



GRANNY
SQUARE
ACADEMY

by Shelley Husband

Take your beginner crochet skills to the next level



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ISBN 978-0-6485640-7-2

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First edition 2020

Published by Shelley Husband

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Welcome to Granny Square Academy!

Hello

Thanks so much for choosing to increase your crochet knowledge and skills from my Granny Square Academy. I do hope you learn lots and are soon off on your own fabulous crochet adventures.

The purpose of Granny Square Academy is to take your skills beyond the traditional granny square. I will explain everything you need to know in detail, breaking things down to look really closely at what you need to know, explaining the why as well as the how.

To get the most out of Granny Square Academy, you will need to put aside some reading and crochet time for each of the ten lessons. It's best if you only read and work each lesson on its own. Don't skip ahead as you may become overwhelmed. There will be a lot of information to read and take in.

While the temptation may be to go straight to the crochet, I really do recommend you take the time to read the reference materials I provide first. If you don't, you will miss important tips and tricks and may not understand why certain things are how they are.

This course is all about growing your skills so you can tackle any pattern out there. There are videos for each pattern in this book on my YouTube channel. Use these as a last resort if you really don't understand what's going on. If you just skip to the videos, you will miss a lot and won't grow your skills. Invest in yourself and spend the time so you can do anything you want. You will limit yourself if you only use videos, as there are so many awesome patterns out there with no video.

Navigating GSA

To get the most out of Granny Square Academy, you may need to refer back to previous sections for a refresher. Bookmarks or post-it notes can come in handy to navigate to the pages you need quickly.

There are 10 patterns included in Granny Square Academy in both UK and US terminology. Not sure which set of patterns you need? Have a read of Part One and you'll then be able to choose what's best for you.

There's also a Project Planner page for you to record all pertinent information about your adventures with Granny Square Academy as you progress through each part. Make a copy of page 132 to mark off as you go.



Help

There are videos available for all the patterns in this book. You can find my right-handed and mirrored for left-handed folks videos here: spincushions.com/youtube

Ready? Ok let's go!

You will need...

You will need some supplies before we get started:

- yarn
- crochet hook
- yarn needle
- scissors
- tape measure
- optional extras



Yarn

I have used Bendigo Woollen Mills 8 ply (DK/light worsted) cotton to make my sample squares. You can use any yarn you like.

I know as a beginner, you don't want to spend a lot on yarn and I totally get that. I bought acrylic from a \$2 shop when I began. I will say from experience this yarn tends to split easily, and can be hard to undo when mistakes are made. It can also be fluffy which can make it hard to see what you're doing when you're learning.

When teaching in person, I supply my students with mercerised cotton yarn as it is not fluffy at all so you can see clearly what you're doing. It's easy to undo when mistakes are made and it feels pretty good.

If you can't get your hands on some, don't worry. I just wanted to point out those details - you'll be fine with any yarn, but I figure if you're going to be spending hours creating something you want to use and love, you may as well invest in a yarn you like if your budget allows it.

Colour

We will be using one colour to learn each pattern. I will teach you how to handle colour changes, but one colour is all you need for Granny Square Academy.



How much yarn?

The following figures are approximate as your choice of yarn and crochet style will impact how much you actually use.

HOT TIP

If you are planning on using a different yarn weight, head to my blog (spincushions.com/blog) and search for "different yarn" to learn how to substitute yarns and "how much yarn" to learn how to work out how much yarn you will need.

If you make one of each pattern in a single colour using an 8 ply/DK/light worsted cotton yarn like I used, you'll need **approximately** 270 metres of yarn (295 yards). To really consolidate your learning, I recommend you make more than one of each pattern.

If you just make one of each, you'll have enough for a cowl. Two of each will be ample for a cushion or scarf and 6 of each + 4 made a 7th time will give you enough to make a good-sized lap blanket.

Yarn to Make:	Metres	Yards
Cowl	270	295
Scarf or Cushion	540	590
Lap Blanket	1,890	2,070

HOT TIP

I don't recommend using striped, variegated or novelty yarn as it will make it hard to see what you're doing and the patterns will get lost in the riot of colours and texture. Go with a single colour for each block until you are more comfortable with what you're doing.



Crochet hook

Go with the hook size recommended on the label of your yarn. It will most likely be between 3.5 mm and 5 mm depending on your yarn. As long as you use the same one throughout, all will be well.

HOT TIP

Make a note on the Project Planner of what size hook you're using and keep it with your project.



Yarn needle

You can get a few different types. I like a metal, standard needle. There are also plastic ones and metal ones with a bend in the end. It's up to you what you prefer. As long as the needle has a large eye and the point is not too sharp, you'll be fine.



Scissors

I use small embroidery scissors as they fit nicely in my basket of things I keep nearby. Any will be fine.



Tape measure

For crochet squares, matching size usually matters, so having a tape measure handy will mean you keep on track easier. Nothing fancy, just the standard floppy one or a ruler is fine.



Optional Extras

- foam mat
- pins
- stitch markers

Foam mat

A foam mat will come in handy when I start talking about “blocking” which is a way to make your crochet look flat and even. At first, I used some old little kid puzzle mats. A while back though I bought a large foam mat intended for temporary flooring while camping and ruled lines on it for ease of measurement. They are pretty inexpensive and available in a lot of places. I’ll show you what I do with these as we work through Granny Square Academy.

Pins

You can get pins specifically made for “blocking” but I just use the normal glass/plastic head pins. The special ones are very expensive and are supposedly rust resistant. I have never had a problem with the stock standard pins though.

Stitch markers

Stitch markers can come in handy if you get confused about where corners are. Make sure your stitch markers are the kind can be opened and closed. There is no need to purchase them though. Safety pins or scraps of yarn work just as well.

Other than that, all you’ll need is some time and a willingness to have a go. I’ll be with you every step of the way, showing you what to do.

Part One

Reading to do

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Solid Sue Pattern Help

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Why do we chain 3 at the start?

A crochet stitch is worked from the top down. When we begin a round, our yarn and hook are level with the top of the last round and the bottom of the current round. We need some height before we can start working our stitches from the top down.

That’s why in most patterns the first stitch of a round is usually a number of chain stitches. This length of chains takes the place of our first stitch. This number of chains is referred to as a “starting chain” or (stch) for short.

The number of chains will depend on the stitch it is representing.

HOT TIP

The starting chain is counted as a stitch in your stitch counts.

There is an alternative to doing a starting chain. I’ll teach it to you in a later part. It’s pretty cool!



Anatomy of a crochet stitch and UK or US terms

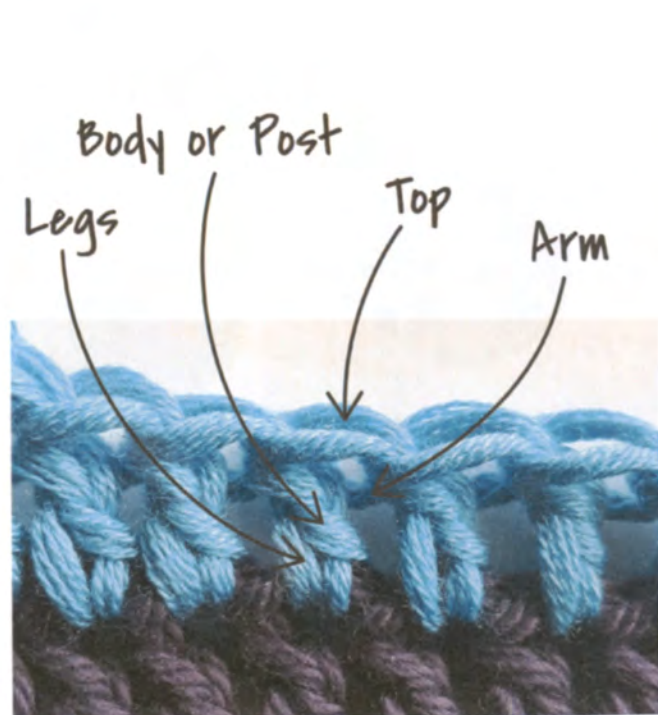
The name of the stitch you use in a traditional granny square is called a "treble crochet" or "double crochet" depending where you are.

Typically, if you are in the UK or Australia, you'll most likely use what's called UK terms where the stitch is called "treble crochet". If you're in the US and other places in the world, the same stitch is called "double crochet". Confusing I know! It can be even more so if you rely on YouTube to learn where you may not know what terminology the person you watch is using. If you've dabbled in teaching yourself via YouTube, it's quite possible you've picked up US terms regardless of where you are. If that's the case, then if you know the stitch used in a traditional granny square as a "double crochet", that's US terms. If you know it as "treble crochet", that's UK terms.

When it comes to the Granny Square Academy patterns, you'll be able to choose which terminology to use. For now, though, I'll just refer to them as "stitches".

Let's have a look at what makes a treble (UK)/double (US) crochet stitch so you really get what we're doing.

The stitch has a couple of legs, a post and a top with an arm to the right under the top as you can see below:



How to work into stitches

In a traditional granny square, you work sets or shells of 3 stitches into the chain spaces of the previous round, like so:



For our patterns, we're often going to work our stitches *into the stitches* of the previous round. We will still work into chain spaces in the corners, but along the sides, we'll mostly work into the stitches. It's easy!

Let's look at the top of the stitch from above.



See the "v" shape like a chain? Well that's what we'll be working into - our hook will go under that chain-like "v" like this:



To make sure you're in the right spot, check that the arm is below the hook - if you go under the arm as well as the top v, that's another technique entirely, called working "between the stitches". We won't be using this technique in Granny Square Academy. It's a really small thing, but it makes a difference.

Think of the stitch as a capital P. Pop your hook in the circle of the P, to the right of the body. *Lefties, it'll be on the left of the body and will look like a reversed capital P.



The best way to end each round and why

Now I have a cool trick to teach you. I am going to teach you how to make a double crochet (UK terms) or single crochet (US Terms) stitch. It's not something we'll use as part of a pattern until later on, but it will be used to join our rounds.

Before I get into that, let's look at ways you can start and finish each round of a traditional granny square.

There are a few ways it can be done, and all are perfectly acceptable.

1. Slip stitch to corner to start

Start with a full corner. Here's what that looks like. You finish your rounds at the end of a side, before the first lot of 3 stitches in the corner, then you slip stitch across to the corner space to start your next round.



It's ok, but if you want to progress to more complex patterns, this can really spoil the look of a block as it adds bulk. It makes those stitches you slip stitch into look different and it can be tricky if you have to work into the stitches you slip stitched into.

2. Start and end each round somewhere along the side.

Here's what that looks like. You'll see the needle is pointing to a visible line where each round has ended and begun.



Again, it's ok in a traditional granny square, but in our patterns and many other more complex ones, it stands out like a sore thumb as you can see below.



3. Starting in the middle of a corner (like in my Granny Square for Beginners ebook)

Here's what that looks like. The needle is pointing to the first group of 3 stitches where each round begins.



It's the best of the methods, but it still has its problems when you move on to more complex patterns. You probably need to look closely to see, but that first shell of 3 stitches of each round is kind of skewed due to you having to work backwards a little bit. That can be a problem when you are working fancy stitches and complex patterns.

4. How I do it – joining with a stitch

To help hide those joins, I use a method of ending each round that places you in exactly the right spot to start the next round - no slip stitching, no visible line, no working backwards.

It's easy and translates well into more complex patterns so it will be hard to know where your rounds begin and end. All my patterns are written this way. It's nothing new - it's something that's been around for as long as crochet probably. I first saw it in old doily patterns.

So what's the big secret? It probably won't make a lot of sense until you do it a few times and get a feel for it, but here's what we will do.

We begin each round with the second half of a corner and end the round by finishing the corner, and then joining. When we get to the last corner, normally, you'd chain 2 and join with a slip stitch to the 3rd chain of the starting chain we began the round with. What I do instead is chain 1, and join with a stitch to the **top** of the 3rd chain of the starting chain.

That stitch is the smallest in the crochet world (not considering chains or slip stitches). It's called "double crochet" (UK terms) and "single crochet" (US Terms). We will be using this stitch as part of future patterns as well as joining most rounds, so you need to learn it.

Head to spincushions.com/youtube to find the link to my YouTube video of me making this stitch.

All you do is insert your hook where directed, pull a loop to the front, wrap your yarn around your hook and pull it through both loops on the hook. You don't wrap your yarn around the hook before you start - the hook goes straight in first.



Now when we're joining with this small stitch, after doing 1 chain, you insert your hook into the top of the 3rd chain of our starting chain, pull a loop of yarn to the front, yarn over hook and pull it through both loops on the hook and you're done.



HOT TIP

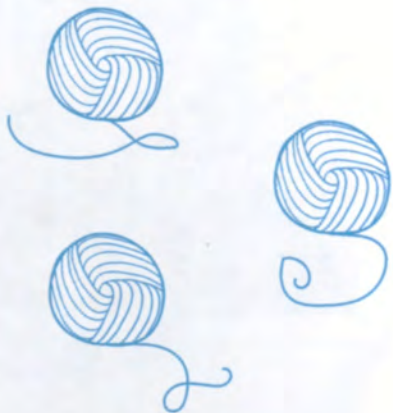
It's important that you only use the top loop of the 3rd chain of your starting chain. Let me show you why. Remember the anatomy of a stitch? Well, if you join into just the top of the 3rd chain, it mimics a true stitch better - it gives the illusion of a capital P. It also makes it easy to see where to work into that starting chain as the first stitch of the next round if you need to.

Don't be alarmed if it creates a big, loose loop. Continuing the pattern will help bring it all in line with the rest of the square.

If you have trouble finding the 3rd loop, pop a stitch marker in the loop to the right as soon as you've made your 3rd chain.



What's the difference between joining with a slip stitch and joining with a stitch, you may ask? Well I know when you're just starting out, joining with a stitch looks pretty much the same as chaining 2 and joining with a slip stitch, but I assure you it is different.



ch1, dc/sc join



ch2, ss join



Joining this way places your hook in the middle of what is a 2-chain corner space. It means you can work the first stitches of the next round **over** the stitch you joined with, pretending that joining stitch is a chain like in other corners. Plus, you're not working backwards for those first stitches, so they don't get the skew I was talking about earlier.



Don't get it? Don't worry. Check out the videos of me making the patterns as we go and I'll show you how it works. I promise you can do it.

HOT TIP

Place a scrap of yarn in the gap before you join a round. That scrap of yarn shows you where to put your hook to work over the joining stitch as well as where to work the last stitches of the next round.



How to read my patterns and how to count stitches

There are a few things common to all my patterns so let's look at them. All patterns will state whether they are in UK or US terms.

Abbreviations

All patterns begin with a list of the abbreviated terms for stitches and techniques you'll use in the pattern. As an example, here's the list for our first pattern:

Abbreviations UK Terms	Abbreviations US Terms
R = Round	R = Round
cnr = corner	cnr = corner
rep = repeat	rep = repeat
ss = slip stitch	ss = slip stitch
sp/s = space/s	sp/s = space/s
st/s = stitch/es	st/s = stitch/es
ch = chain	ch = chain
stch = starting chain	stch = starting chain
dc = double crochet	sc = single crochet
tr = treble crochet	dc = double crochet

The reason abbreviated terms are used is to condense the patterns and make them easier to follow. It soon becomes second nature to read the abbreviations as the full stitches in your head as you go.

How to begin a granny square

Next, each pattern will tell you how to start off. All of the Granny Square Academy patterns except one will be the same:



Attach yarn to hook with a slip knot, ch1, work all R1 sts into that ch.

HOT TIP

If you aren't sure where to work your Round 1 stitches, pop a stitch marker in the first chain. That is where you will work all your Round 1 stitches.

There are other ways you can start a granny square. You may be more used to doing this:

"ch4 and join the last ch to the first with a ss to make a loop."

We will use this method for one of our patterns.

It works fine but I find it leaves a large hole in the centre and adds a bit of bulk that I don't like, so I do chain 1 instead, when a pattern has up to 12 stitches in Round 1.

There's also the magic circle method which I do use quite often, but I don't recommend it for beginners as they can come undone easily if you don't weave your ends in well. Something to try a bit later.

The Written Pattern

Next comes the meaty bit - the instructions explaining how to make the square.

Here's a round from one of our patterns as an example. Don't worry about what the stitches are, just look at the format:

R4: ch3 (stch), dc over joining sc, *dc in next 10 sts**, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in 2-ch cnr sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2dc in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{14 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}

Lots of abbreviations and asterisks, aren't there? Here's the same round above written in full, without abbreviations, repeats and asterisks:

Round 4

chain 3 (starting chain), double crochet over joining single crochet, double crochet in next 10 stitches, 2 double crochet in 2-chain corner space, chain 2, 2 double crochet in same 2-chain corner space, double crochet in next 10 stitches, 2 double crochet in 2-chain corner space, chain 2, 2 double crochet in same 2-chain corner space, double crochet in next 10 stitches, 2 double crochet in 2-chain corner space, chain 2, 2 double crochet in same 2-chain corner space, double crochet in next 10 stitches, 2 double crochet in same space as first stitches, chain 1, join with single crochet to third chain of starting chain.
{14 stitches on each side; 4 2-chain corner spaces}

Hard to follow, isn't it? I know I'd get lost trying to follow it. This is a very simple pattern too. Imagine a complex pattern written out in full! No thanks!

Here's the shortened version again.

R4: ch3 (stch), dc over joining sc, *dc in next 10 sts**, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in 2-ch cnr sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2dc in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{14 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}

Here's what the asterisks mean:

The instructions between the single asterisk and double asterisk (highlighted in blue) equal one side only with no corners, highlighted in this photo. It's a partial repeat.



The instructions between the double asterisk and single asterisk (highlighted in yellow) equal one corner only with no sides as shown below. It's a partial repeat.



Therefore, the instructions between the single asterisk and single asterisk (blue plus yellow) equals one side and the following corner, as shown below. It's a full repeat.



When reading a crochet pattern, first up, just look at each instruction between commas on its own.

As you start a round, you follow along, ignoring the asterisks, doing every step from comma to comma, as instructed. When you get to "rep", you have begun the first corner, completed one side and completed the second corner.



You are then instructed to repeat from * to * 2x. This means you need to go back to the instructions after the first single asterisk and repeat everything up to the second single asterisk 2 times, meaning you will have completed 3 sides and 3 and a half corners (remember we started with half a corner).



Now you need to repeat from * to ** 1x. That is, just a side once. This is your last side.

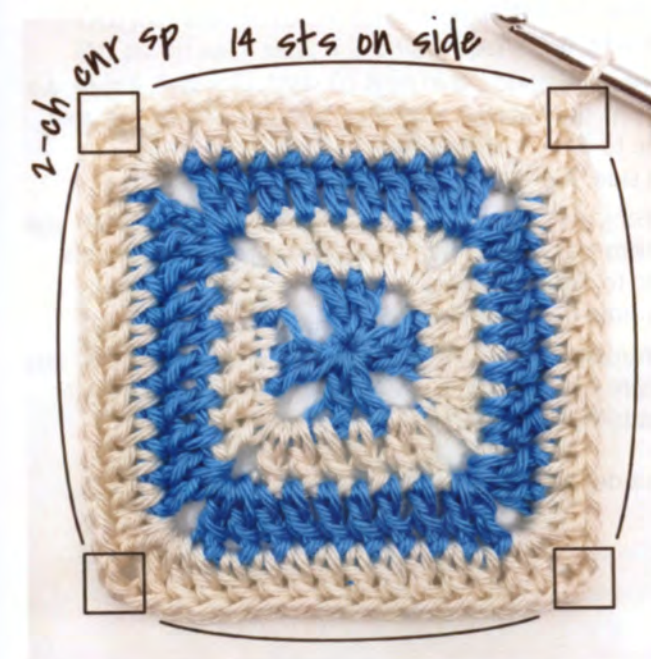


Then you can finish off the round by completing the corner we began with and joining up.



Lastly, each round ends with a stitch count. I recommend checking your stitch counts regularly to make sure you are on track.

{14 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
This photo shows you what that stitch count means.



HOT TIP

If you ever get lost and are unsure where you are up to in a pattern, pop your work down in front of you and find the corners. It can help you see where you are up to.

Get lost counting? It all comes back to being able to recognise what a stitch is. When you're counting, you are counting the "v"s on top. Go back to the Anatomy reference if you need a reminder of what that looks like.

You count the stitches between the corner chain spaces like this:



What you are counting will depend on the pattern. Sometimes, patterns will have chain spaces along the sides you need to count as well as stitches and sometimes, no corners.

HOT TIP

If you're working a circle, count backwards before you join! It's much easier.

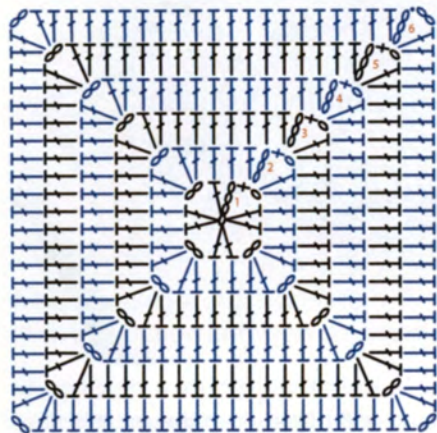
Now it's time to start crocheting! Hooray!

Grab your yarn and hook and refer to the pattern help as you go.



Solid Sue

Part One • UK Pattern



Abbreviations

R	Round
cnr	corner
rep	repeat
•	ss
	slip stitch
	sp/s
	space/s
	st/s
	stitch/es
o	ch
	chain
	stch
	starting chain
+	dc
+	double crochet
+	tr
	treble crochet

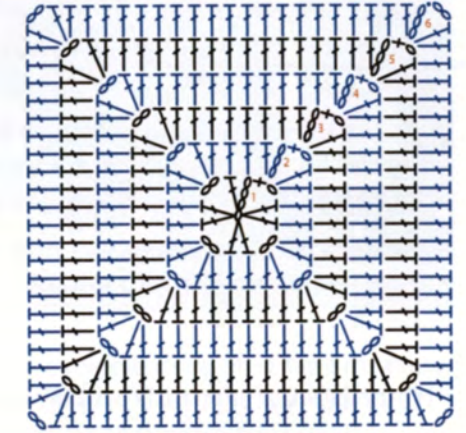
Attach yarn to hook with a slip knot, ch1, work all R1 sts into that ch.

- R1:** ch3 (stch), tr, *ch2, 2tr*, rep from * to * 2x, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{2 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R2:** ch3 (stch), tr over joining dc, *tr in next 2 sts**, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2tr in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{6 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R3:** ch3 (stch), tr over joining dc, *tr in next 6 sts**, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2tr in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{10 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R4:** ch3 (stch), tr over joining dc, *tr in next 10 sts**, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2tr in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{14 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R5:** ch3 (stch), tr over joining dc, *tr in next 14 sts**, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2tr in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{18 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R6:** ch3 (stch), tr over joining dc, *tr in next 18 sts**, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2tr in same sp as first sts, ch2, join with ss to 3rd ch of stch. Fasten off yarn and weave in ends.
{22 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}



Solid Sue

Part One • US Pattern



Abbreviations

R	Round
cnr	corner
rep	repeat
•	ss
	slip stitch
	sp/s
	space/s
	st/s
	stitch/es
o	ch
	chain
	stch
	starting chain
+	sc
+	single crochet
+	dc
	double crochet

Attach yarn to hook with a slip knot, ch1, work all R1 sts into that ch.

- R1:** ch3 (stch), dc, *ch2, 2dc*, rep from * to * 2x, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{2 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R2:** ch3 (stch), dc over joining sc, *dc in next 2 sts**, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2dc in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{6 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R3:** ch3 (stch), dc over joining sc, *dc in next 6 sts**, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2dc in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{10 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R4:** ch3 (stch), dc over joining sc, *dc in next 10 sts**, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2dc in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{14 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R5:** ch3 (stch), dc over joining sc, *dc in next 14 sts**, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2dc in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{18 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R6:** ch3 (stch), dc over joining sc, *dc in next 18 sts**, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2dc in same sp as first sts, ch2, join with ss to 3rd ch of stch. Fasten off yarn and weave in ends.
{22 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}

Solid Sue

Pattern help



Try to use these notes and photos to work from. If you are really stuck, check out the video at spincushions.com/youtube

There are a couple of things that may trip you up if you are new to working into stitches.

How to work into the ch3 (stch)

The first thing is where to work the first stitch of each round, from Round 2 onwards.

Remember how the first stitch of each round is ch3 (stch) that is pretending to be our first stitch? Well you can't work into it like the other stitches. Recall the capital P I mentioned on page 11.

If you've followed my instructions and joined to the top loop only of the 3rd ch, it will be easy to see where to work the first stitch after you've started the corner. Joining to the top loop only makes the ch3 (stch) mimic a stitch, so it's clear where to work the first stitch of the side into it.

Once you have that sorted, it should be easy to see where to work the remaining stitches.

HOT TIP

Not sure where to work the corner stitches? Pop a stitch marker in each corner when you finish each round.



How to find the first stitch after a corner

The next part that may trip you up and cause your stitch count to be incorrect, is finding where to work the first stitch after the next corner. It really does depend on your crochet style if this is an issue for you or not. It also could depend on your yarn and hook combo. If you have a thick yarn with a small hook, it can make it hard to read your stitches.

If you're unsure where to place the first stitch after a corner, slide the corner stitches to the right (to the left, left handed folks) and you should see the capital P that makes the stitch appear.



Joining the last round

The final thing to note is that the last round is joined differently from the previous rounds. In the last round, we will chain 2 and join with a slip stitch. The reason is, there is no need to finish in the middle of the corner. That is only necessary when we are continuing the same colour in the next round.



What to do after you've made your first square

First off, pat yourself on the back! You did it!

Next, I want you to get out your project planner so we can add some details.

"Finger block" your square – pull it from each corner. This will straighten it out a little.



Measure it across the middle using your tape measure or ruler and note down the size in the unblocked column. Don't worry about the blocked column for now.



Weigh the square and note the weight.

Now it's up to you how many more you make. If you found yourself using the video to make your square, try it again using just the written pattern. I reckon you'll be able to do it!

Add each square made to the total on the project planner as you make them.

And that's it! You're done. Well done you!



Part Two

Reading to do

- How to skip stitches 23
- How to weave in ends 24

Patterns

- Skipping Sarah UK pattern 28
- Skipping Sarah US pattern 29

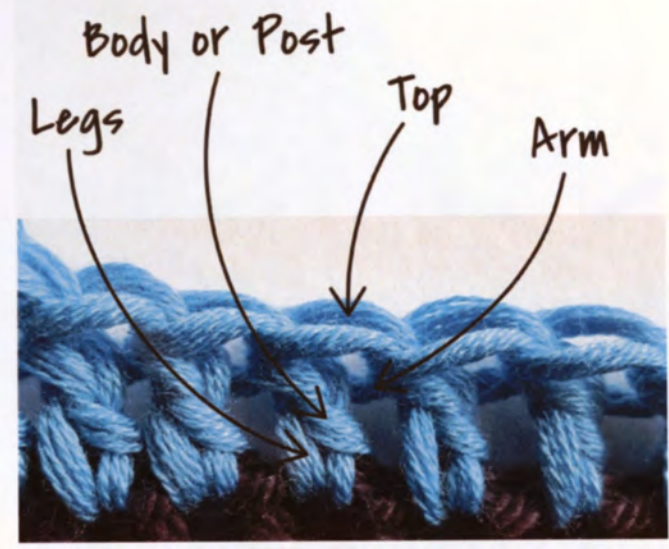
Skipping Sarah Pattern Help

- Round 3 help - how to skip your first stitches 30
- How to count stitches and chains along a side 30
- How to tell if you've worked a stitch or a chain 31
- Round 4 help - how to work the instructions in the [] 31
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How to Skip Stitches

In some patterns, rather than working into each stitch, sometimes, you will be instructed to skip some stitches. You need to know what a stitch looks like to be able to do that correctly.

Here's a reminder of what a stitch looks like. The stitch has a couple of legs, a post and a top with an arm to the right under the top as you can see below:



That "v" on top is what we will be skipping. Depending on the pattern, you may skip any number of stitches. It could be 1 or 20 – any number really. Both of these patterns (from my books) are examples of patterns with skipped stitches. In one, it's obvious, in the other it's not.



Cogs: Granny Square Flair



Salish: Siren's Atlas

HOT TIP

Sometimes, you will be instructed to work a certain number of chains before skipping stitches, but not always! Don't expect the number of chains to match the number of stitches you are skipping. It could be more or less, depending on the pattern.

In the pattern instructions, you will be directed when to skip stitches. Here's a small section of a pattern as an example:

"...ch1, skip 2 sts, tr in next 2 sts..."

Using the example above, this photo shows you what skipping 2 stitches looks like. The silver needles are in the stitches to be skipped and the red needle is showing where to work the first of the next 2 stitches.



HOT TIP

If skipping the first stitch of a side, move the corner stitches to the right (left for lefties) to make that first stitch to be skipped visible. Refer back to 'Part One Reading to do' to see what this looks like. This may or may not be an issue for you and will depend on your hook and yarn combo as well as your crochet style.



How to weave in ends

Dealing with your ends is just part of the process of crocheting. If you leave it until the end of a project, it can become a real chore. If you do them as you go, you will do a better job and it becomes part of making a square.

So how do you do it?

When working with just one colour, you only have 2 ends per square to deal with. You'll need your trusty yarn needle and some scissors.

HOT TIP

On the front of the work, your stitches look like capital P's. On the reverse, they look busier. Here's a close up of the front and back. The front is more curvy and vertical-ish lines whereas the back is more angular and horizontal-ish lines.



Let's start with the beginning yarn end in the centre. Flip your square over so the back is facing up.

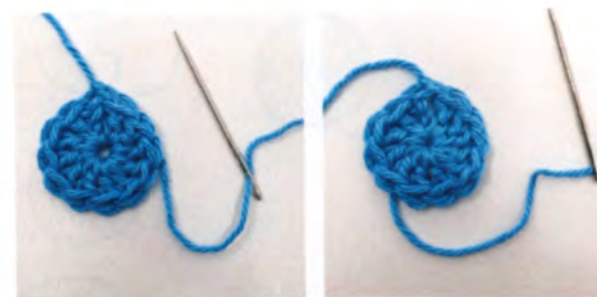
Thread the yarn end through the eye of your needle. Look for the "legs" at the bottom of the first round of stitches. Poke your needle under those on the back, trying not to go through to the front of the stitches. Work your way all the way around, then going over the last leg, go back in the other direction, all the way around.

It's up to you how much more you do. A slippery yarn will need more securing, whereas a grippy yarn will be fine with just that. You can also thread up through the back of the stitches to higher rounds and work back and forth under the legs of the stitches.



HOT TIP

If you don't like a hole in the centre, while weaving your centre thread, pull tightly on it as you go and you will cinch the hole closed.



Once you are happy with how much you have woven in the end, pull up the end slightly and snip it off very close to the work. When you let go, the cut end will sneak back under the stitches.



HOT TIP

To make sure you are not going through to the front, before you pull your thread through, flip the square to the right side. If you can see the needle, you've come through to the front. If you can't, you are good to go!



Don't pull on the yarn too much as you weave in the ends! If you pull too much you will distort your work as shown below.



The pattern and number of colours used will affect how you weave in your ends. If it's a lacy square with a lot of gaps, you'll have to use the backs of stitches as well as the legs of stitches.



HOT TIP

If you're weaving in ends where you've used more than one colour, weave in the end to the back of the same colour if possible. If you go behind a different colour, it's possible you may see the colour show through.

Now let's deal with the end from where we finished the square.

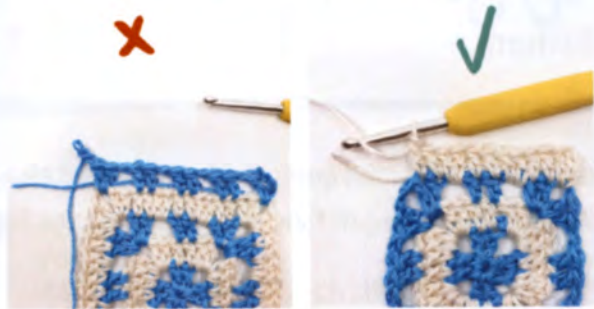
It's pretty similar to what you've already done. To begin with, you will have to work through the back of the final stitches to the base of that round to begin working the end through the back of the legs.



HOT TIP

You can sometimes work over your ends as you crochet, eliminating the need to weave in some ends.

If your round has gaps and you crochet over the end, then you will be able to see the tail and it will also be very loose and not secure. It's best done when the new round of stitches is a solid row with no gaps. You can do this and then also weave in the end to be really secure.



If you want to be REALLY pedantic about your ends, you can separate your tail and weave in the individual strands in different directions. Honestly, I have never done this, but it is the "correct" way apparently.

Now it's time to start crocheting! Hooray!

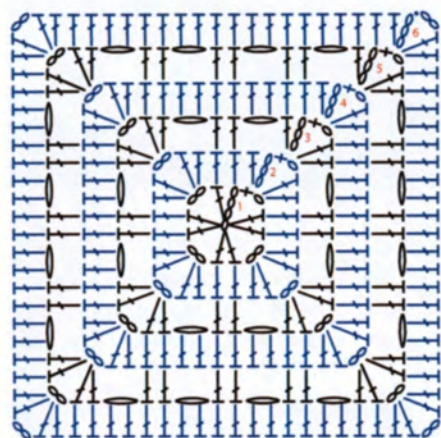
Grab your yarn and hook and refer to the pattern help as you go.





Skipping Sarah

Part Two • UK Pattern



Abbreviations

R	Round
cnr	corner
rep	repeat
•	ss slip stitch
sp/s	space/s
st/s	stitch/es
o	ch chain
stch	starting chain
+	dc double crochet
↑	tr treble crochet

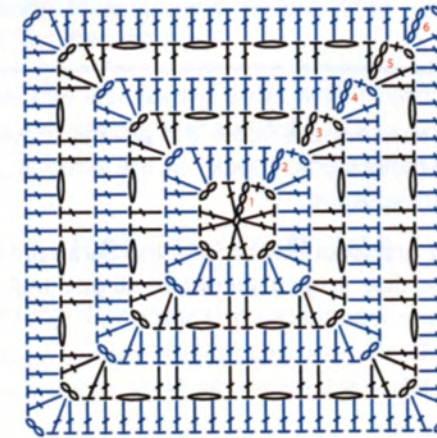
Attach yarn to hook with a slip knot, ch1, work all R1 sts into that ch.

- R1:** ch3 (stch), tr, *ch2, 2tr*, rep from * to * 2x, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{2 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R2:** ch3 (stch), tr over joining dc, *tr in next 2 sts**, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2tr in same sp first sts, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{6 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R3:** ch3 (stch), tr over joining dc, *ch1, skip 2 sts, tr in next 2 sts, ch1, skip 2 sts**, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2tr in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{6 sts, 2 1-ch sps on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R4:** ch3 (stch), tr over joining dc, *2x [tr in next 2 sts, 2tr in 1-ch sp], tr in next 2 sts**, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2tr in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{14 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R5:** ch3 (stch), tr over joining dc, *3x [ch1, skip 2 sts, tr in next 2 sts], ch1, skip 2 sts**, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2tr in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{10 sts, 4 1-ch sps on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R6:** ch3 (stch), tr over joining dc, *4x [tr in next 2 sts, 2tr in 1-ch sp], tr in next 2 sts**, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2tr in same sp as first sts, ch2, join with ss to 3rd ch of stch. Fasten off yarn and weave in ends.
{22 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}



Skipping Sarah

Part Two • US Pattern



Abbreviations

R	Round
cnr	corner
rep	repeat
•	ss slip stitch
sp/s	space/s
st/s	stitch/es
o	ch chain
stch	starting chain
+	sc single crochet
↑	dc double crochet

Attach yarn to hook with a slip knot, ch1, work all R1 sts into that ch.

- R1:** ch3 (stch), dc, *ch2, 2dc*, rep from * to * 2x, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{2 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R2:** ch3 (stch), dc over joining sc, *dc in next 2 sts**, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2dc in same sp first sts, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{6 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R3:** ch3 (stch), dc over joining sc, *ch1, skip 2 sts, dc in next 2 sts, ch1, skip 2 sts**, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2dc in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{6 sts, 2 1-ch sps on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R4:** ch3 (stch), dc over joining sc, *2x [dc in next 2 sts, 2dc in 1-ch sp], dc in next 2 sts**, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2dc in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{14 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R5:** ch3 (stch), dc over joining sc, *3x [ch1, skip 2 sts, dc in next 2 sts], ch1, skip 2 sts**, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2dc in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{10 sts, 4 1-ch sps on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R6:** ch3 (stch), dc over joining sc, *4x [dc in next 2 sts, 2dc in 1-ch sp], dc in next 2 sts**, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2dc in same sp as first sts, ch2, join with ss to 3rd ch of stch. Fasten off yarn and weave in ends.
{22 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}

Skipping Sarah

Pattern help



Try to use these notes and photos to work from. If you are really stuck, check out the video at spincushions.com/youtube

The first 2 rounds of Skipping Sarah are the same as Solid Sue, so you should be all good up to Round 3 where we skip our first stitches. It's not hard, you can do it.

Round 3 help - how to skip your first stitches

There are 6 stitches along each side of Round 2. In Round 3, we will be skipping the first and last 2 stitches and working into the middle 2 stitches.

We begin Round 3 by doing ch3 (stch) then working one stitch over the joining stitch. Here's where we chain 1 then skip 2 stitches.

The 2 silver needles are pointing to the stitches we'll skip and the red needle shows where to work the first of the next 2 stitches.



After the 2 stitches are worked, we again chain 1 and skip 2 more stitches and will be up to the 2-chain corner space where the red needle is pointing, ready to work the corner.



At the end of Round 3, our stitch count looks different. This time as well as stitches along each side, there are also 1-chain spaces.

{6 sts, 2 1-ch sps on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}

The blue highlighted section is what you are counting along the sides. The black numbers show the stitches and the red numbers the chain spaces along the side.



HOT TIP

Not sure if you've done a chain yet? Here's what your work will look like if you have just finished a tr/dc (UK/US) – there are 2 strands over the yarn on the hook.



Here's what it looks like after a chain has been made – one strand is over the yarn on the hook.



Round 4 help - how to work instructions in the []

In this round, there is a new bracket instruction used in the written pattern. Don't worry about the terminology here, let's just look at the formatting.

R4: ch3 (stch), tr over joining dc, *2x [tr in next 2 sts, 2tr in 1-ch sp], tr in next 2 sts**, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2tr in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch. {14 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}

When you get to this part;

2x [tr in next 2 sts, 2tr in 1-ch sp]

...you do the instructions between the [] twice, then move on to the next part of the pattern. Remember, we work each instruction between commas before moving on.

This photo shows the 2x [tr in next 2 sts, 2tr in 1-ch sp] only highlighted.



From here on, you should be fine. It's all just repeating what you've already done but with more stitches along each side. You can do it!

Remember that the last round ends with chain 2 and join with a slip stitch, not a stitch!

What to do after you've made your first square

First off, take a moment to congratulate yourself. You learned some new things and built on what you did in Part One.

Now you know how to deal with your ends, go back and do that for your Solid Sue and Skipping Sarah squares too. Trust me, you don't want to leave it until the end!

Next, I want you to get out your project planner so we can add some details.

"Finger block" your square – pull it from each corner. This will straighten it out a little – just like we did for Solid Sue.

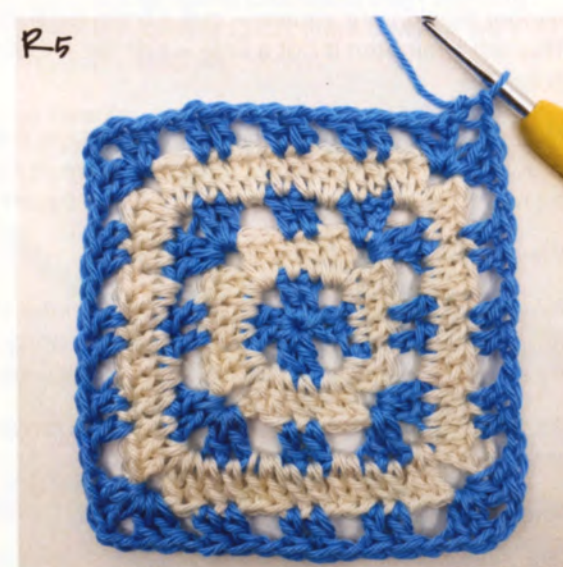
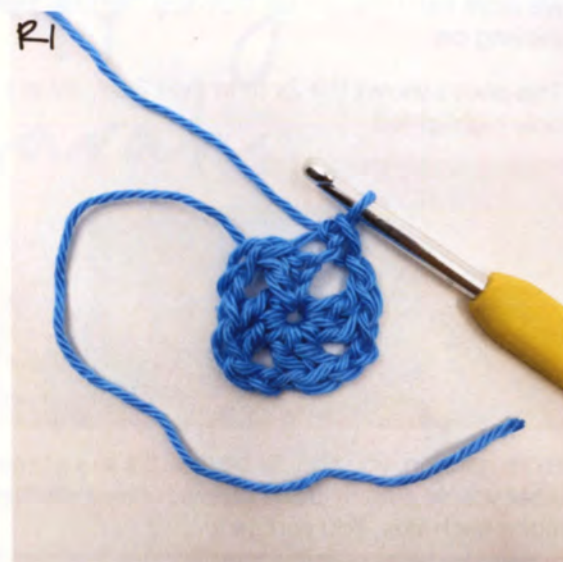
Measure it across the middle using your tape measure or ruler and note down the unblocked size. It should be much the same size as your Solid Sue squares.

Weigh the square and note the weight.

Now it's up to you how many more you make. If you found yourself using the video to make your square, try it again using just the written pattern. You can do it!

Add each square made to the total on the project planner as you make them.

And that's it! You're done. Well done you!



Part Three

Reading to do

- 🌀 How to work into the back loop only 33
- 🌀 How to block your squares 34

Patterns

- 🌀 Back Betty UK pattern 36
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Back Betty Pattern Help

- 🌀 Round 2 help 38
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- 🌀 Round 4 help 39
- 🌀 Round 5-6 help 39
- 🌀 What to do after you've made your first square 39
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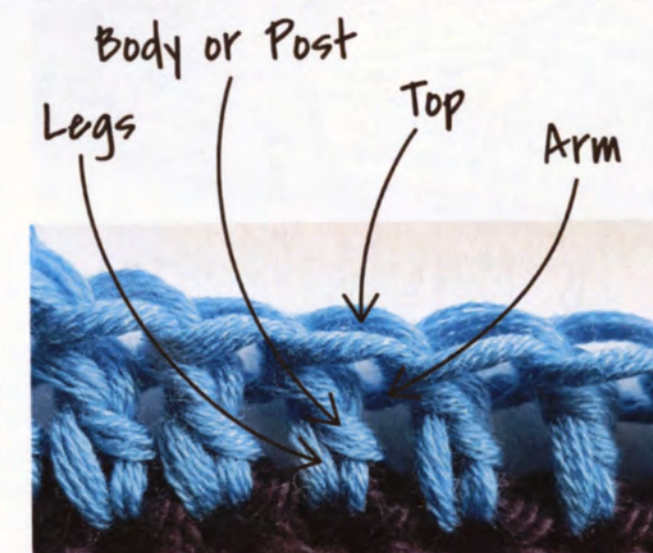


How to work into the back loop only

Once again, we're going to have another look at the anatomy of a stitch.

In some patterns, rather than working into each stitch, sometimes, you will be instructed to work into the "back loop only". This is abbreviated to "blo". You need to know what a stitch looks like to be able to do that correctly.

Here's a reminder of what a stitch looks like. The stitch has a couple of legs, a post and a top with an arm to the right under the top as you can see below:

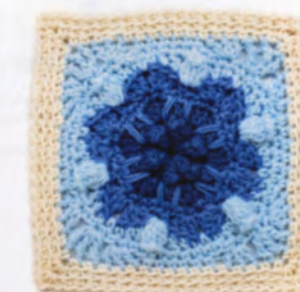


That "v" on top is what we will be using to work into the back loop only (blo). See the strand of yarn at the back? That's the back loop and where you need to poke your hook to make a stitch in the blo.

Why would you do this? It's mostly done for a design feature, as it leaves a line at the front of the work not normally visible. These patterns from my Siren's Atlas book use the blo technique as a design feature:



Alboran



Andaman

Sometimes, though, it's used as a construction feature. Using just the blo at some points leaves the front loop free to be used as well, as in my Mayan pattern. Those pointy bits that look like they're on top are made using the back loops first, then the front loops in later rounds. Cool eh?



HOT TIP

Don't be concerned about the back loop getting all big and stretched as you work. It will be pulled back in line when you work the next stitches. Some folks say to also go through the 3rd loop or loop at the back as well, but I don't think it's necessary.



What about when the stitch you need to work into the blo is a ch3 (stch)? Well, it's easy if you've joined to just the top loop as I recommended back in Part One with Solid Sue. Just use the same loop you joined into and all will be well. As it's at the start of a side, it will all blend in fine.

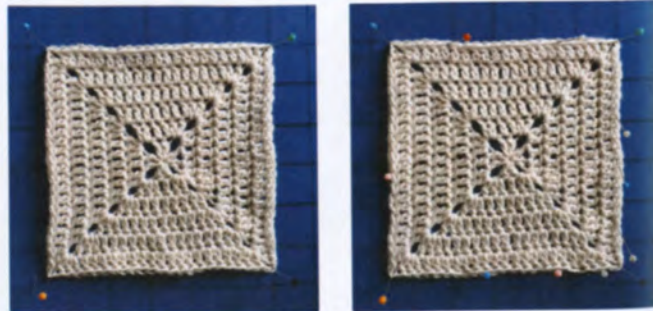


How to block your squares

Blocking is not a dirty word. Some of you may not have heard of it before. Some of you will never do this step. I always do. There are good reasons to do it:

- 1. it makes your crochet sing – everything becomes nice and square and even;
- 2. it opens out lacy sections in some patterns. Some patterns need it for them to look any good;
- 3. it can help correct small differences in size; and
- 4. it makes joining easier.

Here's how I do it.



I have a large foam mat that I have ruled 1-inch lines on. (Yes I am a metric user, but it's easier for me to block in inches than in centimetres.)

I use these lines as a guide to pin out my squares. I start with the corners and then, depending on the pattern, add more along the sides. Some only need the corners, others need LOTS of pins.

Once I am happy with the pinning, I squirt the square with steam from my iron, making sure the iron does not touch the pins or yarn.

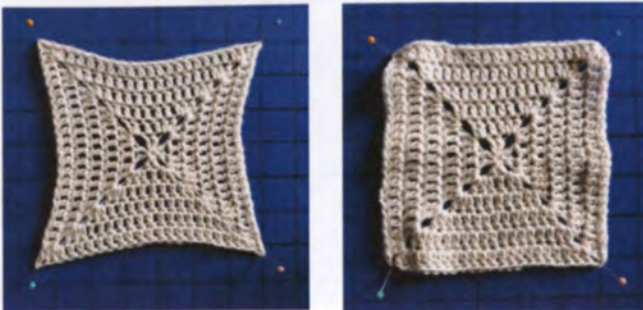


I leave it to cool and dry and then take out the pins. And that's it.

Here's an example of one of our patterns unblocked and blocked. The one on the bottom right is blocked. Doesn't it look better than the unblocked ones?



When blocking, there's a balance between stretching too much and not enough. Here are examples of too much stretching, and one that wasn't stretched at all.



The more blocking you do, the better feel you'll get for it.

Now it's time to start crocheting! Hooray!

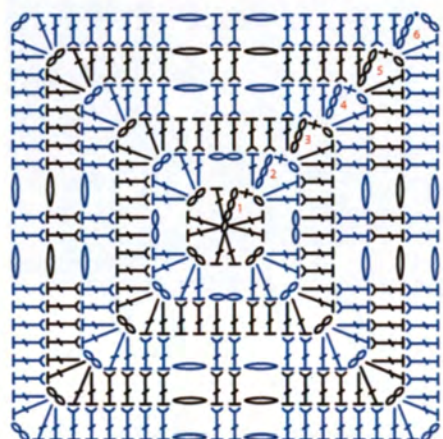
Grab your yarn and hook and refer to the pattern help as you go.





Back Betty

Part Three • UK Pattern



Abbreviations

R	Round
cnr	corner
rep	repeat
•	ss slip stitch
sp/s	space/s
st/s	stitch/es
o	ch chain
stch	starting chain
+	dc double crochet
†	tr treble crochet
~	blo back loop only

Attach yarn to hook with a slip knot, ch1, work all R1 sts into that ch.

- R1:** ch3 (stch), tr, *ch2, 2tr*, rep from * to * 2x, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{2 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R2:** ch3 (stch), tr over joining dc, *ch2, skip 2 sts**, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2tr in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{4 sts, 1 2-ch sp on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R3:** ch3 (stch), tr over joining dc, *tr in blo of next 2 sts, 2tr in 2-ch sp, tr in blo of next 2 sts**, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in 2-ch sp,*rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2tr in same 2-ch sp as first sts, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{10 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R4:** ch3 (stch), tr over joining dc, *2x [tr in blo of next 2 sts, ch1, skip 2 sts], tr in blo of next 2 sts**, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2tr in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{10 sts, 2 1-ch sps on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R5:** ch3 (stch), tr over joining dc, *tr in blo of next 4 sts, ch1, skip 1-ch sp, tr in blo of next 2 sts, ch1, skip 1-ch sp, tr in blo of next 4 sts**, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2tr in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{14 sts, 2 1-ch sps on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R6:** ch3 (stch), tr over joining, *tr in blo of next 6 sts, ch1, skip 1-ch sp, tr in blo of next 2 sts, ch1, skip 1-ch sp, tr in blo of next 6 sts**, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2tr in same sp as first sts, ch2, join with ss to 3rd ch of stch. Fasten off yarn and weave in ends.
{18 sts, 2 1-ch sps on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}

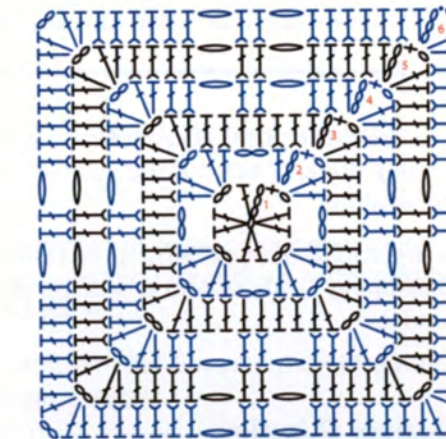


Back Betty

Part Three • US Pattern

Attach yarn to hook with a slip knot, ch1, work all R1 sts into that ch.

- R1:** ch3 (stch), dc, *ch2, 2dc*, rep from * to * 2x, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{2 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R2:** ch3 (stch), dc over joining sc, *ch2, skip 2 sts**, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2dc in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{4 sts, 1 2-ch sp on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R3:** ch3 (stch), dc over joining sc, *dc in blo of next 2 sts, 2dc in 2-ch sp, dc in blo of next 2 sts**, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in 2-ch sp,*rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2dc in same 2-ch sp as first sts, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{10 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R4:** ch3 (stch), dc over joining sc, *2x [dc in blo of next 2 sts, ch1, skip 2 sts], dc in blo of next 2 sts**, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2dc in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{10 sts, 2 1-ch sps on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R5:** ch3 (stch), dc over joining sc, *dc in blo of next 4 sts, ch1, skip 1-ch sp, dc in blo of next 2 sts, ch1, skip 1-ch sp, dc in blo of next 4 sts**, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2dc in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{14 sts, 2 1-ch sps on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R6:** ch3 (stch), dc over joining, *dc in blo of next 6 sts, ch1, skip 1-ch sp, dc in blo of next 2 sts, ch1, skip 1-ch sp, dc in blo of next 6 sts**, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2dc in same sp as first sts, ch2, join with ss to 3rd ch of stch. Fasten off yarn and weave in ends.
{18 sts, 2 1-ch sps on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}



Abbreviations

R	Round
cnr	corner
rep	repeat
•	ss slip stitch
sp/s	space/s
st/s	stitch/es
o	ch chain
stch	starting chain
+	sc single crochet
†	dc double crochet
~	blo back loop only

Back Betty

Pattern help



Try to use these notes and photos to work from. If you are really stuck, check out the video at [spincushions.com/youtube](https://www.spincushions.com/youtube)

The first round of Back Betty is the same as Solid Sue and Skipping Sarah, so you should be all good up to Round 2.

Round 2 help

In this round, there are no stitches worked into Round 1 stitches. You chain 2 to move between the corner stitches, so that chain 2 is effectively our side in this round.



Round 3 help

This is where we begin to work into back loops only. It will be the same for all following rounds as well. In just this round, though, we will also be working into the 2-chain spaces along the sides.

The first stitch you need to work into the back loop only (blo) of is actually the ch3 (stch) of Round 2. We used just the top loop of the 3rd chain which acts in much the same way as the blo of a stitch, so just poke your hook into that same loop to work your first stitch.



Then, you work your second stitch into the blo of the next stitch, the first true stitch of Round 2.

After you've worked your first 2 back loop only stitches, you need to work 2 stitches into the 2-chain space.



Then it's back to blo stitches for the last 2 stitches of the side.



After your corner is made, remember you may need to slide your corner stitches out of the way to clearly see the first blo of the next side.



Round 4 help

In this round, just like in Skipping Sarah, you'll see these brackets [] pop up in the written pattern. You know what to do with them. Refer back to the Skipping Sarah pattern help if you're not sure.

Round 5 – 6 help

One thing to note in these rounds is that while the gaps look pretty similar to the last round, they are different. In Round 4, you chained 1 and skipped 2 stitches. In Rounds 5 and 6, you chain 1 and skip the 1-chain space, not 2 stitches.



Otherwise, they are pretty much the same, just with more stitches at the start and end of each round.

What to do after you've made your first square

First off, take a moment to revel in your new found skills. You built on what you have done in the past two patterns. You did good!

Weave in your ends and get out your project planner so we can add some details.

"Finger block" your square – pull it from each corner.

Measure it across the middle using your tape measure or ruler and note down the unblocked size. It should be much the same size as your Solid Sue and Skipping Sarah squares.

Block your Solid Sue, Skipping Sarah and Back Betty squares, and note the blocked size – this should be the same for all squares as blocking gives you the chance to even out any small differences in size. Use the blocked size of Solid Sue as your guide. For me, using 8 ply cotton and a 5 mm hook, that was 5.5 inches. For you it will be your size. Your size is your size and will be dependent on your particular yarn, hook size and crochet style.

Weigh the square and note the weight.

Now it's up to you how many more you make. If you found yourself using the video to make your square, try it again using just the written pattern. You can do it!

Add each square made to the total on the project planner as you make them.

And that's it! You're done. Well done you!



Part Four

Reading to do

- How to work a round with no corners 41
- How to count your stitches when there are no corners 42
- How to work spike stitches 42
- How to work a round of dc/sc (UK/US) stitches 43
- Why patterns can have a different number of rounds and still be the same size 45

Patterns

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Spiky Sally Pattern Help

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- Round 7 help 51
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How to work a round with no corners

It's very common for granny square patterns not to have 4 corners when they begin. Granny squares can be all sorts of shapes before they "go square" in the final rounds. Here are a couple of my granny squares that change shape from my books, *Granny Square Flair* and *Siren's Atlas*.



Cirque: Granny Square Flair



Mozambique: Siren's Atlas

Working different shapes means the instructions look different. Repeats and how to count your stitches are also different.

Here's a round from a pattern that starts off as a circle (not part of *Granny Square Academy*):

R3: ch4 (stch), dtr in same st as ss, *dtr in next st**, 2dtr in next st*, rep from * to * 14x and * to ** 1x, join with ss to 4th ch of stch. {48 sts}

And here's Round 3 (UK terms) of our *Solid Sue*:

R3: ch3 (stch), tr over joining dc, *tr in next 6 sts**, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2tr in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch. {10 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}

Here's the difference to what we've done so far:

1. There is no corner in the first example like in our patterns. See the "(2tr, ch2, 2tr) in 2-ch sp"? That was our corner in *Solid Sue*.
2. Check out the repeats. Sure, there are still single and double asterisks, but this time the number of repeats you do is many times more in the first example – 14 times instead of 2!
3. Look at the stitch counts – "not-square" patterns have just a big number of stitches, as in the example, instead of a list of the number of stitches on a side and corner spaces, like in the *Solid Sue* pattern.

How to count your stitches when there are no corners

I did mention this briefly in the Part 1 Reading to do, but it may not have sunk in as we didn't use it then.

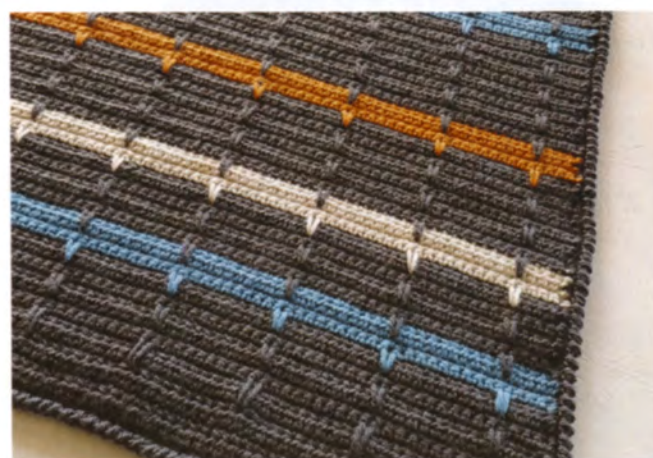
When you are working with a circle, it's best to count your stitches before you join the round. That way it's easy to add more or undo stitches if you've done the wrong number. It's also easier not to lose count, if you count before joining.

I count backwards from the stitch on my hook, back to the ch3 (stch). Remember, that ch3 (stch) counts as your first stitch.



How to work spike stitches

Spike stitches are just like normal stitches, but where you poke your hook to work them is what makes them different. They're really effective when you use a contrasting colour for the spike stitches like in my This Charming Boy Baby Blanket pattern, one of the few patterns of mine that is made of rows, not squares.



The pattern will state exactly where to work your stitch. It is usually in the row below the last row, but it can be any number of rounds below.

This is how to work a spike stitch:

Insert your hook in the stitch or space indicated in the pattern and pull up a long loop – long enough to be a little higher than the level of the current round and complete the stitch as normal. Doing this means you work over the stitches of previous round/s. They are encased by the spike stitches.



Don't worry if the "spike" gets a little twisted as you work your stitch. You can fix it easily with your fingers after the stitch is completed.



If you don't pull up a long enough loop, you will distort your granny square and it will pull in where your spikes are. A little bit of a dip can be fixed by blocking, but if you can keep it nice and even as you work, it's much easier to end up with an even square.



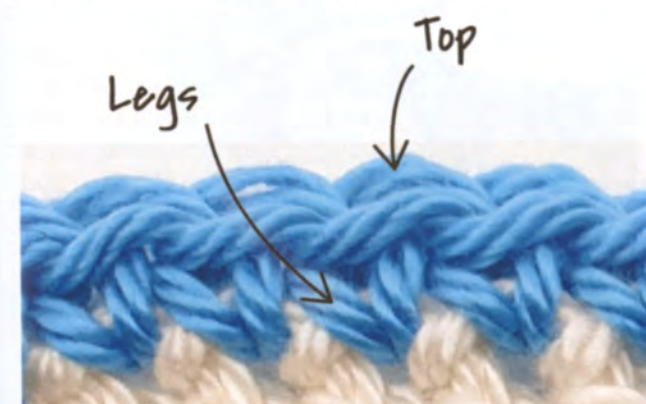
HOT TIP

Spike stitches can be any stitch. Spike dc/sc (UK/US) is the most common, but any stitch can be worked as a spike stitch, such as spike tr, spike dtr, etc.

How to work a round of dc/sc (UK/US) stitches

Up until now, we've only used the most common crochet stitch in our patterns. In this part, we'll also be using the smallest crochet stitch (not counting chains or slip stitches) – double crochet (UK terms) aka single crochet (US terms) as part of the pattern, not just for joining.

You know how to do it because we've been joining all our rounds with this stitch, but let's have a look at the anatomy of it so we know what it should look like when we work it. Instead of a capital P, this time it's more like a backwards lowercase "a" (right way "a" for lefties). There is no arm or post, just legs and a top.



There are a few things that are slightly different when using this stitch in a pattern. Let's look at them.

How to work into these stitches

When it comes to working into the dc/sc, it's just like working into the P. You work into the stitch on the right, under the top, but there is no arm to go under the hook.



EXCEPT!! When working into the first stitch after a chain space, there is an arm! It's just a quirk of crochet when you move from a chain to a stitch. Here's what it looks like:



When working into the 2-chain space, your hook goes to the right of the arm (left of the arm for lefties). When working into the first stitch of the side, your hook goes to the left of the arm (right of the arm for lefties).

It can be harder to see what's going on with the stitches being so small, particularly when you get to the corners. That's why you may want to use scraps of yarn or stitch markers in the corners to help you stay on track.



First stitch of round

If you have done patterns by other designers, you may be used to chaining 1 before working the first stitch in this kind of round, and that chain 1 is not counted in the stitch count – it's extra. However, I don't bother. I think it adds a bit of unnecessary bulk and makes that corner look a little different. It can also make it confusing to see where exactly to join to the first stitch. So I just work the stitch straight up from the beginning.



Joining to first stitch

When you get to the end of the round, since you started with a stitch, you don't have to join to a starting chain, instead you join to the first stitch under both loops, just like working into the stitch. It looks like this:



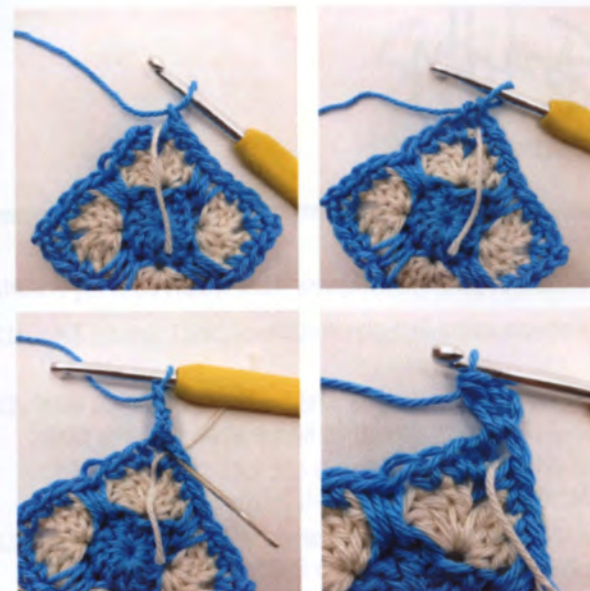
HOT TIP

When you're learning, it can pay to pop a stitch marker in that first stitch as you make it so it is really clear where exactly to join to at the end of the round.



HOT TIP

I really recommend in this type of round, adding a scrap of yarn to the gap before you join with a stitch, as everything is so small, it can be tricky to see what's going on, particularly if you have to work a stitch over the joining stitch.



That scrap of yarn shows you where to poke your hook if you need to work over the joining stitch as well as where to work the last stitch/es of the round.

Why patterns can have a different number of rounds and still be the same size

When you look at the Spiky Sally pattern, you may notice that it has 8 rounds whereas the previous 3 patterns have had 6 rounds each. Yet they will still be the same size. Why is that?

Well, it's because Spiky Sally is made using more than just the one type of stitch. All of our previous patterns used just the most common stitch. Sure we used some different techniques, but the type of stitch we used was the same. In crochet there are other stitches which are of different sizes. Our pattern in Part 4 will be using the most common stitch as we have before, and the smallest stitch (not counting chains or slip stitches) as I've outlined above. They are very different in height, so that means there are more rounds in this pattern.

Now it's time to start crocheting! Hooray!

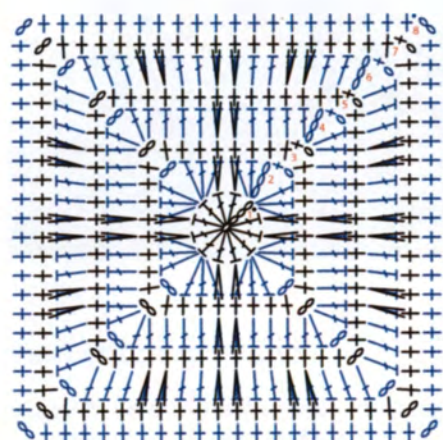
Grab your yarn and hook and refer to the pattern help as you go.





Spiky Sally

Part Four • UK Pattern



Abbreviations

R	Round
cnr	corner
rep	repeat
•	ss slip stitch
sp/s	space/s
st/s	stitch/es
o	ch chain
stch	starting chain
+	dc double crochet
+	spike dc spike double crochet
+	tr treble crochet

NOTE: when working spike sts, you are skipping the sts from the previous round

Attach yarn to hook with a slip knot, ch1, work all R1 sts into that ch.

- R1:** ch3 (stch), 11tr, join with ss to 3rd ch of stch. {12 sts}
- R2:** ch3 (stch), 2tr in same st as ss, *skip 2 sts**, (3tr, ch2, 3tr) in next st*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 3tr in same st as first sts, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch. {6 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R3:** dc over joining dc, *dc in next 2 sts, spike dc in next 2 sts of R1 below, dc in next 2 sts**, (dc, ch2, dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, dc in same sp as first st, ch1, join with dc to first st. {8 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R4:** ch3 (stch), tr over joining dc, *tr in next 8 sts**, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2tr in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch. {12 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R5:** dc over joining dc, *dc in next 5 sts, spike dc in next 2 sts of R3 below, dc in next 5 sts**, (dc, ch2, dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, dc in same sp as first st, ch1, join with dc to first st. {14 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R6:** ch3 (stch), *tr in next 14 sts**, (tr, ch2, tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, tr in same sp as first st, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch. {16 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R7:** dc over joining dc, *dc in next 3 sts, 2x [spike dc in next 2 sts of R5 below, dc in next 2 sts], spike dc in next 2 sts of R5 below, dc in next 3 sts**, (dc, ch2, dc) in 2-ch sp, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, dc in same sp as first st, ch1, join with dc to first st. {18 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R8:** dc over joining dc, *dc in next 18 sts**, (dc, ch2, dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, dc in same sp as first st, ch2, join with ss to first st. Fasten off yarn and weave in ends. {20 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}

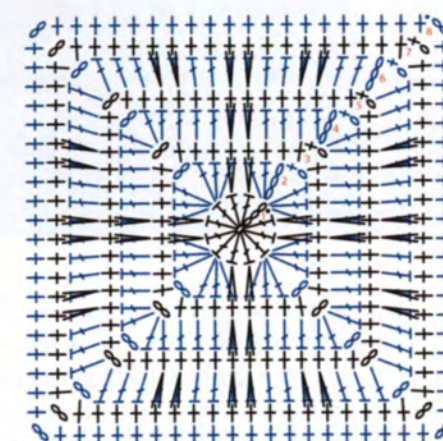
Spiky Sally

Part Four • US Pattern



Attach yarn to hook with a slip knot, ch1, work all R1 sts into that ch.

- R1:** ch3 (stch), 11dc, join with ss to 3rd ch of stch. {12 sts}
- R2:** ch3 (stch), 2dc in same st as ss, *skip 2 sts**, (3dc, ch2, 3dc) in next st*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 3dc in same st as first sts, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch. {6 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R3:** sc over joining sc, *sc in next 2 sts, spike sc in next 2 sts of R1 below, sc in next 2 sts**, (sc, ch2, sc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, sc in same sp as first st, ch1, join with sc to first st. {8 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R4:** ch3 (stch), dc over joining sc, *dc in next 8 sts**, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2dc in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch. {12 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R5:** sc over joining sc, *sc in next 5 sts, spike sc in next 2 sts of R3 below, sc in next 5 sts**, (sc, ch2, sc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, sc in same sp as first st, ch1, join with sc to first st. {14 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R6:** ch3 (stch), *dc in next 14 sts**, (dc, ch2, dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, dc in same sp as first st, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch. {16 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R7:** sc over joining sc, *sc in next 3 sts, 2x [spike sc in next 2 sts of R5 below, sc in next 2 sts], spike sc in next 2 sts of R5 below, sc in next 3 sts**, (sc, ch2, sc) in 2-ch sp, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, sc in same sp as first st, ch1, join with sc to first st. {18 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R8:** sc over joining sc, *sc in next 18 sts**, (sc, ch2, sc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, sc in same sp as first st, ch2, join with ss to first st. Fasten off yarn and weave in ends. {20 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}



Abbreviations

R	Round
cnr	corner
rep	repeat
•	ss slip stitch
sp/s	space/s
st/s	stitch/es
o	ch chain
stch	starting chain
+	sc single crochet
+	spike sc spike single crochet
+	dc double crochet

NOTE: when working spike sts, you are skipping the sts from the previous round

Spiky Sally

Pattern help



Try to use these notes and photos to work from. If you are really stuck, check out the video at [spincushions.com/youtube](https://www.spincushions.com/youtube)

Round 1 help

The first round of Spiky Sally is different to all of our previous patterns as there are no corners. It's a circle as we talked about in the Reading to do. So, after doing your starting chain, you work 11 stitches and join with a slip stitch to the top of the 3rd ch of the starting chain.



There's no need to join with a stitch, as there are no chain spaces or corners in this round that we need to end up in the middle of.



Round 2 help

In this round, there are no stitches or chain spaces between corners, just corners to work. This time, our corners are made up of 3 stitches, chain 2 and another 3 stitches, all worked into a single stitch, rather than a chain space. It seems crazy to think that 6 stitches will fit in one, but they do!

We start with our usual chain 3 that takes the place of our first stitch, then we work 2 stitches in the same stitch we joined into with a slip stitch – that is, the top loop of your 3rd chain of Round 1 like so:



Then, you skip 2 stitches and work your corner in the next stitch. The two silver needles are pointing to the two stitches you skip, and the red one, the stitch you will work your corner into.



When you get to the end of the round, you need to work 3 stitches into the same stitch you used to work the first stitches into:



When you look at the above photo, you may think, hang on! There's another stitch there that's been skipped, isn't there? You'd think so but no!

Let me explain. The thin needle here is pointing to the "stitch" I am talking about. It's actually the slip stitch you joined Round 1 with, not a stitch to be worked into.



When you work your last 3 stitches of Round 2 into the space where the red needle is pointing at the base of the first stitches, you will work over that slip stitch join and it won't be visible.



Round 3 help

And now for our first round of smaller stitches (dc UK, sc US) that also has our first spike stitches. If you need to, go back and re-read the help in the Reading to do about the quirks of a smaller stitch round and spike stitches.

After you work your first stitches, you'll work a small stitch in the next 2 stitches. I recommend popping a stitch marker in the first stitch of the round.



Now it's time for our first spike stitches! Yay. See the silver needles in the photo above? That's where you are going to work your 2 spike stitches. Remember to pull up long loops!



After that, you'll see there are 2 stitches left on the side for us to work our last small stitches into, as shown with the needles below.



The corners for this round are a single stitch, chain 2 and another single stitch. All our previous corners have been 2 stitches, chain 2 and another 2 stitches. It's something to watch for as corners can vary quite a lot, even within one pattern.



Round 4 help

Round 4 is just like in our Solid Sue pattern, being a straight round of our most common stitches. What may trip you up though, is the corners as the 2-chain spaces are hard to see in the small stitch round. Pop a stitch marker in each corner before you start to help you stay on track.



Then, it's just a stitch in every stitch. Remember to pull the corner stitches aside if you can't see the first stitch after a corner. This photo shows the first corner started and the first stitch of the side made. The needle is pointing to where you will work the second stitch of the side.



Round 5-6 help

Rounds 5 and 6 are the same as what you've done before, just with more stitches along the sides.

Round 7 help

Round 7 is another small stitch and spike stitch round but with more spike stitches. After you've begun your corner and worked the first 3 stitches of the side, it's time to work 2 spike stitches, where the silver needles are pointing. Note how they are at the base of the next 2 stitches. If you get lost, look for the P and then the bottom of the post of the P.



The red needle shows where to work the first of the next small stitches. It can help to look ahead to see where that first stitch will be before you work your spike stitches.



Then it's time to work 2 more spike stitches, and if you've got it right, these spike stitches will be worked into the top of the Round 3 spike stitches.



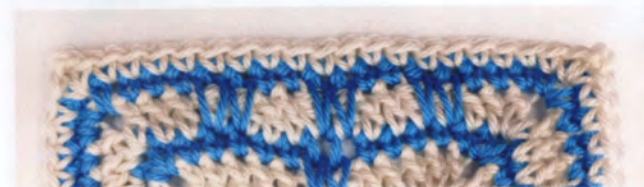
Again, the red needle shows where to work the first of your next small stitches. Then you just have 2 more spike stitches to do here:



The red needle is where the first of the last 3 stitches of the side will be worked before the corner in the 2-chain space.

Round 8 help

Round 8 is a straight small stitch round. It's a very common way to end a granny square. Remember to chain 2 and join with a slip stitch at the end of the round.



And you're done! Lots to learn, but I am sure you'll cope just fine with it all.

What to do after you've made your first square

Weave in your ends and get out your project planner so we can add some details.

"Finger block" your square – pull it from each corner.

Measure it across the middle using your tape measure or ruler and note down the unblocked size. It should be much the same size as your other squares.

Block your Spiky Sally squares, and note the blocked size – this should be the same for all squares.

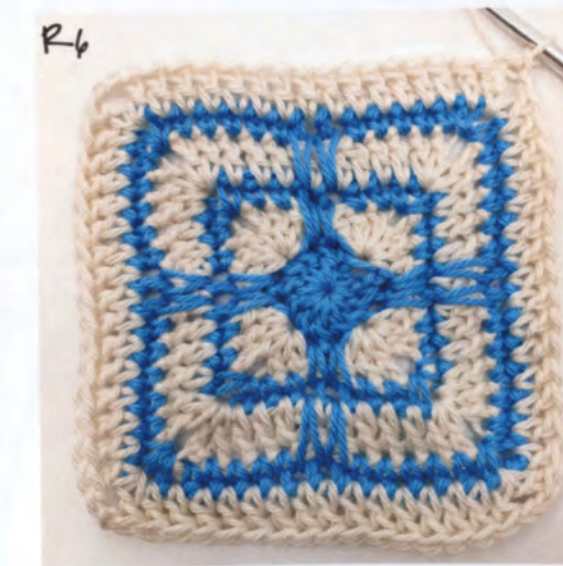
Weigh the square and note the weight.

Now it's up to you how many more you make. If you found yourself using the video to make your square, try it again using just the written pattern. You can do it!

Add each square made to the total on the project planner as you make them.

And that's it! You're done. Well done you!

Round by round photos of Spiky Sally



R1



R8



Part Five

Reading to do

- How to work back post stitches 55
- How to work a half treble/half double crochet (UK/US) 57
- Why there are a different number of rounds 59

Patterns

- Back Posts Penny UK pattern 60
- Back Posts Penny US pattern 61

Back Posts Penny Pattern Help

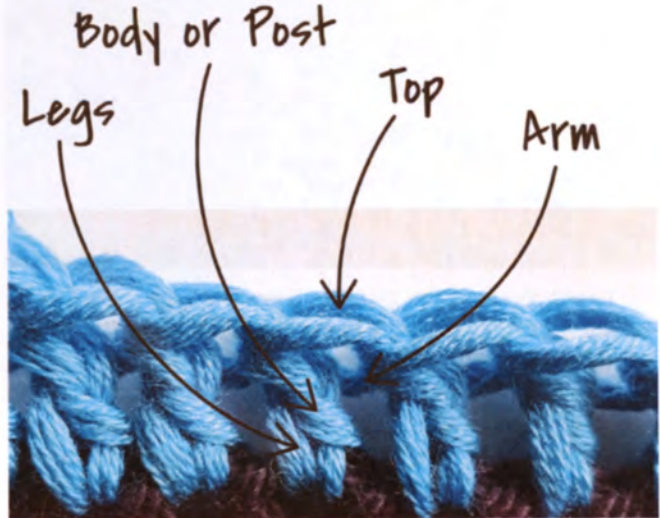
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How to work back post stitches

Yet again, we're going to start by looking at the anatomy of a stitch.

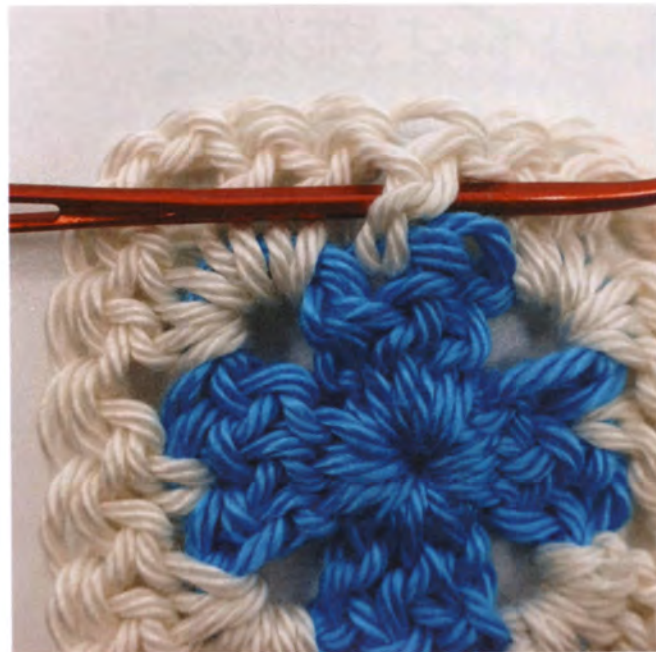
In some patterns, rather than working into each stitch, sometimes, you will be instructed to work a stitch as a back post stitch. This is abbreviated to "bp". You need to know what a stitch looks like to be able to do that correctly.



When making a back post stitch, you poke your hook around the post of the stitch from the back. Your hook comes up from the back on the right hand side of the indicated stitch, over the post and then back down on the left hand side of the stitch (up on left, down on right for lefties), then you pull a loop sideways so it encloses the post and finish your stitch as normal. That's a lot of words! But it's not hard, just different. The red needle is showing where you put your hook.



The hook goes around the post, not through it. Here's the same square as above shown from the back.



When a pattern tells you to work a back post stitch, it is referring to the technique of using the post of a stitch to poke your hook around, instead of working the stitch into a stitch as we've done before. It can be used with any crochet stitch, so a pattern could say bpd, bptr, bphtr and so on. You'll see the abbreviation **bp** in front of a stitch abbreviation when you need to work a back post stitch.

HOT TIP

It's important that you go under the arm of the stitch when working around the post as you can alter the size and look of a pattern if you go over the arm.



Why is it done? Well, I do love a bit of texture in my granny squares. Back posts make the top of the previous round of stitches kind of lay flat on top of the square, which I think is pretty cool! They are also handy for working behind layers, adding three dimensions to some patterns – particularly floral ones.

Here are a couple of my granny squares that use back post stitches.



Deco: Granny Square Flair



Croix: More than a Granny 2

HOT TIP

If you need to work a back post stitch around a starting chain, you treat it just the same and pop your hook up on the right and down on the left (up on left, down on right for lefties).



Wobbly bits

Due to the nature of back post stitches, if you are working a lot of them in a row, your work can get a little funky looking. It's all ok, I promise. You see, we are working on the back, so it's normal for a long row of stitches to curl under like this:



All you need to do is a spot of finger blocking – basically pull it and massage it and it will go flat.



HOT TIP

If you're having trouble pulling the yarn around the post, fold your square towards you so the right sides are touching.



How to work a half treble/half double crochet (UK/US)

There are a few different crochet stitches out there and it's time to learn a new one. It's called a half treble in UK terms and a half double in US terms.

UK terms

The half treble crochet (htr) is a little larger than a double crochet (dc) and a little smaller than a treble crochet (tr).

US terms

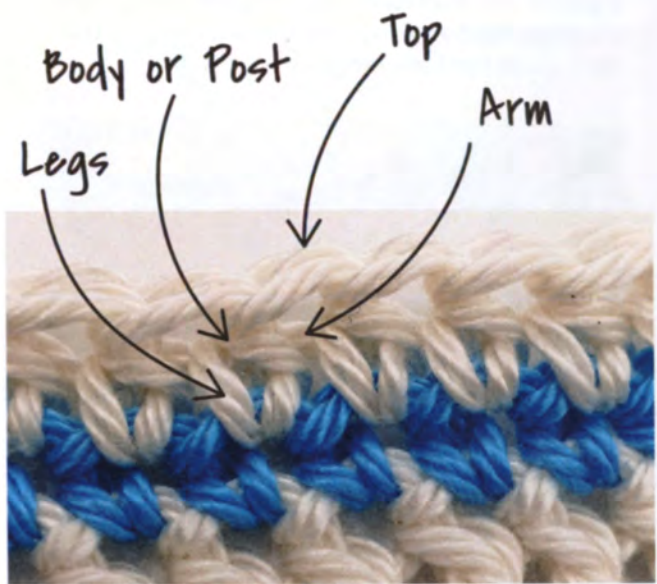
The half double crochet (hdc) is a little larger than a single crochet (sc) and a little smaller than a double crochet (dc).



So how do you make this half stitch?

It's really easy! You start a stitch as normal. Yarn over, insert hook in stitch or space, pull a loop to the front. You will have 3 loops on your hook. At this point, you yarn over and pull through all three loops at once. And that's it!

Let's have a close look at its anatomy.



Head to spincushions.com/youtube to find the link to my YouTube video of me making this stitch.

When working into half stitches, you work into it just like into a full stitch. Under the top, above the arm. It's hard to see the arm in the photos as the body is shorter, but it's there. You'll see it when you make some yourself. It's like a shorter capital P.



HOT TIP

Not sure if you've worked a full or half stitch? Remember how to tell if you've made a chain or a stitch from the Skipping Sarah Reading to do? Well, this is just like that. Have a look at how many loops are over the strand of yarn on your hook. If there are 3, you've done a half stitch; 2, you've made a normal stitch (tr/dc UK/US). It all makes sense if you think of how you end the stitch – a normal stitch you end with yarn over and pull through 2 loops, a half stitch ends with yarn over and pull through 3 loops.



Half stitch made



Full stitch made

If a round is made up of only half stitches, you will see that the starting chain is chain 2 instead of chain 3. Chain 2 better replicates the size of the half stitch. It still counts as a stitch. You still join to the top of the 2nd chain, just like the top of the 3rd chain to replicate the P.

Why there are a different number of rounds

This pattern when you look at it on paper is superficially pretty similar to Solid Sue. There's a stitch in or around every stitch of the previous round so you'd think there'd be the same number of rounds. But, working stitches as back posts means they are lower than if you are working into stitches which in turn means a smaller square. So that means there's an extra round to make up that size.



Now it's time to start crocheting! Hooray!

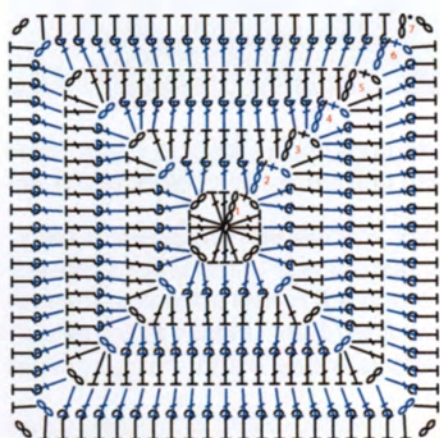
Grab your yarn and hook and refer to the pattern help as you go.





Back Posts Penny

Part Five • UK Pattern



Abbreviations

R	Round
cnr	corner
rep	repeat
•	ss slip stitch
sp/s	space/s
st/s	stitch/es
o	ch chain
stch	starting chain
+	dc double crochet
T	htr half treble crochet
f	tr treble crochet
c	bp back post

Attach yarn to hook with a slip knot, ch1, work all R1 sts into that ch.

- R1:** ch3 (stch), 2tr, *ch2, 3tr*, rep from * to * 2x, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{3 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R2:** ch3 (stch), tr over joining dc, *skip 1 st, tr in next st, skip 1 st**, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2tr in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{5 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R3:** ch3 (stch), tr over joining dc, *bptr around next 5 sts**, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2tr in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{9 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R4:** ch3 (stch), tr over joining dc, *tr in next 9 sts**, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in 2-ch sp*, 2tr in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{13 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R5:** ch3 (stch), tr over joining dc, *bptr around next 13 sts **, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in 2-ch sp*, 2tr in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{17 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R6:** ch3 (stch), *tr in next 17 sts**, (tr, ch2, tr) in 2-ch sp*, tr in same sp as first st, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{19 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R7:** ch2 (stch), *bphtr around next 19 sts**, (htr, ch2, htr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, htr in same sp as first st, ch2, join with ss to 2nd ch of stch. Fasten off yarn and weave in ends.
{21 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}

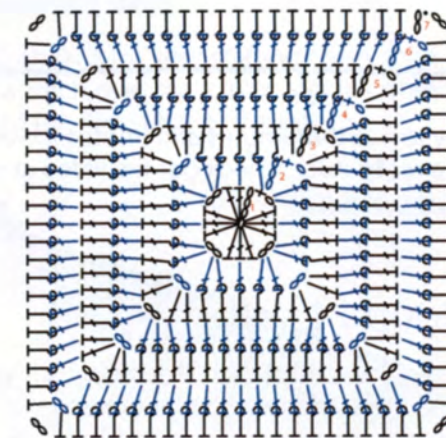
Back Posts Penny

Part Five • US Pattern



Attach yarn to hook with a slip knot, ch1, work all R1 sts into that ch.

- R1:** ch3 (stch), 2dc, *ch2, 3dc*, rep from * to * 2x, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{3 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R2:** ch3 (stch), dc over joining sc, *skip 1 st, dc in next st, skip 1 st**, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2dc in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{5 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R3:** ch3 (stch), dc over joining sc, *bpdc around next 5 sts**, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2dc in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{9 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R4:** ch3 (stch), dc over joining sc, *dc in next 9 sts**, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in 2-ch sp*, 2dc in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{13 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R5:** ch3 (stch), dc over joining sc, *bpdc around next 13 sts **, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in 2-ch sp*, 2dc in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{17 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R6:** ch3 (stch), *dc in next 17 sts**, (dc, ch2, dc) in 2-ch sp*, dc in same sp as first st, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{19 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R7:** ch2 (stch), *bphdc around next 19 sts**, (hdc, ch2, hdc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, hdc in same sp as first st, ch2, join with ss to 2nd ch of stch. Fasten off yarn and weave in ends.
{21 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}



Abbreviations

R	Round
cnr	corner
rep	repeat
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sp/s	space/s
st/s	stitch/es
o	ch chain
stch	starting chain
+	sc single crochet
T	hdc half double crochet
f	dc double crochet
c	bp back post

Back Post Penny

Pattern help



Try to use these notes and photos to work from. If you are really stuck, check out the video at [spincushions.com/youtube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=spincushions)

Round 1 help

The first round of Back Posts Penny is very similar to what we've done before but there is an extra stitch along each side, so instead of 2 stitches along each side, there are 3. I am sure you can do it. It's how you'd start a traditional granny square.



Round 2 help

In this round, we will be skipping the first and last stitch of the side and only working one stitch into the middle stitch. You've got that covered thanks to what you learned making Skipping Sue. If you're having trouble finding the first stitch of the side to skip, move your corner stitches aside to make it visible.



Round 3 help

This is where we begin to work our back post stitches. The first stitch you need to do a back post around is actually the chain 3 starting chain of Round 2, then you work a back post stitch around the rest of the stitches along the side.



You can see the tops of the Round 2 stitches sitting on top of the Round 3 stitches easily as I've changed colour to highlight it. It's just as effective in single colour though.



Round 4-5 help

In Round 4, just like in Solid Sue, you need to work a stitch in each stitch and the corners are the same as we've done before - 2 stitches, chain 2, 2 stitches.

In Round 5, it's all the same as Round 3 doing back post stitches around each stitch along the side. There are just more stitches between the corners which are the same again.

Round 6 help

This round starts out and ends a little differently as this time, our corners are 1 stitch, chain 2, 1 stitch in the 2-chain space. Otherwise, it's a simple round like Solid Sue, just a stitch in each stitch.

So to begin, you chain 3 for your starting chain, then you don't work a stitch over the joining stitch. Instead, you go straight to the first stitch of the side.



At the end, you only do one stitch in the same space as the first stitch before chaining 1 and joining.



Round 7 help

Here is where our half stitches come in. We start with chain 2 as our starting chain instead of chain 3 as we are replicating a half stitch. Then, just like in Rounds 3 and 5, we are working back post stitches, but **half** stitches in this round. It's just the same as working the other back post stitches, we just finish with yarn over and pull through 3 loops.



The corners have 1 stitch, chain 2 and 1 stitch, this time half stitches. Easy!

Remember that the last round ends with chain 2 and join with a slip stitch to the top of the 2nd chain, not a stitch!

You did it!



What to do after you've made your first square

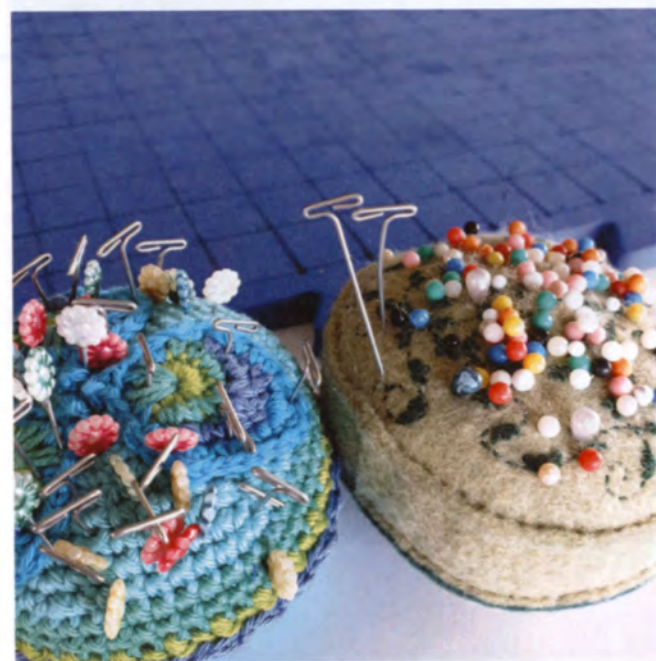
Have a sit and think about what you've just done. You have built on your skills even more. You're doing great.

Weave in your ends and get out your project planner so we can add some details.

"Finger block" your square – pull it from each corner.

Measure it across the middle using your tape measure or ruler and note down the unblocked size. It should be much the same size as your previous squares.

Block your Back Post Penny squares – she'll need it, and note the blocked size.



Weigh the square and note the weight.

Now it's up to you how many more you make. If you found yourself using the video to make your square, try it again using just the written pattern. You can do it!

Add each square made to the total on the project planner as you make them.

And that's it! You're done. Well done you!

Round by round photos of Back Posts Penny





Part Six

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Front Posts Pearl Pattern Help

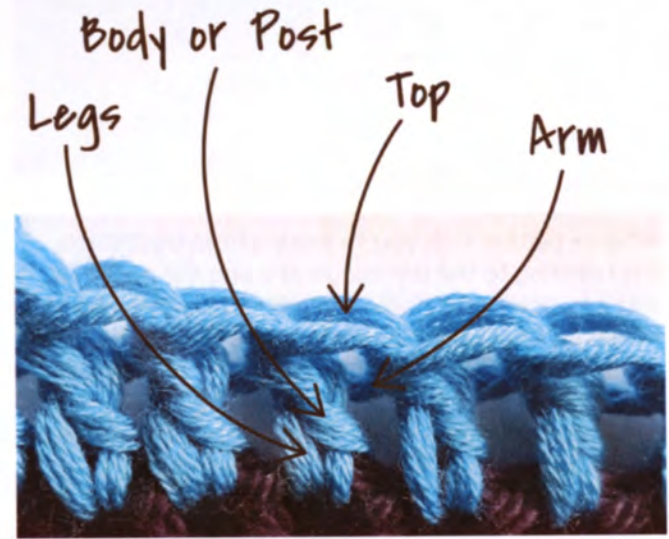
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How to work front post stitches

Yet again, we're going to start by looking at the anatomy of a stitch.

In some patterns, rather than working into each stitch, sometimes, you will be instructed to work a stitch as a front post stitch. It's very similar to what we did with back posts, but we work from the front instead of from the back.

Front post is abbreviated to "fp". I am sure by now you are well aware of what the post part of a stitch is, but let's pop the photo in yet again.



When making a front post stitch, you poke your hook around the post of the stitch from the front. Your hook goes down from the front to the back on the right hand side of the indicated stitch, under the post and then back up on the left hand side of the stitch (down on left, up on right for lefties), then you pull a loop sideways so it encloses the post and finish your stitch as normal.



The hook goes **around** the post, not through it. Here's the same square as above shown from the back, but this time with a hook instead of needle:



When a pattern tells you to work a front post stitch, it is referring to the technique of using the post of a stitch to poke your hook around, instead of working the stitch into a stitch as we've done before. It can be used with any crochet stitch, so a pattern could say fpdc, fprr, fprrr and so on. You'll see the abbreviation fp in front of a stitch abbreviation when you need to work a front post stitch.

HOT TIP

It's important that you go under the arms of the stitch when working around the post as you can alter the size and look of a pattern if you go over the arms, plus it's much fiddlier to do if you try to go through the arms.



Why is it done? Well, it adds thickness and texture as front post stitches sit on top of the previous round of stitches and make your square extra thick and cosy. They can provide focal points, drawing your eye to shapes made. Front post stitches are often used to create cables in crochet that look very similar to knitted cables. Plus, they are what makes overlay crochet look so intricate. They can also make a stitch available to be used more than once, as you can use the top of the stitch in the same or later rounds. It's such a versatile technique to learn. If you're new to crochet, a lot of what I have just mentioned may be completely new to you. It's a very deep ocean to swim in with SO much to learn!

Here are a couple of my granny squares that use front post stitches.



Bellinghausen: *Siren's Atlas*



Mawson: *Siren's Atlas*

HOT TIP

If you need to work a front post stitch around a starting chain, you treat it just the same and pop your hook down on the right and up on the left of it (down on the left and up on the right for lefties).



HOT TIP

It can be tricky to see which post you are meant to be working a stitch around. I often see folks work a front post stitch around a stitch they have just worked into. Don't get me wrong, that is sometimes a thing, but not in the patterns we're doing. So look for the P.



See the silver needle? That P was worked into. The red needle shows the next P to work the front post stitch around.

Dips along the side

Because of how front post stitches are made, it's quite common to find a bit of a dip forming along the side when you work a few front post stitches in a row, like you see on the top of this example.



The right side is what you should be aiming for. To avoid creating that dip, make sure you pull up a long loop before you complete your stitch.



There are other ways to fix the dip and if you're keen to learn more about them, head over to my blog and search for "fix the dip".

HOT TIP

If you're having trouble pulling the yarn around the post, fold your square away from you so the wrong sides are touching.



How to read the pattern when there are lots of different stitches and techniques in one repeat

Now we are a few parts into Granny Square Academy, I want to start challenging you a little by including more than one stitch and technique in some pattern repeats. I know that can be quite daunting when you look at the written pattern.

Up until now, each round of our patterns has just had one stitch or technique used. In Back Posts Penny, you did around the posts in one round and in the stitches in the next round. In Skipping Sarah, you learned to chain and skip stitches as well as work into stitches in the same repeat. So you've already done more than one thing in a pattern repeat. You already have the skills. I'm just going to be more explicit about how to deal with different things in a pattern repeat this time.

In the pattern we're using this time, I'm going to have you sometimes working in stitches and sometimes around posts in the same round. You can do it. Here's the UK terms of Round 3 from Front Posts Pearl:

R3: ch3 (stch), tr over joining dc, *tr in next st, fptr around next 3 sts, tr in next st**, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x and * to ** 1x, 2tr in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch. (9 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps)

I want you to have a close look at the highlighted section. The first stitch is to be worked into the previous round's stitch, then the next 3 stitches are to be worked as front post stitches, followed by one final stitch in the stitch.



All you need to do is focus on one instruction at a time, working from comma to comma. The pattern is very specific for each separate instruction. Don't look at the whole repeat and try to remember it. Take it slow until you have it in your brain. I am sure by the end of working the second side, you will be able to do it without referring to the pattern.

Now let's look at Round 5 of the same pattern:

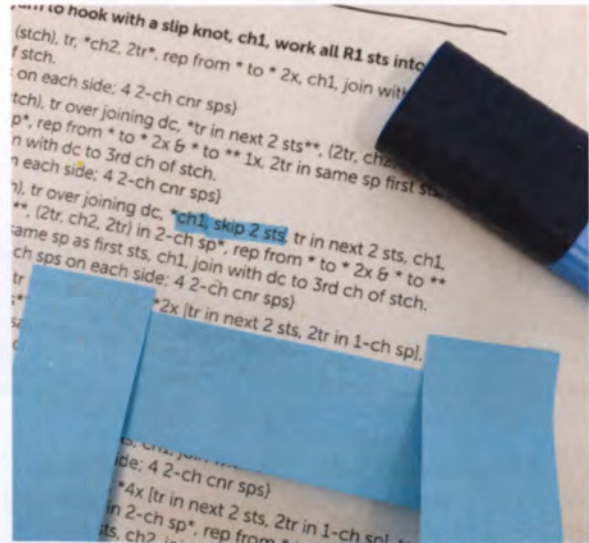
R5: ch3 (stch), *tr in next 2 sts, fptr around next 3 sts, tr in next 3 sts, fptr around next 3 sts, tr in next 2 sts**, (tr, ch2, tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x and * to ** 1x, tr in same sp as first st, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch. (15 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps)

It looks way more complicated, but really it's not. Round 3 had 3 instructions in the highlighted section. Round 5 has 5. You do it just the same. Just look at the first highlighted instruction up to the first comma and do that before moving to the next one and so on. Take it step by step and you will be totally fine.



HOT TIP

Use post-it notes or copy the pattern page and use a highlighter to help you keep track of where you are up to. Highlight each instruction up to a comma as you work it or use post it notes to hide everything other than the instruction between commas you are working on.



How to make a simple change to a pattern that makes a big difference

Sometimes, when a pattern has either front post or back post stitches, you can switch it up really easily for a totally different look.

Here's an example that may or may not have happened as I was making the back post pattern and reading the front post pattern – yes I make mistakes! In effect what I did was swap every front post stitch in the Front Posts Pearl pattern with a back post. I did back posts instead of front posts. The pattern absolutely still works, but I think you'll agree, looks totally different.



Not every pattern using front or back posts will work like this, but if it's just front or back posts and normal stitches, it should! Here's my Killarney pattern made as intended with front posts and with back posts instead.



Now it's time to start crocheting! Hooray!

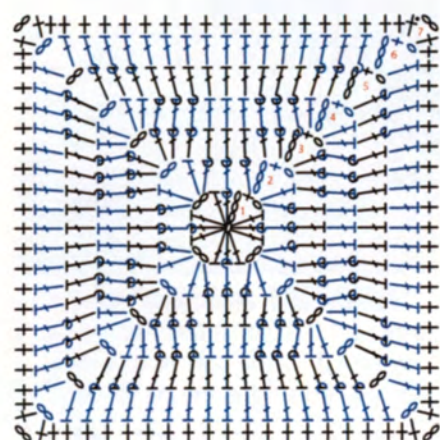
Grab your yarn and hook and refer to the pattern help as you go.





Front Posts Pearl

Part Six • UK Pattern



Abbreviations

R	Round
cnr	corner
rep	repeat
•	ss slip stitch
sp/s	space/s
st/s	stitch/es
o	ch chain
stch	starting chain
+	dc double crochet
T	tr treble crochet
▷	fp front post

Attach yarn to hook with a slip knot, ch1, work all R1 sts into that ch.

- R1:** ch3 (stch), 2tr, *ch2, 3tr*, rep from * to * 2x, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{3 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R2:** ch3 (stch), tr over joining dc, *skip 1 st, fptr around next st, skip 1 st**, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2tr in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{5 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R3:** ch3 (stch), tr over joining dc, *tr in next st, fptr around next 3 sts, tr in next st**, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x and * to ** 1x, 2tr in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{9 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R4:** ch3 (stch), tr over joining dc, *fptr around next 3 sts, tr in next 3 sts, fptr around next 3 sts**, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x and * to ** 1x, 2tr in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{13 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R5:** ch3 (stch), *tr in next 2 sts, fptr around next 3 sts, tr in next 3 sts, fptr around next 3 sts, tr in next 2 sts**, (tr, ch2, tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x and * to ** 1x, tr in same sp as first st, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{15 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R6:** ch3 (stch), *fptr around next 3 sts, tr in next 9 sts, fptr around next 3 sts**, (tr, ch2, tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x and * to ** 1x, tr in same sp as first st, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{17 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R7:** 2dc over joining dc, *dc in next 17 sts**, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x and * to ** 1x, 2dc in same sp as first sts, ch2, join with ss to first st. Fasten off yarn and weave in ends.
{21 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}

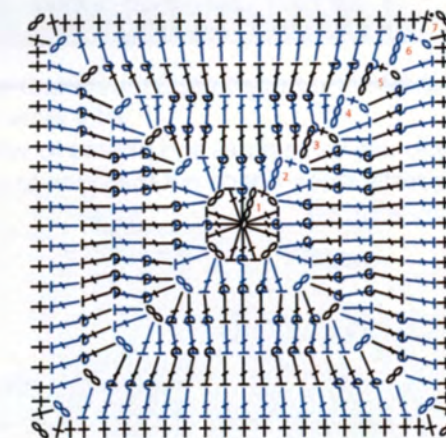
Front Posts Pearl

Part Six • US Pattern



Attach yarn to hook with a slip knot, ch1, work all R1 sts into that ch.

- R1:** ch3 (stch), 2dc, *ch2, 3dc*, rep from * to * 2x, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{3 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R2:** ch3 (stch), dc over joining sc, *skip 1 st, fpdc around next st, skip 1 st**, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2dc in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{5 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R3:** ch3 (stch), dc over joining sc, *dc in next st, fpdc around next 3 sts, dc in next st**, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x and * to ** 1x, 2dc in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{9 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R4:** ch3 (stch), dc over joining sc, *fpdc around next 3 sts, dc in next 3 sts, fpdc around next 3 sts**, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x and * to ** 1x, 2dc in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{13 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R5:** ch3 (stch), *dc in next 2 sts, fpdc around next 3 sts, dc in next 3 sts, fpdc around next 3 sts, dc in next 2 sts**, (dc, ch2, dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x and * to ** 1x, dc in same sp as first st, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{15 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R6:** ch3 (stch), *fpdc around next 3 sts, dc in next 9 sts, fpdc around next 3 sts**, (dc, ch2, dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x and * to ** 1x, dc in same sp as first st, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{17 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R7:** 2sc over joining sc, *sc in next 17 sts**, (2sc, ch2, 2sc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x and * to ** 1x, 2sc in same sp as first sts, ch2, join with ss to first st. Fasten off yarn and weave in ends.
{21 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}



Abbreviations

R	Round
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+	sc single crochet
T	dc double crochet
▷	fp front post

Front Posts Pearl

Pattern help



Try to use these notes and photos to work from. If you are really stuck, check out the video at spincushions.com/youtube

Round 1 help

The first round of Front Posts Pearl is exactly the same as Back Posts Penny. It's how you'd start a traditional granny square.



Round 2 help

In this round, we will be skipping the first and last stitch of the side and only working our first front post stitch around the middle stitch. If you're having trouble finding the first stitch of the side to skip, move your corner stitches aside to make it visible.



After the front post stitch, you skip the last stitch of the side and go straight to the corner.



Round 3 help

This is where we begin to work some stitches in stitches and some as front post stitches. So grab your highlighter or post it notes to help you keep on track. You work a stitch in the first and last stitch of the side and the three middle stitches have stitches worked around the posts.

The red needle shows where to work the first of your 3 front post stitches.



After you've made your 3 front post stitches, it can be tricky to find that last stitch of the side to work a stitch into. Just remember your capital P's and I am sure you can find it.



Round 4 help

This round has single stitch, chain 2 and single stitch corners. So just work your chain 3 starting chain before starting the side with your first 3 stitches into the first 3 stitches (where the silver needles are pointing). The red needle is showing where to work your first of 3 front post stitches.



Again, watch for that first of 3 stitches after the front post stitches to work into.



Round 5 help

Things to watch this round are the corners, being one stitch, chain 2, one stitch as well as a different number of stitches to work at the start and end of the sides. You may be used to doing 3 stitches in stitches or 3 front post stitches. This side begins and ends with 2 stitches worked into stitches, not 3. The red needle here shows where to work the first of 3 front post stitches.



Round 6 help

Again, the corners are one stitch, chain 2, one stitch so to begin, you chain 3 for your starting chain, then you don't work a stitch over the joining stitch. Instead, you go straight to the first stitch of the side and work the first of your 3 front post stitches. That will be around the chain 3 starting chain of Round 5.

Round 7 help

This is a solid round of our smallest stitch (not counting chains or slip stitches), but unlike other times we've made this kind of round, there are 2 stitches, chain 2 and 2 stitches in each corner. That means you work 2 stitches over the joining stitch at the start. Pop a stitch marker in that first stitch if you need a reminder where to join with a slip stitch at the end.

Having more stitches in the corners may make it hard to find that first stitch of the side, so move them over if you're having trouble finding the first stitch.



Remember that the last round ends with chain 2 and join with a slip stitch to the first stitch!

You did it!

What to do after you've made your first square

Take a breath. You worked your brain hard. Yet again, you have expanded your crochet skills toolbox. Fabulous work!

Weave in your ends and get out your project planner so we can add some details.

"Finger block" your square – pull it from each corner.

Measure it across the middle using your tape measure or ruler and note down the unblocked size. It should be much the same size as your other squares.

Block your Front Posts Pearl squares and note the blocked size. This should be the same for all squares.

Weigh the square and note the weight.

Now it's up to you how many more you make. If you found yourself using the video to make your square, try it again just using the written pattern. You can do it!

Add each square made to the total on the project planner as you make them.

And that's it! You're done. Well done you!



Round by round photos of Front Posts Pearl





Part Seven

Reading to do

- How to make a larger circle 79
- How to make a circle go square 80
- How to change colours 80
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Circles going Square!

One of the most fun things to do as a designer is to turn circles into squares – well for me it is anyway. Here are a few of my granny squares that start as circles and end as squares.



Koro: Siren's Atlas



Kaboom Blanket pattern



Carpentaria: Siren's Atlas



Rosette: Granny Square Flair

Circles can be all different sizes made with many different stitches, and some patterns take many rounds to square off, while others make it happen in one round.

How to make a larger circle

We've made a single round circle in one of our patterns to start off, but it's quite common to make larger circles as you can see from the examples above.

To make a solid stitch circle, there's a bit of an easy formula to follow to make a nice flat circle. It's made using our most common stitch, tr/dc (UK/US).

It only works with our most common stitch though. Head to spincushions.com/blog and search "circle formula" if you'd like to learn the formula and how to change it using different stitches.

How to make a circle go square



When making a circle go square, you need to work stitches that vary in size. See how you need to make up more space in the corners than along the sides? You do that by having the tallest stitches in the corners and as you work towards the middle of the sides, the stitches you use get smaller. After you've passed the middle of the sides, your stitches get taller again until you're up to the tallest stitches in the corner. It sounds complicated, but honestly, it's easy if you just take it step by step.



HOT TIP

It's really important that you have the correct number of stitches in your circle before you begin to square off. If you don't, you will end up running out of stitches or having some left over when you get to the end of the square off round.

So check those stitch counts!

How to change colours

While all of the patterns in Granny Square Academy are taught using one colour, squaring a circle lends itself beautifully to changing colours. So what's the best way to do that?

I like to join a new colour in a really simple way that also means you don't have to do a starting chain at the start of the new colour round! It's like magic. There are other ways, but this is what I think works best.

WORD OF WARNING!

If you don't like weaving in ends, bear in mind that every colour you use in a square means 2 ends to deal with. So if a pattern has 8 rounds and you change colour every round, that's 16 ends to deal with in one square. Multiply that by as many as you need for a blanket and it might put you off! But if you weave in your ends as you finish each colour, it just becomes part of the process and not a chore at all.



HOT TIP

To end your last colour as seamlessly as possible, pull up the loop on your hook after you've made your slip stitch join, cut your yarn and flip your work over so the back is facing up. Poke the tail through the loop. Put your thumbnail under the join on the back and pull the tail tightly towards the centre. This places that little knot on the back, out of the way.



All you do is attach your yarn to your hook with a slip knot and make the stitch you need to. It's called a standing stitch (stdg st for short). The thing to remember when making a standing stitch is to keep a finger from your hook holding hand on the loop on the hook or it won't work. Head to [spincushions.com/youtube](https://www.spincushions.com/youtube) for the link to see me making standing stitches.



Before you make your standing stitch, you need to know what kind of standing stitch to make – it can be any stitch! You can look at the number of starting chains and work out what stitch it is replicating, but I think it's better to look to a complete corner instruction to see what the corner stitches are. Why? Well, some stitches that are slightly different in height are replicated with the same number of starting chains. We won't use it in GSA, but there is a stitch called a half double treble/half triple (UK/US) which is replicated with chain 3, just like a tr/dc (UK/US). This stitch is ever so slightly taller than a tr/dc but not enough to justify a 4th chain.

When starting your new colour, attach your yarn to a different place to where you ended the last colour. If the last round ended with a corner space, use a different corner space to begin your next round.

Doing this helps spread the seamless look as having your colour changes in the same spot draws the eye, no matter how well they are done.

In the square on the bottom, I started the new colour in a different spot each time. The arrows are pointing to where each new colour began. In the square on the top, I changed colours in the same spot each time – you can see the difference from top left corner to the centre.





If you are changing colour in a shape without corners, choose the same part of the repeat but different to where the round ended to attach your new colour.

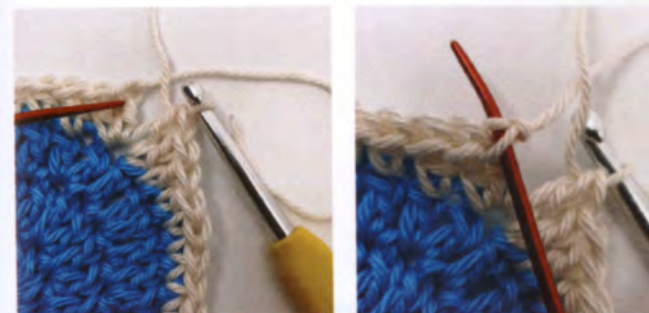


HOT TIP

It can be hard to see exactly where to work stitches into stitches when you get to where you ended the last colour. To make it easier so you don't get confused, pop a stitch marker in the stitch either side of the join before you start your next colour. That way, when you get to that point, you won't be tempted to work a stitch in the slip stitch. The needle is pointing to the slip stitch.



When you end a round that began with a standing stitch and it's time to join up to it, you work under the top v into the P just like you would work into the stitch. Pull the tail of the slip knot to the right (left for lefties) to open up the stitch so it looks like a P.



HOT TIP

If you are using a pattern that is written for one colour but you are changing colours, don't end by joining with a stitch. Instead, chain the same number as in other corners and join with a slip stitch just like at the end of our squares. You only need to end in the middle of a corner if you are continuing the same colour.

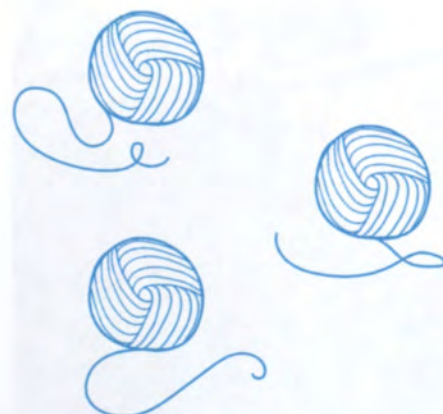
A little bit about charted patterns

I am sure you would have seen crochet charts in your crochet adventures. I find that most people tend to have a preference to work from either a written pattern or a chart. In reality, it's best to know a bit about both, regardless of your preference as sometimes a chart can help clarify exactly what a written pattern is saying and vice versa. Some patterns are very complex and multilayered which is very hard to depict in chart form.

Here are the basics you need to know.

A crochet chart is simply a visual representation of every stitch used to make a pattern. Each stitch and technique has its own symbol. These are mainly universal, so regardless of the terms you are used to using or even the language a pattern is written in, it's quite possible to work successfully from a chart.

A chart should come with a key that explains all symbols.

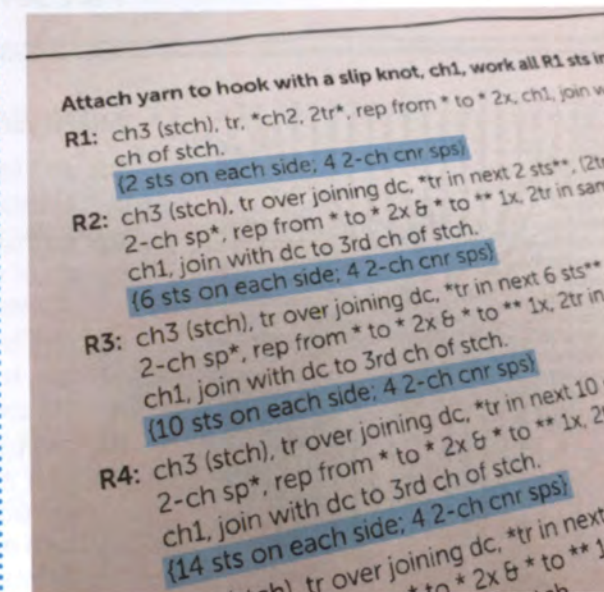


Simply work each stitch as shown in the chart. Look for the round numbers which indicate the start of each round.

I know a lot of folks who find it handy to cross off or highlight each stitch on the chart as they make it.

HOT TIP

When using a chart, instead of counting the symbols to make sure you have the right number of stitches in any round, refer to the stitch counts of the written pattern and save yourself the trouble.



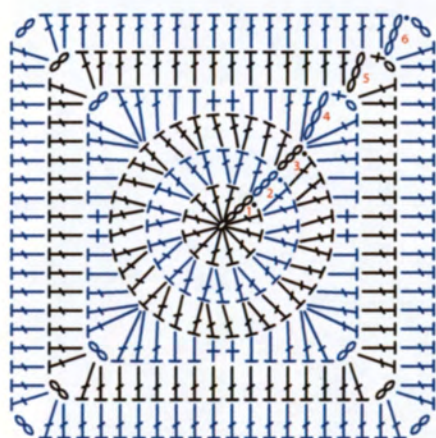
Now it's time to start crocheting! Hooray!

Grab your yarn and hook and refer to the pattern help as you go.



Circle Cindy

Part Seven • UK Pattern



Abbreviations

R	Round
cnr	corner
rep	repeat
• ss	slip stitch
sp/s	space/s
st/s	stitch/es
o ch	chain
stch	starting chain
+ dc	double crochet
⌋ htr	half treble crochet
⌋ tr	treble crochet

Attach yarn to hook with a slip knot, ch1, work all R1 sts into that ch.

- R1:** ch3 (stch), 11tr, join with ss to 3rd ch of stch. {12 sts}
- R2:** ch3 (stch), tr in same st as ss, 2tr in next 11 sts, join with ss to 3rd ch of stch. {24 sts}
- R3:** ch3, tr in same st as ss, *tr in next st, 2tr in next st*, rep from * to * 10x, tr in next st, join with ss to 3rd ch of stch. {36 sts}
- R4:** ch3 (stch), tr in same st as ss, *tr in next st, htr in next 2 sts, dc in next 2 sts, htr in next 2 sts, tr in next st**, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in next st*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2tr in same st as first sts, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch. {12 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R5:** ch3 (stch), tr over joining dc, *tr in next 12 sts**, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2tr in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch. {16 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R6:** ch3 (stch), tr over joining dc, *tr in next 16 sts**, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2tr in same sp as first sts, ch2, join with ss to 3rd ch of stch. Fasten off yarn and weave in ends. {20 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}

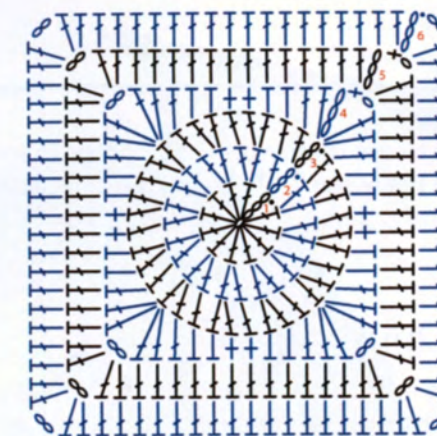


Circle Cindy

Part Seven • US Pattern

Attach yarn to hook with a slip knot, ch1, work all R1 sts into that ch.

- R1:** ch3 (stch), 11dc, join with ss to 3rd ch of stch. {12 sts}
- R2:** ch3 (stch), dc in same st as ss, 2dc in next 11 sts, join with ss to 3rd ch of stch. {24 sts}
- R3:** ch3, dc in same st as ss, *dc in next st, 2dc in next st*, rep from * to * 10x, dc in next st, join with ss to 3rd ch of stch. {36 sts}
- R4:** ch3 (stch), dc in same st as ss, *dc in next st, hdc in next 2 sts, sc in next 2 sts, hdc in next 2 sts, dc in next st**, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in next st*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2dc in same st as first sts, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch. {12 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R5:** ch3 (stch), dc over joining sc, *dc in next 12 sts**, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2dc in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch. {16 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R6:** ch3 (stch), dc over joining sc, *dc in next 16 sts**, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2dc in same sp as first sts, ch2, join with ss to 3rd ch of stch. Fasten off yarn and weave in ends. {20 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}



Abbreviations

R	Round
cnr	corner
rep	repeat
• ss	slip stitch
sp/s	space/s
st/s	stitch/es
o ch	chain
stch	starting chain
+ sc	single crochet
⌋ hdc	half double crochet
⌋ dc	double crochet

Circle Cindy

Pattern help



Try to use these notes and photos to work from. If you are really stuck, check out the video at [spincushions.com/youtube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=spincushions)

Round 1 help

The first round of Circle Cindy is exactly the same as Spiky Sally. Remember to count your stitches before you join.



Round 2 help

In this round, you will be working 2 stitches into every stitch of Round 1. After you chain 3 for your starting chain, you work a stitch in the same spot as the slip stitch where you joined Round 1. The silver needle is showing you where.



Then you work 2 stitches in the next stitch where the red needle is pointing.



Once again, count your stitches before you join.

Round 3 help

This round begins the same as Round 2 with chain 3 and a stitch worked into the same spot as the joining slip stitch in Round 2.



Then, instead of 2 stitches, you just work one where the red needle is.

That's your mini repeat – 2 stitches in one stitch, 1 stitch in the next stitch. I like to count as I work saying something like this in my head, "one, two in one, three on its own".



See the red needle pointing to the base of 2 stitches worked into one? The first will have 2 stitches worked into it, the second a single stitch.

Now it's really important you have the right number of stitches here or Round 4 just won't work, so check before joining.

Round 4 help

This is where the fun begins! After starting the same way as the last 2 rounds – chain 3 and a stitch where the slip stitch join is, it's time to start the side. Follow along with your written pattern, using the tips I shared with Front Posts Pearl to keep track of where you are up to.

After the corner, work a full stitch in the next stitch where the red needle is, then a half stitch in the next 2 stitches where the silver needles are.



Next, it's time to work 2 of the smallest stitches where the silver needles are.



Then it's time for the stitches to get bigger again so 2 half stitches go where the silver needles are, followed by a normal stitch where the red needle is.



Then it's time to work the corner, all in the next stitch.



All going well, you will use every stitch of Round 3 with none left over. If that's the case, you will finish by completing the corner we started by working 2 stitches into the same spot we worked the first real stitch.



Round 5-6 help

There's nothing new in these rounds to trip you up. They are both rounds of normal stitches with 2 stitches, chain 2 and 2 stitches in the corners, just like Solid Sue. Just remember to end with chain 2 and a slip stitch.

Wasn't that fun?

What to do after you've made your first square

There's a bit extra for you to do for this lesson after you've made one square. Try using the chart to make the Circle Cindy square. You might just find you like it!



Then, just for fun, make a square with one colour for the circle and another colour for Rounds 4-6 to try out changing colours.

Weave in your ends and get out your project planner so we can add some details.

"Finger block" your square – pull it from each corner.



Measure it across the middle using your tape measure or ruler and note down the unblocked size. It should be much the same size as your other squares.



Block your Circle Cindy squares, and note the blocked size – this should be the same for all squares.



Weigh the square and note the weight.

Now it's up to you how many more you make. If you found yourself using the video to make your square, try it again using just the written pattern. You can do it!

Add each square made to the total on the project planner as you make them.

And that's it! You're done. Well done you!





Part Eight

Reading to do

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- How to begin a square with a chain loop 93
- How to make a taller stitch 94

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Cluster Claire Pattern Help

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Clusters are cool!

Clusters are a neat thing to have in crochet patterns. They create cool shapes and texture. There are a couple of different ways to do clusters. In this part, we'll look at just one. You'll learn the other way in the next part.

Here are a few of my granny squares that have clusters in them.



Meissa: More than a Granny Square 2



Caribbean: Siren's Atlas



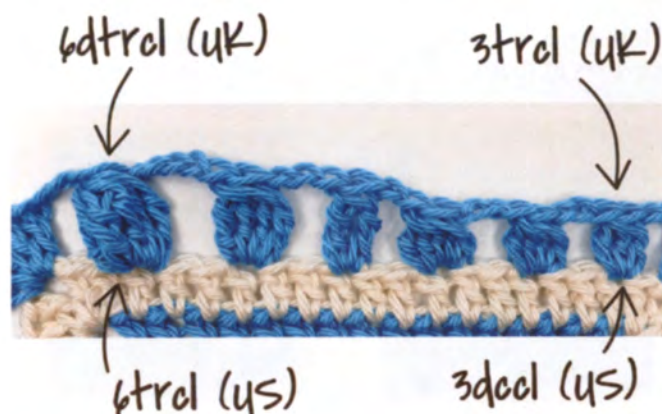
Hua: Flowers Abound



Sharing: Granny Square Flair

How to make a type of cluster

Clusters are made by starting a number of stitches in a single stitch or space, but not finishing any of them until the last step. They can be made with a variety of stitches. Here are a just a few different types of clusters.



The instruction to make a cluster is a combination of 3 things:

1. The number of stitches to start;
2. the type of stitches to start; followed by
3. cl (short for cluster).

For example, in the photo above, the biggest, blobbiest cluster on the left is a 6dtrcl/6trcl (UK/US) which means 6 double treble/6 triple (UK/US) stitches were started in the same stitch and finished with the last step. The one on the very right is a 3trcl/3dccl (UK/US) which is a 3 treble cluster/3 double crochet cluster (UK/US).

A cluster can be made of any number of stitches, using any stitch.

One thing common to all clusters is that, even though they are made with lots of stitches started, they all end with a yarn over and pull through all loops on hook. This last yarn over becomes the top of the cluster. So regardless of what type or how many stitches are in a cluster, a cluster is one stitch. In the photo of various clusters above, there are 6 stitches separated by chain spaces.

When it comes time to work into a cluster, you poke your hook under the "v" on top, just like a normal stitch. The needle is pointing to the top of this 3-stitch cluster.



In the pattern for this part, we'll be making clusters using our most common stitch. We'll be making clusters with either 2 or 3 stitches.

Let's look at the making of a 3-stitch cluster first. UK terms it's described as 3trcl. US terms it's a 3dccl.

Step 1. Begin a stitch as normal – yarn over, insert hook in stitch or space as indicated in the pattern, pull a loop to the front, yarn over and pull through 2 loops. There will be 2 loops on your hook. Stop there.



Step 2. Begin a second stitch in the same stitch or space – yarn over, insert hook in same stitch or space, pull a loop to the front, yarn over and pull through 2 loops. There will be 3 loops on your hook. Stop there.



Step 3. Begin a third stitch in the same stitch or space – yarn over, insert hook in same stitch or space, pull a loop to the front, yarn over and pull through 2 loops. There will be 4 loops on your hook. Stop there.



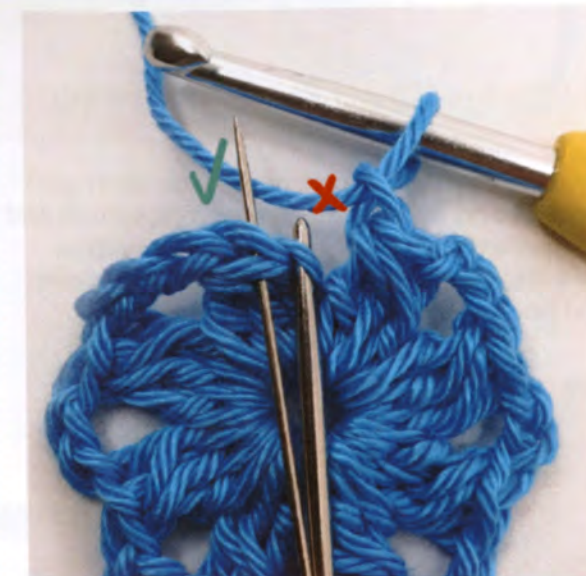
Step 4. Finish your cluster – yarn over and pull through all 4 loops on your hook.



The other cluster we'll do this lesson is a 2-stitch cluster. This along with the chain 3 starting chain pretends to be a 3-stitch cluster. You'll find it at the start of rounds that just have clusters in our pattern.

HOT TIP

When a pattern begins with a starting chain followed by a cluster that is pretending to be a larger cluster, instead of joining the round to the 3rd chain of the starting chain, join to the top of the cluster. It helps that chain 3 blend in more to the cluster.



How to begin a square with a chain loop

In most of our patterns, we begin with chain 1 and work all of our Round 1 stitches into that 1 chain. Sometimes though, that just won't work. When a pattern has more than 12 stitches in the first round, trying to fit them into one chain is tricky! That's why it's good to know alternatives.

In this lesson's pattern, there are effectively the legs of 24 stitches in Round 1. So we are going to start by chaining 4, then joining the strip of 4 chains into a ring by slip stitching into the first chain. It is probably how you learned how to start a traditional granny square.

In case it's new to you though, let's look at how it's done.

Begin by chaining 4 and then poke your hook into the first chain and work a slip stitch. It may help to pop a stitch marker in the first chain to show where to work that slip stitch.



Once that's done you may think what on earth am I supposed to do with that? Well have a close look and pry it apart with your fingers and you'll see you've made a ring that you can work into. Again, if you're having trouble seeing it, pop a stitch marker in it.



Once you've made a few stitches, the hole will become clearer.



HOT TIP

If you chain loosely, you may find you have a larger hole that needed. Conversely, if you chain tightly, you may not have a big enough ring. Once you have worked a few stitches, it'll be pretty clear if you have too much or not enough room. If that's the case, simply do less or more chains before making a ring.

You could begin with a magic circle instead of the chain 4 loop. I won't be covering it in Granny Square Academy, but if you are keen to learn it, head to spincushions.com/youtube to watch me make one. Just remember if you do use it, you must weave in the centre end very, very well as there is no knot and it will come undone with use and washing. I have had it happen and it's not fun to fix!

How to make a taller stitch

It's time to learn a new stitch! You can do it as you know how to make the most common stitch. There are just a couple of extra things to do to make it taller.

The stitch is called a double treble in UK terms and a triple or treble in US terms. I like to refer to it as a triple in US terms to differentiate it a little from the UK terms.

Here's how you do it.

Yarn over twice



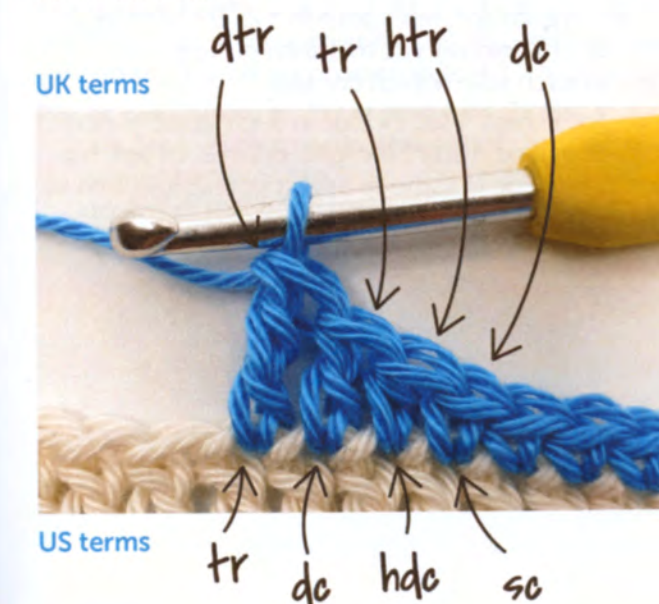
Insert hook into stitch or space indicated and pull up a loop. There will be 4 loops on your hook.



Next, just like a normal stitch, you yarn over and pull through 2 loops, but this time you do that 3 times instead of twice.



Here's how the taller stitch looks compared to the others we've used.



Head to spincushions.com/youtube to watch me make this stitch.

See? Easy!

Now it's time to start crocheting! Hooray!

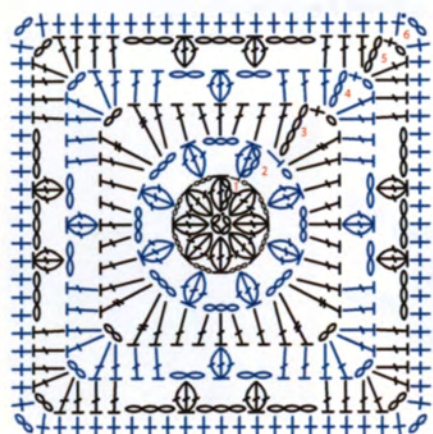
Grab your yarn and hook and refer to the pattern help as you go.





Cluster Claire

Part Eight • UK Pattern



Abbreviations

R	Round
cnr	corner
rep	repeat
•	ss slip stitch
sp/s	space/s
st/s	stitch/es
o	ch chain
stch	starting chain
+	dc double crochet
+	tr treble crochet
+	dtr double treble crochet
+	(x)trcl 2 or 3 treble crochet cluster

Attach yarn to hook with a slip knot, ch4, join last ch to first with a ss to form a ring.

- R1:** ch3 (stch), 2trcl, *ch3, 3trcl*, rep from * to * 6x, ch1, join with htr to 2trcl.
{8 sts, 8 3-ch sps}
- R2:** ch3 (stch), 2trcl over joining htr, *ch3, skip next st, 3trcl in 3-ch sp*, rep from * to * 6x, ch1, skip next st, join with htr to 2trcl.
{8 sts, 8 3-ch sps}
- R3:** ch4 (stch), tr over joining htr, *tr in next st, 3tr in 3-ch sp, tr in next st**, (tr, dtr, ch2, dtr, tr) in 3-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, (tr, dtr) in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with dc to 4th ch of stch.
{9 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R4:** ch3 (stch), tr over joining dc, *tr in next 2 sts, ch2, skip 2 sts, 3trcl in next st, ch2, skip 2 sts, tr in next 2 sts**, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2tr in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{9 sts, 2 2-ch sps on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R5:** ch3 (stch), tr over joining dc, *tr in next 2 sts, ch3, skip 2 sts, 3trcl in 2-ch sp, ch3, skip 1 st, 3trcl in 2-ch sp, ch3, skip 2 sts, tr in next 2 sts**, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2tr in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{10 sts, 3 3-ch sps on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R6:** dc over joining dc, *dc in next 4 sts, 2x [3dc in 3-ch sp, dc in next st], 3dc in 3-ch sp, dc in next 4 sts**, (dc, ch2, dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, dc in same sp as first st, ch2, join with ss to first st. Fasten off yarn and weave in ends.
{21 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}

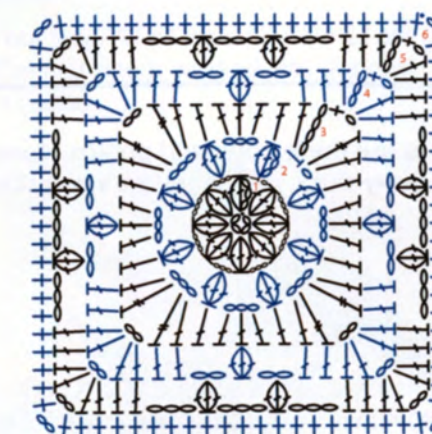
Cluster Claire

Part Eight • US Pattern



Attach yarn to hook with a slip knot, ch4, join last ch to first with a ss to form a ring.

- R1:** ch3 (stch), 2dccl, *ch3, 3dccl*, rep from * to * 6x, ch1, join with hdc to 2dccl.
{8 sts, 8 3-ch sps}
- R2:** ch3 (stch), 2dccl over joining hdc, *ch3, skip next st, 3dccl in 3-ch sp*, rep from * to * 6x, ch1, skip next st, join with hdc to 2trcl.
{8 sts, 8 3-ch sps}
- R3:** ch4 (stch), dc over joining hdc, *dc in next st, 3dc in 3-ch sp, dc in next st**, (dc, tr, ch2, tr, dc) in 3-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, (dc, tr) in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with sc to 4th ch of stch.
{9 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R4:** ch3 (stch), dc over joining sc, *dc in next 2 sts, ch2, skip 2 sts, 3dccl in next st, ch2, skip 2 sts, dc in next 2 sts**, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2dc in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{9 sts, 2 2-ch sps on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R5:** ch3 (stch), dc over joining sc, *dc in next 2 sts, ch3, skip 2 sts, 3dccl in 2-ch sp, ch3, skip 1 st, 3dccl in 2-ch sp, ch3, skip 2 sts, dc in next 2 sts**, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2dc in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{10 sts, 3 3-ch sps on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R6:** sc over joining sc, *sc in next 4 sts, 2x [3sc in 3-ch sp, sc in next st], 3sc in 3-ch sp, sc in next 4 sts**, (sc, ch2, sc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, sc in same sp as first st, ch2, join with ss to first st. Fasten off yarn and weave in ends.
{21 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}



Abbreviations

R	Round
cnr	corner
rep	repeat
•	ss slip stitch
sp/s	space/s
st/s	stitch/es
o	ch chain
stch	starting chain
+	sc single crochet
+	dc double crochet
+	tr triple crochet
+	(x)dccl 2 or 3 double crochet cluster

Cluster Claire

Pattern help



Try to use these notes and photos to work from. If you are really stuck, check out the video at [spincushions.com/youtube](https://www.spincushions.com/youtube)

Round 1 help

The first round of Cluster Claire is very different to anything we've done before. You will begin with 4 chains joined with a slip stitch to create a loop to work into. Next you chain 3 and work your first 2-stitch cluster. Then you chain 3 and work 7 3-stitch clusters. You may find things getting a bit tight around cluster number 5 or 6, but push the already made clusters aside to create more room.



If you really can't fit them all in, start again with 5 or 6 chains joined with a slip stitch to make a larger ring to work into.

At the end of the round, you'll be joining with a half stitch after chaining 1. This 1 chain and half stitch together replicate a 3-chain space and your hook will be as if it's in the middle of a 3-chain space, ready to start the next round.

The spot you join to, is the top of the 2-stitch cluster, not the top of your 3rd chain of starting chain as explained in the Reading to do.



When counting your stitches, remember a cluster is one stitch regardless of how many stitches were begun to make it, so you should have 8 stitches (clusters) and 8 3-chain spaces.

Round 2 help

In this round, you are making the same number of clusters and 3-chain spaces, but this time, the clusters are worked into the 3-chain spaces of Round 1. Again, you begin with chain 3 starting chain and the 2-stitch cluster that together represent a 3-stitch cluster. That 2-stitch cluster is worked over the joining half stitch where the red needle shows in this photo.



At the end of the round, you join with a half stitch to the top of the 2-stitch cluster where the red needle is pointing.



Once again, count your stitches before you join. You should have 8 clusters and 8 3-chain spaces again. Don't worry if it's slightly cupped.

Round 3 help

The end of Round 2 leaves us with a circle. Round 3 is where we square it off. This time, we will use the taller stitch we've just learned in the corners. That means you need to chain 4 as your starting chain to represent that taller stitch, then you work a normal stitch over the joining stitch where the red needle is pointing.



Then we begin our side. All of the side stitches are our normal stitch. The first one is worked into the next stitch which is a cluster.



Then we work 3 stitches into the 3-chain space, followed by a stitch in the next stitch (cluster), before we get to the corner.



This time while our corner has 2 stitches, chain 2 and 2 more stitches worked into the 3-chain space, the 2 stitches are different. We begin the corner with a normal stitch, then a taller stitch, chain 2, a taller stitch and finish with a normal stitch.



Don't be alarmed if your square looks a little like this:



Give it a finger block and a pat— pull from each corner and it will settle to flat. Later rounds will help flatten it out too as will the final blocking. This is perfectly normal for some designs.



Round 4 help

After you begin your first corner by chaining 3 and working a normal stitch over the joining stitch, you'll begin your side. Instead of working a cluster into a chain space this time, you'll work one into a stitch along the side. It'll be into the middle stitch of the side. You begin the side by working a stitch in the first 2 stitches, then you chain 2 and skip 2 stitches. The next stitch is where you work your cluster. The red needle is pointing to the stitch. The silver needle is just showing it's the middle of the 3 stitches worked into the chain space.



Then chain 2, skip 2 again and work a stitch in the last 2 stitches of the side. The silver needles are in the stitches you skip, the red shows where the first of the last 2 stitches will be worked. Then it's on to our most common corner — 2 stitches, chain 2, 2 stitches.



Round 5 help

In Round 5, you'll be doing all the things you've already done, just in a different order and with more stitches along each side. Clusters are worked into the chain spaces. The silver needle here shows the stitch to skip in the middle after the first cluster has been made. The corners are just like we've done many times — 2 stitches, chain 2, 2 stitches.



Round 6 help

The last round of this pattern is a smallest stitch round. Every stitch along the side has a stitch worked into it and every 3-chain space has 3 stitches worked into it. The corners are 1 stitch, chain 2 and 1 stitch.



Remember to chain 2 and join with a slip stitch to the first stitch at the end.

And you did it! Go you.

What to do after you've made your first square

Congratulate yourself! You worked hard and can now do one type of cluster! You have the skills to do any cluster made of any number of any type of stitches.

Weave in your ends and get out your project planner so we can add some details.

"Finger block" your square — pull it from each corner.

Measure it across the middle using your tape measure or ruler and note down the unblocked size. It should be much the same size as your other squares.

Block your Cluster Claire squares, and note the blocked size — this should be the same for all squares.

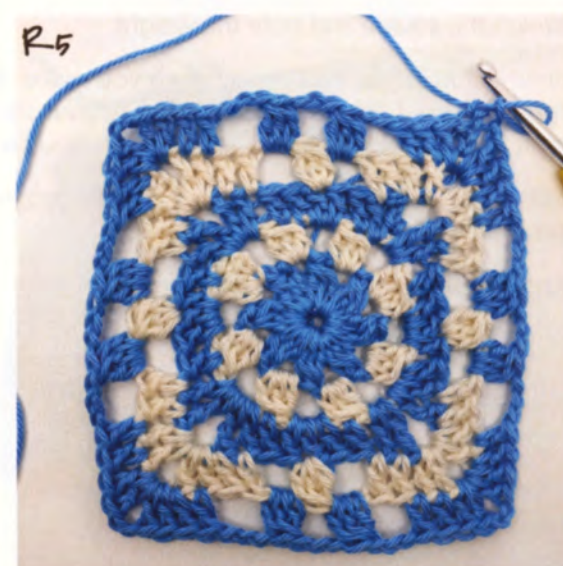


Weigh the square and note the weight.

Now it's up to you how many more you make. If you found yourself using the video to make your square, try it again using just the written pattern. You can do it!

Add each square made to the total on the project planner as you make them.

And that's it! You're done. Well done you!



Part Nine

Reading to do

- How to make another type of cluster 103
- How to work a false stitch instead of chain 3 starting chain 105
- How to get help when you run into trouble 107

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Together Tessa Pattern Help

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Together clusters!

This part will be really easy for you as you already know how clusters are formed. You'll learn a different type of cluster – a together cluster. Great for making pointy shapes, these "together" stitches are fun to do!

Here are a couple of my granny squares that have together clusters in them.



Cortes: Siren's Atlas

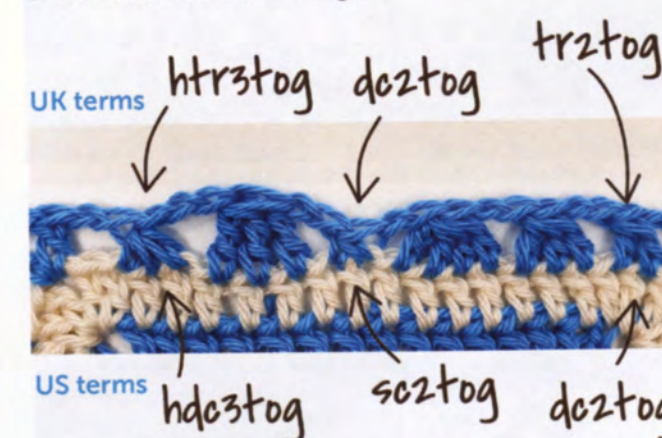


Amaryllis: Granny Square Flair

How to make another type of cluster

If you're making garments or amigurumi, these type of stitches are used as decreases. In crochet granny squares, they make cool pointy shapes. They are made just like the clusters in Part 8, but instead of all the legs being worked in one stitch or space, each leg is worked in a new stitch or space. Together stitches are finished just like the clusters - a yarn over and pull through all loops on your hook. They can be made with a variety of stitches. Here are a just a few different types of together stitches.

The instruction to make a together stitch is made up of a combination of 4 things:



1. The type of stitches to start;
2. the number of stitches to start;
3. tog (short for together);
4. over next X stitches (where X = the number of stitches you are working the legs into).

You may wonder why there is an extra instruction referring to how many stitches to work the legs into, when the stitch instruction says how many legs? Well that's because some of these together stitches don't always follow on. For example, you might work a tr2tog over the next 3 stitches but you skip the middle stitch. The pattern will tell you if you need to do this.

For example, in the photo above, the together stitch on the left is a htr3tog/3hdctog (UK/US) over the next 3 stitches which means 3 half stitches were started in 3 stitches and finished with the last step. The one on the very right is a tr2tog/dc2tog (UK/US) over the next 2 stitches which is treble 2 stitches together/double crochet 2 stitches together (UK/US).

A together stitch can be made of any number of stitches, using any stitch.

One thing common to all together stitches is that even though they are made with lots of stitches started, they all end with a yarn over and pull through all loops on hook, just like our clusters from Part Eight. This last yarn over becomes the top of the together stitch. So regardless of what type or how many stitches are in a together stitch, a together stitch is one stitch. In the photo of various together stitches above, there are 6 stitches separated by chain spaces.

When it comes time to work into a together stitch, you poke your hook under the "v" on top, just like a normal stitch. The needles are pointing to the spot to work into:



Just to make the differences clear between the clusters we made in Part 8 and the together stitches, have a look at this photo.



The red needle shows a cluster like we made last time. The red needle shows all the legs of the stitch were worked into one stitch. The silver needles are pointing to the legs of a together stitch where each leg is in a new stitch. The tops are the same, it's the bottoms that are different.

In the pattern for this part, we'll be making together stitches using our most common stitch. We'll be making clusters with either 2 or 4 stitches.

Let's look at the making of a 3-together cluster as an example. UK terms it's described as tr3tog over next 3 sts. US terms it's dc3tog over next 3 sts.

Step 1. Begin a stitch as normal – yarn over, insert hook in stitch or space as indicated in the pattern, pull a loop to the front, yarn over and pull through 2 loops. There will be 2 loops on your hook. Stop there.



Step 2. Begin a second stitch in the next stitch or space – yarn over, insert hook in next stitch or space, pull a loop to the front, yarn over and pull through 2 loops. There will be 3 loops on your hook. Stop there.



Step 3. Begin a third stitch in the next stitch or space – yarn over, insert hook in next stitch or space, pull a loop to the front, yarn over and pull through 2 loops. There will be 4 loops on your hook. Stop there.



Step 4. Finish your cluster – yarn over and pull through all 4 loops on your hook.



How to work a false stitch instead of chain 3 starting chain

Before I start this one, I want to make sure you know this is an optional extra thing to learn. I am a bit pedantic about seamless crochet, and while my trick of joining to the top of the 3rd chain to make your starting chain look a bit like a capital P, really, it's not good enough for my brain.

If you are happy with how things are, doing what we have so far, by all means continue that way. All my patterns say chain 3, etc, to take the place of a real stitch, so you are all good.

But, I almost never do a starting chain. Before I show you how, let's look at one of our patterns – Circle Cindy, done with chain 3 starting chain at the start of rows compared to my false stitch with no starting chains.



This one was done with chain 3 starting chains at the start of every round. It's pretty good I reckon, but compare it to the one done with a false stitch at the start of each round.



If you can't see a difference, well, just ignore the rest of this and continue on as you were. This is a thing for perfectionist types.

A lot of the time, it really won't matter if you do a starting chain, as some patterns hide it well. Other times, those chains really stand out so I usually do this false stitch instead.

It is quite fiddly to do and can take a lot of practice to get it looking good. Honestly, when I first heard about it, I tried so many times and failed, but eventually I got it and I do it without thinking or fumbling now.

Pull up a long loop, a little taller than a normal stitch.



Place a finger on the loop on the hook and hold it firmly while moving the hook under, and wrapping the long loop around the hook.



Yarn over and pull that yarn-over under the wrapped long loop.



Yarn over again and pull through all remaining loops on the hook.



There are 2 instances where I do work a starting chain and not a false stitch.

One is when I am replicating a half stitch. I chain 2 then as doing a false half stitch is really tricky and to be honest, it's such a small stitch, you really don't need to.

The other time I use a starting chain is if I am going to end the round with an invisible join. An invisible join is useful when the edge of a round will be visible all the way around. It's not necessary any other time in my opinion. The reason you do a starting chain when joining with an invisible join is that the joining part along with the starting chain looks just like a stitch and the join is as the name suggests, totally invisible.

Sometimes, folks are confused between the standing stitch I taught you in Part 7 and the false stitch.

The standing stitch is used when you are starting a new colour – remember you attach the yarn to your hook with a slip knot before you start. A false stitch is used when continuing the same colour and you don't want to do a starting chain.

How to get help when you run into trouble

If you've used patterns from a few different sources – books, downloads, websites, you will probably have realised that there is a lot of variation out there in formats and terminology. Sure, there are the standard things, but you'll find that most designers have their own quirky ways to write patterns.

We've been looking at my pattern ways in Granny Square Academy and I absolutely do things in my own way. It makes the most sense to me and hopefully by now you as well.

That's not to say other ways are wrong! They're just different and make the most sense to the people who wrote them.

Here's an example of a round from one of my patterns in US terms in 2 different formats. The pattern is exactly the same. The first example is what you'd be used to working in GSA. The second example is how it had to be formatted to match other patterns in a book full of different designers' patterns.

R3: ch3 (stch), *ch2, sc in 3-ch sp, ch2**, dc in next
st, rep from * to * 4x and * to ** 1x, join with ss to
3rd ch of stch. {12 sts, 12 2-ch sps}

Rnd 3: ch 5 (count as dc + ch 2), sc in next ch-space, ch 2, (dc in next st, ch 2, sc in next ch-space, ch 2) repeat 5 times, slst in 3rd ch of initial ch 5
[12 + 24 ch]

So, when you start to apply what you've learned here, spreading your crochet wings to all the wonders in crochet out there, you may look at something and not be sure what to do. As someone who gets a fair few queries, I want to let you know how to best get the help you need.

Where to get help

There are a few places you can get help.

1. It may seem obvious, but the first thing to do is read the pattern/book/information in full. There may be a glossary, an explanation of anything unusual, a link to a video or a link to explain something.
2. Check to see if the designer has a website. Often, designers have explanations of things they do in patterns or specific pattern help on their websites.
3. Check to see if the designer has a YouTube channel – they may have tutorial videos of special things they do.

4. Check to see if the designer has a Facebook or Ravelry group. Often these groups have members who know how the designer's mind works and can help you out if the designer isn't about.
5. Check the pattern/book for a way to reach out for help. Often designers pop an email address or another link to where you can get help.

How to ask for help effectively

Just emailing a designer or posting in a group with "I can't do such and such pattern" or "I am stuck" is not going to get you the help you need.

When reaching out, provide as much information as you can.

- Start by saying what specific pattern you are working on. If designers have hundreds of patterns, they may need some help recognising what you're working on.
- Explain which part of the pattern you are having trouble with – state the specific the round, stitch combination, stitch you don't know, etc.
- Explain what you have tried.
- Attach a clear, straight down photo of your work showing the part you have an issue with.
- Ask specifically for help. "Can you please explain XYZ?"
- Bonus points for being polite!

Personally, I just want everyone to succeed at my patterns and a lot of the designers I know feel the same. I am happy to help. Don't feel you can't reach out.

Here are some of the ways you can get help with my patterns:

- check out my stitch and technique playlist at spincushions.com/youtube
- go to my blog, spincushions.com/blog and search for what you need help with – I have posts explaining things like my seamless ways, joining, matching crochet gauge and lots more;
- join Spincushions Crochet Group on Facebook, set up just for help with my patterns;
- email me shelley@spincushions.com

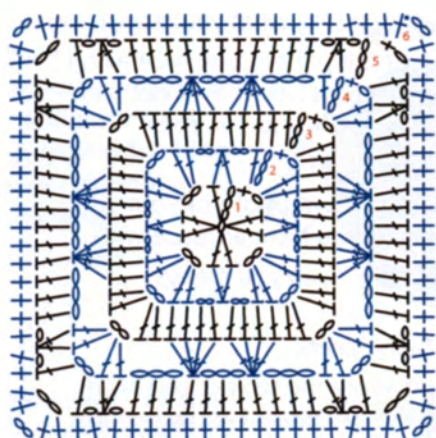
Now it's time to start crocheting! Hooray!

Grab your yarn and hook and refer to the pattern help as you go.



Together Tessa

Part Nine • UK Pattern



Abbreviations

R	Round
cnr	corner
rep	repeat
•	ss slip stitch
sp/s	space/s
st/s	stitch/es
o	ch chain
stch	starting chain
+	dc double crochet
†	tr treble crochet
††	tr(x)tog treble crochet 2 or 4 together

Attach yarn to hook with a slip knot, ch1, work all R1 sts into that ch.

- R1:** ch3 (stch), tr, *ch2, 2tr*, rep from * to * 2x, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{2 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R2:** ch3 (stch), tr over joining dc, *ch2, tr2tog over next 2 sts, ch2**, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2tr in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{5 sts, 2 2-ch sps on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R3:** ch3 (stch), tr over joining dc, *tr in next 2 sts, 2tr in 2-ch sp, skip 1 st, 2tr in 2-ch sp, tr in next 2 sts**, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2tr in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{12 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R4:** ch3 (stch), tr over joining dc, *ch3, skip 2 sts, tr4tog over next 4 sts, ch3, tr4tog over next 4 sts, ch3, skip 2 sts**, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2tr in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{6 sts, 3 3-ch sps on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R5:** ch3 (stch), *ch1, tr2tog over next 2 sts, ch1, 2x [3tr in 3-ch sp, tr in next st], 3tr in 3-ch sp, ch1, tr2tog over next 2 sts, ch1**, (tr, ch2, tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, tr in same sp as first st, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{15 sts, 4 1-ch sps on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R6:** 2dc over joining dc, *dc in next st, dc in 1-ch sp, skip 1 st, dc in 1-ch sp, dc in next 11 sts, dc in 1-ch sp, skip 1 st, dc in 1-ch sp, dc in next st **, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2dc in same sp as first sts, ch2, join with ss to first st. Fasten off yarn and weave in ends.
{21 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}

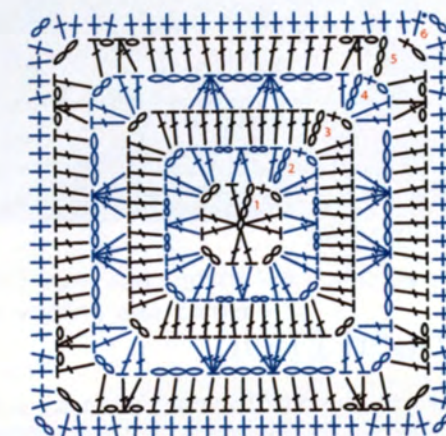
Together Tessa

Part Nine • US Pattern



Attach yarn to hook with a slip knot, ch1, work all R1 sts into that ch.

- R1:** ch3 (stch), dc, *ch2, 2dc*, rep from * to * 2x, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{2 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R2:** ch3 (stch), dc over joining sc, *ch2, dc2tog over next 2 sts, ch2**, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2dc in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{5 sts, 2 2-ch sps on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R3:** ch3 (stch), dc over joining sc, *dc in next 2 sts, 2dc in 2-ch sp, skip 1 st, 2dc in 2-ch sp, dc in next 2 sts**, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2dc in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{12 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R4:** ch3 (stch), dc over joining sc, *ch3, skip 2 sts, dc4tog over next 4 sts, ch3, dc4tog over next 4 sts, ch3, skip 2 sts**, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2dc in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{6 sts, 3 3-ch sps on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R5:** ch3 (stch), *ch1, dc2tog over next 2 sts, ch1, 2x [3dc in 3-ch sp, dc in next st], 3dc in 3-ch sp, ch1, dc2tog over next 2 sts, ch1**, (dc, ch2, dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, dc in same sp as first st, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{15 sts, 4 1-ch sps on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R6:** 2sc over joining sc, *sc in next st, sc in 1-ch sp, skip 1 st, sc in 1-ch sp, sc in next 11 sts, sc in 1-ch sp, skip 1 st, sc in 1-ch sp, sc in next st **, (2sc, ch2, 2sc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x & * to ** 1x, 2sc in same sp as first sts, ch2, join with ss to first st. Fasten off yarn and weave in ends.
{21 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}



Abbreviations

R	Round
cnr	corner
rep	repeat
•	ss slip stitch
sp/s	space/s
st/s	stitch/es
o	ch chain
stch	starting chain
+	sc single crochet
†	dc double crochet
††	dc(x)tog double crochet 2 or 4 together

Together Tessa

Pattern help



Try to use these notes and photos to work from. If you are really stuck, check out the video at [spincushions.com/youtube](https://www.spincushions.com/youtube)

Round 1 help

The first round of Together Tessa is just the same as a lot of our earlier patterns. You can do it!



Round 2 help

In this round, you'll make your first together stitches. After you work your starting chain and a stitch over the joining stitch, you chain 2 but you don't skip any stitches. You then work your first together stitch over the next 2 stitches – the only 2 stitches of Round 1.



Then you chain 2 again and work your corner in the 2-chain space as we've done many times before.



Round 3 help

Round 3 is a round of just our most common stitches. Our corners are 2 stitches, chain 2 and 2 stitches. Each stitch, except the together stitch, has a stitch worked into it. The 2-chain spaces have 2 stitches worked into them. The silver needle is showing the together stitch to skip and the red one where to work your next 2 stitches.



Round 4 help

This time, you'll be making bigger together stitches along the sides. After beginning your first corner, you will chain 3 and skip the first 2 stitches of Round 3 before starting your first 4-together stitch. The red needle shows where to place the first leg and the silver the 4th. You should end in the last stitch before the 2 stitches together from Round 2.



Then you chain 3 again but don't skip any stitches and go straight to starting your next 4-together stitch, like so...



Then you chain 3 again and skip the last 2 stitches of the side before working your corner.



Round 5 help

In Round 5, you'll be doing almost the same as you did in Round 3, but this time you will work a stitch in the together stitches and you'll be doing a couple of 2 together stitches as well. Begin by doing your starting chain, then chain 1 and work the next 2 stitches together, followed by 3 stitches in the 3-chain space, and one in the first 4-together stitch.



Then do 3 more stitches in the 3-chain space, one in the together stitch, 3 more in the 3-chain space, chain 1, 2 stitches together over the last 2 stitches of the side, chain 1 and work your corner.



Round 6 help

The last round of this pattern is a smallest stitch round. Every stitch along the side has a stitch worked into it and every 1-chain space has a stitch worked into it. The corners are 2 stitches, chain 2 and 2 stitches. Pop a stitch marker in your first stitch to help find where to join with a slip stitch at the end.



HOT TIP

Did you forget to do 1-chain spaces either side of the together stitches in Round 5? Don't undo it, just work a small stitch between the stitches instead. All will be well I promise.

And you're done! Look at what you did! You're awesome.

What to do after you've made your first square

Have a ponder about what you have just learned – you now know how to work 2 kinds of clusters!

Weave in your ends and get out your project planner so we can add some details.

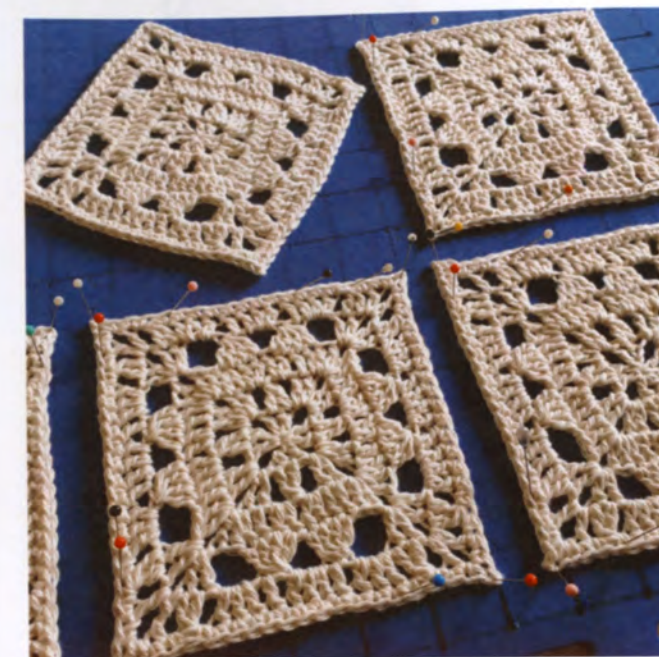
"Finger block" your square – pull it from each corner.



Measure it across the middle using your tape measure or ruler and note down the unblocked size. It should be much the same size as your other squares.



Block your Together Tessa squares, and note the blocked size – this should be the same for all squares.



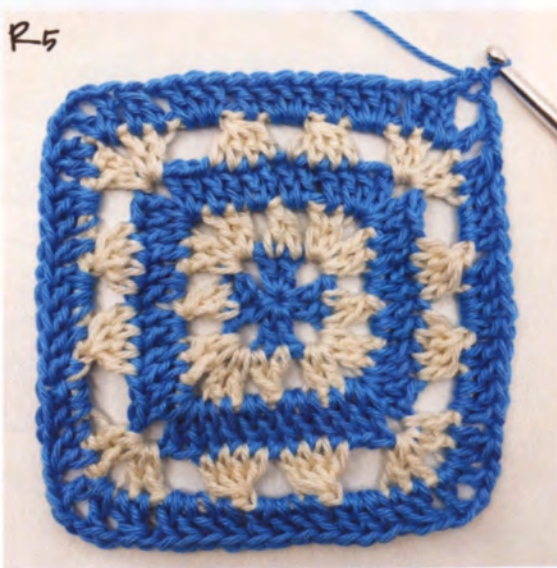
Weigh the square and note the weight.

Now it's up to you how many more you make. If you found yourself using the video to make your square, try it again using just the written pattern. You can do it!

Add each square made to the total on the project planner as you make them.

And that's it! You're done. Well done you!





Part Ten

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Putting it all together

Now it's time to put all you've learned together and apply it to patterns that use lots of different stitches and techniques. You've got this!

Here are a few of my granny squares that use lots of stitches and techniques to make cool patterned granny squares.



Iron Lace: *Granny Square Flair* Sol: *Granny Square Flair*



Pacific: *Siren's Atlas* D'Urville: *Siren's Atlas*

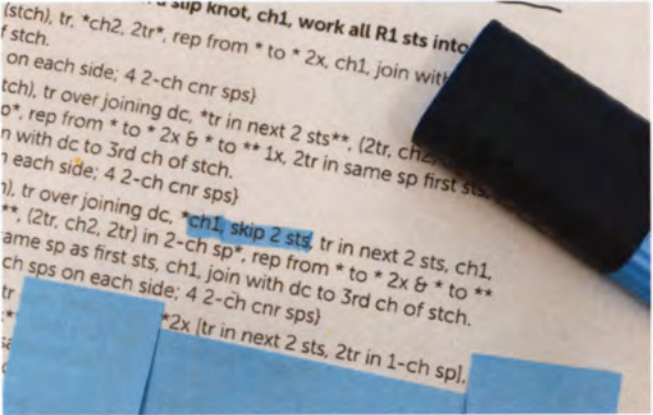
How to put all you've learned into practice

You've learned so much so far in Granny Square Academy. You know new stitches and new techniques. If you've done it all as I intended, you're used to looking at a written pattern and not becoming instantly overwhelmed. So now it's time to put it all into practice.

You have a lot of reading material in Granny Square Academy with so much help for all you need to know. It's totally fine to refer to it all again, and as often as you need to! I don't expect you to have read it all once and absorbed it all. It's totally natural for some things to not really make sense until you've done them a few times, so allow yourself to go back and re-read. Each part has a contents page, so you can skim through easily to the parts you need.

The Finale Fiona pattern you have for Part Ten will get you on your way. It only uses things you've done before, with a couple of new combinations of things thrown in. No more just one stitch or technique in one round! Just like any pattern you may come across out there.

When tackling a new pattern, approach it with a positive attitude. Apply the skills you've learned. Break it down and just work step by step, comma to comma. Use the things a pattern should come with, such as the abbreviations list to work out what stitches and techniques you will need to know. If there are any new to you, look for help on how to do them.



I KNOW you can do it.



How to work out how much yarn you need for a granny square project

It's time to grab your project planner that you have hopefully been filling out as you finished each part of Granny Square Academy.

We're going to use those bits of recorded information to help us work out how much yarn you would need for your own projects later on.



If you are going to use the same yarn and hook you used to make your GSA squares, you just need to use the weight (D) to figure out how much you need.

Simply work out how many squares you need for your project and multiply that by the weight of one square.

If you are going to use a different yarn, that's where the yardage calculations come in (E). Search on spincushions.com/blog for "different yarn" to learn about using more than one pattern and colour and everything in a lot more detail.

An example

I want to make a pram blanket. My squares are 5.5" so a blanket of 5 x 6 squares will be about 33" x 44" – a good size I think. So I need 30 squares.

What pattern/s will I use to make it?

You can do oh so many things when it comes to choosing a pattern or patterns to make your chosen thing. You can choose one pattern, all different patterns, 2 or more complementary or contrasting patterns, solid or lacy, or a combination of them.

I'm going to plan using my Front Posts Pearl pattern only as she's thick, cosy and solid.



One Front Posts Pearl square weighs 11.48 grams in my chosen yarn.

I need 30 for my blanket so $30 \times 11.48 = 344.4$ grams. Plus I'll need extra for joining and a border.

If I used Together Tessa instead, it'd be $30 \times 9.41 = 282.3$ grams, plus extra for joining and border.

So you can see the difference in yarn needed can vary greatly, even for a small project.

How much for joining and finishing?

You also need to allow for the yarn needed to join and border the project. You can work it out pretty easily. Work your planned border on one of your sample squares and use the difference in weight to figure out how much yarn you used. This is the calculation for 4 edges, so divide it by 4. Using your layout plan, count how many edges you have to border and multiply that by your 1 edge calculation.

I also like to add 10% for joining and "just in case" stuff. You might encounter a knot you can't untangle, mistakes might be made, kids or pets might "play" with your yarn.



How to join granny squares

There are a few different ways to join granny squares. You can do fancy joins, sewing joins or simple crochet joins.



I'm going to teach you my go-to method. I think it's great because it is nice and flat on the front and blends in really well so it's almost invisible. It's also very easy to join squares with different stitch counts. Plus, it's quick and easy!



Here's the join, exactly the same as above but done with a contrasting colour so you can see what's going on as it's pretty hard to see in one colour.



Once you know your layout, it's best to join squares into long strips then join those strips together.

Here's how I do it.

Hold your two squares, right sides together.



Attach your yarn to your hook with a slip knot and poke it through the 2-chain spaces of both squares and work a standing double crochet (UK terms), standing single crochet (US terms).



Then, work your way along the edges of the squares, poking your hook through both loops of both squares at the same time, making our dc/sc (UK/US) stitches.



HOT TIP

It can be hard to know exactly where to work your stitches from the back, so open the squares up and poke your hook through the stitch on one square at a time until you are comfortable with what you're doing.



Think back to your anatomy of a stitch. The bit to work into is to the right on the front, but on the left from the back (left/right lefties).

At the end, work one stitch in both 2-chain spaces and fasten off your yarn.



But what about joining squares that have a different stitch count?

If squares have different stitch counts, simply use the same stitch twice on the square with the smaller stitch count while using a new stitch on the square with the larger stitch count as many times as you need to make up the difference. If one has 20 stitches and the other 22, you will need to use the same stitch twice along the side of the square with the smaller stitch count. Don't do the double stitches together, spread them out along the side.

In this photo, the red needle is showing where to use the same stitch a second time on the square with the smaller stitch count and the silver needle, a new stitch on the square with the larger stitch count.



Here are the same blocks joined. One I have used a contrasting colour to join so you can see the double stitch, and the other using the same colour. Hard to spot isn't it?



HOT TIP

The top square will look a little shorter than the bottom one due to the way crochet stitches lean to one side. This is perfectly normal. The 2 squares shown below have the same stitch count and are the same size, but once you start joining, it looks like the top one is shorter.



Once you get used to what you're doing, you won't have to check the stitch counts before you join. You can do it by feel. After you have joined a few stitches, you will see if the top or bottom one is shorter and be able to compensate with as many double stitches as you need. Keep checking as you join and do as many as you need.

Joining to Back Betty?

If you recall, the last round of our Back Betty squares had chain spaces and not a solid round of stitches like all the others. When you join this one, just treat the chain space as you would a stitch. Poke your hook in the stitch of the other square and the 1-chain space to work the joining stitch.



Once you have your long strips, it's time to join those strips.



Hold the strips right sides together and begin just like when joining squares. When you get to the 2-chain spaces, work a stitch in the first 2-chain space, skip the join and work another stitch in the 2-chain space on the other side of the join.



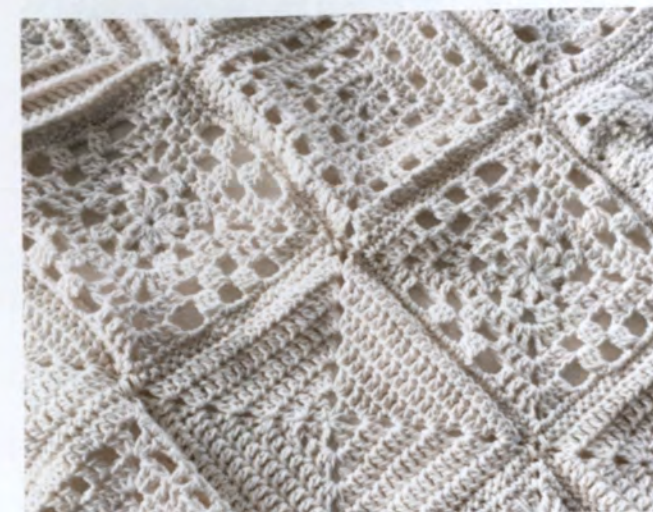
This creates a little square on the front of your work in the corners.



If you want to read about some other ways to join, head over to spincushions.com/blog and search for "joining".



Don't worry if your squares joined up look like this with valleys between the squares.



Simply smooth with your hands, stretching with your hands either side of the joins like so...



And your blanket will become nice and flat.



How to work a simple border

Just like with joining, you can get super fancy with borders for your crochet. There are whole books devoted to them! However, I like a simple border, especially when there are lots of different granny square patterns in the project.

Here's my simple border pattern. All the corners are 1 stitch, chain 2 and 1 stitch, regardless of the stitch type.

Round 1 – a round of dc/sc (UK/US). Begin with a standing stitch in a 2-chain corner space and work a stitch in each stitch along the side. When you get to the joins, work a stitch in the join as well.



Round 2 – another round of dc/sc (UK/US).

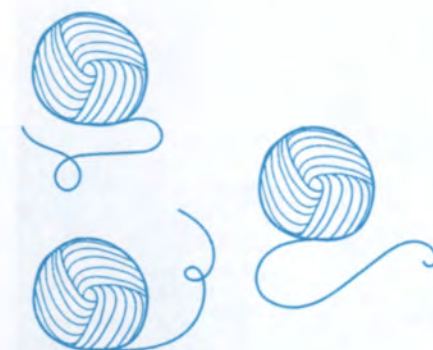
Round 3 – a round of tr/dc (UK/US).

Round 4 – a round of dc/sc (UK/US).

Round 5 – a final round of dc/sc (UK/US). End with chain 2 and a slip stitch join.



Once you have finished your border, you may want to block your blanket to make those edges nice and straight. You can do it just like our squares, pinning the edges and corners before squirting with steam from your iron. Or you can wet block. Just wash your blanket according to your yarn's care instructions, then pin it out and wait for it to dry.



What to do with your Granny Square Academy squares

Now we're at the end! Once you've made all of your squares, here's how to make your GSA projects.



If you've made just 1 of each square and are making a cowl, simply join your squares into a long strip and then join the ends. Join as many as you want until you are happy with the circumference. You may have leftovers or you may want a double loop cowl and join all 10.

If you've made 2 of each square and are making a scarf, just join them into a strip. Add a fringe if you want!

If you've made 2 or 3 and are making a cushion, join into two large 3 x 3 or 4 x 4 squares, then join the 2 large squares with the wrong sides held together. Pop a cushion insert inside before you join the last sides.

If you've made loads of each and are making a blanket, lay out your squares on the floor in whatever pattern or random arrangement pleases you, join your squares and add a border.



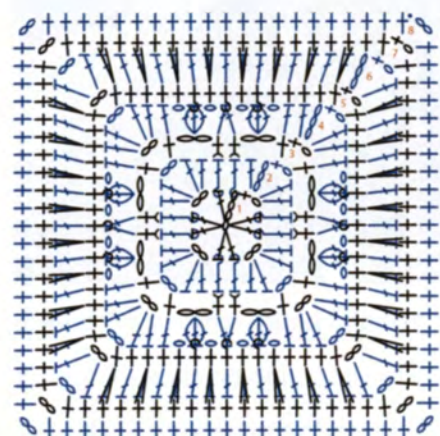
Now it's time to start crocheting! Hooray!

Grab your yarn and hook and refer to the pattern help as you go.



Finale Fiona

Part Ten • UK Pattern

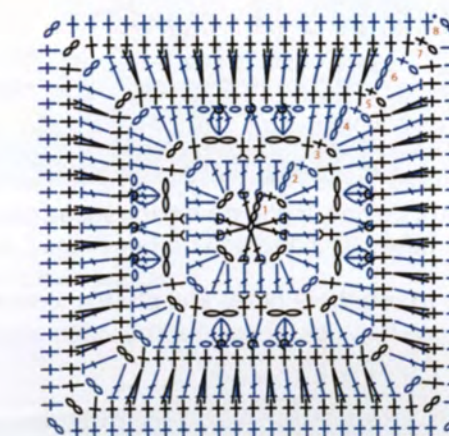


Abbreviations

R	Round
cnr	corner
rep	repeat
•	ss slip stitch
sp/s	space/s
st/s	stitch/es
o	ch chain
stch	starting chain
+	dc double crochet
+	spike dc spike double crochet
+	tr treble crochet
c	bp back post
>	fp front post
^	blo back loop only
+	3trcl 3 treble crochet cluster
+	tr2tog treble crochet 2 stitches together

Attach yarn to hook with a slip knot, ch1, work all R1 sts into that ch.

- R1:** ch3 (stch), tr, *ch2, 2tr*, rep from * to * 2x, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{2 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R2:** ch3 (stch), tr over joining dc, *bptr around next 2 sts**, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x and * to ** 1x, 2tr in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{6 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R3:** dc over joining dc, *ch2, skip 2 sts, dc in blo of next 2 sts, ch2, skip 2 sts**, (dc, ch2, dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x and * to ** 1x, dc in same sp as first st, ch1, join with dc to first st.
{4 sts, 2 2-ch sps on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R4:** ch3 (stch), tr over joining dc, *tr in next st, ch1, 3trcl in 2-ch sp, ch1, tr2tog over next 2 sts, ch1, 3trcl in 2-ch sp, ch1, tr in next st**, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x and * to ** 1x, 2tr in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{9 sts, 4 1-ch sps on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R5:** dc over joining dc, *dc in next 3 sts, 3x [dc in 1-ch sp, fpdc around next st], dc in 1-ch sp, dc in next 3 sts**, (dc, ch2, dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x and * to ** 1x, dc in same sp as first st, ch1, join with dc to first st.
{15 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R6:** ch3 (stch), *tr in next 15 sts**, (tr, ch2, tr) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x and * to ** 1x, tr in same sp as first st, ch1, join with dc to 3rd ch of stch.
{17 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R7:** dc over joining dc, *8x [dc in next st, spike dc in next st of R5 below], dc in next st**, (dc, ch2, dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x and * to ** 1x, dc in same sp as first st, ch1, join with dc to first st.
{19 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R8:** dc over joining dc, *dc in next 19 sts**, (dc, ch2, dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x and * to ** 1x, dc in same sp as first st, ch2, join with ss to first st. Fasten off and weave in ends.
{21 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}



Abbreviations

R	Round
cnr	corner
rep	repeat
•	ss slip stitch
sp/s	space/s
st/s	stitch/es
o	ch chain
stch	starting chain
+	sc single crochet
+	spike sc spike single crochet
+	dc double crochet
c	bp back post
>	fp front post
^	blo back loop only
+	3dccl 3 double crochet cluster
+	dc2tog double crochet 2 stitches together

Finale Fiona

Part Ten • US Pattern

Attach yarn to hook with a slip knot, ch1, work all R1 sts into that ch.

- R1:** ch3 (stch), dc, *ch2, 2dc*, rep from * to * 2x, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{2 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R2:** ch3 (stch), dc over joining sc, *bpdcc around next 2 sts**, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x and * to ** 1x, 2dc in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{6 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R3:** sc over joining sc, *ch2, skip 2 sts, sc in blo of next 2 sts, ch2, skip 2 sts**, (sc, ch2, sc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x and * to ** 1x, sc in same sp as first st, ch1, join with sc to first st.
{4 sts, 2 2-ch sps on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R4:** ch3 (stch), dc over joining sc, *dc in next st, ch1, 3dccl in 2-ch sp, ch1, dc2tog over next 2 sts, ch1, 3dccl in 2-ch sp, ch1, dc in next st**, (2dc, ch2, 2dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x and * to ** 1x, 2dc in same sp as first sts, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{9 sts, 4 1-ch sps on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R5:** sc over joining sc, *sc in next 3 sts, 3x [sc in 1-ch sp, fpdc around next st], sc in 1-ch sp, sc in next 3 sts**, (sc, ch2, sc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x and * to ** 1x, sc in same sp as first st, ch1, join with sc to first st.
{15 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R6:** ch3 (stch), *dc in next 15 sts**, (dc, ch2, dc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x and * to ** 1x, dc in same sp as first st, ch1, join with sc to 3rd ch of stch.
{17 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R7:** sc over joining sc, *8x [sc in next st, spike sc in next st of R5 below], sc in next st**, (sc, ch2, sc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x and * to ** 1x, sc in same sp as first st, ch1, join with sc to first st.
{19 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}
- R8:** sc over joining sc, *sc in next 19 sts**, (sc, ch2, sc) in 2-ch sp*, rep from * to * 2x and * to ** 1x, sc in same sp as first st, ch2, join with ss to first st. Fasten off and weave in ends.
{21 sts on each side; 4 2-ch cnr sps}

Finale Fiona

Pattern help



As this is the last pattern consolidating what you've learned, have a go using just the written pattern. I think you'll be fine. If you do hit any snags, pop back here for help.

Try to use these notes and photos to work from. If you are really stuck, check out the video at spincushions.com/youtube

Round 1 help

The first round of Finale Fiona is just the same as a lot of our earlier patterns. You can do it!



Round 2 help

In this round, you'll make a couple of back post stitches. After you work your starting chain and a stitch over the joining stitch, you work a back post stitch around the next 2 stitches – the only 2 stitches of Round 1.



Round 3 help

Round 3 is made with only our smallest stitch and some chain spaces. The middle two stitches of the side are worked as back loop only stitches. After chaining 2, you skip the first 2 stitches of the side as shown by the silver needles then work a stitch in the blo of the next 2 stitches.



Then chain 2 again and skip the last 2 stitches of the side and work your corner.

Round 4 help

In Round 4, you will work both types of clusters you have learned. After starting with chain 3 as your starting chain and working a normal stitch over the join, you work a stitch in the first stitch of the side. Then you chain 1 and work a 3-stitch cluster in the 2-chain space.



Then you chain 1 and work a 2-together cluster over the next 2 stitches.



Then you chain 1 again and do another 3-stitch cluster in the 2-chain space.



You finish the side by working a stitch in the last stitch of the side and your corner.

If it's hard to see the first stitch after the corner, you know to push the corner stitches aside to make the P visible.



Round 5 help

In Round 5, you'll be doing a round of the smallest stitches, but some of them will be worked as front post stitches.

After beginning with a stitch over the joining stitch, and working a stitch in the first 3 stitches of the side, you will work a stitch in the 1-chain space, then a front post stitch around the next stitch, which is a 3-stitch cluster. Just poke your hook around the cluster from the front, where the red needle is pointing to make your stitch.



Next, you work a stitch in the 1-chain space and a front post stitch, 2 more times so each cluster has a front post stitch and every 1-chain space has a stitch in it.



Don't forget the stitch in the last 1-chain space as it can be a bit hidden!



End with a stitch in the last 3 stitches of the side before doing your corner.

Round 6 help

Round 6 is an easy one! Just a solid round of our most common stitch.

Round 7 help

We are back to working spike stitches in this round – a few more than we did in Spiky Sally!

My tip is to keep an eye on the whole stitches of Round 6. Look for the P's and the base of the stitches. The silver needle is pointing to the next P and the red needle the base of that P where the next spike stitch is to be worked.



Round 8 help

You don't need any help for this one! Easy.

And you're done! You just made what's classed as an intermediate level granny square! I hope you're proud of yourself. You should be!

What to do after you've made your first square

Take a moment to reflect on all you've learned over the past ten patterns. You really do have the skills to tackle anything now. Sure you will still come across things you haven't seen before, but you know how to get help and, hopefully, have the confidence to have a go.

Weave in your ends and get out your project planner so we can add some details.

"Finger block" your square – pull it from each corner.

Measure it across the middle using your tape measure or ruler and note down the unblocked size. It should be much the same size as your other squares.

Block your Finale Fiona squares, and note the blocked size – this should be the same for all squares.



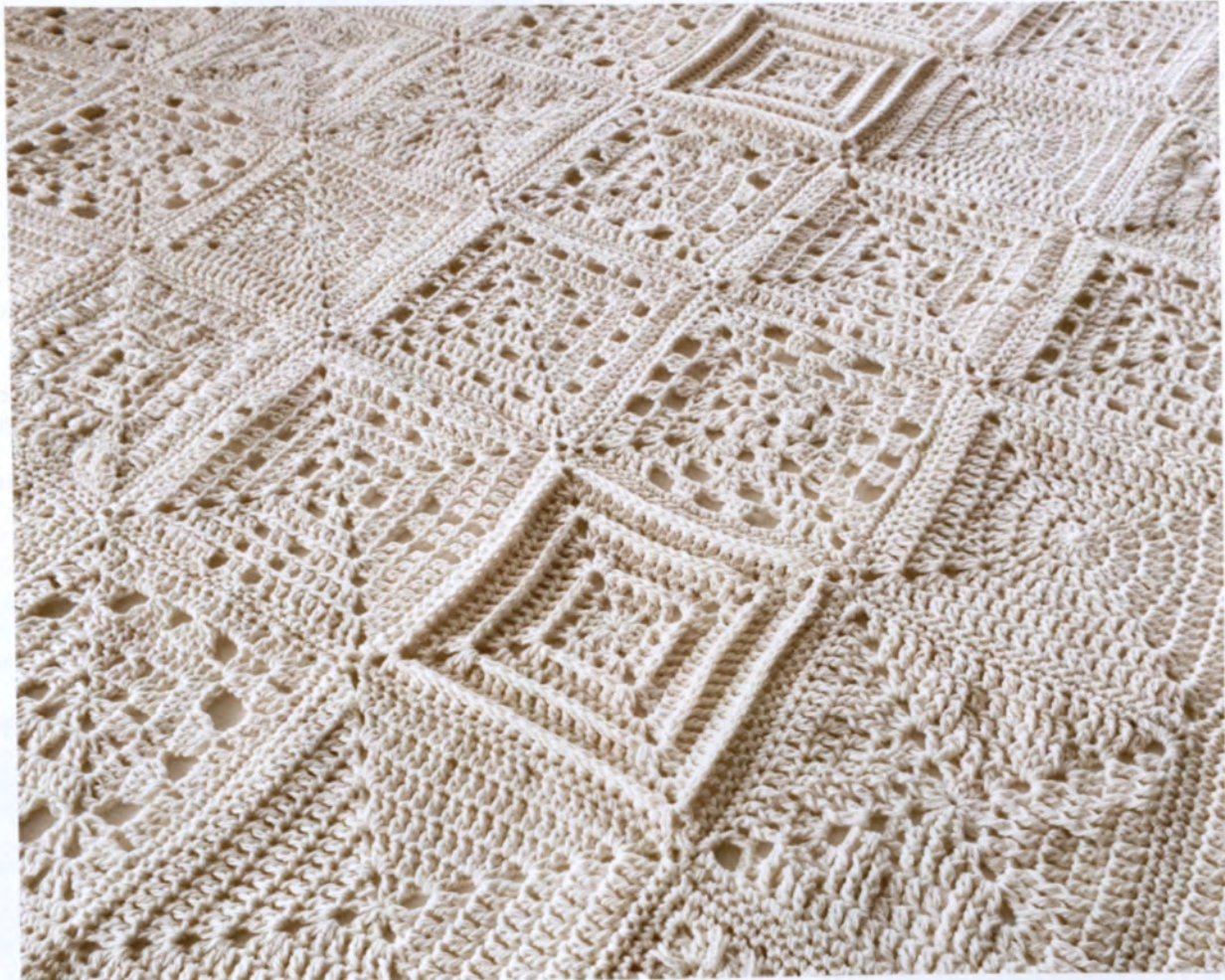
Weigh the square and note the weight.

Now it's up to you how many more you make. If you found yourself using the video to make your square, try it again using just the written pattern. You can do it!

Add each square made to the total on the project planner as you make them.

And that's it! You're done. It's time to plan your layout and join your squares!

I am so proud of you!



START DATE _____ YARN SOURCE _____
HOOK SIZE _____ YARN NAME _____
UK OR US TERMS _____ YARN BRAND _____
NOTES _____ YARN COLOUR _____
_____ No. OF BALLS PURCHASED _____
_____ METRES/YARDS PER BALL (A) _____
_____ GRAMS/OUNCES PER BALL (B) _____
_____ YARDAGE (A÷B=C) _____

	No. made	Square size unblocked / blocked	Square weight (D)	Square yardage (DxC=E)	Comments
Solid Sue		/			
Skipping Sarah		/			
Back Betty		/			
Spikey Sally		/			
Back Posts Penny		/			
Front Posts Pearl		/			
Circle Cindy		/			
Cluster Claire		/			
Together Tessa		/			
Finale Fiona		/			

What's next?

Well, you did it. You made it through all ten lessons of Granny Square Academy. I hope your confidence has grown and you are excited about what's next in your crochet adventures.

So what's next?

In GSA you've learned a whole lot about how to read crochet patterns. I'm going to let you in on a little secret. Two of the GSA patterns are basically patterns from my book *Granny Square Flair*. They are ever so slightly different, but really? You can totally do them from the book too. They just have an extra round or two.

There are fifty patterns in *Granny Square Flair* and they are all marked with a skill level rating. You can absolutely do all the level 1 squares and I am sure the level 2 as well. *Finale Fiona* would be classed as a level 2 pattern. By the time you've worked your way through the level 1 & 2 patterns, you will have built on your skills and be able to do the rest. Honest.

You can purchase the digital version from my pattern shop, shop.spincushions.com no matter where you are in the world.

If you're in Australia, you can purchase the physical book from me direct. You can choose the hardcover or paperback version from my shop shop.spincushions.com

If you're in the US, UK or elsewhere, you can purchase the paperback or hardback book from Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

But wait, there's more!

I have way more than that available for you to try your newfound skills on. Have a browse of shop.spincushions.com and see if anything takes your fancy. There are other books, blanket patterns, bag patterns, scarf and cowl patterns and lots more.



Thank you!

I'd like to thank so many people for helping me make my vision for Granny Square Academy come to life.

Michelle Lorimer did a lot of work to make it all look so good! You should have seen my pathetic attempts at the graphics! Trust me, you're glad she did it instead! Thanks so much for your superb work as always!

Amy Gunderson created all of the charts for the patterns. Amy always does a fabulous job making my charts. Thanks Amy!

SiewBee Pond is my tech editor/proof reader and picks up all those little things that are not quite right when I think they are. Thanks SiewBee!

Susan Thomas was my guinea pig for Granny Square Academy. She tried out each of the lessons for me, without the benefit of videos and was invaluable in helping me make it even better.

My trusty testing crew were a wonder as always. Thanks for all your hard work Anna, Bonita, Jennifer, Judy, Kathy, Laurene, Lyn, Meghan, Melissa, Monica, Nikki, Rita, Ruth, Sam, Sharon B, Sharon L, Shona, Stephanie, Tammy, Teresa, Tharana and Ursula.

Special thanks to Sam who also made samples for an early version of GSA that I then went and changed a whole lot so wasn't able to use. I appreciate your help and support so much, Sam.

Last of all, thank you! Your support purchasing my patterns and Granny Square Academy means I can keep on creating fun things for you to make.

xx Shelley

About the author

Shelley Husband is an Australian crochet designer and crochet teacher living on the south west coast of Victoria with her hubby and teenager in a tiny dot of a town by the ocean. Her two older children have left the nest and are spreading their own crafty and arty wings out in the world.

Shelley has crafted most of her life, trying "all of the crafts" over the years. These days, she spends most of her time with a crochet hook in hand. Having discovered a natural knack for crochet about seven years ago after a break of a few decades, she hasn't looked back, creating hundreds of Granny Square patterns.

Shelley loves nothing more than designing new patterns aiming to extend her own and our crochet skills, gently challenging and encouraging us to create timeless, classic pieces sure to be admired and appreciated.

Seamless crochet is a real passion and she has many tips and tricks to make our crochet look the best it possibly can, using techniques she has combined and tweaked over the years.

When not designing crochet, you can find Shelley teaching crochet in workshops around Victoria and beyond. For those who cannot make a workshop in person, she teaches worldwide via her annual Crochet-A-Long projects through her blog and YouTube channel. There is no doubting Shelley's passion for all things crochet.

You can find Shelley online on most social media channels as spincushions.



More titles by Shelley Husband



Take your beginner crochet skills to the next level with Granny Square Academy.

If you:

- can crochet a traditional granny square, but can't read a pattern
- taught yourself to crochet, but aren't quite sure if you're doing it right, or
- know what you're doing but want to brush up on your skills, then Granny Square Academy is for you!

Inside, you'll find everything you need to make your crochet the best it can be. You'll learn:

- how to read a written pattern
- how to crochet seamlessly
- how to work new stitches
- how to work new techniques
- how to change colours
- how to join squares
- how to work out how much yarn you need for a granny square project
- and LOTS more.

Granny Square Academy teaches you the why as well as the how, using ten different granny square patterns. Each new pattern helps you build on your skills from lesson to lesson. You will soon be applying the things you learn to any crochet project with confidence.

More titles by Shelley Husband



ISBN 978-0-6485640-7-2

