

INSIDE Crochet

www.insidecrochet.co.uk

**Kids
SPECIAL**

FUN MAKES
FOR LITTLE
FOLK, PLUS...

★ **WIN!**

the chance to have
YOUR DESIGNS
featured in **Crochet**

★ **SUMPTUOUS**
spring fashions

★ **INTERVIEW**
with IC favourite
**LINDA
PERMANN**

12
Original
Patterns
INSIDE

Beginners'
instructions
included!

LEONARD THE LION

by Maggie Vassie page 6

CROCHET
WITH **WIRE**

Tips & inspiration
for working with this
unusual material

**JADE
WRAP
CARDIGAN**

**COOL BABY
SNEAKERS!**

GO WILD!

FOR OUR CUTE
AMIGURUMI LION



Welcome

to issue 16 of **Inside Crochet** magazine!

After what seemed like an eternal winter, **spring** has finally **sprung**! It's the time of year for **birth** and **regeneration** and with that in mind, we have a layette of patterns for the **new baby** in your life. I don't know about you but everywhere I look at the moment there are bonnie newborns – well, this issue is packed with **adorable makes** for little folk, whether it's your own or someone else's.

We've also got some **fabulous** adult pieces for **warmer weather**, such as Lesley Arnold-Hopkins' stylish Jade Wrap Cardigan, pictured right, which can be found on p18, and a very cute and **easy-to-wear** short-sleeved sweater by regular designer Shannon Mullett-Bowlsby (p44).

If you're looking for something new and exciting to work with, head for p50, where we have a fascinating article about **working with wire**. New contributor Gwen Blakley Kinsler highlights some of the designers who are utilising this **unusual medium** in some really exciting new ways. Happy crocheting!

Clare x



FAST
Quick baby hat (p94).



CUTE
Leonard the Lion's a big softie really (p6).



STYLISH
Crochet a cool wrap cardigan for the first days of warmer weather (p18).

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There's nothing scary about this little king of the jungle – he's adorable!

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The prolific American designer tells us about her life, loves and inspirations.

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An in-depth look at this unusual crochet method.

72 Competition
Design your very own towel and you could have it featured in Inside Crochet!

Featured contributors

HELEN FREE

Heleen was taught to crochet by her dad when she was little. She loved making things up – a taste of her designs to come!

KRISTEN HEIN STROHM

Wild Bird Song Designs founder Kristen's reluctance to walk as a toddler foreshadowed her later career as a wildlife biologist – crawling kept her closer to all the cool bugs!

ISABEL BUXTON

The Last Word scribe Isabel was a creative child – if there was mess to be made, she was there! Her gran taught her to knit aged eight, and she's been a confirmed yamie ever since.



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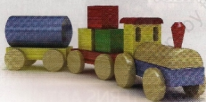
HEARTS BABY CARDI

PATTERNS



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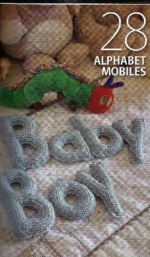


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One of Inside Crochet's favourite
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this most unusual of materials.

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Difficulty: 2 Intermediate

Skills used

- Adjustable loop
- Back loop only
- Increasing & decreasing

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

23cm/9in tall

YARNS USED

Rowan Handknit Cotton
• 50g/85m/93yd • WPI 15

MC: Yellow (336); CC: Orange (337)

YARN REVIEW

Maggie says: "This is a good, strong cotton that will stand up to all the love your little ones can give!"

YARN ALTERNATIVES

Save • Sirdar Toytime

Spend • Rico Baby Classic

Splurge • Artesano Superwash Merino

TENSION

Work 6 rows and 5 sts in dc to measure 2.5x2.5cm or 1x1in

NOTIONS

- 3mm hook
- Stitch marker
- 10mm safety eyes
- Stuffing
- Yellow felt (for muzzle)
- Orange embroidery floss
- Needle and thread
- Tapestry needle

PATTERN NOTES

Leonard is worked in a continuous spiral with no turning chains.

Use a stitch marker to mark the beginning of each round and move up every round.

Hide the adjustable ring yarn tails in the body sections before stuffing.

Work tightly so that the stuffing doesn't escape between the stitches.

Designer biography

Maggie has been crocheting for eight years and is passionate about designing amigurumi toys. Her website, www.a-crochet-ninja.blogspot.com, features many of her free patterns and is a great read for anyone who loves crocheting little lovelies!

LEONARD the lion

■ MAGGIE VASSIE

"inspired by the popular Japanese amigurumi style, Leonard's chubby body and undersized limbs make him irresistibly cute and incredibly loveable!"



SPECIAL ABBREVIATIONS

Inc (increase): Work 2dc in specified st.

Dec (decrease): Dc2tog.

HEAD

Using MC, make an adjustable ring and sl st to secure.

Rnd 1: 6dc in ring.

Rnd 2: Inc in every st around. Pull tail to tighten. (12 dc)

Rnd 3: *1dc, inc in next st, rep from * to end. (18 dc)

Rnd 4: *2dc, inc in next st, rep from * to end. (24 dc)

Rnd 5: *3dc, inc in next st, rep from * to end. (30 dc)

Rnd 6: *4dc, inc in next st, rep from * to end. (36 dc)

Rnds 7-13: Dc. (36 dc)

Rnd 14: *4dc, 1dec, rep from * to end. (30 dc)

Rnd 15: Dc.

Rnd 16: *3dc, 1dec, rep from * to end. (24 dc)

Rnd 17: *2dc, 1dec, rep from * to end.

(18 dc)

Attach eyes between rows 12 and 13. Prepare and embroider felt with embroidery floss for the nose and sew in place.

Rnd 18: *1dc, 1dec, rep from * to end. (12 dc)

Fill head with Fiberfill/stuffing.

Rnd 19: Dec to end. (6 dc)

Cut yarn, thread yarn tail through remaining sts and pull closed.

EARS (MAKE 2)

Using MC, make an adjustable ring and sl st to secure.

Row 1: 4dc in ring, turn. (4 dc)

Row 2: 1ch, inc in every st, turn. Pull tail to tighten. (8 dc)

Rnd 3: 1ch, dc in every st. (8 dc)

Fasten off, leaving a yarn tail for attaching to head.

MANE

Using CC, make an adjustable ring and sl st to secure. Work in back loops only as



Leonard the lion



This **cheerful** little chap will make the **perfect playmate** for your child – why not get **creative** and crochet the whole **zoo**?



top tip

Leonard can be hand-washed, so don't worry about grubby fingers!

follows:

- Rnd 1:** 6dc(blo) in ring.
Rnd 2: inc(blo) in every st around. Pull tail to tighten. (12 dc)
Rnd 3: *1dc(blo), inc(blo) in next, rep from * to end. (18 dc)
Rnd 4: *2dc(blo), inc(blo) in next, rep from * to end. (24 dc)
Rnd 5: *3dc(blo), inc(blo) in next, rep from * to end. (30 dc)
Rnd 6: *4dc(blo), inc(blo) in next, rep from * to end. (36 dc)
Rnds 7-10: Dc(blo) across, sl st to first dc.
Rnd 11: *5ch, sl st(flo) in next st, rep from * around, working in all the front loops

in a spiral until you reach the centre/adjustable loop.

BODY

Using MC, make an adjustable ring and sl st to secure.

- Rnd 1:** 6dc in ring.
Rnd 2: Dc in every st around. Pull tail to tighten. (12 dc)
Rnd 3: *1dc, inc in next, rep from * to end. (18 dc)
Rnd 4: *2dc, inc in next, rep from * to end. (24 dc)
Rnd 5: *3dc, inc in next, rep from * to end. (30 dc)
Rnd 6: *4dc, inc in next, rep from * to end. (36 dc)
Rnds 7-13: Dc.
Rnd 14: *4dc, 1dec, rep from * to end.



(30 dc)

Rnd 15: Dc.

Rnd 16: *3dc, 1dec, rep from * to end. (24 dc)

Rnd 17: Dc.

Rnd 18: *2dc, 1dec, rep from * to end. (18 dc)

Fasten off, leaving a long yarn tail.

Stuff body and attach to head using yarn tail.

Sew mane to head.

Sew ears behind the first row of 5ch, parallel with the eyes.

ARMS AND LEGS (MAKE 4)

Using MC, make an adjustable ring and sl st to secure.

- Rnd 1:** 4dc in ring. (4 dc)
Rnd 2: Inc in every st. Pull yarn tail to tighten. (8 dc)
Rnds 3-7: Dc. (8 dc)
 Fasten off, leaving a long yarn tail.
 Stuff the legs, but leave the arms unstuffed so that they'll lie flat against the body.

TAIL

Using CC, ch11.

Dc in first ch from hook, sl st in each ch. Fasten off, leaving a long yarn tail.

FINISHING

Position arms, legs and tail as desired. Sew in place using yarn tails.

Weave in any remaining ends.





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BEST BOOKS

Add our pick of the month's books to your shelf.



LATEST NEWS

New websites, shops and accessories to try.

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YARNS WE LOVE

Try out these great yarn alternatives for the Ujima Hat pattern on p94.



INSIDE
Crochet

LOVES...

We introduce you to some of our **favourite things** this month, including the latest news, yarns, books, notions, websites and more!



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THINGS WE LOVE

We've got lots of fantastic crochet goodies to show you this month!

p16

READER PROJECTS

We take a look at what *Inside Crochet* projects you've been getting your hooks into!



news WE love

Our round-up of the best crochet-related news, websites and other goings on this month. **BY ISABEL BUXTON AND ALIX STEVENS**

SHE'S A FASHION DESIGNER – BUT NOT AS WE KNOW IT!

Innovative crochet artist Sandra Backlund launches new website.

Here at *Inside Crochet*, we've always been fascinated by the work of Swedish designer Sandra Backlund – and now she has a brand-new website.

Breaking down barriers between art, craft and fashion, Sandra's clothing designs are stunning in their originality. In her Spring/Summer 2011 collection, she mixed openwork crochet, lightweight knitting and modern metal yarns to create designs that transformed and highlighted the contours of the human body.

Her new website, www.sandrabacklund.com, is a fantastic showcase of what can be done with yarn. Among the most interesting designs in her new collections are pieces made in a metal-coated linen fabric and in copper yarn. They might not be the most wearable of designs but if you're interested in the sculptural potential of the humble hook, this website is certainly well worth a visit.

Find out more about Sandra's work at www.sandrabacklund.com

SANDRA BACKLUND

DRESS
PHOTO: TRINITY CLEVELAND / JOURNALISM
STYLING: HANNA STRELL / LUNA RETAIL
HAIR: JULIA ANDERSSON / JETTED
MAKE UP: HANNA DE TROEN / JULIA RETAIL

SHIRT
PHOTO: TRINITY CLEVELAND / JOURNALISM
STYLING: HANNA STRELL / LUNA RETAIL
HAIR: JULIA ANDERSSON / JETTED
MAKE UP: HANNA DE TROEN / JULIA RETAIL

SCULPTURE
PHOTO: TRINITY CLEVELAND / JOURNALISM
STYLING: HANNA STRELL / LUNA RETAIL
HAIR: JULIA ANDERSSON / JETTED
MAKE UP: HANNA DE TROEN / JULIA RETAIL

Are Sandra Backlund's creations crochet genius or woolly madness? We'll leave it up to you to decide if you love them or not!

MAKE IT GLASGOW

Crafty workshops in Scotland's second city.

From glitzy cushion covers to chic fascinators, **Make It Glasgow's** Spring 2011 workshops have something to suit everyone. With expert tuition in a wide range of creative pursuits, you'll become a more advanced crafter in no time!

There's great news for Glaswegian crocheters this year – **Make It Glasgow** are now including crochet in their 2011 workshop schedule, so why not head down and meet some new friends or improve your technical skills? If you fancy some stitching time, the ever-popular **Make A Tote Bag** and **Make A Sock Monkey** workshops make a welcome return in 2011. If you're totally new to the world of non-crochet crafting, there's also **Learn To Sew**, a six-week sewing-techniques course, which will teach you loads of useful skills, including how to create seams, attach zips and much more! Even if your first love is crochet, you're bound to pick up some invaluable garment finishing techniques here. Venue hire is also available for craft fairs, craft workshops, educational programmes and other events.

For more information or to book your place on a workshop, visit www.makeitglasgow.co.uk





CROCHET FOR A GOOD CAUSE

How your crocheted squares can bring comfort to the elderly.

You may remember that we featured a charitable group called Sunshine International Blankets of Love (SIBOL) way back in our June 2009 issue – well, they're asking for crocheters' help once again!

SIBOL's aim is to create as many handmade blankets – or 'sunshine blankets' – as possible and send them out to nursing homes across the UK, for use by the elderly. To this end, founder Sue Twins is looking for people to donate knitted, crocheted and sewn squares, which she can fashion together to make blankets. To date, she's received more than 1,200 squares from as far afield as Australia and the United States, enabling her to make 48 'sunshine blankets'. But she wants to create many more!

Sue says, "Not only are we helping the elderly in the UK, but we're also having great fun as a crocheting and knitting group!" So why not pick up the hooks today and do your bit to raise a smile from an elderly person?

Visit www.sunshineinternationalblanketsoflove.blogspot.com



A **handmade** blanket will help to bring **love** and **warmth**.



QUINCE&CO YARNS REACH THE UK!

Loop in London to stock the US brand's full range.

After a long wait, US brand Quince&co's full range of yarns is finally available in the UK.

Loop in London are the first store in Europe to stock the range, which includes delicate lace weights, practical 4plys and fabulous chunky aran, all with excellent pattern support. Quince&co spin their own yarns at a reclaimed spinning mill in Maine, so you know that these threads are made with great care and a lot of love!

Visit Loop online at www.loopknitting.com or call them on 020 7288 1160 for more information.

FUN FOR FIBREHOLICS!

Dates for the sixth Wonderwool Wales festival announced.

Now in its sixth year, Wonderwool Wales is the festival for fibreholics!

The festival, which takes place on the weekend of 9th and 10th April at the Royal Welsh Showground in Builth Wells, Powys, is something of a wonderland for craft fans. It features more than 150 stalls, as well as workshops, demonstrations and the ever-popular Sheepwalk, a woolly take on the catwalk, which showcases garments and accessories made by exhibitors.

To book tickets, or for further details, visit www.wonderwoolwales.co.uk



things WE love



Spring has sprung and we're celebrating with this fantastic round-up of the latest crafty goodies! **BY ISABEL BUXTON**

1

Watch the birdie!

These quirky buttons, with their little bird motifs, would be ideal for all kinds of baby garments. They're £3.24 for four, from www.etsy.com/shop/sweetlemon



3

For cloudy days

Feeling under the weather? These buttons will cheer you up! The raindrops are just 76p each and the clouds 95p each – a bargain! Get yours at www.eternalmaker.com

Fab fabrics

These pretty threads are perfect for projects for babies and children. They cost £6 per half-metre from www.eternalmaker.com

2



4

Cutie booties!

Available in several sizes from 3-12 months, these luscious little cotton shoes are £10.40 from www.etsy.com/shop/heathershobbies



Boldly going...

We love the bright and bold yarns made by indie dyer Jo Harriman. Visit her website – www.dodoknitrzofficial.blogspot.com – to place your order.



Books WE love



This month, adorn your shelves with some of the best crochet books for tiny tots. BY ISABEL BUXTON

NATURAL CROCHET FOR BABIES & TODDLERS

Tina Barrett, GMC Books • £12.99, www.gmcbooks.com, ISBN 978-1861086242

Soft, luxurious natural yarns are the stand-out choice for baby products – who would want anything less for their little ones? Tina Barrett shows us that natural need not be bland or hard to care for, with this lovely range of 20 stylish and subtle crochet projects for both babies and toddlers.

These delightful chemical-free creations make use of beautiful yarns such as alpaca, soy silk, corn fibre, cotton, wool and bamboo.

Tina describes her design philosophy as “leaving a baby-sized eco-footprint on the world” and this sweet collection is no exception. Projects include a cute sundress and leggings, a soft and snugly cotton toy rabbit, a soy-silk matinee jacket, a wool hooded jumper and a cosy alpaca blanket and floor cushion.



ABOVE: This utterly adorable dress is just one of the many cute patterns for you to get your hooks into!



OH BABY! CROCHET

Connie Ellison, Search Press • £14.99, www.searchpress.com (01982 510850), ISBN 978-1592172573

This sweet collection includes an adorable frilly purple party dress, a classy christening set with matching shorts and hat for a little boy, and a cute hooded towel and matching wash mitts. There's also plenty of everyday essentials such as booties and bibs.

For easy reference, the book is divided into four themed chapters.

Pretty Baby is packed with cute wearables, Baby Essentials provides patterns for handy accessories such as soakers and bibs, Cuddle Baby is brimming with beautiful blankets and shawls, and Baby Gifts is perfect for those last-minute crafters. It's filled with the type of quick-to-make goodies that are just perfect for relatives with a new arrival!

It's filled with quick-to-make goodies that are perfect for a new arrival!

PATTERN

Jade wrap cardigan

Divide for back neck

3ch, work 31 (31: 32: 32: 33: 33: 34) cross pattern repeats, work 1tr into the next stitch and turn.

Work 12 (14: 14: 15: 17: 17) further repeats of previous row on these stitches only. At the end of the last row, do not turn, but complete as follows:

Ch 128 (132: 132: 136: 136: 140: 140), turn. Treating the first 3ch as the turning chain, work in est patt to the end of the row.

Work a further 11 (13: 15: 17: 19: 21: 23) rows in est patt.

1ch, work 1dc into each stitch to end of row.

Fasten off.

COLLAR

Starting at the bottom inside right front, rejoin yarn.

3ch, work 31 (32: 32: 33: 33: 34: 34) cross pattern repeats up the right front,

toptip

Use a variegated or semi-solid yarn to add tonal interest to your wrap.



Create a **gorgeous, feminine hourglass shape** by adding a simple **waist belt** to your outfit.



9 (11: 11: 11: 12: 12: 14) cross pattern repeats across the neck and 31 (32: 32: 33: 33: 34: 34) cross pattern repeats down the left front.

Turn and work a further 9 (9: 10: 10: 11: 11: 12) rows in est patt.

Fasten off.

SLEEVES

Place a split-ring marker (or piece of waste yarn) in line with the 16th cross pattern repeat (the 65th st) from each end along the side of the body piece. These are the outer markers.

Place a second marker in line with the 19th (20th: 21st: 22nd: 23rd: 25th: 25th) cross pattern repeat, being the 77th (81st: 85th: 89th: 93rd: 97th: 101st) st from each end. These are the inner markers.

Starting at one of the inner markers, join the yarn and 3ch.

Work in est patt to the other inner marker, 4ch, miss the next repeat (4 sts) and work a sl st into the next st, turn.

Next row: 3ch, work in est patt (working a cross pattern repeat into the 4ch worked at the end of the previous row) until you're one rep from the end of the previous row, 4ch, sl st into the top of the t-ch from the previous row, 4ch, miss one rep (on the main body of the garment) and work a sl st into the next st, turn.

Repeat this row, working a cross pattern repeat into each of the 4 chs, and adding more repeats at the end of each row until you come to the second outer marker, then work as follows:

Next row: 3ch, work in patt (working a rep into the 4ch just worked) until you're one cross pattern repeat from

yarns WE love

This month, we've hand-picked the softest, snuggliest yarns for tiny tots – so dive in and get crocheting for your little ones! Here, we demonstrate yarns of different fibre content and thickness using a shell pattern. Have fun and experiment!

BY ALICE BLACKLEDGE AND ISABEL BUXTON



Juno Fibre Arts Buffy

100% Bluefaced Leicester, 100g, 400m/437yd, machine wash

When it comes to baby garments, there's no need to confine yourself to the traditional pastel pinks, yellows and blues. We love this pretty blue-grey yarn – evocatively named Point At The Moon – from Juno Fibre Arts. With its generous yardage, it would be ideal worked up in a simple shell pattern to make an heirloom baby blanket, ready to be passed down through the generations! We can also see it as a stylish christening jacket for a baby boy – perhaps adorned with some smart wooden or playful fabric buttons.

RRP £12, visit www.etsy.com/shop/junofibrearts



Rico Baby Classic DK

100% cotton, 67g, 91m/100yd, hand wash

This might just be the softest acrylic yarn ever! With a durable 50% acrylic, 50% polyamide content, it's designed to last, yet has the softness of a luxurious merino or cashmere blend. It's perfect for garments worn against baby's delicate skin, such as summer cardigans. Older kids will appreciate its total lack of scratchiness – it's ideal for making items they'll want to wear again. In fact, we think it's a great choice for recipients of any age – it can be thrown in the machine, it's fantastic value and it's soft enough to impress even the natural fibre addicts of your acquaintance!

RRP £2.35, visit www.crafty-yarn.co.uk



King Cole Baby Comfort

60% acrylic, 40% nylon, 100g, 310m/340yd, machine wash

King Cole yarns are available in a good range of traditional baby solid colours. Baby Comfort is perhaps not as luxurious as the other yarns in our selection but as a soft and strong blend, it's a sensible choice for children's pieces that will last a long time. If everyday hand-me-downs with lasting appeal are what you're aiming for, this yarn is a sturdy and colourful choice. It also represents fantastic value for money!

RRP £2.79, visit www.kingcole.co.uk for stockists.



Debbie Bliss Baby Cashmerino

55% merino, 33% microfibre, 12% cashmere, 50g, 125m/137yd, machine wash

If you fancy wrapping your little one in a touch of luxury that's still completely machine-washable, Debbie Bliss Baby Cashmerino is an excellent choice. It's very soft to the touch, while the sturdiness of microfibre gives it a pleasantly strong handle. It'll certainly stand up to all the wear and tear that a baby can put it through. This yarn is a great all-rounder that comes in a wide range of shades.

RRP £4.10, visit www.designeryarns.uk.com for stockists.



If you're a **lover** of all things **modern**, avoid traditional colours and use one of **Debbie Bliss's** unusual shades instead.



Debbie Bliss Eco Baby

100% organic cotton, 50g, 125m/137yd, machine wash

If you like to crochet with a conscience, Debbie Bliss Eco Baby yarn is a lovely green alternative to traditional blends. It's completely organic, it's Fair Trade and, even better, as it's been dyed with non-toxic dyes (in recycled water, no less), it's the perfect choice for the delicate skin of little ones! We love the 16 unusual shades, too – teal and peach are a great alternative to traditional blues and pinks if you're a lover of all things modern! As it's 100% cotton, it's ideal for cooler garments for the summer months and perfect if baby is allergic to wool.

RRP £3.95, visit www.designeryarns.uk.com for stockists.



Blue Sky Alpacas Multi Cotton

100% cotton, 67g, 91m/100yd, hand wash

This is a robust alternative to more traditional baby yarn blends and we're big fans of the mouthwatering variegated colour choices – spearmint (pictured), marmalade and punch in particular. Yes, you're going to have to hand wash your crocheted creations, but for an heirloom piece that will get passed down through generations to come, we think it's well worth the bother to go that extra mile!

RRP £6.98, visit www.blueskyalpacas.com for stockists.



Try out these yarns for the Ujima hat on page 94.



Juno Fibre Arts:

"Ready to be passed down through the generations!"



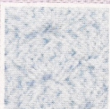
Rico Baby:

"This might be the softest acrylic yarn ever!"



Debbie Bliss Eco:

"Crochet with a conscience – use this green alternative."



King Cole:

"Great value and available in a good range of colours."



Debbie Bliss Baby:

"Wrap your little one in a touch of luxury."



Blue Sky Alpacas:

"A mouthwatering variegated colour choice."



Slip stitch a crochet cord fastening to make an **attractive waist tie**, which makes the card so **versatile**.



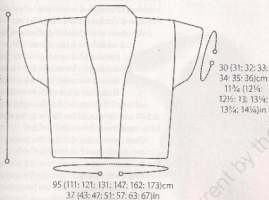
the end of the previous row, 4ch, sl st into the third ch (turning ch) from the previous row). Fasten off. Repeat for the second sleeve.

FINISHING

Block and seam.
Weave in ends.



SCHEMATIC



Reader. projects WE love

We know **our readers** are always up for a **challenge**, and we love to see what projects you've been getting your hooks into! **BY ISABEL BUXTON**



Here, we showcase readers' finished projects from previous issues to inspire you to pick up the hook! If you like the look of any of these projects but are missing the relevant issue, you can get your hands on most of our back issues on p97. If you're particularly proud of an item you've made from *Inside Crochet*, send us a picture – we'll feature the best ones on this page. Send them to letters@insidecrochet.co.uk. Happy crocheting!

BELOW: We love Ami's **Dragon Skin Gauntlets** (issue 5).
BOTTOM: Melanie Marshman made this totally adorable penguin from the **Frog Hat** pattern (issue 3).



Joana Matos made this beautiful **Flowering Shawl** (issue 2).
Photography by Rut Hallgrímssdóttir.



This **shawl** holds lovely **memories** for me – the unborn baby in this photo is now a **beautiful little girl!**



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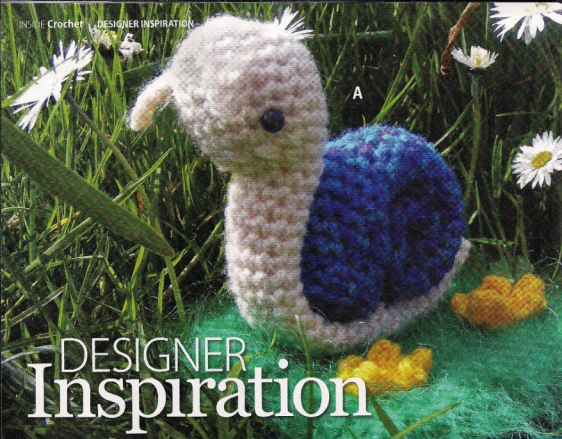
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DESIGNER Inspiration

Maggie Vassie has been responsible for some of **Inside Crochet's** most popular designs – including our **amigurumi** cover star Leonard the Lion. Here, she tells us what inspires her **wonderful creations...**

A Maggie's cheery snail would make the perfect companion. B Her 'Crochet, Ninja' bag is a touch of genius, ideal for keeping your projects organised and safe.



A migurumi – the Japanese style of crochet – is something I'm very fond of. The oversized heads and dinky arms and legs make these creatures adorable! I was looking through a selection of various-coloured cottons that I had in my collection and thinking about what I could do with them – the yellow and orange were just asking to be made into a little lion. I wanted to make one that was a bit different from others I'd seen, and I thought that a full mane would be the way to make him stand out from the pride!

When I was going through the basic sketches, I knew exactly how I wanted the body to look, but the mane was a mystery until I began working on it. At first, I thought I'd make a full head of shells going around his head, but that made him look a bit like a flower. I'm pleased

with the way his mane turned out because now he looks like a funky soul lion from the 1970s. If only I had a tiny comb to leave in his hair!

When I'm designing amigurumi, I do lots and lots of doodling to work out shapes and colours. I'll often trawl the internet looking for cute animals and creatures to recreate in crochet. I have a crazy imagination, so it can take something small, like the concept of hybrid animals, for a massive doodle session to ensue. From that, I'll get a few really good ideas that I want to take further.

I've come to realise that if I can draw it, I can crochet it, because the drawing process helps me to break down the doll into basic shapes. I can refer back to the picture to make sure it's turning into the shape I want, and make any changes I need if my doodle doesn't quite translate into crochet.

My mind is always ticking over, thinking about what project I can have a go at next. When I'm bored at home, I amuse myself by getting

Skills used

- Working in rows
- Crossing stitches

YARNS USED

Araucania Rameo Solid • 75% wool,
25% nylon • 100g/344m/376yd
• WPI 14

Colour: Teal (108)

YARN REVIEW

Lesley says: "Although this is a solid yarn, the subtle variations in colour show the crossed stitches beautifully."

YARN ALTERNATIVES

Save • Patons Diploma Gold
Spend • Crystal Palace Mini Mochi
Splurge • Fyberspates
Scrumptious 4PLY

TENSION

Work 18 sts and 8 rows in pattern
stitch to measure 10x10cm or 4x4in
using a 3.5mm hook, or size required
to obtain tension.

NOTIONS

3.5mm hook
Four split-ring stitch markers
(or waste yarn)

Designer biography

Lesley has been crocheting for many years and is greatly interested in the texture and form of stitches within simply shaped garments.

Jade wrap cardigan

■ LESLEY ARNOLD-HOPKINS

"I wondered what it would be like if I **crossed stitches** over, like a **crochet cable**, but without working around front and back posts. The result was an open, **lacy**, softly draping **reversible fabric**."



SPECIAL STITCH PATTERNS

Cross pattern repeat

One repeat (over 4 stitches) is as follows:
Miss the next 2 stitches. Work 1dtr into
each of the next 2 stitches. Working
behind these dtrs, work 1dtr into each
of the 2 missed stitches.

PATTERN NOTES

The garment is worked in one piece from
side to side. The sleeves and collar are
added afterwards.

BODY

With a 3.5mm hook, ch 251 (255: 259:
263: 267: 271: 275).
Starting in the second chain from the
hook, work 1dc into each stitch, turn.
(250: 254: 258: 262: 266: 270: 274 sts)

Row 1: 3ch, work 62 (63: 64: 65: 66: 67: 68)
cross pattern repeats, 1tr in final stitch,
turn.
Repeat previous row 11 (13: 15: 17: 19: 21:
23) more times.

SIZE & YARN AMOUNT

SIZE	XS	S	M	L	XL	XXL	XXXL	
TO FIT BUST	81	91	102	112	122	132	142	cm
	52	36	40	44	48	52	56	in
FINISHED BUST	95	111	121	131	147	167	173	cm
	37	43	47	51	57	63	67	in
LENGTH	70	71	72	74	75	76	77	cm
	27	27½	28	28½	29	29½	30	in
YARN	4	5	5	6	6	7	8	balls
TOTAL METRES	1376	1720	1770	2064	2064	2408	2757	-
TOTAL YARDS	1504	1880	1880	2256	2256	2632	3008	-





Jade wrap cardigan



C Who could fail to fall in love with this dinky crocheted alien?
D Maggie hard at work on her latest project.
E Hooks at the ready! Maggie's crocheted utility belt is always ready for action.
F Maggie sketches all her designs first – here's Leonard in his earliest incarnation!
G We love this rather dumpy dino – despite his fangs, we can't help feeling he's friendly really!



Leonard looks like a funky soul lion from the 1970s. If only I had a tiny comb to leave in his hair!

out a pad of paper and doodling. I sometimes doodle at work, too, and my colleagues are always giving me ideas.

If I have something on my mind, sitting down with a hook and some yarn helps me to relax and think things through. After a long day at work, there's nothing like coming home, pouring myself a nice glass of wine or two, putting my weary feet up and quietly working away at a new crochet project. My spot on the sofa is right next to a basket full of yarn and a bag full of fibrefill stuffing, which I can use to stuff my amigurumi as I go.

A design journey

Designing for *Inside Crochet* has helped me to develop my pattern-writing skills. I used to be very rough with my designs but now I've

learnt to be very precise and detailed in order to provide better patterns. One of my proudest creations is my crochet kit bag – it's like a crochet utility belt! After the devastating day when one of my mahogany crochet hooks snapped in my bag, I wanted to design a bag that I could transport all my hooks in and that would have space for notions, scissors, my notebook and, of course, yarn. The prototype certainly gained a lot of fans at KnitExpo!

My ultimate goal is to write a crochet pattern book. One of my New Year resolutions was to start writing some of the patterns for the book. It's just a matter of hard work and not giving up on the idea!

Visit Maggie online at www.a-crochet-ninja.blogspot.com or buy her stuff at etsy.com/shop/acrochetninja



Skills used

- Working in rows
- Trebles

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

125cm/49 1/4in

YARNS USED

Noro Silk Garden • 45% mohair,
45% silk, 10% wool • 50g/100m/110yd
• WPI 8

Colours: 319, 325 and 211 –
1 ball of each

YARN REVIEW

Helda says: "This yarn comes in magnificent colours! The long colour changes make it interesting and perfect for many projects. The tweed-like texture is beautiful – I love the variations in thickness and the rustic appearance."

YARN ALTERNATIVES

Save • King Cole Riot
Spend • Crystal Palace Mochi Plus
Splurge • Posh Yarns Sophia Aran

TENSION

Tension is not important for this particular project, but be consistent to make joining easier.

NOTIONS

5mm hook

Tapestry needle

PATTERN NOTES

This scarf is made of three equal strips plaited together.

The scarf is secured at the beginning, plaited, then secured at the end. It's then tacked (using the project yarn) at various points along the plait to keep the structure.

The sample was tacked at four points where the three strips overlap. This allows the scarf to keep a lovely structure.

Designer biography

Helda can always be found with a crochet hook in her hand – her main aim is to help spread crochet love! Her entertaining blog can be found at: www.heldasland.blogspot.com

Rapunzel scarf

■ HELDA PANAGARY

"My inspiration for this **pretty scarf** comes from all the beautiful **plaited hair** on the catwalks for **Spring/Summer 2011**."



SCARF

Scarf strips

Using chosen colour and 5mm hook, ch14.

Row 1: 1tr in third ch from hook, 2tr in same ch, miss 3 ch, 3tr in next ch, miss 3

ch, 3tr in next, miss 2 ch, 1tr in last ch, turn.

Row 2: 2ch, 1tr in turning ch sp, *miss 3 tr, 3tr in sp between 3 tr of previous row, rep from * once more, miss 3 tr, 2tr in t-ch sp in previous row, turn.

Row 3: 2ch, miss 2 tr, 3tr in next sp, *miss 3 tr, 3trs in next sp, rep from * once more, 1tr in last tr, turn.

Row 4 to end: Rep rows 2 & 3 until panel is desired length (or the yarn runs out). Make 2 more strips.

FINISHING

Weave in ends. Lay the 3 strips next to each other on a flat surface. With a tapestry needle threaded with co-ordinating yarn, use mattress stitch to seam the strips together for approximately 2.5cm/1in.

Plait the strips, taking care not to twist them, to approximately 2.5cm/1in before the end. Seam the ends as before. Place tacking stitches at various points where all 3 strips meet to hold the plait together in place.

Weave in ends.





next dc, 2dc) twice, (2dc in next dc, 4dc) twice, dc3tog, 3dc in next dc, 2dc, 3dc in next dc, 18dc, 3dc in next dc, 1dc, sl st to t-ch, turn. (80 sts)

Rnd 3: 1ch, 2dc, 3dc in next dc, 20dc, 3dc in next dc, 4dc, 3dc in next dc, dc3tog, 6dc, 2dc in next dc, 5dc, 2dc in next dc, 1dc, (3dc in next dc, 4dc) twice, dc2tog, 3dc, dc3tog, 13dc, 3dc in next dc, 2dc, sl st to t-ch. Fasten off. (89 sts)

Joining

1ch, 3dc, 3dc in next dc, 13dc, dc2tog, 2dc, dc2tog, 5dc, 3dc in next dc, 6dc, 3dc in next dc, 16dc, work a hanging loop,

dc3tog, 3dc in next dc, 6dc, 3dc in next dc, 22dc, 3dc in next dc, 3dc, sl st to t-ch. Fasten off. (97 sts)

LOWER-CASE 'L'

Rnd 1: 30ch, dc in second ch from hook, 3dc, 2dc in next ch, 6dc, dc2tog, ch 3, dc in second ch from hook, 1dc in next ch, 16dc, turn. (33 ch & 31 dc)

Rnd 2: 1ch, 3dc in next dc, 16dc, 3dc in next dc. Working along other side of ch in unused loops, miss first ch, 3dc in next ch, dc3tog, 3dc, 2dc in next dc, 5dc, 2dc in next dc, 3dc in next dc. Working along other side of ch in unused loops, miss

first ch, 3dc in next ch, 4dc, dc2tog, 5dc, dc3tog, 13dc, 3dc in next ch, sl st to t-ch, turn. (71 sts)

Rnd 3: 1ch, 1dc, 3dc in next dc, 13dc, (dc2tog, 3dc) twice, dc2tog, 1dc, (3dc in next dc, 2dc) twice, (2dc in next dc, 4dc) twice, dc3tog, 3dc in next dc, 2dc, 3dc in next dc, 18dc, 3dc in next dc, 1dc, sl st to t-ch, turn. (80 sts)

Rnd 4: 1ch, 2dc, 3dc in next dc, 20dc, 3dc in next dc, 4dc, 3dc in next dc, dc3tog, 6dc, 2dc in next dc, 5dc, 2dc in next dc, 1dc, (3dc in next dc, 4dc) twice, dc2tog, 3dc, dc3tog, 13dc, 3dc in next dc, 2dc, sl st to t-ch. Fasten off. (89 sts)

Joining

1ch, 3dc, 3dc in next dc, 13dc, dc2tog, 2dc, dc2tog, 5dc, 3dc in next dc, 6dc, 3dc in next dc, 16dc, work a hanging loop, dc3tog, 3dc in next dc, 6dc, 3dc in next dc, 22dc, 3dc in next dc, 3dc, sl st to t-ch. Fasten off. (97 sts)

LOWER-CASE 'O'

Ch30, sl st to form a loop, taking care not to twist.

Rnd 1: 1ch, 2dc, (2dc in next ch, 4dc) 5 times, 2dc in next ch, 2dc, sl st to t-ch, turn. (36 sts)

Rnd 2: 1ch, (2dc in next dc, 5dc) 6 times, sl st to t-ch, turn. (42 sts)

Rnd 3: 1ch, 3dc, (2dc in next dc, 6dc) 5 times, 2dc in next dc, 3dc, sl st to t-ch, turn. (48 sts)

Rnd 4: 1ch, (2dc in next dc, 7dc) 6 times, sl st to t-ch, turn. (54 sts)

Rnd 5: 1ch, 4dc, (2dc in next dc, 8dc) 5 times, 2dc in next dc, 4dc, sl st to t-ch, turn. (60 sts)

Rnd 6: 1ch, (2dc in next dc, 9dc) 6 times, sl st to t-ch, turn. (66 sts)

Rnd 7: 1ch, 5dc, (2dc in next dc, 10dc) 5 times, 2dc in next dc, 5dc, sl st to t-ch, turn. (72 sts)

Joining

Inside

Working on unused loops of starting ch, insert hook through first ch, yfn, pull up a loop, 1ch, (dc2tog, 3dc) 6 times, sl st to t-ch. Fasten off and sew in ends.

Outside

Insert hook in left loop, 1ch, (2dc in next dc, 11dc) 4 times, work a hanging loop, (2dc in next dc, 11dc) twice, sl st to t-ch. Fasten off and sew in ends. (78 sts)



toptip

Wear this rustic scarf instead of a cardigan when the weather warms up a little in the coming months.

Rapunzel scarf

Difficulty: 2 Intermediate

Skills used

- Increasing & decreasing
- Using markers
- Working in rows & rounds

YARNS USED

Stylecraft Baby DK • 100% acrylic
• 200g/590m/645yd • WPI 11

Colour: Baby Pink

DMC Petra No 5 Crochet Cotton
• 100% cotton • 100g/400m/437yd

Colour: Baby Blue

Amounts depend on letters made

YARN REVIEW

Helen says: "Most of my designs are aimed at children, and Stylecraft Baby DK fits the bill perfectly!"

YARN ALTERNATIVES

Save • Sirdar Baby Bonus DK
Spend • King Cole Baby Comfort DK
Splurge • Pico Baby Classic DK

TENSION

Exact tension is not important for this project, but you need to ensure that the stitches are tight enough so that the stuffing doesn't come through.

NOTIONS

3mm hook
Toy stuffing/Fiberfill
Tapestry needle
Stitch marker

Designer biography

Helen has been crocheting ever since she can remember, and loves designing for children and using lots of colour. Her web address is www.enfys.me.uk

ALPHABET mobiles

■ HELEN FREE

"I used to make quilted versions of these when my son was small, and I thought it would be fun to convert them to crochet. I'm so glad I did, as they look even better than the originals!"

Baby
Boy

Baby
Girl

PATTERN NOTES

The 1 ch at beginning of each row is a t-ch only and does not count as a stitch. Always work into the back loop only of the starting chain, unless otherwise stated. When instructed to work into unused loops, pick up both loops as you would if working into the tops of other stitches.

For each letter, you'll need to make 2 pieces – the first one for the back and a second for the front. Do not fasten off after the front. Place both pieces together, matching the stitches, and work the joining round through both pieces. If you're stuffing the letters, remember to do this evenly while joining the pieces. For those letters starting with a chain that's slip-stitched together to form a loop, such as 'a', 'b' and 'd', leave about 150cm/59in tail at the beginning of the front to use for the joining round.

SPECIAL ABBREVIATIONS

Dc2(3:4:5)tog: (Insert hook in next st, yrh, pull up a loop) 2 (3:4:5) times, yrh, draw through all 3 (4:5:6) loops on hook.

Hanging loop (hl): Ch 8, sl st to first ch. Hanging loop instructions are included on every letter – 2 lots of instructions on some of them – for placement if required. They are only needed on every letter if you plan to hang them all separately. You can work out the best letters for them when it comes to planning your name.

CAPITAL 'B'

Top

Ch28, sl st tog to form a loop, taking care not to twist.

Rnd 1: 1 ch, 2dc in each of next 2 ch, 5dc, 2dc in each of next 2 ch, 4dc, (2dc in next ch, 4dc) 3 times, sl st to t-ch, turn. (35 sts)

Rnd 2: 1 ch, 2dc, (2dc in next dc, 5dc) 3 times, 2dc in next dc, 2dc, 2dc in each of next 2 dc, 7dc, 2dc in each of next 2 dc, 1dc, sl st to t-ch, turn. (43 sts)

Rnd 3: 1 ch, 2dc, 2dc in each of next 2 dc, 9dc, 2dc in each of next 2 dc, 7dc, (2dc in next dc, 6dc) 3 times, sl st to t-ch, turn. (50 sts)

Rnd 4: 1 ch, 1dc, 2dc in next dc, 2dc, pm in last st worked, 5dc, (2dc in next dc, 7dc) 3 times, 3ch, 1dc in second ch from hook, 1dc in next ch, 12dc, 2dc in each of next 2 dc, 3dc, sl st to t-ch. Fasten off and weave in ends. (3ch & 58dc)

Bottom

Ch34, sl st tog to form a loop, taking care not to twist.

Rnd 1: 1 ch, 2dc in each of next 2 ch, 7dc, 2dc in each of next 2 ch, 5dc, (2dc in next ch, 5dc) 3 times, sl st to t-ch, turn. (41 sts)

Rnd 2: 1 ch, 2dc, (2dc in next dc, 6dc) 3 times, 2dc in next dc, 3dc, 2dc in each of next 2 dc, 9dc, 2dc in each of next 2 dc, 1dc, sl st to t-ch, turn. (49 sts)

Rnd 3: 1 ch, 2dc, 2dc in each of next 2 dc, 11dc, 2dc in each of next 2 dc, 8dc, (2dc in next dc, 7dc) 3 times, sl st to t-ch, turn. (56 sts)





Linda Permann

INTERVIEW



One of America's most prolific and well-loved designers takes time out to give **Inside Crochet** the lowdown on her crochet life, loves and inspirations. **BY ISABEL BUXTON**

Linda Permann is a Texan-turned-New Yorker who's recently turned Texan again! Her favourite crafts are crocheting and sewing, but she dabbles in nearly all of them. She works as a designer, writer, editor, crochet teacher and yarn-shop employee – so there's never a dull moment in her life! She took time out of her hectic schedule to talk to *Inside Crochet* about what inspires her work...

IC: Hi Linda! How did you first get into crochet and how long have you been doing it for?

LP: I learned to make chains as a kid, but I really got into crochet about ten years ago. Once I'd finished school, I found that I had a lot of free time on my hands, so I went to the 2001 Knit Out in New York, where I decided that I wanted to learn to crochet. I taught myself the basics from a free pamphlet.

IC: How did you progress from being a crocheter to being a designer?

LP: Serendipity! I'd been working in the communications department at Newsweek magazine and selling my crocheted hats online, when I landed a job as a craft editor at Soho Publishing. They started *Crochet Today* around the same time as they hired me and, knowing that I crocheted, asked me to contribute some designs. I originally began designing because I couldn't understand patterns, so I had to learn to write them. Eventually, I decided to move away from New York and make designing my full-time career.

IC: You have a new book coming out in April, *Little Crochet: Modern Designs For Babies And Toddlers*. What was your inspiration behind the designs?

LP: My nephew, Tegue, was definitely the inspiration for this book! As soon as I knew my sister was expecting, I started making toys and sweaters

for him. I aimed to make a collection of cute patterns for boys and girls that were classic and modern. I've used yarn weights from sock to super-bulky, so there really is something for everyone. When I proposed the book, I was also designing a challenge for myself to learn to size and grade patterns. I sized most of the designs for children up to age four, because kids really do grow up fast, and included diagrams throughout to help those people who are visual learners.

IC: You're an internationally published crochet designer, writer and teacher. In your opinion, what is it that makes your designs so universally appealing?

LP: When I write patterns, I strive to think about the logic and simplicity of the maths involved. As a crocheter, I like to be able to put a pattern down for a while and pick it up again as needed, so I try to write patterns that intersperse paying attention with

toptip

We'll give you the rest of the alphabet over the next few issues – then you can complete any banner!



Alphabet mobiles

PATTERN Alphabet mobiles

Rnd 4: 1ch, 1dc, (2dc in next dc, 8dc) 3 times.

Make 2 pieces of top and bottom before proceeding to the next instructions.

Back only

Place the bottom and top pieces in the letter 'b' shape, lining up the next dc on the bottom with the marked dc on the top (with the bottom section overlapping the top section). 9dc, working through both pieces.

Front only

Place the top and bottom pieces in the letter 'b' shape, lining up the next dc on

the bottom with the marked dc on the top (with the top section overlapping the bottom section). 9dc, working through both pieces.

You will now have 2 sections – front and back – of the letter 'b'. Work on each piece separately as follows:

Working in bottom only

2dc in next dc, 14dc, 3ch, dc in second ch from hook, dc in next dc, 4dc, sl st to t-ch, turn. (3ch & 63dc)

Working around the whole piece

Rnd 5: 1ch, 2dc, dc3tog, 3dc in next dc, working along other side of ch in unused

loops, miss first ch, 3 dc in next ch, 1dc in next ch, 16dc. Working in top, 15dc, 3dc in next dc, working along other side of ch in unused loops, miss first ch, 3dc in next ch, dc3tog, 1dc, (2dc in next dc, 8dc) 3 times, dc2tog, working in bottom, dc2tog, 3dc, (2dc in next dc, 9dc) twice, 2dc in next dc, 5dc, sl st to t-ch, turn. (113 sts)

Rnd 6: 1ch, 9dc, (2dc in next dc, 10dc) twice, dc2tog twice, (9dc, 2dc in next dc) twice, 9dc, dc3tog, 3dc in next dc, 2dc, 3dc in next dc, 34dc, 3dc in next dc, 2dc, 3dc in next dc, dc3tog, 1dc, sl st to t-ch, turn. (119 sts)

Rnd 7: 1ch, dc3tog, 3dc in next dc, 4dc, 3dc in next dc, 36dc, 3dc in next dc, 4dc, 3dc in next dc, dc3tog, (10dc, 2dc in next dc) twice, 7dc, dc2tog twice, 8dc, (2dc in next dc, 11dc) twice, sl st to t-ch. Fasten off and weave in ends. (125 sts)

Joining

Inside top

Working on unused loops of starting ch, insert hook through first ch, yrh and pull up a loop, 1ch, dc3tog, 3dc, dc3tog, (3dc, dc2tog) 3 times, 4dc, sl st to t-ch. Fasten off and weave in ends. (21 sts)

Inside bottom

Working on unused loops of starting ch, insert hook through first ch, yrh and pull up a loop, 1ch, dc3tog, 5dc, dc3tog, (4dc, dc2tog) 3 times, 5dc, sl st to t-ch. Fasten off and weave in ends. (27 sts)

Outside

Insert hook in left loop, 1ch, 2dc, (2dc in next dc, 10dc) 3 times, dc2tog twice, 8dc, (2dc in next dc, 8dc) twice, work hanging loop, 2dc in next dc, 2dc, dc3tog, 3dc in next dc, 6dc, work hanging loop, 3dc, 1dc, 34dc, 3dc in next dc, 6dc, 3dc in next dc, dc2tog, sl st to t-ch. Fasten off and weave in ends.

CAPITAL 'G'

Rnd 1: 17ch, 1dc in second ch from hook, 2dc, 4ch, 1dc in second ch from hook, 2dc, 6dc, 71ch, dc in second ch from hook, 8dc, (2dc in next ch, 24dc) twice, 2dc in next ch, 7dc, (dc2tog) 3 times, 4dc, turn. (92ch & 89dc)

Rnd 2: 1ch, 3dc in next dc, 3dc, dc4tog, 3dc, (2dc in next dc, 19dc) 3 times, 2dc in next dc, 4dc, 3dc in next dc. Working along other side of ch in unused loops,

top tip

Add a bell inside to make them jingle when your baby plays!





When I **write**
crochet patterns,
I strive to think
about **the logic**
and simplicity
of the maths that
are involved.

miss first ch, 3dc in next ch, 5dc, (dc2tog, 9dc) 5 times, (dc2tog, 2dc) twice, dc2tog, 3dc, dc3tog, 1dc, 3dc. Working along other side of ch in unused loops, miss first ch, 3dc in next ch, 2dc, 2dc, 3dc in next dc. Working along other side of ch in unused loops, miss first ch, 3dc in next ch, 1dc, dc3tog, 10dc, 3dc in next ch, sl st to t-ch, turn. (183 sts)

Rnd 3: 1ch, 1dc, 3dc in next dc, 10dc, dc3tog, 1dc, 3dc in next dc, 2dc, 3dc, 6dc, 3dc in next dc, 2dc, 3dc in next dc, 1dc, dc3tog, 2dc, dc2tog, 13dc, dc2tog, 24dc, dc2tog, 14dc, dc2tog, 4dc, 3dc in next dc, 2dc, 3dc in next dc, 8dc, (2dc in next dc, 20dc) 3 times, dc4tog, 3dc, 3dc in next dc, 1dc, sl st to t-ch, turn. (191 sts)

Rnd 4: 1ch, 2dc, 3dc in next dc, 2dc, dc4tog, 4dc, 2dc in next dc, 14dc, 2dc in next dc, 34dc, 2dc in next dc, 14dc, 2dc in next dc, (4dc, 3dc in next dc) twice, (6dc, dc2tog) 7 times, 2dc, dc2tog, 1dc, dc3tog, 1dc, 3dc in next dc, 4dc, 3dc in next dc, 8dc, 3dc in next dc, 4dc, 3dc in next dc, 1dc, dc3tog, 10dc, 3dc in next dc, 2dc, sl st to t-ch, turn. (196 sts)

Joining

1ch, 3dc, 3dc in next dc, 10dc, dc3tog, 1dc, 3dc in next dc, 6dc, 3dc in next dc, 10dc, 3dc in next dc, 6dc, 3dc in next dc, 1dc, dc3tog, 3dc, (dc2tog, 12dc) 3 times, dc2tog, (6dc, 3dc in next dc) twice, 19dc, work a hanging loop, (2dc in next dc, 17dc) 3 times, 2dc in next dc, 3dc, 3dc in next dc, 2dc, 3dc in next dc, 3dc. Fasten off and weave in ends. (210 sts)

LOWER-CASE 'A'

Ch33, sl st tog to form a loop, taking care not to twist.

Rnd 1: 1ch, 5dc, (2dc in next ch, 5ch) 3 times, 2dc in each of next 2 ch, 6dc, 2dc in each of next 2 ch, sl st to t-ch, turn. (40 sts)

Rnd 2: 1ch, 1dc, 2dc in each of next 2 dc, 8dc, 2dc in each of next 2 dc, 3dc, (2dc in next dc, 6dc) 3 times, 2dc in next dc, 2dc, sl st to t-ch, turn. (48 sts)

Rnd 3: 1ch, 8dc, (2dc in next dc, 7dc) 3 times, 2dc in each of next 2 dc, 10dc, 2dc in each of next 2 dc, 2dc, sl st to t-ch, turn. (55 sts)

Rnd 4: 1ch, 4dc, 3ch, 1dc in second ch from hook, 1dc in next ch, 14dc, 3ch, 1dc in second ch from hook, 1dc in next ch, 6dc, (2dc in next dc, 8dc) 3 times, 2dc in next dc, 3dc, sl st to t-ch, turn.



Hang your alphabet above the cot using sequinned ribbon so that it sparkles in the morning sunshine.



(6ch and 63dc)

Rnd 5: 1ch, 9dc, (2dc in next dc, 9dc) 3 times, dc3tog, 3dc in next dc. Working along other side of ch in unused loops, miss first ch, 3dc in next ch, 1dc in next ch, 15dc, 3dc in next dc. Working along other side of ch in unused loops, miss first ch, 3dc in next dc, dc3tog, 2dc, sl st to t-ch, turn. (74 sts)

Rnd 6: 1ch, 1dc, dc3tog, 3dc in next dc, 2dc, 3dc in next dc, 18dc, 3dc in next dc, 2dc, 3dc in next dc, dc3tog, 5dc, (2dc in next dc, 10dc) 3 times, 2dc in next dc, 2dc, sl st to t-ch, turn. (82 sts)

Rnd 7: 1ch, 8dc, (2dc in next dc, 11dc) 3 times, dc3tog, 3dc in next dc, 4dc, 3dc in next dc, 20dc, 3dc in next dc, 4dc, 3dc in next dc, dc3tog, sl st to t-ch. Fasten off. (89 sts)

Joining

Inside

Working on unused loops of starting ch, insert hook through first ch, yrh, pull up a loop, 1ch, 5dc, (dc2tog, 4dc) 3 times, dc3tog, 4dc, dc3tog, sl st to first ch. Fasten off and weave in ends. (26 sts)

Outside

Insert hook in left loop, 1ch, dc2tog, 3dc in next dc, 6dc, 3dc in next dc, 22dc, 3dc in next dc, 6dc, 3dc in next dc, dc3tog, 3dc, work a hanging loop, (2dc in next dc, 12dc) 3 times, 2dc in next dc, 3dc, sl st to first ch. Fasten off and weave in ends. (96 sts)

LOWER-CASE 'B'

Ch 33, sl st tog to form a loop, taking care not to twist.

Rnd 1: 1ch, 2dc in each of next 2 ch, 6dc, 2dc in each of next 2 ch, 5dc, (2dc in next ch, 5dc) 3 times, sl st to t-ch, turn. (40 sts)

Rnd 2: 1ch, 2dc, (2dc in next dc, 6dc) 3 times, 2dc in next dc, 3dc, 2dc in each of next 2 dc, 8dc, 2dc in each of next 2 dc, 1dc, sl st to t-ch, turn. (48 sts)



Rnd 3: 1ch, 2dc, 2dc in each of next 2 dc, 10dc, 2dc in each of next 2 dc, 8dc, (2dc in next dc, dc in next 7 dc) 3 times, sl st to t-ch, turn. (55 sts)

Rnd 4: 1ch, 1dc, (2dc in next dc, 8dc) 4 times, 15ch, 1dc in second ch from hook, 13dc along ch, 14dc, 3ch, 1dc in second ch from hook, 1dc in next ch, 4dc, sl st to t-ch, turn. (18 ch & 75 dc)

Rnd 5: 1ch, 2dc, dc3tog, 3dc in next dc. Working along other side of ch in unused loops, 3dc in next ch, 1dc in next ch, 27dc, 3dc in next dc. Working along other side of ch in unused loops, 3dc in next ch, 12dc along ch, dc3tog, 3dc, (2dc in next dc, 9dc) 3 times, 2dc in next dc, 5dc, sl st to t-ch, turn. (101 sts)

Rnd 6: 1ch, (2dc in next dc, 10dc) 3 times, 2dc in next dc, 8dc, dc3tog, 12dc, 3dc in next dc, 2dc, 3dc in next dc, 30dc, 3dc in next dc, 2dc, 3dc in next dc, dc3tog, 1dc, sl st to t-ch, turn. (109 sts)

Rnd 7: 1ch, dc3tog, 3dc in next dc, 4dc, 3dc in next dc, 32dc, 3dc in next dc, 4dc, 3dc in next dc, 12dc, dc3tog, 4dc, (2dc in next dc, 11dc) 3 times, 2dc in next dc, 4dc, sl st to t-ch. Fasten off. (117 sts)

PATTERN Alphabet mobiles

Joining

Inside

Working on unused loops of starting ch, insert hook through first ch, yrh and pull up a loop, 1ch, dc3tog, 4dc, dc3tog, (4dc, dc2tog) 3 times, 5dc, sl st to t-ch. Fasten off and weave in ends. (26 sts)

Outside

Insert hook in left loop, 1ch, (2dc in next dc, 12dc) 3 times, 2dc in next dc, 5dc, work a hanging loop, 3dc, dc3tog, 12dc, 3dc in next dc, 6dc, 3dc in next dc, 34dc, 3dc in next dc, 6dc, 3dc in next dc, dc2tog, sl st to t-ch. Fasten off and weave in ends. (126 sts)

LOWER-CASE 'Y'

Row 1: 31ch, dc in second ch from hook, 15dc, dc2tog, 18ch, dc in second ch from hook, 16dc, dc in second ch of dc2tog, 12dc, turn. (47 dc & 49 ch)

Rnd 1: 1ch, 4dc in next dc, 10dc, dc2tog, 16dc, 4dc in next dc. Working along other side of ch in unused loops, miss first ch, 2dc in next ch, 14ch, dc4tog, 14dc, 2dc in next dc. Working along other side of ch in unused loops, miss first ch, 4dc along next ch section, 28dc along next

ch section, 2dc in next ch, sl st to t-ch, turn. (102 sts)

Rnd 2: 1ch, 1dc, 3dc in next dc, 30dc, 3dc in next dc, 2dc, 3dc in next dc, 12dc, dc5tog, 12dc, 3dc in next dc, 2dc, 3dc in next dc, 18dc, dc2tog, 11dc, 3dc in next dc, 1dc, sl st to t-ch, turn. (109 sts)

Rnd 3: 1ch, 2dc, 4dc in next dc, 11dc, dc2tog, 19dc, 4dc in next dc, 4dc, 2dc in next dc, 11dc, dc5tog, 11dc, 2dc in next dc, 4dc, 4dc in next dc, 32dc, 2dc in next dc, 2dc, sl st to t-ch. Fasten off. (116 sts)

Joining

1ch, 3dc, 3dc in next dc, 34dc, 3dc in next dc, 6dc, work a hanging loop, 3dc in next dc, 10dc, dc3tog, 10dc, 3dc in next dc, work a hanging loop, 6dc, 3dc in next dc, 20dc, dc2tog, 13dc, 3dc in next dc, 3dc, sl st to t-ch. Fasten off and weave in ends. (125 sts)

LOWER-CASE 'I'

Dot

Rnd 1: 2ch, 6dc in first ch, sl st to second ch. Pm to mark as right side, turn. (6 sts)

Rnd 2: 1ch, 2dc in each dc, sl st to t-ch, turn. (12 sts)

Rnd 3: 1ch, (2dc in next dc, 1dc) 6 times,

toptip

Use a brightly coloured yarn to really catch your baby's eye!

sl st to t-ch. Fasten off. (18 sts)

Body

Row 1: 19ch, dc in second ch from hook, 17dc, turn. (19 ch & 18 dc)

Rnd 1: 1ch, 3dc in next dc, 16dc, 3dc in next dc. Working along other side of ch in unused loops, miss first ch, 3dc in next ch, 16dc along chain section, 3dc in next ch, sl st to t-ch, turn. (44 sts)

Rnd 2: 1ch, 1dc, 3dc in next dc, 18dc, 3dc in next dc, 2dc, 3dc in next dc, 18dc, 3dc in next dc, 1dc, sl st to t-ch, turn. (52 sts)

Rnd 3: 1ch, 2dc, 3dc in next dc, 20dc, 3dc in next dc, 4dc, 3dc in next dc, 20dc, 3dc in next dc, 2dc, sl st to t-ch. Fasten off. (60 sts)

Join

1ch, 3dc, 3dc in next dc, 22dc, 3dc in next dc, 3dc. Place both sides of the dot together and (working through both pieces) work (2dc in next dc, 2dc) 3 times, work a hanging loop, (2dc in next dc, 2dc) 3 times, sl st into side of first dc on dot, sl st into side of last dc on body, 3dc, 3dc in next dc, 22dc, 3dc in next dc, 3dc, sl st to t-ch. Fasten off. (92 sts)

LOWER-CASE 'R'

Row 1: 30ch, dc in second ch from hook, 3dc, 2dc in next ch, 6dc, dc2tog, 3ch, dc in second ch from hook, 1dc in next ch, 16dc, turn. (33 ch & 31 dc)

Rnd 1: 1ch, 3dc in next dc, 16dc, 3dc in next dc. Working along other side of ch in unused loops, miss first ch, 3dc in next ch, dc3tog, 3dc, 2dc in next dc, 5dc, 2dc in next dc, 3dc in next dc. Working along other side of ch in unused loops, miss first ch, 3dc in next ch, 4ch, dc2tog, 5ch, dc3tog, 13ch, 3dc in next ch, sl st to t-ch, turn. (71 sts)

Rnd 2: 1ch, 1dc, 3dc in next dc, 13dc, (dc2tog, 3dc) twice, dc2tog, 1dc, (3dc in



Every little one will love these letters no matter whether they're a boy or a girl! Why not personalise their room by making their name?





ABOVE LEFT: Crochet embellishment is a focus of many of Linda's designs.
ABOVE CENTRE: An adorable sleeping bag for the little ones in your life.
ABOVE RIGHT: A smart and classic style for little boys with a colourful, modern twist.



ABOVE: A whimsical owl to guard your favourite chair!

relaxing repetition. I try to strike a balance between stunning and simple, without over-complicating things.

IC: What's the most dramatic crochet experience you've ever had?
LP: My worst experience happened during the writing of *Little Crochet*. I sent a package containing half of the finished samples to my tech editor and when she sent them back, I never received them. I was so scared because if I didn't find the package, I wouldn't be able to meet the deadline. So I went around my neighbourhood knocking on doors and passing out flyers offering a cash reward, in case someone had received it by mistake. Two weeks later, my neighbour walked it over – I guess he hadn't seen the flyers or realised the importance of the package. I was so happy to have it back!

IC: Crocheting has become an increasingly popular medium, used in art, fashion and just for the fun of it. Where do you see the crochet trend going and why do you think it's become so popular?

LP: I think it's becoming popular because we finally have a convergence of designers who want to create modern, fun patterns for people to crochet. It's a simple skill that anyone can learn, but I think specific projects are what inspire people to actually take up the hook. I'm excited by all the work I'm seeing from my fellow designers, and it can only get better from here!

IC: Who do you admire most in the crochet world?

LP: This is a tough one! The crochet world is small, so I've actually been fortunate enough to meet many of my favourite designers – Robyn Chachula, Kristin Omdahl, Simona Merchant-Dent and Doris Chan. But there are many people I've yet to meet who inspire me, including people like Kathy Merrick, Julia Vasconsin, Sasha Kagan and Annette Petavy.

IC: What's your favourite thing to crochet? Do you crochet for yourself?

LP: I really enjoy crocheting hats – I love working in the round and playing with all the textures and patterns I can create within a basic shape. Yes, I do crochet for myself – I really enjoy working on accessories because they're quick to make and I can wear them even in the heat of Texas! I also like to make shawls and lace because I can just do a few rows at a time and still feel like I'm getting some 'me time'.

IC: Is there a particular yarn that you really enjoy working with?

LP: Ooh, there are many yarns that I enjoy working with! I'm partial to alpaca and wools for their depth of colour. I'm somewhat addicted to sock yarns – albeit for making everything but socks! I think sock yarn works up to such a lovely thickness, and I'm always on the lookout for pretty yarns with generous per-ball yardage. So I'm actually partial to quite a few!

IC: What projects are you working on right now?

LP: Currently, I'm working on quite a lot of different designs for magazines and a few special projects for yarn companies. That's all I'm allowed to say right now – you'll just have to watch this space to find out more!

IC: How often do you teach crochet? Is it an experience that you enjoy?

LP: I teach crochet every week at Yarnivore, which is my local yarn shop in San Antonio. I run group classes and private lessons. I really enjoy meeting other crocheters and helping them to improve their skills. It keeps me in touch with what kind of elements people are really looking for in their crochet patterns.

I have the time, I play around with them and see what they want to be. Sometimes, I have a clear idea of what I want to make and sometimes, I just want to play with stitch patterns, then see where that could fit into a project. I have a very organic process for most things, and am always reconsidering and reviewing the design as I work. With garments, I have to do more planning at the beginning of the design process because they have to work in all sizes. Even then, I'm very open to changing something if it isn't really working out.

IC: Do you still crochet for pleasure?

LP: Yes – I don't want to lose the enjoyment aspect of crocheting! I like to follow other people's patterns to see the way they think and design.

for more information

See Linda's exclusive design on p38 for a sneak preview of her new book!

It's great to relax and enjoy the meditative act of crocheting. There's still so much more to explore in the world of crochet, and I plan to keep doing this for as long as I can. I'm constantly inspired by new things!

Visit Linda online at www.lindamade.com and on Ravelry at www.ravelry.com/designers/linda-permann o

I enjoy working on accessories because they're so quick!

IC: What do you most enjoy about passing your crochet wisdom on to other people?

LP: I learn so much from my students – both about life and the ways of the hook! As adults, people can be so hard on themselves and they expect perfection right away. We tend to forget that we've spent our whole lives practising the things we know how to do. I love to watch people light up as they learn a new crochet skill and really take off with it. Another thing I really like about teaching is that my students make mistakes that I might not make myself – these can be happy mistakes for me, because they lead me to explore a new technique or idea. After all, there's a very thin line between a mistake and a purposeful new way of looking at things.

IC: How do you normally go about your design process, and what inspires your crochet designs?

LP: It really depends on who I'm designing for but in general, I'm inspired completely by the yarn. When I shop, I tend to just pick up one ball of several different kinds of yarn. When



This adorable dress is made from a pillowcase. Adorned with crochet motifs, it's perfect for little ladies!



Cornflower top

Difficulty:

Advanced

Skills used

- Increasing & decreasing
- Using markers
- Working in rows
- Working one row below
- Crab st/reverse dc

YARNS USED

Rowan Amy Butler Belle Organic DK
• 50% cotton, 50% wool
• 50g/120m/131yd • WPI 14

MC: Cilantro (16)
CC1: Cornflower (2);
CC2: Tomato (12); CC3: Basil (5)

YARN REVIEW

Linda says: "Belle Organic DK is wonderfully soft to work. It does split a little while crocheting but you soon get used to it."

YARN ALTERNATIVES

Save • Sirdar Snuggly DK
Spend • Elsebeth Lavalid Cool Wool
Splurge • Rowan Wool Cotton

TENSION

Work 17 sts and 13 rows in alternating rows of dc and tr to measure 10x10cm or 4x4in using a 4mm hook, or size required to obtain tension.

NOTIONS

4mm hook
Removeable stitch marker
6 (7; 7; 8; 9) buttons – 13mm/½in diameter
Tapestry needle

Designer biography

Linda Permann is the author of *Little Crochet: Modern Designs For Babies And Toddlers*, a book full of cute, colourful designs for little ones, and *Crochet Adorned: Reinvent Your Wardrobe With Crocheted Accents, Embellishments And Trims*. Read more about her crochet adventures at www.lindamade.com

Make your little one feel especially loved this springtime.

HEARTS baby cardi

■ LINDA PERMANN

"I love the look of Fair Isle knitting, but it's a bit tricky to work in crochet. I was experimenting with different ways to achieve the look and developed this stitch pattern of miniature hearts."



SPECIAL ABBREVIATIONS

Heart: Work (htr, 2tr, htr) in same stitch.
Dc2tog (double crochet 2 together), (yrh, draw up a loop in next stitch) twice, yrh, draw through all 3 loops on hook.

Rev dc (reverse dc or crab st): This trim is worked in the opposite direction of dc (left to right for right-handers, right to left for left-handers). With RS facing, start at the opposite edge of where you would normally begin. 1ch, dc in each stitch around, backwards.

PATTERN NOTES

This cardigan is constructed from the bottom up, with the front and back worked as one piece up to the armholes. The heart pattern is achieved by working

a row of hearts in a contrasting colour, then re-working into the same row of stitches with the main colour.

Practise the reverse dc/crab st on a swatch at first and you'll see that this edging curls and provides a nice finish, once you get the hang of it!



BODY

With MC, ch 82 (88; 97).

Row 1 (WS): Dc in second ch from hook, dc across. Place last lp on stitch marker (to resume after row 2), turn. (81; 87; 96 dc)

Row 2 (RS): Join CC1 with a sl st(blo) in second dc, 1ch, heart in next dc, *miss 2 dc, heart in next dc, rep from * to last 2

SIZE & YARN AMOUNT

	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	18 MONTHS	
FINISHED CHEST	51	56	61	cm
	20	22	24	in
FINISHED LENGTH	28	30.5	33	cm
	11	12	13	in
SLEEVE SEAM (ARMHOLE DEPTH)	11.5	11.5	12.5	cm
	4½	4½	5	in
MC	3	3	4	balls
CC1, 2 & 3	1	1	1	-
TOTAL METRES	720	720	840	-
TOTAL YARDS	785	785	916	-



Hearts baby cardi

PATTERN
Cornflower top



toptip

Use a super-soft cashmere-blend yarn to create a luxury version!



The understated elegance of this top makes it a perfect choice for both the office and those spring garden parties.

1 ch, dc in next st, (dc, htr, tr) in next st, (miss next 2 sts, [dc, htr, tr] in next st) to last 3 sts, miss next 2 sts, dc in last st, turn.

Row 42: 1 ch, miss first st, sl st in next st, 1 ch, dc in next st, ([dc, htr, tr] in next st, miss next 2 sts) across to last 2 dc, dc, turn (leaving last st unworked).

Row 43: 1 ch, ([dc, htr, tr] in next st, miss next 2 sts) across to last st, dc in last st, turn.

Row 44: Rep row 43.

Repeat rows 41–44 5 (6: 6: 7: 7: 8: 9) times. Fasten off.

Front armholes

Row 41: 1 ch, miss first st, sl st in next st, 1 ch, dc in next st, (dc, htr, tr) in next st, (miss next 2 sts, [dc, htr, tr] in next st) to last 3 sts, miss next 2 sts, dc in last

st, turn.

Rows 42–44: Work in main body pattern. For armhole decrease pattern, rep rows 41–44.

Work armhole decrease pattern 4 (5: 5: 6: 6: 7: 8) times.

Rep rows 41–43 once more.

Next row: **1 ch, (dc, htr, tr) in first st, *miss next 2 sts, (dc, htr, tr) in next st, rep from * 6 (7: 8: 9: 10: 11) more times, miss next 2 sts, dc in next st. Fasten off. Rejoin yarn to armhole edge of opposite side and work from **.

EDGING

Mesh pattern

Rejoin yarn to RS of bottom of front.

Row 1: 1 ch, (1tr, 1ch, 1htr in side of tr just

made) in first st, (miss next 2 sts, [1tr, 3ch, 1htr in side of tr just made] in next st) across to last 3 sts, miss next 2 sts, (1tr, 1ch, 1htr in side of tr just made) in last st, turn.

Row 2: 1 ch, (1tr, 1ch, 1htr in side of tr just made) in first 1ch-sp, ([1tr, 3ch, 1htr in side of tr just made] in next 3ch-sp) across to last 1ch-sp, (1tr, 1ch, 1htr in side of tr just made) in last 1ch-sp, turn.

Rows 3–6: Rep row 2.

Row 7: 1 ch, (1tr, 3ch, 1tr in side of tr just made) in first 1ch-sp, ([1tr, 5ch, 1tr in side of tr just made] in next 3ch-sp) across to last 1ch-sp, (1tr, 3ch, 1tr in side of tr just made) in last 1ch-sp, turn.



Fasten off CC2. (6: 7: 7 hearts)

Row 8 (8: 10): Place marked loop of MC on hook, 3ch, 1tr in each of next 2 (1: 0) dc of row below, dc in space between 2 tr of heart, *tr in next 2 dc of row 6 (6: 8), dc in space between 2 tr of heart, rep from * to last st, 1tr in last dc, turn. (20: 22: 24 sts)

Row 9 (9: 11)-11 (11: 13): Using CC3 for heart row, repeat rows 3-5.

Shape neck

Row 1 (WS): Using MC, 1ch, dc2tog twice, dc in each remaining dc across, turn. (18: 20: 22 dc)

Row 2 (RS): 3ch, 1tr in each tr up to last 3 sts, tr2tog, tr in last st, turn. (17: 19: 21 dc)

Row 3-6: Repeat rows 1 & 2 twice. Fasten off. (11: 13: 15 tr)

RIGHT FRONT

Count 20 (22: 24) stitches in from unworked edge and join MC (with WS facing). Work as for left front to row 3 (3: 5).

Colourwork panel

Row 4 (4: 6) (RS): Miss first dc, join CC1 with sl st(blo) in next dc, 1ch, heart in next dc, *miss next 2 dc, heart in next dc, rep from * to last 2 (1: 3) sts, 1ch, sl st in next st, leave remaining sts unworked. Do not turn. Fasten off CC1. (6: 7: 7 hearts)

Row 5 (5: 7): Place marked loop of MC on hook, 3ch, tr in next dc, dc in space between 2 tr of heart, *tr in next 2 dc of row 3 (3: 5), dc in space between 2 tr of heart, rep from * to last 2 (1: 3) sts, tr in remaining sts, turn. (20: 22: 24 tr)

Row 6 (6: 8): Rep row 3.

Row 7 (7: 9): Join CC2 with sl st(blo) in first dc, 1ch, heart in next dc, *miss next 2 dc, heart in next dc, rep from * to last 3 (2: 1) sts, 1ch, sl st in next st, leave remaining sts unworked. Do not turn. Fasten off CC2. (6: 7: 7 hearts)

Row 8 (8: 10): Place marked loop of MC

Row 8 (RS): Rep row 2, using CC3 as contrast colour.

Row 9 (RS): Rep row 3.

Row 10: 1ch, dc to end, turn.

Row 11: 3ch, tr to end. (81: 87: 96 tr)

Repeat last 2 rows (6: 7: 8) times.

LEFT FRONT

Row 1: 1ch, 20 (22: 24) dc, leave remaining sts unworked, turn. (20: 22: 24 dc)

Row 2: 3ch, 19 (21: 23)

tr, turn. (20: 22: 24 tr)

Colourwork panel

Row 3 (3: 5) (WS): 1ch, 20 (22: 24) dc. Place last lp on stitch marker (to resume later), turn.

Row 4 (4: 6) (RS): Miss 1 (0: 2) dc, join CC1 with sl st(blo) in next dc, 1ch, heart in next st, *miss next 2 dc, heart in next dc, rep from * to last 2 sts, 1ch, sl st in next st, leave remaining sts unworked. Do not turn. Fasten off CC1. (6: 7: 7 hearts)

Row 5 (5: 7): Place marked loop of MC back on hook, 3ch, 1tr in next 1 (0: 2) dc, dc in space between 2 tr of heart, *1tr in each of next 2 dc of row 3 (3: 5), dc in space between 2 tr of heart, rep from * to last 2 sts, 1tr in each of last 2 dc, turn. (20: 22: 24 sts)

Row 6 (6: 8): Rep row 3.

Row 7 (7: 9): Miss 2 (1: 0) dc, join CC2 with sl st(blo) in next dc, 1ch, heart in next dc, *miss next 2 dc, heart in next dc, rep from * to last st, 1ch, sl st in last st. Do not turn.

sts, heart in next st, 1ch, sl st(blo) in last dc. Do not turn. Fasten off CC1. (27: 29: 32 hearts)

Row 3 (RS): Place marked lp of MC on hook, 3ch, *dc in sp between 2 tr of heart, 1tr in each of next 2 dc of row 1, rep from * to last heart, dc in space between 2 tr of heart, 1tr in last dc, turn. (81: 87: 96 sts)

Row 4: 1ch (does not count as a st), dc in each dc across, place last lp on stitch marker (to resume after next row), turn.

Row 5 (RS): Join CC2 with a sl st(blo) in second dc, 1ch, heart in next dc, *miss 2 dc, heart in next dc, rep from * to last 3 sts, 1ch, sl st(blo) in next dc, leave remaining sts unworked. Do not turn. Fasten off CC2. (26: 28: 31 hearts)

Row 6 (RS): Place marked loop of MC back on hook, 3ch (counts as tr here and throughout), 1tr in next dc of row 4, *dc in sp between 2 tr of heart, 1tr in each of next 2 dc of row 4, rep from * to last st, 1tr in last dc, turn. (81: 87: 96 sts)

Row 7: Rep row 4.



on hook, 3ch, dc in space between 2 tr of heart, *1tr in each of next 2 dc of row 6 (6: 8), dc in space between 2 tr of heart, rep from * to last 3 (2: 1) sts, tr in remaining sts, turn. (20: 22: 24 sts)

Rows 9 (9: 11) (11: 13): Using CC3 for heart row, repeat rows 3-5.

Shape neck

Row 1 (WS): 1ch, dc in each dc to last 4 sts, dc2tog twice, turn. (18: 20: 22 dc)

Row 2 (RS): 3ch, tr2tog, tr in each tr across, turn. (17: 19: 21 tr)

Rows 3-6: Rep rows 1 and 2 twice. (11: 13: 15 tr)

BACK

Row 1 (WS): With WS facing, insert hook in first unworked stitch next to left front, 1ch, dc in each of next 41 (43: 48) tr, turn. (41: 43: 48 dc)

Row 2 (RS): 3ch, tr in each tr across. (41: 43: 48 tr)

Rows 3-13 (13: 15): Work even in established stitch pattern, ending on dc row.

Last row: 3ch, tr in next 10 (11: 14) sts, tr in next dc, dc in next 17 (17: 16) dc, htr in next st, tr in each tr to end. (22: 24: 30 tr, 2 htr, 17: 17: 16 dc)

SLEEVE (MAKE 2)

Ch 27.

Row 1: Dc in second ch from hook and dc in each ch across, place last lp on stitch marker (to resume after row), turn. (26 dc)

Row 2 (RS): Join CC1 with sl st(blo) in second dc, 1ch, heart in next dc, *miss 2 dc, heart in next dc, rep from * to last 3 sts, heart in next st, 1ch, sl st(blo) in next dc, leave remaining sts unworked. Do not turn. Fasten off CC1. (8 hearts)

Row 3 (RS): Place marked loop of CC1 to hook, 3ch, *dc in sp between 2 tr of heart, 1tr in each of next 2 dc of row 1, rep from * to last 2 sts, dc in space between 2 tr of heart, tr in last dc, turn. (26 sts)

Row 4: 1ch, dc in each dc across, place last lp on stitch marker (to resume after next row), turn.

Row 5 (RS): Join CC2 with sl st(blo) in second dc, 1ch, miss next dc, heart in next dc, *miss 2 dc, heart in next dc, rep from * to last 2 sts, 1ch, sl st(blo) in next dc, leave remaining sts unworked. Do not turn. Fasten off CC2. (8 hearts)

Row 6 (RS): Place marked loop of CC1 back on hook, 3ch, tr in next dc of row 4, *dc in sp between 2tr of heart, 1tr in each

of next 2 dc of row 4, rep from * to last st, tr in last dc, turn. (26 sts)

Row 7: Rep row 4.

Row 8 (RS): Using CC3, rep row 2.

Row 9 (RS): Repeat row 3.

Shaping

Row 1: 1ch, dc in each dc across, turn. (26 dc)

Row 2: 3ch, tr in same st, (increase made), tr in each st to last st, 2tr in last tr, turn. (28 tr)

Rows 3-10 (10: 14): Rep rows 1 and 2.

(36: 36: 40 tr)

Work even as established for 4 (6: 4) rows more. (36: 36: 40 tr)
Fasten off.

FINISHING

Weave in ends. Block each piece to finished measurements. Whip stitch wider, straight edge of sleeve to each shoulder, then sew shoulder and sleeve seams.

Edging

Row 1 (RS): Join MC in lower corner of right front, 1ch, dc around entire front edge and neckline of sweater, working 38 (42: 44) dc in each front section before V-neck.

Row 2: Turn, 1ch, dc in next 38 (42: 44) dc only, fasten off MC. (38: 42: 44 dc)

Row 3: Rejoin MC in lower corner of right front, 1ch, dc

in next 3 dc, (2ch, miss 1 dc) (buttonhole made), *5dc, 2ch, miss 1 dc, rep from * 4 (5: 5) times more, dc in remaining 4 (2: 4) stitches. (6: 7: 7 buttonholes)

Contrast edging

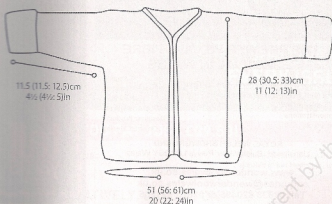
With RS facing and CC1, rev dc around all edges, including neck/plackets, bottom and each sleeve edge.

Sew buttons to left front, adjacent to buttonholes.

Weave in remaing ends.



SCHEMATIC





Skills used

- Foundation rows
- Cluster stitches
- Decreasing
- Working in rows

YARNS USED

Malabrigo Sock • 100% superwash merino wool • 100g/402m/440yd
• WPI 20

Colour: Impressionist Sky (806)

Shannon says: "Malabrigo Sock is one of those great light-fingering yarns that does exactly what you expect it to do every time. There's just enough bounce and drape to the yarn to make even the simplest of stitches come alive. The tonal colours are the icing on the cake, adding dimension and life to this piece."

YARN ALTERNATIVES

Save • Colinette Jitterbug
Spend • Rowan 4Ply Soft
Splurge • KnitPicks Stroll Tonal Sock Yarn

TENSION

Work 20 sts and 16 rows in main body pattern to measure 10x10cm or 4x4in using a 3.5mm hook, or size required to obtain tension.

NOTIONS

3.5mm hook

Tapestry needle

SPECIAL STITCH PATTERNS

Main Body Stitch Pattern
(multiples of 3+1)

Row 1: 1 ch, (dc, htr, tr) in first st, (miss next 2 sts, [dc, htr, tr] in next st) across to last 3 sts, miss next 2 sts, dc in last st, turn.

Designer biography

Shannon has been working with a hook ever since he was a little boy sitting with his mother and grandmother. The fashion designer (and proud member of the Crochet Guild of America) uses crochet as his medium of choice and enjoys combining crochet techniques with contemporary colours and designs to make clothing that people love to make and wear.

Cornflower top

■ SHANNON MULLETT-BOWLSBY

"Floaty and feminine, this cap-sleeve top is quick to work up and perfect for a spring day."



SPECIAL ABBREVIATIONS

C st (compound stitch): (1tr, 3ch, 1htr in side of tr just made) in indicated st or sp.

LC st (large compound stitch): (1tr, 5ch, 1tr in side of tr just made) in indicated st or sp.

2trcl (2tr cluster): Tr2tog in same indicated st.

3trcl (3tr cluster): Tr3tog in same indicated st.

Split DC: Insert hook in last stitch worked, yrh, pull up a loop, insert hook in next st, yrh, pull up a loop, yrh, pull through all 3 loops on hook.

BODY (MAKE 2)

Row 1: 88 (97: 106: 118: 127: 139: 148)

SIZE & YARN AMOUNT

SIZE	S	M	L	XL	2X	3X	4X	
TO FIT BUST	81	91	102	112	122	132	142	cm
	32	36	40	44	48	52	56	in
FINISHED BUST	86	97	107	117	127	137	147	cm
	34	38	42	46	50	54	58	in
LENGTH	58	60	61	62	64	65	66	cm
	23	23½	24	24½	25	25½	26	in
YARN	3	3	4	4	4	4	5	balls
TOTAL METRES	1206	1206	1608	1608	1608	1608	2010	-
TOTAL YARDS	1370	1320	1760	1760	1760	1760	2200	-

Fhtr, turn.

Rows 2-40: Work main body pattern.

ARMHOLE DECREASES

Back armholes

Row 41: 1 ch, miss first st, sl st in next st,



For a special touch, thread a satin ribbon through the mesh in the cap sleeves and tie to make a pretty bow.



PATTERN Cornflower top

Border

Row 1: 1ch, 1tr in first st, 5tr in 3ch-sp, (dc in next 5ch-sp, (5tr, 2ch, 1dc, 2ch, 5tr) in next 5ch-sp) across to last 3ch-sp, 5tr in 3ch-sp, 1tr in last st, turn.

Row 2: 1ch, dc in first st, (*3ch, 2trcl in dc just made, miss next 5 sts, 3trcl in next st, 3ch, 2trcl in top of 3trcl just made, miss next 5 sts, dc in next st, *5ch, miss next 3 sts, dc in next st) to last 12 sts, rep from * to * 1 more time, turn.

Row 3: 1ch, dc in first st, (*5ch, miss next 3 sts, 3trcl in top of 3trcl, 5ch, miss next 3 sts, dc in next st, *2ch, dc in 5ch-sp, 2ch, dc in next dc) across to last set of 3tr clusters, rep from * to * 1 more time, turn.

Row 4: 1ch, 1tr in first st, (*5tr in 5ch-sp, 2ch, dc in top of next 3trcl, 2ch, 5tr in 5ch-sp, *miss next 3 sts, dc in next st) across to last set of 3tr clusters, rep from * to * 1 more time, 1tr in last st, turn.

Fasten off.

Repeat for back.

CAP SLEEVES (MAKE 2)

Row 1: 25 (25: 27: 27: 28: 28: 30) Fhtr, turn.

Row 2: 1ch, 1tr in first st, 2tr in next st, miss next st, C st in next st, (miss next 2 sts, C st in next st) across to last 3 sts, miss next st, 2tr in next st, 1tr in last st, turn.

Row 3: 1ch, 1tr in first st, 2tr in next st, C st in next st, (C st in next C st) across to last 3 sts, C st in next st, 2tr in next st, 1tr in last st, turn.

Rows 4-9: Rep row 3.

Row 10: 1ch, 1tr in first st, 1tr, miss next st, (C st in next C st) across to last 3 sts, miss next st, 2tr, turn.

Row 11: 1ch, 1tr in first st, 1tr, (LC st in next C st) across to last 2 sts, 2tr, turn.

Row 12: 1ch, 1tr in first st, 2tr, 5tr in next 5ch-sp, (dc in next 5ch-sp, (5tr, 2ch, 1dc, 2ch, 5tr) in next 5ch-sp) across to last 5ch-sp, 5tr in next 5ch-sp, 3tr, turn.

Row 13: 1ch, 3dc, (*3ch, 2trcl in dc just made, miss next 5 sts, 3trcl in next st, 3ch, 2trcl in top of 3tr cluster just made,

miss next 5 sts, 1dc, *5ch, miss next 3 sts, 1dc) to last 12 sts, rep from * to * 1 more time, 2dc, turn.

Row 14: 1ch, 3dc, (*5ch, miss next 3 sts, 3trcl in top of 3tr cluster, 5ch, miss next 3 sts, 1dc, *2ch, dc in 5ch-sp, 2ch, 1dc) across to last set of 3tr clusters, rep from * to * 1 more time, 2dc, turn.

Row 15: 1ch, 3tr, (*5tr in 5ch-sp, 2ch, dc in top of next 3tr cluster, 2ch, 5tr in 5ch-sp, *miss next 3 sts, 1dc) across to last set of 3tr clusters, rep from * to * 1 more time, 2tr, turn.

FINISHING

Block all pieces gently, to open lace and straighten borders.

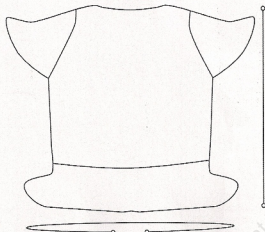
Work Split DC border along both sides, shoulders and neckline (but excluding bottom of border) of front and back and around top and sides of cap sleeves.

Working into Split DC border just made, attach front to back, leaving 18 (19: 20: 22: 23: 24: 25)cm or 7 (7½: 8: 8½: 9: 9½: 10)in for armholes.

Stitch sleeves into armhole openings. Block all seams.

PATTERN
ENDS

SCHEMATIC



58 (60: 61: 62: 64: 65: 66)cm
23 (23½: 24: 24½: 25: 25½: 26)in

86 (97: 107: 117: 127: 137: 147)cm
34 (38: 42: 46: 50: 54: 58)in

Wear alone on a warm spring day or layer over a vest top if the weather is looking a little changeable.

Stepping into **Bonnie Meltzer's**
cosy studio loft is like taking a
trip to **Wonderland!**

the art of WIRE CROCHET

We meet three prolific artists who take us into their wonderful world of crocheting with wire. **BY GWEN BLAKLEY KINSLER**

Crochet doesn't need to be a yarn-based activity – there are so many wonderful materials that can be used to give different and fascinating effects. Wire is becoming an increasingly popular medium for casual crafters and professionals alike. So why not step out of your crochet comfort zone and explore the wonderful world of wire?

Artistic endeavours

Soonran Youn is one of the most prolific wire-crochet artists working today. A native of Korea, she received her second Master of Fine Arts in 1999 from Indiana University. She explains, "In 1997, I began to use the technique of crochet as an artistic medium. I found that manipulating wire was most suitable – it's fascinating to see how linear materials are transformed into dimensional surfaces with a simple hook! The process itself engages me – using silver-plated copper wire or stainless-steel wire, I can create various textures, densities and flexibilities that conventional materials don't allow. The three-dimensional open structures I construct project a relationship between inside and outside. It's very pleasurable to feel and touch the materials with my hands, and work with all the myriad spatial considerations."

Soonran likes to be thought of as an artist who uses various techniques or materials, depending on the images she's expressing.

Even though material is a secondary concern in constructing her art, choosing the proper material is crucial to her. "The material conveys the concept," she explains, "It mustn't deliver wrong messages to the viewers."

Natural inspiration

Stepping into Bonnie Meltzer's cosy studio loft is like taking a trip to Wonderland! For more than 35 years, she's used wire and recycled materials to crochet wall sculptures and jewellery that she designs on a computer. Her artwork is so full of life, it's as if at any minute the clock could start talking, the teapots could sing, and the nuts and bolts could dance in rhythm! Bonnie is also a dedicated urban gardener – surrounding her >



BELOW LEFT: Tami Harris in New York City uses wire to create jewelry.

BELOW: Bonnie Meltzer uses wire to create wall sculptures and jewelry.



toptip

Add beads along the edge of the waves to make the stole glisten in the sunlight – just like the ocean.

for the colour switch just ahead), switch to Colour B, R-shell 3 times, switch to Colour A, R-shell 3 times, making last dc in first ch of t-ch.

Row 18: 6ch, turn, dc in next dtr, spacer twice, L-spacer, switching to Colour B before dtr of the L-spacer, spacer twice, switching to Colour A before last dc of second spacer, R-spacer (working the cluster stitches over Colour A yarn strung over for the colour switch just made), spacer 3 times, switch to Colour B, R-spacer (working the cluster stitches over Colour B yarn strung over for the colour switch just made), spacer twice, 2ch, dtr in first ch of t-ch.

Row 19: 7ch, turn, dc in next dc, R-shell 3 times, switch to Colour A, R-shell 3 times, full shell, switch to Colour B, R-shell twice, full shell, switching to Colour A after dtr of the full shell, R-shell twice, (tr, tr, dtr) in fourth ch of t-ch.

Row 20: 1ch, turn, spacer 3 times, switching to Colour B before last dc of the third spacer, spacer twice, L-spacer (working cluster stitches over Colour A yarn strung over for the colour switch just ahead), switching to Colour A before last dc of the L-spacer, spacer 3 times, switch to Colour B, R-spacer (working cluster stitches over Colour B yarn strung over for the colour switch just made), spacer 3 times, making last dc in fourth ch of t-ch.

Row 21: 1ch, turn, L-shell 4 times, switching to Colour A before last dc of the fourth L-shell, full shell, L-shell twice,

switch to Colour B, L-shell 3 times, switch to Colour A, L-shell 3 times, making last dc in first ch of t-ch.

Row 22: 6ch, turn, dc in next dtr, spacer twice, R-spacer, switching to Colour B before dtr of the R-spacer, spacer twice, L-spacer (working cluster stitches over Colour A yarn strung over for the colour switch just ahead), switch to Colour A, spacer twice, switch to Colour B and fasten off Colour A, R-spacer (working cluster stitches over Colour B yarn strung over for the colour switch just made), spacer 3 times, 2ch, dtr in first ch of t-ch.

Row 23: 4ch, turn, (2tr) in last dtr of t-ch, dc in next dc, L-shell 6 times, pick up Colour B from the row below and fasten off working Colour B, L-shell 4 times, switching to Colour A before first tr of the fourth L-shell, L-shell twice with Colour A, 3ch, dtr in fourth ch of t-ch.

Row 24: 1ch, turn, spacer 3 times, switch to Colour B, R-spacer, spacer 9 times, making last dc in fourth ch of t-ch.

Row 25: 1ch, turn, R-shell 10 times, switching to Colour A before last dc of the 10th R-shell, R-shell 3 times with Colour A, making last dc in first ch of t-ch.

Row 26: 6ch, turn, dc in next dtr, spacer twice, L-spacer (working cluster stitches over Colour B yarn strung over for the colour switch just ahead), switch to Colour B, spacer 9 times, 2ch, dtr in first ch of t-ch.

Row 27: 7ch, turn, dc in next dc, R-shell 9 times, switching to Colour A before last dc of the ninth R-shell, R-shell 3 times, (tr, tr, dtr) in fourth ch of t-ch.

Row 28: 1ch, turn, spacer 3 times, L-spacer (working cluster stitches over Colour B yarn strung over for the colour switch just ahead), switch to Colour B, spacer 9 times, making last dc in fourth ch of t-ch.

Row 29: 1ch, turn, L-shell 9 times, switching to Colour A before last dc of the ninth L-shell, L-shell 4 times with Colour A, making last dc in first ch of t-ch.

Row 30: 6ch, turn, dc in next dtr, spacer 3 times, L-spacer (working cluster stitches over Colour B yarn strung over for the colour switch just ahead), switch to Colour B, spacer 8 times, 2ch, dtr in first ch of t-ch.

Row 31: 4ch, turn, (2tr) in last dtr of t-ch, dc in next dc, L-shell 8 times, switching to Colour A before last dc of eighth L-shell, L-shell 4 times with Colour A, 3ch, dtr in fourth ch of t-ch.

Row 32: 1ch, turn, spacer 4 times, L-spacer (working cluster stitches over Colour B yarn strung over for the colour switch just ahead), switch to Colour B, spacer 3 times while crocheting chain stitches of each of these 3 spacers with both Colours A and B (carrying Colour A to the colour switch point in the next row), drop Colour A but don't fasten off, continue with Colour B, spacer 5 times, making last dc in fourth ch of t-ch.

Rows 33-192: Repeat rows 1-32 another 5 times.

FINISHING

Weave in ends.
Block.



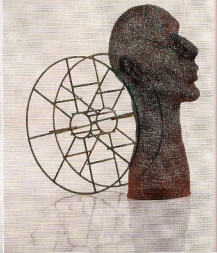
CHART

KEY

- Chain ○
- Double crochet +
- Double treble T
- Treble crochet T

		31
		29
		27
		25
		23
		21
		19
		17
		15
		13
		11
		9
		7
		5
		3
		1





An **artist, computer aficionado** and **recycler**, Bonnie links all her **concepts together** with the element of **crochet**.

brightly painted orange and purple bungalow is a garden alive with perennials, annuals and food that sustains her throughout the year.

A full-time artist in Portland, Oregon, Bonnie is committed to sustainability and uses recycled objects in her artwork. In art school, she re-discovered the crochet of her childhood when she crocheted over a warp. Soon, she left the warp behind and was crocheting sculptures. In graduate school, she incorporated crochet into large-scale figures for her Masters thesis. Several classic books of the 1970s, such as *The Crocheter's Art* by Del Pitt Feldman, featured Bonnie's sculptures and dimensional wall work.

An artist, computer aficionado and recycler, Bonnie links all her concepts together with the element of crochet. She explains, "Keeping stuff out of the landfill is a motivation, but the opportunities for symbolism and their intrinsic beauty are more important. Among the materials I use, crochet is important and it seemed only natural that I should put the glaming wire and the glittering computer parts together." Bonnie continues, "I love crochet as a 'skin'. It can stretch around an armature and changes the surface by adding textural qualities, pattern and depth through light and shadows. The transparency of crochet enriches my work and makes it more interesting."

Pushing the boundaries

Jeehyun Chung became fascinated with the liberty of making shapes while playing with her fabric and thread collection. Korean-born, she lives in Edinburgh and originally trained as a

silversmith. "The flexibility of my crochet work exudes warmth, and the variety of approaches in crochet allows me to develop designs that combine wire and fibre to achieve an interesting effect."

Jeehyun offers this reliable advice to budding designers: "Be positive, be confident and do your best. Don't be afraid of challenges or fearful of design attempts that don't work out – think of them as learning experiences that you can grow from!"

Crochet is becoming increasingly popular in art, fashion and as a hobby. Jeehyun believes that portability has contributed to this phenomenon. "Crochet is a very light. Crocheting with wire can be addictive! It's very important to take breaks to protect your hands."

If you're feeling inspired by these talented artists, why not try crocheting with wire? However, if you're a perfectionist, beware – wire isn't forgiving like yarn and once a stitch is made, it's there to stay. You mustn't expect to do a lot of tearing out if you make a mistake, so it's best to practise your pattern stitch with crochet thread before starting with wire – you'll soon gain the confidence needed to help you avoid mistakes. ☺



ABOVE: Various structural pieces in wire, Jeehyun is not afraid of a special occasion.

TOP RIGHT: Bonnie brings together many concepts to produce her symbolic designs.

TOP LEFT: Wire is so malleable – get creative!

Skills used

- Cluster stitches
- Working in rows
- Changing colours
- Working from charts (optional)

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Blocked stole measures
162.5x30.5cm or 64x12in

YARNS USED

Malabrigo Sock • 100% merino
• 99g/402m/440yd • WPI 28

Colour A: Azules (856) – 1 skein

Colour B: Impressionist Sky (806)
– 1 skein

YARN REVIEW

Anna says: "Malabrigo Sock is lovely and soft, and there's a sophisticated colour palette to choose from. Two hanks - one of each colour - are just enough to complete this project."

YARN ALTERNATIVES

Save • King Cole Merino Blend 4Ply
Spend • KnitPicks Gloss
Splurge • Lung Yarns Merino 150

TENSION

Exact tension is not important for this particular project.

NOTIONS

3.25mm hook
Tapestry needle

Designer biography

Anna Tirat Gefen is a mother of three young kids and a full-time scientist. On Ravelry, her user name is SimpleBeauty.

Ocean stole

■ ANNA TIRAT-GEFEN

"This pattern was inspired by natural phenomena – wind, waves and fire. If it's made in blue and white colour combinations, the stole resembles interlocking waves and foam."



SPECIAL ABBREVIATIONS

R-shell (right half-filled shell)

(2tr, 1 dtr) in next dtr, 3ch, dc in next dc.

Note: For the first R-shell of the first row, only work (2tr, 1 dtr) in fifth ch from hook, 3ch, dc in third ch from last st.

For the first row only, work as follows: (2tr, 1 dtr) in 3rd ch from last dc, 3ch, dc in third ch from last st.

L-shell (left half-filled shell)

3ch, (dtr, 2tr) in next dtr, dc in next dc.

Full shell

(2tr, 1 dtr, 2tr) in next dtr, dc in next dc.

(Tr, tr, dtr) cluster

(Yrh, insert hook in next stitch, yrh, draw yarn through stitch, yrh, draw through 2 loops on hook) twice, (yrh, insert hook in next stitch, yrh, draw yarn through stitch, (yrh, draw through 2 loops on hook) twice, yrh, draw yarn through 4 loops on hook.

(Dtr, tr, tr) cluster

Yrh twice, insert hook in next stitch, yrh, draw yarn through stitch, (yrh, draw through 2 loops on hook) twice, (yrh, insert hook in next stitch, yrh, draw yarn through stitch, yrh, draw through 2 loops on hook) twice, yrh, draw yarn through 4 loops on hook.

Spacer

2ch, dtr in next dc, 2ch, dc in next dtr.

L-spacer (left-filled spacer)

2ch, work a (dtr, tr, tr) cluster into dc in row below and into 2 stitches (2ch or 2tr) to the left of dc in row below, 2ch, dc in next dtr.

R-spacer (right-filled spacer)

2ch, work a (tr, tr, dtr) cluster into 2 stitches (2ch or 2tr) to the right of dc in row below and into dc in row below, 2ch, dc in next dtr.

PATTERN NOTES

This pattern is worked in an 8-row repeat asymmetrical lacy stitch, specially designed for this stole. One wave pattern repeat is 32 rows.

When working a colour change, pull through the loop(s) on the hook with the new colour right before starting the first stitch in the new colour.

Before starting the work, if using one hank of each colour, rewind each hank into 2 equal-weight balls. The colour changes in the pattern are written in such a way that an equal amount of yarn will be used from each of the 4 balls, so that none of them runs out before the end.

Work 6 repeats of the 32-row wave block pattern to achieve the length shown. The

Flora KLICKMANN

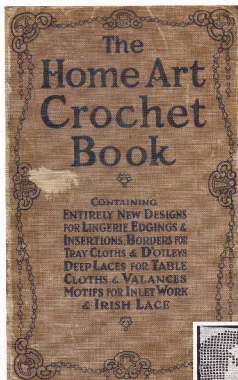
(1867-1958)

The **Victorian** and **Edwardian** ages were a golden period for crochet, which was seen as a cheap and quick alternative to lace making. Here, we take a look at the life of one of the foremost crocheters of the period – writer and designer **Flora Klickmann**.

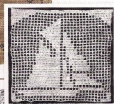
By Helen Free

Emily Flora Klickmann, to give her full name, was born in London on 26th January 1867. She graduated in music and wanted to be a concert pianist but sadly, due to a heart weakness, she was advised to give up her plans. Instead, she began to work as a music teacher at the age of 21.

A move into music journalism started her long career as a journalist, author and editor. In 1908, she was appointed editor of *The Girl's Own Paper* (later known as *The Girl's Own Paper And Woman's Magazine*) – a periodical aimed at young women. Flora replaced Charles Peters, who'd been the editor since the first issue. She was very innovative and introduced many new themes to the magazine, such as career advice, style tips, photography competitions and crafts, all of which proved popular with the readers.



LEFT: An original copy of Flora's book – a joy for anyone interested in the history of crochet.



toptip

Use the elements as your inspiration – create fire by using deep reds and burnt ambers or air with crisp white.

Ocean stole

item can be made shorter or longer by working fewer or more pattern repeats.

Chart notes: Odd rows are half-filled shell rows and on the chart, they're worked from right to left. Foundation chain is not numbered as a row. Even (spacer) rows are not numbered on the chart, they're worked from the chart from left to right.

SKIPPED START

STOLE

With Colour A, 49 ch, join Colour B, 30 ch with Colour B.

Row 1: 1 ch, turn, R-shell 5 times, switching to Colour A before last dc of the fifth R-shell, R-shell 8 times with Colour A.

Row 2: 6 ch, turn, dc in next dtr, spacer 7 times, L-spacer, switching to Colour B before last dc of the L-spacer, spacer 4 times, 2 ch, dtr in first ch of t-ch.

Row 3: 7 ch, turn, dc in next dc, R-shell 4 times, switching to Colour A before last dc of the fourth R-shell, R-shell 8 times, (tr, tr, dtr) in fourth ch of t-ch.

Row 4: 1 ch, turn, spacer 8 times, L-spacer, switching to Colour B before last dc of the L-spacer, spacer 4 times, making last dc in fourth ch of t-ch.

Row 5: 1 ch, turn, L-shell 4 times, switching to Colour A before last dc of the fourth L-shell, L-shell 9 times with Colour A, making last dc in first ch of t-ch.

Row 6: 6 ch, turn, dc in next dtr, spacer 8 times, L-spacer, switching to Colour B before last dc of the L-spacer, spacer 3 times, 2 ch, dtr in first ch of t-ch.

Row 7: 4 ch, turn, (2tr) in last dtr of t-ch, dc in next dc, L-shell 3 times, switching to Colour A before last dc of the third L-shell, L-shell 9 times with Colour A, 3 ch, dtr in fourth ch of t-ch.

Row 8: 1 ch, turn, spacer 9 times, L-spacer, switching to Colour B before the last dc of the L-spacer, spacer 3 times, making last dc in fourth ch of t-ch.

Row 9: 1 ch, turn, R-shell 3 times, switching to Colour A before last dc of the third R-shell, R-shell 10 times with Colour A, making last dc in first ch of t-ch.

Row 10: 6 ch, turn, dc in next dtr, spacer 9 times, L-spacer, switching to Colour B before first tr of the cluster inside the L-spacer, spacer twice, 2 ch, dtr in first ch of t-ch.

Row 11: 7 ch, turn, dc in next dc, R-shell 3 times, switching to Colour A before dtr inside the third R-shell, R-shell 3 times, joining new ball of Colour B before last

3 ch of the third R-shell, R-shell twice with Colour B, join new ball of Colour A, R-shell 4 times, (tr, tr, dtr) in fourth ch of t-ch.

Row 12: 1 ch, turn, spacer 4 times, switching to Colour B before last dc of the fourth spacer, R-cluster (working cluster stitches over Colour B yarn strung over for the colour switch just made), spacer, L-spacer, switch to Colour A, spacer 3 times, switch to Colour B, spacer 3 times, making last dc in fourth ch of t-ch.

Row 13: 1 ch, turn, L-shell 3 times, switching to Colour A before last dc of third L-shell, L-shell 3 times, switching to Colour B before last dc of third L-shell, L-shell 3 times, switch to Colour A, L-shell 4 times, making last dc in first ch of t-ch.

Row 14: 6 ch, turn, dc in next dtr, spacer 3 times, switching to Colour B before last dc of the third spacer, R-spacer (working cluster stitches over Colour B yarn strung over for the colour switch just made), spacer twice, L-spacer (working cluster stitches over Colour A yarn strung over for the colour switch just ahead), switch

to Colour A, spacer twice, L-spacer, switching to Colour B before the first tr in the L-spacer, spacer twice, 2 ch, dtr in first ch of t-ch.

Row 15: 4 ch, turn, (2tr) in last dtr of t-ch, dc in next dc, L-shell twice, full shell, switching to Colour A before dtr in full shell, L-shell twice, switching to Colour B before last dc of second L-shell, full shell, L-shell 3 times, switch to Colour A, L-shell 3 times, 3 ch, dtr in fourth ch of t-ch.

Row 16: 1 ch, turn, spacer 3 times, switching to Colour B before last dc of the third spacer, R-spacer (working the cluster stitches over Colour B yarn strung over for the colour switch just made), spacer 3 times, switch to Colour A, R-spacer (working the cluster stitches over Colour A yarn strung over for the colour switch just made), spacer twice, switch to Colour B, spacer 3 times, making last dc in fourth ch of t-ch.

Row 17: 1 ch, turn, R-shell 3 times, switch to Colour A, R-shell 3 times, full shell (working over Colour B yarn strung over



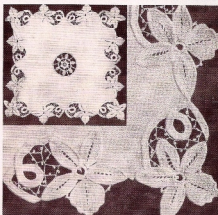
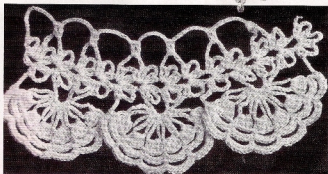
Thrown about your shoulders with a formal evening dress underneath, this stole is the perfect addition to your party outfit.

In 1913, Flora married Ebenezer Henderson Smith, one of the executives who'd been instrumental in getting *The Girl's Own Paper* up and running. As a wedding present, Ebenezer purchased a house in Brockweir, Gloucestershire, and in 1916, Flora published the first of a series of books about life in her country cottage, based on articles she'd originally written for *The Girl's Own Paper*. In later years, the stories grew to involve her household and the local people, combining nature, anecdote, autobiography, religion and humour. In all, seven *Flower Patch* books were published over a period of 32 years. Flora died on 20th November 1958, aged 91, and was buried in the Moravian Churchyard in Brockweir.

Making her mark

Although Flora is probably best known for her *Flower Patch* series, she also made a fantastic and lasting contribution to crochet history. *The Home Art Crochet Book* is full of patterns for lace borders and filet crochet, and was only the first in a series of fascinating books. The designs in all of these books are elegant and intricate. They can be adapted to today's lifestyle, which makes each design timeless and well worth the time and effort spent producing a crocheted masterpiece. The *Home Art* series of books were published while Flora was editor of *The Girl's Own Paper* and *Stitchery*, a quarterly paper published as a supplement. This was consequently published in annuals containing the four issues. *The Home Art Crochet Book* was published in 1912 in London by *The Girl's Own Paper*. The book is advertised as 'containing entirely new designs for lingerie, edgings and insertions, borders for tray cloths and doilies, deep laces for table cloths and valences, motifs for inlet work and Irish lace' – a comprehensive list by any standards!

For anybody interested in thread crochet, this book is full of inspiration. The first section is for the 'average worker' – it's worth bearing in mind that the average worker at that time was far more accomplished than the average worker now! The instructions



Stitchery, also published in 1912. Although this book isn't dedicated to crochet, there are some truly fascinating patterns in there. The 'Venetian Crochet Centre' is particularly lovely. It's made with 'Cleavers' 'grass-bleached' linen and Irish lace thread, and uses a No 6 crochet hook. There are detailed instructions for the centre motif and those around the edge.

In the third book of the series, *The Craft Of*

The Crochet Hook, instructions are given for both Irish crochet and 'plain crochet'. Flora suggests a 'rather coarse hook – No 4 will suit' for these lessons. 'The idea of 'coarse' is somewhat different from ours – the No 4 that she suggests is about 1mm!

Ten more books followed between 1912 and 1921, although only four are dedicated to crochet. These books have stood the test of time and give a unique insight into the crafts of that era.

Each design is timeless and well worth the time spent producing a crocheted masterpiece.

for the 'rosette edging' certainly look enough to frighten off today's beginners! We have to remember that girls were taught to be accomplished needle workers at a young age, and the style of pattern writing reflected the way girls were taught. Nowadays, we expect every single action to be explicitly detailed for us, and crocheters of today might get the feeling that half the pattern is missing!

The second book in the series is *The Home Art Book Of Fancy*

All the images used in this article come from the original books, which are now in the public domain.

If you're interested in seeing more, or you're brave enough to attempt some of these patterns, a few of the books can be downloaded from the Antique Pattern Library. Visit www.antiquepatternlibrary.org for more details.

Difficulty: 1 Beginner

Skills used

- Trebles
- Working in rows
- Shell stitch

YARNS USED

Louisa Harding Merletto
• 50g/90m/98yd • WPI 11
Colour: Coral (3)

YARN REVIEW

Jennifer says: "Louisa Harding Merletto is a wonderful, luxurious yarn. It shows the stitch pattern nicely while still being lightweight."

YARN ALTERNATIVES

Save • Rico Cotton DK
Spend • Blue Sky Alpaca Silk
Splurge • Alchemy Silken Straw

TENSION

Work 13 sts and 7 rows in shell pattern to measure 10x10cm or 4x4in using a 6.5mm hook, or size required to obtain tension.

NOTIONS

6.5mm hook
12 glass beads
Sewing/beading thread
Sewing/beading needle
Tapestry needle

Designer biography

Jennifer Cirka, the designer behind Jaybird Designs, is never without a hook and yarn in her hands! Her designs can be found in various magazines and online at www.jaybirddesigns.com

Goddess tunic

■ JENNIFER J. CIRKA

"This **chic dress** is crocheted in a **light and airy** stitch to keep you cool in the warmer months. It's a versatile piece that can be **layered** and worn in a number of **different** ways."



This **delicate dress** can be **layered** with a long-sleeved tee for **spring**, or worn in the height of **summer** as a **beach cover-up**.



SIZE & YARN AMOUNT

SIZE	XS	S	M	L	XL	XXL	
TO FIT BUST	95	108	120.5	133	146	158.5	cm
	37 1/2	42 1/2	47 1/2	52 1/2	57 1/2	62 1/2	in
FINISHED BUST	76	86	96.5	106.5	117	127	cm
	30	34	38	42	46	50	in
LENGTH	74	74	76	76	79	79	cm
	29	29	30	30	31	31	in
YARN	9	10	11	12	14	15	balls
TOTAL METRES	719	817	916	1034	1179	1281	-
TOTAL YARDS	786	894	1024	1131	1290	1401	-





Goddess tunic

PATTERN

Goddess tunic

PATTERN NOTES

Keep tension loose to make pieces light and airy.

Be sure to attach new ball of yarn at the end or beginning of a row to help hide loose ends.

SPECIAL STITCH PATTERNS

Shell stitch

*Miss 2 chs/sts, 5tr in next ch/st, miss 2 chs/sts, dc in next ch/st, rep from * as instructed.

TUNIC PANELS (MAKE 2)

Ch62 (68: 74: 80: 92: 98)

Row 1: Dc in second ch from hook, work shell-stitch pattern to end of chain, turn.

The simple shape and delicate fastenings give this tunic a hint of **1920s style**. It would be a great way to show off some **vintage buttons**.

(10: 11: 12: 13: 15: 16 shells)

Row 2: 3ch, 2tr in first dc, miss 2 sts, dc in next st, work shell-stitch pattern to last 3 sts, miss last 2 tr, 3tr in last st, turn. (9: 10: 11: 12: 14: 15 complete shells)

Row 3: 1ch, dc in first st, work shell-stitch pattern to end, placing the last dc in third ch of t-ch, turn. (10: 11: 12: 13: 15: 16 shells)

Rows 4-29 (4-29: 4-31: 4-31: 4-33:

4-33): Rep rows 2 & 3 until panel is approximately 41.5 (41.5: 44: 47: 47) cm or 16¼ (16¼: 17¼: 17¼: 18½: 18½)in, ending with a row 3.

Row 30 (30: 32: 32: 34: 34) inc row: 3ch, 4tr in first dc, miss 2 sts, dc in next st, work shell-stitch pattern to last 3 sts, miss last 2 tr, 5tr in last st, turn. (11: 12: 13: 15: 16: 17 shells)

Row 31 (31: 33: 33: 35: 35): 4ch, 2tr in fourth ch from hook, miss 2 sts, dc in next st, work shell-stitch pattern to last 3 sts, miss last 2 tr, 3tr in t-ch, turn.

Rows 32-53 (32-53: 34-54: 34-54: 36-55:

36-55): Repeat rows 2 & 3 until tunic measures approximately 74 (74: 76: 76: 79: 79)cm/29 (29: 30: 30: 31: 31)in. Fasten off.

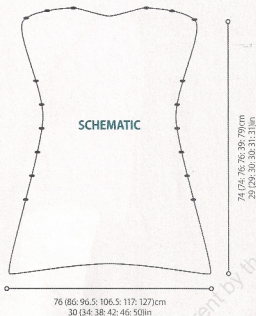


FINISHING

Weave in ends.

Place the two tunic panels RS together and sew beads at sides and shoulders through both pieces at evenly spaced intervals, as shown on the schematic.

FINISHING ENDS



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crochet together, inserting a small amount of stuffing before closing. Stitch a support underneath each petal using a matching yarn, and attach a flower. The edges of the petals should be left free. Extra leaves can be stitched to the supports to hide any gaps in the centre.

LEAVES

Curved leaf

Make approximately 15 leaves, some in CC4 and some in CC5, using a 3mm hook. Work in back loops only as follows:

Row 1 (base): 2ch, 2dc in first ch, turn.

Row 2: 8ch, miss first st, 7dc, sl st to first st of base, turn.

Row 3: Miss 1st, 2dc, dc2tog, 2dc, 2dc in next st, turn.

Row 4: 4ch, miss first st, 8dc, turn.

Row 5: Miss first st, 2dc, dc2tog, 2dc, 2dc in next st, turn.

Row 6: 4ch, miss one st, 8dc, turn.

Row 7: Miss first st, 5dc, sl st, turn.

Row 8: Miss first st, sl st, 4dc, 1dc (side), 1dc, turn.

Row 9: Miss first st, 4dc, sl st, turn.

Row 10: Miss first st, sl st, 3dc, *1dc (side), 2dc, rep from *, turn.

Row 11: Miss first st, 4dc, sl st, turn.

Row 12: Miss first st, sl st, 3dc, 1dc (side), 1dc, sl st to last st of base, sl st into hole. Fasten off.

Straight leaf

Make approximately 3 leaves, some in CC4 and some in CC5, using a 3mm hook.

Work in back loops only as follows:

Row 1 (base): 2ch, 2dc in first ch, turn.

Row 2: 8ch, miss first st, 7dc, sl st to first st of base, turn.

Row 3: Miss first st, 6dc, 2dc in next st, turn.

Row 4: 4ch, miss first st, 8dc, turn.

Row 5: Miss first st, 6dc, turn.

Row 6: 4ch, miss first st, 8dc, turn.

Row 7: Miss first st, 5dc, sl st, turn.

Row 8: Miss first st, sl st, 4dc, 1dc (side), 1dc, turn.

Row 9: Miss first st, 4dc, sl st, turn.

Row 10: Miss first st, sl st, 3dc, *1dc (side), 1dc, rep from *, turn.

Row 11: Miss first st, 3dc, sl st, turn.

Row 12: Miss first st, sl st, 2dc, 1dc (side), 1dc, sl st to last st of base, sl st into hole. Fasten off.

Leaf supports

Work a few supports to use at the end to raise some leaves.

Using MC and 4mm hook, work in a spiral as follows:

Row 1: 5ch, miss first st, 3dc, 3dc in next st. Work along other side of 5 ch, 3dc, sl st to next ch. Fasten off.

Make another oval, but do not fasten off. With WS of both circles facing, crochet together, inserting a small amount of stuffing before closing.



When making the leaves, remember that odd numbers always work the best!



Skills used

- Increasing & decreasing
- Back loop only
- Embroidery (optional)
- Using a lucet (optional)

YARNS USED

Robin Aran With Wool • 75% acrylic, 25% wool • 400g/800m/875yd • WPI 8
MC: Cappuccino (1022) – 1 ball

Robin DK • 100% acrylic
• 100g/300m/328yd • WPI 11
CC1: Pale Rose (111); CC2: Dusky Pink (030); CC3: Misty Green (280) – 1 ball of each

Stylecraft Special DK • 100% acrylic
• 100g/295m/322yd • WPI 11
CC3: Soft Peach (1240); CC4: Burgundy (1035); CC6: Lemon (1020) – 1 ball of each

Twilley's Lyscordet 3PLY • mercerised cotton • 100g/400m/440yd
CC7: Shade 88 – 1 ball

YARN REVIEW

Barbara says: "The colour and texture of the Robin Aran yarn really enhance the floral design."

YARN ALTERNATIVES

Save • Stylecraft Life DK/Stylecraft Special Aran

Spend • Wendy Peter Pan DK/
King Cole Fashion Aran

Splurge • Sirdar Snuggly DK/
Sirdar Supersoft Aran

TENSION

Tension is not important for this project, but it needs to be consistent to retain the shape.

NOTIONS

2mm, 3mm & 4mm hooks
Cushion pad – 33.5cm/14in diameter
Polyester stuffing
Thread in matching colours
Stitch marker
Zip – 40cm/15¾in long
Lucet (optional)
Tapestry needle

Designer biography

Barbara taught textiles for 34 years in schools in and around Birmingham, and is now a published author.

Clematis cushion

• BARBARA LAWLER

"A **clematis** grows over my fence and I can see it from the kitchen window. It's such a **fantastic show** that I wanted to **recreate it for the home.**"



SPECIAL ABBREVIATIONS

1dc (side): Work the next double crochet around the side or post of the missed st on the prev row.

PATTERN NOTES

Work one dc into all first stitches, unless pattern states otherwise. Do not work any turning chains.

CUSHION

(Make 2 pieces, front and back)
Using MC and 4mm hook, work as a spiral and use stitch marker to indicate end of the round.

Make an adjustable loop and sl st to secure.

Rnd 1: Work 10dc into the loop. Pm and pull tightly to close.

Rnd 2 (and all even rows): 1dc in each st.

Rnd 3: *1dc, 2dc (increase st) in next st, rep to end.

Rnd 5: *2dc, 2dc in next st, rep to end.

Rnd 7: *3dc, 2dc in next st, rep to end. Continue increasing the number of dcs worked between increase sts by 1 every odd rnd, until circle measures 30cm/12in in diameter.

Next rnd: Turn and work 1dc in each st around. Fasten off.

FLOWERS

(Make 5 in a combination of colours)

Base ring: Using either CC1, CC2 or CC3 and a 3mm hook, make an adjustable ring and sl st to secure. 2ch, 12htr into ring, sl st to 2ch.



This **floral cushion** is the **perfect** way to bring a touch of **springtime** into your home. Why not make a set and **decorate** your living room?



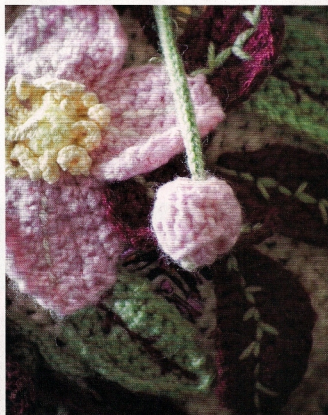
top tip

For a little extra interest, try adding a bud to the zip fastening.

Clematis cushion

PATTERN

Clematis cushion



For a more **rustic look**, lose the zip
and fasten with **buttons** instead!



FINISHING

Embroidery leaves (optional)

Trace the leaf template onto tissue paper, one for each leaf you want to stitch. Cut each leaf out, leaving a narrow margin of tissue paper around the edge. Arrange the leaves onto the front cushion background as desired. Using a single length of thread or yarn, embroider the leaves over the tissue paper. Gently tear away the tissue paper when the leaf is finished.

Zip and joining circles

Using MC and 4mm hook, join yarn to any st.

Row 1: 55dc, turn.

Row 2: Miss first st, 54dc, turn.

Row 3: Miss first st, 53dc.

Fasten off.

Rep for the second cushion circle.

Pin RS of zip to RS of extension just worked, tack, then work a line of small running stitches 0.5cm/¼in from the zip teeth.

With the zip closed, rep for the other side. Turn cushion inside out and sl st sides together.

Crochet leaves

Embroider veins in running st, using a contrasting colour if desired. Lay the leaves on the background and move around until you're happy with the arrangement and pin in place. Some leaves can be raised from the background using leaf supports.

Stems

Work lengths of i-cord (in CC4 and CC5 to match leaves), either by knitting (on double-pointed needles), crocheting chains and slip stitching into each chain, or by using a lucet. Tangle the stems and pin in place as desired.

Buds

Attach a length of i-cord and pin it in place where desired, leaving the bud hanging free.

Flowers

Attach each flower by working into the support only, or into the cushion direct if supports aren't required. The overlapping petals should be left free and not attached to anything, but small leaf supports can be stitched underneath to hold them up.

Once you're happy with placement of the flowers, leaves and stems, sew in place and weave in ends.

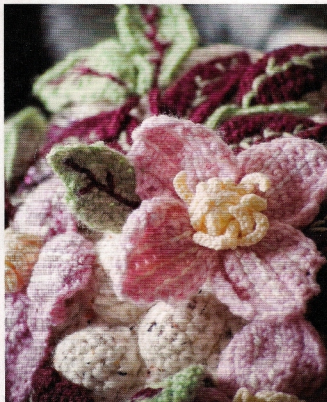
weave in
ENDS

LEAF TEMPLATE



PATTERN

Clematis cushion



Petals

(Make four)

Row 1: *6ch, miss 1 ch, 4dc, 2dc in next ch, sl st to base of ch.

Row 2: Miss first st, 5dc, turn.

Row 3: 2ch, miss first st, 7dc, sl st to same st as row 1, turn.

Row 4: Miss first st, 5dc, 2dc in next st, turn.

Row 5: 2ch, miss first st, 9dc, sl st to next st of base ring, turn.

Row 6: Miss first st, 9dc, turn.

Row 7: Miss first st, 8dc, sl st to same st of base ring as row 5, turn.

Row 8: Miss first st, 8dc, turn.

Row 9: Miss first st, 7dc, sl st to next st of base ring, turn.

Row 10: Miss first st, 6dc, turn.

Row 11: Miss first st, 5dc, sl st to same st of base as row 9, sl st to next st of base ring, ready for the next petal.

Rep rows 1-11 another 3 times, sl st to base of first petal to close.

Fasten off.

Using different pink and cream yarns, work some lines of running stitch on each petal by threading the yarn in between the crochet stitches.

Centres

(Make four)

Using CC6 and a 2mm hook, work in a spiral as follows:

Rnd 1: 2ch, 8dc in first ch, sl st to first dc to close.

Rnds 2-4: 8dc (blo).

Fasten off.

Stamens

Using CC7 and 2mm hook, work as follows:

Foundation rnd: Join yarn to the outside of the centre, work 2dc into each st until you have approximately 12 dc.

Rnd 1: 8ch, miss first ch, sl st in each ch, sl st to next dc.

Rep rnd 1, varying the length of the

stamens (8, 9 or 10 ch), until all centre dcs have been worked.

Fasten off.

Stitch centre to base of flower using a matching thread.

On newer flowers, stitch all the stamens to the centre to create a closed effect.

Leave stamens un-stitched on older flowers.

Bud

(Make three)

Using CC2 and 3mm hook:

Row 1: 23ch, miss first ch, 1dc, *1htr, 1tr, 1dtr, 1trtr, 1dtr, 1tr, 1htr, 1dc*. Rep from * to * once more, then work, 1htr, 1tr, 1dtr, 1trtr, 1dtr, 1tr, 1htr, 1dc.

Row 2: Dc2tog across whole row to leave 10 sts and sl st.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

With the RS outside, roll the bud from the point just worked.

Use the end thread to stitch bud neatly across the top. Hide this end in the bud to finish. Take a length of green stem cord and pass the end up through the bud. Take it back down and stitch neatly through the join. Pass the end back up through the bud and tie to the start thread of the bud.

Flower supports (optional)

The flowers will be attached to these supports before attaching to background. Using MC and 4mm hook, make an adjustable loop and sl st to secure. Work in spirals as follows:

Rnd 1: 6dc into ring, pull tight to close.

Rnd 2: (2dc) in each st around.

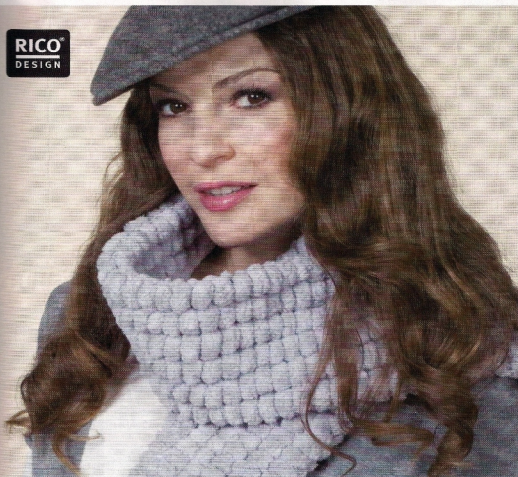
Rnd 3: *1dc, 2dc in next st, rep from * around.

Rnd 4: *2dc, 2dc in next st, rep from * to end. Fasten off.

Make another circle, but do not fasten off. With WS of both circles facing,

toptip

Opt for brighter-coloured yarns if you want your blooms to be bolder!



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20 new colours!



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Torrent by the Kn

WWW.
kalmedia.co.uk/
kidsco.html

Caring 4

Kids

on Mother's Day

THIS MOTHERING SUNDAY,
SPARE A THOUGHT FOR THOSE
WHO DON'T HAVE MUCH TO
CELEBRATE. BY ANNA BELL

Mother's Day can be a difficult time for some of the children supported by Kids Company, our Charity of the Year. Their relationship with their mother is often unstable and unpredictable because of their mum's emotional and psychological issues, which means they just can't care for their children properly any more.

It's been a slow start to our Charity of the Year campaign – we hope we haven't overestimated what we can achieve – so we've tried to think about how we can give you an even greater incentive to become a part of the important work that Kids Company do.

We know there are so many demands on your attention (and your wallet!). We also know there are lots of charities out there who are vying for your support. So this month, we're launching two new incentives that we hope will make you feel like there's a really good reason for you to make a donation – small or large!

First, there's a prize draw. We've got an exciting group of companies lined up, who are prepared to support our campaign with some great prizes. Every month, there will be a new prize draw with a new prize. Just

make a small gift – anything over £2 – and you'll automatically be entered. You'll find more details of where and how to give on the opposite page.

The second idea we've had is to run our very first design competition in support of our favourite charity. If you fancy turning your hand to designing something, and supporting Kids Company at the same time, turn to p72 for the details.

What's it in aid of, anyway?

Kids Company support children whose parents can't, or won't, care for them properly, and who have to face violence, abuse and neglect every day. Children who feel like they have to be the 'responsible ones'.

For the last 15 years, Kids Company have been working with some of the most vulnerable, deprived and at-risk children in the UK. They have centres that give kids a safe, caring environment – for some of the children they work with, the centres may be the only place they feel secure.

Kids Company's key workers act like the parents these young people deserve, offering everything from basic health advice to a simple shoulder to cry on.

Create & Give

If you're feeling particularly creative, turn to p72 for a brilliant opportunity that's not to be missed! We're launching our first ever design competition, and it's all in support of Kids Company. It costs just £2 per entry, and it could be your foot in the door into the wonderful world of crochet design!



But, of course, being a substitute parent isn't easy – the kids sometimes rebel against this new source of unconditional support. It's a defence mechanism: they've been let down by so many adults, they put on a tough front to try to protect themselves from being hurt again.

But these key workers – who can only be there because generous people believe in the work they do, and support it with donations – never give up. When they're still there, still supporting, still listening, no matter how much difficult or confrontational behaviour they come up against, the child will eventually start to learn that they can trust this person. If you've never been around an adult you can trust, not even your parents, it takes an immense amount of courage and faith to start to trust Kids Company staff – but every day, they do exactly that. These relationships are one of a kind.

What do they need?

In a word, they need money. Kids Company are a small charity and they're doing amazing work, which is why we chose to support them. For deprived kids, it's incredible what a difference just a small amount can make. Just £5 will buy a new football or a little toy for a child who's got none at home. With £10, the centres can serve nutritious, filling meals to children who sadly have to fend for themselves the rest of the time.

Please, if you can, help all of us here at Inside Crochet to support Kids Company.

www.kalmedia.co.uk/kidscro.html

Give & win!

Make a donation to our Kids Company campaign before 15th March and you'll be in with a chance of winning this month's prize – this fabulous collection of five crochet books. All you have to do is visit www.kalmedia.co.uk/kidscro.html and make a donation of £2 or more via PayPal (you don't need a PayPal account – you can use any credit or debit card). Include a note with your donation explaining that you're an *Inside Crochet* reader, then sit back and wait for the prize draw – this winner will be notified by email. And be a member to check back at the website regularly, because there will be a new prize and a new draw – every single month!



NISHA'S STORY

Nisha (not her real name) kept running away from home because her relationship with her mum was breaking down. Kids Company staff tried to mediate between mother and daughter, but the situation didn't improve. When she was 16, Nisha became pregnant but refused to live at home or even tell her mum about the pregnancy. But a dedicated Kids Company worker was able to give her the support she didn't get at home. Over time, the relationship between mother and daughter began to slowly improve. Nisha and her baby are now living back at home, again with the help of Kids Company, was able to be a great support through the late part of Nisha's pregnancy. Both of them know that their relationship wouldn't be what it is today without Kids Company and the help of people like you who support the charity. They recognise the positive influence Kids Company's intervention had on their relationship, and now grandmother, mother and baby are bonding well together – and will be together this Mother's Day.



MAKE/CREATE & Design

We're excited to launch KAL Media's first ever **design competition**, in support of our Charity of the Year, **Kids Company**. All you have to do is use your **imagination** to create your own **toy!**

Ever wanted to have one of your own patterns seen by thousands of like-minded crocheters? Well, that dream could be about to become a reality, thanks to our exciting competition!

To support our charity of the year, Kids Company, we're asking *Inside Crochet* readers to design their very own toy – it can be anything from a traditional doll to a modern monster, a realistic animal to a flight of fantasy. The designer of the winning toy will have their pattern published in the pages of this magazine, and be paid a professional fee for it! At the same time, the pattern will be sold as a download on our website, to raise money for Kids Company.

In addition to getting their foot in the door of professional design, the lucky winner will receive a year's subscription to *Inside Crochet*, along with a great selection of Meadow Yarns' skeins and accessories! So break out those sketchbooks and coloured pencils, and get ready to start swatching!

All for a good cause!

Entries will be judged by our editorial team, who'll choose a winner and a runner-up. Once the winner has been notified, they'll need to send us the finished toy to be photographed and answer any queries to enable us to publish the pattern, in order to claim their prize. If, for any reason, they can't do this, the prize will go to the runner-up instead. Of course, we won't publish any patterns without the permission of the copyright owner.

As we're running this competition in aid of Kids Company, we're asking for a small entry fee. Rest assured, all the money raised will go straight to the charity to help their work with deprived children.

You've got until 16th May to design and make your toy and get your entries in – we can't wait to see what you come up with!

The **lucky winner** will receive a host of **top prizes!**



Get creative with INSIDE Crochet this month!

INSIDE Crochet

INSIDE CROCHET/KIDS COMPANY DESIGN COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

YOUR DETAILS

Your name

Your address

Your telephone number

Your email address

YOUR DESIGN

Design name

Yarn used

Please give a description of your toy here,
including approximate measurements

I confirm that this toy is my own original
design ☐

I accept the terms and conditions below

Sign Date ☐

**Return your completed entry
form, pattern and receipt to:**

Kids Company Design Competition
KAL Media
12th Floor
Tower House
Fairfax Street
Bristol
BS1 3BN

Or email:
insidecrochetcomp@kalmedia.co.uk

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

By entering this competition, you agree to abide by the rules set out here. The judges' decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into regarding their decision. Proof of posting will not be considered as proof of delivery. Inside Crochet reserves the right to substitute prizes with others of a comparable value. This competition is open to anyone aged 18 years and over, except employees and their households of KAL Media Ltd or any party involved in the competition. Competition entries will not be returned. Details of the winners' names will be published in a future issue. On entering the competition, you acknowledge and agree that neither KAL Media Ltd nor any associated third parties shall have any liability to you in connection with your use and/or possession of your prize.

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Here's how to enter

Design and make your toy. If you're not a planner, you can crochet free-form shapes and sew, pad and add eyes to make a monster. Whatever your level of skill, you'll be able to come up with something, whether it's an elaborate doll or a simple, soft cube with pretty embellishments.

Be sure to write down what you do as you go along! Anyone who can crochet can create, but to be a designer you need to write out instructions that other people can knit from, too.

Write up your pattern as best you can.

Take some photos of your finished toy. Feel free to ask a friend or family member for help. The photos don't have to be beautifully shot, but they do need to:

- be clear and in focus
- show the front and back of the toy clearly
- show the size of the toy, so use a ruler or tape measure to show its approximate height.

Fill in the form on the right (you can photocopy it if you don't want to cut up your magazine, or download it from www.kalmedia.co.uk/kidseo.html).

Next, make a £2 donation to Kids Company. You can only do this via your computer. The easiest way is to go to www.kalmedia.co.uk/kidseo.html and follow the link. Keep the receipt, which will automatically be emailed to you – you'll need to include it with your entry! (And as a special bonus, you'll be entered into our monthly charity prize draw, too!)

Send the photos of your toy, the completed entry form, the written pattern and the receipt for your £2 donation by email to insidecrochetcomp@kalmedia.co.uk, or by post to: Kids Company Design Competition, KAL Media, 12th Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol, BS1 3BN. Please keep copies of everything, as we won't be able to return entries. And please don't post finished toys to us. They may get lost.

**AS WELL AS HAVING YOUR
DESIGN IN THE MAGAZINE,
YOU'LL WIN ALL THIS...**



- 5 balls of Debbie Bliss Cotton DK, 50g, in Apple Green (shade 55)
- 3 balls of Noro Sekku, 50g, in shade 6
- A skein of Natural Dye Studio Dazzle 4Ply/Sock, 100g, in Rainbow
- A 500ml bottle of Eucalan wool wash (Grapefruit)
- A KnitPro Symfonie crochet hook set
- A copy of Interweave Crochet
- A Nicksknots needle case for your needles/hooks

2

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Star blanket

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Difficulty: 2 Intermediate

Skills used

- Treble
- Double treble
- Rounds

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

99cm/39in

YARNS USED

James C. Brett Marble Chunky • 100% acrylic • 200g/312m/341yd • WPI 7

Colour A: Landscape (6) – 2 balls

Colour B: Aqua (23) – 2 balls

YARN REVIEWS

Ann says: "I've used this yarn on several projects and it's simply wonderful for baby items. It's machine washable, it's soft and it can be tumble-dried because it's made from synthetic fibres – the perfect combination of properties for children's clothes and accessories!"

YARN ALTERNATIVES

Save • Sirdar Click Chunky

Spend • Lion Brand Homespun

Splurge • Lang Merino 70

TENSION

Work first 3 rounds to measure 13cm/5in using 6.5mm hook, but tension is not crucial for this project.

NOTIONS

6.5mm hook

Tapestry needle

SPECIAL STITCH PATTERNS

Sh (shell stitch): (3tr, 1ch, 3tr)

SmSh (small shell): (2tr, 1ch, 2tr)

Sh2C (shell stitch with two centre chains): (3tr, 2ch, 3tr)

Beg3tr (beginning 3tr): De in 1ch-sp, 2ch (counts as first tr), 2tr in same sp

Designer biography

Ann Parri loves to crochet and design patterns in her spare moments – ie when she's not running around after her one-year-old! To find out more about Ann and her fabulous designs, visit her website at www.thehappycrocheter.com

STAR blanket

■ ANN PARRI

"This afghan is the ideal **handmade baby gift**. Recently, it seemed that every one of my friends or relatives was expecting, so I needed a blanket that was **beautiful** and **quick** to work up."



A pretty, **washable** blanket is a must for every **new baby**. As he or she **grows**, it makes the perfect special **comforter** for chilly nights.



CHILLING
SWEETS

BLANKET

With Colour A, ch8, sl st in first ch to form a ring.

Rnd 1: 3ch (counts as first tr), 15tr in ring, join with a sl st in 3rd ch, turn. (16tr)

Rnd 2: 3ch (counts as first tr), 1tr in same st, (miss next tr, SmSh in next tr) 7 times around, miss final tr, 2tr in same st as 3ch, 1ch, sl st in top of first tr – this makes final SmSh, turn. (8 SmSh)

Rnd 3: Beg3tr, Sh in next 1ch-sp 7 times around, work (3tr, 1ch) in same ch-sp as Beg3tr, join with sl st in top of beginning tr to finish final Sh, turn. (8 Sh)

Rnd 4: Beg3tr, 2ch, (Sh2C in next 1ch-sp,

2ch) 7 times around, work (3tr, 2ch) in same ch-sp as Beg3tr, join with sl st in top of tr to finish final Sh2C, turn. (8 Sh2C)

Rnd 5: Beg3tr, 3ch, dc in 2ch-sp, 3ch, (Sh in 2ch-sp of next Sh2C, 3ch, dc in 2ch-sp, 3ch) around, work (3tr, 1ch) in same 2ch-sp as Beg3tr, join with sl st in top of beginning tr to finish final Sh, turn. (8 Sh)

Rnd 6: Beg3tr, 3ch, dc in 1ch-sp, 3ch, dc in next 1ch-sp, 3ch, (Sh in 1ch-sp, 3ch, dc in next 1ch-sp, 3ch, dc in next 1ch-sp, 3ch) around, work (3tr, 1ch) in same ch-sp as Beg3tr, join with sl st in top of beginning tr to finish final Sh, turn. (8 total Sh)

PATTERN
Star blanket



If you prefer a more **traditional** look, crochet this **cosy blanket** in pastel shades such as **soft pink** or **blue**.

Fasten off Colour A.

Join Colour B in any 3ch-sp.

Rnd 7: 3ch (counts as first tr), 2tr in same sp, 3ch, 1dc in tr before 1ch-sp, 3ch, 1dc in tr after 1ch-sp, 3ch, (miss next 3 ch-sp, Sh in next 3ch-sp, 3ch, 1dc in 2nd tr of next Sh, 3ch, 1dc in 4th tr, 3ch) 7 times, work (3tr, 1ch) in same ch-sp as t-ch, join with sl st in top of t-ch to finish final Sh, turn. (8 Sh)

Rnd 8: Beg3tr, 2ch, miss next 3 ch-sp, Sh in 3ch-sp, 2ch, (Sh in 1ch-sp of next Sh, 2ch, miss next 3 ch-sp, Sh in 3ch-sp, 2ch) around, work (3tr, 1ch) in same ch-sp as Beg3tr, join with sl st in top of t-ch to finish final Sh, turn. (16 Sh)

Rnd 9: Beg3tr, 3ch, (Sh in 1ch-sp of next Sh, 3ch) around, work (3tr, 1ch) in same space as Beg3tr, join with sl st in top of t-ch to finish final Sh, turn. (16 Sh)

Rnds 10 & 11: Rep rnds 5 & 6. (16 Sh)

Fasten off Colour B.

Join Colour A in any 3ch-sp.

Rnd 12: Rep rnd 7. (16 Sh)

Rnd 13: Beg3tr, miss next 3 ch-sp, Sh in next 3ch-sp, (Sh in 1ch-sp of next Sh, miss next 3 ch-sp, Sh in 3ch-sp) around, work (3tr, 1ch) in same ch-sp as Beg3tr, join with sl st in top of t-ch to finish final Sh, turn. (32 Sh)

Rnds 14-16: Beg3tr, 1ch, (Sh in 1ch-sp of next Sh, 1ch) around, work (3tr, 1ch) in same ch-sp as Beg3tr, join with sl st in top of t-ch to finish final Sh, turn. (32 Sh)

Rnd 17: Beg3tr, 2ch, (Sh in 1ch-sp of next Sh, 2ch) around, work (3tr, 1ch) in same ch-sp as Beg3tr, join with sl st in top of t-ch to finish final Sh, turn. (32 Sh)

Rnds 18 & 19: Rep rnds 5 & 6. (32 Sh)

Join Colour B in any 3ch-sp.

Rnd 20: Rep rnd 7. (32 Sh)

Rnd 21: Beg3tr, 3ch, miss next 3 ch-sp, (1dc, 3ch, 1dc) in next 3ch-sp, *Sh in 1ch-sp of next Sh, 3ch, miss next 3 ch-sp, (1dc, 3ch, 1dc) in next 3ch-sp, 3ch*, rep from * to * around, work (3tr, 1ch) in same ch-sp as Beg3tr, join with sl st in top of t-ch to finish final Sh, turn. (32 Sh)

Rnd 22: Rep rnd 13. (64 Sh)

Rnds 23-25: Beg3tr, (Sh in 1ch-sp of next Sh) around, work (3tr, 1ch) in same ch-sp as Beg3tr, join with sl st in top of t-ch to finish final Sh, turn. (64 Sh)

Rnd 26: Rep rnd 17. (64 Sh)

Rnd 27: Rep rnd 5. (64 Sh)

Fasten Off.

FINISHING

Weave in ends.

Block gently.



Contact us

CONTACT US:

Herts office: KAL Media Ltd
Ground Floor, The Chestnuts, Brewers
End, Takeley, Herts, CM22 6QJ
01279 879038
www.kalmedia.co.uk
www.insidecrochet.co.uk

THE TEAM

Editor Claire Montgomerie
clairem@kalmedia.co.uk

Senior Editor Kerrie Allman
kerrie@kalmedia.co.uk

Managing Editor Paul Dimery
paul@kalmedia.co.uk

Production Assistants Alix Stevens,
Isabel Buxton

Technical Editor Zoe Clements
zoe@kalmedia.co.uk

Art Director David Harvey
david@kalmedia.co.uk

Deputy Art Editor Rob Eyres
rob@kalmedia.co.uk

Junior Designers Nathaniel Brain,
Steve O'Flaherty

PHOTOGRAPHY

Darren Strange at St Range
(07881 780685), Nathaniel Brain,
Dan Medhurst

MODELS

Naomi Everson, Kitty Spicor, Katkin,
Sarah Newman

THANKS TO

Irene Strange, Shelby Allaho,
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KAL Media Ltd Director

Kerrie Allman kerrie@kalmedia.co.uk



Registered address:
Ground Floor, The
Chestnuts, Brewers End,
Takeley, Herts, CM22 6QJ
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Contacts

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www.sunshineinternationalblanketsoflove.blogspot.com

The Eternal Maker • www.eternalmaker.com

Wonder Wool Wales • www.wonderwoolwales.co.uk

Errata

CHERRY WRAP (ISSUE 14)

The Cherry Wrap pattern in issue 14 included the following errors:

In Special Abbreviations, Tr Cluster should read: 3ch, (yrh, insert hook in same st, pull up a lp, yrh, draw through 2 loops on hook) twice (3 lps on hook), miss 2 sts, (yrh, insert hook in st, yrh, pull up a lp, yrh, draw through 2 lps) in next st (4 lps on hook), miss next 2 sts, (yrh, insert hook in st, yrh, pull up a loop, yrh, draw through 2 loops) twice (6 lps on hook), yrh, draw through all lps on hook, 3ch, 1dc in same st.

Tr V should read: Working in centre top of Tr Cluster of previous row, (*yrh, insert hook, yrh, pull up a lp, yrh, draw through 2 lps on hook) twice*, yrh, draw through all lps on hook, (3ch, 1dc, 3ch) in same st, rep from * to * to end.

Under Wrap Panels, row 6 should read: 4ch, miss 2 sts, work Tr V.

Difficulty: **1** Beginner

Skills used

- Increasing & decreasing
- Back loop only
- Working in rows & rounds

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Sole length: 8cm/3in

Shoe height: 5cm/2in

YARNS USED

Sublime Baby Cashmere Merino Silk
4Ply • 50g/170m/184yd • WPI 22

MC: Vanilla (003); CC1: Pebble
(006); CC2: Piglet (001) or Cuddle
(002) or Gooseberry (004) – 1 ball
of each

YARN REVIEW

Irene says: "Sublime Baby Cashmere Merino Silk is wonderfully soft and a real pleasure to crochet with. It's perfect for dinky feet! I also love the cute colour names!"

YARN ALTERNATIVES

Save • Wendy Peter Pan 3Ply

Spend • Rowan Siena 4Ply

Splurge • Koigu Premium Merino

TENSION

Work 30 sts and 30 rows in dc to measure 10x10cm or 4x4in using 2.5mm hook, or size required to obtain tension.

NOTIONS

2.5mm hook

Tapestry needle

Designer biography

A complete crocheter addict, Irene loves experimenting with shapes and textures – and all things cute! To find out more, visit her at www.ireneStrange.co.uk

BABY sneakers

■ IRENE STRANGE

"These little sneakers would make a perfect baby-shower gift – and who doesn't love making teeny-tiny things?"



SOLE (FIG 1)

This part is worked in a spiral with sl st connecting each round.

Using 2.5mm hook and MC yarn, make 11 ch.

Rnd 1: 1dc in second ch from hook, 1dc in ea nzt 8 ch, 3dc in nzt ch, turn to work on the underside of the ch, 1dc in ea nzt 8 ch, 2dc in nzt ch, sl st into first st. (22 sts)

Rnd 2: 1ch, 2dc in first st, 5dc, 3hr, 2hr in ea nzt 3 sts, 3hr, 5dc, 2dc in ea nzt 2 sts, sl st into first st. (28 sts)

Rnd 3: 1ch, 2dc in first st, 5dc, 4hr, 2hr in ea nzt 6 sts, 4hr, 5dc, 2dc in nzt st, 1dc in nzt st, 2dc in last st, sl st into first st. (37 sts)

Rnd 4: 2ch, 1dc in first st, 2dc in nzt st, 4dc, 5hr, *1hr, 2hr in nzt st, rep from * 6 times, 4hr, 5dc, *2dc in nzt st, 1dc, rep from * twice, 2dc in last st, sl st into first st. (47 sts)

Rnd 5: 2ch, 2dc, 2dc in nzt st, 3dc, 6hr, *2hr, 2hr in nzt st, rep from * 6 times, 6hr, 3dc, *2dc in nzt st, 2dc, rep from * twice, 2dc in nzt st, 1dc in last st, sl st into first st. (57 sts)

Rnd 6: 1ch, 2hr in first st, 12hr, *3hr, 2hr in nzt st, rep from * 6 times, 9hr, **2hr in first st, 3hr, rep from ** twice, 2hr in nzt st, 2hr in ea last 2 st, sl st into first st. Fasten off. (67 sts)

Rnd 7: Change to CC1, 1ch, 1dc(blo) in ea st around, sl st into first st. Fasten off. (67 sts).

Rnd 8: Change to MC, 1ch, 1dc in ea st around, sl st into first st. Fasten off. (67 sts)

Rnd 9: Change to CC1, 1ch, 1dc in ea st around, sl st into first st. Fasten off. (67 sts)

FRONT (FIG 2)

This is a flat part. Turn work at the end of each row.

Join MC to the base. The easiest way to work out the position is to fold the base in half and count 10 stitches to either side from the middle, starting the piece from there. Use the diagram as a rough guide. The front is spaced evenly over 21 stitches.

Row 1: 1ch, *dc(blo)2tog, 1dc(blo), rep from * 7 times, turn. (14 sts)

Row 2: 1ch, 2dc, 2hr, 6tr, 2hr, 2dc, turn. (14 sts)

Row 3: 1ch, 2dc, 10hr, 2dc, turn. (14 sts)

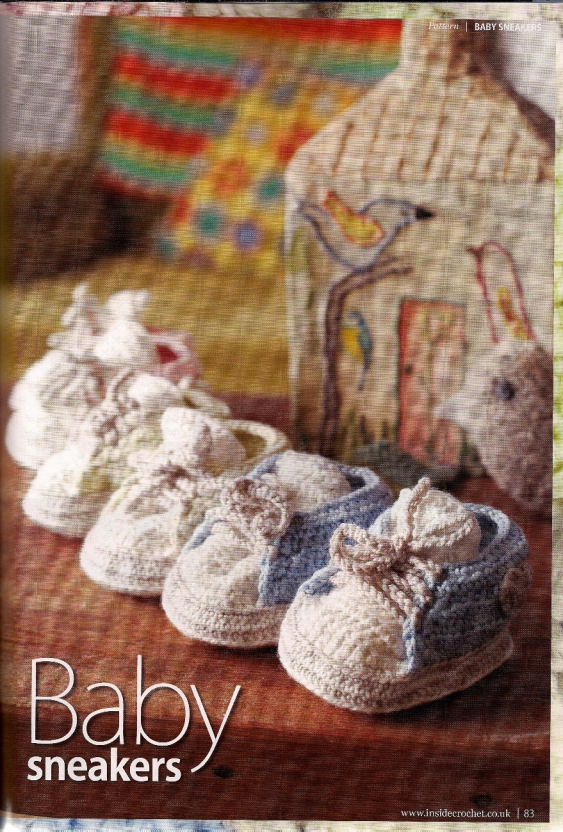
Row 4: 2ch (counts as part of tr2tog, not as a st), 11tr, turn. (12 sts)

Rows 5-10: 2ch (counts as part of tr2tog, not as a st), 11tr, turn. (11 sts)

Row 11: 1ch, 2dc, 2hr, 3tr, 2hr, 2dc. (11 sts)

Fasten off.

Present your finished sneakers with style, wrapped up in a pretty box with ribbon.



Baby sneakers

PATTERN
Baby sneakers

toptip

Make these booties in really bright red or navy blue for an authentic look.

SIDE (FIG 3)

This is a flat part. Turn work at the end of each row.

Join CC1 to the base where indicated. Use the diagram as a rough guide, using the remaining stitches around the sole.

Row 1: 1ch, 1dc(blo) in first st, 21htr(blo), htr(blo)2tog, 1htr(blo) in ea rem st but last, 1dc(blo), turn. (45 sts)

Row 2: 1ch, dc2tog, 18htr, htr2tog, 1htr, htr2tog, 1htr in ea rem st but last 2 sts, dc2tog, turn. (41 sts)

Row 3: 1ch, dc3tog, 1htr in ea st but last 3, dc3tog, turn. (37 sts)

Rows 4 & 5: 1ch, dc2tog, 1htr in ea st but last 2, dc2tog. (31 sts)

Rows 6 & 7: 1ch, 1dc in first st, 1htr in ea st but last, 1dc in last st. (31 sts)

Row 8: Work the following evenly down the edge: *3ch, 1dc into the edge a few rows down* 3 times, 1dc in ea last 2 rows.

Fasten off.

Row 9: Rejoin CC1 to the other edge and work the following: 1dc in ea first 2 rows, *3ch, 1dc into the edge a few rows up* twice, 3ch, sl st into the last row.

Fasten off.

DECORATIONS

Laces

Using CC1, ch130.

Fasten off.

Weave in the ends.

Flower (Fig 4)

This part is worked in a spiral, without turning or joining chain stitches.

Using CC2, make an adjustable loop.

Rnd 1: 1ch (does not count as a st), 5dc in ring, pull tail to tighten. (5 sts)

Rnd 2: Change to MC, *2ch, 2tr in first st, 2ch, sl st into next st, rep from * 5 times. Fasten off. (10 sts)

Heart (Fig 5)

This is a flat part. Turn work at the end of each row.

Using CC1, ch2.

Row 1: 1dc in second ch from hook, 1dc in next ch, turn. (2 sts)

Row 2: 1ch, 2dc in ea st to end, turn. (4 sts)

Row 3: 1ch, 2dc in first st, 2dc, 2dc in last st, turn. (6 sts)

Row 4: 1ch, 1dc in first st, 2tr in next st, 2dc, 2tr in next st, 1dc. Fasten off.

FINISHING

To complete the toe of the sneaker, sew the front to the sides along the first 3 rows – this will make the toe better defined.

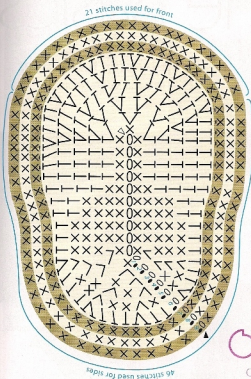
Weave in ends.

Sew the decorations to the outer sides of the sneakers.

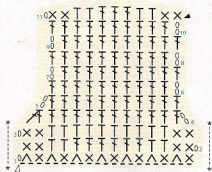
Lace up the shoe, tie in a pretty bow and you're done!

ENDS

SOLE (FIG 1)



SIDE (FIG 2)



FLOWER (FIG 4)

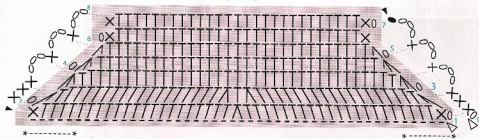


HEART (FIG 5)



Why not make the **complete set** of **booties** for one very **lucky** baby?

SIDE (FIG 3)



KEY

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
|  slip stitch (sl) |  decrease (dc2tog) |  Main Colour (MC) |
|  chain stitch (ch) |  half treble crochet (htr) |  Colour 1 (C1) |
|  double crochet (dc) |  half treble crochet decrease (htr2tog) |  Colour 2 (C2) |
|  double crochet in back loop only (BLO) |  treble crochet (tr) |  --- Sewing guide |
|  increase (2dc in 1 stitch) |  treble crochet decrease (tr2tog) |  ★ Match sewing line |

How to **crochet:** The Basics

The team at **Inside Crochet** guide you through the basic building blocks of our favourite craft through simple **step-by-step techniques**. Learn them, then try out our beginner patterns. **BY CLAIRE MONTGOMERIE**

PART 1

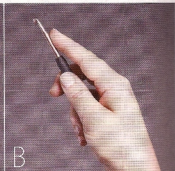
Holding your hook and yarn...

To crochet successfully, it's important that you hold the yarn and hook in a correct and comfortable manner. This will ensure that your tension is accurate throughout the project. There are two main ways of holding the hook and yarn in crochet – you can choose whichever of these, or variations, that are natural for you.

■ GRIPPING THE HOOK



OPTION A: PENCIL GRIP Hold the hook in your dominant hand as you would a pencil, approx 5cm from the tip of the hook.



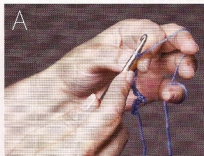
OPTION B: KNIFE GRIP Hold the hook in your dominant hand as you would a knife, approx 5cm from the tip of the hook.



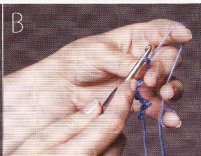
It's **important** to hold the **hook and yarn** in a correct and comfortable manner that's natural for you.



■ HOLDING THE YARN



OPTION A: FOREFINGER HOLD Wrap the ball end of the yarn around the little finger of your other hand, passing it up between your middle and ring fingers to the front of your hand and over the other two fingers. Hold the work steady with your thumb and forefinger, and use your middle finger to create tension.



OPTION B: MIDDLE-FINGER HOLD: Wrap the ball end of the yarn around the little finger of your other hand, passing it up between your middle and ring fingers to the front of your hand and over the other two fingers. Hold the work steady with your thumb and middle finger, and use your forefinger to create tension.

Letting the yarn slide through your fingers, especially over your little finger, will help to maintain an even tension.

2

PART

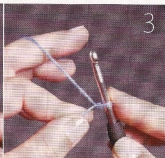
■ Getting started... THE SLIP KNOT



Step 1: Make a loop in the yarn.



Step 2: With your crochet hook, catch the ball working end of the yarn and draw through loop.



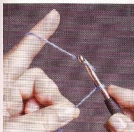
Step 3: Pull firmly on yarn and hook to tighten knot and create first loop.



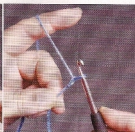
Slip stitch (sl st) is used to **join** one stitch to **another** or to join a stitch to another point.



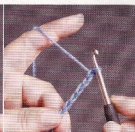
■ MAKING A CHAIN



Step 1: To make a chain, hold the tail end of the yarn and bring the yarn over the hook by passing the hook in front of the yarn, under and around it.



Step 2: Keeping the yarn taut, draw the hook and yarn through the loop on the hook. Pull it through.

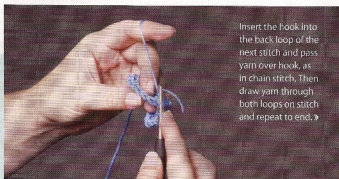


Step 3: Ensuring the stitches are fairly loose, repeat to make the number of chains required.

To count the stitches, use the right side of the chain, or the one that has more visible and less twisted 'V' shapes. Each 'V' is one chain. Do not count the slip knot as the first stitch, but remember to count the loop on the hook.

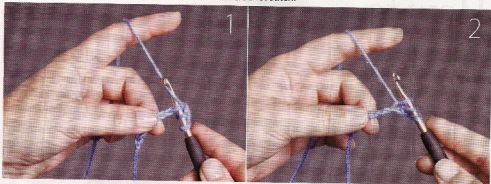
■ SLIP STITCH (SL ST)

Slip stitch is used to join one stitch to another or to join a stitch to another point. It's usually made by picking up two strands of a stitch. Where sl st is used all over, you execute it in the same way, but only pick up the back loop.



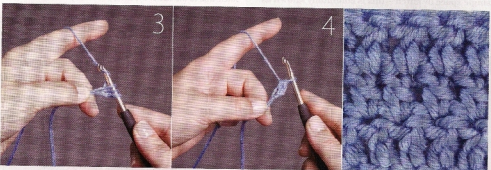
Insert the hook into the back loop of the next stitch and pass yarn over hook, as in chain stitch. Then draw yarn through both loops on stitch and repeat to end. ▶

■ HALF TREBLE CROCHET (HTR): The third essential crochet stitch.



Step 1: Yrh, insert hook in next stitch, from front to back, and draw the loop through just the chain stitch.

Step 2: This creates three loops on the hook.



Steps 3 & 4: Yrh, as for tr, but draw yarn through three remaining loops on hook together to complete half treble.

Repeat the htr along the row for htr fabric (shown above).

4

PART

■ Working patterns...

TURN A ROW

At the end of a row, when you turn the work to begin the next row, you need to complete a turning chain (t-ch) to get to the right height of the stitch you're working, as demonstrated on the dc. This chain counts as the first stitch in the row and each technique, depending on its height, uses a different number of chains at the start of the row.

dc = 1 t-ch htr = 2 t-ch tr = 3 t-ch

MEASURING GAUGE

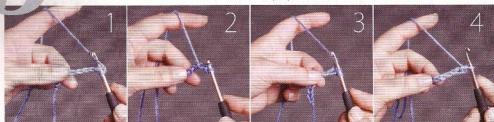
Before starting on a project, it's advisable that you do a tension swatch to ensure that you're crocheting at the right tension. This enables you to correct any deviances from the working pattern before you begin, ensuring your project is the correct size. The swatch should be just

Before starting a project, do a tension swatch.

over 10cm/4in square. If the tension is wrong, you must re-work the swatch with larger or smaller hooks until you obtain the correct tension. Measure out 10cm/4in along a row and place markers. Measure out 10cm/4in down the rows and place markers. Use these two sets of markers to count how many stitches and rows there are to 10cm/4in, and compare to the pattern's tension swatch. You may wish to take a few measurements in this way to create an average. ●

PART 3

■ **Main crochet stitches...** **DOUBLE CROCHET (DC):** The most basic crochet stitch.



Step 1: Miss 2ch and insert hook, front to back into next stitch, under top loop of next ch. Yarn round hook (yrh).

Step 2: Draw loop through to front, two loops on hook.

Step 3: Yrh.

Step 4: Draw through both loops to complete the double crochet.



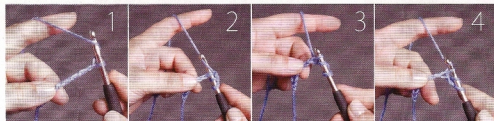
Step 5: Work one dc into every ch to end but do not work slip knot. For next row, turn your work and make 1ch, called a turning chain. Skip stitch at the base of the

turning chain, then work a dc under both top loops of next st. When working any stitch in crochet, you must work through both loops of each stitch, unless the pattern

calls for just working through either the front or back loop of next stitch. Work one dc into each stitch to end of row. Repeat this row for dc fabric (shown left).

When working *any* stitch, you must work through *both* loops, unless the pattern calls for the front or back loop.

■ **TREBLE CROCHET (TR):** A taller crochet stitch.

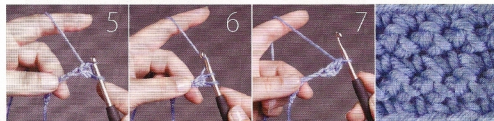


Step 1: Yrh.

Step 2: Insert hook in next stitch, from front to back. Yrh and draw the loop through just the chain stitch.

Step 3: Three loops on hook.

Step 4: Yrh and pull the loop through the first two loops only.



Step 5: Two loops on hook.

Step 6: Yrh.

Step 7: Pull remaining two loops through first loop to complete treble. Repeat this along the row for tr fabric (shown above).

How to **crochet:** Grouped Stitches

Working **multiple stitches** into the same space provides **beautiful texture and shaping**. Here, we show you how to do it.

Grouped stitches are many stitches worked into one space, therefore the most basic group of stitches will be an increase. One of the prettiest ways to enhance a group of stitches is to put five or more stitches together in a single space or stitch – this is commonly known as a shell. While being made up of a number of stitches, a shell is usually counted as one stitch. Shells can be used to create a solid fabric or for decorative effect.

■ SHELL STITCH

Shells can be worked from longer stitches such as trebles and double trebles. A basic shell will usually have five trebles, or another odd number of trebles, so that on the next row you can work into the centre treble only, as a shell counts as just one stitch. Due to the size of the shell, you usually miss two or more stitches either side of the stitch the increases are worked in on the first row, to give the stitch space and help prevent the fabric from buckling.

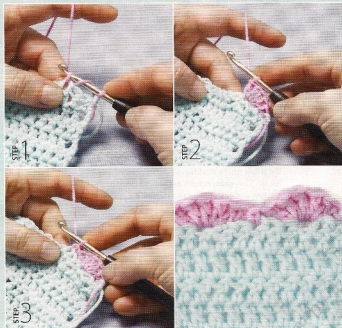
Shells make a **very pretty edging** for crochet, knitting or even fabric. Use the technique to **embellish existing garments, bags and hats**.

Edgings

Shells make a very pretty edging for crochet, knitting or even fabric. This technique can be used as an embellishment on existing garments, bags and hats, whether they're handmade or shop-bought.

To ensure that the shells fan out attractively, they're usually worked alternately, with a double crochet to pull down either side of the group of stitches.

To work an edging, join yarn (a contrasting yarn can add extra detail) to the edge to be worked. If you're working into existing stitches, *miss two sts, work 5tr (or other choice of st) into the next st, miss two sts then either dc or sl st into next st. Rep from * until the edging is complete.



TIPS

The simplest group of stitches is two stitches into the same space, creating an increase of one stitch. However, you can group more than two stitches at a time for an increase of more than one stitch.

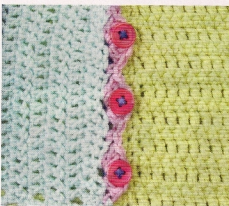


You can also work into the sides of sts, as opposed to the top. You will need to work the shells evenly to ensure that the shells or fabric don't pucker.



Buttonholes

You can also make a shell with a 1ch worked in the middle (taking the place of one of the stitches) to create an unusual buttonhole. If you worked (2tr, 1ch, 2tr) instead of a 5tr shell, you will have a gap where the 1ch is for a small button.



Abbreviations

(Note: *Inside Crochet* uses UK terminology throughout)

alt • alternate	inc • increase
beg • beginning	in • inches
bet • between	lps(s) • loop(s)
bl/blo • back loop (ie insert hook under back loop)	nc • not closed
ch(s) • chain stitch(es)	mm • millimetre(s)
ch sp(s) • chain space(s)	patr • pattern
cl(s) • clusters	prev • previous
cm • centimetre(s)	rem • remaining
cont • continue	rep • repeat
dc • double crochet (UK)	rnd • round
dc2tog • work 2dc together	Rtrf • raised treble front
dec • decrease	Rtrb • raised treble back
dtr • double treble crochet	RS • right side
dtr2tog • work 2dtr together	sk • skip
ea • each	sl st • slip st
fl • front loop (insert hook under front loop)	sp(s) • space(s)
foli • following	st(s) • stitch(es)
gps(s) or gr(s) • group(s)	t-ch(s) • turning chain(s)
hk • hook	tog • together
htr • half-treble	tr • treble
htr2tog • work two half-trebles together	tr2tog • work two trebles together
	ws • wrong side
	yrh • yarn round hook
	yoh • yarn over hook

UK to US terms

Breaking the language barrier! UK and US crochet terms have different meanings, which can create difficulty for the crocheter. Here's a handy reference guide to help overcome any misunderstanding:

UK TERM	US TERM
Chain	Chain
Slip Stitch	Slip Stitch
Double Crochet	Single Crochet
Half Treble Crochet	Half Double Crochet
Treble Crochet	Double Crochet
Double Treble Crochet	Treble Crochet
Triple Treble Crochet	Double Treble

Charts key

●	Slip stitch	T	Treble crochet
○	Chain	⏏	Double treble
X	Double crochet	⏏	Triple treble
T	Half treble		

Skills used

- Trebles
- Front loop only
- Short rows
- Changing colour
- Pompoms

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

XXS (babies weighing less than 2.25kg/5lb): 24cm/9½in circumference (stretches to 30cm/12in), 12.5cm/5in length

XS (0 to 6 months): 28cm/11in circumference (stretches to 43cm/17in), 16cm/6¼in length

S (6 months to 3 years): 35.5cm/14in circumference (stretches to 51cm/20in), 23cm/9in length

YARNS USED

Debbie Bliss Cashmerino Aran • 55% merino, 33% microfibre, 12% cashmere
• 50g/90m/98yd per ball • WPI 8

MC: Pink (043) – one ball

CC: Rose (602) – one ball

YARN REVIEW

Kristen says: "The yarn's soft texture and subtle sheen are delightful to work with. It's also machine washable – perfect for babies."

YARN ALTERNATIVES

Save • Sirdar Supersoft Aran
Spend • Rowan Cashsoft Aran
Splurge • Fyberspates Cashmere Aran

TENSION

Size XXS (XS:S): Work 20 (16: 16) sts and 10 (9½: 9½) rows in shell-stitch pattern to measure 10cm/4in with 4.5mm (5.5mm: 5.5mm) crochet hook, or size needed to obtain tension.

NOTIONS

4.5mm hook (for XXS hat)
5.5mm hook (for XS hat)
5.5mm hook (for S hat)
Tapestry needle

Designer biography

Wildlife biologist Kristen Hein Strohm launched Wild Bird Song Designs to raise awareness of environmental and social causes. See more at www.wildbirdsongdesigns.wordpress.com

UJIMA hat

■ KRISTEN HEIN STROHM

"This adorable hat is crocheted sideways in a shell-stitch pattern, shaped with short rows and seamed up the back. The stretchy tension and stitch pattern allow the hat to fit a range of sizes."



PATTERN NOTES

This little hat was inspired by a Partners in Health hospital in Rwanda, where doctors requested hat donations to help keep newborns warm and healthy, improving their chance of survival. To donate your own hat, please visit hotheadknitters.blogspot.com, www.pih.org or www.goodgoes.org/caps

SPECIAL STITCH PATTERNS

Shell stitch

*Miss next 2 sts, 5tr in next st, miss next 2 sts, 1dc, rep from * as instructed.

Short rows are used to give this hat its proper shape, with the bottom wider than the top. This means that some rows have fewer shell-stitch pattern repeats than others, ending and turning early, before they've reached the end of the previous row.

With the exception of the initial chain, all yarn tails in MC should be 25.5 (28: 35.5)cm or 10 (11: 14)in long. These will be woven on the WS of the work from the bottom of the hat to the top, tied into the pom-pom

and cut to the length of the other pom-pom strands. Integrating the tails into the pom-pom reduces the opportunity for stray tails to peek out from the fabric. The yarn tail from the initial chain of MC should be 33 (38: 51)cm or 13 (15: 20)in long. This will be used for seaming before being woven back to the top of the hat and integrated into the pom-pom. Yarn tails in CC should be 12 (15: 22)cm or 4¾ (6: 8¾)in long and woven on the wrong side of the work without being integrated into the pom-pom.

HAT

All sizes

With MC, 26 (26: 38) ch, turn. (25: 25: 37 sts)

Row 1 (RS): 1dc in second ch from hook, work 4 (4: 6) shell sts, turn.

Row 2 (WS): 1ch, miss first dc, sl st(flo) in first 2 tr, 1dc in next tr, work 3 (3: 5) shell sts, miss next 2 tr, 3tr in next dc, turn.

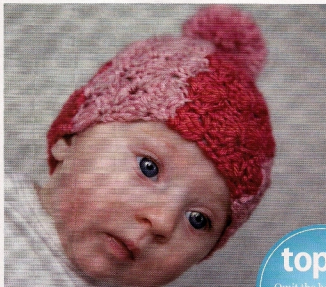
Row 3: 1ch, dc in first tr, work 2 (2: 4) shell sts, turn. (This short row has fewer shell-stitch pattern repeats than the 2 prev rows, and ends before reaching the end of either of the 2 prev rows.)

Row 4: 1ch, miss first dc, sl st(flo) in first 2 tr, dc in next tr, work 1 (1: 3) shell sts, miss

toptip

Why not make a selection of cosy hats to donate to your local maternity hospital?

Ujima hat



toptip

Omit the bobble and stitch a cute crochet corsage to the brim for a really sweet spring look.

next 2 tr, 3 tr in next dc. Fasten off.

Row 5: Join CC, 1 ch, dc in first tr, work 3 (3:5) shell st(s), (placing dc of fifth shell st in the dc from row 1), turn.

Size XXS only

Rows 6-8: Rep rows 2-4.

Row 9: Join MC, 1 ch, dc in first tr, work 3 shell sts, placing last dc in next dc from row 5, turn.

Rows 10-12: Rep rows 2-4.

Row 13: Join CC, 1 ch, dc in first tr, work 3 shell sts, placing last dc in next dc from row 9, turn.

Rows 14-16: Rep rows 2-4.

Row 17: Join MC, 1 ch, dc in first tr, work 3 shell sts, placing last dc in next dc from row 13, turn.

Rows 18-20: Rep rows 2-4.

Row 21: Join CC, 1 ch, dc in first tr, work 3 shell sts, placing last dc in next dc from row 17, turn.

Rows 22-24: Rep rows 2-4.

Fasten off.

Sizes XS and S only

Row 6: Rep row 2.

Row 7: 1 ch, dc in first tr, work 3 (5) shell sts, placing last dc in next dc from row 5, turn.

Row 8: 1 ch, miss first dc, sl st(flo) in first 2 tr, dc in next tr, work 2 (4) shell sts, miss next 2 tr, 3 tr in next dc. Fasten off.

Row 9: Join MC, 1 ch, dc in first tr, work 3 (5) shell sts, placing last dc in next dc from row

7, turn.

Rows 10-12:

Rep rows 2-4.

Row 13: Join MC, 1 ch, dc in first tr, work 3 (5) shell sts, placing last dc in next dc from row 9, turn.

Row 14: Rep row 2.

Row 15: 1 ch, dc in first tr, work 3 (5) shell sts, placing last dc in next dc from row 13, turn.

Row 16: Rep row 8.

Row 17: Join MC, 1 ch, dc in first tr, work 3 (5) shell sts, placing last dc in next dc from row 15, turn.

Rows 18-20: Rep rows 2-4.

Row 21: Join CC, 1 ch, dc in first tr, work 3 (5) shell sts, placing last dc in next dc from row 17, turn.

Row 22: Rep row 2.

Row 23: 1 ch, dc in first tr, work 3 (5) shell sts, placing last dc in next dc from row 21, turn.

Row 24: Rep row 8.

Fasten off XS.

Size S only

Row 25: Join MC, 1 ch, dc in first tr, work 5 shell sts, placing last dc in next dc from row 23, turn.

Rows 26-28: Rep rows 2-4.

Row 29: Join CC, 1 ch, dc in first tr, work 5 shell sts, placing last dc in next dc from row 25, turn.

Row 30: Rep row 2.

Row 31: 1 ch, dc in first tr, work 5 shell sts,

placing last dc in next dc from row 29, turn.

Row 32: Rep row 8.

Fasten off.

FINISHING

Seaming

Using the MC tail from the initial chain, seam the chain and row 24 (24: 32) together using a modified whip stitch on the wrong side of the work. To make the seam invisible on the right side by matching the look of the shell-stitch pattern, modify the traditional whip-stitch seam by weaving the tail through a dc of row 24 (24: 32) or through the third tr of a 5-tr shell of row 24 (24: 32), weave through both loops of these sts. When weaving the yarn tail through the first, second, fourth and fifth tr of each 5-tr shell of row 24 (24: 32), weave only through the front loop. There will be a hole at the top of the hat – this will be completely covered by the pom-pom.

Pom-pom

Wrap MC around 3 (3: 4) fingers 65 (65: 80) times and cut yarn. Cut a separate yard of yarn. Lay this strand across the back of your fingers – over and perpendicular to the wrapped yarn. Pull one end of this strand from the back of your hand, between the tops of 2 fingers, and towards your palm. Use your crochet hook to pull the other end of this strand from the back of your hand, between the bottom knuckles of the same 2 fingers and towards your palm. Holding these 2 yarn ends with your free hand, slide the wrapped yarn off your fingers and tie the 2 yarn ends as tightly as possible to secure the wrapped yarn. Each side of the knot will have 65 (65: 80) loops. Cut each loop in half to create the pom-pom. Refine the spherical shape by trimming the strands to equal lengths, except for the 2 tied ends.

Use the 2 long ends to attach the pom-pom across the centre hole at the top of the hat. Thread the MC yarn tails through the pom-pom knot, fasten off each one and cut to an equal length with the rest of the pom-pom.

Weave in the CC yarn tails. Block if necessary. Folding up the brim is optional.



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The LAST word

In the first of a new series, **Isabel Buxton** muses on the many memories that shape us as adult crafters.



Your pictures have already started to come in! Contributor Lucy Robinson sent us this pic of her grandma (above), who taught her to crochet. Lucy models one of her gran's own creations as a baby in the pic below.



Claire Montgomerie and I were reminiscing recently about our first steps into knitting and crochet, and we came to the conclusion that it would be lovely to receive your stories and any related photos. Please send them to the usual address!

I distinctly recall the day I learnt to knit. I refused to go to the beach with my family, preferring to sit on my grandma's sofa, tenaciously clutching my green acrylic – in my defence, I was only eight! Meanwhile, Claire fondly remembers the crocheted garments of her childhood – got to love that 1980s nylon! Many crafters remember those first awkward crochet and knitting moments as episodes of great significance – as moments when they first learnt to focus or when they spent quality time with a much-loved relative.

A straw poll on Ravelry revealed that this was the case for crocheters and knitters all over the world. 'Moneymraith' remembers her first yarn experiences vividly: "My grandmother taught me to knit when I was somewhere between six and eight. I can't remember exactly, but it was that time in childhood when days lasted forever and summertime was an eternity of bliss."

Making memories

'Barburus' has fond memories of her first foray into gifts. Aged eight, she made an afghan for her grandma. She recalls, "I was piecing it together in the car on the two-hour drive to her house – and I'm still finishing things last minute! Of course, this was the 1970s, so the colours were cream, brown and gold! After she died, I found out that it was one of the

few personal items my grandma took with her to the nursing home in the 1990s. I still have it, wrapped in the bottom of a cedar chest."

Lesley, another Ravelry regular, had a tricky start to her crocheting. Her mother was left-handed and she's right-handed, so when she first attempted crochet at the age of five, she was left thoroughly confused! Eventually, it fell to her maternal grandmother to teach her. She started off with a granny square, in brightly coloured nylon yarn – again, this was the 1970s! Lesley thought she was doing well and, once she'd worked three or four rounds, proudly showed off her efforts. "Well, Lesley," she remembers her grandmother saying, "that's the first heart-shaped square I've ever seen!" Fortunately, while Lesley picked up many crochet tips from her grandma, her level of tact (or lack thereof) wasn't one of them. "When I run workshops," she says, "I always try to be a bit more encouraging than my nan was!"

Love in every stitch

'Lightninbug' recalls, "When I was younger, I could never understand how my grandma could knit and crochet so much. The woman never just sat still – she always had some hooks and yarn in her hands. But now I understand how relaxing it can be. Years later, when I sit and try to knit or crochet, I remember my grandma and smile."

Share your stories! Send us photos of the person who taught you, any heirlooms you have, their early crochet efforts or even the dreaded baby photo of yourself in an acrylic crocheted bonnet, to clairem@kalmmedia.co.uk

INSIDE Crochet

Next month

■ SEASONAL STYLE

Crochet is big news this Spring/Summer – we show you how to recreate the fashions that are gracing catwalks worldwide.

■ BEAUTIFUL BEADING

Incorporate some sparkle into your projects with the help of our comprehensive guide to beading.

■ PLUS MUCH MORE

...including fabulous lacy garments to wear during the warmer weather, the second part of our crocheted alphabet, lightweight accessories, interviews and reviews.

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