

26 NEW YEAR
PROJECTS

Simply Crochet

WALL
HANGING



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NEW STYLE!



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Bliss-out summer skies become fiery sunset mountains become storm-tossed oceans, and finally the fathoms of the seas in our dreamy wall hanging. No one need know you made it to finesse your extended stitch skills – just let them gaze upon it and feel their cares drifting away...



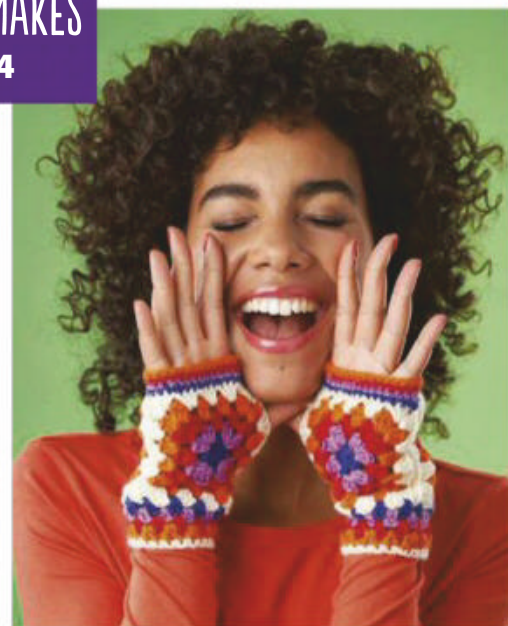
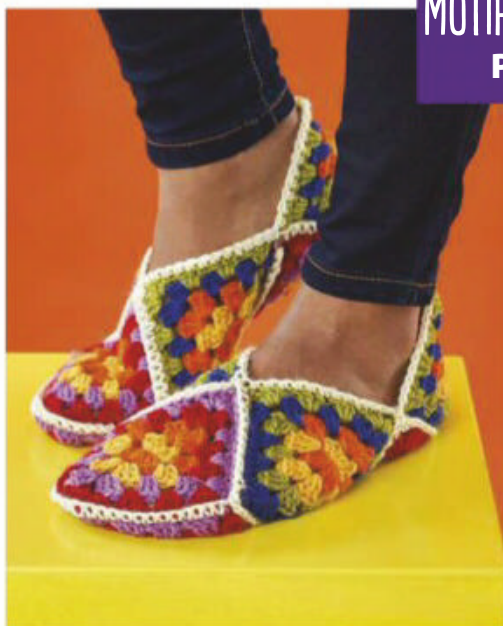
Simply Crochet

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Hip to be square

Say hello to Granny! We know how much you love her and we're dedicating this issue to the iconic granny square with plenty of colour-rich inspiration and projects featuring this fave motif! And why not learn new skills (or brush up on old ones) courtesy of our 'How To Crochet' booklet with step-by-step tutorials for all basic stitches and techniques. If you're hunting down that perfect New Year's project, our diamond-pattern jumper (page 50) is a satisfying piece to get your hook into while our gorgeous wrap (page 66) will keep the wicked January frosts at bay.



Sara

CONTRIBUTORS

This month's crochet cheerleaders are...



MARIANNE RAWLINS

Marianne has been practically glued to her hook for the past five years. An avid intarsia fan, she loves to cook up trend-led designs for her quirky crochet creations. Find her poncho on page 14.



KATE MCCULLY

Kate has been designing amigurumi toys for almost two years, and recently competed on *Kirstie's Handmade Christmas!* See her fuzzy monsters on page 32.



CATALINA UNGUREANU

Also known as ByKaterina, Catalina was taught crochet as a child, before rediscovering it four years ago. She loves creating modern, simple garments. Find her jumper on page 50.



ALESSANDRA HAYDEN

Crochet addict Alessandra loves designing accessories and creating interesting shapes using tapestry crochet, always accompanied by a cup of coffee! See her scarf on page 95.

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**Warm & Woolly
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Jingle Garland designed by Tatsiana Kupryianchyk, featured in YARN bookazine #6 FOLK

Pattern available from Ravelry: www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/jingle-garland



130
Old Lace



390
Poppy Rose



208
Yellow Gold



201
Electric Blue



385
Crystalline



400
Petrol Blue



936



908



921



920

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Image by Loop Knitting Ltd

Bloom with a view

Hole up through the cold winter months with Loop's Flower Power Scarf Kit. Rustic earth tones come courtesy of hand-dyer Mette Mehlsen, who coloured the yarn with wild plants from her native Denmark. The scarf is hooked up with a series of floral granny squares, and the kit features all you need to make it – plus a bonus tote. Find it online at www.loopknittingshop.com



DYE GUIDE

Handcarved Hooks have expanded into hand-dyed yarn, and are giving away a free e-book on natural dying to celebrate.

The new skeins are dyed in earthy pastels using pokeberries, cherries, sarsaparilla root, dandelions and even purple cabbage, and are available in a full range of weightings. Intrepid crafters can even try dying their own using the site's free e-book. Get yours from www.handcarvedhooks.com/yarn

CRANE GAINS SHADES

▼ Quince & Co have released three new shades within their beautiful Crane yarn collection. Pearland (ash grey), Bandera (charcoal grey) and Aquilla (blue, pictured below) join the other 12 natural shades. The yarn is a sumptuous blend of 50% super kid mohair and 50% South African superfine merino, for silky and soft feeling garments. See the range at quinceandco.com



NEW AMI COLLECTION

Amigurumi superfans, get ready for the latest pattern book to spice up your hooky life – *Amigurumi Collection* volume four. This newest compilation features more than 25 designs, divided into three sections – dolls, animals and 'just for fun'! Alongside some *Simply Crochet* favourites are plenty of new patterns, from floral fairies to sheep egg cosies! Projects are aimed at all levels of amigurumi hookster – so beginners can progress through the makes, while experts can just pick out their favourites! The book also contains an essentials guide to help you brush up on your techniques. See www.buysubscriptions.com/amigurumi4

Treat yourself

We Love...

For most of us Christmas has been a blur of making and creating – so why not reward yourself with an upgrade to your craft room? Red Candy have served a blinder with this fun trio of yarn bowls, to keep your balls on hand and unwinding gently – as opposed to unravelling wildly across the floor. Made from ceramic and finished with a glaze, the bowls feature a built-in hook to make feeding in your yarn super-easy, and also feature three holes to one side of the bowl to rest your hook in between crochet sessions. Choose from Remy the Ram, Sophie the Sheep and Kat the Cat, and never be alone during your crochet again!

Priced between £44 and £50 each, grab yours online from Red Candy – see their website www.redcandy.co.uk





CRAFTY_CC

Proud owner of one of the boldest, brightest Instas out there right now, Celine from Crafty_cc has found a firm fanbase through powering out projects hooked exclusively in rainbow brights. With such a talent for combining colour, we were surprised to find Celine has only been hooking for three-and-a-half years.

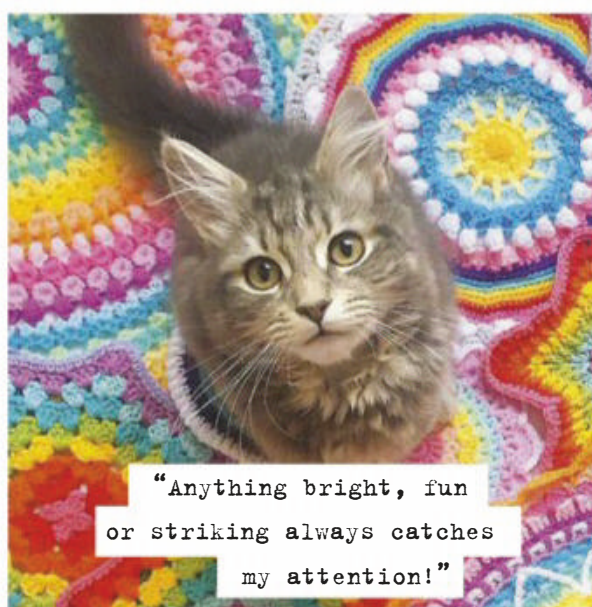
"I've always enjoyed crafting since I was little, but it wasn't until a few years ago that I decided to give crochet a go! After a long while trying to grasp the basics, I finally got the hang of it and the rest is history!"

"I really do love this craft – it has an incredibly therapeutic nature to it that I find extremely helpful, plus there are so many pretty things to make."

With such a superb and varied project range, it naturally follows that Celine never stops seeking inspiration for her designs. "I'm always looking for different types of patterns and textures I might come across throughout my daily life," she says. "Anything bright, fun or striking always catches my attention!"

Publishers have already caught on to this talented hookster's flair for design, with Celine invited to contribute to two books:

HOOKED



The Ultimate Granny Square Sourcebook from Meteeor Books and *3D Granny Squares* from David & Charles (see review right). "To have patterns published in a book is extremely exciting – definitely a 'pinch me' moment!"

Despite her hooky successes, Celine still has the same crochet struggles as all of us: "I hate sewing in ends, and only do it if it's absolutely necessary... This means that most of the things that you'll see in the photos I have posted have their ends tucked in behind them out of sight!" We can definitely relate! Find Celine on Instagram @crafty_cc for up to date pics of her projects in progress (plus the occasional cat picture), or see www.craftycc.com for patterns.

INSPIRING BOOKS



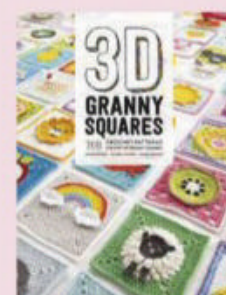
MODERN CROCHET BIBLE

SARAH SHRIMPTON

(£17.99, David & Charles)

Sarah Shrimpton (of the blog 'Annaboo's House') is back with another book to help you up your

crafting game! *Modern Crochet Bible* contains over 100 contemporary crochet techniques and even shows you how to put a modern twist on traditional ones. You can then put your new knowledge to the test with a choice of over ten projects, including a beautiful geometric wrap.



3D GRANNY SQUARES

CAITIE MOORE, SHARNA MOORE AND CELINE SEMAAN

(£15.99, David & Charles)

We love granny squares, and this book takes them

to a new level with 100 designs – each with a fabulous 3D element! Motifs include food, animals (the sheep is so cute!) and flowers. Each section has a selection of projects so you can find the perfect use for your favourite square.



KAWAII CROCHET

MELISSA BRADLEY

(£15.99, David & Charles)

If you can't get enough of adorable crochet, this is the book for you. These 40 cute-as-a-button

amigurumi patterns are arranged by colour, so you can fill your house with rainbows. The projects are suitable for even the most novice crocheter and include carrot cake, beet, Brussel sprouts, a bowl of Cheerios and fortune cookies. Why not bring a bit of Japanese culture into your home and embrace the kawaii life?



KNIT LIKE A LATVIAN: SOCKS

LEVA OZOLINA

(£15.99, David & Charles)

Leva Ozolina is back with another fascinating insight into Latvian culture and the role of knitting within

it – did you know that it's traditional for brides to give socks and mittens as gifts to guests on their wedding day? This book contains many more interesting facts along with 50 different styles of socks, using techniques like lace and cable.

SUBS STARS!

◀ Every month, three subscribers win a prize as thanks for their loyalty. This month, the winners (below) will each receive this fab amigurumi cupcake kit from DMC! Check your issue next month to see if you're a winner!

June Dawson, Newport

Rebecca Dodds, Ely

Ruth Clarke, Rochdale

Immediate Media Company, publishers of *Simply Crochet*, Subs Stars giveaway T's & C's Prizes were dispatched before the on-sale date of this issue. There are no cash alternatives. Three winning entries will be chosen at random from all current subscribers. The draw is final and no correspondence will be entered into.





EDEN COTTAGE

West Yorkshire yarn brand Eden Cottage have launched Brimham High Twist. A sister yarn to their existing Brimham 4ply, this version offers the same 85% superwash merino and 15% nylon yarn blend, but features a 2ply tight twist to make a solid, well-structured yarn. The yarn is available in both solid and variegated colourways – see them all at www.edencottageyarns.co.uk

NEW LOVE CROCHET OUT!

▼ The New Year's issue of *Love Crochet* comes out on December 19, as always crammed to the rafters with tempting and simple crochet patterns to make for yourself, your home or your family. And this issue has an extra-special gift too – a complete crochet kit plus pattern for you to hook up one of two ballerina cats! Find *Love Crochet* in newsagents or order through 03330 162 138, or buysubscriptions.com/LCR45



Great cause!

HEADWARMING INITIATIVE FROM JONAH'S HANDS

Breakout Insta-star Jonah Larson has teamed up with We Are Knitters to produce a special Charity Beanie kit to help raise money for his home country of Ethiopia.

The 11-year-old crochet prodigy, who has gained an Instagram following of 211K since news of his incredible crochet talents broke this year, is no stranger to charity work, donating a portion of his profits to the orphanage he was adopted from.

The kit costs £49, with 20% going to Roots Ethiopia to help improve the education and livelihoods of communities in Ethiopia. The beanie was designed by Jonah, and comes with everything you need plus customisable yarn colours. See www.weareknitters.co.uk



NEW STUDIO BABY SOFT DK

Deramores have launched Studio Baby Soft DK, a new range featuring wonderfully soft acrylic yarn which has been developed with anti-pilling technology to enable long-wearing robustness. The yarn is available in 20 shades of pastels, brights and neutrals, and additionally offers a gentle sheen to projects. It's also machine washable – ideal for baby garments and blankets. Find out more at www.deramores.com

Record attempt

A new record?

Remember Natalie Morrison, the hookster we reported on in issue 89 trying to break the world record for Longest Crochet Marathon? Well, we're happy to report that at 12.30pm on November 2, the inspiring hookster completed 24-and-a-half hours of continuous crochet, overcoming anxiety, osteoarthritis and fatigue to reach her goal. "I took paracetamols to allow my fingers to keep going and had lots of drink through a straw held by my volunteer witnesses (I couldn't put down my crochet to drink!)." Hitting a wall of exhaustion at 3am, Natalie still powered through and raised £2,500 for mental health charities, as well as five scarves from her hookwork! She is now in the long wait period to see whether the record attempt is officially accepted. Despite her success, the marathon crocheter will not be setting more records in a hurry: "I've learnt a lot about publicity and marketing, but also a lot about my strength when my mind was trying to beat me. Would I do it again?... NO!"





HARVEST HUES LIGHT ARAN RANGE LAUNCHES

John Arbon textiles has launched a new yarn range, Harvest Hues Worsted. The light aran weight yarn borrows from the classic palette of its sister skeins, the Harvest Hues 4ply, but offers a chunkier strand that's better suited to the cold garments of the season, and produces well-defined cabled patterns. There are 13 shades in the range, with the colours inspired the company's native Exmoor surroundings.

The yarn is a blend of local Devon farmed zwartbles and organically farmed Falkland's merino. The zwartbles sheep's wool is naturally dark brown, which give the dyed yarn its depth and richness. See the full range of Harvest Hues Worsted online at www.jarbon.com

5 FAB FINDS

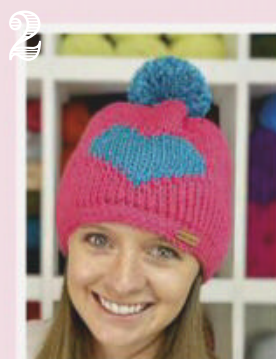
Heady hats

Embrace the chill with these feathered cold-weather friends



SLOPPY JO

We're loving the slouchy faux cables on Lorin Jean's casual but oh-so chic 'Cameron' beanie hat. Use a soft yarn for the best effect. Search for TwoGirlsPatterns on Etsy and Ravelry.

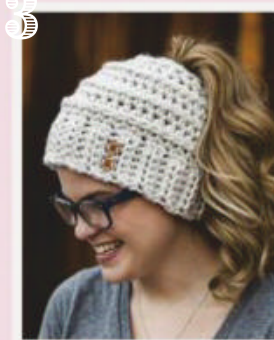


EXOTIC HEART

Tunisian crochet and colourwork in one hat – looks like it's time to level up your crochet skills! Get the free pattern at www.acraftyconcept.com – search 'Tunisian hat'.

BUZZIN' BEEHIVE

Chunky textured ribbing creates the look of a whicker beehive, and a hole at the crown lets you show off tumbling locks. Pattern from www.madewithathwist.com



4



PEAK-A-BOO

Hitting the slopes this winter? Don't leave home without our mountain horizon hat in your luggage. Check out issue 90's Hook to Hook for this peak hooky headwear.

CRISS-CROSS

Don't worry – the crossed stitches in Lindsay Allercot's 'Sweenie Beanie' are easier than they look! Find Lindsay on Ravelry or HooksYarnsand Loops on Etsy.



out & about

Skills, shows & events

15 FEB Natural Yarn Dyeing with Local Wool
£45, Creative Space, Bristol
www.riaburns.co.uk

21-23 FEB unravel
£TBC, Farnham Maltings, Surrey
<http://craft.farnhammaltings.com>

29 FEB Dye your own yarn workshop
£48, Dorking, Surrey
www.gilliangladrag.co.uk

13-15 MAR Dornoch Grand Fibre Fest
Dornoch, Sutherland
www.fibrefest.org.uk

15 MAR Cornwoolly
Pool, Cornwall
www.cornwoolly.co.uk



NEW STYLECRAFT YARN SHADES

Stylecraft have extended their range of colours in both the Special Aran and Chunky yarn lines.

The new shades for both lines are duck egg, Cornish blue, mustard, wisteria, bluebell and mocha. The colours have been especially chosen to match with the existing shades in the collection. See the full collection at www.stylecraft-yarns.co.uk





JUMP(ER) FOR MY LOVE

Grow and grow a granny square to make this bright and funky jumper, a casual garment that makes a striking statement you'll dare to wear.



SQUARE FLAIR

Garments and accessories are oh-so-easy to make using the iconic granny square motif

GRANNY SQUARE IDEAS



SLIPPER AND SLIDE

With just a few clever modifications to the granny square motif these slippers can be yours. This toe-toasting pair of foot cosies are ideal for late-night house venturings in winter.

RAINBOW CROSSING

Turn heads as you bag your goods with this bright and colourful messenger bag. For a tote bag version, just make the strap shorter so you can carry it in hand.





GRANNY SQUARE IDEAS



WINDERS KEEPERS

Scarves are often a first make for newbie hooksters, and it's easy to understand why. This quick and easy design is just perfect for blocking out the chill winter winds.

GLAD HATTER

The best thing about this simple hat design is its versatility – once you've mastered the easy pattern, a whole world of colourful variation is open to you, within both motif and pom-pom.

GRANNY SQUARE IDEAS



INTO THE FOLD

Diagonal folding and a simple button transforms an oversized granny square into a useful purse. Tailor it to your ideal size by increasing or decreasing the number of rounds.

HEAD PONCHO

This masterful make is the jewel in our granny square collection's crown – but despite its impressive look it still just uses the same easy techniques as the other makes – plus tassels!



GRANNY SQUARE IDEAS

GRANNY SQUARE PATTERN

Use this Granny Square pattern when working patterns from the collection. See individual patterns for tension and measurements information.

NOTES

For best results we recommend blocking all Squares prior to joining. If working a join as you go (JAYG) pattern you can block the Squares before the JAYG round.

GRANNY SQUARE

Make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch5 (counts as tr and ch2 throughout), (3tr, ch2) 3 times into loop, 2tr, ss to third ch of beg ch-5 to join, ss into ch-2 sp. [4 3-tr groups]

Round 2 Ch5, (3tr, ch1) into same sp, (3tr, ch2, 3tr, ch1) into next 3 ch-2 sps, 2tr into same sp as beg ch-5, ss to third ch of beg ch-5, ss into ch-2 sp. [8 3-tr groups]

Round 3 Ch5, (3tr, ch1) into same sp, *(3tr, ch1) into ch-1 sp, (3tr, ch2, 3tr, ch1) into ch-2 corner sp; rep from * twice more, (3tr, ch1) into next ch-1 sp, 2tr into same sp as beg ch-5, ss to third ch of beg ch-5, ss into ch-2 sp. [12 3-tr groups]

Round 4 Ch5, (3tr, ch1) into same sp, *(3tr, ch1) into each ch-1 sp to next corner, (3tr, ch2, 3tr, ch1) in ch-2 corner sp; rep from * around, 2tr into same sp as beg ch-5, ss to third ch of beg ch-5, ss into ch-2 sp. [16 3-tr groups]

Repeat Round 4 as many times as indicated in pattern.

Fasten off.

FINGERLESS MITTS

Fight the frosts with these rainbow-bright mittens, designed by Emma Leith

- West Yorkshire Spinners ColourLab DK (100% wool, 100g/225m), a small amount of each: Natural Cream (010), Harbour Blue (746), Crimson Red (556), Zesty Orange (476), Thistle Purple (717)
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook

TENSION

5 rounds measures 10x10cm (4x4in) over Granny Square pattern, using a 4mm hook or size needed to obtain correct tension

MEASUREMENTS

Mitts measure 16cm (6¼in) long and 21cm (8¼in) in circumference

MITTS

GRANNY SQUARE PANEL (MAKE 2 PER MITT)

Using the Granny Square pattern above, make a 5-round Square using the following colours: Harbour Blue for Round 1, Thistle Purple for



Round 2, Crimson Red for Round 3, Zesty Orange for Round 4 and Natural Cream for Round 5.

Fasten off.

JOIN SQUARES

Place two Squares together with WS facing out, whipstitch together along one side, corner to corner.

Whipstitch the opposite sides together over the first three 3-tr groups, leave the next group unjoined to create the thumb space, and join the final 3-tr group.

Fasten off.

WRIST BAND

With RS facing, join Harbour Blue into any ch-1 sp around base of Mitt (open side furthest from thumb space).

Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr throughout), tr in same sp, 2tr in each ch-sp around, ss to top of beg ch-3. [24 sts]

Fasten off and join Thistle Purple in sp between any 2-tr group.

Round 2 Ch3, tr in same sp, 2tr in sp between each 2-tr group from previous round, ss to top of beg ch-3.

Repeat Round 2 twice more using Crimson Red for Round 3 and Zesty Orange for Round 4.

Join Natural Cream into any st.

Round 5 Ch1 (does not count as a st throughout), dc in each st around, ss to beg dc.

Fasten off.

FINGER BAND

Join Harbour Blue into any ch-2 corner sp on opposite end of Mitt.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1, dc in ch-2 sp, dc in each st and ch-2 sp around, skipping all ch-1 sps, ss to beg dc. [34 sts]

Fasten off and join Thistle Purple into any st.

Round 2 (RS) Ch1, dc in each st around.

Repeat Round 2 twice more using Crimson Red for Round 3 and Zesty Orange for Round 4.

Fasten off and weave in all ends.

SLIPPERS

Who knew you could make slippers from simple stitched squares? By Fran Morgan

- West Yorkshire Spinners ColourLab (100% wool, 100g/225m), 1 ball of each: Natural Cream (010), Citrus Yellow (229), Harbour Blue (746), Crimson Red (556), Pear Green (186), Zesty Orange (476), Thistle Purple (717)
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook

TENSION

First 3 rounds of Granny Square pattern measures 7.5x7.5cm (3x3in)

MEASUREMENTS

Slippers measure 24cm (9½in) long

ABBREVIATIONS

dc seam With RS of Squares facing, work standard dc sts through both sts (including ch) of each layer of two Squares to join

NOTES

Each Slipper is made up of 6 Granny Squares joined together at the end with a dc seam. Refer to the construction diagram on this page when making up your Slippers. There are two Granny Square patterns, each using different colours. Each Slipper uses 3 Squares of each pattern.

SLIPPERS

GRANNY SQUARE 1 (MAKE 3)

Using Citrus Yellow, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr throughout), (2tr, ch2, 3tr, ch2) into loop, change to Zesty Orange, (3tr, ch2, 3tr, ch2) into loop, ss to top of beg ch-3 to join. [4 3-tr groups]



GRANNY SQUARE IDEAS

Join Zesty Orange into final ch-2 sp.

Round 2 (RS) Ch3, (2tr, ch1) into same ch-2 corner sp, (3tr, ch2, 3tr, ch1) into next ch-2 sp, (3tr, ch2) into next ch-2 sp, change to Citrus Yellow, (3tr, ch1) in same ch-2 corner sp as previous 3-tr group, (3tr, ch2, 3tr, ch1) in next ch-2 sp, 3tr, ch2 in same ch-sp as beg 3-tr group, ss to top of beg ch-3.

Join Crimson Red into final ch-2 corner sp.
[8 3-tr groups]

Round 3 Ch3, (2tr, ch1) into same ch-2 corner sp, *(3tr, ch1) into next ch-1 sp, (3tr, ch2, 3tr, ch1) into next ch-2 corner sp, (3tr, ch1) into next ch-1 sp**, (3tr, ch2) into next ch-2 sp, change to Thistle Purple, (3tr, ch1) into same sp; rep from * to ** once more, (3tr, ch2) into same ch-sp as beg 3-tr group, ss to top of beg ch-3.

[12 3-tr groups]

Join Thistle Purple into final ch-2 sp.

Round 4 Ch3, (3tr, ch1) into ch-2 sp, *(3tr, ch1) into each ch-1 sp across to next corner, (3tr, ch2, 3tr, ch1) in ch-2 sp, (3tr, ch1) in each ch-1 sp to next corner, (3tr, ch2) in next ch-2 sp**, change to Crimson Red, (3tr, ch1) in same ch-2 sp; rep from * to ** once more, ss to top of beg ch-3.

[16 3-tr groups]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

GRANNY SQUARE 2 (MAKE 3)

Work Rounds 1 and 2 as for Granny Square 1. Use Harbour Blue and Pear Green for Rounds 3-4.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO MAKE UP

Block each Square before joining. Using the diagram on page 93 join the Squares together with a dc seam. Make sure the RS of the Squares are facing throughout.

SPECTRUM BAG

Not just a bag but a shining statement of positivity, designed by Paula Green

- West Yorkshire Spinners ColourLab DK (100% wool, 100g/225m), 1 ball of each: Natural Cream (010), Citrus Yellow (229), Harbour Blue (746), Crimson Red (556), Pear Green (186), Zesty Orange (476), Thistle Purple (717)
- A 3mm (US C/2 or US D/3) hook
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- 4 stitch markers
- Lining fabric, 38x70cm
- Sewing thread

TENSION

Rounds 1-6 of Panel measure 14x14cm (5½x5½in) using a 3.5mm hook or size needed to obtain correct tension

MEASUREMENTS

Bag measures 34x37cm (13¾x14½in), excluding Handle

ABBREVIATIONS

spiked tr Yrh, insert hook into marked st 2 rounds below, yrh and pull loop up to height of current round, complete as standard tr st
spiked corner (3 spiked tr, ch2, 3 spiked tr, ch1) into marked ch-2 sp 2 rounds below

NOTES

Bag is made up of two Panels. The Handle and Side Panel is worked from one Panel and joined to second Panel at the end. Change colours on ch-1 sp between 3-tr groups. Carry unused yarn across the WS of work, trapping it in sts as you work. Do not carry Natural Cream used for spiked corner sts of Panel; wind off smaller balls of yarn to use for each corner instead.

BAG

PANEL (MAKE 2)

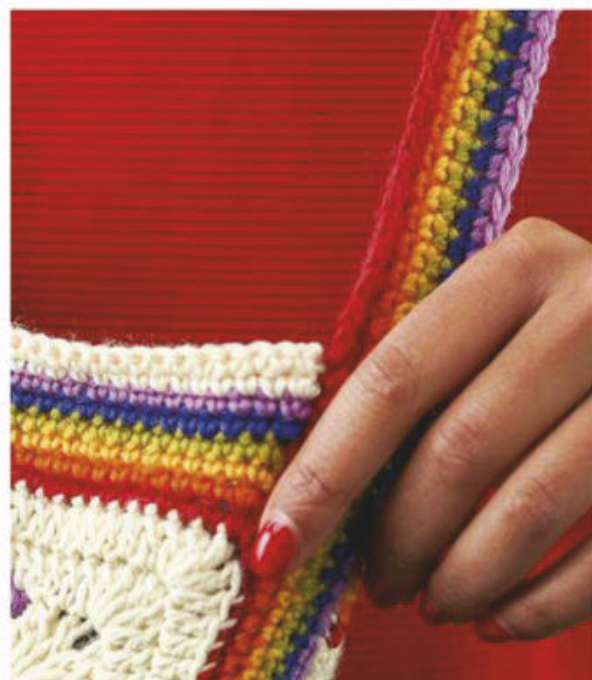
Using a 3.5mm hook and Natural Cream, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr throughout) (mark first st), 11tr into loop (mark fourth, seventh and tenth st), ss to top of beg ch-3 to join. [12 sts]

Round 2 (RS) Ch3, (2tr, ch2, 3tr, ch1) into st at base of ch-3, (3tr, ch2, 3tr, ch1) into each marked st around (do not remove markers), ss to top of beg ch-3. [8 3-tr groups]

Round 3 Ss to ch-2 corner sp, ch2 (does not count as st throughout), *spiked corner into marked st below (move marker to ch-2 sp on Round 2), change to Crimson Red, (3tr, ch1) into ch-1 sp, change to Natural Cream; rep from * 3 times more, ss to top of beg spiked tr. [12 3-tr groups]

Round 4 Ss to ch-2 corner sp, ch2, *spiked corner in marked ch-sp (move marker to ch-2 sp 1 round up), change to Crimson Red, (3tr, ch1) in each ch-1 sp across, change to Natural Cream; rep from * 3 times more, ss to top of beg spiked tr. [16 3-tr groups]



Rounds 5-14 As Round 4, replacing Crimson Red for Zesty Orange in Rounds 5-6, Citrus Yellow in Rounds 7-8, Pear Green in Rounds 9-10, Harbour Blue in Rounds 11-12, and Thistle Purple for Rounds 13-14.

[56 3-tr groups, or 236 sts including ch]

Fasten off all colours except Natural Cream.

Round 15 Ch3, *tr in each st and ch-1 sp to ch-2 corner sp, (2tr, 1dtr, 2tr) in ch-2 sp; rep from * around, ss to top of beg ch-3. [248 sts]

Round 16 Ch3, *tr in each tr to corner dtr, (2tr, 1dtr, 2tr) in corner dtr; rep from * around, ss to top of beg ch-3. [264 sts]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

RAINBOW BAND

With RS facing and using a 3.5mm hook, join Crimson Red into any dtr of Round 16.

Row 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as a st throughout), dc in each st to corner working final st into next dtr. [66 sts]

Join Zesty Orange into first dc.

Row 2 (RS) Ch1, dc in each st across.

Rows 3-8 As Row 2 using Citrus Yellow for Row 3, Pear Green for Row 4, Harbour Blue for Row 5, Thistle Purple for Row 6 and Natural Cream for Rows 7-8.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Repeat on second Panel.

HANDLE AND SIDE PANEL

Take one Panel and place markers on row ends of Row 1 of Rainbow Band. Use double strands of yarn on Handle and row ends of Rainbow Band, and single strand for sts on Panel.

With RS facing and Rainbow Band pointing up, use a 3mm hook to join double strand of Crimson Red to top right-hand corner of Panel, ch140, ss into top left-hand corner of Panel.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1, dc in each row end to next marker; working with single strand and carrying unused yarn, dc in bl of each st to next marker; working with 2 strands, dc in each row end, dc in each ch of Handle, ss to beg dc.



GRANNY SQUARE IDEAS

Change to double strand of Zesty Orange.

Round 2 (RS) Ch1, dc in each st to next marker; working with single strand, dc in each st to next marker; working with 2 strands, dc in each st to end, ss to top of beg dc.

Change to double strand of Citrus Yellow.

Rounds 3-6 As Round 2, using Citrus Yellow for Round 3, Pear Green for Round 4, Harbour Blue for Round 5, and Thistle Purple for Round 6.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

Using Thistle Purple, whipstitch Round 6 of Side Panel to second Panel, sewing through both loops of Side Panel and bl only of second Panel. Fold lining fabric in half, sew a 1cm seam along two sides, leaving side opposite the fold open. Fold a 1cm seam to the outside around the top opening edge. Place lining inside Bag, just below Row 1 of Rainbow Band, pin in place and, once happy with position, sew to Bag.

SCARF

A simple scarf that hooks up in super-quick time, designed by Sara Huntington

■ West Yorkshire Spinners ColourLab (100% wool, 100g/225m), 2 balls of Natural Cream (010); 1 ball of each: Citrus Yellow (229), Harbour Blue (746), Crimson Red (556), Pear Green (186), Zesty Orange (476), Thistle Purple (717)

■ A 6.5mm (US K10½) hook

■ Pompom maker, 4cm

TENSION

Tension is not critical for this project, but may affect size and yarn quantities required

MEASUREMENTS

Scarf measures 15x235cm (6x92½in)

NOTES

Scarf is worked using two strands of yarn held together as one throughout.

Scarf is made up of 15 Granny Squares, which are joined as you go (JAYG). Use the Granny Square pattern on page 22 when making your Squares.

SCARF

FIRST SQUARE

Using any two colours (except Natural Cream), held together as one strand, make a 3-round Granny Square.

Join two strands of Natural Cream into any ch-2 corner sp.

Round 4 (RS) As Round 4 of Granny Square pattern. [16 3-tr groups]

Fasten off.



JAYG SQUARE (MAKE 14)

Using any two colours (except Natural Cream), held together as one strand, make a 3-round Granny Square.

You will join the Square you are working on to the previous Square made, also referred to as the adjacent Square.

Join two strands of Natural Cream into any ch-2 corner sp.

JAYG round Ch3, 2tr into same sp, ch1, ss into any ch-2 sp on adjacent Square, ch1, 3tr in same sp as beg 3-tr group, (ss in next ch-1 sp on adjacent Square, 3tr in next ch-1 sp) across to next ch-2 corner sp, (3tr, ch1) into ch-2 sp, ss into ch-2 sp on adjacent Square, (3tr, ch1) in same ch-2 sp as previous 3-tr group, *(3tr, ch1) in each ch-1 sp to next corner, (3tr, ch2, 3tr, ch1) in ch-2 sp; rep from * twice omitting final corner, ss to top of beg ch-3.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

BORDER

Join 2 strands of Natural Cream into any corner of Scarf.

Round 1 Ch3, (2tr, ch2, 3tr, ch1) in corner, (3tr, ch1) in each ch-1 sp and sp between Squares across to next corner, (3tr, ch2, 3tr, ch1) in corner sp; rep from * three times more omitting final corner, ss to top of beg ch-3.

Fasten off.

POMPOMS (MAKE 8)

Use 2 colours for each. Join 4 pompoms evenly across each of the short ends of the Scarf.

HAT

Iconic crochet motif meets classic crochet make. Designed by Fran Morgan

■ West Yorkshire Spinners ColourLab (100% wool, 100g/225m), 1 ball of each: Natural Cream (010), Citrus Yellow (229), Harbour Blue

(746), Crimson Red (556), Pear Green (186), Zesty Orange (476), Thistle Purple (717)

■ A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook

TENSION

First 3 rounds of Granny Square pattern measures 7.5x7.5cm (3x3in)

MEASUREMENTS

Hat measures 52cm (20½in) in diameter

NOTES

Hat is made of twelve 4-round Granny Squares, which are joined as you go (JAYG) on the final round. If you prefer, keep the 12 Squares unjoined, then sew them together at the end. Once you have joined the 12 Squares you will add ribbing to one end and sew the opposite end closed.

Refer to the Granny Square pattern on page 22 when making the Squares.

HAT

GRANNY SQUARES (MAKE 12)

Using the Granny Square pattern, make a 3-round Granny Square with a different colour each round, using any colours except Natural Cream.

JOINING SQUARES

Squares are joined together as you work Round 4. Make a strip of 5 Squares, then join the next Square to the first and fifth Square to form a band. You will then continue joining the remaining 6 Squares in the same way, but also joining to the first band of Squares.

Join Natural Cream into any ch-2 corner sp of first Square and work Round 4 of Granny Square pattern.

Fasten off.

Join Natural Cream into any ch-2 corner sp on next Square.

JAYG round Starting with 2 adjacent sides to be joined, ch3 (counts as tr throughout), 2tr in



GRANNY SQUARE IDEAS

same sp, ch1, ss into ch-2 corner sp on first Square, ch1, 3tr in same ch-2 corner sp as first 3-tr group, (ss into next ch-1 on adjacent Square, 3tr in next ch-1 sp) twice, ss into ch-1 sp on adjacent Square, (3tr, ch1) in ch-2 corner sp, ss into ch-2 corner sp on adjacent Square, 3tr in same ch-2 corner sp as previous 3-tr group (side joined), cont working as Round 4 of Granny Square pattern for each unjoined side and as JAYG round above for each joined side, ss to top of beg ch-3.

Fasten off.

Continue until you have joined all 12 Squares.

RIBBING

Join Natural Cream to any ch-2 corner sp before a join.

Round 1 (RS) Ch2 (counts as BPtr throughout), working into each tr st along side of square; *FPtr into next ch-2 corner sp, (BPtr around next st, FPtr around next st) 6 times, BPtr in next ch-2 sp; rep from * 5 times more omitting final BPtr, ss to top of beg ch-2. [84 sts]

Rounds 2-5 (RS) Ch2, (FPtr around next FPtr, BPtr around next BPtr) around, ss to top of beg ch-2.

Fasten off.

TO FINISH

Using Natural Cream, sew the opening of the Hat closed, do not fasten off. Make a large pompom using all colours and use the tail to sew to the top of the Hat.

PURSE

Keep cash safe with Emma Leith's purse

■ West Yorkshire Spinners ColourLab (100% wool, 100g/225m), a small amount of each: Natural Cream (010), Citrus Yellow (229), Harbour Blue (746), Crimson Red (556), Pear Green (186), Zesty Orange (476), Thistle Purple (717)



■ A 4mm (US G/6 hook)

■ A button, 1cm diameter

TENSION

Tension is not critical for this project, but may affect yarn quantities required

MEASUREMENTS

Purse measures 15x16cm (6x6¼in)

NOTES

Purse is made using the Granny Square pattern on page 22.

PURSE

GRANNY SQUARE (MAKE 1)

Make an 11 round Granny Square using the following colours: Natural Cream for Round 1, Citrus Yellow for Round 2, Zesty Orange for Round 3, Crimson Red for Round 4, Thistle Purple for Round 5, Harbour Blue for Round 6, Thistle Purple for Round 7, Crimson Red for Round 8, Zesty Orange for Round 9, Citrus Yellow for Round 10 and Natural Cream for Round 11.

Fasten off.

BORDER AND JOINING

With RS facing, join Pear Green into any ch-2 corner sp.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as a st throughout), *(dc, ch1, dc) in corner sp, dc in each st and ch-1 sp to next corner; rep from * twice more, (dc, ch5, dc) in next corner sp (button loop made), dc in each st and ch-1 sp to end, ss to beg dc.

Fasten off.

Lay the Square out with WS facing up. Fold the 3 corners without the button loop into the centre and whipstitch together.

Fold the final corner down and sew the button in place so it lines up with the button loop.

PONCHO

A festival-ready make by Marianne Rawlins

■ West Yorkshire Spinners ColourLab DK (100% wool, 100g/225m), **Yarn A** Citrus Yellow (229), **Yarn B** Harbour Blue (746), **Yarn C** Crimson Red (556), **Yarn D** Pear Green (186), **Yarn E** Zesty Orange (476), **Yarn F** Thistle Purple (717), **Yarn G** Natural Cream (010)

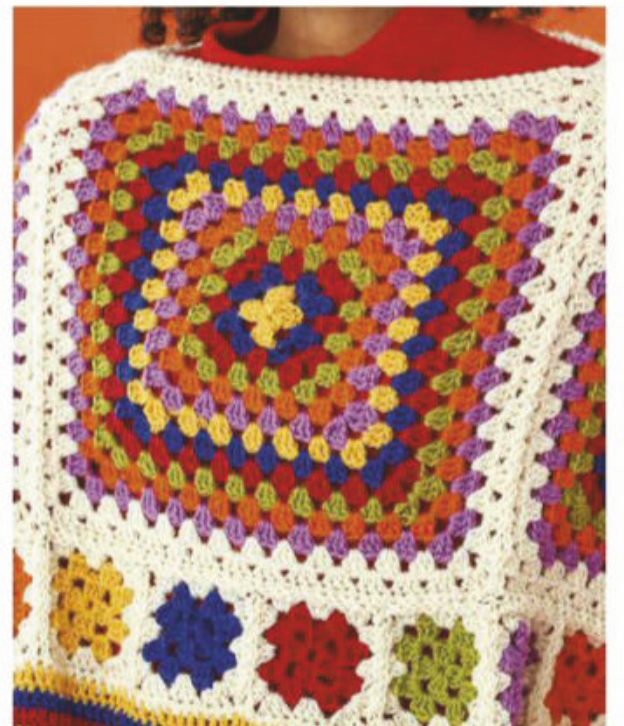
See table for measurements and yarn quantities

■ A 4mm (US G/6) hook

TENSION

4 rounds of Granny Square measures 10x10cm (4x4in) using a 4mm hook or size required to achieve tension (see Notes)

Border of 6 tr rounds and 3 dc rounds measures 8.5cm (3¼in) depth



NOTES

Poncho is made of 4 Large Granny Squares bordered by Small Granny Squares, and a striped round and Tassel edging. The sizing of the Poncho is determined by the number of rounds on the Large Squares. Choose your size based on your shoulder girth. For shoulder girth, measure the horizontal circumference around the shoulders, level with the top of the underarm crease. Make the size closest to your own shoulder girth. As an extra tension measure, you can check the finished dimensions of each Large Square by comparing them with the width at the top of the Poncho as shown on the measurements table, which is equal to the side of one of the Large Squares.

PONCHO

LARGE SQUARES (MAKE 4)

Follow the Granny Square pattern on page 22, using the colour sequence of 1 round of each colour from Yarns A-F. Work a total of 12 (13: 13: 14) rounds. Work a further 2 rounds using Yarn G. [14 (15: 15: 16) 3-tr groups on each side of Square]

SIZE ADULT M ONLY

Work a round of dc with Yarn G, working 1dc in each st around and (3dc, ch2, 3dc) in each corner ch-sp.

ALL SIZES

Fasten off.

SMALL SQUARES (MAKE 26 (28: 30: 32))

Follow the Granny Square pattern to make Squares with the first 2 rounds in one shade, and the third round in Yarn G. Make 24 (26: 28: 30) of these Squares using the colours in the centre evenly. For the final 2 Squares, work Round 1 in one shade, Round 2 in another shade, and Round 3 in Yarn G. These 2 Squares will be the 'corner' Squares.

GRANNY SQUARE IDEAS

TO MAKE UP

Sew the 4 Large Granny Squares together with Yarn G according to the Schematic, folding the Square at each side in half diagonally to join. Leave the top of front and back Squares open for the neckline.

Putting the 2 corner Small Squares aside, sew a strip of 12 (13: 14: 15) Small Squares together using Yarn G. Sew this strip along the bottom edge of the Large Squares so that it matches the length of 3 Large Square sides from corner to corner. Repeat for the other edge. Sew one of the corner Small Squares at each point to complete the round of Small Squares.

NECKLINE EDGING

Using Yarn G, join yarn to the top open edge with RS facing and work 2 rounds of dc around.

Fasten off.

If you want to make the neckline smaller, sew the neck together from each outside edge by the same amount each side.

BOTTOM EDGING

Join Yarn G in any st of the bottom edge.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in each st around working (3dc, ch2, 3dc) in each corner ch-sp, change to Yarn A.

Round 2 (RS) Ch3 (counts as a tr), tr in each st around working (3tr, ch2, 3tr) in each corner ch-2 sp.

Rounds 3-7 Rep Round 2, changing yarn every round in the sequence from Yarn B-F.

Round 8 Using Yarn G, rep Round 1.

With pieces of waste yarn, mark points approx 8cm apart evenly along bottom edge for position of Tassels.

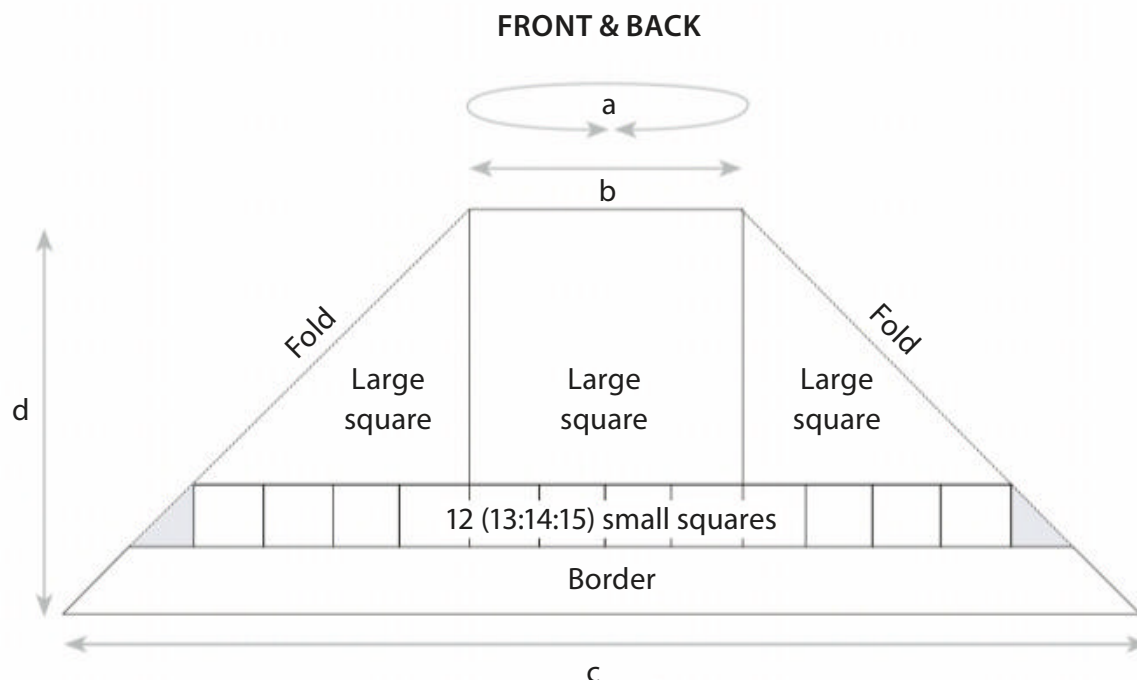
Round 9 Rep Round 1, working (ch2, skip 2 sts) every time you reach a marker.

Round 10 Rep Round 1, working 2dc in each tassel ch-2 sp.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TASSELS

Using the colours evenly, make a Tassel for each tassel ch-2 sp and each corner ch-2 sp with 10 strands of yarn measuring 15cm. Fold strands in half, pass ends through the loop made, trim to neaten ends.



Key

Corner small square

Shoulder Girth a: 88 (97: 106: 115)cm
34½ (38: 41¾: 45½)in

Width at top b: 30 (32.5: 35: 38)cm
11¾ (12¾: 13¾: 15)in

Width at hem c: 122.5 (130: 137.5: 145)cm
48¼ (51: 54: 57)in

Length d: 46 (48.5: 51: 54)cm
18 (19: 20: 21¼)in

SIZE		Child	Adult S	Adult M	Adult L
SHOULDER GIRTH	cm	88	97	106	115
	in	34½	38	41¾	45½
WIDTH AT TOP (WIDTH OF LARGE SQUARE)	cm	30	32.5	35	38
	in	11¾	12¾	13¾	15
WIDTH AT HEM	cm	122.5	130	137.5	145
	in	48¼	51	54	57
LENGTH (EXCLUDING TASSELS)	cm	46	48.5	51	54
	in	18	19	20	21¼
YARN A	100g	1	2	2	2
YARN B	100g	1	1	1	2
YARN C	100g	1	1	1	1
YARN D	100g	1	1	1	1
YARN E	100g	1	1	1	1
YARN F	100g	1	1	1	1
YARN G	100g	2	3	3	3

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



YARN STOCKISTS
West Yorkshire Spinners
01535 664500
www.wyspinners.com



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BRIGHT IDEA

For a jumper that demands attention, hook up Hannah Cross' beginner-friendly casual

GRANNY SQUARE JUMPER



YOU WILL NEED

- West Yorkshire Spinners ColourLab (100% wool, 100g/225m)
Natural Cream (010)
See table for measurements and yarn quantities of Natural Cream
1 ball of each for all sizes:
Crimson Red (556)
Zesty Orange (476)
Citrus Yellow (229)
Pear Green (186)
Thistle Purple (717)
Harbour Blue (746)
 - A 4.5mm (US 7) hook
 - Stitch markers
- For yarn stockists contact
West Yorkshire Spinners
01535 664500
www.wyspinners.com

TENSION

4 rounds measures 10x10cm (4x4in)
over granny square pattern using a
4.5mm hook, or size needed to
obtain correct tension

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92

We're used to seeing granny squares used in cushions and blankets, but these cheery motifs need not be confined to homewares. If you can hook a granny square, you can make this super-simple jumper project.

NOTES

Jumper is made up of 4 squares, 1 each for the Front, Back and Sleeves.
Use the Granny Square pattern on page 22 when working the Front, Back and Sleeves.
Turn after each round to alternate RS and WS facing rows; this prevents the squares from twisting and will help keep stitches aligned for joining. The Hem is added afterwards and is worked separately on Front and Back Panels, with a longer Back Hem.

JUMPER

FRONT

Work 21 (23: 25: 27) rounds using the Granny Square pattern and the following colour sequence:
*Natural Cream, Crimson Red, Zesty Orange, Natural Cream, Citrus Yellow, Pear Green, Natural Cream, Thistle Purple, Harbour Blue; rep from * until all rounds have been worked.
Fasten off.

BACK PANEL

Work 21 (23: 25: 27) rounds using the Granny Square pattern and the following colour sequence:
*Natural Cream, Harbour Blue, Thistle Purple, Natural Cream, Pear Green, Citrus Yellow, Natural Cream, Zesty Orange, Crimson Red; rep from * until all rounds have been worked.
Fasten off.

With RS facing, join Natural Cream into any stitch.
Next round Ch1, dc in each st and ch around, ss



The jumper is made up of four squares – front, back and the two sleeves – plus a white hem

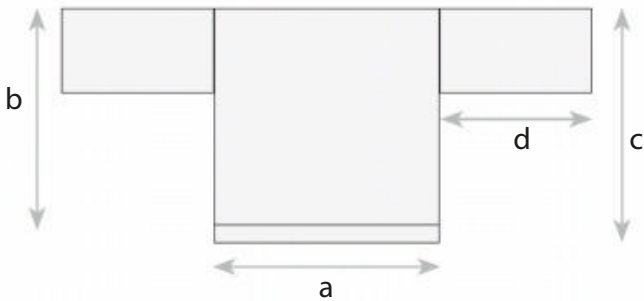
in beg dc to join.
Fasten off.
Repeat Natural Cream border on Front Panel.

SLEEVES (MAKE 2)

SIZES 8-10 AND 12-14 ONLY
Work 13 rounds using the Granny Square pattern and the following colour sequence
Crimson Red, Zesty Orange, Citrus Yellow, Pear Green, Thistle Purple, Harbour Blue, Natural Cream, Crimson Red, Zesty Orange, Citrus Yellow, Pear Green, Thistle Purple, Harbour Blue.

SIZES 16-18 AND 20-22 ONLY

Work 14 rounds using the Granny Square pattern and the following colour sequence
Natural Cream, Crimson Red, Zesty Orange, Citrus Yellow, Pear Green, Thistle Purple,



Bust width a: 52 (57: 62: 67)cm
20½ (22½: 24¼: 26¼)in
Length front b: 55.5 (60.5: 64.5: 69.5)cm
21¾ (23¾: 25½: 27¼)in
Length back c: 58 (63: 67: 72)cm
22¾ (24¾: 26¼: 28¼)in
Sleeve length d: 35 (36.5: 39: 40)cm
13¾ (14¼: 15¼: 15¾) in

SIZE		8-10	12-14	16-18	20-22
TO FIT BUST	cm	81-86	91-97	102-107	112-117
	in	32-34	36-38	40-42	44-46
ACTUAL BUST (APPROX)	cm	104	114	123.5	133.5
	in	41	44¾	48½	52½
LENGTH FRONT	cm	55.5	60.5	64.5	69.5
	in	21¾	23¾	25½	27¼
LENGTH BACK	cm	58	63	67	72
	in	22¾	24¾	26¼	28¼
SLEEVE LENGTH	cm	35	36.5	39	40
	in	13¾	14¼	15¼	15¾
NATURAL CREAM	100g	2	2	3	3

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

GRANNY SQUARE JUMPER

Harbour Blue, Natural Cream, Crimson Red, Zesty Orange, Citrus Yellow, Pear Green, Thistle Purple, Harbour Blue.

ALL SIZES

Join Natural Cream into any st.

Next round Ch1 (does not count as a st throughout), *dc in each st and ch-1 to ch-2 corner, dc in next ch, ch1, dc in next ch; rep from * around, ss to beg dc. [212 (212: 228: 228) sts]

Work a further 0 (1: 1: 2) rounds of dc in bl only, working (dc, ch1, dc) in each ch-1 corner sp. [212 (220: 236: 244) sts]

TO MAKE UP

Place Front and Back Panel together with WS facing out. Ss the shoulders together working through the fl on the upper Panel and the bl on the lower Panel, leaving 37 sts across the centre unworked for the neckline.

Fold Sleeve in half and pin fold line to the shoulder seam. Join the Sleeves to the Front and Back Panels as you did for the shoulder seams.

Seam the underarm seam of the Sleeves and side seams of the Panels in the same way, beginning at the Sleeve and making sure all the sts line up.

HEM

The 3-tr groups of the Hem are worked into the ch-1 sps on the final round of the granny squares and NOT the edging.

With RS facing, join Natural Cream to bottom corner of Front Panel.

Row 1 (RS) Ch2 (does not count as a st throughout), tr in corner, ch1, (3tr, ch1) in each ch-1 sp of final granny square round of Front Panel across to next corner, tr in corner, turn. [62 (68: 74: 80) sts]

Row 2 (WS) Ch2, tr in st at base of ch-2, (3tr, ch1) in each ch-1 sp across, tr in final st, turn. Repeat Row 2 another 1 (1: 0: 0) times.

Fasten off.

Repeat Hem on back Panel working a total of 5 (5: 4: 4) rows.

Fasten off.

CUFFS

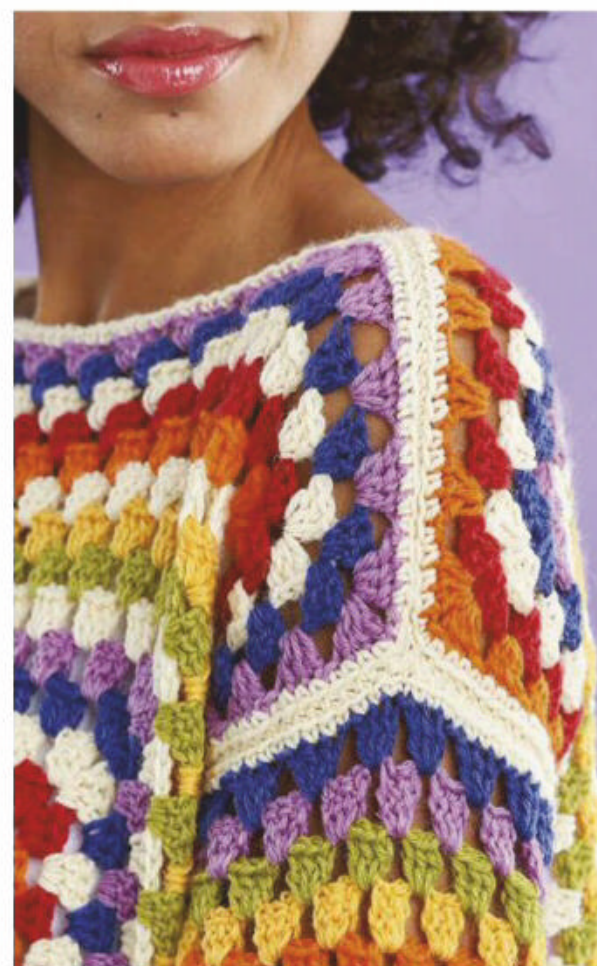
With RS facing, join Natural Cream to bl of stitch at Sleeve seam.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1, dc in bl of each st around, ss to beg dc to join.

Round 2 (RS) As Round 1.

Fasten off and weave in all ends.

Try hooking the back panel first as practice before the front



Once you've worked the four panels, slip stitch them together to make the jumper

Monster bunch

Hook up a tiny trio of trouble with these three mischief makers, designed by Kate McCully

THREE
TO MAKE!





YOU WILL NEED

- King Cole Bamboo Cotton (50% bamboo, 50% cotton, 100g/230m)
1 ball of each:
Yarn A Grey (522)
Yarn B Dusty Pink (618)
Yarn C Lemon (3199)
Yarn D Cream (538)
 - King Cole Moments (100% polyester, 50g/90m)
1 ball of each:
Yarn E Grey (3229)
Yarn F Soft Pink (479)
Yarn G Yellow (1610)
 - A 3mm (US C/2 or US D/3) hook
 - Toy stuffing
 - Stitch markers
 - 3 pairs safety eyes, 12mm, with flat metal washers
 - Stiff cardboard or plastic canvas
- For stockists contact**
King Cole 01756 703670
www.kingcole.com

TENSION

Tension is not critical for this project, but it may affect the yarn quantities required

MEASUREMENTS

Blue Fuzzy Monster measures 12cm (4¾in) tall
Pink Fuzzy Monster measures 11cm (4¼in) tall
Yellow Fuzzy Monster measures 8cm (3¼in) tall

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92

These mini monsters do sometimes hide under the bed, but it's certainly not to scare anyone – they're just a little shy. It can be tricky to see your stitches when working with eyelash yarn, so it's a good idea to use a targeted light source like a gooseneck lamp.

NOTES

Bodies are worked from base up; after the base all sts are worked in the bl only. After all parts are assembled, eyelash yarn is worked over surface of Monsters, in unused fl of Body. Monsters are 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. Cut out a circle in plastic or cardboard and place into each Monster before stuffing. This will reinforce the base. Instructions for this are written for the Blue Monster after Round 9.

BLUE MONSTER

BODY

Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (doesn't count as st throughout), 6dc into the loop. [6 sts]

Round 2 (RS) 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 next 2 sts) 6 times. [24 sts]

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

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

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

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

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

Place work on cardboard or plastic canvas, trace circle around it and cut slightly smaller than traced. Put aside to use later as reinforcement for base of Monster.

Rounds 10-23 Working in bl only from now to end of Body, dc in each st around. Place cut-out circle into base of Monster. Start stuffing Body and cont as you go.

Round 24 (Dc2tog, dc in next 7 sts) 6 times. [48 sts]

Round 25 (Dc2tog, dc in next 6 sts) 6 times. [42 sts]

Round 26 (Dc2tog, dc in next 5 sts) 6 times. [36 sts]

Round 27 (Dc2tog, dc in next 4 sts) 6 times. [30 sts]

Round 28 (Dc2tog, dc in next 3 sts) 6 times. [24 sts]

Round 29 (Dc2tog, dc in next 2 sts) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 30 (Dc2tog, dc in next st) 6 times.



For a seamless finish, the ears are worked in the round, and pinched to make a dimple



Trace around the bottom and cut card or plastic to create a stable base

[12 sts]

Round 31 (Dc2tog) 6 times. [6 sts]

Fasten off, thread tail through final 6 sts, pulling tight to close. Weave in ends.

EARS (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.

Rounds 1-4 (RS) As Rounds 1-4 of Body. [24 sts]

Rounds 5-10 Dc in each st around.

Round 11 (Dc2tog, dc in next 2 sts) 6 times. [18 sts]

Rounds 12-14 Dc in each st around.

Fasten off leaving a long tail for sewing.

FACE

Using Yarn D, ch5.

Round 1 (RS) 2dc in second ch from hook, dc in next 2 ch, 4dc in last ch, turn to work into opposite side of foundation ch, dc in next 2 ch, 2dc in next ch. [12 sts]

Round 2 (RS) 2dc in next st, dc in next 4 sts, 2dc in next 2 sts, dc in next 4 sts, 2dc in next st. [16 sts]

Round 3 2dc in next 2 sts, dc in next 5 sts, 2dc in next 3 sts, dc in next 5 sts, 2dc in next st. [22 sts]

Round 4 2dc in next st, dc in next st, 2dc in next st, dc in next 6 sts, 2dc in next st, dc, 2dc in next st, dc, 2dc in next st, dc in next 6 sts, 2dc in next st, dc. [28 sts]

Round 5 (Dc, 2dc in next st, dc, 2dc in next st, dc in next 9 sts, 2dc in next st) 2 times. [34 sts]

Round 6 (2dc in next st, dc, 2dc in next st, dc, 2dc in next st, dc in next 12 sts) 2 times. [40 sts]

Ss in next st.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

HORN

Using Yarn D, make a magic loop.

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

Round 2 (RS) Dc in each st around.

Round 3 (2dc in next st, dc in next 2 sts) 2 times. [8 sts]

Round 4 Dc in each st around.

Round 5 (2dc in next st, dc in next 3 sts) 2 times. [10 sts]

Round 6 Dc in each st around.

Round 7 (2dc in next st, dc in next 4 sts) 2 times. [12 sts]

Round 8 Dc in each st around.

Round 9 (2dc in next st, dc in next 5 sts) 2 times. [14 sts]

Round 10 Dc in each st around.

Fasten off leaving a long tail for sewing.

TAIL

Using Yarn D, make a magic loop.

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

Round 2 (RS) 2dc in next st (mark both sts), 2dc in next st, dc in next 4 sts. [8 sts]

Round 3 2dc in next 2 marked sts (mark first two sts), dc in each st around. [10 sts]

Rounds 4-11 As Round 3. [26 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

PINK MONSTER

BODY

Using Yarn B, make a magic loop.

Rounds 1-8 As Rounds 1-8 of Blue Monster Body. [48 sts]

Rounds 9-25 Working in bl only from now to end of Body, dc in each st around.

Place cut-out circle into base of Monster (see notes). Start stuffing Body and continue as you go.

Round 26-32 As Rounds 25-31 of Blue Monster Body. [6 sts]

Fasten off, thread tail through final 6 sts, pulling tight to close. Weave in ends.

FACE

Using Yarn D, work as Rounds 1-5 of Blue Monster Face.

Ss in next st.

Fasten off leaving a long tail for sewing.

HORNS (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn D, make a magic loop.

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

Round 2 2dc in next st (mark first st), dc in each st to end. [7 sts]

Round 3 2dc in marked st (move marker to first st), dc in each st to end. [8 sts]

Rounds 4-12 As Round 3. [17 sts]

Fasten off leaving a long tail for sewing.

TAIL

Using Yarn B, as Pink Monster Horn using Yarn B.

Fasten off leaving a long tail for sewing.

SPINE 1 (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn B, make a magic loop.

Round 1 Ch1, 5dc into the loop. [5 sts]

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

Rounds 3-5 Dc in each st around.

Fasten off leaving a long tail for sewing.

SPINE 2 (MAKE 1)

Using Yarn B, make a magic loop.

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

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

Rounds 3-5 Dc in each st around.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

SPINE 3 (MAKE 1)

Using Yarn B, make a magic loop.

Rounds 1-5 As Rounds 1-5 of Spine 2. [12 sts]

Round 6 Dc in each st around.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

YELLOW MONSTER

BODY

Using Yarn C, make a magic loop.

Rounds 1-7 As Rounds 1-7 of Blue Monster Body [42 sts]

Rounds 8-18 Working in bl only from now to end of Body, dc in each st around.

Place cut-out circle into base of Monster (see notes). Start stuffing Body and cont as you go.

Rounds 19-24 As Rounds 26-31 of Blue Monster Body. [6 sts]

Fasten off, thread tail through final 6 sts, pulling tight to close. Weave in ends.

EARS (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn C, make a magic loop.

Rounds 1-3 As Rounds 1-3 of Blue Monster Body. [18 sts]

Rounds 4-8 Dc in each st around.

Fasten off leaving a long tail for sewing.

HORNS (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn D, make a magic loop.

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

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

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

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

Round 5 (2dc in next st, dc in next 5 sts) 2 times. [14 sts]

Round 6 (2dc in next st, dc in next 6 sts) 2 times. [16 sts]

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

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

TAIL

Usign Yarn C, as Rounds 1-9 of Pink Monster Horn.

Fasten off leaving a long tail for sewing.



The eyelash yarn is worked into leftover front loops over the base stitches of the body



Using safety eyes means the toys are not suitable for children under 36 months

FACE

Using Yarn D, as Rounds 1-4 of Blue Monster Face, ss in next st.

Fasten off leaving a long tail for sewing.

TO ASSEMBLE

Secure 2 safety eyes on each Face and using Yarn B, embroider a mouth. Position Face onto corresponding Body, push eye posts between sts of Body and sew in place.

Attach Ears, Horns and Tails to corresponding Bodies, then place Spine 3 just above Pink Monster's Tail, followed by Spine 2 and Spine 1, last of which sits at top of Head. Weave in all ends.

TO FINISH

Once all parts are attached, crochet eyelash yarn over surface of each monster, in leftover front loops of Body, avoiding the face.

Join Yarn E in first front loop at base of Blue Monster's Body.

Round 1 Dc into each fl until Body is covered from base to top; as you come to attached parts, change direction of work or fasten off and rejoin yarn, as needed.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Repeat using Yarn F for Pink Monster, and Yarn G for Yellow Monster.

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Square zeal

Concentric squares hook up into a showstopping statement necklace. By Gwen Butte McGannon



YOU WILL NEED

- Scheepjes Maxi Sweet Treat (100% cotton 25g/140m)
1 ball of each:
Yarn A Vivid Blue (146),
Yarn B Delphinium (113)
Yarn C Hot Red (115)
Yarn D Green Yellow (245)
Yarn E Shadow Purple (394)
- A 1.65 mm (US 7 steel) hook

For yarn stockists contact
Scheepjes
www.scheepjes.com/en

TENSION

Tension is not critical for this project, but it may affect the yarn quantities required

MEASUREMENTS

Necklace measures 66cm (26in) in diameter

ABBREVIATIONS

FPtr3tog (Yrh, insert hook around post of st indicated, yrh and pull through 2 loops) 3 times, yrh and pull through all loops on hook

For a full list, see page 92

From boho necklace to hip belt to mini bunting, these tiny motifs are an instant brightener. If you haven't hooked 2ply thread before you might want to practise the pattern in a thicker yarn beforehand, as mistakes are tricky to unpick at this size.

NOTES

Each Square is worked in rounds, joining new colours at the beginning of each round when indicated. Use Yarn E for the final round of all Squares. Use Yarns A, B, C and D in any order for all other rounds.

Squares are joined together as you go, mixing Large and Small Squares in any order. Begin by making a Small Square, and join all further Squares on the final round of each Square.

NECKLACE

SMALL SQUARE (MAKE 14)

Using any colour except Yarn E, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr throughout), (2tr, ch4) into loop, (3tr, ch4) 3 times into loop, ss to top of beg ch-3 to join. [12tr, 4 ch-4sp]

Fasten off and join any colour except Yarn E into any ch-4 sp.

Round 2 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as a st throughout), *dc in ch-4 sp, ch4, FPtr3tog over next 3 sts, ch4; rep from * 3 times more, ss to top of beg dc. [4 dc, 8 ch-4 sps, 4 FPtr3tog]

Fasten off and join Yarn E into any FPtr3tog. Work Round 3 on the first Square made, then work the JAYG round for all remaining Squares.

Round 3 Ch1, *(dc, ch3, dc) in FPtr3tog, ch4, dc in next dc, ch4, 2dc in next FPtr3tog, ch4, dc in



Join squares as you go, mixing large and small motifs in any order to suit your taste

next dc, ch4; rep from once more, ss to beg dc. [12 dc, 8 ch-4sp, 2 ch-3 sp]

JAYG Ch1, (dc, ch1) in FPtr3tog, ss in ch-3 sp adjacent Square, (ch1, dc) in same FPtr3tog, *ch4, dc in next dc, ch4, 2dc in next FPtr3tog, ch4, dc in next dc, ch4**, (dc, ch3, dc) in next FPtr3tog; rep from * to **, ss to beg dc. [12 dc, 8 ch-4sp, 2 ch-3 sp]

Fasten off.

LARGE SQUARE (MAKE 15)

Using any colour except Yarn E, make a magic loop.

Round 1 As Round 1 of Small Square. [12tr, 4 ch-4sp]

Fasten off and join any colour except Yarn E into first tr of any 3-tr group.

Round 2 Ch2 (does not count as a st), (FPtr around next 3 sts, ch4, skip ch-sp) 4 times, ss to top of beg FPtr. [12 FPtr, 4 ch-4sp]

Fasten off and join any colour except Yarn E into first tr of any 3-tr group.

Round 3 As Round 2.

Fasten off and join any colour except Yarn E into first tr of any 3-tr group.

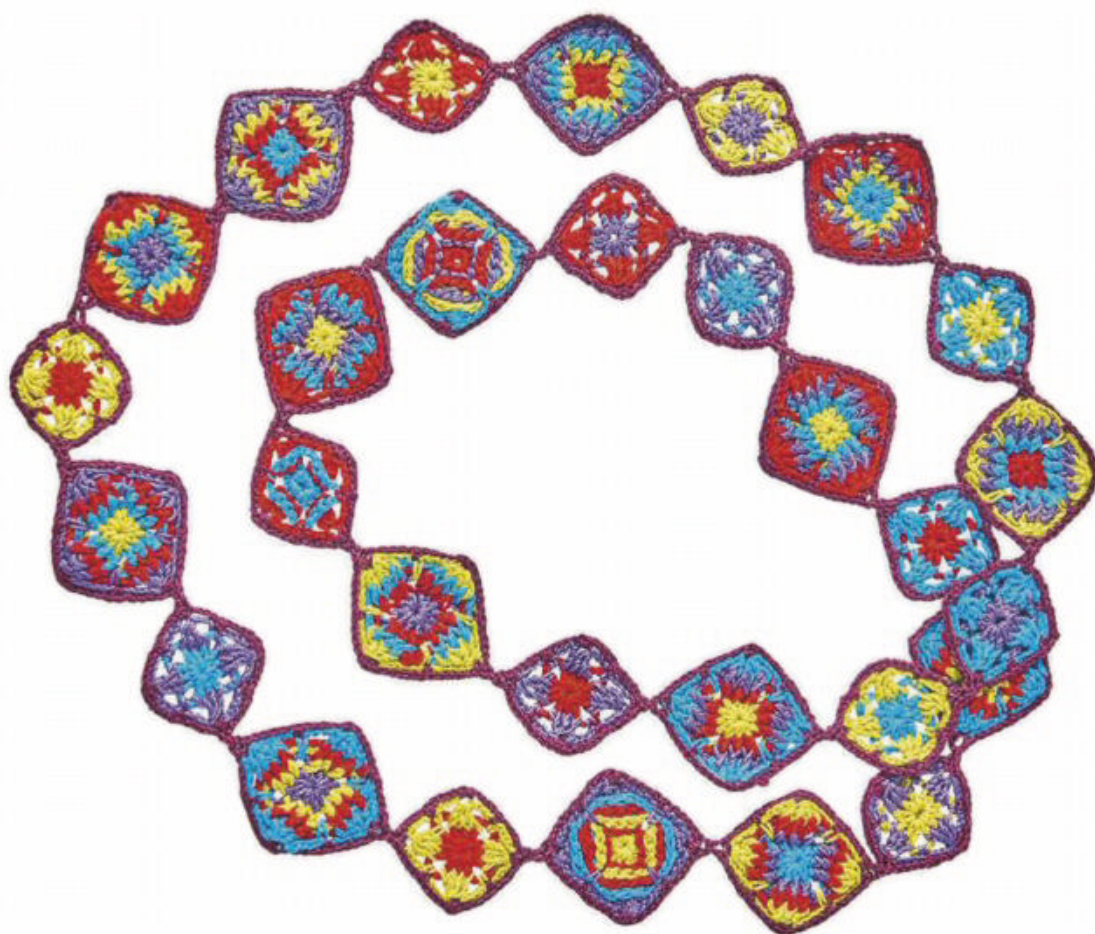
Round 4 Ch2, (FPtr3tog, ch4, dc around ch-4 sps on previous 3 rows, ch4) 4 times, ss to top of beg FPtr3tog. [4 FPtr3tog, 4 dc, 8 ch-4 sp]

Fasten off and join Yarn E into any FPtr3tog.

JAYG As JAYG Round on Small Square.

[12 dc, 8 ch-4sp, 2 ch-3 sp]

Fasten off.



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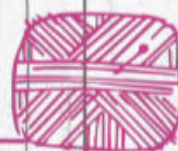
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MISSED AN ISSUE?



ISSUE NINETY-ONE

Get those last-minute Christmas gifts all tied up with our quick-hook festive presents! Other merry makes include our bottle holder, ice fade tablecloth, Tunisian entrelac dog coat, 'scarfdigan' project and cowl and handwarmers set. Plus, it's the final part of our Christmas cushion mini-CAL!

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ISSUE NINETY

Bright Christmas decorations, motif cardigan, chunky jumper, beanie hats, mobius cowl, doll.



ISSUE EIGHTY-NINE

Winter accessories, squish bears, country cardigan, mermaid angels, legwarmers, needlefelting.



ISSUE EIGHTY-EIGHT

Upcycled kitchen accessories, festive CAL, jumbo lion, baby blanket, leaf motif top, floral drop earrings.



ISSUE EIGHTY-SEVEN

Cool linen holiday accessories, shark pouffe, sleep mask, embellished jacket, watermelon handbag.



ISSUE EIGHTY-SIX

Sun and shade homewares, pet blanket, basket embellishment, fantasy creatures.



ISSUE EIGHTY-FIVE

Spots and stripes accessories, hand puppets, blossom shawl, garden rug, neon napkin rings.



ISSUE EIGHTY-FOUR

Tropical home makes, raffia hat, arrowhead shawl, cherry motif, hedgehog toy, craft room organisers.



ISSUE EIGHTY-THREE

Filet garments, swan cushion, delft bag, Moomin toy, festival socks, modesty panel, tasselled blanket.



ISSUE EIGHTY-TWO

Coral jumper, perfect pompoms, treetops throw, tote bag, dandelion cushion, pastel home makes.



ISSUE EIGHTY-ONE

Colourful kitsch makes, star-motif bobble jumper, avocado cushion and pug amigurumi.



ISSUE EIGHTY

Jumbo crochet home furnishings, Tunisian crochet cushion, hexie-puff blanket and simple tote bag.



ISSUE SEVENTY-NINE

Animal print makes for the home, rose clutch purse, cute baby booties and amigurumi mouse.



ISSUE SEVENTY-EIGHT

Rainbow makes, cute slippers, amigurumi reindeer doll, on-trend cushions and cosy poncho.

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SHARNA'S JOURNAL

...from the studio

Sharna Moore takes a look back over the last 12 months, reflecting on top projects and how her hookwork has progressed



"I am a huge fan of granny squares"

Wow what a year! I've been lucky enough to have had some great opportunities come my way and I feel like my pattern design has progressed immensely. I've treated myself to delicious new yarn, discovered new crochet stitches and enjoyed mixing different colour combos and textures. I've been majorly inspired by the change of seasons. I spent my summer barefoot on sandy beaches and as we entered autumn my work exploded with rusty oranges and mustard shades.

NOT ANOTHER BLANKET

At the beginning of the year, and through the winter months my days are spent snuggled indoors in front of my burning log fire, starting yet another big chunky blanket – most of which are sadly destined to end up unfinished in the WIP naughty corner. I can be a little capricious with my work – dropping projects, often moving on because I've decided instead to make yet another hat or cowl or scarf with the lovely new yarn I've just purchased. But – no regrets! These special projects usually get finished and end up on my head or wrapped around my neck. I just love that feeling of wearing a hat or garment that you've made to perfectly suit you, and which you know is an absolute one-off.

GRANNY SQUARES ON THE BRAIN

Over the year I was asked if I wanted to collaborate on a book about 3D granny squares. I am a huge fan of granny squares, so this was right up my street! However, it certainly did not mean I could breeze through it – as I had a six- to eight-week deadline I had to plan my work carefully, allocating a time limit for each square. It was not a matter of crocheting a granny square and popping a cute crochet motif on top, as my square needed to incorporate anything from a pineapple to a snail. Overall I designed a total of 35 squares alongside a few projects. My family were my best critics; if they guessed the square correctly it would make the cut... some squares I made were hilarious fails and had us in fits of giggles! Once the project was over, for months afterwards when falling asleep all I could think about was granny squares.

BAG LADY

My favourite bag make of 2019 was one created from a big ball of string and two round wooden handles. The texture was amazing – the string made the bag so strong that it could carry two bottles of wine to that summer barbecue with ease. Everybody loved it, which gave me a great feeling of satisfaction. I also made another bag – it was a similar sort

"I love that feeling
of wearing a hat you've
made to perfectly suit you"





“My favourite stitch
this year has to be star stitch”

of pattern but with the design of two large granny squares, which was perfect for using up lots of my scrap yarn. I also had a play with some raffia yarn and whipped myself up a gorgeous little clutch bag, which accompanied me to two weddings this year.

A HOOKY HOLIDAY ROMANCE

We had a stunning family holiday in Corfu this year. The beaches were covered with beautiful sea glass, and in a moment of inspiration I managed to crochet around a stunning piece of sea glass I found and turn it into a delightful pendant. Near where we stayed the apartment blocks and villas were painted a spectrum of shades of pink with the most amazing green shutters. I was so happy I had a bag of cotton yarn with me to match those colours and enjoyed some of my days sitting by the beach or pool crocheting beautiful African flower squares.

Over the year I have thoroughly enjoyed playing with different stitches, fibres, gorgeous textures and unusual colour combos, from shades of different browns, pinks,

greys, purples and neutrals you might not think would work together. I took the pressure off myself and made a rule that I didn't have to work on a project every time I picked up my hook. Instead, I wanted to enjoy the simple pleasure of playing and having fun with colours and learning new stitches, so I just swatched to my heart's content. My favourite stitch this year has to be the star stitch, hooked up using the biggest, softest chunky yarn, which creates a fabulous texture. Definitely a stitch to use again!

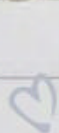
My key takeaways from over the last 12 months is to enjoy what I do, be kind to myself have fun with my makes. It's the boundless creativity of crochet that makes it such a special craft, so we should all embrace this and never be afraid to experiment in our projects!

Keep up with Sharna online at www.sweetsharna.com, or follow her on Instagram @sweet_sharna

SQUARE-EYED CROCHET



My year was mainly all things granny squares, to the point my family and friends said I could crochet anything into a square! Just for fun I shared a few cute and easy free pat terns on my blog - of a cactus, pumpkin and lemon square.





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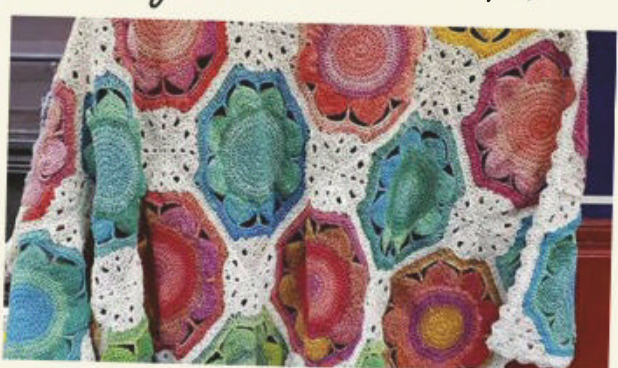
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Mostly armless

Sleeves transform into legwarmers with a little Emma Friedlander-Collins knowhow



YOU WILL NEED

■ Caron Simply Soft (100% acrylic, 170g/288m), 1 ball of each:

Yarn A Neon Yellow (9773)

Yarn B White (9701)

Yarn C Neon Coral (9772)

■ Jumper sleeves

■ A 4mm (US G/6) hook

■ Tapestry needle

■ Embroidery needle

For yarn stockists contact

Wool Warehouse 01926 882818

www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

TENSION

Tension is not critical for this project, but it may affect the yarn quantities required

MEASUREMENTS

Measurements dependant on size of sleeves used

ABBREVIATIONS

hump st Work as standard htr but work into the third loop that sits at the back of each st, when turning after each row the third loop will be facing you and just below the fl of the st

For a full list, see page 92

Pop socks won't cut it come chilly winter – think taller and thicker with these cosy legwarmers. This project also explains how to cut knitted fabric without it fraying – a key learning for any aspiring fashion-hacker.

NOTES

Sleeves come in all different shapes and sizes, so think of this as a set of guidelines rather than strict instructions. The principle of working crochet around hand-sewn stitches will stay the same, but take the time to play and experiment with the number of stitches you might need to get the right shape and feel of fabric you are creating. Remember, there is no right or wrong way to do this, it's all about enjoyment and remaking things!

LEGWARMERS

HOW TO CUT KNIT FABRIC

When knitting, people often use a needle and a thread to 'save' a row. To do this you work a row of running stitches through the knit fabric, feeding the needle through each knit stitch so that it's safe on the thread. When you want to cut into a knitted fabric you use the same technique. You can either cut the sleeve first and work your stitches in a few centimetres below the cut or work the stitches first and then cut the sleeve.

01 Using an embroidery needle and a length of Yarn A, work a row of running stitches through knit fabric, picking up each stitch in a row. Do not tie off or knot either end as you want to keep these long and loose for now.



LEGWARMER

02 Join Yarn A into any running st with a dc.

Round 1 (RS) (Skip next 2 sts, dc in next st) repeat around, ss to beg dc to join.

Round 2 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc around, ss to first st.

Rounds 3-8 Using Yarn B, ch2 (counts as tr), tr around, ss to first st.

Rounds 9-10 Using Yarn C, ch1, dc around, ss to first st.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

RIBBING

03 Using Yarn C, ch8.

Row 1 Starting from second ch on hook, htr across, turn. [7 sts]

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

Row 3 Ch2, htr in bl of each st to end, turn.

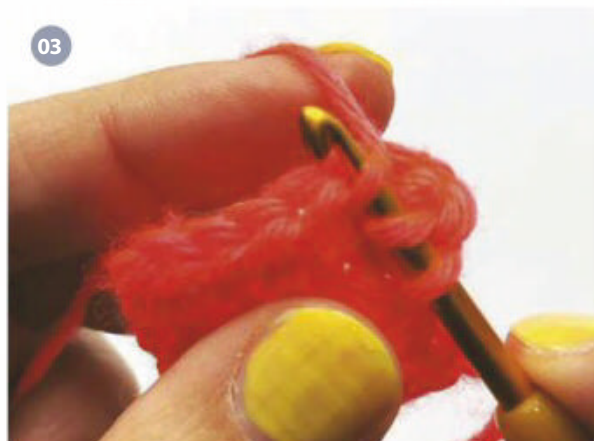
Repeat Rows 2-3 another 14 times or until length matches circumference of Legwarmer.

Fasten off leaving a long tail.

TO FINISH

04 Whipstitch edge of Ribbing to edge of Legwarmer, then stitch together first and last row of Ribbing.

Tie a knot in Yarn A used for running sts to secure it, making sure not to pull yarn to tight. Turning work inside out, trim sleeves to 1cm above runner st row to minimise bulking. Weave in all ends.





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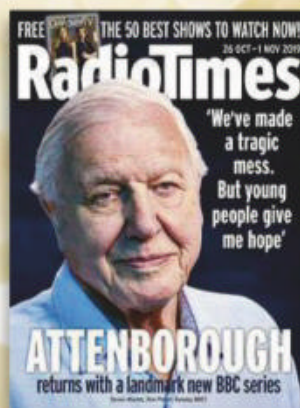
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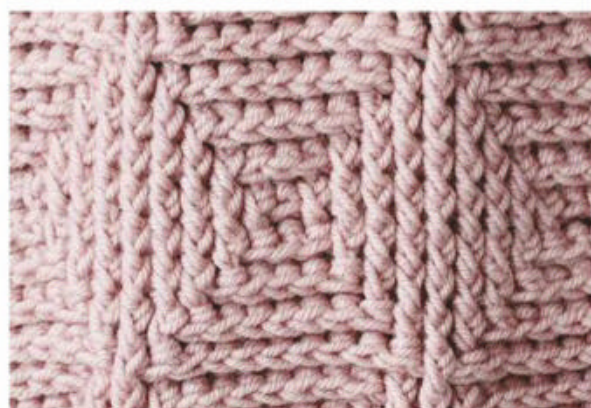
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*Too chic for the
high street!*





Pretty in pink

Diamond-stitch patterns are a girl's best friend in Catalina Ungureanu's pearl-pink jumper



YOU WILL NEED

- Rico Essentials Merino DK (100% wool, 50g/120m) Pearl Pink (16)
See table for measurements and yarn quantities
 - A 4mm (US G/6) hook
 - A 4.5mm (US 7) hook
 - Stitch markers
- For yarn stockists contact**
Rico Design
www.rico-design.co.uk

TENSION

17sts and 13 rounds to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over Main Stitch Pattern with a 4.5mm hook or size required to achieve tension; this is the measurement before blocking

ABBREVIATIONS

- mm** Move marker to sp before next st
- pm** Place marker in sp before next st
- twisted dc** Insert hook in next st, pull up a loop keeping both loops on hook loose, turn hook counter clockwise, yrh and pull through both loops

For a full list, see page 92

The alternating front and back post stitch pattern gives a wonderful 3D effect to this truly delicious, feminine jumper. A wardrobe essential, perfect for all ages and occasions.

NOTES

Jumper is worked from top down in the round from the RS throughout, in a one-piece Yoke to the armholes. It is divided at the armholes for the Sleeves and Body and then continued in the round. Edgings are added at hem and neckline.

The stitch patterns are written out before the start of the pattern instructions. The Main Stitch Pattern (StPatt) is worked throughout, and there is an Increase Pattern (IncPatt), which occurs 4 times in the round of the Yoke at the join between Sleeves and Front/Back. There are also 3 special Double Increase (DoubInc) rounds spaced evenly throughout the Yoke.

STITCH PATTERNS

MAIN STITCH PATTERN (StPatt)

Worked over a multiple of 10 sts.

- Round 1** 1BPtr, 9 FPtr.
 - Round 2** 2BPtr, 7FPtr, 1BPtr.
 - Round 3** 3BPtr, 5FPtr, 2BPtr.
 - Round 4** 4BPtr, 3FPtr, 3BPtr.
 - Round 5** 5BPtr, 1FPtr, 4BPtr.
 - Round 6** As Round 4.
 - Round 7** As Round 3.
 - Round 8** As Round 2.
- Rounds 1-8 set pattern.

INCREASE PATTERN (IncPatt)

- Round 1** 1BPtr, (FPtr, ch2, FPtr) in ch-2 sp.
- Round 2** 2BPtr, (FPtr, ch2, FPtr) in ch-2 sp, 1BPtr.
- Round 3** 3BPtr, (FPtr, ch2, FPtr) in ch-2 sp, 2BPtr.
- Round 4** 4BPtr, (FPtr, ch2, FPtr) in ch-2 sp, 3BPtr.
- Round 5** 5BPtr, (FPtr, ch2, FPtr) in ch-2 sp, 4BPtr.
- Round 6** 4BPtr, FPtr in each st to ch-2 sp, (FPtr, ch2, FPtr) in ch-2 sp, FPtr in each st to 3 sts before next marker, 3BPtr.

Round 7 3BPtr, FPtr in each st to ch-2 sp, (FPtr, ch2, FPtr) in ch-2 sp, FPtr in each st to 2 sts before next marker, 2BPtr.

Round 8 2BPtr, FPtr in each st to ch-2 sp, (FPtr, ch2, FPtr) in ch-2 sp, FPtr in each st to 1 st before next marker, 1BPtr.

Round 9 1BPtr, FPtr in each st to ch-2 sp, (FPtr, ch2, FPtr) in ch-2 sp, FPtr in each st to next marker.

DOUBLE INCREASE PATTERN (DoubInc)

Round 1 1BPtr, 8FPtr, (2FPtr, ch2, 2FPtr) in ch-2 sp, 8FPtr to next marker.

Round 2 4BPtr, 1FPtr, (2FPtr, ch2, 2FPtr) in ch-2 sp, 1FPtr, 3BPtr to next marker.

Round 3 2BPtr, 7FPtr, 1BPtr, (2FPtr, ch2, 2FPtr) in ch-2 sp, 1BPtr, 7FPtr, 1BPtr to next marker.

JUMPER

YOKE

The IncPatt begins in Round 1. Most rounds increase by 8 sts each round, by working (FPtr, ch2, FPtr) in each ch-sp. There are also 3 DoubInc rounds spaced evenly throughout the Yoke, where you will increase by 16 sts in the round, by working (2FPtr, ch2, 2FPtr) in each ch-sp. The Abbreviations state which round of the appropriate pattern (written out above) to work. For example 'StPattR3' is Round 3 of the Main Stitch Pattern, 'IncPattR4' is Round 4 of the Increase Pattern and 'DoubIncR2' is Round 2 of the Double Increase Pattern.

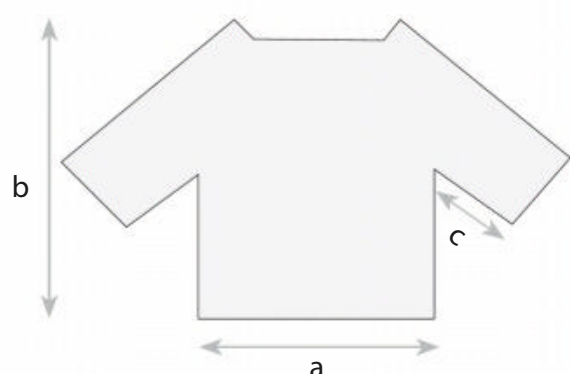
The StPatt for **Size 12-14** begins at Round 3.

Using a 4.5mm hook, ch108 (**104: 108: 108**), ss to first ch being careful not to twist ch.

Foundation round (RS) Ch2 (does not count as st throughout patt), tr in each st around, ss to top of first tr. [108 (**104: 108: 108**) sts]

SIZES 8-10, 16-18 AND 20-22 ONLY

When working IncPattR1 in the following round, work the (FPtr, ch2, FPtr) into the next st instead of the ch-2 sp.



- Bust width a:** 47 (**53: 59: 64.5**)cm, 18½ (**20¾: 23: 25½**)in
- Length b:** 53 (**56: 59: 62**)cm, 20¾ (**22: 23¾: 24½**)in
- Sleeve length c:** 25 (**26: 27: 28**)cm, 9¾ (**10¼: 10½: 11**)in

SIZE		8-10	12-14	16-18	20-22
TO FIT BUST	cm	81-86	91-97	102-107	112-117
	in	32-34	36-38	40-42	44-46
ACTUAL BUST (APPROX)	cm	94	106	118	129
	in	37	41½	46¼	51
LENGTH	cm	53	56	59	62
	in	20¾	22	22¼	24½
SLEEVE LENGTH	cm	25	26	27	28
	in	9¾	10¼	10½	11
PEARL PINK	50g	16	18	21	25

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

Round 1 Ch2, StPattR1 [10 sts], pm, IncPattR1 [3 sts and ch-2 sp], pm, (StPattR1) 2 (-: 1: 1) times [20 (-: 10: 10) sts], pm, IncPattR1 [3 sts and ch-2 sp], pm, (StPattR1) 3 (-: 4: 4) times [30 (-: 40: 40) sts], pm, IncPattR1 [3 sts and ch-2 sp], pm, (StPattR1) 2 (-: 1: 1) times [20 (-: 10: 10) sts], pm, IncPattR1 [3 sts and ch-2 sp], pm, StPattR1 2 (-: 3: 3) times, ss to top of first st. [8 markers, 10 (-: 10: 10) patt reps, 12 sts and 4 ch-2 sps]
Markers separate the StPatt and IncPatt sections throughout. Move markers up on the following rounds, keeping them between the sts.

Round 2 Ch2, *StPattR2 to marker, IncPattR2 [5 sts and ch-2 sp]; rep from * 3 times more, StPattR2 to end, ss to top of first st.

Round 3 Ch2, *StPattR3 to marker, IncPattR3 [7 sts and ch-2 sp]; rep from * 3 times more, StPattR3 to end, ss to top of first st.

SIZE 12-14 ONLY

When working IncPattR3 in the following round, work the (FPtr, ch2, FPtr) into the next st instead of the ch-2 sp.

Round 3 Ch2, StPattR3 [10 sts], pm, IncPattR3 [7 sts and ch-2 sp], pm, StPattR3 [10 sts], pm, IncPattR3 [7 sts and ch-2 sp], pm, (StPattR3) 3 times [30 sts], pm, IncPattR3 [7 sts and ch-2 sp], pm, StPattR3 [10 sts], pm, IncPattR3 [7 sts and ch-2 sp], pm, (StPattR3) twice, ss to top of first st. [8 markers, 8 patt reps, 28 sts and 4 ch-2 sps]
Markers separate the StPatt and IncPatt sections throughout. Move markers up on the following rounds, keeping them between the sts.

ALL SIZES

Round 4 Ch2, *StPattR4 to marker, IncPattR4 [9 sts and ch-2 sp]; rep from * 3 times more, StPattR4 to end, ss to top of first st.

Round 5 Ch2, *StPattR5 to marker, IncPattR5 [11 sts and ch-2 sp]; rep from * 3 times more, StPattR5 to end, ss to top of first st.



The diamond-like stitch pattern is made of groups of front post trebles and back post trebles

Rounds 6-8 Cont in patt as set, following StPatt and IncPatt for the round you are working. [10 (8: 10: 10) patt reps, 17 sts and ch-2 sp in each IncPatt section after Round 8]

The following round is a Double Increase round, so note the changes in the patt:

Round 9 Ch2, *StPattR1 to marker, DoublIncR1 [21 sts and ch-2 sp]; rep from * 3 times more, StPattR1 to end, ss to top of first st.

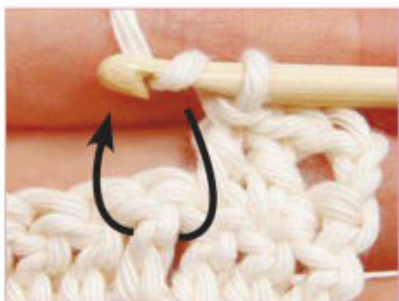
Move markers where indicated in the following round, to take in the extra StPatt reps created

by the increases:

Round 10 Ch2, (StPattR2) twice [20 sts], mm, IncPattR1 [3 sts and ch-2 sp], mm, (StPattR2) 4 (3: 3: 3) times [40 (30: 30: 30) sts], mm, IncPattR1 [3 sts and ch-2 sp], mm, (StPattR2) 5 (5: 6: 6) times, mm, IncPattR1 [3 sts and ch-2 sp], mm, (StPattR2) 4 (3: 3: 3) times [40 (30: 30: 30) sts], mm, IncPattR1 [3 sts and ch-2 sp], mm, (StPattR2) 3 (3: 4: 4) times, ss to top of first st. [18 (16: 18: 18) patt reps, 12 sts and 4 ch-2 sps]

Round 11 Ch2, *StPattR3 to marker, IncPattR2 [5 sts and ch-2 sp]; rep from * 3 times more, StPattR3 to end, ss to top of first st.

SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO WORK A FRONT POST TREBLE STITCH



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



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



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



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

Round 12 Ch2, *StPattR4 to marker, IncPattR3 [7 sts and ch-2 sp]; rep from * 3 times more, StPattR4 to end, ss to top of first st.

Round 13 Ch2, *StPattR5 to marker, IncPattR4 [9 sts and ch-2 sp]; rep from * 3 times more, StPattR5 to end, ss to top of first st.

The following round is a Double Increase round:

Round 14 Ch2, *StPattR6 to marker, DoublIncR2 [13 sts and ch-2 sp]; rep from * 3 times more, StPattR6 to end, ss to top of first st.

Round 15 Ch2, *StPattR7 to marker, IncPattR7 [15 sts and ch-2 sp]; rep from * 3 times more, StPattR7 to end, ss to top of first st.

Round 16 Ch2, *StPattR8 to marker, IncPattR8 [17 sts and ch-2 sp]; rep from * 3 times more, StPattR8 to end, ss to top of first st.

Round 17 Ch2, *StPattR1 to marker, IncPattR9 [19 sts and ch-2 sp]; rep from * 3 times more, StPattR1 to end, ss to top of first st.

The following round is a Double Increase round:

Round 18 Ch2, *StPattR2 to marker, DoublIncR3 [23 sts and ch-2 sp]; rep from * 3 times more, StPattR2 to end, ss to top of first st.

This is the end of the Yoke for Size 8-10. Do not fasten off, continue to Armhole/Body Divide.

SIZES 12-14, 16-18 AND 20-22 ONLY

Move markers where indicated in the following round, to take in the extra StPatt reps created by the increases:

Round 19 Ch2, (StPattR3) 3 times [30 sts], mm, IncPattR2 [5 sts and ch-2 sp], mm, (StPattR3) 5 times [50 sts], mm, IncPattR2 [5 sts and ch-2 sp], mm, (StPattR3) – (7: 8: 8) times, [- (70: 80: 80) sts], mm, IncPattR2 [5 sts and ch-2 sp], mm, (StPattR3) 5 times [50 sts], mm, IncPattR2 [5 sts and ch-2 sp], mm, (StPattR3) – (4: 5: 5) times [- (40: 50: 50)sts], ss to top of first st.

[- (24: 26: 26) patt reps, 20 sts and 4 ch-2 sps]

Round 20 Ch2, *StPattR4 to marker, IncPattR3 [7 sts and ch-2 sp]; rep from * 3 times more, StPattR4 to end, ss to top of first st.

Round 21 Ch2, *StPattR5 to marker, IncPattR4 [9 sts and ch-2 sp]; rep from * 3 times more, StPattR5 to end, ss to top of first st.

Round 22 Ch2, *StPattR6 to marker, IncPattR6 [11 sts and ch-2 sp]; rep from * 3 times more, StPattR6 to end, ss to top of first st.

Round 23 Ch2, *StPattR7 to marker, IncPattR7 [13 sts and ch-2 sp]; rep from * 3 times more, StPattR7 to end, ss to top of first st.

This is the end of the Yoke for Sizes 12-14 (total of 20 rounds of StPatt) and 16-18. Do not fasten off, continue to Armhole/Body Divide.

SIZE 20-22 ONLY

Round 24 Ch2, *StPattR8 to marker, IncPattR8 [15 sts and ch-2 sp]; rep from * 3 times more, StPattR8 to end, ss to top of first st.

Round 25 Ch2, *StPattR1 to marker, IncPattR9 [17 sts and ch-2 sp]; rep from * 3 times more,

StPattR1 to end, ss to top of first st.

ARMHOLE/BODY DIVIDE

Round 1 Ch2, work in Round 3 (8: 8: 2) of StPatt over first 30 sts, cont in StPatt over next 2 (7: 7: 9) sts to first ch-sp (first part of Back), *ch7 (7: 7: 13) for underarm, skip (ch-sp, 63 (63: 63: 67) sts of Sleeve, ch-sp), cont in St Patt working last 1 (6: 6: 8) sts of StPatt repeat**, cont in StPatt over next 72 (77: 87: 89) sts to next ch-sp (Front); rep from * to **, cont in StPatt over last 40 (40: 50: 50) sts (second part of Back), ss to top of first st. [160 (180: 200: 220) working sts]

Round 2 Ch2, work in Round 4 (1: 1: 3) of StPatt around, working 1tr in each ch of underarm, ss to top of first st. After the tr in each underarm ch you will need to pick up the StPatt rep part way through, by working the last 1 (6: 6: 8) sts of the repeat before continuing.

Round 3 Ch2, work in next round of StPatt as set, ss to top of first st.

Cont working in StPatt as set until Jumper measures 51.5 (54.5: 57.5: 60.5)cm from the shoulder, ending on a Round 4 or 8 of the Stitch Pattern, do not fasten off.

EDGING

Change to a 4mm hook.

Rounds 1-2 Ch1, dc in each st around, ss to first dc.

Round 3 Turn to WS, ch1, dc in first st, twisted dc in each st around, ss to first st.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

SLEEVES

Using a 4.5mm hook, rejoin yarn in other side of 5 (5: 5: 8)th st of underarm ch with RS facing.

Round 1 (RS) Ch2, 3 (3: 3: 6) tr in other side of underarm ch, work last 1 (6: 6: 8) sts of StPatt repeat of Round 3 (8: 8: 2), cont in StPatt over next 62 (57: 57: 59) sts to underarm ch, tr in rem 4 (4: 4: 7) sts of underarm ch, ss to top of first st. [70 (70: 70: 80) sts]

Round 2 Ch2, work last 4 (9: 9: 4) sts of StPatt repeat of Round 4 (1: 1: 3), cont in StPatt around, ss to top of first st.

Round 3 Ch3, work in next round of StPatt as set, ss to top of first st.

Cont working in StPatt as set until Sleeve measures approx 23.5 (24.5: 25.5: 26.5)cm ending on a Round 4 or 8 of the Stitch Pattern, do not fasten off.

Change to a 4mm hook and work Edging as for Body.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

NECKLINE EDGING

Using a 4mm hook, rejoin yarn to centre back of neckline with RS facing and repeat Edging as for Body.

Fasten off and weave in ends. Block to measurements.



Create the edging with two rounds of dc, then a round of twisted dc on the wrong side



The jumper is worked from the yoke down, divided at the armholes to make the sleeves

SAVE OR SPLURGE

For a more budget-friendly make, try King Cole Cherished DK in Blush. If working the garment in one colour you will need the equivalent of 8 (9: 11: 12) balls. *Check hook size, tension and ball length if you use a different yarn.*

For yarn stockists contact
King Cole 01756 703670
www.kingcole.com

URGENT APPEAL: help Syrian refugee parents like Khitam to protect their children through the winter.



Khitam lives with her children, husband Abdelsalam, and his elderly parents in a single, damp room of a half-built apartment block near Tripoli, Lebanon.

There are holes in the walls and ceiling, and they share a toilet with other refugee families crammed into the building. Khitam and Abdelsalam are mentally and physically exhausted after years of struggling to survive, unable to earn a living and fighting a daily, relentless battle to feed their children.

Right now, they are terrified by the prospect of another winter in their cold, uninsulated single room. Another winter where they will feel every blast of icy wind. Another winter where every time their children cough or sneeze they will fear they have contracted a lethal respiratory condition like pneumonia or tuberculosis.

UNHCR, the UN Refugee

Agency, needs your support to help parents protect their children this winter.

Please will you give £75 to provide a refugee family like Khitam's with a Winter Survival Kit to protect against the freezing weather?

The kit contains essentials such as a heating stove, thermal blankets, warm clothes and a tarpaulin for insulation. It could mean survival for a family like Khitam's.

Two winters ago, as a result of their exposed and unsanitary living conditions, Khitam and all of her children became ill. Baby Bilal had a high temperature and diarrhoea. Her sons Khaled (3, pictured) and Abdul Rahman (8) had chest infections and their sister

100mph.
Wind speed during Storm Norma, Lebanon, January 2019.



Fatimah (4) contracted worms. Khitam herself developed painful growths on her throat and lost her voice. Without access to a free healthcare system like we have in the UK, Khitam became overwhelmed with worry about how to pay for the treatment and medicines her children needed.

"I felt helpless. My children were coughing and crying and there was nothing I could do."

Khitam believes that without assistance from UNHCR "my children would be dead".

Across Lebanon and Jordan, seven of the last eight winters have brought heavy snowfall and temperatures regularly drop below 0°C.

Right now, with the conflict continuing in Syria, 1.7 million refugees in Lebanon and Jordan remain unable to return home. They are living, like Khitam's family, in derelict buildings, or in

makeshift shelters made of little more than wood and plastic sheeting. With temperatures falling, the lives of the most vulnerable – young children, pregnant women and the elderly – are at grave risk.

With a gift of £75 you can provide a Winter Survival Kit containing a stove, blankets, warm clothes and a tarpaulin to help a family insulate and heat their home. Please give today – you could save the lives of children like Khitam's.

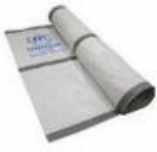
Give £75
to provide a Syrian refugee family with a Winter Survival Kit

Visit unhcr.org/wintersupport or call **0800 029 3883**

With £75, you can give a Winter Survival Kit containing:



STOVE
For heating and cooking. An absolute essential.



TARPAULIN
For insulation. Keeps the cold out and the warmth in.



BLANKET
Families left their homes with nothing. A simple blanket could save a life.



WARM CLOTHES
Hats, gloves and scarves keep families warm, indoors and out.

Yes, I will help Syrian refugee families survive the winter



Please accept my gift of: ☐ £75 ☐ £150 ☐ £225 My own choice of £

Please post urgently to: **Freepost UNHCR**. You do not need a stamp. SCPAW119A

Please debit my: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Maestro Maestro only

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Signature Date / /

☐ I enclose a cheque or postal order made payable to UNHCR (Currently CAF cheques cannot be accepted)

Please tell us if you are happy to hear more about UNHCR's work: ☐ By email ☐ By phone

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Title First name Last name

Address

Postcode

Email Phone



Inspired by the need for stretch crochet swimwear, Jasmin is launching her own line, Jasmin Jones Swim

PASSION FOR FASHION

Australian designer Jasmin Jones threads her hook with raffia to create stylish 3D creations – from high fashion garments to accessories, bags and jewellery...

Forget woven tablemats and ladies' hats – in Byron Bay, Australia, a high fashion revolution is taking place as Jasmin Jones deftly demonstrates how the classic craft material raffia can be combined with crochet to make modern masterpieces that can be worn with pride.

Not everyone armed with hook and yarn would think to come up with sculptural designs that can be worn as jewellery or accessories, but Jasmin has the perfect background for this departure. "My original training was in Fine Art at the National Art School, Sydney Australia. I majored in painting, but in hindsight I probably should have majored in sculpture. After some travel I returned to Australia and went on to do further study in Fine Jewellery and led me to

have my own jewellery label for the following 25 years. I still create fine jewellery today."

A crocheter since she was a child, she "put the hook down for many years" but was drawn back while living in Dublin in 2001 surrounded by winter fashions. In 2007 Jasmin suffered a major health event followed by a very long convalescence, which allowed her to focus on her crochet, as well as helping with her recovery.

"I was seeing incredibly couture crochet pieces going down runways and that inspired me like crazy, especially designers like Jean Paul Gaultier (2007 Haute Couture). From that time on crochet and textiles started creeping into my fine jewellery work, and already being a jewellery designer and maker I immediately started to create my own patterns to enable the design outcomes

I wanted. Silk and leather were some of the first materials I used, teamed with precious metals, stones and pearls."

FASHION WITH FIBRE

It was a passion for vintage fashion that piqued Jasmin's interest in using raffia instead of yarn to make her crochet jewellery. "Those wonderful Italian crochet rayon raffia dresses, bags and hats that were made in the '40s '50s and '60s always sang to me," she explains. "It's the texture of raffia that I love so deeply, along with its many possible applications – I find it perfect for creating accessories, homewares, and 3D pieces."

Her fine art background also plays its part during the design process as drawing is a daily practice for Jasmin. "I draw constantly, and a pencil and sketch pad is a handbag



staple along with my crochet. You never know when inspiration will start to flow," she says. "Also drawing ideas out on paper helps me with the construction and problem solving process. Interestingly some ideas can take years to manifest from the sketch, but I know if I didn't draw the idea when it first came to me it would probably never actualise."

While raffia is her go-to material she also likes to work with leather and super-fine threads. "I like to use unconventional materials, I really enjoy experimenting. I also love the challenge of working micro which is probably a natural progression from being a jeweller for so many years. My favourite crochet tools are my lace hooks, as I mostly work under 1mm."

The fashion runways, as well as pieces from art history, continue to provide plenty of design ideas for Jasmin to draw from. "What really inspires and excites me is haute couture, art, and different fibre and textile practices across cultures and throughout history. I'm a museum hag! Some of my favourite subjects are Indigenous weaving, traditional Irish crochet and everything Japanese."

"Oscar del a Renta just sent some fabulous crochet raffia garments down the runway, as did D&G again this season. Balmain also often features crochet in their collections. I do admire Brazilian designer Helen Rodel, I find her crochet designs modern and contemporary, and she has a really individual vision – she has her own yarn which has a stretch element to it."

MAKING WAVES

Developing her own stretch yarn is something that Jasmin is also working on at the moment – for a very particular reason.

"Being an Aussie, I love the beach, and in Oz we live in swimwear for nine months of the year. About five years ago I thought, wouldn't it be great to create stretch crochet swimwear, because cotton crochet just doesn't cut it for the active woman, plus cotton has that tendency to make one look like a piece of strung meat on the Sunday dinner table, unless you're a skinny minnie..."

"I shelved the idea many times, because I couldn't find or create a yarn that I felt was truly right. The current range I'm developing is unique in the sense that it's 'pull-on' similar to active wear, not tie-on. It functions in the water, no sag or bag, is comfortable, supportive and sits nicely on the body. Jasmin Jones Swim is still in development and under wraps – I hope to go into production soon."

With her jewellery work and projects such as this in the pipeline, Jasmin still finds the time to teach – running crochet workshops in the Byron Bay area. "I've designed five crochet courses, all are designed around skill building and technique, with a strong emphasis on pattern reading," she explains. "Pattern reading allows a person to go on

"I WAS SEEING INCREDIBLE CROCHET COUTURE PIECES GOING DOWN RUNWAYS AND THAT INSPIRED ME LIKE CRAZY"

with their own crochet journey beyond me and I really encourage this.

"I love the teaching process, imparting crochet to others and watching someone literally get hooked is always a delight, I often have a wee chuckle to myself. Besides

learning to make beautiful crochet I see so many people receive additional benefits from crocheting – there's a lot of solace to be found with hook and yarn. It builds confidence, is

meditative, soothes anxiety and helps build new neuron pathways and often brings a sense of community.

"I've taught a lot in Western Australia – there are lots of community projects there which are very dear to me. But I hope to retire to Italy with my hooks when I'm old and devote myself to art and community." We suspect retirement is still some way away for such a dynamic creative power.

Written by Lucy Evans



A few of her favourite things

When Jasmin's not crocheting, you can find her...

"Connecting with nature daily is important to me. I like to walk on the beach, paddle board and dance like no one's looking. Travel is a passion and it's creatively stimulating."

www.jasminjones.com.au, @jasminjonesdesign on Instagram, www.facebook.com/Jasmin-Jones-Design-282100746440

Top dog

Supersize your blanket's snuggle factor with this happy puppy. By Pat Strong



PUPPY BLANKET



YOU WILL NEED

- Debbie Bliss Baby Cashmerino (55% wool, 33% acrylic, 12% cashmere, 50g/125m)
6 balls of **Yarn A** Ecru (101)
2 balls of **Yarn B** Mouse (309)
 - A small amount of black and red DK yarn
 - A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
 - A 4mm (US G/6) hook
 - Polyester toy stuffing
- For yarn stockists contact**
LoveCrafts 01409 404010
www.lovecrafts.com

TENSION

Tension is not critical for this project but it may affect the yarn quantities required

MEASUREMENTS

Blanket measures 62x62cm (24½x24½in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92

Comfort blankets just got more comforting courtesy of Mungo the dog. Part blanket and part toy, he'll ensure your toddler is all smiles, and as a bonus his patches will help camouflage those inevitable spills, too.

NOTES

Blanket is worked in rows following the Chart on page 93 for all colour changes. Each small square represents 1htr st, read RS rows from right to left and WS rows from left to right. The first two rows of the Chart have been written out to guide you.

Change colour on the final yrh of st before colour change is indicated.

The spots are worked using the intarsia technique, do not carry the yarn, instead use separate balls for each section of colour.

The Ears and Legs are worked in the amigurumi method, working in a continual spiral without closing off each round with a ss. You may find it helpful to place a marker in the first st, moving it up as you work.

BLANKET

Using a 4mm hook and Yarn A, ch112.

Row 1 (RS) Htr in third ch from hook and each ch across, turn. [110 sts]

Row 2 (WS) Ch2 (does not count as st), htr in each st across, turn.

Row 3 Ch2, htr in first 39 sts, change to Yarn B, htr in next 8 sts, change to Yarn A, htr in rem 63 sts, turn.

Row 4 Ch2, htr in first 62 sts, change to Yarn B, htr in next 10 sts, change to Yarn A, htr in rem 38 sts, turn.

Rows 5-77 Continue working rows of htr, using the Chart on page 93 for colour changes.

Fasten off.



The puppy's head is crocheted as two pieces from the neck up, then seamed together

BORDER

Using a 4mm hook, join Yarn A into any corner.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), *3dc into corner, dc evenly across to next corner (working approx 3dc for every 2 rows); rep from * around, ss to top of beg dc.

Round 2 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr), tr in each st around, ss to top of beg ch-3.

Fold tr sts over so the top of the sts sit over the dc sts from previous round. Ss the tr sts around the posts of the dc sts to create raised edging.

PUPPY HEAD (MAKE 2)

Head is worked in two pieces from the neck up. Using a 3.5mm hook and Yarn A, ch24.

Row 1 Dc in second ch from hook and each ch across, turn. [23 dc]

Row 2 Ch1, (dc2tog) first 2 sts, dc across to final 2 sts, dc2tog, turn. [21 dc]

Row 3 Ch1, dc in each st across, turn.

Rows 4-7 Repeat Rows 2-3 twice more. [17 dc]

Row 8 Ch1, 2dc in first st, dc in each st across to final st, 2dc in final st, turn. [19 dc]

Row 9 Ch1, 3dc in first st, dc in each st across, turn. [21 dc]



Sew the puppy's head and legs to the completed blanket, then sew on the ears

Row 10 Ch1, dc in each st to final st, 2dc in final st. [22 dc]

Rows 11-12 As Rows 9-10. [25 dc]

Rows 13-16 Ch1, dc in each st across, turn.

Row 17 Ss in first 4 sts, ch1, dc in next 20 sts, turn leaving rem st unworked. [20 dc]

Row 18 Ch1, (dc2tog) first 2 sts, dc across to final 2 sts, dc2tog, turn. [18 dc]

Row 19 Ch1, dc in each st across, turn.

Rows 20-23 As Rows 18-19. [14 dc]

Rows 24-27 Ch1, dc in each st to final 2 sts, (dc2tog), turn. [10 dc]

Fasten off.

Position pieces together so the edges line up. Whipstitch together leaving the neck open.

EARS (MAKE 2)

Using a 3.5mm hook and Yarn B, ch4, ss to final ch to form a loop.

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

Round 2 Dc in each st around.

Round 3 (Dc in next 2 sts, 2dc in next 2 sts) twice. [12 sts]

Rounds 4-5 As Round 2.

Round 6 (Dc in next 4 sts, 2dc in next 2 sts) twice. [16 sts]

Rounds 7-8 As Round 2.

Round 9 (Dc in next 6 sts, 2dc in next 2 sts) twice. [20 sts]

Rounds 10-11 As Round 2.

Round 12 *Dc in next 6 sts, (dc2tog) twice; rep from * one more time. [16 sts]

Round 13 *Dc in next 4 sts, (dc2tog) twice; rep from * one more time. [12 sts]

Round 14 *Dc in next 2 sts, (dc2tog) twice; rep from * one more time. [8 sts]

Round 15 (Dc2tog) 4 times. [4 sts]

Fasten off.

Flatten sts of last row and use the tail to close the round.

LEGS (MAKE 2)

Using a 3.5mm hook and Yarn B, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1, 4dc into loop. [4 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [8 sts]

Round 3 (Dc in next st, 2dc in next st) 4 times. [12 sts]

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

Fasten off and join Yarn A into any st.

Work on in rows.

Row 5 (RS) Ch1, dc in each st around, turn.

Row 6 (WS) As Row 1.

Row 7 Ch1, (dc in next 2 sts, dc2tog) 4 times. [12 sts]

Rep Row 5 another 18 times.

Fasten off.

COLLAR

Using a 3.5 mm hook and red DK yarn, ch3.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook and next ch, turn. [2 sts]

Row 2 Ch1, dc in next 2 sts, turn.

Repeat Row 2 until Collar fits around neck.

Fasten off.

TO MAKE UP

Weave in all ends and block the Blanket following care instructions found on ball band.

Sew up the Leg seams and stuff the Legs and Head.

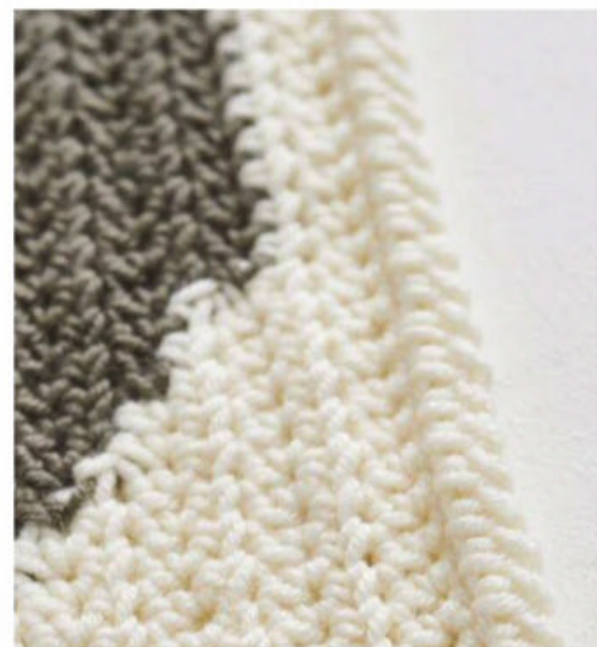
Pin them into position in the top right-hand corner of the Blanket so that the neck overlaps the top of the Legs slightly.

Once you are happy sew them into position.

Sew Ears either side of the Head using the image as a guide.

Using black yarn sew eyes, nose and mouth.

Finally, wrap the collar around the neck and sew the short ends together.



Spots are made in the intarsia technique, so wind small balls of Yarn B first

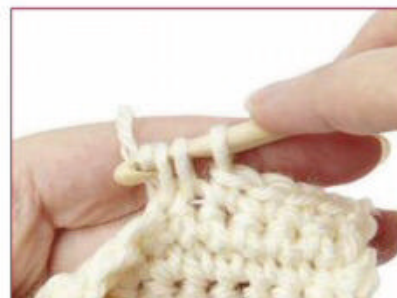
SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO DECREASE IN DOUBLE CROCHET (DC2TOG)



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



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



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



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



Stylecraft

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by Helen Boreham

9683



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you can create
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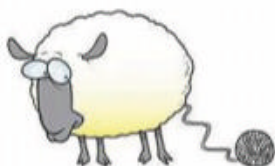
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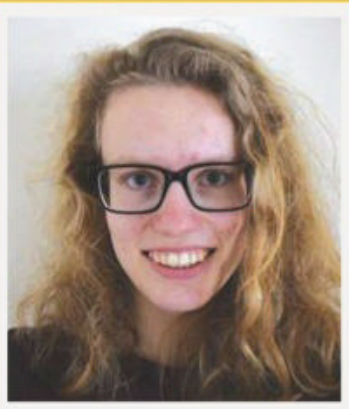
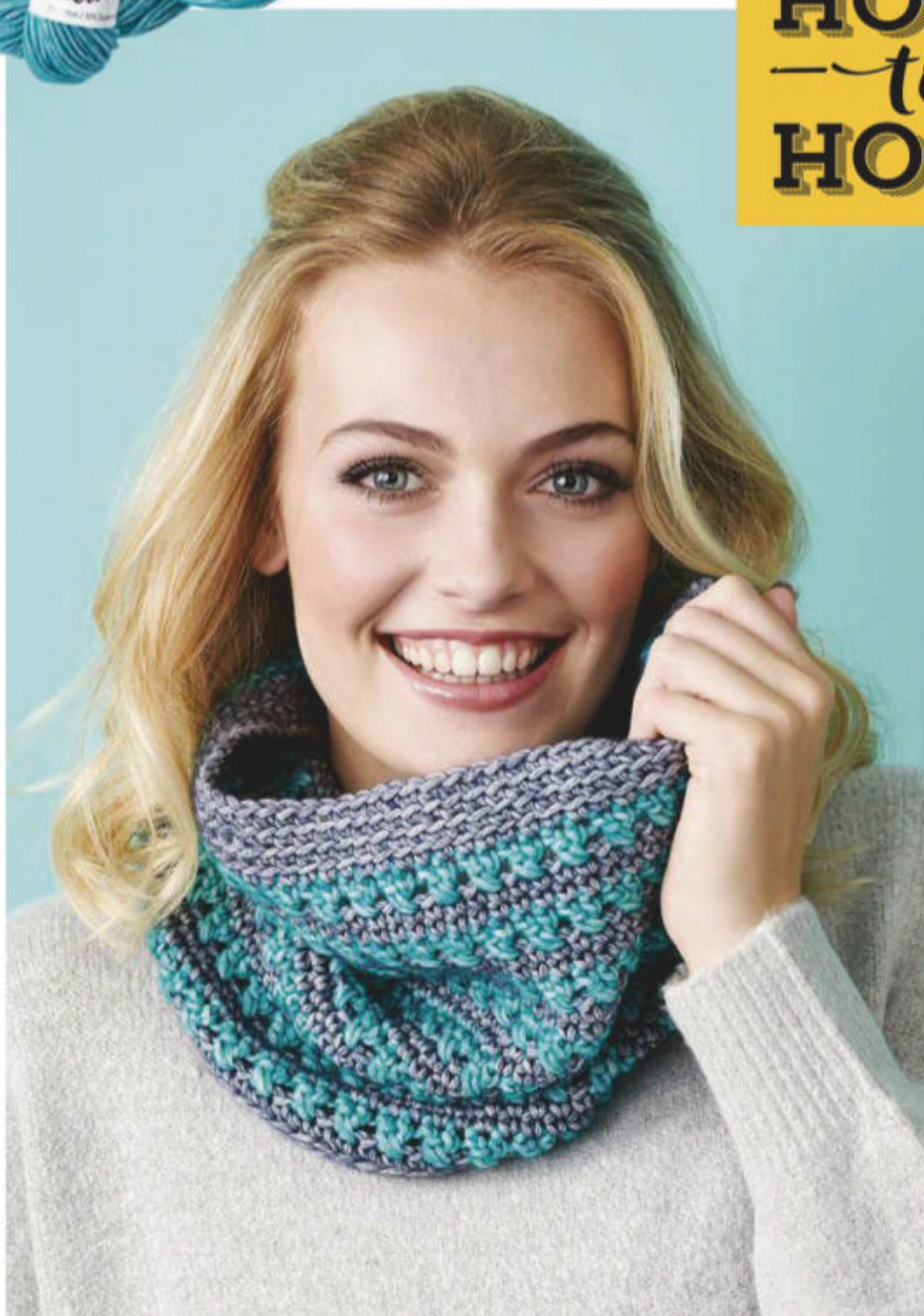


HOOK TO HOOK

Snug as a bug

We challenged two designers to come up with a fab design, each using the same yarn... which is your fave?

HOOK
— to —
HOOK



Marjan Gouda

"Designing the pattern for this cowl was a real challenge for me, as I wanted to really do the colours and softness of the yarn justice within the design. To achieve this, I

chose a cross stitch and double crochet stitch pattern to alternate both colours. The texture is created by these crochet stitches and the double crochet stitches, worked in the back loops only."

You can find more of Marjan's crochet patterns on Instagram @hobbydingen or on her website at www.hobbydingen.com

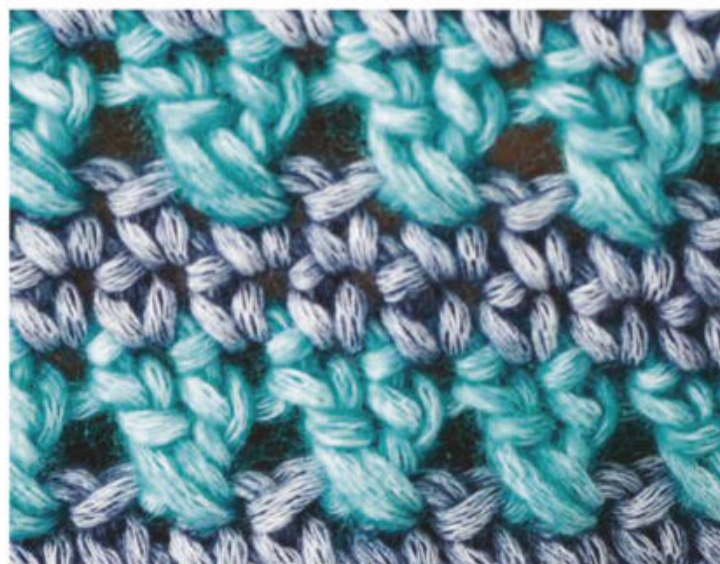
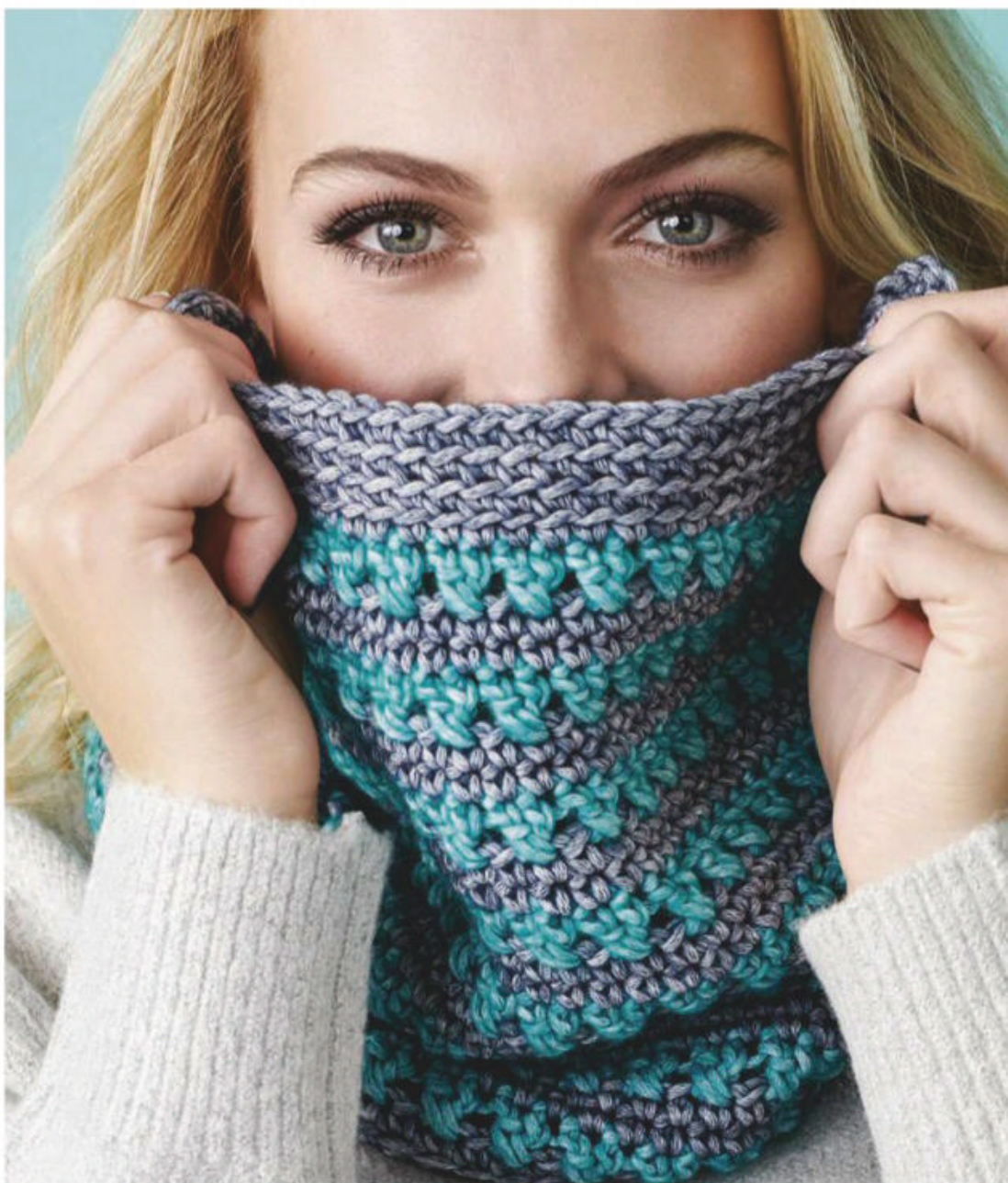
Vickie Smith

"I was very pleased to receive this challenge. The yarn was so soft and the colours really complemented each other. I wanted to make something that was quick to hook

but also practical and looked good. I really like making cowls because they are a great alternative to scarves. Using both strands together at the same time makes this accessory extra soft, but also hold its shape nicely."

You can find more of Vickie's work on Etsy and Ravelry under TheHookGeekDesigns.





Clockwise from above: With its neutral grey accentuated with pops of bright teal, this cosy cowl is the perfect complement to a monochrome ensemble; the top and bottom is worked in dc in the back loop; standing trebles and crossed trebles create the 'zigzag effect' in the teal

CROSS STITCH COWL

Navy and teal stripes hook up to a soft and wearable winter warmer. By Marjan Gouda

- Cascade Cantata (70% cotton, 30% superwash merino wool, 100g/199m)
- 1 skein of each:
 - Navy (10)
 - Green Teal (12)
- A 5mm (US H/8) hook

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

TENSION

12 sts and 10.5 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over pattern using a 5mm hook, or size needed to obtain correct tension

MEASUREMENTS

Cowl measures 30x68cm (11¾x26¾in)

ABBREVIATIONS

crossed tr Sk 1 st, tr in next st, tr in skipped st
standing tr Place slipknot on hook, yrh, insert hook into st, yrh and pull up a loop, (yrh and

pull through two loops) twice

hidden join Remove loop from hook, insert hook from WS to RS into first st of round, place loop on hook and pull through

For a full list, see page 92

NOTES

Cowl is worked in rounds, with RS facing throughout.

COWL

Using Navy, ch84, ss to first ch to join into a ring.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as a stitch throughout), dc in each ch to end, hidden join.

[84 sts]

Rounds 2-4 Ch1, dc in bl of each st around, hidden join.

Change to Green Teal.

Round 5 Standing tr in second st from prev round, tr in st to the right of standing tr, crossed tr around, ss to top of beg tr.

[42 crossed tr]

Change to Navy.

Rounds 6-7 Ch1, dc in each st to end, ss in first st to join.

Change to Green Teal.

Rounds 8-29 As Rounds 5-7.

Change to Navy.

Round 30 Ch1, dc in each st to end, hidden join.

Rounds 31-33 Ch1, dc in bl of each st to end, hidden join.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

BOBBLE COWL

By Vicki Smith

- Cascade Cantata (70% cotton, 30% superwash merino wool, 100g/199m)
- 1 skein of each:
 - Navy (10)
 - Green Teal (12)
- A 6mm (US J/10) hook
- Button, 5cm

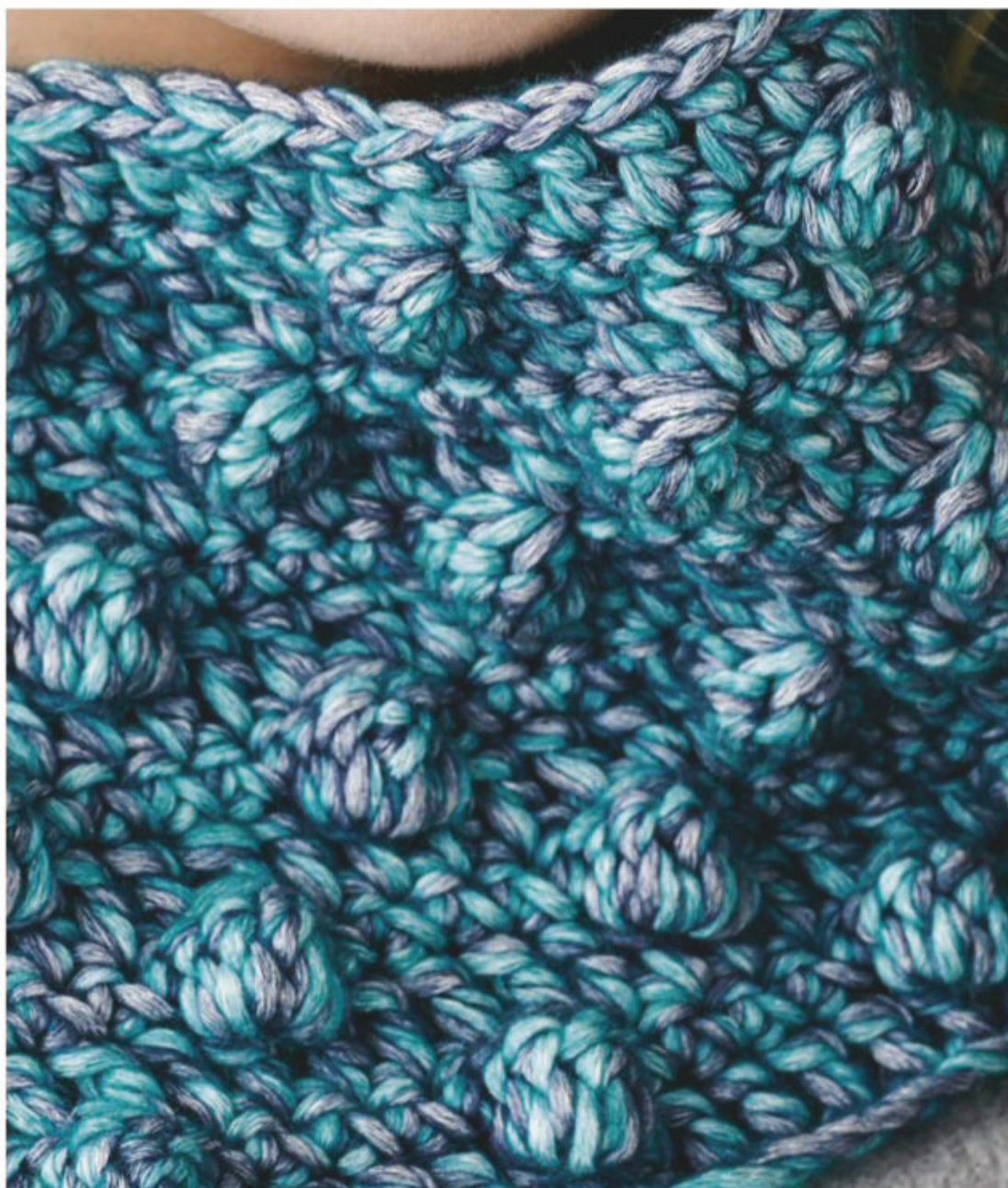
For yarn stockists see Cross Stitch Cowl

TENSION

Tension is not critical for this project, but it may affect the yarn quantities required

MEASUREMENTS

Cowl measures 16x79cm (6¼x31in) before joining



From L-R: A giant button embellishes this cowl, and also works to affix the top and bottom of the accessory; the navy and teal yarns are held as one strand in this make, giving the finished item an attractive mottled effect as well as allowing you to hook it up in super-quick time.

ABBREVIATIONS

4-tr cluster (Yrh, insert hook into st indicated, yrh and pull up a loop, yrh and pull through two loops on hook) 4 times, yrh and pull through all loops on hook

For a full list, see page 92

NOTES

Cowl is worked using both strands of yarn held together as one throughout pattern. The button is used to join to top of each short end together to form the Cowl shape.

COWL

Using Navy and Green Teal held as one strand, ch85.

Row 1 (WS) Tr in 4th ch from hook and each ch across, turn. [83 sts]

Row 2 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as a st throughout), dc in first 5 sts, (4-tr cluster in next st, dc in next 5 sts) 13 times, turn.

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

Row 4 Ch1, dc in first 6 sts, (4-tr cluster, dc in next 5 sts) 12 times, dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 5 Ch3, tr in each st across, turn.

Rows 6-13 Repeat Rows 2-5 two times.

Fasten off.

TO MAKE UP

With RS facing bring the two short ends together at a slight angle; you can use the image for guidance.

Sew the button through both ends to join into the Cowl.

Fasten off and weave in all ends.

Stripe it lucky

Channel that Irish good fortune with this chunky green wrap, designed by Esther De Beer

CHUNKY
YARN HOOKS
UP QUICK!





YOU WILL NEED

- Scheepjes Namaste (50% wool, 50% acrylic, 100g/85m)
 - 6 balls of Yarn A Happy Baby (621)
 - 1 ball of each:
 - Yarn B Peacock (609)
 - Yarn C Tree (610)
 - Yarn D Mountain (613)
 - A 7mm (K/10½ or L/11) hooks
- For yarn stockists contact
Scheepjes
www.scheepjes.com/en

TENSION

Tension is not critical for this project, but it may affect the yarn quantities required

MEASUREMENTS

Wrap measures 210x37cm
(82¾x14½in)

ABBREVIATIONS

tr2tog over 5 *Yrh, insert hook into next st, yrh and pull up a loop, yrh and pull through 2 loops**, skip next 3 sts; rep from * to **, yrh and pull through all loops on hook

tr2tog over 3 *Yrh, insert hook into next st, yrh and pull up a loop, yrh and pull through 2 loops**, skip 1 st; rep from * to **, yrh and pull through all loops on hook

tr3tog (Yrh, insert hook into next st, yrh and pull up a loop, yrh and pull through two loops) 3 times, yrh and pull through all loops on hook

cbl (cabled st) Skip 1st, tr in the next 2 sts, tr in skipped st

crsst (crossed st) Skip 2 sts, tr in next st, ch1, tr in first skipped st

For a full list, see page 92

An off-white wrap shot through with botanical greens. The neutral palette pairs beautifully with the blacks and browns that dominate outerwear wardrobes. Made in tall trebles using chunky Scheepjes Namaste, this scarf will hook up quick sharp.

NOTES

Wrap is worked in rows.
Change colour on the final yrh of row before colour change is indicated. Do not carry yarn, fasten off and rejoin when directed.

WRAP

Using Yarn A, ch56.

Row 1 (RS) Tr in fourth ch from hook, tr in next 15 ch, tr2tog over 5, tr in final 32 ch, turn. [50 sts]

Row 2 (WS) Ch3 (counts as tr throughout), tr in st at base of ch-3, tr in next 30 sts, tr2tog over 3, tr in next 15 sts, 2tr in final st, turn.

Place marker in the tr2tog st from previous row, moving the marker up as you work.

Row 3 Ch3, tr in st at base of ch-3, tr in each st to st before marker, tr2tog over 3 skipping marked st, tr in in each st to final st, 2tr in final st, turn.

Rows 4-5 As Row 3.

Change to Yarn B.

Row 6 Ch3, tr in st at base of ch-3, cbl st across to st before marker, tr2tog over 3, cbl across to final st, 2tr in final st, turn.

Change to Yarn A.

Row 7 As Row 3.

Change to Yarn C.

Row 8 Ch3, tr in st at base of ch-3, crsst across to st before marker, tr2tog over 3, crsst across to



Cables, crossed stitches and tr3tog make up the contrasting accent colours of the wrap

final st, 2tr in final st, turn.

Change to Yarn A.

Row 9 Ch3, tr in st at base of ch-3, tr in each st and ch-1 sp across to st before marker, tr2tog over 3, tr in each st to final st, 2tr in final st, turn.

Change to Yarn D.

Row 10 Ch3, tr in st at base of ch-3, (tr3tog, ch2) across to st before marker, tr2tog over 3, (tr3tog, ch2) across to final st, 2tr in final st, turn.

Change to Yarn A.

Row 11 Ch3, tr in st at base of ch-3, *(tr in next st, 2 tr in ch-2 sp)** across to st before marker, tr2tog over 3; rep from * to ** to final st, 2 tr in final st, turn.

Rows 12-15 As Row 3.

Repeat Rows 6-15 another 9 times, or until Shawl measures 210cm.

TO FINISH

Weave in all ends. For best result we recommend blocking the Wrap. Pin out to the measurements stated, spray liberally with water and leave to dry.



CROCHET BLOOPERS

Three of our fave designers reveal how they
discovered the upside to those oops! moments



Erinna posted her unicorn on Instagram, but forgot to attach his ears!



Emma hit troubles making up her blanket



We've all had that sinking moment of realisation strike us while crocheting, that we've been doing something entirely wrong – something that could have potentially messed up our entire pattern... The good news is that it's happened to the best of us – and to prove it, we asked some of our favourite crochet designers about the times they made some serious errors, and why they're glad they happened! Get inspired by our experts and instead of being hard on yourself for your crafty slip-up, take it as a chance to learn from what you did wrong – it can be the key to really improving your future crochet game!

EMMA FRIEDLANDER-COLLINS

Emma Friedlander-Collins, aka Steel and Stitch, "I generally think of mistakes as a way of learning how not to do something, so they don't generally bother me. But there was a time that I was making a big, beautiful blanket out of hexagons. Hundreds of them. All made with a canny bit of colour changing to create a graphic Moroccan design, and I was so desperate to get it finished that I didn't notice that I'd sewn two of them in the wrong way round. I wasn't until I had it all

finished and stepped back to look at it that I realised and had to try and cut all the yarn that I'd used to whip stitch it together. I accidentally snipped into the hexies all around and had to make all of them again!" Emma used her mishap as an opportunity to learn more about the craft. "What I took from that experience is a hooky version of the seamstresses' 'measure twice, cut once' mantra: 'check right sides twice, whipstitch once!'" www.steelandstitch.blogspot.com

ERINNA LEE

Similarly, Erinna Lee admits that she made a number of errors along her crochet journey. "These included reading a pattern incorrectly as my attention was shifted from pattern reading to the last episode of *Stranger Things* on Netflix; creating badly proportioned body parts relative to each other when designing; and forgetting to put

in a stitch marker and not knowing where I was in the round – especially tricky when these are continuous rounds of the same number of stitches per round."

"Erinna now reads through the entirety of every pattern before starting"

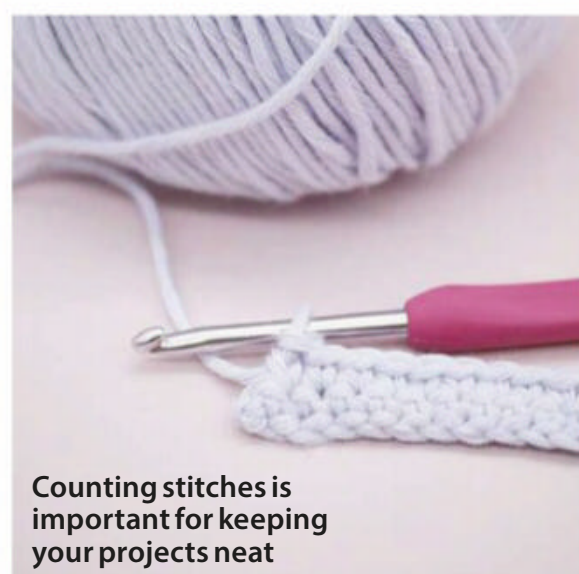
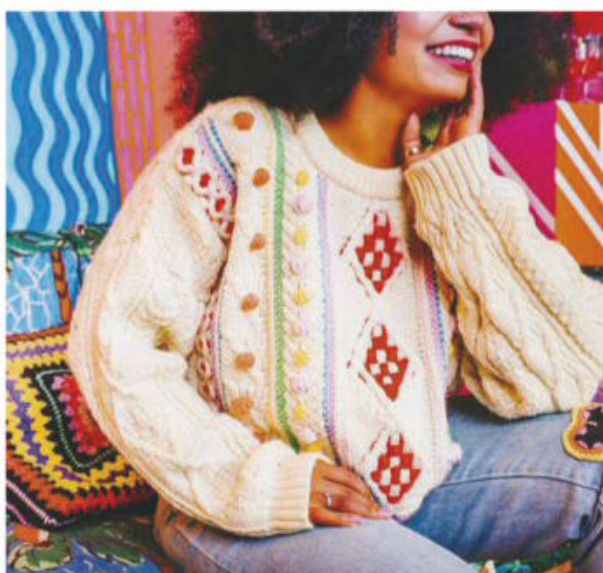
One of Erinna's most amusing early blunders was forgetting to attach the ears of a little unicorn she was crafting. "It was an adorable pattern by Stephanie Lau. I posted the photo on Instagram, incredibly proud of my effort," she

remembers. "Alas, a friend of mine pointed it out and told me that perhaps the caption should have been 'What did you say? Speak up!' It's been a running joke for a long time."

With this in mind, Erinna now reads through the entirety of every pattern before starting. "It is just like fixing up that new IKEA desk you bought," she muses. "It always helps to read through the whole manual so that you can forecast the next step." www.etsy.com/au/shop/TheLittleHookCrochet



Kate now tests every piece on models as she's working after her Tunisian crochet mishap



Counting stitches is important for keeping your projects neat



KATIE JONES

Katie Jones was working for a designer after recently learning Tunisian crochet. "I hadn't used the stitch before and had only learnt it for this project, as the stitch texture worked perfectly with the other pieces in the collection," she tells us. "I was making a very fitted dress, but the only full mannequin in the studio was a plastic shop display stand. I totally didn't think about how Tunisian crochet has such different stretch from 'normal' crochet and how obviously a plastic dummy has a lot less friction than an actual person. When it came to the show, we had to put Vaseline on the model to be able to pull the dress up!" Katie laughs.

Katie now tries every piece she creates on an actual living, moving person through the making process to test how it works in action. "Most of my work now is fairly boxy – maybe because of this incident – but I still do it, even when it's an oversized piece." www.katiejonesknit.co.uk

MISTAKES RULE OK!

Making slip-ups while you're learning – and even when you're a pro – is inevitable. What's important is not to be discouraged or give up in despair.

"I think making mistakes is great as it only serves to improve your skill set and make you better at crochet," says Erinna. "Despite it being frustrating and time-consuming when you have to redesign something, the process of rethinking the approach to achieving the shape I want has definitely improved me as a pattern designer."

Emma never considers it as 'making mistakes', instead choosing to think of it as 'finding out a way that you don't want to do something'. "Crochet is so forgiving, so you have the luxury of having a go and then ripping it back and doing it differently if you don't like what you've made. It has a freedom that I'm not sure you find in any other craft and is one of the reasons that it's still my favourite."

"I think a huge part of learning what works is trial and error," says Katie. "If we get too worried about doing something perfectly, we miss the opportunity to grow and push our boundaries. Most designs that I'm most happy with have started out as an accident! If you could do it perfectly first time, it wouldn't be a skill. To be a crafter is to spend time developing and learning and a big part of learning is messing up... a lot!"

Written by Colette Earley

HOW NOT TO... MAKE MISTAKES

Simply Crochet's Technical Assistant, Paula Green, gives us her top tips for minimising the chances of making mistakes with your crochet.

- 1 Read patterns all the way through before starting the piece. It will help you see how all the sections and parts come together.
- 2 Do a tension square. I repeat: do a tension square! To get the perfect fit you need to make sure your work will measure up.
- 3 Keep a count of your stitches, even when you're working a straight section with no shaping. We all miss stitches but the sooner you realise the less you have to pull out.
- 4 Block your work, it gives it that professional finish!

Simply Crochet

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*Free trial not available on Zinio

Chaos Theory

Release your inner child with this cushion's uninhibited freestyle embellishment. Designed by Catalina Ungureanu

GREAT
TEEN GIFT





YOU WILL NEED

- Scheepjes Colour Crafter (100% acrylic, 100g/300m)
2 balls of each:
Yarn A Barneveld (1005)
OR Ede (1002) (see Notes)
1 ball of each:
Yarn B Delft (1117)
Yarn C Leuven (2008)
Yarn D Gent (2002)
Yarn E (Cream Cushion only)
Malmedy (2014)
Yarn F (Cream Cushion only)
Antwerpen (2001)
 - A 4mm (US G/6) hook
 - A 4.5mm (US 7) hook
 - Cushion pad, 40x40cm
 - Zip, 40cm per cushion
- For stockists contact**
Scheepjes
www.scheepjes.com/en

TENSION

14 sts and 15 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over half treble crochet worked between sts using a 4mm hook, or size needed to obtain correct tension

MEASUREMENTS

Cushion measures approx 40x40cm (15¾x15¾in)

ABBREVIATIONS

reverse dc As a standard dc st, but working in opposite direct (left to right if right-handed and right to left if left-handed)

surface crochet Position yarn on WS of Panel, insert hook through fabric, yrh and pull up a loop, *insert hook through fabric in direction you want your surface crochet to travel, yrh and pull up a loop, pull through loop on hook; rep from * as required

For a full list, see page 92

Meandering rambles, involuntary doodles – not everything in life need be prescriptive. Let yourself go with this scribbly cushion set, plus brush up on your surface crochet skills.

NOTES

Cushion is made in two Panels. One Panel is decorated with surface crochet before being joined together.
Use Barneveld for the Cream Cushion and Ede for the Black Cushion. The Cream cushion uses 5 colours for the surface crochet whereas the Black cushion only uses 3.

CUSHIONS

PANEL (MAKE 2)

Using a 4mm hook and Yarn A, ch62.

Row 1 (RS) Htr in fourth ch from hook (skipped ch counts as htr) and each ch across, turn. [60 sts]

Row 2 (WS) Ch2 (does not count as a stitch throughout), htr in sp between each st across, htr in final st, turn.

Rows 3–58 As Row 3.

Working around the Panel:

Next round Ch1 (does not count as a st throughout), *dc in each st or row end to corner, 3dc in corner; rep from * three times more, ss to top of beg dc. [246 dc]

SURFACE CROCHET

Using a 4.5mm hook, surface crochet your design onto one Panel only.

Using Yarns B-F, surface crochet wavy lines as shown in the main image. Don't try to crochet straight lines, keep them fluid and chaotic.

Weave in all ends.



The back of the cushions are left plain, joined with dc and reverse dc in a high-contrast blue

TO MAKE UP

Place two Panels together with RS facing out. Using a 4mm hook, join Yarn B into any corner working all sts through both Panels to join.

Row 1 (RS) Ch1, dc in each st around three sides of Panels, leaving final side unjoined, do not turn.

Row 2 Ch1, reverse dc in ech st from Row 1.

Fasten off.

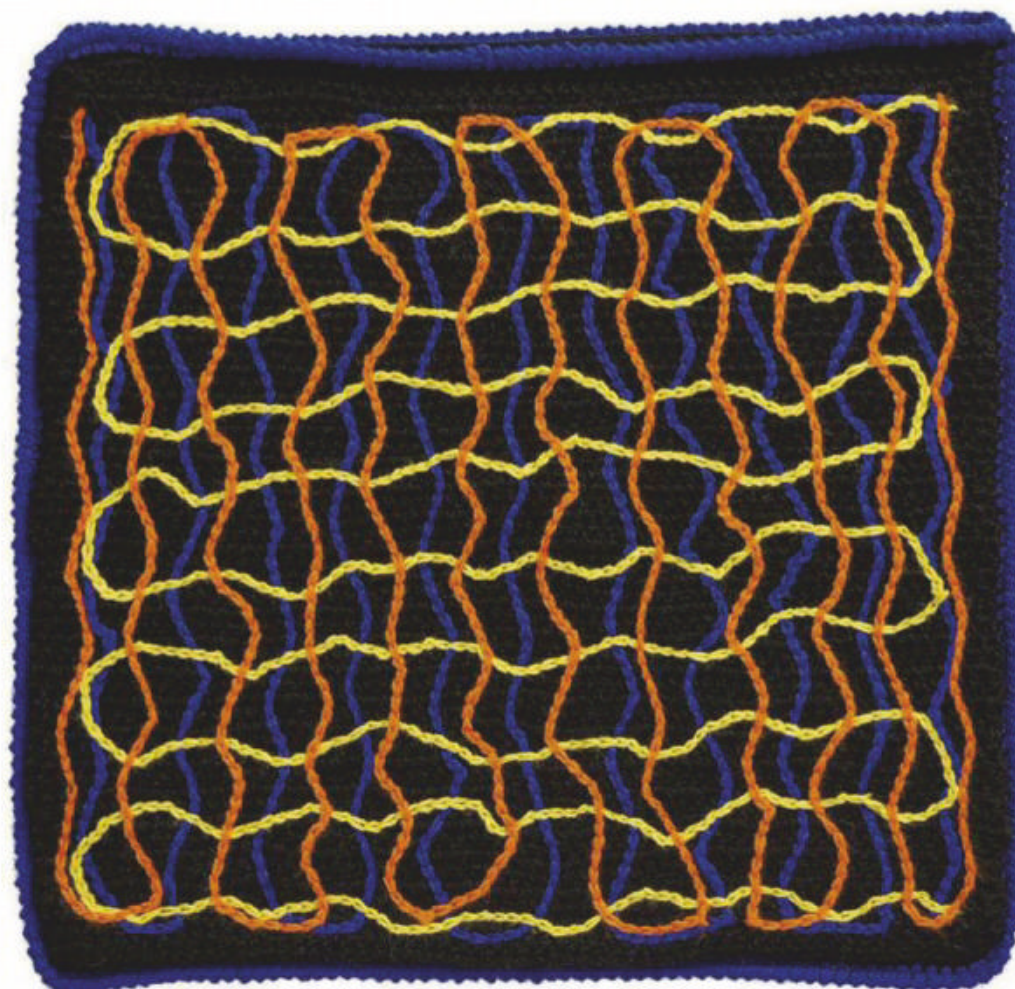
Sew zip in place over open side.

Using a 4mm hook, join Yarn B into beg of open side on top Panel.

Round 1 Ch1, dc in each st across final side of top Panel, rotate to work into second Panel, dc in each st across, ss to top of beg dc.

Round 2 Ch1, reverse dc in each st from Round 1, ss to beg ch-1.

Fasten off and weave in ends.



A touch of luxe

Six soft and luscious yarns for extra-special projects

PLANET

Make a magic loop.

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

ROUND 2 Ch3, tr in st at base of ch-3, 2tr in each st around, ss to top of beg ch-3. [24 sts]

RING Ch6, skip next st, ss in next st around, ch8, line up ch-8 to opposite side of Round 2, ss in st, ch6, ss in bl of next st around.

FASTEN OFF AND WEAVE IN ENDS



Brighten backpacks
with patchwork
planet motifs!



MALABRIGO WASHTED

WEIGHT Aran
CONTENT 100% merino wool
BALL 100g/192m
HOOK 5mm
RRP £14.99



Kettle dyed in small batches, Washted yarn features subtle shade changes throughout, resulting in stunning complexity and depth within all 26 shades in the range. A washing machine-friendly version of Malabrigo's popular Worsted Merino, the wool can be

swapped in on any pattern that uses Worsted Merino. Its gentle halo and aran weighting allows for good stitch definition, making it ideal for projects like garments and accessories. Machine wash on a gentle, cold water cycle and dry flat. www.malabrigoyarn.com

SIRDAR SNUGGLY HEIRLOOM

WEIGHT DK
CONTENT 90% wool, 10% nylon
BALL 25g/105m
HOOK 4mm
RRP £3.95



Snuggly Heirloom's unusual chainette structure offers a number of superb benefits to the ball. The lightweight strand holds in the heat well, ideal for hooking winter garments, and also makes for an extra-springy yarn – a quality enhanced by the 10% nylon content added to the

wool, offering added spring and bounce. The miniature 25g balls are ideal for smaller makes like gloves and baby garments and accessories. The yarn is available in eight shades, a mix of soft pastels and richer regal hues. Hand wash only. www.sirdar.co.uk

CASCADE FOREST HILLS MULTIS

WEIGHT Lace
CONTENT 51% silk, 49% merino wool
BALL 100g/717m
HOOK 2.5mm
RRP £16.19



Work up luxurious shawls and garments with Cascade's silk and wool mix yarn. The slender lace weighting is perfect for elaborate designs, and drapes elegantly in wear. Forest Hill Multis is a ten-shade variegated take on the original Forest Hill range, and consequently its

colours are designed to match with the seven solid shades of the latter. With 717 metres to play with, the yarn offers good value, particularly given its dominant silk make up. A strong twist makes the 2ply easier to work. Hand wash and dry flat. www.lovecrafts.co.uk

SCHEEPJES ORGANICON

WEIGHT 4ply
CONTENT 100% organic soft cotton
BALL 50g/170m
HOOK 3mm



Not only has Organicon been created with no animal products or by-products used in the process of manufacture, the cotton has also been grown on GOTS-certified organic fields without the use of chemical fertilisers. These strict moral parameters haven't prevented

Scheepjes from coming up with a super-soft, baby-suitable yarn range, available in 12 nude and pastel shades. It also offers superb value for money, ideal for January belt-tightening. Can be washed at 40°. Dry flat and iron on a medium heat. www.scheepjes.com

RICO HAND-DYED HAPPINESS

WEIGHT DK
CONTENT 100% merino wool
BALL 100g/400m
HOOK 4mm
RRP £19.99



A panoply of colours run in fetching flecks throughout Rico's Hand-Dyed Happiness wool, turning the simplest of stitch patterns into a vivacious design. The variegations work to highlight your stitches and bring extra depth and texture into your projects, while the

hand-dyed nature of the yarn ensures that each make is entirely unique. The single ply strand results in an extra-fine DK, while the minimal halo lets the colours really sing. A great option for shawls and accessories. Wash at 30°. www.rio-design.de/en

NOVITA WOOL COTTON

WEIGHT DK
CONTENT 55% wool, 45% cotton
BOBBIN 50g/112m
HOOK 4mm
RRP £4.50



Novita's mix of wool and cotton create a lightweight and soft yarn that's great for sensitive skin. An 8ply with a slightly relaxed twist, this well-defined yarn is a great choice for cabled projects. The cotton ensures it's a hardy yarn that is versatile enough to work in not just

garments and accessories but also homeware and toys. Novita's yarn comes in easy to work with 50g balls, and is available in seven shades, which are characterised by a faint 'washed out' look. Gently machine wash at 30°. www.novitaknits.com

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JOIN OUR GANG OF TREBLE MAKERS AND SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS AND MAKES WITH US,
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MY OH MY

Gemma Payne has wasted no time in hooking up the first characters from issue 90's magical Moomin calendar. Here's Little My, gazing off into middle distance with a wicked glint in her eye. Make sure you keep in touch Gemma – we'd love to follow your progress as you create the whole gang! Thanks for sharing! 📷

GOLDEN GIRL

▼ No Christmas tree is complete without either an angel or a star to sit atop it, and so Sharon Ludkin has hooked up this stunning lady from all the way back from issue 63. Made up in sparkle yarn and featuring golden sequins on her dress for extra twinkle, she's bound to add a little extra magic to the day's festivities for young ones. Thanks for posting, Sharon! 📷



DOUBLE TAP ♥

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



SNOW GO

The Snowman is a timeless symbol of Christmas, and @goslingandplumb's Laura has paid him a stitch-perfect tribute, using our pattern from SC77.



PUP TO PUP

@rachel_makescrochet has lived up to her name with this pawfect pair of schnauzers from issue 85. We like the big brother on the right – aww!



THE BIG SQUISH-UE

Our squish bears from issue 89 have gone down a storm! @busyizzycrochet is the latest hookster to fall prey to their squashy charms. What a sweetheart!



DARE TO SCARE

@Catherine.houston.16 had a genius idea for supplementing her Halloween decs – she added a few of the Hattifatteners from issue 90's calendar!



FRUIT OF THE LOOM

Remember our fantastic loom gift from issue 85, that allowed you to create your very own lace loom projects? Caroline MacCann certainly does, having just finished Becky Skuse's lace bracelet from the same issue. We're loving the pastel pink and blue bead colour swap – top job Caroline! @

THE LOWDOWN

It's simple to be in with a chance of winning a great hooky prize in a future issue! Show us your *Simply Crochet* makes on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or via email or post by 8 January 2020.

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

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@SIMPLYCROCHET



PRETTY PLANTERS

Keen hookster Kate Rudd has made three of these basket embellishments as gifts! "This style is very fashionable at the moment," she says. "And it is a great way to use up a lot of wool". And a great way to gain a lot of friends, no doubt Kate – your pals are incredibly lucky to have you! @

WINNER!

DOLLY & IVY

Top marks awarded to Tricia Harriss this month, who tackled issue 90's intricate Christmas girl doll in double-quick time! It's gotta be some kind of record Tricia!

@

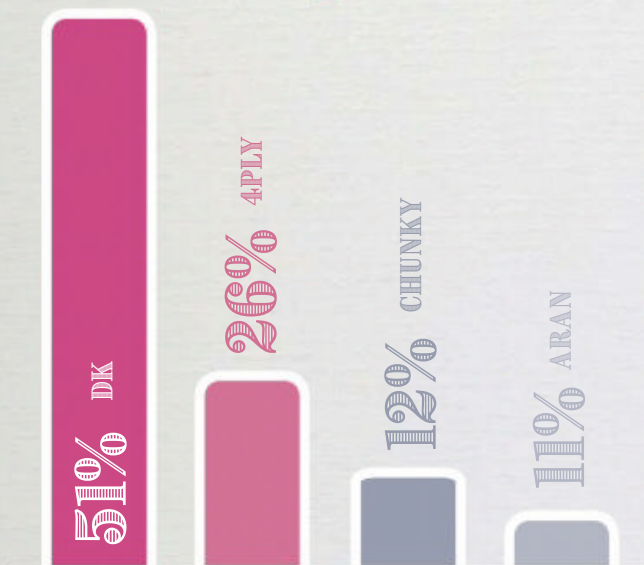


JOIN US ONLINE!

If you're looking to socialise with like-minded crocheters, then make sure you join our SCtreblemakers Facebook group – the place to share pictures of your makes, get pattern advice and recommendations, and generally talk about how much you love *Simply Crochet* magazine. With over 2.5k members, it's a bustling crochet forum full of friendly members. We look forward to chatting with you on there!

This month we asked you...

What's your favourite yarn weight to work with?



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Tweet us @SimplyCrochet_
twitter.com/SimplyCrochet_



Add to our Finished Projects board
ravelry.com/groups/simply-crochet

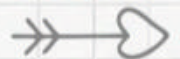


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FREE TRIAL*

Extended & half sts

EXPAND YOUR REPERTOIRE WITH A NEW SET OF STITCHES



WALL HANGING P81

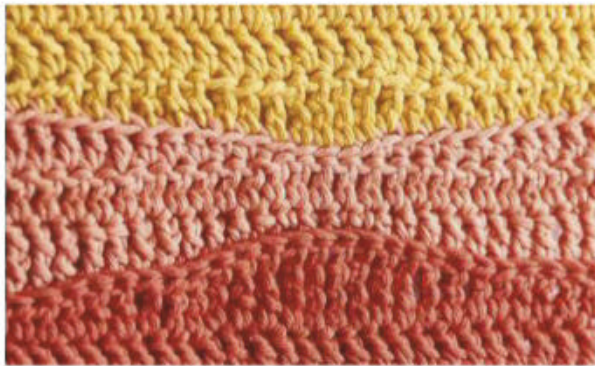
Do you ever wish you could work a stitch that's a little bit taller than a treble, but a little bit shorter than a double treble? Let us introduce you to the wonders of extended and half stitches!

SMALL DIFFERENCES

Both techniques are really quick and easy, and allow you to make any standard crochet stitch a little bit taller (extended) or a little bit shorter (half). The process of extending or halving involves only a small difference in how you work the stitch – the height of the finished stitch is only slightly different, but those differences add up across a piece of fabric and mean that you can create stitches of many more varying heights.

PRACTISE MAKES PERFECT

We'll explain everything you need to know about making extended and half stitches by making a practice piece. Then you can try out your new skills by making our colourful wall hanging on page 81, or use your new stitches to make your own creations!



WHY DO I NEED EXTENDED AND HALF STITCHES?

Discover the benefits of these simple stitches

Adding any new technique to your crochet skillset will increase your versatility, but extended and half stitches are really easy and have loads of uses. Have a look at these two fabrics – both are made up of 15 stitches, but the final sloping row has been made with two different sets of stitches.

Step 1 The final row on this fabric has been made with 5 half trebles, 5 trebles and 5 double trebles. The slope is fairly gradual but you can see a definite step where there's a change from the shorter to the taller stitch.

Step 2 The final row on this fabric has been made with 3 half trebles, 3 trebles, 3 extended trebles, 3 half double trebles and 3 double trebles. The slope is much more gradual and there's no visible step.

Creating more gradual slopes is just one benefit of extended and half stitches, you can also use them to make shaping other increases and decreases in your fabric more gradual. The tiny differences between stitches can also be used to solve persistent issues with tension – for example, if you know you hook tightly, try working extended versions of the stitches in a pattern. Once you've learnt the simple techniques involved, you'll find lots of ways to improve your crochet life by using these stitches.



WHAT SIZE TURNING CHAIN DO I WORK?

Here's a handy guide to the size of turning chains for standard, half and extended stitches...

Stitch	Turning chain length
Double crochet	1 ch (does not count as st)
Extended double crochet	1 ch (does not count as st)
Half treble	2 ch (counts as st)
Treble	3 ch (counts as st)
Extended treble	3 ch (counts as st)
Half double treble	3 ch (counts as st)
Double treble	4 ch (counts as st)
Extended double treble	4 ch (counts as st)
Half triple treble	4 ch (counts as st)
Triple treble	5 ch (counts as st)
Extended triple treble	5 ch (counts as st)
Half quadruple treble	5 ch (counts as st)

HOW DO I WORK AN EXTENDED STITCH?

Here's how to work extended trebles and any extended stitch

To practice extended and half stitches, you can use any yarn you like and a hook in a suitable size for the yarn – whatever you feel most comfortable with. We used DK cotton yarn and a 4mm hook.

Start your practice piece with a couple of rows of treble stitches, to give your fabric a sturdy foundation – it will also give you a base row of 'normal' stitches to compare against your extended stitches. We worked 13 tr for two rows (ch15, tr in 4th ch from hook and in each ch to end, turn, ch3, tr in each tr across, turn).

Step 1 Start the new row with a turning chain as usual – for extended stitches, just work the same number of turning chains as you would for the standard stitch that you're adapting (there's a handy table opposite). We're going to make extended trebles, so you'd need 3 chains for the turning chain. If you were making an extended double treble,

you'd need 4 chains, and so on.

Step 2 Now we're going to make an extended treble. Start the stitch as usual for a treble by working yrh once.

Step 3 Insert the hook into the top of the next stitch as usual. Yrh and pull up a loop (you'll now have 3 loops on hook).

Step 4 Next you need to yrh...

Step 5 ...and pull through one loop only. This is the key part of the extended stitch technique and the extra 'chain' you make here is what lengthens the stitch a little bit.

Step 6 Finish the stitch as usual by working (yrh and pull through 2 loops)...

Step 7 ... and then (yrh and pull through 2 loops) again.

Step 8 Repeat from Step 2 to make an extended treble in each stitch across. You'll see how the stitch is just a little bit longer than a standard treble, with that extra 'chain' at the base of the stitch.

Step 9 If you wish, turn and work another row of extended trebles by repeating Steps 1-8. Alternatively, try making a row of other extended stitches, using the same technique. Here's a row of extended double trebles, but you could also work extended triple trebles or extended double crochet stitches.

Recap To work extended stitches of any sort, just start each new row with a turning chain of the right length (see the table opposite). Begin each stitch with the same number of yrh as the standard stitch that you're adapting (for example, for an extended double treble, yrh twice). Insert the hook as usual into the top of the next stitch, yrh and pull up a loop. Then yrh and pull through one loop only to extend the stitch. Finish the stitch as usual, working 'yrh and pull through 2 loops' as many times as you need to, until one loop remains. Work more stitches to complete the row.



HOW DO I WORK A HALF STITCH?

Here's how to work a half double treble and any half stitch

To practice half stitches, continue with your practice piece or start a new one.

If you start a new one, begin with a couple of rows of half double trebles. As with the extended trebles practice piece, if you made one, it will give your fabric a sturdy foundation and a base row of 'normal' stitches to compare your extended stitches with. Work 13 hdt (ch15, hdt in 4th ch from hook and in each ch to end, turn, ch3, hdt in each tr across, turn).

Step 1 Start the new row with a turning chain as usual – for half stitches, you need to work one chain less than the number of turning chains you would usually use for the standard stitch that you're adjusting. So for a half double treble, you'd need 3 chains for the turning chain. For a half triple treble, you'd need 4 chains, and so on.

Step 2 Now we'll make a half double treble.

Start the stitch as usual for a double treble by working yrh twice.

Step 3 Insert the hook as usual into the top of the next stitch on the row below.

Step 4 Yrh and pull up a loop (you'll now have 4 loops on hook).

Step 5 Continue the stitch as usual by working (yrh and pull through 2 loops) once (you'll now have 3 loops on hook).

Step 6 Now that there are 3 loops on the hook, you need to work yrh...

Step 7 ...and pull through 3 loops. This is the key part of the half stitch technique and finishes the stitch early, making it slightly shorter than a standard double treble.

Step 8 Repeat from Step 2 to make a half double treble in each stitch across. You'll see how the stitch is just a bit shorter than a standard double treble, by missing out the final (yrh and pull through 2 loops) and

pulling through 3 loops instead. You might also notice that this 'halving' technique is like how we adapt a treble into a half treble.

Step 9 If you wish, turn and work another row of half double trebles by repeating Steps 1-8. Alternatively, try making rows of other half stitches, using the same technique.

Here's a row of half triple trebles, but you could also work half quadruple trebles. Just start each row with a turning chain of the right length (see Step 1). Begin each stitch with the same number of yrh as the standard stitch that you're adapting (for example, for a half triple treble, yrh 3 times). Insert the hook as usual into the top of the next stitch, yrh and pull up a loop. Continue the stitch as usual, working (yrh and pull through 2 loops) as many times as you need to, until 3 loops remain. Then work yrh and pull through 3 loops to finish the stitch early.





Sea to sky

Becky Skuses' wall hanging is a perfect (and beautiful) project to practice extended and half stitches on



YOU WILL NEED

- Rico Ricorumi (100% cotton, 25g/57.5m), 1 ball of each:
Yarn A Teal (40)
Yarn B Emerald (42)
Yarn C Turquoise (39)
Yarn D Fox (25)
Yarn E Papaya (68)
Yarn F Saffron (63)
 - A 4mm(US G/6) hook
 - Dowel, 6cm diameter, 22cm long
- For yarn stockists contact
Rico Design
www.rico-design.co.uk

TENSION

Tension is not critical for this project, but it may affect the yarn quantities required

MEASUREMENTS

Wall Hanging measures 17x16cm (6¾x6¼in) excluding fringe

ABBREVIATIONS

ext Extended stitch – see page 79 for how to work

half Half stitch – see page 80 for how to work

For a full list, see page 92

Designer Becky Skuse says: “Give yourself the chance to practice making extended and half stitches, and create this colourful wall hanging in the process. We chose colours to represent a sunset over the ocean, but you can use any colours you like to harmonise with your space and mood. Once you get stuck in, you’ll want to create a wavy wall hanging for every room in your home!”

NOTES

Refer to the workshop on the preceding pages for instructions on how to work extended and half stitches.

Each colour band is made up of a levelling row (to fit into previous shaped row below), a treble row and a shaped row.

Wall Hanging is worked from the bottom up.

WALL HANGING

Using Yarn A, ch34.

Row 1 (WS) Tr in fourth ch from hook, tr in each ch to end, turn. [32 tr]

Row 2 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as stitch throughout), dc in first st, *htr, tr, ext tr, half dtr, dtr, ext dtr, half ttr, ttr, half ttr, ext dtr, dtr, half dtr, ext tr, tr, htr, dc; rep from * omitting final dc, change to Yarn B, turn. [32 sts]

Fasten off.

Row 3 (Working in fl only), ch4 (counts as half ttr), *ext dtr, dtr, half dtr, ext tr, tr, htr, dc, htr, tr, ext tr, half dtr, dtr, ext dtr, half ttr, ttr, half ttr; rep from * omitting final half ttr, turn.

Row 4 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr in each stitch across, turn.

Row 5 Ch1, *dc in first st, tr in next st, dtr in next 2 sts, tr in next st, dc in next st; repeat from * ending on a tr, change to Yarn C, turn.

Fasten off.

Row 6 (Working in bl only), ch3 (counts as tr), *tr in next 3 sts, dc in next 2 sts, tr in next st; repeat from * ending on a tr, turn. [32 sts]

Row 7 As Row 4.

Row 8 Ch1, (dc in first st, ch1, ext tr in next st, ch1, dc in next st, skip 1 st) 7 times, dc in next st, ch1, ext tr in next st, ch1, dc in final 2 sts, change to Yarn D, turn.

Fasten off.

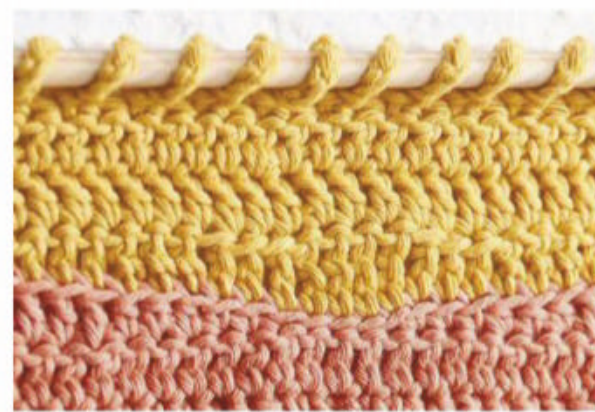
Row 9 (Working in fl only), ch3 (counts as tr), tr in next dc, *2dc in next ext tr, tr in next 2 dc; repeat from * to last 2 sts, dc in next ext tr, tr in final dc, turn.

Row 10 As Row 4.

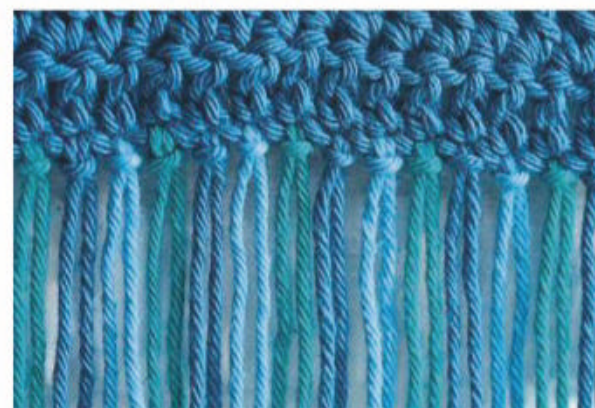
Row 11 Ch1, dc in next 2 sts, htr in next 2 sts, tr in next 2 sts, ext tr in next 2 sts, half dtr in next 2 sts, dtr in next 2 sts, ext dtr in next 2 sts, ttr in next 4 sts, ext dtr in next 2 sts, dtr in next 2 sts, half dtr in next 2 sts, ext tr in next 2 sts, tr in next 2 sts, htr in next 2 sts, dc in next 2 sts, change to Yarn E, turn.

Fasten off.

Row 12 (Working in bl only), ch4 (counts as half ttr), half ttr in next st, ext dtr in next 2 sts, dtr in



After sections of wavy bands, the piece ends with a straight edge and hanging loops



To make the fringe, attach lengths of yarn to the starting chains in alternating colours

next 2 sts, half dtr in next 2 sts, ext tr in next 2 sts, tr in next 2 sts, htr in next 2 sts, dc in next 4 sts, htr in next 2 sts, tr in next 2 sts, ext tr in next 2 sts, half dtr in next 2 sts, dtr in next 2 sts, ext dtr in next 2 sts, half ttr in next 2 sts, turn.

Row 13 As Row 4.

Row 14 Ch3 (counts as half dtr), half dtr in next st, ext tr in next 3 sts, tr in next 3 sts, htr in next 3 sts, dc in next 3 sts, ss in next 4 sts, dc in next 3 sts, htr in next 3 sts, tr in next 3 sts, ext tr in next 3 sts, half dtr in next 2 sts, change to Yarn F, turn.

Fasten off.

Row 15 (Working in fl only), ch1, dc in first 2 sts, htr in next 3 sts, tr in next 3 sts, ext tr in next 3 sts, half dtr in next 3 sts, dtr in next 4 sts, half dtr in next 3 sts, ext tr in next 3 sts, tr in next 3 sts, htr in next 3 sts, dc in next 2 sts.

Rows 16-17 As Row 4.

Row 18 Ch6, skip first 2 sts, ss to next st, *ch6, skip 1 st, ss to next st; repeat from * across. [16 hanging loops]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

FRINGE

Cut 32 lengths from Yarns A-C, 20cm long. Attach one length to each starting chain, alternating shades. Trim as desired.

TO FINISH

Insert dowel into hanging loops from Row 18. Cut a length of Yarn F approx 20cm and knot each end to one end of the dowel.

NEW
Love
Crochet



Love Crochet

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GIANT FLOOR CUSHION

CABLED CROPPED
JUMPER

CUTE AMIGURUMI DEER

EASY SCARF & MITT SET

STATEMENT BLOOMS
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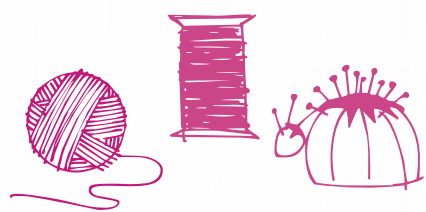
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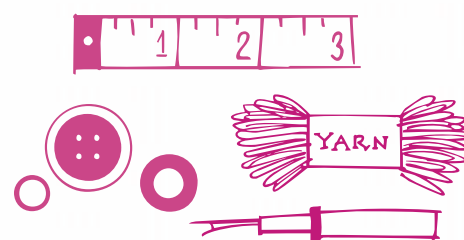
ON SALE 16 JANUARY

Gifts are subject to change both in UK and overseas

* Contents subject to change



Simply WORKSHOPS



We've highlighted six new workshops from a variety of crafts across the UK. Give your crafty hands something new to explore or extend your knowledge with some of the best tutors in the industry.



1 THE FIBREWORKS

The Fibreworks runs regular crochet workshops for both beginners and those who want to take their skills further in a cosy studio above their yarn shop in the Cotswolds town of Chipping Norton. **01608 645970, info@thefibreworks.co.uk, thefibreworks.co.uk**

2 WHICHCRAFT WOOLS

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3 THE MAKERS' CABIN

Crochet and craft workshops for all from beginners to advanced. We specialise in small groups for personalised instruction. From single lesson makes through to six week projects we are set in a beautiful purpose built North Hertfordshire location. **themakerscabin.co.uk**

4 BAA!

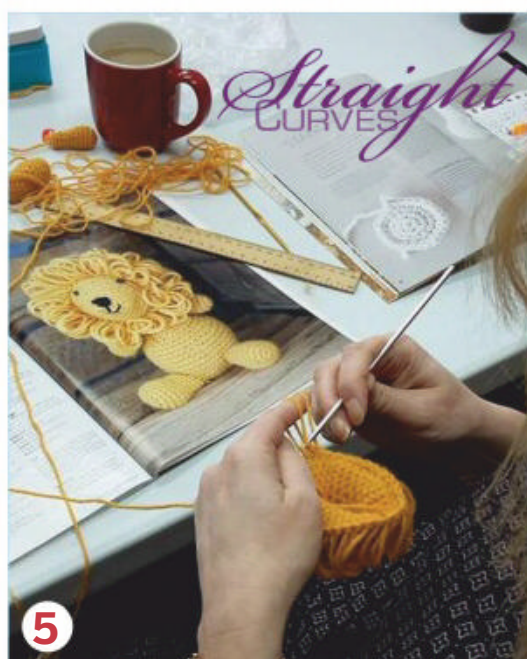
Baa! in Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire, is owned by knitting tutor and designer Janice Anderson. We showcase natural yarns by the best British and international producers and independent artisans. Workshops in knitting, crochet and fibre arts are delivered by renowned guest instructors as well as our resident crochet tutors. **baawool.co.uk**

5 STRAIGHT CURVES

StraightCurves provides a wide range high quality arts and crafts workshops for all ages and abilities from 2 to 102. Our professional friendly team teach in a relaxed way to small groups from our accessible studios in the heart of Chesterfield. **01246 807575, straightcurves.co.uk**

6 AMMONITE YARNS

More than just a yarn shop, we offer information, advice, drop-ins and workshops as well as our Fibonacci Fibre Club. Workshops in 2020 include Brioche, Lace and Moebius as well as crochet and spinning classes. **01443 520 200, ammoniteyarns.co.uk**



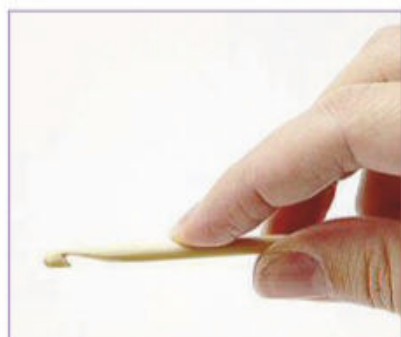
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Crochet essentials

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

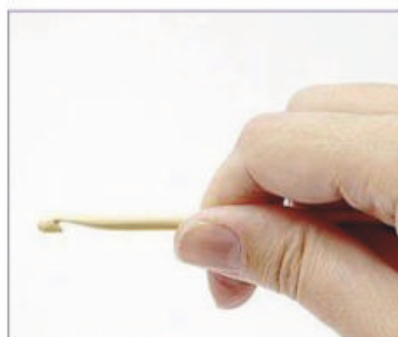
HOLDING THE HOOK

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.

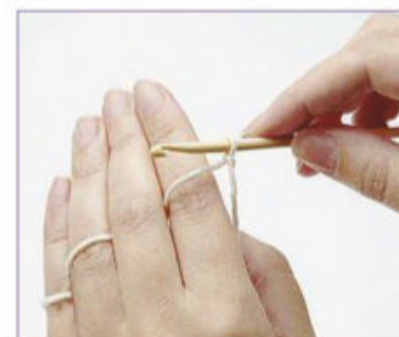
HOLDING THE YARN

Even tension results in even stitches



METHOD ONE

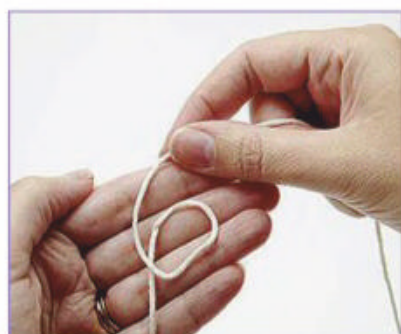
Pass the ball end of the yarn between the little finger and third fingers of your left hand (if you are right-handed), then behind the third and middle fingers, over your index finger.



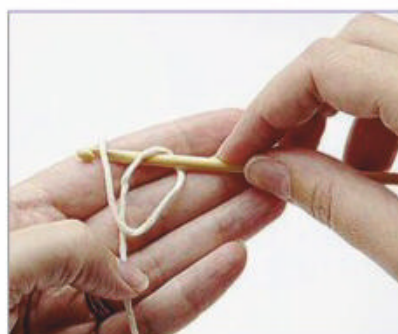
METHOD TWO

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.

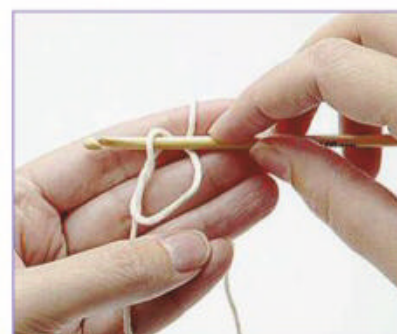
MAKING A SLIPKNOT The first loop on the hook



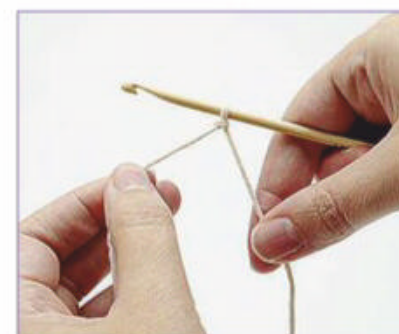
1 Hold the tail of the ball of yarn in your left hand and drape the yarn clockwise over the top of it to form a loose, circular loop.



2 Hold the loop between left thumb and forefinger, then insert the crochet hook through the centre of the loop from front to back.

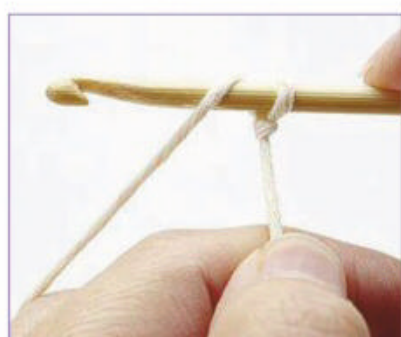


3 Catch the ball end of the yarn with the hook and pull it back through the centre of the loop, taking the yarn through with it.

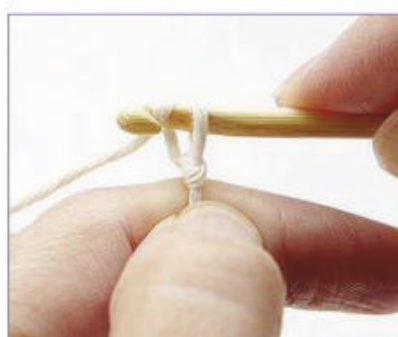


4 Pull both ends of the yarn to tighten the knot, then pull just the ball end to tighten the loop so it's close to the hook, but not touching it.

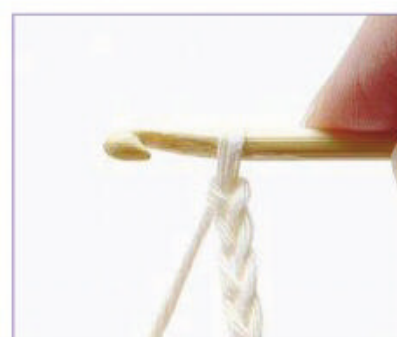
CHAIN STITCH Use this stitch to make your foundation chain



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 that's stated in your pattern.

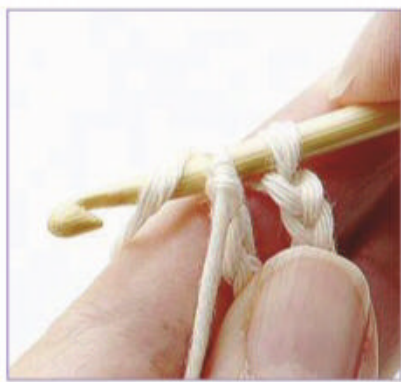
How to count chains



Each chain or loop counts as one stitch. Never count your first slipknot or the loop on the hook (called the working loop). So that you can be accurate, make sure the chain is not twisted and that the front is facing you.

SLIP STITCH (ss)

This stitch has no height – often used to join rounds



1 The slip stitch is used to join a length of chain into the round. Insert the hook from front to back into the first chain you worked. Wrap yarn round the hook (yrh) in an anticlockwise direction.



2 Pull the yarn through the chain stitch (as shown) and then the loop already on the hook to make a slip stitch. You can also work this stitch into each stitch along a row to form a neat edging.

WORKING IN ROWS

Follow these simple rules to construct crochet fabric



1 The first row is made by working across the foundation chain from right to left. At the end of the chain or row, turn the work so that the yarn is behind the hook.



2 For the next row, first make the turning chain for the stitch you're about to work (see opposite). Now work the next stitch into the top of the stitches on your first row, missing the first stitch.

DOUBLE CROCHET (dc) US term: single crochet

One of the key stitches in crochet, doubles are simple, compact stitches that form a dense fabric



1 To make a double crochet stitch, insert the hook under the top two loops of the next stitch on the previous row.



2 Wind the yarn around the hook (yrh).



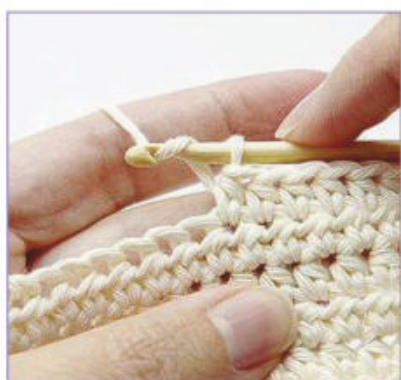
3 Pull the yarn through the stitch, giving you two loops on your crochet hook.



4 Yarn round hook again, then pull the yarn through both loops. There's your double crochet made and you'll have one loop left on the hook, ready to do the next stitch.

HALF TREBLE CROCHET (htr) US term: half double crochet

A handy stitch that's between double and treble crochet in size, and it looks slightly looser than double crochet



1 To make a half treble crochet stitch, work to where you want the htr and then wind the yarn round the hook (yrh).



2 Insert the hook under the top two loops of the next stitch in the previous row. Wrap yarn around the hook again (yrh).



3 Pull the yarn through the stitch only (3 loops on hook).



4 Yarn round hook again, pull the yarn through all 3 loops. You've made a half treble crochet. Continue working htr into next and following sts to the end of the row.

TREBLE CROCHET (tr) US term: double crochet

One of the most popular stitches in crochet, this simple stitch is twice as high as a double crochet stitch



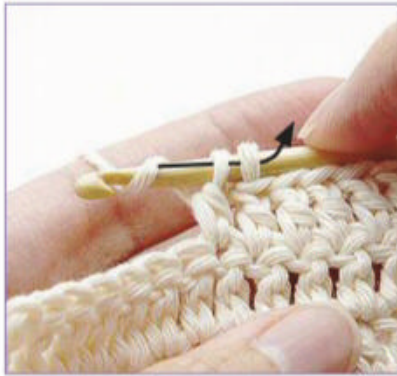
1 To work a treble crochet, start by winding yrh and then insert the hook under the top two loops of the stitch on the previous row.



2 Wrap the yarn around the hook (yrh) and pull the yarn through the stitch only.



3 You will now have 3 loops on the hook. Yrh again, and draw the yarn through just the first 2 loops on the hook.



4 You will now have 2 loops on the hook. Yrh again and draw the yarn through the remaining loops on the hook. Your treble crochet is complete.

DOUBLE TREBLE CROCHET (dtr) US term: treble crochet

This is a stitch regularly used as an elongated version of the treble (described above). It's worked in a very similar way to the treble, as follows:

1 Make a foundation chain. Skip 4ch, *yrh twice, and insert the hook under the top loop of the next ch.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 † Yrh, draw loop through 2

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

4 To make the next row, turn work and ch5. This turning chain counts as the first triple treble in a new row. Skip first st at base of the t-ch. Work 1 triple treble, inserting hook under the top 2 loops of the 2nd st in the previous row; continue to the end of the row.

TURNING CHAIN (t-ch)

For an even finish, start each row with a turning chain

In crochet, you need to add turning chains (t-chs) to the beginning of rows. The reason for this is to bring the hook up to the height of the stitches you're crocheting. Each basic stitch has its own number of chains. The

table below tells you how many t-ch sts form the first stitch. *For dc, usually the turning chain does not count as a stitch, and the first stitch of the row is worked into the stitch at the base of the turning chain.

STITCH	Add to foundation chain before starting row	Skip at start of foundation row (counts as first st)	For turning chain (counts as first st)
Double crochet	1 ch	1 ch*	1 ch*
Half treble	1 ch	2 ch	2 ch
Treble	2 ch	3 ch	3 ch
Double treble	3 ch	4 ch	4 ch
Triple treble	4 ch	5 ch	5 ch

How to count stitches

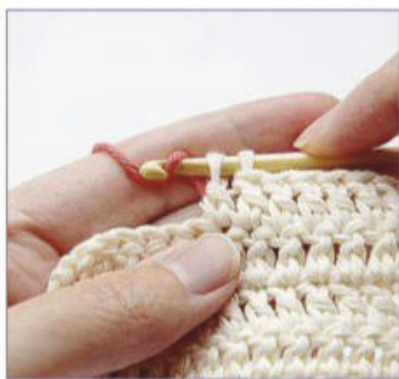
Check your work is correct

Being able to count your stitches is very important and helps you to ensure that you're following a pattern correctly. It's a good idea to count your stitches at the end of every row. To count short stitches such as double crochet, look at the plaited tops (see above right). For taller stitches, count the upright 'stems' – each 'stem' is counted as a stitch (see right).



HOW TO CHANGE COLOUR

Create stripes and other colour effects



1 Before you work the final yrh (yarn round hook) on the last stitch of a row in the old colour, drop the old yarn and then 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



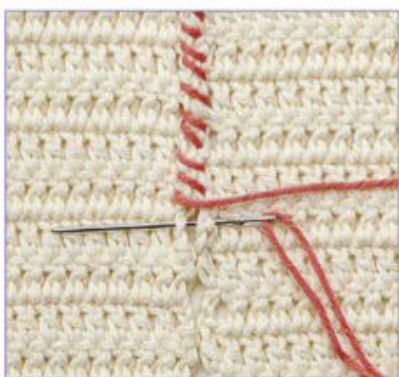
INCREASE To increase one stitch is very simple – work one stitch into the next stitch on the row below. When you’ve finished, work another stitch into the same stitch.



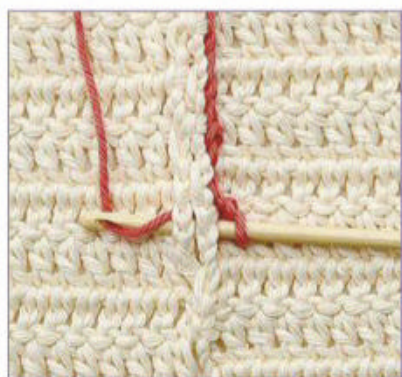
DECREASE For a quick decrease, just skip one stitch. For a neater look, work the first part of one stitch and then begin the next stitch. Finish both together.

SEWING SEAMS

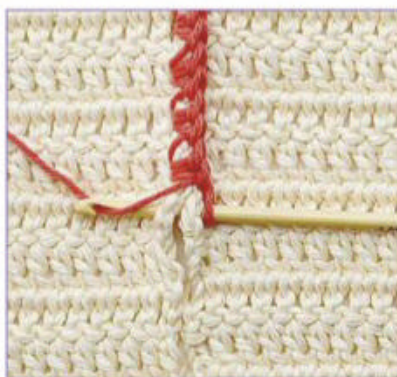
You can join crochet seams by using a tapestry needle or a crochet hook, using one of these four methods



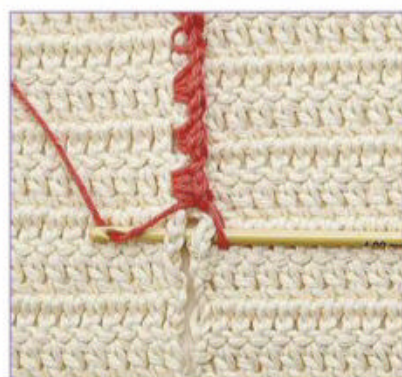
1 Sewing with a tapestry needle is the regular and neat way to join seams. Place two pieces of crochet right sides together and oversew them as shown above, using a tapestry or yarn needle.



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.

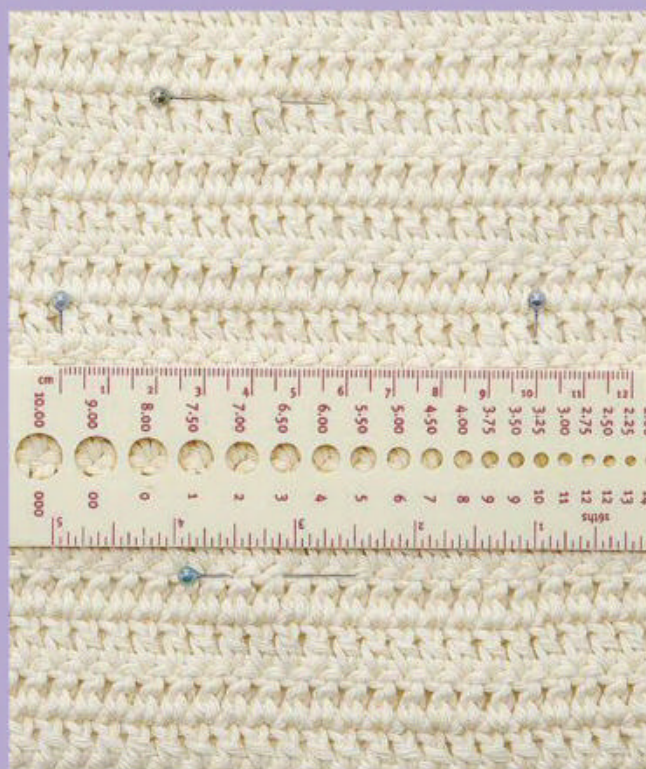
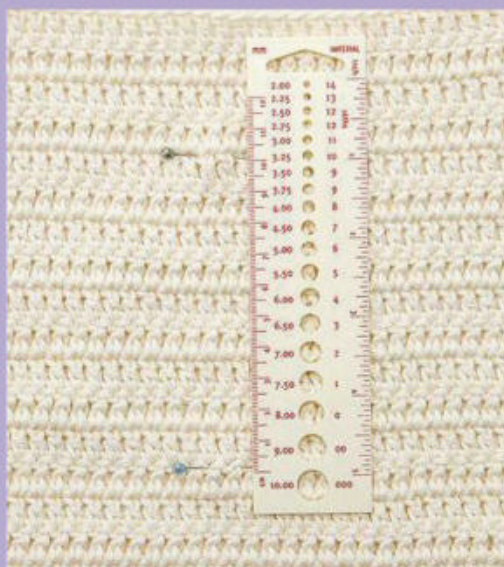


4 A useful variation on the dc seam, the dc and chain seam is used when less bulk and/or greater flexibility is needed. Work 1 double crochet and 1 chain alternately.

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



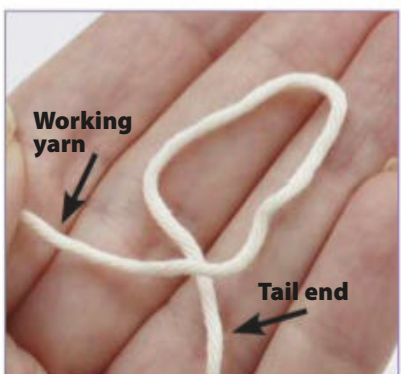
1 Make a foundation ring and work the t-ch (3ch for treble sts). Work a treble st as usual, but insert hook into centre of ring. For treble sts, yrh, insert hook into ring.



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 in the guide 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 your pattern instructs you otherwise.

Rounds or spirals



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

HOW TO GET A PERFECT FINISH

To prevent your hard work unravelling once you’ve finished crocheting, fasten the end off carefully, following our instructions below



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.

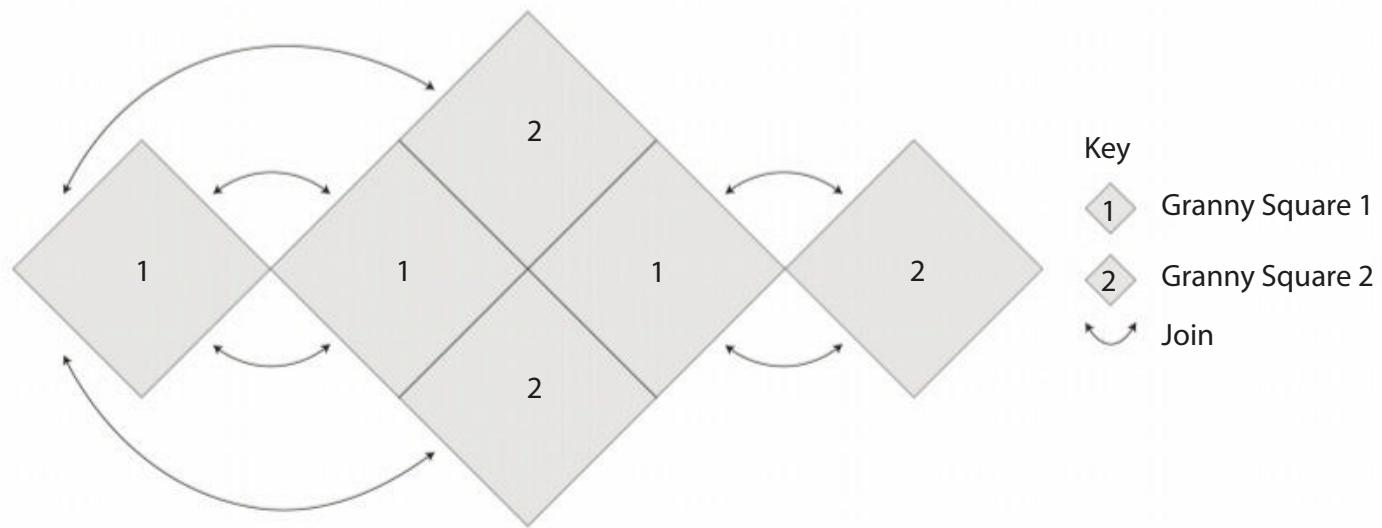
UK/US conversions

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

CHARTS & DIAGRAMS

Follow these helpful charts when making the granny square slippers and puppy blanket this issue

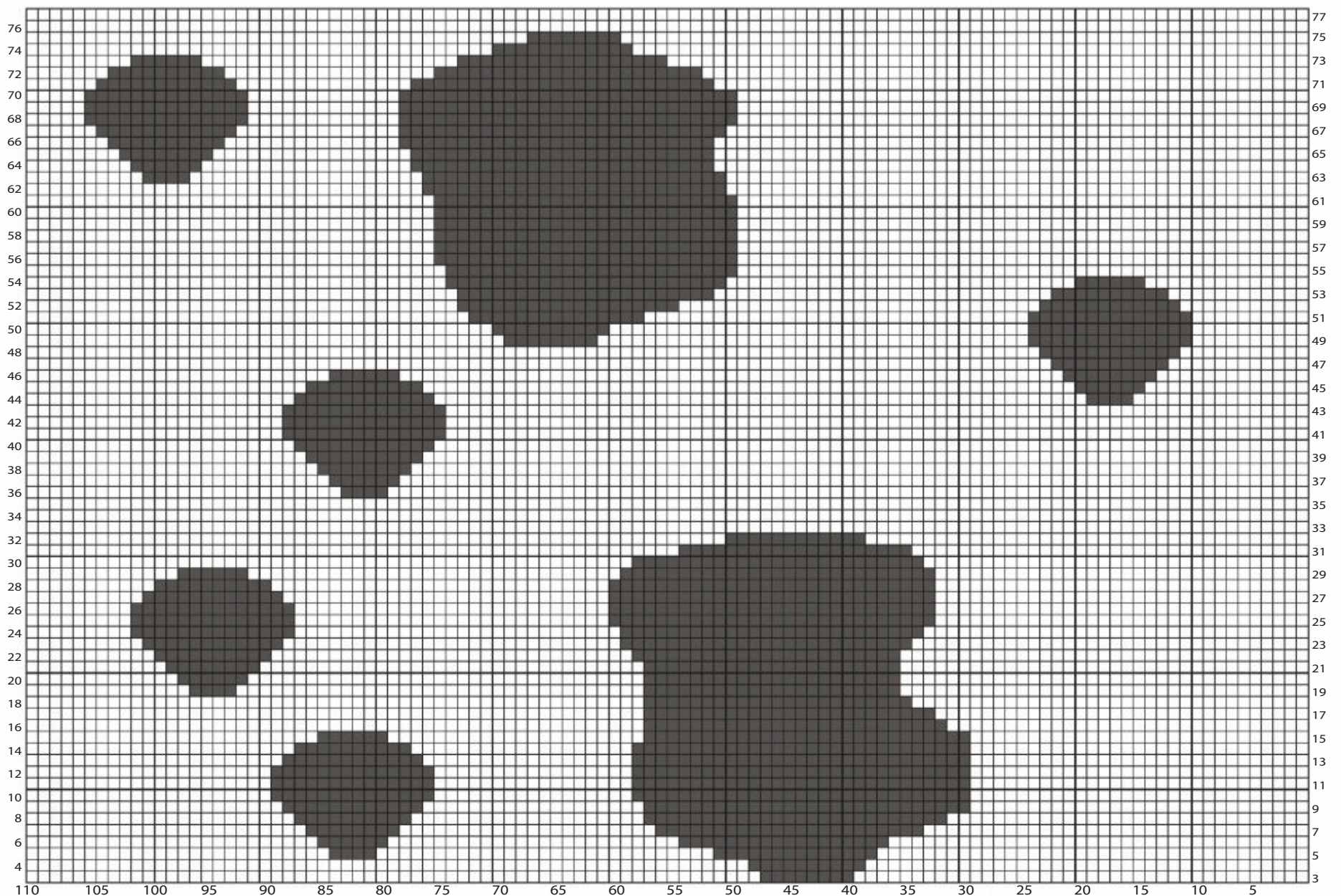
Granny square slippers, page 22



Puppy blanket, page 58

Key

- Mouse
- Ecrú





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Graphic chic

Snuggle up in Alessandra Hayden's simple, stylish geometric number





YOU WILL NEED

- West Yorkshire Spinners The Croft (100% wool, 100g/166m)
- 5 skeins of **Yarn A** Laxfirth (639)
- 3 skeins of **Yarn B** Lerwick (637)

- A 4mm (USG/6) hook

For yarn stockists contact

Deramores 01733 777345

www.deramores.com

TENSION

Tension is not critical for this project, but it may affect the yarn quantities required

MEASUREMENTS

Scarf measures 148x32cm (58½x12½in) excluding fringe

ABBREVIATIONS

bl-dc (back loop double crochet)

Work standard dc st through the back loop only

For a full list, see page 92

It's getting a bit nippy outside – must be time to hook yourself up a gorgeous new scarf to cosy up in this winter. This geometric design is super-stylish and simple to make, using just two shades of The Croft wool.

GENERAL NOTES

Scarf is worked in long rows with RS facing throughout. Fasten off at the end of each row and rejoin the yarn into first st at beginning of row. Leave tails of 25cm at the start and end of each row as these are used to form the fringe. Change colour on the final yrh of st before colour change is indicated; carry unused yarn from the first st of each row to create an even fabric; enclose the carried yarn in the sts as you go.

Work all sts through the back loops only.

CHART NOTES

There are two Charts below, which you will need to refer to for all colourwork. Each small square represents 1bl-dc. You should work Chart 1 over the first 49 sts of each row, then work the next 218 sts in Yarn A, and finish with the final 49 sts of Chart 2. You may find it useful to mark the final st of the Chart 1 and the first st of Chart 2, moving the markers up as you work. Read all rows from right to left. The first row of the Charts have been written out to guide you.

GEOMETRIC SCARF

Using Yarn A, ch219.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook and

each ch across, turn. [218 dc]

Fasten off and join Yarn A into bl of first st.

Row 2 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as a st throughout) bl-dc in same st, change to Yarn B, bl-dc in next 4 sts, (change to Yarn A, bl-dc in next st, change to Yarn B, bl-dc in next st) twice, bl-dc in next 8 sts, change to Yarn A, bl-dc in next 2 sts, change to Yarn B, bl-dc in next 7 sts, change to Yarn A, bl-dc in next 4 sts, change to Yarn B, bl-dc in next 5 sts, change to Yarn A, bl-dc in next 6 sts, change to Yarn B, bl-dc in next 3 sts, change to Yarn A, bl-dc in next 5 sts (mark final st of colourwork), bl-dc in next 219 sts, bl-dc in next st (mark st), bl-dc in next 4 sts change to Yarn B, bl-dc in next 3 sts, change to Yarn A, bl-dc in next 6 sts, change to Yarn B, bl-dc in next 5 sts, change to Yarn A, bl-dc in next 4 sts, change to Yarn B, bl-dc in next 7 sts, change to Yarn A, bl-dc in next 2 sts, change to Yarn B, bl-dc in next 9 sts, (change to Yarn A, bl-dc in next st, change to Yarn B, bl-dc in next st) twice, bl-dc in next 3 sts, change to Yarn A bl-dc in final st.

Fasten off and join Yarn A into first st.

Rows 3-14 As Row 2 following the Charts for all colour changes.

Rows 15-42 Repeat Rows 1-14 twice more.

Row 43 Join Yarn A into first st, ch1, bl-dc in each st across.

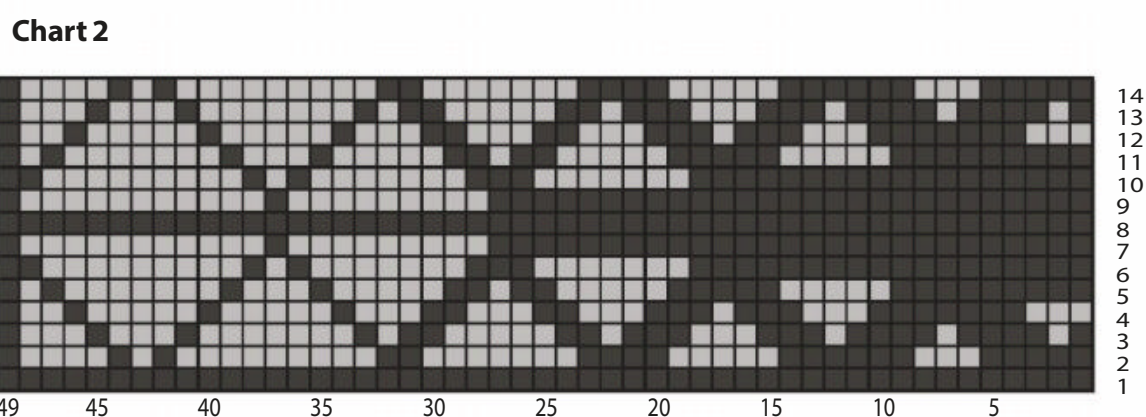
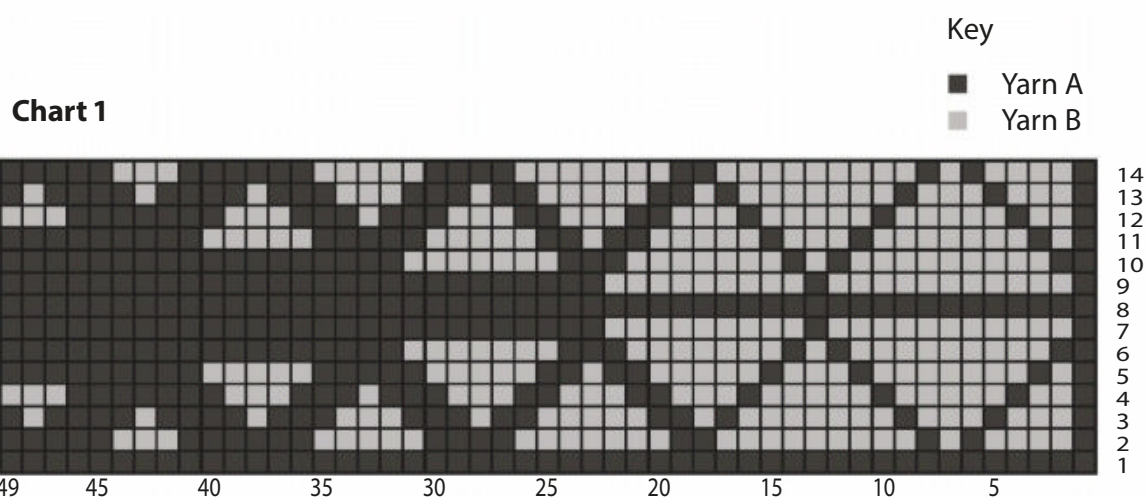
Fasten off.

TO FINISH

To make the fringe, tie 4 strands of tails together. Trim the fringe to desired length.

ALL THE YARN YOU NEED FOR THIS SCARF!

Fed up with hunting down the yarn to hook that favourite item? Grab Deramores' yarn pack, which is filled with all the yarn you'll need to hook Alessandra Hayden's awesome scarf – available for just £61.12, there's a bonus 10% discount compared to buying the yarn individually! Check it out at www.deramores.com/collections/simplycrochet





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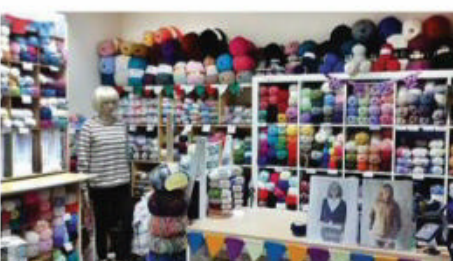
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Slender stitches

The petal-soft allure of alpaca and mohair yarn seduced Esther de Beer into her first fingering weight project

My first foray into crochet was not completely positive – I had bought a 3.5mm hook and discovered it was a huge mistake. How anyone could work with something so fiddly was beyond me. So, I cycled back to my local yarn store and picked up a 5mm hook and some matching yarn and that was that – I just worked with DK yarn. This easy alliance continued right up until a couple of balls of mohair and alpaca wool landed in my lap: Scheepjes Mohair Rhythm and Scheepjes Alpaca Rhythm. The colours were so vibrant and my, were they soft. I simply had to work with them. However, the recommended hook size was a tiny 2.5mm. My hands started to sweat just thinking about it... but the yarn kept calling me. And I knew what I wanted to make with it. But could I? With such a small hook? Yes I could, of course I could.

My idea was to make a project that would complement the texture of these soft and lovely yarns. I thought a pashmina would do them both justice. The strands were far finer than my usual, safe DK yarn, so to motivate myself I picked my favourite colours and decided that I'd use simple

but pretty stitches. Mohair is nearly impossible to unravel when you make a mistake, so the stitches had to be foolproof. I decided on shell stitches. A couple of rows in mohair, alternated by the same colour in alpaca, gave a lovely effect, some pieces coming up more opaque than others. Working with yarn that was so far from my comfort zone wasn't always easy. When I did make a mistake, once I even ended up cutting out a piece of the mohair with scissors! But as my pashmina grew, so did my confidence. And when it was finished I couldn't have been prouder of myself. It is still my favourite project to this day, as it has proven that lovely things can be created when you just dare to push yourself out of your 5mm comfort zone.

The soft shell pashmina is available for free on my blog, as I really would like to inspire anyone who feels like challenging themselves and convince them that, indeed, working with fingering weight yarn isn't scary at all and leads to something amazing. Go on – give it a go yourself!

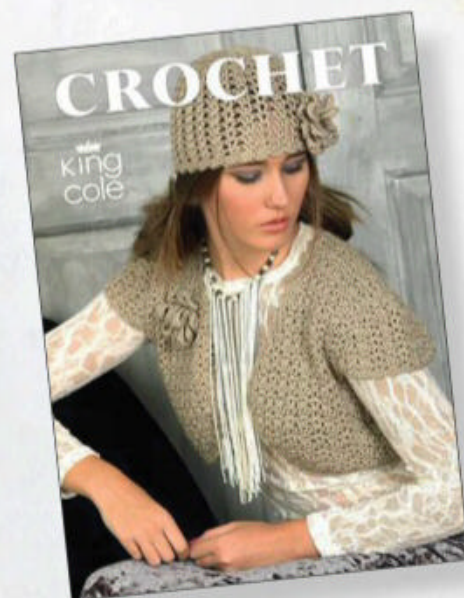
Check out Esther's green wrap on page 66. Find her pashmina pattern at <https://bit.ly/2rUuyuB>, and her most recent work posted on Instagram @happyinred



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batik swirl

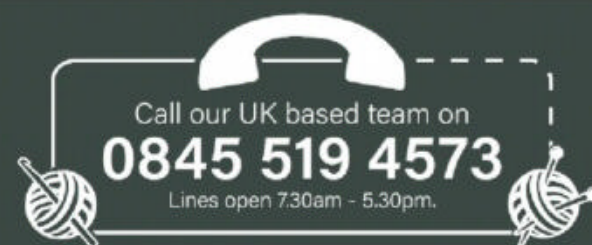


Batik Swirl is beautiful block colour yarn of wool acrylic blend which makes it very soft and silky to touch. The dappled effect and the colour changes gives it an exciting finish, making it ideal for jumpers, cardigans and accessories.

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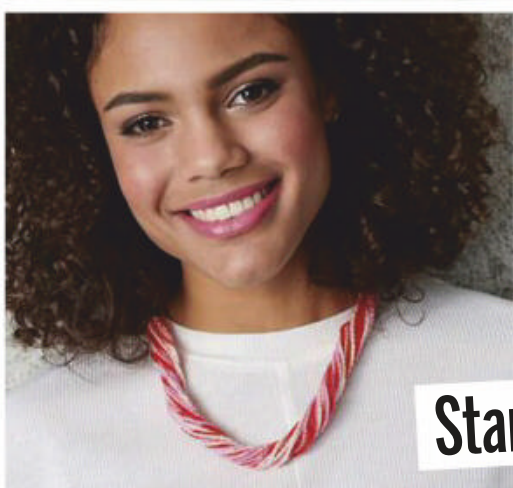
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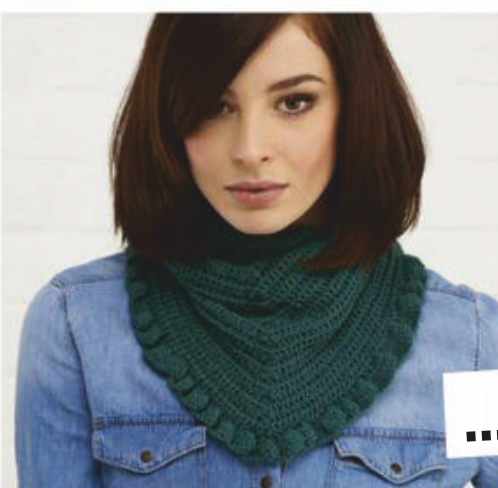
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Start with chain stitch...



...move on to trebles!





Welcome

...to **How to Crochet!** Whether you're a **crochet newbie**, or **rediscovering an old hobby**, this book will help you master the basics of this ultra-versatile craft.

Crochet is a fantastic way to **create your own accessories**, as well as **toys** for children, **stylish** clothes, beautiful **homewares** and fab **gifts** for all the family. It's quick, easy and convenient: all you need is **a hook and a ball of yarn!** Armed with these, you can **get creative** wherever you are – at home, on the bus, in a café... It's no wonder many people find crochet **addictive!**

We'll walk you through **every step** with **clear instructions** and pictures (for both left- and right-handers), from choosing which yarn and hook you use to making some **basic stitches**, so you can become a **confident crocheter**. The tutorials are supported by **video guides** on our YouTube account, Simply Crochet, to make things even clearer.

I've also designed a set of **gorgeous projects** for you to make as you go along, from neckerchief to garland, to help you **practise each technique**.

So sit down and **relax** with us, while we take you into an exciting new **crochet-filled** world of yarn crafting!



SARA HUNTINGTON
EDITOR



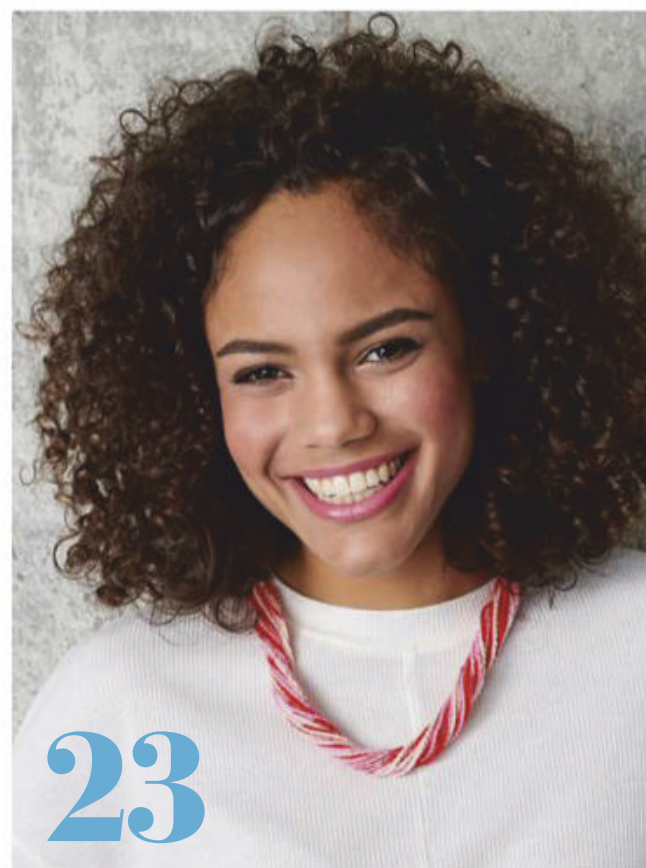
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Crochet

HOW TO CROCHET



4

8



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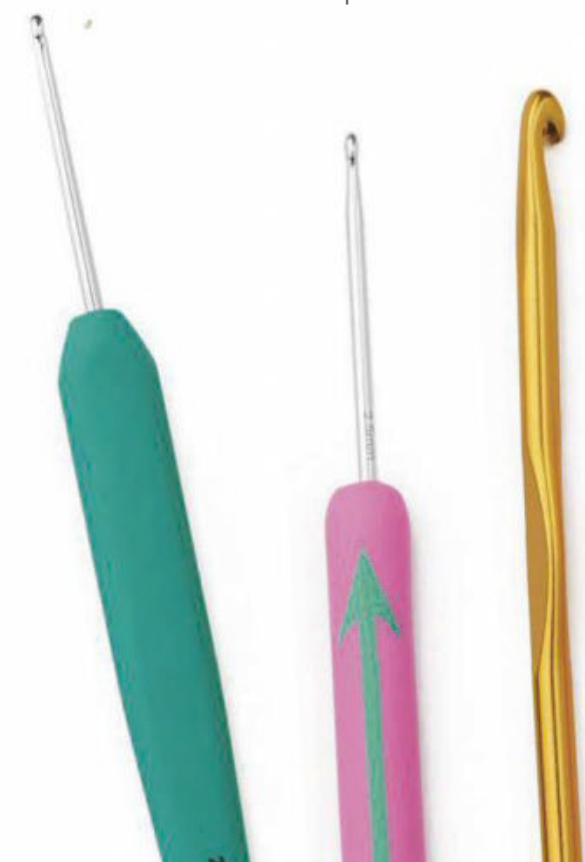
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*Step-by-step
tutorials*



YARNS

Discover a world of possibilities with the huge range of yarns available to buy, in many fibres and all the colours imaginable!



The world of yarn is huge, and one of the joys of crochet is using different types of yarn – there are many fibres, thicknesses, textures and colours of yarn, each one more beautiful than the next! Note that crocheters (and knitters!) call it ‘yarn’: the word ‘wool’ specifically means the fibre spun from a sheep’s coat.

When it comes to deciding on the yarn you need, size does matter. Yarn comes in different weights, or thicknesses, from the finest 1ply lace to the widely-used DK yarn, up to thick super-chunky yarns. The yarn thickness will affect the look, feel and weight of your crocheted fabric. You’ll always get the best results if you use the yarn quoted in a specific pattern, although as you gain confidence, you’ll find it’s fairly easy to substitute another yarn. It’s best if you choose an alternative that’s the same weight and crochet a swatch to make sure the tension is the same (more on this later). Most DK yarn, for instance, can be used in any DK pattern that uses similar fibres.

As a beginner, it’s best to start with a plain wool or acrylic yarn. These are great value and perfect for practising crochet techniques.

Both will cope well with being ‘ripped back’ or undone if you make a mistake, and their natural stretch makes them easy to use.

SPOILT FOR CHOICE

Whatever the type or texture of your yarn, it will sit within a standard range of sizes (see opposite). Traditionally, yarn weights were named after the number of strands that were plied together to create that thickness of yarn,

If you’re unsure about a yarn, buy a sample ball and and crochet a swatch

but with modern manufacturing techniques this often isn’t the case. In general, double knitting (DK) is a handy weight and works up quickly without making too thick a fabric.

Be careful not to mix different weights of yarn in a project (unless you want a novelty effect) because they work to different tensions and the finished fabric may vary in size. Just

to complicate matters, yarns made in the US and UK have a different weight-labelling system (see opposite).

Another thing to watch out for when buying several balls of yarn is the dye lot. Yarn companies dye huge ‘lots’ of yarn at a time, and there may be slight variations between dye lots. Check the dye lot number on the yarn label and make sure all your yarn is from the same lot, or you may get colour variations in your fabric.

Some people prefer to wash their yarn before they work with it, but it isn’t necessary. If you crochet a swatch though, make sure you wash it and block it (see page 131) before measuring, as this can change the size of your crochet fabric. You may see references to the ‘twist’ in a yarn, such as ‘high twist’ sock yarns. This refers to how tightly yarn plies are ‘twisted’ together when they’re spun. If a yarn is loosely spun, it may pull apart as you work if you’re not careful. Yarn with more twist is stronger and creates a denser, firmer fabric. If you’re unsure, try buying a sample ball and crochet a swatch to see what type of fabric it produces. Turn over to discover different fibres you’ll love!

YARN WEIGHTS

Choose the right yarn for your crochet project

Crochet threads Numbered from 3 to 100, these threads are not classed as yarns. They are specially made for fine crochet work, including lace making and filet crochet. Made from mercerised cotton, the higher the number, the finer the thread (no 10 is shown below). You may need a hook from the steel range (see p12) to work them.

Embroidery thread As well as specialist crochet threads, you can also crochet with embroidery threads, from stranded cottons to the finest silk threads.

1, 2 & 3ply Essentially one strand, or two or three strands of yarn twisted together, these are great for making delicate lace shawls and baby garments. Usually, 2ply yarn is worked with a 2-3½mm hook.

4ply This is a favourite weight for baby clothes, motifs and lightweight jumpers and cardigans.

Double Knitting (DK) So called because it's usually double the weight of 4ply, DK is the most popular yarn. It's quick to crochet with and is very versatile.

Aran Originally created for fishermen's jumpers, aran-weight wool can be used to make many accessories and garments when DK isn't heavy enough, and chunky is too bulky. Perfect for outdoor or warm clothing.

Chunky Heavier than aran, chunky wool is great for outdoor wear and winter jumpers. It's ideal for beginners as the fabric will grow quickly!

Super Chunky This weight of yarn is popular for making winter coats and jumpers. It's also good for beginners because it produces quick results. Good for furnishings.

Big Quick and easy to crochet with, big yarns are ideal for winter and making bold statements. You'll need a big hook for this yarn – up to 20mm thick. Perfect for bold scarves and coats, as well as cosy cushions and throws.

YARN WEIGHT UK/US CONVERSION

UK	US	Hook size
4ply	Fingering/Sport	3-4mm
Double knitting	Light worsted	3½-4½mm
Aran	Fisherman/Worsted	4-5½mm
Chunky	Bulky	5½-7mm
Super chunky	Extra bulky	7-12mm

YARN LABELS

How to read the ball band on your yarn

A ball band is the piece of paper wrapped around the yarn, where the manufacturers put all the information about the yarn. Have a look at the annotations below to see what it all means. It's a good idea to keep your ball bands to refer back to when you wash a garment, or if you decide to crochet the same pattern again.

MANUFACTURER'S ADDRESS

Contact details for the yarn manufacturer.

RECOMMENDED HOOK SIZE

Make your tension square with this size, but if it doesn't match, try a larger or smaller hook. (If only the knitting needle size is given, you can use this as a guide for the hook size to use.)

YARN CONTENT

The fibres that make up the yarn. This will affect the look and feel of the fabric and the care instructions.

WEIGHT AND QUANTITY

If your yarn length is shown in metres, multiply the number by 1.09 to convert it to yards (if needed).

CARE INSTRUCTIONS

In standard symbols and words. Ignore these at your peril! Give your yarn the best care to keep it looking like new.

TENSION

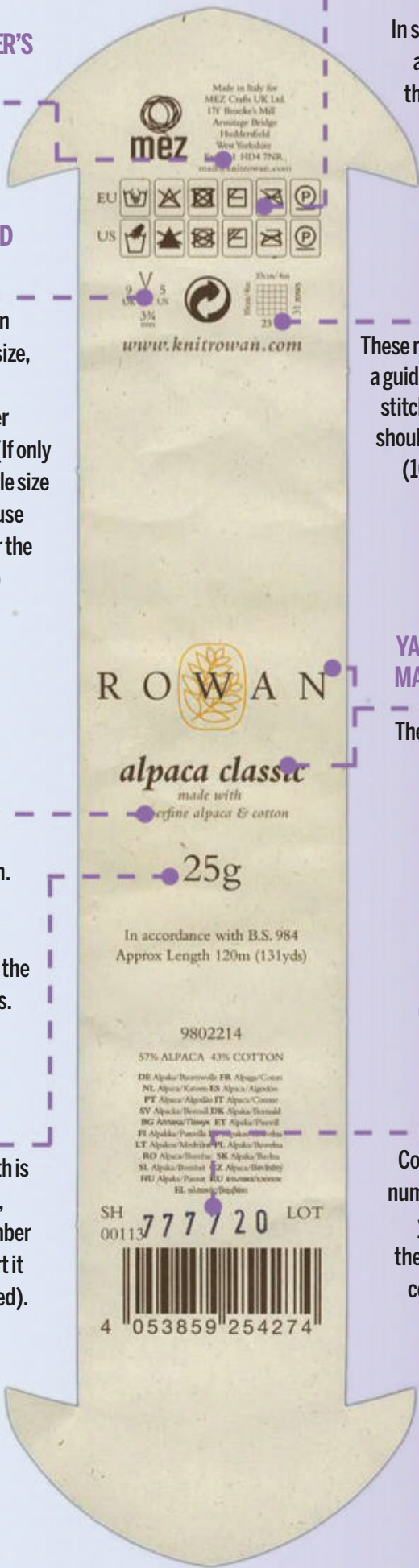
These numbers give you a guide as to how many stitches and rows you should work in a 4x4in (10x10cm) square.

YARN NAME AND MANUFACTURER

The front of the ball band usually has this key information.

COLOUR NAME OR NUMBER, AND DYE LOT NUMBER

Colours are usually numbered. Check all your yarn is from the same dye lot for consistent colour.





ACRYLIC

Acrylic is the go-to choice for many crocheters. It's cheap, comes in a huge variety of finishes and colours, and is widely available. Acrylic is not as breathable or absorbent as wool, but it's machine washable and tough, as you'll know if you've ever tried to break a strand with your hands! Pure acrylic yarn is often used for homewares, baby clothes and blankets, and rough-and-tumble children's garments, and the fibre is also added as a mixer to many of the most popular yarns available. It's perfect too for outside makes, like bunting, as it will withstand any weather and dry out quickly. If you're on a tight budget, it's a great way of keeping the cost down, with acrylic yarns starting from around £1 per 100g ball.



COTTON

The classic summer yarn, cotton is also a favourite with crocheters all year round, and those who are allergic to animal fibres. While cotton has little elasticity, it's extremely strong when spun, and takes colour beautifully. If you're crocheting something in cotton you don't need to fully soak it to block it when you're finished – in fact, if you get it very wet you may over-stretch it. Instead, just lie it flat on an ironing board or clean sheet, and give it a good blast of steam from your steam iron.

Crisp, cool cotton is perfect for children's garments, because it can be washed on hot temperatures. Lightweight cotton is also a great choice for lace tops and cardigans, but if you want to make a shawl with it, consider using a cotton/wool mix to stop it from stretching too much when it's being blocked.



BLENDS

Blends are among the most popular yarns. Mills mix different fibres to create yarns that combine the best of both worlds. Want a summer yarn that feels light and breezy? Try cotton with lightweight acrylic. Love alpaca but it's just too hot? An alpaca/wool or cotton mix will be perfect! Blends also enable mills to create unusual yarns; synthetic fibres are often used to bind 'feature' items like sequins to the main strand of yarn. Synthetic fibres can be much cheaper than animal or plant fibres, too. If you adore cashmere, silk or wool, keep your eyes peeled for blended yarns that feature some of your favourite fibre. It'll usually be mixed with acrylic, viscose or nylon, and will often be cheaper, giving you more for your pennies!



LINEN

One of the first fibres ever spun, linen flax comes from plants. It's very strong and light, but has a tendency to crease in woven fabric. Happily, this is much less obvious in knitted or crocheted fabric. Like wool, linen is highly absorbent, and suitable for warm and cold weather, although it tends to be favoured for summer makes. Linen is labour intensive to produce, but new linen yarns include recycled fibres, making them more environmentally friendly. Unlike cotton, linen isn't prone to stretching, and tends to soften with washing. Linen yarns are still fairly few and far between, but worth tracking down. They're great for lace, but the lack of bounce makes them less suited to cables. If you want a dramatic, drapery garment, consider linen!





WOOL

Wool is breathable yet highly absorbent, so if you get caught in a rain shower in a woollen jumper it will keep you dry. As long as it's not a boiling hot day, it will also keep you cooler for the same reasons. Wool is long-lasting and softens with wear, so keep the moths away and a wool jumper could last decades. Thanks to its naturally antibacterial properties, wool also requires far less washing than other fibres. Use superwash yarn if you want to machine wash it though, as otherwise it can felt! Like other animal fibres, wool has a 'memory'. If you wet it and stretch it out (blocking) it will keep the shape it dries into, making it perfect for lace, which needs 'opening out' after knitting or crocheting. Choose wool for blankets, aran sweaters and close-fitting tops. If you're worried about it being itchy, wear a short length tied around a necklace or watch and see if it irritates you.



MOHAIR

While the '80s saw a brief spike in the presence of mohair on the high street, in the crochet (and knitting) world it has only ever grown in popularity. It's usually blended with silk or nylon to create a fluffy, strong yarn that takes dye brilliantly and looks amazing used in complex lace patterns.

If you like the feel of mohair but you're worried it'll be itchy, use the necklace trick (see Wool) before you commit to making a whole garment. You'll find it may feel quite itchy in warmer weather but not in the colder months, so give it a chance – or simply wear something underneath. Held double, very fine laceweight mohair-mix yarns create a warm, soft, eminently strokeable fabric that adds something special to plain stitch garments.



ALPACA

For many years alpaca has been hailed as the 'new cashmere' due to its incredibly soft, luxurious feel. Thanks to its hollow fibres, which act as mini insulating rods, it's very warm, making it perfect for winter accessories. A pure alpaca jumper can actually be too hot for many people, so if you want to take advantage of the softness of alpaca for a garment, consider using a blend instead. Unlike wool, which has natural elasticity, alpaca has a tendency to 'grow' over time, so it's better to make garments in pieces rather than seamlessly, as the structure added by seams helps to prevent your top from stretching. While a huge amount of alpaca fibre comes from South America, brands like UK Alpaca process alpaca fibre for their own herds (and for other owners of small herds) in the UK, so it's easy to buy British alpaca yarn if you'd like to keep your crafting air miles to a minimum!



CASHMERE & SILK

While many yarns claim to be as soft as cashmere and as luxurious as silk, there is something very special about the real deal. Incredibly light, yet very warm, cashmere is combed from the tummies of mountain goats (yes, really!), and is very expensive. It's the top choice for a precious one-off knitted or crocheted piece. Many yarns include a touch of cashmere for softness, but few contain large quantities. On a budget? Choose yarn with a small amount of cashmere or save up for a pricier pure yarn.

Strong and striking, silk is a favourite with crocheters who love making lacy items in super fine yarns in vibrant colours. As well as pure silk yarns, alpaca and wool/silk mixes are popular choices for shawls and scarves. Silk is a lovely choice for light, drapey garments and, thanks to its sheen, gives noticeable stitch definition.



HOOKS AND TOOLS

Let’s get straight to the point: you can’t crochet without them!



HOOK SIZES		
UK	METRIC	US
14	2mm	B/1
13	2.25mm	-
12	2.5mm	C/2
11	3mm	-
10	3.25mm	D/3
9	3.5mm	E/4
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	-
00	9mm	-
000	10mm	-

Crochet hooks come in all sizes, shapes and materials. But all you really need from a hook is that it’s fairly short, thin, smooth and strong enough to enable you to turn yarn into the stitches used to make crocheted fabric.

Of course, things aren’t quite that straightforward. You also need to think about the different yarn fibres you’ll be working with, your stitch tension, personal preferences, and the fact that no one hook will work for all the projects you’ll want to make, so it’s a good idea to invest in a set of several hooks.

The first thing you need to know about crochet hooks is that they come in different sizes or thicknesses, just like yarn comes in different thicknesses. It’s important to use the appropriate size of hook for the thickness of the yarn you’re using. For example, when

you’re using a chunky yarn, you need to use a thicker hook or you’ll end up with tiny stitches and a stiff, dense fabric.

THROUGH THICK AND THIN

When you’re first learning to crochet, it’s best to use the size of hook recommended on the yarn’s ball band. For example, a DK yarn will usually recommend a 4mm hook, and this is a great combination for beginners to start practising with. Once you get more confident, you can vary the hook size to achieve different effects with the same yarn (we’ll have more on this later).

Most hook sizes are measured in millimetres (mm), but you might also see hooks in traditional UK sizes (in numbers from 000 to 14) and traditional US sizes (in numbers from 0 to 50). We’ve included a

handy conversion table so you can easily switch between the different sizes.

You’ll also see above that some of the hooks available are very small – these are sometimes referred to as ‘steel’ hook sizes and can be used to crochet lace, jewellery and other tiny items using embroidery thread.

You don’t need to have all these sizes in your hook stash to start crocheting, though. You’ll probably find you use 3mm and 4mm hooks most often, so start off with these. You can pick up old crochet hooks for a great price at car boot sales and charity shops – just make sure they’re in good condition and not chipped or bent.

Above, we’ve also included a life-size guide to the most common crochet hook sizes, so you can easily identify any old hooks that don’t have numbers on them.

TYPES OF HOOK

Choose the right hook for your project

Modern crochet hooks are usually made of aluminium, steel, plastic, bamboo or wood. Below are some of the hook types you'll come across and what they're best used for. Collect hooks of different types for different uses.

The most commonly used crochet hook is the simple, straight hook. Examples of this sort of hook have been around for hundreds of years. They're easy to use, with the hook at the end helping to pull loops of yarn through other loops of yarn, to form fabric. The fabric can be flat or tubular. You'll only ever work

with one loop of yarn, so crochet hooks don't need to be any larger than your hand. Crochet hooks come in a standard length of 15cm, although you can also find them in 20cm and 25cm lengths.

Store your hooks carefully, such as in a padded hook roll, and they'll give you many years of service. Replace them if they become rough, to avoid damaging your yarn or affecting your tension. You don't have to throw out old hooks you can't crochet with though – try displaying them in a pretty vase!

SUPER-SIZED HOOKS

Use enormous hooks like this to crochet with big yarns, or even a thinner yarn for a lacy look. Super-sized hooks result in super-quick projects! Great fun for teenage crocheters, too.



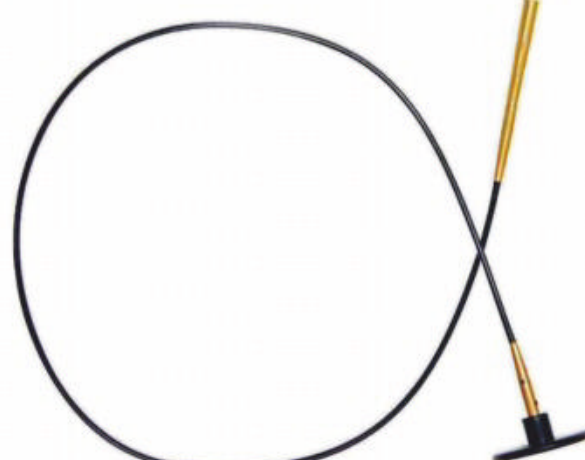
METAL

Made from one of the most common and useful materials, metal hooks are perfect for 'stickier' yarns such as acrylic because they're smooth and the yarn slides along easily. The more polished a hook is, the faster you can work. If you have arthritis or similar problems, try using bamboo or wooden hooks. Very fine crochet hooks are usually metal and can bend easily, so take good care of them!



TUNISIAN

Also known as Afghan hooks, these straight tools have a hook at one end or both ends, and are especially designed for use in Tunisian crochet patterns.



WOOD & BAMBOO

Smooth, gorgeous to handle and great to look at, bamboo and wood are good materials to use with slippery yarns such as silks and fine wools, because they grip the yarn better than metal hooks do.



PLASTIC

Light and strong, plastic is great for getting new or young crafters to learn to crochet. Plastic hooks are an inexpensive way to build up your hook stash, especially since plastic is often used for larger hooks. Acrylic hooks are similar to plastic, but they can be a little heavier. Both are comfortable to use.



MIXTURE

Some hooks combine different materials to get the best of both. Most popular are hooks with metal tips and wooden or plastic handles, which can manoeuvre the yarn easily and feel good in your hand. Some hooks even have moulded ergonomic grips so the least possible strain is placed on your hands.



GLOSSARY

A guide to basic terms, from slipknots to surface crochet

Amigurumi

The Japanese art of cute crochet toys: 'ami' means crocheted and 'nigurumi' means stuffed doll.

Ball band

The wrapper around a ball, skein or hank of yarn that includes useful information on that yarn.

Ball end of yarn

The end of the yarn that runs from the stitch on your hook back to the ball of yarn being used.

Ball winder

A device for winding yarn hanks into balls to be used for crochet. A winder is often used with a swift.

Blocking

Shaping a piece of crochet once it's finished by pinning it out flat while it's damp and letting it dry.

Cable

A motif created by crossing crochet stitches over each other. Designs can look like twisted ropes, hence the name.

Chain

The loops that you create by passing one loop of yarn through another, using a crochet hook.

Chain space

The space created by working a chain length between stitches.

Cluster

A group of stitches worked into the same stitch or chain space.

Colourwork

Using more than one colour in your crochet, such as stripes, tapestry crochet and more.

Decreases

Reducing the number of stitches on a row, in order to shape your crochet or create an effect.

Double crochet

One of the most commonly used crochet stitches. It's small and dense.

Double treble crochet

A lacy crochet stitch, taller than a treble crochet stitch.

Ease

A term used to describe how snugly or loosely a garment will fit – positive ease makes a garment baggy, while negative ease makes a garment form fitting.

Edging

Adding crochet stitches around the edge of a fabric (this could be a crocheted or other type of fabric).

Fasten off

The method of securing the final stitch in a row or round, so that the stitches do not come undone.

Foundation chain

The base of chain stitches that the first row is worked into.

Foundation row

The first row of stitches worked into the foundation chain. It can also refer to the technique of crocheting the first row of stitches without a foundation chain.

Frogging

Undoing the stitches in a piece of crochet, either to correct a mistake or to use the yarn for another project. (So-called because you 'rip it, rip it'!)

Granny square

A traditional motif worked in the round, with different colours used for each round. Usually uses groups of treble crochet stitches, often in threes.

Half treble

A regularly used crochet stitch, it's taller than double crochet but shorter than treble crochet.

Hank

A coil of yarn (often with delicate fibres) that must be wound into a ball before you can crochet with it. Also called a skein.

Hook size

The size of your hook, according to traditional US and UK sizing systems or the measurement in millimetres of the circumference of a hook. The size, combined with the weight of the yarn, dictates how dense or loose the finished crocheted fabric will be.

Increases

Increasing the number of stitches on a row, in order to shape a garment or form a stitch pattern.

Magic loop

A method of creating a foundation ring for working in the round. It creates a very tight centre with no visible hole.

Making up

Sewing together different parts of an item, such as the sleeves and body of a sweater. Also called joining or seaming.

Mesh

A crochet technique that uses stitches and chain lengths to create a fabric that looks like a 'net'.

Motif

Small crocheted shapes, usually worked in the round. They can be sewn together to create a larger item or used to decorate fabric. Also applies to granny squares.

Notions

Accessories and equipment, ranging from the essential to the frivolous, including stitch markers, bag handles and buttons.

Picot

A small, decorative loop created at the edge of the crochet fabric.

Pilling

The 'bobbled' effect seen on crocheted garments caused by everyday wear.



Ply

A strand of fibre that can be spun together with other plies to form a yarn (eg some 4ply yarn is made from four strands).

Post

The upright 'post' of a stitch. Some patterns might ask you to insert the hook around the post of the stitch on the previous row, and work a stitch here.

Reverse shaping

To work a pattern in the mirror image of any previous shaping, such as on the left and right front of a cardigan. For example, to mirror increase stitches at the end of a row, you'd need to increase at the start of a row.

Right side

The 'public-facing' side of an item, such as the outside of a sweater or hat.

Round

The name for a row of stitches when crocheting in the round. These can create a flat fabric (such as a disc) or a tubular fabric (such as a sleeve).

Row

A series of stitches that runs the width of your fabric. Lengthening or shortening rows by increasing or decreasing the number of stitches will shape the item.

Row counter

A device that helps you to keep track of how many rows or rounds you have worked so far.

Skein

(see hank)

Skip a stitch

An instruction in patterns, which means you do not work into this stitch but move on to the next one. You may also see it called 'miss a stitch'.

Slipknot

The most commonly used way to start your crochet fabric. This knot creates a secure loop of yarn, from which you can work your chains.

Slip stitch

More of a technique than a stitch, it's used to join areas of the crochet fabric, often the last stitch to the first stitch in a round.

Stash

A crocheter's collection of yarn, needles and notions.

Stitch

One individual crochet stitch, including the post of the stitch and the top two loops, which form a neat v-shape. Usually, you'll insert the hook under these two loops to work the next stitch.

Stitch marker

A tool used to denote important places in your crochet. This could be the start of a round or spiral, an important area of shaping or a pattern repeat. Often a clasp or spiral of plastic.

Surface crochet

Crochet stitches that are worked on top of crocheted fabric to create details and 'draw' designs onto finished crochet items.

Swift

A rotating device that holds a hank or skein of yarn while it's being wound into a ball (either by hand or by using a ball winder).

Tail end

The loose, short end of the yarn you're using – as opposed to the ball end, which runs back to the ball of yarn you're using.

Tapestry crochet

A colourwork technique that creates interesting designs using two or three colours of yarn. The non-working shade is carried across the back of the fabric. Variations on this technique are intarsia, Fair Isle, mosaic and jacquard crochet.

Tension

The number of stitches and rows that a given combination of yarn weight and hook size should create. You need to get your tension correct to ensure that the finished object is the right size.

Treble crochet

One of the most used crochet stitches. It's fairly tall and lacy.

Triple treble crochet

A very lacy crochet stitch, taller than a double treble crochet.

Turning chain

A series of chains worked at the beginning of a row or round, to bring the hook up to the right height for working the stitches in that row or round. Different stitches are different heights, so you need a different number of chains to form the turning chain for different stitches.

Weaving in ends

The process of tidying up your finished item and securing loose ends by weaving them into the back of the crochet fabric.

WIP

Short for 'work in progress' – any project that you've started but not yet finished.

Work straight

An instruction you may see in patterns, which means to continue a series of rows in a pattern without increasing or decreasing. Also known as 'work even'.

Working yarn

The strand of yarn currently in use (most likely to be mentioned in colourwork patterns where colours are swapped in and out).

Wrong side

The side of your item that will be the back (or the inside) once it's finished. This won't usually be on show.

Yarn

Any fibre that's been spun into a strand so it can be crocheted with. The word 'yarn' is often used instead of 'wool' in order to distinguish actual wool from other types!

Yarn round hook

A key crochet technique to learn. The process of moving the hook so the yarn wraps around hook in an anti-clockwise (RH) or clockwise (LH) direction. Used to create all crochet stitches. Also called yarn over hook.

Yarn weight

How thick a yarn is. Thicker yarns require larger hooks, and thinner yarns require smaller hooks, unless you want a lacier effect for a specific pattern.



ABBREVIATIONS

It's easy to learn the language of a crochet pattern!

At first glance, you might think crochet patterns are written in another language. And they sort of are, but it's a simple language to understand. Patterns use a set of abbreviations that are sensible ways to shorten the description of techniques that you'll do regularly.

For example, double crochet is abbreviated to dc. These letters are often accompanied by a number that relates to the stitches. For example, 4dc means 'double crochet 4

stitches'. This system creates a shorthand that makes patterns shorter and simpler. If all the instructions were written in full, some patterns would run to dozens of pages.

We'll have more on specific abbreviations in later chapters, once you start learning the techniques and practising them by making our simple projects. But if you see an abbreviation you don't understand, you can just come back to this page.

Just to be clear, our patterns use UK

crochet terminology throughout. You'll find that crocheters in the UK and US use very different crochet terms, such as 'single crochet' in the US and 'double crochet' in the UK. The UK and US also use different systems for yarn weights (see page 5 for more) and hook sizes (see page 8 for more). Aside from these areas, the differences are quite minor, so don't be put off from using a pattern from either country. Most patterns will state which terms they are using.

CROCHET (UK)

- across** to the end of the row
- alt** alternate
- approx** approximate(ly)
- beg** beginning
- bet** between
- bl** back loop: insert hook under back loop only and work the stitch instructed. Example bldc – back loop double crochet
- bp** back post: insert hook from the back to front to back around the post of the st in row below and work the stitch instructed. Example BPtr – back post treble
- CC** contrast colour
- ch(s)** chain or chain stitch(es)
- ch-sp(s)** chain space(s)
- ch-** refers to ch made previously, for example, ch-3
- cl(s)** cluster(s), for example: 4-tr cluster (yrh, insert hook in sp/st, yrh, pull up loop, yrh, draw through 2 loops) 4 times, inserting hook in same sp/st, yrh, draw through all loops on hook
- cont** continue
- dc** double crochet
- dc2tog** work 2 dc together: (insert hk in next st, yrh, draw loop through) twice, yrh, draw through all 3 loops on hook
- dec** decrease (by working two stitches together)
- DK** double knitting
- dtr** double treble crochet
- dtr2tog** work 2 dtr sts together: (yrh twice, insert hook in next st, yrh, pull up loop, yrh, draw through 2 loops, yrh, draw through 2 loops) 2 times, yrh, draw through all loops on hk
- fl** front loop: insert hook under front loop only and work the stitch instructed. Example: fldc – front loop double crochet

- fol/s** following/follows
- fp** front post: insert hook from the front to back to front around the post of the st in row below and work the stitch instructed. For example: FPtr – front post treble
- gr** group
- hk** crochet hook
- htr** half treble crochet
- htr2tog** work 2htr together: (yrh, insert hook in next st, yrh, pull up loop) 2 times, yrh, draw through all loops on hk
- in next** sts to be worked into same stitch
- inc** increase (by working two stitches into the same space or stitch below)
- LH** left hand
- lp(s)** loop(s)
- MC** main colour
- meas** measures
- nc** not closed
- p or pc** picot
- patt(s)** pattern(s)
- patt rep(s)** pattern repeat(s)
- PB** place bead
- PM** place marker
- prev** previous
- rem** remain/remaining
- rep(s)** repeat(s)
- rb** raised back. Example rbdc – raised back double crochet
- rf** raised front. Example: rfdc – raised front double crochet
- RH** right hand
- rnd(s)** round(s)
- RS** right side
- sk** skip
- ss/sl st** slip stitch
- sp(s)** space(s)
- st(s)** stitch(es)
- t-ch(s)** turning chain(s)
- tog** together
- tr** treble crochet

- tr2tog** work 2 tr together: (yrh, insert hk in next st, yrh, pull up loop, yrh, draw through 2 loops) 2 times, yrh, draw through all loops on hook
- ttr** triple treble crochet
- ttr2tog** work 2 ttr sts together: (yrh 3 times, insert hook in next st, yrh and pull up loop, [yrh, draw through 2 loops] 3 times) 2 times, yrh and draw through all loops on hook
- WS** wrong side
- yrh** yarn round hook
- *** work instructions immediately following *, then repeat as directed
- ()** work or repeat all instructions in the brackets as directed
- []** Indicates the stitch count at the end of a row/round

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

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START CROCHETING HERE

Time to pick up your hook and yarn and start crocheting...

Crochet really is easy when you know how, and this chapter will help you get to grips with the basics, with clear, step-by-step instructions for all the main stitches. With a bit of practice, you'll find that crochet is a fun and simple way to create cosy fabrics for all sorts of items, from fashion to homewares.

All you need to get started is a quiet place, where you won't be disturbed, and about an hour. You'll also need a hook and some yarn. Anything you can get your hands on should be fine, although we recommend you use a smooth acrylic or wool yarn, either DK weight with a 4mm hook, or aran weight with a 5mm hook to start.

The important thing to remember is that every crocheter is different, and what works well for one might not suit another. There are

also many styles of crochet, with different ways of holding the hook and working with the yarn to create crocheted fabric.

We'll show you the most commonly used methods, but you should do whatever feels most natural for you. Just experiment until you find a comfortable way of performing each technique and don't worry if your preferred way is slightly different from ours, as long as the result is the same.

SIDE TO SIDE

In this guide, we've tried to include instructions for left-handed crocheters as well as right-handed crocheters. Some left-handed people will actually crochet in a right-handed fashion, but again, do whatever feels most comfortable to you. If you find any right-handed instructions that you want to

switch to being left-handed, you'll need to reverse the instructions (switching all 'rights' for 'lefts' and vice versa). You might also find it helps to place the pages in front of a mirror and then copy the reflection of the images.

Many people are taught to crochet by a friend or relative, while others prefer to learn from pictures or videos. You can use our guide to teach you how to crochet, or you can use it as a reference once you've learned the basics, depending on your preferred learning method. We're going to show you each stitch in the order you'll use it, from making chains and double crochet stitches to fastening off. However, some people like to learn things in their own order, and then go back and revisit the basics. There's no right or wrong method to picking up crochet, so do whatever works best for you. Good luck!



ON A MISSION
We'll teach you how to crochet, but do it in a way that works for you



HOLD YOUR HOOK

Find a comfy way to hold your hook – not too tight!

Grab a 4mm or 5mm hook and practise holding it. If you're right-handed, hold it in your right hand; if you're left-handed, use your left hand. If your hook has a flat area, hold it

here. Try not to grip the hook too tightly – aim for your hand to feel relaxed.

Try out both the pen and knife methods of holding the hook, shown below. Some people find the pen grip enables their

movements to be more fluid and to crochet more quickly, while others find the knife grip gives them more control. See what feels more natural. If neither (or both!) work for you, just find a way that does.

RIGHT-HAND



Pen method

The most popular way to hold a hook is the pen method, shown here. Hold the hook in your right hand, approx 3-5cm (1-2in) from the hooked end, as if you're about to write with it like a pen or pencil.



Knife method

Alternatively, try holding the hook like you would hold a knife. Place your index finger further down the hook, away from the thumb.

LEFT-HAND



Pen method

The most popular way to hold a hook is the pen method, shown here. Hold the hook in your left hand, approx 3-5cm (1-2in) from the hooked end, as if you're about to write with it like a pen or pencil.



Knife method

Alternatively, try holding the hook like you would hold a knife. Place your index finger further down the hook, away from the thumb.

MAKE A SLIPKNOT

Start crocheting by making one simple loop

When you get down to the basics, crochet is just a series of loops, all pulled through one another to create a fabric. The first loop is a slipknot, so it's important to get it right. But don't worry, it's not hard, and you may even have made them before. Take your time and

practise a little bit – it will pay off in the end.

Sit down with your hook and yarn, and practise making slipknots. Make sure you leave a fairly long tail of yarn at the end, approximately 10cm (4in) long. This way, you can be sure it won't unravel and it will be easier to weave into your fabric at the

end. You don't need to pull your slipknot too tight once it's on the hook – if it's a bit looser then it will be easier to work the first chain. You're aiming for the knot to be close to the hook, but not touching it. Once you've made the first chain, you can tighten up the slipknot.

RIGHT-HAND

If you're right-handed, follow these instructions and photos...



1 Hold the tail end of the yarn in your left hand and drape the yarn clockwise over the top of it, to form a loop in a circle, as shown above.



2 Holding the loop between your left thumb and your index finger, insert the crochet hook through the centre of the loop from front to back.



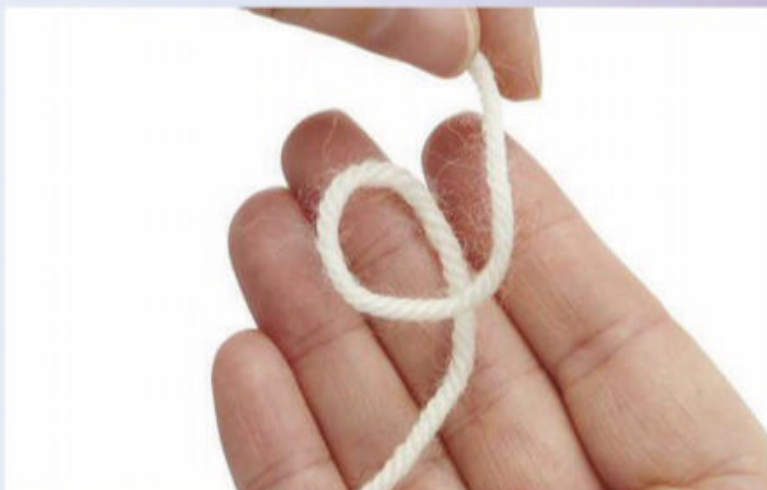
3 Catch the ball end of the yarn with the hook and pull the hook back through the centre of the loop, bringing the yarn with it.



4 Pull both yarn ends until the knot comes up close to the hook. Then pull the ball end of yarn only to tighten the knot.

LEFT-HAND

If you're left-handed, follow these instructions and photos...



1 Hold the tail end of the yarn in your right hand and drape the yarn anticlockwise over the top of it, to form a loop in a circle, as shown above.



2 Holding the loop between your right thumb and your index finger, 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 the hook back through the centre of the loop, bringing the yarn with it.



4 Pull both yarn ends until the knot comes up close to the hook. Then pull the ball end of yarn only to tighten the knot.

OTHER METHODS

Feel free to use your own method to make a slipknot

The above method is just one way you can use to make a slipknot – there are plenty of other ways to do it, so if you have trouble with the method above and find that it doesn't work for you, don't give up! Just find a method that does.

Some crocheters prefer to wrap the yarn around the index finger and then pull a second loop of yarn through the loop on their finger. Other crocheters prefer to lay the yarn on a flat surface

and form the looped structure here before inserting the hook. You can find step-by-step guides to these techniques, and many more, on the internet. Just type 'crochet slipknot' into any search engine to find various methods to try – you're bound to find one that will suit you.

However you make a slipknot, you just need to remember that you're making a loop, then pulling a second loop through the first loop, and then inserting the

hook into the second loop. If you go wrong, it's simple to undo the slipknot – just remove the hook and pull on both ends of the yarn. You'll be left with knot-free yarn and you'll be free to try making your slipknot again.

Almost every crochet pattern starts with a slipknot, so it's important to practise the technique. In crochet, the only time you wouldn't need to make a slipknot is if you're asked to make a Magic Loop to work in the round.

HOLD YOUR YARN

Practise weaving the yarn between your fingers

When you start to crochet, you'll quickly see that it's important to be able to work using an even tension to ensure your work looks uniform.

This means the yarn needs to be able to unwind easily from the ball while you're working with it. At the same time, the yarn needs to have enough tension for the hook

to be able to pick it up easily when making the stitches.

For most crocheters, the easiest way to achieve this is to wind the yarn around your fingers in some way, so that you can both hold it firmly and release it slowly. If you're right-handed, weave the yarn around your left hand; if you're left-handed, weave the

yarn around your right hand. We've suggested two methods here (shown below), but you can find your own, natural way of holding the yarn. You can check it results in an even tension by making test swatches and checking that the stitches are a similar size. On patterns, you will usually be given a tension to match.

RIGHT-HAND

METHOD 1



Pass the ball end of yarn between the little and third finger of your left hand. Pass it behind the third and middle fingers and over your index finger.

METHOD 2



Loop the ball end of the yarn loosely around the little finger of your left hand, then take it under your middle finger and over your index finger.

LEFT-HAND

METHOD 1



Pass the ball end of yarn between the little and third finger of your right hand. Pass it behind the third and middle fingers and over your index finger.

METHOD 2



Loop the ball end of the yarn loosely around the little finger of your right hand, then take it under your middle finger and over your index finger.

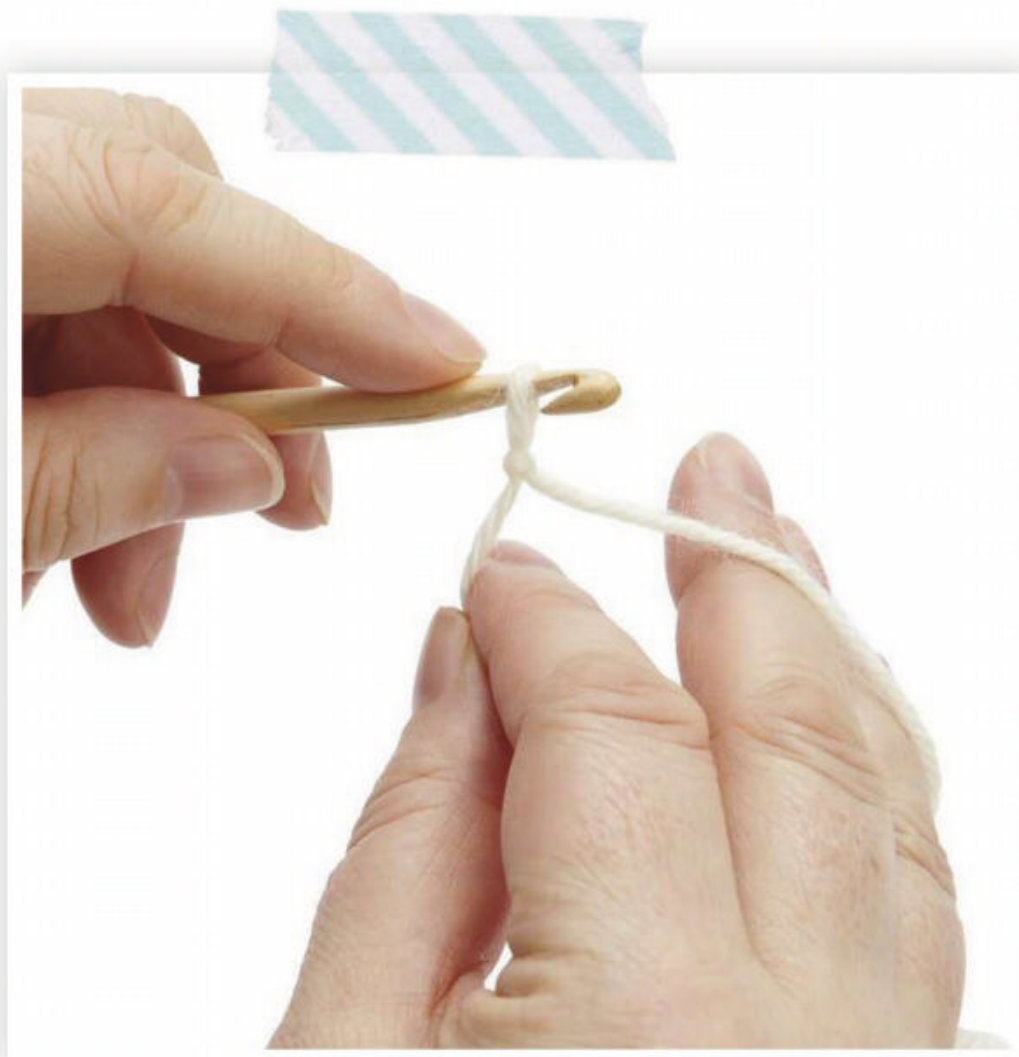
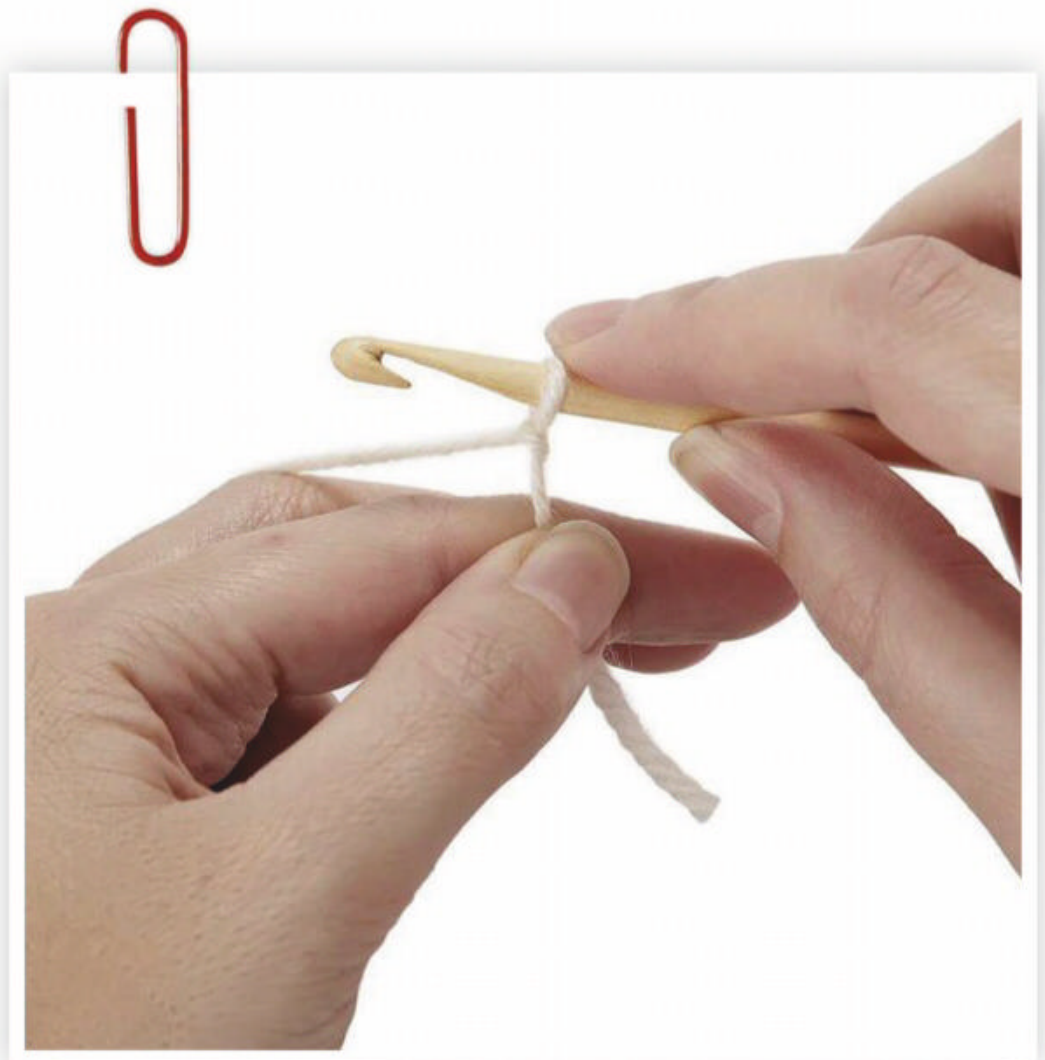
CONTROL THE YARN

How best to control the loop on the hook



RIGHT-HAND

While you're crocheting, you will need to control the crochet loop with the same hand as the one that's holding the yarn. When making your first chain stitches (see overleaf), right-handers should hold the tail end of the yarn firmly between the thumb and index finger of your left hand, or the thumb and middle finger. Doing this enables you to control the position of the working loop on the hook as the hook moves in and out of the working loop. The hook should be around 3-5cm from the index finger of your right hand when you are crocheting.



LEFT-HAND

While you're crocheting, you will need to control the crochet loop with the same hand as the one that's holding the yarn. When making your first chain stitches (see overleaf), left-handers should hold the tail end of the yarn firmly between the thumb and index finger of your right hand, or the thumb and middle finger. Doing this enables you to control the position of the working loop on the hook as the hook moves in and out of the working loop. The hook should be around 3-5cm from the index finger of your left hand when you're crocheting.

CHAIN STITCH

Create a foundation chain to work stitches into

One of the most important techniques you need to learn in crochet is making chain stitches. No matter what crochet project you're working on, you will always need to make chains. Fortunately, they're also the easiest stitch to work in crochet.

Follow our guide (below and right) to make chain stitches, which are also called chains or a chain length. Practise the technique by making a length of about 20 chains (don't count the slipknot as a stitch). Hold the stitches firmly, just below the hook, moving your fingers up the chain as you go.

Keep making short chains like this until you can make chain stitches that are even in size and shape, and the whole process feels quite natural. Don't worry if your chains look a bit uneven when you first give it a try. Practice makes perfect, so just pull all the yarn off the hook and have another go!

RIGHT-HAND

If you're right-handed, follow these instructions and photos...



1 With a slipknot on your hook, catch the ball end of yarn with the hook, so the yarn wraps around it anticlockwise. This action is called 'yarn round hook' or 'yrh'.



2 Gently pull the hook, and the yarn wrapped around it, back towards the loop on the hook.



3 Pull the hook and yarn through the first loop, to make a new loop on the hook. Congratulations, this is your first chain stitch.



4 Tighten up the slipknot (to make sure you don't count it as a stitch). Repeat steps 1-3 until you're happy with the technique.

LEFT-HAND

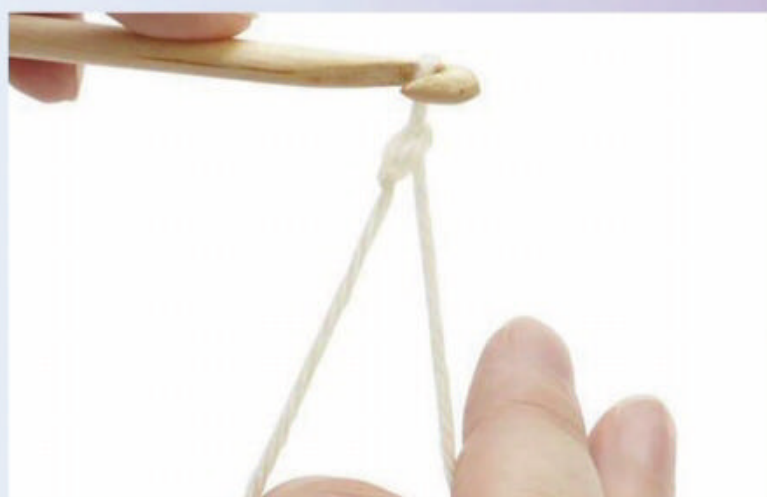
If you're left-handed, follow these instructions and photos...



1 With a slipknot on your hook, catch the ball end of yarn with the hook, so the yarn wraps around it anticlockwise. This action is called 'yarn round hook' or 'yrh'.



2 Gently pull the hook, and the yarn wrapped around it, back towards the loop on the hook.



3 Pull the hook and yarn through the first loop, to make a new loop on the hook. Congratulations, this is your first chain stitch.



4 Tighten up the slipknot (to make sure you don't count it as a stitch). Repeat steps 1-3 until you're happy with the technique.

FOUNDATION CHAINS

The key way to start off your crocheting

You'll use chain stitches in various places when you're crocheting, but one of the key areas is to make foundation chains. For most crochet projects, you'll start off by making a length of chain stitches, which is called a foundation chain. You'll then need to work your crochet stitches back along the chain length to create your first row of stitches – add more rows of stitches and you'll make crochet fabric! The original chain length is called a foundation chain because it's the foundation of your project.



CHAIN ANATOMY

Get to know your chain length and start counting

Once you can make chains, it's a good idea to get to know your chain length better. To be able to work stitches into a chain length, or follow a crochet pattern, you need to be able to count your chains and understand which part of the chain is which. Once you can do this, the world of crochet patterns will be

your oyster! You'll see below that the front of a chain length has a neat series of V-shaped stitches (see below left), while the back has a row of bumps along the row of chains. You can either work your crochet stitches into the front or back of the chain length (we'll have more about this on page 26 as each has advantages and disadvantages).

When you're crocheting from a pattern, you'll often be instructed to make a certain number of chains, so you'll need to be able to count them. Follow our guide below to learn how to count each chain stitch, ignoring the slipknot and the working loop. When you count chain stitches, have the front side facing you.

Front



Here you can see the front of a chain – you'll see that it looks like a plait. Have your chain this way round to count the stitches. Stitches can be worked into the centre of each chain stitch.

Back



The back of a chain has a row of bumps down the centre of the length. Sometimes it's easier to crochet stitches into each bump on the back of the chain, rather than the front of each chain.

Counting



When you're counting a chain length, make sure you don't count the slipknot or the loop on the hook (called the working loop). You can count in either direction, but most crocheters prefer to count backwards from the hook towards the

slipknot. Each 'V' shape in the yarn counts as one chain stitch. Make sure that the chain isn't twisted and that the front is facing you. As you can see, there are nine chain stitches in the length above.

CHAIN STITCH NECKLACE

Make versatile jewellery with easy lengths of simple chain stitches

YOU WILL NEED

YARN

- Rico Essentials Crochet Print (100% cotton, 50g/280m)
1 ball of Red Mix (002)
- Rico Essentials Crochet Cotton (100% cotton, 50g/280m)
1 ball of each:
Red (004)
Pink (029)
Pastel Pink (028)

HOOK

- A 2.5mm (US B/1 or C/2) hook
- For yarn stockists contact Rico Design
www.rico-design.co.uk

NOTIONS

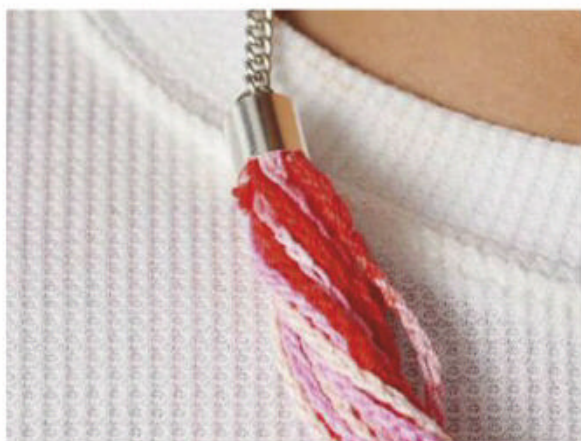
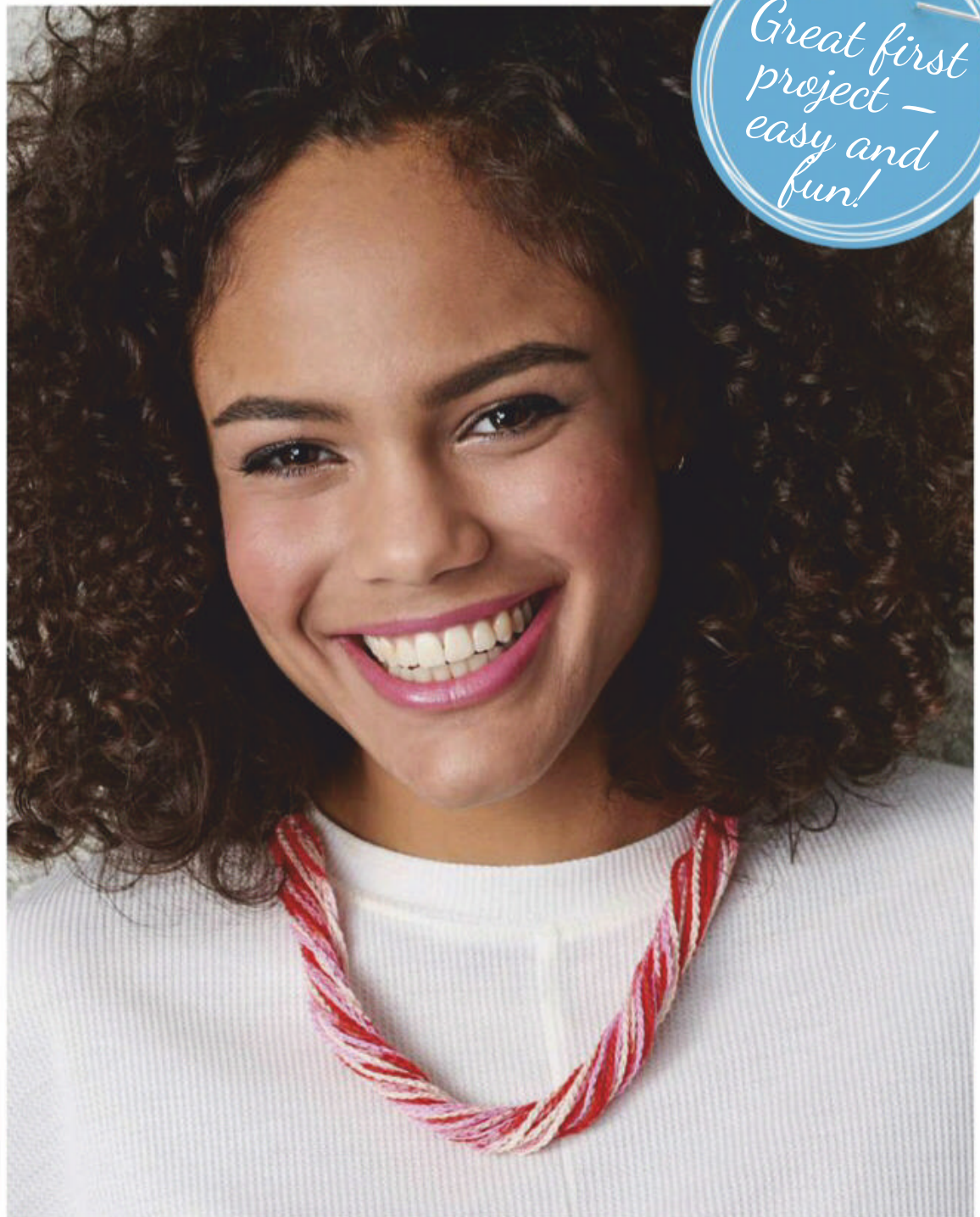
- 2 end caps, 1cm size
- Super glue
- 2 lengths of linked metal chain with fastenings

TENSION AND SIZE

Tension is not critical for this project.
Necklace measures approx 52cm (20½in) long

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list see page 12



Crocheting all the strands of pretty chains is a fab way to practise getting your chain loops even!

NOTES

Necklace is worked in multiple lengths of chains which are secured into the jewellery end caps.

If you don't want to use end caps, you could simply work several chains to the length you desire and secure them with a slip stitch, or twist them and sew the ends together.

NECKLACE

CHAINS (MAKE 24)

In each shade, make 6 lengths of chain approx 90 stitches or measuring 32cm long.

TO MAKE UP

Pin out and spray the chain lengths with water to help them lie flat, and let them dry. Place the chain lengths alongside each other and trim the threads at each end.

Carefully apply glue inside one of the end caps and insert all the ends of the chains at once, using a crochet hook to push them gently inside the cap. Slightly twist the chain lengths and repeat process on the other end with the second end cap. Leave to dry. Attach 10cm (or length required) of linked metal chain with fastening to each end cap.

SLIP STITCH

A handy technique that's not often used as a stitch!



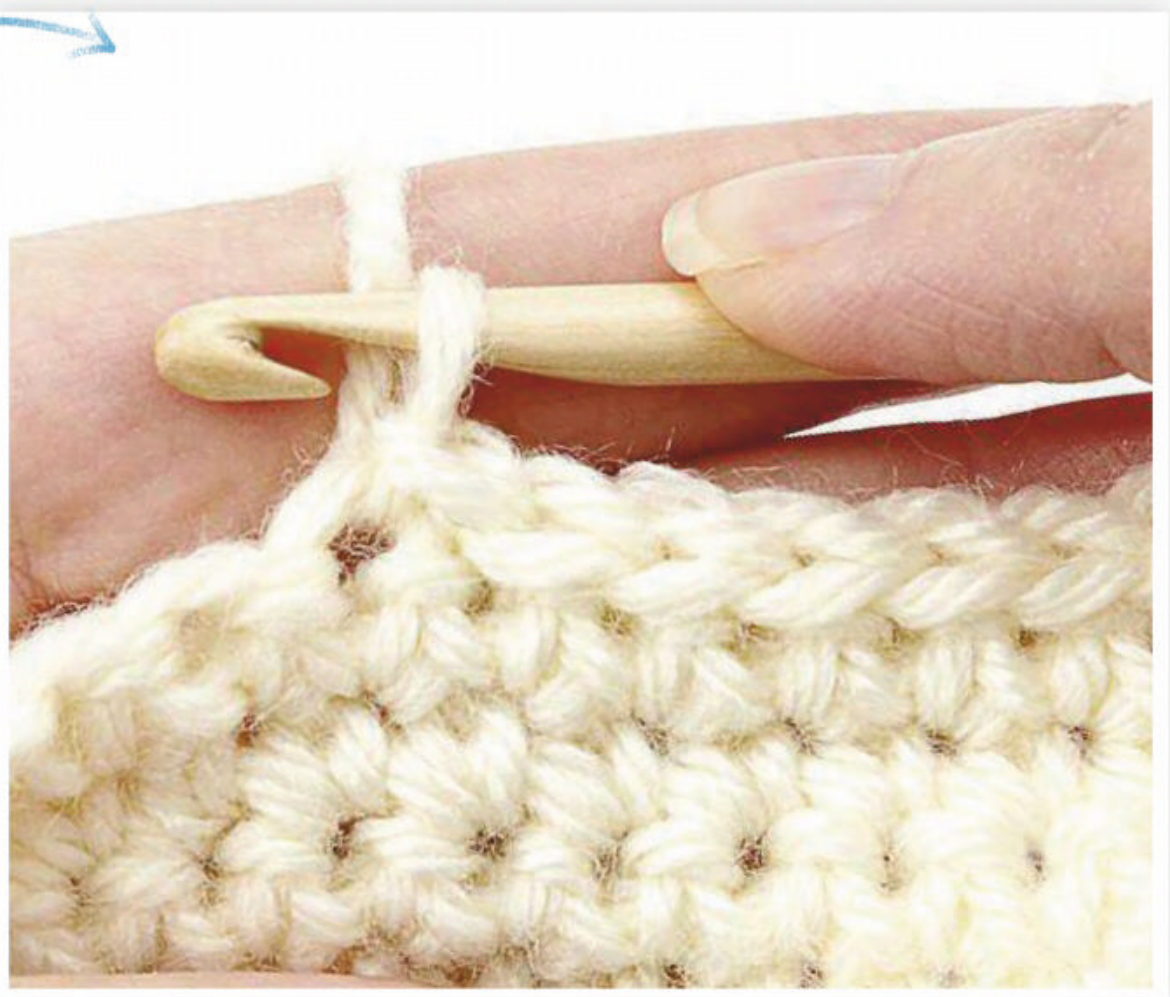
JOINING

Slip stitch is a very useful technique in your crochet repertoire. It has a variety of uses, but it's most regularly used as a joining stitch for working in the round, for motifs such as granny squares. It can also be used to join together one part of the crochet fabric to another part, or for creating shaping. Slip stitch is abbreviated as 'ss' or 'sl st'.



EDGING

Slip stitch is also handy for creating a narrow edging on another fabric, as shown right. You can also use the stitch if you need to move your crochet hook to another part of the fabric because the stitch is very small. It can also be used as a stitch, worked in rows, but it has almost no height so it creates a very dense fabric and is rarely used like this in patterns.



MAKE A SLIP STITCH

Practise working this essential crochet technique

You can make a slip stitch into any chain or stitch that you want to. A slip stitch will neatly join the working loop on the hook with the stitch that you've inserted the hook into – great for making loops and lacy fabrics. To practise

working a slip stitch, make a short chain length and follow the instructions below.

Once you've practised making slip stitches, you'll see how easy and handy the technique can be for joining one area of your crochet fabric to another. Slip stitches are

also essential for creating foundation rings when you're working in the round for projects like amigurumi. They are also very useful for making granny squares, as you will need to move from one part of the square to another without creating height.

RIGHT-HAND

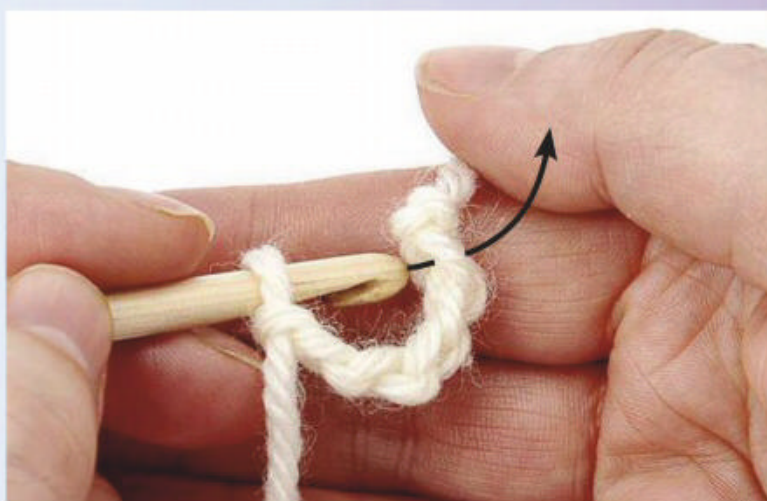


1 With a slipknot on your hook, catch the ball end of yarn with the hook, so the yarn wraps around it anticlockwise. This action is called 'yarn round hook' or 'yrh'.



2 Pull the hook (and yarn) back through the two loops on the hook (one loop is the chain you inserted the hook into, the other loop is the original working loop you had on the hook), to finish the slip stitch.

LEFT-HAND



1 Make a chain length around 6 chains long. Insert the hook into the first chain you made (not the slipknot). Catch the ball end of the yarn with the hook, so the yarn wraps clockwise around it (this is yrh).



2 Pull the hook (and yarn) back through the two loops on the hook (one loop is the chain you inserted the hook into, the other loop is the original working loop you had on the hook), to finish the slip stitch.

WORK INTO CHAINS

Start crocheting by working stitches into your chain length

Now you're ready to work double crochet stitches into your chain length. We've suggested two methods (below) for doing this. You might find that one suits you better than the other, so try both to find out. How tightly you crochet will affect which one you prefer to

an extent, and you may use different methods for different projects.

Some patterns will ask you to insert the hook under one loop of the chain rather than two, and this can work well if your chain is a bit tight. If the stitches of the foundation chain are too tight to work into

easily, undo it and rework it using a larger hook. Then switch back to the smaller hook to work the stitches of the pattern.

You'll find that Method 2 below gives the edge of the fabric a neater, more solid finish and maintains the plaited look of the front of the chain, giving your work a good finish.

RIGHT-HAND

METHOD 1



Insert your hook into the centre of the chain, as shown, under two loops of the chain stitch. Then catch the yarn with the hook and work your first double crochet stitch, as instructed opposite.

METHOD 2



Insert your hook into the bump on the back of the chain. Then catch the yarn with the hook and work your first double crochet stitch, as instructed opposite.

LEFT-HAND

METHOD 1



Insert your hook into the centre of the chain, as shown, under two loops of the chain stitch. Then catch the yarn with the hook and work your first double crochet stitch, as instructed opposite.

METHOD 2



Insert your hook into the bump on the back of the chain. Then catch the yarn with the hook and work your first double crochet stitch, as instructed opposite.

DOUBLE CROCHET STITCH

Create your first crochet stitch – it's really easy!

Double crochet is the easiest and most important stitch to learn. Once you master it, everything else is simple! Practise making a foundation chain – 22 chains is a good number, using DK yarn and a 4mm hook. Then make one more chain (this will be your turning chain,

which is explained on page 30). For now, ignore this extra chain and work a double crochet stitch into the second chain from the hook (either into the front of the chain or into the bump on the back of the chain). Work a double crochet into each chain, holding the chain firmly, just below the

hook, moving your fingers up the chain as you go. Work from right to left if you're right-handed, or left to right if you're left-handed. Don't work into the slipknot. Once you finish the first row of stitches (often called the foundation row), turn over for our guide to counting your stitches.

RIGHT-HAND

If you're right-handed, follow these steps for a perfect double crochet stitch...



1 Holding the foundation chain as shown above, insert the hook into the second chain along from the hook.



2 Catch the ball end of the yarn with the hook, so that the yarn wraps anticlockwise around it (yarn round hook).



3 Gently pull the hook and yarn back towards the chain loop on the hook. Draw it all the way through the chain so that you have two loops on the hook.



4 Catch the yarn with the hook again (yrh) and draw it through both loops on the hook to finish the stitch. Congratulations!

LEFT-HAND

If you're left-handed, follow these steps for a perfect double crochet stitch...



1 Holding the foundation chain as shown above, insert the hook into the second chain along from the hook.



2 Catch the ball end of the yarn with the hook, so that the yarn wraps clockwise around it (yarn round hook).



3 Gently pull the hook and yarn back towards the chain loop on the hook. Draw it all the way through the chain so that you have two loops on the hook.



4 Catch the yarn with the hook again (yrh) and draw it through both loops on the hook to finish the stitch. Congratulations!

HOW TO COUNT STITCHES

Check that you have the right number of crochet stitches

Being able to count your stitches is vital and helps you to make sure that you're following a pattern correctly. It's a good idea to count your stitches at the end of every row, especially after the first row of stitches worked into your foundation chain.

To count short stitches such as double crochet, it's usually easier to look at the plaited tops of the stitches (see above), rather



than the v-shape side of the stitch. For your practice foundation chain, if you made 22 chains (plus one turning chain) as suggested above, you should now be able to count 22 dc stitches on your chain.

CHECK EACH ROW
Count your stitches after working the first row of stitches into the foundation chain

DOUBLE CROCHET ROWS

Create more rows of double crochet to make fabric

Once you've got started, the subsequent rows of double crochet are just as easy as the first row. All you need to do is turn your fabric, work the turning chain (see overleaf for more) and then work a stitch into the top of each stitch on the row below.

This is just as easy as working stitches into chains. The only extra technique you need to know is turning chains (see overleaf for info). In double crochet rows, you don't count the turning chain (t-ch) as a stitch and you don't work a double crochet stitch into the top of the turning chain of the previous

row. Have a practice and you'll soon get the hang of it.

The more rows you work, the larger your piece of double crochet fabric. At the end of each row, count your stitches (this is the 'stitch count') to check that you haven't made too many or missed any stitches.

RIGHT-HAND

If you're right-handed, follow these steps for perfect rows of double crochet...



1 Turn and work one chain (this is the turning chain, see overleaf). Insert hook under the V-shaped top of the first stitch from the previous row. Make sure the hook passes under both loops, as shown above.



2 Work a double crochet stitch in the same way as before (yrh, pull yarn through the stitch, yrh, pull through two loops on hook). The first stitch will be complete.



3 Work a double crochet stitch into the top of each stitch across the row. To finish, work into the last double crochet stitch.



4 Make sure you do not work a stitch into the top of the turning chain of the previous row. Repeat Steps 1-3 until you have the number of rows you need.

LEFT-HAND

If you're left-handed, follow these steps for perfect rows of double crochet...



1 Turn and work one chain (this is the turning chain, see below right). Insert hook under the V-shaped top of the first stitch from the previous row. Make sure the hook passes under both loops, as shown above.



2 Work a double crochet stitch in the same way as before (yrh, pull yarn through the stitch, yrh, pull through two loops on hook).



3 Work a double crochet stitch into the top of each stitch across the row. To finish, work into the last double crochet stitch.



4 Make sure you do not work a stitch into the top of the turning chain of the previous row. Repeat Steps 1-3 until you have the number of rows you need.

TURNING CHAINS

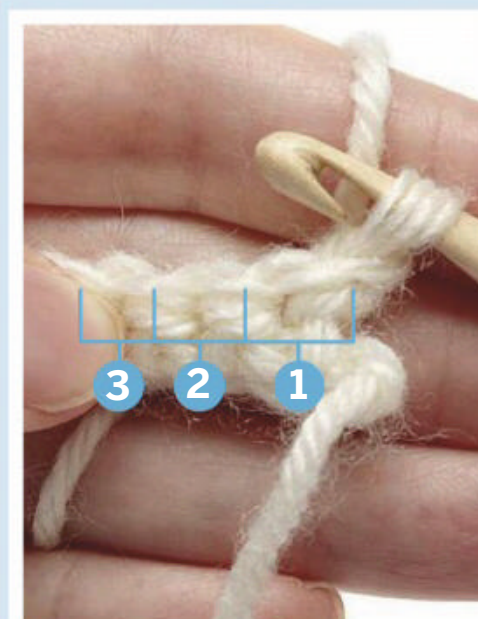
Use these 'extra' stitches to bring the hook up to the height of the next row

After each row of double crochet stitches, you need to turn the fabric and work the turning chain (this is abbreviated as t-ch). The picture (right) shows the work turned and ready to work the t-ch (one chain for double crochet) – the numbers show where to work the dc stitches of the second row.

So what's a turning chain? In crochet, you need to make a t-ch at the start of every row to bring the hook up to the working height of

the stitches in the next row. You usually do this at the start of a row, but it was traditionally worked at the end of the row, hence its name.

Different stitches need a different length of t-ch. When working dc fabric, you can largely just ignore the t-ch because it usually does not count as a stitch (unless the pattern states otherwise). We'll have more on this later.



CHAIN REACTION

A colourful paper chain-style garland puts a yarny spin on a party time classic

YOU WILL NEED

YARN

■ Scheepjes Cahlista (100% cotton, 50g/85m), 1 ball of each: Amethyst (240), Capri Blue (261), Cyan (397), Petrol Blue (400), Old Rose (408), Rich Coral (410), Cherry (413), Lime (512), Apple Granny (513), Fresia (519), Primrose (522)

HOOK

■ A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
For yarn stockists contact Wool Warehouse 01926 882818 www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

TENSION AND SIZE

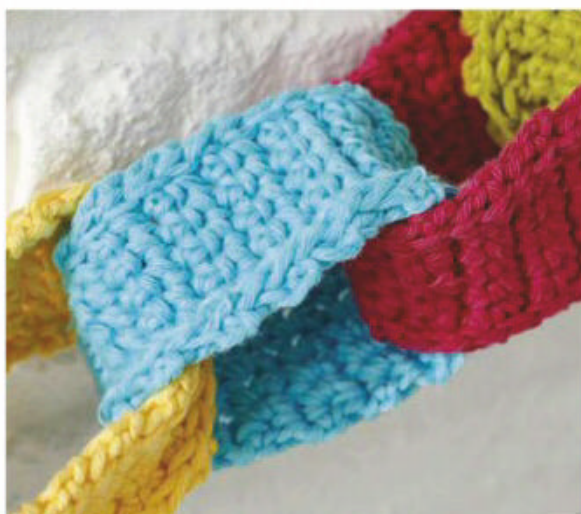
■ Each loop is 4cm (1½in) wide and 8cm (3in) long before joining. Approx 20 loops are required to make 1m of bunting. Each ball of yarn makes approx 6-7 loops.

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 12

NOTES

Colours can be used in any order or sequence.



Remember to thread each crochet strip through the previous chain before joining it together!

We reckon this simple project is perfect for practising double crochet. Pick cheery shades of cotton and get to it.

BASIC LOOP PATTERN

Ch7.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook, dc in each ch across, turn. [6 sts]

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in each st to end, turn. [6 sts]

Rows 3-27 Repeat Row 2, 25 more times. Do not turn after Row 27, rotate to work into row ends.

Ss into each row end down.

Fasten off and repeat on opposite edge. Join yarn into first st from Row 27.

Row 28 Ch1, fold loop so Row 27 meets Row 1, ss across working through each st and corresponding st from Row 1 to join.

Fasten off and weave in ends, turn the loop so the RS is facing out.

JOINING LOOPS

After the first loop is made, join subsequent loops by threading the crochet strip through a finished loop before working Row 28. For weaving in ends see page 50.

TREBLE CROCHET STITCH

Create your next crochet stitch – it's very simple to do

Once you have a foundation chain made of 24 chains and you've inserted the hook (with yarn wrapped round) into the 4th chain from the hook, you can make your first treble stitch (see how to do it below). It's just as easy as double crochet, there are just a few more 'yrh's to do as you go!

Work a treble crochet stitch into each chain, holding the stitches firmly, just below the hook, moving your fingers up the chain as you go. Don't worry if it looks uneven – keep going to the end of the chain (don't work into the slipknot).

Once you've completed the first row of trebles (often called the foundation row),

follow our guide (below right) to count your stitches – you should have 22 stitches.

The first three chains that you skipped at the start form the turning chain, which will usually count as one stitch in treble crochet (we've explained in more detail overleaf), unless your pattern tells you not to count it as a stitch. Don't forget to count it.

RIGHT-HAND

If you're right-handed, follow these steps to master the treble crochet stitch...



1 After making a chain length, wrap yarn round hook and insert hook into 4th chain from hook. Yarn round hook again and gently pull the yarn through the chain loop, so you have three loops on the hook.



2 Work the yarn round hook movement again and then gently pull the yarn through just the first two loops on the hook. You now have two loops on the hook.



3 Work yarn round hook again and gently pull the yarn through the remaining two loops on the hook to finish the stitch.



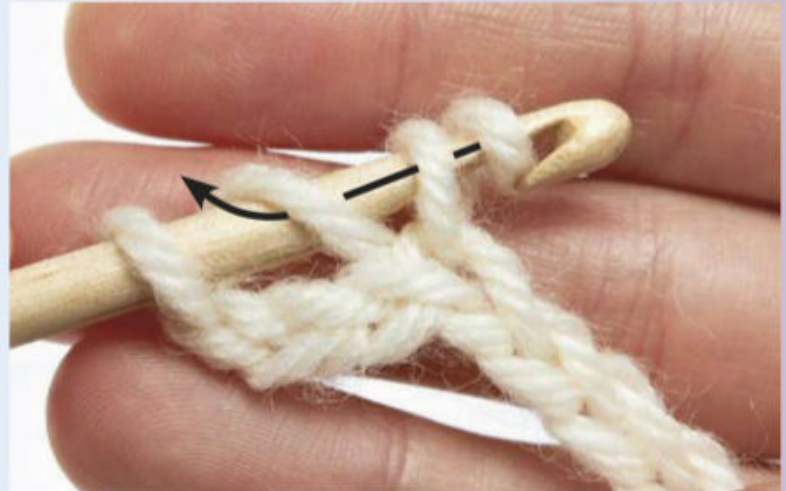
4 Your first treble crochet stitch is finished and you can see how it sits neatly next to the 3-chain turning chain.

LEFT-HAND

If you're left-handed, follow these steps to master the treble crochet stitch...



1 After making a chain length, wrap yarn round hook and insert hook into 4th chain from hook. Yarn round hook again and gently pull the yarn through the chain loop, so you have three loops on the hook.



2 Work the yarn round hook movement again and then gently pull the yarn through just the first two loops on the hook. You now have two loops on the hook.



3 Work yarn round hook again and gently pull the yarn through the remaining two loops on the hook to finish the stitch.



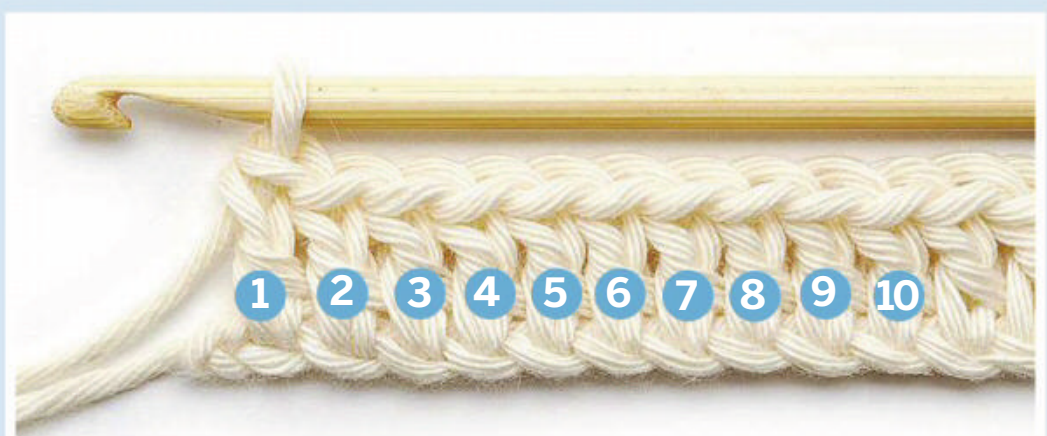
4 Your first treble crochet stitch is finished and you can see how it sits neatly next to the 3-chain turning chain.

HOW TO COUNT STITCHES

Check that you have the right number of crochet stitches

Being able to count your stitches is vital and helps you to make sure that you're following a pattern correctly. It's a good idea to count your stitches at the end of every row, especially after the first row of stitches worked into your foundation chain.

To count tall stitches such as treble crochet, it's usually easiest to look at the tall



'stem' of the stitches (see above), rather than the V-shaped top of the stitch. If you made 24 chains (21 chains plus 3 turning chains), you should now have 22 treble stitches.

GET COUNTING

After working the foundation row of stitches into the foundation chain

TURNING CHAINS

The treble stitch forms a medium density fabric

When you work crochet stitches, you'll see that each type has a different height: double crochet stitches are very small, while treble stitches are fairly tall. So, when you reach the end of a row of stitches, you need a way to get the hook up to the right height to work the next row of stitches. The answer is turning chains.

By adding a short chain length, known as turning chains (abbreviated as t-ch), you can create a fake first stitch at the beginning of the new row. Then the hook will be in the right place to work the rest of the stitches in the row. You need to work a t-ch at the beginning of every row in crochet (unless a pattern states otherwise).

Since each crochet stitch is a different height, each one has a different length of turning chain. For example, treble crochet has a turning chain that is three chains long, while double crochet has a turning chain that's one chain long. The table below right tells you how many chain stitches form the turning chain for each crochet stitch.

TREBLE CROCHET ROWS

When you're working treble crochet, the turning chain is three chains. So, after working the first row of treble stitches into the foundation chain, you need to turn the fabric so that you're working from right to left again. Then make three chains (the turning chain). The picture (above right) shows how your work should look – the 3-ch turning chain has been worked and you're ready to make the treble stitches of the second row.

Since the turning chain forms the first stitch in treble crochet, you need to work the next treble into the second stitch of the row below. The numbers on the picture (above right) show how to count the stitches of the second row. The number 1 shows the first stitch (the t-ch) and the number 2 shows where you need to work the next treble stitch. You might see a pattern explain this as 'skip the stitch at the base of the t-ch'.

Since the turning chain works as a stitch within your treble fabric, you need to treat it just like a stitch when you come back to it on the next row. So you'll work a stitch into the



top of each stitch on the next row, and then work the final treble stitch into the top chain of the 3-ch turning chain. Sometimes patterns will explain this as 'work final tr into 3rd (or 'top') of beginning 3-ch'.

DOUBLE CROCHET DIFFERENCE

When you're working double crochet fabric, the turning chain rules work differently! Double crochet fabric requires a 1-chain t-ch, but because one chain is much smaller than one double crochet stitch, the 1-chain t-ch can't work as a fake stitch. So you still need to

work the 1-chain t-ch, to take the hook up to the right height, but then you can just ignore the extra chain. Don't include it in your stitch count and proceed to work the first double crochet stitch of the row into the stitch at the base of the t-ch, rather than skipping that stitch. At the end of the row, work the final double crochet stitch into the top of the first double crochet of the row below, not into the 1-chain t-ch.

You might come across a pattern that instructs you to count the 1-chain t-ch in dc as a stitch, but it's quite unusual.

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

TREBLE CROCHET ROWS

Work more rows of treble stitches to form fabric

After the first row of treble crochet stitches, the following rows are just as easy. All you need to do is turn your fabric, work the turning chain (see below right for more) and then work a stitch into the top of each stitch on the row below.

This is just as easy as working stitches

into chains. The only extra technique you'll need to know is turning chains (see below right for more). In treble crochet rows, you need to count the turning chain (t-ch) as a stitch and at the end of the row, work a treble crochet stitch into the top of the turning chain of the row below. Have a

practice and you'll soon get the hang of how it works.

The more rows you make, the larger your piece of treble crochet fabric. At the end of each row, count your stitches (this is the 'stitch count') to check that you haven't made too many or missed any stitches.

RIGHT-HAND

If you're right-handed, follow these steps for perfect rows of treble crochet...



1 Work three chains for the t-ch (see below right), which counts as the first stitch of the new row. Work yrh and insert hook under the V-shaped top of the second stitch from the previous row.



2 Work a treble stitch as before (yrh, pull yarn through the stitch, yrh, pull through first two loops, yrh, pull through two loops). Work a treble in each stitch across the row.



3 To finish the row of treble crochet stitches, work the final treble stitch into the top chain of the t-ch on the row below.



4 Your second row of treble crochet will be finished. Repeat Steps 1-3 until you have the number of rows you need.

LEFT-HAND

If you're left-handed, follow these steps for a perfect double crochet stitch...



1 Work three chains for the t-ch (see below right), which counts as the first stitch of the new row. Work yrh and insert hook under the v-shaped top of the second stitch from the previous row.



2 Work a treble stitch as before (yrh, pull yarn through the stitch, yrh, pull through first two loops, yrh, pull through two loops). Work a treble in each stitch across the row.



3 To finish the row of treble crochet stitches, work the final treble stitch into the top chain of the t-ch on the row below.

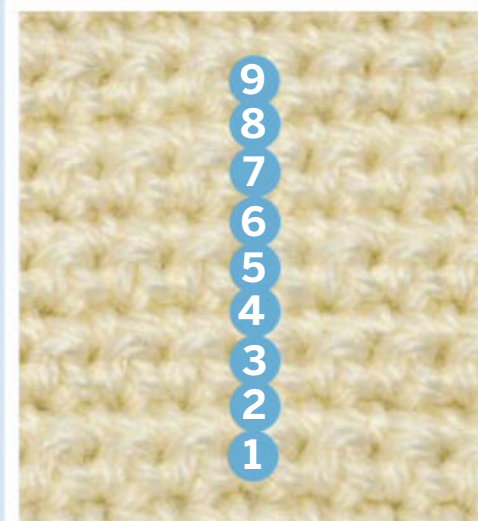
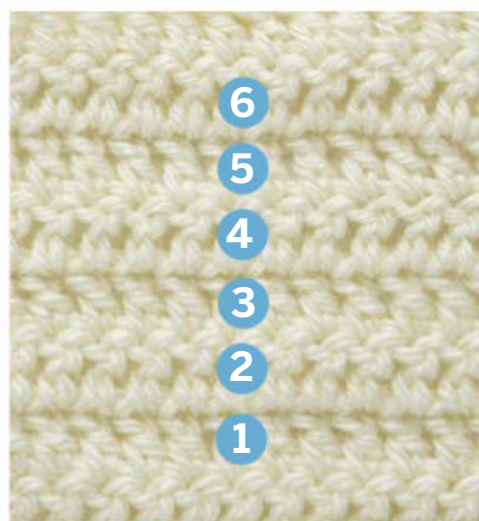


4 Your second row of treble crochet will be finished. Repeat Steps 1-3 until you have the number of rows you need.

HOW TO COUNT ROWS

How to make sure you have the right number of rows

Using a row counter will help you to keep track of where you are in a pattern, but you can also count rows at key points in your pattern. To count rows of tall treble stitches, it's easy to see the stitch 'stems' (see right). For the small stitches of double crochet (see far right), it's easy to see the rows of inverted V-shaped stitches (odd-numbered in photo), but remember that there will be another row in between (even-numbered in photo).



COLOURFUL ROWS

How to switch to a different yarn for colourful effects

Whether you're changing colour or your ball of yarn has run out, you can use the same simple technique to join in new yarn.

Some crocheters just knot the old yarn to the new yarn and carry on crocheting. Others like to fasten off the old yarn and then knot a loop of the new yarn in place at

the fabric edge. Both of these can create a bulky knot that might show on the right side or be annoying when you're sewing up.

The yarn-changing method we'll show you below is easy and neat. The idea behind it is that you work the final yarn round hook action of the last stitch of the old row with the new yarn. This means you'll instantly be

ready to work the next row with the new colour, and it won't cause you any issues if you're sewing any pieces of crochet fabric together later on.

We've told you where to cut the old yarn, but for the first few times, you might like to wait until you're sure you've done the technique correctly before snipping it off!

RIGHT-HAND

If you're right-handed, follow these steps to create colourful stripes...



1 Start the final stitch of the row, but stop before working the final yarn round hook action. For a treble stitch (above), you'd work yrh, insert hook, yrh, pull loop through, yrh, pull through first two loops, then stop.



2 Cut the old yarn, leaving a long tail (about 10cm long). Now loop your new yarn colour around the hook, leaving a long tail of yarn (about 10cm long).



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



4 Now you can work the turning chain of the new row in the new colour (3ch for treble). Then work the stitches of the new row in the new yarn colour.

LEFT-HAND

If you're left-handed, follow these steps to create colourful stripes...



1 Start the final stitch of the row, but stop before working the final yarn round hook action. For a treble stitch (above), you'd work yrh, insert hook, yrh, pull loop through, yrh, pull through first two loops, then stop.



2 Cut the old yarn, leaving a long tail (about 10cm long). Now loop your new yarn colour around the hook, leaving a long tail of yarn (about 10cm long).



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



4 Now you can work the turning chain of the new row in the new colour (3ch for treble). Then work the stitches of the new row in the new yarn colour.

HOW TO CHANGE STITCH COLOUR

Use the same technique to change colour anywhere on a row

You can use the above technique to change the colour of rows, rounds or individual stitches. No matter which stitch you're working, the principle is the same: join in the new colour on the final yrh of a stitch, so that the next stitch will be in the new colour. For double crochet (shown right), you would insert hook, yrh, pull loop through and stop. Then pull a loop of the new colour through the two loops, ready to work the next stitch. You'll need to think ahead to where you want to start working with your new colour and switch to the new yarn in the stitch before that.



TEAL APPEAL

Practice your trebles as you whip up this cosy cowl

YOU WILL NEED

YARN

- West Yorkshire Spinners ColourLab (100% wool, 100g/225m)
- 1 ball of each:
 - Aqua Green (705)
 - Deep Teal (716)

HOOK

- A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- For yarn stockists contact West Yorkshire Spinners 01535 664500 www.wyspinners.com

TENSION AND SIZE

- Tension is not critical for this project, but it may affect the yarn quantities required
- Cowl measures 18x162cm (7x63¾in)

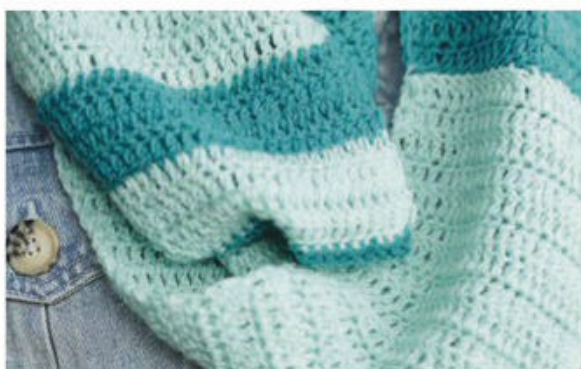
ABBREVIATIONS

Whipstitch Place 2 ends together lining up the sts from the final row with the foundation ch; thread the tail onto a darning needle and *insert it from the bottom up working through sts on both ends; rep from * across to the end working through each st along

For a full list, see page 12

NOTES

Cowl is worked in rows in one long piece. The first and last row are sewn together at the end to form the cowl shape.



The cowl is worked in rows of trebles, which change colour every fourth line for the striped section



COWL

Using Deep Teal, ch32.

Row 1 (RS) Tr in fourth ch from hook (skipped chs count as first tr) and each ch across, turn. [30 sts]

Row 2 Ch3 (counts as tr throughout), tr in next 29 sts, turn.

Rows 3-46 Ch3, tr in next 29 sts, turn.

Fasten off Deep Teal and join Aqua Green into first st.

Rows 47-50 Ch3, tr in next 29 sts, turn.

Fasten off Aqua Green and join Deep Teal into first st.

Rows 51-54 Ch3, tr in next 29 sts, turn.

Fasten off Deep Teal and join Aqua Green into first st.

Rows 55-94 As Rows 47-50, changing colour every 4 rows.

Fasten off Deep Teal and join Aqua Green into first st.

Rows 95-140 Ch3, tr in next 29 sts, turn.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

TO FINISH

Block piece before joining ends together. Line up the two short ends and, using the long tail, whipstitch the ends together. Weave in any remaining ends.

ALL ABOUT... SHAPING

Open your crocheting to a whole new world of possibilities by learning how to work shaping stitches. Here's the lowdown on the benefits of increasing and decreasing...



The world of crochet would be a very different one without increases and decreases – all we'd be able to make would be flat, straight fabrics, such as squares and scarves. By learning simple shaping stitches, you can create all sorts of shapes, including garments.

So what are increasing and decreasing stitches? And how do they change the shape of your crochet fabric? By now, you will have made a few squares or rectangles, working the same number of stitches on every row to keep the sides straight.

If you work decrease stitches, you will reduce the number of stitches in a row and so narrow the width of the crochet fabric. Working increase stitches will add more stitches to a row and widen the fabric. Decreasing and increasing will create sloped rather than straight sides on your fabric. The slope angle will depend on the type of stitches you work and how often you work

them (every row, every other row, and so on). You can work shaping stitches at the start or end of a row, for one sloped side and one straight side. Or you can shape at both ends of a row for two sloped sides – great for triangles! Or combine increases and decreases to create more complex shapes, such as flowers and zigzags.

As well as flat shapes, you can use shaping stitches in the round, to create 3D shapes. This sort of shaping is vital for making amigurumi toys and accessories like hats or balls. The options are almost endless!

Decrease stitches will narrow the width of your crochet fabric

THE RUNDOWN DIFFERENT TECHNIQUES

Shaping stitches are very easy to do. Increasing just involves working two or more stitches into the same stitch on the row below. Decreasing involves working a combination of simple actions, which only deviate slightly from working the standard stitches that you've already learnt.

You can work increases and decreases in any stitch pattern, on right side or wrong side rows. Each type of decrease or increase technique has a specific name or abbreviation, so it's easy to understand in a pattern what you're being asked to do.

SLOPE IN OR OUT

When you practise working decrease and increase stitches, you'll see how the placement of shaping stitches will create a different effect in your fabric, making the left

Three to try! DESIGN IDEAS

Get your hook at the ready for these fab patterns from *Simply Crochet* magazine! To get the issues mentioned here, you can buy digital versions of back issues from Apple Newsstand to view on your iPhone and iPad or Google Play to view them on Android devices. For more information and to find out which other digital platforms are supported, take a look at the website address below:
www.simplycrochetmag.co.uk/digital



1 *Chunky hunk* BEGINNER

Check your *Simply Crochet* issue 79 for this quick and easy chunky hat. It will give you the perfect chance to practise increases. It's easy to make once you've learned the basic techniques.



2 *Shark attack!* IMPROVER

A fab project from issue 87 of *Simply Crochet*, this fun shark pouffe will change up your décor or make a great gift for friends of all ages. It's worked in the round using simple increases and decreases.



3 *Top shape!* EXPERT

With a bit of shaping practice you'll be able to magic up a modesty panel like this one from *Simply Crochet* issue 83, which uses double crochet and double trebles to make a simple stitch pattern.

or right side slope inwards or outwards. Your pattern should tell you where to place your shaping stitches to create the desired effect, with patterns like working on sleeves and shoulders for garments – or for designs that don't need to be this precise, you can try something new and experiment!

SHAPED MOTIFS

By working shaping stitches in the round, you can create all sorts of motifs. Fortunately, in crochet, the techniques for increasing and decreasing in rounds are exactly the same as in rows, so you'll only need to learn the techniques once.

EVEN SHAPING

Sometimes a pattern might ask you to increase or decrease a certain number of stitches 'evenly across the row or round'. To do this, take your stitch count (such as 50) and divide by the number of stitches you need to increase or decrease (such as 5). This comes to 10. To make the shaping even, you would work the first shaping stitch after 5 stitches, then another shaping stitch every 10 stitches, so that the last shaping stitch is worked 5 stitches from the end, for an even look across your row.

If all this sounds a bit complicated, don't worry – just follow our step-by-step guides to learn each shaping stitch and practise crocheting them for yourself. Experiment to see the different effects they create and you'll soon get the hang of it. Turn over to start learning how to use shaping now!

INCREASE

Vital for shaping your fabric...

LEARN THE LINGO

In a pattern, a simple increase of one double crochet stitch will be shown as '2dc in next stitch'. A larger increase of two stitches will be shown as '3dc in next stitch' and so on.

SLOPING SIDES

If you increase at both ends of a row, you'll widen the fabric on both sides and create outward-sloping sides. If you do this in double crochet on both sides, you can create a triangular shape, like this.



END OF ROW

If you're increasing at the end of the row, you will affect the outward slope of the left-hand side of the finished fabric.

START OF ROW

If you're increasing at the start of the row, you will affect the outward slope of the right-hand side of the finished fabric.

SHAPING AND TURNING CHAINS

Once you start shaping, you might wonder what to do with the turning chain when you're increasing or decreasing. Unless your pattern instructs you otherwise, at the start of the row, work the turning chain as usual and then increase in the first stitch you'd usually work into, or decrease over the first two stitches you'd usually work. At the end of a row in treble crochet, it's neater to work a plain treble stitch into the top of the t-ch, so always work your increases or decreases right before the last stitch.

DECREASE

Create interesting shapes...

LEARN THE LINGO

Decrease stitches are especially useful in garments, when you need to shape armholes and necklines. In a pattern, a simple decrease of one treble stitch is called tr2tog (treble two stitches together). A larger decrease of two stitches is called tr3tog.

END OF ROW

If you're decreasing at the end of the row, you will affect the inward slope of the left-hand side of the finished fabric.



SLOPING SIDES

If you decrease at both ends of a row, you'll narrow the fabric on both sides and create inward-sloping sides. If you do this in treble crochet on both sides, you'll create a triangular shape, like this.

START OF ROW

If you're decreasing at the start of the row, you will affect the inward slope of the right-hand side of the finished fabric.

DOUBLE CROCHET INCREASES

Here's our guide to working simple increases

Working increases in crochet is very easy. There are no special techniques to learn, you just work more than one stitch into the top of the stitch on the row below.

To increase one double crochet stitch in a row, just work two double crochet stitches into the same stitch on the row below, as

instructed in your pattern. This will increase the stitch count by one. To increase the stitch count by two, you'd work three double crochet stitches into the one stitch, and so on.

You can work an increase anywhere along the row, but working it in the centre of the row will make your crochet fabric look

different to increasing at the start or end of a row. Similarly, increases worked on every row create a different effect to working them on every other row.

Make a small double crochet swatch and practise making increases at various points on the row, so you can start to see the shaping effects.

RIGHT-HAND



1 Work a double crochet stitch as usual: insert hook into the top of the next stitch on the row below, yrh, pull yarn through, yrh, pull yarn through 2 loops on hook.



2 Work a second double crochet stitch into the same stitch on the row below: insert hook, yrh, pull yarn through, yrh, pull yarn through 2 loops on hook. You will have increased the stitch count by one.

LEFT-HAND



1 Work a double crochet stitch as usual: insert hook into the top of the next stitch on the row below, yrh, pull yarn through, yrh, pull yarn through 2 loops on hook.



2 Work a second double crochet stitch into the same stitch on the row below: insert hook, yrh, pull yarn through, yrh, pull yarn through 2 loops on hook. You will have increased the stitch count by one.

TREBLE INCREASES

Increases in treble crochet are just as easy!

Treble crochet increases are worked in the same sort of way as double crochet increases. You just work two or more treble stitches into the top of the same stitch on the row below.

To increase one treble stitch in a row, work two trebles into the same stitch, or work more trebles as instructed in your

pattern. To increase by two stitches, work three trebles into the same stitch, and so on for more increases.

You can work the increase anywhere along the row, but working it in the centre of the row will create a different effect to increasing at the start or end of the row. Similarly, increases worked on every row

will create a different effect to increases worked on every other row.

Make a small treble swatch and practise increasing at various points on the row, to see the shaping effects. If you're increasing at a specific point on every row, or several points, use one or more stitch markers to help you mark these points.

RIGHT-HAND



1 Work a treble crochet stitch as usual: yrh, insert hook into the top of the next stitch on the row below, yrh, pull yarn through, yrh, pull yarn through first 2 loops on hook, yrh, pull yarn through remaining loops on hook.



2 Work a second treble stitch into the same stitch on the row below: yrh, insert hook, yrh, pull yarn through, yrh, pull through first 2 loops, yrh, pull yarn through rem loops. You've increased the stitch count by one.

LEFT-HAND



1 Work a treble crochet stitch as usual: yrh, insert hook into the top of the next stitch on the row below, yrh, pull yarn through, yrh, pull yarn through first 2 loops on hook, yrh, pull yarn through remaining loops on hook.



2 Work a second treble stitch into the same stitch on the row below: yrh, insert hook, yrh, pull yarn through, yrh, pull through first 2 loops, yrh, pull yarn through rem loops. You've increased the stitch count by one.

DOUBLE CROCHET DECREASE

Here's how to decrease one double crochet stitch in a row

Working double crochet decreases is just as easy as working increases. There are two main methods.

Some patterns use the quick decrease method, where you'll be instructed to 'skip a stitch' – this means you need to leave the next stitch unworked, while you proceed to

work into the following stitch. This quick method works well, but it will leave a small hole in the fabric – if that's the effect you want, that's fine.

If you want a solid fabric, however, you'll need to work a decrease that's usually called dc2tog in patterns (shown below).

Working either of these methods once in

a row will reduce your stitch count by one. You can decrease at any point along the row, but you'll create different effects by working decreases in the centre of the row, or at the start or end of the row.

You can practise decreasing on a small swatch of dc fabric so you can see how the decreases will affect your pattern.

RIGHT-HAND

If you're right-handed, follow these steps for a perfect dc2tog...



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



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



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



4 Your finished dc2tog should look like this. You will have decreased one stitch. On subsequent rows, you can work a stitch into the top of the dc2tog stitch, as usual.

LEFT-HAND

If you're left-handed, follow these steps for a perfect dc2tog...



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



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



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



4 Your finished dc2tog should look like this. You will have decreased one stitch. On subsequent rows, you can work a stitch into the top of the dc2tog stitch, as usual.

SHAPING AND TURNING CHAINS

Here's how to work increases or decreases when you're at the start of a row

When you're asked to work increases or decreases in your double crochet fabric at the start of a row, it can be confusing to know how to work these stitches in conjunction with the turning chain.

The general rule is that it's usually best to work the turning chain first, as usual. Then work the increase (two dc stitches) into the first stitch on the row below. Or work a dc2tog over the first two stitches on the row below. But you should always follow the instructions in your pattern.

DOUBLE CROCHET INCREASED FABRIC



DOUBLE CROCHET DECREASED FABRIC

TREBLE DECREASE

Here's how to decrease one treble crochet stitch

Decreasing in treble crochet is just as easy as in double crochet. There are two main methods of decreasing that you'll see used in patterns.

Some patterns use a quick decrease method, where you'll be instructed to 'skip a stitch' – this means you need to leave the next stitch unworked, and work into the

following stitch. The quick method works well, but it will leave a small hole in the fabric – if that's the effect you want, that's fine.

If you want a solid fabric, you'll need to work a decrease that's usually called tr2tog in patterns (shown below).

Skipping one stitch or working tr2tog (the abbreviation for 'treble 2 together') once in

a row will reduce your stitch count by one. You can decrease at any point along a row, but the effects will be different if you decrease at the start, at the end or at the centre of the row.

You can practise decreasing on a small swatch of treble fabric so you can see how the decreases will affect your pattern.

RIGHT-HAND

If you're right-handed, follow these steps for a perfect tr2tog...



1 Begin a treble stitch in the usual way. Work yrh, insert hook under top two loops of next stitch on previous row. Work yrh and pull loop through (3 loops on hook), yrh and pull through first 2 loops (2 loops on hook).



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



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



4 This is how your completed tr2tog should look. You will have neatly decreased one treble stitch. On subsequent rows, you can simply work a stitch into the top of the tr2tog stitch as usual.

LEFT-HAND

If you're left-handed, follow these steps for a perfect tr2tog...



1 Begin a treble stitch in the usual way. Work yrh, insert hook under top two loops of next stitch on previous row. Work yrh and pull loop through (3 loops on hook), yrh and pull through first 2 loops (2 loops on hook).



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



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



4 This is how your completed tr2tog should look. You will have neatly decreased one treble stitch. On subsequent rows, you can simply work a stitch into the top of the tr2tog stitch as usual.

SHAPING AND TURNING CHAINS

Here's how to work treble increases or decreases at the start of a row

When you're shaping trebles, the turning chain can complicate things. At the end of a row, it's neater to work a plain treble in the top of the t-ch, so work any shaping before you reach the last stitch. To shape at the start of a row, work the t-ch and skip the stitch at the base of the t-ch, as usual. Then work the increase into the top of the next stitch on the row below, or work a tr2tog stitch over the next two stitches. Or follow your pattern instructions.



**TREBLE CROCHET
DECREASED FABRIC**



**TREBLE CROCHET
INCREASED FABRIC**



SHAPING TREBLES

Hook up a stylish frilled scarf
in a deep, emerald green shade



YOU WILL NEED

YARN

■ UK Alpaca, Baby Alpaca Silk 4ply (80% baby alpaca, 20% silk, 50g/225m), 2 balls of Teal

HOOK

■ A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
For yarn stockists contact
LoveCrafts 01409 404010
www.lovecrafts.com

TENSION AND SIZE

19 sts and 13 rows to measure
10x10cm (4x4in) over treble crochet
using a 3mm hook
Finished scarf measures approx
90x34cm (35½x13½in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list see page 12

SCARF

Ch12 (counts as tr and 9 ch).

Row 1 (WS) 1tr in the fourth chain from hook, 2tr in the next ch, 1tr in next 2 ch, 3tr in next ch, 1tr in next 2 ch, 2tr in the next 2 ch, turn. [15 tr]

Row 2 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr throughout), 1tr in st at the base of ch-3, 2tr in next st, 1tr in each st across to central 3-tr group, (tr in first tr, 3tr in next tr, tr in next tr) into 3-tr group, 1tr in each st across to the last two sts, 2tr in the next 2 sts, turn. [21 sts]

Row 3 Ch3, 1tr in st at the base of ch-3, 2tr in the next st, 1tr in each st across to central 3-tr group, (tr in the next tr, 3tr in the next tr, tr in the next tr) into 3-tr group, 1tr in each st across to the last two sts, 2tr in the next 2 sts, turn. [27 sts]

Repeat Row 3 until the work measures approx 30cm (12in) from Row 1 to the central 3-tr group in the last row worked, ending with a WS row, do not fasten off.

FRILL

Row 1 (RS) With RS facing, ch1 (does not count as st), 3dc into each st across, turn.

Rows 2-6 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc into each st across, turn.

Fasten off.

TO FINISH

Weave in ends using our guide overleaf. Block the scarf gently by pinning it out to the size listed, spraying it with a little water and then leaving it to dry.



The frill is worked along the bottom edges, leaving the top edge straight and comfy around the neck



The tapered ends of this triangle scarf can be tied together at the back or simply draped around you

FASTEN OFF & WEAVE IN

Secure and neaten the ends of your finished project

After all your crochet efforts, it's worth taking the time to finish your work properly, so that it doesn't unravel on you!

Once you've worked the last stitch in a pattern, you'll be instructed to 'fasten off'. Follow the steps below to safely pull the yarn tail through the final loop and secure it. You'll then be left with a 15cm (6in) tail end

of yarn here, and also at the start of your project, where you made the slipknot.

These ends will look rather straggly unless you do something with them. To create a neat finish, patterns will instruct you to 'weave in ends'. This simply involves weaving yarn ends through the backs of stitches on the wrong side of your work, using a large-eyed needle with a blunt tip.

There are no strict rules about how to weave in the tail ends of yarn – they just need to be secure and invisible from the front. It's a good idea to weave the yarn tail in different directions to prevent it from being pulled out over time. Once you progress, you'll find that it's possible to work stitches over the starting tail end so there's less weaving in to do at the end.



1 After working the last stitch, you'll have one loop left on your hook. Cut the yarn leaving a long tail, measuring around 15cm (6in) long. Wrap this yarn tail around the hook.



2 Use your hook to pull the yarn all the way through the stitch. Remove the hook and pull the yarn tail to tighten up the loop and secure it.



3 Thread the tail end of yarn onto a tapestry needle. On the wrong side, weave the needle in and out of the back of the stitches in one direction.



4 Weave the needle in the other direction, in and out of the back of the stitches. Repeat this process to secure the tail end, making sure that the woven yarn is not visible from the right side of the fabric.

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Simply
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