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ACE OF LACE

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- ❁ DRAWSTRING PURSE
- ❁ LATTICE WORK TEE
- ❁ FILET CURTAIN

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STEP-BY-STEP
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yarn

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Simply Crochet

Hey, hookster! Yes, you there, have you seen what's going on inside this issue? Twitch these pages like a net curtain and you'll find loads of attention-grabbing projects to keep you busy, and give the neighbours something to talk about.



Simply Crochet

ISSUE ONE HUNDRED & NINE

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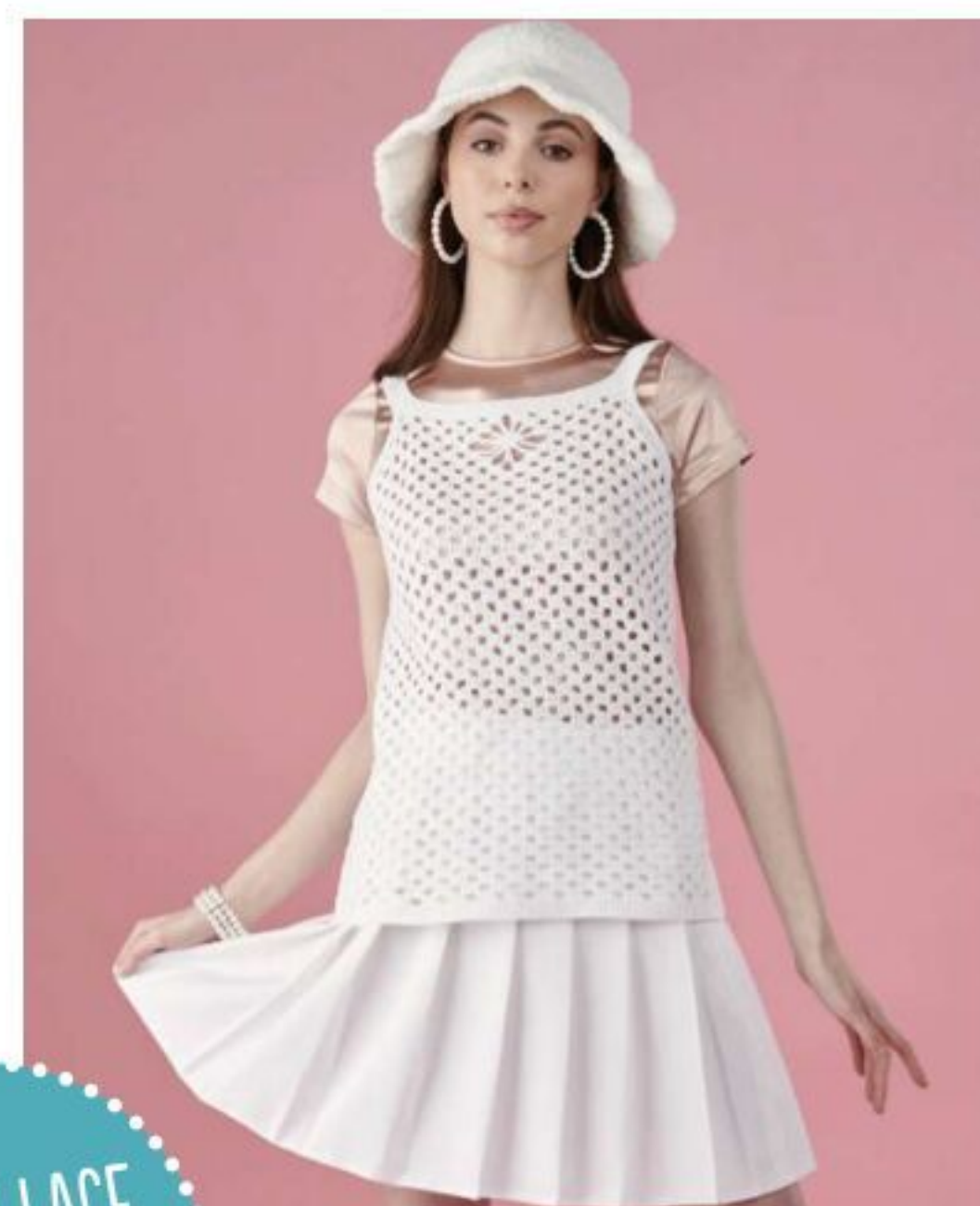


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RAINBOW
STRIPE
SHAWL



Cover
STAR!



MODERN LACE
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Keep on hooking!

As lockdown rules begin to ease (at least in the UK) and we are allowed out and about a bit more, don't forget your trusty, portable crafting companion crochet! We have plenty of makes to keep you hooking on the go; our Modern Lace collection will give you a frill on page 14. Pop on the colourful granny square poncho from page 42 or the fruity motif bag on page 77 when you are out at the shops. Not going out? Then the stars and stripes cushion and blanket set on page 57 should brighten your living room and your day. Please share your makes on Instagram tagged #sctreblemaker, or on our Facebook group Simply Crochet SCTreblemakers, as we love to see them!

Sara



CONTRIBUTORS

Here are the creative minds *and* hands behind this issue



EMMA LEITH

Author of the books *Mindful Crochet* and *Colourful Crochet*, Emma's exuberant use of colour makes it easy to spot her cheerful designs. Find her floral garter on page 21.



HANNAH CROSS

Crochet designer Hannah is also a blogger and runs HanJan Crochet. She loves designing simple yet detailed crochet patterns that everyone can try. See her bow on page 23.



KRISTEN TENDYKE

Kristen lives in Maine, USA where she designs knit and crochet sweater patterns that are easy to follow, enjoyable and engaging to make. Discover her tank top on page 26.



MILLIE MASTERTON

Millie is the crochet designer behind Ruby and Custard. She's been busy creating the embellished T-shirt on page 39 which gives classic Breton stripes a floral update.

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All toys made available for sale in the UK must meet a list of essential safety requirements which are set out in the Toy (Safety) Regulations 2011. To prove that these requirements are met, all toys should carry a CE Mark, which is a declaration by the manufacturer that a toy is safe. In order to use the CE mark on creations you plan to sell (whether you're selling them yourself or sending to a charity to be sold), you must check that your products meet the requirements under the Regulations. If you're using one of our patterns to make items that will appeal to children under the age of 14, please ensure you take all the necessary steps to comply with the legislation. But don't panic, you just need to do your research. For more information, see gov.uk/ce-marking, or visit shop.conformance.co.uk to find out about self-certification packs.

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3. They raise money for Age UK
4. Something to do while you're watching Corrie
5. They can be any colour, pattern or animal you like
6. They raise money for Age UK (so important we wrote it twice)

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Hooked

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Newest arrival

Adored by parents and babies for more than 50 years, Sophie la girafe® has teamed up with Stitch & Story to create five crochet kits inspired by the legendary giraffe toy. Using Stitch & Story's superfine Merino yarn, you can crochet gorgeous keepsakes for little ones, or give the perfect baby gift to a hooky friend. www.stitchandstory.com



ROAD TRIP WITH RICO

This year Rico Design are launching a Ricorumi Roadtrip crochet-along and would love you to join them for the ride. Hooked in Creative Ricorumi DK yarn, there's nine super-cute and fun Ricorumis, like a mini van, fox with binoculars, rabbit butterfly catcher, mouse in a sleeping bag, bear with a camera and more. Download the free Ricorumi CAL patterns from www.rico-design.de/en/home and follow along on Instagram at @ricorumi. Once you've finished the CAL you'll have created beautiful handcrafted decorations and gifts to inspire your next trip, however near or far it may be from home.

YARN DIVE

During the pandemic many people across the world have taken up yarn crafts, and British Olympic diver Tom Daley is no different. He started with knitting and has now taken up crochet, saying crafting "is my meditation". He's designing patterns already, and has his first crochet item, children's Granny Belt Pullover, is on LoveCrafts at www.bit.ly/TomDaleyPullover. Tom was inspired to create it with leftover yarn he had from other projects. Very thrifty, we like it!



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Giveaway

POKÉMON CROCHET TIME

What do you get if you combine amigurumi with Pokémon? Only the best crochet book ever! *Pokémon Crochet*, published by David & Charles, provides detailed step-by-step instructions so you can create 20 different Pokémon. They will be instantly recognisable to fans of the phenomenally popular Japanese game and TV series. Author Sabrina Somers has been a Pokémon fan since she was nine and is an amigurumi aficionado, combining both passions in this book. Buy *Pokémon Crochet* from www.bookshop.org and support independent booksellers. We have a crochet Charmander and Flareon Pokémon to give away to one reader, just go to www.gathered.how/comps to enter.

New release

Nature's way

Anchor's latest yarn has been created for conscious crafters who care for the environment. Organic Cotton is made of 100% cotton fibres, spun into an un-mercerised 4ply yarn giving a natural soft touch and matt finish. Free from chemicals and OEKO-TEX® certified it is especially safe and kind to sensitive skin. The colour palette features 20 beautiful shades inspired by nature and created with vegetable bases dyes. What's more, Anchor Organic Cotton has been used to create Inspired by Nature, a summery collection of garments, including a light and airy cold shoulder top and granny square shrug. Visit www.anchorcrafts.com and find your inspiration.



HOOKED



Mini profile



RUPINDER KAUR

Crochet came into my life as a surprise. After my kids went off to college, I happened upon a 'crochet for kids' charity book at my local craft store. Interested, I picked up some supplies and started to make small clothing items by following books and YouTube tutorials. One thing led to another and I learned about amigurumi. In the beginning, I was donating all of the items I made. After much encouragement from my kids, I began to share my creations on social media and discovered the huge crochet community there is out there. I always loved dolls as a child (often creating my own makeshift versions) so designing amigurumi is a truly nostalgic experience and keeps the child in me thriving.

I find inspiration in nearly everything. Often times I look to children's book illustrations or even just browse the shops for a colour scheme that catches my eye. When I'm really in a creative rut, I turn to my kids. My daughter plays a big role in photographing my toys and assisting me with the online shop. My son is an artist, so he often offers his insight on any new projects I have in the works. It's a real family



"Designing amigurumi is a nostalgic experience"

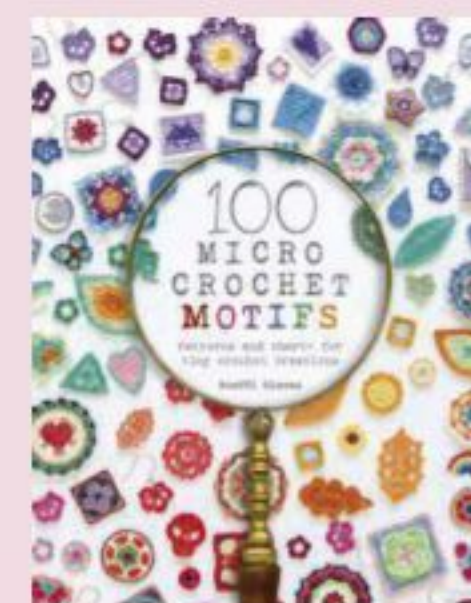


effort around here and I love it.

My first crochet makes were two toddler-sized sundresses. It came as a huge surprise to me when my local craft store featured the dresses on their Instagram page as "cutest item of the month" and to top that, they also gifted me a huge box of yarn as a prize. That's when I thought to myself, well, this has to be a sign to keep on crocheting. How else was I going to use up all that yarn! Receiving that box brought so much joy, and is still one of my biggest triumphs to this day.

For more on Rupinder follow her on Instagram, Etsy and Ravelry at @loveandstitchco

INSPIRING BOOKS



100 MICRO CROCHET MOTIFS

STEFFI GLAVES

(£15.99, David & Charles)

Explore the world of micro crochet with this collection of crochet patterns and charts for 100 exquisite crochet motifs. This collection of teeny, tiny crochet motifs from talented crochet designer and *Simply Crochet* designer Steffi Graves, explores the world of miniature in crochet form. Learn to make jewellery, accessories, appliqués, or just tiny things for the sheer joy of it.

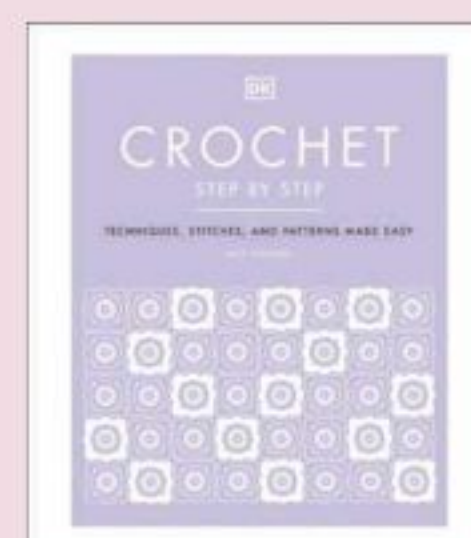


ZOOMIGURUMI 10 VARIOUS DESIGNERS

(£12.50, Metoor)

This new collection of 15 projects, featuring designers from all over the world (including *Simply Crochet* designer Ilaria

Caliri), provides enough fresh inspiration to keep you crocheting. In this book you will find a feisty crab, a bouncy kangaroo, a lively squirrel, a dainty bunny and much more. Surprise your family and friends with handmade gifts, or simply make them for yourself!



CROCHET STEP-BY-STEP

SALLY HARDING

(£14.99, DK)

This newly updated edition includes a fresh design and brand-new photography that shows the stitches with gorgeous clarity. This basic crochet book includes an explanation of stitch symbols and abbreviations together with clear guidelines on how to read crochet patterns. There are 20 projects to practice what you've learned too.



MELLY & ME: SUPERCUTE SEWING

MELANIE MCNEICE

(£15.99, David & Charles)

Discover a colourful world of adorable animals and fantastical creatures by Melly & Me, the hugely popular pattern brand. In this collection of sewn toys and gifts, you'll learn to make 'huggable' creatures to capture children's imagination, from friendly monsters, magical mermaids, circus lions, pretty unicorns and much more.



EXCLUSIVELY FOR SUBSCRIBERS!

SUBS STARS!

Every month, three subscribers win a prize as thank you for their loyalty to *Simply Crochet*. This month, the winners (below) will each receive a Hooooked Unicorn kit and KnitPro hooks set, worth over £46. Check next month to see if you're a winner!

Kevin Curtis, Hampshire
Tina Chestnut, Cumbria
Katie Hill, Worcestershire

Immediate Media Company, publishers of *Simply Crochet*, Subs Stars giveaway Terms and Conditions. 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.



MAGIC IN THE AIR

It's nearly here... flying into our pages soon is the Magic Carpet Throw crochet-along! Designed by Rosina Crochets using West Yorkshire Spinners yarn, the throw is made using the mosaic crochet technique, which looks stunningly intricate but is easy to do. In fact the seven-part CAL has charts and videos to support you if you need it. Get all the yarn you'll need for the CAL free by subscribing to *Simply Crochet* from the next issue (110), when part one is due to land. Hooks at the ready!



FILET GOOD, FILET FANTASTIC

Filet Fantastic is a free no-sew blanket CAL from Keep Calm and Crochet On. Released in 12 parts, it showcases filet crochet in a new and modern way; great for adventurous beginners, fun for first timers of filet, and thoroughly enjoyable for anyone that loves joining in with a fun crochet community event. For more details, including where to buy the CAL yarn kits, go to www.keepcalmandcrochetonuk.com

BRIDGERTON

▼ All us Bridgerton fans knew it was coming... Daphne Bridgerton and the Duke of Hastings have been recreated as amigurumi figures and the patterns can be yours! Hook the dashing Duke and make your own Daphne doll in her iconic blue dress, white gloves and amazing, realistic hair. The pattern includes step-by-step instructions on how to make the hair (don't worry, it's not as hard as it looks). Search for Reka Kohegyi's Store on Ravelry to find the patterns.



READY TO MINGLE

If you're on the lookout for a lustrous single then Ginger Twist's Single Mingle could be the perfect match. Made from 100% superwash Merino wool, this yarn has all the lovely glidey softness with a bit of bloom and sheen you'd expect from a single ply, and the high definition colour that only singles can give. It has beautiful drape and elasticity, and is completely suitable for garments that will be next to skin. Single Mingle is hand dyed in Edinburgh, Scotland by Jess of Ginger Twist Studio, and there are 10 high-definition colours to choose from. We think grey Old Town Cobblestone with a smidge of acid green Gorblimey or the literal Melon Balls on Fire would be a great combination for a jumper. If this sounds like your forever yarn partner then visit www.tribeyarns.com to see the full range and get mingling!

Shop of the month

City Knits



Each issue we explore a UK yarn shop

Who's in charge? Caroline Davis.

Where can we find you? Bournville Green, Birmingham (near Cadbury World).

What is your shop like? We are a treasure trove of yarny delights and accessories. Our wool wall is packed full of yarn! We've got something to suit all tastes and budgets. **Popular products?** British yarns are really popular with our customers and we stock lots of these.

What are you offering during the pandemic?

We've maintained our online services in the UK and also been offering a contactless click and collect service. We've also offered local drop offs for shielding customers. We've got the Citystitchers Facebook group for customer support.

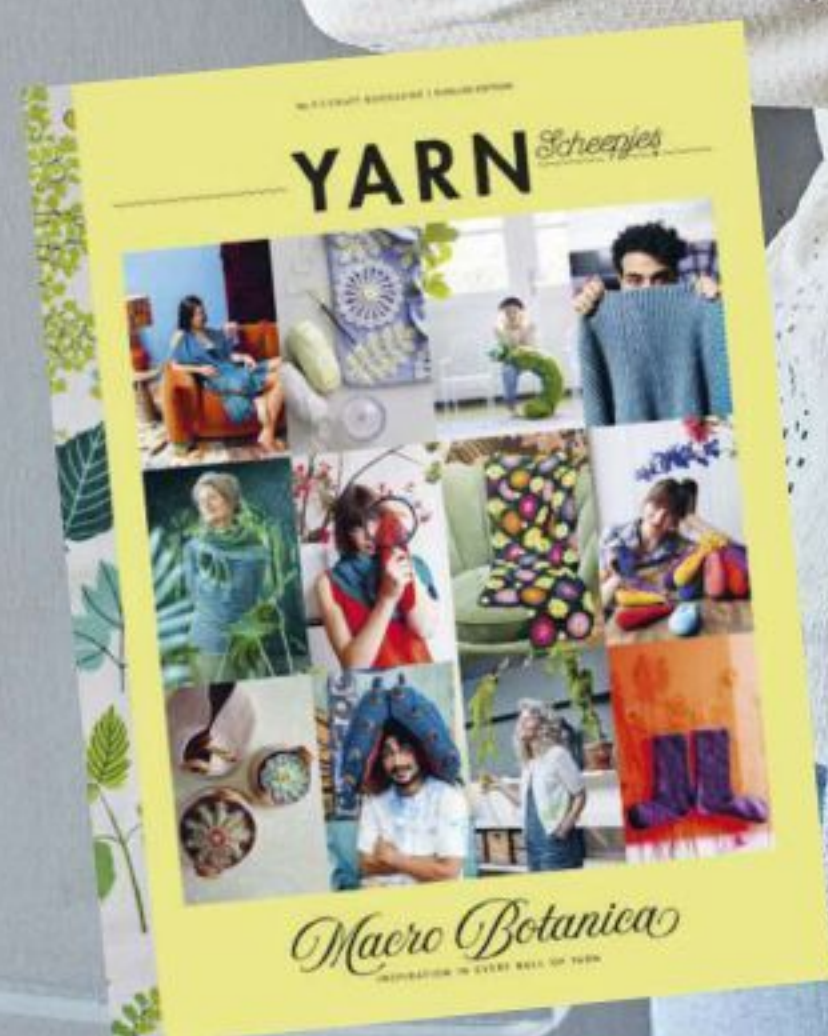
37 Sycamore Road, Bournville, Birmingham B30 2AA
Visit www.cityknits.co.uk

Find them at Instagram at @cityknits2 and on Facebook at cityknits



BOTANICAL BEAUTY

View the fascinating world of botany through a macro lens and let yourself be seduced by the beauty and ingenuity of Mother Nature. In *YARN Bookazine 11 Macro Botanica*, Scheepjes zooms in on the powerful properties of plants and the amazing things they do to survive and bring their beauty into the world. The 12 unique crochet designs featured for the spring and summer season, covering garments, accessories and homewares, pay homage to these fascinating feats. Also included in are interviews with artists on fascinating topics related to nature. Buy a copy of *YARN* from your nearest shop by heading to www.scheepjes.com/en/shops and take a macro look at the natural world.



NOSTALGIC YARNS

Peter Pan and Wendy yarns have been loved by crocheters for nearly 100 years, but sadly fell into administration at the beginning of the pandemic. Happily they have been rescued by new owners who have kept the original premises and many employees, and improved the quality of fibre to ensure the new Peter Pan and Wendy yarns are now market-leading quality, and better than before. The yarns get their name as their creator Arthur Parker was a friend of JM Barrie (author of *Peter Pan*) who allowed the use of Peter Pan and Wendy. To buy a bit of history visit www.woolwarehouse.co.uk



Crochet community

Skills & virtual events

23-25 APRIL Virtual **Wonderwool Wales**

Join here for free entry

www.facebook.com/groups/wonderwool2021

28 APR Tunisian Crochet (five-week course)

£0-£22.50

www.bit.ly/TunisianCrochetCourse

1-3 MAY Virtual Art and Craft Spring Festival on

Facebook with **Search Press** authors, including

SimplyCrochet designer Val Pierce

www.bit.ly/ArtCraftSpringFestival

Join Emma from the **Yarndale** team in crocheting

a versatile cloth in real time and also buy the kit

www.yarndale.co.uk/yarndale-make-along-with

Looking for friendly craft chat? Check out

We've Made It! the new craft podcast from the www.gathered.how team



5 FAB FINDS

Vintage

Take inspiration from crafters gone past



A STITCH IN TIME

Made from time softened and re-purposed vintage furnishing fabric, this needlecase and notions pouch are the perfect addition to any crochet bag, adding a classic aesthetic. Find for £15 each at Foltsy shop Ericka Eckles.

2



CROCHET ALL DAY

With hand-painted vintage-style roses, this pretty hanging sign will look lovely on the handle to a yarn stash cupboard. It's £6 from www.pedrospalques.com/plaques

KEEP GROOVING

Hook up some retro vibes with the Groovy Dreams Sweater. Check those fun flared sleeves! Find the pattern on LambentCrochet's Etsy shop for £5.47.

3



4



QUIRKY KITTIES

Vintage cat bunting is a thing and can now be yours. Marvel at moggies from the olden days with this unique decoration. Buy for £15 from Foltsy shop PollyKrafts.

BUTTON GLUTTON

Use vintage buttons to add unique and classy detail to your crochet creations, like this 1950s blue domed shanked design for 60p from www.thebuttonqueen.co.uk

5





VEST IN SHOW

Whether you layer it up with a T-shirt, crop top or bralette, or pair with shorts for hazy, lazy summer days, this vest is sure to impress.

MIX &
MATCH
MAKES



SHAKE UP LACE

Hook up fresh frills and cute lace with attitude for this year's feminine, fashion-forward accessories

MODERN LACE COLLECTION



I GOT FRILLS

Originally used to hold up stockings, a garter is now the ultimate fun and flirty accessory. Top your long socks with this pretty one – no wedding dress required.

BUCKETFUL OF COOL

The laid-back bucket hat is well and truly back in fashion. Pop one on and channel late 1980s hip hop, 2000s Britney Spears and everyone in between.







NATTY NETTING

During lockdown we've all probably twitched the curtains to see what is going on down our street, so why not upgrade with a pretty lace version.

BOW-DACIOUS

There are bows, and there are big hair bows! Add to a headband for a spot of everyday hair flair, or to a clip as a yarny alternative to a fascinator.

BAG

Natalie Beard's drawstring pouch would surely dangle from a *Bridgerton* wrist, though the contents will be different today

- Scheepjes Legacy no. 8 (100% cotton, 100g/330m), 1 ball of White (009)
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- Small amount of toy stuffing

TENSION

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

MEASUREMENTS

Bag measures approx 22cm (8¾in) tall

NOTES

Bag is worked from the bottom up. Parts of the pattern are worked in the amigurumi style. Work stitches in a continuous spiral without closing off each round with a slip stitch. You may find it helpful to mark the first stitch of the round, moving the marker up as you work.

BAG

BASE

Make a magic loop.

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

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

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

Round 4 (Dc in next 2 sts, 2dc in next st) 6

times. [24 sts]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Round 12 (Dc in next 10 sts, 2dc in next st) 6 times. [72 sts]

Round 13 (Dc in next 11 sts, 2dc in next st) 6 times. [78 sts]

Round 14 (Dc in next 12 sts, 2dc in next st) 6 times. [84 sts]

Do not fasten off.

SIDES

Round 15 (Working in bl only), dc in each st around.

Rounds 16-20 Dc in each st around, ss to beg dc on Round 20.

Round 21 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr in each st around, ss to top of beg ch-3.

Round 22 Ch3 (counts as dc, ch2), (skip 3 sts, dc in sp between 2 tr) 27 times, skip final 3 sts, ss to first ch-2 sp. [28 dc, 28 ch-3 sps]

Round 23 Ch3 (counts as tr), 2tr in same sp, 3tr in each ch-3 sp around, ss to top of beg ch-3. [84 sts]

Rounds 24-35 Rep Rounds 22-23 another 7 times.

Rounds 36-40 Ch1, dc in each st around, ss to beg dc.

Round 41 Ch1, (dc in next 4 sts, ch2, skip 2 sts), 14 times, ss to beg dc. [56 sts, 14 ch-2 sps]

Rounds 42-46 As Round 36.

Round 47 Ch1, 2dc in each st around, ss to beg dc. [168 sts]

Rounds 48-52 As Round 36.

Round 53 Ch1, (dc in next st, ch3, dc in next st) 84 times, ss to beg dc.

Fasten off.

DRAWSTRING

Ch150, ss in second ch from hook and each ch across.

Fasten off.

Thread through the ch-2 sps on Round 41 of Bag.

CROCHET BEADS (MAKE 2)

Make a magic loop.

Rounds 1-2 (RS) As Rounds 1-2 of Base. [12 sts]

Rounds 3-4 Dc in each st around Stuff.

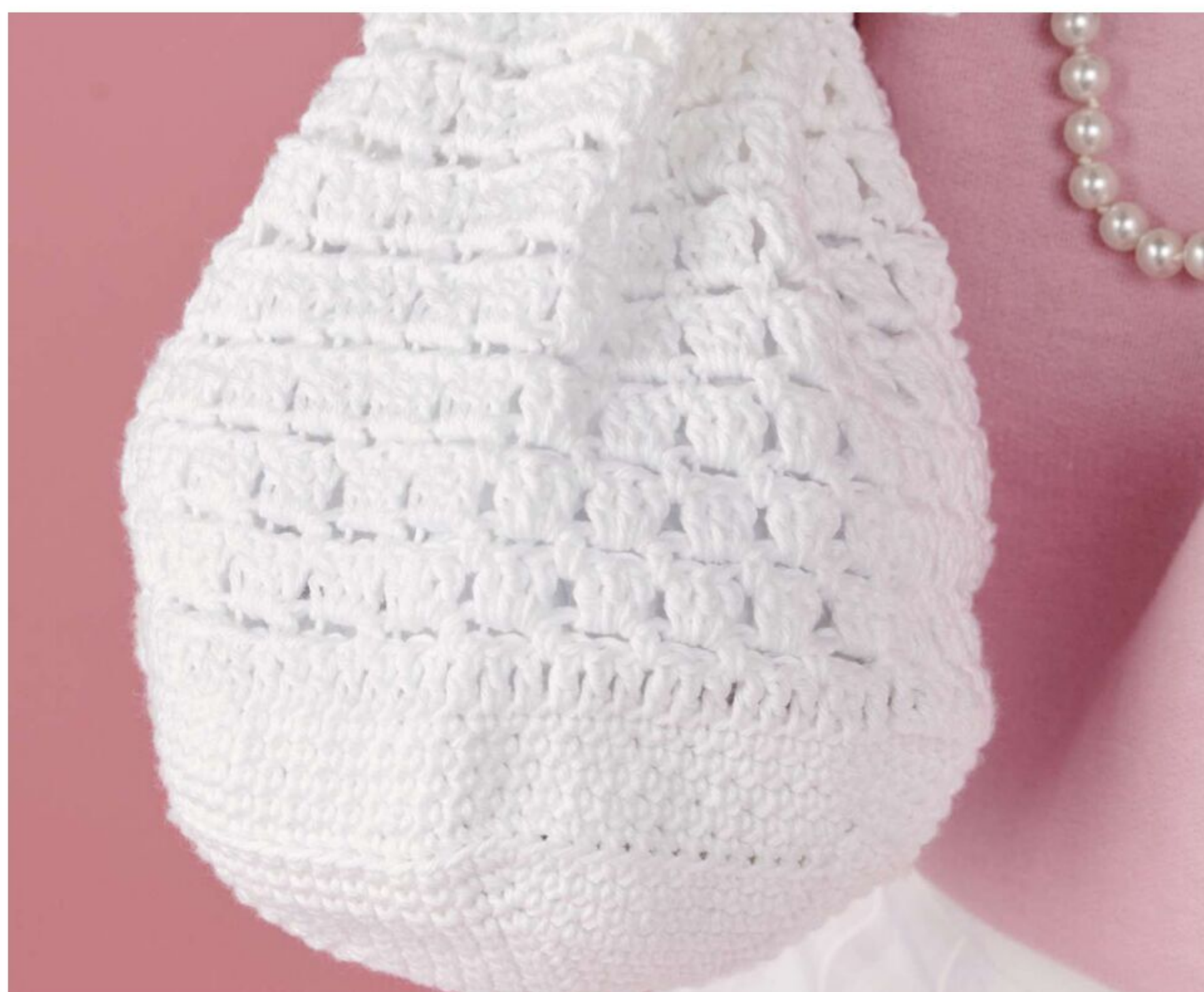
Round 5 (Dc2tog) 6 times.

Fasten off.

Thread tail through final 6 sts and pull tight to close round.

Using the tail, sew a Bead to each end of the Drawstring.

Weave in all ends.



GARTER

Give your knees their moment in the limelight with Emma Leith's flower-topped garter sitting above them like a crown

- Scheepjes Legacy no. 8 (100% cotton, 100g/330m), 1 ball of White (009)
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- 60cm white elastic, 1cm thick

TENSION

22 sts and 13 rounds to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over pattern using a 3mm hook, or size needed to obtain correct tension

MEASUREMENTS

Garter measures 48.5cm (19in) in circumference and 7.5cm (3in) wide before adding elastic

ABBREVIATIONS

picot Ch4, ss to last ch from hook
fdc (foundation dc) Ch2 (does not count as st), *insert hook in last ch from hook, yrh and pull up a loop, yrh and pull through 1 loop (this loop will sit at base of st), yrh and pull through 2 loops; rep from * inserting your hook into loop at base of prev st
fan (Ch1, tr) 4 times in same sp, ch1
2-dtr cl *Yrh twice, insert hook in st indicated, yrh and pull up a loop, (yrh and pull through 2 loops on hook) twice; rep from * once more in same st, yrh and pull through all loops on hook

For a full list, see page 96

NOTES

Garter is worked in rounds throughout. Elastic is threaded through the sts on 2 rounds to make the Garter adjustable. You can also change the measurements of the garter by increasing or decreasing the number of sts in the foundation round by 12.

GARTER

Work 108fdc, ss to beg dc to form a loop (being careful not to twist the sts).

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in each st around, ss to beg dc. [108 sts]

Round 2 (RS) Ch4 (counts as dtr), dtr in each st around, ss to top of beg ch-4.

Rounds 3-5 Rep Rounds 1-2, then rep Round 1 once more.

Round 6 (Ch3, skip 2 sts, ss in next st) 36 times, working final ss in base of beg ch-3. [36 ch-sps]

Round 7 Ss to second ch of first ch-3 sp, *fan in next ch-3 sp, ss in second ch of next ch-3 sp, ch3, ss in second ch of next ch-3 sp; rep from * 11 times more, working final ss in base of beg ch-1. [48 tr, 60 ch-1 sps, 12 ch-3 sps]

Round 8 Ss in first ch-1 sp, (ch3, ss in next ch-1 sp) twice, picot, ss in same ch-1 sp as prev ss,

(ch3, ss in next ch-1 sp) twice, ch3, (dc, picot, dc) in next ch-3 sp; rep from * 11 times more, ss in beg ss.

Fasten off.

Turn Garter over and rejoin yarn in opposite side of foundation round.

Round 9 Ch4 (counts as tr, ch-1), (tr, ch1) in each st around, ss to third ch of beg ch-4. [108 tr, 108 ch-1 sps]

Round 10 Ch4 (counts as dc, ch3), (dc, ch3) in each st and ch-1 sp around, ss to first ch of beg ch-1. [216 sts, 216 ch-3 sps]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

Cut 2 lengths of elastic to the measurements of thigh, minus approx 3cm. We've cut our elastic to 40cm and it should fit a thigh measuring 43-48cm comfortably.

Thread one length of elastic through the posts of the dtr sts on Round 2 and the second length through Round 4. Sew the ends of the elastic together to secure it in place.

FLOWER

Make a magic loop.



Round 1 (RS) Ch1, 6dc in loop, ss to beg dc. [6 sts]

Round 2 (RS) (Working in fl only), *Ch2, tr in st at base of ch-2, ch2, ss in same st, ss in next st; rep from * 5 times more. [6 petals]

Round 3 (Working in bl from Round 1) Ch1, 2htr in each st around, ss to beg htr. [12 sts]

Round 4 (Working in fl only), *Ch2, 2-tr cl in same st as ch-2, ch2, ss in same st, ss in next st; rep from * 11 times more. [12 petals]

Round 5 (Working in bl from Round 3), Ch1, 2tr in each st around, ss to beg tr. [24 sts]

Round 6 (Working in fl only) *Ch2, tr in same st at base of ch-2, tr in next st, ch2, ss in same st as tr, ss in next st; rep from * 11 times more. [12 petals]

Round 7 (Working in bl of Round 5) Ch3 (counts as tr), (2tr in next st, tr in next st) 11 times, 2tr in final st, ss to top of beg ch-3. [36 sts]

Round 8 *Ch2, dtr in same st as ch-2, 2-dtr cl in next st, dtr in next st, ch2, ss in same st as dtr, ss in next st; rep from * 11 times more. [12 petals]

Fasten off.

Sew the Flower onto the Garter. Weave in all ends.



HAT

Peek out from underneath the brim of this fluffy bucket hat by Marianne Rawlins for a modern take on the bonnet

- Scheepjes Sweetheart Soft (100% polyester, 100g/153m), 1 ball of White (01)
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook

TENSION

13 sts and 13 rounds to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over double crochet using a 4mm hook, or size needed to obtain correct tension

MEASUREMENTS

Hat measures 58cm (22¾in) in circumference and 17cm (6¾in) long excluding Brim

NOTES

Hat is worked from the top down in rounds. You can reduce the finished circumference by reducing the number of increase rounds worked between Rounds 1-5. You should work 2 extra plain dc rounds for each increase round omitted to obtain same length.

HAT CROWN

Ch6, ss to last ch from hook to form a loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as a tr throughout),

14tr in loop, ss to top of beg ch-3. (15 sts).

Round 2 (RS) Ch3, tr in same st as ch-3, 2tr in each st around, ss to top of beg ch-3. [30 sts]

Round 3 Ch3, tr in same st as ch-3, tr in next st, (2tr in next st, tr in next st) 14 times, ss to top of beg ch-3. [45 sts]

Round 4 Ch3, tr in same st as ch-3, tr in next 2 sts, (2tr in next st, tr in next 2 sts) 14 times, ss to top of beg ch-3. [60 sts]

Round 5 Ch3, tr into same st as ch-3, tr in next 3 sts, (2tr in next st, tr in next 3 sts) 14 times, ss to top of beg ch-3. [75 sts]

Round 6 Ch1 (counts as dc), dc in each st around, ss to beg ch-1.

Rounds 7-16 As Round 6, ss to beg dc on final round.

BRIM

Round 17 Ch3, tr in st at base of ch-3, tr in next 4 sts, (2tr in next st, tr in next 4 sts) 14 times, ss to top of beg ch-3. [90 sts]

Round 18 Ch3, tr in same st as ch-3, tr in next 5 sts, (2tr in next st, tr in next 5 sts) 14 times, ss to top of beg ch-3. [105 sts]

Round 19 Ch3, tr in same st as ch-3, tr in next 6 sts, (2tr in next st, tr in next 6 sts) 14 times, ss to top of beg ch-3. [120 sts]

Round 20 Ch3, tr in same st as ch-3, tr in next 7 sts, (2tr in next st, tr in next 7 sts) 14 times, ss to top of beg ch-3. [135 sts]

Round 21 As Round 6.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

CURTAIN

Create some privacy and decorate any size of window in one go with Pat Strong's delicate net-effect curtain

- Scheepjes Legacy no 8. (100% cotton, 100g/330m), 1 ball of White (009)
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- 12 curtain rings, 2cm

TENSION

24.5 sts and 18.5 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) or 49 sts and 37 rows to measure 20x20cm (7¾x7¾in) over pattern

MEASUREMENTS

Curtain measures approx 60x25cm (23½x9¾in)

NOTES

Curtain is worked in rows from side to side. The length of each row will determine the finished length of the Curtain. You can increase the length by adding a multiple of 20ch to the foundation ch. Each additional 20ch will add 7.5cm to the length. Altering the

pattern may require additional yarn.
A ch-10 loop is worked at the beginning of every fourth row to form the lower edging.

CURTAINS

Ch63.

Row 1 (RS) Tr in fifth ch from hook (skipped ch counts as tr, ch1), (ch1, skip 1 ch, tr in next ch) 29 times, turn. [31 tr, 30 ch-1 sps]

Row 2 (WS) Ch10 (does not count as st), tr in first st, (ch1, skip ch-sp, tr in next tr) 3 times, *ch7, skip 7 sts (4 ch-1 sps and 3 tr), (tr in next tr, ch1, skip ch-1 sp) 6 times, tr in next tr; rep from * once more, ch7, skip 7 sts, (tr in next tr, ch1, skip ch-1 sp) 3 times, tr in final st, turn.

[22 tr, 18 ch-1 sps, 3 ch-7 sps]

Row 3 Ch4 (counts as tr, ch1 throughout), skip ch-1 sp, (tr in next st, ch1, skip ch-1 sp) twice, *tr in next st, (ch1, skip 1 ch of ch-7 sp, tr in next ch) 3 times, ch1, skip final ch of ch-7 sp**, (tr in next tr, ch1, skip ch-sp) 6 times; rep from * twice more ending final rep at **, (tr in next tr, ch1, skip ch-sp) 3 times, tr in final st, turn.

[31 tr, 30 ch-1 sps]

Row 4 Ch4, skip ch-1 sp, (tr in next tr, ch1, skip ch-sp) across to final st, tr in final st, turn.

Row 5 As Row 4.

Repeat Rows 2-5 another 26 times, then rep Rows 2-3 once more. To increase the width of the Curtain, work additional repeats of Rows 2-5 before ending with Rows 2-3.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

Sew the curtain rings evenly across the top of the Curtain.

BOW

Ruffle some feathers but not your mane with a dramatic, oversized bow clip by Hannah Cross and have a good hair day

- Scheepjes Legacy no. 8 (100% cotton, 100g/330m), 1 ball of White (009)
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- Crocodile clip, 7.5cm
- Starch spray

TENSION

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

MEASUREMENTS

Bow measures approx 18x8cm (7x3¼in) across widest points

NOTES

Bow is worked in rows, then seamed together to form a loop. The centre is sewn together to form the bow shape.

Ruffles are added to the unused loops from the main body of the Bow.



BOW

Ch22.

Row 1 (WS) Dc in second ch from hook and each across, turn. [21 sts]

Row 2 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), htr in bl of each st across, turn.

Row 3 Ch1, dc in fl of each htr across, turn.

Rows 4-59 Rep Rows 2-3.

Row 60 Rep Row 2.

Fold piece so the foundation ch lines up with the sts of final row and ss across to join.

With the seam in the centre and RS facing out, flatten the Bow. Sew through the centre and pull tight to gather the fabric and create the Bow shape.

RUFFLES

Work the Ruffles symmetrically on either side of the centre. Work all sts into the unused loops from the htr rows of Bow. The stitch instructions are written first with the placement detailed below.

RUFFLE STITCH

Row 1 Join yarn in st indicated, *ch2, skip 1 st, htr in next st, ch2, skip 1 st, ss in next st (1 Ruffle made); rep from * as required, turn

Row 2 Ch3, ss in next ch-2 sp, (ch3, ss in next ch-2 sp) across to end.

Fasten off.

Work 1 Ruffle in the seventh row from centre, joining in the ninth st of the row.

Work 2 Ruffles in the ninth row from centre, joining in the sixth st of the row.

Work 3 Ruffles in the 11th row from centre, joining in the fourth st of the row.

Work 4 Ruffles in the 13th row from centre, joining in the second st of the row.

Work 4 Ruffles in the 15th row from centre, joining in the second st of the row.

Work all Ruffles on the opposite side of the Bow.

TO FINISH

Weave in all ends.

Block and spray starch the Bow to help keep the shape.

Once dry, glue the crocodile clip in place.



YARN STOCKISTS
Scheepjes
www.scheepjes.com/en



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Vest dressed

Fancy filet crochet is the star in Kristen TenDyke's super sleeveless spring and summer top



YOU WILL NEED

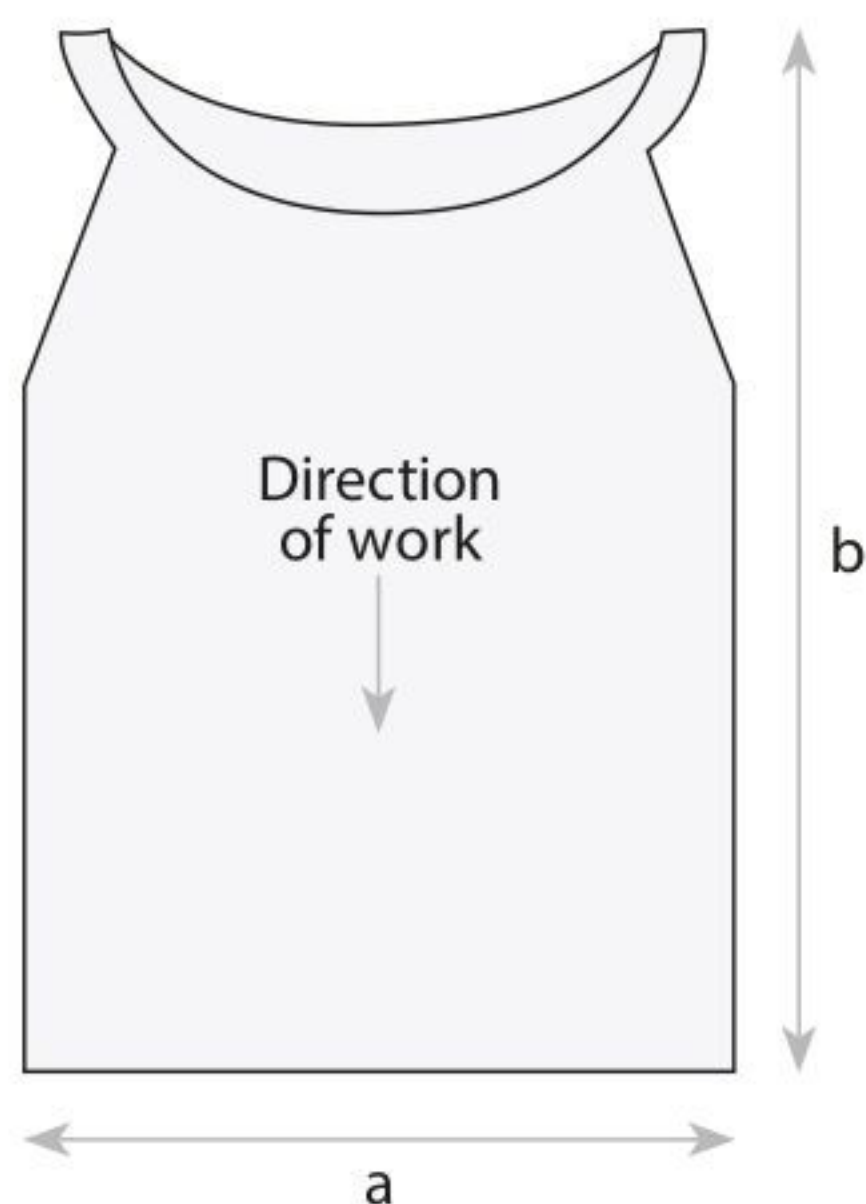
- Scheepjes Legacy no.8 (100% cotton, 100g/330m) White (009)
See table for measurements and yarn quantities
 - A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
 - Removable stitch markers
- For yarn stockists contact
Scheepjes
www.scheepjes.com/en

TENSION

21 sts and 28 rows measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over double crochet using a 3mm hook, or size needed to obtain correct tension
24 sts and 11 rows measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over Filet Patt using a 3mm hook, or size needed to obtain correct tension

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 96



Bust width a: 45 (50: 55: 60: 65: 70)cm, 17¾ (19½: 21½: 23½: 25½: 27½)in
Length b: 56 (57: 59: 60: 61.5: 62.5)cm, 22 (22½: 23¼: 23½: 24¼: 24½)in

Add a layer of intriguing checkerboard pattern to your plain vests and T-shirts with this statement filet tank top. The flower-like diamond is a pretty detail and sits like a beautiful necklace pendant.

NOTES

Neckband is worked first, then the Back and Front are worked separately from the Neckband down. Side seams are joined afterwards.
Please refer to the Diamond Chart on page 97 when working Rows 1-7 of the Front. Read all RS rows from right to left, and WS rows from left to right.
The Neckband and Armhole Trims 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 last stitch of each round, moving it up as you work.
RS and WS look extremely similar. It may be helpful to place a removable marker at the beg of a RS row to tell them apart.

TANK TOP

FILET PATTERN (MULTIPLE OF 6 STS)

Row 1 (WS) Ch3, tr in next tr, ch2, skip 2 tr, tr in next tr, *2tr in ch-2 sp, tr in next tr, ch2, skip 2 tr, tr in next tr; rep from * to final st, tr in top of beg ch-3, turn.

Row 2 (RS) Ch3, tr in next tr, 2tr in ch-2 sp, tr in next tr, *ch2, skip 2 tr, tr in next tr, 2tr in ch-2 sp, tr in next tr; rep from * to final st, tr in top of beg ch-3, turn.

Rep Rows 1-2 for patt.

NECKBAND

Ch 135 (156: 156: 177: 177: 198).

Row 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook and each ch across, do not turn. Pm into the last st worked to mark the end of the round.
[134 (155: 155: 176: 176: 197) sts]

Round 2 (RS) With RS facing, dc in first st of

prev row to join into rounds being careful not to twist, dc in each dc around. Replace marker in the last st after working into the marked st.

Round 3 (Inc round) Dc in first 2 sts, *2dc in next st, 2dc; rep from * around, turn.

[178 (206: 206: 234: 234: 262) sts]

Round 4 Dc in each st around. Remove marker.

BACK

Cont working back and forth over the next 60 (72: 72: 84: 84: 96) sts for Back only for your size as follows:

SIZES 8-10, 20-22, 24-26 ONLY

Set-up row 1 (WS) Ch3 (counts as tr), tr in next dc, ch2, skip 2 dc, *tr in next 4 dc, ch2, skip 2 dc; rep from * 8 (-: -: 12: 12: -) times more, tr in next 2 dc, turn. [10 (-: -: 14: 14: -) ch-sps, 9 (-: -: 13: 13: -) 4-tr groups plus 4 tr]

Set-up row 2 (RS) Ch3, tr in next tr, 2tr in ch-2 sp, tr in next tr, *ch2, skip 2 tr, tr in next tr, 2tr in ch-2 sp, tr in next tr; rep from * to final st, tr in top of beg ch-3, turn. [9 (-: -: 13: 13: -) ch-sps, 10 (-: -: 14: 14: -) 4-tr groups]

SIZES 12-14, 16-18, 28-30 ONLY

Set-up row (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr), *tr in next 4 dc, ch2, skip 2 dc; rep from * - (10: 10: -: -: 14) times more, tr in next 5 dc, turn. [- (11: 11: -: -: 15) ch-sps, - (12: 12: -: -: 14) 4-tr groups]

ALL SIZES

Cont working Rows 1 and 2 of Filet Patt for 5 (7: 7: 7: 9) more rows, ending after a WS row.

SHAPE ARMHOLES

Inc row (RS) Ch4 (counts as dtr), dtr in same st, ch2, tr in next st, 2tr in ch-2 sp, tr in next tr, cont in patt to last 2 sts, tr in next st, ch2, 2dtr in top of beg ch-3, turn. [6 sts increased]

Rep the last row 7 (7: 9: 9: 11: 11) times more.

[108 (120: 132: 144: 156: 168) sts]

It may be useful to place a removable marker

SIZE		8-10	12-14	16-18	20-22	24-26	28-30
TO FIT BUST	cm	81-86	91-97	102-107	112-117	122-127	132-137
	in	32-34	36-38	40-42	44-46	48-50	52-54
ACTUAL BUST (APPROX)	cm	90	100	110	120	130	140
	in	35½	39¼	43¼	47¼	51¼	55
LENGTH	cm	56	57	59	60	61.5	62.5
	in	22	22½	23¼	23½	24¼	24½
YARN	100g	3	3	3	3	4	4

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

into the beg and end of the last inc row, to use for measuring and seaming the Body.

BODY

Beg with Row 2 of Filet Patt, cont working evenly in patt until piece meas approx 36.5cm from last inc row.

On the following dec row, work 1dc in each tr and 2dc in each ch-2 sp. If the dc2tog occurs over the ch-2 sp, just work 1dc into the ch-2 sp instead.

Dec row Dec 14 (15: 17: 18: 20: 21) sts evenly across as follows: ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in next 1 (3: 1: 3: 1: 3) sts, dc2tog over next 2 sts, *dc in next 6 sts, dc2tog over next 2 sts; rep from * to last 1 (3: 1: 3: 1: 3) sts, dc in each st to end, turn.

[94 (105: 115: 126: 136: 147) sts]

Next row Ch1, dc into each st to end, turn.

Rep prev row 3 times more.

Fasten off.

FRONT

With RS facing, skip 29 (31: 31: 33: 33: 35)

Neckband sts from Back sts, join yarn with a ss in next st. Work back and forth over next 60 (72: 72: 84: 84: 96) sts as follows, also see Diamond Chart.

BEGIN DIAMOND FILET PATTERN

Row 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr throughout), tr in next 4 dc, (ch2, skip 2 dc, tr in next 4 dc) 4 (5: 5: 6: 6: 7) times, ch7, skip 2 dc, (tr in next 4 dc, ch2, skip 2 dc) 4 (5: 5: 6: 6: 7) times, tr in next 5 dc, turn. [12 (14: 14: 16: 16: 18) 4-tr groups, 10 (12: 12: 14: 14: 16) ch-2 sps plus 2 tr and central diamond sts. There should be 29 (31: 31: 33: 33: 35) Neckband dc unworked between Front and Back on each side]

Row 2 (WS) Ch3, tr in next tr, (ch2, skip 2 tr, tr in next tr, 2tr in ch-2 sp, tr in next tr) 4 (5: 5: 6: 6: 7) times, ch4, dc in ch-7 sp, ch4, skip 3 tr, (tr in next tr, 2tr in ch-2 sp, tr in next tr, ch2, skip 2 tr) 4 (5: 5: 6: 6: 7) times, tr in next tr, tr in top of beg ch-3, turn. [8 (10: 10: 12: 12: 14) groups of (4-tr and ch-2), plus 4 tr and central diamond sts]

CONT DIAMOND FILET PATT AND SHAPE ARMHOLES

Row 3 Ch4 (counts as dtr throughout), dtr in same st, ch2, tr in next tr, 2tr in ch-2 sp, tr in next tr, (ch2, skip 2 tr, tr in next tr, 2tr in ch-2 sp, tr in next tr) 3 (4: 4: 5: 5: 6) times, ch6, dc in ch-4 sp, dc in dc, dc in next ch-4 sp, ch6, skip 3 tr, (tr in next tr, 2tr in ch-2 sp, tr in tr, ch2, skip 2 tr) 3 (4: 4: 5: 5: 6) times, tr in next tr, 2tr in ch-2 sp, tr in next tr, ch2, 2dtr in top of beg ch-3, turn.

[Inc by 3 sts of Filet Patt at each end of row]

Row 4 Ch4, dtr in same st, ch2, tr in next st, 2tr in ch-2 sp, tr in next st, (ch2, skip 2 tr, tr in next tr, 2tr in ch-2 sp, tr in next tr) 3 (4: 4: 5: 5: 6) times, ch8, dc in ch-6 sp, dc in next 3 dc, dc in next ch-6 sp, ch8, skip 3 tr, (tr in next tr, 2tr in ch-2 sp,

tr in tr, ch2, skip 2 tr) 3 (4: 4: 5: 5: 6) times, tr in next tr, 2tr in ch-2 sp, tr in next tr, ch2, 2dtr in top of beg ch-3, turn.

[Inc by 3 sts of Filet Patt at each end of row]

Row 5 Ch4, dtr in same st, ch2, (tr in next st, 2tr in ch-2 sp, tr in next tr, ch2, skip 2 tr) 4 (5: 5: 6: 6: 7) times, tr in next tr, 3tr in ch-8 sp, ch6, skip 1 dc, dc in next 3 dc, ch6, 3tr in ch-8 sp, tr in next tr, (ch2, skip 2 tr, tr in next tr, 2tr in ch-2 sp, tr in next tr) 4 (5: 5: 6: 6: 7) times, ch2, 2dtr in top of beg ch-3, turn.

[Inc by 3 sts of Filet Patt at each end of row]

Row 6 Ch4, dtr in same st, ch2, (tr in next st, 2tr in ch-2 sp, tr in next tr, ch2, skip 2 tr) 5 (6: 6: 7: 7: 8) times, tr in next tr, 3tr in ch-6 sp, ch6, skip 1 dc, dc in next dc, ch6, 3tr in ch-6 sp, tr in next tr, (ch2, skip 2 tr, tr in next tr, 2tr in ch-2 sp, tr in next tr) 5 (6: 6: 7: 7: 8) times, ch2, 2dtr in top of beg ch-3, turn.

[Inc by 3 sts of Filet Patt at each end of row]

Row 7 Ch4, dtr in same st, ch2, (tr in next st, 2tr in ch-2 sp, tr in next tr, ch2, skip 2 tr) 6 (7: 7: 8: 8: 9) times, tr in next tr, 3tr in ch-6 sp, ch2, skip 1 dc, 3tr in next ch-6 sp, tr in next tr, (ch2, skip 2 tr, tr in next tr, 2tr in ch-2 sp, tr in next tr) 6 (7: 7: 8: 8: 9) times, ch2, 2dtr in top of beg ch-3, turn.

[Inc by 3 sts of Filet Patt at each end of row]

SHAPE ARMHOLES

Inc row Ch4, dtr in same st, ch2, tr in next st, 2tr in ch-2 sp, tr in tr, cont in patt to last 2 sts, tr in next st, ch2, 2dtr in top of beg ch-3, turn.

[Inc by 3 sts of Filet Patt at each end of row]

Rep prev row 2 (2: 4: 4: 6: 6) times more.

[108 (120: 132: 144: 156: 168) sts]

Place markers as for Back if desired.

BODY

Beg with Row 2 of Filet Patt, cont working the same as for Back.

TO MAKE UP

Seam sides of Body from markers to lower edge.

ARMHOLE TRIM

With RS facing, join yarn with a ss at underarm seam, ch1 (does not count as a st), work 3dc in each dtr and ch-4 sp along row ends to Neckband, 1dc in each dc of Neckband, then 3dc in each dtr and ch-4 sp along row ends to underarm. Do not ss to join. Pm in last st worked to mark end of round.

Next round Dc in each dc to marked st, remove marker, ss into next st.

Fasten off.

TO FINISH

Block piece to measurements.



The openwork top is worked in a filet pattern throughout, and begins with the neckband



The diamond motif is worked in the centre front in rows within the main filet pattern



Work the trim at the hem as you work the front and back pieces, then seam together

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Kevin the caterpillar is a happy chappy and he won't munch your plants either! By Sirdar



YOU WILL NEED

- Sirdar Happy Chenille (100% polyester, 15g/38m)
1 ball of each:
Yarn B Picnic (027)
Yarn C Tutti Frutti (032)
Yarn E Sparkler (025)
A small amount of each:
Yarn A Ink Spot (022)
Yarn D Fuzzy (013)

- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- 2 safety eyes, 4mm
- Black pipe cleaner
- Toy stuffing
- Stitch marker

For yarn stockists contact
Sirdar 01924 231682
www.sirdar.com

TENSION

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

MEASUREMENTS

Caterpillar measures approx 18cm (7in) long

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 96

Caterpillars are as fascinating as the butterflies they turn into, and can be just as brightly coloured, like Kevin here. He's not hungry so he'll be quite happy to just crawl around in your pot plants.

NOTES

Caterpillar is made in separate pieces, then joined together. The Feet are added to the Head and Body pieces at the end. Pattern is worked using the amigurumi method. Work your stitches in a continuous spiral without closing off each round with a slip stitch. You may find it helpful to mark the first stitch of the round, moving the marker up as you work.

If you are making this toy for a child under 36 months, do not use safety eyes; instead, embroider eyes with Yarn A.

KEVIN CATERPILLAR

LARGE SPHERE (MAKE 4)

Using Yarn B, make a magic loop.

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

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

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

Rounds 4-6 Dc in each st around.

Insert safety eyes on one Sphere only for the Head. Position them between Rounds 5-6, approx 2 sts apart.

Round 7 (Dc in next 3 sts, dc2tog) 3 times. [12 sts]

Stuff.

Round 8 (Dc2tog) 6 times. [6 sts]

Round 9 (Dc2tog) 3 times.

Fasten off.

Use the tail to close the final round.

MEDIUM SPHERE (MAKE 4)

Using Yarn B, make a magic loop.

Rounds 1-2 (RS) As Rounds 1-2 of Large Sphere. [12 sts]

Round 3 (Dc in next 3 sts, change to Yarn E, dc in next 3 sts, change to Yarn B) twice.

Round 4 *Dc in next 3 sts, change to Yarn E, dc in next st, change to Yarn C, dc in next st, change to Yarn E, dc in next st, change to Yarn B; rep from * once more.

Round 5 As Round 3.

Stuff.

Fasten off all colours except Yarn B.

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

Round 7 (Dc2tog) 3 times.

Fasten off.

Use the tail to close the final round.

SMALL SPHERE

Using Yarn B, make a magic loop.

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

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



Kevin's antennae are made from pipe cleaners with a crocheted end sewn on



Work a pair of feet, made from chain stitches, on each sphere all along the body

Rounds 3-4 Dc in each st around.

Stuff.

Round 5 (Dc in next st, dc2tog) 3 times. [6 sts]

Round 6 (Dc2tog) 3 times.

Fasten off.

Use the tail to close the final round.

YELLOW SPOTS (MAKE 6)

Using Yarn C, make a magic loop.

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

Change to Yarn E.

Round 2 2dc in each st around, ss in beg dc

Fasten off.

ANTENNAE ENDS (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn C, make a magic loop.

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

Round 2 (Dc2tog) 3 times.

Fasten off.

Use the tail to close the final round.

TO MAKE UP

Sew 2 Yellow Spots on either side of 3 of the Large Spheres.

Using a length of Yarn A, sew the Caterpillar together. Begin with the Head, then join the 3 Large Spheres with the Yellow Spots visible at the side. Next, join the 2 Medium Spheres and end with the Small Sphere for the tail. Insert a pipe cleaner through the top of the



This pattern is from
*Happy Chenille Book 6
Garden Friends* (£3.99),
published by Sirdar
www.sirdar.com
Hook happy little critters!



Assemble Kevin by joining the spheres together, then work his facial features and add feet

Head in a U-shape. Trim the ends to desired length for antennae. Sew or glue the Antennae Ends to the ends of the pipe cleaner. Using Yarn A, embroider a small V-shape for the mouth. Using Yarn D, embroider a small straight st below each eye for the cheeks. Weave in all ends.

FEET

Use the image as a guide to position the Feet. Join Yarn E in st at lower side of Head, ch3, ss in

third ch from hook.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Make another Foot on the opposite side of the lower Head.

Make 2 Feet on each Body part in the same way.

SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO WORK DOUBLE CROCHET IN A SPIRAL



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



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



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



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

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DORA'S JOURNAL

...from the studio

Crochet designer Dora Does shows us that with a hook and a little know-how we can take the leap into making garments to be proud of

*Dora Does knows you can absolutely
crochet your own clothes*

When I crocheted a sweater for first time I was convinced I was going to mess it up. Surely such a thing was way beyond my skill level? So no-one was more surprised than me when it turned out fine and actually fit. Sure, some of the seams were a bit bumpy and I definitely didn't block it properly, but it was wearable, cosy and even looked like the picture!

A PROBLEM SHARED

I began learning all about the different construction methods and techniques involved in crocheting garments. I fell in love with the process and wanted to share it with everyone who would listen. As I published more designs, I started seeing comments which mirrored those familiar reservations I first had. Responses such as "I could never make that" and "crochet sweaters never fit me" littered my social media. I knew, that with just a bit of extra guidance, these commenters could absolutely crochet their own clothes.

This led to me creating the My Crochet Wardrobe Facebook group. It's a warm and friendly place where people discuss the challenges associated with crocheting clothing, get and give advice, celebrate wins and commiserate over piles of frogged yarn. The group has really helped me identify the

most common pain points crocheters encounter when making garments: gauge, fit and confidence.

THE GAUGE-MONSTER

For many, gauge has this aura of confusion, but in reality, it's not that complicated. You just take it one step at a time. I always felt guilty that, when designing, the only gauge I can match is my own, so I challenged myself to find how to mitigate this. I eventually came up with my 'Any Yarn Will Do' pattern. It's a simple, top-down, round yoke sweater, with five different gauge measurements to choose from (see photos opposite for creative interpretations of the basic design). It's designed to reflect the five main yarn weight classes, but there's so much variation within categories, that, if the gauge fits and you're happy with your swatch, just follow the pattern for that gauge. Regardless of yarn weight, any yarn will do!

It's given me such a buzz to see crocheters proudly show off their first sweaters made with this pattern. I feel like this is what I came here to do, and I LOVE doing it.

FINDING THE FIT

When it comes to crocheting garments, fit is another huge area of concern. I've heard many crocheters lament that they

My Crochet Wardrobe Facebook group is
where we discuss the challenges
with crocheting clothing





Doing the groundwork before you pick up your hook is essential

made the swatch, but the garment still didn't fit right. The frustration is real and I understand why someone would want to give up at this stage, but please don't! This problem is often caused by factors like not swatching accurately or choosing an inappropriate size to make. In many instances fluctuation in tension, or not making a large enough tension square are the issue. Most garments will give you the tension over 10x10cm, but to get an accurate tension statement you would need to work a minimum of 30x30cm. The smaller the tension square is then the less reliable it is.

I talk on my blog about how getting a good fit is 90% preparation and paying attention. Doing the groundwork before you pick up your hook is essential. Read the pattern, understand the construction, use a suitable yarn, choose the size based on your measurements and make that swatch.

Once you get started, monitor your progress. Regularly

check your measurements are on track, try on as you go (if you can) and keep checking your gauge hasn't shifted.

GOING FOR IT

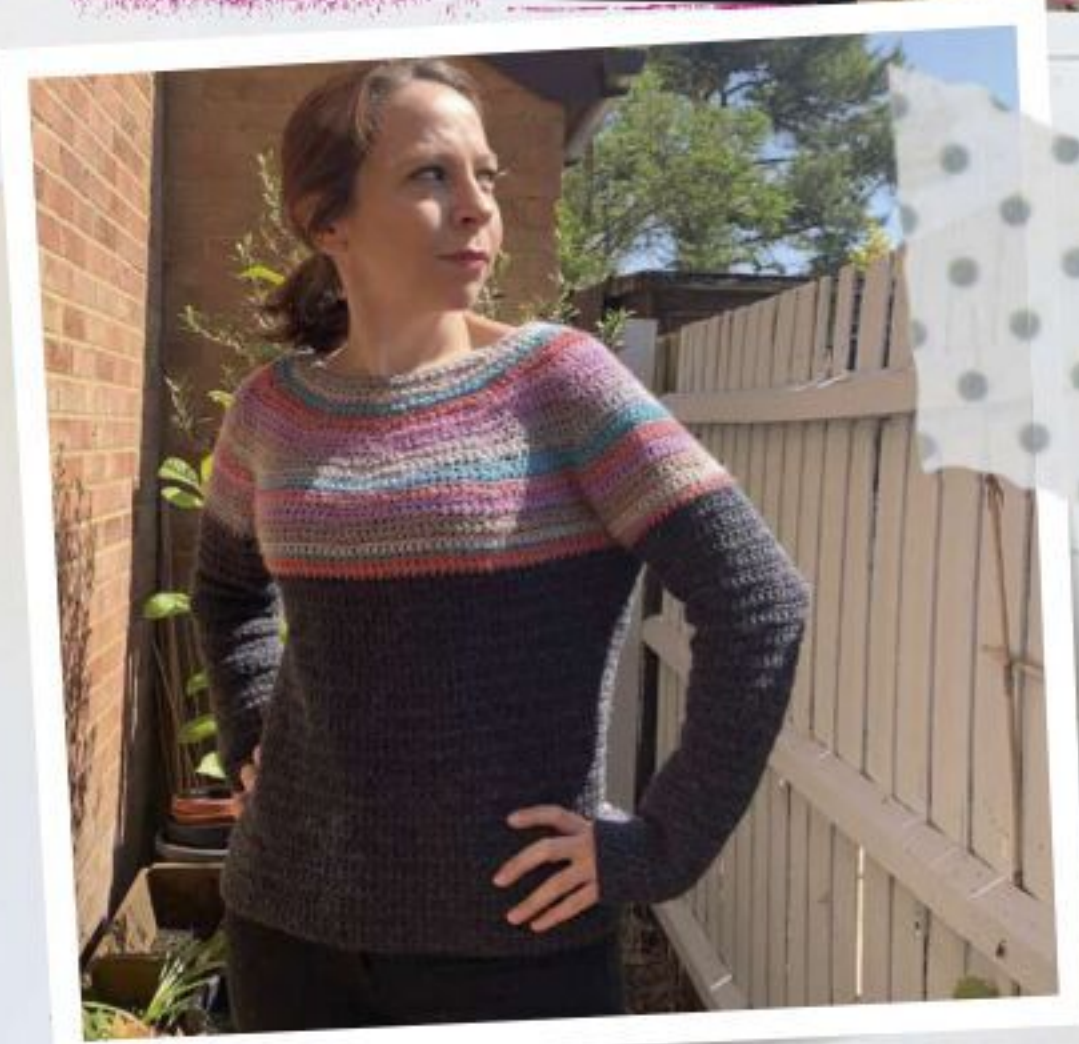
If you are worried about giving garments a go, remember it's just crochet. The worst that can happen is you don't like the end result, you frog it and use the yarn for something else. I guarantee that whatever the result, you'll have learned something and that is always time well spent. The only way to build confidence is by doing. So is it time to take the leap?

Keep up with Dora online at www.doradoes.co.uk and follow her on Instagram at @doraexplored

DORA'S MAKES THIS MONTH



Seeing crocheters converted to garment making is joyous! The Any Yarn Will Do sweater has been so well received, especially with garment newbies, that I'm making a cardigan version, coming soon!



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*Free trial not available on Zinio



QUICK
MAKE

Grow your own

How does your crochet garden grow? With yarn and a hook, of course! Design by Millie Masterton



YOU WILL NEED

- Rico Ricorumi
(100% cotton, 25g/58m)
1 ball of each:
Yarn A Light Green (046)
Yarn B Pastel Yellow (062)
Yarn C Rose (008)
Yarn D Raspberry (013)
Yarn E Mint (041)
Yarn F Pistachio (047)
 - Rico Ricorumi Neon
(100% acrylic, 25g/60m)
1 ball of **Yarn G** Orange (001)
 - A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- For yarn stockists contact**
Rico Design
www.rico-design.de/en/home

TENSION

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

MEASUREMENTS

All sizes are approximate
Small Carnation: 2cm (¾in) diameter
Large Carnation: 4cm (1½in) diameter
Daisy: 2.5cm (1in) diameter
Pink Flower: 6cm (2¼in) diameter
Flower Bud: 3.5cm (1¼in) tall
Hyacinth: 10cm (4in) tall

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 96

If you're lacking green fingers but love the idea of growing plants, maybe your hooky fingers can help. Have flowers sprout from the hem of your T-shirt, just like that!

NOTES

All Flowers are made separately and sewn to the top at the end.

FLOWER APPLIQUÉ T-SHIRT

SMALL CARNATION (MAKE 6)

Make 2 using Yarn A and 4 using Yarn B.
Ch5, leaving a long tail.

Row 1 (WS) Skip 4 ch, dc in last ch from hook, (ch8, skip 4 ch, dc in next ch) twice, turn.

[3 ch-sps]

Row 2 (RS) Ch1 (counts as dc), 6dc in first ch-sp, ss in next 3 ch, 7dc in next ch-sp, ss in next 3 ch, 7dc in final ch-sp. [21 dc]

Fasten off.

Using the tail, wrap the Flower into shape and secure with a small stitch.

LARGE CARNATION (MAKE 3)

Make 2 using Yarn B for Rounds 1-2 and Yarn A for Round 3.

Make 1 using Yarn A for Rounds 1-2 and Yarn B for Round 3.

Ch5, leaving a long tail.

Row 1 (WS) Skip 4 ch, dc in last ch from hook, (ch8, skip 4 ch, dc in next ch) 6 times, turn.

[7 ch-sps]

Row 2 (RS) Ch1 (counts as dc), 6dc in first ch-sp, ss in next 3 ch, (7dc in next ch-sp, ss in next 3 ch) 5 times, 7dc in final ch-sp, do not turn.

[21 dc]

Join next colour in first st with a dc.

Row 3 Dc in next st, htr in next 3 sts, dc in next 2 sts, ss in next 3 ss, *dc in next 2 sts, htr in next 3 sts, dc in next 2 sts, ss in next 3 ss; rep from * once more, dc in next 2 sts, htr in next 3 sts, dc in next 2 sts, ss in next ch, leave rem sts unworked.

Fasten off.

Using the tail, wrap the Flower into shape and secure with a small stitch. The two-coloured petals should be positioned around the outside of the Bud.

DAISY (MAKE 15)

Make 6 using Yarn A, 5 using Yarn D and 4 using Yarn C.

Make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) (Ch2, tr in loop, ch2, ss in loop) 5 times. [5 petals]

Fasten off.

Using Yarn G, make a French knot in the centre of each Daisy.

PINK FLOWER (MAKE 2)

PETALS (MAKE 3 PER FLOWER)

Using Yarn C, make a magic loop.

Row 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), 4dc in loop,



For the hyacinths, make a chain in green, then work orange stitches all along the green



Work the stems of the pink flowers by embroidering chain stitches onto the fabric

turn. [4 sts]

Pull tail to close magic loop.

Row 2 Ch1 (counts as dc), dc in same st as ch-1, dc in next st, 2dc in next st, dc in next st, turn. [6 sts]

Row 3 Ch2 (counts as htr), (2htr in next st, htr in next st) twice, htr in next st, turn. [8 sts]

Row 4 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr in next 4 sts, tr2tog, turn leaving rem st unworked. [6 sts]

Row 5 Ch2, (htr2tog) twice, leave rem st unworked. [3 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Using the tail sew the final st to the magic loop to form the curved shape.

PISTIL

Using Yarn D, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 4dc in loop, ss to beg dc. [4 sts]

Round 2 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr in next st, tr2tog. [3 sts]

Fasten off.

Sew 3 Petals together in a triangle shape, then sew the Pistil to the centre.

LARGE FLOWER BUD

Using Yarn E, make a magic loop.

Row 1 (RS) Ch2 (does not count as st), 3htr in loop, turn.

Pull magic loop closed.

Row 2 (WS) Ch2 (counts as htr), 2htr in next st, htr in next st, turn. [4 sts]

Row 3 Ch2 (counts as htr), htr in next st, 2htr in next st, htr in next st, turn. [5 sts]

Fasten off.

Join Yarn D in top of beg ch-2 from Row 3.

Row 4 (RS) *Ch3, ss in st at base of ch-3, ss in next st; rep across to end.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

HYACINTH

LEFT-LEANING FLOWER AND STEM

Using Yarn F, ch25.

Fasten off.

Join Yarn G in 10th ch from fasten-off and work back towards fasten-off.

(Ch3 ss in same ch, ss in next ch) across to end.

Fasten off.

RIGHT-LEANING FLOWER AND STEM (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn F, ch25.

Fasten off.

Join Yarn G in first ch, (ch3, ss in same ch, ss in next ch) 10 times.

Fasten off.

SHORT FLOWER AND STEM

Using Yarn F, ch18. Work as for Right-Leaning Flower and Stem.

Fasten off.

LEAF (MAKE 3)

Using Yarn F, ch12.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook and next 2 ch, htr in next 2 ch, tr in next ch, htr in next 3 ch, dc in final 2 ch.

Fasten off.

TO MAKE UP

Where possible use the tails to sew the Flowers to your chosen garment.

Refer to the images for placement.

Sew all the Hyacinth Flowers and Stems to the left-hand side of your top. Sew 1 Leaf to the top of the arrangement and 2 up the left-hand side.

Sew 5 Daisies across the base of the Hyacinth to



Keep all start and end tails long to give you threads for sewing the foliage to your garment

cover the ends of the stems.

Sew the Flower Buds and Pink Flower to the centre section. Using Yarn E, work a chain st from the base of each Flower down to the hem of your top. Sew 5 Daisies across the base of the Pink Flowers and Flower Buds to cover the ends of the stems.

Sew the remaining Flowers across the right-hand side of your top.

Weave in all ends.

SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO WORK CHAIN STITCH



1 Bring needle to front of fabric, after securing the thread at the back. Insert needle back into same hole (or very close to it) and pull gently to leave a small loop.



2 Bring needle to the front a little way to the right, making sure the needle passes through the loop. Insert the needle back into the same hole (or very close to it). Pull gently to leave a small loop.



3 Repeat step 2 to make more loops.



4 After the final loop, make a small stitch over the last loop to secure it.

*V-shaped hem
back and front*





PONCH-WOAH!

Add armfuls of granny square to a poncho for this striking showcase of crochet by Cassie Ward

SLEEVED PONCHO



YOU WILL NEED

■ DROPS Cotton Merino (50% wool, 50% cotton, 50g/110m)

Yarn A Turquoise (24)

See table for measurements and quantities of Yarn A

1 ball of each:

Yarn B Pistachio (10)

Yarn C Vanilla (17)

Yarn D Mustard Yellow (15)

Yarn E Powder Pink (05)

Yarn F Cerise (14)

Yarn G Coral (13)

■ A 4.5mm (US 7) hook

For yarn stockists contact

Wool Warehouse 01926 882818

www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

TENSION

Rounds 1-3 of Plain Square to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) using a 6mm hook, or size needed to obtain correct tension

Rounds 1-6 of Sleeve Motif measure 15cm (6in) in diameter using a 6mm hook, or size needed to obtain correct tension

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 96

Take the comfort and cosiness of a poncho, combine with the warmth of sleeves and you have a go-to garment on your hook. The inclusion of granny square shoulders pushes it into statement jumper category too.

NOTES

Sleeved Poncho is made up of 4 large squares. Two Plain Squares form the Front and Back, and two Granny Squares form the upper Sleeve. Extra rows are worked along one edge of the Sleeve Square to lengthen them.

SLEEVED PONCHO

PLAIN SQUARE (MAKE 2)

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

Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (count as tr here and throughout), 2tr into ring, ch2, (3tr, ch2) 3 times into ring, ss to top of beg ch-3 to join, turn. [12 sts, 4 ch-2 sps]

Round 2 (WS) Ch3, (1tr, ch2, 2tr) in first corner ch-2 sp, tr in next 3 tr, *(2tr, ch2, 2tr) in corner ch-2 sp, tr in next 3 tr; rep from * twice more, ss to top of beg ch-3, turn. [28 sts, 4 ch-2 sps]

Round 3 Ch3, tr in each st to ch-2 sp, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in ch-sp; rep from * around, ss to top of beg ch-3, turn. [44 sts, 4 ch-2 sps]

Rep Round 3 another 13 (14: 15: 16) times.

[252 (268: 284: 300) sts, 4 ch-2 sps]

Next round Ch1 (does not count as st throughout) *dc in each st to ch-2 sp, 3dc in ch-2 sp; rep from * around, ss to beg dc.

[264 (280: 296: 312) sts]

Rep prev round another 0 (0: 1: 1) times, working the 3dc into the centre dc at each corner. [- (0: 304: 320) sts]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

SLEEVE GRANNY SQUARE (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn B, ch4 and ss to first ch to form a loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr throughout), tr in loop, ch1, (2tr, ch1) 5 times in ring, ss to top of beg ch-3, turn. [12 sts, 6 ch-1 sps]



The one-coloured squares, which form the front and back, feature a lovely eyelet cross



Make sleeves by starting with a granny square, then add rows to one edge to lengthen them

Fasten off.

Join Yarn C in any ch-1 sp.

Round 2 (WS) (Ch3, tr, ch1, 2tr, ch1) in same ch-sp, (2tr, ch1, 2tr, ch1) in each ch-sp around, ss to top of beg ch-3, turn. [24 sts, 12 ch-1 sps]

Fasten off.

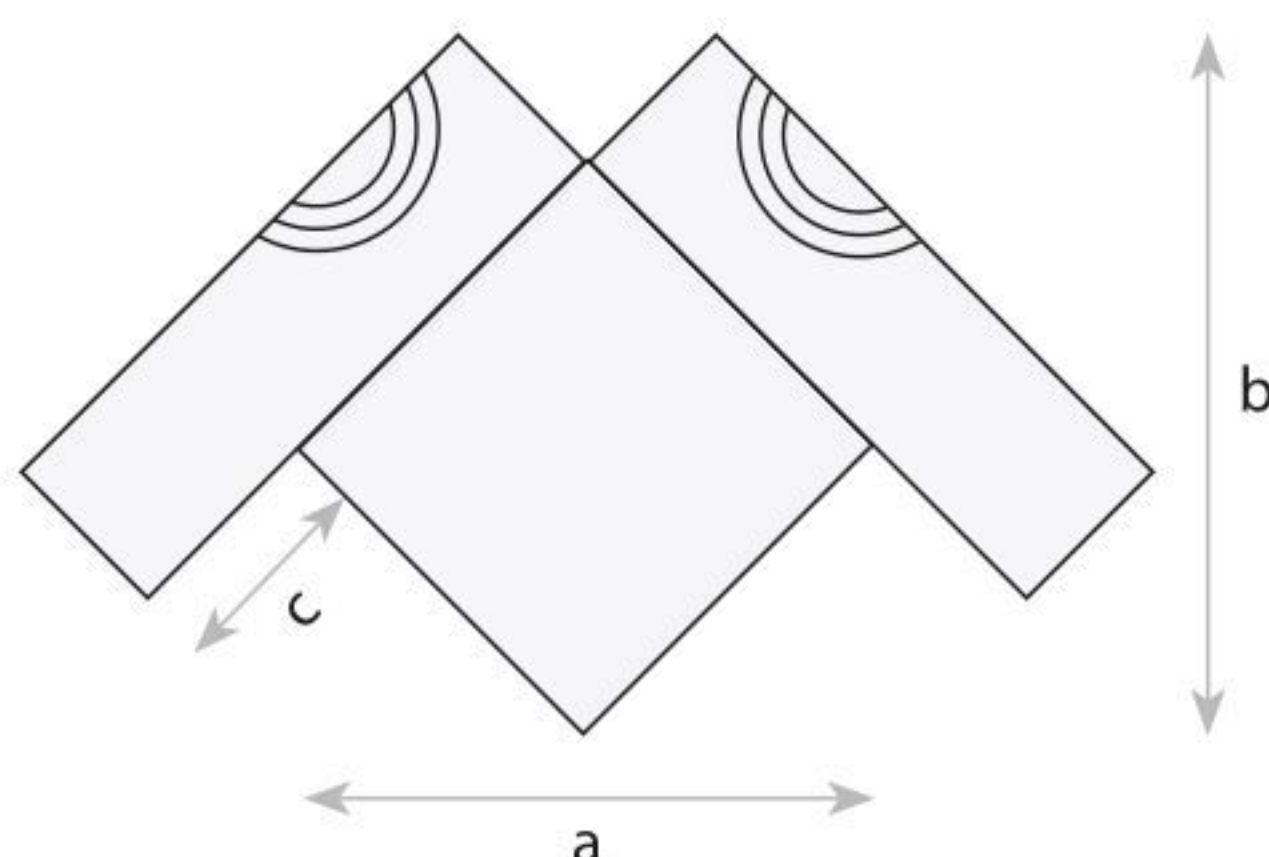
Join Yarn D in any ch-1 sp.

Round 3 (Ch3, 2tr, ch1) in same ch-sp, (3tr, ch1) in each ch-sp around, ss to top of beg ch-3, turn. [36 sts, 12 ch-1 sps]

Fasten off.

Join Yarn E in any ch-sp

Round 4 As Round 2. [48 sts, 24 ch-1 sps]



Half bust: 56 (61: 65.5: 70.5)cm, 22 (24: 25¾: 27¾)in

Length: 57 (61: 64: 67)cm, 22½ (24: 25¼: 26½)in

Sleeve length: 25 (25: 23: 23)cm, 10 (10: 9: 9)in

SIZE		Small	Medium	Large	X Large
TO FIT BUST	cm	81-86	91-97	101-107	111-117
	in	32-34	36-38	40-42	44-26
ACTUAL BUST (APPROX)	cm	112	122.5	131	141.5
	in	44	48¼	51½	55¾
LENGTH	cm	57	61	64	67
	in	22½	24	25¼	26½
SLEEVE LENGTH	cm	25	25	23	23
	in	10	10	9	9
YARN	50g	9	10	11	12

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

Fasten off.

Join Yarn F in any ch-1 sp.

Round 5 (Ch3, tr, ch1) in same ch-sp, (2tr, ch1) in each ch-sp around, ss to top of beg ch-3, turn.

Fasten off.

Join Yarn G in any ch-sp.

Round 6 As Round 3. [72 sts, 24 ch-1 sps]

Fasten off.

Join Yarn A in any ch-sp with a dc.

Round 7 Ch3, (dc, ch3) in each ch-sp around, ss to beg dc, turn. [24 dc, 24 ch-3 sps]

Round 8 Ss into first ch-3 sp, ch1 (does not count as st), (3dc, ch1) in same ch-3 sp, *(2dc, htr, ch1), in next ch-3 sp, (htr, 2tr, ch1) in next ch-3 sp, (3tr, ch2, 3tr, ch1) in next ch-3 sp (corner made), (2tr, 1htr, ch1) in next ch-3 sp, (1htr, 2dc, ch1) in next ch-3 sp**, (3dc, ch1) in next ch-3 sp; rep from * 3 times more ending final rep at **, ss to beg dc, turn. [84 sts, 24 ch-1 sps, 4 ch-2 sps]

Round 9 Ss into first ch-1 sp, ch3, (2tr, ch1) in first ch-1 sp, (3tr, ch1) in each ch-1 sp to corner ch-2 sp, *(3tr, ch2, 3tr, ch1) in corner space, (3tr, ch1) in each ch-1 sp to next corner; rep from * around, ss to top of beg ch-3. [(8 3-tr groups, 7 ch-1 sps) across each side, 4 ch-2 corner sps]

Fasten off.

Join Yarn B in any ch-2 sp.

Round 10 Ch3, (2tr, ch2, 3tr, ch1) in same sp, *(3tr, ch1) in each ch-1 sp next to corner, (3tr, ch2, 3tr, ch1) in corner; rep from * around, ss to top of beg ch-3. [(9 3-tr groups, 8 ch-1 sps) across each side, 4 ch-2 corner sps]

Fasten off.

Join Yarn G in any ch-2 sp.

Rounds 11-18 Rep Round 10, change colour at the start of each round in the following sequence: Yarn G, Yarn A, Yarn C, Yarn D, Yarn A, Yarn E, Yarn F and Yarn A. [(17 3-tr groups, 16 ch-1 sps) across each side, 4 ch-2 corner sps] Repeat Round 10 another 0 (0: 1: 1) times, using Yarn B. [-(-: 18: 18) 3-tr groups, -(-: 17: 17) ch-1 sps across each side.

Fasten off.

NECKLINE EDGE

Rows of dc are worked across one straight edge of the Granny Square. This edge will sit at the top of the Sleeve and form the neckline. Keep a tight tension to allow the neckline to curve in slightly.

Join Yarn A in any ch-2 sp.

Next row Ch1, dc in ch-2 sp, (dc in next 3 tr, skip ch-1 sp) across to next ch-2 sp, dc in ch-2 sp, turn. [53 (53: 56: 56) dc]

Next row Ch1, dc in each st across, turn.

Rep prev row once more.

Fasten off.

SLEEVE EXTENSION

Turn Granny Square to work into opposite edge to Neckline.

The colour sequence for the Sleeve is: *Yarn A, Yarn B, Yarn G, Yarn A, Yarn C, Yarn D, Yarn A,



Back and front panels are worked the same, as are the sleeves

Yarn E, Yarn F; rep from * as required.

Keeping RS/WS rows as established, join the next colour in the sequence to the ch-2 sp at start of edge.

Row 1 Ch3, (3tr, ch1) in each ch-1 sp across to next ch-2 sp, tr in last ch-2 sp, turn. [16 (16: 17: 17) 3-tr groups, 16 (16: 17: 17) ch-1 sps, 2 tr] Change to next colour.

Row 2 Ch3, (3tr, ch1) in each ch-1 sp across to final 2 sts, tr in sp between final 2 sts, tr in final st, turn. [16 (16: 17: 17) 3-tr groups, 16 (16: 17: 17) ch-1 sps, 3 tr]

Fasten off.

Repeat Row 2 in colour sequence until Sleeve measures 23 (25: 21: 23)cm from Row 1 to end.

Fasten off.

TO MAKE UP

Using Yarn A, whipstitch the unworked edges of the Sleeve Granny Squares to the front and back Plain Squares. Start at the top of the

Sleeve and work down. For sizes M and XL you will need to sew the first row of the Sleeve Extension to the Plain Squares. Sew up the Sleeve seams.

CUFFS

Join Yarn A in bottom of Sleeve.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1, (dc in each tr to ch-1 sp, skip ch-1 sp) around, ss to beg dc, turn.

Rounds 2-4 Ch1, dc in each dc around, ss to beg dc, turn.

Fasten off.

Repeat on second Sleeve.

LOWER EDGING

Join Yarn A in any st at base of Poncho, dc evenly around base, skipping the joining seams as you go.

Fasten off and weave in all ends.

Silver linings

Offset grey days with rainbows
in Lisa Cook's uplifting shawl

FLOWER-LIKE
CLUSTER
STITCHES



RAINBOW STRIPE SHAWL



YOU WILL NEED

- Viking of Norway Nordlys (75% wool, 25% nylon, 100g/350m)
1 ball of each
Yarn A 938 (multicoloured)
Yarn B 915 (grey)
 - A 4.5mm (US 7) hook
 - Tassel maker or cardboard
- For yarn stockists contact
LoveCrafts 01409 404010
www.lovecrafts.com

TENSION

17 sts and 8 rows to measure
10x10cm (4x4in) over pattern using
a 4.5mm hook, or size needed to
obtain correct tension

MEASUREMENTS

Shawl measures approx 235x52cm
(92½x20½in) after blocking

ABBREVIATIONS

cluster Ch3, 2-tr cl in top of prev tr
worked

For a full list, see page 96

If you've got a skein of multicoloured yarn burning a hole in your stash, this project will do it justice. Watch with anticipation as your hook moves through the spectrum of colours and find your finished shawl at the end of the yarn rainbow.

NOTES

Shawl is worked in rows from side to side. The first half of the pattern increases 1 stitch each row to the widest point of the Shawl. The remaining pattern decreases 1 stitch each row to end. Chain spaces are counted as stitches throughout.

Blocking is highly recommended for this pattern.

You can substitute any 4ply yarn into this project. This may affect the yarn quantities requires as well as the finished measurements.

SHAWL

Using a 4.5mm hook and Yarn A, make a magic loop.

Row 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr throughout), 4tr, in loop, turn. [5 sts]

Row 2 (WS) Ch3, tr in next tr, ch1, skip 1 st, 2tr in next st, tr in final st, turn. [5 sts, 1 ch-1 sp]

Row 3 Ch3, tr in next tr, 2tr in next tr, ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr in next 2 sts, turn. [6 sts, 1 ch-1 sp]

Row 4 Ch3, tr in next tr, ch1, skip ch-1 sp, 2tr in next st, ch1, skip 1 st, tr in final 2 sts, turn. [6 sts, 2 ch-1 sps]

Row 5 Ch3, tr in next tr, ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr in next tr, ch1, tr in next tr, ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr in final 2 sts, turn. [6 sts, 3 ch-1 sps]

Row 6 Ch3, tr in next tr, ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr in next tr, tr in ch-1 sp, 2tr in next tr, ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr in final 2 tr, turn. [8 tr, 2 ch-1 sps]

Change to Yarn B.

Row 7 Ch3, tr in next tr, ch1, skip ch-1 sp, 2tr in next tr, cluster, skip tr, tr2tog next 2 sts, cluster, skip ch-1 sp, tr in final 2 tr, turn. [7 tr, 1 ch-1 sp, 2 clusters]

Row 8 Ch3, tr in next tr, (ch1, skip cluster, 2tr in next stitch) twice, tr in next tr, ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr in final 2 tr, turn. [9 tr, 3 ch-1 sps]

Change to Yarn A.

Row 9 Ch3, tr in next tr, ch1, skip ch-1 sp, 2tr in next tr, tr in each st and ch-1 sp to final ch-1 sp, ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr in final 2 tr, turn. [11 tr, 2 ch-1 sps]

Row 10 Ch3, tr in next tr, ch1, skip ch-1 sp, (tr in next tr, ch1, skip tr) across to final 4 sts, 2tr in next st, ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr in final 2 sts, turn. [9 tr, 5 ch-1 sps]

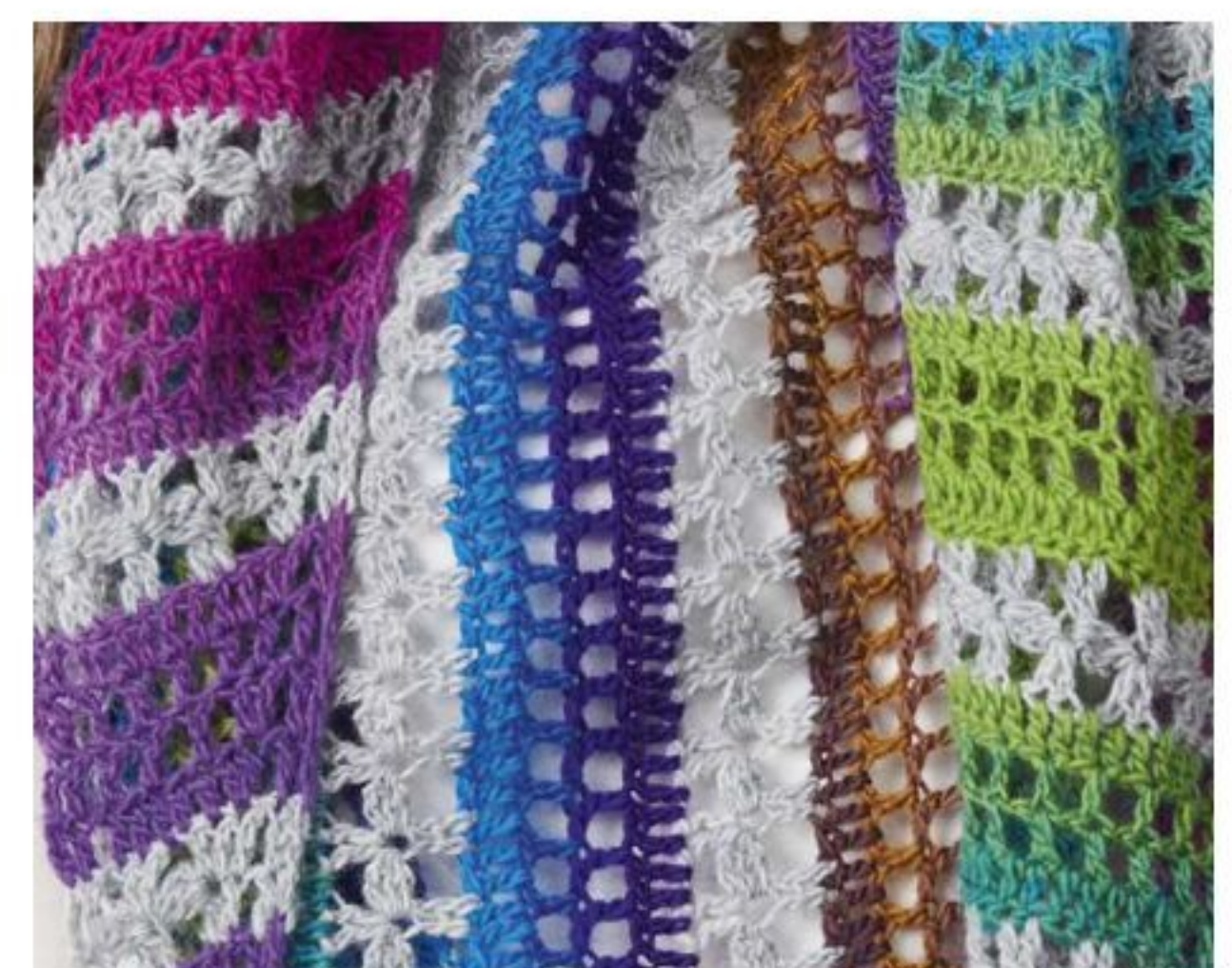
Row 11 Ch3, tr in next tr, ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr in next tr, ch1, (tr in next tr, ch1, skip ch-1 sp) to final 2 sts, tr in final 2 tr, turn. [9 tr, 6 ch-1 sps]

Row 12 Ch3, tr in next tr, ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr in each tr and ch-1 sp to final 4 sts, 2tr in next tr, ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr in final 2 tr, turn. [14 tr, 2 ch-1 sps]

Change to Yarn B.



Make three generous-sized tassels and stitch one to each corner of the shawl for wow factor



The stitch pattern is worked in combinations of basic treble stitches and chain spaces

Row 13 Ch3, tr in next tr, ch1, skip ch-1 sp, 2tr in next tr, (skip 1 tr, tr2tog next 2 tr, cluster) rep to final 2 sts, tr in final 2 tr, turn.

[9 tr, 4 clusters, 1 ch-1 sp]

Row 14 Ch3, tr in next tr, (ch1, skip cluster, 2tr in next stitch) rep to final 4 sts, tr in next tr, ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr in final 2 tr, turn. [13 tr, 5 ch-1 sps]

Rows 15-86 Repeat Rows 9-14 another 12 times. [61 tr, 29 ch-1 sps at end of Row 86]

Change to Yarn A.

Row 87 Ch3, tr in next tr, ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr2tog next 2 tr, tr in each tr and ch-1 sp to final ch-1 sp, ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr in final 2 tr, turn.

[87 tr, 2 ch-1 sps]

Row 88 Ch3, tr in next tr, ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr in next tr, (ch1, skip tr, tr in next tr) rep to last 5 sts, tr2tog next 2 tr, ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr in final 2 tr, turn. [46 tr, 42 ch-1 sps]

Row 89 Ch3, tr in next tr, ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr2tog next 2 tr, ch1, skip ch-1 sp, (tr in next tr, ch1, skip ch-1 sp) rep to last 2 sts, tr in final 2 tr, turn. [45 tr, 42 ch-1 sps]

Row 90 Ch3, tr in next tr, ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr in each tr and ch-1 sp to final 5 sts, tr2tog next ch-1 sp and tr, ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr in final 2 tr, turn. [84 tr, 2 ch-1 sps]

Change to Yarn B.

Row 91 Ch3, tr in next tr, ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr2tog next 2 tr, cluster, (skip 1 tr, tr2tog next 2 tr, cluster) rep to final ch-1 sp, skip ch-1 sp, tr in final 2 tr, turn. [31 tr, 27 clusters, 1 ch-1 sp]

Row 92 Ch3, tr in next tr, ch1, (skip cluster, 2tr in

next stitch) rep to final cluster, skip cluster, tr in next tr, ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr in final 2 tr, turn.

[57 tr, 27 ch-1 sps]

Change to Yarn A.

Rows 93-164 Repeat Rows 87-92 another 12 times. [9 tr, 3 ch-1 sps at end of Row 164]

Change to Yarn A.

Row 165 As Row 87. [9 tr, 2 ch-1 sps]

Row 166 Ch3, tr in next tr, ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr in next st, ch1, skip 1 tr, tr in next st, tr2tog next 2 sts, ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr in final 2 sts, turn.

[7 tr, 3 ch-1 sps]

Row 167 Ch3, tr in next tr, ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr2tog next 2 tr, (ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr in next tr) twice, tr in final st, turn. [6 tr, 3 ch-1 sps]

Row 168 Ch3, tr in next tr, ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr in next tr, tr2tog next ch-1 sp and tr, ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr in final 2 tr, turn. [6 tr, 2 ch-1 sps]

Row 169 Ch3, tr in next tr, ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr2tog next 2 tr, ch1, skip ch-1 sp, tr in final 2 tr, turn. [5 tr, 2 ch-1 sps]

Row 170 Ch3, tr4tog next 4 tr skipping all ch-1 sps.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

Block the Shawl by soaking in lukewarm water. Gently squeeze out the excess water and place on a towel. Roll the towel up and push down on the towel to remove all water.

Pin the Shawl out using the measurements as a guide. The Shawl will increase in size through blocking, which will open up the pattern.

Then make 3 tassels using a tassel maker or a piece of cardboard measuring approx 15cm long. Wrap Yarn B around 70 times. Cut 2 strands of Yarn B and secure 1 strand around the top of the tassel. Cut the strands at the base of the tassel and tie the second strand of yarn approx 2cm from the top.

Sew a tassel to each corner of the Shawl and trim to desired length.



Blocking your shawl will display the stitchwork in all its glory

SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO BLOCK YOUR CROCHET PIECES



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



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



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



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

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Susan's statement
Sashiko Happy Coat is
popular with crocheters



PUZZLE PIECES

Susan Walsh of Peppergoose Design loves to puzzle out putting together crochet garments, as she experiments with surface crochet, construction and complex patterns

What do you get if you mix together “science, crochet skills and previous sewist experience with a teaspoon of design training”? Head to sunny Perth, Australia, and you’ll find the answer in the form of Susan Walsh, award-winning crochet designer, head of Peppergoose Design and contributor to *Simply Crochet*.

A full-time veterinary surgeon for 15 years, Susan originally aspired to be an architect – and this melding of a scientific approach with a talent for visualising designs in 3D has stood her in good stead for her current crochet career. Ask her about her work and you’ll find yourself getting an inkling of what it must be like to experience a mind brimming with creativity that is constantly striving to come up with logical solutions to unique crochet ‘problems’ –

from combining colours and patterns to the 3D challenges of garment construction.

KNOTTY PROBLEMS

For Susan, two elements of designing intrigue her the most – macro details and methods of construction. “Snippets of things I see every day might pop into my head as a design element,” she explains. “I marry a design element or feature detail with a method of construction and think it through in my head as a puzzle to solve. I like additive construction methods and they are often not conventional. Some designs are all about geometric patterns and playing with colour.” By the time Susan is drawing out a design she has already formed a plan of attack. “Some design element pops into my head while I am doing something else. I don’t know where that first idea comes

from exactly, it’s probably something that I have seen and not consciously registered, but I think ‘how would that work, where would that best sit, where would I start, what would I add or join to what to come up with a 3D garment?’ Once I figure that out in my head as a workable project, I draw a quick sketch, choose colours for my sample, write a draft pattern then tweak it as I make my sample. After proper pattern testing, I make my revisions and then the UK version is ready. Translation to US terms or other languages can happen from there.”

Surface crochet is one particular technique that Susan enjoys using to great effect. “The surface crochet design on my Sashiko Happy Coat played with a traditional Sashiko motif in two sizes and their final layout was directly linked to the coat shape.” Again this proved to be a



'puzzle' for her to solve; "I started out adding a Sashiko embroidery element to a coat concept and the finished design was the result of resolving the maths and logistics of making this work as a written pattern. Drawing software helped to solve the logistics. The surface crochet design had to be islands of surface crochet so that the islands would just sit further apart for larger sizes. Otherwise, it would get far too complicated for me to grade (size) and write and for makers to follow."

WINNING COMBINATION

With so many successful pieces under her belt, and new ideas continually on the boil, Susan's most personally rewarding projects so far fall into two specific categories – award-winning makes and those which have presented her with an enjoyable challenge. A winner of several Crochet Guild of America design awards, her prize-winning garments brought her to the attention of magazine editors and the larger global crochet community. Complex designs such as her Spiderlace Maxi Dress, Sashiko Happy Coat and Blue Willow Dress are also favourites. "For the dresses I didn't worry about keeping the construction easy for others to understand, but I designed the Sashiko Happy Coat with makers in mind and it has been really popular!" she enthuses.

Passionate about helping others, teaching is also part of Susan's mission, so she's made special crochet tutorials for readers of her blog. "I needed to create a

resource for makers tackling my patterns," she says. "I hope to encourage people to come along on my crochet journey, where I sometimes use unusual construction methods, by providing a bit of extra help." A new venture which Susan hopes will inspire crocheters and budding designers

"I WOULD LOVE TO HELP MORE PEOPLE FEEL COMFORTABLE TACKLING CROCHETING GARMENTS"

alike is her Beach Daze MAL (make-along). "I was inspired to show how versatile one pattern can be – in this case my Beach Daze Filet Tunic – by applying a bit of maths and a few crochet engineering principles, and I wanted to share advice for how to approach crocheting garments in general," she explains. "As I make any pattern sample, I am always imagining ways to change it and end up with a new variation of the design. An

advanced crocheter can do this but many people struggle with imagining what something will look like when it's finished."

Susan recently ran a Beach Daze MAL event on Facebook to show people a variety of finished looks from the one pattern and offer makers insight into how she created different outcomes and shapes. "I hope they can enjoy the MAL and technical advice offered, take those skills and transpose them to other crochet garments," she says. Susan has made sure that whenever makers buy the Beach Daze Filet Tunic pattern from Ravelry or Etsy they can still find extra guidance on her website.

HOME COMFORTS

Susan enjoys her own craft space at home. "Yes, I am fortunate to have a dedicated room for 'Peppergoosing'," she laughs. "It gets the most sunlight in the house. I have finished projects on mannequins and shelves and I drew my logo and Facebook name on one wall. My family calls it PGHQ – Peppergoose Headquarters!"

Written by Lucy Evans



A few of her favourite things

When Susan's not busy designing or crocheting, she loves...

"Bushwalks in the cool of the evening, swimming and breakfast at City Beach, catching up with friends and yoga. I miss drawing and would like to find the time to sketch again." *Find out more about Susan's designs at www.peppergoose.design and follow her on Instagram at @peppergoose*

Tummy Time

A half-striped, half-plain jumper for those who like the best of both worlds, by Jess Bennett





YOU WILL NEED

- Rowan Creative Linen DK (50% linen, 50% cotton, 100g/200m)
See table for measurements and yarn quantities
- Yarn A Cloud (620)
- Yarn B Mustard (647)
- Yarn C Raspberry (631)
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- 4 (4: 5: 5: 6: 6: 6) buttons, 2cm
- For yarn stockists contact
Rowan 01484 668200
www.knitrowan.com

TENSION

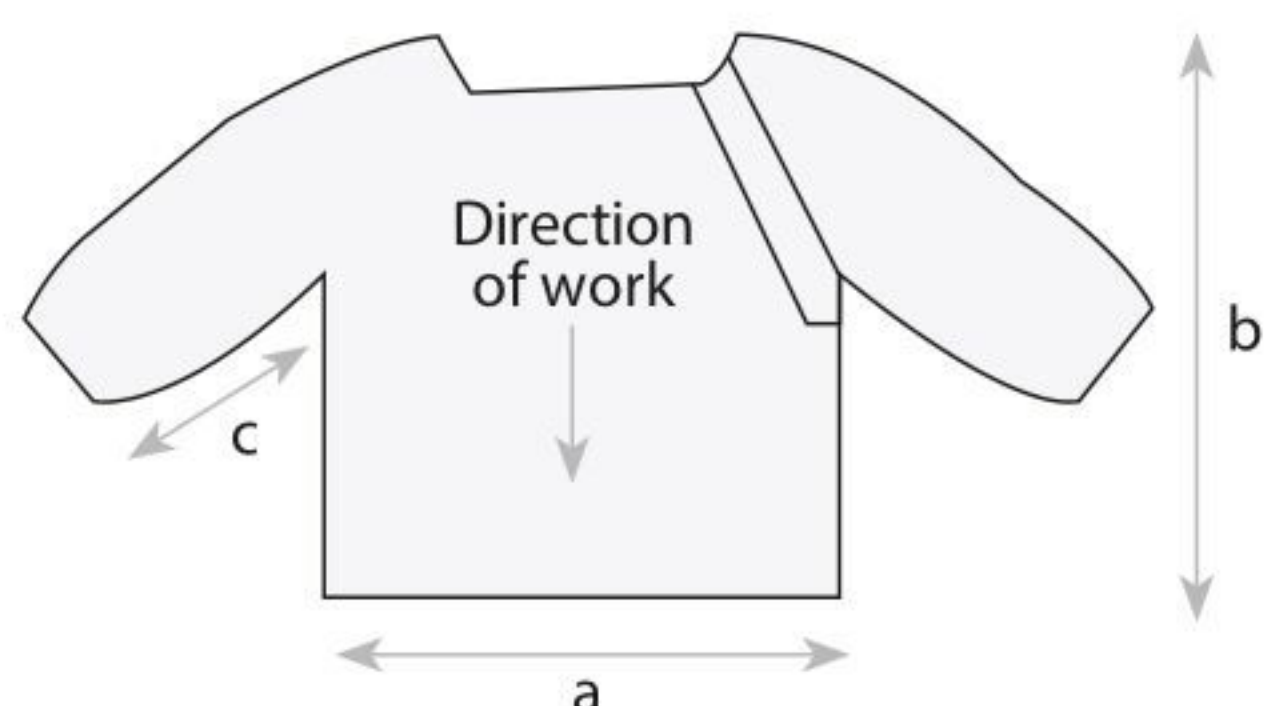
9 sts and 14 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over Elizabeth Stitch using a 4mm hook, or size needed to obtain tension

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 96

SAVE OR SPLURGE

For a more budget-friendly make, try DROPS Belle, 4 (4: 4: 4: 5: 5: 5) balls of Yarn A White (01), 2 (2: 2: 2: 2: 4:) balls of Yarn B Dandelion (04), 2 balls of Yarn C Cherry (12) for all sizes
Check hook size, tension and ball length if you use a different yarn
For yarn stockists contact
www.woolwarehouse.co.uk



Chest width a: 25.5 (26.5: 29: 30: 32: 33.5: 35.3)cm, 10 (10½: 11¼: 11¾: 12½: 13: 14)in
Length b: 26 (28: 32.5: 35: 38.5: 40: 43)cm, 10¼ (11: 12¾: 13¾: 15: 15¾: 17)in
Sleeve length c: 16 (17.5: 21: 22: 22.5: 27: 28)cm, 6¼ (6¾: 8¼: 8½: 8¾: 10½: 11)in

If looked after, a classic jumper like this could be passed onto siblings, cousins and even saved for future generations. The wide neck and button shoulder mean easy clothes changing for little wrigglers.

NOTES

The Jumper is worked top down in turned rows of Elizabeth Stitch with double crochet at the beginning and ends of the rows to create the button band. It is divided for Body and Sleeves, and Body is worked in turned rows until the end of the button band. The rows are then joined and it is completed in turned rounds. Sleeves are worked onto the armholes in turned rounds. A row of double crochet is added to the neckline to finish.
Turning chains do not count as a stitch throughout.

JUMPER

ELIZABETH STITCH

Each Elizabeth Stitch (ES) is worked as a cluster which is closed with a ch-1 as follows:
Insert hook in st, yrh and draw through st, yrh and insert hook in same st, yrh and draw yarn yarn through st (4 loops on hook), yrh and draw through all loops on hook, ch1 to close st.
On Row 2 of the pattern below, each ES uses 2 sts of the previous row, so you will need to skip a st between each cluster.
When working the second row of the stitch pattern (Row 3), you will be able to see 2 sts on the top of the row for each ES. For the first ES of the row the one nearest the hook is the ch1, skip this and insert the hook under the next one to work the first ES. (Skip ch1, ES in top of ES of previous row) rep to end. You will appear to be working the ES of the current row in the space after each ES of the previous row.
To increase an ES you will need to work in the sp before the ES of the previous row, as instructed in the pattern.



Work the body of the jumper from top down in rows to the armholes, then work in rounds

To decrease over 2 ES (ES2tog):
Insert hook into next st, yrh, draw yarn through st, (insert hook, yrh, draw yarn through st, yrh) twice in next st, draw through all 5 loops on hook, ch to close st.

YOKE

Using Yarn A, ch68 (72: 76: 80: 84: 88: 92)

Row 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in each ch across, turn. [68 (72: 76: 80: 84: 88: 92) sts]

Row 2 (WS) Ch1, 4dc, *(skip next st, ES in next st) 9 (10: 10: 11: 12: 12) times, skip next st, (htr, ch1, htr) in next st, (skip next st, ES in next st) 4 (4: 5: 5: 6: 6: 7) times, skip next st, (htr, ch1, htr) in next st; rep from * once more, 4dc, turn. [26 (28: 30: 32: 34: 36: 38) ES, 8dc, 4 (htr and ch-sp)]

INCREASE PATTERN

Row 3 Ch1, 4dc, *skip next htr, (htr, ch1, htr) in next ch-1 sp, skip next htr, ES in sp before next ES (increase), ES in each ES to next htr; rep from * 3 more times, 4dc, turn. [Increase by 4 ES]
In the following row, replace the first 4 dc with (dc, ch2, skip 2 sts, dc) for a buttonhole, and

SIZE		6m	12m	18m	2yrs	3yrs	4yrs	5yrs
TO FIT CHEST	cm	43	44	48	52	55	58.5	61
	in	17	17	18¾	20½	21½	23	24
ACTUAL CHEST (APPROX)	cm	51	53	58	60	64.5	67	71
	in	20	21	22¾	23½	25½	26¼	28
LENGTH	cm	26	28	32.5	35	38.5	40	43
	in	10¼	11	12¾	13¾	15	15¾	17
SLEEVE LENGTH	cm	16	17.5	21	22	22.5	27	28
	in	6¼	6¾	8¼	8½	8¾	10½	11
YARN A	100g	2	2	2	2	3	3	3
YARN B	100g	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
YARN C	100g	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

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

then work 2dc in the ch-2 sp on the foll row. Repeat the buttonhole row every foll fourth row until the point at which the button bands end as indicated after the Sleeve divide.

[4 (4: 5: 5: 6: 6: 6) buttons]

Row 4 Ch1, 4dc, *ES in sp before next ES (increase), ES in each ES to next htr, (htr, ch1, htr) in next ch-1 sp, skip next htr; rep from * 3 more times, 4dc, turn. [Increase by 4 ES]
Rows 3 and 4 set increase pattern.
Work in increase patt as set for a further 10 (10: 12: 12: 14: 14: 16) rows increasing by 4 ES each row. [74 (76: 86: 88: 94: 100: 110) ES]

DIVIDE FOR SLEEVES

Next row (RS) Ch1, 4dc, (htr, ch1, htr) in next ch-1 sp, skip 16 (16: 19: 19: 22: 22: 25) ES for first Sleeve, ss in ch-sp at beg of round and in next ch-sp at same time, ES in sp before next ES (increase), ES in next 21 (22: 24: 25: 27: 28: 30) ES, skip 16 (16: 19: 19: 22: 22: 25) ES for second Sleeve, ss in prev ch-sp and next ch-sp at same time, ES in sp before next ES, ES in next 21 (22: 24: 25: 27: 28: 30) ES 4dc, turn.
[44 (46: 50: 52: 56: 58: 62) ES for Body plus 8 dc]

BODY

ROWS WITH BUTTON BAND

Row 1 Ch1, 4dc, ES in each ES around, 4dc, turn. [44 (46: 50: 52: 56: 58: 62) ES and 8 dc]
Cont for a further 3 (3: 5: 5: 7: 7: 7) rows. Lap the Front button band over the Back button band and ss the 4 dc at beg and end of row together.
Fasten off.

ROUNDS OF ES ONLY

You will be working in turned rounds from this point onwards.

Join Yarn B with RS facing to point at row-end of Front.

Round 1 (RS) Ch2, ES in each ES around to last 4 dc, (skip next st, ES in next st) twice, ss to top of first ES to join into the round, turn.

[46 (48: 52: 54: 58: 60: 64) ES]

Join Yarn A.

Round 2 (WS) Ch2, ES in each ES around, ss to first ES, turn.

Repeat Round 2 once more.

Cont working 1 round with Yarn B and 2 rounds with Yarn A until 10 (12: 14: 18: 18: 20: 22) rounds of ES only have been completed.

Work 1 round as set with Yarn C, 2 with Yarn A and 1 with Yarn C.

Continue with Yarn C.

Next round Ch1, (dc in sp before ES, dc in ES) around, ss to first dc.

Fasten off.

SLEEVES

Join Yarn A with RS facing in joined ch-sp at underarm.

Round 1 (RS) Ch2, ES in each ES around, ss to first ES, turn. [16 (16: 19: 19: 22: 22: 25) ES]

Cont working as set for a further 12 (14: 19: 20: 21: 27: 29) rounds, or until Sleeve meas 9 (11: 14: 15: 16: 20: 21.5)cm.

Next round Ch2, ES2tog, ES in each ES around to last 2 ES, ES2tog, ss to first ES, turn.

[14 (14: 17: 17: 20: 20: 23) ES]

Next round Ch2, ES in each ES around, ss to first ES, turn.

Next round Join Yarn C, ch2, ES2tog, ES in each ES around to last 2 ES, ES2tog, ss to first ES, turn. [12 (12: 15: 15: 18: 18: 21) ES]

Next round With Yarn A, ch2, ES in each ES around, ss to first ES, turn.

SIZES 6M AND 12M ONLY

Repeat prev round with Yarn A then Yarn C.

SIZES 18M, 2Y, 3Y, 4Y AND 5Y ONLY

Next round Ch2, ES2tog, ES in each ES around to last 2 ES, ES2tog, ss to first ES, turn.

[- (-: 13: 13: 16: 16: 19) sts]

Next round With Yarn C, ch2, ES in each ES around, ss to first ES, turn.



Ensure buttons are stitched on securely to prevent small hands from pulling them off



The striped sections of the body and sleeves are the last sections to be worked

ALL SIZES

Next round Ch1, (dc in sp before ES, dc in ES) around.

Fasten off.

NECK EDGE

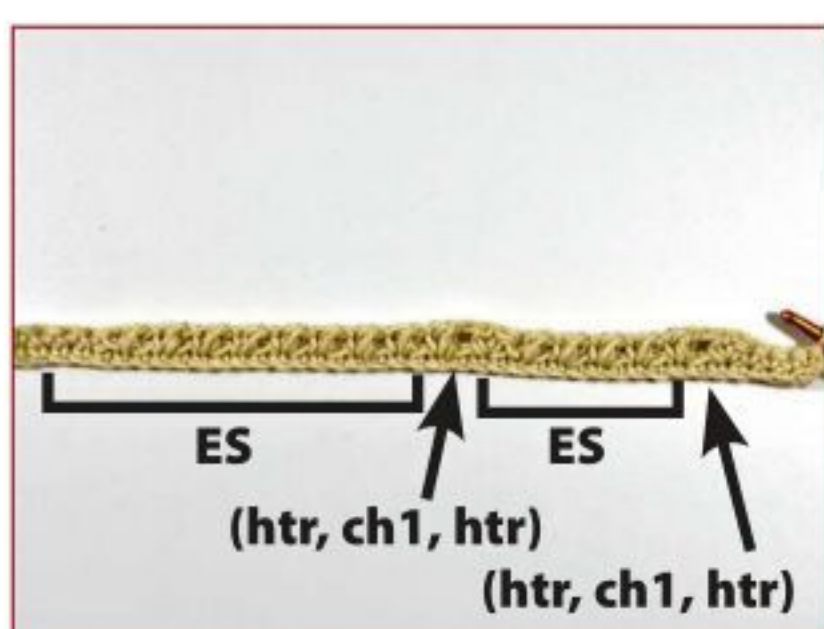
Join Yarn A to other side of foundation ch with RS facing, dc evenly across.

Fasten off.

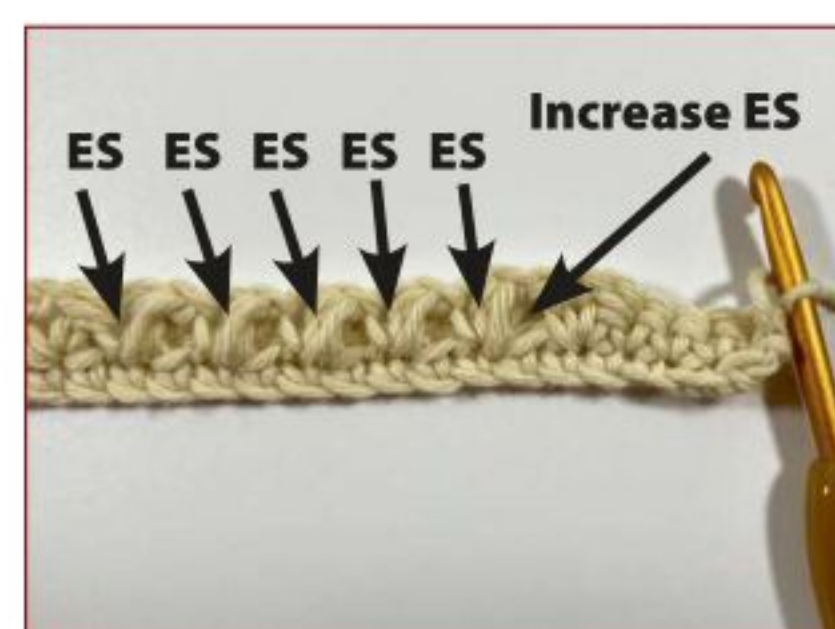
TO FINISH

Weave in all ends and block to measurements. Sew on buttons.

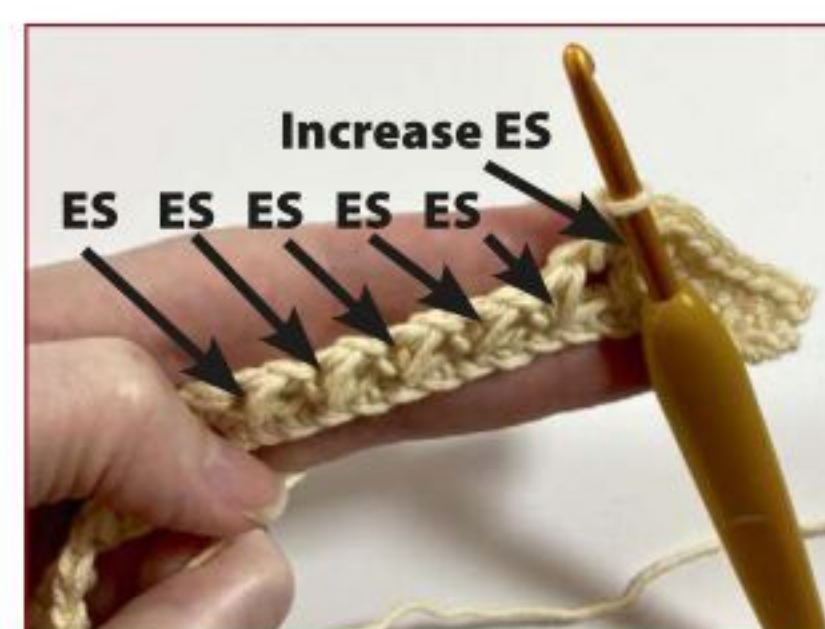
SIMPLE STEPS ELIZABETH STITCH EXPLAINED



1 An example of Row 2 completed, with sections of dc at each end, and ES with (htr, ch1, htr) groups between. This is turned to the RS ready to work Row 3.



2 One of the ES sections, showing where you will work the increase st of Row 3, and each further ES. In this example there were 5 ES in Row 2, and there will be 6 ES once you have increased in Row 3.



3 It can be easier to see the placement of the ES from the top of the row. Here the increase ES has already been worked, so you will need to skip the ch1 before working the next ES under the next 'stitch'.



4 This section of Row 3 is now complete, showing dc at the beginning of the row, (htr, ch1, htr) in the ch-1 sp, 6 ES including the increase ES at the beginning, and (htr, ch1, htr) at the end of this ES section.

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With thanks to: Emma Varnam for the welcoming rabbit from Cute Crocheted Animals. The listening ear shell is from a crochet pattern by Anna Sakhno. The wise owl is by Marken of The Hat & I and the heart is by Tatyana Grigoryan.

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Stars & stripes

Fly the flag of crochet with this bold display of colour and texture by Millie Masterton

EASY
DECOR
REFRESH



BLANKET AND CUSHION SET



YOU WILL NEED

■ A 6mm (US J/10) hook

For the blanket

- Caron Simply Soft (100% acrylic, 170.1g/288m)
- 2 balls of **Yarn A** White (9701)
- 1 ball of each:
 - Yarn B** Autumn Red (9730)
 - Yarn C** Lavender Blue (9756)
 - Yarn D** Soft Pink (9719)
 - Yarn E** Sunshine (9755)
 - Yarn F** Pumpkin (9756)
 - Yarn G** Persimmon (9754)

■ A pompom maker, 3.5cm

For the cushion

- Caron Simply Soft (100% acrylic, 170.1g/288m)
- 1 ball of **Yarn A** White (9701)
- *A small amount of each:
 - Yarn B** Autumn Red (9730)
 - Yarn C** Lavender Blue (9756)
 - Yarn D** Soft Pink (9719)
 - Yarn E** Sunshine (9755)
 - Yarn F** Pumpkin (9756)
 - Yarn G** Persimmon (9754)

*See Notes

■ A pompom maker, 8.5cm

■ Cushion pad, 45x45cm

For yarn stockists contact

Wool Warehouse 01926 882818

www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

TENSION

Blanket: Tension is not critical, but it may affect the yarn quantities required

Cushion: 11 sts and 9 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over half treble crochet using a 6mm hook, or size needed to obtain correct tension

MEASUREMENTS

All measurements are approximate

Blanket: 130x95cm (51¼x37½in)

Cushion: 45x45cm (17¾x17¾in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 96

If you've spent the last year staring at the same four walls you might feel like your room needs a shake up. Invigorate your interior by the addition of classic stripes, stars and an abundance of pompoms.

NOTES

If making both the Blanket and Cushion you will need just 1 ball of Yarns B-G. You can substitute any aran-weight yarn when making the Blanket and Cushion. Yarn quantities will vary depending on yarn used. For the Cushion you will need to ensure you work to the measurements of the cushion pad.

BLANKET

Using Yarn A, ch151.

Row 1 (RS) Htr in third ch from hook and each ch across, turn. [149 sts]

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

Rows 3-5 As Row 2.

Fasten off.

Join Yarn B in first st.

Row 6 (WS) Ch2, htr in first 5 sts, (5-tr cl in next st, htr in next 5 sts) 24 times, turn.

Fasten off.

Join Yarn A in first st.

Rows 7-9 (RS) As Row 2.

Fasten off.

Join Yarn C in first st.

Row 10 As Row 6.

Repeat Rows 7-10, working in the following sequence: *3 rows in Yarn A, 1 row in Yarn D, 3 rows in Yarn A, 1 row in Yarn E, 3 rows in Yarn A, 1 row in Yarn F, 3 rows in Yarn A, 1 row in Yarn G, 3 rows in Yarn A, 1 row in Yarn B, 3 rows in Yarn



The stripes are enhanced by the addition of 5-treble clusters evenly spaced along them

A, 1 row in Yarn C; rep from * until Blanket measures 130cm, ending on 3 Yarn A rows.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

Make 2 pompoms for each row worked in Yarns B-G and sew one to each row-end.



CUSHION

PANEL (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn A, ch52.

Row 1 (RS) Htr in third ch from hook and each ch across, turn. [50 sts]

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

Repeat Row 2 until Panel measures 45cm.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

STAR

Using Yarn G, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr throughout), 9tr in loop, ss to top of beg ch-3. [10 sts]

Round 2 Ch3, tr in same st as ch-3, 2tr in each st around, ss to top of beg ch-3. [20 sts]

Round 3 Ch3, dtr in same st as ch-3, ch3, *(dtr, tr) in next st, (htr, dc) in next st, (dc, htr) in next st, (tr, dtr, ch3) in next st; rep from * 4 times more omitting final (tr, dtr, ch3), ss to top of beg ch-3. [40 sts, 5 ch-3 sps]

Round 4 Ch3, tr in each st to ch-3 sp, *(2tr, ch3, 2tr) in ch-3 sp, tr in next 2 sts, tr4tog next 4 sts, tr in next 2 sts; rep from * 4 times more omitting final 2 sts, ss to top of beg ch-3. [45 sts, 5 ch-3 sps]

Fasten off.

Join Yarn F in any ch-3 sp.

Round 5 Ch3, (tr, ch3, 2tr) in same sp, *tr in next 3 sts, tr3tog, tr in next 3 sts, (2tr, ch3, 2tr) in ch-3 sp; rep from * 4 times more omitting final corner, ss to top of beg ch-3. [55 sts, 5 ch-3 sps]

Fasten off.

Join Yarn E in any ch-3 sp.

Round 6 Ch3, (tr, ch3, 2tr) in ch-3 sp, tr in next 4 sts, tr3tog (pm in tr3tog), tr in next 4 sts, (2tr, ch3, 2tr) in ch-3 sp; rep from * 4 times more omitting final corner, ss to top of beg ch-3. [65 sts, 5 ch-3 sps]

Fasten off.

Join Yarn D in any ch-3 sp.

Round 7 Ch3, (tr, ch3, 2tr) in ch-3 sp, tr to st

before marked st, tr3tog next 3 sts, move marker to tr3tog, tr in each st to ch-3 sp, (2tr, ch3, 2tr); rep from * 4 times more omitting final corner, ss to top of beg ch-3. [75 sts, 5 ch-3 sps]

Fasten off.

Join Yarn C in any ch-3 sp.

Rounds 8-10 As Round 7, changing to Yarn B for Round 9 and Yarn G for Round 10.

[105 sts, 5 ch-3 sps at end of Round 10]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO MAKE UP

Pin the Star to the centre of one Panel. Using Yarn G, sew into place.

Place both Panels together with RS facing out.

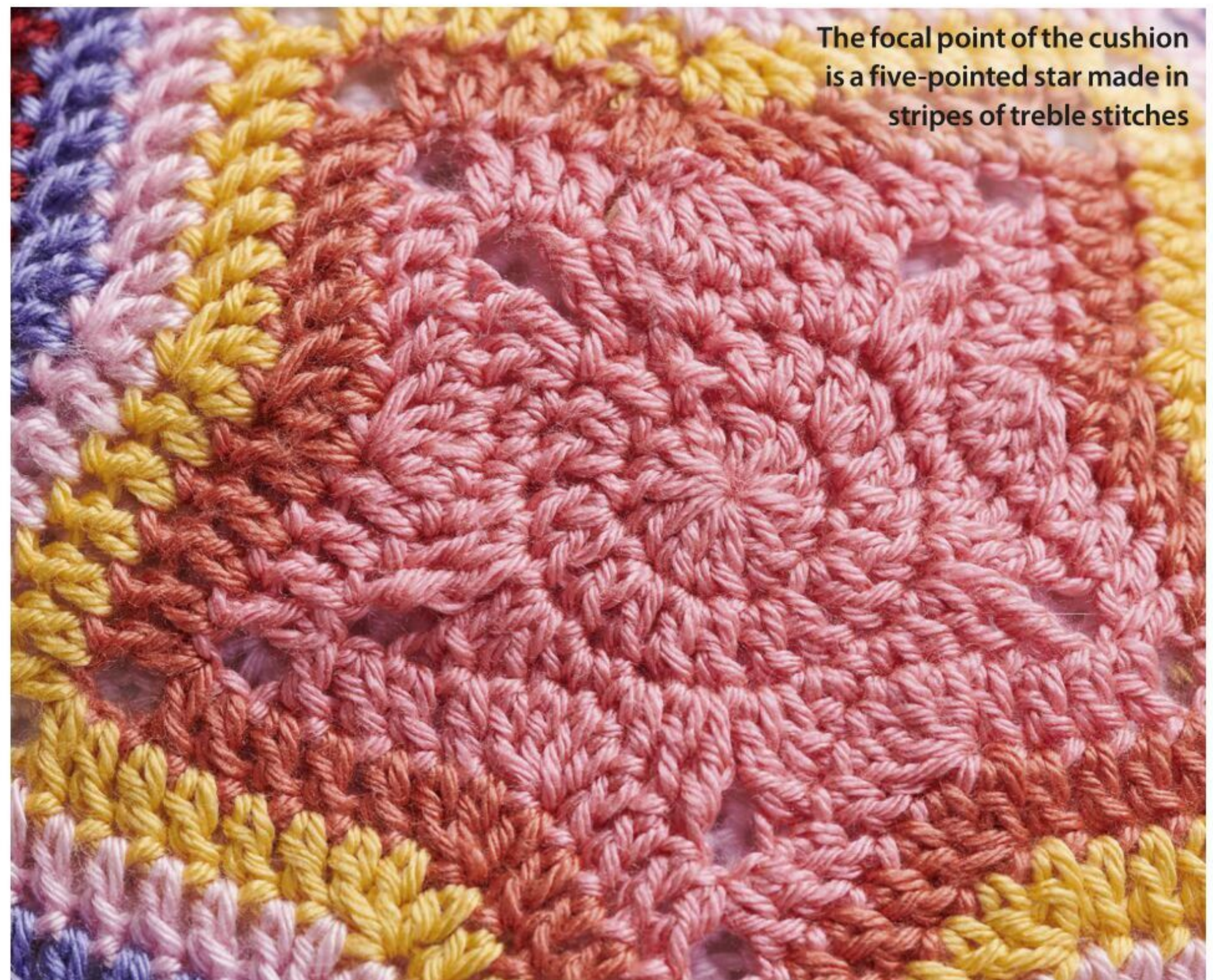
Join Yarn A through corner of both panels and work the following round through both layers to join.

Round 1 Ch1, *3dc in corner, 52dc evenly across to next corner; rep from * 3 times more inserting the cushion pad before joining the final side, ss to beg dc. [220 sts]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

Make 1 pompom in Yarns B, C, D and F. Make 2 pompoms each in Yarn E and G. Sew any 2 pompoms to each corner of the Cushion.



The focal point of the cushion is a five-pointed star made in stripes of treble stitches

SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO DOUBLE DECREASE IN TREBLE CROCHET (TR3TOG)



1 Start a treble as usual: yrh, insert hook in next stitch, yrh, pull up loop, yrh, pull through first 2 loops (2 loops on hook). Start a second tr and work it until you're halfway through, as before (3 loops hook).



2 Without completing the first or second treble, start a third treble and work it until you're halfway through, as before (4 loops on hook). (If you're instructed to tr4tog, just repeat the process again.)



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



4 This is how the completed tr3tog should look. You will have neatly decreased 2 tr stitches. On subsequent rows, just work into the top of the tr3tog stitch as usual.

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HOOK TO HOOK

Houseplants

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

HOOK
— to —
HOOK



Helen Smith

"I love to take on new crochet challenges, so when I was asked to take part in this Hook to Hook houseplant challenge, I jumped at the chance.

I was inspired by the visits I'd take to my nanna's house when I was little, where she always had beautiful aloe vera plants dotted around. She liked to use the gel inside the leaves to help heal my cuts and scrapes. This cotton yarn was just perfect for the job of making my crochet version."

Find Helen on Instagram at @emkatchcrochet

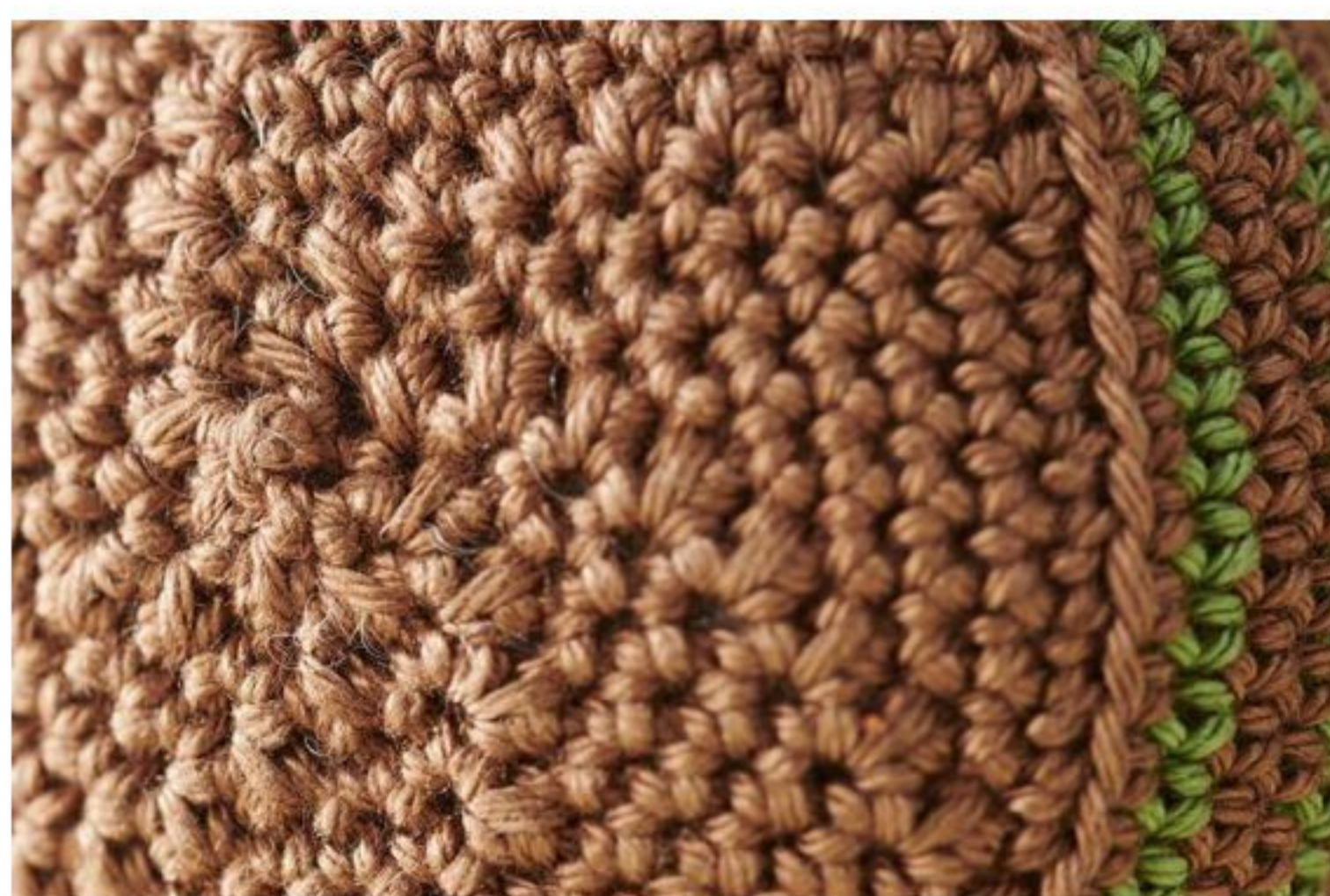
Ria Patel

"Coming from my background of making playful amigurumi characters, the theme of crocheted houseplants was a wonderful challenge.

I wanted to explore this in a fantastical way, resulting in 'The Lovely Tree'. When I was younger, I was mystified by how people were able to find seeds that would grow trees in certain shapes. Now I know you can give the branches a haircut, but I feel this design perfectly captures my childhood musing."

Find Ria on Instagram at @riapetals





Clockwise from top left: a trio of narrow stripes on the pot are a simple but effective way to break up the expanse of brown; Helen's aloe vera plant is made from four designs of leaf; the pot is worked from top down, so the centre of the base is the last round to be worked

NANNA'S ALOE VERA

Hook up Helen Smith's pot of aloe vera to add shoots of no-fuss greenery to the darkest of corners

■ Scheepjes Catona (100% cotton, 25g/62m), 2 balls of Sage Green (212), 1 ball of Hazelnut (503)

■ A 2.5mm (US B/1 or C/2) hook

Toy stuffing

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

Plant measures approx 19cm (7½in) tall

ABBREVIATIONS

bo (bobble) 4tr in same st, remove live loop from hook, insert hook in top of first tr, place live loop on hook and pull through st, ch1 to secure

For a full list, see page 96

NOTES

Aloe Vera is made of 9 Leaves in 4 sizes. Leave a long starting ch at the beginning of each Leaf; this is used to sew the Leaf to the Plant. Pattern is worked in the amigurumi style.

Work stitches in a continuous spiral without closing off each round with a slip stitch. You may find it useful to mark the first st of the round, moving the marker up as you work.

ALOE VERA

LEAF 1

Using a 2.5mm hook and Sage Green, ch8 and ss to first ch to form a ring.

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

Round 2 (RS) 2dc in first st, dc in each rem st around. [9 sts]

Round 3 As Round 2. [10 sts]

Rounds 4-10 Dc in each st around.

Round 11 (Dc2tog, dc in next 3 sts) twice. [8 sts]

Rounds 12-14 Dc in each st around.

Round 15 (Dc2tog, dc in next 2 sts) twice. [6 sts]

Round 16 Dc in each st around.

Round 17 (Dc2tog) twice, ss in next st, leave final st unworked.

Fasten off.

Use tail to close the opening on the final round.

LEAF 2 (MAKE 2)

Using a 2.5mm hook and Sage Green, ch10 and ss to first ch to form a ring.

Round 1 Ch1, dc in each ch around. [10 sts]

Round 2 Dc in each st around.

Round 3 2dc in first st, dc in each rem st around. [11 sts]

Round 4 As Round 3. [12 sts]

Rounds 5-9 Dc in each st around.

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

Rounds 11-15 Dc in each st around.

Round 16 (Dc 2tog, dc in next 3 sts) twice. [8 sts]

Rounds 17-18 Dc in each st around.

Round 19 (Dc2tog, dc in next 2 sts) twice. [6 sts]

Round 20 Dc in each st around.

Round 21 (Dc2tog) twice, ss in next st, leave final st unworked.

Fasten off.

Use tail to close the opening on the final round.

LEAF 3 (MAKE 3)

Using a 2.5mm hook and Sage Green, ch14 and ss to first ch to form a ring.

Round 1 Ch1, dc in each ch around. [14 sts]

Round 2 2dc in first st, dc in each rem st around. [15 sts]

Round 3 As Round 2. [16 sts]

Rounds 4-10 Dc in each st around.

Round 11 (Dc2tog, dc in next 6 sts) twice. [14 sts]

Rounds 12-15 Dc in each st around.

Round 16 (Dc2tog, dc in next 5 sts) twice. [12 sts]

Rounds 17-20 Dc in each st around.

Round 21 (Dc2tog, dc in next 4 sts) twice. [10 sts]

Rounds 22-25 Dc in each st around.

Round 26 (Dc2tog, dc in next 3 sts) twice. [8 sts]



Left to right: the green bobbles all around the top of the plant pot are made from four trebles worked into a single stitch, interspersed with half trebles; Helen thinks Scheepjes Catona, being 100% cotton, is an ideal yarn for crocheting sturdy aloe vera leaves which need to stand upright

Rounds 27-28 Dc in each st around.

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

Round 30 Dc in each st around.

Rounds 31-33 As Rounds 19-21 of Leaf 2.

Fasten off.

Use tail to close the opening on the final round.

LEAF 4 (MAKE 3)

Using a 2.5mm hook and Sage Green, ch16 and ss to first ch to form a ring.

Rounds 1-10 As Rounds 1-10 of Leaf 3. [18 sts]

Round 11 Dc in each st around.

Round 12 (Dc2tog, dc in next 7 sts) twice. [16 sts]

Rounds 13-19 Dc in each st around.

Round 20 (Dc2tog, dc in next 6 sts) twice. [14 sts]

Rounds 21-24 Dc in each st around.

Round 25 (Dc2tog, dc in next 5 sts) twice. [12 sts]

Rounds 26-29 Dc in each st around.

Round 30 (Dc2tog, dc in next 4 sts) twice. [10 sts]

Rounds 31-34 Dc in each st around.

Round 35 (Dc2tog, dc in next 3 sts) twice. [8 sts]

Rounds 36-37 Dc in each st around.

Round 38-40 As Rounds 19-21 of Leaf 2.

Fasten off.

Use tail to close the opening on the final round.

SOIL AND PLANT POT

Soil and Plant Pot are worked from top down. Using a 2.5mm hook and Hazelnut, make a magic loop.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Change to Sage Green.

Round 11 (Htr in next st, bo in next st, htr in next st) 20 times.

Change to Hazelnut.

Rounds 12-24 Dc in each st around, working 4 rounds in Hazelnut, 1 round in Sage Green, 3 rounds in Hazelnut, 1 round in Sage Green, 2 rounds in Hazelnut, 1 round in Sage Green, 1 round in Hazelnut.

Cont with Hazelnut.

Round 25 (Working in bl only) (Dc in next 8 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. [54 sts]

Round 26 (Dc in next 7 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. [48 sts]

Round 27 (Dc in next 6 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. [42 sts]

Round 28 (Dc in next 5 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. [36 sts]

Round 29 (Dc in next 4 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. [30 sts]

Round 30 (Dc in next 3 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. [24 sts]

Stuff the Plant Pot.

Round 31 (Dc in next 2 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 32 (Dc in next 1 st, dc2tog) 6 times. [12 sts]

Round 33 (Dc2tog) 6 times. [6 sts]

Fasten off.

Thread the tail through the final 6 sts and pull tight to close final round.

TO MAKE UP

Using images as a guide, sew Leaves to the top of the Plant Pot. Begin by sewing the smallest 3 leaves over Rounds 1-2 of Soil and Plant Pot. Sew the next 3 leaves around over Rounds 3-4, and the final 3 leaves over Rounds 5-6. Weave in all ends.



Left to right: Ria's heart-shaped shrub is made by working two domes and joining them together before working the rest of the heart, then 90 leaves are scattered all over it; when stuffing the trunk, make sure you pack the stuffing in tightly so that it can hold the weight of the heart

THE LOVELY TREE

For evergreen topiary that'll never need a trim, Ria Patel's heart-shaped textured tree is just for you

■ Scheepjes Catona (100% cotton, 25g/ 62m), 2 balls of Sage Green (212), 1 ball of Hazelnut (503)

■ A 2.25mm (US B/1) hook

■ A 2.5mm (US C/2) hook

■ 5 stitch markers

■ Toy stuffing

■ Cardboard

■ Weighted beads or an alternative that will provide weight to the base

For yarn, see [Aloe Vera](#)

TENSION

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

MEASUREMENTS

Tree measures approximately 15cm (6in) tall

NOTES

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

On the Plant Pot and Soil, stitch markers are placed to show where to work the increase.

The stitch markers will be place in the second dc of each 3dc increase.

TREE HEART SHRUB

The two Domes at the top of the Heart Shrub are made separately and joined together over Round 9.

DOMES (MAKE 2)

Using a 2.5mm hook and Sage Green, make a magic loop.

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

Round 2 (RS) 2dc in each dc around. [12 sts]

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

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

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

Round 6 (Dc in next dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next 3 dc) 6 times. [36 sts]

Rounds 7-8 Dc in each dc around.

Fasten off the first dome only.

Over the next round you will work around both Domes to join them together.

Round 9 On first Dome, skip first 3 sts, dc in next 33 sts, skip 3 sts on Dome 2, dc in next 33 sts. [66 sts]

Round 10 (Dc in next 9 dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [60 sts]

Rounds 11-13 Dc in each dc around.

Using tail from Dome 1, sew the gap between the 2 Domes closed and weave in end.

Round 14 Dc in next 9 dc, dc2tog, (dc in next 3 dc, dc2tog) twice, dc in next 18 dc, dc2tog, (dc in next 3 dc, dc2tog) twice, dc in next 9 dc. [54 sts]

Rounds 15-16 Dc in each dc around.

Round 17 Dc in next 8 dc, dc2tog, (dc in next 2 dc, dc2tog) twice, dc in next 18 dc, dc2tog, (dc in next 2 dc, dc2tog) twice, dc in next 8 dc. [48 sts]

Stuff Heart as you work.

Round 18 Dc in each dc around.

Round 19 Dc in next 8 dc, dc2tog, (dc in next dc, dc2tog) twice, dc in next 16 dc, dc2tog, (dc in next dc, dc2tog) twice, dc in next 8 dc. [42 sts]

Round 20 Dc in each dc around.

Round 21 Dc in next 6 dc, dc2tog, (dc in next dc, dc2tog) twice, dc in next 14 dc, dc2tog, (dc in next dc, dc2tog) twice, dc in next 6 dc. [36 sts]

Round 22 Dc in next 5 dc, dc2tog, (dc in next dc, dc2tog) twice, dc in next 10 dc, dc2tog, (dc in next dc, dc2tog) twice, dc in next 5 dc. [30 sts]

Round 23 Dc in each dc around.

Round 24 Dc in next 6 dc, (dc2tog) 3 times, dc in next 8 dc, (dc2tog) 3 times, dc in next 4 dc. [24 sts]

Round 25 Dc in each dc around.



Clockwise from top left: Ria's design for the plant pot includes an attractive raised lip made from treble stitches; use cardboard and weighted beads to create a solid, sturdy pot to ensure the tree remains upright; the pot is worked in the round starting with a foundation chain at the base

Round 26 (Dc in next 2 dc, dc2tog) 6 times.
[18 sts]

Round 27 Dc in each dc around, ss to beg dc to join.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

LEAF (MAKE 90)

Using a 2.5mm hook and Sage Green, ch8.
Ss in second ch from hook, dc in next ch, htr in next ch, tr in next 2 ch, htr in next ch, ss in next ch. [7 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

TRUNK

Using a 2.25mm hook and Hazelnut, make a magic loop

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

Rounds 2-3 As Rounds 2-3 of Dome. [12 sts]

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

Rounds 5-29 Dc in each dc around.

Round 30 Dc in each st around, ss to beg dc.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Generously stuff the Trunk ensuring it is sturdy enough to hold the weight of the Shrub.

PLANT POT

Using a 2.5mm hook and Hazelnut, ch11.

Round 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook, dc in next 8 dc, 3dc in next dc, turn to work in opposite side of foundation ch, dc in next 9 dc, 3dc in skipped ch at beg of Round. [24 sts]

Round 2 (RS) *Dc in next 9 dc, 3dc in next dc (pm in second dc), dc in next dc, 3dc in next dc (pm in second dc); rep from * once more.
[32 sts]

Rounds 3-7 *Dc to marker, 3dc in marked st, move marker to central st of increase; rep from * around. [72 sts at end of Round 7]

Rounds 8-9 Dc in each dc around.

Round 10 Dc in next 12 dc, (dc2tog) 3 times, dc in next 8 dc, (dc2tog) 3 times, dc in next 16 dc, (dc2tog) 3 times, dc in next 8 dc, (dc2tog) 3 times, dc in next 4 dc. [60 sts]

Rounds 11-12 Dc in each dc around.

Round 13 (Dc in next 4 dc, dc2tog) 10 times.
[50 sts]

Rounds 14-16 Dc in each dc around.

Round 17 Dc in next 4 dc, ss in next dc, mark new end of round.

Round 18 Ch2 (does not count as st), skip first st, tr in next 7 dc, (tr in next 2 dc, 2tr in next dc) 3 times, tr in next 16 dc, (tr in next 2 dc, 2tr in next dc) 3 times, tr in next 7 dc, htr in next dc, ss to beg tr. [55 sts]

Fasten off and weaving in ends.

Using thick cardboard, cut out 2 pieces slightly smaller in size than the base of the Plant Pot. In the middle of each piece, draw the outline of the base of the Trunk and cut out the shape. These pieces will be used to so the Tree stands.

SOIL

Using a 2.25mm hook and Hazelnut, ch18

leaving a long tail.

Round 1 (RS) Dc in 18th ch from hook to create a circle, dc in next 17 chains. [18 sts]

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

Round 3 *Dc in next dc, 3dc in next dc, pm in central dc, dc in next 9 dc, 3dc in next dc, pm in central dc; rep from * once more. [32 sts]

Rounds 4-7 *Dc to marker, 3dc in marker, move marker to central dc; rep from * around.
[64 sts at end of Round 7]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

TO MAKE UP

Where possible, use the tails when making up the Tree.

Sew the Trunk to the centre point of the Plant Pot. Place one piece of cardboard over and down to the base of the trunk.

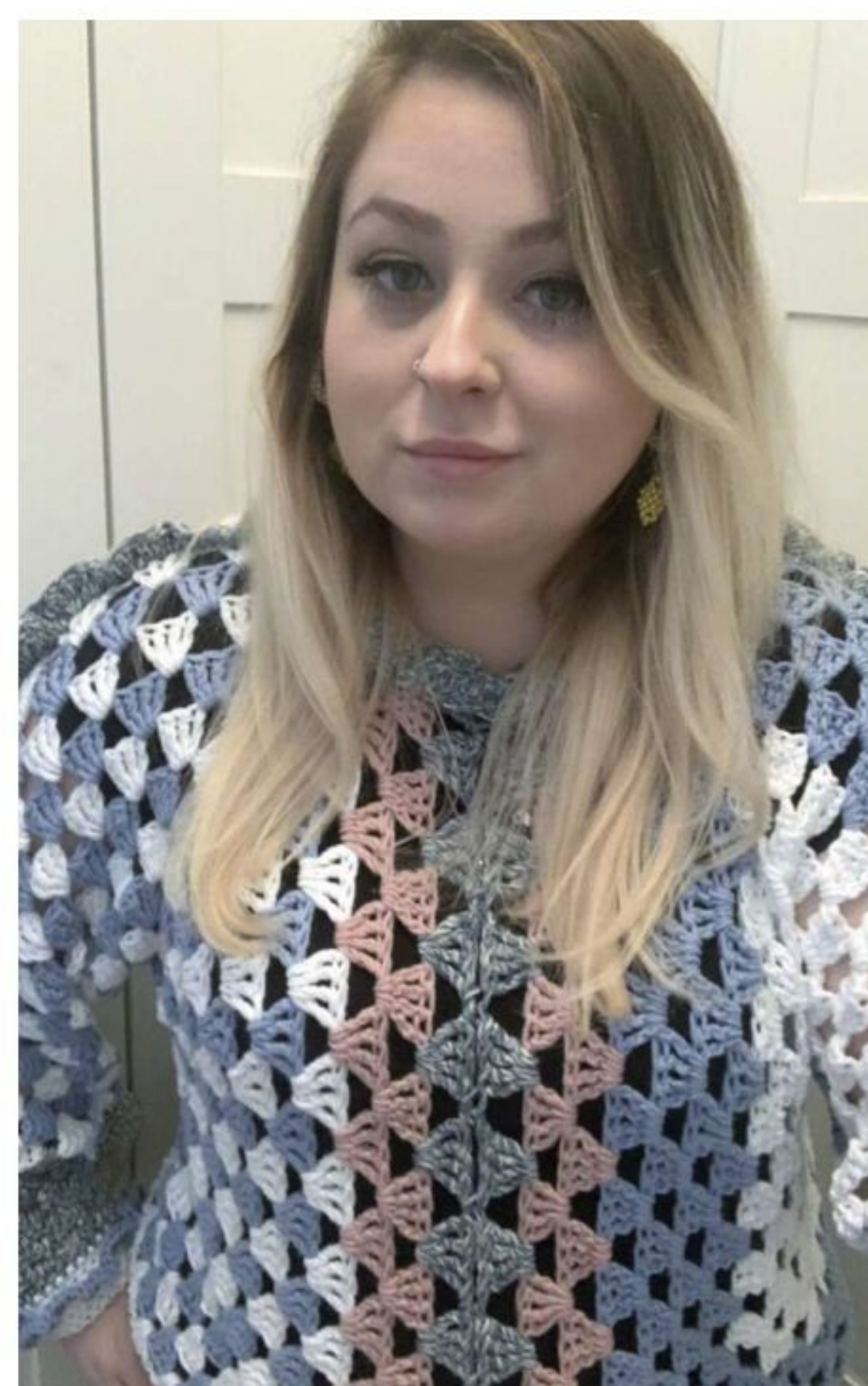
Add weighted beads over the cardboard, then position the second piece of cardboard over the trunk in the same way. You can also top up the Plant Pot with stuffing.

Place the Soil on the top of the Plant Pot with the Trunk positioned through the centre. Sew Soil to the base of the sts from the final round of Plant Pot. Sew the centre of the Soil to Round 20 of the Trunk.

Sew each Leaf to the Shrub.

Place the Heart Shrub onto the top of the Trunk and sew it in place over Round 10.

Weave in all ends.



CROCHET

for all

Whatever your age or life stage, crochet is a wonderful creative outlet and mood booster. We asked a broad spectrum of crocheters why they love our craft



Clockwise from left:
Daniel with his
ever-growing
granny square; there
is space for crochet
in Malica's life again;
Alathia working with
her grandmother

THE YOUNG PROFESSIONAL Junior doctor Daniel Huntington uses crochet to unwind

"Watching my mum [*Simply Crochet's* editor Sara Huntington] crocheting is a strong memory. I'm a junior doctor, currently doing clinical rotations, and Mum suggested I learn how to crochet during the pandemic as a way to occupy myself when I had to self-isolate.

"First, Mum taught me how to chain and I watched a webinar she had done on how to make granny squares. My square has been getting bigger and bigger – you could say it's a baby blanket now! I'm going to see how big I can get it, then move on to hats and tote bags. I find the repetition of crocheting really relaxing. It seems to occupy a unique part of your brain where you can do other things, like watch TV, at the same time.

"I've never been particularly artistic, so it's nice that I've picked crochet up quickly. It's given me an insight into Mum's world and it's been a lovely way to connect with her while we're apart. We're very close, so this has given us an extra layer of connection."

THE GRANDMOTHER Malica Page has rediscovered crochet later in life

"I first learned to crochet at the age of 12.

I learned by chance when my sister was in college and her friend showed me how to crochet when I had to stay at home because I was too young to go to a party. My favourite projects to make are dolls – I love seeing them come alive before my eyes. I often crochet items for family and friends, including amigurumi and scarfs for my granddaughters.

"When my family were very young, I was too busy to crochet and only had time to hook up a blanket for my children every now and then. Now that they are grown up I've got more time for projects and it's renewed my enthusiasm for the craft. I've set my sights on learning mosaic crochet, graphghans [afghans or throws made using graphs], hooking more garments and teaching myself how to write patterns. Crochet is therapeutic because it takes my mind to new places."

THE SCHOOL GIRL Alathia Purtell uses her crocheting skills for the community

"I was seven years old when my grandmother Meme taught me how to crochet. I had been diagnosed with juvenile arthritis in my left ankle and couldn't do normal activities for kids my age, so I immersed myself in crochet.

Shortly after I learned, I visited Meme's church, which was a drop-off location for a shoebox appeal. I wanted to make something that could be included, so I made my first bag. I then decided I wanted to crochet 2000 bags in one year to add to the shoeboxes! It was a huge task, but I achieved my goal, which gave me a lot of confidence.

"Crocheting is a stress reliever because I can do it without really thinking. I learned how to crochet without looking pretty early on, and whenever I'm nervous I like something to keep my hands busy, so I just pick up my crochet.

"I'm looking forward to making my first afghan. I find I get distracted easily so long projects are not my strong suit, but I've been working on one for a while now and am pleased with my progress."

THE EMPTY NESTER Anna Ravn-Listowski wanted a new way to relax

"As my children have now grown up and the house is quieter, I wanted to find something that I could do for myself, to push me out of my comfort zone. Crafting was where I wanted to go, so I looked at quilting and knitting, but felt much more comfortable with crochet as I found it was easy to correct



Clockwise from bottom left: a rainbow dinosaur is one of the toys that Tabitha, above, has been asked to make by her children; Anna felt a real sense of accomplishment with her first project; crochet is the way forward for fashion designer Jade



your mistakes. Then, for Christmas 2019, my daughter booked a beginners' crochet class for us both which taught me a lot and really got me into making things.

"I'm a special needs teaching assistant, mostly working with children with autism. The job can be very demanding and you're constantly switched on, so crochet is something I can look forward to in the evening as a relaxation tool.

"I made a granny square blanket for my first project, which felt like a great accomplishment. Now I'm pushing myself with different creations such as a cushion cover with a crochet flower in the middle and a shopping bag."

THE NEW MUM

Tabitha Rochefort says crochet is her 'me time'

"I'm a serial crafter, always trying out lots of different crafts, but after joining Instagram and seeing so many amazing and modern takes on crochet, I realised that there was a lot more to it than just hooking up granny square blankets (although I do love a granny square too) and decided to give it a go.

I started crocheting in the summer of 2018 just after my youngest child turned two.

"I now make amigurumi for my sons, my sister, niece and nephews. I love being able to make random things they ask for. For example, when my youngest asked for a rainbow triceratops and an apple, I was able to hook them up for him. I know they think they're extra special as Mummy made toys especially for them.

"Crochet is a great way to get a bit of time to myself and it's something I can just get on with for those few minutes when the children are playing together and don't need me. It also helps me to feel like a creative person again and not just a mum. I'm doing something for myself and it feeds my creativity, which needs an outlet."

THE RECENT GRADUATE

Jade Bryant used crochet in her fashion textiles degree

"I studied fashion textiles at university and graduated July 2019. During my final year on the course I looked at fast fashion and its damaging impact on our environment, asking how could I, as an upcoming fashion

designer, make a change in the world.

I ended up recycling old jeans to create denim 'yarn'. Using crochet in my collection was a great way to explore new textures by playing with different stitch patterns and using non-traditional materials.

"I have always turned to crochet as a form of therapy. Writing my uni dissertation was stressful so I would take breaks to hook small crochet items like hats and mittens. I would return to writing with a clearer mind – it helped me massively.

"After I graduated, I looked for work in design and buying, but before I knew it, the pandemic had struck. I decided to launch my own brand, specialising in custom, handmade clothing for women. I spent the first lockdown planning and designing my collection and I also want to teach others to crochet through live online events. There is still a lot of stigma around young people who crochet as it can be deemed an old-fashioned craft. My aim is to show everyone that anyone of any age can crochet and make some truly wonderful things!"

Follow Jade on Instagram at @jade.bryant_

Written by Marianne Rawlins

River ripples

Capture water's beauty within
Becky Skuse's hairpin lace top

FIND A HAIRPIN LACE
TUTORIAL ON GATHERED

www.gathered.how/hairpin-lace

PERFECT
FOR
LAYERING



HAIRPIN LACE TOP



YOU WILL NEED

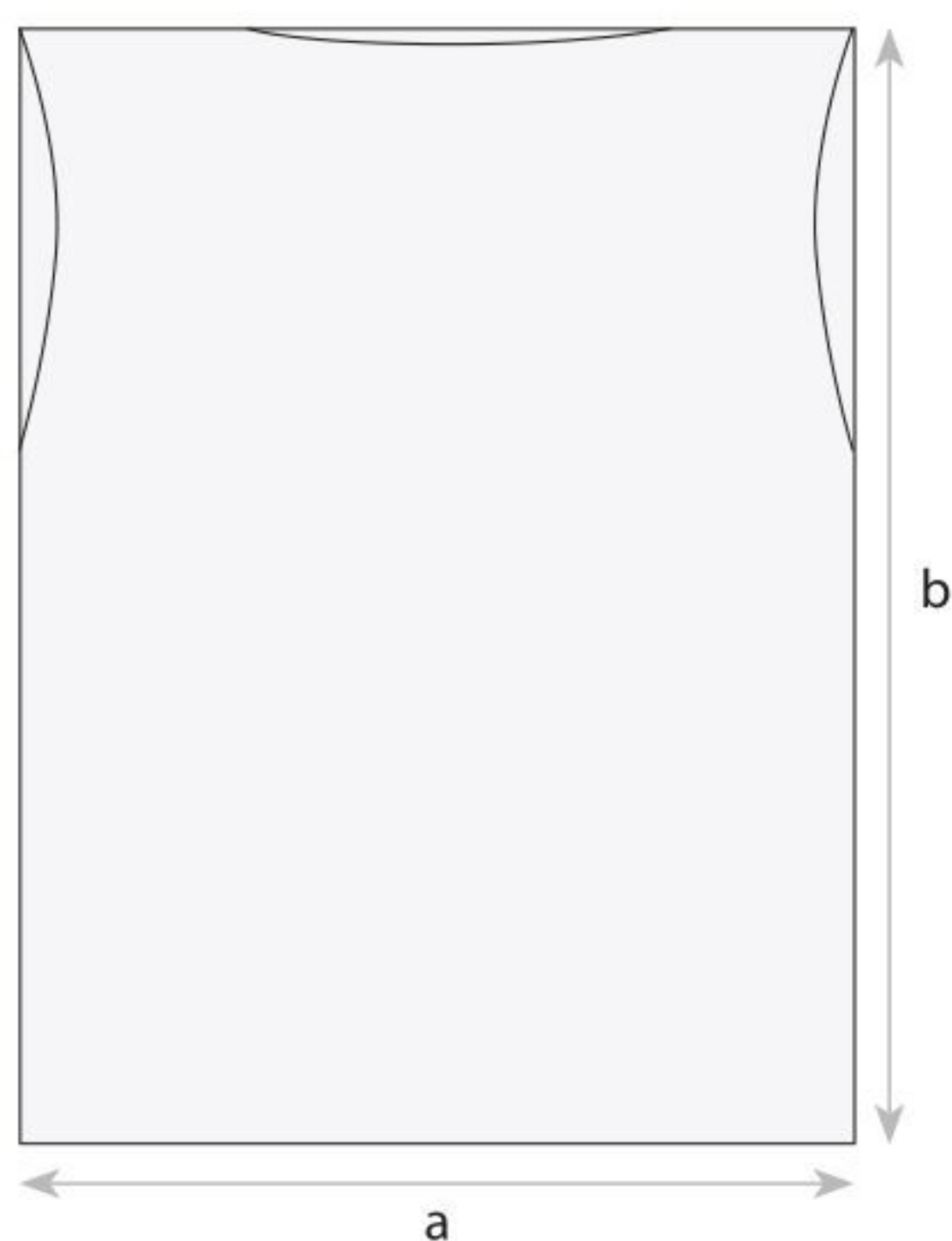
- Scheepjes Mohair Rhythm (70% mohair, 30% microfibre, 25g/200m)
Yarn A Lindy (679)
Yarn B Twist (675)
 - Scheepjes Alpaca Rhythm (80% alpaca, 20% wool, 25g/200m)
Yarn C Polka (656)
See table for measurements and yarn quantities
 - A hairpin crochet loom
 - A 2.5mm (US C/2) hook
 - A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
 - Scrap yarn in contrasting colour
 - Stitch markers
- For yarn stockists contact
Scheepjes
www.scheepjes.com/en

TENSION

35 loops to measure 20cm (8in) long including edging
Each Strip measures 7.75cm (3in) deep including edging

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 96



Width a: 43 (48: 53: 58.5: 63.5: 69)cm
17 (19: 20¾: 23: 25: 27)in
Length b: 63 (63: 71: 71: 71)cm
24¾ (24¾: 28: 28: 28: 28)in

An intriguing mix of delicate, barely-there fabric and stunning blue and green hues, this gauzy hairpin lace crochet top resembles clear water, but in subtle shades of pink it'll look like a hazy sunrise.

NOTES

Top is made up of Hairpin Lace Strips. All the Strips are made first, then joined together as you work the Edging. The Strips that form the lower body are worked in one long piece. Smaller strips make up the yoke section. You can find more information on this technique, including step-by-step images, here: www.gathered.how/hairpin-lace
The Top has a natural stretch and has been designed with negative ease, so it shapes around the body. If you would prefer a looser fitting top, you may wish to make the size above your actual size.
You can adapt the length of the Top by working extra or fewer Lower Body Strips. Each Strip will add 7.5cm to the length. This will affect the yarn quantities required.

TOP HAIRPIN LACE

Generic instructions on how to work a Hairpin Lace Strip are written below. Follow the pattern from the Lower Body Strips to the end, to make the Top.

Place a slipknot on your hook, wrap the working yarn around the right-hand prong, yrh and pull through loop on hook to secure.
*Keeping the live loop on hook, lift hook over the top of the wraps so the hook is at the back of your work. Turn the loop over anti-clockwise (lifting the right-hand side over), so that the hook is now facing you, the first wrap is positioned at the left side and the working yarn is now wrapped around the right prong. Insert hook through top wrap on left side of loom, yrh and pull up loop, yrh and pull through both loops on hook (1 loop complete). Repeat from *



The top has been designed to hug the body – if you'd prefer a looser fit, make a larger size

as directed in pattern. Once your Strip is complete, **fasten off** as usual to secure the final loop. Secure the loops with spare yarn and slide all the loops off.

LOWER BODY STRIPS (MAKE 5)

Set the hairpin loom to 6cm wide.
Make 3 using Yarn A and 2 using Yarn B.
Using a 2.5mm hook and leaving a 20cm starting tail, make a long strip of 150 (168: 186: 204: 222: 240) loops. You may find it useful to place stitch markers every 20th st to help you keep track of your stitch count.
Fasten off leaving a 20cm tail.
Thread a length of yarn through the loops on each side to keep the stitches secure, then remove from the hairpin loom.

SIZE		S	M	L	XL	XXL	XXXL
TO FIT BUST	cm	81-86	91-96	101-106	111-117	122-127	132-137
	in	32-34	36-38	40-42	44-46	48-50	52-54
ACTUAL BUST (APPROX)	cm	86	96	106	117	127	137.5
	in	34	38	41¾	46	50	54
LENGTH	cm	63	63	71	71	71	71
	in	24¾	24¾	28	28	28	28
YARN A	25g	1	1	2	2	2	2
YARN B	25g	1	1	2	2	2	2
YARN C	25g	2	2	2	3	3	3

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

Sew the ends of each spine together to form large loops.

YOKE HAIRPIN STRIPS

Set your hairpin loom to 6cm wide.

Make 2 (2: 4: 4: 4) using Yarn A and make 4 using Yarn B.

Using a 2.5mm hook, make a long strip of 75 (84: 93: 102: 111: 120) loops.

Fasten off leaving a 20cm tail.

Thread a length of yarn through the loops on each side to keep the stitches secure, then remove from the hairpin loom.

TO MAKE UP

LOWER BODY

The Strips are joined together as you work the edging across the loops. Strips are joined from the bottom, working up.

Begin with a Yarn A strip.

Using a 3.5mm hook and Yarn C, join with a ss in first loop along one edge.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in same loop, dc in each loop around, ss to beg dc, turn.

[150 (168: 186: 204: 222: 240) dc]

Round 2 (WS) (Ch5, skip 2 dc, ss in next dc) rep around working final ss in base of beg ch-5.

[50 (56: 62: 68: 74: 80) ch-5 sps]

Fasten off.

Rep Rounds 1-2 on opposite side of same Strip.

*Take the next Strip in alternative colour to prev Strip and work Rounds 1-2 around one side only.

On the opposite edge work Round 1 only, do not fasten off.

Over the next round you will join the current Strip to the ch-5 sps on prev Strip.

JAYG round (WS) (Ch2, ss in ch-5 sp on adjacent Strip, ch2, skip 2 dc on current Strip, ss in next dc) rep around working final ss in base of beg ch-2.

Fasten off.

Repeat from * until all Lower Body Strips have been joined.

YOKE

Begin with a Yarn B Strip.

Using a 3.5mm hook and Yarn C, join with a ss in first loop along one edge.

Row 1 (RS) Ch1, dc in same hairpin loop, dc in each hairpin loop across, turn.

[75 (84: 93: 102: 111: 120) dc]

Row 2 (WS) (Ch5, skip 2 dc, ss in next dc) rep across to end.

Fasten off.

Join yarn in first loop on opposite edge.

Work Row 1.

Over the next row you will join the current Strip to the ch-5 sps on prev Strip. For the first Strip this will be joined to half the sts from final round of Lower Body.

JAYG row (WS) *Ch2, ss in adjacent ch-5 sp on

prev Strip, ch2, skip 2 sts, ss in next st on current Strip; rep from * across.

Fasten off.

*Take the next Strip in alternative colour to prev Strip and work Rows 1-2 across one edge. Work Row 1 followed by the JAYG row across the opposite edge of the Strip.

Repeat from * until 3 (3: 4: 4: 4) strips have been joined at the front.

Repeat the entire Yoke joining the remaining Strips to form the back.

Fasten off.

TO FINISH

Sew the shoulder seams together, leaving 22 (22: 24: 24: 26: 26)cm open in the centre for the neckline.

SIZES S, M AND XXXL ONLY

Seam the edging at the base of the lowest Yoke Strip together.

SIZES L, XL AND XXL ONLY

Seam the lowest Yoke Strip together up to the spine.

ARMHOLE EDGING

Using a 3.5mm hook, join Yarn C at base of armhole opening.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1, work 87 (87: 102: 102: 102: 117) dc evenly around opening, ss to beg dc, turn. [87 (87: 102: 102: 102: 117) dc]

Round 2 (WS) (Ch5, skip 2 sts, ss in next st) around working final ss in base of beg ch-5.

Fasten off.

Repeat around second armhole opening.

Weave in all ends.



The hairpin strips are joined together as you work the edging across the loops

Comfy corners

Don't be square and sit on a chair,
sit on squares! By Vickie Smith

EASY MOTIF
DESIGN





YOU WILL NEED

- Stylecraft Bellissima (100% acrylic, 100g/268m)
2 balls of each:
Purple Passion (3934)
Totally Teal (3976)
Overly Olive (3927)
1 ball of Mellow Yellow (3925)
 - A 4mm (US G/6) hook
 - Pompom maker, 2.5cm
 - Cushion pad, 60x60cm
- For yarn stockists contact
Stylecraft 01484 848435
www.stylecraft-yarns.co.uk

TENSION

Each Square to measure 19x19cm (7½x7½in) before blocking

MEASUREMENTS

Cushion measures approx 60x60cm (23½x23½in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 96

Soften the edges of your room with a couple of versatile floor cushions. Add extra seats on the floor at kids' film nights, or hide behind one at scary bits on grown ups' film nights!

NOTES

Cushion is made up of 18 Square Motifs; 9 Squares are joined together to make each panel. When joining, you can change the orientation of the Squares to create different textures.

FLOOR CUSHION

WOVEN STITCH SQUARE (MAKE 6)

Make 2 in Purple Passion, Overly Olive and Totally Teal.
Ch36.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook (skipped ch counts as ch-sp), (ch1, skip 1 ch, dc in next ch) 17 times, turn. [18 dc, 18 ch-sps]

Row 2 Ch2 (counts as ch-sp throughout), skip first dc, (dc in next ch-sp, ch1, skip dc) 17 times, turn.

Repeat Row 2 until Square measures 19cm.

Fasten off.

With RS facing, join Mellow Yellow in any corner.

Next round (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), (3dc in corner, 30dc evenly across to next corner) 4 times, ss to beg dc. [132 sts]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

GRIT STITCH SQUARE (MAKE 12)

Make 4 in Purple Passion, Overly Olive and Totally Teal.
Ch34.

Row 1 (RS) Tr in third ch from hook (skipped ch counts as dc), *skip 1 ch, (dc, tr) in next ch; rep from * 13 times more, skip 1 ch, dc in next ch, tr in next ch, turn. [32 sts]

Row 2 (WS) Ch1 (counts as dc), *skip next st, (dc, tr) in skipped ch from Row 1; rep from * 14 times, skip next tr, tr in final dc, turn.

Row 3 Ch1 (counts as dc), *(dc, tr) in next tr from



Sew the squares with wrong sides together to achieve a decorative seam on the right side

2 rows below, skip 2 sts on current row; rep from * skip 3 sts, tr in final st, turn.

Repeat Row 3 until Square measures 19cm.

Fasten off.

With RS facing, join Mellow Yellow in any corner.

Next round (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), (3dc in corner, 30dc evenly across to next corner) 4 times, ss to beg dc. [132 sts]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO MAKE UP

Block all Squares to 20x20cm.

Decide the layout you would like for your Cushion or refer to the image for guidance.

With RS facing and using Mellow Yellow, slip stitch the Squares together in a 9x9 formation. We joined them into 3 rows of 3 Squares, then joined these together across the long straight edges.

Repeat for the second panel.

Place panels together with RS facing out and slip stitch the panels together in the same way. Insert the cushion pad before joining the final side.

Weave in all ends.

Make 3 pompoms in each colour. Sew 1 in each corner and 2 evenly across each edge.

SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO WORK A SLIP STITCH SEAM



1 First, make sure you fasten off, weave in ends and block pieces. Place pieces RS together. Insert hook into the first stitch on both pieces. Make a slip knot and place it onto the hook.



2 Pull the slip knot through both stitches to bring it to the front. Now insert hook into the second stitch of both layers and work a slip stitch. Work a slip stitch in the third stitches of both layers.



3 Continue working slip sts along the edge, as far as you need to. Fasten off, weave in ends, open out the seam and lightly press from the WS.



4 From the RS, the slip stitch seam forms an 'invisible' join (see above). It forms a firm, flat seam that doesn't give much stretch. It's best to use a matching yarn.

Sunriser

Greet the day with a cowl by
Elisabeth Davis de Herraiz

ONE BALL
PROJECT





YOU WILL NEED

- Stylecraft Batik Swirl (80% acrylic 20% wool, 200g/550m)
- 1 ball of Hedgerow (3738)

- A 4mm (US G/6) hook

For yarn stockists contact

Stylecraft 01484 848435

www.stylecraft-yarns.co.uk

TENSION

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

MEASUREMENTS

Cowl measures approx 107cm (42in) in circumference

ABBREVIATIONS

shell 5tr in same st

picot Ch3, ss in last ch from hook

For a full list, see page 96

Start the day early on one of those beautiful mornings where the sun rises among peachy clouds, and take this cowl to keep you warm.

NOTES

Cowl is worked in rows and seamed together at the end.

You can substitute any DK-weight yarn into this project, but it may affect the finished measurements and yarn quantities required.

COWL

Ch197.

Row 1 (WS) Dc in second ch from hook, *ch2, skip 2 ch, dc in next ch; rep from * to end, turn. [66 sts, 65 ch-2 sp]

Row 2 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr throughout), (2tr in next ch-sp, FPtr around next dc) across to final st, tr in final st, turn. [196 sts]

Row 3 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in first st, (ch2, skip 2 sts, dc in next st) across to end, turn. [66 sts, 65 ch-2 sp]

Row 4 As Row 2. [196 sts]

Row 5 Ch3, tr in same st as ch-3, skip 2 sts, (shell in next st, skip 2 sts, dc in next st, skip 2 sts) 32 times, 2tr in final st, turn. [196 sts]

Row 6 Ch3, tr in next st, (shell in next dc, dc in third tr of next shell) across to final 2 sts, tr in final 2 sts, turn.

Row 7 As Row 3. [66 sts, 65 ch-2 sp]

Row 8 As Row 4. [196 sts]

Row 9 Ch3, tr in same st as ch-3, tr in next 6 sts, (skip 2 sts, tr in next 4 sts, ch2, tr in next 4 sts) 18 times, skip 2 sts, tr in next 6 sts, 2tr in final st, turn. [160 sts, 18 ch-2 sps]

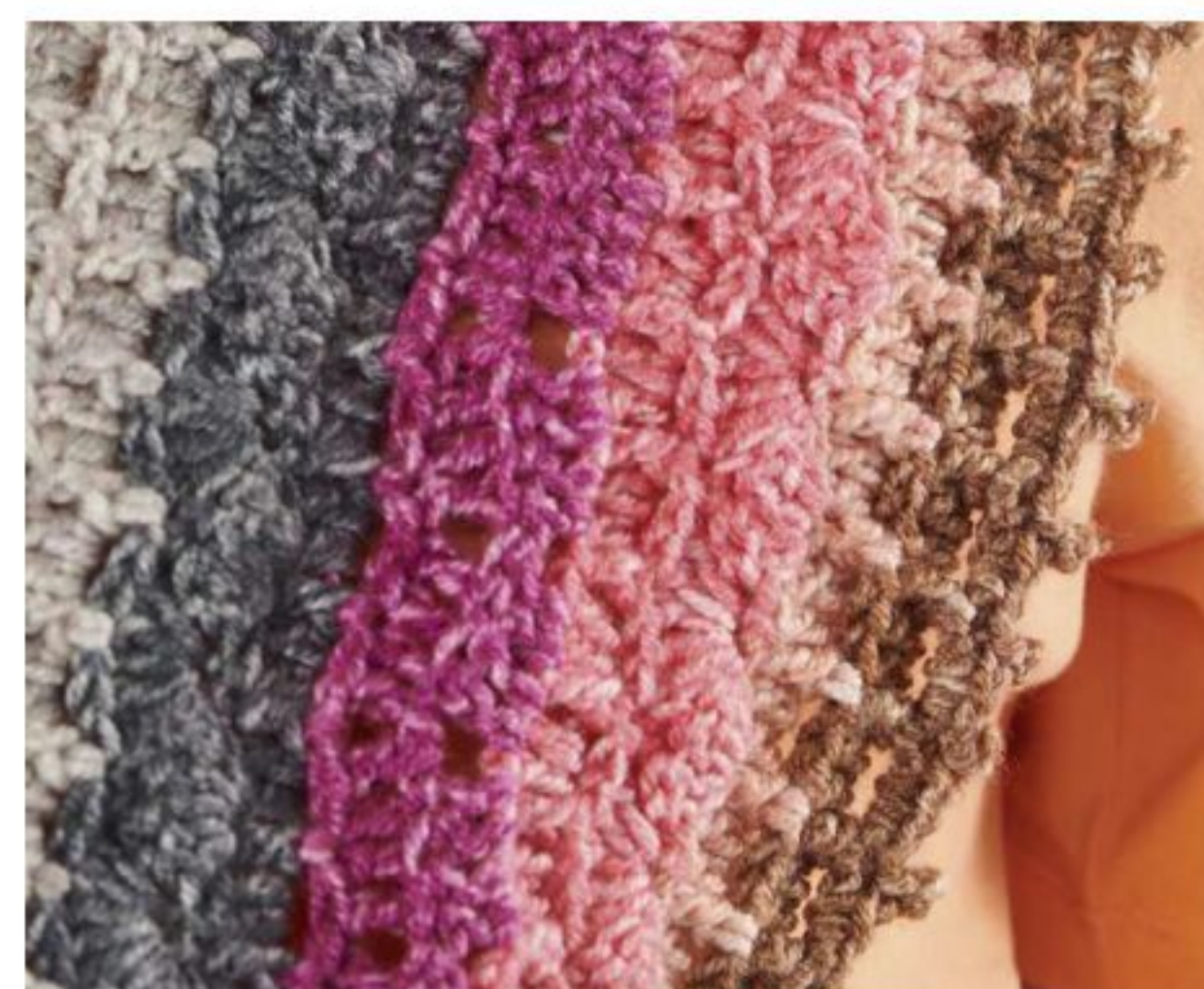
Row 10 Ch3, tr in same st as ch-3, tr in bl of next 6 sts, *skip 2 sts, tr in bl of next 3 sts, (tr, ch2, tr) in ch-2 sp, tr in bl of next 3 sts; rep from * across to final 9 sts, skip 2 sts, tr in bl of next 6 sts, 2tr in final st, turn.

Rows 11-16 Repeat Rows 3-8. [196 sts]

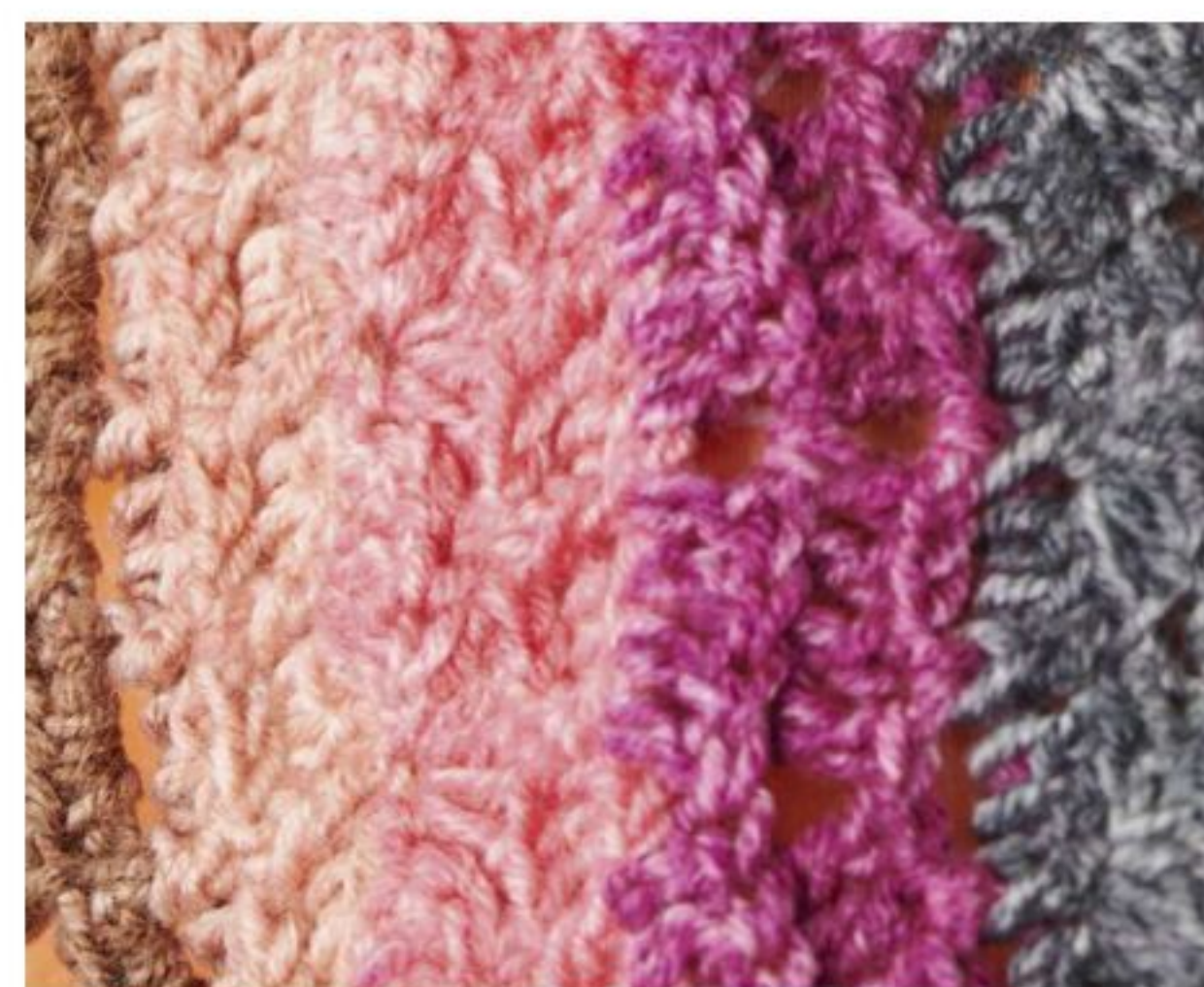
Rows 17-18 Repeat Rows 3-4.

Row 19 Repeat Row 3. [66 sts, 65 ch-2 sp]

Row 20 Ch1, dc in next st, (2dc in ch-sp, picot,



Trim with an edging of picots, each one made from three chain stitches, on the last row



Stripes are formed naturally from the softly variegated yarn, creating a unique look

dc in next st) across to final ch-sp, 2dc in ch-sp, dc in final st. [196 sts]

Fasten off.

With RS facing, rejoin yarn into opposite side of foundation ch.

Row 21 As Row 20.

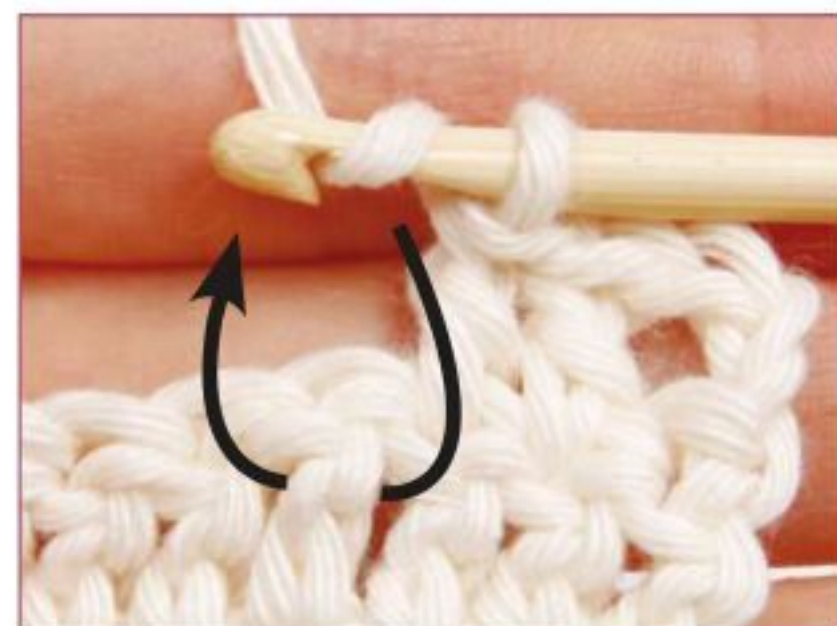
Do not fasten off.

TO FINISH

With WS facing, ss the two short edges of the cowl together to form the cowl shape. You can refer to the slip stitch seam tutorial on page 73.

Fasten off and weave in all ends.

SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO WORK A FRONT POST TREBLE STITCH



1 Identify the post of the stitch indicated. 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 stitch.



4 You'll see how the stitch is raised up, compared to the rest of the fabric.

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Arm candy

Elisabeth Davis de Herraiz's design is a fruity sweet treat for the eyes

EASY
MAKE!





YOU WILL NEED

- Scheepjes Catona (100% cotton, 50g/125m)
- 2 balls of Yarn E Shell (255)
- 1 ball of each:
 - Yarn A Watermelon (252)
 - Yarn B Peach (386)
 - Yarn C Sweet Orange (411)
 - Yarn D Cherry (413)
- Cotton fabric, 40x70cm
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- Tassel maker (or cardboard 20cm long)

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

TENSION

Rounds 1-4 of Square measures
8x8cm (3¼x3¼in)

MEASUREMENTS

Bag measures 32.5cmx32.5cm
(12¾x12¾in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 96

This is not just a bag for life, it has a zest for life as well, what with the fruit-inspired colours it's made of. Even the yarn names are making our mouths water!

NOTES

Bag is made up of 32 Square motifs. Block each motif to the measurements stated before joining them together.

BAG

SQUARE (MAKE 32)

Make 8 each in Yarns A, B, C and D.

Ch4, ss to last ch from hook to form ring.

Round 1 (RS) Ch4 (counts as tr, ch1 throughout), (tr in ring, ch1) 7 times, ss to third ch of beg-4 to join. [8 tr, 8 ch-1 sps]

Round 2 (RS) Ss to first ch-1 sp, ch4, tr in same ch-sp, ch1, (tr, ch 1, tr, ch1) in each ch-sp around, ss to third ch of beg ch-4. [16 tr, 16 ch-sps]

Round 3 Ss to first ch-1 sp, ch3 (counts as first tr throughout), tr in same ch-sp, ch1, (2tr, ch1) in each ch-sp around, ss to top of beg ch-3. [32 tr, 16 ch-sps]

Round 4 Ss into first ch-1 sp, ch3, 2tr in same sp, *ch1, skip next 2 tr, skip next ch-1 sp, 3tr in next tr, ch2, 3tr in next tr (corner made), ch1, skip next ch-1 sp, skip next 2 tr, 3tr in next ch-1 sp, ch1**, skip next 2 tr, 3tr in next ch-1 sp; rep from * 3 times more ending final rep at **, ss to top of beg ch-3. [48 tr, 4 ch-2 sps, 12 ch-1 sps]

Fasten off.

Join Yarn E in any corner.

Round 5 Ch1 (does not count as st), *3dc in corner, dc in each st and ch-sp across to next corner; rep from * 3 times more, ss to beg dc. [72 dc]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO MAKE UP

With WS facing and using Yarn E, ss the Squares



A row of four chunky tassels stitched along the base of the bag is the perfect flourish

together. They need to be joined in two 4x4 panels. You can use the image as a guide. Using the panel, cut out 2 squares from the fabric that measure the same as the bag plus a 1cm seam allowance.

Ss the 2 panels together in the same way along three edges, leaving the top edge open.

STRAP (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn E, ch55.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook and each ch across, turn. [54 sts]

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

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

Sew the Straps to the top of the Bag.

Sew the lining pieces together leaving the top open. Place inside the bag with the opening at the top. Fold the seam down and sew to the top edge of the Bag.

Using Yarn E, make four 10cm-long tassels and attach evenly along the base of the Bag.



Join the squares together using a slip stitch seam

THE DYE LOT



Rushlade Wool

NEW
SERIES

Meet an indie dyer and indulge in a design with their skeins



The Rushlade Wool Company is all about 100% British wool from Jess and Russ Steer's sheep on their small Devon farm. Their yarn journey began with selling raw wool to hand spinners before having their wool spun up in a mill in Cornwall. They started dyeing when the yarns arrived in 2018 and today every skein they sell is hand dyed by Jess in the farmhouse kitchen.

NATURE'S PALETTE

Rushlade Farm is nestled on the side of the Dartmoor National Park and the fields are rolling patchworks of pasture, hedgerows and meadows. As a result the farm is surrounded by an ever-changing range of colours and combinations in every season, which inevitably provides inspiration for Jess' dyeing. "For example we have a colour

way called Skyline [above, bottom left] which captures the deep browns and greys of the winter hedgerows as they glow in the sun. In the summer we pick up lots of colours from the meadow and garden flowers."

Most of the yarns are named after parts of the farm, from buildings, field names, flowers and streams.

SPRING IS HERE

Jess shares that her favourite yarn to date is "Crocus, especially in the Masham base as it has a wonderful shine and really allows the colours I add to pop. Yellow and purple is such a fabulous combination but I also encourage the dyes to merge and fade which means that you also get hints of pinks and oranges just as you do in nature, like the elements of a crocus flower."

Working with natural dyes is something that Jess is keen to experiment more with. "We are surrounded with an abundance of

natural wonders at the farm and it is such a shame to pass them by. All of our wool comes from our own sheep, loved and cared for here by us. We pride ourselves on our local production processes but the dye is our biggest import and we would really love to bring this home where possible."

UNIQUE AND BEST

None of Rushlade Wool's yarns will ever be true block colours but this is what Jess loves about them. She says, "The yarns are interesting to work with because the colours in front of you change from one end of the skein to the other. You constantly notice new character in the yarn and in the finished item. You'll never get bored of spotting a little colour blend and pattern in the dye on your garment that makes it yours."

www.rushladewool.co.uk

Instagram: @rushladewool

Facebook: therushladewoolcompany

Rushlade Wool
Masham DK
in Crocus



Dream weaver

Do you dream of yarn? Hook that thought and more within Emma Leith's decorative dream catcher

THE DYE LOT



YOU WILL NEED

- Rushlade Wool Masham DK (100% wool, 100g/170m)
1 skein of Crocus
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- 3 hoops, 10cm in diameter
- 1 hoop, 30cm in diameter
- 6 capiz shells (available: www.bit.ly/3cvmrbd)
- Assortment of wooden beads
- Tassel maker

For yarn stockists contact
www.rushladewool.co.uk

TENSION

Rounds 1-4 of Small Mandala
measures 8cm (3¼in) in diameter
Rounds 1-5 of Large Mandala
measures 10cm (4in) in diameter

MEASUREMENTS

Dream Catcher measures approx
65cm (25½in) long

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 96

Hang this dream catcher in your bedroom or chill-out space as a reminder to slow down your thoughts and let the daydreams in – it can do you a world of good in times of stress. Where will the colours take you?

NOTES

Dream Catcher is made up of 3 Small Mandalas and 1 Large Mandala. Each Mandala is worked in rounds and joined to the hoops on the final round. In the Mandala pattern, the final chain space is often made by working a stitch into the beg slip stitch. This allows you to begin the next round in the centre of the chain space rather than slip stitching to it at the beginning of the next round.

DREAM CATCHER

SMALL MANDALA (MAKE 3)

Make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch4 (counts as tr, ch1), (tr, ch1) 9 times in loop, ss to third ch of beg ch-4. [10 sts, 10 ch-1 sps]

Round 2 (RS) (Ch3, skip ch-1 sp, ss in next st) 9 times, ch1, htr in ss at base of beg ch-3 (ch1, htr counts as ch-3 sp). [10 ch-3 sps, 10 ss]

Round 3 (Ch5, ss in next ch-3 sp) 9 times, ch2, tr in base of beg ch-5 (ch2, tr counts as ch-5 sp). [10 ch-5 sps, 10 ss]

Round 4 (Ch7, ss in third ch of next ch-5 sp, ch3, ss in same ch as prev ss) 10 times.

Fasten off.

JOIN TO HOOP

Join yarn to small hoop with a ss.

Round 5 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), (5dc around loop, dc in ch-7 sp from Round 4) rep around until all ch-sps have been joined, ss to beg dc. [60 sts]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

LARGE MANDALA

Make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr), 11tr in loop, ss to top of beg ch-3. [12 sts]

Round 2 (RS) Ch2 (counts as dc, ch1), (dc, ch1) in each st around, ss to first ch of beg ch-2. [12 sts, 12 ch-1 sps]

Round 3 Ss in first ch-1 sp, (ch4, ss in next ch-1 sp) 11 times, ch2, tr in base of beg ch-4 (counts as ch-4 sp). [12 ch-4 sps]

Round 4 (Ch6, ss in next ch-4 sp) 11 times, ch3, tr in base of beg ch-3 (counts as ch-6 sp). [12 ch-6 sps]

Round 5 (Ch8, ss in next ch-6 sp) 11 times, ch4, dtr in base of beg ch-8 (counts as ch-8 sp). [12 ch-8 sps]

Round 6 (Ch10, ss in next ch-8 sp, ch3, ss in prev ss) 11 times, ch10, ss in base of beg ch-1, ch3, ss in same st.

Round 7 Ss to fifth ch of first ch-10 sp, (ch4, ss in same ch, ch11, ss in fifth ch of next ch-10 sp) 12 times. [12 ch-11 sps, 12 ch-4 sps]



Join the mandalas to the hoops on the final round by working double crochet stitches

Round 8 Ss to second ch of ch-4 sp, *2-tr cl in st at base of ch-4 sp, ch4, (2-tr cl, ch4, 2-tr cl) in sixth ch of ch-11 sp, ch4, ss in second ch of ch-4 sp; rep from * 11 times more, ss to top of beg cl. [36 cl, 36 ch-4 sps]

Round 9 *Ch5, skip ch-4 sp and next cl, (3-tr cl, ch6, 3-tr cl) in next ch-4 sp, ch5, skip cl and next ch-4 sp, FPdc around next cl; rep from * around working final FPdc in cl at base of beg ch-5. [24 cl, 12 ch-6 sps, 24 ch-5 sps, 12 FPdc]

Fasten off.

JOIN TO HOOP

Join yarn with a ss around 30cm hoop.

Round 10 Ch1, (15dc in hoop, dc in ch-6 sp from Round 9 to join) 12 times, ss to beg dc. [192 dc]

Fasten off.

HANGING LOOP

Join yarn in any st from Round 10, ch20, ss in next dc to form loop.

TO MAKE UP

Using a tassel maker or length of card, make 3 tassels approx 10cm long. We wrapped the yarn around 12 times when making our tassels. Cut a 40cm length of yarn and secure with a small stitch to a Small Mandala. Thread 3-4 wooden beads, 1 capiz shell, followed by 3-4 wooden beads. Secure the end of the yarn to one of the tassels. Cut a 25cm length of yarn and secure to the opposite side of the Small Mandala with a small stitch. Thread 3-4 wooden beads, 1 capiz shell, followed by 3-4 wooden beads. Secure the end of the yarn to the stitch opposite the Hanging Loop, at the base of the Large Mandala. Repeat for the remaining Small Mandalas, leaving 29 stitches on the Large Mandala between the Small Hanging Mandalas. Place one either side of the first Small Mandala joined.



HELP! MY DC DECREASES LEAVE A HOLE!

Brush up on your technique with our simple guide...

Learning how to work decreases opens up a whole new world of crochet possibilities. Decreasing is where you turn two (or more) stitches into one stitch, thereby decreasing the stitch count. You can use combinations of decreases to create all sorts of shapes, like triangles, to shaping within a fabric, like waist cinching. The standard double crochet decrease is the 'dc2tog' or '2dctog', which works well

for most fabrics. However, there are some projects where this method can leave you with a problem gap in the fabric, such as stuffed toys where the stuffing might become visible – in these cases, the invisible decrease is ideal. In this workshop, I'll explain three double crochet decrease methods – each one has pros and cons, so experiment to see what will work best for your preferred projects.

WHAT'S THE SIMPLEST DC DECREASE?

Here's the easiest way to shape your dc fabric...

If you're after a simple decrease method you can use at the start and end of your rows, try skipping stitches. It's so easy, many of us do it by accident! But it can be a quick way to create sloping fabric sides. Here's how:

Step 1 To decrease at the start of the row, make the ch1 turning chain for dc. Skip the first dc stitch at the base of the ch1.

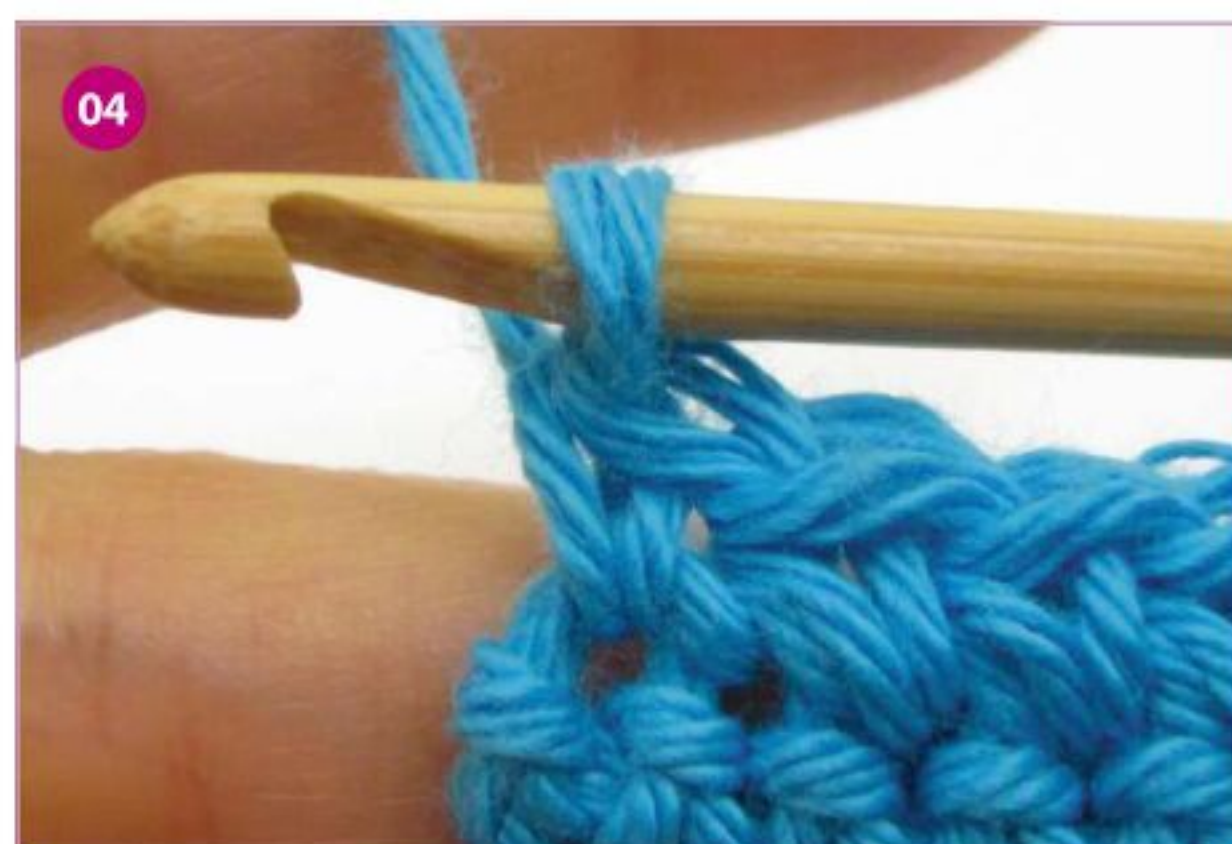
Step 2 Instead, make the first dc in the second dc on the row below, like this.

Step 3 To decrease at the end of the row, stop when you reach the last 2 dc of your row. Skip the first of these 2 dc.

Step 4 Make your last dc in the last dc on the row below, like this. The dc will naturally slope inwards slightly.

Step 5 If you combine these decreases at the start and end of each row, you will slope both sides inwards. These basic decreases create a bit of a gap, but that's less important at the start and end of the row.

Tip Repeat this decrease row evenly at the beginning and end of every row to create a regular triangle shape.



WHAT'S A DC2TOG?

Perfect this brilliant all-round decrease stitch...

The 'dc2tog' method is the standard decrease for a reason – it works well for most fabrics most of the time. You can use it at the start or end of a row, or anywhere in between. Here's how to do it:

Step 1 Work to where you want the dc2tog, over the next 2 dc.

Step 2 Insert your hook in the next dc, yrh and pull up a loop. Stop here.

Step 3 Now insert your hook in the next dc, yrh and pull up a loop.

Step 4 Finally, yrh and pull through all the loops on the hook to finish the dc2tog. There will be a loop of fabric emerging from each

2 dc, brought together into one at the top.

Step 5 Here's how the dc2tog looks among standard dc stitches. It looks the same, but all the strands of yarn involved create extra bulk and a larger gap between the dc2tog and the dc sts next to it. The difference is quite small and is usually not a problem.



WHAT'S AN INVISIBLE DECREASE?

Learn this clever decrease stitch...

To create a gap-free fabric for stuffed projects, the answer is the invisible decrease or 'inv dec', which you can use anywhere on your row. Here's how:

Step 1 Work to where you want your inv dec. You'll work it over the next 2 dc.

Step 2 Insert your hook under the front loop

only of the next dc, then under the front loop only of the second dc.

Step 3 Yrh and pull loop through both sts.

Step 4 Finally, yrh and pull through both loops on the hook to finish the inv dec. You will have made 1 dc that's emerging from the 2 front loops of the 2 dc below. These front

loop yarn strands have been pulled up to fill any potential gapping from the decrease.

Step 5 Here's how the inv dec looks among standard dc stitches. It doesn't look exactly the same, but it's very similar and the strands of yarn involved are spread out so there's no bulk of yarn and no gaps.



Let Becky solve your hooky conundrums!

Crochet Unravelled aims to deep dive into the techniques, tutorials and terminology that will make you a better hookster. Have you got a question you want Becky to unravel? Send it in to us at simplycrochet@immediate.co.uk

NEXT ISSUE

Don't miss the next workshop... I'll explain how to substitute yarns

Show us yours

JOIN OUR GANG OF TREBLE MAKERS AND SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS AND MAKES WITH US,
♥ FOR A CHANCE TO BE FEATURED HERE, USE OUR HASHTAG #SCTREBLEMAKER ♥



PUPPY LOVE

We are smitten with this darling yorkie. Thanks, Sarah Colvin, for sharing a picture of Yorkshire terrier puppy Mindy with *Simply Crochet*. Mindy is sporting a dog bandana from issue 96 – Sarah isn't sure if Mindy likes it yet, but she's been very gracious in letting you photograph her! [f](#)

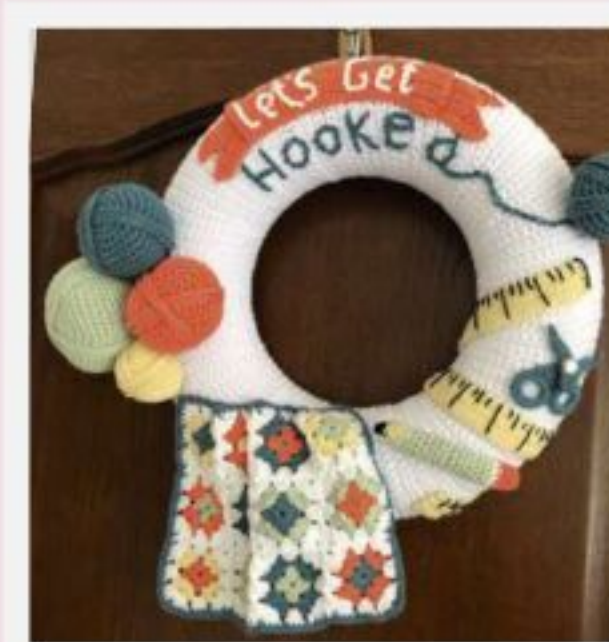
LIL' HELPER

▼ Here is the second monkey that Kate Rudd has made from *Simply Crochet* – this warmly-dressed one is from issue 102. She's hoping to sell it to raise money for her local hospital's breast cancer charity as she's done before with other animals she's made from the magazine. Thank you, Kate, for being one of the many crocheters using your skills for the benefit of others.



DOUBLE TAP ♥

We've been double tapping on Instagram and admiring your makes. Tag us @simplycrochetmag and use the hashtag #Sctreblemaker [ig](#)



HOOKSTER HERE

Elaine O'Sullivan aka @elaines_craft_room is letting everyone know she means business when it comes to crochet, by making this wreath from issue 96.



GO FOR THE TREBLE

Since Toffee the dog joined her family crocheting has been the easiest craft for Jo Gee aka @cobblers crafts to do, so she's made issue 90's chunky jumper.



KIDDIE CARDY

Kayleigh Wright aka @daisylilycrochet is pleased with her first attempt at making something that needs to fit – issue 106's kids' hoodie. Love the sunset stripes!



BOOK SMARTS

Issue 107's shelf bunting is decorating the room of Danielle Bentley-Gellett aka @TheWoollyKid's son. We agree it looks very effective and hope he enjoys his story time.



STAR OF THE STASH

This version of the star yoke jumper from issue 103 caught our eye, with a striking combination of cream, teal and navy. Crocheter Kerrie Slavin used three colours so she could make it with her stash yarn. She didn't anticipate having to improvise the sleeves, but repeating the yoke pattern round the cuffs looks stunning. [f](#)

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 by 28 April 2021.

For all terms and conditions, and more information, visit www.gathered.how/simplycrochetcomps

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A REALLY CUSHY JOB

Emily Howley aka @crochethowley loved how quick this floor cushion from issue 107 was to work up. She added a few extra rows for height and so she could squeeze in two cushion inserts rather than just one. Emily plans to use it in the garden as the weather gets warmer, and it's a great idea for picnics planned too. 📷

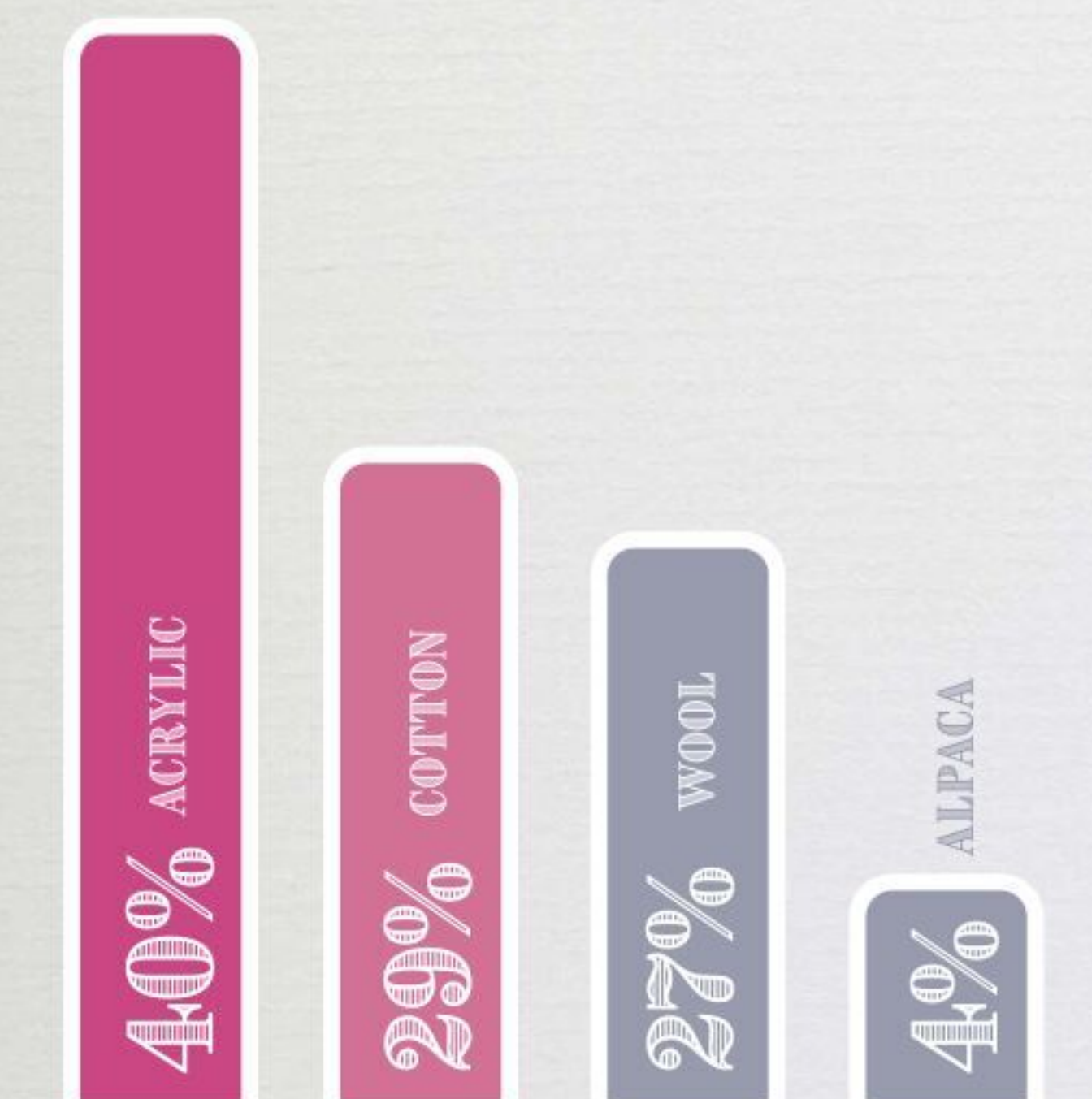
CUTE KISSY FISHIES

Here's a animal-friendly way to catch fish or two on your hook. Anna Dobbie aka @feltcutecrafting has made the star sign Pisces from issue 104's Zodiac Calendar. The pink and blue fish make a pretty pair – we hope they bring fin-tastic predictions and 2021 goes swimmingly. 📷



This month we asked you...

What is your favourite fibre to use?



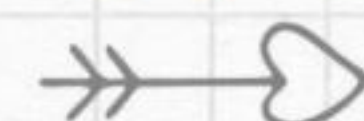
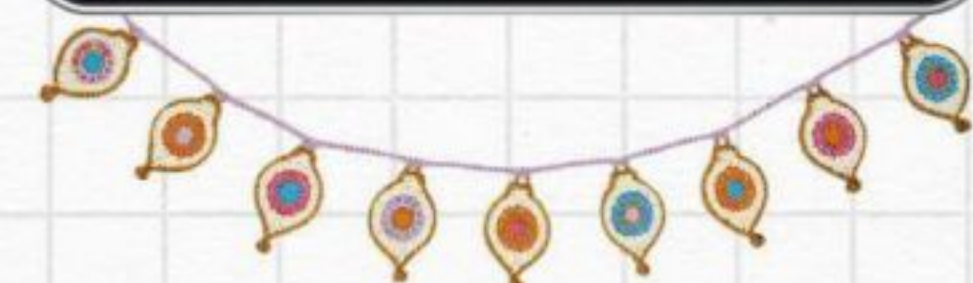
Simply Crochet SCTREBLEMAKERS

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 recommendations and advice, and generally talk about how much you love *Simply Crochet* magazine. With over 4.9K members, it's a bustling crochet forum full of friendly fellow hooksters. We look forward to chatting with you on there!

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- Tweet us @SimplyCrochet_ twitter.com/SimplyCrochet_
- Add to our Finished Projects board ravelry.com/groups/simply-crochet
- Use the hashtag #SCTreblemaker instagram.com/simplycrochetmag
- Email us at: simplycrochet@immediate.co.uk



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FREE TRIAL*

New season yarns

Add springtime cheer to your projects with these six fab picks

FLOWER MOTIF

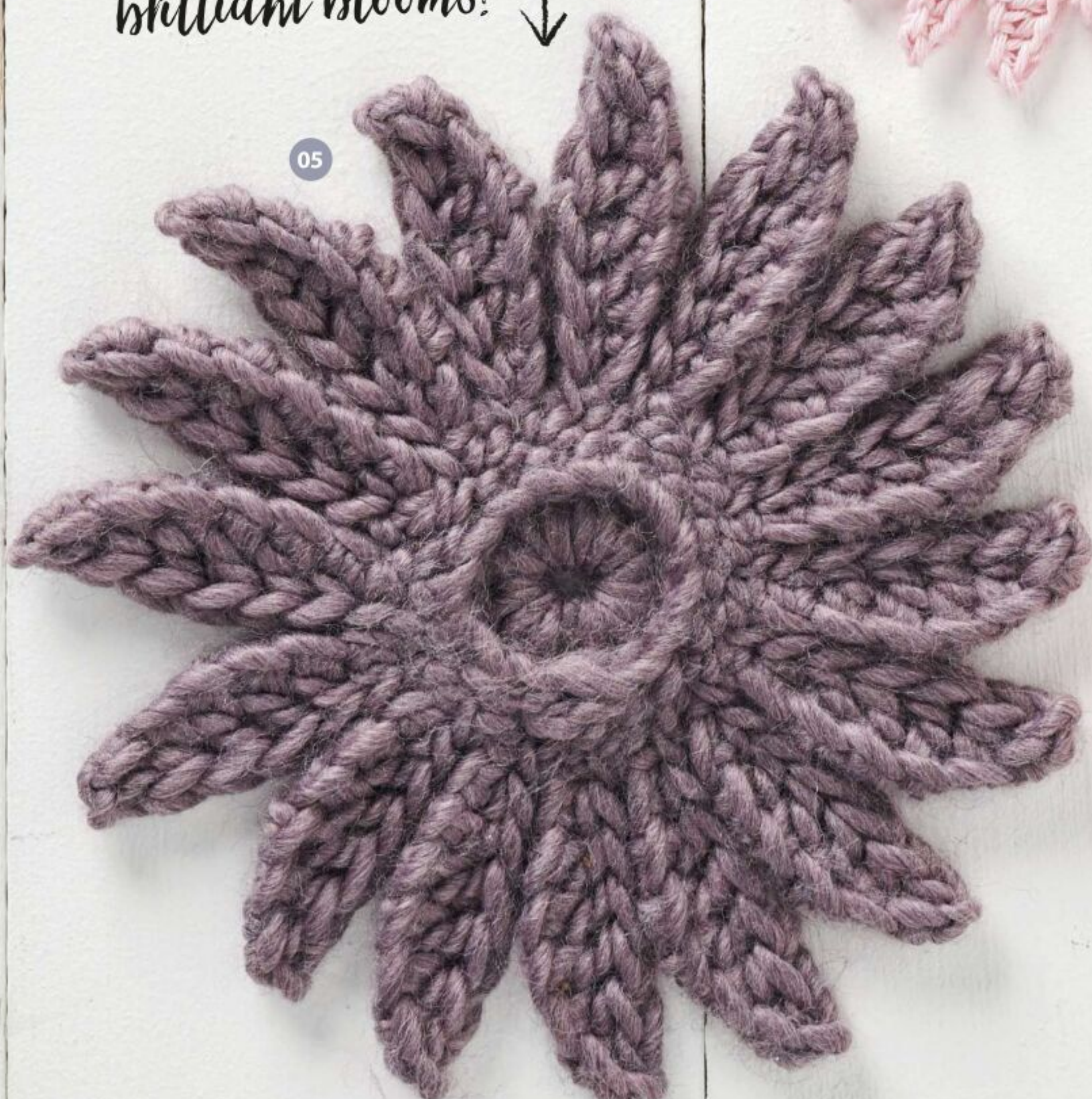
Ch4 and ss in first ch to make a ring.

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

Fasten off.

ROUND 2 (RS) Ss around post of any tr from Round 1 (taking hook from back to front to back), *ch8, dc in second ch from hook, htr, tr in next 3 ch, htr, dc, BPss around next tr; rep from * 15 times more.

FASTEN OFF and weave in ends.



Say hello to
spring with
brilliant blooms!

NOVITA WOOLLY WOOD

WEIGHT DK
CONTENT 70% Tencel Modal,
 30% Merino wool
BALL 100g/225m
HOOK 4mm
RRP £7.50



01

This new yarn from Novita has sustainability at its heart, and is a really interesting yarn to crochet with. Its main fibre is Tencel Modal, which is made from wood fibre – specifically, beech – and has gone through an environmentally-friendly pulp-to-fibre process. The yarn

is strong and hard-wearing, with a nice cabled structure. It has a rustic feel on the hands as you work with it, but this translates into a soft fabric. Available in 10 colours, it's machine washable at 40°C – and a bonus is that it's 100% biodegradable.
www.novitaknits.com/en

SIRDAR SNUGGLY CASHMERE MERINO SILK

WEIGHT 4ply
CONTENT 75% Merino wool,
 20% silk, 5% cashmere
BALL 50g/170m
HOOK 3mm
RRP £5.95



02

One look at the fibre content of this yarn and you know it's going to be super-soft. This luxurious blend of cashmere, silk and Merino wool will be a sure-fire hit if you're using it for hooking up some special gifts. Considering that the silk and cashmere elements make up

a quarter of the content, those fibres really stand out, making this an ideal yarn for garments. It's got a tight springy twist and that silkiness means you'll glide through your stitches. There are eight delicate shades and it's machine washable at 30°C.
www.sirdar.com

STYLECRAFT NATURALS ORGANIC COTTON

WEIGHT DK
CONTENT 100% cotton
BALL 50g/105m
HOOK 4mm
RRP £2.50



03

The new addition to Stylecraft's Naturals range is this lovely organic cotton, which is vegan-friendly and comes in 38 colours, including bold shades and complementary variants. It's a hard-wearing, sturdy cotton yarn that feels like it'll last the test of time. You'll get

really crisp, well-defined stitches, so it's a perfect yarn for cabling and textured stitch patterns where the stitches are the star of the show. It's machine washable at 30°C, can be ironed on a cool setting, tumble dried and dry cleaned.
www.stylecraft-yarns.co.uk

PAINTBOX COTTON 4PLY

WEIGHT 4ply
CONTENT 100% cotton
BALL 50g/170m
HOOK 3mm
RRP £2.75



04

When it comes to quality yarns at a bargain price, it's pretty difficult to beat Paintbox Yarns, and their Cotton 4ply is no exception. It's got everything that you could want in a cotton 4ply yarn: a nice sturdy feeling, a perfect twist that's not too tight but not too loose, and

a pleasing lightweight feel for a 100% cotton yarn. Being from Paintbox, colours are key, and this range comes in 25 fabulous shades of subtle pastels and bold primaries. It's machine washable at 40°C and can be ironed on a warm setting.
www.paintboxyarns.com

DEBBIE BLISS MERION

WEIGHT Chunky
CONTENT 50% wool, 50% acrylic
BALL 100g/100m
HOOK 8mm
RRP £8



05

We love yarn of all shapes and sizes, but we do particularly enjoy a big and chunky yarn! Debbie Bliss' Merion is a super squidgy yarn that's great for big stitches. The twist is incredibly minimal, almost to the point of being quite close to a roving yarn, and despite the 50/50

blend of wool and acrylic, it's got such a natural feel and a big fluffy halo that you'll be surprised that there's any acrylic in there at all. It's available in 12 natural and subtle shades, is machine washable at 30°C and can be ironed on a cool setting.
www.debbieblissonline.com

CYGNET LITTLE ONES A-Z DK

WEIGHT DK
CONTENT 100% acrylic
BALL 25g/66m
HOOK 3.5mm
RRP 85p



06

If you're watching the pennies at the moment, but still want to hook up some colourful crochet, then this new DK yarn from Cygnet is a great choice. With the low price tag of just 85p a ball, it's ideal for small projects or when you want lots of colour changes (we're thinking: granny

squares). It feels pretty strong with an even twist and weight, and feels smooth as you work with it. Plus, the colours are fantastic – there are 26 shades, including some really bright (and even neon) tones. This yarn is machine washable at 40°C.
www.cygnetyarns.com

NEXT ISSUE



SIX GREAT MAKES TO
BUST YOUR STASH

BEAUTIFUL MOTIF
CARDIGAN

BRETON-STYLE
JUMPER FOR HIM

PERFECT SUMMER
SHAWL

LOVELY BLOSSOM
BLANKET

CUDDLY SLEEPING
LAMB AMIGURUMI

HAPPY RAINBOW
BABYGRO



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**PETER RABBIT & FRIENDS
PATTERN BOOK 2**

*Four more
characters to hook* 



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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.

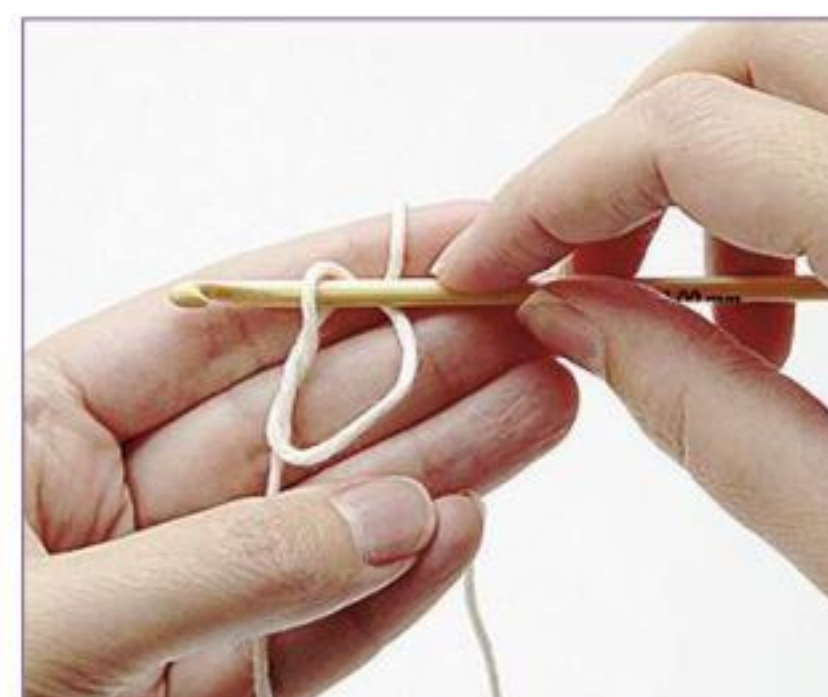
MAKING A SLIPKNOT The first loop on the hook



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.

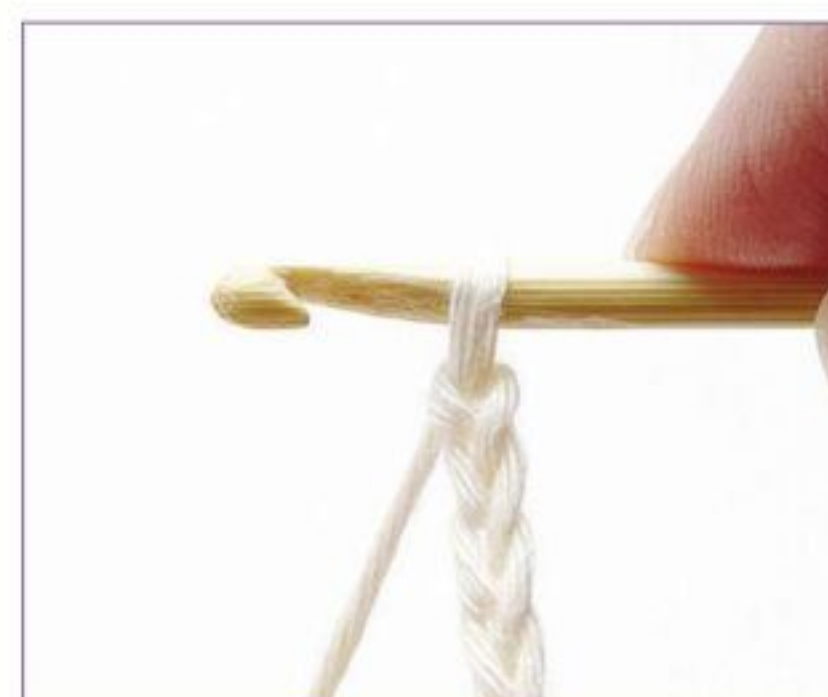
CHAIN STITCH Use this stitch to make your foundation chain



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



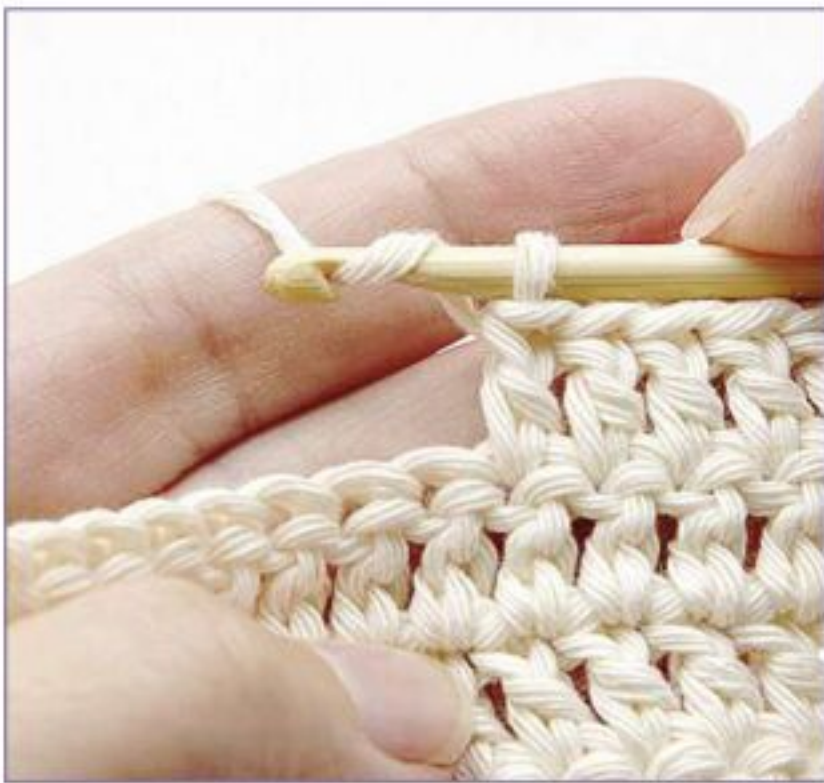
3 Pull the yarn through the stitch only (3 loops on hook).



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 2 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 2 loops of the second 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 second 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.

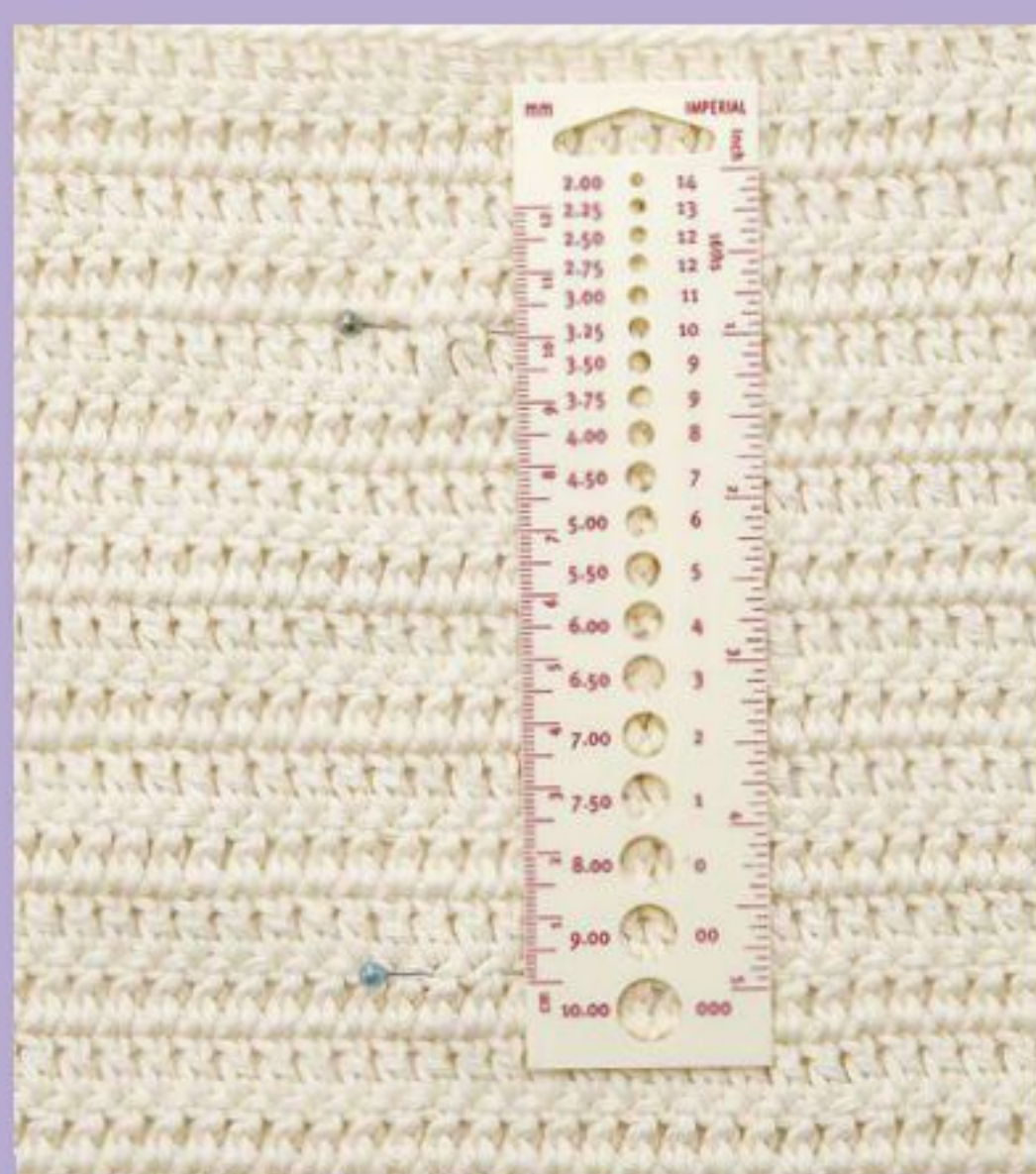


4 A useful variation on the dc seam, the dc and chain seam is used when less bulk and/or greater flexibility is needed. Work 1 double crochet and 1 chain alternately.

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



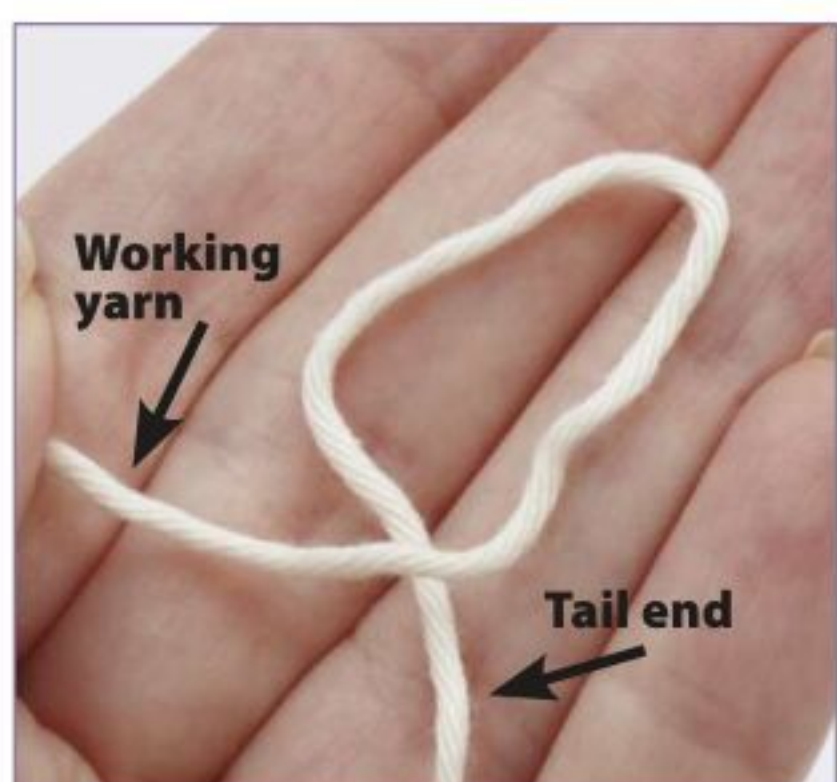
1 Make a foundation ring and work the t-ch (3ch for treble sts). Work a treble st as usual, but insert hook into centre of ring. For treble sts, yrh, insert hook into ring.



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, 2 yarn strands).



4 Once you've worked the first round of stitches, 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.

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		the same stitch
	back loop only	inc	increase
BP	Back Post:	LH	left hand
	work st indicated,	lp(s)	loop(s)
	inserting hook around	meas	measures
	post of st from back to	patt(s)	pattern(s)
	front to back and not	pm	place marker
	in top of st	prev	previous
ch(s)	chain/chain stitch(es)	qtr	quadruple treble
ch-sp(s)	chain space(s)	rem	remain(s)/remaining
ch-	refers to ch made	rep	repeat
	previously, eg. ch-3	RH	right hand
cl(s)	clusters	rnd(s)	round(s)
tr cl	(yrh, insert hook in sp/ st, yrh & pull up loop, yrh & draw through 2 loops) number of times indicated, yrh & draw through all loops on hook	RS	right side
		sk	skip
cont	continue	sp(s)	space(s)
dc	double crochet	ss	slip stitch
dc2tog	(insert hook in next st, yrh & draw a loop through) twice, yrh & draw through all 3 loops on hook	st(s)	stitch(es)
		t-ch(s)	turning chain(s)
dec	decrease	tog	together
dtr	double treble crochet	tr	treble crochet
dtr2tog	work 2dtr together	tr2tog	(yrh, insert hook in next st, yrh & pull up loop, yrh a& draw through 2 loops) twice, yrh & draw through all loops on hook
fdc	foundation dc		
ftr	foundation tr	ttr	triple treble crochet
fl	insert hook under	WS	wrong side
	front loop only	yrh	yarn round hook
foll/folls	following/follows	*	work instructions immediately foll *, then rep as many more times as directed
FP	Front Post: As BP, inserting hook around post from front to back to front	()	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 ends 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

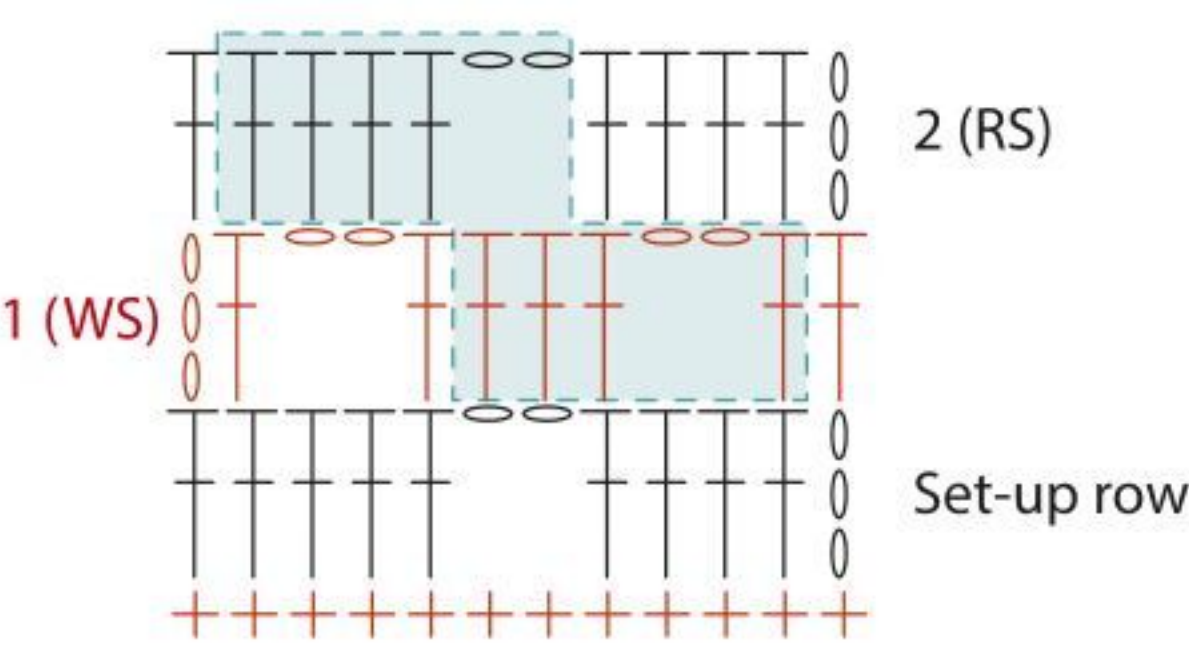
Follow this chart when making the tank top

Tank top, page 26

Key

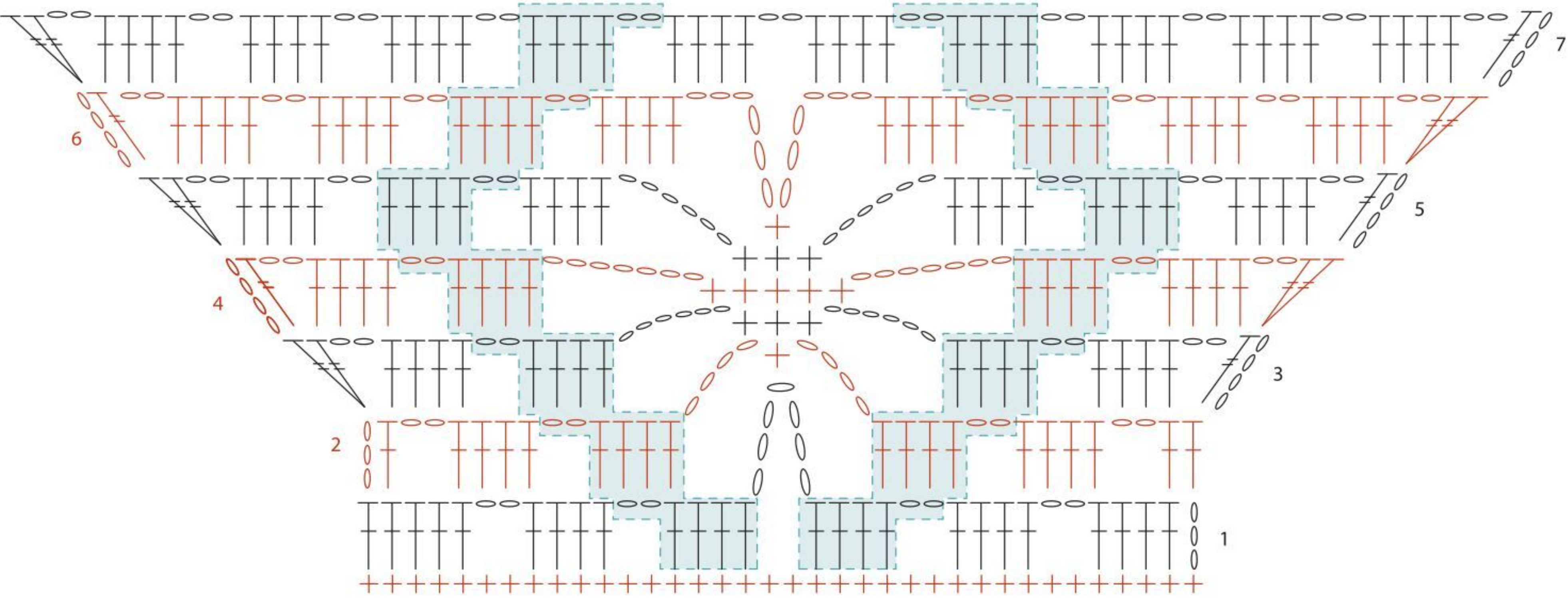
- Chain
- + Double crochet
- ⊥ Treble crochet
- ⊥ Double treble crochet
- ⊥ 2 Double treble crochet
- Repeat

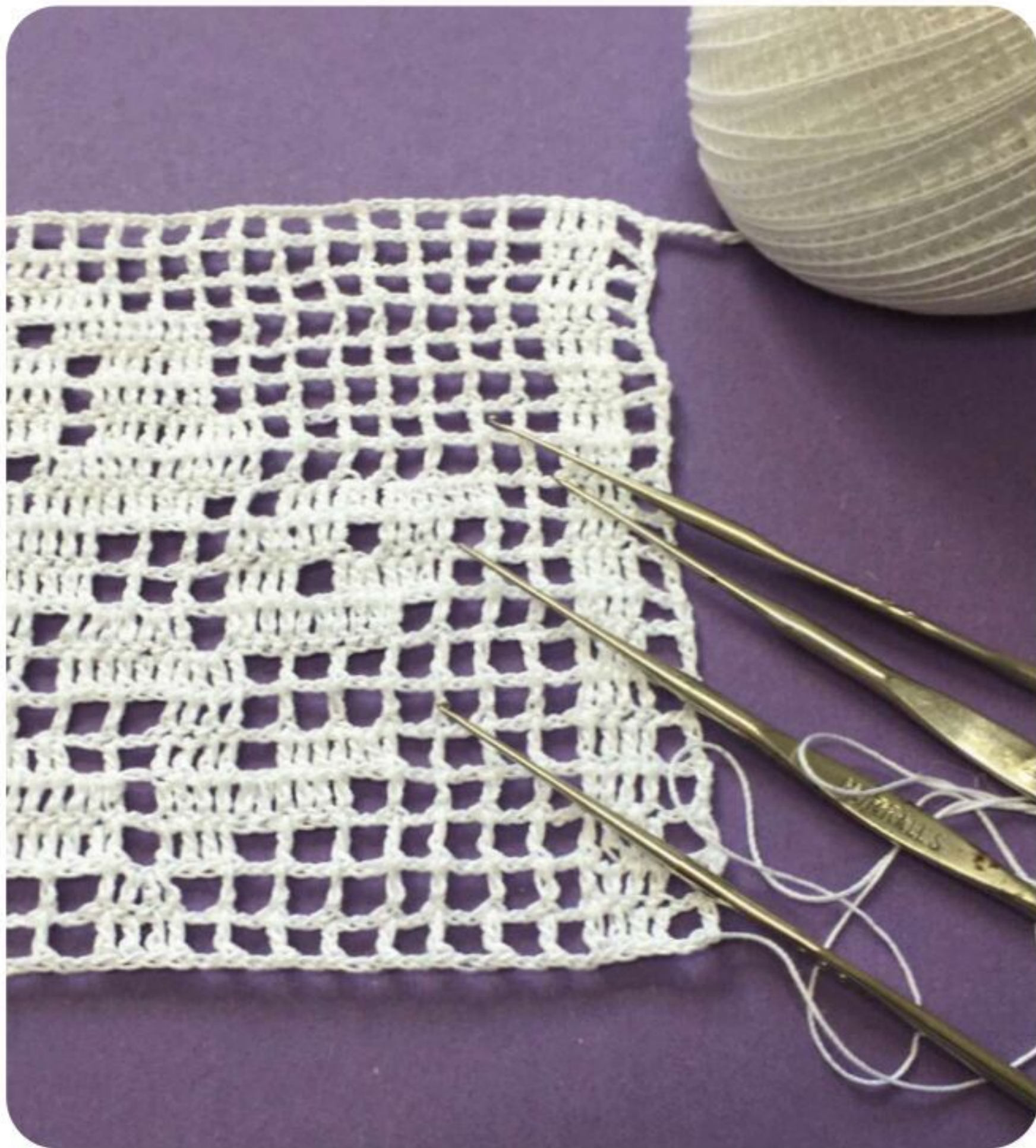
Filet chart



Diamond chart

Work each highlighted section 3 (4: 4: 5: 5: 6) times per row





Following hook-steps

A family of crafters has given Val Pierce a lifelong passion and many crochet treasures to cherish

Grandmother, Aunties and Mother were incredibly talented in many areas of needlework so crafting is obviously in my blood. My mother made amazing wedding dresses and both my aunties knitted and crocheted clothes and homewares for their families.

It was inevitable that there was every chance I would follow in their footsteps and become a crafter myself. Taught to knit by my dad at age five, knitting became my first passion, but I always wanted to learn to crochet. Sadly, my grandmother had passed away before that time so I had to teach myself.

It wasn't easy to begin with, since there were no video tutorials, computers or smart phones around then. I really struggled to get edges straight and an even tension on my work. I gave up quite a few times but in the end it was just sheer determination and patience that won the day.

I inherited many patterns, needles and crochet hooks along the way, passed on to me by my family and friends. That started my interest in collecting old patterns, books and tiny crochet hooks. I now have a

huge collection of literally hundreds of crochet items dating back well over 80 years.

My grandmother used to crochet intricate lace using fine cotton thread and the tiniest hooks you can imagine, which she then sewed onto pillow cases as edgings, around table linen and even onto christening dresses which she had made.

Among some of my most favourite treasures are some of her tiny steel hooks which fit neatly into little cases, along with her copies of *The Needlewoman* magazine from the early 1940s. I have used the hooks to make delicate items, such as this filet crochet insertion that my grandma used to stitch into her table cloths. Very fine cotton and little hooks were needed to crochet this type of decoration.

How wonderful it would have been if my mother, grandmother and aunties had all lived long enough to know that I had become an author and crochet designer with over 17 published books and numerous designs to my name!

Find Val's patterns at www.crossedneedles.co.uk and on Facebook at [crossedneedles](https://www.facebook.com/crossedneedles)

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Colourful bedroom makes, spring top, easy poncho, ami' Queen, baby blanket, alpaca shawl, floor cushion.



ISSUE 106

Textured winter accessories, coatigan, striped scarf, ami' seal, boho blanket, kids' hoodie, chevron bag.



ISSUE 105

Zen collection, motif jumper, ami' Rosa Parks, eye cushion, beaded purse, weather jumper.



ISSUE 104

Last-minute makes, plaid cardigan, ami' sprouts, bouclé accessories set, tiger hat, Zodiac calendar.



ISSUE 103

Christmas collection, starry jumper, ami' mice, baby grow, zigzag cardigan, mosaic cushion, stripy socks.



ISSUE 102

Two-tone collection, motif jumper, ami' monkey, colourwork cardigan, joy cushion, pocket wrap, blanket.



ISSUE 101

Desk buddies, toy clown, bishop-sleeved cardigan, octagon blanket, cable mitts, bobble cushion.



ISSUE 100

Boho home, loop stitch jacket, ami' octopus, mesh tote, child's jumper, granny blanket, wallhanging.



ISSUE 99

Garden party makes, heart blanket, ami' panda, maxi cardigan, cactus tote, butterfly keyring, geo cushion.



ISSUE 98

Botanical brights, sunset shawl, ami' crab, diamond swancho, child's rainbow tunic, watermelon toy.



ISSUE 97

Cool blue accessories, boho cardigan, ami' mermaid, lacy shawl, lobster cushion, baby T-shirt, daisy bouquet.



ISSUE 96

Craft room collection, spring cardigan, guinea pig toy, baby blanket, floor cushion, sunny grey shawl.



ISSUE 95

Mosaic collection, ami' Peter Rabbit and friends, hexagon blanket, cow neck jumper, hooded scarf, baby jacket.

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