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HOOKED ON HANDMADE



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Simply Crochet

HOOKED ON HANDMADE

This little elf has been very busy making gifts and so have we – inside, you'll find the perfect presents to hook for your friends and family, plus some treats for yours-elf, too! We wish you a merry Christmas...



Simply Crochet

ISSUE TWENTY-FIVE

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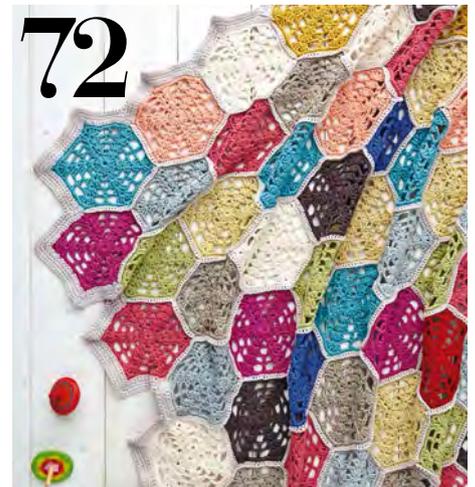
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CONTRIBUTORS

THE PASSIONATE PEOPLE BEHIND THIS ISSUE. . .



"I LOVE TO TURN MY DRAWINGS INTO AMIGURUMI CHARACTERS."

ILARIA CALIRI (AKA AIRALI)

Italian stitcher Ilaria is passionate about crochet, ice cream and all things vintage. This issue, she has designed what might be the cutest Christmas elf we've ever seen. Meet him on page 33.



"OTHER ARTISTS ALWAYS STIMULATE ME TO CREATE."

MICHELLE KREUSSEL

Michelle is the creative lady behind The Fox in the Attic, an online shop stocking wondrous handmade goodies. Try Michelle's fabulously festive cross stitch bunting over on page 83.



"THE BEST THING ABOUT HANDICRAFT IS ITS CHALLENGES."

MOLLA MILLS

Impossibly stylish crochet designer Molla is sharing a special tutorial from her new book *Modern Crochet*. Turn to page 56 to find out how to print your own labels. Perfect for handmade gifts.



"TO ME, CROCHET IS A POST-APOCALYPTIC LIFE SKILL."

LYDIA TRESSELT

Lydia's long-limbed Lalylala critters couldn't be more adorable if they tried. This month, the toy designer shares what inspires her makes and spills some studio secrets, too. See page 66.

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Simply Crochet is a celebration of all things crochet! Every month, the magazine is packed with inspiring patterns to make, wear and give, as well as gorgeous photos and helpful advice. Plus, there's a free gift just for you with every issue. With a subscription, you can enjoy a whole year of crochet fun!



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HOOKED

IDEAS ♡ INSPIRATION ♡ ACCESSORIES ♡ WEBSITES ♡ EVENTS ♡ STUFF



Baby Emperor Penguin photograph by Ilaria Caliri

CUTEST-EVER BABY PENGUIN

How high is your cute threshold? We've almost reached our limit with this creature – he's just too dang fuzzy and adorable. The little festive chappie is one of 15 sweet amigurumi Christmas makes starring in Ilaria Caliri's new book, *Amigurumi Winter Wonderland*. The talented designer has a real knack for hooking up irresistible critters that we want to hook at first sight. Find out more about the book at www.amigurumipatterns.net. It's also available from Amazon right now.





WE'RE ALL IN A SPIN

What is this rare and most beautiful object of mystery? It's a drop spindle, of course. If you've ever dreamt of spinning your own yarn, one of these will come in handy. This particularly lovely drop spindle is from Spin City (www.spincityuk.etsy.com). Designer and yarn lover Louise makes the whorls of her spindles with clear resin, carefully setting pressed flowers, glitter and even sweets into them. It's a gorgeous bit of kit that's sure to get you in a spin. She stocks fibre and handspun yarn, too. Take a peek.

CROCHET 101

Ever thought of giving a skill for Christmas? Instead of crocheting a gift, you could inspire a friend or family member to get hooking themselves. *101 Quick & Easy Crochet Makes* is a bumper collection of exciting projects, guaranteed to spark a crafty passion. The fab designs are from *Simply Crochet* (so you know they'll be good). Pick up a copy for £7.99 at your local newsie or online at www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk. Race you.



IN CINEMAS 6TH FEB 2015



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Caravans and crochet – you might not know it yet, but it's a match made in crafty heaven. To celebrate the release of *Shaun the Sheep Movie* next February, our sister mag *Simply Knitting* has teamed up with Hobbycraft and the UK Hand Knitting Association to create a woolly extravaganza – and they need your help. The Camping and Caravanning Club is lending them six caravans to decorate with baa-riliant (sorry) crochet and knitted covers. Go solo or team up with fellow hooksters to lend a hand. Register at www.simplyknitting.co.uk/shaunthesheepmovie and watch this space for more info.

'TIS THE SEASON

Handmade gifts are one thing, but a toy stitched with love and given on Christmas morning is quite something else. DMC have a delightful range of amigurumi toy patterns and there are a couple of real Christmas crackers in the collection. This sweet and cuddly gingerbread man has won our hearts with his gumdrop buttons. You could even hook The Snowman™, The Snowdog or a smiley polar bear. Find a cute pattern you'll love at www.dmccreative.co.uk



Gingerbread Man



Polar Bear



FRESH HOOKING

Get a grip. No, really, Pony have a fabulous new range of Easy Grip crochet hooks that are comfy, colourful and so easy to use. Fantastic if you've got a mammoth project on the go. The hooks are available in sizes 2mm-6mm and prices start at £2. To find Pony stockists near you, contact 01453 883581 or groves@stockistenquiries.co.uk

MAKE IT LAST MINUTE

Organisation not your strong point? You can still squeeze in these last-minute hooky gifts.

- 1 **CROCHET SNOWFLAKE**
They're lovely as tree decorations and take minutes to hook up.
- 2 **HUG FOR A MUG**
Craft a pretty cup cosy for your tea-lovin' pal.
- 3 **CUTEST KEYRING**
A tiny motif or amigurumi toy is perfect for a keyring.
- 4 **ON THE TABLE**
Crochet coasters or napkin rings are ideal for a hostess.
- 5 **WONDRIOUS WRISTIES**
Make a set of bracelets in their fave shades – pretty, personal and so speedy.

LOVE LACE

Step out in style with a pair of these Shiloh Lace Court Shoes (psst, there's a sale on). Yours for £44.50. See www.phase-eight.com



INSPIRING BOOKS

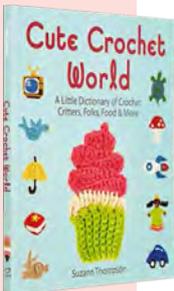
THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS IN CROCHET

Mitsuki ★ Hoshi (£10.99, Harper Design)
Clement C. Moore's poem, The Night Before Christmas, comes to amigurumi life in this book. The front section features the poem, illustrated with crochet characters, while the second half has all the patterns. Turn to page 62 now to make one of the patterns!



CUTE CROCHET WORLD

Suzann Thompson (£12.99, Lark)
Love mini projects? This book has patterns for 51 motifs you can hook with a little yarn and time. They're not just fripperies though, you'll find all sorts of ways to use them. A pram is perfect for a baby blanket, while animals, leaves and more can easily be turned into jewellery.



AMI AMI DOGS

Mitsuki ★ Hoshi (£8.99, Harper Design)
If you'd like to hook a pooch pal but you're serious about getting the details right, this is the book for you. Twelve breeds (including Pugs, Chihuahuas and Beagles) get the amigurumi treatment from an expert. There are excellent photo guides to creating heads, mouths, tails and more.



PINTEREST PERFECT

Walter Foster Creative Team (Walter Foster, £12.99)
This book attempts to 'pin' down some of the best aspects of the vast online resource. It includes 25 projects from eight artists covering illustration, origami, collage and more, with lots of tips from the featured artists. Good for getting inspired.





INDIE LOVE

■ On a quest to find gorgeous crochet projects, or looking to sell your own designs? Online yarn boutique LoveKnitting have just launched LoveKnitting Designers, a new pattern market place to support independent designers. You can find out more at www.loveknitting.com/pattern-market. We've got our beady eye on this cute crochet collar designed by Anna Nikipirowicz.



BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

Crochet shawls are having a bit of a fashion moment, we reckon. They're effortlessly elegant, so much warmer than scarves and kind of like super-stylish blankets that you can legitimately wear outside the house. This particular design from The Mercerie (www.themeracie.net) is turning heads this winter. We love the feminine floral motifs and dramatic colours of the Crochet Folklore Shawl. Purchase the kit, buy one ready-made or download the pattern.



HOLDING ON TIGHT

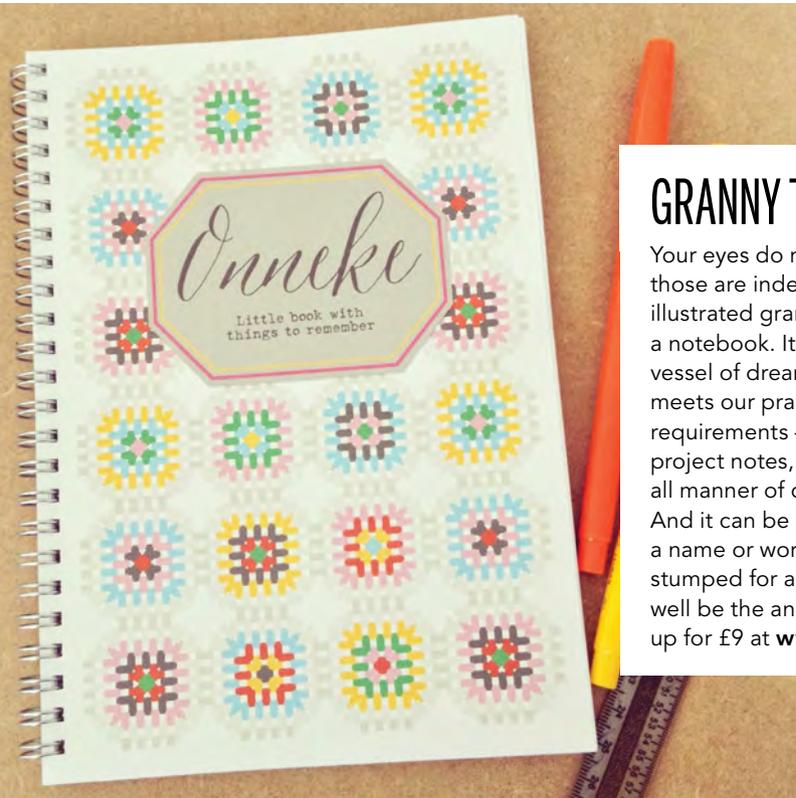
Forget Tinkerbell, Tinkaboo are granting all our crafty wishes at the mo. This nifty little online store stocks an amazing array of pretty crochet stitch markers and some ingenious crafty jewellery, too. Our fave notion from Tinkaboo (www.tinkabooecraftsforyou.etsy.com) is a clever loop (pictured) that keeps your crochet hook safely in place for you between hooking sessions. How have we coped without one of these for so long? We need one, like now.

WRAP ARTISTS



When you've spent hours hooking the perfect gift, it's worth spending a little time on the wrapping, too. We've rounded up a few of our fave gift wrap ideas and goodies for you.

1. Gather all you need for stylish, monochrome wrapping with this fabulous Chalkboard Wrapping Kit, which includes paper, a chalk pen and twine. £7 at www.berryred.co.uk
2. There's no need to get all tangled up with ribbon, a bit of glitzy tape is a really easy way to cheer up even the most basic wrapping. Grab yourself a roll of Be Jolly glitter tape for just £2.50 over at www.berryred.co.uk
3. Hobbycraft is full of bright ideas for creative Christmas gift wrapping. These pom-pom-studded parcels look delightfully snowy. You can find bells, ribbon, paper, yarn and more in store or online at www.hobbycraft.co.uk



GRANNY TAKES NOTE

Your eyes do not deceive you, those are indeed snazzy illustrated granny squares on a notebook. It's a spiral-bound vessel of dreams that more than meets our practical and pretty requirements – perfect for project notes, list making and all manner of crafty scheming. And it can be personalised with a name or word, too. If you're stumped for a gift, this could well be the answer. Snap one up for £9 at www.noths.com

5 FAB FINDS

Festive fillings

Get creative with your stocking fillers this year.



MADE TO INSPIRE

Get your loved ones stitching and making with this pretty Flora & Fauna kit. £9.99 at www.oakroomshop.co.uk

LITTLE DEER

How adorable is this amigurumi Rudolph? The crochet pattern is only £3.50 at www.stuffthebody.etsy.com



SPOOL FOOL

Head to www.oakroomshop.co.uk to find this Cotton Reel Headphone Tidy. Perfect for teens (or even for you).



SANTA BABY

Make a pocket-sized Saint Nick with easy-peasy dc stitches. This design is from *Simply Crochet* 12. See page 68.



DULY NOTED

Encourage their scribbles with a cool, lockable notebook (top secret) from www.mollieandfred.co.uk



Time to get out AND ABOUT...

A GOOD YARN

I'm planning to make a shawl with motifs. Can you recommend a 4ply that will be easy to work with?

Stone Washed (£2.99 per 50g) by Scheepjes is a soft, faintly fuzzy blend of cotton and acrylic. It would be perfect for your shawl as it has a pretty, almost hand-dyed appearance. Visit www.deramores.com



SKILLS, SHOWS & EVENTS

JAN 18 Crochet a Bowl, £38, Fluff-a-torium, Dorking, Surrey, 01306 898144 www.gilliangladrag.co.uk

JAN 22-24 The Creative Crafts Show, £7, Sandown Park Exhibition Centre, Surrey, 01822 614671 www.sccshows.co.uk

JAN 24 Tunisian Crochet for Beginners, £30, Jenny Wren's Yarns, Ipswich, Suffolk, 01473 805208 www.jennywrensyarns.co.uk

JAN 26 Hemming 101, £30, Homespun Living, St Paul's Church, St Albans, www.homespunliving.co.uk

JAN 29-31 Craft 4 Crafters, £7.50, Westpoint Arena, Exeter, 0845 304 0222 www.craft4crafters.co.uk

JAN 31 Shawl in a Day Workshop, £45, Baa Ram Ewe, Headingley, Leeds, 0113 278 1788 www.baaramewe.co.uk



YARN STORY

■ Writing a little Christmas wish list? Be sure to include a ball or two of the rather delectable new Fine Merino 4ply from fledgling brand Yarn Stories. The high-quality, British-made yarn is wonderfully soft and squashy, has plenty of bounce and comes in 14 fresh, tempting shades. Fine Merino 4ply is priced at £5.25 per 50g ball. Find out more about Yarn Stories and check out their range over at www.yarnstories.com



Blanket season (the best time of year) is in full swing. If your collection is starting to look tired this winter and you've got a hankering for a new hooky challenge, Warm Pixie might just have exactly what you need. Their luxury Bright Granny Square Crochet Blanket Kit is available to make in three different sizes and includes: a Pony crochet hook; scrumptious, high-quality lambswool yarn spun in the Yorkshire Pennines; and of course a detailed crochet pattern, too. And how about those colours? They're sure to cheer up a gloomy day. Pick up the blanket kit for £45 at www.warmpixie.com. It would make a stunning present for a crafty friend who needs spoiling. Can't think of anyone? It's you.

WOOLLY WONDERS

It's no great secret that we love a big, fluffy pom-pom or two here at *Simply Crochet HQ*. Naturally, when we laid eyes on this pom-perfect wreath, we felt truly inspired and unthinkably festive. The dense, fuzzy mix of mini and giant pom-poms in all different colours makes a big impact. This Christmas wreath is the handiwork of those clever, crafty folk at Hobbycraft. The store stocks all you'll need to make a wreath like this yourself, including their exclusive WI yarn and oh-so handy pom-pom makers in a range of sizes. Stock up at www.hobbycraft.co.uk

STAR IN THE EAST

This Christmas, we're favouring jewel brights, shiny metallics and anything with an Eastern flavour.

1. Add soft candlelight to the scene with some gorgeous glassware from M&S. See www.marksandspencer.com
2. Make a sofa statement with a beautiful Bidri foil print cushion. It's all yours for £30 over at www.in-spaces.com
3. Try hooking with recycled sari ribbon, or use it for your wrapping. It's £12.95 at www.decoratorsnotebook.co.uk



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ALL THE TRIMMINGS

Adorn your tree with a trio of dainty Christmas fairies. These little darlings are easy to hook and the pegs make us feel like kids again. Update your age-old baubles with matching crochet covers.

JOLLY GARLAND

Glitzy yarn, mini baubles and long, swishy tassels – what's not to love? This is a showstopping festive garland that will look marvellous around your fireplace, draped over a mirror or wound up the bannisters.



MERRY & BRIGHT

Deck your halls with handmade festive goodies in pretty jewel tones and glittering metallics.



CHRISTMAS IDEAS

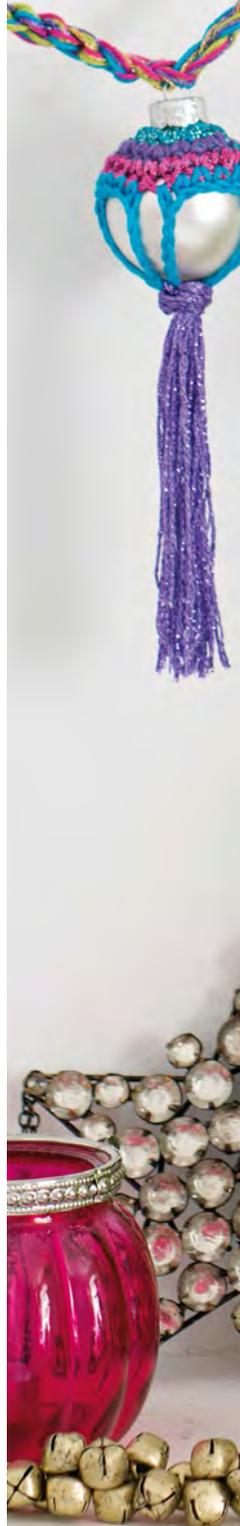


WISE GUYS

Get Nativity-ready with these three fabulous kings – they've come to celebrate and they've even brought gifts with them. The kings are made from one crochet pattern worked in three different ways. Grab your hook.

NEED FOR BEAD

On your dining table or mantelpiece, this pretty beaded Christmas tree will shine. We love the fresh simplicity of the cone design. Who needs branches when you can have beads? Top it off with a little gold star.







CHRISTMAS IDEAS



SOCK IT TO ME

Jewel-bright stripes and glittering gold make a wonderfully distinctive Christmas stocking that will be loved for years to come. Plus, the design is extra long, which means it has much more space to be filled with festive treats. Hang it up.

WORDS AND PICTURES

Whether you love sending Christmas cards or like to really spell things out, we've got it covered. Hook up cute motifs for your handmade cards and experiment with stylish wire words. However you choose to say it, do it with creativity and love.

CHRISTMAS IDEAS



BAUBLE COVERS

Dig those baubles out of the attic and give them the proper handmade treatment with Lara Messer's simple design. Transformation complete.

- Anchor Artiste Metallic (80% viscose, 20% metallized polyester, 25g/100m), 1 ball of each: Gold (300), Purple (310), Pink (308), Turquoise (312) (use your choice of yarn to match your bauble)
- A 2mm (US 4 steel) hook
- Glass baubles, measuring 4cm (1½in) tall and 10cm (4in) circumference. (See www.thehambledon.com)

COVER

Using your chosen yarn colour, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr), 11tr into loop, ss to top of beg ch-3 to join. [12 sts]

Round 2 Ch3 (counts as tr), 2tr into st at base of ch, (skip next st, 3tr in the next st) 5 times, ss to top of beg ch-3 to join. [6 3-tr groups]

Round 3 Ss to first sp between 3-tr groups, ch3 (counts as tr), 2tr into the same sp, ch2, (3tr in sp before next 3-tr group, ch2) 5 times, ss to top of beg ch-3 to join.

Rounds 4-5 Ss to first ch-2 sp, ch3 (counts as tr), 2tr into the same sp, ch2, (3tr in sp before next 3-tr group, ch2) 5 times, ss to top of beg ch-3 to join.

Round 6 Ss to first ch-2 sp, ch3 (counts as tr), 2tr into the same sp, ch1, (3tr in sp before next 3-tr group, ch1) 5 times, ss to top of beg ch-3 to join.

Place the bauble into the cover – you may find it easiest to do before working the final ss of Round 6.

Round 7 Ss to first ch-1 sp, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in same sp, (dc in next ch-1 sp) 5 times, ss to first dc.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

PEG DOLL FAIRIES

We love this trio of glitzy Christmas fairies designed by Hannah Cross.

- Red Heart Miami (100% cotton, 50g/120m), 1 ball of each: Yarn A Peacock (141), Yarn B Cyclam (140),

Yarn C Purple (134)

- Anchor Artiste Metallic (80% viscose, 20% metallized polyester, 25g/100m), 1 ball of each: Yarn D Gold (300), Yarn E Turquoise (312), Yarn F Purple (310), Yarn G Pink (308)
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- Wooden dolly pegs, one for each fairy
- Black and red pens for facial features
- Tapestry needle
- Pretty paper for wings
- Craft glue

TENSION

20 sts and 20 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over double crochet using a 3.5mm hook

MEASUREMENTS

The finished fairies measure approx 11x10cm (4½x4in)

NOTES

Each fairy wears the same basic dress but with different crocheted and embroidered detail.

The dress 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.

BASIC FAIRY DRESS

Make one in each of Yarns A, B and C. Ch8, ss in first ch to join into a ring.

Round 1 (RS) Dc in each ch around. [8 sts]

Round 2 and all even rounds Dc in



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each dc around.

Round 3 (2dc in next dc, dc in next 3 dc) twice. [10 sts]

Round 5 (2dc in next dc, dc in next 4 dc) twice. [12 sts]

Round 7 (2dc in next dc, dc in next 5 dc) twice. [14 sts]

Round 9 (2dc in next dc, dc in next 6 dc) twice. [16 sts]

Round 11 Dc in each dc around.

Round 13 Dc in each dc around.

Round 15 *Ch2, ss in next dc; repeat from * around, ss to first ch to join.

Fasten off.

PEACOCK FAIRY

Join Yarn D in starting ch of neckline of dress, ch3 (counts as tr), tr in same st, 2tr in each st around, ss in top of beg ch-3 to join. **Fasten off.**

Join Yarn D in any ch-2 sp along hem of dress, *ch2, ss in next ch-2 sp; repeat from * around, ss in first ch to join.

Fasten off.

CYCLAM FAIRY

Join Yarn D in any st on Round 14, work a surface crochet ss in each st, following the stitches for 5 rounds in spiral. **Fasten off.**

PURPLE FAIRY

Using Yarn D, embroider 2 stars at the front and a running st along bottom edge of dress, using image as a guide.

FAIRY HATS

Using corresponding metallic yarn to dress, ch3, ss to first ch to join in a ring.

Round 1 (RS) 4dc into ring. [4 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [8 sts]

Round 3 Dc in each dc around.

TO MAKE UP

Slip dress over each peg and glue hat into place at top. Add eyes and a nose with pens, using the image as a guide.

FAIRY WINGS

Design and cut out the wings for each fairy, using the template on p92 as a guide. You can vary the shape of the wings slightly for each fairy, if you wish. Glue into place at the back of the dress.

HANGING THREAD

Cut a 25cm (10in) length of Yarn D for each fairy, secure around the neck then tie at the top to make a hanging loop.

BAUBLE GARLAND

Get the party started with a tassel-tastic garland by Sara Huntington.

- Red Heart Miami (100% cotton, 50g/120m), 2 balls of each: Purple (134), Peacock (141), Cyclam (140), Apple (205)
- Anchor Artiste Metallic (80% viscose, 20% metallized polyester, 25g/100m), 2 balls of each: Purple (310), Turquoise (312), Pink (308), Gold (300)
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- A 6.5mm (US K/10) hook
- 24 baubles, 4cm (1½in) diameter

MEASUREMENTS

Finished garland measures 3.7m (12 feet) long.

NOTES

Each cover is worked using 5 different colours, 2 shades of cotton yarn and 3 shades of metallic yarn or 3 shades of cotton yarn and 2 shades of metallic yarn. Use your choice of colours. Make 24 covers for the garland or make individual covers for tree decorations (attach a chain length to the cap of each bauble as a hanging loop).

BAUBLE COVER

Using Yarn A and a 3mm hook, ch8, ss to first ch to join.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc into each ch around, ss to first ch to join. [16 sts] **Fasten off.**

Round 2 Join Yarn B in first st, ch1 (does not count as st), *1dc in next st, 2dc in next st; repeat from * around. [24 sts] **Fasten off.**

Round 3 Join Yarn C in first st, ch1 (does not count as st), 1dc in each st around. **Fasten off.**

Round 4 Join Yarn D in first st, ch1 (does not count as st), *1dc in next 6 sts, ch12; repeat from * 3 more times, ss to first dc to join. **Fasten off.** Weave in ends. Slip cover over bauble so the cap pokes through the starting ring.

TASSELS

Using Yarn E, cut 18 strands if using metallic yarn or 11 strands if using cotton yarn, each 22cm in length. Thread 1 strand through all four ch-12 loops underneath bauble and knot tog tightly to hold cover in place. Loop rem strands under bauble to create tassel.

HANGING CHAIN FOR GARLAND

Holding a strand of each yarn together and using a 6.5mm hook, make a chain 40cm long, join first bauble, *continue chain for 12cm before adding another bauble; repeat from * until all baubles are attached to the chain, continue chain for 40cm. Fold each end of the chain over to make a loop and secure by wrapping with another length of yarn and sewing into place.



THREE WISE MEN

Hook these clever chaps to join in the celebration. By Sara Huntington.

- Red Heart Miami (100% cotton, 50g/120m), 1 ball of each: Purple (134), Peacock (141), Cyclam (140), Apple (205)
- Anchor Artiste Metallic (80% viscose, 20% metallized polyester, 25g/100m), 1 ball of each: Purple (310), Turquoise (312), Pink (308), Gold (300)
- A 2mm (US 4 steel) hook
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- Stitch markers
- 3 wooden balls, approx 4cm (1½in) diameter (available with pre-drilled hole from www.fredaldous.co.uk)
- 3 wooden rods, approx 10cm (4in) length
- Toy stuffing
- Ceramic baking beans or uncooked rice or beans for weight
- Superglue

MEASUREMENTS

18cm (7in) tall

NOTES

For the body of each Wise Man, the Anchor Artiste Metallic is worked using 2 strands held together. The body, arms and gifts are 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.



BODY

The body is worked from the base up. Using Yarn A and a 3mm hook, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc into loop.

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [12 sts]

Round 3 *1dc in next st, 2dc in next st; repeat from * around. [18 sts]

Round 4 *1dc in next 2 sts, 2dc in next st; repeat from * around. [24 sts]

Round 5 *1dc in next 3 sts, 2dc in next st; repeat from * around. [30 sts]

Round 6 *1dc in next 4 sts, 2dc in next st; repeat from * around. [36 sts]

Round 7 *1dc in next 5 sts, 2dc in next st; repeat from * around. [42 sts]

Round 8 *1dc in next 6 sts, 2dc in next st; repeat from * around. [48 sts]

Round 9 *1dc in next 7 sts, 2dc in next st; repeat from * around. [54 sts]

Round 10 1dc in back loop only of each st around.

Rounds 11-16 1dc in each st around.

Rounds 17-18 Change to Yarn B, 1dc in each st around.

Round 19 Change to Yarn C, 1dc in each st around.

Round 20 Change to Yarn D (2 strands held together), 1dc in each st around.

Round 21 Change to Yarn E, *1dc in next 7 sts, dc2tog; repeat from * around. [48 sts]

Rounds 22-23 Repeat Rounds 19-20.

Round 24 Change to Yarn E, *1dc in next 6 sts, dc2tog; repeat from * around. [42 sts]

Rounds 25-26 Repeat Rounds 19-20.

Round 27 Change to Yarn E, *1dc in next 5 sts, dc2tog; repeat from * around. [36 sts]

Rounds 28-29 Repeat Rounds 19-20.

Round 30 Change to Yarn E, *1dc in next 4 sts, dc2tog; repeat from * around. [30 sts]

Rounds 31-32 Repeat Rounds 19-20.

Round 33 Change to Yarn E, *1dc in next 4 sts, dc2tog; repeat from * around. [25 sts]

Rounds 34-35 Repeat Rounds 19-20.

Round 36 Change to Yarn E, *1dc in next 3 sts, dc2tog; repeat from * around. [20 sts]

Rounds 37-38 Repeat Rounds 19-20.

Round 39 Change to Yarn E, *1dc in next 2 sts, dc2tog; repeat from * around, ss to first st. [15 sts]

Fasten off.

	Pink Wise Man	Purple Wise Man	Turquoise Wise Man
YARN A	Red Heart Miami Cyclam (140)	Red Heart Miami Purple (134)	Red Heart Miami Peacock (141)
YARN B	Red Heart Miami Apple (205)	Red Heart Miami Apple (205)	Red Heart Miami Apple (205)
YARN C	Red Heart Miami Peacock (141)	Red Heart Miami Cyclam (140)	Red Heart Miami Purple (134)
YARN D	Anchor Artiste Metallic Pink (308)	Anchor Artiste Metallic Purple (310)	Anchor Artiste Metallic Turquoise (312)
YARN E	Red Heart Miami Purple (134)	Red Heart Miami Peacock (141)	Red Heart Miami Cyclam (140)
YARN F	Anchor Artiste Metallic Gold (300)	Anchor Artiste Metallic Gold (300)	Anchor Artiste Metallic Gold (300)

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CLOAK

The cloak is worked directly onto the neck of the body.

Position the body so that the colour change is at the back and use st markers to select the central 10 sts at the back around the neck.

Row 1 (RS) Using a 3mm hook, join Yarn A in the first marked st, ch1 (does not count as st), 4dc in back loop only of each of 10 sts, turn. [40 sts]

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st across, turn.

Repeat Row 2 until the cloak measures 7.5 cm (3in) from neck and sits level with the green stripe on the body.

Fasten off.

CLOAK EDGE

Join Yarn B in edge of Row 1 of cloak at neckline, ch1 (does not count as st), evenly work dc along the edge of the cloak working 2dc into the bottom corner, dc across the last row of the cloak, 2dc in opposite corner, evenly work dc along the edge of the cloak back up to the neckline.

Do not fasten off, work a final round onto the body working into the front loops only of the 10 marked sts and both loops of the remaining 5 sts.

Fasten off.

ARMS

The arms are worked as one tube, stuffed and then sewn onto the back of the body under the cloak.

Using Yarn A and a 3mm hook, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 7dc into loop.

Round 2 1dc in each st around. [7 sts]
Repeat Round 2 until arms measure 18cm, ss to first st of round to join.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Stuff arms with toy stuffing.

Thread tail through final round of sts and pull to close, weave in all ends.

CROWN

Using Yarn C and a 2mm hook, ch30, ss to first ch to join into a ring, being careful not to twist.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 1dc in each st around, ss to first st to join. [30 sts]

Rounds 2-5 Repeat Row 1.

Fasten off.

Fold the crown in half so that the back loops of the starting chain are next to the last row.

Round 6 Join a single strand of Yarn F in the first st, picking up both the first dc of the last round and the back loop of the starting ch, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st around, working through both the last round and the starting chain, ss to first st to join.

Round 7 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in same st, *skip next 2 sts, (3tr, ch3, 3tr) in next st, skip next 2 sts, dc in next st; repeat from * around, omitting last dc, ss to first dc to join. **Fasten off.**

GIFT FOR PINK WISE MAN (TUBE)

Using a single strand of Yarn F and a 2mm hook, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as

st), 6dc into loop.

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [12 sts]

Round 3 1dc in each st around.

Repeat Round 3 until tube measures 4cm.

Stuff tube with toy stuffing.

Next round (Dc2tog) 6 times.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Thread tail through final round of sts and pull to close.

Weave in all ends.

GIFT FOR PURPLE WISE MAN (BALL)

Using a single strand of Yarn F and a 2mm hook, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 8dc into loop.

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [16 sts]

Round 3 *1dc in next st, 2dc in next st; repeat from * around. [24 sts]

Round 4 *1dc in next 3 sts, 2dc in next st; repeat from * around. [30 sts]

Rounds 5-10 1dc in each st around.

Round 11 *1dc in next 2 sts, dc2tog; repeat from * around. [24 sts]

Round 12 *1dc in next st, dc2tog; repeat from * around. [16 sts]

Round 13 (Dc2tog) 8 times.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Stuff ball firmly. Thread tail through final round of sts and pull to close.

Weave in all ends.



GIFT FOR TURQUOISE WISE MAN CONE

Using a single strand of Yarn F and a 2mm hook, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc into loop.

Round 2 (1dc in next 2 sts, 2dc in next st) twice. [8 sts]

Round 3 (1dc in next 3 sts, 2dc in next st) twice. [10 sts]

Round 4 (1dc in next 4 sts, 2dc in next st) twice. [12 sts]

Rounds 5-13 Continue increasing 2 sts evenly on each round in the same fashion until there are 30 sts.

Fasten off.

Stuff the cone firmly.

LID

Using a single strand of Yarn F and a 2mm hook, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 8dc into loop.

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [16 sts]

Round 3 *1dc in next st, 2dc in next st; repeat from * around. [24 sts]

Round 4 *1dc in next 3 sts, 2dc in next st; repeat from * around. [30 sts]

Do not fasten off.

Place the lid on top of the stuffed cone and join together, working 1dc through each st of both the lid and cone.

Fasten off.

TO MAKE UP

Fill the lower section of each of the bodies with baking beans. This will give each Wise Man a solid base and help them to stand up.

Insert the wooden rod into the hole in the ball and secure with superglue. Insert the rod into the body; the head should sit comfortably on the last round of crochet and can be secured with a little superglue when the rest of the assembly has been done.

Carefully fill the rest of the body with toy stuffing, working around the rod and taking care not to overstuff. Find the mid point of the arms and sew to the mid point of the back at the top of the body, under the cloak.

Sew or glue the gift to the end of the arms in front of the body. Glue the crown to the top of the head.

CHRISTMAS TREE

For your mantelpiece or dining table, this tree by Hannah Cross is a beauty.

- Red Heart Miami (100% cotton, 50g/120m), 2 balls of Yarn A Apple (205)
- Anchor Artiste Metallic (80% viscose, 20% metallized polyester, 25g/100m), 1 ball of Yarn B Gold (300)
- A 2.5mm (US B/1 or C/2) hook
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- Card for making a cone insert
- Assorted beads (approx 100)
- Invisible thread

TENSION

20 sts and 20 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over double crochet using a 3.5mm hook

MEASUREMENTS

The finished tree including the star measures 29x15cm (11½x6in)

NOTES

The tree 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.

TREE

Using a 3.5mm hook and Yarn A, ch2.

Round 1 (RS) 4dc in 2nd ch from hook. [4 dc]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [8 dc]

Round 3 *2dc in next dc, dc in next dc; repeat from * around. [12 dc]

Round 4 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 2 dc; repeat from * around. [16 dc]

Round 5 Dc in each dc around. [16 dc]

Round 6 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 3 dc; repeat from * around. [20 dc]

Rounds 7-8 Dc in each dc around. [20 dc]

Round 9 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 4 dc; repeat from * around. [24 dc]

Rounds 10-11 Repeat Rounds 7-8.

Round 12 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 5 dc; repeat from * around. [28 dc]

Rounds 13-14 Repeat Rounds 7-8.

Round 15 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 6 dc; repeat from * around. [32 dc]

Rounds 16-17 Repeat Rounds 7-8.

Round 18 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 7 dc; repeat from * around. [36 dc]

Rounds 19-20 Repeat Rounds 7-8.

Round 21 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 8 dc; repeat from * around. [40 dc]

Rounds 22-23 Repeat Rounds 7-8.

Round 24 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 9 dc; repeat from * around. [44 dc]

Rounds 25-26 Repeat Rounds 7-8.

Round 27 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 10



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dc; repeat from * around. [48 dc]
Rounds 28-29 Repeat Rounds 7-8.
Round 30 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 11 dc; repeat from * around. [52 dc]
Rounds 31-32 Repeat Rounds 7-8.
Round 33 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 12 dc; repeat from * around. [56 dc]
Rounds 34-35 Repeat Rounds 7-8.
Round 36 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 13 dc; repeat from * around. [60 dc]
Rounds 37-38 Repeat Rounds 7-8.
Round 39 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 4 dc; repeat from * around. [64 dc]
Rounds 40-41 Repeat Rounds 7-8.
Round 42 (2dc in next dc, dc in next 31 dc) twice. [66 dc]
Rounds 43-44 Repeat Rounds 7-8.
Round 45 (2dc in next dc, dc in next 32 dc) twice. [68 dc]
Rounds 46-47 Repeat Rounds 7-8.
Round 48 (2dc in next dc, dc in next 33 dc) twice. [70 dc]
Rounds 49-50 Repeat Rounds 7-8.
Round 51 (2dc in next dc, dc in next 34 dc) twice. [72 dc]
Rounds 52-53 Repeat Rounds 7-8.
Round 54 (2dc in next dc, dc in next 35 dc) twice. [74 dc]
Rounds 55-56 Repeat Rounds 7-8.
Round 57 (2dc in next dc, dc in next 36 dc) twice. [76 dc]
Rounds 58-59 Repeat Rounds 7-8.
Round 60 (2dc in next dc, dc in next 37 dc) twice. [78 dc]
Rounds 61-62 Repeat Rounds 7-8.
Round 60 Dc in each dc around. [78 dc]
Fasten off and weave in ends.
Cut the card to make a cone to line the tree and insert.

STAR

Using a 2.5mm hook and Yarn B, ch6, ss to first ch to join into a ring.

Round 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), 15dc in ring, ss in first dc to join. [15 dc]

Round 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), *(dc, tr) in next dc, ch2, ss to second ch from hook, (tr, dc) in next dc, ss to next dc; repeat from * around, ss in first dc to join.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Place Star on top of the tree and sew in place.

TO FINISH

Using the invisible thread, sew the beads into place as baubles, spreading them evenly over the tree.



STRIPY STOCKING

Bright stripes are sure to catch Father Christmas's eye. By Hannah Cross.

- Red Heart Miami (100% cotton, 50g/120m), 1 ball of each: Yarn A Peacock (141), Yarn B Apple (205), Yarn C Cyclam (140), Yarn D Purple (134)
- Anchor Artiste Metallic (80% viscose, 20% metallized polyester, 25g/100m), 1 ball of each: Yarn E Gold (300), Yarn F Turquoise (312), Yarn G Purple (310), Yarn H Pink (308)
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook

TENSION

20 sts and 20 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over double crochet using a 3.5mm hook

MEASUREMENTS

The finished stocking measures 54x14cm (21x5½in)

NOTES

The Leg of the stocking is worked back and forth in rows, starting at bottom of the Leg and working to the top, then the Foot is worked in rows from bottom

to top and both the Leg and Foot are seamed at the back. The Heel section is added onto the bottom of the Leg, and the Foot and Leg are sewn together. Finally, the Toe is worked in the round onto the seamed stocking.

LEG

Using Yarn C, ch61.

Row 1 (WS) Dc in second ch from hook and in each ch to end. **Fasten off**, turn. [60 sts]

Row 2 (RS) Join Yarn D in first st, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in back loop only of each st across. **Fasten off**, turn.

Row 3 Join Yarn A in first st, ch3 (counts as tr), tr in front loop only of each st across. **Fasten off**, turn.

Row 4 Join Yarn B in first st, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in back loop only of each st across. **Fasten off**, turn.

Row 5 Join Yarn D in first st, ch3 (counts as tr), *skip next st, tr in front loop of next st, tr in front loop of skipped st; repeat from * across to last st, tr in back loop of last st. **Fasten off**, turn.

Row 6 Join Yarn E in first st, ch1 (does not count as st), *ss in front loop only of next st of current row, tr in remaining

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front loop only of next st of Row 4; repeat from * across. **Fasten off**, turn.

Row 7 Join Yarn C in front loop only of first st of Row 5, ch3 (counts as tr), tr in front loop only of each st of Row 5 across. **Fasten off**, turn.

Row 8 Join Yarn A in first st, ch3 (counts as tr), *FPtr around next st, BPtr around next st; repeat from * across to last st, tr in last st. **Fasten off**, turn.

Row 9 Join Yarn B in first st, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in front loop only of each st across. **Fasten off**, turn.

Row 10 Join Yarn D in first st, ch3 (counts as tr), *skip next st, tr in back loop of next st, tr in back loop of skipped st; repeat from * across to last st, tr in back loop of last st. **Fasten off**, turn.

Row 11 Join Yarn C in first st, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in front loop only of each st across. **Fasten off**, turn.

Decorative row 1 With RS facing, join Yarn F in front loop of Row 1 of first repeat and Row 11 of all repeats, ss in front loop of each st across. **Fasten off**.

Decorative row 2 With RS facing, join Yarn G in front loop of Row 4, (ss, ch1) in front loop of each st across, omitting last ss. **Fasten off**.

Decorative row 3 With RS facing, join Yarn H in front loop of Row 9, (ss, ch2) in front loop of each st across, omitting last 2 ss. **Fasten off**.

Rows 2-11 plus Decorative Rows set pattern.

Rows 12-41 Repeat Rows 2-11 plus Decorative rows, 3 more times.

Row 42 Join Yarn A in first st, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in back loop only of each st across. **Fasten off**, turn.

Row 43 Join Yarn C in first st, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in front loop only of each st across. **Fasten off**, turn.

Row 44 Join Yarn B in first st, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in back loop only of each st across. **Fasten off**, turn.

Row 45 Join Yarn D in first st, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in front loop only of each st across. **Fasten off**.

Add a ruffle to Rows 42, 43, 44 and 45 using Yarns F, H, E and G respectively in the following way:

With RS facing, join Yarn in front loop of first st, ch3 (counts as tr), tr in each front loop only of each st across.

Fasten off.

With WS together, fold the Leg in half and seam up the back of the Leg.

FOOT

Work as for Leg up to Row 21.

Fasten off. With WS tog, fold Foot in half and seam up the back of the Foot.

HEEL

With RS of Leg facing, join Yarn A in starting ch, ready to work in the remaining loops of the ch, 15 sts to the right of the seam.

Row 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in same st and next 29 sts, turn. [30 dc]

Row 2 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr in each st across, turn. [30 tr]

Row 3 Ss in first 6 sts, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in same st and next 19 sts, turn leaving last 5 sts unworked. [20 dc]

Row 4 Ss in first 6 sts, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in same st and next 9 sts, turn leaving last 5 sts unworked.

[10 dc]

Row 5 Ss in first 4 sts, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in same st and next 3 sts, turn leaving last 3 sts unworked. [4 dc] **Fasten off**.

Align the Foot and the Leg so that the seams are central to the Heel and using Yarn A, sew the opposite side of the Heel to the Foot.

Sew the front of the Foot to the Leg using Yarn C and weave in all ends.

TOE

With RS facing, join Yarn A to the starting ch of the foot at the seam, ready to work in the round in the remaining loops of the ch.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in each st around, ss in first dc to join. [60 sts]

Round 2 Ch1, (dc2tog, dc in next 8 dc) 6 times, ss in first dc to join. [54 sts]

Round 3 Ch1, (dc2tog, dc in next 7 dc) 6 times, ss in first dc to join. [48 sts]

Round 4 Ch1, (dc2tog, dc in next 6 dc) 6 times, ss in first dc to join. [42 sts]

Round 5 Ch1, (dc2tog, dc in next 5 dc) 6 times, ss in first dc to join. [36 sts]

Round 6 Ch1, (dc2tog, dc in next 4 dc) 6 times, ss in first dc to join. [30 sts]

Round 7 Ch1, (dc2tog, dc in next 3 dc) 6 times, ss in first dc to join. [24 sts]

Round 8 Ch1, (dc2tog, dc in next 2 dc) 6 times, ss in first dc to join. [18 sts]

Round 9 Ch1, (dc2tog, dc in next dc) 6 times, ss in first dc to join. [12 sts]

Round 10 Ch1, (dc2tog) 6 times, ss in first dc to join. [6 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Weave tail through all sts in Round 10, pull to close and weave in ends.

HANGING LOOP

Using Yarn A, ch41.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in 2nd ch from hook and each ch across. **Fasten off**, turn. [40 dc]

Row 2 Join Yarn C in first st, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in back loop only of each st across. **Fasten off**, turn. [40 dc]

Row 3 Join Yarn E in first st, ch1 (does not count as st), (ss, ch1) in back loop only of each st across, omitting last ch1. **Fasten off**.

Decorative row 1 With RS facing, join Yarn G in front loop of Row 1, (ss, ch1) in front loop of each st across, omitting last ch1. **Fasten off**.

Sew loop into place at the top of stocking on seam edge.



CHRISTMAS IDEAS



STRIPY TREE CARD

Handmade greetings cards are easy with this cute motif by Hannah Cross.

- Red Heart Miami (100% cotton, 50g/120m), 1 ball of each: Yarn A Peacock (141), Yarn B Apple (205), Yarn C Cyclam (140), Yarn D Purple (134)
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- Tapestry needle
- A6 greeting card (approx 10.5x15cm/4x6in)
- Craft glue

MEASUREMENTS

Finished tree meas 8.5x6cm (3½x2½in)

TREE

Using Yarn B, ch13.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in 2nd ch from hook and each ch across, turn. [12 sts]

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in each st across.

Fasten off, turn. [12 sts]

Row 3 Join Yarn C in first st, ch1, dc2tog, dc in next 8 dc, dc2tog, turn. [10 sts]

Row 4 Ch1, dc in each st across.

Fasten off, turn.

Row 5 Join Yarn A in first st, ch1, dc2tog, dc in next 6 dc, dc2tog, turn. [8 sts]

Row 6 Ch1, dc in each st across.

Fasten off, turn.

Row 7 Join Yarn D in first st, ch1, dc2tog, dc in next 4 dc, dc2tog, turn. [6 sts]

Row 8 Ch1, dc in each st across.

Fasten off, turn.

Row 9 Join Yarn B in first st, ch1, dc2tog, dc in next 2 dc, dc2tog, turn. [4 sts]

Row 10 Ch1, dc in each st across.

Fasten off, turn.

Row 11 Join Yarn C in first st, ch1, (dc2tog) twice, turn. [2 sts]

Row 12 Ch1, dc in each st across.

Fasten off, turn. [2 sts]

Row 13 Join Yarn A in first st, ch1, dc2tog, turn. [1 st]

Row 14 Ch1, 1dc. **Fasten off**.

TREE TRUNK

Rotate to work along opposite side of starting chain.

Row 1 Join Yarn D in 5th ch, ch1, dc in same ch and next 3 ch, turn. [4 sts]

Rows 2-4 Ch1, dc in each st across, turn. **Fasten off**.

TO FINISH

Glue the tree to centre front of card.

PRETTY BAUBLE CARD

We love the vintage feel of this sweet bauble motif by Hannah Cross.

- Red Heart Miami (100% cotton, 50g/120m), 1 ball of Yarn A Cyclam (140)
- Anchor Artiste Metallic (80% viscose, 20% metallized polyester, 25g/100m), 1 ball of Yarn B Gold (300)
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- Tapestry needle
- A6 greeting card (approx 10.5x15cm/4x6in)
- Craft glue

MEASUREMENTS

The finished bauble measures 5x5.5cm (2x2¼in)

NOTES

The bauble 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.

BAUBLE

Using Yarn A, ch7.

Round 1 (RS) Dc in 2nd ch from hook, dc in next 4 ch, 2dc in last ch, rotate to work along the other side of chain, dc in next 4 ch, dc in last ch. [12 dc]

Round 2 2dc in next st, dc in next 4 sts, 2dc in each of next 2 dc, dc in next 4 dc, 2dc in last dc. [16 dc]

Round 3 2dc in next st, dc in next 6 sts, 2dc in each of next 2 dc, dc in next 6 dc, 2dc in last dc. [20 dc]

Round 4 2dc in next st, dc in next 8 sts, 2dc in each of next 2 dc, dc in next 8 dc, 2dc in last dc. [24 dc] **Fasten off**.

Join Yarn A in 5th st of Round 4, ch2 (does not count as st), htr in same st and next 2 sts. **Fasten off**.

Skip next 9 sts of Round 4, join Yarn A in next st with a ss, dc in next st, ss to next st. **Fasten off**.

EMBROIDERY

Using Yarn B, tapestry needle and image as guide, embroider a star onto centre of bauble and a stripe across top. See p80 for our embroidery guide.

CHRISTMAS IDEAS

TO FINISH

Glue the motif to centre front of card.

FESTIVE WORDS

Grab some wire and say it with crochet. Designed by Hannah Cross.

- Red Heart Miami (100% cotton, 50g/120m), 1 ball of each:
 - Yarn A Peacock (141)
 - Yarn B Cyclam (140)
 - Yarn C Purple (134)
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- Jewellery wire to shape words

MEASUREMENTS

Finished words measure 10cm (4in) high.

JOY OR NOEL WORD

Using Yarn A or Yarn C, ch121.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in 2nd ch from hook and

each ch across, turn. [120 sts]

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in front loop only of each st across, turn.

Row 3 Ch1, dc in back loop only of each st across.

In the following row, you will encase the wire by placing it across the stitches of Row 3 and working over it. At the same time, for each stitch, insert your hook in both the remaining front loop of Row 3, and the corresponding loop of the starting chain, so that the piece is joined into a tube. If you find this difficult to manage all at once, work the next row to encase the wire, then sew the two long edges together to form a tube afterwards.

Row 4 Ch1, dc in first st, working through the unworked loop of Row 3 and first ch of starting ch, *dc in next st, working through the unworked loop of Row 3 and the next ch of the starting

ch; repeat from * across. **Fasten off.**

PEACE WORD

Using Yarn B, ch181.

Follow instructions for other words.

TO FINISH

Bend the shapes to spell the individual words. Use matching yarn and a tapestry needle to secure the points where the shapes cross.



YARN STOCKISTS

We used Red Heart Miami for these patterns; although it has now been discontinued, it is still available from many retailers.

Red Heart 01484 681881

www.redheart.co.uk

Coats 01484 681881

www.makeitcoats.com



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SANTA'S HELPER

Make Christmas merrier with this charming little chap by Ilaria Caliri.



Amigurumi toy



YOU WILL NEED

- Rico Essentials Cotton DK (100% cotton, 50g/130m), 1 ball of each:
 - Yarn A Red (002)
 - Yarn B Beige (091)
 - Yarn C Natural (051)
 - Yarn D Nougat (078)
- Aran-weight wool yarn in brown (Yarn E)
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- Safety eyes (about 6mm diameter)
- 2 small white buttons
- Black cotton thread to embroider the mouth
- White waxed cord for shoelaces
- Bell for hat
- Tapestry needle
- Polyester toy stuffing

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

MEASUREMENTS

28cm (11in) tall

ABBREVIATIONS

- Puff stitch** (Yrh, insert hook in st indicated, yrh and pull up loop) 3 times, yrh and draw through all loops on hook
- 3-tr cluster** (Yrh, insert hook in st indicated, yrh and pull up loop, yrh and draw through 2 loops) 3 times, inserting the hook in the same st each time, yrh and draw through all loops on hook
- tr3tog** (Yrh, insert hook in next stitch, yrh and pull up loop, yrh and draw through 2 loops) 3 times, yrh and draw through all loops on hook

For a full list, see page 90.

This little festive dude, complete with jingle-bell hat, candy-striped legs and teeny-tiny shoelaces, is sure to be a Christmas favourite. He's been working very hard all year to get those presents finished on time. Why not give him a happy new home? Sweet.

NOTES

The pieces worked in the round use the amigurumi method. Work in a continuous spiral without closing off the round with a ss. It may help to use a stitch marker in the first stitch of each round, moving it up as you work.

Body and Head are worked as one piece starting from the bottom of the Body. Legs, Arms, Hat and Booties are sewed to the Body.

SKIRT OF THE COAT

With Yarn A, ch31.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook and in each ch to end, turn. [30 sts]

Rows 2-10 Ch1 (does not count as st), 1dc in each dc to end, turn. **Fasten off.**

BODY AND HEAD

With Yarn A, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc into the loop. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [12 sts]

Round 3 (2dc in next st, 1dc) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 4 (2dc in next st, 2dc) 6 times. [24 sts]

Round 5 (2dc in next st, 3dc) 6 times. [30 sts]

Rounds 6-11 1dc in each dc.

Round 12 Align the top of the Skirt of the Coat with the last round of Body and work each st of this round through both layers to join: 1dc in each dc.

Round 13 1dc in each dc.

Round 14 (Dc2tog, 3dc) 6 times. [24 sts]

Round 15 1dc in each dc.

Round 16 5dc, dc2tog, 10dc, dc2tog, 5dc. [22 sts]

Round 17 1dc in each dc.

Round 18 4dc, dc2tog, 10dc, dc2tog, 4dc. [20 sts]

Round 19 (2dc, dc2tog) 5 times. [15 sts]

Round 20 (1dc, dc2tog) 5 times. [10 sts]

Stuff the Body. Change to Yarn B.

Round 21 1dc in each dc.

Round 22 (2dc in next st, 4dc) twice.

[12 sts]

Round 23 (2dc in next st, 1dc) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 24 (2dc in next st, 2dc) 6 times. [24 sts]

Round 25 (2dc in next st, 3dc) 6 times. [30 sts]

Round 26 (2dc in next st, 4dc) 6 times. [36 sts]

Round 27 (2dc in next st, 5dc) 6 times. [42 sts]

Rounds 28-33 1dc in each dc.

Round 34 (5dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [36 sts]

Round 35 (4dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [30 sts]

Round 36 (3dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [24 sts]

Round 37 (2dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [18 sts]

Place the eyes between Round 28 and 29, approximately 12 stitches apart. Stuff the Head and continue stuffing as you go.

Round 38 (1dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [12 sts]

Round 39 (Dc2tog) 6 times. [6 sts]

Fasten off.

HAT

With Yarn A, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 4dc into the loop. [4 sts]

Rounds 2 (2dc in next st, 1dc) twice. [6 sts]

Round 3 (2dc in next st, 2dc) twice. [8 sts]

Round 4 (2dc in next st, 3dc) twice. [10 sts]

Rounds 5-21 Continue increasing 2 sts evenly on each round in the same fashion. [44 sts]

Rounds 22-27 1dc in each dc. Change to Yarn C.

Round 28 1dc in each dc.

Round 29 3dc, 1 puff stitch in each dc, ss to the first dc to join.

Fasten off leaving a long tail for sewing.

Turn up the last round and sew in this position.

For the hair, cut 8cm lengths of Yarn E, fold in half and attach them on the head with a crochet hook (as a fringe). Attach them only at the front between the eyes. Sew the Hat to the Head and attach a bell to the tip of the hat. Embroider mouth with black thread between Rounds 26 & 27 of Head (see

Amigurumi toy

page 80 for our embroidery guide). Sew two buttons on the chest.

COLLAR

With Yarn C, ch16.

Row 1 (WS) Ch1 (does not count as st), (2dc in next st, 4dc) 3 times. [18 sts]

Row 2 (RS) Ch3 (does not count as st), 1 puff stitch in each st to end, ch3, ss to the first dc of the first row to join. [18 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail and use this to sew the Collar to the neck.

BELT

With Yarn D, ch31.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in the second ch from the hook and in each ch to end. [30 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail and use this to sew the Belt to the Body.

ARMS (MAKE 2)

With Yarn B, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc into the loop. [6 sts]

Round 2 (2dc in next st, 2dc) twice. [8 sts]

Rounds 3-4 1dc in each dc.

Round 5 3-tr cluster in next st, 7dc.

Rounds 6-7 1dc in each dc.

Change to Yarn A.

Rounds 8-17 1dc in each dc.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing. Stuff the Arm, join the top and sew to the Body.

CUFFS (MAKE 2)

With Yarn C, ch14.

Row 1 (RS) 1 puff stitch in the fourth ch

from the hook and in each ch to end. [11 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a tail and use this to sew the Cuff to the wrist.

LEGS (MAKE 2)

With Yarn C, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 5dc into the loop. [5 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [10 sts]

Rounds 3-6 1dc in each dc.

Change to Yarn A.

Rounds 7-8 1dc in each dc.

Change to Yarn C.

Rounds 9-10 1dc in each dc.

Continue to alternate 2 rounds of Yarn A with 2 rounds of Yarn C until a total of 24 rounds are complete. **Fasten off**, leaving a long tail for sewing. Stuff the Leg, join the top and sew to the bottom of the Body.

BOOTIES (MAKE 2)

With Yarn D, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc into the loop. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [12 sts]

Round 3 (2dc in next st, 1dc) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 4 1dc in the back loop only of each dc.

Round 5 1dc in each dc.

Round 6 6dc, (tr3tog) twice, 6dc. [14 sts]

Rounds 7-9 1dc in each dc.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail and use this to sew the Booties to the end of the legs. Make a bow on each boot with the white waxed cord.



The sweet puff stitches on the cuffs, collar and hat bring a touch of squashy texture.

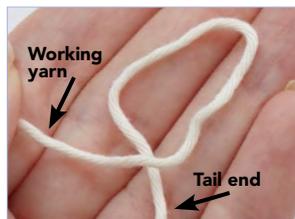


This project is all about the details, so of course the tiny boots must have shoelaces.



Who could resist that little face? Use this image as a guide when stitching the features.

SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO WORK A MAGIC LOOP



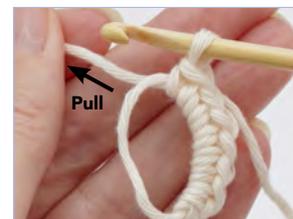
1 To start a Magic Loop, don't make a slipknot. Instead, make a loop with the yarn, leaving a tail around 10cm long. Make sure the tail end is under the working yarn.



2 Insert your hook into the loop, from front to back. Wrap the working yarn around the hook anticlockwise and pull the yarn through the loop.



3 Make a t-ch for the sts you want to work (above, we made 1 t-ch for dc). Now work your sts into the Magic Loop, making sure you work over both the loop and the tail end (so two yarn strands).



4 Once you've worked the number of stitches you need, simply pull the tail end of the yarn to draw up the loop. Work a slip stitch to join the first and last stitches and finish the first round.

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LUCY LOVES... CHRISTMAS CROCHET!

This month, Lucy from Attic 24 shares her fave festive makes and the stories behind them.

Crocheters don't need a special occasion to whip out their colourful yarns and hook up some cheerful crochet decorations, but there is something particularly lovely about using our creative skills to celebrate special times of the year. Christmas is a great opportunity to get busy with the hook and make something colourful for the home. It never fails to lift my spirits and set me off on a new, creative journey.

Usually some time in mid-November, when all things Christmassy really start grabbing my attention, the creative juices begin to flow, the ideas start pinging in and I hatch all sorts of plans for adding a bit more handmade goodness to the festive proceedings. Making crochet Christmas decorations has to be one of the happiest things to do, as you just know your creative efforts are going to be celebrated and appreciated year after year. I've loved building up our collection of crochet decorations, especially as my children show a surprising and welcome

delight as they are unpacked each year. On the 1st of December, I unwrap the tissue paper and carefully unfold my crochet Advent garland. This year will be its sixth outing – it's something we always look forward to. It's a very simple idea – a string of 24 bright crochet granny stars, which hang with great ceremony across the width of our dining room. I made 24 number circles out of felt and fabric, and with each day of advent, the children take turns (squabble!) to hang a number on a star. It's a beautifully visual way to answer the 'How many sleeps until Christmas?' question that's frequently asked in our house throughout December.

COLOUR FOR CHRISTMAS

Designing and making crochet Christmas decorations is a huge amount of fun, mainly because there is just so much possibility! The festive season calls out for lots of pretty little makes to jolly the place

up and add some visual feel-good: cute hanging things, tree decorations, swags and garlands, wreaths and bunting, all made in the gorgeous jewel-bright colours that I adore so much. Yes, of course, it's all about the colour for me (oh, I am so predictable) and I have come to realise that my traditional Christmas colours are not in fact red, green and gold, or frosty silvers and snowy whites, but the colours of chocolate. Yes, I admit that many of my Christmas makes are influenced by childhood memories of the annual festive tin of Quality Street chocolates in their shiny, jewel-bright wrappers. Bright red, green, vibrant pink, turquoise blue, deep purple, orange and golden yellow – these are the colours that make me go weak at the knees, especially when the whole lot comes together in yarn form.

There's only been one exception to my bright colour addiction with Christmas



"MAKING CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS IS ONE OF THE HAPPIEST THINGS TO DO!"



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"I'm inspired by my childhood memories of jewel-bright, shiny sweet wrappers."

crochet and that was the year I became obsessed with making snowflakes. Nobody could believe I was working with *gasp* white yarn. There were raised eyebrows and worried looks from my friends, I can tell you. Those snowflakes were so quick and easy that I hooked up a snowstorm in what felt like the blink of an eye. And it was right and proper that I used white for those makes, and equally right and proper (and Lucy-like) that I then strung them into a garland with colourful pompoms, buttons and bells!

Looking back on the decorations I've made, it really is bright and happy colours that have consistently inspired me. Let's not forget the garland I made to adorn my fireplace, with the words (chosen by my nine-year-old) 'Fun and Joy'. Well, Christmas is exactly that. A fun and joyful time to celebrate in creative, hooky style.



Special Attic 24 packs, starting at just £6.50, are on sale at Lucy's Attic 24 shop online at Wool Warehouse. Visit www.woolwarehouse.co.uk/attic24



MOODBOARD

Inspiration... I love these beautiful crochet baubles by Planet Penny. The pattern is for sale online at www.planetpenny.etsy.com



Left: How cute are these tiny Christmas sock decorations? Visit www.lemondedesucrette.com

Right: The Dapper Toad's mini snowmen are delightful. You can find the pattern for free at www.dappertoad.com



Left: Wink's Christmas light garland is one of my favourites. Make your own set with her tutorial at www.tutsplus.com

Right: Make yourself a Grandma Twinkle Stars garland with the tutorial at www.theroyalsisters.blogspot.co.uk



RED CURRANT

Make Aoibhe Ni's sawtooth-edge shawl in rich, berry red.



Tunisian shawl



YOU WILL NEED

■ Fiberspates Scrumptious 4ply (55% Merino wool, 45% silk, 100g/365m), 3 skeins of Cherry (301)

■ See note below on hooks

For yarn stockists, contact Fiberspates 01829 732525 www.fiberspates.co.uk

HOOKS

Hook size increases as pattern progresses, so you will need all of the following:

- A 4.5mm (US 7) hook
- A 5mm (US H/8) hook
- A 5.5mm (US I/9) hook
- A 6mm (US J/10) hook
- A 6.5mm (US K/10½) hook
- A 8mm (US L/11) hook

It is possible to work this pattern on a regular crochet hook with a long straight shaft, so there is no need to use specialist Tunisian Crochet hooks.

TENSION

34sts x 20 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over Tunisian knit stitch with 4.5mm hook

MEASUREMENTS

140cm (55in) at widest point and 34cm (13¼in) deep

ABBREVIATIONS

FRdc Foundation Row dc stitch
For a full list, see page 90.

Laid out flat, the shawl forms a gentle curve.

Designer Aiobhe Ni says: "I love winter. I get positively giddy when a storm comes and I can't wait for that first flake of soggy snow. It's all the excuse I need to sport my latest cosy crochet makes. I designed this shawl with that feeling in mind. Over my coat, or under, it's a statement. It says 'Come at me, winter! I'm ready!'"

SPECIAL ABBREVIATIONS

Tunisian Crochet

Each Row of Tunisian Crochet is made up of a Forward Pass (FwdP) and Return Pass (RetP). You do not turn work after each row.

Return Pass (RetP) The Return Pass is worked in the same way regardless of the st you are working:

Yrh and draw through first loop on hook, *yrh and draw through 2 loops on hook; repeat from * until 1 loop remains on hook.

Tunisian Simple Stitch (Tss)

Forward Pass (FwdP) Do not work into the vertical bar on edge of work. *With yarn at back, insert hook from side to side behind next vertical bar, yrh and pull up loop and leave loop on hook; repeat from * until last vertical bar at edge, insert hook under vertical bar and loop on outside edge, pull up loop.

Return Pass (RetP) Work as for RetP explained above.

Tunisian Knit Stitch (Tks)

Forward Pass (FwdP) Do not work into vertical bar on edge of work. *With yarn at back, insert hook from front to back through your fabric, immediately to right of next vertical bar. You will see that each vertical bar is the front strand of a loop which has both front and back

strands, and you should insert hook into this loop, between front and back strands. Yrh and pull up loop and leave loop on hook; repeat from * until last vertical bar at edge, insert hook under vertical bar and loop on outside edge, pull up loop.

Return Pass (RetP) Work as for RetP explained above.

NOTES

A band of Tks is worked first, then sts are worked into row ends of this long band. Pattern is worked in several Levels and each Level of pattern is made up of short rows of Tss; these rows are worked as for FwdP of Tss, with a slightly modified RetP, as explained in each row. Each Level is worked without turning, and then you will turn work at end of Level, to work back along row ends and sts of prev Level. Level 1 of pattern is the set-up Level; Levels 2 and 3 form the pattern repeat. Refer to the Charts on page 91 that show each of these Levels. On Charts, direction of whole Level is shown from right to left. Each row of Level is read in same direction, from row number at top, towards bottom.

C BAND (RS THROUGHOUT)

Using a 4.5mm hook, ch25.

Row 1 Insert hook in 2nd ch from hook (first loop on hook doesn't count as a st), yrh and pull up loop, leaving loop on hook; repeat for each ch across to end, RetP. [24 sts]

Rows 2-210 Tks in each st across, RetP.

Row 211 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st to end, do not fasten off.

Rotate work 90 degrees clockwise. The main body of the shawl will be worked along the edge of the Tunisian knit stitch band.



Tunisian shawl

MAIN SHAWL

Change to a 5mm hook.

Foundation row (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), work 210 dc sts evenly along edge of Tks band, turn. [210 FRdc]

LEVEL 1 (WS THROUGHOUT)

Refer to Chart A on page 91.

RH EDGE SECTION

Row 1 Ch6, insert hook in 2nd ch from hook, yrh and pull up loop, leaving loop on hook; repeat for each of rem 4 ch [6 loops on hook], insert hook in first available FRdc and pull up another loop. (Yrh, draw through two loops) until only one loop remains on hook.

Row 2 Decrease by inserting hook from right to left through front vertical bars of next 2 sts, ignoring first bar on edge of work, yrh and draw loop through both. Tss in each of next 3 sts. Insert hook in the next unworked FRdc, yrh and pull up loop [6 loops on hook]. (Yrh, draw through 2 loops) until only 1 loop remains on hook.

Row 3 Decrease over first 2 sts, as for Row 2. Tss in each of next 2 sts. Insert hook in next unworked FRdc, yrh and pull up loop [5 loops on hook]. (Yrh, draw through 2 loops) until only 1 loop remains on hook.

Row 4 Decrease over first 2 sts, Tss in next st. Insert hook in next FRdc, yrh and pull up loop [4 loops on hook]. (Yrh, draw through 2 loops) until only 1 loop remains on hook.

Row 5 Decrease over first 2 sts, insert hook in next FRdc, yrh and pull up loop [3 loops on hook]. (Yrh, draw through 2 loops) until only 1 loop remains on hook.

Row 6 Dc in next FRdc.

REPEAT SECTION

Row 7 Yrh (this makes an increase at start of each of Rows 7-11), insert hook in next FRdc, yrh, pull up loop [3 loops on hook], (yrh, draw through 2 loops) until only 1 loop remains on hook.

Row 8 Yrh, Tss in first st (the vertical bar on this first st might be difficult to make out – aim for the strand running across centre of prev row), insert hook in next FRdc, yrh, pull up loop [4 loops on hook], (yrh, draw through 2 loops) until only 1 loop remains on hook.

Row 9 Yrh, Tss in each of next 2 sts, insert hook in next FRdc, yrh, pull up loop [5 loops on hook], (yrh, draw through 2 loops) until only 1 loop remains on hook.

Row 10 Yrh, Tss in each of next 3 sts, insert hook in next FRdc, yrh, pull up loop [6 loops on hook], (yrh, draw through 2 loops) until only 1 loop remains on hook.

Row 11 Yrh, Tss in each of next 4 sts, insert hook in next FRdc, yrh, pull up loop [7 loops on hook], (yrh, draw through 2 loops) until only 1 loop remains on hook.

Row 12 Tss in each of next 5 sts, insert hook in next FRdc, yrh, pull up loop [7 loops on hook], (yrh, draw through 2 loops) until only 1 loop remains on hook.

Rows 13-17 Repeat Rows 2-6 of RH Edge Section.

Repeat (Rows 7-17) 17 more times.

LH EDGE SECTION

Repeat Rows 7-12. Turn.

LEVEL 2 (RS THROUGHOUT)

Refer to Chart B on page 91.

Change to a 5.5mm hook.

Set-up row Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in end of first row of prev level.

REPEAT SECTION

Row 1 (Insert hook in end of next row of prev level and pull up a loop) 5 times. Insert hook in next dc (which is next available st) and pull up a loop [7 loops on hook], (yrh, draw through 2 loops) until only 1 loop remains on hook.

Rows 2-5 Tss in each of next 5 sts, insert hook in end of next row of prev level and pull up a loop, (yrh, draw through 2 loops) until only 1 loop

remains on hook.

Row 6 Dc in each of 5 sts of prev row, dc in end of next row of prev level.

Repeat Rows 1-6 until the ends of all rows in the prev level have been worked. Turn.

Once you have completed each level there should be a total of 210 'sts' along top edge. These are made up of either dc sts or ends of rows. In each level you will be picking up a loop or working a dc st, in each one of these 210 sts each time you work a row of the next level.

LEVEL 3 (WS THROUGHOUT)

Refer to Chart C on page 91.

RH EDGE SECTION

Row 1 Ch10, insert hook in 2nd ch from hook, yrh and pull up loop, leaving loop on hook; repeat for each of rem 8 ch [10 loops on hook], insert hook in first dc from prev level and pull up another loop. (Yrh, draw through 2 loops) until only 1 loop remains on hook.

Row 2 Decrease over first 2 sts, Tss in each of next 5 sts, decrease over last 2 sts, insert hook in next dc from prev level and pull up a loop. (Yrh, draw through 2 loops) until only 1 loop remains on hook.

Row 3 Decrease over first 2 sts, Tss in each of next 3 sts, decrease over last 2 sts, insert hook in next dc from prev level and pull up a loop. (Yrh, draw through 2 loops) until only 1 loop remains on hook.

Row 4 Decrease over first 2 sts, Tss in next st, decrease over last 2 sts, insert hook in next dc from prev level and pull up a loop. (Yrh, draw through 2 loops) until only 1 loop remains on hook.

Row 5 Decrease over next 2 sts, insert hook in next dc from prev level and pull up a loop. (Yrh, draw through 2 loops) until only 1 loop remains on hook.

Row 6 Dc in next dc from prev level.

REPEAT SECTION

Repeat Rows 1-6 from Level 2 a further 17 times.

LH EDGE SECTION

Row 1 Yrh, insert hook in next row end of prev level, pull up loop. (Yrh, draw through 2 loops) until only 1 loop



The combination of Tunisian crochet stitches gives the shawl an almost woven appearance.

Tunisian shawl

remains on hook.

Row 2 Yrh, Tss in first st, yrh, insert hook in next row end of prev level, pull up loop [5 loops on hook]. (Yrh, draw through 2 loops) until only 1 loop remains on hook.

Row 3 Yrh, Tss in each of next 3 sts, yrh, insert hook in next row end of prev level, pull up loop [7 loops on hook]. (Yrh, draw through 2 loops) until only 1 loop remains on hook.

Row 4 Yrh, Tss in each of next 5 sts, yrh, insert hook in next row end of prev level, pull up loop [9 loops on hook]. (Yrh, draw through 2 loops) until only 1 loop remains on hook.

Row 5 Yrh, Tss in each of next 7 sts, yrh, insert hook in next row end of prev level, pull up loop [11 loops on hook]. (Yrh, draw through 2 loops) until only 1 loop remains on hook.

Row 6 Tss in each of next 9 sts, insert hook in last dc of prev level, pull up a loop. (Yrh, draw through 2 loops) until only 1 loop remains on hook. Turn.

Repeat (Levels 2 & 3) a further 3 times, changing to next largest hook size before each Level 2. [10 Levels in total]

Fasten off, weave in ends and block gently. Remember band section should remain stretchy after blocking so add less force to that side of the shawl. The final row will stretch out farther because it was worked on a much bigger hook. Be sure to block that side harder to ensure the shawl has sufficient shape to cover your both your shoulders and arms.

The shawl can be wrapped around like a scarf or capelet.



SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO WORK TUNISIAN KNIT STITCH



1 Insert the hook through the fabric from front to back, placing your hook between the front and the back of each vertical strand.



2 Pull up a loop of yarn and leave it on the hook.



3 Repeat from step 1 in each vertical strand across to form a row of Tunisian knit stitches.



4 The fabric created looks a lot like knitted stocking stitch, but is a lot thicker.



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SILENT NIGHT

Capture a still winter's evening on a cosy cushion by Simone Francis.



Intarsia cushion



YOU WILL NEED

- Rowan Pure Wool Worsted (100% wool, 100g/200m)
2 balls of Yarn A Electric (0143),
1 ball of Yarn B Ivory (0101)
- A 4.5mm (US 7) hook
- Square cushion pad, 40x40cm (16x16in)

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

TENSION

14 sts and 18 rows to measure
10x10cm (4x4in) over double
crochet using a 4.5mm hook

MEASUREMENTS

40x40cm (16x16in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 90.

Are you an intarsia novice? This cosy cushion project is a great one to start with if you're a little nervous of all those colour changes. There's a clear chart for you to follow.

NOTES

Cushion Front is worked in intarsia; you may find it helpful to carry yarn across back of work in floats, or to wind off small balls of yarn for larger areas. When changing colour mid-row, twist ends of the two yarns tog and change to new colour in last yrh of the prev st. Cushion Back is worked in Yarn A only. Once both pieces have been worked and blocked, they can be crocheted or sewn tog over the cushion pad.

FRONT

With Yarn B, ch57.

Foundation row (WS) Dc into the 2nd ch from hook and in each ch to end, turn. [56 sts]

Follow Chart on p94 from Rows 1-52, working each row as Row 1 below with colour changes indicated on Chart. On Chart, each square represents 1 dc st. RS rows are read from right to left, and WS rows from left to right.

Rows 1-52 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st to end, turn.

Rows 53-66 Rep Rows 1-14. **Fasten off.**

BACK

With Yarn A, ch57.

Foundation row Dc into 2nd ch from hook and in each ch to end, turn. [56 sts]



Create this snowy winter silhouette using just two shades of yarn and a helpful chart.



Rows of playful stripes along the top and bottom frame the design beautifully.

Rows 1-66 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st to end, turn.

Fasten off.

TO FINISH

Block both pieces carefully and weave in ends.

Place WS tog and with Yarn A, work a dc seam (see below) through both layers evenly around 3 edges. Insert the cushion pad and crochet final edge. Alternatively, use a blanket st and sew edges together.

SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO WORK A DOUBLE CROCHET SEAM



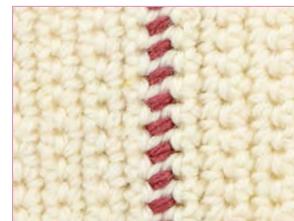
1 First, make sure you fasten off, weave in ends and block pieces. Place pieces wrong sides together. With a slip knot on the hook, insert it into the far right stitch on both pieces, work a slip st.



2 Make 1ch (the t-ch for dc). Insert hook into the 2nd stitch of both layers and work a dc stitch. Work more dc stitches in this way along the edge, as far as you need to.



3 Fasten off, weave in ends, open out the seam and lightly press from the wrong side. You'll create a raised seam for a decorative effect on the right side (see above), using any colour of yarn.



4 In step 1, if you were to place your pieces with right sides together and work the seam, you'll create a more subtle effect on the right side (see above), with the raised seam on the wrong side.

MATTHEW SPIERS HOOK A PRESENT

Crocheting for Christmas.



Christmas-themed amigurumi can become treasured items. Just be aware of your abilities and be sure to set yourself realistic deadlines for finishing off your projects.

Secondly, and perhaps most importantly of all: think carefully about your recipient. If a member of your family is expecting a designer handbag, they're not exactly going to be thrilled when you give them some crocheted doilies! But there are going to be people in your life who will love and appreciate anything that you make for them – these are the people you want to get it right for. Take my good friend Broughton, for example. I decided to make him a blanket as a present and it was so perfect for him, I even surprised myself. It was partly a challenge to myself as I wanted to use an element of freeform crochet and test my abilities, but I knew he would like all the different shapes and bright colours. It wasn't until I gave the finished blanket to him and he remarked that it reminded him of Kandinsky (his favourite painter) that I realised just how perfect and suited to him the gift was.

And finally, you should remember to take time to make something for yourself as well. Every winter, I make myself a new scarf. In my opinion, you can never have enough scarves and, as always, the more colourful they are the better!

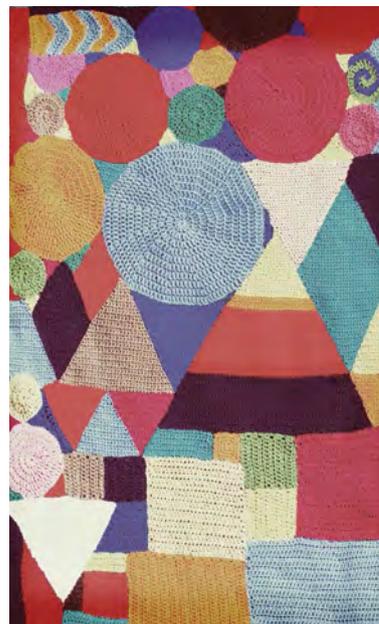
YOU CAN READ MORE ABOUT MATT'S CROCHET MAKES ON HIS BLOG, WWW.ONEMANCROCHET.BLOGSPOT.CO.UK

The days are getting colder and the nights are drawing in, which can only mean one thing: Christmas is just around the corner. My favourite part of Christmas is the giving of gifts. I love to crochet presents for people and I think that handmade presents are a lot more personal (and kinder on the old purse-strings, too!).

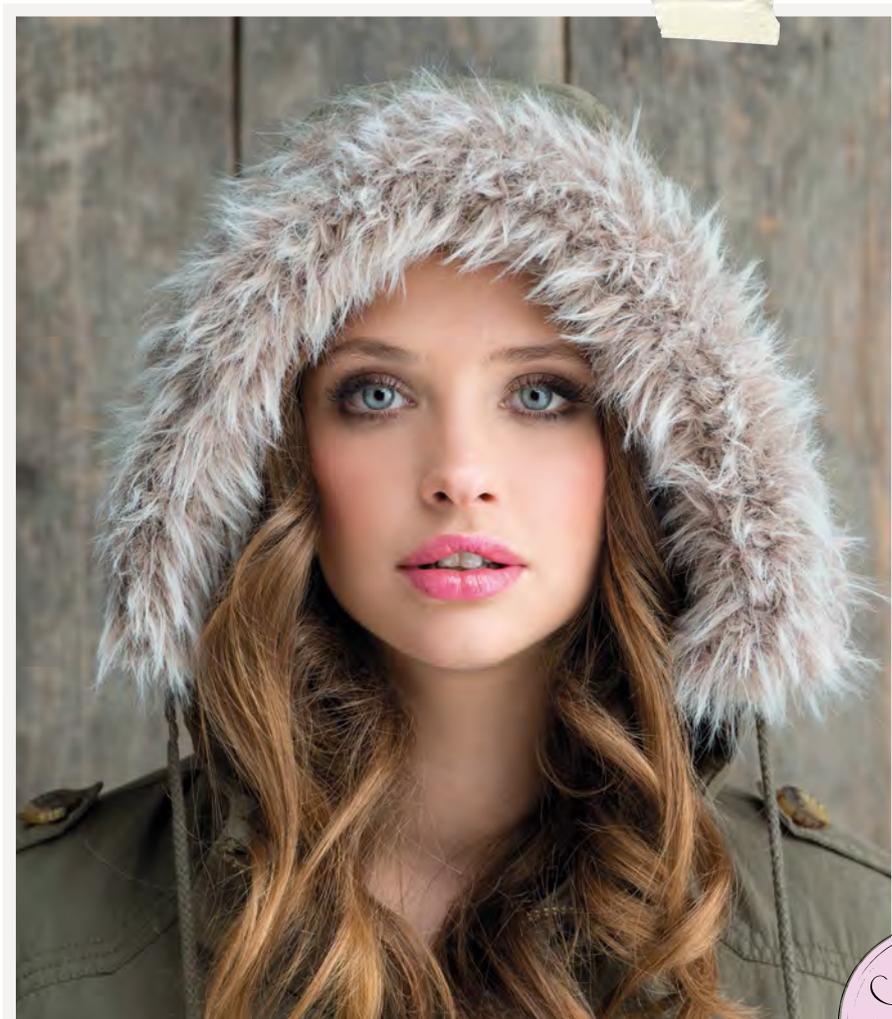
Making crochet gifts for your loved ones can be an interesting challenge and I've learned a few valuable lessons in my time. A big part of my crochet experience has been making presents for my friends and family, which has meant I've learnt how to create a lot of things that I otherwise would have had no interest in making. One year, in particular, I had very little spare cash, so I crocheted

Christmas presents for everyone I knew. Sure, sometimes you can get it wrong and I've given my fair share of bad gifts. Like the scarf for my father that I was still making right up until Christmas Eve, only to realise that I didn't have quite enough wool to finish it. But when you get handmade presents right, it's so rewarding for all involved.

My first bit of advice is this: ideally you need to start early. As with shopping, the later you leave it, the more pressure you'll be under and hence the worse your decision-making abilities will become. But don't panic if you're only just thinking about it now, you've still got time. Just try to keep your projects small – you don't have to create a masterpiece. Often, something as simple as a crochet snowflake decoration or some



Far left: Matthew's ever-growing collection of crochet scarves – he makes one every winter.
Centre: The bright, free-form crochet blanket Matthew made for his friend Broughton.
Above: Do you wanna hook a snowman hat?



ESKIMO KISSES

Add a luxurious furry trim to your winter coat with Sara Huntington's clever design. So snuggly.

Embellish an outfit



YOU WILL NEED

- King Cole Luxe Fur (100% Nylon, 100g/110m), 1 ball of Impala (1035)
 - A 5mm (US H/8) hook
 - Sewing needle and thread
- For yarn stockists, contact King Cole 01535 650230 www.kingcole.co.uk

MEASUREMENTS

55x7cm (21½x2¾in) long

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 90.

Adding an extra-cosy dimension to your favourite parka or go-to winter jacket is easier than you think. This simple project is worked only in double crochet stitches. The thick, furry trim brings a touch of winter glam when it's attached to your hood. King Cole's brand new Luxe Fur yarn has a natural, multi-tonal look and of course is wonderfully soft and fuzzy, too.

Working with a fancy, faux-fur yarn like this for the first time can be a bit tricky because it's not so easy to see where you're hooking. You'll need to use your hands much more to feel the stitches and find your way. Make sure you've got plenty of light to work in and try not to pull your stitches too tight.

C FUR TRIM

Ch46.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in the second chain from the hook and each ch to end, turn.

[45 sts]

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st to end, turn.

Repeat Row 2 until the work measures 14cm.

Fasten off.

TO FINISH

Fold the trim in half around the edge of the hood so that there is 7cm of trim on each side.

Using a sewing needle and thread, sew the trim securely to the edge of the hood.



The magic of this project is that, even up close, you can hardly even tell that it's crocheted.

SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO MAKE A DOUBLE CROCHET



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



2 Wind the yarn around the hook (yarn over) and pull it through the two loops on your crochet hook.



3 Yrn again, then pull the yarn through both loops. There's your double crochet made and you'll have one loop left on your hook ready to do the next stitch. Cont to the end of the row.



4 For full rows, turn and make 1 turning chain. For dc only, the t-ch does not count as a st. Work first dc of the row in the st at base of the ch. At end of the row, do not work into the top of the t-ch.

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Cowl-neck poncho



FRINGE BENEFITS

Fend off the winter chill with a bright mini poncho worked in granny trebles. By Simone Francis.

Cowl-neck poncho



YOU WILL NEED

- DROPS Nepal (65% wool, 35% alpaca, 50g/75m), 9 balls of Yarn A Light Beige Mix (0206), 1 ball of each:
 - Yarn B Cerise (6273)
 - Yarn C Pistachio (1477)
 - Yarn D Royal Blue (6790)
 - Yarn E Goldenrod (2923)
 - Yarn F Orange Mix (2920)
 - Yarn G Grey/Purple (4311)
 - Yarn H Light Grey Green (7120)
 - Yarn I Forget-Me-Not (8783)
 - Yarn J Olive Mix (7238)
- A 6mm (US J/10) hook
- A 7mm (US K 10½ or L11) hook
- Two stitch markers

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

TENSION

4 3-tr groups and 6 rows in
 Granny Stitch Pattern to measure
 10x10cm (4x4in) using a 6mm
 hook
 12 sts & 9 rows in Rib Stitch
 Pattern to measure 10x10cm
 (4x4in) using a 7mm hook

MEASUREMENTS

76cm (30in) across at widest point
 when folded flat. Length from
 base of cowl to bottom (including
 fringe): 53cm (21in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 90.

The cowl-neck poncho is a high street hit this season, but Simone Francis's colourful, fringed version beats others hands down for fun and snuggliness. The wool and alpaca mix yarn makes for a sure-fire winter warmer. Practise those post treble stitches to make the ribbed cowl neck and edging, then work simple granny trebles for the main body of the garment.

PATTERN STITCHES

Rib Stitch Ch1 (does not count as st), *1FPtr, 1BPtr; rep from * to end, ss into the beg ch-1.

Granny Stitch *3tr into sp between 3tr groups of previous round, skip 3 tr; rep from * to end.

Increases are made by working (3tr, ch1, 3tr) into the ch-1 sp of previous round.

NOTES

The Poncho is worked in one piece from the cowl down. A Rib borders the bottom of the garment, onto which a fringe is added.

The size of the Poncho can easily be increased by adding extra rows of Granny Stitch pattern (if doing so, you may need more yarn in the colours chosen and also in Yarn A).

COWL

With 7mm hook and Yarn A, ch84 with an even, loose tension, ss into the first ch to join into a ring, being careful not to twist.

Round 1 (RS) Ch2 (counts as tr), tr into each ch, ss into top of beg ch-2. [84 sts]

Round 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), 1FPtr around st at base of ch, 1BPtr around next st, *1FPtr, 1BPtr; rep from *



Wear a rainbow – create the colourful stripes with little trios of treble stitches.

to end of round, ss into beg ch-1. Repeating Round 2, work 20 more rows. Do not fasten off.

Turn Cowl inside out and continue in Yarn A with 6mm hook as follows:

MAIN BODY

Foundation round (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), dc into each st, ss into beg ch-1. [84 sts]

Round 1 Ch3 (counts as tr), 2tr into st at base of ch, (skip 1 st, 3tr into the next st) 9 times, skip 1 st, (3tr, ch1, 3tr) into the next st (place SM into the ch-1 sp to mark Back increase point), (skip 1 st, 3tr into the following st) 20 times, skip 1 st, (3tr, ch1, 3tr) into the next st (placing SM into the ch-1 sp to mark Front increase point), (skip 1 st, 3tr into the following st) 10 times, ss into top of beg ch-3.

Fasten off. [44 3-tr groups]

Round 2 Join Yarn B with a ss in first space between 3-tr groups. Ch3, 2tr into sp at base of ch, *skip 3 tr, 3tr into the following sp (between tr groups), continue working in Granny Stitch up to SM, work (3tr, ch1, 3tr) into the ch-1 sp, moving the SM up on each round; repeat from * until round is complete, ss into top of beg ch-3. [Increase by 2 3-tr groups on each round]

Repeating Round 2 and changing colour after every round, continue with colour sequence as follows:

Yarn C Pistachio
 Yarn D Royal Blue
 Yarn E Goldenrod
 Yarn F Orange Mix
 Yarn E Goldenrod
 Yarn C Pistachio
 Yarn D Royal Blue
 Yarn B Cerise
 Yarn G Grey/Purple
 Yarn H Light Grey Green
 Yarn F Orange Mix
 Yarn H Light Grey Green
 Yarn I Forget-Me-Not
 Yarn J Olive Mix
 Yarn A Light Beige Mix

Do not fasten off yarn.
 [76 3-tr groups]

BORDER

Change to 7mm hook and work in Rib Stitch pattern as follows:

Round 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), *1FPtr, 1BPtr; rep from * to end, skipping each ch-1 sp, ss into beg ch-1. [228 sts]

Round 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), *1FPtr, 1BPtr; rep from * to end, ss into beg ch-1.

Fasten off.

FRINGE

Wind 1 ball of Yarn A around the shorter edge of a copy of *Simply Crochet* magazine.

Cut along one side (so that each strand is approx 45cm long) and section into 5-strand groups.

Fold each group in half and edge Poncho, placing fringe into each alternate stitch around bottom round (using image as a guide).

Repeat until you have made 57 groups in total and fringe is complete.

TO FINISH

Trim fringe to desired length. Weave in all ends and gently block work.



The fringe is fun and playful, and cleverly adds extra length.

HOW DO I ADD FRINGING?

Give your poncho a striking trim with this easy technique.

Feathery fringing will transform your poncho from good to great! It's a really quick and easy way to give any make a fabulous feminine finish. Once you've learnt the technique (see right), you can use it on plenty of other projects – try using fringing to reinvent a boring old garment into a striking fashion statement, or to turn a plain blanket into a treasured bedtime accessory.

You can make your poncho fringe with leftover beige yarn from the project, or use contrasting colours from the granny square pattern so it really stands out. Fringing is a great way to add extra creativity to your poncho, but the best thing about fringing is that it's so easy – there's no tricky sewing required. You don't even need to tie any knots! Here's how...



01



03



02



04

01 Cut pieces of yarn, twice the length you want the fringe to be. Fold in half. 02 Insert hook through the fabric edge, where you want the first piece of fringing to go. Loop the yarn lengths over the hook and pull back through the fabric.

03 Pull the yarn to make a loop next to the hook. Pass the ends of the yarn through this loop. Pull tight to secure. 04 Repeat along the edge of your fabric, as close together or far apart as you wish. Trim any uneven lengths of yarn for a neat finish.

LABEL IT UP

Learn to print pretty ribbon labels for your crochet makes. By Molla Mills.



Printed labels

YOU WILL NEED

- Ribbon to print on (try satin polyester, other flat ribbon, or even felt and other fabrics)
- Silicone lettering
- A printing plate
- VersaCraft dye pad
- Washi tape



This handy how-to is from the book *Modern Crochet*, by Molla Mills, published by Jacqui Small (RRP £20, hardback). Visit www.jacquismallpub.com to find out more.

Crocheter Molla Mills says: “A label finishes your project and makes the end result look a degree more professional. Many people dismiss handmade goods because of their homespun look, but that’s easily fixed by sewing a label on. It increases your street cred.” We’re convinced.

The label can be printed, stamped or sewn, whichever suits the project best. You can cut your own logo from craft foam or carve it in wood. You can use ready-made stamps from a hobby shop, silicon lettering, or whatever you can think up. If you create your own logo stamp, remember to make it a mirror image, otherwise it will come out backwards. You can also make fun little labels by crocheting logos with thin yarn and attaching them to your work.



Finnish designer Molla Mills knows that the finishing touches can make all the difference.

SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO PRINT YOUR OWN LABELS



1 The label pictured is printed onto satin ribbon. The ribbon is polyester, but it will withstand pressing to set the dye. Cut the ribbon to a suitable length, leaving an allowance for the seams. Fix the ribbon to a level surface.



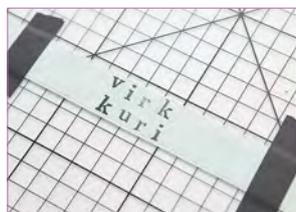
2 The image is made with pre-made silicon lettering that self-adheres to the printing plate.



3 Dip the plate gently into the dye. The dye used here is a VersaCraft dye pad.



4 Set the plate gently onto the ribbon and press. Make sure you apply the stamp only once. Remove the stamp carefully and try to avoid applying extra ink where you don't want it.



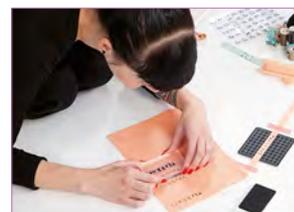
5 One finished label!



6 The position of the silicon letters can be easily adjusted on the plate.



7 Print more labels, as desired. Leave the printing dye to dry, then remove the labels from the work surface and press them gently, using pressing paper between the ribbon and an iron.



8 Try printing labels on fabrics made of various fibres. The material in the photo above is felt. Test and experiment to learn which materials will work best for your projects.

CABLE HAPPY

Keep little ones cosy in a textured sweater vest by Simone Francis.



Sweater vest



YOU WILL NEED

- Stylecraft Alpaca DK (80% acrylic, 20% alpaca, 100g/240m), Teal (6018)
For yarn quantities and measurements see table
 - A 4mm (US G/6) hook
 - A 4.5mm (US 7) hook
- For yarn stockists, contact Stylecraft 01535 609798
www.stylecraft-yarns.co.uk

TENSION

13sts and 8 rows in measures 10x10cm (4x4in), using a 4.5mm hook over treble crochet

ABBREVIATIONS

Back Post Treble (BPtr) Yrh, starting at the back, insert hook from back to front to back around the post of the indicated st, complete as for tr

Front Post Treble (FPtr) Yrh, starting at front, insert hook from front to back to front around post of indicated st, complete as for tr

Back Post Double treble (BPdtr) Yrh twice, starting at the back, insert hook from back to front to back around post of the indicated st, complete as for dtr

Front Post Double treble (FPdtr) Yrh twice, starting at the front, insert hook from front to back to front around post of the indicated st, complete as for dtr
For a full list, see page 90.



26 (29: 33: 35: 38: 39.5)cm
10½ (11½: 13: 13¾: 15: 15½)in

28 (31: 34: 36: 41: 43)cm
11 (12¼: 13½: 14½: 16¼: 17)in

Challenge yourself to try clever cables made with post treble stitches. Simone Francis's oh-so-cute sweater vest design includes some wonderfully chunky bobbles, too. We love the playful texture – it's the perfect super-snuggly layer for keeping little ones toasty through winter and beyond. Plus, the garment can be made in sizes from six months all the way up to 10 years and there are no little sleeves to grow out of. Start stitching one today.

NOTES

The Vest is worked in two pieces, from the bottom up.
Side seams are sewn and Neckband/Armbands are added after seaming.

SPECIAL STITCHES

BPdtrRight/BPdtrLeft

Work as for BPdtr but work around the stitch 2 sts to the Right/Left at the back of work

FPdtrRight/FPdtrLeft

Work as for FPdtr but work around the stitch 2 sts to the Right/Left at the front of work

BPdtrCrossed/FPdtrCrossed

Skip the first post st and work the second, then work the skipped st to cross the sts on the RS of the work

6-ttr bobble

[Yrh 3 times, insert hook into st, pull up a loop, (yrh, pull through 2 loops) 3 times, leave loop on hook] 6 times, yrh, pull through 7 loops on the hook

CABLE STITCH PATTERN

Worked over 22 (22: 22: 24: 24) sts. See Chart on page 61. Read RS rows from right to left, and read WS rows from left to right.

The Chart shows the pattern worked over 22 sts for the first three sizes only. If working the larger sizes, you would need to add extra treble sts as stated in the written pattern.

The raised stitches are shown in heavier weight to make it easier to see the cable pattern.

Row 1 (RS) 2FPdtr, 1 (1: 1: 2: 2: 2)tr, 2FPdtr, 4tr, 4FPdtr, 4tr, 2FPdtr, 1 (1: 1: 2: 2: 2)tr, 2FPdtr.

Row 2 2BPdtr, 3 (3: 3: 4: 4: 4)tr, 2BPdtrRight, skip 4 tr, 2BPdtrLeft, 1tr in top of each of the 2 post sts just worked, working in front of the existing sts, 1tr into each of the next 2 post sts, 2BPdtrRight, skip 4 tr, 2BPdtrLeft, 3 (3: 3: 4: 4: 4)tr, 2BPdtr.

Row 3 FPdtrCrossed, 3 (3: 3: 4: 4: 4)tr, 1FPdtr, FPdtrCrossed, 1FPdtr, 1tr, 6-ttr bobble into the space between next 2 tr, skip next tr, 1tr, 1FPdtr, FPdtrCrossed, 1FPdtr, 3 (3: 3: 4: 4: 4)tr, FPdtrCrossed.

Row 4 2BPdtr, 3 (3: 3: 4: 4: 4)tr, 1BPdtr, BPdtrCrossed, 1BPdtr, 1tr, 2tr into the top of the bobble, 1tr, 1BPdtr, BPdtrCrossed, 1BPdtr, 3 (3: 3: 4: 4: 4)tr, 2BPdtr.

Row 5 2FPdtr, 1 (1: 1: 2: 2: 2)tr, skip 2 tr, 2FPdtrLeft, 1tr in top of each of the 2 post sts just worked, working behind the existing sts, 1tr into each of the next 2 post sts, 2FPdtrRight around 2 post sts just worked, skip 4 tr, 2FPdtrLeft, 1tr in top of each of the 2 post sts just worked, working behind the existing sts, 1tr into each of the next 2 post sts, 2FPdtrRight around 2 post sts just worked, skip 2tr, 1 (1: 1: 2: 2: 2)tr, 2FPdtr.

Row 6 BPdtrCrossed, 1 (1: 1: 2: 2: 2)tr, 2BPdtr, 4tr, 4BPdtr, 4tr, 2BPdtr, 1 (1: 1:

AGE		6-12 months	1-2 yrs	3-4 yrs	5-6 yrs	7-8 yrs	9-10 yrs
TO FIT	cm	43-45.5	48-50.5	55-58.5	60-63.5	65-67	69-71
CHEST	in	17-18	19-20	21½-23	23½-25	25½-26½	27-28
ACTUAL	cm	52	58	66	70	76	79
CHEST	in	20½	23	26	27½	30	31
LENGTH	cm	28	31	34	36	41	43
	in	11	12¼	13½	14½	16¼	17
YARN	100g	1	2	2	2	2	3

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

Sweater vest

2: 2)tr, BPdtrCrossed.

Row 7 2FPdtr, 3 (3: 3: 4: 4: 4)tr, 2FPdtrRight around post sts just worked, skip 4 tr, 2FPdtrLeft, 1tr in top of each of the 2 post sts just worked, working behind the existing sts, 1tr into top of each of the next 2 post sts, 2FPdtrRight around post sts just worked, skip 4 tr, 2FPdtrLeft, 1tr in top of each of the 2 post sts just worked, working behind the existing sts, 1 (1: 1: 2: 2: 2)tr, 2FPdtr.

Row 8 2BPdtr, 3 (3: 3: 4: 4: 4)tr, 1BPdtr, BPdtrCrossed, 1BPdtr, 1tr, 6-tr bobble into the space between the next 2 tr, skip next tr, 1tr, 1BPdtr, BPdtrCrossed, 1BPdtr, 3 (3: 3: 4: 4: 4)tr, 2BPdtr.

Row 9 FPdtrCrossed, 3 (3: 3: 4: 4: 4)tr, 1FPdtr, FPdtrCrossed, 1FPdtr, 1tr, 2tr into the top of the bobble, 1tr, 1FPdtr, FPdtrCrossed, 1FPdtr, 3 (3: 3: 4: 4: 4)tr, FPdtrCrossed.

Row 10 2BPdtr, 1 (1: 1: 2: 2: 2)tr, skip 2 tr, 2BPdtrLeft, 1tr in top of each of the 2 post sts just worked, working in front of the existing sts, 1tr into each of the next 2 post sts, 2BPdtrRight around post sts just worked, skip 4tr, 2BPdtrLeft, 1tr in top of each of the 2 post sts just worked, working in front of the existing sts, 1tr into each of the next 2 post sts, 2BPdtrRight around post sts just worked, skip 2 tr, 1 (1: 1: 2: 2)tr, 2BPdtr.

Row 11 As Row 1.

Row 12 As Row 2 with first 2 sts and last 2 sts BPdtrCrossed.

Row 13 As Row 3 with first 2 sts and last 2 sts FPdtr.

Row 14 As Row 4.

Row 15 As Row 5 with first 2 sts and last 2 sts FPdtrCrossed.

Row 16 As Row 6 with first 2 sts and last 2 sts BPdtr.

Row 17 As Row 7.

Row 18 As Row 8 with first 2 sts and last 2 sts BPdtrCrossed.

Row 19 As Row 9 with first 2 sts and last 2 sts FPdtr.

Row 20 As Row 10 with first 2 sts and last 2 sts BPdtr.

Row 21 As Row 11 with first 2 sts and last 2 sts FPdtrCrossed.

Row 22 As Row 2.

Row 23 As Row 3 with first 2 sts and last 2 sts FPdtr.

Row 24 As Row 4 with first 2 sts and last 2 sts BPdtrCrossed.

Row 25 As Row 5.

Row 26 As Row 6 with first 2 sts and last 2 sts BPdtr.

Row 27 As Row 7 with first 2 sts and last 2 sts FPdtrCrossed.

Row 28 As Row 8.

Row 29 As Row 9 with first 2 sts and last 2 sts FPdtr.

BACK

RIB

With 4.5mm hook, ch38 (42: 46: 50: 54: 56).

Foundation row (WS) Tr into 4th ch from hook and in each ch to end, turn. [36 (40: 44: 48: 52: 54)sts]

Row 1 (RS) Ch2 (counts as tr), *1FPtr in next st, 1BPtr in next st; rep from * to end, 1tr into top of beginning ch-2, turn.

Repeat the last row (Row 1) 1 (1: 1: 3: 3: 3) more times.



The back and front are worked in almost the same way, apart from some shaping.

MAIN STITCH PATTERN

Row 1 (RS) Ch2 (counts as tr throughout), 1tr into st at base of ch, 6 (8: 10: 11: 13: 14)tr, work 22 (22: 22: 24: 24: 24) sts from Row 1 Cable Pattern St instructions as follows; 2FPdtr, 1 (1: 1: 2: 2: 2)tr, 2FPdtr, 4tr, 4FPdtr, 4tr, 2FPdtr, 1 (1: 1: 2: 2: 2)tr, 2FPdtr, 6 (8: 10: 11: 13: 14)tr, 2tr into the beginning ch-2, turn. [38 (42: 46: 50: 54: 56)sts]

Row 2 Ch2, 7 (9: 11: 12: 14: 15)tr, work 22 (22: 22: 24: 24: 24) sts from Row 2 Cable Pattern St instructions; 7 (9: 11: 12: 14: 15)tr, 1tr into beginning ch-2, turn.

Row 3 Ch2, 7 (9: 11: 12: 14: 15)tr, work 22 (22: 22: 24: 24: 24) sts from Row 3

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.

Sweater vest

Cable Pattern St instructions; 7 (9: 11: 12: 14: 15)tr, 1tr into the beginning ch-2, turn.

Keeping the tr st count correct at edges and working 22 (22: 22: 24: 24: 24) central sts following the Cable Pattern St, continue from Row 4 to Row 8 (10: 12: 12: 14: 16).

ARMHOLE SHAPING

Foundation row (RS) Ss across and into the fourth st, ch2 (counts as first tr), 4 (6: 8: 9: 11: 12)tr, work from Row 9 (11: 13: 13: 15: 17) of Cable Pattern St instructions, 5 (7: 9: 10: 12: 13)tr, turn, leaving the remaining sts unworked. [32 (36: 40: 44: 48: 50)sts] **

Keeping tr st count correct at edges and working 22 (22: 22: 24: 24: 24) central sts following the Cable Pattern St, continue from Row 10 (12: 14: 14: 16: 18) to Row 19 (21: 23: 23: 27: 29).

SHOULDER SHAPING

Next row (WS) Ss across and into the fourth st, ch1 (does not count as st), 1 (3: 5: 6: 8: 9)tr, 2BPdtr, 1tr.

Fasten off, leaving remaining sts unworked.

With WS facing, skip centre 16 (16: 16: 18: 18: 18) sts, rejoin yarn with a ss into the following st. Ch2 (counts as tr), 2BPdtr, 1 (3: 5: 6: 8: 9)tr, ch1 (does not count as st), ss into the following 4 sts. **Fasten off**.

FRONT

Repeat instructions for Back to ** and continue as follows:

Keeping tr st count correct at edges and working 22 (22: 22: 24: 24: 24) central sts following the Cable Pattern St, continue from Row 10 (12: 14: 14: 16: 18) to Row 15 (17: 19: 19: 21: 23).

RIGHT FRONT NECK SHAPING

Row 1 (WS) Ch2 (counts as tr), 4 (6: 8: 9: 11: 12)tr, 2BPdtr (cross the trebles according to pattern row), 1tr, turn, leaving the remaining sts unworked. Continue to work on these 8 (10: 12: 13: 15: 16)sts only, keeping the 2 post sts in pattern as set by Cable Pattern St, until Front is the same length as Back to Shoulder Shaping.

RIGHT FRONT SHOULDER SHAPING

Next row (WS) Ss across and into fourth st, ch1 (does not count as st), 1

(3: 5: 6: 8: 9)tr, 2BPdtr, 1tr. **Fasten off**.

LEFT FRONT NECK SHAPING

With WS facing, skip the centre 16 (16: 16: 18: 18: 18)sts and rejoin yarn with a ss into the following st. Ch2 (counts as tr), 2BPdtr (cross the trebles according to pattern row), 5 (7: 9: 10: 12: 13)tr, turn.

Continue working on these 8 (10: 12: 13: 15: 16)sts only, keeping the 2 post sts in pattern as set by Cable Pattern St, until Front is the same length as Back to Shoulder Shaping.

LEFT FRONT SHOULDER SHAPING

Next Row (WS) Ch2 (counts as tr), 2BPdtr, 1 (3: 5: 6: 8: 9)tr, ch1 (does not count as st), ss into the following 4 sts. **Fasten off**.

NECKBAND

Join shoulder seams.

With RS facing and 4.5mm hook, join yarn with a ss at Right Shoulder seam, ch2 (counts as tr), tr 23 (23: 23: 25: 25: 25)sts evenly around Back Neck, 34 (36: 36: 38: 38: 40)sts around Front Neck, join with a ss into the top of the beginning ch-2. [58 (60: 60: 64: 64: 66) sts]

Change to 4mm hook and ch1 (does not count as st), *1FPtr in the next st, 1BPtr in the next st; repeat from * to



The trio of super-chunky bobbles on the front of the sweater vest adds a playful element.

end, ss into the beginning ch-1.

Fasten off.

ARMBANDS

Join side seams.

With RS facing and a 4.5mm hook, join yarn with a ss at one underarm seam, ch2 (counts as tr), tr 37 (39: 39: 41: 43: 43)sts evenly around Armhole, join with a ss into the top of the beginning ch-2. [38 (40: 40: 42: 44: 44) sts]

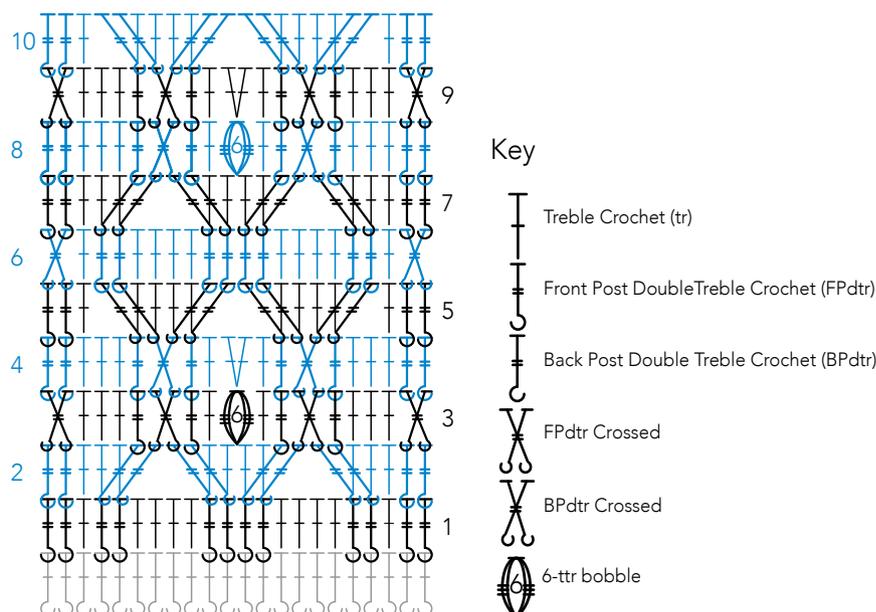
Change to 4mm hook and ch1 (does not count as st), *1FPtr in next st, 1BPtr in the next st; repeat from * to end, ss into the beginning ch-1. **Fasten off.**

Repeat for other Armhole.

TO FINISH

Weave in all ends. Gently block work.

CHART: CABLE STITCH PATTERN





'T WAS THE NIGHT

Make Mitsuki ☆ Hoshi's adorable amigurumi mouse cutie. Nope, he's definitely not stirring.



There's a special sort of magic about the night before Christmas and especially about the wonderful poem by Clement C. Moore of the same name (you know the one). We just couldn't resist Mitsuki ☆ Hoshi's sweet collection of amigurumi characters from the festive poem. How cute is this tiny sleeping mouse? He's hooked up in several dinky parts that are joined together afterwards. This is a fantastic little project if you're new to amigurumi. Grab your hook and yarn.

Mouse toy

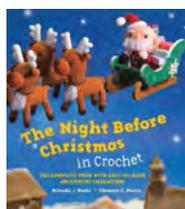
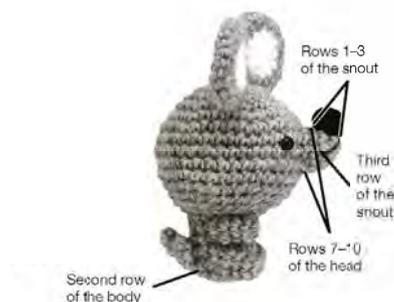
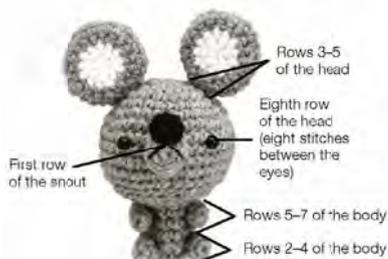


YOU WILL NEED

- DK yarn, approx 50g in grey
- An oddment of white DK yarn
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- Black embroidery floss
- Black beads for eyes
- Toy stuffing

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 90.



This pattern is from *The Night Before Christmas in Crochet*, by Mitsuki Hoshi and Clement C. Moore,

published by Harper Design (RRP £10.99). See www.harpercollins.com

NOTE

When fastening off, leave a long tail of yarn in case you need it for sewing up at the end.

HEAD

The Head is worked using the amigurumi method.

Work stitches continuously in a spiral without closing off each round with a slip stitch.

It may help to use a stitch marker in the first stitch of each round, moving it up as you work.

With Grey, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) 6dc into the loop. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [12 sts]

Round 3 (1dc, 2dc in next st) 6 times.

[18 sts]

Round 4 (2dc, 2dc in next st) 6 times.

[24 sts]

Round 5 Dc in each st around.

Round 6 (3dc, 2dc in next st) 6 times.

[30 sts]

Round 7 (4dc, 2dc in next st) 6 times.

[36 sts]

Rounds 8-11 Dc in each st around.

Round 12 (3dc, dc2tog) 6 times.

[30 sts]

Round 13 (2dc, dc2tog) 6 times.

[24 sts]

Round 14 24dc, ss in the next st.

Fasten off.

BODY

With Grey, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) 6dc into the loop, ss to the first dc. [6 sts]

Round 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), 2dc in each st around, ss to the first dc. [12 sts]

Rounds 3-7 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st around, ss to the first dc.

Fasten off.

EARS (MAKE 2)

The WS of the Ears will be used on the outside.

With White, make a magic loop.

Round 1 6dc into the loop, ss to the first dc. [6 sts]

Round 2 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), 2dc in each st around, ss to the first dc. [12 sts]

Change to Grey.

Round 3 Ch1, (1dc, 2dc in the next st) 6 times, ss to the first dc. [18 sts]

Round 4 Ch1, (2dc in the next st, 2dc) 6

times, ss to the first dc. [24 sts]

Round 5 Ch1, (2dc, dc2tog) 6 times, ss to the first dc. [18 sts]

Round 6 Ch1, (dc2tog, 1dc) 6 times, ss to the first dc. [12 sts]

Round 7 Ch1, (dc2tog) 6 times, ss to the first dc. [6 sts]

Fasten off.

SNOUT

With Grey, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) 5dc into the loop, ss to the first dc. [5 sts]

Round 2 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), 2dc in the first st, 3dc, 2dc in the last st, ss to the first dc. [7 sts]

Round 3 Ch1, 2dc in the first st, 5dc, 2dc in the last st, ss to the first dc. [9 sts]

Round 4 Ch1, dc in each st around, ss to the first dc.

Fasten off.

LEGS (MAKE 4)

With Grey, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) 5dc into the loop, ss to the first dc. [5 sts]

Rounds 2-4 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st around, ss to the first dc.

Fasten off.

NOSE

The WS of the Nose will be used on the outside.

With 2 full strands of Black embroidery floss held together, make a magic loop.

Round 1 6dc into the loop, ss to the first dc. [6 sts]

Round 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st around, ss to the first dc.

Fasten off.

TAIL

With Grey, ch11.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in the second ch from the hook and in each ch to end. [10 sts]

Fasten off.

TO MAKE UP

Stuff the Head, Body and Snout.

Use the diagram for reference in attaching the remaining parts as follows: Sew the Snout and Ears to the Head, sew the Nose to the Snout. Sew the beads to the head to form eyes. Embroider the mouth with black embroidery floss.

Attach the Head to the Body and attach the Legs and Tail to the Body.

Square of the Month



YOU WILL NEED

- DK cotton in the following shades:
 - Yarn A Brown
 - Yarn B Dark Red
 - Yarn C Light Green
 - Yarn D Light Blue
 - Yarn E Royal Blue
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 90.

NOTE

See page 92 for chart.



GRANNY BESSIE

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



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/1hjLn0l> Android users can get the patterns by signing up to our monthly newsletter at www.simplycrochetmag.com

C SQUARE

With Yarn A, ch8, join with ss to form a ring.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1, 16dc in the ring, join with ss in the first dc.

Fasten off. [16 dc]

Round 2 Join Yarn B in any dc, ch6 (counts as tr, ch3), (skip the next dc, tr in the next dc, ch3) 7 times, join with ss in the third ch of the beginning ch-6.

Fasten off.

Round 3 Join Yarn C in any tr, ch1, dc in the same tr, 5tr in the next ch-3 sp, (dc in the next tr, 5tr in the next ch-3 sp) 7 times, join with ss in the first dc. [8 petals]

Round 4 Join Yarn D in any dc, ch5 (counts as tr, ch2), tr in the same dc,

ch2, tr in centre tr of the next petal, ch6, tr in centre tr of the next petal, ch2, *(tr, ch2, tr) in the next dc, ch2, tr in centre tr of the next petal, ch6, tr in centre tr of the next petal, ch2; repeat from * twice more, join with ss in the third ch of the beginning ch-5.

Fasten off.

Round 5 Join Yarn E in the first ch-2 sp, ch1, dc in the same ch-2 sp, ch4, (3tr, ch3, 3tr) in the next ch-6 sp, ch4, skip the next ch-2 sp, *dc in the next ch-2 sp, ch4, (3tr, ch3, 3tr) in the next ch-6 sp, ch4, skip the next ch-2 sp; repeat from * twice more, ss to the top of the first dc to join.

Fasten off.

Weave in all ends.



"Crochet is a post-apocalyptic life skill, I reckon."



A WORLD OF WONDERMENT

Ever feel like your crochet projects are developing a life of their own? Lydia Tresselt's amigurumi creations are in danger of running away with the yarn!

First, we discovered Lydia Tresselt and her design skills thanks to the array of hauntingly cute creatures crowding her Etsy shop page. Resembling kooky children in the midst of an elaborate dress-up game, the dolls range from foxes to kangaroos and dragons to mermaids, all featuring a wide-eyed gaze and often wearing dinky scarves, too.

It's a very sunny, fanciful world, but one with a determined core. "Crochet isn't just a hobby," declares Lydia, "it's a post-apocalyptic life skill."

As far as Lydia's concerned, crochet has been a necessity for longer than she can recall. "I've probably always knotted

and tied anything that seemed suitable to be tied or knotted – initially without a system, until my great-grandmother taught me a proper concept. It was a surprise when suddenly the entire thing had a name: crochet! From that day, I entered a brand new universe made of colourful yarn and crochet hooks."

Lydia's trademark toys came into being following an exciting piece of news. "When my brother told me that I was to become an aunt to a little girl, I wanted to give her a very special friend right from the start – someone who's brave and always on her side. So I dived deep down into my yarn stash and found a perfect little ball of brown tweed with

colourful spots – ideal for a cuddly bear. That's how the idea for the very first doll, Bina the bear, was born."

Some doodles, days of trial and error, innumerable miles of crocheted yarn and multiple hand cramps later, Lydia's first amigurumi beastie finally achieved the look she was after, "with long arms to give many hugs and a body that even baby hands can easily grab onto."

A GROWING FAMILY

Once Bina was finished, Lydia found she wasn't ready to stop so immediately started work on her next doll, Rada the rat. "Well, she also came to an end and I just couldn't help myself – I continued



crocheting more and more of these little creatures," Lydia says. "It's such fun to create them and I often find myself grinning widely while working on a new doll. And I thought that because it makes me happy, it maybe would work for others, too. People need more reasons to smile anyway, so I wrote down the first crochet pattern of my life."

The patterns are now available to buy at Lalyland, Lydia's Etsy shop (www.etsy.com/shop/lalylala).

Part of the joy definitely comes from Lydia's quirky sense of humour, with characters including Lupo the Lamb: "He doesn't look like it, but actually Lupo is a wolf in sheep's clothing. When Lupo was a puppy, he had a great passion for hand-knitted wool socks. One night, he tried to shear a sleeping sheep on the meadow to raise some wool for making extra socks. The frightened sheep bit Lupo by accident and since then, every full moon he turns into a lamb!"

This is the world Lydia's creatures populate – fantastical, fun and, like all the best fairy tales, a bit creepy, too.

"I really love to give the little characters who live in my head a material body and a new home in Lalyland, where they experience a lot of bizarre adventures and live happily ever after," she says. "I like to make them in almost any yarn, apart from pure synthetic fibres. I prefer wool, silk and cotton, and I'm totally obsessed with tweed wool. I love those pretty coloured sprinklings!"

Lydia explains that her creatures' defining characteristics are inspired directly by the animals that she models

her amigurumi on. "They all have certain traits that make up their nature. For example, a raccoon is certainly clumsy and cute, but doesn't he hide some kind of mysterious alter ego behind the black mask? Roco the Raccoon is exactly like that – he's a kind of heroic outlaw, a fuzzy-tailed Zorro, the Robin Hood of Lalyland's magic forest, with a penchant for candy heists! Or Carl the

Cactus, whose Grenadier Guards-inspired uniform slightly reminds me of a cactus, only better shaved, as it is also proper for a

decent marching band drummer!" Well, we can't really argue with that.

BLANKETS AND BLOGS

Aside from her ever-growing menagerie, Lydia likes to crochet other items. "In between, there's always time and yarn to make a cuddly crochet blanket or two. And believe me, you really can never have enough crochet blankets!"

Lydia also takes time to meander through craft blogs, though she finds it rather difficult to narrow her many

favourites down to just a handful. She manages to select five in the end: The Purl Bee (www.purlbee.com); Molla Mills Crochetterie (www.mollamills.com); Ingrid Jansen at Wood Wool Stool (www.woodwoolstool.blogspot.de); Emma Lamb (www.emmallamb.blogspot.co.uk) and Tiny Owl Knits (www.tinyowlknits.wordpress.com). "I admire some super girls who do amazing work and definitely have incredible skills."

Lydia is equally passionate about the places she prefers to work. "The first is my cosy, cushion-covered, turquoise-coloured couch in a tiny studio," she says. "The studio is in a backyard in the centre of Munich. I share it with my beloved studio mates, who offer excellent company and fabulous coffee. Secondly, I like to crochet on my balcony, where I can sit outside in my pyjamas and nobody minds. But the biggest pleasure of all is to crochet barefoot on the lawn in the garden in front of the studio. It even has a dolls-run: a kind of chicken run for the Lalylala dolls, where they can frolic around, catching bugs and picking flowers. Heaven!" We're taking a visit to Lalyland. Coming?

Interview by Judy Darley

"I FIND MYSELF GRINNING WIDELY WHILE WORKING ON A NEW DOLL. IT'S SUCH FUN TO CREATE THEM."



A FEW OF HER FAVOURITE THINGS

"Since I love to crochet in almost every conceivable situation, my family and friends wouldn't recognise me without a tote full of yarn and hooks slung over my shoulder. Yes, there are times when I don't have a hook in hand, but only when it can't be combined with my other

favourite activities, such as eating cake and ice cream, tending to my plants, or diving and spotting colourful fish and other marine life. But even then, I spend most of the time thinking about the next crochet project."

Find out more about Lydia over at www.lalylala.com

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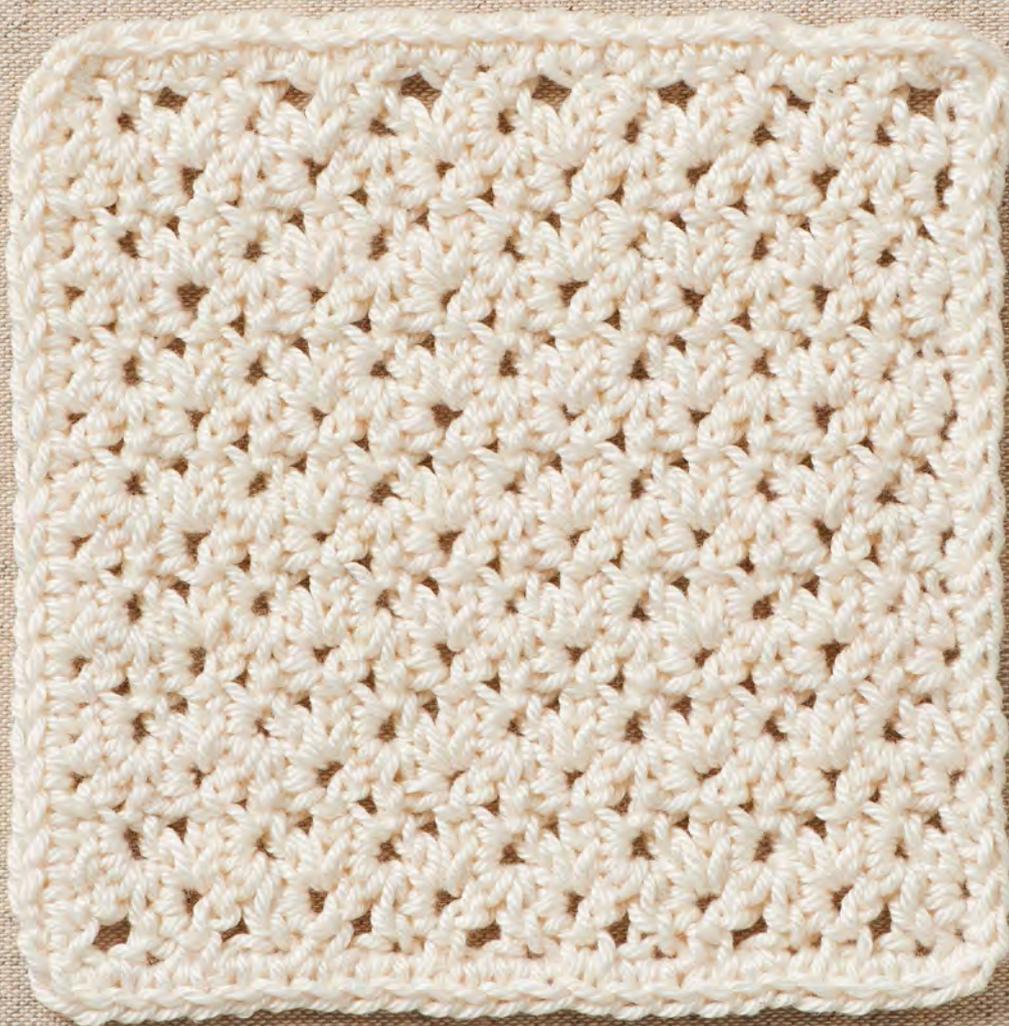


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BASIC KROLLER PATTERN

See each pattern for the foundation chain length you need to make for each project.

Foundation row (Dc, htr, tr) in the fourth ch from the hook, skip 2 ch,

*(dc, htr, tr) in the next ch, skip 2 ch; repeat from * across, htr in the last ch, turn.

Pattern row Ch2, (dc, htr, tr) in each tr across, htr in the top of the beginning ch, turn.

Work pattern row until the desired length is achieved.

Pattern by Anne Egan.

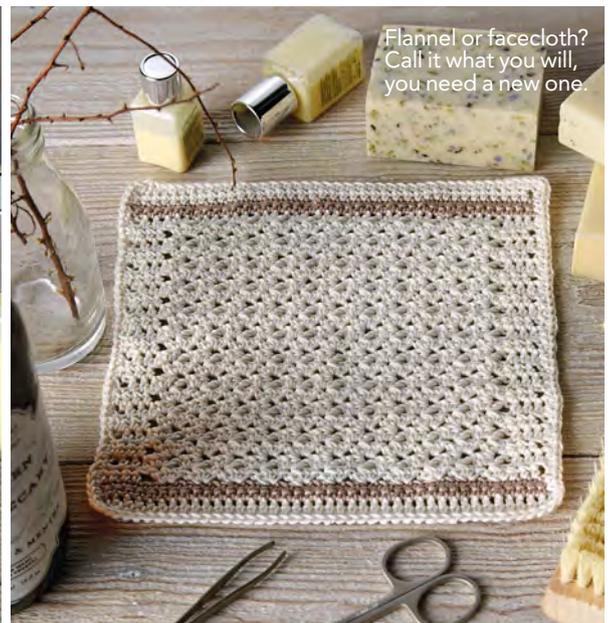
Turn the page to find more ideas using this pattern. ➡



A handmade spa set is the perfect luxe gift for a loved one. And you'll learn something new.



Keep calm and scrub on. This pretty pair will scour you smooth.



Flannel or facecloth? Call it what you will, you need a new one.

PERFECT POUCH

Keep make-up brushes and bits neat.

- Patons 100% Cotton DK (100% cotton, 100g/210m), 1 ball of each: Cream (2692), Raffia (2714)
- 2 buttons or beads
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook

POUCH

Back and Front are made in rows of dc, flap is worked in Basic Kroller Pattern. With Cream, ch39.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across, turn. [38 sts]

Rows 2-14 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in each st across, turn.

Row 15 Ch2 (counts as htr), *(dc, htr, tr) in next dc, skip 2 dc; rep from * to last st, htr in last st, turn.

Row 16 Work Pattern Row. Change to Raffia.

Rows 17-18 Work Pattern Row.

Row 19 Ch1, dc in next 10 sts, ch3, skip 3 sts, dc in next 12 sts, ch3, skip 3 sts, dc in next 10 sts, turn.

Row 20 Ch1, dc in each st and ch across, turn.

Row 21 As Row 15.

Row 22 Work Pattern Row. **Fasten off.** Join Cream in first st of rem loops of foundation ch, ch1, dc in each st across. Work 11 more rows of dc. Fold at foundation row and ss sides tog. Sew buttons/beads on Front to match buttonholes and weave in ends.

SERENE SCRUBBIES

Exfoliate gently with this little duo.

- Patons 100% Cotton DK (100% cotton, 100g/210m), 1 ball of each: Yarn A Cream (2692), Yarn B Raffia (2714)
- For stockists, contact Coats 01484 681881 www.makeitcoats.com
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook

TENSION

23 sts and 15 rows to meas 10x10cm (4x4in) over st patt using a 3.5mm hook

MEASUREMENTS

9cm (3½in) square

SCRUBBIES

Reverse Yarns A and B for 2nd scrubbie. With Yarn A, ch16.

Work the Foundation Row according to the Basic Pattern followed by 7 Pattern Rows, do not fasten off.

EDGING

Row 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), work 14dc around each side, with an extra dc in each corner, ss to first dc. **Fasten off.**

Row 2 Join Yarn B, ch1, dc in each st around with 3dc in each of first 3 corner sts and (dc, ch5, dc) in last corner st (forms hanging loop), ss to first dc.

Row 3 Rep Row 2 until you reach last corner and work 10dc in ch-5 sp, ss to first dc. **Fasten off** and weave in ends.

FEELGOOD FACECLOTH

Wash off the day with soft cotton.

- Patons 100% Cotton DK (100% cotton, 100g/210m), 1 ball of each: Cream (2692), Raffia (2714)
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook

MEASUREMENTS

20cm (7¾in) square

FACECLOTH

With Cream, ch42 (counts as htr + 40 sts).

Row 1 (WS) Htr in 3rd ch from hook and in each ch across, turn. [41 sts]

Change to Raffia.

Rows 2-3 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st across, turn.

Change to Cream.

Row 4 Ch2 (counts as htr), 3htr, *(dc, htr, tr) in next dc, skip 2 dc; rep from * 10 more times, 4htr, turn.

Rows 5-22 Ch2 (counts as htr), 3htr, *(dc, htr, tr) in next tr, skip 2 sts; rep from * 10 more times, 4htr, turn.

Change to Raffia.

Rows 23-24 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st across, turn.

Change to Cream.

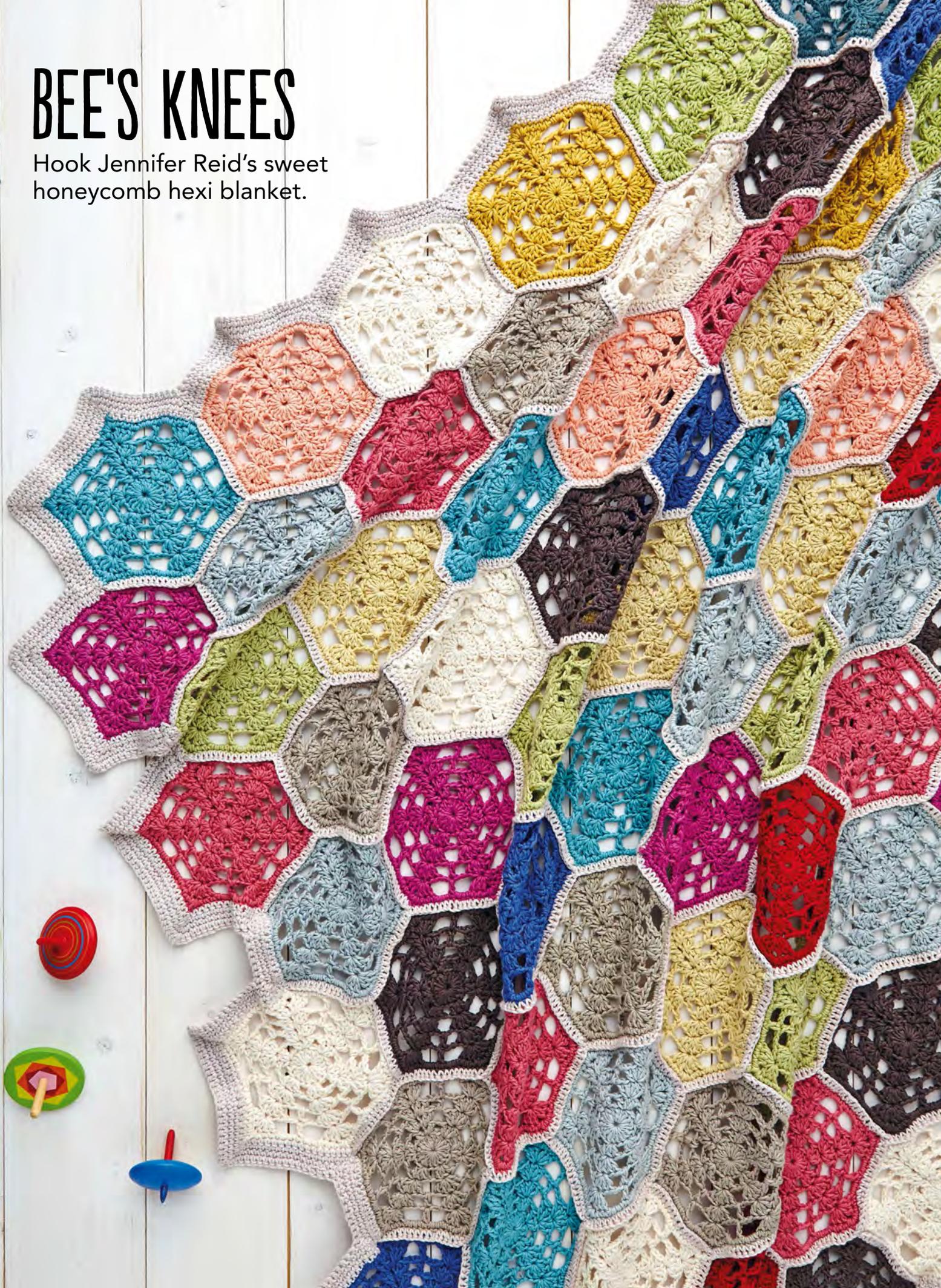
Row 25 Ch2 (counts as htr), htr in each st across, turn, do not fasten off.

With RS facing, ch1 (does not count as st), dc evenly around all sides with 2dc in each corner, ss to first dc.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

BEE'S KNEES

Hook Jennifer Reid's sweet honeycomb hexi blanket.



Hexagon blanket



YOU WILL NEED

- Debbie Bliss Eco Baby (100% organic cotton, 50g/125m), 1 ball of each: Sky (04), Apricot (23), Ruby (31), Fuchsia (32), Teal (34), Royal (35), Corn (36)
 - 2 balls of each: Aqua (05), Apple (06), Duck Egg (08), Rose (12), Stone (15), Ecru (16), Mink (18), Cowslip (25)
 - 5 balls of Pebble (26) for joining the motifs and working the border only
 - A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- For yarn stockists, contact Designer Yarns 01535 664222 www.designeryarns.uk.com

TENSION

Each hexagon measures 14.5cm (5¾in) between opposite points

MEASUREMENTS

Approx 135x140cm (53x55in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 90.

Have you ever tried making fabric hexagons for patchwork? You fold little pieces of fabric around hexagons cut from paper, adding more and more to make your patchwork grow. This lovely organic cotton honeycomb blanket takes its inspiration from that formula (without the paper templates), making a great project that you can hook bit by bit, completing a hexagon or two whenever you have a spare moment. Remember to have your hook, yarn and pattern with you at all times.

NOTES

Each hexagon is worked individually and then all are crocheted together at the end.

Use all the shades except Pebble evenly to make 115 hexagons

HEXAGON

Make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr), 17tr into the loop, ss to the top of the beginning ch-3 to join. [18 tr]

Round 2 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr into st at the base of ch-3, *ch1, skip 2tr, 3tr into the next tr; repeat from * 4 more times, ch1, skip 2tr, tr into st at the base of the beginning ch-3, ss to the top of the beginning ch-3 to join. [6 3-tr groups, 6 ch-1 sp]

Round 3 Ch3 (counts as tr), 2tr into st at the base of ch-3, *ch3, skip (tr, ch-1 sp, tr), 5tr into the next tr; repeat from * 4 more times, ch3, skip (tr, ch-1 sp, tr), 2tr into st at the base of the beginning ch-3, ss to the top of the beginning ch-3 to join. [6 5-tr groups, 6 ch-3 sp]

Round 4 Ch3 (counts as tr), 2tr into st at the base of ch-3, *ch2, skip 2 tr, tr in ch-3 sp, ch2, skip 2 tr, 5tr into the next tr; repeat from * 4 more times, ch2, tr in ch-3 sp, ch2, skip 2 tr, 2tr into st at the base of the beginning ch-3, ss to the top of the beginning ch-3 to join. [6 5-tr groups, 6 tr, 12 ch-2 sp]

Round 5 Ch3 (counts as tr), 2tr into st at the base of ch-3, *ch3, skip 2 tr and ch-2 sp, tr in the next tr, ch3, skip ch-2 sp and 2 tr, (3tr, ch1, 3tr) in the next tr; repeat from * 4 more times, ch3, skip 2tr and ch-2 sp, tr into the next tr, ch3, skip ch-2 sp and 2 tr, (3tr, ch1) into st at the base of the beginning ch-3, ss to the top of the beginning ch-3 to join. [6 6-tr groups, 6 tr, 12 ch-3 sp]

Round 6 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc



The bright hexagons are joined together with a simple double crochet seam. Easy-peasy.



The wide border finishes off the hexi blanket beautifully. Work four rows of double crochet.

in the same st and the next 2tr, *3dc into ch-3 sp, dc in the next tr, 3dc into ch-3 sp, dc in each of the next 3 tr, (2dc, ch1, 2dc) into ch-1 sp, dc in each of the next 3 tr; repeat from * to end omitting the last 3 dc, ss to the first dc to join.

Fasten off and weave in all ends.

TO MAKE UP

Arrange your hexagons for seaming so that you have 6 rows of 10 hexagons and 5 rows of 11 hexagons.

Using Pebble yarn only, work a dc seam to join all your hexagons together into a blanket.

BORDER

Using Pebble only, work 4 rows of dc around the edge of the blanket, working (dc, ch1, dc) into each corner ch-1 sp and working a dc2tog where 2 hexagons meet.

Fasten off and weave in all ends.

"We find success is always much better if you can share it."



JOINING CROCHET FORCES

Are two heads really better than one? We have a good old chinwag with the makers of some of our favourite crochet creations to find out what makes a successful design duo.

Working as part of a team can help prompt all kinds of ideas that you never knew you were capable of having – which is exactly what you want if your team is engaged in something creative like crochet design. But it can also lead to confusion, conflict and the occasional tantrum, which is why you need to choose your partner with great care. If you find the right person, whose creative strengths complement your own, the sky really is the limit.

We talked to four amazing crochet design duos to find out more about how

their partnerships work and to discover how they overcome any potential pitfalls.

NICE TO KNOW YOU

In the case of crochet designers Kat Goldin and Joanne Scrace, it was all about timing. "We originally connected over each other's blogs – I'd written a post about the method I use to design hats and Joanne left a comment," Kat says. "It turned out we were both at very similar stages in our design careers, having each started our businesses within about a month of each other. We were able to ask each other questions and lean on each other for

support. I know I wouldn't have made it through those early days of designing without having Joanne to rely on!"

Felix Rohland and Thomas Jaenisch of MyBoshi were friends long before they learnt to crochet. The pair came up with their world-dominating crochet beanie hat business as a direct result of learning the yarn craft skill together.

"When we learnt how to crochet during a ski instructor exchange in Japan in 2009, we would never have thought that one day it would lead us this far," Felix recalls. "We started with one crochet beanie and were quickly addicted to this new hobby. After

DESIGN DUOS

two Australians wanted to buy the beanies from us, we thought that maybe we could turn our hobby into a business. The demand for our hats was enormous!”

Globally renowned design duo Arne Nerjordet and Carlos Zachrisson became friends in 1999, but didn't actually start working together as a team until about 2001. “Arne (who is the one with a degree in fashion design and design background) was going to start his own clothing brand,” says Carlos. “I was figuring out if I wanted to take a job in Beijing, but I kept giving him my opinions and sharing my ideas with him. Suddenly, over a glass of wine one evening when I was giving him some feedback, he says to me: ‘Hey, you’re already contributing so much, why don’t we just start the brand together?’ I never took that job in Beijing

and we haven’t looked back once since that evening all those years ago!”

Sania Hedengren and Susanna Zacke are interior stylists, designers, journalists and authors who specialise in creating gorgeous furnishings with plenty of

crochet. They met 14 years ago when they both freelanced for various interior design magazines. Since 2003, they have authored ten books together, with

subjects varying from yarn to needlework. “We have worked together all this time,” exclaims Sania, “and somehow we have never really been at loggerheads!”

KEEPING YOUR COOL

When working so closely with another person, our design duos agree that it helps enormously to develop distinctly different roles, according to your

individual talents. “I’m the writer and produce all the text for both books and newspaper articles,” says Sania. “Susanna is the carpenter and makes almost all of our furniture projects. But we both do the crocheting! We are a tightly coordinated team of two and we always have great fun when we work together.”

Kat and Joanne mainly split their roles between the technical and the visual. “Joanne is the technical whiz behind all that we do,” Kat explains. “She edits my patterns and my books and is still my go-to source of advice on all things crochet! She also tech edits the patterns for our online seasonal collection of crochet patterns, the Crochet Project (www.theyarnproject.com). Joanne acts very much as our editor for this, too, coordinating call-outs, contracts and design submissions. Meanwhile, I take the lead on the photography, charts and coordinating the actual making of the samples, from organising yarn for the

“EACH OF US BRINGS TALENTS TO THE TABLE THAT MAKE THE DESIGNS BETTER.”



Opposite: Felix and Thomas, the MyBoshi boys, wearing their own colourful crochet beanie hats.

This page, anticlockwise from top left: Crochet designer Joanne Scrace; Her design partner and fellow hookster Kat Goldin; Kat Goldin’s studio in Scotland.





This page, clockwise from left: Long-term pals and crochet lovers Sania and Susanna; Sania and Susanna's beautiful work space adorned with crochet makes. **Opposite:** Dynamite yarny design team Arne and Carlos, photograph by Search Press.

designers to ensuring all the samples have arrived for the photo shoots." She warns: "Ambiguity can cause problems further down the line, so laying out who is doing what from the outset is crucial."

In the case of Arne and Carlos, the differences are subtler. "Arne is more active in the early processes of visualising colours and shapes," says Carlos, "and I am more active towards the end of the process, putting all of it together. But in between, we are pretty much equal."

Having different personality types can also help, despite adding potential for arguments! "I'm a neat-freak and Arne is really messy, so it's actually a challenge to work together in the same room," Carlos says. "Arne usually works in our studio, which is complete chaos (miraculously, he still manages to know where everything is!) and I work in the kitchen or the dining room, where everything is nice and tidy."

As well as Felix and Thomas get on, there are occasional frictions to work

through. "Sure, we work together for the same big project and we both follow the same targets, but sometimes we have different views," Felix admits. "Thomas is much more willing to take risks. I'm the more cautious one. However, these differences offer enrichment for both of us, because the mixture of views often leads to better solutions."

So it seems that even with the biggest character conflicts, there's scope for more benefits than difficulties. "You always have someone there to discuss problems with, to help you and to rely on,"

Felix says. "We've found that success is so much better if you can share it."

BRIGHT IDEAS

But the biggest advantage of an artistic pairing is, undoubtedly, the opportunity to bounce off each other's creative energy and spark exciting new ideas.

"The best thing about working together is that we inspire each other all the time

and it's great to be able to discuss ideas," says Sania. "It's fun to be two people being successful – it is definitely a big strength to be in a creative partnership!"

But how do you identify that 'perfect partner'? As you may have noticed, one of the key ingredients is finding someone who you really enjoy spending time with.

"Designing can be quite lonely work," Kat says. "Having someone who understands the process and is always at the other end of the phone is just invaluable. We are better together – each of us brings talents to the table that ultimately make the designs much better than they would be otherwise."

Which brings us to another vital element – a mixed bag of assets. "I think that one of our strengths as a partnership is that we have such complementary skills," Kat says. "Between the two of us, we have the bases covered for the things one needs to get a crochet pattern out into the world."

And then there's the factor that usually attracts our duos together in the first place – a shared work ethic. "Arne and I are both very creative," Carlos says. "We usually start by discussing thoughts and ideas. Once we figure out what we want to work

"YOU GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER WELL – STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, EVERYTHING."

on, which themes, we go into the research stage, look up stuff on the internet, go through magazines, take photos and start visualising colours and shapes. After that, we start designing and making the products, then finally comes the process of putting all of it together and making it feel coherent."

And just as the key to any happy relationship is compromise, flexibility ensures that these design duos thrive in the long term.

"With time, the partnership has developed," Felix says. "We know each other better. I would recommend anyone to start a partnership. It's a big challenge. You have to respect and help one another, but you can also have a lot of fun and in the end, you can be successful together."

If things don't go well, of course, there's a danger that your friendship will be put at

risk, but if your partnership flourishes, it's almost inevitable that your friendship will benefit just as much as your business.

"Over the last few years, Joanne and I have become very close friends, as well as developing our relationship as design partners," says Kat. "We even go on holiday together! We are each other's number-one

cheerleaders and it's very rare for us to go for even a few days without talking."

Carlos and Arne probably have one of the closest working and personal relationships we've encountered and time has only deepened this. "You get to know each other really well, each other's weaknesses, strengths and everything in between," says Carlos. "This means we can really be honest with each other and give constructive criticism in a way that maybe you can't when you don't know

each other very well. And we are now more in tune with each other and can take each other's ideas and make them our own. Sometimes, we really don't quite know who designed what in the end!"

And to us, that is the perfect representation of a happy and successful crochet design duo. Let's team up.

Written by Judy Darley

"FLEXIBILITY ENSURES THAT THESE DESIGN DUOS THRIVE IN THE LONG TERM."

FIND OUT MORE...

You can learn more about our design duos at the following websites:

Joanne Scrace www.notsogranny.com

Kat Goldin

www.slugsontherefrigerator.com

Arne Nerjordet and Carlos Zachrisson

www.arne-carlos.com

Felix Rohland and Thomas Jaenisch

www.myboshi.net

Sania Hedengren and Susanna Zacke

www.sannaochsanias.blogspot.co.uk



SEARCH PRESS



LUXURIOUS YARNS

Our pick of decadent yarns for making glamorous gifts.

DIAMOND PATTERN

Ch9.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in the second ch from the hook and in each ch to end, turn. [8 dc]

Rows 2-3 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), 2dc in first dc, dc in each st to end, turn. [10 dc]

Row 4 Ch1, 2dc in first dc, dc in each st to the last st, 2dc in the last st, turn. [12 dc]

Row 5 Ch1, skip 1 dc, dc in each st to last 2 sts, skip next st, dc in last st, turn. [10 dc]

Rows 6-8 Ch1, skip 1 dc, dc in each st to the end, turn. [7 dc]

Row 9 As Row 5. [5 dc]

Row 10 As Row 6. [4 dc]

Row 11 Ch1, skip 1 dc, 1dc, skip 1 dc, dc in the last st, turn. [2 dc]

Row 12 Ch1, skip 1dc, dc in last st. **Fasten off.**



←
ADD SOME STITCHY
GEMS TO YOUR
CROCHET MAKES

ARTESANO ALPACA SILK 4PLY

WEIGHT 4ply
CONTENT 70% alpaca,
 30% silk
SKEIN 50g/200m
HOOK 3mm
RRP £3.40



Affordable luxury now comes in yarn form, specifically Artesano's new Alpaca Silk 4ply. It's a soft and supple plied yarn with an elegant sheen and a fine halo. Alpaca Silk 4ply is light and smooth, making it so easy to work with. Mulberry silk is used in

the mix, bringing a real feeling of decadence. You're spoiled for choice, too, with 16 sophisticated, fresh colours available. This yarn would make a stunning crochet shawl. Wash by hand only. www.artesanoyarns.co.uk 0118 950 3350

ALCHEMY SPARKY

WEIGHT 4ply
CONTENT 97% silk,
 3% polyester
SKEIN 34g/183m
HOOK 3mm
RRP £26.99



Bring a wink of golden glitter to your crochet creations with Alchemy's new yarn. Sparky is quite unlike anything we've hooked with before. It's a fine, silk ribbon yarn bound with metallic thread in a clever criss-cross pattern. Sparky is papery to the touch

and extremely light. Each of the five lustrous shades would be perfect for adding an all-out glitzy trim to your handmade gifts. We'd whip up a long, lacy scarf with Sparky. Handwash only. www.loopknitting.com 020 7288 1160

MIRASOL SULKA NINA

WEIGHT DK
CONTENT 60% Merino,
 20% alpaca, 20% silk
SKEIN 50g/150m
HOOK 4mm
RRP £7.95



There's no messing about with this yarn – Sulka Nina is simply a single-ply DK made with three lovely fibres. The Merino and alpaca both add warmth and softness, while the silk gives the yarn a pearly look and beautiful drape. Take your pick from 12

muted tones, each with a heathered appearance. Sulka Nina would be ideal for a pair of textured mitts. Mirasol yarns are spun in Peru and each purchase supports a school in remote Puno. www.designeryarns.uk.com 01535 664222

PIRKKALANKA OHUT (THIN)

WEIGHT 4ply
CONTENT 100% pure
 new wool
SKEIN 100g/400m
HOOK 2.5mm
RRP £11



Itching to get something a bit different on your hook? Give Finnish brand Pirkkalanka's Ohut yarn a go. The fine, dry-handle wool is tightly twisted into a high-quality plied yarn with plenty of bounce, which would be great for hooking lacy accessories. When

worked, it produces a solid fabric that holds its shape well. A skein or two of this yarn would make a fabulous gift for any wool lover. There are 20 rich, tempting shades to choose from. A real treat. www.midwinteryarns.com 0779 281 3280

EDEN COTTAGE YARNS WHITFELL CHUNKY

WEIGHT Chunky
CONTENT 100% baby alpaca
SKEIN 100g/100m
HOOK 6mm
RRP £13



Soft, squishable and hard to resist, Whitfell Chunky is a delightful new offering from Eden Cottage Yarns. It's a mill-dyed yarn that's formed of two strokable plies twisted together. It's fairly light, too, despite its size. Whitfell boasts a subtle sheen and

barely there halo. You'll find eight tempting shades to choose from, both jewel brights and subdued tones. We'd hook up a cosy cowl with one of these scrummy skeins. Whitfell is available in DK weight as well. www.edencottageyarns.co.uk

BARUFFA CASHMERE

WEIGHT 3ply
CONTENT 100% cashmere
BALL 25g/108m
HOOK 3.5mm
RRP £11.50



As fibres go, few things are quite as exquisitely luxurious as cashmere. This butter-soft yarn from Baruffa certainly doesn't disappoint. It's a delicate, high-quality Italian yarn that feels as light and airy as it does soft. There are 19 stylish colours to choose

from, and even the fairer shades provide good stitch definition. This is the yarn that dreams are made of. We would love to make a pair of delicious socks with this. Naturally, it's handwash only. www.toddshandknits.com 01509 788960



HOW DO I ADD EMBROIDERY?

Grab a hook and some yarn – we’ll show you how easy it is to add embroidery to your crochet fabrics.

WHAT SORT OF STITCHES COULD I WORK?

We’ll show you how to work these three simple embroidery stitches.

Embroidery is a great way to embellish your crochet fabric. With a few simple stitches, you can create colour and texture in your crochet fabric well after you’ve fastened off. You can use embroidery to create interesting patterns on a plain background, or to add a small detail to a pocket, collar or bag. We’ll explain to you just how to do this and then you can put your new skills into practice by making our colourful festive bunting on page 83.



CROSS STITCH

One of the most popular embroidery stitches, each cross stitch uses one square of the base fabric, which means it’s an easy way to create all sorts of motifs, patterns and lettering.



BACKSTITCH

Often used with cross stitch designs to form lines and details in the patterns, backstitch can also be used by itself to create lettering and lines, as well as seaming fabrics together.



FRENCH KNOT

It may look like a simple little dot, but don’t underestimate the power of French knots! They’re brilliant for creating eyes and other round shapes, as well as texture if they’re in large groups.

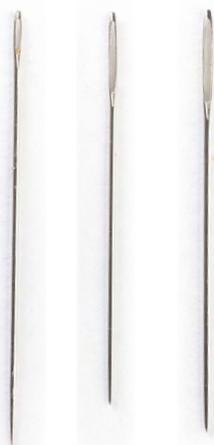
HOW DO I GET STARTED?

Here’s what you’ll need to start working embroidery.

First, you’ll need a tapestry needle – these come in various different forms, but make sure the eye of the needle is large enough to accommodate the thread or yarn you’re going to use to make the stitches.

Second, you’ll need some yarn for embroidery (see far right), approx 50cm (20in) long.

Insert the thread or yarn through the eye of the needle and secure it at the back of one of the fabric pieces, at the point where you want to start the embroidery pattern. Try to avoid making knots, which can distort the stitches. It’s best to weave the thread or yarn into the back of the fabric stitches and then you can start your embroidery. When you’ve finished your stitches, make sure you weave in the ends of the thread or yarn.



TAPESTRY NEEDLE

You’ll need a large-eyed tapestry needle. Use a blunt needle for embroidery that’s worked over whole crochet stitches. Use a sharp needle for embroidery where you need to pierce the fabric.



EMBROIDERY THREAD OR YARN

You can embroider using specialist threads, such as stranded cotton or silk (see above), or use a yarn from your stash – a smooth yarn will give you better stitch definition for your embroidery.

WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?

Before you start, follow these top tips for embroidery success.

Before adding embroidery to your crochet fabric, there are a few things to consider. It's best that your base crochet fabric is plain and not too fuzzy, so choose smooth yarns and avoid novelty yarns. Double crochet is a great stitch for creating a fabric with a naturally square grid pattern that you can easily work into – if you're making cross stitches, each cross can be worked over one dc stitch. It's also important to make sure your crochet fabric is fairly dense so that the embroidery stitches have a firm base for you to work them into.

Adding embroidery stitches to your crochet fabric will make the fabric (or areas of it) much firmer and reduce its elasticity. This could end up distorting the fabric, but there are steps you can take to avoid this. Make sure you work the embroidery stitches evenly and don't pull too tight on the thread or yarn. It's a good idea to work a test piece of your embroidery pattern on a swatch of your fabric, to give you the chance to practise and get the look right.

Before you start working any embroidery pattern or motif, plan out where you're going to place the stitches. Count the crochet stitches in the motif, then count the stitches in the base fabric, then place stitch markers into the fabric to help guide you with where to place your stitches. It's a good idea to start each motif in the centre and work outwards, to avoid handling your stitches.

To create good embroidery, always work the stitches from the right side of the fabric and be consistent. You can work your stitches over one crochet stitch (see 01 below) or over two crochet stitches (see 02 below), but you need to create a uniform look. With cross stitch, you need to work the first diagonal of all the cross stitches in the same direction and then work the second diagonal in the other direction, to give a smooth look to your embroidery.

Finally, check the washing instructions for the thread or yarn you want to use for the embroidery, to avoid colours that run in the wash.



HOW DO I WORK A CROSS STITCH?

Master this stitch and you can create infinite patterns!

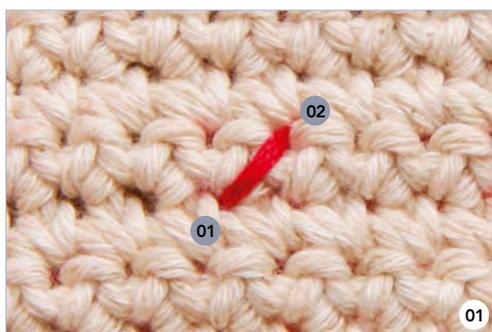
To start off, weave the thread or yarn into the back of the crochet fabric so it's secure.

Step 1 Bring the needle from the back to the front of the fabric, at the place where you wish to start your cross stitch. For consistency, start each cross stitch in the bottom-left corner of the 'square' where you wish to place the stitch 01. Push the needle down into the top-right corner of the square, to form a diagonal line 02.

Step 2 Bring the needle up in the bottom-right corner of the square 03, then insert the needle into the top-left corner of the square 04.

Step 3 Pull the thread through the fabric to create a cross.

Step 4 Repeat from step 1. Turn over to learn more stitches.



HOW DO I WORK A BACKSTITCH?

A quick and easy way to create lines and lettering.

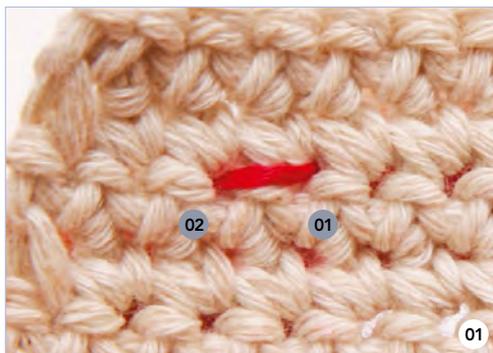
Backstitch is a very handy technique to learn, both for embroidery and for seaming together your crochet fabrics. It's often used in cross stitch designs, to add outlines, details and other straight lines, after the main motif has been worked in cross stitches.

Step 1 Bring the needle from the back to the front of the fabric, one hole to the right of where you wish to start your backstitch line **01**. Push the needle into the fabric one stitch to the left **02**.

Step 2 Bring the needle from the back to the front of the fabric two stitches to the right **03**. Then push the needle back into the fabric one stitch to the left **04**.

Step 3 This will join up the line.

Step 4 Repeat from step 2, moving horizontally, vertically or diagonally, to create a line as long as you need it to be.



HOW DO I WORK A FRENCH KNOT?

A nifty way to form little circles and dots in your fabric.

A classic embroidery stitch, French knots form a raised dot on your fabric. They're handy for all sorts of things, especially making eyes. It's best to use a sharp needle for these stitches.

Step 1 Bring the needle from the back to the front of the fabric, at the position where you wish to place your French knot. Using your thumb and forefinger, hold the thread as it comes out of the fabric – keeping it taut, twist the needle around the thread three times, as shown in the image.

Step 2 Insert the needle back into the crochet fabric, very close to where it came out (you'll need to pierce the fabric).

Step 3 Hold the thread taut and push the twists of thread so they sit right up next to the fabric.

Step 4 Pull the needle through gently to form a knot on the surface of the fabric.



Christmas bunting

YOUR NEXT STEPS!

Practise adding embroidery with our cross stitch bunting for Christmas.



OLD-SCHOOL YULE

Love to embellish? Try this festive cross stitch bunting designed by Michelle Kreussel.

Christmas bunting



YOU WILL NEED

- Vinni's Colours Nikkim (100% cotton, 50g/109m), 1 ball of each:
 - Blue-Grey (577)
 - Pale Khaki (570)
 - Slate (540)
 - Dunes (545)
 - Camel (504)
 - Small amounts of DK cotton in the following colours for the cross stitch: White, Black, Orange, Red, 4 shades of Green, Dark Brown, Golden Brown, Beige, Brick Red, Yellow
 - A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
 - Co-ordinating ribbon, 150x1cm (60x1/2in)
 - Matching needle and thread
 - Spray starch (optional)
- For yarn stockist, contact Purlescence 01865 589944 www.purlescence.co.uk

TENSION

Yarn used crochets as DK weight to this tension:
22 sts and 30 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over dc using a 3.5mm hook

MEASUREMENTS

Each flag measures 16x14cm (6 1/4 x 5 1/2 in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 90.

Achieve a pretty tapestry crochet look using traditional cross stitches over a simple double crochet base. This beautiful bunting is sure to become a handmade favourite that will make you smile every year. We've got a real soft spot for that perky penguin and his red Christmas scarf!

BUNTING FLAGS

Make 1 flag in each colour. Ch34.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in the second ch from the hook and each ch across, turn. [33 dc]

Row 2 Do not make a turning ch, skip first st, dc in next st and each st across, turn. [32 dc]

Rows 3-33 Repeat Row 2.

Fasten off and weave in ends. Block each flag to ensure they stay flat.

CROSS STITCH

Work cross stitch pattern onto the front of each flag using the charts, where each square represents 1 cross stitch worked over 1 dc stitch.

Eyes are worked by blocking out a whole square in black yarn and then adding a white dot to the centre, as shown in the image. You could try making the dot with a French knot.

TO MAKE UP

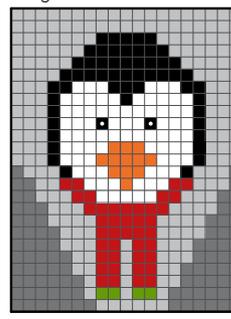
Pin ribbon in place across the top of the flags and sew in place using match thread.

Block bunting again or use spray starch to keep flat.



Carefully block your completed Christmas bunting to make sure that it stays flat.

Penguin



- Key
- No stitch
 - Black
 - Green (Shade 2)
 - Orange
 - Red
 - White
 - Eye

Tree



- Key
- No stitch
 - Golden Brown
 - Dark Brown
 - Red
 - Yellow
 - Green (Shade 1)
 - Green (Shade 2)
 - Green (Shade 3)
 - Green (Shade 4)

Reindeer



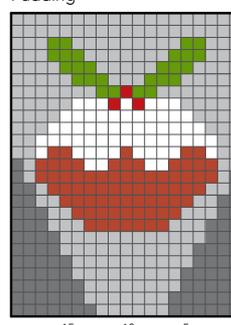
- Key
- No stitch
 - Golden Brown
 - Beige
 - Red
 - White
 - Eye

Snowman



- Key
- No stitch
 - Dark Brown
 - Orange
 - Red
 - White
 - Eye

Pudding



- Key
- No stitch
 - Green (Shade 2)
 - Brick Red
 - Red
 - White

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 chains



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.

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.

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).



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.



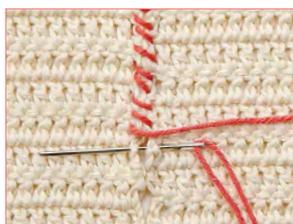
INCREASE To increase one stitch is very simple – work one stitch into the next stitch on the row below. When you've finished, work another stitch into the same stitch.



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.

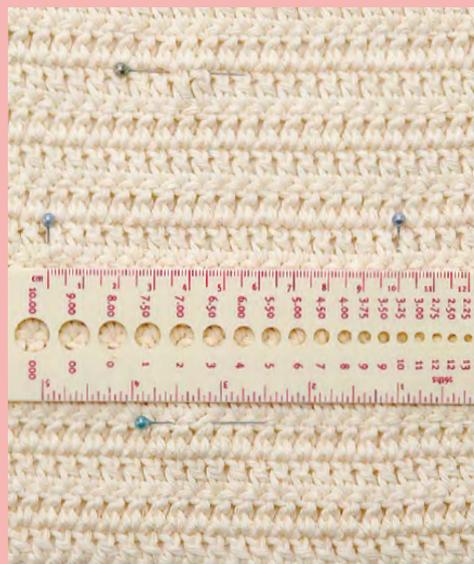
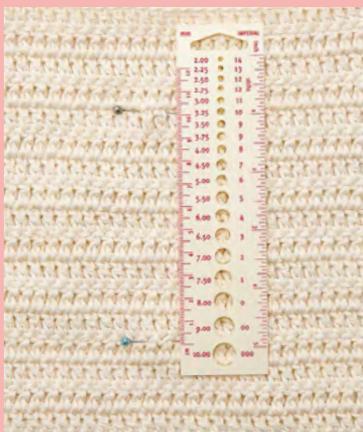


4 A useful variation on the dc seam, the dc and chain seam is used when less bulk and/or greater flexibility is needed. Work 1 double crochet and 1 chain alternately.

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.



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.

©Stephanie Lau, www.allaboutami.com

Abbreviations

across	to end of the row	htr	half treble
alt	alternate/alternating	htr2tog	work 2htr together
approx	approximate(ly)	in next	sts to be worked into
beg	beginning		the same stitch
bl	insert hook under back loop only	inc	increase
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	LH	left hand
ch(s)	chain/chain stitch(es)	lp(s)	loop(s)
ch-sp(s)	chain space(s)	meas	measures
ch-	refers to ch made previously, eg. ch-3	p or pc	picot
cl(s)	clusters	patt(s)	pattern(s)
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	pm	place marker
cont	continue	prev	previous
dc	double crochet	rem	remain(s)/remaining
dc2tog	(insert hook in next st, yrh and draw a loop through) twice, yrh and draw through all 3 loops on hook	rep	repeat
dec	decrease	RH	right hand
dtr	double treble crochet	rnd(s)	round(s)
dtr2tog	work 2dtr together	RS	right side
fl	insert hook under front loop only	sk	skip
folll/folls	following/follows	sp(s)	space(s)
FPtr	Front Post treble: work in opposite way to BPtr	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
00	9mm	M/13
000	10mm	N/15

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.

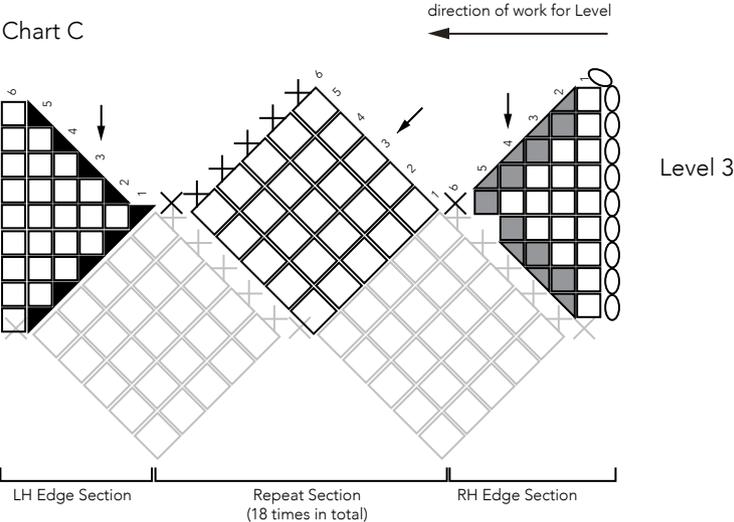
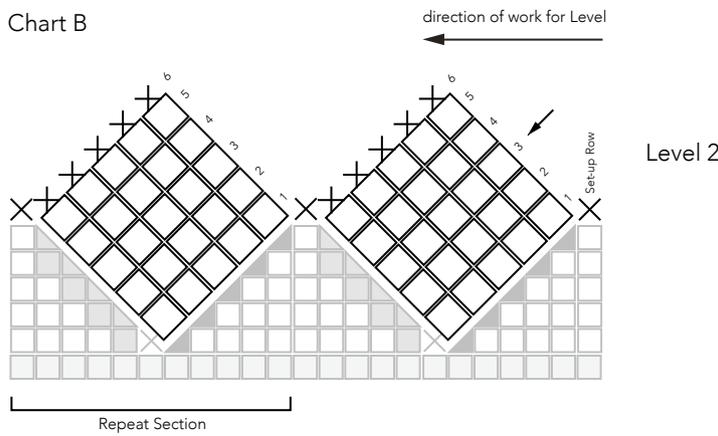
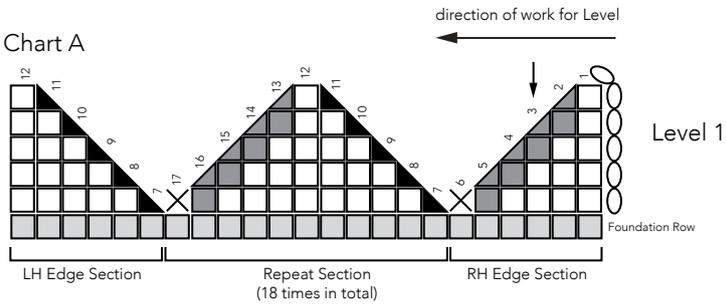


KnitPro
FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO KNIT

CHARTS & DIAGRAMS

All the extras you'll need to make the Tunisian shawl, cushion, fairies and Granny Square of the Month.

TUNISIAN CROCHET
SHAWL (PAGE 40)



- Key
- Chain st
 - Double Crochet st
 - Tunisian Simple st (Tss)
 - Tss increase
 - Tss decrease
 - Foundation Row
 - Direction of Row

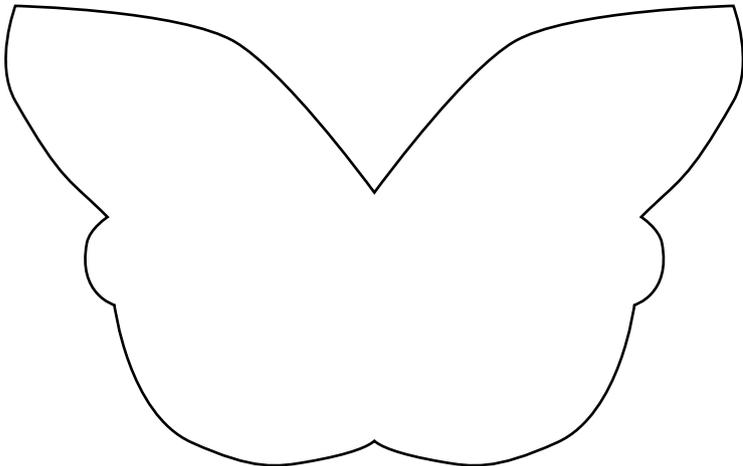
SUPER SYMBOLS

SILENT NIGHT CUSHION (PAGE 46)

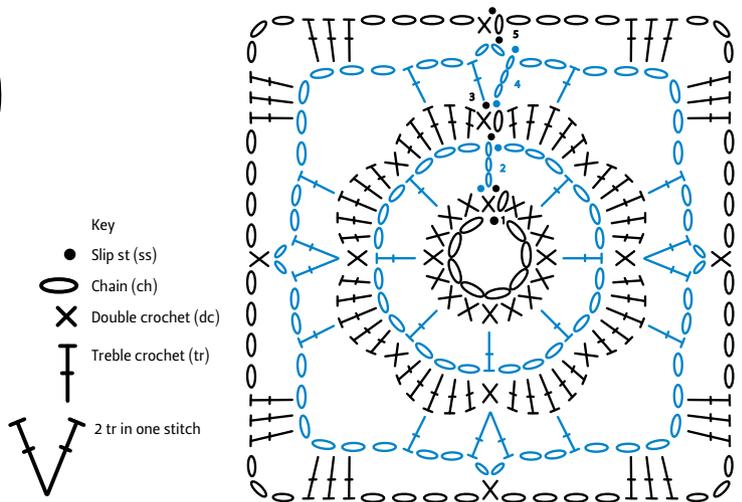
Chart



CHRISTMAS FAIRIES (PAGE 22)



GRANNY SQUARE OF THE MONTH (PAGE 65)



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Simply Crochet

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MAKE A MOTIF

★ LET IT SNOW ★

Hook Lucy Croft's snowflake in wintry white.



Join the FLAKES to
MAKE YOUR OWN
CHRISTMAS FLURRY

MAKE A MOTIF



YOU WILL NEED

- Lang Merino 120 (100% virgin wool, 50g/120m), 1 ball of White (01)
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook

For yarn stockists, contact Art Yarn 01924 231682 www.art yarn.co.uk

ABBREVIATIONS

2-tr cluster (yrh, insert hook in st indicated, yrh and pull up loop, yrh and draw through 2 loops) twice, inserting the hook in the same st each time, yrh and draw through all 3 loops on hook
 For a full list, see page 90.

Dreaming of a white Christmas? Turn your dreams into reality by hooking Lucy Croft's oh-so-pretty snowflake shape. It's worked in squashy Lang Merino yarn (all the way from snow-free Australia!), which gives amazing stitch definition, so your delicate snowflakes will have detailed texture as well as that classic, feathery shape. Hook up a whole winter flurry.

C **SNOWFLAKE**

Make a magic loop.
Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 12dc into the loop, ss to the first dc to join. [12 dc]
Round 2 Ch2, tr into the same dc (counts as 2-tr cluster), ch4, *skip the next dc, 2-tr cluster into the next dc, ch4; repeat from * 4 more times, ss to the top of the first 2-tr cluster to join. [6 2-tr clusters, 6 ch-4 sp]
Round 3 *Ch7, skip ch-4 sp, ss to top of the next 2-tr cluster; repeat from * 5 more times, working the final ss into ss in the previous round. [6 ch-7 sp]
Round 4 *4dc into ch-7 sp, (ch4, ss into the second ch from the hook, ss into the next 2 ch) 3 times, 4dc into the same ch-7 sp, ss in ss, ch5, ss into the second ch from the hook, ss into the

next 3 ch; repeat from * 5 more times. **Fasten off** and weave in ends.

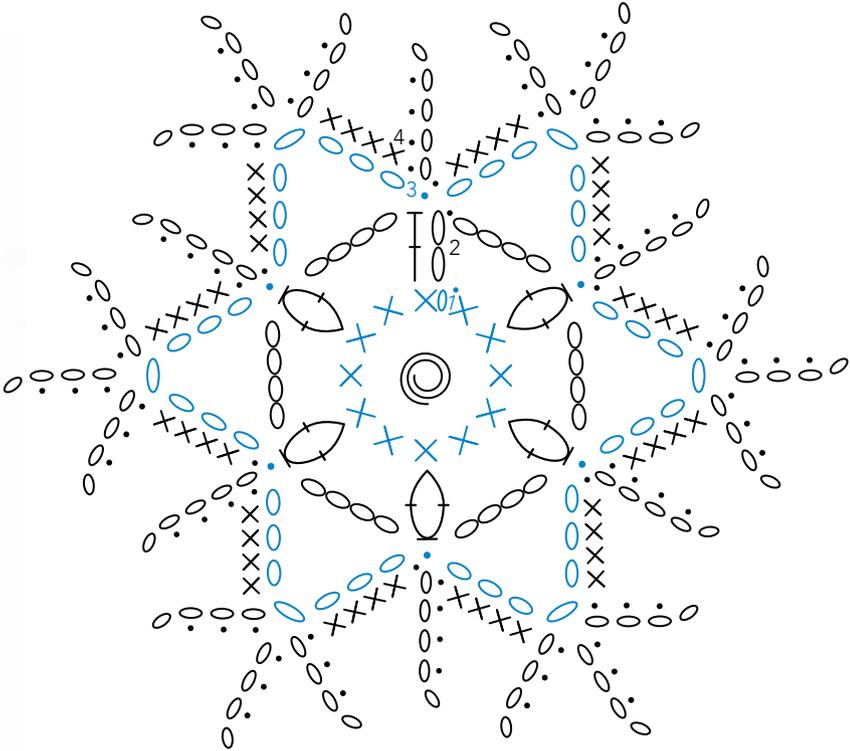
JOINING MOTIFS

Join the motifs by sewing the corner points of each motif together with a needle and matching thread.

Key

- Slip stitch (ss)
- ⊙ Magic loop
- Chain (ch)
- × Double crochet (dc)
- ┆ Treble crochet (tr)
- ⌢ 2-tr cluster

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





Simply Crochet

HOOKED ON HANDMADE

NEXT ISSUE

Granny squares to wear

Nicki Trench blanket

Learn crocodile stitch

Cosy floral shawl

Sporty makes

Party capelet

And more...

KAT GOLDIN'S
CABLED CARDI

FREE!

BRIGHT & BOLD
NOTIONS CASE



ON SALE THURS 11 DECEMBER



STYLE
ICONS

COOL FOR YULE

It's not just you who should dress up in crochet at Christmas – get your couch all dolled up, too.

Does your tinsel look tired? Are your paper chains sagging? You so need a Christmas makeover and how better than with crochet? Specifically, with red and white 1970s crochet cushions that not only instantly turn your house into the ultimate cool Yule hangout, but also provide an eye-catching (and, if necessary, happily distracting) backdrop for those 'family opening presents' photos. The cushions will also be there for you, all ready to offer their squashy support, any time that you're feeling delicate after festive over-indulgence, or one too many games of charades. What do you think of this pattern? Christmas cracker or Christmas turkey? Get in touch and tell us your thoughts. You'll find this pattern and many more at www.wonkyzebra.etsy.com. And if you'd like to see one of your own vintage treasures featured on this page, just scan in your pattern and send it along to us at simplycrochet@futurenet.com

BERGERE

DE FRANCE



Pattern 882
taken from our
Creations
2014/15

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MISSED AN ISSUE?



ISSUE TWENTY-FOUR

Our Scandi collection of home accessories, plus a Fair Isle jumper. Kat Goldin's Tunisian crochet men's cardigan, a MyBoshi beanie, and a pompom hat and scarf set. Plus a Christmas wreath and advent envelopes, and baby booties.

SEE OUR BACK
ISSUE PROJECTS IN
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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.



ISSUE THIRTEEN

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



ISSUE TWELVE

Erika Knight's chunky blanket, plus a Fair Isle hat and mittens, and faux fur stole.



ISSUE ELEVEN

Crochet a family of hedgehogs, an owl cushion, and a lacy cardi for little one, plus a cool cowl.

