

Simply Crochet

OOKED ON HANDMADE



**DENIM
STYLE**

Hook a classic skirt

FAB RAINBOW
HOODIE!



**MAKE CASH
FROM YOUR
CROCHET**

Tips and advice
from those who do

22

**EXCITING
PATTERNS
TO HOOK NOW**

**SPRUCE
YOUR KICKS**



EASTERN CRAFT

Kokeshi dolls, sashiko wall hanging & more

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Simply **Crochet**

HOOKED ON HANDMADE

This issue is pretty super. We're looking East and bringing traditional techniques into our makes, courting romance with crochet wedding ideas and sharpening up our embroidery skills. Plus, there's a classic denim skirt and a hero of a pup to hook. Say hello to amigurumi cuteness.

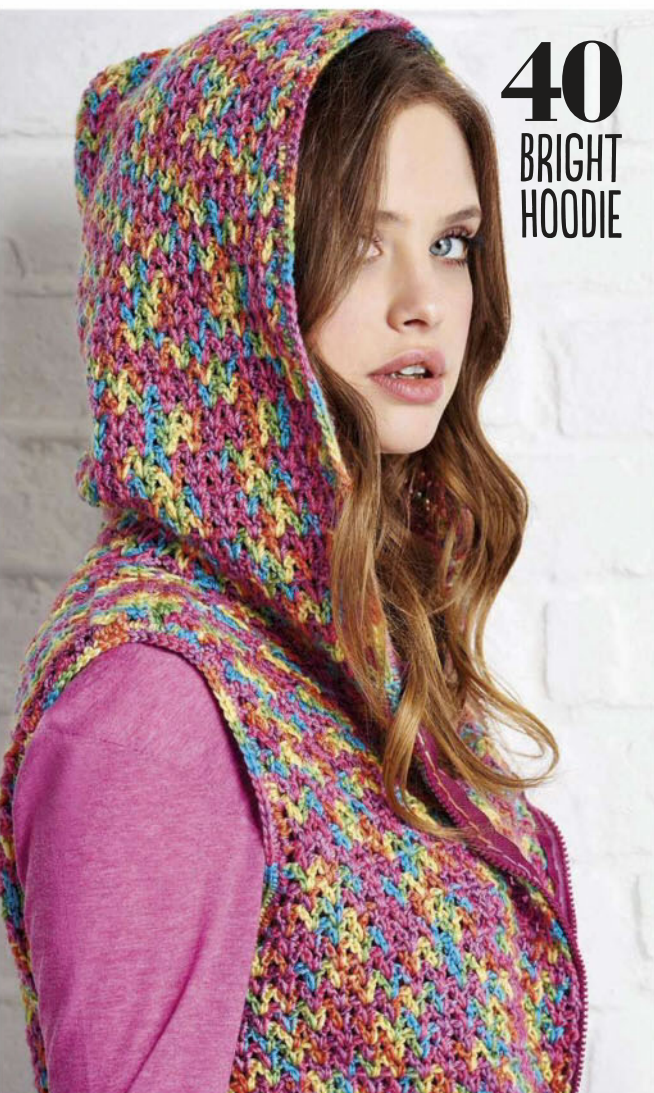


Simply Crochet

ISSUE FORTY-FOUR

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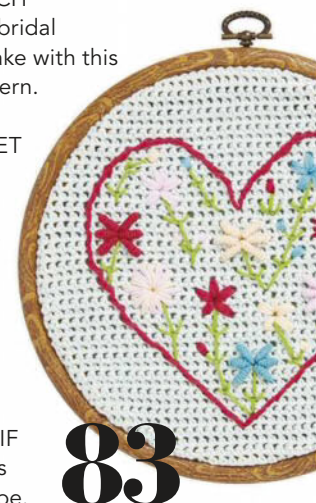
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SHOES



Wherever you see our C icon on pattern pages, that's where to start crocheting.

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



CREATIVE TRADITIONS

We love trying new things! This issue we are threading our needles and adding simple embroidery to our crochet makes and drawing inspiration from the craft traditions of Eastern cultures. Have a go on page 16.

Things are looking good on the amigurumi front, too – I'm smitten with Ilaria Caliri's Super Sausage dog toy on page 51. What a cutie. And our freebie this month is Kate Hancock's adorable trio of amigurumi sea creatures. Let's get hooking.

Sara

Sara Huntington, Editor



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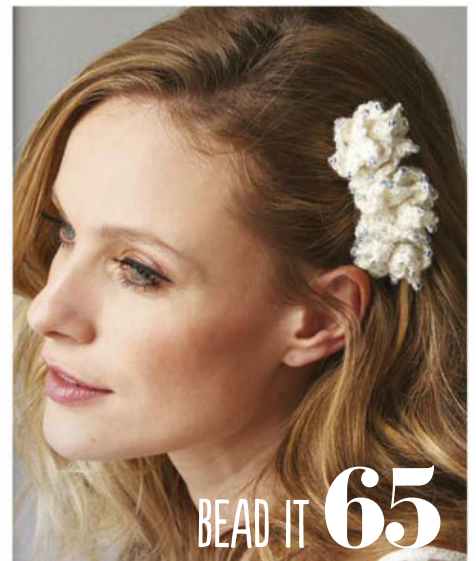
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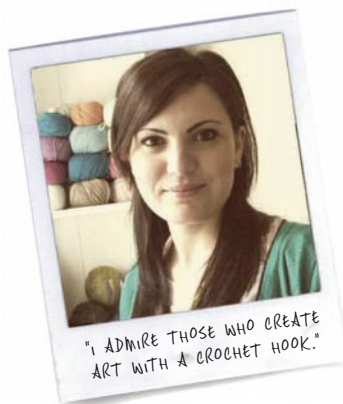
Our handy step-by-steps will help you keep your stitches on track.



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CONTRIBUTORS

HIP HIP HOORAY FOR EVERYONE WHO PITCHED IN . . .



ILARIA CALIRI

Talented Italian crochet designer Ilaria hooked the high-flying sausage dog on page 51 (he's utterly adorable) and she's sharing her amigurumi inspirations and favourite makers with us on page 54.



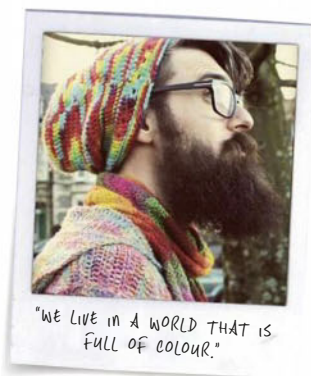
HANNAH CROSS

This issue, *Simply Crochet* regular Hannah has been busy. She designed the sashiko sampler on page 19, the blanket on page 73 and she's revealing a very special project on page 98.



ANNETTE CICCARELLI

Annette designs and blogs at My Rose Valley. She's Swedish and we love her cool Scandi colour palettes. Turn to page 68 to read Annette's top tips for selling your crochet online.



MATTHEW SPIERS

One Man Crochet blogger and artist Matt is known for his bold use of colour. Over on page 46, he's chatting to us about how he goes about putting colours together in his work.

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS

Lucy Croft, Judy Darley, Elisabeth Davis de Herraiz, Anne Egan, Rob Eyres, Becky Garratt, Kat Goldin, Ellen Gormley, Kate Hancock, Emma Lamb, John McAllister, Fran Morgan, Lynne Rowe, Rico, Becky Skuse, Louise Smith

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HOOKED

IDEAS ♡ INSPIRATION ♡ ACCESSORIES ♡ WEBSITES ♡ EVENTS ♡ STUFF



EDEN COTTAGE BEAUTIES

Yorkshire-based indie brand Eden Cottage Yarns have released some new yarns and we can't stop staring. We've long been fans of their divine semi-solid, hand-dyed skeins and newbies Malham DK and Harewood 4ply are no less exquisite. Both are 100% British wool yarns, available in an array of beautiful hand-dyed hues. Get your fix at www.edencottageyarns.co.uk





WHAT A GEM

■ We've got a bit of a crafty treat for you – the lovely folks at Jewellery Maker (www.jewellerymaker.com) are offering *Simply Crochet* readers a free Gemstone Bracelet Kit. It includes genuine gemstones and beading materials, a Get Started DVD and booklet and free UK delivery. Brilliant stuff. To claim your free kit, visit www.jewellerymaker.com/freebie and enter the code CrocJM2N today. This offer is subject to availability.



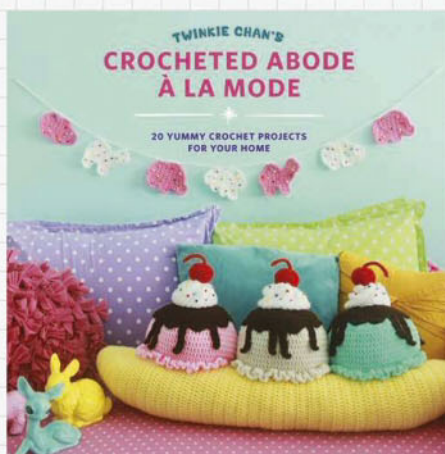
LAST DANCE FOR WINK

As a creative tribute to much-missed crocheter Wink (of www.acreativebeing.com), Scheepjes have put together a crochet-along with some of her fellow designers. The Last Dance on the Beach CAL uses elements of a beautiful blanket design Wink was unable to finish herself. It launched on April 20 and is running for 14 weeks. Each week, a new block of the blanket will be revealed. Kits are available in a choice of three colourways and two different price options. To join in and find out more, visit www.scheepjeswol.com

Love Artesano's sumptuous yarns? They have a selection of great patterns, too. Our favourite is this Crochet Fingerless Gloves, designed by Barkham Hooker blogger Gaynor White (www.gaynorwhite.blogspot.co.uk). The Artesano Handpainted 4ply yarn creates fantastic colour effects, and even better news is that the whole thing is available as a kit from www.artesanoyarns.co.uk for only £8.99. This includes the crochet pattern, a hank of yarn in your choice of three shades and a cute drawstring tote bag for your project. Sweet.

TASTY CROCHET

Everyone's favourite foodie hookster Twinkie Chan has got a new book out and it's a real treat. *Crocheted Abode à la Mode* is brimming with 20 playful projects that will have your tummy rumbling. There are whimsical accessories to hook for your desk, bathroom, kitchen, lounge and more. The book is published by Creative Publishing International. For more information, see www.quartoknows.com. Look out for a special Twinkie Chan project in *Simply Crochet* very soon.





DOUBLE TAP US

Have you found us on Instagram yet? We are **@simplycrochetmag** sharing news, some of our favourite projects and plenty of behind-the-scenes fun, too. Do come and say hello. Ooh, and don't forget to tag your *Simply Crochet* makes with **#SCTreblemaker** so we can see what you've been busy stitching. We're nosy like that.

FIND IT ON THE NET

A few of our favourite places to find creative inspiration and fellow crocheters online.

- 1 **AH, PINTEREST**
The online moodboard tool that we're addicted to.
- 2 **#SCTREBLEMAKER**
Use or search our hashtag on Twitter and Instagram.
- 3 **WE LOVE RAVELRY**
Forums, groups, yarn info, patterns for sale and a way to log and share projects.
- 4 **FIND CROCHET BLOGS**
You can search by topic on www.bloglovin.com
- 5 **THE YARN LOOP**
Go to www.theyarnloop.com for competitions, charity projects, news and more.

DON'T DIVULGE

Be discreet with a witty stash-themed tablet case from www.etsy.com/blacktypographic. It's a snip at only £13.99 and comes in two different sizes.

A LADY NEVER
DISCUSSES THE SIZE
OF HER YARN STASH

INSPIRING BOOKS

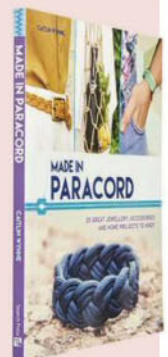
HAPPY CROCHET

Therese Hagstedt (£12.99, Search Press)
With over 60 colourful patterns, this book has plenty to keep you happy. Whether you're after quick accessories for you and your little ones, or larger projects for your home, these colourful designs are bound to keep you contented.



MADE IN PARACORD

Caitlin Wynne (£9.99, Search Press)
Fancy moving onto rope? It's amazing what you can do with a bit of cord, and these 25 patterns show you the possibilities. Make simple home accessories, jewellery and more. There is also a clear guide of all of the cord knots involved.



MODERN GRANNY SQUARE CROCHET

Laura Strutt (£12.99, Cico)
We all love the classic granny square, but why not give it a twist? With fresh colour combos and 35 inspiring patterns, from bags and blankets to boleros, your granny never made anything quite as cool as this.



CROCHET SO LOVELY

Kristin Omdahl (£16.99, Interweave)
Get some glamorous crochet into your wardrobe with any one of these 21 beautiful lace patterns. Whether you're after an everyday garment or a special accessory, there's plenty to choose from. Handy diagrams and stitch charts are also included.





ALL ROUND

■ Are you hunting for a handmade accent to update your couch pronto? We spotted this gorgeous crocheted cushion at BHS. It's got a vintage feel without looking too dated and comes in a rich red shade. We particularly like the use of pretty crochet pineapple stitches in the circular design. It could be the perfect addition to your sofa, crochet nook or boudoir. Head to www.bhs.co.uk or visit a store to pick up this Round Crochet Cushion for just £18.



THE HANDMADE FAIR

Date for your diary – Kirstie Allsopp's Handmade Fair is back again for 2016 on 16-18 September. The crafty event at The Green at Hampton Court Palace promises to be better than ever this year, with talks and workshops from handmade experts such as Annie Sloan, Patrick Grant and more, plus the vibrant Artisan Marketplace. See page 72 for our exclusive discount code. For tickets and details about what's on, go to www.thehandmadefair.com



TOTES AMAZING



How gorgeous is this printed project bag from House of Wonderland? That rainbow skein illustration is the stuff of dreams and we're sure your WIP deserves a bit of arm candy. Plus it's a bargain at only £10. The exciting news is that we've got three of these 'Where My Stitches At?' printed cotton totes up for grabs. Try your luck and enter at <http://competition.immediate.co.uk/SC44bag> to win one. House of Wonderland stock lots of magical accessories and stationery. See for yourself at www.how-store.com

CRAFTY STORAGE



If you're a maker, the chances are you have a whole load of crafty stuff. The challenge is finding a stylish way to store and display your stash. We love these creative finds.

1. Raffia baskets with floral embroidery – be still our beating hearts. These roomy receptacles by Rice DK are £110 at www.sistersguild.co.uk. They've got leather handles and would look even better filled with yarn, we reckon.
2. When plastic bags and boxes don't quite measure up, a set of these rustic wooden crates could be just the thing. It's only £35 for this set of two at www.dotcomgiftshop.com – bargain.
3. Don't leave it languishing out of sight – give your haberdashery hoard a proper home of its own with this adorable shelving unit. Find The Makery's Haberdashery House for £25 at www.quinceliving.co.uk



BERNAT BLANKET

Think chunky yarns are just for winter? Think again. Right now we're loving Bernat's super chunky, chenille-style Blanket Big Ball yarn (RRP £14.99 per 300g ball). It's perfect for hooking speedy and oh-so squishy home projects, like this stylish Chain Links Pillow design, made with just one ball of Blanket. For stockists, see www.readicut.co.uk



5 FAB FINDS

Royal celebration
Queen Elizabeth II turns 90 in April. Celebrate with craft.



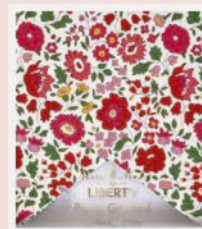
LITTLE PRINCESS

This has to be one of the best crochet crowns we've seen. You'll find Tara's fab free pattern at www.mamachee.com



A PROPER BREW
Commemorative mugs get classy with this lovely design by Emma Bridgewater. Get yourself to www.daisypark.co.uk

FLY THE FLAGS
Liberty's stylish paper bunting is now available at www.berryred.co.uk. It's a street party essential, we reckon.



BORN TO RULE
Treat a little monarch to one of these crochet cotton orb rattles by Hokolo at www.noths.com

A HANDBAG
Towering tea cups and London landmarks – this tote from www.accessorize.com is an anglophile's dream. Ma'am.



A GOOD YARN

I'd really like to give amigurumi a go. Can you suggest a yarn that would be easy to work with and has good colour choices?

Pick up a ball or two of DMC's new Natura Medium (RRP £3.50 per 50g). It's an aran-weight combed cotton yarn that's soft and smooth. The generous weight will make your stitches much easier to see and it comes in 32 cheery solid shades. See www.dmccreative.co.uk



Time to get out AND ABOUT...

SKILLS, SHOWS & EVENTS

MAY 17 Crochet Amigurumi Workshop, £36.50, Tea & Crafting, Camden, London, 020 7097 1314 www.teaandcrafting.co.uk

MAY 21-22 Women with Wool Retreat, £TBC, Chagford, Devon, 01363 775412 www.womenwithwool.co.uk

MAY 22 Beyond the Basics Crochet Workshop, £35, Baa Ram Ewe, Leeds, 0113 278 1788 www.baaramewe.co.uk

MAY 28 Beginners Crochet, £55, Running With Scissors, Hagglers Corner, Sheffield, 07903 046 544 www.rwssheffield.co.uk

MAY 28 Fibreworks Festival, £TBC, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, 01608 645970 www.thefibreworks.co.uk

MAY 29 Needle Felting Workshop, £40, The Makery, Bath, 01225 581888 www.themakery.co.uk



SOUK IT UP

■ If your home is sadly lacking in souk fabulousness, there is something you can do. Head to www.decoratorsnotebook.co.uk and pick up this pretty Moroccan Lidded Basket. It's £25 and comes in orange (as shown), teal and pink. Isn't it just the perfect size for popping yarn in? We love the fact that Decorator's Notebook only stock ethical gifts and accessories.



New yarn alert – creative British brand Erika Knight has released something fresh into the wild and it's seriously beautiful. Studio Linen is the first non-wool yarn that Erika Knight has produced. It's a lovely 100% linen DK that's made with 85% recycled fibres and 15% premium linen. This means it's a great choice ethically and it has fantastic quality. It's a cool yarn with a gentle drape and barely-there sheen that would be perfect for breezy warm-weather makes. One of our favourite things about Erika Knight yarns are the understated colour palettes. Studio Linen certainly does not disappoint on this count – the yarn is available in eight muted solid shades, all of which work brilliantly together. Five gorgeous garment designs are available for the knitters among you. To track down a Studio Linen stockist close to you, visit www.tbamsden.co.uk, or telephone 01943 872264.

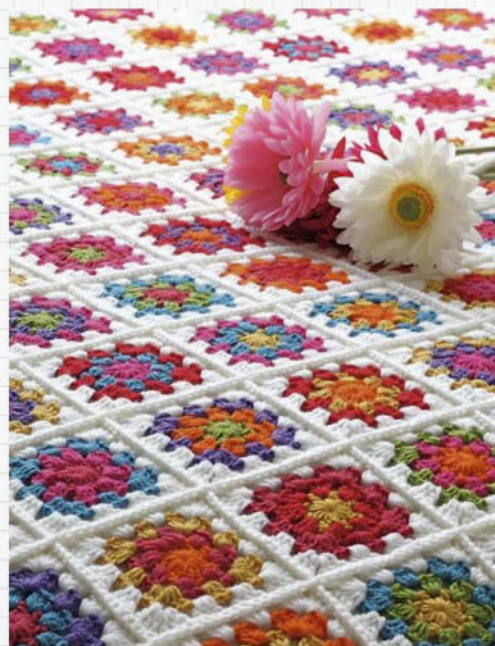
GET A BETTER GRIP

Pony's new Easy Grip Crochet Hooks are just the ticket for comfortable crocheting. They have soft (and oh-so colourful) handles and clever little finger grips that will go easy on your hands and wrists. The hooks are available in sizes 2-6mm and you can grab the individual sizes you need, or buy the full set of nine for RRP £16.69. Email groves@stockistenquiries.co.uk to find Pony stockists near you.

THIS MONTH WE LOVE...

Creative types Dennis and Matt blog at www.boysandbunting.blogspot.co.uk and we can't get enough of their bright crochet makes and up-beat attitude.

The pair joined forces in January 2016 and regularly write about their crafting adventures, sharing reviews, patterns and tutorials, too. And it's not just crochet, you'll even find a bit of knitting and sewing on their site. The guys have recently started video blogging as well and they've got a shop in the works. Exciting stuff. Boys and Bunting are one to watch.



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www.youtube.com/hooookedonknitting

MODERN GEISHA

Capture the charm of a traditional geisha with these graceful little Kokeshi dolls. Choose your colours and decorations, then write a special message and pop it into the secret slot in the base. Great as a gift for a friend.

FRESH BLOSSOM

Transform a plain sofa for spring with a beautiful cherry blossom cushion. It's easy to make, using simple embroidery stitches and different sizes of delicate flower heads for a more natural look. Perfect for decorating your futon.





LOOKING EAST

This issue, we're celebrating the beauty of the orient with modern crochet makes rooted in tradition.

EASTERN IDEAS



TEA CEREMONY

There's no better way to serve matcha (that's green tea to you and me) than on one of these simple coasters. Decorate yours with Japanese kanji symbols – we stitched 'peace', 'life' and 'joy', but how about harmony or tranquillity?

SUPER SAMPLER

Practise your running stitches and get in on the trend for sashiko embroidery with this wall hanging. Give each stylish pattern a modern twist with colourful stitches on black rather than the traditional white stitches on blue.







EASTERN IDEAS



WOUND UP

Inspired by the tradition of creative ball winding, this temari bunting is not just a decoration – it also symbolises friendship and loyalty, making it a wonderful gift. Each mandala uses interlocking post stitches that create a mesmerising effect.

LUCKY CARP

Carry a small piece of good fortune with you wherever you go with this cute koi key fob – he's easy to whip up in a weekend. In Japan, koi stand for wealth, perseverance and the dream world, so your little fish could be a mighty talisman.

KOKESHI DOLLS

Becky Garratt's charming dolls are inspired by Japanese Kokeshi.

- King Cole Cottonsoft DK (100% cotton, 100g/210m), 1 ball of each: Black (746), Candy (716), Coral (1574), Cherry (719), Sage (1576), Ecru (711)
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- Toy stuffing

MEASUREMENTS

Each doll measures 20cm (8in) high (excluding bun)

NOTES

All pieces except hair are worked in a spiral without closing off each round with a slip stitch. You may find it helpful to use a stitch marker in the first st of the round, moving it up as you work.

HEAD

Using Ecru, make a magic loop.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rounds 8-16 Dc in each st around.

Round 17 (Dc in each of next 5 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. [36 sts]

Round 18 (Dc in each of next 4 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. [30 sts]

Round 19 (Dc in each of next 3 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. [24 sts]

Round 20 (Dc in each of next 2 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 21 (Dc in next st, dc2tog) 6 times. [12 sts]

Round 22 (Dc2tog) 6 times. [6 sts]

Fasten off.

Embroider face details using straight stitches and add stuffing (use blunt end of crochet hook to push the stuffing through the small gap).

HAIR

For dolls with buns, this is worked in 2 pieces and then sewn tog.



LEFT PIECE

Using Black make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch2 (counts as first htr throughout), 5htr into loop, ss to top of beg ch-2 to join. [6 sts]

Round 2 Ch2, htr in st at base of ch, (2htr in next st) 5 times, ss to top of beg ch-2. [12 sts]

Round 3 Ch2, 2htr in next st, (htr in next st, 2htr in next st) 5 times, ss to top of beg ch-2. [18 sts]

Round 4 Ch2, htr in next st, 2htr in next st, (htr in each of next 2 sts, 2htr in next st) 5 times, ss to top of beg ch-2. [24 sts]

Round 5 Ch2, htr in each of next 2 sts, 2htr in next st, (htr in each of next 3 sts, 2htr in next st) 5 times, ss to top of beg ch-2. [30 sts]

Round 6 Ch2, htr in each of next 8 sts, turn to work in rows, leaving remaining sts unworked. [9 sts]

Rows 7-8 Ch2, htr in each of next 8 sts, turn. **Fasten off** and weave in ends.

RIGHT PIECE

Using Black, make a magic loop.

Work as given for Rounds 1-6 of Left Piece. [9 sts]

Row 7 Ch2, htr in each of next 7 sts, turn leaving last st unworked. [8 sts]

Row 8 Skip first st, ss in next st, ch2, htr in each of next 6 sts, turn. [7 sts]

Row 9 Ch2 (counts as htr), htr in each of next 4 sts, turn leaving rem sts unworked. [5 sts]

Row 10 Skip first st, ss in next st, ch2, htr in each of next 2 sts, turn leaving last st unworked. [3 sts]

Row 11 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in next st, ss in next st. [1 st]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO JOIN PIECES

See Chart on page 93. Sew the last row of Left Piece to edges of Rows 6-11 on Right Piece. Join edges of Rows 6-8 on Left Piece to 3 sts on Round 5 of Right Piece. Sew approx 4 sts from Round 5 on both pieces together to form the front parting of the Hair. Next, ss across the base of the Hair to neaten the back edge. Sew onto the Head piece.

2 BUNS (MAKE 2)

Using Black make a magic loop.

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

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

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

EASTERN IDEAS

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

Rounds 5-7 Dc in each st around.

Round 8 (Dc in each of next 2 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 9 Dc in each st around.

Round 10 (Dc in next st, dc2tog) 6 times. [12 sts] **Fasten off.**

Stuff and sew onto Hair.

1 BUN (MAKE 1)

Using Black, make a magic loop.

Work as given for 2 BUNS to the end of Round 4. [24 sts]

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

Rounds 6-7 Dc in each st around.

Round 8 (Dc in each of next 3 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. [24 sts]

Rounds 9-10 Dc in each st around.

Round 11 (Dc in each of next 2 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. [18 sts] **Fasten off.**

Stuff and sew onto Hair.

SHORT BOB

Using Black, make a magic loop.

Work as given for HAIR LEFT PIECE to the end of Round 5. [30 sts]

Round 6 Ch2, htr in each of next 3 sts, 2htr in next st, (htr in each of next 4 sts, 2htr in next st) 5 times, ss to top of beg ch-2. [36 sts]

Round 7 Ch2, htr in each of next 31 sts, turn to work in rows, turn leaving remaining sts unworked. [32 sts]

Rows 8-13 Ch2 (counts as htr), htr in

each of next 31 sts, turn.

Fasten off and sew onto Head.

BODY

Worked from the bottom up, the first 13 rounds form the indented part of the base, which creates the message space. Using your main colour, make a magic loop.

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

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

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

Round 4 Working in fl, dc in each st around.

From here, work with the WS facing.

Rounds 5-12 Dc in each st around.

Round 13 Working in bl, (dc in each of next 2 sts, 2dc in next st) 6 times. [24 sts]

From here, work with RS facing. This is the start of the base.

Round 14 (Dc in each of next 3 sts, 2dc in next st) 6 times. [30 sts]

Round 15 (Dc in each of next 4 sts, 2dc in next st) 6 times. [36 sts]

Round 16 (Dc in each of next 5 sts, 2dc in next st) 6 times. [42 sts]

Round 17 Working in bl, dc in each st around.

Rounds 18-40 Dc in each st around.

Round 41 (Dc in each of next 5 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. [36 sts]

Round 42 (Dc in each of next 4 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. [30 sts]

Round 43 (Dc in each of next 3 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. [24 sts]

Round 44 (Dc in each of next 2 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 45 (Dc in next st, dc2tog) 6 times. [12 sts]

Round 46 (Dc2tog) 6 times. [6 sts]

Fasten off. Stuff, being careful not to close the message space in the base. Add embroidery details, using images as a guide.

SLEEVE (MAKE 2)

Using your main colour, ch8, ss to first ch to join into a ring.

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

Round 2 (Dc in next st, 2dc in next st) 4 times. [12 sts]

Round 3 Dc in each st around.

Round 4 (Dc in each of next 2 sts, 2dc in next st) 4 times. [16 sts]

Round 5 (Dc in each of next 3 sts, 2dc in next st) 4 times. [20 sts]

Rounds 7-13 Dc in each st around.

Round 14 (Dc in each of next 4 sts, 2dc in next st) 4 times. [24 sts]

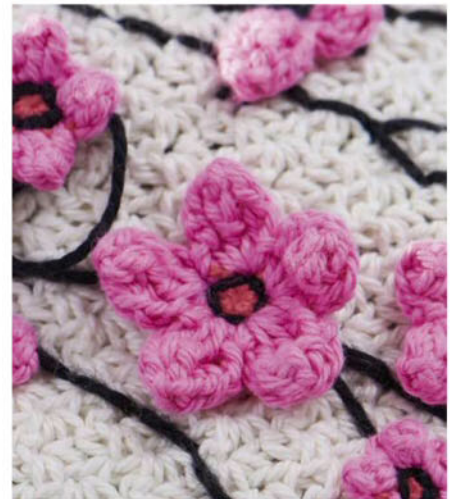
Rounds 15-17 Dc in each st around, noting that coloured trims are worked on Rounds 16 and 17, so change colour during last dc of Round 15 if a colour trim is desired. **Fasten off.** Add embroidery, using images as a guide.

BELT

Using chosen contrast colour, ch6.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from





hook, dc in each st to end, turn. [5 sts]
Rows 2-50 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st to end, turn. **Fasten off.** Depending on how much stuffing you use in the Body, your Belt may need to be a few rows longer or shorter, so wrap it around the Body before you fasten off to check the two ends meet.

Add any embroidery details, using images as a guide. Wrap Belt around the Body and sew Row 1 to Row 50. Sew Sleeves onto the Body.

BOW

Using same colour as Belt, ch9.

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

Rows 2-29 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st to end, turn.

Fasten off. Sew first and last row together. Flatten this tube and pinch in the middle to make bow shape and stitch to hold in place.

CENTRE OF BOW

Using same colour as Bow, ch4.

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

Rows 2-12 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st to end, turn.

Fasten off. Wrap around centre of the bow shape and sew the first and last rows together.

BOW ENDS (MAKE 2)

Using same colour as Bow, ch9.

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

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each of next 7 sts, 2dc in last st, turn. [9 sts]

Row 3 Ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc in first st, dc in each of next 8 sts, turn. [10 sts]

Row 4 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each of next 9 sts, 2dc in last st.

Fasten off. Sew these onto the back of the other bow pieces.

TO FINISH

Sew Head onto Body and sew Bow onto back of Belt, or use glue to hold Bow in place.

BLOSSOM CUSHION

Embellish a simple cushion cover with cherry blossom. By Louise Smith.

- King Cole Cottonsoft DK, (100% Cotton, 100g/210m), 3 balls of Ecru (711), 1 ball of each: Candy (716), Coral (1574), Black (746)
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- Cushion pad, 45cm (17¾in) square
- Backing fabric, 50cm (20in) square
- Zip, approx 40cm (16in) long

MEASUREMENTS
 46cm (18in) square

CUSHION FRONT

Using Ecru, ch96.

Row 1 (RS) (Dc, ch1, tr) in third ch from hook (second ch from hook counts as st), skip next 2 ch, *(dc, ch1, tr) in next ch, skip next 2 ch; rep from * to last ch, dc in last ch, turn. [94 sts]

Row 2 Ch1 (counts as st), (dc, ch1, tr) in each ch-1 sp across, dc in beg ch, turn. Repeat Row 2 another 60 times.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

EDGING

Join Black yarn to any st at edge of Cushion Front.

Round 1 (RS) Ch2 (counts as htr), htr in each st around, working 3htr into each corner. Join with ss to top of beg ch-2.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

LARGE FLOWER (MAKE 4)

Using Coral, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 5dc into loop, ss to first dc to join, changing to Candy during ss. [5 dc]

Round 2 (Ch3, 2dtr, ch3, ss) in each st around. [5 petals]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

MEDIUM FLOWER (MAKE 5)

Using Coral, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 5dc into loop, ss to first dc to join, changing to Candy during ss. [5 dc]

Round 2 (Ch2, 2tr, ch2, ss) in each st around. [5 petals]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

SMALL FLOWER (MAKE 9)

Using Coral, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 5dc into loop, ss to first dc to join, changing to Candy during ss. [5 dc]

Round 2 (Ch1, 2htr, ch1, ss) in each st around. [5 petals]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

EXTRA SMALL FLOWER (MAKE 8)

Using Coral, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 5dc into loop, ss to first dc to join, changing to Candy during ss. [5 dc]

Round 2 (Ch1, 2dc, ch1, ss) in each st around. [5 petals]

EASTERN IDEAS

Fasten off and weave in ends.

DOUBLE BUD (MAKE 2)

Using Candy, ch2.

Row 1 (RS) Ch3, 2dtr in fourth ch from hook, ch3, ss in ch at base of dtr sts, (ch3, 2dtr, ch3, ss) in next ch.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

LARGE BUD (MAKE 2)

Using Candy, ch1.

Row 1 (RS) (Ch3, 2dtr, ch3, ss) in the ch.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

MEDIUM BUD (MAKE 2)

Using Candy, ch1.

Row 1 (RS) (Ch2, 2tr, ch2, ss) in the ch.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

SMALL BUD (MAKE 5)

Using Candy, ch1.

Row 1 (RS) (Ch1, 2htr, ch1, ss) in the ch.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

Using Black, embroider branches at top-left of Cushion Front, using straight stitches and referring to images as a guide – they should cover just over a quarter of the cushion. Do the same at the top-right of the cushion, but work fewer branches.

Arrange your flowers and buds as desired on the Cushion Front (using images as a guide) and sew on using Black through the middle of each flower or the bottom of each bud.

With RS of Cushion Front and backing fabric facing, sew both sides and top together, leaving bottom open. Open up zip and pin in place at bottom of cushion, pinning one half to RS of backing fabric and other half to RS of Cushion Front. Sew zip in place. Turn right way out, insert cushion pad and zip up the gap.

KANJI COASTERS

Add ceremony to your tea drinking with these coasters by Anne Egan.

- King Cole Cottonsoft DK (100% cotton, 100g/210m), 1 ball of each: Ecru (711), Black (746), Candy (716), Coral (1574), Cherry (719)
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook

MEASUREMENTS

13.5cm (5¼in) diameter

NOTES

The coasters are made in the round with 2 layers for better insulation. Work in a spiral without closing off each round with a ss. You may find it helpful to use a stitch marker in the first st of the round, moving it up as you work.

The symbol is stitched onto the RS of one roundel before the back is attached using the coloured trim. Only small amounts of yarn are needed for each coaster: approx 30g of Ecru, 5g of Black, 5g of Candy/Coral/Cherry.

ROUND EL (MAKE 2 PER COASTER)

With Ecru, ch2.

Round 1 (RS) 6dc in 2nd ch from hook. [6 dc]

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

Round 3 (Dc in next st, 2dc in next st) around. [18 dc]

Round 4 (Dc in each of next 2 sts, 2dc in next st) around. [24 dc]

Round 5 (Dc in each of next 3 sts, 2dc in next st) around. [30 dc]

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

Rounds 7-14 Continue in same fashion, increasing by 6 sts evenly each round. [84 dc after Round 14] Ss in next st.

Fasten off and weave in ends.





TO FINISH

On RS of top roundel, stitch a Japanese symbol in Black yarn (used doubled). Find symbols online or see images for symbols that mean 'Peace' (page 18, Coral edge), 'Life' (page 25, Cherry edge) and 'Joy' (page 25, Candy edge). **Fasten off** and weave in ends. Place the 2 roundels with WS together and RS uppermost. Using Candy/Coral/Cherry and working through both thicknesses, ss in each dc of Round 14. **Fasten off** and weave in ends.

SASHIKO SAMPLER

Make a wall hanging with traditional embroidery. By Hannah Cross.

- King Cole Cottonsoft DK (100% cotton, 100g/210m), 2 balls of Black (746), 1 ball of each: Candy (716), Coral (1574), Cherry (719), Sage (1576), Ecru (711)
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook

TENSION

Each square measures 15x15cm (6x6in)

MEASUREMENTS

Finished sampler measures 50x44cm (20x17¼in) including hanging tabs

SQUARES (MAKE 9)

Using Black, ch29.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in second from hook and in each ch to end, turn. [28 dc]

Rows 2-32 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st to end.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

EMBROIDER AND JOIN

When all 9 squares are made, embroider the patterns following the charts provided on pages 30-32. Using Black, join the squares with a ss



seam in 3 rows of 3 squares, using the images as a guide.

TABS (MAKE 5)

Using Black, ch9.

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

Row 2 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn. Rep Row 2 until Tab measures 12cm.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Fold each tab in half and sew them at evenly spaced intervals along the top edge of the sampler.

TO FINISH

Using Ecru, sew a running stitch detail over each of the ss seams at the front, as shown in images.

TEMARI BUNTING

A garland of mandalas inspired by creative ball winding. By Anne Egan.

- King Cole Cottonsoft DK (100% cotton, 100g/210m), 1 ball of each: Ecru (711), Black (746), Candy (716), Coral (1574), Cherry (719), Sage (1576)
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook

MEASUREMENTS

Each mandala measures 10cm (4in) diameter.

SPECIAL ABBREVIATIONS

Front Post double treble (FPdtr)

Yrh twice, starting from the front, insert hook from front to back to front around the post of st in row below, complete as

a double treble crochet st.

Foundation dc (fdc) Ch2, insert hook in 2nd ch from hook, *yrh, pull up a loop, yrh and pull through one loop only (ch1 made), yrh and pull through 2 loops on the hook (dc made), insert hook into the last ch1 st made; repeat from * until you have the number of dc stated.

NOTES

Make 6 mini mandalas per 100cm of bunting.

Each mandala uses 3 colours: Yarns A, B and C, one of which is always Black. Mix and match the other 2 colours as desired.

Round 2a is worked in the front loop only (fl) of Round 1.

Round 2b is worked in the back loop only (bl) of Round 1.

Each mandala is made in the round with front and back layers joined together using post stitches during Round 4b. Always work these FPtr stitches from the front of Round 3a.

TEMARI MANDALA

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

Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr), 14tr into the ring, ss to top of beg ch-3 to join, changing to Yarn B during ss. [15 tr]

Round 2a Using Yarn B, ch1 (does not count as st), working this round in fl, dc in same st, dc in each of next 2 sts, (ch4, dc in each of next 3 sts) to end, ch4, ss to first dc. [15 dc, 5 ch-4 sps]

Round 3a Ch1 (does not count as st), *dc in next st (this is the middle of 3

dc), skip next st, (2dc, htr, tr, dtr, tr, htr, 2dc) in next ch-4 sp, skip next st; rep from * around, ss to first dc. [5 petals]

Fasten off.

Round 4a Join Yarn A to any dtr, ch1 (does not count as st), *3dc in dtr, dc in each of next 4 sts, FPdtr around tr in Round 1 directly below, dc in each of next 4 sts; rep from * around, ss to first dc. [55 dc, 5 FPdtr] **Fasten off.**

Round 2b Join Yarn C to bl of first dc of Round 2a. Ch3 (counts as tr), continue to work in bl for this round: tr in same st, 2tr in each st around, ss to top of beg ch-3, changing to Yarn C during ss. [30 tr]

Round 3b (Work into Round 2b sts only), ch3, (dtr, tr) in next tr, (tr in next tr, 2tr in next tr) twice, *tr in next tr, (dtr, tr) in next tr, (tr in next tr, 2tr in next tr) twice; rep from * around, ss to top of beg ch-3. [40 tr, 5 dtr] **Fasten off.**

Round 4b Join Yarn C to any dtr, ch1 (does not count as st), (work into Round 3b unless indicated), *(dc, htr, dc) in dtr, dc in next tr, FPtr around htr in Round 3a directly behind, skip next tr, dc in each of next 4 tr, FPtr around next htr in Round 3a directly behind, skip next tr, dc in next tr; rep from * around, ss to first dc. [40 dc, 10 FPtr]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

CORD

Using Black, work a fdc until desired length of bunting is achieved, joining Tamari mandalas every 20cm (or as desired) with a ss through any point of Round 4a. Make sure that all mandalas are facing the same way when joining.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

KOI CARP KEY RING

An aquatic cutie to adorn your keys.

Designed by Hannah Cross.

- King Cole Cottonsoft DK (100% cotton, 100g/210m), 1 ball of each: Coral (1574), Black (746)
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- A plastic ring, 3cm (1¼in) diameter
- A key ring and clip

MEASUREMENTS

Finished fish measures 12cm (4¾in) long

Entire key ring meas 17x5cm (6¾x2in)

NOTES

Only small amounts of yarn are needed: approx 30g of Coral, 10g of Black.

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

FISH BODY

Using Coral, ch8, ss to first ch to join into a ring.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each ch around. [8 sts]

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

next 3 sts) twice. [10 sts]

Round 3 (2dc in next st, dc in each of next 4 sts) twice. [12 sts]

Round 4 (2dc in next st, dc in each of next 5 sts) twice. [14 sts]

Round 5 (2dc in next st, dc in each of next 6 sts) twice. [16 sts]

Round 6 (2dc in next st, dc in each of next 7 sts) twice. [18 sts]

Round 7 (2dc in next st, dc in each of next 8 sts) twice. [20 sts]

Rounds 8-10 Dc in each st around.

Round 11 (Dc in each of next 3 sts, dc2tog) 4 times. [16 sts]

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

Rounds 13-16 Dc in each st around.

Round 17 (Dc2tog) around. [6 sts]

Round 18 Dc in each st around.

Round 19 (Dc2tog) around. [3 sts]

Sew up end of Round 19.

Stuff the Body through the mouth opening using a little leftover yarn to shape the fish.

EYES (MAKE 2)

Using Coral, ch2.

Round 1 (RS) 4dc in second ch from hook, ss to first dc to join into a ring.

Fasten off.

Add a French knot in Black in the centre of each eye.

Sew each eye in place on the Body. ➡



BACK



EASTERN IDEAS

SIDE FINS (MAKE 2)

Using Coral, ch2.

Row 1 (2tr, 2dtr, ttr, 2dtr, 2tr) in second ch from hook.

Fasten off.

Sew in place on sides of Body.

TOP FIN

Using Coral, ch6.

Row 1 Dc in second ch from hook, htr in next ch, tr in next ch, dc in next ch, ss in next ch. **Fasten off.**

Sew in place on top of Body.

MAIN TAIL

Using Coral, ch12.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in fourth ch from hook, dc in each of next 6 ch, ss in each of last 2 ch, turn. [7 dc, 2 ss].

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), skip each of next 2 ss, dc in each of next 4 sts, ss in next st, turn, leaving rem sts unworked. [4 dc, 1 ss]

Row 3 Skip ss, dc in each of next 3 sts, ss in next st, turn. [3 dc, 1 ss]

Row 4 Skip ss, dc in each of next 2 sts, ss in next st. [2 dc, 1 ss]

Fasten off.

With RS facing, rotate work so that foundation ch is at the top. Rejoin Coral to opposite side of foundation ch

(top-right corner), to work mirror image:

Row 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), skip both ss, dc in each of next 4 sts, ss in next st, turn. [4 dc, 1 ss]

Row 2 Skip ss, dc in each of 3 sts, ss in next st, turn. [3 dc, 1 ss]

Row 3 Skip ss, dc in each of next 2 sts, ss in next st. [2 dc, 1 ss]

Fasten off.

Sew in place at centre back of Body.

SIDE TAILS (MAKE 2)

Using Coral, ch7.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in fourth ch from hook, dc in each of next 2 ch, ss in last ch, turn. [3 dc, 1 ss]

Row 2 Skip ss, dc in each of next 2 sts, ss in next st, turn. [2 dc, 1 ss]

Row 3 Skip ss, dc in next st, ss in next st. [1 dc, 1 ss]

Fasten off.

With RS facing, rotate work so that foundation ch is at the top. Rejoin Coral to opposite side of foundation ch

(top-right corner), to work mirror image:

Row 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each of next 2 sts, ss in next st, turn. [2 dc, 1 ss]

Row 2 Skip ss, dc in next st, ss in next st. [1 dc, 1 ss]

Fasten off.

Sew in place at sides of Main Tail.

TO COVER RING

Using Black, place a slipknot on hook and join to ring with ss, ch1 (does not count as st), 22dc around the plastic ring, ss to first dc to join. **Fasten off**, leaving a long tail end. Sew yarn end into mouth and back to ring again, as shown in images. Secure end.

TO FINISH

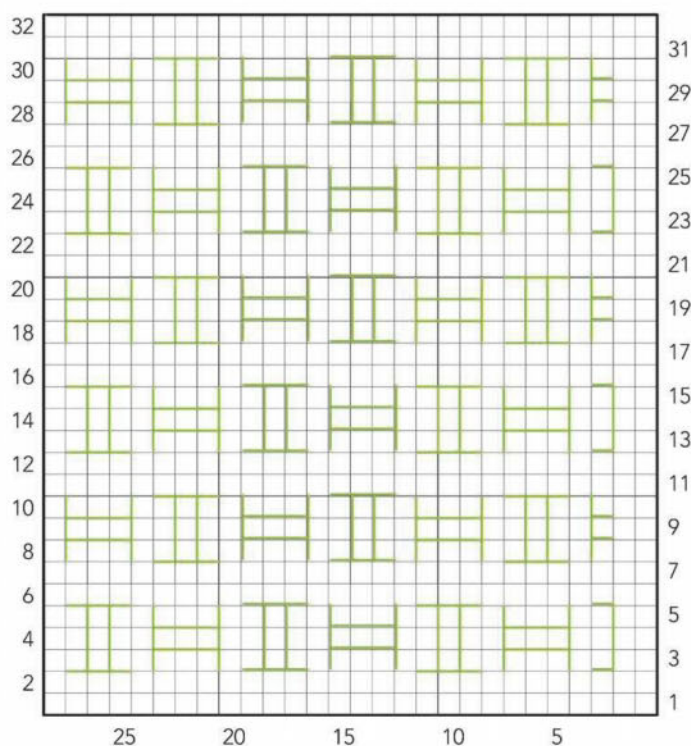
Attach key ring to covered ring.



STOCKISTS

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Key

— Sage

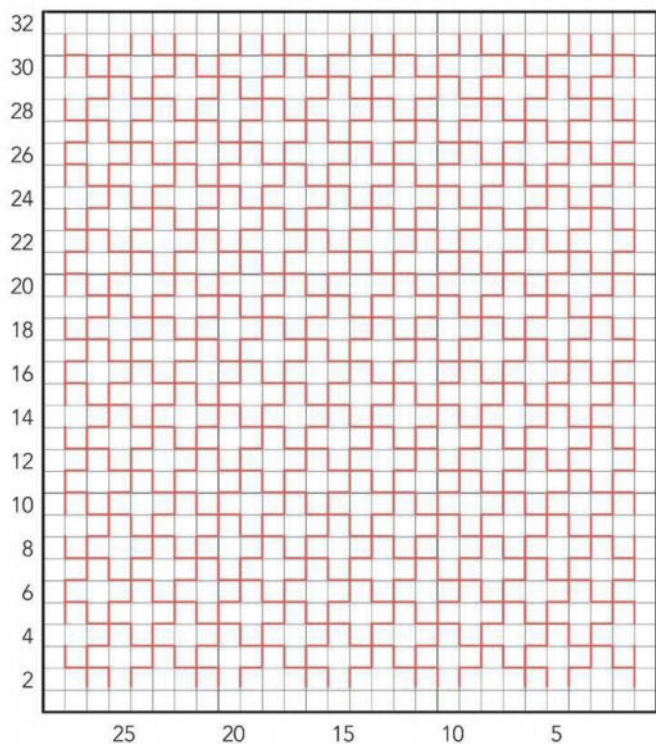
— Coral

— Cherry

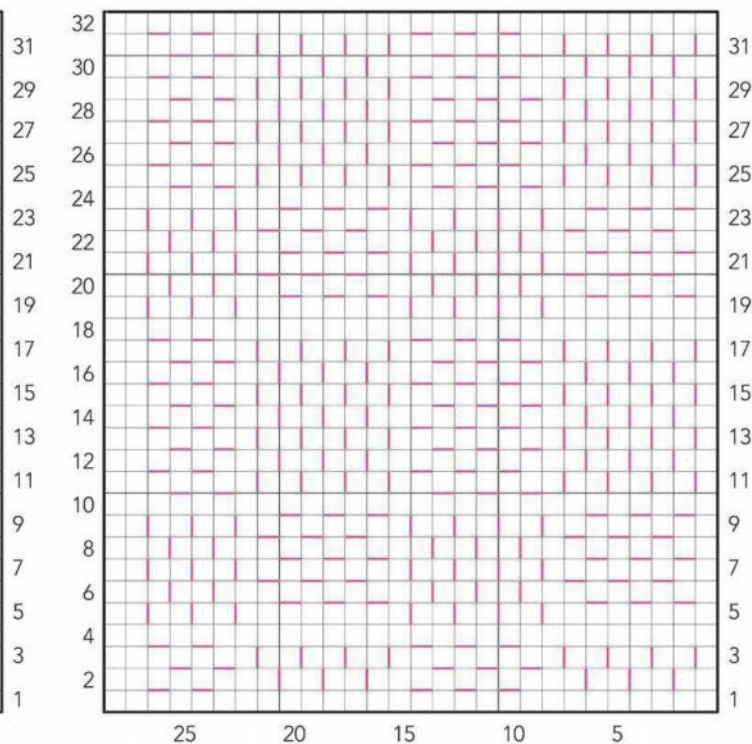
— Candy

TOP LEFT

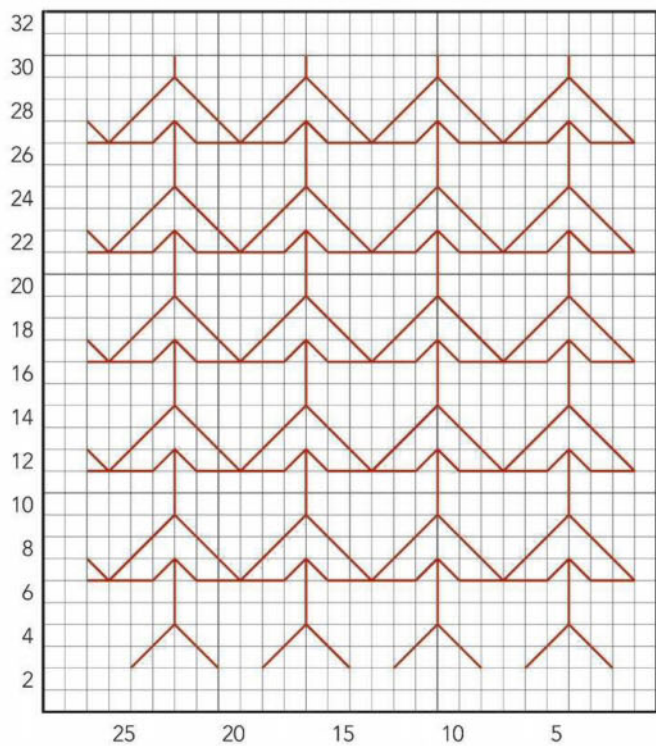
EASTERN IDEAS



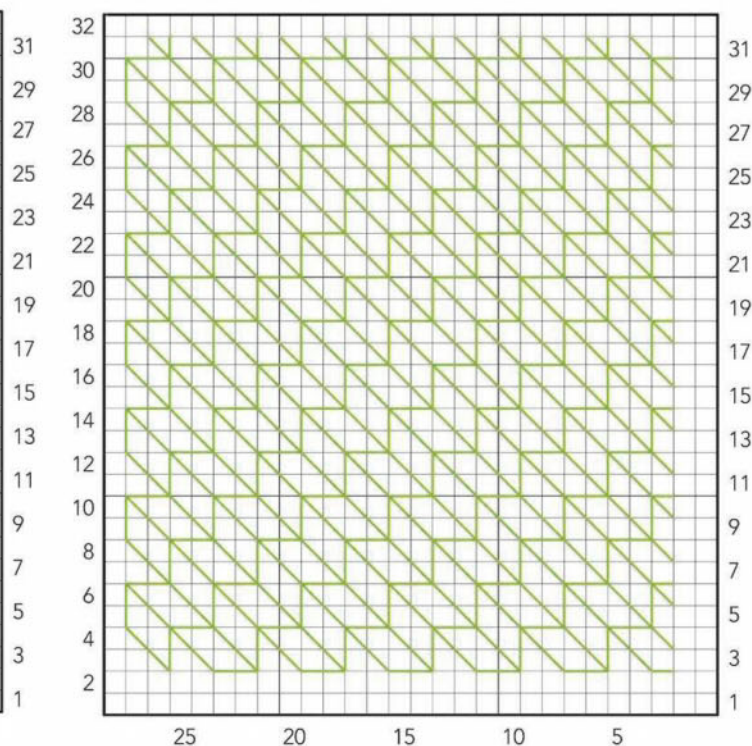
TOP CENTRE



TOP RIGHT

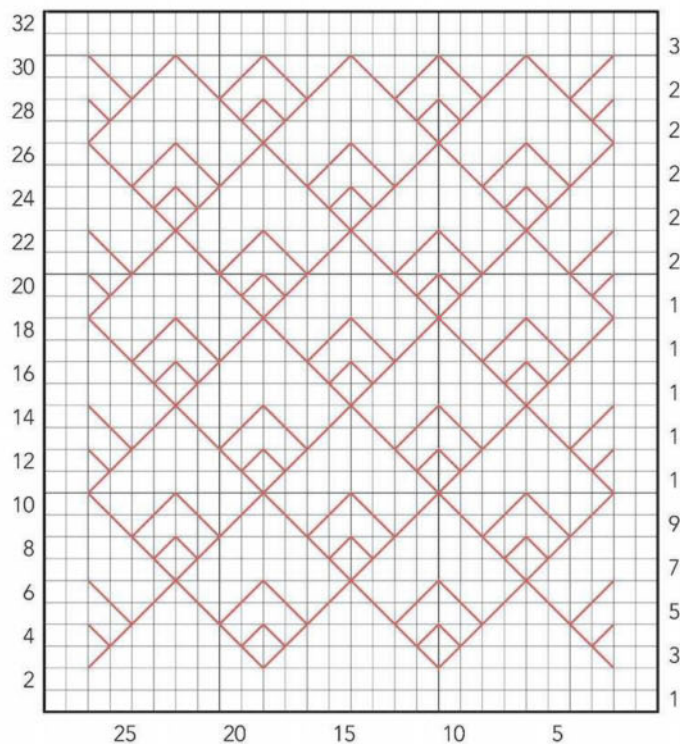


MIDDLE LEFT

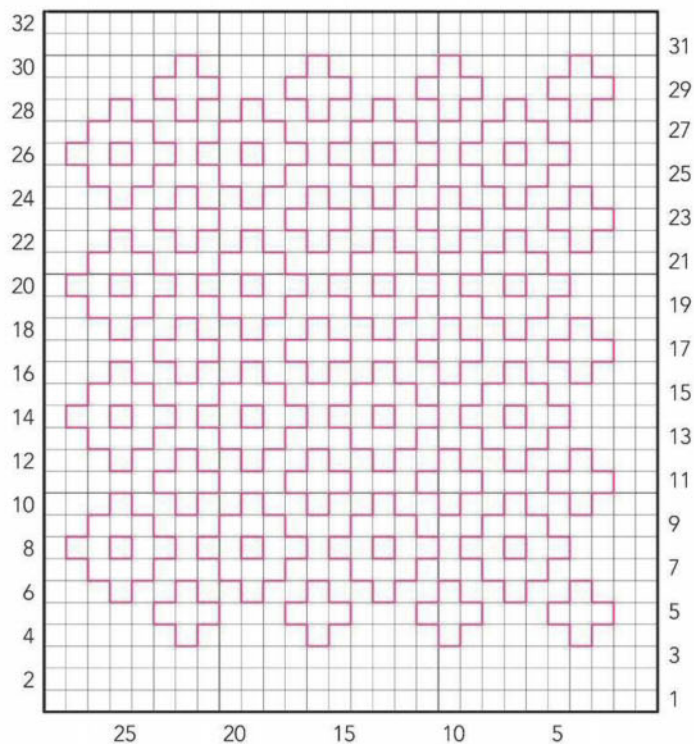


MIDDLE CENTRE

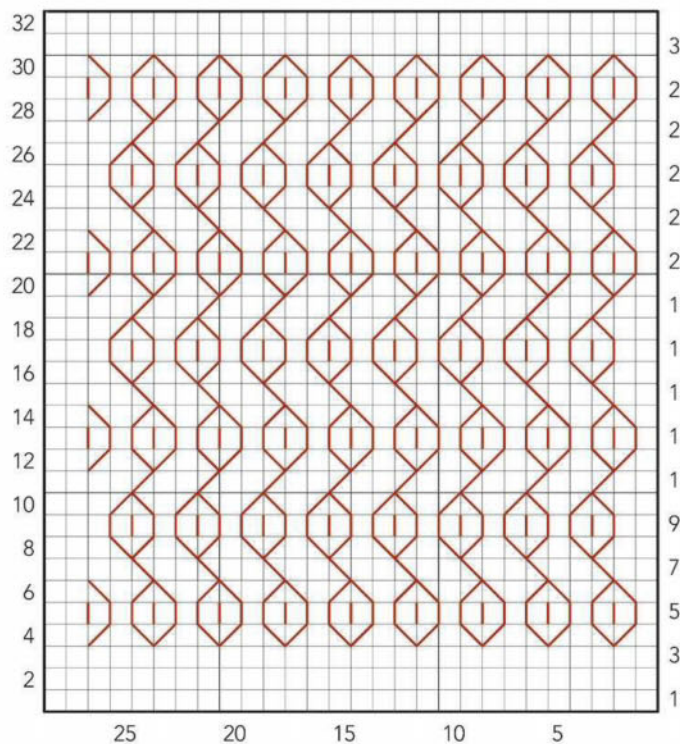
EASTERN IDEAS



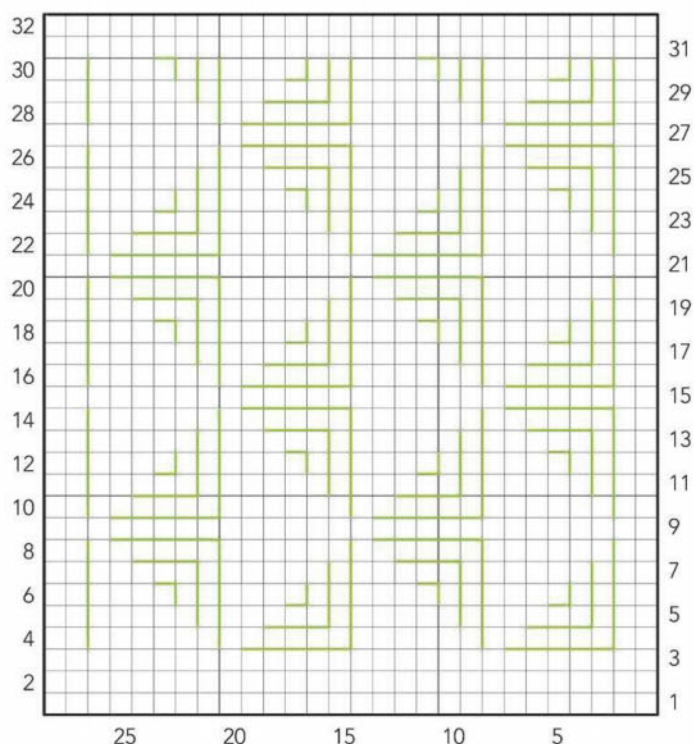
MIDDLE RIGHT



BOTTOM LEFT



BOTTOM CENTRE



BOTTOM RIGHT

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A LITTLE LUXURY

Use sumptuous silk for this summery scarf by Elisabeth Davis de Herraiz.



Lacy scarf



YOU WILL NEED

- SilkIndian Duke Silk Yarn, Single Ply (100% silk, 50g/105m), 2 skeins of SIT 004
- A 5mm (US H/8) hook

For yarn stockists, contact SilkIndian www.silkindian.com

MEASUREMENTS

16x216cm (6¼x85in) after blocking

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

Spoil yourself or a treasured friend with an oh-so drapey scarf. This luxurious, 100% silk single-ply yarn has a sheen to it, feels super-soft on the skin and is smooth to hook with. The scarf itself is worked in a relaxed, lacy stitch pattern that hangs like a dream. It'll have you perfecting your shells and picots and working on your blocking technique. Blocking is absolutely key with this project to really open out those stitches and help them shine. Gorgeous.



The lacy stitch pattern would work with any special yarn you might have in your stash.

SPECIAL STITCHES

Foundation double crochet (fdc)

Ch2, insert hook in the second ch from the hook, *yrh, pull up a loop, yrh and pull through one loop only (ch1 made), yrh and pull through 2 loops on the hook (dc made), insert hook into the last ch1 st made; repeat from * until you have the number of dc stated.

Open shell (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in same place.

Picot Ch3, ss in first ch.

SCARF

Row 1 18fdc, turn. (Alternatively, ch19 and dc in each ch starting in the second ch from the hook to give you 18 sts).

Row 2 Ch3 (counts as first tr throughout), tr in next st, ch4, skip next 4 sts, 2tr in next st, ch2, 2tr in next st,

ch1, picot, ch1, skip next 2 sts, 2tr in next st, ch2, 2tr in next st, ch4, tr in each of last 2 sts, turn.

Row 3 Ch3, tr in next tr, ch2, dc in ch-4 sp, ch2, open shell in ch-2 sp, ch1, picot, ch1, open shell in next ch-2 sp, ch2, dc in ch-4 sp, ch2, tr in last 2 sts, turn.

Row 4 Ch3, tr in next tr, ch4, skip (ch-2 sp, dc, ch-2 sp), open shell in next ch-2 sp, ch1, picot, ch1, open shell in next ch-2 sp, ch4, tr in last 2 sts, turn.

Row 5 Repeat Row 3.

Rows 6-101 Repeat Rows 4 and 5 a total of 48 times.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Block scarf 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.



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KAT'S JOURNAL

...FROM THE STUDIO

Designer and blogger Kat Goldin muses on heirloom textiles and the precious memories they can hold.



June 2001 was the year I moved to the UK with just two suitcases. If you are moving your entire life to a different country, two suitcases really isn't that much. I was 22 years old. I gave away 12 boxes of books, my cat, all of my non-essential personal belongings and boarded a plane to start a new life with a boy that I really hardly knew at all.

When you pack up like that, there isn't much room left for sentimental things. Any space I wanted to save for my Grandma Ethel's handmade crochet blankets, my beloved handmade quilt or my vintage sewing box were actually needed for my winter coat and job interview suits. So they were left behind, tucked into an antique sea trunk in my mother's basement to gather dust.

Over the last 15 years, many of those precious things have been lost to mice, moths and the same void that steals the other matching sock in a set. For a long time, it didn't matter. Those old things were of no real relevance to my life as a childless career woman in London and then later in Scotland.

TELLING STORIES

Some time in the last few years, I began to miss these things. Worried about my children never knowing my family, I started a bedtime tradition of telling them stories about my family in lieu of reading a book. I'd tell them about the neon rainbow blankets my grandma would crochet, about the quilt-filled trunk my brother would lock me in,

about the afternoons of sewing a fancy poodle skirt with my mom.

While the stories filled a gap, I began to long for more tangible items to pass down to them. As a maker, it seems natural that these are the things I want to collect – the items brought into existence by my grandmothers, aunts and mother. For me, these handmade things are of much more value than something like a piece of jewellery or ornament that I don't really remember.

I think it was the missing of those handmade things that made me an

obsessive charity shop stalker. I would walk down the aisles of a Salvation Army or Cancer Research UK shop and be quite unable to walk away from the acrylic crochet baby shawls, woolly aran jumpers or lacy embroidered tablecloths. In my mind, these treasures were far more valuable than the £3 price tags they sported – they were priceless heirlooms lovingly made by someone's aunty, granny or mum. I couldn't bear to leave them behind.

With each trip across the pond in the last few years, I've been bringing back

"I began to long for tangible items to pass down to my children."



GOOD READ



"Who knows what
they will value?"

the tools and handmade heirlooms of the women in my family who, consciously or not, shaped my life as a maker. There's great pleasure in working a bow from Grandma ToTo's ribbon box into a design, using Grandma Ethel's buttons on a cardigan, cutting ends with Auntie Frida's shears or building blanket forts with a quilt passed down from grandma to aunt to my sister Christine to me.

FUTURE GENERATIONS

When it comes to passing down my own makes, it occurred to me recently that so

much of what I make is transient, almost throw away – perhaps a jumper for a magazine that doesn't fit me and that I can never wear. A pair of handwarmers sent off to a publication, never to be seen again, for instance. Or maybe a blanket in a colour palette I don't really care for, in a yarn that I know will not stand the test of time. It does make me a bit sad that while they have a mother who never stops making, not much that I've made will be handed down to my own children in years to come. In a way, it's a sort of crochet version of the

cobbler's children idea – shoes for everyone else but them.

But then again, who knows what they will value from their own handmade upbringing, if anything at all? I certainly wouldn't have predicted longing for those neon 'nightmare blankets' my grandma made, or the meaning a simple set of shears would come to have. Time will only tell what they pack in their suitcases when they go.

SEE WHAT KAT'S BEEN HOOKING LATELY ON HER BLOG AT WWW.SLUGSONTHEREFRIGERATOR.COM

A LOCH AT MY MONTH

"We traded mountain views for skyscrapers on a visit to Chicago for a wedding. My kids loved it, but were glad to be home where they 'could be as loud as they wanted'."





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Sleeveless hoodie



UNDER THE HOOD

Use variegated yarn to create a jazzy zip-up top that's fantastic for layering. By Fran Morgan.

Sleeveless hoodie



YOU WILL NEED

- Ella Rae Cozy Soft Prints (25% superwash wool, 75% acrylic, 100g/195m), Rose Parade (01), see table for yarn quantities and measurements
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- Open-ended zip, 56cm (22in) long, from www.knittingwoolandyarn.co.uk

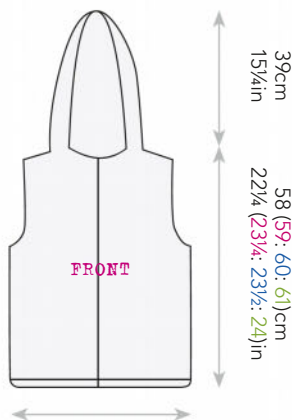
For yarn stockists, contact Intercontinental Yarns 01535 664222 www.intercontinentalyarns.co.uk

TENSION

16sts and 9 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over patt using a 3.5mm hook or size required to achieve tension

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.



48.5 (53.5: 58.5: 63.5)cm
19 (21: 23: 25)in

Love vibrant colours and simple crochet makes? Meet your next project. This zippy sleeveless top is perfect for showcasing a DK yarn that's a little more 'out there'. Add a matching zip and a hood to the equation and you've got a practical crochet garment that's as easy to hook as it is to wear. There are no tricky stitches to get your head around – the whole thing's worked in double and treble crochet. The construction is straightforward, too, so it's ideal if you're quite new to garments.

NOTES

The body of this sleeveless hoodie is worked up in one piece to the underarm, then divided to create the Back and two Fronts.

The Hood is added once shoulder seams have been joined.

Zip is inserted at Front after working edging around armholes and Hood.

BODY

Ch153 (169: 185: 201).

Row 1 (RS) Skip first ch, dc in each ch to end, turn. [152 (168: 184: 200) sts]

Rows 2-4 Ch1, dc in each dc to end, turn.

BEGIN PATTERN

Foundation row (RS) (1dc, ch1) in first dc (counts as first tr throughout), *skip next dc, 2tr in next dc; rep from * to last dc, tr in last dc, turn. [152 (168: 184: 200) sts]

Row 1 (1dc, ch1) in first tr, *skip 1 tr, 2tr in sp between 2 tr in previous row, skip 1 tr; rep from * to last tr, tr in last tr, turn.

Row 1 sets patt.

Continue in patt until work measures 38cm from beg, ending with a WS row.

RIGHT FRONT

Next row (RS) (1dc, ch1) in first tr, (skip 1 tr, 2tr in sp before next tr, skip 1 tr) 16 (17: 19: 20) times, tr in sp before next tr, turn leaving remaining sts unworked. [34 (36: 40: 42) sts]

SHAPE ARMHOLES

Next row (1dc, ch1) in first st, skip 1 tr, tr in sp before next tr, skip 1 tr, patt to end, turn. [33 (35: 39: 41) sts]

Next row Patt to last 2 tr, skip 1 tr, tr in last tr, turn. [32 (34: 38: 40) sts]
Rep last 2 rows another 1 (1: 2: 2) time(s). [30 (32: 34: 36) sts]

Continue in patt (without further shaping) until Right Front measures 58 (59: 60: 61)cm from beg, working last row on the WS. **Fasten off.**

BACK

With RS facing, skip next 8 (12: 12: 16) sts for armhole and rejoin yarn into next sp between 2 tr.

Next row (1dc, ch1) in same sp, (skip 1 tr, 2tr in sp before next tr, skip 1 tr) 33 (35: 39: 41) times, 1tr in sp before next tr, turn leaving remaining sts unworked. [68 (72: 80: 84) sts]

SHAPE ARMHOLES

Next row (1dc, ch1) in first st, skip 1 tr, 1tr in sp before next tr, patt to last 4 sts, skip 2 tr, 1tr in sp before next tr, 1tr in last tr, turn. [66 (70: 78: 82) sts]

Next row (1dc, ch1) in first st, skip 2 tr, 2tr in sp before next tr, patt to last 3 sts, skip 2 sts, tr in last st, turn. [64 (68: 76: 80) sts]

Rep last 2 rows another 1 (1: 2: 2) time(s). [60 (64: 68: 72) sts]

Continue in patt (without further shaping) until Back measures 58 (59: 60: 61)cm from beg, working last row on

SIZE		6-8	10-12	14-16	18-20
TO FIT BUST	cm	76-81	86-91	97-102	107-112
	in	30-32	34-36	38-40	42-44
ACTUAL BUST (APPROX)	cm	97	107	117	127
	in	38	42	46	50
LENGTH WITHOUT HOOD (APPROX)	cm	58	59	60	61
	in	22 1/4	23 1/4	23 1/2	24
YARN	100g	6	7	7	8

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

the WS. **Fasten off.**

LEFT FRONT

Next row With RS facing, skip next 8 (12: 12: 16) sts for armhole and rejoin yarn into sp between 2tr, patt to end, turn. [34 (36: 40: 42) sts]

SHAPE ARMHOLES

Next row Patt to last 4 sts, skip 2 tr, tr in sp before next tr, tr in last tr, turn. [33 (35: 39: 41) sts]

Next row (1dc, ch1) in first st, skip 2 tr, 2tr in sp before next tr, patt to end, turn. [32 (34: 38: 40) sts]

Rep last 2 rows another 1 (1: 2: 2) time(s). [30 (32: 34: 36)] sts

Continue in patt (without further shaping) until Left Front measures 58 (59: 60: 61)cm from beg, working last row on the WS. **Fasten off.**

INTERIM MAKING UP

With RS of Back and Fronts tog, join shoulder seams as folls: beg at each armhole edge, ss 12 (14: 16: 18) sts tog.

HOOD

With RS facing, beg at Right Front edge, rejoin yarn and patt across 18 sts from Right Front, 36 sts from Back and 18 sts from Left Front, turn. [72 sts]

Rows 2-3 Work 2 rows in patt.

SHAPE BACK

Mark the 2 central sts of the last row. In the following section, move the markers up to the 2 central sts as you work. See Charts on page 93.

Row 4 Patt up to 2 marked sts, 4tr in sp between 2 marked sts, patt to end. [74 sts]

[74 sts]

Row 5 Work in patt.

Row 6 Patt up to 2 marked sts, 2tr between 2 marked sts, patt to end. [76 sts]

[76 sts]

Row 7 Work in patt.

Rows 8-10 Repeat Rows 4-6. [80 sts] Remove markers.

Continue in patt until Hood measures 30cm from beg, working last row on the WS. Mark 2 central sts of last row and move up as you work, as before.

SHAPE TOP

Row 1 Patt up to 2 marked sts, skip marked sts, patt to end. [78 sts]

Row 2 Work in patt.

Row 3 Patt to 2 sts before marked st,

(skip 2 sts, tr in sp before next st) twice, patt to end. [76 sts]

Row 4 Work in patt.

Rows 5-7 Repeat Rows 1-3. [72 sts]

Row 8 Work in patt. **Fasten off.**

ARMHOLE EDGING

With RS facing, rejoin yarn to centre st at underarm.

Round 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc evenly around armhole edge, working 1dc in top of each tr, 2dc in side of each tr and 3dc in side of each shaped tr, ss to first dc.

Round 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each dc, ss to first dc. **Fasten off.** Rep around other armhole.

HOOD EDGING

With RS facing, work 1 row dc evenly around outside edge of Hood, as for Armhole Edging.

Next row Ss across first 2 sts, 1dc into each dc to last 2 sts, ss over last 2 sts.

Fasten off.

TO FINISH

Pin zip in position at front, without stretching. Position the edges of each Front at the edges of the zip teeth.

Sew in place using backstitches.

SAVE OR SPLURGE

For a more luxurious make, you could use the following yarn:

■ Universal Yarn Bamboo Pop (50% wool, 50% cotton, 100g/266m), Khaki Girl (213)

For yarn stockists, contact LoveCrochet 0845 544 2196 www.lovecrochet.com

When substituting yarn, always be sure to work up a swatch so that your tension matches that required for the pattern.



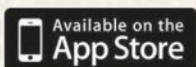
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MATTHEW SPIERS

ONE MAN CROCHET

Being brave with colour.



Colour is one of the most important factors in any crochet project. The choices you make can completely change the final outcome of a piece and they reflect your taste, style and intentions. People often comment on the use of colour in my crochet and since I'm perhaps known for my bright and bold colours, I thought it might be interesting to analyse the thinking behind this.

When starting any project that uses multiple colours, I have a few rules that I apply based on my own preferences. I try not to put two colours that are similar next to each other because I believe each colour should stand out on its own merit. Whereas some people might view certain colour combinations as clashing, I think

they can actually draw your eye to different shapes and patterns in the work.

I also believe 'the brighter the better'. Sometimes it can be easier to stick to what I refer to as 'safe' colours: monochrome or pastels, for example. Although I have done projects with these, I find brighter colours have more of an impact. The fact is that yarns are available in such a large range of colours and textures, you can almost think of your stash as a paintbox.

COLOUR WITHOUT LIMITS

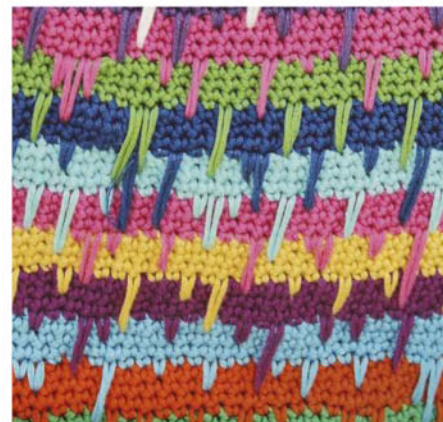
When it comes to crochet clothing, I want you to consider these two questions – have you ever seen a yarn that you loved so much that you just had to buy it and make something for yourself with it? Now

ask yourself: if you had seen an item in a shop that was exactly the same colour, would you have bought it? What I'm suggesting is, I believe that being crocheters (or more specifically, lovers of yarn) the importance of 'I made this with a beautiful yarn that I love' can outweigh thoughts of 'I normally wear these colours' or 'this is what's fashionable'. Sure, maybe not everyone wants to wear psychedelic colours, but I often feel like trends and retailers limit our colour choices. This is particularly evident in menswear, which is often limited to black, brown, blue, beige, grey and khaki. But my stash is full of neon colours and crazy variegated yarns... so if I'm going to make my own clothing, why should I limit myself to 'sensible colours'?

We live in a world full of colour and it can impact our lives and perceptions in lots of ways. Different colours can affect our mood and influence our decisions and opinions. Certain colour combinations are associated with different countries and cultures, often stemming from a long background of historical trade relations or political/religious movements.

Colour is an incredibly personal thing and it's important to follow your instincts and taste, regardless of what anyone else thinks. I once overheard someone saying that my colourful crochet was: "Like a punch in the face." That's exactly what I'm going for: colour that blows your mind!

YOU CAN READ MORE ABOUT MATT'S CROCHET MAKES ON HIS BLOG, WWW.ONEMANCROCHET.BLOGSPOT.COM



Far left: Matthew sporting a selection of handmade rainbow finery.

Centre: Matthew's crochet T-shirt of many colours – amazing.

Above: Technicolour T-shirt close up – the shades really pop.





GET YOUR KICKS

Spruce up a beloved pair of high-tops with super simple motifs. By Sara Huntington.

Embellish an outfit



YOU WILL NEED

- Any 4ply cotton yarn, we used DMC Natura Just Cotton (100% cotton, 50g/155m), 1 ball of Tournesol (16)
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- Pair of trainer boots or shoes
- Fabric glue

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

MEASUREMENTS

Star motif measures approx 7.5cm in diameter
Trims are made to fit your shoes

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

Prepare to be on the receiving end of some serious shoe envy, if you give this playful customisation project a go. Why not show your go-to lace-ups a bit of handmade love? You can tweak these simple trims and bold star motif to fit your chosen footwear like a dream. Any 4ply cotton yarn will work for this make, but be sure to pick a contrasting shade (or several) for maximum impact. Step to it, stitcher.

SPECIAL STITCHES

Double crochet foundation row

Ch2, insert hook in the second ch from the hook, *yrh, pull up a loop, yrh and pull through one loop only (ch1 made), yrh and pull through 2 loops on the hook (dc made), insert hook into ch1 st made previously; repeat from * until piece is the desired length.

C STAR MOTIF

Make one for each boot.

Using a 3mm hook, ch5, ss to first ch to form a ring.

Round 1 Ch5 (counts as 1tr, ch2), (tr into ring, ch2) 7 times, ss into 3rd of beg ch-5. [8 ch-2 sps]

Round 2 Ch1 (does not count as a st), dc in st at base of ch-1, (3dc into next ch-2 sp, dc into next tr) 7 times, 3dc into last ch-2 sp, ss to first dc. [32 dc]

Round 3 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in st at base of ch-1, *ch5, dc in second ch from hook, htr in next ch, tr in next ch, dtr in last ch, skip 3 sts, dc into next st; repeat from * 7 more times, omitting final dc on last repeat, ss to first dc.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

SIDE TRIM

Make two for each boot.

Work a double crochet foundation row the same length as the stitching or edging you wish to trim.

Row 2 Turn, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st to end.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

REAR TRIM

Make one for each boot.

Work a double crochet foundation row the same length as the boot's rear trim.

Row 2 Turn, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st to end.

Repeat Row 2 until piece is the required width.

Fasten off and weave in ends.



A star is the perfect accent for the ankle. Why not double up and make them for both sides?



For a super-neat finish, the rear trim should closely match the dimensions of your shoes.

TO FINISH

Block and press the motifs and trims.

Using fabric glue, attach the side trims around the edges of each boot, then attach the rear trim to the back of the boot.

Attach each motif to the outer side of each boot.



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SUPER SAUSAGE

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? Nope, it's a superhero pooch by Ilaria Caliri.



Amigurumi dog



YOU WILL NEED

- DMC Natura Just Cotton (100% cotton, 50g/155m), 1 ball of each:
 - Yarn A Brique (86)
 - Yarn B Passion (23)
 - Yarn C Prussian (64)
- A 2.5mm (US B/1 or C/2) hook
- Safety eyes or black beads, approx 5mm diameter
- Plastic nose, approx 1cm diameter
- Black embroidery thread
- Tapestry needle
- Stitch markers
- Toy stuffing

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

MEASUREMENTS

19cm (7½in) tall

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

Sure they're adorable, but who knew dachshunds had powers? Super Sausage is speeding through the sky to deliver an urgent letter (or maybe it's a *Simply Crochet* subscription) to a special someone. He loves feeling the wind on his silky ears and showing off his cape to crowds of amazed onlookers. Will you hook this amigurumi cutie and give him a place to land? Grab your hook and stitch marker.

NOTES

The pattern is worked using the amigurumi method. Work in a continuous spiral without closing off the round with a ss. It may help to use a stitch marker in the first stitch of each round, moving it up as you work. The Legs and Arms are made first, and joined into the Body as you work. All the other pieces are worked separately and then sewn in place.

C ARMS AND LEGS (MAKE 4)

With Yarn A, make a magic loop.

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

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

Rounds 3-10 Dc in each st around.

Fasten off.

Stuff lightly.

HEAD AND BODY

Worked from Head down.

With Yarn A, make a magic loop.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rounds 8-15 Dc in each st around.

Round 16 (5dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [36 sts]

Round 17 (4dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [30 sts]

Round 18 (3dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [24 sts]

Round 19 (2dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [18 sts]

Secure the eyes between Rounds 11 and 12, approx 13 sts apart.

If you are using black beads for the eyes, you might like to wait until the



Super Sausage's safety eyes and removable cape make him perfect for playtime.



The arms and legs are made first and joined as the body is worked – less sewing up to do!

Muzzle is attached before you sew them in place.

Round 20 Dc in each st around.

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

Round 21 (2dc in next st, 2dc) 6 times. [24 sts]

Round 22 (2dc in next st, 3dc) 6 times. [30 sts]

Round 23 5dc, join the first Arm, crocheting the next 5 dc of the Body and Arm together, 10dc, join second Arm, crocheting the next 5 dc of the body and arm together, 5dc. [30 sts]

Round 24 5dc, 5dc in the remaining 5 sts of the first Arm, 10dc, 5dc in the remaining 5 sts of the second Arm, 5dc. [30 sts]

Rounds 25-41 Dc in each st around.

Round 42 2dc in next st, 2dc, 2dc in next st, 22dc, 2dc in next st, 2dc, 2dc in next st. [34 sts]

Round 43 2dc, 2dc in next st, 28dc, 2dc in next st, 2dc. [36 sts]

Round 44 Dc in each st around.

Make sure to start the next Round from the centre back, so dc around to this position if you need to.

Round 45 7dc, join the first Leg, crocheting the next 5 dc of the Body and Leg together, 13dc, join the second Leg, crocheting the next 5 dc of the

Body and Leg together, 6dc. [36 sts]
Round 46 7dc, 5dc in the remaining 5 sts of the first Leg, 13dc, 5dc in the remaining 5 sts of the second Leg, 6dc. [36 sts]

Round 47 Dc in each st around.

Round 48 (4dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [30 sts]

Round 49 (3dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [24 sts]

Round 50 (2dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 51 (1dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [12 sts]

Round 52 (Dc2tog) 6 times. [6 sts]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

EARS (MAKE 2)

With Yarn A, make a magic loop.

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

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

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

Rounds 4-8 Dc in each st around.

Round 9 Dc2tog, 13dc. [14 sts]

Round 10 Dc2tog, 12dc. [13 sts]

Round 11 Dc2tog, 11dc. [12 sts]

Round 12 Dc2tog, 10dc. [11 sts]

Round 13 Dc2tog, 9dc. [10 sts]

Round 14 Dc in each st around.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Do not stuff.

Use the long tail to sew the Ears to each side of the Head, between Rounds 7 and 8.

MUZZLE

With Yarn A, make a magic loop.

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

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

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

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

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

Round 6 (Dc2tog, 2dc) 3 times, 18dc. [27 sts]

Round 7 9dc.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail and the remaining sts unworked.

Secure the plastic nose between Rounds 4 and 5.

Stuff the Muzzle with toy stuffing.

Use the long tail to sew the Muzzle to the Head, between the Eyes.

TAIL

With Yarn A, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as

st), 4dc into the loop. [4 sts]

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

Round 3 Dc in each st around.

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

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

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

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Stuff lightly.

Use the long tail to sew the Tail to the bottom of the Body, between Rounds 43 and 45.

CAPE

With Yarn C, ch51.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in the second ch from the hook and in each ch across. [50 sts]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Join Yarn B to the WS of the previous row in the 20th stitch.

Row 1 (WS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 12dc, turn leaving remaining sts unworked. [12 sts]

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), 1dc,

2dc in next st, dc in each st to last 2 sts, 2dc in next st, dc in last st, turn. [14 sts]

Rows 3-4 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st across.

Rows 5-22 Repeat (Rows 2-4) 6 more times. [26 sts]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

BORDER

With RS facing, rejoin Yarn B to top-left of cape, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each row end and dc around to top-right of cape, working 3dc in each corner. **Fasten off** and weave in ends.

SUPER SAUSAGE 'S'

With Yarn C, ch17.

Row 1 (RS) Skip the first ch, 3dc, dc2tog, 1dc, dc2tog, 2dc, 2dc in next st, 1dc, 2dc in next st, 3dc. [16 sts]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Sew the 'S' on the centre back of the Cape.





"I like a crochet project with a bit of a challenge."



A CURIOUS WONDERLAND

Regular *Simply Crochet* contributor Ilaria Caliri has hordes of gorgeous characters at her fingertips. She lets us peek into her wonderful world.

Growing up in Naples, Italy, Ilaria Caliri was happy to split her time between crafting and exploring the surrounding countryside.

"I always saw my mum spending her spare time with crochet in her hands," she remembers. "Over summers spent in my grandmother's garden on a Sorrento hillside, my grandmother and mum taught me to crochet, knit and sew, though between rows and rounds I climbed trees and ran after the cats!"

Ilaria rediscovered her love of crochet in her 20s. "My cousin told me about amigurumi and within minutes I'd found an old crochet hook and leftover yarn to make my first project!" This was only the

first of a long series of adorable creations. "I soon learnt how to create 3D shapes with yarn and started to translate my own illustrations into amigurumi characters."

CHARMINGLY ASKEW

Before long, amigurumi was an important part of Ilaria's life. Early projects included mini-cakes for a party and a cute teddy bear – she says: "The birth of a new life inspired me to design a unique toy."

As her skills and confidence developed, Ilaria began creating the quirky mini-beasts and dolls she's now well known for, working directly from her imagination much of the time. Humour is a large part of her motivation, which

explains why so many of her characters make us smile! "Generally, I think about an animal or an object, then try to imagine it in an amusing way. I have to thank my followers and friends who ask me weird questions like: can you make a blue giraffe with a very long neck, a doll with pink hair, a teddy bear with a swimsuit? So I start with a funny detail and draw and re-draw the whole character until I'm happy with it. Then I turn it into a pattern and make it from yarn."

To make it easier for her fans to find her work, Ilaria launched a website: Airal Design at www.besenseless.blogspot.co.uk. The name of the site, Airal, is a lovely example of her love of whimsy – it's



actually her name spelt backwards. She comments on the site's welcome page: "I have a propensity to do/see things upside down." We're certain her delightfully off-centre view contributes to the originality of her designs.

Ilaria's stylish accessories are equally appealing and her Ravelry page (<http://bit.ly/SC44rav>) is littered with enticingly cosy hats, scarves, cowls and capes.

"I like small projects with a bit of a technical challenge," she tells us. "My favourite design is Binario, a crochet cowl, but I'm particularly proud of one of my few blankets, Meadow. A lot of people write to me about that blanket and its flowers, and a picture of it was also published in *Simply Crochet* magazine!"

The blossom-infused blanket was a special request from a couple for their newborn. "I put in a lot of work to make the huge number of flowers and to sew them onto the crochet blanket base," Ilaria recalls, a hint of pride in her voice. "Until the end, I could only imagine it!"

NEW TERRITORY

In 2016, Ilaria plans to devote as much time as possible to creating "cute and weird amigurumi, but I'd also like to spend more time designing accessories, clothes and home décor."

Home is an important place for Ilaria, not least because in the latter months of 2015, she moved twice. "Until recently, I'd lived in Sorrento all my life, but when my boyfriend found a job in London, we decided to move here. I've spent years trying to focus my energy on my job as an independent crochet designer. The beauty of this kind of job is that you can work almost anywhere."

It's been a big change for Ilaria to leave behind her beloved Italy, but she's

already feeling content in the UK. "When I was in Italy, I had a corner in one room and a dedicated studio. Now in London, I always have a corner in my home and a huge wardrobe full of my yarns and other crafting stuff," she says. "I love to work at home because I can start early in the morning when I'm still in my pyjamas! And when I have to start a new project, I can use the living room

to create a mess with a lot of yarn and materials."

Her favourite place to work, she says, is at her desk:

"So I can crochet with my notebook computer and sketches in front of me. I can take notes while I'm working and chat away on Facebook or Instagram between one row and the next."

FINDING INSPIRATION

It should come as no surprise that Ilaria seeks out crocheters with impressive levels of talent and ingenuity. "I admire those who can create pieces of art with their crochet hooks, like Kate Jenkins (www.cardigan.ltd.uk); those who fill their blog with lovely photos, like Kat Goldin (www.slugsontherefrigerator.com); those

who put positive energy into their work, like Gaia Segattini (www.gaiasegattini.com); and everyone who crochets with passion and inspires me to improve my own skills and designs."

She admits to following a large number of blogs, "which are very different from each other. Every one has a different theme and a style all its own. I often

discover them through Instagram or Pinterest – starting with a single image, I discover a whole new universe."

At the moment, though, one particular part of the universe has caught Ilaria's eye. "Since moving to London from Italy a few months ago, I never tire of strolling around this city!" she comments. "I'm finding such a lot of positive input and inspiration in the sights here and I'm putting as much of it as possible into my crochet and amigurumi design work."

The results will undoubtedly be as weird, wonderful and irresistible to crochet as her creations so far, though perhaps with a hint of a British accent. We can't wait to see what else she creates.

Interview by Judy Darley

"I DRAW AND RE-DRAW A CHARACTER UNTIL I'M HAPPY, THEN I TURN IT INTO A PATTERN AND MAKE IT."



A FEW OF HER FAVOURITE THINGS

"If I'm not crocheting, I love to knit. But if we're not talking about yarn, I enjoy long walks and discovering new places around me. I also love baking, especially cakes and muffins, as well as watching science and nature

documentaries late at night – they are my favourites."

Turn to page 51 to find Ilaria's amigurumi pup. He's also the May star on our *Simply Crochet* calendar, illustrated by Ilaria. See www.besenseless.blogspot.co.uk





SKIRTING THE ISSUE

Make a beeline for Fran Morgan's super-stylish A-line, button-front skirt. It's a modern classic.

Denim skirt



YOU WILL NEED

- Rowan Handknit Cotton (100% cotton, 50g/85m), Ice Water (239)
See table for yarn quantities and measurements
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- Tapestry needle
- 10 small buttons

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

TENSION

19.5 sts and 10 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over treble crochet using a 3mm hook or size required to obtain tension (Stitch tension will be equivalent to 39 sts over 20cm)

ABBREVIATIONS

Front Post Quadruple Treble (FPqtr) Yrh 4 times, insert hook from front to back to front around post of st indicated, yrh and draw through st, *yrh and draw through 2 loops; repeat from * until there is one loop left on hook

For a full list, see page 92.

This oh-so wearable design nods to both 70s and 90s fashion, but has its feet firmly planted in the now. Add buttons you love and pair it with your favourite T-shirt for laid-back style. The clever front and back post treble stitches give the illusion of denim panels, but the skirt is actually worked in one single piece. Start stitching.

NOTES

Skirt is worked in one piece from the bottom up.

BUTTONHOLES

Buttonholes are worked over the first 7 sts of the row as follows:

Ch3 (counts as first tr throughout), 2tr, ch1, skip next tr, 3tr.

On the following row, work a tr into the ch-sp.

Work the first buttonhole on the 6th row (this will be a RS row), and then work a buttonhole row on every following 4th row.

SKIRT

Ch207 (217: 227: 237: 247: 257: 267).

Row 1 (WS) Ch3 (counts as first tr throughout), tr into 4th ch from hook, tr in each ch to end, turn.

[208 (218: 228: 238: 248: 258: 268) sts]

Row 2 (RS) Ch3, tr in each of next 6 sts, FPtr in next st, 21 (23: 23: 25: 26: 28: 30) tr, FPtr in next st, *24 (25: 27: 28: 29: 30: 31) tr, FPtr in next st**, repeat from * to



We used cute daisy buttons for a retro look. Metal buttons would keep things classic.

**, 48 (50: 52: 54: 58: 60: 62) tr, FPtr in next st, repeat from * to ** twice, 21 (23: 23: 25: 26: 28: 30) tr, FPtr in next st, tr in last 7 sts, turn.

Row 3 Work a tr in each tr of the previous row, and a BPtr in each post st of the previous row, turn.

Rows 2 and 3 set the pattern.

SHAPING

Row 4 (Decrease row) Cont in patt as set, working a tr2tog over the 2 sts before the 2nd and 3rd FPtr, tr2tog after the 3rd and 4th FPtr, tr2tog over the 2 sts before the 5th and 6th FPtr, tr2tog after the 6th and 7th FPtr (8 sts decreased).

[200 (210: 220: 230: 240: 250: 260) sts]

Work 5 rows in patt without shaping, remembering that on the second of these rows you will start the buttonhole sequence, as described above.

SIZE		8	10	12	14	16	18	20
TO FIT WAIST	cm	61	66	71	76	81	86	91
	in	24	26	28	30	32	34	36
TO FIT HIP	cm	86	91	97	102	107	112	117
	in	34	36	38	40	42	44	46
ACTUAL WAIST	cm	62	67	72	77	82.5	87	93
	in	24½	26½	28½	30½	32½	34½	36½
ACTUAL HIP	cm	91	96	101	106	111	116.5	121
	in	35¾	37¾	39¾	41¾	43¾	45¾	47¾
LENGTH	cm	43	43	43	43	43	43	43
	in	17	17	17	17	17	17	17
YARN	50g	8	9	9	10	10	11	11

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

Repeat the last 6 rows another 4 times, keeping the patt correct and continuing with the buttonhole sequence.

[168 (178: 188: 198: 208: 218: 228) sts]

Next row As Row 4.

[160 (170: 180: 190: 200: 210: 220) sts]

Work 1 row in pattern.

Repeat the last 2 rows another 4 times, do not fasten off.

[128 (138: 148: 158: 168: 178: 188) sts]

BELT LOOPS

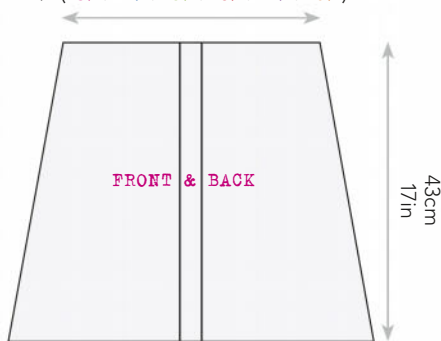
(RS) *Ss along to next FPtr, FPqtr around FPtr 3 rows below; repeat from * to last 7 sts, ss in each st to end.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

Position the buttons at the front, in line with buttonholes. Sew in place.

31 (33.5: 36: 38.5: 41: 43.5: 46.5)cm
12¼ (13¼: 14¼: 15¼: 16¼: 17¼: 18¼)in



(Hip) 45 (48: 50.5: 53: 55.5: 58: 60.5)cm
17¾ (18¾: 19¾: 21: 22: 23: 24)in



SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO WORK A FRONT POST TREBLE STITCH



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



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



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



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



VINTAGE PETALS

Brighten up your sofa with this pretty floral project designed by Emma Lamb.



Crochet designer Emma Lamb says: "Here is a fabulous oversized flower to get your hook into. The layers of pretty petals are crocheted in the softest Italian wool and cashmere blend yarn from Gomitoli's. This cushion cover will surely be a favourite to cuddle up against in your cosy reading corner or crocheting nook." Isn't it a beauty? It's got everything you could want from a cushion project – colour, texture, petals, granny trebles and a divine yarn. Perfect.



Flower cushion



YOU WILL NEED

- Gomitoli's Cashmere Lana 6ply (30% cashmere, 70% lambswool, 50g/107m), 3 balls of each: Yarn A Natural (10000), Yarn B Pink (10028)
 - 1 ball of each: Yarn C Paprika (10012), Yarn D Saffron Yellow (10008) and Yarn E Sky (10033)
 - A 4.5mm (US 7) hook
 - 4 buttons, 2cm (¾in) diameter
 - Cushion pad, 35cm (14in) square
 - Sewing needle and thread
- For yarn stockists, contact Gomitoli's www.gomitolis.com

TENSION

5 rounds of Back Panel measure 10cm (4in) square

MEASUREMENTS

35cm (14in) square

ABBREVIATIONS

Back Post half treble (BPhtr)

Yrh, starting from the back, insert hook from back to front to back around the post of st in row below, complete as a htr st

Spike double crochet (sdc)

Work a dc st in corresponding st in the row below next st, pulling yarn up level with current row

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

4-tr cluster (4-tr cl) As above, working () 4 times

For a full list, see page 92.

CUSHION FRONT PANEL

With Yarn A, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch4 (counts as tr, ch1), (tr, ch1) 6 times into loop, ss into third ch of beg ch-4. [7 tr, 7 ch-1 sps]

Round 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in first st, *2dc into ch-sp, dc into next st; repeat from * around omitting final dc, ss to first dc. [21 dc]

Round 3 Ch3 (counts as tr), (tr, ch1, 2tr, ch1) into st at base of ch-3, skip 2 sts, *(2tr, ch1) twice in next st, skip 2 sts; repeat from * around, ss in top of beg ch-3. [14 groups of (2tr, ch1)] **Fasten off.**

Round 4 Join Yarn C in any ch-sp, ch2, 3-tr cl into same ch-sp (counts as 4-tr cl), ch2, (4-tr cl, ch2) into each ch-sp around, ss to top of first cluster. [14 clusters, 14 ch-2 sps] **Fasten off.**

Round 5 Join Yarn A in any cluster, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in same cluster, 3dc in ch-sp, *dc in cluster, 3dc in ch-sp; repeat from * around, ss to first dc. [56 dc]

Round 6 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in first dc, ch4, skip 3 sts, *dc in next st, ch4, skip 3 sts; repeat from * around, ss to first dc. [14 ch-4 sps]

Round 7 Ch1 (does not count as st), (dc, htr, 4tr, htr, dc) into each ch-sp around, ss into first dc. [14 petals]

Fasten off.

Round 8 Join Yarn D between any 2 dc sts, working behind previous petals, ch1 (does not count as st), *BPhtr around next dc, ch5, skip petal; repeat from * around, ss to first st. [14 ch-5 sps]

Round 9 Ch1 (does not count as st), (dc, htr, tr, 3dtr, tr, htr, dc) into each ch-sp around, ss into first dc. [14 petals]

Fasten off.

Round 10 Join Yarn E between any 2 dc sts, working behind previous petals, ch1 (does not count as st), *BPhtr around next BPhtr of Round 8, ch6, skip petal; repeat from * around, ss to first st. [14 ch-6 sps]

Round 11 Ch1 (does not count as st), (dc, htr, tr, 4dtr, tr, htr, dc) into each ch-sp around, ss into first dc.

Fasten off.

Round 12 Join Yarn A between any 2 dc sts, working behind previous petals, ch1 (does not count as st), *BPhtr around BPhtr of Round 10, ch7, skip petal; repeat from * around, ss to first st. [14 ch-7 sps]

Round 13 Ch1 (does not count as st),



The front is worked in rounds from the centre outwards, with rows of petals in six shades.

(dc, htr, tr, 5dtr, tr, htr, dc) into each ch-sp around, ss into first dc.

Fasten off.

Round 14 Join Yarn B between any 2 dc sts and work as Round 12, with the BPhtr sts worked around the dc of Round 12.

Round 15 As Round 13.

Fasten off.

Round 16 Join Yarn C between any 2 dc sts, working behind previous petals, ch1 (does not count as st), *BPhtr around BPhtr of Round 14, ch8, skip petal; repeat from * around, ss to first st. [14 ch-8 sps]

Round 17 Ch1 (does not count as st), (dc, htr, tr, 6dtr, tr, htr, dc) into each ch-sp around, ss into first dc.

Fasten off.

Round 18 Join Yarn D between any 2 dc sts, working behind previous petals, ch1 (does not count as st), *BPhtr around BPhtr of Round 16, ch9, skip petal; repeat from * around, ss to first st. [14 ch-9 sps]

Round 19 Ch1 (does not count as st), (dc, htr, tr, 7dtr, tr, htr, dc) into each ch-sp around, ss into first dc.

Fasten off.

Round 20 Join Yarn A between any 2 dc sts and work as Round 18, with the BPhtr sts worked around the dc of Round 18.

Round 21 Ch1 (does not count as st), (dc, htr, tr, 8dtr, tr, htr, dc) into each ch-sp around, ss into first dc.

Round 22 Ch1 (does not count as st), *BPhtr around BPhtr of Round 20, ch5, from behind the work dc between 4th and 5th dtr sts of petal of previous

Flower cushion

round into foundation ch of Round 20, ch5; repeat from * around, ss into first st. [28 ch-5 sps]

Round 23 Ch1 (does not count as st), *5dc into each of next 2 ch-sps, 5htr into next ch-sp, (4tr, dtr) into next ch-sp, dtr into next st, (dtr, 4tr) into next ch-sp, 5htr into next ch-sp, 5dc into next ch-sp; repeat from * 3 more times, ss into first dc. [144 sts]

Round 24 Ch2 (does not count as st), htr into st at base of ch-2, htr into next 7 sts, *tr into next 9 sts, dtr into next 3 sts, (2dtr, ch2, 2dtr) into next st, dtr into next 3 sts, tr into next 9 sts**, htr into next 11 sts; repeat all from * twice more, repeat from * to ** once more, htr into next 3 sts, ss into first st.

Round 25 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr into next 21 sts, *(2dtr, ch2, 2dtr) into corner ch-sp, skip 1 st of previous round**, tr into next 38 sts; repeat all from * twice more, repeat from * to ** once, tr in each st to end, ss to top of beg ch-3.

Round 26 Ch3 (counts as tr), 2tr into st at base of ch-3, (skip 2 sts of previous round, 3tr into next st) 7 times, *(3tr, ch1, 3tr) into corner ch-sp, skip 3 sts of previous round, 3tr into next st**, (skip 2 sts of previous round, 3tr into next st) 12 times; repeat all from * twice more, repeat from * to ** once more, (skip 2 sts of previous round, 3tr into next st) 4 times, ss into top of beg ch-3.

Rounds 27-29 Round 26 sets the pattern for a traditional granny square, continue working 3tr between each group of tr and (3tr, ch1, 3tr) in each corner space for 3 rounds.

Fasten off.

BUTTON FLAP

Along one side of the front panel, with RS facing, join Yarn A in back loop only of 7th st from right-hand corner.

Row 1 Ch2 (does not count as st), tr into st at base of ch-2, tr into back loop of next 41 sts, turn.

Row 2 Ch2 (does not count as st), tr into each of next 42 sts, turn.

Row 3 As Row 2.

Fasten off.

CUSHION BACK PANEL

The back panel of this cushion is a one-colour, basic granny square crocheted as follows:

Using Yarn B, ch6, ss to first ch to join into a ring.

Round 1 Ch3 (counts as tr), (2tr, ch1) into ring, (3tr, ch1) 3 times into ring, ss into top of beg ch-3.

Round 2 Ch3 (3tr, ch1, 3tr) into next 3 ch-sps, (3tr, ch1, 2tr) into last ch-sp, ss into top of beg ch-3.

Round 3 Ss into side sp (between ch-3 and first tr of previous round), ch3 (counts as tr), 2tr into same sp, *(3tr, ch1, 3tr) into corner ch-sp**, 3tr into side sp; repeat all from * twice more, repeat from * to ** once, ss in top of beg ch-3.

Round 4 Ch3 (counts as tr), 3tr into next side sp, *(3tr, ch1, 3tr) into corner ch-sp**, 3tr into 2 side sps; repeat all from * twice more; repeat from * to ** once more, 2tr into last side sp, ss into top of beg ch-3.

Round 5 Ss into side sp, ch3 (counts as tr), 2tr into same sp, 3tr into next side sp, *(3tr, ch1, 3tr) into corner ch-sp**, 3tr into 3 side sps; repeat all from * twice more, repeat from * to ** once more, 3tr into side sp, ss into top of beg ch-3.

Rounds 6-18 Rounds 1-5 set the pattern for the basic granny square motif, continue in this way for Rounds 6-18.

Fasten off.

TO MAKE UP

Steam block the back and front panels to 34cm square.

EDGING

All edging sts are worked through corresponding sts and ch-sp of both front and back panels together.

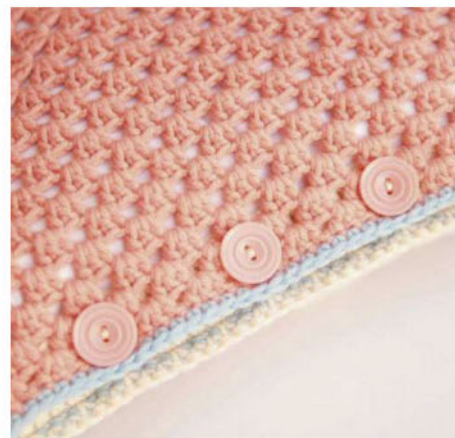
Lay panels, with WS facing, lining up the edges and work as follows:

Round 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc into next 5 sts, *3dc into corner ch-sp**, dc into next 54 sts; repeat all from * twice more, repeat from * to ** once more, dc into next 6 sts, dc into front loop of next 42 sts in front of button flap, ss into first dc.

Pull working loop through same sp just worked, ss to back of work, turn work and dc into 42 sts of back panel, ss into first edging st after button flap.

Fasten off.

Round 2 With front panel facing, join Yarn A in the first st after 3 sts of any



The back of the cushion is a basic granny square with matching buttons for fastening.

corner, ch1 (does not count as st), dc into next st, *(sdc into next st, dc into next 2 sts) 18 times, 3dc into next st**, dc into next 2 sts; repeat all from * twice more (working along the RS of the button flap only), repeat from * to ** once more, dc into the next st, ss into the first dc.

Fasten off and weave in loose ends.

TO FINISH

Sew buttons evenly to Button Flap, using the gaps in the Back Panel as buttonholes.

Insert cushion pad to finish.



This gorgeous cushion project is from the book *Crochet Home* by Emma Lamb, published by David & Charles (RRP £14.99). It contains 20 pretty,

vintage-inspired makes. Find it at www.stitchcraftcreate.co.uk or call 0844 880 5852.

COME AWAY WITH US!

JOIN US ON OUR FIRST HOLIDAYS...



Fancy the idea of getting some serious crafting time in? We know we do! What could be better than sharing a holiday with like-minded souls, taking time to crochet, seeing some gorgeous sights and perhaps even learning some new skills along the way? This year, we are very excited

to be working with Arena Travel on several holidays – see below for details. The trips to Yarndale and to Florence will have both knitting and crochet tutors (I'm so looking forward to being your crochet tutor!), so why not bring a friend? (It'll be fun for you both and save on single supplements too!) Come and join us – book your place today!

Sara

Editor,
Simply Crochet



FAROE

READER
HOLIDAY

INCLUDES ALL THIS...

- Travel dates 15th-22nd July
- Return flights Edinburgh – Vágar Airport (Faroe Islands)
- The company and expertise of tutor Juliet Bernard
- Knitting workshops with Juliet, with a lovely kit included!
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- Dinner on Days 1 and 7
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READER
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INCLUDES ALL THIS...

- Travel dates 23rd-26th September
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READER
HOLIDAY

INCLUDES ALL THIS...

- Travel dates 3rd-7th November
- Return flights London Heathrow-Pisa
- The company and expertise of tutors Kirstie McLeod and Carol Meldrum
- Knitting and crochet workshops with Kirstie and Carol, with a lovely kit included!
- 4 nights at the 4* Grand Hotel Baglioni on a bed and breakfast basis
- All visits as detailed in the itinerary
- Coach transfers throughout
- The services of an experienced Arena Travel Tour Manager

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To book or for more details, go to
www.arenatravel.com/florence
OR CALL 01473 660800

HOOK A STITCH

RIC RAC STITCH

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



BASIC RIC RAC STITCH PATTERN

Ch4.

Row 1 Tr in the fourth ch from the hook, (tr, ch1, tr) in same st, turn.

Row 2 Ch3, (2tr, ch1, tr) in ch-1 sp, turn. Rep Row 2 until piece is desired length. **Fasten off** and weave in ends.

WORKING WITH BEADS

Where instructed, place a bead as follows: Work stitch up until the final yrh, bring bead(s) up to the work, yrh (placing hook beyond bead), pull yarn through (bead will sit on WS of work). For a detailed walkthrough of this

beading technique, visit our blog at www.simplycrochetmag.co.uk

Patterns by Becca Parker.

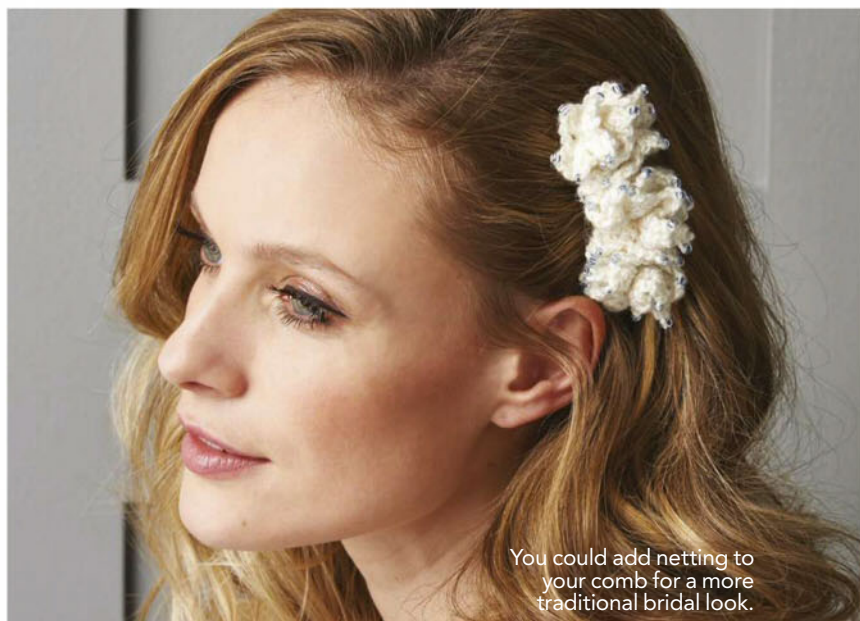
Turn the page for more creative ideas using this stitch pattern.



In luxurious silk yarn
studded with beads,
ric rac is the perfect
stitch for creating
bridal accessories.



Say 'I do' to beads, beads and more beads – they bring sparkle.



You could add netting to your comb for a more traditional bridal look.

WEDDING GARTER

The ribbon is your 'something blue'.

- BC Garn Silkbloom Fino (55% merino wool, 45% silk, 50g/200m), 1 ball of IX01 (this is enough for all 3 projects)
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- Seed beads, 1 pack of Debbie Abrahams size 6 in Ice Blue (this is enough for all 3 projects), visit www.debbieabrahamsbeads.co.uk
- Ribbon, pale blue, 0.5cm wide, 1m long
- Sewing needle

MEASUREMENTS
2x36cm (¾x14in)

GARTER LENGTH (MAKE 2)

Thread 68 beads onto yarn (34 for each length). Work Basic Ric Rac St Patt, placing 1 bead in third ch of every ch-3 so that both edges of the ric rac are beaded. Cont until piece meas 35cm or long enough to fit around thigh comfortably. **Fasten off** and weave in ends. Braid 2 pieces tog lengthways to interlock them and form a single flat length. Weave ribbon along centre of braid to form running sts. Trim ribbon, leaving ends long enough to tie a bow.

BEADED BRACELET

A delicate zigzag to adorn the wrist.

- BC Garn Silkbloom Fino (55% merino wool, 45% silk, 50g/200m), 1 ball of IX01 For yarn stockists, contact LoveCrochet 0845 544 2196 www.lovecrochet.com
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- Seed beads, 1 pack of Debbie Abrahams size 6 in Ice Blue
- 2 jump rings
- 1 bolt ring clasp and fastening loop
- Sewing needle and thread

MEASUREMENTS
22x33cm (8½x13in) laid flat

BRACELET

Thread 96 beads onto your yarn using a sewing needle and thread. Work Basic Ric Rac St Patt, placing 1 bead at the top of every tr st and placing 3 beads in third ch of every ch-3. Cont until bracelet meas 15cm or long enough to fit around wrist comfortably. **Fasten off** and weave in ends. Using pliers, attach 1 jump ring to each end of bracelet. Attach bolt ring clasp and fastening loop to one of the jump rings to create fastening.

FLORAL HAIR COMB

Add a crochet touch to a fancy 'do.

- BC Garn Silkbloom Fino (55% merino wool, 45% silk, 50g/200m), 1 ball of IX01
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- Seed beads, 1 pack of Debbie Abrahams size 6 in Ice Blue
- Hair comb, 6.5cm (2½in) long
- Needle and thread or strong glue

MEASUREMENTS
3 flowers will cover a hair comb measuring 6.5cm (2½in) long

FLOWER (MAKE 3)

Thread 45 beads onto your yarn (15 for each flower) using needle and thread. Work Basic Ric Rac St Patt, placing 1 bead in third ch of every alternate ch-3 so that only one edge of ric rac is beaded. Cont until piece meas approx 27cm. **Fasten off**, leaving a long tail of yarn for sewing up. Thread tail onto a needle and weave through points on the non-beaded edge of ric rac. Gather up to create flower shape and secure. Attach flowers to comb using strong glue, or wrap top of comb with thread and sew flowers onto thread base.



"I started to dream about having my own Etsy shop."



HOOKING FOR CASH



We speak to four enterprising hooksters who are making money from their crochet makes and patterns, and get the lowdown on how you could do the same, online or in print.

Your crochet may be a source of happiness, relaxation and satisfaction, but what if it could also provide you with part of your income? Annette Ciccarelli (www.myrosevalley.blogspot.co.uk) first considered selling patterns after witnessing the response to her Nordic Shawl design.

"Many of my readers went crazy for the Nordic Shawl when I wrote about it on my blog," she says. "I'd written a few tutorials and free patterns previously and thought I would write out the pattern."

A friend pointed out she had nothing to lose by putting a price on it, so she gave it a

go. "The Nordic Shawl became a huge success when I released it in 2013."

Crafter Becky Skuse set up an online shop in 2015. As a writer and editor, she was already designing patterns for magazines, as well as blogging at www.makemodo.wordpress.com. "People started asking about a particular pattern, but the magazine it had been published in wasn't available any more," she says. "I noticed my posts about this design were hugely popular, and then realised there was a demand for my patterns!"

This discovery strengthened Becky's resolve to make her patterns available to

buy. "I regularly post small free patterns on my blog, but the larger ones involve so much more of my time, I think it's reasonable to charge a fee. Craft designing isn't well paid, so earning a few extra pounds from each design helps to make my craft designing more sustainable."

Cécile Balladino decided to try selling her designs on Ravelry in 2012 after noticing increasing numbers of designers on there. "I hadn't much time for Ravelry, but I ventured into it just after the release of my second crochet book."

For regular *Simply Crochet* designer Hannah Cross, it all started with a passion

for baby blankets. "Back in 2011, I began designing my own baby blankets to give as gifts to friends and they were so well loved that everyone said I should try selling them," she recalls. "I didn't have a clue where to start but a friend suggested I go online as she had a successful online business selling handmade knickers!"

CHOOSE YOUR OUTLET

Taking your wares online is a great launch pad for your business. "I started selling on Etsy at first," says Hannah. "It's so user-friendly and I could sell my finished products there, too."

Annette also chose Etsy as her primary outlet. "I discovered Etsy when I was going through a manic patchwork phase. I surfed for fabric and Etsy was the most wonderful platform for purchasing fat quarters from small, charming sellers instead of going to the big commercial websites."

Annette began making blankets for friends and colleagues, then found

commissions coming her way. "I started to dream about having my own Etsy shop. Maybe this could be a way to make my hobby self-sufficient? And I did it. I opened my own Etsy shop and a dream came true."

Etsy seemed the natural choice for Becky, too. "It's so widely known and widely used by crafters," she comments. "It's the go-to website for handmade items and craft patterns. It's a safe platform for both sellers and buyers. I found the Etsy system really straightforward to use, which made the whole process easier – I think anyone could do it."

After a few sales on Etsy, Becky decided to try selling on Ravelry as well. "As a seller, the Ravelry system is a little clunky in comparison to Etsy, but it's fine once you've used it a few times," she says.

"Ravelry is a niche market, so my patterns are specifically reaching crocheters and knitters. Plus, there are no listing fees on Ravelry – on Etsy, you pay 20 cents to list an item for sale for three months, whether it sells or not. It's a small fee, but it does add up, especially if the item doesn't sell."

At present, Ravelry is Cécile's sole online outlet, though that may be set to change. "The French are not all used to Ravelry and I think Etsy might be easier for them. I

hope to open an Etsy store later in 2016."

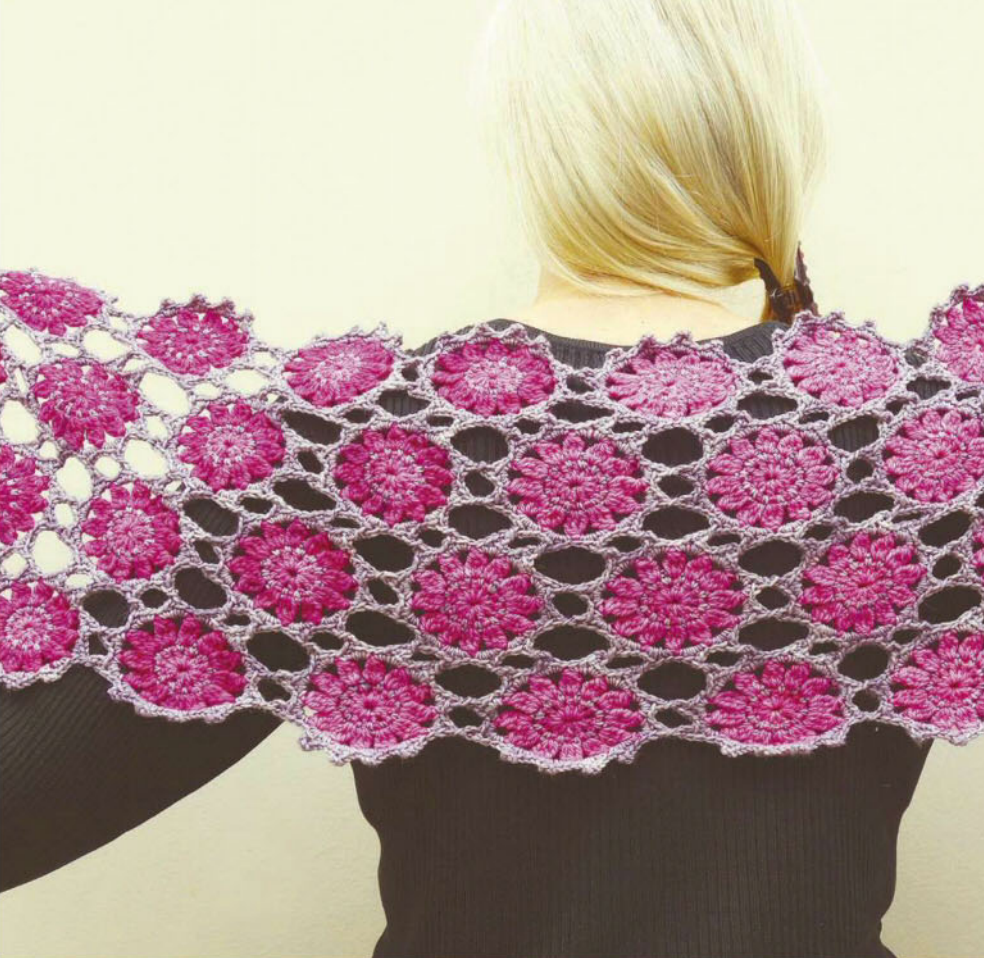
"ETSY IS THE GO-TO WEBSITE FOR HANDMADE ITEMS AND CRAFT PATTERNS."

PATTERNS OR PRODUCTS?

How you choose to showcase and make money from your crochet talents really depends on the time you have. "I gave up selling finished items quite quickly," Hannah admits, "because I was too busy



Opposite: Annette's oh-so enviable crochet workspace, photograph by Annette Ciccarelli. **This page, clockwise from left:** Becky's floral mitts designed for *Simply Crochet* and now available in her shop, photograph by *Simply Crochet*; Designer Becky Skuse, photograph by Becky Skuse; Bright basket blooms, photograph by Cécile Balladino.



This page, from left: Beautiful La Coquette shawl, photograph by Cécile Balladino; Annette's popular Nordic Shawl, photograph by Annette Ciccarelli.



designing and got bored of making the same thing over and over again."

Becky points out that selling made items swallows up time, which makes it difficult to price them reasonably. "I'm quite a slow maker, so it doesn't make sense for me to sell made items," she says.

Cécile began by selling finished items, but this quickly became a stressful process. "I like to do one-of-a-kind pieces and my customers wanted the same bags again and again. This kind of production was not very profitable for me."

There are plenty of real-world options for selling your patterns and products, too, from fairs to magazines. Hannah began

placing patterns with *Simply Crochet* not long after the title launched. "I sold a few finished products to a local boutique via Etsy, and the shop's proprietor then recommended me to *Simply Crochet*," she says. "I met the team and had no idea they wanted me to design – I thought they wanted me to make up samples!"

Currently, Annette only sells on Etsy, but she plans to have a My Rose Valley e-shop up and running soon. "I'll stock it with my patterns, Scandinavian quality yarn,

handmade creations and more," she says. "I do have a Ravelry page (search for Annette MB Ciccarelli or MyRoseValley) with my patterns, but no shop yet. This is also a project I'm currently working on to make my crochet patterns more available for the world of crafters."

In 2010, Cécile started her blog, www.gipsybazar.blogspot.co.uk. "Things moved fast after that – I was contacted by an editor to publish my first book and by the French magazine *Marie Claire Idées* to design a blanket."

"ENGAGING WITH PEOPLE IS A GREAT WAY TO GET KNOWN AND FIND NEW OPPORTUNITIES."

think you can underestimate the impact that social media (whichever platforms you choose to use) can have on your stores," says Hannah, who can be found at www.facebook.com/hanjanacrochet and @hanjanacrochet on Instagram. "Engaging with people and building your brand is a way to get known and find opportunities."

Despite her thriving blog, Annette is wary of the time social media can take up. "I like to have a balance with real life vs cyber life and therefore use only my blog,

HYPE AND PROFILE

It's crucial to consider your online profile when it comes to spreading the word about your crochet. "I don't

Instagram (@myrosevalley) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/MyRoseValley)," she says. "Instagram is a great marketing tool – people check it multiple times a day so it's easy to reach a high number of people with news of a new pattern release."

Annette finds blogging a wonderful way to build relationships with readers and customers. "The blog is where we chat and share stories and experiences," she says. "Sometimes we cry or laugh but mostly we share pretty, crafty, happy things. Those blog comments are my most precious feedback. Without social media, no one would know that I'm on Etsy or when I release a new crochet pattern."

Becky can't imagine having an online shop without also having a blog. "I can talk in more detail and in a more informal way about my designs, aims and inspirations – I think people like buying from a person, so my blog helps to personalise my shop."

Cécile believes blogging is secondary to a strong social media presence. "Social media has become an essential part of my business," she says. "I'm very active on social media and consider it part of the job." You can find her as @eclecticgipsy on both Twitter and Instagram.

THORNY DETAILS

The process of producing a useable pattern is the hardest part. Becky admits

she's a perfectionist: "It takes a lot of time to get a pattern to the point where I feel it's ready to go on sale – I have at least four drafts before the final version."

Annette is just as stringent. "Writing clear, understandable instructions and making sure it's all correct is not an easy job," she says. "I am always super-nervous before a new pattern release."

She reminds us, though, that "we're all human. We make mistakes and you can easily update a pattern later if you do find an error. It might be a bit of a fuss, but you can fix it."

Choosing a price is also difficult. "My strategy has been to look at the price of similar items and go for a similar price. I've lowered prices on items that haven't sold well and raised the price on items that have

sold well. But it's a constantly changing situation," explains Becky.

THE BIG PAY-OFFS

Aside from some pennies, opening a crochet business offers a myriad of benefits. Becky relishes knowing that other crafters are making her designs, "bringing my ideas to life in yarn or fabric – nothing compares to that excitement!"

The flexibility of being her own boss is the biggest delight for Cécile. "Selling my crochet designs allows me to share my time between several other activities, including designing, crocheting, taking pictures, travelling and meeting lovely people during my crochet classes," she enthuses.

For Hannah, the constant challenge is satisfying. "I love the freedom of designing

and that I've built a business with my own ideas," says Hannah. "I've learnt so much about other things along the way: about photography, graphic design, blog and website building, tax and accounts. But mostly, I love the people I've met who are now not just colleagues but friends, too."

Annette adores that moment when a pattern is complete. "I print it in full and lay it out on my desk to look at," she says. "In that second, I'm so proud of myself." She adds with a grin: "And of course, the sales. I would lie if I said I don't care about the sales. It makes you incredibly excited to see that people love what you design enough to spend money on your PDF pattern. Every sale is an honour."

Last but not least, Annette mentions how rewarding it is when people send her pictures of their finished versions of her creations or show them off via social media. "It's fantastic to see your own design being made across the world."

Written by Judy Darley.

"I DON'T THINK YOU CAN UNDERESTIMATE THE IMPACT SOCIAL MEDIA CAN HAVE."



This page, clockwise from left: Annette's vibrant crochet creations, photograph by Annette Ciccarelli; The Classic Cowl, photograph by Hannah Cross; Tempting crochet liquorice sweets, photograph by Becky Skuse.



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OFFER DETAILS: Q&A offer applies to Full Experience tickets purchased for Fri 16th September only. Tickets cost £29 + BF (usually £32 + BF). Max 500 tickets available, offer closes 31.05.2016 or when sold out. Q&A takes place at The Handmade Fair at 10.15am on Fri 16th September. For Sat & Sun tickets, quote CROCHET29 to get Full Experience tickets for £29 + BF (usually £32 + BF). A full selection of ticket types is available from thehandmadefair.com.

SOUND ASLEEP

Welcome a new addition with this beautiful blanket by Hannah Cross.



Baby blanket



YOU WILL NEED

- Rico Baby Classic 4ply (50% polyamide, 50% acrylic, 50g/220m), 5 balls of Yarn A White (001), 2 balls of Yarn B Ecru (003)

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

For yarn stockists, contact Rico www.rico-design.co.uk

TENSION

20 sts and 14 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over half treble crochet using a 3mm hook or size required to obtain tension

MEASUREMENTS

83x68cm (32x26in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

For a project that's destined to become a handmade heirloom, classic, calming shades are the order of the day. Raid your stash for a super-soft, machine-washable 4ply yarn that's easy to care for and oh-so cosy. Subtle stripes and a touch of texture make this sweet and simple blanket by Hannah Cross a pleasure to crochet.

NOTES

Ch1 at the beginning of each row does not count as a stitch throughout.

BLANKET

Using Yarn A, ch181 (a multiple of 3+1).

Row 1 (RS) Htr into 2nd ch from hook and each ch across, turn. [180 sts]

Row 2 Ch1, *htr in bl, htr, htr in fl; rep from * across, turn.

Row 3 Ch1, htr in bl of each st across, turn.

Row 4 Ch1, *htr, htr in fl, htr in bl; rep from * across, turn.

Row 5 Rep Row 3.

Row 6 Ch1, *htr in fl, htr in bl, htr; rep from * across, turn.

Row 7 Rep Row 3.

Rows 8-19 Repeat (Rows 2-7) twice, change to Yarn B at the end of Row 19.

Row 20 Ch1, dc in fl of each st, turn.

Row 21 Ch1, dc in bl of each st, turn.

Row 22 Ch1, dc in fl of each st, change to Yarn A, turn.

Row 23 Working in bl only: ch1, 3htr, *htr in next st, ch1, skip 1 st, htr in next st; rep from * to last 3 sts, 3htr, turn.

Row 24 Working in fl only: ch1, 3htr, *htr in next st, ch1, skip 1 st, htr in next st; rep from * to last 3 sts, 3htr, turn.

Row 25 Rep Row 23.

Row 26 Rep Row 24.

Row 27 Rep Row 23, change to Yarn B.
Rows 28-30 Repeat Rows 20-22, change to Yarn A.

Rows 31-35 Repeat Rows 23-27, change to Yarn B.

Rows 36-38 Repeat Rows 20-22, change to Yarn A.

Rows 39-43 Repeat Rows 23-27, change to Yarn B.

Rows 44-46 Repeat Rows 20-22, change to Yarn A.

Row 47 Rep Row 3.

Rows 48-65 Rep (Rows 2-7) three times.

Rows 66-89 Repeat Rows 23-46.

Row 90 Rep Row 3.

Rows 91-108 Rep (Rows 2-7) three



Working in the front or back loops only adds stripes of tactile texture to the blanket.

times.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

BORDER

Join Yarn A at any corner with RS facing.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1, htr in each st around with 3htr in each corner st, ss to first htr.

Round 2 Ch1, dc in bl of each st around with 3dc in each corner st, ss to first htr, change to Yarn B.

Round 3 Rep Round 1 in bl only.

Round 4 Rep Round 2.

Round 5 Rep Round 3.

Round 6 Rep Round 2.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

SAVE OR SPLURGE

For a more luxurious make, you could use the following yarn:

- Debbie Bliss Rialto 4ply (100% wool, 50g/180m), 7 balls of Yarn A White (01), 3 balls of Yarn B Stone (06)

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

When substituting yarn, always be sure to work up a swatch so that your tension matches that required for the pattern.



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VIBRANT YARNS

Six super yarns with exciting colour effects.

CHEVRON MOTIF

Ch18.

Row 1 (RS) Tr in 4th ch from the hook, 5tr, tr3tog over next 3 ch, 5tr, 2tr in last ch, turn.

Row 2 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr in st at base of ch, 5tr, tr3tog, 5tr, 2tr in last st, turn.

Row 3 As Row 2.

Fasten off and weave in ends.



USE CROCHET
CHEVRONS TO POINT
THE WAY



FREIA OMBRE SPORT

WEIGHT DK
CONTENT 100% wool
BALL 75g/200m
HOOK 4mm
RRP £20



This hand-painted pure wool yarn looks so stunning that it might take you a while to stop admiring it and start using it. Freia's Ombre Grande is a plump, single-ply yarn with a thick and thin quality and a slow variegation that creates a long colour

change. This makes it better suited to shawls than block or motif projects. There are 22 different colourways to choose from, each with a beautiful colour gradient that you'll love to stitch with.
www.loopknittingshop.com
020 7288 1160

RICO CREATIVE SPORT PRINT DK

WEIGHT DK
CONTENT 50% cotton,
 50% acrylic
BALL 50g/145m
HOOK 4mm
RRP £2.69



Rico's Creative Sport Print is a super-soft, stranded, cotton-blend yarn with an all-over splattered print effect. It's cool to the touch with a near-weightless feel, and provides fantastic stitch definition. The print is even throughout the yarn, so it will

give a consistent dappled look to your crochet creations – this makes it brilliant for vibrant baby makes and amigurumi alike. Each of the six summery shades has a clean white base and a zesty spray of colour on top.
www.rico-design.uk

SUBLIME SOPHIA

WEIGHT DK
CONTENT 39% bamboo-sourced viscose, 31% merino wool, 30% silk
BALL 50g/110m
HOOK 4mm
RRP £7.94



Sublime's new Sophia yarn is exquisite. The luxurious silk blend has a pleasing sheen and an elegant drape. It's a soft and smooth single-ply yarn that's easy to work with. Good stitch definition and short colour changes that

keep your on your toes are among Sophia's virtues, but the colourways will really steal your heart. Choose from six sophisticated options, all with subtle variegation.
www.sublimeyarns.com
01924 369666

CONWAY + BLISS LOLLI

WEIGHT DK
CONTENT 80% cotton,
 20% polyester
BALL 50g/120m
HOOK 3mm
RRP £3.99



Bold and fun, Lolly combines blocks of solid colour with snippets of eye-popping neon. It's a rounded yarn with a chainette construction that will give your makes elasticity. Conway + Bliss is part of the Debbie Bliss brand, so you can be sure it's

good quality. Lolly is available in 12 mouthwatering brights, each with fun pops of neon. The crisp cotton blend and breezy construction makes this yarn ideal for summer garments or baby projects.
www.designeryarns.uk.com
01535 664222

MIRASOL PIMA SPLASH

WEIGHT Aran
CONTENT 100% cotton
SKEIN 100g/200m
HOOK 5mm
RRP £11.95



Pima Splash, new from Mirasol, is another chainette yarn that's chock full of character. It's made with Peruvian cotton and the dreamy watercolour splashes are painted on by hand. The yarn feels light and airy, and comes in 10 dramatic shades,

each daubed with painterly strokes of technicolour. A crochet top in Pima Splash would be stunning. And if that's not enough to convince you, sales of Mirasol yarns benefit communities in Peru.
www.intercontinentalyarns.co.uk
01535 664222

STYLECRAFT SUNDAE DK

WEIGHT DK
CONTENT 50% premium acrylic, 50% cotton
BALL 100g/246m
HOOK 4mm
RRP £4.85



If you're after a good value DK yarn with playful colour options, Stylecraft's Sundae ought to be on your hook. The blend of cotton and acrylic makes it soft to the touch and easy to care for. When stitched, the yarn has

good drape and the four shades are tempting enough to be utterly deserving of their dessert-inspired names. The change in the variegation forms very subtle stripes.
www.stylecraft-yarns.co.uk
01535 609798

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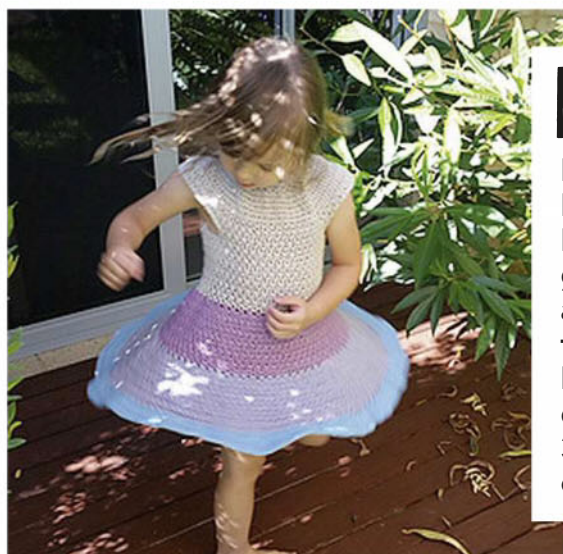
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SHOW US YOURS!

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



FOR TWIRLING

Reader and Ravelry user KatieLFielding told us "My Lucy loves this dress and is growing quickly, so a another bigger one is likely to be on the hook soon!" It's the Sundae Girl dress from issue 33, now available on Ravelry.



This month we asked you...

How long have you
been crocheting
for, and who
taught you?

"44 years – my Nanna Lil taught me. Started with granny squares, ended up progressing to lace doilies and table runners. She passed away when I was 20, but after all these years I have a small business crocheting – every time I sit down to work I think of Lilly."

Kate Pascoe via Facebook

GO CAMPING

▼ Denise Deer emailed us this pic of her cute caravan from issue 42. She said: "I've adapted the inside a little with a cupboard and TV and crocheted the curtains instead of using lace." Brill.

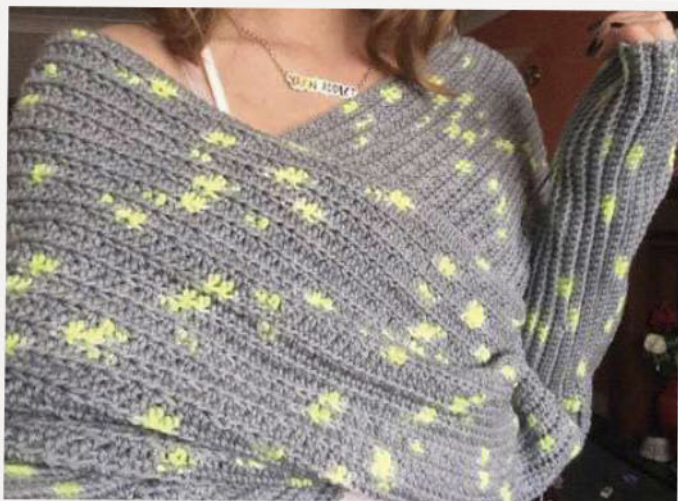


▲ Inventive crocheter @inmycottage hooked this cute and colourful Easter garland in the car on her way to Cornwall! What a fantastic way to use the little egg motif from our yarn review in issue 42. It's a fantastic on-the-go project. She shared this with us via Twitter.

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 23 June 2016. For all terms and conditions, and more information, visit www.simplycrochetmag.co.uk/competitionrules





POP OF COLOUR

We're amazed by this take on the wrapover top from issue 41 by Heather Young. She used her own gorgeous hand-dyed yarn to create a truly unique version of this design. We love those bursts of neon colour throughout. Missed this issue? See page 86 for info on our *Simply Crochet* back issues.

FROM CORNER TO CORNER

Didn't Chris Gill do wonders with this bunny blanket pattern from issue 42? Shared via Facebook.



WINNER!

TALK TO US!

-  Post a pic on our Facebook page facebook.com/simplycrochetmag
-  Tweet us @SimplyCrochet_ twitter.com/SimplyCrochet_
-  Add to our Finished Projects board ravelry.com/groups/simply-crochet
-  Use the hashtag #SCtreblemaker instagram.com/simplycrochetmag

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.



WINNER!

HELLO MONTY
Don't you just adore this sweet version of Monty the Mammoth from issue 41? He was lovingly made by @beau_tripp.



LITTLE BUNNY
Super hookster @kerritaylor47 stitched the Sleepy Bunny blanket from issue 42 like a pro. We think it looks utterly fab in purple.



CROCHET NEST
These eggs with embroidery are by reader @red.haired.amazona.crochets. She was inspired by our embellished eggs in issue 42. So creative.



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FREE TRIAL*



MORE EMBROIDERY

Grab a hook and some yarn – it's easy to work more embroidery stitches onto your crochet fabrics.

WHAT SORT OF STITCHES COULD I WORK?

We'll show you how to work these five embroidery stitches.

Even after you fasten off, there's still plenty of creative potential for your crochet, with a bit of embroidery know-how. In previous workshops, we've looked at the basics of embroidery and various stitches. This time, we'll show you how to work five more embroidery stitches to add a splash of colour, 3D texture and all sorts of shapes to your crochet projects. You can use your new skills to create our floral sampler on page 83.



HOW DO I WORK STEM STITCH?

Master this stitch and you can create various lines and shapes.

Stem stitch is a simple technique that looks great when used to outline shapes, especially the curves of letters and petals.

To start off, weave the thread or yarn in and out of the back of the crochet fabric so that it's secure. Then bring the needle through from the back to the front of the fabric, where you want to start the line.

Step 1 *Insert the needle two stitches to the right and bring it back to the front one stitch to the left. You can do this in one movement of the needle. Make sure you keep the yarn below the needle so each new stitch sits above the previous one.

Steps 2 & 3 Repeat from * to make more stitches.

Step 4 Continue in this way, working more stitches in any direction to create your outline.



HOW DO I WORK STRAIGHT STITCH?

A quick and easy way to create embroidered details.

Straight stitch is one of the easiest to learn and a great way to create simple embroidered details on any project. It's very handy for creating small details and features on crochet toys.

To start off, weave the yarn or thread in and out of the back of the crochet fabric so it's secure.

Step 1 *Bring the needle from the back to the front of the fabric, where you want to start the straight stitch. Push the needle into the fabric one stitch (or more) away from here, in any direction, to make a line.

Steps 2 & 3 Repeat from * to make more straight stitches.

Step 4 Continue in this way, working more straight stitches to create the effect you want. Try working them parallel (as shown) or out from a central hole to make a flower shape.



HOW DO I WORK SATIN STITCH?

A nifty way to form filled shapes and motifs.

Satin stitch is similar to straight stitch, but each line sits much closer together. This makes satin stitch ideal for creating all sorts of filled shapes and motifs. You may find it helps to use a tapestry needle with a sharp tip, to pierce the crochet fabric.

To start off, weave the yarn in and out of the back of the crochet fabric so that it's secure. Then bring the needle through from the back to the front of the fabric, where you want to start.

Step 1 Push the needle into the fabric one stitch (or more) away to make a straight line. You can work in any direction.

Steps 2 & 3 Bring the needle from back to front, slightly to the right of the previous stitch. Push it down again slightly to the right of the previous stitch.

Step 4 Repeat Steps 2 & 3 to make more satin stitches.



HOW DO I WORK FEATHER STITCH?

A simple, decorative stitch, regularly used to form stems and foliage.

Full of flair yet surprisingly easy, feather stitch creates a pretty effect that's handy for foliage. You can work them in any direction, as large as you like, but you need to work it from the top of a series downwards.

To start off, weave the yarn or thread in and out of the back of the crochet fabric so it's secure.

Step 1 Bring the needle to the front. *Insert the needle two sts to the right and bring it out one st to the left and one st down. Do this in one movement of the needle, keeping the thread under the needle.

Step 2 Pull the thread gently to create a v-shaped stitch.

Step 3 Repeat from * working to the left this time.

Step 4 Continue in this way, working to the right, then the left. Secure the loop of the final feather stitch with a small stitch.



HOW DO I WORK A BULLION KNOT?

A clever way to add texture to your crochet fabric.

Bullion knots are similar to French knots, but you can make them as large as you like. They can be worked in any direction, over as many stitches as you like, adding more coils to make the knot longer.

To start off, weave the yarn in and out of the back of the crochet fabric so that it's secure.

Step 1 Bring the needle to the front of the fabric, where you want the knot. Insert the needle two sts away and bring it out at the first hole – do this in one movement of the needle but don't pull through yet.

Step 2 Neatly coil the yarn around the needle several times. Hold the coil gently as you pull the needle through the coils.

Steps 3 & 4 Push the needle back into the second hole to finish the knot. Repeat Steps 1-4 to make more bullion knots.



Embroidered hoop

YOUR NEXT STEPS!

Hook a simple square and embellish it with all the new stitches you've learnt.



SEW IN LOVE

Becky Skuse's sweet sampler hoop will have you falling head-over-heels for embroidery.

Embroidered hoop



YOU WILL NEED

- DMC Natura Just Cotton (100% cotton 50g/155m), 1 ball of Glacier (87), small amounts of: Rose Soraya (32), Turquoise (49), Crimson (61), Pistache (13), Acanthe (81)
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- Embroidery hoop, approx 20cm diameter
- Dressmakers pins
- A blunt-tip, large-eyed tapestry needle

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

TENSION

22 sts and 24 rows to 10cm (4in) square over dc using 3mm hook or size required to achieve stated tension

MEASUREMENTS

Background piece measures 25cm (10in) square, to fit into a 20cm diameter hoop

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

Designer Becky Skuse says: "With a bit of embroidery know-how, it's easy to create colourful 3D blooms on any crochet project. This sampler is full of the joys of spring and although it looks complex, it's easy to build up. Start with the heart outline, then add the larger flowers and finish with finer details, like the stems and tiny blossoms to add depth. Soon you'll have your own embroidery masterpiece."

NOTES

You can use any size of embroidery hoop, you just need to adjust the background piece to fit. To do this, adjust the number of chains in your foundation ch to create a length wide enough to fit your hoop, plus approx 5cm to give you some extra fabric to wrap around the back of the hoop.

C BACKGROUND FABRIC

Using Glacier and a 3mm hook, ch55.

Row 1 Ch1 (does not count as a st throughout), dc into each ch to end, turn. [55 dc]

Row 2 Ch1, dc into each dc to end, turn. Rep Row 2 until piece is large enough to fit embroidery hoop, approx 25cm. **Fasten off** and weave in ends. Remove outer section of embroidery hoop. Place background piece on your work surface and place inner hoop centrally over the top. Cut a long piece of Glacier yarn (approx 50cm) and use it to lace the background piece around the inner hoop. To do this, sew from one side of the background to the opposite side and pull fairly tightly – rep, moving around the piece until all sides are secure around the inner hoop. Carefully replace outer hoop around it.

EMBROIDERY

Draw a heart shape the size you want onto a piece of paper, then cut it out. Place it centrally at the front of your background piece and pin in place. Work stem stitch around the paper shape. Remove the pins. Sketch onto your paper heart shape where you'd like to place your flowers and use this as a guide to the positioning of your flowers. Make as many flowers as you like using your choice of colours.

STRAIGHT STITCH FLOWER

Use 2 complementary shades – decide



It's best to use the boldest colour in your palette to stitch the outline of the heart.

which yarn colour you want to be more prominent and use the other colour first. Work straight sts across 4 holes, starting each st from a central hole and moving around in each direction – rep to work 16 sts in total. Rep with second shade, which will be more prominent.

BULLION KNOT FLOWER

Work 6 petals using bullion knots. To form each petal, work a bullion knot across 3 holes – you will need to wrap the yarn around the needle tip approx 10 times. For best results, work each knot with the tip pointing towards the centre of the flower.

SATIN STITCH FLOWER

Work 5 petals using satin stitch. To form each petal, work 4 satin stitches across 3 holes, working out from the same central hole each time. Make sure the satin stitches sit side by side rather than on top of each other.

STEMS

Using Pistache, work stems for each flower, from the top downwards. Begin each stem with a straight stitch, then *work a feather st, then work a straight st; rep from * as required. Work the sts over as many holes as you like. Add extra stems, as desired, to fill space – then add a blossom to the top as described below.

BLOSSOMS

Work a blossom at the top of any extra stems using satin stitch. To form each blossom, work 4 satin stitches between 2 holes. For extra decoration, add extra blossoms as desired to some of the other stems, at the tip of a feather st. Carefully secure all embroidery ends.

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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.

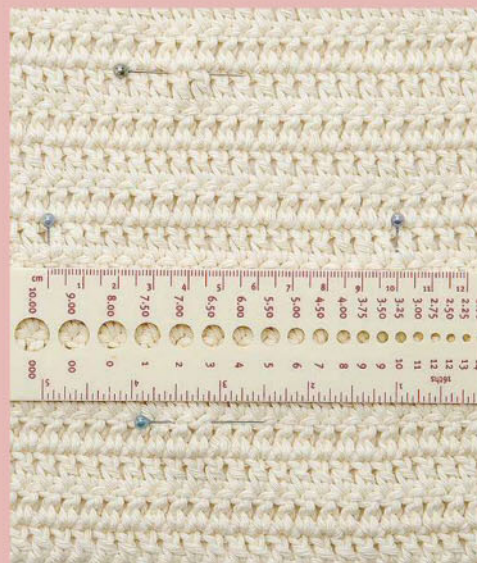
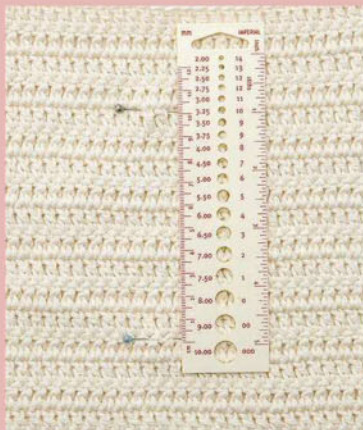


4 A useful variation on the dc seam, the dc and chain seam is used when less bulk and/or greater flexibility is needed. Work 1 double crochet and 1 chain alternately.

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.



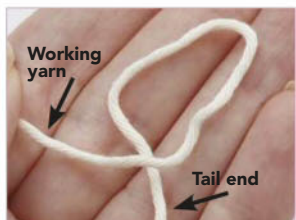
1 Make a foundation ring and work the t-ch (3ch for treble sts). Work a treble st as usual, but insert hook into centre of ring. For treble sts, yrh, insert hook into ring.



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.



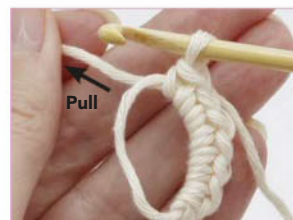
1 To start a Magic Loop, don't make a slipknot. Instead, make a loop with the yarn, leaving a tail around 10cm long. Make sure the tail end is under the working yarn.



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.

©Stephanie Lau, www.allaboutami.com

Abbreviations

across	to end of the row	htr	half treble
alt	alternate/alternating	htr2tog	work 2htr together
approx	approximate(ly)	in next	sts to be worked into
beg	beginning		the same stitch
bl	insert hook under	inc	increase
	back loop only	LH	left hand
BPtr	Back Post treble:	lp(s)	loop(s)
	yrh, starting from the	meas	measures
	back, insert hook	p or pc	picot
	from back to front to	patt(s)	pattern(s)
	back around post of	pm	place marker
	st in row below,	prev	previous
	complete as treble st	rem	remain(s)/remaining
ch(s)	chain/chain stitch(es)	rep	repeat
ch-sp(s)	chain space(s)	RH	right hand
ch-	refers to ch made	rnd(s)	round(s)
	previously, eg. ch-3	RS	right side
cl(s)	clusters	sk	skip
4-tr cl	(yrh, insert hook in	sp(s)	space(s)
	sp/st, yrh & pull up	ss	slip stitch
	loop, yrh & draw	st(s)	stitch(es)
	through 2 loops) 4	tbl	through back loop
	times, inserting hook	t-ch(s)	turning chain(s)
	in same sp/st, yrh &	tog	together
	draw through all	tr	treble crochet
	loops on hook	tr2tog	(yrh, insert hook in
cont	continue		next st, yrh and pull
dc	double crochet		up loop, yrh and
dc2tog	(insert hook in next		draw through 2
	st, yrh and draw a		loops) twice, yrh and
	loop through) twice,		draw through all
	yrh and draw through		loops on hook
	all 3 loops on hook	ttr	triple treble crochet
dec	decrease	WS	wrong side
dtr	double treble crochet	yoh	yarn over hook
dtr2tog	work 2dtr together	yrh	yarn round hook
fl	insert hook under	*	work instructions
	front loop only		immediately foll *,
foll/folls	following/follows		then rep as directed
FPtr	Front Post treble:	[] or ()	work or repeat all
	work in opposite way		instructions in the
	to BPtr		brackets as directed

Crochet hook conversions

UK	METRIC	US
14	2mm	–
13	2.25mm	B/1
12	2.5mm	–
–	2.75mm	C/2
11	3mm	–
10	3.25mm	D/3
9	3.5mm	E/4
–	3.75mm	F/5
8	4mm	G/6
7	4.5mm	7
6	5mm	H/8
5	5.5mm	I/9
4	6mm	J/10
3	6.5mm	K/10½
2	7mm	–
0	8mm	L/11
00	9mm	M/13
000	10mm	N/15

Which hook do I use?

Hook size	UK yarn weight
2.5-3.5mm hook	4ply yarn
3.5-4.5mm hook	double knitting yarn
5-6mm hook	aran yarn
7mm and bigger	chunky yarn

UK/US conversions

UK		US	
chain	ch	chain	ch
slip stitch	ss	slip stitch	ss
double crochet	dc	single crochet	sc
half treble	htr	half double	hdc
treble	tr	double	dc
double treble	dtr	treble	tr
triple treble	ttr	double treble	dtr

HOW TO GET A PERFECT FINISH

To prevent your hard work unravelling once you've finished crocheting, fasten the end off carefully.



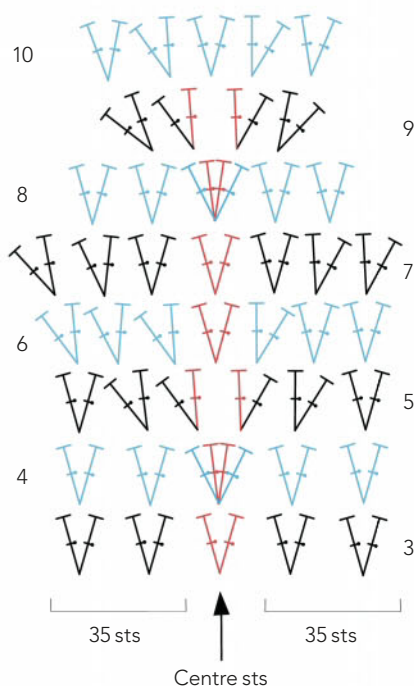
Complete the final stitch, then cut the yarn about 15cm from the work. Pull it through the last loop on the hook and pull to close the loop. Thread the yarn tail onto a tapestry needle and weave into the back of the work. Most crochet items don't need a lot of blocking, but cotton lace work usually does. To do this, carefully pin out the item with rust-proof pins, mist with a water spray and leave to dry naturally.

CHARTS & DIAGRAMS

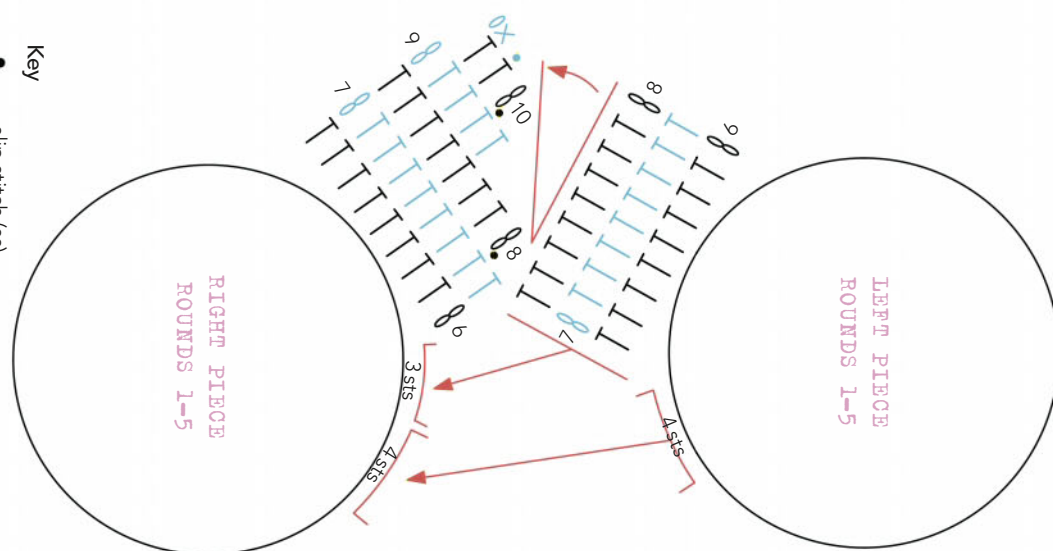
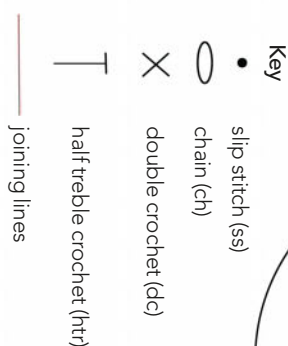
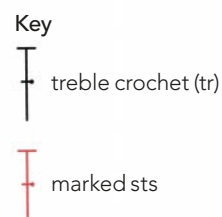
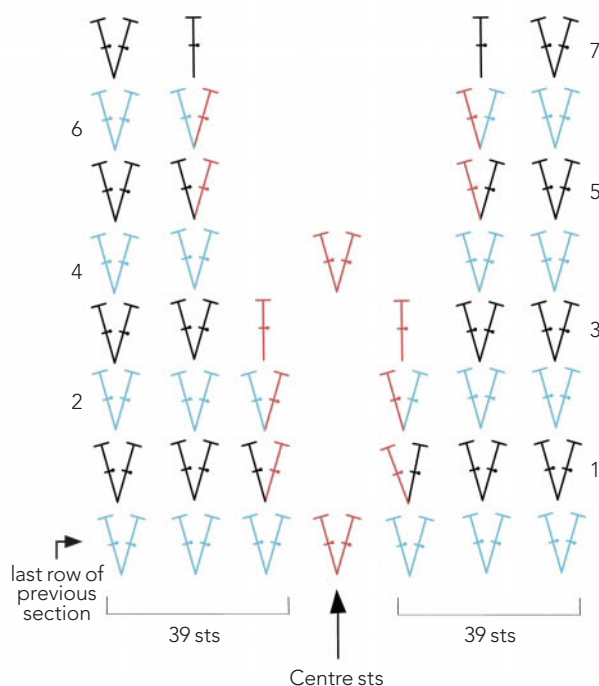
Here are the extra bits you'll need to make the sleeveless hooded top and Kokeshi dolls this month.

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SHAPE BACK



SHAPE TOP



KOKESHI DOLLS P22 - HAIR



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MAKE A MOTIF

GO FOR MARIGOLD

Stitch Lucy Croft's pretty flower shape.



Join your BLOOMS
to MAKE A SHAWL



MAKE A MOTIF



YOU WILL NEED

- DROPS Fabel Print (75% wool, 25% polyamide, 50g/205m), Sunset Print (310)

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

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

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

Get your next colour fix with variegated sock yarn. This pretty 4ply in sunset hues is the perfect match for Lucy Croft's lacy flower motif. Why not join your delicate blossoms to make a summery shawl?

SPECIAL STITCHES

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

5-tr cluster As above but repeat () section 5 times, yrh and draw through all loops on hook

HEXAGON MOTIF

Make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as a st), (dc into loop, ch5) 5 times, dc into loop, ch2, tr in first dc to join. [6 ch-5 sps]

Round 2 (Ch5, ss to next ch-5 sp) 5 times, ch2, tr in top of tr in Round 1 to join.

Round 3 (Ch7, ss to next ch-5 sp) 5 times, ch3, dtr in top of tr in Round 2 to join. [6 ch-7 sps]

Round 4 (Ch7, ss to next ch-7 sp) 5 times, ch3, dtr in top of dtr in Round 3 to join.

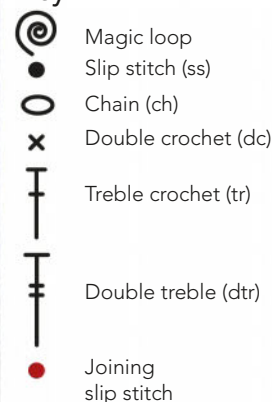
Round 5 Ch4 (counts as tr, ch1), (tr, ch1) 4 times in sp created by ch-3 and dtr, *(tr, ch1) 8 times in next ch-7 sp; repeat from * 4 more times, (tr, ch1) 3 times in sp created by ch-3 and dtr, ss to third ch of beg ch-3 to join.

Fasten off.

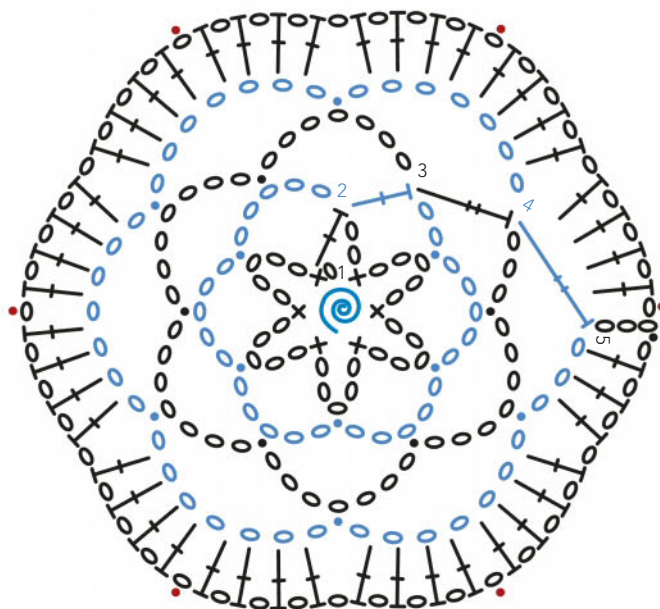
TO JOIN

Join the motifs while working Round 5, by replacing the 4th ch of each repeat with a ss to the corresponding ch on the next motif.

Key



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





Simply Crochet

HOOKED ON HANDMADE

NEXT ISSUE

Camper van projects

Doughnut cushion

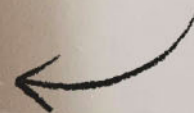
Gardening ideas

Baby dungarees

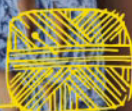
Irish crochet

And more...

BREEZY COVER-UP



ON SALE THURS 26 MAY





MY BOUQUET

HanJan Crochet designer Hannah Cross shares a precious project and the meaning behind it.

Without doubt, my favourite crochet item is the bouquet I made for our wedding. It's so special because every element of it signifies so much about me, my life, my creativity, my family, my husband and our relationship. It's a mixture of crochet roses (probably the simplest pattern I've ever designed), paper roses made from old music scores (music is almost as important to me as crochet), buttons and beads from my grandmother's collection, and vintage brooches from both sides of my family.

It means so much to me because it was my way of being able to tell everyone who I am and what I love. I also love it because my husband knew nothing about it until the big day and the first thing he said to me when I arrived at the altar was: "Your bouquet is amazing!" (He also said that I looked lovely, too, of course!)

My mum gave me all the buttons, beads and brooches for the bouquet

from my grandmother's tin of treasures. It was special because my grandmother, who we have sadly missed since I was little, taught my mother her craft skills and then she taught me. The last memory I have of my grandmother was of craft – we spent the day together sewing a skirt and top for one of my dolls. It was in a flower print and we added a lace edging. I still have it and will treasure it forever.

I knew from the start that I wanted the bouquet to be cream and beige, but I used lots of different yarns because I wanted it to have lots of different texture. Is it terrible that I can't remember what stitches I used? As I was making it, I thought that I really ought to write it down but I didn't. After about 50 flowers, I stopped counting my stitches. It then became very freeform and I think it was better for it. I love the fact that it's a one-off and even if I tried, I don't think I could ever make another one the same.

Find Hannah at www.hanjancrochet.com

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ISSUE FORTY-THREE

Go retro and hook monochrome makes inspired by 1960s style and stitch a stunning tunic dress. Plus, there are shawls galore, a cute TOFT dinosaur and we learn about miniature crochet from the experts. There's a sweet cupcake frock for a little one, too.

SEE OUR BACK
ISSUE PROJECTS IN
DETAIL ON RAVELRY
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ISSUE FORTY-TWO

Easter makes, a fab geometric poncho, broomstick crochet and a cute mini caravan to stitch.



ISSUE FORTY-ONE

Beautiful blanket wrap, a woolly mammoth, all about craftivism and spike stitch.



ISSUE FORTY

Retro rainbow makes, a bobble jumper, amigurumi otters and clever crochet cables.



ISSUE THIRTY-NINE

Marvellous mesh stitch, modern lace projects for your bedroom and a sweet crafty doll.



ISSUE THIRTY-EIGHT

Festive Scandi makes, a stunning red cardigan and a cute amigurumi nutcracker bear.



ISSUE THIRTY-SEVEN

Super-chunky gift ideas, yummy textured stitches, an amigurumi fox, and British wool.



ISSUE THIRTY-SIX

Fabulous Fair Isle vest, cosy tweed, long wave stitch, a lacy top, and a Halloween kitty.



ISSUE THIRTY-FIVE

Chunky cotton makes, back to school projects, fruity bags and an amigurumi fox.



ISSUE THIRTY-FOUR

Crochet beach essentials, a bright mandala to wear, an ice-cream doll, and a lacy shawl.



ISSUE THIRTY-THREE

Modern doilies, filet crochet, a sweet girls' dress, a lacy cardigan, cat, and neon brights.



ISSUE THIRTY-TWO

Wedding ideas, Granny Square top, girls' cardigan, sweet socks, cushion, and cute mermaid toy.



ISSUE THIRTY-ONE

Retro-style makes for your home, popcorn stitch and a shawl. Hook lacy fairy wings, too.



ISSUE THIRTY

Granny treble top, a silky shawl, baby blanket, backpack, two cushions, and amigurumi whale.



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AMIGURUMI

UNDER THE SEA



Simply
Crochet

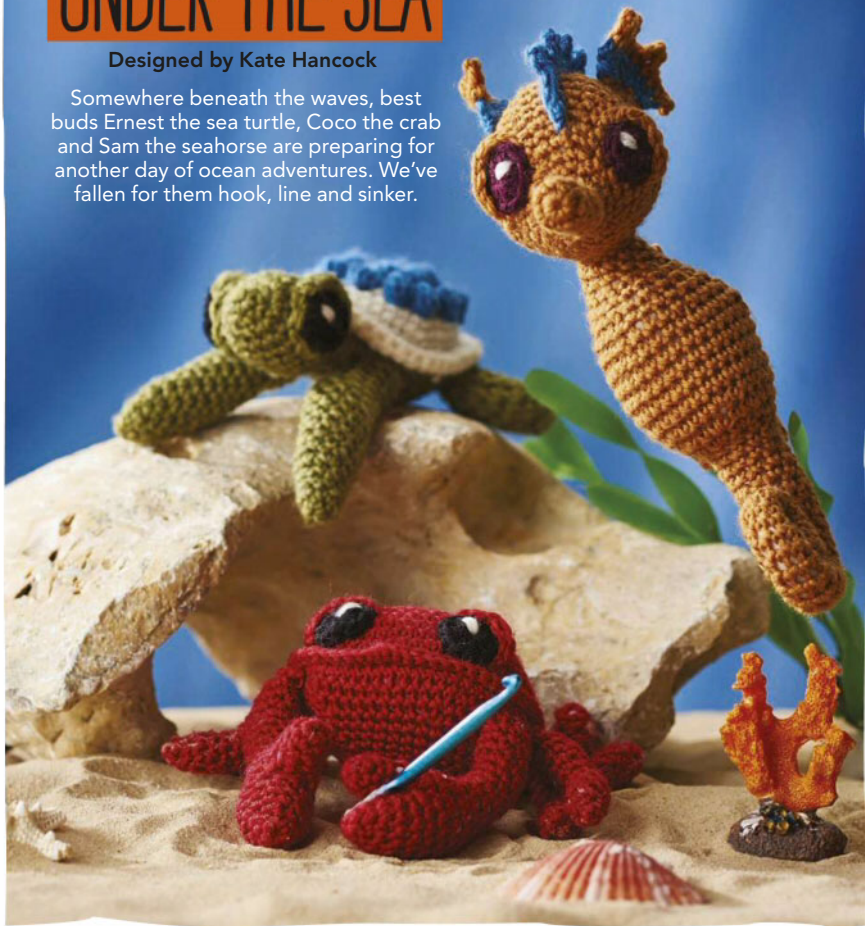
FEELING A
BIT CRABBY?



UNDER THE SEA

Designed by Kate Hancock

Somewhere beneath the waves, best buds Ernest the sea turtle, Coco the crab and Sam the seahorse are preparing for another day of ocean adventures. We've fallen for them hook, line and sinker.



With FRIENDS LIKE
THESE, WHO NEEDS
ANEMONES?





COCO THE CRAB

Isn't this the cutest crustacean you've ever laid eyes on? Grab your hook and make it snappy.



Amigurumi toys



IMPROVE
YOUR SKILLS



DK
WEIGHT



3.5MM
HOOK

YOU WILL NEED

- Wendy Merino DK
(100% superwash merino wool,
50g/116m), 1 ball of:
Yarn A Persian Red (2352)
- Small amount of black and white
yarn for the crochet eyes
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- Polyester toy stuffing
- Stitch markers

TENSION

Tension is not critical for this project

MEASUREMENTS

16cm (6.5in) across from leg tip to
leg tip

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92 of
Simply Crochet magazine

NOTES

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



PINCER ARM (MAKE 2)

The pincers are made in 2 parts. Make the first claw, fasten off, then make the 2nd claw, joining it to the first claw during Round 6.

FIRST CLAW

Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.

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

Rounds 2-3 Dc in each dc around.

Fasten off.

SECOND CLAW

Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.

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

Round 2 Dc in each dc around.

Round 3 2dc in each dc around.

[12 sts]

Rounds 4-5 Dc in each dc around.

Round 6 Dc in next dc, dc in next 5



Amigurumi toys

dc of first claw, dc2tog over last dc and st edge of first claw, dc2tog over the st edge of 2nd claw and next dc on 2nd claw, dc in next 10 dc on 2nd claw. [18 sts]

The first and 2nd claws are now joined and worked as one.

Round 7 Dc in each dc around. [18 sts] Stuff pincer and cont to stuff as you go.

Round 8 (Dc2tog, dc in next dc) 6 times. [12 sts]

Round 9 Dc in each dc around.

Round 10 (Dc2tog, dc in next dc) 4 times. [8 sts]

Rounds 11-15 Dc in each dc around.

Round 16 Dc2tog, dc in next dc, 2dc in each of next 2 dc, dc in next dc, dc2tog. [8 sts]

Rounds 17-19 Dc in each dc around.

The pincer arm is now flattened to close. Dc in next 2 dc, pinch the top of the pincer closed and dc through both the next dc and the last dc made, cont to work 3 more dc across top of arm, working through 2 sts at a time to close the gap. [4 sts] **01** (image overleaf)

Fasten off and weave in ends.

LEG (MAKE 8)

Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) 4dc into loop. [4 sts]

Round 2 Dc in each dc around.

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

Rounds 4-7 Dc in each dc around. Stuff the leg lightly and continue to stuff as you go.

Round 8 (Dc2tog) twice, 2dc in next 2 dc. [6 sts]

Rounds 9-12 Dc in each dc around. Pinch top of Leg closed and dc through both loops of next dc and last dc of Round 12, work 2 dc across top of leg through 2 sts at a time to close gap. [3 sts]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

BODY

The Body is worked from the top of the shell to the belly.

Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.

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

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

Round 3 (Dc in next dc, 2dc in each of next 2 dc) 3 times. [15 sts]

Round 4 (Dc in next 2 dc, 2dc in

Amigurumi toys



each of next 2 dc, dc in next dc) 3 times. [21 sts]

Round 5 (Dc in next 3 dc, 2dc in each next 2 dc, dc in next 2 dc) 3 times. [27 sts]

Round 6 (Dc in next 4 dc, 2dc in each of next 2 dc, dc in next 3 dc) 3 times. [33 sts]

Round 7 (Dc in next 5 dc, 2dc in each of next 2 dc, dc in next 4 dc) 3 times. [39 sts]

Round 8 (Dc in next 4 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next 4 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next 3 dc) 3 times. [45 sts]



Round 9 (Dc in next 5 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next 4 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next 4 dc) 3 times. Mark the 44th st with a stitch marker. [51 sts]

Round 10 (Dc in next 6 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next 4 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next 5 dc) twice, dc in next dc. **Fasten off**, leaving rem sts unworked. [39 sts]

Re-join your yarn at the st marked earlier. This is now beg of round.

Rounds 11-12 Dc in each dc around. [55 sts]

Amigurumi toys



In next round, the legs and pincers are joined to the body. Starting from the back, join 4 Legs and first Pincer, then work the front and join 2nd pincer and last 4 legs. It is important to take care that the bends in each Leg are facing in the correct direction when working the next round. Place a stitch marker in the front loop of the first st of Round 12, to indicate where to re-attach for the Shell Edge later.

Round 13 Working through the back loops only, dc in next 3 dc,



then place a Leg in front of the shell, with the Leg pointing toward the back of the crab, *work the next 3 dc through both the dc loops of the Leg and the back dc loops of the Body, joining them both tog.

02 Rep from * for 2nd leg. Place 3rd Leg pointing toward the front of the crab and **work the next 3 dc through the Leg and back loops on the Body. Rep from ** for 4th Leg. Place a Pincer arm pointing forward and work next 4 dc through both the arm and the back

Amigurumi toys

loops on the body. Dc in next 17 dc. Place a Pincer arm pointing forward and work the next 4 dc through both the arm and the back loops on the Body. Join the next 4 Legs in the same way as first 4, with 5th and 6th Leg pointing toward the front and 7th and 8th pointing toward the back, then dc in rem 3 dc. [55 sts] **03**

Round 14 Dc in next 14 dc, dc2tog, dc in next 4 dc, dc2tog, dc in next 11 dc, dc2tog, dc in next 4 dc, dc2tog, dc in next 14 dc. [51 sts]

Round 15 (Dc in next 2 dc, dc2tog, dc in next 9 dc, dc2tog, dc in next 2 dc) 3 times. [45 sts]

Round 16 (Dc in next 2 dc, dc2tog, dc in next 7 dc, dc2tog, dc in next 2 dc) 3 times. [39 sts]

Dc in the next dc and then cont to Round 17. Move your st marker to the first st of Round 17, marking the new beg of the round.

Round 17 (Dc2tog, dc in next 9 dc, dc2tog) 3 times. [33 sts]

Round 18 (Dc2tog, dc in next 7 dc, dc2tog) 3 times. [27 sts]

Round 19 (Dc2tog, dc in next 5 dc,

dc2tog) 3 times. [21 sts]

Stuff the Body firmly and cont to stuff as you go.

Round 20 (Dc2tog, dc in next 3 dc, dc2tog) 3 times. [15 sts]

Round 21 (Dc2tog, dc in next dc, dc2tog) 3 times. [9 sts]

Round 22 (Dc2tog, dc in next dc) 3 times. [6 sts] **Fasten off**, leaving a long tail. Thread yarn tail onto a needle, pass through final 6 sts and gather up. Stitch closed firmly.

SHELL EDGE

The Shell edge is created by working a round of dc in the open front loops of Round 12. With the top of the shell facing you, re-join Yarn A at the st marked earlier.

Round 1 (RS) Dc in next 27 dc, 3dc in next dc, dc in next 27 dc, ss to the first dc to join. [57 sts] **04**

Fasten off.

EYE (MAKE 2)

Using black yarn, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch2 (counts as htr), 11htr into loop, ss to top of beg



ch-2 to join. [12 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

FIRST EYELID

Using Yarn A, ch7.

Row 1 (RS) Dc into 2nd ch from hook, htr in next ch, tr in next ch, htr in next ch, dc in next ch, ss into last ch.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

SECOND EYELID

Using Yarn A, ch7.

Row 1 (RS) Ss into 2nd ch from hook, dc in next ch, htr in next ch,

tr in next ch, htr in next ch, dc into last ch.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

TO MAKE UP

Use the image and the 3 dc in Shell Edge as a guide for the centre of face. Sew Eyes to Head, 5 dc apart, with bottom edge of eyes resting against the Shell Edge.

Sew Eyelids on making sure to curve them around Eyes.

Using white yarn, embroider 3 small straight sts to form a highlight on each Eye. Weave in loose ends.



ERNEST THE SEA TURTLE

Won't you help this shy ocean
explorer come out of his shell?

Amigurumi toys



IMPROVE
YOUR SKILLS



DK
WEIGHT



3.5MM
HOOK

YOU WILL NEED

- Wendy Merino DK (100% superwash merino wool, 50g/116m), 1 ball of Yarn A Apple Green (2373), 10g of Yarn B Birch (2365), 5g of Yarn C Oasis (2389)
- Small amount of black and white yarn for the crochet eyes
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) crochet hook
- Polyester toy stuffing
- Stitch marker

MEASUREMENTS

13cm (5in) from nose to back

ABBREVIATIONS

5-tr cluster (Yrh, insert hook in st indicated, yrh and pull up loop, yrh and draw through 2 loops) 5 times, inserting hook in same st each time, yrh, draw through all 6 loops on hook. For a full list, see page 92 of *Simply Crochet* magazine.

NOTES

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

C

HEAD

Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.

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

Round 2 Dc in each dc around.

Round 3 2dc in each dc around. [12 sts]

Round 4 2dc in each of next 6 dc (this will become top of the Head), dc in each of next 6 dc. [18 sts]

Rounds 5-9 Dc in each dc around.

Round 10 (Dc2tog, dc in next dc) 6 times. [12 sts]

Round 11 Dc in each dc around, ss to first dc to join. **Fasten off.** Stuff the Head. The opening will become the neck edge to attach to Body.

BODY

Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.

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

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Round 2 2dc in each dc around.

[12 sts]

Round 3 Dc in each dc around.

Round 4 (2dc in next dc, dc in next dc) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 5 Dc in each dc around.

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

Round 7 Dc in each dc around.

Round 8 (2dc in next dc, dc in next 3 dc) 6 times. [30 sts]

Round 9 Dc in each dc around.

Round 10 (Dc2tog, dc in next 3 dc) 6 times. [24 sts]

Round 11 Dc in each dc around.

Round 12 (Dc2tog, dc in next 2 dc) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 13 Dc in each dc around.

Round 14 (Dc2tog, dc in next dc) 6 times. [12 sts]

Round 15 Dc in each dc around.

Round 16 Dc in each dc around, ss to first dc to join. **Fasten off**, leaving a long tail. Stuff the Body.

EYE SOCKET (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch2 (counts as htr), 11htr into loop. [12 sts]

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

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

EYE (MAKE 2)

Using black yarn, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch2 (counts as htr), 11htr into loop, ss to top of beg ch-2 to join. [12 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

FIRST EYELID

Using Yarn A, ch7.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in 2nd ch from hook, htr in next ch, tr in next ch, htr in next ch, dc in next ch, ss into last ch. **Fasten off**, leaving a long tail.

SECOND EYELID

Using Yarn A, ch7.

Row 1 (RS) Ss in 2nd ch from hook, dc in next ch, htr in next ch, tr in next ch, htr in next ch, dc into last ch. **Fasten off**, leaving a long tail.

SHELL

The shell involves a colour change in the cluster sts. These are not



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stated in pattern below but you will need to change to Yarn C for every 5-tr cluster st. Change back to Yarn B for all other sts. To change colour smoothly, start your cluster in Yarn C but when you have your 6 loops left on the hook, yrh with Yarn B and pull through all 6 loops on hook to complete the st. When making colour changes, drop the yarn you are not using to back of work and pick it up again when you need it, being careful not to leave it too loose or pull it too tight when starting with it again. You will have tails running behind work, but they won't be seen in the finished piece because they'll be on the inside.

Using Yarn B, make a magic loop.

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

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

Round 3 (2dc in next dc, 5-tr cluster in next dc) 6 times. [18 sts]

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

Round 5 (2dc in next dc, 5-tr cluster in next dc, dc in next dc, 5-tr cluster

in next dc) 6 times. [30 sts]

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

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

Rounds 8-11 Dc in each dc around.

Round 12 Dc in each dc around, ss to first dc to join. **Fasten off**, leaving a long tail. Roll up edge of shell so it rests on top of shell at Round 8. Sew in place using long tail.

FRONT FLIPPER (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) 4dc into loop. [4 sts]

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

Rounds 3-4 Dc in each dc around.

Round 5 (2dc in next dc, dc in next dc) 4 times. [12 sts]

Rounds 6-13 Dc in each dc around. Stuff Flipper lightly and cont to stuff as you go.

Rounds 14-15 Dc2tog twice, dc in next 3 dc, 2dc in each of next 2 dc, dc in next 3 dc. [12 sts]

Round 16 Dc2tog twice, dc in rem 8 dc. [10 sts]

Round 17 Dc2tog twice, dc in rem

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6 dc, ss to first dc to join. [8 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Stuff Flipper lightly.

BACK FLIPPER (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.

Round 1 4dc into loop. [4 sts]

Round 2 Dc in each dc around.

Round 3 2dc in each dc around.

[8 sts]

Round 4 Dc in each dc around.

Round 5 (2dc in next dc, dc in next dc) 4 times. [12 sts]

Rounds 6-9 Dc2tog twice, dc in next 3 dc, 2dc in next 2 dc, dc in next 3 dc, ss to first dc to join.

[12 sts] **Fasten off**, leaving a long tail. Stuff Flipper lightly.

TO MAKE UP

Using the image as a guide, sew Head to Body along neck edges. Sew Eyes firmly into Eye Sockets. With the point of nose on the lower half of the Head, place Eye Sockets so the centres are between Rounds 7 and 8, on either side of the Head. Sew them on firmly. Sew the Eyelids on, making sure to curve



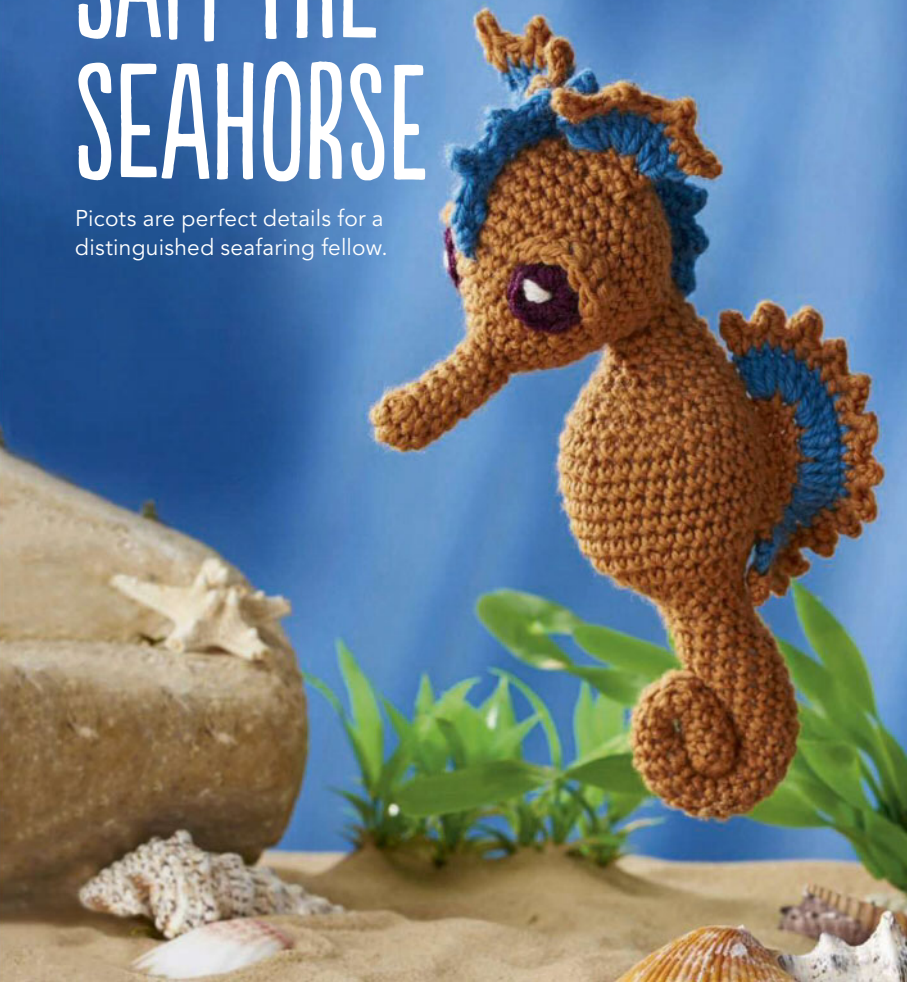
them around the eyes. Using white yarn, embroider 3 small straight sts to form a highlight on each Eye.

Using the image as a guide and Round 14 as a starting point, st Front Flipper to lower half of Body. Rep on opposite side for second Front Flipper.

Using Round 6 as a starting point, st Back Flipper to lower half of Body. Rep on opposite side for second Front Flipper. Place Shell on top of Body and sew on firmly. Weave in any loose ends.

SAM THE SEAHORSE

Picots are perfect details for a distinguished seafaring fellow.



Amigurumi toys



IMPROVE
YOUR SKILLS



DK
WEIGHT



3.5MM
HOOK

YOU WILL NEED

- Wendy Merino DK
(100% superwash merino wool,
50g/116m), 1 ball of Yarn A Cobnut
(2397), 5g of Yarn B Oasis (2389)
- Small amount of coloured and
white yarn for the crochet eyes
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- Polyester toy stuffing
- Stitch marker

TENSION

Tension is not critical for this project

MEASUREMENTS

20cm (8in) from tip of ears to tail

ABBREVIATIONS

Picot Ch3, ss to third ch from hook
For a full list, see page 92 of
Simply Crochet magazine.

NOTES

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

C

HEAD

The Head is worked from the snout to the back.

Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.

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

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

Round 3 (Dc2tog) 3 times, dc in
next 3 dc. [6 sts]

Rounds 4-9 Dc in each dc around.
Stuff the snout firmly and continue
to stuff as you go.

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

Round 11 Dc in each dc around.

Round 12 (2dc in next dc, dc in
next dc) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 13 Dc in next dc, 2dc in
each of next 2 dc, dc in next 6 dc,
2dc in each of next 2 dc, dc in next



3 dc, 2dc in each of next 2 dc, dc in next 2 dc. [24 sts]

Round 14 Dc in each dc around.

Round 15 Dc in next dc, (2dc in next dc, dc in next dc) twice, dc in next 6 dc, (2dc in next dc, dc in next dc) twice, dc in next 3 dc, (2dc in next dc, dc in next dc) twice, dc in next 2 dc. [30 sts]

Round 16 Dc in each dc around.

Round 17 Dc in next dc, (2dc in next dc, dc in each of next 2 dc) twice, dc in next 6 dc, (2dc in next dc, dc in each of next 2 dc) twice, dc in next 3 dc, (2dc in next dc, dc

in each of next 2 dc) twice, dc in next 2 dc. [36 sts]

Rounds 18-20 Dc in each dc around.

Round 21 Dc in next 3 dc, (dc2tog, dc in each of next 2 dc) twice, dc in next 6 dc, (dc2tog, dc in each of next 2 dc) twice, dc in next 3 dc, (dc2tog, dc in each of next 2 dc) twice. [30 sts]

Round 22 Dc in next 3 dc, (dc2tog, dc in next dc) twice, dc in next 6 dc, (dc2tog, dc in next dc) twice, dc in next 3 dc, (dc2tog, dc in next dc) twice. [24 sts]

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Round 23 Dc in next 3 dc, dc2tog twice, dc in next 6 dc, dc2tog twice, dc in next 3 dc, dc2tog twice. [18 sts]

Round 24 (Dc2tog, dc in next dc) 6 times. [12 sts]

Round 25 (Dc2tog) 6 times, ss to first dc to join. [6 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail. Finish stuffing. Thread the yarn tail onto a needle, pass through final 6 sts and gather up. Repeat and then stitch closed firmly.

BODY

The Body is worked from the tip of the tail to the neck. Leave a long tail at the start for sewing up later. Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.

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

Rounds 2-11 Dc in each dc around. Stuff the tail lightly and continue to stuff as you go.

Round 12 2dc in next dc, dc in next 5 dc. [7 sts]

Rounds 13-15 Dc in each dc around.

Round 16 2dc in next dc, dc in next 6 dc. [8 sts]

Rounds 17-19 Dc in each dc

around.

Stuff more firmly from here onward.

Round 20 2dc in next dc, dc in next 7 dc. [9 sts]

Rounds 21-23 Dc in each dc around.

Round 24 2dc in next dc, dc in next 8 dc. [10 sts]

Rounds 25-27 Dc in each dc around.

Round 28 2dc in next dc, dc in next 9 dc. [11 sts]

Rounds 29-31 Dc in each dc around.

Round 32 2dc in next dc, dc in next 10 dc. [12 sts]

Round 33 Dc in each dc around.

Round 34 Dc in next 2 dc, (2dc in next dc) 6 times, dc in next 4 dc. [18 sts]

Round 35 Dc in next 2 dc, (2dc in next dc, dc in next dc) 6 times, dc in next 4 dc. [24 sts]

Round 36 (2dc in next dc, dc in next 3 dc) 6 times. [30 sts]

Rounds 37-41 Dc in each dc around.

Round 42 (Dc2tog, dc in next 3 dc) 6 times. [24 sts]

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Round 43 Dc in each dc around.

Round 44 Dc in next 3 dc, (dc2tog, dc in next dc) 6 times, dc in next 3 dc. [18 sts]

Round 45 Dc in each dc around.

Round 46 Dc in next 3 dc, (dc2tog) 6 times, dc in next 3 dc. [12 sts]

Rounds 47-48 Dc in each dc around.

Round 49 Dc in next 2 dc, ss in next 8 dc, dc in next 2 dc. [12 sts]

Round 50 Dc in next 2 dc, ss to next st. **Fasten off**, leaving a long

tail and rem sts unworked.

EYE (MAKE 2)

Using coloured yarn (we used burgundy), make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch2 (counts as htr), 11htr into loop, ss to top of beg ch-2 to join. [12 htr]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

FIRST EYELID

Using Yarn A, ch7.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in 2nd ch from hook,



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htr in next ch, tr in next ch, htr in next ch, dc in next ch, ss into last ch. **Fasten off**, leaving a long tail.

SECOND EYELID

Using Yarn A, ch7.

Row 1 (RS) Ss into 2nd ch from hook, dc in next ch, htr in next ch, tr in next ch, htr in next ch, dc into last ch. **Fasten off**, leaving a long tail.

MANE

Leave a long tail at the start for sewing up later.

Using Yarn B, ch21.

Row 1 (RS) Ss into 2nd ch from hook, ss in next ch, dc in next 18 ch, turn. [20 sts]

Row 2 Picot, dc in first dc, (dc in next dc, picot, dc in next st) 9 times, (dc, picot, ss) in last st.

[20 dc and 11 picots]

Fasten off. The end where you fasten off will become the front of the Mane later on.

DORSAL FIN

Leave a long tail at the start for sewing up later.

Using Yarn A, ch7.

Row 1 (RS) Dc into 2nd ch from hook, dc in next 5 ch, turn. [6 sts]

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc in first dc, dc in next 4 dc, 2dc in last dc, turn. [8 sts]

Fasten off Yarn A.

Row 3 Join Yarn B in first st, ch3 (counts as tr), 2tr in st at base of ch-3, 3tr in each of next 7 dc, turn. [24 sts] **Fasten off** Yarn B.

Row 4 Join Yarn A in first st, picot, dc in first dc, (dc in next dc, picot, dc in next dc) 11 times, (dc, picot, ss) in last dc. [24 dc and 13 picots] **Fasten off.**

PECTORAL FIN (MAKE 2)

Leave a long tail at the start for sewing up later.

Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.

Row 1 3dc into loop, turn. [3 sts]

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each dc across. [3 sts]

Fasten off Yarn A.

Row 3 Join Yarn B in first st, ch3 (counts as tr), 2tr in st at base of ch-3, 3tr in each of next 2 dc. [9 sts]

Fasten off Yarn B.

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Row 4 Join Yarn A in first st, picot, dc in first dc, (dc in next 2 sts, picot, dc in next st) twice, dc in next dc, (dc, picot, ss) in last dc.
[9 dc and 4 picots] **Fasten off.**

TO MAKE UP

Using the image as a guide, sew the Eyes to the Head, with the centres between Rounds 14 and 15, and the edges 6 dc apart. Sew the Eyelids on, making sure to curve them around the Eyes. Using white yarn, embroider 3 small straight sts to form a highlight on each Eye. Place the Head on top of the neck edge, with the back of the neck resting along Round 19 of the Head. Sew on firmly.

Place the Mane on the Head with the start of the foundation chain (the back of the Mane) resting at the base of the neck.

Pin the Mane in place so that it runs from the centre of the neck to the centre of the face.

Sew the Mane on, starting at the tip of the first picot, sewing along the foundation chain and ending at tip



of last picot, between the Eyes.

Pin the Pectoral Fins along Round 21 of the Head, either side of the mane. Sew them on firmly.

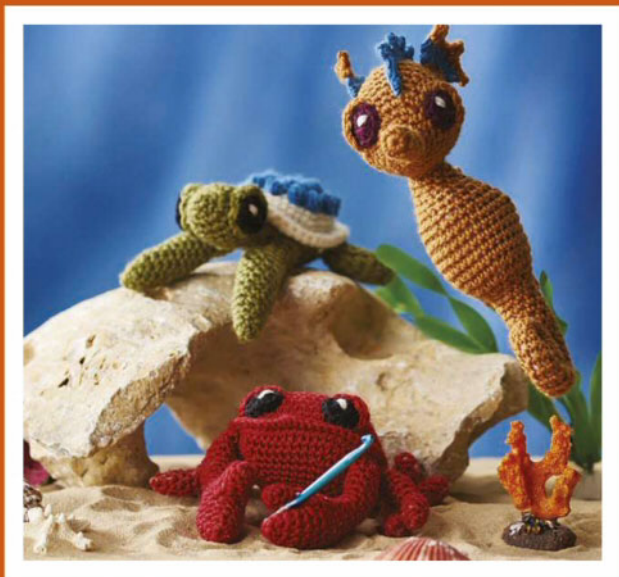
Sew the Dorsal Fin in place on the lower back.

Curl up the tail and sew in place.

Weave in any loose ends.



TURTLEY
AWESOME!



Under the Sea by Kate Hancock.
Presented with issue 44 of *Simply Crochet*.
Printed in the UK.

Simply
Crochet

