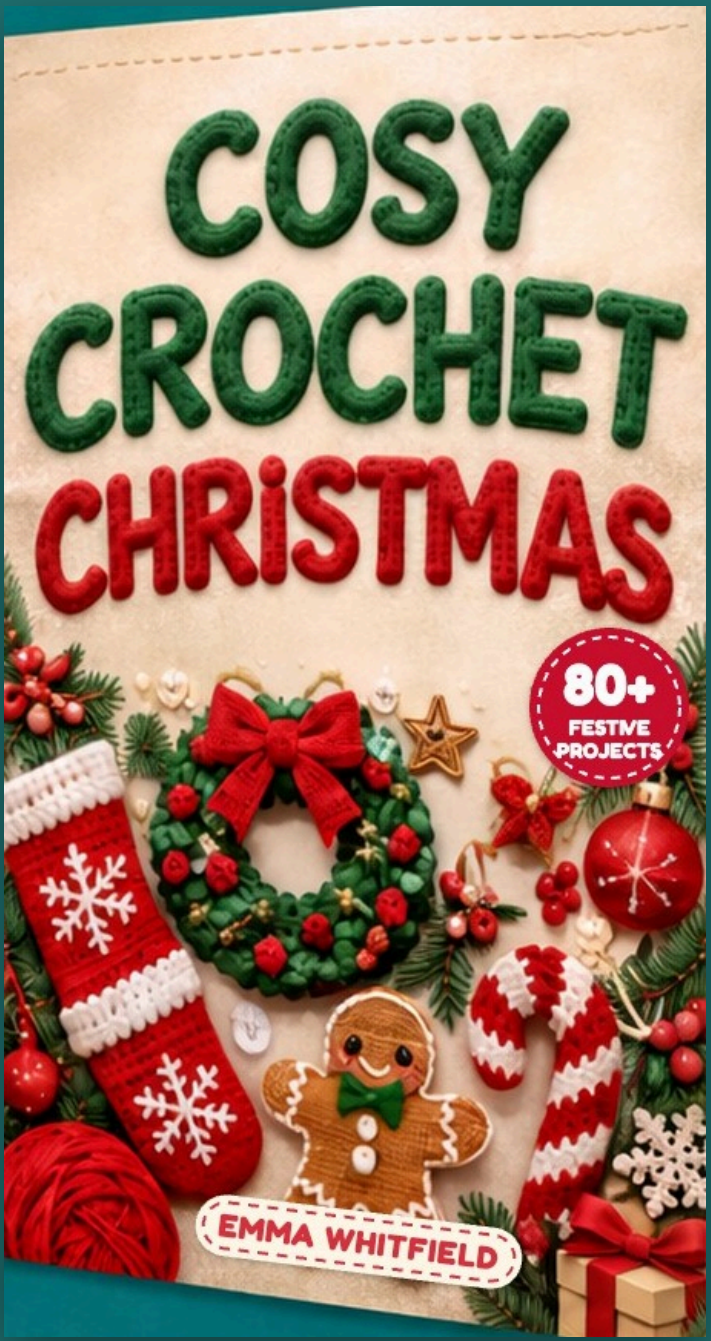

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BOOK 2

Cosy Crochet Christmas

84 Christmas projects, step by step

For Christmas

Emma Whitfield

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Cosy Crochet Christmas – 84 Christmas projects, step by step
Emma Whitfield

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Safety note: toys with safety eyes, buttons, beads or other small parts are not suitable for children under 3: use securely fixed safety eyes or embroider the features, and never leave small parts or loose yarn within reach of babies. Do not leave toys or blankets in a cot while a baby sleeps. For decorations with candles, use LED candles only – never real candles near crochet. Yarn amounts and sizes are approximate: always make a small swatch first.

Contents

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2. Tree ornaments
3. Stockings and little bags
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9. At the end: tips, care and a plan to get started

Welcome to a crochet Christmas

A few words before you start

Hello, I'm Emma Whitfield. This book brings together Christmas ornaments, gifts and little decorations in crochet, all explained step by step, round by round, with colour diagrams. It was designed for anyone who has never picked up a hook and for those who already know a little and want lovely pieces for the season.

Christmas is the perfect time to start. The pieces are small, use little yarn and are finished quickly: a star for the tree, a bauble to hang up, a little hat to give with a chocolate. And every handmade piece has a warmth you cannot buy.

Read this chapter slowly. Practise the stitches with a light-coloured yarn before your first project. If you make a mistake, unpick it and try again: it is part of the process. Start in good time, in October or November, and you will reach December with a full tree.

What you will need

- **Cotton yarn** (or soft acrylic) of medium thickness. Cotton shows the stitches well and does not shed fluff. The

Christmas colours used most in this book: red, green, white, gold (mustard yellow) and brown.

- **A crochet hook from 2.5 to 3.5 mm.** In each project we tell you the right size.
- **A yarn needle** (a thick, blunt-tipped needle) for sewing the pieces together and weaving in the ends.
- **Small, sharp scissors.**
- **Stitch marker** to mark the start of each round. A paper clip or a scrap of yarn in another colour works too.
- **Polyester toy stuffing**: light, washable and it does not clump.
- **Safety eyes, 6 to 10 mm**, for the toys (only for children over 3 years old; read the safety section).
- For hanging on the tree: a little yarn or ribbon to make the **loop**.

How to choose your yarn and hook

For filled pieces (baubles, toys, little hats) use a hook **thinner** than the one on the yarn label. The stitches come out tight and the stuffing does not show. For flat pieces (stars, snowflakes, coasters) you can use the size on the label: the piece comes out softer.

Yarn (ball band)	Hook for filled pieces	Hook for flat pieces

Fine cotton (3 mm hook on the label)	2.5 mm	3 mm
Medium cotton (3.5–4 mm hook on the label)	3 mm	3.5 mm
Soft medium acrylic (4 mm hook on the label)	3.5 mm	3.5 mm

> **Tip:** if you can see the stuffing between the stitches, switch to a hook 0.5 mm thinner. If it is hard to get the hook in, switch to one 0.5 mm thicker.

> **Tip:** shiny gold yarn is pretty, but it slips and is hard to see. To start with, use a mustard-yellow cotton: the effect is similar and the stitches are easier to see.

Abbreviations

We always use the same abbreviations in every project in the book.

Abbreviation	Means
MR	magic ring
ch	chain
ss	slip stitch
dc	double crochet

htr	half treble
tr	treble
inc	increase: 2 dc in the same stitch
dec	decrease: 2 dc together, counts as 1 stitch
V1, V2…	round 1, round 2… (pieces worked in the round)
L1, L2…	row 1, row 2… (flat pieces, worked back and forth)
(…) ×6	repeat 6 times what is in the brackets

The basic stitches, step by step

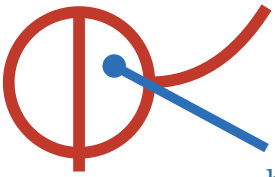
With these seven stitches you can make every project in the book. In every drawing, the red yarn is the yarn you are working with and the blue shows the path of the hook.

How to hold the hook and yarn

1. Hold the hook in your right hand, like a pencil or like a knife: choose whichever feels more comfortable.
2. Pass the yarn coming from the ball between the fingers of your left hand and over your index finger. The yarn should run with light tension, neither loose nor tight.
3. Hold the piece with the thumb and middle finger of your left hand, close to the hook.

Magic ring (MR)

This is the start of almost every piece worked in the round. It closes at the end and leaves no hole in the centre.



1. yarn over 2. pull the yarn through 3. stitches around

Magic ring: the yarn crosses over itself and the stitches are worked around the ring.

1. Wind the yarn twice around two fingers of your left hand, with the loose end underneath.
2. Insert the hook inside the loops, catch the yarn from the ball and pull it through.
3. Make 1 ch to hold it (this does not count as a stitch).
4. Work the stitches called for (for example “6 dc in MR”) inside the loops, catching both strands of yarn.
5. Pull the loose end firmly: the ring closes. Place the marker in the first stitch.

Chain (ch)

It is a row of loops. It is used to start flat pieces, make hanging loops and turn at the end of a row.



each loop = 1 chain

Chain: each loop pulled through the previous one is 1 ch.

1. Make a slip knot and put it on the hook.
2. Pass the yarn over the hook, from back to front.
3. Pull that yarn through the loop on the hook. You have made 1 ch.
4. Repeat. To count, count the loops shaped like a “V”; the one on the hook does not count.

Slip stitch (ss)

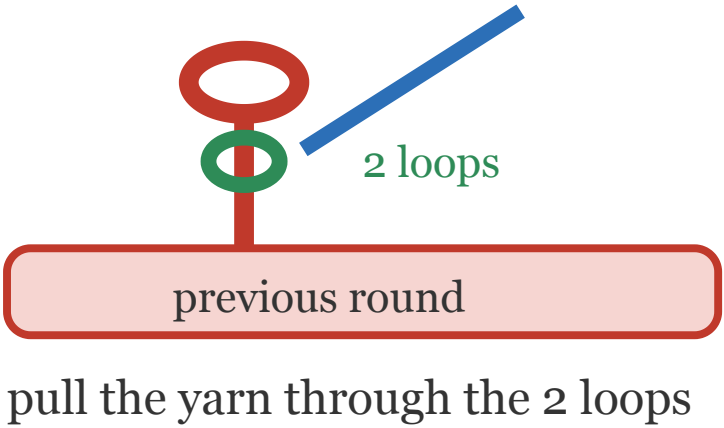
This is the lowest stitch. It is used to close a round, join pieces or move along without gaining height.

1. Insert the hook into the stitch.

2. Catch the yarn and pull it through the stitch **and** the loop on the hook in one go.

Double crochet (dc)

This is the main stitch for toys and baubles. It forms a firm, closed fabric.

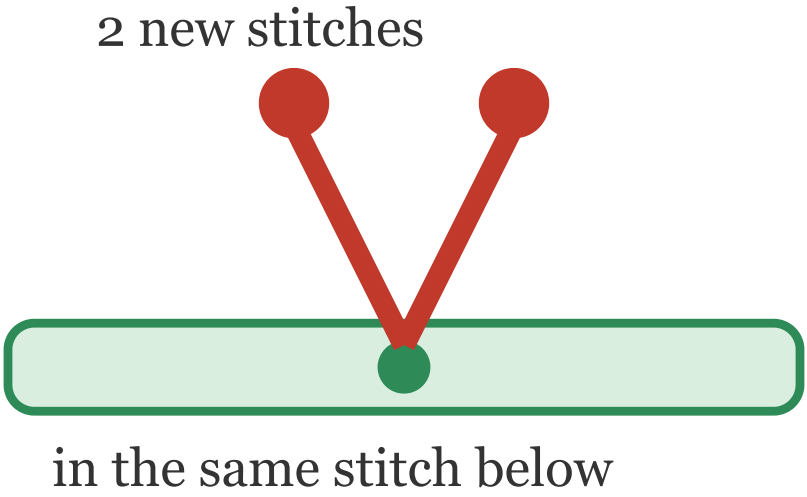


Double crochet: you have 2 loops on the hook (green) and close them in one go.

1. Insert the hook under both loops of the stitch (the two legs of the “V” on top).
2. Catch the yarn and pull it to the front. You have 2 loops on the hook.
3. Catch the yarn again and pull it through the 2 loops. You have made 1 dc.

Increase (inc)

It makes the piece grow. This is how balls and heads become round.

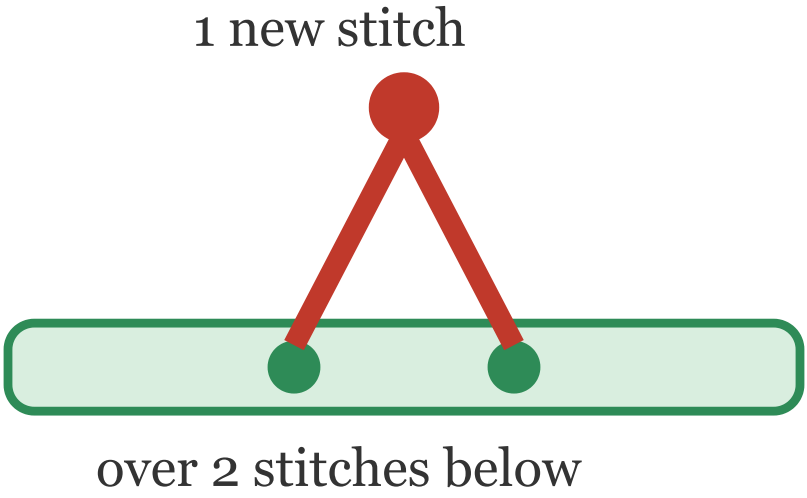


Increase: 2 dc come out of the same stitch. From 1 stitch you get 2.

1. Make 1 ordinary dc.
2. Insert the hook **in the same stitch** and make another dc.
3. From 1 stitch of the previous round, 2 came out. The piece has gained 1 stitch.

Decrease (dec)

It is used to close the piece. This is how balls and heads close at the top.



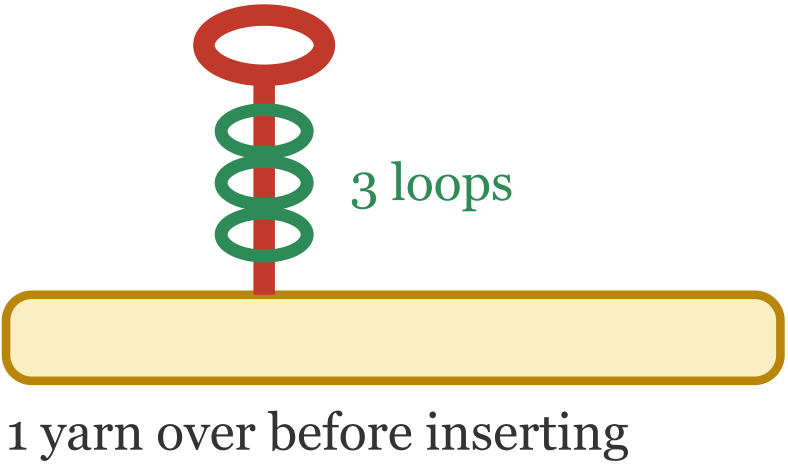
Decrease: 2 stitches below are joined into one. From 2 stitches you get 1.

1. Insert the hook into the next stitch, catch the yarn and pull it to the front (2 loops on the hook).
2. Without closing, insert the hook into the next stitch, catch the yarn and pull it through (3 loops on the hook).
3. Catch the yarn and pull it through all 3 loops in one go. You have made 1 dec.

> **Tip:** the “invisible decrease” looks neater on filled pieces: in steps 1 and 2, insert the hook only in the **front** loop of each stitch. You can hardly see it.

Half treble (htr)

A little taller than double crochet. It gives soft pieces and grows faster.

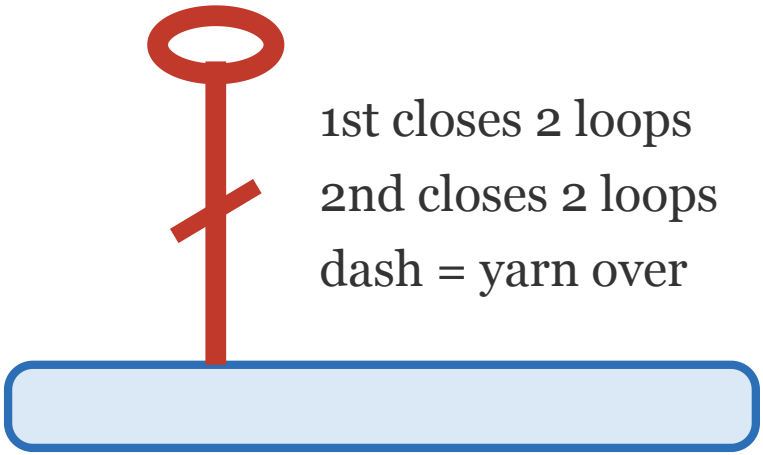


Half treble: you have 3 loops on the hook and close them in one go.

1. Pass the yarn over the hook (1 yarn over).
2. Insert the hook into the stitch, catch the yarn and pull it to the front. You have 3 loops on the hook.
3. Catch the yarn and pull it through all 3 loops in one go. You have made 1 htr.

Treble (tr)

The tallest stitch in this book. It is used in stars, snowflakes and lace: the piece comes out light and open.



Treble: 1 yarn over, insert into the stitch and close the loops two at a time.

1. Pass the yarn over the hook (1 yarn over).
2. Insert the hook into the stitch, catch the yarn and pull it to the front. You have 3 loops on the hook.
3. Catch the yarn and pull it through 2 loops. 2 remain.
4. Catch the yarn and pull it through the last 2. You have made 1 tr.

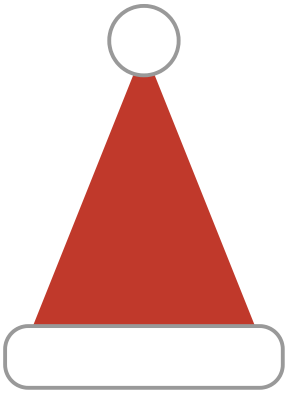
Tip: at the start of a row of tr, work 3 ch to reach the height of the stitch. For htr, 2 ch; for dc, 1 ch. Each project says whether these chains count as a stitch.

How to read the colour diagrams

Each project has a **colour map** and one or more **tables**. Always read the map first.

The colour map

It is a simple drawing of the piece. Each part has a colour and a name: for example, “hat: red yarn”, “pompom: white yarn”. The same colour then appears in the table for that part. That way you know straight away which yarn to use and how many pieces to make.



hat: red yarn

pompom: white yarn

brim: white yarn

Example of a colour map: each colour is a piece or a part of the piece.

The round-by-round tables

Each line of the table is a round. The colour of the line is the colour of the yarn for that piece. There are three columns:

Column	What it says	Example
1.ª	The round (Rnd) or the identical rounds in a row	V3 · V4-6
2.ª	What to do in that round	(dc, inc) ×6
3.ª	How many stitches you should have at the end of the round	18

Example, for a little ball:

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4-6	18 dc	18

- **Rnd 1:** make 6 dc in the magic ring. You have 6 stitches.
- **Rnd 2:** make 1 increase in every stitch. You have 12.
- **Rnd 3:** "(dc, inc) ×6" means: 1 dc in the next stitch, 1 inc in the one after, and repeat 6 times. You have 18.
- **Rnd 4-6:** work 3 identical rounds, with just 18 dc in each.

Flat pieces (open stars, bases, small blankets) use a table of **rows** (Row 1, Row 2…), with the total number of stitches in each row.

> **Tip:** at the end of each round, count your stitches. If the number matches the 3rd column, all is well. If not, unpick only that round.

> **Tip:** on pieces worked in the round, the rounds are a spiral: do not close with ss or work ch at the end, unless the project says so. Move the marker to the first stitch of each new round.

Changing colour

To change colour without jumps, work the last stitch of the old colour until there are 2 loops on the hook. Close those 2 loops with the new colour. Fasten the two ends with a small knot inside the piece.

Stuffing, assembling and fixing the eyes

Stuffing

- Start stuffing when the opening still lets two fingers through.
- Use small pieces of stuffing, one at a time. Balls and heads should be firm; little arms and legs less full so that they bend.
- Shape it with your fingers as you stuff. If lumps appear, loosen the stuffing from the inside with the tip of a pencil.

Closing and hiding the end

1. Cut the yarn, leaving 20 cm.
2. With the yarn needle, pass the yarn through the front loop of each stitch of the last round.
3. Pull firmly: the opening closes like a drawstring bag.
4. Push the needle into the piece and out the other side. Cut close to the surface: the end stays hidden.

Assembling the pieces

1. Pin each piece in place before sewing. Check that it sits straight.
2. Sew with the yarn needle and the yarn of the smaller piece, catching one loop on each side.
3. Work small, close stitches all the way round. Tug the piece hard: it must not come off.

Fixing the safety eyes

1. Before stuffing, push the eye's post between two rounds (the project says which).
2. Check from the front that both eyes are at the same height.
3. From the inside, fit the locking washer and push until you hear or feel a click. Once fitted, it will not come off.

Making the hanging loop

With the crochet hook, attach the yarn at the top stitch of the piece, make 15 ch and join to the same stitch with 1 ss. Tie a knot inside and weave in the end. Or thread a thin ribbon through with the yarn needle and tie a bow.

Safety

Warning: safety eyes only on toys for children over 3 years old. For babies and young children, embroider the eyes with yarn.

Warning: eyes, buttons, bells, beads and sequins are small parts and can cause choking. Attach them firmly and check them before giving as a gift. On pieces for children, embroider the details.

Warning: close the pieces well so that the stuffing cannot come out. Never leave long strands or ribbons loose on pieces for cots or cribs.

Warning: never leave lit candles near crochet. For table centrepieces, wreaths and candle holders, use LED candles only.

Warning: small ornaments on the tree are within reach of children and pets. Hang the smallest ones on the upper branches and keep them away from fireplaces and heaters.

Choose by the time you have

Each project gives the time, level and size on the first line. Use this table to choose where to start. The times are for someone who is learning; with practice, you will be faster.

Time	What kind of piece	Ideal for
Up to 1 h	Small, flat pieces, or pieces with few rounds: little stars, snowflakes, hearts, mini hats, little balls	First pieces, tree ornaments, gift tags, decorations for a wrapped present
About 2 hours	Filled pieces in one or two colours: baubles, small figures, coasters, key rings	Keepsakes for colleagues, neighbours and teachers
A weekend	Pieces with several parts to assemble or larger pieces: Christmas figures with body and head, wreaths, garlands, sets of ornaments	Special gifts and home decoration for every year

Tip: start with three 1 h pieces. After three pieces, the stitches come without thinking and the 2 h and weekend pieces become much easier.

Pick up your yarn, choose your first piece and happy Christmas. Happy crocheting!

Tree ornaments

Small ornaments, big joy

Tree ornaments are the best place to start: they are small, use little yarn and are ready in an afternoon. In this chapter there are 16 different patterns, from the simplest to the most detailed. All have a yarn loop for hanging. Make one of each or a whole collection in your favourite colour.

Project 1 · Five-point Star

Level: easy · Time: 1 h · Size: 8 cm · Yarn: cotton, 2.5 mm hook

A golden star, soft and lightly stuffed, for the top of a branch or to hang in the window. It looks lovely as a group of three sizes.

MATERIALS

- golden-yellow yarn (≈ 10 g)
- red yarn for the loop (≈ 1 g)
- 2.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker
- a little polyester toy stuffing

COLOUR MAP



Star: gold yarn
(2 identical pieces)

Loop: red yarn

Colour map: each colour is one piece.

STAR CENTRE (GOLD YARN) — MAKE 2

Rnd 1	5 dc in MR	5
Rnd 2	5 inc	10
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×5	15
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×5	20

Close the round with 1 ss. You have 20 stitches, that is, 4 stitches for each of the 5 points.

POINTS (GOLD YARN, IN ROWS, OVER 4 STITCHES AT A TIME)

L1	4 dc in the next 4 stitches, turn	4
L2	1 ch, 2 dc, dec, turn	3
L3	1 ch, dc, dec, turn	2
L4	1 ch, dec	1

Go down the side of the point with ss as far as round 4 and work the next point over the next 4 stitches. Repeat until you have 5 points. On the 2nd star, cut the yarn. On the 1st, leave the yarn attached.

ASSEMBLY

1. Join the two stars wrong side to wrong side, with the points lined up.
2. With the yarn from the 1st star, work dc all the way round, catching both pieces at the same time. At the points, work 3 dc in the same stitch.

3. Before closing the last point, put a little stuffing in the centre. Do not overstuff: the star should be soft but flat.
4. With the red yarn, make a loop of 30 ch at the top point and fasten the ends well with the yarn needle.

Tip: for a smaller star, use a 2 mm hook and thinner yarn. For a bigger one, use thicker yarn and a 3.5 mm hook: the pattern is the same.

Project 2 · Simple Snowflake

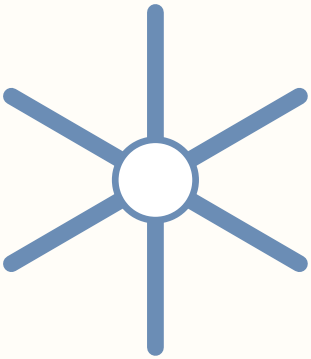
Level: easy · Time: 45 min · Size: 7 cm · Yarn: cotton, 2.5 mm hook

A light, six-pointed snowflake made in one piece. It is the ideal ornament for practising chains and arches.

MATERIALS

- white yarn (≈ 4 g)
- 2.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors
- water with a little white glue (or fabric stiffener) and pins, for shaping

COLOUR MAP



Snowflake: white yarn (one piece only)

Colour map: the snowflake is all white (the blue in the drawing is just the outline).

CENTRE (WHITE YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6

Rnd 2	6 inc	12

Close with 1 ss. You have 12 stitches.

ARCHES AND POINTS (WHITE YARN)

L3	1 ch, dc in the 1st stitch, 5 ch, skip 1 stitch; (dc in the next stitch, 5 ch, skip 1 stitch) ×5; ss in the 1st dc	6 arches
L4	ss to the middle of the 1st arch; in each arch: (3 dc, 4 ch, ss in the 1st of those ch, 3 dc); ss in the 1st dc	36 dc + 6 picots

Cut the yarn, leaving 20 cm. Use it to make the hanging loop.

ASSEMBLY

1. Dip the snowflake in the glue water and squeeze it out well in a towel.
2. Pin it onto a cushion, stretching each point outwards.
3. Leave to dry for a whole day. Remove the pins.
4. With the remaining yarn, make 25 ch on one of the points and fasten the end, forming the loop.

Tip: count the chains in the arches carefully: if one arch has 4 and another 6, the snowflake comes out crooked. A stitch marker on the 1st arch helps.

Project 3 · Lacy Snowflake

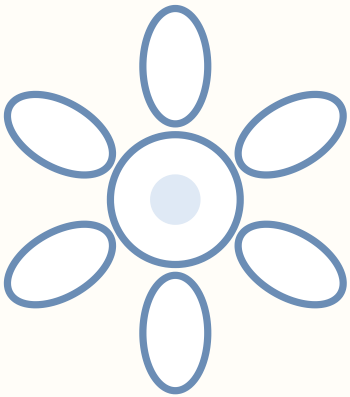
Level: medium · Time: 1 h 30 min · Size: 10 cm · Yarn: fine cotton, 2.5 mm hook

A bigger snowflake, with fans and little lacy points. It looks lovely on the tree, but also stuck on a card or tied to a gift.

MATERIALS

- white yarn (≈ 6 g)
- 2.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker
- water with white glue (or fabric stiffener), pins and a cushion

COLOUR MAP



Centre: white yarn

Fans: white yarn

(one piece only)

Colour map: the snowflake is all white (the blue is just the outline).

CENTRE (WHITE YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	12 tr	12

In round 3, start with 2 ch (these do not count as a stitch) and work 1 tr in each stitch. Close with 1 ss in the 1st tr. You have 12 tr.

LACE (WHITE YARN)

L4	(dc in the stitch, 3 ch, skip 1 stitch) ×6; ss in the 1st dc	6 arches
L5	ss to the 1st arch; in each arch: (2 tr, 2 ch, 2 tr); between arches, dc in the dc of the previous round; ss at the start	6 fans
L6	in each 2-ch space of the fan: (2 dc, 3 ch, ss in the 1st ch, 5 ch, ss in the 1st of those ch, 3 ch, ss in the 1st ch, 2 dc); between fans, 3 ch	6 points with 3 picots

Close with 1 ss and cut the yarn, leaving 20 cm for the loop.

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in the yarn ends, except the one for the loop.
2. Dip the snowflake in the glue water and remove the excess in a towel.
3. Pin it out: one pin in the large picot of each point and one in each fan.

4. Leave to dry for 24 hours. Make the loop with 25 ch on a large picot.

Tip: draw a 10 cm circle on a sheet of paper and divide it into 6 equal parts. Put the sheet under the snowflake when pinning: the points all come out the same.

Project 4 · Christmas Bauble

Level: easy · Time: 1 h 30 min · Size: 6 cm diameter · Yarn: cotton, 2.5 mm hook

The classic bauble, red with a white stripe and a gold cap. It will not break, so it is perfect for homes with children and pets.

MATERIALS

- red yarn (≈ 12 g)
- white yarn (≈ 2 g)
- golden-yellow yarn (≈ 2 g)
- 2.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker
- polyester toy stuffing (≈ 8 g)

COLOUR MAP



Cap: gold yarn

Bauble: red yarn

Stripe: white yarn

Colour map: each colour is one piece or one stripe.

BAUBLE (RED YARN, STRIPE IN WHITE YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6-7	30 dc	30
Rnd 8-9	30 dc	30
Rnd 10	30 dc	30
Rnd 11	(3 dc, dec) ×6	24
Rnd 12	(2 dc, dec) ×6	18

Rnd 13	(dc, dec) ×6	12
Rnd 14	6 dec	6

Change to the white yarn at the last stitch of round 7 and back to red at the last stitch of round 9. Stuff firmly before round 13. At the end you have 6 stitches: pass the yarn through them, pull and close.

CAP (GOLD YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	(dc, inc) ×3	9
Rnd 3-4	9 dc	9

Close with 1 ss and leave 25 cm of yarn for sewing and for the loop.

ASSEMBLY

1. Place the cap over the point where you started the bauble (the magic ring).
2. Sew the cap all the way round, stitch by stitch, with the yarn needle.
3. With the same yarn, make 20 ch in the centre of the cap and fasten the end: this is the loop.
4. Weave in all the ends inside the bauble.

Tip: to change colour without a step, work the last stitch of the round in the old colour until 2 loops remain on the hook and finish it with the new colour.

Project 5 · Bell

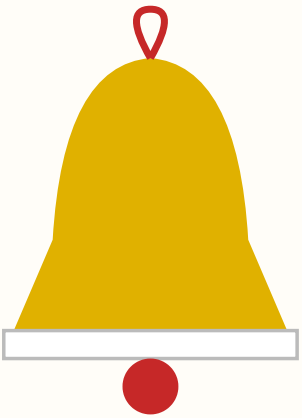
Level: easy · Time: 1 h 30 min · Size: 6 cm high · Yarn: cotton, 2.5 mm hook

A golden bell, with an open mouth and a white hem. The clapper swings when the tree moves.

MATERIALS

- golden-yellow yarn (≈ 10 g)
- white yarn (≈ 2 g)
- red yarn (≈ 2 g)
- 2.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker
- a little stuffing for the clapper

COLOUR MAP



Bell: gold yarn

Hem: white yarn

Clapper: red yarn

Colour map: each colour is a piece or a round.

BELL (GOLD YARN, HEM IN WHITE YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	(dc, inc) ×3	9
Rnd 3	(2 dc, inc) ×3	12
Rnd 4	12 dc	12
Rnd 5	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 6-8	18 dc	18
Rnd 9	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 10	24 dc	24
Rnd 11	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 12	30 htr	30
Rnd 13	30 dc	30

The bell is not stuffed. Close round 13 with 1 ss and weave in the yarn. The mouth has 30 stitches.

CLAPPER (RED YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	12 dc	12
Rnd 4	6 dec	6

Stuff a little before round 4. Close and leave 20 cm of yarn.

ASSEMBLY

1. With the yarn needle, pass the clapper yarn from the inside out through the top of the bell.
2. Adjust the length: the clapper should peep out 1 cm below the hem.
3. Tie a firm knot on the outside and use the rest of the yarn to make a loop of 20 ch.
4. If you like, sew a bow of red yarn to the top.

Tip: to help the bell keep its open-mouth shape, dip the hem in glue water and leave it to dry upside down over a small glass.

Warning: this ornament has one small part (the clapper). Attach it firmly, check it from time to time and hang the ornament out of reach of young children: there is a choking risk. It is an ornament, not a toy.

Project 6 · Little Angel

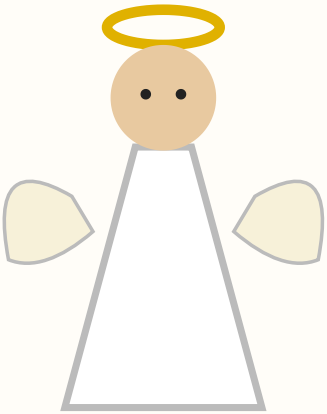
Level: medium · Time: 2 h · Size: 9 cm · Yarn: cotton, 2.5 mm hook

A little angel in a long dress, with half-moon wings and a golden halo. A delicate ornament that also makes a gift on its own, in a small bag.

MATERIALS

- white yarn (≈ 12 g)
- beige yarn (≈ 4 g)
- golden-yellow yarn (≈ 3 g)
- black yarn and pink yarn for embroidering (≈ 1 g)
- 2.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker
- polyester toy stuffing (≈ 6 g)

COLOUR MAP



Halo: gold yarn

Head: beige yarn

Wings: white yarn

Dress: white yarn

Colour map: each colour is one piece.

DRESS (WHITE YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	(dc, inc) ×3	9
Rnd 3	9 dc	9
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×3	12
Rnd 5	12 dc	12
Rnd 6	(3 dc, inc) ×3	15
Rnd 7	15 dc	15
Rnd 8	(4 dc, inc) ×3	18
Rnd 9	18 dc	18
Rnd 10	(5 dc, inc) ×3	21
Rnd 11	21 dc	21

Rnd 12	(6 dc, inc) ×3	24
Rnd 13	24 dc	24
Rnd 14	24 htr	24

The dress is a cone, open at the bottom. Stuff it lightly, just enough to stand. Close with 1 ss and cut the yarn.

HEAD (BEIGE YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4-6	18 dc	18
Rnd 7	(dc, dec) ×6	12
Rnd 8	6 dec	6

Stuff firmly before round 8. Close and leave 20 cm of yarn for sewing.

WINGS AND HALO

L1	Wing (white yarn): make 1 MR; 3 ch (counts as 1 tr) and 9 tr in the MR; pull the ring tight	10
L2	turn, 1 ch, 2 dc in each stitch; cut the yarn. Make 2 wings	20
L1	Halo (gold yarn): 16 ch, join with ss to the 1st ch	16
L2	1 dc in each ch; ss in the 1st dc; leave 15 cm of yarn	16

ASSEMBLY

1. Sew the head to the top of the dress, with small stitches all round.
2. Embroider the eyes with black yarn (2 short stitches each) and the cheeks with pink yarn.
3. Sew the two wings to the back, with the curved side outwards.
4. Sew the halo to the top of the head, slightly tilted.
5. With the halo yarn, make a loop of 20 ch and fasten it.

Tip: make several angels with dresses in different colours (pink, light blue, cream). The pattern does not change.

Warning: the eyes are embroidered with yarn, with no small parts. If you make toys with safety eyes, use them only on toys for children over 3 years old; for babies and young children, embroider the eyes with yarn. Make sure the stuffing is secure.

Project 7 · Miniature Christmas Tree

Level: easy · Time: 1 h 30 min · Size: 8 cm high · Yarn: cotton, 2.5 mm hook

A small, full tree with a trunk and embroidered baubles. It hangs on the big tree or stands on a shelf.

MATERIALS

- green yarn (≈ 10 g)
- brown yarn (≈ 3 g)
- red yarn and golden-yellow yarn for embroidering (≈ 2 g)
- 2.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker
- polyester toy stuffing (≈ 6 g)

COLOUR MAP



Tree: green yarn

Baubles: red
and gold (embroidered)

Trunk: brown yarn

Colour map: each colour is one piece.

TREE (GREEN YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	(2 dc, inc) ×2	8
Rnd 3	8 dc	8
Rnd 4	(3 dc, inc) ×2	10
Rnd 5	10 dc	10
Rnd 6	(4 dc, inc) ×2	12
Rnd 7	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 8	18 dc	18
Rnd 9	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 10	24 dc	24
Rnd 11	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 12	30 dc	30

Close with 1 ss. The base stays open, with 30 stitches.

BASE (GREEN YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30

TRUNK (BROWN YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	(dc, inc) ×3	9
Rnd 3-4	9 dc	9

Stuff the trunk firmly and leave 20 cm of yarn.

ASSEMBLY

1. Embroider the baubles on the tree: with red and gold yarn, make small knots (wind the yarn 3 times around the yarn needle and push it in beside it).
2. Stuff the tree until firm.
3. Sew the base to the mouth of the tree, catching the 30 stitches of both pieces.
4. Sew the trunk to the centre of the base.
5. At the tip, make a loop of 20 ch with gold yarn.

Tip: if you want it to stand up, put a large coin inside the base before sewing it on. Without the coin, it is a light ornament for hanging.

Project 8 · Candy Cane

Level: easy · Time: 1 h 30 min · Size: 11 cm · Yarn: cotton, 2.5 mm hook

The red and white striped cane, like the traditional sweet. It is a thin tube that bends at the end.

MATERIALS

- red yarn (≈ 5 g)
- white yarn (≈ 5 g)
- green yarn for the bow (≈ 1 g)
- 2.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker
- polyester toy stuffing (≈ 3 g)

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: the stripes alternate every 2 rounds.

CANE (RED YARN AND WHITE YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	(dc, inc) ×3	9
Rnd 3-4	9 dc	9
Rnd 5-6	9 dc	9
Rnd 7-8	9 dc	9
Rnd 9-10	9 dc	9
Rnd 11-12	9 dc	9
Rnd 13-14	9 dc	9
Rnd 15-16	9 dc	9
Rnd 17-18	9 dc	9
Rnd 19-20	9 dc	9
Rnd 21-22	9 dc	9
Rnd 23-24	9 dc	9
Rnd 25-26	9 dc	9
Rnd 27	(dc, dec) ×3	6

Do not cut the yarn you are not using: carry it inside the tube up to the next stripe. Stuff gradually, every 6 rounds, with a little stuffing. At the end, close the 6 stitches and leave 30 cm of red yarn.

ASSEMBLY

1. With the yarn needle, pass the red yarn along the inside of the curve, from round 27 to round 18.

2. Pull slowly: the tip bends and forms the hook. Tie a firm knot and weave in the yarn.
3. With the green yarn, tie a small bow halfway along the cane.
4. Hang it by its own hook on a branch.

Tip: use a stitch marker in the 1st stitch of every round. That way you always know when to change colour.

Project 9 · Heart

Level: medium · Time: 1 h 30 min · Size: 7 cm · Yarn: cotton, 2.5 mm hook

A soft, plump heart, worked in the round from two little balls. A love token to hang up or to give on a card.

MATERIALS

- red yarn (≈ 12 g)
- white yarn for the loop and the embroidery (≈ 1 g)
- 2.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker
- polyester toy stuffing (≈ 6 g)

COLOUR MAP



Heart: red yarn

Loop: white yarn

Colour map: each colour is one piece.

TOP BALLS (RED YARN) — MAKE 2

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6

Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4-5	18 dc	18

On the 1st ball, cut the yarn. On the 2nd, do not cut: carry on with the next piece.

HEART BODY (RED YARN, THE TWO BALLS JOINED)

Rnd 6	36 dc	36
Rnd 7	(4 dc, dec) ×6	30
Rnd 8	30 dc	30
Rnd 9	(3 dc, dec) ×6	24
Rnd 10	24 dc	24
Rnd 11	(2 dc, dec) ×6	18
Rnd 12	(dc, dec) ×6	12
Rnd 13	6 dec	6

Round 6: bring the two balls together. Work 18 dc around the 2nd ball and go straight on to the 1st, with 18 dc around it: you have 36 stitches. Stuff the balls before round 7 and the rest before round 12. Close the 6 stitches at the end.

ASSEMBLY

1. If a small hole is left in the middle, between the balls, close it with 2 or 3 stitches of red yarn.
2. Pull that yarn slightly to mark the dip of the heart.

3. With white yarn, make a loop of 25 ch in the dip.
4. If you like, embroider a small white star on one side.

Tip: in pink or white, this heart also works for Valentine's Day or a christening. Just change the colour.

Project 10 · Reindeer (ornament)

Level: medium · Time: 2 h · Size: 8 cm with antlers · Yarn: cotton, 2.5 mm hook

The head of a friendly reindeer, with a pale muzzle, a red nose and antlers. It takes up little space and is one of the most popular pieces on the tree.

MATERIALS

- brown yarn (≈ 8 g)
- beige yarn (≈ 2 g)
- red yarn (≈ 1 g)
- dark brown yarn (≈ 3 g)
- black yarn for embroidering the eyes
- 2.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker
- polyester toy stuffing (≈ 5 g)

COLOUR MAP



Antlers: dark brown

Head and ears: brown yarn

Muzzle: beige yarn

Nose: red yarn

Colour map: each colour is one piece.

HEAD (BROWN YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5-8	24 dc	24
Rnd 9	(2 dc, dec) ×6	18
Rnd 10	(dc, dec) ×6	12
Rnd 11	6 dec	6

Embroider the eyes between rounds 6 and 7, 6 stitches apart, before stuffing. Stuff firmly and close the 6 stitches.

MUZZLE (BEIGE YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	(dc, inc) ×3	9
Rnd 3	(2 dc, inc) ×3	12
Rnd 4	12 dc	12

NOSE (RED YARN)

Rnd 1	5 dc in MR	5
Rnd 2	5 inc	10
Rnd 3	10 dc	10
Rnd 4	5 dec	5

EARS (BROWN YARN) — MAKE 2

Rnd 1	4 dc in MR	4
Rnd 2	(dc, inc) ×2	6
Rnd 3	(2 dc, inc) ×2	8
Rnd 4	8 dc	8

The ears are not stuffed: flatten them and fold them in half at the base.

ANTLERS (DARK BROWN YARN) — MAKE 2 ANTLERS AND 2 TINES

Rnd 1	4 dc in MR	4
Rnd 2-6	4 dc	4

For the tines, work the same but only up to round 3. No need to stuff: the tube stays firm on its own.

ASSEMBLY

1. Sew the nose to the top of the muzzle. Stuff the muzzle a little and sew it to the lower part of the head.
2. Sew one tine to the side of each antler, halfway up.
3. Sew the antlers to the top of the head, 5 stitches apart.
4. Sew the ears just below the antlers, facing sideways.
5. Between the antlers, make a loop of 20 ch with dark brown yarn.

Tip: embroider a tiny white line in each eye, next to the black: it adds sparkle to the look without needing extra pieces.

Warning: the eyes are embroidered with yarn. Safety eyes only on toys for children over 3 years old; for babies and young children, embroider the eyes with yarn. The nose is a small part: sew it on firmly and check it from time to time.

Project 11 · Snowman (ornament)

Level: medium · Time: 2 h · Size: 9 cm · Yarn: cotton, 2.5 mm hook

A two-ball snowman, with a red scarf and a carrot nose. He stands up and can also be hung.

MATERIALS

- white yarn (≈ 14 g)
- red yarn (≈ 3 g)
- orange yarn (≈ 1 g)
- black yarn for embroidering eyes and buttons (≈ 1 g)
- 2.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker
- polyester toy stuffing (≈ 10 g)

COLOUR MAP



Head and body: white yarn

Scarf: red

Nose: orange yarn

Eyes: embroidered

Colour map: each colour is one piece.

HEAD (WHITE YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4-6	18 dc	18
Rnd 7	(dc, dec) ×6	12
Rnd 8	6 dec	6

BODY (WHITE YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18

Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6-9	30 dc	30
Rnd 10	(3 dc, dec) ×6	24
Rnd 11	(2 dc, dec) ×6	18
Rnd 12	(dc, dec) ×6	12
Rnd 13	6 dec	6

Stuff both balls firmly before the last rounds and close. Leave 30 cm of yarn on the head for sewing.

NOSE (ORANGE YARN)

Rnd 1	4 dc in MR	4
Rnd 2	3 dc, inc	5
Rnd 3	5 dc	5

SCARF (RED YARN, IN ROWS)

L1	36 ch; from the 2nd ch, 1 dc in each ch	35

The scarf measures about 12 cm × 0.5 cm. At each end, attach 3 strands of 2 cm as a fringe.

ASSEMBLY

1. Sew the head onto the body, with the closing of each ball facing the join.

2. Embroider the eyes with black yarn and 2 buttons on the tummy.
3. Sew the nose, with the tip pointing out, in the middle of the face.
4. Wrap the scarf once around the neck and tie a knot at the side.
5. At the top of the head, make a loop of 20 ch with white yarn.

Tip: for a hat, make Project 15 with 4 fewer rounds and sew it on the head.

Warning: the eyes and buttons are embroidered with yarn. Safety eyes only on toys for children over 3 years old; for babies and young children, embroider the eyes with yarn. Sew the nose on firmly: it is a small part.

Project 12 · Holly

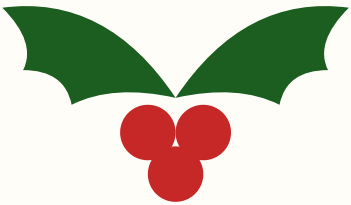
Level: easy · Time: 1 h · Size: 8 cm · Yarn: cotton, 2.5 mm hook

Two holly leaves with three red berries. It hangs on the tree, ties onto a gift or decorates a napkin.

MATERIALS

- dark green yarn (≈ 5 g)
- red yarn (≈ 2 g)
- 2.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors
- a little stuffing for the berries

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is one piece.

BERRIES (RED YARN) — MAKE 3

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6

Rnd 2	6 dc	6
Rnd 3	3 dec	3

Before round 3, put in a pinch of stuffing. Close the 3 stitches and leave 15 cm of yarn.

LEAVES (DARK GREEN YARN, IN ROWS) — MAKE 2

L1	13 ch	13
L2	from the 2nd ch: ss, dc, htr, tr, 3 ch and ss in the 1st ch (picot), tr, tr, 3 ch and ss in the 1st ch (picot), tr, htr, dc, ss, 3 dc in the last ch	13 stitches + 2 picots
L3	on the other side of the chain, repeat the same sequence in reverse and finish with ss in the 1st ch	12 stitches + 2 picots

Each leaf is 7 cm long, with 3 points on each side, counting the tip.

ASSEMBLY

1. Join the two leaves at the base, in a V shape.
2. Sew the three berries on top of where the leaves meet, close together.
3. Use the berry yarns to tie a knot at the back and make a loop of 25 ch.
4. Weave in all the ends.

Tip: for firmer leaves, dip them in glue water and leave them to dry flat, with a weight on top.

> **Warning:** the berries are small parts. Sew them on firmly and hang the ornament out of reach of young children: there is a choking risk.

Project 13 · Pine Cone

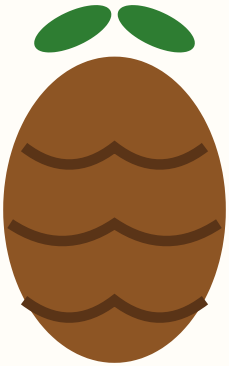
Level: medium · Time: 2 h · Size: 7 cm high · Yarn: cotton, 2.5 mm hook

A pine cone with raised scales and two green leaves. It gives the tree or a table bowl a natural, rustic look.

MATERIALS

- brown yarn (≈ 14 g)
- green yarn (≈ 2 g)
- 2.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker
- polyester toy stuffing (≈ 6 g)

COLOUR MAP



Leaves: green yarn

Pine cone and scales: brown yarn

Colour map: each colour is one piece.

PINE CONE (BROWN YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	(dc, inc) ×3	9
Rnd 3	(2 dc, inc) ×3	12
Rnd 4	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 5	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 6	24 dc	24
Rnd 7	24 htr	24
Rnd 8	24 dc	24
Rnd 9	24 htr	24
Rnd 10	24 dc	24
Rnd 11	24 htr	24
Rnd 12	(2 dc, dec) ×6	18
Rnd 13	18 dc	18
Rnd 14	(dc, dec) ×6	12
Rnd 15	12 dc	12
Rnd 16	6 dec	6

In rounds 7, 9 and 11, work the htr in the back loop of the stitch only: the front loop stays free for the scales. Stuff firmly before round 14 and close the 6 stitches at the end. The tip (round 1) is the bottom point of the cone.

SCALES AND LEAVES

L1	Scales (brown yarn), in the free front loops of rounds 6, 8 and 10: (ss, 2 ch, 2 tr in the next stitch, 2 ch, ss in the next stitch) all the way round	8 scales per tier
L1	Leaf (green yarn): 8 ch; from the 2nd ch: ss, dc, 3 htr, dc, ss. Make 2	7

ASSEMBLY

1. With the cone point down, work the 3 tiers of scales, starting with the bottom one.
2. Sew the two leaves at the top, in a V shape.
3. Between the leaves, make a loop of 20 ch with green yarn.
4. Weave in the ends inside the cone.

Tip: in beige or gold yarn, the cone looks more elegant. Three cones together, tied with a ribbon, make a simple table centrepiece.

Project 14 · Little Mitten

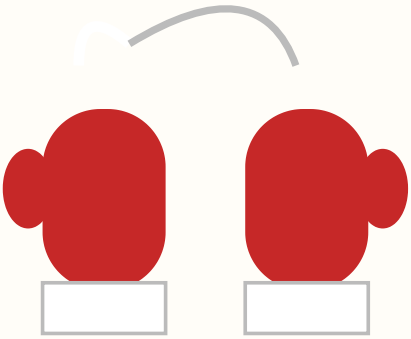
Level: easy · Time: 1 h 30 min (the pair) · Size: 6 cm each · Yarn: cotton, 2.5 mm hook

A pair of little red mittens with white cuffs, joined by a cord. They can also hide a tiny message or a gift note.

MATERIALS

- red yarn (≈ 10 g)
- white yarn (≈ 4 g)
- 2.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is a piece or a round.

HAND (RED YARN, CUFF IN WHITE YARN) — MAKE 2

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6

Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4-11	18 dc	18
Rnd 12	18 dc	18
Rnd 13-14	18 htr	18

The mitten is not stuffed. Close with 1 ss and weave in the yarn.

THUMB (RED YARN) — MAKE 2

Rnd 1	5 dc in MR	5
Rnd 2	4 dc, inc	6
Rnd 3-4	6 dc	6

Leave 15 cm of yarn for sewing.

ASSEMBLY

1. Flatten the hand. Sew the thumb to the side, between rounds 5 and 9.
2. On the 2nd mitten, sew the thumb on the other side, so that they make a pair (left and right).
3. With white yarn, make a cord of 50 ch. Fasten one end to the cuff of each mitten.
4. Hang the pair on the branch by the middle of the cord.

Tip: embroider a white snowflake or heart on the back of the hand with 4 cross stitches. It looks like a traditional

> woolly mitten.

Project 15 · Little Hat

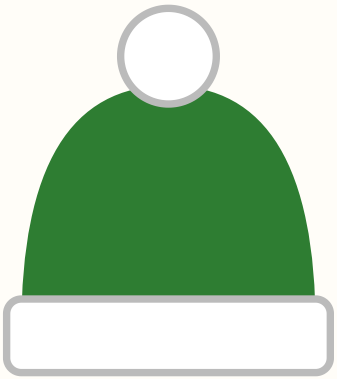
Level: easy · Time: 1 h · Size: 6 cm high · Yarn: cotton, 2.5 mm hook

A miniature hat, with a turned-up brim and a pompom. It looks good on the tree, on a jam jar or on another toy's head.

MATERIALS

- green yarn (≈ 7 g)
- white yarn (≈ 5 g, including the pompom)
- 2.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker
- a piece of card 3 cm wide for the pompom

COLOUR MAP



Pompom: white yarn

Hat: green yarn

Brim: white yarn

Colour map: each colour is a piece or a round.

HAT (GREEN YARN, BRIM IN WHITE YARN)

Rnd 1	5 dc in MR	5
Rnd 2	5 inc	10
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×5	15
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×5	20
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×5	25
Rnd 6-10	25 dc	25
Rnd 11-14	25 dc	25

Close with 1 ss and weave in the yarn. The hat is not stuffed.

POMPOM (WHITE YARN)

Wind the white yarn 40 times around the 3 cm card. Slide it off carefully, tie the middle very tightly with a 20 cm strand of yarn and cut the loops on both sides. Trim until round, about 2.5 cm.

ASSEMBLY

1. Fold the 4 white rounds outwards to form the brim.
2. With the strands from the knot, sew the pompom to the top of the hat.
3. Use the same strands to make a loop of 20 ch beside the pompom.
4. Weave in the ends inside.

> **Tip:** make the green part striped, changing colour every 2 rounds (red and green, for example): the number of stitches is the same.

Project 16 · Miniature Stocking

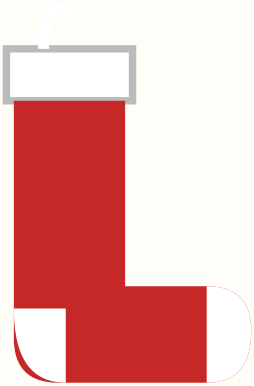
Level: medium · Time: 1 h 30 min · Size: 7 cm · Yarn: cotton, 2.5 mm hook

A tiny Christmas stocking, with a white toe, heel and cuff. A sweet or a little note fits inside.

MATERIALS

- red yarn (≈ 8 g)
- white yarn (≈ 4 g)
- 2.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



Cuff: white yarn

Stocking: red yarn

Toe and heel: white yarn

Colour map: each colour is a piece or a round.

FOOT (TOE IN WHITE YARN, FOOT IN RED YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6

Rnd 2	(dc, inc) ×3	9
Rnd 3	(2 dc, inc) ×3	12
Rnd 4-8	12 dc	12

Change to the red yarn at the end of round 3. Round 9 (heel opening): 6 dc, 6 ch, skip the next 6 stitches — you have 12 stitches (6 dc and 6 ch).

LEG (RED YARN, CUFF IN WHITE YARN)

Rnd 10	12 dc	12
Rnd 11-15	12 dc	12
Rnd 16	12 dc	12
Rnd 17-18	12 htr	12

In round 10, work 1 dc in each stitch and in each ch of round 9. At the end, close with 1 ss and make the loop straight away: 15 ch fastened with ss in the same stitch.

HEEL (WHITE YARN)

Rnd 1	12 dc	12
Rnd 2	(2 dc, dec) ×3	9
Rnd 3	(dc, dec) ×3	6

Heel round 1: attach the white yarn at one corner of the opening and work 6 dc in the 6 stitches below and 6 dc in the 6 ch above. At the end, pass the yarn through the 6 stitches, pull and close.

ASSEMBLY

1. Close the small holes at the corners of the heel with 1 or 2 stitches of white yarn.
2. Weave in all the ends inside the stocking.
3. Flatten the stocking with your hand, with the heel facing backwards.
4. Hang it by the loop on the cuff.

Tip: embroider the initial of each family member on the white cuff, in red yarn. One stocking per person makes a lovely row on the mantelpiece or the tree.

Warning: if you put sweets or other small things inside the stocking, hang it out of reach of young children.

Stockings and little bags

Small gifts that are gifts already

Christmas stockings and little bags are perfect for beginners: they are almost always worked in the round, with double crochet only, and they grow quickly. In this chapter you will find eight different patterns, from the classic stocking to hang up to a cutlery holder for the Christmas dinner table. After you make your first stocking, the others will seem much easier.

On all the stockings, the heel is made at the end: in one round you make a row of chains that leaves an opening, and then you work the heel into that opening. That way you do not need to turn your work or count short rows.

Project 17 · Classic Christmas Stocking

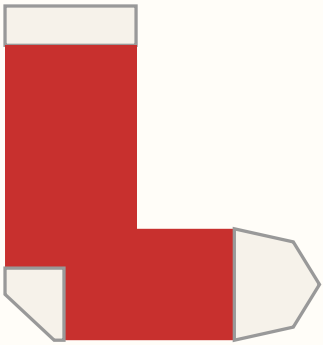
Level: easy · Time: 4 h · Size: 16 cm high · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

The red stocking we all know, with white toe, heel and trim. Hang it on the tree or on the door and fill it with chocolates.

MATERIALS

- red yarn (≈ 25 g)
- white yarn (≈ 12 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- stitch marker, yarn needle and scissors

COLOUR MAP



trim: white yarn

leg and foot: red yarn

toe: white yarn

heel: white yarn

Colour map: each colour is one piece.

TOE AND FOOT (WHITE YARN, THEN RED YARN)

You start at the tip of the toe. Work in a spiral, without closing the rounds, and move the stitch marker to the 1st stitch of each round.

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6	(4 dc, inc) ×6	36
Rnd 7-8	36 dc	36
Rnd 9-20	36 dc	36

Heel opening — Rnd 21 (red yarn): 18 ch, skip 18 stitches, 18 dc. The round has 36 stitches (18 ch and 18 dc).

LEG AND TRIM (RED YARN, THEN WHITE YARN)

Rnd 22-40	36 dc	36
Rnd 41-44	36 dc	36

In Rnd 22, work 1 dc in each chain and 1 dc in each stitch. At the end of Rnd 44, close with 1 ss. For the loop, make 15 ch and fasten with 1 ss in the same stitch. Cut the yarn and weave in the end. You have 36 stitches at the top of the stocking.

HEEL (WHITE YARN)

Attach the white yarn at one corner of the opening. In Rnd 1, work 18 dc along the chains and 18 dc in the skipped stitches.

Rnd 1	36 dc	36
Rnd 2	(4 dc, dec) ×6	30
Rnd 3	(3 dc, dec) ×6	24
Rnd 4	(2 dc, dec) ×6	18
Rnd 5	(dc, dec) ×6	12
Rnd 6	6 dec	6

Cut the yarn, pass it with the yarn needle through the 6 stitches of the last round and pull to close.

ASSEMBLY

1. Close the heel hole well and tie two knots on the inside.
2. If small holes are left at the corners of the heel, sew them up with the yarn end.
3. Weave in all the ends inside the stocking.
4. Turn the stocking from wrong side to right side and shape it with your fingers.

Tip: count the stitches at the end of each round of the toe. If round 6 has 36 stitches, the rest of the stocking comes out right.

> **Warning:** do not hang stockings near a lit fireplace or candles; use only LED candles near crochet.

Project 18 · Stocking with Cuff

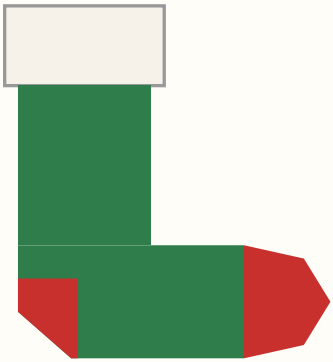
Level: easy · Time: 5 h · Size: 22 cm high · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A bigger green stocking, with a wide white cuff that folds outwards. It is worked from the top down and is great for putting each family member's name on.

MATERIALS

- green yarn (≈ 35 g)
- white yarn (≈ 20 g)
- red yarn (≈ 10 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- stitch marker, yarn needle and scissors

COLOUR MAP



cuff: white yarn

leg and foot: green yarn

toe: red yarn

heel: red yarn

Colour map: each colour is one piece.

CUFF AND LEG (WHITE YARN, THEN GREEN YARN)

With white yarn, make 40 ch and join with 1 ss in the 1st chain, without twisting the chain. In the htr rounds, start each round with 2 ch (they do not count as a stitch) and close with 1 ss. From Rnd 9 work in a spiral.

Rnd 1-8	40 htr	40
Rnd 9-26	40 dc	40

Heel opening — Rnd 27 (green yarn): 20 ch, skip 20 stitches, 20 dc. The round has 40 stitches (20 ch and 20 dc).

FOOT AND TOE (GREEN YARN, THEN RED YARN)

Rnd 28-40	40 dc	40
Rnd 41	(8 dc, dec) ×4	36
Rnd 42	(7 dc, dec) ×4	32
Rnd 43	(6 dc, dec) ×4	28
Rnd 44	(5 dc, dec) ×4	24
Rnd 45	(4 dc, dec) ×4	20

In Rnd 28, work 1 dc in each chain and 1 dc in each stitch. At the end, you have 20 stitches: flatten the tip with the decreases at the sides and sew the top 10 stitches to the bottom 10.

HEEL (RED YARN)

Attach the red yarn at one corner of the opening. In Rnd 1, work 20 dc along the chains and 20 dc in the skipped stitches.

Rnd 1	40 dc	40
Rnd 2	(3 dc, dec) ×8	32
Rnd 3	(2 dc, dec) ×8	24
Rnd 4	(dc, dec) ×8	16
Rnd 5	8 dec	8

Cut the yarn, pass it through the 8 stitches of the last round and pull to close.

ASSEMBLY

1. Close the heel and the toe and weave in the ends inside.
2. Fold the white cuff outwards, until it covers about half its height.
3. With red yarn, make a loop of 20 ch at the back of the top of the stocking, next to the cuff seam, and fasten with 2 ss.
4. If you like, embroider the name on the cuff with red yarn, in back stitch.

Tip: the half treble stitches of the cuff come out softer if you work without pulling the yarn tight. If the cuff comes out wider than the leg, that is fine: it is what makes it fall nicely when folded.

Warning: do not hang stockings near a lit fireplace or candles; use only LED candles near crochet.

Project 19 · Striped Stocking

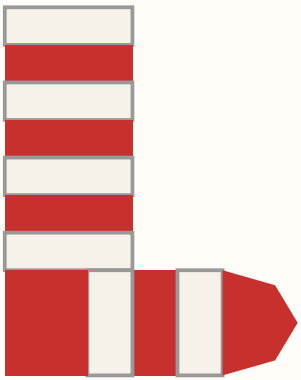
Level: easy · Time: 2 h · Size: 10 cm high · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

A small stocking, in red and white stripes like a candy cane. It works as a tree ornament or as an Advent calendar, if you make several.

MATERIALS

- red yarn (≈ 8 g)
- white yarn (≈ 8 g)
- 3 mm crochet hook
- stitch marker, yarn needle and scissors

COLOUR MAP



stripes: red and white

toe: red

heel: red

Colour map: each colour is one piece.

TOE AND FOOT (RED YARN AND WHITE YARN)

Work in a spiral. For the stripes, do not cut the yarn: leave the colour you are not using waiting inside the stocking and pick it up 2 rounds later.

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5-6	24 dc	24
Rnd 7-8	24 dc	24
Rnd 9-10	24 dc	24
Rnd 11-12	24 dc	24

Heel opening — Rnd 13 (white yarn): 12 ch, skip 12 stitches, 12 dc. The round has 24 stitches (12 ch and 12 dc).

STRIPED LEG (WHITE YARN AND RED YARN)

Rnd 14	24 dc	24
Rnd 15-16	24 dc	24
Rnd 17-18	24 dc	24
Rnd 19-20	24 dc	24
Rnd 21-22	24 dc	24
Rnd 23-24	24 dc	24
Rnd 25-26	24 dc	24

In Rnd 14, work 1 dc in each chain and 1 dc in each stitch. At the end, close with 1 ss, make 12 ch with red yarn for the loop and fasten with 1 ss. You have 24 stitches at the top of the stocking.

HEEL (RED YARN)

In Rnd 1, work 12 dc along the chains and 12 dc in the skipped stitches.

Rnd 1	24 dc	24
Rnd 2	(2 dc, dec) ×6	18
Rnd 3	(dc, dec) ×6	12
Rnd 4	6 dec	6

Pass the yarn through the last 6 stitches and pull to close.

ASSEMBLY

1. Close the heel and weave in the ends inside.
2. Gently pull the strands that run from one stripe to the next, so that they are neither slack nor tight.
3. For an Advent calendar, make several stockings and embroider a number on each one with a different colour of yarn.

Tip: in spiral stripes, the colour change makes a small step. Make all the changes in the same place (at the marker) and turn that side to the back.

Project 20 · Granny Stocking

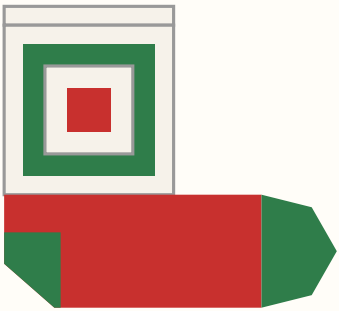
Level: easy · Time: 5 h · Size: 18 cm high · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

The leg of this stocking is made with two colourful granny squares; the foot is worked afterwards, in double crochet. A cheerful pattern, with a grandma's-house feel.

MATERIALS

- red yarn (≈ 25 g)
- white yarn (≈ 20 g)
- green yarn (≈ 15 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- stitch marker, yarn needle and scissors

COLOUR MAP



trim: white

square: red, white and green

foot: red

toe and heel: green

Colour map: each colour is one piece.

GRANNY SQUARE (MAKE 2)

Each round starts at a corner. The 3 ch at the start count as 1 tr. Change colour on every round and always close with 1 ss. Each square measures about 10 × 10 cm.

L1	In MR: 3 ch, 2 tr, 2 ch, (3 tr, 2 ch) ×3; close with ss in the 3rd ch	12 tr and 4 corners
L2	In the 1st corner: 3 ch, 2 tr, 2 ch, 3 tr; in each of the other 3 corners: (3 tr, 2 ch, 3 tr)	24 tr
L3	In each corner: (3 tr, 2 ch, 3 tr); in each side space: 3 tr	36 tr
L4	In each corner: (3 tr, 2 ch, 3 tr); in each side space: 3 tr	48 tr

Place the two squares right sides together and sew the two sides with white yarn, leaving the top and bottom open. This makes a tube: the leg of the stocking.

FOOT (RED YARN)

Attach the red yarn at the seam on one side of the bottom edge. In Rnd 1, pick up 20 dc along the edge of each square (about 1 dc per treble and 2 dc in each corner), 40 dc in all.

Rnd 1	40 dc	40
Rnd 2-3	40 dc	40

Heel opening — Rnd 4 (red yarn): 20 ch, skip 20 stitches, 20 dc. The round has 40 stitches (20 ch and 20 dc). The opening is at the back of the stocking.

FOOT AND TOE (RED YARN, THEN GREEN YARN)

Rnd 5-14	40 dc	40
Rnd 15	(3 dc, dec) ×8	32
Rnd 16	(2 dc, dec) ×8	24
Rnd 17	(dc, dec) ×8	16
Rnd 18	8 dec	8

In Rnd 5, work 1 dc in each chain and 1 dc in each stitch. At the end, pass the yarn through the 8 stitches and pull to close the rounded toe.

HEEL (GREEN YARN)

In Rnd 1, work 20 dc along the chains and 20 dc in the skipped stitches.

Rnd 1	40 dc	40
Rnd 2	(8 dc, dec) ×4	36
Rnd 3	(7 dc, dec) ×4	32
Rnd 4	(6 dc, dec) ×4	28
Rnd 5	(5 dc, dec) ×4	24
Rnd 6	(4 dc, dec) ×4	20

You have 20 stitches: flatten the heel and sew the 10 stitches of one side to the 10 of the other.

TOP TRIM OF THE LEG (WHITE YARN)

Attach the white yarn at the top edge of the leg. In Rnd 1, pick up 20 dc along each square, as you did at the bottom.

Rnd 1-2	40 dc	40

Close with 1 ss, make 15 ch for the loop and fasten with 1 ss. You have 40 stitches at the top of the stocking.

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in all the yarn ends of the squares before sewing them together: afterwards it is harder.
2. Check that the heel opening is at the back, beneath one of the side seams.
3. Close the heel and the toe and weave in the last ends inside.

Tip: if the squares come out different sizes, stretch them with damp hands and leave them to dry on a towel, pinned out, before sewing them together.

Warning: do not hang stockings near a lit fireplace or candles; use only LED candles near crochet.

Project 21 · Gift Bag

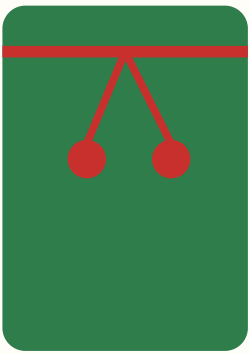
Level: easy · Time: 2 h · Size: 7 × 10 cm · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

A green bag with a red cord and little balls at the ends, just the right size for a pair of earrings, a small soap or a few chocolates. The bag is already part of the gift.

MATERIALS

- green yarn (≈ 15 g)
- red yarn (≈ 5 g)
- 3 mm crochet hook
- stitch marker, yarn needle and scissors

COLOUR MAP



cord: red yarn

little balls: red yarn

bag: green yarn

Colour map: each colour is one piece.

BASE AND SIDES (GREEN YARN)

Work the base in a spiral. Rnd 6 is worked in the back loop of each stitch only: this makes the base flat and the sides rise straight. In the htr rounds, start with 2 ch (they do not count) and close with 1 ss.

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6	30 dc	30
Rnd 7-16	30 htr	30

TOP EDGE WITH EYELETS AND PICOTS (GREEN YARN)

L1	2 ch, (htr, ch, skip 1 st) ×15; close with ss	30 (15 htr and 15 ch)
L2	1 dc in each htr and 1 dc in each ch; close with ss	30 dc
L3	(dc, 3 ch, ss in the 1st ch, dc) ×15; close with ss	30 dc and 15 picots

CORD (RED YARN)

Make 70 ch. Work back along the chain with 1 ss in each chain, to make the cord firmer. It ends up about 30 cm long.

LITTLE BALLS (RED YARN, MAKE 2)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6

Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	12 dc	12
Rnd 4	6 dec	6

Before Rnd 4, fill the ball with a little stuffing. Leave a long yarn end for sewing it on.

ASSEMBLY

1. Thread the cord through the eyelets of Row 1, in and out, one eyelet in and the next one out.
2. Bring the two ends of the cord together on the same side of the bag.
3. Sew a little ball to each end, with several firm stitches, and tie a knot.
4. Put the gift inside and pull the cord to close.

Tip: if the bag needs to hold something taller, work more rounds of 30 htr before the trim: each round adds about 0.8 cm.

Warning: the little balls are small parts: sew them on firmly and check them before giving the bag as a gift. Keep bags with cords away from babies and young children.

Project 22 · Small Father Christmas Sack

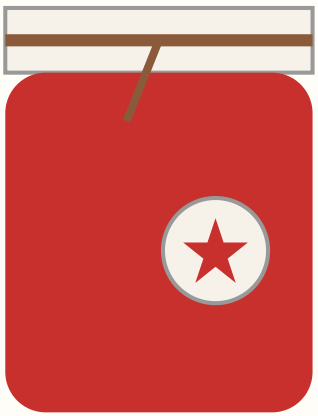
Level: easy · Time: 5 h · Size: 12 × 16 cm · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A red sack with a white top and a round tag, like Father Christmas's but small. Fill it with sweets to leave under the tree.

MATERIALS

- red yarn (≈ 45 g)
- white yarn (≈ 15 g)
- brown yarn (≈ 5 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- stitch marker, yarn needle and scissors

COLOUR MAP



top: white yarn
cord: brown yarn

tag: white yarn

sack: red yarn

Colour map: each colour is one piece.

BASE AND BODY (RED YARN, THEN WHITE YARN)

Work in a spiral. Rnd 9 is worked in the back loop of each stitch only, to mark the fold of the bottom. In the htr rounds, start with 2 ch (they do not count) and close with 1 ss.

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6	(4 dc, inc) ×6	36
Rnd 7	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 8	(6 dc, inc) ×6	48
Rnd 9	48 dc	48
Rnd 10-34	48 dc	48
Rnd 35-37	48 htr	48

TOP WITH EYELETS (WHITE YARN)

L1	3 ch, (tr, ch, skip 1 st) ×24; close with ss	48 (24 tr and 24 ch)
L2	1 dc in each tr and 1 dc in each ch; close with ss	48 dc

TAG (WHITE YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6

Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24

Close with 1 ss. The tag measures about 5 cm. Leave a long end for sewing it on.

CORD (BROWN YARN)

With the yarn doubled (two strands together), make 90 ch. It ends up about 45 cm long.

ASSEMBLY

1. With red yarn, embroider a star in the centre of the tag: 5 long stitches radiating from the middle.
2. Sew the tag to the front of the sack, halfway up, with small stitches all round.
3. Thread the cord through the eyelets of Row 1 and tie a knot at each end.
4. Fill the sack and pull the cord to close; tie a bow.

Tip: to make the sack stand up, put a cardboard circle 8 cm in diameter in the bottom before filling it.

Warning: the cord is long: keep the sack away from babies and young children and never leave it in a cot.

Project 23 · Sweet Bag

Level: easy · Time: 2 h · Size: 6 cm diameter · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

A little striped ball, like a tree bauble, that opens at the top to hold sweets. Hang it on the tree by the yellow cord.

MATERIALS

- red yarn (≈ 8 g)
- white yarn (≈ 6 g)
- yellow yarn (≈ 5 g)
- 3 mm crochet hook
- stitch marker, yarn needle and scissors

COLOUR MAP



loop and cord: yellow

top: yellow yarn

stripes: red and white

Colour map: each colour is one piece.

STRIPED BALL (RED YARN AND WHITE YARN)

Work in a spiral and change colour every 2 rounds, without cutting the yarn.

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6	(4 dc, inc) ×6	36
Rnd 7-8	36 dc	36
Rnd 9-10	36 dc	36
Rnd 11-12	36 dc	36
Rnd 13	(4 dc, dec) ×6	30
Rnd 14	(3 dc, dec) ×6	24
Rnd 15-16	24 dc	24

TOP WITH EYELETS (YELLOW YARN)

L1	3 ch, (tr, ch, skip 1 st) ×12; close with ss	24 (12 tr and 12 ch)
L2	1 dc in each tr and 1 dc in each ch; close with ss	24 dc

CORD (YELLOW YARN)

Make 60 ch (about 25 cm). It needs no stuffing: the ball is filled out by the sweets.

ASSEMBLY

1. Thread the cord through the 12 eyelets of Row 1, one in, one out.
2. Fill with wrapped sweets and pull the cord to close.
3. Tie a knot in the two ends together: this makes a loop for hanging on the tree.

Tip: always use wrapped sweets. Cotton absorbs sugar and stains if the sweet is unwrapped.

Warning: sweets and cords are dangerous for young children (choking and strangulation). Hang the ball high on the tree, out of their reach.

Project 24 · Stocking Cutlery Holder

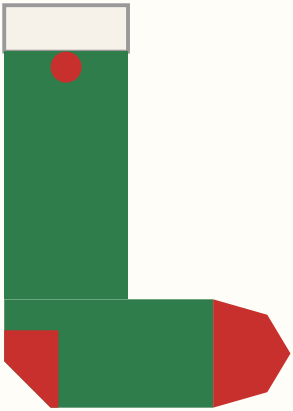
Level: easy · Time: 2 h 30 min · Size: 13 cm high · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A small green stocking with a white cuff, to place beside each plate with the fork, knife and spoon. Make one per person for the Christmas dinner table.

MATERIALS (FOR 1 STOCKING)

- green yarn (≈ 15 g)
- white yarn (≈ 5 g)
- red yarn (≈ 6 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- stitch marker, yarn needle and scissors

COLOUR MAP



cuff: white yarn
bow: red yarn

stocking: green yarn

toe: red
heel: red

Colour map: each colour is one piece.

TOE AND FOOT (RED YARN, THEN GREEN YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(5 dc, inc) ×4	28
Rnd 6-12	28 dc	28

Heel opening — Rnd 13 (green yarn): 14 ch, skip 14 stitches, 14 dc. The round has 28 stitches (14 ch and 14 dc).

LEG AND CUFF (GREEN YARN, THEN WHITE YARN)

Rnd 14-36	28 dc	28
Rnd 37-39	28 htr	28

In Rnd 14, work 1 dc in each chain and 1 dc in each stitch. In the htr rounds, start with 2 ch (they do not count) and close with 1 ss. At the end, you have 28 stitches at the top of the stocking.

HEEL (RED YARN)

In Rnd 1, work 14 dc along the chains and 14 dc in the skipped stitches.

Rnd 1	28 dc	28
Rnd 2	(5 dc, dec) ×4	24
Rnd 3	(2 dc, dec) ×6	18

Rnd 4	(dc, dec) ×6	12
Rnd 5	6 dec	6

Pass the yarn through the last 6 stitches and pull to close.

BOW (RED YARN)

Make 40 ch (about 17 cm) and cut the yarn, leaving 5 cm ends.

ASSEMBLY

1. Close the heel and weave in all the ends inside.
2. Thread the bow between two stitches, just below the white cuff, and tie a small bow at the front.
3. Put the fork, knife and spoon inside the stocking, handles down, and lay it beside the plate or on top of the napkin.

Tip: for a table of 6, make all 6 toes and heels in one go, with the same ball of red yarn: it saves time and the stockings all come out the same.

Warning: if you light candles on the table, keep them away from the crochet stockings; use LED candles instead.

Christmas Amigurumi and Nativity

Toys to keep every year

In this chapter you will find 14 Christmas toys: Father Christmas and his family, helpers and winter animals and, to finish, a complete nativity scene. They are all worked in rounds of double crochet, with the usual abbreviations. Start with the Snowman or the Penguin, which are the simplest. The nativity figures (Projects 34 to 38) use the same hook and the same yarn, so that they come out the same size.

Project 25 · Father Christmas

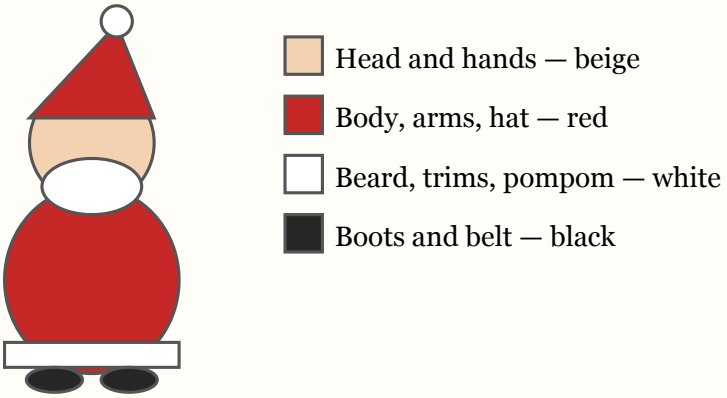
Level: medium · Time: 6 h · Size: 18 cm · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

A standing Father Christmas, with a curly beard and a hat with a pompom. He looks good beside the tree and is a gift that lasts many Christmases.

MATERIALS

- red yarn (≈ 40 g)
- beige yarn (≈ 15 g)
- white yarn (≈ 15 g)
- black yarn (≈ 8 g)
- 3 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker
- 8 mm safety eyes (2)
- polyester toy stuffing (≈ 50 g)

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is one piece.

HEAD (BEIGE YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6	(4 dc, inc) ×6	36
Rnd 7-13	36 dc	36
Rnd 14	(4 dc, dec) ×6	30
Rnd 15	(3 dc, dec) ×6	24
Rnd 16	(2 dc, dec) ×6	18
Rnd 17	(dc, dec) ×6	12
Rnd 18	6 dec	6

Place the eyes between Rnd 9 and Rnd 10, 6 stitches apart. Stuff firmly before Rnd 17. End with 6 stitches, pull the ring tight and fasten off.

BODY (RED YARN, WHITE TRIM)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30

Rnd 6	(4 dc, inc) ×6	36
Rnd 7	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 8-9	42 dc	42
Rnd 10-17	42 dc	42
Rnd 18	(5 dc, dec) ×6	36
Rnd 19-21	36 dc	36
Rnd 22	(4 dc, dec) ×6	30
Rnd 23-24	30 dc	30
Rnd 25	(3 dc, dec) ×6	24

Rnd 8-9 are worked in white yarn: this is the jacket trim. End with 24 stitches and leave open. Stuff firmly: the flat bottom makes the toy stand up.

ARMS (2 · BEIGE, WHITE AND RED)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	(dc, inc) ×3	9
Rnd 3	9 dc	9
Rnd 4	9 dc	9
Rnd 5-11	9 dc	9

Rnd 1-3 in beige (hand), Rnd 4 in white (cuff), Rnd 5-11 in red. Stuff the hand only. Close by flattening the end with 4 dc through both layers.

HAT (RED YARN, WHITE TRIM)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 dc	6
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×3	9
Rnd 4	9 dc	9
Rnd 5	(2 dc, inc) ×3	12
Rnd 6	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 7	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 8	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 9	(4 dc, inc) ×6	36
Rnd 10-11	36 dc	36
Rnd 12-13	36 dc	36

Rnd 12-13 are in white yarn. End with 36 stitches. No stuffing.

POMPOM (WHITE YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3-4	12 dc	12
Rnd 5	6 dec	6

Stuff a little before Rnd 5. End with 6 stitches and close.

BOOTS (2 · BLACK YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4-6	18 dc	18
Rnd 7	(dc, dec) ×6	12

Stuff firmly. End with 12 stitches and close by flattening the opening.

BEARD (WHITE YARN, IN ROWS)

L1	17 ch; 16 dc starting from the 2nd chain	16
L2	1 ch, turn; dec, 12 dc, dec	14
L3	1 ch, turn; dec, 10 dc, dec	12
L4	1 ch, turn; dec, 8 dc, dec	10
L5	1 ch, turn; in each stitch: 1 ss and 4 ch (curl)	10 curls

The beard measures about 9 cm wide by 3 cm high. With the same yarn, make the moustache: 10 ch and 9 ss, folded in half.

ASSEMBLY

1. Sew the head to the body, centred, with the face to the front.
2. Sew on the beard with Row 1 below the eyes and the moustache over the middle of the beard.

3. Make the belt: 45 ch in black yarn, close into a ring with 1 ss and pass it around the body, at the height of Rnd 14. Fasten with discreet stitches.
4. Sew the arms on each side, just below the neck, with the hands to the front.
5. Sew the boots underneath the body, side by side, with the toes pointing forwards.
6. Stuff the hat with a little fibre at the tip only, sew it to the head and fold the tip to one side. Sew the pompom to the tip.
7. With light red or pink yarn, embroider two rosy cheeks.

Tip: to make Father Christmas stand really straight, put a 6 cm cardboard disc in the bottom of the body before stuffing.

Warning: safety eyes only on toys for children over 3 years old; for babies and young children, embroider the eyes with yarn. Noses, buttons and other small parts can come off and cause choking: attach them firmly and check all the seams before giving the toy as a gift.

Project 26 · Mrs Christmas

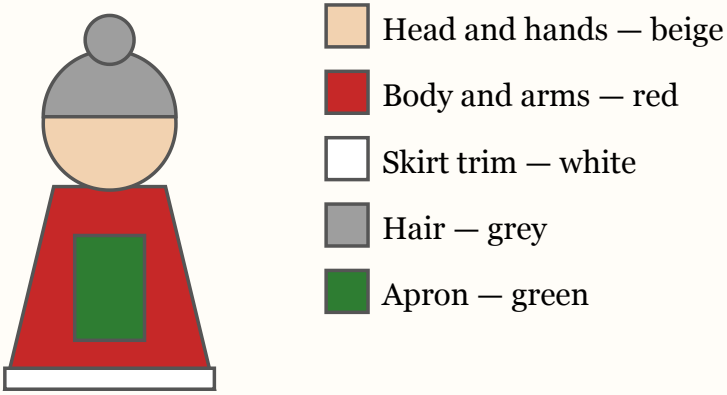
Level: medium · Time: 6 h · Size: 16 cm · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

Father Christmas's partner, with a full skirt, a green apron and a bun. She makes a pair with the previous project, but has her own shape.

MATERIALS

- red yarn (≈ 35 g)
- beige yarn (≈ 12 g)
- white yarn (≈ 10 g)
- grey yarn (≈ 10 g)
- green yarn (≈ 8 g)
- 3 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker
- 6 mm safety eyes (2)
- polyester toy stuffing (≈ 40 g)

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is one piece.

HEAD (BEIGE YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(dc, inc, dc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6	(2 dc, inc, 2 dc) ×6	36
Rnd 7-12	36 dc	36
Rnd 13	(4 dc, dec) ×6	30
Rnd 14	(3 dc, dec) ×6	24
Rnd 15	(2 dc, dec) ×6	18
Rnd 16	(dc, dec) ×6	12

Rnd 17	6 dec	6

Staggered increases in Rnd 4 and Rnd 6 make the head rounder. Eyes between Rnd 9 and Rnd 10, 5 stitches apart. End with 6 stitches.

BODY AND SKIRT (RED YARN, WHITE TRIM)

Rnd 1	8 dc in MR	8
Rnd 2	8 inc	16
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×8	24
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×8	32
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×8	40
Rnd 6	(4 dc, inc) ×8	48
Rnd 7	48 dc	48
Rnd 8-12	48 dc	48
Rnd 13	(6 dc, dec) ×6	42
Rnd 14-15	42 dc	42
Rnd 16	(5 dc, dec) ×6	36
Rnd 17-18	36 dc	36
Rnd 19	(4 dc, dec) ×6	30
Rnd 20-21	30 dc	30
Rnd 22	(3 dc, dec) ×6	24

Start from the bottom of the skirt. Rnd 7 is white. End with 24 stitches, stuff firmly and leave open.

HAIR (GREY YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6	(4 dc, inc) ×6	36
Rnd 7-9	36 dc	36

End with 36 stitches. It is a cap that covers the back and top of the head.

BUN (GREY YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3-4	12 dc	12
Rnd 5	6 dec	6

Stuff a little. End with 6 stitches.

ARMS (2 · BEIGE AND RED)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	(2 dc, inc) ×2	8
Rnd 3-4	8 dc	8
Rnd 5-12	8 dc	8

Rnd 1-4 in beige (hand), Rnd 5-12 in red. Stuff the hand only and close flattened with 4 dc.

APRON (GREEN YARN, IN ROWS)

L1	9 ch; 8 dc starting from the 2nd chain	8
L2-10	1 ch, turn; 8 dc	8
L11	around the apron: 1 ch, dc all around the edge, 3 dc in each corner	≈ 44

The apron measures about 4 × 5 cm. For the ties, make 50 ch in green yarn.

ASSEMBLY

1. Place the hair cap on the head, with the edge 2 rounds above the eyes. Sew all round.
2. Sew the bun to the top of the cap.
3. Sew the head to the body.
4. Sew the arms to Rnd 20 of the skirt, one on each side.
5. Sew the apron to the front of the skirt. Pass the 50-ch tie around the waist and tie a bow at the back.
6. With fine black yarn, embroider round glasses around the eyes (two circles of back stitches and a bridge).

Tip: if you want the complete pair, use exactly the same red yarn for both toys: matching colours make all the difference on the Christmas table.

> **Warning:** safety eyes only on toys for children over 3 years old; for babies and young children, embroider the eyes with yarn. Noses, buttons and other small parts can come off and cause choking: attach them firmly and check all the seams before giving the toy as a gift.

Project 27 · Reindeer

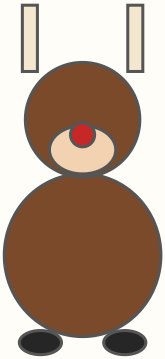
Level: medium · Time: 5 h · Size: 14 cm sitting · Yarn: cotton, 2.5 mm hook

A sitting reindeer, with a red nose and branching antlers. It likes to sit on the edge of a shelf, with its front legs hanging down.

MATERIALS

- brown yarn (≈ 35 g)
- beige yarn (≈ 10 g)
- cream yarn (≈ 6 g)
- red yarn (≈ 3 g)
- black yarn (≈ 5 g)
- 2.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker
- 8 mm safety eyes (2)
- polyester toy stuffing (≈ 35 g)

COLOUR MAP



- Head, body, ears — brown
- Muzzle — beige
- Nose — red
- Antlers — cream
- Hooves — black

Colour map: each colour is one piece.

HEAD (BROWN YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6-11	30 dc	30
Rnd 12	(3 dc, dec) ×6	24
Rnd 13	(2 dc, dec) ×6	18
Rnd 14	(dc, dec) ×6	12
Rnd 15	6 dec	6

Eyes between Rnd 8 and Rnd 9, 6 stitches apart. Stuff firmly. End with 6 stitches.

MUZZLE (BEIGE YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4-6	18 dc	18

End with 18 stitches and leave open, with a long yarn end for sewing.

NOSE (RED YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 dc	6
Rnd 3	3 dec	3

End with 3 stitches. No stuffing needed.

BODY (BROWN YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6	(4 dc, inc) ×6	36
Rnd 7-14	36 dc	36
Rnd 15	(4 dc, dec) ×6	30

Rnd 16	(3 dc, dec) ×6	24
Rnd 17-19	24 dc	24

End with 24 stitches, stuff firmly and leave open.

LEGS (4 · BLACK AND BROWN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	12 dc	12
Rnd 4	12 dc	12
Rnd 5	(2 dc, dec) ×3	9
Rnd 6-10	9 dc	9

Rnd 1-3 in black (hoof), the rest in brown. Stuff only the lower part. Close flattened with 4 dc.

ANTLERS (2 · CREAM YARN)

Rnd 1	5 dc in MR	5
Rnd 2-8	5 dc	5

For the tine, make 2 more small pieces: 4 dc in MR and 3 rounds of 4 dc. Sew the tine halfway up each antler.

EARS (2 · BROWN YARN)

Rnd 1	4 dc in MR	4
Rnd 2	(dc, inc) ×2	6

Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×3	9
Rnd 4	9 dc	9
Rnd 5	(dc, dec) ×3	6

End with 6 stitches. Flatten and do not stuff.

ASSEMBLY

1. Sew the nose to the top of the muzzle. Stuff the muzzle and sew it to the front of the head, below the eyes.
2. Sew the antlers to the top of the head and the ears just behind and slightly below.
3. Sew the head to the body.
4. Sew the front legs to the chest, together, and the back legs lying sideways, at the base of the body.
5. For the tail, make 6 ch in beige, fold and sew on at the back.

Tip: to make the antlers firm, push in a pipe cleaner with the ends folded over (only for decorative pieces, never in toys for children).

Warning: safety eyes only on toys for children over 3 years old; for babies and young children, embroider the eyes with yarn. Noses, buttons and other small parts can come off and cause choking: attach them firmly and check all the seams before giving the toy as a gift.

Project 28 · Snowman

Level: easy · Time: 4 h · Size: 13 cm · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

Two white balls, a red scarf and a green hat with a tassel. He is one of the simplest toys in this chapter and great for starting.

MATERIALS

- white yarn (≈ 30 g)
- green yarn (≈ 10 g)
- red yarn (≈ 8 g)
- orange yarn (≈ 2 g)
- black yarn (≈ 2 g)
- 3 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker
- 6 mm safety eyes (2)
- polyester toy stuffing (≈ 40 g)

COLOUR MAP



- Body and head — white
- Carrot nose — orange
- Scarf — red
- Hat and tassel — green
- Embroidered buttons — black

Colour map: each colour is one piece.

BOTTOM BALL (WHITE YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6	(4 dc, inc) ×6	36
Rnd 7	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 8-13	42 dc	42
Rnd 14	(5 dc, dec) ×6	36
Rnd 15	(4 dc, dec) ×6	30
Rnd 16	(3 dc, dec) ×6	24

Rnd 17	(2 dc, dec) ×6	18
Rnd 18	(dc, dec) ×6	12

End with 12 stitches. Stuff firmly and flatten the base with your hand before closing, so the toy does not tip over. Close with 6 dec.

HEAD (WHITE YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6-11	30 dc	30
Rnd 12	(3 dc, dec) ×6	24
Rnd 13	(2 dc, dec) ×6	18
Rnd 14	(dc, dec) ×6	12
Rnd 15	6 dec	6

Eyes between Rnd 8 and Rnd 9, 6 stitches apart. Stuff and end with 6 stitches.

CARROT NOSE (ORANGE YARN)

Rnd 1	4 dc in MR	4
Rnd 2	4 dc	4
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×2	6

Rnd 4	6 dc	6
Rnd 5	(2 dc, inc) ×2	8

End with 8 stitches. Stuff with a little fibre.

HAT (GREEN YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6-8	30 dc	30

End with 30 stitches. Work 1 more round of ss so the brim does not curl.

TASSEL (GREEN YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	12 dc	12
Rnd 4	6 dec	6

End with 6 stitches.

SCARF (RED YARN, IN ROWS)

L1	51 ch; 50 htr starting from the 3rd chain	50

L2	2 ch, turn; 50 htr	50

The scarf measures about 24 × 2 cm. Cut 8 strands of 6 cm and make a fringe at both ends.

ASSEMBLY

1. Sew the head on top of the bottom ball, stitch by stitch, all round.
2. Sew the nose in the centre of the face, with the tip pointing out.
3. Embroider the mouth with 5 short stitches of black yarn, in an arc, and three buttons on the front of the body.
4. Stuff the hat with a little fibre, sew it to the head and sew the tassel on top.
5. Wrap the scarf once around the neck and fasten with two stitches.

Tip: use white mercerised cotton yarn: it has a sheen and looks like fresh snow.

Warning: safety eyes only on toys for children over 3 years old; for babies and young children, embroider the eyes with yarn. Noses, buttons and other small parts can come off and cause choking: attach them firmly and check all the seams before giving the toy as a gift.

Project 29 · Penguin in a Christmas Hat

Level: easy · Time: 3 h · Size: 11 cm · Yarn: cotton, 2.5 mm hook

An egg-shaped penguin, body and head in one piece, with a white tummy and a tiny Christmas hat. It fits in the hand and is great for hanging on the tree.

MATERIALS

- black yarn (≈ 20 g)
- white yarn (≈ 8 g)
- red yarn (≈ 6 g)
- orange yarn (≈ 4 g)
- 2.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker
- 6 mm safety eyes (2)
- polyester toy stuffing (≈ 20 g)

COLOUR MAP



- Body and wings — black
- Tummy, trim, pompom — white
- Beak and feet — orange
- Hat — red

Colour map: each colour is one piece.

BODY (BLACK YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6-14	30 dc	30
Rnd 15	(3 dc, dec) ×6	24
Rnd 16	24 dc	24
Rnd 17	(2 dc, dec) ×6	18
Rnd 18	(dc, dec) ×6	12
Rnd 19	6 dec	6

Eyes between Rnd 11 and Rnd 12, 5 stitches apart. Stuff firmly before Rnd 18. End with 6 stitches.

TUMMY (WHITE YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24

It is a flat disc. End with 24 stitches and 1 ss; leave a long end.

WINGS (2 · BLACK YARN)

Rnd 1	4 dc in MR	4
Rnd 2	(dc, inc) ×2	6
Rnd 3	(2 dc, inc) ×2	8
Rnd 4-7	8 dc	8
Rnd 8	(2 dc, dec) ×2	6

End with 6 stitches. Do not stuff; flatten and close.

BEAK (ORANGE YARN)

Rnd 1	4 dc in MR	4
Rnd 2	(dc, inc) ×2	6
Rnd 3	6 dc	6

End with 6 stitches, no stuffing.

FEET (2 · ORANGE YARN)

Rnd 1	5 dc in MR	5
Rnd 2	5 inc	10
Rnd 3-4	10 dc	10

End with 10 stitches. Flatten and close with 5 dc through both layers.

HAT (RED YARN, WHITE TRIM)

Rnd 1	4 dc in MR	4
Rnd 2	4 dc	4
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×2	6
Rnd 4	6 dc	6
Rnd 5	(dc, inc) ×3	9
Rnd 6	9 dc	9
Rnd 7	(2 dc, inc) ×3	12
Rnd 8	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 9	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 10	24 dc	24
Rnd 11	24 dc	24

Rnd 11 is in white. End with 24 stitches. For the pompom: 6 dc in MR, 6 inc, 12 dc, 6 dec in white.

ASSEMBLY

1. Sew the tummy to the front of the body, below the eyes.

2. Sew the beak between the eyes and the wings on each side, at Rnd 12.
3. Sew the feet underneath, with the toes pointing forwards.
4. Sew the hat to the top of the head, slightly tilted. Sew the pompom to the tip and fold it to one side.
5. To hang it, pass a 15 cm red strand through the top of the hat and tie a knot.

Tip: to make several penguins for the tree, make all the bodies first and only then the small pieces: you get into a rhythm and the pieces come out the same.

Warning: safety eyes only on toys for children over 3 years old; for babies and young children, embroider the eyes with yarn. Noses, buttons and other small parts can come off and cause choking: attach them firmly and check all the seams before giving the toy as a gift.

Project 30 · Angel

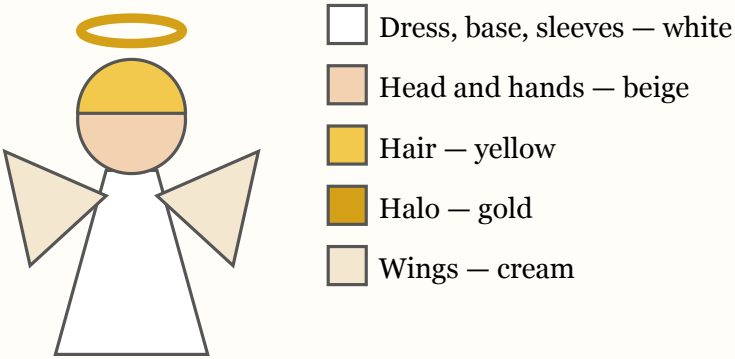
Level: medium · Time: 4 h · Size: 13 cm · Yarn: cotton, 2.5 mm hook

An angel in a bell-shaped dress, with golden hair, fan wings and a halo. She can go on top of the tree or in the middle of the Christmas table.

MATERIALS

- white yarn (≈ 25 g)
- beige yarn (≈ 10 g)
- yellow yarn (≈ 8 g)
- gold or mustard-yellow yarn (≈ 4 g)
- cream yarn (≈ 8 g)
- 2.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker
- 6 mm safety eyes (2) or black yarn for embroidering
- polyester toy stuffing (≈ 25 g)

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is one piece.

DRESS (WHITE YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	18 dc	18
Rnd 5	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 6	24 dc	24
Rnd 7	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 8	30 htr	30
Rnd 9	(4 htr, inc) ×6	36
Rnd 10-12	36 tr	36
Rnd 13	36 dc	36

It starts at the neck and widens downwards, in a bell shape. End with 36 stitches and leave open.

BASE (WHITE YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6	(4 dc, inc) ×6	36

Flat disc of 36 stitches. Sew it to the bottom of the dress after stuffing.

HEAD (BEIGE YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6-10	30 dc	30
Rnd 11	(3 dc, dec) ×6	24
Rnd 12	(2 dc, dec) ×6	18
Rnd 13	(dc, dec) ×6	12

Rnd 14	6 dec	6

Eyes between Rnd 7 and Rnd 8, 5 stitches apart. End with 6 stitches.

HAIR (YELLOW YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6-8	30 dc	30

End with 30 stitches. In the last round, make curls: in every 2nd stitch, 1 ss and 5 ch.

SLEEVES (2 · BEIGE AND WHITE)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 dc	6
Rnd 3-9	6 dc	6

Rnd 1-2 in beige (hand), Rnd 3-9 in white. Stuff the hand only.

WINGS (2 · CREAM YARN, IN ROWS)

L1	6 ch, close into a ring with 1 ss	—
L2	3 ch, 11 tr in the ring	12
L3	3 ch, turn; 2 tr in each stitch	24

L4	1 ch, turn; (dc, 3 ch, skip 1) ×12	12 arches

Each wing is a fan about 6 cm wide.

HALO (GOLD YARN, IN ROWS)

L1	24 ch, close into a ring with 1 ss	24
L2	1 ch; 24 dc in the ring	24

This makes a ring about 5 cm in diameter.

ASSEMBLY

1. Stuff the dress, sew on the base and sew the head to the neck.
2. Put on the hair and sew all round, with the curls falling at the nape.
3. Sew the sleeves on each side, with the hands together at the front, as if praying.
4. Sew the wings to the back, with the narrow part in the middle.
5. Attach the halo with two 4 cm strands at the top of the head, so that it stands slightly raised.

Tip: for the angel to sit on top of the tree, leave the base open and do not stuff it fully: that way it fits on the tip of the tree.

> **Warning:** safety eyes only on toys for children over 3 years old; for babies and young children, embroider the eyes with yarn. Noses, buttons and other small parts can come off and cause choking: attach them firmly and check all the seams before giving the toy as a gift.

Project 31 · Elf

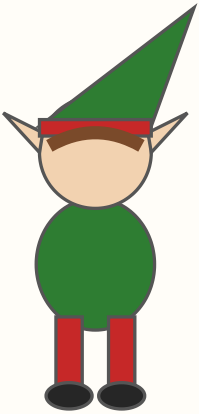
Level: medium · Time: 6 h · Size: 17 cm with the hat · Yarn: cotton, 2.5 mm hook

Father Christmas's helper, with striped stockings, pointed ears and a long hat. He sits on shelves with his legs dangling.

MATERIALS

- green yarn (≈ 25 g)
- beige yarn (≈ 15 g)
- red yarn (≈ 10 g)
- black yarn (≈ 8 g)
- brown yarn (≈ 5 g)
- 2.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker
- 6 mm safety eyes (2)
- polyester toy stuffing (≈ 30 g)
- small bell (optional, for decorations only)

COLOUR MAP



- Body, arms, hat — green
- Head, hands, ears — beige
- Stripes and trim — red
- Shoes — black
- Fringe — brown

Colour map: each colour is one piece.

LEGS (2 · BLACK, RED AND BEIGE)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3-4	12 dc	12
Rnd 5	(2 dc, dec) ×3	9
Rnd 6	9 dc	9
Rnd 7	9 dc	9
Rnd 8	9 dc	9
Rnd 9	9 dc	9
Rnd 10	9 dc	9
Rnd 11	9 dc	9
Rnd 12	9 dc	9

Rnd 1-5 in black (shoe). From Rnd 6 to Rnd 12 alternate red and beige, one round of each, without cutting the yarn. Stuff the shoe only and close flattened with 4 dc.

BODY (GREEN YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6-12	30 dc	30
Rnd 13	(3 dc, dec) ×6	24
Rnd 14-15	24 dc	24
Rnd 16	(2 dc, dec) ×6	18

End with 18 stitches, stuff and leave open.

HEAD (BEIGE YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6-10	30 dc	30

Rnd 11	(3 dc, dec) ×6	24
Rnd 12	(2 dc, dec) ×6	18
Rnd 13	(dc, dec) ×6	12
Rnd 14	6 dec	6

Eyes between Rnd 7 and Rnd 8, 6 stitches apart. End with 6 stitches.

EARS (2 · BEIGE YARN)

Rnd 1	3 dc in MR	3
Rnd 2	3 inc	6
Rnd 3	6 dc	6
Rnd 4	(dc, inc) ×3	9
Rnd 5	9 dc	9

End with 9 stitches. Flatten, no stuffing.

ARMS (2 · BEIGE AND GREEN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 dc	6
Rnd 3-10	6 dc	6

Rnd 1-2 in beige, Rnd 3-10 in green. Stuff the hand only.

LONG HAT (GREEN YARN, RED TRIM)

Rnd 1	4 dc in MR	4

Rnd 2	4 dc	4
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×2	6
Rnd 4-5	6 dc	6
Rnd 6	(dc, inc) ×3	9
Rnd 7-8	9 dc	9
Rnd 9	(2 dc, inc) ×3	12
Rnd 10	12 dc	12
Rnd 11	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 12	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 13	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 14-15	30 dc	30
Rnd 16	30 dc	30

Rnd 16 is red. End with 30 stitches.

SCALLOPED COLLAR (RED YARN, IN ROWS)

L1	19 ch; 18 dc starting from the 2nd chain	18
L2	1 ch, turn; (dc, 3 ch, tr in the same stitch, skip 2) ×6	6 points

This makes a collar with 6 points, about 9 cm long.

ASSEMBLY

1. Sew the legs to the base of the body, side by side, facing forwards.

2. Place the collar around the neck and sew the head on top.
3. Sew the ears to each side of the head, level with the eyes, with the tips pointing up and out.
4. With brown yarn, make the fringe: 6 long stitches across the forehead.
5. Sew the arms on each side and the hat to the head, with the tip falling backwards.
6. If the elf is for decoration only, sew the bell to the tip of the hat.

Tip: for neat stripes, change colour in the last step of the previous stitch and do not cut the yarns: carry them up inside the leg.

Warning: safety eyes only on toys for children over 3 years old; for babies and young children, embroider the eyes with yarn. Noses, buttons and other small parts can come off and cause choking: attach them firmly and check all the seams before giving the toy as a gift. The bell is a small part: use it only on decorative elves, out of reach of children.

Project 32 · Bear with a Red Scarf

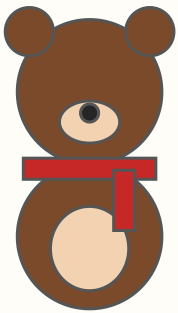
Level: easy · Time: 5 h · Size: 15 cm · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

A big-headed bear with a pale tummy and a red scarf with fringe. He is soft and a sure-fire gift for little ones, with embroidered eyes.

MATERIALS

- brown yarn (≈ 45 g)
- beige yarn (≈ 10 g)
- red yarn (≈ 12 g)
- black yarn (≈ 2 g)
- 3 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker
- 8 mm safety eyes (2) or black yarn for embroidering
- polyester toy stuffing (≈ 50 g)

COLOUR MAP



Head, body, limbs — brown

Muzzle and tummy — beige

Embroidered nose — black

Scarf — red

Colour map: each colour is one piece.

HEAD (BROWN YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6	(4 dc, inc) ×6	36
Rnd 7	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 8-13	42 dc	42
Rnd 14	(5 dc, dec) ×6	36
Rnd 15	(4 dc, dec) ×6	30
Rnd 16	(3 dc, dec) ×6	24
Rnd 17	(2 dc, dec) ×6	18
Rnd 18	(dc, dec) ×6	12
Rnd 19	6 dec	6

Eyes between Rnd 10 and Rnd 11, 8 stitches apart. End with 6 stitches.

MUZZLE (BEIGE YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18

Rnd 4-5	18 dc	18

End with 18 stitches. Embroider the nose in black before sewing on.

EARS (2 · BROWN YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3-4	12 dc	12

End with 12 stitches. Flatten, no stuffing.

BODY (BROWN YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6	(4 dc, inc) ×6	36
Rnd 7-14	36 dc	36
Rnd 15	(4 dc, dec) ×6	30
Rnd 16	30 dc	30
Rnd 17	(3 dc, dec) ×6	24
Rnd 18-19	24 dc	24

End with 24 stitches, stuff firmly and leave open.

TUMMY (BEIGE YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(dc, inc, dc) ×6	24

Flat disc of 24 stitches.

ARMS (2 · BROWN YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	(2 dc, inc) ×2	8
Rnd 3-9	8 dc	8

End with 8 stitches. Stuff lightly and close flattened with 4 dc.

LEGS (2 · BROWN YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3-6	12 dc	12
Rnd 7	(2 dc, dec) ×3	9

End with 9 stitches. Stuff and close flattened.

SCARF (RED YARN, IN ROWS)

L1	61 ch; 60 htr starting from the 3rd chain	60

L2-3	2 ch, turn; 60 htr	60

The scarf measures about 30 × 3 cm. Make 5 fringe tassels at each end.

ASSEMBLY

1. Sew the muzzle to the middle of the face and the ears to the top of the head, 4 rounds behind the eyes.
2. Sew the tummy to the front of the body and the head on top of the body.
3. Sew the arms on each side, just below the neck, and the legs at the base, so that the bear sits.
4. Wrap the scarf once around the neck, cross it at the front and fasten with two stitches.

Tip: if the bear is for a baby, embroider the eyes with black yarn and keep the fringe short, 3 cm.

Warning: safety eyes only on toys for children over 3 years old; for babies and young children, embroider the eyes with yarn. Noses, buttons and other small parts can come off and cause choking: attach them firmly and check all the seams before giving the toy as a gift.

Project 33 · Christmas Gnome

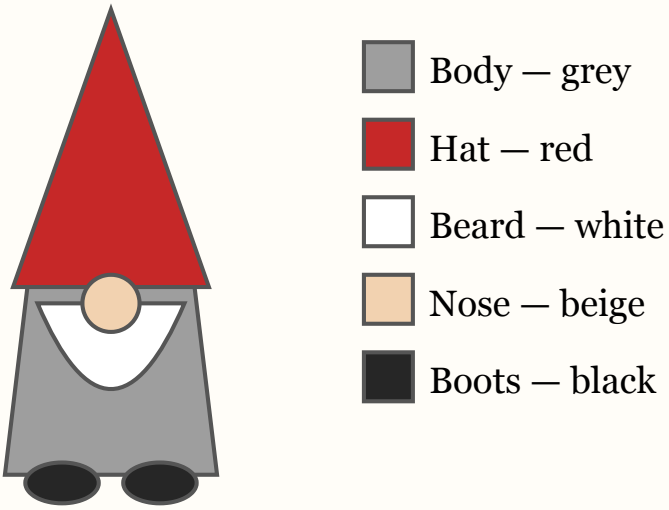
Level: easy · Time: 4 h · Size: 17 cm · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

The faceless Nordic gnome: an enormous hat that covers his eyes, a round nose and a full beard. He looks great on a sideboard or in the hallway.

MATERIALS

- grey yarn (≈ 30 g)
- red yarn (≈ 25 g)
- white yarn (≈ 15 g)
- beige yarn (≈ 4 g)
- black yarn (≈ 6 g)
- 3 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker
- polyester toy stuffing (≈ 40 g)
- a handful of rice in a closed little bag (optional, for weight)

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is one piece.

BODY (GREY YARN)

Rnd 1	8 dc in MR	8
Rnd 2	8 inc	16
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×8	24
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×8	32
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×8	40
Rnd 6-16	40 dc	40
Rnd 17	(3 dc, dec) ×8	32
Rnd 18-20	32 dc	32
Rnd 21	(2 dc, dec) ×8	24
Rnd 22-23	24 dc	24

Work Rnd 6 in the back loop only: it marks the bottom and helps him stand up. End with 24 stitches and stuff firmly.

HAT (RED YARN)

Rnd 1	4 dc in MR	4
Rnd 2	4 dc	4
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×2	6
Rnd 4	6 dc	6
Rnd 5	(2 dc, inc) ×2	8
Rnd 6-7	8 dc	8
Rnd 8	(dc, inc) ×4	12
Rnd 9-10	12 dc	12
Rnd 11	(2 dc, inc) ×4	16
Rnd 12-13	16 dc	16
Rnd 14	(dc, inc) ×8	24
Rnd 15-16	24 dc	24
Rnd 17	(2 dc, inc) ×8	32
Rnd 18-23	32 dc	32

End with 32 stitches. The hat is wider than the top of the body and comes down to cover the “eyes”.

NOSE (BEIGE YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6

Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3-4	12 dc	12
Rnd 5	6 dec	6

Stuff firmly and end with 6 stitches.

BOOTS (2 · BLACK YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4-5	18 dc	18

End with 18 stitches. Stuff and sew on with half the boot showing, at the front of the body.

BEARD (WHITE YARN, IN ROWS)

L1	15 ch; 14 dc starting from the 2nd chain	14
L2	1 ch, turn; 14 dc	14
L3	1 ch, turn; dec, 10 dc, dec	12
L4	1 ch, turn; dec, 8 dc, dec	10
L5	1 ch, turn; dec, 6 dc, dec	8
L6	around the beard: in each stitch, 1 ss and 6 ch	≈ 26 curls

The beard is a triangle, about 8 cm wide and 6 cm high.

ASSEMBLY

1. If you want weight, put the little bag of rice in the bottom of the body before you finish stuffing.
2. Sew the beard to the front of the body, with Row 1 2 rounds from the top.
3. Sew the nose above the beard, in the centre.
4. Stuff the hat with loose fibre, push it onto the top of the body until it touches the nose and sew all round.
5. Fold the tip of the hat forwards and fasten with a stitch. Sew the boots to the front, at the base.

Tip: for an even fuller beard, brush the curls with an old toothbrush: the cotton opens up and becomes fluffy.

Warning: the nose and the boots are small parts: sew them on well and check them before giving as a gift. If you use rice, close it in a sewn bag so it cannot get out. This gnome is for decoration and should not be given to young children.

Project 34 · Joseph

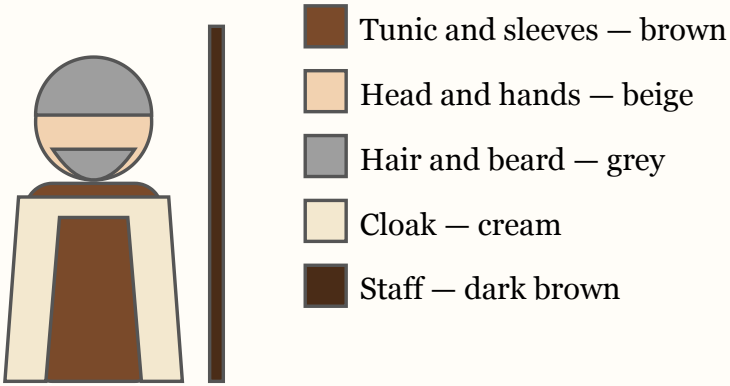
Level: medium · Time: 6 h · Size: 15 cm · Yarn: cotton, 2.5 mm hook

Joseph in a brown tunic, a cream cloak, a grey beard and a staff. He is the first figure of the nativity scene in this chapter and goes with the ones that follow.

MATERIALS

- brown yarn (≈ 30 g)
- beige yarn (≈ 10 g)
- grey yarn (≈ 8 g)
- cream yarn (≈ 15 g)
- dark brown yarn (≈ 5 g)
- 2.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker
- 6 mm safety eyes (2) or black yarn for embroidering
- polyester toy stuffing (≈ 35 g)

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is one piece.

TUNIC (BROWN YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6	(4 dc, inc) ×6	36
Rnd 7-20	36 dc	36
Rnd 21	(4 dc, dec) ×6	30
Rnd 22-24	30 dc	30
Rnd 25	(3 dc, dec) ×6	24
Rnd 26	24 dc	24

Rnd 27	(2 dc, dec) ×6	18

Work Rnd 7 in the back loop only, so the base is flat. End with 18 stitches, stuff firmly and leave open.

HEAD (BEIGE YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6-10	30 dc	30
Rnd 11	(3 dc, dec) ×6	24
Rnd 12	(2 dc, dec) ×6	18
Rnd 13	(dc, dec) ×6	12
Rnd 14	6 dec	6

Eyes between Rnd 7 and Rnd 8, 5 stitches apart. End with 6 stitches.

HAIR (GREY YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30

Rnd 6-7	30 dc	30

End with 30 stitches. Cover only the top and the back of the head.

SLEEVES (2 · BEIGE AND BROWN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	(dc, inc) ×3	9
Rnd 3	9 dc	9
Rnd 4-12	9 dc	9

Rnd 1-3 in beige (hand), Rnd 4-12 in brown. Stuff the hand only.

STAFF (DARK BROWN YARN)

Rnd 1	5 dc in MR	5
Rnd 2-25	5 dc	5

End with 5 stitches. It makes a tube about 14 cm long; bend the tip into a hook and fasten with 2 stitches.

BEARD (GREY YARN, IN ROWS)

L1	11 ch; 10 dc starting from the 2nd chain	10
L2	1 ch, turn; dec, 6 dc, dec	8
L3	1 ch, turn; dec, 4 dc, dec	6
L4	1 ch, turn; dec, 2 dc, dec	4

Triangular beard, about 5 cm wide.

CLOAK (CREAM YARN, IN ROWS)

L1	31 ch; 30 htr starting from the 3rd chain	30
L2-12	2 ch, turn; 30 htr	30

The cloak measures about 14 × 8 cm.

ASSEMBLY

1. Sew the hair to the head and the beard below the eyes.
2. Sew the head to the tunic.
3. Drape the cloak over the back, with the top part around the neck, and fasten with 2 stitches at the front.
4. Sew the sleeves over the cloak, with one hand holding the staff.
5. Sew the staff to the hand and to the base of the tunic, so that the figure is stable.

Tip: if you make the whole nativity scene, use the same hook and the same type of yarn for all the figures: that way they are in proportion.

Warning: safety eyes only on toys for children over 3 years old; for babies and young children, embroider the eyes with yarn. Noses, buttons and other small parts can come off and cause choking: attach them firmly and check all the seams before giving the toy as a gift.

Project 35 · Mary

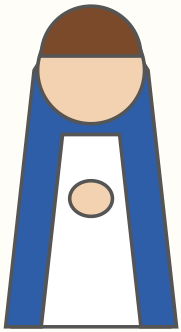
Level: medium · Time: 5 h · Size: 13 cm · Yarn: cotton, 2.5 mm hook

Mary in a white dress and a blue hooded cloak, with her hands joined. A little shorter than Joseph, she makes a pair with him in the nativity scene.

MATERIALS

- blue yarn (≈ 20 g)
- white yarn (≈ 20 g)
- beige yarn (≈ 10 g)
- brown yarn (≈ 5 g)
- 2.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker
- 6 mm safety eyes (2) or black yarn for embroidering
- polyester toy stuffing (≈ 30 g)

COLOUR MAP



- Cloak and sleeves — blue
- Dress — white
- Head and hands — beige
- Hair — brown

Colour map: each colour is one piece.

DRESS (WHITE YARN)

Rnd 1	8 dc in MR	8
Rnd 2	8 inc	16
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×8	24
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×8	32
Rnd 5	32 dc	32
Rnd 6-12	32 htr	32
Rnd 13	(2 htr, dec) ×8	24
Rnd 14-17	24 htr	24
Rnd 18	(dc, dec) ×8	16

Work Rnd 5 in the back loop only. End with 16 stitches, stuff firmly and leave open.

HEAD (BEIGE YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6-10	30 dc	30
Rnd 11	(3 dc, dec) ×6	24
Rnd 12	(2 dc, dec) ×6	18
Rnd 13	(dc, dec) ×6	12
Rnd 14	6 dec	6

Eyes between Rnd 7 and Rnd 8, 5 stitches apart, looking slightly downwards. End with 6 stitches.

HAIR (BROWN YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5-6	24 dc	24

End with 24 stitches. It only shows at the front, under the hood.

SLEEVES (2 · BEIGE AND BLUE)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 dc	6
Rnd 3	6 dc	6
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×2	8
Rnd 5-10	8 dc	8

Rnd 1-2 in beige (hand), Rnd 3-10 in blue. The sleeve widens at the cuff. Stuff the hand only.

HOODED CLOAK (BLUE YARN, IN ROWS)

L1	41 ch; 40 htr starting from the 3rd chain	40
L2-14	2 ch, turn; 40 htr	40
L15	fold in half and join 8 stitches on each side with ss, at the top: this is the hood	—
L16	around the front opening: dc all around the edge	≈ 60

Before folding, the cloak measures about 20 × 10 cm.

ASSEMBLY

1. Sew the hair to the front, on top of the head, and the head to the dress.

2. Put the cloak on and sew the hood to the head with hidden stitches.
3. Sew the sleeves on each side, over the cloak, with the hands together in front of the chest.
4. Join the two hands with 2 stitches so that they stay clasped.

Tip: a light blue gives a delicate look; a navy blue is more classic. Choose before buying the yarn, so you have enough from the same dye lot.

Warning: safety eyes only on toys for children over 3 years old; for babies and young children, embroider the eyes with yarn. Noses, buttons and other small parts can come off and cause choking: attach them firmly and check all the seams before giving the toy as a gift.

Project 36 · Baby Jesus and Crib

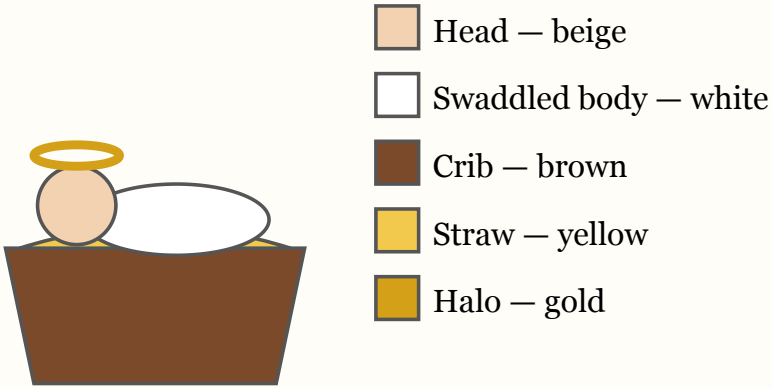
Level: easy · Time: 4 h · Size: baby 8 cm, crib 9 cm diameter · Yarn: cotton, 2.5 mm hook

The Baby wrapped in white, lying in a basket-shaped crib with yellow straw. He is the centrepiece of the nativity scene.

MATERIALS

- beige yarn (≈ 6 g)
- white yarn (≈ 10 g)
- brown yarn (≈ 25 g)
- yellow yarn (≈ 6 g)
- gold yarn (≈ 2 g)
- 2.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker
- black yarn for embroidering the eyes
- polyester toy stuffing (≈ 15 g)

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is one piece.

BABY (ONE PIECE · BEIGE AND WHITE)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5-8	24 dc	24
Rnd 9	(2 dc, dec) ×6	18
Rnd 10	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 11-17	24 dc	24
Rnd 18	(2 dc, dec) ×6	18
Rnd 19	(dc, dec) ×6	12
Rnd 20	6 dec	6

Rnd 1-9 in beige (head), Rnd 10-20 in white (body). Embroider the closed eyes between Rnd 6 and Rnd 7. Stuff the head before Rnd 9 and the body before Rnd 19. End with 6 stitches.

BASKET CRIB (BROWN YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6	(4 dc, inc) ×6	36
Rnd 7	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 8	(6 dc, inc) ×6	48
Rnd 9	48 dc	48
Rnd 10-16	48 dc	48
Rnd 17	(7 dc, inc) ×6	54
Rnd 18	54 dc	54

Work Rnd 9 in the back loop only, to form the bottom. Rnd 17 widens the mouth of the basket. End with 1 round of ss and fasten off. No stuffing.

STRAW (YELLOW YARN, IN ROWS)

L1	21 ch; 20 dc starting from the 2nd chain	20
L2-8	1 ch, turn; 20 dc	20

L9	in each stitch: 1 ss and 5 ch	20 loops

This makes a mat about 8 × 4 cm, with a fringe of straw.

SWADDLING BAND AND HALO (WHITE AND GOLD YARNS, IN ROWS)

L1	band: 45 ch in white; 44 ss starting from the 2nd chain	44
L2	halo: 18 ch in gold, close into a ring with 1 ss; 18 dc in the ring	18

The band is wound in a spiral around the body. The halo measures about 4 cm.

ASSEMBLY

1. Wind the band in a spiral around the white body and fasten the ends with hidden stitches.
2. Sew the halo behind the head, standing upright.
3. Put the straw in the bottom of the crib, with the fringe facing up, and fasten with 4 stitches.
4. Lay the Baby on the straw and fasten with 2 stitches, so he does not fall out when you move the nativity scene.

Tip: use embroidered eyes, with two small arcs in brown yarn: the Baby looks asleep and the face is softer.

Warning: this piece is for decoration. The eyes are embroidered on purpose. Do not use the crib or the straw

> near babies: the loops and loose strands can catch fingers or be swallowed. Cut and hide all the yarn ends well.

Project 37 · Nativity Ox

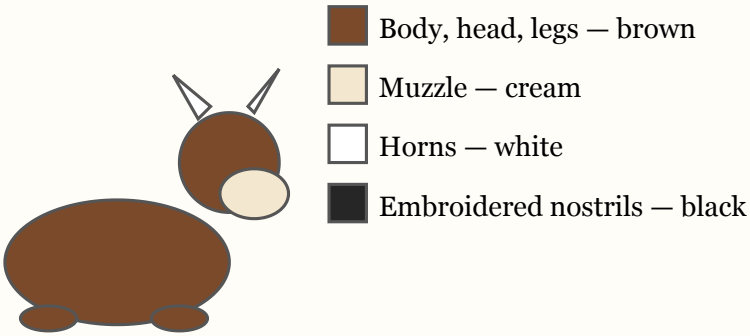
Level: medium · Time: 5 h · Size: 12 cm long, lying down · Yarn: cotton, 2.5 mm hook

The ox lying down, warming the Baby with his breath. The body is long and the legs are folded underneath.

MATERIALS

- brown yarn (≈ 35 g)
- cream yarn (≈ 10 g)
- white yarn (≈ 4 g)
- black yarn (≈ 2 g)
- 2.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker
- 8 mm safety eyes (2)
- polyester toy stuffing (≈ 35 g)

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is one piece.

BODY (BROWN YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6	(4 dc, inc) ×6	36
Rnd 7-16	36 dc	36
Rnd 17	(4 dc, dec) ×6	30
Rnd 18	(3 dc, dec) ×6	24
Rnd 19	(2 dc, dec) ×6	18
Rnd 20	(dc, dec) ×6	12
Rnd 21	6 dec	6

It is a long piece, lying down. Stuff firmly, without leaving the middle empty. End with 6 stitches.

HEAD (BROWN YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6-10	30 dc	30
Rnd 11	(3 dc, dec) ×6	24
Rnd 12	(2 dc, dec) ×6	18
Rnd 13	(dc, dec) ×6	12
Rnd 14	6 dec	6

Eyes between Rnd 6 and Rnd 7, 7 stitches apart, at the sides. End with 6 stitches.

MUZZLE (CREAM YARN)

Rnd 1	8 dc in MR	8
Rnd 2	8 inc	16
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×8	24
Rnd 4-6	24 dc	24

End with 24 stitches. Embroider 2 nostrils in black before sewing on.

HORNS (2 · WHITE YARN)

Rnd 1	4 dc in MR	4
Rnd 2	(dc, inc) ×2	6
Rnd 3-5	6 dc	6

End with 6 stitches and stuff a little.

EARS (2 · BROWN YARN)

Rnd 1	4 dc in MR	4
Rnd 2	(dc, inc) ×2	6
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×3	9
Rnd 4	9 dc	9
Rnd 5	(dc, dec) ×3	6

End with 6 stitches. Flatten.

FOLDED LEGS (4 · BROWN YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3-5	12 dc	12

End with 12 stitches. Stuff lightly and sew on lying flat.

ASSEMBLY

1. Stuff the muzzle and sew it to the front of the head, covering the last rounds.

2. Sew the horns to the top of the head and the ears just below, at the sides.
3. Sew the head to one end of the body, slightly raised and turned towards the crib.
4. Sew the legs underneath the body, folded inwards, two at the front and two at the back.
5. For the tail, make 10 ch in brown with a small tassel of yarn at the end and sew it on at the back.

Tip: if you also want the cow or the donkey, use this pattern with other colours (grey for the donkey) and swap the horns for long ears.

Warning: safety eyes only on toys for children over 3 years old; for babies and young children, embroider the eyes with yarn. Noses, buttons and other small parts can come off and cause choking: attach them firmly and check all the seams before giving the toy as a gift.

Project 38 · The Three Kings (three pieces with the same base)

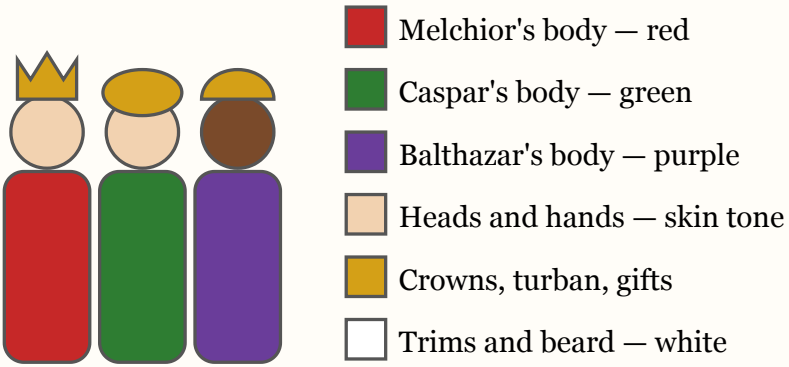
Level: medium · Time: 9 h for the three · Size: 13 cm each · Yarn: cotton, 2.5 mm hook

Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar with the same base body: only the colour of the cloak, what they wear on their heads and the gift in their hands change. Make all three one after another, in a series.

MATERIALS

- red, green and purple yarn (≈ 20 g of each)
- skin-tone yarn of your choice, for the heads and hands (≈ 20 g)
- gold yarn (≈ 15 g)
- white yarn (≈ 5 g)
- 2.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker
- 6 mm safety eyes (6) or black yarn for embroidering
- polyester toy stuffing (≈ 60 g)

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is one piece.

BASE BODY (×3 · RED, GREEN AND PURPLE)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6	30 dc	30
Rnd 7-14	30 dc	30
Rnd 15	30 dc	30
Rnd 16	(3 dc, dec) ×6	24
Rnd 17-18	24 dc	24
Rnd 19	(2 dc, dec) ×6	18

The same table for all three kings: make one body in red, one in green and one in purple. Work Rnd 6 in the back loop only. Rnd 15 is white (cloak trim). End with 18 stitches, stuff and leave open.

HEAD (×3 · SKIN TONE)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5-9	24 dc	24
Rnd 10	(2 dc, dec) ×6	18
Rnd 11	(dc, dec) ×6	12
Rnd 12	6 dec	6

Eyes between Rnd 6 and Rnd 7, 5 stitches apart. End with 6 stitches.

ARMS (×6 · SKIN TONE AND CLOAK COLOUR)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 dc	6
Rnd 3	6 dc	6
Rnd 4-9	6 dc	6

Rnd 1-2 in skin tone, Rnd 3 in white (cuff), Rnd 4-9 in the cloak colour of each king (red, green or purple). Stuff the hand only.

CASPAR'S TURBAN (GOLD YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6-7	30 dc	30
Rnd 8	(3 dc, dec) ×6	24

End with 24 stitches. It makes a rounded cap; wind a gold cord of 30 ch around it.

BALTHAZAR'S DOME (GOLD YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5-7	24 dc	24

End with 24 stitches. On top, sew on a little ball: 6 dc in MR, 6 dc, 3 dec.

MELCHIOR'S POINTED CROWN (GOLD YARN, IN ROWS)

L1	24 ch, close into a ring with 1 ss	24
L2	1 ch; 24 dc	24

L3	(dc, 3 ch, tr in the same stitch, ss in the next stitch, skip 1) ×6	6 points

This makes a crown about 4 cm in diameter with 6 points.

GIFTS: GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH (GOLD YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3-4	12 dc	12
Rnd 5	6 dec	6

This is the ball for the gold: end with 6 stitches. For the frankincense, make the same piece and embroider 3 white lines; for the myrrh, work 6 dc in MR, 6 inc and 4 rounds of 12 dc, like a small open pot.

MELCHIOR'S BEARD (WHITE YARN, IN ROWS)

L1	9 ch; 8 dc starting from the 2nd chain	8
L2	1 ch, turn; dec, 4 dc, dec	6
L3	1 ch, turn; dec, 2 dc, dec	4

Small triangular beard, about 4 cm.

ASSEMBLY

1. Sew each head to its body.
2. Melchior (red): sew on the white beard and the pointed crown.

3. Caspar (green): sew on the turban and wind on the gold cord.
4. Balthazar (purple): sew on the dome with the little ball on top.
5. Sew the arms of each king, in the colour of his cloak, with both hands together at the front.
6. Sew a gift between the hands of each king: gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Tip: work in a series: make the three bodies, then the three heads, then the six arms. That way the kings come out the same size and the work goes faster.

Warning: safety eyes only on toys for children over 3 years old; for babies and young children, embroider the eyes with yarn. Noses, buttons and other small parts can come off and cause choking: attach them firmly and check all the seams before giving the toy as a gift.

Granny squares and square projects

Squares that fit together like puzzle pieces

Crochet squares are perfect for beginners: each one is made in an afternoon and fits in your bag. Start with the eight squares in this chapter, one at a time. Then join them into a blanket, a placemat, a cushion or a table runner. All the squares measure between 11 and 13 cm, so you can mix them freely.

Project 39 · Star Square

Level: easy · Time: 1 h 30 min · Size: 12 cm · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

A yellow eight-point star on a dark blue sky. It looks lovely on a blanket or on its own, as the base of a wall decoration.

MATERIALS

- yellow yarn (≈ 5 g)
- dark blue yarn (≈ 10 g)
- white yarn (≈ 4 g)
- 3 mm crochet hook
- tapestry needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



yellow: centre and points

dark blue: background

white: edging

Colour map: each colour is one part of the square.

CENTRE (YELLOW YARN)

Rnd 1	8 dc in MR	8
Rnd 2	8 inc	16
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×8	24

Close each round with 1 ss in the 1st stitch and work 1 ch (does not count as a stitch). You have 24 stitches. Do not cut the yarn: it carries on into the points round.

POINTS AND BACKGROUND (SPECIAL ROUNDS)

V4	Yellow yarn. *1 ss in the next stitch, 5 ch; starting in the 2nd ch from the hook: 1 dc, 1 htr, 1 tr, 1 tr; skip 2 stitches of the centre* ×8. Close with a ss in the 1st ss and cut the yarn.	8 points
V5	Dark blue yarn, joined at the tip of a point. *(3 tr, 2 ch, 3 tr) in the tip of this point (corner); 4 ch; 1 dc in the tip of the next point; 4 ch* ×4. Close with a ss.	24 tr + 4 dc
V6	Ss to the corner space. *(3 tr, 2 ch, 3 tr) in the corner; 1 ch; 4 tr in the 4-ch arch; 1 tr in the dc; 4 tr in the next arch; 1 ch* ×4.	60 tr
V7	1 tr in each tr and in each 1-ch space; (2 tr, 2 ch, 2 tr) in each corner. Cut the yarn.	84 tr
V8	White yarn. 1 dc in each tr; (dc, 2 ch, dc) in each corner.	92 dc

In Rnd 5, the 3 ch at the start count as the 1st tr. Each side has 23 stitches in Rnd 8.

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in the yarn ends on the wrong side with the tapestry needle.
2. Wet the square, pin it out on a towel to 12 × 12 cm and leave it to dry.
3. Use it on its own or join it to other squares from the chapter.

Tip: in Rnd 4, always count 3 stitches of the centre per point (1 ss + 2 skipped). If you end up with a stitch too many or too few, undo that round only.

Project 40 · Snowflake square

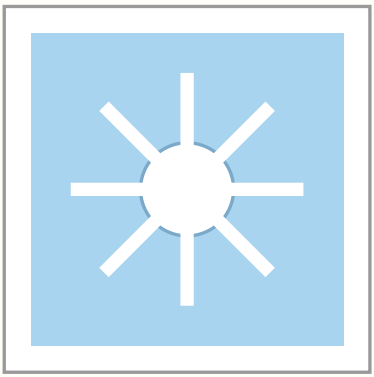
Level: easy · Time: 2 h · Size: 13 cm · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

A white snowflake with little picots on an ice-blue background. A winter square that looks good anywhere.

MATERIALS

- white yarn (≈ 8 g)
- light blue yarn (≈ 12 g)
- 3 mm crochet hook
- tapestry needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



white: snowflake and edging

light blue: background

Colour map: the snowflake and the edging are white; the background is light blue.

SNOWFLAKE CENTRE (WHITE YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6

Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24

Close each round with a ss and 1 ch. You have 24 stitches. Carry on with the same yarn.

ARMS AND BACKGROUND (SPECIAL ROUNDS)

V5	White yarn. *1 dc in the next stitch, 7 ch, 1 ss in the 4th ch from the hook (picot), 3 ch, skip 2 stitches* ×8. Close with a ss and cut the yarn.	8 dc + 8 arches with picot
V6	Light blue yarn, joined at a picot. *(3 tr, 3 ch, 3 tr) in this picot (corner); 2 ch; 3 tr in the next picot; 2 ch* ×4.	36 tr
V7	*(3 tr, 2 ch, 3 tr) in the corner; 1 ch; 3 tr in the 2-ch space; 1 ch; 3 tr in the next 2-ch space; 1 ch* ×4.	48 tr
V8	*(3 tr, 2 ch, 3 tr) in the corner; 1 ch; 3 tr in each 1-ch space along the side, with 1 ch between groups; 1 ch* ×4. Cut the yarn.	60 tr
V9	White yarn. 1 dc in each tr and in each 1-ch space; (dc, 2 ch, dc) in the corners.	84 dc
V10	*3 dc, 3 ch, 1 ss in the same stitch (picot)* along each side; (dc, 2 ch, dc) in the corners.	92 dc + picots

In Rnd 6, each picot of the snowflake is held by a group of tr: four in the corners and four in the middle of the sides.

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in the ends on the wrong side.

2. Pin the square out to 13 × 13 cm, spritz with water and leave to dry: the arms of the snowflake open out nicely.

Tip: if you want to join this square to others, skip Rnd 10 (the picots). The sides stay straight and joining is easier.

Project 41 · Red and green square

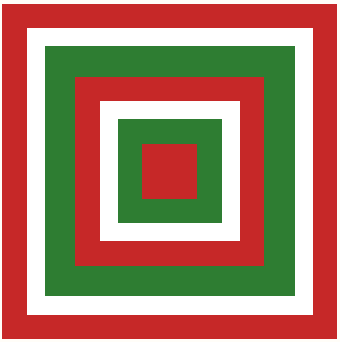
Level: easy · Time: 2 h · Size: 11 cm · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

A striped square worked entirely in double crochet, firm and without holes. It is great for coasters, cushion covers and hard-wearing blankets.

MATERIALS

- red yarn (≈ 8 g)
- green yarn (≈ 7 g)
- white yarn (≈ 3 g)
- 3 mm crochet hook
- tapestry needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



red: Rnd 1-2, Rnd 6-7, Rnd 11-12

green: Rnd 3-4, Rnd 8-9

white: Rnd 5, Rnd 10

Colour map: the stripes change every one or two rounds.

SQUARE (RED, GREEN AND WHITE STRIPES)

Rnd 1	8 dc in MR	8
Rnd 2	8 inc	16
Rnd 3	(dc, 2 inc, dc) ×4	24
Rnd 4	(2 dc, 2 inc, 2 dc) ×4	32
Rnd 5	(3 dc, 2 inc, 3 dc) ×4	40
Rnd 6	(4 dc, 2 inc, 4 dc) ×4	48
Rnd 7	(5 dc, 2 inc, 5 dc) ×4	56
Rnd 8	(6 dc, 2 inc, 6 dc) ×4	64
Rnd 9	(7 dc, 2 inc, 7 dc) ×4	72
Rnd 10	(8 dc, 2 inc, 8 dc) ×4	80
Rnd 11	(9 dc, 2 inc, 9 dc) ×4	88
Rnd 12	(10 dc, 2 inc, 10 dc) ×4	96

Close each round with a ss and 1 ch. To change colour, work the closing ss with the new yarn. The 2 inc at each corner always fall on the 2 middle stitches of the previous corner. At the end you have 96 stitches, 24 per side.

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in each end into the stripe of the same colour, on the wrong side.
2. Steam the square, holding the iron just above it without touching, to settle the corners.

> **Tip:** put a marker in the 1st stitch of each round. As this square is all in double crochet, it is easy to count the stitches on each side: they should increase by 2 per round.

Project 42 · Classic square

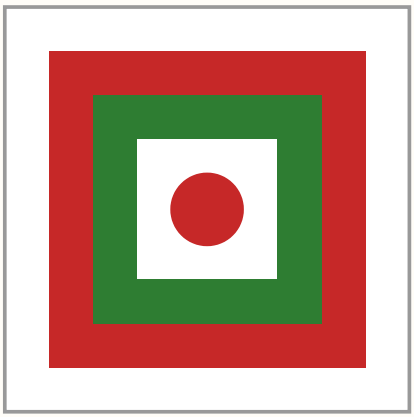
Level: easy · Time: 1 h 30 min · Size: 12 cm · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

The traditional granny square, with groups of 3 treble crochets, in Christmas colours. Once you have made it, you will know it by heart.

MATERIALS

- red yarn (≈ 6 g)
- white yarn (≈ 7 g)
- green yarn (≈ 4 g)
- 3 mm crochet hook
- tapestry needle, scissors

COLOUR MAP



red: centre and Rnd 5

white: Rnd 3 and Rnd 6

green: Rnd 4

Colour map: a new colour on each round of groups.

CENTRE (RED YARN)

Rnd 1	8 dc in MR	8
Rnd 2	8 inc	16

Close with a ss and cut the yarn. You have 16 stitches: 4 per side.

ROUNDS OF GROUPS (SPECIAL ROUNDS)

V3	White yarn. *(3 tr, 2 ch, 3 tr) in a stitch (corner); 1 ch; skip 1 stitch; 3 tr in the next stitch; 1 ch; skip 1 stitch* ×4. Close with a ss and cut the yarn.	36 tr
V4	Green yarn, joined at a corner. *(3 tr, 2 ch, 3 tr) in the corner; 1 ch; 3 tr in each 1-ch space, with 1 ch between groups; 1 ch* ×4.	48 tr
V5	Red yarn. Same as Rnd 4.	60 tr
V6	White yarn. Same as Rnd 4.	72 tr

At the start of each round, the 3 ch count as the 1st tr. Each round has 1 more group per side: 3, 4, 5 and 6 groups.

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in the ends on the wrong side, each one in its own colour.
2. Pin the square out to 12 × 12 cm and leave to dry.

Tip: always work the groups of 3 tr into the chain spaces, never on top of the stitches. That is what keeps the square

> straight.

Project 43 · Holly square

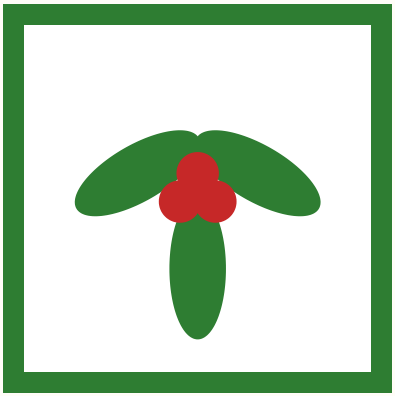
Level: medium · Time: 2 h 30 min · Size: 12 cm · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

A white square with three holly leaves and three raised red berries. Ideal for the centre of a cushion or for a Christmas picture.

MATERIALS

- white yarn (≈ 12 g)
- green yarn (≈ 6 g)
- red yarn (≈ 2 g)
- toy stuffing (a little)
- 3 mm crochet hook
- tapestry needle, scissors

COLOUR MAP



white: background

green: leaves and edging

red: berries

Colour map: each colour is one piece.

BACKGROUND (WHITE YARN)

Rnd 1	8 dc in MR	8
Rnd 2	8 inc	16
Rnd 3	(dc, 2 inc, dc) ×4	24
Rnd 4	(2 dc, 2 inc, 2 dc) ×4	32
Rnd 5	(3 dc, 2 inc, 3 dc) ×4	40
Rnd 6	(4 dc, 2 inc, 4 dc) ×4	48
Rnd 7	(5 dc, 2 inc, 5 dc) ×4	56
Rnd 8	(6 dc, 2 inc, 6 dc) ×4	64
Rnd 9	(7 dc, 2 inc, 7 dc) ×4	72
Rnd 10	(8 dc, 2 inc, 8 dc) ×4	80

Close each round with a ss and 1 ch. You have 80 stitches, 20 per side. Cut the white yarn.

EDGING (GREEN YARN, SPECIAL ROUND)

V11	1 tr in each stitch; at each corner, work 2 ch between the 2 middle stitches. Close with a ss.	80 tr + 4 corners

LEAVES (GREEN YARN, MAKE 3)

L1	10 ch.	10
L2	Starting in the 2nd ch from the hook: 1 ss, 1 dc, 1 htr, 1 tr, 3 ch, 1 ss in the 1st of these ch (picot), 1 tr, 1 tr, picot, 1 htr, 1 dc, 1 ss.	9 + 2 picots

L3	2 ch at the tip and, without turning, work the same on the other side of the starting chain. Close with a ss in the 1st ss.	18 + 4 picots

Leave 20 cm of yarn on each leaf for sewing it on.

BERRIES (RED YARN, MAKE 3)

Rnd 1	5 dc in MR	5
Rnd 2	5 inc	10
Rnd 3	10 dc	10
Rnd 4	5 dec	5

Before Rnd 4, put in a little stuffing. Close the 5 stitches with the tapestry needle and leave 15 cm of yarn.

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in the ends of the background on the wrong side.
2. Place the 3 leaves in a fan at the centre, with the broad ends pointing outwards, and pin them.
3. Sew each leaf on all the way round, with small stitches.
4. Sew the 3 berries together at the centre, covering the start of the leaves. Make several passes with the yarn and a firm knot on the wrong side.

Tip: spritz the leaves with water and fold them in half lengthways before sewing them on: they get a pretty vein.

Warning: the berries are small parts and are a choking hazard. Sew them on firmly and check them from time to time. If the piece is for use near small children, embroider the berries with yarn instead of making them raised.

Project 44 · Tree square

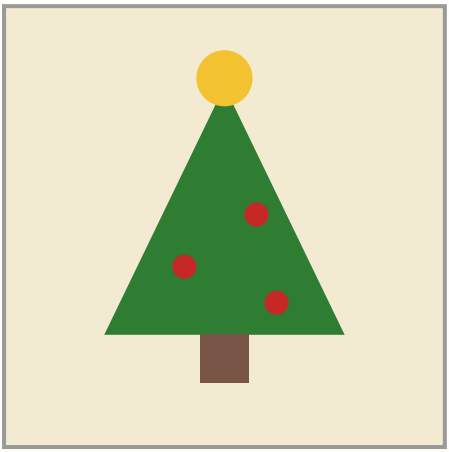
Level: medium · Time: 2 h 30 min · Size: 12 cm · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

A green fir tree with a golden star, appliquéd onto a cream granny square. It adds a cheerful touch to a blanket or a cushion cover.

MATERIALS

- cream yarn (≈ 12 g)
- green yarn (≈ 5 g)
- brown yarn (≈ 1 g)
- yellow yarn (≈ 1 g)
- red yarn (a little, for the baubles)
- 3 mm crochet hook
- tapestry needle, scissors

COLOUR MAP



cream: background

green: tree

brown: trunk

yellow: star

red: baubles

Colour map: each colour is one piece.

BACKGROUND (CREAM YARN, SPECIAL ROUNDS)

V1	In the MR: 3 ch (count as 1 tr), 2 tr, 2 ch, (3 tr, 2 ch) ×3. Close with a ss in the top of the 3 ch.	12 tr
V2	Ss to the corner. *(3 tr, 2 ch, 3 tr) in the corner; 1 ch* ×4.	24 tr
V3	*(3 tr, 2 ch, 3 tr) in the corner; 1 ch; 3 tr in each 1-ch space; 1 ch* ×4.	36 tr
V4	Same as Rnd 3.	48 tr
V5	Same as Rnd 3.	60 tr
V6	1 dc in each tr and in each 1-ch space; (dc, 2 ch, dc) in the corners.	84 dc

TREE (GREEN YARN, IN ROWS)

L1	14 ch.	14
L2	1 dc in each ch, starting in the 2nd ch from the hook.	13
L3	1 ch, turn; dec, 9 dc, dec.	11
L4	1 ch, turn; 11 dc.	11
L5	1 ch, turn; dec, 7 dc, dec.	9
L6	1 ch, turn; 9 dc.	9
L7	1 ch, turn; dec, 5 dc, dec.	7
L8	1 ch, turn; 7 dc.	7
L9	1 ch, turn; dec, 3 dc, dec.	5
L10	1 ch, turn; 5 dc.	5
L11	1 ch, turn; dec, 1 dc, dec.	3
L12	1 ch, turn; 3 dc.	3
L13	1 ch, turn; dec, 1 dc.	2
L14	1 ch, turn; dec. Cut the yarn and leave 25 cm.	1

The tree measures about 6 cm wide at the base and 6 cm high.

TRUNK (BROWN YARN, IN ROWS)

L1	4 ch.	4
L2-L4	1 ch, turn; 3 dc (in Row 2, starting in the 2nd ch).	3

STAR (YELLOW YARN)

Rnd 1	5 dc in MR	5

Rnd 2	5 inc	10

Rnd 3 (points): *1 ss in the next stitch, 3 ch, 1 dc in the 2nd ch from the hook, 1 htr in the next ch, skip 1 stitch* ×5. You have 5 points. Cut the yarn and leave 15 cm.

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in the ends of the background.
2. Centre the tree on the square, with the base 2.5 cm above the bottom edging. Sew it on all the way round.
3. Sew the trunk under the base of the tree.
4. Sew the star to the top of the tree.
5. With red yarn and the tapestry needle, make 5 small knots on the tree (wrap the yarn 3 times round the needle and insert it close to where it came out).

Tip: pin the tree on before sewing and look at the square from a distance. If it is crooked, this is the moment to straighten it.

Project 45 · Heart square

Level: easy · Time: 2 h · Size: 11 cm · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

A red heart on a round centre that turns into a square. A gift made with love for the one you love most.

MATERIALS

- white yarn (≈ 10 g)
- red yarn (≈ 4 g)
- green yarn (≈ 3 g)
- 3 mm crochet hook
- tapestry needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



white: background

red: heart

green: edging

Colour map: each colour is one piece.

ROUND CENTRE (WHITE YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6	(4 dc, inc) ×6	36

Close each round with a ss and 1 ch. You have 36 stitches: put a marker every 9 stitches to mark the 4 corners.

FROM CIRCLE TO SQUARE (SPECIAL ROUNDS)

V7	White yarn. *(2 tr, 2 ch, 2 tr) in the marked stitch (corner); 1 tr, 1 htr, 4 dc, 1 htr, 1 tr in the next 8 stitches* ×4.	48 + 4 corners
V8	White yarn. 1 htr in each stitch; (htr, 2 ch, htr) in each corner. Cut the yarn.	56 + 4 corners
V9	Green yarn. 1 dc in each stitch; (dc, 2 ch, dc) in each corner.	64 + 4 corners

HEART (RED YARN, IN ROWS)

L1	2 ch.	2
L2	1 inc in the 2nd ch from the hook.	2
L3	1 ch, turn; 2 inc.	4
L4	1 ch, turn; inc, 2 dc, inc.	6

L5	1 ch, turn; inc, 4 dc, inc.	8
L6	1 ch, turn; inc, 6 dc, inc.	10
L7	1 ch, turn; inc, 8 dc, inc.	12
L8-L9	1 ch, turn; 12 dc.	12
L10	1st side: 1 ch, turn; dec, 2 dc, dec (over the first 6 stitches only).	4
L11	1 ch, turn; dec, dec. Cut the yarn.	2
L12	2nd side: join the yarn in the 7th stitch of Row 9; dec, 2 dc, dec.	4
L13	1 ch, turn; dec, dec. Do not cut the yarn.	2

Finishing: work 1 round of dc all the way round the heart, with 1 ss in the middle, between the two sides. Cut the yarn and leave 25 cm. The heart measures about 6 cm.

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in the ends of the square.
2. Pin the heart to the centre, with the point facing a corner or downwards, as you prefer.
3. Sew it on all the way round, with small stitches through the dc of the finishing round.

Tip: in Rnd 7, the tr sit near the corners and the dc in the middle of the sides. It is this mix of heights that turns the circle into a square.

Project 46 · Plain square

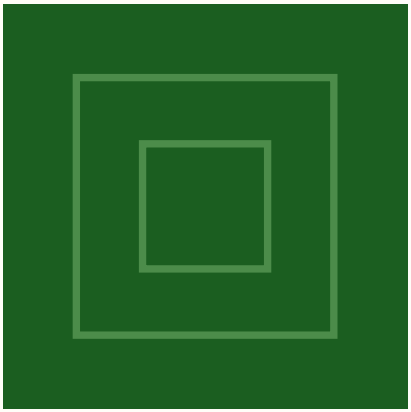
Level: easy · Time: 1 h · Size: 12 cm · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

A solid square in a single colour, without holes. It is perfect for alternating with the patterned squares and giving the eye a rest in a blanket.

MATERIALS

- dark green yarn (≈ 14 g)
- 3 mm crochet hook
- tapestry needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



dark green: everything

Colour map: a single colour in every round.

CENTRE (DARK GREEN YARN)

Rnd 1	8 dc in MR	8

Rnd 2	8 inc	16

Close with a ss. You have 16 stitches, 4 per side. Do not cut the yarn.

SOLID ROUNDS (SPECIAL ROUNDS)

V3	3 ch (count as 1 tr). *(2 tr, 2 ch, 2 tr) in the corner stitch; 1 tr in each of the next 3 stitches* ×4.	28 tr
V4	1 tr in each tr; (2 tr, 2 ch, 2 tr) in each corner.	44 tr
V5	Same as Rnd 4.	60 tr
V6	Same as Rnd 4.	76 tr
V7	1 dc in each tr; (dc, 2 ch, dc) in each corner.	84 dc

Each side gains 4 tr per round: 7, 11, 15 and 19. In Rnd 7 you have 21 dc per side.

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in the starting end and the finishing end on the wrong side.
2. Pin the square out to 12 × 12 cm and leave to dry.

Tip: make several plain squares in a row: by the third one you will not need to look at the table any more. With 21 dc per side, it joins perfectly with the squares from projects 44, 47 and 50.

Project 47 · Christmas baby blanket

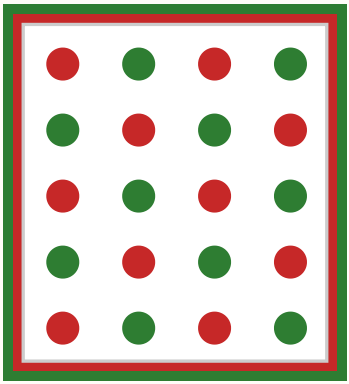
Level: easy · Time: 20 h · Size: 54 × 66 cm · Yarn: soft cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A soft blanket of 20 white squares with a red or green centre. A gift for a baby's first Christmas, for the pram or for the lap.

MATERIALS

- soft white yarn (≈ 300 g)
- red yarn (≈ 60 g)
- green yarn (≈ 60 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- tapestry needle, scissors, pins

COLOUR MAP



white: squares

red: 10 centres

green: 10 centres

edging: white, red, green

Colour map: 4 × 5 squares in a chequerboard of red and green centres.

SQUARE CENTRE (RED OR GREEN YARN; MAKE 10 OF EACH)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12

Close with a ss and cut the yarn. You have 12 stitches, 3 per side. Make 10 centres in red and 10 in green.

REST OF THE SQUARE (WHITE YARN, SPECIAL ROUNDS)

V3	*(3 tr, 2 ch, 3 tr) in a stitch (corner); 1 ch; skip 2 stitches* ×4.	24 tr
V4	*(3 tr, 2 ch, 3 tr) in the corner; 1 ch; 3 tr in each 1-ch space; 1 ch* ×4.	36 tr
V5	Same as Rnd 4.	48 tr
V6	Same as Rnd 4.	60 tr
V7	1 dc in each tr and in each 1-ch space; (dc, 2 ch, dc) in the corners.	84 dc

Each square measures about 12 cm and has 21 dc per side.

BLANKET EDGING (SPECIAL ROUNDS)

V1	White yarn. 1 dc in each stitch and 1 dc in each join between squares; (dc, 2 ch, dc) in the 4 corners of the blanket.	400 dc
V2	Red yarn. 1 htr in each stitch; (htr, 2 ch, htr) in the corners.	408 htr
V3	Green yarn. 1 dc in each stitch; (dc, 2 ch, dc) in the corners.	416 dc

In Rnd 1 of the edging, the short sides have 89 dc and the long ones 111 dc.

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in all the ends of each square well before joining them: take each end 5 cm in one direction and then back again.
2. Lay out the 20 squares in 4 columns × 5 rows, alternating red and green centres, like a chequerboard.
3. Join the squares two by two, right sides together, with ss in white yarn through the back loops. Join the rows first and then the columns.
4. Work the 3 rounds of the edging.
5. Hand wash in lukewarm water and dry flat.

Tip: make all 20 centres in one go and only then the white rounds. That way the work moves quickly and you do not have to change yarn all the time.

Warning: do not add buttons, beads or small decorations to this blanket: they are a choking hazard. Fasten off all ends securely and check that there are no long loose strands. For babies under 12 months, do not leave the blanket loose in the cot during sleep; use it on the lap or in the pram, always with an adult nearby.

Project 48 · Granny placemat

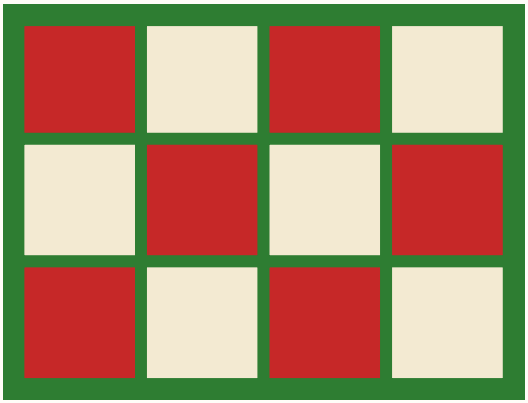
Level: easy · Time: 6 h · Size: 42 × 32 cm · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

A red and cream chequered placemat made of 12 firm double crochet squares. Make one for each place at the Christmas Eve table.

MATERIALS (FOR 1 PLACEMAT)

- red yarn (≈ 50 g)
- cream yarn (≈ 50 g)
- green yarn (≈ 40 g)
- 3 mm crochet hook
- tapestry needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



red: 6

cream: 6

green: frames

Colour map: 4 × 3 squares in a chequerboard, with a green frame.

SQUARE (RED YARN; MAKE 6 LIKE THIS AND 6 IN CREAM YARN)

Rnd 1	8 dc in MR	8
Rnd 2	8 inc	16
Rnd 3	(dc, 2 inc, dc) ×4	24
Rnd 4	(2 dc, 2 inc, 2 dc) ×4	32
Rnd 5	(3 dc, 2 inc, 3 dc) ×4	40
Rnd 6	(4 dc, 2 inc, 4 dc) ×4	48
Rnd 7	(5 dc, 2 inc, 5 dc) ×4	56
Rnd 8	(6 dc, 2 inc, 6 dc) ×4	64
Rnd 9	(7 dc, 2 inc, 7 dc) ×4	72

Close each round with a ss and 1 ch. You have 72 stitches, 18 per side. Cut the yarn.

FRAME OF EACH SQUARE (GREEN YARN, SPECIAL ROUND)

V10	1 htr in each stitch; at each corner, work 2 ch between the 2 middle stitches.	72 htr + 4 corners

With the frame, each square measures about 10 cm.

PLACEMAT EDGING (SPECIAL ROUNDS)

V1	Green yarn. 1 dc in each stitch and in each join; (dc, 2 ch, dc) in the 4 corners.	270 dc
V2	Red yarn. 1 dc in each stitch; (dc, 2 ch, dc) in the corners.	278 dc

In Rnd 1 of the edging, the long sides have 77 dc and the short ones 58 dc.

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in the ends of each square.
2. Lay out 4 columns × 3 rows, alternating red and cream.
3. Join the squares with ss in green yarn, on the wrong side, rows first and then columns.
4. Work the 2 rounds of the edging.
5. Wash and steam, with the placemat well stretched out.

Tip: tight double crochet stands up to hot plates and frequent washing. Use cotton, which can be washed at 40 °C without losing its shape.

Warning: never leave lit candles near crochet. On the table, use only LED candles.

Project 49 · Christmas granny cushion

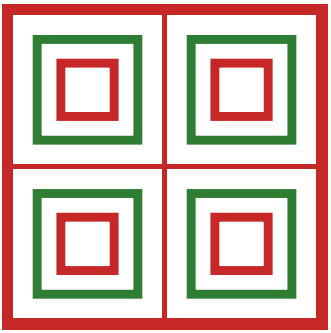
Level: medium · Time: 16 h · Size: 40 × 40 cm · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A cushion cover made of 8 large squares in Christmas stripes: 4 for the front and 4 for the back. It looks lovely on the sofa from December to January.

MATERIALS

- white yarn (≈ 160 g)
- red yarn (≈ 80 g)
- green yarn (≈ 60 g)
- 40 × 40 cm cushion pad
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- tapestry needle, scissors, pins

COLOUR MAP



red: centre,
Rnd 7, Rnd 11 and joining

green: Rnd 5, Rnd 9

white: Rnd 4, Rnd 6, Rnd 8, Rnd 10

Colour map: the front with 4 striped squares.

SQUARE CENTRE (RED YARN; MAKE 8)

Rnd 1	8 dc in MR	8
Rnd 2	8 inc	16
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×8	24

Close with a ss and cut the yarn. You have 24 stitches, 6 per side.

ROUNDS OF GROUPS (SPECIAL ROUNDS)

V4	White yarn. *(3 tr, 2 ch, 3 tr) in a stitch (corner); 1 ch; skip 2 stitches; 3 tr in the next stitch; 1 ch; skip 2 stitches* ×4.	36 tr
V5	Green yarn. *(3 tr, 2 ch, 3 tr) in the corner; 1 ch; 3 tr in each 1-ch space; 1 ch* ×4.	48 tr
V6	White yarn. Same as Rnd 5.	60 tr
V7	Red yarn. Same as Rnd 5.	72 tr
V8	White yarn. Same as Rnd 5.	84 tr
V9	Green yarn. Same as Rnd 5.	96 tr
V10	White yarn. Same as Rnd 5.	108 tr
V11	Red yarn. 1 dc in each tr and in each 1-ch space; (dc, 2 ch, dc) in the corners.	148 dc

Each square measures about 20 cm and has 37 dc per side.

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in the ends of all the squares.

2. Join 4 squares in 2 × 2 with ss in red yarn, on the wrong side: this is the front. Do the same with the other 4: this is the back.
3. Place the front on the back, wrong sides together. With red yarn, work 1 dc in each stitch of both pieces at the same time, along 3 sides, with (dc, 2 ch, dc) in the corners.
4. Insert the cushion pad and close the 4th side in the same way.

Tip: so that you can wash the cover, close the 4th side with a braided cotton ribbon threaded through the stitches instead of crochet. You just undo it and take the cushion pad out.

Project 50 · Square table runner

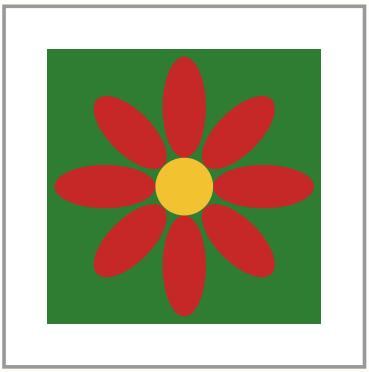
Level: medium · Time: 18 h · Size: 36 × 91 cm · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

A runner of 24 squares with a red poinsettia at the centre of each one. It decorates the Christmas dinner table from end to end.

MATERIALS

- white yarn (≈ 140 g)
- green yarn (≈ 90 g)
- red yarn (≈ 50 g)
- yellow yarn (≈ 10 g)
- 3 mm crochet hook
- tapestry needle, scissors, pins

COLOUR MAP



yellow: centre

red: petals

green: background

white: edging and joining

Colour map: one square of the runner.

FLOWER CENTRE (YELLOW YARN; MAKE 24)

Rnd 1	8 dc in MR	8
Rnd 2	8 inc	16

Close with a ss and cut the yarn. You have 16 stitches.

PETALS AND SQUARE (SPECIAL ROUNDS)

V3	Red yarn. *(1 htr, 1 tr, 2 ch, 1 tr, 1 htr) in the next stitch; 1 ss in the next stitch* ×8. Cut the yarn.	8 petals
V4	Green yarn, joined at the tip (2-ch space) of a petal. *(3 tr, 2 ch, 3 tr) in this tip (corner); 2 ch; 3 tr in the tip of the next petal; 2 ch* ×4.	36 tr
V5	*(3 tr, 2 ch, 3 tr) in the corner; 1 ch; 3 tr in each 2-ch space, with 1 ch between groups; 1 ch* ×4. Cut the yarn.	48 tr
V6	White yarn. *(3 tr, 2 ch, 3 tr) in the corner; 1 ch; 3 tr in each 1-ch space; 1 ch* ×4.	60 tr
V7	1 dc in each tr and in each 1-ch space; (dc, 2 ch, dc) in the corners.	84 dc

Each square measures about 11 cm and has 21 dc per side.

RUNNER EDGING (SPECIAL ROUNDS)

V1	White yarn. 1 dc in each stitch and in each join; (dc, 2 ch, dc) in the 4 corners.	488 dc
V2	Green yarn. 1 htr in each stitch; (htr, 2 ch, htr) in the corners.	496 htr

In Rnd 1 of the edging, the long sides have 177 dc and the short ones 67 dc.

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in the ends of all the squares.
2. Lay out 3 columns × 8 rows.
3. Join the squares with ss in white yarn, on the wrong side, rows first and then columns.
4. Work the 2 rounds of the edging.
5. Wet the runner, stretch it out on towels to 36 × 91 cm and leave to dry flat.

Tip: for a small table, make only 3 × 5 squares (36 × 58 cm). For a round table, join 9 squares in 3 × 3 and you will have a table centrepiece.

Warning: never leave lit candles near crochet. On the runner, use only LED candles.

Table and home decorations

A home dressed for Christmas

In this chapter you will find 14 pieces for the Christmas Eve table, the front door and the living room. Some pieces are worked in the round, such as baskets, baubles and cones, and some are flat, such as runners and bunting. Start with the smallest ones, such as the napkin ring or the coaster, and move on to the bigger ones when you feel confident. All of them are made with medium-weight cotton yarn and the basic stitches in the book.

Project 51 · Door wreath

Level: medium · Time: 5 h · Size: 25 cm in diameter · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A green wreath with holly leaves, red berries and a poinsettia at the centre. It welcomes everyone who comes to the door and lasts for many Christmases.

MATERIALS

- plastic or metal ring, 20 cm in diameter
- green yarn (≈ 60 g) to cover the ring
- dark green yarn (≈ 15 g) for the leaves
- red yarn (≈ 15 g) for the berries and the flower
- yellow yarn (≈ 3 g) for the flower centre
- a little stuffing, 50 cm of red ribbon for hanging
- 3.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



c1 ring: green

c2 berries and flower: red

c3 centre: yellow

c4 leaves: dark green

Colour map: each colour is one piece.

COVERED RING (GREEN YARN)

Tie the green yarn to the ring with a knot. With the hook, work double crochet round the ring, packed close together, until it is completely covered: about 250 dc. Join with 1 ss to the 1st dc and cut the yarn, leaving 20 cm for sewing.

BERRIES (RED YARN, MAKE 9)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3-4	12 dc	12
Rnd 5	6 dec	6

Stuff a little before Rnd 5. At the end, thread the yarn through the 6 stitches, pull to close and leave 15 cm for sewing.

POINSETTIA: CENTRE (YELLOW YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12

Close with 1 ss. You have 12 stitches. Cut the yellow yarn.

POINSETTIA: PETALS (RED YARN)

L1	Join the red yarn in a stitch of the centre. (8 ch; starting in the 2nd ch from the hook: 1 dc, 1 htr, 3 tr, 1 htr, 1 dc; skip 1 stitch of the centre and work 1 ss in the next) ×6	6 petals of 7 stitches

HOLLY LEAVES (DARK GREEN YARN, MAKE 8)

L1	10 ch; starting in the 2nd ch from the hook: 1 dc, 1 htr, 1 tr, 1 htr, 1 tr, 1 htr, 1 tr, 1 htr, 1 dc	9
L2	3 ch at the tip; continue along the other side of the chain: 1 dc, 1 htr, 1 tr, 1 htr, 1 tr, 1 htr, 1 tr, 1 htr, 1 dc; 1 ss at the start	9 + 3 ch

ASSEMBLY

1. Sew the leaves on in groups of 2 or 3 round the ring, all pointing the same way.
2. Sew the berries on in groups of 3 next to the leaves, with several stitches for each one.
3. Sew the yellow centre and the petals on top of the leaves, at the bottom of the wreath.
4. Tie the red ribbon at the top, in a bow, for hanging.

5. Weave in all the yarn ends with the tapestry needle.

Tip: to keep the leaves flat, spritz them with water, stretch them with your fingers on a towel and leave to dry.

Warning: the berries are small parts and can be a choking hazard. Sew them on firmly, check them every year and hang the wreath out of the reach of small children. Do not place it near lit candles.

Project 52 · Table wreath

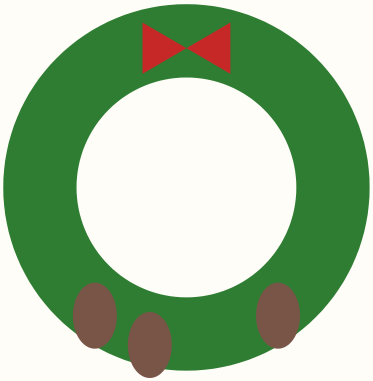
Level: easy · Time: 4 h · Size: 15 cm in diameter · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

A soft green tube closed into a ring, with brown pine cones and a bow. It looks lovely at the centre of the table, on its own or around a large LED candle.

MATERIALS

- green yarn (≈ 45 g)
- brown yarn (≈ 12 g)
- red yarn (≈ 8 g)
- polyester toy stuffing (≈ 30 g)
- 3 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



c1 tube: green

c2 pine cones: brown

c3 bow: red

Colour map: each colour is one piece.

TUBE (GREEN YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4-90	18 dc	18

Stuff the tube little by little, every 10 rounds, without overfilling it. The tube should measure about 45 cm. Do not close the last round: leave 40 cm of yarn for sewing.

PINE CONES (BROWN YARN, MAKE 5)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	(dc, inc) ×3	9
Rnd 3	(2 dc, inc) ×3	12
Rnd 4	(3 dc, inc) ×3	15
Rnd 5-7	15 dc	15
Rnd 8	(3 dc, dec) ×3	12
Rnd 9	6 dec	6

Stuff before Rnd 9. Close the 6 stitches and leave 15 cm of yarn. Each pine cone measures about 4 cm.

BOW (RED YARN)

L1	31 ch; starting in the 2nd ch, 1 dc in each ch	30
L2-4	1 ch, turn, 1 dc in each stitch	30

Make a second strip of 12 ch and 3 rows of 11 dc for the knot. Fold the large strip into a bow and tighten the centre with the small strip.

ASSEMBLY

1. Bring the two ends of the tube together and sew the last round to the first, all the way round, to close the ring.
2. Sew the 5 pine cones on in a cluster, over the seam, to hide it.
3. Sew the bow on top of the pine cones.
4. Weave in the yarn ends.

Tip: for a touch of snow, embroider small stitches in white yarn on the tips of the pine cones.

Warning: if you put a candle in the centre, use only LED candles. Never leave lit candles near crochet.

Project 53 · Candle holder (with LED candle)

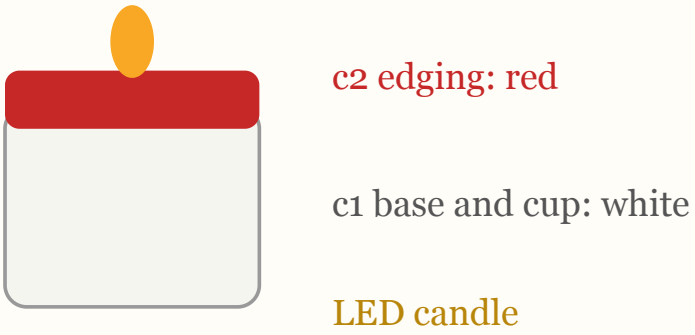
Level: easy · Time: 1 h 30 min · Size: 7 cm in diameter, 5 cm high · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

A little white cup with a red lacy edge for a small LED candle. Make several to decorate the table or the windowsill.

MATERIALS

- white yarn (≈ 12 g)
- red yarn (≈ 6 g)
- 1 small LED candle (about 4 cm in diameter)
- 3 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is one part of the cup.

BASE AND CUP (WHITE AND RED YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6	(4 dc, inc) ×6	36
Rnd 7	36 dc	36
Rnd 8-11	36 dc	36
Rnd 12-13	36 dc	36

Work Rnd 7 in the back loop only of each stitch: this makes the wall rise straight. In Rnd 12 change to red yarn. You have 36 stitches.

LACY EDGING (RED YARN)

L1	(skip 1 stitch, 5 tr in the next stitch, skip 1 stitch, 1 ss in the next) ×9	9 fans

ASSEMBLY

1. Cut the yarn and weave in the ends inside the cup.
2. Fold the fans slightly outwards.
3. Place the LED candle inside the cup.

Tip: for a firmer cup, put a small glass jar inside and the LED candle inside the jar.

> **Warning:** use only LED candles. Never put a lit candle inside or near crochet: the yarn burns easily.

Project 54 · Snowflake coaster

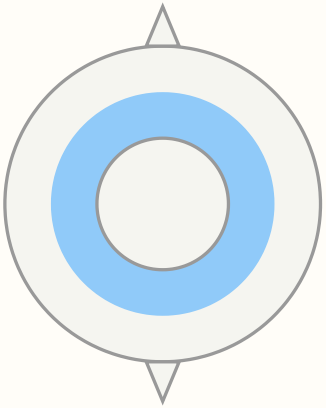
Level: easy · Time: 45 min · Size: 11 cm in diameter · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

A round coaster with 6 points, like a snowflake. Make a set of 4 or 6 for Christmas afternoon tea.

MATERIALS (FOR 1 COASTER)

- white yarn (≈ 7 g)
- light blue yarn (≈ 3 g)
- 3 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



c1 centre and edge: white

c2 ring: light blue

points: white

Colour map: each colour is a ring of the snowflake.

CIRCLE (WHITE AND LIGHT BLUE YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12

Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6	(4 dc, inc) ×6	36
Rnd 7	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42

Change colour in Rnd 4 and go back to white in Rnd 6. Close each round with 1 ss. You have 42 stitches.

SNOWFLAKE POINTS (WHITE YARN)

L1	(3 dc; in the next stitch: 1 dc, 3 ch, 1 dc; 3 dc) ×6	48 dc and 6 points

ASSEMBLY

1. Close with 1 ss and cut the yarn.
2. Weave in the ends on the wrong side.
3. Spritz with water, stretch the points and leave to dry on a towel.

Tip: to keep the points lined up, put a stitch marker in the increase of each group in Rnd 7: the points sit above the markers.

Project 55 · Round placemat

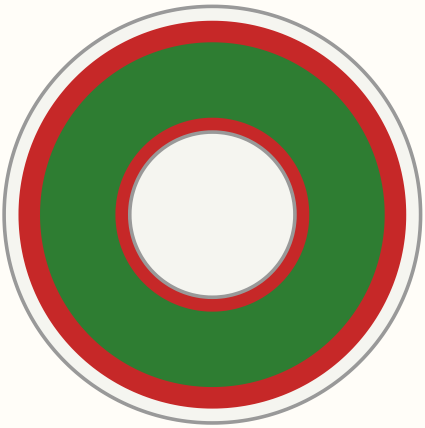
Level: easy · Time: 6 h · Size: 30 cm in diameter · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A table placemat with a white centre and red and green rings. Make one for each place at the Christmas Eve table.

MATERIALS (FOR 1 PLACEMAT)

- white yarn (≈ 25 g)
- red yarn (≈ 20 g)
- green yarn (≈ 45 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



c1 centre: white

c2 rings: red

c3 wide ring: green

picots: white

Colour map: each colour is a ring of the placemat.

CIRCLE (WHITE, RED AND GREEN YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6	(4 dc, inc) ×6	36
Rnd 7	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 8	(6 dc, inc) ×6	48
Rnd 9	(7 dc, inc) ×6	54
Rnd 10	(8 dc, inc) ×6	60
Rnd 11	(9 dc, inc) ×6	66
Rnd 12	(10 dc, inc) ×6	72
Rnd 13	(11 dc, inc) ×6	78
Rnd 14	(12 dc, inc) ×6	84
Rnd 15	(13 dc, inc) ×6	90
Rnd 16	(14 dc, inc) ×6	96
Rnd 17	(15 dc, inc) ×6	102
Rnd 18	(16 dc, inc) ×6	108
Rnd 19	(17 dc, inc) ×6	114
Rnd 20	(18 dc, inc) ×6	120
Rnd 21	(19 dc, inc) ×6	126

Rnd 22	(20 dc, inc) ×6	132
Rnd 23	(21 dc, inc) ×6	138
Rnd 24	(22 dc, inc) ×6	144

Close each round with 1 ss and work 1 ch to start the next one. Change colour in Rnd 11, Rnd 13 and Rnd 23. You have 144 stitches and the circle measures about 28 cm.

PICOT EDGE (WHITE YARN)

L1	(3 dc, 3 ch, 1 ss in the 1st of those ch) ×48	144 dc and 48 picots

ASSEMBLY

1. Close the edge with 1 ss and cut the yarn.
2. Weave in all the ends on the wrong side, each one in its own colour.
3. Spritz with water, stretch on a towel and leave to dry flat.

Tip: if the circle starts to ripple, your tension is loose: use a hook 0.5 mm smaller. If it curls upwards, your tension is tight: use a bigger hook.

Project 56 · Table runner

Level: medium · Time: 14 h · Size: 25 × 80 cm · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A red runner with white bands at the ends and round medallions like snowballs. It is a flat piece, worked in rows of treble crochet.

MATERIALS

- red yarn (≈ 170 g)
- white yarn (≈ 60 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: red body, white bands and medallions.

BODY (WHITE AND RED YARN)

Start	53 ch with the white yarn	53 ch
L1	1 tr in the 4th ch from the hook and 1 tr in each ch to the end (the 3 ch at the start count as 1 tr)	51
L2-6	3 ch (count as 1 tr), turn, 1 tr in each stitch	51
L7-64	with the red yarn: 3 ch, turn, 1 tr in each stitch	51
L65-70	with the white yarn: 3 ch, turn, 1 tr in each stitch	51
Edge	with the white yarn, 1 round of dc all the way round the runner, with 3 dc in each corner	about 400 dc

The body measures about 25 cm wide and 80 cm long. Change colour in the last stitch of the previous row, so that the new colour starts cleanly.

MEDALLIONS (RED AND WHITE YARN, MAKE 10)

Rnd 1	8 dc in MR	8
Rnd 2	8 inc	16
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×8	24

Work Rnd 1 in red and change to white in Rnd 2. Close with 1 ss and leave 25 cm of white yarn. Each medallion measures about 5 cm.

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in all the yarn ends of the body.
2. Place 5 medallions on each red end, next to the white bands, in a zigzag.

3. Sew each medallion on all the way round, with small stitches on the wrong side.
4. Spritz the runner with water, stretch it out on towels and leave to dry flat.

Tip: count the stitches at the end of each row. If you have 51, the edges stay straight; if you have more or fewer, undo that row only.

Project 57 · Napkin ring

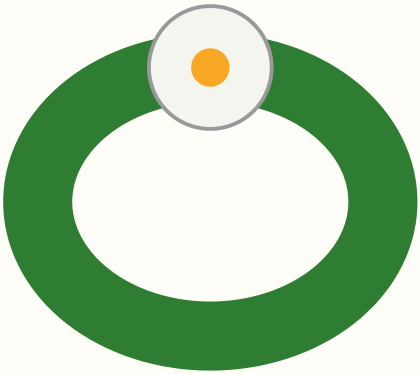
Level: easy · Time: 40 min · Size: 5 cm in diameter, 4 cm high · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

A green ring with a white Christmas rose. Make one per guest and the table is ready for the party straight away.

MATERIALS (FOR 1 RING)

- green yarn (≈ 6 g)
- white yarn (≈ 2 g)
- yellow yarn (≈ 1 g)
- 3 mm crochet hook, tapestry needle, scissors

COLOUR MAP



c1 ring: green

c2 petals: white

c3 centre: yellow

Colour map: each colour is one piece.

RING (GREEN YARN)

Start	30 ch; join with 1 ss to the 1st ch, without twisting the chain	30 ch
L1-8	1 ch, 1 dc in each stitch all the way round, 1 ss to the 1st dc	30

CHRISTMAS ROSE (YELLOW AND WHITE YARN)

Rnd 1	5 dc in MR	5
Rnd 2	5 inc	10

Work Rnd 1 in yellow and change to white in Rnd 2. You have 10 stitches.

Petals	(in the next stitch: 1 htr, 2 tr, 1 htr; 1 ss in the next stitch) ×5	5 petals

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in the ends of the ring on the inside.
2. Sew the rose to the ring, over the join of the rounds.
3. With the yellow yarn, embroider 3 short stitches at the centre of the rose.

Tip: for a mixed set, make half of the rings in red with the same white rose.

Project 58 · Bottle cover

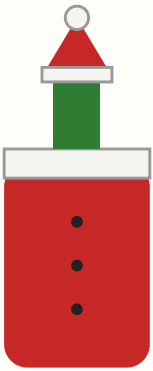
Level: medium · Time: 4 h · Size: for a bottle 7–7.5 cm in diameter · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A red jumper with a white collar and a Father Christmas hat to dress a bottle. A fun gift to take to a Christmas dinner.

MATERIALS

- red yarn (≈ 55 g)
- white yarn (≈ 15 g)
- black yarn (≈ 2 g) for embroidering the buttons
- 3.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



c1 jumper and hat: red

c2 collar, edge and pompom: white

buttons: black embroidery

Colour map: each colour is one piece.

JUMPER (RED AND WHITE YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6	(4 dc, inc) ×6	36
Rnd 7	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 8	42 dc	42
Rnd 9-40	42 dc	42
Rnd 41-44	42 dc	42

Work Rnd 8 in the back loop only, so that the base is defined. Try it on the bottle as you go: the jumper should fit snugly. Change to white in Rnd 41. You have 42 stitches.

HAT (RED AND WHITE YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 dc	6
Rnd 3	(2 dc, inc) ×2	8
Rnd 4	8 dc	8
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×2	10
Rnd 6	10 dc	10
Rnd 7	(4 dc, inc) ×2	12

Rnd 8	12 dc	12
Rnd 9	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 10	18 dc	18
Rnd 11	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 12-14	24 dc	24
Rnd 15-16	24 dc	24

Change to white in Rnd 15. Close with 1 ss and cut the yarn.

POMPOM (WHITE YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	12 dc	12
Rnd 4	6 dec	6

Stuff a little with yarn scraps before Rnd 4. Close and leave 15 cm of yarn.

ASSEMBLY

1. Put the jumper on the bottle, with the white collar up against the shoulders of the bottle.
2. With the black yarn, embroider 3 buttons on the front, one below the other.
3. Sew the pompom to the tip of the hat and fold the tip over to one side.

4. Put the hat on the neck and cap of the bottle.

Tip: if your bottle is wider, add a round of increases to the base, (6 dc, inc) ×6, and continue the straight rounds with 48 dc.

Project 59 · Conical table tree

Level: medium · Time: 4 h · Size: 17 cm high · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

A cone-shaped fir tree, with red and white baubles and a yellow star on top. Make two or three of different heights for a little forest on the table.

MATERIALS

- green yarn (≈ 35 g)
- yellow yarn (≈ 3 g)
- red yarn (≈ 4 g) and white yarn (≈ 4 g)
- polyester toy stuffing (≈ 20 g)
- a cardboard circle 9 cm in diameter for the base
- 3 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



c1 cone and base: green

c2 star: yellow

c3 baubles: red

c4 baubles: white

Colour map: each colour is one piece.

CONE (GREEN YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	(dc, inc) ×3	9
Rnd 3	9 dc	9
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×3	12
Rnd 5	12 dc	12
Rnd 6	(3 dc, inc) ×3	15
Rnd 7	15 dc	15
Rnd 8	(4 dc, inc) ×3	18
Rnd 9	18 dc	18
Rnd 10	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 11-12	24 dc	24
Rnd 13	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 14-15	30 dc	30
Rnd 16	(4 dc, inc) ×6	36
Rnd 17-18	36 dc	36
Rnd 19	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 20-21	42 dc	42
Rnd 22	(6 dc, inc) ×6	48
Rnd 23-24	48 dc	48
Rnd 25	(7 dc, inc) ×6	54
Rnd 26-27	54 dc	54

Rnd 28	(8 dc, inc) ×6	60
Rnd 29-30	60 dc	60

Do not close the rounds: work in a spiral with the marker in the 1st stitch of each round. At the end, work 1 ss and leave 40 cm of yarn to sew on the base.

BASE (GREEN YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6	(4 dc, inc) ×6	36
Rnd 7	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 8	(6 dc, inc) ×6	48
Rnd 9	(7 dc, inc) ×6	54
Rnd 10	(8 dc, inc) ×6	60

The base has 60 stitches, just like the last round of the cone. Close with 1 ss and cut the yarn.

STAR (YELLOW YARN)

Rnd 1	5 dc in MR	5
Rnd 2	5 inc	10

Points	(4 ch; starting in the 2nd ch from the hook: 1 dc, 1 htr, 1 tr; 1 ss in the next 2 stitches of the round) ×5	5 points

BAUBLES (MAKE 4 RED AND 4 WHITE)

Rnd 1	5 dc in MR	5
Rnd 2	5 inc	10
Rnd 3	10 dc	10
Rnd 4	5 dec	5

The white baubles (c4) are made in the same way. Stuff with a little yarn before Rnd 4 and close.

ASSEMBLY

1. Stuff the cone well, especially the tip.
2. Put the cardboard circle inside, on top of the stuffing.
3. Place the base underneath and sew it to the last round of the cone, stitch by stitch.
4. Sew the baubles on in a spiral round the cone and the star at the top.

Tip: for a shorter tree, stop the cone at Rnd 24 (48 stitches) and work the base only up to Rnd 8.

Warning: the baubles are small parts and can be a choking hazard. Sew them on firmly and keep the tree out of the reach of small children.

Project 60 · String of stars

Level: easy · Time: 4 h · Size: 150 cm long, stars of 7 cm · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

A red cord with 8 yellow and white stars. Hang it on a bookcase, in a window or at the head of the bed.

MATERIALS

- yellow yarn (≈ 12 g)
- white yarn (≈ 12 g)
- red yarn (≈ 8 g)
- 3 mm crochet hook, tapestry needle, scissors

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: alternating stars on a red cord.

STARS (MAKE 4 YELLOW AND 4 WHITE)

Rnd 1	5 dc in MR	5
Rnd 2	5 inc	10
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×5	15
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×5	20

Close each round with 1 ss. You have 20 stitches. The white stars (c2) are made in the same way.

Points	(1 ss in the next stitch; 6 ch; starting in the 2nd ch from the hook: 1 dc, 1 htr, 1 htr, 1 tr, 1 tr; skip 2 stitches of the round and work 1 ss in the next) ×5	5 points

CORD (RED YARN)

L1	make a chain 150 cm long (about 300 ch); turn and work 1 ss in each ch, to make the cord firmer	about 300

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in the ends of each star.
2. Leave 20 cm free at each end of the cord for tying.
3. Sew the top point of each star to the cord, every 15 cm, alternating yellow and white.
4. Make a loop of 10 ch at each end of the cord for hanging.

Tip: spritz the stars with water and pin out the points on a cushion; as they dry, they hold their shape.

> **Warning:** a long cord can wrap around a child's neck. Hang it high, out of the reach of children and away from cots. Do not place it near lit candles or bulbs that get hot.

Project 61 · Bunting

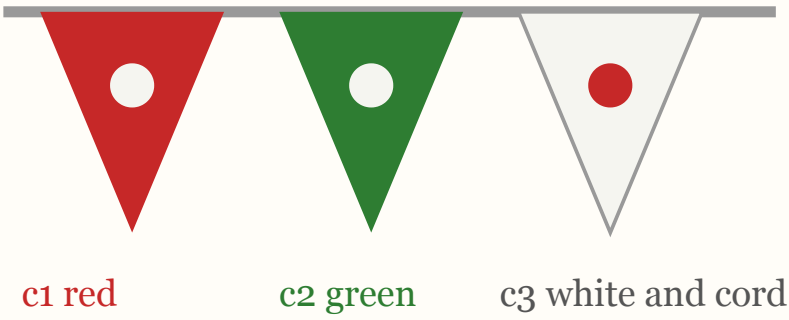
Level: easy · Time: 6 h · Size: 200 cm long, flags of 10 × 11 cm · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

Ten flags in red, green and white, with round spots. They add a festive feel to the living room, the fireplace or the window.

MATERIALS

- red yarn (≈ 25 g)
- green yarn (≈ 25 g)
- white yarn (≈ 30 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook, tapestry needle, scissors

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: alternating flags with spots.

FLAGS (MAKE 4 RED, 3 GREEN AND 3 WHITE)

Start	21 ch	21 ch
L1	1 dc in the 2nd ch from the hook and 1 dc in each ch	20
L2	1 ch, turn, 1 dc in each stitch	20
L3	1 ch, turn, 1 dec, dc to the last 2 stitches, 1 dec	18
L4	1 ch, turn, 1 dc in each stitch	18
L5-20	repeat Row 3 and Row 4: decrease 2 stitches on the odd rows	in Row 19 and Row 20: 2
L21	1 ch, turn, 1 dec	1

Counts: Row 5-6: 16 · Row 7-8: 14 · Row 9-10: 12 · Row 11-12: 10 · Row 13-14: 8 · Row 15-16: 6 · Row 17-18: 4 · Row 19-20: 2. Each flag measures about 10 cm wide and 11 cm high.

SPOTS (MAKE 7 WHITE AND 3 RED)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12

Close with 1 ss and leave 15 cm of yarn. The red spots (c1) are made in the same way. Each spot measures about 2.5 cm.

CORD (WHITE YARN)

L1	40 ch; then, along the top edge of each flag, work 20 dc; between flags work 8 ch; at the end, 40 more ch	about 200 cm

ASSEMBLY

1. Sew a white spot at the centre of each red and green flag, and a red spot on each white one.
2. Weave in the ends on the wrong side.
3. Put the flags in order: red, green, white, and repeat.
4. Make the cord, joining the flags in the chosen order.
5. Tie a knot at each end of the cord.

Tip: so that the flags do not curl, spritz them with water and leave them to dry flat, with a book on top of a towel.

Warning: hang the cord high, out of the reach of children and away from cots, because it can wrap around a neck. Do not hang it over a lit fireplace or near lit candles.

Project 62 · Biscuit basket

Level: medium · Time: 6 h · Size: 16 cm in diameter, 10 cm high · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A white basket with red stripes and two handles, for serving Christmas biscuits or for giving with home-baked biscuits.

MATERIALS

- white yarn (≈ 80 g)
- red yarn (≈ 30 g)
- a cloth napkin to line the basket
- 3.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



c1 base and wall: white

c2 stripes and handles: red

Colour map: white basket with red stripes and handles.

BASE AND WALL (WHITE AND RED YARN)

Rnd 1	8 dc in MR	8
Rnd 2	8 inc	16
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×8	24
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×8	32
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×8	40
Rnd 6	(4 dc, inc) ×8	48
Rnd 7	(5 dc, inc) ×8	56
Rnd 8	(6 dc, inc) ×8	64
Rnd 9	(7 dc, inc) ×8	72
Rnd 10	(8 dc, inc) ×8	80
Rnd 11	(9 dc, inc) ×8	88
Rnd 12	(10 dc, inc) ×8	96
Rnd 13	96 dc	96
Rnd 14-17	96 dc	96
Rnd 18-19	96 dc	96
Rnd 20-21	96 dc	96
Rnd 22-23	96 dc	96
Rnd 24-30	96 dc	96

Work Rnd 13 in the back loop only: this is where the wall starts to rise. Close each round with 1 ss so that the stripes line up. You have 96 stitches.

HANDLES (RED YARN, MAKE 2)

Start	25 ch	25 ch
L1	1 dc in the 2nd ch from the hook and 1 dc in each ch	24
L2-3	1 ch, turn, 1 dc in each stitch	24

Each handle measures about 12 × 2 cm. Leave 25 cm of yarn for sewing.

ASSEMBLY

1. In the last round, work 1 round of ss in red yarn to firm up the edge.
2. Sew the handles on in an arch, one on each side, on the inside of the wall.
3. Weave in all the ends on the inside.
4. Line the basket with the cloth napkin before putting the biscuits in.

Tip: for a firmer basket, work with a tight tension or put a 15 cm cardboard circle in the bottom, under the napkin.

Warning: do not put food directly on the crochet: always use a clean cloth napkin. Hand wash the basket after use.

Project 63 · Tea cosy

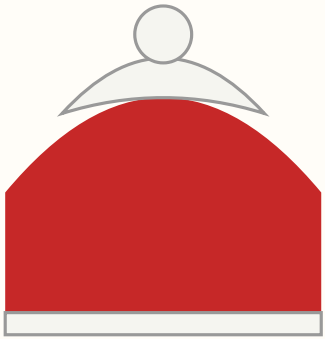
Level: medium · Time: 7 h · Size: for a 4 to 6 cup teapot (about 55 cm round) · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A warm hat for the teapot, with a snow-white top and a pompom. It keeps the tea hot on Christmas afternoons.

MATERIALS

- red yarn (≈ 80 g)
- white yarn (≈ 35 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



c1 top, edging and pompom: white

c2 body: red

Colour map: white top and red body.

TOP AND BODY (WHITE AND RED YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12

Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6	(4 dc, inc) ×6	36
Rnd 7	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 8	(6 dc, inc) ×6	48
Rnd 9	48 dc	48
Rnd 10	(7 dc, inc) ×6	54
Rnd 11	54 dc	54
Rnd 12	(8 dc, inc) ×6	60
Rnd 13	60 dc	60
Rnd 14	(9 dc, inc) ×6	66
Rnd 15	66 dc	66
Rnd 16	(10 dc, inc) ×6	72
Rnd 17	72 dc	72
Rnd 18	(11 dc, inc) ×6	78
Rnd 19	78 dc	78
Rnd 20	(12 dc, inc) ×6	84
Rnd 21	84 dc	84
Rnd 22	(13 dc, inc) ×6	90
Rnd 23	90 dc	90
Rnd 24	(14 dc, inc) ×6	96

Rnd 25	96 dc	96
Rnd 26	(15 dc, inc) ×6	102
Rnd 27	102 dc	102
Rnd 28	(16 dc, inc) ×6	108
Rnd 29-30	108 dc	108

Change to red in Rnd 13. Try it on the teapot: Rnd 30 should reach the place where the spout and handle begin. You have 108 stitches.

SIDES WITH OPENINGS (RED YARN)

Front Row 1	work only on the 54 stitches of one side: 1 ch, 54 dc	54
Front Row 2-14	1 ch, turn, 1 dc in each stitch	54
Back Row 1	join the yarn in the 1st of the 54 free stitches: 1 ch, 54 dc	54
Back Row 2-14	1 ch, turn, 1 dc in each stitch	54
Edging	with the white yarn: 1 round of dc all the way round the bottom edge and the two openings	about 170 dc

The two openings, about 8 cm each, stay free for the spout and the handle of the teapot.

POMPOM (WHITE YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12

Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4-6	18 dc	18
Rnd 7	(dc, dec) ×6	12
Rnd 8	6 dec	6

Stuff before Rnd 8, close and leave 20 cm of yarn.

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in all the yarn ends on the inside.
2. Sew the pompom right at the centre of the top.
3. Put the tea cosy on with the spout through one opening and the handle through the other.

Tip: for a warmer tea cosy, make a second identical top, only up to Rnd 12, and sew it inside as a lining.

Warning: take the tea cosy off before putting the teapot on the hob or in the microwave.

Project 64 · Mantelpiece runner

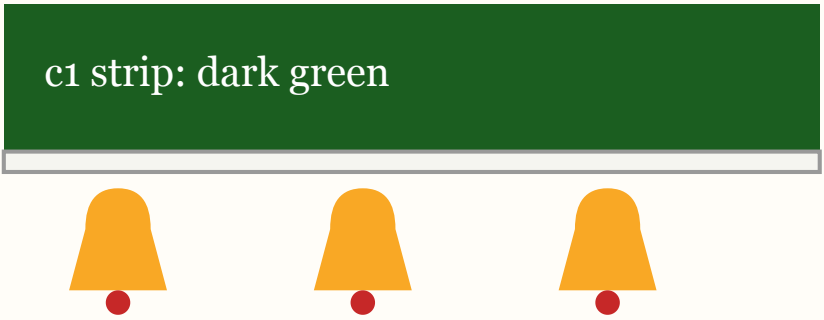
Level: medium · Time: 12 h · Size: 15 × 100 cm, with bells of 5 cm · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A green strip to lay on the mantelpiece or on a chest of drawers, with ten yellow bells hanging along the front.

MATERIALS

- dark green yarn (≈ 150 g)
- yellow yarn (≈ 30 g)
- red yarn (≈ 5 g)
- white yarn (≈ 15 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is one piece.

STRIP (DARK GREEN YARN)

Start	33 ch	33 ch
L1	1 tr in the 4th ch from the hook and 1 tr in each ch (the 3 ch at the start count as 1 tr)	31
L2–90	3 ch (count as 1 tr), turn, 1 tr in each stitch	31
Edge	with the white yarn, 1 round of dc all the way round the strip, with 3 dc in each corner	about 470 dc

The strip measures about 15 cm wide and 100 cm long. If your mantelpiece is longer, work more rows.

BELLS (YELLOW YARN, MAKE 10)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	(dc, inc) ×3	9
Rnd 3	(2 dc, inc) ×3	12
Rnd 4	12 dc	12
Rnd 5	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 6	18 dc	18
Rnd 7	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 8-9	24 dc	24

Do not stuff the bell: it stays open at the bottom, like a real bell. Close with 1 ss and cut the yarn.

CLAPPERS (RED YARN, MAKE 10)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	3 dec	3

Close and leave 15 cm of yarn to fasten the clapper inside the bell.

ASSEMBLY

1. Pass the yarn of each clapper through the top of the bell, on the inside, so that the clapper hangs 1 cm below the edge; tie a firm knot.
2. With the same yarn, work 8 ch at the top of the bell.

3. Sew the chain of each bell to the front edge of the strip, every 10 cm.
4. Weave in all the ends and stretch the strip with water; leave to dry flat.

Tip: so that the bells keep their shape, spritz them with sugar water (1 spoonful to 1 glass) and leave them to dry over a thimble or a small bottle cap.

Warning: use the runner only on an unlit or decorative fireplace: the yarn burns easily. Take it off before lighting the fire and never place it near lit candles. The clappers are small parts: fasten them firmly and keep them out of the reach of small children.

Handmade gifts

Gifts that warm the heart

A handmade gift says "I thought of you" in a way no shop can. In this chapter you will find 12 useful gifts, from a hat to a basket, designed to be made calmly in the weeks before Christmas. Start with the smallest ones, such as the bookmark or the keyring, and move on to the scarf and the hat when you feel confident.

Project 65 · Simple hat

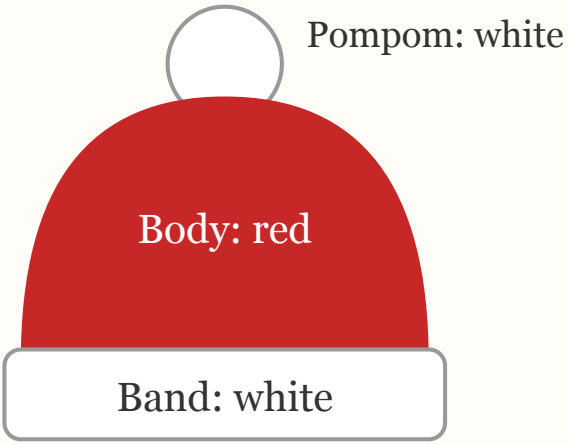
Level: easy · Time: 6 h · Size: adult, 52–54 cm head, 21 cm high · Yarn: soft acrylic, 3.5 mm hook

A warm hat, worked in a spiral from the top down, with a white band and a pompom. It fits almost every adult and is a gift that gets worn every winter day.

MATERIALS

- red yarn (≈ 90 g)
- white yarn (≈ 40 g, with the pompom)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- stitch marker, tapestry needle, scissors
- cardboard to make the pompom (2 circles of 7 cm with a 2.5 cm hole)

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is one piece.

BODY (RED YARN) AND BAND (WHITE YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6	(4 dc, inc) ×6	36
Rnd 7	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 8	(6 dc, inc) ×6	48
Rnd 9	(7 dc, inc) ×6	54
Rnd 10	(8 dc, inc) ×6	60

Rnd 11	(9 dc, inc) ×6	66
Rnd 12	(10 dc, inc) ×6	72
Rnd 13	(11 dc, inc) ×6	78
Rnd 14	(12 dc, inc) ×6	84
Rnd 15	(13 dc, inc) ×6	90
Rnd 16	(14 dc, inc) ×6	96
Rnd 17-34	96 dc	96
Rnd 35-40	96 htr	96

In Rnd 35 change to the white yarn. At the end of Rnd 40 work 1 ss in the next stitch, cut the yarn and weave in the end. You have 96 stitches round the head. Before Rnd 17, measure the circle at the top: it should be about 17 cm in diameter. If it is bigger, use a 3 mm hook.

POMPOM (WHITE YARN)

Put the 2 cardboard circles together and wind the white yarn round them until the hole is full. Cut the yarn along the edge, tie it right in the middle with a 30 cm strand of yarn and remove the cardboard. Trim the pompom until it is round, at about 6 cm.

ASSEMBLY

1. Pass the ends of the pompom yarn through the centre of the top of the hat (the magic ring).
2. On the inside, tie 3 firm knots and weave in the ends with the tapestry needle.

3. Fold the white band outwards if you prefer a shorter hat.

Tip: put the stitch marker in the 1st stitch of each round and move it up every round. That way you never lose count, even on the long 96-stitch rounds.

Project 66 · Treble crochet scarf

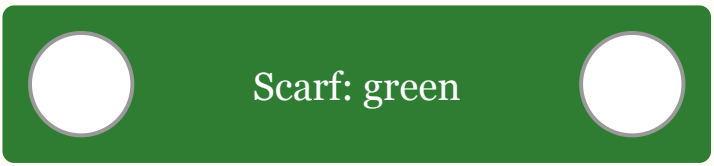
Level: easy · Time: 10 h · Size: 18 × 140 cm · Yarn: soft acrylic, 3.5 mm hook

A light, fluffy scarf worked only in treble crochet, with two white medallions at the ends. It suits both men and women and is great for practising the treble stitch.

MATERIALS

- green yarn (≈ 200 g)
- white yarn (≈ 10 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- tapestry needle, scissors

COLOUR MAP



Medallion: white

Medallion: white

Colour map: each colour is one piece.

SCARF (GREEN YARN, IN ROWS)

Make 35 ch.

L1	1 tr in the 4th ch from the hook and 1 tr in each of the next 31 ch (the 3 skipped ch count as 1 tr)	33
L2	3 ch (count as 1 tr), turn, skip the 1st stitch, 1 tr in each stitch; the last tr goes in the top of the 3 ch	33
L3-125	repeat Row 2	33

At the end of Row 125 cut the yarn and weave in the ends. The scarf measures about 18 cm wide and 140 cm long. If you want it longer, work more rows: each row measures about 1.1 cm.

MEDALLIONS (WHITE YARN, MAKE 2)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24

Rnd 5 (edge with points): work 1 dc in each stitch and, after every 4th dc, work 3 ch and 1 ss in the 1st of those ch. You have 24 dc and 6 points. Join with 1 ss and leave 25 cm of yarn for sewing. Each medallion measures about 6 cm.

ASSEMBLY

1. Place a medallion 5 cm from each end of the scarf, in the centre.

2. Sew it on all the way round with the tapestry needle and white yarn, with small stitches.
3. Weave in the ends on the back.

Tip: count the stitches at the end of each of the first 5 rows. If you have 33, the ends are coming out right; if you have 32 or 34, check the 1st and last stitch of the row.

Project 67 · Fingerless gloves

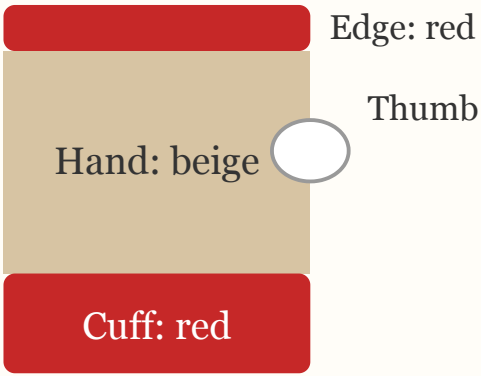
Level: easy · Time: 5 h (the pair) · Size: adult, 20 cm round the hand, 18 cm long · Yarn: soft acrylic, 3.5 mm hook

Gloves worked in the round, with a red cuff and a thumb opening. They leave your fingers free for typing on your phone and keep your hands warm.

MATERIALS (THE PAIR)

- beige yarn (≈ 60 g)
- red yarn (≈ 20 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- stitch marker, tapestry needle, scissors

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is one piece.

CUFF AND HAND (UP TO THE THUMB)

With the red yarn, make 36 ch and join with 1 ss to the 1st ch, without twisting the chain. Work in a spiral.

Rnd 1	36 dc	36
Rnd 2-8	36 htr	36
Rnd 9-20	36 dc	36

In Rnd 9 change to the beige yarn. Rnd 21 (thumb opening): 4 dc, 7 ch, skip 7 stitches, 25 dc. You have 36 stitches (29 dc and 7 ch).

UPPER PART

Rnd 22	36 dc	36
Rnd 23-30	36 dc	36
Rnd 31-32	36 htr	36

In Rnd 22 work 1 dc in each of the 7 ch. In Rnd 31 change to the red yarn. At the end, 1 ss, cut the yarn and weave in the end.

THUMB (BEIGE YARN)

Join the beige yarn at a corner of the opening. Work 7 dc in the stitches underneath and 7 dc along the chain side.

Rnd 1	14 dc	14
Rnd 2-3	14 dc	14

Join with 1 ss, cut the yarn and weave in the end. Make the second glove the same: both fit either hand.

ASSEMBLY

1. If a small hole is left at the corners of the thumb, close it with 1 or 2 stitches of the tapestry needle.
2. Weave in all the ends on the inside.
3. Try them on: the top edge should sit halfway down the fingers.

Tip: for smaller hands, start with 32 ch and work 32 stitches in all the rounds; for the thumb opening, work 4 dc, 6 ch, skip 6 stitches, 22 dc.

Project 68 · Bear keyring

Level: easy · Time: 1 h 30 min · Size: head of 5 cm · Yarn: cotton, 2.5 mm hook

A small, firm bear head attached to a ring. A quick gift for colleagues, teachers or a Christmas stocking.

MATERIALS

- light brown yarn (≈ 8 g)
- beige yarn (≈ 2 g)
- black yarn for embroidering the eyes and nose (≈ 1 m)
- 2.5 mm crochet hook
- polyester toy stuffing (≈ 5 g)
- 25 mm metal keyring
- tapestry needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is one piece.

HEAD (LIGHT BROWN YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5-8	24 dc	24
Rnd 9	(2 dc, dec) ×6	18
Rnd 10	(dc, dec) ×6	12
Rnd 11	6 dec	6

Embroider the eyes and stuff the head firmly after Rnd 10. At the end of Rnd 11 you have 6 stitches: thread the yarn through them, pull tight and tie a knot.

EARS (LIGHT BROWN YARN, MAKE 2)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	(dc, inc) ×3	9
Rnd 3	9 dc	9

Do not stuff. Finish with 1 ss and leave 15 cm of yarn for sewing.

MUZZLE (BEIGE YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12

Finish with 1 ss and leave 15 cm of yarn. You have a flat circle.

ASSEMBLY

1. Before stuffing, embroider the eyes with black yarn between Rnd 5 and Rnd 6, 5 stitches apart.
2. Sew the muzzle under the eyes and embroider the nose in the centre.
3. Sew the ears to the top, between Rnd 3 and Rnd 4, flattened.
4. Make 8 ch with the brown yarn, join them to the top of the head and pass the ring through the loop.

Tip: stuff firmly, a little at a time. A well-filled head stands up better to daily use on a keyring.

Warning: embroider the eyes with yarn; do not use safety eyes on a keyring. The metal ring is a small part: this is not a toy and must be kept away from babies and small children. Check that the loop is firmly attached.

Project 69 · Bookmark

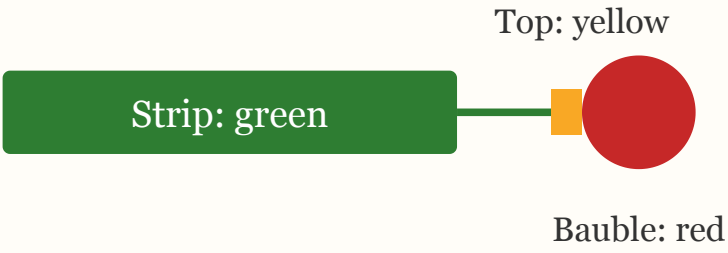
Level: very easy · Time: 1 h · Size: 3.5 × 16 cm, with a 4 cm bauble · Yarn: cotton, 2.5 mm hook

A thin green strip with a red Christmas bauble hanging from a cord. A simple gift for anyone who loves reading.

MATERIALS

- green yarn (≈ 6 g)
- red yarn (≈ 4 g)
- yellow yarn (≈ 1 g)
- 2.5 mm crochet hook
- tapestry needle, scissors

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is one piece.

STRIP (GREEN YARN, IN ROWS)

Make 9 ch.

L1	1 dc in the 2nd ch from the hook and 1 dc in each ch	8
L2-40	1 ch, turn, 8 dc	8

At the end of Row 40 do not cut the yarn: make 20 ch for the cord, cut leaving 10 cm and fasten off the end. The strip measures about 3.5 × 16 cm.

BAUBLE (RED YARN, MAKE 2)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24

Finish with 1 ss. On one circle leave 30 cm of yarn for sewing; on the other cut short. Each circle measures about 4 cm.

TOP OF THE BAUBLE (YELLOW YARN)

Make 5 ch. Row 1: 1 dc in the 2nd ch from the hook and 1 dc in each ch (4 dc). Row 2-3: 1 ch, turn, 4 dc. You have a small rectangle of 4 stitches.

ASSEMBLY

1. Put the two red circles together, wrong sides together, and sew all the way round.

2. Sew the yellow rectangle to the top of the bauble, folded in half over the edge.
3. Pass the end of the cord under the yellow piece and sew it on firmly.

Tip: use fine cotton and a 2.5 mm hook so that the bookmark stays thin and does not mark the pages of the book.

Project 70 · Phone case

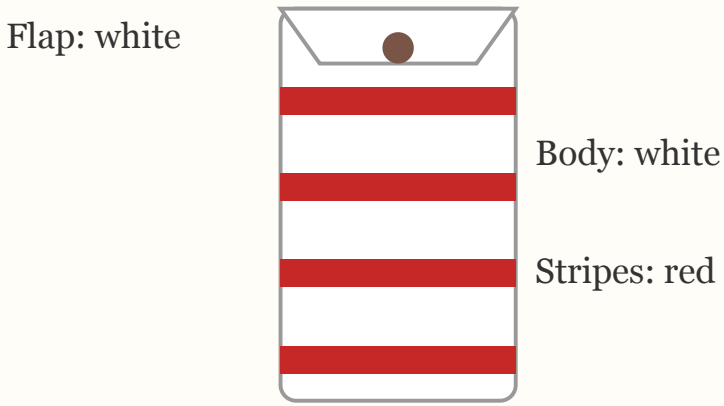
Level: easy · Time: 3 h · Size: 8.5 × 16 cm (for phones of about 7.5 × 15.5 cm) · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

A striped case, worked in the round from the bottom, with a flap and a button. It protects the screen from scratches in your bag.

MATERIALS

- white yarn (≈ 25 g)
- red yarn (≈ 10 g)
- 1 button of 15 mm
- 3 mm crochet hook
- tapestry needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is one piece.

BACKGROUND (WHITE YARN)

Make 18 ch. Work 1 dc in the 2nd ch from the hook and 1 dc in each of the next 16 ch (17 dc). Rotate the piece and work 17 dc on the other side of the chain. Join with 1 ss to the 1st dc: this is Rnd 1, with 34 stitches.

CASE (STRIPES)

Rnd 2-7	34 dc	34
Rnd 8-9	34 htr	34
Rnd 10-15	34 dc	34
Rnd 16-17	34 htr	34
Rnd 18-23	34 dc	34
Rnd 24-25	34 htr	34
Rnd 26-31	34 dc	34
Rnd 32-33	34 htr	34
Rnd 34-36	34 dc	34

Change colour in the last stitch of the previous round. Do not cut the white yarn between stripes: carry it up the inside. At the end of Rnd 36 you have 34 stitches and the case measures about 16 cm.

FLAP (WHITE YARN, IN ROWS, ONLY ON THE 17 BACK STITCHES)

L1	17 dc in the back stitches of the case	17
L2-6	1 ch, turn, 17 dc	17

L7	1 ch, turn, dec, 13 dc, dec	15
L8	1 ch, turn, dec, 11 dc, dec	13
L9	1 ch, turn, 6 dc, 6 ch for the loop, 1 ss in the same stitch, 7 dc	13 + loop

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in the ends of the red yarn on the inside.
2. Fold the flap forwards and mark the place for the button, under the loop.
3. Sew on the button with white yarn, with several passes.

Tip: before you start, measure your phone. For every extra 0.5 cm of width, add 1 ch to the start (and 2 stitches to each round).

Warning: the button is a small part and a choking hazard. Sew it on firmly and keep the case away from babies and small children.

Project 71 · Coin purse

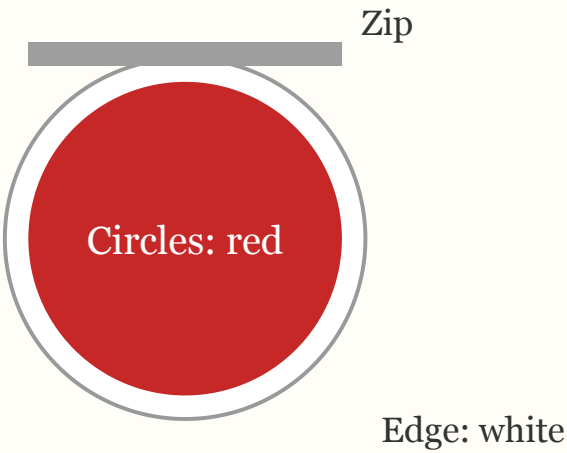
Level: medium · Time: 1 h 30 min · Size: 7 cm in diameter · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

A round coin purse with a zip, made from two circles. It fits in your hand and holds coins, earphones or a lipstick.

MATERIALS

- red yarn (≈ 12 g)
- white yarn (≈ 4 g)
- 1 zip of 10 cm, white or red
- 3 mm crochet hook
- sewing needle, thread in the colour of the zip, pins
- tapestry needle, scissors

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is one piece.

CIRCLES (RED YARN AND WHITE EDGE, MAKE 2)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6	(4 dc, inc) ×6	36
Rnd 7	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 8	42 dc	42

In Rnd 8 change to the white yarn. Finish with 1 ss. On the 1st circle cut the yarn; on the 2nd leave the yarn attached for joining. Each

circle has 42 stitches and is about 7 cm.

ASSEMBLY

1. Put the two circles together, wrong sides together, with the white edges lined up.
2. With the yarn of the 2nd circle, work 21 dc through both pieces at the same time. Half the circle is joined and half is open.
3. Pin the open zip inside the two open edges.
4. Sew on the zip with a sewing needle and small stitches, first one side and then the other.
5. Make 10 ch with white yarn, join them into a loop and sew it to the zip pull.

Tip: sew the zip on with it closed only at the ends and open in between. That way the two edges stay at the same height.

Project 72 · Little pouch

Level: easy · Time: 3 h · Size: 15 × 10 cm (closed) · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

An envelope-shaped pouch, made from a single folded strip, with a red flower on the flap. It holds make-up, cards or a small gift inside.

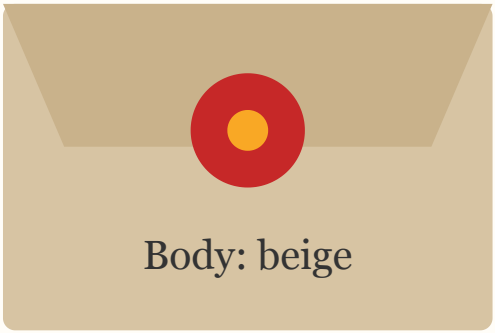
MATERIALS

- beige yarn (≈ 40 g)
- red yarn (≈ 4 g)
- yellow yarn (≈ 2 g)
- 1 snap fastener of 12 mm
- 3 mm crochet hook
- tapestry needle, sewing needle, scissors

COLOUR MAP

Centre: yellow

Petals: red



Colour map: each colour is one piece.

BODY (BEIGE YARN, IN ROWS)

Make 31 ch.

L1	1 dc in the 2nd ch from the hook and 1 dc in each ch	30
L2-60	1 ch, turn, 30 dc	30
L61	1 ch, turn, dec, 26 dc, dec	28
L62	1 ch, turn, dec, 24 dc, dec	26
L63	1 ch, turn, dec, 22 dc, dec	24
L64	1 ch, turn, dec, 20 dc, dec	22
L65	1 ch, turn, dec, 18 dc, dec	20
L66	1 ch, turn, dec, 16 dc, dec	18

The piece measures about 15 cm wide and 28 cm long, with the tip of the flap narrower. Cut the yarn and weave in the end.

FLOWER (YELLOW CENTRE, RED PETALS)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12

Rnd 3 (petals, red yarn): in each pair of stitches work 1 dc in the 1st stitch and, in the 2nd stitch, 1 htr, 2 tr and 1 htr. You have 6 petals. Join with 1 ss and leave 20 cm of yarn for sewing. The flower measures about 5 cm.

ASSEMBLY

1. Fold the bottom of the piece up by 10 cm: this is the pocket.
2. Sew the two sides of the pocket with beige yarn and small stitches, or join them with dc through both layers.
3. Fold the flap over. Sew the ball half of the snap fastener inside the flap and the socket half on the front of the pocket.
4. Sew the flower to the outside of the flap, over the place of the snap fastener.

Tip: if you want to carry the pouch on your wrist, make 60 ch in beige yarn and sew the ends to one of the top corners.

> **Warning:** the snap fastener is a small part. Sew it on firmly and keep the pouch away from babies and small children.

Project 73 · Lavender sachet

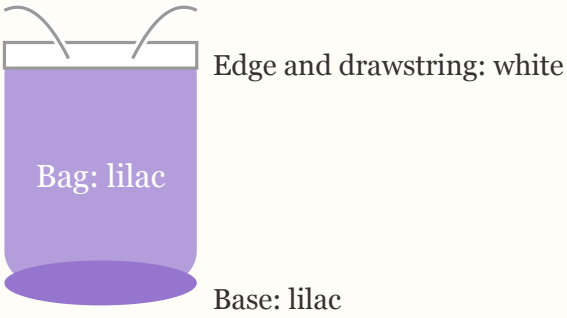
Level: easy · Time: 1 h 30 min · Size: 5 cm in diameter, 10 cm high · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

A small round bag with a drawstring, to fill with dried lavender. It scents drawers and wardrobes and is a delicate gift for a mother, a grandmother or a friend.

MATERIALS

- lilac yarn (≈ 15 g)
- white yarn (≈ 3 g)
- dried lavender (≈ 15 g), inside a small bag of tulle or fine fabric
- 3 mm crochet hook
- tapestry needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is one piece.

BASE AND BODY (LILAC YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6	30 dc	30
Rnd 7-16	30 htr	30

Rnd 17 (holes for the drawstring): (2 dc, 1 ch, skip 1 stitch) ×10. You have 30 stitches (20 dc and 10 ch).

EDGE (WHITE YARN)

Rnd 18	30 dc	30
Rnd 19-20	30 dc	30

In Rnd 18 work 1 dc in each ch. In Rnd 19 change to the white yarn. Finish with 1 ss and weave in the yarn.

CORD (WHITE YARN)

Make 80 ch (about 35 cm). Cut and tie a knot at each end.

ASSEMBLY

1. Thread the drawstring through the holes of Rnd 17, in and out one by one.
2. Put the tulle bag with the lavender inside.

3. Pull the drawstring to close and tie a bow.

Tip: lavender inside tulle does not escape through the stitches. When it loses its scent, change only the tulle bag.

Warning: lavender is not for eating. Keep the sachet out of the reach of small children and pets.

Project 74 · Hair scrunchie with flower

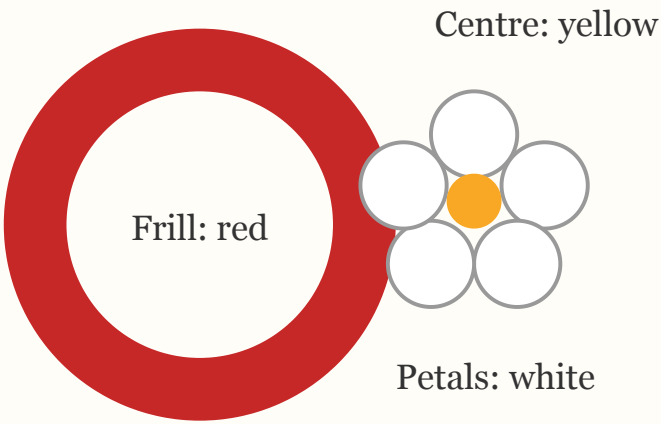
Level: easy · Time: 1 h · Size: 5 cm hair elastic, 4 cm flower · Yarn: cotton, 2.5 mm hook

A hair elastic with a red frill and a white five-petal flower. It looks pretty on a ponytail and is a small gift for girls and ladies.

MATERIALS

- red yarn (≈ 10 g)
- white yarn (≈ 3 g)
- yellow yarn (≈ 1 g)
- 1 plain hair elastic, about 5 cm in diameter
- 2.5 mm crochet hook
- tapestry needle, scissors

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is one piece.

FRILL (RED YARN, ROUND THE ELASTIC)

Make a slip knot on the hook. In Rnd 1, each dc is worked round the elastic: pass the hook through the inside of the elastic, pull the yarn through and complete the dc. Push the stitches close together.

Rnd 1	60 dc	60
Rnd 2	(dc, inc) ×30	90
Rnd 3	90 htr	90

Join each round with 1 ss. At the end of Rnd 3 you have 90 stitches and the frill ripples by itself. Cut the yarn and weave it in.

FLOWER (YELLOW CENTRE, WHITE PETALS)

Rnd 1	5 dc in MR	5
Rnd 2	5 inc	10

Rnd 3 (petals, white yarn): (1 ss in the next stitch; in the next stitch, 1 htr, 3 tr and 1 htr) ×5. You have 5 petals. Leave 20 cm of yarn for sewing.

ASSEMBLY

1. Place the flower on top of the frill, at the place where Rnd 1 began.
2. Sew the centre of the flower to the frill with 4 or 5 passes of white yarn.
3. Weave in the ends inside the frill.

Tip: make several in different colours and give them attached to a card, as a set.

Warning: the flower is a small part. Sew it on firmly and do not leave the elastic within reach of babies and small children.

Project 75 · Headband

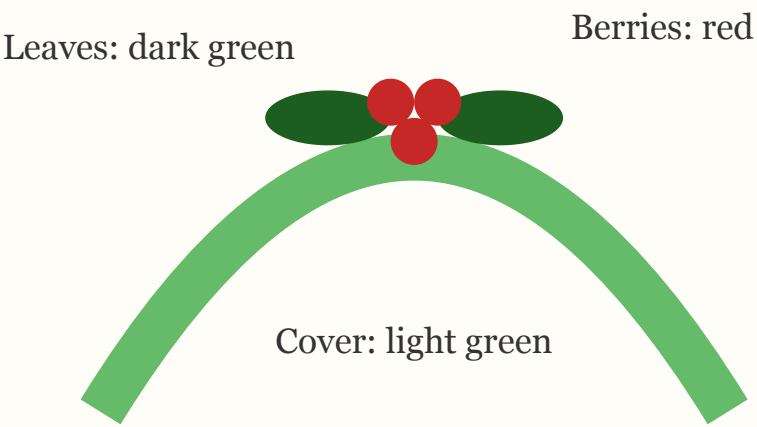
Level: medium · Time: 2 h · Size: headband 1.5 cm wide · Yarn: cotton, 2.5 mm hook

A headband covered in green, with holly leaves and three red berries. Perfect for the Christmas dinner and for family photos.

MATERIALS

- light green yarn (≈ 15 g)
- red yarn (≈ 3 g)
- dark green yarn (≈ 4 g)
- 1 plain plastic headband, about 1.5 cm wide
- a little polyester toy stuffing
- 2.5 mm crochet hook
- tapestry needle, scissors

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is one piece.

COVER (LIGHT GREEN YARN, IN ROWS)

Make 9 ch.

L1	1 dc in the 2nd ch from the hook and 1 dc in each ch	8
L2-90	1 ch, turn, 8 dc	8

The strip measures about 3.5 × 36 cm. Measure your headband along the outer curve: work rows until the strip is that length. Leave 60 cm of yarn for sewing.

BERRIES (RED YARN, MAKE 3)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12

Rnd 3	12 dc	12
Rnd 4	6 dec	6

Stuff with a little stuffing before Rnd 4. At the end, thread the yarn through the 6 stitches, pull tight and leave 15 cm for sewing. Each berry measures about 1.5 cm.

LEAVES (DARK GREEN YARN, MAKE 2)

Make 11 ch. Starting in the 2nd ch from the hook: 1 ss, 1 dc, 1 htr, 4 tr, 1 htr, 1 dc (10 stitches). In the last ch work 3 dc to turn the tip and continue on the other side of the chain: 1 dc, 1 htr, 4 tr, 1 htr, 1 dc, 1 ss. Join with 1 ss. Each leaf measures about 5 cm.

ASSEMBLY

1. Lay the strip over the headband and fold the sides down.
2. Sew the two edges together under the headband, from one end to the other, with whip stitch.
3. Sew the two leaves on in a V, a little to one side of the centre.
4. Sew the 3 berries on together between the leaves, with several passes for each one.

Tip: fasten the end of the strip with 2 or 3 stitches before you start sewing. That way the strip does not slip on the headband.

Warning: the berries are small parts and a choking hazard. Sew them on firmly and check them before each use. Do not leave the headband within reach of babies and small children.

Project 76 · Small gift basket

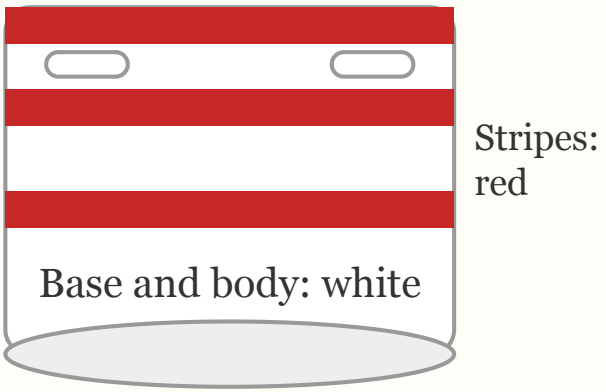
Level: easy · Time: 3 h · Size: 11 cm in diameter, 10 cm high · Yarn: chunky cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A firm, striped basket with two open handles. Fill it with sweets, soaps or other gifts from this chapter and give it all together.

MATERIALS

- white yarn (≈ 60 g)
- red yarn (≈ 20 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- stitch marker, tapestry needle, scissors

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is one piece.

BASE AND BODY

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6	(4 dc, inc) ×6	36
Rnd 7	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 8	(6 dc, inc) ×6	48
Rnd 9	(7 dc, inc) ×6	54
Rnd 10	(8 dc, inc) ×6	60
Rnd 11	60 dc	60
Rnd 12-17	60 dc	60
Rnd 18-19	60 dc	60
Rnd 20-23	60 dc	60
Rnd 24-25	60 dc	60
Rnd 26-28	60 dc	60

In Rnd 11 work the dc in the back loop only of each stitch: this gives the base a ridge and the basket rises straight. The base measures about 11 cm. Rnd 29 (handles, white yarn): 10 dc, 10 ch, skip 10 stitches, 20 dc, 10 ch, skip 10 stitches, 10 dc. You have 60 stitches (40 dc and 20 ch).

EDGE (RED YARN)

Rnd 30	60 dc	60
Rnd 31-32	60 dc	60

In Rnd 30 work 1 dc in each ch of the handles. At the end, 1 ss in the next stitch, cut the yarn and weave it in.

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in all the ends inside the basket.
2. Fold the edge slightly outwards, if you like.
3. Put tissue paper inside and arrange the gifts.

Tip: work the stitches very tightly. If the base turns out floppy, start again with a 3 mm hook: the basket comes out a little smaller but firmer.

Advent calendar

Twenty-four little surprises

A crochet advent calendar lasts for many years and comes out of the box again every December. In this chapter you will find eight designs: little bags, little houses, pockets, boots and stockings, a number guide and two wall panels. You can make all 24 pieces the same or mix designs. Start early: 24 pieces take a few weeks of calm work.

Project 77 · Numbered little bags (basic pattern)

Level: easy · Time: 1 h per bag · Size: 6 cm in diameter, 8 cm high · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

This is the simplest calendar design: 24 round bags with a drawstring, each with a numbered tag. A chocolate, a note or a small toy fits inside.

MATERIALS

- ecru yarn (≈ 8 g per bag; ≈ 190 g for 24)
- red yarn (≈ 3 g per bag; ≈ 70 g for 24)
- white yarn (a little, for embroidering the numbers)
- 3 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is one piece.

BODY (ECRU YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6	30 dc	30
Rnd 7-16	30 dc	30

Work Rnd 6 in the back loop only of each stitch: this makes the bottom flat and the bag stands up. You have 30 stitches. Do not cut the yarn: carry on with the hole rounds below.

Row 1 (round 17)	(1 ch, skip 1 stitch, 1 dc in the next stitch) ×15, close with 1 ss	30 (15 holes)
Row 2 (round 18)	1 dc in each dc and 1 dc in each chain	30
Row 3 (round 19)	change to red yarn: 1 ss in each stitch; cut and weave in the yarn	30

TAG (RED YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18

Close with 1 ss and leave 20 cm of yarn for sewing. The tag has 18 stitches and measures about 3.5 cm.

CORD (RED YARN)

Make a chain of 100 ch (about 35 cm). Cut and tie a knot at each end.

ASSEMBLY

1. With white yarn and the tapestry needle, embroider the number on the tag in backstitch, about 2 cm high.
2. Thread the drawstring through the 15 holes, in and out from hole to hole, starting and finishing at the front.
3. Sew the tag to the front of the bag, halfway up, with small stitches all round.
4. Fill it, pull the drawstring and tie a bow.
5. Repeat until you have all 24 numbers.

Tip: make all the bodies first, then all the tags, and only at the end embroider the numbers. Working in batches is faster and the bags all come out the same size.

Warning: the cords and small sweets must be kept away from babies and small children. Hang the bags out of their reach.

Project 78 · Numbered little house

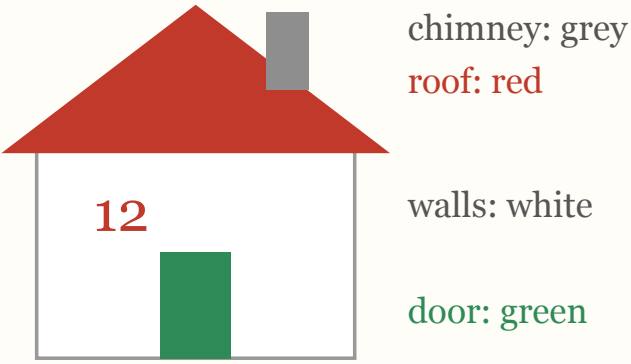
Level: medium · Time: 2 h 30 min per house · Size: 6 × 4 cm base, 9 cm high · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

A little house with a roof that lifts off like a lid. With 24 little houses side by side on a shelf you make a small Christmas village.

MATERIALS

- white yarn (≈ 15 g per house)
- red yarn (≈ 8 g per house)
- green yarn (≈ 2 g per house)
- grey yarn (≈ 2 g per house)
- 3 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker
- thin card (optional, to make the walls firmer)

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is one piece.

BASE (WHITE YARN, FLAT PIECE)

L1	13 ch; starting in the 2nd chain, 12 dc	12
L2-8	1 ch, turn, 12 dc	12

The base measures about 6 × 4 cm. Do not cut the yarn.

WALLS (WHITE YARN, IN THE ROUND AROUND THE BASE)

Rnd 1	40 dc	40
Rnd 2-12	40 dc	40

In Rnd 1, work around the base: 12 dc along the long side, 8 dc along the short side (1 per row), 12 dc along the other long side and 8 dc along the last side. Work this round in the back loop only to mark the

corners well. Close with 1 ss; you have 40 stitches and the walls measure about 6 cm high.

GABLES (WHITE YARN, 2 FLAT TRIANGLES)

L1	9 ch; starting in the 2nd chain, 8 dc	8
L2	1 ch, turn, dec, 4 dc, dec	6
L3	1 ch, turn, 6 dc	6
L4	1 ch, turn, dec, 2 dc, dec	4
L5	1 ch, turn, 4 dc	4
L6	1 ch, turn, 2 dec	2
L7	1 ch, turn, 1 dec	1

ROOF (RED YARN, 2 FLAT RECTANGLES)

L1	15 ch; starting in the 2nd chain, 14 dc	14
L2-9	1 ch, turn, 14 dc	14

Each half of the roof measures about 7 × 4.5 cm.

CHIMNEY (GREY YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	(dc, inc) ×3	9
Rnd 3-5	9 dc	9

Close with 1 ss and leave yarn for sewing. It is not stuffed.

DOOR (GREEN YARN, FLAT PIECE)

L1	5 ch; starting in the 2nd chain, 4 dc	4
L2-5	1 ch, turn, 4 dc	4

ASSEMBLY

1. If you want firm walls, cut 4 rectangles of card to size and tuck them in on the inside.
2. Sew a gable to the top of each short wall, with the point facing up.
3. Sew the first half of the roof to the two gables and to the top of the back wall. This half stays fixed.
4. Sew the second half only along the top edge, to the edge of the first. It is loose at the bottom and works as a lid.
5. Sew the chimney to the fixed half of the roof and the door in the middle of the front wall.
6. With red yarn, embroider the number above the door, about 2 cm high.

Tip: for a more cheerful village, change the roof colour from house to house: red, green and white.

Project 79 · Numbered pocket

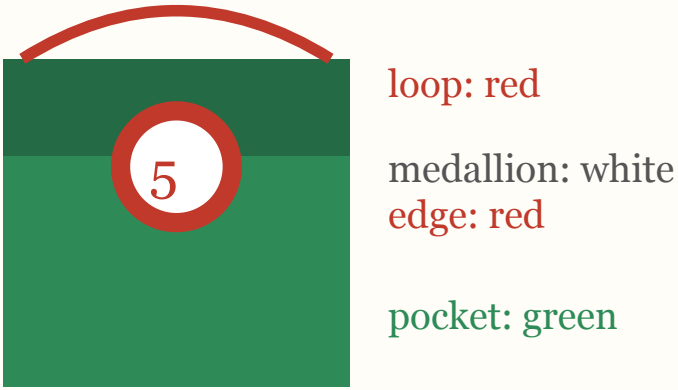
Level: easy · Time: 1 h 30 min per pocket · Size: 8 × 10 cm · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

An envelope-shaped pocket, with a flap and a numbered medallion. The 24 pockets hang on a cord, like a garland, along the mantelpiece or the window.

MATERIALS

- green yarn (≈ 9 g per pocket)
- white yarn (≈ 2 g per pocket)
- red yarn (≈ 3 g per pocket)
- 3 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker
- cord or ribbon of about 2.5 m, for hanging

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is one piece.

POCKET (GREEN YARN, FLAT PIECE)

L1	17 ch; starting in the 2nd chain, 16 dc	16
L2-34	1 ch, turn, 16 dc	16

You have a rectangle of about 8 × 17 cm. Cut the yarn and leave 40 cm for sewing.

MEDALLION (WHITE AND RED YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24

Change to red yarn in the last ss of Rnd 3. Close Rnd 4 with 1 ss; you have 24 stitches and the medallion measures about 4.5 cm.

LOOP (RED YARN)

Make 20 ch and leave 10 cm of yarn at each end.

ASSEMBLY

1. Fold the first 14 rows up over the next 14. Sew the two sides: the pocket is made, 7 cm deep.
2. Fold the last 6 rows down over the opening: this is the flap.
3. Embroider the number on the white centre of the medallion, with red yarn.

4. Sew the medallion to the tip of the flap, in the middle. It sits half on the flap and half on the pocket, and helps to keep the flap closed.
5. Sew the ends of the loop to the two top corners, from behind.
6. Thread the 24 pockets onto the cord, in order, with 3 cm between them.

Tip: alternate green and red pockets (with a green-edged medallion) to make the garland livelier.

Warning: hang the garland out of the reach of babies and small children; long cords can wrap around the neck.

Project 80 · Little boot

Level: medium · Time: 1 h 30 min per boot · Size: 6 cm long, 8 cm high · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

A little red boot with a white cuff, hollow inside, to hold a surprise. It starts with an oval sole and rises up to the cuff.

MATERIALS

- red yarn (≈ 12 g per boot)
- white yarn (≈ 4 g per boot)
- 3 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is one piece.

BOOT (RED YARN)

Rnd 1	16 dc	16
Rnd 2	inc, 5 dc, 3 inc, 5 dc, 2 inc	22
Rnd 3	dc, inc, 5 dc, (dc, inc) ×3, 5 dc, (dc, inc) ×2	28
Rnd 4	28 dc	28
Rnd 5-7	28 dc	28
Rnd 8	8 dc, 6 dec, 8 dc	22
Rnd 9	7 dc, 4 dec, 7 dc	18
Rnd 10-16	18 dc	18

Rnd 1 is worked around a chain: make 8 ch and, starting in the 2nd chain, 6 dc; 3 dc in the last chain; turn to the other side of the chain and work 5 dc; finish with 2 dc in the first chain (where the 1st dc already is). You have 16 stitches. The end with 3 dc is the toe. Rnd 4 is worked in the back loop only, to mark the sole. In Rnd 8 and Rnd 9, the decreases go at the front, over the toe. You have 18 stitches.

CUFF (WHITE YARN)

Rnd 17-18	18 htr	18

Change to white yarn in the last stitch of Rnd 16. Close with 1 ss. Make 12 ch and fasten them with 1 ss in the same stitch: this is the hanging loop. Cut and weave in the yarn.

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in all the ends inside the boot.

2. Fold the cuff outwards, if you like a wider cuff.
3. Embroider the number sideways, on the leg of the boot, with white yarn.
4. Hang the boots on a ribbon or a branch, by the loop.

Tip: if the boot is floppy, put a small paper bag with the surprise inside: it helps to keep the shape.

Project 81 · Little stocking

Level: easy · Time: 1 h 30 min per stocking · Size: 4 cm wide, 11 cm long · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

A striped Christmas stocking, with a white toe and a green cuff. Unlike the boot, it starts at the toe and has a rounded heel.

MATERIALS

- red yarn (≈ 10 g per stocking)
- white yarn (≈ 6 g per stocking)
- green yarn (≈ 4 g per stocking)
- 3 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is one piece.

STOCKING (WHITE, RED AND GREEN YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5-9	24 dc	24
Rnd 10	12 dc, (dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 11	30 dc	30
Rnd 12	12 dc, (dc, dec) ×6	24
Rnd 13-14	24 dc	24
Rnd 15-16	24 dc	24
Rnd 17-18	24 dc	24
Rnd 19-20	24 dc	24
Rnd 21-23	24 htr	24

The toe (Rnd 1 to Rnd 4) is white. In Rnd 10 to Rnd 12, the increases and decreases all go in the second half of the round: this is where the heel is formed, at the back. Change colour in the last stitch of the previous round, as indicated by the colour of each row. At the end of Rnd 23 you have 24 stitches left: close with 1 ss, make 12 ch and fasten them with 1 ss in the same stitch, over the heel. Cut and weave in the yarn.

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in the ends at each colour change on the inside, always on the same side.
2. With white yarn, embroider the number on the green cuff, in backstitch.
3. Hang the stockings by the loop on a ribbon, a branch or a hanger.

Tip: so that you do not have to cut the yarn at every stripe, carry the resting yarn up the inside of the stocking until you need it again. The stripes line up well if you always change colour in the same place, next to the marker.

Project 82 · Crochet numbers (0–9 guide)

Level: easy · Time: 20 min per number · Size: numbers 4 cm high, disc 7.5 cm · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

A guide for making the numbers from 0 to 9 with a crochet cord, to sew onto any piece of the calendar. It includes a background disc so that the numbers stand out clearly.

MATERIALS

- white yarn (≈ 1 g per number)
- green yarn (≈ 4 g per disc)
- red yarn (≈ 1 g per disc)
- 3 mm crochet hook, tapestry needle, scissors, pins

COLOUR MAP



disc: green

edge: red

number: white

Colour map: each colour is one piece.

BACKGROUND DISC (GREEN AND RED YARN)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×6	30
Rnd 6	(4 dc, inc) ×6	36
Rnd 7	36 dc	36

Change to red yarn in the last stitch of Rnd 6. Close Rnd 7 with 1 ss; you have 36 stitches and the disc measures about 7.5 cm.

NUMBER CORD (WHITE YARN)

Each number is a cord: make the chains shown and, starting in the 2nd chain, 1 ss in each chain to the end. Leave 20 cm of yarn for sewing. Each chain measures about 3.5 mm; if yours are bigger, make 2 or 3 fewer.

Number	Cord	Stitches
0	31 ch; 30 ss; join the ends into an oval	30
1	15 ch; 14 ss; fold 3 stitches at the top to make the point	14
2	27 ch; 26 ss; curve at the top, straight line at the bottom	26
3	27 ch; 26 ss; two curves, one above the other	26
4	two cords: 19 ch and 18 ss (slanting stroke and horizontal stroke) + 13 ch and 12 ss (upright stroke)	18 + 12
5	27 ch; 26 ss; stroke at the top, downstroke, belly at the bottom	26
6	29 ch; 28 ss; curve going down and a closed loop at the bottom	28
7	21 ch; 20 ss; stroke at the top and a slanting downstroke	20
8	33 ch; 32 ss; two loops, cross the cord in the middle	32
9	29 ch; 28 ss; closed loop at the top and a leg going down	28

ASSEMBLY

1. Draw the number in pencil on paper, 4 cm high, and lay the cord on top to see the shape.
2. Move the cord to the disc (or to the piece) and pin it in place.
3. Sew with the yarn you left, with small stitches under the cord so that they do not show.
4. For two-digit numbers, make the numbers 3 cm high (a third fewer chains) and put them side by side.

Tip: make all the cords in one go, fasten each one to a paper with the number written on it and keep them in a box. When you need them, they are ready.

Project 83 · Wall tree with pockets

Level: medium · Time: 15 h · Size: 34 cm wide, 52 cm high · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

A wall fir tree in five tiers, with 24 colourful little pockets and a star at the top. It is a large piece, to hang in the living room or in the children's bedroom.

MATERIALS

- green yarn (≈ 140 g)
- red yarn (≈ 25 g)
- white yarn (≈ 25 g)
- yellow yarn (≈ 30 g)
- brown yarn (≈ 5 g)
- 3 mm crochet hook, tapestry needle, scissors, stitch markers, pins
- wooden stick of 38 cm and cord of 60 cm, for hanging

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is one piece.

TIERS (GREEN YARN, 5 FLAT PIECES)

Tier	Instructions	Stitches
1 (bottom)	69 ch; starting in the 2nd, 68 dc; then 17 rows of 1 ch, turn, 68 dc (34 × 9 cm; 7 pockets)	68
2	61 ch; 60 dc; 17 identical rows (30 × 9 cm; 6 pockets)	60
3	53 ch; 52 dc; 17 identical rows (26 × 9 cm; 5 pockets)	52
4	45 ch; 44 dc; 17 identical rows (22 × 9 cm; 4 pockets)	44
5 (top)	29 ch; 28 dc; 17 identical rows (14 × 9 cm; 2 pockets)	28

Each tier has 18 rows in total. 7 + 6 + 5 + 4 + 2 = 24 pockets.

LITTLE POCKETS (24: 8 RED, 8 WHITE, 8 YELLOW)

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×6	18
Rnd 4-6	18 dc	18

Close with 1 ss and leave 30 cm of yarn. You have a little cup of 18 stitches. Flatten it: it becomes a pocket about 4.5 cm wide and 3 cm deep.

STAR (YELLOW YARN)

Rnd 1	5 dc in MR	5
Rnd 2	5 inc	10
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×5	15

Close with 1 ss. Work the 5 points over the 15 stitches, 3 stitches for each point, in rows: 3 dc; 1 ch, turn, 1 dec, 1 dc (2 stitches); 1 ch, turn, 1 dec (1 stitch). Go down the side of the point with ss and start the next point. Make 2 stars and sew them to each other, with a little stuffing in the middle.

TRUNK (BROWN YARN, FLAT PIECE)

L1	13 ch; starting in the 2nd chain, 12 dc	12
L2-10	1 ch, turn, 12 dc	12

ASSEMBLY

1. Lay the tiers out on a table, from largest to smallest, centred. Each tier sits 2 rows above the one below.
2. Sew the bottom edge of each tier to the back of the tier below.
3. Arrange the little pockets, alternating the colours, with 0.5 cm between them. Pin in place.
4. Sew each little pocket on at the sides and bottom, leaving the mouth open, facing up.
5. Embroider the numbers from 1 to 24: white on the red and yellow pockets, red on the white ones.
6. Sew the trunk behind the bottom tier, in the middle, and the star behind the top tier.
7. Sew the top tier to the wooden stick with long stitches and tie the cord to the ends of the stick.

Tip: before sewing on the pockets, hang the tree and look at it from a distance. It is easier to change the position of the colours with pins than after they are sewn on.

Warning: the star is stuffed: sew it on well and check the seam every year. Hang the tree out of the reach of babies and do not put coins, sweets or small items in the pockets if there are small children in the house.

Project 84 · Countdown board

Level: medium · Time: 8 h · Size: 15 × 22 cm · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

A wall board that says "Only … days" until Christmas. Every morning you change the numbered tags hanging from two buttons.

MATERIALS

- red yarn (≈ 45 g)
- white yarn (≈ 30 g)
- green yarn (≈ 35 g)
- 2 buttons of 1.5 cm
- 3 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker
- wooden stick of 18 cm, for hanging

COLOUR MAP



board: red

tags: green
edging: white

pocket: white

Colour map: each colour is one piece.

BOARD (RED YARN, FLAT PIECE)

L1	31 ch; starting in the 2nd chain, 30 dc	30
L2-44	1 ch, turn, 30 dc	30

It measures about 15 × 22 cm. Change to white yarn and work 1 round of dc all the way round the board, with 3 dc in each corner.

"ONLY" AND "DAYS" STRIPS (WHITE YARN, 2 FLAT PIECES)

L1	25 ch; starting in the 2nd chain, 24 dc	24
L2-6	1 ch, turn, 24 dc	24

POCKET FOR THE TAGS (WHITE YARN, FLAT PIECE)

L1	25 ch; starting in the 2nd chain, 24 dc	24

L2-12	1 ch, turn, 24 dc	24

TAGS (12, GREEN AND WHITE YARN)

Rnd 1	8 dc in MR	8
Rnd 2	8 inc	16
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×8	24
Rnd 4	24 dc	24

Change to white yarn in the last stitch of Rnd 3. At the end of Rnd 4 you have 24 stitches: make 6 ch and fasten them with 1 ss in the same stitch. This loop is for hanging the tag on the button. Each tag measures about 5 cm. Make 12: the digits 0 to 9 for the units and one extra 1 and one extra 2 for the tens.

ASSEMBLY

1. With red yarn, embroider "ONLY" on one strip and "DAYS" on the other, in letters of 2 cm.
2. Sew the "ONLY" strip 1 cm from the top of the board and the "DAYS" strip 10 cm from the top.
3. Sew the 2 buttons between the strips, side by side, with 6 cm between them. Wind the yarn round several times through each hole.
4. Sew the pocket at the bottom, along the sides and the bottom edge. It holds the tags that are not in use.
5. Embroider the numbers on the tags, with white yarn, 3 cm high.

6. Sew the top of the board to the wooden stick and tie a cord to the ends.
7. On 1 December hang the 2 and the 4. From 1 to 9 days, leave the left button empty.

Tip: ask the children to change the tags every morning. The countdown becomes a little family ritual.

Warning: the buttons are small parts and a choking hazard. Sew them on very firmly, check them every year and hang the board out of the reach of babies and small children.

At the end: tips, care and a plan to get started

Before you close the book

You have reached the end of the projects. This chapter helps when something does not go well, explains how to change the size of a piece and how to look after what you have made. At the end, you will find a simple 4-week plan for anyone just starting out.

Keep these pages close at hand. You will come back to them many times.

Common problems and how to fix them

Everyone who crochets goes through these problems. None of them is serious. Most of the time it is enough to undo a round or two and do it again.

What happens	Why it happens	How to fix it
1. The piece has fewer stitches than it should.	You skipped a stitch, often the first or the last of the round.	Always use the stitch marker in the 1st stitch of the round. Count the stitches at the end of each round and compare with the total in the table.

2. The piece has too many stitches.	You made 2 stitches in the same place by accident, or worked into the marker stitch twice.	Undo the round back to the marker and repeat, counting under your breath.
3. The magic ring opens up.	The yarn end was too short or was not secured.	Leave a 15 cm end. At the end, pass it with the tapestry needle through the stitches of the 1st round, in two directions.
4. The stuffing shows between the stitches.	The stitches are too loose for that yarn.	Switch to a hook 0.5 mm smaller. Do not overstuff: the piece should be firm, not stretched.
5. The ball or the toy has points or corners.	The increases always fall in the same place, one above the other.	This is normal in small pieces. When stuffing, shape the piece with your hands. In the next round you can start the repeat 1 stitch further on.
6. The star or the snowflake is wavy.	There are too many stitches in the round, or the yarn is too loose.	Check the total for the round. If it is right, wet the piece, stretch it on a towel and leave it to dry flat.
7. The flat piece turns into a bowl shape.	Increases are missing, or the stitches are too tight.	Check the increases of each round. Try holding the yarn less tightly.
8. I cannot see where the round begins.	In pieces worked in the round, the rounds are not closed; they climb in a spiral.	Move the stitch marker to the 1st stitch of each new round. A clip or a scrap of yarn in another colour also works.
9. The new colour leaves a step.	The colour change was made in the middle of the wrong stitch.	Change colour on the last step of the previous stitch: pull the new yarn through to complete that stitch. Hide the step by turning it to the back.

10. The yarn ends show on the outside.	They were cut short or were not woven in.	Always leave 10 to 15 cm. With the tapestry needle, pass the end through 5 or 6 stitches, come back through other stitches and only then cut.

> **Tip:** undoing is not wasted time. Every time you undo and repeat, your hand learns. After a few pieces, the stitches come out even without thinking.

How to change the size of a piece

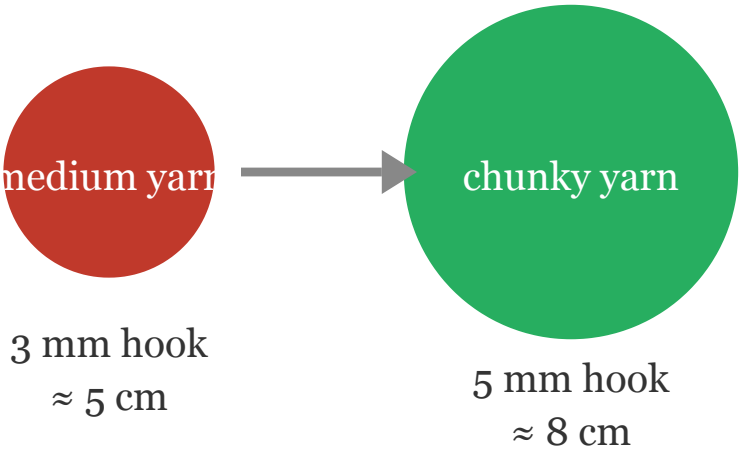
You can make any design in this book larger or smaller without changing the pattern. You just change the yarn and the hook. The number of rounds and stitches stays the same.

- **For a larger piece:** use a thicker yarn and a bigger hook. A chunky yarn with a 4 to 5 mm hook gives a much bigger piece, great for decorating a table or a sofa.
- **For a smaller piece:** use a finer yarn and a smaller hook, for example 2 mm. It comes out delicate, good for hanging on small branches.
- **Always change both together.** A thick yarn with a small hook comes out hard and difficult to work. A fine yarn with a big hook comes out full of holes.
- **Buy extra yarn.** A larger piece uses more yarn. As a simple rule, if the piece is twice the height, expect to use

about 4 times more yarn.

Make a swatch first

Before starting a large piece, make a small swatch with the new yarn and hook: the first 6 rounds of a circle in dc. Measure the width and compare it with the swatch made with the project materials.



The same 6 rounds, with different yarn and hook: the piece changes size, the pattern does not. The measurements are an example; always measure your own swatch.

> **Warning:** if you make a toy bigger, the safety eyes also have to be bigger and firmly attached. Safety eyes only on toys for children over 3 years; for babies and small children, embroider the eyes with yarn.

How to wash and store your pieces

Washing

1. Read the label on the ball of yarn. Keep a label from each yarn you use, in an envelope.
2. Hand wash in lukewarm or cold water with a little mild soap.
3. Squeeze the piece gently in the water. Do not rub or wring.
4. Rinse in clean water until all the soap is gone.
5. Roll the piece in a towel and press with your hands to remove the water.
6. Leave to dry lying flat on a dry towel, away from direct sun and heaters. Shape the piece while it is damp.

Toys stuffed with toy stuffing can be washed this way, but they take longer to dry. Squeeze them well in the towel and turn them from time to time. Stars and snowflakes look prettier if they dry stretched and pinned out on a towel.

> **Tip:** to clean the dust off an ornament, you do not need to wash it. Brush it lightly with a soft brush or a dry cloth.

Storing until next Christmas

- Store the pieces clean and completely dry. Damp leaves stains and a smell.
- Use a cardboard or fabric box, with tissue paper between the pieces. Avoid sealed plastic bags: crochet needs to breathe.
- Do not squash the toys and baubles in the box, so that they keep their shape.
- You can put a small bag of dried lavender in the box, to keep moths away.
- Keep the box in a dry, cool place, away from the sun.

> **Warning:** before hanging up or giving away a piece again, check that the eyes, buttons and beads are still firmly attached. Loose small parts can be a choking hazard. Never leave lit candles near crochet; use only LED candles.

4-week plan to get started

If you have never crocheted, follow this plan. Just 20 to 30 minutes a day is enough. After 4 weeks you will be making pieces to give away.

Week	What to do	At the end of the week

Week 1 The first stitches	Read the first chapter. Practise with a light-coloured yarn and a 3.5 mm hook: chain, slip stitch and double crochet. Make a strip of 20 ch and several rows of dc.	You can hold the hook and the yarn and make straight rows of dc.
Week 2 In the round	Practise the magic ring until it comes out without thinking. Make a flat circle in dc with increases and count the stitches at the end of each round. Also try the half treble crochet and the treble crochet.	You make a circle that lies flat and you know all the stitches in the book.
Week 3 The first pieces	Choose 2 or 3 easy projects: a flat ornament (a star or a snowflake) and a small piece worked in the round. Follow the table round by round, with the stitch marker.	You have your first ornaments for the tree.
Week 4 Assembling and giving	Make a stuffed piece with several parts to sew on. Practise assembling and hiding the ends. Make a small gift.	You have a complete, well-finished piece, ready to give.

> **Tip:** keep a little journal beside you. Write down the yarn, hook and size of each piece you make. Next year you will know straight away what to buy.

Thank you

Thank you for making this journey with me. I hope these pages bring a cosier Christmas to your home, and that each piece carries a little of your affection to whoever receives it.

Do not worry if your first pieces are not perfect. Keep the first star you make: in a year's time you will smile to see how much your hands have learned.

Happy holidays and happy crocheting.

Emma Whitfield