

FREE GIFT! STITCH MARKERS

**PICK UP
A HOOK
TODAY!**

How to crochet
Your complete guide

INSPIRING PROJECTS
for Creative Crocheters

crochet

Inside

20

GORGEOUS PATTERNS

From beginner to expert

Cosy Crochet

Snuggle up with our
must-hook projects

**NEW
TECHNIQUE**



FABULOUS FLOWERS
Join-as-you-go retro blanket

**ADORABLE
AMIGURUM!**



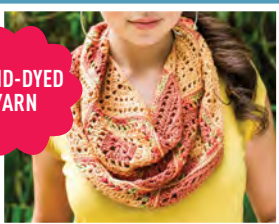
SMILE PLEASE!
Create a cheery doorstep

**QUICK
& EASY**



BEAUTIFUL BABY
Hook these tiny booties today

**HAND-DYED
YARN**



AUTUMN DAYS
Motif scarf in luxurious pure silk



OH-SO-STYLISH

Simple stripes with a
stunning shawl collar

TRICK OR TREAT!
Spooky Halloween makes



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£4.99 ISSUE 70



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BOOK 1



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www.purplelindacrafts.co.uk

inside **crochet**

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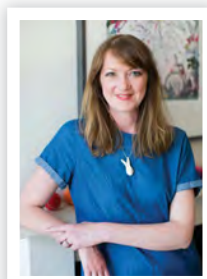
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Welcome



Halloween is just around the corner and this month we're bringing you a selection of projects with varying degrees of spookiness! If you or your children enjoy getting into the Halloween spirit we have some "frightful" designs you'll love, including my personal favourite, Emma Friedlander-Collins' Day of the Dead wig. This perfect dressing up piece is so versatile. It works for both adults and children, and if you wear the

beautiful removable floral crown by itself, you'll have a fabulous summer accessory too. This is definitely the outfit I will be wearing to answer the door to trick or treaters this year!

Moving on from Halloween, we also have some gorgeous creations that capture a different sort of autumnal spirit, including our stunning cover piece by Deborah Stuart. The striking shape of this hat is inspired by the Art Deco period, but we think it is bang up to date.

Finally, you may have noticed a new addition to the cover this issue. Over the next few months we are going to be rewarding our readers with some gorgeous free gifts. This month's offering is a set of very pretty lockable stitch markers. I have been using my preview set already, as you will be able to see in my mini masterclass on how best to use your new markers on page 82 and also in my accompanying apple doorstep pattern on page 85. Next issue, keep an eye out for some beautiful teardrop marking pins, and stay tuned for more wonderful surprises in the upcoming months!

Claire x

Claire Montgomerie, Editor



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 www.facebook.com/insidecrochet
 @insidecrochet



11

Inside Crochet CONTENTS

ISSUE 70



98



36



26

82
Expert tips
and tricks
for your free
markers



NEWS & REVIEWS

06 IN THE LOOP

Read about beautiful new yarns, another irresistible blanket crochet-along and our favourite shops and bloggers, plus stunning new design collections out now.

09 YARN REVIEWS

Fill your stash with Claire Montgomerie's top picks of aran and chunky weight yarns to complement this season's wardrobe.

11 OFF THE HOOK

Add a scary flair to your home this October, from cute cups to floating tables, spooky embellishments and tasty treats.

12 BOOK REVIEWS

Discover big hooks and chunky makes, toys with moveable parts and catwalk crochet, plus all the stitches you could ever need.

FEATURES

14 COLOUR & CREATIVITY

Nicki Trench discovers the seasonal foundations of Halloween and shares her pattern for trick or treat bags.

26 STUDIO STYLE

We chat with Susan Cropper from famous London store Loop about yarn choices, craft communities and their 10-year anniversary.

82 USING STITCH MARKERS

Learn where and how to use this month's free stitch marker gift set, then have a go at hooking our cute apple doorstop.

98 FINAL THOUGHT

Emma Friedlander-Collins talks to us about crocheting on big hooks, designing costumes for children and the inspiration behind her designs.



6




PUMPKIN TREAT BAG
 Try circular crochet with Nikki Trench's top tips
PAGE 15



52



44



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REGULARS

- 55 BACK ISSUES**
 Just found *Inside Crochet* and wish you'd got it earlier? Order some back issues to see what you've missed!
- 58 SUBSCRIPTIONS**
 Never miss an issue by getting your magazine delivered straight to your door – sign up for an *Inside Crochet* subscription today.
- 87 NEXT ISSUE**
 Next month we've got cosy homewares, winter fashion, stunning garments and much more!
- 89 HOW TO CROCHET**
 Our simple guide is perfect as a refresher for a forgotten stitch, or to help teach a friend to crochet.

Make it



36 Petra Cardigan



40 Tunisian Cowl



42 Tassel Hat



44 Bunting Necklace



46 Medina Cowl



48 Daphne Top



52 Day of the Dead



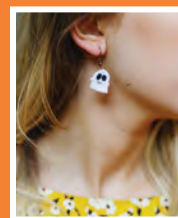
54 Faux Knit Cushion



57 Kelpie Scarflet



61 Fan Stitch Cardigan



64 Halloween Charms



66 Boy's Striders



68 Halloween House



73 Bette Blanket



74 Market Shopper



78 Puffer Fish



85 Apple Doorstop and Toy



IN THE LOOP



BLOGS | REVIEWS | WEBSITES | EVENTS | INTERVIEWS



Where's Woolly? **

The Sheep Shop in Cambridge is running a fun competition to win two balls of Purl Alpaca Designs yarn, plus a pattern. To enter, you just need to take a photo of yourself or friends in front of a street sign that is wool, yarn or fibre related. Silly poses are encouraged!

www.sheepshopcambridge.co.uk

Closing date is Friday 30 October. Photos must include a person (or toy if you're shy!) and be submitted via The Sheep Shop Facebook page. UK residents only. See The Sheep Shop website for full competition rules.

[SHOPS WE LOVE]

Outback Yarns

This fun and friendly shop in Castle Douglas, south-west Scotland stocks a large range of yarns for all budgets, including Debbie Bliss, DMC, King Cole, Patons, Rowan and Sirdar. They sell Knit Pro's colourful Waves crochet hooks plus a great selection of haberdashery and accessories. You can also order online with free delivery when you spend more than £20.

www.outbackyarns.co.uk



[NEW BOOK]

Edward's Menagerie is back!



✦ Kerry Lord of yarn company TOFT took the crochet world by storm with her book *Edward's Menagerie*, a gorgeous selection of adorable crochet animals. Well she's done it again with the follow-up, a collection of more than 40 crocheted birds that range from wood pigeons to penguins via peacocks, eagles and many more!

Designs are organised by difficulty and are all worked in TOFT's pure wool DK yarn, in a gorgeous dyed range of colours. As always the patterns are clear and detailed, with labelled photos and standard body parts that are adapted for each design.

£15.99, www.thetoftalpacashop.co.uk

WIN! Would you like a tour of the TOFT alpaca farm in Warwickshire?

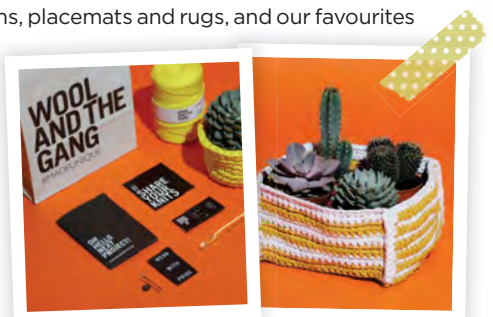
Head to www.insidcrochet.co.uk/competitions for your chance to win a family ticket for a Wednesday afternoon farm tour, redeemable in the next 12 months. Closing date 22 October.

CHUNKY HOMEWARES

✦ Fashion knitwear brand Wool And The Gang has launched a fabulous range of crochet designs. The company has a fun and simple approach to design, and the crochet collection uses chunky yarns, big hooks and bright colours for instant gratification and style for your home. Designs use WATG's Jersey Be Good yarn, a "t-shirt" cotton made from factory offcuts. The collection includes cushions, placemats and rugs, and our favourites are these sturdy striped boxes - combine with some pot plants for an easy but personal new home gift.

Creative Director Jade Harwood says the designs are "inspired by 70s Americana." Head to the WATG site to see the rest of the collection.

www.woolandthegang.com





[HAND-DYED YARNS]

Gorgeous gradients

➔ We're big fans of hand-dyed yarns, with the amazing depth and variations they can bring to yarn colourways. WooSheeps is a yarn company based in south west Scotland, where Neil Paice dyes a gorgeous selection of wools in deep, intense colourways. We particularly love these gradient sets, which are a collection of five 50g skeins of yarn in stunning graduated colours. The sets come in two yarn bases; Angus, a Merino/nylon sock yarn, and Dick, a 100% Blue-faced Leicester 4ply.

Turn to page 57 for Shirley MacDonald's pretty scarf design in WooSheeps yarn.

From £30, www.woosheeps.co.uk

WE LOVE...

This glorious limited edition yarn from Blacker Yarns. Tin is a bouncy blend of natural fibres available in a 4ply or DK weight and launched to celebrate Blacker's 10th anniversary.

www.blackeryarns.co.uk



[CROCHET-ALONG]

Beautiful blanket

➔ Yarn store Black Sheep Wools has joined forces with crochet blogger Sandra Paul of Cherry Heart to launch its first crochet-along. Beginning on 22 September, this stunning striped blanket is worked over six weeks, with a new part of the pattern released each week with an easy-to-follow tutorial.

You can choose from two pretty colour schemes – the Cherry Heart colourway in Rico Design Baby Classic DK, or Black Sheep Wool's choice of colours in Stylecraft Special DK. Either way, you'll have a gorgeous blanket sure to find pride of place in your home.

www.blacksheepwools.com



DIARY

25-27 SEPTEMBER
CREATE AND RELAX

* Join Daisy of Devon Sun Yarns for a weekend of creativity and dyeing in Lyme Regis. £325 including food, accommodation and materials.

www.devonsunyarns.co.uk

26-27 SEPTEMBER
YARDALE

* Browse the best in yarns, fibres, and artworks, plus demonstrations and workshops. Tickets from £8, held at Skipton Auction Mart.

www.yardale.co.uk

2 OCTOBER
3 BAGS FULL WOOL MARKET

* Join designers Tina Barrett and Anniken Allis in Liskeard, Cornwall between 4-8pm, for workshops, demonstrations and yarn shopping.

www.3bagsfull.org

7-11 OCTOBER
THE KNITTING & STITCHING SHOW

* Head to Alexandra Palace for this annual show that's packed with exhibitors, workshops and more. Tickets from £13 in advance.

www.theknittingandstitchingshow.com



24 OCTOBER
DARTMOOR KNITTING AND CROCHET RETREAT

* One-day retreat in beautiful Dartmoor with designer Belinda Harris-Reid and *Inside Crochet* technical editor Rachel Vowles. £90.

www.womenwithwool.co.uk

23-26 OCTOBER
GWLANA KNITTING RETREAT

* Join podcaster Brenda Dayne and indie yarn dyer Caerthan Wrack in Pembrokeshire for workshops and Sunday marketplace. £675 for single room including all meals.

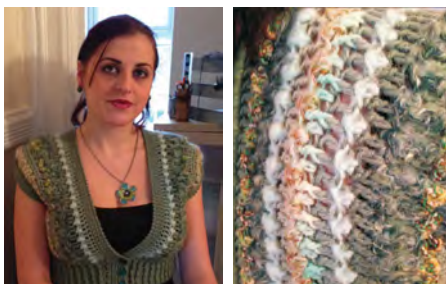
www.womenwithwool.co.uk

WORKSHOPS

SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER
IMPROVERS CROCHET

* This London workshop covers bobbles, picots and shell stitches plus reading patterns and charts, and more. £45, 10am-1pm.

www.loopknitting.com



[PATTERN COLLECTION]
Tips and tricks

➔ Crochet designer Pauline Turner has launched a new pattern collection, with each design also aiming to teach something new. Hug-me-tight (above) is a stylish shrug that shows you how to use up oddments of yarns, bringing them together for a cohesive look, while Starburst is a decoration that comes with tips on tension and adapting the design into a tree hanging or bowl. Each leaflet also comes with a fun “designer label” to sew into your project for a professional finish. www.crochet.co.uk

[NEW TO CROCHET] ***
Getting hooked

Beginner crocheter Caroline Bawn continues her crochet journey...



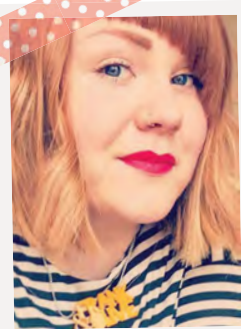
➔ “I’m making progress! My first three-star pattern and my first crochet garment! I have made the Lace Peplum Top by Simone Francis from issue 42, using Nurturing Fibres

Eco Cotton. The pattern itself uses half trebles and trebles, the shaping was easy, and it fits beautifully.

“I have adapted the peplum slightly, (as I’m a bit ‘hippy’) and used the first round of the peplum for the whole of the peplum section, and then finished off with two rows of half trebles. I think crochet is much more adaptable than knitting. The top now flares gently and I can’t wait to wear it on our holiday.”



Read more at www.insidecrochet.co.uk and visit Caroline’s shop at www.gorgeouslyarns.co.uk.



[CAREERS]
CROCHET
ENTREPRENEURS

We chat to Inside Crochet designer and crochet teacher Ruby McGrath.

www.frankandolivecrochet.com

Designer Ruby McGrath lives near York with her fiancé, Pete, and two young children, Frank and Olive. She runs her business from home while bringing up her children. And it’s not just any business: “I design for top magazines and yarn companies, as well as owning my own clothing label, Frank&Olive, teaching crochet and hosting luxury crochet retreats,” explains Ruby.

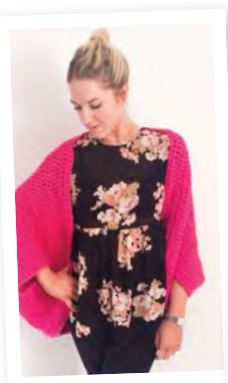
Ruby taught herself to crochet as an adult, when she was pregnant with Olive. “I really wanted to make her things that were made with the love that I had for her – it was a great way to help with the excitement of waiting for my first child to arrive!” She had originally studied illustration at university, then worked at a fair trade shop after returning home. “I had every intention of returning to the shop after my maternity leave ended,” Ruby says, “but the business had started to grow so much, and I quickly realised that I didn’t have to go back.”

Ruby’s designs are distinctive, with a bold, contemporary style and plenty of colour. “I can look at a ball of wool and instantly see what it could be made into,” she says. “I also think that my children are wonderful sources of inspiration. I enjoy following current trends and find a lot of inspiration from famous designers, as well as on the high street.”

Many parents find that running their own business works well around raising young children – though self-employment

can be demanding, it’s easier to get motivated when you’re working for yourself, and being able to set your own hours around your family is ideal. “I love that I have the freedom to follow my own instincts and truly take pride in what I do,” says Ruby. “I have a good work/family balance, so I don’t have to miss out on the children. I have recently brought my friend Kimberley on board too, to help with the running of the business, so I’m lucky to be working with my best friend – we have so much fun.”

And now Ruby’s also moving into the world of crochet retreats, teaching others her crochet skills while they get away from the stresses of everyday life. “Due to the success of Frank&Olive and our workshops, I decided to run luxury crochet retreats,” she explains. “I thought it would be a wonderful opportunity for crocheters to get away from it all, with a weekend of relaxation, luxury accommodation, delicious home-cooked food, crochet, prosecco (of course), loads of designer yarns and exclusive workshops. To my amazement, the first retreat sold out in just over a week and I had to quickly add more dates to meet demand. We have some amazing sponsors, including Rowan and Wool And The Gang, and some special surprise guests running exclusive workshops just for us. I’m so excited and can’t wait to kick back and crochet! You can find more info at www.thecrochetretreat.co.uk.”



[YARN REVIEW]

Add to your stash

WORDS CLAIRE MONTGOMERIE



Rowan Super Fine Merino Aran

Gorgeously soft, smooth and plump, this yarn is lightweight and comfortable to wear next to the skin, making it perfect for practical yet sumptuous garments. It is available in a range of deep wintery shades and the Merino fibre keeps you cool when it is hot outside and warm when it is cold, making it a perfect choice for autumnal projects to take you through to winter.



100% wool • 50g/85m/93yds
£5.79 from www.deramores.com

Patons Wool Aran

This is a great quality yarn for the price – a soft, squishy, 100% wool that works up quickly and with little fuss, and it will be a great core yarn for your stash this season. It has an obvious twist and a gentle drape, creating an attractive fabric. The palette contains strong shades which will add a splash of colour to your winter wardrobe.



100% wool • 50g/85m/93yds
£2.95 from www.loveknitting.com

Louisa Harding Amitola Grande

This chunky weight yarn retains all the beauty of the original DK version. It is a loosely spun roving construction, making it easy to hook, while the fibre composition is velvety soft. Amitola Grande is a self-stripping yarn that gently meanders through the colours, with the hairiness of the yarn lending a hazy quality.



80% wool/20% silk • 100g/250m/273yds
£12.99 from www.blacksheepwools.com

Noro A La Mode

Unusually for Noro, A La Mode comes in solid shades, making it a great choice for working in tandem with some of Noro's variegated yarns. A La Mode has a very familiar construction – Noro's tried and tested single ply with a felted appearance, spun slightly unevenly for a rustic finish. The thread is very strong for a roving yarn, and creates a crisp, lightweight fabric.



65% wool/25% mohair/10% polyamide
50g/100m/109yds
£6.95 via www.designeryarns.uk.com

Debbie Bliss Roma Weave

At *Inside Crochet* we are big fans of Debbie Bliss's Roma, so the addition of a tweed palette to the base yarn is a welcome one. The usual Roma construction – the pleasingly squashy, chubby yarn with an obvious twist – is now available in a range of multi-tonal heathered shades, which will add a striking beauty to your cosy crocheted accessories this season.



70% wool/30% alpaca • 100g/80m/87yds
£8.95 from www.lovecrochet.com

[QUESTION TIME]  

WE ASKED OUR READERS...

Have you ever crocheted anything for Halloween?

Don't forget, we are now offering a free one-year subscription to *Inside Crochet* for our favourite response on Facebook or Twitter, so send us your comments!

WINNER! TAMMY GAFFNEY

➔ Last fall I decided to make a few dishcloths for Halloween treats for my family. So I just started to crochet candy corn triangles. After making a few, when they were laid out on the table, I had the great idea to sew them together and make a scarf!

(Top lateral thinking Tammy!

– *Inside Crochet* team)

➔ **Seren Dips:** *I make crochet cobweb garden trellises from polypropylene twine. They can just be used as outside decoration as well as they are water resistant and rot resistant!*

➔ **Pingo – The Pink Penguin:** *I crochet pumpkins in different sizes and some scary spiders.*

➔ **Tina Harvey:** *My house is being taken over more each Halloween by all things scary. I currently have two buntings, several little ghosts and I'm currently making Alan Dart's Jack O'Lantern and spooky spider (though they're knitted).*

➔ **Vicky Wootten:** *I made some spider web bunting a few years back, a little witch with a pumpkin and I'm branching out into sewing so I made a couple of padded bags to put sweets in. I'm now on the lookout for something new...*

➔ **Christine Copeland Ouimet:** *A candy corn hat for daughter's first Halloween, and I'll make her a new pumpkin hat.*

FOLLOW!

Check out the blog of Tom van Deijnen to learn about his "Visible Mending Programme". He encourages readers to make precious garments last longer – Tom's site includes inspiration for patching, darning and other repairs.
www.tomofholland.com

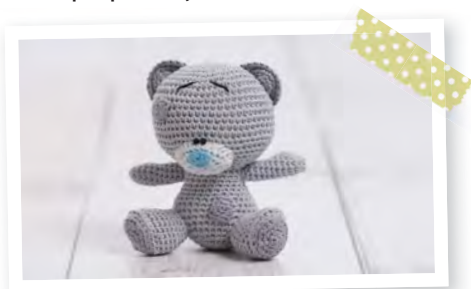
[NEW PATTERNS]

Oh-so-cute!

♦ DMC has launched a new range of “Tatty Teddy” designs, and we think they’re some of the cutest yet! Choose from an adorable amigurumi bear, a huggable cushion and a soft baby blanket. These would make perfect gifts for new parents, or “just because” presents to someone special.

Each pattern is worked in DMC Natura, a pure cotton yarn with a matte finish that’s also machine washable, making it ideal for baby and children’s projects.

£2.50 per pattern, www.dmccreative.co.uk



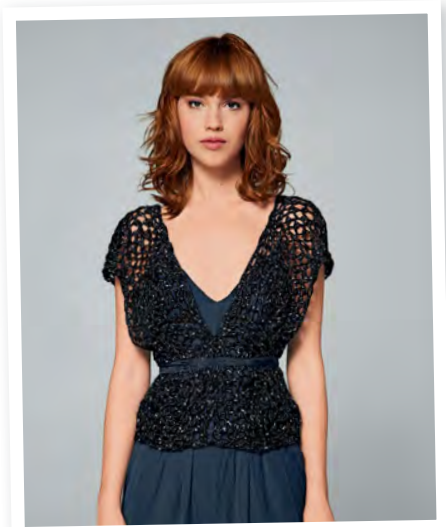
[PATTERN COLLECTION]

Film-star style

♦ Bergère de France has recently launched its latest *CREATIONS 2015-2016* Catalogue, and it includes some stunning crochet designs. Our favourites include the vibrant Short-Sleeved Cardigan, worked in the popular Coton Fifty yarn, and the glamorous Crochet Top (below), which is hooked in metallic polyester and mohair blend yarns.

The catalogue contains more than 100 designs in total, with six crochet patterns. You can order the collection through the Bergère de France website, along with all the yarn you’ll need for any of the designs.

£12, www.bergeredefrance.co.uk



Kathryn Senior

www.crafternoontreats.com

Tell us about yourself... I live in a traditional farmhouse in East Yorkshire that dates back to the mid-1700s. It’s full of character and I love my kitchen, complete with wood-fired range, and the walled garden. Plenty of lovely spots to crochet or catch up on social media.

How long have you been blogging?

I started Crafternoon Treats in April 2014 to write about my rediscovery of crochet and my interest in other creative activities – mainly silversmithing and jewellery design. I saw it as a five-year

fellow crocheter who helps me run the Bagalong With Crafternoon Treats Facebook group. We spent four hours chatting over coffee before the café got fed up with us! I’ve also met with some of the friends I chat with on IG and spent a very happy morning at the Knit and Natter in Skipton with Corine, a Dutch blogger, when she came for holiday.

How did you learn to crochet? I don’t actually remember learning but I was very young – maybe about 11. Unlike knitting, which was always a struggle,

“I liked the idea of having an online journal to chart my creative journey.”

project to get it established but things have moved much faster than I expected, which is great.

What inspired you to start blogging?

I liked the idea of having an online journal to chart my creative journey and I wanted to explore the use of a blog to raise funds for Marie Curie Cancer Care. The fundraising really took off this year when I ran a charity raffle for a community blanket organised by Heather of The Patchwork Heart – everyone got behind it on social media and we raised over £11,000.

Have you made new friends through blogging? Many, yes – mostly virtual friends but I recently met up with Lynne,

crochet came very naturally and by my early 20s I had worked on very intricate lace tablecloths as well as granny square blankets. In the 1980s crochet was a lot more limited in terms of designs and patterns! Career and family then took over and I didn’t pick up a hook again until a few years ago. I was amazed that crochet had become so in vogue! It was a revelation to see how people were using colour in crochet designs. I thought I would have to re-learn but it all came flooding back very quickly. Since then there have not been enough hours in the day to do everything I would like to.

What item in your studio couldn’t you live without? The light. I am lucky to have my own home studio – a large loft over my garage. There’s a full length window at one end and side windows too, so it’s flooded with light. Tools (hooks, yarn, iPhone and Mac) are all essential too.

What are you working on at the moment? So many things! I’m trying to incorporate different crochet techniques to produce some unique and usable bags but with tutorials that will allow loads of people to make them. I’m also teaching myself how to make video tutorials and I’m in the process of setting up a YouTube channel.





Ghost town

£1.06 per pack of four

Sew-on motifs are perfect for embellishing costumes, accessories and decorations.

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Trick of the light

£195

It's floating! This clever illusion table is sure to draw attention at spooky parties.

www.furnish.co.uk



Light up the room

£6

These LED candles provide a ghoulish – and safe! – glow.

www.tch.net

TRICK OR TREAT?

Add some spooky style to your home this October.



Bubble, bubble...

£TBC

A scary tumbler kids will love; fill with "vampiric" cranberry juice.

www.sainsburys.co.uk



Treat yourself

£38.50 for large tin

Munch your way through these spook-tastic iced biscuits this year!

www.biscuiteers.com



Skeleton in your closet?

£12.99

Dress the part on All Hallows' Eve with this skull cardigan by Club L.

www.getthelabel.com



Inspired?

Then try out Lynne Rowe's adorable Kitty Cat dress-up set, from issue 57.

To order back issues turn to page 55

→ BOOKS

WE REVIEW NEW AND EXCITING RELEASES



Designer Crochet

Shannon Mullett-Bowlsby
Photography by Caroline Arber
Lark, £16.99 from www.thegmcgroup.com
US terminology



➤ From stunning long-length lace duster coats to a textured turtleneck poncho, shawl collar cardigan and more, this book is a collection of 32 fashion-conscious designs aimed at those looking for a little more catwalk in their crochet.

Each design is sized from S to 5X, so no matter your shape you're sure to find plenty to suit you here. And all the designs are rated in difficulty from beginner to advanced – if you're new to crocheted garments, start with the Beginner Cardi, worked from simple rectangles with a pretty textured stitch, or the stunning Off-The-Shoulder Dress, which uses simple raglan shaping and a folded-down neckline for a figure-hugging finish in a luxurious hand-dyed yarn. More experienced crocheters are sure to love the Cables And Lace Tunic, with a cabled yoke worked side-to-side, the Motif Maxi Skirt, with its striking lace squares, or the Hooded Wrap Vest (shown above), which combines a feather and fan stitch pattern with a clever construction. The designs are all worked in fine, lightweight yarns, creating light, flexible fabrics that drape beautifully. This is an inspiring collection well worth a space on your shelf.

WE ARE ALSO READING...

Honk! Beep! Vroom!

Cathy Smith
Martingale, £16.99 • US terminology



➤ If you've got kids to hook for, you'll know how much they enjoy colourful, practical toys – and how great it is to see them loving something you hand-made. This fun collection contains designs for eight moveable vehicles, from a police car to a dumper truck. Each toy is constructed from separate pieces that are sewn together, then full instructions are given for adding an axle (made from dowelling) and crocheted wheels so it will really roll along. You can even make steering wheels that really turn, glove compartments that open and more.

Ultimate Crochet Stitch Bible

Collins & Brown, £25 • UK terminology



➤ A treasure trove of stitch patterns, motifs and edgings. This starts with a quick tour of the basics, then moves on to simple stitch combinations and a guide to crochet charts, as these are provided for all the patterns along with full colour photos.

There are 500 stitches in total, covering cables, lace, colourwork and more. This would be a great starting off point for a budding designer or anyone who wants to further explore crochet – simply repeat your favourite pattern into a long scarf or join a few motifs into a blanket. You're sure to be inspired.

Big Hook Crochet

Emma Friedlander-Collins
CICO Books, UK terminology



➤ Sometimes you want to hook something big, chunky and fast – this book is for those times! With 35 designs ranging from slippers and scarves to rugs and cushions,

there's something here to suit everyone. Most of the designs are worked on a 25mm hook with a range of yarns, most of which are held double, triple or even six strands together! We really like the bicycle basket made from strips of a cotton sheet. For a taster, turn to page 54, and turn to page 98 for our interview with Emma.

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Nicki Trench

WOOLLY SCARES

This year Nicki will be celebrating Halloween with a spooky pattern to make scary bags of sweets for trick-or-treaters.

Having recently moved back down to East Sussex from London, I've been reminded of some local traditions. Some are well documented, such as Lewes Bonfire Night or the Jack in the Green Festival in Hastings, but many aren't so well known, such as one of my favourites: the Mayfield Village Blacksmith's Parade, which celebrates the legend of St Dunstan, the patron saint of blacksmiths, and his meeting with the Devil. Drummers and villagers dress in equal numbers as the Devil or blacksmiths and a mythical

"I decorate the house in scary crochet and carve all sizes and shapes of pumpkins"

fight takes place to the sound of loud drumming before an anvil is fired with gunpowder.

I resisted Halloween until I had small children and, under pressure, was made to join in with what I thought was an American commercially-driven affair. After a little research though I discovered that the origin of this festival dates back thousands of years to pagan times. This festival marked the end of the summer and the harvest, and the beginning of the dark cold winter. It symbolised the boundary between the living and the dead and was the night when the spiritual world could make contact with the physical world, so bonfires were lit in each village and candle-lit carved turnips were placed outside houses in order to ward off any evil spirits.

Being the maker and grower that I am, I have tried over the years to engage with the fun and sense of community by decorating the house in scary crochet, growing all shapes and sizes of pumpkins to carve out and tried to make my children look as ugly as I possibly could (it doesn't come naturally). I've

laughed to see them dressed as ghosts, witches and devils, but my biggest laugh was one year when both of my daughters resisted being made ugly so much that we had to dress them up in the only other costumes I could lay my hands on: a Care Bear and a yellow fluffy chick.

This year, without any small children around to dress up, I'm thinking of following in my mother's footsteps. Each year, she and her friend make little crocheted pumpkin bags, fill them with sweets and dress up as witches. When there is a knock at the door, they swiftly swing it open and scream at the mini ghouls. Last year, one poor innocent two-foot high witch sat down in shock when she was screamed at by my mother – something I relate to well.

So, if you can't beat them, join them – try taking a leaf out of my mother's book and dress up as scary as you can, and here is my mother's Halloween crocheted bag pattern for filling up with sweets.



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➔ Nicki holds regular workshops for beginners and intermediate crocheters in London and East Sussex. For more details visit www.nickitrench.com or email nicki@nickitrench.com.



Pumpkin Bag

The perfect accessory for trick or treaters.

MATERIALS

- Debbie Bliss Baby Cashmerino 55% wool/33% acrylic/12% cashmere, 50g/125m/137yds
Yarn A: Orange 92 x 1 ball
- Louisa Harding Cassia, 75% wool/25% nylon, 50g/133m/145yds
Yarn B: Earth 111 x 1 ball
- Debbie Bliss Blue Faced Leicester DK, 100% wool, 50g/108m/118yds
Yarn C: Sage 15 x 1 ball
- 3mm hook

TENSION

Exact tension is not essential for this pattern.

MEASUREMENTS

Finished bag measures 17cm/6¾in in diameter.



BAG SIDE

Make two

Foundation Ring: With Yarn A, make 6ch and join with sl st in first ch to form a ring.

Rnd 1: (RS) 3ch (counts as first tr), 11tr in ring, join with a sl st in top of first 3ch – 12 sts.

Cont in rounds with RS always facing you.

Rnd 2: 3ch, 1tr in same place as last sl st, 2tr in next st and every st to end of round, join with a sl st in top of first 3ch – 24 sts.

Rnd 3: 3ch, 1tr in same place as last

sl st, *1tr in next st, 2tr in each of next 2 sts; rep from * to last 2 sts, 1tr in next st, 2tr in last st, join with a sl st in top of first 3ch – 40 sts.

Rnd 4: 3ch, 1tr in same place as last sl st, *1tr in each of next 3 sts, 2tr in next st; rep from * to last 3 sts, 1tr in each of last 3 sts, join with a sl st in top of first 3ch – 50 sts.

Rnd 5: 3ch, 1tr in same place as last sl st, *1tr in each of next 4 sts, 2tr in next st; rep from * to last 4 sts, 1tr in each of last 4 sts, join with a sl st in top of first 3ch – 60 sts.

Rnd 6: 3ch, 1tr in same place as last sl st, *1tr in each of next 5 sts, 2tr in next st; rep from * to last 5 sts, 1tr in each of last 5 sts, join with a sl st in top of first 3ch – 70 sts.

Rnd 7: 3ch, 1tr in same place as last sl st, *1tr in each of next 6 sts, 2tr in next st; rep from * to last 6 sts, 1tr in each of last 6 sts, join with a sl st in top of first 3ch – 80 sts.

Rnd 8: 3ch, 1tr in same place as last sl st, *1tr in each of next 7 sts, 2tr in next st; rep from * to last 7 sts, 1tr in each of last 7 sts, join with a sl st in top of first 3ch – 90 sts.

With right sides together, join seam leaving 46 stitches open (top opening). Do not fasten off.

TOP EDGING

Turn RS out. Join yarn A in any top opening stitch. 1ch, 1dc in each st around. Join with a sl st in first dc.

Next Row: 1ch, *1dc in each of next 3 sts, dc2tog; rep from * to last st, 1dc in last st, join with a sl st in first st – 37 sts. Fasten off.

HANDLES

Make two

With yarn B, make 71ch, 1dc in second ch from hook, 1dc in each ch to end.

Next 2 Rows: 1ch, 1dc in each st. Fasten off.

Pin and sew each end of handle onto same side on inside of bag. Repeat with other Handle.

SPIRALS

Make two

With yarn C, make 30ch, 2tr in third ch from hook, 2tr in each ch to end. Do not fasten off.

Make 6ch, take hook out of loop on hook, wrap the chain around one handle on the front of the Bag, insert the hook back in the chain, join with a sl st in top of last tr. Fasten off.

Repeat with second Spiral.

END

Nicki's top tips for CROCHETING IN CIRCLES

- ➔ When making a circle from a spiral, use a stitch marker to mark the beginning of each round.
- ➔ **Count your stitches at the end of each round. This may seem time consuming, but I still do it now because it's very easy to miss an increase or a decrease and if you don't have the right amount of stitches at the beginning of each round, it will put your stitch count out for the next round.**
- ➔ If making a large ring where the foundation ring is joined, use a stitch marker in the first stitch of the first round. Check that the ring isn't twisted when you join and check it isn't twisted again after the first round. Go into the top loop of the chain only, this helps it not to twist.
- ➔ **Follow your pattern really carefully. If you are instructed to slip a stitch at the end of each round, put a stitch marker in this stitch because often you will be asked to end the round by joining into the first stitch or slip stitch and this can sometimes be difficult to see.**

To MUSWELL HILL
& HIGHGATE WOOD

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PHOTOGRAPHS **KIRSTEN MAVRIC AND LUCY WILLIAMS** STYLING **CLAIRE MONTGOMERIE**
HAIR AND MAKE-UP **NICKI HENBREY AND JULIA SNOWDON**





Petra Cardigan

by Annelies Baes

Using Lang Yarns

Mille Colori Baby and

Alpaca Superlight

Pattern page 36

A woman with dark hair and red lipstick is shown in a three-quarter view, looking towards the right. She is wearing a dark, speckled Tunisian Cross Stitch Cowl over a yellow and blue patterned scarf. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a brick building and trees.

**Tunisian Cross
Stitch Cowl**

by Sarah Reed

Using West Yorkshire
Spinners Signature 4ply

Pattern page 40



Tassel Hat
by Deborah Stuart
Using Drops Nepal
Pattern page 42

Daphne Top
by Simone Francis
Using Stylecraft Life DK
Pattern page 48





Medina Cowl
by Valerie Bracegirdle
Using Willow Knits
Hand-dyed Silk Worsted
Pattern page 46



Halloween House
by Rosella Tinn
Using Stylecraft
Special Aran
Pattern page 68



Day of the Dead Costume
by Emma Friedlander-Collins
Using Stylecraft Classique
Cotton DK and Robin Chunky
Pattern page 52

Halloween Charms

by Liz Ward

Using Gütermann

Top Stitch Thread

Pattern page 64





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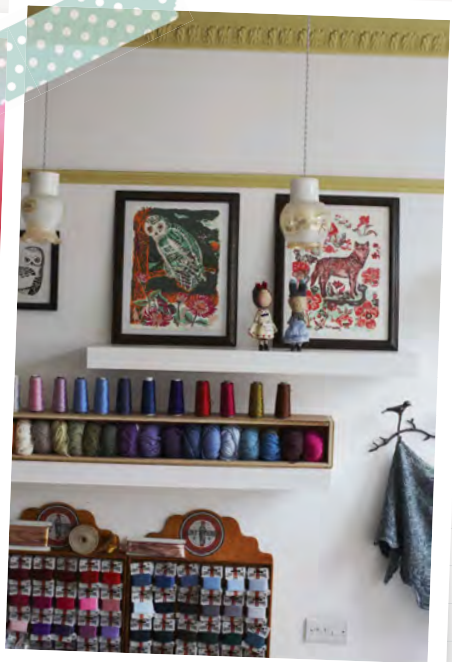
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Susan, owner and "curator" of Loop.



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MY SPACE

Rhian Drinkwater chats to Susan Cropper, owner of London yarn store Loop, about ten years of selling yarn and inspiring designers.

Tell a fellow crocheter you're planning a trip to London, and chances are you'll be told: "Make sure you pop into Loop!" Nestled in a side street in Islington, this yarn boutique has become famous for its luxurious yarn ranges, colourful project samples and fantastic range of patterns and books.

It's also celebrating a very special birthday this year – it's ten years since the shop first opened up its doors to a cold London street.

Susan Cropper is the owner of Loop, and proud to be behind one of the major London landmarks for crocheters and knitters. "I opened Loop in 2005," Susan explains, "as there were no other knitting shops in London that reflected what was going on within the knitting and crochet community – nowhere to buy the gorgeous natural fibres and hand-dyed yarns that I was increasingly seeing. I was art directing on magazines at the time and was going to a lot of Design Fairs and kept seeing more and more beautiful things being made in textiles. So, I thought I would have one beautiful shop that had gorgeous knitting and crochet supplies from all over the world as well as stylish patterns, great

books, an incredible range of classes as well as things made by textile artists all under one roof. It was my chance to, in a way, be a curator of beautiful things."

PASSION FOR CRAFTS

It's something she's certainly succeeded at, with Loop going from strength to strength over the years, as well as building friendships with designers and yarnies from around the world. "We stock

"I wanted a beautiful shop that had gorgeous crochet supplies from all over the world!"

hundreds of colours of Madelinetosh yarn, as well as being the European flagship shop for both Quince & Co and Brooklyn Tweed," says Susan. "We also have some Wollmeise and there are only two other shops in the world to stock their yarn. Everyone that works at Loop is passionate about the craft and happy to be there and help. I think you can feel the joy when you walk in. We're not box shifters just selling yarn – we really live and breathe it and try to pass our enthusiasm on."

Loop has also been the starting point for several careers – both *Inside Crochet* editor Claire Montgomerie and technical editor Rachel Atkinson have worked in the shop. They're also both now contributors to a very special book, *Loop's 10*, launched to celebrate the anniversary.

"*Loop's 10* started with an idea I had on a plane coming back from a trade fair in the States," explains Susan. "I had been reminded of how many wonderfully talented people Loop has been involved with over the ten years. I was hesitant at first as it is such a big endeavour self-publishing a book, but Rachel Atkinson was on the plane with me and convinced me to just do it. So I took the leap and started contacting some of our favourite yarn dyers and companies





to see if they wanted to create a bespoke colour in celebration of the anniversary. At the same time I was asking designers that had been a part of Loop in one way or another over the years if they would like to do a design using those special yarns. Just about everyone responded with an enthusiastic 'Yes!' It took off from there and 18 months later we have a gorgeous book. I'm incredibly proud of it and feel it is a very fitting tribute to our decade."

The book features a range of knitting designs (plus one crocheted garland) by designers including Stephen West, Ysolda Teague and of course Claire and Rachel. Each showcases one of the stunning luxury yarns that Loop has become famous for. But how does Susan choose which yarns to stock, with so many different fibres and dyers now available across the world? "I completely go with my gut instincts," Susan says. "When I first opened Loop a lot of the yarns that we stocked had no European distributor. I did a lot of research and found out who to contact and after lots of calls across the globe I wound up stocking Blue Sky Alpaca and Manos De Uruguay yarns which no one had sold in England. If I see something that makes my heart race a little, then we try and get it in the shop. I'm also crazy about colour so it is important to me that the yarn comes in a beautiful range of shades."

Susan is originally from New York, where she studied textile design at the Fashion Institute of Technology, then graphic design at the School of Visual Arts. For many years she worked as a magazine designer and art director in London while she raised her three children. But for ten years now she's been the force behind Loop, a change of career she's loved. "It's quite incredible really," she says. "I am so honoured that we have such a wealth of supportive and enthusiastic customers.

The craft community has changed a lot over the ten years and I feel blessed that we are still part of it and that we continue to find gorgeous yarns and work with very talented designers from all over the world."

A typical day starts early in the morning. "I wake up and listen to Radio 4 while I check my email, Instagram, Pinterest and Ravelry boards and have tea in bed," says Susan. "I then answer emails and get ready to go to the shop. Sometimes I have to make stops on the way to pick up printed patterns from the printer or other bits. The shop is often very busy with customers, deliveries, things that need to be photographed or samples to be made. When I come home I often don't 'switch off' until around 9-10pm as there are things to be logged in or dealt with. It takes a lot of work to get those beauties on the shelves! These past six months have been particularly hectic as there has been the book, the redesign of our website and all the plans for the anniversary. I love it all though and make sure I take good breaks a few times a year."



Susan is "crazy about colour", as you'll see by Loop's shelves!

You can order *Loop's 10* (£20) from www.loopknittingshop.com, or visit the shop at 15 Camden Passage, Islington, London, N1 8EA.

Inspirations!

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STYLING CLAIRE MONTGOMERIE



Apple Doorstop and Toy
by Claire Montgomerie
Using DMC Natura or Natura XL
Pattern page 85



ABOVE

Kelpie Scarflet by Shirley MacDonald
Using WooSheeps Superwash BFL Sock Weight
Pattern page 57



ABOVE RIGHT

Market Shopper by Red Sparrow Crochet
Using Drops Cotton Light
Pattern page 74

BELOW
Bunting Necklace by Liz Ward
Using Gütermann Top Stitch Thread
Pattern page 44

BELOW LEFT
Fan Stitch Cardigan by Anna Wilkinson
Using BC Garn Semilla Grosso
Pattern page 61





ABOVE

Bette Blanket by Jennifer Reid
Using Cascade Yarns 220 Superwash
Pattern page 73

ABOVE RIGHT

Faux Knit Cushion by Emma Friedlander-Collins
Using Red Heart Shimmer and
Wool And The Gang Crazy Sexy Wool
Pattern page 54



BELOW

Boy's Striders by Shehnaaz Afzar
Using Loops & Threads Impeccable
Pattern page 66

BELOW LEFT

Puffer Fish by Vanessa Mooncie
Using Bergère de France Idéal
Pattern page 78



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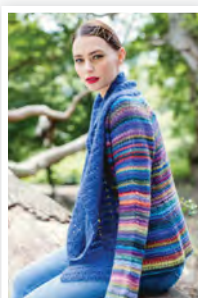
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ADVANCED



Petra Cardigan

Annelies Baes
Page 36



Tunisian Cross Stitch Cowl

Sarah Reed
Page 40



Tassel Hat

Deborah Stuart
Page 42



Bunting Necklace

Liz Ward
Page 44



Medina Cowl

Valerie Bracegirdle
Page 46



Daphne Top

Simone Francis
Page 48



Day of the Dead Costume

Emma Friedlander-Collins
Page 52



Faux Knit Cushion

Emma Friedlander-Collins
Page 54



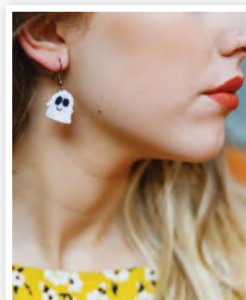
Kelpie Scarflet

Shirley MacDonald
Page 57



Fan Stitch Cardigan

Anna Wilkinson
Page 61



Halloween Charms

Liz Ward
Page 64



Boy's Striders

Shehnaaz Afzar
Page 66



Halloween House

Rosella Tinn
Page 68



Bette Blanket

Jennifer Reid
Page 73



Market Shopper

Red Sparrow Crochet
Page 74



Puffer Fish

Vanessa Mooncie
Page 78



Apple Doorstop

Claire Montgomerie
Page 85



Petra Cardigan

BY ANNELIES BAES

A feminine cardigan with a large soft collar, refined waist shaping and long sleeves.



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MATERIALS

- Lang Yarns Mille Colori Baby, 100% wool, 50g/190m/208yds
Yarn A: Shade 050 x 8 (9, 10, 11, 13) balls
- Lang Yarns Alpaca Superlight, 54% alpaca/24% nylon/22% Merino wool, 25g/199m/218yds
Yarn B: Denim 10 x 2 balls
- 3.5mm hook
- Scissors
- Yarn needle

YARN ALTERNATIVES

For the body of the cardigan, you can use any 4ply yarn weight, although we advise a yarn with a bit of structure to obtain the fluid shape and draping.

For the large collar you can use laceweight yarn with alpaca, mohair, or other soft and fluffy fibres. Make sure the yarn is very lightweight and airy, for the light, fluffy effect.

TENSION

Work 19 sts and 19 rows in Seed Stitch pattern to measure 10 x 10cm/4 x 4in using 3.5mm hook, or size required to obtain tension.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Annelies Baes believes crocheted clothing is beautiful, comfortable and a way to express ourselves. Visit her website at www.vicarno.com and view more of her designs at www.ravelry.com/designers/vicarnos-mama.

SPECIAL STITCH PATTERNS

A: [1tr, 1ch, 1tr] in ch-sp.

Seed Stitch (SS)

Seed stitch is always worked with an uneven number of stitches.

Start every row with 2ch (counts as 1tr – to give neater edge than normal 3ch) and end every row with 1dc. Always work 1tr in 1dc and 1dc in 1tr of previous row.

Row 1: 2ch (counts as 1tr), 1dc in next st, [1tr in 1 st, 1dc in next st] to end.

Row 2: 2ch (counts as 1tr), 1dc in next tr, [1tr in next dc, 1dc in next tr] to end of row.

Rep row 2 remembering to always work 1dc in 1tr or 1tr in 1dc.

ST: Work stated number of stitches in Seed Stitch but work

the first of these sts as a dc.
Shell (S): [2tr, 1ch, 2tr] all in one stitch

PATTERN NOTES

Worked from top down.

The Sleeves are worked in rounds, closing in first st with sl st (no turning chains). 1ch at beg of round does not count as a st, work dc in same st as 1ch. 2ch at beg of round does not count as a st, but depending on how SS is worked you sometimes work tr in same st as 2ch, sometimes work dc in next st. This is indicated in the pattern.

START CARDIGAN

Work 59 (61, 69, 69, 69)ch.

Row 1: (RS) 1htr in third ch from hook, **A** (see *Special Stitch Patterns*) in 1ch, beg with 1dc work **ST** (see *Special Stitch Patterns*) in foll 11 (11, 13, 13,

13)ch, **A** in next ch, beg with 1dc work **ST** in next 29 (31, 35, 35, 35)ch, **A** in next ch, beg with 1dc work **ST** in next 11 (11, 13, 13, 13) ch, **A** in next ch, end with 1htr in last ch, turn.

Row 2: (WS) 2ch, 1htr in first st, 1dc in next st, **A** in ch-sp, 13 (13, 15, 15, 15) **ST**, **A**, 31 (33, 37, 37, 37) **ST**, **A**, 13 (13, 15, 15, 15) **ST**, **A**, to last 2 sts, 1dc in next 2htr, turn (leaving 2ch unworked).

Row 3: 2ch, 1dc in first st, 1tr in next st, 1dc in next st, **A**, 15 (15, 17, 17, 17) **ST**, **A**, 33 (35, 39, 39, 39) **ST**, **A**, 15 (15, 17, 17, 17) **ST**, **A**, 1dc, 1tr, 1dc, turn.

Row 4: 2ch, 3**ST**, **A**, 17 (17, 19, 19, 19) **ST**, **A**, 35 (37, 41, 41, 41) **ST**, **A**, 17 (17, 19, 19, 19) **ST**, **A**, 3**ST**, [1tr, 1dc] in last st, turn.

Row 5: 2ch in first st, 5**ST**, **A**, 19 (19, 21, 21, 21) **ST**, **A**, 37 (39, 43, 43, 43) **ST**, **A**, 19 (19, 21, 21, 21) **ST**, **A**, 3**ST**, [1tr, 1dc] in last st, turn.

Row 6: 2ch in first st, 5**ST**, **A**, 21 (21, 23, 23, 23) **ST**, **A**, 39 (41, 45, 45, 45) **ST**, **A**, 21 (21, 23, 23, 23) **ST**, **A**, 5**ST**, [1tr, 1dc] in last st, turn.

Rows 7–24 (26, 28, 32, 34):

Work as set, starting each row with 2ch which counts as first st. You now have 25 (27, 29, 33, 35) sts for each Front, 57 (61, 67, 75, 79) sts for each Sleeve, 75 (81, 89, 97, 105) sts for the Back with each section separated by [1htr, 1ch, 1htr].

Raglan shaping now complete.

Cont as folls:

Row 25 (27, 29, 33, 35): 26 (28, 30, 34, 36) **ST**, 1htr in **A**, 59 (63, 69, 77, 81) **ST**, 1htr in **A**, 77 (83, 91, 99, 107) **ST**, 1htr in **A**, 59 (63, 69, 77, 81) **ST**, 1htr in **A**, 25 (27, 29, 33, 35) **ST**, turn – 250 (268, 292, 324, 344) sts.

Work in plain **SS** (see *Special Stitch Patterns*) as folls:

Rows 26–28 (28–30, 30–32, 34–36, 36–40): Seed St to end, turn.

DIVIDE FOR SLEEVES

Row 29 (31, 33, 37, 41): Work 26 (28, 30, 34, 36) **ST** (Right Front), miss next 60 (64, 70, 78, 82) **ST**, (Sleeve 1), 79 (85, 93, 101, 109) **ST** (Back), miss next 60 (64, 70, 78, 82) **ST**, (Sleeve 2), 26 (28, 30, 34, 36) **ST** (Left Front), turn – 130 (140, 152, 168, 180) **ST**.

Cont on Front and Back parts only, leaving Sleeves unworked for now.

Rows 30–44 (32–46, 34–50, 38–56, 42–60): Seed St to end, turn – 130 (140, 152, 168, 180) **ST**.

SHAPE WAIST (DECREASE)

Row 45 (47, 51, 57, 61): (Dec) 23 (25, 27, 31, 33) **ST**, dc2tog, 2dc, dc2tog, 72 (78, 86, 94, 102) **ST**, dc2tog, 2dc, dc2tog, 23 (25,



27, 31, 33)ST, turn – 126 (136, 148, 164, 176)ST.

Row 46 (48, 52, 58, 62): SS to end, turn.

Row 47 (49, 53, 59, 63): (Dec) 22 (24, 26, 30, 32)ST, htr2tog, 2htr, htr2tog, beg with a tr work 70 (76, 84, 92, 100)ST, htr2tog, 2htr, htr2tog, beg with a tr work 22 (24, 26, 30, 32)ST, turn – 122 (132, 144, 160, 172)ST.

Row 48 (50, 54, 60, 64): SS to end, turn.

Row 49 (51, 55, 61, 65): (Dec) 21 (23, 25, 29, 31)ST, dc2tog, 2dc, dc2tog, 68 (74, 82, 90, 98) ST, dc2tog, 2dc, dc2tog, 21 (22, 25, 29, 31)ST, turn – 118 (128, 140, 156, 168)ST.

Row 50 (52, 56–58, 62–64, 66–68): SS to end, turn.

SHAPE WAIST (INCREASE)

Row 51 (53, 59, 65, 69): (Inc) 21 (23, 25, 29, 31)ST, 2dc in next st, 2dc, 2dc in next st, 68 (74, 82, 90, 98)ST, 2dc in next st, 2dc,

2dc in next st, 21 (23, 25, 29, 31) ST, turn – 122 (132, 144, 160, 172)ST.

Rows 52–54 (54–56, 60–62, 66–68, 70–72): SS to end, turn.

Row 55 (57, 63, 69, 73): (Inc) 22(24, 26, 30, 32)ST, 2htr in next st, 2htr, 2htr in next st, beg with 1tr work 70 (76, 84, 92, 100)ST, 2htr in next st, 2htr, 2htr in next st, 22 (24, 26, 30, 32)ST, turn – 126 (136, 148, 164, 176)ST.

Rows 56–58 (58–60, 64–66, 70–72, 74–76): SS to end, turn.

Row 59 (61, 67, 73, 77): (Inc) 23 (25, 27, 31, 33)ST, 2dc in next st, 2dc, 2dc in next st, 72 (78, 86, 94, 102)ST, 2dc in next st, 2dc, 2dc in next st, 23 (25, 27, 31, 33)ST, turn – 130 (140, 152, 168, 180)ST.

Rows 60–62 (62–64, 68–70, 74–76, 78–80): SS to end, turn.

Row 63 (65, 71, 77, 81): (Inc) 24 (26, 28, 32, 34) ST, 2htr in next st, 2htr, 2htr in next st, beg with 1tr work 74 (80, 88, 96, 104)ST, 2htr in next st, 2htr, 2htr in next st, 24(26, 28, 32, 34)ST, turn

– 134 (144, 156, 172, 184)ST.

Rows 64–66 (66–68, 72–74, 78–80, 82–84): SS to end, turn.

Row 67 (69, 75, 81, 85): (Inc) 25 (27, 29, 33, 35)ST, 2dc in next st, 2dc, 2dc in next st, 76(82, 90, 98, 106)ST, 2dc in next st, 2dc, 2dc in next st, 25 (27, 29, 33, 35) ST, turn – 138 (148, 160, 176, 188)ST.

Rows 68–70 (70–72, 76–78, 82–84, 86–88): SS to end, turn.

Row 71 (73, 79, 85, 89) (inc): 26 (28, 30, 34, 36)ST, 2htr in next st, 2htr, 2htr in next st, beg with 1tr work 78 (84, 92, 100, 108)ST, 2htr in next st, 2htr, 2htr in next st, 26 (28, 30, 34, 36)ST, turn – 142 (152, 164, 180, 192)ST.

Rows 72–78 (74–80, 80–86, 86–94, 90–98): SS to end, turn.

Row 79 (81, 87, 95, 99): (Inc) 27 (29, 31, 35, 37)ST, 2dc in next st, 2dc, 2dc in next st, 80 (86, 94, 102, 110)ST, 2dc in next st, 2dc, 2dc in next st, 27 (29, 31, 35, 37)ST, turn – 146 (156, 168, 184, 196)ST.

Rows 80–87 (82–91, 88–97, 96–105, 100–111): SS to end, turn.

Cut yarn and fasten off.

EDGING

With yarn B, rejoin yarn with sl st along RS in same row as last row.

Rows 88–92 (92–96, 98–102, 106–110, 112–116): 1ch, dc in every st, turn – 146 (156, 168, 184, 196)dc. Fasten off.

COLLAR

With RS facing and yarn B, join yarn with sl st at bottom front edge.

Row 1: (RS) Work in dc along Right Front, across Back neckline and down Left Front, turn.

Row 2: (WS) 3ch (counts as 1tr), miss next dc, **Shell** (see *Special Stitch Patterns*) in next dc, [miss 3dc, Shell in next dc] around to last 2dc, miss 1dc, 1tr in last st, turn. (If necessary, adjust by missing 1dc less or more to achieve



correct number of dc required).

Row 3: 3ch, Shell in every ch-sp of previous Shell to end working 1tr in third ch, turn.

Rep row 3 a further 12 (12, 16, 16, 20) times.

Cut yarn, fasten off.

SLEEVES

You will notice at the underarm part another 4 sts before and after the missed sleeve stitches. Work in these sts too.

Join yarn with sl st at underarm.

Rnd 1: 2ch, (counts as 1tr), beg with dc, work in SS around sleeve opening. Close rnd in first dc, turn – 63 (67, 73, 81, 85)SS.

Rnd 2: 1ch, beg with dc work in SS, close in first dc, turn – 62 (66, 72, 80, 84)SS.

Rnd 3: As rnd 2 – 61 (65, 71, 79, 83)SS.

Rnd 4: 2ch, beg with dc work in SS, close in first dc, turn – 60 (64, 70, 78, 82)SS.

Rnds 5–7: Rep rnds 2–4, turn – 57 (61, 67, 75, 79)SS.

Rnd 8: 2ch, 1tr in first st, SS around, close in first tr, turn – 57 (61, 67, 75, 79)SS.

Rnds 9–11: Rep last three rnds – 55 (59, 65, 73, 77)SS.

Rnds 12 & 13: Rep last two rnds – 54 (58, 64, 72, 76)SS.

Rnds 14–26 (14–28, 14–30, 14–32, 14–34): SS around.

Rnd 27 (29, 31, 33, 35): 1ch, SS around, close in first dc, turn – 53 (57, 63, 71, 75)SS.

Rnds 28–30 (30–32, 32–34, 34–36, 36–38): SS around.

Rnds 31–46 (33–52, 35–58, 37–72, 39–78): Rep last four rnds another four (five, six, nine, ten) times – 49 (52, 57, 62, 65)SS.

Rnd 47 (53, 59, 73, 79): 1ch, SS around, close in first dc, turn – 48 (51, 56, 61, 64)SS.

Rnds 48–63 (54–69, 60–77, 74–83, 80–89): SS around.

Cut yarn and fasten off.

SLEEVE EDGING

With RS facing and yarn B, rejoin yarn with sl st to cuff edge.

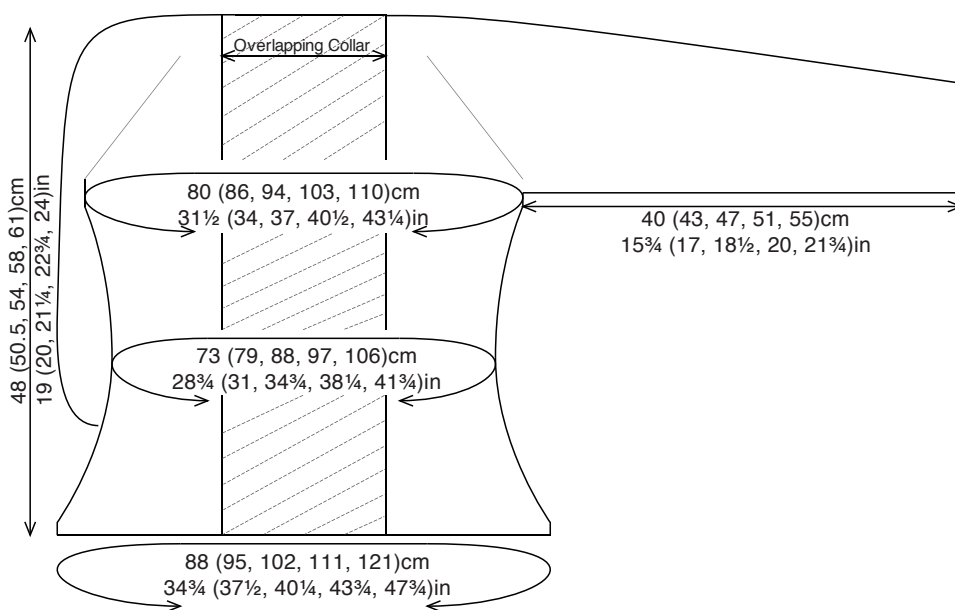
Rnd 64 (70, 78, 84, 90): 1ch, 1dc in every st, close in first st, turn – 48 (51, 56, 61, 67)dc.

Work four more rnds of dc as set. Cut yarn, fasten off.

FINISHING

Weave in all ends.

Block and allow to dry.



	XS	S	M	L	XL	
TO FIT BUST	70–80	80–90	90–100	100–110	110–120	cm
	28–32	32–36	36–40	40–44	44–48	in
ACTUAL BUST	80	86	94	103	110	cm
	31½	34	37	40½	43¼	in
LENGTH	48	50.5	54	58	61	cm
	19	20	21¼	22¾	24	in
SLEEVE SEAM	40	43	47	51	55	cm
	15¾	17	18½	20	21¾	in



Tunisian Cross Stitch Cowl

BY SARAH REED

Learn a new skill with this two-colour Tunisian crochet cowl worked in the round.



ADD TO THE STASH

Buy this sumptuous yarn from www.wyspinners.com

MATERIALS

- West Yorkshire Spinners Signature 4ply, 75% wool/25% nylon, 100g/400m/437yds
- **Yarn A:** Butterscotch x 1 ball
- **Yarn B:** Poppy Seed x 1 ball
- 5.5mm double-ended Tunisian hook
- Stitch marker
- Yarn needle

YARN ALTERNATIVES

You can use any 4ply/fingering weight wool/nylon blend to achieve a similar effect.

TENSION

Exact tension is not essential for this project.

MEASUREMENTS

Finished cowl is 65cm/26½in in circumference and 16cm/6¼in high.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Sarah Reed is a knitting and crochet designer who lives in Birmingham. You can follow her journey on her blog www.knitsnotperfect.blogspot.co.uk, Facebook page or Twitter @knitsnotperfect. See all her designs on Ravelry at www.ravelry.com/designers/sarah-reed.

SPECIAL STITCHES

Tunisian simple stitch (TSS):

Insert hook under one vertical bar, from right to left, yarn over and pull through so that one loop is created on the hook

Return pass (RP):

In first RP, yarn over hook and pull through one loop. After this, all remaining return passes are worked yarn over and pull through 2 loops. RP is always worked with yarn B.

Tunisian cross stitch (TCS):

Worked over 2 stitches. Miss vertical bar, insert hook from right to left in next vertical loop, yarn over and pull through. Now insert hook from right to left in missed vertical bar, yarn over and pull loop through.

Tunisian Simple Stitch Decrease (TSS2tog):

Insert hook under two vertical bars, yarn over and pull through so one loop is created on the hook.

Sl st fasten off: Sl st on vertical bar to end of row.

PATTERN NOTES

This pattern is worked in the rounds using a double-ended crochet hook, using one end for the forward pass and the other end for the return pass. The forward pass is made using yarn A and the return pass is worked using yarn B.

Use a stitch marker to indicate where the start of the round is as the piece is worked in a spiral.

You will only be able to pick up approximately a quarter of the round at a time before working the RP. To work the RP turn the piece so the other side is facing you and the opposite end of the hook is being used. Once you have 3 sts of the forward pass remaining, turn the work back around and continue creating more forward pass stitches.

At the end of the project you will need to do the return pass until only one loop remains on the hook. The sl st fasten off is then only continued in yarn A.



COWL

Please read all pattern notes before starting!

With yarn A, make 120ch. Join with sl st in first ch to form a circle taking care not to twist.

Foundation Row: Working in back loop of ch, pick up loop in second ch, then each ch to end.

With yarn B, work **RP** (see *Special Stitches*) – 120 sts.

Row 1: With yarn A, **TSS** (see *Special Stitches*) to end. Using yarn B, work RP.

Row 2: With yarn A, **TCS** (see *Special Stitches*) to end. Using yarn B, work RP.

Row 3: With yarn A, [yoh, **TSS2tog** (see *Special Stitches*)] to end. Using yarn B, work RP.

Rows 4–21: Rep rows 2 & 3 a further nine times. On the final RP continue until only 1 loop remains on hook. Break yarn B and work a **sl st fasten off** (see *Special Stitches*) with yarn A only.

FINISHING

Weave in loose ends and block firmly to measurements to prevent the fabric curling.



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Tassel Hat

BY DEBORAH STUART

This cheery hat will keep you cosy and the jumbo tassels give it plenty of style.



ADD TO THE STASH
Buy this colourful yarn from
www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

MATERIALS

- Drops Nepal, 65% wool/35% alpaca, 50g/75m/82yds
Shade: Orange Mix 2920
x 2 balls
- 5mm hook
- Tape measure
- Scissors
- Yarn needle
- Cardboard
- Two stitch markers (optional)

YARN ALTERNATIVES

Any aran weight wool or wool blend yarn that works to the correct tension should give a similar effect.

TENSION

Work 5 V sts and 8 rows in V st pattern to measure 10 x 10cm/4 x 4in using 5mm hook, or size required to obtain tension.

MEASUREMENTS

One size, to fit an average adult head loosely.

Circumference: 57.5cm/23½in.

Length: 23cm/9in at longest point (adjustable).

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Deborah is an enthusiastic crocheter, knitter and sewer. She takes inspiration from the glorious countryside around her home in the Vale of Glamorgan and enjoys designing items that are quick, practical and stylish.

SPECIAL STITCHES

V st: [1tr, 1ch, 1tr] all in next st.

PATTERN NOTES

The crown of the hat is worked in rounds, starting with set up rounds and then changing to the main V st pattern. The back of the hat is worked in rows, continuing in main pattern.



CROWN

4ch, sl st to join into a rnd.

Rnd 1: 3ch (counts as 1tr), 15tr in ring, sl st in third ch to join – 16tr.

Rnd 2: 4ch (counts as 1tr, 1ch), 1tr in first ch, [miss 1 st, **V st** (see *Special Stitches*) in next st] to last st, miss next st, sl st in third ch to join – 8 V sts.

Rnd 3: Sl st in ch-sp of first V st, 4ch (counts as 1tr, 1ch), 1tr in same sp, [V st in gap before next V st, V st in ch-sp of next V st] to end finishing with V st in last gap, sl st in third ch to join – 16 V sts.

Rnd 4: Sl st in ch-sp of first V st, 4ch (counts as 1tr, 1ch), 1tr in same sp, 1ch, [V st in next V st, 1ch] to end, sl st in third ch to join – 16 V sts, 16ch.

Rnd 5: Sl st in ch-sp of first V st, 4ch (counts as 1tr, 1ch), tr in same sp, [V st in ch-sp before next V st, V st in ch-sp of next V st] to end working V st in last ch-sp, sl st in third ch to join – 32 V sts.

Rnd 6: Sl st in ch-sp of first V st, 4ch (counts as 1tr, 1ch), 1tr in same sp, [V st in next V st] to end, sl st in third ch to join – 32 V sts.

Rnds 7–12: As rnd 6.
Fasten off.

BACK

The back section is worked in rows over 20 V sts, centred over sl st join at centre back. Tr at each end forms straight edge. Place markers in gap between 10th and 11th V st each side of centre back. Rejoin yarn in gap and work across back of hat in rows as follows:

Row 1: 3ch (counts as 1tr), V st in next 19 V sts, 1tr in gap before next V st, turn – 20 V sts, 2tr.

Rows 2–5: 3ch (counts as 1tr), V st in next 19 V sts, 1tr in t-ch – 20 V sts, 2tr.

Fasten off.

Weave in yarn ends.

TASSELS

Make two

Cut two lengths of yarn approximately 30cm/12in long. Set aside.

Cut a piece of card 10cm/4in long. Wind yarn around card 40 times to form tassel.

Slide one of the set aside pieces of yarn between the tassel and the card and tie to secure top of



tassel (ties will be used to sew tassel to hat).

Cut tassel strands at the opposite end, level with the bottom of the cardboard. Tie second piece of reserved yarn

around tassel approximately 2cm/¾in from top. Using yarn needle thread these yarn ends down through the tassel and trim level with the other strands. Repeat for second tassel.

FINISHING

Block the hat, if required. Sew tassels securely to the front points of hat, as shown, using the yarn remaining from the ties.

END



Bunting Necklace

BY LIZ WARD

Mini bunting triangles are easy to make and can be worked in any combination of colours to suit your wardrobe!



ADD TO THE STASH

Buy this colourful thread from www.thedroppedstitch.co.uk

MATERIALS

- Gütermann Top Stitch Thread, 100% polyester, 30m/33yds per reel
- **Yarn A:** Yellow 350 x 1 reel
- **Yarn B:** Teal 237 x 1 reel
- **Yarn C:** Cream 800 x 1 reel
- 1.25mm hook
- Necklace chain with fastener, 46cm/18in
- Jewellery pliers
- Tape measure
- Sewing needle

YARN ALTERNATIVES

You can use any heavy stitching thread to achieve a similar effect.

TENSION

Exact gauge is not essential for this pattern but you should aim to achieve a firm tension.

MEASUREMENTS

Each triangle is approximately 2cm/¾in high.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Liz is passionate about crochet, creating patterns that are cute and quirky but always easy to understand. Read Liz's blog at www.amigurumibarmy.blogspot.co.uk or follow her on Facebook at <http://on.fb.me/10xF5pm>.

START PENNANTS

Make two in yarn A, two in yarn B and one in yarn C

Work 4ch, join with sl st to form a ring.

Rnd 1: 3ch (counts as 1tr), 2tr into ring, [2ch, 3tr into ring]

twice, 2ch, join with sl st in third ch of 3ch – 9 sts and 3 ch-sps.

Rnd 2: Sl st to next ch-sp, 3ch (counts as 1tr), 2tr in ch-sp, 2ch, 3tr in same ch-sp, 1ch, [3tr, 2ch, 3tr] in next ch-sp, 1ch, [3tr, 2ch, 3tr] in next ch-sp, 1ch, join with sl st in third ch of 3ch.

Rnd 3: Sl st to next ch-sp, 3ch (counts as 1tr), 2tr in ch-sp, 2ch, 3tr in same ch-sp, *1ch, 3tr in next ch-sp, 1ch, [3tr, 2ch, 3tr] in next ch-sp; rep from * once more, 1ch, 3tr in next ch-sp, 1ch, join with sl st in third ch of 3ch. Fasten off.

FINISHING

Weave in loose ends and block each pennant to measurements. Find the central point of the necklace chain, open the link with jewellery pliers and separate the chain into two halves. Hook one side of the cream pennant to this open link then close it, locking the pennant in place. Open the last link on the other half of chain and attach to the other side of the cream pennant.

Measure 1cm/½in across from where the cream pennant is placed on the link, open the link and attach the next pennant as before, following the photographs for colour order. Repeat this at the other side of cream pennant to attach to next pennant.

Repeat this process, making sure you have a 1cm/½in gap between each pennant, and attach the final two pennants.



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Medina Cowl

BY VALERIE BRACEGIRDLE

This long cowl is inspired by the shapes and colours of Morocco and Turkey.



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MATERIALS

- Willow Knits Hand-dyed Silk Worsted, 100% silk, 100g/207m/225yds
- Yarn A:** Amber x 1 skein
- Yarn B:** Copper Beech x 1 skein
- Yarn C:** Ripening Tomatoes x 1 skein
- 4mm hook
- Yarn needle

YARN ALTERNATIVES

You can use any DK or worsted weight yarn to achieve a similar effect, preferably one with a high silk content.

TENSION

Work each square motif to measure 15 x 15cm/6 x 6in after blocking using a 4mm hook, or size required to obtain tension.

MEASUREMENTS

Length: 160cm/64in.

Width: 20cm/8in.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Valerie describes herself as an "accidental designer" because she didn't set off to become a designer, it just happened somewhere along the path of enjoying crochet and knitting. Read her blog at www.agrarianartisan.com.

PATTERN NOTES

The cowl is made from eight full square motifs and 16 half square motifs (triangles). The motifs are made first and joined later.

SQUARE MOTIF

START

Make eight

Make four with rnds 1 & 2 in yarn A, rnds 3 & 4 in yarn B, rnds 5 & 6 in yarn C. Make four with rnds 1 & 2 in yarn B, rnds 3 & 4 in yarn A

and rnds 5 & 6 in yarn C.

With yarn A/B, 4ch, join with sl st to form ring.

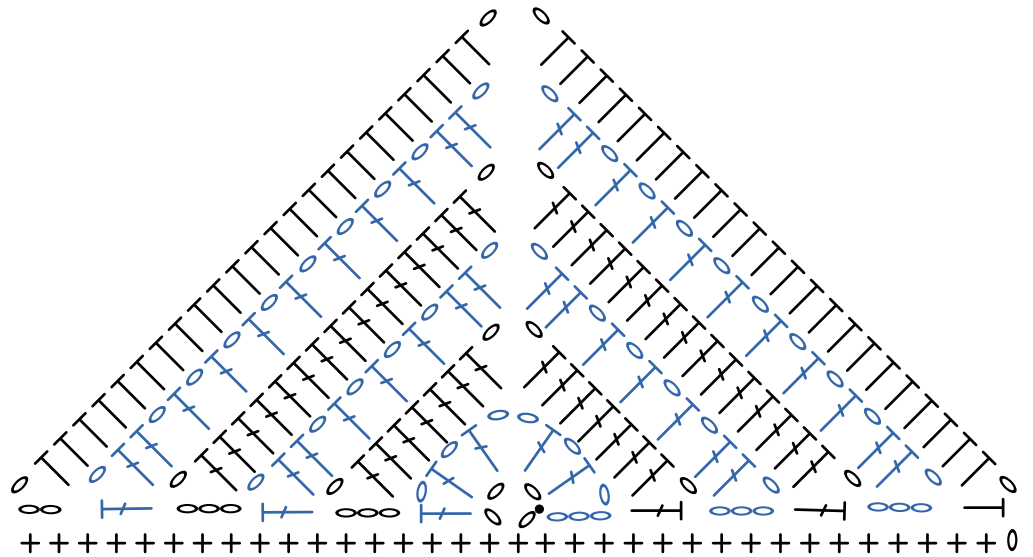
Rnd 1: (RS) 5ch (counts as 1tr, 2ch), [1tr, 1ch, 1tr, 2ch] three times in ring, 1tr, 1ch, sl st to third of 5ch – 4 1ch-sps, 4 2ch-sps.

Rnd 2: Sl st in first 2ch-sp, 5ch (counts as 1tr, 2ch), 2tr in same 2ch-sp, *1tr in next st, 1tr in 1ch-sp, 1tr in next st, [2tr, 2ch, 2tr] in 2ch-sp; rep from * another two times, 1tr in next st, 1tr in 1ch-sp, 1tr in next st, 1tr in first 2ch-sp, sl st to third of 5ch – 7tr on each side, 2ch-sps at corners. Break yarn, fasten off.

Join yarn B/A in any 2ch-sp with a sl st.

Rnd 3: 5ch (counts as 1tr, 2ch), 2tr in same 2ch-sp, 1ch, miss 1 st, *[1tr, 1ch, miss 1 st] three times, [2tr, 2ch, 2tr, 1ch] in 2ch-sp, miss 1 st; rep from * another two times, [1tr, 1ch, miss 1 st] three times, 1tr in first 2ch-sp, sl st to third of 5ch – 4 1ch-sps along each side, 2ch-sps at corners.

Rnd 4: Sl st in first 2ch-sp, 5ch (counts as 1tr, 2ch), 2tr in same 2ch-sp, 1tr in ea st and 1ch-sp along each side and [2tr, 2ch, 2tr]



in each corner 2ch-sp, finish with 1tr in first 2ch-sp, sl st to third of 5ch – 15tr on each side, 2ch-sp at corners.
Break yarn and fasten off.

Join yarn C in any 2ch-sp with a sl st.

Rnd 5: 5ch (counts as 1tr, 2ch), 2tr in same 2ch-sp, 1ch, miss 1 st, *[1tr, 1ch, miss 1 st] seven times, [2tr, 2ch, 2tr, 1ch] in 2ch-sp, miss 1 st; rep from * another two times, [1tr, 1ch, miss 1 st] seven times, 1tr in first 2ch-sp, sl st to third of 5ch – 8 1ch-sps along each side, 2ch-sp at corners.

Rnd 6: Sl st in first 2ch-sp, 2ch (counts as 1htr), [1htr, 2ch, 2htr] in same 2ch-sp, 1htr in each st and 1ch-sp along each side and [2htr, 2ch, 2htr] in each corner 2ch-sp, sl st to second of 4ch. Break yarn and fasten off.

Sew in ends – 23htr on each side, 2ch-sp at corners.

HALF-SQUARE MOTIF

Make eight in yarn A and eight in yarn B

With yarn A/B, 4ch, join with sl st to form ring.

Row 1: (WS) 4ch (counts as 1tr, 1ch), [1tr, 1ch, 1tr, 2ch, 1tr, 1ch, 1tr, 1ch, 1tr] in ring, turn.

Row 2: (RS) 4ch (counts as 1tr, 1ch), 2tr in 1ch-sp, 1tr in next st, 1tr in 1ch-sp, 1tr in next st, [2tr, 2ch, 2tr] in 2ch-sp, 1tr in next, 1tr in 1ch-sp, 1tr in next st, [2tr, 1ch] in 1ch-sp, 1tr in t-ch, turn.

Row 3: 4ch (counts as 1tr, 1ch), 2tr in 1ch-sp, 1ch, miss 1 st, [1tr, 1ch, miss 1 st] three times, [2tr, 2ch, 2tr, 1ch] in 2ch-sp, miss 1 st, [1tr, 1ch,

miss 1 st] three times, [2tr, 1ch] in 1ch-sp, 1tr in t-ch, turn.

Row 4: 4ch (counts as 1tr, 1ch), 2tr in 1ch-sp, 1tr in ea st and 1ch-sp to corner, [2tr, 2ch, 2tr] in 2ch-sp, 1tr in ea st and 1ch-sp to last 1ch-sp, [2tr, 1ch] in last 1ch-sp, 1tr in t-ch, turn.

Row 5: 4ch (counts as 1tr, 1ch), 2tr in 1ch-sp, 1ch, miss 1 st, [1tr, 1ch, miss 1 st] seven times, [2tr, 2ch, 2tr, 1ch] in 2ch-sp, miss 1 st, [1tr, 1ch, miss 1 st] seven times, [2tr, 1ch] in 1ch-sp, 1tr in t-ch, turn.

Rnd 6: 3ch (counts as 1htr, 1ch), 2htr in 1ch-sp, 1htr in ea st and 1ch-sp to corner, [2htr, 2ch, 2htr] in 2ch-sp, 1htr in ea st and 1ch-sp to last 1ch-sp, [2htr, 1ch] in last 1ch-sp, 1htr in t-ch, turn, work 1ch, work 34dc evenly along long diagonal edge.

Break yarn, fasten off and sew in all ends.

FINISHING

First block all the motifs.

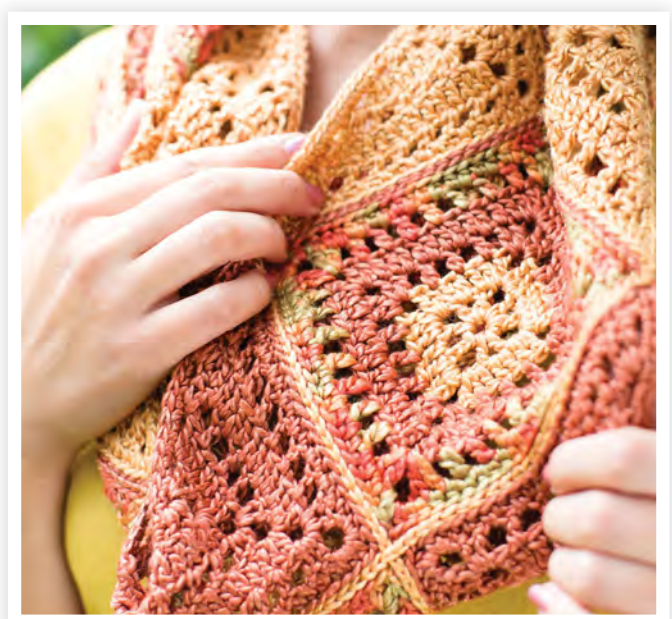
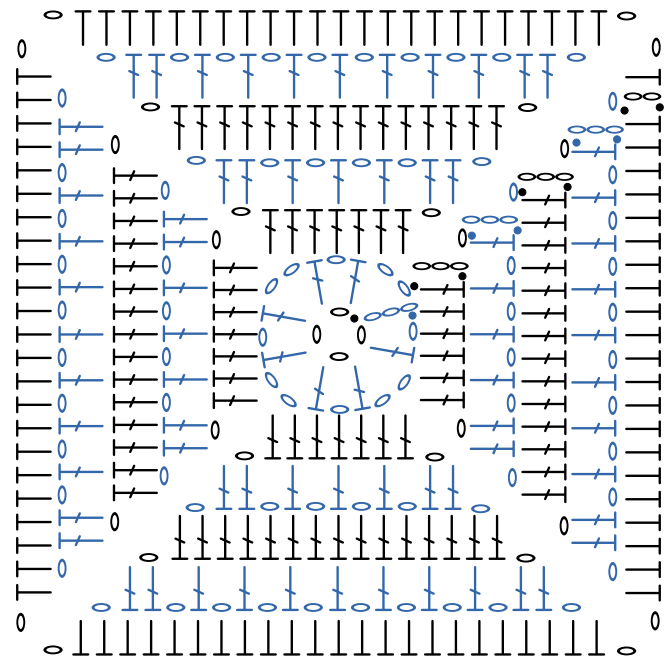
Steam blocking is recommended for this yarn.

Join the motifs into a cowl, alternating the different coloured square motifs down the centre and alternating the half square motif colours down the side, as shown in the diagram.

Join by slip stitch. Place the motifs side by side RS facing and slip stitch through the back loops only.

When joining half square motifs of yarn A to square motifs (edged in yarn C) use yarn B to join. When joining half square motifs of yarn B to square motifs use yarn A to join.

Sew in all ends.



END



Daphne Top

BY SIMONE FRANCIS

Inspired by catwalk designs, this lightweight top is ideal as a layering garment for autumn or early winter.



MATERIALS

- Stylecraft Life DK, 75% acrylic/25% wool, 100g/298m/326yds
Shade: Denim 2322 x 3 (3, 3, 3, 4, 4, 4) balls
- 3.5mm & 4mm hooks
- Yarn needle

YARN ALTERNATIVES

You can use any DK weight yarn to achieve a similar effect.

TENSION

Work 18 sts and 9 rows in Boxy Lace st pattern to measure 10 x 10cm/4 x 4in using 4mm hook, or size required to obtain tension.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Simone loves to crochet and finds inspiration in nature, fashion and art for her patterns. View more of her designs at www.ravelry.com/designers/simone-francis.

SPECIAL STITCHES

Trludedc: Yrh, insert hook in next st, yrh, pull up a loop, yrh, pull through 2 loops, yrh, miss next st, insert hook in next st, yrh, pull up a loop, yrh, pull through 2 loops, yrh, pull through all 3 loops on hook.

PATTERN NOTES

The top is worked in two pieces from the bottom up. Chain sts at beginning of row count as sts throughout main pattern, unless otherwise stated. When increasing for both Sleeves, work the lace st at each end by increasing to approximately 8 treble sts before creating a new "1ch-sp" st. This will keep the edges neat.



BACK

With 3.5mm hook, 78 (82, 92, 98, 106, 112, 124)ch.

Foundation Row: Tr in fourth ch from hook, tr in each ch to end, turn – 76 (80, 90, 96, 104, 110, 122) sts.

Row 1: 3ch (counts as first st), [1trrf, 1trrb] to last st, working 1tr in t-ch, turn.

Rows 2 & 3: Rep row 1.

LACE PATTERN

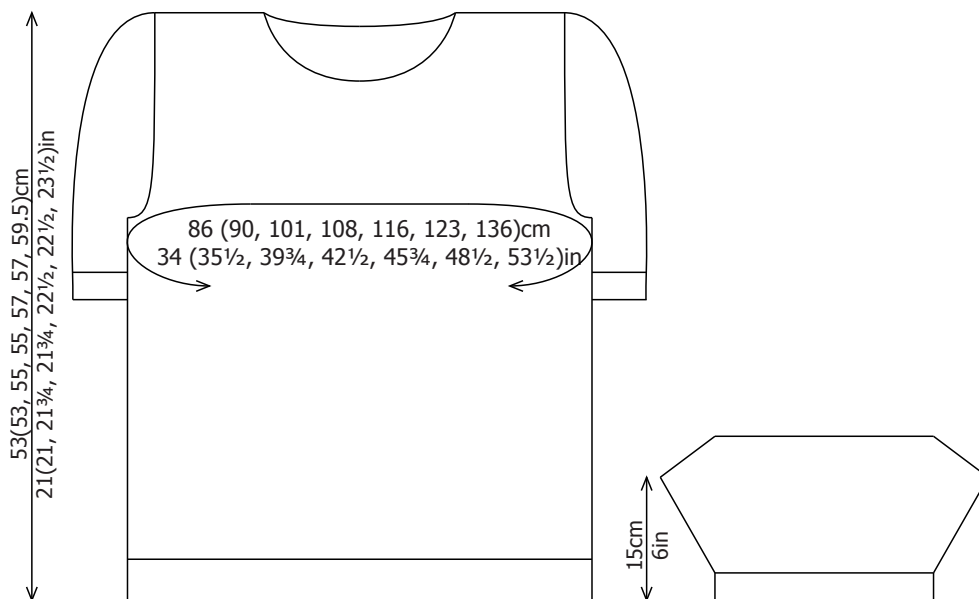
Change to 4mm hook.

Row 1: (RS) [3ch, 1tr] in first st, 1tr in next 1 (3, 1, 4, 1, 4, 3) st(s),

[1ch, miss 1 st, 6tr] to last 4 (6, 4, 7, 4, 7, 6) sts, 1ch, miss 1 st, tr to end, turn – 77 (81, 91, 97, 105, 111, 123) sts.

Row 2: 4 (6, 4, 7, 4, 7, 6)ch, miss first 2 (4, 2, 5, 2, 5, 4) sts, 1tr in next st, 1ch, miss 1ch-sp, 1tr in next st, *4ch, miss 4 sts, 1tr in next st, 1ch, miss 1ch-sp, 1tr in next st; rep from * to last 2 (4, 2, 5, 2, 5, 4) sts, 1 (3, 1, 4, 1, 4, 3) ch, tr in last st, turn.

Row 3: 3ch, 1tr in next 1 (3, 1, 4, 1, 4, 3)ch, *1tr in next st, 1ch, miss 1ch-sp, tr in next st, 1tr in each of next 4ch; rep from * to last 5 (7, 5, 8, 5, 8, 7) sts, 1tr, 1ch, miss 1 st, tr to end, turn. These last two rows form Patt. Keeping patt correct, work 26 more rows, ending on a RS row.



Sizes XS, S, L and 2X only

SHAPE ARMHOLES

Row 1: (WS) Sl st to third (fifth, -, sixth, -, sixth, -) st, 2ch, miss 1ch-sp, tr in next st, 4ch, miss 4 sts, *1tr in next st, 1ch, miss 1ch-sp, 1tr in next st, 4ch, miss 4 sts; rep from * to last 5 (7, -, 8, -, 8, -) sts, **Trcludc** (see *Special*

Stitches) over next 3 sts, turn, leave rem sts unworked.

Sizes M, XL and 3X only

SHAPE ARMHOLES

Row 1 (WS): Sl st to - (-, fifth, -, sixth, -, seventh) st, 2ch, tr in next st, - (-, 3, -, 2, -, 3)ch, miss - (-, 3,

-, 2, -, 3) sts, 1tr in next st, 1ch, miss 1 st, 1tr in next st, *4ch, miss 4 sts, 1tr in next st, 1ch, miss 1 st, 1tr in next st; rep from * to last - (-, 9, -, 9, -, 11) sts, - (-, 3, -, 2, -, 3)ch, miss - (-, 3, -, 2, -, 3) sts, tr2tog, turn, leave rem sts unworked.

All sizes

69 (69, 81, 83, 93, 97, 109) sts. **Row 2:** Keeping Lace Patt correct, dec 1 st at each end of row – 67 (67, 79, 81, 91, 95, 107) sts **. Work 12 (12, 14, 14, 16, 16, 18) more rows in Lace St Patt ending on a RS row.





SHAPE RIGHT SHOULDER

Row 1: (WS) 6 (6, 5, 6, 4, 6, 5)ch, miss first 4 (4, 3, 4, 2, 4, 3) sts, tr in next st, patt next 13 (13, 18, 18, 23, 23, 27) sts, turn, leave rem sts unworked – 18 (18, 22, 23, 26, 28, 31) sts.
Row 2: Patt to end.
Fasten off yarn leaving long end.

SHAPE LEFT SHOULDER

With WS facing, miss centre 31 (31, 35, 35, 39, 39, 45) sts, rejoin yarn to next st with sl st and work two rows in patt across 18 (18, 22, 23, 26, 28, 31) rem sts.
Fasten off yarn, leaving a long end.

FRONT

Work as for Back to **. Work 10 (10, 12, 12, 14, 14, 16) more rows in Lace St Patt, ending on a RS row.

SHAPE RIGHT NECK

Row 1: (WS) 6 (6, 5, 6, 4, 6, 5)ch, miss 4 (4, 3, 4, 2, 4, 3) sts, tr in next st, patt across next 13 (13, 18, 18, 23, 23, 27) sts, turn, leaving rem sts unworked – 18 (18, 22, 23, 26, 28, 31) sts. Keeping patt correct, work three more rows.
Fasten off yarn, leaving a long end.

SHAPE LEFT NECK

With WS facing, miss centre 31 (31, 35, 35, 39, 39, 45) sts, rejoin yarn to next st with a sl st and work four rows in patt across next 18 (18, 22, 23,

26, 28, 31) sts.
Fasten off, leaving a long end.

SLEEVES

Make two

With 3.5mm hook, 60 (60, 66, 66, 74, 74, 80)ch.

Foundation Row: Tr in fourth ch from hook, tr in each ch to end, turn – 58 (58, 64, 64, 72, 72, 78) sts.

Row 1: 3ch (counts as first st), [1trf, 1trfb] to last st, working 1tr in t-ch, turn.

Rows 2 & 3: As row 1.

LACE PATTERN

Change to 4mm hook.

Row 1: (RS) 3ch, 3 (3, 6, 6, 3, 3, 6)tr, 1ch, miss 1 st, [1tr in next 6 sts, 1ch, miss 1 st] to last 4 (4, 7, 7, 4, 4, 7) sts, tr to end, turn.



Row 2: 5 (5, 8, 8, 5, 5, 8)ch, miss first 3 (3, 6, 6, 3, 3, 6) sts, *1tr in next st, 4ch, miss 4 sts, 1tr in next st, 1ch, miss 1 st; rep from * to last 4 (4, 7, 7, 4, 4, 7) sts, tr to end, turn.

Row 3: (lnc) [3ch, 1tr] in first st, work in patt across row to last st, 2tr in last st, turn – 60 (60, 66, 66, 74, 74, 80) sts.

Row 4: Patt to end.

Rep rows 3 & 4, four more times, keeping patt correct – 68 (68, 74, 74, 82, 82, 88) sts.

SHAPE TOP

Row 1: Sl st to fifth (fifth, sixth, sixth, sixth, seventh) st, work in patt across row to last 5 (5, 5, 6, 6, 6, 7) sts, turn, leave rem sts unworked – 58 (58, 62, 62, 70, 70, 74) sts.

Keeping patt correct, work three more rows.

Fasten off yarn, leaving a long end for sewing.

FINISHING

Sew shoulder and side seams. Set in sleeve by pinning centre of sleeve top to centre shoulder seam, sewing down towards underarm seam, sew sleeve seam.

NECKBAND

With 3.5mm hook, rejoin yarn to Right Shoulder Seam with RS facing.

Foundation Rnd: 2ch (counts as 1 st), pick up and tr 43 (43, 47, 47, 51, 51, 57) sts around Back Neck, pick up and tr 54 (54, 58, 58, 62, 62, 68) sts around Front Neck, sl st in second ch at beg of rnd.

Rnd 1: 1ch (not counted as st), [1trf, 1trfb] to end, sl st in 1ch at beg of rnd.

Rep rnd 1 once more.

Fasten off.

Weave in all ends neatly.

Gently steam block work.



	XS	S	M	L	XL	2X	3X	
TO FIT BUST	81	86	91–97	102	107–112	117	122–132	cm
	32	34	36–38	40	42–44	46	48–52	in
ACTUAL BUST	86	90	101	108	116	123	136	cm
	34	35½	39¾	42½	45¾	48½	53½	in
SLEEVE SEAM	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	cm
	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	in
LENGTH	53	53	55	55	57	57	59.5	cm
	21	21	21¾	21¾	22½	22½	23½	in



Stylecraft

NEW AUTUMN/WINTER
CROCHET DESIGNS





Day of the Dead Costume

BY EMMA FRIEDLANDER-COLLINS

Hook this fun headpiece for Halloween or your next fancy dress party.



MATERIALS

- Stylecraft Classique Cotton DK, 100% cotton, 100g/184m/201yds
- Yarn A:** White 3660 x 1 ball
- Yarn B:** Fondant 3094 x 1 ball
- Yarn C:** Leaf 3097 x 1 ball
- Yarn D:** Poppy 3672 x 1 ball
- Yarn E:** Shrimp 3674 x 1 ball
- Yarn F:** Hot Pink 3668 x 1 ball
- Yarn G:** Sunflower 3662 x 1 ball
- Robin Chunky, 100% acrylic, 100g/140m/153yds
- Yarn H:** Black 044 x 1 ball
- 4mm & 5.5mm hooks
- Yarn needle

YARN ALTERNATIVES

You can use any chunky weight yarn to achieve a similar effect to the Robin Chunky, or use two DK weight yarns together to get a more textured effect. For the flowers, you can use any DK weight yarn or cotton to achieve a similar effect.

TENSION

Work 14dc and 20 rows to measure 10 x 10cm/4 x 4in using 5.5mm hook and yarn H, or size required to obtain tension.

MEASUREMENTS

- Hat:** 55cm/21in diameter.
- Floral Crown:** 28 x 8cm/11 x 3in excluding ties.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Emma is the author of *Crochet Dress-Up* and *Big Hook Crochet*. You can find her as *SteelandStitch* on Etsy, Ravelry and Instagram. Turn to page 98 for our interview.

PATTERN NOTES

Hat
2ch at the end of each row does not count as a stitch.

Floral Crown

Make a base, and then sew the flowers on to it. This is an excellent way of using up leftovers in your stash – you can have fun with whatever colours you like!



HAT
With yarn H and 5.5mm hook, make adjustable ring.

Rnd 1: 12tr in ring, sl st to join, 2ch – 12tr.

Rnd 2: 2tr in each st around, sl st to join, 2ch – 24tr.

Rnd 3: [2tr in next st, 1tr] around, sl st to join, 2ch – 36tr.

Rnd 4: [2tr in next st, 2tr] around, sl st to join, 2ch – 48tr.

Rnd 5: [2tr in next st, 3tr] around, sl st to join, 2ch – 60tr.

Rnds 6–11: Tr around, sl st to join, 2ch.

Do not fasten off.

Cont as folls to make hair:

Hair strand: *60ch, dc in second ch from hook, dc in each ch until you're back to the brim of hat.

Working along brim of hat, miss one tr on hat, dc in next st. Rep from * all around brim – approx 30 strands of "hair".

FLORAL CROWN

BASE

With 4mm hook and yarn A, 47ch.

Rnd 1: 2dc in third ch from hook, dc in next 43ch, 3dc in last ch, then working down the opposite side of ch, dc in next 43ch, sl st, 2ch.

Rnd 2: 3dc in next st, 45dc, 3dc in next st, 45dc, sl st to join.

Change to yarn B.

Rnd 3: 2ch, dc in next st, 3dc in next st, 47dc, 3dc in next dc, 46dc, sl st to join.

Change to yarn C.

Rnd 4: 2ch, 2dc, 3dc in next dc, 49dc, 3dc in next dc, 47dc, sl st to join.

Fasten off, weave in ends.

TIES

Make two

Cut approx 1m/1yd length of yarns A, B and C, hold them altogether and fold in half. Poke the loop through one end of the base and thread the lengths through to secure. Plait all yarns together and knot ends.

AZALEAS

Make five

With 4mm hook and yarn E, 7ch.

Row 1: Dc in third ch from hook, tr in next 4ch, turn.

Row 2: *7ch, tr in third ch from hook, 2tr, dc in last 2ch, sl st in next st along; rep from * to end.

Roll up to form a flower shape and use a few sts to secure.

Use yarn G to make stamens.

LILY

Make four

With 4mm hook and yarn A, 7ch.

Row 1: Dc in third ch from hook, tr in next 4ch, 3ch, turn.

Row 2: Tr in first st, [2tr in next st] to end, turn.

Row 3: *7ch, sl st in second ch from hook, dc in next ch, htr in next ch, tr in next 3ch, miss next st, sl st in next st; rep from * to end.

Roll up to form a flower shape and use a few sts to secure.

Use yarn G to make stamens.

ROSES

Make three

With 4mm hook and yarn of choice, 82ch.

Row 1: 1tr in fourth ch from hook, *miss next ch, [1tr, 1ch, 1tr] in next ch; rep from * to end, turn.

Row 2: [7tr in ch-sp from previous row] to end.

SMALL LEAVES

Make eight

With 4mm hook and yarn C, 5ch, dc in second ch from hook, tr in next 3ch. Fasten off.

BIG LEAVES

Make three

With 4mm hook and yarn C, 8ch, sl st in second ch from hook, 1dc in next ch, 1htr in next ch, 1tr in next 2ch, 5tr in end ch, working back up the other side of ch, 1tr in next 2ch, 1htr in next ch, 1dc in next ch, sl st in last ch to finish.

FINISHING

Sew all flowers to base, arranging the three roses and larger leaves as the central pieces and the smaller flowers and leaves around them.

To stop the hair strands hanging in your face, part it in the middle, and then tie a strand from either side at the back, to hold the front strands out of the way.

END





Faux Knit Cushion

BY EMMA FRIEDLANDER-COLLINS

Get a knitted stocking stitch effect without putting down your hook using this clever stitch pattern.



ADD TO THE STASH

Buy these yarns from www.loveknitting.com and www.woolandthegang.com.



This quick-hook design is taken from *Big Hook Crochet* by Emma Friedlander-Collins (CICO Books, £12.99). Photography © Emma Mitchell. *Inside Crochet* readers can buy a copy for £9.99 with free UK p&p by calling 01256 302699 and quoting ED9.

MATERIALS

- Red Heart Shimmer, 97% acrylic/3% polyester, 100g/256m/280yds
- Yarn A: Lime 07 x 6 balls
- Wool And The Gang Crazy Sexy Wool, 100% wool, 200g/80m/87yds
- Yarn B: Fireball Orange x 3 balls
- 23mm hook
- Yarn needle
- Cushion insert, 45 x 45cm/18 x 18in

TENSION

Tension is not critical but adjust the hook size to produce a flexible fabric.

MEASUREMENTS

Finished cushion measures 45 x 45cm/18 x 18in.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Emma is a crochet designer who has written two books, *Crochet Dress-Up* and *Big Hook Crochet*. Turn to page 98 to read our interview with Emma, and read her blog at www.steelndstitch.blogspot.co.uk.

SPECIAL STITCH PATTERNS

Faux knit stitch: The cushion cover is worked in htr crochet. However, rather than working into the top two strands of the previous row as usual, work the stitch into the strand of yarn just below them at the back of the fabric. This is referred to as the “hidden” stitch throughout the pattern and will make the “V” of the top two strands roll forwards to the front of the work, producing the faux stocking stitch effect.

PATTERN NOTES

Work with six strands of yarn A



held together. When yarn B is used, work with only one strand. 2ch at start of each round does not count as a stitch.

The cushion cover can also be made using a 25mm hook, but omit 1ch from the foundation chain.

The cover will stretch to fit a slightly larger cushion but we recommend covering the cushion form in a matching fabric as it will be visible through the weave of the stitches. You could use a brightly coloured fabric for a pop of contrast!



CUSHION COVER

Holding six strands of yarn A together, make 37ch, sl st in first ch to join, taking care not to twist.

Rnd 1: 2ch (does not count as st throughout), 1htr in third ch from hook, 1htr in each ch to end, sl st in first htr to join – 37 sts.

Rnds 2–7: 2ch, 1htr in each “hidden” st (see *Special Stitch Patterns*) around, sl st in first htr to join.

Fasten off yarn A and join yarn B.

Rnd 8: 2ch, 1htr in each “hidden” st around, sl st in first htr to join.

Fasten off yarn B and rejoin yarn A.

Rnds 9 & 10: 1htr in each “hidden” st around, sl st in first htr to join.

Fasten off yarn A and rejoin yarn B.

Rnd 11: 2ch, 1htr in each “hidden” st around, sl st in first htr to join.

Fasten off yarn B and join yarn A.

Rnds 12–18: 2ch, 1htr in each “hidden” st around, sl st in first htr to join.

Rnd 19: 1ch, work 1dc in each “hidden” st around, sl st in first dc to join. Fasten off.

FINISHING

Weave in loose ends and gently block to measurements.

Sl st the two sides of the cushion cover together at one end, inserting the hook through both layers and working one sl st for each stitch along. Place the cushion inner inside the cover, then sl st along the other end in the same way to close.

Fasten off and weave in



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Kelpie Scarflet

BY SHIRLEY MACDONALD

Named after a mythical sea creature that takes the shape of a horse, this yarn's silky drape is perfect for a flowing horse's mane.



ADD TO THE STASH
Buy this hand-dyed yarn from
www.woosheeps.etsy.com

MATERIALS

- WooSheeps Superwash BFL Sock Weight, 100% wool, 150g/600m/656yds
- **Shade:** Olive x 1 skein
- 5mm hook
- Stitch marker
- Large decorative button
- Smaller button for fastening
- Yarn needle

TENSION

Work 16 htr and 16 rows to measure 10 x 10cm/4 x 4in using 5mm hook, or size required to obtain tension.

MEASUREMENTS

Finished scarflet measures 84cm/33in long, and 15cm/6in wide at widest point.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

When she's not designing, Shirley runs *Woolly Whatsits*, making fibre crafts available to children and adults in schools and the community. Sessions can involve felting, spinning, weaving, crochet and knitting.

PATTERN NOTES

This drapery scarflet is designed to button snugly against the neck with a cascade down the front. The frilled edge looks different from each side; decide which will be your right side and stitch your large focal button to that side. Stitch the smaller button to the same spot on the wrong side.

To make the scarflet reversible, use two buttons just small enough to fit between the dtr stitches, and stitch the buttons back to back, in the centre of the circle. The scarflet can be fastened anywhere in the dtr portion.



SCARFLET

Work 101ch.

Row 1: Working in blo of each ch work 1htr in second ch from hook, 1htr in each of next 98ch, 4dc in final ch, sl st in unused side of next st of foundation ch, turn.

Row 2: 2dc in each of next 4 sts, 1 htr in next st (place marker in st just worked), 33htr, 33tr, 32dtr, 10dtr in last st, turn.

Row 3: Miss next 6 sts, sl st in next st, 1ch, 1htr in same st, 1htr in each st up to and including marker (replace marker in last st worked)*, [2dc in next st, 1dc] four times, sl st in unused side of next st of foundation ch, 1ch, turn.

Row 4: [2dc in next st, 2dc] four times, 1htr in next st (replace marker in st just worked), 34htr, 34tr, 33dtr, 10dtr in last st, turn.

Row 5: Work as for row 3 up to *, [2dc in next st, 3dc] four times, sl st in unused side of next st of foundation ch, 1ch, turn.

Row 6: [2dc in next st, 4dc] four times, 1htr in next st (replace marker in st just worked), 35htr, 35tr, 34dtr, 10dtr in last st, turn.

Row 7: Work as for row 3 up to *, [2dc in next st, 5dc] four times, sl st in unused side of next st of foundation ch, 1ch, turn.

Row 8: [2dc in next st, 6dc] four times, 1htr in next st (replace marker in st just worked), 36htr, 36tr, 35dtr, 10dtr in last st, turn.

Row 9: Work as for row 3 up to *, [2dc in next st, 7dc] four times, sl st in unused side of next st of foundation ch, 1ch, turn.

Row 10: [2dc in next st, 8dc] four times, 1htr in next st (replace marker in st just worked), 37htr, 37tr, 36dtr, 10dtr in last st, turn.

Row 11: Work as for row 3 up to *, [2dc in next st, 9dc] four times, sl st in unused side of next st of foundation ch, 1ch, turn.

Row 12: [2dc in next st, 10dc] four times, 1htr in next st (replace marker in st just worked), 38htr, 38tr, 37dtr, 10dtr in last st, turn.

Row 13: Work as for row 3 up to *, [2dc in next st, 11dc] four times, sl st in unused side of next st of foundation ch, 1ch, turn.

Row 14: [2dc in next st, 12dc] four times, 1htr in next st (replace marker in st just worked), 39htr, 39tr, 38dtr, 10dtr in last st, turn.

Row 15: Work as for row 3 up to *, 1htr in each st to end, sl st in unused side of next st of foundation ch.

Fasten off and break yarn.

Weave in ends and attach buttons.



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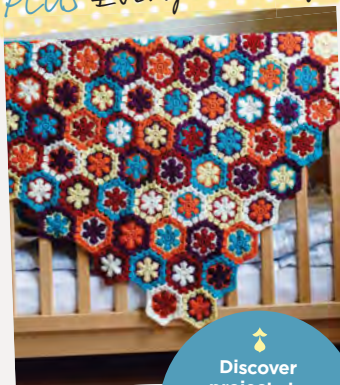
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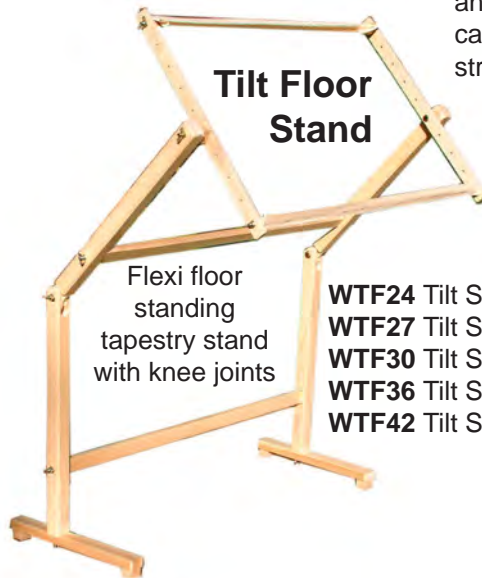
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Fan Stitch Cardigan

BY ANNA WILKINSON

This pretty three-quarter sleeve cardigan uses a simple stitch pattern for stunning results.



This colourful cardigan design is taken from *Learn To Crochet, Love To Crochet* by Anna Wilkinson (Quadrille, £14.99).

ADD TO THE STASH
Buy this organic wool yarn from
www.lovecrochet.com

MATERIALS

- BC Garn Semilla Grosso, 100% wool, 50g/80m/87yds
- **Shade:** Pop Pink 123 x 9 (11) balls
- 6mm hook
- Five buttons, 2cm/7/8in diameter
- Yarn needle

YARN ALTERNATIVES

This design would also work well in a similar aran-weight organic wool yarn.

TENSION

Work one full pattern repeat to measure approximately 6 x 6.5cm/23/8in x 2½in using a 6mm hook, or size required to obtain tension.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Anna Wilkinson is a designer with an instinctive sense of both form and colour. Although influenced by traditional hand knitting techniques, Anna's designs are characterised by flattering garment shapes with quirky combinations of colour and pattern. See more of her designs on Ravelry at www.ravelry.com/designers/anna-wilkinson.



BACK

With 6mm hook, make 56 (64)ch + 3ch.

Beg stitch pattern and work in rows, turning at end of each row, as follows:

Row 1: (WS) 1tr in fourth ch from hook, *1ch, miss 2ch, in next ch work [1tr, 3ch, 1tr – called a V-st], 1ch, miss 2ch, 1tr in each of next 3ch; rep from * to end omitting 1tr at end of last rep.

Row 2: 4ch (counts as first tr, 1ch), work 7tr in next 3ch-sp, 1ch, miss 2tr, 1tr in next tr, *1ch, 7tr in next 3ch-sp, 1ch, miss 2tr, 1tr in next tr; rep from * working last tr of last rep in top of 3ch.

Row 3: 4ch (counts as first tr, 1ch), 1tr in first tr, 1ch, miss 2tr, 1tr in each of next 3tr, *1ch, miss 2tr, in next tr work [1tr, 3ch, 1tr], 1ch, miss 2tr, 1tr in each of next 3tr; rep from * to last 2tr, miss 2tr, in third of 4ch at beg of previous row work [1tr, 1ch, 1tr].

Row 4: 3ch (counts as first tr), 3tr in first 1ch-sp, 1ch, miss 2tr, 1tr in next tr, *1ch, 7tr in next 3ch-sp,

1ch, miss 2tr, 1tr in next tr; rep from * to last 2tr, 1ch, miss 2tr, 3tr in last ch-sp (sp created by t-ch), 1tr in third of 4ch at beg of previous row.

Row 5: 3ch (counts as first tr), miss first tr, 1tr in next tr, *1ch, miss 2tr, in next tr work [1tr, 3ch, 1tr], 1ch, miss 2tr, 1tr in each of next 3tr; rep from * to end omitting 1tr at end of last rep and working last tr in third of 3ch at beg of previous row. Rep rows 2–5 a further four times.**

SHAPE ARMHOLE

Row 1: (RS) Work as row 2 of stitch pattern: sl st to first arm of first V-st, 3ch (counts as first tr), 1tr in second arm of V-st, work in patt to last V-st of row, 1tr in first arm of V-st, 1tr in second arm of V-st, turn.

Row 2: Work as row 3 of stitch pattern: 3ch (counts as first tr), V-st in tr bet two 1ch sps, work in stitch pattern to end of row, ending after last V-st, 1tr in top of 3ch of previous row, turn.

Row 3: Work as row 4 of stitch pattern: 3ch (counts as first tr), 3tr in 3ch-space, work in stitch pattern to last 3ch-sp, 3tr in 3ch-sp, 1tr in top of 3ch of previous row, turn.

Row 4: Work as row 5 of stitch pattern.

Rep rows 2–5 of stitch pattern a further two times then rep rows 2 & 3 once more.

Break yarn and fasten off.

LEFT FRONT

With 6mm hook, make 32 (40)ch + 3ch.

Work as for Back to **.



SHAPE ARMHOLE

Row 1: (RS) Work as row 2 of stitch pattern: sl st to first arm of first V-st, 3ch (counts as first tr), 1tr in second arm of V-st, work in stitch pattern to end of row, turn.

Row 2: Work as row 3 of stitch pattern: work in stitch pattern to end of row, ending after last V-st, 1tr in top of 3ch of previous row, turn.

Row 3: Work as row 4 of stitch pattern: 3ch, 3tr in 3ch-sp, work in stitch pattern to end of row, turn.

Row 4: Work as row 5 of stitch pattern.

SHAPE NECK

Row 1: (RS) Work as row 2 of stitch pattern: work in stitch pattern to last V-st, 1tr in first arm of V-st, turn.

Row 2: Work as row 3: 3ch, miss 1 st, 2tr in next tr, work in stitch pattern to end of row, turn.

Row 3: Work as row 4: work in stitch pattern to last 2tr, 1tr in next tr, miss 1tr, 1tr in top of t-ch, turn.

Row 4: Work as row 5: 3ch, work V-st in 1tr bet two 1ch sps, work in stitch pattern to end of row, turn.

Row 5: Work as row 2: work in stitch pattern to last 3ch-sp of last V-st, 3tr in 3ch-sp, 1tr in top of t-ch, turn.

Row 6: Work as row 3: 3ch, 1tr in centre st of 3tr group, work in stitch pattern to end of row, turn.

Row 7: Work as row 4: work in stitch pattern to last 3ch-sp of last

V-st, 7tr in 3ch-sp, 1ch, 1tr in top of t-ch, turn.

Row 8: 4ch, 1tr in first tr, work in stitch pattern to end of row, turn.

Rows 9 & 10: Work in stitch pattern as set. Break yarn and fasten off.

RIGHT FRONT

With 6mm hook, make 32 (40)ch + 3ch.

Work as for Back to **.

SHAPE ARMHOLE

Row 1: (RS) Work as row 2 of stitch pattern: work in stitch pattern to last V-st of row, 1tr in first arm of V-st, 1tr in second arm, turn.

Row 2: Work as row 3 of stitch pattern: 3ch (counts as first tr), V-st in tr bet two 1ch-sps, work in stitch pattern to end of row, turn.

Row 3: Work as row 4 of stitch pattern: work in stitch pattern to last 3ch-sp, 3tr in 3ch-sp, 1tr in top of 3ch of previous row, turn.

Row 4: Work as row 5 of stitch pattern.

SHAPE NECK

Row 1: (RS) Work as row 2 of stitch pattern: sl st to second arm of first V-st, 4ch, 1tr in centre st of 3tr, work in stitch pattern to end of row, turn.

Row 2: Work as row 3: work to last tr, 2tr in next tr, 1tr in top of t-ch, turn.

Row 3: Work as row 4: 4ch, 1tr in



third tr, 1ch, 1tr in centre st of 3tr group, work in stitch pattern to end of row, turn.

Row 4: Work as row 5: work to last V-st of row, work V-st, work 1tr in top of t-ch, turn.

Row 5: Work as row 2: 3ch, 3tr in 3ch-sp of first V-st, work in stitch pattern to end of row, turn.

Row 6: Work as row 3: work to last V-st of row, work V-st, 1ch, 1tr in centre st of 3tr group, 1tr in top of t-ch, turn.

Row 7: Work as row 4: 4ch, 7tr in 3ch-sp, work in stitch pattern to end of row.

Rows 8–10: Work in stitch pattern as set. Break yarn and fasten off.

SLEEVES

Make two

With 6mm hook, make 40 (48)ch + 3ch.

Work rows 1–5 of stitch pattern as given for Back.

Work rows 2–5 as given for Back a further three times.

SHAPE SLEEVEHEAD

Row 1: (RS) Work as row 2 of stitch pattern: sl st to second arm of first V-st, 4ch, 1tr in centre st of 3tr group, work in patt to last V-st of previous row, 1tr in first arm of V-st, turn.

Row 2: Work as row 3 of stitch pattern: 3ch, miss first tr, work V-st in next tr, work in patt to

last tr, V-st in last tr, 1tr in top of t-ch, turn.

Row 3: Work as row 4 of stitch pattern: 3ch, 3tr in 3ch-sp, work in patt to last 3ch-sp, 3tr in 3ch-sp, 1tr in top of t-ch, turn.

Row 4: Work as row 5 of stitch pattern: 4ch, work V-st in next tr bet two 1ch-sps, work in patt to last V-st, work V-st, 1ch, 1tr in top of t-ch, turn.

Row 5: Work as row 2 of stitch pattern: 3ch, 3tr in 3ch-sp, work in patt to last 3ch-sp, 3tr in last 3ch-sp, 1tr in top of t-ch, turn.

Row 6: Work as row 3 of stitch pattern: 4ch, work V-st in next tr bet two 1ch sps, work in patt to last V-st, work V-st, 1ch, 1tr in top of t-ch, turn.

Row 7: Work as row 4 of stitch pattern: 3ch, 2tr in 3ch-sp, work in patt to last 3ch-sp, 2tr in last 3ch-sp, 1tr in top of t-ch, turn.

Row 8: Work as row 5 of stitch pattern: 3ch, miss first 2tr, 1tr in next tr, work in patt to last 2tr, 1tr in next tr, miss 1tr, 1tr in top of t-ch.

Break yarn and fasten off.

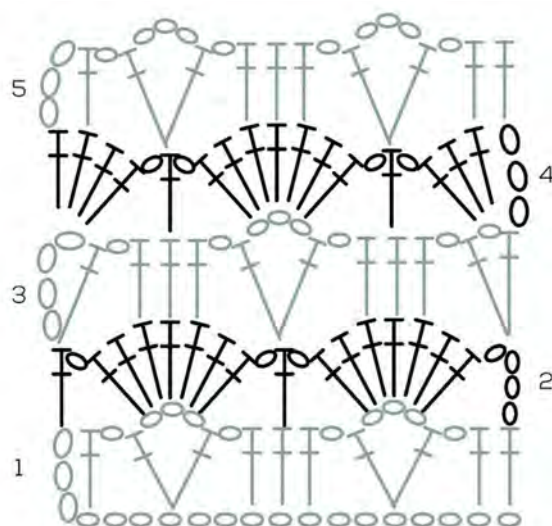
PATCH POCKETS

Make two

With 6mm hook, make 16ch + 3ch.

Work rows 1–5 of stitch pattern as given for Back.

Work rows 2 & 3 as given for Back. Break yarn and fasten off.



FINISHING

Weave in any loose ends into the back of your work so they are not visible from the RS.

Begin by sewing together the shoulder seams, then pin the sleeveheads into the armhole spaces before sewing them into place.

Finally, stitch up the side seams by sewing the front and back pieces together up to the underarm, then stitch up along the sleeve.

Stitch on your patch pockets.

ADD NECK TRIM

With RS facing, join yarn to beg of neck edge on Right Front, make 3ch, work tr evenly all the way around to centre front edge of Left Front. Break yarn and fasten off.

ADD BUTTON BAND TO LEFT FRONT

With RS facing, rejoin yarn to top front edge of Left Front, make 3ch, work tr evenly all the way down front edge, turn. Cont working in rows, turning

at end of each row.

Next Row: (WS) 1ch, 1dc in each st to end of row.

Next Row: 3ch, 1tr in each st to end of row. Break yarn and fasten off.

ADD BUTTONHOLE BAND TO RIGHT FRONT

On Right Front place markers at your preferred positions for the five buttonholes so you can work them in the correct places.

With RS facing, rejoin yarn to bottom front edge of Right Front, make 3ch, work tr evenly all the way up front edge, turn.

Cont working in rows, turning at end of each row.

Next Row: (WS) 1ch, *1dc in each st to next button marker, 1ch, miss 1 st; rep from * to last marker, 1dc in each st to end of row.

Next Row: 3ch, 1tr in each st to end of row.

Break yarn and fasten off.

Sew buttons on Left Front button band to match buttonholes on Right Front.

END



	S/M	L/XL	
TO FIT BUST	Up to 91	Up to 112	cm
	Up to 36	Up to 44	in
ACTUAL BUST	92	110	cm
	36½	43½	in
SLEEVE SEAM	50	50	cm
	19¾	19¾	in
SLEEVE SEAM	22	22	cm
	8½	8½	in



Halloween Charms

BY LIZ WARD

These cute Halloween earrings are quick to hook once you've got the hang of micro crochet.



ADD TO THE STASH
Buy this colourful thread from
www.thedroppedstitch.co.uk

(www.amigurumibarmy.blogspot.co.uk). Liz is passionate about amigurumi and crochet and spends her time teaching others to crochet and creating new and different patterns that are simple enough for every skill level to attempt.

PATTERN NOTES

These patterns are mainly worked in a spiral in the round. Do not join rounds but use a stitch marker or safety pin to indicate beginning of round. We've made the motifs into earrings, but they could be put together to form a charm bracelet or key chain or you could simply attach them to lobster clasps and create yourself some creepy-but-cute stitch markers.

Micro crochet may seem a bit more difficult than standard amigurumi, but it uses all the same stitches and once you get used to working with a small hook you'll find it easy.



PUMPKINS

Make two

With yarn A and 1.25mm hook, make an adjustable ring and work 6dc into the ring – 6 sts.

Rnd 1: 2dc in ea st around – 12 sts.

Rnd 2: [1dc in first st, 2dc in next st] around – 18 sts.

Rnd 3: [2dc, 2dc in next st] around – 24 sts.

Rnds 4–6: 1dc in ea st around.

Rnd 7: [Dc2tog, 2dc] around – 18 sts.

Rnd 8: [Dc2tog, 1dc] around – 12 sts.

Firmly stuff.

Rnd 9: [Dc2tog] around – 6 sts.

Fasten off leaving a long tail and pull through loop to secure.

Using a tapestry needle, weave the yarn through the last 6 sts and pull tight to close.

Secure the yarn on the underside of the pumpkin with a few stitches.

Wrap around the pumpkin and thread through the top centre, pulling tight to form a segment. Repeat five more times pulling the thread very tight to create a nice pumpkin shape.

MATERIALS

- Gütermann Top Stitch Thread, 100% polyester, 30m/33yds per reel
- **Yarn A:** Orange 350 x 1 reel
- **Yarn B:** Green 237 x 1 reel
- **Yarn C:** White 800 x 1 reel
- **Yarn D:** Black 000 x 1 reel
- **Yarn E:** Dark grey 701 x 1 reel
- 1.25mm hook
- Stitch marker
- Toy stuffing
- Earring findings
- Jewellery pliers
- Black felt
- Fabric glue

YARN ALTERNATIVES

You can use any heavy stitching thread to achieve a similar effect.

TENSION

Exact tension is not critical for this pattern but you should aim to achieve a firm tension.

MEASUREMENTS

Charms are approximately 1.5cm/1/2in deep.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Liz lives in North Yorkshire with her two Bengal cats and runs crochet blog Amigurumi barmy



STALK

With yarn B and 1.25mm hook, work 6ch.

Row 1: Sl st in second ch from hook, sl st in each ch across – 5 sts.

Fasten off leaving a long tail and pull through loop to secure. Sew onto the top of the pumpkin and weave in any loose ends.

FINISHING

Using jewellery pliers, twist open the loop at the bottom of an earring finding. Thread the open loop to the top of the stalk and twist as before to close the ring. Repeat with the second earring to complete the set. END

START

GHOSTS

Make two

With yarn C and 1.25mm hook, make an adjustable ring and work 6dc into the ring – 6 sts.

Rnd 1: 2dc in ea st around – 12 sts.

Rnd 2: [1dc in first st, 2dc in next st] around – 18 sts.

Rnds 3–6: 1dc in each st around.

Rnd 7: [3ch, 1trflo in same st, 8dc] twice – 18 sts and 2 loops.

Rnd 8: [1dcblo in first st, 8dc] twice.

Rnds 9–11: 1dc in each st around.

Rnd 12: [1dc, 1tr] around. Fasten off.

FINISHING

Sew around the loops made in rnd 7 so they stand out



prominently as arms and weave in ends.

Use yarn D to sew a little “V” stitch for the mouth. Cut two very small circles of felt and glue or sew in place to form the eyes. Attach to earring wires as set in Pumpkin pattern. END



WITCHES' HATS

Make two

With yarn E and 1.25mm hook, make an adjustable ring and work 6dc into the ring – 6 sts.

Rnds 1–6: 2dc in first st, 1dc in each st to end – 12 sts at end of rnd 6.

Rnd 7: Working flo throughout [2dc in next st, 1dc] around – 18 sts.

Rnd 8: [2dc, 2dc in next st] around – 24 sts.

Fasten off and weave in loose ends.

BAND

Make two

With yarn A and 1.25mm hook, work 19ch.

Row 1: Sl st in second ch from hook, sl st in each ch across – 18 sts.

Fasten off and sew in place around the brim of the hat.

Use yarn E to sew a square buckle over the band at the base of the hat. Weave in any loose ends.

FINISHING

Attach to earring wires as set in Pumpkin pattern. END





Boy's Striders

BY SHEHNAAZ AFZAR

Hook these adorable booties for a special tot.



This sweet design is taken from *Baby Brights*, edited by Kathleen McCafferty (Lark, £12.99). Buy it from www.thegmcgroup.com.

MATERIALS

- Loops & Threads Impeccable, 100% acrylic, 128g/245m/268yds
Shade: Aran, Grass or True Gray x 1 ball
- 3.75mm hook
- Sewing needle with thread
- Two wooden buttons, 13mm/1/2in for smallest size, 19mm/3/4in for larger sizes

YARN ALTERNATIVES

You can use any worsted/heavy DK weight yarn that works to the right tension for a similar effect.

TENSION

Work the sole of the booties to match the measurements below using 3.75mm hook, or size required to obtain tension.

MEASUREMENTS

To fit 0–3 mths (3–6 mths, 6–9 mths, 9–12 mths).

Sole length: 9 (9.5, 11, 11.5)cm/ 3½ (3¾, 4¼, 4½)in.

Sole width: 5 (5, 5.5, 5.5)cm/ 2 (2, 2¼, 2½)in.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Shehnaaz is a self-confessed craft addict with a passion for baby accessories. Read her blog at www.crochetdreamz.blogspot.co.uk.

PATTERN NOTES

The beauty of your shoe depends on the width and breadth of your strap, so customise it to your taste. If you want it to be longer, add 1 or 2 chains and follow the same pattern. If you want it to be longer as well as wider, switch to a larger hook.

One ball of the specified yarn will make several pairs of booties.

At end of each rnd when pattern says "join with sl st in beg 1ch," sl st in the next stitch visible. When it says "join with sl st in first dc," miss the beginning 1ch (next stitch visible) and sl st in the next stitch (the first dc).



SOLE

Size 0–3 mths and 3–6 mths only

10 (12)ch.

Rnd 1: (RS) Dc in second ch from hook and in each ch across to

last ch, 3dc in last ch; rotate piece (but do not turn) to work across opposite side of foundation ch, dc in each ch across to last ch, 2dc in last ch; join with sl st in beg 1ch – 20 (24)dc.

Rnd 2: 1ch, 2dc in next st, dc in next 3 (4) sts, htr in next 4 (5) sts, 2htr in each of next 3 sts, htr in next 4 (5) sts, dc in next 3 (4) sts, 2dc in each of last 2 sts; join with sl st in beg 1ch – 26 (30) sts.

Rnd 3: 1ch, dc in next st, 2dc in next st, dc in next 8 (10) sts, 2dc in next st, dc in next 4 sts, 2dc in next st, dc in next 8 (10) sts, 2dc in next st, dc in last st; join with sl st in beg 1ch – 30 (34)dc.

Rnd 4: 1ch, dc in next 2 sts, 2dc in next st, dc in next 5 (6) sts, htr in next 4 (5) sts, 2htr in each of next 2 sts, htr in next 2 sts, 2htr in each of next 2 sts, htr in next 4 (5) sts, dc in next 5 (6) sts, 2dc in next st, dc in last 2 sts; join with sl st in first dc – 36 (40) sts.
Do not fasten off.

Size 6–9 mths and 9–12 mths only

13 (14)ch. Ch uniformly to maintain tension and keep your sole stiff.

Rnd 1: Dc in second ch from hook, dc in next 6 (7)ch, htr in next 4ch, 3htr in last ch; rotate piece (but do not turn) to work across opposite side of foundation ch, htr in next 4ch, dc in next 6 (7)ch, 2dc in last ch; join with sl st in beg 1ch – 26 (28)dc.

Rnd 2: 1ch, 2dc in next st, dc in next 5 (6) sts, htr in next 5 sts, 2htr in each of next 4 sts, htr in next 5 sts, dc in next 5 (6) sts, 3dc in last st; join with sl st in beg 1ch – 33 (35) sts.

Rnd 3: 1ch, dc in next st, 2dc in next st, dc in next 12 (13) sts, 2dc in next st, dc in next 3 sts, 2dc in next st, dc in next 12 (13) sts, 2dc in last 2 sts; join with sl st in beg 1ch – 38 (40) sts.

Rnd 4: 1ch, dc in next 10 (11) sts, htr in next 5 sts, 2htr in each of next 2 sts, htr in next 3 sts, 2htr in each of next 2 sts, htr in next 5 sts, dc in next 10 (11) sts, 2dc in last st; join with sl st in first dc – 43 (45) sts.
Do not fasten off.

SIDES

Size 0–3 mths only

Rnd 1: (RS) 2ch (does not count

as a st), working in back loop only, htr in next st, htr in each st around, working last htr in st at base of beg 2ch; join with sl st in first htr.

Do not turn.

Rnd 2: Working in both loops, 1ch (does not count as a st), dc in next htr, dc in each htr around working last dc in st at base of beg 1ch; join with sl st in first dc.

Do not fasten off.

Size 3–6 mths only

Rnd 1: (RS) 2ch (does not count as a st), working in back loop only, htr in next st, htr in each st around, working last htr in st at base of beg 2ch; join with sl st in first htr.

Rnd 2: 2ch, working in both loops, htr in next st, htr in each st around, working last htr in st at base of beg 2ch; join with sl st in first htr.

Do not fasten off.

Size 6–9 mths and 9–12 mths only

Rnd 1: (RS) 1ch (does not count as a st), working in back loop only, dc in next st, dc in each st around, working last dc in st at base of beg 1ch; join with sl st in first dc.

Rnd 2: Working in both loops, 2ch (does not count as a st), htr in next st, htr in each st around, working last htr in st at base of beg 2ch; join with sl st in first htr.

Rnd 3: 1ch, dc in next st, dc in each st around, working last dc in st at base of beg 1ch; join with sl st in first dc. Do not fasten off.

TOE TOP

Before you start the toe top rounds, make sure the right side of the sole is under the shoe with a round of free loops running around it. If not, just flip the sides to ensure your toe top will be worked on the correct side.

Markers are placed to indicate the stitches at the toe end (wide end) of the bootie.

When working the first round of the toe top, you will work in the back loop only when working in the stitches between the markers. “Move marker up” means after you work a stitch in a marked stitch, take the marker out and place it in the new stitch you worked into the marked stitch. Following the markers in the

pattern will ensure that your work doesn’t get lopsided.

To mark a stitch, you just have to pull a piece of contrasting colour yarn through it.

Identify the 18 (20, 24, 26) stitches centred over the toe end (wide end) of bootie, and place a marker in the first and last of these stitches.

Size 0–3 mths and 3–6 mths only

Rnd 1: 2ch, htr in next st, htr in each st to 4 sts before first marker, htr2tog, htr in next 2 sts; working in back loop only, htr in marked st and move marker up, htr in next 2 (3) sts, htr2tog twice, htr in next st, htr2tog, htr in next st, htr2tog twice, htr in next 2 (3) sts, htr in marked st and move marker up; working in both loops, htr in next 2 sts, htr2tog, htr in each st around working last htr in st at base of beg 2ch; join with sl st in first htr – 29 (33) sts.

Note: There should be 13 (15) sts between the markers (including the marked sts) centred over toe end of bootie.

Rnd 2: 1ch, do not turn, working in both loops, dc in next st, dc in each st to first marker, htr in marked st and move marker up, htr in next 3 (4) sts, htr2tog, htr in next st, htr2tog, htr in next 3 (4) sts, htr in marked st and move marker up, dc in each dc around, working last dc in st at base of beg 1ch; join with sl st in first dc – 27 (31) sts.

Note: There should be 11 (13) sts between the markers (including the marked sts). The piece may look asymmetrical, but that is fine. When instructed to work into “0” sts this means you should miss that part of the instruction and proceed with the next part.

Rnd 3: 1ch, dc in next st, dc in each st to first marker, htr in marked st and remove marker, htr in next 0 (1) st, htr2tog twice, htr in next st, htr2tog twice, htr in next 0 (1) st, htr in marked st and remove marker, dc in each st around, working last dc in st at base of beg 1ch – 23 (27) sts.

Size 0–3 mths only

Rnd 4: Keeping your sl sts loose, sl st in next st, dc2tog, [dc in next

st, miss next st] four times, dc in next st, dc2tog, sl st in each st around; join with sl st in first sl st – 17 sts. Fasten off.

Size 3–6 mths only

Rnd 4: Sl st in next 3 sts, dc2tog, htr2tog twice, htr in next st, htr2tog twice, dc2tog, sl st in each remaining st around; join with sl st in first sl st – 21 sts. Fasten off.

Size 6–9 mths and 9–12 mths only

Rnd 1: 2ch, htr in next st, htr in each st to 4 sts before first marker, htr2tog, htr in next 2 sts; working in back loop only, htr in marked st and move marker up, htr in next 5 (6) sts, htr2tog twice, htr in next st, htr2tog, htr in next st, htr2tog twice, htr in next 5 (6) sts, htr in marked st and move marker up; working in both loops, htr in next 2 sts, htr2tog, htr in each st around working last htr in st at base of beg 2ch – 36 (38) sts.

Note: There should be 19 (21) sts between the markers (including the marked sts) centred over toe end of bootie.

Rnd 2: 1ch, do not turn, working in both loops, dc in next st, dc in each st to first marker, htr in marked st and move marker up, htr in next 6 (7) sts, htr2tog, htr in next st, htr2tog, htr in next 6 (7) sts, htr in marked st and move marker up, dc in each dc around, working last dc in st at base of beg 1ch – 34 (36) sts.

Note: There should be 17 (19) sts between the markers (including the marked sts). The piece may look a little asymmetrical, but that’s fine.

Rnd 3: 1ch, dc in next st, dc in each st to first marker, htr in marked st and remove marker, htr in next 1 (2) st(s), [htr2tog] three times, htr in next st, [htr2tog] three times, htr in next 1 (2) st(s), htr in marked st and remove marker, dc in each st around, working last dc in st at base of beg 1ch – 28 (30) sts.

Rnd 4: keeping your sl sts loose, sl st in next 4 (5) sts, dc in next st, htr in next 2 sts, htr2tog, tr3tog, htr2tog, htr in next 2 sts, dc in next st, sl st in each st around; join with sl st in first sl st – 24 (26) sts. Fasten off.

STRAPS

Size 0–3 mths and 3–6 mths only
12 (13)ch.

Rnd 1: Htr in fourth ch from hook (missed chains form the buttonhole), htr in next ch, sl st in next 5 (6)ch, htr in next ch, (htr, 2ch, htr) in last ch (the 2ch just made forms the second buttonhole); working across opposite side of foundation ch, htr in next ch, sl st in next 5 (6)ch, htr in next 2ch; join with sl st in next ch – 8htr, 10 (12) sl sts and a 2ch buttonhole at each end of piece.

Rnd 2: 1ch, 4dc in first 2ch-sp, 2dc in next st, dc in next st, sl st in back loop only of next 5 (6) sts, dc in next st, 2dc in next st, 4dc in next 2ch-sp, 2dc in next st, dc in next st, sl st in back loop only of next 5 (6) sts, dc in next st, 2dc in next st; join with sl st in first dc. Fasten off.

Size 6–9 mths and 9–12 mths only
14ch.

Rnd 1: Htr in fourth ch from hook

(missed chains form buttonhole), htr in next ch, sl st in next 7ch, htr in next ch, (htr, 2ch, htr) in last ch (2ch just made forms second buttonhole); working across opposite side of foundation ch, htr in next ch, sl st in next 7ch, htr in next 2ch; join with sl st in next ch – 8 htr, 14 sl sts, and 2ch buttonhole at each end of piece.

Rnd 2: 1ch, 4 htr in first 2ch-sp, 2htr in next st, dc in next st, sl st in back loop only of next 7 sts, dc in next st, 2htr in next st, 4htr in next 2ch-sp, 2htr in next st, dc in next st, sl st in back loop only of next 7 sts, dc in next sts, 2htr in next st; join with sl st in first htr. Fasten off.

FINISHING

Weave in ends. Sew one button to one side of instep, and button on one end of strap. Place strap across instep of bootie and mark for placement of second button, making sure that the buttons are symmetrically placed. Sew second button in place.



Halloween House

BY ROSELLA TINN

An adorably scary little house, which is sure to delight young and old alike!





MATERIALS

- Stylecraft Special Aran, 100% acrylic, 100g/196m/214yds
- **Shade:** Black 1002 x 1 ball
- Oddments of DK yarn in Dark Red, Purple, Neon Green
- 5mm hook
- Yarn needle
- Novelty buttons
- Pins
- Sewing thread
- Plastic canvas sheets

YARN ALTERNATIVES

You can work this design in any aran or DK weight yarn of similar yardage, which gives the correct tension.

TENSION

Work 14dc and 14 rows to measure 10 x 10cm/4 x 4in using 5mm hook, or size required to obtain the correct tension.

MEASUREMENTS

Height: 20.5cm/8in.
Width at widest point: 17.5cm/7in.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Rosella loves getting her inspiration from nature, and autumn is one of her favourite times of the year. Find out more about her work at www.woollycluck77.blogspot.co.uk.

PATTERN NOTES

The house is comprised of a crochet "skin" placed over a plastic canvas insert. The left portion of the roof can be opened, to store sweets inside. It consists of two crochet gable ends, two sides, one base and two sections of roof. All these pieces are sewn together. The plastic canvas insert also consists of two gable ends, two sides, one base and two sections of roof. The roof sections are the same as the sides, so cut four pieces to these measurements in total. The windows (eyes) and door (mouth) are appliquéd on, then various Halloween themed buttons added.



GABLE END

Make two

With Black, make 15ch.

Row 1: Dc in second ch from hk, dc in each ch to end, turn – 14dc.

Row 2: Dc to end, 1ch, turn.

Row 3: Dc in first st, 2dc in next st, dc in each st to last 2 sts, 2dc in next st, dc in last st, 1ch, turn – 16dc.

Rep last two rows four times – 24dc.

Rows 12–16: Dc to end, 1ch, turn.

Row 17: Dc2tog, dc to last 2 sts, dc2tog, 1ch, turn.
 Rep last row a further 11 times – 2dc.

Dc2tog, fasten off and cut yarn.
 Leave long end for sewing.

SIDE

Make two

With Black, make 15ch.

Row 1: Dc in second ch from hk, dc in each ch to end, 1ch, turn – 14dc.

Rows 2–15: Dc to end, 1ch, turn.

Row 16: Dc to end.

Fasten off and cut yarn.

Leave long end for sewing.

BASE

Make one

With Black, make 15ch.

Row 1: Dc in second ch from hk, dc in each ch to end, 1ch, turn – 14dc.

Rows 2–13: Dc to end, 1ch, turn.

Row 14: Dc to end.

Fasten off and cut yarn.

Leave long end for sewing.

CHIMNEY

With Black, make 13ch.

Row 1: Dc in second ch from hk, dc in each ch to end, 1ch, turn – 12dc.

Rows 2–4: Dc to end, 1ch, turn.

Row 5: Dc to end, 3ch (counts as st), turn.

Row 6: 3tr, 5dc, 3tr.

Fasten off and cut yarn.

WINDOWS/EYES

Make two

With Neon Green, make 3ch.

Row 1: Dc in second ch from hk, dc in next ch, 1ch, turn – 2dc.

Row 2: Dc in first st, 2dc in



next st, 1ch, turn – 3dc.
Row 3: Dc to end, 1ch, turn.
Row 4: 2dc, 2dc in last st, 1ch, turn – 4dc.
Row 5: Dc to end.
Row 6: 3dc, 2dc in last st – 5dc.
 Fasten off and cut yarn.
 Leave long end for sewing.

DOOR/MOUTH

With Neon Green, make 11ch.
Row 1: Dc in second ch from hk, dc in each ch to end, 1ch, turn – 10dc.
Rows 2–4: Dc to end, 1ch, turn.
Row 5: Dc to end.
 Fasten off and cut yarn.
 Leave long end for sewing.

ROOF

With Purple, make 38ch.
Row 1: Dc in second ch from hk, dc in each ch to end, 1ch, turn – 37dc.
Rows 2–17: Dc to end, 1ch, turn.
Row 18: Dc to end.
 Fasten off and cut yarn.
 Leave long end for sewing.

BLOOD DRIPS

With Dark Red, make 15ch, sl st

in second ch from hk, sl st in 7ch, 5ch, sl st in second ch from hk, sl st each of foll 3ch, then sl st in 2ch from original ch, 5ch, sl st in second ch from hk, sl st in each of foll 3ch, then sl st in 4ch from original ch, 20ch, sl st in second ch from hk, sl st in each ch to end.
 Fasten off and cut yarn. Leave long end for sewing.

CONSTRUCTION

Choose one gable end to be the front (RS).
 Appliqué on the windows and door, sew on buttons. For window placement, go to widest point on gable end, from each side, measure inwards 2.5cm/1in, pin window in place. Make sure both windows are in line with each other. Measure 6mm/¼in under inner/bottom edge of window, and place door centrally. Sew buttons to each gable end, according to photo.

With RS facing, oversew all the pieces together to make a box shape.



For the plastic insert, sew both pieces of the roof together, across the top, to make a hinge. Sew the rest of the pieces together to make a box, then sew the right section of the roof to the box. Leave the left section free, so it will lift up to store

sweets inside the house.

Lie the chimney out flat, with straight edge at the top. Pin the blood across the top, so you have three small drips and one long one. Sew blood in place. Fold chimney in half and oversew the

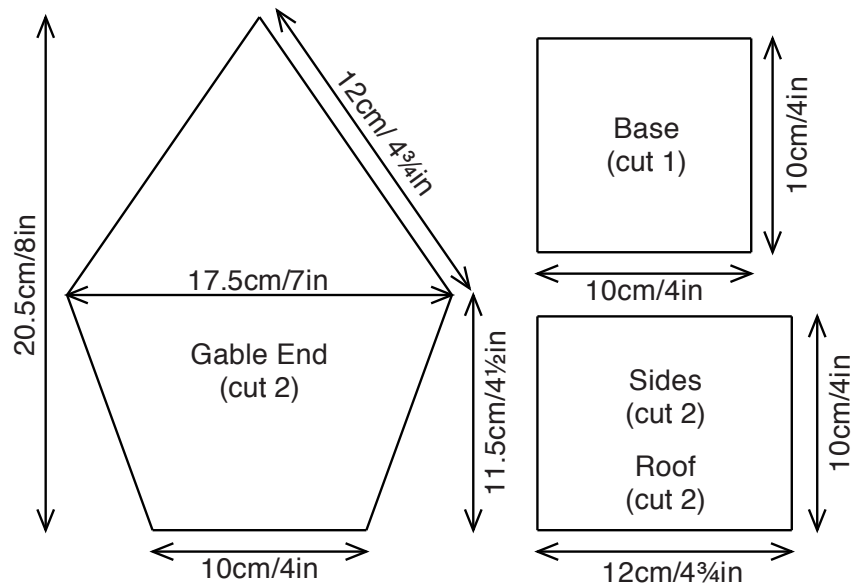


sides together, to form a tube. The bottom will be longer on one side. Place the chimney according to photo, on the right side of the roof. Face the short edge inwards, and sew chimney to the roof.

Lie house upside down on crochet roof piece. Position the canvas roof so that you have an over-hang of two rows, at the back and front gable edge. Count 3 sts inwards from each side (edge) of roof. Tack the roof neatly to the plastic section only, on left side. On right side, tack it to the house "skin", so that all of the right side is enclosed. Finally, sew a button to left side of roof, to help with opening the roof.



MEASUREMENTS FOR PLASTIC CANVAS





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Bette Blanket

BY JENNIFER REID

Hook this retro-inspired fun floral blanket.



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MATERIALS

- Cascade Yarns 220 Superwash, 100% wool, 100g/200m/220yds
- Yarn A:** Pumpkin 822 x 2 skeins
- Yarn B:** Teal 810 x 2 skeins
- Yarn C:** Marionberry 880 x 2 skeins
- Yarn D:** Ruby 893 x 2 skeins
- Yarn E:** Aran 817 x 2 skeins
- Yarn F:** Yellow 824 x 2 skeins
- 4mm hook

TENSION

Exact tension is not critical for this design, but sample is worked at 20–22 sts to measure 10 x 10cm/4 x 4in using a 4mm hook.

MEASUREMENTS

Finished blanket: 120 x 113cm/47¼ x 44½in.

Hexagon motif: 9 x 9.5cm/3½ x 3¾in.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Jennifer Reid loves all things craft, but holds a special torch for crochet. View more of her designs at www.ravelry.com/designers/jenny-reid.

PATTERN NOTES

Each motif is begun independently then attached to others on rnd 5. Each hexagon is made with three different colours, chosen randomly. When joining the hexagons, alternate rows of 11 and then 12 motifs, with first and last rows both using 11 motifs. There are 15 rows in total.



HEXAGON

Make 172

With 4mm hook and any yarn, make an adjustable ring.
Rnd 1: 12dc in loop – 12 sts.
Rnd 2: 2dc in each dc around, sl st to join – 24 sts.



Rnd 3: 3ch (counts as 1tr), 4tr in same st, [miss 3dc, 5tr in next st] around, sl st in top of 3ch – 6 shells. Fasten off.

Change colour, joining yarn to third of 5tr group.

Rnd 4: 1ch, 1dc in same sp, 2dc, [dc in second dc of rnd 2, 5dc] around, ending last rep dc in second dc of rnd 2, 2dc, sl st to 1ch – 6 petals. Fasten off.

Change colour, joining yarn in spiked dc from previous rnd.

Rnd 5: 3ch (counts as 1tr), 1tr in next dc, *miss 1dc, 1ch, 5tr in next dc, 1ch, miss 1dc, 1tr in each of next 3dc; rep from * around, ending last rep 1tr in next dc, sl st to 3ch. Fasten off.

For each of the next floral hexagons at rnd 5, substitute each 1ch for 1dc into neighbouring hexagon. Fasten off and weave in all ends.

END



Market Shopper

BY RED SPARROW CROCHET

A soft and casual cotton-blend bag worked in two contemporary colours, this is perfect for a stroll on the beach or trip to the market.



ADD TO THE STASH
Buy this cotton blend yarn from
www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

MATERIALS

- Drops Cotton Light, 50% cotton/50% polyester, 50g/105m/115yds
- **Yarn A:** Dark Grey 30 x 3 balls
- **Yarn B:** Red 32 x 1 ball
- 5mm & 5.5 mm hooks
- Two buttons, 3cm/1¼in
- Two buttons, 2cm/¾in

YARN ALTERNATIVES

You can use any cotton or cotton-blend DK weight yarn to achieve a similar effect.

TENSION

Exact tension is not essential for this pattern.

MEASUREMENTS

Circumference: 76cm/30in.
Bag depth: 35cm/13¾in.
Strap length: 70cm/27½in.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Red Sparrow is a crochet designer who lives and works in Suffolk. Find her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/redsparrowcrochet.

PATTERN NOTES

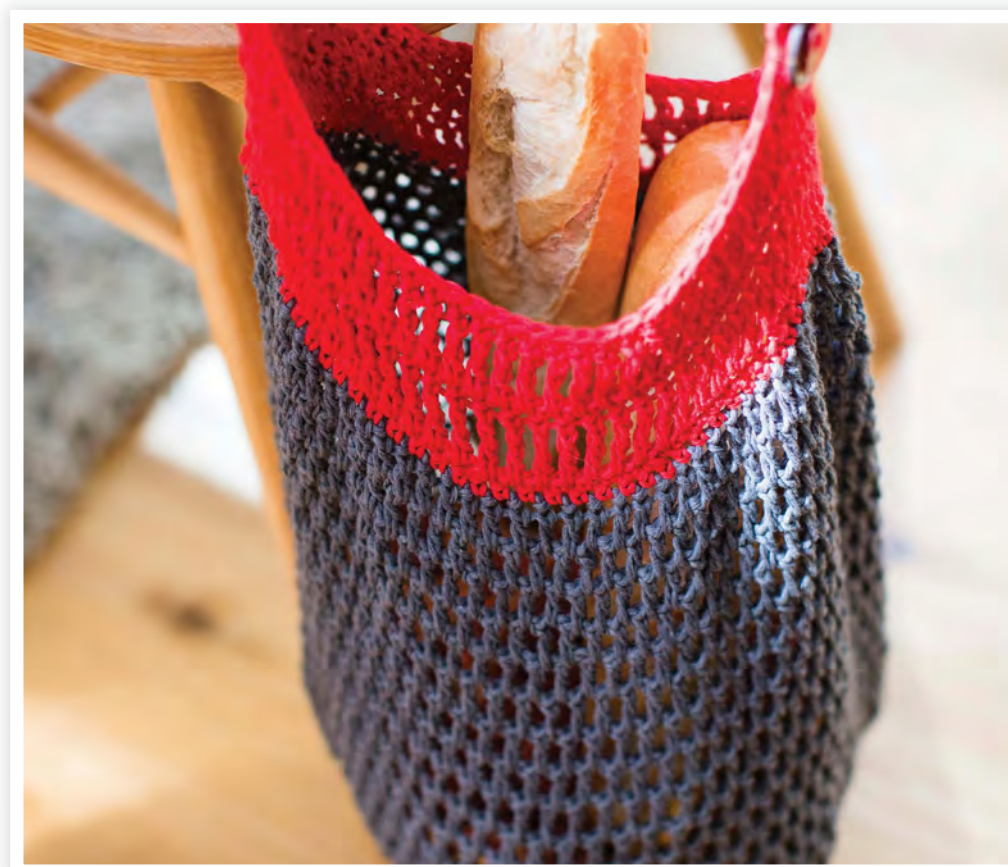
The bag is worked in the round from base upwards with the strap incorporated as you go.



BAG

With 5.5mm hook and yarn A, make 5ch and join with sl st in first ch to make a ring.

- Rnd 1:** 3ch (counts as 1tr throughout), 15tr into ring, join with sl st in top of 3ch – 16 sts.
- Rnd 2:** 3ch, 1tr in same st, 2tr in each st around, join with sl st in top of 3ch – 32 sts.
- Rnd 3:** 3ch, 2tr in next st, *1tr, 2tr in next st; rep from * to end of rnd, join with sl st in top of 3ch – 48 sts.
- Rnd 4:** 3ch, 1tr, 2tr in next st, *2tr, 2tr in next st; rep from * to end of rnd, join with sl st in top of 3ch – 64 sts.
- Rnd 5:** 3ch, 2tr, 2tr in next st, *3tr, 2tr in next st; rep from * to end of rnd, join with sl st in top of 3ch – 80 sts.
- Rnd 6:** 4ch (counts as 1tr and 1ch), *1tr in next st, 1ch; rep from * to end of round, join with sl st in top of 3ch.
- Rnds 7–10:** Rep rnd 6.
- Rnd 11:** Sl st in first ch-sp, 3ch,



work 1tr in ea ch-sp around, join with sl st in top of 3ch.

Rnds 12–23: Sl st in sp between first two sts, 3ch, work 1tr in ea sp around, join with sl st in top of 3ch.

Change to 5mm hook.

Rnd 24: Rep rnd 23.

Fasten off.

Rnd 25: Join yarn B with sl st in top of any tr, 1ch (does not count as st throughout), 1dc in same st, 1dc in ea st around, join with sl st in first st – 80 sts.

Rnd 26: 1ch, beg in same st work *6dc, dc2tog; rep from * around, join with sl st in first st – 70 sts.

Rnd 27: 4ch (counts as 1dtr throughout), 1dtr in each st around, join with sl st into top of 4ch.

Rnd 28: 1ch, beg in same st work 1dc in each st around, join with sl st in first st.

Rnd 29: Rep rnd 27.

Rnds 30 & 31: Rep rnd 28.

Do not fasten off and continue as folls to make strap: 1ch, 1dc in each of first 5dc from prev rnd, turn work, *1ch, 1dc in each of 5dc, turn; rep from * for a total of 96 rows or until strap is desired length. Fasten off.

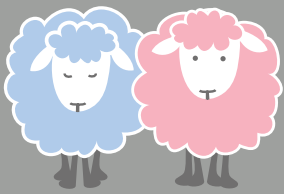


FINISHING

Slip stitch or sew the strap handle to opposite side of the bag. Weave in all ends and block to measurements.

Sew two buttons (small on top of large) on each side where handle meets main bag to add detail.





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Puffer Fish

BY VANESSA MOONCIE

The crocheted puffer fish is soft and cuddly, unlike its real-life counterpart!



ADD TO THE STASH

Buy this great value yarn from www.bergeredefrance.co.uk

crocheted
sea creatures



This design is taken from *Crocheted Sea Creatures* by Vanessa Mooncie (£14.99, GMC).

MATERIALS

- Bergère de France Idéal, 40% combed wool/30% acrylic/30% polyamide, 50g/125m/136yds
- **Yarn A:** Citronnier 23040 x 1 ball
- **Yarn B:** Meije 51253 x 1 ball
- DK yarn
- **Yarn C:** Black x 1 ball (oddment only needed)
- 3mm hook
- Safety pin
- Toy stuffing
- Yarn needle

TENSION

Work 24dc and 26 rows to measure 10 x 10cm/4 x 4in using 3mm hook or size required to obtain tension.

MEASUREMENTS

Body of finished fish is approximately 11.5cm/4½in in diameter.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Vanessa is an artist, illustrator and designer based in Sussex. She has written several books of crochet, knitting and sewing designs. Visit her website at www.kissysuzuki.com.

SPECIAL STITCHES

Picot: The picot appears on the reverse side of the work. This will be the RS. Insert hook into next st, catch yarn and draw back through stitch (2 loops on hook), [catch yarn and draw through first loop on hook only] four times, catch yarn and draw through both loops on hook.

Dc2inc: Work 2dc into next st.

PATTERN NOTES

The body is worked in continuous rounds of double crochet; the picots, which appear on the reverse side of the work, are made with a number of chain stitches formed into a loop.

The fins are crocheted in rounds; each piece is flattened and then joined at the top with a decorative edging of dc and chain stitches.



BODY

Starting at the top of the body, with 3mm

hook and yarn A, make an adjustable ring (see page 94).

Rnd 1: (WS) 1ch (does not count as a st), work (1dc, **picot** (see *Special Stitches*)) three times into the ring – 6 sts.

Rnd 2: (Inc) (**Dc2inc** (see *Special Stitches*)) six times – 12 sts.

Pull on the short end of yarn to close the ring.

Rnd 3: (Inc) (Dc2inc, 1dc) six times – 18 sts.

Rnd 4: (Inc) (Dc2inc, 1dc, picot) six times – 24 sts.

Rnd 5: (Inc) (Dc2inc, 3dc) six times – 30 sts.

Rnd 6: (Inc) (Dc2inc, 4dc) six times – 36 sts.

Rnd 7: (1dc in next 2dc, picot) 12 times.

Rnd 8: (Inc) (Dc2inc, 5dc) six times – 42 sts.

Rnd 9: (Inc) (Dc2inc, 6dc) six times – 48 sts.

Rnd 10: (1dc in next 3dc, picot) 12 times.

Rnd 11: (Inc) (Dc2inc, 7dc) six times – 54 sts.

Rnd 12: (Inc) (Dc2inc, 8dc) six times – 60 sts.

Rnd 13: (1dc in next 4dc, picot) 12 times.

Rnd 14: (Inc) (Dc2inc, 9dc) six times – 66 sts.

Rnd 15: (Inc) (Dc2inc, 10dc) six times – 72 sts.



Rnd 16: (1dc in next 5dc, picot) 12 times.
Rnds 17 & 18: Work 1dc in each dc.
Rnd 19: As rnd 16.
Rnd 20: Work 1dc in each dc.

Join and continue in yarn B.
Rnd 21: Work 1dc in each dc.
Rnd 22: As rnd 16.
Rnds 23 & 24: Work 1dc in each dc.
Rnd 25: As rnd 16.
Rnd 26: (Dec) (Dc2tog, 10dc) six times – 66 sts.
Rnd 27: (Dec) (Dc2tog, 9dc) six times – 60 sts.
Rnd 28: As rnd 13.
Rnd 29: (Dec) (Dc2tog, 8dc) six times – 54 sts.
Rnd 30: (Dec) (Dc2tog, 7dc) six times – 48 sts.
Rnd 31: As rnd 10.
Rnd 32: (Dec) (Dc2tog, 6dc) six times – 42 sts.
Rnd 33: (Dec) (Dc2tog, 5dc) six times – 36 sts.
Rnd 34: As rnd 7.
Rnd 35: (Dec) (Dc2tog, 4dc) six times – 30 sts.
Rnd 36: (Dec) (Dc2tog, 3dc) six times – 24 sts.
Rnd 37: (Dec) (1dc in next 3dc, picot) six times, sl st into same st.

Fasten off yarn A, but do not fasten off yarn B.
 Remove the hook and insert a safety pin into the loop to prevent the work unravelling. Carefully turn the piece right side out. Stuff the body firmly. Remove the safety pin and insert the hook back into the loop. Continue working on the RS, pushing the picots forward so the stitches can be seen for the next round.

Rnd 38: (Dec) (Dc2tog, 2dc) six times – 18 sts.
Rnd 39: (Dec) (Dc2tog, 1dc) six times – 12 sts.
 Fasten off, leaving a long length of yarn at the end.
 Thread the yarn onto a yarn needle and weave it through the last round of stitches. Push a little extra stuffing inside, if necessary, before pulling up the yarn tightly to close the opening and fastening off.

CAUDAL (TAIL) FIN

With 3mm hook and yarn B, make an adjustable ring.
Rnd 1: 1ch (does not count as a st), work 6dc into the ring – 6 sts.
Rnd 2: (Inc) (Dc2inc, 1dc) three times – 9 sts.

Pull on the short end of the yarn to close the ring.

Rnd 3: 1dcblo of each dc.
Rnd 4: (Inc) (Dc2inc) nine times – 18 sts.
 Join in yarn A.
Rnd 5: 1dc in each dc in yarn A.
Rnd 6: (Inc) With yarn A, work (dc2inc, 2dc) six times – 24 sts.
Rnd 7: As rnd 5, in yarn B.
Rnd 8: (Inc) With yarn B, (dc2inc, 5dc) four times – 28 sts.

SCALLOPED EDGE

Rnd 9: With yarn A, work *(1dc, 2ch, 1dc) in next dc, miss next dc*; rep from * to * 13 more times, sl st into the first 2ch – 14 scallops.

JOIN TOP OF FIN

Bring together and match the 7 scallops from each side of the opening, flattening the tail fin.
Next Rnd: With yarn B, work *(1dc, 2ch, 1dc) into the next 2ch-sp on both sides at the same time to join**, rep from ** to ** six more times to join each side – 7 scallops.
 Fasten off.

TAIL

Turn the caudal fin upside down, so the first round is at the top.

With 3mm hook and yarn A, join the yarn to a dc on rnd 2 of the caudal fin with a sl st.

Rnd 1: 1dc in the front loop of the same st, work 1dc in the front loop of each of the next 8dc – 9 sts.
Rnd 2: 1dc in each dc.
Rnd 3: (Inc) (Dc2inc, 2dc) three times – 12 sts.
Rnd 4: As rnd 2.
Rnd 5: (Inc) (Dc2inc, 3dc) three times – 15 sts.
Rnd 6: As rnd 2.
Rnd 7: (Inc) (Dc2inc, 4dc) three times – 18 sts.
 Sl st to next st and fasten off, leaving a long length of yarn at the end.

PECTORAL AND DORSAL FINS

Make three

With 3mm hook and yarn B, make an adjustable ring.
Rnd 1: 1ch (does not count as a st), work 6dc into the ring – 6 sts.
Rnd 2: (Inc) (Dc2inc) six times – 12 sts.
 Pull on the short end of yarn to close the ring.
Rnd 3: 1dc in each dc.
Rnd 4: (Inc) (Dc2inc, 1dc) six times – 18 sts.
 Join in yarn A.
Rnds 5 & 6: As for rnds 5 & 6 of Caudal Fin.

SCALLOPED EDGE

Rnd 7: With yarn B, work from * to * of rnd 9 of the caudal fin 12 times. Sl st to first 2ch-sp – 12 scallops.

JOIN TOP OF FIN

Bring together and match the 6 scallops from each side of the opening, flattening the fin.

Next Rnd: With yarn A, work from ** to ** of the caudal fin six times to join the top of the fin – 6 scallops.
 Fasten off.

EYES

Make two

EYEBALL

With 3mm hook and yarn C, make an adjustable ring.
Rnd 1: 1ch (does not count as a st), work 6dc into ring – 6 sts.
 Join in yarn B.
Rnd 2: (Inc) With yarn B, working



into the back loops only, (dc2inc, 1dc) three times – 9 sts. Pull on short end of yarn to close ring.

Rnd 3: With yarn B, (dc2inc, 2dc) three times – 12 sts. Fasten off.

EYE SOCKET

With 3mm hook and yarn A, make 9ch, join with a sl st to first ch to form a ring.

Rnd 1: 1ch (does not count as a st), 12dc into ring – 12 sts.

JOIN EYE PIECES

Rnd 2: With right side of eyeball to wrong side of eye socket, slip the eyeball inside the eye socket and work 1dc into each dc of both pieces at the same time to join. Sl st to next st and fasten off, leaving a long length of yarn at the end.

MOUTH

With 3mm hook and yarn A, make 10ch, join with a sl st to first ch to form a ring.

Rnd 1: 1ch (does not count as a st), 15dc into ring – 15 sts.

Rnd 2: 1dc in each dc.

Join in yarn C.

Rnd 3: With yarn C, work 1dc into the back loops only of each dc. Sl st to next st and fasten off, leaving a long length of both yarn A and yarn C at the end.

MAKING UP

All of the following features should be attached to the

upper part of the body, worked in yarn A.

MOUTH AND EYES

Thread the length of yarn C left after fastening off the mouth onto a yarn needle and weave it through the last round of stitches, pull up tight to close the opening and fasten off. This will lie flat at the back to form the inside of the mouth. Squash the round shape a little to form an oval and, with the length of yarn A left after fastening off, sew the front loops of rnd 2 of the mouth to the front of the body.

Push some stuffing inside the eyes so they pop out. With the length of yarn left after fastening off, sew the eyes to the front of the body, stitching all around the edges.

TAIL

Stuff the open end of the tail firmly and sew it to the back of the body, stitching all around the edge.

FINS

Stitch one fin to each side of the body, sewing all around the narrow end to hold them firmly in place. These are the pectoral fins. Sew the remaining dorsal fin securely to the top of the body. Weave in all of the yarn ends.

END

Errata

CORRECTIONS IN BOLD



COLOUR-BLOCK PONCHO

ISSUE 65 page 68

Rnds 4–10 (12, 14): Sl st into second tr of previous rnd, 3ch (counts as 1tr), work 2tr in same st, *miss **2 sts**, 3tr in next st; rep from * to end, sl st in first tr st to join.

We have all our patterns checked professionally and try our hardest to ensure all pattern text is correct at time of going to press. Unfortunately mistakes do occasionally occur and any errata that we are aware of can be found at www.insidecrochet.co.uk/errata. Please do let us know if you find any mistakes by emailing claire@tailormadepublishing.co.uk.

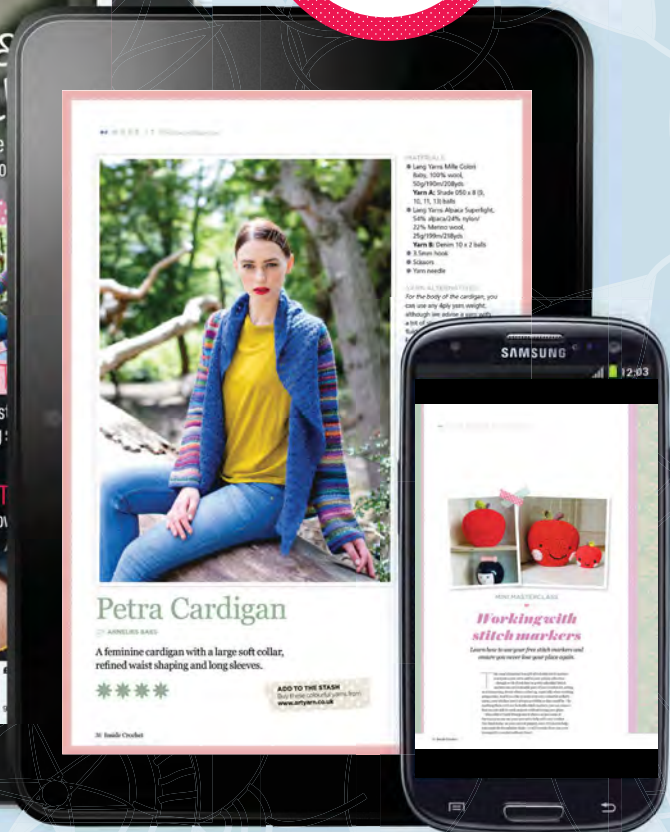
The result of the finished project will vary depending on the yarn used. We always recommend swatching before beginning a new crochet project and using the yarn suggested for best results. However, if you decide to use an alternative, ensure you swatch thoroughly to achieve the correct tension provided in the pattern.

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MINI MASTERCLASS



Working with stitch markers

Learn how to use your free stitch markers and ensure you never lose your place again.

This issue's fabulous free gift of lockable stitch markers is not just a cute set to add to your notion collection – though we do think they're pretty adorable! Stitch markers are an invaluable part of your crochet kit, acting as a timesaving device when crocheting, especially when working amigurumi. And if you like to work with very colourful or fluffy yarns, your stitches aren't always as visible as they could be – by marking them with our lockable stitch markers, you can ensure that you are able to work projects without losing your place.

Here editor Claire Montgomerie shows us just some of the ways you can use your new set to help with your crochet. Use them today on your current project, even if it's just to help you count the foundation chain – you'll wonder how you ever managed to crochet without them!

MARKING YOUR STITCHES

Stitch markers have a myriad of uses in your crochet projects, but their main purpose is to mark a certain place or places in your work to reduce the amount of counting and deciphering you need to do while working a pattern. If you have to stop every few rounds or rows to count your stitches, this will significantly slow down your progress in a project. The stitch marker will also help you avoid making mistakes – it's easy to miscount stitches when you're a little tired or have been crocheting for a few hours.

A stitch can be marked in many ways, the simplest of which is to use a piece of contrasting thread. However, this can fall out quite easily, so a purpose-made ring or lockable stitch marker is your safest option. A split ring marker can be moved in and out of the work very easily, but again, there is the risk of it falling out when handling your crochet. Therefore, our favourite type of marker is the lockable kind, as with this month's free gift. These can be locked into place around a stitch so that they won't move until you unlock them.

KNOW YOUR PLACE

Markers can be used anywhere that a stitch is not obvious. For example, if you are using a fancy yarn which causes the stitches to become indistinct, then add a marker into any relevant stitch that will need to be worked into later. You can also use a marker to highlight the beginning and end of a pattern repeat, over stitches or rows. This is especially useful if you are ever asked to work a tension swatch in a certain pattern where either the rows or the first and last stitch of that pattern are not obvious, or you are finding it hard to count the stitches or rows per centimetre. Simply pop a marker into the first and last stitch of one whole repeat as you work it, or the first and last stitch of a certain amount of repeats and measure the distance between the markers.

Another great tip when working very long lengths of foundation chains is to pop a marker into every tenth or twentieth chain as you work is, and then count the multiples in between the markers. This will save numerous recounts as you try to get the correct amount of chain stitches!

All the examples so far are ways to use a marker that is usually not denoted in the pattern. If a pattern calls for the placing of a marker, it will use the term Place Marker (PM or pm). Most often, you will see a marker used when working in spirals in double crochet, such as when working amigurumi, as the beginning of the round is so hard to keep track of. Placing a marker in the first stitch of the round means that you needn't count all of the stitches in each round to work out where you are and will help ensure you have the correct stitch count with little concentration.

When working in double crochet in the round, as the stitches are so short, it is often easier to work in spirals without turning chains or joining each round. To work in spirals, simply place a marker at the beginning of the round to denote where you are working to each time.



At the end of the first round, do not join round with a slip stitch, but simply work a double crochet into the first stitch of the next round (fig A).



Place marker in this stitch to mark where the round starts (fig B). Continue in pattern.



Work to end of round, which will be the stitch before the marker (fig C). Remove marker and work into first stitch of round. Place marker in new first stitch and repeat.



Markers are used as a reference tool to make your life easier. If you feel you need one, pop it in!

ACTION POINTS

Another common use for markers is to mark the position of a particular point in the work so that you don't have to count across to it each row. This is most handy when that point is an increase or decrease, as the amount of stitches between each point will differ each round. If you just work across to the marker, it saves you having to check how many stitches you should be counting on each particular row. This is most often used in projects like gloves or mittens, to denote the position of the thumb shaping, or perhaps a triangular shawl that is shaped at the centrepiece.

For the thumb gusset on a mitten, you would work as follows:

When working the first increase row or round of the thumb shaping, place the markers at set intervals as follows:



14dc, place marker in last stitch (fig D), inc, 1dc, inc, 1dc, place marker in last stitch (fig E), dc to end of rnd.



Next round, work in dc to marker (fig F), remove marker and work 1dc in that stitch, too (fig G), replace marker in last stitch (fig H), inc, dc to stitch before next marker, inc (fig I), remove marker, 1dc and replace marker in last stitch (fig J), dc to end.



You can now repeat the last row, every row without having to work out how many extra stitches are worked in between increases.

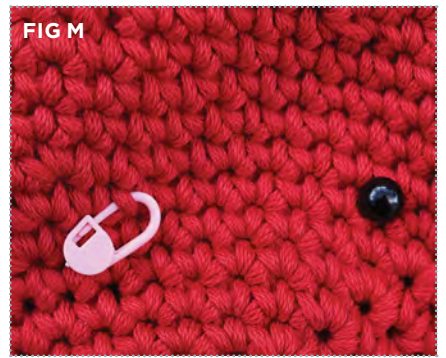
COLOUR CODING

It is always a good idea to have some differently coloured markers to hand when crocheting, as often you will need to mark a few different places in your fabric. This is fine if you are working the same technique at each marker, but if you need to work two or more different processes, using different colours will help identify what you are supposed to do at each point. For example, if you are working in rounds, but also need to mark the thumb shaping, you should keep the marker for the beginning of the round a different colour to the one(s) marking the thumb to prevent each process being worked in the wrong place.

Finally, another common reason for using a marker is to indicate a position to refer back to at a later stage of the work, rather than every row or round. This is especially helpful in amigurumi projects, where you can mark positions for eyes and body parts on the main body as you work. It is also handy when marking where to set in sleeves on a garment.

For the apple amigurumi project opposite, to position the eyes as per the sample shown, you must place markers in the correct stitch on the relevant round as you work, then place the safety eyes in the marked stitches later on. The instruction on Row 22 of the pattern is: 22dc, pm in previous st, (fig K) 12dc, pm in previous st, (fig L) 1 dc in each rem stitch.

When you come to attach the safety eyes, remove each marker and attach each eye (fig M). Now the eyes are positioned perfectly, with no guesswork! A pattern may not mention markers, but that doesn't mean you cannot add them at any place you want to refer back to, to make the pattern easier to work. Markers should be used as a reference tool to make your life easier, so if you feel you need one, pop it in!



A great tip when working very long lengths of foundation chains is to pop a marker into every tenth or twentieth chain, and then count the multiples in between the markers.





Apple Doorstop and Toy

BY CLAIRE MONTGOMERIE

Hook this cheery doorstop to brighten your home – or use a smaller yarn and hook for a fun toy kids will love.



MATERIALS

Large doorstop

- DMC Natura XL, 100% cotton, 100g/75m/82yds
- Yarn A:** Red 05 x 1 Ball
- Yarn B:** Brown 111 x 1 ball
- Yarn C:** Green 84 x 1 ball
- Yarn D:** Pink 61 x 1 ball
- Yarn E:** Black 02 x 1 ball (oddment only needed of yarn E)
- 5.5mm hook

Small toy

- DMC Natura, 100% cotton, 50g/155m/170yds
- Yarn A:** Passion N23 x 1 ball
- Yarn B:** Ombre N39 x 1 ball
- Yarn C:** Bamboo N76 x 1 ball
- Yarn D:** Agatha N44 x 1 ball
- Yarn E:** Noir N11 x 1 ball (oddment only needed of yarn E)
- 3mm hook

Both versions

- Two 10mm/½in safety eyes
- Toy stuffing
- Uncooked dried rice, beans or lentils inside a securely fastened cloth bag
- Yarn needle
- Stitch marker

YARN ALTERNATIVES

Any chunky yarn for the doorstop or 4ply yarn for the toy will work well here.

TENSION

Exact tension is not essential for this pattern. Simply ensure work is tightly crocheted.

MEASUREMENTS

Doorstop body measures approx 18cm/7in high.

Toy body measures approx 8cm/3¼in high.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Claire Montgomerie is the editor of *Inside Crochet*, a textiles teacher and designer specialising in knit and crochet. Find out more at www.montyknits.blogspot.com.

SPECIAL STITCHES

Increase (inc): 2dc in next st.

PATTERN NOTES

Apple is made starting at the top, with the “dip” for the stalk, then worked downwards in spirals. Do not join each round or use turning chains unless



indicated, instead place a marker at the start of the round, moving upwards each round to denote beginning of rounds.

The smaller, toy apple is made with exactly the same pattern as the large apple, but with the finer yarn and a smaller hook. Any adjustments to the pattern will have the small toy instructions first, followed by the doorstep instructions inside brackets.



STALK

With yarn B and 3mm (5.5mm) hook, make 4ch and join into a ring with a sl st.

Rnd 1: 1sl st in each st around, do not join rnd, pm for working in spirals – 4sl sts.
Rep last rnd until stalk is approximately 3 (8)cm/1¼ (3¼)in. Fasten off yarn.

LEAF

With yarn C and 3mm (5.5mm) hook, make adjustable ring.

Rnd 1: 6dc in ring, pull up tight to close hole, join rnd with sl st – 6dc.
Rnd 2: 1ch (does not count as st), 3dc in first st, 2htr in next st, 2tr in next st, (1dtr, 1ch, 1dtr) in next

st, 2tr in next st, 2htr in next st, join rnd with sl st.
Fasten off yarn.

CHEEKS

Make two

With yarn D and 3mm (5.5mm) hook, make adjustable ring.

Rnd 1: 6dc in ring, pull up tight to close hole, do not join rnd, pm – 6dc.
Rnd 2: 2dc in each dc around, join rnd with sl st – 12dc.
Fasten off yarn.

APPLE

With yarn A and 3mm (5.5mm) hook, make 2ch, leaving a long tail of at least 30cm/12in.

Rnd 1: 6dc in first ch, do not join, pm for working in spirals.
Rnd 2: [Inc (see *Special Stitches*), 1dc] around, do not join rnd – 9dc.
Rnd 3: Dc around.
Rnd 4: [Inc, 2dc] around – 12dc.
Rnd 5: [Inc, 1dc] around – 18dc.
Rnd 6: [Inc, 2dc] around – 24dc.
Rnd 7: [Inc, 3dc] around – 30dc.
Rnd 8: [Inc, 4dc] around – 36dc.
Rnd 9: [Inc, 5dc] around – 42dc.
Rnd 10: [Inc, 6dc] around – 48dc.
Rnd 11: [Inc, 7dc] around – 54dc.
Rnd 12: Dc around.
Rnd 13: [Inc, 8dc] around – 60dc.

Rnds 14–18: Dc around.

Rnd 19: [Dc2tog, 8dc] around – 54dc.

In next round, place markers for eye placement.

Rnd 20: 22dc, pm in previous st, 12dc, pm in previous st, 1dc in each rem st around.

Rnd 21: [Dc2tog, 7dc] around – 48dc.

Rnd 22: Dc around.

Rnd 23: [Dc2tog, 6dc] around – 42dc.

Rnd 24: Dc around.

Rnd 25: [Dc2tog, 5dc] around – 36dc.

Rnd 26: Dc around.

Rnd 27: [Dc2tog, 4dc] around – 30dc.

Rnd 28: Dc around.

Rnd 29: [Dc2tog, 3dc] around – 24dc.

Rnd 30: Dc around.

Attach eyes to marked stitches. Attach stalk to the top “point” of apple, then push the point back into the apple body. Ensure that the long tail left at the beginning of apple is inside the apple body, falling out of the hole at base. Begin stuffing the apple with toy stuffing until it is plump and firm, with a space left at the bottom for the weight. Insert the bag of rice into the

bottom of the cavity, adding more stuffing if needed.

Ensure the yarn tail is still able to fall out of the base and continue to crochet the base as follows:

Rnd 31: 1dcblo in each st around.

Rnd 32: [Dc2tog, 2dc] around – 18dc.

Rnd 33: [Dc2tog, 1dc] around – 12dc.

Rnd 34: Dc2tog around – 6dc.

Fasten off, leaving tail long enough to sew up hole at base. Thread yarn through each stitch around edge and pull up tightly to close hole, around the long tail from the top of apple. Fasten off yarn securely and weave in this yarn tail, leaving the first yarn tail from top of apple. Pull the remaining yarn tail firmly downwards to secure the “dip” at the top of the apple and sew to the bottom of the base when desired depth of dip is reached to secure in place.

FINISHING

Weave in all ends.

Attach leaf to the top of the apple and the cheeks under the eyes. Embroider a mouth in yarn E or oddments of black yarn.



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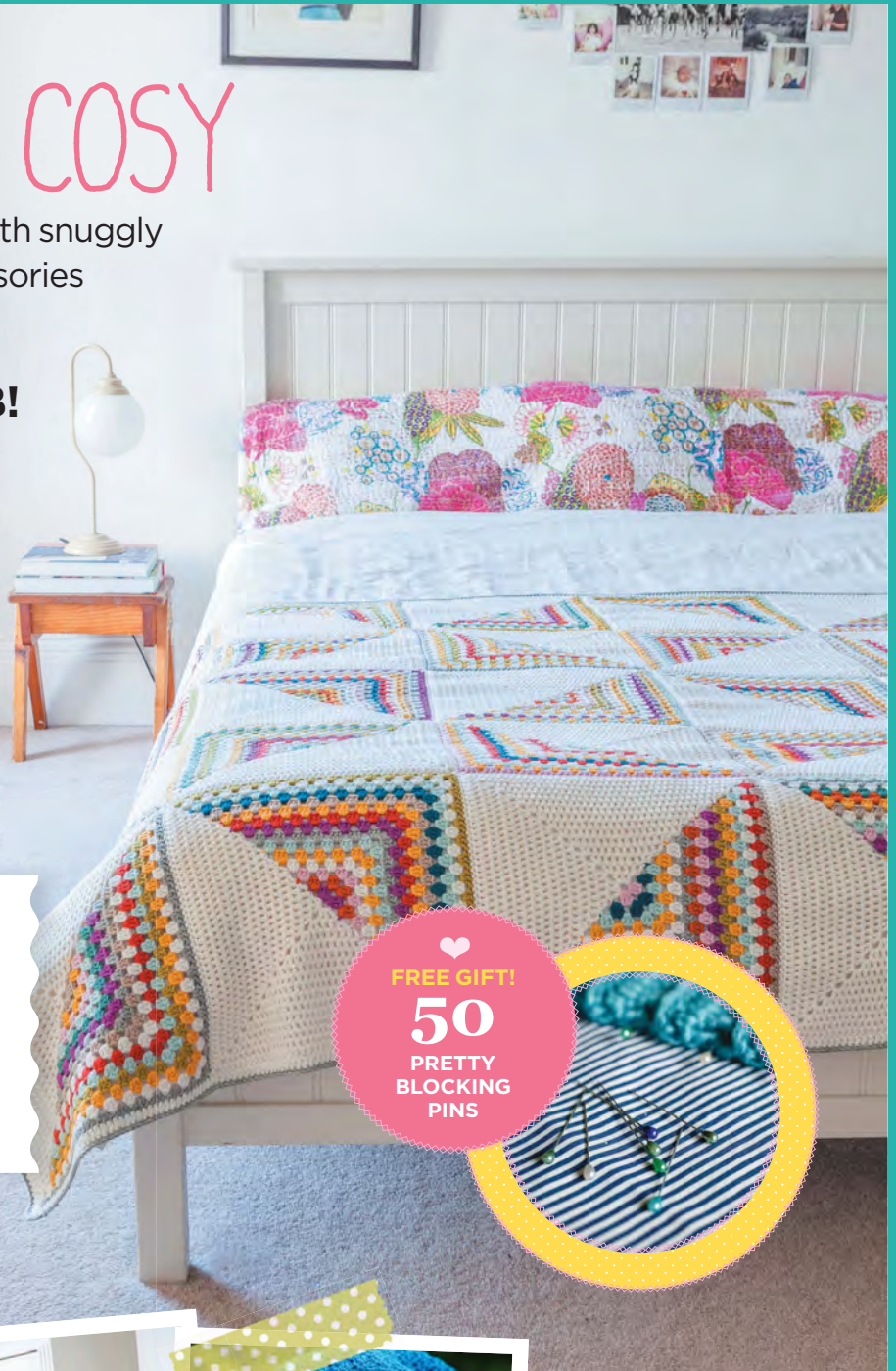
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How to Crochet



♥
Annelies Baes' pretty floral Mosaic Shawl (Issue 64) uses simple stitches to great effect



I have always believed that anyone can learn to crochet, so long as you follow one simple rule: don't try to run before you can chain! The chain is the most simple of

stitches and therefore ideal for practising the all-important hold, which helps create the perfect tension for forming all the following stitches. When my mother taught me to crochet, she followed her grandmother's lead and helped me to hook metre upon metre of chain before I was shown any further stitches. It was a fantastic foundation for learning the more difficult techniques. Once your chains are looking even and feel comfortable to create, then progressing on to the stitches becomes much easier.

If at any point you feel as if you have lost your hold, go back to those comforting lengths of chain until your confidence returns. My biggest tip is to remember that this wonderful craft is well known for being relaxing and fun, which is why crochet is completely addictive, so enjoy it!

Claire x

TEACH YOURSELF
How to hold the work, chains, double & treble crochet, slip stitch

TURN THE PAGE FOR ALL YOU NEED TO GET STARTED

THE BASICS

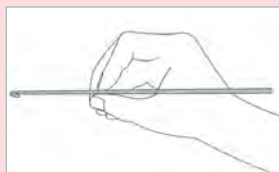
To crochet smoothly and efficiently, you must hold the hook and yarn in a relaxed, comfortable and consistent fashion. This will also ensure that your tension is even and accurate. There are two main ways of holding the hook and two main ways to tension the yarn. You can choose whichever combination feels more natural for you, or a variation on these.

HOLDING THE HOOK



KNIFE GRIP

Hold the hook in your dominant hand as you would a knife.



PENCIL GRIP

Hold the hook in your dominant hand as you would a pencil.

HOLDING THE YARN



FOREFINGER METHOD

Wrap the ball end of the yarn around the little finger of your opposite hand, under the next two fingers and over the forefinger. Hold the work steady with your middle finger and thumb, then raise your forefinger when working to create tension.



MIDDLE-FINGER METHOD

Wrap the ball end of the yarn around the little finger of your opposite hand and over the other fingers. Hold the work steady with your forefinger and thumb, then raise your middle finger while you are crocheting to create tension.

Working left-handed

To crochet left-handed, simply do the opposite to the right-handed holds. Hold a mirror up to any picture in this guide to see how to work.

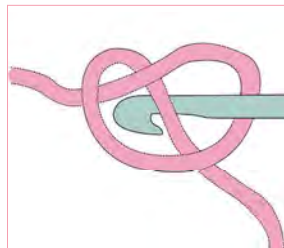
TOPTIP

It doesn't matter if your stitches tend towards being slightly tight or even a little loose; you are aiming for an even tension throughout to achieve a professional finish.

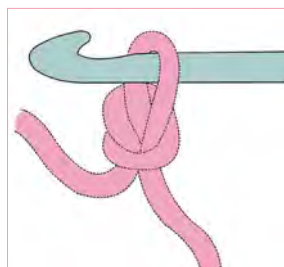
GETTING STARTED

SLIPKNOT

A slipknot creates the first loop on the hook.



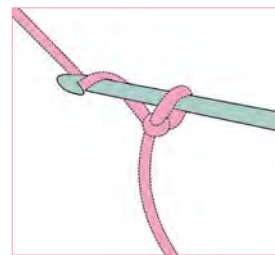
1 Make a loop in the yarn around 10–20cm/4–8in from the end. Insert hook through loop, catch the back strand of yarn and pull it through to the front.



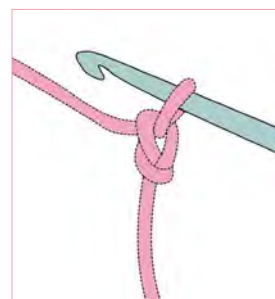
2 Pull the ends of the yarn to secure the knot around the hook, but not too tightly or it will be hard to pull the first loop of chain through.

CHAIN

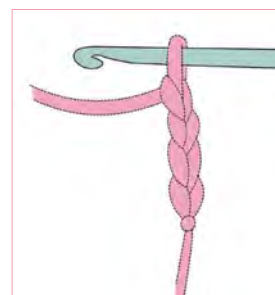
Most crochet projects begin with a length of chain. This is the perfect stitch to practise your hold and tension with.



1 Holding just the hook with point up in your dominant hand, and the yarn in the other, grip the slipknot with the yarn holding hand. Work a yarn round hook (yrh or yoh) by passing the hook in front of the yarn, under and around it.



2 Roll the hook round in your fingers towards you to catch the yarn and pull through loop on hook. One chain made.



3 Ensuring the stitches are even – not too loose or tight – repeat to make a length of chain.

TOPTIP

The action of working stitches causes a constant rolling of the hook in your fingers; hold the hook pointing up when performing the yrh, then roll it round towards you to point down when pulling through the loops so that you don't catch the hook in the stitches.

THE MAIN STITCHES

SLIP STITCH (sl st)

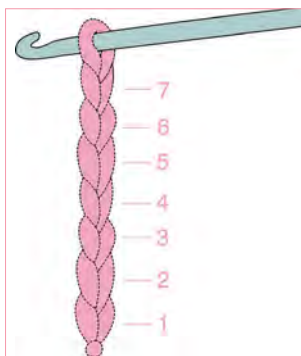
A slip stitch is usually used to join one stitch to another, or to join a stitch to another point. It is generally made by picking up two strands of a stitch but when used all over, you usually only pick up the back loop.



1 Insert hook into st or chain required. Yarn over hook, as when you make a chain. Pull a loop through all stitches/ loops/work on hook to finish slip stitch.

COUNTING A CHAIN

The right side of your chain is the one that looks like a little plait of “v” shapes. Each “v” is a stitch and must be counted. When you are working the chain, you do not count the slipknot, but begin to count your chain when you pull through the first loop. To count the chain afterwards you count the slipknot as the first stitch, but not the loop on the hook, or “working” loop.



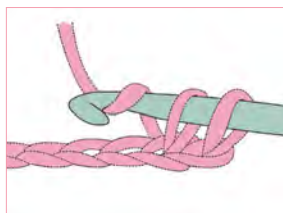
Double crochet stitches are perfect for making amigurumi, while treble crochets are used to create the classic granny square design

Double crochet stitches are ideal for toys or homewares such as Emma Varnam's camper from issue 50.

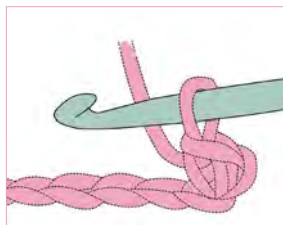


DOUBLE CROCHET (dc)

The smallest stitch, creating a dense fabric perfect for amigurumi.



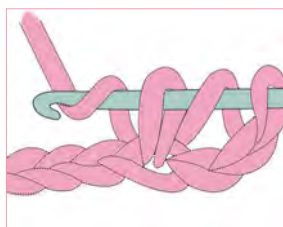
1 Insert hook into chain or stitch, front to back. Yarn over hook and draw through stitch to front, leaving you with two loops on the hook. Yarn round hook.



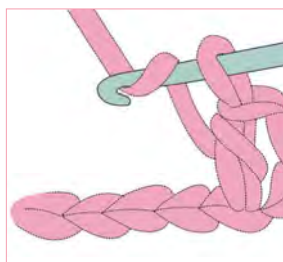
2 Draw through both loops to finish the stitch. Double crochet completed.

HALF TREBLE CROCHET (htr)

Slightly taller than a double crochet stitch, with a softer drape to the resulting fabric.



1 Yarn over hook, insert hook into st from front to back and draw loop through stitch only. This gives you three loops on the hook. Yarn round hook.



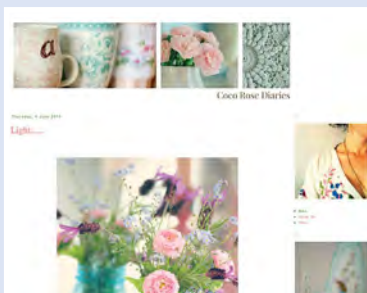
2 Draw yarn through three remaining loops on the hook together to complete half treble.

Top crochet websites



⇒ Kat Goldin's beautiful and colourful site showcases her work as well as the varied projects she is involved with. The Crochet Camp tutorials alone are well worth a visit.

www.slugsontherefrigerator.com



⇒ This pretty blog is the go-to site for inspiration and tutorials for many a crafter. Spend a happy few hours browsing all the colourful makes and sweet photography.

www.cocorosetextiles.blogspot.co.uk



⇒ Follow Heike on her colourful travels, be inspired by her beautiful trademark motifs and hook some gorgeous free patterns.

www.madewithloops.co.uk

⇒ The UK Hand Knitting Association website is packed with helpful information on shops, workshops and craft teachers near you.

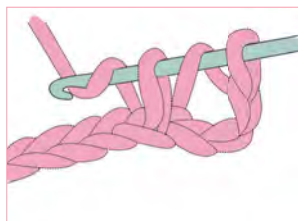
www.ukhandknitting.com

⇒ Purplelinda Crafts' crochet-centric store is a treasure trove of crochet-related haberdashery, patterns and threads.

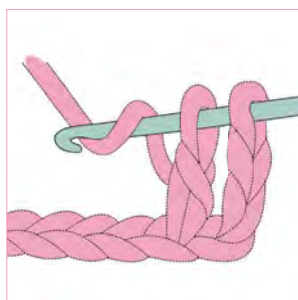
www.purplelindacrafts.co.uk

TREBLE CROCHET (tr)

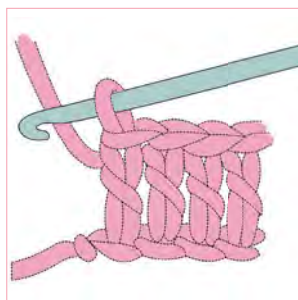
The tallest of the basic stitches, great for using within more complex patterns.



1 Yarn round hook, insert hook into stitch from front to back and draw loop through stitch only. This gives you three loops on the hook. Yarn round hook.



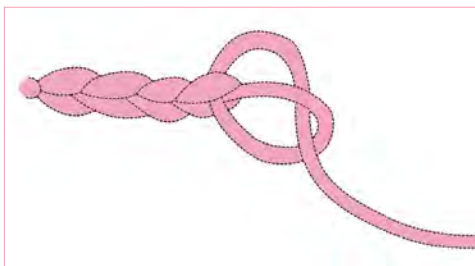
2 Pull loop through two loops. Two loops on hook. Yarn round hook.



3 Pull loop through the remaining two loops to complete treble, repeat to end of row.

FASTEN OFF

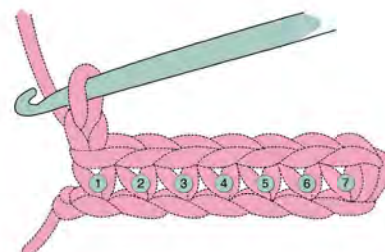
Pull up final loop of last stitch to make it bigger and cut the yarn, leaving enough of an end to weave in. Pull end through loop, and pull up tightly to secure.



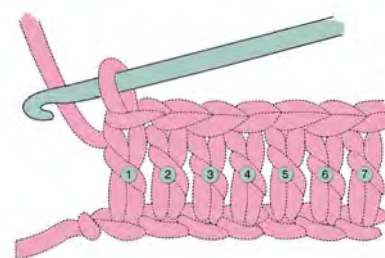
COUNTING STITCHES

Count the post or "stem" of each stitch from the side of your work. Each post counts as one stitch.

Double crochet



Treble crochet



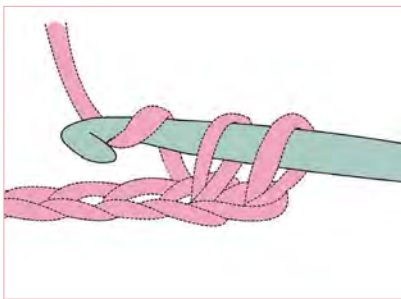
TOP TIP

Try to count your stitches at regular intervals, usually at the end of every, or every other, row and especially after an increase or decrease row. It is best to try to catch any mistakes as quickly as possible, as this will make them much easier to rectify!

USING THE STITCHES

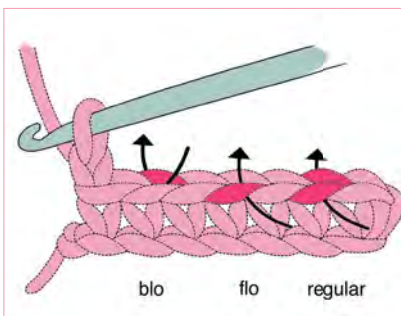
WORKING INTO A CHAIN

When working into a chain, you need to miss out the appropriate number of chain stitches called for with your particular stitch (see the information on turning chains, to the right). Now insert the hook from front to back into the next chain, under the top loop of the chain. Yarn over and draw a loop through to the front of the chain.



WORKING INTO WHICH LOOP?

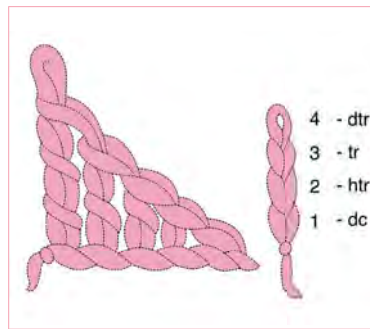
Crochet stitches are always worked through both loops of the next stitch (this looks like a "v" on top of the stitch), unless the pattern tells you otherwise.



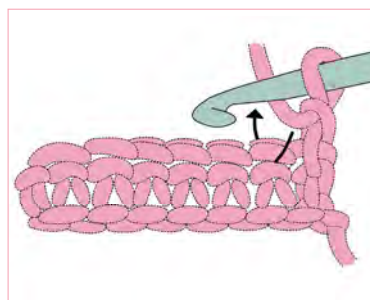
Sometimes a pattern will ask you to work only through one loop of the stitch. To work through the front loop only (flo), insert your hook under the front loop of the next stitch, then bring it out at the centre of the stitch, then complete. To work through the back loop only (blo), insert your hook through the centre of the stitch, then under the back loop to the back, then complete the stitch. Sometimes you are even asked to work in between the stitches. In this case, ignore the top loops of the stitch and insert your hook between the posts of adjoining stitches.

WORKING STRAIGHT

When working straight, you need to turn your work at the end of a row and then work a turning chain (t-ch) to the height of your intended stitch so that you can continue working along the next row. This chain often counts as the first stitch of the row and each type of stitch uses a different number of chain stitches for the turning chain.



With htr and taller stitches, you now miss out the first stitch of the row, then work into every following stitch. This is because the turning chain is tall enough to count as the first stitch itself, so is counted as the first stitch of the row. This also means that you must remember to work the last stitch of a row into the top of the previous row's turning chain.



WORKING INTO A SPACE

Sometimes you are asked to work into a space or a chain space. To do this simply insert your hook into the hole underneath the chain, then complete your stitch normally.

This is similar to working into a ring, as shown on page 94.

♥
Motifs are often joined as the piece is worked rather than sewn together at the end, as in this throw from issue 52



Knowing which stitch to work into when working straight can be a problem for beginners, because the turning chain has such a role to play

KEEPING STRAIGHT EDGES

Knowing which stitch to work into when working straight can be a problem for beginners, because the turning chain has such a role to play. If you don't know which stitch to work into after making your turning chain, simply unravel back to the last stitch from previous row and insert a thread or stitch marker into that stitch. Make your desired turning chain then miss out the stitch with the thread in (except with dc stitches), as your turning chain now counts as the first stitch of the row. Once you have worked across all stitches in the row, you must remember to put a stitch into the top of the previous row's turning chain, as this also counts as a stitch.

Beginner books we recommend



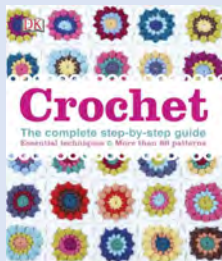
CROCHET WORKSHOP
Erika Knight
(Quadrille, £16.99)

One of the most stylish crochet books on the market, this has easy-to-follow instructions and modern, desirable patterns to practise your skills on.



HOW TO CROCHET
Emma Varnam
(GMC, £7.99)

This guide is a simple-to-follow, project-based book. These projects take you through all the essential techniques, which are explained with the help of clear illustrations.



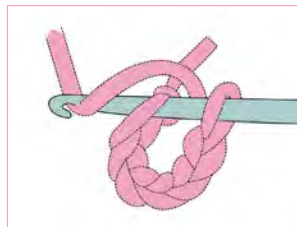
CROCHET
(Dorling Kindersley, £25)
A clear, comprehensive guide using UK terms, with over 80 simple patterns to try, this contains all you need to know to become an accomplished crocheter.

WORKING IN THE ROUND

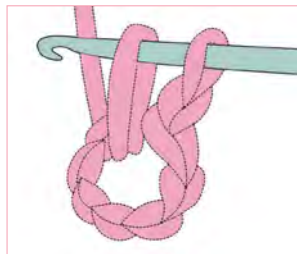
When working in the round, instead of working backwards and forwards along the work, turning at the end of each round, you simply work with the right side facing you at all times and you do not turn. When working in the round, you generally begin one of three ways:

WORKING AROUND A RING

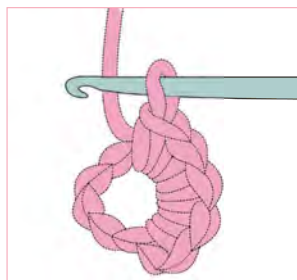
This method of working in the round creates a large hole at the centre of your work. Its size is dependent on the length of chain used.



Make a length of chain as required, then insert your hook into the first chain stitch you made. Yarn round hook.



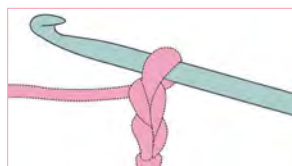
Work a slip stitch to join, creating a ring, and then work your turning chain dependent on which stitch you will be working into the ring. Insert hook into the centre of the ring and work the first stitch into this ring.



Work required number of stitches into the centre of the ring and join round with a slip stitch. Do not turn, but continue the next row around the last.

WORKING INTO A SHORT CHAIN

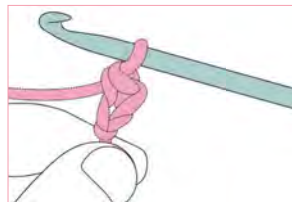
You can create a smaller hole in the centre of your work by working into a chain as short as 2ch long.



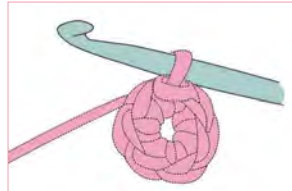
For double crochets, as in this example, work 2ch. For htr you would work 3ch and for trebles, 4ch.



Insert hook into the top loop of the first chain as shown. Yarn round hook.



Complete the first stitch in the chain as shown (illustrations show dc, but can be any stitch).



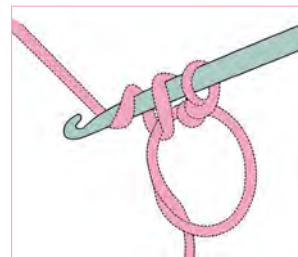
Now work the required amount of stitches into the same chain. The sheer amount of stitches worked into one place will cause them to fan out into a round. Now join this round with a slip stitch and continue with the pattern.

ADJUSTABLE RING

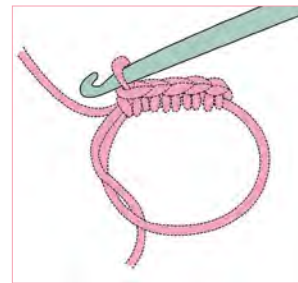
This method is also referred to as the magic loop or ring, as it creates a round with no hole at the centre. Here it is demonstrated with double crochet.



Make a loop in your yarn, at least 15cm/6in from the tail end. Insert hook through the loop from front to back.



Pull yarn though to front of loop and complete the stitch around the loop and the tail end of yarn held double.

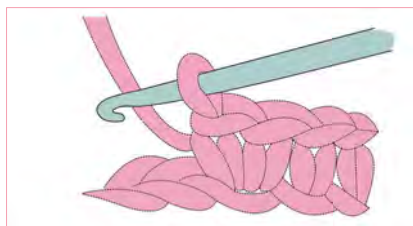


Work all the following stitches into the ring in the same way, over the two strands of yarn in the loop. Once all stitches have been worked, pull the loose tail end of the yarn to close the ring and join the round with a slip stitch.

SHAPING, COLOURWORK & TENSION

Once you've learned simple shaping stitches, you can create almost any garment – and add in different colours as you go with our simple technique. Make sure to check your tension first though, or your finished piece could be completely the wrong size!

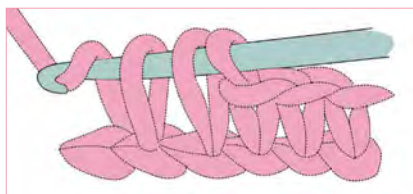
INCREASING



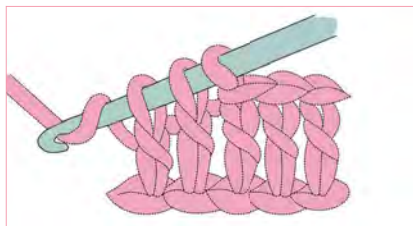
To work an extra stitch, you simply need to work into the same stitch more than once. Work one stitch as normal. Insert hook into same stitch you've just worked and complete another stitch. One stitch increased.

DECREASING

To decrease a stitch, you need to work into two stitches without finishing them, then work them together.



For a double crochet (above), insert hook into next st, yarn over hook and draw a loop through the stitch, but do not finish the double crochet stitch as usual. Insert hook into following st, yarn over hook and draw a loop through the next st, so there are three loops on the hook in total. Yarn over hook and draw the loop through all loops on hook, drawing two stitches together. One stitch decreased.



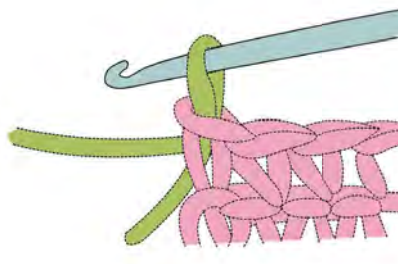
For a treble crochet, work a treble into the next stitch until the last step of the stitch, two loops on hook. Do the same into the following stitch, three loops on hook. Draw through all three loops on hook to draw the two trebles together. One stitch decreased.

JOINING IN A NEW COLOUR

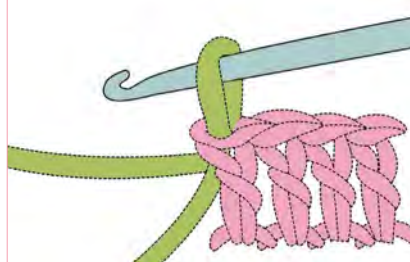
To join in a new colour (or a new ball of the same colour), you can simply fasten off the old yarn and then attach the new colour with a slip stitch into the top of the last stitch made. However, for a neater join, you can also work the colour change as follows:

Work the last stitch in the colour you are using first, up to the final step, so that the stitch is unfinished. Pull the new colour through the loops on your hook, completing the stitch and joining the new colour at the same time.

Working a new colour over double crochet

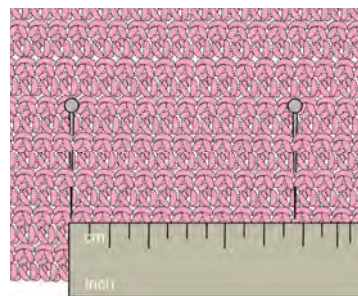


Working a new colour over treble crochet



Once you have joined in the new yarn, you can weave in the ends of both yarns as you go, by holding them on top of your stitches and working round them as you work into the following stitches. Do this for at least 5cm/2in then cut the remaining ends.

TENSION/GAUGE



A tension swatch is used to ensure that you are working at the tension called for in the pattern. It is essential to check this, otherwise your finished garment is likely to be the wrong size! Crochet a small square of just over 10 x 10cm/4 x 4in in the main yarn and stitch used in the pattern, then count and calculate the average amount of stitches per cm.

Chain a few more stitches and work more rows than the tension in the pattern suggests you'll need for this size. Once you have completed the swatch, use a measuring tape or ruler, place some pins at 0 and 10 and take some average measurements – count how many stitches and rows to 10cm at different points over the swatch.

If you find you have more stitches per cm than indicated in the pattern, then your tension is too tight and you need to work more loosely. The best way to do this is to increase the size of hook you're using by a quarter or half millimetre until the tension is as close as you can get it. If there are fewer stitches than required, then you are crocheting too loosely, and you need to decrease the size of hook used in the same way.

TURN THE PAGE FOR CLUSTER STITCHES, TIPS AND A FULL GLOSSARY OF CROCHET ABBREVIATIONS, UK VS US TERMS AND HOOK SIZES

CLUSTERS

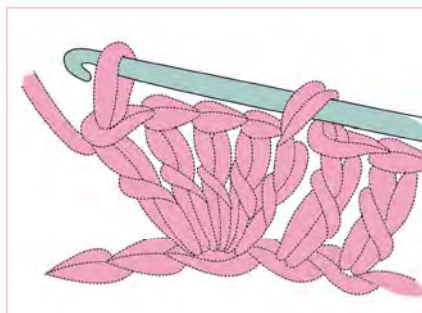
Clusters are groups of stitches worked into the same stitch, but rather than an increase, they still only equate to one stitch overall. Clusters can be confusing to work, so here are the details of some of the main cluster stitches.

BOBBLE

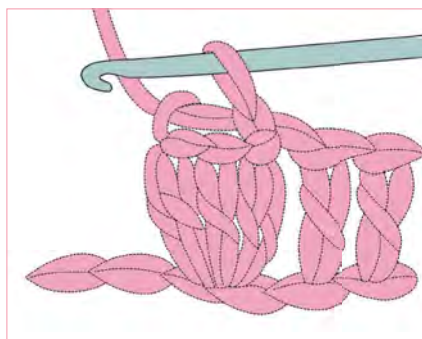
A bobble is a number of stitches (generally trebles), half finished and all worked into the same stitch. Work each stitch until the last step, omitting this final step. Once the desired number of half finished trebles have been completed, you will have one more loop on your hook than you have half finished trebles. Yarn round hook, then pull through all loops on hook to complete the bobble.

POPCORNS

Popcorns are a number of complete stitches worked into one stitch.



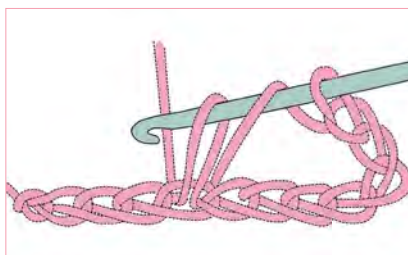
1 Once the sts are completed, remove your hook and insert back into the first stitch worked, then through the final loop.



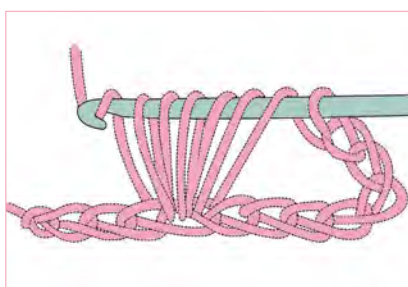
2 Yarn round hook and pull through everything on the hook. Popcorn complete.

PUFFS

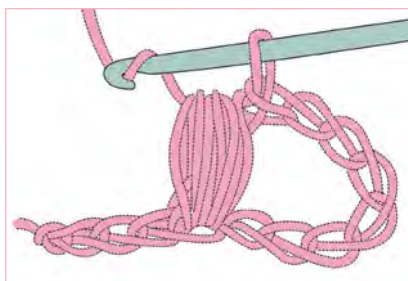
A puff is a number of elongated half trebles worked into the same stitch and then finished together, as follows:



1 Yarn round hook, insert into next stitch, pull a loop through the stitch and then pull it up to the height of all other stitches in the row.



2 Yarn round hook, insert into same stitch, pull a loop through stitch and pull it up to the height of all other stitches in the row. Repeat this step the desired number of times.



3 Yarn round hook and pull through all loops on hook. Puff made.

Choose light-coloured yarn for your first few projects to make sure that you can see all of your stitches easily – this helps prevent mistakes occurring

TIPS AND TRICKS

Working from a pattern

Once you have “cracked the code” and understand the stitches’ abbreviations, a pattern becomes much easier to read. Don’t read a pattern fully before starting it as it may make it seem more complex, but do take a brief look through to check if there are any abbreviations you are unfamiliar with. Consult the abbreviations tables opposite before beginning.

Purchase yarn with the same dye lot number on the balls to avoid unwanted colour changes and choose light coloured yarn for your first projects to make sure that you can see your stitches easily – this helps prevent mistakes occurring.

If you are attempting a project with multiple size options, circle or highlight the instructions for the size you are making throughout the pattern to avoid confusion. The smallest size is listed first, then all following ones inside brackets, increasing in size and separated by commas.

Where a pattern has an accompanying chart, use this for reference, as it shows the formation of the stitches as they will be worked and can help with tricky instructions.

Finally, and most importantly, for projects that need to have a good fit, always check your tension by swatching before you begin.

ABBREVIATIONS

Note: *Inside Crochet* uses UK terms throughout

- alt** · alternate
- bef** · before
- beg** · begin(s); beginning
- bet** · between
- blo** · back loop only
- ch(s)** · chain(s)
- ch-sp(s)** · chain space(s)
- cl(s)** · cluster(s)
- cm** · centimetre(s)
- cont** · continue(s); continuing
- dc** · double crochet
- dc2tog** · work two dc together
- dec(s)** · decrease(s); decreasing; decreased
- dtr** · double treble crochet
- dtr2tog** · work two dtr together
- ea** · each
- ech** · extended chain
- edc** · extended double crochet
- etr** · extended treble
- est** · established
- fdc** · foundation double crochet
- flo** · front loop only
- fol** · follows; following
- ftr** · foundation treble crochet
- g** · gram(s)
- gp(s)** · group(s)
- hk** · hook
- htr** · half treble crochet
- htr2tog** · work two htr together
- inc(s)** · increase(s); increasing; increased
- in** · inch(es)
- lp(s)** · loop(s)
- m** · stitch marker
- mm** · millimetre(s)
- nc** · not closed
- patt** · pattern
- pm** · place marker
- prev** · previous
- rem** · remain(s); remaining
- rep(s)** · repeat(s)
- rev dc** · reverse double crochet
- rnd(s)** · round(s)
- RS** · right side
- rtrf** · raised treble front
- rtrb** · raised treble back
- sl** · slip
- sl st** · slip stitch
- sp(s)** · space(s)
- st(s)** · stitch(es)
- t-ch(s)** · turning chain(s)
- tog** · together
- tr** · treble crochet
- trtr** · triple treble
- tr2tog** · work two trebles together
- WS** · wrong side
- yd(s)** · yard(s)
- yoh** · yarn over hook
- yrh** · yarn round hook



Hook sizes

Hook sizes and their designations vary from country to country. When following the recommendations in a pattern or on a ball band, make sure to check which size convention is being used.

CROCHET HOOK SIZES

Metric (mm)	UK	US
0.60		14
0.75		12
1		11
1.25		7
1.50		6
1.75		5
2	14	
2.25		B/1
2.5	12	
2.75		C/2
3	10	
3.25		D/3
3.5	9	E/4
3.75		F/5
4	8	G/6
4.5	7	7
5	6	H/8
5.5	5	I/9
6	4	J/10
6.5	3	K-/10/1/2
7	2	
8	0	L/11
9	00	M/13
10	000	N/15
11.5		O
12		P
15		Q
20		S

BREAKING THE LANGUAGE BARRIER

UK and US terms have differing meanings which can create difficulty for the crocheter. Here's a handy reference guide to overcome any misunderstandings.

UK TERMS

- Chain
- Miss
- Slip stitch
- Double crochet
- Half treble crochet
- Treble crochet
- Double treble crochet
- Triple treble crochet
- Raised treble back/front

US TERMS

- Chain
- Skip
- Slip stitch
- Single crochet
- Half double crochet
- Double crochet
- Treble crochet
- Double treble crochet
- Back/front post dc

CHARTS KEY

- adjustable ring
- fl only
- tr
- rtrf
- tr2tog
- 3-tr cl
- sl st
- dc
- dtr
- rtrb
- tr3tog
- popcorn
- ch
- fdc
- trtr
- dc2tog
- puff
- linked tr
- bl only
- htr

"I have a bold, fun side but I also love Scandi simplicity and natural colours"



Above: Once crochet design started taking over her life, Emma gave up the day job to concentrate on her family and new crafty career.

Below: From projects for the home worked with oversized hooks to patterns for children's fancy dress outfits, Emma's eclectic design style shines through.

Emma Friedlander-Collins

STEEL&STITCH

Designer Emma Friedlander-Collins shares her love of design, community and the natural world.

Tell us about your life...

I live in the south of England with my husband and our two young boys. My husband is a mechanical engineer, and he has an enormous input into my makes and designs. When I first started making crochet patterns I adopted the name Steel&Stitch – he's the steel to my stitch.

How did you learn to crochet?

My mum taught me to knit years ago and I've always been horrible at it, but still had a hankering to do things with wool. After discovering amigurumi I thought I should learn how to crochet, so about four years ago I actually learned from a Texan lady using YouTube videos.

How did you get into crochet design?

I was looking for cool stuff to make for my boys and just couldn't find anything I liked, so I just started making things myself. It was my husband who convinced me to share my designs with people. I didn't think anyone would be interested!

Is it your "day job"?

Yes. After trying to write the second book, do the office job, the school run and still make the dinner, something had to give, so I figured I'd see how far I could make it as a designer. It was frightening at first, but it's the best decision I've ever made.

How would you describe your design style?

My style is quite eclectic. I have a bold, fun side but I also love Scandi simplicity and natural colours.

What has been your most popular design?

The first design I ever made was an appliqué skull and crossbones, and I have sold hundreds of those. Recently though, I was nominated as "maker of the week" on an Instagram forum for a bright Aztec tapestry bag, which has proved to be really popular.

Could you tell us about your books?

Crochet Dress-Up is mostly full of designs I made for my boys, nephews and the children that live on our street. This book is all fancy dress kits, from hero masks and Viking beards to fairy wings and Rapunzel hair that you can make yourself.

Big Hook Crochet started when my husband made me a crochet hook from our kitchen broom

handle. I had a supesize body-snood-thing in my head that I really wanted to make, but couldn't find a hook big enough. It then became an experiment to see what you can make at that scale and evolved from there. I love how you can use eight yarns at once with it, and one of the projects is made from a recycled dust sheet, cut into strips.

What are your favourite yarns/fibres?

I've recently started to learn how to spin, so am obsessing about handspun and natural yarns like Studio Donegal. My staple is Jarol Heritage though, it's got enough wool to be soft and elastic, but has a nice smooth finish and a great range of colours.

What is your favourite thing about being a designer?

I think it's probably the other people I've met in the crochet community, there's so much positivity and support. Whenever you share your work with people you get so much amazing feedback, it's not like any other job I've ever done!

What inspires you?

When I was in my twenties it was pop culture, but now I'm in my thirties it's all from the natural environment. I love to go out foraging for flowers, seaweed, stones and feathers, and then finding a colour palette and design in them.

Which other designers do you admire?

You have to love Molla Mills for how she's changed the face of modern crochet, she's just so flipping cool! I also love Kat Goldin's work, she has a really lovely aesthetic.

What do you have planned for the rest of the year?

I'm working on an autumn/winter collection that I'm going to launch myself, but there are two more books in the pipeline, a few patterns coming out in magazines and some collaborations with some yarn companies, too. Oh and my husband and I have just launched a handmade big hook range in my Etsy shop (www.steelandstitch.etsy.com).

Read Emma's blog at www.steelandstitch.blogspot.co.uk and turn to page 12 for our review of *Big Hook Crochet*.



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