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How to crochet
All you need to know

crochet

Inside

INSPIRING PROJECTS for Creative Crocheters

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GORGEOUS PATTERNS

From beginner to expert

Winter warmers

Snuggle up with chunky wools and toasty texture



OH-SO CUTE!

A STAR IS BORN

Hook our adorable decoration



SIMPLE COLOUR WORK

TIDDLY-OM-POM-POM!

Make this cosy hat in a weekend



JUST ADD PRESENTS!

HEART TO HEART

Get your home ready for Santa



FRENCH CHIC

COSY MITTENS

Simple stripes for classic mitts



PARTY SEASON

Get glammed up with our stunning lace shawl



ALL WRAPPED UP

Christmas gift tags and ribbons

£4.99 ISSUE 72



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Love to Crochet

Create these festive designs with
DMC Petra and DMC Natura



Check out the fantastic selection of festive
yarns, kits and patterns at:

www.purplelindacrafts.co.uk

inside crochet

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this magazine please recycle it.

Welcome



I have a childlike love of Christmas, especially the anticipation of the big day, with twinkling lights and sparkly decorations brightening up the otherwise dull days and dark evenings. The projects in this issue have inspired me to hand-make even more of my decorations this year. The adorable star baubles on page 70 and the garland, on page 74, will make fabulous additions to my tree worked in my favourite eclectic, multicoloured style.

Snuggling under a blanket on a cosy sofa is the perfect place to eat mince pies and admire the pretty tree, lit only by the soft flickering glow of the fairy lights. The stunning Snowflake Blanket on page 76 will ensure you feel incredibly wintry and festive while keeping warm this season. I adore the contrast of the stylish grey blanket with a pop of colour from the bright, modern tassels.

If you still have gifts to find, check out our gift guide on page 24 as well as our array of quick-to-make projects that will make fabulous stocking fillers – not to mention the stocking to pop them into! I would love to find Tina Barrett's slouchy hat or Emma Friedlander-Collins' cosy mittens in my stocking this year.

Once your present making is complete, why not use this month's free gift – a cute, mini pom-pom ribbon assortment – to add the finishing touch to your wrapping? Turn to page 36 for some of our creative ideas on adding that special handmade touch to your presents which will make them stand out underneath the tree.

Have a very Merry Handmade Christmas and a happy, crafty new year.

Claire x

Claire Montgomerie, Editor

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www.facebook.com/insidecrochet

@insidecrochet





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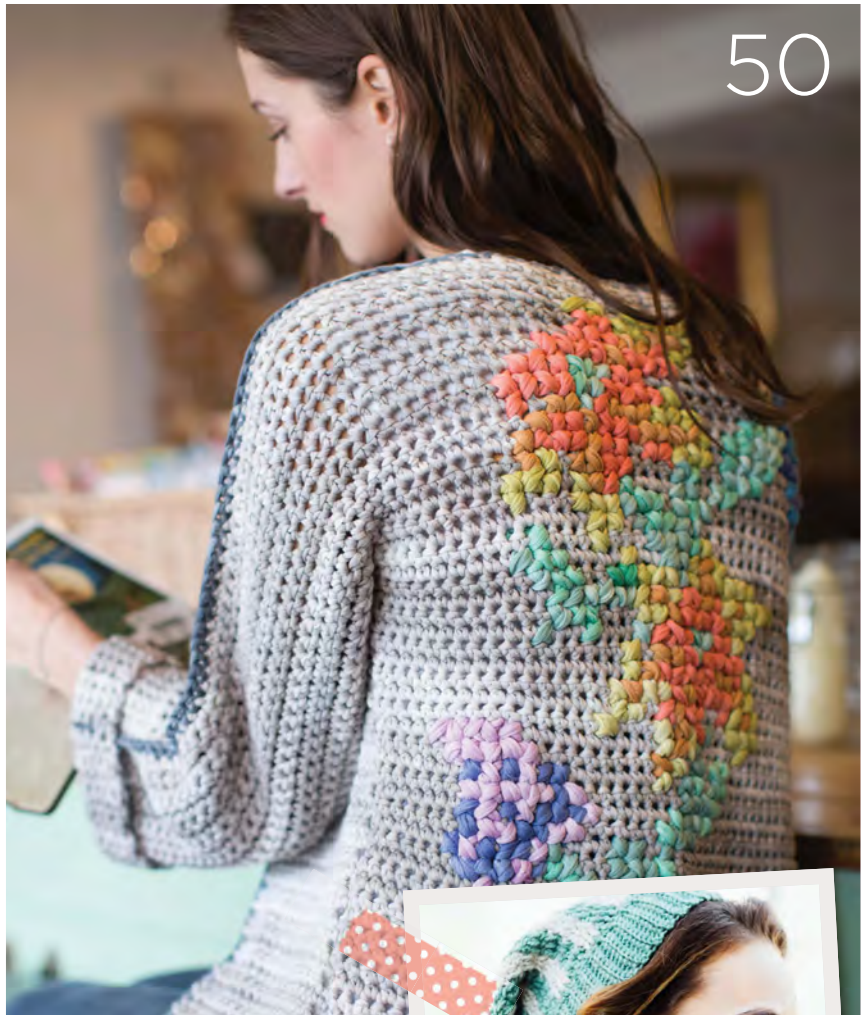
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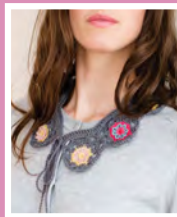
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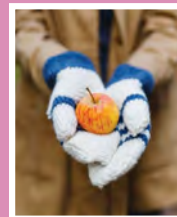
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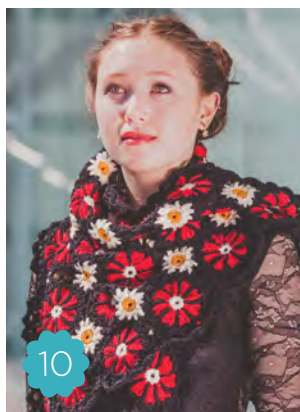


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Use your free pom-pom ribbon to create beautifully presented handmade gifts
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IN THE LOOP



BLOGS | BOOKS | REVIEWS | EVENTS | INTERVIEWS

COMPETITION

Do you lose track of your WIPs, and forget which size you were making or which hook you started with? The WIP-O-PEDIA



from Doodlestop is the perfect solution, with 40 project sheets to keep track of everything you're making, plus pages of handy info, conversions and sizing guides.

£9.50, www.doodlestop.co.uk

WIN!

We've got five WIP-O-PEDIAs to give away - head to www.insidecrochet.co.uk/competitions to enter. Closing date 17 December 2015.



[CROCHET KIT]

Mystical Lanterns

We fell in love with this new shawl kit from designer Jane Crowfoot, and we think you will too! Based around a simple granny style stitch pattern, but used to create stunning tessellating lantern shapes, the design is worked in Jamieson's of Shetland Spindrift and available in four colourways. The kit contains 13 balls of the pure wool yarn, plus the pattern and a "Janie Crow" sew-in label, and the price includes a £5 donation to Knit For Peace.

£54, www.janiecrow.co.uk

[SHOPS WE LOVE]

Tangled Yarn

This online yarn store was launched in 2011 by Rachel Owen, and quickly proved itself a success with its range of luxurious yarns and high quality accessories. Tangled Yarn stocks Fyberspates, Malabrigo, Rooster, SweetGeorgia and more. "Right now the most popular is Malabrigo Finito," says Rachel, "which is just heavenly to work with!"

Rachel takes care to provide excellent customer service, she explains: "I'm aware that buying online can be faceless, but I make a point of knowing my customers well and do everything to make sure I serve them as if I they're in an actual shop. We also offer a loyalty scheme, so you can earn rewards to spend on more yummy yarns and beautiful crochet hooks."

www.tangled-yarn.co.uk



CROCHET FOR CHRISTMAS



There's nothing like a bit of homemade cheer to really make a house feel ready for Christmas, and as fellow crocheters we're guessing you like to indulge in a few hooked decorations and gifts! Designer Salena Baca has edited this collection of 29 fabulous holiday designs, which include a brilliant advent garland, cheery tree decorations, warm winter accessories and a gorgeous cabled Christmas stocking,

perfect for hanging up for Santa! Designers include Rohn Strong, Abigail Haze and Alessandra Hayden, all bringing their unique styles and design sense to their patterns.

This collection is the first book from the Design Wars Challengers, a group of talented crochet designers who create a huge range of patterns and go head-to-head in "design battles" where visitors to the site vote on their favourite patterns.

www.designwarchallenge.com
£14.99, Stackpole Books



© Eden Cottage Yarns



[DESIGN COLLECTION]

Drifting away...

✦ Luxury yarn dyer Eden Cottage Yarns has launched Drift, a collection of knitting and crochet patterns using its Whitfell DK yarn. This 100% baby alpaca is super-soft to the touch as well as wonderfully warm and light, so is perfect for winter accessories.

The collection includes three crochet patterns, all by designer Tracey Todhunter: Caldbeck, a pair of simple fingerless mitts; Embleton, a cosy cowl in a pretty stitch pattern; and Bothel, a classic hat that can be worked in a beanie or slouch fit and is perfect for keeping men or women warm on a cold morning. All three would make great Christmas presents. The Drift collection can be ordered as a complete book or individual patterns, and you can choose from printed or PDF versions.

**£18 for print book, or from £3 for individual patterns,
www.edencottageyarns.co.uk**

WE LOVE...

This fabulous “knitter’s keep” ensures you can have all your metal tools close to hand as you hook with a strong magnet attached to a silicone bracelet, available in a variety of colours.

£40, www.ayarnstory.co.uk



[COMPETITION]

Crafting in style

✦ Handmade in Yorkshire by Charlotte Meek, the Stitch Society aprons are created especially for crafters, by a crafter. They are comfy and practical to wear, while the handy pouch at the front is perfect for keeping your tools close by as you work. We love the use of fabrics chosen for their strength and drape, and the cleverly designed crossover back which maintains the functional, utilitarian theme but looks modern and attractive.

The aprons arrive packaged in beautiful handmade pouches, and come with a ten-year guarantee. The Stitch Society will repair any tears or loose seams free of charge within this time. Now, what colour to choose...?
From £27.50, www.thestitchsociety.com

WIN!

We have a red cord Martha apron, exclusive to *Inside Crochet* and worth £60, to give away. For your chance to win, head to www.insidecrochet.co.uk/competitions. Closing date 17 December 2015.



DIARY

* 4-6 DECEMBER
CREATE WITH DEVON SUN YARNS

Head to the Jurassic Coast at Lyme Regis for a weekend of creating and dyeing yarn with Daisy Forster. From £250 per person.
www.devonsunyarns.co.uk

* 17 JANUARY 2016
WALTHAM ABBEY WOOL SHOW

This popular show is back for its third year, packed with hand-dyed yarns, crochet kits and accessories, as well as demonstrations of spinning and weaving plus a variety of workshops. 10am-4pm, tickets £3.50 in advance, £5 on the day.
www.walthamabbeywoolshow.co.uk

* 12-19 AUGUST 2016
KNITTING & CROCHET IN THE FAROE ISLANDS

Join knit and crochet designer Carol Meldrum for seven nights in the stunning Faroe Islands. Trip includes workshops and visits to wool producers and famed Faroese knitting designers, Guðrún & Guðrún. From £1,899 per person.
www.arenatravel.com

* UNTIL 28 FEBRUARY 2016
LIBERTY IN FASHION

Head to the Fashion and Textile Museum, London, for this exhibition exploring Liberty's impact on the fashion world, celebrating the 140th anniversary of the company. More than 150 garments, textiles and objects demonstrate Liberty's relationships with designers since 1875, from Arthur Silver to collaborations with Jean Muir, Yves Saint Laurent and Vivienne Westwood.
www.ftmlondon.org

WORKSHOPS

* FRIDAY 15 JANUARY
TUNISIAN CROCHET

Head to Berkshire for this beginner-level Tunisian crochet class, taught by Louise Curtis of Elsie Pop. The workshop will cover basic stitches and include some colourwork, and you'll come away with a finished project. £65 including lunch and materials, 10am-4pm.
www.artisanoyarns.co.uk

* SUNDAY 17 JANUARY
HOW TO CROCHET

This course is aimed at complete beginners to crochet, and will introduce the basics of the craft while helping you hook your first granny square, all in the beautiful city of Bath. £45, 10am-1.30pm.
www.themakery.co.uk



[HAND-DYED YARNS]

Colour combos!



↔ Valerie Bracegirdle's gorgeous Medina Cowl from issue 70 has proved very popular, worked in a pure silk hand-dyed yarn from Willow Knits. If you fancied a different range of colours, owner Anne Scahill has put together a selection of yarn packs that would work beautifully. Anne also says: "Many of Willow Knits' variegated yarns are made up of at least three shades, so a customer can pick a variegated yarn and we can dye complementary plain shades."

Inside Crochet readers can receive a 10% discount on their Willow Knits order using the code CROCHET10.

£13.30 per skein, www.willowknits.etsy.com



[NEW TO CROCHET] ***

Getting hooked

Beginner crocheter Caroline Bawn continues her crochet journey...



↔ "I have been busy continuing with the Walter Blanket (issue 60) by Jennifer Reid that I started in the spring. The pattern celebrates

the colours with a zig-zag shell pattern which I found fairly easy to learn and remember, and it gives a dramatic effect. I can now take the blanket to my knitting and crochet group and work on it without referring to the magazine.

"This is the time of year to think about a cosy blanket, folded on the sofa or over the arm of a chair, handy to snuggle up under and also perfect as a gift for someone special. I'm giving Walter to my Dad - don't worry, he won't find out before Christmas!"



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

[CAREERS]

CROCHET ENTREPRENEURS

Meet Joanne Scrace, the designer behind *Not So Granny* and one half of *The Crochet Project*.

www.notsogranny.com



Joanne Scrace teaches a number of classes at shows and yarn shops, and one of them sums up her design ethos more than any other: Making Crochet Wearable. It's something she's passionate about, showing the world that crochet doesn't have to just be blankets and doilies, but can also create beautiful, drapery fabrics that transform into stunning clothes.

"My design philosophy is: Simple. Elegant. Wearable," says Joanne. "As I design I try and keep these things in mind, designs get pared back, superfluous details are removed. Of these Wearable is the most important. When designing I ask myself 'How will this fit into my customer's wardrobe? How will she wear it? When will she wear it?'"

Joanne lives in Cambridgeshire with her husband and three children, and also works as a crochet technical editor, writer and blogger. Over the past few years Joanne has designed for magazines and yarn companies as well as self-publishing her patterns. She explains: "At the start of my career, designing for magazines worked best for me as I could concentrate on the designing and not worry about all the other things that go into producing a pattern. The fee was fixed so I knew the effort would be rewarded whilst self-publishing can be more of a gamble. Now I find that I am mostly self-publishing, through The Crochet Project, because I get to set the deadlines and the workload so it fits into my life better."

The Crochet Project is a brand Joanne created with fellow designer and blogger

Kat Goldin. "Kat and I met online and really got to know each other when I tech edited her first book, *Crochet At Play*," Joanne says. "We realised that between us we had all the skills needed to self-publish successfully so we decided to partner up to create a brand with a strong design aesthetic, and an even stronger emphasis on high production values and ethics." The Crochet Project has a stunning range of individual patterns for sale, and this year has published two books, *The Shawl Project Books 1 and 2*. "We have regular pattern releases scheduled and an exciting collaboration planned as well as our next book," says Joanne.

Joanne is able to combine her design career with looking after her children, and works from a studio in her home. "I'm really lucky, I have a whole room!" she says. "It has French doors to the garden which let in the most beautiful natural daylight. I have a vintage army officer's desk where I work, shelves, an easy chair, and a vintage treadle sewing machine."

A typical day for Joanne begins with taking her children to school, then going for a run, pouring the day's first cup of coffee and settling down at her desk by 9.30. She says, "While I am running I always plan the day, and I have a jotter by my desk that helps me keep track of things I need to do and things I'd like to do."

It's hard work, but a career doing something you love is always worth the effort. "The biggest thrill in the world is seeing other people make my designs. I will never ever tire of that."



[YARN REVIEW]

Add to your stash

WORDS CLAIRE MONTGOMERIE



Wendy Celeste DK

A shimmering, sparkly yarn, Celeste is also very soft with a pretty halo. The mini sequins threaded throughout the length of the thread give a subtle, sophisticated twinkle, but they do catch occasionally whilst hooking. However, the hairiness of the yarn seems to hide any snags caused. A lovely yarn for festive garments and accessories.

39% acrylic/35% polyester/13% wool/13% mohair

50g/112m/122yds

£2.29 from www.purplelindacrafts.co.uk



Stylecraft Cabaret DK

Cabaret is a beautifully soft variegated yarn, with a vibrant, long colour bleed, flecked with a metallic thread. This combination makes it perfect for Christmassy makes and fun children's accessories. It works up quickly and smoothly into a plump, airy fabric and we didn't notice any snagging caused by the additional metallic element.

98% acrylic/2% polyester • 100g/230m/251yds

£4.99 from www.deramores.com



Bergère De France Halo

Halo is made up of two contrasting threads plied together – a hairy, matt fibre and a shiny, silvery thread which together create a lovely, almost sparkly effect, more subtle on the softer colours in the palette and more striking in the bright tones. The yarn is even and smooth to work with, but crochets into an uneven, textured fabric with plenty of character.

48% acrylic/31% wool/21% polyester • 50g/145m/158yds

£4.95 from www.loveknitting.com



Bergère De France Cachemire +

This new, double knit addition to the Cachemire range has an even larger cashmere content. The yarn is smooth, plush and quick to hook, making for a comfortable, enjoyable experience. The snug, spongy fabric it creates is perfect for warm winter garments and special occasion wear, and it can even be machine washed at 30 degrees.

95% cashmere/5% wool • 25g/70m/77yds

£11.95 from www.bergeredefrance.co.uk



Rowan Super Fine Merino DK

This is a great staple yarn – smooth, even, easy to hook and great looking, with a plump, lustrous finish and good stitch definition. The luxurious fibre is soft, comfortable and breathable as well as machine washable at 40 degrees. Added to this the fact that there is a large range of colours available, including some surprisingly zingy shades, and its practicality and versatility is in no doubt.

100% wool • 50g/115m/126yds

£5.75 from www.laughinghens.com



[QUESTION TIME]  

WE ASKED OUR READERS...

What's the best crochet-related present you've received?

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! SAPPHIRE STILLWATERS

➔ I spent months in hospital after cancer surgery. My hair began falling out in clumps and my sweet friend Julie sent me a beautiful crocheted hat and glove set. She had made them from the softest, prettiest pink yarn! My hair has grown back but I still cherish that wonderful gift. It did more than warm my bald head and hands... It warmed my heart like a thousand hugs!

➔ **Manda Perkin:** *I received a yarn box themed around my holiday in Reykjavik, Iceland. Three gorgeous skeins of yarn handdyed by Hutch at Dye Candy using, as inspiration, photos from my holiday. Plus loads of on theme goodies.*

➔ **Jean Todd:** *When I was a baby my mother and I were given a beautiful crocheted cream coloured blanket with orange flowers on it. It was that lovely blanket that made me want to learn to crochet when I got older.*

➔ **Catherine Waterfield:** *My aunt took me shopping when I visited her and bought me my first "how to" book, hook, and two balls of yarn as a treat – the rest is history!*

➔ **Maria Mercer:** *My son has just got me a year's subscription to your magazine for my birthday.*

➔ **Tina Harvey:** *A surprise black bag full of yarn from a friend who no longer wanted it herself!*

FOLLOW!

Head to Twitter to check out the feed of crochet designer Robyn Chachula. It's full of gorgeous work-in-progress pics, design insights and links to her latest patterns.

www.twitter.com/crochetbyfaye

[NEW YARN]

Socks yeah!

↪ Designer Rachel Coopey is well known to knitters for her fabulous socks and colourwork patterns, and she's recently branched out into her own brand of sock yarn – the fabulously named Socks Yeah. This is a soft but hardwearing yarn that's available in ten marled colours, carefully chosen by Rachel to co-ordinate beautifully with each other, so they're ideal for colourwork designs. Socks Yeah comes in 50g skeins (212m/231yds), and is made of 75% superwash Merino wool and 25% nylon, making it a great choice for socks as well as perfect for next-to-the-skin accessories. **£5.45, www.coopknits.co.uk**



[CROCHET ACCESSORIES]

Seasonal treats!

↪ Get in the mood for Christmas with these cute Candy Cane hooks from Koru Tumi. They'd make a great gift for any fellow crocheter, or would look fabulous hung on the Christmas tree! Handmade by Beth Chapman from polymer clay, they come in large or small sizes and each one has the hook size stamped into the clay. We've also fallen in love with these adorable Santa stitch markers – we think they're perfect for working on Christmas presents and seasonal decorations. Who could resist a cheery Santa with that perfectly sculpted beard?! **Hooks £7, mini hooks £6, Santa stitch markers £2 each, www.korutumi.co.uk**



[HOOK REVIEW]

Super-size me!

↪ This beautiful oversized hook is designed and made by Steel&Stitch – that's the talented Emma Friedlander-Collins (Stitch) and her mechanical engineer husband (Steel). Emma's other half made her one of these extra-large hooks to use while she was working on her recent book *Big Hook Crochet*, and she got so many queries about where to buy them that they went into production!

We managed to get our hands on one of the 25mm hooks and they are gorgeous. Having never worked with such a big scale in crochet before, we found that our hold had to change to accommodate such exaggerated working, but the hook itself was very comfortable to use. It feels substantial but not weighty in the hands, while the wood shaft is sleek and feels lovely against your fingers. The tip of the hook is the best part – the curve is so pleasing to look at but it also enhances the smooth crocheting action. Currently made in European hardwood, other materials such as walnut will be available soon and would make a fabulous stocking filler for any crocheter.

£31.99, www.steelandstitch.etsy.com



© Boo Marshall Photography

FOLKLORE SHAWL

↪ Fabulous online store The Mercerie is about to launch its first CAL with the beautiful Folklore Shawl design. The crochet-along will begin on 19 January – the perfect antidote to the January blues – and the pattern will be emailed to you in four parts across six weeks, as designer Sue guides you through every step. It would be a great choice for beginner crocheters looking to take on their first big project, as well as more experienced crafters after a relaxing, easy-hook project to start the year. The motif-based shawl is designed in The Mercerie's own DK Merino yarn, which is available as a yarn pack for the CAL in a choice of two colourways – black/red/white or white/blue/pink. The yarn pack contains ten balls of yarn and is available until Friday 15 January. One for the Christmas list...? **£39.95, www.themercerie.net**

➔ BOOKS

WE REVIEW NEW AND EXCITING RELEASES



Amigurumi Winter Wonderland

Ilaria Caliri
Amigurumipatterns.net, £12.99
US terminology

➔ We're big fans of Amigurumipatterns.net's gorgeous collections, always packed with cheery colours, fun smiling toys and bags of personality. This book of 15 winter-themed patterns is no exception, full of quirky characters and clever finishing touches. Whether it's a solemn snowman huddled up in a scarf and earmuffs, the adorable reindeer in his stripy jumper or a sweet baby angel with delicate metallic wings, we think these lovely designs are completely irresistible – and with Christmas just around the corner there really isn't any excuse not to fill the house with smiling toys.

Patterns are clearly written (in US terms) with colour photographs to show detail and tricky steps. A comprehensive basics section at the start uses simple illustrations to explain all the stitches and techniques needed, from adjustable rings to bobble stitches and invisible decreases.

Whether you're hooking for children or just the young at heart, this is the perfect collection for anyone wanting to bring some Christmas cheer into their home this season.



Turn to page 70 for the adorable Five-Pointed Star decoration.

WE ARE ALSO READING...

Basic Crocheting and Projects

Sharon Hernes Silverman
Stackpole Books, £16.99 • US terminology



This comprehensive book is aimed at beginner crocheters, and starts with the basics of hooks and yarn before moving on to stitches and techniques, and finally a collection of 20 skill-building projects. We love that these move beyond traditional "easy" projects of blankets or scarves and include filet crochet place mats, Fair Isle mitts and some gorgeous lace shawls. Our favourite is the cover project, a beautiful chevron stitch top in a flattering style.

Vintage Style Crochet Projects

Agnieszka Strycharska
Tuva Publishing, £12.75 • US terminology



This collection of vintage style designs uses a stunning selection of colour combinations to create homewares and accessories. Many of the patterns are structured around granny square stitches and motifs, making them beginner friendly but always with Agnieszka's gorgeous vintage aesthetic. We particularly like the simple motif bag and floral iPad cover. All designs are worked in DMC's Natura Just Cotton, and charts are used to visualise the patterns.

Poetic Crochet

Sara Kay Hartmann
Interweave, £16.99 • US terminology



Crocheted shawls are the perfect projects – often small and portable, a great way to try out new techniques and colour combinations, and always welcome to keep you warm when faced with the British weather! This new collection features 20 shawl designs inspired by classic poetry. The patterns use a range of constructions and stitch patterns, with clear charts. We love "Spring Dream", inspired by Coleridge and worked in a laceweight mohair/silk blend for a floaty, ethereal finish.

Nicki Trench

A LESS TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS

This year Nicki is planning a less conventional Yuletide, with presents bedecked in fashionably coloured crochet motifs.



We are going through a family crisis at the moment about where we're going to spend Christmas. Traditionally it's a big Yuletide "love-in" and our combined families alternate between either my sister's or my house. However, our children are now grown up. One even got married this year and two others have live-in partners and though we believe our family nucleus is the centre of the universe, it's becoming apparent it's not.

There are various pressures for the family to split and go our separate ways this year. This is causing much distress, emotional turmoil and countless

"It's a terrible thing to confess, but I'm hopeless at wrapping. All that paper, and presents still look rubbish"

phone calls between every member of the family. I'm guessing there's a little reluctance at letting go of that idealised Christmas childhood of one big wrapping paper and glitter fest. For me, thoughts of a mountain of presents that filled a room for five children under five with screams of excitement and tears of over-excitement, and the subsequent preparation of a huge Christmas lunch with several different dietary requirements are a memory I'd rather forget – however, it seems that we did too good a job, because the now 20-somethings just cannot let go.

I'm keeping out of it though and have already planned my escape from whatever might happen and I'm off to Holland on a tango holiday over New Year. However, the usual gift exchanging almost definitely

will still take place wherever we may be. I have refined the way I give Christmas presents to my now grown-up children. Gone are the days of giving factory-made gifts of Tamagotchis, Polly Pockets or Sylvanian Families and now I can really get stuck into giving homemade gifts that are greatly appreciated now that they have set up homes of their own. I've even started to make an effort in gift wrapping. It's a terrible thing to confess, but I'm hopeless at wrapping, the worst. All that paper and sticky tape, and the presents still look rubbish.

I recently watched a video on "how to wrap a Christmas gift like a pro". It advocates "crisp edges, sharp corners and no gaps" – fat chance. Now I am going to make more of an effort in the way that I know how and I have been crocheting Christmas motifs out of all the scraps that I accumulate during the year. I will at least decorate my presents with something that I know I'll have fun making.

Last year for my Crochet Club I made fabulous bunting out of crocheted Christmas trees. These on their own make great motifs for decorating a gift or tree and they don't have to be green! Think of a Scandinavian Christmas in lighter, more crisp colours. And as much as we all like to stick with the traditional green and red, I'm afraid it's just not "fashionable"! My daughters are pretty fashion savvy, or at least they think they are – I would go as far as to say that one of them thinks she is the coolest thing in London – so lazy colour co-ordinating is just not an option for me. Keeping to a green and red colour scheme this Christmas would be like giving a Tamagotchi without a battery. So even though my presents will look like scrunched bits of paper that have been dragged out of recycling, at least they'll have a pretty motif in an acceptable colour!

NICKI'S CROCHET CLUB

Available for a **£3.50 monthly subscription**.

➔ As a member you'll receive an original pattern each month plus discounts on yarn. You'll also be eligible for a £10 discount on workshops.

NICKI'S CROCHET WORKSHOPS

➔ 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.



CHRISTMAS TREE

These cute Christmas trees are just the thing for brightening up your gift wrapping.

MATERIALS

- DK yarn in your choice of colours
- 3.5mm hook
- Ribbon
- Sewing needle and thread

TENSION

Exact tension is not critical for this design.

MEASUREMENTS

Each tree is 10cm/4in high and 7.5cm/3in wide at widest point.

START TREE TOP

Make 4ch, join with a sl st in first ch to form a ring.

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

Rnd 2: 3ch, [3tr, 1ch, 4tr], in sp between the 3ch and next tr from

previous row, miss 4tr, * [4tr, 1ch, 4tr] in space between next two trebles (from previous row), miss 4tr; rep from * once, 1sl st in top of first 3ch of this rnd – triangle made.

Rnd 3: 1sl st in top of each of next 3tr, 1sl st in next ch-sp, 3ch, [3tr, 3ch, 4tr] in same ch-sp, miss 4tr, 4tr in next sp, * [4tr, 3ch, 4tr] in next ch-sp, miss 4tr, 4tr in next sp; rep from * once

more, join with a sl st in top of first 3ch, turn, but do not fasten off.

TRUNK

Row 1: 1ch, 1dc in each of the next 4tr, turn.

Rows 2–5: Rep row 1. Fasten off.

Attach ribbon to top and hang on tree or decorate gift parcels.

END



WINTER FASHION

Wrap up against the weather with our selection of cosy cardigans,
chunky scarves and stylish accessories.

PHOTOGRAPHS **LEANNE DIXON, KIRSTEN MAVRIC AND LUCY WILLIAMS**
STYLING **CLAIRE MONTGOMERIE**
HAIR AND MAKE-UP **NICKI HENBREY**





Chunky Pocket Scarf
by San Bee for Loopsan
Using Debbie Bliss Roma
Pattern page 40

Inner Circles Shawl
by Annelies Baes
Using Isager Alpaca 2
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Peacock Jacket
by Simone Francis
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Floral Lace Collar
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Jean Cardigan

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Using Debbie Bliss Delphi

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Breton Stripe
Mittens by Emma
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Striped Pom-Pom Hat

by Tina Barrett

Using Blacker Swan Over Dyed
Falklands Merino DK and
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Colt by Lisa Richardson
Using Rowan Thick 'n' Thin
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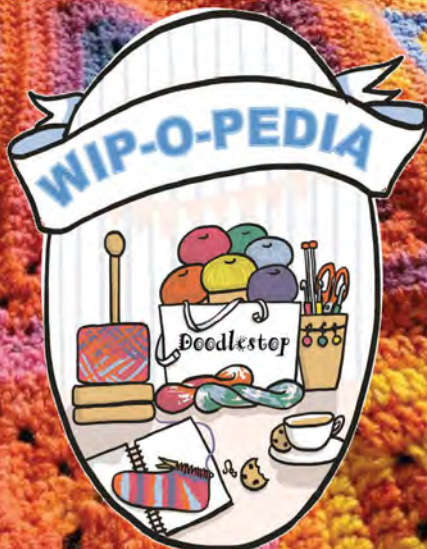
Hook and needle inventory

Common terms, symbols and abbreviations

Sizing guides for hats, blankets and socks

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OF CHRISTMAS
GIFTS THEY'LL
LOVE



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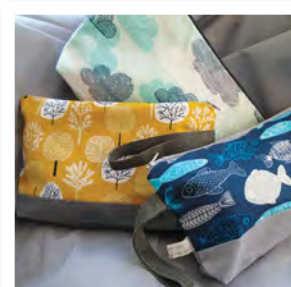
From £65 ✿ www.lyn-roberts-design.com



FEELING SHEEPISH

This colourful new print from Herdy is sure to bring a smile to someone's face on Christmas morning. Available in six cheery colours.

£11 ✿ www.herdy.co.uk



BEAUTIFUL BAGS

These stylish bags are perfect for a latest crochet project, or as a make-up or pencil case for non-crafty friends.

£12.50 ✿ www.thelittlegreygirl.com



PRETTY PURSE

We love all of Cath Kidston's sweet prints, and this set of handy purses includes one in a cheery Christmas design that's sure to make you smile.

£20 ✿ www.cathkidston.com



PERFECT PIN-UP

Choose one of these wooden shawl pins from Pony - ideal for a fashion-forward friend or as an accompaniment to a crocheted shawl.

£9 ✿ groves@stockistenquiries.co.uk



COLOURFUL CASHMERE

If you're looking for an extra-special gift, you can't get much more indulgent than this pure cashmere yarn from Pepperberry Knits.

£25 ✿ www.tangled-yarn.co.uk



CHASING RAINBOWS

We're sure any crocheter would love these vibrant earrings. There are also knitters' balls available, as well as brooches and necklaces.

£12 ✿ www.maxsworld.co.uk



OH DEER!

This classic brown stag design is made in perspex on a solid brass chain, from a stylish new British jewellery brand.

£35 ✿ www.toolally.com



SWEET TREATS!

We love this delicious package, made of four balls of natural fibre yarns, four knit and crochet patterns and a sample of Soak yarn wash.

£15 ✿ www.gorgeousyarns.co.uk

Still looking for the perfect present – or a last-minute treat for yourself?
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Fibre fanatics will love this starter kit containing *The Ashford Book Of Hand Spinning*, fibre and top-whorl spindle.

£26 ✿ www.handspinner.co.uk



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This kit, packaged in a fun takeaway-style box, contains all you need to make three flying ducks, including metal rings to hang them on the wall.

£17.95 ✿ www.themakery.co.uk



LITTLE BOX OF CROCHET

Treat someone to a box of beautiful yarn and a crochet pattern delivered to their home every month with a Little Box subscription.

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POPPY WEAVE

In a sophisticated teal, with a rose-gold weave, this leather shoulder bag is stylish and ideal for wearing with a party dress or skinny jeans.

£39.95 ✿ www.whitestuff.com



SUPER SCARF

Introduce someone to your favourite craft with this stylish scarf kit, containing pure lambswool yarn plus a hook and pattern.

£32 ✿ www.warpixie.com



GETTING HOOKED

Novice and expert crocheters alike will love this set, with hooks made from metal with wooden handles and packaged in a rustic cotton case.

£56 ✿ groves@stockistenquiries.co.uk



JAPANESE BLOSSOM

Give the gift of crochet this year with this stunning scarf kit from Jane Crowfoot. The box contains 25 balls of pure wool plus the pattern.

£42.50 ✿ www.janecrow.co.uk



MAKE DO & MEND

This neat tin would make a great stocking filler paired with some pins, stitch markers or even the recipient's favourite candy.

£2.95 ✿ www.livelaughlove.co.uk



BEAUTIFUL BEADS

These recycled paper stitch markers are made in Botswana by Mothers for All, supporting those caring for children orphaned by HIV and AIDS.

£7.50 ✿ www.injabulo.com

Gifts for little ones

Treat the children in your life with our fun and colourful ideas.



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This chunky wooden garage with three colourful cars is perfect for little hands to play with, and suitable from 18 months.

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We can't contain the cuteness of these adorable Desert Booties, made in organic wool felt and sized in 0-3 and 3-6 months.

£20 ✿ www.thislittle.boutique



SEW YOUR OWN

Crafty kids will love this felt kit, with everything they need to make a cute plush. All the felt shapes have handy pre-cut stitch holes.

£12.95 ✿ www.dotcomgiftshop.com



HIDDEN HEART

These mittens from Eka have a heart stitched on to the palms, and come with a cord to thread through sleeves to ensure they never get lost.

£32 ✿ www.notonthehighstreet.com



WOODLAND WONDER

Little girls will love the fancy-dress possibilities and super-soft cotton fabric of this fox pinafore, with adjustable buttons to grow with the child.

£44 ✿ www.wildthingsdresses.com



AWAY IN A MANGER

This nativity set will make for a perfect playtime on Christmas morning, and is sure to become a festive favourite to be brought out every year.

£36 ✿ www.tch.net



END TO END

Brighten up their bedroom with these fun farmyard bookends, handcrafted and painted and sure to draw a smile.

£17.99 ✿ www.beckyandlolo.co.uk



MONSTER MASH

These sock monsters are a great crafting activity to share with your kids over Christmas - and they really are made from socks!

£12 ✿ www.sock-creatures.co.uk



IS IT A BIRD?

Little superheroes will love this fun cape, made with a velcro fastening and suitable for age 3-7 years. Choose from red, navy, pink or green.

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£14 ❁ www.notonthehighstreet.com



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Everyone needs a warm winter hat to keep their ears cosy - this Donegal wool hat from Jigsaw is made in Scotland and sure to keep him snug.

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The Charlie kit contains everything your man needs to hook this stylish beanie including hand-dyed chunky yarn, hook and pattern.

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**Christmas
Garland**
by Emma Du
Using
DK cotton
Pattern
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Christmas Stocking
by San Bee for Loopsan
Using Rowan Pure Wool Worsted
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Ice Elf

by Rosella Tinn

Using Stylecraft Special DK

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ABOVE

Snowflake Blanket

by Anna Meliksetyan

Using Cascade 220 Heathers, Debbie Bliss Angel and Aunt Lydia's Classic Crochet Thread Size 10

Pattern page 76

BELOW
Decorative Baubles
by Alessandra Hayden
Using Caron Simply Soft
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BELOW LEFT
Five-Pointed Star
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Using Light DK weight cotton
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Daisy Notebook Covers

by Tracey Todhunter

Using Eden Cottage

Yarns Askham 4ply

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Affection

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Cosy Baby Cardigan

by Sue Whiting

Using Rowan Pure Wool DK

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Cotton Wash Set
by Ali Campbell
Using Debbie Bliss Cotton DK
Pattern page 59



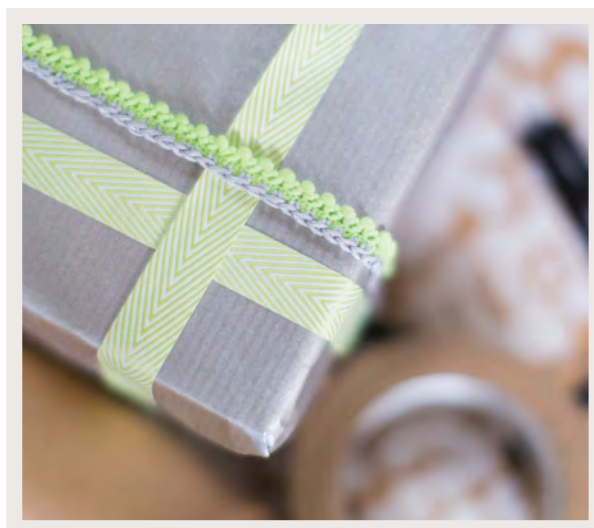


Your free gift ♥

WONDERFUL WRAPPING

Add a handmade touch to your gifts – Claire Montgomerie shows off our free pom-pom ribbon with pretty tags and edgings.

This month's fabulous free gift of cute mini pom-pom ribbon can be used in many different ways to embellish your projects, but at this time of year it is perfect for adding a final flourish to your gifts. Crochet it around tags and along ribbons for a fancy look as we've done here, or use it to craft your own handmade greetings cards. We've also included this adorable tiny snowflake motif, ideal for adding to gift tags or hanging from your tree.



MATERIALS

- Sirdar Cotton DK, 100% cotton, 100g/212m/232yds
- **Yarn A:** Grey Dawn 520 x 1 ball
- **Yarn B:** Larkin 506 x 1 ball
- **Yarn C:** Mill White 501 x 1 ball
- 2.5mm hook
- Yarn needle
- Brown paper gift tags, or paper to make your own tags
- Assortment of ribbons, including mini pom-pom ribbon (free with this issue of *Inside Crochet*)

YARN ALTERNATIVES

Any lightweight yarn will work here.

TENSION

Exact tension is not essential for this project.

MEASUREMENTS

Snowflake measures approx 5.5cm/2in in diameter.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Claire Montgomerie is the editor of *Inside Crochet* and the author of a range of knitting and crochet books, including *Fashion Crochet* and *Crochet For Children*. Read her blog at www.montyknits.blogspot.co.uk.

SPECIAL STITCHES

Picot: 3ch, sl st to bottom of 3ch.

SNOWFLAKES

START With 2.5mm hook and any yarn, 2ch.

Rnd 1: 6dc in second ch from hook, join rnd with sl st – 6dc.

Rnd 2: 5ch (counts as 1htr, 3ch), (1htr, 3ch) in each dc around, join rnd with sl st to third of 5ch – 6 3ch-sps.



CLOVER BOW MAKERS



Why not also use these cute bow makers to add an extra special touch to your gifts? They're an easy way to

make professional looking bows to top off all your presents. We have three Clover Bow Makers (worth £6.20 each) to give away – head to www.insidecrochet.co.uk/competitions for your chance to win.

Closing date 17 December 2015. For stockist information, email clover@stockistenquiries.co.uk

Rnd 3: Sl st to next ch-sp, 5ch (counts as 1htr, 3ch), 1htr in same ch-sp, (1htr, 3ch, 1htr) in each ch-sp around, join rnd with sl st to third of 5ch.

Rnd 4: (1dc, 1htr, 1tr, **picot** (see *Special Stitches*), 1htr, 1dc) in each ch-sp around.

If using for gift tags, fasten off yarn. If using for tree ornaments, sl st to next picot, make a length of chain approx 10cm/4in in length, sl st back into picot to complete hanging loop.

CROCHETED RIBBON

With 2.5mm hook and yarn A, make a length of ch as long as desired length of ribbon/edging. Ensure chain is evenly numbered.

Row 1: 1dc in second ch from hook, 1dc in each ch to end of row – odd number of dc made.

Row 2: 4ch (counts as 1tr, 1ch), miss next dc, * (1tr, 1ch) in next dc, miss next dc, rep from * to last st, 1tr in last st.

Row 3: (1dc, 3ch, 1dc) in each ch-sp to end. Fasten off.

CROCHETED POM-POM EDGING

With 2.5mm hook and A, work evenly in dc all along the straight edge of the mini pom-pom ribbon. Fasten off yarn.

GIFT TAGS

Take your gift tags and prepare them for crocheting by punching small holes evenly all around the edge, approximately 0.5cm/¼in apart, using a large sewing needle. Take the pom-pom ribbon and cut a length that will fit exactly around the edge of the gift tag.

With 2.5mm hook and yarn A, join yarn in one of the punched holes, work a dc into the hole, *1ch, sl st in straight edge of pom-pom ribbon to join it to the tag, 1ch 1dc in next hole on gift tag; rep from * around the entire gift tag. Fasten off yarn.

FINISHING

Weave in all ends and block all pieces lightly to shape.



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Chunky Pocket Scarf

San Bee for Loopsan
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Peacock Jacket

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Inner Circles Shawl

Annelies Baes
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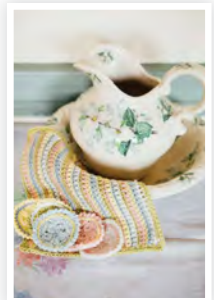
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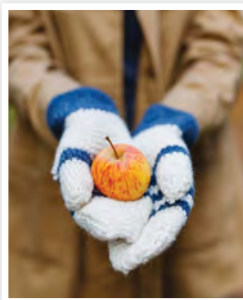
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Floral Lace Collar

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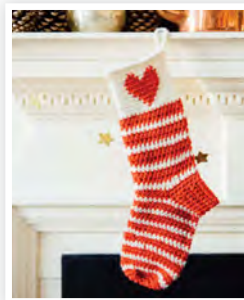
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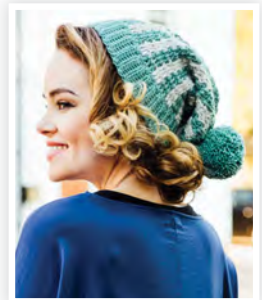
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Striped Pom-Pom Hat

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Five-Pointed Star

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Christmas Garland

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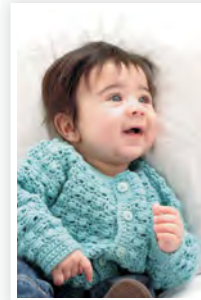
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Cosy Baby Cardigan

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Decorative Baubles

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Page 85



Chunky Pocket Scarf

BY SAN BEE FOR LOOPSAN

This cosy scarf will keep you extra warm and snugly during the cold winter days.



ADD TO THE STASH
Buy this super-chunky yarn from
www.deramores.com

MATERIALS

- Debbie Bliss Roma, 70% wool/30% alpaca, 100g/80m/87yds
- Yarn A:** Duck Egg 009 x 5 balls
- Yarn B:** Ecrú 001 x 1 ball
- 12mm hook

YARN ALTERNATIVES

You can use any super chunky weight wool-blend yarn to achieve a similar effect.

TENSION

Exact tension is not essential for this project.

MEASUREMENTS

The finished scarf is about 230cm/90in long and 22cm/8¾in wide. However you can always make it shorter/longer by adding/removing repeats of the main pattern.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

San Bee enjoys designing items with a vintage feel and plenty of texture. Find more of her designs at www.loopsan.com.

SPECIAL STITCHES

Bo: 4trtog in one stitch: [Yoh, insert hook in st, draw lp through, yoh, draw through 2lps] 4 times, 5 lps on hook, yoh and draw through all 5 loops.



POCKETS

Make two
Foundation Row:

With 12mm hk and yarn A, work 12ch.

Row 1: 1dc in second ch from hk, 1dc in each st, turn – 11 sts.

Row 2: 1ch, 1dc in each st, turn.

Row 3: 1ch, 2dc, (with yarn B, **bo** (see *Special Stitches*) in next st, with yarn A, 2dc) three times, turn.

Rows 4–6: With yarn A, 1ch, 1dc in each st, turn.

Row 7: With yarn A, 1ch, 3dc, (with yarn B, **bo** in next st, with yarn A, 3dc) twice, turn.

Rows 8–10: With yarn A, 1ch, 1dc in each st, turn.

Row 11: Repeat row 3.

Rows 12 & 13: With yarn A, 1ch, 1dc in each st, turn.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

SCARF

Foundation Row: With 12mm hk and yarn A, work 22ch.

Row 1: 1htr in third ch from hk, 1htr in each st, turn – 20 sts.

Row 2: 2ch, (1htr in front loop, 1htr in back loop) ten times, turn.

Rows 3–113: Repeat row 2.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Sew pockets to scarf and lightly block to finish.





Stylecraft

NEW AUTUMN/WINTER
CROCHET DESIGNS





MATERIALS

- Drops Nepal, 65% wool/35% alpaca, 50g/75m/82yds
- Yarn A:** Off White 0100 x 1 ball
- Yarn B:** Grey Mix 0501 x 2 (2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 4) balls
- Yarn C:** Pistachio 1477 x 1 ball
- Yarn D:** Medium Grey Mix 0517 x 3 (4, 4, 4, 4, 5, 5, 5, 6, 6) balls
- Yarn E:** Dark Grey Mix 0506 x 3 (4, 4, 4, 4, 5, 5, 5, 6, 6) balls
- Yarn F:** Black 8903 x 4 (4, 4, 5, 5, 5, 6, 6, 6, 6) balls
- 5.5mm & 6mm Tunisian hooks with soft, flexible cables
- Open end zip, approximately 48 (48, 48, 51, 51, 51, 51, 53, 53, 53)cm/19 (19, 19, 20, 20, 20, 20, 21, 21, 21)in long
- Yarn needle
- Four stitch markers

YARN ALTERNATIVES

You can use any heavy aran weight yarn to achieve a similar effect. Please check tension to maintain the correct size.

TENSION

Work 14.5 sts and 14 rows in Tunisian Simple Stitch (Tss) to measure 10 x 10cm/4 x 4in using 6mm hook, or size required to obtain tension.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

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

SPECIAL STITCH PATTERNS

Tunisian Simple Stitch 2

Together (Tss2tog): Insert hook under the vertical bar of the following 2 sts, pull up a loop.

Increase 1 stitch (Inc1): Insert hook into the horizontal ch before the next st, pull up a loop.

PM: Place marker.

PATTERN NOTES

The Jacket is worked top down, in one piece.

When working the beginning of the yoke section in yarns A and B, wind small balls of yarn B and twist yarns at the back of work to avoid the darker shade appearing from underneath. The remainder of the yoke can be worked by stranding colours over 3 to 4 stitches and twisting them at the back of work.

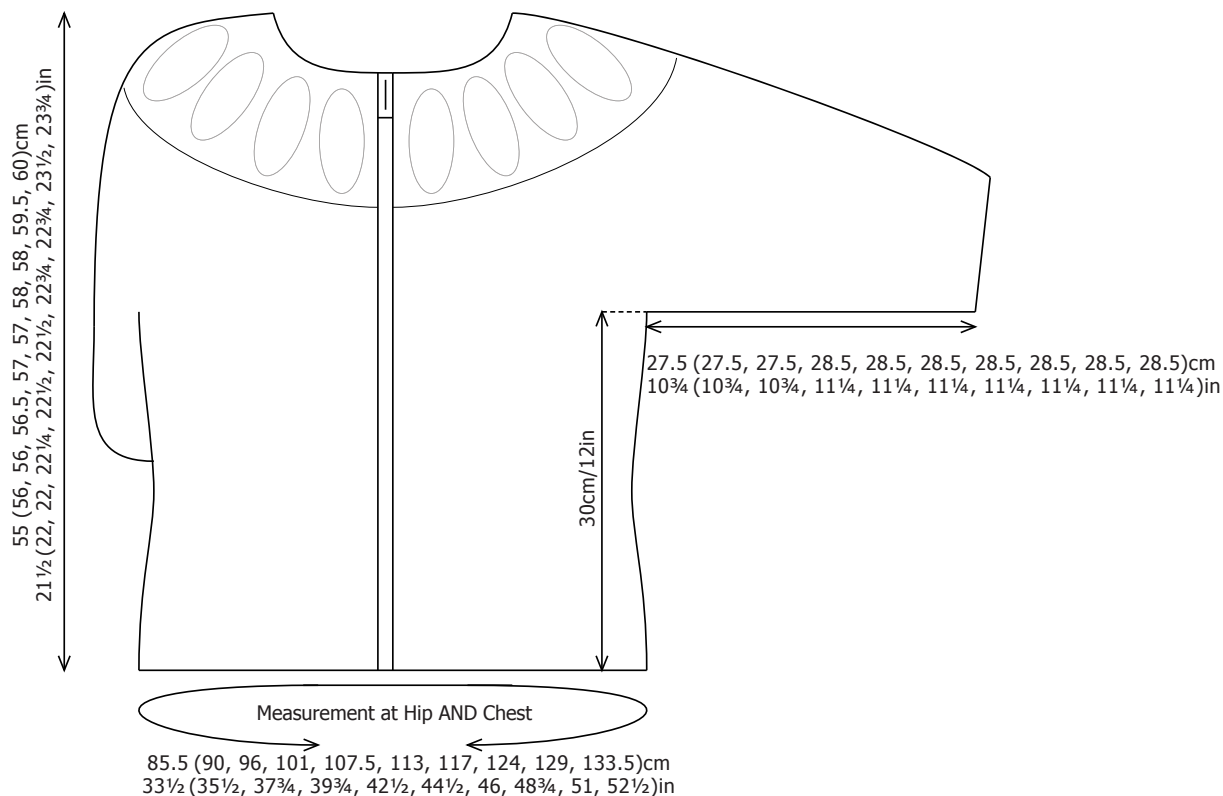
Peacock Jacket

BY SIMONE FRANCIS

A fitted top in Tunisian crochet with an attractive colourwork yoke inspired by cold, rocky landscapes.



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For the Underarm Section, chain sts are made on the hook with a small amount of spare yarn.

Please measure your jacket once blocked to choose appropriate zip size.

Each Return Pass will be worked in this way, changing colour to correspond with the pattern in the yoke and twisting yarns on back of work as you make the Return Pass.

Row 2: 1 lp in yarn A on hk, 1A, 1B, [5A, 1B] to last 2 sts, 2A.

Row 3: Repeat row 2.

Row 4: 1 lp in yarn A on hk, 1B, Inc1B, 2B, [3A, 1B, Inc1B, 2B] to last st, 1A, change to yarn B – 111

(111, 111, 111, 118, 118, 118, 118, 118, 118) sts.

Row 5: 1 lp in yarn B on hk, 5B, [1A, 6B] to last 7 sts, 1A, 6B.

Row 6: 1 lp in yarn B on hk, Tss in yarn B to end.

CARDIGAN

START

With 6mm hk and yarn A, make 79 (79, 79, 79, 84, 84, 84, 84, 84, 84)ch.

Foundation Row 1: Working in back loop only, insert hk in second ch from hk, pull up a lp, pull up a lp in each ch to end.

Make a Standard Return Pass – 79 (79, 79, 79, 84, 84, 84, 84, 84, 84) sts.

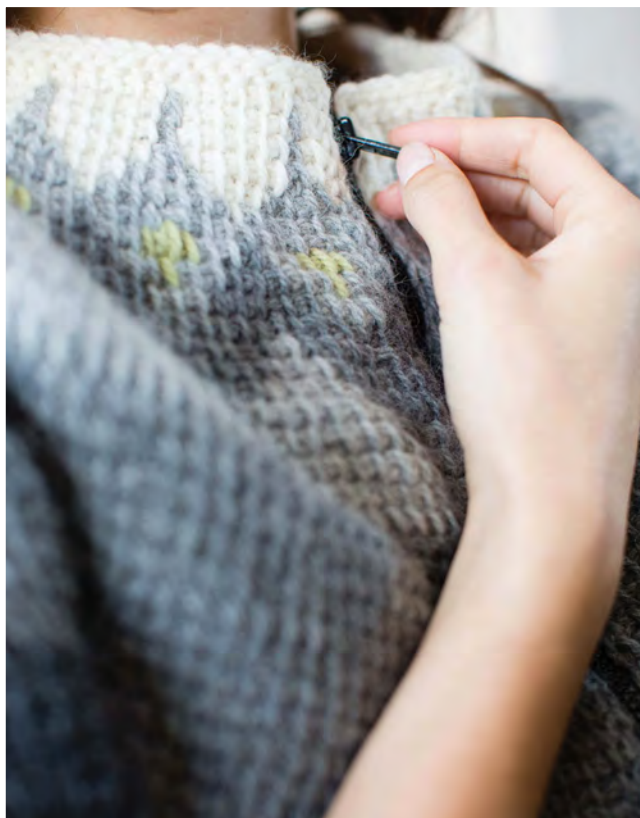
Foundation Row 2: 1 lp on hook, Tps to end.

PEACOCK YOKE SECTION

Row 1: 1 lp on hook, 1A, Inc1 B (see *Special Stitches*), [5A, Inc1B] to last 2 sts, Tss in yarn A to end – 95 (95, 95, 95, 101, 101, 101, 101, 101, 101) sts.

Return: With yarn A, yrh, pull through 1 lp, yrh, pull through 2 lps, twist yarn at back of work and change to yarn B, yrh, pull through 2 lps, *[with yarn A, yrh, pull through 2 lps] five times, with yarn B, yrh, pull through 2 lps; rep from * to end, working the final sts in yarn A.





Row 7: 1 lp in yarn B on hk, 1B, 1C, Inc1C, 1C, *2B, 1D, 2B, 1C, Inc1C, 1C; rep from * to last 2 sts, 2B.
Return using yarn D – 127(127, 127, 127, 135, 135, 135, 135, 135) sts.
Row 8: 1 lp in yarn D on hk, 2B, 1C, 2B, [3D, 2B, 1C, 2B] to last st, 1D.
Row 9: 1 lp in yarn D on hk, 1D, 3B, [2D, 1B, 2D, 3B] to last 2 sts, 2D.
Row 10: 1 lp in yarn D on hk, 7D, Inc1D, [8D, Inc1D] to last 7 sts, Tss in yarn D to end – 142 (142, 142, 142, 151, 151, 151, 151, 151, 151) sts.
Row 11: 1 lp in yarn D on hk, 7D, 1B, [8D, 1B] to last 7 sts, Tss in yarn D to end, change to yarn B.
Row 12: 1 lp in yarn B on hk, [3D, Inc1D, 3D, 3B] to last 6 sts, 3D, Inc1D, 2D, Inc1D, 1B – 159 (159, 159, 159, 169, 169, 169, 169, 169) sts.
Row 13: 1 lp in yarn B on hk, 1B, 5D, [5B, 5D] to last 2 sts, 2B.
Row 14: 1 lp in yarn B on hk, 2B, 3D, [7B, 3D] to last 3 sts, 3B.
Row 15: Tss in yarn B to end.
Row 16: 1 lp in yarn B on hk, 8 (8, 8, 8, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3)B, [Inc1B, 10B] to last 0 (0, 0, 0, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5) sts, inc0 (0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1) Tss

to end – 174 (174, 174, 174, 186, 186, 186, 186, 186) sts.
Row 17: Tss in yarn B to end, return with yarn D.
Row 18: 1 lp in yarn D on hk, 14 (14, 14, 14, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4)D, Inc1D, [11D, Inc1D] to last 16 (16, 16, 16, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5) sts, Tss in yarn D to end – 188 (188, 188, 188, 203, 203, 203, 203, 203, 203) sts.
With yarn D work five (four, four, four, three, three, three, three, three) rows in Tss.
Sizes 5-6X only
Next Row: 1 lp in yarn D on hk, - (8, 4, 8, 11, 11, 11, 4, 4, 4)D, Inc1D, [- (12, 8, 12, 12, 12, 12, 8, 8, 8)D, Inc1D] to last - (11, 7, 11, 11, 11, 11, 6, 6, 6) sts, Tss in yarn D to end -- (203, 211, 203, 219, 219, 219, 228, 228, 228) sts.
Work - (two, two, one, two, two, two, two, two) more row(s) in Tss in yarn D.
Sizes L-6X only
Next Row: 1 lp in yarn D on hk, - (-, -, 11, 9, 9, 4, 4, 8, 8)D, Inc1D, [- (-, -, 12, 25, 10, 8, 8, 10, 10)D, Inc1D] to last - (-, -, 11, 9, 9, 6, 7, 9, 9) sts, Tss in yarn D to end -- (-, -, 219, 228, 240, 246, 256, 250, 250) sts.

Work - (-, -, one, two, two, three, three, two, three) more row(s) in Tss in yarn D.
Sizes 5X and 6X only
Next Row: 1 lp in yarn D on hk, 3 (9)D, Inc1D, [20 (12)D, Inc1D]; rep from * to last 6 (12) sts, Tss in yarn D to end – 263 (270) sts.
Work two more rows in Tss.
All sizes
DIVIDE FOR SLEEVES
188 (203, 211, 219, 228, 240, 246, 256, 263, 270) sts.
Row 1: 1 lp in yarn D on hk, pull up 1 lp in next 27 (30, 33, 34, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 46) sts, make slip knot on hk with spare yarn, 6 (6, 6, 8, 8, 8, 8, 10, 10, 12)ch, leave last ch on hk and pull up a lp in next 5 (5, 5, 7, 7, 7, 9, 9, 11)ch sts with main yarn, miss 38 (42, 42, 44, 44, 46, 46, 48, 48, 50) sts for Sleeve, pull up a lp in next 56 (57, 59, 61, 64, 68, 70, 72, 75, 76) sts, make slip knot on hk with spare yarn, 6 (6, 6, 8, 8, 8, 8, 10, 10, 12)ch, leave last ch on hk and pull up a lp in next 5 (5, 5, 7, 7, 7, 9, 9, 11)ch sts with main yarn, miss 38 (42, 42, 44, 44, 46, 46, 48, 48, 50) sts for Sleeve, pull up lp in next 28 (31, 34, 35, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 47) sts – 124 (131, 139,

147, 156, 164, 170, 180, 187, 194) working sts.
Work three rows in yarn D.
SHAPE WAIST
Row 1: 1 lp in yarn D on hk, pull up lp in next 14 (15, 17, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 23) sts, **Tss2tog** (see *Special Stitches*) (PM in this st), pull up lp in next 31 (33, 34, 38, 40, 42, 43, 47, 49, 52) sts, Tss2tog (PM), pull up lp in next 24 (25, 27, 27, 28, 30, 32, 32, 33, 34) sts, Tss2tog (PM), pull up lp in next 31 (33, 34, 38, 40, 42, 43, 47, 49, 52) sts, Tss2tog (PM), Tss to end in yarn D, return in yarn E – 120 (127, 135, 143, 152, 160, 166, 176, 183, 190) sts.
Rows 2 & 3: Tss in yarn E to end.
Row 4: 1 lp in yarn E on hk, Tss to SM, Tss2tog, (PM), [Tss to next SM, Tss2tog, (PM)] three times, Tss in yarn E to end – 116 (123, 131, 139, 148, 156, 162, 172, 179, 186) sts.
Rows 5 & 6: Tss to end.
Rep rows 4–6 twice more, dec at SM point, keeping shaping even by working the dec in the st before and then, on next rep, the st after SM – 108 (115, 123, 131, 140, 148, 154, 164, 171, 178) sts.
Work two rows in Tss.



Change to 5.5mm hook.
Work two rows in Tps.
Cast off evenly.

SLEEVES

Both alike

Row 1: With 6mm hk, RS facing and yarn D, pull up 1p in centre third (third, third, fourth, fourth, fourth, fourth, fifth, fifth, sixth)ch st at underarm, pull up 1p in next 2 (2, 2, 3, 3, 3, 3, 4, 4, 5)ch sts, pull up 1 p in corner st and in next 38 (42, 42, 44, 44, 46, 46, 48, 50) missed sts for Sleeve, pull up 1 p in corner st and in next 3 (3, 3, 4, 4, 4, 4, 5, 5, 6)ch sts. Do not join, make a Standard Return Pass – 46 (50, 50, 54, 54, 56, 56, 60, 60, 64) sts.

Rows 2–4: Tss to end.

***Row 5:** 1 lp in yarn D on hk, Tss2togD, Tss in yarn D to last 3 sts, Tss2togD, 1D, return with yarn E – 44 (48, 48, 52, 52, 54, 54, 58, 58, 62) sts.

Work six (six, six, four, four, four, four, three, three, three) rows in Tss in yarn E.

Rep from * working 13 more rows in yarn E, making final pass in yarn F, then cont in yarn F until 36 (40, 40, 40, 40, 42, 42, 44, 44, 48) sts are on the row. Work three rows in Tss.

Change to 5.5mm hook.
Work two rows in Tps.
Cast off evenly.

FINISHING

Weave in all ends neatly.
Steam block work.

Pin zip onto jacket and sew with corresponding yarn along edges using backstitch or small running stitches.



Row 15: 1 lp in yarn E on hk, Tss to SM, Inc1 (PM), [Tss to next SM, Inc1] three times, Tss in yarn E to end, return in yarn F – 112 (119, 127, 135, 144, 152, 158, 168, 175, 182) sts.

Rows 16 & 17: Tss in yarn F to end.
Rep rows 15–17, three more times, inc at SM point, keeping shaping even by working incs in

the stitch before and then, on next rep, the st after SM – 124 (131, 139, 147, 156, 164, 170, 180, 187, 194) sts.
Work seven rows in yarn F.

	XS	S	M	L	1X	2X	3X	4X	5X	6X	
TO FIT BUST	81	86	91	97	101	106	112	117	122	127	cm
	32	34	36	38	40	42	44	46	48	50	in
FINISHED BUST	85.5	90	96	101	107.5	113	117	124	129	133.5	cm
	33½	35½	37¾	39¾	42½	44½	46	48¾	51	52½	in
SLEEVE SEAM	27.5	27.5	27.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	cm
	10¾	10¾	10¾	11¼	11¼	11¼	11¼	11¼	11¼	11¼	in
LENGTH	55	56	56	56.5	57	57	58	58	59.5	60	cm
	21½	22	22	22¼	22½	22½	22¾	22¾	23½	23¾	in



Inner Circles Shawl

BY ANNELIES BAES

This stunning lacy shawl in a super-soft yarn is made of simple circles within circles, carefully chained together.



MATERIALS

- Isager Alpaca 2, 50% alpaca/50% Merino wool, 50g/250m/275yds
- **Yarn A:** Light Grey 2S x 1 skein
- **Yarn B:** Mid Brown 8S x 1 skein
- **Yarn C:** Brown 7S x 1 skein
- **Yarn D:** Dark Grey 4S x 3 skeins
- 3.5mm hook
- Yarn needle
- Scissors
- Sewing needle
- Pins
- Mat for blocking
- Ruler
- No-rinse wool wash

YARN ALTERNATIVES

You can use any fingering/4ply weight yarn to achieve a similar effect, although a yarn with good drape is advised. Isager Alpaca 2 can be difficult to obtain in the UK, but Fibre Company Canopy Fingering would make a good alternative.

TENSION

Exact tension is not essential for this pattern. However, each circle in the sample measures approximately 6.5cm/2½in across.

MEASUREMENTS

Width at widest point: 175cm/69in.
Length: 75cm/29½in.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Annelies Baes believes everything is possible in crochet. Visit her website at www.vicarno.com and view more of her designs at www.ravelry.com/designers/vicarnos-mama.

PATTERN NOTES

Make all the circles first. The inside of the motifs are made with a sewing needle – a relaxing process with a lovely result. Finally the motifs are joined as you go starting from the upper row.

Rounds are closed, but do not turn the work unless stated. Always work with the right side facing.

4ch counts as 1dtr, 1ch does not count as 1dc.

MOTIF
START Make 84 – 28 in each of yarns A, B and C
 Leaving a 20cm/8in tail, 12ch,

close to a ring with sl st in first ch.

Rnd 1: 24dc in ring, sl st in first dc – 24dc.

Rnd 2: 4ch, 1dtr in same space, 1dtr in next dc, [2dtr in next dc, 1dtr] around, sl st in fourth ch – 36dtr.

Fasten off and cut yarn.

INSIDE OF MOTIF

Thread sewing needle with the long tail. With WS of motif is facing, insert thread “under” a dc loop, insert once more under same loop to secure thread, take yarn to other side of circle opening, and insert thread under a dc, right in front of previous dc, insert thread once again under same dc to secure thread, make sure not to pull thread too hard otherwise your circle will distort. You now have the thread going from one side of the circle to the other side.

Weave the thread about 6dc to the side, inserting the needle under dc stitches so it remains invisible. Next insert needle under that sixth dc, pull needle up and insert once again in same dc. Take the thread to the other side of the circle wrapping it once over the previous thread, and secure the thread in the same way to the dc on the opposite side of the circle. Weave in ends and cut yarn. Repeat for all the motifs.

JOINING TOP ROW

Worked Right to Left. With RS facing, using yarn D, attach yarn with sl st in any space between 2dtr.

MOTIF 1

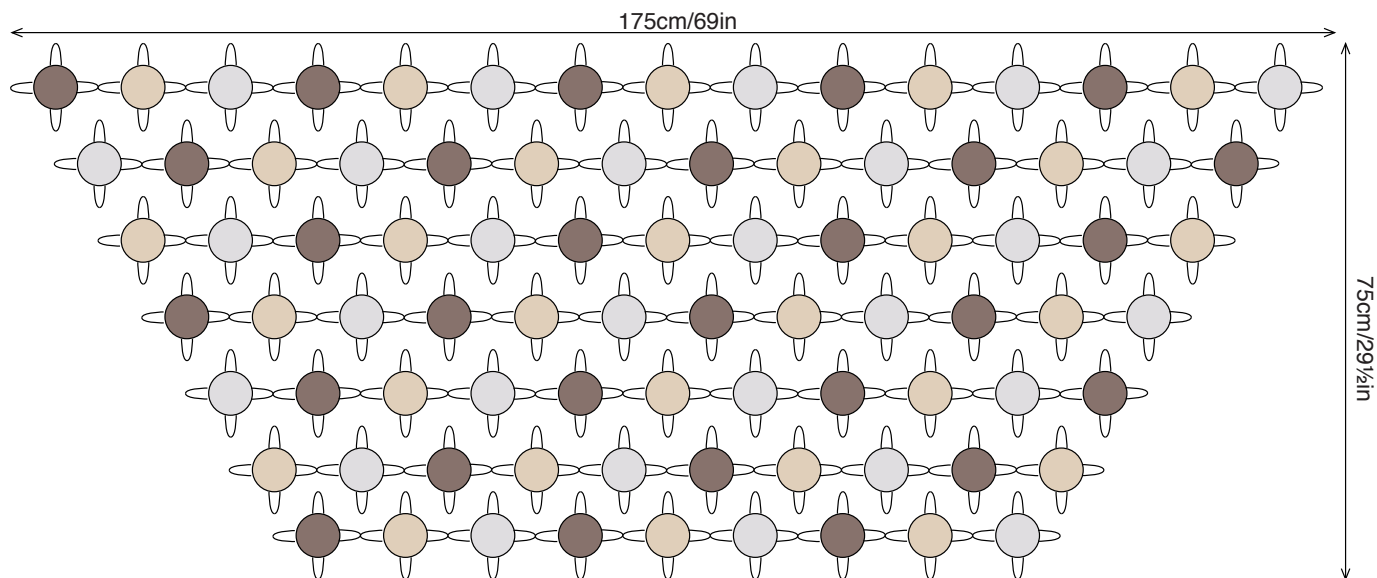
Rnd 1: 1ch, 1dc, 11ch, miss 2dtr, [dc in space between 2dtr, 11ch] around, close with sl st in first dc – 18 petals. Fasten off.

MOTIF 2

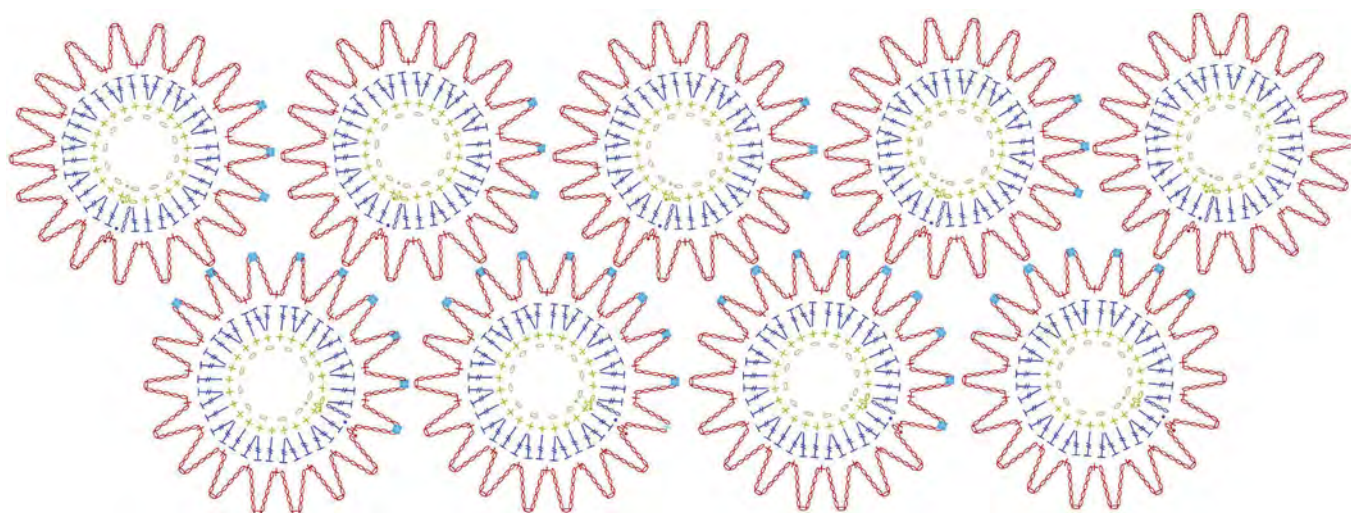
Make four petals as for Motif 1, *5ch, 1dc in 11ch-sp of Motif 1, 5ch, 1dc between next 2dtr; rep from * twice more working into following two petals of Motif 1. Work remaining petals of Motif 2 as for Motif 1. Fasten off.

MOTIFS 3-15

Work as for Motif 2, ensuring each previous motif has six



JOINING MOTIFS



unworked petals on the upper and lower sides.

JOINING ROW 2

Join motifs from right to left working colour sequence as shown.

MOTIF 1

Make four petals. Make and join fifth, sixth and seventh petals to Motif 1 of top row, make and join eighth, ninth and tenth petals to Motif 2 of top row, make remaining petals. Fasten off.

MOTIFS 2-14

Make four petals. Make and join fifth, sixth and seventh petals to Motif 1 of row 2, make and join eighth, ninth and

tenth petals to next motif of top row, make and join 11th, 12th and 13th petals to next motif of top row, make remaining petals. Fasten off.

JOINING ROWS 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7

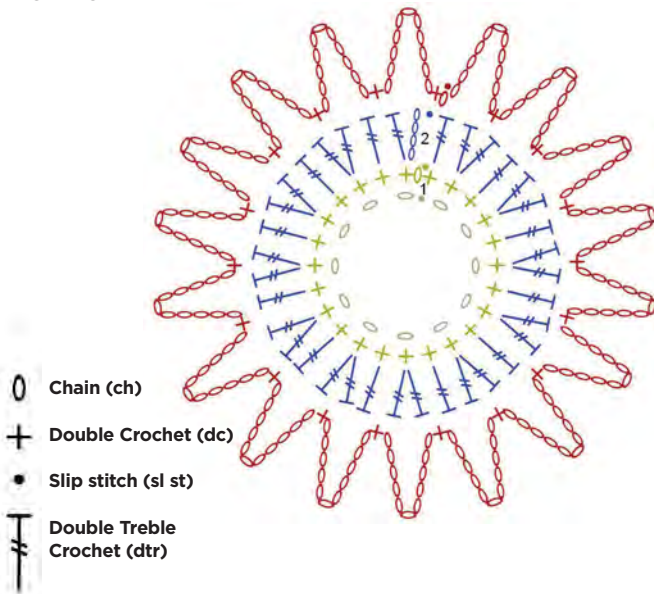
Work as for Joining Row 2 ensuring correct colour sequence.

EDGING

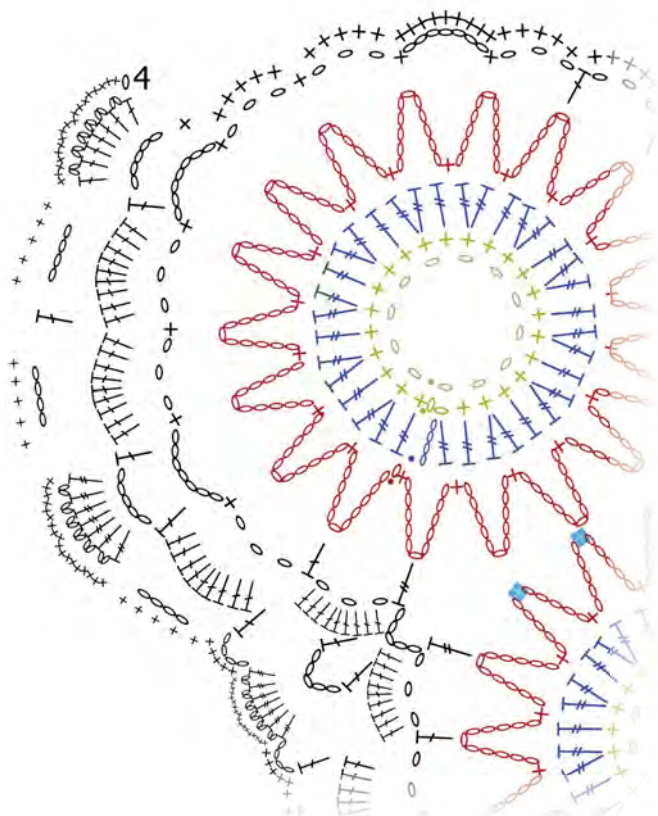
With yarn D, with RS facing, rejoin yarn to the sixth petal back from the joining point with Motif 2 using a sl st.

Rnd 1: Working along long top edge of shawl work 1dc in first petal, 3ch, 1dc in second petal, 3ch, 1dc in third petal, 7ch, 1dc in fourth petal, 3ch, 1tr in fifth petal, 3ch, 1dtr in final (sixth)

MOTIF ONE



EDGING



petal, 5ch. Then working across the six “free” petals of the next 13 top row motifs work: 1dtr in first petal, 3ch, 1tr in second petal, 3ch, 1dc in third petal, 7ch, 1dc in fourth petal, 3ch, 1tr in fifth petal, 3ch, 1dtr in last (sixth) petal, 5ch.

In Motif 15 work 1dtr in first petal, 3ch, 1tr in second petal, 3ch, 1dc in third petal, 7ch, 1dc in fourth petal, 3ch, 1dc in fifth petal, 3ch, 1dc in sixth petal, 7ch.

Turning the corner and working down the side of the shawl work 1dc in seventh petal, 3ch, 1dc in eighth petal, 3ch, 1dc in ninth petal, 7ch, 1dc in tenth petal, 3ch, 1tr in 11th petal, 3ch, 1dtr in last (12th) petal, 5ch.

Work along the side flowers as for flowers 2–13 from the top row. The last flower is worked exactly the same way as the last flower of the upper row. Work the same way along the bottom edge and up the second side. Close rnd with sl st in first dc. Do not turn.

Rnd 2: 1ch, 5dc in first 3ch-sp, 5dc in next 3ch-sp, 9dc in 7ch-sp,

[5dc in next 3ch-sp] twice, 7dc in 5ch-sp. Cont in this way over next 13 flowers of Top Row only working 5dc in every 3ch-sp, dc in every 5ch sp and 9dc in every 7ch-sp. In the last flower of Top Row work 5dc in first and second 3ch-sp, 9dc in 7ch-sp, [5dc in 3ch-sp] twice.

You are now at the last flower at the end of the Top Row. Working

down the side cont as folls: (1dc, 5ch, 1tr) in 7ch-sp, [9tr in next 3ch-sp] twice, (1tr, 5ch, 1tr) in next 7ch-sp, [9tr in next 3ch-sp] twice, (1tr, 5ch, 1tr) in next 5ch-sp.

Cont around edge working 9tr in each 3ch-sp, and (1tr, 5ch, 1tr) in each 5 and 7ch-sp to last 7ch-sp. Work (1tr, 5ch, 1dc) in final 7ch-sp, close round

with sl st in first dc. Turn.

Rnd 3: (WS) Working along the sides and the bottom part of the shawl only, work 1ch, 1dc in first dc (closing st of rnd 2), [(1tr, 2ch) six times, 1tr] in 5ch-sp, 4ch, 1tr between 9tr group, 4ch, *[(1dtr, 2ch) six times, 1dtr] in next 5ch-sp, 4ch, 1tr between 9tr group 4ch; rep from * down first side of shawl, along bottom edge, and up second side until you reach the last 5ch-sp. [(1tr, 2ch) six times, 1tr] in last 5ch-sp, 1dc in next dc just behind 5ch. Turn.

Rnd 4: (RS) Working around sides and bottom edge only, 1ch, [3dc in every 2ch-sp, 5dc in every 4ch-sp] around. After working 3dc in each of last set of 2ch-sp close with sl st in last dc. Fasten off.

FINISHING

Weave in all ends.
Soak shawl in no-rinse wool wash for 15 minutes. Gently squeeze excessive water out, roll in towel to remove the last of the water. Gently pin to shape on foam mat. Allow to dry naturally.





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Jean Cardigan

BY JENNIFER REID

This cosy cardigan is an ideal first garment with simple slouchy shaping, brought to life with a stunning cross stitched back.



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MATERIALS

- Debbie Bliss Delphi, 100% cotton, 50g/50m/54yds
- Yarn A:** Silver 02 x 17 balls
- Yarn B:** Charcoal 01 x 1 ball
- Yarn C:** Pear 04 x 1 ball
- Yarn D:** Mint 06 x 1 ball
- Yarn E:** Teal 07 x 1 ball
- Yarn F:** Pool 08 x 1 ball
- Yarn G:** Denim 09 x 1 ball
- Yarn H:** Lilac 10 x 1 ball
- Yarn I:** Peach 11 x 1 ball
- Yarn J:** Terracotta 12 x 1 ball
- 9mm hook
- Large sewing needle

TENSION

Work 9dc and 10 rows to measure 10 x 10cm/4 x 4in using 9mm hook, or size required to obtain tension.

MEASUREMENTS

Finished Chest: 94cm/37in.
Length: 66cm/26in.
Sleeve length: 42cm/16½in.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Jennifer Reid loves all things craft, but holds a special torch for crochet and is fascinated by vintage crochet. Find her on Ravelry at www.ravelry.com/designers/jenny-reid.



BACK

With yarn A, 46ch.
Row 1: 1dc in second ch from hk, dc in each chain to end, turn – 45dc.

Rows 2–43: Dc to end, turn. Fasten off.

Row 44: With yarn A, 40ch, join ch to end of row 43 with a sl st, 1dc in dc across, 40ch, turn – 125 sts.

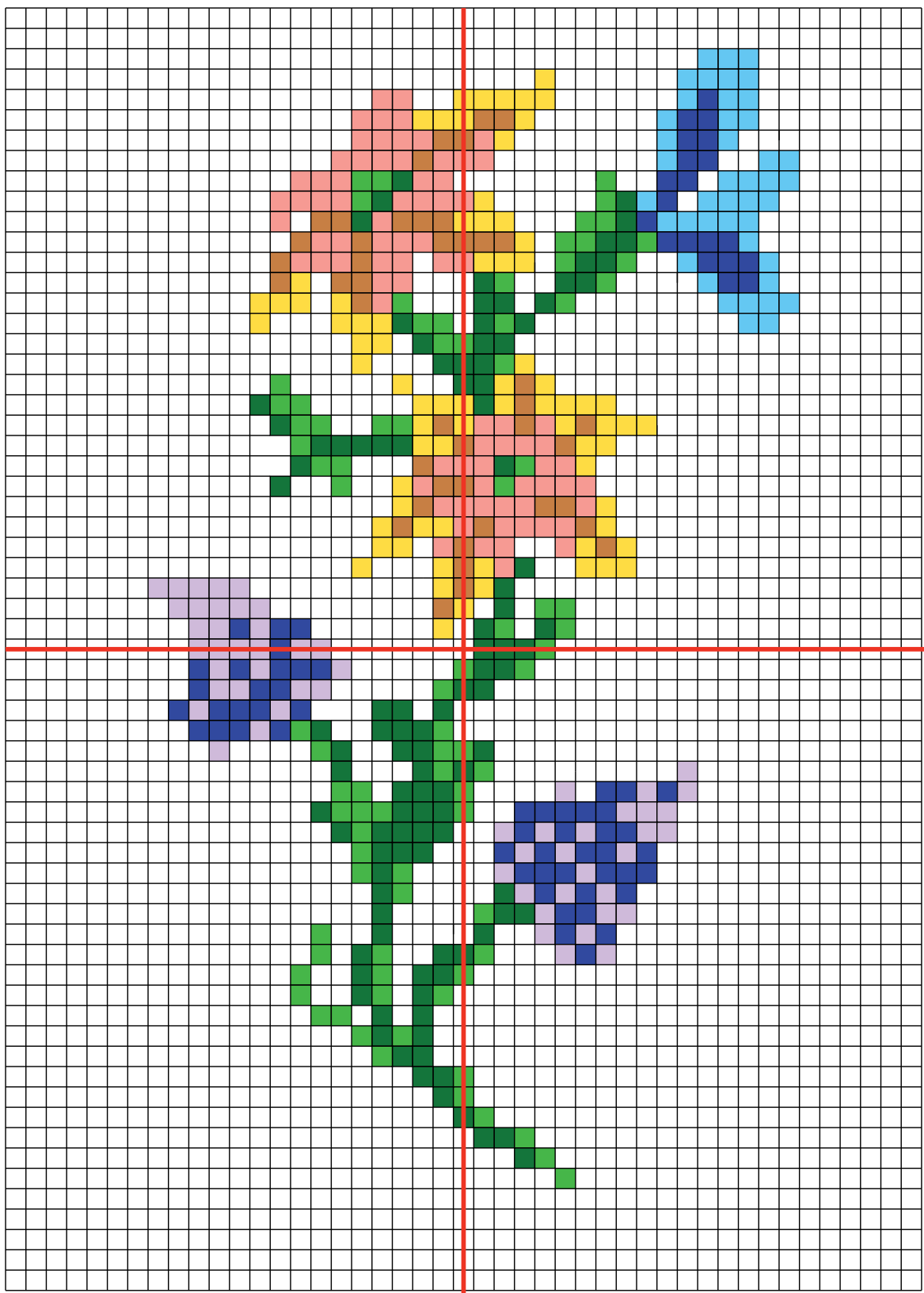
Rows 45–63: Dc to end, turn. Fasten off.

LEFT FRONT

With yarn A, 21ch.

Row 1: 1dc in second ch from hk, dc in each chain to end, turn – 20dc.

FLOWER CHART (USE YARN DOUBLED)

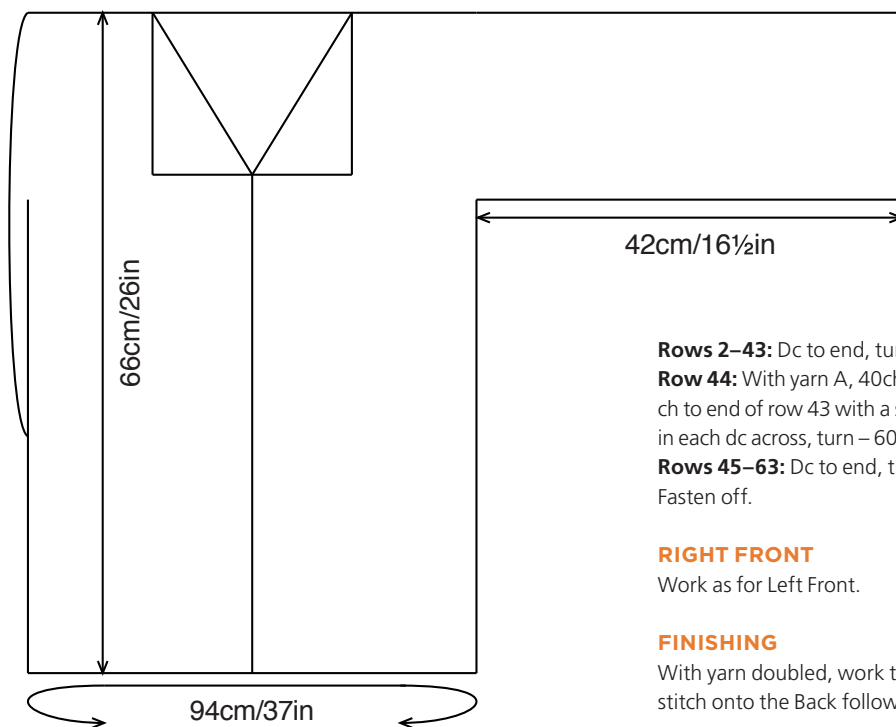


Stitch 23

Row 33

- | | |
|--|--|
|  C: 04 Pear |  G: 09 Denim |
|  D: 06 Mint |  H: 10 Lilac |
|  E: 07 Teal |  I: 11 Peach |
|  F: 08 Pool |  J: 12 Terracotta |

 Marks centre stitch



Rows 2–43: Dc to end, turn.

Row 44: With yarn A, 40ch, join ch to end of row 43 with a sl st, 1dc in each dc across, turn – 60 sts.

Rows 45–63: Dc to end, turn. Fasten off.

RIGHT FRONT

Work as for Left Front.

FINISHING

With yarn doubled, work the cross stitch onto the Back following

the chart, treating each stitch as one square of the chart to work a cross over. For neatness, try to ensure that the top line of each cross lies in the same direction.

Using yarn A and with right sides together, sew together the sides and under arm sleeve seams (sample used an alternating slip stitch seam).

Using yarn B and with wrong sides together, sew together the top of the sleeves using a row of dc. Leave 6 sts unworked at the tips of the Fronts to form a collar.

EDGING

With yarn B, work around entire edge of garment working 1dc in each st, and 3dc in each corner. Weave in all ends.



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MATERIALS

4PLY COVER

- Eden Cottage Yarns Askham 4ply, 70% alpaca/30% silk, 50g/200m/218yds
- Yarn A:** Damselfly or Crabapple x 1 ball
- 2mm hook

DK COVER

- Three Bears DK Affection, 100% cotton, 50g/169m/184yds
- Yarn B:** Ginger x 1 ball
- 3mm hook

FOR BOTH VERSIONS

- 2mm hook for flowers
- Locking stitch marker
- Oddments of 4ply yarn for flowers
- Buttons to decorate
- Notebook, 8.5 x 10cm/ 3¼ x 4in

YARN ALTERNATIVES

You can use any 4ply or DK weight yarns to achieve a similar finish.

TENSION

Exact tension is not essential to this project, but adjust hook size to achieve a firm fabric.

MEASUREMENTS

Finished cover will fit a notebook measuring 8.5 x 10cm/3¼ x 4in.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Tracey Todhunter is a crochet and knit designer specialising in homewares and small accessories. You can find her on instagram as *@TraceyTodhunter* or visit her website www.grannycoolcrochet.com. Read our interview with Tracey on page 98.

PATTERN NOTES

Instructions for the 4ply version are given first with the DK version following in brackets.

The pattern is worked in spirals to create a seamless cover. At the end of each round, do not turn and do not work a turning chain. As the start of the round

will move as you progress, the beginning of the final round is assumed to be the right hand edge when piece is laid flat, work final round to this point before working in rows. Use the locking stitch marker to keep track of the beginning of round and move it up with each round you work.

Each cosy uses approximately 100m of yarn.

You can alter the size of the cosy to fit a different sized notebook by making a shorter or longer foundation chain to match the width of your notebook – this will affect yarn quantities.

START **NOTEBOOK COVER**
Make two
 Please read the pattern notes before starting.

With 2mm (3mm) hook and yarn A (B), make 23 (19)ch.

Rnd 1: 1dc in second ch from hook, 1dc in each ch to end, rotate work and work 1dc in each ch along opposite side – 44 (36)dc.

Rnd 2: 1dc in each st around. Rep rnd 2 until work measures 8cm/3¼in.

Pattern now continues in rows as follows:

Set-up Row: Work 22 (18)dc, turn. Remove locking stitch marker.

Row 1: 1ch (does not count as st throughout), 1dc in each of next 22 (18)dc, turn. Rep row 1 until work measures 10cm/4in in length. Fasten off yarn.

FLOWER

With oddments of 4ply yarn and 2mm hook, make 6ch, join with a sl st in first ch to make a ring.

Rnd 1: 10dc in ring.

Note: No join required here due to sl st on next rnd.

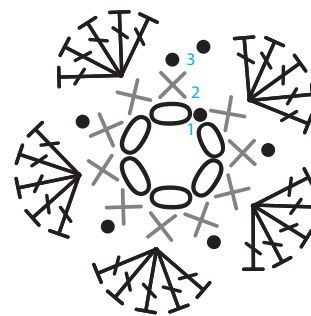
Rnd 2: [Sl st in next dc, 5tr in next dc] five times, sl st in first sl st to join. Fasten off.

FINISHING

Weave in all loose ends. With right sides together, sew top edges of cover together (or work a dc seam). Weave in ends.

Sew flowers and buttons to embellish using photograph as a guide to placement. Slip notebook into its cover.

END



- slip stitch (sl st)
- chain stitch (ch)
- × double crochet (dc)
- ⌈ treble crochet (tr)



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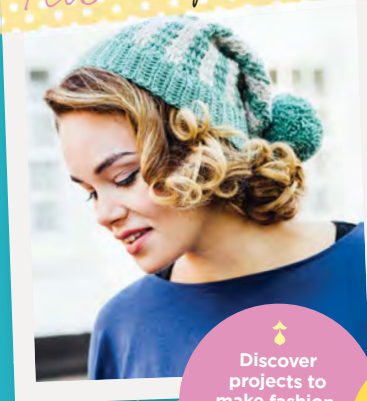
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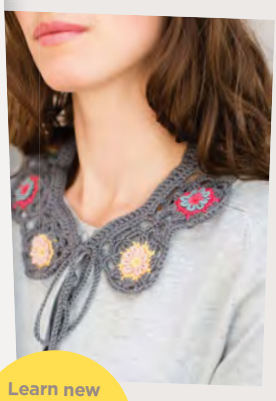
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MATERIALS

- Debbie Bliss Cotton DK, 100% cotton, 50g/84m/92yds
- Yarn A:** Ecru 02 x 1 ball
- Yarn B:** Duck Egg 09 x 1 ball
- Yarn C:** Butter 70 x 1 ball
- Yarn D:** Pale Pink 72 x 1 ball
- Yarn E:** Avocado 20 x 1 ball
- 4mm & 5.5mm hooks
- Stitch markers
- Yarn needle

YARN ALTERNATIVES

You can use any soft cotton DK weight yarn for this pattern.

TENSION

Work 15dc and 18 rows to measure 10 x 10cm/4 x 4in using 4mm hook, or size required to obtain tension. Exact tension is not critical for this pattern, but try ensure that your tension is uniform throughout.

MEASUREMENTS

Washcloth: 24 x 20cm/9½ x 8in.
Pads: 7.5cm/3in across.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Ali loves teaching crochet and designing unique crochet patterns. See www.gethookedoncrochet.co.uk or www.macscrochet.blogspot.com for more information, or follow her on Twitter @CrochetAli.

SPECIAL STITCHES

Beginning Bobble (BBob): 3ch (counts as a st), *yoh, insert hk in same place as 3ch, yoh, pull up a loop, yoh, pull through 2 loops on hook; rep from * three more times (5 loops on hook) placing all sts in same place, yoh pulling through all loops on hook, 1ch to fasten.

5tr Bobble (5trbob): *Yoh, insert hk in same place, yoh, pull up a loop, yoh, pull through 2 loops on hook; rep from * four more times (6 loops on hook), yoh pulling through all loops on hook, 1ch to fasten.

Reverse double crochet (crab stitch): *Put hook into stitch to the right, yoh and pull through a loop, yoh and pull through the loops on the hook; rep from * always working to the right.

PATTERN NOTES

When making colour changes on the washcloth, do not fasten

off at the end of each row. Simply pass the colours up the sides leaving a strand, which you will later hide when working the edging.

MAKE-UP PADS

START **Foundation Rnd:** With 4mm hook and yarn A, make an adjustable loop, 1ch (does not count as a stitch), 10dc in ring, sl st in top of first dc. Pull the tail end tight.
Rnd 1: 1BBob (see *Special Stitches*), *2ch, miss 1dc, **5trbob** (see *Special Stitches*) in next st; rep from * three more times, 2ch, join with a sl st in top of first bobble – 5 bobbles.
Rnd 2: Sl st in next 2ch-sp, 3ch (counts as a st), 4tr into same 2ch-sp, 1hr in top of next bobble, *5tr in next 2ch-sp, 1hr in top of next bobble; rep from * to end, sl st into third ch of first st – 30 sts.
Rnd 3: 1ch, **1 crab st** (see *Special Stitches*) in each st to end. Fasten off and sew in ends.

Optional Rnd: With yarn D, surface crochet slip stitch around the base of the crab stitch.

Rep with yarns B and C, C and B, D and C and E and A.

WASHCLOTH

START **Foundation Row:** With 5.5mm hk and yarn A, work 32ch.
Row 1: With 4mm hk, 1dc in second ch from hook and in each ch to end, turn – 31 sts.
Row 2: With yarn B, 1ch (counts as a st), 1dc in next st, 1dc in each st to end, turn.
Row 3: With yarn C, rep row 2.
Row 4: With yarn D, rep row 2.
Row 5: With yarn E, rep row 2. Continue to repeat row 2 in the colour sequence A, B, C, D, E to row 34.
Row 35: With yarn E, 1ch, 1dc in next st, 1dc in each st to last st, 2dc, 1ch, 2dc in last st, continue to dc evenly around the edge of the next three sides, hiding in any strands as you go, and working 2dc, 1ch, 2dc into each corner. Fasten off and sew in ends.



Floral Lace Collar

BY CLAIRE MONTGOMERIE

Use scraps of yarn to create a versatile collar and turn a plain cardigan or sweater into special occasion wear.



MATERIALS

- Debbie Bliss Rialto 4ply, 100% wool, 50g/180m/197yds
- Yarn A:** Amber 39 x 1 ball
- Yarn B:** Blush 34 x 1 ball
- Yarn C:** Sea Green 37 x 1 ball
- Yarn D:** Rose 44 x 1 ball
- Yarn E:** Mallow 43 x 1 ball
- Yarn F:** Silver 47 x 1 ball
- Yarn G:** Grey 04 x 1 ball
- 3mm hook
- Yarn needle
- Clover Mini Flower Loom (optional)

YARN ALTERNATIVES

Any 4ply weight yarn will work here.

TENSION

Exact tension is not essential for this pattern.

MEASUREMENTS

Collar is approximately 50cm/20in around.

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.

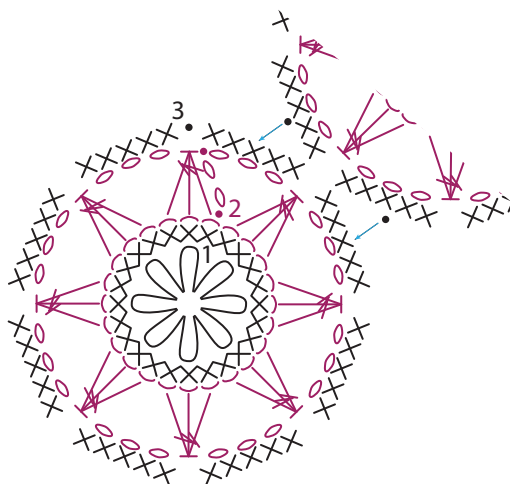
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SPECIAL STITCHES

Bobble: *3ch, [yoh, insert hook into bottom of 3ch, draw up a loop, yoh and draw through 2 loops; rep from ** three times, (4 loops on hook), yoh and draw through all 4 loops. Repeat from * once more. Sl st back down into bottom of first 3ch to join bobble.

PATTERN NOTES

Collar shown uses flowers made on the Clover Mini Flower Loom, but if you wish to make an entirely crocheted piece, then make flowers in the same colours as follows:

Crochet Flower

Rnd 1: 2ch, 8dc in second ch from hook, join rnd with sl st and fasten off yarn.

Rnd 2: Join in new colour to flo of any dc, [3ch, sl st in flo of next dc] around, join rnd with sl st.

Rnd 3: Working behind petals of last rnd, [3ch, sl st in blo of next dc] around, join rnd with sl st. Fasten off yarn.



FLOWERS

Make eight flowers using the mini flower loom, wrapping yarn around loom twice to create a double layered flower. Alternatively, use crochet flower pattern in Pattern Notes. Make two flowers in yarn B, securing the centre by darning with yarn A. Make two flowers in yarn C, securing the centre by darning with yarn D. Make two flowers in yarn E, securing the centre by darning with yarn A. Make two flowers in yarn F, securing the centre by darning with yarn D.

With yarn the same colour as the centre of flower, work as follows:

MOTIF 1

Rnd 1: Join yarn to any back "petal" of flower with a sl st and work 3dc in each back petal around, leaving front "layer" of petals free for three dimensional texture, join rnd with sl st – 24dc. Fasten off yarn.

Join yarn G to blo of any dc from rnd 1.

Rnd 2: 2ch (does not count as st), yoh, insert in same st, draw up

lp, yoh, draw through 2 lps, [yoh, insert in next st, draw up lp, yoh, draw through 2 lps] twice, 4lps on hook, yoh, draw through all loops on hook, 3ch, *[yoh, insert in next st, draw up lp, yoh, draw through 2 lps] three times, 4lps on hook, yoh, draw through all loops on hook, 3ch; rep from * around, join rnd with sl st.

Rnd 3: 5dc in each 3ch-sp around.

ALL FOLLOWING MOTIFS

Rnds 1 & 2: As first motif.

Rnd 3: 5dc in each 3ch-sp to last 2 3ch-sps, 3dc in next ch-sp, sl st to third dc of adjacent "petal" from previous motif,

2dc in seventh ch-sp of present motif, 3dc in next ch-sp, sl st to third dc of adjacent "petal" from previous motif, 2dc in eighth ch-sp of present motif, join rnd with sl st. Fasten off.

NECKBAND AND TIES

Join yarn G to last motif at right end of strip in third dc of fourth petal. (The joined chain spaces of motif are seventh and eighth petals.)

Now work along top of motifs as follows:

Row 1: *[3ch, 1dc in third dc of next petal] twice, 3ch, 1dc in join between the two motifs; rep from

* to last motif, *[3ch, 1dc in third dc of next petal] three times, turn.

Row 2: 5dc in each ch-sp across. Fasten off yarn.

With yarn G, make **bobble** (see *Special Stitches*), then make a chain of approx 45cm/17¾in long, with RS facing 1tr in first dc of neckband at right hand edge of collar, [1tr in each of next 13dc, tr2tog] seven times, 1tr in each tr to end, make a chain of approx 45cm long 17¾in, make bobble at end and fasten off.

FINISHING

Weave in all ends and block lightly to shape.





Breton Stripe Mittens

BY EMMA FRIEDLANDER-COLLINS

A simple, elegant mitten pattern inspired by the classic Breton stripe, ideal for keeping you snug on cold Christmas walks.



ADD TO THE STASH
Buy this recycled yarn from
www.loveknitting.com

MATERIALS

- Bergère de France Recycline, 50% miscellaneous fibres/30% acrylic/20% wool, 50g/93m/102yds
- Yarn A:** Marin 20117 x 1 ball
- Yarn B:** Crème 20119 x 1 ball
- 5mm hook

YARN ALTERNATIVES

You can use any aran weight wool blend yarn to achieve a similar effect.

TENSION

Work 15dc and 22 rows to measure 10 x 10cm/4 x 4in using 5mm hook, or size required to obtain tension.

MEASUREMENTS

Finished palm circumference: 20cm.
Finished length: 25cm.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Emma is the author of *Crochet Dress-Up* and *Big Hook Crochet*. You can find her as Steel and Stitch on Etsy, Ravelry and

Instagram, and read her blog at www.steelandstitch.blogspot.co.uk.

PATTERN NOTES

The body of the mitten is worked first, with the thumb worked afterwards. 1ch at the beginning of each round counts as a stitch.



MITTEN

With yarn A, make 30ch, join with sl st in first ch to form a ring.

Rnd 1: 1ch (does not count as st throughout), 1dc in each ch to end, join with sl st in first st – 30 sts.

Rnds 2–10: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end, join with sl st in first st. Fasten off yarn A and change to yarn B.

Rnds 11–14: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end, join with sl st in first st.

INCREASE FOR GUSSET

Rnd 15: 1ch, 2dc in first st, 1dc in each st to end – 31 sts.

Rnd 16: 1ch, 1dc, 2dc in next

st, 1dc in each st to end – 1 st increased.

Rnds 17–21: Rep rnd 16 – 37 sts at end of rnd 21.

Fasten off yarn B and change to yarn A.

Rnd 22: 1ch, 1dc, 5ch, miss 10 dc (thumbhole made), 1dc in next st, 1dc in each st to end, join with sl st in first st – 27 sts, 5ch.

Rnd 23: 1ch, 1dc, 1dc in each ch of 5ch made in rnd 22, 1dc in each st to end, join with sl st in first st – 32 sts.

Rnd 24: 1ch, 1dc, [dc2tog] twice, 1dc in each st to end, join with sl st in first st – 30 sts.

** Fasten off yarn A and change to yarn B.

Rnds 25 & 26: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end, join with sl st in first st.

Fasten off yarn B and change to yarn A.

Rnds 27 & 28: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end, join with sl st in first st. **

Rnds 29–32: Rep from ** to **.

Fasten off yarn A and change to yarn B.

Rnds 33–36: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end, join with sl st in first st.

SHAPE MITTEN TOP

Rnd 37: 1ch, *dc2tog, 13dc; rep from * once more, join with sl st in first st – 28 sts.

Rnd 38: 1ch, dc2tog, 12dc; rep from * once more, join with sl st in first st – 26 sts.

Rnd 39: 1ch, dc2tog, 11dc; rep from * once more, join with sl st in first st – 24 sts.

Rnd 40: 1ch, dc2tog, 10dc; rep from * once more, join with sl st in first st – 22 sts.

Rnd 41: 1ch, dc2tog, 9dc; rep from * once more, join with sl st in first st – 20 sts.

Rnd 42: 1ch, dc2tog, 8dc; rep from * once more, join with sl st in first st – 18 sts.

Rnd 43: 1ch, dc2tog, 7dc; rep from * once more, join with sl st in first st – 16 sts.

Fasten off leaving a long tail and stitch mitten top together from the WS.

THUMB

Join yarn A in first missed st of rnd 22.

Rnd 1: 1ch, work 1dc in each of missed 10dc, work 1dc in



opposite side of 5ch from rnd 22, join with sl st in first st – 15 sts.

Rnd 2: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end, join with sl st in first st.

Fasten off yarn A and change to yarn B.

Rnds 3–6: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end.

Rnd 7: 1ch, 13dc, dc2tog, join with sl st in first st – 14 sts.

Rnd 8: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end, join with sl st in first st.

Rnd 9: 1ch, 12dc, dc2tog, join

with sl st in first st – 13 sts.

Rnd 10: 1ch, 1dc, [dc2tog] six times – 7 sts.

FINISHING

Weave in ends and block to measurements.

END



Colt

BY LISA RICHARDSON

This glamorous hooded scarf from Rowan is quick to hook and sure to keep you warm!



This stunning design is taken from *Simple Shapes Thick 'n' Thin* by Lisa Richardson (Rowan, £6.95).

MATERIALS

- Rowan Thick 'n' Thin, 100% wool, 50g/50m/54yds
- Shade: Munroe 983 x 10 balls
- 8mm hook
- Yarn needle

TENSION

Work 2 patt repeats and 6 rows to measure 18.5 x 14.5cm/7¼ x 5¾in using 8mm hook, or size required to obtain tension.

MEASUREMENTS

Completed scarf is 32cm/12½in wide and 280cm/110in long (including hood section).

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Lisa has worked for Rowan since 2003 and is now both an in-house designer and pattern editor for Rowan's designs. Her inspiration

comes from shape and texture and she also enjoys playing with interesting stitches, fastenings and structures.



SCARF

With 8mm hook, 37ch.

Foundation Row: (RS)

1dc into second ch from hook, *1ch, miss 4ch, (1dtr, 2ch, 1dtr, 2ch, 1dtr, 2ch, 1dtr, 2ch, 1dtr) into next ch, 1ch, miss 4ch, 1dc into next ch; rep from * twice more, 1ch, miss 4ch, (1dtr, 2ch, 1dtr, 2ch, 1dtr) into last ch, turn – 3½ patt reps.

Now work in patt as follows:

Row 1: 1ch (does not count as st), 1dc into dtr at base of 1ch, *3ch, miss (2ch, 1dtr), 1tr into next ch-sp**, 2ch, miss (1dtr, 1ch, 1dc, 1ch, 1dtr), 1tr into next ch-sp, 3ch, miss (1dtr, 2ch), 1dc into next dtr; rep from * to end, ending last rep at **, 1ch, miss (1dtr, 1ch), 1dtr into next dc, turn.

Row 2: 7ch (counts as 1dtr, 2ch), miss dtr at base of 7ch, (1dtr, 2ch, 1dtr) into first ch-sp, *1ch, miss (1tr, 3ch), 1dc into next dc**, 1ch, miss (3ch, 1tr), (1dtr, 2ch, 1dtr, 2ch, 1dtr, 2ch, 1dtr, 2ch, 1dtr) into next ch-sp; rep from * to end, ending last rep at **, turn.

Row 3: 6ch (counts as 1dtr, 1ch), miss (dc at base of 6ch, 1ch, next dtr), *1tr into next ch-sp, 3ch, miss (1dtr, 2ch)**, 1dc into next dtr, 3ch, miss (2ch, 1dtr), 1tr into next ch-sp, 2ch, miss (1dtr, 1ch, 1dc, 1ch, 1dtr); rep from * to end, ending last rep at **, 1dc into fifth of 7ch at beg of previous row, turn.

Row 4: 1ch (does not count as st), 1dc into first dc, *1ch, miss (3ch, 1tr)**, (1dtr, 2ch, 1dtr, 2ch, 1dtr, 2ch, 1dtr, 2ch, 1dtr) into next ch-sp, 1ch, miss (1tr, 3ch), 1dc into next dc; rep from * to end, ending last rep at **, (1dtr, 2ch, 1dtr, 2ch, 1dtr) into last ch-sp, turn.

These four rows form patt.

Cont in patt until scarf meas approx 280cm/110in, ending after row 1 or 3.

Fasten off.

MAKING UP

Block finished scarf.

To form hood section, fold scarf in half lengthwise and join one row-end edge from folded edge to a point 32cm/12½in away from fold.





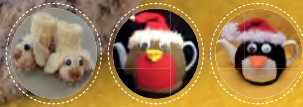
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Christmas Stocking

BY SAN BEE FOR LOOPSAN

Get your mantelpiece ready for Santa with this cheery colourwork stocking.



MATERIALS

- Rowan Pure Wool Worsted, 100% wool, 100g/200m/219yds
- Yarn A:** Papaya 135 x 1 ball
- Yarn B:** Soft Cream 102 x 1 ball
- 6mm hook

YARN ALTERNATIVES

You can use any aran weight superwash wool to achieve a similar effect.

TENSION

Exact tension is not essential for this design.

MEASUREMENTS

Finished height is approximately 30cm/12in.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

San Bee enjoys designing items with a vintage feel and plenty of texture. Find more of her designs at www.loopsan.com.

PATTERN NOTES

Turning chain counts as 1 st throughout.

Slip stitch to join at end of each round unless otherwise stated.



STOCKING

With yarn A, make an adjustable ring.

Rnd 1: 8dc in ring – 8dc.

Rnd 2: 1ch, 1dc in same st, 2dc in each st around – 16dc.

Rnd 3: 1ch, 1dc in same st, 2dc in each st around – 32dc.

Rnd 4: 1ch, dc around.

With yarn B:

Rnd 5: 1ch, dc around.

With yarn A:

Rnds 6 & 7: 1ch, dc around.

Cont in rnds as set working one rnd in yarn B then two rnds in yarn A for a further 16 rnds, ending with rnd 23 in yarn B.

SHAPE HEEL

With yarn A:

Short Row 1: 1ch, 16dc, turn.

Short Rows 2–8: 1ch, 16dc, turn.

With right sides together, join heel flap to stocking leg by working dc through both sections along edge. Fasten off.

Turn stocking right side out.

Join yarn A in the second last st before start of Heel.

Rnd 1: 2ch, htr in next st, space 16 htr evenly over heel part, htr in each rem st – 32htr.

With yarn B:

Rnd 2: 2ch, htr2tog, 14htr, htr2tog, htr to end – 30htr.

With yarn A:

Rnds 3 & 4: 2ch, htr around.

With yarn B:

Rnd 5: 2ch, htr around.

With yarn A:

Rnds 6 & 7: 2ch, htr around.

With yarn B:

Rnd 8: 2ch, htr around.

With yarn A:

Rnds 9 & 10: 2ch, htr around.

With yarn B:

Rnd 11: 2ch, htr around.

With yarn A:

Rnds 12 & 13: 2ch, htr around.

With yarn B:

Rnd 14: 1ch, dc around.

Working dc in back loops only over rnds 15–22, and working yarns A and B as set cont as folls:

Rnd 15: 1ch, 15B, 1A, 13B.

Rnd 16: 1ch, 14B, 3A, 12B.

Rnd 17: 1ch, 13B, 5A, 11B.

Rnd 18: 1ch, 12B, 7A, 10B.

Rnd 19: 1ch, 11B, 9A, 9B.

Rnd 20: 1ch, 11B, 9A, 9B.

Rnd 21: 1ch, 11B, 4A, 1B, 4A, 9B.

Rnd 22: 1ch, 12B, 2A, 3B, 2A, 10B.

Cont in yarn B and working dc in both loops cont as folls:

Rnd 23: 1ch, dc around.

Rnd 24: 1ch, 7dc, 12ch, dc to end.

Rnd 25: 1ch, reverse dc in each st around omitting the 12ch of the previous row.

Fasten off.

END



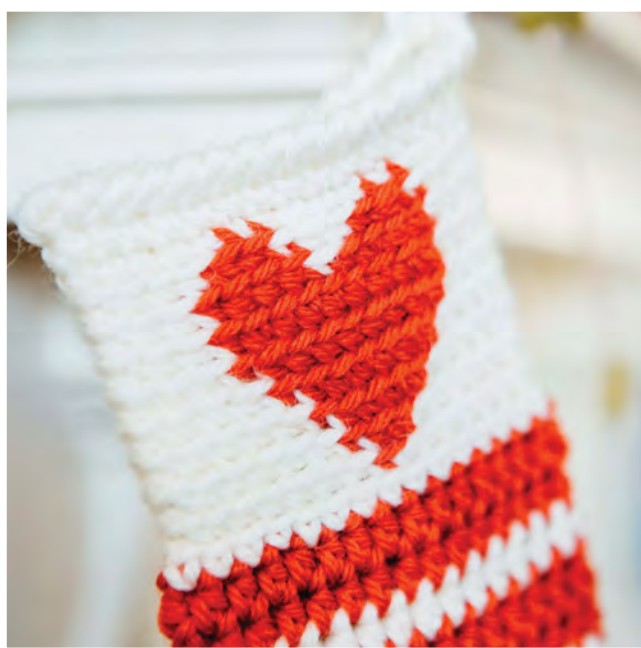
Striped Pom-Pom Hat

BY TINA BARRETT

This easy to crochet slouchy hat is the ideal weekend project – have fun creating the biggest pom-pom you can manage to crown it off!



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MATERIALS

- Blacker Swan Over Dyed Falklands Merino DK, 100% Merino wool, 50g/110m/119yds
- Yarn A:** Buttonweed (Green) x 2 balls
- Blacker Swan Naturally Coloured Falklands Merino DK, 100% Merino wool, 50g/110m/119yds
- Yarn B:** Pale Maiden (Ivory) x 1 ball
- 3.5mm & 4mm hooks
- Pom-pom maker
- Tapestry needle

YARN ALTERNATIVES

Any DK weight yarn will work for this project.

TENSION

Work 18tr and 7 rows in Interlocking Block Stitch to measure 10 x 10cm/4 x 4in using 4mm hook, or size required to obtain tension.

MEASUREMENTS

Hat fits an adult head approximately: 51–56cm/20–22in.

Welt depth: 4.5cm/1¾in.

Height to crown: 25cm/10in.

Crown: 2.5cm/1in.

Total length of hat: 28cm/11in.

Pom-pom: 9cm/3½in.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Tina Barrett is a knit and crochet designer based in Cornwall. She has written six books covering knitting, crochet and sewing and also designs for yarn companies and craft magazines. Tina is also the creator of The Cornish Gansey Company, which you can find at www.thecornishganseycompany.co.uk.

SPECIAL STITCH PATTERNS

Spike treble (str): Work tr over 3ch-sp by inserting hook into top of st in the row below (or into base chain).

Interlocking Block Stitch

(Multiples of 6 sts + 3)
Work one row in yarn A then one row in yarn B throughout, beginning with yarn A.

Row 1: 3ch (counts as 1tr), 2tr,

[3ch, miss 3dc, 3tr] to end, turn.

Row 2: *3ch, miss 3 sts, 1Str (see *Special Stitch Patterns*) over each of next 3 sts; rep from * to last 3 sts, 2ch, miss 2 sts, sl st to top of t-ch, turn.

Row 3: 3ch (counts as 1Str), miss 1 st, 2Str, [3ch, miss 3 sts, 3Str] to end, turn.

Rep rows 2 & 3 for patt.

Break yarn at end of each row.

START HAT WELT

With 3.5mm hook and yarn A, 11ch.

Foundation Row: Dc in second ch from hk, dc in next 9ch, turn – 10dc.

Row 1: 1ch (does not count as dc), dc blo to end, turn.

Rep this row until Corrugated Rib measures 48cm/19in.

Fasten off and break yarn.

BODY

With 4mm hook and yarn A, work 81dc evenly along long edge of welt, turn.

Beginning with yarn A, work row 1

of **Interlocking Block Stitch** (see *Special Stitch Patterns*).

Continue in pattern until entire hat measures 25cm/10in, ending on patt row 3.

SHAPE CROWN

Continue in yarn A only.

Row 1: 3ch, 2tr, [tr3tog, 3Str] to end of row, turn – 55 sts.

Row 2: 3ch, tr2tog, [1tr, tr3tog] to end of row, turn – 29 sts.

Row 3: 3ch, [tr2tog] to end – 15 sts.

Fasten off and break yarn leaving a long tail.

FINISHING

Darn in loose yarn ends.

Thread the long tail at the crown through a yarn needle and make a row of small running stitches through the last row of stitches, pull up tight and fasten off with a few small stitches.

Sew seam at back of the hat.

Make a large pom-pom in yarn A and sew firmly to the point of the hat.

END

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Five-Pointed Star

BY ILARIA CALIRI

Hook this cute Christmas decoration, perfect for using up scraps of seasonal coloured yarns!



MATERIALS

- Any light DK weight cotton yarn
- **Shade:** Red x 1 ball
- 2.5mm hook
- Oddment of black cotton sewing thread
- Silver sewing thread
- White felt
- Safety eyes or black beads, 2mm in diameter
- Yarn needle
- Toy stuffing

TENSION

Exact tension is not crucial for this pattern.

MEASUREMENTS

Each star is approximately 9.5cm/3½in high.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Ilaria loves beautiful yarns, wooden crochet hooks and amigurumi. View more of Ilaria's patterns at www.amigurumipatterns.net/shop/airali-handmade.

SPECIAL STITCHES

Inc: 2dc in next stitch.

Invisible decrease (dec): Insert the hook in the front loop of your first stitch, then immediately insert your hook in the front loop of your second stitch (3 loops on hook). Yoh, draw through first 2 loops on hook. Yoh, draw through remaining 2 loops on hook.



POINT

Make five

With Red yarn and 2.5mm hook, make an adjustable ring.

Rnd 1: 4 dc in ring – 4dc.

Rnd 2: (Dc, **inc** (see *Special Stitches*) in next st) twice – 6dc.

Rnd 3: (Dc in next 2 sts, inc in next st) twice – 8dc.

Rnd 4: (Dc in next 3 sts, inc in next st) twice – 10dc.

Rnd 5: (Dc in next 4 sts, inc in next st) twice – 12dc.

Rnd 6: (Dc in next 5 sts, inc in next st) twice – 14dc.

Rnd 7: (Dc in next 6 sts, inc in next st) twice – 16dc.

Rnd 8: (Dc in next 7 sts, inc in next st) twice – 18dc.

Sl st in next st. Fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing.

Join the points two at a time by

sewing together to form a wreath of points with a hole at the centre (figs 1–4).

Continue with the centre on the reverse of the star, crocheting only in the left over 35 sts, 7dc per point, missing the stitches that attach the points to one another (figs 5 & 6).

Rnd 9: Dc in all 35 sts – 35dc.

Rnd 10: (**Dec** (see *Special Stitches*), dc in next 5 sts) five times – 30dc.

Rnd 11: (Dec, dc in next 4 sts) five times – 25dc.

Rnd 12: (Dec, dc in next 3 sts) five times – 20dc.

Rnd 13: (Dec, dc in next 2 sts) five times – 15dc.

Rnd 14: (Dec, dc in next st) five times – 10dc.

Sl st in next st. Using your yarn needle, weave the yarn tail through the front loop of each remaining stitch and pull it tight to close (figs 7 & 8). Fasten off.

Repeat rnds 9–14 for the centre on the front.

Stuff the star when you reach rnd 12 before fully closing.

Cut an oval shape from the white felt, then sew the mouth and the eyes as shown (figs 9–11). Sew this shape at the centre of the star (fig 12).

Embroider some small stars with silver thread (figs 13 & 14).

If you wish you can attach a loop of silver thread to the top, to use the star as a cute decoration on your Christmas tree.



This adorable pattern was taken from *Amigurumi Winter Wonderland* by Ilaria Caliri (Amigurumipatterns.net, £12.99). Turn to page 11 for our review.

FIG 1



FIG 2



FIG 3



FIG 4



FIG 5



FIG 6



FIG 7



FIG 8



FIG 9

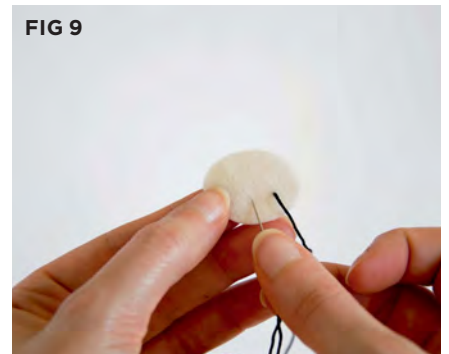


FIG 10

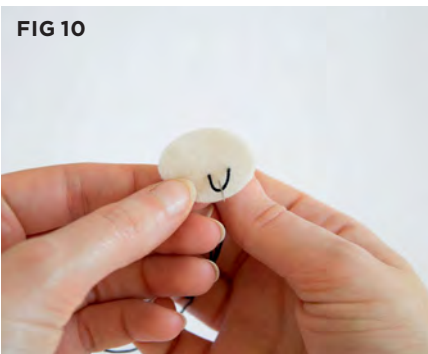


FIG 11

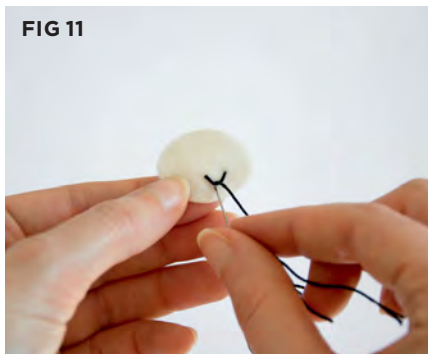


FIG 12



FIG 13

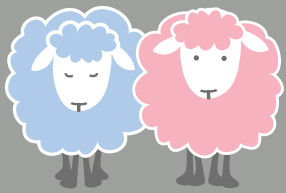


FIG 14



FIG 15





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Christmas Garland

BY EMMA DU

Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way, Oh what fun it is to make this garland in one day!



MATERIALS

- Any DK cotton yarn, 100% cotton, 50g
- Yarn A:** Red x 1 ball
- Yarn B:** Yellow x 1 ball
- Yarn C:** Green x 1 ball
- Yarn D:** White x 1 ball
- 3.5mm & 4mm hooks
- Sewing needle

TENSION

Exact tension is not essential for this design.

MEASUREMENTS

- Sample garland:** 150cm/59in long, or make to desired length.
- Bell and holly leaves:** 12cm/4¾in high, 7cm/2¾in wide.
- Heart:** 10cm/4in high, 10cm/4in wide.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Passionate about making cute designs for home and kids, Emma Du is known for her amazing use of colours. Find more of her work at www.emmacrochetdesign4u.etsy.com or catch up with her on Instagram @annaluciadu.

SPECIAL STITCH PATTERNS

Starting dtr cluster: 4ch (counts as 1dtr), yoh twice, insert hk in

same st, pull up a lp, yoh, draw through 2 lps, yoh, draw through 2 lps again (2 lps on hk). Yoh twice, insert hk in same st, pull up a lp, yoh, draw through 2 lps, yoh, draw through 2 lps (3 lps on hk), yoh, draw through all 3 lps.

Dtr cluster: Yoh twice, insert hk in next st, pull up a lp, yoh, draw through 2 lps, yoh, draw through 2 lps (2 lps on hk). Yoh twice, insert hk in same st, pull up a lp, yoh, draw through 2 lps, yoh, draw through 2 lps again (3 lps on hk). Yoh twice, insert hk in same st, pull up a lp, yoh, draw through 2 lps, yoh, draw through 2 lps again (4 lps on hk), yoh, draw through all 4 lps.

Extended treble crochet (etr):

Yoh, insert hk in next st, yoh and pull up a lp (3 lps on hk), yoh and draw through 1 lp, yoh and draw through 2 lps, yoh draw through rem 2 lps – 1etr complete.

Picot: 3ch, insert hk in third ch from hk, yoh, draw yarn through the st and the lp on the hk.



BELL

Make three

With yarn B and 4mm hook, 5ch.

Row 1: Dc in second ch from hk, dc in each ch to end, turn – 4dc.

Row 2: 1ch, 2dc in first st, 2dc, 2dc in last st, turn – 6dc.

Row 3: 1ch, 2dc in first st, 4dc, 2dc in last st, turn – 8dc.

Rows 4–8: 1ch, dc to end, turn.

Row 9: 1ch, 2dc in first st, 6dc, 2dc in last st, turn – 10dc.

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

Row 11: 1ch, 2dc in first st, 8dc, 2dc in last st, turn – 12dc.

Row 12: 1ch, dc to end, turn.

Row 13: 1ch, 2dc in first st, 10dc, 2dc in last st, turn – 14dc.

Row 14: 1ch, 2dc in first st, 12dc, 2dc in last st, 1ch – 16dc.

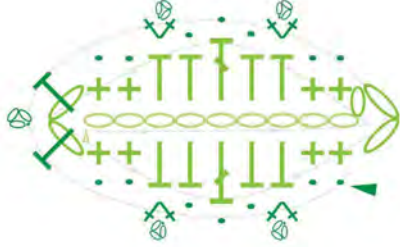
Fasten off.

Edging: With widest end of Bell at top and RS facing, join yarn B to second st of first row from top right corner, 1ch (does not count as 1dc), dc in same st, dc in each of next 3 sts, sl st in next st, miss 1 st, 5tr in next st, miss 1 st, sl st in next st, dc in each of next 5 sts, miss 1 st, 2ch, dc in each st around with 2ch in rem 3 corners, sl st to join – 46 sts, 4 2ch-sps.

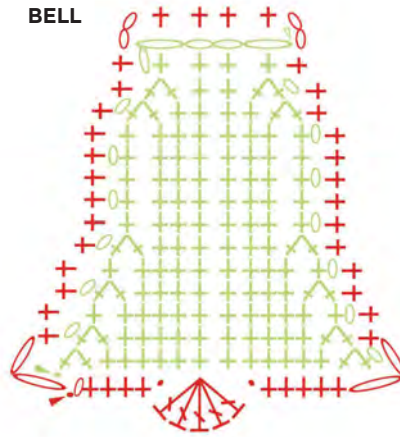
BERRY



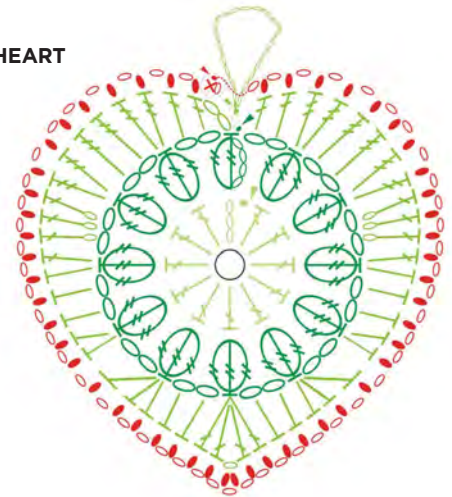
LEAF



BELL



HEART



HOLLY LEAF

Make six

With yarn C and 4mm hook, 10ch.

Rnd 1: Dc in second ch from hk, dc in next ch, htr in each of next 2 ch, tr in next ch, htr in each of next 2 ch, dc in each of next 2 ch, 2ch, work back along other side of ch working dc in each of next 2 sts, htr in each of next 2 sts, tr in next st, htr in each of next 2 sts, dc in each of next 2 sts, 2ch.

Rnd 2: Sl st in first dc, sl st in next dc, *1dc, Picot (see *Special Stitches*), dc in same st*, sl st in next 3 sts, work from * to *, sl st in next 2 dc, [htr, picot, htr] in 2ch-sp, sl st in next 2 dc, rep from * to *, sl st in next 3 sts, rep from * to *, sl st in next 2 dc. Fasten off.

RED BERRY

Make three

With yarn A and 4mm hook, make adjustable ring, 3ch (counts as 1tr), 11tr in ring, sl st to join – 12tr. Fasten off.

HANGING LOOPS

Make three

With yarn C and 4mm hook, 20ch, join with sl st to first ch.

FLOWER HEART

Make three

With yarn B and 4mm hook, make adjustable ring.

Rnd 1: 3ch (counts as 1tr), 11tr in ring, join with sl st to first tr – 12tr. Join yarn A to any st.

Rnd 2: Work **Starting Dtr Cluster** (see *Special Stitches*), 2ch, [dtr cluster (see *Special Stitches*) in next st, 2ch] around, join with sl st to starting dtr cluster – 12 clusters and 12 2ch-sp.

Join yarn C to any dtr cluster.

Rnd 3: 2ch (counts as htr), 2tr in next 2ch-sp, 2dtr in top of cluster, 2dtr in next 2ch-sp, 2dtr in top of cluster, 3etr (see *Special Stitches*) in next 2ch-sp, (1tr, 1htr) in top of cluster, 2htr in next 2ch-sp, 2htr in next st, miss next 2ch-sp, 3htr in next st, 2htr in next 2ch-sp, (2tr, 1ch, 2tr) in next st, 2htr in next 2ch-sp, 3htr in next st, miss next 2ch-sp, 2htr in next st, 2htr in next 2ch-sp, (1htr, 1tr) in next st, 3etr in next 2ch-sp, 2dtr in next st, 2dtr in next 2ch-sp, 2dtr in next st, 2tr in next 2ch-sp, join with a sl st to dtr cluster from rnd 2, 20ch, sl st back in same st – 49 sts.

With yarn D and 3.5mm hk, join yarn to same starting st for 20ch Hanging Loop in rnd 3.

Rnd 4: (Change to 3mm hook if the last round becomes ruffled),

1ch (does not count as dc), dc in same st, miss 1 st, [sl st in next st, 1ch] around working (1sl st, 1ch, 1sl st) in ch-sp, join with sl st to first dc (put the hanging lp at the back), 1ch. Fasten off.















FINISHING

Join your motifs together in any order.

Step 1: Overlap two Leaves just slightly, put red berry on top of two leaves, and sew all of them together on top of a bell. Then sew loops at the back of motifs.

Step 2: 40ch, insert 4mm hook in lp from front to back, sl st, *30ch, insert hk in lp from front to back, sl st, rep from * until the last motif is connected, 40ch.

Fasten off, weave in all ends.

-  Adjustable Ring
-  Beginning
-  Ending
-  Slip Stitch
-  Chain (ch)
-  Double crochet (dc)
-  Half treble crochet (htr)
-  Treble crochet (tr)
-  Extended treble crochet (etr)
-  Double treble crochet (dtr)
-  Double treble cluster
-  Double crochet increase
-  5 double crochet in 1 stitch
-  Picot

END





Snowflake Blanket

BY ANNA MELIKSETYAN

This winter blanket is the perfect blend of the subtle haze of mohair yarn and the sturdiness of Peruvian wool.



MATERIALS

- Cascade 220 Heathers, 100% wool, 100g/200m/220yds
Yarn A: Frost Heather 9558 x 15 skeins
(Unfortunately this shade has been discontinued, we recommend Lavender Heather 2422 as an alternative)
- Debbie Bliss Angel, 76% mohair/24% silk, 25g/200m/220yds
Yarn B: Lilac 18 x 15 balls
- Aunt Lydia's Classic Crochet Thread Size 10, 100% cotton, 320m/350yds
Yarn C: Golden Yellow 154422 x 1 ball
- 5mm hook

YARN ALTERNATIVES

Aunt Lydia's yarn can be difficult to find in the UK – try Scheepjes Maxi or Rico Essentials Crochet Cotton No. 10.

TENSION

Work 24htr and 24 rows to measure 10 x 10cm/4 x 4in using 5mm hook, or size required to obtain tension.

MEASUREMENTS

Finished blanket is 127 x 127cm/ 50 x 50in.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Anna is the co-founder of Hank & Hook, an online yarn boutique focused on DIY. She learned to crochet in 2014, but has been fluent in DIY since 2000. Find her online at www.hankandhook.com.

SPECIAL STITCHES

Popcorn stitch (P): Work 5htr in next stitch; drop the loop from the hook. Insert the hook in first stitch of five, then replace working loop on hook, yoh and draw through both loops.

The popcorn stitch is made on both the right and wrong side of the blanket but needs to appear on the RS only. When making a popcorn stitch on the RS, make the stitch as normal – insert the hook into the first stitch of 5, and draw loop through around the back to make a popcorn. On the WS, insert hook from back to front of first stitch, and draw loop through around the front to complete.

Reverse dc (crab stitch): With right side facing, work in dc from left to right. Insert hook from front to back in the next stitch to the right, and work as if you're doing a dc backwards.

PATTERN NOTES

The blanket is made of four squares sewn together, and finished with a crab stitch edging. Each piece is worked flat. Two squares are made following the pattern as set, and two squares are made following the pattern in reverse. Yarns A and B are held together throughout the entire pattern. Yarn C is used to make tassels to embellish the blanket.

SQUARE A

START

Make two

With yarns A and B held together, 92ch.

Row 1: Htr in second ch from hk, htr in each ch to end, turn – 90htr.

Row 2: 2ch, htr to end, turn.

Row 3: 2ch, 6htr, [1P (see *Special Stitches*), 2htr] 14 times, 1P, 44htr to end, turn.

Row 4: 2ch, 42htr, [1P, 2htr] 13 times, 8htr to end, turn.

Row 5: 2ch, 3htr, 1P, 5htr, [1P, 2htr] 13 times, 1P, 41htr to end, turn.

Row 6: 2ch, 39htr, [1P, 2htr] 13 times, 1P, 5htr, 1P, 5htr to end, turn.

Row 7: 2ch, 3htr, 1P, 2htr, 1P, 5htr, [1P, 2htr] 13 times, 1P, 38htr to end, turn.

Row 8: 2ch, 36htr, [1P, 2htr] 13 times, 1P, 5htr, 1P, 2htr, 1P, 5htr to end, turn.

Row 9: 2ch, 3htr, [1P, 2htr] twice, 1P, 5htr, [1P, 2htr] 13 times, 1P, 35htr to end, turn.

Row 10: 2ch, 33htr, [1P, 2htr] 13 times, 1P, 5htr, [1P, 2htr] twice, 1P, 5htr to end, turn.

Row 11: 2ch, 3htr, [1P, 2htr] three times, 1P, 5htr, [1P, 2htr] 13 times, 1P, 32htr to end, turn.

Row 12: 2ch, 30htr, [1P, 2htr] 13 times, 1P, 5htr, [1P, 2htr] three times, 1P, 5htr to end, turn.

Row 13: 2ch, 3htr, [1P, 2htr] four times, 1P, 5htr, [1P, 2htr] 13 times, 1P, 29htr to end, turn.

Row 14: 2ch, 27htr, [1P, 2htr] 13 times, 1P, 5htr, [1P, 2htr] four times, 1P, 5htr to end, turn.

Row 15: 2ch, 3htr, [1P, 2htr] five times, 1P, 5htr, [1P, 2htr] 13 times, 1P, 26htr to end, turn.

Row 16: 2ch, 24htr, [1P, 2htr] 13 times, 1P, 5htr, [1P, 2htr] five times, 1P, 5htr to end, turn.

Row 17: 2ch, 3htr, [1P, 2htr] six times, 1P, 68htr to end, turn.

Row 18: 2ch, 66htr, [1P, 2htr] six times, 1P, 5htr to end, turn.

Rows 19, 21, 23, 25, & 27: Rep row 17.

Rows 20, 22, 24, & 26: Rep row 18

Row 28: 2ch, 22htr, 1P, 43htr, [1P, 2htr] six times, 1P, 5htr to end, turn.

Row 29: 2ch, 3htr, [1P, 2htr] six times, 1P, 46htr, 1P, 21htr to end, turn.

Row 30: 2ch, 19htr, 1P, 2htr, 1P, 43htr, [1P, 2htr] six times, 1P, 5htr to end, turn.

Row 31: 2ch, 3htr, [1P, 2htr] six times, 1P, 46htr, 1P, 2htr, 1P, 18htr to end, turn.

Row 32: 2ch, 16htr, [1P, 2htr] twice, 1P, 43htr, [1P, 2htr] six times, 1P, 5htr to end, turn.

Row 33: 2ch, 6htr, [1P, 2htr] five times, 1P, 46htr, [1P, 2htr] twice, 1P, 15htr to end, turn.

Row 34: 2ch, 13htr, [1P, 2htr] three times, 1P, 43htr, [1P, 2htr] five times, 1P, 8htr to end, turn.

Row 35: 2ch, 9htr, [1P, 2htr] four times, 1P, 46htr, [1P, 2htr] three times, 1P, 12htr to end, turn.

Row 36: 2ch, 10htr, [1P, 2htr] four times, 1P, 43htr, [1P, 2htr] four times, 1P, 11htr to end, turn.

Row 37: 2ch, 12htr, [1P, 2htr] three times, 1P, 46htr, [1P, 2htr]

four times, 1P, 9htr to end, turn.

Row 38: 2ch, 7htr, [1P, 2htr] five times, 1P, 43htr, [1P, 2htr] three times, 1P, 14htr to end, turn.

Row 39: 2ch, 15htr, [1P, 2htr] twice, 1P, 46htr, [1P, 2htr] five times, 1P, 6htr to end, turn.

Row 40: 2ch, 4htr, [1P, 2htr] six times, 1P, 43htr, [1P, 2htr] twice, 1P, 17htr to end, turn.

Row 41: 2ch, 18htr, 1P, 2htr, 1P, 46htr, [1P, 2htr] six times, 1P, 3htr to end, turn.

Row 42: 2ch, 4htr, [1P, 2htr] six times, 1P, 43htr, 1P, 2htr, 1P, 20htr to end, turn.

Row 43: 2ch, 4htr, [1P, 2htr] six times, 1P, 43htr, 1P, 23htr to end, turn.

Row 44: 2ch, 68htr, [1P, 2htr] six





times, 1P, 3htr to end, turn.

Row 45: 2ch, 4htr, [1P, 2htr] six times, 1P, 67htr to end, turn.

Rows 46, 48, 50, 52, & 54: Rep row 44.

Rows 47, 49, 51, & 53: Rep row 45.

Row 55: 2ch, 4htr, [1P, 2htr] five times, 1P, 5htr, [1P, 2htr] 13 times, 1P, 25htr to end, turn.

Row 56: 2ch, 26htr, [1P, 2htr] 13 times, 1P, 5htr, [1P, 2htr] five times, 1P, 3htr to end, turn.

Row 57: 2ch, 4htr, [1P, 2htr] four times, 1P, 5htr, [1P, 2htr] 13 times, 1P, 28htr to end, turn.

Row 58: 2ch, 29htr, [1P, 2htr] 13 times, 1P, 5htr, [1P, 2htr] four times, 1P, 3htr to end, turn.

Row 59: 2ch, 4htr, [1P, 2htr] three times, 1P, 5htr, [1P, 2htr] 13 times, 1P, 31htr to end, turn.

Row 60: 2ch, 32htr, [1P, 2htr] 13 times, 1P, 5htr, [1P, 2htr] three times, 1P, 3htr to end, turn.

Row 61: 2ch, 4htr, [1P, 2htr] twice, 1P, 5htr, [1P, 2htr] 13 times, 1P, 34htr to end, turn.

Row 62: 2ch, 35htr, [1P, 2htr] 13 times, 1P, 5htr, [1P, 2htr] twice, 1P, 3htr to end, turn.

Row 63: 2ch, 4htr, 1P, 2htr, 1P, 5htr, [1P, 2htr] 13 times, 1P, 37htr to end, turn.

Row 64: 2ch, 38htr, [1P, 2htr] 13 times, 1P, 5htr, 1P, 2htr, 1P, 3htr to end, turn.

Row 65: 2ch, 4htr, 1P, 5htr, [1P, 2htr] 13 times, 1P, 40htr to end, turn.

Row 66: 2ch, 41htr, [1P, 2htr] 13 times, 1P, 5htr, 1P, 3htr to end, turn.

Row 67: 2ch, 7htr, [1P, 2htr] 13 times, 1P, 43htr to end, turn.

Row 68: 2ch, 44htr, [1P, 2htr] 13 times, 1P, 6htr to end, turn.

Rows 69 & 70: 90htr to end and fasten off.

SQUARE B

Make two

Work as for Square A but working pattern in reverse order.

Start as Square A for rows 1 & 2, then proceed to row 69 working backwards from there until the end.

FINISHING

With mattress stitch, sew the four squares together as shown.

Now crochet around the entire blanket using **Crab Stitch** (see *Special Stitches*).

With yarn C, make eight large tassels and attach two to each corner.

END



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Ice Elf

BY ROSELLA TINN

These little elves care for the forest and its creatures through the winter months.



MATERIALS

- Stylecraft Special DK, 100% acrylic, 100g/295m/322yds
- **Yarn A:** White 1001 x 1 ball
- **Yarn B:** Meadow 1065 x 1 ball
- **Yarn C:** Claret 1123 x 1 ball
- Small amounts of pink and black DK yarn for mouth and eyes
- Stuffing
- 4.5mm hook
- Teddy bear joint, 15mm/½in (optional)
- Two pipe-cleaners, 5mm/¼in in diameter
- Yarn needle
- Scissors
- Stitch markers
- Tape measure
- Small bell
- Two snowflake sequins (optional)
- Two small beads (optional)
- Sewing thread and fine needle, for attaching beads/sequins

YARN ALTERNATIVES

Any DK yarn which works to the same tension will work for this project.

TENSION

Work 14dc and 12 rows to measure 10 x 10cm/4 x 4in using 4.5mm hook, or size needed to obtain tension.

MEASUREMENTS

Finished elf is approximately 18cm/7in high.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Rosella eats, sleeps and breathes crochet, and has far too many WIPs on the go! Find out more about her work and woolly clucks at www.woollycluck77.blogspot.co.uk.

PATTERN NOTES

All the pieces are crocheted separately and sewn together. The head is attached to the body, with an optional teddy bear neck/arm joint. If you prefer, it can be sewn on.

The head and body are crocheted in the round without joining. Use a stitch marker to mark the beginning of the round.

The arms, legs, hat and scarf are crocheted in rows. The eyes are French knots (you may use small buttons or safety eyes) and the

mouth is a single fly stitch (a loop secured with a small stitch in the centre).

START **HEAD**
With yarn A, 2ch.
Rnd 1: 6dc in second ch from hk – 6dc.
Rnd 2: 2dc in each st around – 12dc.
Rnd 3: [1dc, 2dc in next st] to end – 18dc.
Rnds 4–9: Dc around.
Rnd 10: [Dc2tog, 1dc] to end – 12dc.
Fasten off and cut yarn, leaving long end for sewing.

BODY
With yarn B, 2ch.
Rnd 1: 8dc in second ch from hk – 8dc.
Rnd 2: [2dc in next st, 1dc] to end – 12dc.
Rnd 3: [2dc, 2dc in next st] to end – 18dc.
Rnds 4–11: Dc around.
Rnd 12: [Dc2tog, 1dc] to end – 12dc.
Fasten off and cut yarn, leaving long end for sewing.
If using teddy bear joint in neck, attach head to body using joint, prior to stuffing. Stuff head and body, thread needle through all the stitches, and pull shut, like a drawstring. Secure with a few stitches.

LEGS
Make two
With yarn C, 15ch.
Row 1: Dc in second ch from hk, dc in each ch to end, 1ch, turn – 14dc.
Rows 2 & 3: Dc to end, turn.
Fasten off and cut yarn, leaving long end for sewing.
Lie the pipe-cleaner on the leg, and cut it so that it is just a bit shorter than the leg.
Bend over each end of the pipe-cleaner so that it is no longer sharp.
Sew leg shut, with pipe-cleaner inside.
Sew legs to body.
At the bottom of leg, bend the leg about 0.75cm/¼in to make foot.
Bend legs at the knee.

HANDS
Make two
With yarn A, 5ch.
Row 1: Dc in second ch from hk, dc in each ch to end, 1ch, turn – 4dc.

Rows 2–4: Dc in each st to end. Fasten off and cut yarn, leaving long end for sewing.

ARMS
Make two
Row 1: With yarn B, sl st yarn to base of hand, dc in same st, dc in each st to end, 1ch, turn – 4dc.
Rows 2–7: Dc to end, 1ch, turn.
Row 8: Dc to end.
Fasten off and cut yarn, leaving long end for sewing.
Lie the pipe-cleaner on the arm and hand, and cut so that the piece is just a bit shorter than the arm and hand.
Bend over each end of the pipe cleaner, so that it is no longer sharp.
Sew hand and arm shut, enclosing the pipe-cleaner inside.
Sew one arm to each side of the body. Bend arm at elbow.

HAT
With yarn C, 21ch.
Row 1: Dc in second ch from hk, dc in each ch to end, 1ch, turn – 20dc.
Row 2: Dc to end, 1ch, turn.
Row 3: Dc2tog, dc in each st to last 2 sts, dc2tog, 1ch, turn – 18dc.
Row 4: Dc to end, 1ch, turn.
Row 5: Rep row 3 – 16dc.
Rows 6 & 7: Dc to end, 1ch, turn.
Row 8: Rep row 3 – 14dc.
Row 9: Rep row 3 – 12dc.
Row 10: Rep row 3 – 10dc.
Row 11: Rep row 3 – 8dc.
Row 12: Rep row 3 – 6dc.
Rows 13–15: Dc to end, 1ch, turn.
Row 16: Dc to end.
Fasten off and cut yarn, leaving long end for sewing.
Fold the triangle in half, lengthwise. Sew from tip to base.
Darn in ends, sew bell to tip of hat.

SCARF
With yarn C, 30ch.
Row 1: Dc in second ch from hk, dc in each ch to end, 1ch, turn – 29dc.
Row 2: Dc to end.
Fasten off and cut yarn.

FINISHING
With black DK yarn, work two French knots for eyes.
With pink DK yarn, work fly stitch for the mouth.
Add snowflake sequins and beads for decoration.

END

Errata

CORRECTIONS IN BOLD

ADIRONDECK CARDIGAN

ISSUE 63 page 42

RIGHT FRONT ARMHOLE & NECKLINE SHAPING

Row 1: 6Tss, Tks across rem sts...

Return instructions are correct.

Row 9: 6Tss, Tks across rem sts...

Return instructions are correct.

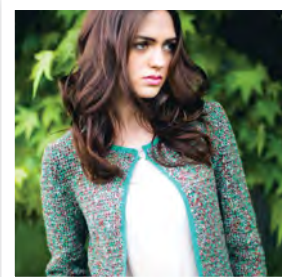
LEFT FRONT Armhole and Neckline Shaping

Row 1: Tks across to last 7 sts, 7Tss...

Return instructions are correct.

Row 9: Tks across to last 7 sts, 7Tss...

Return instructions are correct.

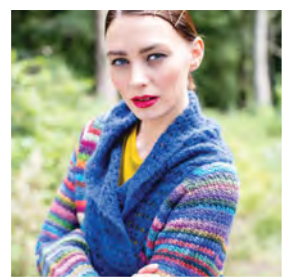


TWEED JACKET

ISSUE 56 page 46

NECKLINE SHAPING

Row 1: ...1ch (not counted as st), edc2tog, **edc to end**, turn...



PETRA CARDIGAN

ISSUE 70 page 36

When working row 1 of the Collar, work **1dc into each row** down the fronts.



WINSTER SLOUCH HAT

ISSUE 71 page 52

The Main Body should be worked with a **4.5mm** hook.

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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Cosy Baby Cardigan

BY SUE WHITING

A classic cardigan for all seasons is given a new twist with a versatile textured stitch!



This adorable design is taken from *Weekend Crochet For Babies* by Sue Whiting (IMM Lifestyle, £9.99).

MATERIALS

- Rowan Pure Wool DK, 100% wool, 50g/130m/142yds
- Shade:** Pier 006 x 3 (3, 4, 4) balls
(Unfortunately this has been discontinued, we recommend Rowan Pure Wool Superwash DK in Marl 104 as an alternative)
- 3.5mm & 4mm hooks
- Five buttons

TENSION

Work 17 sts and 11 rows in pattern to measure 10 x 10cm/4 x 4in using 4mm hook, or size required to obtain tension.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Sue is the author of several books of crochet patterns including *Learn To Crochet* and *Weekend Crochet For Babies*. View more of her designs at www.ravelry.com/designers/sue-whiting.

SPECIAL STITCHES

3htr cluster (3htrcl): (Yoh and insert hook as indicated, yoh and draw loop through) three times, yoh and draw through all 7 loops on hook.

PATTERN NOTES

When working shaping through patt, work part patt reps as htr fabric (by working 1htr into each st).



BODY

Worked in one piece to armholes.

With 3.5mm hook, make 77 (89, 101, 113)ch.

Row 1: (WS) 1dc into second ch from hook, 1dc into each ch to end, turn – 76 (88, 100, 112) sts.

Row 2: 1ch (does not count as st), 1dc into each dc to end, turn.

Rows 3–5: As row 2.

Change to 4mm hook.

Row 6: 2ch (counts as first htr), miss dc at base of 2ch, *1dc into each of next 2dc, 1htr into next dc; rep from * to end, turn.

Now work in patt as follows:

Row 1: (WS) 2ch (counts as first htr), miss htr at base of 2ch, *1tr into next dc, **3htrcl** (see *Special Stitches*) around stem of tr just worked, miss 1dc, 1htr into next htr; rep from * to end, working htr at end of last rep into top of 2ch at beg of previous row, turn – 25 (29, 33, 37) patt reps.

increased), *1tr into next dc, 3htrcl around stem of tr just worked, miss 1dc**, 1htr into next htr; rep from * to end, ending last rep at **, 2htr into top of 2ch at beg of previous row (1 st increased), turn – 24 (27, 27, 30) sts.

Working all increases as set by last row and working inc sts in htr fabric until there are sufficient to work in patt, cont as follows: Work zero (one, one, two) row(s). Inc 1 st at each end of next four (one, one, one) row(s), then on foll two (three, seven, zero) alt rows, then on zero (one, zero, six) foll third row(s) – 36 (37, 43, 44) sts. Work one (two, one, two) row(s), ending with WS facing for next row.

SHAPE TOP

Place markers at both ends of last row to denote top of sleeve seam. Work two more rows. Fasten off.

MAKING UP

Join shoulder seams.
Join sleeve seams.
Insert sleeves into armholes, matching centre of last row to shoulder seam and top of sleeve seam to centre of sts missed at underarm.

NECKBAND

With RS facing and using 3.5mm hook, rejoin yarn at top of right front opening edge, 1ch (does not count as st), work one row of dc evenly around entire neck edge,

ending at top of left front opening edge, turn.

Next Row: 1ch (does not count as st), 1dc into each dc to end, working dc2tog as required to ensure Neckband lays flat, turn. Rep last row three times more. Fasten off.

BUTTON BAND

With RS facing and using 3.5mm hook, rejoin yarn at top of left end of Neckband for a girl, or base of right front opening edge for a boy, 1ch (does NOT count as st), work one row of dc evenly along entire front opening edge, between top of Neckband and foundation ch edge.

Row 1: 1ch (does NOT count as st), 1dc into each dc to end, turn. Rep last row three times more. Fasten off.

Mark positions for five buttons on this Band: first to come 12mm/½in up from lower edge, last to come 12mm/½in down from top of Neckband, and rem three buttons evenly spaced between.

BUTTONHOLE BAND

Work to match Button Band, making buttonholes in third row to correspond with positions marked for buttons by replacing "1dc into each of next 2dc" with "2ch, miss 2dc". (On foll row, work 2dc into this buttonhole ch-sp.) Sew on buttons.

END



Decorative Baubles

BY ALESSANDRA HAYDEN

This colourful bauble is designed with modern, geometric colourwork, created using tapestry crochet.



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www.sconch.com



MATERIALS

- Caron Simply Soft, 100% acrylic, 170g/288m/314yds

Version 1:

Yarn A: Off White 9702 x 1 ball

Yarn B: Dark Country Blue 9711 x 1 ball

Yarn C: Sunshine Yellow 9755 x 1 ball

Version 2:

Yarn A: Off White 9702 x 1 ball

Yarn B: Autumn Red 9730 x 1 ball

Yarn C: Soft Blue 9712 x 1 ball

Note: Each bauble uses approximately 25m/27yds of yarn A, and 9m/10yds each of yarns B & C

- 3.5mm hook
- 7.5cm/3in styrofoam ball
- Locking stitch marker

TENSION

Work 10dcblo and 8 rows to measure 5 x 5cm/2 x 2in using 3.5mm hook, or size required to obtain tension.

MEASUREMENTS

Baubles are 7.5cm/3in in diameter.

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHY

Alessandra is a Brazilian designer who has been passionate about crochet since she was a child. Visit her website at www.justbehappycrochet.com and view more of her designs at www.ravelry.com/designers/alessandra-hayden.

PATTERN NOTES

The bauble is worked in a spiral. At the end of each round, do not turn and do not work a turning-chain. Use the locking stitch marker to keep track of the beginning of the round and move it up with each round you work. The whole pattern is worked in the back loops (blo) of each double crochet stitch.

START

BAUBLE

Set-up: With yarn A, make an adjustable ring and work 6dc into the ring – 6dc. Working blo throughout continue as follows:

Rnd 1: 2dc in each dc around – 12dc.

Rnd 2: [2dc in next st, 1dc in next st] six times – 18dc.

Rnd 3: [2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 2 sts] six times – 24dc.

Rnd 4: [2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 3 sts] six times – 30dc.

Rnd 5: [2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 4 sts] six times – 36dc.

Rnd 6: [2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 5 sts] six times – 42dc.

Fasten off yarn A and join yarns B and C, carrying the yarn not in use behind the working yarn and crocheting over both strands as you work each consecutive round, continue as follows:

Rnd 7: [With yarn B work 1dc in each of next 5 sts, using yarn C work 1dc in next st] seven times.

Rnd 8: [With yarn C work 1dc in next st, using yarn B work 1dc in each of next 3 sts, using yarn C work 1dc in each of next 2 sts] seven times.

Rnd 9: [Using yarn C work 1dc in each of next 2 sts, using yarn B work 1dc in next st, using yarn C work 1dc in each of next 3 sts] seven times.

Fasten off yarns B and C and rejoin yarn A.

Rnd 10: With yarn A, 1dc in each dc around.

Weave in the loose ends and insert the styrofoam ball. Work remaining instructions by crocheting around the ball.

Rnd 11: [Dc2tog, 1dc in each of next 5 sts] six times – 36dc.

Rnd 12: [Dc2tog, 1dc in each of next 4 sts] six times – 30dc.

Rnd 13: [Dc2tog, 1dc in each of next 3 sts] six times – 24dc.

Rnd 14: [Dc2tog, 1dc in each of next 2 sts] six times – 18dc.

Rnd 15: [Dc2tog, 1dc in next st] six times – 12dc.

Rnd 16: [Dc2tog] six times – 6dc. Fasten off leaving a long tail.

FINISHING

Use the long tail to close the top and weave in remaining end.

Optional hanging loop: With yarn A, work 30ch, sl st in first ch to form a loop. Fasten off. Sew it into place on the top of the bauble and weave in loose ends.

END





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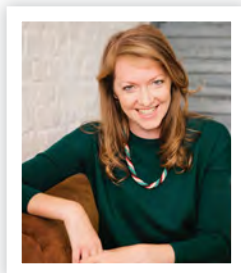
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How to Crochet



Liz Ward's Cowl Neck Poncho (issue 71) uses chunky yarn and a large hook to create a big impact



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!

Clare x

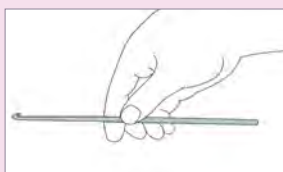
TEACH YOURSELF
How to hold the work, chains, double & treble crochet, slip stitch

TURN THE PAGE FOR ALL YOU NEED TO GET STARTED

THE BASICS

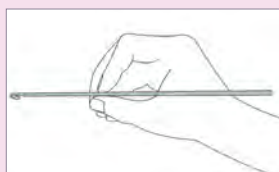
To crochet smoothly and efficiently, you must hold the hook and yarn in a relaxed, comfortable and consistent fashion. This will also ensure that your tension is even and accurate. There are two main ways of holding the hook and two main ways to tension the yarn. You can choose whichever combination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

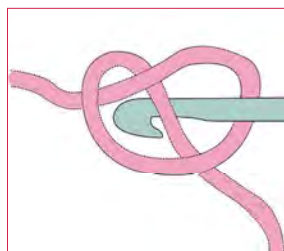
TOPTIP

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.

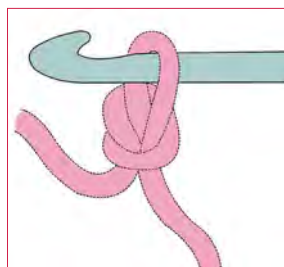
GETTING STARTED

SLIPKNOT

A slipknot creates the first loop on the hook.



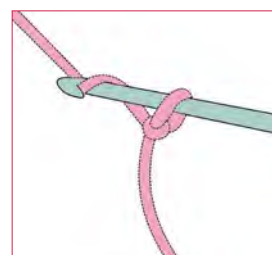
1 Make a loop in the yarn around 10–20cm/4–8in from the end. Insert hook through loop, catch the back strand of yarn and pull it through to the front.



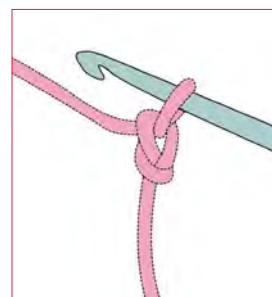
2 Pull the ends of the yarn to secure the knot around the hook, but not too tightly or it will be hard to pull the first loop of chain through.

CHAIN

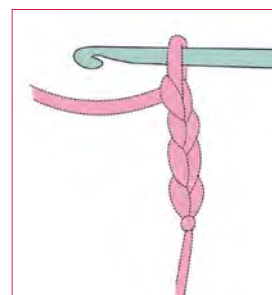
Most crochet projects begin with a length of chain. This is the perfect stitch to practise your hold and tension with.



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.

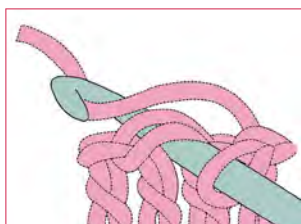
TOPTIP

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)

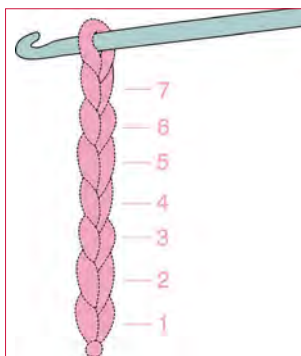
A slip stitch is usually used to join one stitch to another, or to join a stitch to another point. It is generally made by picking up two strands of a stitch but when used all over, you usually only pick up the back loop.



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.



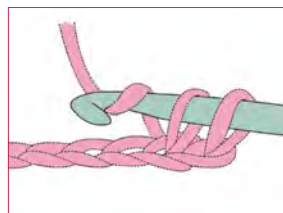
Double crochet stitches are perfect for making amigurumi, while treble crochets are used to create the classic granny square design

Make Irene Strange's adorable Hand Hotties from issue 61, worked in double crochet stitches

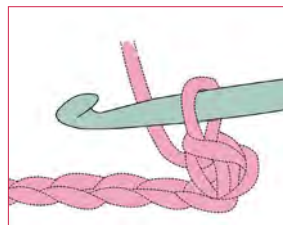


DOUBLE CROCHET (dc)

The smallest stitch, creating a dense fabric perfect for amigurumi.



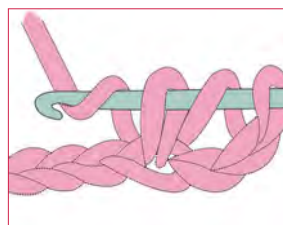
1 Insert hook into chain or stitch, front to back. Yarn over hook and draw through stitch to front, leaving you with two loops on the hook. Yarn round hook.



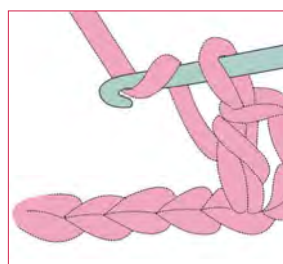
2 Draw through both loops to finish the stitch. Double crochet completed.

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.



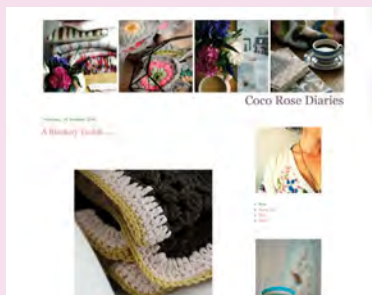
2 Draw yarn through three remaining loops on the hook together to complete half treble.

Top crochet websites

slugs on the refrigerator



⇒ 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



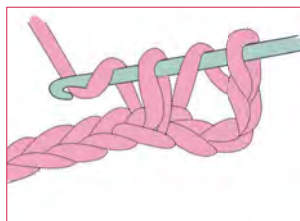
⇒ Follow Heike on her colourful travels, be inspired by her beautiful motifs and hook some gorgeous free patterns.
www.madewithloops.co.uk

⇒ The UK Hand Knitting Association website is packed with helpful information on shops, workshops and craft teachers near you.
www.ukhandknitting.com

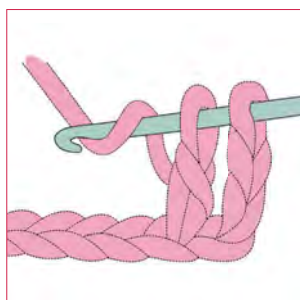
⇒ Purplelinda Crafts' crochet-centric store is a treasure trove of crochet-related haberdashery, patterns and threads.
www.purplelindacrafts.co.uk

TREBLE CROCHET (tr)

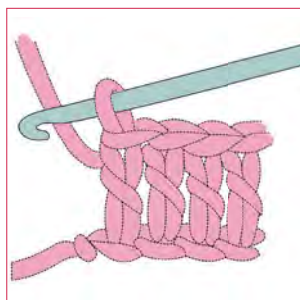
The tallest of the basic stitches, great for using within more complex patterns.



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.



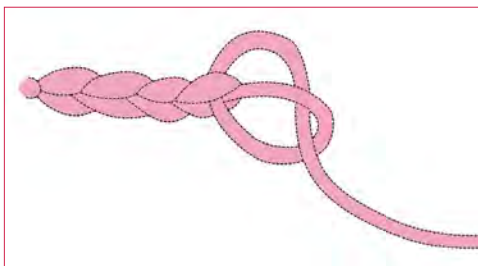
2 Pull loop through two loops. Two loops on hook. Yarn round hook.



3 Pull loop through the remaining two loops to complete treble, repeat to end of row.

FASTEN OFF

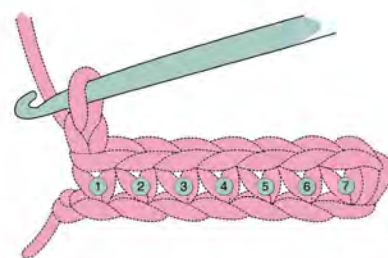
Pull up final loop of last stitch to make it bigger and cut the yarn, leaving enough of an end to weave in. Pull end through loop, and pull up tightly to secure.



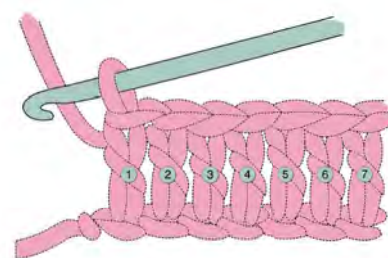
COUNTING STITCHES

Count the post or "stem" of each stitch from the side of your work. Each post counts as one stitch.

Double crochet



Treble crochet



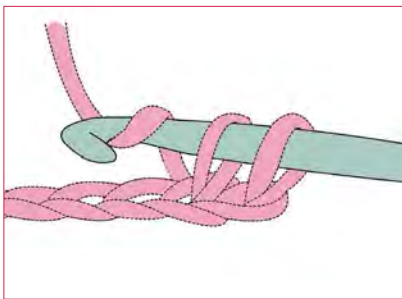
TOP TIP

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

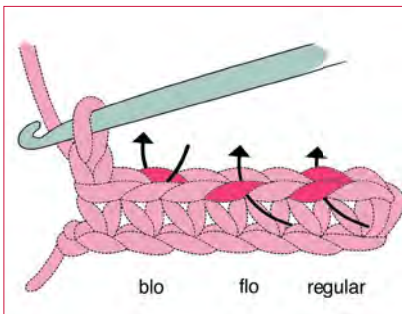
WORKING INTO A CHAIN

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?

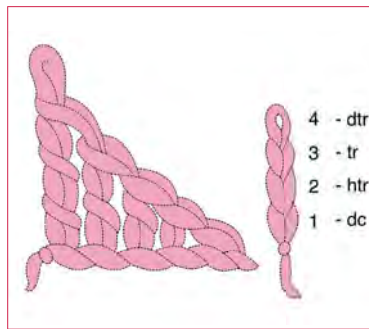
Crochet stitches are always worked through both loops of the next stitch (this looks like a “v” on top of the stitch), unless the pattern tells you otherwise.



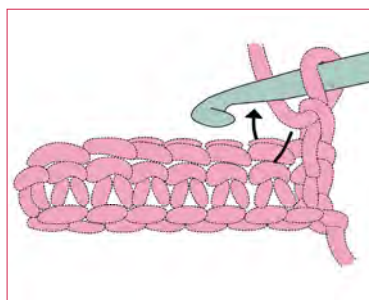
Sometimes a pattern will ask you to work only through one loop of the stitch. To work through the front loop only (flo), insert your hook under the front loop of the next stitch, then bring it out at the centre of the stitch, then complete. To work through the back loop only (blo), insert your hook through 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.

Starting off with a small accessory, such as Deborah Stuart's hat from issue 60, will inspire you to move on to larger projects



Sometimes you are asked to work into a space or chain space.

To do this, simply insert your hook into the hole underneath the chain and complete the stitch normally

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)

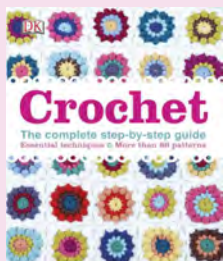
One of the most stylish crochet books on the market, this has easy-to-follow instructions and modern, desirable patterns to practise your skills on.



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)

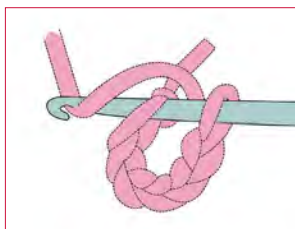
A clear, comprehensive guide using UK terms, with over 80 simple patterns to try, this contains all you need to know to become an accomplished crocheter.

WORKING IN THE ROUND

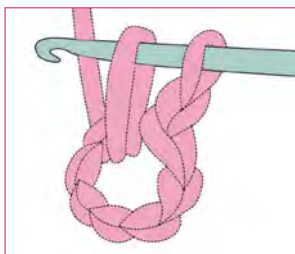
When working in the round, instead of working backwards and forwards along the work, turning at the end of each round, you simply work with the right side facing you at all times and you do not turn. When working in the round, you generally begin one of three ways:

WORKING AROUND A RING

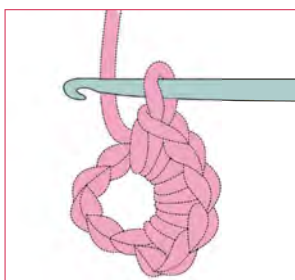
This method of working in the round creates a large hole at the centre of your work. Its size is dependent on the length of chain used.



Make a length of chain as required, then insert your hook into the first chain stitch you made. Yarn round hook.



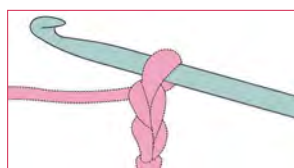
Work a slip stitch to join, creating a ring, and then work your turning chain dependent on which stitch you will be working into the ring. Insert hook into the centre of the ring and work the first stitch into this ring.



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

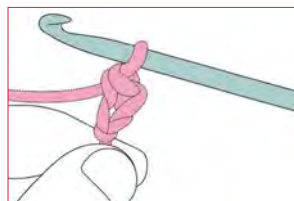
You can create a smaller hole in the centre of your work by working into a chain as short as 2ch long.



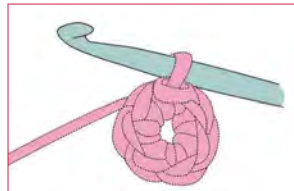
For double crochets, as in this example, work 2ch. For htr you would work 3ch and for trebles, 4ch.



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.

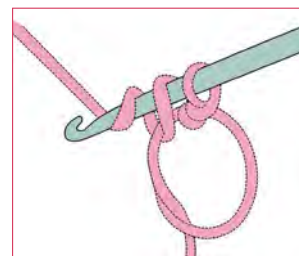
The sheer amount of stitches worked into one place will cause them to fan out into a round. Now join this round with a slip stitch and continue with the pattern.

ADJUSTABLE RING

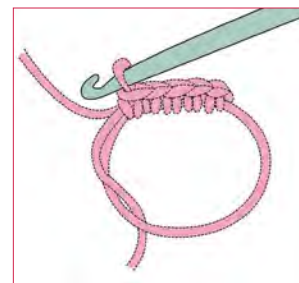
This method is also referred to as the magic loop or ring, as it creates a round with no hole at the centre. Here it is demonstrated with double crochet.



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.

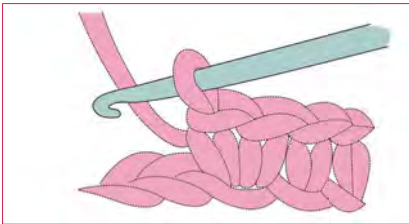


Work all the following stitches into the ring in the same way, over the two strands of yarn in the loop. Once all stitches have been worked, pull the loose tail end of the yarn to close the ring and join the round with a slip stitch.

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!

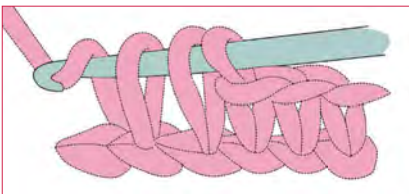
INCREASING



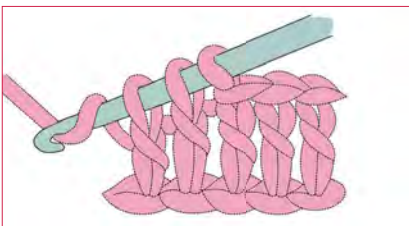
To work an extra stitch, you simply need to work into the same stitch more than once. Work one stitch as normal. Insert hook into same stitch you've just worked and complete another stitch. One stitch increased.

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.



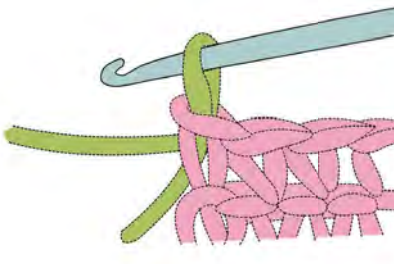
For a treble crochet, work a treble into the next stitch until the last step of the stitch, two loops on hook. Do the same into the following stitch, three loops on hook. Draw through all three loops on hook to draw the two trebles together. One stitch decreased.

JOINING IN A NEW COLOUR

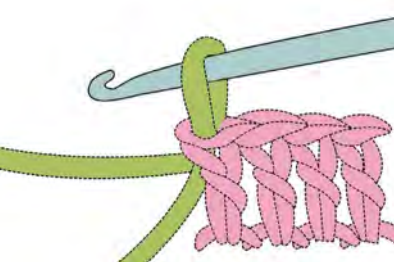
To join in a new colour (or a new ball of the same colour), you can simply fasten off the old yarn and then attach the new colour with a slip stitch into the top of the last stitch made. However, for a neater join, you can also work the colour change as follows:

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

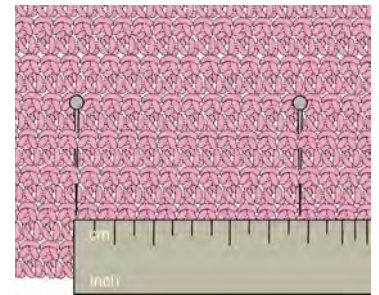


Working a new colour over treble crochet



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

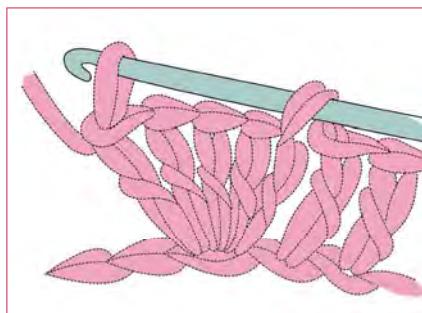
Clusters are groups of stitches worked into the same stitch, but rather than an increase, they still only equate to one stitch overall. Clusters can be confusing to work, so here are the details of some of the main cluster stitches.

BOBBLE

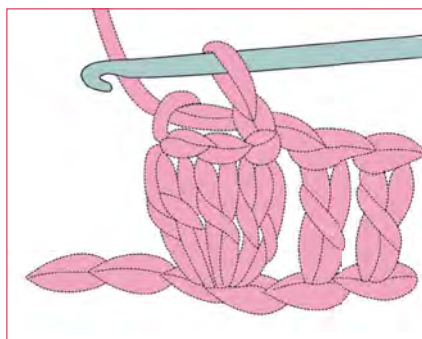
A bobble is a number of stitches (generally trebles), half finished and all worked into the same stitch. Work each stitch until the last step, omitting this final step. Once the desired number of half finished trebles have been completed, you will have one more loop on your hook than you have half finished 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.



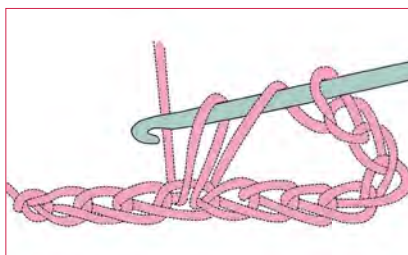
1 Once the sts are completed, remove your hook and insert back into the first stitch worked, then through the final loop.



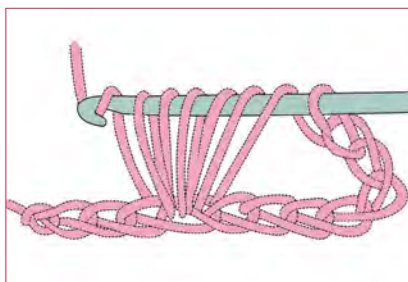
2 Yarn round hook and pull through everything on the hook. Popcorn complete.

PUFFS

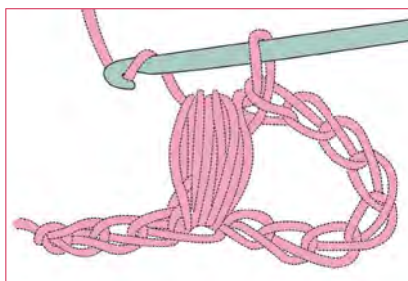
A puff is a number of elongated half trebles worked into the same stitch and then finished together, as follows:



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 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 | etr · extended treble | prev · previous |
| bef · before | est · established | rem · remain(s); remaining |
| beg · begin(s); beginning | fdc · foundation double crochet | rep(s) · repeat(s) |
| bet · between | flo · front loop only | rev dc · reverse double crochet |
| blo · back loop only | foll · follows; following | rnd(s) · round(s) |
| ch(s) · chain(s) | fr · foundation treble crochet | RS · right side |
| ch-sp(s) · chain space(s) | g · gram(s) | rtrf · raised treble front |
| cl(s) · cluster(s) | gp(s) · group(s) | rtrb · raised treble back |
| cm · centimetre(s) | hk · hook | sl · slip |
| cont · continue(s); continuing | htr · half treble crochet | sl st · slip stitch |
| dc · double crochet | htr2tog · work two htr together | sp(s) · space(s) |
| dc2tog · work two dc together | inc(s) · increase(s); increasing; increased | st(s) · stitch(es) |
| dec(s) · decrease(s); decreasing; decreased | in · inch(es) | t-ch(s) · turning chain(s) |
| dtr · double treble crochet | lp(s) · loop(s) | tog · together |
| dtr2tog · work two dtr together | m · stitch marker | tr · treble crochet |
| ea · each | mm · millimetre(s) | trtr · triple treble |
| ech · extended chain | nc · not closed | tr2tog · work two trebles together |
| edc · extended double crochet | patt · pattern | WS · wrong side |
| | pm · place marker | yd(s) · yard(s) |
| | | yoh · yarn over hook |
| | | yrh · yarn round hook |

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



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-/101/2
7	2	
8	0	L/11
9	00	M/13
10	000	N/15
11.5		O
12		P
15		Q
20		S

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 am lucky to work with some very creative and encouraging people who share my passion for handmade"

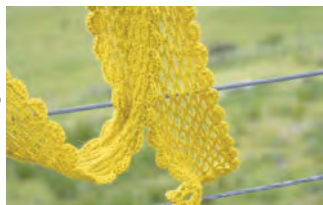
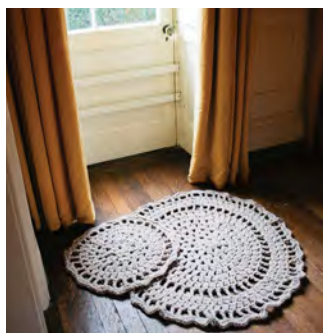
Tracey Todhunter LIFELONG CRAFTING

We chat to designer Tracey Todhunter about childhood crochet, her eclectic design style and a love of alpaca yarn.



Above: A crocheter all her life, Tracey's practical yet stylish designs are very popular.

Below: Tracey's most popular pattern is her Doily Rug (top) which featured in *Inside Crochet* issue 39. Her Caldbeck mitts and Bothel hat are part of the Drift collection (see page 7), while the Ursula scarf was also published with Edén Cottage Yarns.



Tell us about yourself...

I live with my husband in rural Cheshire, it's just the two of us now my daughter has grown up and left home. We're lucky to be surrounded by farmland – so it's very peaceful – but we're close enough to our neighbours to feel part of the community.

How long have you been crocheting?

Well over 40 years! I learnt as a child and I've always crocheted. In the 1970s we used to get *Golden Hands* (a magazine in weekly parts) delivered; I used to pore over the photos and plan what I would make. I crocheted all through my teens and at university, then when my daughter was born I made things for her. My Dad was a prolific crocheter and so it's always felt very natural to have a project on the go.

How did you get into crochet design?

I have always made up my own designs. I sold patterns and kits in the school playground! A few years ago I gave up my "day job" and began to work part time in a wool shop. There I met designers (including Emma Varnam) who encouraged me to submit my designs for publication. It was a real thrill to have my first designs accepted, then when the wool shop closed I began to submit designs more regularly and now it's my main source of income.

How would you describe your design style?

Eclectic! I work for lots of different clients and each design depends on their readership and budgets, so colours and style will vary according to the brief. I have a very short attention span, so my work features plenty of quick makes and one-skein projects made from new yarns I have discovered. For *Inside Crochet*, I generally submit ideas for projects I would wear or features that interest me, so they are mostly practical homewares and accessories.

What has been your most popular design?

I designed a crochet doily rug for *Inside Crochet* a few years ago (issue 39) and later released it as a single pattern. It's my biggest seller. The All Buttoned Up Mittens I designed for issue 38 are still popular and I often get emails asking for a yarn substitution as the original yarn is discontinued. I have a note on my "to do" list to update the pattern. I think it's the buttons that make it so appealing – most crocheters have a love of buttons!

What do you crochet for yourself?

I wear a lot of my own designs. They never make it to publication as I don't have the skills or patience to grade them into different sizes! I also have a penchant for cushions – I dread moving as I have boxes of them. Only a few are out on display as my family complain the house is overrun with crochet.

What are your favourite fibres to work with?

For personal projects it's always natural fibres, especially British wool and alpaca. I am particularly fond of Whitfell DK by Edén Cottage Yarns (100% baby alpaca).

What do you love about being a designer?

Sitting at home all day crocheting and being paid for it! I am lucky to work with some very creative and encouraging people who share my passion for handmade. Being a part of the yarn world, teaching classes and meeting designers is very rewarding. Although working freelance is quite precarious financially, the creative freedom is worth it.

What inspires you?

Inspiration comes from everywhere, for example the Linoleum Cowl coming up in issue 73 was inspired by a photo of a floor on Instagram. I am a great lover of texture more than colourwork and so I have a pinboard covered with bits of fabric, photos of tree bark and weaving. All of these will find their way into a design somehow.

What do you have planned for 2016?

We're hoping to move back to Cumbria, but I think my husband might finally discover the extent of my yarn stash when we come to pack. I have a new book (a crochet encyclopedia) which is due out in spring and there are a few things lined up to coincide with that. A couple of years ago I started to design one-off pieces for galleries and I'm working on a few larger pieces for an exhibition in the summer. Now the book is done I'm hoping to do more teaching again. Spending time with beginner crocheters is a great way to ensure my designs work for novices. It's easy to come up with a design, but harder to translate it into a written format that anyone can understand.

To see more of Tracey's work, visit her website at www.grannycoolcrochet.com



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