

Simply Crochet

HOOKED ON HANDMADE

DAISY CHAIN
NECKLACE P63

SUNNY
MAKES

GO FOR THE
WOW FACTOR!

20
PATTERNS
INSIDE

MAKE WAVES

Octopus toy, beach bag and more...



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Simply **Crochet**

HOOKED ON HANDMADE

Are you ready to go deeper with your love for crochet? This issue we've fallen hook, line and sinker for all things nautical, including Claude the octopus, starfish flip-flops and our must-hook stripy top. Plus, we're stitching picnic projects and daisy chains. Summer is here.

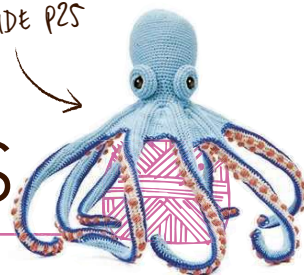


Simply Crochet

ISSUE FORTY-SIX

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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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HERE COMES THE SUMMER

The temperature is rising and so is my stack of WIPs! This issue won't help matters either, as it's full of tempting summery projects. Lucy Croft's incredible denim jacket makeover (p49) is one of my favourites – the flower motifs look just like embroidery. And then there's our super nautical collection (p16) featuring Claude the octopus and my own slouchy jumper design. Your summer hooking is sorted. Oh, and turn to p9 for some exciting news!

Sara

Sara Huntington, Editor

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A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO PITCHED IN...



SARAH ZIMMERMAN

Repeat Crafter Me blogger Sarah is known for her cute and colourful crochet and exciting corner-to-corner designs. This issue, we're having a nose at her yarn storage on page 68.



RUTH MADDOCK

This issue, author and crochet designer Ruth is spilling the beans about her personal crochet heroes and some exciting new changes she's making. Read all about it on page 58.



ESME CRICK

Esme describes herself as equal parts crochet designer, teacher and mum and she's never far from her hook. This issue, she designed the delightful daisy chain necklace for us on page 63.



LISA RICHARDSON

Top-notch designer Lisa often works with Rowan. She's hooked a stunning hot pink top for us in Rowan's exquisite Fine Lace yarn. Love lacy stitch patterns? You'll find it on page 54.

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS

Ilaria Caliri, Lucy Croft, Hannah Cross, Judy Darley, Anne Egan, Kat Goldin, Kate Hancock, Hoooked, Sara Huntington, Lisa Naskrent, Val Pierce, Becky Skuse, Louise Smith, Kath Webber

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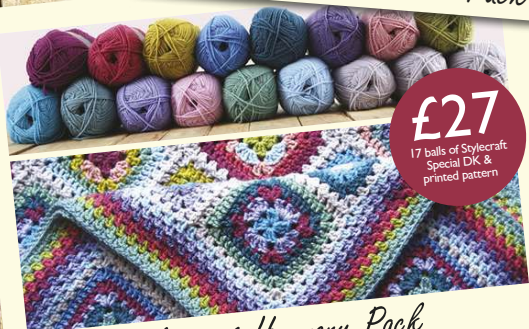
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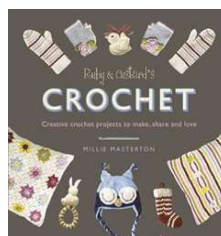
Psst – the first ever *Simply Crochet* crochet-along (or CAL) is launching in issue 49 and we'd love you to join in. The project, available to subscribers only, is a bright and beautiful blanket designed by Lucy Croft. Over 13 issues, you'll find the patterns for 12 vibrant blocks, plus all the details for joining and edging them. It'll be worked in nine shades of gorgeous Cascade 220 yarn and yes, special CAL yarn packs will be available from LoveCrochet. Look out for pre-order details next issue. We can't wait!





OH, MILLIE

■ We've yet to come across a crochet blogger book that wasn't pretty special. *Ruby & Custard's Crochet* by crocheter Millie Masterton of www.rubyandcustard.com is no exception. This book is filled with cute accessories for kids, adults and your home alike. All the designs are suitable for beginners, so we reckon this would make a great gift for a friend who's new to the craft. The book is published by Ebury Press (RRP £10.99). Find it at www.amazon.co.uk



Designer Vicki Brown has just released a fantastic new pattern book of super socks. She told us: "People are often surprised at the idea of crochet socks, but with the right stitches and construction you can produce socks that are beautiful and wearable. The collection features six designs that all have different techniques and stitches, and varying constructions. These are socks that are designed to work, be loved and be put through their paces!" Find *The Crochet Sock Collection* ebook for £10 and the print version for £12 at www.vickibrowndesigns.com

Hop Socks photograph by Kasia Fiszter.

YARNTISTRY CRITTERS

Check out this guy – we've never seen a cactus with quite so much personality. This precious critter is one of a myriad of adorable creations by Yarnistry (www.yarnistryuk.etsy.com). Her Etsy store is stocked with one-of-a-kind cacti – fuzzy, extremely low-maintenance plants decked out with pompoms, moustaches, monocles and specs. So much fun. Plus, there are extra bits and bobs sold separately if you'd like to customise your cactus, as well as cactus-themed stickers, bags, mugs and more. Our desks are crying out for them.

SUN'S OUT HOOKS OUT

Check out Sirdar's sizzling new patterns for summer. *Cotton Crochet Book 499* is packed with exciting designs, including women's garments, cushions, bags and even a filet crochet shawl. All 18 projects are hooked using Sirdar's Cotton DK or Cotton 4ply yarns. Our highlights from the collection are the pink cardi with stunning open lace work on the back and the playful granny treble cover-up (both pictured). For stockist information and further details, visit www.sirdar.co.uk





MAKE IT MALABAR

For summer accessories, Stylecraft's cotton and silk blend Malabar DK is one of our top picks. And we've got some Malabar goodies to give away. One lucky winner will receive the blanket and bag crochet pattern shown, plus 15 balls of Malabar DK (that's enough to make both projects). Five runners-up will also receive the bag and blanket crochet pattern. Enter at <http://competition.immediate.co.uk/sc46mal>

HOOK IT ON HOLIDAY

Thinking of packing a crochet project in your case? Check out our top five tips for travelling.

- 1 **PACK YOUR PATTERN**
Take a snap of the pattern on your tablet or phone – easy.
- 2 **AND READ IT TWICE**
Make sure you have all the yarn and notions you need.
- 3 **TRAVEL LIGHT**
Put away that chunky wool and pack cool fibres such as cotton, linen and silk.
- 4 **TRY MOTIFS AND BLOCKS**
You can join up the smaller sections when you get home.
- 5 **DO THE RIGHT THING**
Not sure if hooks are permitted? Check with your airline before you fly.

SWEET TREATS

Whip up a cone in your fave flavour with a DIY Crochet Kit Ice Cream by Hooooked. The set includes the pattern, hook and Eco Barbante yarn. £7.78 at www.hooooked.co.uk



INSPIRING BOOKS

CUTE & EASY CROCHETED COSIES

Nicki Trench
(£12.99, Search Press)
Top designer Nicki Trench's new book is a collection of 35 simple cosies in her trademark pretty-yet-practical style. Think beads, trims and floral embellishments. They're all great gift ideas, but we love the tea cosies.



101 STITCHES FOR AFGHANS

Jean Leinhauser
(£14.99, Annie's Crochet)
This comprehensive stitch guide is ideal for blanket lovers. Work your way through the vibrant library of stitches to introduce lace and texture into your makes. Each pattern has a clear stitch diagram.



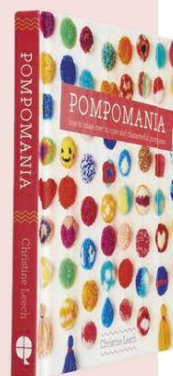
SWEET & SIMPLE GRANNY SQUARES

Beth Wolfensburger
(£5.99, Taunton Press)
It's amazing what you can do with the humble granny square. Here are seven basic crochet projects using scrummy treble clusters. There are cute things for your home and things to wear.



POMPOMANIA

Christine Leech
(£10, Quadrille)
Take your pompom making to the next level with this book. You'll learn to make adorable animals, foodie treats, emojis and more with pompoms, as well as gorgeously fluffy home accessory projects. Raid your stash and get creative. Pompom sushi, anyone?





TO YARNDALE

■ Fancy coming to Yarndale with us? We've teamed up with Arena Travel to plan a trip to this exciting yarn festival. The Last of the Summer Yarn break runs from 23-26 September and includes a ticket to Yarndale, a crochet session with Editor Sara Huntington, a private tour of Gawthorpe Hall's textile collection, plus four-star B&B accommodation in Harrogate and all coach travel. Visit www.arenatravel.com/yarndale



THREE FROM THE TOP

The Crochet Project team have been at it again. This time, Kat Goldin and Joanne Scrace have tackled top-down cardigans. *Three From the Top* features a trio of oh-so wearable cardi designs in both child and adult sizes. Try yoke, raglan and set-in sleeve construction with these seamless projects. The book also includes fantastic pointers on pattern reading, sizing, tension and yarn substitution. Pick up a print copy for £12 at www.thecrochetproj.etsy.com



FORGET-ME-NOTS

For Dementia Awareness Week in May, the Alzheimer's Society headed to the seaside. The pier entrance in Weston-super-Mare was festooned with thousands of crochet forget-me-nots. The blooms were contributed by kind crafters who were keen to support the cause and the flowers will go on to raise further awareness, or be added to cushions, blankets and twiddlemuffs for dementia patients. See more on this event at <http://bit.ly/SCM46> or go to www.alzheimers.org.uk to donate and get involved with fundraising.

THINK NEUTRAL



Ease yourself into summer with handmade treats in gentle tones. How about these fantastic finds to help you with your hooking?

1. Pretty pastels and painterly stripes – crochet hooks never looked so good. These decorated bamboo beauties are from The Dizzy Bee Crochet. Pick up a set of 12 hand-painted hooks for £17.44 at www.thedizzybeecrochet.etsy.com. They also do glittery ones.
2. For a rustic crochet table mat, www.miafleur.com is the place to go. This one's made of paper and is £11.95. Need convincing? Check out our review of paper yarns on page 76.
3. How sweet is this storage basket by La Petit Maison Blanc? So handy. It comes in two different sizes and can even be personalised with a name or message of your choice. From £22 at www.giftwrappedandgorgeous.co.uk



WOOLLEN WOODS

If you go down to the woods today, you'd better bring some yarn. Arlington Court, a National Trust property in North Devon, is calling for submissions for their 2016 Woollen Woods exhibition that opens in August. They're after crochet creations with an autumnal theme. Send your makes to Woollen Woods, Arlington Court, Barnstaple, Devon EX31 4LP, with your name, age and town by October 16. See www.nationaltrust.org.uk/arlington-court for more details on how you can help.

Woollen Woods photograph by Steven Hawood/ National Trust

A GOOD YARN

I'd like to make some chunky toy baskets for my daughter's room. Can you suggest a fun T-shirt yarn?

Did you know Hoooked's Zpagetti yarn comes in both printed and solid shades? Zpagetti Print (from £5.47 per 850g bobbin) is a 100% recycled yarn made with cotton-blend textile remnants. And the choice of exciting print options is mind-boggling. Take your pick at www.hoooked.co.uk



Time to get out AND ABOUT...

SKILLS, SHOWS & EVENTS

JULY 9 Beginners Crochet, £25, Norfolk Yarn, Pottergate, Norwich, 01603 927034 www.norfolkyarn.co.uk

JULY 10 Reading Crochet Patterns, £25, Knit Nottingham, Nottingham, 0115 947 4239 www.knitnottingham.co.uk

JULY 16 Tunisian Crochet Workshop, £49.95, Black Sheep Wools, Culcheth, Warrington, 01925 764231 www.blacksheepwools.com

JULY 16-17 Yarningham, £5, Stirchley Baths, Birmingham, www.stitchesandhos.co.uk

JULY 20 Experimental Crochet Workshop, £35, Jane Bowler Studio, Stratford, www.janebowler.co.uk

JULY 30-31 Fibre-East, £8, Ampthill, Bedfordshire, www.fibre-east.co.uk

5 FAB FINDS

Holiday hooking

Get set for summer with these creative treasures.



UNDER COVER

Cover-ups should be fun, right? Our fringed Coast to Coast beach dress is now on Ravelry at <http://bit.ly/46rav>

CROCHET TO GO

Where others see a wash bag, we see a project pouch. Just right for your holiday WIP. www.oakroomshop.co.uk



PROJECT CRAFT

Did you know Paperchase runs craft workshops? Fab for a rainy day. Visit www.paperchase.co.uk to find a class.



TOP IT OFF

Seek the shade in style with White Stuff's super crochet sun hat. www.whitestuff.com



BESIDE THE TEA

We're officially loving Cath Kidston's summer collection. Grab this Beach Huts mug from www.daisypark.co.uk





GREAT SCOT

■ Here's a date for your diary, stitchers – the first ever Loch Ness Knit Fest is taking place across Inverness from 29 September to 2 October. This international event comprises fashion shows, workshops, presentations, knit cruises, film and TV screenings, a crafty marketplace and more, all in the Highlands. Register now for £20 at www.lochnessknitfest.com and then you can book onto your chosen events, priced separately.



Fancy trying your hand at jewellery making this summer? The lovely folks at Jewellery Maker are offering *Simply Crochet* readers fantastic taster workshops worth £30 for just £5. You'll have expert tuition from a guest designer, get a tour of the Jewellery Maker TV studios and come away with your own genuine gemstone jewellery. To book your place, visit www.jewellerymaker.com/taster and enter code CrocJM3N, or call 0800 6444 655. Offer available to customers aged 16 and over only, who haven't booked or attended a workshop previously. Taster workshops are suitable for beginners only. Offer ends 10 July or when fully booked.



MAMACHEE CROCHET

Tara Murray of www.mamachee.com is one of our fave crochet bloggers, so you can imagine how excited we were when she told us about her first ebook. *Crochet with Mamachee* is a collection of 28 stylish accessories – hats, cowls, slippers, mittens and more. The standout design for us is this scrummy Marjorie Scarf – get a load of that texture. The book and individual patterns are available at www.ravelry.com

THIS MONTH WE LOVE...

Dutch blogger Carmen Jorissen posts at www.craftyqueens.nl. We adore her amigurumi birds, sweet and simple accessories and her imaginative style.

Carmen is also a Scheepjeswol blogger and even designed one of the squares for the Scheepjes Last Dance on the Beach CAL 2016. On her blog, you'll find a variety of stylish free crochet patterns for toys and accessories (the chunky mountain cushions are amazing), and her musings on creative life. We can't wait to see what she dreams up next. Keep an eye out.





Stylish Kids Crochet - Oversized Jumper
Crocheted using Patons Extrafine Merino Aran

SHIP SHAPE

Oh buoy, this slouchy striped sweater's going straight to the top of our to-hook list. It's worked with an 8mm crochet hook for an extra loose drape.

FIND YOUR FEET

If mermaids did have feet, we're pretty sure they'd wear these. It's so easy to primp a pair of flip-flops with cotton stripes and simple starfish motifs. Just add sea and sand.





SEAS THE DAY

A collection of nautical-but-nice makes for your holiday and home. You'll fall hook, line and sinker.

NAUTICAL IDEAS



WHAT A CATCH

Make this breezy drawstring beauty the one you grab for trips to the beach. It's roomy enough for all your essentials and a WIP. And those striking mesh sections have a hint of lobster pot about them, don't you think?

TAKE THE WHEEL

It doesn't take Captain Hook to realise this mat project is a real treasure. The bold ship's wheel shape is encircled by playful fish motifs. Has it sunk to the bottom of the sea, or are you steering your vessel to a tropical island? Either way, it'll brighten up your bathroom.







NAUTICAL IDEAS



JE M'APPELLE CLAUDE

Meet Claude the octopus. He's an amigurumi masterpiece and he's a real sucker for sudoku and adventures on the high seas. Plus, with all those arms (there's eight, we counted), he's perfect for cuddling and play time, too.

LIFE'S A BEACH

You may be miles from the seaside, but a little coastal cuteness goes a long way. Hook a pair of charming beach hut hangers and you'll dolphinately make waves. We reckon these would be fab weekend projects and very sweet as gifts.



STRIPY JUMPER

Find the pattern on page 36.

STARFISH FLIP-FLOPS

This simple project by Hannah Cross is topped off with Anne Egan's starfish.

- DROPS Paris (100% cotton, 50g/75m), 1 ball of each: Off White (17), Strong Blue (09), Apricot (01)
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- A 4.5mm (US 7) hook

MEASUREMENTS

To fit any size flip flop

Small Starfish: 8.5cm/3¼in across

Large Starfish: 14cm/5½in across

NOTES

Work each st around straps of flip-flop. Make sure you push sts tightly tog as you work.

Work same number of sts on each side of the strap on each flip-flop.

FLIP-FLOPS

Use 4.5mm hook. With the front of the flip-flop facing and starting at the back of the right-hand side foot strap, join Strong Blue with a ss around the strap, *2dc, ch1 changing to Off White during ch-1, *2dc, ch1 changing to Strong Blue during ch-1; rep from * until you reach the centre of the straps then cont along left strap. **Fasten off.** Weave in ends.

STARFISH

Work 2 Small or Large Starfish, depending on your preference. We used the small pattern. Starfish is worked in the round with each leg worked separately.

SMALL STARFISH

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

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), 10dc into ring, ss to first dc. [10 sts]

Round 2 *Ch6, dc in second ch from hook, dc in next ch, htr in each of next 2 ch, tr in next ch, skip next dc from Round 1, ss in bl of next dc; repeat from * 4 more times. [5 starfish legs]

Round 3 *Dc in each remaining loop of next 5 ch, (dc, ch2, dc) in next ch (the last ch of ch-5 from Round 2), dc in each of next 5 sts, working down the other side of the leg, dc in next ss; rep from * around, ss to first dc. [60 dc, 5 ch-2 sps] **Fasten off.**

LARGE STARFISH

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

Round 1 (RS) Ch2, 9htr into the ring, ss to top of beg ch-2 to join. [10 htr]

Round 2 Ch2, htr in st at base of beg ch-2, 2htr in each st around, ss to top of beg ch-2. [20 htr]

Round 3 *Ch8, dc in second ch from hook, dc in next ch, htr in each of next 2 ch, tr in each of next 2 ch, dtr in next ch, skip next 2 htr on Round 2, ss in bl of next 2 htr; rep from * around, omitting last ss on last rep.

[5 starfish legs]

Round 4 *Dc in each rem loop of next 7 ch, (dc, ch2, dc) in next ch (the last ch of ch-8 from Round 3), dc in each of next 7 sts (working down other side of leg), dc in next ss; rep from * around, ss to first dc. [85 dc, 5 ch-2 sps]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

Sew each starfish to each flip-flop.

BEACHCOMBER BAG

Stash your swimming stuff or beach essentials in Anne Egan's duffel bag.

- DROPS Paris (100% cotton, 50g/75m), 3 balls of each: Strong Blue (09), Off White (17), 1 ball of each: Apricot (01), Light Turquoise
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook

MEASUREMENTS

Approx 85cm (33½in) around and 40cm (15¾in) tall

SPECIAL STITCHES

Crab stitch (also called reverse dc)

Dc in each st, working from left to right if right-handed, or working from right to left if left handed.

BAG BASE

Using Strong Blue, ch10.

Round 1 Tr in fourth ch from hook (skipped 3 ch counts as tr), tr in each ch

NAUTICAL IDEAS

to last ch, 6tr in last ch rotating work as you go, cont working in opposite side of foundation ch in rem loops, tr in each of next 5 ch, 4tr in next ch, ss to top of beg ch-3. [22 tr]

Round 2 Ch3 (counts as tr throughout), tr in same st at base of ch-3, 2tr in next tr, tr in each of next 5 tr, 2tr in each of next 6 tr, tr in each of next 5 tr, 2tr in each of next 4 tr, ss to top of beg ch-3. [34 tr]

Round 3 Ch3, 2tr in next tr, tr in next tr, 2tr in next tr, tr in each of next 5 tr, (tr in next tr, 2tr in next tr) 6 times, tr in each of next 5 tr, (tr in next tr, 2tr in next tr) 4 times, ss to top of beg ch-3. [46 tr]

Round 4 Ch3, tr in next tr, 2tr in next tr, tr in each of next 2 tr, 2tr in next tr, tr in each of next 5 tr, (tr in each of next 2 tr, 2tr in next tr) 6 times, tr in each of next 5 tr, (tr in each of next 2 tr, 2tr in next tr) 4 times, ss to top of beg ch-3. [58 tr]

Round 5 Ch3, tr in next tr, 2tr in next tr, tr in each of next 2 tr, 2tr in next tr, tr in each of next 5 tr, (tr in each of next 3 tr, 2tr in next tr) 6 times, tr in each of next 5 tr, (tr in each of next 3 tr, 2tr in next tr) 4 times, ss to top of beg ch-3. [70 tr]

Round 6 Ch3, tr in next tr, 2tr in next tr, tr in each of next 2 tr, 2tr in next tr, tr in each of next 5 tr, (tr in each of next 4 tr, 2tr in next tr) 6 times, tr in each of next 5 tr, (tr in each of next 4 tr, 2tr in next tr) 4 times, ss to top of beg ch-3. [82 tr]

Rounds 7-10 Continue as set, increasing by 1 on each round the number of 'tr in each of next xx tr' in the bracketed repeat sections. [130 tr]

Round 11 Ch3, tr in each of next 8 tr, 2tr in next tr, tr in each of next 9 tr, 2tr in next tr, tr in each of next 5 tr, (tr in each of next 9 tr, 2tr in next tr) 6 times, tr in each of next 5 tr, (tr in next 9 tr, 2tr in each of next tr) 4 times, ss to top of beg ch-3. [142 tr]

Round 12 Ch3, tr in each of next 58 tr, 2tr in next tr, tr in each of next 70 tr, 2tr in next tr, tr in each tr to end of round, ss to top of beg ch-3. [144 tr]

Round 13 Ch3, tr in each st around, ss to top of beg ch-3.

Round 14 Rep Rnd 13, changing to Off White during ss.

Round 15-19 Rep Round 13, changing to Apricot during last ss of Round 19.

Round 20 Ch1 (does not count as a st), dc in each tr around, changing to Off White during ss.

Round 21 Rep Round 13, changing to

Strong Blue during ss.

Round 22 Rep Round 20, changing to Light Turquoise during ss.

PATTERN SECTION

Round 23 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in each of next 2 dc, *ch3, skip next 3 sts, dc in next dc, ch5, skip next 5 sts, dc in next dc, ch3, skip next 3 sts**, dc in each of next 3 dc; rep from * ending last rep at **, dc in last dc, ss to first dc.

Rounds 24-25 Rep Round 23.

Round 26 Ch4 (counts as dtr throughout), dtr in next dc, *ch4, dc in next dc, ch7, dc in next dc, ch4**, dtr in each of next 3 dc; rep from * ending last rep at **, dtr in last dc, ss to top of beg ch-4.

Round 27 Ch4, ch3, dc in next dtr, *ch7, dc in next ch-7 sp, ch7, dc in next dtr**, ch3, dtr in next dtr, ch3, dc in next dtr; rep from * ending last rep at **, dc in last dtr, ch3, ss to fourth of beg ch-4.

Round 28 Ch4, dtr in first of next 3 ch, *ch4, dc in next ch-7 sp, ch7, dc in next

ch-7 sp, ch4**, dtr in third of next 3 ch, dtr in next dtr, dtr in first of next 3 ch; rep from * around, ending last rep at **, dtr in top of last ch-3, ss to top of beg ch-4.

Round 29 Rep Round 27.

Round 30 Ch1, dc in same st at base of ch-1, dc in first of next 3 ch, *ch3, dc in next ch-7 sp, ch5, dc in next ch-7 sp, ch3, dc in third of next 3 ch**, dc in next dtr, dc in first of next 3 ch; rep from * ending last rep at **, ss to first dc.

Rounds 31-32 Rep Round 23, changing to Off White during ss of Round 32.

Rounds 33-42 Rep Rounds 23 to 32 once, changing to Strong Blue during ss of Round 42.

Round 43 Ch1, dc in each dc and each ch around, ss to first dc, changing to Off White during ss. [144 dc]

Round 44 Ch3, tr in next dc and in each dc around, ss to top of beg ch-3, changing to Apricot during ss.

Round 45 Ch1, dc in each tr around, ss to first dc, changing to Off White





during ss.

Round 46 Rep Round 44 without changing colour. Do not fasten off. Work a round of Crab st in Off White. **Fasten off** and weave in ends.

HANDLES (MAKE 2)

Using Apricot, ch6.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook, dc in each ch to end, turn. [5 dc]

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

Rep Row 2 until handle measures 60cm.

Fasten off.

TO FINISH

Join handles to Round 46 on the inside, making sure front and back joins are equally spaced apart. Make a chain cord in Off White, approx 120cm long. Weave through the sts of Round 46, starting and finishing centrally between the handles on one side of the bag. Pull to close top of bag. Add a Large Starfish using the pattern on p22.

SHIP'S WHEEL MAT

Transform a plain mat with motifs by Hannah Cross and Anne Egan.

- DROPS Peak (70% acrylic; 30% wool, 50g/45m), 5 balls of Off White (01)
- DROPS Paris (100% cotton, 50g/75m), 1 ball of Apricot (01)
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook for Small Fish
- A 6.5mm (US K10½) hook

TENSION

First 4 rounds meas 12cm (4¾in) diameter

MEASUREMENTS

Wheel meas 62cm (24½in) diameter

Small Fish meas 12cm (4¾in) across, using Drops Paris with a 4mm hook

Large Fish meas 19cm (7½in) across, using Drops Paris held double with a 6.5mm hook

WHEEL

Using Off White and 6.5mm hook, ch5, ss to first ch to join into a ring.

Round 1 (RS) Ch2 (counts as htr throughout), 7htr into the ring, ss to top of beg ch-2. [8 sts]

Round 2 Ch2, htr in st at base of ch, 2htr in each st around, ss to top of beg ch-2. [16 sts]

Round 3 Ch2, htr in st at base of ch, htr in next st, *2htr in next st, htr in next st; rep from * around, ss to top of beg ch-2. [24 sts]

Round 4 Ch2, htr in st at base of ch, htr in each of next 2 sts, *2htr in next st, htr in each of next 2 sts; rep from * around, ss to top of beg ch-2. [32 sts]

Continue in rows for spokes:

Row 1 (RS) Ch2, htr in each of next 2 sts, turn. [3 sts]

Rows 2-7 Ch2, htr in next st, htr in top of beg ch-2, turn.

Fasten off at the end of Row 7.

*With RS facing, skip next st of Round 4 and join yarn to next st. Rep Rows 1-7.

Rep from * to create 8 spokes.

Continue in rounds:

Round 1 With RS facing, join yarn to first st of any spoke, ch1, *ss in each of next 3 sts of spoke, ch9; rep from * around, ss to first st to join. [96 sts]

Round 2 Ch2, htr in st at base of ch, htr in each of next 11 sts, *2htr in next st, htr in each of next 11 sts; rep from * around, ss to top of beg ch-2. [104 sts]

Round 3 Ch2, htr in st at base of ch, htr in each of next 12 sts, *2htr in next st, htr in each of next 12 sts; rep from * around, ss to top of beg ch-2. [112 sts]

Round 4 Ch2, htr in st at base of ch, htr in each of next 13 sts, *2htr in next st, htr in each of next 13 sts; rep from * around, ss to top of beg ch-2. [120 sts]

Round 5 Ch2, htr in st at base of ch, htr in each of next 14 sts, *2htr in next st, htr in each of next 14 sts; rep from * around, ss to top of beg ch-2. [128 sts]

Fasten off.

Rejoin yarn to any dc in line with first st of spoke below. Continue in rows.

Row 1 Ch2, htr in each of next 2 sts, turn. [3 sts]

Rows 2-5 Ch2, htr in next st, htr in top of ch-2, turn.

Row 6 Ch2, htr in st at base of ch, htr in next st, 2htr in next st, turn. [5 sts]

Rows 7-8 Ch2, htr in each of next 3 sts, htr in top of ch-2, turn.

Row 9 Ch1 (does not count as a st), htr2tog, htr in next st, htr2tog. [3 sts]

Fasten off.

*Skip next 13 sts of Round 5 and join yarn to next st. Rep Rows 1-9. Rep from * around to create 8 spokes.

Weave in ends on WS.

FISH (MAKE 8)

Use the colour of your choice.

Small Fish uses oddments of yarn only.

For a larger fish, use yarn held double with a 6.5mm hook.

Using chosen colour, ch16.

Body (RS) Dc in second ch from hook, dc in each of next 2 ch, htr in each of next 3 ch, tr in each of next 3 ch, dtr in each of next 3 ch, tr in next ch, htr in next ch, 3dc in next ch, with RS facing rotate and work in rem loop of each foundation ch: htr in next ch, tr in next ch, dtr in each of next 3 ch, tr in each of next 3 ch, htr in each of next 3 ch, dc in each of next 3 ch. Do not fasten off.

Tail Ch5, dc in third ch from hook, htr in next ch, tr in next ch, ch6, dc in third ch from hook, dc in next ch, htr in each of next 2 ch, FPtr in tr of lower part of tail (at base of ch-6), ss to first dc of body of fish.

Fin Ss in each of next 3 sts, work in bl only for the rem sts: dc in each of next 2 sts, htr in next st, tr in next st, dtr2tog over next 2 sts. **Fasten off** and weave in ends.

Stitch an eye in a contrast colour on RS.

TO FINISH

Arrange wheel and fish shapes on mat, using the image as a guide.

Sew or glue the motifs in place.

CLAUDE THE OCTOPUS

Kate Hancock's incredibly detailed octopus toy is a brilliant challenge.

■ Drops Paris (100% cotton, 50g/75m), 6 balls of Yarn A Light Turquoise (02), 3 balls of Yarn B Off White (17), 2 balls of each: Yarn C Apricot (01), Yarn D Strong Blue (09)

- A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- A pair of 24mm safety eyes
- Polyester toy stuffing
- Stitch markers

MEASUREMENTS

23cm (9in) head height

115cm (45in) across, from tentacle tip to tip

ABBREVIATIONS

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

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

NOTES

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

The pattern involves working into chains. Make sure your chain sts are very loose in order to make working into them easier. In this pattern, when working into chains, you need to work into the bump on the back of the chain.

HEAD

The Head is worked from the top down to the tentacles.

Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Round 8 (2dc in next st, dc in each of next 3 sts) 6 times, dc in each of next 18 sts. [48 sts]

Round 9 (2dc in next st, dc in each of next 7 sts) 6 times. [54 sts]

Round 10 Dc in next st, (2dc in next st, dc in each of next 5 sts) 6 times, dc in each of next 17 sts. [60 sts]

Round 11 (2dc in next st, dc in each of next 9 sts) 6 times. [66 sts]

Round 12 Dc in each of next 2 sts, (2dc in next st, dc in each of next 7 sts) 6 times. [72 sts]





6 times, dc in each of next 16 sts. [72 sts]

Rounds 13-22 Dc in each st around.

Round 23 Dc in each of next 3 sts, dc2tog, dc in each of next 7 sts, dc2tog, dc in each of next 25 sts, (dc2tog, dc in each of next 7 sts) 3 times, dc2tog, dc in each of next 4 sts. [66 sts]

Rounds 24-25 Dc in each st around.

Round 26 (Dc2tog, dc in each of next 9 sts) 6 times. [60 sts]

Rounds 27-28 Dc in each st around.

Round 29 Dc in each of next 3 sts, dc2tog, dc in each of next 6 sts, dc2tog, dc in each of next 18 sts, (dc2tog, dc in each of next 6 sts) 3 times, dc2tog, dc in each of next 3 sts. [54 sts]

Rounds 30-31 Dc in each st around.

Start stuffing the Head firmly and continue to stuff as you go.

Round 32 (Dc2tog, dc in each of next 7 sts) 6 times. [48 sts]

Rounds 33-34 Dc in each st around.

Round 35 Dc in each of next 4 sts, dc2tog, dc in each of next 5 sts, dc2tog, dc in each of next 11 sts, (dc2tog, dc in each of next 5 sts) 3 times, dc2tog, dc in next st. [42 sts]

Mark the 17th dc on Round 36 with a stitch marker. This will indicate where the front of the Head is and help to place the eyes later.

Round 36 Dc in each st around.

Round 37 (Dc2tog, dc in each of next 5 sts) 6 times. [36 sts]

Round 38 Dc in next st, 2dc in next st, dc in each of next 5 sts, (dc2tog, dc in each of next 4 sts) 3 times, 2dc in next st, dc in each of next 5 sts, 2dc in next st, dc in each of next 4 sts. [36 sts]

Round 39 Dc in each of next 2 sts, 2dc in next st, dc in each of next 4 sts, (dc2tog, dc in each of next 4 sts) 3 times, 2dc in next st, dc in each of next 5 sts, 2dc in next st, dc in each of next 4 sts. [36 sts]

Round 40 Dc in each of next 3 sts, 2dc in next st, dc in each of next 4 sts, (dc2tog, dc in each of next 3 sts) 3 times, dc in next st, 2dc in next st, dc in each of next 7 sts, 2dc in next st, dc in each of next 3 sts. [36 sts]

Round 41 (Dc in each of next 8 sts, 2dc in next st) 4 times. [40 sts]

Round 42 Dc in each st around.

UPPER TENTACLES

Continue to work in the round, making a chain for each tentacle then working down the back of the chain as when working a row. Skipped turning ch do not count as a st. Continue in the round to the next tentacle. See Chart on p93.

Round 43 *Dc in each of next 3 sts, ch31, dc in the back of the second ch from the hook (the skipped first ch becomes the first turning ch), dc in the back of the next 29 ch, dc in each of the next 2 dc of the body*; rep from * to * another 7 times. [528 sts in total; 66 sts for each tentacle, including ch sts]

Round 44 *Dc in each of next 33 sts (working in the 'ch' side of the dc sts of

the previous round), dc in first turning ch, ch51, dc in the back of the second ch from the hook (the skipped first ch becomes the second turning ch), dc into the back of the next 49 ch, dc in the first turning ch, dc in each of the next 32 sts (working in the top of the dc sts of the previous round)*; rep from * to * another 7 times. [1344 sts; 168 sts for each tentacle, including ch sts] Using a stitch marker or scrap thread, mark the beginning stitch of each tentacle in Round 45 (8 markers). This will help to join the tentacle flaps later.

Round 45 *Dc in next st, dc2tog, dc in each of next 62 sts, (dc in each of next 2 sts, 2dc in next st) 6 times, dc in next st, 2dc in second turning ch, dc in next st, (2dc in next st, dc in each of next 2 sts) 6 times, dc in each of next 62 sts, dc2tog*; rep from * to * another 7 times. [1432 sts; 179 sts for each tentacle] **Fasten off.**

BASE AND LOWER TENTACLES

The Base is worked from the middle out to the tentacles.

You will need to change to Yarn C for every 3-tr/4-tr cluster stitch. Switch back to Yarn B for all other stitches. To change colour smoothly, start your cluster in Yarn C but when you have 4 or 5 loops left on the hook, yrh with Yarn B and pull through all 4 or 5 loops on the hook to complete the stitch. When changing colour, drop the yarn not being used to the back of your work and pick it up again when you need it,

NAUTICAL IDEAS

being careful not to leave it too loose or pull it too tight when starting with it again. You will have the tails running behind your work, but this won't be seen in the finished piece because they will be on the inside.

Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.

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

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

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

Change to Yarn B.

Start your colour change in the previous dc. **Fasten off** Yarn A.

Round 4 Working in fl of Round 3, ss in each st around. [18 sts]

Round 5 Working in bl of Round 4, (2dc in next st, dc in each of next 2 sts) 6 times. [24 sts]

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

Round 7 (2dc in next st, dc in each of next 4 sts) 6 times. [36 sts]

Round 8 (Dc in each of next 8 sts, 2dc in next st) 4 times. [40 sts]

Round 9 Dc in each st around.

Now start the tentacles. Continue working in the round, making a chain for each tentacle, then working down the back of the chain as when working a row. Continue in the round to the next tentacle.

Round 10 *Dc in each of next 3 sts, ch31, dc in the back of the second ch from the hook (the skipped first ch becomes the first turning ch), dc in the back of the next 29 ch, dc in each of the next 2 dc at the base*; rep from * to * another 7 times. [528 sts; 66 sts for each tentacle, including ch sts]

Round 11 *Dc in each of next 3 sts, (dc in each of next 3 sts, 4-tr cluster in next st) 7 times. **Fasten off** Yarn C, dc

in each of next 2 sts, dc in first turning ch, ch31, dc in the back of the second ch from the hook (the skipped first ch becomes the second turning ch), dc in the back of the next ch, (4-tr cluster in next ch, dc in each of next 3 ch) 7 times, dc in the first turning ch, (4-tr cluster in next st, dc in each of next 3 sts) 8 times*; rep from * to * another 7 times. [1024 sts; 128 sts for each tentacle, including ch sts]

Using a stitch marker or scrap thread, mark the beginning stitch of every tentacle in Round 12 (8 markers). This will help to join the tentacle flaps later.

Round 12 *Dc in next st, dc2tog, dc in each of next 61 sts, dc in second turning ch, ch26, dc in the back of the first ch from the hook (there is no turning ch), (3-tr cluster in next ch, dc in each of next 3 ch) 6 times, 3-tr cluster in next ch. **Fasten off** Yarn C, dc in second turning ch, dc in each of next 61 sts, dc2tog*; rep from * to * another 7 times. [1432 sts; 179 sts for each tentacle] **Fasten off**.

TENTACLE FLAPS (MAKE 8)

The tentacle flaps start with a chain. As with the tentacles, the flap rows will be worked up one side of the chain and back down the other. The ch1 at the end of each row adds height and is not counted as a st throughout.

See Chart on page 93.

Using Yarn A, ch5.

Row 1 (RS) Dc into the back of the second ch from the hook (the skipped first ch becomes the first turning ch), dc in the back of each of the next 3 ch, turn. [4 sts]

Row 2 Ch1, 2dc in next st, dc in each of next 3 sts, dc in first turning ch, ch5, dc in the back of the second ch from the hook (the skipped first ch becomes the

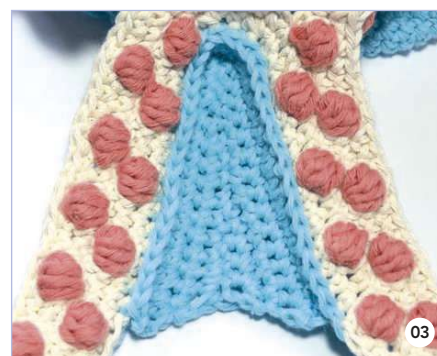
second turning ch), dc in the back of the next 3 ch, dc in the first turning ch, dc in each of next 3 sts, 2dc in next st, turn. [21 sts, including 5 ch sts]

Row 3 Ch1, 2dc in next st, dc in each of next 9 sts, dc in second turning ch, ch5, dc in the back of the second ch from the hook (the skipped first ch becomes the third turning ch), dc in the back of the next 3 ch, dc in the second turning ch, dc in each of the next 9 sts, 2dc in next st, turn. [33 sts, including 5 ch sts]

Row 4 Ch1, 2dc in next st, dc in each of next 15 sts, dc in third turning ch, dc in each of next 15 sts, 2dc in next st. [35 sts] **Fasten off**.

JOINING THE TENTACLE FLAPS

Next, join the individual tentacle flaps to the upper and lower sides of the tentacles. Place body on top of base so that wrong sides are facing each other. Line up one of the stitch markers from the Head with a stitch marker on the Base (it doesn't matter which one). With the underside of tentacles facing you, count 17 dc down one tentacle away from marker, on both the upper and lower sides of the tentacles – this is your starting stitch. Place tentacle flap on top of the upper tentacle, so the last stitch made on the tentacle flap (where you fastened off) lines up with the starting stitch on the other two pieces. Using Yarn A, place a slip knot on your hook and with underside facing you, dc through the loops of upper tentacle, lower tentacle and tentacle flap, joining them tog (see Photo 1). Cont to work 16 dc along the tentacle side working through the upper, lower and flap of the tentacles, joining them as you go until you come to the stitch markers. Remove stitch markers, then continue to work 18 dc in the next tentacle



side, working through the loops of the upper, lower and flap of the tentacles as before (see Photos 2 and 3). [35 sts]

Fasten off.

Rep for all eight tentacles. Stuff the base and the tentacles firmly as you go.

JOINING THE TENTACLES

We will now join the upper and lower sides of the tentacles, in one round, crocheting around the edges and joining them together.

Using Yarn D, place a slip knot on your hook. With the underside of the tentacles facing you, start at the right-hand side of a flap, preparing to work across the open flap edge.

Round 1 *Work 8 dc across the flap, then dc through the last dc made when joining the flaps and tentacles earlier. Cont to work 72 dc along the tentacle side, working through both the lower and upper tentacles, joining them as you go, until you reach the tip. Turn and work 72 dc along the opposite side of the tentacles back up to the flap, stopping every 10 dc to stuff the tentacle firmly as you go, dc through the first dc made when joining the flaps and tentacles earlier*; rep from * to * another 7 times. [1232 sts; 154 sts for each tentacle]

Ss to first dc in round. **Fasten off.**

EYE RINGS (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn A, ch3.

Round 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook, 5dc in next ch. [6 sts]

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

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

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

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

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

Round 7 Dc in each st around.

Round 8 (Dc in each of next 4 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. [30 sts]

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

Round 10 (Dc in next st, dc2tog, dc in next st) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 11 (Dc2tog, dc in next st) 6 times. [12 sts]

Ss to first dc in round.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing up.

Lightly stuff the eye ring and then push the beg rounds down toward the back hole to flatten. Flip eye ring over and thread yarn tail onto a needle. St last round to the inside of the eye ring, through open loops left over by Round 3. Flip eye ring back and attach safety eye through the space made by beg ch-2.

FIRST EYELID

Using Yarn A, ch7.

Row 1 (RS) Dc into second ch from hook, htr in next ch, tr in next ch, htr in next ch, dc in next ch, ss into last ch. [6 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

SECOND EYELID

Using Yarn A, ch7.

Row 1 (RS) Ss in second ch from hook, dc in next ch, htr in next ch, tr in next ch, htr in next ch, dc into last ch. [6 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

TO FINISH

St eyelids onto eye rings, making sure to curve them around the eyes. Using the st marked earlier as a guide for front of head, place eye rings either side of marker so they are 5 dc apart. Line up centres of eyes with the stitch marker and sew the eye rings on firmly. Next, make a st to pull in the bottom of the base. Using Yarn A, thread a needle and insert it into the middle of the base, exiting at Round 40 at the back of the head, then st back into Round 40, exit back at the base and pull tightly. Cont to st in and out of these two points. **Fasten off** and weave in ends.

BEACH HUT HANGERS

Louise Smith's seaside decorations are perfect if you love to embellish.

- DROPS Paris (100% cotton, 50g/75m), 1 ball of each: Apricot (01), Turquoise (02), Strong Blue (09) and Off White (17)
- A 4.5mm (US 7) hook
- Small amount of toy stuffing
- Approx two pieces of rope cord, each 25cm (10in) long
- Small amount of off-white fabric
- Small amount of black embroidery thread
- Fabric glue

MEASUREMENTS

16x10cm (6¼x4in)

NOTES

Ch1 at the start of a row or round does not count as a st throughout.

BEACH HUT FRONT

Using Off White, ch17.

Row 1 (RS) 2dc in 2nd ch from hook, dc in each ch to the end, turn. [17 dc]

Row 2 Ch1, dc in each st to the last st, 2dc in last st, turn. [18 dc]
Change to Apricot.

Row 3 Ch1, 2dc in next st, dc in each st to end, turn. [19 dc]

Row 4 Ch1, dc in each st to the last st, 2dc in last st, turn. [20 dc]
Change to Off White.

Row 5 Ch1, 2dc in next st, dc in each st to end, turn. [21 dc]

Row 6 Ch1, dc in each st to the last st, 2dc in last st, turn. [22 dc]
Change to Apricot.

Row 7 Ch1, 2dc in next st, dc in each st to end, turn. [23 dc]

Row 8 Ch1, dc in each st to the last st, 2dc in last st, turn. [24 dc]
Change to Off White.

Row 9 Ch1, 2dc in next st, dc in each st to end, turn. [25 dc]

Row 10 Ch1, dc in each st to last 2 sts, dc2tog, turn. [24 dc]
Change to Apricot.

Row 11 Ch1, dc2tog, dc in each st to end, turn. [23 dc]

Row 12 Ch1, dc in each st to last 2 sts, dc2tog, turn. [22 dc]
Change to Off White.

Row 13 Ch1, dc2tog, dc in each st to end, turn. [21 dc]

Row 14 Ch1, dc in each st to last 2 sts, dc2tog, turn. [20 dc]
Change to Apricot.

Row 15 Ch1, dc2tog, dc in each st to end, turn. [19 dc]

Row 16 Ch1, dc in each st to last 2 sts, dc2tog, turn. [18 dc]
Change to Off White.

Row 17 Ch1, dc2tog, dc in each st to end, turn. [17 dc]

Row 18 Ch1, dc in each st to last 2 sts, dc2tog. [16 dc]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

BEACH HUT BACK

Repeat instructions as given for Front, swapping the colour order of Apricot and Off White around.



DOOR

Using Strong Blue, ch7.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook and each ch to end, turn. [6 dc]

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

Repeat Row 2 another 10 times.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

ROOF

Using Strong Blue, ch4.

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

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

Repeat Row 2 another 19 times.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

BUNTING (MAKE 2)

Using Off White, ch4.

Change to Strong Blue.

Ch3, turn, dc in second ch from hook, htr in next ch.

Change to Off White.

Ch3.

Change to Turquoise.

Ch3, turn, dc in second ch from hook, htr in next ch.

Change to Off White.

Ch3.

Change to Strong Blue.

Ch3, turn, dc in second ch from hook, htr in next ch.

Change to Off White.

Ch4.

Make second Bunting, swapping Strong Blue and Turquoise and keeping Off White as the 'string'.

STARFISH

Using Turquoise, make a magic loop.

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

Round 2 *Ch3, dc in second ch from hook, htr in next ch, ss in next st of

Round 1; rep from * another 4 times.

[5 points]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

SECOND BEACH HUT

For second Beach Hut, rep instructions for Front, Back, Door and Roof. Swap Front and Back colours for Turquoise and Off White, and Door and Roof colours for Apricot. Swap Bunting colours for Apricot and Strong Blue. Instead of a Starfish for the second Hut, follow instructions for Beach Ball.

BEACH BALL

Using Strong Blue, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1, *dc into magic loop, change to Off White, dc into magic loop, change to Strong Blue; rep from * twice more, ss to first dc to join. [6 dc]

Round 2 Ch1, *2dc in first st, change to Off White, 2dc in next st, change to Strong Blue; rep from * twice more, ss to first dc. [12 dc]

Round 3 Ch1, *1dc in first st, 2dc in next st, change to Off White, 1dc in next st, 2dc in next st, change to Strong Blue; rep from * twice more, ss to first dc. [18 dc]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

Using matching thread, sew each Door onto each Front using photo as a guide. Then sew Starfish onto Apricot Front and Beach Ball onto Turquoise front. Position pieces of Bunting and sew in place with ends of bunting around back of Front pieces.

Cut two strips of fabric measuring 2.5x5cm (1x2in) and embroider words 'LOVE' and 'HOME' onto them using



black embroidery thread. Then glue these strips onto each Front piece, just above Doors and below Bunting. With wrong sides facing, sew each Front piece onto each Back piece, starting at one side and working around to other. Before sewing up top of Hut, fill with stuffing and add cord as follows: Tie length of rope cord tog so that it forms a loop then rep to make a second cord. Insert each knot of cord into each top of Hut and finish sewing up, securing the knot in place. Pinch top of cord loop together and push through centre of Roof piece. Sew Roof to top of beach hut using matching thread.



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Butterfly magnets



EASY-PEASY
TO MAKE



DK
WEIGHT



3.5MM
HOOK

YOU WILL NEED

- Oddments of DK yarn in the following shades:
 - Yarn A Light Blue
 - Yarn B Turquoise
 - Yarn C Blue
 - Yarn D Orange
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- Felt circle, 2cm diameter
- Fabric glue
- Magnet

MEASUREMENTS

Wingspan 6.5cm (2½in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92



PANSY BLUE

Sara Huntington's pretty, winged magnets are simple enough to hook in an evening.



The three rounds make a flower. Fold it and there's your butterfly.

C BUTTERFLY

Using Yarn A, ch6, ss in 6th ch from hook to form a ring.

Rnd 1 Ch3 (counts as tr), 15 tr into ring, ss to top of ch-3 changing to Yarn B on yrh of the ss. [16 sts]

Rnd 2 Using Yarn B, ch3 (counts as tr), tr in space between 2 sts from Rnd 1, ch2, 2tr into same sp, skip 2 tr, working in the sp between tr sts work: *2tr, ch2, 2tr into same sp, skip 2 tr; rep from * 6 more times, ss to top of ch-3, ss in next tr, ss into the ch-2 sp changing to Yarn C on yrh of the ss. [8 ch-2 sps]

Rnd 3 Using Yarn D, ch3 (counts as tr), 6tr into same ch-2 sp, skip 2 tr, *ss into next sp between sts, *7tr into next ch-2 sp; rep from * 6 more times, ss to top of ch-3. **Fasten off** and weave in ends. Fold shape in half (WS tog) matching 7tr shells. Using Yarn D, ch9. **Fasten off.** Using Yarn D and tapestry needle, sew a ch st down centre of fold, starting at Rnd 3 edge. At top (Rnd 1 edge) secure the 9ch length through the 5th ch to form antennae. **Fasten off.** Trim antennae ends. Glue felt and magnet to back of butterfly.

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KAT'S JOURNAL

...FROM THE STUDIO

Designer and blogger Kat Goldin on finding a precious sense of community at her local yarn shop.



Stirling's town centre, at the top of a hill, is where my local yarn shop sits. It's a big, double-fronted building with windows that span the full width. When we first arrived in the area, half the shop was wool and the other half school uniforms, but over time the yarn has taken over every available nook and cranny, as it tends to do. In the 15 years we've been in Stirling, the town centre's shops have emptied and refilled time and again, but McAree's has outlasted almost everything else.

Back when I was making items to sell, my trips there were a weekly occurrence. Clutching my list in hand, I'd pause for a moment at the entrance and say a quiet prayer to the yarn store gods that everything I needed would be in stock, that I wouldn't buy too much wool and that my children would be moderately well-behaved while we were inside.

As I shopped, my two toddlers would run laps around the middle section – up the steps, through the haberdashery, past the Rowan display, down the steps next to the Wendy shelves, around the centre table near the tills and back again. As I gathered what I needed, they would toddle around and around, leaving a path of destruction in their wake, unable to leave the squishy yarns or shiny buttons alone. Not one staff member ever batted an eyelid, in fact they entertained the wee ones while I shopped and complimented them on their handmade wardrobe. Whereas other shops' staff would grumble when

they saw us coming, my LYS always welcomed us with open arms.

I met one of my best friends in the shop. She worked there while she was getting her PhD. She read my blog and recognised me as I stumbled after child number one, while heavily pregnant with child number two. We went to lunch across the street – a lunch that I couldn't eat as it had mayonnaise on it (a mortal sin in my pregnant state), but it didn't matter. Conversation flowed easily from our favourite yarns to our current projects to our favourite techniques to

putting the entire world to rights – the world of wool and making offering the perfect opening to life-long friendship.

BRICKS AND MORTAR

Having built a business largely online, the virtual world is one that I am familiar with. I have friends who I met online that I now vacation with. I love connecting with people on Instagram, blogs and Facebook over gorgeous wool and projects. Being a devout homebody, there is great pleasure in clicking a few buttons in the quiet of my office and

"No one bats an eyelid
when I bury my
nose in a hank of wool."

Photograph of Kat Goldin by Xanthe Berkeley.



GOOD READ



McAree Brothers est.

"My LYS welcomed

us with open arms."

having yarn for my next project wing itself to me without ever having to get dressed. In fact, it is such a frequent occurrence that my postman Bill calls himself my wool delivery service.

As much as the virtual world sustains so much of my creativity, there is just something special about a bricks and mortar shop. If I think about it, it makes quite a lot of sense. As someone who makes things with her hands, I have an almost visceral need to hold wool. For me at least, the way a yarn looks is only a small part of the bigger picture that

includes how it feels in my hands, how it works when crocheted and (because I am a very big fan of sheepy, woollen yarns) how the yarn smells.

My local yarn shop is a place where no one bats an eyelid when I bury my nose in a hank of wool because they are often kindred spirits doing exactly the same. Wandering the aisles are people who love to make things, folks figuring out the newest technique with the help of a friendly staff member, paging through the binders of printed patterns looking for that perfect make to match a beloved

yarn. The hip uni student trawling the sock wool section for the next project. Grannies with armfuls of baby yarn to make the next grandchild a shawl.

Each time, I leave the yarn shop a few pounds of wool heavier and a few pounds of cash lighter, I'm also left with a real sense of community that is sometimes harder to grasp through my phone or computer, a sense that these are my people.

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

A LOCH AT MY MONTH

"Signs of sheep, a new CAL coming soon and sweet Georgia modelling some of our Crochet Project Three From the Top cardigans."





Stripy jumper



BREEZY DOES IT

Sara Huntington's slouchy sweater hooked in cool cotton is a must for your summer holidays.

Stripy jumper



YOU WILL NEED

■ DROPS Paris (100% cotton, 50g/75m), Off White (17), Strong Blue (09)
See table for yarn quantities and measurements

■ An 8mm (US L/11) hook

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

TENSION

10 sts and 7 rows to measure
10x10cm (4x4in) over half treble
using an 8mm hook or size
needed to obtain tension

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92

The relaxed fit and classic stripes of this slouchy jumper ought to earn it a place in your holiday wardrobe pronto. Comfy, casual and effortlessly chic – it's the kind of top you can throw on over almost anything. The jumper's hooked in cotton, keeping things breezy, but it'll see you through cooler evenings as well. That mesh-like loose drape is achieved by using an 8mm hook with an aran-weight yarn. This means it's a fairly simple, speedy garment to stitch.

NOTES

Front and Back of top are worked separately, from the bottom up. Sleeves are worked separately and sewn on.

Beg ch-2 counts as a st throughout.

BACK

Using Strong Blue, ch51 (57).

Row 1 (RS) Htr in the third ch from the hook and in each htr to end, turn. [50 (56) sts]

Row 2 Ch2, htr in each st to end, turn.

Rows 3-9 Repeat Row 2.

Change to Off White.

Continue working in pattern as Row 2, alternating between colours every 9 rows, until work measures 52 (54)cm ending with a WS row.*

Note the number of rows worked to this point, or place a stitch marker to mark the row position.

Work a further 4 rows in pattern.

SHAPE BACK NECK

Continue in pattern as follows:

Row 1 (RS) Ch2, 18 (20) htr, turn leaving rem sts unworked. [19 (21) sts]

Row 2 Ch2, htr2tog, htr in each st to end, turn. [18 (20) sts]

Row 3 Ch2, htr in each st to last 2 sts, htr2tog, turn. [17 (19) sts]

Row 4 Ch2, htr in each st to end.

Fasten off.

Skip central 12 (14) sts and rejoin yarn in next st with RS facing:

Row 1 (RS) Ch2, htr in each st to end, turn. [19 (21) sts]

Row 2 Ch2, htr in each st to last 2 sts, htr2tog, turn. [18 (20) sts]

Row 3 Ch2, htr2tog, htr in each st to end, turn. [17 (19) sts]

Row 4 Ch2, htr in each st to end.

Fasten off.

FRONT

Work as for Back to *, working the same number of rows as Front up to the marked point.

SHAPE FRONT NECK

Continue in pattern as follows:

Row 1 (RS) Ch2, 21 (23) htr, turn leaving rem sts unworked. [22 (24) sts]

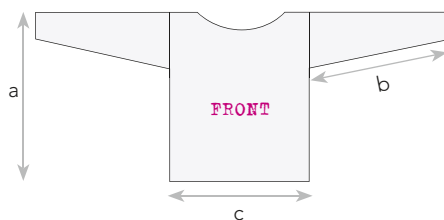
Working on these sts only, decrease 1 st at neck edge as for Back Neck on the next 5 rows. [17 (19) sts]

Work a further two rows without shaping.

Fasten off.

Skip central 6 (8) sts and rejoin yarn in next st with RS facing:

Row 1 (RS) Ch2, htr in each st to end, turn. [22 (24) sts]



a: 64 (66)cm, 25 (25¾)in

b: 51cm, 20¼in

c: 52.5 (59)cm, 20¾ (23¼)in

SIZE		8-12	14-18
TO FIT BUST	cm	81-91	97-107
	in	32-36	38-42
ACTUAL BUST	cm	105	118
	in	41½	46½
LENGTH	cm	64	66
	in	25	25¾
SLEEVE LENGTH	cm	51	51
	in	20¼	20¼
OFF WHITE	50g balls	5	6
STRONG BLUE	50g balls	6	7

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

Stripy jumper

Working on these sts only, decrease 1 st at neck edge as for Back Neck on the next 5 rows. [17 (19) sts]
Work a further two rows without shaping.

Fasten off.

SLEEVES (MAKE 2)

Using Strong Blue, loosely ch21 (25).

Work in stripe pattern as follows:

Row 1 (RS) Htr in third ch from hook and in each ch to end, turn. [20 (24) sts]

Rows 2-3 Ch2, htr in each st to end, turn.

Row 4 (increase row) Ch2, htr in st at base of ch, htr in each st to last st, 2htr in last st, turn. [22 (26) sts]

Continue in stitch pattern as for Back, maintaining the stripe pattern, and working an increase row as Row 4 every fourth row, until there are 38 (42) sts.

Fasten off and weave in all ends.

TO MAKE UP

Block each piece to measurements.

Join shoulder seams and side seams leaving a 22 (24)cm gap at the top of the side seams for the Sleeve.

Join each Sleeve seam and sew into position at the armholes.



SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO SEW SEAMS



1 Sewing with a tapestry needle is the regular and neat way to join seams. Place two pieces of crochet wrong sides together and oversew them as shown above, using a tapestry or yarn needle.



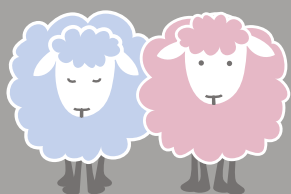
2 To slip stitch a seam, place the crocheted pieces right sides together. *Insert hk through both edge stitches, yrh, pull through to complete 1 slip stitch; rep from *, keeping your work fairly loose.



3 For a dc seam, place the crocheted 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 you need less bulk and/or greater flexibility in your seam. Work as for the dc seam, but work 1 dc and 1 chain alternately.



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BEACH BABE

There's no better holiday companion than Ilaria Caliri's perfect piglet.



Amigurumi pig



YOU WILL NEED

- DMC Natura Just Cotton (100% cotton, 50g/155m), 1 ball of each:
 - Yarn A Lobelia (82)
 - Yarn B Chartreuse (48)
 - Yarn C Ibiza (01)
 - Yarn D Malva (31)
 - Yarn E Safran (47)
 - Yarn F Passion (23)
 - Yarn G Giroflée (85)
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- Black beads (5mm diameter, approx)
- Black embroidery thread
- Stitch markers
- Toy stuffing

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

MEASUREMENTS

15cm (6in) tall

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92



Forget about those beach body hang-ups. All you need to enjoy the seaside is a towel, a rubber ring and a bucket and spade. This little chop knows it. He's hamazing.

NOTES

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

C HEAD

With Yarn A, make a magic loop.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rnd 9 (2dc in next st, 7dc) 6 times. [54 sts]

Rnd 10 (2dc in next st, 8dc) 6 times. [60 sts]

Rnd 11 (2dc in next st, 9dc) 6 times. [66 sts]

Rnds 12-19 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 20 (Dc2tog, 9dc) 6 times. [60 sts]

Rnd 21 (Dc2tog, 8dc) 6 times. [54 sts]

Rnd 22 (Dc2tog, 7dc) 6 times. [48 sts]

Rnd 23 (Dc2tog, 6dc) 6 times. [42 sts]

Rnd 24 (Dc2tog, 5dc) 6 times. [36 sts]

Rnd 25 (Dc2tog, 4dc) 6 times. [30 sts]

Rnd 26 (Dc2tog, 3dc) 6 times. [24 sts]

Stuff Head with toy stuffing.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

SNOUT

With Yarn A, ch5.

Rnd 1 (RS) Dc in 2nd ch from hook and in each of next 2 ch, 3dc in next ch, rotate to work into the other side of the foundation ch, dc in each of next 2 sts, 2dc in last st. [10 sts]

Rnd 2 (2dc in next st, 2dc, 2dc in next st, 1dc) twice. [14 sts]

Rnd 3 (2dc in next st, 4dc, 2dc in next

st, 1dc) twice. [18 sts]

Rnd 4 Working in back loop only, dc in each st around.

Rnd 5 Dc in each st around. [18 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

Make long sts with black embroidery thread to create 2 vertical lines across Rnd 1.

EARS (MAKE 2)

With Yarn A, make a magic loop.

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

Rnd 2 2dc in next dc, 3dc. [5 sts]

Rnd 3 2dc in next dc, 4dc. [6 sts]

Rnd 4 2dc in next dc, 5dc. [7 sts]

Rnd 5 2dc in next dc, 6dc. [8 sts]

Rnd 6 (2dc in next dc, 3dc) twice. [10 sts]

Rnd 7 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 8 (2dc in next dc, 4dc) twice. [12 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing. Do not stuff.

BODY

With Yarn B, make a magic loop.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Change to Yarn C.

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

Change to Yarn B.

Rnd 9 (2dc in next st, 7dc) 6 times. [54 sts]

Change to Yarn C.

Rnds 10-17 Dc in each st around, alternating between Yarns C and B on each round.

Change to Yarn C.

Rnd 18 (Dc2tog, 7dc) 6 times. [48 sts]

Change to Yarn B.

Rnd 19 Dc in each st around.

Change to Yarn C.

Rnd 20 (Dc2tog, 6dc) 6 times. [42 sts]

Change to Yarn B.

Rnd 21 Dc in each st around.

Amigurumi pig

Change to Yarn A.

Rnd 22 Dc in back loop only of each st around.

Rnd 23 (Dc2tog, 5dc) 6 times. [36 sts]

Rnd 24 (Dc2tog, 4dc) 6 times. [30 sts]

Rnd 25 (Dc2tog, 3dc) 6 times. [24 sts]

Stuff with toy stuffing.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

SHOULDER STRAPS

The straps will be worked into rem front loops of Rnd 22. Mark out central 6 sts on front of Body. Each strap will be worked in the 6 sts on each side of the central 6 sts.

RIGHT STRAP

Row 1 (RS) Rejoin Yarn C, ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in each rem front loop of next 6 sts, turn.
Change to Yarn B.

Row 2 Ch1, dc2tog, 2dc, dc2tog, turn. [4 sts]

Change to Yarn C.

Row 3 Ch1, (dc2tog) twice, turn. [2 sts]
Change to Yarn B.

Row 4 Ch1, dc into the side of the last st worked, turn. [1 st]

Rows 5-11 Ch1, 1dc, turn.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing the Strap to the back.

LEFT STRAP

Rows 1-3 Work as for Right Strap.

[2 sts] **Fasten off** and weave in ends.

Join Yarn B on right-hand side between Rows 2 and 3, ch1, dc in end of Row 3, turn. [1 st] Cont as for Rows 5-11 of the Right Strap. **Fasten off**, leaving a long tail for sewing the Strap to the back.

ARMS (MAKE 2)

With Yarn A, make a magic loop.

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

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

Rnds 3-7 Dc in each st around. [12 sts]

Rnd 8 Dc2tog, 10dc. [11 sts]

Rnd 9 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 10 Dc2tog, 9dc. [10 sts]

Rnd 11 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 12 Dc2tog, 8dc. [9 sts]

Rnd 13 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 14 Dc2tog, 7dc. [8 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing. Stuff the Arms.

LEGS (MAKE 2)

With Yarn A, make a magic loop.

Rnd 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 7dc into the loop. [7 sts]

Rnd 2 2dc in each st around. [14 sts]

Rnds 3-4 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 5 Dc2tog, 12dc. [13 sts]

Rnd 6 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 7 Dc2tog, 11dc. [12 sts]

Change to Yarn B.

Rnd 8 Dc in each st around.

Change to Yarn C.

Rnd 9 Dc in each st around.

Change to Yarn B.

Rnd 10 Dc in each st around.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing. Stuff the Legs.

TAIL

With Yarn A, ch8.

Row 1 (RS) Skip first ch from the hook, (3dc in next ch) 6 times, ss in next ch.

Fasten off. Tail will naturally curl.

TO MAKE UP

Sew black beads (eyes) between Rnds 16 and 17 of Head, approx 15 sts apart.
Sew Snout between Rnds 15 and 20 of Head. Sew Ears symmetrically between Rnds 8 and 11 of Head.

Sew Head to top of Body. Sew Arms and Legs to Body. Sew other end of Straps to back of Body. Sew Tail to back of Body.

LIFE RING

With Yarn D, ch60, ss in first ch to join into a ring, being careful not to twist.

Rnd 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st around. [60 sts]

Rnds 2-3 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 4 (2dc in next st, 9dc) 6 times. [66 sts]

Rnd 5 (2dc in next st, 10dc) 6 times. [72 sts]

Rnd 6 (2dc in next st, 11dc) 6 times. [78 sts]

Rnds 7-12 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 13 (Dc2tog, 11dc) 6 times. [72 sts]

Rnd 14 (Dc2tog, 10dc) 6 times. [66 sts]

Rnd 15 (Dc2tog, 9dc) 6 times. [60 sts]

Rnd 16-18 Dc in each st around.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

Sew together Rnds 1 and 18, stuffing as you go.

BEACH TOWEL

With Yarn E, ch25.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in 2nd ch from hook and in each st to end, turn. [24 sts]



Don't forget about the curly double crochet tail – no piggy is complete without one.

Rows 2-38 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st to end, turn.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Embroider with surface ss using Yarns B and D along short sides of the towel.

BUCKET

With Yarn F, make a magic loop.

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

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

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

Rnd 4 Dc in back loop only of each st around.

Rnd 5 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 6 (2dc in next st, 5dc) 3 times. [21 sts]

Rnds 7-8 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 9 (2dc in next st, 6dc) 3 times. [24 sts]

Rnds 10-11 Dc in each st around.

Rnd 12 Ss in each st around.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

HANDLE

With Yarn G, ch19.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch to end.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail. Use the tail to sew the Handle to the Bucket.

SPADE

With Yarn G, ch4.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch to end, turn. [3 sts]

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc in next st, 1dc, 2dc in next st, turn. [5 sts]

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

Join the yarn with a ss in third st of Row 5, ch9, skip first ch from hook, dc in each rem ch, ss into third st of Row 5.

Fasten off and weave in ends.



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HANNAH CROSS

HANJAN
CROCHET

The Yarn Stash Series.



For almost three years now we've been renovating our house, but we are finally getting there. I find the most frustrating part of it is packing up each room and putting it into another room and then back again all the time.

I recently did this with our bedrooms and discovered that I have quite a lot of yarn. OK, so 'quite a lot' might be a bit of an understatement. I have boxes and boxes that I have sneakily squirrelled away so that my husband doesn't find them and now I can't get away with hiding anymore. So I decided I really needed a new project to make a dent into my yarn stash.

After I'd given up on untangling the bottom of the boxes and categorising it all into colour, weight, amounts and who

knows what else, I realised exactly what I wanted to do with it all. I grabbed a few random colours that looked good together, didn't worry about yarn weights or how much I'd got and started making a blanket. I love blankets. They are so therapeutic to make. You can get lost in the rhythm of them and there are endless possibilities to create texture and colour that captures a mood or the personality of whoever you are making them for. They make great gifts. I love giving crochet blankets to people that I've designed especially for them.

STASHBUSTING BLANKETS

Once I'd got going on the first blanket, I thought how lovely it would be to make

a series that uses really simple stitches and patterns that I could share with everyone, especially new crocheters.

When I learned to crochet, it was the soothing repetition of blankets that taught me to try new stitches, honed my technique and showed me how to maintain my tension. Once you have those aspects cracked, you can do anything. I remember trying to make a cardigan for my mum before I really understood what tension and shaping was all about. It was a total disaster and I very nearly lost the will to crochet anything, but the blankets coaxed me back again, thank goodness.

The Yarn Stash Series has four blanket offerings so far. They haven't made much of a dent in the stash yet though, so there will be plenty more to come! They will all be available for free on my blog and as downloadable patterns in my stores. I've made them in baby blanket sizes but they are super-easy to make bigger or smaller, depending on the size of your yarn stash I suppose! They will all have close-up step-by-step pictures available, too, so you can really see how the stitches work. So far, I think my favourite has to be the Sedge Stitch Blanket. It has such a lovely texture and sludgy colours that sit so well together. I've already started planning a winter wrap inspired by it, so I guess I'll just have to buy more yarn for that...

YOU CAN FIND HANNAH'S YARN STASH SERIES PATTERNS FOR FREE ON HER BLOG AT WWW.HANJANCROCHET.COM



Far left: Beautiful rainbow zigzags – one of the first four Yarn Stash Series designs, photograph by Hannah Cross.
Centre: What a gorgeous stack of baby blankets – time to raid your stash, photograph by Hannah Cross.
Above: The Sedge Stitch Blanket has such scrummy texture, photograph by Hannah Cross.



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Embellish an outfit



DIVINE DENIM

Stitch your way to a one-of-kind jacket with folksy flowers by Lucy Croft. Who needs embroidery?

Embellish an outfit



YOU WILL NEED

- King Cole Giza Cotton 4ply (100% giza mercerised cotton, 158m/50g), 1 ball of each: Cream (2191), Glacier (2194), Turquoise (2208), Coral (2196), Rosehip (2197), Amber (2200), Green (2203)
 - A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
 - Sewing needle and thread
- For yarn stockists, contact
King Cole 01756 703670
www.kingcole.com

MEASUREMENTS

Flowers meas 6-9cm diameter

ABBREVIATIONS

Picot Ch3, ss to 3rd ch from hook
Tr4tog (yrh, insert hook in next st, yrh and pull up loop, yrh and draw through 2 loops) 4 times, yrh and draw through all loops on hook
Spike St Work a dc into a st on a row below, as indicated
 For a full list, see page 92



The right elbow is adorned with pretty petunias. We love this mismatched look.

Wow – this embellishment project is one of our faves to date. Customise a neglected denim jacket with vibrant cotton flowers – business at the front, party at the back.

FLOWER 1 (PETUNIA)

Make 1 for Back and 2 for Right Elbow with Yarn A Glacier, Yarn B Turquoise. Make 1 for Back with Yarn A Amber, Yarn B Coral.

Make 1 for Back and 1 for Right Elbow with Yarn A Coral, Yarn B Rosehip.

Row 1 (RS) Using Cream, ch4 (counts as ch1, tr), 2tr in 4th ch from hook, turn. [3 tr]

Row 2 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr in st at base of ch-3, 2tr in each of next 2 tr, turn. [6 tr]

Row 3 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr in each tr across, turn. [6 tr] **Fasten off.**

Row 4 Join Yarn A in first st, ch3 (counts as tr), tr in st at base of ch-3, 2tr in each tr across, turn. [12 tr] **Fasten off.**

Row 5 Join Yarn B in first st, *ch3, 3tr in next tr, picot, 3tr in next tr, ch2, ss in next 2 tr; rep from * twice more omitting last ss. [3 petals] **Fasten off.**

To work stem, join Green in first ch of Row 1, ch15, ss to second ch from hook and ss in each ch across. **Fasten off.**

FLOWER 2 (LILY)

Make 1 in each of Glacier, Turquoise and Amber for Back.

Row 1 (RS) *Ch12, ss to second ch from hook, ss in next 2 ch, dc in each of next 2 ch, htr in next ch, tr in each of next 3 ch, htr in next ch, dc in last ch; rep from * 4 more times. [5 petals formed]

Fasten off.

To work stem, join Green in last dc worked, ch3, tr4tog over the first ch of each of the first 4 petals, ch15, ss to second ch from hook and in each of next 13 ch. **Fasten off.**

FLOWER 3 (SMALL AMARYLLIS)

Make 1 for Back with Yarn A Turquoise. Make 1 for Back and 1 for Left Elbow with Yarn A Rosehip.

Using Amber, ch4, ss to first ch to join into ring.

Rnd 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc into ring, ss to first dc to join.

Rnd 2 Ch3 (counts as tr), 2tr in st at base of ch-3, 3tr in each dc around, ss to top of beg ch-3 to join. [18 tr]

Fasten off.

Rnd 3 Join Yarn A in first st, *ch5, skip 2 tr, ss to next tr; rep from * 5 more times.

Rnd 4 *(2dc, htr, 2tr, ch1, dtr, ch1, dtr, picot, dtr, ch1, dtr, ch1, 2tr, htr, dc) in next ch-5 sp, spike st in centre ch-4 ring; rep from * 5 more times, ss to first dc to join. **Fasten off.**

FLOWER 4 (LARGE AMARYLLIS)

Make 1 for Back.

Using Amber, ch4, ss to first ch to join into ring.

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

Rnd 2 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr in st at base of ch-3, 2tr in each st around, ss to top of beg ch-3 to join. [24 tr] **Fasten off.**

Rnd 3 Join Rosehip in first st, *ch7, skip 3tr, ss to next tr; rep from * 5 more times.

Rnd 4 *(3dc, htr, 2tr, 2dtr, ch1, ttr, picot, ttr, ch1, 2dtr, 2tr, 3dc) in next ch-7 sp, spike st in centre ch-4 ring; rep from * 5 more times, ss to first dc to join.

Fasten off.

LEAF 1

Make 2 for Back and 1 for Right Elbow. Using Green, *ch18, ss to 2nd ch from hook, ss to next ch, dc in next ch, htr in next ch, tr in next ch, dtr in each of next 4 ch, ttr in each of next 3 ch, dtr in each of next 2 ch, tr in next ch, htr in next ch, dc in last ch, ch10, ss to 2nd ch from hook and in each of next 8 ch.

Fasten off.

LEAF 2

Make 3 for Back and 1 for Left Elbow. Using Green, make a magic loop.

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

Rnd 2 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr in st at base of ch-3, 2tr in each of next 3 tr, (tr, 2dtr) in next tr, (dtr, 2tr) in next tr, picot, (2tr, dtr) in next tr, (2dtr, tr) in next tr, 2tr in each of next 4 tr, ss to top of beg ch-3 to join, ch12, ss to second ch from hook and in each of next 10 ch.

Fasten off.

TO MAKE

Using the images as a guide, pin each flower and leaf motif to the jacket. Once you're happy with the arrangement, sew securely in place with a sewing needle and matching thread.



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GIVE IT A SPIN

Make a vibrant block blanket like no other. Designed by Kath Webber.



Spiral blanket



YOU WILL NEED

- King Cole Bamboo Cotton (50% bamboo viscose, 50% cotton, 100g/230m), 4 balls of Oyster (543)
1 ball of each: Peacock (531), Crimson (634), Old Gold (625), Violet (537), Lawn (635), Fuchsia (536), Bluebell (644), Pink (516),
 - King Cole Vogue (100% cotton, 50g/140m), 1 ball of each: Orange Peel (2115), Egg Blue (2119), Rich Lilac (2118), Pale Taupe (2116), Carnation (2110), Guppie Green (2114), Cotton Candy (2112), Pale Denim (2120)
 - A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- For yarn stockists, contact
King Cole 01756 703670
www.kingcole.com

MEASUREMENTS

Each square measures approx 12.5cm (5in) and the finished blanket measures approx 113x113cm (45x45in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92

Kath Webber's psychedelic spirals will send you down the rabbit hole. This fantastical blanket is made up of 81 swirly squares, worked in a combo of solid and variegated DK cottons, then joined with slip stitches. Follow the colour sequences listed below to achieve the same effect.

NOTES

This complicated-looking spiral pattern uses simple stitches to great effect. The only tricky element here is working with the four colours at once. To minimise tangling while using four balls at once, try threading the tail ends through the holes on a peg board or notches in a strong piece of cardboard to rest on your lap. After you've worked the instructions in the first colour, leave the stitch 'live' (i.e. do not fasten off), ready to pick up on the next round. Use the following colour combinations to make four different squares:

- A** King Cole Bamboo Cotton Peacock
- B** King Cole Vogue Orange Peel
- C** King Cole Bamboo Cotton Crimson
- D** King Cole Vogue Egg Blue

- A** King Cole Bamboo Cotton Old Gold
- B** King Cole Vogue Rich Lilac
- C** King Cole Bamboo Cotton Violet
- D** King Cole Vogue Pale Taupe

- A** King Cole Bamboo Cotton Lawn
- B** King Cole Vogue Carnation
- C** King Cole Bamboo Cotton Fuchsia
- D** King Cole Vogue Guppie Green

- A** King Cole Bamboo Cotton Bluebell
- B** King Cole Vogue Cotton Candy
- C** King Cole Bamboo Cotton Pink
- D** King Cole Pale Denim

C SQUARE MOTIF (MAKE 81)

Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) *Ch1 (does not count as st), (dc, htr, 2tr) into magic loop. Drop Yarn A behind, leaving a long loop to avoid pulling the stitch, but leaving the stitch live. Pick up Yarn B through magic loop. Repeat from * with Yarns B, C, and D. Do not fasten off. Pull tail of Yarn A to close magic loop. [16 sts]

Round 2 Continuing in Yarn D, *(2tr into next st, 1tr into next st) twice; repeat from * with Yarns A, B and C. [24 sts]

Round 3 Continuing in Yarn C, *ch2, tr



Each swirly square is hooked with four shades, then edged in Oyster. Pretty groovy.

into next st, skip 1 st, 2tr into each of next 2 sts, skip 1 st, tr into next st; rep from * with Yarns D, A and B.

[32 sts, including ch]

Round 4 Continuing in Yarn B, *(2tr, ch2, 2tr) into ch-sp, (skip 1 st, 3tr in next st) 3 times; repeat from * with Yarns C, D and A.

Round 5 Continuing in Yarn A, *skip next 2 sts, (3tr, ch1, 3tr) into ch-sp, skip 2 sts, (htr, dc, ss) into next st.

Fasten off Yarn A.** Pick up Yarn B after the last 3-tr worked in that shade; rep from * with Yarn B. Then pick up Yarn C and rep from * with Yarn C. Then pick up Yarn D and repeat from * to ** with Yarn D.

Round 6 Join Oyster yarn into any corner ch-1 sp. Ch3, (tr, ch1, 2tr) into ch-1 sp, work 15tr evenly across to next ch-sp (do not work a tr into the ss), *(2tr, ch1, 2tr) into corner ch-sp, 1tr into each of next 15 sts; repeat from * twice more, ss to top of beg ch-3. [80 sts]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

JOINING

Lay out squares in a 9x9 grid – the spirals should flow in different directions.

Place adjacent squares WS together and ss through bl only of each stitch and ch sp along one edge using Oyster yarn. Join all squares in rows, then join each row together horizontally.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

EDGING

Join Oyster yarn in any corner ch-sp. Ch3 (counts as tr), (tr, dtr, 2tr) into corner sp, tr into each of next 180 sts, *(2tr, dtr, 2tr) into corner space, tr into each of next 180 sts; repeat from * twice more, ss to top of beg ch-3.

Fasten off and weave in ends.



Lacy top



IN THE PINK

Use a fabulously fine baby alpaca blend to make this elegant top. Designed by Lisa Richardson.

Lacy top



YOU WILL NEED

■ Rowan Fine Lace (80% baby alpaca, 20% merino wool, 50g/400m), Precious (945)
See table for yarn quantities and measurements

■ A 2.5mm (US B/1 or C/2) hook

For yarn stockists contact

Rowan 01484 681881

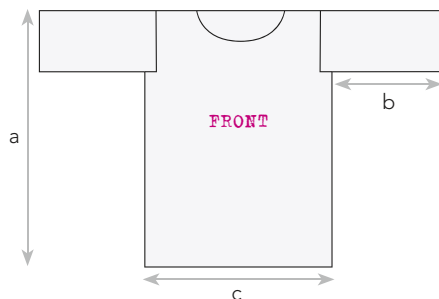
www.knitrowan.com

TENSION

3 patt reps to 10.5cm and 16 rows to 10cm, measured over patt using 2.5mm hook or size required to achieve stated tension

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92



a: 57.5 (60: 62.5: 65)cm
22½ (23½: 24½: 25½)in
b: 25cm, 10in
c: 47.5 (54.5: 61.5: 68.5)cm
18½ (21½: 24: 27)in

Wanna sharpen up your skills with lace? Challenge yourself to hook Lisa Richardson's stunning top in delicate laceweight yarn. The statement colour keeps things looking contemporary. On page 94, there are stitch charts to help you.

You can wear this versatile garment in two ways – with a chic bateau neckline at the front and elegant scoop at the back (as shown), or flip it around and wear the scoop neckline at the front instead. Fab.

BACK

Ch178 (204: 230: 256).

Foundation row (RS) 3tr into 4th ch from hook, *skip 4 ch, 4tr into next ch**, ch3, skip 3 ch, dc into next ch, ch3, skip 3 ch, 4tr into next ch; rep from * to end, ending last rep at **, turn. [13 (15: 17: 19) patt reps plus 2 4-tr groups]

Now work in patt as folls:

Row 1 (WS) Ch3 (counts as tr), 3tr into st at base of ch, *skip 6 tr**, 4tr into next tr, ch3, skip 3 ch, dc into next dc, ch3, skip 3 ch, 4tr into next tr; rep from * to end, ending last rep at **, 4tr into top of beg ch-3, turn.

Row 2 Ch6 (counts as tr and 3 ch), skip last 4 tr of previous row, *dc between last tr skipped and next tr, ch3, skip 3 tr**, 4tr into next tr, skip (ch3, dc, ch3), 4tr into next tr, ch3, skip 3 tr; rep from * to end, ending last rep at **, tr into top of beg ch-3, turn.

Row 3 Ch6 (counts as tr and 3 ch), skip tr at base of ch and next 3 ch, *dc into next dc, ch3, skip 3 ch**, 4tr into next tr, skip 6 tr, 4tr into next tr, ch3, skip 3 ch; rep from * to end, ending last rep at

**, tr into 3rd ch of beg ch-6, turn.

Row 4 Ch3 (counts as tr), 3tr into st at base of ch, *skip (ch3, dc, ch3)**, 4tr into next tr, ch3, skip 3 tr, dc between last tr skipped and next tr, ch3, skip 3 tr, 4tr into next tr; rep from * to end, ending last rep at **, 4tr into 3rd ch of beg ch-6, turn.

Rows 1-4 form patt.

Work in patt for a further 59 (59: 63: 63) rows, ending after patt Row 3 and with RS facing for next row.

SHAPE ARMHOLES

Next row (RS) Ss into tr at end of previous row, ch5, skip (ch3, dc, ch3), ss into next tr, ch5, skip 6 tr, ss into next tr [1 patt rep decreased], ch3 (counts as first tr), 3tr into st at base of ch, work Row 4 of patt to last 2 4-tr shells, 4tr into next tr [1 patt rep decreased], turn leaving remaining sts unworked. [11 (13: 15: 17) patt reps plus 2 4-tr groups]**

Work in patt 23 (27: 27: 31) rows, ending after patt Row 3 and with RS facing for next row.

SHAPE BACK NECK

Next row Work a 4-tr group and 2 (3: 4: 5) patt reps, skip (ch3, dc, ch3), 4tr into next tr, skip 3tr, dtr between tr just skipped and next tr, turn. [2 (3: 4: 5) patt reps, 2 4-tr groups, 1 dtr]

Noting that dtr at end of last row does not count as st, work a further 3 rows on remaining sts.

Fasten off.

SIZE		8-12	14-18	20-22	24-26
TO FIT BUST	cm	81-91	97-107	112-117	122-127
	in	32-36	38-42	44-46	48-50
ACTUAL BUST	cm	95	109	123	137
	in	37½	43	48½	54
LENGTH	cm	57.5	60	62.5	65
	in	22½	23½	24½	25½
SLEEVE LENGTH	cm	25	25	25	25
	in	10	10	10	10
YARN	50g	4	5	6	7

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

Lacy top

With RS facing, skip centre 6 patt reps, attach yarn with a ss before the next group of 4-tr and cont as folls:

Next row Ch4 (does not count as st), skip first 3 tr of next group of 4-tr, 4tr into next tr, skip (ch3, dc, ch3), 4tr into next tr, patt to end, turn. [2 (3: 4: 5) patt reps, 2 4-tr groups]

Work a further 3 rows in patt on these sts. **Fasten off.**

FRONT

Work as given for Back to ***.

Work in patt for 15 (19: 19: 23) rows, ending after patt Row 3 and with RS facing for next row.

SHAPE FRONT NECK

Next row Work a 4-tr group and 2 (3: 4: 5) patt reps, then skip (ch3, dc, ch3), 4tr into next tr, skip 3tr, dtr between tr just skipped and next tr, turn. [2 (3: 4: 5) patt reps, 2 4-tr groups, 1 dtr]

Noting that dtr at end of last row does not count as st, work a further 11 rows in patt on remaining sts.

Fasten off.

With RS facing, skip centre 6 patt reps, attach yarn with a ss before the next group of 4-tr and cont as folls:

Next row Ch4 (does not count as st), skip first 3 tr of next group of 4-tr, 4tr into next tr, skip (ch3, dc, ch3), 4tr into next tr, patt to end, turn. [2 (3: 4: 5) patt reps, 2 4-tr groups]

Work a further 11 rows in patt on these sts. **Fasten off.**

SLEEVES

Ch126 (152: 152: 165).

Work Foundation Row as given for Back. [9 (11: 11: 12) patt reps plus 2 4-tr groups]

Now work in patt as given for Back for 45 rows.

Fasten off.

Mark points along row-end edges of sleeves 3.5cm down from top of last row – these points match top of side seams.

TO MAKE UP

Following the instructions on ball band, press the garment pieces. Take special care to press the edges because this will make sewing up both easier and neater. Weave in all ends. Join both shoulder seams.



NECK EDGING

With RS facing, attach yarn to neck edge at one shoulder seam, ch1 (does not count as st), work 1 round of dc evenly around entire neck opening, ending with ss to first dc, do not turn.

Now work 1 round of crab st (dc worked from left to right instead of right to left) around entire neck edge.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Place centre of foundation ch row of Sleeve to shoulder seam. Set in Sleeve, easing sleeve head into armhole. Join side and Sleeve seams.

SAVE OR SPLURGE

For a more budget-friendly make, you could use the following yarn:

■ Schachenmayr Glanzperle (100% acrylic, 50g/200m), 8 (10: 12: 14) balls of Cyclam (01438)

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

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



TIME TO CHANGE SKEINS

Ruth Maddock has become synonymous with the name of her business, Lupin and Rose, but now she stands at the brink of a new adventure.

Lupin and Rose, a craft shop in Bromyard, Herefordshire, has been at the heart of Ruth Maddock's business for half a decade, but now she's set to let that go. It's an exhilarating time in her career, as she refines her attention towards developing her crochet design talents and freeing herself of a few distractions.

"Things are changing for me and everything is in the melting pot," Ruth says. It's an immense shift for Ruth, who has been running Lupin and Rose since 2011. "When I first got the shop, it was exciting and I really enjoyed it, meeting new people and customers – and still do. Designing can be a bit lonely unless you

live in a big city and have a good social network," says Ruth. "It was also great because I had grown up living over my dad's shop so it was a return to that." However, she admits, financially the shop "never really worked because people are just so careful with money nowadays and they tend to do big spends in bigger towns. There also seems to be the suspicion that smaller shops sell at a higher price, which actually isn't true."

Happily, her reasons for shutting up shop is to focus more on her crochet and knitting design. "But I was also working way too much and the shop was taking up a lot of my time, which could be better used for designing – that's my first love,"

she says. "I'm tentatively thinking of doing an MA so that I can really investigate my design work."

Ruth hopes to retain ownership of the shop premises, "continuing to use the office and studio area while subletting the front shop to someone else. I do intend to keep a small range of yarns to sell through my website, and will keep hosting my Knit and Natter group, so will probably still see most of my regular customers quite frequently."

THE VERSATILITY OF CROCHET

It's a brave move, but a positive one, building on Ruth's passion for creating beautiful designs for crocheters and



knitters. "I can't remember when I first learned to crochet or even who taught me," she comments. "But I didn't come back to it until I started designing handknits for magazines. Now I prefer to crochet when I make for myself."

The fluidity of crochet made it a perfect companion to Ruth's growing love of fashion design, which she went on to study at Epsom Art School – now the University of the Creative Arts. "Crochet can be used to make so many different design styles," she enthuses. "It's an incredibly versatile way to work and can be used in a more modular way, by working flat or freeform, which has its origins in Irish crochet. It can also be mixed with fabric, knitting, leather and even paper. There are very few limits on what can be made with a bit of imagination."

She cites the work of Prudence Mapstone (www.knotjustknitting.com) as one of her inspirations, as well as Katie Jones, "a new designer just out of Central Saint Martins – see her crochet creations, especially her SS15 'Granny takes a trip' collection at www.katiejonesknit.co.uk," and designer Helen Rödel (www.helenrodel.com.br). "She designs clothes that are handmade using traditional skills."

After deciding in the 1980s that crochet and knitwear were the areas of design she loved best, and excelled at, Ruth soon gained a reputation through designing for UK craft titles, as well as writing books on the subject. These include *Hooked on Crochet*, published by Bloomsbury.

When Ruth's family began to grow, she took an essential step back. "I did try to keep designing when my four children

were small, but it was difficult to keep to deadlines and there was no way to sell patterns online," she comments.

Good photography is crucial to Ruth's success in the online market place, where she has been selling her creations for almost a decade. "I joined Etsy in 2008 as soon as I discovered it, and Ravelry later."

Ever since, she has witnessed her income from digital sales continuing to increase. "Because of this, the way I work keeps evolving! I love designing and am hoping to be able to pursue this more and to have more creative freedom as I design for my own online stores."

"THERE ARE VERY FEW LIMITS ON WHAT CAN BE MADE WITH A BIT OF IMAGINATION."

VARIABLE DISTRACTIONS

Ruth's workday is as varied as you might expect, with one extra furry, loveable complication. "Betty, my goldendoodle, always comes to work with me, so the first thing we do is walk on the Downs," she says. "It's often muddy and she has to have a wipe down when we arrive at my studio at about 9.30. I then spend far too long answering emails, packing orders and posting to social media. Sometimes I then spend a naughty half an hour on

Pinterest or trawling the net looking at pretty things." Sounds familiar!

Design ideas come from a range of sources. "The colours of nature are inspiring, as are other art disciplines, catwalk collections and street style," Ruth says. "I always keep a notebook for a quick scribble or take photos of things that interest me."

Ruth focuses on designing and writing patterns until 4pm. "Then we go home and I spend most evenings working on ideas and samples or finishing garments that have come back from my outworker." The bulk of her design work happens in the studio, but Ruth prefers to do the actual crochet at home. "I watch interiors programmes – they act as a kind of visual wallpaper keeping my brain busy."

Ruth intends to explore her creativity further once Lupin and Rose's real world shop has closed. "I want to concentrate on designs for babies and children," she says. "They are so much fun to design for and the garments are small enough to easily try out new techniques."

Ruth's hunger for new skills has never lessened – it's all about the freedom to experiment with yarn. We can't wait to find out where her new focus takes her.

Interview by Judy Darley



A FEW OF HER FAVOURITE THINGS

"When I'm not crocheting, there's the garden, which is strictly a fair weather pursuit. My home is a 16th century farmhouse and has been a labour of love for years. It was a wreck when we bought it, but we've just about got all

the rooms functional. I'm always looking for ideas, so I like to read home interiors magazines. I also like to go out for meals and visit new places. We have a grandchild who is great fun, too." Go to www.ruthmaddock.etsy.com

PARIS AND MILAN

Embrace vintage-style lace and make this beautiful handbag by Hooooked.



Lacy bag



YOU WILL NEED

- Hooooked Milano Eco Barbante (85% recycled cotton, 15% other recycled fibres, 200g), 2 spools of Spring and 1 spool of Lotus OR 3 spools of Blossom
 - A 4mm (US G/6) hook
 - Fabric for lining (optional)
- For yarn stockists, contact Hooooked www.hooooked.co.uk

MEASUREMENTS

40x35cm (15¾x13¾in)
Handles: 60cm (23½in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92

Use eco-friendly yarn in perfect pastels to make the ultimate summer bag. Pick a contrasting shade for the base and handles to really show off that gorgeous lace panel. Not confident with lace? Don't worry, there's a stitch chart on the next page to help.

NOTES

Make the whole bag in Blossom, or make the Base, Upper Bag and Handles in Spring and the Lace Pattern in Lotus.



BASE

Ch8, ss to first ch to form a ring.

Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr throughout), 19tr into the ring, ss to top of beg ch-3. [20 sts]

Round 2 Ch3, tr in each st around, ss to top of beg ch-3.

Round 3 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), (dc in next st, 2dc in next st) repeat around, ss to first dc. [30 sts]

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

Round 5 Ch1, (5dc, 2dc in next st) repeat around, ss to first dc. [42 sts]

Round 6 Ch1, (6dc, 2dc in next st) repeat around, ss to first dc. [48 sts]
Continue working as set, increasing by 6 sts evenly on each round until there are 144 sts.

LACE PATTERN

See Chart on page 62.

Round 23 *Ch3, tr in st at base of ch, ch2, 2tr in next st, ch3, skip next 7 sts, 5tr in next st, ch1, 5tr in next st, ch3, skip next 7 sts; repeat from * 7 more times, replacing beg ch-3 with a tr, ss to top of beg ch-3. [8 patt repeats]

Round 24 Ss to next tr, *ch3, tr in st at base of ch, ch2, 2tr in next tr, ch2, dc in next tr, ch3, dc in next tr, ch3, skip next 2 sts, dc in next st, ch3, skip next (tr, ch1, tr), dc in next st, ch3, skip next 2 sts, dc in next st, ch3, dc in next tr, ch2; repeat from * 7 more times, replacing beg ch-3 with tr, ss to top of beg ch-3.

Round 25 Ss to next tr and ch-2 sp, ch3, (tr, ch1, 2tr, ch1, 2tr) in same ch-2 sp, *ch3, skip next (ch-2 sp and ch-3 sp), (dc in next ch-3 sp, ch3) 3 times, skip next (2 ch-sps and 2 tr)**; (2tr, ch1, 2tr, ch1, 2tr) in next ch-2 sp; repeat from * 7 more times ending final repeat at **, ss to top of beg ch-3.

Round 26 Ss to next tr and ch-1 sp, ch3, (tr, ch2, 2tr) in same ch-sp, (2tr,



Take time to block your bag before lining it to open out the stitches in the lace panel.

ch2, 2tr) in next ch-1 sp, *ch3, skip ch-4 sp, (dc in next ch-3 sp, ch3) twice**, skip next (ch-4 sp, 2tr), (2tr in next ch-1 sp, ch2, 2tr in same sp) twice; rep from * 7 more times ending final rep at **, ss to top of beg ch-3.

Round 27 Ss to next tr and ch-2 sp, ch3, (tr, ch2, tr) in same ch-sp, *ch1, skip next 2 tr, dc before next tr, ch1, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in next ch-2 sp, ch3, skip next ch-3 sp, dc in next ch-3 sp, ch3, skip next (ch-3 sp and 2 tr)**; (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in next ch-2 sp; repeat from * 7 more times ending final repeat at **, ss to top of beg ch-3.

Round 28 Ss to next tr and ch-2 sp, *ch3, (tr, ch2, 2tr) in same ch-sp, ch3, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in next ch-2 sp, ch3; repeat from * around, ss to top of beg ch-3. [16 patt repeats]

Turn and ss in last ch-3 sp of previous round, turn back to RS.

Round 29 Ch3, (tr, ch2, tr) in same ch-sp, *ch3, skip next (2tr, ch2, 2tr), 9tr in next ch-3 sp, ch3, skip next (2tr, ch2, 2tr)**; (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in next ch-3 sp; repeat from * 7 more times ending final repeat at **, ss to top of beg ch-3. [8 patt repeats]

Round 30 Ss to next tr and ch-2 sp, *ch3, tr in st at base of ch, ch2, 2tr in next tr, ch3, skip next (tr and ch-3 sp), dc in next tr, ch3, skip next 2 tr, dc in next tr, ch3, skip next tr, dc in next tr, ch3, skip next 2 tr, dc in next tr, ch3, skip next (ch3-sp and tr); repeat from * 7 more times replacing beg ch-3 with tr, ss to top of beg ch-3.

Round 31 Ss to next tr and ch-2 sp, ch3, (tr, ch1, 2tr, ch1, 2tr) in same ch-2 sp, *ch3, skip next ch-3 sp, (dc in next ch-3 sp, ch3) 3 times, skip next ch-sp and 2 tr**, (2tr, ch1, 2tr, ch1, 2tr) in next ch-2 sp; repeat from * 7 more times ending final repeat at **, ss to top of beg ch-3.

Lacy bag

Rounds 32-39 Repeat Rounds 26-31, then Rounds 26 and 27 once more.

UPPER BAG

Round 40 Ch1, *dc in each of next 2 tr, skip ch-2 sp, dc in each of next 2 tr, dc in next ch-1 sp, skip next dc, dc in next ch-1 sp, dc in next 2 tr, skip ch-2 sp, dc in next 2 tr, (2dc in next ch-3 sp) twice; repeat from * 7 more times, do not close with a ss.

[14 sts per repeat; 112 sts]

Rounds 41-44 Dc in each st around, working in a spiral without closing off each round with a ss. Ss in next st to finish. **Fasten off.**

HANDLES (MAKE 2)

Handles are made separately and sewn in place afterwards. Ch29.

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

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), skip first st, dc in each st to last st, turn leaving last st unworked. [26 sts]

Repeat Row 2 until there are 8 sts remaining.

Continue working back and forth in rows on these 8 sts until the handle measures 60cm, do not fasten off.

Next row Ch1, 2dc in first st, dc in each st to last st, 2dc in last st, turn. [10 sts]

Repeat last row until there are 28 sts.

Fasten off.

TO FINISH

Pin the handles evenly to the top of the bag and sew in place.

EDGING

Rejoin the yarn to the top of the bag to work around the top edge and the handles as follows:

(Ch3, tr in st at base of ch, skip next st, dc in next st) repeat around.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

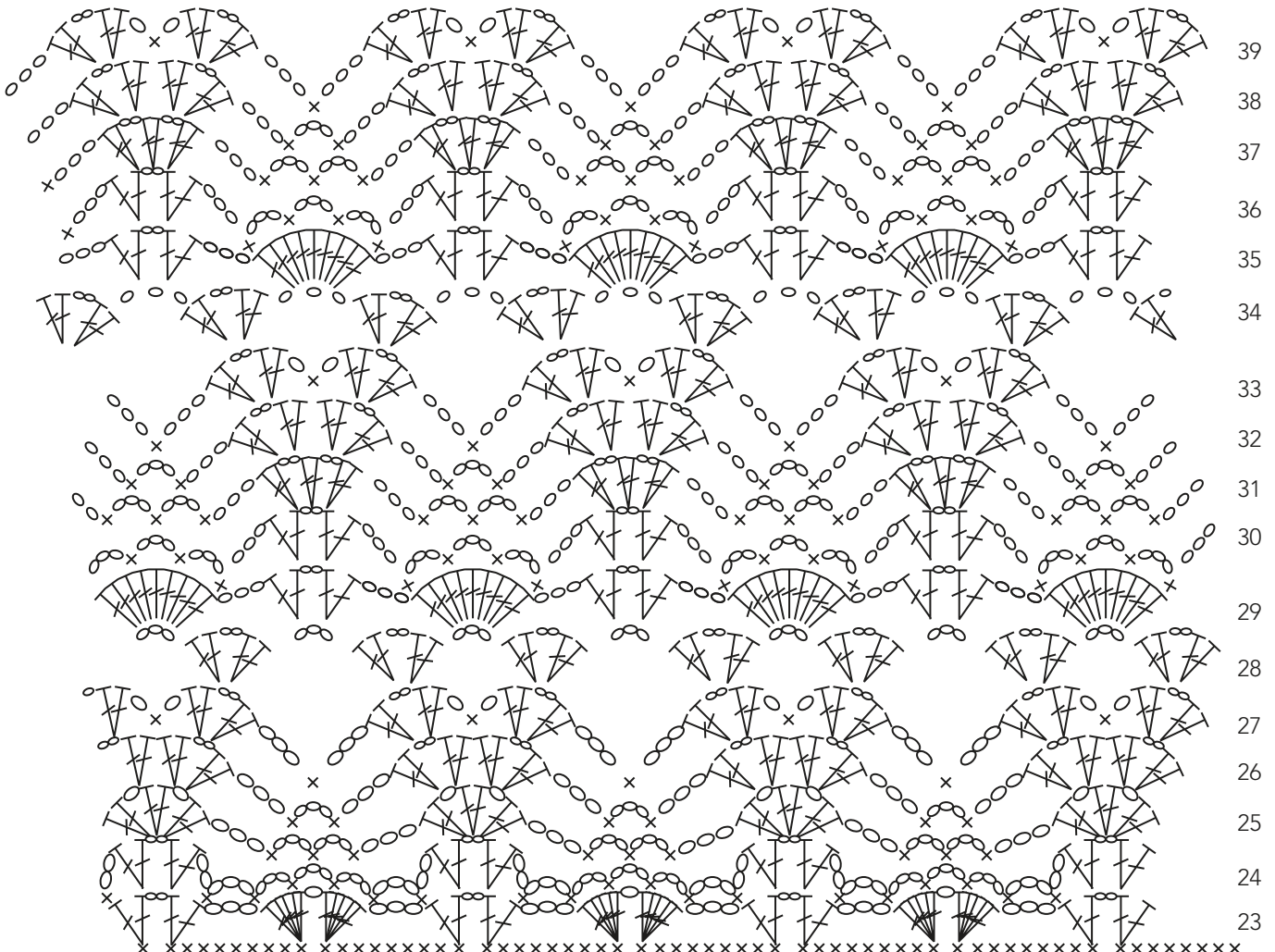
Repeat around the other top edge of the bag.

Make a lining for the bag if you wish.

Key

- Chain (ch)
- × Double crochet (dc)
- ⌋ Treble crochet (tr)

LACE PATTERN



Flower necklace



YOU WILL NEED

- Rico Essentials Cotton DK (100% cotton, 50g/130m), 1 ball of each:
Yarn A Curry (61)
Yarn B White (80)
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- Buttons: 10 small white, 10 small yellow (do not need to match)
- 5 wooden beads, 10mm diam
- Leather jewellery cord, 1 metre
- Strong craft glue

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

MEASUREMENTS

Each flower measures 3.5cm (1¼in) diameter
Finished necklace measures approx 94cm (37in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92



DAISY CHAIN

Raid your button stash to whip up this sweet, summery necklace, designed by Esme Crick.



The simple black cord means there's no fiddly fastenings.

FLOWERS (MAKE 8)

Using Yarn A, ch5, ss to the first ch to join into a ring.

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

Round 2 *Ch3, skip next dc, ss into the next dc; repeat from * 4 more times. [5 ch-3 sps] **Fasten off.**

Change to Yarn B.

Round 3 (Ss, ch1, htr, tr, htr, ch1, ss) into each ch-sp around.

Fasten off and weave in all ends.

TO MAKE UP

Tie a knot in leather thread 20cm from one end. *From other end thread on (1 white button, 1 yellow button, 1 bead, 1 yellow button, 1 white button). Tie a firm knot just after last button.

Leave a gap of 8cm then tie next knot; rep from * along until you have 5 'button and bead' sections.

Glue 2 flowers WS together in the centre of each 8cm gap, with the thread sandwiched between them. Press firmly or weigh down until glue dries.

Kirstie Allsopp
presents

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GINGHAM STITCH

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



BASIC GINGHAM STITCH PATTERN

Note

Carry the unused yarn colour behind the stitches on the WS of the work.

Using Yarn A and 3.5mm hook, chain a multiple of 3 plus an extra 5 ch – we chained 47 for this sample.

Row 1 (RS) Tr in 4th ch from hook and in each of next 2 ch, using Yarn B tr

into each of next 3 ch, tr in each ch to end alternating between Yarns A and B every 3 sts, turn. **Fasten off** Yarn B.
Row 2 Ch3 (counts as tr throughout), tr in each st across, working with Yarn A into all the Yarn B sts of the previous row, and Yarn C into all the Yarn A sts. Turn. **Fasten off** Yarn C.

Row 3 As Row 2, working Yarn A into all the Yarn C sts, and Yarn B into all

the Yarn A sts of the previous row, turn.

Rows 2 and 3 form the gingham pattern.

Repeat Rows 2 and 3 as required.

Patterns by Val Pierce.

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



Get picnic ready by
hooking our trio of
gingham accessories.
Everything tastes
better outdoors.



Eating gazpacho with your hands is no joke. Do it right – pack cutlery.



This neat bag fits most bottles – a lovely touch if it's a gift for your host.

PICNIC BASKET LINER

Picnic blankets aren't the only crochet make you might need if you're dining al fresco. How about lining your basket with a pretty cloth that also doubles up as a napkin?

- DMC Natura Cotton (100% cotton, 50g/155m)
2 balls of Yarn D Prussian (64)
1 ball of each: Yarn A Ivory (02), Yarn B Glacier (87), Yarn C Aquamarine (25)
(yarn amounts are enough for all three projects)
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook

MEASUREMENTS
32x35cm (12½x13¾in)

BASKET LINER

Using Yarn A, ch62.

Row 1 (RS) Work as given for Row 1 of Basic Pattern.

Work Rows 2-3 of Basic Pattern until piece measures approx 32cm from foundation chain, ending with a Row 2.
Fasten off and weave in ends.

EDGING

With Yarn D, dc evenly around working 3dc in each corner st. Repeat for a further 4 rounds.

For the final round, turn to the WS and work (tr in next st, ss in next st) around.

Fasten off and weave in ends.
Block and press.

CUTLERY POUCH

If your picnic's a classier affair, naturally you'll be eating with knives, forks and spoons. Keep your tools tidy with one of these pouches. This size also works for stowing your iPod.

- DMC Natura Cotton (100% cotton, 50g/155m)
2 balls of Yarn D Prussian (64)
1 ball of each: Yarn A Ivory (02), Yarn B Glacier (87), Yarn C Aquamarine (25)
For yarn stockists, contact
DMC 0116 275 4000
www.dmccreative.co.uk
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook

MEASUREMENTS
15cm (6in) high, 10.5cm (4in) diameter

CUTLERY POUCH

Using Yarn D, ch44.

Alternate a row of tr with a row of dc for 12 rows.

Fasten off Yarn D. Join Yarn A.

Set up the gingham pattern by alternating 3 sts of Yarn B and Yarn A on the first row, then repeat Rows 2 and 3 of the Basic Pattern twice.

Fasten off Yarns A and B.

With Yarn D, work a row of dc.

Fold in half and sew up the base and side seams.

Finish with a round of edging as for the final round of Picnic Basket Liner.

BOTTLE COVER

Whatever your tipple, keep it out of the sun and looking fancy. Chin chin.

- DMC Natura Cotton (100% cotton, 50g/155m)
2 balls of Yarn D Prussian (64)
1 ball of each: Yarn A Ivory (02), Yarn B Glacier (87), Yarn C Aquamarine (25)
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook

MEASUREMENTS
21cm (8¼in) high, 13cm (5in) diameter
(fits average wine bottle)

BOTTLE COVER

Using Yarn D, work a dc circle for the base starting with 6 sts, and increasing evenly by 6 sts each round until you have 54 sts. Work a round of tr in the back loop only. Work a round of dc and a round of tr, and repeat these 2 rounds a further 4 times. **Fasten off** Yarn D.

Set up the gingham pattern by alternating 3 sts of Yarn B and Yarn C on the first round, followed by a round of Yarn C and A, using the image as a guide so that the Yarn C sts form a chequerboard pattern. Rep these 2 rows twice more, then the first row once again. Work 9 rounds of dc in Yarn D.

Next round Ch1, 7dc, ch12, skip 12 dc, 15dc, ch12, skip 12 dc, 6dc, ss to first dc to join. Work 3 further rounds of dc. Turn to the WS and repeat final round as for Picnic Basket Liner.



"Stephanie and Ryan created DIY crisscross dividers."

Simply
INSPIRING

YARN STORAGE HACKS

We find the best ways to store and display your treasured yarn stash, and discover that you don't need to hide it all away. Read on to learn tips from top makers and yarnsters.

Following on from our stashbusting feature in the last issue, we asked some of our favourite designers and wool wranglers for their top tips, and uncovered an array of useful advice to make your yarn storage a pleasure as well as a practicality. Busting your stash was only the half of it. Here comes the fun bit.

Stephanie Lau (www.allaboutami.com) was an obvious choice when it came to deciding who to talk to – not only is she a prolific and talented crocheter, but her husband Ryan's photos of their home give us serious interior décor envy. We must admit, we were a little relieved to know she was once as haphazard about her yarn storage as many of us!

"For a while I simply stored all my yarn together in a big box, but I would often

forget what colours and yarns I had at the bottom," she confesses. "It often just turned into a big jumbled mess when I was rummaging around for a specific yarn. Now I have a deep, built-in shelf in my workspace, and we decided to make some special dividers for it so that I could store my yarn more efficiently."

Stephanie and Ryan had the cunning idea of using corrugated plastic ("funnily enough, these were leftovers from our wedding pillars!") to create their own custom crisscross dividers. "We took inspiration from the Lion Brand Yarn Studio that we visited in New York City – they displayed and stored their yarn so gorgeously. It was a really fun and inexpensive afternoon DIY project, and it also serves as a lovely display of yarn in my

workspace." We love the idea of keeping your yarn out in the open where it can double up as an inspiration prompt.

Susan Cropper of Loop London (www.loopknitting.com) has access to a wide range of storage options through her lovely shop, but at home resorts to "a beautiful mid-century modern wood and glass cabinet that holds most of my stash – though my family would disagree!"

She goes on to confess: "I think there is probably about half of my yarn stash in the cabinet as well as many, many Loop cotton bags, filled with yarns, hanging on the back of my door in my bedroom. I also have project bags that are filled with many small projects and bits of yarn."

To be honest, we're so relieved to discover we're not the only ones whose

STORE YOUR STASH

yarn has a tendency to infiltrate the whole house – top yarny types do it, too.

Laura Batten of Wool Bath (www.woolbath.co.uk) keeps her own stash in boot boxes: “Especially knee-high boots – they’re flat, sturdy and stack so well.”

Blogger and designer Sarah Zimmerman (www.repeatcrafterme.com) reminds us: “When it comes to your yarn stash, you want convenience. Organisation is important but so is accessibility.”

She suggests we consider the places where we tend to crochet most frequently. “Open shelves in my closet provide the most storage space where I can easily view all of my yarn. The yarn doesn’t get buried in bins and I can pick and choose at ease.”

YARN THREATS

When planning how to squirrel away your stash, it’s vital to think about the threats to your beloved yarn. “Humidity is probably the main concern,” says Susan. “Keep your yarn somewhere dry and clean. Also, keep

it out of the sun because long periods of sunlight exposure can fade yarn, especially beautiful hand-dyed yarns.”

And then there are those pesky yarn-munching critters. Keeping them at bay, Susan says, is becoming harder: “Winters in London don’t go below freezing often these days. So moth eggs are not killed off the way they used to be in the winter.” She warns: “Moths like dark and crowded places like drawers so it’s a good idea to take your crocheted garments out once in a while to shake them and check them. I use cedar balls in drawers and cedar sachets. We have one at Loop that’s mixed with sage – the smell is gorgeous but it is also meant to repel moths.”

Laura prefers a more ‘old-school’ method. “I love moth papers – they don’t

smell and take up no room. And if there’s a chance of damp, keep your stash airtight.”

If you have little ones at home, there are a few extra things to consider, as Stephanie points out. “I try to keep my yarn stash safe by keeping it out of reach of curious little toddler and baby hands! They love

unravelling yarn balls and getting in tangled messes, so my shelf is high and out of their reach.”

Sarah agrees that moths and toddlers are the biggest offenders when it

comes to yarn stash destruction.

“Although I do like to keep some yarn on display, the bulk is stored in my closet, safely out of reach from little ones,” she says. “A lot of my yarn shopping happens online and frequently orders arrive wrapped in plastic. They remain sealed until I am ready to use them so there is no

“YOU WANT CONVENIENCE.
ORGANISATION IS IMPORTANT,
BUT SO IS ACCESSIBILITY.”



Opposite: Stephanie’s DIY crisscross shelves in her workspace – so clever. Photograph by Ryan Lau.

This page, clockwise from left: Susan Cropper at Loop London; Susan Copper’s retro yarn stash cabinet; An array of yarns at Wool Bath.



This page: Crocheter Sarah Zimmerman and some of her colour stash, photograph by Lissarie Photography www.lissariephotography.com

chance of damage or infestations. Keeping yarn off the floor and in a dry place helps."

She advises stacking full skeins of yarn, especially those with labels still attached, together. "To avoid tangling, anything less than a half skein should be neatly wound into a cake or ball and stored in a basket, bag or other area. Scrap yarn should be put into a little zip-lock bag."

SORT YOUR STASH

How you opt to sort your yarn is a deeply personal decision. "I organise my yarns by colour always," says Susan. "It's just pretty to look at and gives me such pleasure, and makes it easier for me to decide on colour combinations when starting on a new project."

Stephanie, too, used to sort her yarn by colour, but now prefers to organise by weight class or type of yarn. "I have favourite yarns of different colours, so all my lightweight yarn will usually be organised together while my super-bulky

yarn will be in another section," she says.

"This makes it so much easier when I need a certain yarn for a project because I'll go straight to my lightweight section or super-bulky section and I can see right away what colours I have available."

Laura also likes to organise her stash into like-for-like weight yarns: "That way, I know exactly how much I have and where it is. Most patterns are interchangeable so

knowing the weight makes life easy."

She adds: "In the wool shop we have a LOT of yarn, as you'd imagine, so stackable clear plastic tubs are the solution. It's all

like-for-like in each box and then organised by weight. One of my staff, Lisa, really enjoys organising things so we have lovely labels on the tubs."

Being able to plot future projects easily is Sarah's main consideration as well. "I like to sort my yarn by brand and colour," she says. "I rarely ever mix yarns – even if they are the same weight – in a project. By

having the same line of yarn and similar shades of yarn stored together, I'm able to easily choose which ones I will use for my next crochet project."

Sarah has also come up with an answer to ensuring your crochet projects are always close to hand. "I have a crochet cart and a storage ottoman next to my bed for late-night crocheting," she says. "Four different zip-top utility tote bags each hold a separate WIP (work-in-progress) and the yarn needed for that particular project. The crochet cart and tote bags are mobile, which is great for on-the-go crochet or if I'm moving around the house to work in different spaces." Very handy.

INNOVATIVE IDEAS

Sorting your yarn in this way gives you the opportunity to get creative with storage. "Yarn is beautiful because it has such gorgeous texture, hues and shapes. When organised and displayed beautifully, it can serve as a colourful piece of artwork," exclaims Stephanie. "Imagine floating shelves or a big bookcase full of yarn!"

Speaking from her own experiences, Susan says: "If you don't have a kitten or

**"WHEN ORGANISED AND
DISPLAYED, YARN CAN SERVE
AS COLOURFUL ARTWORK."**

STORE YOUR STASH

a cat stalking nearby to play with it, I think yarn looks wonderful in a vintage cabinet or lined up on open shelves in coloured bundles. I have a few old tins with many kinds of straight knitting needles stacked inside, which looks pretty as a display as well. Yarn is really beautiful to look at so it's nice just to have it out in your home, stacked up in little bundles."

Sarah agrees wholeheartedly with these aesthetic fancies. "If you are able to showcase your yarn, do it!" she urges. "The built-in set of bookshelves underneath my staircase, where I display some of my yarn stash, has become a wonderful place to bring in a touch of colour and add texture – the yarn became a work of art! And it also becomes

a bit of a fun talking point whenever we have house guests."

How you corral your yarn can definitely prompt some conversations. "I have a customer who has told me they keep their yummy skeins out in their fruit bowl so they can see them!" exclaims Laura.

Stephanie recommends using storage solutions that maximise space while not taking up too much room: "For example, I've seen

people use those collapsible hanging shelves in their closet that are used for storing shoes. Don't let any space go to waste – you could store yarn in boxes or bins that fit perfectly under the bed."

Another more secretive storage option Stephanie has encountered is people

keeping their yarn tucked away inside cushion covers so that it serves as a cushion: "That's a rather clever idea."

This is actually an option Sarah has been using herself! "The most unusual place that I store my yarn is in an empty throw pillow cover. Stuff it with yarn, zip it up, and place it on your couch. No one will ever know what's hiding inside."

Otherwise, she suggests: "Use empty storage ottomans or unused dresser drawers, or cabinets make good stash spots as well. Even a wooden wine rack mounted to the wall would work."

In other words, almost anything can become the perfect means of keeping your yarn stash under control, beautifully displayed and ready to crochet with – just take a look around your home and see what catches your eye. It's a whole new way to get creative with your yarn.

Written by Judy Darley.

"I STORE MY YARN IN AN EMPTY CUSHION COVER. NO ONE WILL KNOW WHAT'S HIDING INSIDE."



This page, clockwise from left: More of Sarah Zimmerman's colour-coordinated stash, photograph by Sarah Zimmerman; A selection of beautiful yarns on display at Wool Bath; Designer Stephanie Lau hooking away, photograph by Ryan Lau.

LEMON MERINGUE

Hook a sunny tunic top for your cutie pie. Designed by Lisa Naskrent.



Child's tunic



YOU WILL NEED

- Rico Essentials Cotton DK (100% cotton, 50g/130m), Yarn A Banana (63), 1 ball of each: Yarn B White (80), Yarn C Candy Pink (12), Yarn D Fuchsia (14). See table for quantities of Yarn A and measurements
- A 5mm (US H/8) hook
- 7-10 buttons, approx 1.5-2cm diameter
- Stitch marker

TENSION

17 sts to meas 10cm (4in) over dc using a 5mm hook or size needed to achieve stated tension
16 sts to meas 10cm (4in) over stitch patt using a 5mm hook
1 row patt rep (Rows 9-14) to meas 3.5cm (1¼in) using a 5mm hook

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92

NOTES

Worked from the top down, with ruffles, straps and flowers added afterwards.

C BODY

With Yarn A, ch99 (103: 107: 111: 115: 119: 123).

Row 1 (RS) Dc in the second ch from the hook and in each ch to end, turn. [98 (102: 106: 110: 114: 118: 122) sts]

Row 2 (buttonhole row) Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in each of first 2 dc, ch2, skip next 2 dc, dc in each dc to end, turn.

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

Row 4 Working in front loops only, ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

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

Rows 7-8 Ch1, (dc in first st, tr in next st) repeat to end, turn.

In the following row, increase by working 2dc into 1 stitch:

Row 9 Ch1, dc in each st to end, spacing 4 increases evenly across the row, turn. [102 (106: 110: 114: 118: 122: 126) sts]

Row 10 (buttonhole row) Working in front loops only for dc sts: dc in each of first 2 dc, ch2, skip next 2 dc, dc in each st to end, turn.

In the following row, count each ch as a st.

Rows 11-14 Ch1, (dc in first st, tr in next st) repeat to end, turn.

Repeat Rows 9-14 a further 3 (4: 4: 5: 5: 6: 6) times or until tunic measures desired length, bearing in mind that the following ruffle edging will measure approx 7.5cm, do not fasten off.

RUFFLE EDGING BASE

Rows 1-12 Rep Rows 7-10 a further three times, omitting the buttonholes on each Row 10.

Fasten off.

RUFFLES

Work a ruffle in each of the last 3 rows of remaining front loops, in each of Yarns B, C and D from top to bottom.

Work a final ruffle in the remaining loops of Row 4, using Yarn B.

Skip the first 6 sts on the first row of each ruffle to allow space for the tunic to be buttoned together.

RUFFLE PATTERN

Row 1 With RS facing and tunic upside down, attach yarn with a ss to the 7th unused loop, ch1, (dc, ch2, dc) in same loop, *skip next loop, (dc, ch2, dc) in next loop; repeat from * to last loop, (dc, ch2, dc) in last loop.

There should be an odd number of ch-2 sps.

Rows 2-4 Ch1, (dc, ch2, dc) in each ch-2 sp to end, turn.

Row 5 Ss in first ch-2 sp, (5htr in next ch-2 sp, ss in next ch-2 sp) repeat to end.

Fasten off.

FIRST STRAP

Row 1 With RS facing, skip first 35 (37: 38: 40: 42: 43: 45) sts of the foundation ch at top of tunic, *attach Yarn A with a ss to next st, ch1, dc in same st, tr in next st, dc in next st, tr in next st, turn. [4 sts]

Row 2 Ch1, (dc in first st, tr in next st) twice, turn.

Rep Row 2 until strap measures 18 (19:



SIZE (YEARS)

		2	3	4	5	6	7	8
TO FIT	cm	54	55	57	59	61	63	66
	in	21¼	21½	22½	23¼	24	24¾	26
ACTUAL CHEST	cm	57	59	61	64	66	68	71
	in	22¼	23¼	24	25	26	27	27¾
LENGTH	cm	38	42	43	47	48	52	52.5
	in	15	16½	16¾	18½	18¾	20½	20¾
YARN A	50g balls	3	3	3	3	4	4	4

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

Child's tunic

20: 21.5: 23: 24: 25.5)cm when stretched or as long as desired.

Try dress on to determine length of straps before fastening off.
Fasten off leaving long tail for sewing.

SECOND STRAP

Skip next 20 (20: 22: 22: 24: 24) sts of foundation ch, then work from * in Row 1 of First Strap.

ATTACHING STRAPS

Count 13 (13: 14: 14: 15: 15) sts in from each outside edge of tunic, whipstitch corresponding strap to next 4 sts.

FLOWER (MAKE 2)

Round 1 (RS) With Yarn B, ch4 (counts as ch1, tr), 19tr in fourth ch from the hook, ss to top of the beginning ch-4.

Fasten off.

Round 2 With Yarn C for first flower or Yarn D for second flower, attach yarn with ss to any tr, *(ss, ch3, 2tr, ch3, ss) in next tr, skip next tr; repeat from * around, ss to first st.

Fasten off.

TO FINISH

Sew buttons to front of flowers.
Sew flowers to bottom of each strap.
Sew buttons to back of tunic, aligning with buttonholes.



SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO SEW ON A BUTTON



1 Use a pin to mark position of your button, lining up with the buttonhole. Secure yarn on wrong side of fabric and thread onto tapestry needle. Bring needle out at pin mark and through button.



2 Push the needle back through the button and the fabric, pulling the yarn firmly. Bring the needle out through the fabric and button, and back down again.



3 Take yarn to the front of the fabric, but under button. Wrap yarn around twice, pull yarn tight (to create a shank and prevent fraying).



4 Take the yarn to the back of the fabric and weave in end to secure.



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PAPER YARNS

Our pick of the best on-trend summery twines.

SUN MOTIF

Ch4, ss into first ch to make a ring.

Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr), 13tr into ring, ss to top of beg ch-3. [14 sts]

Round 2 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr into st at base of ch, 2tr into each st around. [28 sts]

Fasten off and weave in ends. Attach tassels evenly around outer edge.

INSTANT PARTY
COASTERS!



HABU PAPER MOIRE

WEIGHT Lace
CONTENT 60% cotton,
 40% linen paper
SKEIN 14g/142m
HOOK 3mm
RRP £9.80



Japanese brand Habu's art yarns are always beautiful and their Paper Moire is no exception. The high quality cotton thread is spangled with confetti-like paper strips. It's an extremely fine and delicate yarn with an organic feel and lots of

character. The tiny paper scraps remind us of falling petals. Take your pick from seven subtle hand-dyed shades. For a sturdier finish, we'd combine this yarn with a matt cotton or linen 4ply. www.lovecrochet.com
0845 544 2196

PAPERPHINE STRONG PAPER TWINE

WEIGHT 4ply
CONTENT 100% paper fibre
SKEIN 70g/120m
HOOK 4mm
RRP £7.60



Vienna-based indie brand PaperPhine are passionate about paper yarns and twines and it's clear from the quality of their products that they know their materials well. Simple, sturdy and tightly twisted, their Strong Paper Twine holds its shape and is

easy to manipulate. There are 18 shades to choose from. Why not experiment with untwisting sections of this yarn to create thick and thin texture or petal shapes? PaperPhine also sell on Etsy. www.paperphine.com
01566 777635

RICO CREATIVE PAPER

WEIGHT Chunky
CONTENT 100% paper fibre
BALL 50g/55m
HOOK 6mm
RRP £2.99



Rico's Creative Paper yarn is a triumph. It behaves like a tape yarn but is strong, easy to hook with and isn't rough on the hands. The colour options are fantastic, too. There are 12 solid shades – pastels and brights,

and four playful variegated prints (this one is our fave). We'd make a clutch bag or table mats with it. Rico's pattern booklet, *Creative Paper*, features crochet designs using this yarn. www.rico-design.co.uk

ALLCRAFT PAPER TWINE

WEIGHT 4ply
CONTENT 100% paper fibre
SKEIN 14g/20m
HOOK 4mm
RRP £1.99



Baker's twine is a must-have for any crafter, but have you ever tried it in paper? Allcraft's Paper Twine comes in vibrant solid colours and a few shades of this delightful two-tone twist. It will give a pretty candy stripe look to your crochet makes. This

paper twine is fine and smooth with a dry handle. We reckon it would be perfect for decorations, bunting or mini motifs. Look for it in your local craft shop, or find it at on Amazon at <http://tinyurl.com/papertwine>

ADRIAFIL RAFIA

WEIGHT Aran
CONTENT 100% wood pulp
SKEIN 25g
HOOK 5mm
RRP £2.71



Scrunchy and straw-like aren't the sort of qualities we'd usually be looking for in a yarn, but in AdriaFil's Rafia it works. As it's slightly finer than a standard raffia tape, the yarn feels fairly pliable and is easier to work with than you might imagine. Try

a larger hook size if your crochet project requires decent stretch. This Italian yarn is available in 26 solid shades and would be suited to bag or hat projects. Rafia is machine washable but cannot be ironed. www.purpleindacrafts.co.uk

PHILDAR PHIL PAPIER

WEIGHT Chunky
CONTENT 100% paper fibre
BALL 50g/70m
HOOK 6mm
RRP £5.95



Smooth and light yet sturdy, PhilDAR's Phil Papier would be ideal for stitching storage baskets or even a statement sun hat. It's the closest to standard raffia (the kind that florists use) of all the paper yarns that we tested, but it

does have a barely-there sheen, which sets it apart. The neat ball stays intact as you work, making it suitable for on-the-go crochet. Choose from six solid shades. www.lovecrochet.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.



PERFECT PETALS

Creative reader Susie Parry loved our Petal Power flower brooch pattern so much, she crocheted a multi-coloured meadow of them! She has made a simple project really shine and these colours look so striking together. The pattern is in *Simply Crochet* issue 43. Via Facebook.

This month we ASKED you...

What's your fave
type of hook to
use - metal,
bamboo, plastic
or polymer clay?

"I'm obsessed with wooden hooks, especially Furls and Brittany. A beautiful hook makes crochet even more lovely and enjoyable!"

Christine Copeland Ouimet
via Facebook

KONICHIWA

▼ Check out the fab embroidery on this Kokeshi doll by Claire Elizabeth Summers. It is so neatly finished. The pattern is from issue 44. Via Facebook.



▲ We'll admit it – we just can't resist snaps of your pets with your crochet creations. Sarah Colvin shared this with us on Facebook. How sweet does her tiny tortoise Melvin look with her version of Ernest the sea turtle from issue 44? Turns out he's actually larger than life. Who knew?

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





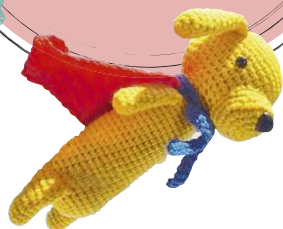
CORNER-TO-CORNER

The creativity of you lovely readers is always delightful to see. Cheryl Bradley shared this pic with us on Facebook. She had the bright idea of adding a bold splash of colour to our corner-to-corner bunny blanket with bright rainbow stripes. We love it! The pattern is from issue 42. Missed it? Turn to page 86 for more info on our *Simply Crochet* back issues.

PUP TO THE RESCUE

We reckon @every.thing.shape.us's Super Sausage amigurumi dog could turn any frown upside down. Via Instagram.

WINNER!



TALK TO US!

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- 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.



RIGHT ROUND
@burialshroud is getting stuck into our Mega Mandala. It's looking good! The pattern is now available on Ravelry for just £2.75.

WINNER!



BUTTON IT
@cosymonkey_crochet hooked the dungarees from issue 40 and we're in love. The blue surface crochet detail looks fantastic, right?

WINNER!



DO THE TWIST
Keen crocheter @elliervine used a bit of sparkle for her version of the wrapover top from *Simply Crochet* issue 41. It's very glam indeed.



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FREE TRIAL*



FREEFORM CROCHET

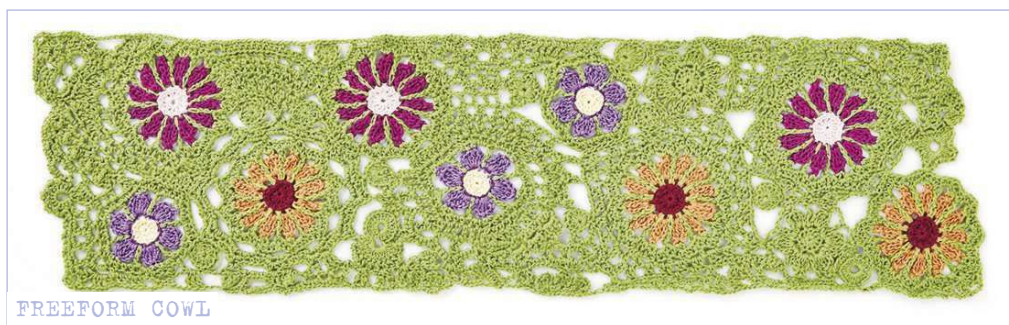
PART ONE

Grab a hook and yarn, but forget the rules and get creative with our guide to freeform crochet.

WHAT SORT OF PROJECTS COULD I MAKE?

The world is your oyster when it comes to freeform crochet.

Freeform crochet is art in action – the crocheter is the artist, sculpting with yarn. The only rule is that there are no rules – you don't have to follow a pattern and you don't have to follow convention. You can do anything you like and make it up as you go along. We'll explain some of the freeform methods you could use, but you get to choose which ones to use to make your own flower cowl using our motif patterns on page 83.



FREEFORM COWL

The 'free' part of freeform crochet highlights how you are the designer and you are free to decide how your piece looks. You can use any crochet style, stitches, yarn or hook, and

make anything you like. You can have an end result in mind or just let your piece develop as your ideas evolve. One thing is certain: no two freeform crochet pieces will look alike. Each one

is a unique piece of textile art in its own right. We'll take you through the process of making a flower cowl like this one, but you'll get to decide exactly how you make yours.

WHERE DO I FIND IDEAS?

Look around you and you'll soon gather up some ideas.

If you're new to freeform crochet, you might be wondering: "Where do I start?" As with anything, it all starts with an idea that you can build on. Once you start thinking and planning, all sorts of ideas can come to mind – for stitch patterns, shapes and colour combinations. To get you started, try a simple shape such as a scarf or cowl – this is an easy first freeform project because it's relatively uncomplicated. With more confidence, you can move on to larger projects such as blankets, or more complicated shapes such as a fitted jacket.

Since there are no rules, you can start anywhere you want in looking for ideas for your piece. Perhaps you have a favourite colour scheme or a jumble of yarn scraps in your stash that you want to use up. Maybe you love fashion eras or natural landscapes, geometric shapes or architecture. Freeform crochet is a brilliant excuse to explore what you love, so indulge in the things that inspire you

and let your creativity run free. One of the easiest ways to dip your toe into the creative water of freeform crochet is to make a motif or two from a pattern, and then continue with more rounds in a freeform style, or join them together in a freeform way to make something else. That's the process we used to create the freeform cowl on page 83.

Steps 1 & 2 Flowers and greenery are a great place to find inspiration and taking a few photos might help to generate some ideas. Our cowl was inspired by big blooms with bold coloured petals, surrounded by the greenery of leaves or grass.

Once you've collected some ideas, collate them in a scrapbook or keep them on a mood board, where you can also add fabric swatches, photos and cuttings from magazines. You could also sketch some ideas and colour them in. You'll probably find that your ideas will develop more easily from here.



HOW DO I MAKE A PLAN AND CHOOSE YARN?

Once you have an idea, you can make a plan and get stitching.

The next stage is to make decisions about the final result. Do you want a specific size or shape? Do you want a free-flowing piece or something more cohesive? Do you want a specific colour scheme?

Step 1 If you want a piece that's a particular shape or size, make a design plan or a template. This will act as a rough guide so that you can see where you need to go next when you're crocheting, whether that's making smaller stitches to fill in small areas or long stitches and multiple rows to fill in larger areas.

If your piece is more complicated and needs precise shaping (such as a fitted jacket), make template pieces as you would if you were making it from fabric. When crocheting, make patches that fit the template pieces exactly and stitch them together at the end. You probably won't need a tension square (although you can do one if you want) because you'll be able to adjust the sizing as you go.

Step 2 If you want to have repeating motifs in your piece, you'll need a pattern you like – or design your own. Our cowl uses specific flower patterns for a more uniform look, with three patterns using similar stitches to form part of a cohesive whole.

In our cowl, the green background is the freeform part, so you can let your imagination run wild and make this up as you go along. Freeform stitch patterns are a great way to convey movement and you could try using stitches to create the feeling of rustling wind with undulating stitch textures in the green yarn.

When it comes to colour, there are so many options. We chose a yarn range with loads of flower-like shades, but a project could easily develop from a particular colour scheme. As with every other aspect of freeform crochet, there are no rules – do what suits you.

Once you're happy with your ideas, colours and yarn, it's time to get hooking. For a piece without a defined end result, you could

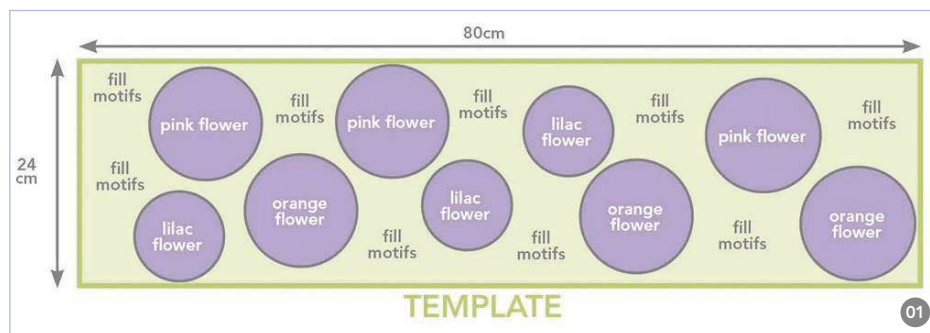
just get going and when it reaches a size and shape you like, simply stop. For pieces that need a specific end result, keep referring to your plans and templates so you can plan the next row, or several rows, or if you need to unravel and do something else instead.

If you are having set motifs, make these in advance so they are ready to add when you get to the right place – or when you feel like it. With our cowl, start by making nine flower motifs (three of each flower). You can make as many motifs as you want to fill the space, but remember that the more flowers you make, the less greenery you will have in between them.

Step 3 Arrange your nine motifs in the template until you're happy with them but don't worry about exact positioning – it's likely to change during the freeform process because you might use up more space with a stitch pattern that's too gorgeous to rip out!

Try to remain flexible with how your piece develops. Creative artists are open-minded, so if new ideas make your old ones obsolete, don't worry. It's all part of the artistic adventure. One of the great things about freeform crochet is that there's no such thing as a mistake. If something you try turns out differently from how you imagined it, that's okay – embrace its uniqueness.

Throughout the process, there will be decisions to make about what to do next. If you're making it up as you go along, just do what feels right. If you're aiming for a specific shape, you'll need to think about which stitches to use. You can use small or large stitches, work in rows or rounds, or make patches and stitch them into place to fill a gap. You can use any and all stitches and crochet styles, in any combinations, from lace to clusters – you could even join pieces of filet crochet, granny squares and Irish lace. You can also mix and match yarn weights and hook sizes, too. Whatever YOU want.



WHAT IS A SCRUMBLE?

You can work freeform patches or scrumbles in various ways.

Once you have your flower motifs, it's up to you how you work next – you can focus on one piece and add to it, or you can make patches, known as 'scrumbles', and stitch them together. Working in smaller pieces can give a better sense of control, plus it's better for travelling. Also, you can wait until you've made all your patches before deciding what order to put them in. Another way to work with patches is to join your motifs together into larger motifs and crochet around them to make larger pieces, then join these together and combine them with other motifs. We'll show you a few different ways that you could work.

Step 1 Once you've made three of each flower, arrange them into three groups of three.

Step 2 With the first pink flower, try stitching evenly around it, continuing the shape and pattern of the flower.

Step 3 With the first orange flower, try stitching around it to create a different shape, such as a square (reminiscent of moss-covered paving slabs and knot gardens).

Step 4 Try enlarging the first lilac flower by freeform crocheting around it to create a random shape.

Step 5 With the next group of three flowers, try stitching around one flower, then add another flower and stitch around some more, then repeat. This way can feel more freeform, but be careful not to make your patches too big for your template – although in a freeform piece without final dimensions this won't matter.

Step 6 Arrange your pieces over the template to check you're keeping within the boundaries. You might need to make changes and move pieces around but don't worry, it's a creative process and being flexible is part of the fun!



NEXT ISSUE

Look out for part two of our guide to Freeform Crochet in issue 47 of *Simply Crochet*. We'll explain how to fill in the background including making fill motifs, plus how to join the side seams and neaten the edges ready for working a border.

Freeform cowl



ON A WHIM

Set your creativity free with this unique floral cowl. Designed by Jennifer May.

Freeform cowl



YOU WILL NEED

- Sublime Egyptian Cotton DK (100% cotton, 50g/105m), 3 balls of Yarn G Freya 328 (green), 1 ball each of:
Yarn A Hope 352 (yellow)
Yarn B Alessandra 325 (purple)
Yarn C Bud Pink 323 (light pink)
Yarn D Peony 326 (dark pink)
Yarn E Safflower 327 (red)
Yarn F Orange Blossom 330 (orange)
 - A 4mm (US G/6) hook
 - Stitch markers
- For yarn stockists, contact
Sublime 01924 369666
www.sublimeyarns.com

MEASUREMENTS

Finished cowl measures 28cm (11in) high and 80cm (31in) circumference

ABBREVIATIONS

Ch-3 picot Ch3, ss in stitch at base of ch

For a full list, see page 92

Freeform crochet will open up the way you approach your stitches and get you thinking creatively. Use these colourful flower motifs as the starting point for your cowl project, then catch part two inside next month's issue where we'll cover fill motifs and borders to help you complete it.

FLOWER MOTIFS

Make as many flower motifs as you'd like your cowl to have, using the yarn colours specified or colours you'd prefer. We made 3 of each flower.

ASTER

Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch2 (counts as first htr), 11htr into loop, ss into top of beg ch-2. [12 htr] **Fasten off.**

Round 2 Join Yarn B in any st, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in first st, dc in next st, *ch2, dc in next 2 sts; repeat from * to last st, ch2, ss to first dc to join. [12 dc and 6 ch-2 sps]

Round 3 Ss to next ch-2 sp, (ch2, tr, dtr, ch-3 picot, dtr, tr) into same ch-2 sp, ch2, ss into same ch-2 sp, ss in space between next 2 dc, *(ch2, tr, dtr, ch-3 picot, dtr, tr) into next ch-2 sp, ch2, ss into same ch-2 sp, ss in space between next 2 dc; repeat from * around, ss into first ch-2 sp. [6 ch-3 picot sps]

Fasten off.

Round 4 Join Yarn G in any ch-3 picot, ch1 (does not count as st), (dc, ch1, dc, ch2) into same ch-3 picot, dtr in space between 2dc from Round 2, ch2, *(dc, ch1, dc, ch2) into next ch-3 picot, dtr in space between 2dc from Round 2, ch2; repeat from * around, ss to first dc. [12 dc, 6 dtr, 6 ch-1 sps, 12 ch-2 sps]

Round 5 Ss to next ch-1 sp, ch1 (does not count as st), (dc, ch1, dc) in same ch-1 sp, 2dc in next ch-2 sp, ch1, 2dc in next ch-2 sp, ch1, *(dc, ch1, dc) in next ch-1 sp, 2dc in next ch-2 sp, ch1, 2dc in next ch-2 sp, ch1; repeat from * around, ss to first dc. [36dc, 18 ch-1 sps]

Fasten off.

To define the centre of the flower, rejoin Yarn A to the post of any stitch from Round 2 and work: Ch1, *ss around post of next st, ch1; repeat from * all round, ss to beg ch1.

Fasten off. Weave in ends.

GERBERA

Using Yarn C, make a magic loop.



This wild, floral freeform cowl is tamed and finished off with a pretty picot edging.

Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as first tr), 11tr into loop, ss to top of beg ch-3.

[12 tr] **Fasten off.**

Round 2 Join Yarn D in any st, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in first st, (ch2, dc) in each st to end, ch2, ss to first dc. [12 dc and 12 ch-2 sps]

Round 3 *Ss to next ch-2 sp, ch3, dtr, ch-3 picot, dtr, ch3, ss in same ch-2 sp; repeat from * around, ss to beg ss. [12 ch-3 picot sps] **Fasten off.**

Round 4 Join Yarn G in any ch-3 picot, ch1 (does not count as st), (dc, ch1, dc, ch2) into same ch-3 picot, dtr in ch-2 sp from Round 2, ch2, *(dc, ch1, dc, ch2) into next ch-3 picot, dtr in ch-2 sp from Round 2, ch2; repeat from * around, ss to first dc. [24 dc, 12 dtr, 12 ch-1 sps, 24 ch-2 sps]

Round 5 Ss to next ch-1 sp, ch1 (does not count as st), (dc, ch1, dc) in same ch-1 sp, (2dc in next ch-2 sp, ch1) twice, *(dc, ch1, dc) in next ch-1 sp, (2dc in next ch-2 sp, ch1) twice; repeat from * around, ss to first dc. [72dc, 36 ch-1 sps] **Fasten off.**

To define the centre of the flower, rejoin Yarn C to the post of any st from Round 2 and work: Ch1, *ss around post of next st, ch1; repeat from * all round, ss to beg ch1.

Fasten off. Weave in ends.

GAZANIA

Work as given for Gerbera Flower, replacing Yarn C (light pink) with Yarn E (red), and replacing Yarn D (dark pink) with Yarn F (orange).

TO MAKE UP

You'll find part two of this pattern, including the fill motifs and border instructions, in the next issue of *Simply Crochet*, on sale 21 July 2016.

Simply Crochet

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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 4 ch, *yrh twice, and insert the hook under the top loop of the next ch.

2 Yrh, pull the yarn through the ch loop only (4 loops on hook).

3 Yrh and pull the yarn through 2 loops only (3 loops on hook).

Yrh and pull the yarn through 2 loops only (2 loops on hook).

4 Yrh and pull the yarn through the remaining 2 loops. Repeat from * to make more dtr sts.

5 To make the next row of dtr, turn work and ch4. This turning chain counts as the first dtr in a new row. Skip first st at the base of the t-ch, work 1dtr under the top two loops of the 2nd stitch in the previous row; continue to the end of the row.

TRIPLE TREBLE CROCHET (ttr) US term: double treble crochet

This is one of the longest standard crochet stitches and is mainly used in fancy stitch patterns. It's taller than a double treble crochet stitch (described left) and is worked in a very similar way, as follows:

1 Make a foundation ch. Skip 5 ch, *yrh 3 times, insert hook under top loop of next ch.

2 Yrh, pull yarn through ch loop only (5 loops on hook).

3 † Yrh, draw loop through 2

loops only. Repeat from † 3 times more and your triple treble will be finished. Repeat from * to make more ttr sts.

4 To make the next row, turn work and ch5. This turning chain counts as the first triple treble in a new row. Skip first st at base of the t-ch. Work 1 triple treble, inserting hook under the top 2 loops of the 2nd st in the previous row; continue to the end of the row.

TURNING CHAIN (t-ch)

For an even finish, start each row with a turning chain.

In crochet, you need to add turning chains (t-chs) to the beginning of rows. The reason for this is to bring the hook up to the height of the stitches you're crocheting. Each basic stitch has its own number of

chains. The table below tells you how many t-ch sts form the first stitch. *For dc, usually the turning chain does not count as a stitch, and the first stitch of the row is worked into the stitch at the base of the turning chain.

STITCH	Add to foundation chain before starting row	Skip at start of foundation row (counts as first st)	For turning chain (counts as first st)
Double crochet	1 ch	1 ch*	1 ch*
Half treble	1 ch	2 ch	2 ch
Treble	2 ch	3 ch	3 ch
Double treble	3 ch	4 ch	4 ch
Triple treble	4 ch	5 ch	5 ch

How to count stitches

Check your work is correct.

Being able to count your stitches is very important and helps you to ensure that you're following a pattern correctly. It's a good idea to count your stitches at the end of every row. To count short stitches such as double crochet, look at the plaited tops (see above right). For taller stitches, count the upright 'stems' – each 'stem' is counted as a stitch (see right).



HOW TO CHANGE COLOUR

Create stripes and other colour effects.



1 Before you work the final yrh (yarn round hook) on the last stitch of a row in the old colour, drop the old yarn and pick up the new one with your hook.



2 Pull through a loop of the new yarn to finish the old stitch. The working loop will be in the new colour. Continue, keeping the old yarn at the wrong side.

INCREASING AND DECREASING

Shaping stitches are vital for making garments.



INCREASE To increase one stitch is very simple – work one stitch into the next stitch on the row below. When you've finished, work another stitch into the same stitch.



DECREASE For a quick decrease, just skip one stitch. For a neater look, work the first part of one stitch and then begin the next stitch. Finish both together.

SEWING SEAMS

You can join crochet seams by using a tapestry needle or a crochet hook, using one of these four methods.



1 Sewing with a tapestry needle is the regular and neat way to join seams. Place two pieces of crochet right sides together and oversew them as shown above, using a tapestry or yarn needle.



2 To slip stitch a seam, place the crochet pieces right sides together. *Insert hook into both edge stitches, yrh and pull through to complete 1 slip stitch; rep from * working into the next edge stitches, keeping work fairly loose.



3 For a dc seam, place the crochet pieces right sides together, or wrong sides together for a visible seam. Work as for slip stitch seam, using double crochet instead of slip stitch.

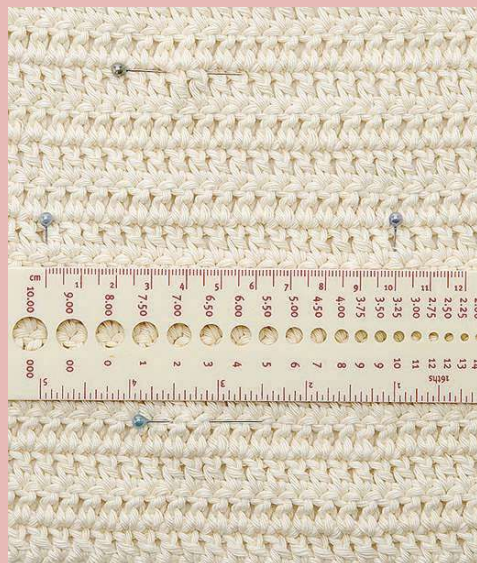
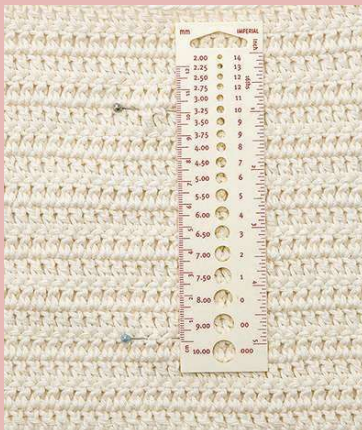


4 A useful variation on the dc seam, the dc and chain seam is used when less bulk and/or greater flexibility is needed. Work 1 double crochet and 1 chain alternately.

How to check your tension

Make and measure a swatch to check your tension.

Most crochet patterns state the tension required, in rows and stitches of a specific type. Make a swatch at least 15cm square and check that your tension matches. Place a ruler across the swatch and insert two pins, 10cm apart. Then place the ruler along a column of stitches and insert two pins 10cm apart. Count the stitches and rows between the pins – if you have less than the pattern, your tension is too loose so you need to use a smaller hook, but if you have too many, use a larger hook. It's usually better to match the stitches than rows, because you can always work more or fewer rows.



FOUNDATION RING

Create a foundation ring for working in the round.



1 Make a chain the length stated in the pattern instructions. Next, insert the crochet hook into the first chain. Close the ring with a slip stitch, working yrh...



2 ...and pull yarn through 2 loops on hook. Now you're ready to start crocheting in the round, following the instructions given right.

WORKING STITCHES INTO A RING

To make circles, tubes and other shapes.



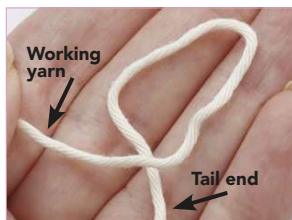
1 Make a foundation ring and work the t-ch (3ch for treble sts). Work a treble st as usual, but insert hook into centre of ring. For treble sts, yrh, insert hook into ring.



2 Finish the treble as usual (yrh, pull yarn through ring, yrh, pull yarn through first 2 loops, yrh, pull yarn through 2 loops). Work more sts into the ring as needed.

MAGIC LOOP

An alternative foundation ring for working in the round.



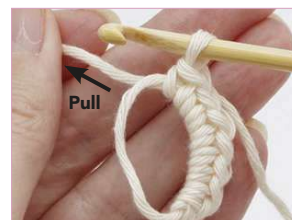
1 To start a Magic Loop, don't make a slipknot. Instead, make a loop with the yarn, leaving a tail around 10cm long. Make sure the tail end is under the working yarn.



2 Now insert your hook into the loop, from front to back. Wrap the working yarn around the hook and pull the yarn through the loop.



3 Make a t-ch for the sts you want to work (above, we made 1 t-ch for dc). Work your sts into the Magic Loop, over both the loop and the tail end (so two yarn strands).



4 Once you've worked the first round of stitches, simply pull the tail end of yarn to draw up the ring. Work a slip stitch to join the last and first sts to finish the first round (as instructed below).

JOINING ROUNDS

Finish off each round of crochet stitches nice and neatly by using a slip stitch.



1 To close a round of stitches, work a slip stitch into the top of the turning chain. To do this, insert the hook into the top stitch of the turning chain.



2 Then place the yarn round the hook. Pull the yarn through the turning chain stitch and through the original stitch on your hook.



3 You've slip stitched the round together! Before working another round, be sure to make the required turning chain. Always work rounds on the right side, unless you pattern instructs you otherwise.

Rounds or spirals



Check which technique to use.

Some patterns are worked in rounds that are joined together at the end of each round (see left). Other patterns are worked in a spiral so you don't need to join the rounds at the end, just keep going, working into the next stitch on the previous row. Amigurumi toys are often worked in a spiral like this.

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Abbreviations

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

Crochet hook conversions

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

Which hook do I use?

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

UK/US conversions

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

HOW TO GET A PERFECT FINISH

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

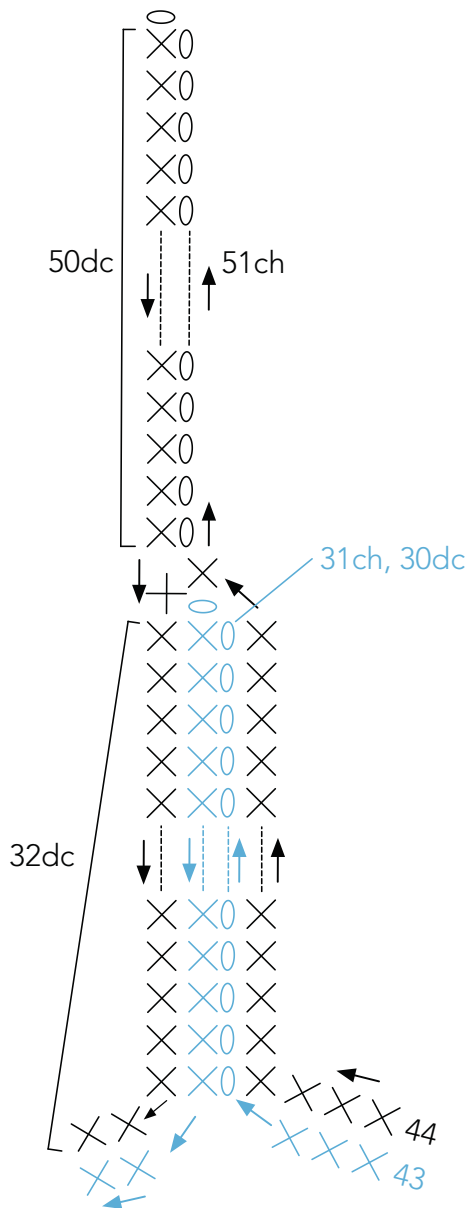


Complete the final stitch, then cut the yarn about 15cm from the work. Pull it through the last loop on the hook and pull to close the loop. Thread the yarn tail onto a tapestry needle and weave into the back of the work. Most crochet items don't need a lot of blocking, but cotton lace work usually does.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

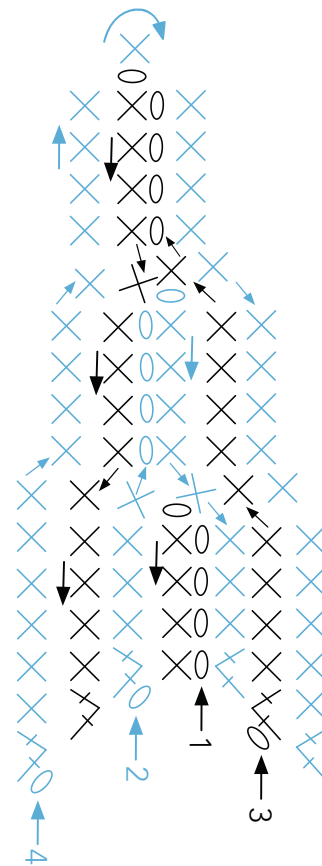
CHARTS & DIAGRAMS

Here are the stitch charts you'll need to make Claude the Octopus and the In The Pink top this month.

OCTOPUS UPPER TENTACLES, P26



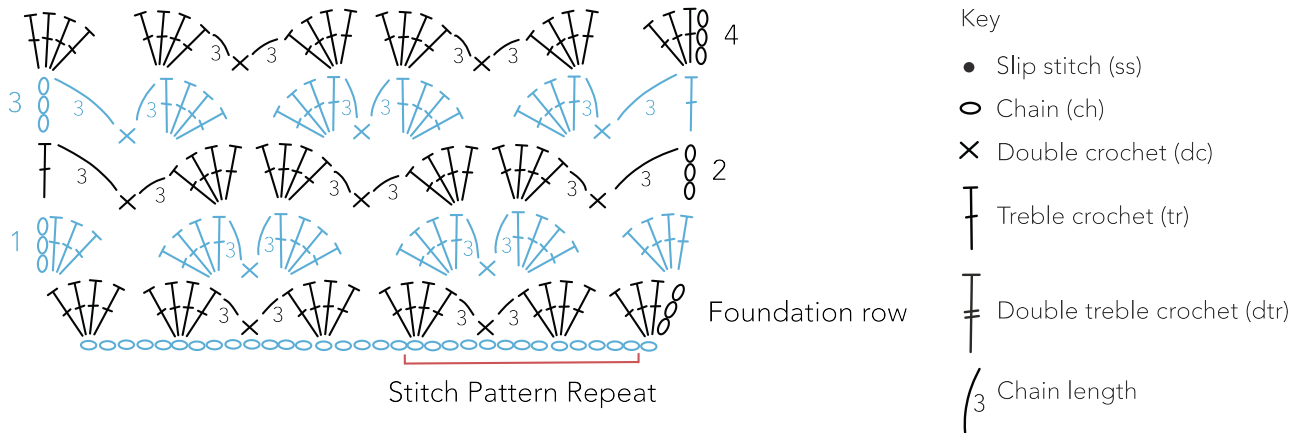
OCTOPUS TENTACLE FLAPS, P27



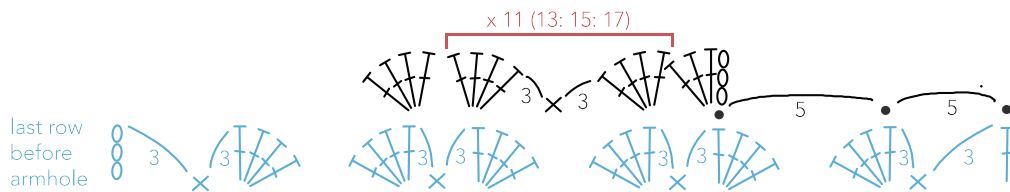
Key

- O Chain (ch)
- X Double crochet (dc)
- X\X 2dc in one stitch
- Direction of work

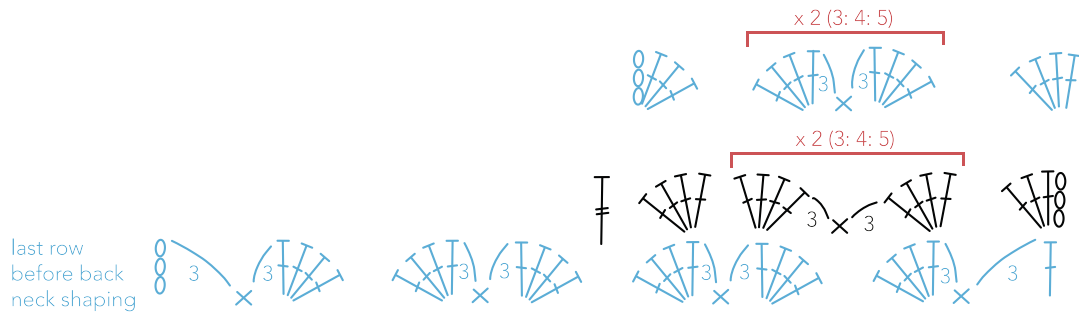
STITCH PATTERN



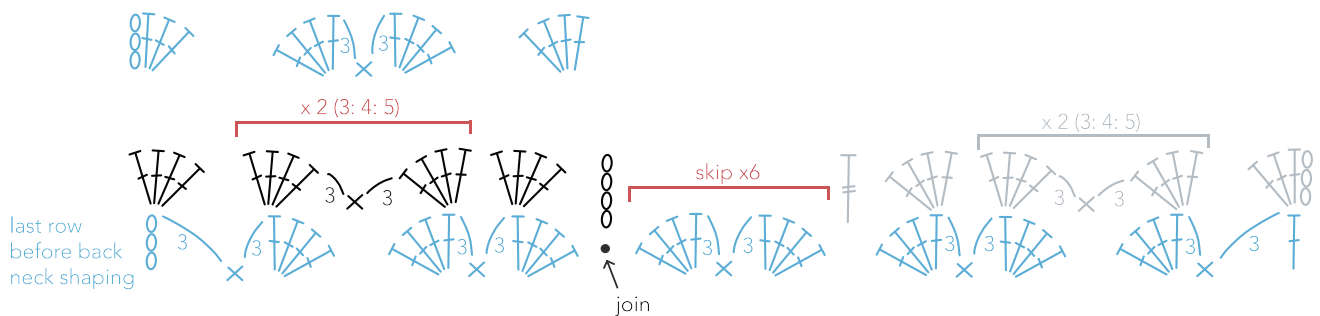
SHAPE ARMHOLES



RIGHT-HAND SIDE BACK NECK



LEFT-HAND SIDE BACK NECK



MAKE A MOTIF

IN A WHIRL

Try Lucy Croft's swirling hexagon shape.



START A Lacy
MOTIF SHAWL



MAKE A MOTIF



YOU WILL NEED

- Cleckheaton Australian Superfine Merino (100% superfine merino wool, 65g/130m), Old Rose (11)
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook

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

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92

Designer Lucy Croft has used squishy Cleckheaton Merino yarn to make her motifs, but any DK-weight yarn will work just as well. Why not raid your stash to find your favourite shades and get going with a motif shawl using this lacy shape? It would also make a fantastic summery bedspread – a great wedding gift idea.

HEXAGON MOTIF

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

Round 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), 8dc into the loop, ss to first dc to join.

Round 2 Ch6 (counts as dtr, ch2), dtr in st at base of ch-6, ch2, *dtr in next dc, ch2, (dtr, ch2) twice in next dc; repeat from * twice more, dtr in next dc, ch2, ss to fourth ch of beginning ch-6 to join.

Round 3 Ch4 (counts as tr, ch1), (tr, ch1, tr) in st at base of ch-4, ch5, skip next (ch-2 sp, dtr, ch-2 sp), *(tr, ch1, tr, ch1, tr) in next tr, ch5, skip next (ch-2 sp, dtr, ch-2 sp); repeat from * 4 more times, ss to third ch of beginning ch-4 to join.

Fasten off.

TO JOIN

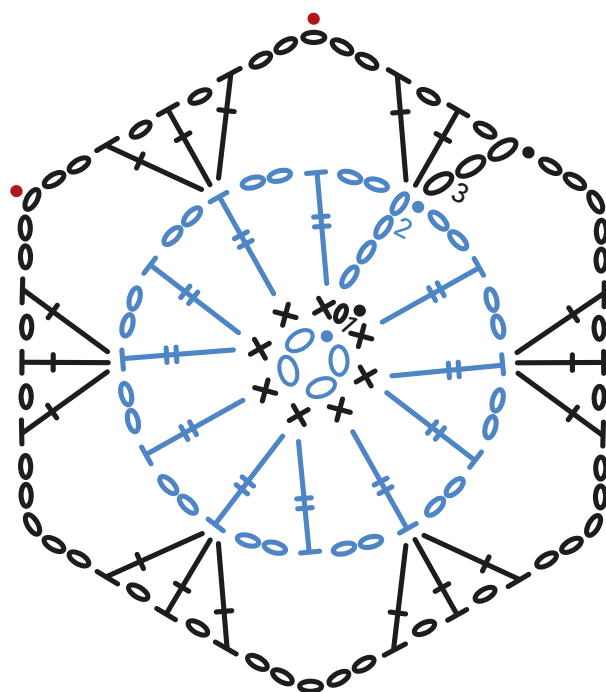
Join motifs while working Round 3, by

replacing the third ch of the ch5 with a ss to the corresponding ch-5 sp on the adjacent motif.

Key

- Slip stitch (ss)
- Chain (ch)
- × Double crochet (dc)
- ┐ Treble crochet (tr)
- ┐ Double treble crochet (dtr)
- Joining slip stitch

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





Simply Crochet

HOOKED ON HANDMADE

NEXT ISSUE

Holiday accessories

Watermelon dress

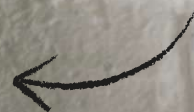
Colourful cushions

Amigurumi jellyfish

Pretty lace tee

And more...

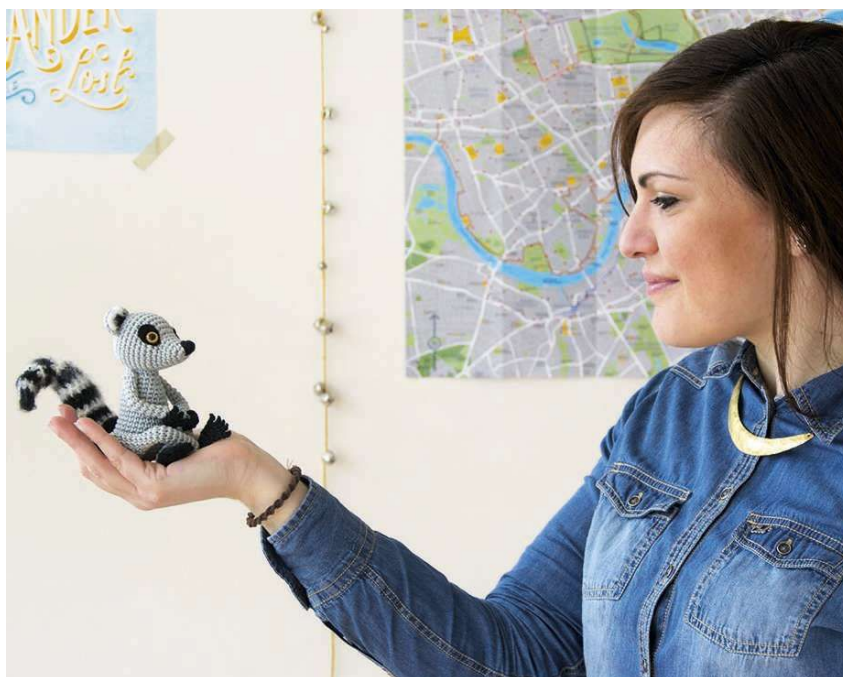
MAKE it
mint!



FREE
**SHAWL PATTERN
BOOKLET!**

ON SALE THURS 21 JULY





SARTÙ THE LEMUR

Amigurumi queen Ilaria Caliri's first toy design was a cutie who inspired her to keep making.

This amigurumi toy was one of the first crochet items I ever designed. If I had to choose a favourite project, one which makes me happy and inspires me to continue designing crochet patterns, it would have to be Sartù the Lemur.

When I took my first steps in designing my own crochet toys, I didn't know if I was able to design interesting characters, write patterns, or take good enough pictures. However, when I saw Sartù's yellow eyes, I convinced myself I could try! To me, he looked as cute as some amigurumi by other designers, but in his own way he was also pretty weird and I loved that. I realised I was actually able to transform my drawings into crochet!

Sartù gave me the confidence to try again and again. Making a crochet item from a pattern is different to designing it yourself. Both are great and often relaxing, but for me it's exciting to see something in my mind and then make it

real with yarn and hook. I chose cotton yarn for the body because it's bright and matt at the same time. For the ears and tail, I chose wool because I wanted to comb them to give them a felted look.

The colour choice is my favourite part of every pattern. I spend a lot of time imagining different combinations and sometimes I try more than one option, like in this case. I made the first lemur in a classic grey, black and white palette with yellow eyes, but after I'd finished it I tried to make it with my favourite colour in his palette. So a lemur with a mustard and white striped tail was born!

Sartù was chosen to be part of the first *Zoomigurumi* book. I was really excited when I was contacted about the book, it was a completely new thing for me! Many things changed since then and I still have to thank those yellow eyes. The pattern for Sartù is in Ilaria's Ravelry and Etsy shops. See what Ilaria's been designing lately at www.besenseless.blogspot.com

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