

22
PATTERNS

Simply Crochet

HOOKED ON HANDMADE

PYRAMID PILLOW
STITCH IT ON P22



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PRIMP
IT UP

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& pompoms

TOASTY
TEXTURE

Try crochet
cables

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IDEAS

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STITCHES TO TRY

BOBBLE STITCH
JUMPER!

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BEGINNERS

from Nicki Trench,
Lucinda Guy & more

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Simply **Crochet**

HOOKED ON HANDMADE

We're in love – with crochet cables, retro style, rainbow yarns and these utterly adorable amigurumi otters. You might just fall head over heels for this issue's exciting designs, too – there are textured makes to keep you cosy and thoughtful projects for your Valentine sweetheart. Mwah!



Simply Crochet

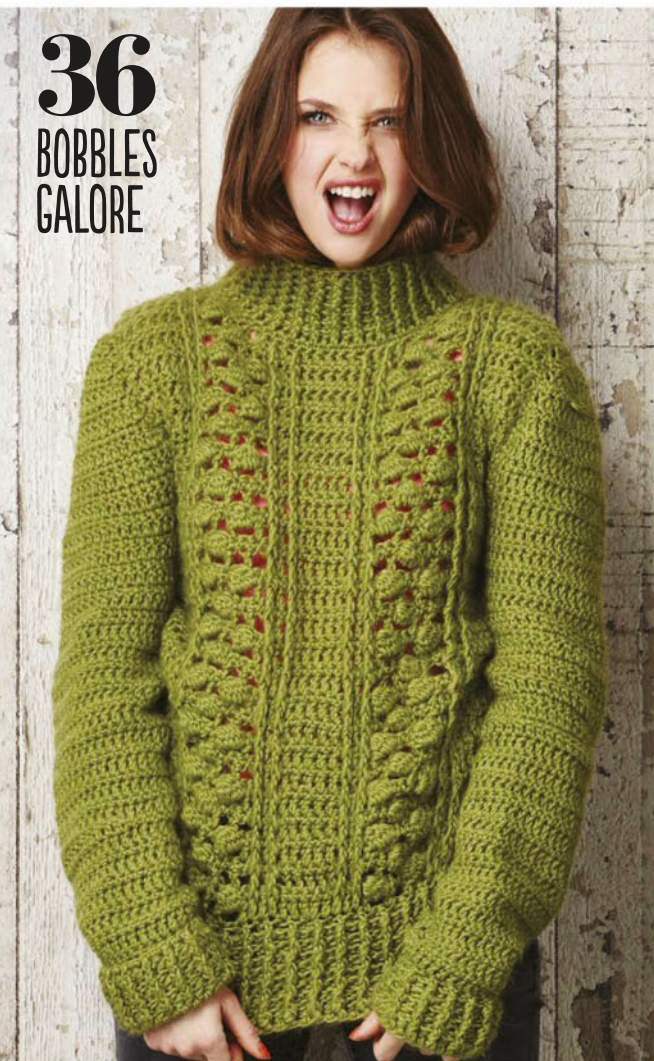
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All our patterns use **UK terms**. If you usually crochet from US patterns, turn to page 92 for a conversion table.

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OTTER DELIGHT

Bling Bling PS1

LOVE AT
FIRST STITCH

A big hello to our regular *Simply Crochet* readers and to all you newbie crocheters, too. A shiny new year is a great time to learn a new skill and, of course, we're here to help and inspire you on your creative journey. We've packed this issue full to the brim with exciting, colourful projects – some for beginners and a few more challenging! Build your confidence with the basics, experiment with tapestry crochet or cables, but most importantly have fun and make something that you love.

Sara

Sara Huntington, Editor

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CONTRIBUTORS

THE PASSIONATE PEOPLE BEHIND THIS ISSUE . . .



KERRY LORD

Kerry is an amigurumi critter creator and head honcho at TOFT Alpaca. On page 46, she's spilling the beans about her own crochet journey and her two Edward's Menagerie books.



NICKI TRENCH

Star crochet designer and tutor Nicki is offering some words of hooky wisdom for novice crocheters this issue. Pick up some of her expert tips in our special beginners' feature on page 62.



LUCY CROFT

Regular *Simply Crochet* contributor Lucy is our go-to gal for crochet motifs. We love the way her passion for colour comes through in her designs. See her latest glitzy motif on page 95.



ELISABETH DAVIS DE HERRAIZ

Elisabeth is based in sunny Spain (we're a little jealous) and is a real whizz when it comes to crochet shawls. Check out her latest lacy number on page 59 and a sparkly jewellery design on page 51.

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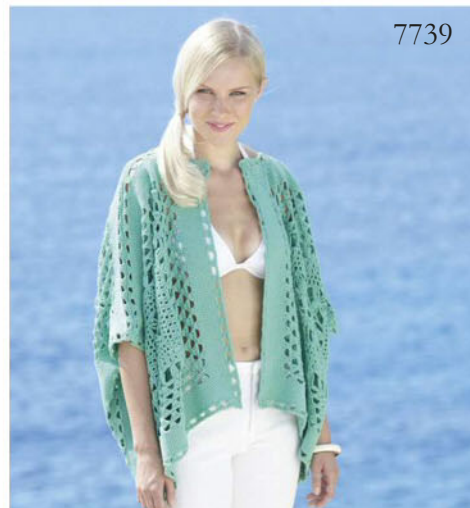
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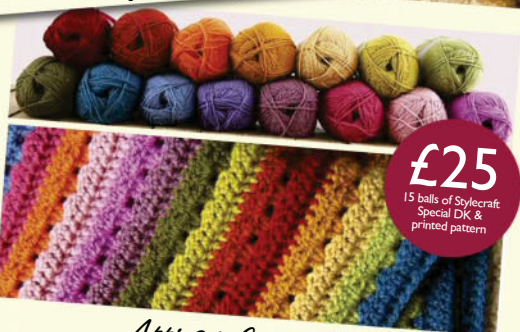


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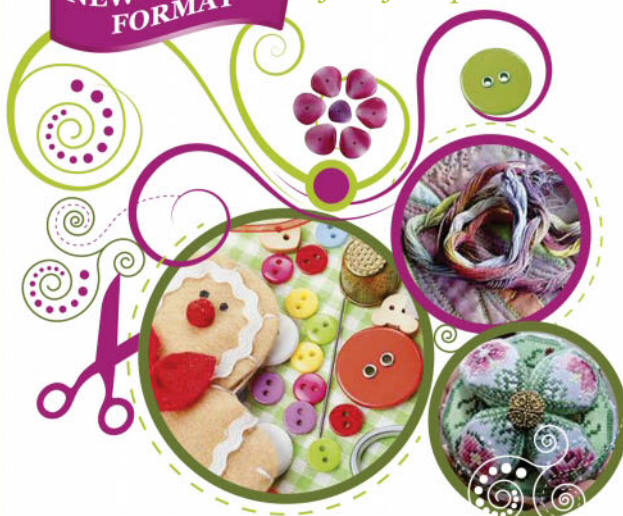
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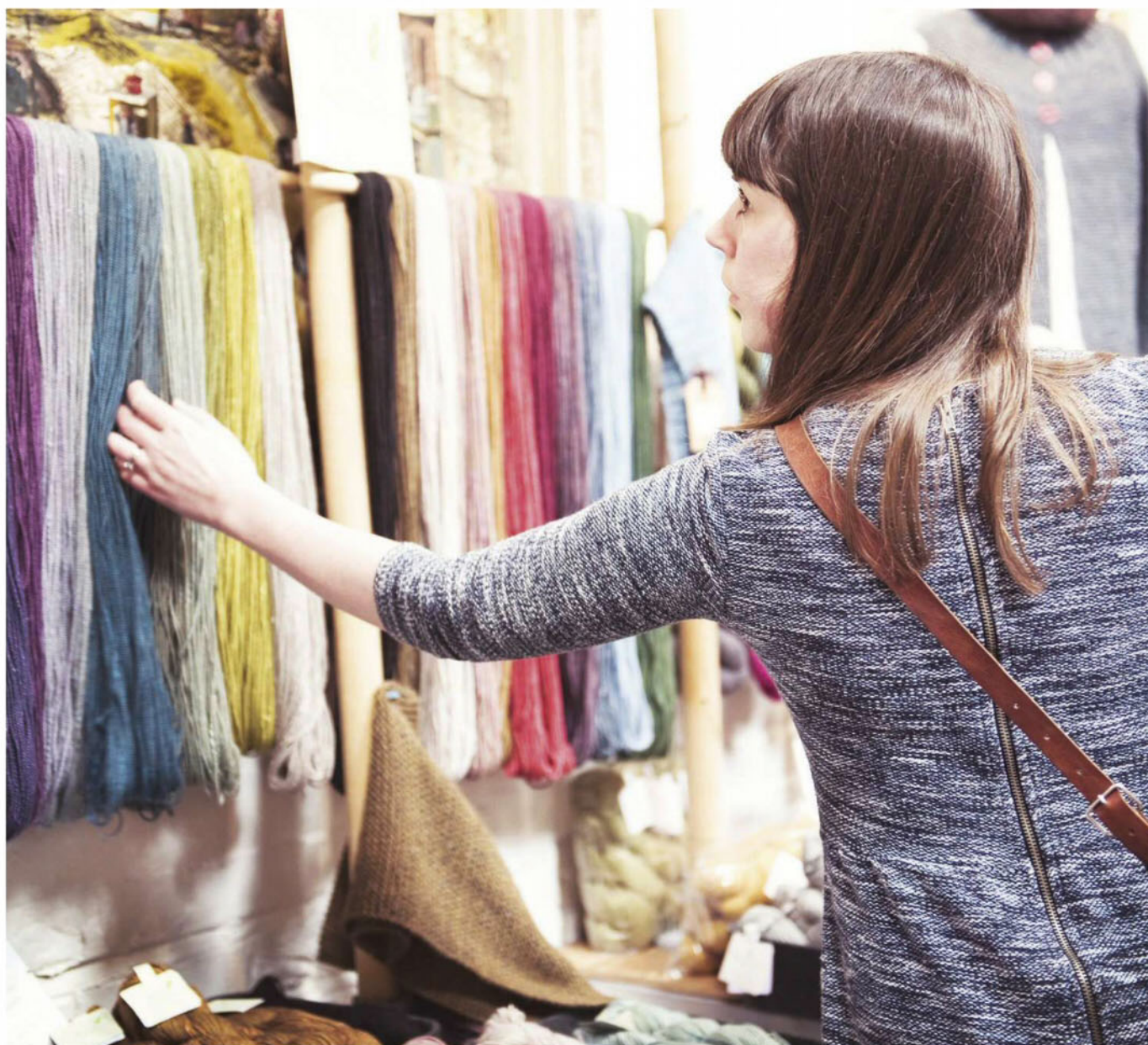
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(10 persons or more)

HOOKED

IDEAS ♥ INSPIRATION ♥ ACCESSORIES ♥ WEBSITES ♥ EVENTS ♥ STUFF



TIME TO UNRAVEL

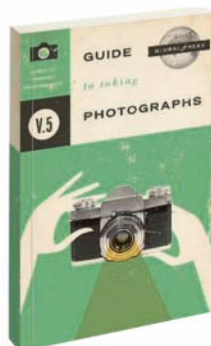
This February, Farnham Maltings is the place to be. Yep, from the 19-21 of the month, yarn festival Unravel rules the roost. You can expect an exciting programme of fibre-based talks and workshops with craft experts, as well as a tempting curated marketplace of yarny goodies. Advance tickets for the event are now on sale for £7 at www.craft.farnhammaltings.com





SO RETRO

■ It's no secret that we've gone gaga for retro style this issue (check out our collection on page 16). What could be more fitting than a handy notebook masquerading as a vintage guide to photography? Absolutely perfect for jotting down genius crochet design ideas or, let's be honest, shopping lists. This bit of shelf candy is £7 from www.lifeofjaj.com



Good news for jumbo yarn lovers everywhere – Clover have now added formidable (but just as comfy) 12mm and 15mm size hooks to their ever-popular Amour crochet hook range, priced at £8.95 and £9.95 respectively. These light and colourful, easy-grip hooks with their soft cushiony handles are pretty hard to beat and with these babies at your command, your super-chunky crochet makes will be easier to create than ever. Consider being kinder to your hands this year and treating yourself to a set. They would make a great gift for a fellow hookster, too. To sniff out your nearest Clover Amour stockist, telephone 01453 883581 or contact clover@stockistenquiries.co.uk

IN THE OUTBACK

Yarnsters from down under, Cleckheaton, have produced some gorgeous new winter accessory patterns for their yummy Australian Superfine Merino yarn. Three of the four vibrant designs in the Outback Collection are for crochet, including this cowl and beanie hat set, and stylish tasselled chevron wrap. Head to www.cleckheatonsuperfine.com.au to check out the collection and get your hands on some squishy merino yarn from Cleckheaton.





MADE IN BRITAIN

A brother and sister team selling beautiful wool blankets woven in North Wales? Heck yes. New brand The British Blanket Company are such a team, with a stunning range of luxuriously cosy throws and clever roll-up picnic blankets. They even offer free delivery for addresses in good old Blighty. Visit www.thebritishblanketcompany.com

MAKE IT FOR YOURSELF

Why not be your own Valentine this year? Here are five ideas for wooing yourself with wool.

- 1 **DREAM DATE**
Set aside an extra bit of time that you wouldn't usually for uninterrupted hooking.
- 2 **NOT-SO-SECRET ADMIRER**
Start that project at the top of your 'one day' list.
- 3 **JUST FOR YOU**
Give the gifts a rest and work on a make for yourself.
- 4 **HANDSOME STRANGER**
That gorgeous yarn you've had your eye on? Now's the time to treat yourself.
- 5 **HAND-HOLDING**
Hand cream or ergonomic hooks will help your hands.

GOTTA DANCE

It's a little-known fact that hippos, with all their natural grace and poise, are gifted dancers. Spread the word with one of TOFT's Ballerina Hippo Kits. £24 at www.thetoftalpacashop.co.uk



INSPIRING BOOKS

HAPPY-GURUMI

Vanessa Chan (£15.15, Martingale)
Packed full of adorable patterns, this book will help you build on your crochet skills and create 20 amigurumi designs, including animals, insects and even a smiley birthday cake. The clear crochet basics section makes it suitable for newbies.



LUCY SPARROW'S FELT WORLD

Lucy Sparrow (£16.99, Prestel)
Artist Lucy Sparrow, noted for her corner shop of felt makes in 2014, has created felt versions of everything from digestive biscuits and London buses to atomic bombs. This is an inspiring catalogue of her work.



WEEKEND CROCHET FOR BABIES

Sue Whiting (£9.99, IMM Lifestyle Books)
Hook the perfect gift for new arrivals with simple patterns for baby garments, toys and accessories that can be hooked in a weekend. Projects are sized for ages newborn to 18 months.



COLORFUL CROCHET LACE

Mary Jane Hall (£16.99, Interweave)
Love lace? Get your hook into this selection of 22 beautifully delicate yet wearable crochet garment and accessory designs. It's ideal if you're looking for a new crochet challenge. All the patterns are written in US terms and accompanied with clear stitch charts.





CROCHET MARATHON

The Knitting Runner David Babcock has a few achievements under his belt, including the Guinness World Record for the Longest Scarf Knit While Running a Marathon, but in November 2015 he took on the New York Marathon in aid of the Alzheimer's Association. With sponsorship from Lion Brand, David went on to finish the race and crochet 23 flowers along the way using just his fingers. Find out more and make a donation at www.knittingrunner.com

GIVING AWAY

Have you heard of Raggie Aggie? It's a unique not-for-profit craft website where donated handmade goods are sold to support Cancer Research UK, The Eve Appeal and Macmillan Cancer Support. Pay a visit to www.raggie-aggie.co.uk and you'll find lovingly stitched quilts, baby clothes, cushions, toys and more. You can shop on the website, donate your own handmade items, or make a donation to the three connected charities. It's a wonderful idea.



THROWS TO GO

Blanket season is upon us and we're firmly of the belief that a crocheter can never have too many cosy things. If you've got a hankering for a snuggly project to hook, take a look at Wendy's new *Throws and Cushions Book 370*. It's a wonderfully varied and colourful collection of crochet and knit designs for (you might have already guessed) cushions and throws in warm aran, chunky and super-chunky weight yarns. This motif blanket (above) is one of our faves from the book. For stockists, see www.tbramsden.co.uk

LIKE IT? PIN IT!



2015 was undoubtedly the year of the crochet shawl and the trend is showing no signs of abating. Long may they reign, we say. Accessorise yours with a statement shawl pin.

1. Got a taste for more traditional shawl pins? Pony has a collection of four classic designs in mango, ebony and silver wood. RRP £9. Contact groves@stockistenquiries.co.uk
2. For quirky handmade polymer clay notions, including hooks, shawl pins and stitch markers, www.korutumi.etsy.com is the place to go. This sweet honeycomb design is our fave. It's £10.50 and there are matching buttons.
3. Never mind the knitters, treat yourself to a shawl pin in the form of an upcycled vintage knitting needle. Very cool. They're available in a range of different sizes and colours for £10 at www.cardiganlaneshop.etsy.com



IDA LIFESTYLE

Ilaria Chiaratti knows a thing or two about colour. She's an interiors stylist, online yarn store owner and a keen crocheter. The very exciting news is that she has just released a set of totally gorgeous baby blanket kits. Naturally, the colours are incredible. You can take a peek at www.idalifestyle.etsy.com

A GOOD YARN

I'm going to crochet a pair of stripy mittens and I'd like to use something soft and cosy. What yarn would you recommend I use?

Rowan's Super Fine Merino DK (£5.79 per 50g) is made with 100% merino wool and has a really varied colour palette. It comes in 4ply and aran weights, too. See www.knitrowan.com



Time to get out AND ABOUT...

SKILLS, SHOWS & EVENTS

FEB 4-6 Stitching, Sewing & Hobbyscrafts Show, £8, EventCity, Manchester, 01425 272711 www.stitchandhobby.co.uk

FEB 10 Daisy Granny Square Workshop, £25, Bridport Yarn, Bridport, Dorset, 01308 455669 www.bridport yarn.co.uk

FEB 13 Eclectic Gipsyland Crochet with Cécile Balladino, £75, Loop, London, 020 7288 1160 www.loopknitting.com

FEB 19-21 Unravel 2016, £7, Farnham Maltings, Farnham, Surrey, www.craft.farnhammaltings.com

FEB 20 Beginner's Crochet: Doughnut, £37.50, Fred Aldous, Manchester, 07740 860390 www.ministryofcraft.co.uk

FEB 26-27 Knit & Stitch It Show 2016, £9.50, FIVE, Farnborough, 0844 477 1000 www.knitandstitch-it.org.uk

5 FAB FINDS

We heart it
Cute and crafty Valentine
treats for your loved ones.



BELOVED BOBBLES

Have a go at drawing shapes with textured stitches. Find this cushion pattern at www.thebabycrow.etsy.com



WRAPPED UP
Cécile Balladino's Heart to Heart blanket from issue 34 would be a lovely gift. See page 86 for back issues info.

SAY IT RIGHT

Pay a visit to www.oakroomshop.co.uk and you'll find ribbon for decorating your swoonsome Valentine makes.



HEAD TO TOE

Feeling it in your fingers and your toes? It's time to get socks. These soft, cosy ones are from www.bouxavenue.com

STITCH SMITTEN

Treat yourself or a beloved fellow crafter to a set of stitch markers from www.crafty catknittybits.etsy.com. So pretty.





RETREAT YOURSELF

Passionate stitchers Belinda Harris-Reid and Rachel Vowles (pictured) regularly host crochet and knitting retreats in Devon. It's an opportunity for makers of all abilities to take some time out, learn something new from the experts, sharpen up their skills and indulge in plenty of tea and cake, of course. Head to www.womenwithwool.co.uk to find out more and book yourself in. Prices from £165.

NAME IT

■ A colourful cotton drawstring tote makes a fantastic project bag any day of the week, but when it's also emblazoned with your own initials, that's something to really write home about. Frozen Fire's fab personalised crochet bags come in medium or large sizes and there's a choice of four bright cotton shades. You can pick up to three initials for your design. The even better news is that they're only £7. Go to www.noths.com to order yours.



Show your appreciation for British craft and make sure you catch the annual Made with Love exhibition at the Craft and Design Gallery in the City Art Gallery, Leeds. This year the event is running from 16 February – 12 March 2016 and is a celebration of UK handmade, showcasing the work of 19 talented female artists. You can expect to see a collection of beautifully crafted ceramics, jewellery and mixed media pieces, all of which would make wonderful gifts. It could be just the thing if you're looking for something a bit different for Valentine's Day or Mothering Sunday. For further details about this group exhibition, visit www.craftcentreleeds.co.uk

Beautiful Blue by Victoria Lindo, photograph by Victoria Lindo

THIS MONTH WE LOVE...

Blogger and yarn crafter Kate's inspiring podcast [aplayfulday](http://aplayfulday.com). She's passionate about making, creativity and storytelling – a lady after our own heart.

On her weekly podcast, she regularly chats to independent designers and makers, reviews new yarny collections and shares the nitty-gritty details of her own projects and creative adventures. She's also a keen knitter, but we won't hold that against her. We love her honest, friendly style and thirst for making. You can listen along at www.aplayfulday.com

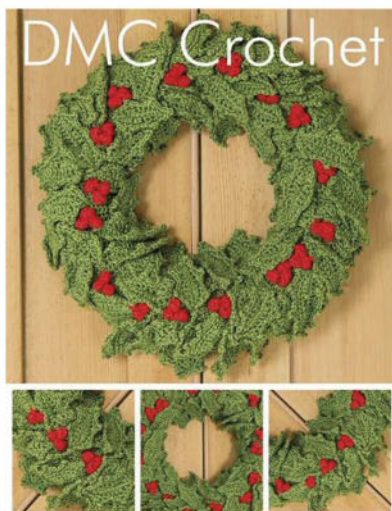


Purplelinda Crafts

love to Crochet



Create these Festive Designs with DMC Petra and DMC Natura



Check out the Fantastic selection of Festive Yarns, Kits and Patterns at:

www.purplelindacrafts.co.uk



EIGHTH WONDER

The squashy simplicity of a pyramid cushion cannot be overlooked. These canny makes are worked as tubes, then seamed to create the unusual three-dimensional shape. Pick a handful of bright, contrasting colours to really make them pop.

SNAP HAPPY

Stash your hooks in a cute zipped case – it's perfect for pencils, too. We've combined vintage camera appreciation and Instagram passion in one crafty project. It's a fairly speedy make that would be a fab treat for you or a hooky pal.



IN TECHNICOLOUR

Embrace mid-century style and crochet vibrant home makes with retro rainbow stripes.

RAINBOW IDEAS



A COLOURFUL CUPPA

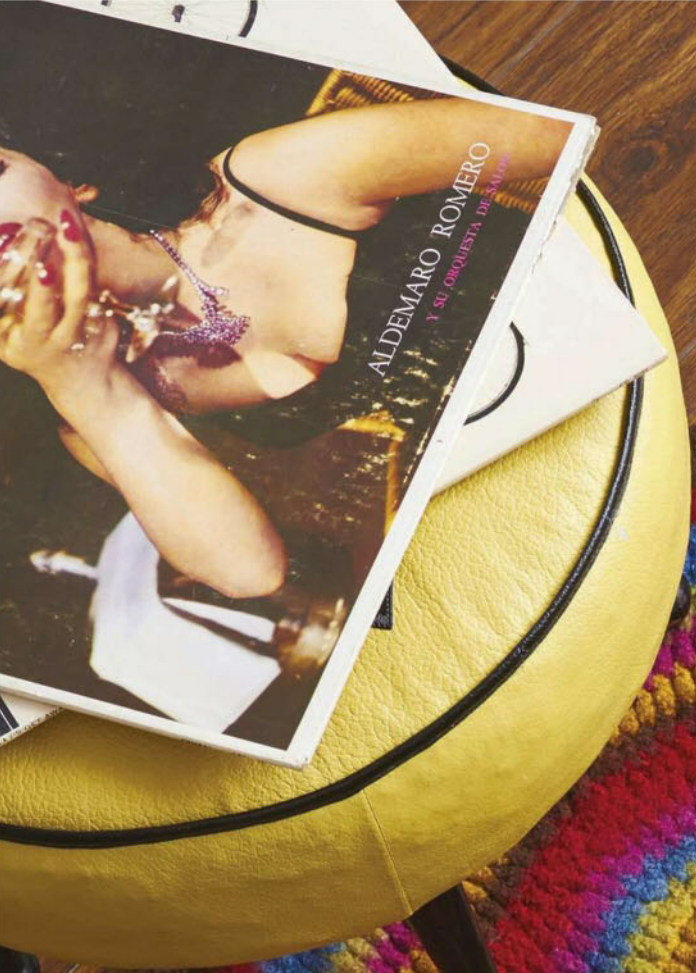
Need a crochet fix quick? Whip up a motif mug hug or two in a decidedly retro colour palette. You can adjust the length of the two fastening button loops so your cosy will fit comfortably around your chosen cup. Get a brew on.

BAGS OF STYLE

Vintage, wooden-handled project bags have a special place in our hearts. We felt it only right to create our own crochet version of these classic knitting bags. It's worked in a scrummy textured stitch with a bold rainbow stripe.







RAINBOW IDEAS

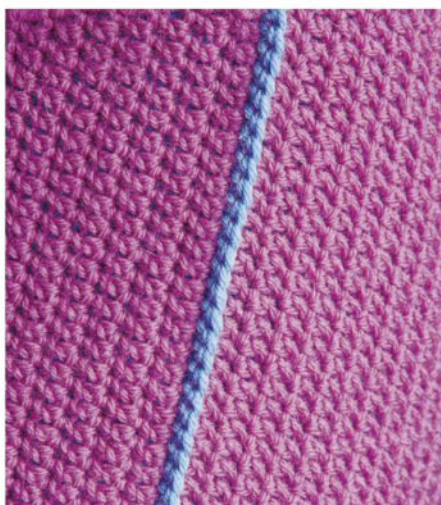
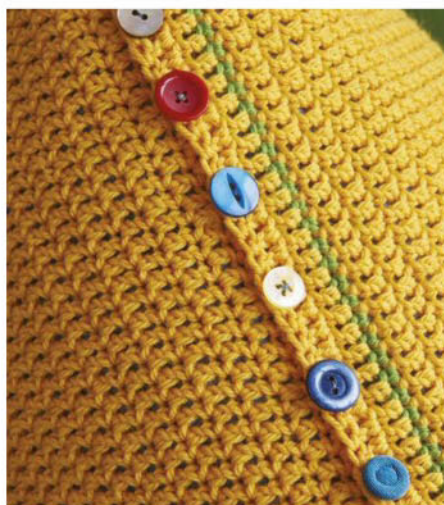


FIND YOUR FELT

It's time to find out what your washing machine is really made of. Hook a super-chunky rug and then let the hot water work its magic. The stitches will fuse together to form a sturdy, felted oval rug in slightly muted colours. Give it a go.

RAINBOW MAGIC

Nothing can hold a candle to this blanket. It's unashamedly bright, it has fun textured stitches that form a clever diamond pattern, and it's finished off with a playful fringe. If you only make one crochet blanket in 2016, it has to be this one.



PYRAMID CUSHIONS

A fun, squashy make by Anne Egan, with a shape inspired by teabags.

- Rowan Pure Wool Worsted (100% wool, 100g/200m)
To make 2-Tone Pyramid Cushion: 2 balls of each: Periwinkle (00146), Magenta (00119)
To make Rainbow Striped Pyramid Cushion: 4 balls of Chestnut (00107), 1 ball of each: Magenta (0119), Periwinkle (00146), Cardinal (00136), Buttercup (00132), Olive (00125), Chestnut (00107)
- A 4.5mm (US 7) hook
- 9 multi-coloured buttons per cushion,

- approx 1-1.5cm (2.5-4in) diameter
- Polycotton lining fabric, 104x54cm (41x21¼in) per cushion
- Polyester toy filling, approx 400g per cushion

MEASUREMENTS

50x50x50cm (19¾x19¾x19¾in)

NOTES

You will use approx 10g of each of the contrast colours.
Each Pyramid Cushion is made as a cylinder in the round. The two ends of the cylinder are then stitched at 90 degrees (perpendicular) to each other in contrast yarn. One end is left open in the middle and has a flap added, which

is buttoned down.

Ch3 at beginning of round counts as first tr. Always change colour in the last yrh of the previous st.

2-TONE PYRAMID CUSHION COVER

Using Periwinkle, ch150, ss to first ch to join into a ring, being careful not to twist. Alternatively work 150 foundation treble and start from Round 2.

Round 1 (RS) Ch3, tr in each of next 149 ch, ss to top of beg ch-3. [150 tr]

Round 2 Ch3, tr in next 149 tr, ss to top of beg ch-3.

Rounds 3-23 Rep Round 2.
Change to Magenta.

Rounds 24-46 Rep Rnd 2. **Fasten off.**

TO FINISH

With the join of Round 46 to one side, flatten cylinder and join Periwinkle with a ss to one end. Working through both the back and front corresponding sts, dc in each of next 15 tr; working in front edge sts only, dc in each of next 45 tr (thus skipping next 45 tr along back edge); working through both back and front corresponding sts, dc in each of next 15 tr. [15 sts joined at each end and 45 sts open in the middle].

Fasten off and weave in ends.

At other end, flatten cylinder so that second seam is perpendicular (90 degrees) to first seam. Using Magenta, join with a ss at one end and working through both the back and front corresponding sts, dc in each st to end. [75 dc]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

To make button flap, join Periwinkle with a ss to the start of opening of first seam.

Row 1 Ch3, tr in each of next 44 tr (to end of the opening), turn. [45 tr]

Row 2 Ch3, tr in each of next 44 tr.

Fasten off and weave in ends. Stitch nine colourful buttons evenly across opening, making sure you align buttons under the second row of the flap.

Make cushion inner by folding polycotton lining in half and stitching 2cm seams at the side and bottom. Stuff with toy filling, then stitch remaining seam running perpendicular (90 degrees) to the bottom seam. Slide cushion inner into the cover and

RAINBOW IDEAS

button up, using the spaces between the stitches as buttonholes.

RAINBOW STRIPES PYRAMID CUSHION COVER

Using Chestnut, work as given for 2-tone Pyramid Cushion to Round 23. Work next 5 rounds of tr as follows: 1 round Olive, 1 round Periwinkle, 1 round Magenta, 1 round Cardinal, 1 round Buttercup. Change back to Chestnut and work 18 more rounds of tr. **Fasten off** and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

Using contrast yarn for seams and Chestnut for flap, work as given for 2-tone Pyramid Cushion.

CAMERA HOOK CASE

Instagrammers and vintage camera lovers alike will be charmed by this cute hook case by Louise Smith.

- Rowan Pure Wool Worsted (100% wool, 100g/200m), 1 ball of each: Soft Cream (00102), Chestnut (00107); Small amounts of Periwinkle (00146), Papaya (00135), Buttercup (00132), Olive (00125), Magenta (00119)
- A 4.5mm (US 7) hook
- Zip, 20cm (8in) long
- Small amount of fabric for lining

MEASUREMENTS

Approx 9x21cm (3½x8¼in)

HOOK CASE (MAKE 2)

Using Papaya, ch4.

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

Rows 2-5 Rep Row 1 another 4 times, in the following colour sequence: 1 row Buttercup, 1 row Periwinkle, 1 row Magenta and 1 row Olive.

Rows 6-32 Change to Chestnut and rep Row 1 another 27 times. **Fasten off.**

On first piece, rotate work so first row is at the right-hand side and join Soft Cream with a ss to Papaya row end. (On second piece, place first row at the left-hand side and join Soft Cream with a ss to final Chestnut row end.)

Row 33 Ch1, dc into each row end, turn. [32 dc]

Rows 34-43 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Align two case pieces with WS tog and rainbow stripes at one end. Sew tog down both sides and across bottom.

LENS

Using Periwinkle, make a magic loop.

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

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

Round 3 Ch1, (dc in next st, 2dc in next st) 6 times, ss to first dc. [18 dc]

Round 4 Ch1, (dc in fl of each of next 2 sts, 2dc in fl of next st) 6 times, ss to first dc. [24 dc]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Join Soft Cream with a ss to any st on Round 4.

Round 5 Ch1, (dc in each of next 3 sts, 2dc in next st) 6 times, ss to first dc. [30 dc]

Round 6 Ch1, dc in each st around, ss to first dc.

Round 7 Ch1, (dc in each of next 3 sts, dc2tog) 6 times, ss to first dc. [24 dc]

To work Round 8, fold the rim to WS and insert hook in both the back loop of each st of previous round, and the back loop of each st on Round 4 on the WS of the lens, to join them together:

Round 8 Ch1, join each st to bl of Round 4 with a ss.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

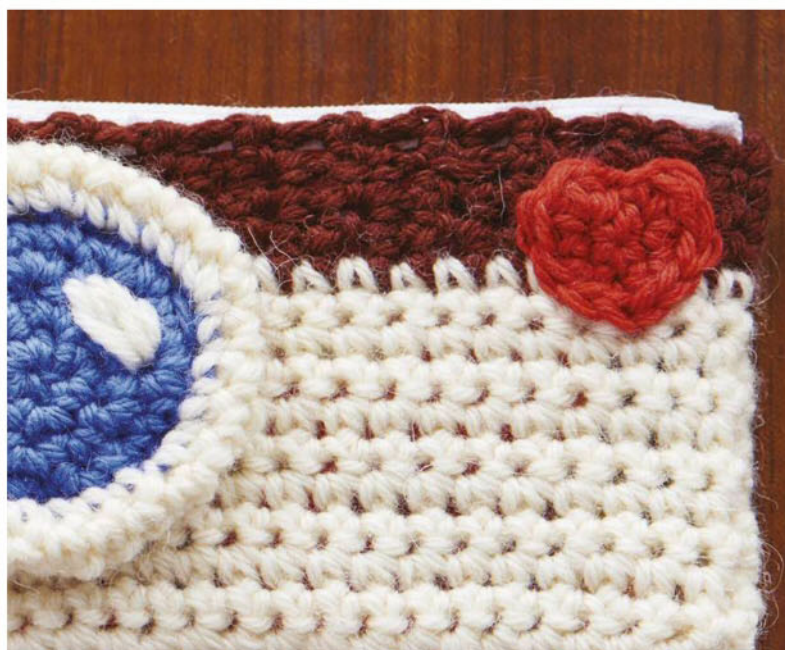
HEART

Using Papaya, make a magic loop.

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

Round 2 Ch1, 3htr in next st, dc in next st, (dc, ch1, dc) in next st, dc in next st, 3htr in next st, ss to beg ch-1. [6htr, 4dc, 1 ch-1 sp]

Fasten off and weave in ends.



RAINBOW IDEAS



01



02



03

TO FINISH

With Soft Cream, embroider a few stitches on one side of the Lens. Sew Lens to centre of Case and Heart to top-right corner of Case. Tack zip in place and then sew to Case. Line with small amount of fabric.

MOTIF MUG HUGS

Use four different shades of yarn to make one of Louise Smith's cup cosies.

- Rowan Pure Wool Worsted (100% wool, 100g/200m), 1 ball of each: Papaya (00135), Periwinkle (00146), Buttercup (00132), Olive (00125), Chestnut (00107), Magenta (00119)
- A 4.5mm (US 7) hook
- 6 buttons, 1.5cm (½in) diameter

MEASUREMENTS

10x21cm (4x8¼in) (without button loops)
10x25cm (4x9¾in) (with button loops)

NOTES

For Rounds 4 and 6, the ch-sps from the previous round also count as sts. When working into a ch-1 sp, work into the ch itself and not the space. Our Mug Hugs are worked in 3 different colourways:

- 01 Yarn A Papaya, Yarn B: Buttercup, Yarn C: Olive, Yarn D: Chestnut
- 02 Yarn A: Periwinkle, Yarn B: Chestnut, Yarn C: Magenta, Yarn D: Buttercup
- 03 Yarn A: Magenta, Yarn B: Olive, Yarn C: Chestnut, Yarn D: Periwinkle

SQUARE (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn A, ch4, ss to first ch to form a ring.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), 8dc into the ring, ss to first dc to join. [8 dc]

Round 2 Ch2 (counts as htr throughout), htr in st at base of ch, ch1, *2htr in next st, ch1; rep from * around, ss to top of beg ch-2. [16 htr and 8 ch-1 sp]

Fasten off.

Join Yarn B to any ch-1 sp.

Round 3 Ch2, htr in same ch-1 sp, ch1, 2htr in same ch-1 sp, *(2htr, ch1, 2htr) in next ch-1 sp; rep from * around, ss to top of beg ch-2. [32 htr and 8 ch-1 sps]

Fasten off.

Join Yarn C to any htr to the left of a ch-1 sp.

Round 4 Ch1, dc in st at base of ch, *htr in next st, tr in ch-1 sp from Round 2 between next 2 htr groups, htr in next st, dc in each of next 2 sts; rep from * around, omitting last dc, ss to first dc. [40 sts]

Fasten off.

Join Yarn D to any dc to the right of a htr.

Round 5 Ch1, dc in st at base of ch, *ch1, htr in next st, ch1, tr in next st, ch1, htr in next st, ch1, dc in each of next 7 sts; rep from * around omitting last dc, ss to first dc.

[28 dc, 8 htr, 4 tr, 16 ch-1 sp]

Round 6 Ch1, dc in st at base of ch, dc in each of next 3 sts, *2dc in next st, dc in each of next 13 sts; rep from * around omitting last 4 dc, ss to first dc. [60 dc]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

Place squares side by side with WS uppermost and sew tog using whip stitch through back loops only.

Using Yarn A, work a dc border evenly around edges, with 3dc in each corner st, ss to first dc to join. **Fasten off.**

*Using Yarn A, make a slipknot on hook and join with a ss near top corner of one RS edge, ch13, ss in st at base of ch to make a button loop. **Fasten off.**

Rep from * to make a second button loop at the bottom corner of same edge. **Fasten off.** Weave in rem ends.

Sew 2 buttons to correspond with button loops on opposite RS edge. Block lightly.

PERKY PROJECT BAG

Always had a soft spot for vintage knitting bags with wooden handles? Make your own, by Hannah Cross.

- Rowan Pure Wool Worsted (100% wool, 100g/200m)
- 2 balls of Papaya (00135)
- 1 ball of each: Periwinkle (00146), Buttercup (00132), Olive (00125), Chestnut (00107), Magenta (00119)
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- A pair of 32cm (12½in) wooden handles

TENSION

18 sts and 14 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over pattern using 4mm hook

MEASUREMENTS

28x30cm (11x11¾in) without handles

NOTES

You will need approx 20g of each of the contrast colours.

The Body of the bag is worked from side to side.

The Sides are made separately and seamed to folded main piece. Then a flap for each handle is worked onto the row ends of each top edge.

Beginning ch1 does not count as a st throughout.

Always change colour in last yrh of last st of row.

BAG

BODY

Using Papaya, ch116.

Row 1 Dc in second ch from hook, (tr in next st, dc in next st) to end, turn. [115 sts]

Row 2 (RS) Ch1, dc in each of next 2 sts, (tr in next st, dc in next st) to the last st, dc in last st, turn.

Row 3 Ch1, dc in next st, (tr in next st, dc in next st) to end, turn.

Row 4 As Row 2.

Row 5 As Row 3.

Row 6 As Row 2.

Row 7 As Row 3.

Row 8 As Row 2, change to Chestnut in last stitch.

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

Row 10 Ch1, dc in fl of each st to end, change to Periwinkle, turn.

Row 11 As Row 9.

Row 12 As Row 10, change to Olive.

Row 13 As Row 9.

Row 14 As Row 10, change to Buttercup.

Row 15 As Row 9.

Row 16 As Row 10, change to Papaya.

Row 17 As Row 9.

Row 18 As Row 10, change to Magenta.

Row 19 As Row 9.

Row 20 As Row 10, change to Chestnut.

Row 21 As Row 9.

Row 22 As Row 10, change to Papaya.

Row 23 As Row 3 in bl only.

Rows 24-49 Rep Rows 2 & 3.

Fasten off.

SIDES (MAKE 2)

Using Papaya, ch50.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook and in each ch to end, turn. [49 dc]

Row 2 Ch1, dc in fl of each st to end, turn.

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

Rows 4-17 Rep Rows 2 & 3.

Fasten off.

Place the Sides against the Body with RS facing out and join with a dc seam.

HANDLE SECTION (MAKE 2)

Work along top edge of Bag Body.

Row 1 (RS) Using Papaya, with RS facing, join yarn to the top edge of one side, ch1, work 50 dc evenly into the row ends, turn. [50 dc]

Row 2 Ch1, dc in fl of each st to end, turn.

Row 3 Ss in each of next 3 dc, ch1, dc in st at base of ch-1 and in each st to last 2 sts, turn leaving remaining sts unworked. [46 dc]

Row 4 Ch1, dc in fl of each st to end, turn. [46]

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

Rows 6-10 Repeat Rows 4 and 5 twice more, then Row 4 once again.

Fasten off and weave in all ends.

TO FINISH

Slide the handle section inwards through the wooden handle and sew Row 10 to Row 3. Repeat for the other handle on the other side.





CHUNKY FELTED RUG

Have go at felting and make Anne Egan's oh-so-fuzzy rainbow rug.

- Rowan Big Wool (100% merino wool, 100g/80m), 4 balls of Stag (071)
2 balls of each: Yoke (078), Reseda (069), Steel Blue (052), Lipstick (063), Pantomime (079)
- A 12mm (US 17) hook

MEASUREMENTS

Before felting approx 145x120cm (57x47½in)

After felting approx 95x80cm (37½x31½in)

ABBREVIATIONS

Spiked tr (sptr) Work tr in st of row below the current row being worked. When 3 loops are on the hook, pull up yarn to working height of current row.

NOTES

Shrinkage will vary between washing machines. Ch3 at beginning of round counts as first tr. Change colour when joining round, during ss.

On Round 10, for each sptr always work into the tr in row directly below next tr. On Round 10, pattern repeat is: (tr in next tr, sptr in next tr) 4 times, (tr, sptr) in next tr.

RUG

Using Stag, ch11.

Round 1 (RS) 3dc in second ch from hook, dc in each of next 8 ch, 5dc in

last ch, turn to work in the other side of foundation chain: dc in each of next 8 ch, 2dc in first ch (making 5 dc in this ch altogether), ss to first dc to join. [26 dc]

Round 2 Ch3, tr in st at base of ch, 2tr in each of next 2 dc, tr in each of next 8 dc, 2tr in each of next 5 dc, tr in each of next 8 dc, 2tr in each of next 2 dc, change to Reseda, ss to top of beg ch-3. [36 tr]

Round 3 Ch3, 2tr in next tr, (tr in next tr, 2tr in next tr) twice, tr in each of next 8 tr, (tr in next tr, 2tr in next tr) 5 times, tr in each of next 8 tr, (tr in next tr, 2tr in next tr) twice, ss to top of beg ch-3. [46 tr]

Round 4 Ch3, tr in next tr, 2tr in next tr, (tr in each of next 2 tr, 2tr in next tr) twice, tr in each of next 8 tr, (tr in each of next 2 tr, 2tr in next tr) 5 times, tr in each of next 8 tr, (tr in each of next 2 tr, 2tr in next tr) twice, change to Lipstick, ss to top of beg ch-3. [56 tr]

Round 5 Ch3, tr in each of next 2 tr, 2tr in next tr, (tr in each of next 3 tr, 2tr in next tr) twice, tr in each of next 8 tr, (tr in each of next 3 tr, 2tr in next tr) 5 times, tr in each of next 8 tr, (tr in each of next 3 tr, 2tr in next tr) twice, change to Yoke, ss in top of beg ch-3. [66 tr]

Round 6 Ch3, tr in each of next 3 tr, 2tr in next tr, (tr in each of next 4 tr, 2tr in next tr) twice, tr in each of next 8 tr, (tr in each of next 4 tr, 2tr in next tr) 5 times, tr in each of next 8 tr, (tr in each of next 4 tr, 2tr in next tr) twice, change to Steel Blue, ss to top of beg ch-3. [76 tr]

Round 7 Ch3, tr in each of next 4 tr, 2tr in next tr, (tr in each of next 5 tr, 2tr in next tr) twice, tr in each of next 8 tr, (tr in each of next 5 tr, 2tr in next tr) 5 times, tr in each of next 8 tr, (tr in each of next 5 tr, 2tr in next tr) twice, change to Pantomime, ss to top of beg ch-3. [86 tr]

Round 8 Ch3, tr in each of next 5 tr, 2tr in next tr, (tr in each of next 6 tr, 2tr in next tr) twice, tr in each of next 8 tr, (tr in each of next 6 tr, 2tr in next tr) 5 times, tr in each of next 8 tr, (tr in each of next 6 tr, 2tr in next tr) twice, ss to top of beg ch-3. [96 tr]

Round 9 Ch3, tr in each of next 6 tr, 2tr in next tr, (tr in each of next 7 tr, 2tr in next tr) twice, tr in each of next 8 tr, (tr in each of next 7 tr, 2tr in next tr) 5 times, tr in each of next 8 tr, (tr in each of next 7 tr, 2tr in next tr) twice, change to Stag, ss in top of beg ch-3. [106 tr]

Round 10 Ch3, sptr in next tr, (tr in next tr, sptr in next tr) 3 times, (tr, sptr) in next tr, work pattern repeat (see Notes) twice, (tr in next tr, sptr in next tr) 4 times, work pattern repeat 5 times, (tr in next tr, sptr in next tr) 4 times, work pattern repeat twice, ss to top of beg ch-3. [54 tr, 54 sptr]

Round 11 Ch3, tr in each of next 8 tr, 2tr in next tr, (tr in each of next 9 tr, 2tr in next tr) twice, tr in each of next 8 tr, (tr in each of next 9 tr, 2tr in next tr) 5 times, tr in each of next 8 tr, (tr in each of next 9 tr, 2tr in next tr) twice, change to Yoke, ss to top of beg ch-3. [126 tr]

Work the next 15 rounds as given for Round 11, whilst increasing by 1 on each round the number of tr worked before each '2tr in next tr'.

Work in the foll colour sequence:

Round 12 Yoke

Round 13 Reseda

Round 14 Steel Blue

Round 15 Pantomime

Rounds 16-17 Lipstick

Round 18 Stag

Round 19 Yoke

Round 20 Pantomime

Round 21 Reseda

Rounds 22-23 Steel Blue

Round 24 Lipstick

Rounds 25-26 Stag. [276 tr]

Fasten off and weave in all ends.

TO FINISH

To felt, place work inside a duvet cover

and button up. Put in washing machine and wash with colour detergent at 90°C for 90 minutes. Cold rinse and fast spin. Pull into shape and dry flat.

DIAMOND THROW

Feast your eye balls on this beauty of a rainbow blanket by Hannah Cross.

- Rowan Pure Wool Worsted (100% wool, 100g/200m)
2 balls of each: Papaya (00135), Periwinkle (00146), Buttercup (00132), Olive (00125), Chestnut (00107), Magenta (00119)
- A 6mm (US J/10) hook

TENSION

13 sts and 11 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over pattern using 6mm hook

MEASUREMENTS

120x90cm (47x35½in) (without tassels)

NOTES

Work each dc in bl throughout.
Do not turn after every row, instead work every Row from RS – break yarn at end of each row and start with RS facing for next row. Join new colour with a ss at start of each row.
Leave at least an 18cm (7in) tail at the

end of each row to make the tassels. Start with a multiple of 12 sts + 2 sts.

THROW

Using Chestnut, ch122.

Row 1 (RS) Using Chestnut, dc in second ch from hook and in each ch to end. [121 sts]

Row 2 Using Chestnut, ch1 (does not count as a st throughout), dc in each st to end.

Row 3 Using Chestnut, ch1, tr in fl of st 2 rows below, *dc in each of next 11 sts, tr in fl of st 2 rows below; rep from * to end, change to Periwinkle.

Row 4 Ch1, dc in first st, *tr in fl of st 2 rows below, dc in each of next 9 sts, tr in fl of st 2 rows below, dc in next st; rep from * to end, change to Olive.

Row 5 Ch1, dc in first st, *dc in next st, tr in fl of st 2 rows below, dc in each of next 7 sts, tr in fl of st 2 rows below, dc in each of the next 2 sts; rep from * to end, change to Buttercup.

Row 6 Ch1, dc in first st, *dc in each of next 2 sts, tr in fl of st 2 rows below, dc in each of next 5 sts, tr in fl of st 2 rows below, dc in each of next 3 sts; rep from * to end, change to Papaya.

Row 7 Ch1, dc in first st, *dc in each of next 3 sts, tr in fl of st 2 rows below, dc in each of next 3 sts, tr in fl of st 2 rows below, dc in each of next 4 sts; rep from * to end, change to Magenta.

Row 8 Ch1, dc in first st, *dc in each of next 4 sts, tr in fl of st 2 rows below, dc in next st, tr in fl of st 2 rows below, dc in each of next 5 sts; rep from * to end, change to Chestnut.

Row 9 Ch1, dc in first st, *dc in each of next 5 sts, tr in fl of st 2 rows below, dc in each of next 6 sts; rep from * to end, change to Magenta.

Row 10 As Row 8, change to Papaya.

Row 11 As Row 7, change to Buttercup.

Row 12 As Row 6, change to Olive.

Row 13 As Row 5, change to Periwinkle.

Row 14 As Row 4, change to Chestnut.

Rows 3-14 form the pattern.

Rows 15-146 Repeat pattern 11 more times.

Row 147 As Row 3.

Rows 148-149 As Row 2.

TO FINISH

Weave in all Chestnut ends.

To create the tassels, knot together the ends of each repeat of Rows 4-8 (all colours except Chestnut) and each repeat of Rows 10-14 (all colours except Chestnut). Once tied, measure and trim each tassel to 15cm (6in).



STOCKISTS

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STITCH WITH LOVE

Hook a pretty wall-hanging for your sweetheart. By Sara Huntington.

USE YOUR
FREE KIT!



Dear Joe,
How are you
flown but
myself of
with the
own in
small of

I



U

Heart hoop



YOU WILL NEED

- DK yarn in pink and red
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- Embroidery hoop, 12cm (4¾in) diameter
- Red ribbon for hanging
- Stitch markers

MEASUREMENTS

12cm (4¾in) diameter

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

When it's on its own, a crochet motif is just a motif. Here's the magic bit – stretch that motif over an embroidery hoop, add a length of pretty ribbon and you've got a charming, arty keepsake that says it all. Raid your stash for a pair of bright DK yarns to make this decorative delight.

SPECIAL ABBREVIATIONS

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

C HOOP

Using red yarn, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch4 (counts as dtr), (3dtr, tr, 3dc, tr, 3dc, tr, 4dtr) into the loop, ch2, ss into the gap at the centre of the magic loop and pull closed. [17 sts and ch-2 sp]

Round 2 Ch2, ss into top of ch-4, 2htr into the same stitch (place stitch marker in the 2nd htr), 3htr into next st, 2htr into next st, dc in next 5 sts, tr into next st (place stitch marker in this st), dc into next 5 sts, 2htr into next st, 3htr into next st, 2htr into next st (place stitch marker in first htr).

Fasten off.

Round 3 Rejoin red yarn to the top-right marker on the heart and work a dc into the same st. Ch9, dc into next marked st, ch12, dc into marked st at bottom of heart, ch12, ss to first dc.

Round 4 Ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc into first dc, 9dc into ch-9 sp, 2dc into next dc, 12dc into ch-12 sp, 3dc into next dc, 12dc into ch-12 sp, ss to first dc. [40 sts]

Fasten off.

Round 5 With pink yarn, *ch3, skip 1 dc, dc in next st; repeat from * to last 2 sts, ch3, ss into first ch of the beginning ch-3. [20 ch-3 sps]

Round 6 Ss into first ch-sp, ch3 (counts as tr), tr into same ch-3 sp, ch3, *2-tr cl into next ch-3 sp, ch3; repeat from * around, ss to top of the beginning ch-3. [20 clusters, 20 ch-3 sps]

Round 7 Ss in first ch-sp, *ch4, dc in next ch-sp; repeat from * around, omitting last dc on the final repeat, ss into first ch-sp.

Round 8 *Ch4, dc in next ch-sp; repeat from * around, omitting last dc on final repeat, ss into first ch-sp.



This project is great for stashbusting and makes a lovely Valentine's gift, too.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

Using a darning needle and pink yarn, work a running stitch through the last round, leaving both ends of yarn loose.

Place work over the larger hoop and, taking care to keep the heart motif central, pull both ends of the yarn to gather the running stitch and stretch the work tight over the frame.

Loosen the top fixing and insert the small hoop into the larger one, then tighten the screw to secure in place. Thread ribbon through hoop and tie ends to hang.

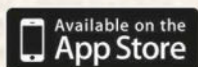
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KAT'S JOURNAL

...FROM THE STUDIO

Mama and top designer Kat Goldin alerts us to the perks and pitfalls of crocheting for your offspring.

Yes, I had been warned it would happen but I was still surprised when it did. When out and about toting children clad in crochet, I would get stopped and told to enjoy it while I could and that there could be a day when they wouldn't be such willing models. I laughed it off at the time, but then that day arrived.

I was standing in the supermarket clothing aisle with my eight-year-old and he pointed at a hat and mitten set with the character of his favourite computer game knitted into the fabric. Sheepishly he asked: "Do you think I could get that for winter?" I looked at him, slightly dismayed. "I can make you a hat and mittens," I said. "Er, I know," he said, "but I would really like something from a shop this year." He turned red saying it, my sensitive kid not wanting to hurt his mama's feelings. I pressed him as to why the sudden desire for shop-made hats and he mumbled something about being like everybody else.

PRIDE IN HANDMADE

Like many people, making clothes for my babies was my gateway into craft. Infant clothes are small and quick to make and give a real sense of achievement – going from yarn and stick to wearable object before your eyes. My children spent the vast majority of their young lives bedecked head to toe in things I had made for them – hats, jumpers, trousers, socks, baby slippers, blankets, toys and mittens have all done the rotation across eight years and three children. I've taken

pride in kitting them out in things I have made and designed – wrapping them up with love in items that I spent my time making as they headed out for their days at nursery and school without me.

I didn't have handmade clothes as a child. My mother grew up very poor in rural Iowa, having to make her own clothes or tailor hand-me-downs from her much older cousins to have any sort of wardrobe. For her, handmade clothes were a beacon that she couldn't afford anything else, an outward sign of her family's life on the wrong side of the

tracks. Wearing homemade was an embarrassment and she didn't want the same for her own children. When she had us, she was able to dress us in new, store-bought things, something she admits was intentional – our new clothes were a matter of pride that we had more choices in our lives than she did. When I started making things for a living, she found it uncomfortable – I had strayed a bit too closely back to her own adolescent insecurities.

Hand making has changed – it's no longer a sign of not being able to afford

"I'VE TAKEN PRIDE IN KITTING OUT MY KIDS IN THINGS I HAVE MADE."

"Like many, making clothes for my babies was my gateway into craft."

Photograph of Kat Goldin by Xanthe Berkeley.



COLUMN



"I hope they learn the joy of craft."

store-bought things. In fact, in many cases, a handmade jumper for a child will come out much more expensive than its store-bought counterpart.

These days, the trend for making our own clothes is less about poverty and more about creativity, thought and passion. For me, slowly making a jumper stitch by stitch and then having something solid that I've made in my hands is a welcome antidote to a virtual world spent in front of a computer working on intangibles. And very few things fill me with quite as much joy as

seeing my children run around in things I have lovingly made for them.

JOY OF CRAFTING

That day with Ellis in the grocery store stuck with me. While I was able to convince him that I could make him a non-homemade-looking hat, I realised that my days of making things for him, for now, are numbered. Because while I want to wrap him up in items I have lovingly made, his primary goal is to fit in. For him, homemade isn't a sign of anything other than his crazy mother

who always has a handbag full of wool and crochet hooks in her hair when she collects him from the bus.

My hope is that, like everything else with children, this reticence about handmade is just a phase and he will come back to wearing handmade. In the meantime, I am grateful for two other children who still let me dress them exactly as I want to and hope that they all learn by osmosis the value and joy of crafting things for the people you love. And I will wait with hook poised for the time he asks for something.

A LOCH AT MY MONTH

"My little ones in their mama-made crochet creations and a tangle of my winter WIPs – I've been busy knitting and crocheting."



Photograph © Kat Goldin Images

Photograph © Kat Goldin Images



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GOING GREEN

Get seriously cosy with Sara Huntington's gorgeous textured pullover. Being warm never looked so cool.

Bobble jumper



YOU WILL NEED

■ Rowan Cocoon (80% merino wool, 20% mohair, 100g/115m), Kiwi (0816), see table for yarn quantities and measurements

■ A 5.5mm (US I/9) hook

■ A 6mm (US J/10) hook

■ Stitch markers

For yarn stockists, contact

Rowan 01484 681881

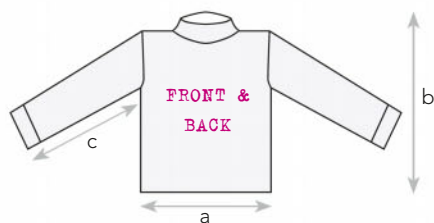
www.knitrowan.com

TENSION

10 sts and 9 rows to meas 10x10cm (4x4in) over tr/dc stitch pattern (measure from a tr row) in rows using a 6mm hook or size needed to obtain correct tension
Each Bobble Panel meas 12cm (4¾in) wide

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.



a: 43 (45: 51: 53: 57: 59)cm
17 (17¾: 20: 20¾: 22½: 23¼)in

b: 63 (64: 64: 65: 66: 66)cm
24½ (25: 25: 25½: 25¾: 25¾)in

c: 56cm
22in

Love texture? You're in for a treat. This cosy polo neck jumper's got ribbing and bobbles to play with. It's the kind of jumper that makes us wish for extra cold days so we can wear it more often. You'll be working treble clusters, plus back and front post treble stitches, to create all that scrumptious texture. Rowan Cocoon is a stunner, but if you're after something a little less extravagant, try Wendy Aspire in 3244.

NOTES

Front and Back are worked separately from the bottom up. Sleeves are worked in rows and set in, then a ribbed neckline is added after seaming. The cuffs are designed to be turned up, which is why the sleeve length is long. The main body of the jumper is worked in a pattern of alternating treble crochet (RS) and double crochet (WS) rows, with 2 identical Bobble Panels running the length of the body. The pattern for one 13-stitch Bobble Panel is given at the beginning before the start of the instructions.

SPECIAL STITCHES

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

BOBBLE PANEL

Worked over 13 sts.

Row 1 (RS) Tr into next 4 sts, (ch1, skip 1 st, tr into next st) 3 times, tr into each of next 3 sts.

Row 2 Dc into next 4 sts, 5-tr cl into next ch-sp, dc into each of next 3 sts (including ch), 5-tr cl into next ch-sp, dc into next 4 sts.

Row 3 FPdtr around tr 2 rows below, tr into next dc of previous row, FPdtr around tr 2 rows below, (ch1, skip 1 st, tr into next st) 3 times, ch1, skip 1 st, FPdtr around tr 2 rows below, tr into next dc of previous row, FPdtr around tr 2 rows below.

Row 4 Dc into next 6 sts (including ch), 5-tr cl into next tr, dc into each of next 6 sts (including ch).

Row 5 (FPdtr around FPdtr 2 rows below, tr into next st) twice, (ch1, skip 1 st, tr into next st) 3 times, FPdtr around FPdtr 2 rows below, tr into next st, FPdtr around FPdtr 2 rows below.

Rows 2-5 set pattern.

DECREASING AND INCREASING

You will be instructed to decrease and increase in pattern, so work dc2tog for a one-stitch decrease on a dc row, and tr2tog for a one-stitch decrease on a treble row.

A tr2tog at the beginning of a row will be: ch1, tr in next st.

To decrease by 2 sts, work 2 tr or dc2tog over 4 sts.

Likewise, work either dc or treble increases by working 2 sts into one st to increase by 1 st.

C FRONT

With a 5.5mm hook, ch42 (44: 50: 52: 56: 58).

RIB

Foundation row Tr in third ch from

SIZE		8	10	12	14	16	18
TO FIT BUST	cm	81	86	91	97	102	107
	in	32	34	36	38	40	42
ACTUAL BUST	cm	86	90	102	106	114	118
	in	33¾	35½	40	41¾	44¾	46½
LENGTH	cm	63	64	64	65	66	66
	in	24½	25	25	25½	25¾	25¾
SLEEVE LENGTH	cm	56	56	56	56	56	56
	in	22	22	22	22	22	22
YARN	100g	8	9	10	10	11	12

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

hook and into each ch to end, turn.
[40 (42: 48: 50: 54: 56) sts]

Row 1 Ch2 (does not count as st), (FPtr around next st, BPtr around next st) repeat to end, turn.

Repeat last row until the ribbing measures 10cm.

Change to 6mm hook.

Row 1 (RS) Ch2 (counts as tr), tr in next st, 2tr in next st, tr in next 2 (3: 6: 7: 9: 10) sts, *mark next st as first st of Bobble Pattern and work Row 1 of Bobble Pattern across next 13 sts, marking last st of Bobble Pattern**, tr in next 2 sts, 2tr in next st, tr in next st; rep from * to **, tr in each st to last 3 sts, 2tr in next st, tr in each of last 2 sts, turn.

[6 (7: 10: 11: 13: 14) tr, 13 st Bobble Panel, 5 sts, 13 st Bobble Panel, 6 (7: 10: 11: 13: 14) tr; total of 43 (45: 51: 53: 57: 59) sts]

Bobble Pattern will continue between each pair of markers, keeping pattern correct.

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st to marker, work 13 sts of Row 2 of Bobble Pattern between markers, dc in each st to marker, work 13 sts of Row 2 of Bobble Pattern between markers, dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 3 Ch2 (counts as tr), tr in each st to marker, work 13 sts of Row 3 of Bobble Pattern between markers, tr in each st to marker, work 13 sts of Row 3 of Bobble Pattern between markers, tr in each st to end, turn.

Row 4 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st to marker, work 13 sts of Row 4 of Bobble Pattern between markers, dc in each st to marker, work 13 sts of Row 4 of Bobble Pattern between markers, dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 5 Ch2 (counts as tr), tr in each st to marker, work 13 sts of Row 5 of Bobble Pattern between markers, tr in each st to marker, work 13 sts of Row 5 of Bobble Pattern between markers, tr in each st to end, turn.
Repeat Rows 2-5 until work measures 43cm including ribbing, ending on a Row 4.

SHAPE ARMHOLES

Keeping pattern correct as set:

Row 1 Ch1, tr in next st (counts as tr2tog), tr2tog over next 2 sts, work in

patt to last 4 sts, (tr2tog) twice over last 4 sts, turn. [39 (41: 47: 49: 53: 55) sts]

Row 2 Work in patt to end, turn.

Row 3 Ch1, tr in next st (counts as tr2tog), work in patt to last 2 sts, tr2tog over last 2 sts, turn. [37 (39: 45: 47: 51: 53) sts]

Row 4 Work in patt to end, turn.

Repeat Rows 3 and 4 another 1 (1: 1: 1: 2: 2) times. [35 (37: 43: 45: 47: 49) sts]‡
Cont in patt without shaping for a further 5 (5: 5: 7: 7: 7) rows.

RIGHT FRONT NECK

Using double and treble crochet decreases as appropriate and working in pattern, proceed as follows:

Next row (WS) Work 12 (13: 15: 16: 16: 17) sts and turn, leaving remaining sts unworked.

Row 1 (RS) Decrease 2 sts over next 4 sts at neck edge, work in patt to end, turn. [10 (11: 13: 14: 14: 15) sts]

Row 2 Work in patt to last 2 sts, decrease 1 st at neck edge, turn. [9 (10: 12: 13: 13: 14) sts]



Bobble jumper

Row 3 Decrease 1 st over 2 sts at neck edge, work in patt to end, turn. [8 (9: 11: 12: 12: 13) sts]

Row 4 Work in patt without shaping. **Fasten off.**

LEFT FRONT NECK

Leaving central 11 (11: 13: 13: 15: 15) sts unworked, rejoin yarn to the next st with WS facing and work as for Right Front Neck, reversing shaping.

BACK

Work as for Front to ‡.
Cont in patt without shaping for a further 6 (6: 6: 8: 8) rows.

RIGHT BACK NECK

Using double and treble crochet decreases as appropriate and working in pattern, proceed as follows:

Next row (RS) Work 11 (12: 14: 15: 15: 16) sts and turn, leaving remaining sts unworked.

Row 1 (WS) Decrease 2 sts over next 4 sts at neck edge, work in patt to end, turn. [9 (10: 12: 13: 13: 14) sts]

Row 2 Work in patt to last 2 sts, decrease 1 st at neck edge, turn. [8 (9: 11: 11: 12: 13) sts]

Row 3 Work in patt without shaping. **Fasten off.**

LEFT BACK NECK

Leaving central 13 (13: 15: 15: 17: 17) sts unworked, rejoin yarn to the next st with RS facing and work as for the Right Back Neck, reversing shaping.

SLEEVES (MAKE 2)

Using a 5.5mm hook, ch26.

RIB

Foundation row Tr in third ch from hook and in each ch to end, turn. [24 sts]

Row 1 Ch2 (does not count as st), (FPtr around next st, BPtr around next st) repeat to end, turn.
Repeat last row until the ribbing measures 7cm.

Change to 6mm hook.

Row 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr), tr in st at base of ch, tr in each of the next 10 sts, 2tr in next st, tr in next 11 sts, 2tr in last st, turn. [27 sts]

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

Row 3 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr in each st to end, turn.

Repeat Rows 2-3 once more and Row 2 once again.

Row 7 (Increase row) Ch3 (counts as tr), tr in st at base of ch, tr in each st to last st, 2tr in last st, turn. [29 sts]

Continue in pattern as set, increasing on every following 6th row another 4 (5: 5: 6: 7: 7) times.
[37 (39: 39: 41: 43: 43) sts]

Continue in pattern until the Sleeve measures 56cm including cuff (or desired length).

SLEEVEHEAD DECREASES

Keeping pattern correct, decrease 2 sts at **each end** of the next 2 rows.

[33 (35: 35: 37: 39: 39) sts]

Work 0 (1: 1: 0: 1: 1) row in pattern without shaping.

Decrease 1 st at **each end** of the next 10 (10: 10: 11: 11: 11) rows.

[13 (15: 15: 15: 17: 17) sts]

Decrease 2 sts at each end of the next row. [9 (11: 11: 11: 13: 13) sts]

Fasten off.

COLLAR

Using mattress stitch, join both shoulder seams.

Rejoin yarn to neck opening.

Round 1 Ch1, then work 58 (58: 60: 60: 64: 64) dc evenly around the neck opening, ss to first dc to join into the round.

Round 2 Ch2 (does not count as st), (FPtr around next st, BPtr around next st) repeat to end, ss in top of first FPtr. Repeat Round 2 until the ribbing measures 8cm or desired length.

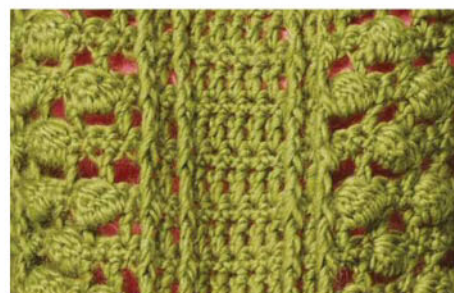
Fasten off.

TO MAKE UP

Using mattress stitch, set the sleeves into the armhole, then sew up the underarm and side seams.
Weave in all ends.



Ribbed texture on the collar, hem and cuffs is created with front and back post trebles.



The front and back are worked the same, with the twin bobble panels running parallel.



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OTTERLY IN LOVE

Does amigurumi get much cuter than this?
Crochet Ilaria Caliri's doting otter darlings.



Confession time: we're a little obsessed with otters here in the *Simply Crochet* office, and it's not solely due to a certain Mr Cumberbatch. Did you know that pairs or groups of otters hold hands (or paws) so they don't float away from each other while they sleep? It's called rafting. We looked it up. They're pretty much the original romantics. What could be a better Valentine gift for your sweetheart, then, than a pair of loved-up amigurumi otters? Otterly adorable.



Amigurumi otters



YOU WILL NEED

- DMC Natura Just Cotton (100% cotton, 50g/155m), 1 ball of each: Salomé (N80), Lin (N78)
- A 2.5mm (US C/1 or B/2) hook
- Safety eyes or black beads, approx 5mm diameter
- Plastic nose, approx 1cm
- Black embroidery thread
- Pipe cleaners
- Stitch markers
- Toy stuffing
- PVA glue

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

MEASUREMENTS

Working with a 2.5mm crochet hook and 4ply cotton yarn, the finished otter will measure 12cm (4¾in) tall

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

NOTES

This 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. Head and Body are worked as one piece starting from the top of the Head. All the other pieces are sewn to the Body. Choose either shade of yarn for your Otter; each piece for each Otter is made with the same colour.

HEAD AND BODY

Make a magic loop.

- Round 1 (RS)** Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc into the loop. [6 sts]
Round 2 2dc in each st around. [12 sts]
Round 3 (2dc in next st, 1dc) 6 times. [18 sts]
Round 4 (2dc in next st, 2dc) 6 times. [24 sts]
Round 5 (2dc in next st, 3dc) 6 times. [30 sts]
Round 6 (2dc in next st, 4dc) 6 times. [36 sts]
Rounds 7-12 Dc in each dc around.
Round 13 (4dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [30 sts]
Round 14 (3dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [24 sts]
Round 15 (2dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [18 sts]

Secure the eyes between Rounds 9 and 10, approx 9 sts apart.

If you're using black beads or embroidery for the eyes, you might like to wait until the Muzzle is attached before you sew them in place.

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

- Rounds 16-18** Dc in each st around. [18 sts]
Round 19 (2dc in next st, 2dc) 6 times. [24 sts]
Rounds 20-21 Dc in each st around.
Round 22 (2dc in next st, 3dc) 6 times. [30 sts]
Rounds 23-24 Dc in each st around.
Round 25 (2dc in next st, 4dc) 6 times. [36 sts]
Rounds 26-28 Dc in each st around.
Round 29 (2dc in next st, 5dc) 6 times. [42 sts]
Rounds 30-34 Dc in each st around.
Round 35 (5dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [36 sts]
Round 36 (4dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [30 sts]

- Round 37** (3dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [24 sts]
Round 38 (2dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [18 sts]
Round 39 (1dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [12 sts]
Round 40 (Dc2tog) 6 times. [6 sts]
Fasten off and weave in ends.

EARS (MAKE 2)

Make a magic loop.

- Round 1 (RS)** Ch1 (does not count as st), 4dc into the loop. [4 sts]
Round 2 Dc in each st around.
Fasten off, leaving a long tail. Use the long tail to sew the Ears to the Head between Rounds 5 and 6.

MUZZLE

Make a magic loop.

- Round 1 (RS)** Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc into the ring. [6 sts]
Round 2 2dc in each st around. [12 sts]
Round 3 (2dc in next st, 1dc) 6 times. [18 sts]
Round 4 1htr, 4tr, 1htr, 12dc. [18 sts]
Round 5 1htr, 4tr, 1htr, 1dc, ss in next st. **Fasten off**, leaving a long tail. Secure the plastic nose between Rounds 3 and 4 (in the middle of the tr sequence). Embroider the mouth and stuff lightly with toy stuffing. Use the long tail to sew the Muzzle to the Head, between Rounds 10 and 16. If using black beads or embroidery for eyes, sew them on now.

WHISKERS

Split a strand of black embroidery thread, cut 3 pieces approx 20cm long for each otter.

Wet them in a solution of water and PVA glue. Place the soaked whiskers on a plastic sheet and let them dry. Use these slightly stiffened threads to embroider the whiskers.

ARMS (MAKE 2)

Make a magic loop.

- Round 1 (RS)** Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc into the loop. [6 sts]
Round 2 (2dc in next st, 2dc) twice. [8 sts]
Rounds 3-7 Dc in each st around. Do not stuff, flatten the piece and start working in rows. On the next row, you will work across the open top of the Arm, working each st through both layers to close the top.
Row 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc through both layers in each of 4 sts,

Amigurumi otters

turn. [4 sts]

Row 2 (Ch3, skip the first ch from the hook, ss in each of next 2 ch, ss in the next st, skipping the st at the base of the ch) 4 times to make paws.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Use the long tail to sew the Arms to the Body, between Rounds 20 and 21.

FEET (MAKE 2)

Make a magic loop.

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

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

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

Rounds 4-6 Dc in each st around.

Do not stuff, flatten the piece and start working in rows.

On the next row, you will work across the open top of the Foot, working each st through both layers to close the top.

Row 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc through both layers in each of 5 sts, turn. [5 sts]

Row 2 Ch3, skip the first ch from the hook, dc in each of next 2 ch, ss in the next st, skipping the st at the base of the ch, (ch4, skip the first ch from the hook, dc in each of next 3 ch, ss in the next st, skipping the st at the base of the ch) twice, ch3, skip the first ch from the hook, dc in each of next 2 ch, ss in the last st of the row.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Use the long tail to sew the Feet to the Body, between Rounds 27 and 36.

TAIL

Make a magic loop.

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

Round 2 Dc in each st around. [4 sts]

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

Rounds 4-5 Dc in each st around.

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

Rounds 7-8 Dc in each st around.

Round 9 2dc in next st, 5dc. [7 sts]

Rounds 10-11 Dc in each st around.

Round 12 2dc in next st, 6dc. [8 sts]

Rounds 13-14 Dc in each st around.

Round 15 2dc in next st, 7dc. [9 sts]

Rounds 16-17 Dc in each st around.

Round 18 2dc in next st, 8dc. [10 sts]

Rounds 19-20 Dc in each dc around.

Round 21 2dc in next st, 9dc. [11 sts]

Rounds 22-23 Dc in each dc around.

Round 24 2dc in next st, 10dc. [12 sts]

Rounds 25-32 Dc in each dc around.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Insert a pipe cleaner into the tail and then stuff with toy stuffing.

Use the long tail of yarn to sew the Tail to the bottom of the Body.



Soaking thread in a PVA solution will help you create sturdier whiskers for your couple.



Instead of using safety eyes, you could stitch the eyes and make them ultra expressive.



Make sure your amigurumi otters join hands so they don't float apart at naptime.

SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO DECREASE IN DOUBLE CROCHET (DC2TOG)



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



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



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



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

"Learning dc gave me a method to make the animals."

A large, dense pile of numerous crocheted stuffed animals, including various mammals like bears, deer, and rabbits, arranged in a pyramid shape. The animals are made from different colored yarns (brown, tan, grey, white) and some have distinctive patterns like stripes or polka dots. They are all sitting on a wooden surface against a plain white background.

QUIRKY CROCHET CREATURES

Growing up on an alpaca stud farm can't fail to shape a person. As a young adult, Kerry Lord left home to study English Literature at university, only to return to Warwickshire three years later, having devised a way to forge a niche in the family business. She launched The TOFT Alpaca Shop in 2006, selling products made from the alpaca yarn and designing and knitting items herself.

something difficult and if I'm honest, not particularly desirable. I think there was a lack of inspiring crochet patterns even as recently as three years ago. Thankfully, that's all changed and there's now no better time to learn to crochet."

Since then, she says, her love of crochet has developed “in a word, obsessively. I still can’t believe what a whirlwind the last three years have been. I do still turn to two pointy sticks when I’m looking to make something to wear, but I can’t imagine not having a crochet hook in my handbag.”

Before long, Kerry was branching out into designing her own crochet patterns. "I

spent one determined night on YouTube learning the ‘single crochet’ – or as I now know, the British double crochet – stitch,” she recalls. “The next day, I sat down on the sofa and crocheted what would become Bridget the elephant from my *Edward’s Menagerie* book. She did have some limbs inside out and her eyes were a tad wonky, but as soon as I shared my creation with my colleagues back at TOFT, I knew I was onto something.”

46 WWW.SIMPLYCROCHETMAG.COM



days that I had to wait for Edward to be born," she says. "I was making toys for my baby, not planning projects for a book. It was only once I saw a reaction to the amigurumi animals that I realised other people might like to make them, too!"

"I think learning the double crochet stitch gave me a structure, tool and method to make the shapes and characters that had been living in me for a long time," Kerry says. "But the day I master crocheting and reading novels at the same, I'll be able to take over the world!"

Happily, Edward has been equally entranced by his crocheted companions. "Edward's always loved Siegfried the Monkey. Using TOFT's fine baby alpaca in fudge for the body, with a silver muzzle and cream contrast, he is pretty precious to me, too. Siegfried has been with us on so many of our family's firsts, including camping, an aeroplane flight, and sleepovers at Granny's house!"

The menagerie has also accompanied Edward through the different early stages of learning and imaginative growth. "The greatest pleasure for me is watching the development of Edward's play with the menagerie," says Kerry. "It's even more rewarding for me to watch a role play where Esme the Fox is selling train tickets to Sophia the Flamingo than it was to see him asking for Siegfried the Monkey before he fell asleep as a baby."

TEXTURES AND TIME

The next collection in the series focuses on birds, with dinosaurs following soon after in an evolutionary overturn. "I chose to move onto birds, but Edward did

influence the move to dinosaurs. It's a lovely process to fuel his imagination by asking him to interact with choosing the yarn colour and so on. At the moment, Sophia the Flamingo is the favourite and he's put in a request for a mini peacock!"

The menagerie's characteristics were born, in part, through Kerry's experience with and knowledge of TOFT alpaca's yarns. "The softness, stitch definition and

natural colour range inspired the makes, rather than the other way round," she explains. "At TOFT, we now manufacture more

than just our alpaca yarn, with five weights available in multiple fibres including wool and silk in addition to the alpaca."

Her crochet heroes include Shauna Richardson, who Kerry says she has admired since long before she could crochet herself. "I would love the freedom to crochet freeform over large shapes without having to write down the patterns! There's something I really love about the surface pattern on her work."

Naturally running TOFT, spending time with her family, designing patterns and

writing books can be a tough balancing act for Kerry. "Of course, some weeks are a real strain, but other weeks I can enjoy the freedom of being my own boss," she comments. "With the help and support of my husband and mum, and a great team of colleagues at TOFT, I just about manage to keep on top of everything."

With this in mind, Kerry has become very accomplished at crocheting on the go. "I love to crochet on the train more than anywhere!" she says. "Just give me a ball of yarn, a good sandwich, a G&T in a can and a four-hour journey and I'll feel more inspired and motivated to create than anywhere else!"

With TOFT looking forward to its 10th birthday in August 2016, there are plenty of exciting plans afoot. "I feel that's something really worth celebrating," says Kerry. "We will be celebrating the first batches of TOFT yarn that were spun, the first time I ever stood behind a stall and chatted to crafters, and of course the fact that I have learned to knit and crochet in that time, and since then have helped to teach tens of thousands of others to do the same. Expect limited editions, giveaways and the first TOFTfest!"

Interview by Judy Darley

"THE SOFTNESS, STITCH DEFINITION AND NATURAL COLOUR OF TOFT YARNS INSPIRED EACH CROCHET ANIMAL."

A FEW OF HER FAVOURITE THINGS

"I love to spend time with my family and catch up on sleep. I am a big believer in an early night solving most problems, so I grab the opportunity to recharge my batteries when I can. My job does require me to think fast and creatively nearly every day and this is impossible if you're tired. My

ideal day off would involve not having to do anything at a particular time. Edward and I would ditch our routine, do the things we want when we want and if that means we stay in our pyjamas reading and eating toast in bed then so be it!" See more at www.thetoftalpashop.co.uk



THREE SCOOPS

Create a cool colour block scarf in yummy alpaca and merino yarn.



Simple scarf



YOU WILL NEED

- Rooster Almerino DK (50% baby alpaca, 50% merino wool, 50g/113m)
 - 2 balls of Yarn A Smoothie (093)
 - 3 balls of Yarn B Cornish (01)
 - 4 balls of Yarn C Hazlenut (02)
 - A 5mm (US H/8) hook
- For yarn stockists, contact
Rooster 01829 740903
www.roosteryarns.com

MEASUREMENTS

21x165cm (8½x65in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

Designer Emma Potter describes this project as: "A super-easy, ice-lolly-inspired, colour-block long scarf in a pretty sedge stitch for a lovely texture and made using luxury alpaca/merino blend wool." We're definitely seeing those creamy Neapolitan colours in there. Very tasty. And the woven-looking sedge stitch is just a simple one-row repeat that provides lovely squishy texture. This is a great make if you're new to crochet or fancy hooking a pretty little something that's not too taxing on the old grey matter. Pick three shades you love.

C SCARF

With Yarn A, ch42.

Row 1 (RS) 2tr in the third ch from the hook (skipped ch count as dc), *skip the next 2 ch, (dc, 2tr) in the next ch; repeat from * across to the last 3 ch, skip the next 2 ch, dc in the last ch, turn. [26 tr, 13 dc]

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), 2tr in the first dc, *skip the next 2tr, (1dc, 2tr) in the next dc; repeat from * to end, finishing with 1dc in the turning chain, turn.

Repeat Row 2 for pattern, changing colour as follows:

Yarn A for 20cm.

Yarn B for 33cm.

Yarn C for 58cm.

Yarn B for 33cm.

Yarn A for 20cm.

Fasten off and weave in ends.



Colour blocking is as easy as one, two, three. Pick a trio of complementary colours.



Simple sedge stitch brings scrummy texture and is so easy to do – you'll be hooked.

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 last stitch. Cut off the old colour of yarn, leaving a tail approx 7cm long.



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



3 Pull the new yarn colour 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 and knot together, if desired.



4 Now you can work the turning chain of the new row in the new colour (such as ch1 for double crochet), then work the stitches of the new row in the new yarn colour.

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WHAT A GEM

Sparkle and shine in a Swarovski-studded necklace, designed by Elisabeth Davis de Herraiz.

Lacy collar



YOU WILL NEED

■ Rowan Kidsilk Haze Shine (12% cotton, 61% mohair, 27% silk, 6.25g/10m), 1 ball of Trance (582)

■ A 4mm (US G/6) hook

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

MEASUREMENTS

7.5x40cm (3x15¾in)

ABBREVIATIONS

V-Stitch (tr, ch2, tr) into same st

Ch-3 picot Ch3, ss in first st

Ch-5 picot Ch5, ss in first st

For a full list, see page 92.

Worked in an exquisite yarn, even the simplest design can become a real treasure. This collar is fairly straightforward to make, but the lacy structure, fancy fibres and Swarovski crystals make it look and feel extra special. A collar-style necklace can take an outfit from drab to fab and is a great way to use smaller quantities of luxurious yarn – all the pleasure of a decadent project without breaking the bank. Grab your hook and get sparkling.

NOTE

If you've not worked with Kidsilk Haze before, you may find it a little tricky to pull back stitches if you go wrong.

We recommend taking your time and working in good light.

COLLAR

Ch57.

Row 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in second ch from hook and in each ch across, turn. [57 dc]

Row 2 Ch7 (counts as tr and ch4), *skip next 6 sts, dc in next st, ch4, skip next 6 sts, V-stitch in next st; repeat from * twice more, ch4, skip next 6 sts, dc in next st, ch4, skip next 6 sts, tr in last st, turn.

Row 3 Ch5 (counts as tr and ch2), *dc in next ch-4 sp, ch2, (dc, ch-3 picot, dc) in next dc, ch2, dc in next ch-4 sp, ch2, (tr, ch-3 picot, ch1, tr, ch-5 picot, ch1, tr, ch-3 picot, ch1, tr) in ch-1 sp of next V-stitch, ch2; repeat from * twice more, dc in next ch-4 sp, ch2, (dc, ch-3 picot,



The collar fastens with a bow that can be worn at the front or back. Wear it your way.

dc) in next dc, ch2, dc in next ch-4 sp, ch2, tr in last tr.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

Rejoin yarn to end of necklace, ch27.

Fasten off.

Repeat for other end of necklace.

Weave in all ends and block to measurements.

SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO BLOCK YOUR CROCHET PIECES



1 Check your yarn's ball band for advice on whether to dry, wet or steam block your item. To wet block, wash the item before pinning. For dry and steam blocking, pin out when dry. To pin out, lay the item flat on a towel over a blanket.



2 Using long, rust-proof pins or blocking wires, pin out to the measurements in your pattern (check the schematic for garments). Start at the corners, then move evenly around the edges. You can reposition pins if needed.



3 Place pins inside the last row or round of stitches, not in the actual stitches or you risk distorting them. Insert the pin's point towards the centre of the fabric, away from the edge, to balance out the forces involved.



4 For wet blocking, just leave to dry. To dry block, spritz with cold water and leave to dry. To steam block, hover a steaming iron over the fabric (don't touch it) until damp, then leave to dry. Once dry, you can remove the pins.

TRANSVERSE MITTS

Give tapestry crochet a go with this geometric project by Beth Nielsen.



Tapestry mitts



YOU WILL NEED

- Brown Sheep Lamb's Pride Worsted (85% wool, 15% mohair, 113g/174m), 1 skein of each: Yarn A Supreme Purple (M100) [sample uses Wild Violet (M173)], Yarn B Grey Heather (M03)

- A 5.5mm (US I/9) hook

For yarn stockists, contact LoveCrochet 0800 802 1189 www.lovecrochet.com

TENSION

8 sts and 8 rows to measure 5x5cm (2x2in) square in main st pattern

MEASUREMENTS

18cm (7in) circumference and 20.5cm (8in) long

ABBREVIATIONS

blo working in back loop only

For a full list, see page 92



This oh-so stylish mitts pattern is from the book *Quick Crocheted Accessories* by Sharon Zientara, published by

Interweave (RRP £14.99). For further details and to track down a copy, visit www.interweavestore.com

Crochet designer Beth Nielsen says: "These graphic mitts are a great introduction to tapestry crochet. They're a modern piece that's fun to make and wear." Get stitching.

NOTES

One yarn is worked in dc, while another is carried along work. To switch colours, work last yrh of stitch in the next colour. To carry yarn, lay yarn over top of stitches being worked into, then dc as usual, encasing carried yarn inside stitches.

MITT (MAKE 2)

With Yarn A, ch30, ss in first ch to join, being careful not to twist.

Rnd 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in each ch around, ss to first dc. [30 sts]

Rnd 2 With Yarn B, ch1, dc blo in each dc around, ss in first st to join.

Rnd 3 With Yarn A, ch1, dc blo in each dc around, ss in first st to join.

Rnd 4 Ch1, (Yarn A dc blo in next 5 sts [carrying Yarn B – see Notes], Yarn B dc blo in next 5 sts) around, ss in first st to join.

Rnd 5 Working in both loops, with Yarn B ch1, dc in first st, (Yarn A dc in next 5 sts, Yarn B dc in next 5 sts) twice, Yarn A dc in next 5 sts, Yarn B dc in last 4 sts, ss in first st to join.

Rnd 6 Yarn B ch1, dc in first 2 sts, (Yarn A dc in next 5 sts, Yarn B dc in next 5 sts) twice, Yarn A dc in next 5 sts, Yarn B dc in last 3 sts, ss in first st to join.

Rnd 7 Yarn B ch1, dc in first 3 sts, (Yarn A dc in next 5 sts, Yarn B dc in next 5 sts) twice, Yarn A dc in next 5 sts, Yarn B dc in last 2 sts, ss in first st to join.

Rnd 8 Yarn B ch1, dc in first 4 sts, (Yarn A dc in next 5 sts, Yarn B dc in next 5 sts) twice, Yarn A dc in next 5 sts, Yarn B dc in last st, ss in first st to join.

Rnd 9 With Yarn B (not carrying Yarn A), ch1, dc blo around, ss in first st to join.

Rnd 10 With Yarn A, ch1, dc blo around, ss in first st to join.

Rnd 11 With Yarn B, ch1, dc blo around, ss in first st to join.

Rnd 12 Yarn B ch1, dc blo in first 4 sts, (Yarn A dc blo in next 5 sts, Yarn B dc blo in next 5 sts) twice, Yarn A dc blo in next 5 sts, Yarn B dc blo in last st, ss in first st to join.

Rnd 13 Rep Round 7.

Rnd 14 Rep Round 6.



Contrasting colours give a bold look. Why not try neutral tones for a more subtle effect?

Rnd 15 Rep Round 5.

Rnd 16 Ch1, (Yarn A dc blo in next 5 sts, Yarn B dc in next 5 sts) around, ss in first st to join.

Rnd 17 With Yarn A, ch1, dc blo around, ss in first st to join.

Rnd 18 With Yarn B, ch1, dc blo around, ss in first st to join.

Rnd 19 With Yarn A, ch1, dc blo around, ss in first st to join.

Rnds 20-27 Rep Rounds 4-11.

SHAPE THUMB OPENING

Beg working in rows, fastening off yarn at the end of each row and rejoining at beg of next row to work always on RS.

Row 28 Rep Round 12.

Fasten off and cut both yarns.

Row 29 With Yarn B, join with ss in first st and rep Round 13, joining Yarn A at colour change. **Fasten off.** Cut yarns.

Row 30 With Yarn B, join with ss in first st and rep Round 14, joining Yarn A at colour change. **Fasten off.** Cut yarns.

Row 31 With Yarn B, join with ss in first st and rep Round 15, joining Yarn A at colour change. **Fasten off.** Cut yarns.

Row 32 With Yarn A, join with ss in first st and rep Round 16, joining Yarn B at colour change. **Fasten off.** Cut yarns. Now work in Rounds:

Rnd 33 Rep Round 17, join with a ss at end of round to close thumb opening.

Rnds 34-35 Rep Rounds 18-19.

Fasten off.

THUMBHOLE EDGING

Join Yarn A at any point on thumbhole.

Rnd 1 Ch1, work 14dc evenly around thumbhole, ss in first st to join.

Rnd 2 With Yarn B, ch1, dc blo around, ss in first st to join.

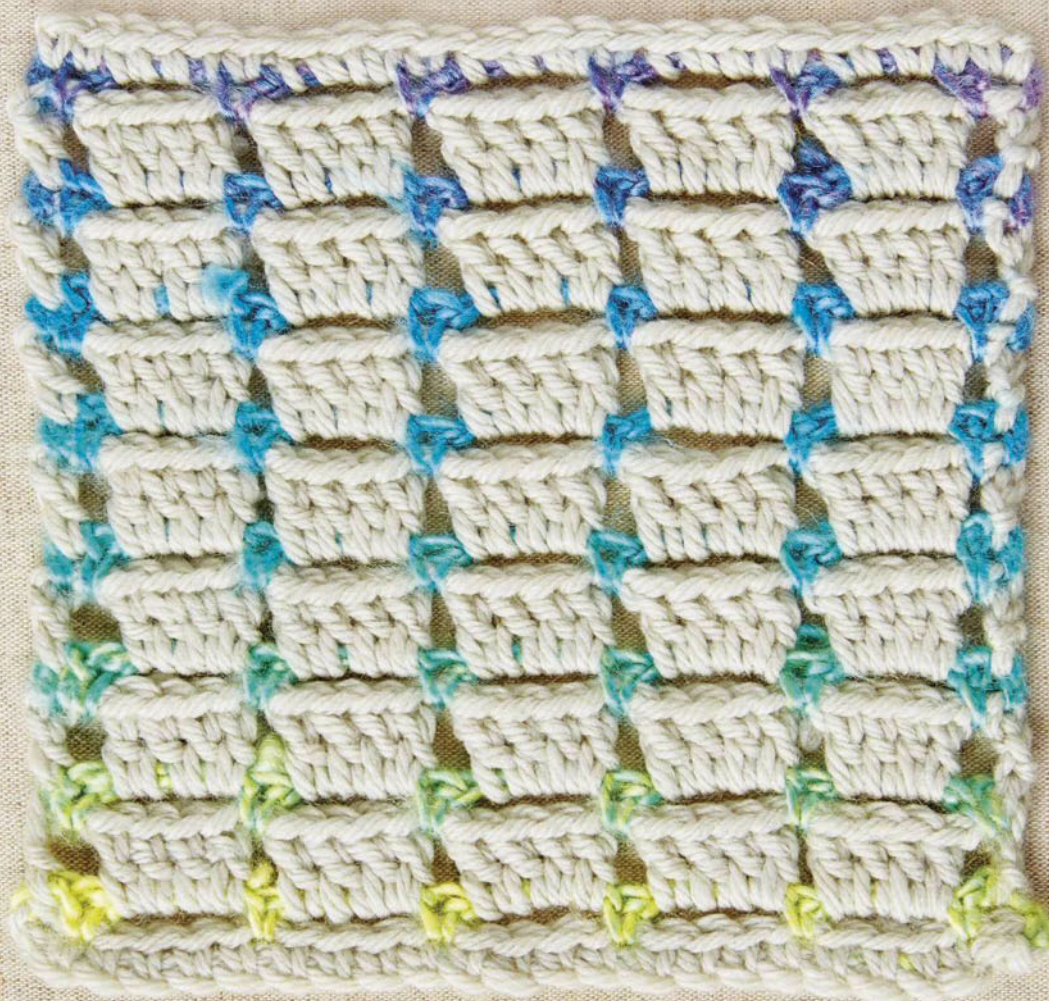
Rnd 3 With Yarn A, ch1, dc blo around, ss in first st to join.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

HOOK A STITCH

BLOCK STITCH

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



BASIC BLOCK STITCH PATTERN

Worked over a multiple of 4 sts.

With Yarn A, ch24.

Foundation row (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in second ch from hook and in each ch to end, turn. [24 dc]

Change to Yarn B.

Row 1 Ch2, skip first dc, dc in next dc, *ch3, skip 3 sts, dc in next st; repeat from * to last 2 sts, ch2, ss in top of

last st, turn. [6 dc, 5 ch-3 sps]

Change to Yarn A.

Row 2 Ch4 (counts as tr and ch1), *4tr in next ch-3 sp, ch1; repeat from * to last dc and ch-2 sp, tr in ch-2 sp, turn. [5 blocks of tr]

Change to Yarn B.

Row 3 Ch2, dc in next ch-1 sp, *ch3, dc in next ch-1 sp; rep from * to last tr, ch2, ss in top of last tr. [6 dc, 5 ch-3 sps]

Rows 2-3 form the Block Stitch pattern. Repeat Rows 2-3 six more times.

Change to Yarn A.

Finishing row Ch1, dc in first ch-sp, *dc in next dc, 3dc in next ch-3 sp; repeat from * to last dc and ch-2 sp, dc in next dc, 2dc in next ch-2 sp. [24 dc]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Patterns by Louise Smith.

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

Work alternate dc and treble rows to create cool colour effects. Block stitch rocks our socks.





We don't mean to brag, but this is the coolest blanket on the block.



A bright cushion that looks good enough to eat? We're tempted.

LEG WARMERS

Go retro, stay thoroughly modern.

- Debbie Bliss Cashmerino Aran (55% wool, 33% acrylic, 12% cashmere, 50g/90m), 2 balls of Yarn A Stone (027)
- Red Heart Boutique Unforgettable (100% acrylic, 100g/256m), 1 ball of Yarn B Candied (03965)
- A 5mm (US H/8) hook

MEASUREMENTS

35cm (13¾in) tall, 24cm (9½in) diameter

LEGWARMERS (MAKE 2)

With Yarn A, ch9.

Rows 1 Dc in 2nd ch from hook and each ch to end, turn. [8 dc]

Rows 2-40 (Rib) Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in blo of each st to end, turn. Join last row to foundation ch using a ss seam (place seam on WS), do not fasten off. Rotate to work in row ends of Rib.

Rnd 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), *dc in next row end, ch3, skip next 3 row ends; rep from * around, ss to first dc. [10 dc, 10 ch-3 sp] Join Yarn B in any ch-3 sp.

Rnd 2 Ch3 (counts as tr), 3tr in same ch-3 sp, ch1, (4tr, ch1) in each ch-3 sp around, ss to top of beg ch-3. Change to Yarn A.

Rnd 3 *Ch3, dc in next ch-1 sp; rep from * around, ss to first ch-3 sp.

Rep Rnds 2-3 another 10 times. Work Rib as for beg, ss to every alternate st of last rnd as you reach the end of each RS row.

Fasten off. Weave in ends. Block to size.

BLOCK BLANKET

Fancier fibres teamed with classic acrylic gives a mix and match, patchwork feel to this project, and it's no bad thing. The result is a colourful throw that's just as squashy and delicious as it looks – superb.

- Debbie Bliss Cashmerino Aran (55% wool, 33% acrylic, 12% cashmere, 50g/90m), 8 balls of Yarn A Stone (027)
 - Red Heart Boutique Unforgettable (100% acrylic, 100g/256m), 2 balls of Yarn B Candied (03965)
- For yarn stockists, contact Designer Yarns 01535 664222 www.designeryarns.uk.com
LoveCrochet 0800 802 1189 www.lovecrochet.com
- A 5mm (US H/8) hook

MEASUREMENTS

100x80cm (39½x31½in)

BLANKET

Follow the Basic Block Stitch Pattern as written to make 15 squares.

Swap the yarn shades and make another 15 squares in the same way.

Weave in all ends.

TO FINISH

Sew the 30 squares together in a 5x6 grid, alternating the colourways of each square. Use the image above for reference. Block to measurements.

CANDY CUSHION

A cheery, variegated yarn guarantees impressive rainbow goodness without the usual faff. One side of this cushion uses beige as the main colour, but the tables are turned so it's vibrant on the other side.

- Debbie Bliss Cashmerino Aran (55% wool, 33% acrylic, 12% cashmere, 50g/90m), 2 balls of Yarn A Stone (027)
- Red Heart Boutique Unforgettable (100% acrylic, 100g/256m), 1 ball of Yarn B Candied (03965)
- A 5mm (US H/8) hook
- Cushion pad, 30cm (12in) square

MEASUREMENTS

To fit a 30cm (12in) square cushion pad

FRONT/BACK (MAKE 2)

With Yarn A, ch44.

Follow Basic Block Stitch Pattern, repeating Rows 2 and 3 another 14 times. End with the finishing row.

To make the second side of the cushion cover, swap the colours so that Yarn B is the treble row. Weave in all ends.

TO MAKE UP

With WS together, using Yarn A, join along the left, top and right sides of the cover using a dc seam.

Place the cushion pad inside the cover and finish the seam. **Fasten off** and weave in ends.

BECCA PARKER

BLACKER YARNS

A day at the wool mill.



Earlier this month, the *Simply Crochet* team took a trip to Cornwall for a behind-the-scenes look at how Blacker's yarns are produced. Owner Sue Blacker was on hand to make sure we knew our woollen from our worsted spun and to share her irrepressible passion for British wool.

We arrived on scouring day. The mill was humming and there was an unmistakable, but not unpleasant, sheepy smell in the air. Sue explained what Blacker do and we had a bit of a British breeds 101 session, which of course included some yarn squeezing.

The Natural Fibre Company mill in Launceston is responsible for producing all Blacker's yarns, but they also spin for producers across Europe. They have all

the facilities to transform raw fleece into finished yarn that's ready to be stitched, but small quantities of rare breed fibre is their speciality. Sue explained: "It's all about provenance and quality – the pride of knowing where something comes from and about making things naturally."

TOP OF THE FLOCKS

There are over 60 UK sheep breeds and each breed's fleece has different properties that are influenced by their environment. Downland sheep, for example, tend to have springy, crimped fleece, whereas the fleece from hill sheep is much coarser and more hard-wearing.

So yarn should be spun in a way that suits the fibres – combing and aligning

is key. Worsted spun yarn has had the short and coarse fibres combed out and the remaining fibres aligned, resulting in a stronger, smoother yarn that feels soft. Woollen spun yarn, though, has the fibres left higgledy-piggledy so it's insulating, airy and fluffier. Today, we're most familiar with worsted spun yarn. The aim in wool production is to take the least amount of steps to achieve a yarn that's fit for its purpose, while preserving the natural softness and qualities of the wool.

With heads buzzing with these woolly revelations, we headed right into the mill. The scourer was cleaning raw fleece and Sue's mill staff were busy winding balls and twisting skeins. We couldn't resist plunging our hands into a sack of raw Shetland fleece as Sue explained how each batch of fleece has an individual 'passport' clipboard to mark off every stage of the production process and ensure that the end product contains only that fibre. Wool is sorted, scoured, carded, spun and dyed all under one roof, completely organically where necessary.

Sue confessed that her favourite fibre is Gotland. She has her own flock and loves the versatility of the wool: it's soft, fine, pleasant to wear and comes in beautiful, natural grey shades. She also shared that, following the success of their Cornish Tin yarn, Blacker have another special, limited-edition yarn coming out in 2016.

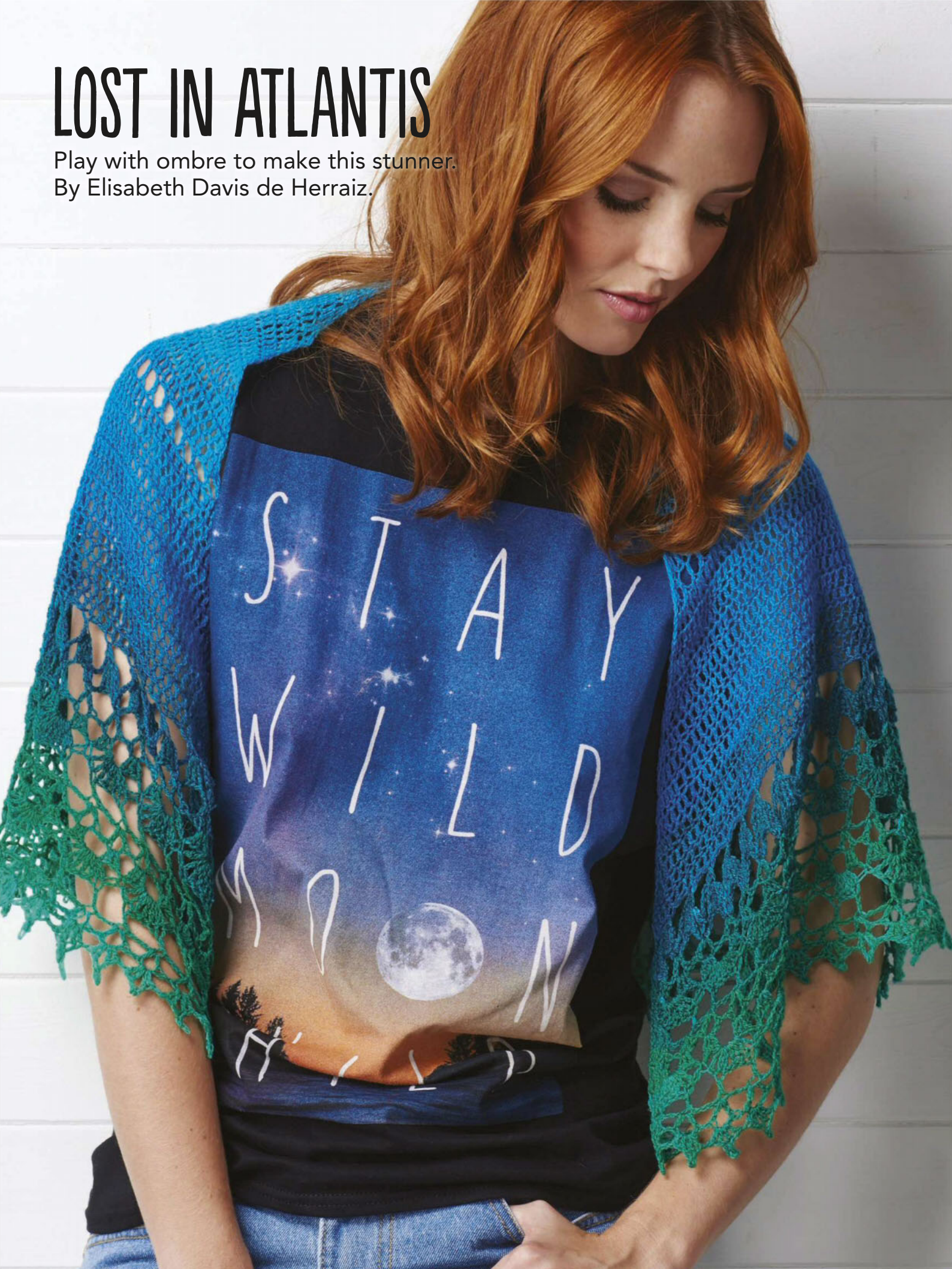
VISIT WWW.BLACKERYARNS.CO.UK TO FIND OUT MORE AND TAKE A VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE MILL IN CORNWALL.



Far left: Sue Blacker and the *Simply Crochet* team get their hands on some raw fleece. **Centre:** Natural wool yarn being wound onto cones after dyeing and spinning. **Above:** Scoured, carded fleece at the mill, ready for the next stage in the process.

LOST IN ATLANTIS

Play with ombre to make this stunner.
By Elisabeth Davis de Herraiz.



Lacy shawl



YOU WILL NEED

- The sample uses 1 skein of Freia Fine Handpaints Lace Ombré Grande in Atlantis, a suggested alternative is Schoppel-wolle Lace Ball (75% superwash wool, 25% nylon, 100g/800m), 1 ball
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- Tapestry needle
- Blocking board and blocking pins

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

MEASUREMENTS

120x56cm (47¼x22in) after blocking

ABBREVIATIONS

Picot Ch3, ss in first ch.

For a full list, see page 92.

Chase away those post-Christmas blues with a fix of fantastic graduated colour. This gorgeous ombre design by shawl queen Elisabeth Davis de Herraiz is perfect for showing off a special 100g ball of laceweight yarn. Not worked with such a fine yarn before? Don't worry, you'll be using a trusty 3.5mm crochet hook. This hook and yarn pairing results in a more open, drapery sort of lace. Keep this in mind while you're working the shawl and don't be tempted to tighten up your stitches to compensate. A good blocking at the end will open out your stitches even more and sharpen up that beautiful picot edging like a dream.

NOTES

The shawl is worked from the centre out in an increasing treble pattern, followed by a lace border.

SHAWL

Make a magic loop.

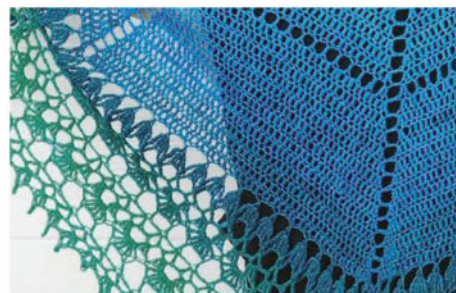
Row 1 Ch3, 11tr in loop, turn. [12 tr]

Row 2 Ch3 (counts as first tr throughout), tr in each of next 2 sts, (ch2, tr in each of next 3 sts) 3 times, turn. [12 tr, 3 ch-2 sps]

Row 3 Ch3, tr in st at base of ch, tr in next st, 2tr in next st, (ch2, skip ch-sp, 2tr in next st, tr in next st, 2tr in next st) 3 times, turn. [20 tr, 3 ch-2 sps]

Row 4 Ch3, tr in st at base of ch, *tr in each tr up to st before ch-sp, 2tr in st before ch-sp, ch2, skip ch-sp, 2tr in next tr; repeat from * twice more, tr in each tr to last st, 2tr in last tr, turn. [28 tr, 3 ch-2 sps]

Rows 5-16 Repeat Row 4 another 12



The shawl is worked in solid trebles with a wide, picot-tastic lacy border. So pretty.

times. [124 tr, 3 ch-2 sps]

Row 17 Ch3, tr in st at base of ch, *(ch1, skip next tr, tr in next tr) up to ch-sp, work another tr in last st before ch-sp, ch2, skip ch-sp, 2tr in next tr; repeat from * twice more, ch1, skip next tr, tr in next tr to last st, work another tr in last st, turn. [36 tr]

Row 18 Ch3, tr in st at base of ch, *tr in each st and ch up to st before ch-2 sp, 2tr in st before ch-2 sp, ch2, skip ch-2 sp, 2tr in next tr; repeat from * twice more, tr in each st and ch to last st, 2tr in last tr, turn. [140 tr]

Rows 19-30 Repeat Row 4 another 12 times. [236 tr]

Row 31 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in first tr, *(ch5, picot, ch5, skip 2 tr, dc in next tr) repeat until last st before ch-2 sp, skip st before ch-2 sp, ch2, dc in ch-2 sp, ch2, dc in next tr; repeat from * twice more, skipping an extra st before the last dc on the second repeat, (ch5, picot, ch5, skip 2 tr, dc in next tr) to end, turn. [76 ch-5 picot groups, 6 ch-2 sps]

Row 32 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc



in first dc, ch5, dc in picot, *(ch2, 3dtr in dc, ch2, dc in picot) repeat to dc before ch-2 sp, ch2, skip (dc and ch-2 sp), 3dtr in dc, ch2, skip (ch-2 sp and dc), dc in next picot; repeat from * twice more, (ch2, 3dtr in dc, ch2, dc in picot) repeat to last dc, ch5, dc in last dc, turn.

[78 dc]

Row 33 (In this row, the stitches are worked into the dc stitches from Row 32, skip all other ch-sps and other stitches unless otherwise stated) Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in first dc, ch2, dc around ch-5 sp of Rows 31 and 32, ch2, (tr, ch2, tr in next dc, ch1) repeat to last dc, ch2, dc around ch-5 sp of Rows 31 and 32, ch2, dc in last dc, turn. [76 groups of (tr, ch2, tr)]

Row 34 Ch3 (counts as tr), ch2, skip dc at base of ch and tr in next dc, ch1, skip next ch-2 sp, (3tr in next ch-2 sp, ch1) repeat to last 2 ch-2 sps, tr in next dc, ch2, tr in last dc, turn. [76 3-tr groups]

Row 35 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in first tr, ch2, dc in next tr, dc in next ch-1 sp, (7dtr in next ch-1 sp, dc in next ch-1 sp) repeat to last (tr, ch2, tr), dc in next tr, ch2, dc in last tr, turn. [38 7-dtr groups]

Row 36 (In this row, the stitches are worked into the second and sixth dtr stitches from each 7-dtr group from Row 35, skip all other ch-sps and other stitches unless otherwise stated) Ch5 (counts as tr, ch2), tr in next 2 dc, ch1, *skip next dtr, tr in next dtr, ch3, skip 3 dtr, tr in next dtr, ch3; repeat from * to last 3 dc, omitting final ch-3 on last repeat, ch1, tr in next 2 dc, ch2, tr in dc, turn. [38 groups of (tr, ch3, tr)]

Row 37 Ch5 (counts as tr, ch2), tr in next 2 tr, ch1, *(tr, ch2, tr) in next tr, ch1; repeat from * to last 2 tr and ch-5 sp, ch1, tr in next 2 tr, ch2, tr in last tr, turn. [76 groups of (tr, ch2, tr)]

Row 38 Ch5 (counts as tr, ch2), tr in next 2 tr, ch1, *3tr in next ch-2 sp, ch1; repeat from * to last 2 tr and ch-5 sp, tr in next 2 tr, ch2, tr in last tr, turn. [76 3-tr groups]

Row 39 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in first tr, ch2, dc in next 2 tr, dc in next ch-1 sp, *7dtr in next ch-1 sp, dc in next ch-1 sp; repeat from * to last 2 tr and ch-5 sp, dc in next 2 tr, ch2, dc in last tr, turn. [38 7-dtr groups]

Row 40 (In this row, the stitches are worked into the second and sixth dtr stitches from each 7-dtr group from



Row 39, skip all other ch-sps and other stitches unless otherwise stated) Ch5 (counts as tr, ch2), tr in next 3 dc, ch1, *skip next dtr, tr in next dtr, ch3, skip 3 dtr, tr in next dtr, ch3; repeat from * to last 4 dc omitting final ch-3 on last repeat, ch1, tr in next 3 dc, ch2, tr in last dc, turn. [38 groups of (tr, ch3, tr)]

Row 41 Ch5 (counts as tr, ch2), tr in next 3 tr, ch1, *(tr, ch2, tr) in next tr, ch1; repeat from * to last 3 tr and ch-5 sp, tr

in next 3 tr, ch2, tr in last tr, turn. [76 groups of (tr, ch1, tr)]

Row 42 Ch5 (counts as tr, ch2), tr in next 3 tr, ch1, *(2tr, picot, 2tr) in next ch-2 sp, ch1; repeat from * to last 3 tr and ch-5 sp, tr in next 3 tr, ch2, tr in last tr. **Fasten off.**

TO FINISH

Weave in all ends and block to measurements.

"Crochet is a skill that will bring you hours of pleasure."



HOW TO GET HOOKED

Learning to crochet takes patience, skill and perseverance, but once you've got the basics down, you'll discover a world of joy. Talented crochet tutors share their advice for newbies.

Maybe you're a beginner or perhaps you've persuaded a friend to get started on the craft that's brought you so much joy. Either way, we have a few reminders for you. At *Simply Crochet HQ*, we love to crochet almost more than anything. It's our chance to be creative, produce something beautiful and unwind, but there were times early on when a part of us wanted to throw that hook through the closest open window.

Once mastered, crochet is a skill that will bring you hours of pleasure – the key is to face those early challenges, accept you

won't be a master overnight and take a few deep breaths when frustration hits. Before you know it, you'll be crocheting as though you were born to do it. We've chatted with some of our favourite designers and tutors to discover the difficulties they've faced on their paths to becoming the talented crocheters they are today.

EARLY HURDLES

Sara Huntington (www.sarahuntington.com), *Simply Crochet's* commissioning editor, teaches crochet classes at The Makery (www.themakery.co.uk) and across the UK. She tells us how teaching herself to

crochet using a process of trial and error helped her understand the challenges a new crocheter can face. "I taught myself from an old magazine I found at my mum-in-law's house on a wet and windy day. A while later, I visited a crafty friend and was astonished by how fast she could crochet. I wanted to know how she could do it so quickly and why I was so slow in comparison!" Sara says. "She looked at what I was doing and told me I was holding the yarn and hook all wrong."

Designer Simone Francis (www.simonefrancis.etsy.com) is also self-taught. "I remember being full of enthusiasm to

learn," she says. "I found a secondhand book with instructions on how to crochet, but I found the placement of stitches and where to put the hook hard to get my head around. I put the hook under all the loops of each stitch and worked in between the stitches. Every square I tried to make turned out like a flat top triangle because I kept missing the end stitches off, not realising where the first and last stitches were. It was only after watching videos on YouTube that everything clicked!"

Simone was lucky that the videos were enough to help her understand where she was going wrong, as most of us required at least a couple of lessons to get started. It's all too easy to misinterpret an image and end up developing a methodology all of our own without meaning to.

"My biggest mistakes were making up my own stitches, forgetting how the stitch should be made and suddenly realising I'm happily making something a bit different," comments crochet tutor and designer

Lucinda Guy (www.lucindaguy.com). "Even today, I struggle to keep track of increases and stitch counts for 'fancy' patterns and will always have to really concentrate and write things down to avoid a disaster!"

BAD HABITS OR CREATIVE THINKING?

The question is, how much do things like positioning truly matter? Crochet is a fairly laid-back craft in many ways, so is a mis-held hook really such an issue?

The answer seems to be both yes and no. Nicki Trench (www.nickitrench.com) is a crochet tutor, top designer and the author of several crochet books including *Cute & Easy Crochet*. "If I teach someone from the beginning, the first thing that I concentrate on is how to hold the yarn correctly," she says. "If you can get this right, it makes

learning all the crochet stitches and techniques so much easier."

Simone advises us to watch how other people crochet. "It might take a little getting used to, especially if you are a knitter, but just keep trying!" she says.

"Watch other people crochet to see how they tension the yarn, hold the hook and their work, and figure out which way best suits you. When I crochet, I look like a Continental knitter but when I knit, I'm definitely a thrower!"

"WATCH OTHER PEOPLE CROCHET TO SEE HOW THEY TENSION THE YARN AND HOLD THE HOOK."

Lucinda, whose book *Crochet Designs for Kids* covers these issues head on, says that the most frequent mistakes she notices "seem to come from just not knowing where to put the crochet hook next, or which way to loop the yarn."

She adds: "Constructed textiles, with all the knotting and looping, can appear



Opposite: Simone's pretty scrap blanket in progress. **This page, clockwise from left:** Treble Stripes Socks from *Simply Crochet* issue 26, photograph by Simone Francis; A craft workshop in full swing, photograph by The Makery; Figuring out how to hold the hook and yarn is the first hurdle, photograph by Getty Images.



This page: Fingerless Gloves and Bunting, both from *Cute & Easy Crochet with Flowers* by Nicki Trench, published by CICO Books (£12.99), photography by Caroline Arber.



maddeningly complex and it's difficult at first to see how you're forming the stitches. Often students will start off in the right way only to suddenly veer off and be happily making some sort of hybrid stitch!"

Sara, too, has noticed a variety of techniques popping up in her classes, most of which she aims to help her students 'unlearn' to make way for better habits. "Knitters try to throw the yarn around the hook rather than using their hook to manipulate the yarn," she says, echoing Simone's comment. "And a lot of people end up with tight stitches at the beginning as they're keeping their yarn too taut, which makes it difficult to progress."

With crochet traditionally being passed down through families, there are many different routes to becoming an accomplished crocheter, Sara tells us. "You can still crochet if you hold the hook or yarn in an unconventional way, but you may struggle to be as efficient as you'd like, and your tension may not be as even as it would be if you hold it correctly."

Lucinda puts this conundrum succinctly. "Crochet is such an ancient technique and has so many regional and cultural

variations on the basic stitches that nothing can strictly be 'wrong.' But, as with art or music, it's always advisable to have an understanding of it before you can properly deconstruct it. The majority of people will want to be able to follow a pattern and will need to understand basic stitches and techniques to do this."

Nicki agrees. "The great thing about crochet is that there is no right or wrong. The main thing is that you enjoy it and achieve whatever it is that you're making.

However, grasping the conventional ways of crocheting can enhance your enjoyment of it."

A DEEP BREATH

We know it can seem daunting when you

first give crochet a try. "Sometimes students talk themselves into thinking that they'll never be able to understand how to crochet, and they can start to panic if they don't achieve it straight away," warns Lucinda. "I always emphasise that students can go at their own pace in a class, and may find they only truly grasp what they've learnt once they're at home and able to concentrate independently."

Learning to read patterns and charts is also something of a trial for many. "When I

first decided that crochet was going to be my 'thing', I thought I could just pick up a hook, pair it with some yarn and weave magic out of the two," says amigurumi expert Mei Li Lee (www.amigurumei.com). "Little did I know that I'd get stuck almost immediately, because I had no idea I had to learn how to read crochet patterns first! The first patterns I attempted were in diagrams and that really threw me off. It was only later when I discovered written patterns that it looked remotely doable!"

Nicki agrees with the challenges of patterns and charts. "I wish I'd known how to read from charts when I first began to crochet. It took me years to gather the confidence to read a chart, but I'm a visual learner and find it much easier to read from a chart than a pattern."

Mei suggests that if you can't quite get the hang of a project, it may simply be that the skill level required for it doesn't quite match yours. Rather than forcing yourself to continue while getting increasingly frustrated, she urges you to "try practicing the basic stitches before attempting to finish a doll in one sitting, or a blanket in two. Give yourself a pat on the back even if foundation chains are all you can do for now. Crochet isn't the easiest of crafts, but it sure is fun once you get the hang of it."

In fact, the biggest thing for many of us to learn is a) not to worry too much, and b)

"THERE ARE MANY REGIONAL AND CULTURAL VARIATIONS ON THE BASIC CROCHET STITCHES."

to be patient. Sara warns that many of us expect to master crochet far more quickly than is actually possible. "Crochet is a skill that builds up over time – you can't learn it overnight. You need to practice. It takes time, effort and perseverance, but the rewards are enormous. My job is to convince people to keep working at it until it's second nature!"

JUST RELAX

The fact is, crochet is supposed to be fun and enjoyable, not stressful. After all, as designer Amanda Perkins (www.amandascrochetblog.blogspot.co.uk) says: "It really doesn't matter if your stitches are a bit wonky or you've missed a few out, or your tension is too tight or too loose. Just enjoy the process of making something with your own hands." We couldn't have said it

better – don't be too tough on yourself when you're starting out.

Nicki reminds us that developing good habits depends on a certain level of relaxation. "When people get tense, their shoulders go up and their hands go hot

and clammy. The best thing at our workshops is that they are fun – everyone enjoys themselves and it helps to have breaks with tea and cake."

Crochet mistakes are usually easy to fix, so don't let a dread of them hold you back. "If you're not happy with your work, just undo it and start again," Nicki says. "If there is one thing crochet teaches you, it's patience and how to slow down and that's no bad thing."

Even better, as crocheters are such a friendly bunch, there is no shortage of people to ask for help. Pop into your local

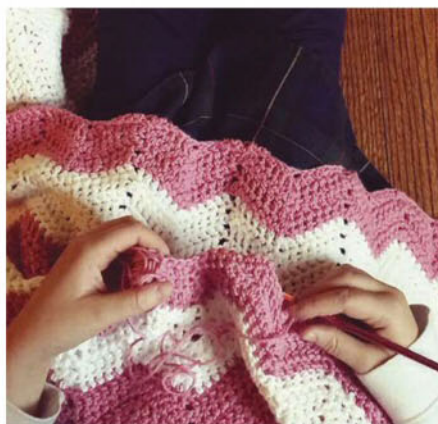
yarn shop or look online and you should find plenty of craft groups and communities eager to offer support. As Amanda points out: "There are a million people who will answer your questions and give you advice. But this is your beginning – you will improve over time, so just be proud of your achievements."

The best thing about making mistakes is the opportunity to learn from them. And, as Sara assures us, putting in the effort early on is well worth it for the rewards you'll reap. "You'll never be bored again because you'll have a creative outlet in your bag! There's no such thing as wasted time now. I love waiting for trains, or appointments, because it's a chance to hook a few rows. It's also a massive stress reliever. Once you know the basics, you can make almost anything – there's so much joy to be had." Quite simply, the more you crochet, the more your skills will develop, so just give it a go!

Written by Judy Darley

"CROCHET IS A SKILL THAT BUILDS UP OVER TIME – YOU CAN'T LEARN IT OVERNIGHT."

Clockwise from below left: Mei crocheted lemon hats for her twins, photograph by Mei Li Lee; Granny squares are a great make to begin with if you're learning to crochet; It will take some time before you feel confident with the stitches, photograph by Getty Images.



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OVERALL WINNER

Treat baby to a pair of denim-style dungarees by Simone Francis.



Baby dungarees



YOU WILL NEED

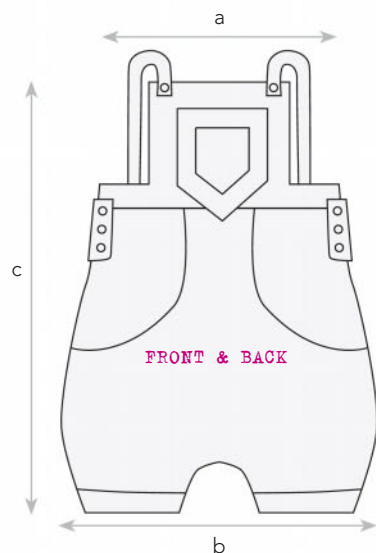
- Stylecraft Special DK (100% premium acrylic, 100g/295m), 2 (2: 2: 3) balls of Yarn A Denim (1302), 1 ball in Yarn B Matador (1010) for all sizes, see table for measurements
 - A 4mm (US G/6) hook
 - 18 buttons, 2cm diameter
- For yarn stockists, contact Stylecraft 01535 609798 www.stylecraft-yarns.co.uk

TENSION

15 sts and 20 rows to measure 10x10cm(4x4in) over dc using a 4mm hook or size needed to obtain correct tension

ABBREVIATIONS

Double crochet 3 sts together (dc3tog) (Insert hook into next st, pull up a loop) 3 times, yrh, pull through all loops on hook
For a full list, see page 92



- a: 21 (24: 28: 30.5)cm
8¼ (9½: 11: 12)in
b: 29 (32: 36: 38.5)cm
11½ (12¾: 14: 15¼)in
c: 34 (42: 48: 56)cm
13¼ (16½: 19: 22)in

These denim blue dungarees are packed with playful details, from the contrasting surface crochet and crisscross straps to the bold buttons and multiple pockets. Basically, they're adorable. This is a fun project worked in double crochet stitches and sized for babies aged 3-18 months. Hook it now.

NOTES

Back and Front are worked separately in rows and seamed down the sides. Extra button flaps are added at the top of the waist seam on both sides to make dressing easy. Pocket and contrast surface crochet detail are added at the end. Compare the finished Waist measurement in the table to the required Chest measurement because the dungarees come up higher than the Waist.

BACK

FIRST LEG

With Yarn A, ch18 (20: 22: 24).

Foundation row Dc into 2nd ch from hook and each ch to end, turn. [17 (19: 21: 23) sts]

Row 1 (WS) Ch1 (does not count as a stitch throughout), dc in each st to end, turn.
Repeat Row 1 another 1 (1: 3: 3) times.

Leg Shaping

Row 1 (WS) Ch1, 2dc into the first st, dc into each st to end, turn. [18 (20: 22: 24) sts]
Row 2 Ch1, dc into each st to end, turn.
Row 3 Rep Row 1. [19 (21: 23: 25) sts]
Rows 6-8 Ch1, dc into each st to end, turn.
Row 9 Rep Row 1. [20 (22: 24: 26) sts]

Repeat Row 2 another 3 (5: 7: 11) times.
Fasten off and put aside.

SECOND LEG

With Yarn A, ch18 (20: 22: 24).

Foundation row Dc into 2nd ch from hook and into each ch to end, turn. [17 (19: 21: 23) sts]

Row 1 (WS) Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.
Repeat Row 1 another 1 (1: 3: 3) times.

Leg Shaping

Row 1 Ch1, dc into each st to last st, 2dc into last st, turn. [18 (20: 22: 24) sts]
Row 2 Ch1, dc into each st to end, turn.
Row 3 Rep Row 1. [19 (21: 23: 25) sts]
Rows 6-8 Ch1, dc into each st to end, turn.
Row 9 Rep Row 1. [20 (22: 24: 26) sts]
Repeat Row 2 another 3 (5: 7: 11) times.
Do not fasten off.

JOINING LEGS

Row 1 With WS facing, ch1, dc into the following 19 (21: 23: 25) sts, 2dc into the last st, ch 2 (2: 4: 4), pick up first leg and with WS facing 2dc into the first st, dc in each st to end, turn. [44 (48: 54: 58) sts]
Row 2 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.
Repeat Row 2 another 21 (25: 29: 35) times.

WAIST SHAPING

Row 1 Ch1, dc2tog, 8 (8: 10: 12)dc, dc2tog, 20 (24: 26: 26)dc, dc2tog, 8 (8: 10: 12)dc, dc2tog, turn. [40 (44: 50: 54) sts]
Rows 2-5 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.
Row 6 Ch1, dc2tog, 8 (8: 10: 12)dc,

SIZE		3 Months	6 Months	12 Months	18 Months
TO FIT CHEST	cm	40.5	43	45.5	48
	in	16	17	18	19
ACTUAL HIGH WAIST/ CHEST	cm	42	48	56	61
	in	16½	19½	22	24
ACTUAL HIPS	cm	58	64	72	77
	in	23	25	28½	30
LENGTH OF BODY	cm	34	42	48	56
	in	13¼	16½	19	22

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

Baby dungarees

dc2tog, 16 (20: 22: 22)dc, dc2tog,
8 (8: 10: 12)dc, dc2tog, turn.

[36 (40: 46: 50)sts]

Rows 7-10 Ch1, dc in each st to end,
turn.

Row 11 Ch1, dc2tog, 8 (8: 10: 12)dc,
dc2tog, 12 (16: 18: 18)dc, dc2tog,
8 (8: 10: 12)dc, dc2tog, turn.
[32 (36: 42: 46) sts]

Work 1 (9: 9: 13) rows in dc st without
shaping.

Next row (WS) Ch1, working into the
front loop only, dc in each st to end.

Fasten off. **

FRONT

Work as given for Back to **.

BIB

Skip the first 6 (8: 8: 10) sts of the top of
the Front and rejoin Yarn A to the
following st with a ss.

Row 1 Ch1, working into the back loop
only, work 20 (20: 26: 26) dc, turn,
leaving remaining sts unworked.
[20 (20: 26: 26) sts]

Work 14 (16: 20: 22) rows in dc st.

Next row Ch1, working into the front
loop only, dc in each st to end.

Fasten off.

POCKET (MAKE 2)

With Yarn A, ch14 (14: 18: 18).

Foundation row Dc into 2nd ch from
hook and in each ch to end, turn.
[13 (13: 17: 17) sts]

Row 1 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.
Repeat Row 1 another 9 (11: 13: 13)
times.

POCKET SHAPING

Row 1 Ch1, dc2tog, dc to last 2 sts,
dc2tog, turn. [11 (11: 15: 15) sts]
Repeat Row 1 until 3 sts remain.

Next row Ss over 3 remaining sts, ss
around entire pocket edge to neaten.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

TO MAKE UP

With Yarn B, surface crochet a border
1cm in from the edge on both Pockets
(use the images as a guide).

With Yarn B, surface crochet the
waistband and pocket shapes onto the
Front.

With Yarn B, surface crochet the
waistband onto the Back.

With RS together and using Yarn A, sew
together the side seams from the

bottom upwards, leaving 8cm open for
the waist at the top on each side.

Sew up the inner leg seam.

With Yarn B, surface crochet around the
bottom of each leg.

Sew one Pocket onto the Bib and one
Pocket to one side of the bottom.

With RS facing and using Yarn A, ss
around the Back top edge, ch1 at
corner, work down and up the side
opening, ch1 at corner and work along
the Front edge, the Bib, ch1 at corner,
continue with even sts to first ss.

Fasten off.

BUTTON BAND (MAKE 2)

With Yarn A, ch12.

Foundation row Dc into 2nd ch from
hook, dc in each st to end, turn. [11 sts]

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

Row 2 Ch1, 1dc into the following 2 sts,
(ch1, skip 1 st, 1dc into the following 2
sts) 3 times, turn.

Rows 3-5 Ch1, dc in each st to end,
turn.

Row 6 Repeat Row 2.

Row 7 Repeat Row 1.

Row 8 (RS) Ss into each st to end.

Fasten off.

STRAPS (MAKE 2)

With Yarn A, ch3.

Foundation row Dc into 2nd ch from
hook, 2dc into last ch, turn. [3 sts]

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

Row 2 Ch1, 2dc into first st, ch1, 2dc
into last st, turn. [5 sts]

Work 43 (45: 49: 51) rows in dc st.

Now split the strap to create the twin
button fastener.

Next row Ch1, 2dc, turn, leaving rem
sts unworked.

Work 5 rows in dc st.

Next row Ch1, 1dc, ch1, 1dc, turn.
[3 sts]

Next row Ch1, dc into each st, turn.

Next row Ch1 dc3tog. **Fasten off.**

Skipping the centre st, rejoin yarn to
the following st with a ss.

Next row Ch1, 2dc, turn.

Work 5 rows in dc st.

Next row Ch1, 1dc, ch1, 1dc, turn.
[3 sts]

Next row Ch1, dc into each st, turn.

Next row Ch1, dc3tog. **Fasten off.**

TO FINISH

Weave in all ends.



The pockets and ankles of the dungarees are highlighted with bright surface crochet.



Raid your button stash for a set that matches your contrasting shade, or mix and match.



The straps cross over at the back and fasten with buttons, just like traditional dungarees.

Sew one short side of each Button
Band across the bottom of each waist
opening, so that the button band
covers the opening.

Sew three buttons on each side of waist
opening to line up with buttonholes on
Button Bands.

Sew one button in each top corner of
the Bib.

Sew two buttons on each side of the
Back waistband for securing the Straps.

Use the buttons to attach the Straps,
using the images as a guide.



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



SNOW BUSINESS

@annamaria_mk_ has been busy hooking lacy snowflakes using the garland pattern from issue 38. She shared this snapshot of her progress on Instagram. The blue is really striking.

This month we asked you...

What was your
biggest crochet
achievement
of 2015?

"Starting a crochet group in our neighbourhood and teaching 11 new people the art! Joy to have some new "yarnies"!"

Julie Sather-Browne via Facebook

FOREST PAL

▼ Creative stitcher **Rachael Gleave** made a fantastic woodland-themed gnome using fuzzy green yarns. We love the plaits in his beard. She used the pattern from issue 38. Via Facebook.



▲ Reader **Sarah Colvin** crocheted Becky Garratt's festive cuckoo clock design from issue 37, then sewed it onto a sweater to create her own amazing DIY Christmas jumper. She's given Santa googly eyes and the jumper even has twinkly lights and a bell! What a fantastic idea. Shared on Facebook.

THE LOWDOWN

It's simple to be in with a chance of winning one of three great prizes next issue! Show us your *Simply Crochet* makes on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or via email or post by 3 March 2016. For all terms and conditions, and more information, visit www.simplycrochetmag.co.uk/competitionrules





BUNNY BUDDIES

Cute alert – reader Sarah Ludington has stitched not one but two thoroughly adorable rabbits. She used the bunny pattern from way back in issue two (remember that?). Some of our early issues are no longer available in print, but they can all be downloaded digitally. Turn to page 86 to find out more about how you can access *Simply Crochet* back issues.

GNOME HOME

Debbie Williams hooked up issue 38's Christmas gnome, too, and isn't he a little darling? Shared via Facebook.



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

Email us at:
simplycrochet@immediate.co.uk

DOUBLE TAP

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



BLOCK IT
@betty_button used a cool colour block effect on her treble jumper from issue 35, and what a transformation. It looks great.



PARTY TIME
Ooh, this baby dress stitched by @karanth.archana is utterly divine in rich red with contrasting details. Pattern from issue 37.



STAR STITCHES
We reckon @scarletrose112 has done a stellar job making these sweet stars from our yarn review pattern in issue 38.



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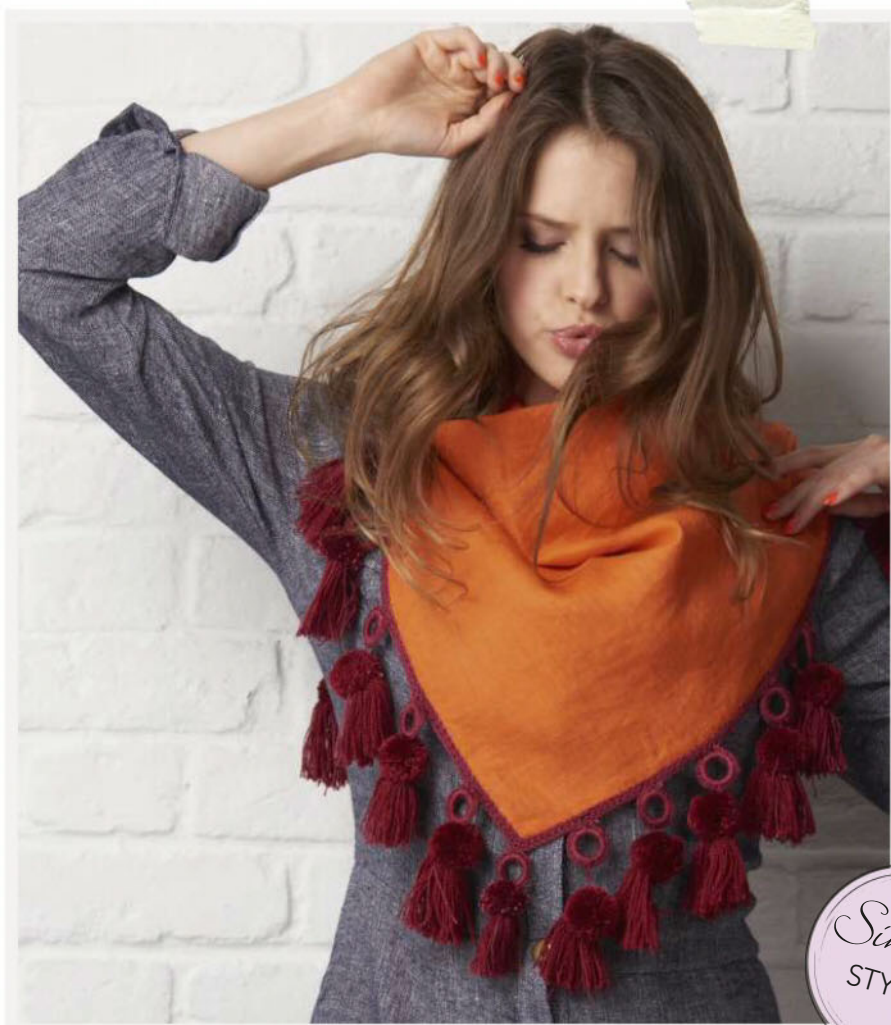
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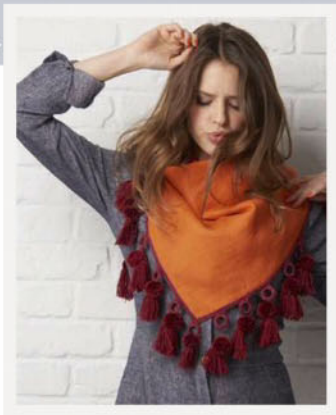




TASSEL TAKEOVER

Gussy up a so-so scarf with this delightfully frivolous edging by Sara Huntington.

Embellish an outfit



YOU WILL NEED

- SILKINDIAN Maharaja Silk Yarn, (100% silk, 100g/730m), 1 skein of Shade MH 003
- A 2mm (US 4 steel) hook
- Plastic curtain rings, 25mm (1in) diameter
- Scarf (see below for measurements)

For yarn stockists, contact
SILKINDIAN
www.silkindian.com

MEASUREMENTS

Scarf measures 140x63cm (55x24¾in) without edging and edging is 10cm (4in) deep including tassels
We edged the two short sides of a triangular scarf, a total of 174cm (68½in) of edging

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

Accessories should be more fun than humdrum, don't you think? A simple scarf edging with some outlandish extras makes a superb wardrobe addition. Tassels, pompoms and slinky silk – you name it, this project's got it. It looks handmade for all the right reasons. Very swish indeed.

RINGS

We used 31, spacing them approx 7cm apart, with one at each point. The covered rings will be joined to the Scarf while working Row 2 of Edging below. Join yarn to each ring, ch1 and then dc around until it is covered, ss to first dc. **Fasten off.**

EDGING

Embroider chain stitch using the yarn, working along the two short edges of your scarf, as close to the edge as possible. When spacing your chain stitches, bear in mind that you will be working a dc into each of the stitches, so as a guide you will need approx 18sts for every 10cm.

Row 1 (WS) With WS facing, join the yarn in the first chain stitch and work a dc in each st, with 2dc in the corner st, turn.

Work out how you will space the rings evenly along the edging, and mark a stitch where you will join each ring with stitch markers or waste yarn. Each ring will be joined to the edging over 3 stitches, by working a dc through both the stitch of the previous row, and a stitch on the ring.

The marked stitches will be the central st of each join, so on Row 2 work up to the stitch before each marker then work



Trim your finished pompoms and tassels to make sure they all look neat and tidy.

a dc stitch in both the ring and the Edging for the next 3 sts.

Row 2 Work as for Row 1, joining the rings at the marked stitches.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

POMPOMS AND TASSELS

Make one pompom and tassel for each ring.

Our pompoms measure 3.5cm diameter while the tassels are 6cm long.

Join each tassel to each pompom through the centre, and use the tail of yarn to tie to each ring.



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ISSUE!**



SWEET HEARTS



PRETTY MANDALA



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Love Crochet



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CABLE TIDY

Create tempting texture in a lush chunky blanket by Kath Webber.



Cable throw



YOU WILL NEED

- Scheepjeswol Stone Washed XL (70% cotton, 30% acrylic, 50g/75m), 16 balls of Coral (856)

- A 6mm (US J/10) hook

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

MEASUREMENTS

Finished blanket measures
approx 85x105cm (33½x41in)

ABBREVIATIONS

Herringbone Treble (HBtr)

(Yrh, insert hook into st, yrh, draw though st and first loop on hook, yrh, draw through next loop on hook, yrh draw through rem 2 loops)

For a full list, see page 92.

Time to get cosy with crochet cables. Designer Kath Webber says: "With chunky cables and herringbone stitch, this beautifully thick blanket packs in warmth and texture. This fabulously textured blanket features two different panels to test your crochet know-how. The cables are created by working FPdtr and BPdtr, crossed over to create the twisted effect. The two dividing panels feature herringbone trebles, which add a subtle chevron effect." Learn something new and stay warm. It's a win-win situation.

NOTES

To work the crossed FPdtr, skip three stitches, then work 3 FPdtr. To work the remaining 3 FPdtr, fold the 3 FPdtr you just made down slightly so you can find the skipped stitches and work a FPdtr behind the 3 sts just made into each of the skipped stitches.

C BLANKET

Ch105.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in the second ch from the hook, dc into each ch across, turn. [104 sts]

Row 2 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr into each st across, turn. [104 sts]

Row 3 Ch3 (counts as tr), (*FPdtr into each of next 2 sts, 1tr into each of next 6 sts, FPdtr into each of next 6 sts, 1tr into each of next 6 sts, FPdtr into each



A yarn with semi-solid colour like this one is ideal for showing off textured stitches.

of next 2 sts**, HBtr into each of next 18 sts) twice, repeat from * to ** once more, tr into last st, turn.

Row 4 Ch3 (counts as tr), (BPdtr into each of next 2 sts, *1tr into each of next 6 sts, BPdtr into each of next 6 sts, 1tr into each of next 6 sts, BPdtr into each of next 2 sts**, HBtr into each of next 18 sts) twice, repeat from * to ** once more, tr into last st, turn.

Row 5 Ch3 (counts as tr), (FPdtr into each of next 2 sts, *1tr into each of next 6 sts, skip 3 sts, FPdtr into each of next 3 sts, FPdtr into rem skipped sts working behind previous 3FPdtr, tr into each of next 6 sts, FPdtr into each of next 2 sts**, HBtr into each of next 18 sts) twice, repeat from * to ** once more, tr into last st, turn.

Row 6 Work as given for Row 4.

Row 7 Work as given for Row 3.

Row 8 Work as given for Row 4.

Rows 5-8 set the pattern.

Work in pattern until the piece measures approx 102cm.

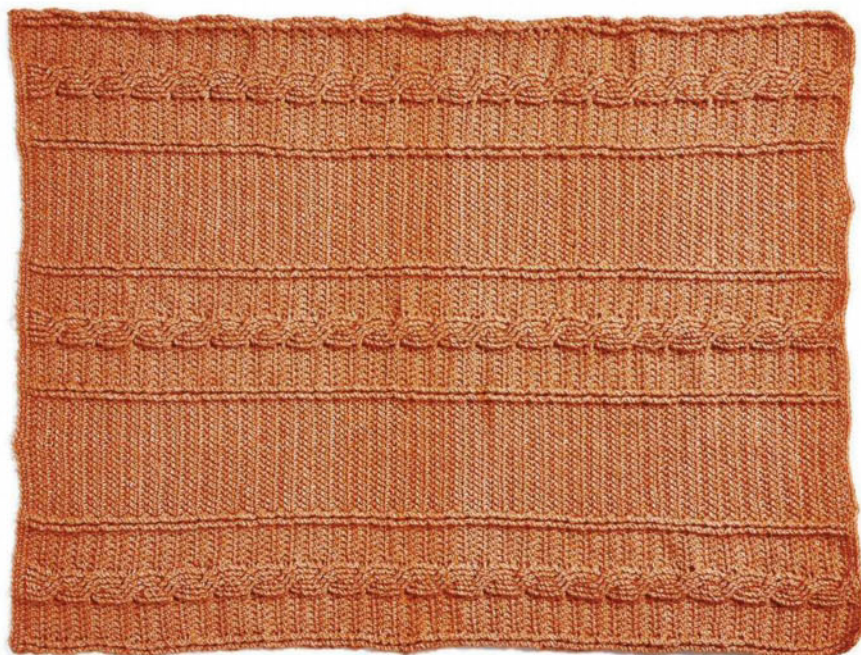
Work Row 5 once more.

Next row Ch3 (counts as tr), (*BPdtr into each of next 2 sts, tr into each of next 6 sts, BPdtr into each of next 6 sts, 1tr into each of next 6 sts, BPdtr into each of next 2 sts**, tr into each of next 18 sts) twice, repeat from * to ** once more, tr into last st, turn.

Final row Ch1 (does not count as st), dc into each st across.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Block if desired.





RAINBOW YARNS

Classic yarns with fantastic colour options.

FLOWER MOTIF

Ch5, ss to first ch to form a ring.

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

Round 2 *Ch6, skip st at base of ch, ss into next st; repeat from * 7 more times.

Fasten off and weave in ends.



An EASY-PEASY
FLOWER in only
TWO ROUNDS



DEBBIE BLISS BABY CASHMERINO

WEIGHT DK

CONTENT 55% wool,
33% acrylic, 12% cashmere

BALL 50g/125m

HOOKE 3mm

RRP £4.95



Baby Cashmerino's weight sits somewhere between a 4ply and a DK. It has a smooth, rounded appearance and comes in 56 delectable solid shades. The clever mix of fibres means it's soft and springy, gentle on the skin and machine washable, too.

This combination of qualities makes Baby Cashmerino absolutely perfect for baby projects. Worked in this yarn, booties, blankets and garments alike will be squashy and gorgeous.

www.designeryarns.uk.com
01535 664222

DROPS FABEL

WEIGHT 4ply

CONTENT 75% wool
superwash, 25% polyamide

BALL 50g/205m

HOOKE 2.5mm

RRP £2



A durable, cosy 4ply is great for kids projects, although this variegated yarn would also make a beautiful motif shawl or colourful cardigan. Fabel is available in 53 hues, both solids and self-striping prints. The superwash quality of the wool in the mix means

it can be chucked in your usual wash without fear. It's a fine, warm yarn that is great value for money and easy on the eye. DROPS also have a selection of crochet patterns available for Fabel.

www.woolwarehouse.co.uk
01926 882818

STYLECRAFT SPECIAL DK

WEIGHT DK

CONTENT 100%
premium acrylic

BALL 100g/295m

HOOKE 4mm

RRP £1.99



Stylecraft's Special DK has become something of an icon among yarns in recent years. There are a number of reasons for this: it's very reasonable in price, it can be machine washed, tumble dried and ironed and, most importantly, it boasts a range

of 75 exciting colours. Take your pick from pastels, neons, classic colours and two-tone twists. If bright crochet blankets are your thing then Special DK yarn is a very savvy option.

www.stylecraft-yarns.co.uk
01535 609798

SCHEEPJES COLOUR CRAFTER

WEIGHT DK

CONTENT 100%
premium acrylic

BALL 100g/300m

HOOKE 4mm

RRP £2.39



Dutch brand Scheepjes (nope, we can't pronounce it either) has come up trumps with this practical DK yarn. Colour Crafter was new for summer – a wonderfully soft, squeak-free yarn that's easy to work with and machine washable. The yarn does

have a slight fuzziness to it, but would be well-suited to vibrant, multi-coloured throws or mandalas. There's a veritable rainbow of 63 solid shades to choose from, all inspired by The Netherlands.

www.deramores.com
0800 488 0708

MALABRIGO MERINO WORSTED

WEIGHT Aran

CONTENT 100%
merino wool

SKEIN 100g/192m

HOOKE 5mm

RRP £9.75



This single-ply yarn is a beauty. It's kettle-dyed in small batches, giving each skein unique tonal variation. The plump, scrumptious merino wool provides incredible stitch definition and warmth. If you're making

something extra special, you won't be disappointed with this aran weight. Take your pick from 119 tempting shades – solid and variegated colourways are available.

www.loopknittingshop.com
020 7288 1160

CASCADE CASCADE 220

WEIGHT Aran

CONTENT 100%
Peruvian Highland wool

SKEIN 100g/200m

HOOKE 5mm

RRP £6.35



Rich, vivid colour, pure wool that's warm and squashy, and a pleasing plied texture – Cascade 220 is hard to beat. It's a high-quality aran-weight yarn that comes in a mind-boggling selection of no less than 142 solid shades. It's

easy to work with and soft, making it a fab choice for jumpers. Cascade 220 is also available as a superwash yarn. And the 220 bit? That's the skein length in yards.

www.lovecrochet.com
0800 802 1189



CROCHET CABLES

Grab a hook and some yarn – we'll show you how easy it is to create crochet cables. Who needs knitting?

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

Want to create raised braids, twists and cables? We'll show you how...

With a brilliantly twisted look, crochet cables are surprisingly simple to do, using front and back post stitches. Whatever project you're work on, cables will add interest and texture to a design. Chunky yarns look especially good with cables, but you can also experiment with finer yarns and small makes. We'll show you just how it's all done. Once you've mastered the technique, use your new skills to make our trendy cabled headband on page 83.



POST STITCHES



CROSSED POST STITCHES

To work cables, you need to be able to work post stitches. They're very simple to crochet and are just worked around the post of the stitch on the row below, instead of into the top loops as usual.

By crossing over post stitches, you create cabled effects and there are loads of different ones you can try. Try keeping a swatch library of different cable patterns to incorporate into your makes.

HOW DO I WORK POST STITCHES?

Master these clever stitches and reap the rewards.

Post stitches are the same as standard stitches, but they're worked around the post of the next stitch instead of into its top loops. Here's how:

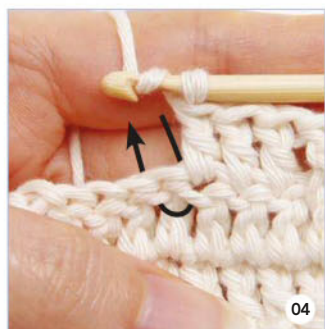
Step 1 For a front post treble, yrh, insert hook from front to back to front around the post of the next stitch.

Step 2 Work the rest of the stitch as usual for a treble: yrh, pull up loop (it should loop around the post of the st), yrh, pull through 2 loops, yrh, pull through 2 loops.

Step 3 The finished stitch is raised up from the other sts.

Steps 4 & 5 Work a back post treble in the same way, but this time insert the hook from back to front to back around the post of the next stitch.

Step 6 The finished stitch is set back from the other stitches.



HOW DO I WORK A CABLE?

Here's a quick and easy way to work a 4-stitch crossed cable.

Once you've mastered post stitches, you can create crochet cables. To form cables, the post stitches are worked in a specific pattern and are often combined with regular stitches – the regular stitches lie flat, while the post stitches create a raised pattern. This makes the cable stand out from the rest of the work and gives them their smooth and flowing appearance.

You can work cable patterns in any crochet fabric, but the post stitches that form the cable will usually be worked in a longer stitch type than the main fabric. So if your main fabric is made using double crochet stitches, the cable pattern will usually be formed with post treble or half treble stitches. Similarly, if your main fabric is

made using treble stitches, the cable pattern will usually be formed with post double treble or triple treble stitches.

To practise making a simple front post crossed cable, crochet a row of 14 trebles (ch16, tr in 4th ch from hook and each ch to end). On the second row, make the 3-ch t-ch as usual and work 1tr.

Steps 1 & 2 Now work a 4-stitch crossed cable over the next 4 sts. Start by skipping the next 2 sts and then work a front post double treble (abbreviated as FPdtr) around the next stitch.

Step 3 Work a FPdtr stitch around the next st in the same way (you'll have 2 FPdtr).

Steps 4 & 5 Return to the first skipped stitch and work a FPdtr around this st,

inserting hook from front to back to front. It may help to rotate or fold the work to make the stitch easier to work into the fabric.

Step 6 Make sure the FPdtr st worked around the skipped stitch lies on top of the first 2 FPdtr you worked. Crossing over stitches like this is the secret to achieving the cable look in crochet.

Step 7 Work a FPdtr around the next skipped stitch, again making sure it lies over the top of the previous pair of FPdtr you worked. You will have created a pretty cable effect over 4 stitches.

Step 8 Now work 2 plain trebles and repeat the cable pattern from step 1. Finish the row with 2tr. This is how your row of front post crossed cables should look.



HOW DO I WORK THE NEXT ROW?

Vary the pattern of wrong side rows to create different effects.

Cable patterns can be made on RS or WS rows and the way you work the WS rows will alter the look of your cable. Return to the swatch of front post crossed cables you just made. Turn and try working the next row (a WS row) in three different ways, as follows:

Step 1 The easiest option is to just work plain trebles across the row. This is how your work will look from the right side if you do this. Then you can repeat the crossed cable row on the next right side row. Pretty easy.

Step 2 The second option is to work the next row using a combination of plain treble stitches and BPdtr stitches: work BPdtr stitches into each post stitch on the previous row and work a plain treble into each treble stitch. This is how your work will look from the right side if you do this. The cable

stitches are still raised and will look more flowing and defined on subsequent rows. This is the most popular option.

Step 3 Alternatively, you could create a whole different look by working the crossed cable pattern using back post dtr (BPdtr) stitches. To do this, turn and make the 3-ch t-ch as usual, then treble into the next stitch.

Step 4 Skip the next 2 stitches. Yrh twice and insert the hook around the back of the post of the next stitch (this will be one of the post sts from the previous row). Complete the BPdtr stitch in the usual way. Work a BPdtr around the next skipped stitch.

Step 5 Return to the first stitch you skipped on this row (this will be one of the post sts from the previous row). Yrh twice and insert the hook around the back of the

post of this skipped stitch. This can be a little fiddly, but just take your time and you'll be fine. This time, it might help if you tilt the fabric towards you so that you can see the other side of the fabric.

Step 6 Yrh and pull up a loop of yarn. Yrh.

Step 7 Now you can tilt the fabric back to the usual position you'd work in and finish the BPdtr in the usual way. Work another BPdtr around the next skipped stitch.

Step 8 Work plain trebles into the next 2 stitches. Repeat from step 4 over the remaining 6 stitches. This is how your work will look from the right side if you do this. The effect of this option is more delicate, so be careful to get the tension of your stitches just right to avoid pulling the delicate cable stitches out of shape.



Cable headband



YOUR NEXT STEPS!

Use your knowledge of crossed stitches to create this gorgeous cabled headband.

TWIST IT

Stay cosy with this chic cabled headband in a super-soft chunky yarn. Designed by Becky Skuse.

Cable headband



YOU WILL NEED

- DROPS Air Mix
(70% alpaca, 23% polyamide,
7% wool, 50g/130m),
1 ball of Medium Grey (04)
 - A 5mm (US H/8) hook
- For yarn stockists, contact
Wool Warehouse 01926 882818
www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

MEASUREMENTS

Approx 8cm (3in) wide and 55cm
(21½in) circumference

ABBREVIATIONS

FPtr Yrh, starting from the front insert hook from front to back to front around post of st in row below, complete as for a tr stitch
BPtr Yrh, starting from the back insert hook from back to front to back around post of st in row below, complete as for a tr stitch
FPdtr Yrh twice, starting from the front insert hook from front to back to front around post of st in row below, complete as for a dtr stitch
BPdtr Yrh twice, starting from the back insert hook from back to front to back around post of st in row below, complete as for a dtr stitch

For a full list, see page 92.

Designer Becky Skuse says: "A chunky headband is a must-have this winter, to keep you feeling warm and looking stylish. A simple cable pattern is a classic decoration for a cosy feel, using a combination of crossed-over post stitches. The pattern might seem complicated at first glance but if you try working one pattern repeat, you'll soon get the hang of it. Get ready for the compliments!" Oh, we're ready.

NOTES

When pattern refers to a front post stitch, this is always on the side of the fabric that's facing you. A back post stitch is always on the side of the fabric that's facing AWAY from you. Each post stitch is worked into a post stitch on the same side of the work, so a back post stitch is always worked into a post stitch on the back of the work (the side of the fabric that's facing AWAY from you), while a front post stitch is always worked into a post stitch on the front of the work (the side of the fabric that's facing you).

C HEADBAND

Ch16.

Row 1 (RS) Tr in 4th ch from hook and in each ch to end, turn. [14 sts]

Row 2 Ch2 (counts as BPtr), BPtr around next st, *FPtr around each of next 2 sts, BPtr around each of next 2 sts; repeat from * twice more, turn.

Row 3 Ch2 (counts as FPTr), FPTr around next st, BPtr around each of next 2 sts, skip next 2 sts, BPdtr around next st, return to skipped sts and FPdtr around each of 2 skipped sts, skip next unworked st (the one after the BPdtr), FPdtr around each of next 2 sts, return to skipped st and BPdtr around skipped st, BPtr around each of next 2 unworked sts, FPTr around each of last 2 sts, turn.

Row 4 Ch2 (counts as BPtr), BPtr around next st, FPTr around each of next 3 sts, skip next 2 sts, BPdtr around each of next 2 sts (mark these 2 sts once you've worked them), return to skipped sts and BPdtr around each of 2 skipped sts, FPTr around each of next 3 unworked sts, BPtr around each of last 2 sts, turn.

Row 5 Ch2 (counts as FPTr), FPTr around next st, BPtr around each of next 2 sts, skip next st, FPdtr around each of next



Front and back post trebles and double trebles are used to create this single braid.

2 sts (unmarked stitches), return to skipped st and BPdtr around skipped st, skip next 2 marked stitches, BPdtr around next st, return to skipped sts and FPdtr around each of 2 marked sts, BPtr around each of next 2 sts, FPTr around each of next 2 sts, turn.

Row 6 As Row 2.

Row 7 Ch2 (counts as FPTr), FPTr around next st, *BPtr around each of next 2 sts, FPTr around each of next 2 sts; repeat from * twice more, turn.

Row 8 As Row 2.

Rows 3-8 form pattern.

Repeat Rows 3-8 another 8 times.

Then repeat Rows 3-7 once more.

Work should measure approx 54cm.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Use the long tail to sew the two short ends together.

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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.

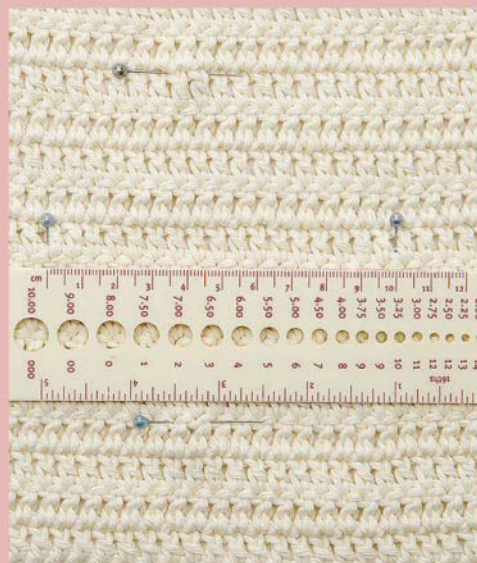
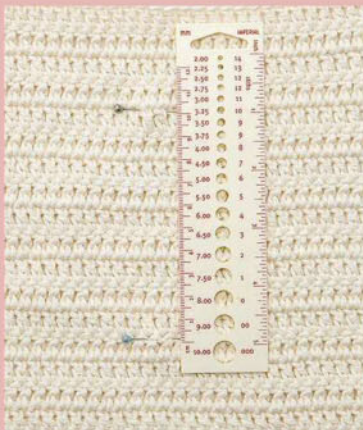


4 A useful variation on the dc seam, the dc and chain seam is used when less bulk and/or greater flexibility is needed. Work 1 double crochet and 1 chain alternately.

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.



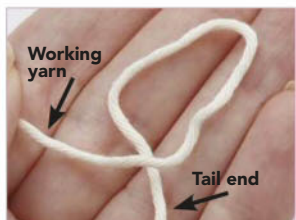
1 Make a foundation ring and work the t-ch (3ch for treble sts). Work a treble st as usual, but insert hook into centre of ring. For treble sts, yrh, insert hook into ring.



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.



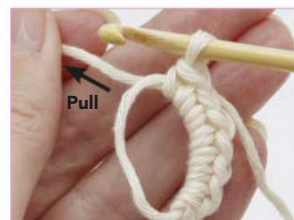
1 To start a Magic Loop, don't make a slipknot. Instead, make a loop with the yarn, leaving a tail around 10cm long. Make sure the tail end is under the working yarn.



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.



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MAKE A MOTIF

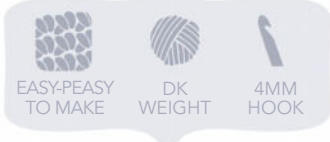
DIAMOND SHINE

Make Lucy Croft's block shape with a hint of sparkle.



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DIAMOND SHAPES

MAKE A MOTIF



YOU WILL NEED

■ Stylecraft Cabaret (98% acrylic, 2% polyester 100g/230m), Sunset (3570)

■ A 4mm (US G/6) hook

For yarn stockists, contact

Stylecraft 01535 609798

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ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92

Simple shapes are often the best choices for showing off fancier yarns. Stylecraft's Cabaret DK is no wallflower. It's a glittery, variegated yarn with lots of punchy colourways to try. And Lucy Croft's delicate diamond motif looks like the perfect match for it. We'd join these shapes to make a bright blanket or a glitzy V-shaped shawl. What will your crochet diamonds make?

C DIAMOND MOTIF

Make a magic loop.

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

Round 2 Ch5 (counts as tr, ch2), tr in st at base of ch-5, *ch1, tr in next tr, ch2, (dtr, ch3, dtr) in next tr, ch2, tr in next tr, ch1, (tr, ch2, tr) in next tr; repeat from * omitting last (tr, ch2, tr), ss to 3rd ch of beg ch-5 to join. [8 tr, 4 dtr, 4 ch-1 sps, 4 ch-2 sps, 2 ch-3 sps]

Round 3 Ch3 (counts as tr), *(2tr, ch2, 2tr) in ch-2 sp, tr in next tr, ch1, tr in next tr, ch2, dtr in next dtr, ch1, (dtr, ch1, dtr, ch3, dtr, ch1, dtr) in ch-3 sp, ch1, dtr in next dtr, ch2, tr in next tr, ch1, tr in next tr; repeat from * omitting last tr, ss to top of beg ch-3 to join.

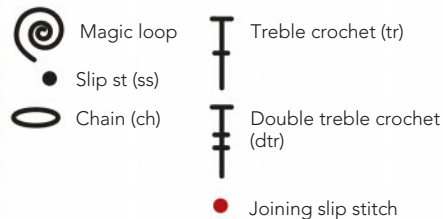
[16 tr, 12 dtr, 6 ch-2 sps, 2 ch-3 sps]

Round 4 Ch3 (counts as tr), *tr in next 2 tr, (tr, ch2, tr) in ch-2 sp, tr in next 3 tr, ch1, tr in next tr, ch2, tr in next dtr, ch1, tr in next dtr, (tr, dtr, ch3, dtr, tr) in ch-3 sp, tr in next dtr, ch1, tr in next dtr, ch1, tr in next dtr, ch2, tr in next tr, ch1, tr in next tr; repeat from * omitting last tr, ss to top of beg ch-3 to join. **Fasten off.**

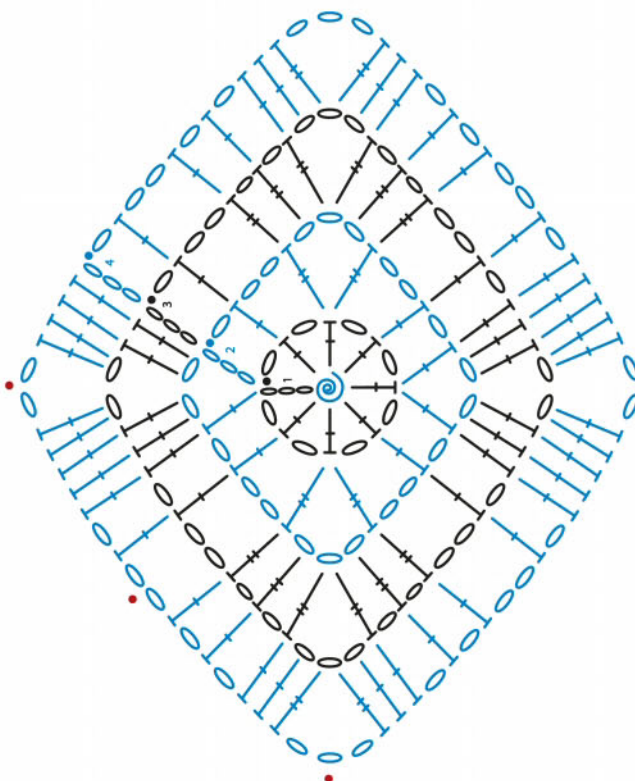
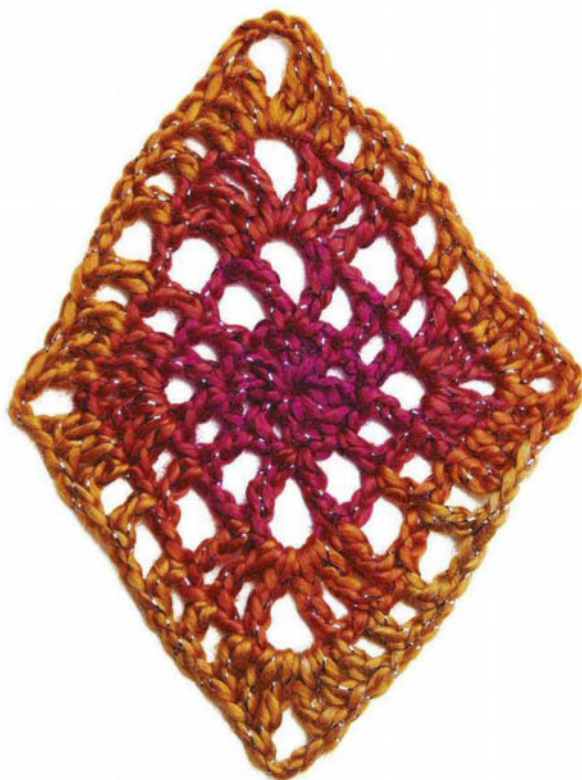
TO JOIN

Join motifs while working Round 4, by replacing the second ch of each ch-2 or ch-3 with a ss into the corresponding ch-sp on the next motif.

Key



On the chart, all rounds are read in an anti-clockwise direction.



Simply Crochet

HOOKED ON HANDMADE



NEXT ISSUE

Wrapover cardi

Lion trophy head

Street style accessories

Woolly mammoth

Learn colourwork

And more...



ON SALE THURS 4 FEBRUARY



* Contents subject to change



BABY DRAGON

All About Ami stitcher Stephanie Lau gives us the lowdown on her most precious crochet project.

The little amigurumi Chinese New Year Dragon that I made in January 2012 is my favourite crochet item. He's one of my most popular patterns. Many people have been directed to my blog after seeing him online and in *Simply Crochet's* first issue!

He's part of a Chinese New Year series that I started when I began blogging in 2010. For the past five years, I've been designing an amigurumi animal based on that zodiac year. So far, I have made a Chinese New Year Doll, which was my first original design, a Dragon, Snake, Pony and Sheep. I had so much fun making this baby dragon and giving him plenty of cute details. It's amazing how you can bring ideas to life by sketching a design,

figuring out what shapes you need, and then crocheting it with yarn and a hook!

Adding the details such as the wings, horns and belly (and embroidering the face) took time, but we were delighted with how he turned out! I used Patons Grace as it is a lightweight mercerised cotton. This yarn has a beautiful sheen and I love how I can get such tight and tiny stitches with it using my 2mm hook.

People all over the world have fallen in love with my dragon and it's been so neat seeing their versions, each with their own personality as their creators add their own special touches. You can access the free pattern and tutorial with plenty of pictures and diagrams on my blog!

For more, see www.allaboutami.com

All About Ami photographs by Ryan Lau.



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