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Simply Crochet

HOOKED ON HANDMADE



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WE ♥ THE 60s



20 PATTERNS INSIDE

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Simply Crochet

HOOKED ON HANDMADE

Step back in time as we celebrate the 1960s with monochrome makes.

Our geometric dress, statement jewellery and gloves are must-makes – beehive and white shades optional. Need a hit of colour? We have stripes galore with a stashbusting shawl and zigzag broomstick wrap. So grab a hook and prepare to feel groovy...



Simply Crochet

ISSUE FORTY-THREE

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Wherever you see our C icon on pattern pages, that's where to start crocheting.

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



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GET INTO THE GROOVE

This issue, it's all about the 60s. Our fab designers have hooked up a stunning, retro modern collection in bold geometrics so perfect for crochet. See the projects in all their monochrome glory on p18.

With yarn show season now in full swing, we've been out and about quite a bit hunting for exciting new yarns and projects. One of our fave finds is designer Lisa Naskrent – we love her quirky sense of fun! Head to p58 to hook her cute cupcake dress.

Sara

Sara Huntington, Editor

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CONTRIBUTORS

THREE CHEERS FOR THESE TALENTED FOLKS . . .



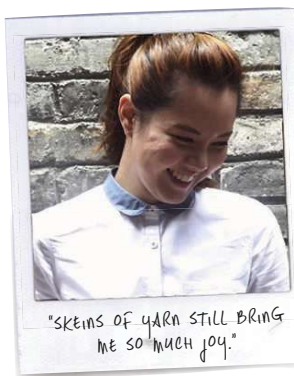
LISA NASKRENT

Designer Lisa has an incredible eye for detail. The cupcake-inspired child's dress she whipped up for this issue even has tiny button sprinkles – so sweet. Whet your appetite on page 58.



MAAIKE VON KOERT

Crochet author Maaïke is the crafty lady behind the Crejtion blog. On page 62, she's chatting to us about taking the leap into full-time crafting and her love affair with crochet blankets.



MEI LI LEE

It's no secret that Amigurumei blogger Mei has a soft spot for crochet toys. Turn to page 98 to read all about her most precious amigurumi design. Spoiler: it's totally adorable.



DEBORAH STUART

Did you know crochet designer Deborah is also quite the sewist? We adore the ditzzy polka-dot lining she popped inside her colourful bag design. See the swoonsome accessory on page 55.

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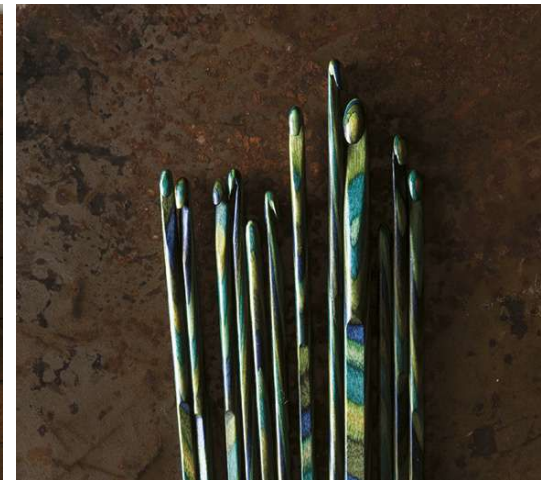
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HOOKED

IDEAS ♡ INSPIRATION ♡ ACCESSORIES ♡ WEBSITES ♡ EVENTS ♡ STUFF



CROCHET IN FASHION

Bath in Fashion's chosen charity is the RUH Forever Friends Cancer Care campaign this year and you're invited to contribute to the festival's yarnbombing project. Posts along Bath's Milsom Street will be wrapped in crochet and topped with outlandish handmade blooms. To take part, join one of artist Emma Leith's crochet sessions before the event (there'll be lots of lovely yarn donated by Rico), or visit her website to find flower patterns and where to send your makes. See <http://bit.ly/SC43flower>





PATCH IT UP

■ We're having a love affair with all things retro this issue (as you may have noticed) and were thrilled to discover this charming Vintage Patch cushion for just £20 at BHS (www.bhs.co.uk). The combination of bright, ditsy prints and patchwork style is all rather dreamy and has us thinking of picnics and festivals and our secret longing to master quilting. But there's always so much crochet to do!



Have you seen this stunning new yarn from the Kettle Yarn Co. yet? Baskerville is a beautiful, 4ply-weight British yarn made with Gotland and Exmoor Bluefaced wools and shimmering silk. It comes in four tempting shades – one natural pale grey and three indigo-dyed blues. The plied yarn has a playful thick and thin quality to it and a delicate halo. The richness of the colours and soft feel make it luxurious and a joy to stitch with. We think Baskerville would make a glorious lacy shawl. After the gorgeous yarns, one of our favourite things about the Kettle Yarn Co. is their ethical outlook. They strive to produce yarns that will last and have a low impact on the environment. Visit www.kettleyarnco.co.uk to find out more about Baskerville and snaffle a skein. It's £24 per 100g.

BELLADONNA SCARF

Now that's one heck of a crochet scarf (and such a handsome model). This fantastic rainbow accessory is by crochet designer Amanda Perkins. She used a selection of vibrant mini skeins from The Little Grey Sheep. They're a Hampshire-based brand that stock a selection of gorgeous wool from their very own flock that's processed in the UK and dyed in-house. You can purchase a copy of Amanda's rainbow Belladonna Scarf crochet pattern, plus all the scrummy yarn you'll need to make it, online at www.thelittlegreysheep.co.uk

CROCHET OH YEAH

A new collection from The Crochet Project always means super-stylish makes and gorgeous photography. *Crochet Yeah!* is no exception. This time, top designers Kat Goldin and Joanne Scrace have teamed up with Coop Knits, using the glorious Socks Yeah! yarn to make 6 beautiful accessories. The pattern book launched at Unravel this year and is now available as a Ravelry download for £10. To get your hands on a print copy, visit www.thecrochetproject.com





CREATIVE KITS

Join the We Make Collective – top DIY blogger Francesca Stone has launched a series of exciting subscription craft kits. The emphasis is on learning, making and sharing and each kit is designed to inspire your creativity, rather than producing a prescribed item. Kits have covered calligraphy, dyeing and weaving. Find out more at www.wemakecollective.com

MAKE IT OUTDOORS

Blow away the cobwebs and find fresh crochet inspiration while you're out and about.

- 1 **PICNIC TIME**
Use DK yarns from your stash to make a scrap blanket.
- 2 **KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED**
Be on the lookout for colour palettes whenever you go somewhere new.
- 3 **GO AL FRESCO**
A change of scenery can do wonders for your WIPs. Time to take your crochet outside.
- 4 **HOOK UP A STORM**
Are there any yarnbombing projects you could join?
- 5 **GIVE IT SOME WELLY**
Crochet boot cuffs are a must for explorers.

IT'S MIFFY

Everyone's favourite bunny now comes in crocheted form – complete with adorable accessories. See www.miffyshop.co.uk



Come to our blog at www.simplycrochetmag.com



INSPIRING BOOKS

BIG HOOK RAG CROCHET Dedri Uys (£11.99, Search Press)

Earth-conscious stitchers take notice – this book shows you how to make your own yarn from fabric leftovers, plus there are 25 stylish projects to hook with your eco-friendly jumbo yarn. Crochet bags, jewellery, home accessories and more.



POETIC CROCHET Sara Kay Hartmann (£16.99, Interweave)

Elegant and feminine is how we'd describe this collection of 20 timeless shawls. The designs are inspired by classic poems and written in US crochet terms. Each pattern is accompanied by stitch charts and diagrams.



KNITTING WITHOUT NEEDLES Anne Weil (£14.99, Potter Craft)

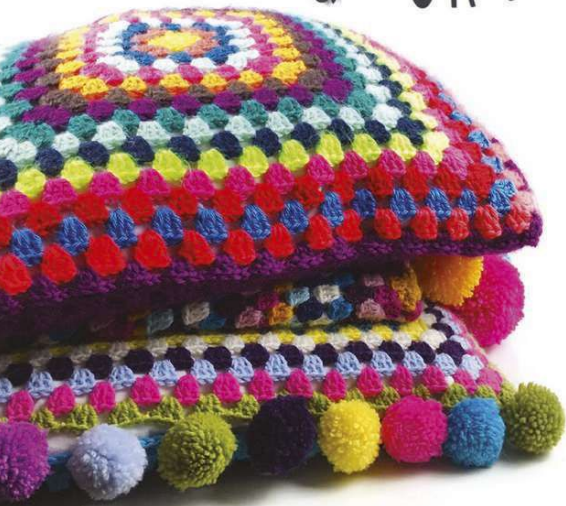
Go for a truly hands-on approach and learn arm and finger knitting. This beautiful guide has all the how-to info you need, plus 30 achievable yet oh-so stylish projects to test your new skills with.



99 GRANNY SQUARES Leisure Arts (£5.99, Leisure Arts)

This beginner-friendly block collection is a great place to start if you'd like to learn new stitches and go beyond the granny square basics. It'll inspire you to experiment with texture and colour changes, and think about what your squares could become.



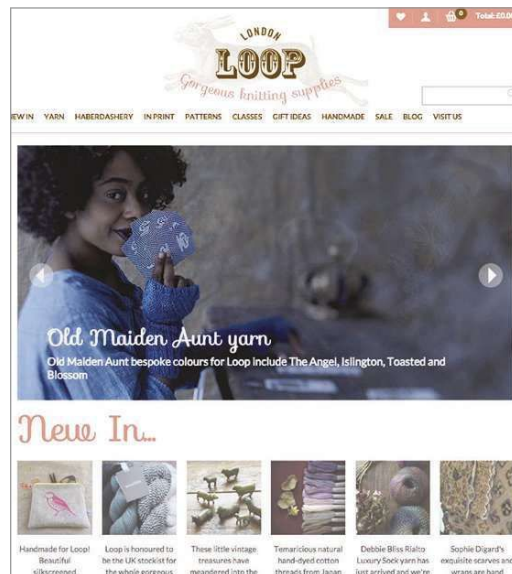


TEATIME CRAFTING

A merry day of crochet, tea, and cake consumption – what could be better? Designer and tutor Emma Potter is now running beginner-friendly Cake and Crochet workshops at The Teashop and The Parlour in Downe, Kent, so you can indulge in exactly that. The sessions cost £25 and include your crochet hook, yarns, tea, cake and lunch as well. It's ideal if you're a newbie or need a refresher. For details, visit www.potterandbloom.com

BUTTON UP

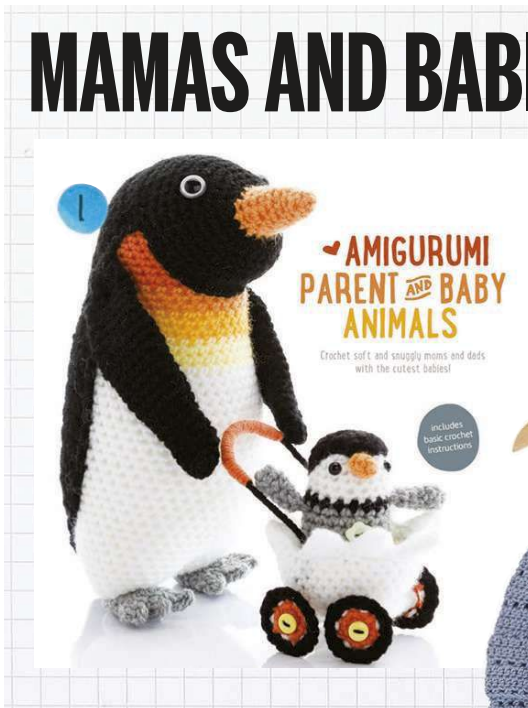
For beautiful handmade buttons, Stockwell Ceramics is the place to go. We adore their decorative, colourful creations and, of course, have a soft spot for their lacier designs. Don't you think that pink one at the bottom looks a bit like a crocheted doily? Their buttons are handmade in Cornwall and come in all shapes and sizes – bunnies, birds, elephants and more. There's sure to be one that's the perfect fit for your latest garment or bag project. Go shopping today at www.stockwellceramicsuk.etsy.com



STAY IN THE LOOP

Having recently celebrated their 10th anniversary, top yarn boutique and online store Loop have given their website a bit of a facelift and the results are pretty impressive. You can see for yourself at www.loopknittingshop.com. Not only is the updated site easy on the eye, it's much easier to navigate, too. They've also introduced a couple of very useful features – now you can book classes online, pay with PayPal and create your own Loop wish list. We've never been more tempted to splurge on Loop's yarny goodies.

MAMAS AND BABIES



A precious new arrival is one of the best excuses for hooking something adorable or buying new handmade goodies. Whether it's a treat for mum or baby, it's got to be crochet.

1. *Amigurumi Parent and Baby Animals* is a cute new pattern book. It's usually £12.99, but for you it's only £8.99 (plus UK p+p). Just use the code SIMPLYAMI at www.roundhousegroup.co.uk or when telephoning 01273 603717.
2. When life gives you lemons, err, embrace lemons? This zingy crochet garland designed by Rice DK would be a sweet addition to any nursery. It's £12.50 at www.sistersguild.co.uk
3. This adorable layered baby dress from issue 37 is an absolute treasure and the pattern is now available to download from Ravelry for £2.75. It's by our very own Editor Sara Huntington. Find it at <http://bit.ly/SCravelry>



LITTLE BIRD SOS

Aren't these handmade hooks incredible? Lisa of www.littlebirdsos.co.uk crafts them herself from fallen twigs and finishes them with beeswax and coconut oil. Proceeds from hook sales go back into Little Bird SOS – a social enterprise that provides Craft for Health and Wellbeing activities in their local community in Leicester. Find out more and go shopping online.

5 FAB FINDS

Monochrome love
What's black and white and chic all over? These things.



SUPER STRIPES

Isn't this houndstooth-esque hairband a beauty? Visit www.allabouttami.com to find Stephanie's free crochet pattern.

TEK-TEK IT AWAY

Head to www.themakery.co.uk to find their full range of Tek-Tek fabric yarn – it's top for hooking storage baskets.



SO SIMPLE

Find pared-down Swedish design at www.onemustdash.com. We think these totes would make fab project bags.



COOL COWL

Love this cowl from issue 23? See page 86 to download digital back issues on Apple, Zinio or Google Play.



MIX TAPES

Ah, washi tape – what would we do without you? Take your pick from this stylish selection at www.berylune.co.uk



Time to get out and about...

SKILLS, SHOWS & EVENTS

APR 30-MAY 2 Weald of Kent Craft & Design Show, £8, Penshurst Place, Tonbridge, 01425 272711 www.thecraftshows.co.uk

MAY 4 Beginners Learn to Crochet, £25, Bridport Yarn, Dorset, 01308 455669 www.bridport yarn.co.uk

MAY 7 Wharfe Wool Fair, £2, Clarke Foley Centre, Ilkley, Bradford, www.wharfe wool.co.uk

MAY 8 How to Crochet Workshop, £45, The Makery, Bath, 01225 581888 www.themakery.co.uk

MAY 12 Filet Crochet Panel Workshop, £10, Hobbycraft, Carlisle, 0796 388 3324 www.soozintheshed.co.uk

MAY 14 Quilt in a Day – 2 Blocks, 1 Quilt, £65, Liberty, Regent Street, London, 020 7734 1234 www.liberty.co.uk

A GOOD YARN

I'm planning to crochet a big rainbow blanket over the summer. Could you recommend a DK yarn with good colour choices?

How about Ultra Pima by Cascade Yarns? It's a smooth, mercerised 100% cotton DK yarn that comes in a whopping 60 solid hues. You can find this yarn for £6.95 per 100g skein at www.lovecrochet.com





Blanket photograph by Guinness World Records

BREAKING RECORDS

Amazing things happen when crocheters come together. In January, a group of over 2,000 women known as Mother India's Crochet Queens completed the world's largest crochet blanket. It measured 11,148.5m² and set a new Guinness World Record. The incredible mega throw has since been broken up and donated to families in need. Read more about this feat at www.guinnessworldrecords.com

PRETTY POSY

■ You've got to love a subscription box. Everything you need for an exciting new craft project landing on your doormat is the stuff our creative dreams are made of. Craft Club Box (www.craftclubbox.co.uk) provides such a service for £10 (plus £3 p+p) per month. Their sewing kits are rather gorgeous and a great gift idea for fellow stitchers in need of a treat.



Embroiderer Valerie Evans and micro crochet artist Freja Blomst Calles have teamed up to create a collection of stunning crafty jewellery. The impossibly fine miniature crochet doilies and floral embroidery stitches look so perfect together – they're little works of art. These exquisite embroidery hoop pendants are available in a variety of designs and colourways over at www.plaidlovethreads.etsy.com. And you can see what crocheter Freja has been hooking up lately by following her on Instagram @freja_blomst. We're totally amazed by her fancy, oh-so fine thread creations. For more about miniature and micro crochet, flip across to page 76 to read our special feature. Small is beautiful.



THIS MONTH WE LOVE...

It's official: @mobiusgirl has stolen our Instagram hearts. Sandra is a yarn-loving stitcher from the US and we've been double tapping like there's no tomorrow on her colourful, super-inspiring Instagram feed. Those crochet mandalas are pretty mesmerising, right? It's her cheery colour palettes, scrummy textured stitches and envy-inducing yarn stash that caught our scrolling eye. Sandra also blogs and shares patterns for some of her crochet makes at www.mobiusgirldesign.weebly.com – excellent news.





SIRDAR

Summer crochet
Book 499

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Flower brooch



YOU WILL NEED

- Small amounts of DK yarn,
Yarn A Yellow
Yarn B Light Pink
Yarn C Dark Pink
Yarn D Red
Yarn E Green
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- Brooch back

MEASUREMENTS

10cm (4in) in diameter

ABBREVIATIONS

Ch-3 picot Ch3, ss into the first of those ch

For a full list, see page 92



PETAL POWER

Layer up your colours to create a splendid ombre-effect brooch. By Sara Huntington.

FLOWERS

Using Yarn A, ch4 and ss into first ch to make a ring.

Round 1 Ch3 (counts as tr), 11tr into ring, ss to top of the beg ch-3. [12 tr]
Change to Yarn B.

Round 2 *Ch3, skip 1 tr, ss in next tr; rep from * 5 more times. [6 ch-3 sps]

Round 3 (Dc, ch1, 3tr, ch1, dc) in each ch-3 sp around, ss to first dc. [6 petals]
Change to Yarn C.

Round 4 Working behind prev round: dc around stem of any ss from Round 2, *ch4, dc around next ss; rep from * 4 more times, ch4, ss to first dc. [6 ch-4 sps]

Round 5 *(Dc, htr, ch1, 2tr, 1dtr, 2tr, ch1, htr, dc) in next ch-4 sp, dc into the ss from Round 2; rep from * 5 more times, ss to first dc. [6 petals]
Change to Yarn D.

Round 6 Working behind prev round: dc into back of dc (between petals)

from Round 5, *ch4, dc into back of dc (between petals) from Round 5; rep from * 4 more times, ch4, ss in first dc. [6 ch-4 sps]

Round 7 *(Dc, htr, ch1, tr, 3dtr, tr, ch1, htr, dc) in next ch-4 sp, dc into top of joining dc from Round 5; rep from * 5 more times, ss to first dc. **Fasten off.**

LEAVES

With WS of Flower facing, join Yarn E into centre back of any petal.

Round 1 (WS) Ch1 (does not count as st), dc into centre back of same petal, ch4, dc into centre back of next petal, ch4, dc into centre back of next petal, turn. [2 ch-4 sps]

Round 2 (RS) *(Dc, htr, tr, 2dtr, ch-3 picot, 2dtr, tr, htr, dc) in next ch-4 sp; rep from * once more. **Fasten off.**

TO FINISH

Sew brooch back onto back of flower.



You can reverse the order of the petal colours for a different look.



RETRO HIT

As a twist on the little black dress, this monochrome frock would make Mary Quant proud. It's simple enough even for first-time garment makers – the geometric shapes are worked separately and then joined together.

ALL THE RAGE

Take your hook back to a time when bold patterns were all the rage. These rebellious knee-high socks are perfect for indulging your inner wild child. The classic houndstooth pattern is surprisingly simple to crochet.



SIXTIES CHIC

Bring some stylish retro fun into your wardrobe with our modern classics. And the beat goes on.

MONOCHROME IDEAS



BLOCK PARTY

Never underestimate the power of a crocheted square. With just a handful of black and white blocks, this clutch bag has one foot in the geometric 1960s and the other foot firmly in the now with a nod to pixel art. Far out.

ROUND IN CIRCLES

You don't have to backcomb your barnet into a beehive to enjoy wearing our hairband, but why not? Made of simple crochet rings, the hairband has a definite hypnotic effect – perfect for decorating gravity-defying hairdos.





MONOCHROME IDEAS



SWEET STATEMENT

Shhh, don't tell anyone that this statement jewellery is crocheted and no one will know. The simple earrings and swirl-effect ring look sweet enough to eat and are so quick to make that you can get the monochrome look overnight.

FANCY THAT

These dainty little darlings are perfect for a stroll down Carnaby Street. We can't think of a better way to finish a spring/summer outfit than with white cotton gloves and the heart shaped cut-out effect on the back is worthy of any fashionista.

MONOCHROME IDEAS

GEOMETRIC DRESS

Embrace mod style with Ilaria Caliri's striking crochet frock on page 31.

KNEE-HIGH SOCKS

Anne Egan's super socks have plenty of stretch and a houndstooth look.

- Cascade Fixation (98% cotton, 2% synthetic, 50g/91m), 2 balls of each: Black (8990), Opulent White (8001)
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- Stitch marker

TENSION

24 sts and 23 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over stitch patt worked in the round with a 4mm hook, or size needed to obtain tension

To fit a medium foot, UK sizes 4.5 to 6 or 6 to 8. Smaller size (4.5-6) is given first with larger (6-8) size in brackets or additional instructions.

To make a smaller sock, reduce the number of rounds between 14 and 27 of the foot and 59 to 69 of the leg to fit.

NOTES

Socks are made from toe to top so you can fit the foot exactly before starting the leg. Rounds are worked in alternating colours of White and Black, except for the toe, heel and ribbing which are worked in White only. Always change colour on last yrh of last st on previous round.

UK SHOE SIZE		4.5-6	6-8
TO FIT FOOT LENGTH	cm	23-24	24-26
	in	9-9½	9½-10¼
ACTUAL FOOT LENGTH	cm	22	23
	in	8½	9
FOOT CIRC	cm	18	20
	in	7	7¾
CALF CIRC		24	27
	50g	9½	10½

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

NOTES FOR THE TOE AND FOOT

Sock foot and leg are worked in the round, amigurumi style, using a stitch marker to keep track of the start of a round, if needed.

Starting at the toe, the colour changes produce a fake seam – the left and right sock are worked in a slightly different way so that this seam runs up the inside of foot and leg.

NOTES FOR THE LEG

The leg is widened gradually to fit the calf, with increases made in the centre back of the leg.

Increasing is always done in multiples of 2 over 2 rounds.

Increase 1: Work a Standard Round A or B (depending on place in pattern) until skipping the dc before marked ch-sp, 2dc in marked ch-sp (move stitch marker to dc just worked), complete standard round.

Increase 2: Work a Standard Round B or A (depending on increase 1) until dc

before marker, dc between this and marked dc, move marker to dc just completed, complete standard round.

SPECIAL STITCHES

Standard Round A (White) (Dc in next ch-sp, ch1, skip next dc) around, dc in last ch-sp.

Standard Round B (Black) (Ch1, skip next dc, dc in next ch-sp) around, ch1, skip next dc.

LEFT SOCK

(RIGHT SOCK IF LEFT-HANDED)

Using White, ch9 (12).

Round 1 Dc in second ch from hook, dc in each of next 6 (9) ch, 3dc in last ch rotating to work back along the opposite side of the ch, dc in each rem 6 (9) ch, 2dc in rem loop of first ch. [18 (24) dc]

Work in a spiral, moving stitch marker up as you go.

Round 2 2dc in next dc, dc in each of next 6 (9) dc, 2dc in each of next 3 dc,



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dc in each of next 6 (9) dc, 2dc in each of next 2 dc. [24 (30) dc]

Round 3 2dc in next dc, dc in next dc, dc in each of next 6 (9) dc, (2dc in next dc, dc in next dc) 3 times, dc in each of next 6 (9) dc, (2dc in next dc, dc in next dc) twice. [30 (36) dc]

Round 4 2dc in next dc, dc in each of next 2 dc, dc in each of next 6 (9) dc, (2dc in next dc, dc in each of next 2 dc) 3 times, dc in each of next 6 (9) dc, (2dc in next dc, dc in each of next 2 dc) twice. [36 (42) dc]

Rounds 5-7 Dc in each st around.

Round 8 Change to Black, dc in each st around.

Round 9 Change to White, dc in each st around.

Round 10 Change to Black, dc in each st around, increasing by 1 st at beg and by 1 st halfway around. [38 (44) dc]

Round 11 Change to White, (dc in next dc, ch1, skip next dc) around, do not skip last dc, dc in last dc. [39 (45) sts]

Round 12 Change to Black, ch1, skip next dc, 2dc in next ch-sp, (ch1, skip next dc, dc in next ch-sp) 9 (10) times, ch1, skip next dc, 2dc in next ch-sp, (ch1, skip next dc, dc in next ch-sp) 8 (10) times, ch1, skip next dc. [41 (47) sts]

Round 13 Change to White, dc in next ch-sp, *ch1, skip next dc, dc between next 2 dc, (ch1, skip next dc, dc in next ch-sp) 10 (11) times, ch1, skip next dc, dc between next 2 dc, (ch1, skip next dc, dc in next ch-sp) 9 (11) times. [43 (49) sts]

Rounds 14 to 27 (29) Work Standard Rounds B and A, alternately.

Round 28 (30) Change to Black, ch1, skip next dc, 2dc in next ch-sp, (ch1, skip next dc, dc in next ch-sp) 10 (11) times, ch1, skip next dc, 2dc in next ch-sp, (ch1, skip next dc, dc in next ch-sp) 9 (11) times, ch1, skip next dc. [45 (51) sts]

Round 29 (31) Change to White, dc in next ch-sp, ch1, skip next dc, dc between next 2 dc, (ch1, skip next dc, dc in next ch-sp) 11 (12) times, ch1, skip next dc, dc between next 2 dc, (ch1, skip next dc, dc in next ch-sp) 10 (12) times. [47 (53) sts]

Rounds 30 (32) to 33 (35) Work Standard Rounds B and A, alternately.

Round 34 (36) Change to Black, ch1 skip next dc, 2dc in next ch-sp, (ch1, skip next dc, dc in next ch-sp) 11 (12) times, ch1, skip next dc, 2dc in next

ch-sp, (ch1, skip next dc, dc in next ch-sp) 10 (12) times, ch1, skip next dc. [49 (55) sts]

Round 35 (37) Change to White, dc in next ch-sp, ch1, skip next dc, dc between next 2 dc, (ch1, skip next dc, dc in next ch-sp) 12 (13) times, ch1, skip next dc, dc between next 2 dc, (ch1, skip next dc, dc in next ch-sp) 11 (13) times. [51 (57) sts]

Round 36 (38) Work Standard Round B. Do not fasten off, cont with Heel.

HEEL

Continue in same direction, heel is worked in rows.

Row 1 Change to White, (dc in next ch-sp, dc in next dc) 12 (14) times, dc in next ch-sp, turn. [25 (29) dc]

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

Row 3 Ch1, skip first dc, dc in each st to last 2 sts, dc2tog, turn. [23 (27) dc]

Rows 4 to 11 (13) Rep Row 3. [7 dc]

Row 12 (14) Ch2, dc in second ch from hook, dc in each st to last st, 2dc in last st, turn. [9 dc]

Rows 13-20 (15-22) Rep Row 12 (14). [25 (29) dc] **Fasten off** White.

Fold Heel at Row 11 (13) with RS tog. Align top of Row 20 (22) with bottom of Row 2 and sew diagonal seams firmly tog. Turn RS out.

LEG

With RS facing, join White at end of Row 1 of heel. Work in spiral rounds.

Round 1 Dc in each st of last row of heel and in each rem ch-sp and dc of last round of foot. [51 (57) dc]

Round 2 Change to Black, dc in each st around, decreasing 2 sts using dc2tog – place one halfway round and one at end. [49 (55) dc]

Round 3 Change to White, rep Round 2. [47 (53) dc]

Round 4 Change to Black, rep Round 2. [45 (51) dc]

Round 5 Change to White, work Standard Round A.

Round 6 Change to Black, work Standard Round B.

Round 7 Change to White, (dc in next ch-sp) twice (skipping the dc in between), (ch1, skip next dc, dc in next ch-sp) around. [44 (50) sts]

Round 8 Change to Black, ch1, skip next 2 dc, (dc in next ch-sp, ch1, skip next dc) around. [43 (49) sts]



Rounds 9-19 Work Standard Rounds A & B, alternately, ending with Round A.

Start increases (see notes at beg).

Flatten sock and mark the centre st (ch-sp) on the fold at the back.

Round 20 Increase 1. [44 (50) sts]

Round 21 Increase 2. [45 (51) sts]

Round 22 Work Standard Round B.

Round 23 Work Standard Round A.

Rounds 24-26 Work as Standard Rounds, moving the marker up as you go and keeping it central and in line with prev increases.

Round 27 Increase 1. [46 (52) sts]

Round 28 Increase 2. [47 (53) sts]

Rounds 29-58 Rep Rounds 24 to 28 another 6 times. [59 (65) sts]

Rounds 59-68 Work Standard Rounds A and B, alternately, ending with Standard Round B.

Round 69 Change to White, (dc in next ch-sp, dc in next dc) around, decreasing evenly by 4 sts using dc2tog, dc in last ch-sp. [55 (61) dc]

Round 70 Change to Black, dc in each st around, decreasing evenly by 4 sts using dc2tog. [51 (57) dc]

Round 71 Change to White, dc in each st around, decreasing evenly by 3 sts using dc2tog. [48 (54) dc]

Round 72 Change to Black, dc in each st around, ss in next dc. Change to White. **Fasten off** Black.

RIBBING

Worked in rows perpendicular to last round.

Using White, ch5.

Row 1 Dc in 2nd ch from hook, dc in each of next 3 ch, ss in next dc on last round of sock, ss in next dc, turn.

Row 2 Dc in each front loop to end, turn.



Row 3 Ch1, dc in each back loop to end, ss in next dc along last round of sock, ss in next dc, turn.
Repeat Rows 2 and 3 around.
Using ss, join back loop of last row of ribbing with rem loops of beg ch5, on WS of sock.

RIGHT SOCK (LEFT SOCK IF LEFT HANDED)

Work as for left sock until heel, then cont as below:

HEEL

At end of Round 36 (38), turn. Follow instructions for left sock heel.

LEG

With RS facing, join White in first ch-sp of last round of foot.

Round 1 Dc around each rem ch-sp and dc of last round of foot and in each dc of last row of heel. [51 (57) dc]
Cont right sock as given for left sock.

TO FINISH

Weave ends into WS.

SQUARES CLUTCH

A simple, stylish bag with room for all your essentials. By Louise Smith.

- Cascade Ultra Pima (100% cotton, 100g/200m), 1 ball of each: True Black (3754), White (3728)
- A 2.75mm (US C/2) hook
- A clutch purse frame, 23x7.5cm (9x3in)
- Fabric glue
- Small amount of fabric for lining the clutch, if desired

MEASUREMENTS

Bag measures 23x15cm (9x6in)
Individual squares meas 7.5x7.5cm (3x3in)

NOTE

You will use only a small amount of both balls of yarn for the bag (less than a quarter). Make first dc of each round into the same stitch at base of beg ch1.

SQUARE (MAKE 6 IN EACH COLOUR)

Using White, make a magic loop.

Round 1 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), 8dc into loop, ss to first dc to join. [8 dc]

Round 2 Ch1, *dc in next st, 3dc in next st; rep from * to end, ss to first dc. [16 dc]

Round 3 Ch1, dc in each of next 2 sts, 3dc in next st, *dc in each of next 3 sts, 3dc in next st; rep from * to last st, dc in last st, ss to first dc. [24 dc]

Round 4 Ch1, dc in each of next 3 sts, 3dc in next st, *dc in each of next 5 sts, 3dc in next st; rep from * to last 2 sts, dc in each of next 2 sts, ss to first dc. [32 dc]

Round 5 Ch1, dc in each of next 4 sts, 3dc in next st, *dc in each of next 7 sts, 3dc in next st; rep from * to last 3 sts, dc in each of next 3 sts, ss to first dc. [40 dc]

Round 6 Ch1, dc in each of next 5 sts, 3dc in next st, *dc in each of next 9 sts, 3dc in next st; rep from * to last 4 sts, dc in each of next 4 sts, ss to first dc. [48 dc]

Round 7 Ch1, dc in each of next 6 sts, 3dc in next st, *dc in each of next 11 sts, 3dc in next st; rep from * to last 5 sts, dc in each of next 5 sts, ss to first dc. [56 dc]

Round 8 Ch1, dc in each of next 7 sts, 3dc in next st, *dc in each of next 13 sts, 3dc in next st; rep from * to last 6 sts, dc in each of next 6 sts, ss to first dc. [64 dc]

Round 9 Ch1, dc in each of next 8 sts, 3dc in next st, *dc in each of next 15 sts, 3dc in next st; rep from * to last 7 sts, dc in each of next 7 sts, ss to first dc. [72 dc]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

Place six squares tog in two rows of alternating colour, using the photo as a guide. Sew sides of squares tog. Rep for the rem six squares. With wrong sides facing, sew bottom and both side seams of these two pieces tog. Glue the top (open) row of these two pieces to the purse frame and push in place using a cocktail stick. Leave to dry and line with fabric, if desired.

BE BOLD HAIRBAND

Make pretty covered rings to adorn your 'do. Designed by Hannah Cross.

- Cascade Ultra Pima Cotton DK (100% cotton, 100g/200m), 1 ball of each: White (3728), True Black (3754)
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- Plastic curtain rings (24), 2cm (¾in) diameter

TENSION

18 sts and 18 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over dc using 3.5mm hook or size required to achieve tension

MEASUREMENTS

95x5.5cm (37½x2in) to fit Adult head

NOTES

Beg ch1 does not count as a st throughout.

When joining yarn to make Tie, locate the centre 2 sts of the RH ring, then join yarn to the RH stitch.

Only a small amount of yarn will be used.

RING COVER

Make 12 in Black and 12 in White. Join White with ss to plastic ring.

Round 1 Ch1, 20dc into ring, ss to first dc to join. (20 sts)

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Fasten off and weave in ends.

Once all the rings are covered, lay them out in 2 rows in alternating colours and sew together where each ring meets, to form top of hairband.

HAIRBAND TIE

Rotate the rows of rings so that there are two at the top. Join Black to the centre of RH ring of Hairband.

Row 1 Ch1, dc in each of next 2 sts, ch4, skip to centre 2 sts of next ring, dc in each of these 2 sts, turn. [8 sts]

Row 2 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn. [8 dc]

Rows 3-14 As Row 2.

Row 15 Ch1, dc2tog, dc in each of next 4 sts, dc2tog, turn. [6 dc]

Rows 16-21 As Row 2.

Row 22 Ch1, dc2tog, dc in each of next 2 sts, dc2tog, turn. [4 dc]

Row 23-37 As Row 2.

Row 38 Ch1, (dc2tog) twice, turn. [2 dc]

Row 39-50 As Row 2.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Rep at the opposite side of hairband.

changing to White on last yrh of 12th dc, dc in each of next 12 Black sts, ss to first dc.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

Cut out circle of felt the same size as the crochet circle and stick on the reverse side. Glue the earring back to the centre of the crochet circle using superglue.

RING

Using White, ch4, ss to first ch to join into a ring.

Round 1 Ch1 (does not count as a st), 3dc into the ring, remove hook and replace with a stitch marker. [3 dc]

Round 2 Join Black with a ss to centre of ring, 3dc into the ring, dc in each of the White Round 1 sts, remove hook and replace with a stitch marker. [6 dc]

Round 3 Insert hook into White working loop, 2dc in each st around,

remove hook and replace with a stitch marker. [12 dc]

Round 4 Insert hook into Black working loop, (dc in next st, 2dc in next st) 6 times, remove hook and replace with a stitch marker. [18 dc]

Round 5 Insert hook into White working loop, (dc in each of next 2 sts, 2dc in next st) 6 times, remove hook and replace with a stitch marker. [24 dc]


Round 6 Insert hook into Black working loop, (dc in each of next 3 sts, 2dc in next st) 3 times, ss in each of next two sts. **Fasten off.**

Insert hook into White working loop, ss in each of next 2 sts.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

Cut a circle of felt the same size as the crochet circle and stick on the reverse side.

Glue the ring mount to the centre of the crochet circle using superglue. 

EARRINGS & RING

Get the look in double-quick time with these mini makes by Sara Huntington.

- Cascade Ultra Pima Cotton DK (100% cotton, 100g/200m), 1 ball of each: White (3728), True Black (3754)
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- Two clip-on earring backs
- One ring mount
- Small amount of self-adhesive felt in black
- Small amount of superglue
- 2 stitch markers

MEASUREMENTS

Earrings 4cm (1½in) diameter
Ring 4.5cm (1¾in) diameter

NOTES

Only small amounts of yarn are needed

EARRINGS (MAKE 2)

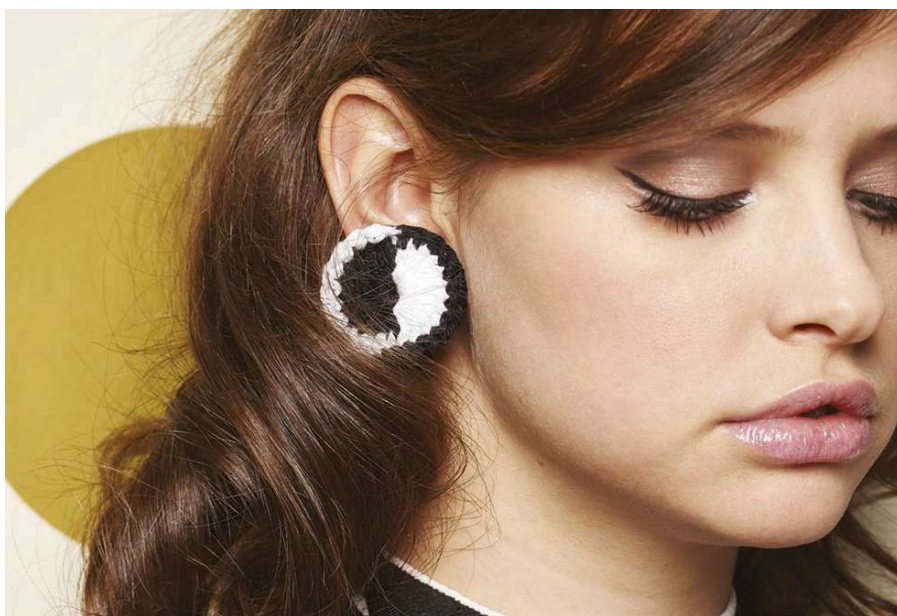
Using White, make a magic loop.

Round 1 Ch3 (counts as tr), 11tr into the loop changing to Black on last yrh of 11th tr, 12tr in Black, ss to top of beg ch-3 to join. [24 tr]

Round 2 Ch1 (does not count as a st), dc in each of next 12 White sts,



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SWEETHEART GLOVES

Hook vintage-style gloves with pretty heart cut-outs. By Hannah Cross.

- Cascade Ultra Pima Cotton DK (100% cotton, 100g/200m), 1 ball of each: White (3728), True Black (3754)
- A 2.5mm (US B/1 or C/2) hook
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- 2 small white buttons

TENSION

25 sts and 25 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over pattern, using a 3.5mm hook

MEASUREMENTS

20cm (7¾in) long and 9cm (3½in) wide

NOTES

Only a small amount of Black yarn is needed. Ch1 at the beginning of each row does not count as a st throughout. There is no right or wrong side so work both gloves the same – just turn one inside out to get a right and a left. The body of the glove starts at the index finger and is worked in rows to form the body of the glove. The thumb and part of the heart detail are added on separately afterwards. A chart for this pattern is available on our blog www.simplycrochetmag.co.uk

MAIN BODY OF GLOVE

Using White and a 3.5mm hook, ch42.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook, *ch1, skip next ch, dc in next ch; rep

from * to end, turn. [21 dc, 20 ch-1 sps]

Row 2 Ch1, dc in next st, *ch1, skip next st, dc in next st; rep from * to end, turn.

Rows 3-4 As Row 2.

Row 5 Ch1, dc in next st, *ch1, skip next st, dc in next st; rep from * another 13 times, ch17 (for middle finger), turn. [15 dc, 14 ch-1 sps, 17 ch]

Row 6 Dc in 2nd ch from hook, *ch1, skip next st, dc in next st; rep from * another 15 times, ch1, skip next st, ss in each of next 8 sts, dc in next st, ch1, skip next st, dc in last st, turn. [19 dc, 18 ch-1 sps, 8 ss]

Row 7 Ch1, dc in next st, ch1, skip next st, dc in next st, ss in each of next 7 ss, dc in next ss, *ch1, skip next st, dc in next st; rep from * to end, turn. [20 dc, 18 ch-1 sps, 7 ss]

Row 8 Ch1, dc in next st, *ch1, skip next st, dc in next st; rep from * another 16 times, ss in each of next 7 ss, dc in next st, ch1, skip next st, dc in last st, turn. [20 dc, 7 ss, 18 ch-1 sps]

Row 9 (for side of fastening) Ch1, dc in next st, ch1, skip next st, ss in each of next 2 sts, turn.

Row 10 Skip next st, ss in next st, ch1, skip next st, dc in last st, turn.

Row 11 Ch1, dc in next st, ss in next st. **Fasten off.** Cont Row 9 by joining yarn to the top of middle finger:

Row 9 cont (WS) Ch1, dc in next st, *ch1, skip next st, dc in next st; rep from * another 15 times, ch3, turn. [17 dc, 16 ch-1 sps, 3 ch]

Row 10 Dc in second ch from hook, *ch1, skip next st, dc in next st; rep

from * another 8 times, ch15 (for ring finger), turn. [10 dc, 9 ch-1 sps, 15 ch].

Row 11 Dc in second ch from hook, *ch1, skip next st, dc in next st; rep from * another 14 times, ss in next st, leaving last st unworked, turn. [16 dc, 15 ch-1 sps, 1 ss]

Row 12 Ss in first st, dc in next st, *ch1, skip next st, dc in next st; rep from * to end, turn. [16 dc, 15 ch-1 sps, 1 ss]

Row 13 Ch1, dc in next st, *ch1, skip next st, dc in next st; rep from * another 14 times, skip ss, ch3, turn. [16 dc, 15 ch-1 sps, 3 ch]

Row 14 Dc in second ch from hook, *ch1, skip next st, dc in next st; rep from * to end. [17 dc, 16 ch-1 sps]

Fasten off.

Row 15 (RS) Ch10 (to create other side of heart fastening), dc in first st at base of glove (where heart shaping is), *ch1, skip next st, dc in next st; rep from * another 7 times, ch11 (for little finger). [9 dc, 8 ch-1 sps, 21 ch]

Row 16 Dc in second ch from hook, *ch1, skip next st, dc in next st; rep from * to end, turn. [19 dc, 18 ch-1 sps].

Rows 17-19 As Row 2. Top of glove is complete, cont for bottom.

Row 20-23 As Row 2

At end of Row 23, bring seams of little finger tog and ss seam to join, now work up the side of ring finger: *ch1, skip next st, dc in next st; rep from * to top of ring finger, turn to cont.

Rows 24-27 As Row 2, working all the way down to the cuff of the glove. [22 dc, 21 ch-1 sps]

At end of Row 27, bring seams of ring finger tog and ss seam to join, now work up the side of middle finger: *ch1, skip next st, dc in next st; rep from * to top of middle finger, turn to cont.

Row 28-30 As Row 2.

[23 dc, 22 ch-1 sps]

Row 31 Ch1, dc in next st, *ch1, skip

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next st, dc in next st; rep from * another 5 times, ss in each of next 13 sts (shaping for thumbhole), dc in next st, **ch1, skip next st, dc in next st; rep from ** to end.

[17 dc, 15 ch-1 sps, 13 ss]

At the end of Row 31, bring seams of middle finger tog and ss seam to join, now work up the side of index finger: *ch1, skip next st, dc in next st; rep from * to top of index finger, turn to cont.

Row 32 Ch1, dc in next st, *ch1, skip 1 st, dc in next st; rep from * 6 more times, ss in next st, turn.

[8 dc, 7 ch-1 sps, 1 ss]

Row 33 As Row 2. **Fasten off.**

Row 32 cont (WS) Join yarn to 13th st from Cuff (to make bottom shape of thumbhole), ch1, dc in same st, *ch1, skip next st, dc in next st; rep from * to end, turn. [7 dc, 6 ch-1 sps]

Row 33 cont Ch1, dc in next st, *ch1, skip next st, dc in next st; rep from * another 4 times, ss in next st, turn. [6 dc, 5 ch-1 sps].

Row 34 Skip ss, dc in next st, *ch1, skip next st, dc in next st; rep from * to end, turn.

Row 35 Ch1, dc in next st, *ch1, skip

next st, dc in next st; rep from * another 4 times, ch15, (cont along Row 33) dc in next st, **ch1, skip next st, dc in next st; rep from ** to end.

[14 dc, 12 ch-1 sps, 14 ch]

Row 36 Rep Row 2. [21 dc, 20 ch-1 sps]. Join seam to foundation seam with ss. Sew up fingertips.

OTHER SIDE OF CUFF

Row 1 (RS) With little finger nearest you, join yarn at side of heart shaping, in 8th st from Cuff. Ss in each of next 5 sts, dc in next st, ch1, skip next st, dc in next st, turn. [8 sts]

Row 2 Ch1, dc in next st, ch1, skip next st, dc in next st, ss in each of next 5 sts, turn. [8 sts]

Row 3 Skip next ss, ss in each of next 4 ss, dc in next st, ch1, skip next st, dc in next st, turn. [7 sts]

Row 4 Ch1, dc in next st, ch1, skip next st, dc in next st, ss in each of next 3 sts. [6 sts]

Row 5 Skip next ss, ss in each of next 2 sts, dc in next st, ch1, skip next st, dc in next st, turn. [5 sts]

Row 6 Ch1, dc in next st, ch1, skip next st, ss in next st, turn. [3 sts]

Row 7 Skip next ss, ss in next st, dc in

next st. [2 sts] **Fasten off.**

BASE OF THUMB

Round 1 (RS) Join yarn to thumbhole base. Ch1, *dc in next st, ch1, skip 1 st; rep from * 17 more times evenly around, ss to first dc.

[18 dc, 18 ch-1 sps]

Round 2 Rep Round 1. **Fasten off.**

THUMB

Using White and 3.5mm hook, ch20.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook, *ch1, skip next st, dc in next st; rep from * to end turn. [19 sts]

Row 2-4 Ch1, dc in next st, *ch1, skip next st, dc in next st; rep from * to end, turn.

Row 5 Ss in each of next 4 sts, dc in next st, *ch1, skip next st, dc in next st; rep from * another 4 times, ss in each of next 4 sts.

Row 6 Ss in each of next 4 sts, dc in next st, *ch1, skip next st, dc in next st; rep from * another 4 times, turn leaving rem sts unworked. [15 sts]

Row 7 Ch1, dc in next st, *ch1, skip next st, dc in next st; rep from * another 4 times, ss in each of next 4 sts.

Rows 8-9 As Rows 6-7.

Row 10 As Row 6.

Row 11 Ch1, dc in next st, *ch1, skip next st, dc in next st; rep from * another 3 times, ss in each of next 6 sts. [15 sts]

Row 12 Ss in each of next 6 sts, dc in next st, *ch1, skip next st, dc in next st; rep from * another 3 times.

Rows 13-16 Rep last 2 rows twice more. Sew thumb into thumbhole.

BLACK EDGING

Using 2.5mm hook and black yarn, join at base of cuff opening, with RS of glove facing. Dc in each of next 2 sts, ss evenly around heart shape, dc in last 2 sts, make a button loop (work chain sts to the length you want), ss to secure.

TO FINISH

Sew on button at cuff.

Make the second glove in the same way, but turn it inside out before working the Black Edging.



STOCKISTS

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MOD MAGIC

Embrace 1960s style with this dress by Ilaria Caliri.



Geometric dress



YOU WILL NEED

■ Cascade Ultra Pima (100% cotton, 100g/200m), 1 ball of White (3728) for all sizes, see table for quantities of Black (3754)

■ A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
■ A 4mm (US G/6) hook

For yarn stockists, contact
LoveCrochet 0845 544 2196
www.lovecrochet.com

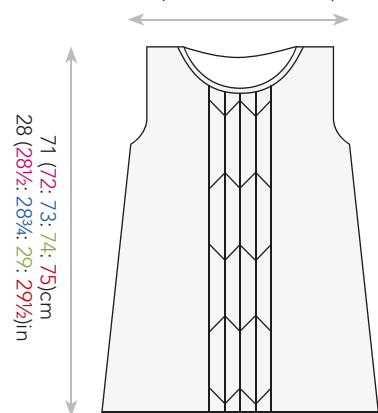
TENSION

17 sts and 23 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over dc in rows using a 4mm hook or size required to achieve tension. 1 motif from the central panel measures 3x15cm (1x6in) and the completed panel measures 12.5cm (5in) wide.

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

42.5 (44.5: 48: 52: 54)cm
16½ (17½: 19: 20¼: 21¼)in



Channel your inner Twiggy or Jean Shrimpton with this unashamedly retro crocheted tunic dress. It's worked in several separate double crochet panels and sewn together afterwards. The central monochrome panel was inspired by 1960s Op Art – it's a geometric dream. Layer up your mini frock for a more modern look, or go full swinging Sixties and wear it with black and white accessories. Pretty groovy.

NOTES

Front and Back pieces are worked separately from the bottom up. Front is made up of 3 pieces: 2 side black pieces and 1 central panel formed from black and white shapes sewn together.

Edgings are added onto the Neckline and Armholes once the pieces have been seamed together.

Each decrease is made by skipping a st.

BACK

With a 4mm hook, ch91 (95: 101: 109: 113).

Foundation row (RS) Dc in second ch from hook and into each ch to end, turn. [90 (94: 100: 108: 112) sts]

Rows 1-11 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 12 Ch1, 2dc, skip one st, dc in each st to last 3 sts, skip one st, dc in last 2 sts, turn. [88 (92: 98: 106: 110) sts]

Repeat Rows 1-12 another 8 (8: 8: 9: 9) times. [72 (76: 82: 88: 92) sts]

Work 12 (12: 12: -: -) more rows without shaping.

SHAPE BACK ARMHOLES

Row 1 (WS) Ch1, dc in each st to last 3 (4: 4: 5: 5) sts, turn leaving rem sts unworked. [69 (72: 78: 83: 87) sts]



The geometric panel is made up of 24 simple motifs, sewn together with mattress stitch.

Row 2 Ch1, dc in each st to last 3 (4: 4: 5: 5) sts, turn leaving rem sts unworked. [66 (68: 74: 78: 82) sts]

Row 3 Ch1, dc in each st to last 2 (2: 3: 3: 3) sts, turn leaving rem sts unworked. [64 (66: 71: 75: 79) sts]

Row 4 Ch1, dc in each st to last 2 (2: 3: 3: 3) sts, turn leaving rem sts unworked. [62 (64: 68: 72: 76) sts]

Row 5 Ch1, dc in each st to last 1 (1: 2: 2: 2) st(s), turn leaving rem sts unworked. [61 (63: 66: 70: 74) sts]

Row 6 Ch1, dc in each st to last 1 (1: 2: 2: 2) st(s), turn leaving rem sts unworked. [60 (62: 64: 68: 72) sts]

Work 34 (36: 38: 40: 42) rows without shaping.

SIZE		8	10	12	14	16
TO FIT BUST	cm	81	86	91	97	102
	in	32	34	36	38	40
ACTUAL BUST	cm	85	89	96	104	108
	in	33¼	35¼	38	40¾	42½
LENGTH	cm	71	72	73	74	75
	in	28	28½	28¾	29	29½
YARN BLACK (3754)	100g	6	7	7	8	8

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

SHAPE BACK NECK

Row 1 (WS) Ch1, 16 (17: 18: 18: 19)dc, turn leaving rem sts unworked. [16 (17: 18: 18: 19) sts]

Row 2 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 3 Ch1, 12 (13: 14: 14: 15)dc, turn leaving rem sts unworked. [12 (13: 14: 14: 15) sts]

Row 4 Ch1, dc in each st to end.

Fasten off.

Skip central 28 (28: 28: 32: 34) sts and rejoin yarn with WS facing in next st.

Rows 1-2 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn. [16 (17: 18: 18: 19) sts]

Row 3 Ss in each of first 5 sts, ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

[12 (13: 14: 14: 15) sts]

Row 4 Ch1, dc in each st to end.

Fasten off.

FRONT RIGHT PIECE

With a 4mm hook, ch35 (37: 40: 44: 46).

Foundation row (RS) Dc in second ch from hook and into each ch to end, turn. [34 (36: 39: 43: 45) sts]

Rows 1-11 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 12 Ch1, 2dc, skip one st, dc in each st to end, turn.

[33 (35: 38: 42: 44) sts]

Repeat Rows 1-12 another 8 (8: 8: 9: 9) times. [25 (27: 30: 33: 35) sts]

Work 12 (12: 12: -: -) more rows without shaping.

SHAPE RIGHT ARMHOLE

Row 1 (WS) Ch1, dc in each st to last 3 (4: 4: 5: 5) sts, turn leaving rem sts unworked. [22 (23: 26: 28: 30) sts]

Row 2 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 3 Ch1, dc in each st to last 2 (2: 3: 3: 3) sts, turn leaving rem sts unworked. [20 (21: 23: 25: 27) sts]

Row 4 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 5 Ch1, dc in each st to last 1 (1: 2: 2: 2) st(s), turn leaving rem sts unworked. [19 (20: 21: 23: 25) sts]

Work 18 (20: 22: 24: 26) rows without shaping.

SHAPE RIGHT NECK

Row 1 (RS) Ch1, dc in each st to last 2 sts, turn leaving rem sts unworked. [17 (18: 19: 21: 23) sts]

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

Rows 3-6 Repeat Rows 1-2 twice more. [13 (14: 15: 17: 19) sts]



Row 7 Ch1, dc in each st to last 1 (1: 1: 2) st(s), turn leaving rem sts unworked. [12 (13: 14: 16: 17) sts]

Row 8 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn. Repeat Rows 7-8 another 0 (0: 0: 2: 1) times. [12 (13: 14: 14: 15) sts]

Work 13 (13: 13: 9: 11) more rows without shaping. **Fasten off.**

FRONT LEFT PIECE

Work as for Front Right Piece to Row 11. [34 (36: 39: 43: 45) sts]

Row 12 (RS) Ch1, dc in each st to last 3

sts, skip one st, dc in last 2 sts, turn. [33 (35: 38: 42: 44) sts]

Repeat Rows 1-12 another 8 (8: 8: 9: 9) times. [25 (27: 30: 33: 35) sts]

Work 12 (12: 12: -: -) more rows without shaping.

SHAPE LEFT ARMHOLE

Row 1 (WS) Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 2 Ch1, dc in each st to last 3 (4: 4: 5: 5) sts, turn leaving rem sts unworked. [22 (23: 26: 28: 30) sts]

Geometric dress

Row 3 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.
Row 4 Ch1, dc in each st to last 2 (2: 3: 3) sts, turn leaving rem sts unworked. [20 (21: 23: 25: 27) sts]
Row 5 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.
Row 6 Ch1, dc in each st to last 1 (1: 2: 2) st(s), turn leaving rem sts unworked. [19 (20: 21: 23: 25) sts]
Work 18 (20: 22: 24: 26) rows without shaping.

SHAPE LEFT NECK

Row 1 (WS) Ch1, dc in each st to last 2 sts, turn leaving rem sts unworked. [17 (18: 19: 21: 23) sts]
Row 2 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.
Rows 3-6 Repeat Rows 1-2 twice more. [13 (14: 15: 17: 19) sts]
Row 7 Ch1, dc in each st to last 1 (1: 1: 2) st(s), turn leaving rem sts unworked. [12 (13: 14: 16: 17) sts]
Row 8 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn. Repeat Rows 7-8 another 0 (0: 0: 2: 1) times. [12 (13: 14: 14: 15) sts]
Work 12 (12: 8: 10) more rows without shaping. **Fasten off.**

FRONT CENTRE PANEL

GEOMETRIC MOTIF
Make 8 in White and 8 in Black.
With a 4mm hook, ch2.
Row 1 Dc in second ch from hook, turn. [1 st]
Row 2 Ch1, 2dc in next st, turn. [2 sts]
Row 3 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn. [2 sts]
Row 4 Ch1, 2dc in next st, 1dc, turn. [3 sts]
Row 5 Ch1, 2dc, 2dc in next st, turn.

[4 sts]
Row 6 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn. [4 sts]
Row 7 Ch1, 3dc, 2dc in next st, turn. [5 sts]
Rows 8-28 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn. [5 sts]
Row 29 Ch1, 3dc, skip 1 st, dc in next st, turn. [4 sts]
Row 30 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn. [4 sts]
Row 31 Ch1, 2dc, skip 1 st, dc in next st, turn. [3 sts]
Row 32 Ch1, skip 1 st, 2dc, turn. [2 sts]
Row 33 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn. [2 sts]
Row 34 Ch1, skip 1 st, dc in next st, turn. [1 st] **Fasten off.**
Using mattress stitch, sew the shapes together, arranging the pieces as shown in the photographs.

UPPER PART MOTIF

Make 2 in White and 2 in Black.
With a 4mm hook, ch2.
Work as Rows 1-7 of Geometric Motif.
Work 7 (7: 7: 9: 9) rows without shaping. **Fasten off.**

UPPER EDGE OF CENTRE PANEL

Using mattress stitch, sew the Upper Part motifs together, arranging the pieces as shown in the photographs.
Sew the motifs to the top of the Front Centre Panel.
Join Black to upper edge of the Front Centre Panel.
Rows 1-3 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn. **Fasten off.**

LOWER PART MOTIF

Make 2 in White and 2 in Black.
With a 4mm hook, ch5.
Rows 1 to 5 (7: 9: 9: 11) Ch1, 5dc, turn. [5 sts]
Continue as for Rows 29-34 of the Geometric Motif.
Fasten off.

LOWER EDGE OF CENTRE PANEL

Using mattress stitch, sew the 4 Lower Part motifs together, arranging the pieces as shown in the photographs.
Sew the motifs to the lower edge of the Front Centre Panel.

Working from the bottom up, work 5 rows in dc as follows:
With Black yarn, ch21.

Row 1 Dc in second ch from hook and in each ch to end, turn. [20 sts]
Rows 2-5 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn. **Fasten off.**
Sew this piece to the lower edge of the Front Centre Panel.

TO FINISH

Weave in all ends.
Using mattress stitch, sew the 3 Front pieces together. Then sew Front and Back together at sides and shoulders.

EDGING

With RS facing and using a 3mm hook, join yarn at underarm for the armholes and on the right shoulder for the neck.
Rounds 1-2 Ch1, dc evenly around the neck or armholes, ss to first dc. **Fasten off** and weave in ends.

SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO WORK A MATTRESS STITCH SEAM

1 Place your two pieces out flat with right sides facing up. Line up the two edges you want to join, matching up each crochet stitch or row end carefully. It's best to work the mattress stitch seam vertically from bottom to top so start at the bottom. Thread the needle with yarn and insert it into the RH piece, from back to front, one stitch up from its bottom edge and one stitch in from its left edge.

2 Insert needle into the front of the LH piece in the same position, one stitch up from the bottom edge and one stitch in from the right edge. Continue working the seam one stitch in from the edges that you're joining, as follows: Bring needle up from back to front on LH piece, one stitch up (two stitches up from bottom edge). Insert needle into front of RH piece, into the hole you started from.

3 *Bring needle up from back to front on RH piece, one stitch up. Insert needle into front of LH piece in same position. Bring needle up from back to front on LH piece, one stitch up. Insert needle into front of RH piece, into the hole you started from at *. Repeat from * to form the seam, pulling yarn tight every few stitches to pull the two fabric pieces together. Fasten off securely.





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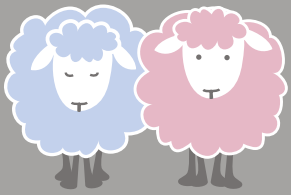
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KAT'S JOURNAL

...FROM THE STUDIO

Top crochet designer Kat Goldin spills the beans about her current crafty obsession – cosy crochet socks.



Being an ancient, single-glazed farmhouse, it shouldn't really come as much of a surprise that my house is cold. My children delight in the mornings they wake up with frosted windows in their room and our hot water bottles see a lot of use for about nine months of the year. What always does surprise us, though, is that it isn't deep winter that sees us shivering or piling on the extra layers – the heating and wood burner keep us warm enough throughout the coldest months. Instead, it's spring, when the air starts to warm up outside, but the old stone walls of the farmhouse still retain the cold of the last few months. Being a certain kind of stubborn, the heating remains resolutely off if the outside temperature is in the double digits, even if it is actually colder inside the house than outside.

If you were to pop by for a cuppa on a working day when I spend my hours sitting at the computer, you would find me wrapped up in two or three jumpers (my husband's lined lumberjack tartan is my current favourite), woolly tights, a heavy wool skirt and a woollen hat. And I may or may not have left the quilt that I wrap around myself at my desk sitting next to the half a dozen empty tea cups that I drink in a day.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

For most of the year, my big fluffy Bearded Collie dog sleeps under my desk and provides the requisite foot warmth. He snores, but these are the

sacrifices that I'm willing to make for warm feet. However, as the winter melts away and the spring rains arrive, he stops drying out and begins to smell overwhelmingly like the heather bog that surrounds the farm, where he spends most of his days trying to herd up the pheasants.

When this happens, said soggy canine is relegated to the far corner of the office and additional footwear is required, so out come the handmade socks. While knitted socks have been in my sock drawer for many years, I have to admit

that crochet socks were a rather late addition to my own crochet repertoire.

A CHANGE OF HEART

I couldn't really tell you exactly what put me off crocheted socks in the first place. I can only assume that it was a bad experience with a stiff crochet sock that wouldn't stretch right over my high arches. Or, maybe it was the lacklustre ribbing that meant that the tops sagged around my ankles. Or it could have been that time I wore a pair of crochet socks hiking and felt every single stitch

"The trick is to pick a stitch that has good horizontal stretch."



GOOD READ



"They make perfect handbag projects."

on the way back. Something was behind my crochet sock aversion and I avoided them like the plague.

One day, something changed. I was working on a beautiful pair of knitted cabled socks...and it took me a full day to knit just two inches. When you have cold feet, time is of the essence. So out came my crochet hook instead. There was some swearing and testing, but eventually my first pair of crochet socks was born and they became my Everybody (Needs) Socks pattern in my *Hook, Stitch and Give* book. I liked them

so much that I immediately designed the First Day of School socks.

The trick, it seems, for a great crochet sock is to pick something with a stitch that has good horizontal stretch – shells work really well. Due to the added weight of a crochet fabric, I find that while socks are perfect for keeping my feet warm while I am sat working, they work less well for running around all day because I begin to feel each stitch.

However, one of the things I love most about my new crochet sock obsession is that they make the perfect handbag

projects. One sock-in-progress takes up hardly any space and each bag I own (plus both of the cars) now has a sock project in progress lurking in it for those moments when my hands are free and I find myself waiting for some child- or husband-related activity.

The very best thing about crochet socks, though, has to be that they smell much better than a certain collie dog. Not naming any names, of course.

SEE WHAT KAT'S BEEN HOOKING LATELY ON HER BLOG AT WWW.SLUGSONTHEREFRIGERATOR.COM

A LOCH AT MY MONTH

"If I am not crocheting, I am baking, often both at once... which has resulted in one burned crochet mitten – not too bad, for me!"



ANKYLOSAURUS

Isn't this the cutest dinosaur you've ever seen? Designed by Kerry Lord.



Amigurumi dinosaur



YOU WILL NEED

- Toft DK (100% wool, 100g/225m), 1 ball of Camel
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- Black embroidery thread for eyes
- Toy stuffing

For yarn stockists, contact
TOFT 01788 810626
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MEASUREMENTS

18cm (7in) tall when sitting

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

Nope, we're not entirely sure how to pronounce it either. But we're still smitten with this prehistoric amigurumi cutie. Made from a single ball, Anthony is a spiky fella with a bit of a tummy. The head, body, limbs and spikes are made separately and sewn together afterwards. He's the perfect companion for little monsters.

NOTES

The pattern 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.

Leave long tails of yarn when fastening off to use in sewing up.

C BODY

Make a magic loop.

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

Round 2 (1dc, 2dc in next st) 6 times. [12 sts]

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

Round 4 (3dc, 2dc in next st) 6 times. [24 sts]

Round 5 (4dc, 2dc in next st) 6 times. [30 sts]

Round 6 (5dc, 2dc in next st) 6 times. [36 sts]

Round 7 (6dc, 2dc in next st) 6 times. [42 sts]

Round 8 (7dc, 2dc in next st) 6 times. [48 sts]

Rounds 9-13 Dc in each st around.

Round 14 (1dc, dc2tog) 8 times, 24dc. [40 sts]

Round 15 (8dc, dc2tog) 4 times. [36 sts]

Rounds 16-18 Dc in each st around.

Round 19 (1dc, dc2tog) 6 times, 18dc. [30 sts]

Rounds 20-23 Dc in each st around.

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

Rounds 25-28 Dc in each st around.

Round 29 (2dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [18 sts]

Rounds 30-31 Dc in each st around.

Round 32 (1dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [12 sts]
Stuff Body.

Round 33 (Dc2tog) 6 times. [6 sts]

Fasten off.

Top up stuffing and use tail of yarn to close remaining hole.

HEAD

Rounds 1-7 Work as Rounds 1-7 of



The head spikes and the simple embroidered eyes give the dinosaur such a cute character.



Each part of the project is made with double crochet stitches worked in a spiral – simple.

Body. [42 sts]

Rounds 8-12 Dc in each st around.

Round 13 (1dc, dc2tog) 7 times, 21dc. [35 sts]

Round 14 Dc in each st around.

Round 15 (5dc, dc2tog) 5 times. [30 sts]

Round 16 (1dc, dc2tog) 5 times, 15dc. [25 sts]

Round 17 (Dc2tog) 5 times, 15dc. [20 sts]

Rounds 18-22 Dc in each st around.

Round 23 (Dc2tog) 10 times. [10 sts]
Stuff Head.

Round 24 (Dc2tog) 5 times. [5 sts]

Round 25 Dc in each st around.

Fasten off.

Top up stuffing and use tail of yarn to close remaining hole.

LEGS (MAKE 4)

Rounds 1-4 Work as Rounds 1-4 of Body. [24 sts]

Rounds 5-8 Dc in each st around.

Round 9 (Dc2tog) 9 times, 6dc. [15 sts]
Round 10 (Dc2tog) 5 times, 5dc. [10 sts]

Stuff the foot only before continuing.

Rounds 11-25 Dc in each st around.

Fasten off.

Flatten top of leg and sew together across the top.

Amigurumi dinosaur

TAIL

Make a magic loop.

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

Round 2 (1dc, 2dc in next st) 6 times. [12 sts]

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

Rounds 4-6 Dc in each st around.

Round 7 (1dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [12 sts]

Round 8 (Dc2tog) 6 times. [6 sts]

Stuff end of Tail before continuing.

Round 9 Dc in each st around.

Round 10 (2dc, 2dc in next st) twice. [8 sts]

Rounds 11-16 Dc in each st around.

Round 17 (3dc, 2dc in next st) twice. [10 sts]

Rounds 18-20 Dc in each st around.

Round 21 (4dc, 2dc in next st) twice. [12 sts]

Rounds 22-23 Dc in each st around.

Round 24 (3dc, 2dc in next st) 3 times. [15 sts]

Rounds 25-26 Dc in each st around.

Round 27 (4dc, 2dc in next st) 3 times. [18 sts]

Rounds 28-29 Dc in each st around.

Round 30 (8dc, 2dc in next st) twice. [20 sts]

Round 31 (9dc, 2dc in next st) twice. [22 sts]

Rounds 32-34 Increase evenly twice on each round as set. [28 sts]

Round 35 Dc in each st around.

Round 36 (13dc, 2dc in next st) twice. [30 sts]

Fasten off and stuff tail.

HEAD SPIKES (MAKE 4)

Ch15 leaving a long tail, ss to first ch to join into a ring, being careful not to twist the chain.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st around. [15 sts]

Round 2 (3dc, dc2tog) 3 times. [12 sts]

Rounds 3-4 Dc in each st around.

Round 5 (2dc, dc2tog) 3 times. [9 sts]

Rounds 6-7 Dc in each st around.

Round 8 (1dc, dc2tog) 3 times. [6 sts]

Round 9 (Dc2tog) 3 times. [3 sts]

Fasten off.

CENTRAL BACK SPIKES (MAKE 4)

Ch10 leaving a long tail, ss to first ch to join into a ring, being careful not to twist the chain.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st around. [10 sts]

Rounds 2-5 Dc in each st around.

Round 6 (Dc2tog, 3dc) twice. [8 sts]

Round 7 (Dc2tog, 2dc) twice. [6 sts]

Fasten off.

SIDE BACK SPIKES (MAKE 8)

Make a magic loop, leaving a long tail.

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

Rounds 1-3 Dc in each st around.

Round 4 (Dc2tog) 3 times. [3 sts]

Fasten off.

TO MAKE UP

Sew the Head onto the top of the Body, and sew two Legs to the top of the Body on each side of the Head.

Sew two Legs onto the bottom of the



The Ankylosaurus spikes run all down the back and along the tail, diminishing in size.

Body, splaying them slightly so that the dinosaur will balance when sitting.

Stuff the Head Spikes and sew to the Head, using the image as a guide.

Embroider two eyes with several straight stitches of black embroidery thread.

Top up stuffing and sew the Tail to the back of the Body.

Without stuffing, sew two of the Central Back Spikes to the back of the Body, and sew the other two on the top-centre of the Tail.

Sew four of the Side Back Spines on each side of the Central Spikes.

SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO DECREASE IN DOUBLE CROCHET (DC2TOG)



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



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



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



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



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ALERT

Get your (crochet) coat.

Love them or loathe them, granny square jackets are having a bit of a fashion moment. At first, a few trendsetters were spotted in hand-hooked garb – Vogue.com's Fashion News Director Chioma Nnadi, for example, was papped in a distinctly vintage-looking granny cardi. And then more recently supermodel Gigi Hadid was seen swanning about in a granny square jacket and matching scarf from Rosetta Getty's Fall 2015 collection. All of a sudden, crochet jackets had hit the big time. But for us, crochet hitting the spotlight is just the universe confirming what we already knew: crochet rules.

One of the best things about this trend is how unashamedly handmade these

items look. They're not crochet designs masquerading as anything else – they're bold, cosy, blanket-inspired trebles to be worn with pride. Granny squares, in a way, are crochet in its purest form: simple, eye-catching and packed with retro charm. Most of us hooked our fair share of them when we first took up the craft and will always have a bit of a soft spot for them. The fact that it's these classic motifs taking centre stage is fantastic. It's also given us a sneaking suspicion that this craze could just be the natural follow-on from the recent blanket wrap trend.

HOOKING YOUR OWN

OK, so top designers are laughably out of our price range. Did you know the Rosetta

Getty granny cardigan Gigi Hadid was spotted in was going for a cool £1,540 at www.net-a-porter.com? Phew. You see, unlike knitting, crochet can only be done by hand and that is what can drive up the price of these kinds of garments. They're works of art, but can seem unattainable.

The good news is that those of us who hook have got the skills to create our own DIY couture! Drawing inspiration from the catwalk, vintage patterns and fashionista street style, we can dream up or track down the peachiest patterns ourselves.

The designs that have been making the biggest waves seem to be long-length, duster-style coats and cardigans. And if they're made up of multi-coloured granny squares or stripes, so much the better.

A quick search on Ravelry (www.ravelry.com) reveals an abundance of vibrant patterns for all kinds of crochet coats. There are a couple of super-stylish Rowan designs by Marie Wallin that really stand out – Rona and Inga are our favourites. If wild colour combos are what excites you, Glamour4You's Sweet Summer Jacket (<http://bit.ly/SC43coat>) is sure to inspire. Watch this space for a fashion-forward crochet coat here in *Simply Crochet*, too.

For the classic 1970s granny square look, your best bet is to go vintage. Head to www.wonkyzebra.etsy.com to find the perfect retro crochet coat pattern. Has crochet ever really been out of fashion? FOR MORE JACKET INSPIRATION, SEE OUR PINTEREST BOARD AT WWW.PINTEREST.COM/SIMPCROCHETMAG



Clockwise from top left: Glamour4You's vibrant Sweet Summer Jacket, photograph by Ann M Williams; Crocheted wool-blend cardigan from Rosetta Getty's Fall 2015 collection; Inga by Marie Wallin for Rowan; Chioma Nnadi, photograph by Andrew Walker/WWD/REX Shutterstock; Emma from www.abeautifulworld.com in a vintage cardi, photograph by Janae Hardy



SLEEVE IT OUT

Jazz up a plain tee with a pair of lacy, colour block sleeves. Designed by Simone Francis.

Embellish an outfit



YOU WILL NEED

- Scheepjes Catona (100% mercerized cotton, 25g/62.5m), Shade 164, see table for yarn quantities and measurements
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- Sewing needle and matching thread
- Ladies T-shirt (a close-fitting T-shirt with a shaped sleeve is ideal)

For yarn stockists, contact Deramores 0845 519 4573 www.deramores.com

TENSION

5.5 patt reps and 10 rows to meas 10x10cm (4x4in) over st patt using a 3mm hook or size needed to obtain correct tension. You can work to 11 patt reps to 20cm, which will give the same tension.

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

The classic cotton T-shirt is a prime target for a spot of crochet customisation. Give your tee the full DIY treatment with a super set of airy sleeves designed by Simone Francis. They're worked in a lacy pattern repeat and are slightly tapered. Grab a cotton 4ply in a contrasting shade and hook it.

LACE STITCH PATTERN

Row 1 *Ch3, skip (2 ch, dc, 2 ch), tr into the next tr (counts as 1 sp); repeat from * to end.

Row 2 *Ch2, skip 1 ch, dc in next ch, ch2, skip 1 ch, tr in next tr (counts as 1 pattern repeat); repeat from * to end.

CHOOSE A SIZE

Take your T-shirt and cut up the seam of the sleeve and around the top armhole, leaving the seam allowance on the T-shirt for ease of sewing. Lay out the sleeve and measure the widest point (at underarm). Choose a size from the schematic that most closely matches (or is slightly larger than) the removed sleeve.



The sleeves fall just above the elbow. To alter the length, work more or fewer pattern reps.

C SLEEVES (MAKE 2)

Ch 74 (78: 82: 94: 98).

Row 1 (WS) Tr in 10th ch from hook, *ch3, skip 3 ch, tr in next ch; rep from * to end, turn.

[17 (18: 19: 22: 23) sps made]

Row 2 (RS) Ch5 (counts as tr, 2 ch), skip 1 ch, dc in next ch, ch2, skip 1 ch, tr in next tr, follow Row 2 of Lace Stitch Pattern, working last tr into 3rd ch of beg ch-6, turn.

Row 3 Ch6 (counts as tr, 3 ch), tr in next tr, follow Row 1 of Lace Stitch Pattern, working last tr into 3rd ch of beg ch-5, turn.

Row 4 (Increase row) Ch5 (counts as tr, 2 ch), tr in st at base of ch-5, follow Row 2 of Lace Stitch Patt to last st, (tr, ch2, tr) into the 3rd ch of beg ch-6, turn.

Row 5 Ch6 (counts as tr, 3 ch), skip 2 ch, tr in next tr, follow Row 1 of Lace

Stitch Pattern to last (ch2, tr), ch3, tr in 3rd ch of beg ch-5, turn. [19 (20: 21: 24: 25) sps made]

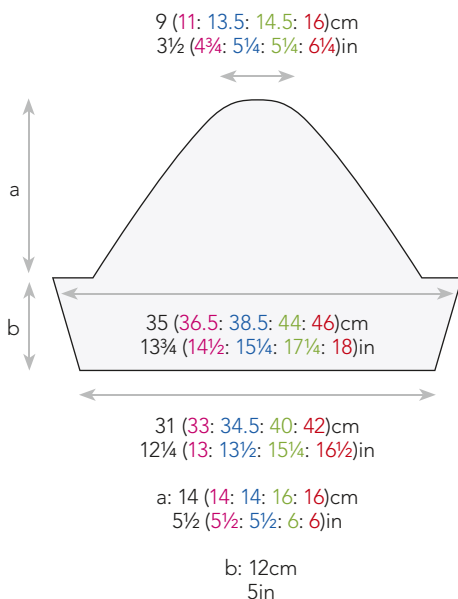
Rows 6-11 Repeat Rows 2-3 another 3 times.

SLEEVE HEAD SHAPING

Row 12 Ss into 9th (9th: 9th: 13th: 13th) st, ch4 (counts as tr, 1 ch), skip 1 ch, dc in next ch, ch2, skip 1 ch, tr in next tr, follow Row 2 of Lace Stitch Pattern until 2 (2: 2: 3: 3) tr remain unworked, turn leaving remaining sts unworked.

[15 (16: 17: 18: 19) pattern repeats]

Row 13 Ch4 (counts as tr, 1 ch), tr in next tr, follow Row 1 of Lace Stitch Pattern to last sp, ch1, tr into 3rd ch of



SIZE		8-10	12-14	16-18	20-22	24-26
SLEEVE CIRC	cm	35	36.5	38.5	44	46
	in	13¾	14½	15¼	17¼	18
SLEEVE LENGTH	cm	12	12	12	12	12
	in	5	5	5	5	5
YARN	25g	3	3	3	4	4

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

Embellish an outfit

beg ch-4, turn.

Row 14 Ch2, skip 1 ch, tr in next tr, follow Row 2 of Lace Stitch Pattern to last 3 sts, tr2tog over next tr and third ch of beg ch-4, turn. [13 (14: 15: 16: 17) pattern repeats]

Rows 15-16 Repeat Rows 13-14.

[11 (12: 13: 14: 15) pattern repeats]

Row 17 As Row 3.

Row 18 As Row 2.

Rows 19-22 Repeat Rows 13-14 twice.

[7 (8: 9: 10: 11) pattern repeats]

Row 23 As Row 3.

Row 24 As Row 2.

Row 25 Ch3 (counts as first st), skip (2 ch, dc, 2 ch), tr in next tr, follow Row 1 of Lace Stitch Pattern to last sp, skip (2 ch, dc, 2 ch), tr in 3rd ch of beg ch-5.

[5 (6: 7: 8: 9) pattern repeats]

Fasten off for first 3 sizes.

Sizes 20/22 and 24/26 only

Row 26 Ch4 (counts as tr and 1 ch), skip 1 ch, dc in next ch, ch2, skip 1 ch, tr in next tr, follow Row 2 of Lace St Patt to last sp, ch2, dc in next ch, ch1, tr in top of beg ch-3, turn. [8 (9) patt reps]

Row 27 Ch4 (counts as tr and 1 ch), skip (2 ch, dc, 2 ch), tr in next tr, follow Row 1 of Lace Stitch Pattern to last sp, ch1, skip (2 ch, dc, 1 ch), tr in 3rd ch of beg ch-4.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

EDGING

With RS facing, rejoin yarn with a ss to beg foundation ch edge.

Row 1 Ch3 (counts as first st), (tr, ch2,



tr) into first ch-3 sp, skip next st, *(tr, ch2, tr) into next ch-3 sp, skip next st; repeat from * to end, turn.

Row 2 Ch4 (counts as first st), dc into first ch-2 sp, *ch1, skip 2 tr, (dc, ch3, dc) in next ch-2 sp; repeat from * to last ch-2 sp, dc into 3rd ch of beg ch-3.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

TO MAKE UP

Carefully block work. Sew together the sleeve's underarm seam. Tack or pin each sleeve onto the T-shirt and try it on to check the fit. Sew the sleeves on

using matching thread and small stitches along the thickness of the T-shirt seam, catching in all layers.



YARN OFFER

Deramores 0800 488 0708

www.deramores.com

Deramores are offering *Simply Crochet* readers 15% off this Scheepjes Catona 4ply yarn with the discount code SCSC.

Offer valid until May 31 2016.

SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO BLOCK YOUR CROCHET PIECES



1 Check your yarn's ball band for advice on whether to dry, wet or steam block your item. To wet block, wash the item before pinning. For dry and steam blocking, pin out when dry. To pin out, lay the item flat on a towel over a blanket.



2 Using long, rust-proof pins or blocking wires, pin out to the measurements in your pattern (check the schematic for garments). Start at the corners, then move evenly around the edges. You can reposition pins if needed.



3 Place pins inside the last row or round of stitches, not in the actual stitches or you risk distorting them. Insert the pin's point towards the centre of the fabric, away from the edge, to balance out the forces involved.



4 For wet blocking, just leave to dry. To dry block, spritz with cold water and leave to dry. To steam block, hover a steaming iron over the fabric (don't touch it) until damp, then leave to dry. Once dry, you can remove the pins.



Sampler shawl



FLASH YOUR STASH

Mix colours, stripes and stitches to create this striking shawl designed by Laura Strutt.

Sampler shawl



YOU WILL NEED

- Cascade 220 (100% Peruvian Highland wool, 100g/200m), 3 skeins of:
 - Yarn A Aspen Heather (8011) 1 skein of each:
 - Yarn B Caribbean (8907)
 - Yarn C Gold (9463B)
 - Yarn D Grape Jelly (8911)
 - Yarn E Rouge Red (7801)
 - Yarn F Mineral Blue (8311)
 - A 5mm (US H/8) hook
 - Stitch marker
- For yarn stockists, contact Cascade Yarns www.cascadeyarns.com

TENSION

14 sts and 8 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in)

MEASUREMENTS

90cm (35½in) deep and 212cm (83½in) wide

ABBREVIATIONS

Puff Stitch (PS) *Yrh, insert hook into st, draw yarn through, keeping the yarn loops long; rep from * a further 5 times, yrh and draw through all loops on the hook, ch1 to close the stitch

Picot Ch3, ss in third ch from hook

For a full list, see page 92.

Designer Laura Strutt says: "Create your own sampler shawl using a variety of colours and a range of stitches. This super-sized, top-down design makes a statement piece for your wardrobe. It's the perfect design for using up odd skeins of yarn in your stash, by working with a range of different colours in the lower section and even introducing your own favourite stitches to create a shawl that is unique."

C SHAWL

Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.

Foundation row Ch4 (counts as tr and 1 ch throughout), (tr into ring, ch1) 3 times, tr into ring, turn. [9 sts]

Place a stitch marker in the central tr st.

Row 1 Ch4, tr in st at base of ch, tr in each st and ch to marked st, (ch1, tr, ch1) in marked st, moving marker up to central tr, tr in each st and ch to last st, (tr, ch1, tr) in third ch of beg ch-4. [11 sts]

Rows 2-34 As Row 1, increasing by 6 sts each row. [209 sts after Row 34] Change to Yarn B.

Row 35 Ch4, tr in st at base of ch, tr in ch-sp, *skip 1 st, ch1, tr in next st; rep from * to st before marked st, tr in next ch-sp, (ch1, tr, ch1) in marked st, move marker up, tr in next ch-sp, tr in next st, **skip 1 st, ch1, tr in next st**; rep from * to last st, (tr, ch1, tr) in last st, turn. Change to Yarn A.

Row 36 As Row 1.

Rows 37-42 Repeat the last 2 rows, using the following colour sequence for each row: Yarn C, Yarn A, Yarn D, Yarn A, Yarn E, Yarn A.

Row 43 Continue in Yarn A and work as Row 1.

Rows 44-47 Work as Row 1, using the following colour sequence for each row: Yarn B, Yarn C, Yarn D, Yarn E. Change to Yarn B.

Row 48 Ch4, tr in st at base of ch, tr in next ch-sp, *PS in next st, ch1, skip next st; rep from * to st before ch-sp, PS in next st, tr in ch-sp, (ch1, tr, ch1) in marked st, move marker up, tr in ch-sp, PS in next st, **ch1, skip next st, PS in next st; rep from ** to last ch-sp, tr in ch-sp, (tr, ch1, tr) in last st, turn. Change to Yarn C.

Row 49 As Row 1.

Row 50 Change to Yarn D, work as Row 48.

Row 51 Change to Yarn E, work as



The vibrant textured stripes are balanced out with a cool, pale grey and a picot edging.

Row 1.

Row 52 Change to Yarn A, work as Row 35.

Row 53 Change to Yarn B, work as Row 1.

Row 54 Change to Yarn C, work as Row 48.

Row 55 Change to Yarn D, work as Row 1.

Row 56 Change to Yarn E, work as Row 48.

Row 57 Change to Yarn A, work as Row 1.

EDGING

The edging is worked in a continuous round along all sides of shawl as follows:

Round 1 (RS) Change to Yarn F, ch1 (does not count as st), (dc, ch1, dc) in first st, dc in each st to marker, (dc, ch1, dc) in marked st, move marker up, dc in each st to last st, (dc, ch1, dc) in last st, now continue working 2dc in each tr along upper edge, ss to first st.

Round 2 *Ch3, ss in third ch from hook (picot made), skip next st, dc in next st; rep from * around the entire shawl, join with a ss to first st. **Fasten off.**

TO FINISH

Weave in ends.

Block to measurements, paying close attention to the picot edging and gently pulling the points into shape.



This pretty crochet shawl project is from the book *Modern Crocheted Shawls & Wraps* by Laura Strutt, published by Cico Books (RRP £12.99). Visit www.rylandpeters.com to order a copy today.





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Sara

Editor, *Simply Crochet*

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Bright bag



FRILL AND FANCY

Spruce up your spring wardrobe with this cheerful stripy bag designed by Deborah Stuart.

Bright bag



YOU WILL NEED

- DROPS Muskat (100% cotton, 50g/100m), 1 ball of each:
Yarn A Apple Green (53)
Yarn B Old Pink (29)
Yarn C Blue (15)
Yarn D Light Yellow (07)
Yarn E Heather (39)
- A 3.75mm (US F/5) hook
(use a 3.5mm if you don't have 3.75mm)
- Reusable large loop bag handle attachment (optional)
- Toning fabric (the sample shown used 2 fat quarters, 100% cotton (optional))
- Sewing needle and thread (optional)

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

MEASUREMENTS

33x25cm (13x9¾in) for the
crochet section when laid flat

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

Designer Deborah Stuart says:
"This colourful lined bag has a real vintage vibe and will hold all of your essentials with style." We love the quirky, off-centre clasp on the bag handle and the mix of vibrant colours. Dig into your stash to find five bright shades of DK yarn, or hit the yarn stores and pick up something new. Accessories are great for experimenting with colour.

NOTES

The bag is worked in the round for the main section then divided towards the top to allow for the fitting on the handle and frame.

Strand yarns loosely up the side of the bag when changing colour, without fastening off, and make the ss join of the previous round with the new colour each time.

C MAIN SECTION

With Yarn A, ch156, ss to first ch to join into a ring, being careful not to twist.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), dc into first ch, *skip 2 ch, (tr, ch1, tr, ch1, tr) into next ch, skip 2 ch, dc into next ch; repeat from * to last 5 ch, skip 2 ch, (tr, ch1, tr, ch1, tr) into next ch, skip 2 ch, ss to first dc, change to Yarn B. [26 diamonds]

Round 2 Ch4 (counts as tr, ch1), tr into st at base of ch-4, skip 2 sts, *dc into centre tr of next diamond, skip 2 sts, (tr, ch1, tr, ch1, tr) into next dc, skip 2 sts; repeat from * until dc has been worked in last diamond, (tr, ch1) into base of first st, ss to 3rd ch of beg ch-4, change to Yarn C.

Round 3 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc into first st, *skip 2 sts, (tr, ch1, tr, ch1, tr) into next dc, skip 2 sts, dc into next st; repeat from * to last 2 sts, omitting final dc, ss to first dc, change to Yarn D.

Round 4 As Round 2, change to Yarn E.
Round 5 As Round 3, change to Yarn A.

Continue repeating Rounds 2 and 3, and working through the colour sequence of Yarns A-E, until there are a total of 25 rounds.

DIVIDED SECTION (WORK IN ROWS)

Maintaining the yarn colour sequence as already established, divide for the opening as follows:

Row 1 (RS) Ch4 (counts as dtr), *tr into next 5 sts of diamond, dtr into next dc;



It's all in the detail – a dotty ruffle along the top edge of the bag adds feminine flounce.



The bright cotton lining gives a slick finish and will make your bag much sturdier.

repeat from * until 78 sts have been worked in total, turn, leaving remaining sts unworked.

Rows 2-5 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr into each st to end, turn.

Fasten off.

Rejoin yarn and work the other side of the divide in the same way.

Fasten off and weave in all ends.

TO FINISH

Block the bag flat, with the join at one side edge. Join the bottom edge.

Cut two strips of fabric, each measuring 10cm wide plus seam allowances, and twice the width of the bag.

Make a tube from each strip, finishing the raw ends, and press flat.

Sew another line of stitching through both layers of fabric near to the bottom edge to make a casing wide enough to take the bag handle, then fit the handles.

If you wish, you can line the main bag with contrasting fabric and sew in place before attaching the handle lining inside the bag opening.

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PETIT FOURS

Treat a little lady to Lisa Naskrent's colourful, cupcake-inspired dress. Truly scrumptious.



Don't you think the stripes on this mini frock look a bit like yummy layers of sponge and jam? And those tiny bright buttons have got to be rainbow sprinkles. The tasty treats don't stop there either – the texture in the main body of the dress is created with pretty popcorn stitches. Not tried them before? Give it a go, you'll soon get the hang of it.

Crochet designer Lisa Naskrent's almost-good-enough-to-eat dress is sized to fit children from under 12 months up to five years. What a fine confection. Raid your button stash and start stitching today.



Child's dress



YOU WILL NEED

- Schachenmayr Catania Denim (100% cotton, 50g/125m), Yarn A Natural (102) (see table for quantities of Yarn A and measurements)
- 1 ball of each: Yarn B Pink (135), Yarn C Tangerine (124)
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- A 4.5mm (US 7) hook
- Button, approx 1cm (½in) in diameter, for back
- Mini buttons, 25-35, each approx 5mm (¼in) in diameter
- Stitch marker

For yarn stockists, contact LoveCrochet 0845 544 2196 www.lovecrochet.com

TENSION

18 sts and 20 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over double crochet using a 4mm hook or size needed to obtain correct tension. Row tension is less critical than stitch tension, as all lengths are given as measurements.

ABBREVIATIONS

Chain 2 Loop (Ch2-lp) (dc, ch2, dc) in space indicated

Popcorn (pc) 5dc in st indicated, drop loop from hook, insert hook in first dc (from front to back), and pull dropped loop through

For a full list, see page 92

NOTES

The Underarm Band that runs around the chest is worked first, top down. The ends of the band are overlapped, and another row is worked around the bottom to join.

The Body is worked top down from the band, using a larger hook. The yarn is then rejoined to the foundation ch of the Underarm Band to work the Top Panel and the Straps from the bottom up. Edgings are added to the neckline and armholes.

Finally, the button is sewn to the back opening and the front is embellished with mini buttons. Take note of the possible choking hazard of using smaller buttons on a garment for very young children. You could use surface crochet details, embroidery or ribbons as possible alternatives.

C UNDERARM BAND

With a 4mm hook and Yarn A, ch86 (90: 94: 98: 102: 106: 110).

Row 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook and in each ch across, turn. [85 (89: 93: 97: 101: 105: 109) sts]

Row 2 (buttonhole row) Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in each of first 2 dc, ch1, skip next dc, dc in next dc and in each dc across, turn.

Row 3 Ch1, dc in each st and ch across, turn.

Row 4 Ch1, dc in each st across, turn. Work a further 2 (4: 4: 6: 6: 8: 8) rows as Row 4.

JOINING UNDERARM BAND

Round 1 (RS) With RS facing, overlap first 5 sts and last 5 sts so that buttonhole is on the outside, ch1,

working through both layers together: dc in each of next 5 dc; working in a single layer: dc in each dc around, ss to first dc, turn.

[80 (84: 88: 92: 96: 100: 104) sts]

Round 2 Ch1, dc in each st around, ss to first dc, turn.

BODY

Change to a 4.5mm hook, or one size larger than you have used for the Underarm Band if you have changed your hook size for tension.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1, *ch2-lp in next dc, skip next dc; rep from * around, ss to first dc, do not turn.

[40 (42: 44: 46: 48: 50: 52) ch2-lps]

Round 2 (RS) Ch1, *pc in next ch2-lp, ch1, ch2-lp in next ch2-lp; rep from * around, ss to first pc, turn.

[20 (21: 22: 23: 24: 25: 26) ch2-lps, 20 (21: 22: 23: 24: 25: 26) pc]

Round 3 (WS) Ch1, *ch2-lp in next ch2-lp, ch2-lp in next pc; rep from * around, ss to first dc, turn. [40 (42: 44: 46: 48: 50: 52) ch2-lps]

Round 4 (RS) Ch1, *ch2-lp in next ch2-lp, pc in next ch2-lp ch1; rep from * around, ss to first dc, turn.

[20 (21: 22: 23: 24: 25: 26) ch2-lps, 20 (21: 22: 23: 24: 25: 26) pc]

Round 5 (WS) Ch1, *3dc in next pc, 3dc in next ch2-lp; rep from * around, ss to first dc changing to Yarn B (Note: When repeating this round, change to Yarn C instead, and continue alternating these colours on each repeat), turn.

[120 (126: 132: 138: 144: 150: 156) dc]

In the following round, increase by working 2dc into the same st. If you would like the dress to flare more, you

SIZE		Up to 12 Mnth	Up to 18 Mnth	Up to 24 Mnth	2 Years	3 Years	4 Years	5 Years
TO FIT CHEST	cm	45.5	48	50.5	53	55	58.5	61
	in	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
ACTUAL CHEST	cm	47	49	52	54	56	58	61
	in	18½	19½	20¼	21¼	22	23	23¾
LENGTH	cm	39	43	43	46	48	52	56
	in	15¼	16¾	16¾	18	19	20½	21¾
YARN A	50g	5	5	5	6	7	7	8

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

can work 12 increases instead of 6, but bear in mind that your yarn quantities may differ from those stated:

Round 6 (RS) Ch1, dc around working 6 increases [increase every 20 (21: 22: 23: 24: 25: 26) sts], ss to first dc changing to Yarn A, turn.

[126 (132: 138: 144: 150: 156: 162) dc]

Round 7 (WS) Ch1, *ch2-lp in next dc, skip next 2 dc; rep from * around, ss to first dc, turn.

[42 (44: 46: 48: 50: 52: 54) ch2-lps]

Repeat Rounds 2-7 until dress measures 30 (33: 33: 35: 38: 40: 43)cm or as desired from top of Band, ending on a Round 7 or Round 3.

Fasten off.

BOTTOM DRESS EDGING

With a 4.5mm hook (or size used for Body) and Yarn B:

Round 1 (RS) With RS facing, join to any ch2-lp on back of dress, ch1, dc in same ch2-lp, 5 tr in next ch2-lp, *dc in next ch2-lp, 5tr in next ch2-lp; rep from * around, ss to first dc.

Fasten off.

TOP PANEL

Work colours in this order: Yarn B, Yarn A, Yarn C.

With a 4mm hook (or size used for Underarm Panel) and Yarn B:

Row 1 (RS) With RS facing, skip first 26 (26: 28: 30: 31: 31: 32) sts of foundation ch, attach yarn with ss to next st, ch1, dc in same st and in each of next 31 (35: 35: 35: 37: 41: 43) sts, turn changing to Yarn A leaving remaining 27 (27: 29: 31: 32: 32: 33) dc unworked.

[32 (36: 36: 36: 38: 42: 44) dc]

Row 2 Ch1, skip first dc, dc in next dc and in each dc to last 2 dc, dc2tog, turn changing to next colour.

[30 (34: 34: 34: 36: 40: 42) dc]

Work a further 5 (7: 7: 7: 10: 10) rows as Row 2. [20 (20: 20: 20: 22: 20: 22) dc]

Fasten off.

FIRST STRAP

With a 4mm hook (or size used for Underarm Panel) and RS of dress facing, attach Yarn A with a ss to first dc of Top Panel.

Row 1 (RS) Ch1, dc in first dc, pc in next dc, ch1, dc in next dc, turn.

Row 2 Ch1, dc in first dc, dc in next pc, dc in next dc, turn.

Rep Rows 1-2 until Strap measures



9.5 (10: 10: 11.5: 11.5: 11.5: 12.5)cm or as long as desired, ending on any row.

Fasten off. Whipstitch end of strap to free loops on back of dress.

SECOND STRAP

With a 4mm hook (or size used for Underarm Panel) and RS of dress facing, attach Yarn A with a ss to first of last 3 dc of Top Panel.

Work as for First Strap.

ARMHOLE EDGING

With a 4mm hook (or size used for Underarm Panel) and RS of dress facing:

Round 1 (RS) Join Yarn A with a ss to any stitch near underarm, ch1, dc evenly around armhole by working into stitches and row edges of Top Panel and Strap, ss to first dc. **Fasten off.**

NECKLINE EDGING

With a 4mm hook (or size used for Underarm Panel) and RS of dress facing:

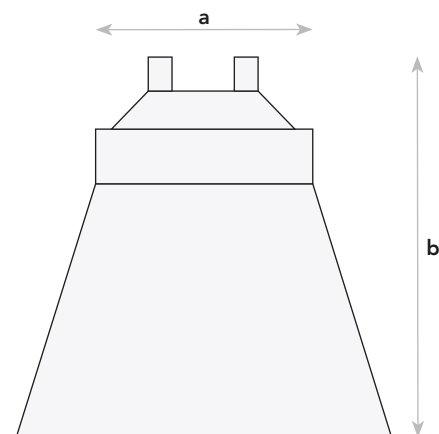
Row 1 (RS) Join Yarn A with a ss to the first free st of the foundation ch on top-back corner of dress, ch1, dc in each st of foundation ch, dc evenly in row

edges of straps, in sts across Top Panel and across last sts of the foundation ch to other top-back corner.

Fasten off.

TO FINISH

Weave in loose ends. Sew buttons or other embellishments to front of dress. Sew larger button to back of dress.



a: 24 (25: 26: 27: 28: 29: 30)cm
9¼ (9¾: 10: 10½: 11: 11½: 12)in

b: 39 (43: 43: 46: 48: 52: 56)cm
15¼ (16¾: 16¾: 18: 19: 20½: 21¾)in

"Once I got the hang of crochet, I was unstoppable."



INFLUENCED BY THE SEASONS

Maaike van Koert creates crochet accessories inspired by her surroundings, the seasons and her family life, with beautiful results. We find out more.

Motherhood has been on Maaike van Koert's mind a lot recently, following the arrival of her baby girl Annabel. It's a factor that's resulted in a multitude of infant makes. However, it was Maaike's own childhood that enticed her to sample yarn crafts for the first time.

"In 2009, my aunt came to visit me and she requested we visit a yarn shop. We visited De Afstap in Amsterdam and I fell in love with their gorgeous rainbows of yarn. They reminded me of the pencil boxes from my youth!"

Before long, Maaike had mastered knitting and a friend and colleague who suggested she take a crochet course with

them. "At first I was hesitant, content with my knitting ability. However, they talked me into it and actually it was a bit of a disaster," she remembers. "I'm a leftie and it took me three weeks of lessons, plus lots of frustration and determination, to get a row of double crochet. But once I got the hang of it, I was unstoppable. My commutes were no longer spent sleeping, but crocheting!"

The portability of crochet enabled Maaike to develop her new skills. "I started designing my own squares on the train, since it was so easy to tuck some yarn and a hook away in my purse."

The first crochet item Maaike made was a baby blanket for the colleague who

dragged her to the crochet class, and happened to be pregnant at the time. "I've been making blankets ever since. There's always a minimum of three blankets on the go in my house."

Before long, this addiction led to other homewares. "Well, blankets need matching cushions. And then there's the seasons – I love the change of seasons and find it very inspirational. I love to incorporate some of the seasonal changes into our interior, and our ever-changing cushion covers are part of that."

CULTURAL COLOUR PALETTES

The seasons and scenery are a constant template in Maaike's workbox, and



became a huge influence when she and her husband moved to Canada in 2011. "I travelled quite a lot while living in Toronto," she comments. "The colour palette in North America is different from the European one, so I started to make combinations that never would have occurred to me when living in Europe. The Miami Beach baby blanket is the perfect example of this – inspired by the colours of local architecture and of the ocean."

Living in Canada brought about other changes, too, not least a career shift from strategic consultant to designer and blogger. "Looking back, that definitely was a leap, although when it happened it seemed so natural," she comments. "In the two years before we moved to Canada, my health was tested. Within three months, I was diagnosed with Diabetes Type 1 and a melanoma. First there was shock, then survival mode, then the successful removal of the melanoma and well-regulated blood sugar."

The upshot of this was that her arrival in Canada coincided with a need for a lifestyle change. "While settling in and exploring the country with my husband, I was applying for consultancy jobs," she says. "After months of no success, I started to lose motivation. I continued blogging, though, and while I crocheted my heart out, all of a sudden I got multiple requests for my patterns in one week. That was a sign to me. I started to look into opening a shop on Etsy and a couple of months later, it happened. My blanket designs have been selling since that day."

The blog that opened up these possibilities is www.crejjtion.com and

began as a means of Maaïke sharing her makes with the wider world. "On a rainy afternoon in August 2010, I went online and signed up at Blogspot," says Maaïke, "creJJtion is a combination of creation and JJ, pronounced as yay-yay in Dutch; the nickname my brother gave me when he was little and couldn't pronounce Maaïke. The blog allowed me to connect

with fellow yarn lovers and bloggers, and share my ideas. I wasn't the only one loving this 'granny' thing!"

"THERE'S ALWAYS A MINIMUM OF ABOUT THREE CROCHET BLANKETS ON THE GO IN MY HOUSE."

THE CHALLENGES OF FREEDOM

Turning the blog into a full-time job meant changing her mindset about it. "The most challenging thing was to give up on security, while having so much freedom!" she admits. "I had to ask myself: what do I do today, next week, next month? The most enjoyable thing then and today is that same freedom," she says. "I plan my own time, I can enjoy a beautiful day outside then work at night, or do a regular nine-to-five day if I prefer. Being diabetic and having a dog and a baby girl with me in the house, I do tend

to work according to a schedule now, though. Evenings and weekends is when I get most work done, uninterrupted."

While living in Canada, Maaïke discovered a huge range of different yarn choices. "My time there taught me to appreciate hand-dyed and locally produced yarns," she says. "I fell for natural fibres like cotton, wool, bamboo and linen. I also prefer my projects to be yarn efficient with as few leftovers as possible. When you work with beautiful yarns, they're often in the higher price range. They're worth it, but I don't want to feel as if I'm wasting them!"

Her designs caught the attention of Dutch publisher Kosmos. "My friend Annemarie from Annemarie's Crochet Blog introduced me to them," she says. "We started working on *Puur Haken* right away. Now my second book *Hollands Welgaren*, published by Edicola, is out. It's a collaboration with Dutch magazine *Landleven*. The aim was to inspire creative moments: crocheting, knitting, sewing and a couple of recipes. Because we all want to sit down for a moment with some yarn, enjoying our cup of tea or coffee, and some delicious cake. Right?"

Interview by Judy Darley



A FEW OF HER FAVOURITE THINGS

"If you had asked me about my favourite pastimes a year ago I would probably have said something like travel, walk the dog, chat with friends or read magazines. But today the answer is very simple: hug and play with my baby girl Annabel. She makes working from home a big

challenge but all the more fun. She is often the subject of my design these days, so hugging and crocheting or fitting go together. Don't worry, we still travel, walk the dog and see friends though!" You can find Maaïke at www.crejjtion.com and follow her on Instagram @creJJtion

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PUFF STITCH

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



BASIC PUFF STITCH PATTERN

Puff stitch (Yrh, insert hook in stitch, yrh, pull up a loop to the height of a htr) 3 times working into the same stitch as indicated, yrh, pull through all loops on hook.

Ch multiple of 2 + 1.

Foundation row (WS) Ch1 (does not count as a st throughout), dc in second

ch from hook, *ch1, skip next ch, dc in next ch; repeat from * to end, turn.

Row 1 (RS) Ch2 (counts as htr throughout), *puff stitch into next ch-sp, ch1, skip next dc; repeat from * to last ch-sp, puff stitch into last ch-sp, htr in last dc, turn.

Row 2 Ch1, dc in htr, *ch1, skip next st, dc in next ch-sp, repeat from * to end, working last dc into second ch of beg

ch-2, turn.

Rows 1 and 2 make up Basic Puff Stitch Pattern. Repeat Rows 1-2, as instructed in each pattern.

Patterns by Louise Smith.

Turn the page for more creative ideas using this stitch pattern.



Get touchy-feely and embrace scrummy puff stitch texture with this stylish trio of practical makes.



The jazziest journal you ever did see, right? Work those puff stitch stripes.



This mini make will help grow your confidence with zips and linings, too.

TEXTURED TOTE BAG

Fab for shopping or your latest WIP.

- Lang Yarns Merino+ (100% merino wool, 50g/90m), 1 ball of each: green (0297), pink (0185), purple (0280), blue (0074), grey (0223)
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- Fabric for lining (optional)

MEASUREMENTS

29x34cm (11½x13½in)

TOTE SIDE (MAKE TWO)

Change colour on last yrh of prev st. Using blue, ch49.

Foundation row (WS) Work as given for foundation row in Basic Puff St Pattern. [49 sts]

Rows 1-40 Work in Basic Puff St Pattern, changing colour every two rows and using this sequence: blue, purple, green, pink. Change to grey on last yrh of last st of Row 40 to work handle.

Row 41 Using grey, ch1, dc in each ch-sp and dc across, turn. [49 dc]

Rows 42-43 Ch1, dc in each st across, turn.

Row 44 Ch1, dc in each of next 15 sts, ch19, skip 19 sts, dc in each of next 15 sts, turn.

Rows 45-48 Ch1, dc in each st across, turn. **Fasten off** and weave in ends. With right sides facing, sew the two sides together. Line with fabric, if desired. Turn right way out.

BOBBLY BOOK COVER

Give a notebook the DIY treatment.

- Lang Yarns Merino+ (100% merino wool, 50g/90m), 1 ball of each: purple (0280), blue (0074), grey (0223)
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook

MEASUREMENTS

22x33cm (8½x13in) laid flat

COVER

Change colour on last yrh of prev st. Using blue, ch55.

Foundation row (WS) Work as given for foundation row in Basic Puff St Pattern. [55 sts]

Rows 1-28 Work in Basic Puff St Pattern, using grey for every Row 1, alternating between purple and blue for each Row 2 (work first Row 2 in purple, then next Row 2 in blue). Row 28 should be worked in blue. Do not fasten off.

JOINING FLAP

Using blue, rotate piece to work down short side edge.

Row 1 Ch1, dc evenly down short edge, working 2dc in each puff st row end and 1dc into each dc row end, turn. [43 dc]

Rows 2-13 Ch1, dc in each dc to end, turn. **Fasten off.** Fold flap to WS at Row 1 and sew short sides to first and last rows of main piece.

Rejoin blue to other short side and rep as above. Weave in ends.

PRETTY PUFF PURSE

Store your pennies in stichy style.

- Lang Yarns Merino+ (100% merino wool, 50g/90m), small amounts of green (0297), pink (0185), grey (0223)
- For yarn stockists, contact Art Yarns 01529 240510 www.art yarn.co.uk
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- Fabric for lining (optional)
- Zip, 10cm (4in) long

MEASUREMENTS

11x10cm (4¼x4in)

PURSE SIDE (MAKE TWO)

Change colour on last yrh of prev st. Using grey, ch19.

Foundation row (WS) Work as given for foundation row in Basic Puff St Pattern. [19 sts]

Row 1 (RS) Starting with pink, work as for Row 1 of Basic Puff St Pattern, alternating each puff st between pink and green.

Row 2 Using grey, work as for Row 2 of Basic Puff St Pattern.

Rows 3-10 Rep Rows 1-2.

Row 11 Using grey, ch1, dc in each dc and ch-sp to end. [19 dc]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

With right sides facing, sew the two sides together down one side, across bottom and up other side. Sew zip in place at top. Line with fabric, if desired. Turn right way out.

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SHOW US YOURS!

Join our gang of Treble Makers and share your thoughts and makes with us, for a chance to be featured here.



LITTLE BOOTS

Reader Lorraine Crossen made these super-cute booties from *Simply Crochet* issue 41. Hasn't she done a cracking job on those tricky post stitches? Shared with us via Facebook.

This month we asked you...

Tell us which is your favourite yarn or craft show and why?

"Many years ago I went to the Stitches & Craft show in Melbourne, Australia. It was amazing – wish I had unlimited money (and space) for everything I wanted to buy! Would love to go again one year."

Bec Brown via Facebook

WE HEART IT

ElizabethMH shared this project on our Ravelry group page – it's a beauty! She hooked it with issue 40's heart hoop kit. Doesn't it look stunning with light shining through it?



Keen stitcher Andrea Bridge says: "My mini version of the Blooming Cushion from issue 32. Spring has sprung!" We're big fans of Andrea's choice of cheery, sunshine shades and that contrasting leaf green. It's a gorgeous project. Via Twitter.

THE LOWDOWN It's simple to be in with a chance of winning one of three great prizes next issue! Show us your *Simply Crochet* makes on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or via email or post by 26 May 2016. For all terms and conditions, and more information, visit www.simplycrochetmag.co.uk/competitionrules



@SIMPLY CROCHET



WINNER!

TERRIFIC TEDDY

Creative hookster Suzanne Borse shared this sweet make with us on Facebook, saying: "Just finished the bear in issue 37 for an upcoming baby shower! It was easy and super fun!" We really like his pastel stripes and bright jumper. This ted looks like he's going to be well-loved. Missed this issue? See page 86 for info on our *Simply Crochet* back issues.



ADORABLE AMIGURUMI

Nina Camilleri did herself proud with her version of the Moochi Kitten from issue 36. Via Facebook.



WINNER!

DOUBLE TAP

We've been double tapping on Instagram and admiring your makes. Tag us @simplycrochetmag and use the hashtag #SCtreblemaker.



PERFECT PAIR

So cute! This otter duo from *Simply Crochet* issue 40 is so spot on. They even have different facial expressions. By @debgar85.



GRANNY COOL

@bamcrafts crocheted the rainbow blanket from issue 30 while she was pregnant with her daughter. Look at them both now!



CABLE HAPPY

@lila_giraffe_ used a bold blue yarn to make her cable headband from issue 40 and it looks fantastic. Hooray for cable texture.

TALK TO US!

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-  Tweet us @SimplyCrochet_ twitter.com/SimplyCrochet_
-  Add to our Finished Projects board ravelry.com/groups/simply-crochet
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Write to us at: *Simply Crochet*, Immediate Media Co, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN

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BYZANTIUM BEAU

Show off a stunning yarn with this lace accessory by Annelies Baes.



Lacy shawl



YOU WILL NEED

■ Malabrigo Sock (100% merino wool, 100g/402m), 2 skeins of Azules (856)

■ A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook

For yarn stockists, contact LoveCrochet 0845 544 2196 www.lovecrochet.com

TENSION

The first 8 rows of the shawl make a semicircle measuring 27x10cm (10½x4in)

Tension is not critical, but will affect yarn quantities and finished dimensions (see note below)

MEASUREMENTS

The shawl forms a circle of 90cm diameter (35½in) when laid flat.

ABBREVIATIONS

Cluster St (Cl) (3-dtr cluster, ch3, 3-dtr cluster, ch3, 3-dtr cluster) in same sp

Dc ch-sp Worked into the Cl of the previous row: (dc in first ch-sp of Cl, ch5, dc in second ch-sp of cl)

Increase st Work (tr, ch5, tr) into the same st

3-dtr cluster *Yrh twice, insert hook in space/st indicated, yrh and pull up loop, (yrh and draw through 2 loops) twice; rep from * twice more, inserting the hook in the same space/st each time, yrh and draw through all loops on hook

Picot Ch3, dc in first of those ch

For a full list, see page 92.

This crescent-shaped shawl is a real show-stopper. Got some extra special skeins of 4ply lurking in your stash? Whip up one of these. It drapes wonderfully and the elegant lace is broken up with rows of solid trebles that add structure to the design.

NOTES

Two skeins of yarn should be just enough to complete the shawl at the same tension as stated, but you might find that you need to finish with Row 36 instead of Row 38 if your tension is slightly different. If finishing on Row 36, work the pattern as for Row 8 but replace every ch-sp with a Picot. Visit www.simplycrochetmag.com for a chart to help you crochet the shawl.

SHAWL

Make a magic loop.

Row 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as first tr throughout), 9tr into loop, turn. [10 tr]

Row 2 Ch3, tr in st at base of ch, 2tr in each st to end, turn. [20 tr]

Row 3 Ch3, tr in st at base of ch, tr in next tr, *2tr in next st, tr in next st; repeat from * to end, turn. [30 tr]

Row 4 As Row 3. [45 tr]

Row 5 Ch7 (counts as dtr, ch3), dc in st



A good blocking when you've finished is the best way to make your lacy stitches shine.

at base of ch, *ch5, skip 3 tr, dc in next tr, ch3, skip next tr, tr in next tr, ch3, skip next tr, dc in next tr; rep from * to last 5 sts, ch5, (dc, ch3, dtr) in top of beg ch-3, turn. [6 ch-5 sps, 5 tr]

Row 6 Ch6 (counts as dtr, ch2), (Cl, ch1) in each ch-5 sp, (dtr, ch1) in each tr to end, (ch1, dtr) in fourth ch of beg ch-7, turn. [6 Cl, 7 dtr]

Place a stitch marker in the fourth dtr of Row 6 – this is the central stitch.

Row 7 Ch7 (counts as dtr, ch3), tr in st at base of ch, (Dc ch-sp, ch3) in each Cl, (tr, ch3) in each dtr, working an Increase st in marked dtr and (tr, ch3, dtr) in fourth ch of beg ch-6, turn. [7 ch-5 sps, 8 tr]



Row 8 Ch6 (counts as dtr, ch2), 3-dtr cluster in first ch-3 sp, ch1, (dtr, ch1) in each tr, (Cl, ch1) in each ch-5 sp to last ch-7 sp, 3-dtr cluster in ch-7 sp, ch2, dtr in fourth ch of beg ch-7, turn. [7 Cl, 10 dtr]

Row 9 Ch8 (counts as dtr, ch4), dc in first ch-2 sp, ch3, (tr, ch3) in each dtr, (Dc ch-sp, ch3) in each Cl to last ch-6 sp, dc in ch-6 sp, ch4, dtr in fourth ch of beg ch-6, turn.

Row 10 Ch7 (counts as dtr, ch3), (3-dtr cluster, ch3, 3-dtr cluster) in first ch-4 sp, ch1, (dtr, ch1) in each tr, (Cl, ch1) in each ch-5 sp to last ch-8 sp, (3-dtr cluster, ch3, 3-dtr cluster) in ch-8 sp, ch3, dtr in fourth ch of beg ch-8, turn. [7 Cl, 10 dtr]

Place markers in the 5th and 6th dtr of Row 10.

Row 11 Ch7 (counts as dtr, ch3), dc in first ch-3 sp, ch5, dc in next ch-3 sp, ch3, (tr, ch3) in each dtr, (Dc ch-sp, ch3) in each Cl until first marker, (Increase St, ch3) in marked st, (Dc ch-sp, ch3) in next Cl, (Increase St, ch3) in next marked st, cont in patt as set until last Cl of the previous row has been worked, tr in next dtr, ch3, dc in next ch-3 sp, ch5, dc in ch-7 sp, ch3, tr in fourth ch of beg ch-7, turn.

Row 12 Ch7 (counts as dtr, ch3), (Cl, ch1) in each ch-5 sp, (dtr, ch1) in each tr to end, ch3, dtr in fourth ch of beg ch-7, turn.

Row 13 As Row 7 without the Increase St: Ch7 (counts as dtr, ch3), tr in st at base of ch, (Dc ch-sp, ch3) in each Cl, (tr, ch3) in each dtr, (tr, ch3, dtr) in fourth ch of beg ch-6, turn.

NEXT TREBLE ROWS

Row 14 Ch3, tr in st at base of ch, work 3tr in every ch-3 sp, 5tr in every ch-5 sp, and a tr in each dc or tr until the last ch-7 sp; work a tr in each of the first 3 ch of the beg ch-7 sp, and 2tr in the top of the fourth ch, turn. [165 tr]

Row 15 Ch3, 2tr in st at base of ch, tr in next tr, 2tr in next tr, (31tr, 2tr in next tr) 5 times, tr in next tr, 3tr in top of beg ch-3, turn. [175 tr]

Row 16 Ch3, 2tr in st at base of ch, tr in next tr, 2tr in next tr, (33tr, 2tr in next tr) 5 times, tr in next tr, 3tr in top of beg ch-3, turn. [185 tr]

Row 17 Ch3, 2tr in st at base of ch, tr in next tr, 2tr in next tr, (35tr, 2tr in next tr) 5 times, tr in next tr, 3tr in top of beg



ch-3, turn. [195 tr]

Row 18 Ch3, 2tr in st at base of ch, tr in next tr, 2tr in next tr, (37tr, 2tr in next tr) 5 times, tr in next tr, 3tr in top of beg ch-3, turn. [205 tr]

Row 19 As Row 5. [26 ch-5 sps, 25 tr]

Row 20 As Row 6. [26 Cl, 27 dtr]
Place a stitch marker in the central st of Row 20, which will be the 14th dtr.

Row 21 As Row 7, working an Increase St in the marked dtr. [27 ch-5 sps]

Rows 22-24 As Rows 8-10.

Row 25 As Row 11, but without the increases: Ch7 (counts as dtr, ch3), dc in first ch-3 sp, ch5, dc in next ch-3 sp, ch3, (tr, ch3) in each dtr, (Dc ch-sp, ch3) in each Cl until last Cl has been worked, tr in next dtr, ch3, dc in next ch-3 sp, ch5, dc in ch-7 sp, ch3, tr in fourth ch of beg ch-7, turn. [29 ch-5 sps]

Rows 26-27 As Rows 12-13.

NEXT TREBLE ROWS

Row 28 As Row 14. [417 tr]

Row 29 Ch3, 2tr in st at base of ch, tr in each st to last st, 3tr in top of beg ch-3, turn. [421 tr]

Row 30 Ch3, 2tr in st at base of ch, 3tr in next st, tr in each st to last 2 sts, 3tr in next st, 3tr in top of beg ch-3, turn. [429 sts]

Rows 31-32 As Row 30. [445 tr after Row 32]

Row 33 As Row 5. [56 ch-5 sps]

Row 34 As Row 6.

Row 35 As Row 7 without increases:

Ch7 (counts as dtr, ch3), tr in st at base of ch, (Dc ch-sp, ch3) in each Cl, (tr, ch3) in each dtr, (tr, ch3, dtr) in fourth ch of beg ch-6, turn. [56 ch-5 sps]

Rows 36-37 As Rows 8-9.

Row 38 As Row 10, but replacing every ch-sp with a Picot, so the beginning of the row will be (ch4, Picot) to replace the ch-7. **Fasten off** and weave in ends

TO FINISH

Block shawl to measurements.



COTTON YARNS

Cool fibres for your spring and summer makes.

DIAMOND MOTIF

Ch5, ss to first ch to form a ring.

Round 1 (R5) Ch3 (counts as tr), working into ring: 2tr, ch1, 3tr, ch3, 3tr, ch1, 3tr, ch3, ss to top of beg ch-3.

Round 2 Ch3 (counts as tr), 2tr, 2dtr in ch-1 sp, 3tr, (3tr, ch3, 3tr) in ch-3 sp, 3tr, 2dtr in ch-1 sp, 3tr, (3tr, ch3, 3tr) in ch-3 sp, ss to top of beg ch-3.

Fasten off and weave in ends.



ADD A TAIL TO
YOUR DIAMOND TO
MAKE A TINY KITE



SCHEEPJES SUNKISSED

WEIGHT 4ply
CONTENT 100% cotton
BALL 50g/170m
HOOK 3mm
RRP £2.49



Sunkissed by Scheepjes is the ultimate cotton for summer stitching. It's a crisp, tightly twisted 4ply yarn that provides excellent stitch definition. Our favourite thing about this yarn, though, is the amazing colour effect. Sunkissed is dyed with subtle

tonal variations throughout, giving it a hand-dyed look. There are 22 lively shades to choose from. If lacy tops or accessories are on your to-hook list for the warmer months, give this yarn a go. www.deramores.com
0845 519 4573

KING COLE GIZA

WEIGHT 4ply
CONTENT 100% Giza mercerised cotton
BALL 50g/158m
HOOK 3mm
RRP £5.05



There's something special about Giza, King Cole's cotton 4ply. The mercerised Egyptian cotton is fine, has a brilliant sheen and a luxurious feel. The cotton is grown in Giza and what's unusual is that the purity of the soil there results in fantastic

clarity in each of the 15 solid colourways. There are brights and neutrals to experiment with. Giza would be great for hooking cute amigurumi or a motif shawl. This yarn is also available in a DK weight. www.kingcole.com
01756 703670

SIRDAR COTTON PRINTS DK

WEIGHT DK
CONTENT 100% cotton
BALL 100g/212m
HOOK 4mm
RRP £6.69



It's incredible how a splash of colour can transform a yarn. We almost didn't clock that this vibrant yarn is a printed version of Sirdar's regular Cotton DK. It's sleek and smooth with a lovely sheen, as you'd expect, but with glorious variegated colour.

There are eight vibrant shades to choose from, each with a short colour change that makes it lots of fun to crochet with. Sirdar have released crochet patterns for Cotton Prints DK, too. www.sirdar.co.uk
01924 231682

ROWAN TETRA COTTON

WEIGHT DK
CONTENT 100% cotton
BALL 50g/130m
HOOK 4mm
RRP £6.50



Tetra Cotton is a bit of a wild one. It was a new addition to Rowan last spring, and this year they've updated the previously muted palette with a handful of more exotic shades. Each of the eight choices is variegated, made up of four different shades.

It's a light and airy tape yarn with a chainette construction, which gives it a little bit of stretch. We reckon Tetra Cotton would be brilliant for crocheting a lacy cover-up, shawl or a vibrant tote bag. www.knitrowan.com
01484 681881

DEBBIE BLISS COTTON DENIM DK

WEIGHT DK
CONTENT 100% cotton
BALL 100g/200m
HOOK 4mm
RRP £6.95



Does denim ever go out of style? Hook timeless makes with this new DK yarn from Debbie Bliss. Cotton Denim DK is a super-soft stranded cotton yarn with a mottled denim look. It's practical, easy to care for and would be

fantastic for stitching baby garments or a picnic blanket. The yarn comes in five classic blues and five pretty pastels. It's unmercerised, so has a dry handle and a matt finish. www.designeryarns.uk.com
01535 664222

STYLECRAFT MALABAR DK

WEIGHT DK
CONTENT 78% cotton, 22% silk
BALL 100g/200m
HOOK 4mm
RRP £5.25



Stylecraft have launched their Malabar aran yarn in a new DK weight for spring. It's a cotton yarn wound with a fine silk strand, giving it a pretty beaded texture. The yarn is smooth and light with a pleasing sheen and good

drape. There are a couple of patterns for cardigans and tops in Malabar DK. The palette differs slightly from the aran version – take your pick from nine jewel shades. www.stylecraft-yarns.co.uk
01535 609798

"I love to tell stories and crochet brings them to life."



MEET THE MINIATURISTS

Intricate, delicate and dinky, we can't get enough of the teeniest crochet makes. We investigate why miniature crochet's small wonders are set to be the next big thing.

Have you ever been amazed by a micro amigurumi project or an elegant garment resized for dolls? Us too! Whether it's a happy reminder of inhabiting childhood imaginary lands or the desire to challenge ourselves to create something remarkable, we can't resist mini crochet. We've been chatting to some experts to ask how, and why, miniature crochet packs such a punch.

CONQUERING TINY WORLDS

"Miniature crochet appeals to my love for making tiny worlds," explains artist Kate Bruning (www.greedyforcolour.blogspot).

co.uk). "Sharing this with my two boys has made it a doubly fun thing to do. I also love to tell stories and crocheting props is a wonderful way to bring them to life."

This combination led to Kate creating her very first children's book, *Stanley and the Hot Air Balloon*, which comes complete with crochet patterns for all of the featured characters and props from the story.

Kate's second book, *Let's Go Camping! Crochet Your Own Adventure* followed in September 2015. "It grew from a little inkling that lodged in my mind when we took the boys travelling around the UK and Europe," says Kate, who was born in

Australia and lives in New Zealand. "We had a magical stay in Dorset at The Old Forge, run by Tim and Lucy Kerridge. They had the most beautiful collection of places to 'glamp' in including a vintage caravan, gypsy wagon and two shepherd's huts, where we slept."

While her sons spent their evenings planning the shepherd's hut they'd build on their return home, Kate started devising her perfect caravan, inspired by The Forge's 1960s Cheltenham Sable. "It became such an elaborate and slightly untenable dream, involving wallpaper and chandeliers, that I began to work out the

technicalities of creating a little one with crochet. As soon as we arrived back home, I whipped my hook out and set to work."

Sara Scales (www.minidreamz.blogspot.co.uk) caught our attention when she made a tiny version of Simone Francis's Sugar & Spice cardi from *Simply Crochet* issue 32. Reinvented for doll-sized fashionistas, the cuteness of the compact cardigan is beautifully condensed. Sara's book *Mini Amigurumi* was published by GMC in 2012.

Impressively, Sara is self-taught. "It wasn't easy to learn on my own – I made errors but persevered," she tells us. "The biggest thing I learned was that it doesn't matter how you hold the yarn, as long as you have good tension. I started with DK yarn and a larger hook, but it wasn't long before I reduced both hook and yarn size. I like the freedom and fluidity of crochet."

An obsession with little dolls and toys drew Mai Thu Thuy (www.lamlinh.etsy.com) to miniature crochet. "Throughout my childhood, those things were luxurious

because most of the people were very poor and only made enough for their living," she recalls. "When I was a child, my sister used to crochet and I was just trying to imitate her. Then I grew fond of it and took up the craft myself."

Kim Do of My Bambino began crocheting with her mum when she was in her early teens. "We'd make toys for the neighbourhood kids, or doilies for their mums."

Discovering mini crochet has been a more recent development for Kim. "I was pregnant with my first child in 2014 and I had the idea that a few handmade dolls would be lovely to give to my daughter to play with, so out came the crochet hooks," Kim says. "Over time, I found myself trying to make the dolls smaller and smaller, and then I discovered that miniature crochet

was actually a 'thing'... and it just kind of went a bit crazy from there."

CHOOSE YOUR TOOLS

Sara was initially drawn to the quirkiness of amigurumi, but soon found the small scale was the main appeal. "I don't work as small as many out there," she says. "I'd call my work miniature, not micro – my average hook size is between 0.75 and 2mm, my favourite being a 1mm hook."

To keep the scale down, using the right hook is essential. "I always use a hook one size smaller than recommended for the yarn," says Kate. "This creates a finer tension and provides greater strength to the piece, which in turn helps it keep its shape when stuffed. I usually prefer to work with cotton yarn, unless it's to be a tactile, snuggly toy."

"ON TINY PROJECTS, I ALWAYS USE A CROCHET HOOK ONE SIZE SMALLER THAN RECOMMENDED."



Opposite: Kate Bruning working on a scene for *Stanley and the Hot Air Balloon*, photograph by Kate Bruning. **This page, clockwise from left:** A scaled-down, 1ply version of the Sugar and Spice cardigan from issue 32, photograph by Sara Scales; Micro amigurumi; Crochet tools, both photographs by Mai Thu Thuy.



Left: Mini masterpieces, photograph by Kate Bruning. **Below from top:** Miniature paintings, complete with gold frames; Kate has even crocheted the kitchen sink in miniature, all photographs by Kate Bruning.



Cotton retains its shape well, which is always an advantage with tiny crochet."

Good-quality yarn is crucial. "Anything from 1ply wool to fine cotton works," says Sara. "It's important to have good-quality hooks and keep them clean!"

She advises us to: "Practise, practise, practise. Tension is the hardest thing to get right because you don't want to be left with any unnecessary holes."

But how long does it take to create a single item? "How long is a piece of string?" Kate exclaims. "With a toy, I tend to make sure they fit within a one to two-hour window, basically the length of a couple of TV shows in the evening. A caravan or ice cream truck usually takes a few nights and the odd moment here and there during the day."

The time it takes to complete a single project depends on the item and its complexity, Sara points out. "For my mini crochet, I could be looking at a couple of hours to complete an item, including sewing up and detail. Of course, if I'm creating a new pattern, it will take longer, although I have got faster over time."

If everything goes according to plan, a single item takes Kim between six and ten

hours to complete. "Add in maybe another hour or two if you're making a new animal entirely from scratch and you have to design for the first time."

Creating a new item from scratch can take several weeks, or even a month, "especially if it has complicated details," Thuy says. "To me, the challenge is that you have to be very patient and meticulous when making an item. Sometimes, if you get a stitch wrong, you may have to start the whole thing all over again."

SPECIALIST SKILLS

Patience, Sara warns us, can be a major challenge, and she reminds us to be kind to ourselves. "Don't worry if you go wrong, you can always start again,"

she says. "Make sure you have good light, glasses if you need them and some people work better with a magnifier."

Kim also believes that patience is key, along with good eyesight and attention to detail. "For example, when making an animal with four legs, you need to make sure each leg is exactly the same length if you want the animal to stand up properly."

The whole process of making miniature crochet, Sara says, can be a delight: "From choosing the yarn to creating a design and,

of course, seeing that tiny object become the item you imagine. I must admit, I do struggle to part with some of my items – I become attached to them as they grow, but my head has to control my heart sometimes as I am running a business."

Sara also points out that if you're new to crochet, it's worth getting to grips with bigger items before going small. "You need loads of practice on a larger scale first, if you want your work to look neat."

When her children were young, Kate's main challenge was "ensuring they didn't run away with a project until it was finished!" And now? "The challenge now is trying to balance making the project small while ensuring it works with a DK yarn, which most people prefer to use. I do sometimes resort to 4ply but I don't like to go any finer than that because I think it starts to become fiddly." Fiddly details can become a big issue, as Kim points out: "With mini crochet everything is smaller, but because it's smaller, the complexity is increased. Little mistakes tend to be exaggerated on such small items."

SMALL WONDERS

But why, exactly, do we love tiny items so much? "I think I was born a miniaturist," says Sara. "I've been fixated with the tiny for as long as I can remember – I loved to make, draw and play with small things." It was only when Sara's daughter was old

"TO ME, THE CHALLENGE IS THAT YOU HAVE TO BE VERY PATIENT AND METICULOUS."

enough for a doll's house, though, that Sara let her obsession run riot. "Since then, there's been no stopping me! I love to see other people's faces when the finished item is produced and I take great pleasure in the fact that someone's happy with a piece I've created."

Thuy loves how little you need to actually accomplish tiny works of art. "You need a small hook, beads and some embroidery threads – then you can create whatever you want. It's a joy to see how tiny the item is when it's complete, and to see how much people love them."

There's a huge satisfaction to be gained from recreating wildlife in miniature, says Kim: "The best thing is looking at the finished product and realising you've made something entirely from cotton that looks quite like the real thing. Every time I

show my husband a new creation and he correctly guesses what type of animal it is, I must admit I feel rather chuffed!"

Unfortunately, Kim soon realised that mini beasts were no use to mini people. "I can't give my daughter miniatures to play with – she's likely to eat them!"

Instead, the small pieces appeal to older children and adults who are impressed by their precise beauty.

"There's the cuteness thing, of course. Even a rhino, for example, the size of your fingernail looks so adorable when you get it right. I think people appreciate there's a level of difficulty to creating something so small and that it's something to really treasure."

It seems there's always a new project to embark on. "I'm working on lots of doll accessories, including hats – I love mini

hats," says Sara, "and a new tiny alpaca design, plus I'm researching ideas to present to publishers for my next book."

Thuy is currently working on a collection of micro miniature cartoon characters for a friend, while Kim is tackling the challenges of a teeny wombat. "At the moment, I'm trying to get it just right – a wombat's face is actually rather difficult!"

Kate is devising a range of pattern booklets: "I'll be releasing them online through my Etsy shop, www.greedyforcolour.etsy.com. I'm also crocheting little gilt-framed pictures, which is fun. And no moth goes unnoticed – I try to recreate their wing patterns in crochet."

Quite simply, if you can see it, there's a distinct possibility you can recreate it, downsized, with little more than a hook, some yarn and plenty of perseverance. And with projects dinky enough to hold in the palm of your hand, there will always be space in your project bag for a few more!

Written by Judy Darley

"PEOPLE APPRECIATE THERE'S A LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY TO CREATING SOMETHING SMALL."

Clockwise from below left: Mini amigurumi Totoro anime characters in cotton, photograph by Sara Scales; Tiny amigurumi chameleons, photograph by Kim Do; A miniature granny square blanket in 1ply yarn, photograph by Sara Scales.





MORE BROOMSTICK CROCHET

Take your skills to the next level with broomstick colour effects, shaping the fabric and top tips for seaming.

WHAT ELSE CAN I LEARN?

The potential is huge for colourwork and shaping.

Last issue, we explained the basics of how to work broomstick crochet – this issue, we’re delving deeper into its creative potential with a guide to colourwork, shaping and seaming. We’ll explain all and then you can try making our colourful zigzag wrap on page 83. Just to clarify, broomstick crochet is also known as Peacock stitch, Jiffy lace, Witchcraft lace (in the USA) and Lattice loop (in Sweden). But we’re calling it broomstick crochet.



COLOURWORK

You can change colour at the start of a loop row or a stitch row to create all sorts of different striped effects. With a bit of practice, it’s also possible to use different colour yarns in the same row to form loop groups of different shades.



SHAPING

Happily, increasing and decreasing in broomstick crochet is really simple – you just work more or fewer stitches into the groups of broomstick loops, keeping the same number of groups or altering the number of loops in a group.

WHAT COLOUR EFFECTS CAN I CREATE?

When it comes to broomstick colourwork, the sky is the limit.

It’s very easy to work stripes and other colour effects in broomstick crochet, although changing colour is slightly different to standard crochet. You can change colour at the beginning of a broomstick loop row or the beginning of a stitch row, to create slightly different looks in your fabric.

Step 1 If you change colour at the start of a loop row and continue with that colour for the stitch row, you’ll create the classic ‘peacock’ look that broomstick crochet is known for.

Step 2 If you change colour at the start of a stitch row, you can create a narrow stripe in the fabric if you change colour again for the loop row. If you continue with the same colour for the next loop row, the stripes form more of a wavy pattern.



01



02

HOW DO I CREATE COLOUR STRIPES?

Master broomstick colourwork with these simple steps.

To practise changing colour, return to the sample you made for last issue's workshop, where we had 20 sts worked in 4 groups of 5-loop clusters.

To change colour at the start of the stitch row, you'll need to fasten off and secure the old colour at the end of the broomstick loop row. There are a number of different ways to do this, but we recommend that you cut off the old yarn (leaving a tail approx 10cm long) while all the loops are still on the broomstick and then weave in the tail end straight away. Then you can remove the loops from the broomstick.

Now you can join the new colour to the top of the first loop group, as follows:

Step 1 Insert hook into the first 5 loops from right to left, make a slipknot in the new colour and place it on the hook.

Step 2 Pull the slipknot through the group, work yrh and pull through the slipknot. Tighten the slipknot to secure.

Step 3 Now ch1 and work your 5dc stitches into the first group of broomstick loops as usual.

Step 4 Continue working 5dc into each 5-loop group across the row to create a stitch row in a different colour.

You can now continue working with this colour or change back to the first colour at the start of the loop row.

To change colour at the start of a loop row, you'll need to fasten off the stitch row you've just worked.

Step 5 To do this, work yrh and pull through the final stitch, in the same way as you would normally fasten off.

Step 6 Now insert your hook into the top of the last stitch and loop the new yarn around the hook.

Step 7 Pull the loop of the new yarn colour through the stitch, making sure you leave a long tail (approx 10cm). Again, we recommend that you weave in the tail end straight away. Place the loop of the new yarn colour onto the broomstick.

Step 8 Work the rest of the loop row as usual with the new yarn.

You can create various stripy looks by using a contrasting colour for every stitch row or every loop row, or every stitch row and loop row, or every loop row and stitch row. Or work 4 rows in one colour, 4 rows in another colour, or any other combination you like – each one will form a different striped effect, so see what you can create.



HOW DO I SHAPE THE BROOMSTICK FABRIC?

Create more complex fabrics with simple shaping skills.

To tackle complex broomstick patterns, you'll need to learn to increase and decrease – luckily, this is very straightforward! In broomstick crochet, you can easily create increases or decreases when you work the stitches into the groups of broomstick loops. Let's return to our example from last issue, where we had 20 sts worked in 4 groups of 5-loop clusters.

Make a row of broomstick loops and slide them off, then insert your hook from right to left in the first 5 loops as usual. Make sure all the loops are the same height, work yrh, pull through all 5 loops and ch1 to secure the first group of broomstick loops.

Steps 1 & 2 To create an increase, you simply work an extra dc into each group

of broomstick loops. So in our example, you'd work 6dc stitches into the first group of broomstick loops, instead of 5dc. Then work 6dc into the next 5-loop group and into each group across the row. You should now have 24 dc stitches, so you will have increased by 4 stitches. On the next row, you'll pull up 24 loops and the fabric will be wider. On the following row, you can work 1dc for every broomstick loop in the group, as usual. In our example, you could work 6dc into each 6-loop group and still have 4 groups – alternatively, you could change the group size to 6 groups of 4 broomstick loops and work 4dc into each group.

Follow the instructions in your pattern or experiment and see which look you prefer.

Steps 3 & 4 To create a decrease, you simply work one less dc in each group of broomstick loops. So in our example, you'd work 4dc stitches into the first group of broomstick loops, instead of 5dc. Then work 4dc into the next 5-loop group and into each group across the row. You should now have 16 dc stitches, so you will have decreased by 4 stitches. On the next row, you'll pull up 16 broomstick loops and the fabric will be narrower. On the following row, you can work 1dc for every broomstick loop in the group, as usual. In our example, you would work 4dc into each 4-loop group and still have 4 groups.

Just experiment and you'll find that the potential of broomstick crochet is amazing!



HOW DO I JOIN BROOMSTICK FABRICS?

Take care when seaming to maintain the lacy look.

Since broomstick crochet creates a lacy fabric, any seaming down the side of the fabric needs to mimic this. So you'll need to get creative about how you join the sides of loop rows and stitch rows.

Before working any seam, always block the stretchy broomstick fabric to the correct

measurements. Then place the two fabrics to be joined with wrong sides together (you can also work the seams with right sides together if you'd prefer to hide the seams). Line up the rows so that the stitch rows and loop rows sit over each other. Join the yarn (preferably the same yarn you used

for the project) at the start of a stitch row. Then work a slip stitch or double crochet seam across the stitch rows, but work a chain length or elongated chain across the broomstick loop rows. This will join together the stitch rows while also keeping the loop rows open and lacy.

**YOUR
NEXT STEPS!**

Take your broomstick
crochet skills to the
next level with our
stripy zigzag wrap.



SUNSHINE STRIPES

Get nifty with those chevrons and colour changes
to make Becky Skuse's loopy crochet wrap.

Broomstick bracelet



YOU WILL NEED

- Cascade Ultra Pima (100% cotton, 100g/200m), 1 skein of each: Buttercup (3748), Lavender (3778), Regal (3708)
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- One 15mm knitting needle (or other 'broomstick' of the same diameter)

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

MEASUREMENTS

Finished wrap measures 32cm wide and 102cm long, or the length you'd like

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92.

Designer Becky Skuse says: "If you've never hooked zigzag stripes, prepare to be addicted! The gentle ripples of colour in this wrap create a beautiful effect that's a joy to work and to wear. Alternating lacy rows of broomstick crochet with solid rows of treble stitches gives the wrap elegance and structure – a winning combination! You'll have the chance to practise your broomstick skills with simple increases and decreases, and plenty of colour changes. Just choose your own trio of yarn colours and let the waves of stitches wash over you." It's time to go pro with your broomstick crochet.

NOTES

To adjust the width of the wrap, just add more or fewer chains to the foundation chain, in a multiple of 19 + 17 chains.

Change colour randomly, as desired, by fastening off one colour at the end of a row and joining a new colour at the start of the next row.

For a detailed list of the colour order of the wrap pictured, visit Becky's blog at makemedo.wordpress.com

We recommend weaving in your yarn ends as you go.

WRAP

Ch74.

Row 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), dc2tog over next 2 sts, 6dc, *3dc in next st, 8dc, skip 2 sts, 8dc; repeat from * twice, 3dc in next st, 6dc, dc2tog, turn. [74 sts]



When hooking stripes, it's always a good idea to weave in your ends as you work.

Row 2 Ch2, tr in next st (counts as tr2tog), 6tr, *3tr in next st, 8tr, skip 2 sts, 8tr; repeat from * twice, 3tr in next st, 6tr, tr2tog, turn. [74 sts]

Row 3 Repeat Row 1, but do not turn.

Row 4 Pull up a broomstick loop in each stitch. [74 loops]

Row 5 Pull yarn through first 4 loops, ch1 (does not count as st), 3dc into first 4 loops, 3dc into next 3 loops, *5dc into next 3 loops, (3dc into next 3 loops) twice, 2dc into next 4 loops, (3dc into next 3 loops) twice; repeat from * twice, 5dc into next 3 loops, 3dc into next 3 loops, 3dc in next 4 loops, turn. [74 sts]

Rows 2-5 form pattern.

Repeat Rows 2-5 until work measures 102cm or the length desired (we worked 109 rows in total), changing colour at the end/start of a row, as desired.

Repeat Rows 2 and 3.

Fasten off and weave in rem ends.

SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO DECREASE IN DOUBLE CROCHET (DC2TOG)



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



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



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



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

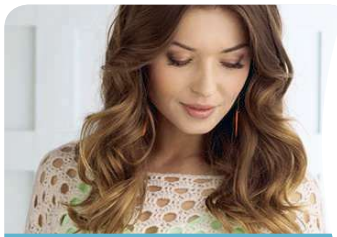
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SIMPLE STRIPES



SUMMER LOOKS



SPRING FASHION



QUICK &
EASY IDEAS

Love Crochet



DON'T MISS IT!

Inspired by the spring fashion weeks, we've dedicated this special edition of *Love Crochet* to fashion with an issue jam-packed full of gorgeous patterns to hook and love! From lace-style jumpers to a vintage dress in filet crochet and a tartan skirt, there's a look to suit every style, shape and ability! Plus, our five-page tutorial on hooking garments has everything you need to know before you get started.

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- ❁ Summer shawl

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Crochet essentials

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

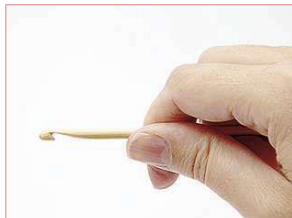
HOLDING THE HOOK

Try these methods and see which works best.



PENCIL METHOD

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



KNIFE METHOD

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

HOLDING THE YARN

Even tension results in even stitches.



METHOD ONE

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



METHOD TWO

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

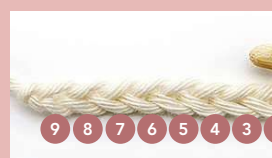


2 Pull the hook towards the slipknot, catching the yarn in the hook, and pulling it through the slipknot loop. This forms your first chain (ch) stitch. Repeat steps 1 and 2 to form a chain length.



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



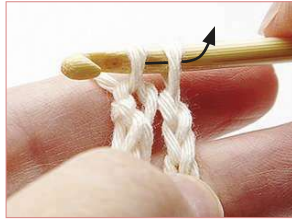
Each chain or loop counts as one stitch. Never count your first slipknot or the loop on the hook (called the working loop). So that you can be accurate, make sure the chain is not twisted and that the front is facing you.

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.



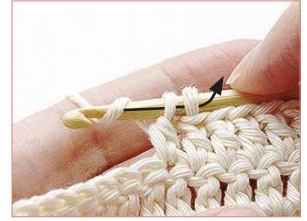
1 To work a treble crochet, start by winding yrh and then insert the hook under the top two loops of the stitch on the previous row.



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 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.

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.

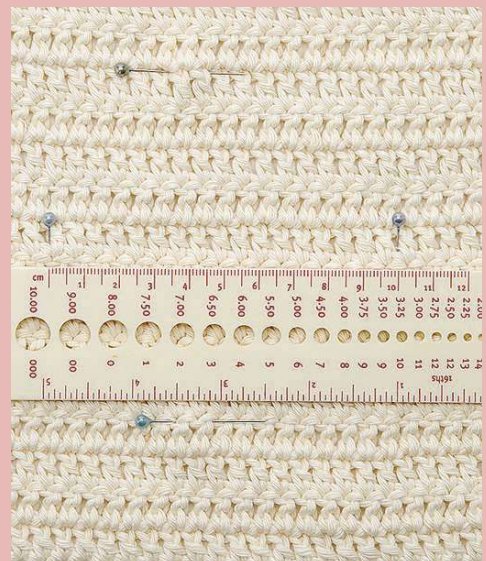
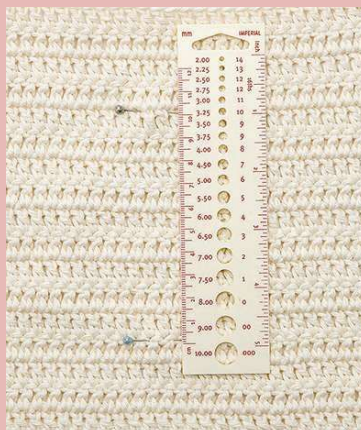


4 A useful variation on the dc seam, the dc and chain seam is used when less bulk and/or greater flexibility is needed. Work 1 double crochet and 1 chain alternately.

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.



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 right.

WORKING STITCHES INTO A RING

To make circles, tubes and other shapes.



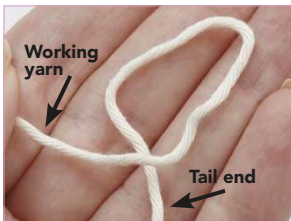
1 Make a foundation ring and work the t-ch (3ch for treble sts). Work a treble st as usual, but insert hook into centre of ring. For treble sts, yrh, insert hook into ring.



2 Finish the treble as usual (yrh, pull yarn through ring, yrh, pull yarn through first 2 loops, yrh, pull yarn through 2 loops). Work more sts into the ring as needed.

MAGIC LOOP

An alternative foundation ring for working in the round.



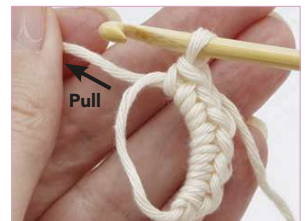
1 To start a Magic Loop, don't make a slipknot. Instead, make a loop with the yarn, leaving a tail around 10cm long. Make sure the tail end is under the working yarn.



2 Now insert your hook into the loop, from front to back. Wrap the working yarn around the hook 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). Work your sts into the Magic Loop, over both the loop and the tail end (so two yarn strands).



4 Once you've worked the first round of stitches, simply pull the tail end of yarn to draw up the ring. Work a slip stitch to join the last and first sts to finish the first round (as instructed below).

JOINING ROUNDS

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



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



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



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

Rounds or spirals



Check which technique to use.

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

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Abbreviations

across	to end of the row	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
fol/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

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.

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ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 92

Experiment with treble clusters and picots. In this pretty three-round sunburst design, the treble clusters look like petals while the chains and picots on the final round form open, lacy sun rays that make joining your motifs super-simple. A fancy shawl or bedspread could be on the cards.

SPECIAL STITCHES

4-tr cluster (Yrh, insert hook in st indicated, yrh and pull up loop, yrh and draw through 2 loops) 4 times, inserting the hook in the same st each time, yrh and draw through all 5 loops on hook.

5-tr cluster Work as above, repeating () section 5 times, yrh and draw through all 6 loops on hook.

Picot Ch3, ss to third ch from hook.

SUNBURST MOTIF

Ch4, ss to first ch to join into ring.

Round 1 (RS) Ch4 (counts as tr, ch1), (tr, ch1) 11 times into ring, ss to 3rd ch of beg ch-4 to join. [12 tr, 12 ch-1 sps]







Round 2 Ch5 (counts as tr, ch2), (tr in next tr, ch2) 11 times, ss to 3rd ch of beg ch5 to join. [12 tr, 12 ch-2 sps]

Round 3 Ch2, 4-tr cluster in st at base of ch-2, ch3, picot, ch3, (5-tr cluster in next tr, ch3, picot, ch3) 11 times, ss to top of beg ch-2 to join.

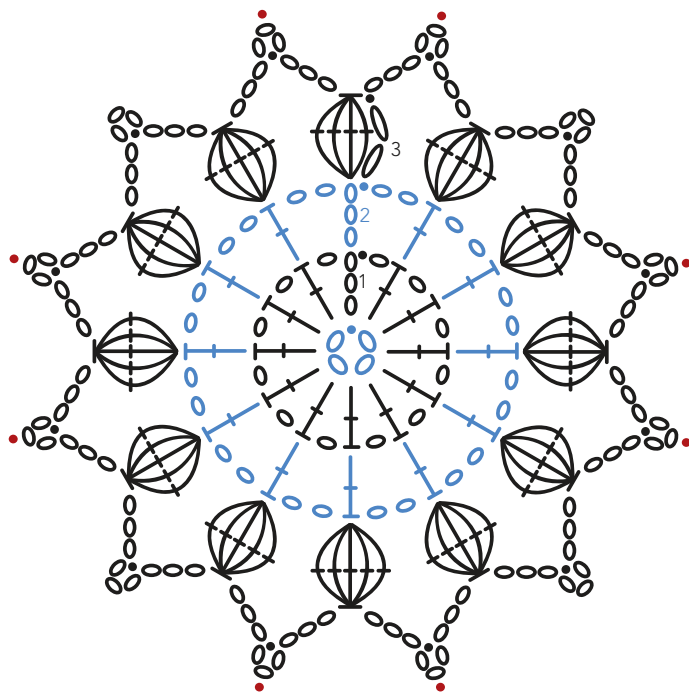
TO JOIN

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

Key

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

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



NEXT ISSUE

Sashiko stitching

Denim-style skirt

Beautiful blankets

Wedding ideas

Amigurumi pup

And more...

FUN-TO-HOOK
RAINBOW HOODIE!



ON SALE THURS 28 APRIL





LITTLE MEI-CHAN

Amigurumi stitcher Mei Li Lee gives us the lowdown on her most precious crochet project.

Mei-chan, a fuzzy pink fox, was one of the first crochet items I made with fuzzy yarn – and you know how difficult it is to work with fuzzy yarn! I got frustrated when I kept having more or fewer stitches in each round, but everything turned out fine in the end. It's also special because when I made Mei-chan, I was aiming to make a doll that represented me in the amigurumi world. She's the mascot of my work. I love anything Studio Ghibli, so I had to top her off with a Totoro hat!

Mei-chan signifies everything I love about crochet. I'm still amazed that skeins of yarn can bring me so much joy when I turn them into a fuzzball of an animal or a sweet-faced doll. Crafting brings back a lot of warm childhood memories, too – my mom first introduced me to craft. And it was my husband who gave me the idea to crochet a unique doll of my own.

When I made Mei-chan, it wasn't long since I'd started crocheting. I was buying

any new types of yarn I could find! Part of the reason I bought the fuzzy pink yarn in Japan was also because it looked like cotton candy – and who can resist anything cotton-candy-like? I've always loved the colour pink – it's soft and huggable and the colour of happy thoughts, if that makes sense.

Most of my amigurumi dolls are one-of-a-kind as I tend to give them a personality of their own. That being said, I've always wanted to make a larger Mei-chan doll. But until I finish my long list of must-makes (which seems to be growing by the day), super-sized Mei-chan will just have to wait!

The original Mei-chan is still very much a part of my ever-growing collection of amigurumi and I expect she'll stay that way for a while... until I have a baby girl, that is! (I had my twin boys only a couple of months ago... I doubt the pink and girly Mei-chan will please them much!)

Find Mei on Instagram as @amigurumei

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MISSED AN ISSUE?



ISSUE FORTY-TWO

Hook colourful Easter makes to celebrate spring, make a fab geometric poncho and fancy rainbow shawlette, make a corner-to-corner snuggle blanket and try broomstick crochet. There's also a cute mini caravan.

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ISSUE FORTY-ONE

Beautiful blanket wrap, a woolly mammoth, all about craftivism and spike stitch.



ISSUE FORTY

Retro rainbow makes, a bobble jumper, amigurumi otters and clever crochet cables.



ISSUE THIRTY-NINE

Marvellous mesh stitch, modern lace projects for your bedroom and a sweet crafty doll.



ISSUE THIRTY-EIGHT

Festive Scandi makes, a stunning red cardigan and a cute amigurumi nutcracker bear.



ISSUE THIRTY-SEVEN

Super-chunky gift ideas, yummy textured stitches, an amigurumi fox, and British wool.



ISSUE THIRTY-SIX

Fabulous Fair Isle vest, cosy tweed, long wave stitch, a lacy top, and a Halloween kitty.



ISSUE THIRTY-FIVE

Chunky cotton makes, back to school projects, fruity bags and an amigurumi fox.



ISSUE THIRTY-FOUR

Crochet beach essentials, a bright mandala to wear, an ice-cream doll, and a lacy shawl.



ISSUE THIRTY-THREE

Modern doilies, filet crochet, a sweet girls' dress, a lacy cardi, cat, and neon brights.



ISSUE THIRTY-TWO

Wedding ideas, Granny Square top, girls' cardi, sweet socks, cushion, and cute mermaid toy.



ISSUE THIRTY-ONE

Retro-style makes for your home, popcorn stitch and a shawl. Hook lacy fairy wings, too.



ISSUE THIRTY

Granny treble top, a silky shawl, baby blanket, backpack, two cushions, and amigurumi whale.



ISSUE TWENTY-NINE

Lacy linen top, blanket, bag, and shawl, plus a cotton vest, silk shawl, and a shell stitch beret.



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