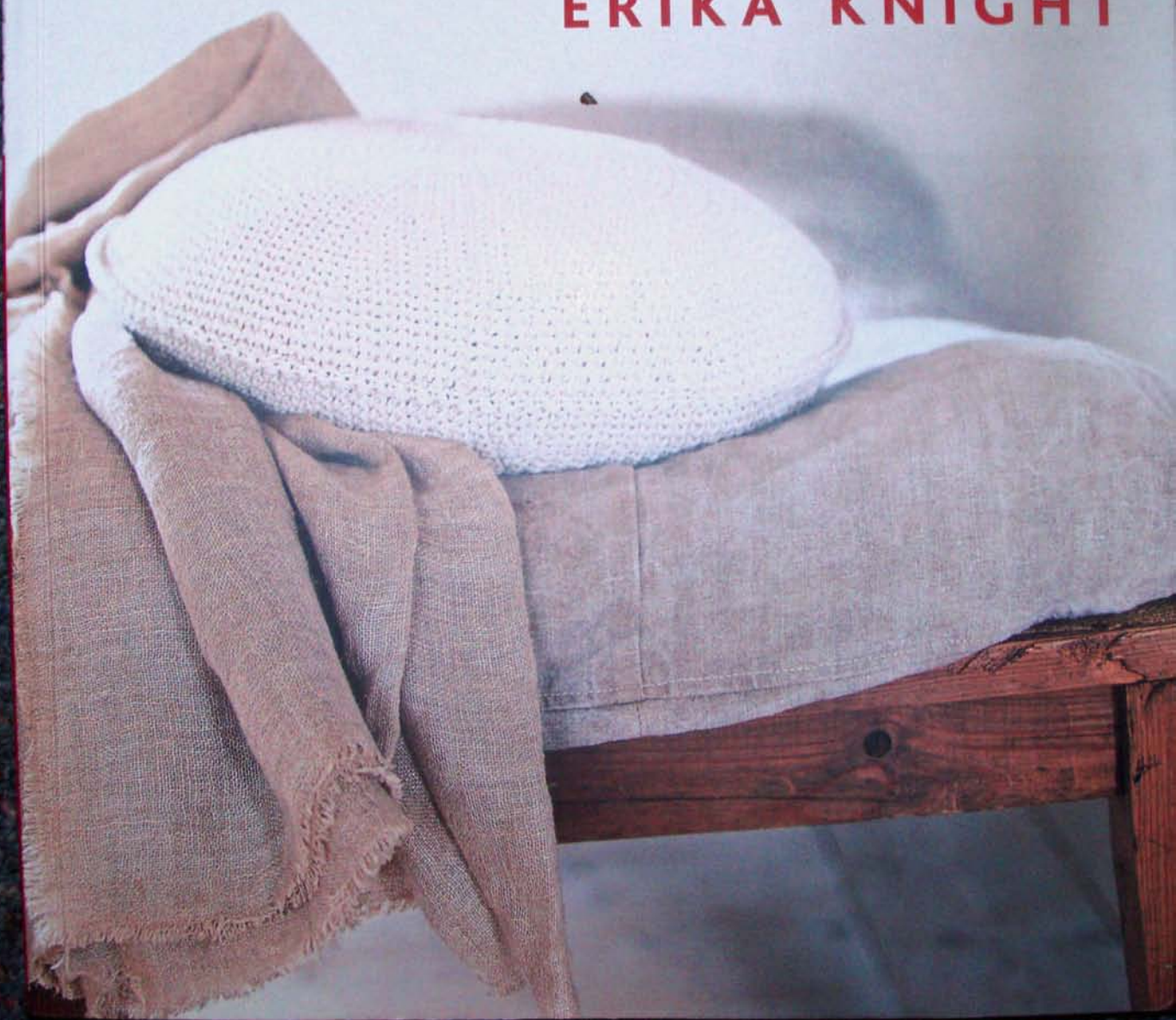


simplecrochet

ERIKA KNIGHT



Simple Crochet is a modern twist on a traditional craft, using a stunning range of natural materials. Raffia, leather and string are just a few of the yarns with which you can crochet, producing a range of elegant textiles for the home. What is more, you need no previous experience! Erika Knight, one of our foremost textile designers, uses only a couple of basic stitches with which to create an innovative range of twenty brilliantly simple projects.

Her appealing and original designs are created in a contemporary colour palette, based on neutrals, with touches of vibrant colour. They fit easily into modern interiors as well as more traditional homes, and range from the most inexpensive round cushion in parcel string to a luxurious leather floor cushion.

The wonderful collection of projects includes cushions in many different guises, as well as rugs and throws in which traditional techniques are given a modern twist – from traditional afghans in cool monochromes to pieced crochet patchworks. Storage boxes, little Turkish slippers, a cover for a cafetière and a table runner are just some of the more unusual designs in this book.

A short, fully illustrated section shows you how to master the basics of crochet as well as the principal stitches used in the book.

Simple Crochet is a must for anyone who wants to create simple but beautiful textiles for their home.

£14.99

simple crochet





simple crochet

ERIKA KNIGHT

photographs by
John Heseltine

QUADRILLE

dedication

In celebration of everyone who goes beyond function and practicality, for the passion of their craft.

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Stylist: Julia Bird

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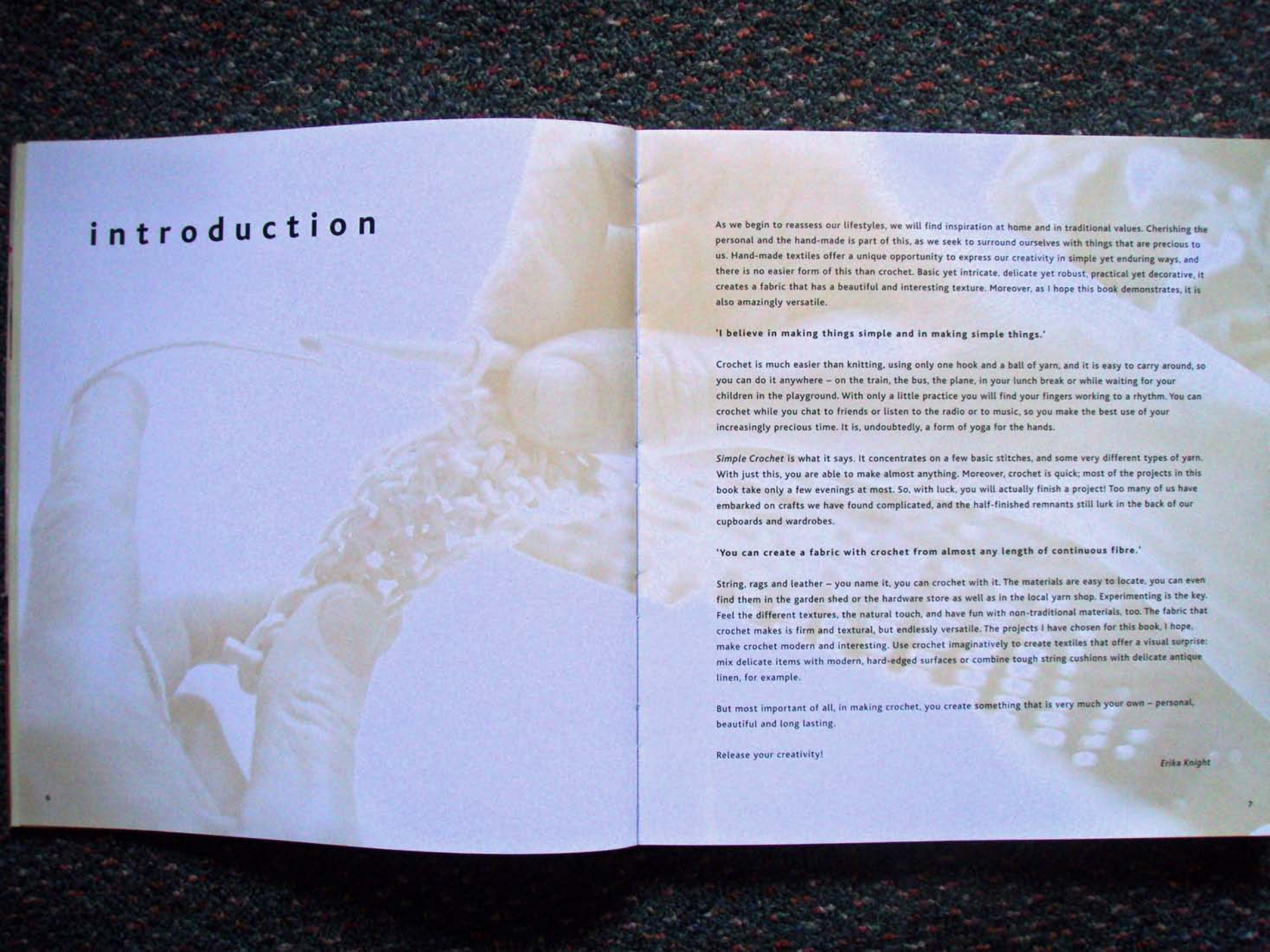
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contents

introduction	6
yarns	8
texture	10
colour	12
crochet basics	14
cushions	28
round cushion	30
chevron cushion	34
floor cushion	38
textured cushion	42
filet cushion	46
throws	52
pieced throw	54
textured throw	58
modern afghan	62
stripy throw	66
rag rug	70
containers	74
boxes	76
string bottle cover	80
log basket	84
string bag	88
at home	92
turkish slippers	94
cafetière cover	98
towel edging	102
raffia table mats	106
tea cosy	110
runner	114
useful information	118
helpful hints for beginners	120
care of crochet	121
substituting yarns	122
yarn suppliers	123
index	127
acknowledgments	128

introduction



As we begin to reassess our lifestyles, we will find inspiration at home and in traditional values. Cherishing the personal and the hand-made is part of this, as we seek to surround ourselves with things that are precious to us. Hand-made textiles offer a unique opportunity to express our creativity in simple yet enduring ways, and there is no easier form of this than crochet. Basic yet intricate, delicate yet robust, practical yet decorative, it creates a fabric that has a beautiful and interesting texture. Moreover, as I hope this book demonstrates, it is also amazingly versatile.

'I believe in making things simple and in making simple things.'

Crochet is much easier than knitting, using only one hook and a ball of yarn, and it is easy to carry around, so you can do it anywhere – on the train, the bus, the plane, in your lunch break or while waiting for your children in the playground. With only a little practice you will find your fingers working to a rhythm. You can crochet while you chat to friends or listen to the radio or to music, so you make the best use of your increasingly precious time. It is, undoubtedly, a form of yoga for the hands.

Simple Crochet is what it says: it concentrates on a few basic stitches, and some very different types of yarn. With just this, you are able to make almost anything. Moreover, crochet is quick; most of the projects in this book take only a few evenings at most. So, with luck, you will actually finish a project! Too many of us have embarked on crafts we have found complicated, and the half-finished remnants still lurk in the back of our cupboards and wardrobes.

'You can create a fabric with crochet from almost any length of continuous fibre.'

String, rags and leather – you name it, you can crochet with it. The materials are easy to locate, you can even find them in the garden shed or the hardware store as well as in the local yarn shop. Experimenting is the key. Feel the different textures, the natural touch, and have fun with non-traditional materials, too. The fabric that crochet makes is firm and textural, but endlessly versatile. The projects I have chosen for this book, I hope, make crochet modern and interesting. Use crochet imaginatively to create textiles that offer a visual surprise: mix delicate items with modern, hard-edged surfaces or combine tough string cushions with delicate antique linen, for example.

But most important of all, in making crochet, you create something that is very much your own – personal, beautiful and long lasting.

Release your creativity!

Erika Knight

yarns

You can crochet with a wonderful range of yarns, to produce some excitingly varied textiles. The yarn and stitch chosen will determine the character of the crochet. Examples are shown on pages 10-11.

below just some of the yarns at your disposal, including soft cotton (1), hemp (2), metallic thread (3), heavy-weight string (4), ribbon (5), leather (6), linen (7), thick cotton (8), dyed cotton (9), natural cotton (10), fine cotton (11) and mohair (12).



texture

Crochet is one of the most basic forms of textile, having at its roots an affinity with fisherman's nets and medieval lace. The inspiration for this book is the very different materials with which you can crochet using only the most basic, easy-to-work stitches. Crochet can be worked in rows or in the round, and squares or strips of crochet can be joined together to make patchworks or throws.

You can use the texture of crochet in many ways, sometimes with dramatic results. Some projects in this book have been made from unusual materials: leather, raffia or string. Some have a tight, dense and firm structure, while others are more open and flexible. For the latter, yarns such as metallic thread or mercerized cotton are ideal. Woven effects can be created for functional rugs and throws – using old fabrics cut into strips works brilliantly for this kind of texture. To emphasize the versatility of crochet, you can even create sculptural items using tough yarns such as sisal or hemp.

The choice of yarn and fabric will be determined by the form and function of the textile. A floor cushion requires a heavy-duty, robust thread that will stand plenty of wear and tear. Leather is a great choice as its appearance improves with wear, but it is not the cheapest of materials. Sisal and hemp are less expensive and look good, too, as do strips of fabric cut from old denim jeans and jackets, for example, both tough enough for hard-wearing longevity.

The samples, right, show you the variations in texture and form that can be achieved using a variety of different threads and yarns.

Soft cotton is light and warm. It is ideal for soft, flexible fabrics for cushions or throws.



Leather has a brilliant sheen and is very durable. Use it for stylish interiors, in the form of containers or floor cushions.



Linen creates a naturally beautiful fabric with a well-defined texture. It marries well with most other fabrics.



Hemp produces a highly textural hard-wearing fabric. It is great for bags or baskets.



String is firm, strong and clean-looking. Use it in modern interiors for containers, mats and runners.



Ribbon makes a soft, elegant, feminine-looking fabric that is cool and lightweight. Use it for cushions or throws.



Thick cotton is soft, smooth and very warm. It has great stitch clarity. Use it for blankets and throws.



Mohair is almost whisper-like: fine, delicate and very soft. Very lightweight and warm, it is ideal for throws.



Metallic yarn has a crisp, sparkly appearance. Use it to add a touch of glamour to cushions or throws.



Fine cotton is ideal for delicate work. It has a satin-like sheen. Use it for edgings to lightweight fabrics and for flat crochet.



colour

Choosing appropriate colours is both exciting and challenging. My own colour palette tends towards natural colours and monochromes as a base, with touches of brighter colour to give it life and lustre. I find that this works well in most interior schemes, and provides a bridge between contemporary style and the much-loved pieces of furniture that all of us gather as our lives progress.

NATURAL COLOURS

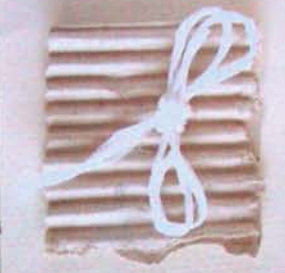
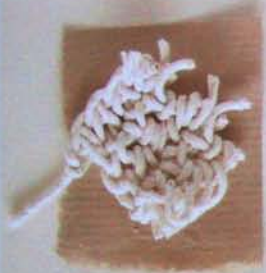
In the natural colour palette, undyed yarns, simple parcel string, and cool monochromes work well with modern interiors – light woods, glass, leather, brick, plaster and metal. If you have a minimalist interior, this palette will complement it, but the textiles will add a necessary touch of softness and luxury. Texture adds sparkle to a surface, particularly when you use contrasts: matt with shiny, thick with thin, and soft with hard. Combine metallic yarns with leather, for example, or use soft linen on bleached wood or glass.

COLOUR WITH NATURAL

In the colour with natural palette, you can add small touches of colour to neutrals to provide 'hot spots' in an otherwise simple scheme. Add a bright border to a plain throw or container, add stripes of strong reds or pinks to a runner with a neutral ground, or add toning borders or stripes in soft greens and browns.

COLOUR ON COLOUR

To create vibrancy, my personal passion is for pinks and greens in every hue, which work with the natural palette and also give a traditional look a modern twist, especially when spiced with a dash of orange or mango, or with just a hint of pomegranate. Clash colours, and keep the surprises coming!



crochet basics



equipment & tension

You really need very little equipment for crochet. The most important item is the crochet hook. I like to work with bamboo hooks, because not only are they made from a natural material, they have a very smooth finish, so that the yarn slides easily over the tip.

It is important when crocheting to feel very comfortable with the way you hold the hook and yarn, and you should practise the basic techniques shown on pages 18-27 until you are comfortable with the process.

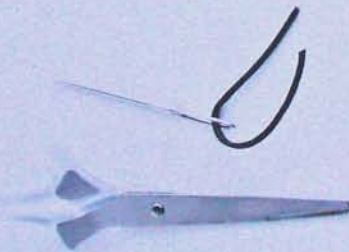
The hooks come in various sizes, from very fine (.60mm) to very thick (16.00mm). Those shown opposite are the most commonly used sizes in this book. Fine threads will usually require a fine hook, while chunky cottons or string need the larger sizes.

In addition to your hooks, you will need a large-eyed sewing needle with a blunt tip (a 'yarn' or 'tapestry' needle) and a pair of sharp dressmakers' scissors. A tape measure or ruler is useful too.

TENSION

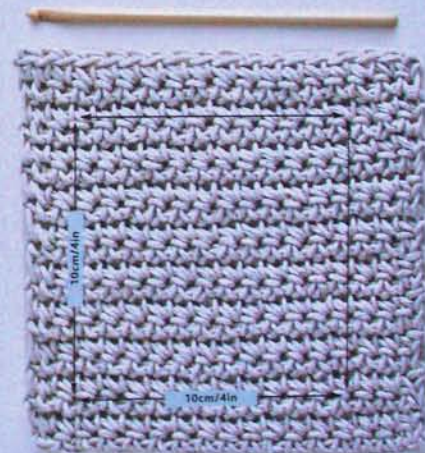
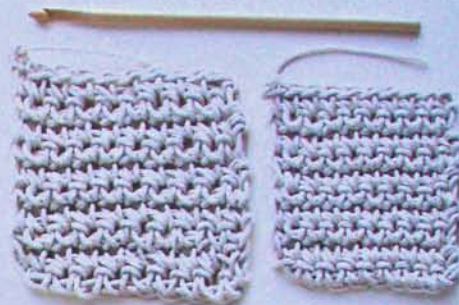
Everyone who makes textiles works with a different tension. Your 'tension' is how tightly or loosely you make the crochet loops (your stitch size). This means that the size of the stitch will vary from crocheter to crocheter, even when the same yarn and hook size is used. Crochet patterns are designed with a specific stitch size in mind, so it is best to test your stitch size before starting your crochet project – otherwise it may turn out bigger or smaller than planned.

In the patterns that follow (as in most crochet patterns) the stitch size is measured over 10cm/4in horizontally and vertically, counting both rows and stitches.



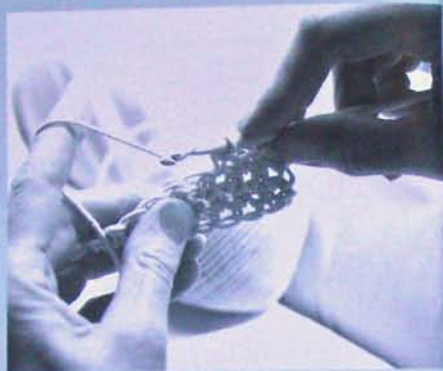
left The basic equipment required is a crochet hook, a blunt-ended sewing needle and sharp scissors. The hooks shown left (top to bottom) show the grades from 2.00mm to 5.00mm.

right To test your stitch size (or tension), make a piece about 13cm (5in) square in the required stitch, using the recommended yarn and hook size (bottom right). Count the number of rows and the number of stitches over the given measurement (usually 10cm/4in). If these accurately match those of the tension specified in your pattern, you can safely use the recommended hook size. But if you find that you get too many stitches, change to a size larger hook and try again. If you get too few stitches, change to a size smaller hook and try again. The difference one hook size larger or smaller will make to the stitch size in the sample, right, is shown top left and top right respectively.



starting to crochet

To crochet easily and successfully, you need to hold the yarn and the hook comfortably, with enough tension on the yarn so that when you draw the hook around the yarn, it stays firmly in the lip of the hook. To this end, most people choose to wrap the yarn around their fingers, and some make an additional wrap around their little finger – choose whatever yarn-holding method that works best for you. Similarly, hold the hook in whatever way you find most comfortable. Some favour a pencil grip, while others hold the hook between their thumb and forefinger like a knife. You may even prefer to change your grip depending on the type of stitch you are working at the time or on the size of the hook.



holding yarn/hook
method one

Wrap the ball end of the yarn around the little finger of your left hand, over the third finger, behind the second and over the forefinger. When you are starting to crochet, leave a long, loose tail end of yarn on the palm side of your hand. Hold the hook in your right hand like a pencil.

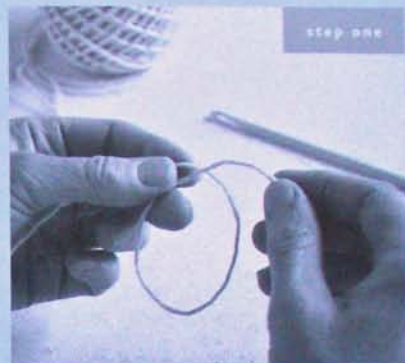


holding yarn/hook
method two

Wrap the ball end of the yarn between the little finger of your left hand, behind the third and second fingers, and over the forefinger. When you are starting to crochet, leave a long, loose tail end of yarn on the palm side of your hand. Hold the hook in your right hand like you would a knife.

making the first loop

To start to crochet, you first need to make a slip loop. There are many different ways in which you can do this, but the method shown below is very easy to follow. You can, of course, devise your own system if you prefer.



step one

Tip 1 Make a loop in the tail end of the yarn as shown, crossing the tail end of the yarn over the ball end.

Tip 2 Let the tail end drop down behind the loop, then pass the crochet hook over the loop on the right, catch it with the hook and pull it through loop.



step three

Tip 3 Holding the tail end and the ball end of the yarn in your left hand, start to pull the hook in the opposite direction to create a loop on the hook.

Tip 4 Keep pulling the yarn until the first loop forms on the hook, with a tight knot under it.



step two



step four

making a foundation chain

After you have made the slip loop on your hook, the next step is to create the foundation for the crochet fabric. This is called the 'foundation chain'. Your crochet instructions will tell you how many chain to make to start. Chain stitches are also used at the beginning of a row and for lace patterns.



step one

TIP With the slip loop on the hook and the yarn held taut in your left hand, grip the tail end of the yarn. To begin the chain stitch, pass the tip of the hook in front of the yarn, then under and around it.

TWO Keeping the yarn taut, catch the yarn in the lip of the hook, then draw it through the loop on the hook as indicated by the arrow.

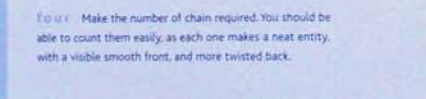


step two



step three

THREE This completes the first chain and leaves you with a loop still on the hook. To make your next chain pull a new loop through the loop on the hook. Keep the chain stitches slightly loose as you will be working into them on your first row.



step four

FOUR Make the number of chain required. You should be able to count them easily, as each one makes a neat entity, with a visible smooth front, and more twisted back.



Slip stitch is also known as 'single crochet'. If you work it into the foundation chain and continue making row after row of it, it forms a very dense, unyielding fabric. It is more commonly used to join the end and beginning of a round, or to work invisibly along the top of other stitches until you reach the required position.



step one

TIP Make a foundation chain (see previous page). Holding the end of the chain between the thumb and second finger of the left hand and tensioning the yarn over the forefinger of the left hand, insert the tip of the hook through the second chain from the hook as shown by the arrow.

TWO Catch the yarn with the hook (called 'wrap the yarn around the hook') and draw it through the chain and the loop on the hook.

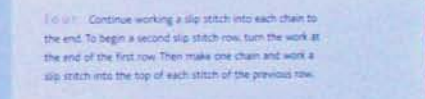


step two



step three

THREE This completes the first slip stitch and leaves one loop on the hook. Work the next slip stitch into the next chain in the same way. If you intend to work into the slip stitches on the next row, then work them fairly loosely.



step four

FOUR Continue working a slip stitch into each chain to the end. To begin a second slip stitch row, turn the work at the end of the first row. Then make one chain and work a slip stitch into the top of each stitch of the previous row.



double crochet

Double crochet is sometimes also known as 'plain stitch'. It creates a dense but still flexible fabric, which is ideal for hardwearing, strong textiles. The easiest of all crochet fabrics to make, it is used frequently in this book in an exciting range of yarn textures, including soft cotton yarn, rags, string and leather. Double crochet and chain stitches can be combined to form other, softer fabrics.

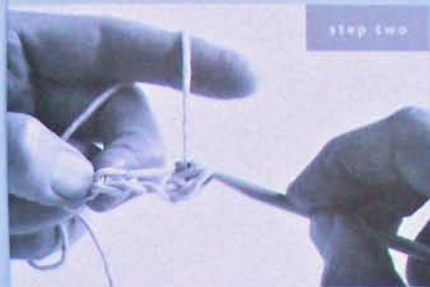


one Make your foundation chain. Then insert the hook through the second chain from the hook (see step 1 of slip stitch on previous page). Wrap the yarn around the hook and pull a loop through the chain as shown.

two There are now two loops on the hook. Wrap the yarn around the hook and pull a loop through both of these loops.

three This completes the first stitch. To make the next stitch, insert the hook through the next chain, draw a loop through, then draw a loop through both loops on the hook.

four Work a double crochet into each of the remaining chain in the same way to complete your first row.



step two



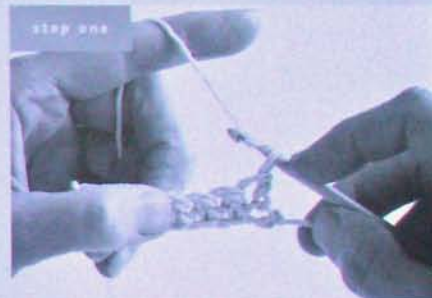
step three



step four

second row

To start your second row of double crochet, turn the work so the loop on the hook is at the right edge. You will then have to make a 'turning' chain to take the yarn up to the correct height.



step one

one At the beginning the second row draw a loop through the loop on the hook to form a loose chain.

two Inserting the hook through both loops at the top of the stitch, work a double crochet into each double crochet of the previous row. Work following rows in the same way as the second row.



step two



treble crochet

Treble crochet is taller than double crochet. It results in a stitch that is more open and less dense, so it is a flexible, soft textile. It is worked in much the same way as double crochet, except that you wrap the yarn around the hook before beginning the stitch. And as it is taller, you begin the first row by working into the fourth chain from the hook.



one Make the number of foundation chain your require. Then wrap the yarn around the hook as shown and insert the hook into the fourth chain from the hook.

two There are now three loops on the hook. Wrap the yarn around the hook and draw a loop through the first two loops on the hook (first arrow), leaving two loops on the hook. Next, wrap the yarn around the hook and draw it through the remaining two loops on the hook (second arrow).

three This completes the first treble. Wrap the yarn around the hook to begin the second treble and work it into the next chain in the same way.

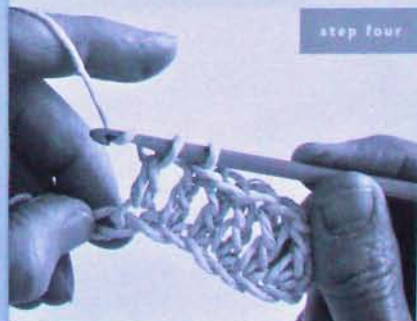
four Work a treble into each chain to the end. Then turn the work to begin the next row. Make three chain at the beginning of the second row – this is called the “turning” chain and counts as the first stitch of the row. Miss the first stitch in the row below and work the first treble into the top of the next stitch. At the end of the row work the last stitch into the top of the three-chain at the edge. Work following rows as for the second.



step two



step three



step four

half treble & double treble

The two remaining basic crochet stitches are half treble and double treble. A half treble is slightly shorter than a treble, and a double treble slightly taller. Try them out, following the instructions below, and you'll know all you need to know to work simple crochet pattern stitches!



half treble

half treble Work in exactly the same way as treble, except in step 1 insert the hook into the third chain from the hook and in step 2 draw a single loop through all three loops on the hook to complete the stitch. In the second row work two turning chain instead of three.

double treble Work in exactly the same way as treble, except in step 1 wrap the yarn twice around the hook and insert the hook into the fifth chain from the hook, and in step 2 draw a loop through two loops on the hook three times instead of twice. In the second row work four turning chain instead of three.

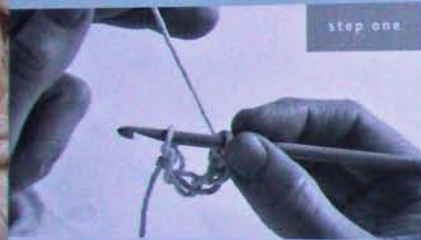


double treble

working in rounds

Some circular pieces require you to work in rounds rather than rows. The stitches may vary but the basic technique is the same. To begin, you will need to make a ring of a few chain as the foundation. Yarn thickness will determine how many chain you make, but generally for a hole at the centre that is drawn closed, about four to six chain will do.

step one



one Make six chain, then insert the hook through the first chain made. Wrap the yarn around the hook in the usual way, then draw a loop through the chain and the loop on the hook as for a slip stitch. This forms a ring of chain.

two If you are working double crochet into the ring, start by making one chain. (Make three chain if your first round is trebles, two for half treble or four for double treble.)



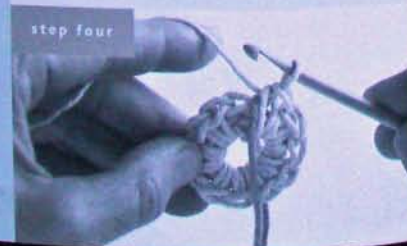
step two



step three

three Inserting your hook into the ring (not into the chain), work as many stitches into the ring as your instructions tell you. Catch the loose end of yarn into the stitches of the first round so you can use it to pull the hole tight later. When you work in rounds the right side is always facing you, so don't 'turn' the work at the end of the round.

four Before starting the second round of stitches, mark the beginning of the round – when working in rounds, it is sometimes hard to tell where one round ends and the next begins, so it is a good idea to position a marker here. Place a short length of a contrasting yarn across your crochet from front to back. Put it tight up against the loop on the hook as shown. When the second round is started the marker will be caught in position under the top of the first stitch and show you clearly where the round was begun. Pull out and reposition the marker at the end of each following round.



step four

new yarns

If you want to start a new ball of yarn when the old one runs out, or when changing to a new colour for stripes or for any other colour pattern, there is no need to fasten off first. You can just keep crocheting and draw the new yarn in when it is needed. There's nothing to it!



step one

one When working in double crochet, begin the stitch in the usual way by inserting the hook into the next stitch and drawing a loop through. Then drop the old yarn, pick up the new yarn and wrap it around the hook. Draw a loop of the new yarn through the two loops on the hook to complete the double crochet. With other stitches, join in a new yarn in the same way – with the last loop of the stitch.

two Work over the ends of the new and old yarn for several stitches, then neatly clip off the ends close to the fabric.



step two

finishing

Once you have completed a piece of work, you will need to fasten it to stop it from unravelling. This is also known as 'casting off'. To neaten your finished crochet pieces, weave all the loose ends of yarn into the fabric.



fastening off

fastening off

To fasten off, cut off the yarn leaving about 15cm/6in or so. Then draw the loose end through the loop on the hook and pull tight.

weaving in

To weave in ends, thread the yarn into a blunt-ended needle with a suitably large eye, run the needle through several stitches near it, and then snip off the excess yarn.



weaving in

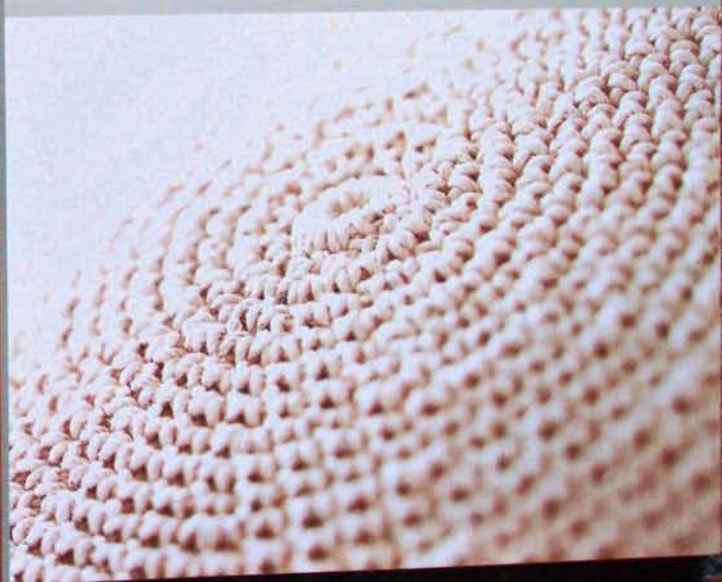
cushions





round cushion

The back and front of this simple, contemporary string cushion are worked round and round in a continuous, spiralling row of double crochet. To keep the cushion flat you gradually build up the number of stitches in each round. It produces a firm, dense fabric.





making : the round cushion

CUSHION SIZE

Approximately 40cm/16in in diameter.

MATERIALS

4 x 89m/98yd balls thick parcel string (from hardware stores or stationers)
Hook size 4.00mm
Round cushion pad 40cm/16in in diameter (or customize a square pad – see Tips)
Length of contrasting coloured yarn for marker

STITCH SIZE

This cushion has a 'tension' (stitch size) of 15 stitches and 20 rows to 10cm/4in measured over double crochet worked in parcel string, but working to an exact tension is not essential (see Tips).

TECHNIQUES USED

Double crochet, working in rounds and joining in new balls of yarn.

TIPS

Working in rounds

When you work your crochet in rounds you never have to turn the fabric. The right side is always facing you.

Tension

Don't worry about tension too much! Because this string cushion cover is made in circles, you can just keep working your stitches in a spiral until it is the required size.

Marking the beginning of a round

Be sure to mark the beginning of each round to make it easier to keep your place.

Joining in a new yarn

This technique is used for changing yarns when your ball of yarn is finished or when you want to start a new colour for stripes. Begin a double crochet in the usual way, by drawing a loop through the next stitch, then drop the old yarn and draw the new yarn through both loops now on the hook

to finish the double crochet (see Crochet Basics). Leave long loose ends of the old and new yarns to weave in later, or work over the ends of the old yarn for several stitches before clipping them off.

Making a round cushion pad

Customize a square cushion pad to fit, by first chalking a 40cm/16in circle on the pad. Then take each corner in turn, shake the stuffing to the middle of the pad, fold down the empty corners, and stitch through both layers along the chalked line.

METHOD

Foundation-chain ring Leaving a long loose end and using a 4.00mm hook, make 6 chain and join length of chain into a ring by working a slip stitch into first chain made.

Round 1 (right side) Make 1 chain, work 12dc into ring, working over long loose end.

Inspiration

If you wish, you can make this simple cushion in a random colour mix. The one shown right was worked in cotton in three colours: cream, beige and green. To create a similar cushion, simply follow the pattern and work in the new yarns randomly to create this informal effect. Following the instructions on page 27 for joining in new yarn, if you wish to create a cushion with regular circular stripes, add the new colours at the start of each appropriate round. You could vary the thickness of the stripes, and the colours, to suit your own design.

Before starting the next round, place a short length of a contrasting yarn across your crochet fabric from front to back, tight up against the loop on the hook and above the working yarn. Then start to work the double crochet of round 2, catching the marker in position. The marker will show you where the round started, as it will be caught under the top of the first stitch of the round.

Round 2 (right side) 1dc into each of 12dc of previous round, making sure you are no longer working over loose end.

At the end of each round pull the marker out and place it across your crochet fabric, up against the loop on the hook as before, so it will always be under the top of the first stitch of the round showing you where to start the next round.

Round 3 Work 2dc into each dc to end. There are now 24dc in the circle.

Round 4 Work 1dc into each dc to end.

Round 5 1dc into first dc, 2dc into next dc, *1dc into next dc, 2dc into next dc, repeat from * to end. 36dc.

Rounds 6 and 7 As round 4.

Round 8 1dc into each of first 2dc, 2dc into next dc, *1dc into each of next 2dc, 2dc into next dc, repeat from * to end. 48dc.

Rounds 9 and 10 As round 4.

Round 11 1dc into each of first 3dc, 2dc into next dc, *1dc into each of next 3dc, 2dc into next dc, repeat from * to end. 60dc.

Rounds 12 and 13 As round 4.

Round 14 1dc into each of first 4dc, 2dc into next dc, *1dc into each of next 4dc, 2dc into next dc, repeat from * to end. 72dc. Continue in this way, working two rounds without increases followed by one round with 12 evenly spaced increases, until circle measures 40cm/16in across (about 40 rounds).

Slip stitch into next stitch and fasten off. Work another circle the same.

TO FINISH

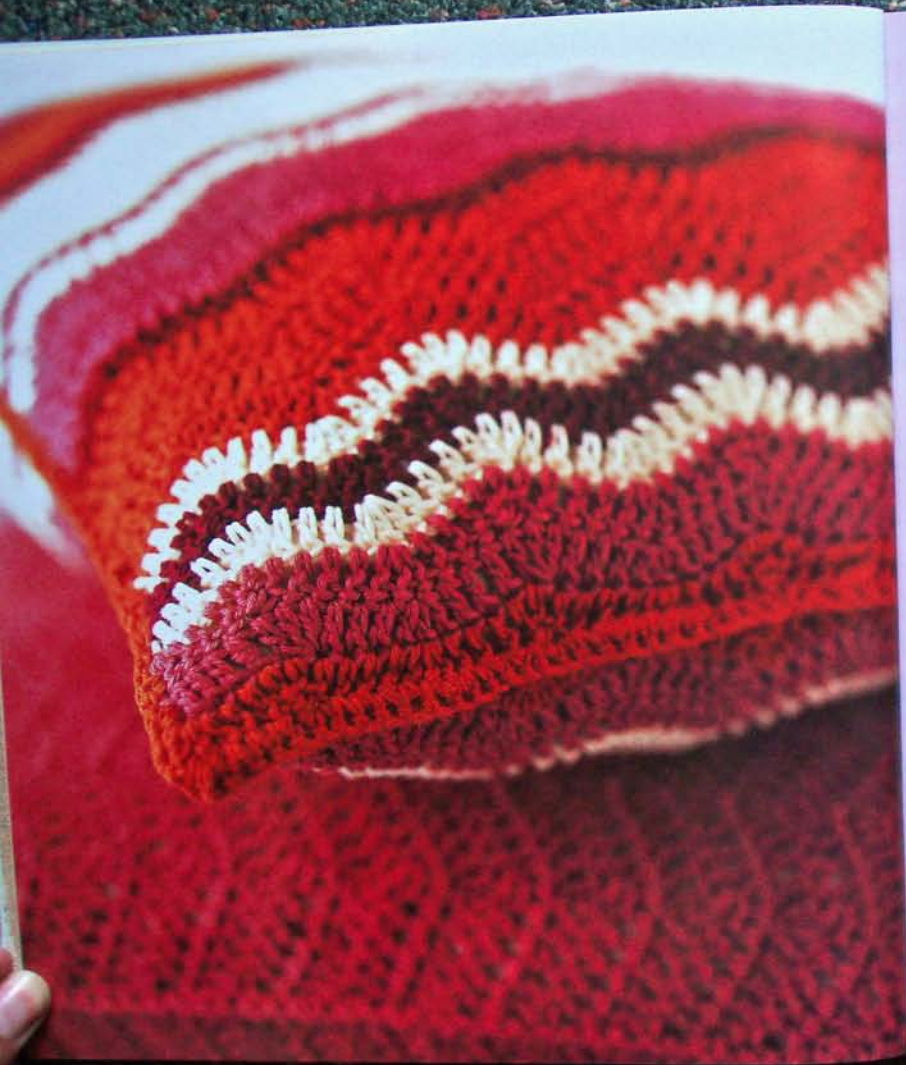
Pull the long loose end at the centre of each circle to tighten up the hole and weave it in on the wrong side of the work. Weave in any other loose ends on the wrong side as well.

Lay the circles out flat, then steam and press lightly.

Sew the circles together or join with double crochet as follows:

Join the circles with dc

Place the circles together with the wrong sides facing each other, line up the stitches along the outside edge and pin. Work 1dc through a dc at the edge of the two layers. Continue like this, working 1dc through each dc and making sure you catch in both layers with each stitch. When the opening is just large enough to insert the cushion pad, push it inside and finish the edging. Fasten off and weave in the end.



chevron cushion

This cushion is a reinvention of a popular '60s pattern. You can try out different colourways or group the stripes in varying pattern widths. The cushion is worked in bands of contrasting colours with a splash of metallic thread, but it looks good, too, when worked in a single colour. Combine several plain or patterned versions to add a touch of glamour to a plain sofa or armchair.





making : the chevron cushion

CUSHION SIZE

Approximately 40cm/15½in square.

MATERIALS

Rowan Cotton Glacé or a similar medium-weight mercerized cotton yarn (see page 122) in 4 contrasting colours as follows:

Colour A: 2 x 50g balls in terracotta

Colour B: 2 x 50g balls in off-white

Colour C: 2 x 50g balls in rose pink

Colour D: 1 x 50g ball in burgundy
Rowan Luxe Shimmer or a similar fine metallic yarn (see page 122) in one colour as follows:

Colour E: 1 x 25g ball in claret red
Hook size 3.00mm

Cushion pad 40cm/15½in square

STITCH SIZE

This cushion has a 'tension' (stitch size) of 2 chevrons to 11.5cm/4½in and 9 rows to 10cm/4in measured over chevron pattern,

but working to an exact tension is not essential (see Tips).

TECHNIQUES USED

Treble crochet, double crochet, working 3 treble together and joining in new balls of yarn.

TIPS

Tension

Don't worry about tension too much! If your cushion cover ends up a bit bigger or smaller, just buy a cushion pad to fit.

Joining in a new yarn

This technique is used for changing yarns when your ball of yarn is finished or when you want to start a new colour or texture.

Change to the new yarn at the end of a row on the cushion. Begin the last treble in the usual way, but change to the new yarn when drawing through the last loop of the stitch. Leave a long loose end of the old

and new yarns to weave in later, or work over the ends for several stitches before clipping them off.

INSPIRATION

Experiment with different yarn textures or different colour combinations, or try various widths of chevron stripes. For a cushion worked entirely in one colour, just follow the instructions for the striped version, but work all 36 rows in the same colour.

METHOD

Foundation chain Leaving a long loose end and using a 3.00mm hook and colour A (terracotta), make 74 chain.

Row 1 Work 1tr into 4th ch from hook. *1tr into each of next 3ch, [yarn round hook and insert hook into next ch, yarn round hook and draw a loop through, yarn round hook and draw through first 2 loops

on hook] 3 times, yarn round hook and draw through all 4 loops on hook—this completes 3tr together—, 1tr into each of next 3ch, 3tr into next ch, repeat from * to the end, but finishing with only 2tr into last ch instead of 3tr. Turn.

Row 2 Work 3ch, 1tr into first tr. *1tr into each of next 3tr, [yarn round hook and insert hook into next tr, yarn round hook and draw a loop through, yarn round hook and draw through first 2 loops on hook] 3 times, yarn round hook and draw through all 4 loops on hook—this completes 3tr together—, 1tr into each of next 3tr, 3tr into next tr, repeat from * to end, but finishing last repeat with 2tr (instead of 3tr) into top of turning chain (instead of into a tr). Turn.

Repeating row 2, work 2 rows more in colour A.

Stripe pattern

Continuing to repeat row 2 for chevron pattern, work 32 rows more in stripe pattern as follows:

Colour B (off-white): 1 row.

Colour E (metallic used double): 1 row.

Colour B (off-white): 1 row.

Colour C (rose pink): 2 rows.

Colour D (burgundy): 2 rows.

Colour A (terracotta): 2 rows.

Colour D (burgundy): 2 rows.

Colour B (off-white): 4 rows.

Colour C (rose pink): 1 row.

Colour B (off-white): 1 row.

Colour C (rose pink): 4 rows.

Colour E (metallic used double): 1 row.

Colour A (terracotta): 4 rows.

Colour B (off-white): 1 row.

Colour D (burgundy): 1 row.

Colour B (off-white): 1 row.

Colour C (rose pink): 2 rows.

Colour A (terracotta): 1 row.

Fasten off.

Make another piece the same.

TO FINISH

Weave in any loose ends on the wrong side of the work.

Lay the pieces out flat, then steam and press lightly.

Join the squares with dc

Place the two pieces together with the wrong sides facing each other, line up

the stitches along the outside edge and pin. Work a double-crochet edging through both layers to join them. For an even edging, work 1dc between the stitches along the foundation-chain edge and along the last row; 2dc into each row end (around the treble or turning chain) along the sides; and 3dc into each corner to keep the pieces square. Make sure you catch in both layers with each stitch and when the opening is just large enough to insert the cushion pad, push it inside and finish the edging.
Fasten off and weave in the end.





floor cushion

The ultimate in new crochet, this elegant floor cushion is worked in leather. However, the design is so simple and effective that any material could be used instead. Follow the basic pattern principal – four large squares of double crochet joined together to form a giant square. The textural elegance of the design is enhanced by double-crochet seams that are worked on the right side of the fabric to provide a smart finishing touch. The crochet top is stitched to a toning velvet cushion casing.



making : the floor cushion

CUSHION SIZE

The crochet top is approximately 68cm/27in square. (The cushion is approximately 68cm/27in square by 9.5cm/3 1/4in deep.)

MATERIALS

9 x 50m/55yd balls 2mm-thick round leather thonging or alternative yarn.
Hook sizes 9.00mm and 8.00mm
1.5m/1 1/4yd cotton velvet 112cm/44in wide and matching sewing machine thread
Zipper (optional)
Cushion pad to fit (see size above)
Strong sewing thread

STITCH SIZE

This cushion has a 'tension' (stitch size) of 8 stitches and 10 rows to 10cm/4in measured over double crochet, but working to an exact tension is not essential (see Tips).

Each square of double crochet measures about 33cm/13 1/4in square.

TECHNIQUES USED

Double crochet and joining in new balls of yarn.

TIPS

Tension

Don't worry about tension too much! Because this is a cushion, making it to an exact size is not important. Just make sure the four patches are square and complete the crocheted top first, then make the fabric cushion cover to fit it.

Joining in a new yarn

This technique is used for starting a new ball of yarn when the one you are using runs out. Begin a double crochet in the usual way, by drawing a loop through the next stitch, then drop the old yarn and draw the new yarn through both loops now on the hook to finish the double crochet (see Crochet Basics). Leave a long loose end of the old and new yarns to weave in later, or work over the ends for several stitches before clipping them off.

Leather

Leather thonging is available at craft stores or from leather merchants. It is quite hard on the hands, so concentrate on one stitch at a time, as a unique aspect of constructing a special textile. Warm the leather in your hands as you work to

soften it. It can be a little sticky, too, and a little talcum powder on the hook may assist to pull it through.

Ready-made cushion

There are instructions for making your own velvet cushion, but if you like, buy a ready-made cushion and make your crochet top to fit it.

INSPIRATION

Use string or chunky felted yarn for less expensive yet equally effective alternatives. Work a little tension square (see Crochet Basics) to find out how many stitches and rows you need.

METHOD

Square (make 4)

Foundation chain Leaving a long loose end and using a 9.00mm hook and leather thonging, make 26 chain.

Change to an 8.00mm hook and begin working in double crochet as follows:

Row 1 Work 1dc into 2nd chain from hook. 1dc into each of remaining chain. Turn.

Row 2 1ch (this counts as first dc of row, so work it loosely), miss first dc and work

1dc into next dc, then work 1dc into each of remaining dc, work last dc into 1-ch at edge. Turn. There are 26 stitches in the row. Repeat row 2 until work measures

33cm/13 1/4in from foundation-chain edge – a total of about 33 rows from beginning. Fasten off.

TO FINISH

Weave any loose ends into work.

Arrange the four crocheted pieces on a flat surface so that they form a large square, with the direction of the rows changing on every alternate square.

Using an 8.00mm hook and leather, join the squares together with double crochet on the right side of the fabric.

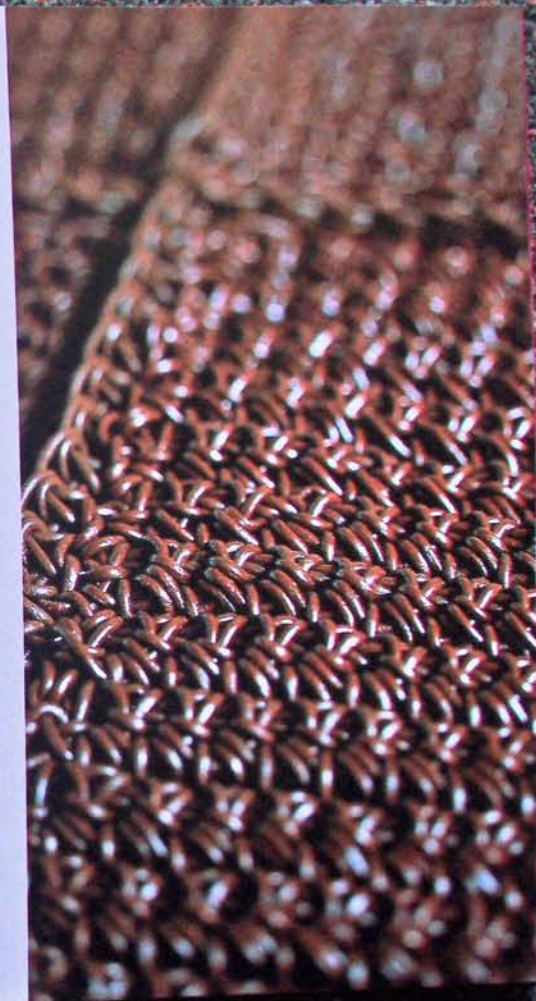
Edging


With the right side facing and using an 8.00mm hook and leather, work a row of dc all around the outside of the finished square. For an even edging, work 1dc into each foundation chain or stitch top, 1dc into each row end, and 3dc into each corner to keep the piece square. Fasten off.

FABRIC COVER

From the cotton velvet fabric, cut two pieces 71cm/28 1/4in square and four pieces 12.5cm/5in by 71cm/28 1/4in.

With the right sides together and stitching 1.5cm/ 1/2in from the edge, stitch the pieces together to make a 'box' – the two large squares form the top and bottom and the smaller oblongs the four sides – leaving one of the long side seams open. Turn the cover right side out. If desired, insert a zipper in the opening. Otherwise, insert the cushion pad and join the seams. Attach the crocheted leather square to the top of the cover with strong thread.

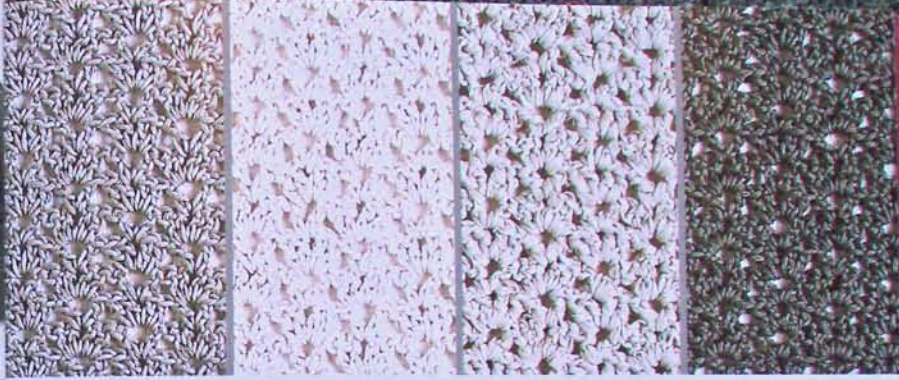




textured cushion

This cushion represents a sophisticated twist on a traditional pattern. Metallic yarns are used to create a simple contemporary textile for modern interiors. The cushion front is worked in a lacy stitch that is much easier to crochet than it looks, and the back is worked in plain double crochet. Work several cushions in different types of yarn to create a beautiful textural statement that works equally well on an ultra-modern couch or an antique leather armchair. You could create contrasts with completely different textures, such as suede, velvet or string, if you prefer.





making : the textured cushion

CUSHION SIZE

Approximately 43cm/17¼in square.

MATERIALS

11 x 25g balls Rowan Luxet Stimmer or a similar fine metallic yarn (see page 122)
Hook sizes 3.00mm and 3.50mm
Covered cushion 45cm/18in square.

STITCH SIZE

The cushion front has a 'tension' (stitch size) of 5½ V-stitches and 10 rows to 10cm/4in measured over V-stitch pattern. The cushion back has a 'tension' (stitch size) of 22 stitches and 30 rows measured over double crochet (see Tips).

TECHNIQUES USED

Treble crochet, working into a chain space, double crochet and joining in new balls of yarn.

TIPS

Tension

Don't worry about tension too much! If your cushion front ends up a bit bigger or smaller than the size given here, just adjust the size of the double-crochet back pieces to suit it and buy a cushion to fit.

Joining in a new yarn

This technique is used for joining in a new ball of yarn when the one you are using runs out. Begin your treble in the usual way, but change to the new ball of yarn when drawing through the last loop of the stitch. Leave a long loose end of the old yarn and the new yarn to weave in later.

Tightening the back opening

Be sure to change to a size smaller hook before working the last 2.5cm/1in of each back piece. This 'snaps up' the edges and keeps them firm and even.

Buying a covered cushion

For a subtle effect, buy a covered cushion that closely matches the colour of your chosen yarn. If you are good at sewing, you can buy a cushion pad and cover it with a fabric of your choice.

INSPIRATION

Experiment with various colours and yarn textures, such as silk, ribbon or linen. Different yarns will give different stitch sizes, so just adjust the number of foundation chain to get the size you want. The cluster pattern needs a multiple of 9 foundation chain plus 3 extra.

METHOD

Front

Foundation chain Leaving a long loose end and using a 3.50mm hook, make 111 chain.

Row 1 Work 2tr into 5th chain from hook. 1ch, 2tr into next ch, miss 3ch, [1tr, 2ch, 1tr] all into next ch, *miss 3ch, 2tr into next ch, 1ch, 2tr into next ch, miss 3ch, [1tr, 2ch, 1tr] all into next ch, repeat from * to last 2ch, miss 1ch, 1tr into last ch. Turn.
Row 2 Work 3ch to count as first tr, [2tr, 1ch, 2tr] into first 2-ch space (inserting hook under the chain – not into the chain – when working the trebles), [1tr, 2ch, 1tr] into next 1-ch space, *[2tr, 1ch, 2tr] into next 2-ch space, [1tr, 2ch, 1tr] into next 1-ch space, repeat from * to last 2tr, miss these 2tr, 1tr into next ch (top of turning chain). Turn. There are 24 V-stitches across the row (twelve 2tr V-stitches and twelve 4tr V-stitches).
Repeat row 2 until cushion front measures 43cm/17¼in from foundation-chain edge (a total of about 43 rows from beginning). Fasten off.

Back (worked in 2 pieces)

Foundation chain Leaving a long loose end and using a 3.50mm hook, make 96 chain.

Row 1 Work 1dc into 2nd chain from hook, 1dc into each of remaining chain. Turn. There are 95dc in the row.

Row 2 1ch, 1dc into each dc to end. Turn. Repeat row 2 until the work measures 24cm/9½in from foundation-chain edge. Change to 3.00mm hook and work 2.5cm/1in more in dc.

Fasten off.

Make a second piece the same.

TO FINISH

Weave any loose ends into the work. Lay the pieces out flat, then steam and press lightly.

Place back pieces on a flat surface and overlap two of the long edges by about

10cm/3¼in so that the pieces form a cushion back 43cm/17¼in square. Then place the cushion front on top (there is no right or wrong side to the front or the back pieces). Carefully pin the front to the backs around the outside edge, easing in the front to fit if necessary. Join the seam with overcast stitches, or with double crochet. Turn the cover right side out and insert the covered cushion.



filet cushion

Filet, from the French word for net, is basically two simple stitches – chain and treble – which are combined to create a square mesh, with some spaces in the mesh filled to form a motif or pattern. The simple lace look suits both traditional or contemporary interiors. A beautiful classic in pure white cotton, this cushion cover is very easy to make: the front is made up of nine squares of filet crochet joined together and finished with a picot edging to enhance its simplicity; the back is a piece of antique white linen.

making : the filet cushion

CUSHION FRONT SIZE

Approximately 39cm/15½in square, excluding the picot edging.

MATERIALS

4 x 50g balls white Rowan 4ply Cotton or a similar lightweight white cotton yarn (see page 122)
Hook size 3.50mm
Cushion pad 40cm/16in square
50cm/1yd of 112cm/44in wide white linen or cotton fabric and white sewing thread (see Tips)

STITCH SIZE

This cushion has a 'tension' (stitch size) of 13 spaces and 13 rows to 10cm/4in measured over filet crochet pattern. Each finished filet motif measures 13cm/5¼in square, but working to an exact tension is not essential (see Tips).

TECHNIQUES USED

Filet crochet, working with charts, joining motifs together and picot edge trimming.

TIPS

Tension

Don't worry about tension too much! If your cushion front ends up a bit bigger or smaller than the size given here, just adjust the size of the fabric cover to fit.

Joining in a new yarn

If your ball of yarn runs out while you are making one of the filet squares, join in a new one at the end of a row. Begin the last treble of the row in the usual way, but change to the new ball of yarn when drawing through the last loop of the stitch. Leave a long loose end of the old yarn and the new yarn to weave in later.

Buying a cushion pad

If you can't find a cushion pad the exact size you need, buy one that is slightly larger rather than slightly smaller so that it puffs up the cover nicely.

Fabric cushion cover

There are instructions for making your own fabric cushion cover, but if you like, you can buy a ready-made plain white covered cushion and stitch your crochet to it.

Filet crochet charts

Filet crochet instructions are usually charted. The blank squares on the chart represent 'spaces' in the filet and the squares with a symbol in them represent the solid 'blocks' of trebles. To follow a filet chart, read the odd-numbered rows from right to left and the even-numbered rows from left to right. From this basic filet technique many different patterns can be designed.

INSPIRATION

Experiment with different weights of yarn, colours and patterns to give a modern twist to the traditional. Use one motif as an insert in a linen bag or join three squares in a strip and use them as an edging on a velvet or satin pillowslip for a contemporary boudoir or guest room.

METHOD

Foundation chain Leaving a long loose end and using a 3.50mm hook, make 38 chain.

Row 1 Work 1tr into 6th chain from hook to make first 'space'. *1ch, miss 1ch, 1tr into next ch, repeat from * to end. Turn. There are 17 'spaces' in the row.

Row 2 4ch to count as first tr and first 1-ch space, miss first tr and first 1-ch space, *1tr into next tr, 1tr into next 1-ch space [inserting hook under the chain – not into the chain – when working the tr], repeat from * to last tr, 1tr into last tr, 1ch, miss 1ch, 1tr into next ch [top of turning chain]. Turn.

Row 3 4ch to count as first tr and first 1-ch space, miss first tr and first 1-ch space, 1tr into each of next 3tr (this makes one 'filet space' followed by 2 'filet blocks'), [1ch, miss next tr, 1tr into next tr] 5 times (this makes 5 'spaces'), 1tr into each of next 2tr (this makes one 'block'), [1ch, miss next tr, 1tr into next tr] 5 times [this

makes 5 more 'spaces'], 1tr into each of next 4tr (this makes 2 'blocks'), 1ch, miss next ch, 1tr into next ch [this makes one last 'space']]. Turn.

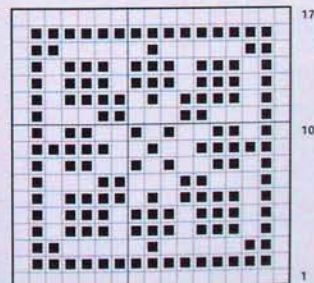
Row 4 4ch, miss first tr and first 1-ch space, 1tr into each of next 3tr, 1ch, miss 1tr, [1tr into next tr, 1tr into next 1-ch space] 3 times, 1tr into next tr, 1ch, miss next 1-ch space, 1tr into next tr, 1tr into next 1-ch space, 1tr into each of next 3tr, 1tr into next 1-ch space, 1tr into next tr, 1ch, miss next 1-ch space, [1tr into next tr, 1tr into next 1-ch space] 3 times, 1tr into next tr, 1ch, miss 1tr, 1tr into each of next 3tr, 1ch, miss next ch, 1tr into next ch. Turn.

Row 5 4ch, miss first tr, 1tr into each of next 3tr, [1ch, 1tr into each of next 7tr] 3 times, 1ch, 1tr into each of next 3tr, 1ch, miss next ch, 1tr into next ch. Turn.

Row 6 4ch, miss first tr, 1tr into each of next 3tr, 1ch, 1tr into each of next 7tr, 1tr into next 1-ch space, 1tr into next tr, 1ch, miss next tr, 1tr into each of next 3tr, 1ch, miss next tr, 1tr into next tr, 1tr into next 1-ch space, 1tr into each of next 7tr, 1ch, 1tr into each of next 3tr, 1ch, miss next ch, 1tr into next ch. Turn.

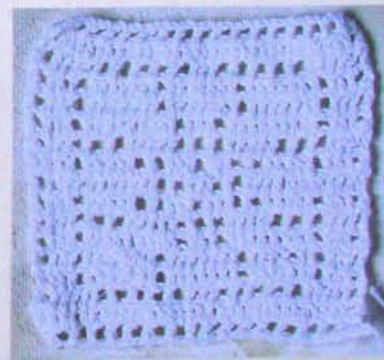
When working the next row, watch the chart as you make the 'spaces' and 'blocks' – you will see that each space on the chart is made up of a chain with a treble on each side and each block is made by working a treble where the chain would have been in the filet mesh. (See Tips for reading chart.)

Row 7 4ch, miss first tr, 1tr into each of next 3tr, 1ch, 1tr into next tr, [1ch, miss next tr, 1tr into next tr] twice, 1tr into each of next 4tr, 1ch, 1tr into next tr, 1ch,



KEY

□ = space
■ = block



miss next tr, 1tr into next tr, 1ch, 1tr into each of next 5tr, [1ch, miss next tr, 1tr into next tr] twice, 1ch, 1tr into each of next 3tr, 1ch, miss next ch, 7tr into next ch. Turn.

Continue forming the pattern with 'blocks' and 'spaces' in this way, and following the chart for the pattern, until row 17 has been completed. Fasten off. Work a total of 9 squares.

TO FINISH

Weave in any loose ends on the wrong side of the work.

Lay the nine pieces out flat, then steam and press lightly.

Oversew the squares together.

Picot edging

For a detailed finish, work a simple picot-stitch edging all around square. Begin by joining the yarn to a corner of the filet patchwork with a slip stitch. Then work the edging round and round the edge as follows:

Round 1 4ch to count as first tr and first 1-ch space, [1ch, 1tr] twice into same corner, then repeat [1ch, 1tr] evenly all around the edge, working the treble into each treble along the top and bottom, and into the top of each row end along the sides, and working [1ch, 1tr] 3 times into each of remaining three corners; at end of round, join with a slip stitch to 3rd of first 4-ch.

Round 2 1ch, 1dc into same place as slip stitch, 1dc into each 1-ch space (inserting

hook under the chain – not into the chain – when working a dc into a 1-ch space) and 1dc into each dc to end of round; join with a slip stitch to first dc.

Round 3 1ch, 1dc into same place as slip stitch, 1dc into each dc to end of round; join with a slip stitch to first dc.

Round 4 1ch, [1dc, 5ch, 1dc] all into same place as slip stitch to form first picot, 1dc into next dc. * [1dc, 5ch, 1dc] all into next dc, 1dc into next dc, repeat from * to end; join with a slip stitch to first dc. Fasten off.

FABRIC COVER

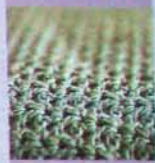
Cut your piece of white fabric to 42cm/17in by 101cm/40¹/₄in. Begin the cover by making a hem along each of the two short edges. Fold 1.5cm/1/2in, then 4cm/1¹/₂in to the wrong side and pin.

Baste, then topstitch these two hems. Remove the basting and press. Lay the piece on a flat surface with the right side facing upwards. Fold each hemmed edge towards the centre and overlap them by 12cm/4³/₄in so that the cover measures 39cm/15³/₄in from fold to fold. Pin the open sides together and baste. Sew the seams 1.5cm/3/8in from the raw edges. Trim the seams and finish the raw edges with a zigzag stitch. Remove the basting, turn right side out and press.

Hand-stitch the crochet piece to the front of the fabric cover, stitching around the edge of the filet-square patchwork and leaving the picot edging free.



t h r o w s





pieced throw

The effect of this throw is like a traditional 'strippy' patchwork, worked in long strips that are then joined together. Each strip is in half treble crochet in blocks of colour – natural ecru with brilliant shades of pink and orange. The colours are staggered on each strip to produce a patchwork pattern. After the strips are crocheted together, they are finished with an edging of pink. As it is made in cotton, this throw is cool in summer and warm in winter. Great for bedroom or sitting room, it can be laundered time after time.



making : the pieced throw

THROW SIZE

Approximately 107cm x 138cm/42 1/2in x 56in, including edging.

MATERIALS

Rowan Handknit DK Cotton or a similar medium-weight yarn (see page 122) in 3 contrasting colours as follows:

Colour A: 8 x 50g balls pink

Colour B: 12 x 50g balls ecru

Colour C: 6 x 50g balls orange

Hook sizes 4.00mm and 4.50mm

STITCH SIZE

This throw has a stitch size of 14 stitches and 11 1/2 rows to 30cm/4in measured over half treble crochet.

Each of the 10 strips of crochet is 13.5cm/5 1/2in wide by 104cm/41 1/4in long, but working to an exact tension is not essential (see Tips).

TECHNIQUES USED

Half treble crochet, double crochet and joining in new balls of yarn.

TIPS

Tension

Don't worry about tension too much! Because this is a throw, an exact width is not that important and you can make it any length you want by adding to or subtracting from the number of rows worked.

Starting each strip

The foundation chain of each strip is worked with a larger hook, so that the starting edge is not too tight and so that it is easier to work the crochet edging into it.

Joining in a new yarn

This technique is used for changing yarns when your ball of yarn is finished or when you want to start a new colour for stripes. Change to the new yarn at the end of a row. Begin the last half treble in the usual way, by wrapping the yarn around the hook, inserting the hook into the 2-ch at the end of the row and drawing a loop through; then drop the old yarn/colour and draw the new yarn/colour through all 3 loops now on the hook to finish the half

treble crochet. Leave long loose ends of the old and new yarns to weave in later, or work over the ends for several stitches before clipping them off.

METHOD

Strip 1

Foundation chain Leaving a long loose end and using a 4.50mm hook and colour A (pink), make 20 chain.

Change to a 4.00mm hook and begin the half treble crochet as follows:

Row 1 Work 1htr into 3rd chain from hook, 1htr into each of remaining chain. Turn.

Row 2 2ch (this counts as first htr of row, so work it loosely), miss first htr and work 1htr into next htr, then work 1htr into each of remaining htr, work last htr into 2-ch at edge. Turn. There are 19 stitches in the row.

Repeating row 2, work 14 rows more in colour A (pink).

Continuing in htr throughout, work 16 rows B (ecru), 16 C (orange), 16 B (ecru),

inspiration

This striped throw, with equally wide or wide or narrow vertical panels for a more vibrant design, the colour blocks could be worked as a simple regular stripe pattern like the one shown left, or alternating solid-coloured and striped blocks. Whether stripe patterns such as the one on the right give a modern and fresh look when combined with ecru, and would look equally striking in combination with black.

16 A (pink), 16 B (ecru), 16 C (orange), and 8 B (ecru). Fasten off.

The 9 following strips are worked in the same stripe sequence, but started 8 rows later in the sequence as follows:

Strip 2

Work as for strip 1, but change the stripe sequence to 8 rows A (pink), 16 B (ecru), 16 C (orange), 16 B (ecru), 16 A (pink), 16 B (ecru), 16 C (orange), and 16 B (ecru).

Strip 3

Work as for strip 1, but change the stripe sequence to 16 rows B (ecru), 16 C (orange), 16 B (ecru), 16 A (pink), 16 B (ecru), 16 C (orange), 16 C (orange), and 8 A (pink).

Strip 4

Work as for strip 1, but change the stripe sequence to 8 rows B (ecru), 16 C (orange), 16 B (ecru), 16 A (pink), 16 B (ecru), 16 C (orange), 16 B (ecru), and 16 A (pink).

Strip 5

Work as for strip 1, but change the stripe sequence to 16 rows C (orange), 16 B (ecru), 16 A (pink), 16 B (ecru), 16 C (orange), 16 B (ecru), 16 A (pink), and 8 B (ecru).

Strip 6

Work as for strip 1, but change the stripe sequence to 8 rows C (orange), 16 B (ecru), 16 A (pink), 16 B (ecru), 16 C (orange), 16 B (ecru), 16 A (pink), and 16 B (ecru).

Strip 7

Work as for strip 1, but change the stripe sequence to 16 rows B (ecru), 16 A (pink), 16 B (ecru), 16 C (orange), 16 B (ecru), 16 A (pink), 16 B (ecru), and 8 C (orange).

Strip 8

Work as for strip 1, but change the stripe sequence to 8 rows B (ecru), 16 A (pink), 16 B (ecru), 16 C (orange), 16 B (ecru), 16 A (pink), 16 B (ecru), and 16 C (orange).

Strips 9 and 10

Work as for strips 1 and 2.

TO FINISH

Weave in any loose ends at the back of the work.

Lay each strip out flat, then steam and press lightly.

Arrange the bands side by side in the order in which they were made (from right to

left), with all the foundation-chain edges at the bottom. (Joined in this order, the blocks of colour will form diagonal stripes across the throw.) Join the strips together by oversewing, or by holding the pieces with right sides together and working a row of dc in colour B (ecru) through both thickness (1dc per row end).

Edging

Using a 4.00mm hook and colour A (pink), work a row of double crochet around the edge of the throw. For an even edging, work 1dc into each chain along the foundation-chain edge, 1dc into each dc along the top; 1dc into each row end along the sides; and 3dc into each corner to keep the corners square. Fasten off and weave in end.



textured throw

A timeless classic, this simple textured throw is an updated version of a traditional waffle blanket. It is worked in the simplest of textural stitches and bordered with a band of double crochet. Crocheted in a beautiful, matt, neutral, stone-coloured linen yarn, this throw is both sophisticated and modern. Use it anywhere – in the house, the garden or the car.



making : the textured throw

THROW SIZE

Approximately 123cm x 154cm/49 1/4in x 61 1/4in.

MATERIALS

29 x 50g balls Rowan Linen Drape or a similar lightweight linen yarn (see page 122)

Hook size 3.50mm

STITCH SIZE

This throw has a 'tension' (stitch size) of 6 1/2 V-stitches and 8 1/2 rows to 10cm/4in measured over V-stitch pattern, but working to an exact tension is not essential (see Tips).

TECHNIQUES USED

Treble crochet, working into a chain space, double crochet, working a border in rounds and joining in new balls of yarn.

TIPS

Tension and throw size

Don't worry about tension too much!

Because this is a throw, an exact size is not that important as long as it suits your purposes and the fabric is soft and supple. You can make the throw to any length you want by working more or fewer rows. You can also alter the width by adding to or subtracting from the number of V-stitches across the row. Make 3 foundation chain for every V-stitch you need – then work 3 extra foundation chain before starting row 1. **Joining in a new yarn**

This technique is used for starting a new ball of yarn when the one you are using runs out or when working stripes. Begin your treble in the usual way, but change to the new ball of yarn when drawing through the last loop of the stitch. Leave a long loose end of the old yarn and the new yarn to weave in later.

INSPIRATION

Experiment with different yarn textures, such as lurex, suede or fine merino wool.

METHOD

Foundation chain Leaving a long loose end and using a 3.50mm hook, make 231 chain.

Row 1 Work 1tr into 4th chain from hook, 1ch, 1tr into next ch, *miss 1ch, 1tr into next ch, 1ch, 1tr into next chain, repeat from * to last ch, 1tr into last ch. Turn.

Row 2 Work 3ch to count as first tr, [1tr, 1ch, 1tr] into first 1-ch space (inserting hook under the chain – not into the chain – when working the trebles), * [1tr, 1ch, 1tr] into next 1-ch space, repeat from * to end, 1tr into top of turning chain. Turn. There are 76 V-stitches in the row. Repeat row 2 until work measures 148cm/59 1/4in from foundation-chain edge (a total of about 126 rows from beginning). Fasten off.

TO FINISH

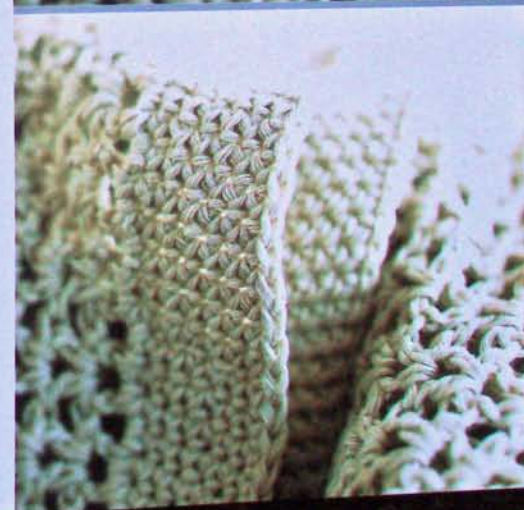
Weave any loose ends into the work. Lay the work out flat, then steam and press lightly.


Border

Using a 3.50mm hook, join yarn to edge of throw with a slip stitch by inserting hook through a chain near the centre of the foundation-chain edge of the throw and drawing a loop through, then work the border in rounds as follows:

Round 1 1ch, 1dc into same place as slip stitch was worked, 1dc into next ch, then continue in dc around the entire edge of the throw, working 1dc into each foundation chain, 2dc into each row end along the sides, 1dc into each stitch across the last row, and 3dc into each corner; join with a slip stitch to top of first dc of round.

Round 2 1ch, 1dc into same place as slip stitch was worked, then work 1dc into each dc along sides and 3dc into each centre dc of each 3dc-group at corners; join with a slip stitch to top of first dc of round. Work 5 rounds more as round 2 for a 3cm/1 1/4in deep border. Fasten off and weave in any remaining loose ends.





modern afghan

This is a simple, easy project to make and it can be picked up whenever time allows. Traditional crochet afghan squares are worked in subtle toning colours of soft natural cotton, joined together to make a stylish throw for sofa or car, or even the basket of your much-loved dog or cat. Cotton washes well time and time again, so it is not only comfortable but practical too. Each afghan square is worked in a combination of three of the colours, and they are joined together in a simple layout with the fourth colour. The blend of neutral colours chosen gives this little afghan a modern twist, but, if you wish, you can make it from leftover yarns from other projects in a vibrant mix of colours.

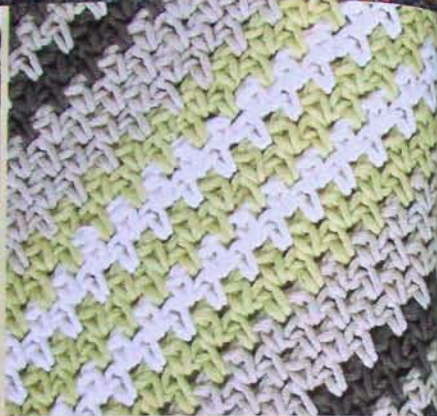




stripy throw

Make this elegant throw for the sofa or for the car. It is worked in warm neutral colours with a beautiful cotton microfibre yarn that is lightweight and modern. The stitch pattern is a supple variation on basic double crochet and looks very effective in this simple repeating stripe pattern. The throw takes no time at all to crochet. It is lighter to work than knitting can be, so it's easy to pick up and put down.





making : the stripy throw

THROW SIZE

Approximately 83cm x 138cm/33in x 55in.

MATERIALS

Rowan All Seasons Cotton or a similar medium-weight cotton yarn (see page 122) in 4 contrasting colours as follows:

Colour A: 10 x 50g balls in brown

Colour B: 5 x 50g balls in beige

Colour C: 3 x 50g balls in lime

Colour D: 2 x 50g balls in white

Hook size 6.00mm

STITCH SIZE

This throw has a 'tension' (stitch size) of 15 stitches and 14½ rows to 10cm/4in

measured over stitch pattern, but working to an exact tension is not essential (see Tips).

TECHNIQUES USED

Double crochet, working into a chain space and joining in new balls of yarn.

TIPS

Tension

Don't worry about tension too much! Because this is a throw, an exact width is not that important and you can make it any length you want by adding to or subtracting from the number of rows worked.

Joining in a new yarn

This technique is used for changing yarns when your ball of yarn is finished or when you want to start a new colour for stripes. Change to the new yarn at the end of a row. Begin the last double crochet in the usual way, by drawing a loop through the last chain space, then drop the old yarn and draw the new yarn through both loops now on the hook to finish the double crochet (see Crochet Basics for instructions on how to join in new yarn). Leave long loose ends of the old and new yarns to weave in later, or work over the ends for several stitches before clipping them off.

inspiration

If you wish, you can make a single-colour version of this throw, which exposes the simple textural beauty of the stitch. Alternatively, you can give your throw a completely different look by changing the colour scheme. Use varying shades of the same colour for a smoothly blending effect, or starkly contrasting tones for a striking boldness. Broader or narrower stripes, or wide uniform bands of colour, will also alter the effect. Before starting an original version, make a long thin strip to test your stripe creation.



METHOD

Foundation chain Leaving a long loose end and using a 6.00mm hook and colour A (brown), make 126 chain.

Row 1 Work 1dc into 4th chain from hook, *1ch, miss 1ch, 1dc into next ch, repeat from * to end. Turn.

Row 2 Make 2ch (this counts as first dc and first 1-ch space), miss first dc and work 1dc into first 1-ch space (inserting hook under the chain – not into the chain – when working the dc), *1ch, miss next dc, 1dc into next 1-ch space, repeat from * to end, working last dc into chain space at edge. Turn.

Repeating row 2, work 22 rows more in

pattern in colour A (brown).

Stripe pattern repeat

Continuing to repeat row 2 for stitch pattern, work next 42 rows in stripes as follows:

Colour B (beige): 2 rows.

Colour A (brown): 2 rows.

Colour B (beige): 4 rows.

Colour C (lime): 2 rows.

Colour D (white): 2 rows.

Colour C (lime): 2 rows.

Colour D (white): 2 rows.

Colour C (lime): 2 rows.

Colour B (beige): 4 rows.

Colour A (brown): 2 rows.

Colour B (beige): 2 rows.

Colour A (brown): 16 rows.

Work this 42-row stripe-pattern repeat 4 times in total.

Work 8 rows more in A (brown), so that the throw ends with 24 rows A to match brown border at beginning.

Fatten off.

TO FINISH

Weave any loose ends into the work. Lay the work out flat, then steam and press lightly.

rag rug

This crocheted rag rug was created with simple natural linens and cottons in plain natural tones and in simple black and white patterns, including a ticking stripe and a gingham. You can make your own rug from scraps, recycled from worn-out or outgrown clothes, or various remnants. The fabric is simply cut up into thin strips of various lengths and crocheted together randomly with a large hook. Rag rugs work well in hallways or bathrooms, on flagstones or parquet. The ends of the rag strips can be woven into the crochet or knotted and left sticking out for a textured effect.





inspiration

Experiment with different fabric textures, but try to keep the strips to a similar width when cutting. Use different colour tones or work regular stripes instead of random ones. Vary the size of the rug to suit your personal requirements – maybe a runner for a hallway – or work manageable sections or squares and join them together to make a larger rug for the lounge or bedroom. Use fabric strips in patterns, prints and stripes of similar tones to create special effects. Try working in a spiral (as for the round cushion cover on pages 30–31) to create a circular rug.

making : the rag rug

RAG RUG SIZE

Approximately 66.5cm x 87.5cm/26 1/2in x 35in.

MATERIALS

Scraps of an assortment of fabric (the rug shown here was made from cotton/linen mixes in three natural shades, a black linen, a white linen, a cotton ticking with narrow black and white stripes, a black and white gingham, and a black and white check)

Hook size 8.00mm

STITCH SIZE

This rug has a 'tension' (stitch size) of 7 1/2 stitches and 8 rows to 10cm/4in measured over double crochet, but working to an exact tension is not essential (see Tips for more about tension).

TECHNIQUES USED

Making yarns from fabric by cutting into strips, double crochet and joining in new fabric strips.

TIPS

Tension

Don't worry about tension too much! Because this rug can be made to any size and is worked randomly, it doesn't matter what your tension is as long as it produces a nice soft rug. If your stitches are so tight you find them difficult to work comfortably, try a larger hook size.

Cutting fabric strips

Before starting to crochet, cut some long strips from each of your fabrics. Make the strips about 1.5cm/5/16in wide and cut them on the straight grain of the fabric. If you like, you can roll the strips into balls

just like balls of ordinary yarn. When you run out of strips as you are crocheting, cut more as you need them.

Joining in a new strip

This technique is used for starting a new strip when the one you are using runs out or when changing to a new colour for stripes. Begin a double crochet in the usual way, by drawing a loop through the next stitch, then drop the old strip and draw the new strip through both loops now on the hook to finish the double crochet (see Crochet Basics). Leave long loose ends of the old and new strips to weave in later, or work over the ends for several stitches before clipping them off.

METHOD

Foundation chain Leaving a long loose end and using an 8.00mm hook and a plain

natural-coloured fabric strip, make 50 chain.

Row 1 Work 1dc into 2nd chain from hook, 1dc into each of remaining chain. Turn.

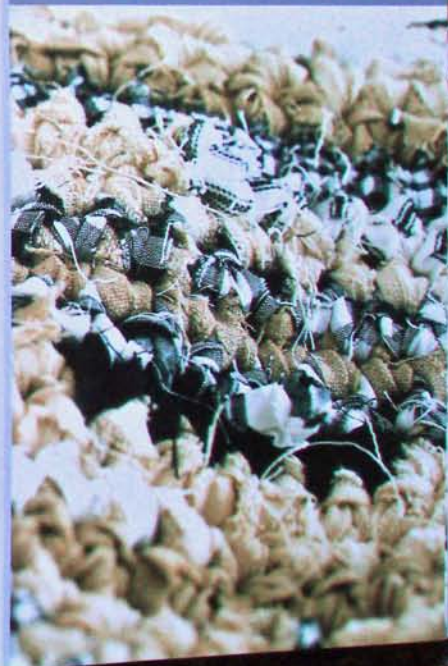
Joining in new strips of fabric at random for a random stripe effect, continue as follows:

Row 2 1ch (this counts as first dc of row, so work it loosely), miss first dc and work 1dc into next dc, then work 1dc into each of remaining dc, work last dc into 1-ch at edge. Turn. There are 50 stitches in the row.

Repeat row 2 until rug measures approximately 87.5cm/35in from foundation-chain edge (a total of about 70 rows from beginning) or to the desired length. Fasten off.

TO FINISH

Weave any loose ends into the double crochet. Lay the work out flat, then steam and press lightly.



containers





boxes

These simple crocheted boxes have a variety of uses – to store shoes or jewellery, to stack cutlery in, or to display yarns and threads for projects; or put them to use in the bathroom. Have fun thinking up new combinations of colours and textures, and give the boxes as a gift, attractive and useful. They are worked in basic double crochet using parcel string, trimmed with cotton 'rag' strips. Three different shapes and sizes are given here, but it is very easy to make them to suit your own requirements.





making : the boxes

BOX SIZES

Box A: The tall square box with orange trim measures 15cm x 15cm x 20.5cm tall/6in x 6in x 8¹/₄in tall.

Box B: The small rectangular box with bright pink trim measures 27cm x 10.5cm x 8cm tall/10³/₄in x 4¹/₄in x 3¹/₄in tall.

Box C: The large rectangular box with pale pink trim measures 29.5cm x 21cm x 12cm tall/11³/₄in x 8¹/₄in x 4³/₄in tall. Note that the instructions are given for box A (the square box) and the figures for the two rectangular boxes are given in parentheses like this – box A (box B: box C).

MATERIALS

4(2-5) x 40m/44yd balls thick parcel string (available from local hardware stores or stationers)

Fabric remnants for rag edging – in orange, bright pink and pale pink
Hook sizes 4.50mm and 5.00mm

STITCH SIZE

These boxes have a 'tension' (stitch size) of 11¹/₂ stitches and 13 rows to 10cm/4in measured over double crochet, but working to an exact tension is not essential (see Tips).

TECHNIQUES USED

Double crochet, joining in new balls of yarn and making yarn from fabric by cutting into strips.

TIPS

Tension
Don't worry about tension too much! Because the boxes can be made to any size, it doesn't matter what your tension is as long as it produces a fairly stiff fabric that will hold its shape nicely. Just make the sides and ends of the boxes first, following the instructions given. Then make the base, adding to or subtracting from the number of rows recommended

until the depth of the piece matches the width of the ends.

Joining in a new yarn

This technique is used for starting a new ball of yarn when the one you are using runs out. Begin a double crochet in the usual way, by drawing a loop through the next stitch, then drop the old yarn and draw the new yarn through both loops now on the hook to finish the double crochet (see Crochet Basics). Leave a long loose end of the old and new yarns to weave in later, or work over the ends before clipping them off.

Cutting fabric strips

For the rag edging on the boxes, cut some long fabric strips about 1.5cm³/₄in wide and cut them on the straight grain of the fabric. If you like, you can roll the strips into balls just like balls of ordinary yarn. For a long continuous strip, cut along the first edge, then turn at the corner, cutting in a spiral towards the centre.

Inspiration

String is a great material for crochet boxes, but you could also try using other textures and colours, or make a whole box with rag strips in various shades and in pinks, stripes and patterns. Just work the double crochet tightly to keep the fabric firm. Use the boxes for storage – the ones here carry an attractive display on the bathroom shelf.



METHOD

Box sides (make 2)

Foundation chain Leaving a long loose end and using a 5.00mm hook and string, make 17(31-34) chain.

Row 1 Work 1dc into 2nd chain from hook, 1dc into each of remaining chain. Turn.

Row 2 1ch (this counts as first dc of row, so work it loosely), miss first dc and work 1dc into next dc, then work 1dc into each of remaining dc, work last dc into 1-ch at edge. Turn. There are 17(31-34) stitches in the row.

Repeat row 2 until work measures 19(6.5:10.5)cm/7¹/₄(2³/₄:4¹/₄)in from foundation-chain edge – a total of about 25(9:14) rows from beginning. Fasten off.

Box ends (make 2)

Foundation chain Leaving a long loose end and using a 5.00mm hook and string, make 17(12:24) chain.

Work rows 1 and 2 as for box sides. Repeat row 2 on these 17(12:24) stitches until there are same number of rows as on sides. Fasten off.

Box base (make 1)

Foundation chain Leaving a long loose end and using a 5.00mm hook and string, make 17(31:34) chain.

Work rows 1 and 2 as for box sides. Repeat row 2 on these 17(31:34) stitches until work measures 15(10.5:21)cm/6(4¹/₄:8¹/₄)in from foundation-chain edge – a total of about 19(14:27) rows from beginning. Fasten off.

TO FINISH

Weave any loose ends into work. Oversew the ends and sides together along the short seams to make a box shape – the seams are meant to show on the outside of the box, so hold the pieces with the

wrong sides together when sewing. Oversew the box base to the sides and ends in the same way.

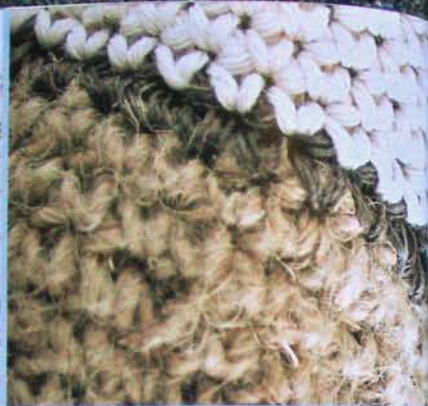
'Rag' edging

Using a 4.50mm hook and string, work a row of dc all around the top of the box. Fasten off. Using a 4.50mm hook and an orange (bright pink: pale pink) fabric strip (see Tips), work another row of dc. Fasten off. Sew in any loose ends.

string bottle cover

These sculptural containers have a strong architectural presence. Created in natural yarns – a combination of hemp and simple string – they are worked in basic double crochet. The covers have been designed to fit neatly over wine or mineral water bottles as decoration. Equally, an empty bottle can be used as a vase.





making : the string bottle cover

BOTTLE COVER SIZE

Approximately 45cm/17½in tall.
See *Tips for adjusting circumference to fit different bottle sizes.*

MATERIALS

1 x large ball medium-weight brown string,
and 2 x 40m/44yd balls thick natural-
coloured parcel string (both available from
local hardware stores or stationers)
Hook size 5.50mm
Wine or water bottle
Two lengths of contrasting coloured yarn
or two safety pins for markers

STITCH SIZE

This bottle cover has a 'tension' [stitch
size] of 10½ stitches and 11½ rows to
10cm/4in measured over double crochet
using one strand of thick string or 2
strands of medium-weight brown string.

but working to an exact tension is not
essential (see *Tips*).

TECHNIQUES USED

Double crochet, working in rounds, simple
decreases and joining in new balls of yarn.

TIPS

Working in rounds

When you work your crochet in rounds
you never have to turn the fabric. The
right side is always facing you.

Bottle size and tension

Don't worry about tension too much!
A cover worked to the specified stitch size
will easily fit a standard-size wine bottle
or a big mineral-water bottle with plenty
of room to spare, and the circumference
of the cover is easy to alter. Work the first
3 rounds of the cover, then slip it over
your bottle – it should slide on easily,

with room left over. If you want a slightly
snugger fit or if the cover is too tight, just
start over, making the foundation chain a
little shorter or a little longer.

Joining in a new yarn

This technique is used for changing yarns
when your ball of yarn is finished or when
you want to start a new colour for stripes.
Begin a double crochet in the usual way,
by drawing a loop through the next stitch,
then drop the old yarn and draw the new
yarn through both loops now on the hook
to finish the double crochet. Leave a long
loose end of the old and new yarns to
weave in later, or work over the ends for
several stitches before clipping them off.

METHOD

Foundation-chain ring Leaving a long
loose end and using a 5.50mm hook and
2 strands of medium-weight brown string

inspiration

Try using different string textures or different stripe
combinations for your bottle covers. To make round baskets
to go with your bottle covers, first work the circular bottom
of the container, following the instructions for the round
string cushion on pages 30–33. When the circle is the
diameter required for your basket, stop adding stitches. If
you continue on this fixed number of stitches, the sides of
the basket will begin to form. Fasten off when the basket
is the desired height.



together, make 33 chain and join length of
chain into a ring by working a slip stitch
into first chain made.

Round 1 (right side) Make 1 chain,
work 1dc into same chain as slip stitch
was worked. 1dc into each of remaining
32ch. There are now 33dc in the round.

Round 2 (right side) Miss the slip stitch
and the 1-ch and work 1dc into top of first
dc of previous round, 1dc into each of the
remaining 32dc of previous round. 33dc.
Continue working these 33 stitches in
rounds in a spiral until work measures
13cm/5in from foundation-chain edge.

Change to one strand of thick parcel string
and continue until work measures
23cm/9in from foundation-chain edge. (As
the cover is being worked in a spiral there
is no need to keep track of exactly where
each new round begins and ends, so when
the cover is 23cm/9in tall you can start

the next round in any place you choose.)
Decrease 2 stitches in next round as
follows:

Next round (decrease round) [Insert
hook into next dc, yarn round hook and
draw a loop through] twice, yarn round
hook and draw through all 3 loops on
hook—called decrease one stitch—, mark
the decrease just made with a coloured
thread or a safety pin, continue in dc until
half way around work from first decrease,
then decrease one stitch, mark the
decrease just made. 1dc into each of
remaining dc of round. 31dc.

Work one round without decreasing.
Work 2 decreases evenly spaced on next
round and on 2 following alternate rounds,
working decreases as before and
positioning them roughly above the
marked decreases on the first decrease
round. 25dc.

Continue in dc without shaping until
work measures 32cm/12½in.
Decrease 2 stitches as before on
next round and 3 following alternate
rounds. 17dc.

Work in dc until work measures 45cm/
17½in.

Work a slip stitch into each of next few
dc to taper the stitch height and neaten
the edge. Fasten off.

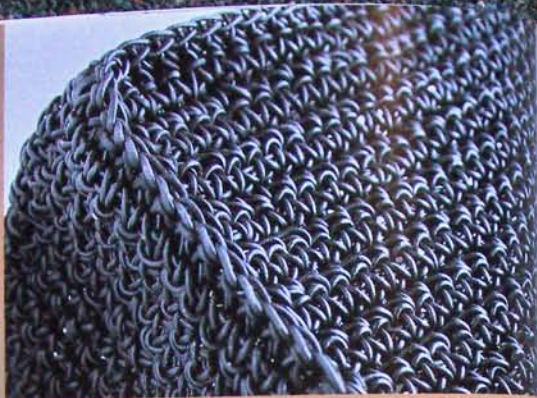
TO FINISH

Weave the loose ends into the wrong side
of the cover.



log basket

For the ultimate in crochet, make a fireside basket in rich black leather, or sisal, string or hemp and use it for logs, newspapers, magazines or general clutter. Crocheting with leather thonging takes a little dexterity and patience, but the results are stunning. Worked in double crochet with a really large hook, the basket is made in five pieces that are then sewn together. Large 'buttonholes' serve as handles. Work to dimensions that suit your budget and purpose.



making the log basket

BASKET SIZE

Approximately 37.5cm x 30cm x 25cm tall/15in x 12in x 10in tall.

MATERIALS

9 x 50m/55yd balls 2mm-thick round leather thonging (available from craft stores or leather merchants); or sisal or hemp string

Hook sizes 9.00mm, 8.00mm and 7.00mm
Large upholstery sewing needle – optional (see Tips)

STITCH SIZE

This basket has a 'tension' (stitch size) of 8 stitches and 10 rows to 10cm/4in measured over double crochet, but working to an exact tension is not essential (see Tips).

TECHNIQUES USED

Double crochet and joining in new balls of yarn.

TIPS

Tension and basket size

Don't worry about tension too much! As the basket can be made to any size, it doesn't matter what your tension is as long as it produces a fairly stiff fabric that will hold its shape nicely. Just make the sides and ends of the basket following the instructions given. Then make the base, adding to or subtracting from the number of rows recommended until the depth of the piece matches the width of the ends. If you wish to achieve a particular size, do a small square to test your stitch size, then calculate the number of rows and stitches you'll need (see page 17).

Joining in a new yarn

This technique is used for starting a new ball of yarn when the one you are using runs out. Begin a double crochet in the usual way, by drawing a loop through the next stitch, then drop the old yarn and

draw the new yarn through both loops now on the hook to finish the double crochet (see Crochet Basics for how to work double crochet). Leave a long loose end of the old and new yarns to weave in later, or work over the ends for several stitches before clipping them off.

Leather

Leather is quite hard on the hands, so concentrate on one stitch at a time, as a unique aspect of constructing a special textile. Warm the leather in your hands as you work to soften it. It can be a little sticky, too, and a little talcum powder on the hook may assist to pull it through.

Sewing together

To sew the leather basket pieces together, use a large upholstery needle. Alternatively, you can simply weave the end of the thonging directly through the crochet fabric, as it is rigid enough to do this.

INSPIRATION

Experiment with different yarn textures, sisal string or hemp. Make the basket in a texture of your choice and fill with supplies for a new home or baby, as a personal gift or to co-ordinate with the décor of a room.

METHOD

Basket sides (make 2)

Foundation chain Leaving a long loose end and using a 9.00mm hook and leather thonging, make 30 chain.

Change to an 8.00mm hook and begin working in double crochet as follows:

Row 1 Work 1dc into 2nd chain from hook, 1dc into each of remaining chain. Turn.

Row 2 1ch (this counts as first dc of row, so work it loosely), miss first dc and work 1dc into next dc, then work 1dc into each of remaining dc, work last dc into 1-ch at edge. Turn. There are 30 stitches in the row. Repeat row 2 until work measures 17cm/6 3/4in from foundation-chain edge – a total of about 17 rows from beginning.

'Buttonhole'/slot for handle

Start making the slot for the handle on the next row as follows:

Next row 1ch (to count as first dc), miss first dc and work 1dc into next dc, then work 1dc into each of next 7dc. Turn. There are now 9 stitches in this short row.

Next row 1ch, miss first dc and work 1dc into next dc, then work 1dc into each of next 6dc, work last dc into 1-ch at edge. Turn.

Leave the thonging where it is now – at the outside edge of the piece – but do not cut it off as you will return to it after working the other side of the slot.

Second side of slot

Using a new ball of thonging and with the piece facing you so that the short rows just worked are on the right, miss the first 12 stitches of the section left unworked and insert the hook through the next dc, yarn round hook and draw a loop through. 1ch, miss next dc and work 1dc into next dc. 1dc into each of next 6dc, work last dc into 1-ch at edge. Turn. There are 9 stitches in this short row.

Next row 1ch, miss first dc and work 1dc into next dc, then work 1dc into each of next 6dc, work last dc into 1-ch at edge. Fasten off.

Join sides of slot

Return to first side of handle 'buttonhole', pick up thonging left at outside edge and continue as follows:

Next row 1ch, miss first dc and work 1dc into next dc, then work 1dc into each of next 6dc. 1dc into 1-ch at handle edge, then make 12 chain over the gap, 1dc into each of next 8dc on second side of handle, work last dc into 1-ch at edge. Turn.

Next row 1ch, miss first dc and work 1dc into next dc, 1dc into each of next 7dc, 1dc into each chain, 1dc into each of next 8dc, work last dc into 1-ch at edge. Turn. There are now 30 stitches in the row. Now continue in dc until side measures 24cm/9 1/2in from foundation-chain edge – a total of about 24 rows from beginning. Fasten off.

Basket ends (make 2)

Foundation chain Leaving a long loose end and using a 9.00mm hook and leather thonging, make 24 chain. Change to an 8.00mm hook and work rows 1 and 2 as for basket sides. Repeat row 2 on these 24 stitches until there are same number of rows as on sides. Fasten off.

Basket base (make 1)

Foundation chain Leaving a long loose end and using a 9.00mm hook and leather thonging, make 30 chain.

Change to an 8.00mm hook and work rows 1 and 2 as for basket sides. Repeat row 2 on these 30 stitches until work measures 30cm/12in from foundation-chain edge (check that it is deep enough to fit ends and adjust if necessary). Fasten off.

TO FINISH

Weave in all loose ends, taking care not to cut them off too short.

Join the ends and sides by oversewing with wrong sides together and pushing thonging through row ends or using a large upholstery needle (see Tips). Attach base either by oversewing, or by working dc through both layers with a 7.00mm hook, so that the seam is on the outside.

Finally, to firm up the top edge of the basket, work a row of dc all around the top using a 7.00mm hook. Fasten off and weave in any remaining loose ends.



string bag

Made with coloured plastic string, available in hardware stores or stationery shops, this string bag is very inexpensive to make and easy to work. Make several in different colours, filled with colourful plastic toys, to hang next to the nursery bathtub. Alternatively, hang them in the pantry, and fill them with fruit and vegetables. Work alternatives in natural string or leather thonging, fill with seashells and driftwood, and hang them in the bathroom.



Inspiration

Take advantage of all the different types of string available and make several bags in different colours and textures. You could use cotton or linen knitting or crochet yarns as well – but make sure your bag is strong enough if you intend to carry heavy loads in it.



making the string bag

BAG SIZE

Approximately 33cm/13in deep, but the bag is very stretchy.

MATERIALS

2 x 89m/98yd balls coloured multipurpose polypropylene string (available from local hardware stores or stationers)

Hook size 4.00mm

Length of contrasting coloured yarn for marker

STITCH SIZE

This bag has a 'tension' (stitch size) of 5 5-chain loops to 10cm/4in measured over crochet stitch used for bag, but working to an exact tension is not essential (see Tips).

TECHNIQUES USED

Double crochet, working in rounds, working into chain spaces and joining in new balls of yarn.

TIPS

Tension

Don't worry about tension too much! Because this is a string bag, you needn't work it to an exact size, and as it is worked round and round in a spiral, you can just keep working until the bag is the required size.

Working in rounds

When you work your crochet in rounds you never have to turn the fabric. The same side is always facing you.

Marking the beginning of a round

Be sure to mark the beginning of each round to make it easier to keep your place.

Joining in a new yarn

This technique is used for changing yarns when your ball of yarn is finished. Begin a double crochet in the usual way, by drawing a loop through the next stitch, then drop the old yarn and draw the new yarn through both loops now on the hook

to finish the double crochet (see Crochet Basics). Leave a long loose end of the old yarn to weave in later.

METHOD

Foundation-chain ring Leaving a long loose end and using a 4.00mm hook, make 4 chain and join length of chain into a ring by working a slip stitch into first chain made.

Round 1 Make 1 chain, work 8dc into ring, working over long loose end.

Before starting the next round, place a short length of a contrasting yarn across your crochet fabric from front to back, tight up against the loop on the hook and above the working yarn. Then start to work the double crochet of round 2, catching the marker in position. The marker will show you where the round started, as it will be caught under the top of the first stitch of the round.

Round 2 *1ch, 1dc into next dc, repeat from * to end, making sure you are no longer working over loose end.

At the end of each round pull the marker out and place it across your crochet, up against the loop on the hook as before, so it will always be under the top of the first stitch of the round showing you where to start the next round.

Round 3 *2ch, 1dc into next 1-ch space, repeat from * to end.

Round 4 *3ch, 1dc into next 2-ch space, repeat from * to end. There are now 8 3-ch spaces in the round.

Round 5 *3ch, 1dc] twice into next 3-ch space, repeat from * to end. 16 3-ch spaces.

Rounds 6, 7 and 8 *3ch, 1dc into next 3-ch space, repeat from * to end.

Round 9 *5ch, 1dc into next 3-ch space, repeat from * to end.

Round 10 *5ch, 1dc] twice into next

5-ch space, 5ch, 1dc into next 5-ch space, repeat from * to end. 24 5-ch spaces.

Round 11 *5ch, 1dc into next 5-ch space, repeat from * to end.

Rounds 12–14 Work 3 rounds as round 11.

Round 15 As round 10, 36 5-ch spaces.

Rounds 16–21 Work 6 rounds as round 11.

Round 22 *4ch, 1dc into next 5-ch space, repeat from * to end.

Round 23 *3ch, 1dc into next 4-ch space, repeat from * to end.

Round 24 *2ch, 1dc into next 3-ch space, repeat from * to end.

Round 25 As round 24.

Round 26 *1dc into next dc, 2dc into next 2-ch space, repeat from * to end. 108dc.

Handles

Rounds 27 and 28 1dc into each of next 33dc, 52ch, miss next 21dc, 1dc into each

of next 33dc, 52ch, miss next 21dc, now work 1dc into each dc and 1dc into each chain around top of bag and handles. Slip stitch into next dc and fasten off.

TO FINISH

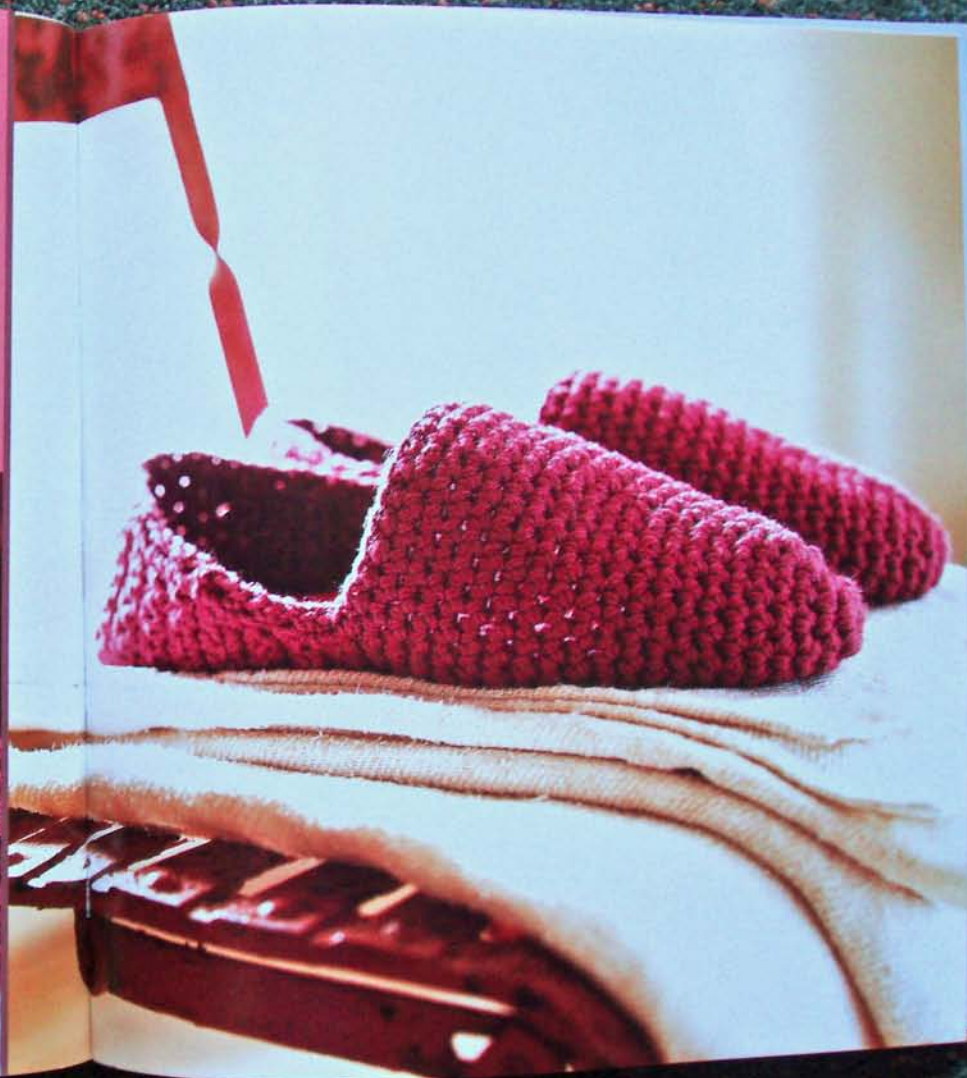
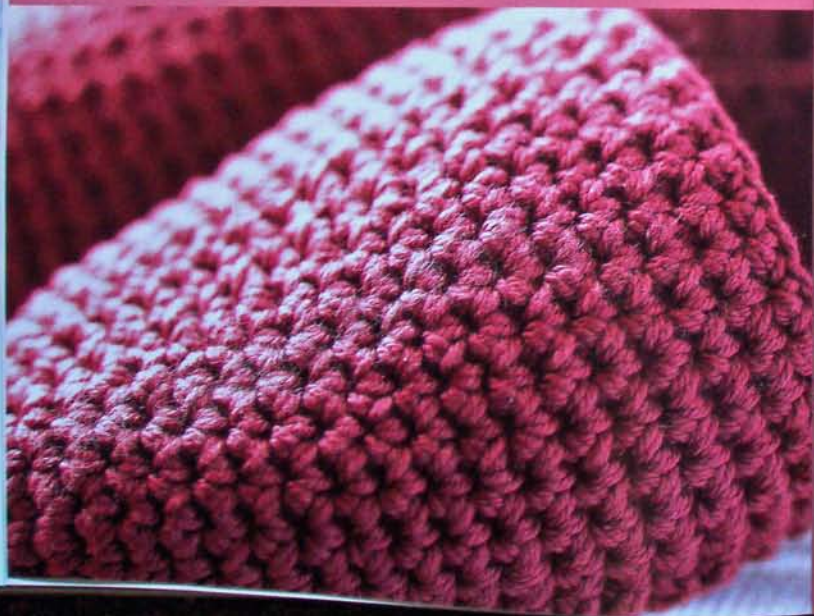
Pull the long loose end at the centre of the circle to tighten up the hole and weave it into the work. Weave in any other loose ends as well.

a t h o m e



turkish slippers

These stylish slippers were inspired by little Turkish shoes. They are worked in double crochet in a medium-weight cotton yarn, used double, so they don't take long to make. Each slipper is worked in one piece, then the heel seam is joined at the back. For comfort, the sole is best lined with a ready-made insole. A simple felt lining in a toning colour covers the insole.





making : the turkish slippers

SLIPPER SIZE

Approximately 24(27)cm/9½(10½)in in length.

The pattern is written for two women's sizes, but is adjustable to suit your specific size.

MATERIALS

4(4) x 50g balls Rowan Handknit DK Cotton or a similar medium-weight yarn (see page 122)

Hook sizes 4.00mm and 5.00mm
Length of contrasting yarn for marker
Large blunt-ended needle
Pair of ready-made insoles
Contrasting or toning coloured felt to cover top of insole
Fabric glue

STITCH SIZE

These slippers have a 'tension' (stitch size) of 12½ stitches and 14 rows to 10cm/4in measured over double crochet, using the yarn double.

TECHNIQUES USED

Double crochet, working in rounds, simple increases and joining in new balls of yarn.

TIPS

Tension

Make a swatch of double crochet to test your stitch size. If you are getting more than 12½ stitches to 10cm/4in, try a larger hook size; less than 12½ stitches, a smaller hook. Don't worry too much about the number of rows to 10cm/4in as you can easily adjust the length.

Working in rounds

When you work your crochet in rounds you never have to turn the fabric. The right side is always facing you.

Marking the beginning of a round

Be sure to mark the beginning of each round to make it easier to keep your place.

Joining in a new yarn

This technique is used for changing yarns when your ball of yarn is finished or when

you want to start a new colour for stripes.

Begin a double crochet in the usual way, by drawing a loop through the next stitch, then drop the old yarn and draw the new yarn through both loops now on the hook to finish the double crochet. Leave a long loose end of the old and new yarns to weave in later, or work over the ends for several stitches before clipping them off.

Joining the seam

Leave a long loose end when fastening off the crochet after the last row of the slipper. You can use this length for sewing the back heel seam.

INSPIRATION

Experiment with different yarn textures, heavier or finer yarns, or try regular-colour or random-colour stripes. Instead of felt, use a floral or stripe print to cover the insole, or you may wish to edge the slipper opening with a contrast or toning colour yarn or fabric.

METHOD

Foundation-chain ring Leaving a long, loose end and using a 5.00mm hook and 2 strands of yarn together, make 4 chain and join the length of chain into a ring by working a slip stitch into first chain made.

Round 1 (right side) Make 1 chain, work 6dc into ring, working over the long loose end; join with a slip stitch to top of first dc of round.

Round 2 (right side) 1ch, place a short length of a contrasting yarn across your crochet fabric from front to back, tight up against the loop on the hook and above the working yarn—called *place marker*—, 2dc into same place as slip stitch was worked, 2dc into each of remaining 5dc of round; join with a slip stitch to first dc of round (ignore slip stitch and 1-ch and work into top of first dc—your marker marks the spot). There are now 12dc in the round.

Round 3 1ch, pull marker out of previous round and place marker as before, 1dc into same place as slip stitch, 1dc into each dc to end; join with a slip stitch to first dc. Continue to pull out your marker and place it after working the first chain of each round.

Round 4 1ch, 1dc into same place as slip stitch, 2dc into the next dc, *1dc into next dc, 2dc into next dc, repeat from * to end; join with a slip stitch to first dc. 18dc.

Round 5 As round 3.

Round 6 1ch, 1dc into same place as slip stitch, 1dc into each of next 4dc, 2dc into next dc, *1dc into each of next 5dc, 2dc into next dc, repeat from * to end; join with a slip stitch to first dc. 21dc.

Round 7 As round 3.

Round 8 1ch, 1dc into same place as slip stitch, 1dc into each of next 5dc, 2dc into next dc, *1dc into each of next 6dc, 2dc into next dc, repeat from * to end; join with a slip stitch to first dc. 24dc.

Round 9 As round 3.

Round 10 1ch, 1dc into same place as slip stitch, 1dc into each of next 6dc, 2dc into next dc, *1dc into each of next 7dc, 2dc into next dc, repeat from * to end; join with a slip stitch to first dc. 27dc.

Round 11 As round 3.

Round 12 1ch, 1dc into same place as slip stitch, 1dc into each of next 7dc, 2dc into next dc, *1dc into each of next 8dc, 2dc into next dc, repeat from * to end; join with a slip stitch to first dc. 30dc.

Larger size only

Round 13 As round 3.

Round 14 1ch, 1dc into same place as slip stitch, 1dc into each of next 8dc, 2dc into next dc, *1dc into each of next 9dc, 2dc into next dc, repeat from * to end; join with a slip stitch to first dc. 33dc.

Both sizes

Work without shaping (as round 3) until slipper measures 11(14)cm/4¼(5½)in—about 3(6) rounds.

Shape sole and sides

After joining with a slip stitch to first dc at end of last round as usual, work a slip stitch into each of the next 2dc. Turn the work.

Now work back and forth in rows for the rest of the slipper as follows:

Row 1 (wrong side) 1ch (this chain counts as first dc of row, so work it loosely), 1dc into each of next 15dc. Turn.

Row 2 1ch (to count as first dc), miss first dc and work 1dc into next dc, 1dc into

each of remaining dc, work last dc into 1-ch at edge. Turn. 16dc.

Work 2(4) rows more as row 2.

Next row (increase row) 1ch (to count as first dc), 1dc into first dc, 1dc into each of remaining dc, 2dc into 1-ch at edge. Turn. 18dc.

Work 5 rows more as row 2, then repeat increase row once more. 20dc.

Continue in dc without increasing until work measures 24(27)cm/9½(10½)in or required foot length.

Fasten off [see Tips].

Work another slipper exactly the same.

TO FINISH

Pull the long loose end at the centre of each toe to tighten up the hole and weave it into at the inside of the slipper. Weave in any other loose ends inside the slipper as well.

Steam and press the slippers lightly.

Fold the heel end of the slipper in half, with wrong sides together, and join the back heel seam.

Edging

Using a 4.00mm hook and one strand of yarn and with the right side of the slipper facing, begin at back seam and work 1 row of dc along the slipper, opening on each slipper. For an even edging, work 1dc into each row end along the sides of the opening, and 1dc into each dc along the front of the opening. Fasten off and weave in end.

Insoles

Cut a two pieces of felt to the same size as the insoles and glue one piece to the top of each insole using fabric glue. Leave to dry, then insert insoles into slippers.



cafetière cover

No longer banished to the back of the kitchen drawer or cupboard, a tea cosy can take on a new guise – in this case as a sleek cover to keep the coffee warm at the breakfast table or in the office. This cafetière cover is worked in basic double crochet in a single colour, but would look equally good in a stripe. The shapings are worked just inside the edge to produce a smooth and rounded shape. The little knob can be made in a contrasting colour as an attractive finishing touch. To insulate the cover, line it with felt, which is widely available in most good craft stores.



making : the cafetière cover

COVER SIZE

Approximately 25cm/10in high x 21.5cm/8½in wide (43cm/17¼in in circumference). The cover is suitable for a small cafetière coffee pot.

MATERIALS

Plain cover

3 x 50g balls Rowan Cotton Glacé or a similar medium-weight mercerized cotton yarn (see page 126)

Hook size 3.00mm

Piece of off-coloured felt for lining, 50cm x 30cm/20in x 12in

STITCH SIZE

This tea cosy has a 'tension' (stitch size) of 19 stitches and 23 rows to 10cm/4in measured over double crochet, but working to an exact tension is not essential (see Tips).

TECHNIQUES USED

Double crochet, simple decreases, joining in new balls of yarn and working in rounds.

TIPS

Tension

Don't worry about tension too much! Because this is a cafetière cosy, working to an exact size is not that important as long as the cosy will slip easily over your coffee pot.

Working in rounds

When you work your crochet in rounds you never have to turn the fabric. The right side is always facing you.

Marking the beginning of a round

Be sure to mark the beginning of each round to make it easier to keep your place.

Joining in a new yarn

This technique is used for changing yarns when your ball of yarn is finished or when you want to start a new colour for stripes. Change to a new yarn at the end of a row. Begin the last double crochet of the row in the usual way, by drawing a loop through the last stitch, then drop the old yarn and draw the new yarn through both loops now on the hook to finish the double crochet (see Crochet Basics). Leave a long

loose end of the old and new yarns to weave in later, or work over the ends for several stitches before clipping them off.

METHOD

Front

Foundation chain Leaving a long loose end and using a 3.00mm hook, make 42 chain.

Row 1 Work 1dc into 3rd chain from hook; 1dc into each of remaining, chain Turn.

Row 2 1ch (this counts as first dc of row, so work it loosely), miss first dc and work 1dc into next dc, then work 1dc into each of remaining dc, work last dc into ch at edge. Turn. There are 41 stitches in the row.

Repeat row 2 until work measures 17cm/6½in from foundation-chain edge – a total of about 39 rows from beginning.

Top shaping

Begin shaping the top by decreasing one stitch at each end of the next row as follows:

Next row (decrease row) 1ch to count as first dc, miss first dc, 1dc into next dc, [insert hook into next dc, yarn round hook and draw a loop through] twice, yarn round hook and draw through all 3 loops on hook—called decrease one stitch—, work 1dc into each dc to last 4 stitches, then decrease one stitch by working next 2dc together as before, 1dc into each of last 2 stitches. Turn. 39dc.

Work one row without shaping (as row 2). **Repeat the decrease row.

Work one row without shaping ** 37dc. Repeat from ** to ** once more. 35dc. Repeat the decrease row 12 times. 11dc. Fasten off.

Back

Make another piece the same for the back of the cover.

TO FINISH

Weave in any loose ends at the back of the work. Lay the pieces out flat, then steam and press lightly.

Lining

Using one piece of the cosy as a template, cut out two pieces of felt to the same size and shape, but allowing an extra 1.5cm/½in all around the curved edge for the seam allowance.

Place the crochet pieces together with the right sides facing each other, line up the stitches and pin. Then sew the pieces together and turn right side out.

Next, sew the lining pieces together and trim the seams. Place the lining inside the cosy, trim the bottom edge if necessary and stitch to the bottom edge of the cosy.

Bobble

For a detail that can be used to pull off the cover, make a little bobble as follows:

Foundation chain Leaving a long loose end and using a 3.00mm hook, make 2 chain.

Round 1 (right side) Work 6dc into 2nd chain from hook; join with a slip stitch to top of first dc of round.

Round 2 (right side) 1ch, place a short length of a contrasting yarn across your crochet fabric from front to back, tight up against the loop on the hook and above the working yarn—called place marker—, 2dc into same place as slip stitch was worked; 2dc into each of remaining 5dc of round; join with a slip stitch to first dc of round (ignore slip stitch and 1-ch and work into top of first dc—your marker marks the spot). There are now 12dc in the round.

Round 3 1ch, pull marker out of previous round and place marker as before, 1dc into same place as slip stitch, 1dc into each dc to end; join with a slip stitch to first dc. Continue to pull out your marker and place it at the beginning of each round.

Round 4 1ch, 1dc into same place as slip stitch, 2dc into the next dc, *1dc into next dc, 2dc into next dc, repeat from * to end; join with a slip stitch to first dc. 18dc.

Round 5 As round 3.

Round 6 1ch, 1dc into same place as slip stitch, *miss next dc, 1dc into next dc, repeat from * to last dc; miss last dc; join with a slip stitch to first dc. 9dc. Stuff bobble with small amount of matching yarn to pad it.

Round 7 1ch, 1dc into same place as slip stitch, *miss next dc, 1dc into next dc, repeat from * to end. 5dc. Fasten off leaving a long length of yarn. Use the long end to sew the opening closed, then stitch to the top of the cover.



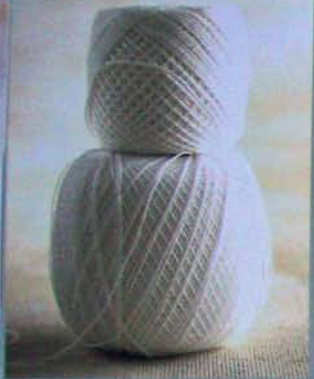
Inspiration

Experiment with different yarn textures, stitch patterns, or colours for your coffee pot cosy. Or try contrasting yarn or coloured felts. An alternative for your cafetière cover, make little bobbles around your coffee cosy using up leftover yarn. Bobble appears in the centre of just coffee and add white stripes to the base (back round). Sign the cosy with a round of double crochet to finish them off.

towel edging

Crochet edgings add a touch of femininity to plain towels or bedlinen. This simple, easy-to-make edging can either be crocheted as a separate strip and slip-stitched onto a towel, or worked directly into the hem of the towel. Although the towel and edging here are both in natural, crisp white cotton, you can work the crochet edging in any colour and weight of yarn you like.





making : the towel edging

EDGING SIZE

The edging is approximately 3cm/1 1/4in deep and can be made to fit any size towel – the towel pictured is 66cm/26in wide (see Tips).

MATERIALS

1 x 25g ball of fine cotton yarn (enough for two strips of edging 66cm/26in long)
Hook size 1.75mm
Cotton towel of your choice (or alternative item to trim)

STITCH SIZE

This edging has a 'tension' (stitch size) of 24 stitches (6 scallops) to 10cm/4in measured over edging pattern, but working

to an exact tension is not essential (see Tips for more information).

TECHNIQUES USED

Double crochet, treble crochet, working into a chain loop and making picots.

TIPS

Tension and edging measurements
Don't worry about tension too much! The size of your edging will depend on the thickness of the yarn, and if your yarn is slightly thinner or thicker than the one used here, your tension may not match the one given above. Test your tension before starting the edging. Make 34 chain and work the edging pattern from row 1.

If your stitch size is different than the one recommended, then use your swatch to determine how many scallops you'll need to fit your towel.

Working into a chain loop

When working the last row of the scallop edging, work the double crochet into the chain loop by inserting hook *under* the chain – not *into* it. This covers the chain completely and gives the scallop a 'bound' look for an ornate edge.

Crocheting into the towel edge

If the weave of your towel is loose enough and your hook fine enough to pierce the towel, you can work your edging directly onto the towel. Work a multiple of 4 double crochet, plus 1 double crochet

Inspiration

Try working your crochet lace edgings with linen or silk threads for a touch of luxury and contrast. Play with using coloured yarns as well. Then think of alternative projects to trim, such as pillowtops, cushions, sheets and doilies. Even curtains can be given a bohemian vintage look. For quick-to-make edgings, experiment with thicker yarns and for delicate items, use finer threads.



extra, evenly along the edge – this will give one scallop for every 4dc worked. Then turn the work and start following the edging pattern from row 2.

METHOD

Foundation chain Determine how many scallops you need (see tips), then leaving a long loose end and using a 1.75mm hook, make a multiple of 4 chain (4 chain for each scallop) plus 2 extra. (For the 66cm/26in wide towel shown, 39 scallops were worked onto a foundation chain of 158 chain.)

Row 1 Work 1dc into 2nd chain from hook, 1dc into each of remaining chain. Turn.

Row 2 1ch, 1dc into each dc to end. Turn.

Row 3 Work 4ch to count as first tr and first 1-ch space, miss first 2dc, 1tr into next dc, * 1ch, miss next dc, 1tr into next dc, repeat from * to end. Turn.

Row 4 1ch, 1dc into first tr, * 1dc into next 1-ch space (inserting hook under the chain – not into the chain – when working the dc), 1dc into next tr, repeat from * to turning chain at end of row, 1dc into turning-chain space, 1dc into 2nd chain from last tr. Turn.

Row 5 1ch, 1dc into each dc to end. Turn.

Row 6 1ch, 1dc into first dc, * 6ch, miss next 3dc, 1dc into next dc, repeat from * to end. Turn.

Row 7 (picot row) 1ch, 1dc into first dc,

[3dc, 1ch (for picot), 3dc] all into each 6ch-loop to end (see Tips), 1dc into last dc. Fasten off.

This completes the edging. Work another piece in the same way for the other end of the towel.

TO FINISH

Weave in any loose ends. Steam edging gently to flatten. Pin the edgings to the ends of the towel, lightly stretching or easing in if necessary, and oversew securely in place.



raffia table mats

Made in a simple crochet cluster pattern with richly coloured green raffia, these rectangular mats are ideal for informal meals or for eating al fresco. They are one of the easiest projects in this book to make – one mat should take you no longer than a few hours at most. As the pattern is so basic, you could make them on the bus or train.



making : the raffia table mats

TABLE MAT SIZE

Approximately 46cm x 35cm/18in x 13³/₄in (see Tips).

MATERIALS

Raffia for a set of four table mats (buy one ball from a craft store or stationery and test it to see how far it will go)
Hooks size 4.00mm and 5.00mm

STITCH SIZE

These mats have a 'tension' (stitch size) of approximately 8 clusters and 8 cluster rows to 10cm/4in measured over the cluster stitch pattern, but working to an exact tension is not essential (see Tips for more information).

TECHNIQUES USED

Simple treble-crochet clusters, double crochet edging and joining in new balls of raffia.

TIPS

Working the foundation chain

Be sure to use a larger hook for the foundation chain, so that the starting edge is not too tight. This will help the mat lay flat.

Tension

Achieving an exact tension is not essential, as you can easily alter the number of clusters and rows you work (see Inspiration box at the top of the opposite page for how to do this).

Joining in a new ball

This technique is used for joining in a new ball of raffia when your old one runs out or for changing colours when working stripes. Work your cluster in the usual way, but change to the new ball of yarn when drawing through the last loop that joins the 3-tr group at the top. Leave a long loose end of the old raffia and the new raffia to weave in later.

METHOD

Foundation chain Leaving a long loose end and using a 5.00mm hook, make 74 chain.

Change to a 4.00mm hook and begin the cluster stitch pattern as follows:

Row 1 [Wrap yarn round hook and insert hook through 4th chain from hook, yarn round hook and draw a loop through, yarn round hook and draw through first 2 loops on hook] twice (working each st into the same chain), yarn round hook and draw through all 3 loops on hook—this completes the *beginning cluster*—, *1ch, miss 1ch, [yarn round hook and insert hook into next ch, yarn round hook and draw a loop through, yarn round hook and draw through first 2 loops on hook] 3 times (working each st into the same chain), yarn round hook and draw through all 4 loops on hook—this completes the *cluster*—, repeat from * to end of

Inspiration

You may wish to make your mats a different size – this is very easy to do. For example, for a 18cm/7in square coasters mat with 20 foundation chain, then work row 1 of the table mat pattern. This will give you 8 clusters across the row. Continue until you have completed 8 rows of the cluster pattern and fasten off. Then work the double-crochet edging as for the table mat. Work other sizes in the same way, starting with a foundation chain that has a chain for the first cluster and 2 chain for every extra cluster.



foundation chain. Turn. There are 36 clusters across the row.

Row 2 Work 3ch to count as first st in beginning cluster, [wrap yarn round hook and insert hook through top of first cluster in previous row, yarn round hook and draw a loop through, yarn round hook and draw through first 2 loops on hook] twice (working each st into the top of the same cluster), yarn round hook and draw through all 3 loops on hook—this completes the *beginning cluster*—, *1ch, [yarn round hook and insert hook through top of next cluster, yarn round hook and draw a loop through, yarn round hook and draw through first 2 loops on hook] 3 times (working each st into the top of the same cluster stitch), yarn round hook and draw through all 4 loops on hook—this completes the *cluster*—, repeat from * to end of row. Turn.
Repeat row 2 until the mat measures

about 34cm/13³/₄in from the foundation-chain edge (a total of about 27 rows from beginning). Fasten off.
Make three more mats in the same way to complete the set.

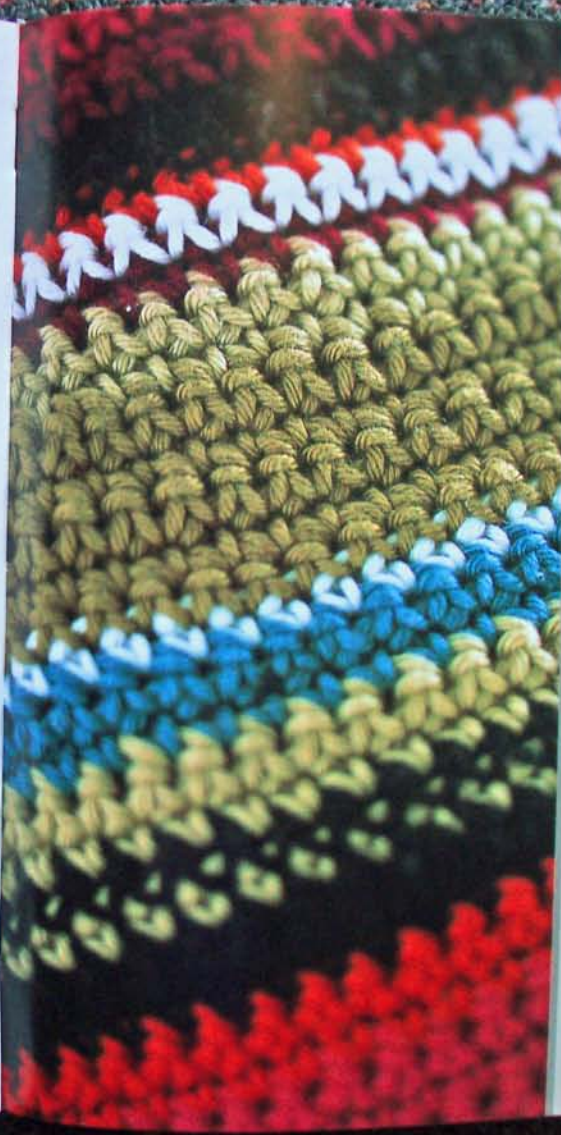
TO FINISH

Weave in any loose ends at the back of each mat.
If it is necessary to flatten it, lay the table mat out flat and leave overnight under a pile of books.

Edging

Using a 4.00mm hook, work a row of double crochet around the edge of each mat. Both sides of the mats are the same – which means there is no right side or wrong side – so you can work the edging with either side facing you.
For an even edging, work 1dc into each chain along the foundation chain edge, 1dc into each ch and 1dc into each cluster

along the top of the last row, 2dc into each row end along the short sides, and 5dc into each corner to keep the mat square.
Fasten off and weave in ends.



tea cosy

Retro-style crochet is back, re-invented. This little teapot cover is a timeless classic. Worked in double crochet in bright random stripes of colour in mercerized cotton, it is lined with contrasting gingham fabric and insulated with wadding. A little, curled, crocheted stem at the top adds a finishing touch, doubling up as useful handle.



making : the tea cosy

COSY SIZE

Approximately 22cm/8³/₄in high x 31.5cm/12³/₄in wide (63cm/25¹/₄in in circumference). The cosy is suitable for a small teapot.

MATERIALS

Rowan Cotton Glacé or a similar medium-weight mercerized cotton yarn (see page 122) in 8 contrasting colours as follows:

- Colour A:** 1 x 50g ball in purple
 - Colour B:** 1 x 50g ball in black
 - Colour C:** 1 x 50g ball in white
 - Colour D:** 1 x 50g ball in turquoise
 - Colour E:** 1 x 50g ball in light sage
 - Colour F:** 1 x 50g ball in dark sage
 - Colour G:** 1 x 50g ball in pink
 - Colour H:** 1 x 50g ball in orange
- Hook size 3.00mm
Piece of wadding to insulate cosy

30cm/12in of 112cm/44in wide black and white gingham fabric for lining.

STITCH SIZE

This tea cosy has a 'tension' (stitch size) of 19 stitches and 23 rows to 10cm/4in measured over double crochet, but working to an exact tension is not essential (see Tips).

TECHNIQUES USED

Double crochet, simple decreases and joining in new balls of yarn.

TIPS

Tension

Don't worry about tension too much! Because this is a tea cosy, working to an exact size is not that important as long as the cosy will slip easily over your teapot.

Joining in a new yarn

This technique is used for changing yarns

when your ball of yarn is finished or when you want to start a new colour for stripes. Change to a new yarn at the end of a row on the tea cosy. Begin the last double crochet of the row in the usual way, by drawing a loop through the last dc, then drop the old yarn and draw the new yarn through both loops now on the hook to finish the double crochet (see Crochet Basics). Leave a long loose end of the old and new yarns to weave in later, or work over the ends for several stitches before clipping them off.

INSPIRATION

Experiment with different yarn textures and/or different colour combinations for your tea cosy. For a homemade touch, work your tea cosy in random black and white cotton stripes and line with bold black and white ticking.

METHOD

Front

Foundation chain Leaving a long loose end and using a 3.00mm hook and colour A (purple), make 61 chain.

Row 1 Using A (purple), work 1dc into 2nd chain from hook, 1dc into each of remaining chain, dropping A and drawing through B (black) when completing last loop of last dc of row (see Tips). Turn. There are 60 stitches in the row.

Row 2 Using B (black), 1ch, 1dc into each dc to end of row. Turn. Continuing to repeat row 2 to form the double crochet fabric and changing colours with the last loop of the row before, work in stripes as follows:

Colour B (black): 1 row.

Colour C (white): 1 row.

Colour B (black): 1 row.

Colour D (turquoise): 3 rows.

Colour E (light sage): 1 row.

Colour F (dark sage): 2 rows.

Colour G (pink): 5 rows.

Colour H (orange): 2 rows.

Colour B (black): 2 rows.

Colour E (light sage): 1 row.

Colour B (black): 1 row.

Colour E (light sage): 2 rows.

Colour D (turquoise): 1 row.

Top shaping

Using D (turquoise), begin shaping the top by decreasing one stitch at each end of the next row as follows:

Next row (decrease row) Insert hook into first dc, yarn round hook and draw a loop through, insert hook into next dc, yarn round hook and draw a loop through, yarn round hook and draw through all 3 loops on hook—called decrease one stitch—, work 1dc each dc to last 2dc,

then decrease one stitch by working last 2dc together as before. Turn. 58dc.

Repeating the decrease row when instructed, continue working double crochet in stripes as follows:

Using colour C (white), work one row in without shaping (as row 2).

[Using colour F (dark sage), repeat decrease row, then work one row without shaping] twice. 54dc.

Still using colour F (dark sage), repeat decrease row. 52dc.

Using colour E (light sage), work one row in without shaping, then repeat decrease row. 50dc.

Using colour A (purple), repeat decrease row. 48dc.

Using colour C (white), repeat decrease row. 46dc.

Using colour H (orange), work one row without shaping.

Using colour B (black), repeat decrease row, then work one row without shaping. 44dc.

Using colour A (purple), repeat decrease row twice. 40dc.

Using colour G (pink), repeat decrease row twice, then work one row without shaping. 36dc.

Using colour C (white), repeat decrease row. 34dc.

Using colour B (black), repeat decrease row twice. 30dc.

Using colour E (light sage), repeat decrease row twice, then work one row without shaping. 26dc.

Still using colour E (light sage), slip stitch to last 2dc.

Fasten off.

Back

Make another piece the same for the back of the tea cosy.

TO FINISH

Weave in any loose ends at the back of the work.

Lay the pieces out flat, then steam and press lightly.

Lining

Using one piece of the cosy as a template, cut out two pieces of lining fabric to the same size and shape, but allowing an extra 1.5cm/5/8in all around each piece for the seam allowance. Cut two pieces of wadding the same shape and size as the lining pieces.

Place the crochet pieces together with the right sides facing each other, line up the stitches and pin. Then sew the pieces together and turn right side out.

Place the fabric lining pieces together with the right sides facing each other and sew together along the curved edge. Sew the wadding pieces together in the same way and trim the seams.

Place the wadding inside the crocheted tea cosy and trim the bottom edge to the same length as the tea cosy. Then place the lining inside. Turn up the hem of the lining all around the bottom edge and join to the cosy edge with small, neat stitches.

Stem

For a functional detail that can be used to pull off the tea cosy, make a little stalk as follows:

Using the colour of your choice and a 3.00mm hook, make 10 chain.

Work 6 rows of double crochet and fasten off.

Allowing the crochet to roll in on itself, sew the foundation-chain edge to the last row to form a curled tube shape.

Stitch the stem securely to the top of the cosy.

runner

For informal meals with friends, eating al fresco, or for relaxed parties, set out a runner on the floor, or on a long low table, with platters of food. This simple runner is worked in string in double crochet with borders of coloured linen yarn – a modern variation on a traditional piece. If you prefer, work the borders in bright contrasting colours.





Inspiration

The cotton-string border on the runner looks interesting, doesn't it? But if you're in a hurry, you can add a simpler border by working double-crochet round and round the string, exchanging, joining the corners as you go. For an even edging, work 1dc into each stitch or row end and 1dc at each corner for the more. Add stripes or work just the final row in a contrasting colour for a smart finishing detail.



making : the runner

RUNNER SIZE

Approximately 40cm x 146cm/16in x 58 1/2in.

MATERIALS

7 x 85m/93yd balls thick parcel string (available from local hardware stores or stationers)

Rowan Linen Drape or a similar lightweight linen yarn (see page 122) in 4 contrasting colours as follows:

Colour A: 2 x 50g balls in yellow

Colour B: 2 x 50g balls in charcoal

Colour C: 1 x 50g balls in olive

Colour D: 1 x 50g balls in pale olive

Hook sizes 5.00mm and 6.00mm

STITCH SIZE

This runner has a 'tension' (stitch size) of 11 stitches and 14 rows to 10cm/4in

measured over double crochet and using a single strand of string or two strands of lightweight yarn – but working to an exact tension is not essential (see Tips).

TECHNIQUES USED

Double crochet, simple borders and joining in new balls of yarn.

TIPS

Working the foundation chain

Be sure to use a larger hook for the foundation row, so that the starting edge is not too tight. This will help the runner to lay flat.

Tension and runner size

Don't worry about tension too much! Because this is a runner, an exact size is not that important as long as it suits your table. You can make the runner to

any length you want by adding to or subtracting from the number of foundation chain, and to any width by working more or fewer rows.

Using yarn double

The coloured linen yarns are used double throughout. If the colour only calls for one ball of yarn, wind the ball off into two balls so it is ready to use double.

Joining in a new yarn

This technique is used for starting a new ball of yarn. Begin a double crochet in the usual way, by drawing a loop through the next stitch, then drop the old yarn and draw the new yarn through both loops now on the hook to finish the double crochet. Leave a long loose end of the old and new yarns to weave in later, or work over the ends for several stitches before clipping them off.

Joining on new colours for borders

When joining on a new colour for the borders, insert the hook through the first stitch and draw a loop through, then continue as usual in double crochet, repeating row 2 of the pattern.

METHOD

Foundation chain Leaving a long loose end and using a 6.00mm hook and string, make 154 chain.

Change to a 5.00mm hook and begin working in double crochet as follows:

Row 1 Work 1dc into 2nd chain from hook, 1dc into each of remaining chain. Turn.

Row 2 1ch (this counts as first dc of row, so work it loosely), miss first dc and work 1dc into next dc, then work 1dc into each of remaining dc, work last dc into 1-ch

at edge. Turn. There are 154 stitches in the row.

Repeat row 2 until work measures 34cm/13 1/2in from foundation-chain edge – a total of about 46 rows from beginning. Fasten off.

Borders

Using a 5.00mm hook and colour A (yellow) double, join yarn to last row worked and work 6 rows in double crochet along this edge. (See Tips for joining on new colours for borders.) Fasten off.

Using a 5.00mm hook and colour B (charcoal) double, join yarn to foundation-chain edge and work 6 rows in double crochet along this edge. Fasten off.

Using a 5.00mm hook and colour C (olive) double, join yarn to one short end and work 6 rows in double crochet along this

edge. (For an even border, work 1dc into each row end.) Fasten off. Work 6 rows in double crochet along the other short end in the same way, but using colour D (pale olive).

TO FINISH

Weave any loose ends into the double crochet. Lay the work out flat, then steam and press lightly.

useful
information



helpful hints for beginners

The section on Crochet Basics on pages 14–27 shows you how to work the basic stitches in crochet. The following information may be helpful to you when creating crochet projects, either from this book or any other patterns you find.

You can choose to use the recommended yarns, or you can substitute others (see page 122 for information on yarn weights and types so you can choose suitable alternatives). Whether you choose to use the recommended yarn, or ones of your own choice, you must check that you are working to the appropriate tension, or the item you are making may turn out a very different size! See pages 16 and 17 for information on checking tension. Having said that, if you are making a throw, for example, and do not mind too much if it is a little bigger or smaller than the one shown in the pattern, then do not worry too much about tension. This is true of cushions, too, unless you wish to create a cover to fit a specific-sized cushion pad, when, of course, the tension and the finished size will be important.

Certain yarns are easier to crochet with than others; those that are pliable and soft on the hands are the best for beginners, so select projects with soft cotton yarns to start with. Crocheting with string is not difficult, but as it is less pliable than cotton it takes a little more dexterity initially, as indeed does leather, which benefits from being warmed before use.

PATTERN INFORMATION

The instructions for crochet projects are usually given in writing. The basic abbreviations used in pattern writing are shown opposite, although these can vary, so always check the abbreviations guide in any crochet book first. One area of potential confusion is that US terminology is different from UK terminology. In the US, double crochet is called single crochet, for example, while treble crochet is known as double crochet and so on.

In some instances in crochet it is easier to present the pattern information in charted form. This is particularly true of filet crochet where the pattern forms a grid, and can be most easily understood from a chart drawn on graph paper. Each 'block' or 'space' is represented by one square of the graph.

Most patterns have elements that repeat. There is an asterisk at the beginning of the repeat element of the pattern, or it is placed inside two asterisks or brackets. The number of times this sequence is

repeated is indicated outside the asterisks or brackets, along with any additional stitches required to complete a row.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

You will find that the speed and ease with which you crochet is simply a matter of practice. It is a good idea to test your skills on very simple stitches, possibly making a few tension squares first. (You can always stitch them together later to make a patchwork cushion!)

ABBREVIATIONS

To make the instructions for the crochet patterns easier to follow for beginners, very few abbreviations have been used in the book.

However, the following lists cover the main abbreviations you may come across in other crochet patterns as well:

abbreviations for crochet stitches

ch	chain
dc	double crochet
dtr	double treble
htr	half treble
qtr	quadruple treble
sl st	slip stitch
tr	treble
trtr	triple treble

other abbreviations

alt	alternate
approx	approximately
beg	begin(ning)
cm	centimetre(s)
cont	continu(e)(ing)
dec	decreas(e)(ing)
folll	follow(s)(ing)
g	gramme(s)
in	inch(es)
inc	increas(e)(ing)
m	metre(s)
mm	millimetre(s)
oz	ounce(s)
patt(s)	pattern(s)

rem	remain(s)(ing)
rep	repeat(s)(ing)
RS	right side
st(s)	stitch(es)
tog	together
WS	wrong side
yd	yard(s)
yrh	yarn round hook
*	Repeat instructions after asterisk or between asterisks as many times as instructed.
[]	Repeat instructions inside brackets as many times as instructed.

CROCHET HOOKS

Here is a conversion chart for the various systems of hook sizes – just in case you have old hooks you'd like to use but aren't sure what they are equivalent to.

hook conversion chart

Metric	US	old UK
.60mm	14 steel	
.75mm	12 steel	
1.00mm	11 steel	
1.50mm	8 steel	
1.75mm	6 steel	
2.00mm	B/1	14
2.50mm	C/2	12
3.00mm	D/3	10
3.50mm	E/4	9
4.00mm	F/5	8
4.50mm	G/6	7
5.00mm	H/8	6
5.50mm	I/9	5
6.00mm	J/10	4
6.50mm		3
7.00mm	K/10 ^{1/2}	2
8.00mm	L/11	
9.00mm	N/13	
10.00mm	P/15	
16.00mm	Q	

care of crochet

If you have taken the time and trouble to create your own crochet textiles, you will want to make sure that they remain in good condition. The great variety of yarns on the market has necessitated some kind of international labelling standards for their care, which is normally indicated on the ball band of the yarn. While some yarns can be successfully dry cleaned (check the symbols on the ball bands), many more are better washed carefully by hand. A few can be machine washed at appropriate temperatures. Again, all this information should be on the ball band.

GENERAL HAND WASHING GUIDELINES

- If the article requires hand washing, then make sure that you use soap flakes which must be dissolved before emerging it. Do not use very hot water to wash any woolen yarn. Hand hot temperatures are best.
- Always rinse the article at least twice in tepid water.
- Don't wring it roughly by hand; it is best to give it a short spin in the machine or, with delicate yarns, to wrap it in a towel and squeeze out the moisture gently.
- Pull the article gently into shape and hang it over a towel to dry, preferable on a flat surface.

MACHINE WASHING GUIDELINES

The temperature guidelines found on machines are as follows:
60°C/140°F hot: Hotter than the hand can bear; the temperature of most domestic hot water
50°C/120°F hand hot: As hot as the hand can stand
40°C/104°F warm: Just warm to the touch
30°C/86°F cool: Cool to the touch

CARE OF SPECIAL YARNS

- Mercerized cotton, soft cotton and fine cotton are best washed by hand. Rinse well. Squeeze gently in a towel to remove surplus moisture and hang flat to dry.
- Heavier weight cottons can be washed in a machine on a cool wash; check the ball band label. Short spin only. Dry flat.
- Lurex, mohair and chenille are best dry cleaned in certain solvents. Check with your dry cleaner. Air well after cleaning.
- String, leather, sisal, hemp and raffia cannot normally be dry cleaned and are best sponged down with a damp cloth and left to dry naturally.

substituting yarns

Although I have recommended a specific Rowan yarn for many of the projects in the book, you can substitute others. A description of each of the yarns used is given below.

If you decide to use an alternative yarn, any other make of yarn that is of the same weight and type should serve as well, but to avoid disappointing results, it is very important that you test the yarn first. Purchase a substitute yarn that is as close as possible to the original in thickness, weight and texture so that it will be compatible with the crochet instructions. Buy only one ball to start with, so you can try out the effect. Calculate the number of balls you will need by meterage/yards rather than by weight. The recommended knitting-needle size and knitting tension/gauge on the ball bands are extra guides to the yarn thickness.

ROWAN YARNS

Rowan All Seasons Cotton

A medium-weight (aran-weight) cotton yarn with a soft, lofty texture. Recommended knitting-needle size: 4½-5½zmm/US 7-9. Tension/gauge: 16-18 sts x 23-25 rows per 10cm/4in over knitted stocking stitch.

Ball size: 90m/99yd per 50g/1¾oz ball
Yarn specification: cotton blend; 24 shades

Rowan Cotton Glacé

A medium-weight (between the double knitting and 4 ply) mercerized cotton yarn.

Recommended knitting-needle size: 3-3½mm/US 3-5
Tension/gauge: 23 sts x 32 rows per 10cm/4in over knitted stocking stitch.

Ball size: 115m/137yd per 50g/1¾oz ball
Yarn specification: 100% cotton; 24 shades

Rowan 4ply Cotton

A lightweight (4-ply) cotton yarn.
Recommended knitting-needle size: 3mm/US 2-3
Tension/gauge: 27-29 sts x 37-39 rows per 10cm/4in over knitted stocking stitch.

Ball size: 170m/186yd per 50g/1¾oz ball
Yarn specification: 100% cotton; 18 shades

Rowan Handknit DK Cotton

A medium-weight (double-knitting-weight) yarn.

Recommended knitting-needle size: 4-4½zmm/US 6-7
Tension/gauge: 19-20 sts x 28 rows per 10cm/4in over knitted stocking stitch.

Ball size: 85m/93yd per 50g/1¾oz ball
Yarn specification: 100% cotton; 25 shades

Rowan Linen Drape

A lightweight linen yarn.
Recommended knitting-needle size: 3¼-4mm/US 3-6
Tension/gauge: 22-24 sts x 28-30 rows per 10cm/4in over knitted stocking stitch.

Ball size: 100m/110yd per 50g/1¾oz ball
Yarn specification: linen blend; 14 shades

Rowan Luxe Shimmer

A fine metallic yarn.
Recommended knitting-needle size: 3½mm/US 3
Tension/gauge: 29 sts x 41 rows per 10cm/4in over knitted stocking stitch.
Ball size: 95m/104yd per 25g/Toz ball
Yarn specification: viscose blend; 6 shades

OTHER YARNS

Fine cotton threads specially designed for crochet lace are widely available in craft shops. The cotton thread used for the lace edging on pages 102-105 was obtained from: Yeoman Yarns Ltd, 36 Churchill Way, Fleckney, Leicester, LE8 8UD, UK. Tel: 0116 2404464.

Leather thonging is available in craft stores or from leather merchants/saddlery shops. The 2mm-thick round leather thonging used for the basket on pages 84-87 and the floor cushion on pages 38-41 was obtained from: J.T. Batchelor Ltd, Leather Merchants, 9-10 Culford Mews, London N1 4DZ, UK. Tel: 020 7254 2962.

String comes in various thicknesses and is not always labelled with an exact amount, so you may need to experiment with a single ball to start with. The round cushion (pages 30-33), the boxes (pages 76-79), the bottle cover (pages 80-83) and the runner (pages 114-117) are made with parcel string, which comes either in 40m/44yd or 85m/93m balls, available from Muji, Woolworths and stationers.

The coloured polypropylene string used for the string bag on pages 88-91 comes in 89m/97yd balls and is available from B&Q and from stationers.

yarn suppliers

SELECTED ROWAN STOCKISTS

See previous page for information about the Rowan yarns used in this book. To obtain Rowan yarns, look below to find a distributor or store in your area. To find the most up-to-date list of stores near you selling Rowan yarns, contact Rowan head office in England or the Rowan website.

Website: www.knitrowan.com

Rowan, Green Lane Mill, Holmfirth, West Yorkshire HD9 2DX, England.
Telephone: + 44 (0) 1484 681 881.
Fax: + 44 (0) 1484 687 920.

AVON

BATH – Rowan at Stitch Shop,
15 The Podium, Northgate. Mail order.
Tel: 01225 481134.

BRISTOL – Rowan at John Lewis, Cribbs Causeway. Mail order. Tel: 0117 959 1100.
Rowan at House of Fraser, The Horsefair. Mail order. Tel: 0117 944 5566.
STAPLE HILL – Knitting Well, 105 High Street. Tel: 0117 970 1740.

BEDFORDSHIRE

LEIGHTON BUZZARD – Rowan at Needle & Thread, 2/3 Peacock Mews. Mail order.
Tel: 01525 376456
LUTON – Kaytes Needlecrafts, 4 The Gallery, Arndale Centre. Tel: 01582 482517.

BERKSHIRE

READING – Rowan at John Lewis, Broad Street. Mail order. Tel: 01189 575955.
WINDSOR – W J Daniels & Co Ltd, 120-125 Peacock Street. Mail order. Tel: 01753 862106. E-mail: enquiry@danielstores.co.uk

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

MILTON KEYNES – Rowan at John Lewis, Central Milton Keynes. Mail order.
Tel: 01908 679171.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

CAMBRIDGE – Rowan at Robert Sayle, St Andrews Street. Mail order. Tel: 01223 367292.
PETERBOROUGH – John Lewis, Queensgate Centre. Mail order. Tel: 01733 344644.

CHESHIRE

CHEADLE – Rowan at John Lewis, Wilmslow Road. Mail order. Tel: 0161 491 4914.

CORNWALL

PENZANCE – Iriss, 66 Chapel Street. Mail order. Tel: 01736 366568.
E-mail: iriss@penzance.ws
Website: <http://penzance.ws>
TRURO – Rowan at Truro Fabrics, 105/106 Kenwyn Street. Mail order. Tel: 01872 222130. Website: www.trurofabrics.com
WADEBRIDGE – Rowan at Artycrafts, 41 Molesworth Street. Mail order. Tel: 01208 812274. E-mail: artycrafts@ukonline.co.uk

COUNTY DURHAM

DARLINGTON – Rowan at Binns, 7 High Row. Mail order. Tel: 01325 462606.

CUMBRIA

BRAMPTON – The Bobbin Box, Unit 2 Old George, Market Place. Tel: 01697 73611
FENRITH – Rowan at Indigo, 1 St Andrews View. Mail order. Tel: 01768 899917.
E-mail: carolyn@indigoknits.co.uk
Website: www.indigoknits.co.uk
PENRITH – Just Sew, Poet Walk. Tel: 01768 866791.

DEVON

BIDEFORD – Wool and Needlecraft Shop, 49 Mill Street. Tel: 01237 473015.
EXETER – Inspirations, 7 Piazza Terracina, Haven Road. Mail order. Tel: 01392 435115.
PLYMOUTH – Rowan at Dingles, 40-46 Royal Parade. Mail order. Tel: 01752 266611.
TOTNES – Sally Carr Designs, The Yarn Shop, 31 High Street. Tel: 01803 863060.

DORSET

CHRISTCHURCH – Honora, 69 High Street. Tel: 01202 486000
Website: www.knittingyarns.co.uk
DORCHESTER – Goudits Ltd, 22 South Street. Tel: 01305 217816.
SHERBORNE – Hunters of Sherborne, 4 Tilton Court, Digby Road. Tel: 01935 817722.
SWANAGE – The Wool & Craft Shop, 17 Station Road. Tel: 01929 422874.
WIMBORNE – Rowan at The Walnut Tree, 1 West Borough. Tel: 01202 840722.

ESSEX

CHELMSFORD – Frankins, 219 Moulsham Street. Tel: 01245 346300.
COLCHESTER – Frankins, 13/15 St Botolph Street. Tel: 01206 563955.
MALDON – Peachey Ethknits, 6/7 Edwards Walk. Mail order. Tel: 01621 857102.
E-mail: ethknits@bethknits.co.uk
Website: www.ethknits.co.uk
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA – Cades, 239 Churchill South, Victoria Circus. Tel: 01702 613788.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

CHELTENHAM – Rowan at Cjvendish House, The Promenade. Mail order. Tel: 01242 521300.
CIRENCESTER – Ashley's Wool Specialist, 62 Dyer Street. Mail order. Tel: 01285 653245.

GREATER MANCHESTER

DIDSBURY – Rowan at Sew In of Didsbury, 741 Wilmslow Road. Tel: 0161 4455861. E-mail: enquiries@knitting-and-needlework.co.uk
Website: www.knitting-and-needlework.co.uk
MARPLE – Rowan at Sew In of Marple, 46 Market Street. Tel: 0161 427 2529. E-mail: enquiries@knitting-and-needlework.co.uk
Website: www.knitting-and-needlework.co.uk

HAMPSHIRE

BASINGSTOKE – Pack Lane Wool Shop, 171 Pack Lane, Kempshott. Tel: 01256 323644.
LYMINGTON – Leigh's, 56 High Street. Tel: 01590 673254.
NEW MILTON – Smith Braubee & Co Ltd, 126–134 Station Road. Tel: 01425 613333.
SOUTHAMPTON – Rowan at John Lewis, West Quay Shopping Centre. Mail order. Tel: 0238 021 6400.
WINCHESTER – C & H Fabrics, 8 High Street. Tel: 01962 843355.

HERTFORDSHIRE

BOREHAM WOOD – The Wool Shop, 29 Shenley Road. Mail order. Tel: 0208 9052499.
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD – Needlecraft, 142 Cotteralls. Tel: 01442 245383.
ST ALBANS – Alison's Wool Shop, 63 Hatfield Road. Tel: 01727 833738.
WATFORD – Rowan at John Lewis, The Harlequin, High Street. Mail order. Tel: 01923 244266.
WELWYN GARDEN CITY – Rowan at John Lewis. Mail order. Tel: 01707 323456.

ISLE OF MAN
PEEL – Fabric Centre, 2 Crown Street. Tel: 01624 844991.

KENT

BROADSTAIRS – The Wool Box, 66 High Street. Tel: 01843 86 7673.
CANTERBURY – Rowan at C & H Fabrics, 2 St George's Street. Tel: 01227 459760.
GREENHITHE – Rowan at John Lewis, Bluewater. Mail order. Tel: 01322 624123.
HEADCORN – Katie's Workbox, 15 High Street, Nr Ashford. Tel: 01622 891065. E-mail: katie.headcorn@breathemail.net
MAIDSTONE – C & H Fabrics, 68 Week Street. Tel: 01622 762060.
TUNBRIDGE WELLS – Rowan at C & H Fabrics, 113/115 Mount Pleasant. Tel: 01892 522618.

LANCASHIRE

ACCRINGTON – Rowan at Sheila's Wool Shop, 284 Union Road, Oswaldtwistle. Tel: 01254 875525.
E-mail: sheilaswoolshop@compuserve.com
BARNOLDSWICK – Rowan at Whichcrafts?, 29 Church Street. Mail order. Tel: 01282 851003. E-mail: rowan@whichcrafts.co.uk
Website: www.whichcrafts.co.uk
LYTHAM – Rowan at Lytham Wools, Unit 7, Market Hall, Market Square. Tel: 01253 732150. Email: Lythamwools@aol.com
Website: www.lythamwools.co.uk
PRESTON – Rowan at Bow Peep, 136 Liverpool Road, Longton. Mail order. Tel: 01772 614508.

LEICESTERSHIRE

HINCKLEY – Busy Fingers, 104 Castle Street. Tel: 01455 631033.
DAKHAM – The Wool Centre, 17 The Market Place. Mail order. Tel: 01572 771358.

LINCOLNSHIRE

LINCOLN – Binns, 226/231 High Street. Tel: 01522 524333.

LONDON – CENTRAL

Rowan at Liberty, Regent Street, W1.
Mail order. Tel: 020 7734 1234.
Rowan at John Lewis, Oxford Street, W1.
Mail order. Tel: 020 7629 7711.
Rowan at Peter Jones, Sloane Square, SW1.
Mail order. Tel: 020 7730 3434.

LONDON – WEST

CHISWICK – Creations, 29 Turnham Green Terrace, W4 1RS. Mail order. Tel: 020 8747 9697.
WEST EALING – Bunty's at Daniels, 96/122 Uxbridge Road, W13 9RA. Tel: 020 8567 8729. E-mail: enquiries@bunty-wool.co.uk
Website: www.bunty-wool.co.uk

LONDON – NORTH

Rowan at John Lewis, Brent Cross Shopping Centre, NW4. Mail order. Tel: 020 8202 6535.
FINSBURY PARK – Lenarow, 169 Blackstock Road. Tel: 020 7359 1274.
E-mail: michael@lenarow.co.uk
Website: www.lenarow.co.uk

LONDON – SOUTH

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E-mail: mapletextiles@hotmail.com
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PRESCOT – Prescot Knitting Co Limited, 32 Eccleston Street. Tel: 0151 426 5264.
ST HELENS – The Knitting Centre, 9 Westfield Street. Tel: 01744 23993.
WALLASEY – Ryder House, 44 Seaview Road. Mail order. Tel: 0151 691 1037.

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SHEPPERTON – Arts & Yarns, Squires Garden Centre, Halliford Road. Tel: 01932 781141.

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NORWICH – Rowan at John Lewis, All Saints Green. Mail order. Tel: 01603 660021.
SHERINGHAM – Creative Crafts, 47 Station Road. Tel: 01263 823153.
E-mail: info@creative-crafts.co.uk
Website: www.creative-crafts.co.uk

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HOLDENBY – Patchwork Palace, The Stable Yard, Holdenby Howe. Tel: 01604 771303.
Website: www.patchworkpalace.com

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E-mail: rbx20@dial.pipex.com
Website: www.needlework.co.uk
OXFORD – Rowan at Rowan, 102 Gloucester Green. Mail order. Tel: 01865 793366.

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TAUNTON – Hayes Wools, 150 East Reach. Mail order. Tel: 01823 284768.
YEOVIL – Enid's Wool & Craft Shop, Church Street. Tel: 01935 412421.

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E-mail: amerfarm@aol.com

Website: www.amertonfarm.com
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E-mail: village.crafts@virginnet.co.uk
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882761. Fax: 01903 885822.

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E-mail: sales@englishyarns.co.uk

Website: www.englishyarns.co.uk

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HOLMFIRTH – Rowan at Up Country,
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369820.
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Website: www.colourway.co.uk

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E-mail: di@handknitwear.com
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Website: www.mcadirect.com

index

abbreviations in crochet patterns 120–1
afghan 62–5

baskets

log basket 84–7
round basket 83
boxes 77–9

cafétière cover 98–101

care instructions 121

casting off 27

chain stitch 20

chenille 9, 10

chevron cushion 35–7

coasters 101, 109

colour 12–13

random colour mix 33

containers 74–91

boxes 77–9

log basket 74–7

string bag 88–91

string bottle cover 80–3

cotton 8, 9, 11, 122

cushions 28–50

chevron cushion 35–7

filet cushion 46–50

floor cushion 38–41

textured cushion 42–45

round cushion 30–3

double crochet (plain stitch) 22–3

double crochet (plain stitch) 22–3

equipment 16

fastening off 27

filet crochet 47, 48

filet cushion 46–50

finishing a piece of work 27

floor cushion 38–41

foundation chain 20

handwashing guidelines 121

hemp 8, 10, 11

hooks 10

bamboo hooks 16

conversion chart 121

holding 18

sizes 16, 17

'wrap the yarn round the hook' 21

lace-crochet threads 122

leather thonging 8, 10, 40, 86, 122

linen tape 8, 10, 122

log basket 84–7

lurex 10, 12, 122

lurex textured cushion 42–5

machine-washing 121

metallic yarn 9, 10, 11, 12, 122

mohair 9, 11

pattern information 120

picot edging 50

pieced throw 54–7

plain stitch see double crochet

raffia table mats 106–9

rag rug 70–3

round cushion 30–3

rounds, working in 26, 32–3

runner 114–17

single crochet see slip stitch

sisal 10

slip loops 19

slip stitch (single crochet) 21

starting to crochet 18–20

stitch size and tension 16–17

stitches

abbreviations for crochet stitches 120

chain stitch 20

double crochet (plain stitch) 22–3

double treble 25

half treble 25

slip stitch (single crochet) 21

treble crochet 24

string 8, 11, 12, 17, 79, 120

string bag 88–91

string bottle cover 80–3

stripy throw 66–9

tea cosy 110–13

tension 16–17, 120

texture 10

textured throw 58–61

throws 51–73

afghan 62–5

pieced throw 54–7

rag rug 70–3

stripy throw 66–9

textured throw 58–61

towel edging 102–5

treble crochet 24

double treble 25

half treble 25

Turkish slippers 94–7

US terminology 120

weaving in ends 27

wool 8, 10

woven effects 10

yarns 120

holding methods 18

joining in a new yarn 27

substituting yarns 122

suppliers 123–6

yarn types 8–9, 10–11

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ERIKA KNIGHT is an internationally renowned textile designer and fashion consultant. Her highly acclaimed knitting books, *Simple Knits for Easy Living* and *Simple Knits for Cherished Babies*, have earned her an enthusiastic following. She trained in Fine Art in Brighton, and has worked as a design consultant for a number of leading fashion companies and retailers, including Whistles, Marks and Spencer and Country Road in Australia.

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