks to add to the list!”

**"THE FOREST OF DREAMS IS
HUGELY INSPIRING AND WILL
LAUNCH IN FEBRUARY 2016."**

A TEXTILE FOREST

The Forest of Dreams is a tactile art installation with a difference – it’s created by children with sensory impairments, as well

as their families and staff from national deafblind charity Sense that support them. The beautifully curated creations form an immersive world full of textures – felted, plaited, wrapped and much more – and filled with multi-sensory representations of dreams and their meanings. “The Forest of Dreams is part of Sense’s Arts and Wellbeing programme, and gave the

chance to children and their families, along with support workers and professional artists, to engage in messy play with fabric,” explains Kara Jarrold, Head of Arts & Wellbeing at the charity. “Everyone worked at their own level of expertise, and challenged themselves to take their skills a bit further. The forest is full of surprises – unexpected materials, pockets for treasures, and secret messages just waiting to be discovered!”

The Forest of Dreams will launch at the Textiles in Focus festival in Cambridge from 19-21 February 2016, before touring the UK. We think it’s a little bit *Alice in Wonderland*, a little bit *Dr Seuss*, and all in all, hugely inspiring. For more information, go to www.sense.org.uk/artsandwellbeing

And all of this is just for starters. There are masses of other events, launches and opportunities to keep your eyes open for. Looks like 2016 is going to be a rather splendid, fantastically creative year.

Written by Judy Darley

Clockwise from below left: Aboard The Crochet Crowd’s 2015 Lido Cruise, photograph by Michael Sellick; Kissing Kaffe crochet blanket design in hand-dyed yarn, photograph by Amanda Perkins; Inside the immersive world of The Forest of Dreams, photograph by Sense.





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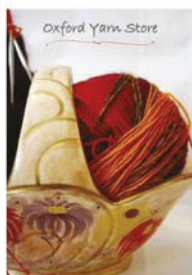
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BECCA PARKER

MONSTER YARNS

Go big or go home.



This season, there seems to be a burgeoning trend for jumbo yarns. We're not talking about your garden variety chunky types either. These woolly wonders are super-sized, XXL, put-your-back-out-merely-lifting-a-skein kind of yarns – the Godzillas of the fibre world, if you will. We got our most ginormous crochet hooks into some of these beasts to find out why big is so darn beautiful this winter.

Jumbo yarn is by no means an entirely new idea, but it's never been quite such a big deal. DMC's Hooooked Zpagetti T-shirt yarn was the first of its kind to catch our eye a few years ago, and now we're spoilt for choice with similar XXL jersey yarns available from brands such as Boodles,

Tek-Tek and Wool and The Gang in all kinds of vibrant (and sometimes quite alarming) prints and colourways.

Where yarn is concerned right now, the bigger the better. DMC recently amped up their classic cotton Natura 4ply to XL size, while other companies have released chunky or super-chunky versions of their popular yarns for Autumn/Winter 2015.

LET'S GET PHYSICAL

The supersized yarn that really takes the biscuit, though, has to be Mondial's Express (below) – a barely twisted, roving-like single-ply yarn that packs a punch. This Italian woolly mammoth weighs in at a whopping 200g per 25m. It measures about an inch in diameter and

demands a 20mm crochet hook. I had a go at hooking a granny square with Express and found it was no mean feat. Handling a 20mm hook felt a lot like attempting needlepoint with a broom handle – it took some getting used to and was a bit of a workout for the arms. Some wrangling later and I'd used the entire skein to make a plush 30cm granny square with only two rounds. A few more of these babies and you'd have a hefty blanket on your hands.

What I liked most about hooking with such massive yarn was how much more physically engaged I had to be with the project. I really had to grapple with the yarn, so the whole experience felt a lot more hands-on than my usual crochet.

Of course, the bigger the yarn, the quicker the make, so monster yarns have speed on their side, too. This idea, and how clearly defined the jumbo stitches are, makes XXL yarns the ideal choice for the novice hookster, a fun new challenge for seasoned crocheters, and fantastic if you're teaching somebody to crochet.

But it seems the true beauty of these gargantuan yarns lies in their simplicity. They amplify the texture of even the most basic stitches, creating statement makes that are far more deliciously tactile than their regular-sized counterparts. They're perfect for creating speedy home makes and outsize accessories. Get grappling.

CHECK OUT OUR SUPER-CHUNKY YARN REVIEW ON PAGE 78. FOR MONDIAL STOCKISTS, VISIT WWW.INTERCONTINENTALYARNS.CO.UK



Far left: There are so many super-chunky yarns to choose from. Here be monsters. **Centre:** DMC's delightfully hefty Natura Just Cotton XL. Have you hooked with it? **Above:** Express by name, express by nature – my speedy, super-sized granny square made with Mondial's impressive jumbo yarn.



SUPER-CHUNKY YARNS

Heavyweight champions that will supersize your stash.

CIRCLE MOTIF

Ch4, ss to first ch to form a ring.

Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr), 9tr into ring, ss to top of beg ch-3.

Fasten off and weave in ends.



Join the dots
to make a
funky necklace



YARN REVIEWS

ROWAN BIG WOOL SILK

WEIGHT Super-chunky
CONTENT 70% wool, 30% silk
BALL 100g/80m
HOOK 10mm
RRP £11.95



If you're after a super-chunky yarn with a bit of a sheen, then Rowan's Big Wool Silk is the one to go for. What it might lack in stitch definition, it more than makes up for in warm, strokable fibre and a high-quality finish. It's a thick, squashy plied yarn that is a

pleasure to stitch with. We would use Big Wool Silk to make a luxurious beanie hat or a pair of wristwarmers. The yarn comes in six beautifully dark, wintry shades and is to be washed by hand only.
www.knitrowan.com
01484 681881

SIRDAR HUSKY

WEIGHT Super-chunky
CONTENT 87% acrylic, 13% nylon
BALL 50g/65m
HOOK 10mm
RRP £3.35



Cosiness and a soft, fleecy feel aren't the only good things about Sirdar's new Husky yarn. Fuzzy fibres encased in a chainette tube make this a light yet sturdy super-chunky yarn with fantastic heat-trapping capabilities. It's easy to care

for and no trouble to crochet with. We could see this one being a real winner for making warm crochet cardigans this winter. Choose from seven very wearable dappled colourways.
www.sirdar.co.uk
01924 231682

MONDIAL EXPRESS

WEIGHT Jumbo
CONTENT 50% merino new wool, 50% acrylic
SKEIN 200g/7m
HOOK 25mm
RRP £12.50



What a whopper. Express from Mondial is by far the chunkiest yarn we've ever seen. In fact, it's way beyond super-chunky and can only be described as jumbo in weight. This marshmallowy, roving-like yarn is available in

11 solid colours. For hooking a speedy blanket, rug or mega scarf, Express is your man. One skein is enough to make just one big granny square. Wash by hand only.
www.intercontinental yarns.co.uk
01535 664222

NORO KUREYON AIR

WEIGHT Super-chunky
CONTENT 100% wool
SKEIN 100g/100m
HOOK 9mm
RRP £13.95



All the rustic, thick and thin, variegated goodness you'd expect from a Noro yarn, but in a super-chunky weight. Kureyon Air plays big sister to Noro's Kureyon, which is an aran-weight yarn. It's a delightful single-ply, lightly twisted, roving-like yarn

made of warm wool. It comes in a choice of six vibrant colourways and would be ideal for creating cosy cowls or as a gift for stitchers who love to play with colour and want super-quick results.
www.designeryarns.uk.com
01535 664222

TEK-TEK FABRIC YARN

WEIGHT Super-chunky
CONTENT Cotton mix
ROLL 550g/95m
HOOK 10mm
RRP £6



Tek-Tek's fun Fabric Yarn comes in plenty of solid colours, but it's the printed shades that really steal the show. Chic stripes and dots in wide strips of cotton jersey are perfect for hooking up chunky rugs, baskets, bags and more, in a flash. The yarn

is upcycled from high-quality fashion industry offcuts, making it the greenest choice within this super-chunky selection. Fabric Yarn would also be a great choice if you're trying macramé, too.
www.themakery.co.uk
01225 581888

RED HEART GRANDE

WEIGHT Super-chunky
CONTENT 78% acrylic, 22% wool
BALL 150g/42m
HOOK 15mm
RRP £4.50



This hefty yarn from Red Heart has a plied, rope-like structure that will add scrummy visual texture to your creations. As super-chunky yarns go, Grande is definitely at the bigger end of the scale. It's a soft, plump

wool blend that provides fantastic stitch definition and warmth. Grande would make a fab pair of snuggly slippers or mittens. It comes in nine soft, heathered shades.
www.redheart.co.uk
01484 681881



ZIPS AND LININGS

Grab a sewing needle and thread – we'll show you how to add zips and linings to your crochet creations.

WHEN WOULD I NEED TO ADD ZIPS OR LININGS?

Want to create makes that are practical and pretty? We'll show you how...

From purses and bags to garments and cushions, lining fabrics can add a fantastic extra design dimension to your makes, while zips are a great fastening option. Both are surprisingly simple to insert and we'll show you just how to do it. With a bit of practice, you'll be able to line any make and then you can use lacy stitch patterns on any project. Once you've mastered the technique, use your new skills to make our sparkly clutch purse on page 83.



ADD A ZIP

It's pretty straightforward to add a zip to your makes, especially if your crochet fabric is made up of dense stitches, such as double crochet. Perfect for adding finesse to crochet bags and purses.



ADD A LINING

For bags and purses with lacy crochet stitch patterns, you'll need to add a fabric lining. This will help it to keep its shape and make sure there's no chance of losing items through the gaps.

WHAT SORT OF ZIP DO I NEED?

Master these clever fastenings and reap the rewards.



01

Zips are genius inventions and compared to buttons or poppers, they're much more effective at keeping small items like coins safe within a closed space. However, zips do take a little more effort to sew in correctly. It is possible to crochet directly onto a zip, but here we're going to look at how to sew a zip into a finished purse.

First, you need to finish your purse neatly. To do this, make sure that the pieces of your crochet purse or bag are blocked to size – quite often with a purse, you will have two identical pieces that you will need to seam together. However, there may be small differences in the size and shape of your pieces, so it's always best to block individual pieces to the same size before seaming them together. Blocking also gives you the chance to tug your pieces into shape,



02

tidy up any messy stitches or open up a lacy stitch pattern into its full glory. Once blocked, seam your purse on three sides, leaving the top open – you can use either a visible, decorative crochet seam or an invisible crochet or sewn seam.

Now you'll be ready to attach the zip. Make sure you have a sewing needle and cotton thread that matches the yarn you've used.

Step 1 Start by getting a zip that fits the opening of your purse. If the opening doesn't correspond to a standard zip length, just pick a slightly longer zip and tuck the zip's closed end inside your purse.

Step 2 A closed zip is usually best – this is one with a little stopper at the closed end so that the zipper can't fall off. The open end should also have a little stopper on each side to stop the zipper.

HOW DO I INSERT A ZIP?

Here's a quick and easy way to sew in a zip.

You'll need some dressmaker's pins and a pair of scissors handy.

Step 1 Open the zip and, starting at the open end, pin it to the inside of your purse, aligning the opening stopper with the edge of your purse. Make sure the zip is face up and the teeth lie above the edge of your purse so the fabric doesn't catch.

Step 2 Pin all the way across. Carefully test that you can easily move the zipper.

Step 3 Repeat the process on the other side of the purse and zip, ensuring the sides line up.

Step 4 Once you're happy with the fit, open the zip and slowly sew each side of the zip to each side of the purse, removing pins as you go. Use a hand-sewing needle, thread to match the yarn and backstitches. Or you could use a sewing machine, but the stitches may be visible.



WHY DO I NEED TO ADD A LINING?

A nifty way to give any make a whole new functionality.



If your crochet fabric is made out of dense stitches like double crochet then you might not need to add a lining. However, adding a lining will really help your purse or bag to keep its shape and make absolutely sure that you won't lose any of its contents. If your crochet fabric is made out of lacy stitches then it will definitely need to be lined, otherwise you might find that items go missing.

Before attaching the lining, make sure you've blocked your pieces to size, seamed them together and added your fastening, such as a zip (see above). Lining a purse or bag isn't as tricky as you might think – there's no fancy equipment required and you don't even need to own a sewing machine because you can easily attach the lining fabric with a simple hand-sewing needle and thread.

Step 1 You'll need to choose some lining fabric that suits your design, thinking about the use of your purse – perhaps something silky for an evening purse or a printed cotton fabric for an everyday bag. Iron out any wrinkles in the fabric before you start.

Step 2 Lay your purse out flat and measure it. You will need to allow at least 1cm (½in) as a seam allowance on all sides of the fabric, so cut two pieces of your lining fabric that are 2cm (1in) larger than your actual purse measurements – 20x12cm for our example, above.

If you're working with a purse that's a unique shape, like a circle, you'll find it easier to draw around your purse and work from a template. Use your template to mark a shape onto your lining fabric that measures 1cm (½in) larger than your purse all the way around.

HOW DO I ATTACH MY LINING?

Brush up on these simple sewing skills to give your makes a professional-looking finish.

Once you've cut your templates, you'll be ready to get sewing.

Step 1 Place your two pieces of lining fabric right sides together. Using a fabric pen, mark the 1cm seam allowance and pin the two pieces together using straight pins.

Step 2 Carefully sew around three sides at the pen marks, leaving the top open. If you have a sewing machine, this will speed up the process, but it's a great chance to practise your hand sewing, too.

Steps 3-4 To ensure the corners of the lining will be well-defined inside the purse, trim off the corners of the fabric, as shown. Be careful not to cut into your stitches.

Step 5 To make sure the lining lies flat, press the seam allowance back on one side of your lining pouch, using an iron.

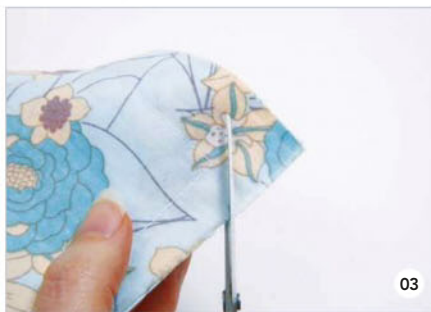
Step 6 Turn over and repeat.

Step 7 Take the lining and place it inside your purse – it should fit snugly to the three seamed edges while the raw edge will poke out of the top. If you're adding a zip to your purse then you will achieve a neat result if you've sewn the zip to the purse before adding the lining – you'll also be able to use the lining to hide the raw edges of the zip inside the purse. Measure the amount of lining fabric that pokes out of the top of the purse – you'll want the lining to sit inside the purse a little below the top edge so add a couple of millimetres to your measurement. If you've inserted a zip, measure the amount of fabric from about 1cm (½in) below the teeth so the fabric won't get caught.

Step 8 Remove your lining once more and fold over the top edges to the wrong side by this amount, so the raw edge will be hidden once sewn into the purse. Iron the edge to give a nice, crisp finish and make the job of sewing it into the purse a little easier.

Step 9 Pop the lining back into your purse and wiggle it into position, making sure the corners are in place and the edges lie flat. Now pin each side of the top edge of the lining to the top edge of the crochet purse. You have little choice here but to whip out a needle and thread, especially if you want the seam to be invisible from the outside of your purse. Carefully sew around the top edge of your lining with small stitches. For a really professional finish, make sure you don't push the needle through to the outside of your purse or your stitches will be on show.

Step 10 Make sure the zip moves freely, then fasten off securely and neatly.



Clutch bag

YOUR NEXT STEPS!

Perfect your skills with zips and linings to create this glitzy evening bag.



RUBY SPARKLE

Glittery yarn and a bold scarlet lining make Becky Skuse's purse the perfect party piece.

Clutch bag



YOU WILL NEED

- Marriner Sparkle DK (97% acrylic, 3% lurex, 100g/300m), 1 ball of C-045 Black (purse uses approx 20g of this yarn)
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- Inner lining fabric, approx 42x14cm (16½x5½in) (we used a grey and white print)
- Outer lining fabric, approx 42x14cm (16½x5½in) (we used a red cotton)
- Zip, approx 18cm (7in) long (excluding tape ends)
- Piece of paper

For yarn stockists, contact
Marriner 02920 837 613
www.marrineryarns.com

TENSION

Not vital for this project, although if your finished purse is smaller or larger than finished measurements, you may need more yarn and more fabric. Instructions include how to create a lining to fit your purse, whatever its size.

MEASUREMENTS

Finished purse measures approx 20x12cm (7¾x4¾in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

We're loving the bold scallop shapes and hint of sparkle in this design (Gatsby vibes anyone?), but really it's the beautifully finished zip and linings that makes it a winner. Put your sewing skills to the test.

NOTES

You can use the same or different fabrics for the inner and outer linings.

C PURSE SIDE (MAKE 2)

Ch35.

Row 1 (RS) Tr in fourth ch from hook (skipped ch counts as st), and each ch to end, turn. [33 tr]

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in first 3 tr, (ch5, skip 3 tr, dc in each of next 5 tr) 3 times, ch5, skip 3 tr, dc in next 2 tr, dc in top of beg ch-3, turn. [4 ch-5 sps, three 5-dc groups]

Row 3 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in first st, (11tr in next ch-5 sp, skip 2 dc, dc in next dc, skip 2 dc) 3 times, 11tr in next ch-5 sp, dc in last dc, turn. [Four 11-tr shells]

Row 4 Ch6 (counts as dtr, ch2), skip 3 tr, (5dc, ch5, skip 3 tr, skip 1 dc, skip 3 tr) 3 times, 5dc, ch2, skip 3 tr, dtr in last dc, turn. [Three ch-5 sps, two ch-2 sps, four 5-dc groups]

Row 5 Ch3 (counts as tr), 5tr into first ch-2 sp, (skip 2 dc, dc in next dc, skip 2 dc, 11tr in next ch-5 sp) 3 times, skip 2 dc, dc in next dc, skip 2 dc, 6tr in final ch-2 sp, turn. [Three 11-tr shells, Two 6-tr half shells]

Row 6 Ch1 (does not count as stitch), dc in first 3 tr, (ch5, skip 3 tr, skip 1 dc, skip 3 tr, dc in each of next 5 tr) 3 times, ch5, skip 3 tr, skip 1 dc, skip 3 tr, dc in next 2 tr, dc in top of beg ch-3, turn. [4 ch-5 sps, three 5-dc groups]

Rows 3-6 form pattern.

Repeat Rows 3-6 once more, then work Row 3 one more time.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO MAKE UP

Block purse sides to same size.

Place purse sides wrong sides tog.

Using a matching black yarn or cotton thread, seam tog down one side, along the bottom and up the other side.

LINING TEMPLATE

Place your purse on a piece of paper and draw around the outside. Remove the purse and cut out the paper shape.



Choose a suitably fabulous print to line the inside of your clutch bag. We like florals.

You will need to keep the curves of the bottom corners, but not the individual scallops so cut off each scallop to straighten out the bottom.

Fold the piece in half so the sides meet and trim off any excess so the piece is symmetrical.

Unfold and insert the paper piece into your purse to check the fit. It will probably be too wide, so remove the paper, fold in half again and trim the sides slightly. Repeat until your paper shape fits well inside the purse.

Once you're happy, place your paper shape onto your inner lining fabric and draw around it twice. On both shapes, draw another line 1cm away from the first line all the way around (this is your seam allowance). Cut out along the outer line. Repeat this process with your outer lining fabric.

SEW LINING

Sew together your lining pieces as described in the technical feature (page 82, steps 1-6), to form an inner lining pouch and an outer lining pouch.

Before attaching the zip, you need to sew the outer lining into place. This will be visible on the outside of the purse so you need to keep all your seam allowances on the inside of the purse (these will be covered up by the inner lining). Turn the outer lining right sides out and keeping seam allowances on the inside, sew to the inside of the purse, as described in the technical feature (page 82, steps 7-10).

Now sew the zip in place as described in the feature (page 81, steps 1-4).

Finally, sew the inner lining in place as described in the technical feature (page 82, steps 7-10).

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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.



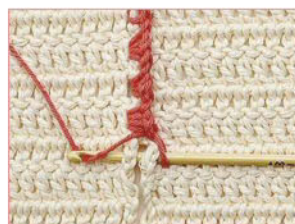
1 Sewing with a tapestry needle is the regular and neat way to join seams. Place two pieces of crochet right sides together and oversew them as shown above, using a tapestry or yarn needle.



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.

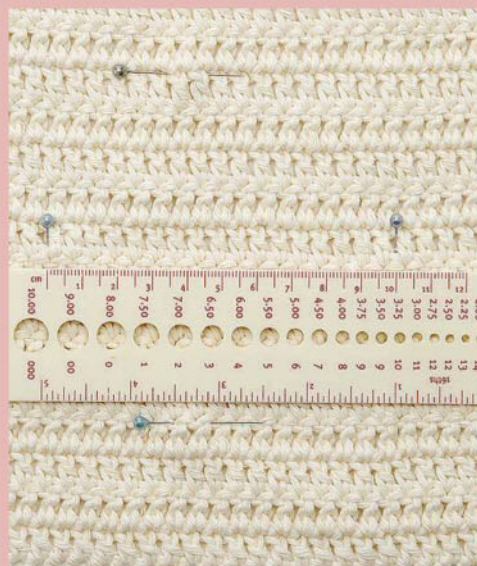
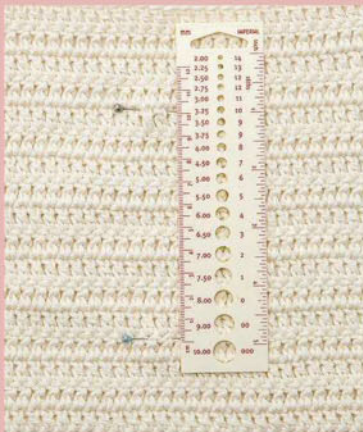


4 A useful variation on the dc seam, the dc and chain seam is used when less bulk and/or greater flexibility is needed. Work 1 double crochet and 1 chain alternately.

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.



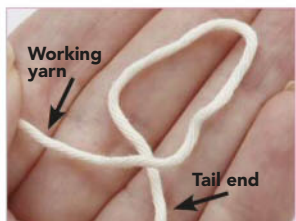
1 Make a foundation ring and work the t-ch (3ch for treble sts). Work a treble st as usual, but insert hook into centre of ring. For treble sts, yrh, insert hook into ring.



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.

MAGIC LOOP

An alternative foundation ring for working in the round.



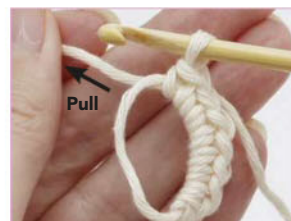
1 To start a Magic Loop, don't make a slipknot. Instead, make a loop with the yarn, leaving a tail around 10cm long. Make sure the tail end is under the working yarn.



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



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



4 Once you've worked the first round of stitches, simply pull the tail end of yarn to draw up the ring. Work a slip stitch to join the last and first sts to finish the first round (as instructed below).

JOINING ROUNDS

Finish off each round of crochet stitches nice and neatly by using a slip stitch.



1 To close a round of stitches, work a slip stitch into the top of the turning chain. To do this, insert the hook into the top stitch of the turning chain.



2 Then place the yarn round the hook. Pull the yarn through the turning chain stitch and through the original stitch on your hook.



3 You've slip stitched the round together! Before working another round, be sure to make the required turning chain. Always work rounds on the right side, unless you pattern instructs you otherwise.

Rounds or spirals



Check which technique to use.

Some patterns are worked in rounds that are joined together at the end of each round (see left). Other patterns are worked in a spiral so you don't need to join the rounds at the end, just keep going, working into the next stitch on the previous row. Amigurumi toys are often worked in a spiral like this.

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Abbreviations

across	to end of the row	htr	half treble
alt	alternate/alternating	htr2tog	work 2htr together
approx	approximate(ly)	in next	sts to be worked into
beg	beginning		the same stitch
bl	insert hook under	inc	increase
	back loop only	LH	left hand
BPtr	Back Post treble:	lp(s)	loop(s)
	yrh, starting from the	meas	measures
	back, insert hook	p or pc	picot
	from back to front to	patt(s)	pattern(s)
	back around post of	pm	place marker
	st in row below,	prev	previous
	complete as treble st	rem	remain(s)/remaining
ch(s)	chain/chain stitch(es)	rep	repeat
ch-sp(s)	chain space(s)	RH	right hand
ch-	refers to ch made	rnd(s)	round(s)
	previously, eg. ch-3	RS	right side
cl(s)	clusters	sk	skip
4-tr cl	(yrh, insert hook in	sp(s)	space(s)
	sp/st, yrh & pull up	ss	slip stitch
	loop, yrh & draw	st(s)	stitch(es)
	through 2 loops) 4	tbl	through back loop
	times, inserting hook	t-ch(s)	turning chain(s)
	in same sp/st, yrh &	tog	together
	draw through all	tr	treble crochet
	loops on hook	tr2tog	(yrh, insert hook in
cont	continue		next st, yrh and pull
dc	double crochet		up loop, yrh and
dc2tog	(insert hook in next		draw through 2
	st, yrh and draw a		loops) twice, yrh and
	loop through) twice,		draw through all
	yrh and draw through		loops on hook
	all 3 loops on hook	ttr	triple treble crochet
dec	decrease	WS	wrong side
dtr	double treble crochet	yoh	yarn over hook
dtr2tog	work 2dtr together	yrh	yarn round hook
fl	insert hook under	*	work instructions
	front loop only		immediately foll *,
foll/folls	following/follows		then rep as directed
FPtr	Front Post treble:	[] or ()	work or repeat all
	work in opposite way		instructions in the
	to BPtr		brackets as directed

Crochet hook conversions

UK	METRIC	US
14	2mm	–
13	2.25mm	B/1
12	2.5mm	–
–	2.75mm	C/2
11	3mm	–
10	3.25mm	D/3
9	3.5mm	E/4
–	3.75mm	F/5
8	4mm	G/6
7	4.5mm	7
6	5mm	H/8
5	5.5mm	I/9
4	6mm	J/10
3	6.5mm	K/10½
2	7mm	–
0	8mm	L/11
00	9mm	M/13
000	10mm	N/15

Which hook do I use?

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

UK/US conversions

UK		US	
chain	ch	chain	ch
slip stitch	ss	slip stitch	ss
double crochet	dc	single crochet	sc
half treble	htr	half double	hdc
treble	tr	double	dc
double treble	dtr	treble	tr
triple treble	ttr	double treble	dtr

HOW TO GET A PERFECT FINISH

To prevent your hard work unravelling once you've finished crocheting, fasten the end off carefully.

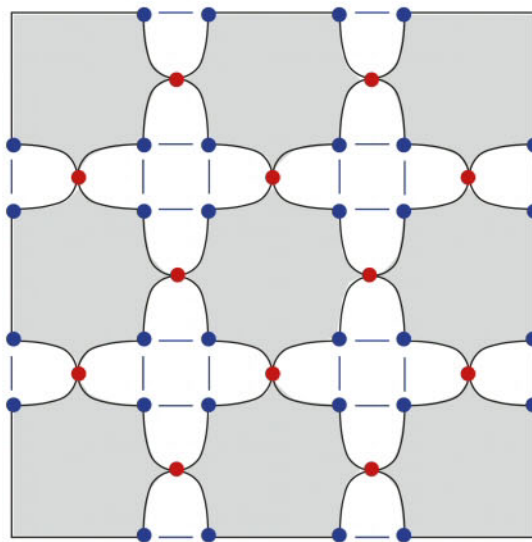


Complete the final stitch, then cut the yarn about 15cm from the work. Pull it through the last loop on the hook and pull to close the loop. Thread the yarn tail onto a tapestry needle and weave into the back of the work. Most crochet items don't need a lot of blocking, but cotton lace work usually does. To do this, carefully pin out the item with rust-proof pins, mist with a water spray and leave to dry naturally.

CHARTS & DIAGRAMS

Here are the handy charts and diagrams you'll need for this month's snowy lace ideas from page 22.

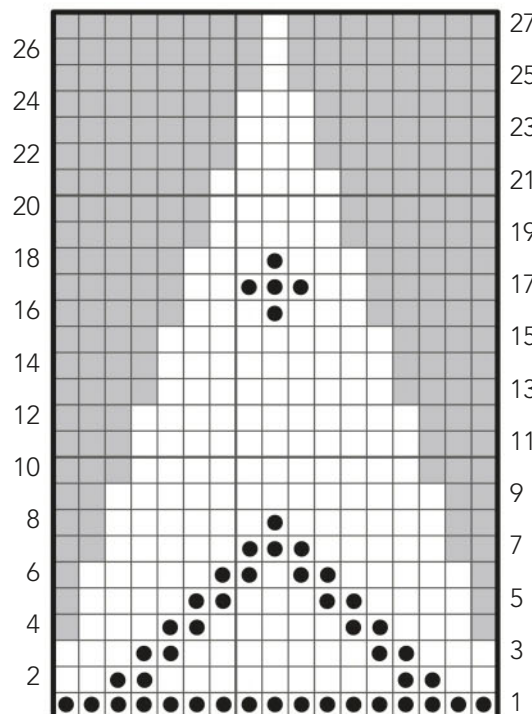
SQUARE CUSHION, PAGE 23



Key

- Joining ss
- ss, ch5 join

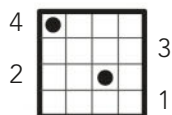
BEAUTIFUL BUNTING, PAGE 25



Key

- Filled square
- Open square
- No stitch

FILET PICTURE, PAGE 28



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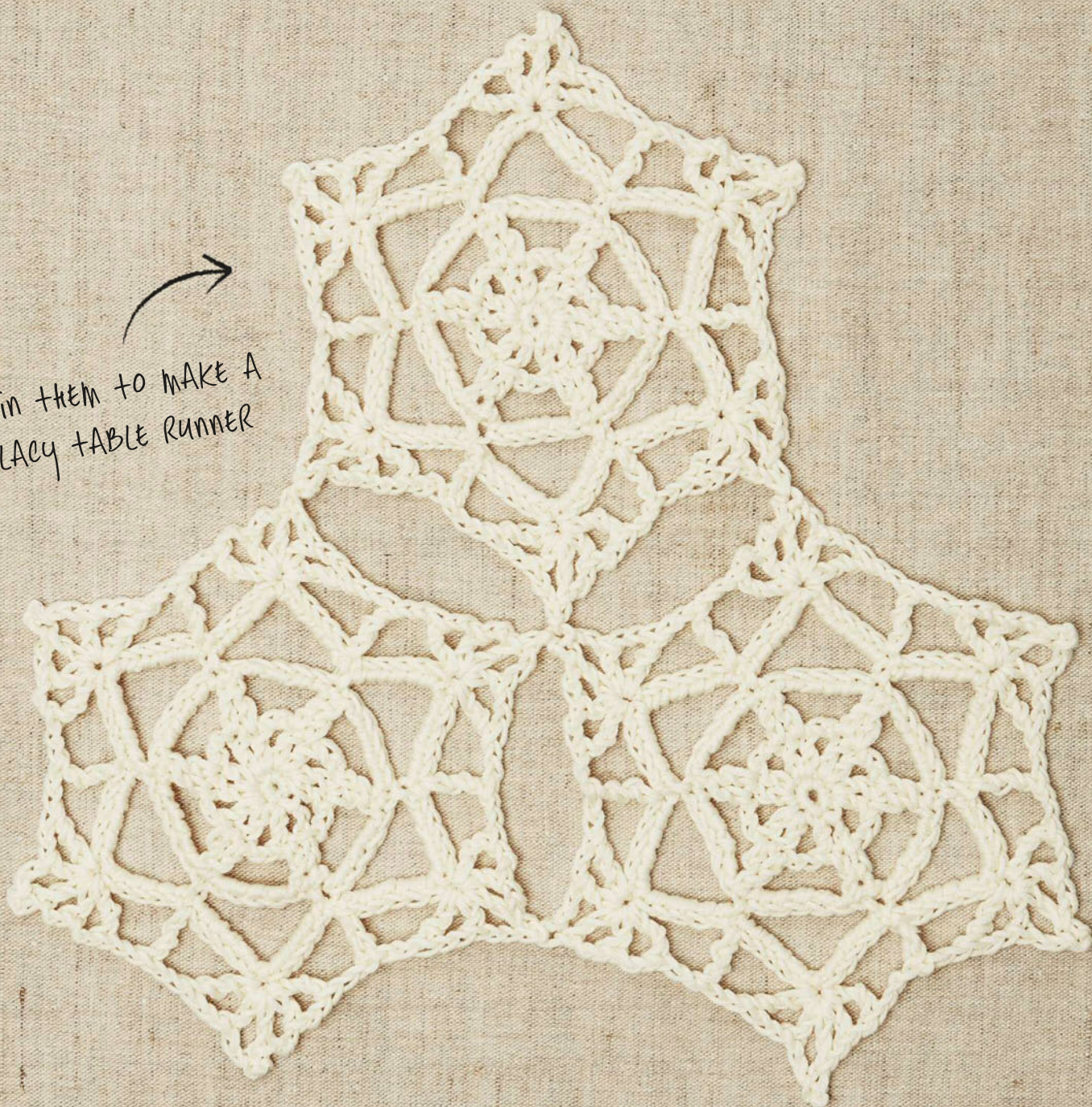
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MAKE A MOTIF

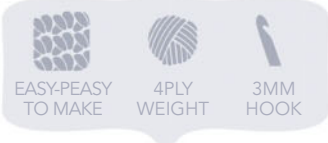
SNOW DAY

Make a flurry of Lucy Croft's frosty star shapes.

join them to make a
Lacy TABLE RUNNER



MAKE A MOTIF



YOU WILL NEED

■ DMC Natura Just Cotton (100% cotton, 50g/155m), Nacar (N35)
■ A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
For yarn stockists, contact
DMC 0116 275 4000
www.dmccreative.co.uk

ABBREVIATIONS

Picot Ch2, ss to the second ch from the hook
For a full list, see page 92.

Lucy Croft's crochet motif this month is somewhere between a snowflake and a star – perfect for this time of year. It's a lacy, geometric shape worked in cotton 4ply that would make an elegant bedspread or table runner. You'll be working double trebles and picots for the fiddlier bits, but it's not a difficult pattern to master. What will your lacy shapes make this winter?

SNOWFLAKE MOTIF

Make a magic loop.

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

Round 2 Ch3, tr in st at base of ch-3, ch2, (2tr in next st, ch2) 5 times, ss to top of beg ch-3 to join. [12 tr, 6 ch-2 sps]

Round 3 Ch2, tr in next st (counts as tr2tog), ch5, (skip ch-2 sp, tr2tog over next 2 tr, ch5) 5 times, ss to top of first tr to join. [6 tr2tog, 6 ch-5 sps]

Round 4 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in st at base of ch-1, 5dc in ch-5 sp, (dc in next tr2tog, 5dc in ch-5 sp) 5 times, ss to top of first dc to join. [36 dc]

Round 5 (Ch9, skip 5 dc, ss to next dc) 6 times. [6 ch-9 sps]

Round 6 *(5dc, picot, 5dc) in ch-9 sp, ss to next ss; repeat from * 5 more times. [60 dc, 6 picots]

Round 7 Ch4 (counts as dtr), *ch2, skip

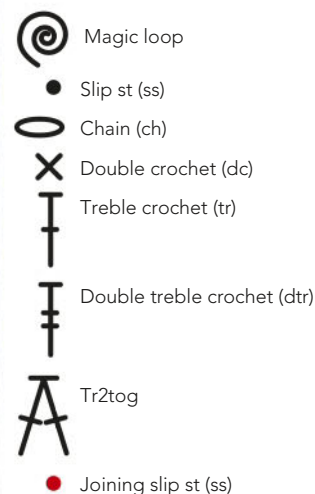
5 dc, (dtr, ch2, tr, ch2, tr, picot, ch2, tr, ch2, dtr, ch2) in next picot, skip 5 dc, dtr in ss; repeat from * 5 more times omitting last dtr, ss to top of beg ch-4 to join.

Fasten off.

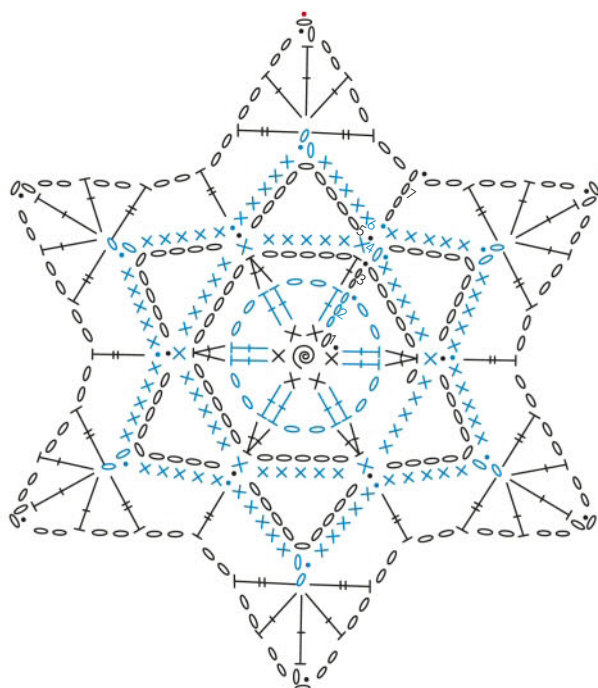
TO JOIN

Join motifs while working Round 7, by replacing the second ch of the picot with a ss into the corresponding stitch on the next motif.

Key



On the chart, all rounds are read in an anti-clockwise direction.



Simply Crochet

HOOKED ON HANDMADE



NEXT ISSUE

Amigurumi otters

Rainbow home makes

Chunky textured jumper

Cabled headband

Baby dungarees

And more...

STOCKMAN

ADD A BIT
OF SPARKLE!

ON SALE THURS 7 JANUARY





SHOOTING STARS

Shine bright in a starry skirt with masses of retro appeal. Metallic shirts and loafers optional.

Most crochet designs don't require a stiff drink in a darkened room, but when you've turned up in the same skirt and shiny lavender blouse as someone else, what's a girl to do? Talk about *Star Wars*. Joking aside (although how can you ignore this bonkers styling – loafers, amber beads and is that lady wearing a turban or a wig?), we're actually rather fond of these pretty star motif skirts. The final row of stars along the lower edge leaves the skirts with fun, spiky hems. This is a Coats crochet pattern from 1970 that can be made in mini or 'hostess' lengths. The mini looks like the more wearable of the two skirts. It's lovely in red, but we'd go for a dark grey or silver glitter to see us through the party season. If you'd like to hook up a special starry skirt of your own, you can find this pattern at www.wonkyzebra.etsy.com. Use the code SChexi to get a hexagon motif pattern free with your purchase.



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