

Simply Crochet

GRANNY BUNTING P26

HOOKED ON HANDMADE

LADDER
STITCH

Hook a top with
drape & sparkle

SHINE
BRIGHT
SUMMER MAKES
YOU'LL ADORE

BREEZY
COVER-UP!

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PATTERNS
INSIDE

HAPPY CAMPER

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Simply Crochet

HOOKEO ON HANDMADE

We're getting in the holiday spirit this month, dreaming of crocheting flowers for our hair and accessories for our camper van. There's also a cushion and bootees that are good enough to eat, gifts to make your dad's day and must-hook wardrobe updates. Hello sunshine!

Simply Crochet

ISSUE FORTY-FIVE

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

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54 THINK PINK



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GRanny Bunting p20

GET SET
FOR SUMMER

I can't wait for my annual dose of festivals, and that's why I love the camper van ideas on p16. This shoot was a lot of fun, too, parked in a field with six dogs trying their best to photobomb the pictures!

Fast food meets crochet this issue, in Twinkie Chan's fun doughnut cushion (p58) and our teeny tiny burger booties (p74w). And with Father's Day coming up, the men's waistcoat by Ruth Maddock and Nicki Trench's iPad cosy are a great way to show your dad how much he means to you.

Sara

Sara Huntington, Editor

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CONTRIBUTORS

WHO YOU'LL FIND IN THIS MONTH'S PAGES...



ANN MANCINI-WILLIAMS

Ann is the creative force behind the sunny striped triangles tunic on p32. With over 30 years of crochet experience, Ann's Glamour4You blog and shop is full of yarny goodness.



KATE HANCOCK

Amigurumi designer Kate has hooked up a veritable menagerie of toys. We chat to this talented designer over on page 52, and meet her adorable badger, bunny, sloth and more.



NICKI TRENCH

Ever wondered which of their creations designers craft for themselves? Turn to page 98 for Nicki's favourite gadget cosy, and hook a similar one for yourself from her pattern on p61.



MARY (AKA MARY'S AMILAND)

Italian designer Mary is the clever crocheter behind Mary's Amiland. Her makes are inspired by nature and this issue she created the adorable amigurumi teddy bear Oliver on p40.

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS

Patricia Castillo, Twinkie Chan, Lucy Croft, Hannah Cross, Judy Darley, Helen Dorritt, Anne Egan, Becky Garratt, Kat Goldin, Sara Huntington, Ruth Maddock, Becca Parker, Kristi Simpson, Becky Skuse, Louise Smith

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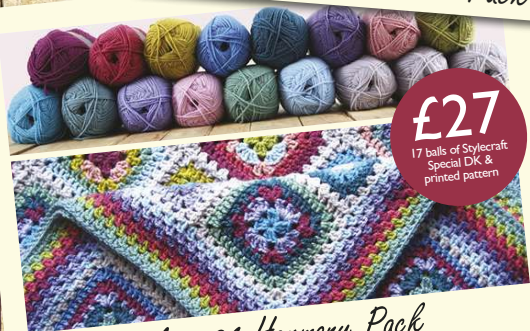
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HOOKED

IDEAS ♥ INSPIRATION ♥ ACCESSORIES ♥ WEBSITES ♥ EVENTS ♥ STUFF



MEET THE ORIGINAL MAKERS

Pop 5 June in your diary – it's the date of this year's GrandFest. The London festival organised by the Royal Voluntary Service gives experienced makers the chance to pass their super skills on to the next generation. Masterclasses this year include crochet (of course), bread making, basket weaving, wet felting, spinning and more. See www.grandfest.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk





IN THE MOOD

■ Fancy getting involved in a cool crochet project to support mental health awareness? Girl on Purl Action needs your help with their Moody Octopus Project. Submit a crocheted mood square (more details at www.girlonpurlaction.co.uk) by 25 June and your square will become part of the octopus's legs. The completed critter will be on display at MakeFest 2016 in Liverpool. Post your square to Hobo Kiosk, GOPA, 9 Bridgewater Street Liverpool, L1 0AR.



This year, we've teamed up with specialist get-away mavens Stitchtopia Holidays and our sister magazines *Simply Knitting* and *The Knitter* to put together an exciting trio of creative reader trips. How about joining us for some amazing knitting in the Faroe Islands in July, a trip to must-visit yarn event Yarnale in September, or a spot of sightseeing and crochet in Florence in November? Turn to page 48 for more details about these three brilliant breaks. You can book your place now by visiting www.arenatravel.com or call 01473 660800. We're packing our cases.

THE CROCHET CIRCLE

When we heard that two Brit yarn crafters were setting up a podcast dedicated to crochet, we were very excited. Crochet designer and technical editor Lynne Rowe and her pal Fay Dashper-Hughes of www.knitit-hookit-craftit.com get together every month for a friendly natter. They review yarns, crochet books and magazines, swap WIP stories and even interview some top yarn industry types. Be sure to listen along at www.thecrochetcircle.podbean.com. New episodes of The Crochet Circle launch on the first Friday of every month.

WOOL AND THE GANG

Super-cool, London-based yarnsters Wool and the Gang (www.woolandthegang.com) have released a collection of crochet projects for baby, and guess what? They're totally adorable. Bold colours, chunky yarns and simple construction methods make these designs perfect for beginners. There are 17 cute things to hook up, including toys, accessories, garments and a very sweet blanket. And each design is available as a kit so you can get going right away. Perfect.





GET A WRIGGLE ON

Wow. Indie dyer Skein Queen (www.skeinqueenyarns.co.uk) has introduced some new lovelies to her collection and they're nothing short of wonderful. Wriggle (pictured) is a scrummy merino 4ply in dazzling hues and Tweedino is a Donegal/merino combo with tweedy nepps. Love indie yarns? Turn to page 76 to check out our special review.

TRY IT TEACHING KIDS

Is a little one you know keen to join in with your favourite hobby? Here are our tips.

- 1 **SET THE SCENE**
Allow lots of time and make sure there's plenty of light.
- 2 **GO BIG**
Start out with chunky yarns and large hooks.
- 3 **BACK TO BASICS**
If they're struggling with a hook, try finger crochet first.
- 4 **SENSE OF ACHIEVEMENT**
Pick a simple project that's easy to complete, such as a necklace, bracelet or keyring.
- 5 **A POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE**
Be patient, give lots of encouragement and praise, and success will ensue!

ZOOMIGURUMI 5

The latest pattern book in the Zoomigurumi series is out now and features 15 amigurumi cuties, including Alicia the Alpaca. Find *Zoomigurumi 5* at www.amigurumipatterns.net



Amigurumi photograph by JWD Photography

INSPIRING BOOKS

PIXEL CROCHET

Hannah Meur (£11.99, Search Press)
Get your geek on with these awesome 8-bit designs. There are cushions, blankets and more to make, plus heaps of cute icon charts for you to try. The simple patterns are made up of granny squares, and there are 101 designs to choose from.



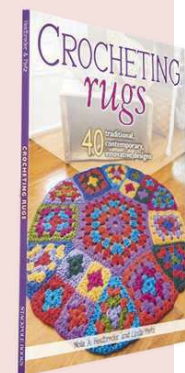
MODERN CROCHETED SHAWLS & WRAPS

Laura Strutt (£12.99, Cico Books)
Intricate lace, chunky stripes or pretty motifs – find your ultimate shawl in this collection of 35 contemporary patterns. The designs are beautifully photographed and have clear instructions.



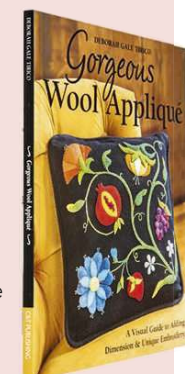
CROCHETING RUGS

Nola A. Heiddreder and Linda Pietz (£14.99, Stackpole Books)
Never have a drab doorstep or forlorn floor again with this rug collection. There are 40 designs to choose from, both traditional and modern. You'll be trying out new stitches and playing with colourwork.



GORGEOUS WOOL APPLIQUÉ

Deborah Tirico (£19.99, C&T)
Looking for new ways to add folksy embellishment? Give wool appliqué a go. This guide has all the templates, step-by-step tutorials and embroidery how-tos you'll need to make 8 gorgeous appliqué accessories. So pretty.





SHARPEN YOUR SKILLS

How cute is this foxy chap? He's by *Simply Crochet* favourite Stephanie Lau and is starring in Tracy Todhunter's latest book, *Woman's Weekly Guide to Crochet*. This guide, with clear how-tos, diagrams and projects, covers basic crochet stitches and encourages you to take your skills further and try new techniques. Have a go at hair pin crochet, master blocking, colourwork, joining and more. It's published by Search Press (RRP £12.99). www.searchpress.com

EMOJI LOVE

■ We were so fed up with the lack of craft-themed emojis that we decided to create our own! You can download the Craftmoji app for your iPhone and iPad now from the app store for 99p. There are over 120 cute icons, including yarn, hooks and more. Craftmojis act as stickers, so while you can't add them to your keyboard, you can send them to friends and family via iMessage, SMS and MMS even if they don't have the app. So exciting.



HOOK FOR CHARITY

Here's a crochet world record not to be missed. In memory of avid fundraising teen Emma Welch (pictured), her friend Victoria Roberts is co-ordinating world record attempts for the highest number of people crocheting simultaneously and the largest display of crochet daisies. Join in by attending the event at The Forum in Bath on 4 June, or visit www.facebook.com/daisy.bear.750 to contribute crochet daisies and find out more. The handmade blooms will be sold later to raise funds for Brain Tumour Research.

USE YOUR WORDS



Love them or loathe them, crafty slogans are having a moment. Why not just embrace the whole trend with these three witty wonders?

1. We seriously need one of these oh-so Instagram-able 'Hookers Gonna Hook' mugs from www.deezdutch.etsy.com. Psst! For a cheeky 15% discount in this store until 30 June 2016, use the code SIMPLYCROCHET.
2. Be honest – how often have you wanted to say this when giving a handmade gift? Stationery Geek's Honest Gift Tag Sets feature 30 tags in 15 different sassy designs. Shop now at www.stationery-geek.co.uk
3. Hot-foot it to www.noths.com to find engraved bamboo crochet hooks with an 'Eat. Sleep. Crochet. Repeat' mantra. They're made by Wood Paper Scissors and can be personalised, too – spot on for a fantastic crafty gift.



OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Did you know our crafty magazine sisters over at *Mollie Makes* now have a shop of their very own? It's amazing. You'll find a carefully curated collection of handmade goodies, supplies, patterns and kits at www.shop.molliemakes.com. This handmade cord basket by Zuzana Lalikova Textiles caught our eye – the perfect vessel for WIPs. Get it from the Mollie Makes Shop. Ooh, and if you're a maker, you can apply to become a vendor.

5 FAB FINDS

Treats for dads

Don't forget about Father's Day – it's 19 June this year.



SAY CHEESE

How about a handy wee gadget bag for dads who snap? Find this Anne-Claire Petit make at www.amara.com



MAP HAPPY

Explorers love a hip flask, or so we've heard. You'll find this world map one at www.dotcomgiftshop.com

CALL IT A TIE
Dapper dads deserve a fancy silk tie, don't you think? Grab a copy of *Simply Crochet* issue 32 for the pattern.



DIY DREAMS

A personalised multitool that's also a menagerie of animals? Go to www.gettingpersonal.co.uk



TEA, ANYONE?
www.thealphabetgiftshop.co.uk stock a whole bunch of cute, dad-friendly mugs, including this sweet set.



A GOOD YARN

I'm itching to crochet a rainbow blanket. Could you recommend a yarn in a natural fibre that has great colour choices?

If you're after something really bold, try Shine from Knit Picks (£2.33 per 50g ball). It's a blend of cotton and beech wood fibre and comes in 34 popping solid shades. Shine comes in DK and aran weights, is super-soft and has a glorious sheen. Shop now at www.knitpicks.com/UK



Time to get out AND ABOUT...

SKILLS, SHOWS & EVENTS

JUNE 10 Broomstick Crochet Workshop, £49.95, Black Sheep Wools, Warrington, 01925 764231 www.blacksheepwools.com

JUNE 17 Crochet Flower Buttons Workshop, £24, Make It!, Chorlton, Manchester, 0161 881 6858 www.themakeitshop.co.uk

JUNE 20 Learn to Crochet Workshop, £25, The Knitting Parlour, Malvern, Worcs 01684 892079 www.theknittingparlour.com

JUNE 23 Circular Crochet Workshop, £20, Sharp Works, Herne Hill, London, 020 7738 7668 www.sharpworks.co.uk

JUNE 24 Tapestry Crochet Workshop, £20, The Old Pharmacy, Kent, 01795 597700 www.theoldpharmacyfaversham.co.uk

JUNE 24-25 Woolfest, £8, Cockermouth, Cumbria, 01697 478707 www.woolfest.co.uk



STITCH IT UP

■ Hone your needlecraft skills with a short course at top creative learning facility West Dean College in West Sussex. On 17-19 June, artist Lindsay Taylor is teaching Machine Embroidered Jewellery. Over the three days, you'll learn free machine embroidery skills and create your own pieces of wearable art. Book your place for £227 at www.westdean.org.uk, or call 01243 811301.



DUPREM ALPACAS

Nope, unfortunately that sweet baby alpaca isn't up for grabs, but the folks at dreamy French yarn brand DuPrem Alpacas (www.duprem.com) are offering one lucky reader a super prize – they'll receive 100g of scrummy undyed alpaca yarn every three months and their choice of DuPrem crochet patterns. There are fab runner up prizes, too. Enter at <http://competition.immediate.co.uk/sc45yarn>



Woolfest 2016 is on its way. This year, the exciting British wool event takes place 24-25 June at Mitchells Lakeland Livestock Centre in Cockermouth, Cumbria. There'll be stalls with scrummy natural fibres, yarny textile workshops, inspiring exhibitions, creative demos, a fleece sale and even some local and rare breed sheep and other adorable livestock (we've got our fingers crossed for bunnies and alpacas). It's a must-visit fibre festival for anyone with a passion for yarn crafts and wool. Love to spin? Make sure you book a ticket for the ever-popular Spin In on the Friday evening. For more details about what's on, visit www.woolfest.co.uk

THIS MONTH WE LOVE...

Author, crochet designer and #crochetgirlgang co-founder Emma Friedlander-Collins blogs at www.steelandstitch.blogspot.co.uk and we can't get enough.

On her vibrant craft blog, Emma regularly shares exciting crochet patterns, craft projects and helpful how-tos, all written in her friendly, chatty style. Her designs are really imaginative and her photography is always playful and inspiring. Flowers feature heavily, which is no bad thing, and as Emma's also a crochet tutor, she really knows her stuff. Be sure to have a read.



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FESTIVAL CHIC

Festoon your days of sunshine and exploration with oh-so-cute, jewel-toned bunting. Graduate from granny squares to triangles, and combine these with bright blooms to show your van a whole lotta love this summer.

PUT A RING ON IT

This wheel cover is one for serious crochet lovers. Work in the round with six different colours of super-soft bamboo yarn to turn the humble spare wheel into a magnificent work of art. A visit to Kwikfit will never be the same again.





THE LOVE BUG

Get into the summer spirit and glamp it up with candy-bright makes. Time to hit the open road.

GLAMPING IDEAS



PRETTY PERCH

A morning cuppa will taste even sweeter when you're sitting on your very own customised crochet stool. Enjoy watching the bunting and big top design magically appearing under your crochet hook as you work the rounds.

CAMP IT UP

What better way to keep off the evening chills than with this glorious blanket? Made from 64 individual squares, its chevron design is bang on-trend, and it's also a chance to master the gorgeously-textured puff stitch.







GLAMPING IDEAS



JOIN THE (CARA)VAN OF LOVE

The split-screen VW has achieved iconic status, so pay homage to a design classic with another amazing design. The huggable texture of the cushions is achieved with a mix of triple treble and quadruple treble stitches.

FLOWER POWER

There'll be no doubt among fellow campers of your love for crochet with a yarn-strewn van. The flowers come in two sizes and are super-quick to hook up, while the bumper sticker messages are embroidered in your choice of colour.

GRANNY BUNTING

Louise Smith's colourful crochet flags are a must-make for summer.

- Sirdar Snuggly Baby Bamboo DK (80% bamboo, 20% wool, 50g/95m), 1 ball of each: Deckster Blue (120), Hush-a-Bye (109), Limey (155), Rocking Horse (126), Rinky Dinky Pink (158) 3 balls of Cream (131)
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook

TENSION

Tension is not critical for this project

MEASUREMENTS

Triangle measures 17x15cm (6¾x6in)

Flower triangle measures 15x14.5cm

(6x5¾in)

Flower measures 5cm (5¾in) diameter

SPECIAL ABBREVIATIONS

Popcorn stitch (pc) Work 4dc in the same st, drop the loop from the hook, insert the hook from front to back in the top of first dc worked, put the hook back in the dropped loop and pull through the first st, ch1 to close

GRANNY BUNTING

COLOURED TRIANGLES (MAKE 10)

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

Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr), 2tr into the ring, (ch3, 3tr into the ring) twice, ch3, ss to top of beg ch-3 to join. [9 tr, 3 ch-3 sps]

Change colour, joining new colour to any ch-3 sp.

Round 2 Ch3 (counts as tr), (2tr, ch3, 3tr) in same ch-3 sp, ch1, *(3tr, ch3, 3tr) in next ch-3 sp, ch1; rep from * once more, ss to top of beg ch-3. [18 tr, 3 ch-3 sps, 3 ch-1 sps]

Change colour, joining new colour to any ch-3 sp.

Round 3 Ch3 (counts as tr), (2tr, ch3, 3tr) in same ch-3 sp, ch1, 3tr in next ch-1 sp, ch1, *(3tr, ch3, 3tr) in next ch-3 sp, ch1, 3tr in next ch-1 sp, ch1; rep from * once more, ss to top of beg ch-3. [27 tr, 3 ch-3 sps, 6 ch-1 sps]

Change colour, joining new colour to any ch-3 sp.

Round 4 Ch3 (counts as tr), (2tr, ch3, 3tr) in same ch-3 sp, ch1, (3tr in next ch-1 sp, ch1) twice, *(3tr, ch3, 3tr) in next ch-3 sp, ch1, (3tr in next ch-1 sp, ch1) twice; rep from * once more, ss to



top of beg ch-3. [36 tr, 3 ch-3 sps, 9 ch-1 sps]

Change colour, joining new colour to any ch-3 sp.

Round 5 Ch3 (counts as tr), (2tr, ch3, 3tr) in same ch-3 sp, ch1, (3tr in next ch-1 sp, ch1) 3 times, *(3tr, ch3, 3tr) in next ch-3 sp, ch1, (3tr in next ch-1 sp, ch1) 3 times; rep from * once more, ss to top of beg ch-3. [45 tr, 3 ch-3 sps, 12 ch-1 sps]

Change back to first colour, joining first colour to any ch-3 sp.

Round 6 Ch3 (counts as tr), (2tr, ch3, 3tr) in same ch-3 sp, ch1, (3tr in next ch-1 sp, ch1) 4 times, *(3tr, ch3, 3tr) in next ch-3 sp, ch1, (3tr in next ch-1 sp, ch1) 4 times; rep from * once more, ss to top of beg ch-3. [54 tr, 3 ch-3 sps, 15 ch-1 sps]

Change to Cream, joining Cream to the top of any middle tr of a 3-tr group.

Round 7 Ch1 (doesn't count as st), dc in every tr and ch around, working 3dc in each ch-3 corner, ss to first dc. [78 sts]

Round 8 Ch1 (doesn't count as dc), *pc in same st, ss in each of next 2 sts; rep from * around.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

CREAM TRIANGLES (MAKE 4)

To make a plain Cream triangle, work as given for Coloured Triangle, but do not change colours between Rounds 1-6. Instead, after joining each round,

simply ss into each of the next 2 tr and ss into next corner, ready to start the next round. Change to contrasting colour for Round 7 and change to another colour for Round 8.

FLOWER BUNTING PENNANT

FLOWER

Make a magic loop.

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

Round 2 Ch1, 2dc in each st around, ss to first dc, changing colour during ss. [10 sts]

Round 3 Ch1, *1dc in next st, 2dc in next st; rep from * around, ss to first dc. [15 sts]

Round 4 Ch1, *1dc in each of next 2 sts, 2dc in next st; rep from * around, ss to first dc. [20 sts]

Fasten off, but do not weave in ends. Repeat Rounds 1-4 to make a second Flower Centre.

PETALS

Holding both pieces of Flower Centre WS together, join new colour and work next round through both pieces at the same time.

Round 5 Ch1, htr in st at base of ch-1, (tr, dtr) in next st, (dtr, tr) in next st, (htr, ch1, ss) in next st, *(ss, ch1, htr) in next st, (tr, dtr) in next st, (dtr, tr) in next st, (htr, ch1, ss) in next st; rep from * twice

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more, stuff all ends into centre and rep from * once more. [5 petals]

Fasten off and weave in final end.

Make 6 flowers in different colourways.

TO FINISH

Join 3 of the flowers by the petals in one line. Then join 2 more flowers below the 3 flowers and to each other. Finally, join the final flower below the last 2.

Cut approx 3 x 140cm lengths of Cream yarn. Weave one end through 5 of the colour triangles and secure with knots. Repeat for the other 5 colour triangles and then for the cream triangles, with the flower triangle at the centre.

WHEEL COVER

Hannah Cross's spare tyre cover is both pretty and practical. You can easily make this a cushion cover instead by working to Round 34 only.

- Sirdar Snuggly Baby Bamboo DK (80% bamboo, 20% wool, 50g/95m), 1 ball of each: Cream (131), Deckster Blue (120), Limey (155), Rocking Horse (126), Rinky Dinky Pink (158)
- 4 balls of Hush-a-Bye (109)
- A 5mm (US H/8) hook

TENSION

The first 4 rounds measure 10cm (4in) diameter, using Sirdar Snuggly Bamboo DK and a 5mm hook

MEASUREMENTS

To fit a standard spare camper van wheel that measures 65cm (25½in) diameter and 19cm (7½in) deep

NOTES

On each round, change colour as instructed during the ss join. Cut yarn at each colour change, leaving a 15cm (6in) tail to weave in.

WHEEL COVER

Using Deckster Blue, ch4, ss to first ch to join into a ring.

Round 1 Ch4 (counts as tr, ch1), *tr, ch1 into the ring; rep from * another 10 times, ss to third of beg ch-4 to join. [12 tr, 12 ch-1 sps]

Round 2 Ss into next ch-1 sp, ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc in each ch-1 sp

around, ss to first dc, changing to Cream during ss. [24 sts]

Round 3 Ch1 (does not count as st), *dc in next st, skip next st, (3tr, ch1, 3tr) in next st, skip next st; rep from * around, ss to first dc, changing to Limey during ss. [36 tr, 6 ch-1 sps, 6 dc]

Round 4 Work in blo; ch1 (does not count as st), htr in each of next 4 sts, *2htr in next ch-1 sp, htr in each of next 7 sts; rep from * another 4 times, 2htr in next ch-1 sp, htr in each of last 3 sts, ss to first htr, changing to Rinky Dinky Pink during ss. [54 sts]

Round 5 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st around, ss to first dc, changing to Deckster Blue during ss. [54 sts]

Round 6 Ch3 (counts as tr), 4tr in same st at base of ch-3, *skip next st, htr in each of next 2 sts, dc in each of next 2 sts, htr in each of next 2 sts, skip next st**, 5tr in next st; rep from * around, ending last rep at **, ss to top of beg ch-3 to join, changing to Rocking Horse during ss. [30 tr, 24 htr, 12 dc]

Round 7 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st around, ss to first dc to join. [66 sts]

Round 8 Ss in each of next 2 sts, ch1 (does not count as st), *3dc in next st, ch1, skip next 3 sts, 4tr in next st, ch2, skip next 2 sts, 4tr in next st, ch1, skip next 3 sts; rep from * around ending last rep by skipping the first 3 ss, ss to first dc, changing to Cream during ss. [48 tr, 18 dc, 6 ch-2 sps, 12 ch-1 sps]

Round 9 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st and in each ch around, ss to first dc, changing to Rinky Dinky Pink

during ss. [90 sts]

Round 10 Ss in next st, ch4 (counts as tr, ch1), (tr, ch1, tr, ch1, tr, ch1, tr) in same st, *skip next 3 sts, tr in each of next 2 sts, skip next st, 2tr in next st, ch1, 2tr in next st, skip next st, tr in each of next 2 sts, skip next 3 sts**, (tr, ch1, tr, ch1, tr, ch1, tr, ch1, tr) in next st; rep from * ending last rep at **, skip last 2 sts then skip first ss, ss to 3rd of beg ch-4, changing to Limey during ss. [78 tr, 30 ch-1 sps]

Round 11 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st and in each ch around, ss in first dc. [108 sts]

Round 12 Ch1 (does not count as st), *(htr in next st, ch1, skip next st) 4 times, htr in next st, tr in each of next 2 sts, skip next 2 sts, (3tr, ch1, 3tr) in next st, skip next 2 sts, tr in each of next 2 sts; rep from * around, ss to first htr, changing to Hush-a-Bye during ss. [60 tr, 30 htr, 30 ch-1 sps]

Round 13 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st and in each ch around, ss to first dc, changing to Rocking Horse during ss. [120 sts]

Round 14 Ch4 (counts as tr, ch1), *(skip next st, tr in next st, ch1) 3 times, skip next st, tr in each of next 5 sts, skip next st, 5htr in next st, skip next st**, tr in each of next 5 sts, ch1; rep from * ending last rep at **, tr in each of next 4 sts, ss to 3rd of beg ch-4, changing to Cream during ss. [78 tr, 30 htr, 24 ch-1 sps]

Round 15 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr in each of next 8 sts, *htr in each of next 4 sts, dc in each of next 5 sts, htr in each of next 4 sts**, tr in each of next 9



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sts; rep from * around, ending last rep at **, ss to top of beg ch-3, changing to Deckster Blue during ss. [54 tr, 48 htr, 30 dc]

Round 16 Ch3 (counts as tr), *skip next 3 sts, 6tr in next st, skip next 3 sts, tr in each of next 3 sts, skip next 2 sts, 6tr in next st, skip next 3 sts, 6tr in next st, skip next 2 sts, tr in each of next 2 sts**, tr in next st; rep from * around, ending last rep at **, ss to top of beg ch-3, changing to Rinky Dinky Pink during ss. [144 tr]

Round 17 Ch1 (does not count as st), htr in each st around, ss to first htr, changing to Hush-a-Bye during ss. [144 htr]

Round 18 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc blo in st each around, ss to first dc, changing to Limey during ss. [144 dc]

Round 19 Ch3 (counts as tr), *tr in each of next 5 sts, htr in next st, dc in next st, skip next 3 sts, 4tr in next st, ch2, 4tr in next st, skip next 3 sts, dc in next st, htr in next st, tr in each of next 6 sts**, tr in next st; rep from * around, ending last rep at **, ss to top of beg ch-3, changing to Rocking Horse during ss. [120 tr, 12 dc, 12 htr, 6 ch-2 sps]

Round 20 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st and in each ch around, ss to first dc, changing to Deckster Blue during ss. [156 sts]

Round 21 Ch5 (counts as tr, ch2), *skip next 2 sts, tr in each of next 3 sts, htr in each of next 2 sts, ch2, skip next 2 sts, dc in each of next 2 sts, 2dc in each of next 2 sts, dc in each of next 2 sts, ch2, skip next 2 sts, htr in each of next 2 sts, tr in each of next 3 sts, ch2, skip next 2 sts**, tr in each of next 2 sts, ch2; rep

from * ending last rep at **, tr in last st, ss to 3rd of beg ch-5 to join, changing to Cream during ss. [48 tr, 48 dc, 24 htr, 24 ch-2 sps]

Round 22 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st and in each ch around, ss to first dc, changing to Rocking Horse during ss. [168 sts]

Round 23 Ch1 (does not count as st), htr in each of next 13 sts, 2tr in next st; rep from * around, ss to first htr to join, changing to Hush-a-Bye during ss. [156 htr, 24 tr]

Round 24 Ch1 (does not count as st), *dc blo in each of next 14 sts, 2dc blo in next st; rep from * around, ss to first dc, changing to Rinky Dinky Pink during ss. [192 sts]

Round 25 Ch3 (counts as tr), *(ch1, skip next st, tr in next st) 4 times, htr in each of next 3 sts, dc in next st, skip next 2 sts, 3tr in next st, ch2, 3tr in next st, skip next 2 sts, dc in next st, htr in each of next 3 sts, (tr in next st, ch1, skip next st) 4 times, tr in next st**, tr in next st; rep from * around, ending last rep at **, ss top of beg ch-3, changing to Limey during ss. [96 tr, 36 htr, 12 dc, 48 ch-1 sps, 6 ch-2 sps]

Round 26 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st and in each ch around, ss to first dc, changing to Cream during ss. [204 sts]

Round 27 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr in each of next 15 sts, 2tr in next st, *tr in each of next 16 sts, 2tr in next st; rep from * around, ss to top of beg ch-3, changing to Deckster Blue during ss. [216 tr]

Round 28 Ch3 (counts as tr) *(tr in next st, ch1, skip next st) twice, tr in each of next 2 sts, skip next st, 2tr in next st, ch1, 2tr in next st, skip next st, tr in each of next 2 sts, ch1, skip next st, tr in each of next 2 sts**, tr in next st; rep from * around, ending last rep at **, ss to top of beg ch-3, changing to Hush-a-Bye during ss. [168 tr, 60 ch-1 sps]

Round 29 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st and in each ch around, ss to first dc, changing to Limey during ss. [228 sts]

Round 30 Ch1 (does not count as st), *htr in each of next 18 sts, 2htr in next st; rep from * around, ss to first htr, changing to Rinky Dinky Pink during ss. [240 sts]

Round 31 Ch1 (does not count as st) dc blo in each st around, ss to first dc,

changing to Rocking Horse during ss. [240 sts]

Round 32 Ch4 (counts as tr, ch1) *(skip next st, tr in next st, ch1) 4 times, skip next st, 2tr in next st, ch1, (skip next st, tr in next st, ch1) 4 times**, skip next st, tr in next st, ch1; rep from * around, ending last rep at **, ss to 3rd of beg ch-4, changing to Cream during ss. [132 tr, 120 ch-1 sps]

Round 33 Ch1 (does not count as st) *dc in each of next 20 sts, 2dc in next st; rep from * around, ss to first dc to join, changing to Rinky Dinky Pink during ss. [264 sts]

Round 34 Ch1 (does not count as st) *htr in each of next 21 sts, 2htr in next st; rep from * around, ss to first htr, changing to Hush-a-Bye during ss. [276 sts]

Round 35 Ch1 (does not count as st) htr in st each around, ss to first htr. [276 sts]

Round 36 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr in same st at base of ch-3, skip next 2 sts, *2tr in next st, skip next 2 sts; rep from * around, ss to top of beg ch-3. [184 sts]

Round 37 Ss in space between next 2tr, ch3 (counts as tr), tr in same place, *skip next 2tr, 2tr before next tr; rep from * around, skip last tr, ss to top of beg ch-3.

Rounds 38-50 As Round 37.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

SWEET STOOL COVER

Live up a plain seat with this comfy and cute creation by Anne Egan.

- Sirdar Snuggly Baby Bamboo DK (80% bamboo, 20% wool, 50g/95m), 2 balls of: Yarn A Cream (131)
- 1 ball of each: Yarn B Limey (155)
- Yarn C Rinky Dinky Pink (158)
- Yarn D Rocking Horse (126)
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- Foam for padding meas 8cm (2½in) deep
- 2mm round elastic, approx 80cm (31½in)

TENSION

Pattern to Round 7 measures 8cm (3¼in) diameter using a 4mm hook

MEASUREMENTS

27cm (10¾in) x 11cm (4¼in) when fitted onto stool

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NOTES

The stool cover is made in the round.

The sides are deep enough to give space to padding for a more comfortable seat.

To achieve the spiral effect on the top of the stool cover, the increase stitches (i.e. 2dc into one stitch) are always worked in a different colour and are worked in the dc directly after the coloured one in the previous round. To save yarn, divide Yarns B and C into three 10 gram balls and use a different ball for each change of colour in a round. Drop yarn to WS when finished with it and pick up when needed. The yarn is always changed back to the main colour before the end ss is worked.

Do not fasten off yarn unless instructed.

Take careful note of the bracketed instructions in Round 3 and apply the rules to all the subsequent rounds.

These are:

For Rounds 2-23, the last 2dc is always worked into the base of the ch-1 at beg of round.

For Rounds 2-23 take care not to ss into the beg ch-1, always skip this and end round by joining to the first dc.

STOOL COVER

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

Round 1 (RS) Ch2 (counts as first part

of tr2tog), tr, (ch1, tr2tog) 5 times, ch1, ss to top of beg ch-2 to join.

Fasten off. [6 tr2tog, 6 ch-1 sps]

Round 2 Join Yarn A to any tr2tog, ch1 (not counted as a st), *dc in top of tr2tog, change to Yarn B, 2dc in next ch-1 sp, change to Yarn A, dc in next tr2tog, change to Yarn C, 2dc in next ch-1 sp, change to Yarn A; rep from * twice more, ss to first dc. [18 sts]

Round 3 Ch1, skip first dc, *dc in each of next 2 dc, change to Yarn B, 2dc in next dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 2 dc, change to Yarn C, 2dc in next dc, change to Yarn A; rep from * twice more, (note: the last 2dc is always worked into the base of the ch-1 at beg of round), ss to first dc (take care not to ss into the beg ch-1, instead always skip this and end round joining to first dc). [24 sts]

Round 4 Ch1, skip first dc, *dc in each of next 3 dc, change to Yarn B, 2dc in next dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 3 dc, change to Yarn C, 2dc in next dc, change to Yarn A; rep from * twice more, ss to first dc. [30 sts]

Round 5 Ch1, skip first dc, *dc in each of next 4 dc, change to Yarn B, 2dc in next dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 4 dc, change to Yarn C, 2dc in next dc, change to Yarn A; rep from * twice more, ss to first dc. [36 sts]

Round 6 Ch1, skip first dc, *dc in each of next 5 dc, change to Yarn B, 2dc in next dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of

next 5 dc, change to Yarn C, 2dc in next dc, change to Yarn A; rep from * twice more, ss to first dc. [42 sts]

Round 7 Change to Yarn D, ch1, skip first dc, (dc in each of next 6 dc, 2dc in next dc) around, ss to first dc. Change to Yarn A. **Fasten off** Yarn D. [48 sts]

Round 8 Ch1, skip first dc, *dc in each of next 7 dc, change to Yarn B, 2dc in next dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 7 dc, change to Yarn C, 2dc in next dc, change to Yarn A; rep from * twice more, ss to first dc. [54 sts]

Continue in the same way as Round 8 to Round 23, increasing by 1 in each round the number of dcs worked in Yarn A between each colour change.

Round 24 Change to Yarn D, ch1, dc in each dc around, ss to first dc.

Fasten off Yarn D. [144 sts]

Round 25 Change to Yarn C, *dc in next dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 22 dc, change to Yarn B, dc in each of next 2 dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 22 dc, change to Yarn C, dc in next dc; rep from * twice more, ss to first dc. [144 sts]

Round 26 Ch1, *dc in each of next 2 dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 21 dc, change to Yarn B, dc in each of next 3 dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 21 dc, change to Yarn C, dc in next dc; rep from * twice more, ss to first dc.

Round 27 Ch1, *dc in each of next 3 dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 20 dc, change to Yarn B, dc in each of next 4 dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 20 dc, change to Yarn C, dc in next dc; rep from * twice more, ss to first dc.

Round 28 Ch1, *dc in each of next 4 dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 19 dc, change to Yarn B, dc in each of next 5 dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 19 dc, change to Yarn C, dc in next dc; rep from * twice, ss to first dc.

Round 29 Ch1, *dc in each of next 5 dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 18 dc, change to Yarn B, dc in each of next 6 dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 18 dc, change to Yarn C, dc in next dc; rep from * twice more, ss to first dc.

Round 30 Ch1, *dc in each of next 6 dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 17 dc, change to Yarn B, dc in each of next 7 dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 17 dc, change to Yarn C, dc in next dc; rep from * twice more, ss to first dc. Change to Yarn D.

Round 31 Ch1, dc in each dc



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around. **Fasten off** Yarn D, change to Yarn A.

Round 32 Ch1, *dc in each of next 7 dc, change to Yarn B, dc in next dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 23 dc, change to Yarn C, dc in next dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 16 dc; rep from * twice more, ss to first dc.

Round 33 Ch1, *dc in each of next 7 dc, change to Yarn B, dc in each of next 2 dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 22 dc, change to Yarn C, dc in each of next 2 dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 15 dc; rep from * twice more, ss to first dc.

Round 34 Ch1, *dc in each of next 7 dc, change to Yarn B, dc in each of next 3 dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 21 dc, change to Yarn C, dc in each of next 3 dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 14 dc; rep from * twice more, ss to first dc.

Round 35 Ch1, *dc in each of next 7 dc, change to Yarn B, dc in each of next 4 dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 20 dc, change to Yarn C, dc in each of next 4 dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 13 dc; rep from * twice more, ss to first dc.

Round 36 Ch1, *dc in each of next 7 dc, change to Yarn B, dc in each of next 5 dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 19 dc, change to Yarn C, dc in each of next 5 dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 12 dc; rep from * twice more, ss to first dc.

Round 37 Ch1, *dc in each of next 7 dc, change to Yarn B, dc in each of next 6 dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 18 dc, change to Yarn C, dc in each of next 6 dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 11 dc; rep from * twice more, ss

to first dc.

Round 38 Ch1, *dc in each of next 7 dc, change to Yarn B, dc in each of next 7 dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 17 dc, change to Yarn C, dc in each of next 7 dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 10 dc; rep from * twice more, ss to first dc. Change to Yarn D.

Round 39 Ch1, dc in each dc around.

Fasten off Yarn D, change to Yarn A.

Round 40 Ch1, *dc in each of next 15 dc, change to Yarn B, dc in next dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 23 dc, change to Yarn C, dc in next dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 8 dc; rep from * twice more, ss to first dc.

Round 41 Ch1, *dc in each of next 15 dc, change to Yarn B, dc in each of next 2 dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 22 dc, change to Yarn C, dc in each of next 2 dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 7 dc; rep from * twice more, ss to first dc.

Round 42 Ch1, *dc in each of next 15 dc, change to Yarn B, dc in each of next 3 dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 21 dc, change to Yarn C, dc in each of next 3 dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 6 dc; rep from * twice more, ss to first dc.

Round 43 Ch1, *dc in each of next 15 dc, change to Yarn B, dc in each of next 4 dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 20 dc, change to Yarn C, dc in each of next 4 dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 5 dc; rep from * twice more, ss to first dc.

Round 44 Ch1, *dc in each of next 15 dc, change to Yarn B, dc in each of next 5 dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 19 dc, change to Yarn C, dc in each of next 5 dc, change to A, dc in each of next 4 dc; rep from * twice more, ss to first dc.

Round 45 Ch1, *dc in each of next 15 dc, change to Yarn B, dc in each of next 6 dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 18 dc, change to Yarn C, dc in each of next 6 dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 3 dc; rep from * twice more, ss to first dc.

Round 46 Ch1, *dc in each of next 15 dc, change to Yarn B, dc in each of next 7 dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 17 dc, change to Yarn C, dc in each of next 7 dc, change to Yarn A, dc in each of next 2 dc; rep from * twice more, ss to first dc. **Fasten off** Yarns A, B and C, change to Yarn D.

Round 47 Ch1, (dc in each of next 22 dc, dc2tog) around, ss to first dc. [138 sts]

Round 48 Ch1, (dc in each of next 21 dc, dc2tog) around, ss to first dc. [132 sts]

Round 49 Ch1, (dc in each of next 20 dc, dc2tog) around, ss to first dc. [126 sts]

Measure a length of elastic to fit and include in the stitches as you work Round 50.

Round 50 Ch1, (dc in each of next 19 dc, dc2tog) around, ss to first dc. [120 sts]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

Cut foam to fit, place in cover, pull over stool seat, tighten elastic and tie off.

CHEVRON BLANKET

Snuggle under the stars wrapped in Sara Huntington's cosy blanket.

■ Sirdar Snuggly Baby Bamboo DK (80% bamboo, 20% wool, 50g/95m), 9 balls of Cream (131), 4 balls of each: Deckster Blue (120), Rocking Horse (126), 3 balls of Rinky Dinky Pink (158), 2 balls of Limey (155), 1 ball of Hush-a-Bye (109)

■ A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook

MEASUREMENTS

Each motif measures 20x20cm (8x8in)
Finished blanket measures 117x117cm (46x46in)

ABBREVIATIONS

Puff st (PS) (Yrh, insert hook in st indicated, yrh and pull up loop) 5 times, yrh and draw through all loops on hook

NOTES

The blanket is made up of 64 identical motifs which are joined as you go on Round 9 of the pattern. Each motif is worked both in the round and back and forth to create the chevron effect. All motifs should be blocked before joining, to achieve the best results.

MOTIF

Using Hush-a-Bye make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (not counted as st), 8dc into the loop, ss to first dc to join,





changing to Rinky Dinky Pink during ss. [8 sts]

Round 2 *PS in next st, ch2; rep from * another 7 times, ss to top of first PS then ss into the next ch-2 sp, changing to Limey during last ss.

[8 PS, 8 ch-2 sps]

Round 3 Ch3 (counts as tr), (2tr, ch2, 3tr) in same ch-2 sp, ch1, * 3tr in next ch-2 sp, ch1, (3tr, ch2, 3tr) in next ch-2 sp, ch1; rep from * twice more, 3tr in final ch-2 sp, ch1, ss to top of beg ch-3, ss in each of next 2 tr, ss in next ch-2 sp, changing to Deckster Blue during last ss. [36 tr, 8 ch-1 sps, 4 ch-2 sps] For the next four rows the motif will be worked back and forth instead of in rounds.

Row 4 Ch3 (counts a tr), 2tr in same ch-2 sp, ch1 (3tr in next ch-1 sp, ch1) twice, (3tr, ch2, 3tr) in next ch-2 sp, (ch1, 3tr in next ch-1 sp) 3 times, turn. [24 tr, 6 ch-1 sps, 1 ch-2 sp]

Row 5 (WS) Ch4 (counts as tr, ch1), (3tr in next ch-1 sp, ch1) 3 times, (3tr, ch2, 3tr) in next ch-2 sp, (ch1, 3tr in next ch-1 sp) 3 times, ch1, tr in top of beg ch-3 from Row 4, changing to Rocking Horse during the last step of the st, turn. [26 tr, 8 ch-1 sps, 1 ch-2 sp]

Row 6 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr), 2tr in next ch-1 sp, ch1, (3tr in next ch-1 sp, ch1) 3 times, (3tr, ch2, 3tr) in next ch-2 sp, (ch1, 3tr in next ch-1 sp) 4 times, turn. [30 tr, 8 ch-1 sps, 1 ch-2 sp]

Row 7 (WS) Ch4 (counts as tr, ch1), (3tr in next ch-1 sp, ch1) 4 times, (3tr, ch2,

3tr) in next ch-2 sp, (ch1, 3tr in next ch-1 sp) 4 times, ch1, tr in top of beg ch-3 from Row 6, changing to Cream during the last step of the st, turn. [32 tr, 10 ch-1 sps, 1 ch-2 sp]

Now work in the round.

Round 8 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr), (2tr, ch2, 3tr) in first ch-1 sp, ch1, (3tr in next ch-1 sp, ch1) 4 times, (3tr, ch2, 3tr) in next ch-2 sp, (ch1, 3tr in next ch-1 sp) 4 times, ch1, (3tr, ch2, 3tr) in next ch-1 sp, ch1, 3tr over beg ch-3 of Row 5, ch1, 3tr in corner sp from Round 3, ch1, then working into Round 3, (3tr in next ch-1 sp, ch1) twice, (3tr, ch2, 3tr) in next ch-2 sp, ch1, (3tr in next ch-1 sp, ch1) twice, 3tr in corner sp from Round 3, ch1, 3tr over end tr of Round 5, ch1, ss to top of beg ch-3, ss in each of next 2 tr and ss into the ch-2 corner space. [72 tr, 4 ch-2 sps, 20 ch-1 sps]

Round 9 Ch3 (counts as tr), (2tr, ch2, 3tr) in same ch-2 sp, *ch1, (3tr in next ch-1 sp, ch1) 5 times, (3tr, ch2, 3tr) in next ch-2 sp; repeat from * twice more, ch1, (3tr in next ch-1 sp, ch1) 5 times, ss to top of beg ch-3. [114 tr, 4 ch-2 sps, 24 ch-1 sps]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

SUBSEQUENT MOTIFS (JOINING AS YOU GO)

Work 63 more motifs working as first motif to Round 8. For best results, block all motifs to 20x20cm (8x8in) after Round 8 before joining.

Motifs will be joined in Round 9 as

follows:

To join a corner: Ch3 (counts as tr), 2tr in same corner sp, ch1, insert your hook into corresponding ch-2 corner space of motif to join, yrh and ss through the corner sp, 3tr into corner space of original motif.

To join the sides: *3tr into next ch-1 side sp on original motif, insert hook through corresponding ch-1 sp of motif to be joined, yrh and ss; rep from * until side is joined through all ch-1 sps.

Join motifs as you go on 1, 2 or 3 sides to create an 8 x 8 motif square of 64 motifs in total.

EDGING

With RS facing, join Hush-a-Bye to any ch-2 corner space.

Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr), 2tr in same sp, tr in each st and ch around, working 3 tr in each corner sp, ss to top of beg ch-3, turn.

Round 2 Ss in each st around, ss to first ss.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

CAMPER CUSHIONS

Anne Egan's cute cushions are the ultimate camper van accessory.

- Sirdar Snuggly Baby Bamboo DK (80% bamboo, 20% wool, 50g/95m), 1 ball of each: Yarn A Cream (131), Yarn B Rocking Horse (126) or Deckster Blue (120), Yarn C Hush a Bye (109)
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- A 31cm (12¼in) cushion inner
- A square of fabric meas 34x34cm (13¼x13¼in)
- A 30cm (11¾in) zip in matching colour
- Matching thread and sewing needle
- Small amount of stuffing

TENSION

17 sts and 13 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over htr using a 4mm hook or size needed to obtain tension

MEASUREMENTS

31x31cm (12¼x12¼in)

ABBREVIATIONS

Foundation dc (fdc) Ch2, dc in second ch from hook, adding ch1 before last yrh of dc (Dc in ch-1 of previous st, adding ch1 before last yrh of dc) repeat until



you have the number of dc stated

Triple Treble (ttr) Yrh three times, insert hook in stitch, yrh and pull up loop, (yrh and draw through 2 loops) 4 times

Quadruple Treble (qtr) Yrh four times, insert hook in stitch, yrh and pull up loop, (yrh and draw through 2 loops) 5 times

NOTES

Only 30g of Yarns B and C are required. Cushion is made in rows working from the bottom with windows, badge and lights added separately.

Cushion is fabric backed with a zip inserted.

Work under both loops unless otherwise stated.

Always change colour in last yrh of previous stitch.

CUSHION FRONT

Using Yarn A, ch2.

Foundation row Fdc in second ch from hook, (fdc in previous fdc) 56 times, turn. [57 fdc]

Row 2 (WS) Ch1, dc fl in each st to end, turn. [57 sts]

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

Rows 4-5 Repeat Rows 2 and 3 once more.

Row 6 Change to Yarn B, ch2, htr in next dc, htr in each st to end, turn. [57 sts]

Row 7 Ch2, htr in each of next 26 sts, change to Yarn A, htr in each of next 3 sts, change to Yarn B, htr in each of next 27 sts, turn.

Row 8 Ch2, htr in each of next 25 sts, change to Yarn A, htr in each of next 5

sts, change to Yarn B, htr in each of next 26 sts, turn.

Row 9 Ch2, htr in each of next 3 sts, change to Yarn A, ttr fl in dc in Row 4 below, htr bl of each of next 7 sts, (qtr fl in dc in Row 3 below) twice, htr bl of each of next 29 sts, (qtr fl in dc in Row 3 below) twice, htr bl in each of next 7 sts, ttr fl in dc in Row 4 below, change to Yarn B, htr in each htr to end, turn. [51 htr, 4 qtr, 2 ttr]

Row 10 Ch2, htr in each of next 3 sts, htr fl in each of next 20 sts, change to Yarn A, htr fl in each of next 9 sts, change to Yarn B, htr fl in each of next 20 sts, htr in each st to end, turn. [49 htr fl, 8 htr]

Rows 11-23 Ch2, htr in each st to end, following colour Chart on p93, turn.

Fasten off all yarns except Yarn A. Continue in Yarn A.

Rows 24-43 Ch2, htr in each st to end, turn.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

WINDOWS (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn C, ch14.

Row 1 Dc in second ch from hook, dc in each ch to end, turn. [13 sts]

Rows 2-24 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 25 Ch1, dc in each of next 7 sts, dc2tog, turn. [8 sts]

Row 26 Ch1, skip dc2tog, ss in next 2 dc, ch1, skip next dc, dc in each of next 4 dc, turn. [4 sts]
Cont with Edge.

EDGE

For the first window, dc evenly around

Window, starting with the sloping narrow end (Row 26) and rotating as you go, ss to first dc to join.

For the second window do not turn at the end of Row 26, instead cont with dc around, starting with the long edge.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Using Yarn A, stitch windows in place, making sure the longer edge is at the bottom and the sloping ends are on the outside.

HEADLIGHTS (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn A, ch2.

Round 1 6dc in second ch from hook, ss to first dc to join. [6 sts]

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

Round 3 Ch1, (dc in next dc, 2dc in next dc) around, ss to first dc. [18 sts]

Fasten off Yarn A. Join Yarn C in bl of any dc, ss in each bl around, ss to first ss.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Using Yarn C, stitch lights in place using a little stuffing to give them a rounded appearance.

BADGE

Work as given for Headlights to Round 3, then continue:

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

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

Round 6 Ch1, (dc in each of next 4 sts, 2dc in next st) around, ss to first dc. [36 sts]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Join Yarn B from RS around the post of any dc from Round 6, ss around the post of each dc from Round 6 to the end.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Using Yarn B and a wool needle, embroider your own choice of logo on the front of the badge – we've chosen our initials.

Stitch the badge in place with Yarn A.

VISOR

On the RS join Yarn A to the post of the htr at one end of row immediately above the windows. Work a row of dc around each htr post across to the edge of the other window, turn, ch1, skip first dc, dc in each st to last st, ss in last st.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

Top stitch a right and left indicator in Yarn A.

Fit zip into back of cover and with RS together pin crocheted front and fabric back together.

If you want to, curve the seam of both top corners following the sloped line of the windows to give a more camper van look.

Turn right way out, stuff and zip up.

FLOWERS AND BUMPER STICKERS

Adorn your van and show other drivers how just much you love crochet. Designed by Hannah Cross.

- Sirdar Snuggly Baby Bamboo DK (80% bamboo, 20% wool, 50g/95m)
For each sticker: 2 balls of Cream (131)
For flowers: 1 ball of each Cream (131), Deckster Blue (120), Rocking Horse (126), Rinky Dinky Pink (158), Limey (155) and Hush-a-Bye (109)
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook

MEASUREMENTS

Bumper sticker measures 21x16.5cm (8¼x6½in) using a 4mm hook
Large flowers measure 8.5cm (3¼in) diameter using a 4mm hook
Small flowers measure 7cm (2¾in) diameter using a 3mm hook

NOTES

Only small amounts of yarn are needed for the flowers (approximately 20g of each colour).

STICKER

With 2 strands of Cream held tog as one strand and a 4mm hook, ch27.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook and in each ch to end, turn. [26 sts]

Rows 2-36 Ch1 (does not count as st) dc in each st to end, turn.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Embroider the lettering as shown on the Chart on p93, using 2 strands of yarn in your preferred contrast colour.

LARGE FLOWER (MAKE 7)

With 2 strands of chosen yarn held tog as one strand and a 4mm hook, ch4, ss to first ch to join into a ring.

Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as st), 9tr into ring, ss to top of beg ch-3 to join, changing to contrast colour during ss. [10 sts]

Round 2 * Ch5, 5tr in st at base of ch-5, ss in each of next 2 sts; rep from * around. [5 petals]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

SMALL FLOWER (MAKE 8)

With a single strand of yarn and a 3mm hook follow pattern as given for large flower.



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Floral headband



YOU WILL NEED

- Stylecraft Classique Cotton DK (100% cotton, 50g/92m),
1 ball of each:
Busy Lizzie (3657)
Wisteria (3664)
Soft Lime (3663)
 - A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
 - A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- For yarn stockists, contact
Stylecraft 01535 609798
www.stylecraft-yarns.co.uk

MEASUREMENTS

120cm (47in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92



PETAL POWER

Becky Garratt's super-simple flower crown is festival-worthy and so quick to make. Peace out.

HEADBAND

Using a 4mm hook and Soft Lime,
*ch16, turn ch over to work in the back
'bumps' of the ch, ss in first ch, dc in
next ch, htr in next ch, dc in next ch, ss
in next ch, turn ch back over and ss in
the same st as the last st; repeat from *
20 more times, ch10.

Fasten off.

FLOWERS (MAKE 11)

Using a 3mm hook and either Busy
Lizzie or Wisteria, ch14.

Starting in the second ch from the
hook, (ss in next ch, 3htr in next ch)
6 times, ss in the last ch.

Fasten off.

Roll into flower shape and stitch to
hold.

TO MAKE UP

Sew or glue the flowers onto the
headband.



Tie the headband at the back and
let the leafy tendrils hang loose.



Triangle tunic



SEA AND SAND

Cool blue and mellow yellow make for the perfect summer tunic. By Ann Mancini-Williams.

Triangle tunic



YOU WILL NEED

■ King Cole Bamboo Cotton
(50% cotton, 50% bamboo,
100g/230m),
Yarn A Cobalt (525)
Yarn B Saffron (637)
See table for yarn quantities
and measurements

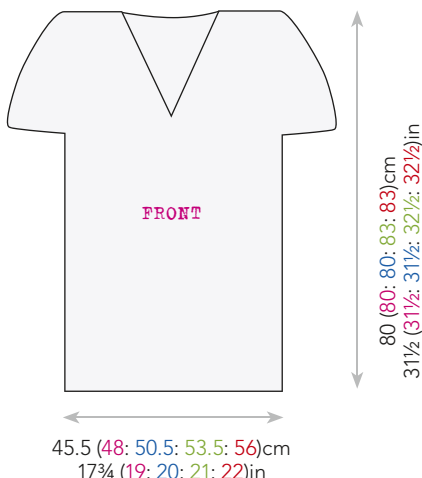
■ A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
For yarn stockists contact
King Cole 01756 703670
www.kingcole.com

TENSION

7.5 triangles and 7 rows to
measure 20x20cm (8x8in) over
stitch pattern using a 3.5mm
hook or size needed to obtain
tension. See notes.

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92



Update your summer wardrobe with this two-tone tunic, banded in colours that are just the ticket for a trip to the beach. King Cole's Bamboo Cotton is not only wonderfully soft but also gives great drape and stitch definition, helping the delicate pattern keep its shape. Once you've mastered the triangles – a stack of double, treble, double treble and triple treble stitches – it will quickly come together. Slip over a plain white tee and jeans, or use it as a cute bikini cover-up.

SPECIAL STITCHES

Triangle *Ch7, ss in third ch from hook, dc in next ch, tr in next ch, dtr in next ch, ttr in next ch; rep from * to make as many triangles as stated.

Joined Triangle *Ch7, ss in third ch from hook, dc in next ch, tr in next ch, dtr in next ch, ttr in next ch, ss into ch-2 on top of next triangle; rep from * to make as many triangles as stated.

NOTES

It is difficult to measure this stitch pattern accurately over 10cm, so note that the tension is given over 20cm. The Body is worked from the bottom up in the round, always working from the RS. When you reach the armholes, you will rejoin the yarn in the centre at the neck, and work each row on the RS, fastening off and rejoining after each row.

The Yoke, including the sleeve caps, is made in one piece onto the Body, decreasing in the centre of each sleeve cap to form the shoulder shaping. The shoulders are seamed and edgings are added to the neck, hem and armholes. When you change colour,

make the last joining ss of the previous round in the new colour.

BODY

The 'rows' of this stitch pattern are made from repeating the triangle motif, which will result in a joined string of motifs. To work in the round, you will join at the end of each row and turn twice at the end of every alternate row, which will mean that you will always work from the RS, and the joining seam will remain in the same place.

Round 1 (RS) With Yarn A, make 34 (36: 38: 40: 42) triangles, ss to ch at base of ttr on first triangle to join into the round, being careful not to twist. Turn, ss in each st of last triangle worked, ss into ch-2 on top of same triangle, turn. [34 (36: 38: 40: 42) triangles]

Round 2 (RS) Work joined triangles to the end of the round, ss into each of the 4 foundation ch of the first triangle of this round, ss into ch-2 on top of same triangle, do not turn.

Round 3 (RS) Work joined triangles to the end of the round, turn, ss in each st of last triangle worked, ss into ch-2 on top of same triangle, turn.

Rounds 2 and 3 set pattern.

Rounds 4-21 Repeat Rounds 2 and 3, working in Yarn B on Rounds 6, 7, 10, 14, 15 and 19.

Fasten off for sizes 8, 10 and 12. For sizes 14 and 16 change to Yarn B on the last joining ss of the final round.

YOKE

Work the first 2 rounds of the Yoke in Yarn B and all remaining rounds in Yarn A. You will now continue working in rows, fastening off and rejoining the yarn after each row, and always working

SIZE		8	10	12	14	16
TO FIT BUST	cm	81	86	91	97	102
	in	32	34	36	38	40
ACTUAL BUST (APPROX)	cm	91	96	101	107	112
	in	35 3/4	37 3/4	40	42	44
LENGTH	cm	80	80	80	83	83
	in	31 1/2	31 1/2	31 1/2	32 1/2	32 1/2
YARN A	100g	1	1	2	2	2
YARN B	100g	3	3	3	3	3

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

Triangle tunic

from the RS.

Row 1 (RS) From join of Body, count over 8 (9: 9: 10: 10) triangles and rejoin yarn in the top of next triangle. Work 8 (8: 9: 9: 10) joined triangles, make 10 (10: 12: 12: 12) triangles for sleeve, ss to top of next triangle, work 15 (17: 17: 19: 19) joined triangles, make 10 (10: 12: 12: 12) triangles for second sleeve, ss to top of next triangle, work 8 (9: 9: 10: 10) joined triangles, leaving 1 triangle unworked for the centre of the neckline.

Fasten off. [51 (53: 59: 61: 63) triangles]

Row 2 Rejoin the yarn to the top of the first triangle of the last row. Work 12 (12: 14: 14: 14) joined triangles, ss to top of next triangle to decrease by 1 in the centre of the sleeve, work 24 (26: 28: 30: 32) joined triangles, ss to top of next triangle to decrease, work 12 (12: 14: 14: 14) joined triangles to end of row. **Fasten off.** [48 (50: 56: 58: 60) triangles]

Row 3 Rejoin the yarn to the top of the first triangle of the last row. *Work joined triangles until you have slip stitched in the top of the decrease from the previous row, ss to top of next triangle to decrease; rep from *, work joined triangles to end of row.

Fasten off. [45 (47: 53: 55: 57) triangles]

Rows 4-6 Repeat Row 3, decreasing by 1 triangle at each sleeve, and by 1 triangle at the neckline on each row. [36 (38: 44: 46: 48) triangles]

Sizes 12, 14 and 16 only

Repeat Row 3 once more. [- (41: 43: 45) triangles]

All sizes

Next row Rejoin the yarn to the top of the first triangle of the last row. Work 6 (6: 7: 7: 7) joined triangles, ss to top of each of next 3 triangles (decrease before previous decrease, in line with previous decrease and after previous decrease), work 17 (19: 20: 22: 24) joined triangles, ss to top of each of next 3 triangles, work joined triangles to end of row.

Fasten off. [29 (31: 34: 36: 38) triangles]

SHOULDER SEAMS

Lay the tunic flat so that the shoulder seams are at each outside edge. Starting at the left shoulder and working towards the neck, insert the hook through the first 2 triangles of



front and back and ss to join together. (Ch2, ss next 2 triangles together) repeat until last triangle at front neckline edge is joined. **Fasten off.** Repeat for right shoulder, do not fasten off.

NECKLINE EDGE

Working across back neckline edge, (ch4, ss in top of next triangle) repeat to other shoulder seam. Dc in each st and join to the bottom of the neck, ss in each st of the ch and join of the triangles up the other side of the neck. Continue working across the back neckline again, with 4dc in each ch-4 sp and dc in the top of each triangle to the

other shoulder seam, ss to first dc at top of neck.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

BOTTOM EDGING

Round 1 (RS) Rejoin yarn at side of tunic between triangles. (Ch4, ss in next join between triangles) repeat around.

Round 2 (4dc in ch-4 sp, dc around ss in join of triangles) repeat around, ss to first dc. **Fasten off.**

ARMHOLE EDGING

Join Yarn A at the underarm and repeat the 2 rounds of the Bottom Edging on each armhole.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

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KAT'S JOURNAL

...FROM THE STUDIO

Designer and blogger Kat Goldin gets a lesson in reliance when she's forced to take a break from crochet.



Last month, I mentioned that we'd been away. We arrived in Chicago, a few days before my younger brother's wedding. We had the whole week planned out – trips to my favourite childhood places, spending time with my enormous family, visits to the local yarn store. On the second day, however, disaster struck. While wandering through the trendy neighbourhood of our apartment wearing the snazzy bright blue brogues I'd bought specially for our trip, I fell on the ice, catching myself with my outstretched arm.

The moment I realised what had happened, my heart instantly began to race. As someone who makes a living from making stuff, I'd played the game of 'what kind of injury would be worst for work?' in my head many times before – and breaking my arm was certainly top of that list. What we wouldn't know until almost a full week later is that's precisely what had happened to me on this occasion. The fall had not only severely sprained each joint in my arm, but also caused a fracture in my elbow, making my left arm essentially useless for the next six weeks.

THE ABSENCE OF MAKING

Why is it that we only really notice what something means to us when it's taken away? I've written so often about how frustrated I can get with the process of making. How crochet flies across the room at the smallest of stumbling blocks. Or how endless I find the

constant pressures of making food or bread, or feeding chickens, or working in the garden. It wasn't until all of those things were off the table that the meaning of them really hit home.

Breaking my arm was a lesson in reliance. My husband has had to tie my shoes, cut my food, pull back my hair, do up my bra (a task he didn't really mind, to be honest). Living miles away from anyone else, we had to ask for help, asking neighbours for lifts and friends to get our groceries – all very frustrating for my independently-minded self. But it's

been the absence of making that has really floored me. Baking your own bread, writing or crocheting is, of course, superfluous in many ways to modern society – bread can be bought and sample makers can be hired – but it turns out it's these precise things that make up my identity in a way I hadn't really realised before. Whether or not I could tie up my own shoelaces was frustrating, yes, but hardly life-altering. Whether or not I could meet a commission deadline, get paid for my work or create something every day was

"We only notice what something means to us when it's taken away."



GOOD READ



"My self-esteem

is tied to making."

a different matter altogether though. That affected me very deeply.

CAGED TIGERS

Making is my lifeline. It's something that I'm reasonably good at, but it's also something tangible that I can show for myself in a world of sinks that seem to magically fill with dishes, little creatures that constantly need feeding and a virtual world spent on my computer or phone. My self-esteem is closely tied to making in a way I didn't see before. My view of myself is that of a strong, creative

person. When those things were taken away, even just for a short time, I found it quite difficult to recognise myself. And it means that I've been horrible to live with; so grumpy and short-tempered, just like a caged tiger – pacing the floors, feeling as if I haven't achieved anything, irritable and restless.

The good news is that I'm recovering well and won't need to have surgery – this is something I'm so very grateful for. Knitting has been possible and I have been able to make some bread and cakes. Crochet is still slightly beyond

me, but I'm hopeful that I'll soon be able to use my crochet hook properly again. I do attempt it most days, picking up a hook and testing out my arm on a few stitches. I haven't been successful yet, but I'm getting closer every time. My fingers are itching to get going again and I've already planned out exactly what I'll be making first. But in the meantime, I would stay well away. Caged tigers can be pretty vicious. [SEE WHAT KAT'S BEEN HOOKING LATELY ON HER BLOG AT WWW.SLUGSONTHEREFRIGERATOR.COM](http://WWW.SLUGSONTHEREFRIGERATOR.COM)

A LOCH AT MY MONTH

"I've been working hard laying out our Crochet Project cardigan collection and making birthday cakes. And then there's Luna, our new feline studio assistant!"



OLIVER THE BEAR

Get your fix of adorable amigurumi with this little guy by Mary's Amiland.



Amigurumi bear



YOU WILL NEED

- DMC Natura Just Cotton (100% cotton, 50g/155m), 1 ball of each: Linen (N78), Golden Lemon (N43), Safran (N47), small amounts of Black (N11), Star Light (N27)
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- Toy stuffing
- Stitch markers

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

MEASUREMENTS

20cm (7¾in) tall

ABBREVIATIONS

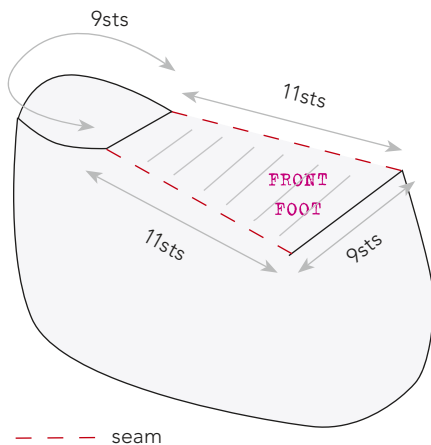
Invisible Decrease (inv dec)

Insert hook through the front loops of the next two sts, (yrh, pull through 2 loops on the hook) twice

Inv dec bl Work an invisible decrease as above, but using the back loops rather than the front loops of the stitches

For a full list, see page 92

FOOT CONSTRUCTION



--- seam

Meet Oliver the bear – he has headed to the beach for a spot of fishing but just can't resist jumping in for a splash about. With his arm bands on, of course. What a cutie.

NOTES

Use the amigurumi method, working 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

With Linen, ch2.

Rnd 1 (RS) 8dc in second ch from hook. [8 sts]

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

Rnd 3 (1dc, 2dc in next st) rep around. [24 sts]

Rnd 4 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 5 (2dc, 2dc in next st) rep around. [32 sts]

Rnd 6 (3dc, 2dc in next st) rep around. [40 sts]

Rnds 7-8 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 9 (4dc, 2dc in next st) rep around. [48 sts]

Rnds 10-11 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 12 (2dc in next st, 5dc) rep around. [56 sts]

Rnds 13-19 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 20 (5dc, inv dec) rep around. [48 sts]

Rnds 21-22 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 23 (4dc, inv dec) rep around. [40 sts]

Rnd 24 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 25 (3dc, inv dec) rep around. [32 sts]

Rnd 26 (2dc, inv dec) rep around. [24 sts]

Rnd 27 (1dc, inv dec) rep around. [16 sts]

Stuff. **Fasten off** and leave long end for sewing Head to Body.

BODY

With Linen, ch2.

Rnd 1 (RS) 6dc in second ch from hook. [6 sts]

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

Rnd 3 (2dc in next st, 1dc) rep around. [18 sts]

Rnd 4 (2dc in next st, 2dc) rep around. [24 sts]

Rnd 5 (2dc in next st, 3dc) rep around. [30 sts]

Rnd 6 (4dc, 2dc in next st) rep around. [36 sts]



The magic of this project is in the detail. The arm bands and shorts are made separately.

Rnd 7 (5dc, 2dc in next st) rep around. [42 sts]

Rnds 8-9 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 10 (2dc in next st, 6dc) rep around. [48 sts]

Rnds 11-15 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 16 (6dc, inv dec) rep around. [42 sts]

Rnds 17-18 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 19 (inv dec, 5dc) rep around. [36 sts]

Rnds 20-22 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 23 (inv dec, 4dc) rep around. [30 sts]

Rnds 24-25 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 26 (inv dec, 3dc) rep around. [24 sts]

Rnd 27 (inv dec, 2dc) rep around. [18 sts]

Rnd 28 (inv dec, 7dc) rep around. [16 sts]

Stuff. **Fasten off** and weave in ends.

ARMS (MAKE 2)

With Linen, ch2.

Rnd 1 (RS) 6dc in second ch from hook. [6 sts]

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

Rnd 3 (2dc, 2dc in next st) rep around. [16 sts]

Rnd 4 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 5 (7dc, 2dc in next st) rep around. [18 sts]

Rnds 6-7 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 8 (4dc, inv dec) rep around. [15 sts]

Rnd 9 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 10 (3dc, inv dec) rep around. [12 sts]

Rnd 11 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 12 (3dc, 2dc in next st) rep around. [15 sts]

Begin stuffing with toy stuffing as you go. Stuff lightly towards the end.

Rnds 13-18 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 19 1dc, 2dc in next st, 2dc, 2dc in next st, 4dc, (inv dec, 1dc) twice. [15 sts]

Amigurumi bear

Rnd 20 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 21 (3dc, inv dec) rep around. [12 sts]

Rnd 22 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 23 (2dc, inv dec) rep around. [9 sts]
Finish stuffing, and shape arms so they arch a little. Sew open end tog and leave long end for sewing Arm to Body.

LEGS (MAKE 2)

With Linen, ch7.

Rnd 1 (RS) 5dc beg in second ch from hook, 3dc in last ch, rotate to work on other side of foundation ch, 4dc, 3dc in last ch. [15 sts]

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

Rnd 3 2dc in next st, 7dc, (2dc in next st) 4 times, 7dc, 2dc in next st. [26 sts]

Rnd 4 2dc in next st, 9dc, 2dc in next st, 3dc, 2dc in next st, 9dc, 2dc in next st, 1dc. [30 sts]

Rnds 5-8 Dc in each st around. Remove hook from loop and place a st marker in loop to keep sts from unravelling. Do not cut this yarn as you will need it to cont later. Count back 12 sts from end of last rnd and rejoin the other end of skein to 12th st, leaving a long tail.

FRONT OF THE FOOT

Now working in rows:

Row 1 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), 9dc, turn leaving rem sts unworked. [9 sts]

Rows 2-3 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 4 Ch1, 1dc, inv dec bl, 3dc, inv dec bl, 1dc, turn. [7 sts]

Rows 5-6 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 7 Ch1, 1dc, inv dec, 1dc, inv dec, 1dc, turn. [5 sts]

Row 8 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 9 Ch1, 1dc, inv dec, 2dc.

Fasten off leaving a long tail.

SEWING UP THE FOOT

See diagram for Foot Construction on prev page. Turn foot WS out and sew one straight side of Front Foot to next 11 sts of Rnd 8, and the other straight side to prev 11 sts of Rnd 8. Turn RS out. This will leave 9 unworked sts of Rnd 8 and 4 sts across the top of the Front Foot to cont working for Leg. Pull foot into shape to smooth out any square angles. Pick up the prev working yarn at the beg of Rnd 8 to cont:

Rnd 9 Dc in each st around. [13 sts]

Rnd 10 1dc, (5dc, 2dc in next st) twice. [15 sts] Stuff with toy stuffing as you go.

Rnds 11-19 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 21 (1dc, inv dec) rep around. [10 sts] Finish stuffing. **Fasten off** and leave long tail for sewing Leg to Body.

EARS (MAKE 2)

With Linen, ch2.

Rnd 1 (RS) 6dc in second ch from hook. [6 sts]

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

Rnd 3 (2dc in next st, 1dc) rep around. [18 sts]

Rnd 4 (2dc in next st, 2dc) rep around. [24 sts]

Rnd 5 (5dc, 2dc in next st) rep around. [28 sts]

Rnds 6-7 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 8 9dc, (inv dec) 5 times, 9dc. [23 sts]

Rnd 9 Dc in each st around. Flatten Ear with last st in the centre and sew the open ends across the top. Leave a long tail for sewing the Ear to the Head. The front of the Ear will be the side with the Rnd 8 decreases.

TO MAKE UP

Pin Ears in place and mark the position of Eyes with pins. Make a small st at centre of each Eye (between Rnds 13 and 14, 9 sts apart). Pull the st tight to make an indentation and rep for 2nd eye. Take yarn inside head to base of the Head. **Fasten off** securely. Using Black, embroider eyes with small straight sts, then complete nose and mouth using image as a guide. Split a strand of yarn to make a finer line for the mouth. Check position of Ears. They should be pinched tog slightly and positioned in line with Rnd 6 at top of Head. Sew them in place. Position arms 4 rnds from top of Body and sew in place. Position Legs with feet slightly turned out and sew in place. Pin Head and sew in place, adding stuffing as you sew to keep Head from tipping.

SHORTS

LEGS (MAKE 2)

With Star Light, ch30.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook and in each ch to end.

Fasten off. [29 sts] Turn and join Golden Lemon in first st.

Rows 2-4 Ch1, dc in each st to end,

turn. **Fasten off.**

Join the two Shorts Legs as follows:

Row 1 (RS) With Golden Lemon, ch2, with RS facing, dc in each st across the first Leg, ch2, dc in each st across the second Leg, do not fasten off. [62 sts] On next rnd the Legs will be joined in to the rnd, with the 'ch2' sections forming the centre front and centre back of Shorts. The side leg and crotch seam will be sewn up later.

Rnd 2 (RS) Join into the rnd by working a dc st into first ch of Row 1, and cont working a dc st into each st and ch around. [62 sts]

Rnd 3 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 4 15dc, inv dec, 29dc, inv dec, 14dc. [60 sts]

Rnd 5 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 6 (Inv dec, 28dc) twice. [58 sts]

Rnd 7 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 8 (Inv dec, 27dc) twice. [56 sts]

Rnd 9 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 10 (Inv dec, 26dc) twice. [54 sts]

Rnd 11 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 12 (Inv dec, 25dc) twice. [52 sts]

Rnd 13 Dc in each st around.

Change to Star Light.

Rnd 14 Dc in each st around, ss in first st of next rnd to finish.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

DRAWSTRING

With Star Light, ch76. **Fasten off.**

Thread drawstring onto a yarn needle and weave it in and out between sts of the last 2 rows of Shorts, starting at centre front. Tie a knot in each end of drawstring and cut off yarn ends. Sew up side legs and crotch seam in one.

ARM BANDS (MAKE 2)

With Safran, ch27 and ss into first ch to join into the rnd, being careful not to twist.

Rnd 1 Ch1, dc into each ch around. [27 sts]

Rnds 2-16 Dc in each st around. Ss in first st of next rnd to finish.

Fasten off leaving a long tail for sewing.

Fold Arm Band long edge to long edge and sew tog, adding stuffing as you go. Do not add any stuffing within 7 sts of the start of rnd, so that one side of Band stays flatter. Back stitch across width of Band at this point to keep this section flat.

CREATIVE PAPER

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OLIVER THE BEAR

Get your fix of adorable amigurumi with this little guy by Mary's Amiland.



Amigurumi bear



YOU WILL NEED

- DMC Natura Just Cotton (100% cotton, 50g/155m), 1 ball of each: Linen (N78), Golden Lemon (N43), Safran (N47), small amounts of Black (N11), Star Light (N27)
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- Toy stuffing
- Stitch markers

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

MEASUREMENTS

20cm (7¾in) tall

ABBREVIATIONS

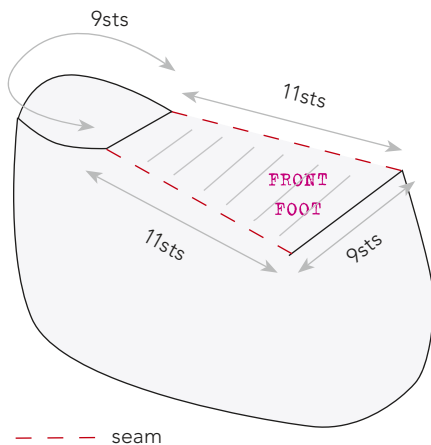
Invisible Decrease (inv dec)

Insert hook through the front loops of the next two sts, (yrh, pull through 2 loops on the hook) twice

Inv dec bl Work an invisible decrease as above, but using the back loops rather than the front loops of the stitches

For a full list, see page 92

FOOT CONSTRUCTION



--- seam

M eet Oliver the bear – he has headed to the beach for a spot of fishing but just can't resist jumping in for a splash about. With his arm bands on, of course. What a cutie.

NOTES

Use the amigurumi method, working 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

With Linen, ch2.

Rnd 1 (RS) 8dc in second ch from hook. [8 sts]

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

Rnd 3 (1dc, 2dc in next st) rep around. [24 sts]

Rnd 4 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 5 (2dc, 2dc in next st) rep around. [32 sts]

Rnd 6 (3dc, 2dc in next st) rep around. [40 sts]

Rnds 7-8 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 9 (4dc, 2dc in next st) rep around. [48 sts]

Rnds 10-11 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 12 (2dc in next st, 5dc) rep around. [56 sts]

Rnds 13-19 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 20 (5dc, inv dec) rep around. [48 sts]

Rnds 21-22 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 23 (4dc, inv dec) rep around. [40 sts]

Rnd 24 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 25 (3dc, inv dec) rep around. [32 sts]

Rnd 26 (2dc, inv dec) rep around. [24 sts]

Rnd 27 (1dc, inv dec) rep around. [16 sts]

Stuff. **Fasten off** and leave long end for sewing Head to Body.

BODY

With Linen, ch2.

Rnd 1 (RS) 6dc in second ch from hook. [6 sts]

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

Rnd 3 (2dc in next st, 1dc) rep around. [18 sts]

Rnd 4 (2dc in next st, 2dc) rep around. [24 sts]

Rnd 5 (2dc in next st, 3dc) rep around. [30 sts]

Rnd 6 (4dc, 2dc in next st) rep around. [36 sts]



The magic of this project is in the detail. The arm bands and shorts are made separately.

Rnd 7 (5dc, 2dc in next st) rep around. [42 sts]

Rnds 8-9 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 10 (2dc in next st, 6dc) rep around. [48 sts]

Rnds 11-15 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 16 (6dc, inv dec) rep around. [42 sts]

Rnds 17-18 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 19 (inv dec, 5dc) rep around. [36 sts]

Rnds 20-22 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 23 (inv dec, 4dc) rep around. [30 sts]

Rnds 24-25 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 26 (inv dec, 3dc) rep around. [24 sts]

Rnd 27 (inv dec, 2dc) rep around. [18 sts]

Rnd 28 (inv dec, 7dc) rep around. [16 sts]

Stuff. **Fasten off** and weave in ends.

ARMS (MAKE 2)

With Linen, ch2.

Rnd 1 (RS) 6dc in second ch from hook. [6 sts]

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

Rnd 3 (2dc, 2dc in next st) rep around. [16 sts]

Rnd 4 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 5 (7dc, 2dc in next st) rep around. [18 sts]

Rnds 6-7 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 8 (4dc, inv dec) rep around. [15 sts]

Rnd 9 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 10 (3dc, inv dec) rep around. [12 sts]

Rnd 11 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 12 (3dc, 2dc in next st) rep around. [15 sts]

Begin stuffing with toy stuffing as you go. Stuff lightly towards the end.

Rnds 13-18 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 19 1dc, 2dc in next st, 2dc, 2dc in next st, 4dc, (inv dec, 1dc) twice. [15 sts]

BECCA PARKER

CROCHET
RETREAT

Hook with Frank & Olive.



There's something really special about meeting like-minded crafty folk who squeal over yarn the same way you do. We were lucky enough to do just that when we popped along to The Frank & Olive Crochet Retreat (www.thecrochetretreat.co.uk) back in March. Yep, it turns out a crochet getaway is just as dreamy as you'd imagine.

Think comfy sofas, piles of gorgeous yarn, creative workshops, lovely fellow crocheters and nothing to do but hook. And that's to say nothing of the yummy home-cooked food we were treated to by Guac & Roll (www.shakeguacandroll.com).

Frank & Olive's Ruby McGrath and Kimberley Battey welcomed us to the cosy B&B in York, then everyone settled down

with a drink and we started stitching right away. Designer Ruby had a couple of special Frank & Olive projects up her sleeve for us – she got us making giant doily rugs and necklaces with T-shirt yarn and chunky heart-shaped cushions.

The atmosphere was relaxed – no-one had to race to get their projects done. We could take it easy and natter away, helping ourselves to yarn and even working on our own WIPs if we fancied. It was blissful to be able to stitch away in such gorgeous surroundings, with crochet books to dip into and top notch yarn on tap.

PERMISSION TO PLAY

In the afternoon, guest tutor textile artist Marna Lunt (www.marnalunt.co.uk)

let us loose on her craft stash. She had brought an amazing collection of vintage haberdashery and her own beautiful embroidered creations with her to inspire us to play with colour and texture.

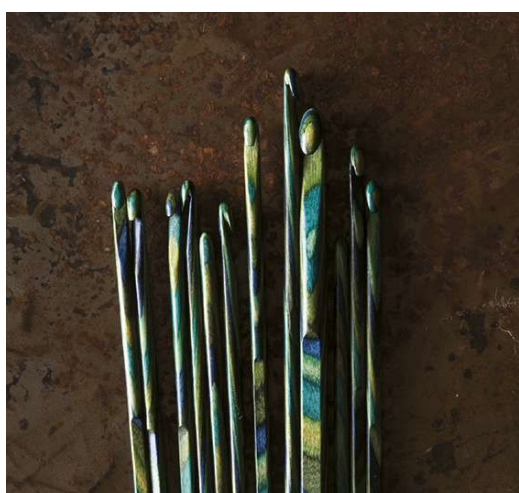
Rather than obsessing about neat stitches, Marna encouraged us to gather together the bits and bobs we liked to create pretty brooches. She was on hand to provide inspiration, teach hand sewing techniques and tell us more about her own work. It was a lovely opportunity to dip our toe into another craft and explore some of the different ways we could combine it with our crochet skills.

After a tasty supper, our evening involved chatting, more crochet and a bit of gin. We left feeling super-inspired with an armful of projects, happy tummies and a fantastic sense of crafty camaraderie.

We went as day guests, but Frank & Olive's retreats usually run from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon. These flexible options mean you can plan a crafty getaway to suit your purse and calendar. They take place at two luxurious venues in York (one of them has a pool!) and always feature an exclusive textiles workshop from a guest tutor, as well as Frank & Olive crochet sessions. To find the latest Crochet Retreat dates and further details, visit www.thecrochetretreat.co.uk. FRANK & OLIVE ARE OFFERING ONE LUCKY READER A DAY PASS TO ONE OF THEIR RETREATS! FOR A CHANCE TO WIN, ENTER AT [HTTP://COMPETITION.IMMEDIATE.CO.UK/SC45RETREAT](http://COMPETITION.IMMEDIATE.CO.UK/SC45RETREAT)



Far left, from top: Scrumptious designer yarns to get your hook into; super-chunky cushions and rug projects. **Centre:** Guest tutor Marna Lunt's gorgeous embroidered lampshades and brooches. **Above:** Beautiful textiles set the scene for a creative weekend. We loved this crochet and embroidery combo.



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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



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- 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
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Embellish an outfit



SWEET DREAMS

Add a dainty love heart trim to your comfiest pair of pyjamas and get nap happy. By Becky Skuse.

Embellish an outfit



YOU WILL NEED

- DMC Natura Just Cotton (100% cotton, 50g/155m), 1 ball of Orleans (88)
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- Sewing needle and thread

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

MEASUREMENTS

Pattern can be used to create a trim the length you require. See notes for more details.

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92

Designer Becky Skuse says: "How do you make a cute pair of pyjamas even cuter? With an adorable heart trim! The pattern is quick and simple to work, and you can use it to embellish lots of different edges. Hook it with any colour of yarn you like and, as the pattern is adjustable, you can make the trim as long or short as you need. Try using it to make pocket trims, a chunky belt, shelf edgings, heart bunting – the creative possibilities are endless." We love how the purple yarn contrasts with yet complements the soft grey.

NOTES

Pattern repeat is a multiple of 9 ch: 7 ch for each heart and 2 ch for each gap (you can adjust the ch gap to suit you, if desired).
Trim is made by working a chain length the size you need, then working the top half of each heart along the chain, then working the lower half of each heart along the other side of the chain.

HOW TO USE THIS PATTERN

Make a small sample using the pattern below – we chained 27 to make a length of 3 hearts.
Then measure the circumference of one leg hem on your shorts – ours was 70cm.
Then measure the central repeat (one heart and the gap next to it) in your sample – ours measured 3.3cm.
Take the first number (70) and divide by the second number (3.3) – we got 21.
Multiply this number (21) by 9 (the chain multiple for this pattern) – we got 189.
This is the number of chains (189) you need to make for your initial foundation chain.
If desired, use this sample strip of 3 hearts to embellish a pocket on your pyjama top.

C TRIM (MAKE 2)

Using a 3mm hook, ch a multiple of 9.
Row 1 2tr in the 3rd ch from the hook, *ch1, ss in next ch, ch1, 2tr in next ch, skip 1 ch, ss in next 4 ch, skip 1 ch, 2tr in next ch; repeat from * to last 6 ch, ch1, ss in next ch, ch1, 2tr in next ch, skip 1 ch, ss in next 3 ch.

Rotate piece to work into the other side of the foundation chain.

Row 2 Ch1, ss in next 3 ch of



Three tiny hearts are all you need to embellish a pyjama pocket – works for T-shirts, too.



Sew your sweetheart trims securely in place using thread that matches your chosen yarn.

foundation chain, *skip 1 ch, 2htr in next ch (this is same ch you worked 2tr into on the other side), 2dtr in next ch, 2htr in next ch, skip 1 ch, ss in next 4 ch; repeat from * to last 6 ch, skip 1 ch, 2htr in next ch, 2dtr in next ch, 2htr in next ch, skip 1 ch, ss in next ch.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

ATTACHING TRIMS

Pin the trims in place around the hem of each leg, placing the heart points at the edge of the fabric.

Sew in place along the top and lower edges of the trim using matching thread.

Floor cushion

only, ss in each st around, keeping the sts loose and even, join with ss in the first ss.

Fasten off Yarn A. Join Yarn B.

Round 36 Working in the back loops only, dc in each st of Round 34. **01**
Do not join.

Rounds 37-41 Dc in each st around.

Round 42 Dc in each st around, join with ss in next st.

Fasten off Yarn B. Join Yarn C.

Rounds 43-44 Dc in each st around.

Round 45 Dc in each st around, join with ss in next st.

Fasten off Yarn C. Join Yarn B.

Rounds 46-59 Dc in each st around.

Round 60 (Inv dec, dc in next 16 sts) 9 times. [153 sts]

Round 61 (Inv dec, dc in next 15 sts) 9 times. [144 sts]

Round 62 (Inv dec, dc in next 14 sts) 9 times. [135 sts]

Round 63 (Inv dec, dc in next 13 sts) 9 times. [126 sts]

Round 64 (Inv dec, dc in next 12 sts) 9 times. [117 sts]

Round 65 (Inv dec, dc in next 11 sts) 9 times. [108 sts]

Round 66 (Inv dec, dc in next 10 sts) 9 times. [99 sts]

Round 67 (Inv dec, dc in next 9 sts) 9 times. [90 sts]

Round 68 (Inv dec, dc in next 8 sts) 9 times. [81 sts]

Round 69 (Inv dec, dc in next 7 sts) 9 times. [72 sts]

Round 70 (Inv dec, dc in next 6 sts) 9 times. [63 sts]

Round 71 (Inv dec, dc in next 5 sts) 9 times. [54 sts]

Rounds 72-90 Dc in each st around, join with ss in next st.

Fasten off, leaving a 1 metre tail for sewing. **02**

Weave in short end of foundation ch.

SPRINKLES (MAKE 22)

With smaller hook and desired colour, ch3, join with ss to the first ch to form a ring.

Place marker for beginning of round. Work in a continuous spiral without closing off each round with a ss.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1, 8dc into the ring. [8 sts]

Round 2 Dc in each st around. Repeat Round 2, stuffing lightly as you go, until piece is 9cm long, join with ss in next st.

Fasten off, leaving a 60cm tail.

Thread the remaining yarn tail through 8 sts and pull to close.

Weave in the short end.

TO MAKE UP

Whipstitch the last round of the doughnut to foundation ch, using 1 metre of Yarn A at a time and stuffing the doughnut as you go. **03**

Sew 10 sts at a time and be sure that the stuffing is full and smooth before sewing further.

Sew the sprinkles to the doughnut as desired.



The colourful sprinkles are made with the 5mm crochet hook in aran weight yarns.



This tasty project is from the book *Crocheted Abode à la Mode* by Twinkie Chan, published by Creative

Publishing International (RRP £12.99). For stockists of this book and more details, visit www.quartoknows.com

SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO WORK DOUBLE CROCHET IN A SPIRAL



1 Make a foundation ring (see p89) and work the t-ch (1ch for dc). Now work 12 dc stitches into the ring, but do not join the last stitch and first stitch of this first round with a slip stitch.



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



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



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

"I stumbled across amigurumi and instantly fell in love."



Simply
INSPIRING

SNUGGLE-READY AMIGURUMI

Kate Hancock uses her crochet skills to recreate adorable wildlife – prepare to discover a world of amigurumi sloths and badgers and bears, oh my!

Designer Kate Hancock is doing the craft proud by imbuing yarn with armfuls of personality. Her amigurumi animals look like they've escaped from the woodlands and jungles of children's fiction, with a cast of characters including cute crocheted rabbits, reindeer and even a sloth.

It makes perfect sense when Kate admits that her first forays into crochet began with a twinge of nostalgia. "I suppose it's always been there in the background," she muses. "I have some very vivid childhood memories of my mother's crochet blankets covering our old sofa, so it's actually quite surprising

that I only started crocheting myself about seven years ago."

Kate joined a knitting group in her local library, but a bit of browsing through the books for inspiration changed her direction. "I stumbled across a book on amigurumi and instantly fell in love. I just knew I had to learn how to make them so I started crocheting instead!"

HOOKED WITH LOVE

Kate has remained steadfast in her passion for making sweet beasties. "I've enjoyed crocheting so many things, but I always come back to amigurumi. I never tire of it," she says. "I think it's because they're made with so much love and every

one you make is different, with a character of its own. You can't really make them wrong, any mistakes just add to their personality. Being handmade, you can tell somebody cared about making them, and it shows – a wonky nose or one arm longer than the other just makes them more appealing."

After gaining experience making tiny, kawaii-influenced amigurumi, Kate began to tackle ideas of her own. "I started to design my first pattern for Bramble the bunny. People liked him and I loved the experience of designing my own creatures, so it went on from there."

We love the fact that a lot of her creatures have such a distinctly British



look, such as Aneira the lamb, Felix the robin, Bracken the kitten and Ambrose the badger, and are based on the kind of wildlife you might find meandering through a field or woodland, or happily tucked up in a family home.

"I mostly draw inspiration from nature and the wildlife around us," Kate says. "I started on Ambrose after finding a set of badger prints in the woods nearby. We have a lot of badgers around us, but we don't see them very often and I was keen to work on an animal that was close to us."

She adds: "Sometimes I'll design a specific animal for people and sometimes I see a really cute photo and I think wow – I have to make one of those! I designed my sloth Artemis after I was sent an adorable picture of one in pyjamas."

Choosing a favourite character is difficult. "Hmmm, that's a tricky one as it changes constantly! I tend to get a bit attached to them when they're in progress and I'm usually happiest with the one I've just finished, but I'll always have a soft spot for Moss the puppy (in *Simply Crochet* issue 22) and Theo the bear. Theo was my first cuddle-sized amigurumi and despite being a simpler design than some of my projects, he was a bit of a labour of love."

Kate works hard to squeeze as much cuteness as possible into each of her creations. "I was so happy with Theo when I got him just right. I guess the same goes for Moss really – I don't release a design until I feel it's the best I can make it and that means that some are works in progress for quite a long time, but they are always worth it to me."

Naming each creature is an important part of the job. "A few of them have been named for children and if I'm reading a book and I like a character, I might use

that name if it fits. I love old-fashioned names. I have a list that I add my favourites to as I come across them and then I choose based on which one suits them the most. If none of them quite fit then I start hunting for a new one."

MAKING A GO OF IT

Before long, it was clear that Kate's ever-growing menagerie was developing a firm fan base, and she launched her website, www.patchworkmoose.co.uk. "About three years ago I started selling online and set up my website. I had so much support from the Ravelry community, my family and people that shared my love of my amigurumi creations and I finally got to the point where I thought I could actually make a go of it," she explains. "I'd been designing for a while before then and it took a bit of time to grow my confidence, but I knew that I had to take the opportunity."

She'd had the website name, Patchwork Moose, in mind for a while. "I wanted something memorable and fun, and I still like it. It's one of my ambitions to

create a crochet patchwork moose amigurumi one day, so it's a goal, too."

Kate tells us she's happy to sit down and crochet almost anywhere. "On car journeys, on the bus or train, in waiting rooms..." she laughs. "I love to crochet in the garden if it's warm and I tend to chase the sunshine around the house, but I do have an comfy chair that used to belong

to my grandfather. If I can persuade my cats to share it with me, that's where I most like to crochet. As for the actual designing and

computer work, I have a tiny office where I'm surrounded by yarn. It's heaven."

Making amigurumi is a thoroughly immersive experience for Kate. "I find crochet very meditative and it's so versatile – you can take a ball of yarn and a hook and create so many things from it, it's only limited by your imagination," she says. "There's usually an animal or two waiting in the wings and I have a basket of works-in-progress, but I'm currently furthest along with a little piglet design. Turning a length of yarn into a cuddly animal is still magical to me."

Interview by Judy Darley

"I FIND CROCHET VERY MEDITATIVE AND SO VERSATILE. IT'S ONLY LIMITED BY YOUR IMAGINATION."



A FEW OF HER FAVOURITE THINGS

"I adore all fibre-related crafts. I started with crochet and as I fell in love with yarn, it led into so many other things. I like to knit when I have a little time and I spin yarn as well. I also enjoy felting, sewing and a bit of

machine embroidery, although I still can't sew a straight line very well!"

You can find Kate Hancock and her adorable amigurumi at www.patchworkmoose.co.uk. Her patterns are available on Ravelry.

PRETTY IN PINK

Shine in Sara Huntington's
sparkly ladder stitch top.



Tunic top



YOU WILL NEED

- Rico Creative Reflection Print (46% wool, 46% acrylic, 8% polyester, 50g/240m), Blackberry (02)

See table for yarn quantities and measurements

- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook

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

TENSION

26 sts and 19 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over pattern using a 3.5mm hook or size needed to obtain correct tension

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92



Ombré shades and iridescent silver – it's a match made in heaven. Rico's variegated yarn is shot through with metallic thread, which allows the delicate ladder stitch patterning to really stand out. Ladder stitch is created with a combo of double crochet and chains, and it's a great one to learn if you're an improver who wants to practise shaping and hook a garment. Sara's design is one of those endlessly useful tops that will do double duty in wardrobe rotation, being casual enough to pair with jeans for everyday, but with just the right amount of sparkle to take you into the evening. Start stitching.

NOTES

Top is worked from the bottom up in two identical parts, Front and Back. An edging is worked around the neckline.

FRONT AND BACK (MAKE 2)

Using a 3mm hook, ch90 (94: 98: 106: 110: 118: 122).

Row 1 (WS) Dc in second ch from hook, dc into each ch to end. [89 (93: 97: 105: 109: 117: 121) sts]

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

Row 3 As Row 2.

Row 4 Ch1, dc in each of first 6 sts, 2dc in next st, *dc in each of next 3 sts, 2dc in next st; rep from * to last 2 sts, dc in each of last 2 sts. [110 (115: 120: 130: 135: 145: 150) sts]

Change to a 3.5mm hook.

Row 5 Ch1, dc in each of next 3 sts, *ch4, skip next 4 sts, dc in next st; rep from * to last 7 sts, ch4, skip next 4 sts, dc in each of last 3 sts.

Row 5 forms the pattern.

Continue in pattern with shaping until the work measures 40cm from foundation ch, ending on a RS row.



The wide armholes give this top a lovely relaxed fit, but you'll want to layer up.

SHAPE ARMHOLES

Over the following section keep the pattern correct by working 3dc at the beginning and end of every row, either into an existing dc or ch. When instructed to work in pattern for the rest of the row, make sure that the dc sts are always worked into the dc sts of the previous row, so you may need to work fewer ch after the 3dc at the beginning of the row and before the 3dc at the end of the row to achieve this.

Row 1 (WS) Ss in each of next 4 sts, dc in each of next 3 sts, pattern to last 7 sts, dc in each of next 3 sts, skip the last 4 sts, turn. [102 (107: 112: 122: 127: 137: 142) sts]

SIZE		8	10	12	14	16	18	20
TO FIT BUST	cm	81	86	91	97	102	107	112
	in	32	34	36	38	40	42	44
ACTUAL BUST	cm	85	88	92	100	104	112	115
	in	33¼	34¾	36¼	39¼	40¾	44	45½
LENGTH	cm	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
	in	25¼	25½	26	26¼	26¾	27	27½
YARN	50g	3	3	3	3	4	4	4

Tunic top

Row 2 Ss in each of next 2 sts, dc in each of next 3 sts, pattern to last 5 sts, dc in each of next 3 sts, skip the last 2 sts, turn. [98 (103: 108: 118: 123: 133: 138) sts]

Rep Row 2 another 4 (4: 4: 4: 6: 8: 8) times. [82 (87: 92: 102: 99: 101: 106) sts]

Next row Ss in first st, dc in each of next 3 sts, pattern to last 4 sts, dc in each of next 3 sts, skip last st. [80 (85: 90: 100: 97: 99: 104) sts]

Next row Rep Row 7 another 0 (0: 0: 5: 1: 2: 2) times. [80 (85: 90: 90: 95: 95: 100) sts]

Continue in patt until work measures 14 (15: 16: 16: 17: 16: 17)cm from armhole shaping, ending on a WS row.

NECK AND SHOULDER STRAP SHAPING

With RS facing, ch1, dc in each of next 3 sts, *ch4, skip next 4 sts, dc into next st; rep from * another 2 (2: 3: 3: 3: 3) times, turn. [18 (18: 23: 23: 23: 23) sts]

Continue working in patt on these stitches, working the 3dc band on armhole edge only, until the shoulder strap measures 10 (10: 10: 11: 11: 13: 13) cm, ending on a WS row.

Change to a 3mm hook and work 2 rows of dc evenly along the top of the Shoulder Strap.

Fasten off.

Leave 44 (49: 44: 49: 49: 54) central stitches unworked and rejoin the yarn to the next st with RS facing. This should be a dc st in the pattern repeat. *Dc in next st, ch 4, skip next 4 sts; rep from * another 2 (2: 3: 3: 3: 3) times, dc in each of last 3 sts, turn. [18 (18: 23: 23: 23: 23) sts]

Continue working in patt on these stitches, working the 3dc band on armhole edge only, until the shoulder strap measures 10 (10: 10: 11: 11: 13: 13) cm, ending on a WS row.

Change to a 3mm hook and work 2 rows of dc evenly along the top end of the Shoulder Strap.

Fasten off.

When repeating the instructions to the



make the second piece, make sure to work the same number of rows as you have worked on the first piece, rather than just working to stated length measurements.

TO FINISH

For best results, block and press each side to measurements before sewing up.

Using mattress stitch, join the shoulder

seams and then the side seams.

NECK EDGING

Round 1 (RS) Using a 3mm hook and starting at a shoulder seam, work a round of dc evenly around the inside of the neck edge, working dc3tog at each corner of the front and back neck. Rep the last round another 3 times.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Tunic top



YOU WILL NEED

- Rico Creative Reflection Print (46% wool, 46% acrylic, 8% polyester, 50g/240m), Blackberry (02)

See table for yarn quantities and measurements

- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook

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

TENSION

26 sts and 19 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over pattern using a 3.5mm hook or size needed to obtain correct tension

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92



Ombré shades and iridescent silver – it's a match made in heaven. Rico's variegated yarn is shot through with metallic thread, which allows the delicate ladder stitch patterning to really stand out. Ladder stitch is created with a combo of double crochet and chains, and it's a great one to learn if you're an improver who wants to practise shaping and hook a garment. Sara's design is one of those endlessly useful tops that will do double duty in wardrobe rotation, being casual enough to pair with jeans for everyday, but with just the right amount of sparkle to take you into the evening. Start stitching.

NOTES

Top is worked from the bottom up in two identical parts, Front and Back. An edging is worked around the neckline.

C FRONT AND BACK (MAKE 2)

Using a 3mm hook, ch90 (94: 98: 106: 110: 118: 122).

Row 1 (WS) Dc in second ch from hook, dc into each ch to end. [89 (93: 97: 105: 109: 117: 121) sts]

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

Row 3 As Row 2.

Row 4 Ch1, dc in each of first 6 sts, 2dc in next st, *dc in each of next 3 sts, 2dc in next st; rep from * to last 2 sts, dc in each of last 2 sts. [110 (115: 120: 130: 135: 145: 150) sts]

Change to a 3.5mm hook.

Row 5 Ch1, dc in each of next 3 sts, *ch4, skip next 4 sts, dc in next st; rep from * to last 7 sts, ch4, skip next 4 sts, dc in each of last 3 sts.

Row 5 forms the pattern.

Continue in pattern with shaping until the work measures 40cm from foundation ch, ending on a RS row.



The wide armholes give this top a lovely relaxed fit, but you'll want to layer up.

SHAPE ARMHOLES

Over the following section keep the pattern correct by working 3dc at the beginning and end of every row, either into an existing dc or ch. When instructed to work in pattern for the rest of the row, make sure that the dc sts are always worked into the dc sts of the previous row, so you may need to work fewer ch after the 3dc at the beginning of the row and before the 3dc at the end of the row to achieve this.

Row 1 (WS) Ss in each of next 4 sts, dc in each of next 3 sts, pattern to last 7 sts, dc in each of next 3 sts, skip the last 4 sts, turn. [102 (107: 112: 122: 127: 137: 142) sts]

SIZE		8	10	12	14	16	18	20
TO FIT BUST	cm	81	86	91	97	102	107	112
	in	32	34	36	38	40	42	44
ACTUAL BUST	cm	85	88	92	100	104	112	115
	in	33¼	34¾	36¼	39¼	40¾	44	45½
LENGTH	cm	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
	in	25¼	25½	26	26¼	26¾	27	27½
YARN	50g	3	3	3	3	4	4	4

SWEET ON YOU

Indulge in a crochet treat, complete with sprinkles. By Twinkie Chan.



Floor cushion



YOU WILL NEED

- Lion Brand Hometown USA (100% acrylic, 142g/74m), 5 balls of Yarn A Honolulu Pink (102), 7 balls of Yarn B Madison Mustard (159), 1 ball of Yarn C Los Angeles Tan (99)
- Red Heart Super Saver Economy (100% acrylic, 198g/333m), or any aran weight acrylic yarn; small amounts of assorted colours for sprinkles
- 5mm (US H/8) hook
- 9mm (US M/13) hook
- Tapestry needle
- Stitch marker
- Four 900g (32oz) bags of polyester stuffing

For yarn stockists, contact
LoveCrochet 0845 5442196
www.lovecrochet.com

TENSION

9 sts x 11 rows to measure
10x10cm (4x4in) over double
crochet with a 9mm hook and
Lion Brand Hometown

MEASUREMENTS

66cm (26in) diameter x 38in
(15in) high

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92

Designer Twinkie Chan says: "It's no secret: I love doughnuts. My classic favourite is a glazed twist, but I'm also crazy for doughnuts covered in breakfast cereal, doughnuts stuffed with custard and doughnuts decorated like cute animals! I've always wanted to design a giant doughnut floor cushion for my living room. I know my fellow crochet lovers will also delight in having this super-sized treat to lounge on. Your guests will be fighting over who gets the sweetest seat!" Seriously tasty.

NOTES

If you've never crocheted a doughnut shape before, it is recommended to do a trial run through the pattern with a DK yarn and 4mm hook. Doughnut is worked from the inner hole to the outer edge, and then back to the hole. RS shows on outside of doughnut. Work in a continuous spiral without closing off each round with a ss.

SPECIAL STITCHES

Invisible Decrease (inv dec) Insert hook through the front loops of the next two sts, (yrh, pull through 2 loops on the hook) twice.

DOUGHNUT

With Yarn A and the larger hook, ch54. Join with ss to first ch to form a ring, being careful not to twist ch.

Place marker for beginning of round.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in each ch around. [54 sts]

Rounds 2-15 Dc in each st around.

Round 16 (2dc in next st, dc in next



The pink icing is worked first. Working in the back loop forms the ridge of the icing.

5 sts) 9 times. [63 sts]

Round 17 (2dc in next st, dc in next 6 sts) 9 times. [72 sts]

Round 18 (2dc in next st, dc in next 7 sts) 9 times. [81 sts]

Round 19 (2dc in next st, dc in next 8 sts) 9 times. [90 sts]

Round 20 (2dc in next st, dc in next 9 sts) 9 times. [99 sts]

Round 21 (2dc in next st, dc in next 10 sts) 9 times. [108 sts]

Round 22 (2dc in next st, dc in next 11 sts) 9 times. [117 sts]

Round 23 (2dc in next st, dc in next 12 sts) 9 times. [126 sts]

Round 24 (2dc in next st, dc in next 13 sts) 9 times. [135 sts]

Round 25 (2dc in next st, dc in next 14 sts) 9 times. [144 sts]

Round 26 (2dc in next st, dc in next 15 sts) 9 times. [155 sts]

Round 27 (2dc in next st, dc in next 16 sts) 9 times. [162 sts]

Rounds 28-33 Dc in each st around.

Round 34 Dc in each st around, join with ss in next st.

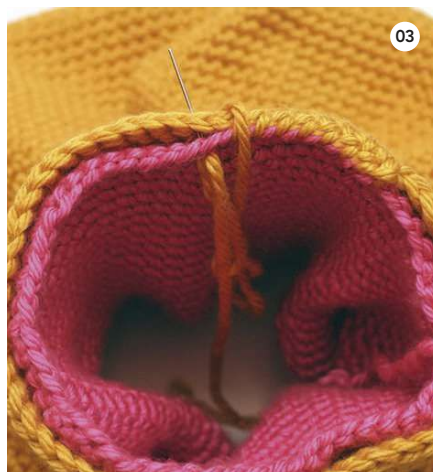
Round 35 Working in the front loops



01



02



03

Floor cushion

only, ss in each st around, keeping the sts loose and even, join with ss in the first ss.

Fasten off Yarn A. Join Yarn B.

Round 36 Working in the back loops only, dc in each st of Round 34. **01**

Do not join.

Rounds 37-41 Dc in each st around.

Round 42 Dc in each st around, join with ss in next st.

Fasten off Yarn B. Join Yarn C.

Rounds 43-44 Dc in each st around.

Round 45 Dc in each st around, join with ss in next st.

Fasten off Yarn C. Join Yarn B.

Rounds 46-59 Dc in each st around.

Round 60 (Inv dec, dc in next 16 sts) 9 times. [153 sts]

Round 61 (Inv dec, dc in next 15 sts) 9 times. [144 sts]

Round 62 (Inv dec, dc in next 14 sts) 9 times. [135 sts]

Round 63 (Inv dec, dc in next 13 sts) 9 times. [126 sts]

Round 64 (Inv dec, dc in next 12 sts) 9 times. [117 sts]

Round 65 (Inv dec, dc in next 11 sts) 9 times. [108 sts]

Round 66 (Inv dec, dc in next 10 sts) 9 times. [99 sts]

Round 67 (Inv dec, dc in next 9 sts) 9 times. [90 sts]

Round 68 (Inv dec, dc in next 8 sts) 9 times. [81 sts]

Round 69 (Inv dec, dc in next 7 sts) 9 times. [72 sts]

Round 70 (Inv dec, dc in next 6 sts) 9 times. [63 sts]

Round 71 (Inv dec, dc in next 5 sts) 9 times. [54 sts]

Rounds 72-90 Dc in each st around, join with ss in next st.

Fasten off, leaving a 1 metre tail for sewing. **02**

Weave in short end of foundation ch.

SPRINKLES (MAKE 22)

With smaller hook and desired colour, ch3, join with ss to the first ch to form a ring.

Place marker for beginning of round.

Work in a continuous spiral without closing off each round with a ss.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1, 8dc into the ring. [8 sts]

Round 2 Dc in each st around.

Repeat Round 2, stuffing lightly as you go, until piece is 9cm long, join with ss in next st.

Fasten off, leaving a 60cm tail.

Thread the remaining yarn tail through 8 sts and pull to close.

Weave in the short end.

TO MAKE UP

Whipstitch the last round of the doughnut to foundation ch, using 1 metre of Yarn A at a time and stuffing the doughnut as you go. **03**

Sew 10 sts at a time and be sure that the stuffing is full and smooth before sewing further.

Sew the sprinkles to the doughnut as desired.



The colourful sprinkles are made with the 5mm crochet hook in aran weight yarns.



This tasty project is from the book *Crocheted Abode à la Mode* by Twinkie Chan, published by Creative

Publishing International (RRP £12.99). For stockists of this book and more details, visit www.quartoknows.com

SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO WORK DOUBLE CROCHET IN A SPIRAL



1 Make a foundation ring (see p89) and work the t-ch (1ch for dc). Now work 12 dc stitches into the ring, but do not join the last stitch and first stitch of this first round with a slip stitch.



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



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



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



PRIMED & READY

Gadget lovers will be thrilled with this stylish lined tech accessory by Nicki Trench.

Tech cosy



YOU WILL NEED

- Debbie Bliss Rialto DK, (100% merino wool, 50g/105m) 1 ball of each:
Yarn A Pool (70)
Yarn C Gold (45)
Yarn D Scarlet (12)
- Louisa Harding Cassia, (75% superwash wool, 25% nylon, 50g/132m), 1 ball of Yarn B Silver (113)
- 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- 1 button
- 20x30cm (8x12in) pieces x 2 of cotton lining fabric for the sides
- 20x20cm (8x8in) piece of cotton lining fabric for the flap
- Hand sewing needle and thread to match lining

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

TENSION

21 sts x 22 rows to measure
10x10cm (4x4in) using a 3.5mm
hook over double crochet and
Debbie Bliss Rialto DK yarn

MEASUREMENTS

Approx 27.5x20cm (11x8in), to fit
a standard iPad in its hard cover

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92

Designer Nicki Trench describes this project as: "A bright and cheerful iPad cosy that will hold an iPad in its hard cover and give it added protection. This makes a great present for the man in your life." How about hooking one for Father's Day? The bold primary colours and handy flap fastening give it universal appeal. Flip across to page 98 to read about Nicki Trench's other tech cosy projects.

NOTE

The cosy is made in one piece, starting at top edge of one side and finishing at top edge of other side.

C COSY

Using Yarn A, ch39.

Row 1 (RS) 1dc in the second ch from the hook and in each ch to end, turn. [38 sts]

Rows 2-5 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in each st to end, turn. Change to Yarn B.

Rows 6-22 As Row 2 using Yarn B. Change to Yarn C.

Rows 23-59 As Row 2 using Yarn C. Change to Yarn A.

Rows 60-68 As Row 2, using Yarn A. Change to Yarn C.

Rows 69-105 As Row 2, using Yarn C. Change to Yarn B.

Rows 106-122 As Row 2, using Yarn B. Change to Yarn A.

Rows 123-126 As Row 2, using Yarn A. Change to Yarn D.

FLAP

Rows 1-7 Using Yarn D, ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 8 Ch1, dc2tog, dc in each st to last 2 sts, dc2tog, turn. [36 sts]

Repeat last two rows until 18 sts remain, then repeat Row 8 until 4 sts remain.

Next Row (Dc2tog) twice, turn. [2 sts]

Next Row Dc2tog.

Do not fasten off.

BUTTON LOOP

Ch8, join with a ss in top of last dc2tog.

Fasten off.

TO FINISH

Weave in ends. Block and press.

Sew the flap lining to one of the side lining pieces.

Make up the lining with the RS of the



Line your cosy with co-ordinating fabric for extra protection for your gadget.



Yarn in playful primary colours make this project feel bright and contemporary.

fabric together. Press, and press the seam allowances of the flap edges and top edge to the WS.

With RS of crochet together, fold bottom edge to match first row of Flap. Pin side seams and sew.

Turn RS out. Place lining inside and sew edges in place.

Attach button on RS of front to match Button loop.



This stylish tech cosy project is from the book *Cute & Easy Crocheted Cosies* by Nicki Trench, published by CICO Books (RRP £12.99).

To find stockists and further details, pay a visit to www.rylandpeters.com

HOOK A STITCH

RIB STITCH

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



BASIC RIB STITCH PATTERN

Pattern

Ch any number of sts.

Row 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st),
dc in each st across, turn.

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

Rows 1 and 2 form the pattern.

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

Patterns by Louise Smith.



Twine is handy in the garden in more ways than one. Why not hook our rib stitch accessories with it?



For flowerpots that might be feeling a little under-appreciated.



Yep, in the eyes of a crocheter, pretty much everything needs a cosy.

APRON POCKET

You'll be the envy of the allotment with this baby strapped around your waist. Deep pockets within easy reach are so useful when you're busy weeding and whatnot. This simple pocket keeps both your hands free.

- Hemptique Hemp Cord (100% hemp, 25g/62.5m), 3 spools of Green, 1 spool of Brown
- A 4.5mm (US 7) hook
- Apron, 60x33cm (23½x13in)
- Sewing needle and matching thread

MEASUREMENTS
60x16cm (23½x 6¼in)

APRON POCKET

With Green, ch24.

*Work 40 rows of main stitch pattern.

Change to Brown.

Work 6 rows of main stitch pattern.

Repeat from * once more.

Change to Green.

Work 40 rows of main stitch pattern.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Join Brown in any stitch and htr evenly around, working 3htr in each corner.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO MAKE UP

Sew pockets onto apron, sewing down centre of brown sections to create the pockets.

FLOWERPOT COSY

Rustic hemp cord is ideal for hooking a summery cosy for a plant pot. This project is a sweet way of adding a personal touch to a gift, or sprucing up your collection of house plants.

- Hemptique Hemp Cord (100% hemp, 25g/62.5m), 1 spool of each: Green, Brown
- A 4.5mm (US 7) hook
- 3 buttons (1.5cm diameter)

MEASUREMENTS
37x8cm (14½x3in)

ABBREVIATIONS

Ch-5 picot Ch5, ss in the first of these ch

FLOWERPOT COSY

With Green, ch12.

Work 58 rows of main stitch pattern, alternating between Green and Brown every 2 rows.

Fasten off.

With RS facing, join Brown in any st.

With Brown and RS facing, htr evenly around cosy, working 3htr in each corner.

Along one short edge of cosy work 3 ch-5 picots evenly along edge and continue with htr edging.

These picots form the button loops.

TO MAKE UP

Sew buttons onto other short edge, matching placement of picots.

LITTLE SEED KEEPER

It all starts with a single seed, so grab your hook and trusty gardening twine and stitch something a little outdoorsy. A dinky pouch to keep special packets of seeds neat and tidy makes the perfect handmade gift for a green-fingered friend. Keen gardener yourself? Whether you're sowing window boxes, a vegetable patch or some serious acreage, you'll be digging our nifty seed keeper.

- Hemptique Hemp Cord (100% hemp, 25g/62.5m), 1 spool of each: Green, Brown
- This twine is available from www.amazon.co.uk
- A 4.5mm (US 7) hook
- Tapestry needle

MEASUREMENTS
10x13cm (4x5in)

SEED KEEPER (MAKE 2)

With Brown, ch16, change to Green, ch6.

Work 22 rows of main stitch pattern, changing to Brown after first 6 sts on a RS row and back to Green after first 16 sts on a WS row.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO MAKE UP

With RS together, seam along 3 sides leaving one short end open and turn right way out.



"I tie my leftovers together and make a new ball out of it."



HALT THE HOARDING

Is your yarn pile starting to develop a life of its own? Read on to discover our tips for using up remnants, getting shot of unloved skeins and refreshing your unruly crochet stash.

There are times when the stash seems on the brink of taking over your home, swallowing up your loved ones and blocking out every trace of daylight. Yarn buying is a passion, perhaps even an addiction, but for the sake of your families and your sanity, it's essential to know when to have a clear out.

We spoke to designers who struggle with their own yarn hoarding tendencies, and they're happy to offer some advice.

SORT THE STASH

When we got in touch with Joanne Scrace (www.notsogranny.com), she'd just had

a massive de-stash. "Like most things with me, it was a knee-jerk reaction and completely unplanned," she says. "I'd been thinking for a while that I had stuff I couldn't imagine using, including yarn I'd bought when I first started out, and overruns for commissions. One day I was having trouble concentrating because the studio was a mess, so I just found myself grabbing the storage containers and sorting all of the yarn out."

Ros Badger (www.littlebadger.co.uk, and, coming soon, www.beggarsvelvet.london) has a clear rule of thumb when it comes to corralling her yarn stash. "I only

clear out my yarn stash when I'm moving studios or if I realise it's older than my children, who are 21 and 17!" she exclaims.

In fact, all the crocheters we spoke to struggle with the concept of minimising the stash. "If you could see my stash, you might not think I'm the right person for words of wisdom about yarn sorting!" says Sarah Hatton (www.sarahhatton.com).

"When I moved house my boyfriend said 'in the new house we should keep the yarn as loft insulation.' He hadn't seen what was in the attic at the old house!"

First things first, you need to identify the yarn you have, and ask yourself one

SORT YOUR STASH

question: will you ever actually use it? As difficult as it may be, you need to be brutally honest with yourself at this point. "It's vital to ask yourself what kind of project each ball of yarn is for," says Sarah. "We all get drawn into buying yarn for the fibres and colours, but if you fell for a green lace weight yarn and you hate crocheting lace or would never wear green, it's one for the de-stash or swap pile."

Quite frankly, it's pointless to hang on to yarns that you know deep down you will never actually crochet with. "Even if the fibre is beautiful, if it's in a shade you or your loved ones would never wear, it's time to make room for something else you love," Sarah says. "I have a neon pink yarn that I suspect may never get used, but I just totally fell in love with the colour, telling myself it was an antidote to the greys and teal I normally crochet in." Joanne's first step in shrinking her stash was to sort the yarn so she could make sense of what she had. "I grouped it all into lots – skeins or

balls of the same yarn in the same colour with any part balls thrown in, and then lots of part balls of different colours of the same type of yarn."

SELL, SWAP, DONATE

Got your stash sorted? You may find yourself discovering all kinds of woolly wonders, but the chances are you've also noted some that are perfect for passing on.

Once she'd organised her yarn, Joanne put together a plain white background "and started photographing the yarn in good daylight so that people could easily see exactly what it was. Then I listed it all on a local selling page and loaded it up to my Ravelry stash and marked it as 'will trade or sell.'" This is a brilliantly simple way to make a few

pennies while you're freeing up some space in your home.

"Lots of my friends bought balls, and I sold lots to people who found me through the UK Classifieds group on Ravelry," continues Joanne. "I was astounded – all but two lots had sold within three days."

Joanne also used up "random but lovely part balls by popping in surprise extras for some people that bought things, based on what I thought they might like. A big bag

of cheaper odds and ends went to a lady in my village who is making a giant blanket."

Joanne does, however, hang onto a selection of part balls in different colours, yarn weights and fibres. "I find it useful so I can try out ideas as they strike me. Part of the process was trimming this down to the ones I will actually want to use, rather than

"IT'S POINTLESS TO HANG ON TO YARNS THAT YOU KNOW YOU WILL NEVER CROCHET WITH."



Opposite: Becky Garratt's scrap blankets and yarn balls, photograph by Becky Garratt.

This page, clockwise from left: A project from Sarah Hatton's book *10 Simple Crochet Projects for Cosy Homes*, photograph by India Hobson; A peek at Ros Badger's stash, photograph by Ros Badger; Stash busting granny squares, photograph by Ros Badger.



This page, from left: Projects from Sarah Hatton's *10 Simple Crochet Projects for Cosy Homes*, photograph by India Hobson; Covered bangles from Ros Badger's *Hook, Line and Crochet* book, photograph by Keiko Oikawa.



hoarding them all." In total, Joanne got rid of four or five kilos-worth of yarn!

Swaps are another wonderful way of re-vamping your stash and revving up your desire to make, even if you don't minimise your stash mountain that much in the process. "I try to take odds and ends to local crochet groups, schools and so on, which helps keep it under control," says Sarah. "If you go to a group and organise a yarn swap, then the chances are that the yarn you want rid of will be the perfect sort for someone, and they may have your dream yarn hidden in their stash."

Ros relishes the opportunity to pass on her unwanted yarn. "Any yarn I no longer want I give away to friends who are learning to crochet or knit, and twice I've taken a whole bin liner full of small odds and ends to a local old people's home," she says. "Years ago, I made a lot of intarsia knits so I had lots of small balls of varying colours, all either pure wool or cotton, and this is what I took to the pensioners."

YARN-BUSTING MAKES

The other trick is to seek out small projects to use up some of your remnants. Sarah's

new book, *10 Simple Crochet Projects for Cosy Homes* (Quail Publishing, £7.95), is ideal for this. "I do try to make a dent in the stash by making small projects for gifts," she says. "My friends recently had a baby, and booties and hats are great for using up yarn, as well as being a quick make. I also seem to be fiddling about with bits of crochet jewellery at the moment, such as the dot necklaces from my book."

Ros, too, loves to seek out projects that need only short lengths of yarn. "The obvious one is to make granny squares," she says. "One of my other favourites is to cover bangles – simply crochet around the bangle with a dc. Or you can turn scraps

into flowers for corsages, wristwarmers and even beanie hats." You'll find plenty of projects in Ros' book, *Hook, Line and Crochet* (Quadrille, £12.99).

Ros suggest other crafty options, too. "Pompoms are a great use of yarn remnants and make fab accessories for other projects. I also use scraps to hand embroider words onto finished projects."

Becky Garratt (www.beckygarrratt.com) has a cunning system for consolidating her remnants. "Whether it's a leftover ball

that's not enough to make something else or a piece cut off after weaving in that looks long enough to work a couple of stitches with, I tie them all together and make a new ball out of it, which I am currently using to make the scrappiest of scrap blankets. As scruffy as it is, all full of knots, I can see projects in it from the saved ends of all the balls, so it's a reminder of things I've made. The ball I'm adding to at the moment is as big as my head," Becky laughs, "and it's growing!"

THINK BEFORE YOU DE-STASH

Limiting what you buy is a key step towards having a streamlined stash. "I had so much guilt about the unloved yarn that was building up in my stash that I felt too guilty to make extra purchases," says Joanne. "I'm careful when I'm buying, and have an idea what most purchases will become."

Becky credits her spendthrift tendencies for ensuring she's relatively restrained when it comes to yarn buying. "The mixture of being a hoarder and not having a lot of money means I don't tend to buy things I don't need, though I do want to keep everything 'just in case!'"

We've all had those moments of regretting an adrenaline-fuelled clearout that resulted in getting rid of yarns, only to later wish we'd kept one or two treasures. For this reason it's crucial to think twice

"LIMITING WHAT YOU BUY
IS A KEY STEP TOWARDS
STREAMLINING YOUR STASH."

SORT YOUR STASH

before slashing your stash. Ros' advice with regards to this is wonderfully vivid. "Colour co-ordinate your stash by placing reds, oranges and pinks together, and so on, and see whether any obvious colour combinations jump out at you. Then decide whether there is enough yarn to make something before you give it away."

She adds: "Remember that 4ply, DK, aran and so on are the same weight no matter what the brand is, so do mix and match. In the past I've made garments in various yarn weights and the contrast has become a design feature."

Becky is wary about letting go of yarns that have potential for playing a role in new projects. "I do have the odd ball that's been hanging around for a while, destined either for eBay or a charity collection bag,"

she says, "but whenever I decide to get rid of something I'm convinced I'll find a use for it once it's too late and regret it."

It's a concern backed up by an impulse purchase Becky made some years ago.

"It's a ball of rainbow yarn, and as far as I remember it was cheap, but I definitely bought it without any thoughts of what it could be used for," Becky says. "It's so colourful and fluffy and fun I had to get

"I FEEL AMAZINGLY FREED BY THE EXPERIENCE AND I HAVE MORE SPACE IN MY STUDIO."

it. I did recently use a small amount of it on a birthday rosette for my grandad's 90th, so that only reinforces my hoarding ways – I thought I'd never use it, but then I did."

HAPPY ENDINGS

All our hoarders confess to feeling a splendid lightness of being on shedding some of their stash. "I felt, and still feel,

amazingly freed by the experience," says Joanne. "I have lots more space in my studio and I've been able to use the money I earned from yarn sales to buy a few bits and pieces I need for the business."

But most significantly, she says, the guilt has gone. "I know the yarn has gone onto good homes with people who have chosen it and will make amazing things with it."

Ros reminds us that passing yarn on can result in a positive glow. "It's good to share," she says. "In the case of the OAPs, it's given them something to occupy their time, and with friends it makes me excited that they want to learn a new skill."

When we ask Becky for de-stashing advice, she has a glint in her eye. "I don't think I can give advice as I'm so bad at it," she admits. "If you want to streamline your stash, I suggest you take all the yarn you imagine never using and send it my way!" Ahem. What can we say? Sometimes good intentions are the most important thing...

Written by Judy Darley.



This page, clockwise from left: Becky Garratt's guilty rainbow yarn purchase, photograph by Becky Garratt; Simple hat from *Hook, Line and Crochet* by Ros Badger, photograph by Keiko Oikawa; Wrist warmers also from *Hook, Line and Crochet*, photograph by Keiko Oikawa.

WHAT A GUY

Embrace retro-chic with this design by Ruth Maddock.



Argyle waistcoat



YOU WILL NEED

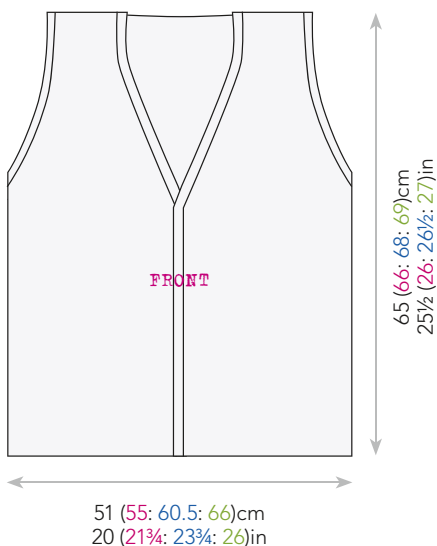
- DMC Natura Medium (100% cotton, 50g/75m), Yarn A brown (89) Yarn B orange (109) Yarn C blue (177) 1 ball of Yarn D cream (31)
 - For quantities of Yarns A-C and measurements, see table
 - A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
 - A 4mm (US G/6) hook
 - Buttons, 4 (23mm)
 - Stitch markers
- For yarn stockists, contact
DMC 0116 275 4000
www.dmccreative.co.uk

TENSION

15.5 sts and 8 rows to measure 10x10cm square over treble crochet using a 4mm hook or size needed to obtain tension
The st tension will be equal to 31 sts over 20cm

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92



Treat the man in your life to a vintage-inspired sweater vest with a clever argyle design. Stay traditional with muted hues, or change things up with brights for snazzier chaps. No golfing skills necessary.

NOTE

Worked in one piece from the bottom up to the armholes, including a colour pattern shown in the Chart on p94. Divide for the Front and Back at the armholes, and work each of the Front and Back pieces separately before joining the seams at the shoulders. An edging and buttonhole band is added to the front edges and armhole edges. Finally, embroidery stitching is worked in a contrast colour to complete the colour pattern.

When working the colour pattern, use a separate spool of yarn for each colour area. When changing colour, always bring the end of yarn from the finished colour to the front before joining in new colour. Change colour by drawing new colour through last 2 loops of last st of prev colour worked. Enclose the strand of yarn that forms at back of work, when working first st of the new colour.



BODY

With a 4mm hook and Yarn A, ch155 (173: 189: 207).

Row 1 (WS) Tr in 4th ch from hook and in each ch to end, turn. [153 (171: 187: 205) sts]

Row 2 Ch3 (counts as first tr throughout), tr in each st to end, turn.

Rows 3-6 Rep Row 2, changing colour to Yarn A in last st worked.



Follow the chart to create the diamonds. The overlapping stitches are sewn on afterwards.

CHART

On the Chart (see p94), each square represents one tr st. RS rows are read from right to left, and WS rows from left to right.

For sizes Small and Large, use the entire chart. For these sizes work up to the end of the pattern repeat (st 42 on the Chart for a RS row, and st 9 for a WS row), then rep the 34 sts of the pattern repeat until the end of the row, when you cont working to the edge of the chart.

For sizes Medium and Extra Large, use the portion of the Chart between the blue lines. On a RS row you will work the pattern repeat section until the last st of the row, when you will work st 43 on the Chart. On a WS row, work st 43 first, and then rep the pattern repeat section until the end of the row. The first row is written out for you to help you to follow the Chart:

Small and Large sizes only

Row 7 (WS) Ch3, 7tr in Yarn A, 1tr Yarn B, *16tr Yarn A, 1tr Yarn C, 16tr Yarn A, 1tr Yarn B; rep from * to last 8 sts, tr in

SIZE		Small	Medium	Large	Extra Large
TO FIT CHEST	cm	92-97	102-107	112-117	122-127
	in	36-38	40-42	44-46	48-50
ACTUAL CHEST	cm	102	110	121	132
	in	40¼	43½	47¾	52
LENGTH	cm	65	66	68	69
	in	25½	26	26½	27
YARN A	50g	9	10	12	13
YARN B	50g	2	2	3	3
YARN C	50g	3	3	4	5

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

Argyle waistcoat

Yarn A to end, turn. [4½ (5½) pattern repeats]

Medium and Extra Large sizes only

Row 7 (WS) Using Yarn B ch3, *16tr Yarn A, 1tr Yarn C, 16tr Yarn A, 1tr Yarn B; rep from * to end, turn. [5(6) pattern repeats]

Rows 8-23 Cont following the Chart.

Rows 24-29 Rep Row 2 using Yarn A.

DIVIDE FOR ARMHOLES

RIGHT FRONT

Row 1 (RS) Ch3, tr2tog, tr in each of next 29 (34: 37: 41) tr, tr2tog, turn leaving rem sts unworked. [32 (37: 40: 44) sts]

Row 2 Ch3, tr2tog, tr in each tr to last 2 tr, tr2tog, turn. [30 (35: 38: 42) sts]

Row 3 Ch3, tr2tog, tr in each tr to end, turn. [29 (34: 37: 41) sts]

Row 4 Ch3, tr2tog, tr in each tr to last 2 tr, tr2tog, turn. [27 (32: 35: 39) sts]
Rep the last 2 rows 1 (1: 2: 3) more times. [24 (29: 29: 30) sts]

Now cont to decrease by 1 st at neck edge only on every row until there are 17 (21: 22: 24) tr. Then decrease at neck edge of next and every foll alt row 3 times. [14 (18: 19: 21) sts]

Now cont without shaping for five more rows. **Fasten off.**

BACK

With RS facing and a 4mm hook, skip the next 8 (8: 10: 10) tr, and rejoin Yarn A with ss to next tr.

Row 1 (RS) Ch3, tr2tog, tr in each of next 64 (72: 78: 88) tr, tr2tog, turn leaving rem sts unworked. [67 (75: 81: 91) sts]

Row 2 Rep Row 1. [65 (73: 79: 89) sts]

Row 3 Ch3, tr in each st to end, turn. Rep the last 2 rows 2 (2: 3: 4) more times. [61 (69: 73: 81) sts]

Now cont without shaping until 22 (23: 25: 25) rows have been worked from divide.

SHAPE NECK

Next row Ch3, tr in each of next 12 (16: 17: 19) tr, tr2tog. **Fasten off.**

Skip the next 31 (31: 33: 37) tr, and rejoin Yarn A with ss to next tr: Ch3, tr2tog, tr in each tr to end. **Fasten off.**

LEFT FRONT

With RS facing and a 4mm hook, skip the next 8 (8: 10: 10) tr and rejoin Yarn A with ss to next tr.

Row 1 (RS) Ch3, tr2tog, tr in each st to last 2 sts, tr2tog, turn.

[32 (37: 40: 44) sts]

Row 2 Rep Row 1. [30 (35: 38: 42) sts]

Row 3 Ch3, tr in each tr to last 2 tr, tr2tog, turn. [29 (34: 37: 41) sts]

Row 4 Ch3, tr2tog, tr in each tr to last 2 tr, tr2tog, turn. [27 (32: 35: 39) sts]

Rep the last 2 rows 1 (1: 2: 3) more times. [24 (29: 29: 30) sts]

Now cont to decrease by 1 st at neck edge only on every row until there are 17 (21: 22: 24) tr. Then decrease at neck edge of next and every foll alt row 3 times. [14 (18: 19: 21) sts]

Now cont without shaping for five more rows. **Fasten off.**

TO MAKE UP

Press on WS according to ball band instructions. Oversew shoulders tog from WS.

BORDER

FRONT AND NECK EDGE

With a 3.5mm hook and Yarn A, rejoin the yarn to the bottom right corner with RS facing.

Row 1 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), work 51dc evenly along right front edge to beg of neck shaping. Work 1 more dc and place marker in this st, work 49 (51: 53: 55) dc to shoulder seam. Work 3dc into shaped edge of right back neck, place marker in the centre of these 3 sts. Work 31 (31: 33: 37) dc along back neck, work 3dc in shaped part of left back neck, place marker in the centre of these 3 sts, work 49 (51: 53: 55) dc to end of left front neck shaping. Work 1 dc and place marker in this st, work 51 dc along left front to end, change to Yarn C in last st worked, turn. [4 markers]

Row 2 Ch1, dc in each st to marker, 2dc in marked st, moving marker up to first of these sts, dc in each st to st before next marker, dc2tog over this st and marked st, move marker up to this st. Dc in each st to next marked st, dc2tog over marked st and next st, moving marker to this st. Dc in each st to last marker, 2dc in marked st, moving marker to second of these sts, dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 3 Ch1, dc in each st to end, moving markers up as you work, turn.

Row 4 Ch1, 3dc, *ch3, skip 3 dc, dc in



The waistcoat has a contrasting border that's worked in rows of double crochet.

next 12 dc; rep from * twice more, ch3, skip 3 dc, 2dc in marked st, moving marker up to the first of these sts. Dc in each st to st before next marker, dc2tog over this st and marked st, move marker up to this st. Dc in each st to next marked st, dc2tog over marked st and next st, moving marker to this st. Dc in each st to last marker, 2dc in marked st, moving marker to second of these sts, dc in each st to end, turn.

Rows 5-6 Repeat Row 3 followed by Row 2. **Fasten off.**

ARMHOLE EDGE

With a 3.5mm hook and Yarn A, rejoin the yarn to the centre of the 8 (8: 10: 10) underarm sts with RS facing.

Round 1 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in each of the rem underarm sts to last underarm st, mark last st. Work 2dc in each row end of the armhole round to first underarm st. Dc in the first underarm st, marking this st, dc in each st to complete the round, ss to first dc, changing to Yarn C, turn.

Round 2 Ch1, dc in each st to st before first marker, dc3tog over next 3 sts, moving marker to this st, dc in each st to st before next marker, dc3tog over next 3 sts, moving marker to this st, dc in each st to end, ss to first dc, turn.

Round 3 Ch1, dc in each st around moving markers up as you work, ss to first dc, turn.

Rounds 4-5 Repeat Rounds 2 and 3.

Round 6 Repeat Round 2. **Fasten off.**

EMBROIDERY

Mark work with pins to show location of running st lines, as shown by dashed lines on Chart. Using Yarn D, make long running stitches along these lines. Sew buttons to button band to match buttonholes.



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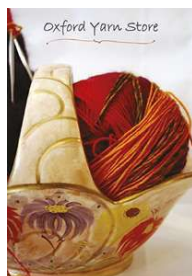
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BURGERS TO GO

Hook yummy booties that look good enough to eat. By Patricia Castillo.



Baby booties



YOU WILL NEED

- Debbie Bliss Rialto DK (100% merino, 50g/105m), 1 ball of: Yarn A Camel (67)

Small amounts of each:

Yarn B Jade (71)

Yarn C Chocolate (05)

Yarn D Banana (57)

Yarn E Scarlet (12)

Small amount of DK weight yarn in Yarn F white

- 3.25mm (US D/3) hook

- Stitch marker

- Tapestry needle

For yarn stockists, contact

Designer Yarns 01535 664222

www.designeryarns.uk.com

TENSION

11 sts and 12 rows in dc to measure 5cm (2in)

MEASUREMENTS

0-6 months (6-12 months)

0-6 months, sole length 9cm

(3½in)

6-12 months, sole length 10cm

(4in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92



This cute baby project is from the book *Fun Feet* edited by Kristi Simpson, published by Search Press

(RRP £12.99). To purchase a copy, visit www.searchpress.com

Designer Patricia Castillo says: "Order a side of fries and a milkshake with these quirky hamburger booties – yummier than any take-away. With chunky layers of burger, bun, lettuce, tomato and cheese, they are not just fun to look at, they are fun to wear, too." There are two sizes you can make – 0-6 months and 6-12 months.

C BOOTEES (MAKE 2)

BOTTOM BUN

With Yarn A, make a magic loop.

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

Round 2 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), 2dc in each st. [12 sts]

Round 3 Ch1, *2dc in next st, 1dc in next st; rep from * 5 more times. [18 sts]

Round 4 Ch1, *2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 2 sts; rep from * 5 more times. [24 sts]

Round 5 Ch1, *2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 3 sts; rep from * 5 more times. [30 sts]

Round 6 Ch1, *2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 4 sts; rep from * 5 more times. [36 sts]

Round 7 Ch1, *2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 5 sts; rep from * 5 more times. [42 sts]

Round 8 Ch1, *2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 6 sts; rep from * 5 more times. [48 sts]

For 6-12 months only

Round 9 Ch1, *2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 7 sts; rep from * 5 more times. [54 sts]

Round 9 (10) Ch1, 1dc bl in each st. [54 sts]

Round 10 (11) Ch1, working in both loops, *dc2tog, 1dc into each of next 6 (7) sts; rep from * 5 more times, change to Yarn B. [42 (48) sts]

TOPPINGS

Round 1 (RS) Ch1, *2dc fl in next st, 3 dc fl in next st; rep from * to end. Insert hook into back loop of Round 10 (11) from bottom bun. Change to Yarn C.

Round 2 Ch1, working in bl of Round 10 (11) from bottom bun, 1dc in each st, ss into first dc to join. [42 (48) sts]

Round 3 Ch1, *2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 6 (7) sts; rep from * 5 more times, insert hook in fl of first st and change to Yarn D. [48 (54) sts]

Round 4 Ch1, working in fl; *ss in each



Open sesame – these cute booties will make a fun gift for a scrumptious new arrival.

of next 9 (10) sts, htr in next st, (2htr, ch2, 2htr) in next st; htr in next st, ss in each of next 9 (11) sts, htr in next st, (2htr, ch2, 2htr) in next st, htr in next st; rep from * once more, insert hook into back loop of Round 3 and change to Yarn E.

Round 5 Ch1, working in bl from Round 3, htr in each st, insert hook in first st and change to Yarn A for top bun. [48 (54) sts]

Round 6 Ch1, working in fl; *2dc in next st, dc in each of next 7 (8) sts; rep from * 5 more times, ss into first st to join. [54 (60) sts]

Rounds 7-8 Ch1, dc in each st.

Round 9 Ch1, *dc2tog, dc in each of next 7 (8) sts; rep from * 5 more times. [48 (54) sts]

For 6-12 months only

Round 10 Ch1, *dc2tog, dc in each of next 7 sts; rep from * 5 more times. [48 sts]

Round 10 (11) Ch1, dc in next st, dc2tog, dc in each of next 6 sts, *htr in next st, htr2tog; rep from * 5 more times, dc in each of next 7 sts, **dc2tog, dc in next st; rep from ** 3 more times, dc2tog. [36 sts]

Round 11 (12) Ch1, dc in each of next 7 sts, *htr2tog, htr in next st; rep from * 4 more times, dc in each of next 14 sts. [31 sts]

Round 12 (13) Ch1, dc in each of next 8 sts, *htr2tog; rep from * 4 more times, dc in each of next 13 sts.

Fasten off and weave ends.

TO FINISH

Using Yarn F and a yarn needle, embroider sesame seeds on to the top third of the burger bun. Space at random intervals, using the photograph as a guide. Weave ends into WS.

INDIE YARNS

Extra-special skeins from independent brands.

FLOWER MOTIF

Ch5, ss into first ch to make a ring.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1, (does not count as st), 10dc into ring, ss to beg ch-1.

Round 2 * (Dc, 2tr, dc) in next st, ss in next st; rep from * 4 more times.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

A SUPER-SWEET
QUICK MAKE FOR
SUMMER!



LITTLE GREY SHEEP HAMPSHIRE CHUNKY

WEIGHT Chunky
CONTENT 100% wool
SKEIN 100g/115m
HOOK 7mm
RRP £17.50



This delightfully-named yarn is a new range from Little Grey Sheep, a small yarn company that's based on a family farm. Hampshire is made with local British wool and all nine hand-dyed shades have names inspired by Hampshire locations.

Choose it to hook a snuggly chunky cardigan or jumper and take advantage of the pure wool that blooms into a beautifully soft fabric after washing. There's also a DK weight in different hues.
www.thelittlegreysheep.co.uk
07771 741346

BLACKER TAMAR 4PLY

WEIGHT 4ply
CONTENT 30% Cornish Mule, 18% Teeswater, 18% Wensleydale, 17% Leicester Longwool, 17% Cotswold
SKEIN 100g/350m
HOOK 3mm
RRP £14.70



Created from a blend of historic British sheep yarns, with fleece from Cornish Mule lambs for added bounce, this is a seriously luxurious 4ply. It comes in fifteen soft shades and is also available in a DK weight. The long fibre length means that

it will get softer with every wash – just the job if you're hooking a special accessory such as a hat, mittens or shawl to enjoy the yarn's softness next to your skin. We love the subtle sheen.
www.blackeryarns.co.uk
01566 777635

SKEIN QUEEN CRUSH DK

WEIGHT DK
CONTENT 75% superwash merino, 25% nylon
SKEIN 100g/225m
HOOK 4mm
RRP £12



There's a huge range of colours available for this DK yarn, in both variegated and solid shades, but as they're all hand-dyed in small batches you'll need to keep an eye on the website to find out what's currently in stock.

The blend of nylon and wool means it's ideal for socks, as well as being super-soft on the skin, and with the wonderfully vivid colours on offer, you're sure to hook up a project that's a one-off.
www.skeinqueenyarns.co.uk

BAA RAM EWE DOVESTONE DK

WEIGHT DK
CONTENT 50% Bluefaced Leicester, 25% Wensleydale Longwool, 25% Masham
SKEIN 100g/230m
HOOK 4.5mm
RRP £14



Dovestone DK is one seriously strokeable yarn. It mixes wool from Yorkshire Masham sheep (who have super-cute ringlets in their fleece that farmers used to decorate with ribbons) with other local breeds to make a yarn that's wonderfully

squishy while still retaining its robustness. It has a scrummy plied construction that will add texture to your makes and there are 13 shades to choose from – our fave is this Lotherton blue (pictured).
www.baaramewe.co.uk
0113 278 1788

KETTLE YARN CO. BASKERVILLE

WEIGHT 4ply
CONTENT 60% Exmoor Blueface, 25% Gotland, 15% silk
SKEIN 100g/400m
HOOK 3.5mm
RRP £24



If you like your yarns rustic, ethically-sourced and British made, then check out this new heirloom beauty from Kettle Yarn Co. Baskerville is made in small batches from sheep's wool with added silk for extra sheen. It's a dream to hook with and makes a

light, warm fabric. Choose from three indigo-dyed shades – Umbra, Eventide and Dusk – or opt for the natural grey of Dawn. You could also mix some of each to create a wonderful ombre effect in your stitches.
www.kettleyarnco.co.uk

THE WOOL KITCHEN FANGIRL

WEIGHT DK
CONTENT 100% Bluefaced Leicester
BALL 100g/200m
HOOK 4mm
RRP £17



Who says hand-dyed yarns have to come from the countryside? The Wool Kitchen is based in London, where Helen Reed lovingly creates yarns in rainbow hues. We love the combo of pink and purple in Fangirl, in

which Bluefaced Leicester superwash wool creates a DK that's strong yet soft. The colours of these one batch skeins can't be repeated exactly, so you'll always have something unique. www.thewoolkitchen.etsy.com

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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.



BLOOMING LOVELY

We're bowled over by this stunning scarf made by reader Jan Smith. She told us, "I used Drops Alpaca 4ply and it has been much admired!" It's the Wrapped in Colour shawl from issue 32, now available on Ravelry.

This month we asked you...

Tell us about the first thing you ever crocheted...

"The first thing I crocheted was an entire skein of chain stitches when I was nine years old. My Grandma took that crazy long chain and spiralled it, and sewed through it to turn it into a trivet. Boy, do I wish I still had it to remind me of her great love. It is just a token, though. I have my memories!"

Jessica Barwa via Facebook

STASH SAVVY

▼ Super sticher Ruth Kendrew shared this great picture of her Flash Your Stash shawl from issue 43 on Facebook. It looks wonderfully cosy and colourful. Wear it with pride, Ruth!



▲ Imaginative crocheter Tina Harvey hooked a super-sweet rainbow version of Anthony the Ankylosaurus for her little girl. Isn't it adorable? We can't get enough of those candy stripes. The pattern is by TOFT's Kerry Lord and was featured in issue 43.

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





SCRUMMY TEXTURE

We adore this scrummy cream and rainbow textured blanket by creative reader @by_hook_crochet. She tweeted us saying: "Using the blanket pattern from issue 29 as inspiration but adding some colour." What a gorgeous crochet project. Missed out on this issue or want to complete your collection? Turn to page 86 for more info on our *Simply Crochet* back issues.

BLOOMING LOVELY

Gill Braithwaite caught the flower bug with our free kit from issue 43. Aren't these so pretty?
Via email.



TALK TO US!

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- 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.



COLOUR IT IN
How cute is this stripy backpack by @longgreen dragon? She has hooked the pattern from issue 30 and added tasty strawberries.



SHAWL PIN
Our pretty flower brooch from issue 43 is the perfect finishing touch for this granny shawl. Hooked by @shirley rainbow_tb.



FAB MANDALA
Keen crocheter @sparkles2611 used Stylecraft Special DK to hook her Mega Mandala from issue 33. Looks like she's ready for picnicking.



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FREE TRIAL*



IRISH CROCHET

Grab a hook and some yarn, and try a form of crochet with a history stretching back some 150 years.

WHAT TECHNIQUES ARE INVOLVED?

These are the three key techniques you need to work Irish crochet.

Irish crochet or Irish lace was originally taught to the Irish poor by charities. It was a simpler form of bobbin lace, using tiny hooks and fine yarns. As its popularity grew, key motif patterns became closely guarded secrets and were only shared by demonstration. Irish crochet still continues today, although beginners tend to use 4ply or DK yarn to start with. We'll show you the basics, then you can get creative with our pincushion on p83.



FOUNDATION CORD

Irish crochet may look complex, but many motifs start off with a simple foundation cord. These help to give Irish crochet a raised, embossed look that's more akin to lace than crochet.



PADDING RING

Padding rings are similar to foundation cords but are circular to begin with. They are often used to start flower motifs and are an essential (but easy) technique in Irish crochet.



CLONES KNOT

A Clones knot is often used as a filling stitch or to add texture to the Irish crochet fabric. There are several ways to work the Clones knot – we'll show you one simple method.

HOW DO I WORK A FOUNDATION CORD?

The most popular way to start motifs in Irish crochet.

A foundation cord is where dc stitches are worked over a second 'cord' of yarn. It's best to use the same yarn for both. We've used a contrasting colour in the images to help you.

Step 1 Start with a slipknot in your working yarn. Take a length of your cord yarn, fold it in half once (or more) and place the halfway loop between the slipknot and the hook.

Step 2 Make a slip stitch to secure the cord yarn.

Step 3 Now work a double crochet stitch as usual, over the doubled-up cord yarn (treat the cord like a chain space).

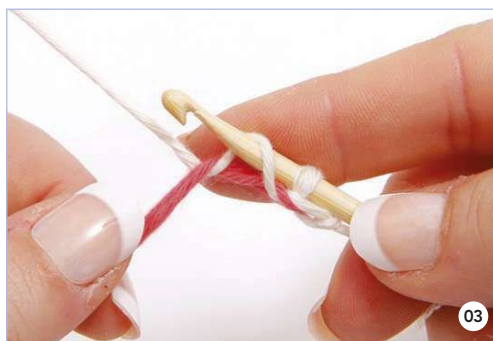
Step 4 Work more dc stitches along the cord, pushing them close together to cover the cord. You can join in a secondary cord of yarn at any stage of your work to form a foundation cord.



01



02



03



04

HOW DO I WORK A PADDING RING?

This simple technique is key to mastering Irish crochet.

Just like foundation cords, you'll need a length of secondary yarn to work a padding ring – it's best to use a matching yarn colour, but we've used a contrasting colour in the images below so that you can see the stitches more easily.

Step 1 To start, wrap the secondary yarn around your finger two or three times, to form a ring.

Step 2 Insert your hook into the centre of the ring, make a slipknot in your working yarn and place it onto your hook.

Step 3 Pull the slipknot through the ring to the front and work a slip stitch: yrh and pull through the slipknot. This secures the working yarn to the secondary yarn of the padding ring.

Step 4 Now you can work double crochet stitches into the ring, just as you did with the foundation cord.

Step 5 Continue working double crochet stitches until you've covered the padding ring, then slip stitch to the first dc to join.

Step 6 Once your padding ring is finished, you can cut off the secondary yarn, as close to the work as possible.

Step 7 At this point, you can either fasten off the working yarn or continue with more rounds. If the following rounds of the motif also require padding, you can simply cut a new piece of cord yarn and hold it in line with the top of the stitches on the previous round and enclose the cord yarn within the stitches of the subsequent round.

Once you've practised making foundation cords and padding rings, you'll begin to see how you can use them to create your own motifs. Try making simple, lacy flowers by making a padding ring and then working chain-length 'petals' around the edge. If you want to have raised 'petals', try working double crochet sts over a foundation cord and then attach it to the padding ring.

Steps 8 & 9 You can also try creating jewellery using connected padding rings. Just make one ring as above and then make more rings, joining each one to another one with a slip stitch – slip stitch in the back loop to help disguise the join. Use different colours or the same colour to form a necklace or bracelet, or work them in a chunky yarn to make a belt – there's plenty of creative potential.



HOW DO I WORK A CLONES KNOT?

Add texture to your Irish crochet fabric with this simple technique.

A Clones knot is made up of around 20 loops sitting over a chain length, adding bulk and texture to your Irish crochet fabric. There are many ways to work a Clones knot – this is just one method.

To practise making a Clones knot, use a hook with a straight shaft and a non-stretch cotton yarn. Chain 8 sts. Holding the end of the chain firmly, move the hook over and under the chain length, catching the yarn around 20 times. To do this, work as follows:

Step 1 Move the hook under the chain to the back of the work.

Step 2 Yrh, then move the hook under the chain to the front.

Step 3 Now work yrh as usual. Repeat from Step 1 until you have 20 'loops' on the hook. Try not to make the loops too tight.

Step 4 Now work yrh...

Step 5 ... and carefully pull through all 20 loops. Gather the knot by gently pulling the loops over the chain.

Step 6 Secure the knot by working one chain stitch. Then you can continue with the motif or mesh pattern, as required.



WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?

Larger Irish crochet pieces use freeform techniques, templates and fill patterns.

For beginners, the easiest way to use Irish crochet techniques is to make motifs to use as brooches or embellishments for cushions, coats, etc.

When you're ready to work larger Irish crochet pieces, you'll find that they're usually created in a freeform style, where you make various motifs and then arrange them onto a paper or fabric template. The motifs are pinned in place and then joined together with a lacy mesh of chain stitches (also called a 'fill' pattern) – this is also worked

in a freeform way and you can decorate it with picot stitches, Clones knots and any other stitches you like.

Some vintage Irish crochet patterns include templates, but they're not widely available for modern designs. Don't worry though, it's really easy to create your own. To make a shawl, for example, simply cut a piece of paper or fabric to the shape you want, then plan which motifs you want to put where. Make each motif and attach to the template with pins so you can

move them around if you want to. When you're ready, join the motifs together freeform style using a 'mesh' or 'fill' pattern.

The fill pattern you use can be as simple or as complex as you like, but very few 'traditional' Irish crochet patterns will tell you exactly how to join your motifs. It would be far too complex to give instructions on exactly which stitch to work into on all the motifs of a design.

Some Irish crocheters like to mark out the 'fill' pattern on their template and crochet to

match it, while others prefer complete 'freeform' fills. Work the method that suits you, but either way, you'll need to pin out your mesh as you work to stop it from springing back and pulling your item out of shape.

Every time you reach a motif, secure it in the closest point with a slip stitch, turn and continue with your chosen fill pattern. You may need to rejoin the yarn to continue the mesh on the other side of the motif, but the beauty of this technique is that each piece is unique.

Written by Zoe Clements and Becky Skuse

Lacy pincushion



PIN IT UP

Use your new Irish crochet techniques to create this pretty sewing accessory. By Anne Egan.

Lacy pincushion



YOU WILL NEED

- Sirdar Cotton 4ply (100% cotton, 100g/335m), 1 ball of Vanilla (502)
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- Fabric for a 17cm diameter padded pin cushion
- Matching thread

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

MEASUREMENTS

17cm (6¾in) diameter

ABBREVIATIONS

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

For a full list, see page 92

NOTES

Made using Irish crochet techniques and joined to a standard crochet backing over a stuffed pad. Push dc sts along secondary yarn to form a dense and even distribution of sts.

BACK

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

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

Round 2 Ch3, tr in st at base of ch, 2tr in each tr around, ss to top of beg ch-3. [24 tr]

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

Round 4 Ch3, tr in next tr, 2tr in next tr, (tr in next 2 tr, 2tr in next tr) around, ss to top of beg ch-3. [48 tr]

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

Round 6 Ch1 (counts as dc), *ch6, skip 1 tr, dc in next tr, (ch6, skip 2 tr, dc in next tr) 9 times; rep from *, ch3, tr in first ch. [21 ch-6 sps]

Round 7 Ch1 (counts as dc), (ch7, dc in next ch-6 sp) around, ch7, ss in first ch.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

FRONT

Make 8 padding rings using forefinger for sizing the cord and working 22dc in each ring, ss to first dc.

Weave in all loose ends.

7 PETAL FLOWER MOTIF

Always keep RS facing towards you and include secondary yarn in all sts except for slip sts. Join working yarn to edge of one of padding rings.

Start a foundation cord with secondary yarn 50cm long.

Round 1 (RS) 22dc around foundation cord, *dc in next 3dc on padding ring, bending cord to form a petal. 4dc around cord, then ss into prev petal, into st that is 4dc away from central padding ring. 18dc around cord. Rep from * 4 more times. Dc in next 3dc of ring, 4dc around cord, ss to prev petal as before. 15dc around cord, ss in fifth dc of first petal, 3dc around cord, dc in rem 3 dc of ring, ss to first dc. [7 petals] Pull secondary yarn to ease or tighten motif where necessary. Cut secondary yarn and weave in all ends. Make up a

fabric cushion pad with a finished diameter of 17cm. Stuff firmly.

LACING TOGETHER

Lacing padding rings and flower motif tog can be done in a number of ways. To achieve the even patterned look of our pincushion, the lace elements were pinned in place then linked tog, over 2 rnds, with chains and slip sts. See Chart on p93. Join yarn at point of a petal.

Round 1 (Ch4, ss into a dc in next padded ring, ch4, ss into point of next petal) rep around. **Fasten off.**

Join yarn in left side (right side for left handers) of padding ring 6 sts away from ss worked in Rnd 1.

Round 2 Ch4, ss in point of petal (same place as Rnd 1), ch-3 picot, ch4, ss in side of next padding ring, ch13, ch3, ss in top of same padding ring, ch3, ss in top of prev ch-3, ch13, ss in dc on opposite side of same padding ring, *ch4, ss in point of petal, ch-3 picot, ch4, ss in side of next padding ring, ch6, ss in prev ch-13 sp, ch7, ch3, ss in top of same padding ring, ch3, ss in top of prev ch-3, ch13, ss in dc on opposite side of same padding ring; rep from * 4 more times, ch4, ss in point of petal, ch-3 picot, ch4, ss in side of next padding ring, ch6, ss in prev ch-13 sp, ch7, ch3, ss in top of same padding ring, ch3, ss in top of prev ch-3, ch7, ss in first ch-13 sp, ch6, ss in dc on opposite side of same padding ring.

Fasten off. In foll rnd, you will be working around a foundation cord into the ch-sps of prev rnd to make a raised edge. You can join Front to Back during this rnd, by working every 7th dc into one of the ch-sps of last rnd of Back as well. To keep it simple, do not join Back on this rnd, just sew in point of each ch-sp of Back to raised edge of Front after you have finished next rnd.

Round 3 Join yarn in any of the ch-7 sps on outer edge of Front piece. Taking a 4-strand foundation cord, you will be working dc sts into the ch-sps around outer edge of Front and around the foundation cord at the same time. There are 7 patt reps around edge of Front, and each rep consists of a 2 ch-7 sps with a ss in between. Work 21 dc evenly into each rep, working around foundation cord at the same time. [147 dc] **Fasten off.** Pull up foundation cord to tighten. Weave in 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.

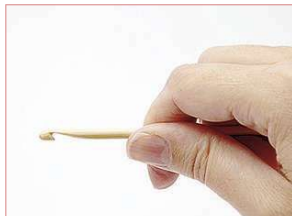
HOLDING THE HOOK

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.

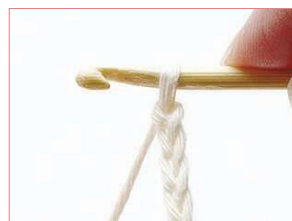
CHAIN STITCH Use this stitch to make your foundation chain.



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.

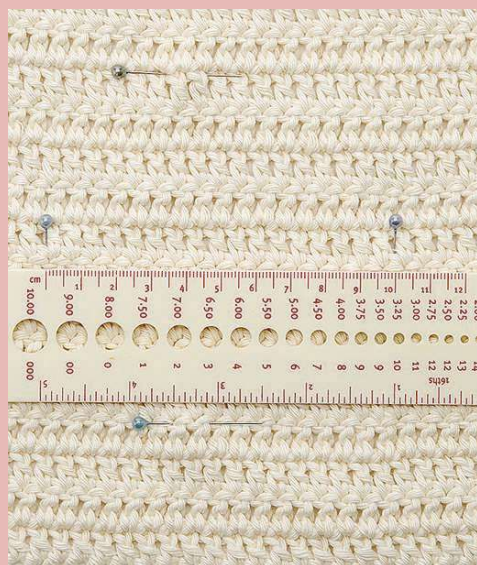
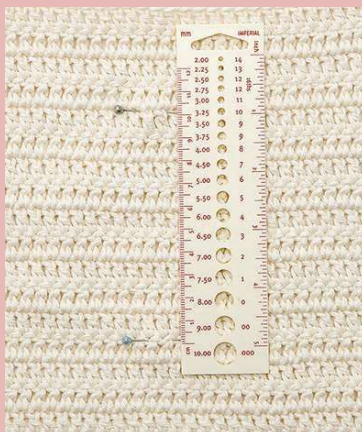


4 A useful variation on the dc seam, the dc and chain seam is used when less bulk and/or greater flexibility is needed. Work 1 double crochet and 1 chain alternately.

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.



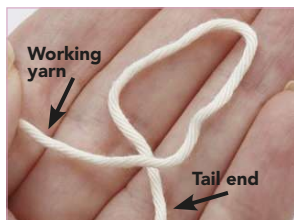
1 Make a foundation ring and work the t-ch (3ch for treble sts). Work a treble st as usual, but insert hook into centre of ring. For treble sts, yrh, insert hook into ring.



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.



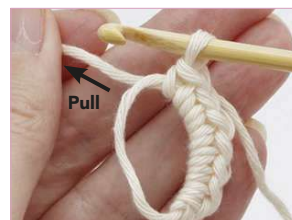
1 To start a Magic Loop, don't make a slipknot. Instead, make a loop with the yarn, leaving a tail around 10cm long. Make sure the tail end is under the working yarn.



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.

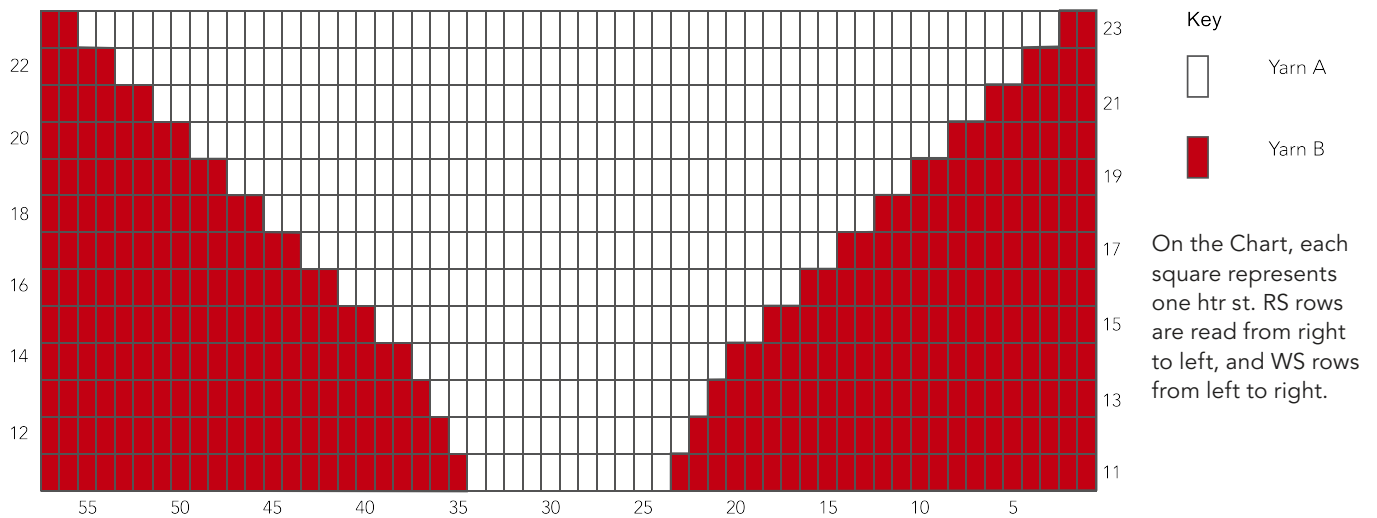


Complete the final stitch, then cut the yarn about 15cm from the work. Pull it through the last loop on the hook and pull to close the loop. Thread the yarn tail onto a tapestry needle and weave into the back of the work. Most crochet items don't need a lot of blocking, but cotton lace work usually does.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

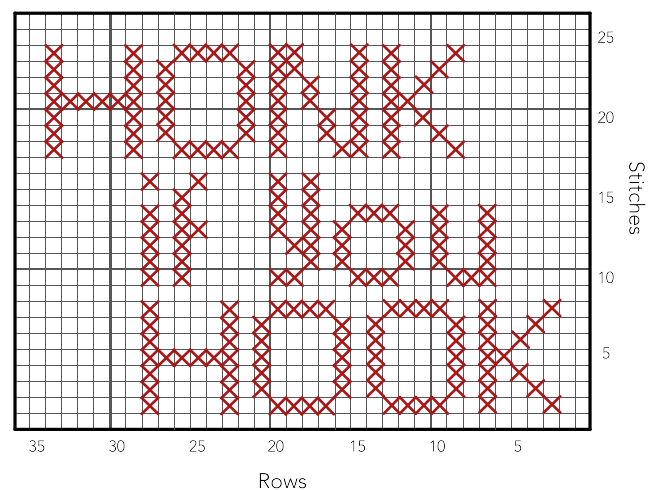
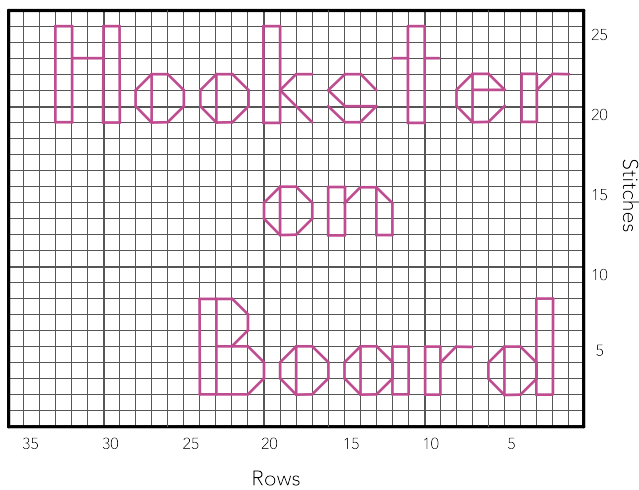
CHARTS & DIAGRAMS

Here are the extra bits you'll need to make the cushions, bumper stickers, waistcoat and pincushion this month.

CAMPER CUSHIONS, PAGE 27



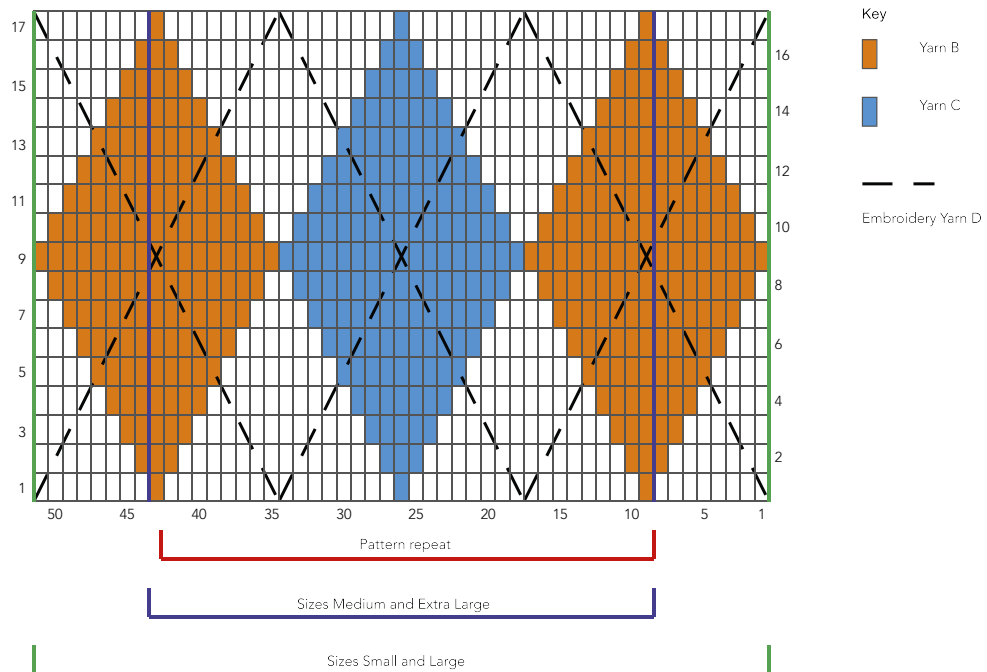
BUMPER STICKERS, PAGE 29



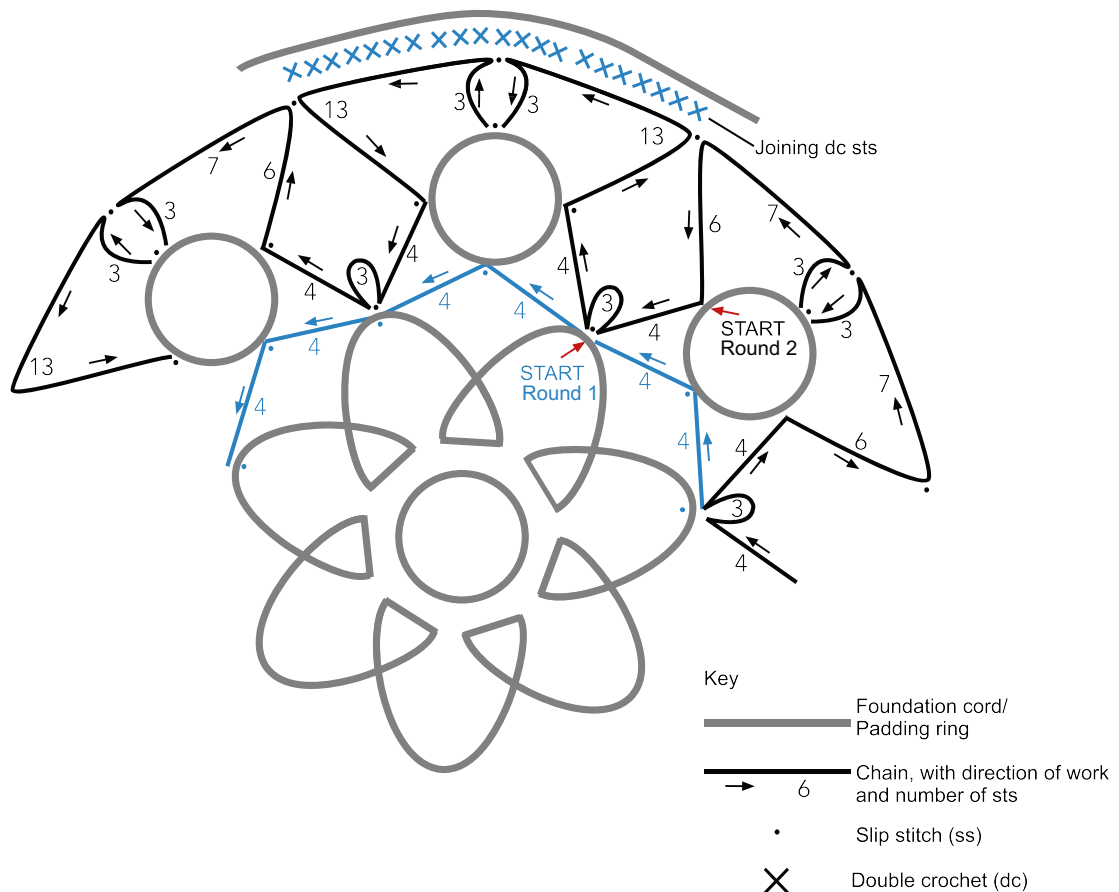
Key

- Cross Stitches in Rocking Horse
- Straight Stitches in Rinky Dink Pink

ARGYLE WAISTCOAT, PAGE 70



IRISH CROCHET PINCUSHION, PAGE 83



MAKE A MOTIF

TAKE A SLICE

Try Lucy Croft's clever triangle shape.



join +riAngLES to
MAKE PLACE MATS

MAKE A MOTIF



YOU WILL NEED

- Scheepjes Sunkissed (100% cotton, 50g/170m), Beach Hut Orange (12)
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook

For yarn stockists, contact
Deramores 0845 519 4573
www.deramores.com

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92

Orange you glad you discovered this versatile shape by Lucy Croft? These sweet lacy triangles could be joined in circles or strips to form pretty place mats (or even a faux cheesy pizza), doilies, shawls, wraps and more. Grab a 4ply yarn and see where your creativity takes you.

TRIANGLE MOTIF

Ch4, ss to the first ch to join into a loop.

Round 1 Ch3 (counts as tr), 17tr into the loop, ss to the top of the beg ch-3 to join.

Round 2 *Ch3, skip next tr, ss to next tr; repeat from * 8 more times.

Round 3 *Ch4, skip next ch-3 sp, (tr, ch4, tr) in next ch-3 sp, ch4, skip next ch-3 sp, ss to next ss; repeat from * twice more.

Round 4 Ch1 (does not count as st), *5dc in next ch-4 sp, (3dc, ch2, 3dc) in next ch-4 sp, 5dc in next ch-4 sp; repeat from * twice more, ss to the first dc. **Fasten off.**

TO JOIN

Join motifs while working Round 4, by replacing the second ch at each corner

with a ss to the corresponding ch-2 sp on the adjacent motif.



YARN OFFER

Deramores 0845 519 4573

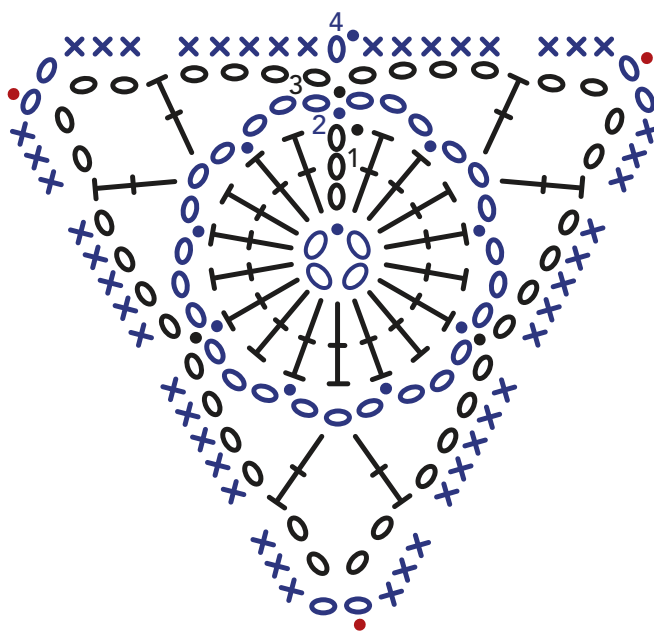
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Deramores are offering *Simply Crochet* readers 15% off this Scheepjes Sunkissed yarn with the discount code SCSUN. Offer valid until July 21 2016.

Key

- Slip stitch (ss)
- Chain (ch)
- x Double crochet (dc)
- T Treble crochet (tr)
- Joining slip stitch

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





Simply Crochet

HOOKED ON HANDMADE

NEXT ISSUE

Picnic projects

Freeform crochet

Granny swirl blanket

Amigurumi octopus

Stripy jumper

And more...

STATEMENT
LACE top!



ON SALE THURS 23 JUNE





JUST FOR ME

Top designer Nicki Trench takes a bit of time to crochet something special for herself.

This laptop cosy is my favourite crochet project. I designed it for my Crochet Club a few months back. It's made using a silk yarn from Fyberspates and a bobble stitch, which has a lovely texture and protects my laptop when I'm out and about. It's practical and beautiful and was really quick to make. It's so rare for me to have time to make anything for myself and I really enjoy it.

I chose Fyberspates Scrumptious in a 4ply because it's my favourite yarn at the moment. It drapes beautifully, it's great to crochet with, it feels a joy to work with and looks so good. This pale silver grey colour is very much on trend at the moment. I also love this shade because it goes with so many other colours and it's not too girly. I don't like a girly look, which can be a difficult thing when you're a crochet designer!

I used a bobble stitch to give the crochet a protective texture. I also lined

it, which helps it keep its shape. As it's not a big project, it's perfect for making over the course of a couple of evenings.

I've also made other gadget cosies but in different designs for my new book *Cute & Easy Crocheted Cosies* (see page 61). There's one made using little squares and another in a puff stitch, which is a similarly lovely thick and textured stitch.

This is definitely a project that you can make for both women and men. It can be hard to find crocheted things that men like, but they do seem to enjoy my simple grey bobble laptop cosy!

If you'd like the pattern, you can get it by joining my Crochet Club – you'll get one free past pattern as well as the current pattern and a new pattern each month. As a member of the Crochet Club, you also get special discounts on my workshops and occasional discounts on yarns that are used in the projects.

Join at www.nickitrench.com/clubs or find Nicki Trench at <http://bit.ly/SC45Nicki>

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MISSED AN ISSUE?

ISSUE FORTY-FOUR

This issue looks East, with Kokeshi dolls and sashiko stitching. Court romance with our embroidery and wedding ideas, hook a denim skirt and an adorable superhero pooch. Plus, there's a rainbow hoodie, silk scarf, baby blanket and more to make.

SEE OUR BACK
ISSUE PROJECTS IN
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ISSUE FORTY-THREE

Geometric dress, Sixties-inspired accessories, shawls to bust your stash and puff stitch.



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 cardi, cat, and neon brights.



ISSUE THIRTY-TWO

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



ISSUE THIRTY-ONE

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

