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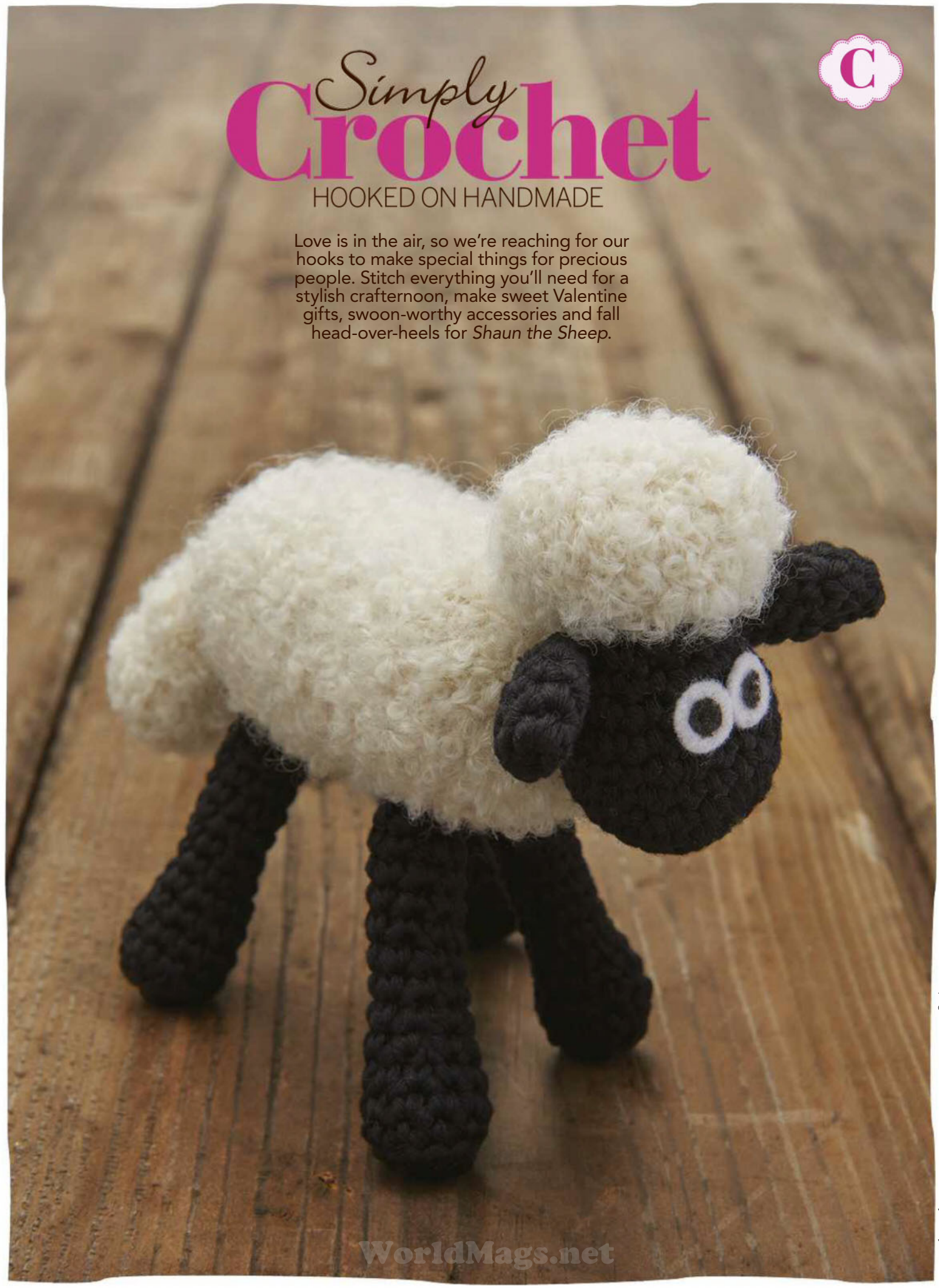
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HOOKED ON HANDMADE

Love is in the air, so we're reaching for our hooks to make special things for precious people. Stitch everything you'll need for a stylish crafternoon, make sweet Valentine gifts, swoon-worthy accessories and fall head-over-heels for *Shaun the Sheep*.

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Simply Crochet

ISSUE TWENTY-SEVEN

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All our patterns use **UK terms**. If you usually crochet from US patterns, turn to page 92 for a conversion table.















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SUBSCRIBE THIS MONTH, YOU CAN SAVE UP TO 45% WHEN YOU SUBSCRIBE...**PAGE 36**

Subscribe on page 36 – don't miss out!

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CONTRIBUTORS

THE PASSIONATE PEOPLE BEHIND THIS ISSUE. . .



KAT GOLDIN

Author, photographer and crochet designer Kat introduces her brand-new regular column this month on page 32, and shares a totally gorgeous granite stitch cardi design on page 42.



BECKY GARRATT

Becky is a crochet designer and illustrator with a weakness for all things kawaii. Flip to page 68 to learn more about what inspires her designs and exactly what a llamacorn is.



ELISABETH DAVIS DE HERRAIZ

Self-confessed shawl addict and lace lover Elisabeth has a stunning new design for us this month. Turn to page 58 to hook her mesmerising lacy shawl with shiny glass beads.



VITA APALA

Vita is a blogger, author and crocheter with a knack for creating the most adorable accessories and baby projects. On page 76, she shares some tips for hooking fantastic accessories.

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS

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Competitions in issue 27 are open 8 January 2014 – 4 February 2015.

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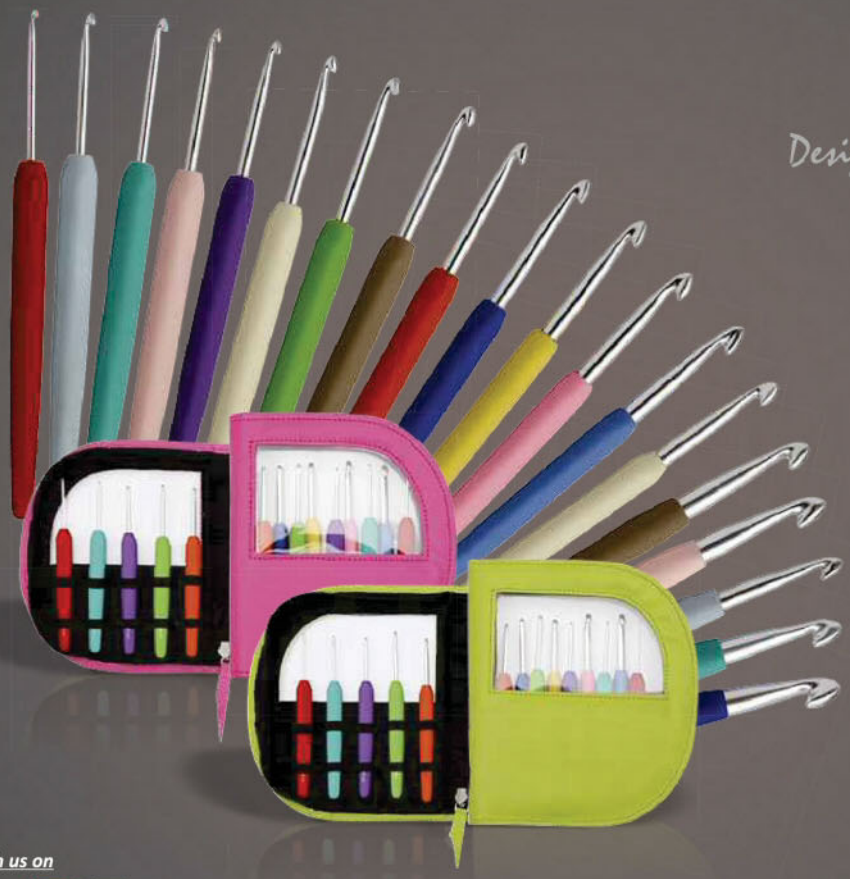
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IDEAS ♡ INSPIRATION ♡ ACCESSORIES ♡ WEBSITES ♡ EVENTS ♡ STUFF



ALL KINDS OF MAKING

Mark up your diaries and get excited – the Spring Knitting and Stitching Show is on its way. This year, it's on from 5-8 March 2015 and once again, the event is taking place at London's Alexandra Palace. The four-day extravaganza is a great opportunity to find fresh inspiration, pick up new skills and stock up on yarn, notions and all kinds of other crafty goodies. To purchase tickets and find out more about the event, visit www.theknittingandstitchingshow.com or call 020 7688 6830.

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SUNNY SIDE UP

How do you like your eggs in the morning? We like ours as a rug. We spotted this tasty morsel on Etsy and are hungry for more. It's by Surfacewerks (www.surfacewerks.etsy.com), who create imaginative, one-of-a-kind pieces for the home. Their crocheted rugs are all pretty special – clouds, free-form lichen and more – but this Egg Rugg is a clear winner. If you've got a drab little floor space that's completely devoid of whimsy, maybe you need to fill it with a big, crocheted fried egg. Just a thought.

AHOY, MATEY

Cute isn't even the word. If you've got a soft spot for cowboys and pirates (and let's face it, who doesn't?) then feast your eyes on this little treasure. Adorable fair trade crocheted pirate and cowboy toys are now available from www.cloth-ears.co.uk for £23.95. They are by Pebble, who work together with community businesses in Bangladesh to help women out of poverty. Frankly, we are running out of reasons not to shop.



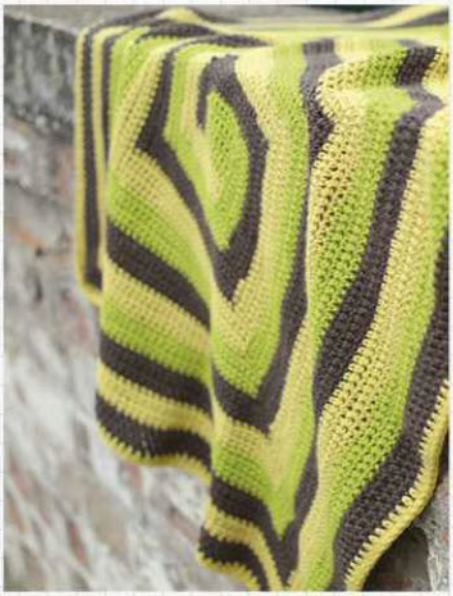


Yarn crafter and graphic design wizard Julie Nelson Rhodes is the mastermind behind Tillyflop (www.tillyflopdesigns.etsy.com). Her latest creations are so much fun. She has produced a range of greetings cards, especially for crafty folk, which feature cut-out-and-keep decision cubes (what will she think of next?). For helping you decide what to make or bake next, or for spelling out your crafting needs to the uninitiated (as above), they're sure to make unique and thoughtful gifts for the creatives in your life. Oh, and she also does stitchy-themed temporary tattoos. Declare your love for the hook.

GARDEN OF EDEN

Have you paid a visit to Eden Cottage (www.edencottageyarns.co.uk) lately? Not only are they purveyors of fantastically squooshy hand-dyed and mill-dyed yarns, but they also have one or two cheeky little crochet designs available. The patterns for this sweet Maisy Roper satchel, swirly Silsden blanket, and more, can be purchased separately from as little as £3 or with yummy Eden Cottage yarns as kits from £38. Get online and take a look. There's plenty for knitters, too.





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SAILING AWAY

Longing for distant shores, or maybe just a bit of peace and quiet for dedicated hooky time? It's never the wrong time for a retreat and Stitchtopia have it all worked out for you. They've launched an exciting Northern Lights Knitting and Crochet Cruise for March 2015. Learn new skills from experts Carol Meldrum and Jane Crowfoot, and visit some beautiful parts of Norway. You can find out more about the trip at www.arenatravel.com or call 01473 660800.

MAKE IT

WITH LOVE

Five of our brightest ideas for expressing your affections using only your hooks and yarn.

1 A FINE ROMANCE
Set the scene with a bit of frothy lace. Lovely.

2 SECRET ADMIRER
A dozen handmade red roses that won't ever wilt? Excuse us while we swoon.

3 TAKING LESSONS
Pass on your hooky skills to a friend who wants to learn.

4 CUDDLE UP
A blanket is a labour of love and a gift to be treasured.

5 KEEP A PROMISE
No time to hook anything new? Give a thoughtful IOU for something they'll adore.

HELLO PETAL

BHS are really upping their crochet game with this eye-catching floral cushion. £20 at www.bhs.co.uk





INSPIRING BOOKS

HOW TO CROCHET
Sara Delaney (£7.99, Storey Basics)
This pint-sized paperback is the perfect reference guide for beginners. Learn all the basic crochet stitches and get to know your yarn weights and the tools you'll need. The step-by-step instructions are easy to follow and paired with clear illustrations. We love that the book is dinky enough to tuck into a project bag.



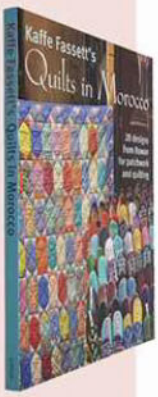
SUPER CUTE CROCHET FOR LITTLE FEET
Vita Apala (£12.99, Apple Press)
A flick through this book is guaranteed an "awww", so adorable are the 30 styles of baby footwear inside. There's everything from Mary Janes to espadrilles, plus sandals, biker boots, ballet shoes and the most delicious cherry slippers.



SIMPLY SWEET CROCHET
Cony Larsen
(£9.99, Design Originals)
This is a collection of 18 easy-to-crochet accessories in a fresh, contemporary style. All the projects are suitable for beginners and the clear layout is matched with photography that shows off the crochet details. A good resource for doting mums, aunts and grannies alike.



KAFFE FASSETT'S QUILTS IN MOROCCO
Kaffe Fassett
(£18.50, Rowan)
Kaffe Fassett's latest book is a visual feast. He and his team created 20 vibrant quilts, then took them to the souks of Morocco to be photographed in vivid colour. Patterns for all the beautiful quilts are included.



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Sushi Amigurumi, copyright @2006 Lumiena

CHOICEST AMIGURUMI

Amigurumi lovers, listen up – something enchanting is brewing over in NYC. RESOBOX, a Japanese cultural centre in New York, is hosting a World Amigurumi Exhibition in their gallery from 12 Dec 2014 to 28 Feb 2015. There'll be 3,000 pieces of amigurumi on show, by over 300 artists from around the world. Each item will be for sale, too. If you happen to be in the big apple, be sure to take a look. Find out more over at www.resobox.com

SHABBY CHIC

We're suckers for pretty storage and if it happens to be crocheted, too, then we're in real danger. But neatening up your stash or WIP pile is never a bad thing and when a basket looks this good, it can't be wrong. Melody Maison's Latte Oval Crochet Basket is yours for £9.95 at www.melodymaison.co.uk. They stock all kinds of fabulous, French-flavoured goods for the home. This piece caught our eye because it's so different to the chunky baskets we've been seeing everywhere lately.





CHEEKY MONKEYS

There's just something about tiny shoes. This cheeky pair are from Chantal Garceau and Mary J King's new book *Cozy Toes for Baby*. It has seven adorable designs for crochet baby shoes that are fit for felting – a great way into the craft if you've never tried it before. The book is published by Martingale (www.shopmartingale.com) and available for £12.99. Plus, the authors' proceeds will go to the Imani Project, which helps Kenyan orphans.

APP HAPPY



Stitch smarter with a helping hand from an app or two. There are a few brilliant crochet ones out there.

1. Crochet Decoder helps unravel the mysteries of symbols, abbreviations, yarn weights and more. It's a brilliant resource to have at your fingertips while you're hooking away. It's just 69p over on the Apple iTunes App Store.

2. Okay, we're biased but we do love our Granny Square app. For a new square pattern each week, download the free app for your iPad or iPhone at **www.bit.ly/scgranny**. Androiders can get the patterns in our newsletter. Sign up at **www.simplycrochetmag.com**

3. StitchMinder is an oh-so handy stitch-counting application that allows you to keep track of rows or rounds, pattern repeats, decreases and increases. Download this app for free on the Apple iTunes App Store.

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TELLING A STORY

New yarn boutique A Yarn Story has a serious soft spot for hand-dyed yarns. They stock all sorts of treasures and treats from local independent dyers and those further afield, as well as super stitchy notions and gifts, too. If luxe fibres and glorious colours are your thing, pop to Bath to pay a visit, or you can shop online and find out more about the store yourself over at **www.ayarnstory.co.uk**

A GOOD YARN

I'm after a cosy yarn for a bright beret to see me through the rest of the winter. Any suggestions?

Rooster's lovely Almerino Aran (£5.15 per 50g) gets our vote. The mix of merino and baby alpaca fibres is squeezable and soft. Plus, there are 19 gorgeous shades to choose from. Visit www.laughinghens.com



Time to get out and about...

SKILLS, SHOWS & EVENTS

FEB 20-22 Unravel, £7, Farnham Maltings Association, Farnham, 01252 745405 www.craft.farnhammaltings.com

FEB 21 Beyond the Granny Square, £30, Jenny Wren's Yarns, Ipswich, Suffolk, 01473 805208 www.jennywrensyarns.co.uk

FEB 21 Crochet 1, £22.50, makeplace, Norwich, www.makeplacenorwich.co.uk

FEB 26-28 The Creative Crafts show, £8, Three Counties Showground, Malvern 01822 614671 www.sccshows.co.uk

FEB 27-MAR 1 Make It and Knit & Stitch It 2015, £7.50, Five, Farnborough, 0844 477 1000 www.make-it.org.uk

FEB 28 Crochet for Improvers with Becky Murray, £45, Get Knitted, Bristol, 0117 3005211 www.getknitted.com

5 FAB FINDS

Be my Valentine

Spread the love with your hook and a ball of yarn.



A LITTLE LOVE
How adorable is this Heart Slouchy Hat by Ball Hank n' Skein? You can buy the pattern at www.ballhanknskein.etsy.com



WEAR IT OUT
Treat yourself to this cute cowl by Andra Johnson at www.mytatteredwhimsies.etsy.com. She makes them to order.

PERFECT PAIR
Show someone you care with a pair of warm, big-hearted mittens. These are from www.upthepitt.com





RIBBON IS RED
Doll up your Valentine's gifts with lovey-dovey grosgrain ribbon. Find it at www.sparkles-and-stuff.co.uk

HOOK A HEART
Make a blanket for a loved one with our heart motif from *Simply Crochet* issue 14. See page 64 for back issues info.



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FROM BLOG TO BOOK

Crocheter Natasja King (www.crochetime.net) has released her first pattern ebook, *Crochet Pretty*. But it's no ordinary crochet book – using interactivity, it incorporates five how-to videos and even a stitchy quiz alongside the 15 crochet accessory patterns. Natasja says: "We should wear our crochet proudly. Something as small as a ring or brooch that you made yourself can give you extra confidence." The Multi-Touch Apple iBook can be downloaded to your iPad or Mac for £4.99 at http://bit.ly/1uUrs3O

WE HEART IT

Have you ever considered storing your yarn stash in a cake tin? Well, we don't see why bakers should be having all the fun and when we spied this delightfully fancy, heart-shaped receptacle we were smitten. The pretty Emma Bridgewater design is available for just £4 from www.onebrowncow.co.uk. It's just crying out to be filled with beloved crochet notions, precious WIPs or a few of your yummiest yarns. Very neat.





Stitchers, there are some shiny new crochet hooks on the horizon. The crafty folk at Clover have produced new additions for their fantastic Amour Crochet Hooks range. The five extra sizes range from 6.5mm to 10mm and each one can be identified by a different, brightly coloured and super-comfy handle. They're a dream to work with and just the thing for hooking with chunkier yarns for cosy winter makes. To find stockists near you, contact clover@stockistenquiries.co.uk or call 01453 883581. We've got three sets of the new Clover hooks up for grabs for three lucky readers. To find details of how to enter, just visit our blog at www.simplycrochetmag.com

A GOOD VINTAGE

A taste of yesteryear is perfect for pepping up your projects or your craft space. We're loving this stuff.

1. The coolest thing we've seen in a while – handmade vintage map buttons. £5 for 10 from **www.bombus.co.uk**

2. Store your crochet hooks in a dinky milk jug. This ceramic, churn-style one is £5.95 at **www.dotcomgiftshop.com**

3. Visit **www.pagodasandbutterflies.co.uk** to pick up a pair of storage crates for your wall. We'd fill them with yarn.





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BAGS OF FUN

Pop your WIPs in the most stylish project bag around. We love the understated colour scheme and cool geometric design of this tapestry crochet delight. Plus, it's roomy enough for shopping as well.

JUST IN CASE

Treat your crochet hooks to a custom-made case – stitched by your own fair hand, of course – in the prettiest pinks. It fastens securely with a zip and is dinky enough to be easily stowed in your project bag.



STITCH IN TIME

Use delectable pink, grey and yellow merino wool to hook a stylish a crafternoon tea collection.

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GET A BREW ON

Hooksters who regularly re-fuel with tea are happier and about 87% more productive (probably). Keep your teapot cosy with cables and a pompom, complemented by some cute teabag mug hugs (find the pattern on our blog at www.simplycrochetmag.com).

ICING ON THE CAKE

Have your cake and stitch for it, too. Believe it or not, a crochet cover for your cake stand dome can make baked goods seem even more delicious. This open, lacy stitch pattern still permits an eyeful of the tasty treats beneath.

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MAKE A MITT

This ingenious pair of mitts are fingerless to allow full crocheting movement, but they have flaps that can be folded down over the fingers when it's chilly. Sometimes a gal needs full-blown mittens. And how cute are those hidden hearts?

SPOOLS ARE COOL

These crafty cuties are dual-purpose notions. Pop your pins in the cushiony top for easy access and wind odd yarn ends around the centre. They're ideal for colourwork or if you're hooking with small quantities of yarn for mini makes.

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PERFECT PROJECT BAG

Be the envy of your stitch group with Anne Egan's geometric bag design.

- Bessie May Smile (100% extra fine merino, 50g/120m), 3 balls of Cloud (3180), 1 ball each of Lichen (3060), Kiss (3090)
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- Fabric for lining, at least 70x60cm (27½x23½in)
- Matching thread

MEASUREMENTS

30x33cm (11¾x13in) excluding handles

NOTES

When changing colour mid-row, twist ends of 2 colours tog. Pick up new colour in last yrh of prev st. Carry the unused strands of yarn across the WS of work. Turn only when directed.

If you are right-handed then the pattern you create will be the reverse of that shown in the image.

BAG

Using Cloud, ch132, ss into first ch, being careful not to twist.

Rnd 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in each ch around, ss to first dc. [132 sts]

Rnds 2-6 Ch1, dc in each dc around, ss to first dc.

Rnd 7 Ch2 (counts as htr), (ss in next dc, htr in next dc) around, ss in last dc, ss in top of beg ch-2, turn.

Rnds 8-12 Ch1, (htr in next ss, ss in next htr) around, with last ss in first htr, turn.

Rnds 13-18 Ch1, dc in each st around, ss in first dc.

Rnd 19 Ch1, *6dc, change to Kiss, 6dc, change to Cloud; rep from * around, ss in first dc.

Rnd 20 Ch1, *7dc, change to Kiss, 5dc, change to Cloud; rep from * around, ss in first dc.

Rnd 21 Ch1, *8dc, change to Kiss, 4dc, change to Cloud; rep from * around, ss in first dc.

Rnd 22 Ch1, *9dc, change to Kiss, 3dc, change to Cloud; rep from * around, ss in first dc.

Rnd 23 Ch1, *10dc, change to Kiss, 2dc, change to Cloud; rep from * around, ss in first dc.

Rnd 24 Ch1, *11dc, change to Kiss, 1dc, change to Cloud; rep from * around but do not change to Cloud on the last rep, ss in first dc.

Rnd 25 Ch1, (6dc, change to Cloud, 6dc, change to Kiss) 10 times, 6dc, change to Cloud, 6dc, ss in first dc.

Rnd 26 Ch1, dc in next dc, (change to Kiss, 5dc, change to Cloud, 7dc) 10 times, change to Kiss, 5dc, change to Cloud, 6dc, ss in first dc.

Rnd 27 Ch1, 2dc, (change to Kiss, 4dc, change to Cloud, 8dc) 10 times, change to Kiss, 4dc, change to Cloud, 6dc, ss in first dc.

Rnd 28 Ch1, 3dc, (change to Kiss, 3dc, change to Cloud, 9dc) 10 times, change to Kiss, 3dc, change to Cloud, 6dc, ss in first dc.

Rnd 29 Ch1, 4dc, (change to Kiss, 2dc, change to Cloud, 10dc) 10 times, change to Kiss, 2dc, change to Cloud, 6dc, ss in first dc.

Rnd 30 Ch1, 5dc, (change to Kiss, 1dc,



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change to Cloud, 11dc) 10 times, change to Kiss, 1dc, change to Cloud, 6dc, ss in first dc.
Rnds 31-66 Repeat (Rnds 19-30) 3 more times.
Rnds 67-72 As Rnd 2.
Change to Lichen.
Rnd 73 As Rnd 7.
Rnd 74 As Rnd 8.
Fasten off and weave in ends.
Place join of bag in the middle on one side and join Cloud in foundation ch at one end next to fold.
Turn bag so join is away from you (at the back). Dc across, working each st through both front and back layers of foundation ch in order to join bottom.

HANDLES (MAKE 2)

With Lichen, ch13, ss in first ch to join into a ring, being careful not to twist.
Rnd 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st around. [13 sts]
Continue working in a spiral on these 13 sts without closing off each round with a ss, until the piece measures 50cm. **Fasten off** and weave in ends.

To strengthen each handle, cut a piece of lining material approx 50x12cm. Fold in half lengthways with RS tog, pin tog 1cm from edge and sew in place. Turn right way out and press, then insert inside the crochet handle.

LINING

For lining, measure the bag and cut 2 pieces of fabric that are each 1cm bigger than the bag all round.
With RS of 2 lining pieces tog, sew the 2 sides and bottom using a 1cm seam width so the lining fits well inside bag. Fold open top edge down (WS to WS) so folded edge will come just below gold edge of bag when lining is put inside. Stitch fold in place.

TO MAKE UP

Pin ends of each handle on the WS of one side of bag lining (5cm in from the side seams and 5cm down from top edge). Make sure that when bag lining is flat, the 2 handles line up. Sew firmly in place.

Place lining inside bag, WS to WS so that all rough seams will be hidden. Sew lining around inside of opening edge using matching thread.



CUTE HOOK CASE

Make Anne Egan's little zipped pouch to store your crochet hooks in. We love the bright diamond on the back.

- Bessie May Smile (100% extra fine merino, 50g/120m), 1 ball each of Kiss (3090), Berry (3080), an oddment of Cloud (3180)
- A 4mm (US) G/6 hook
- Grey sewing thread
- Zip, 20cm (7¾in) long

MEASUREMENTS
22x7cm (8½x 2¾in)

NOTES
On the chart (see p93), each square represents 1 dc st. Read all RS rows from right to left and WS rows from left to right. When changing colour mid-row, twist ends of 2 colours tog. Pick up new colour in last yrh of prev st. Carry unused strands of yarn across WS of work.

HOOK CASE

Cut a piece of Kiss to meas approx 30cm and put aside to use later to create an extension ch.
Using Kiss, ch50.
Follow Chart over the central 29 sts, for Rows 1-29. All sts not on Chart are worked in Kiss.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook, and next 9 ch, follow Row 1 of Chart, working a dc in each ch, dc in each ch to end, turn. [49 dc]
Rows 2-5 Ch1 (does not count as st), 10dc, follow corresponding row of Chart, dc in each st to end, turn.
Row 6 Ss into first 4 sts, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in same st as last ss, 6dc, follow Row 6 of Chart, dc in each st to last 3 sts, turn, leaving rem sts unworked. [43 dc]
Rows 7-23 Ch1 (does not count as st), 7dc, follow corresponding row of Chart, dc in each st to end, turn.
Row 24 Ch1 (does not count as st), 7dc, follow Row 24 of Chart, dc in each st to end, ch4 (extension ch for one end of row), turn.
Remove hook and take the piece of Kiss cut at beg. Join this piece to beg of Row 24, ch3. **Fasten off** (extension ch for other end of row). Return to working yarn.
Row 25 Dc in second ch from hook and in each ch of first extension ch, dc in each of next 7dc, foll Row 25 of Chart, dc in each rem dc and in each of the 3 extension ch, turn. [49 dc]
Rows 26-29 Ch1 (does not count as st), 10dc, follow corresponding row of Chart, dc in each st to end, turn.
Fasten off.
Row 30 Join Cloud in first st, ch2 (counts as htr), ss in next st, (htr in next ☛

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st, ss in next st) to last st, htr in last st.
Fasten off.
Rotate to work in other side of foundation ch, rep Row 30 across foundation ch. Weave in ends.

TO MAKE UP
Fold with WS tog so that the 2 Cloud end rows are in the centre.
Pin the zip in place under these edges, making sure the points of diamond shape line up and zip is visible.
The zip will be shorter than crochet edges so make sure it is placed centrally. Sew firmly into place with grey thread. Join the rem crochet edges at each end of the zip with tapestry needle and grey yarn.
Unzip and turn inside out. With tapestry needle and pale pink yarn, seam the ends of crochet case, making sure the grey end rows line up with middle of back of hook case.



CABLED TEACOSY

Sara Huntington's cosy has scrummy texture and a fluffy pompom. Fab.

- Bessie May Smile (100% extra fine merino, 50g/120m), 3 balls of Yarn A Cloud (3180), 1 ball of Yarn B Lichen (3060)
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook

MEASUREMENTS

Cosy measures 58cm (22¾in) in circumference at widest point and 19cm (7½in) high without pompom

ABBREVIATIONS

FPdtr Yrh twice, starting at front, insert hook from front to back to front around post of indicated st, complete as for dtr
Tr3tog (Yrh, insert hook in next st, yrh, pull up loop, yrh, pull through 2 loops) 3 times, yrh, pull through all loops on hook
FPdtr2tog (Yrh twice, starting at front, insert hook from front to back to front around post of next st, yrh and pull up loop, yrh and draw through 2 loops, yrh and draw through 2 loops) twice, yrh and draw through all loops on the hook
BPtr2tog (Yrh, starting at back, insert hook from back to front to back around post of next st, yrh and pull up loop, yrh and draw through 2 loops) twice, yrh and draw through all loops on the hook

NOTES

The cosy is worked flat in 2 pieces and then seamed tog leaving holes for the spout and handle.

COSY (MAKE 2)
Using Yarn A, ch54.
Row 1 (RS) Dc in second chain from hook and in each ch across to end, turn. [53 dc]
Row 2 Ch3 (counts as tr throughout), 1tr in each st to end, turn. [53 tr]
Row 3 Ch3, 1tr in each of next 2 sts, (FPtr around each of next 6 sts, 1tr in each of next 3 sts, FPtr around next st, 1tr in each of next 3 sts) 3 times, FPtr around next 6 sts, 1tr in each of next 3 sts, FPtr around next st, 1tr in last st, turn. [53 sts]
Row 4 Ch3, BPtr around next st, 1tr in each of next 3 sts, (BPtr around each of next 6 sts, 1tr in each of next 3 sts, BPtr around next st, 1tr in each of next 3 sts) 3 times, BPtr around each of next 6 sts, 1tr in each of next 3 sts, turn.
Row 5 Ch3, 1tr in next 2 sts, (skip 3 sts, FPdtr around next 3 sts, FPdtr around skipped 3 sts working behind the last 3 sts, 1tr in next 3 sts, FPtr around next st, 1tr in next 3 sts) 3 times, skip 3 sts, FPdtr around next 3 sts, FPdtr around skipped 3 sts working behind the last 3 sts, 1tr in next 3 sts, FPtr around next st, 1tr in last st, turn.
Row 6 Repeat Row 4.
Rows 3-6 form pattern.
Continue working in pattern until the work measures approx 15cm ending on a Row 6.

DECREASE ROWS

Row 1 (RS) Ch3, 1tr in each of the next 2 sts, (FPtr around each of next 6 sts, tr3tog, FPtr around the next st, tr3tog) 3 times, FPtr around each of the next 6 sts, 1tr in each of next 3 sts, FPtr around the next st, 1tr in the last st, turn. [41 sts]
Row 2 Ch3, BPtr around the next st, tr3tog, (BPtr around next 6 sts, tr3tog working central leg as a BPtr) 3 times, BPtr around the next 6 sts, tr3tog, turn. [31 sts]
Row 3 Ch3, (skip 3 sts, FPdtr around next st, FPdtr2tog around next 2 sts, FPdtr2tog around first 2 skipped sts working behind the last 2 sts, FPdtr around 3rd skipped st, FPtr around the central post of the next st) 3 times, skip 3 sts, FPdtr around next st, FPdtr2tog around next 2 sts, FPdtr2tog around first 2 skipped sts working behind the last 2 sts, FPdtr around 3rd skipped st, tr3tog working central leg as a BPtr, turn. [21 sts]
Row 4 Ch3, (BPtr around each of the next 3 sts, BPtr2tog) 3 times, BPtr around the next 4 sts, tr into the last st,

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turn. [18 sts]
Row 5 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in the first 5 sts, dc2tog, dc in the next 4 sts, dc2tog, dc in the next 5 sts, turn. [16 sts]
Row 6 (Dc2tog) 8 times. [8 sts]
Fasten off.

TO MAKE UP
With RS tog, overstitch a seam starting at the bottom of the cosy. Work for 6cm then leave a gap of 8cm for spout/handle and cont seam to top.
Rep on other side.

COSY TOP
Rnd 1 Rejoin Yarn A in any st on either side of last row of Cosy, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in same dc and each dc around working around both sides of the Cosy, ss to first dc. [16 dc]
Rnd 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), (dc2tog) 8 times. [8 sts]
Fasten off leaving a long tail.
Thread the tail onto a tapestry needle and insert through the last 8 sts. Pull tight to close and weave in end.

POMPOM
Make a pompom using Yarn B, to measure approx 8cm in diameter.
Sew to the top of the Cosy.

CAKESTAND COVER

Adorn your tastiest treats with a lovely lacy cover by Hannah Cross.

- Bessie May Smile (100% extra fine merino, 50g/120m), 1 ball each of Yarn A Cloud (3180), Yarn B Kiss (3090), Yarn C Berry (3080)
- A 4mm (US 7) hook
- Glass cake dome, 26cm (10¼in) in diameter, 10cm (4in) high (excluding stand)

MEASUREMENTS
The finished cover will fit a cake dome 26cm in diameter

CAKE STAND COVER
Using Yarn A, ch20, without twisting the ch, ss in first ch to join into a ring.
Rnd 1 (RS) Ch4 (counts as tr, ch1) *(tr, ch1) in each ch around, ss in 3rd ch of beg ch-4 to join. [20 tr and 20 ch-1 sp]
Rnd 2 Ss to first ch-sp, ch5 (counts as tr, ch2), *tr in next ch-sp, ch2; rep from * around, ss in 3rd ch of beg ch-5 to join. [20 tr and 20 ch-2 sp]
Rnd 3 Ch4 (counts as tr, ch1), tr in next ch-2 sp, ch1, *tr in next tr, ch1, tr in next ch-2 sp, ch1; rep from * around, ss in 3rd ch of beg ch-4 to join. [40 tr and 40 ch-1 sp]
Rnds 4-5 Repeat Rnd 2.
Rnd 6 Ss to first ch-sp, ch6 (counts as tr, ch3), *1tr in next ch-sp, ch3; rep from * around, ss in 3rd ch of beg ch-6 to join. [40 tr and 40 ch-3 sp]
Rnd 7 Repeat Rnd 2.
Rnd 8 Repeat Rnd 6.
Rnds 9-13 Repeat Rnd 2.
Fasten off.
Rnd 14 Join Yarn B in first st, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in the back loop





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only of each st around, ss to first dc to join. [120 sts] **Fasten off**.
Rnd 15 Join Yarn C in first st, ch3 (counts as tr), 7tr in the back loop only of st at base of ch, skip 2 sts, ss to next st, *skip 2 sts, 8tr in next st, skip 2 sts, ss to next st; rep from * around, ss in top of beg ch-3 to join. [20 8-tr shells]
Rnd 16 Ss to 4th tr of shell, *ch3, ss to next tr, ch5, ss to 4th tr of next shell; rep from * around.
Fasten off.

MAKER'S MITTS

Have your fingers covered or free to hook with Sara Huntington's mitts.

- Bessie May Smile (100% extra fine merino, 50g/120m), 2 balls of Yarn A Cloud (3180), small amounts of Yarn B Berry (3080)
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- Stitch markers
- Tapestry needle
- Four wooden buttons
- Two invisible poppers

TENSION

22 sts and 25 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over dc in the round with a 3mm hook

MEASUREMENTS

9x23cm (3½x9in)

ABBREVIATIONS

Reverse dc Work each dc st to the right of prev one, so that you will be working in the opposite direction to normal.

NOTES

Mittens are worked from the cuff up, starting in rows then joining after the cuff to work in rounds using the amigurumi method. Work in a continuous spiral without closing off each rnd with a ss. You may find it helpful to place a marker in the first st of each rnd and move it up as you work.

The hand hood section of the mitten can lie on the back of your hand, exposing your fingertips, or fit over the top of your fingers to form a full mitten.

MITTEN 1

BODY OF MITTEN

Using Yarn A, ch37.
Row 1 (WS) Dc in second ch from hook and each ch across to end, turn. [36 dc]
Rows 2-10 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st to end, turn. [36 dc]

In next rnd, cuff is joined to be worked in a spiral. Fold cuff to start next rnd in beg of Row 10 with RS facing.
Rnd 11 (RS) Skip 4 dc (creates overlap at cuff), (dc in next 3 dc, 2dc in next dc) 8 times. [40 dc]
Marking the first st, continue working in the round.
Rnds 12-15 Dc in each dc around.
The colour is changed halfway through the next rnd so that the colour 'jog' is hidden under the wrist.
Rnd 16 1dc in the next 16 dc, change to Yarn B, dc in the rem 24 dc. [40 dc]
Rnd 17 Cont with Yarn B, dc in each dc around.
Rnd 18 Cont with Yarn B, 1dc in the next 16 dc, change to Yarn A, dc in the rem 24 dc. [40 dc]
Rnds 19-21 Cont with Yarn A, dc in each dc around.
Rnd 22 (thumbhole) 1dc in next 13 dc, ch8, skip next 8 sts, dc in next 19 dc.
Rnd 23 1dc in next 13 dc, 1dc in the back loop only of each of 8 ch, 1dc in next 19 dc.
Rnd 24 Dc in each dc around. [40 dc]
Rep Rnd 24 until the glove measures 6cm from Rnd 22. **Fasten off**.

HAND HOOD SECTION

Mark the central 10 sts across the back of the glove with st markers.
Rnd 1 Join Yarn A in front loop of the first marked st, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in front loop only of same st, dc in front loop only of next 9 sts, ch30, skip next 30 dc. [40 sts]
Rnd 2 Taking care not to twist the chain, dc in first 10 dc, dc in each ch around. [40 dc]
Rnds 3-10 Dc in each dc around.
Rnd 11 (1dc in next 3 dc, dc2tog) 8 times. [32 dc]
Rnd 12 Dc in each dc around.
Rnd 13 (1dc in next 2 dc, dc2tog) 8 times. [24 dc]
Rnds 14-15 Dc in each dc around.
Rnd 16 (1dc in next dc, dc2tog) 8 times. [16 dc]
Rnd 17 Dc in each dc around.
Rnd 18 (Dc2tog) 8 times. [8 dc]
Rnd 19 Dc in each dc around.
Fasten off, leaving a long tail.
Thread a tapestry needle with the tail and weave through the 8 sts in Rnd 19. Pull tight and weave in end.

COMPLETE BODY OF MITTEN

Rnd 1 Rejoin Yarn A in back loop only of first of 10 marked central sts, working behind flap for hand hood section so the RS will be facing when you cont around top of mitten. Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in back loop only of same st, dc in back loop only of next 9 sts, dc into next 30 skipped sts of main body of glove. [40 dc]
Rnds 2-6 Dc in each dc around. [40 dc]
Rnd 7 Reverse dc in each dc around. [40 dc] **Fasten off**.

THUMB

Rnd 1 Rejoin Yarn A in first skipped dc of the thumbhole, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in same st and each of rem unworked 7dc, dc in front loops only of

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each of 8 ch. [16 dc]
Rnd 2 Dc in each dc around. [16 dc]
Repeat Rnd 2 until thumb meas 6cm.
Next row (Dc2tog) 8 times. [8 sts]
Fasten off, leaving a long tail.
Thread a tapestry needle with the tail and weave through the 8 sts in last rnd. Pull tight and weave in end.

MITTEN 2
Work as for Mitten 1 except for the following rounds:

BODY OF MITTEN
Row 10 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st across to last 4 sts, leave last 4 sts unworked. [32 dc]
In next rnd, the cuff is joined to worked in a spiral. Fold cuff to start next rnd in beg of Row 10, with RS facing.
Rnd 11 (RS) (Dc in next 3 dc, 2dc in next dc) 8 times. [40 dc]
The colour is changed halfway through the next rnd so that the 'jog' is hidden under the wrist.
Rnd 16 1dc in the next 24 dc, change to Yarn B, dc in the rem 16 dc. [40 dc]
Rnd 17 Cont with Yarn B, dc in each dc around.
Rnd 18 Cont with Yarn B, 1dc in the next 24 dc, change to Yarn A, dc in the rem 16 dc. [40 dc]
Rnd 22 (thumbhole) 1dc in next 19 dc, ch8, skip next 8 sts, dc in next 13 dc.
Rnd 23 1dc in next 19 dc, 1dc in the back loop only of each of 8 ch, 1dc in next 13 dc.

TO MAKE UP
Sew two wooden buttons onto each cuff, securing the flap into position, as shown in the image.
Using a tapestry needle and Yarn B, embroider a chain stitch heart onto the hand hood section of the mitten, using image as a guide.
Sew an invisible popper to the hand hood section of the mitt and the point on the back of the glove where to top lies when folded back.

PINCUSHION SPOOLS

Keep odd yarn lengths neat with Sara Huntington's super-cute spools. You can even pop your pins in the top, too.

- Bessie May Smile (100% extra fine merino, 50g/120m), 1 ball each of Yarn A Cloud (3180), Yarn B Lichen (3060), Yarn C Berry (3080), Yarn D Kiss (3090)
- A 2.5mm (US B/1 or C/2) hook
- Stitch marker
- Tapestry needle
- Stuffing
- Small pieces of card (optional)

MEASUREMENTS
Each bobbin measures approx 10cm tall

NOTES
The spools are worked using the amigurumi method. Work in a continuous spiral without closing off each round with a ss. You may find it helpful to place a marker in first st of each round and move it up as you work.

SPOOLS
Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.
Rnd 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 8dc into ring. [8 dc]
Rnd 2 2dc into each dc around. [16 dc]
Rnd 3 (1dc into next dc, 2dc into next dc) 8 times. [24 dc]
Rnd 4 (1dc into next 2 dc, 2dc into next dc) 8 times. [32 dc]
Rnd 5 (1dc into next 3 dc, 2dc into next dc) 8 times. [40 dc]
Rnds 6-7 1dc into each st around. [40 dc]
Rnd 8 (Dc2tog) 20 times. [20 sts]
Rnd 9 1dc into each st around. [20 dc]
Rep Rnd 9 until work meas 5cm from Rnd 8.
Rnd 10 2dc into each dc around. [40 dc]
Rnds 11-12 1dc into each st around.
Rnd 13 (1dc into next 3 dc, dc2tog) 8 times. [32 sts]
Rnd 14 (1dc into next 2 dc, dc2tog) 8 times. [24 sts]
Rnd 15 (1dc into next dc, dc2tog) 8 times. [16 sts]
If using, cut out a circle of cardboard, slightly smaller than bottom, and insert at this point to make a flatter base.
You may also wish to add a weight on top of the cardboard base to help the spool stand up.
Stuff spool to fill all contours.
Rnd 16 (Dc2tog) 8 times. [8 sts]
Fasten off, leaving a long tail.
Thread a tapestry needle with the tail and weave through the 8 sts in Rnd 16. Pull tight and weave in end.

TO FINISH
Wind one of the contrasting colours around the body of spool, taking care not to pull too tight.
When the yarn covers the spool, cut and secure the end.



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Amigurumi brooches



DOUBLE CROCHET | DK WEIGHT | 3.5MM HOOK

YOU WILL NEED

- Cotton DK in red
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) crochet hook
- Stitch marker
- White felt
- Black embroidery floss
- Embroidery needle
- Two brooch backs

MEASUREMENTS

Each heart measures 6x6cm (2½x2½in)

ABBREVIATIONS

Dc3tog (Insert hook in the next st, yrh and pull through) 3 times, yrh and pull through all loops on the hook

For a full list, see page 92.

Crochet two kooky brooches – one for you and one for a darling who deserves a bit of handmade love. Alternatively, be a rebel and stitch a little tattoo-esque message of your own invention ('Mum' is a classic). Each heart is worked in two stages using amigurumi dc stitches in a spiral. Really, what could be simpler? Be still our hooky hearts.

NOTES

The heart is worked using the amigurumi method: work in a continuous spiral without closing off each round with a slip stitch.

You may find it helpful to place a marker in the first st of each round and move it up as you work.

HEART (FIRST PIECE)

Make a magic loop.
Round 1 (RS) 6dc into loop. [6 dc]
Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [12 dc]
Round 3 Dc in each dc around.
Round 4 (2dc in next st, dc in next 5 sts) twice. [14 dc]
Rounds 5-6 Dc in each dc around.
Fasten off.

HEART (SECOND PIECE)

Make a magic loop.
Rounds 1-6 Work as for Rounds 1-6 of first piece.
Round 7 With the working yarn and hook still in the second piece, pick up the first piece and work the following round around the first piece to join the two together; dc in first st of first piece, dc in next 5 dc, dc2tog, dc in next 6 dc, now continue working around the second piece from the next unworked stitch; dc in the first 6dc, dc2tog, dc in the next 6 dc. [26 sts]
Round 8 (Dc in the next 5 sts, dc3tog, dc in the next 5 sts) twice. [22 sts]
Round 9 Dc in each dc around. [22 sts]
Round 10 (Dc in the next 4 sts, dc3tog, dc in the next 4 sts) twice. [18 sts]
Round 11 (Dc in the next 3 sts, dc3tog, dc in the next 3 sts) twice. [14 sts]
Round 12 (Dc in the next 2 sts, dc3tog, dc in the next 2 sts) twice. [10 sts]
Round 13 Dc in each dc around.
Round 14 (Dc in the next st, dc3tog, dc in the next st) twice. [6 sts]
Round 15 (Dc in the next st, skip the next st) 3 times. [3 sts]
Fasten off and weave in ends.

EMBELLISHMENTS

Using the templates below, cut out one white felt shape for each heart.

With the embroidery needle and floss, carefully stitch on the letters using the image below as a guide.

To finish, sew a brooch back securely to the back of each heart.



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UPPER STREET EVENTS

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KAT GOLDIN

HAPPY 2015!

Resolutions of a maker.



There is something about a new year. The way it stretches out empty and full of promise, just begging to be filled with glorious new beginnings and must-do-betters. The idea that from the stroke of midnight on the 1st of January, I am given a blank slate, holds so much appeal that I even begin planning my resolutions in November.

To me, there is a strong parallel between a new year and a new craft project – resolutions lined up and gathered like materials for the next must-make item. And just as I am so often held in the thrall of a new crochet project, for weeks I lovingly adhere to my resolutions in the same way I carry my craft around with me everywhere I go, keeping everything at the forefront of my mind, working on nothing else. As the weeks pass, new ambitions appear and by March, my New Year's resolutions often end up in the life equivalent of a WIP drawer.

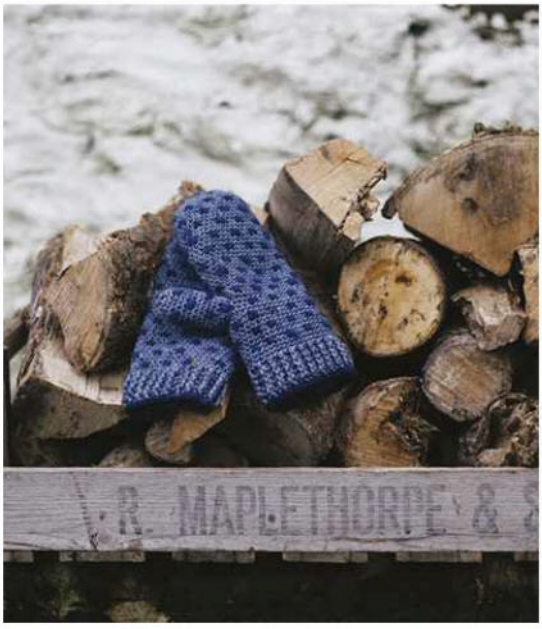
Therefore, it seems fitting that one of this year's resolutions is to finally finish off the unfinished objects languishing in baskets and boxes around the house – in particular, a cardigan and cowl that were both started early last year and pushed aside again and again for deadlines and other things. It's too much of a shame to leave them and I just can't bear to unravel the stitches either. Spending some time clearing out all of the leftovers from last year seems like a very good way to start a new one.

Warmth is a thread that runs through this season and I always think that it is at this time of year that hand making really comes into its own. Living as we do at the edge of the Scottish Highlands on a smallholding, we feel the seasons deeply. As the year comes to an end and the new year begins, our morning chores are done in the dark, wrapped up in last year's handmade woollies. The cold starts are made more bearable by being bundled up in warm, bright mismatched crochet and knitting. In turn, the dark evenings lend themselves to yet more making by the fire. I've got a firm resolution this year to make brand new hats and mittens for my three children and husband, who haven't had a new set since sometime back in 2012!

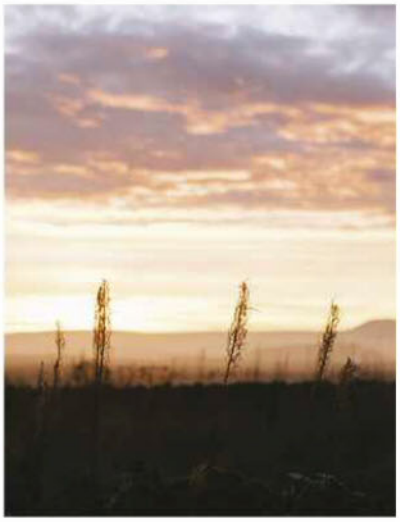
In turn, I am also resolved to make more for myself in the coming year. As a designer, I so often make samples that would never fit me and as a maker, I always seem to be crocheting for others – my children, my friends, my friend's babies. 2015 has to be the year that I make a little something for myself. Maybe it will be a pair of socks, maybe a jumper, but it will certainly be something new that's made just for me.

And with the new year, I start a new column here for *Simply Crochet*, sharing my making and my life in these pages over the next 12 months, so you will be among the first to know if my new resolutions end up in my work-in-progress drawer with the others.

YOU CAN READ MORE ABOUT PHOTOGRAPHER AND CROCHET DESIGNER KAT GOLDIN AT WWW.SLUGSONTHEREFRIGERATOR.COM







Far left: A pair of gorgeous thrummed mittens from Kat's latest book *Hook, Stitch and Give*.
Centre: Kat's daughter Georgia sporting her Little Ripples Cardigan in beautiful blue.
Above: Sunrise over Trossachs National Park.

Photograph of Kat Goldin by Xanthe Berkeley

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SWEET STRIPES

Stay toasty in Meredith Crawford's bold and beautiful chunky cowl.



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Chunky cowl



YOU WILL NEED

- Rowan Big Wool, (100% merino wool, 100g/80m), 1 ball of each:
  Yarn A Linen (048)
  Yarn B Lipstick (063)
- A 10mm (US N/15) hook

For yarn stockists, contact Rowan 01484 681881 www.knitrowan.com

TENSION

8 sts and 7 rounds to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over shell st patt using a 10mm hook

MEASUREMENTS

Circumference 59.5cm (23½in)
Width 25.5cm (10in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.



This pattern is from *Crochet with One Sheepish Girl* by Meredith Crawford, published by Sixth&Spring (RRP £14.99). Visit www.thegmcgroup.com

Crochet designer and blogger Meredith says: "A few years ago, I spotted a scallop and stripe combination on an adorable dress fabric and I knew I had to translate that detail into something crocheted. This bold cowl pattern features colour-changing techniques while crocheting in the round." It's a wonderfully speedy project that is perfect for crochet newbies because although it's simple, you'll be changing colours, working in the round and using double crochet as well as trebles. The bold stripes make it a bit of a statement crochet accessory.

NOTES

When changing yarn colour, change to the new yarn in the last yrh of the previous stitch.

COWL

With Yarn A, ch49.
Round 1 Dc in the second ch from the hook and in each ch across. Then, being careful not to twist this strip, join the strip with a ss in the first dc, ready to work in the round. [48 dc]
Round 2 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in each st around, ss to the first dc, change to Yarn B.
Round 3 Ch1, dc in each st around, ss to the first dc.
Round 4 Ch1, dc in the first st, *skip the next 2 dc, 5tr in the next dc, skip 2 dc, dc in the next dc; repeat from * around, omitting the last dc on the final repeat, change to Yarn A. [6 patt repeats]
Round 5 Ch1, dc in each st around, ss to the first dc.
Round 6 Ch1, dc in each st around, ss to the first dc, change to Yarn B.

Repeat (Rounds 3-6) 3 more times, then Round 3 once.
Fasten off and weave in ends.



The cosy cowl is worked in the round with double and treble crochet stitches.

BOTTOM EDGING

With RS facing, join Yarn B in any remaining loop of the foundation chain, ready to work in the opposite side of the foundation ch.
Round 1 Ch1, dc in each st around, ss to the first dc.
Fasten off and weave in ends.

SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO CHANGE COLOUR IN ROWS



1 Start working the last stitch of the last row of the old colour, but stop before you work the final yrh of the stitch. Cut off the old yarn, leaving a tail about 7cm long.



2 Now loop your new yarn colour around the hook, leaving a long tail of yarn (about 7cm long).



3 Pull the new yarn loop through the remaining two loops to finish off the stitch. Pull the old and new yarn ends to tighten the loop on the hook.



4 Now you can work the turning chain of the new row in the new colour (for example, 1ch for double crochet). Then work the stitches of the new row in the new yarn colour.

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GRANNY ENID

This pretty square from our Granny Square app is our favourite this month. Get hooking.

YOU WILL NEED

- DK cotton in the following shades:
  - Yarn A Pale Pink
  - Yarn B Bright Pink
  - Yarn C Bright Red
  - Yarn D Light Grey
  - Yarn E Dark Purple
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92

NOTE

See page 93 for chart.



FREE FOR YOU!

This simple granny square pattern was taken from our Granny Square app. For a new granny square pattern every week, download the app for free for your iPad or iPhone from http://bit.ly/scgranny Android users can get the patterns by signing up to our monthly newsletter at www.simplycrochetmag.com

SQUARE

With Yarn A, make a magic loop.

Rnd 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as first tr), 11tr into loop, ss to top of beg ch-3. **Fasten off**. [12 sts]

Rnd 2 Join Yarn B in top of t-ch of prev rnd with a ss. Ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc into same st, 1tr into next st, 2tr into each of next 8 sts, 1tr into next st, 2dc into last st, ss between last st and first st of rnd. **Fasten off**. [22 sts]

Rnd 3 Join Yarn C in ss of prev rnd with a ss. Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in first dc, (htr, tr) in next dc, 2tr in each of next 2 tr, 2htr in next tr, 1dc in each of next 5 tr, (htr, tr) in next tr, (tr, htr) in next tr, dc in each of next 5 tr, 2htr in next tr, 2tr in each of next 2 tr, (tr, htr) in next dc, dc in last dc, ss into ss of prev rnd. **Fasten off**. [32 sts]

Rnd 4 Join Yarn D in first tr of Rnd 3. Ch3 (counts as first tr), tr in st at base of ch, ch2, skip 1 st, 2tr in next st, ch4, (2tr in next st, ch2, skip 1 st) 3 times, (2dtr in next st, ch2, skip 1 st) twice, 2tr in each of next 2 sts, ch2, skip 1 st, (2dtr in next st, ch2, skip 1 st) twice, (2tr in next st, ch2, skip 1 st) twice, 2tr in next st, ch4, 2tr in next st, ch2, skip 1 st, 2tr in next st, skip 2 sts, 2dtr in ss from Rnd 2, ss to top of beg ch-3. **Fasten off**. [34 sts, 12 ch-2 sp, 2 ch-4 sp]

Rnd 5 Join Yarn E in top of t-ch of prev rnd with a ss. Ch3 (counts as first tr), tr in next st, 2tr in ch-2 sp, tr in each of next 2 sts, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in ch-4 sp, work a tr in each st and 2tr in each ch-2 sp until a further 12 tr have been worked, 1dtr in each of next 2 dtr, (2ttr, ch2, 2dtr, tr) in next ch-2 sp, work a tr in each st and 2tr in each ch-2 sp until a further 12tr have been worked, (tr, 2dtr, ch2, 2ttr) in next ch-2 sp, 1dtr in each of next 2 dtr, work a tr in each st and 2tr in each ch-2 sp until a further 12 tr have been worked, (2tr, ch2, 2tr) in ch-4 sp, work a tr in each st and 2tr in each ch-2 sp until a further 8 tr have been worked, ss to top of beg ch-3. **Fasten off** and weave in ends.

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Simply FABULOUS

WINGING IT

Use granite stitch to hook Kat Goldin's stunning cardi with sweet birdie embellishments.

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Blue cardigan



YOU WILL NEED

- Cascade 220 Worsted (100% wool) 100g/200m), Azure (8892) – see table for yarn quantities and measurements
- Bergère de France Coton Fifty (50% cotton, 50% acrylic, 50g/140m), 1 ball of Turquoise (24420) for bird embellishment
- A 2.5mm (US B/1 or C/2) hook
- A 4.5mm hook
- A 5mm (US H/7) hook
- 3 buttons, 1.5cm (½in) in diameter
- Tapestry needle

For yarn stockists, contact Deramores 0800 488 0708 www.deramores.com

TENSION

20 sts and 17 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over granite stitch (see special stitches) using a 5mm hook

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

One swallow does not make a summer, but two of them can make a mighty fine cardigan to keep you warm through the winter. Designer Kat Goldin says: "Granite stitch makes a perfect backdrop for retro-inspired detailing. This piece is seamless, worked from the top down." The front of the yoke fastens with three mismatched buttons and is embellished with two tattoo-inspired swallows.

ABBREVIATIONS

Dtr2tog (Yrh twice, insert hook in next stitch, yrh and pull up loop, [yrh and draw through 2 loops] twice) 2 times, yrh and draw through all loops on hook
Work even Work in the stitch pattern as established, without increasing or decreasing

SPECIAL STITCHES

Granite Stitch (GS)
To make a swatch, chain an even number of stitches.
Row 1 (RS) Starting in the second ch from the hook, *1dc, ch1, skip 1 ch; repeat from * to the last ch, dc in the last ch, turn.
Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), 1dc in the first dc, *1dc in ch-1 sp, ch1, skip 1 dc; repeat from * to 2 sts from the end, dc in ch-1 sp, dc in dc, turn.
Row 3 Ch1, dc in the first dc, ch1, skip 1 dc, *dc in ch-1 sp, ch1, skip 1dc; repeat from * to the last st, dc in the last dc, turn.
Rows 2 and 3 set pattern.

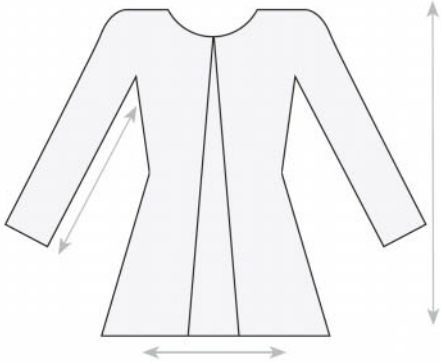
Granite Stitch Increase (GSinc)
(1dc, ch1, 1dc, ch1, skip 1dc) into ch-sp. [Increases by 1 dc]

Granite Stitch Decrease (GSdec)
Insert hook into the next ch, yrh and pull through (2 loops on hook), skip 1 dc, insert the hook into the next ch, yrh and pull through, yrh and pull through all 3 loops on the hook, ch1. [Decreases by 1 dc]

NOTES

The cardigan is worked top down in one piece, dividing at the armholes. Sleeves are worked down from the armholes afterwards.
The bottom rib on both the main garment and the sleeves is worked at right angles to the main piece, with every alternate row attached to the main body of the garment.
Buttonhole and button bands are added afterwards, and the swallow embellishments are made separately to sew on.
When the pattern asks you to evenly space increases across the row, this means you will make 8 increases at roughly even intervals.
To maintain the evenness of the yoke, it is important that the increases are made in different places on each increase. Marking your increases with a

Sleeve length:
37 (37: 37: 37: 44: 44: 44: 44: 44)cm
14½ (14½: 14½: 14½: 17¼: 17¼: 17¼: 17¼: 17¼)in



64 (64: 64: 64: 64: 65: 65: 67: 68: 68)cm
25¼ (25¼: 25¼: 25¼: 25¼: 25¾: 25¾: 26: 26½: 26½)in

40 (43: 45: 49: 51: 53.5: 55: 59: 60)cm
15¾ (17: 17¾: 19¼: 20: 21: 21½: 23¼: 23½)in

SIZE		8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24
TO FIT BUST	cm	81	86	91	97	102	107	112	117	122
	in	32	34	36	38	40	42	44	46	48
ACTUAL BUST	cm	80	86	90	98	102	107	110	118	120
	in	31½	33¾	35½	38½	40	42	43¼	46½	47¼
LENGTH	cm	64	64	64	64	65	65	67	68	68
	in	25¼	25½	25¼	25¼	25¾	25¾	26	26½	26½
SLEEVE LENGTH	cm	37	37	37	37	44	44	44	44	44
	in	14½	14½	14½	14½	17¼	17¼	17¼	17¼	17¼
YARN	100g	6	6	7	7	7	8	8	9	9

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

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stitch marker is a good way to 'eyeball' the placement of the increases, so that they are not all lining up.

CARDIGAN

With a 5mm hook and Azure, ch56 (64: 72: 80: 80: 82: 80: 84: 88).

YOKE INCREASES

Row 1 (RS) Starting in the second ch from the hook, *1dc, ch1, skip 1 dc; repeat from * to the last ch, dc in last ch, turn. [28 (32: 36: 40: 40: 41: 40: 42: 44) dc sts]

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), 1dc in the first dc, *1dc in ch-1 sp, ch1, skip 1 dc; repeat from * to 2 sts from the end, dc in ch-1 sp, dc in dc, turn.

Row 3 Work in pattern as for Row 3 of Granite Stitch, distributing 8 GSinc evenly across the row. [36 (40: 44: 48: 48: 49: 48: 50: 52) dc sts]

Work Rows 2 and 3, 3 (4: 5: 3: 5: 5: 5: 6: 6) more times. [60 (72: 84: 72: 88: 89: 88: 98: 100) dc sts]

Work even in pattern for 3 rows.

Next row (Inc row) Work in pattern, distributing 8 GSinc evenly across the row.

Work the last 4 rows, 6 (5: 5: 6: 5: 5: 5: 5: 5) more times. [116 (120: 132: 128: 136: 137: 136: 146: 148) dc sts]

Work 1 (3: 1: 1: 3: 3: 5: 5: 5) more rows in pattern.

DIVIDE FOR SLEEVES

Row 1 (RS) Ch1, (1dc, ch1, skip 1 dc) 17 (18: 19: 20: 21: 22: 22: 23: 23) times, ch10 (12: 10: 16: 16: 20: 22: 24: 24), skip 23 (23: 26: 23: 25: 25: 24: 26: 26) dc sts, (1dc, ch1, skip 1 dc) 35 (37: 41: 41: 43: 42: 43: 47: 49) times, ch10 (12: 10: 16: 16: 20: 22: 24: 24), skip 23 (23: 26: 23: 25: 25: 24: 26: 26) dc sts, (1dc, ch1, skip 1 dc) 17 (18: 19: 20: 21: 22: 22: 23: 23) times, 1dc, turn. [70 (74: 80: 82: 86: 87: 88: 94: 96) dc sts and 2 chain sections for underarms]

Row 2 Work as for Row 2 of Granite St across, with 1dc in each of the chain sts at underarms, turn.

Row 3 Work as for Row 3 of Granite St across, continuing the pattern across the dc sts of the previous row at each underarm section, turn. [80 (86: 90: 98: 102: 107: 110: 118: 120) dc sts]

Work Rows 2 and 3 of Granite St, 3 more times.



Granite stitch gives the cardi a unique texture.

Work Row 2 once more.

DECREASES TO WAIST

Row 1 (RS) Ch1, (1dc, ch1, skip 1dc) 16 (17: 18: 19: 20: 21: 21: 22: 22) times, 1GSdec, (1dc, ch1, skip 1dc) 3 (4: 3: 6: 6: 8: 9: 10: 10) times, 1GSdec, (1dc, ch1, skip 1dc) 33 (35: 39: 39: 41: 40: 41: 45: 47) times, 1GSdec, (1dc, ch1, skip 1 dc) 3 (4: 3: 6: 6: 8: 9: 10: 10) times, 1GSdec, (1dc, ch1, skip 1 dc) 16 (17: 18: 19: 20: 21: 21: 22: 22) times, 1dc, turn. [76 (82: 86: 94: 98: 103: 106: 114: 116) dc sts]

Row 2 As Row 2 of Granite St, turn.

Row 3 As Row 3 of Granite St, turn.

Row 4 As Row 2 of Granite St, turn.

Row 5 Ch1, (1dc, ch1, skip 1dc) 15 (16: 17: 18: 19: 20: 20: 21: 21) times, 1GSdec, (1dc, ch1, skip 1dc) 3 (4: 3: 6: 6: 8: 9: 10: 10) times, 1GSdec, (1dc, ch1, skip 1dc) 31 (33: 37: 37: 39: 38: 39: 43: 45) times, 1GSdec, (1dc, ch1, skip 1 dc) 3 (4: 3: 6: 6: 8: 9: 10: 10) times, 1GSdec, (1dc, ch1, skip 1 dc) 15 (16: 17: 18: 19: 20: 20: 21: 21) times, 1dc, turn. [72 (78: 82: 90: 94: 99: 102: 110: 112) dc sts]

Rows 6-8 As Rows 2-4.

Row 9 Ch1, (1dc, ch1, skip 1 dc) 14 (15: 16: 17: 18: 19: 19: 20: 20) times, 1GSdec, (1dc, ch1, skip 1dc) 3 (4: 3: 6: 6: 8: 9: 10: 10) times, 1GSdec, (1dc, ch1, skip 1 dc) 29 (31: 35: 35: 37: 36: 37: 41: 43) times, 1GSdec, (1dc, ch1, skip 1 dc) 3 (4: 3: 6: 6: 8: 9: 10: 10) times, 1GSdec, (1dc, ch1, skip 1 dc) 14 (15: 16: 17: 18: 19: 19: 20: 20) times, 1dc, turn. [68 (74: 78: 86: 90: 95: 98: 106: 108) dc sts]

Row 10 As Row 2 of Granite St, turn.

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The swallows are worked from two different patterns.

Row 11 As Row 3 of Granite St, turn. Work Rows 10 and 11, 4 more times. Work Row 10 once more.

INCREASES TO HIP

Row 1 Ch1, (1dc, ch1, skip 1 dc) 14 (15: 16: 17: 18: 19: 19: 20: 20) times, 1GSinc, (1dc, ch1, skip 1dc) 3 (4: 3: 6: 6: 8: 9: 10: 10) times, 1GSinc, (1dc, ch1, skip 1 dc) 29 (31: 35: 35: 37: 36: 37: 41: 43) times, 1GSinc, (1dc, ch1, skip 1 dc) 3 (4: 3: 6: 6: 8: 9: 10: 10) times, 1GSinc, (1dc, ch1, skip 1 dc) 14 (15: 16: 17: 18: 19: 19: 20: 20) times, 1dc, turn. [72 (78: 82: 90: 94: 99: 102: 110: 112) dc sts]
Row 2 As Row 2 of Granite St, turn.
Row 3 As Row 3 of Granite St, turn. Work Rows 2 and 3, 2 more times. Work Row 2 once more.
Row 9 Ch1, (1dc, ch1, skip 1dc) 15 (16: 17: 18: 19: 20: 20: 21: 21) times, 1GSinc, (1dc, ch1, skip 1dc) 3 (4: 3: 6: 6: 8: 9: 10: 10) times, 1GSinc, (1dc, ch1, skip 1dc) 31 (33: 37: 37: 39: 38: 39: 43: 45) times, 1GSinc, (1dc, ch1, skip 1 dc) 3 (4: 3: 6: 6: 8: 9: 10: 10) times, 1GSinc, (1dc, ch1, skip 1 dc) 15 (16: 17: 18: 19: 20: 20: 21: 21) times, 1dc, turn. [76 (82: 86: 94: 98: 103: 106: 114: 116) dc sts]
Row 10 As Row 2 of Granite St, turn.
Row 11 As Row 3 of Granite St, turn. Work Rows 10 and 11, 2 more times. Work Row 10 once more.
Row 17 Ch1, (1dc, ch1, skip 1dc) 16 (17: 18: 19: 20: 21: 21: 22: 22) times, 1GSinc, (1dc, ch1, skip 1dc) 3 (4: 3: 6: 6: 8: 9: 10: 10) times, 1GSinc, (1dc, ch1, skip 1dc) 33 (35: 39: 39: 41: 40: 41: 45: 47) times, 1GSinc, (1dc, ch1, skip 1 dc) 3 (4: 3: 6: 6: 8: 9: 10: 10) times, 1GSinc, (1dc, ch1, skip 1 dc) 16 (17: 18: 19: 20: 21: 21: 22: 22) times, 1dc, turn. [80 (86: 90: 98: 102: 107: 110: 118: 120) dc sts]
Row 18 As Row 2 of Granite St, turn.
Row 19 As Row 3 of Granite St, turn. Work Rows 18 and 19, 2 more times. Work Row 18 once more.
Row 25 Ch1, (1dc, ch1, skip 1 dc) 17 (18: 19: 20: 21: 22: 22: 23: 23) times, 1GSinc, (1dc, ch1, skip 1dc) 3 (4: 3: 6: 6: 8: 9: 10: 10) times, 1GSinc, (1dc, ch1, skip 1 dc) 35 (37: 41: 41: 43: 42: 43: 47: 49) times, 1GSinc, (1dc, ch1, skip 1dc) 3 (4: 3: 6: 6: 8: 9: 10: 10) times, 1GSinc, (1dc, ch1, skip 1 dc) 17 (18: 19: 20: 21: 22: 22: 23: 23) times, 1dc, turn. [84 (90: 94: 102: 106: 111: 114: 122: 124) dc sts]
Row 26 As Row 2 of Granite St, turn.
Row 27 As Row 3 of Granite St, turn. Work Rows 26 and 27, 4 more times. Work Row 26 once more.
Do not fasten off.

EDGING

Rotate your piece to work along the bottom edge, ch6.
Row 1 Starting in the second chain from the hook, 5dc, ss into the next 2 sts on body, turn. [5dc sts]
Row 2 5dc in back loop only, turn.
Row 3 Ch1, 5dc in back loop only, ss into the next 2 sts on body, turn.
Work Rows 2 and 3 until all stitches on the body are worked.
Fasten off.

SLEEVES (MAKE 2)

This section is worked amigurumi style, in a spiral with no turning chains or closing the rounds with a ss.
Use a stitch marker to keep track of the start of each round.

Rejoin yarn on sleeve in the ch-sp adjoining the underarm dc sts worked into the chain.
Rounds 1-11 Ch1, *1dc, ch1, skip 1 dc; repeat from * around. [28 (29: 31: 31: 33: 35: 35: 38: 38) dc sts]
Round 12 Ch1, 1GSdec, *1dc, ch1, skip

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1 dc; repeat from * around. [27 (28: 30: 30: 32: 34: 34: 37: 37) dc sts]
Rounds 13-23 Ch1, *1dc, ch1, skip 1 dc; repeat from * around.
Work Rounds 12-23, 3 (3: 3: 3: 4: 4: 4: 4: 4) more times, do not fasten off.
[24 (25: 27: 27: 28: 30: 30: 33: 33) dc sts]

EDGING
Rotate your piece to work along the bottom edge, ch4.
Row 1 Starting in the second chain from the hook, 3dc, ss into the next 2 sts on Sleeve, turn. [3 dc sts]
Row 2 3dc in back loop only, turn.
Row 3 Ch1, 3dc in back loop only, ss into the next 2 sts on Sleeve, turn.
Work Rows 2 and 3 until all stitches on the sleeve are worked.
Fasten off.

BUTTONHOLE BAND
Use a 4.5mm hook.
Rejoin yarn at bottom of front-right panel, RS facing.
Row 1 Ch1, 1dc into the end of each row, turn.

SIZE 24 ONLY
Rows 2-3 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

ALL SIZES
Buttonhole row Ch1, 1 (3: 3: 3: 3: 3: 3: 3: 3) dc, ch1, skip 1 dc, (9dc, ch1, skip 1 dc) twice, dc in each st to end, turn. [3 buttonholes made]
Row 2 Ch1, 1dc in each dc and ch across. **Fasten off**.

BUTTON BAND
Use a 4.5mm hook.
Rejoin yarn at top of front-left panel, RS facing.
Row 1 Ch1, 1dc into the end of each row, turn.
Rows 2-3 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.
Repeat Row 2, 0 (0: 0: 0: 0: 0: 0: 0: 2) times.
Fasten off.

SWALLOW EMBELLISHMENTS
NOTES
The wings and head are worked in the round, then the body is added on in rows before adding the tail feathers.

The second swallow is a reverse image of the first; for this motif you will work the wings and tail first, and then rejoin the yarn to form the head. Work continuously without fastening off unless instructed.

FIRST SWALLOW
1st wing Ch10, ss in the second ch from the hook and the next 2 ch, 2htr in the next ch, 2tr in the next ch, 2dtr in the next 2 ch, 1tr in the next 2 ch.
Head Ch6, ss to the second ch from the hook, (htr, tr) in the next ch, dtr in next 3 ch (head formed).
2nd wing Ch11, ss in the second ch from the hook and the next 3 ch, htr in the next ch, tr in next ch, dtr2tog, dtr in the next 2 ch.
Body 4dtr around the post of the last dtr of the head, ss to the first ch of the first wing, turn.
*Ch3 (counts as tr), dtr2tog twice, turn leaving the remaining sts unworked.
Tail Ch8, ss in the second ch from the hook and next 4 ch, dc in next ch, leave the last ch unworked, ch7, ss in the second ch from the hook and the next 5 ch, ss to unworked ch of the first tail feather.
Fasten off and weave in ends.

SECOND SWALLOW
1st wing Ch10, ss in the second ch from the hook and the next 2 ch, 2htr in the next ch, 2tr in the next ch, 2dtr in the next 2 ch, 1tr in the next 2 ch.
2nd wing Ch15, turn, ss in the second ch from the hook and the next 3 ch, htr in the next ch, tr in the next ch, dtr2tog, dtr in the next 2 ch.
Body Dtr in each of the next 4 ch (mark the first of these dtr), ss to foundation ch of the last st of the first wing, turn.
Repeat from * on the first swallow pattern to end.
Fasten off.
Head With a new piece of yarn, ch4, ss in foundation ch of marked dtr st on first swallow, ss in each of foundation ch loops of the next 3 central dtr, dtr in each of the next 2 ch of the beginning ch-4, (tr, htr) in the next ch, ss in the next ch.
Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH
Sew the swallows in place, using the image as a guide.
Block garment to measurements.

SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO MAKE A DOUBLE TREBLE



1 To make a double treble crochet stitch, yrh twice and insert the hook under the top two loops of the next stitch on the previous row. Yrh and draw through the stitch only (4 loops on hook).



2 Yrh and pull the yarn through the first 2 loops only (3 loops on hook).



3 Yrh and pull the yarn through the first 2 loops only (2 loops on hook).



4 Yrh and pull the yarn through the remaining 2 loops. There's your double treble made and you'll have one loop left on your hook ready to do the next stitch.

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SHAUN THE SHEEP

Hook up this adorable woolly chap, designed by Becky Garratt.



JOIN THE FLOCK
#SHAUNTHESHEEPMOVIE
WWW.SHAUNTHESHEEP.COM

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YOU WILL NEED

- DROPS Alpaca Boucle (15% wool, 80% alpaca, 50g/140m), 1 ball of Off White (0100)
- DROPS Cotton Light (50% Polyester, 50% cotton, 50g/105m), 1 ball of Black (20)
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- Small amount of white felt for eyes
- Polyester toy stuffing
- Blacker marker pen
- Craft glue

For yarn stockists, contact Wool Warehouse 01926 882818 www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

MEASUREMENTS

Approx 12cm (4¾in) high

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

Becky Garratt designed this sweet mini sheep to celebrate the launch of the new *Shaun the Sheep The Movie*. He's utterly adorable. Catch the fella himself in his very first flock-buster in cinemas from February 6. We're also giving you the chance to win a baa-rilliant weekend away with Best Western GB!

NOTE

Patt is worked using amigurumi method. Work sts continuously in a spiral without closing off each rnd with a ss. It may help to use a st marker in first st of each rnd, moving it up as you work. Leave long tails of yarn after fastening off for sewing up later. Working with bouclé yarn can be tricky as it is difficult to see where you are working. Keep sts evenly spaced. The texture will hide mistakes.

BODY

With a 4mm hook and Off White, ch5, ss to first ch to join into a ring.
Rnd 1 (RS) 2dc in each ch. [10 sts]
Rnd 2 (1dc, 2dc in next st) 5 times. [15 sts]
Rnd 3 (2dc, 2dc in next st) 5 times. [20 sts]
Rnds 4-17 Dc in each st around.
Rnd 18 (2dc, dc2tog) 5 times. [15 sts]
Rnd 19 (1dc, dc2tog) 5 times. [10 sts]
Rnd 20 (Dc2tog) 5 times. [5 sts]
Fasten off, stuff and sew up rem hole.



Shaun the Sheep is unmistakable with his proud curly 'do and mischievous expression.

LEGS (MAKE 4)

With a 3mm hook and Black, make a magic loop.
Rnd 1 (RS) 5dc into loop.
Rnd 2 2dc in each st. [10 sts]
Rnd 3 Working in back loops only, dc in each st around.
Rnds 4-5 Dc in each st around.
Rnd 6 3dc, dc2tog, 3dc, dc2tog. [8 sts]
Rnds 7-13 Dc in each st around.
Fasten off and stuff. Pin legs into place on Body using the image as a guide, then sew into place.

TAIL

With a 4mm hook and Off White, ch5, ss to first ch to join into a ring.
Rnd 1 (RS) 2dc in each ch. [10 sts]
Rnds 2-7 Dc in each st around.
Rnd 8 (Dc2tog) 5 times. [2 sts]
Rnd 9 Dc in each st around.
Fasten off. Add stuffing into the bottom but sew closed flat across the top. Sew to Body.

FACE

With a 3mm hook and Black, ch5.
Rnd 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook, dc in next 2 ch, 4dc in last ch, working along other side of foundation ch, dc in next 2 ch, 3dc in last ch. [12 sts]
Rnd 2 (3dc, 2dc in next st) twice. [14 sts]
Rnd 3 (4dc, 2dc in next st, 1dc, 2dc in next st) twice. [18 sts]
Rnds 4-7 Dc in each st around.
Rnd 8 (5dc, dc2tog, dc2tog) twice. [14 sts]
Rnds 9-10 Dc in each st around.
Fasten off and stuff but leave open.



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TOP OF HEAD
With a 4mm hook and Off White, ch5.
Rnd 1 (RS) 2dc in each st. [10 sts]
Rnd 2 (1dc, 2dc in next st) 5 times. [15 sts]
Rnd 3 (2dc, 2dc in next st) 5 times. [20 sts]
Rnds 4-5 Dc in each st around.
Rnd 6 (2dc, dc2tog) 5 times. [15 sts]
Fasten off, stuff and sew to the open end of the Face.

EARS (MAKE 2)
With a 3mm hook and Black, make a magic loop.
Rnd 1 (RS) 4dc into loop.
Rnd 2 2dc in each st. [8 sts]
Rnds 3-6 Dc in each st around.
Fasten off. Don't stuff the ears, just pinch the ends tog and sew into place.

EYES
Cut 2 circles of white felt, each measuring 1cm diameter. Colour a circle with black marker on each. Stick to the Head using craft glue and sew the Head to the Body.



Can you distinguish between Shaun and his handmade counterpart? Baa.

Shaun the Sheep MOVIE

ONLY IN CINEMAS FEB 6

FIND OUT MORE

What are Shaun and his flock up to away from the farm?



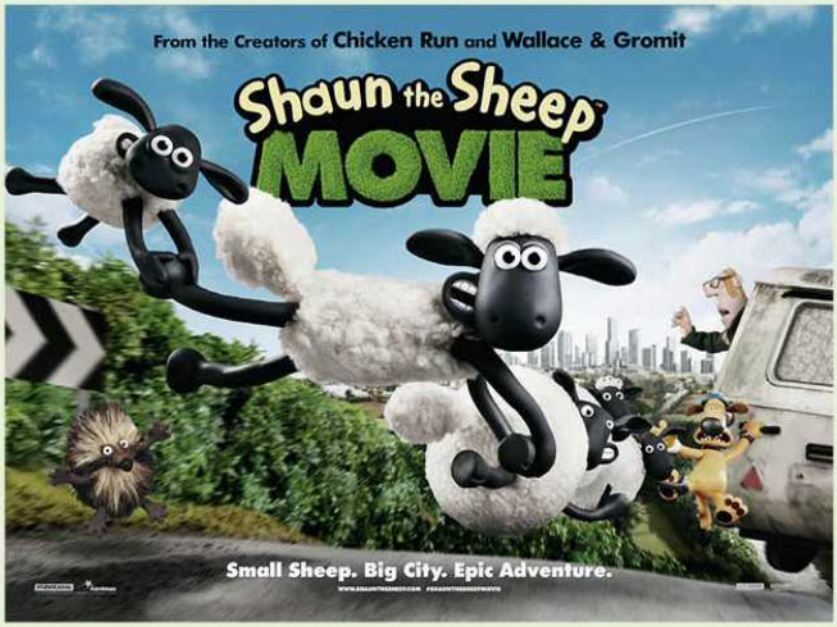


In his very first flock-buster, Shaun the Sheep's mischief inadvertently leads to the Farmer being taken away to the Big City in his caravan. Shaun, Bitzer and the Flock make the dramatic decision to leave the farm and rescue the Farmer themselves… setting the stage for an epic adventure. Join the flock and watch the trailer today at **www.shaunthesheep.com**

WIN A BAA-RILLIANT WEEKEND AWAY!

To help you spring into action this February, we're also giving you the chance to win a baa-rilliant weekend away with Best Western GB. All you have to do is send us a photo of you and your handmade Shaun. For further details of the competition and to find out how you can enter, visit our blog at **www.simplycrochetmag.co.uk**

Best Western Hotels with personality



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SPIKY TEXTURE

Discover a new stitch and how to use it in every issue.



BASIC SPIKE STITCH PATTERN

The pattern is made using two shades of yarn, Yarn A and Yarn B.

Using Yarn A, ch an even number of sts plus 1 extra chain for the turning chain.

See each pattern for the number of foundation chain to work.
Row 1 (RS) Dc in the second ch from the hook and each ch to end, turn, change to Yarn B.
Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st to end, turn, change to Yarn A.
Row 3 Ch1 (does not count as st), *dc in the next st of the current row, dc in the next st of the previous row (spike stitch); repeat from * to end, turn, change yarn colour.

Repeat Row 3, changing yarn colour at the end of each row and switching between Yarn A and Yarn B, ending with a Yarn B row.
Final row With Yarn A, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st to end.
Fasten off.

Pattern by Hannah Cross.

Turn the page to find more bright ideas using this stitch pattern.



Play around with contrasting shades to make a trio of spike accessories for your workout.

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Sweatbands: they don't sound pretty but they can be.



No need for brow mopping with this two-tone beauty.

LOVELY LEGWARMERS

Just the thing when you're dancing or running during cooler months.

- Rico Essentials Cotton DK (100% cotton, 50g/130m) 1 ball of each: Yarn A Dark Teal (40), Yarn B Lilac (16)
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook

MEASUREMENTS
36x29cm (14x11½in) before seaming

LEGWARMERS (MAKE 2)
With Yarn A, ch51.
Follow the Basic Stitch Pattern, repeating Row 3 until a total of 56 rows have been worked, then work the Final Row.

RIB EDGES
Join Yarn B to short edge, ch16.
Row 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook and in each ch to end, skip next st on edge of warmer, ss in next st, turn. [15 sts]
Row 2 Dc in back loop only of each st to end, turn.
Row 3 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in back loop only of each st to end, skip next st on edge of warmer, ss in next st, turn.
Repeat Rows 2 & 3 until all sts along edge of warmer have been used. **Fasten off**.
Repeat for other edge of warmer and seam the entire warmer along the long edge. **Fasten off** and weave in ends.

BEST WRIST BANDS

Make yourself a stylish pair of wrist warmers that double as sweatbands. Spike stitch doesn't have a whole lot of stretch, but a handful of buttons and some loops soon remedy that.

- Rico Essentials Cotton DK (100% cotton, 50g/130m) 1 ball of each: Yarn A Dark Teal (40) Yarn B Lilac (16)
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- 4 buttons

MEASUREMENTS
16x9cm (6¼x3½in)

WRIST BANDS (MAKE 2)
With Yarn A, ch25.
Follow the Basic Stitch Pattern, repeating Row 3 until a total of 20 rows have been worked, then work the Final Row.
Fasten off.

Rejoin Yarn A in the other side of the foundation chain and dc in each st of the foundation ch to end.
Fasten off.

TO FINISH
Sew 2 buttons securely on each band and make yarn loops using Yarn A on the opposite ends of the bands to match the position of the buttons.

PERFECT HEADBAND

Yes, fundamentally a headband is just a loop of crocheted fabric but it is multifunctional. Whether you're hitting the gym, working out at home or joining a class, a comfy cotton headband is a bit of a must-have as it will keep your hair back and wick away moisture, too. Feel the burn.

- Rico Essentials Cotton DK (100% cotton, 50g/130m) 1 ball of each: Yarn A Dark Teal (40) Yarn B Lilac (16) For stockists, contact Rico www.rico-design.co.uk
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook

MEASUREMENTS
7x52cm (2¾x20½in)

HEADBAND
With Yarn A, ch81.
Follow the Basic Stitch Pattern, repeating Row 3 until a total of 18 rows have been worked, then work the Final Row.
Fasten off.

Sew the short ends together.

Rejoin Yarn A in the other side of the foundation chain and dc in each st of the foundation ch to end, ss to first dc.
Fasten off.

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WILD SIDE

Live playfully with a super-cute animal hat designed by Vanessa Mooncie.



Raccoon hat



YOU WILL NEED

- Wendy Mode Chunky (50% merino wool, 50% acrylic, 100g/140m), 3 balls of:
  Yarn A Nightfall (244)
  1 ball of each:
  Yarn B Vanilla (202)
  Yarn C Coal (220)
- A 4.5mm (US 7) hook
- A 5.5mm (US I/9) hook
- 2 light brown buttons, 2cm/¾in in diameter
- 2 black buttons, 1.25cm/½in in diameter
- Tapestry needle
- Sewing needle and black thread
- Small amount of toy stuffing
- Pompom maker 5-6cm (2-2½in) or card to make pompoms

For yarn stockists, contact TB Ramsden 01943 872264 www.tbramsden.co.uk

TENSION

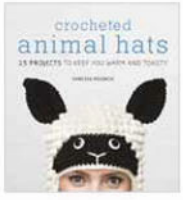
13 sts and 14 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over dc using a 5.5mm hook

MEASUREMENTS

Child (Adult)
Head circumference: up to 51cm/20in (up to 56cm/22in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.



This cute hat pattern is from *Crocheted Animal Hats* by Vanessa Mooncie, published by GMC (RRP £14.99). Visit www.thegmcgroup.com

You can't beat super-cute animal-themed accessories to keep you cosy and cheerful this winter. Happily, this fun hat pattern comes in two sizes, to fit adults and kids, so all the family can enjoy some raccoon fun!

NOTES

Crocheted in dark grey yarn, the face and mask-like features of the raccoon are worked in cream and black. The striped cords have the characteristics of the raccoon's ringed tail.
The main part of the hat with earflaps is crocheted in one colour and the crochet lining is also worked in the same colour and sewn into the hat after adding the facial features and before adding the ties.
The facial features are made in two curved sections worked in rows of double crochet that are shaped by increasing the stitches. The two pieces are joined using the main colour yarn and attached to the front of the hat.
The ears are also made in two pieces and joined with a crocheted edging in a contrast colour. The button-shaped nose is worked in rounds.
The twisted cords are made in two colours to produce the stripes, and the hat is finished with buttons for eyes and big pompoms.

MAIN HAT AND LINING (MAKE 2)

Using a 5.5mm hook and Yarn A, ch4, ss to first ch to join into a ring.
Round 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc into the ring, ss to the first dc to join. [6 (6) sts]
Round 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc into each dc around, ss to the first dc to join. [12 (12) sts]
Round 3 Ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc into first dc, dc into next st, *2dc into next dc, dc into next st; rep from * around, ss to first dc to join. [18 (18) sts]
Round 4 Ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc into the first dc, dc into the next 2 dc, *2dc into the next dc, dc into the next 2 dc; repeat from * around, ss to the first dc to join. [24 (24) sts]
Round 5 Ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc into the first dc, dc into the next 3 dc, *2dc into the next dc, dc into the next 3 dc; repeat from * around, ss to the first dc to join. [30 (30) sts]
Round 6 Ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc into the first dc, dc into the next 4 dc, *2dc into the next dc, dc into the next 4 dc; repeat from * around, ss to the first dc to join. [36 (36) sts]
Round 7 Ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc into the first dc, dc into the next 5 dc, *2dc into next dc, dc into the next 5 dc; repeat from * around, ss to the first dc to join. [42 (42) sts]
Round 8 Ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc into the first dc, dc into the next 6 dc, *2dc into the next dc, dc into the next 6 dc; repeat from * around, ss to the first dc to join. [48 (48) sts]
Round 9 Ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc into the first dc, dc into the next 7 dc, *2dc into the next dc, dc into the next 7 dc; repeat from * around, ss to the first dc to join. [54 (54) sts]
Round 10 Ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc into the first dc, dc into the next 8 dc, *2dc into the next dc, dc into the next 8 dc; repeat from * around, ss to the first dc to join. [60 (60) sts]

Adult size only
Round 11 Ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc into the first dc, dc into the next 9 dc, *2dc into the next dc, dc into the next 9 dc; repeat from * around, ss to the first dc to join. [- (66) sts]

All sizes
Next round Ch1 (does not count as st), dc into each dc around, ss to the first dc to join. [60 (66) sts]
Repeat the last round 16 (18) more times. Do not fasten off.

FIRST EARFLAP

The earflaps are worked in rows.

All sizes
Ch1 (does not count as st), dc into the next 5 (6) dc.

Adult size only
Row 1 (RS) Dc into the next 15 dc, turn. [- (15) sts]
Row 2 (WS) Ch1 (does not count as st), dc2tog, dc in the next 11dc, dc2tog, turn. [- (13) sts]

All sizes
Row 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), dc into the next 13 dc, turn. [13 (13) sts]
Row 2 (WS) Ch1 (does not count as st), dc2tog, dc in each dc across to last 2 sts, dc2tog, turn. [11 (11) sts]
Row 3 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st),

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dc into each dc across, turn. [11 (11) sts]
Rows 4-9 Repeat Rows 2-3, 3 more times. [5 (5) sts]
Row 10 (WS) Ch1 (does not count as st), dc2tog, dc in next dc, dc2tog, turn. [3 (3) sts] **Fasten off**.

SECOND EARFLAP

All sizes
Rejoin yarn in next unworked dc of the last round of main hat, ch1 (does not count as st), dc into the next 24 (24) dc.

Adult size only
Row 1 (RS) Dc into next 15 dc, turn. [- (15) sts]
Row 2 (WS) Ch1 (does not count as st), dc2tog, dc in next 11dc, dc2tog, turn. [- (13) sts]

All sizes
Rows 1-10 Repeat Rows 1-10 of First Earflap. **Fasten off**.

FACE (MAKE 2)

Using a 5.5mm hook and Yarn B, ch2.
Row 1 (RS) 2 (3) dc into second ch from hook, turn. [2 (3) sts]

Child size only
Row 2 (WS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc into each dc across, turn. [4 (-) sts]
Row 3 Ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc into first st, dc in next st, 2dc into next st, dc in next st, turn. [6 (-) sts]
Row 4 Ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc into first st, dc in next 2 sts, 2dc into next st, dc in next 2 sts, turn. [8 (-) sts] **Fasten off**.
Row 5 Join Yarn C in first st, ch1 (does not count as st), dc into each dc across, turn. [8 (-) sts]
Row 6 Ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc into first st, dc in next 3 sts, 2dc into next st, dc in next 3 sts, turn. [10 (-) sts]
Row 7 Ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc into first st, dc in next 4 sts, 2dc into next st, dc in next 4 sts, turn. [12 (-) sts]
Row 8 Ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc into first st, dc in next 5 sts, 2dc into next st, dc in next 5 sts, turn. [14 (-) sts] **Fasten off**.
Row 9 Join Yarn B in first st, ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc into first st, dc in next 6 sts, 2dc into next st, dc in next 6 sts, turn. [16 (-) sts]
Row 10 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc into each dc across, turn. [16 (-) sts] **Fasten off**.

Adult size only
Row 2 (WS) Ch1 (does not count as st), dc into each dc across, turn. [- (3) sts]
Row 3 Ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc into each st across, turn. [- (6) sts]
Row 4 Ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc into the first st, dc in the next st, (2dc into next st, dc in the next st) twice, turn. [- (9) sts] **Fasten off**.
Row 5 Join Yarn C in the first st, ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc into the first st, dc in the next 2 sts, (2dc into the next st, dc in the next 2 sts) twice, turn. [- (12) sts]
Rows 6-7 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc into each st across, turn. [- (12) sts]
Row 8 Ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc into the first st, dc in the next 3 sts, (2dc into the next st, dc in the next 3 sts) twice, turn. [- (15) sts]
Row 9 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc into each st across, turn. [- (15) sts] **Fasten off**.
Row 10 Join Yarn B in the first st, ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc into the first st, dc in the next 4 sts, (2dc into the next st, dc in the next 4 sts) twice, turn. [- (18) sts]
Row 11 Ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc into the first st, dc in the next 5 sts, (2dc into the next st, dc in the next 5 sts) twice. [- (21) sts] **Fasten off**.

EDGING (ALL SIZES)

With RS facing, join Yarn A in the first st of the last row of Face, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each of 16 (21) dc, do not turn. Rotate piece to work down the side into row ends, dc into each of 10 (11) row ends, work 3 dc into the point, rotate work to work along other side of row ends, dc into each of 10 (11) rows, ss into the first dc to join. [39 (46) sts] **Fasten off**.

JOINING FACE PIECES

With both Face pieces RS together and using a 5.5mm hook, rejoin Yarn A in the first st worked into the row ends, ch1 (does not count as st), dc into each of the next 12 (13) dc down to the point, working through both pieces of the Face. **Fasten off**.

EARS (MAKE 4)

All sizes
Using a 5.5mm hook and Yarn B, ch2.
Row 1 (RS) 3dc into the second ch from the hook, turn. [3 sts]



The raccoon hat is worked in a cosy wool-mix yarn, it's lined and has ear flaps – so warm.

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc into the first st, dc in the next st, 2dc into the next st, turn. [5 sts]
Row 3 Ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc into the first st, dc in each st across to the last st, 2dc into the last st, turn. [7 sts]
Rows 4-6 Repeat Row 3. [13 sts]

Adult size only
Rows 7-8 Repeat Row 3. [17 sts]

All sizes
Next row Ch1 (does not count as st), dc into each dc across, turn.
Next row Repeat last row.
Do not fasten off.

EDGING (ALL SIZES)

The edging is worked into the row ends.
Row 1 (RS) Ch1, dc into each of 8 (10) row ends, work 3 dc into the ch at the point, rotate ear to work into opposite side of row ends, dc into each of 8 (10) row ends. [19 (23) sts]
Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

JOINING EAR PIECES

Place the two ear pieces with WS facing. Using a 5.5mm hook and Yarn B,

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join yarn in the first st of edging, ch1 (does not count as st), working through both pieces, dc into each of the next 9 (11) dc, 2dc into dc at point, dc into each of the next 9 (11) dc.
Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

NOSE (ALL SIZES)
Using a 4.5mm hook and Yarn C, ch4, ss to the first ch to form a ring.
Round 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), 5 (6) dc into the ring, ss to the first dc to join. [5 (6) sts]
Round 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc into each dc around, ss to the first dc to join. [10 (12) sts]
Rounds 3-4 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc into each dc around, ss to the first dc to join. [10 (12) sts]
Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

EDGING
The edging is worked all around the hat including the earflaps and at the same time joins the bottom of the face to the hat. With RS facing and using a 4.5mm hook and Yarn A, rejoin yarn in the first st at the back of the hat next to the second Earflap.
Round 1 Dc in each of the 10 (12) dc across the back of the Hat, work 1dc into each of next 9 (11) row ends of the first earflap, rotate to work into last row of earflap, 2dc in next st, dc in next st, 2dc in next st, rotate to work into the row ends on opposite side of earflap, work 1dc into each of the next 9 (11) row ends, do not fasten off.

JOINING FACE TO HAT
Child size only
Dc into next dc.

All sizes
Pin the WS of the face to RS of the front of the hat with the lower edges aligned. Work 1dc in each of the next 22 (24) dc of both the face edging and the front of the hat at the same time to join.

Child size only
Dc into the next dc.

All sizes
Work 1dc into each of the next 9 (11) row ends of the second earflap, rotate to work into the last row of earflap, 2dc in next st, dc in the next st, 2dc in the next st, rotate to work into row ends on the opposite side of the earflap, work 1dc into each of the next 9 (11) row ends, ss to the first dc to join. [80 (90) sts] **Fasten off**.

Using a tapestry needle and Yarn A, carefully sew around the curved edge of the face to attach to the hat.
Thread the long tail onto a tapestry needle and thread through the stitches in Round 4 – pull tight to close the hole and then sew to the centre of the face just above the edging, using the image as a guide.

TO MAKE UP
EARS
Push a small amount of toy stuffing into the ears. Bring the two lower corners of each ear to the middle and sew together using the long tail and the image as a guide.
Using Yarn A and a tapestry needle, sew the ears to the main section of the hat, stitching all around the lower edges to keep them securely in place.
Weave in all the yarn ends on the inside of the hat.

LINING
With WS together, matching up the centre back and earflaps, slip the lining inside the hat so the lower edge of the lining is just above the edge of the hat.
Using Yarn A and a tapestry needle, sew the lining into the hat, stitching all around the lower edge. Work a few stitches through the top of the hat to hold the lining in place.

EYES
Place the small black buttons over the top of the larger brown buttons and stitch in place to form the eyes, using the image as a guide.

CORDS
Make two 20 (30) cm striped twisted cords using 3 (4) strands each of Yarns B and C.
Make two pompoms in Yarn A.
Attach one pompom to one end of one twisted cord, then stitch the other end of the cord to the tip of the earflap.
Repeat with the other pompom, the other cord and the other earflap.

SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO DECREASE IN DOUBLE CROCHET (DC2TOG)



1 Start by inserting the hook under the top two loops of the next stitch on the previous row. Begin to work a double crochet stitch in the usual way, working yrh and pull loop through (2 loops on hook).



2 Without finishing the first dc, begin the next dc by inserting the hook in the next stitch on the previous row. Again, work yrh and pull loop through (3 loops on hook).



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



4 This is how your completed dc2tog should look. You will have neatly decreased one stitch. On subsequent rows, you can simply work a stitch into the top of the dc2tog stitch as usual.

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Simply FABULOUS

MIDNIGHT BLUE

Shine like a star with a lacy shawl by Elisabeth Davis de Herraiz.

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Beaded shawl



YOU WILL NEED

- ColourMart Silk 40/120 (100% silk, 448m/150g), 1 ball of Bright Blue, or as an alternative, Artesano Alpaca Silk 4ply (70% alpaca, 30% silk, 50g/200m), 2 skeins of Signal Blue (4133)
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- Size 6 seed beads: 188 beads for entire shawl (69 beads for main shawl body and 119 beads for edging)
- Stitch marker

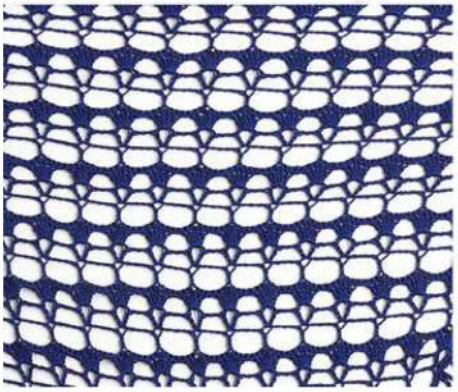
For yarn stockists, contact Artesano 0118 9503350 www.artesanoyarns.co.uk

MEASUREMENTS

Approx 127x86cm (50x34in) after blocking

ABBREVIATIONS

Shell 5tr in same st.
Beaded dc Insert hook, pull up bead to hook and complete dc stitch as usual.
Beaded ch Pull up bead to hook and complete ch as usual.
For a full list, see page 92.


A gorgeous silk yarn worked in an open, lacy stitch pattern makes for fantastic drape.

This stunning design is more versatile than you might think. Wear it around your shoulders as an easy evening cover-up, or loop it around your neck for a stylish, everyday scarf. Beads add sophisticated sparkle.

C

SHAWL

Thread 69 beads onto yarn.
Row 1 (RS) Ch6 (counts as tr, ch3), tr into sixth ch from hook, turn.
Row 2 Ch3 (counts as tr), shell in ch-3 sp, tr in 3rd ch of beg ch-6, turn. [2 tr, 1 shell]
Row 3 Ch5 (counts as tr, ch2), dc in each of next 2 tr, beaded dc in next tr, dc in each of next 2 tr, ch2, tr in top of beg ch-3, turn. [2 tr, 2 ch-2 sp, 5 dc]
Row 4 Ch7 (counts as tr, ch4), skip ch-2 sp and 2dc, tr in beaded dc, ch4, skip (2dc and ch-2 sp), tr in 3rd ch of beg ch-5, turn. [3 tr, 2 ch-4 sp]
Row 5 Ch5 (counts as tr, ch2), tr in st at base of ch-5, ch2, (tr, ch2, tr) in next tr, ch2, (tr, ch2, tr) in 3rd ch of beg ch-7, turn. [3 groups of (tr, ch2, tr), 2 ch-2 sp]
Row 6 Ch3 (counts as tr), (shell in ch-2 sp, ch2, skip next ch-2 sp) twice, shell in ch-2 sp, tr in 3rd ch of beg ch-5, turn. [2 tr, 3 shells, 2 ch-2 sp]
Row 7 Ch5 (counts as tr, ch2), (dc in each of next 2 tr, beaded dc in next tr, dc in each of next 2 tr, 2dc in ch-2 sp) twice, dc in each of next 2 tr, beaded dc in next tr, dc in each of next 2 tr, ch2, tr in top of beg ch-3, turn. [2 tr, 2 ch-2 sp, 19 dc]
Row 8 Ch7 (counts as tr, ch4), skip ch-2 sp and 2dc, tr in beaded dc, *ch4, skip 6dc, tr in next beaded dc; repeat from * across to last 5 sts, ch4, tr in 3rd ch of beg ch-5, turn. [5 tr, 4 ch-4 sp]
Row 9 Ch5 (counts as tr, ch2), tr in st at base of ch-5, *ch2, (tr, ch2, tr) in next tr; repeat from * across to end working last (tr, ch2, tr) in 3rd ch of beg ch-7, turn. [5 groups of (tr, ch2, tr), 4 ch-2 sp]
Row 10 Ch3, *shell in ch-2 sp, ch2, skip ch-2 sp; repeat from * across to end, tr in 3rd ch of beg ch-5, turn. [2 tr, 5 shells, 6 ch-2 sp]
Row 11 Ch5 (counts as tr, ch2), dc in each of next 2 tr, beaded dc in next tr, dc in each of next 2 tr, 2dc in ch-2 sp, *dc in next 5tr, 2dc in ch-2 sp*; repeat from * to centre shell, dc in each of next 2 tr, beaded dc in next tr, dc in each of next 2 tr, 2dc in ch-2 sp, repeat from * to * to final shell, dc in each of next 2 tr, beaded dc in next tr, dc in each of next 2 tr, ch2, tr in top of beg ch-3, turn. [2 tr, 2 ch-2 sp, 35 dc]
Rows 12-56 Repeat (Rows 8-11) 11 more times.
Rows 57-59 Repeat Rows 8-10.
Row 60 Ch5 (counts as tr, ch2), *dc in each of next 2 tr, beaded dc in next tr, dc in each of next 2 tr, 2dc in ch-2 sp; repeat from * across to final shell, dc in each of next 2 tr, beaded dc in next tr, dc in each of next 2 tr, ch2, tr in top of beg ch-3, turn. **Fasten off**.

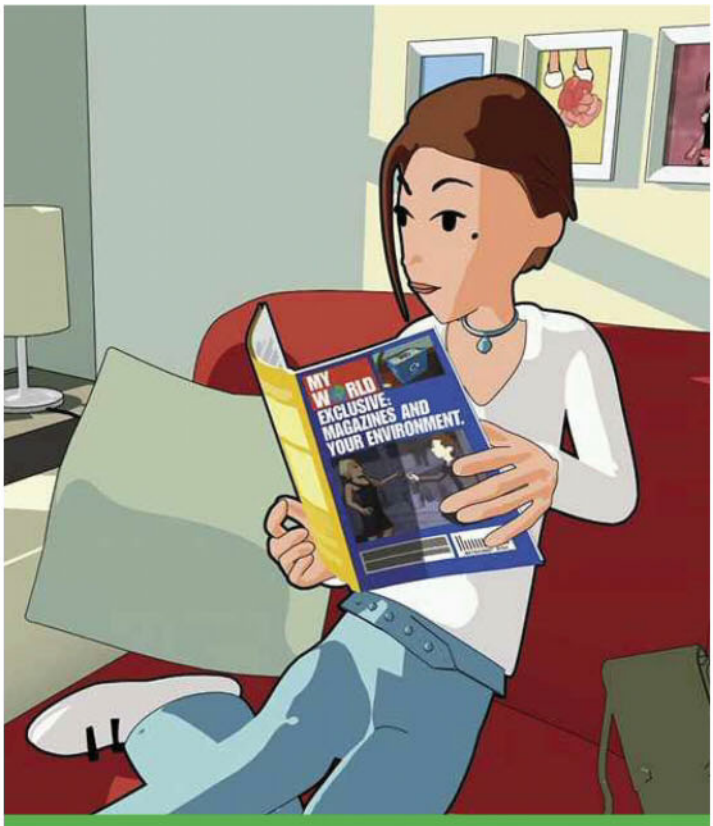

Sparkly beads are threaded onto the yarn before the shawl and edging are worked.

EDGING

Thread 119 beads onto yarn.
With RS facing, reattach yarn with a ss to top corner of shawl.
Round 1 (RS) Working towards bottom of shawl, work 3dc into end of each row to Row 1, work 7dc into end of Row 1 (place marker in 6th dc), rotate to work up other side of shawl, work 3dc into end of each row beg with Row 2, turn.
Round 2 (WS) Ch1, dc in first dc, *ch2, beaded ch, ch2, skip next dc, dc in next 2 dc*; repeat from * to marker, dc in next 2 dc, ch1, beaded ch, ch1, beaded ch, ch1, beaded ch, ch1, skip next dc, dc in next 4 dc; repeat from * to * to end omitting last dc. **Fasten off**.
Weave in ends.
Block shawl to measurements.

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HUGS & KISSES

Hook a cosy cushion that's made to be cuddled. Designed by Amy Astle.



Fair Isle cushion



YOU WILL NEED

- Rooster Almerino Aran (50% baby alpaca, 50% merino, 50g/94m), 5 balls of:
  Yarn A Brighton Rock (07)
  1 ball of Yarn B Rooster (10)
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- 6 buttons, 2cm (1in) in diameter
- 40x40cm (16x16in) cushion pad

For yarn stockists, contact Laughing Hens 01829 740903 www.laughinghens.com

TENSION

15 sts and 16 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over double crochet using a 4mm hook

MEASUREMENTS

40x40cm (16x16in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

What better time than the bleak depths of winter for a bit of in-your-face romance? This delightfully bright and bold cushion has got us swooning. Get a load of all those hugs, kisses and hearts worked in double crochet stitches. This is a brilliant project for growing your confidence in colour changes and using charts. Mwah.

NOTES

For the cushion Front, follow the Chart on p93.
On the chart, each square represents 1dc stitch.
Read all RS rows from right to left, and WS rows from left to right.

When changing colour mid-row, twist the ends of the two colours together.
Pick up the new colour in the last yrh of the previous stitch.
Carry the unused strands of yarn across the WS of the work.

CUSHION FRONT

With Yarn A, ch61.

Follow the Chart from Rows 1-60, working as follows:
Row 1 (RS) Beginning in the second ch from the hook, 1dc in each ch to end, turn. [60 dc]
Rows 2-60 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc into the first dc and each dc across to end, changing the yarn colour as required, turn.
Fasten off at the end of Row 60.

CUSHION BACK

PART 1

With Yarn A, ch61.
Row 1 Beginning in the second ch from the hook, 1dc in each ch to end, turn. [60 dc]
Rows 2-40 Ch1 (does not count as st), 1dc into the first dc and each dc across to end, turn.
Fasten off at the end of Row 40.

PART 2

With Yarn A, ch61.
Row 1 Beginning in the second ch from the hook, 1dc in each ch to end, turn. [60 dc]
Rows 2-39 Ch1 (does not count as st), 1dc into the first dc and each dc across to end, turn.
Row 40 Ch1 (does not count as st), 1dc into the first dc, 1dc in each of the next 5 dc, *ch3, skip 3 dc, 1dc in each of the next 6 dc; repeat from * to end, turn. [6 buttonholes made]
Rows 41-42 Ch1 (does not count as st), 1dc into the first st and each st across to end, turn. [60 dc]
Fasten off at the end of Row 42.
Weave in all ends.



Follow the chart closely to achieve the neat shapes in this sweet cushion cover design.



The cushion cover fastens at the back with a row of six buttons in a matching shade.

TO MAKE UP

Align the three pieces of the cushion on top of each other, right sides together, making sure the piece with the buttonholes is the centre layer.

Square up the pieces and seam around the outside using a small running stitch.

Turn right side out and sew on the buttons to line up with the buttonholes.

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Simply STYLISH

WINK OF PINK

Treat yourself to a snuggly textured cowl with a glorious accent of pink. By Annelies Baes.

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Waffle cowl



DOUBLE, TREBLE | ARAN WEIGHT | 5MM HOOK

YOU WILL NEED

- Artesano Aran (50% alpaca, 50% wool, 100g/132m), 3 balls of Yarn A Twilight (C997)
- Malabrigo Worsted, (100% merino, 100g/198m), small amount of Yarn B Fuchsia (93)
- A 5mm (US H/8) hook
- Stitch marker (optional)

For yarn stockists, contact Artesano 0118 9503350 www.artesanoyarns.co.uk Tangled Yarn 0161 494 2053 www.tangled-yarn.co.uk

TENSION

Each pattern repeat measures approx 5.5x5cm (2¼x2in)

MEASUREMENTS

Cowl measures approx 58x26cm (23x10¼in) folded flat

ABBREVIATIONS

FPtr2tog (Yrh, starting at the front, insert hook from front to back to front around the post of the next st, yrh and pull up loop, yrh and draw through 2 loops) twice, yrh and draw through all loops on hook

For a full list, see page 92.

Designer Annelies Baes says: "We all like cookies and waffles but it's not the best idea to eat these treats every day! I decided to make a soft, fluffy cowl with cookie and waffle stitch patterns. It's a cosy cowl that you can wear everyday without feeling guilty. The cowl is worked in rows and is totally reversible."

The combination of double crochet and front post treble stitches creates delicious, squashy texture that's oh-so cosy. And of course, we're big fans of that pop of fuchsia around the edge.

NOTES

The pattern is worked back and forth in rows but joined at the end of each row to create a continuous loop of fabric.

You may find it useful to mark the first dc of each row with a stitch marker.

COWL

Using Yarn A, ch184, ss to the first ch to join in a loop, being careful not to twist the chain.

Row 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in the first ch, *ch1, skip 3 ch, (2tr, ch3, 2tr, ch1) in the next ch, skip 3 ch, dc in the next ch; repeat from * around omitting the last dc, ss to the first dc to join, turn. [23 pattern repeats]

Row 2 (WS) Ch1 (does not count as st), ss to the first ch-1 sp, ss to the next 2tr, (ss, dc) to ch-3 sp, *ch3, FPtr2tog around the next 2tr, skip (ch-1 sp, dc, ch-1 sp), FPtr2tog around the next 2tr, ch3, dc in the next ch-3 sp; repeat from * around omitting the last dc, ss to the first dc to join, turn.
[23 pattern repeats]

Row 3 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in the same st, *ch1, skip ch-3 sp, (2tr, ch3, 2tr) in the first FPtr2tog, skip the next FPtr2tog and ch-3 sp, ch1, dc in the next dc; repeat from * around omitting the last dc, ss to the first dc to join, turn.

Rows 2 and 3 set pattern.

Rows 4-21 Repeat (Rows 2-3) 9 more times.

Row 22 Repeat Row 2.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

EDGING

Join Yarn B in the first st of Row 22 with a ss, loosely ss into each st of Row 22, ss to the first ss to join.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Turn the cowl to work into the starting ch, join Yarn B in any st with a ss, loosely ss into each st around, ss to the first ss to join.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Block lightly to measurements to finish.



That unique, scrumptious texture is easier to hook than you might think and so cosy.



The edging is a simple line of surface crochet, worked in a bright, contrasting shade.

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Simply INSPIRING

CROCHET WITH PERSONALITY

We love how 3D crochet can be – but in the case of designer and illustrator Becky Garratt, the 2D element is a vital part of the process.

Becky Garratt defines herself as: "Equal parts Fibre Artist and Illustrator." It's an impressive introduction, but really, once you get chatting to Becky, it's clear there's no better description for the dual-talented, Norwich-based lady.

You may have spotted some of her personality-packed creations marching across the pages of this magazine (the duelling dinos come to mind, ooh and the amigurumi robot!), but much more of Becky's work is escaping into the world, both in 2D and 3D form.

Yet, while it seems her drawings and crochet work together naturally as expressions of her own quirky interior life, it's the way in which they differ, she says, that makes them such a good fit.

"Oddly, the main way they complement each other in a basic, day-to-day work way is that when my hands get sore from crochet, I can switch to drawing and vice versa because they cause different aches!" Becky explains. "I love both disciplines and often have to prioritise projects so I don't get carried away with one and neglect the other."

But, yes, those similarities are impossible to deny. "I can't quite put my finger on what it is, but when I put my illustration pieces and crochet pieces together online or at a market, it feels right," she says. "My boyfriend says my crochet work is just me drawing with yarn, so I guess it makes sense that they work together as well as apart."

Both disciplines have been part of her creative output for so long, she can't quite remember how it started, other than that with crochet it was a bit haphazard. "I can't actually remember how it began, but I know I bought a hook that looked 'the right size' rather than doing any research into what I would actually need for the yarn I had," she exclaims. "Then I did some YouTube learning and after a few squiffy granny squares and some very wonky rows of double crochet, I was off. Turned out, 'the right size' was 5mm – I still have that

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hook, but with all the amigurumi I make these days, I spend more time with my trusty 3mm crochet hook."

Amigurumi is one of Becky's enduring passions, naturally spurred on by her affinity for kawaii – Japan's culture of cute extremes. For a glimpse of what this means in real terms, you only need to visit the blog of one of Becky's heroes, Twinkie Chan (www.blog.twinkiechan.com). "I found her work quite early on and I just love it. It's always so creative and fun, and you can see the effort and care that goes into everything. Plus, she comes across as a really nice person, too!"

> "I LOVE MAKING AMIGURUMI – THE MOMENT WHEN YOU GIVE YOUR WORK A FACE IS ALWAYS A GOOD ONE!"

Becky says she prefers lifestyle blogs to craft-specific blogs, while her other online stimuli include the brilliantly named www.thedaintysquid.com, sandrajuto.blogspot.com, and sleepwalkingintokyo.wordpress.com.

But, she's keen to point out, she draws from a wealth of other influences, too. "Everything inspires my work: nature, comics, Studio Ghibli, Wes Anderson, Halloween, food, and, of course, kawaii culture," she enthuses. "The things that inspire me tend to make me want to work really hard. When I'm working on new pieces, I actually often try to avoid looking at things that are too similar so I don't risk being a little too 'inspired' by something that already exists."

ORIGINAL THINKING

Becky's originality is a huge part of her success. From amigurumi octopi to llamacorns (llamas sporting unicorn-esque horns) to chatty peas, there are plenty of unlikely creations jostling on shelves in her home, and yet, in a strange way, they all make sense.

Becky's design process is largely intuitive. "I think a lot, pick out some yarn, then start figuring out the shapes and separate pieces. Next, I doodle what I've thought about, then probably think some more, and then I start crocheting with a bit of unravelling until I get it just right (making a lot of notes along the way). My aim is to always end up with something that's either colourful, cute, kitsch or all of the above."

Becky has some great pieces of advice to share regarding crochet. "Don't ever let someone else tell you how to hold the hook and yarn. Obviously, do listen to tips from other people, but it will all go a lot smoother if you hold the hook and yarn however it is that you feel most comfortable. Also, keep your hands warm and take regular breaks – trying to crochet with achy fingers and wrists is the worst," she says. "Oh, and if you're making something that is going to be stuffed, like amigurumi, use a smaller hook size than usual to stop the stuffing showing through the gaps!"

Becky's main goal is to create items that add "a little fun, comfort or interest to our surroundings. I love making things that add something a bit different to my surroundings, whether it sits on a shelf or is something to wear. I do really love making amigurumi at the minute – the moment you give your work a face is always a good one!"

Becky appreciates the fact that her twin passions of crochet and illustration are also her work, and that she can carry them out from the home she shares with her boyfriend, who is also an illustrator.

"I'm lucky to have a room in our home that I use as my studio," she says. "It has all my equipment in it and lots of light all day. I can get into work mode in there and just get on with what I'm doing."

Fortunately, Becky has bags of motivation when it comes to work, though she admits: "Once I've got a project planned, I do to curl up on the sofa to work on the crochet, mostly because it supports my back better than my desk chair, but also because I can watch films while I work!"

Interview by Judy Darley



A FEW OF HER FAVOURITE THINGS

"If I'm not crocheting then I'm drawing and if I'm not doing either then I'll be wandering around taking too many photos, watching films, reading various comics and non-fiction books about anything and everything, playing games (video or board varieties) and eating, all with my other half who I'm pretty much surgically attached to."

You can find out more about Becky on her website at www.beckygarratt.com. To buy her creations, visit www.BeckyGarratt.etsy.com or www.folksy.com/shops/beckygarratt

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LOVE SEAT

Show a stool some love and perch your derrière in handmade style. Designed by Rico.

Squashy, chunky yarn is the perfect choice for a speedy stool makeover. With this sweet and simple pattern from Rico, you'll be able to transform a seat for yourself (and maybe a loved one, too) in nearly no time. A stool cover is a lovely way to add an extra touch of hooky goodness to your home, plus, it's both pretty and practical. We might just have to make a whole set of them. Grab your hook.

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Stool cover



HALF TREBLE | CHUNKY WEIGHT | 10MM HOOK

YOU WILL NEED

- Rico Creative Loopy (100% acrylic, 150g/45m), 3 balls of Yarn A Dusky Pink (04) or Yarn B Taupe (08)
- A 10mm (US N/15) hook

For yarn stockists, contact Rico www.rico-design.co.uk

TENSION

7 sts and 10 rounds over htr working in the round to measure 10cm diameter

MEASUREMENTS

Approx 32cm (12½in) in diameter

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

NOTES

The stool cover is worked using the amigurumi method after Round 1. Work in a continuous spiral without closing off each round with a slip stitch.

You may find it helpful to place a marker in the first st of each round and move it up as you work.

STOOL COVER

Using Yarn A or B, make a magic ring.
Round 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc into the ring, ss to first dc to join.
Round 2 Ch2 (counts as htr), htr in st at the base of ch-2, 2htr in each dc around. [12 sts]
Round 3 2htr in each htr around. [24 sts]
Round 4 Htr in each htr around.
Round 5 *Htr in the next htr, 2htr in the next htr; repeat from * around. [36 sts]
Rounds 6-7 Repeat Rounds 4-5. [54 sts]
Round 8 Htr in the back loop only of each htr around.
Round 9 Repeat Round 5. [81 sts]
Rounds 10-12 Repeat Round 8.
Round 13 Dc in each htr around.
Round 14 Dc in each dc around.
Round 15-16 *Dc in the next htr, dc2tog; repeat from * around. [54 sts]
Fasten off and weave in all ends.

TO MAKE UP

Block gently to shape and fit the cover over your stool.



Rico's thick, squashy Creative Loopy yarn makes a soft and comfortable seat pad.



This project is from the pattern book *Let's Crochet Again!* by Rico, published by Rico Design (RRP £14.99). For 10% off a copy, visit www.blacksheepwools.com or call 01925 764231 and use the code SCAGAIN. This special discount offer is valid until 8 March 2015.

SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO MAKE A HALF TREBLE



1 To make a half treble crochet stitch, work to where you want the htr and then wind the yarn round the hook (yrh).



2 Insert the hook under the top two loops of the next stitch in the previous row. Wrap yarn around the hook again (yrh).



3 Pull the yarn through the stitch only (3 loops on hook).



4 Yarn round hook again, pull the yarn through all 3 loops. You've made a half treble crochet. Continue working htr into next and following sts to the end of the row.

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CUP OF COCOA

Welcome a newborn with the softest alpaca hat designed by Cony Larsen.



Baby hat



YOU WILL NEED

- Blue Sky Alpacas Royal Petites (100% royal alpaca, 35g/91m), 1 ball of Spanish Leather (1702)
- A 2.25mm (US B/1) hook
- A 2.75mm (US C/2) hook

For yarn stockists, contact Mrs Moon 020 3318 5173 www.mrsmoon.co.uk

TENSION

26 sts and 28 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over dc using a 2.75mm hook

MEASUREMENTS

To fit newborn baby
Finished hat measures 40cm (16in) circumference and 15cm (6in) from crown to brim

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

This sweet, beginner-friendly hat worked in super-soft alpaca yarn is the perfect gift for a precious newborn baby. A handmade present is always special, but the scrummy texture of this mini beanie hat gives it the upper hand. The unique texture is achieved by working only into the front loops of some of the double crochet stitches. It's an easy technique to work and you can use the stitch pattern elsewhere to add texture to your crochet fabrics.



This simple baby hat is worked in rounds using easy-peasy double crochet stitches.

HAT

CROWN

Using a 2.75mm hook, make a magic loop.
Round 1 Ch1 (does not count as a st throughout), 12dc into the ring, ss to the first dc to join. [12 sts]
Round 2 Ch1, dc into each dc around, ss to the first dc to join.
Round 3 Ch1, 2dc into each dc around, ss to the first dc to join. [24 sts]
Round 4 Repeat Round 2.
Round 5 Ch1, dc in the first dc, 2dc in the next dc, *dc in the next dc, 2dc in the next dc; repeat from * around, ss to the first dc to join. [36 sts]
Round 6 Repeat Round 2.
Round 7 Ch1, dc in the first 2 dc, 2dc in the next dc, *dc in the next 2 dc, 2dc in the next dc; repeat from * around, ss to the first dc to join. [48 sts]
Round 8 Repeat Round 2.
Round 9 Ch1, dc in the first 3 dc, 2dc in the next dc, *dc in the next 3 dc, 2dc in the next dc; repeat from * around, ss to the first dc to join. [60 sts]
Round 10 Repeat Round 2.
Round 11 Ch1, dc in the first 4 dc, 2dc in the next dc, *dc in the next 4 dc, 2dc in the next dc; repeat from * around, ss to the first dc to join. [72 sts]
Round 12 Repeat Round 2.
Round 13 Ch1, dc in the first 5 dc, 2dc in the next dc, *dc in the next 5 dc, 2dc in the next dc; repeat from * around, ss to the first dc to join. [84 sts]
Round 14 Repeat Round 2.
Round 15 Ch1, dc in the first 6 dc, 2dc in the next dc, *dc in the next 6 dc, 2dc in the next dc; repeat from * around, ss to the first dc to join. [96 sts]
Round 16 Repeat Round 2.
Round 17 Ch1, dc in the first 7 dc, 2dc in the next dc, *dc in the next 7 dc, 2dc in the next dc; repeat from * around, ss to the first dc to join. [108 sts]

BODY

Round 1 Ch1, dc into the front loop only of the first st, *ch1, skip the next st, dc into the front loop only of the next st; repeat from * around to the last st, ch1, skip the last st, ss to the front loop only of the first dc to join. [108 sts]
Rounds 2-20 Repeat Round 1.

BRIM

All stitches are worked though the centre of the dc rather than under the top 2 loops.
Round 1 With a 2.25mm hook, ch1, dc through centre of the first dc, *ch1, skip the next st, dc through centre of the next dc; repeat from * around to the last st, ch1, skip the last st, ss to the first dc to join. [108 sts]
Rounds 2-5 Repeat Round 1.

EDGING

Round 1 Ch2 (counts as dc, ch1), ss in the next st, *ch1, ss in the next st; repeat from * around, ss to the first ch to join.
Fasten off and weave in all ends.



This pattern is from *Simply Sweet Crochet* by Cony Larsen, published by Design Originals (RRP £9.99). To find out more and buy a copy, visit www.thegmcgroup.com

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"Accessories make the perfect rainy day projects."



Simply INSPIRING

ADORNED WITH CROCHET

Are you short on time but big on crochet love? Crocheted accessories may just be the answer you need. Grab a handful of luscious yarn and hook on for some mini-project bliss.

Crocheted accessories are hard for us to resist. It doesn't matter whether it's a scarf, shawl, something cute for the house or a piece of jewellery, we can't wait to get started. With the right pattern and yarn, you can bring an outfit to life with the minimum of effort and have fun with the making, too. We speak to some of our favourite crochet devotees to discover their feelings on this small but all-important matter.

ADORABLE ADORNMENTS

Crochet colour queen Wink, of www.acreativebeing.com, loves the cheeriness of crocheting accessories. "They're quick and usually easy, which makes them the perfect in-between project for rainy days when all you want to do is play with yarn." She points out that even the simplest designs can have enormous impact: "Complicated designs are awesome, but you mustn't forget effectiveness."

The beauty of small crochet projects is that you can dip into them whenever you have a few spare moments (even if this time has been clawed back from the demands of your family). And the results can transform a whole look. "Accessories are an opportunity to add contrasting colour and texture to a look, making the ordinary appear more complete and intricate!" says Salena Baca, the crafty mind behind www.facebook.com/baca.creations. "With the right colours and placement, even the simplest accessory has the potential to make your fashion choices pop." For this reason, Salena particularly loves creating "accessories that I can clip or sew into place to embellish a project, such as a bow that can be pinned to a hat".

Equally importantly, an accessory pattern is a trouble-free way to incorporate crochet into your everyday life, because you are never much more than a length of

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yarn away from the pleasure of embarking on a brand new hooky project.

THE JOY OF YARN

And while it's true that there are few things more satisfying than using up stray remnants from your stash, Elisabeth Davis de Herraiz (you can find her online at www.elizyart.blogspot.co.uk) regards a dinky project as the ideal excuse to invest in a sumptuous yarn. A larger project might end up blowing your budget if you go for the fibre that you really want, but as Elisabeth says: "Accessories often use just one skein of yarn, so you can splash out on a really special one."

June Gilbank of www.planetjune.com agrees. "Choose a yarn that you love both the look and feel of, so you can enjoy the process of crocheting and not just focus on the end result," she says. "I have sensitive skin, so I love the silky softness of bamboo yarn for the smooth touch against my neck. For delicate lace, I love baby alpaca for the combination of softness and surprising warmth."

Wink believes that choosing the right yarn will even help you to develop your crochet skills. "Seriously, no one wants to learn how to ride a bicycle on a crooked old bike, so why use naff yarn when you're learning?" she says.

> "DINKY PROJECTS ARE THE IDEAL EXCUSE TO INVEST IN A SUMPTUOUS YARN."

And she isn't alone in this sort of thinking. Vita Apala, talented crochet designer and curator of the brilliant blog www.monpetitviolon.com, believes that using a good-quality yarn enhances the whole crochet experience. "It is simple, but very important," she comments. "Sometimes people like to use up leftovers from other projects or some yarn they got on sale years ago, and that's fine, but in this way you risk not actually liking what you have made. I always say great yarn is a great start. My rule is to only buy yarn that I really love, not just because it's a bargain."

The speediness of crocheting accessories ensures that embarking on these mini projects is far less daunting than launching into a garment, which is ideal for anyone seeking to gain or build on skills.

June is the author of *Idiot's Guides: Crochet*, which features masses of manageable designs. "For *Idiot's Guides: Crochet*, I designed a wide range of accessory patterns that utilise the techniques I teach throughout the book, so you can cement your knowledge while creating beautiful pieces," she comments. "Accessories are ideal projects for beginners and those looking to expand their skills, because they offer a relatively small, fast project







Opposite left to right: Dancing Hearts Wrap by Wink, modelled by Mieke Bonkestoter; crochet designer Vita Apala's oh-so pretty Luxe Buttoned Socks.
This page, clockwise from top left: Freestyle Hat by Wink; Fox Hat Hoodie by Vita Apala; Selena Baca's 10 petal flower, worked in only two rounds.

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This page, clockwise from left: A beautiful stack of Vita Apala's Tiered Hats; Vita Apala's gorgeous, textured Grape Shawl; Twisted Chain Bangles, by blogger June Gilbank; Selena Baca's Speedy Bow.



that gives you a useful end result. Unlike making a garment, you usually don't need to get too caught up in getting the right tension for a specific size – nobody will mind if a scarf or shawl is a few inches longer or shorter than intended!"

PERFECT PRESENTS

Which takes us to the next wonderful thing about crocheted accessories – they make fantastic gifts.

"Accessories are so easy to personalise, either for yourself or as gifts – it's as simple as choosing the right colour," says June. "Think of your recipient and the colours they wear and you'll be able to pick out a perfect yarn to make something they'll treasure. And once you've found a pattern you love, you can follow the same pattern again and give it a completely different look by varying your yarn choice."

The fact that crochet accessories are so economical, both in terms of yarn and time, contributes to their popularity. "I love quick and easy projects," Vita says. "In our busy lives, it's important that you can accomplish something without needing to spend too much time on it. Accessories always make great gifts, no matter whether they're for kids or adults."

As you might expect, expert shawl maker Elisabeth is a particular fan of making shawls as presents. "I think shawls make for wonderful gifts," she says. "They're great for all ages and tastes, and you can make one in a few evenings."

> "ACCESSORIES ALWAYS MAKE GREAT GIFTS, WHETHER THEY'RE FOR KIDS OR ADULTS."

Actually, it turns out that most of our crochet aficionados have a favourite type of accessory in mind. "Shawls are my favourite thing to design, make and wear," Elisabeth says. "I find them enjoyable and fun to make because they tend to be neither difficult nor fiddly to work on. They're great as portable projects and I find the rhythmic repeats of each row very relaxing."

June also has a passion for accessories that can add a subtle and beautiful layer of warmth. "My favourite accessory to crochet is a delicate lacy wrap, because of its versatility," she explains. "For a special occasion, you can show off the lacy stitch pattern by wearing it over your shoulders like a shawl, and for everyday, you can use it to keep your neck cosy as a scarf."

Wink opts for wristies or fingerless gloves. "Wristies are the perfect accessory for me because they warm my hands, while allowing me to continue to crochet," she says. And even though she already owns more wristies than she can count, Wink always wants to hook a new set. "It's much more fun to make a new pair than to grab the old ones. Besides, with all the great patterns coming out yearly, why would anyone wear last year's wristies?"

Vita's preference is tied in with cosy childhood memories. "I absolutely love to make leg warmers and socks," she says, "probably because when I was a kid my mom always knitted socks for us and I loved how soft and warm they were."

So it seems that the perfect crocheted accessories really are a matter of personal choice, both to make and to wear.

ONE OF A KIND

Of course, one of the biggest attractions of accessories is the way that they can

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transform a plain outfit into a real showstopper. "In my shawl designs I like to use yarns with bold, bright colours and then accentuate this by creating lacy motifs within the shawl that complement the yarn and reflect what inspired me when designing," Elisabeth says. "When visualising a new shawl design, I like to imagine how and where it will be worn. For example, if I design a lacy, lightweight shawl then I picture it being worn on a summer evening. With a thicker, heavier shawl, I imagine it being worn on cold winter mornings and snowy days when you're really in need of some lovely crochet warmth and brightness."

There's no simpler way to make an outfit truly individual than with a splash of vibrant crochet. "Crocheted accessories are a simple way to turn any outfit into a one-of-a-kind ensemble with your special touch of handmade originality," says June.

This effect is magnified by the ease with which crochet accessory patterns can be customised to suit. "You can choose a pattern that appeals to your individual style and then make it in your favourite colour and it becomes unique to you," says Elisabeth.

> "CROCHETED ACCESSORIES CAN TURN ANY OUTFIT INTO A ONE-OF-A-KIND ENSEMBLE."

This style choice also offers a glimpse of your personality. "Wearing something handmade shows that you are either creative enough to make something yourself, or that you care about handmade items," says Wink. "I love standing out more by wearing something handmade."

And making these little treasures is just as much of a pleasure as the wearing. "They're instant gratification!" enthuses Salena. "I love to complete a project, no matter how small, and by making crochet accessories, I can spend just a few minutes on a crochet project and then I really feel like I've accomplished something."

Written by Judy Darley

TOP TIPS FOR ACCESSORIES

"Spend time looking at patterns and choose one that appeals to you, and that you know you will use when you've made it. Take time to read the pattern and get to know the designer's style of writing." **Elisabeth Davis de Herraiz**

"After you've crocheted a few rows, check to make sure your crocheted fabric doesn't feel stiff and unyielding – if it does, try moving up a hook size so your stitches will be larger and more relaxed, giving you a softer fabric." **June Gilbank**

"Accessories are small and intricate, so practice your finishing and joining techniques to make those little beauties look polished!" **Salena Baca**



Left: Selena Baca's pretty flower and butterfly motifs.
Below: Stunning Lavender Lace scarf, designed by Elisabeth Davis de Herraiz.



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STASH ESSENTIALS

Our recommended yarns for starting a stellar stash.

ROSE PATTERN

Ch30.

Row 1 (RS) 1dc into the second ch from the hook, ch2, skip 1 ch, *1dc into next ch, ch2, skip 1 ch; rep from * to end, turn. [15dc, 14 ch-2 sp]

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), (dc, htr, 2tr, htr, dc) into each ch-2 sp, ss into first dc of prev row.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail. Roll up the strip into a flower shape and sew together using the long tail and a tapestry needle.

HOOK YOUR SWEETHEART A WHOLE BUNCH

YARN REVIEWS

RICO ESSENTIALS CROCHET



WEIGHT Thread/2ply
CONTENT 100% mercerised cotton
BALL 50g/260m
HOOK 2mm
RRP £1.99

Rico have come up trumps with a super-fine yarn that's just the thing for hooking delicate edgings, doilies and intricate lace. Esssentials Crochet is a 100% mercerised cotton, thread-weight yarn that's much easier to work with than you might imagine because it's wonderfully smooth. It glides on and off the hook with ease and is available in 12 rich, solid shades, each with a bright sheen. Essentials Crochet provides fantastic stitch definition and a neat finish.
www.rico-design.co.uk

DROPS ALPACA



WEIGHT 4ply
CONTENT 100% alpaca
BALL 50g/167m
HOOK 3mm
RRP £2.90

For makes that feel a little bit special, a butter-soft alpaca yarn is in order. A gorgeous fibre doesn't always mean breaking the bank, though. DROPS have cracked it with their oh-so affordable 4ply Alpaca yarn. It's a yarn that has to be stroked to be believed. This fine yarn is soft, light and boasts a delicate halo. Plus, there's a mind-boggling 58 different colours to choose from. We'd love to whip up a luxe pair of mitts in DROPS Alpaca.
www.woolwarehouse.co.uk
01926 882818

HAYFIELD BONUS CHUNKY



WEIGHT Chunky
CONTENT 100% acrylic
BALL 100g/137m
HOOK 6mm
RRP £2.25

A robust chunky yarn is a must-have for any stash – great for last-minute makes and warm winter accessories. Hayfield's Bonus Chunky is a soft, squashy plied acrylic with plenty of bounce, made up of four tightly twisted strands. It's also machine washable and can be tumble-dried, making it very practical. We'd rustle up a cosy cowl with this great-value yarn. Take your pick from 31 classic shades, some solid, some lightly speckled.
www.sirdar.co.uk
01924 231682

PATONS 100% COTTON DK



WEIGHT DK
CONTENT 100% cotton
BALL 100g/210m
HOOK 4mm
RRP £4.89

A good cotton yarn ought to be at the heart of every crocheter's stash and 100% Cotton by Patons is one of our favourites. It's a great-quality mercerised cotton yarn with a beautiful sheen. Smooth and easy to work with, it would be perfect for hooking cute amigurumi toys and lighter garments and accessories alike. There are 27 shades to choose from, both pastels and brights, and it's also available as a 4ply weight. Machine washable.
www.makeitcoats.com
01484 681881

WI PREMIUM ACRYLIC YARN



WEIGHT DK
CONTENT 100% premium acrylic
BALL 100g/282m
HOOK 4mm
RRP £2.20

You'll be hard pushed to find a better acrylic DK than the WI's Premium Acrylic Yarn, when it comes to value for money and colour options. You can take your pick from 20 tempting shades. This smooth, hard-wearing yarn has a pretty generous meterage and we reckon it would be brilliant for making colourful ripple blankets. A minimum of three pence from every purchase is given to the National Federation of Women's Institutes.
www.hobbycraft.co.uk
0330 026 1400

WYS BLUEFACED LEICESTER ARAN



WEIGHT Aran
CONTENT 100% wool
BALL 50g/83m
HOOK 5mm
RRP £4.85

No stash is complete without a cosy wool yarn. And if you're going to be hooking with wool, why not use British? The West Yorkshire Spinners have a gorgeous aran weight that's ideal for making snuggly jumpers and cardigans. Their Bluefaced Leicester Aran is spun in Yorkshire with 100% British wool. The plump, springy plied yarn comes in 11 tasty colours – there are rich jewel tones and muted shades, too. Wash by hand at 30°C.
www.wyspinners.com
01535 664500

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Simply Crochet WORKSHOP

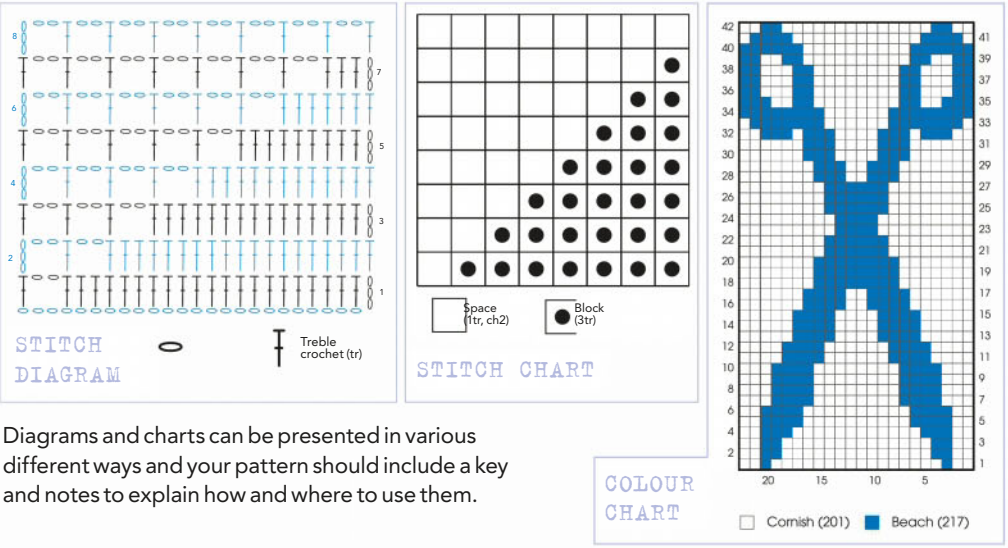
HOW DO I USE CHARTS?

Don't be afraid of stitch diagrams and charts, they can actually be really helpful – just follow our simple guide.

WHAT DO CHARTS AND DIAGRAMS LOOK LIKE?

These three types of diagrams and charts are the most common.

Some crochet patterns would be impossible to follow without a diagram or chart. A stitch diagram is where each stitch is represented by a symbol – it's a visual guide of which stitch to work where. On a stitch chart, each square represents a specific stitch or group of stitches, such as in filet crochet. On a colour chart, each square represents a specific yarn colour, such as for a striped pattern. We'll explain just how to use them in this guide.

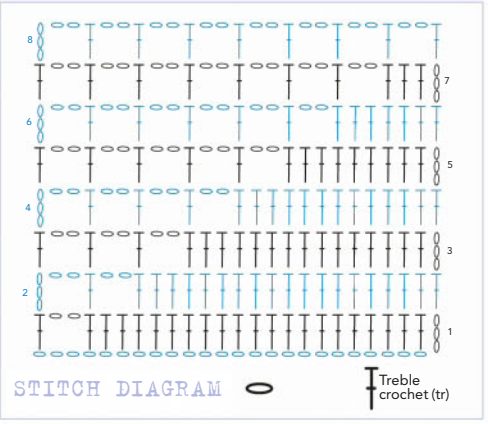


Diagrams and charts can be presented in various different ways and your pattern should include a key and notes to explain how and where to use them.

HOW DO I USE A STITCH DIAGRAM IN ROWS?

Follow the symbols to work your crochet pattern.

Stitch diagrams are really helpful in crochet because they show you exactly where to work each stitch. Each crochet stitch has a standard symbol used on stitch diagrams (see opposite). Other stitches also have symbols, such as tr3tog. Stitches are usually shown in relative sizes so it gives you a good idea of how the stitch pattern will look. The diagram (right) is an example of a stitch diagram worked in rows and the image (far right) shows the finished crochet pattern.





To work from a stitch diagram in rows, start from the bottom left and work the foundation chain from left to right (if you're right-handed). Then work Row 1, starting at the bottom right of the diagram and working each stitch towards the left. Then work Row 2 from the left side towards the right, and so on. The row numbers are placed at the start of each row. Odd-numbered rows (shown in black) are usually right-side rows, while even-numbered rows (in blue) are usually wrong side rows. Contrasting colours are used for alternate rows (black and blue here), to help.

The position of each stitch symbol shows you which stitch to work into on the row below. A stitch directly above another stitch means that's where you work it. An increase is shown as a group of stitches where the stem of each symbol starts at the same stitch – see the groups of trebles in the square diagram, opposite. A decrease is shown as a group of stitches where the stem of each symbol starts at different stitches, but they all lead to the same point. There are many different symbols but your pattern or key should explain what each symbol means and how to crochet it.

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HOW DO I USE A STITCH DIAGRAM IN ROUNDS?

Often used for granny squares and other flat motifs.

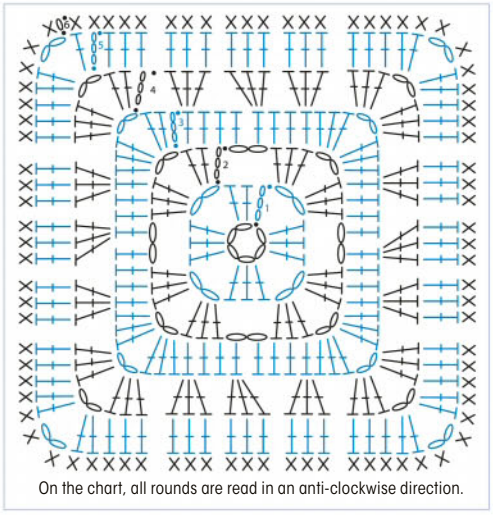
Below is an example of a stitch diagram where the stitches are worked in the round to create a flat motif. You'll find that many crochet motifs and granny squares include a diagram like this, to help guide you visually on where to place your stitches. They function in a similar way as a stitch diagram worked in rows (see opposite), but you need to start at the centre of the diagram and move outwards, completing each round in turn.

To do this, follow our step-by-step guide below and start at the centre, working the foundation ring. Then work the next round out, which usually starts from where the previous round ends (unless you fasten off and change colour). Refer to the pattern text for colour changes and to help you learn the symbols on the diagram.

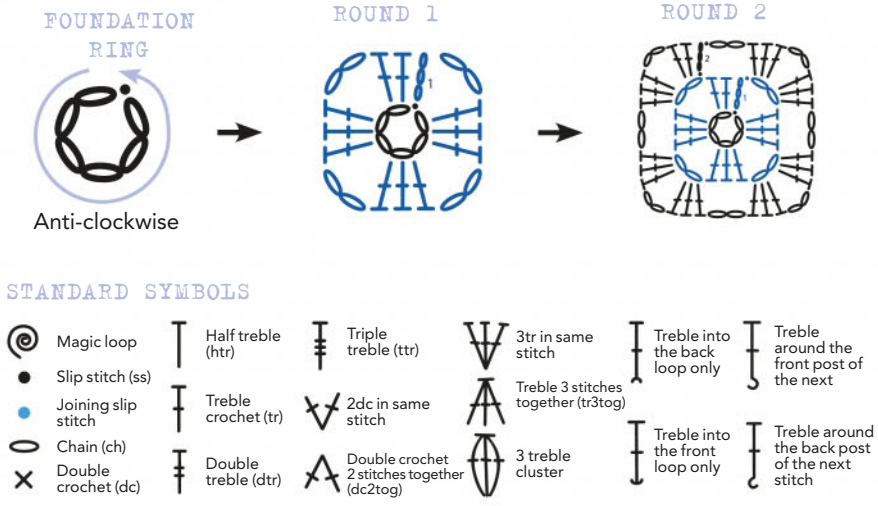
Continue in this way, working Round 2 from the symbols in the stitch diagram (see our step-by-step guide below). Work all the following rounds in turn in this way. As before, the position of each symbol shows you which stitch to work into from the round below, while the numbers on the diagram are placed just to the right of the first stitch of each round. Most diagrams will be drawn for right-handed crocheters and you follow the symbols around in an anti-clockwise direction. If you're left-handed, simply work the same stitches in a clockwise direction instead.

Sometimes a flat motif worked in the round may ask you to 'turn' and work stitches in the other direction, then turn again. This sort of change should be marked on the stitch diagram or noted next to it.

Many patterns include stitch diagrams alongside text instructions and we recommend that you use both sets of information to work a pattern. Always read through a pattern's text instructions because there may be notes about how to use the stitch diagram. Similarly, a stitch diagram can help you to understand exactly what a set of text instructions are asking you to do. You might also come across patterns that only use stitch diagrams (including ones from Japan), so it's a good idea to practise working from stitch diagrams.



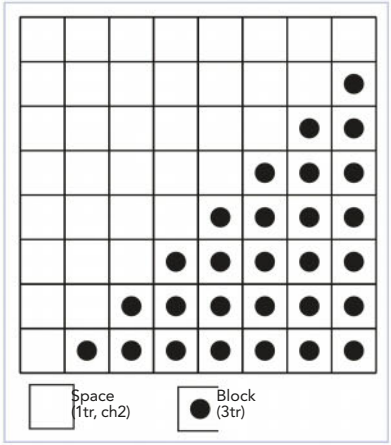
On the chart, all rounds are read in an anti-clockwise direction.

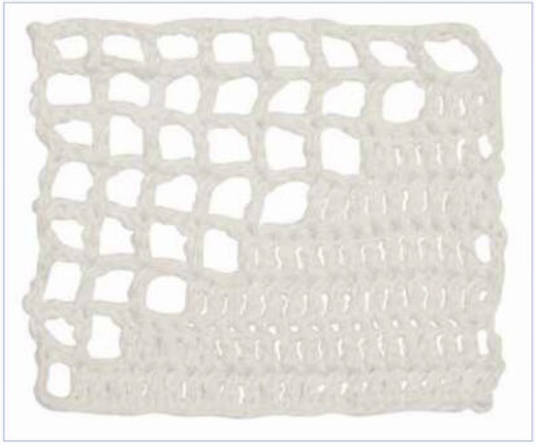


HOW DO I USE A STITCH CHART?

Here's the lowdown on using stitch charts in filet crochet.

Stitch charts are used for certain types of project, such as filet crochet. On these charts, each square represents a stitch or group of stitches. The chart (right) shows the layout of spaces (1tr, ch2) and blocks (3tr) in a filet crochet pattern. You'll notice that the resulting fabric (far right) is the same as you get from the stitch diagram, opposite. A stitch chart helps you to visualise the overall effect of a pattern and enables you to design your own patterns. There should be a key to explain what each symbol means.





Subscribe on page 36 – don't miss out!

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HOW DO I USE A COLOUR CHART IN ROWS?

Learn how to use these charts and add colour to your crochet.

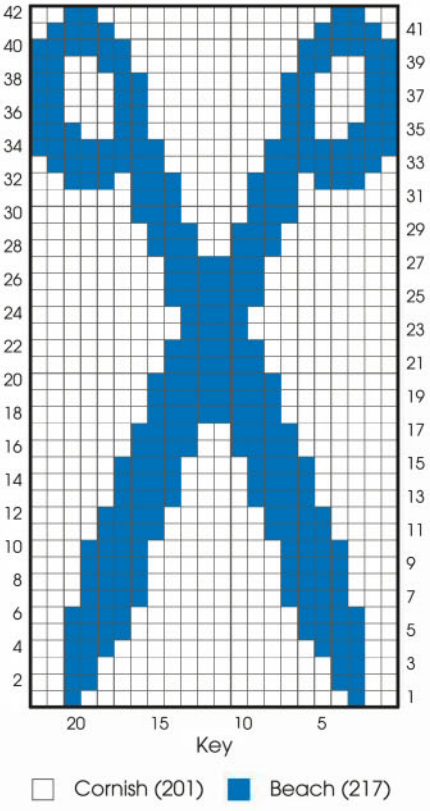
Sometimes a chart or diagram covers just one element of a crochet project. The written pattern should explain what to do with the chart or diagram and where to work it. For example, a pattern might ask you to start the row by working plain treble crochet stitches, then ask you to work the pattern from a chart, then ask you to work plain treble stitches again to the end of the row. Or you might be asked to repeat the stitches from a chart or diagram a certain number of times along a row. This is often the case with colour charts, but each pattern should explain how to use the chart or diagram and include a key.

This chart (right) is an example of a colour chart worked in rows. Each square represents a stitch, worked in a different yarn colour – the type of crochet stitch you need to work will be explained in the pattern text. As before, you usually start with a foundation chain, then work stitches from the bottom-right corner, working odd-numbered right-side rows from the right to left and even-numbered wrong-side rows from left to right. The numbers along the bottom represent the stitch count.

Most colour charts are worked in a plain stitch pattern, such as all double crochet stitches. This makes the finished fabric fairly plain so that the colourful motif can stand out. It also means that while you're busy thinking about changing colours and following the colour chart, you shouldn't have any complex stitches to have to worry about.

With colour charts, you'll sometimes find that once your colour pattern is crocheted, it can look different to the pattern on the colour chart. Don't worry, this is totally natural and you haven't done it wrong! Stitch charts are generally worked in perfect squares whereas crochet stitches are different shapes – double crochet stitches are fairly square, but treble stitches are tall and thin. So if you use treble crochet to work a colour motif that was intended for double crochet, it will look much taller and thinner. You've been warned!





Written by Becky Skuse.

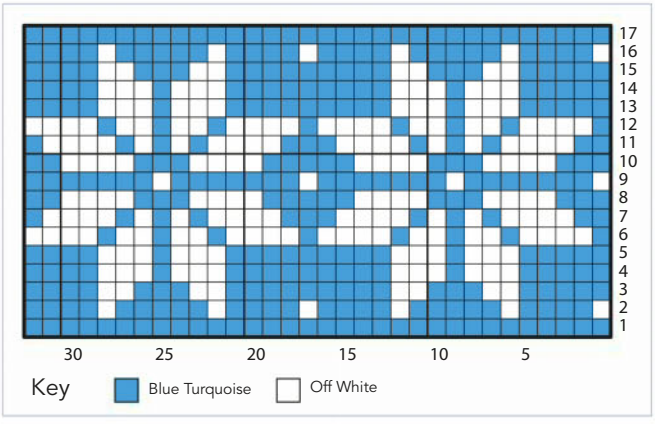
HOW DO I USE A COLOUR CHART IN ROUNDS?

Often used for Fair Isle projects and other colourful makes.

Working a colour chart in rounds involves the same techniques as working a colour chart in rows (see above). The only difference is that all the round numbers will be on the right-hand side, with each new round starting here. This is because you start each new 'row' in the same place each time, instead of turning at the end of a row to create a fabric with two side edges. So don't turn your work, just keep going round and round.

This snowflake chart (right) is an example of a colour chart worked in rounds. To work from this chart, you would start from the bottom-right corner, work towards the left and you'd finish back at the right-hand side again, ready to work Round 2.

As with all colour charts, this chart only shows you a small part of the pattern – the written instructions should tell you where to work the chart and how many times to repeat it across the round. The chart below was originally intended for a festive hat (see below) and was repeated three times between Rounds 87 and 103.





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LOVE LETTERS

Get to know your way around a chart with these simple and stylish coasters by Becky Skuse.

Subscribe on page 36 – don't miss out!

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Monogram coasters



DOUBLE CROCHET | 4PLY WEIGHT | 3MM HOOK

YOU WILL NEED

- West Yorkshire Spinners Signature 4ply (75% wool, 25% nylon, 100g/400m)
  1 ball of each:
  Yarn A Poppy Seed
  Yarn B Sour Apple
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook

For yarn stockists, contact West Yorkshire Spinners 01535 664500 www.wyspinners.com

TENSION

23 stitches and 29 rows measure 10x10cm using 3mm hook

MEASUREMENTS

Finished square measures approx. 13x13.5cm (5x5¼in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

Using someone's initial is a lovely way to make a personalised crochet gift. Designer Becky Skuse says: "I loved the idea of creating letters in crochet – brilliant for all sorts of personalised gifts! If you don't like this font, try charting your own alphabet. You could use these monogram squares as coasters, or to create pockets on a garment for him or her, or make six and join into a cube as a cute baby gift. Or make the whole alphabet and join the squares into a fun blanket."

NOTES

Choose the letter you wish to work – we've included A, B and C here but you can download charts for the whole alphabet over on our blog, at www.simplycrochetmag.com

When you need to change yarn colour, do so in the last yrh of the previous stitch.

Work the colour changes using the intarsia technique, so wind several small balls of yarn and switch between them across the row, twisting them together when you change yarn colour. On WS rows, make sure you twist the working yarns together at the WS of the fabric, leaving the yarn ends at the WS ready to pick up again on the next RS row.

ALL LETTERS

Using Yarn A and a 3mm hook, ch29.
Row 1 (RS) Dc in the second ch from the hook and in each ch to end, turn. [28 dc]
Row 2 (WS) Ch1 (does not count as stitch throughout), dc in each stitch to end working colours as shown on Row 2 of the chart for the letter you wish to crochet – WS rows are read left to right. Remember to drop yarn to the WS of your work.

For the letter A, you would work Row 2 as follows:
Using Yarn A, ch1, 1dc in first dc, changing to Yarn B on the final yrh of the stitch, 9dc in Yarn B changing to another small ball of Yarn A on the final yrh of the last stitch, 6dc in Yarn A changing to another small ball of Yarn B on the final yrh of the last stitch, 11dc in Yarn B changing to another small ball of Yarn A on the final yrh of the last stitch, 1dc in Yarn A, turn.

Rows 3-36 Ch1, dc in each stitch to end working colours as shown on Rows 3-36 of the chart for the letter you want to crochet, always dropping the yarn to the WS of your work, turn.
Do not fasten off.

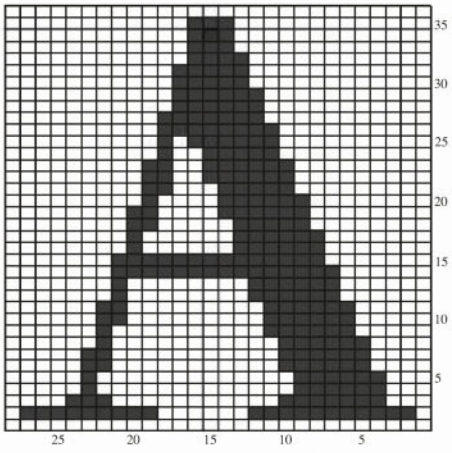
EDGING

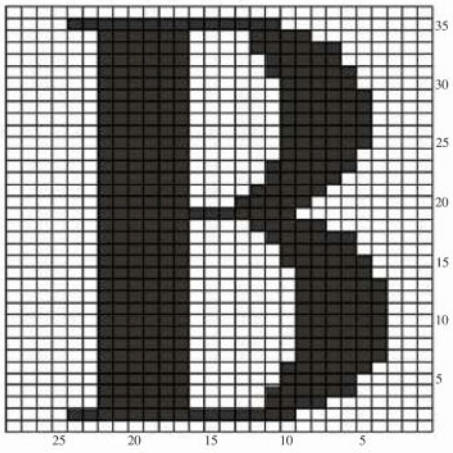
With RS facing and using Yarn A, ch1, dc into each stitch and row end around the square, working 3dc into each corner, ss to first dc to join round.
Fasten off and weave in ends.

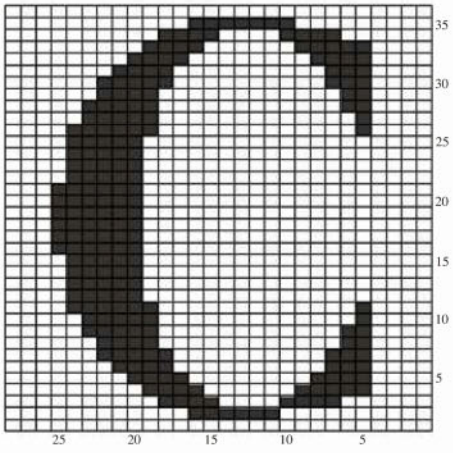
Block the square to size.

Key
☐ Yarn A
■ Yarn B

Download charts for the whole alphabet on our blog, at www.simplycrochetmag.com







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Crochet essentials

Over the next few pages, you'll find simple step-by-step guides to many useful stitches and techniques that you'll use every time you pick up a hook.

HOLDING THE HOOK

Try these methods and see which works best.



PENCIL METHOD
Hold the hook like a pencil, in your right hand (if you're right-handed), about 3-5cm from the hooked end. If your hook has a flat area, you'll find it comfortable to hold it here.



KNIFE METHOD
Hold the hook between your thumb and forefinger, about 3-5cm from the hooked end, resting the end of the hook against your palm. This will give you lots of control.

HOLDING THE YARN

Even tension results in even stitches.



METHOD ONE
Pass the ball end of the yarn between the little finger and third fingers of your left hand (if you are right-handed), then behind the third and middle fingers, over your index finger.



METHOD TWO
Loop the ball end of the yarn loosely around the little finger of your left hand, then take it over the third finger, behind the middle finger and over your index finger.

MAKING A SLIPKNOT The first loop on the hook.



1 Hold the tail of the ball of yarn in your left hand and drape the yarn clockwise over the top of it to form a circular loop.



2 Hold the loop between left thumb and forefinger, then insert the crochet hook through the centre of the loop from front to back.



3 Catch the ball end of the yarn with the hook and pull it back through the centre of the loop, taking the yarn through with it.



4 Pull both ends of the yarn to tighten the knot, then pull just the ball end to tighten the loop so it's close to the hook, but not touching it.

CHAIN STITCH Use this stitch to make your foundation chain.



1 Hold the hook in your right hand, and both the yarn end and the working yarn in your left hand. Move the hook under and over the yarn to wrap it around anticlockwise.



2 Pull the hook towards the slipknot, catching the yarn in the hook, and pulling it through the slipknot loop. This forms your first chain (ch) stitch. Repeat steps 1 and 2 to form a chain length.



3 This is what your row of chains will look like. Hold the chain with your left hand near the hook, to keep the tension. Keep going until you have the number of chains stated in your pattern.

How to count



Each chain or loop counts as one stitch. Never count your first slipknot or the loop on the hook (called the working loop). So that you can be accurate, make sure the chain is not twisted and that the front is facing you.

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SLIP STITCH (ss)

This stitch has no height – often used to join rounds.



1 The slip stitch is used to join a length of chain into the round. Insert the hook from front to back into the first chain you worked. Wrap yarn round the hook (yrh) in an anticlockwise direction.



2 Pull the yarn through the chain stitch (as shown) and then the loop already on the hook to make a slip stitch. You can also work this stitch into each stitch along a row to form a neat edging.

WORKING IN ROWS

Follow these simple rules to construct crochet fabric.



1 The first row is made by working across the foundation chain from right to left. At the end of the chain or row, turn the work so that the yarn is behind the hook.



2 For the next row, first make the turning chain for the stitch you're about to work (see opposite). Now work the next stitch into the top of the stitches on your first row, missing the first stitch.

DOUBLE CROCHET (dc) US term: single crochet

One of the key stitches in crochet, doubles are simple, compact stitches that form a dense fabric.



1 To make a double crochet stitch, insert the hook under the top two loops of the next stitch on the previous row.



2 Wind the yarn around the hook (yrh).



3 Pull the yarn through the stitch, giving you two loops on your crochet hook.



4 Yarn round hook again, then pull the yarn through both loops. There's your double crochet made and you'll have one loop left on the hook, ready to do the next stitch.

HALF TREBLE CROCHET (htr) US term: half double crochet

A handy stitch that's between double and treble crochet in size, and it looks slightly looser than double crochet.



1 To make a half treble crochet stitch, work to where you want the htr and then wind the yarn round the hook (yrh).



2 Insert the hook under the top two loops of the next stitch in the previous row. Wrap yarn around the hook again (yrh).



3 Pull the yarn through the stitch only (3 loops on hook).



4 Yarn round hook again, pull the yarn through all 3 loops. You've made a half treble crochet. Continue working htr into next and following sts to the end of the row.

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TREBLE CROCHET (tr) US term: double crochet

One of the most popular stitches in crochet, this simple stitch is twice as high as a double crochet stitch.



1 To work a treble crochet, start by winding yrh and then insert the hook under the top two loops of the stitch on the previous row.



2 Wrap the yarn around the hook (yrh) and pull the yarn through the stitch only.



3 You will now have 3 loops on the hook. Yrh again, and draw the yarn through just the first 2 loops on the hook.



4 You will now have 2 loops on the hook. Yrh again and draw the yarn through the remaining loops on the hook. Your treble crochet is complete.

DOUBLE TREBLE CROCHET (dtr) US term: treble crochet

This is a stitch regularly used as an elongated version of the treble (described above). It's worked in a very similar way to the treble, as follows:

1 Make a foundation chain. Skip 4ch, *yrh twice, and insert the hook under the top loop of the next ch.

2 Yrh, pull the yarn through the ch loop only (4 loops on hook).

3 Yrh and pull the yarn through 2 loops only (3 loops on hook).

Yrh and pull the yarn through 2 loops only (2 loops on hook).

4 Yrh and pull the yarn through the remaining 2 loops. Repeat from * to make more dtr sts.

5 To make the next row of dtr, turn work and ch4. This turning chain counts as the first dtr in a new row. Skip first st at the base of the t-ch, work 1dtr under the top two loops of the 2nd stitch in the previous row; continue to the end of the row.

TRIPLE TREBLE CROCHET (ttr) US term: double treble crochet

This is one of the longest standard crochet stitches and is mainly used in fancy stitch patterns. It's taller than a double treble crochet stitch (described left) and is worked in a very similar way, as follows:

1 Make a foundation ch. Skip 5 ch, *yrh 3 times, insert hook under top loop of next ch.

2 Yrh, pull yarn through ch loop only (5 loops on hook).

3 † Yrh, draw loop through 2 loops only. Repeat from † 3 times more and your triple treble will be finished. Repeat from * to make more ttr sts.

4 To make the next row, turn work and ch5. This turning chain counts as the first triple treble in a new row. Skip first st at base of the t-ch. Work 1 triple treble, inserting hook under the top 2 loops of the 2nd st in the previous row; continue to the end of the row.

TURNING CHAIN (t-ch)

For an even finish, start each row with a turning chain.

In crochet, you need to add turning chains (t-chs) to the beginning of rows. The reason for this is to bring the hook up to the height of the stitches you're crocheting. Each basic stitch has its own number of chains. The table below tells you how many t-ch sts form the first stitch. *For dc, usually the turning chain does not count as a stitch, and the first stitch of the row is worked into the stitch at the base of the turning chain.

STITCH	Add to foundation chain before starting row	**Skip at start of foundation row (counts as first st)**	For turning chain (counts as first st)
Double crochet	1 ch	**1 ch***	1 ch*
Half treble	1 ch	**2 ch**	2 ch
Treble	2 ch	**3 ch**	3 ch
Double treble	3 ch	**4 ch**	4 ch
Triple treble	4 ch	**5 ch**	5 ch

How to count stitches

Check your work is correct.

Being able to count your stitches is very important and helps you to ensure that you're following a pattern correctly. It's a good idea to count your stitches at the end of every row. To count short stitches such as double crochet, look at the plaited tops (see above right). For taller stitches, count the upright 'stems' – each 'stem' is counted as a stitch (see right).



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HOW TO GET A PERFECT FINISH

To prevent your hard work unravelling once you've finished crocheting, fasten the end off carefully.



Complete the final stitch, then cut the yarn about 15cm from the work. Pull it through the last loop on the hook and pull to close the loop. Thread the yarn tail onto a tapestry needle and weave into the back of the work. Most crochet items don't need a lot of blocking, but cotton lace work usually does. To do this, carefully pin out the item with rust-proof pins, mist with a water spray and leave to dry naturally.

INCREASING AND DECREASING

Shaping stitches are vital for making garments.



INCREASE To increase one stitch is very simple – work one stitch into the next stitch on the row below. When you've finished, work another stitch into the same stitch.



DECREASE For a quick decrease, just skip one stitch. For a neater look, work the first part of one stitch and then begin the next stitch. Finish both together.

SEWING SEAMS

You can join crochet seams by using a tapestry needle or a crochet hook, using one of these four methods.



1 Sewing with a tapestry needle is the regular and neat way to join seams. Place two pieces of crochet right sides together and oversew them as shown above, using a tapestry or yarn needle.



2 To slip stitch a seam, place the crochet pieces right sides together. *Insert hook into both edge stitches, yrh and pull through to complete 1 slip stitch; rep from * working into the next edge stitches, keeping work fairly loose.



3 For a dc seam, place the crochet pieces right sides together, or wrong sides together for a visible seam. Work as for slip stitch seam, using double crochet instead of slip stitch.



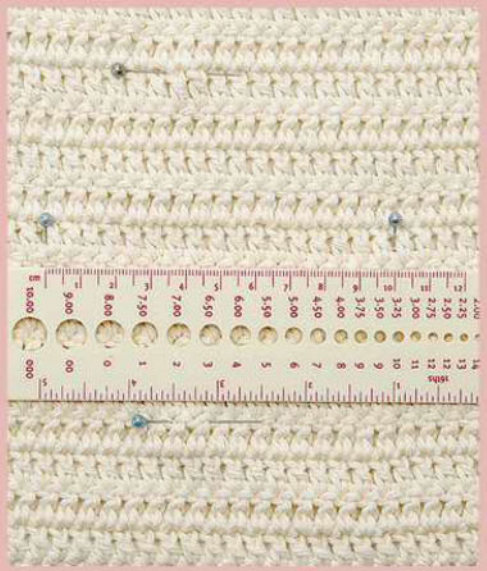
4 A useful variation on the dc seam, the dc and chain seam is used when less bulk and/or greater flexibility is needed. Work 1 double crochet and 1 chain alternately.

How to check your tension

Make and measure a swatch to check your tension.

Most crochet patterns state the tension required, in rows and stitches of a specific type. Make a swatch at least 15cm square and check that your tension matches. Place a ruler across the swatch and insert two pins, 10cm apart. Then place the ruler along a column of stitches and insert two pins 10cm apart. Count the stitches and rows between the pins – if you have less than the pattern, your tension is too loose so you need to use a smaller hook, but if you have too many, use a larger hook. It's usually better to match the stitches than rows, because you can always work more or fewer rows.





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HOW TO CHANGE COLOUR

Create stripes and other colour effects.



1 Before you work the final yrh (yarn round hook) on the last stitch of a row in the old colour, drop the old yarn and pick up the new one with your hook.



2 Pull through a loop of the new yarn to finish the old stitch. The working loop will be in the new colour. Continue, keeping the old yarn at the wrong side.

FOUNDATION RING

Create a foundation ring for working in the round.



1 Make a chain the length stated in the pattern instructions. Next, insert the crochet hook into the first chain. Close the ring with a slip stitch, working yrh…



2 …and pull yarn through 2 loops on hook. Now you're ready to start crocheting in the round, following the instructions given below.

WORKING STITCHES INTO A RING

Make circles, tubes and other shapes by working simple rounds of crochet stitches.



1 Make a foundation ring (as described above right) and then work the correct number of chains for the t-ch, for example, 3ch for a treble.



2 Now work the stitch as you would on a row, but insert the hook into the centre of the ring rather than each chain loop. For a treble, yrh, insert into the ring.



3 Continue with the treble stitch, working in the same way as you would on a row. So yrh and pull yarn through the loop. Then yrh and pull yarn through first 2 loops.



4 Finish off the treble stitch by working yrh and pull yarn through 2 loops. Continue making stitches into the ring as instructed in your pattern.

JOINING ROUNDS

Finish off each round of crochet stitches nice and neatly by using a slip stitch.



1 To close a round of stitches, work a slip stitch into the top of the turning chain. To do this, insert the hook into the top stitch of the turning chain.



2 Then place the yarn round the hook. Pull the yarn through the turning chain stitch and through the original stitch on your hook.



3 You've slip stitched the round together! Before working another round, be sure to make the required turning chain. Always work rounds on the right side, unless you pattern instructs you otherwise.

Rounds or spirals



Check which technique to use.

Some patterns are worked in rounds that are joined together at the end of each round (see left). Other patterns are worked in a spiral so you don't need to join the rounds at the end, just keep going, working into the next stitch on the previous row. Amigurumi toys are often worked in a spiral like this.

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Abbreviations

across	to end of the row
alt	alternate/alternating
approx	approximate(ly)
beg	beginning
bl	insert hook under back loop only
BPtr	Back Post treble: yrh, starting from the back, insert hook from back to front to back around post of st in row below, complete as treble st
ch(s)	chain/chain stitch(es)
ch-sp(s)	chain space(s)
ch-	refers to ch made previously, eg. ch-3
cl(s)	clusters
4-tr cl	(yrh, insert hook in sp/st, yrh & pull up loop, yrh & draw through 2 loops) 4 times, inserting hook in same sp/st, yrh & draw through all loops on hook
cont	continue
dc	double crochet
dc2tog	(insert hook in next st, yrh and draw a loop through) twice, yrh and draw through all 3 loops on hook
dec	decrease
dtr	double treble crochet
dtr2tog	work 2dtr together
fl	insert hook under front loop only
foll/folls	following/follows
FPtr	Front Post treble: work in opposite way to BPtr
htr	half treble
htr2tog	work 2htr together
in next	sts to be worked into the same stitch
inc	increase
LH	left hand
lp(s)	loop(s)
meas	measures
p or pc	picot
patt(s)	pattern(s)
pm	place marker
prev	previous
rem	remain(s)/remaining
rep	repeat
RH	right hand
rnd(s)	round(s)
RS	right side
sk	skip
sp(s)	space(s)
ss	slip stitch
st(s)	stitch(es)
tbl	through back loop
t-ch(s)	turning chain(s)
tog	together
tr	treble crochet
tr2tog	(yrh, insert hook in next st, yrh and pull up loop, yrh and draw through 2 loops) twice, yrh and draw through all loops on hook
ttr	triple treble crochet
WS	wrong side
yoh	yarn over hook
yrh	yarn round hook
*	work instructions immediately foll *, then rep as directed
[] or ()	work or repeat all instructions in the brackets as directed

Crochet hook conversions

UK	METRIC	US
14	2mm	–
13	2.25mm	B/1
12	2.5mm	–
–	2.75mm	C/2
11	3mm	–
10	3.25mm	D/3
9	3.5mm	E/4
–	3.75mm	F/5
8	4mm	G/6
7	4.5mm	7
6	5mm	H/8
5	5.5mm	I/9
4	6mm	J/10
3	6.5mm	K/10½
2	7mm	–
0	8mm	L/11

Which hook do I use?

Hook size	UK yarn weight
2.5-3.5mm hook	4ply yarn
3.5-4.5mm hook	double knitting yarn
5-6mm hook	aran yarn
7mm and bigger	chunky yarn

UK/US conversions

UK		US	
chain	ch	chain	ch
slip stitch	ss	slip stitch	ss
double crochet	dc	single crochet	sc
half treble	htr	half double	hdc
treble	tr	double	dc
double treble	dtr	treble	tr
triple treble	ttr	double treble	dtr

Getting all kitted out

We're huge fans of KnitPro's wide range of comfy and easy-to-use crochet hooks. Be sure to check out their brand new Waves crochet hooks, made from light aluminium with rainbow handles. The 13 colourful, vibrant and trendy soft-feel grips are each unique to its size. The range extends from 2mm-12mm.

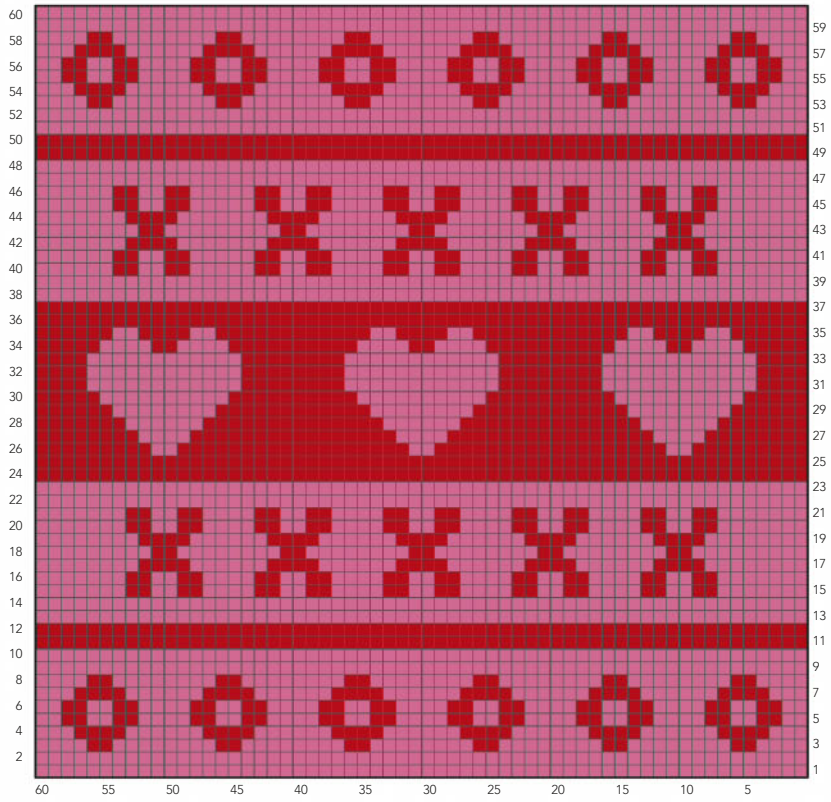


KnitPro FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO KNIT

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CHARTS & DIAGRAMS

The extras you'll need to make the cushion, crochet hook case and Granny Square of the Month.

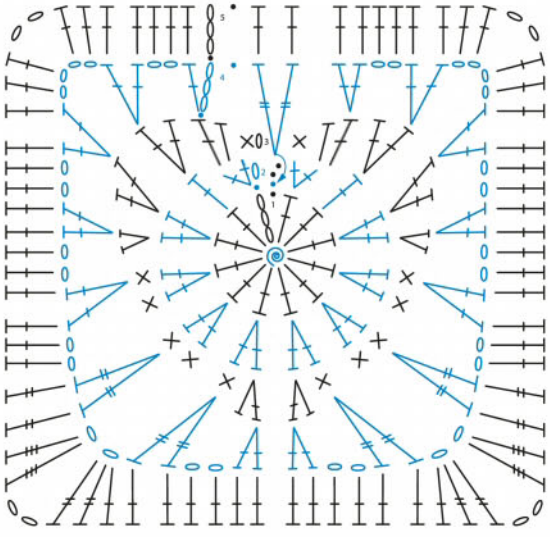


HUGS & KISSES CUSHION (PAGE 61)

Key

- Yarn A
- Yarn B

GRANNY SQUARE OF THE MONTH (PAGE 37)



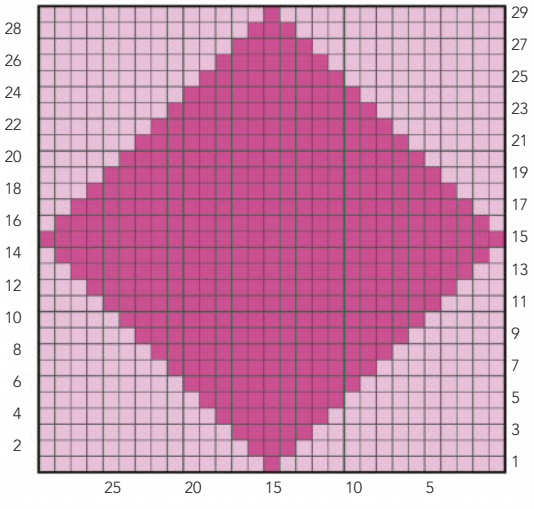
Key

- Magic loop
- Slip st (ss)
- Chain (ch)
- Double crochet (dc)
- Half treble crochet (htr)
- Treble crochet (tr)
- Double treble crochet (dtr)
- Triple treble crochet (ttr)
- 2 dc in same stitch
- Work in stitch 2 rows below

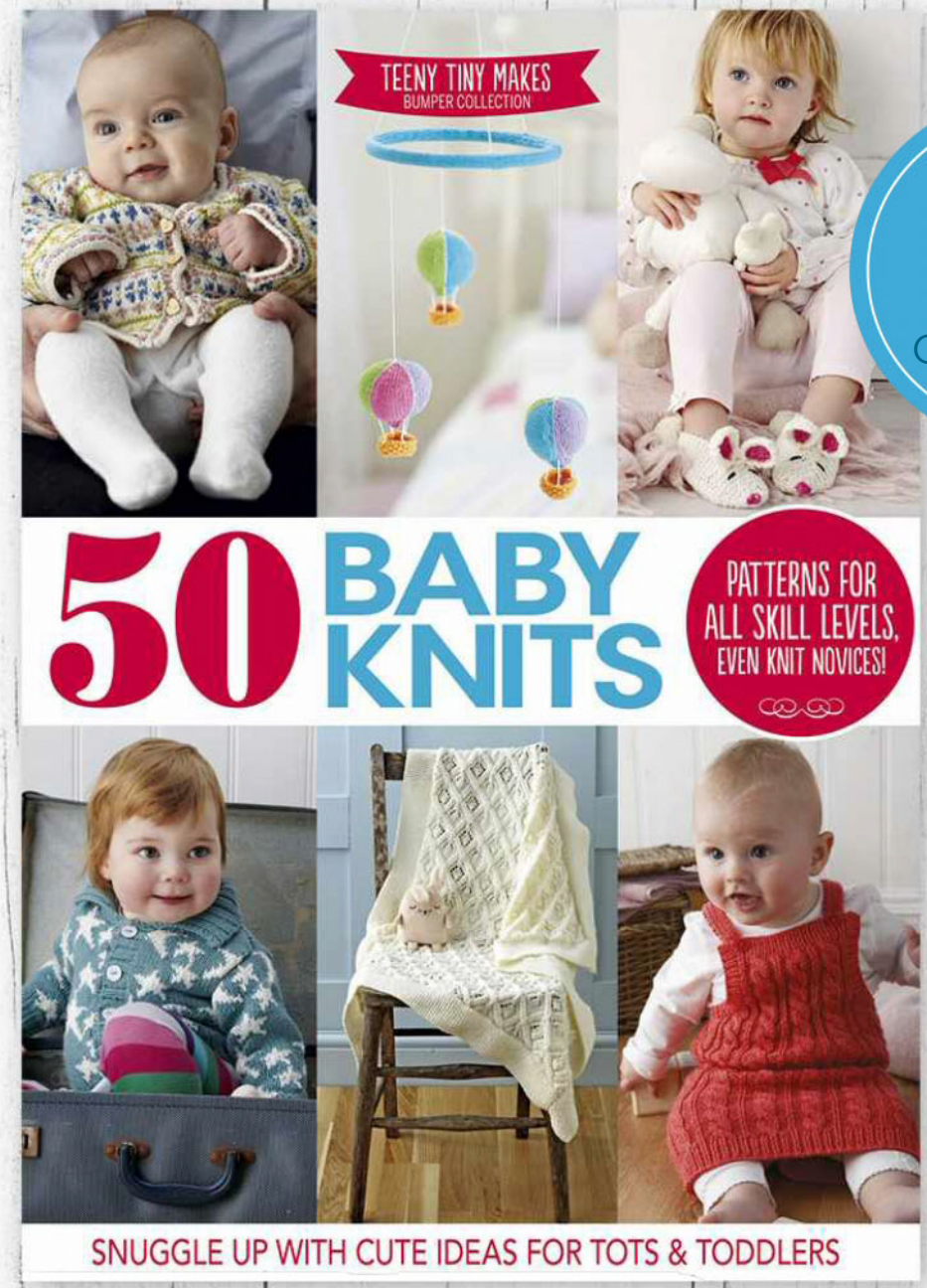
CUTE HOOK CASE (PAGE 23)

Key

- Kiss
- Berry



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MAKE A MOTIF

LILAC DREAM

Hook up Lucy Croft's light and lacy flower shape.



MAKE A MOTIF



TREBLE CROCHET | DK WEIGHT | 3.5MM HOOK

YOU WILL NEED

- Rico Creative Reflection Print (46% Wool 46% Acrylic 8% Polyester, 50g/240m), Lilac Silver (383060)
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook

For yarn stockists, contact Rico www.rico-design.co.uk

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

Rico's Reflective Print yarn is a subtly variegated DK with a hint of sparkle. Really, it's the perfect match for Lucy Croft's delicate floral motif this month. The shape is worked in four fairly simple rounds with an open, wheel-like centre and eight dainty petals around the edge. Grab your crochet hook and set about hooking up a lacy shawl with this motif pattern.

BLOCK MOTIF

Make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr), 15tr into the loop, ss into the top of the beginning ch-3 to join. [16 tr]

Round 2 Ch6 (counts as tr, ch3), *skip the next tr, tr in the next tr, ch3; repeat from * 6 more times, ss to the third ch of the beginning ch-6 to join. [8 tr, 8 ch-3 sp]

Round 3 Ch8 (counts as tr, ch5), *skip ch-3 sp, tr in the next tr, ch5; repeat from * 6 more times, ss to third ch of beg ch-8. [8 tr, 8 ch-5 sp]

Round 4 Ch3 (counts as tr), (tr, ch3, tr, ch3, tr, ch3, 2tr) into st at base of ch (petal formed), ss to the centre ch of ch-5 sp, *(2tr, ch3, tr, ch3, tr ch3, 2tr) into the next tr, ss to centre ch of the next ch-5 sp; repeat from * 6 more times, ss into the top of the first tr of this round, fasten off.

JOINING MOTIFS

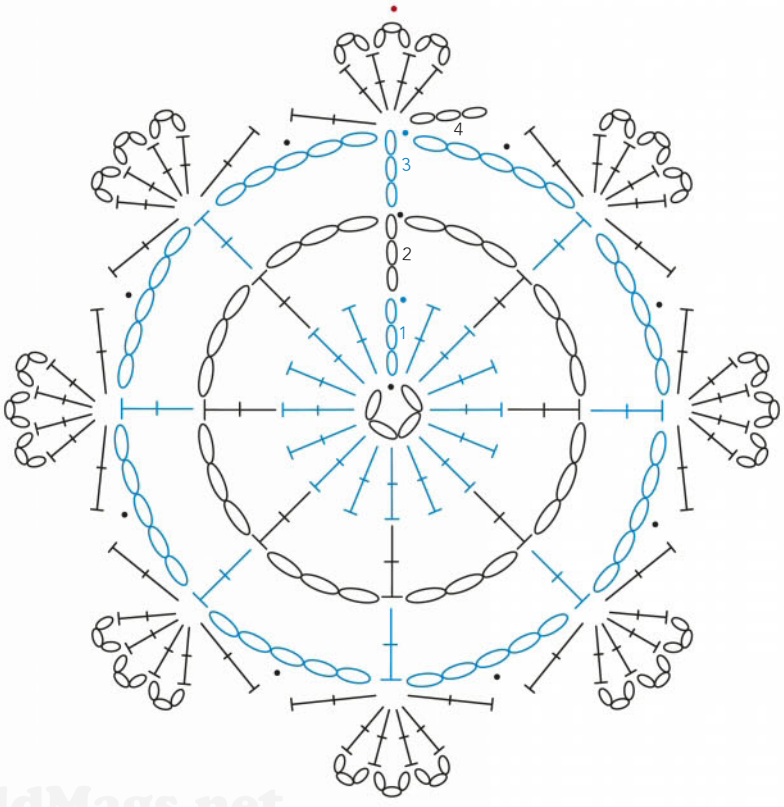
Join motifs while working Round 4, by replacing the second ch of the second ch-3 with a ss into the corresponding ch on the next motif.

Key

- Slip stitch (ss)
- Chain (ch)
- Treble crochet (tr)
- Joining slip stitch

On the chart, all rounds are read in an anti-clockwise direction.



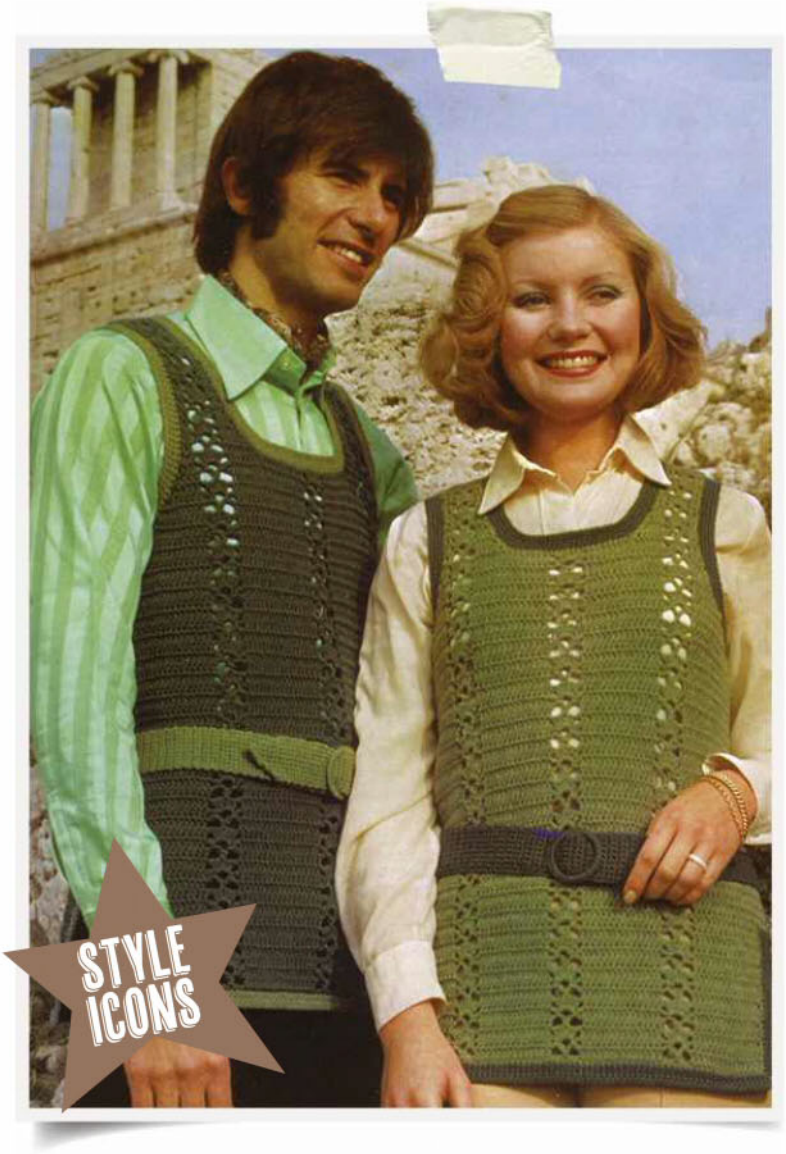


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* Contents subject to change



GREEN GIANTS

Take your relationship to the height of cute with his 'n' hers matching outfits.

When retro and futuristic meet, the result is this unisex belted tunic from the 1970s that's turned an ordinary couple into a pair of jolly green giants. Looking at these two, we have a sudden urge to eat more vegetables and plan a holiday where it's probably too hot for sleeves – it's all subliminal, you know. Underneath those wide grins, we think he's positively green with envy about how good she looks compared to him, while she's super-jealous about how well he's wearing those sideburns. Perhaps in a different colour, the ladies tunic would look good in your spring wardrobe. What do you think – should couples ever wear matching outfits? Can a man ever really look good in a tunic? Get in touch and let us know. The pattern is available from www.wonkyzebra.etsy.com. If you'd like to see your vintage delights featured here, scan in your patterns and send them to simplycrochet@futurenet.com

Courtesy of www.wonkyzebra.etsy.com

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BERGERE DE FRANCE

Pattern 7
taken from our
magazine 176



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ISSUE TWENTY-SIX

Granny treble accessories: a slouchy beanie, bag, skirt and more, plus a granny square baby blanket, a hexagon shawl and a silky triangle blanket. Plus a cabled cardi, an upcycled denim bag, a kids' crocodile stitch hat, and amigurumi dogs.

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ISSUE TWENTY-FIVE

Amigurumi elf, cowl-neck poncho, sawtooth-edge shawl, and kids' cable sweater vest.



ISSUE TWENTY-FOUR

Fair Isle jumper, home accessories, Tunisian crochet men's cardi, and a MyBoshi beanie.



ISSUE TWENTY-THREE

A statement swing coat, and hats, mitts and scarves for the whole family. Plus a colourful throw.



ISSUE TWENTY-TWO

Hook a jumper with bobbles and a lacy vest top, a trio of cacti, cute puppy, and a lace shawl.



ISSUE TWENTY-ONE

Moroccan garden projects, owl key ring, vintage cardi, plus baby sandals and cute dinosaurs!



ISSUE TWENTY

Kitten travel makes, crochet sun hat, beautiful cardi and floral blanket, and a retro-style bikini.



ISSUE NINETEEN

For festivals: a bag, waistcoat, shawl and purse. Football boot slippers, and amigurumi butterfly.



ISSUE EIGHTEEN

Gingham granny squares and kitchen accessories, plus an amigurumi unicorn and blue lacy scarf.



ISSUE SEVENTEEN

Bicycle projects in ice-cream shades, a cool cowl, rainbow sausage dog, and a mandala vest top.



ISSUE SIXTEEN

Chanel-inspired jacket, modern gypsy makes, robot toy and bright Easter projects.



ISSUE FIFTEEN

Pretty projects for a yoga class, with a wrapover cardi, plus a chevron shawl and a peplum cardi.



ISSUE FOURTEEN

Biker jacket, a Granny Square scarf and an easy blanket. Plus fun animal makes.

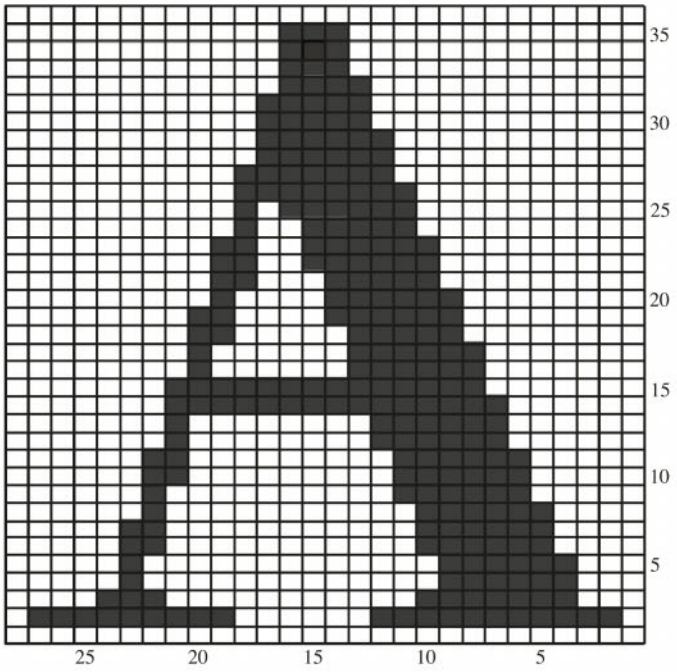


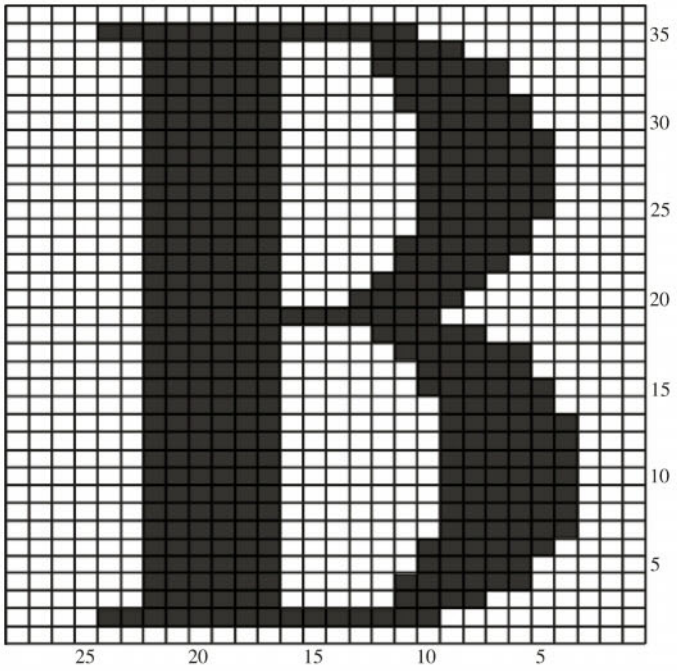
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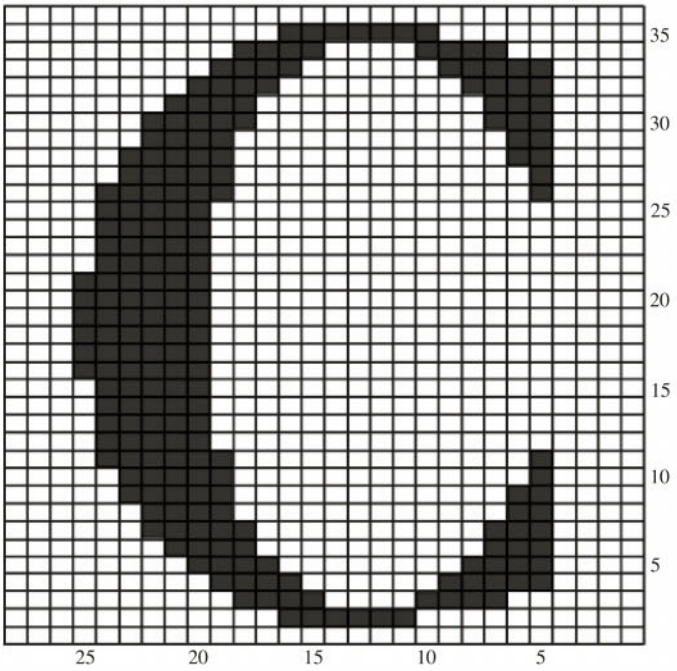
Biker gloves, a chunky cowl, and slipper boots, plus comfy cushions and a blanket.

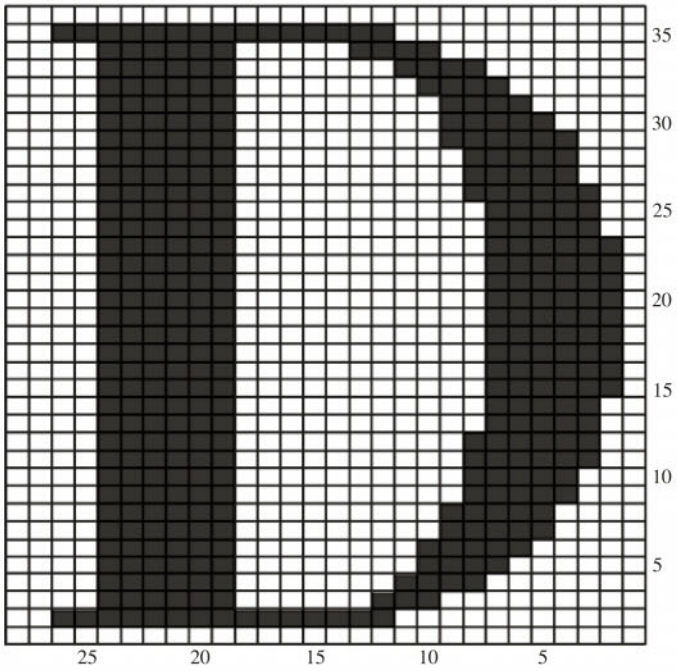


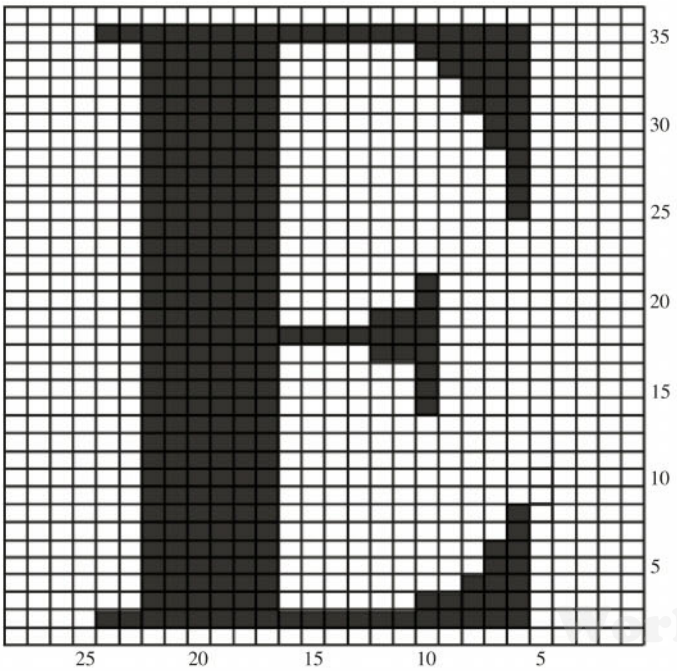
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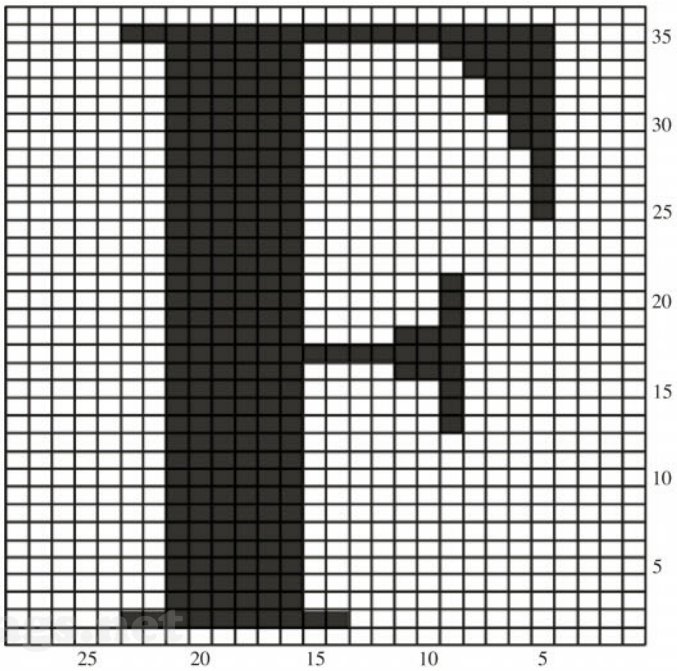

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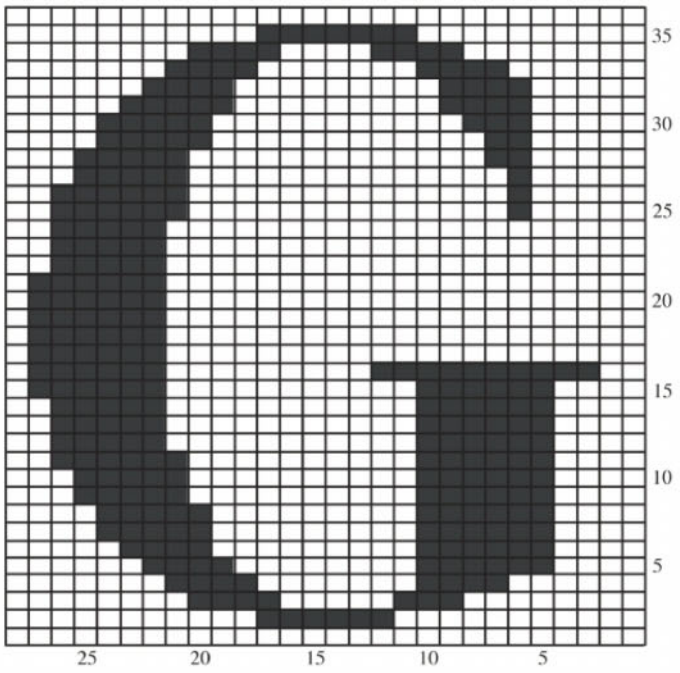

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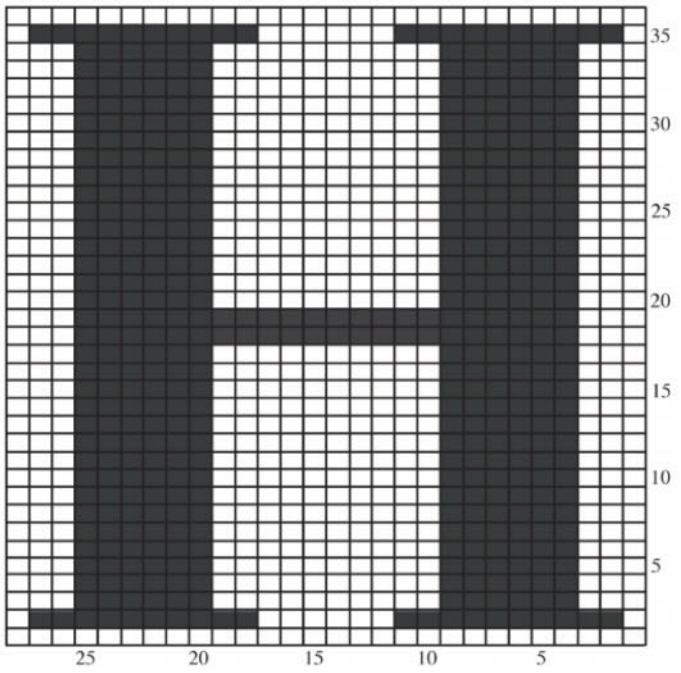

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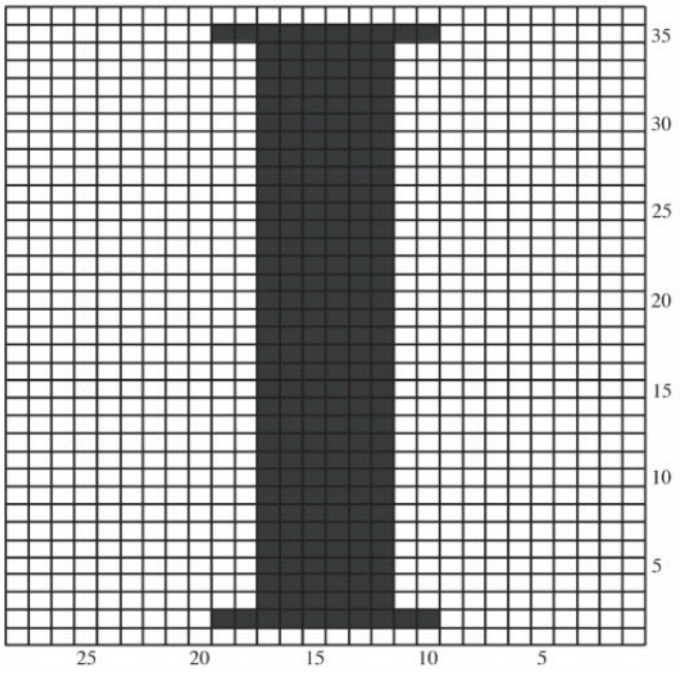

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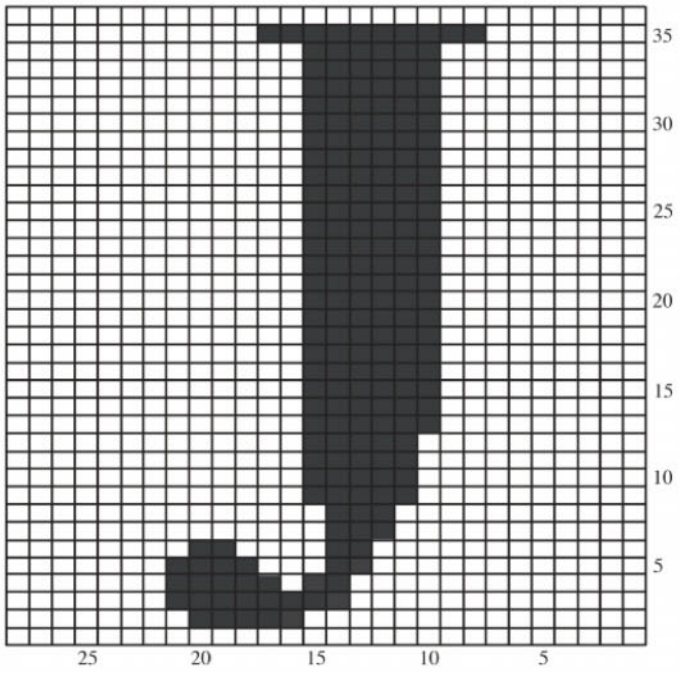

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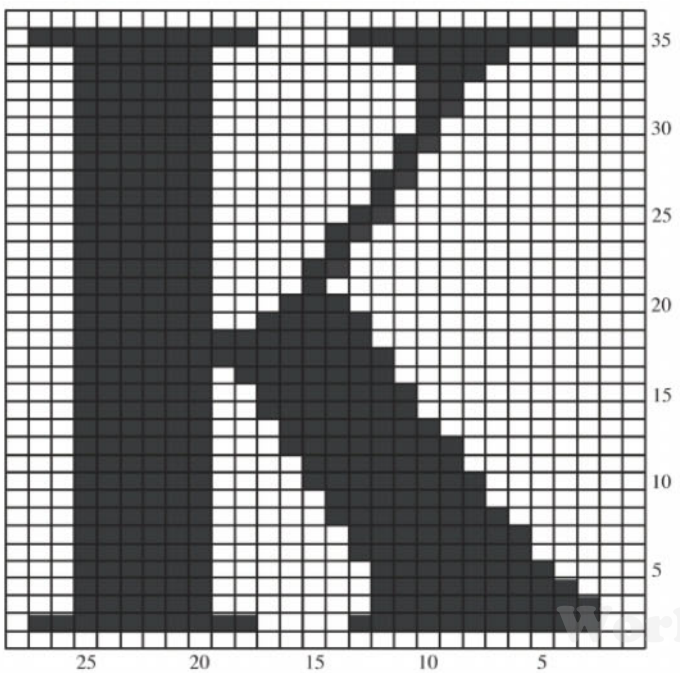

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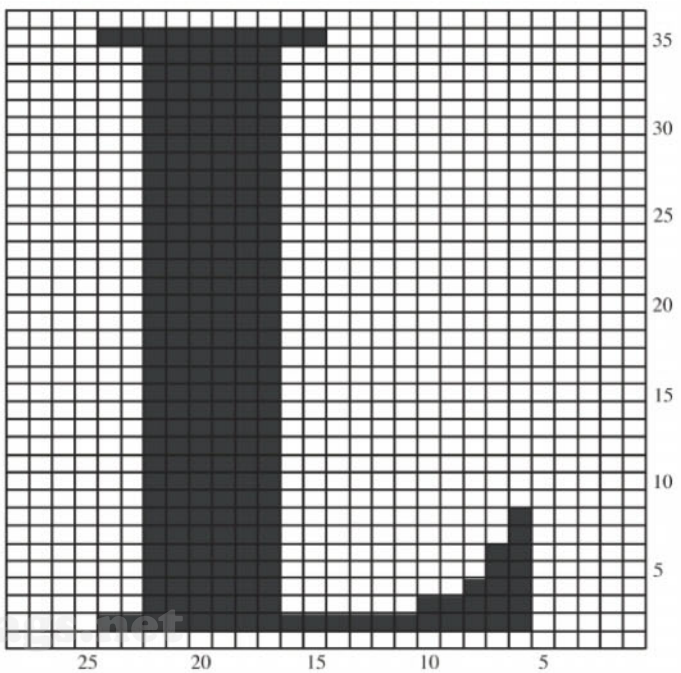

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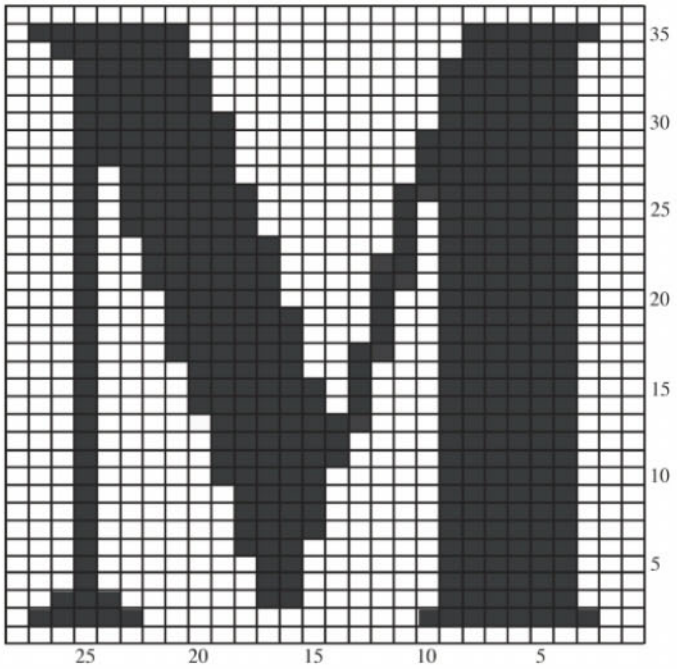

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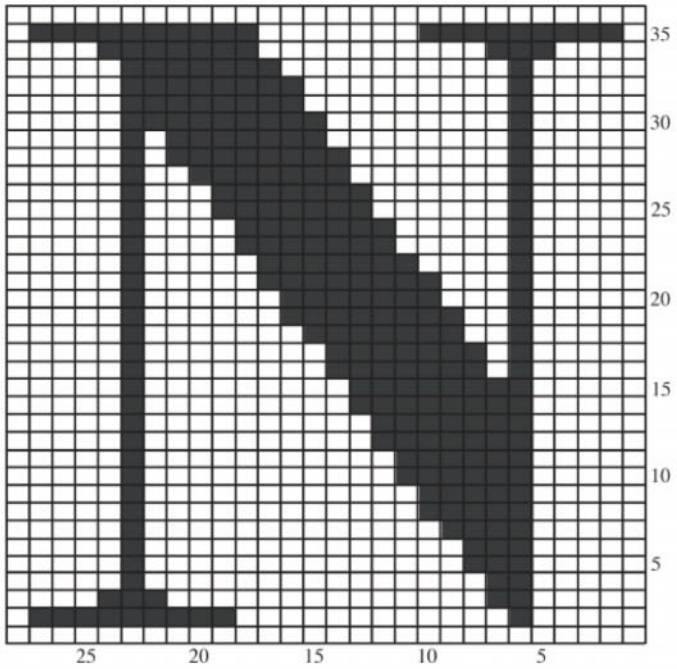

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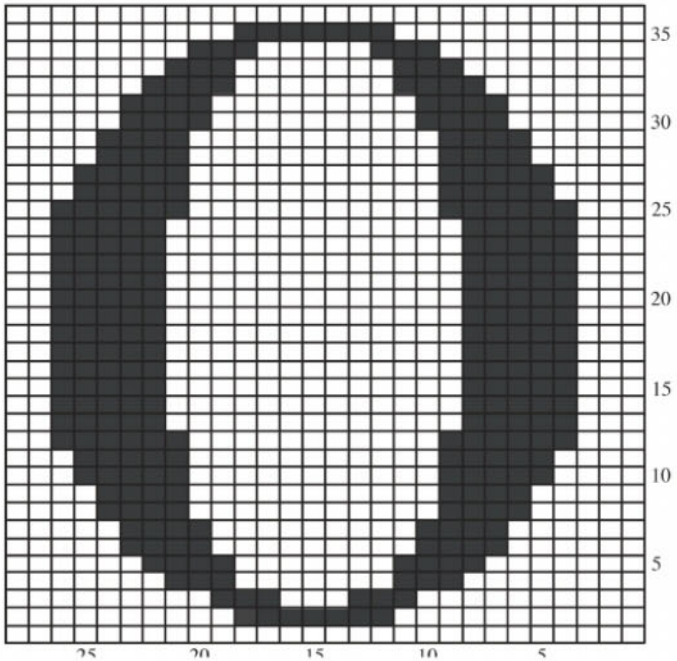

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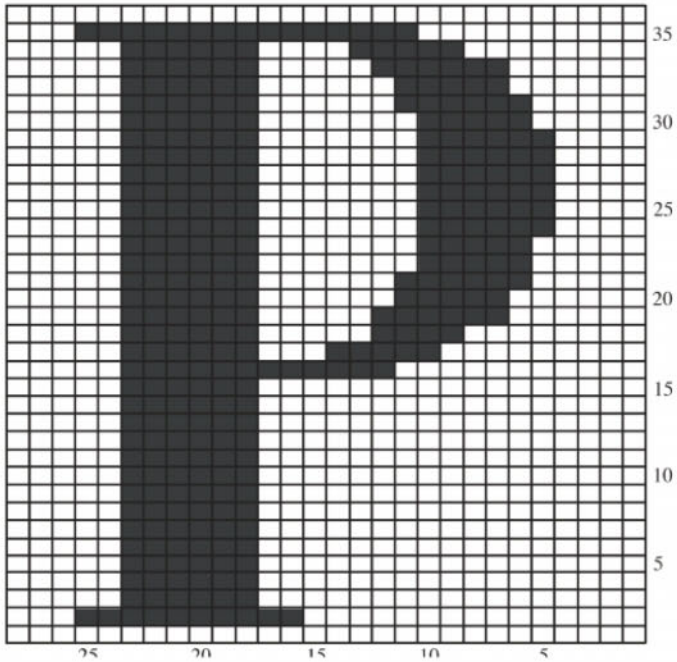

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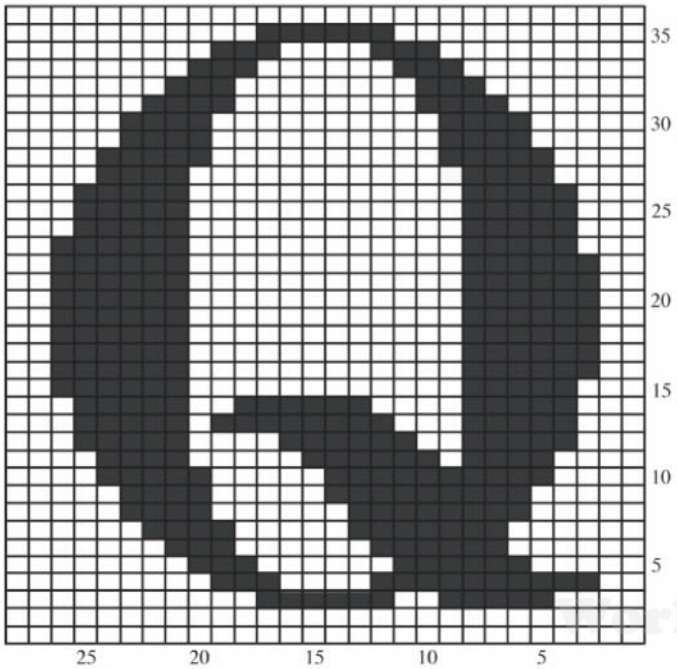

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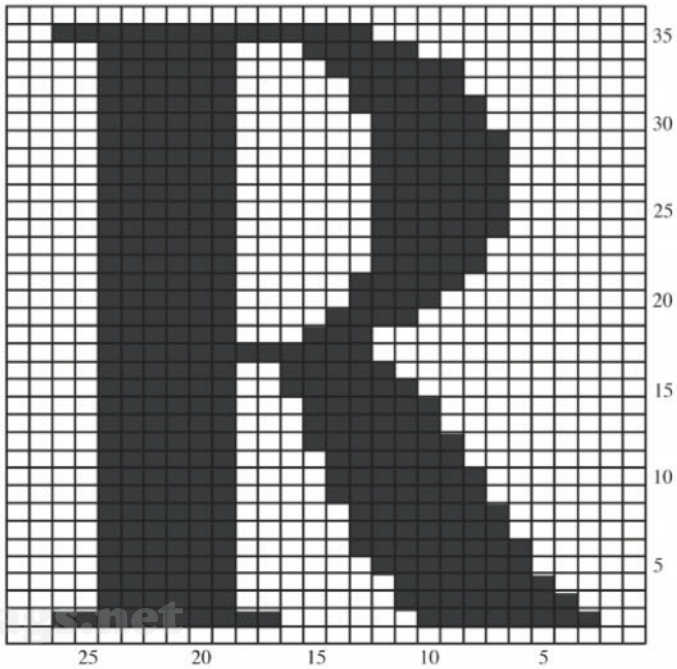

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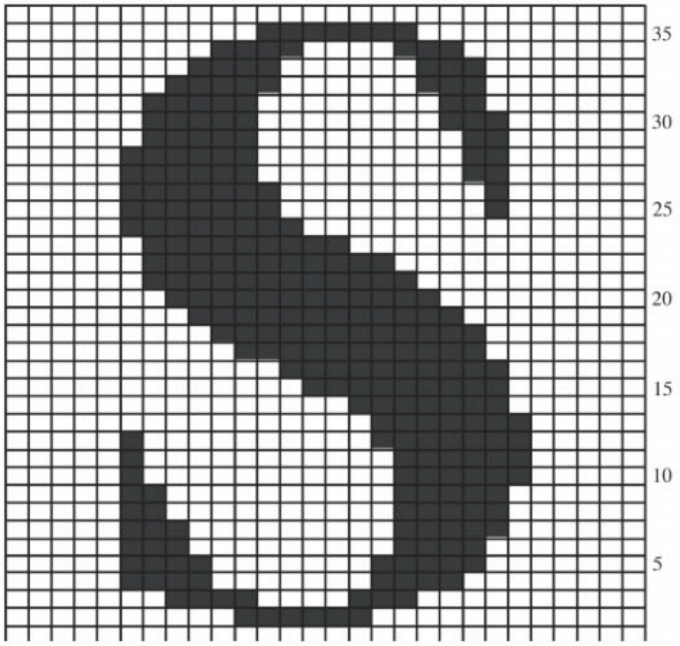

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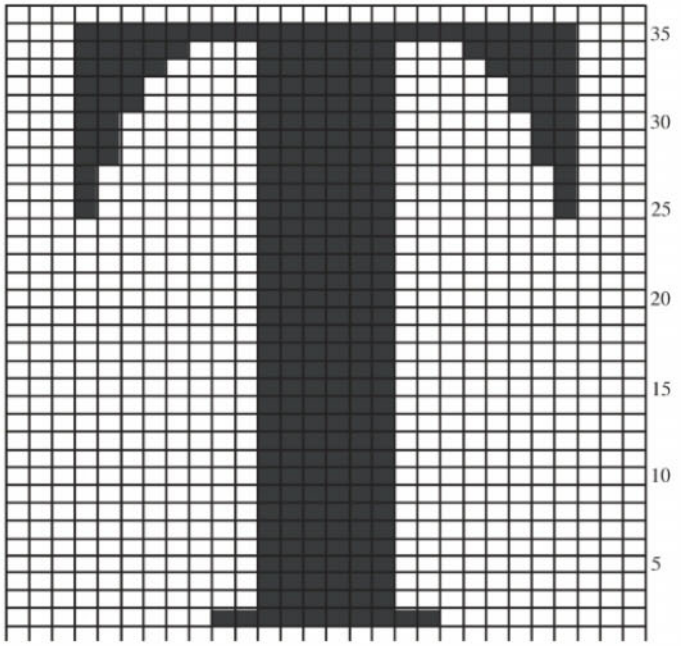

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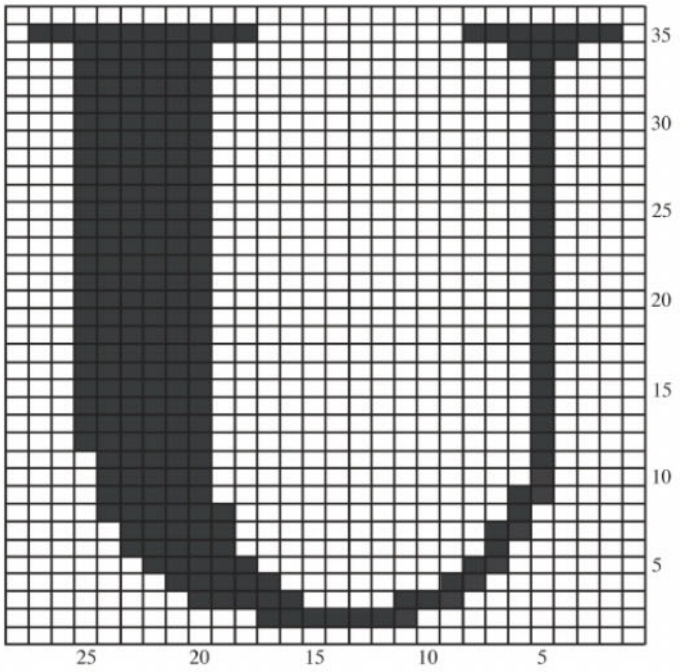

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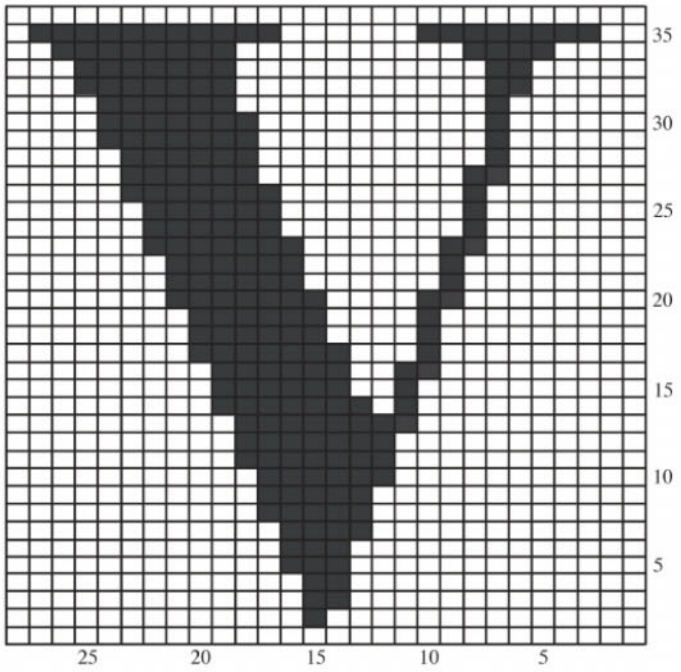

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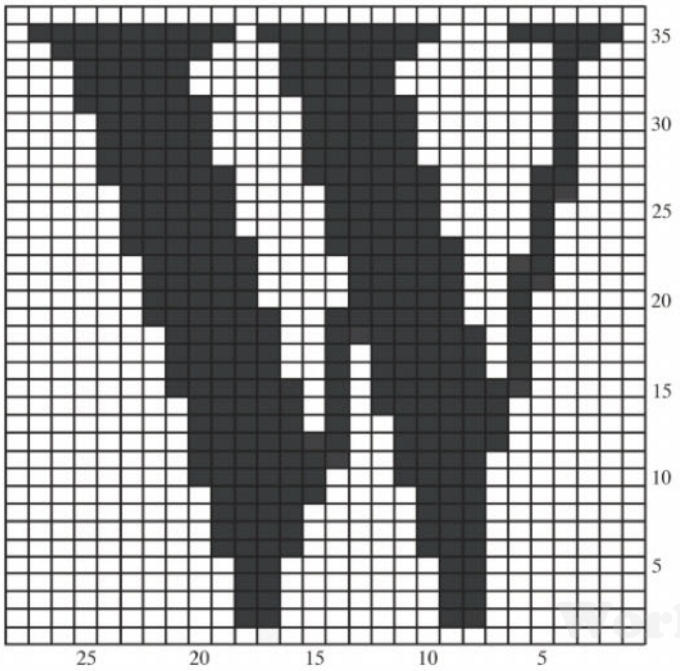

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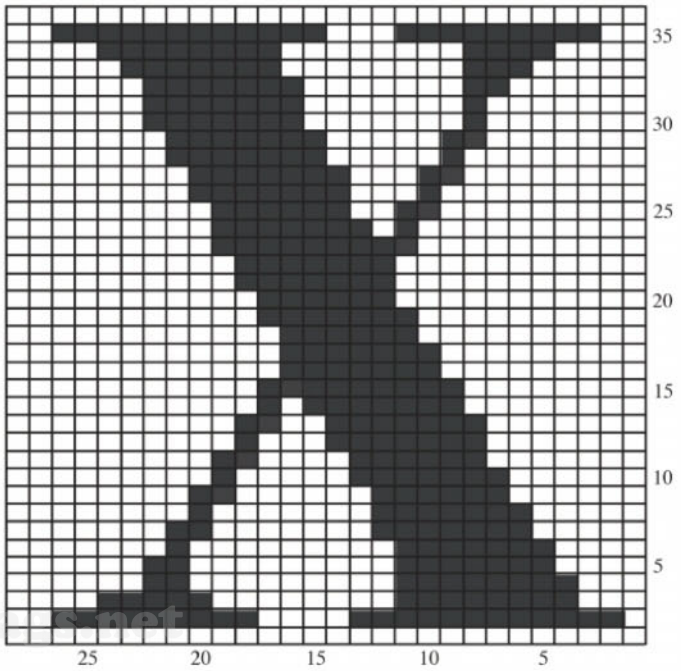

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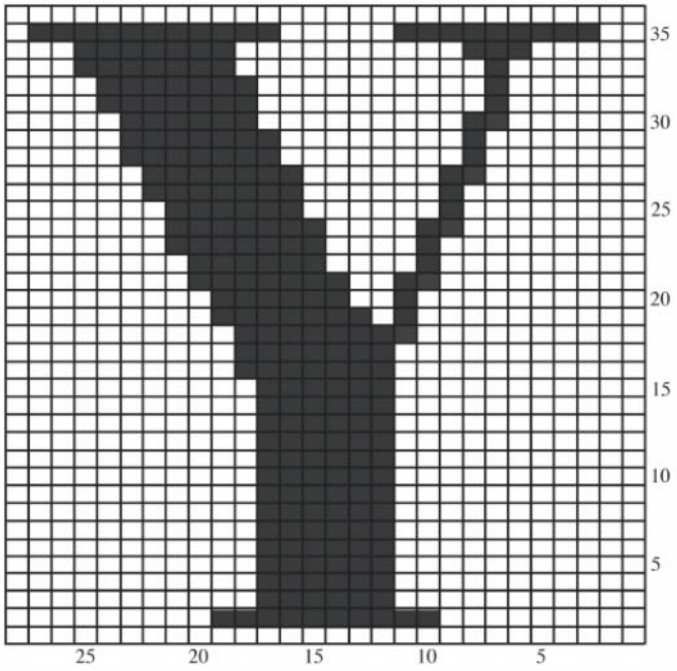

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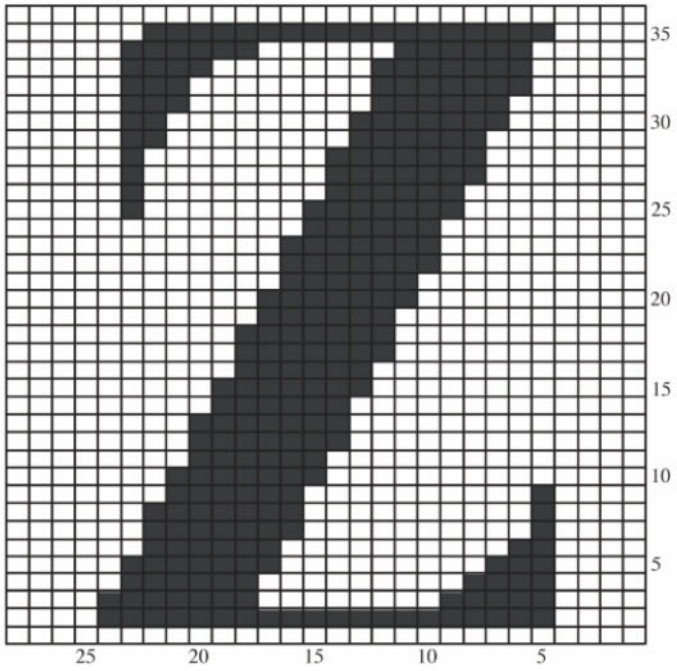

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