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BOOK 3

Cosy Crochet Home

52 projects for your home, step by step

For your home

Emma Whitfield

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Cosy Crochet Home – 52 projects for your home, 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.

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Welcome to a crochet home

A few words before you start

Hello, I'm Emma Whitfield. This book brings together 52 crochet pieces for the home: blankets, cushions, baskets, rugs, pieces for the table, the kitchen and the bathroom, and even plants that never need water. Every one is explained step by step, round by round or row by row, with colour diagrams.

I wrote it for people who have never picked up a crochet hook. You do not need to know anything: in this first chapter you learn the materials, the stitches and how to read the patterns. Then all you have to do is choose a piece and begin. A home feels more comfortable with a blanket on the sofa or a basket you made yourself.

Take it slowly. Practise each stitch with a light-coloured yarn before the first project. If you make a mistake, undo it and do it again: we all learn that way. Start with small, quick pieces and, when your stitches come out right, move on to the blankets and pouffes.

What you will need

- **Cotton yarn** (or soft acrylic) of medium weight. Cotton is best for the kitchen and bathroom: it washes well and

stands up to heat. Soft acrylic is light and warm, good for blankets and cushions.

- **Crochet hook, 2.5 to 3.5 mm.** Each project gives the right size. For baskets and rugs in chunky yarn, the project says which larger hook to use.
- **Tapestry needle**: a thick, round-tipped needle, for sewing pieces together and weaving in the yarn ends.
- **Small, sharp scissors.**
- **Stitch marker** to mark the start of each round. A clip or a scrap of yarn in another colour also works.
- **Toy stuffing** for cushions, pouffes, plants and filled pieces. It is light, washable and does not go lumpy.
- **Safety eyes, 6 to 10 mm**, only for the few pieces with a little face (read the safety section).
- A **tape measure** for measuring flat pieces, such as blankets and rugs.

How to choose your yarn and hook

The ball band gives the recommended hook. For pieces that need to stay firm (baskets, filled pieces, pot holders), use a hook **slightly smaller** than the one on the band: the stitches come out tight and the piece keeps its shape. For pieces that should drape softly (blankets, cushions, towels), use the size on the band.

Piece	Recommended yarn	Hook
Baskets, boxes and organisers	Medium cotton, worked tightly	Smaller than the band (for example 3 mm for a yarn that says 3.5 mm)
Blankets and cushions	Soft acrylic or medium cotton	The one on the band (3.5 mm)
Kitchen and bathroom	100% cotton	2.5 to 3 mm
Filled pieces and plants	Medium cotton	2.5 mm

> **Tip:** buy all the yarn of one colour at the same time and check that the balls have the same dye lot number on the band. In different lots the colour can change a little, and in a blanket that shows.

> **Tip:** for oven gloves and pot holders use only cotton. Acrylic can melt with the heat.

Abbreviations

All the projects in the book use the same abbreviations. You can mark this page to look it up whenever you need it.

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)
V4-6	rounds 4 to 6, all the same
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 stitches you can make every piece in the book. In the drawings, the brick-coloured yarn is the yarn you are working with, the green line shows the path of the hook and the numbers show the order of the steps.

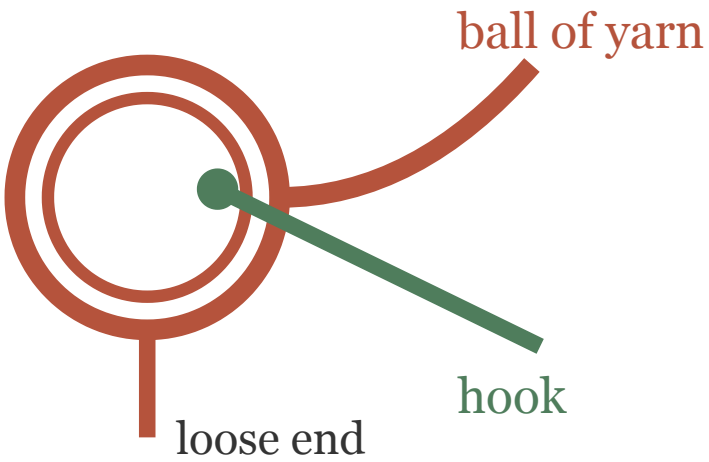
How to hold the hook and yarn

1. Hold the hook in your right hand, like a pencil or like a knife. Choose whichever way is more comfortable.
2. Pass the yarn 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.
4. "Yarn over" means: pass the yarn over the hook, from back to front, and catch it with the hook.

Magic ring (MR)

This is the start of pieces worked in the round: basket bases, coasters, round cushions, rugs. It closes at the end and leaves no hole in the centre.



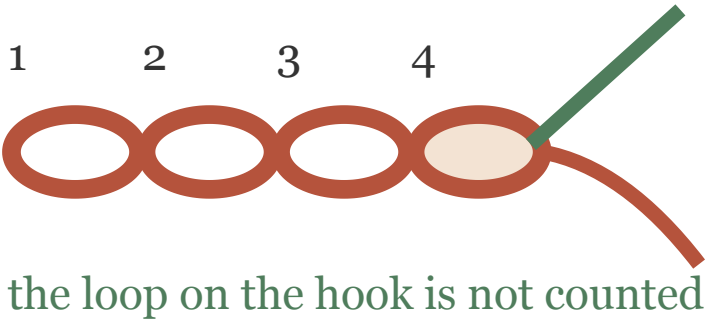
Magic ring: two loops of yarn; the stitches are worked inside them and at the end you pull the loose end.

1. Wind the yarn twice around two fingers of your left hand, with the loose end underneath.

2. Put the hook inside the two loops, catch the yarn from the ball and pull it through.
3. Make 1 ch to hold it. This chain does not count as a stitch.
4. Work the stitches asked for (for example "6 dc in MR") inside the two loops of yarn.
5. Pull the loose end firmly: the ring closes. Put the marker in the first stitch.

Chain (ch)

This is a row of loops linked to each other. It is the start of flat pieces (blankets, placemats, towels) and is used to turn at the end of a row and to make handles and loops.



Chain: each link is 1 ch. The loop left on the hook is not counted.

1. Make a slip knot (a loop that tightens when you pull the yarn) and put it on the hook.
2. Yarn round hook.
3. Pull the yarn through the loop on the hook. You have made 1 ch.
4. Repeat until you have the number of chains asked for. Count the links from the front, without counting the loop on the hook.

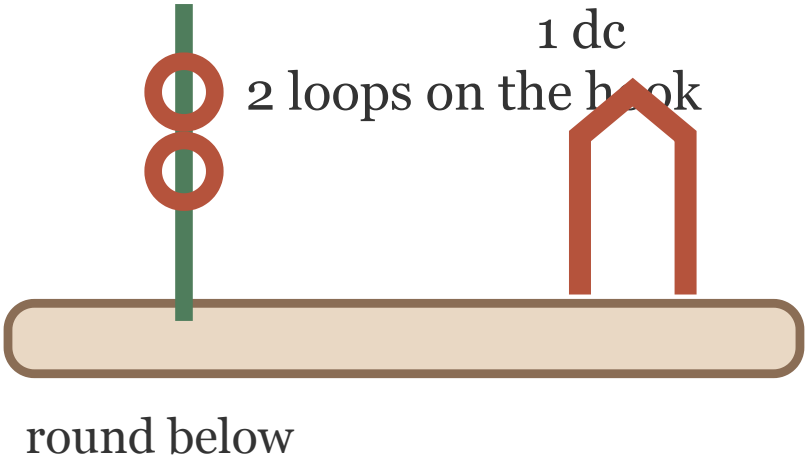
Slip stitch (ss)

This is the lowest stitch of all. It is used to close a round, join pieces and move along a few stitches without adding height.

1. Insert the hook into the stitch.
2. Yarn over and pull the yarn through the stitch and straight through the loop on the hook, all in one go.

Double crochet (dc)

This is the most used stitch in this book. It gives a firm, closed fabric, ideal for baskets, rugs and filled pieces.

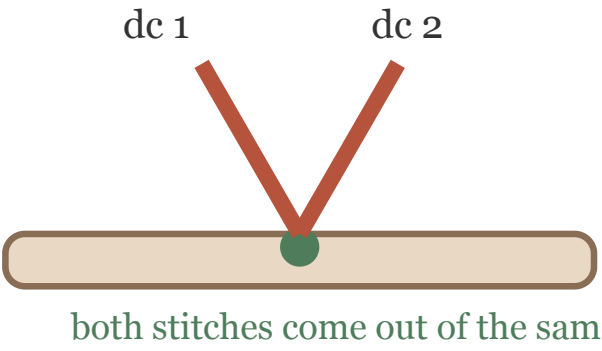


Double crochet: pull the yarn through the stitch (2 loops on the hook) and close them in one go.

1. Put the hook into the next stitch, under both top loops.
2. Yarn over and pull the yarn through to the front. You have 2 loops on the hook.
3. Yarn over again and pull through the 2 loops. You have made 1 dc.

Increase (inc)

It makes the piece grow. This is how a basket base or a round rug gets wider and wider.

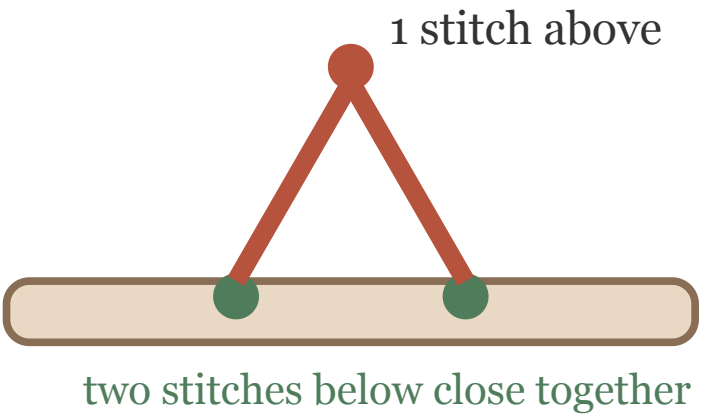


Increase: 2 dc in the same stitch. One stitch below gives 2 stitches above.

1. Work 1 dc in the stitch.
2. Work another dc in the same stitch. You have made 1 inc: you had 1 stitch, now you have 2.

Decrease (dec)

It makes the piece narrower. It is used to close filled pieces (pouffes, plants, bolster cushions) and to shape.



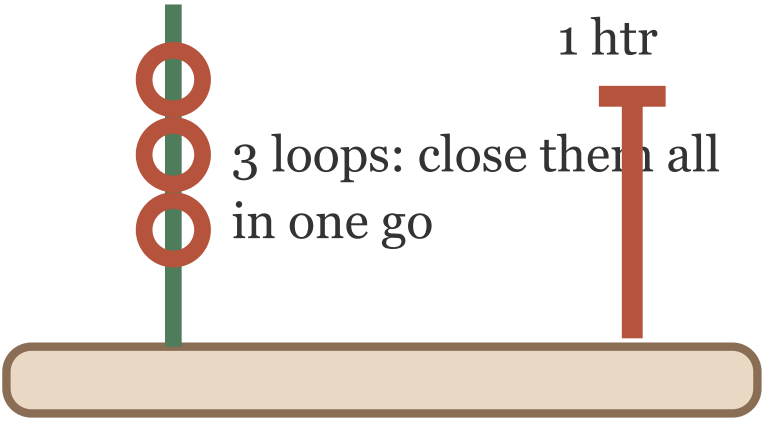
Decrease: 2 dc together. Two stitches below give 1 stitch above.

1. Put the hook in the next stitch, yarn over and pull the yarn through. You have 2 loops on the hook.
2. Put the hook in the following stitch, yarn over and pull the yarn through. You have 3 loops on the hook.
3. Yarn over and pull through all 3 loops in one go. You have made 1 dec: you had 2 stitches, now you have 1.

> **Tip:** on filled pieces, put the hook only into the front loop of the two stitches. The decrease is almost invisible.

Half treble (htr)

A little taller than double crochet. It gives a soft, quick fabric, pretty in blankets and cushions.

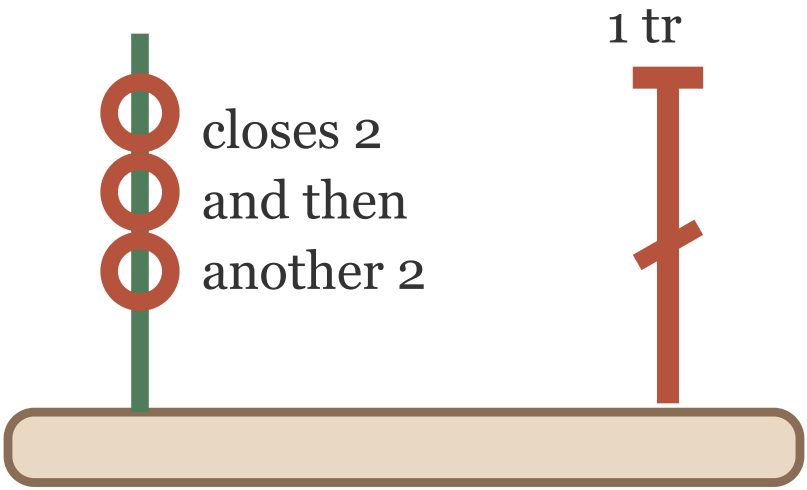


Half treble crochet: yarn over before going into the stitch; at the end the 3 loops are closed together.

1. Yarn over before going into the stitch.
2. Put the hook in the stitch, yarn over and pull the yarn through. You have 3 loops on the hook.
3. Yarn over and pull through all 3 loops in one go. You have made 1 htr.

Treble (tr)

This is the tallest stitch in this book. The fabric grows quickly and is more open. It is the stitch of granny blankets and little lace edgings.



Treble crochet: yarn over before going in; then close the loops 2 at a time. The line in the middle shows the yarn over.

1. Yarn over before going into the stitch.
2. Put the hook in the stitch, yarn over and pull the yarn through. You have 3 loops on the hook.
3. Yarn over and pull through 2 loops. 2 are left.
4. Yarn over again and pull through the last 2. You have made 1 tr.

Tip: on flat pieces, at the start of each row work chains to turn: 1 ch before dc, 2 ch before htr, 3 ch before tr. Each project says whether those chains count as a stitch.

How to read the colour diagrams

There are two kinds of pattern in this book. Always read the table title: it gives the piece and the colour of the yarn.

Pieces worked in the round: round table

For baskets, round rugs, coasters and filled pieces, the table has three columns: the **round**, **what to do** in that round and the **total number of stitches** you should have at the end. You work in a spiral, without closing each round, unless the project says otherwise. Move the marker to the first stitch of each new round.

Example: a small coaster.

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	24 dc	24

- **Rnd 1:** work 6 dc inside the magic ring. You have 6 stitches.
- **Rnd 2:** work 1 inc in each of the 6 stitches. You have 12.
- **Rnd 3:** "(dc, inc) ×6" means: 1 dc in the next stitch, 1 inc in the following stitch, and repeat this 6 times. You have 18.
- **Rnd 4:** 2 dc, 1 inc, 6 times. You have 24.

- **Rnd 5:** 1 dc in each stitch, with no increases. The piece keeps its size. For a basket, this is how the walls rise.

A line such as "Rnd 6-10 · 24 dc · 24" means: work 5 identical rounds, all with 24 dc.

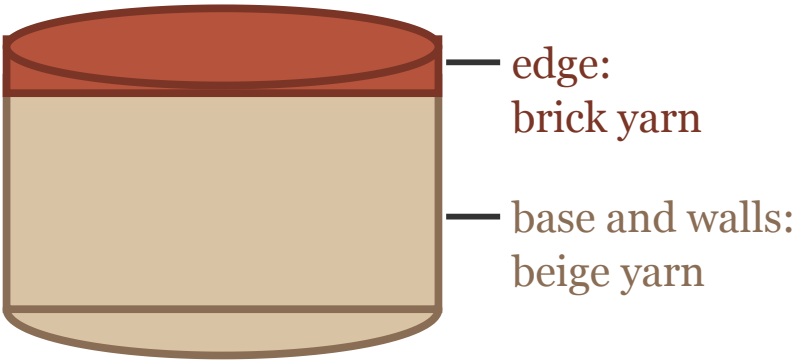
Flat pieces: row table

For blankets, placemats, towels and rectangular rugs, you work back and forth. The table starts with the starting chain and says what to do in each row (Row 1, Row 2…) and how many stitches you should have. At the end of each row turn the piece and work the turning chains. The project also gives the final width and height in centimetres.

> **Tip:** count the stitches at the end of each round or row. If the number does not add up, undo only that round. That way a mistake never goes beyond one round.

The colour map

Each project has a simple drawing, the **colour map**. It shows the pieces you are going to make and the colour of each, with the name written beside it. Each piece has its own shade in the drawing and that same shade marks the rows of its table. That way you always know which yarn to have on the hook.



Example of a colour map for a basket: base and walls in beige yarn, edge in brick yarn.

To change colour: on the last stitch in the old colour, make the final yarn over with the new yarn. Leave a 10 cm end of each yarn and weave them in at the end with the tapestry needle.

Stuffing, assembling and fixing eyes

Stuffing

1. Stuff a little at a time, with small tufts of stuffing, and not all at once.
2. Push the stuffing into the corners with the tip of a pencil.
3. Start stuffing when the opening is still 3 to 4 cm wide. Finish stuffing before the last round.

4. Cushions and pouffes should be full and firm, but without stretching the stitches. If the stuffing shows between the stitches, use less, or a smaller hook for the next piece.

Assembling and sewing

1. Leave a 30 cm yarn end at the end of each piece you are going to sew.
2. Pin the pieces before sewing and check that they are straight.
3. Sew with the tapestry needle, stitch by stitch, catching one loop of each piece.
4. At the end, make a knot, put the needle into the piece, come out a few centimetres further on and cut the yarn close. The end is hidden.
5. On flat pieces (blankets, granny squares), you can join with ss or dc on the wrong side instead of sewing.

Fixing safety eyes

1. Decide where the eyes go before stuffing. Try them out with pins.
2. Pass the shank of the eye between two stitches, from the outside in.
3. On the inside, fit the washer and push it hard until it clicks. Once fixed, it does not come off.

4. Pull the eye hard to check that it is firmly attached. Only then stuff.

Safety

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

Warning: eyes, buttons, beads and small pompoms can come loose and cause choking. Attach them firmly and check them from time to time. The stuffing must stay well closed inside the piece.

Warning: on baby blankets and pram blankets, hide all the ends well. Never leave long loose strands, long fringes or cords in cots, Moses baskets or prams.

Warning: never leave lit candles near crochet pieces (vase covers, doilies, wreaths). For lighting, use only LED candles.

Warning: pot holders and oven gloves protect from heat only if they are made of cotton with tightly closed stitches. Do not use them wet: water carries the heat to your hand.

Warning: crochet rugs slip on smooth floors. Put a non-slip mesh underneath, especially in homes with older people or children.

Choose by the time you have

Not sure where to start? Choose by free time. The times are for beginners and may vary from person to person. Each project gives its time on the top line.

The time you have	Pieces to try
About 1 hour	Dish scrubbers (project 37), soap dish (project 43), TV remote cover (project 49), small plant pot cover (project 50)
About 2 hours	Hand towel with lace edging (project 42)
One afternoon (3 to 5 hours)	Small round basket (17), chunky yarn basket (19), pot holders (39), succulent plant (51), medium and large plant pot covers (50), little bath basket (44), plant hanger (52), neck cushion (48), bread basket (26)
A weekend (6 to 10 hours)	Round rug (45), basket with handles (20), square box (22), bread bag (41), magazine holder (24)
More than 10 hours, a little at a time	Footstool (47), low pouffe (46), laundry bag (25) and the blankets in chapter 2 (each gives its own time)

Tip: for your first piece, choose a dish scrubber or a coaster in light cotton. They are small, use the basic stitches and quickly show whether your yarn tension is right.

Blankets

Blankets to snuggle up with at home

A crochet blanket is made little by little, one piece or one row at a time, and lasts for many years. In this chapter you will find 8 different blankets: in squares, in hexagons, in stripes, in waves and plain with texture. All use medium-weight cotton yarn and a 3.5 mm hook.

Before you start, make a 10 × 10 cm swatch. With medium yarn and a 3.5 mm hook you should have about 18 stitches across. If you have more stitches, use a slightly bigger hook; if you have fewer, use a smaller hook. The yarn weights given are approximate: always buy one extra ball of the main colour.

Project 1 · Square granny blanket

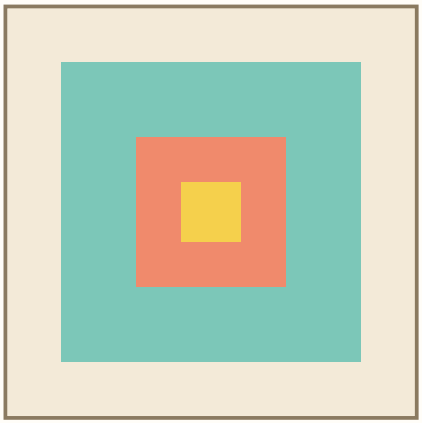
Level: easy · Time: 30 h · Size: 82 × 95 cm · Yarn: medium cotton, 3.5 mm hook

The classic blanket of colourful little squares, made from 42 identical squares that are then joined. It is great to take along in your bag: each square takes about 40 minutes.

MATERIALS

- yellow yarn (≈ 50 g)
- coral yarn (≈ 100 g)
- aqua green yarn (≈ 250 g)
- ecru yarn (≈ 350 g, for the last part of the squares, the joins and the edging)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- 4 stitch markers, tapestry needle and scissors

COLOUR MAP



Rnd 1-2: yellow

Rnd 3-5: coral

Rnd 6-9: aqua green

Rnd 10-12: ecru

Colour map: each colour band is a group of rounds of the square.

SQUARE (42 IDENTICAL)

The corners fall between two increases in a row. In round 3, put a marker in each corner and move it up every round. To change colour, finish the round with 1 ss in the new colour.

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

Rnd 9	(inc, 14 dc, inc) ×4	72
Rnd 10	(inc, 16 dc, inc) ×4	80
Rnd 11	(inc, 18 dc, inc) ×4	88
Rnd 12	(inc, 20 dc, inc) ×4	96

Finish with 1 ss and cut the yarn, leaving 15 cm. Each square has 96 stitches (24 per side) and measures about 13 × 13 cm.

EDGING (ECRU YARN)

L1	around the blanket: 1 dc in each stitch, 1 dc in each join between squares and inc in the 4 corners	650
L2-5	1 dc in each stitch and 2 inc in a row in each corner (8 more stitches per round)	658 / 666 / 674 / 682

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in the yarn ends of each square with the tapestry needle before joining.
2. Lay out the squares in 7 rows of 6. Mix them well: do not put squares facing a different way side by side.
3. Place two squares together with right sides facing, one on top of the other. With ecru yarn, work 1 ss in each pair of stitches, through the back loop only. Work all the horizontal joins first and then all the vertical ones.
4. Work the edging with ecru yarn around the whole blanket (table above). Finish with 1 ss and weave in the yarn.

5. Wet the blanket, squeeze it out without wringing and leave it to dry flat on a towel, pulling the corners straight.

Tip: make 3 or 4 squares and measure them before you carry on. If a square is bigger than 14 cm, change to a 3 mm hook for all of them.

Project 2 · Baby blanket in treble stitch

Level: easy · Time: 25 h · Size: 73 × 83 cm · Yarn: soft medium-weight cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A light, smooth blanket worked in rows of treble stitches, with a mint green edging. It is a classic gift for a new baby.

MATERIALS

- white yarn (≈ 400 g)
- mint green yarn (≈ 50 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- 4 stitch markers, tapestry needle and scissors

COLOUR MAP



Body: white

Edging: mint green

Colour map: white body and mint green edging.

BODY (WHITE YARN)

L1	ch 128; tr in the 4th ch from the hook and 1 tr in each ch to the end (the 3 skipped ch count as 1 tr)	126
L2–72	turn; ch 3 (counts as 1 tr); skip the 1st stitch; 1 tr in each stitch; work the last tr in the 3rd ch of the start of the previous row	126

At the end of row 72 the body measures about 70 × 80 cm. Cut the white yarn and weave it in.

EDGING (MINT GREEN YARN)

Start in a corner of the top edge. Along the top and bottom edges work 1 dc in each stitch. Along the long sides work 2 dc around each tr row (144 dc per side). The corners sit between the increases worked in a row.

Rnd 1	(inc, 124 dc, inc, 144 dc) ×2	544
Rnd 2	(2 inc, 124 dc, 2 inc, 144 dc) ×2	552
Rnd 3	(dc, 2 inc, 126 dc, 2 inc, 145 dc) ×2	560

Finish with 1 ss in the 1st stitch of the round. The edging is about 1.5 cm wide.

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in all the ends with the tapestry needle: take each end 5 cm one way and back 5 cm the other way, through the inside of the stitches.

2. Trim whatever is left close to the work. Leave no loose ends.
3. Wash by hand in lukewarm water and leave to dry flat.

Tip: count your stitches at the end of each of the first 5 rows. If you have 125 or 127, it is almost always the last stitch of the row that was forgotten or doubled.

Warning: do not add buttons, pompoms or fringes to a baby blanket. Weave in all the ends well and never leave long loose strands in the cot. Use the blanket only up to the baby's chest and never cover their head.

Project 3 · Striped blanket

Level: easy · Time: 35 h · Size: 82 × 105 cm (plus 10 cm of fringe at each end) · Yarn: medium-weight cotton, 3.5 mm hook

Wide stripes in four colours, in half treble stitches, with fringe at the ends. It looks good on the sofa or at the foot of the bed.

MATERIALS

- navy yarn (≈ 300 g, includes the edging and fringe)
- ecru yarn (≈ 200 g)
- mustard yarn (≈ 200 g)
- terracotta yarn (≈ 200 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- a piece of card 25 cm long (for cutting the fringe), tapestry needle and scissors

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: 6 rows of each colour, always in the same order.

BODY (STRIPES)

L1	with navy yarn: ch 146; htr in the 3rd ch from the hook and 1 htr in each ch (the 2 skipped ch do not count)	144
L2-6	turn; ch 2 (does not count); 1 htr in each stitch	144
L7-12	the same, with ecru yarn	144
L13-18	the same, with mustard yarn	144
L19-24	the same, with terracotta yarn	144
L25-144	repeat rows 1 to 24 (with 1 htr in each stitch) 5 more times	144

To change colour, work the last htr of the row only up to 3 loops on the hook, and finish it with the new colour. That makes 144 rows and 24 stripes; the body measures about 80 × 103 cm.

EDGING (NAVY YARN)

Start in a corner of a short side. Along the short sides work 1 dc in each stitch. Along the long sides work 4 dc for every 3 rows (192 dc per side), over the colour changes.

Rnd 1	(inc, 142 dc, inc, 192 dc) ×2	676
Rnd 2	(2 inc, 142 dc, 2 inc, 192 dc) ×2	684

FRINGE (NAVY YARN)

Wind the yarn around the 25 cm card and cut along one side: each strand is 50 cm long. You need 360 strands (6 per tassel, 30 tassels on each short side).

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in the ends at the colour changes on the wrong side, each one inside the stripe of the same colour.
2. Work the edging (table above) and finish with 1 ss.
3. On a short side, mark a tassel every 5 stitches (30 tassels).
4. Take 6 strands together and fold them in half. Pull the fold through the stitch with the crochet hook, from back to front. Pass the ends through the fold and pull to tighten.

5. Repeat on the other short side. Lay the blanket out flat and trim all the fringe evenly to 10 cm.

Tip: choose 1 dark colour, 1 light colour and 2 mid colours. That way the stripes always look balanced, whatever the colours.

Warning: because of the fringe, this blanket is not for babies or small children.

Project 4 · Wave blanket (chevron)

Level: intermediate · Time: 40 h · Size: 95 cm across (from point to point) · Yarn: medium-weight cotton, 3.5 mm hook

Chevron waves worked in the round draw a 6-pointed star. Each round repeats the one before, so after the first few rounds the work almost runs by itself.

MATERIALS

- dark blue yarn (≈ 200 g)
- blue yarn (≈ 150 g)
- light blue yarn (≈ 150 g)
- ecru yarn (≈ 150 g)
- aqua yarn (≈ 150 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- 6 stitch markers, tapestry needle and scissors

COLOUR MAP



centre: dark blue

blue

light blue

ecru

aqua

Colour map: dark blue centre and then stripes of 4 rounds.

CENTRE AND FIRST WAVES

In rounds 1 to 10 the blanket is a circle. From round 11 the waves appear: the 2 inc make the peak and the 2 dec make the valley. Put a marker in the peak of each of the 6 waves. Each wave round starts in the 2nd stitch of the first peak; the last dc of the round goes in the 1st stitch of that peak.

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	(2 inc, 2 dc, 2 dec, 2 dc) ×6	60
Rnd 12	(2 inc, dc, inc, 2 dec, inc, dc) ×6	72
Rnd 13	(2 inc, 3 dc, 2 dec, 3 dc) ×6	72
Rnd 14	(2 inc, dc, inc, dc, 2 dec, dc, inc, dc) ×6	84
Rnd 15	(2 inc, 4 dc, 2 dec, 4 dc) ×6	84
Rnd 16	(2 inc, 2 dc, inc, dc, 2 dec, dc, inc, 2 dc) ×6	96
Rnd 17	(2 inc, 5 dc, 2 dec, 5 dc) ×6	96
Rnd 18	(2 inc, 2 dc, inc, 2 dc, 2 dec, 2 dc, inc, 2 dc) ×6	108

CONTINUATION (UP TO ROUND 90)

Odd rounds	in each wave: 2 inc in the peak, dc in every stitch of the slope down, 2 dec in the valley, dc in every stitch of the slope up (the total does not change)	the same as the previous round
Even rounds	the same as the odd rounds, but with 1 inc in the middle of each slope down and each slope up (12 more stitches)	previous round + 12
Check	count the stitches on the even rounds: even round number N has 6 × N stitches	V20: 120 · V40: 240 · V60: 360 · V80: 480 · V90: 540

Colours: rounds 1 to 10 dark blue; then stripes of 4 rounds in the order blue, light blue, ecru, aqua, dark blue, and repeat. Finish at round 90 with 1 ss and weave in the yarn.

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in the ends at each colour change inside the stripe of the same colour.
2. Wet the blanket and lay it out on the floor on top of towels.
3. Gently pull the 6 points outwards, all at the same distance from the centre, and leave it to dry like that.

Tip: if the blanket starts to ripple like a skirt, you are working too many increases; if it makes a bowl, you are missing increases. Count the even rounds using the check in the table.

Project 5 · Hexagon blanket

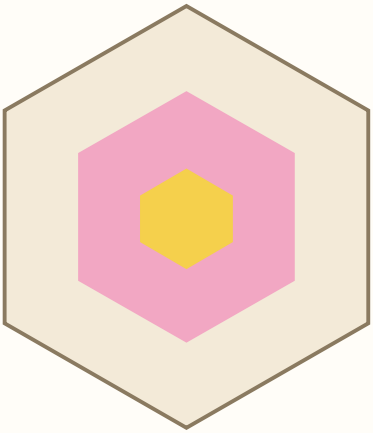
Level: easy · Time: 35 h · Size: ≈ 95 × 95 cm · Yarn: medium-weight cotton, 3.5 mm hook

Hexagons with a yellow centre and petals in three shades, joined like a honeycomb. Each hexagon looks like a flower and the blanket has a zigzag edge.

MATERIALS

- yellow yarn (≈ 100 g)
- pink yarn (≈ 100 g)
- lilac yarn (≈ 100 g)
- light blue yarn (≈ 100 g)
- ecru yarn (≈ 500 g, includes the joins and edging)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- 6 stitch markers, tapestry needle and scissors

COLOUR MAP



Rnd 1-3: yellow

Rnd 4-7: pink, lilac or light blue

Rnd 8-12: ecru

Colour map: yellow centre, coloured petal and ecru edging.

HEXAGON (64 IDENTICAL)

Always work the inc over the inc of the previous round: that is what makes the 6 corners. Put a marker in each inc of round 3 and move them up. In round 4, make 22 hexagons in pink, 21 in lilac and 21 in light blue.

Rnd 1	6 dc in MR	6
Rnd 2	6 inc	12
Rnd 3	(inc, dc) ×6	18
Rnd 4	(inc, 2 dc) ×6	24
Rnd 5	(inc, 3 dc) ×6	30
Rnd 6	(inc, 4 dc) ×6	36
Rnd 7	(inc, 5 dc) ×6	42

Rnd 8	(inc, 6 dc) ×6	48
Rnd 9	(inc, 7 dc) ×6	54
Rnd 10	(inc, 8 dc) ×6	60
Rnd 11	(inc, 9 dc) ×6	66
Rnd 12	(inc, 10 dc) ×6	72

Finish with 1 ss and cut the yarn, leaving 15 cm. Each hexagon has 72 stitches (12 per side) and measures about 13 cm from corner to corner.

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in the colour ends of each hexagon.
2. On the floor, lay out 8 rows of 8 hexagons. Stagger the rows: each hexagon in one row fits between two in the row above, like a honeycomb. Scatter the three colours at random.
3. Place two hexagons side by side. With ecru yarn and the tapestry needle, sew the 12 stitches of the side from the right side, through the back loop only. Join each row first and then join the rows to each other.
4. Edging: with ecru yarn, work 1 round of dc around the blanket, 1 dc in each stitch. Work 1 inc at the outer points; work 1 dec in the inner corners. Finish with 1 ss.
5. Wet and leave to dry flat, shaping the points with your fingers.

> **Tip:** keep the finished hexagons in groups of 8, held with a pin. That way you always know how many are left and you do not lose any.

Project 6 · Moss stitch blanket

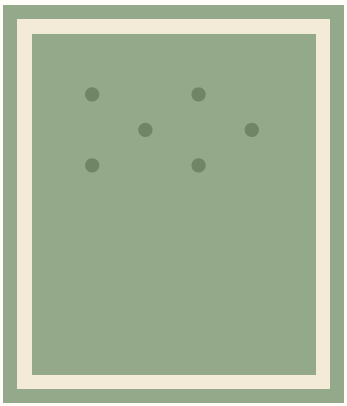
Level: easy · Time: 40 h · Size: 78 × 104 cm · Yarn: medium-weight cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A smooth, single-colour blanket in a tiny moss stitch that looks like fabric. It suits any living room and is a good project to work on in front of the television, because it repeats all the time.

MATERIALS

- sage green yarn (≈ 750 g)
- ecru yarn (≈ 60 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- 4 stitch markers, tapestry needle and scissors

COLOUR MAP



Body: sage green

Edging Rnd 1-2: ecru

Edging Rnd 3: sage green

Colour map: sage green body with a thin ecru line in the edging.

BODY (SAGE GREEN YARN)

Moss stitch alternates 1 dc and 1 ch. In each row, the dc goes in the ch space below and the ch passes over the dc below.

L1	ch 164; dc in the 2nd ch from the hook; (ch 1, skip 1 ch, dc in the next ch) ×81	163
Row 2 and all even rows	turn; ch 1 (does not count); dc in the 1st dc; (dc in the ch space, ch 1, skip the next dc) ×80; dc in the last space; dc in the last dc	163
Row 3 and all odd rows	turn; ch 1 (does not count); dc in the 1st dc; (ch 1, skip the next dc, dc in the ch space) ×80; ch 1, skip the next dc, dc in the last dc	163

Counting each dc and each ch as 1 stitch, every row has 163 stitches. Work 240 rows: the body measures about 74 × 100 cm.

EDGING

Start in a corner of a short side. Along the short sides work 1 dc in each stitch (also in the ch). Along the long sides work 3 dc for every 4 rows (180 dc per side).

Rnd 1	(inc, 161 dc, inc, 180 dc) ×2	690
Rnd 2	(2 inc, 161 dc, 2 inc, 180 dc) ×2	698
Rnd 3	(dc, 2 inc, 163 dc, 2 inc, 181 dc) ×2	706

Rnd 1 and 2 in ecru yarn; Rnd 3 in sage green yarn. Finish with 1 ss.

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in the ends of each new ball inside 3 or 4 moss stitches, on the wrong side.
2. Work the edging and weave in the last ends.
3. Wet, squeeze out without wringing and leave to dry flat. The moss stitch gets softer after the first wash.

Tip: if the stitch turns out hard and tight, use a 4 mm hook only for the starting chain. That way the first row is not narrower than the others.

Project 7 · XL sofa blanket

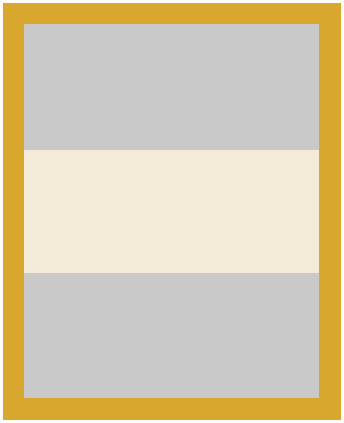
Level: intermediate · Time: 80 h · Size: 136 × 176 cm · Yarn: medium-weight cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A big blanket, for two people on the sofa, in grain stitch (alternating dc and tr), which gives a thick, warm texture. It is a long project, to make over a season.

MATERIALS

- light grey yarn (≈ 1200 g)
- ecru yarn (≈ 600 g)
- mustard yarn (≈ 150 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- 4 stitch markers, tapestry needle and scissors

COLOUR MAP



Row 1-80: grey

Row 81-158: ecru

Row 159-238: grey

Edging: mustard and ecru

Colour map: three wide bands and a mustard edging.

BODY (GRAIN STITCH)

L1	with grey yarn: ch 235; dc in the 2nd ch from the hook; (tr in the next ch, dc in the next ch) ×116; tr in the last ch	234
L2-80	turn; ch 1 (does not count); (dc, tr) ×117: always work dc on top of tr and tr on top of dc	234
L81-158	the same, with ecru yarn	234
L159-238	the same, with grey yarn	234

The body measures about 130 × 170 cm. As it is heavy, work with the finished part resting on your lap or on a table, and not hanging from the hook.

EDGING

Start in a corner of a short side. Along the short sides work 1 dc in each stitch. Along the long sides work about 5 dc for every 4 rows, until you have 300 dc per side.

Rnd 1	(inc, 232 dc, inc, 300 dc) ×2	1072
Rnd 2	(2 inc, 232 dc, 2 inc, 300 dc) ×2	1080
Rnd 3	(dc, 2 inc, 234 dc, 2 inc, 301 dc) ×2	1088
Rnd 4	(2 dc, 2 inc, 236 dc, 2 inc, 302 dc) ×2	1096

Rnd 1, 2 and 4 in mustard yarn; Rnd 3 in ecru yarn. The edging is about 3 cm wide.

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in the ends of each new ball inside the band of the same colour.
2. Work the 4-round edging and finish with 1 ss.
3. Wash by hand or on a wool cycle, in cold water. Always dry flat: hung up, it stretches under its own weight.

Tip: start each new ball at the beginning of a row, never in the middle. The joins are hidden in the edging.

Project 8 · Pram blanket

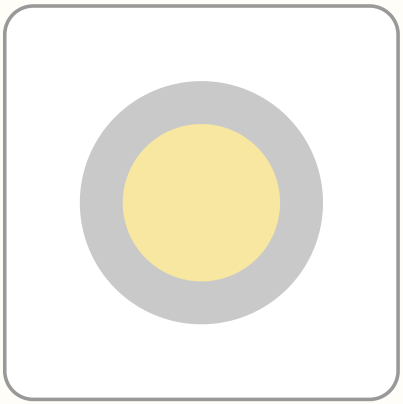
Level: easy · Time: 25 h · Size: 64 × 76 cm · Yarn: soft medium-weight cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A small blanket for the pram or the baby's chair, made of 30 squares with a circle in the middle. Light, soft and easy to wash.

MATERIALS

- light yellow yarn (≈ 50 g)
- light grey yarn (≈ 100 g)
- white yarn (≈ 350 g, includes the joins and edging)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- 4 stitch markers, tapestry needle and scissors

COLOUR MAP



Rnd 1-4: light yellow

Rnd 5-7: grey

Rnd 8-12: white

Colour map: yellow circle, grey ring and white square.

SQUARE WITH A CIRCLE (30 IDENTICAL)

In rounds 1 to 6 you make a circle. In round 7 the 4 corners begin: the 2 inc in a row. From then on, the 2 inc always go in the 2 middle stitches of the corner below; so each side gains 1 dc before and 1 dc after the corner.

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	(2 inc, 7 dc) ×4	44
Rnd 8	(dc, 2 inc, 8 dc) ×4	52
Rnd 9	(2 dc, 2 inc, 9 dc) ×4	60
Rnd 10	(3 dc, 2 inc, 10 dc) ×4	68
Rnd 11	(4 dc, 2 inc, 11 dc) ×4	76
Rnd 12	(5 dc, 2 inc, 12 dc) ×4	84

Finish with 1 ss and cut the yarn, leaving 30 cm (for sewing up). Each square has 84 stitches (21 per side) and measures about 12 × 12 cm.

EDGING (WHITE YARN)

L1	around the blanket: 1 dc in each stitch, 1 dc in each join and inc in the 4 corners	484

L2-4	1 dc in each stitch and 2 inc in a row in each corner (8 more stitches per round)	492 / 500 / 508

ASSEMBLY

1. Lay out the squares in 6 rows of 5.
2. With the yarn you left and the tapestry needle, sew the squares side by side, from the right side, through the back loop only. Join the rows first and then join the rows to each other.
3. Work the edging (table above) and finish with 1 ss.
4. Weave in all the ends, 5 cm one way and 5 cm the other. Trim close.

Tip: so you do not mix up rounds 7 to 12, put a marker in the 1st inc of each corner and move it up every round.

Warning: do not add buttons, pompoms, fringe or ribbons to this blanket. Never tie it to the pram with cords or long strands. Do not cover the pram hood with the blanket: air must be able to circulate. Use it only up to the baby's chest, never over the face.

Cushions

Cushions that bring the sofa to life

A new cushion changes a whole room, and it is one of the most welcome gifts. In this chapter you have eight very different designs: square, round, long, textured, wavy and with pompoms. All of them use medium-weight cotton yarn and a 3.5 mm hook. Before you start, make a swatch of 10 × 10 cm: it should be about 18 dc, 17 htr or 17 tr wide. If you have more stitches, use a bigger hook; if you have fewer, use a smaller one.

Project 9 · Square basketweave cushion cover

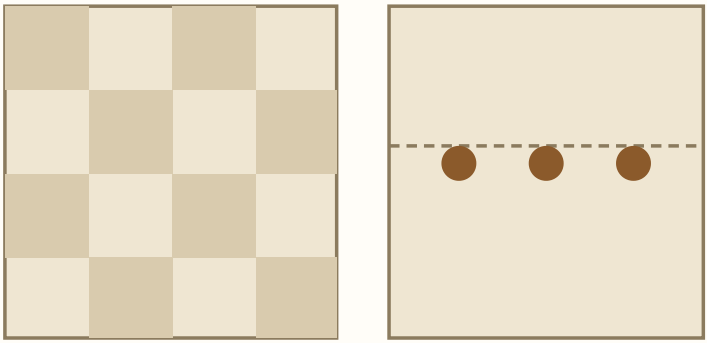
Level: intermediate · Time: 14 h · Size: 40 × 40 cm · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A classic cover with raised squares that look like a woven basket. It looks lovely in any room and the back has an opening with buttons, so you can take it off and wash it.

MATERIALS

- ecru yarn (≈ 380 g)
- brown yarn (≈ 10 g), to cover the buttons
- 3 plain plastic buttons of 1.8 cm
- cushion pad of 40 × 40 cm
- 3.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



Front: ecru yarn Back: 2 pieces + brown buttons

Colour map: ecru yarn for the cover, brown yarn for the buttons.

Two new stitches, explained in words. "front post tr": yarn over and insert the hook from front to back and out to the front again, around the post of the tr in the previous row; finish like a normal tr. The stitch stands out. "back post tr": the same, but insert the hook behind the post; the stitch sits back. Type A = (6 front post tr, 6 back post tr) ×6, 6 front post tr. Type B = (6 back post tr, 6 front post tr) ×6, 6 back post tr. The 2 ch at the start of each row do not count as a stitch.

FRONT (ECRU YARN)

Base	80 ch	80
L1	1 tr in the 3rd ch from the hook and 1 tr in each ch to the end	78
L2, L4	ch 2, type A (right side)	78
L3, L5	ch 2, type B (wrong side)	78
L6, L8	ch 2, type B (right side)	78
L7, L9	ch 2, type A (wrong side)	78
L10-41	repeat rows 2 to 9, 4 times	78
L42	ch 1, 78 dc	78

The front measures 40 × 40 cm and has 13 columns of squares that alternate (raised, recessed). Cut the yarn and weave in the end.

BACK, BOTTOM PART (ECRU YARN)

Base	70 ch	70
L1	1 tr in the 3rd ch from the hook and 1 tr in each ch to the end	68

L2-24	ch 2, 68 tr	68
L25	ch 1, 68 dc	68

This part measures about 40 × 26 cm.

BACK, TOP PART (ECRU YARN)

Base	70 ch	70
L1	1 tr in the 3rd ch from the hook and 1 tr in each ch to the end	68
L2-15	ch 2, 68 tr	68
L16	ch 1, 68 dc	68
L17	ch 1, 14 dc, (ch 3, skip 3 stitches, 16 dc) ×2, ch 3, skip 3 stitches, 13 dc	68
L18	ch 1, 1 dc in each dc and 3 dc in each 3-ch arch	68

This part measures about 40 × 18 cm and has 3 buttonholes.

COVERED BUTTONS (BROWN YARN)

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

Make 3. Put the plastic button inside the piece before round 4. At the end you have 6 stitches: thread the yarn through them, pull tight and

leave 20 cm of yarn for sewing.

ASSEMBLY

1. Lay the three pieces out on a towel, spray with water and leave to dry to the right size.
2. Sew the 3 buttons to the bottom part of the back, 2 cm from the dc edge, where the buttonholes will fall.
3. Place the front with the right side up. On top, place the bottom part of the back (dc edge towards the middle) and the top part (buttonholes towards the middle). The top part overlaps the bottom part by about 4 cm.
4. With ecru yarn, work 1 round of dc around the 4 edges, through all the layers, with 3 dc in each corner.
5. Turn the cover right side out, insert the cushion pad and do up the buttons.

Tip: if the front comes out wider than 40 cm, use a 3 mm hook. The cover should be snug: that way the cushion looks full and the raised squares show up better.

Warning: the buttons are small parts and can cause choking. Sew them on firmly, check them from time to time and do not leave this cushion within reach of babies.

Project 10 · Granny cushion cover

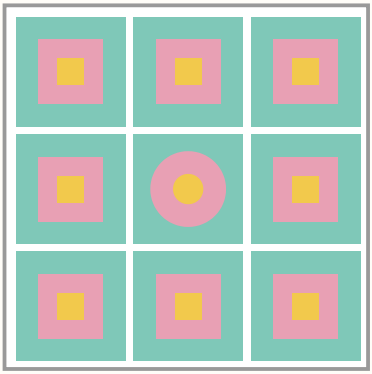
Level: easy · Time: 12 h · Size: 40 × 40 cm · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

Nine cheerful granny squares on the front and one big granny on the back. It is the ideal design for using up leftover yarn and looks very good on a wicker chair or in a teenager's bedroom.

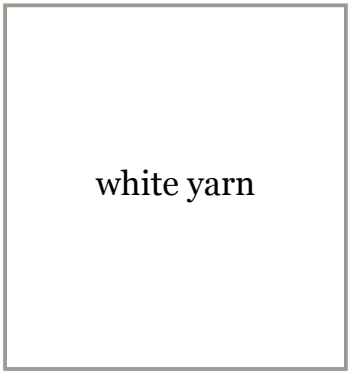
MATERIALS

- yellow yarn (≈ 15 g)
- pink yarn (≈ 40 g)
- aqua yarn (≈ 60 g)
- white yarn (≈ 200 g)
- cushion pad of 40 × 40 cm
- 3.5 mm crochet hook, tapestry needle, scissors

COLOUR MAP



Front: 9 grannies + flower



Back: 1 big granny

Colour map: yellow in the centre, pink, aqua and white in the outer rounds and the join.

GRANNY SQUARE (MAKE 9)

V1	yellow yarn: in the MR, ch 3 (counts as 1 tr), 2 tr, ch 2, (3 tr, ch 2) ×3; close with 1 ss in the 3rd ch	12 tr
V2	pink yarn, in a corner space: ch 3, 2 tr, ch 2, 3 tr; ch 1; in each of the next 3 corners: (3 tr, ch 2, 3 tr), ch 1; close with 1 ss	24 tr
V3	pink yarn: as in Rnd 2, but along the sides work 3 tr in each 1-ch space, with ch 1 before and after	36 tr
V4	aqua yarn: as in Rnd 3 (each side gains 1 more group of 3 tr)	48 tr
V5	aqua yarn: the same	60 tr

V6	white yarn: the same	72 tr

In each round, each corner has (3 tr, ch 2, 3 tr) and each side gains 1 group of 3 tr: the total rises by 12 tr per round. The square measures about 13 × 13 cm. Weave in the ends well at each colour change.

BIG GRANNY FOR THE BACK (WHITE YARN)

V1-6	like the small square, but all in white yarn	72 tr
V7-18	carry on the same way: (3 tr, ch 2, 3 tr) in each corner and 3 tr in each space along the sides	216 tr at the end of Rnd 18

Stop when the square measures 39 × 39 cm (about 18 rounds).

CENTRE FLOWER: MIDDLE (YELLOW YARN)

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

Petals, in pink yarn: in consecutive stitches, work (1 ss, 5 tr in the same stitch, 1 ss) ×6. You get 6 petals, each over 3 stitches, and the flower measures about 6 cm. Leave 30 cm of yarn for sewing.

ASSEMBLY

1. Lay out the 9 squares in 3 rows of 3.
2. With white yarn, join the squares from the wrong side with ss, stitch by stitch: first in rows, then join the

rows.

3. Work 1 round of white dc around the front, with 3 dc in each corner.
4. Sew the flower onto the middle square.
5. Place the front on the back, wrong sides together. Join 3 sides with white dc through both layers.
6. Insert the cushion pad and close the 4th side the same way.

Tip: for a more modern look, make the 9 squares in the same colours but change the order of the rounds in each one. It looks varied and still harmonious.

Project 11 · Round cushion

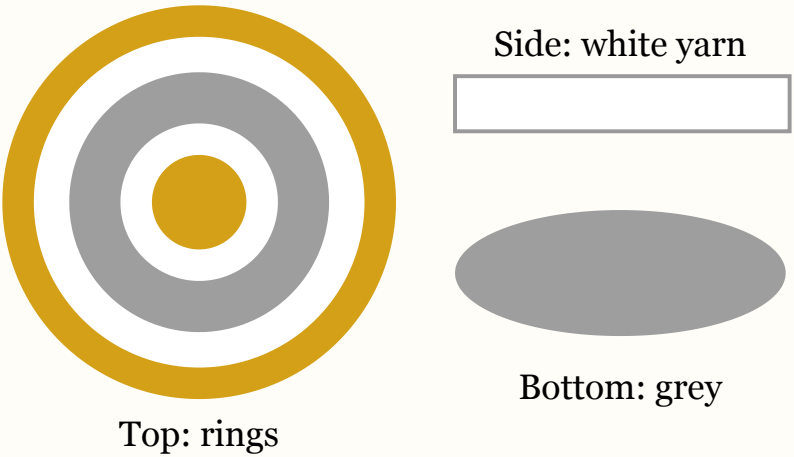
Level: easy · Time: 8 h · Size: 25 cm across, 5 cm high · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A small, plump cushion, worked in one piece with no seams, with rings of colour on the top. It looks lovely on an armchair or as a seat pad for a stool.

MATERIALS

- mustard yarn (≈ 25 g)
- white yarn (≈ 65 g)
- grey yarn (≈ 80 g)
- polyester toy stuffing (≈ 150 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: mustard and white in the rings, grey in the middle and underneath.

TOP

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

Mustard yarn in Rnd 1-6 and 21-24; white in Rnd 7-10 and 17-20; grey in Rnd 11-16. For the piece to be round and not have corners, change the place of the increases in each round (start some rounds with the inc and only then the dc). You get a circle of 25 cm with 144 stitches.

SIDE (WHITE YARN)

Rnd 25	144 dc	144

Rnd 26-32	144 dc	144

Work Rnd 25 in the back loop only: this forms a neat edge. The side measures about 4 cm.

BOTTOM (GREY YARN)

Rnd 33	(22 dc, dec) ×6	138
Rnd 34	(21 dc, dec) ×6	132
Rnd 35	(20 dc, dec) ×6	126
Rnd 36	(19 dc, dec) ×6	120
Rnd 37	(18 dc, dec) ×6	114
Rnd 38	(17 dc, dec) ×6	108
Rnd 39	(16 dc, dec) ×6	102
Rnd 40	(15 dc, dec) ×6	96
Rnd 41	(14 dc, dec) ×6	90
Rnd 42	(13 dc, dec) ×6	84
Rnd 43	(12 dc, dec) ×6	78
Rnd 44	(11 dc, dec) ×6	72
Rnd 45	(10 dc, dec) ×6	66
Rnd 46	(9 dc, dec) ×6	60
Rnd 47	(8 dc, dec) ×6	54
Rnd 48	(7 dc, dec) ×6	48
Rnd 49	(6 dc, dec) ×6	42
Rnd 50	(5 dc, dec) ×6	36

Rnd 51	(4 dc, dec) ×6	30
Rnd 52	(3 dc, dec) ×6	24
Rnd 53	(2 dc, dec) ×6	18
Rnd 54	(dc, dec) ×6	12
Rnd 55	6 dec	6

Work Rnd 33 in the back loop only, like Rnd 25. When you reach about 36 stitches (Rnd 50), stuff the cushion well and keep adding stuffing until the end. In Rnd 55 you have 6 stitches: thread the yarn through them, pull tight and tuck the end inside.

ASSEMBLY

1. Spread the stuffing with your fingers so the cushion is flat and firm.
2. Weave in all the yarn ends on the inside.
3. If you want a quilted effect, take a double strand of white yarn from top to bottom through the centre, pull a little tight and tie a hidden knot.

Tip: put a marker in the 1st stitch of each round. With so many rounds, it is the easiest way not to lose count.

Project 12 · Striped cushion

Level: easy · Time: 12 h · Size: 30 × 50 cm · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A long cushion with nautical stripes, to put in front of the big cushions on the sofa or the bed. It is worked as a tube, with no side seams.

MATERIALS

- white yarn (≈ 200 g)
- navy yarn (≈ 120 g)
- mustard yarn (≈ 40 g)
- cushion pad of 30 × 50 cm
- 3.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP

white (background) · navy · mustard



One tube, lying flat: 50 cm long

Colour map: white background, wide navy stripes and thin mustard stripes.

TUBE

With white yarn, make 102 ch and join into a ring with 1 ss, without twisting the chain. Work in closed rounds: at the end of each round, 1 ss in the 1st stitch and ch 1 (does not count). That keeps the stripes straight. Change colour at the closing ss.

Rnd 1	102 htr	102
Rnd 2-9	102 htr	102
Rnd 10-14	102 htr	102
Rnd 15-17	102 htr	102
Rnd 18-19	102 htr	102
Rnd 20-22	102 htr	102

Rnd 23-27	102 htr	102
Rnd 28-30	102 htr	102
Rnd 31-32	102 htr	102
Rnd 33-35	102 htr	102
Rnd 36-40	102 htr	102
Rnd 41-43	102 htr	102
Rnd 44-45	102 htr	102
Rnd 46-48	102 htr	102
Rnd 49-53	102 htr	102
Rnd 54-56	102 htr	102
Rnd 57-58	102 htr	102
Rnd 59-61	102 htr	102
Rnd 62-66	102 htr	102
Rnd 67-75	102 htr	102

c1 = navy, c2 = white, c3 = mustard. The tube is 30 cm wide (lying flat) and 50 cm long.

ASSEMBLY

1. Flatten the tube with the round joins on one side, so the "seam" is hidden in the fold.
2. With white yarn, close one of the openings with 1 row of dc through both layers (about 51 dc).
3. Insert the cushion pad.

4. Close the other opening the same way and weave in the ends.

Tip: do not cut the white yarn between stripes that are close together; carry it up inside the tube until you need it again. That leaves fewer ends to weave in.

Project 13 · Wave cushion

Level: intermediate · Time: 14 h · Size: 40 × 40 cm · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

Waves in blues and sand, like the sea in summer. The cushion is worked as a tube and the waves themselves form a scalloped hem at the top and bottom.

MATERIALS

- dark blue yarn (≈ 100 g)
- light blue yarn (≈ 100 g)
- white yarn (≈ 100 g)
- sand yarn (≈ 100 g)
- cushion pad of 40 × 40 cm
- 3.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



dark blue · light blue · white · sand (repeat)

Colour map: 4 colours in bands of 5 rounds, always in the same order.

WAVE TUBE

With dark blue yarn, make 144 ch and join into a ring with 1 ss, without twisting. Work in a spiral and put a marker in the 1st stitch of each round. Each wave has 18 stitches: the peak is where two inc meet and the valley is where the 2 dec are.

Rnd 1	144 dc	144
Rnd 2-5	(inc, 6 dc, 2 dec, 6 dc, inc) ×8	144
Rnd 6-10	(inc, 6 dc, 2 dec, 6 dc, inc) ×8	144
Rnd 11-15	(inc, 6 dc, 2 dec, 6 dc, inc) ×8	144
Rnd 16-20	(inc, 6 dc, 2 dec, 6 dc, inc) ×8	144
Rnd 21-25	(inc, 6 dc, 2 dec, 6 dc, inc) ×8	144
Rnd 26-30	(inc, 6 dc, 2 dec, 6 dc, inc) ×8	144

Rnd 31-35	(inc, 6 dc, 2 dec, 6 dc, inc) ×8	144
Rnd 36-40	(inc, 6 dc, 2 dec, 6 dc, inc) ×8	144
Rnd 41-45	(inc, 6 dc, 2 dec, 6 dc, inc) ×8	144
Rnd 46-50	(inc, 6 dc, 2 dec, 6 dc, inc) ×8	144
Rnd 51-55	(inc, 6 dc, 2 dec, 6 dc, inc) ×8	144
Rnd 56-60	(inc, 6 dc, 2 dec, 6 dc, inc) ×8	144
Rnd 61-65	(inc, 6 dc, 2 dec, 6 dc, inc) ×8	144
Rnd 66-70	(inc, 6 dc, 2 dec, 6 dc, inc) ×8	144
Rnd 71-75	(inc, 6 dc, 2 dec, 6 dc, inc) ×8	144
Rnd 76-80	(inc, 6 dc, 2 dec, 6 dc, inc) ×8	144

c1 = dark blue, c2 = light blue, c3 = white, c4 = sand. The inc and dec always sit over those of the previous round, so the waves rise straight. The tube measures about 40 cm wide (flat) and 40 cm high.

ASSEMBLY

1. Flatten the tube so there are 4 waves on the front and 4 on the back. The waves on the front sit on top of those at the back.
2. With dark blue yarn, join the bottom edge with dc, stitch by stitch, through both layers. The edge is scalloped, in waves.
3. Insert the cushion pad.
4. With sand yarn, join the top edge the same way.

> **Tip:** in the first wave rounds, count the stitches of each wave (18). If a wave has 17 or 19, undo it straight away: a mistake here throws all the rounds above out of line.

Project 14 · Pompom cushion

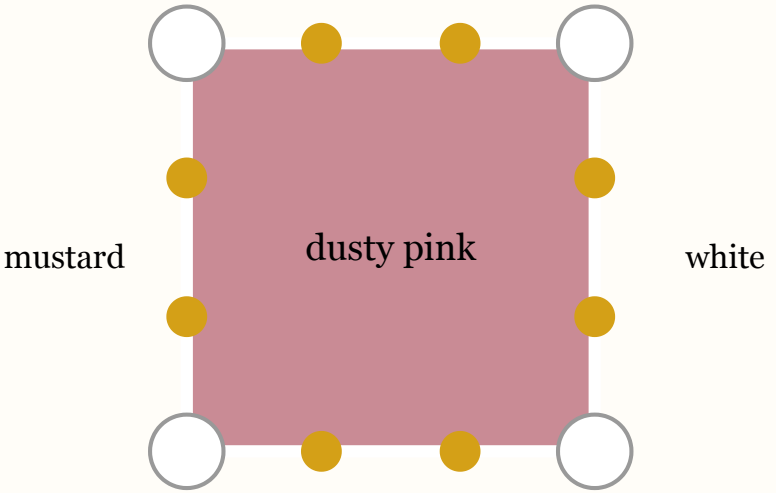
Level: easy · Time: 9 h · Size: 30 × 30 cm · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A soft square cushion, worked in rounds from the centre, with fluffy pompoms all round. It brightens a bedroom and is a fun gift.

MATERIALS

- dusty pink yarn (≈ 230 g)
- white yarn (≈ 50 g), for the join and the big pompoms
- mustard yarn (≈ 25 g), for the small pompoms
- cushion pad of 30 × 30 cm
- card for making the pompoms (2 rings of 5 cm and 2 of 3 cm diameter)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: dusty pink squares, join and corner pompoms in white, small pompoms in mustard.

FRONT AND BACK (DUSTY PINK 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
Rnd 11	(9 dc, 2 inc, 9 dc) ×4	88
Rnd 12	(10 dc, 2 inc, 10 dc) ×4	96
Rnd 13	(11 dc, 2 inc, 11 dc) ×4	104
Rnd 14	(12 dc, 2 inc, 12 dc) ×4	112
Rnd 15	(13 dc, 2 inc, 13 dc) ×4	120
Rnd 16	(14 dc, 2 inc, 14 dc) ×4	128
Rnd 17	(15 dc, 2 inc, 15 dc) ×4	136
Rnd 18	(16 dc, 2 inc, 16 dc) ×4	144
Rnd 19	(17 dc, 2 inc, 17 dc) ×4	152
Rnd 20	(18 dc, 2 inc, 18 dc) ×4	160
Rnd 21	(19 dc, 2 inc, 19 dc) ×4	168
Rnd 22	(20 dc, 2 inc, 20 dc) ×4	176
Rnd 23	(21 dc, 2 inc, 21 dc) ×4	184
Rnd 24	(22 dc, 2 inc, 22 dc) ×4	192
Rnd 25	(23 dc, 2 inc, 23 dc) ×4	200
Rnd 26	(24 dc, 2 inc, 24 dc) ×4	208
Rnd 27	(25 dc, 2 inc, 25 dc) ×4	216

Make 2 identical squares. The 2 inc of each corner are worked in the 2 middle stitches of the corner of the previous round; put a marker in each corner. Each side gains 2 stitches per round. In Rnd 27 each side has 54 stitches and the square measures about 30 × 30 cm.

POMPOMS

Put two identical card rings one on top of the other and wind the yarn around them until the hole in the middle is full. Cut the yarn along the outer edge, tie the centre with a strong strand, pull tight and make two knots. Remove the card and trim the ends. Make 4 big pompoms of 5 cm in white yarn and 8 small ones of 3 cm in mustard yarn. Leave on each one the two ends of the tying strand, 15 cm long, for sewing.

ASSEMBLY

1. Place the 2 squares wrong sides together, with the corners lined up.
2. With white yarn, work dc through both layers on 3 sides, with 3 dc in each corner.
3. Insert the cushion pad and close the 4th side the same way.
4. Sew a white pompom to each corner and 2 mustard pompoms to each side, 10 cm from the corners. Pass the ends to the inside of the cushion and tie a firm knot.

Tip: the more yarn you wind on the card, the fuller and rounder the pompom. Trim it with very sharp scissors, turning it as you go, like cutting hair.

Warning: pompoms can shed fibres. Sew them on firmly and do not put this cushion in cots or within reach of babies.

Project 15 · Bolster cushion

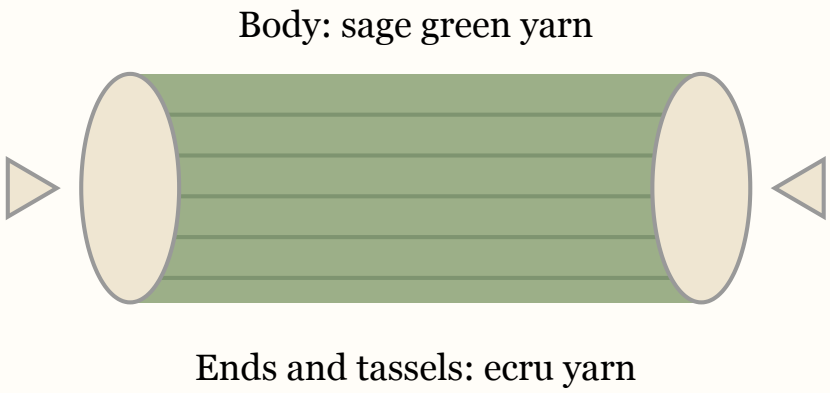
Level: easy · Time: 10 h · Size: 45 cm long, 15 cm across · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A ribbed bolster to support your neck on the sofa or decorate the head of the bed. The round ends have a matching tassel.

MATERIALS

- sage green yarn (≈ 300 g)
- ecru yarn (≈ 60 g), for the ends and tassels
- foam roll 45 cm long and 15 cm across (or polyester toy stuffing, ≈ 300 g)
- card 10 cm wide, for the tassels
- 3.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: ribbed sage green body, ends and tassels in ecru yarn.

BODY (SAGE GREEN YARN)

Base	78 ch	78
L1	1 htr in the 3rd ch from the hook and 1 htr in each ch to the end	76
L2-70	ch 2 (do not count), 76 htr in the back loop only	76

You get a rectangle of 45 cm (the length of the bolster) by about 47 cm. Do not cut the yarn: fold the rectangle in half, bring Row 1 and Row 70 together and join with ss, stitch by stitch, on the wrong side. This makes a tube.

ENDS (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	(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	84 dc	84

Make 2. Work Rnd 15 in the back loop only, to form the edge of the end. Each end measures about 15 cm across. Leave 60 cm of yarn for sewing.

ASSEMBLY

1. Turn the tube right side out.

2. With ecru yarn, work 84 dc around one of the openings of the tube (about 6 dc for every 5 rows).
3. Sew one end to this opening, stitch by stitch, with the tapestry needle.
4. Insert the foam roll (or stuff firmly with toy stuffing).
5. Repeat steps 2 and 3 on the other opening.
6. Tassels: wind ecru yarn 30 times around the card. Tie at the top, cut at the bottom and wind a strand several times 1 cm below the knot to form the "head". Make 2 and sew one to the centre of each end.

Tip: working in the back loop only widens the fabric a little. Measure the rectangle at the 20th row: if it already passes 13 cm in height, work fewer rows in total.

Warning: the tassels have long loose strands. Do not use this bolster in cots or within reach of babies.

Project 16 · Puff stitch cushion

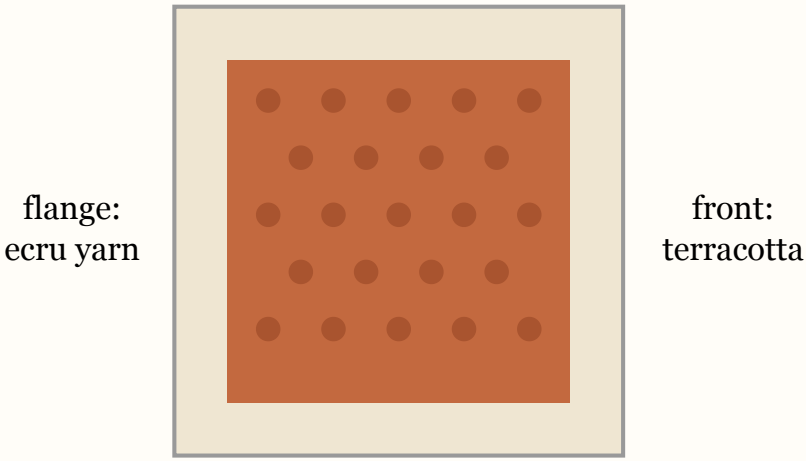
Level: intermediate · Time: 12 h · Size: 35 × 35 cm (40 × 40 cm with the flange) · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A front covered with little fluffy "buttons", made with puff stitch, and a plain flange all round, like hotel cushions. It adds an elegant touch to a plain sofa.

MATERIALS

- terracotta yarn (≈ 300 g)
- ecru yarn (≈ 60 g), for the flange
- cushion pad of 35 × 35 cm
- 3.5 mm crochet hook, tapestry needle, scissors, stitch markers

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: front and back in terracotta, flange in ecru yarn.

Puff stitch, explained in words: (yarn over, insert the hook in the stitch and pull up a loop to 1.5 cm high) 3 times in the same stitch. You have 7 loops on the hook. Yarn over, pull through all 7 at once and close with 1 ch. Each puff counts as 1 stitch. The 2 ch at the start of each row do not count as a stitch.

FRONT (TERRACOTTA YARN)

Base	61 ch	61
L1	1 htr in the 3rd ch from the hook and 1 htr in each ch to the end	59
L2	ch 2, 1 htr, (1 puff, 1 htr) ×29	59
L3	ch 2, 1 htr in each stitch (also in each puff)	59
L4	ch 2, 2 htr, (1 puff, 1 htr) ×28, 1 htr	59

L5	as Row 3	59
L6-49	repeat rows 2 to 5, 11 times	59

The puffs sit staggered, like a chessboard. The front measures about 35 × 35 cm. Cut the yarn at Row 49.

BACK (TERRACOTTA YARN)

Base	61 ch	61
L1	1 htr in the 3rd ch from the hook and 1 htr in each ch to the end	59
L2-50	ch 2, 59 htr (stop when it measures 35 cm)	59

FLANGE (ECRU YARN)

The flange is worked in rounds around the cushion once it has been assembled. In Rnd 1 the stitches catch the front and back at the same time and close the cushion. Start in the middle of a side. On each side pick up 64 stitches (counting the 2 corner stitches): 31 dc to the corner, 2 inc in the 2 corner stitches, 31 dc to the middle of the next side. Put a marker in each corner.

Rnd 1	(31 dc, 2 inc, 31 dc) ×4	264
Rnd 2	(32 dc, 2 inc, 32 dc) ×4	272
Rnd 3	(33 dc, 2 inc, 33 dc) ×4	280
Rnd 4	(34 dc, 2 inc, 34 dc) ×4	288
Rnd 5	(35 dc, 2 inc, 35 dc) ×4	296

The flange is about 2.5 cm wide and the cushion measures 40 × 40 cm in total. Close with 1 ss and weave in the end.

ASSEMBLY

1. Place the front on the back, wrong sides together, with the corners lined up.
2. Work Rnd 1 of the flange through both layers on 3 and a half sides.
3. Insert the cushion pad through the opening and finish Rnd 1.
4. Work Rnd 2 to 5 on the flange only, which lies flat around the cushion.
5. Steam the flange with an iron, without touching it with the iron, to make it lie straight.

Tip: pull up the puff loops all to the same height. That is what keeps the puffs round and even. If it is hard to get the hook through the 7 loops, pull them up a little higher.

Baskets and organisers

Tidy the house with colour and calm

A crochet basket tidies, decorates and lasts for years. In this chapter you will find 10 designs, from the small basket for keys to the big laundry bag. Almost all start the same way: a round or oval base in double crochet and walls that rise straight up. Master the base and all the other projects are within your reach.

Project 17 · Small round basket

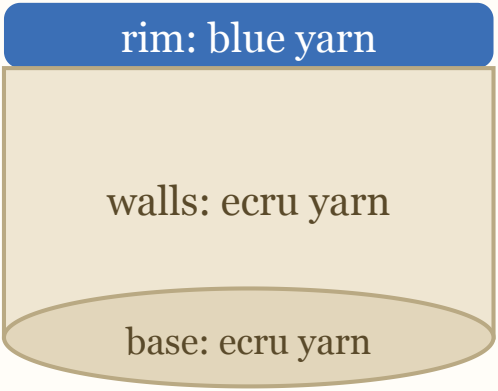
Level: easy · Time: 3 h · Size: 12 cm across × 9 cm high · Yarn: medium-weight cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A small, firm basket for keys, hair clips or balls of yarn. It is the ideal first basket: it teaches the round base and the walls that rise.

MATERIALS

- ecru yarn (≈ 55 g)
- blue yarn (≈ 10 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- stitch marker
- yarn needle and scissors

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: base and walls in ecru yarn, rim in blue yarn.

BASE AND WALLS (ECRU AND BLUE 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	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 8	(3 dc, inc, 3 dc) ×6	48
Rnd 9	(7 dc, inc) ×6	54
Rnd 10	(4 dc, inc, 4 dc) ×6	60

Rnd 11	(9 dc, inc) ×6	66
Rnd 12	(5 dc, inc, 5 dc) ×6	72
Rnd 13	(11 dc, inc) ×6	78
Rnd 14	78 dc	78
Rnd 15-30	78 dc	78
Rnd 31-33	78 dc	78

In Rnd 14 work only in the back loop of each stitch: this forms the fold between the base and the wall. From Rnd 15 go back to working in both loops. In Rnd 31 change to the blue yarn. At the end work 1 round of ss in all 78 stitches, cut the yarn and weave in the end.

ASSEMBLY

1. Put the marker in the 1st stitch of each round and always move it up.
2. Check that the base lies flat before starting Rnd 14 (it should measure about 12 cm).
3. Weave in the yarn ends inside the wall, with the tapestry needle.
4. Shape the basket with your hands and leave it to dry around a jar of the same size, if you want it straighter.

Tip: for a firmer basket, use a hook half a size smaller than the one you normally use with this yarn. Tight stitches make walls that stand up on their own.

Project 18 · Oval basket

Level: easy · Time: 4 h · Size: 18 × 9 cm base × 9 cm high · Yarn: medium-weight cotton, 3.5 mm hook

An elongated basket, with a stripe in the middle, perfect for the bathroom (cotton wool, soaps, brushes) or for the television remote controls.

MATERIALS

- grey yarn (≈ 60 g)
- dusty pink yarn (≈ 10 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- 2 stitch markers
- yarn needle and scissors

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: grey basket with a dusty pink stripe.

OVAL BASE (GREY YARN)

Make 21 ch. Rnd 1: starting in the 2nd ch from the hook, work 19 dc; in the last ch work 3 dc; turn the work and continue along the other side of the chain with 18 dc; in the 1st ch work 2 dc. Close with ss in the 1st stitch: 42 stitches. Put a marker at each end of the oval to see where to increase.

Rnd 2	inc, 18 dc, 3 inc, 18 dc, 2 inc	48
Rnd 3	dc, inc, 18 dc, (dc, inc) ×3, 18 dc, (dc, inc) ×2	54
Rnd 4	2 dc, inc, 18 dc, (2 dc, inc) ×3, 18 dc, (2 dc, inc) ×2	60
Rnd 5	3 dc, inc, 18 dc, (3 dc, inc) ×3, 18 dc, (3 dc, inc) ×2	66

Rnd 6	4 dc, inc, 18 dc, (4 dc, inc) ×3, 18 dc, (4 dc, inc) ×2	72
Rnd 7	5 dc, inc, 18 dc, (5 dc, inc) ×3, 18 dc, (5 dc, inc) ×2	78
Rnd 8	6 dc, inc, 18 dc, (6 dc, inc) ×3, 18 dc, (6 dc, inc) ×2	84
Rnd 9	7 dc, inc, 18 dc, (7 dc, inc) ×3, 18 dc, (7 dc, inc) ×2	90
Rnd 10	90 dc	90
Rnd 11-19	90 dc	90
Rnd 20-22	90 dc	90
Rnd 23-29	90 dc	90

The increases always sit at the ends of the oval; the 18 dc on each long side do not change. In Rnd 10 insert the hook in the back loop only, to mark the base. In Rnd 20 change to the dusty pink yarn and in Rnd 23 go back to grey. Finish with 1 round of ss (90 stitches) and weave in the ends.

ASSEMBLY

1. Check the size of the base after Rnd 9: about 18 cm by 9 cm.
2. When changing colour, work the last stitch of the previous round with the new colour, so the stripe is clean.
3. Secure the ends of each colour on the inside, under the stripe.
4. Straighten the walls with your hands and fill the basket with paper while you shape it.

Tip: if the oval starts to curl, the stitches are too tight at the ends; if it ripples, you have increased too much. Always count your stitches at the end of each round.

Project 19 · Chunky yarn basket

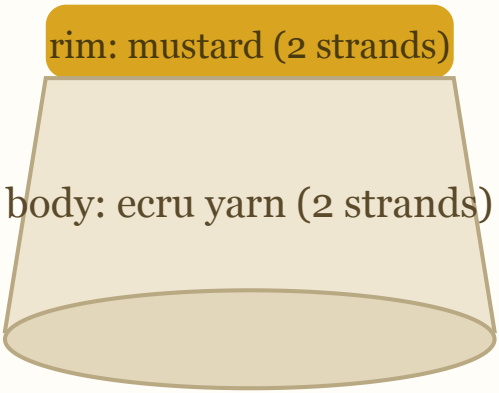
Level: easy · Time: 3 h · Size: 17 cm across × 11 cm high · Yarn: medium-weight cotton, doubled (2 strands held together), 5 mm hook

Working with two strands held together makes a thick, fluffy fabric that grows quickly. This basket, with a slightly narrower opening, is good for small blankets, toys or plants (with the pot inside).

MATERIALS

- ecru yarn (≈ 200 g, used doubled)
- mustard yarn (≈ 40 g, used doubled)
- 5 mm crochet hook
- stitch marker
- large-eyed tapestry needle and scissors

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: body in doubled ecru yarn, rim in doubled mustard.

BASE AND BODY (2 STRANDS OF ECRU HELD TOGETHER; RIM WITH 2 STRANDS OF MUSTARD)

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	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 8	(3 dc, inc, 3 dc) ×6	48
Rnd 9	(7 dc, inc) ×6	54

Rnd 10	(4 dc, inc, 4 dc) ×6	60
Rnd 11	(9 dc, inc) ×6	66
Rnd 12	(5 dc, inc, 5 dc) ×6	72
Rnd 13	72 dc	72
Rnd 14-24	72 dc	72
Rnd 25	(10 dc, dec) ×6	66
Rnd 26-28	66 dc	66

Always work with 2 strands held together, as if they were one. In Rnd 13 insert the hook in the back loop only. Rnd 25 narrows the opening of the basket. In Rnd 26 change to the 2 strands of mustard. Finish with 1 round of ss (66 stitches), cut and weave in the ends.

ASSEMBLY

1. Put together the ends of 2 balls (or use both ends of the same ball, the outer one and the inner one).
2. Make the magic ring with the 2 strands and pull it tight before going on to Rnd 2.
3. Weave in the ends one by one, in different directions, so they do not make a lump.
4. Fold the mustard rim outwards if you want a turn-down finish.

> **Tip:** with two strands it is easy to catch only one and leave the other out. Look at each stitch before you close it: both strands must be caught.

Project 20 · Basket with handles

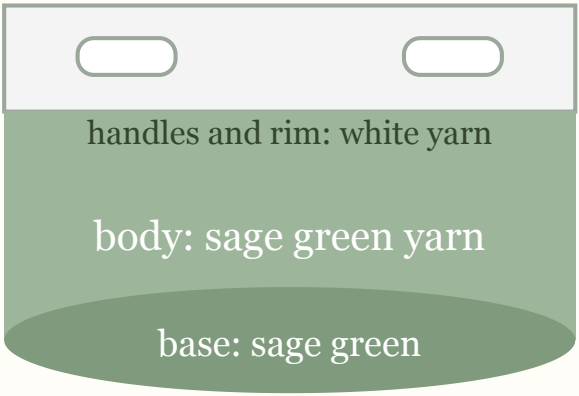
Level: intermediate · Time: 6 h · Size: 18 cm across × 11 cm high · Yarn: medium-weight cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A round basket with two openings to hold it by, made in the crochet itself. It looks good in the living room, with small magazines, balls of yarn or dried fruit.

MATERIALS

- sage green yarn (≈ 110 g)
- white yarn (≈ 25 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- stitch marker
- yarn needle and scissors

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: sage green body, rim with handles in white yarn.

BASE AND BODY (SAGE GREEN 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	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 8	(3 dc, inc, 3 dc) ×6	48
Rnd 9	(7 dc, inc) ×6	54
Rnd 10	(4 dc, inc, 4 dc) ×6	60

Rnd 11	(9 dc, inc) ×6	66
Rnd 12	(5 dc, inc, 5 dc) ×6	72
Rnd 13	(11 dc, inc) ×6	78
Rnd 14	(6 dc, inc, 6 dc) ×6	84
Rnd 15	(13 dc, inc) ×6	90
Rnd 16	(7 dc, inc, 7 dc) ×6	96
Rnd 17	(15 dc, inc) ×6	102
Rnd 18	(8 dc, inc, 8 dc) ×6	108
Rnd 19	(17 dc, inc) ×6	114
Rnd 20	(9 dc, inc, 9 dc) ×6	120
Rnd 21	120 dc	120
Rnd 22-38	120 dc	120

In Rnd 21 insert the hook in the back loop only, so the wall rises straight. At the end of Rnd 38 change to the white yarn.

HANDLE ROUNDS (WHITE YARN)

V39	18 dc, ch 12 (skip 12 stitches), 48 dc, ch 12 (skip 12 stitches), 30 dc	120
V40	18 dc, 12 dc around the chain, 48 dc, 12 dc around the chain, 30 dc	120

The two openings sit opposite each other. In Rnd 40 the stitches around the chain make a strong, soft handle.

FINISHING (WHITE YARN)

Rnd 41-43	120 dc	120

Finish with 1 round of ss (120 stitches), cut and weave in the end.

ASSEMBLY

1. Before Rnd 39, fold the basket in half to check that the handles are on opposite sides.
2. In Rnd 39 do not pull the chains tight: they should be the same length as the 12 stitches you skipped.
3. Weave in the white yarn ends inside the rim, never near the handles.

Tip: if you want even firmer handles, work Rnd 40 twice (Rnd 40 and 41 the same) and then only 2 finishing rounds.

Project 21 · Fruit basket

Level: easy · Time: 5 h · Size: 16 cm base, 22 cm opening × 6 cm high · Yarn: medium-weight cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A wide, low basket with walls that flare out, like a bowl. It shows off the fruit and lets the air circulate.

MATERIALS

- terracotta yarn (≈ 60 g)
- ecru yarn (≈ 40 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- stitch marker
- yarn needle and scissors

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: base and rim in terracotta, walls in ecru yarn.

BASE (TERRACOTTA), WALLS (ECRU) AND RIM (TERRACOTTA)

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

Rnd 22	(9 dc, inc, 9 dc) ×6	120
Rnd 23	120 dc	120
Rnd 24	(19 dc, inc) ×6	126
Rnd 25	126 dc	126
Rnd 26	(10 dc, inc, 10 dc) ×6	132
Rnd 27	132 dc	132
Rnd 28	(21 dc, inc) ×6	138
Rnd 29-30	138 dc	138

In Rnd 19 change to the ecru yarn and insert the hook in the back loop only. The increases every 2 rounds make the wall flare outwards. In Rnd 28 go back to terracotta. Finish with 1 round of ss (138 stitches).

ASSEMBLY

1. Check that the base measures about 16 cm before starting the walls.
2. Weave in the ends in the wall area; on the outside they do not show.
3. Wet the basket, squeeze it out in a towel and leave it to dry upside down over a bowl, so it takes shape.

Tip: wash the fruit before putting it in the basket and wash the basket by hand from time to time. Cotton copes well with lukewarm water.

Project 22 · Square box

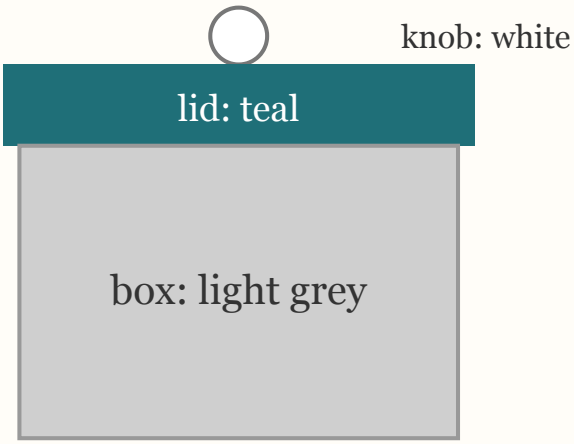
Level: intermediate · Time: 7 h · Size: 15 × 15 cm × 12 cm high · Yarn: medium-weight cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A box with straight corners, with a lid and a knob. It keeps threads, chargers or small papers on the shelf, without showing what is inside.

MATERIALS

- light grey yarn (≈ 130 g)
- teal yarn (≈ 55 g)
- white yarn (≈ 5 g)
- a little polyester toy stuffing (for the knob)
- 2 squares of card of 14.5 cm (optional, for the base and the lid)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook, 4 stitch markers
- yarn needle and scissors

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: light grey box, teal lid, white knob.

BASE (LIGHT GREY YARN, IN ROWS)

L0	31 ch	31
L1	from the 2nd ch: 30 dc	30
L2-34	1 ch, turn, 30 dc	30

The base measures about 15 × 15 cm. Do not cut the yarn: the walls start here.

WALLS (LIGHT GREY YARN, IN ROUNDS)

Rnd 1	120 dc	120
Rnd 2	120 dc	120
Rnd 3-27	120 dc	120

Rnd 1: work 30 dc on each side of the base (on the sides, 30 dc spread over the ends of the 34 rows) and put a marker in each corner. Rnd 2: insert the hook in the back loop only, so the corners are crisp. Close with 1 round of ss (120 stitches).

LID (TEAL YARN)

L0	33 ch	33
L1	from the 2nd ch: 32 dc	32
L2-36	ch 1, turn, 32 dc	32

Rnd 1	128 dc	128
Rnd 2-4	128 dc	128

The lid measures about 16 × 16 cm, a little more than the box. Rnd 1 of the rim: 32 dc on each side. In Rnd 2 insert the hook in the back loop only, so the rim hangs straight.

KNOB (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 the knob before Rnd 5, close it and leave 20 cm of yarn for sewing.

ASSEMBLY

1. If you want a stiffer box, put a square of card in the bottom, on the inside.
2. Sew the knob to the centre of the lid, with small, firm stitches all the way round.
3. For the lid, you can glue the second card on the inside and cover it with a square of fabric.
4. Weave in all the ends and press the corners of the walls with your fingers.

Tip: along the sides of the base, the stitches do not fall exactly on the rows. Do not worry: spread the 30 dc evenly and count them before closing Rnd 1.

Warning: the knob is a small part. Sew it on firmly, pull it hard to check, and keep the box out of the reach of small children.

Project 23 · Desk organiser

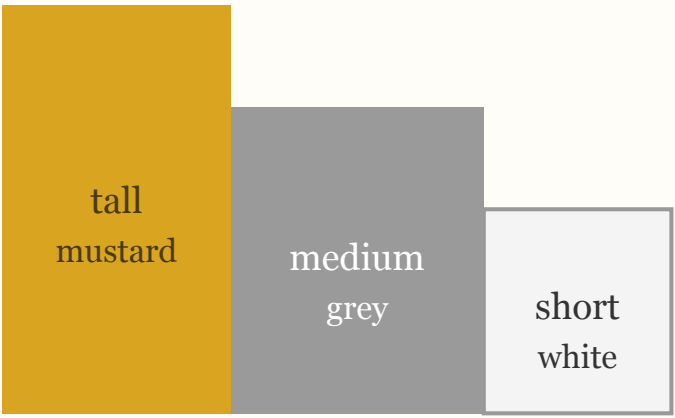
Level: easy · Time: 5 h · Size: 3 pots of 12, 9 and 6 cm high (about 22 cm wide in total) · Yarn: medium-weight cotton, 3.5 mm hook

Three pots of different heights, sewn side by side: the tall one for pencils and pens, the medium one for scissors and rulers, the short one for paper clips and rubbers.

MATERIALS

- mustard yarn (≈ 35 g)
- grey yarn (≈ 30 g)
- white yarn (≈ 15 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- stitch marker
- yarn needle and scissors

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each pot is a piece with its own colour.

TALL POT (MUSTARD 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	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 8	(3 dc, inc, 3 dc) ×6	48
Rnd 9	48 dc	48
Rnd 10-34	48 dc	48

About 7.5 cm across. In Rnd 9 insert the hook in the back loop only. Finish with 1 round of ss (48 stitches) and leave 40 cm of yarn for sewing.

MEDIUM POT (GREY 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	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 8	(3 dc, inc, 3 dc) ×6	48
Rnd 9	(7 dc, inc) ×6	54
Rnd 10	54 dc	54
Rnd 11-29	54 dc	54

About 8.5 cm across. In Rnd 10 insert the hook in the back loop only. Finish with 1 round of ss (54 stitches).

SHORT POT (WHITE 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	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 8	42 dc	42
Rnd 9-21	42 dc	42

About 6.5 cm across. In Rnd 8 insert the hook in the back loop only. Finish with 1 round of ss (42 stitches).

ASSEMBLY

1. Place the 3 pots side by side, in order of height, with the bases level.
2. With the yarn you left on the tall pot, sew it to the medium pot along a vertical line of about 5 cm, starting from the base.
3. Sew the short pot to the medium one the same way, along a line of about 4 cm.
4. Weave in the ends inside the pots.

Tip: to keep the pots nice and straight, put a plastic cup or a cardboard tube of the same size inside. That way they will hold the weight of the scissors.

Project 24 · Magazine holder

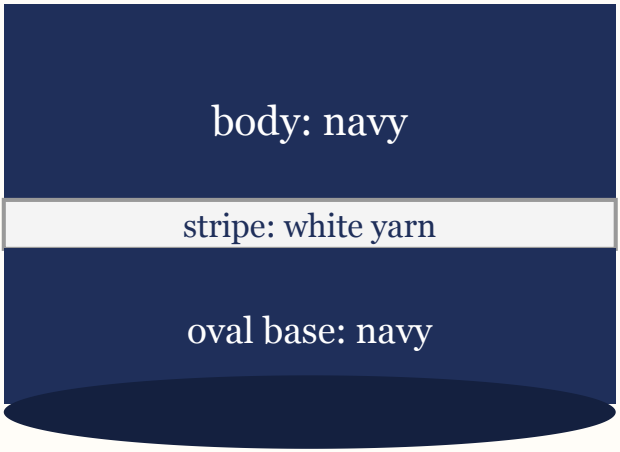
Level: intermediate · Time: 10 h · Size: 29 × 9 cm base × 24 cm high · Yarn: medium-weight cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A tall, narrow magazine holder that stands beside the sofa. It holds magazines, folded newspapers or recipe books.

MATERIALS

- navy yarn (≈ 250 g)
- white yarn (≈ 25 g)
- stiff card: 1 rectangle of 28 × 8 cm for the base and 2 of 27 × 22 cm for the long sides (optional)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook, 2 stitch markers
- yarn needle and scissors

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: navy body with a white stripe.

OVAL BASE (NAVY YARN)

Make 41 ch. Rnd 1: starting in the 2nd ch from the hook, work 39 dc; in the last ch work 3 dc; continue along the other side of the chain with 38 dc; in the 1st ch work 2 dc. Close with ss: 82 stitches. Mark the two ends.

Rnd 2	inc, 38 dc, 3 inc, 38 dc, 2 inc	88
Rnd 3	dc, inc, 38 dc, (dc, inc) ×3, 38 dc, (dc, inc) ×2	94
Rnd 4	2 dc, inc, 38 dc, (2 dc, inc) ×3, 38 dc, (2 dc, inc) ×2	100
Rnd 5	3 dc, inc, 38 dc, (3 dc, inc) ×3, 38 dc, (3 dc, inc) ×2	106
Rnd 6	4 dc, inc, 38 dc, (4 dc, inc) ×3, 38 dc, (4 dc, inc) ×2	112
Rnd 7	5 dc, inc, 38 dc, (5 dc, inc) ×3, 38 dc, (5 dc, inc) ×2	118

Rnd 8	6 dc, inc, 38 dc, (6 dc, inc) ×3, 38 dc, (6 dc, inc) ×2	124
Rnd 9	7 dc, inc, 38 dc, (7 dc, inc) ×3, 38 dc, (7 dc, inc) ×2	130
Rnd 10	8 dc, inc, 38 dc, (8 dc, inc) ×3, 38 dc, (8 dc, inc) ×2	136

BODY (NAVY YARN AND WHITE STRIPE)

Rnd 11	136 dc	136
Rnd 12-26	136 htr	136
Rnd 27-28	136 htr	136
Rnd 29-40	136 htr	136
Rnd 41-43	136 dc	136

In Rnd 11 insert the hook in the back loop only. In the htr rounds, start each round with ch 2 (does not count as a stitch) and close with ss in the 1st htr. In Rnd 27 change to the white yarn and in Rnd 29 go back to navy. The 3 final dc rounds give a firm rim. Finish with 1 round of ss (136 stitches).

ASSEMBLY

1. Put the base card inside the base.
2. If you use the side cards, press them against the long walls on the inside; they stay in place by pressure.
3. Weave in the ends along the htr rounds, on the inside.
4. Fill it with magazines and adjust the shape with your hands.

> **Tip:** half treble crochet rises almost twice as high as double crochet and uses less yarn. It is the best choice for tall pieces that need to be finished faster.

Project 25 · Laundry bag

Level: intermediate · Time: 20 h · Size: 27 cm across × 42 cm high · Yarn: medium-weight cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A big, soft bag with a firm base and a drawstring to close it. It looks good hanging behind the door or standing in the bedroom.

MATERIALS

- dark grey yarn (≈ 450 g)
- white yarn (≈ 50 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- stitch marker
- yarn needle and scissors

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: dark grey bag, rim and drawstring in white yarn.

BASE (DARK GREY 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	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 8	(3 dc, inc, 3 dc) ×6	48
Rnd 9	(7 dc, inc) ×6	54
Rnd 10	(4 dc, inc, 4 dc) ×6	60

Rnd 11	(9 dc, inc) ×6	66
Rnd 12	(5 dc, inc, 5 dc) ×6	72
Rnd 13	(11 dc, inc) ×6	78
Rnd 14	(6 dc, inc, 6 dc) ×6	84
Rnd 15	(13 dc, inc) ×6	90
Rnd 16	(7 dc, inc, 7 dc) ×6	96
Rnd 17	(15 dc, inc) ×6	102
Rnd 18	(8 dc, inc, 8 dc) ×6	108
Rnd 19	(17 dc, inc) ×6	114
Rnd 20	(9 dc, inc, 9 dc) ×6	120
Rnd 21	(19 dc, inc) ×6	126
Rnd 22	(10 dc, inc, 10 dc) ×6	132
Rnd 23	(21 dc, inc) ×6	138
Rnd 24	(11 dc, inc, 11 dc) ×6	144
Rnd 25	(23 dc, inc) ×6	150
Rnd 26	(12 dc, inc, 12 dc) ×6	156
Rnd 27	(25 dc, inc) ×6	162
Rnd 28	(13 dc, inc, 13 dc) ×6	168
Rnd 29	(27 dc, inc) ×6	174
Rnd 30	(14 dc, inc, 14 dc) ×6	180

The base measures about 27 cm across. If it starts to ripple, undo the last round and tighten your stitches a little more.

BODY (DARK GREY YARN)

Rnd 31	180 dc	180
Rnd 32-63	180 tr	180

In Rnd 31 insert the hook in the back loop only. In the tr rounds, start with ch 3 (counts as the 1st tr) and close with ss in the 3rd ch. At the end of Rnd 63 change to the white yarn.

DRAWSTRING CHANNEL (WHITE YARN)

V64	(4 tr, ch 2, skip 2 stitches) ×30	180
V65	(4 tr, 2 tr around the 2 ch) ×30	180

FINISHING (WHITE YARN)

Rnd 66-67	180 dc	180

Finish with 1 round of ss (180 stitches), cut and weave in the end.

DRAWSTRING (WHITE YARN, DOUBLED)

With 2 strands of white held together, make a chain of 150 cm. Work back along it with 1 ss in each ch. Tie a knot at each end and cut the yarn 2 cm from the knot.

ASSEMBLY

1. Thread the drawstring through the 30 holes of Rnd 64, going in and out in turn.
2. Bring the two ends of the drawstring together on the same side and tie a firm knot.

3. Weave in all the ends with the tapestry needle, on the inside of the bag.
4. Wash the bag by hand or in the machine, on a cold delicate cycle, inside a pillowcase.

Tip: this is a long project. Work 4 or 5 rounds a day and mark in the table where you stopped. The treble body grows quickly and is a nice break after the base.

Warning: long cords can wrap around the neck. Keep the bag away from cots, children's beds and out of the reach of small children.

Project 26 · Bread basket

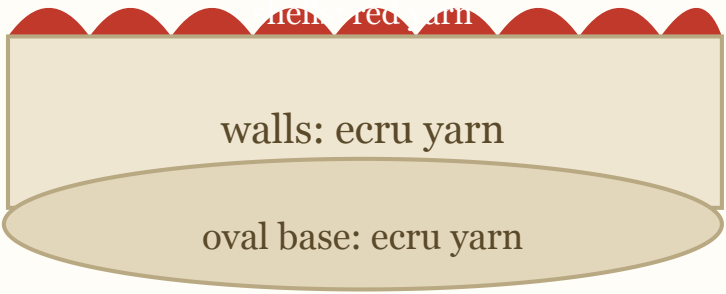
Level: intermediate · Time: 5 h · Size: 22 × 10 cm base × 6 cm high · Yarn: medium-weight cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A low oval basket to bring bread to the table, with a shell edging that gives it the look of a Sunday tablecloth.

MATERIALS

- ecru yarn (≈ 70 g)
- red yarn (≈ 20 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook, 2 stitch markers
- yarn needle and scissors
- a fabric napkin (to line it)

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: ecru basket with a shell edging in red yarn.

OVAL BASE AND WALLS (ECRU YARN)

Make 26 ch. Rnd 1: starting in the 2nd ch from the hook, work 24 dc; in the last ch work 3 dc; continue along the other side of the chain with 23 dc; in the 1st ch work 2 dc. Close with ss: 52 stitches. Mark the two ends.

Rnd 2	inc, 23 dc, 3 inc, 23 dc, 2 inc	58
Rnd 3	dc, inc, 23 dc, (dc, inc) ×3, 23 dc, (dc, inc) ×2	64
Rnd 4	2 dc, inc, 23 dc, (2 dc, inc) ×3, 23 dc, (2 dc, inc) ×2	70
Rnd 5	3 dc, inc, 23 dc, (3 dc, inc) ×3, 23 dc, (3 dc, inc) ×2	76
Rnd 6	4 dc, inc, 23 dc, (4 dc, inc) ×3, 23 dc, (4 dc, inc) ×2	82
Rnd 7	5 dc, inc, 23 dc, (5 dc, inc) ×3, 23 dc, (5 dc, inc) ×2	88
Rnd 8	6 dc, inc, 23 dc, (6 dc, inc) ×3, 23 dc, (6 dc, inc) ×2	94
Rnd 9	7 dc, inc, 23 dc, (7 dc, inc) ×3, 23 dc, (7 dc, inc) ×2	100
Rnd 10	8 dc, inc, 23 dc, (8 dc, inc) ×3, 23 dc, (8 dc, inc) ×2	106
Rnd 11	9 dc, inc, 23 dc, (9 dc, inc) ×3, 23 dc, (9 dc, inc) ×2	112
Rnd 12	112 dc	112
Rnd 13-24	112 dc	112

In Rnd 12 insert the hook in the back loop only. At the end of Rnd 24 change to the red yarn.

SHELL EDGING (RED YARN)

V25	(skip 1 stitch, 5 tr in the next stitch, skip 1 stitch, 1 dc in the next stitch) ×28	168

Rnd 25 uses the 112 stitches (28 shells of 4 stitches each) and ends up with 28 shells of 5 tr and 28 dc, 168 stitches in all. Close with ss in the 1st stitch, cut and weave in the end.

ASSEMBLY

1. Check that the base measures about 22 × 10 cm after Rnd 11.
2. Weave in the ends on the inside, under the shells.
3. Wet, squeeze out and leave to dry with paper inside, so the walls stay straight and the shells open.
4. Line it with a fabric napkin before putting the bread in.

Tip: the napkin protects the crochet from crumbs and can go in the machine whenever you like. Wash the basket by hand, in lukewarm water, when needed.

Table and wall decor

Small pieces that change the house

A table laid with crochet immediately feels more welcoming. In this chapter you will find ten designs for the table and the wall: doilies, coasters, a runner, a picture and a garland. Almost all start with a magic ring and grow round by round, so they are great for practising increases. Start with the coasters: they are quick and give you lots of confidence.

Project 27 · Round doily

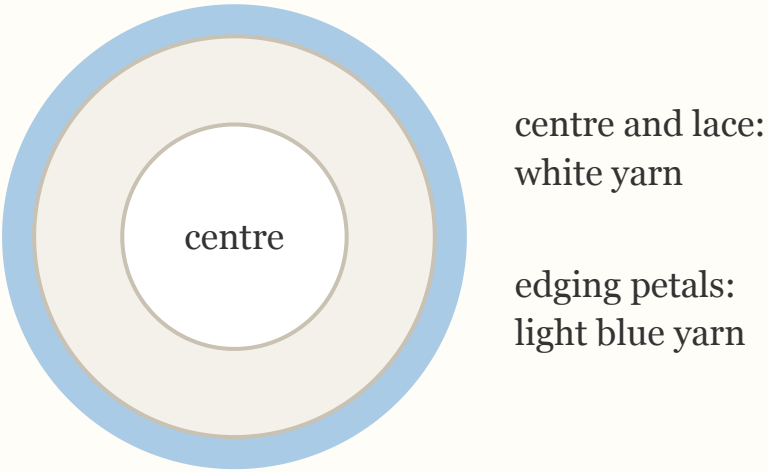
Level: easy · Time: 3 h · Size: 18 cm across · Yarn: cotton, 2.5 mm hook

A classic doily, with a plain centre and a simple lace edging. It looks lovely under a vase, a fruit bowl or a lamp.

MATERIALS

- white yarn (≈ 22 g)
- light blue yarn (≈ 6 g)
- 2.5 mm crochet hook
- stitch marker, tapestry needle, scissors

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is a part of the doily.

CENTRE (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	(dc, inc, 2 dc) ×8	40
Rnd 6	(4 dc, inc) ×8	48
Rnd 7	(2 dc, inc, 3 dc) ×8	56
Rnd 8	(6 dc, inc) ×8	64

Close each round with 1 ss in the 1st stitch. At the end of Rnd 8 you have 64 stitches and a plain circle of about 8 cm. Do not cut the yarn.

LACE EDGING (WHITE AND LIGHT BLUE YARN)

V9	ch 4 (counts as 1 tr and 1 ch). (Skip 1 stitch, 1 tr in the next stitch, ch 1) ×31. Skip the last stitch and join with 1 ss in the 3rd of the 4 starting ch.	32 tr and 32 spaces
V10	1 ss in the 1st space, ch 3 (counts as 1 tr), 2 tr in the same space, ch 1. (3 tr in the next space, ch 1) ×31. Join with 1 ss in the top of the ch 3.	32 groups of 3 tr
V11	1 ss in each of the next 2 tr and in the space. (1 dc in the 1-ch space, ch 5) ×32. Join with 1 ss in the 1st dc. Cut the white yarn.	32 arches
V12	Attach the light blue yarn to an arch. In each arch: (1 dc, 1 htr, 3 tr, 1 htr, 1 dc). Join with 1 ss in the 1st dc.	32 petals

ASSEMBLY

1. Fasten off the ends with the tapestry needle, passing them through the stitches on the wrong side.
2. Wet the doily in cold water and squeeze it out in a towel, without wringing.
3. Stretch it out on a folded towel, with pins in each petal, and leave to dry.

Tip: count the groups of 3 tr in Rnd 10 before going on: if you have 32, the edging comes out neat and flat.

Warning: never leave lit candles on or near the doily. For decoration, use LED candles only.

Project 28 · Table mat

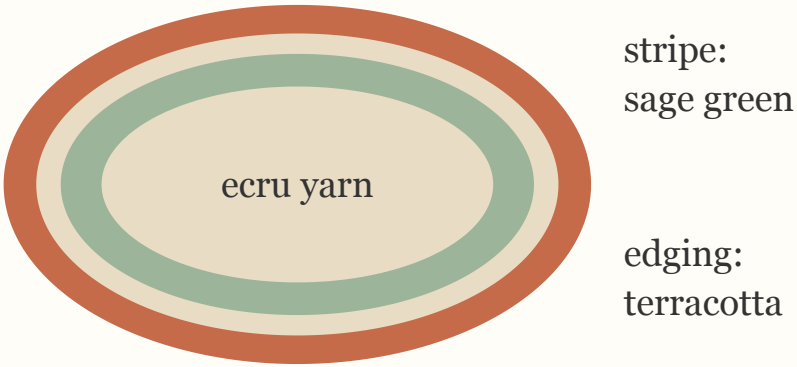
Level: intermediate · Time: 4 h · Size: 26 × 15 cm · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A thick, striped oval mat for the centre of the table. It is for putting down the fruit bowl, the teapot or a vase.

MATERIALS

- ecru yarn (≈ 30 g)
- sage green yarn (≈ 15 g)
- terracotta yarn (≈ 10 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- stitch marker, tapestry needle, scissors

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is a stripe of the mat.

OVAL MAT (ECRU, SAGE GREEN AND TERRACOTTA)

Start with 21 ch. Rnd 1 is worked on both sides of the chain, starting in the 2nd ch from the hook: first on one side and, after turning the piece, on the other. Mark the 1st stitch of each round.

Rnd 1	inc, 18 dc, inc, inc, 18 dc, inc	44
Rnd 2	2 inc, 18 dc, 4 inc, 18 dc, 2 inc	52
Rnd 3	(dc, inc) ×2, 18 dc, (dc, inc) ×4, 18 dc, (dc, inc) ×2	60
Rnd 4	(2 dc, inc) ×2, 18 dc, (2 dc, inc) ×4, 18 dc, (2 dc, inc) ×2	68
Rnd 5	(3 dc, inc) ×2, 18 dc, (3 dc, inc) ×4, 18 dc, (3 dc, inc) ×2	76
Rnd 6	(4 dc, inc) ×2, 18 dc, (4 dc, inc) ×4, 18 dc, (4 dc, inc) ×2	84
Rnd 7	(5 dc, inc) ×2, 18 dc, (5 dc, inc) ×4, 18 dc, (5 dc, inc) ×2	92
Rnd 8	(6 dc, inc) ×2, 18 dc, (6 dc, inc) ×4, 18 dc, (6 dc, inc) ×2	100
Rnd 9	(7 dc, inc) ×2, 18 dc, (7 dc, inc) ×4, 18 dc, (7 dc, inc) ×2	108
Rnd 10	(8 dc, inc) ×2, 18 dc, (8 dc, inc) ×4, 18 dc, (8 dc, inc) ×2	116
Rnd 11	(9 dc, inc) ×2, 18 dc, (9 dc, inc) ×4, 18 dc, (9 dc, inc) ×2	124
Rnd 12	(10 dc, inc) ×2, 18 dc, (10 dc, inc) ×4, 18 dc, (10 dc, inc) ×2	132

The increases always sit at the curved ends; the 18 dc on each side stay straight. At the end of Rnd 12 you have 132 stitches. Then work 1 round of ss in terracotta, 1 ss in each stitch (132), and cut the yarn.

ASSEMBLY

1. Fasten off all the ends on the wrong side, each one inside its own colour.
2. If the ends ripple, wet the mat, stretch it out on a towel and leave it to dry flat.

Tip: if the curved ends start to frill, your hook is too tight: change to 4 mm just for the last rounds.

Project 29 · Coaster set

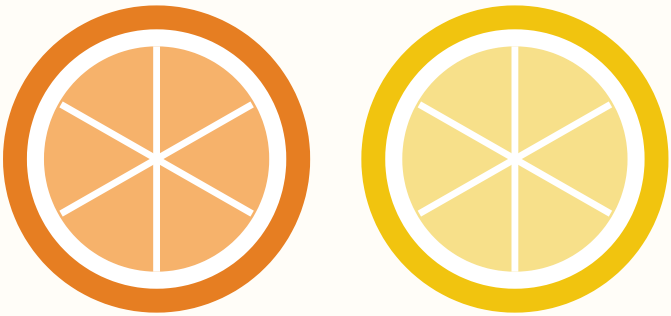
Level: easy · Time: 1 h per coaster · Size: 10 cm across · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

Four coasters shaped like orange and lemon slices. They brighten the table in summer and are a simple, pretty gift.

MATERIALS (FOR 2 ORANGES AND 2 LEMONS)

- light orange yarn (≈ 10 g) and orange yarn (≈ 8 g)
- light yellow yarn (≈ 10 g) and yellow yarn (≈ 8 g)
- white yarn (≈ 8 g)
- 3 mm crochet hook
- stitch marker, tapestry needle, scissors

COLOUR MAP



light orange, white, orange light yellow, white, yellow

Colour map: flesh, white pith and peel of each fruit.

ORANGE SLICE (MAKE 2)

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	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 8	(3 dc, inc, 3 dc) ×6	48
Rnd 9	48 dc	48

Rnd 1 to 6 in light orange yarn, Rnd 7 in white, Rnd 8 and 9 in orange. Close with 1 ss and cut the yarn, leaving 15 cm. You have 48 stitches.

LEMON SLICE (MAKE 2)

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	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 8	(3 dc, inc, 3 dc) ×6	48

Rnd 9	48 dc	48

Rnd 1 to 6 in light yellow yarn, Rnd 7 in white, Rnd 8 and 9 in yellow. You have 48 stitches.

ASSEMBLY

1. Thread 50 cm of white yarn onto the tapestry needle.
2. Embroider 3 straight lines that cross in the centre, from one side of the flesh to the other: this makes 6 segments.
3. Fasten off all the ends on the wrong side and press the slice with a warm iron, with a damp cloth on top.

Tip: embroider over the increases of the rounds: they already form 6 lines and help to divide the segments evenly.

Project 30 · Table runner

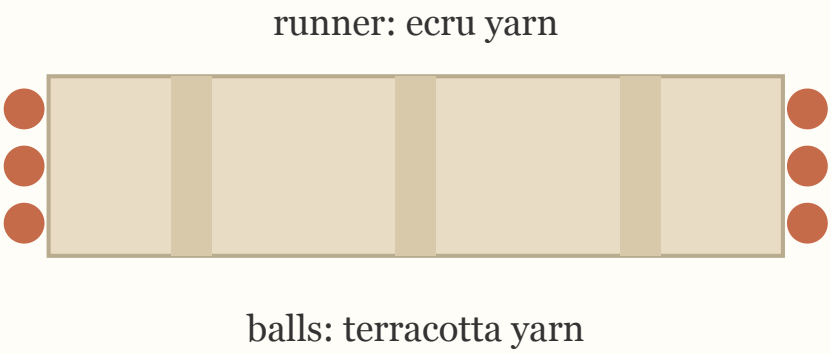
Level: intermediate · Time: 14 h · Size: 26 × 85 cm · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A light runner, with mesh bands and solid bands, and little balls hanging from the ends. It gives any table a festive air.

MATERIALS

- ecru yarn (≈ 200 g)
- terracotta yarn (≈ 20 g)
- a little polyester toy stuffing
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- stitch marker, tapestry needle, scissors

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: the runner is ecru and the balls are terracotta.

RUNNER (ECRU YARN, IN ROWS)

L1	49 ch. 1 tr in the 4th ch from the hook and 1 tr in each following ch (the 3 skipped ch count as 1 tr). Turn.	47
L2-3	Solid row: ch 3 (counts as 1 tr), 1 tr in each stitch to the end. Turn.	47
L4-9	Mesh row: ch 3 (counts as 1 tr), (ch 1, skip 1 stitch, 1 tr in the next stitch) ×23. Turn.	47 (24 tr and 23 ch)
L10-11	Solid row: ch 3, 1 tr in each tr and 1 tr in each 1-ch space. Turn.	47
L12-67	Repeat rows 4 to 11, 7 more times (6 mesh rows and 2 solid rows each time).	47

L68	1 solid row. Do not cut the yarn.	47
Edging	1 round of dc around the whole runner: 1 dc in each stitch at the ends, 2 dc along the side of each row and 3 dc in each corner. Close with 1 ss.	1 round

Tension: 18 tr = 10 cm. The runner measures about 26 cm wide and 85 cm long. In the mesh, the tr always goes on top of the tr of the previous row.

BALLS (TERRACOTTA YARN, MAKE 10)

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

Stuff well before Rnd 7. Close the 6 stitches with the tapestry needle and leave a 20 cm strand. Each ball measures about 2.5 cm.

ASSEMBLY

1. On each short end of the runner, mark 5 stitches at equal distances.
2. With the strand of each ball, make 8 ch and attach them to the edging, at the marked stitch. The ball hangs 3 cm below the edging.

3. Make 3 firm knots, pass the yarn through the inside of the edging and cut.
4. Wet the runner, stretch it out on towels and leave it to dry flat.

Tip: count the 47 stitches at the end of each row. In the mesh, if you end up with 46, it is almost always the last tr at the top of the ch 3 of the previous row that is missing.

Warning: the balls are small parts and can cause choking. Attach them firmly, check them from time to time and keep the runner out of the reach of small children.

Project 31 · Rectangular placemat

Level: easy · Time: 9 h · Size: 41 × 30 cm · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A placemat with a rice-grain texture, firm and easy to wash, with a matching napkin ring. Make one per person or give a pair.

MATERIALS (1 PLACEMAT AND 1 RING)

- blue-grey yarn (≈ 145 g)
- white yarn (≈ 20 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- stitch marker, tapestry needle, scissors

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: blue-grey placemat with a white edging; striped ring.

PLACEMAT (BLUE-GREY YARN, IN ROWS)

L1	81 ch. 1 dc in the 2nd ch from the hook, 1 htr in the next ch; (1 dc, 1 htr) to the end. Turn.	80
L2-48	ch 1 (does not count). (1 dc in the htr, 1 htr in the dc) ×40. Turn.	80
Edging 1	White yarn. 1 round of dc all round: 1 dc in each stitch along the top and bottom, 1 dc in the side of each row and 3 dc in each corner. Close with 1 ss.	1 round
Edging 2	1 ss in each stitch of the previous round. Cut the yarn.	1 round

The dc always goes on top of the htr, and the htr on top of the dc: that is what makes the grain. Tension: 20 stitches = 10 cm. The placemat measures about 41 × 30 cm.

NAPKIN RING (BLUE-GREY AND WHITE)

Make 30 ch and join with 1 ss in the 1st ch, without twisting. Rnd 1 is worked on top of this closed chain, 1 dc in each ch.

Rnd 1	30 dc	30
Rnd 2	30 dc	30
Rnd 3	30 dc	30
Rnd 4-5	30 dc	30
Rnd 6	30 dc	30
Rnd 7-8	30 dc	30

Close with 1 ss and cut the yarn. The ring measures about 4 cm high and 4.5 cm across.

ASSEMBLY

1. Fasten off the placemat ends on the wrong side, along the edging.
2. On the ring, hide the stripe yarns on the inside, each one in its own colour.
3. Press the placemat with a warm iron, on the wrong side, with a damp cloth on top.

Tip: put a marker in the last stitch of each row; that way you do not forget it and the sides stay straight.

Project 32 · Plant pot cover

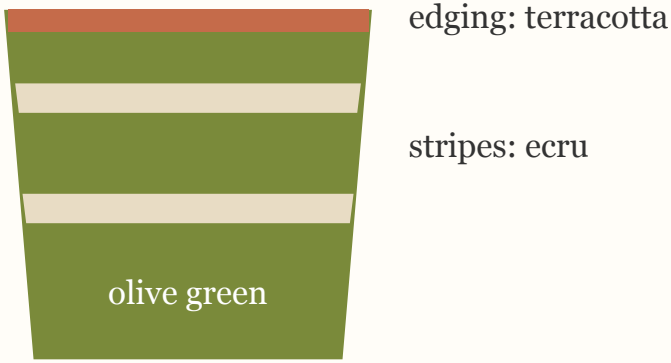
Level: easy · Time: 4 h · Size: 11 cm base, 10 cm high · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A striped cover to hide a plain plastic pot. It changes the look of a plant in the kitchen or living room.

MATERIALS

- olive green yarn (≈ 50 g)
- ecru yarn (≈ 15 g)
- terracotta yarn (≈ 5 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- stitch marker, tapestry needle, scissors
- plastic pot with a 10–11 cm base, and saucer

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: olive green cover with ecru stripes and a terracotta edging.

BASE AND WALLS (OLIVE GREEN AND ECRU)

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	(2 dc, inc, 2 dc) ×6	36
Rnd 7	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 8	(3 dc, inc, 3 dc) ×6	48
Rnd 9	(7 dc, inc) ×6	54
Rnd 10	(4 dc, inc, 4 dc) ×6	60
Rnd 11	60 dc	60
Rnd 12-17	60 dc	60
Rnd 18	(14 dc, inc) ×4	64
Rnd 19-20	64 dc	64
Rnd 21-24	64 dc	64
Rnd 25-26	64 dc	64
Rnd 27-28	64 htr	64

Rnd 11 is worked in the back loop of the stitches only: this forms the fold between the base and the wall. In Rnd 27 and 28 start with ch 2, which do not count. At the end you have 64 stitches. For the edging, change to terracotta and work 1 ss in each stitch (64). Cut the yarn.

ASSEMBLY

1. Fasten off the stripe yarns on the wrong side, each one in its own colour.
2. Put the pot with its saucer inside the cover. The cover should fit snugly, without stretching too much.

Tip: water the plant outside the cover and wait for it to drain; that way the crochet stays dry and lasts much longer.

Project 33 · Flower wall picture

Level: intermediate · Time: 4 h · Size: 15 cm across · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

A little picture made in an embroidery hoop, with a raised sunflower. It looks lovely in the kitchen, the hallway or a bedroom.

MATERIALS

- light blue yarn (≈ 18 g) and white yarn (≈ 8 g)
- brown yarn (≈ 6 g) and yellow yarn (≈ 8 g)
- green yarn (≈ 5 g)
- wooden embroidery hoop of 15 cm
- 3 mm crochet hook
- stitch marker, tapestry needle, scissors

COLOUR MAP



background: light blue
ring: white
middle: brown
petals: yellow
stem and leaf: green

Colour map: each colour is a piece of the picture.

BACKGROUND (LIGHT BLUE AND WHITE)

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	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 8	(3 dc, inc, 3 dc) ×6	48
Rnd 9	(7 dc, inc) ×6	54
Rnd 10	(4 dc, inc, 4 dc) ×6	60
Rnd 11	(9 dc, inc) ×6	66

Rnd 12	(5 dc, inc, 5 dc) ×6	72

The circle measures about 13 cm. Do not cut the white yarn: it is used to attach the background to the ring (see Assembly).

SUNFLOWER MIDDLE (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

Close with 1 ss and cut the brown yarn. You have 30 stitches.

PETALS, LEAF AND STEM (YELLOW AND GREEN)

P1	Attach the yellow yarn with 1 ss in a stitch of the middle. (ch 6; from the 2nd ch from the hook: 1 dc, 1 htr, 2 tr, 1 htr; skip 2 stitches of the middle and work 1 ss in the next stitch) ×10.	10 petals
Leaf	12 ch. From the 2nd ch from the hook: 1 ss, 1 dc, 1 htr, 4 tr, 1 htr, 2 dc, 1 ss. Work ch 2 and repeat on the other side of the chain.	22 stitches
Stem	20 ch. 1 ss in each ch, from the 2nd ch from the hook.	19

ASSEMBLY

1. Separate the two rings of the hoop. Put the inner ring under the background.

2. With the white yarn from Rnd 12, work 1 round of dc around the ring, catching 1 stitch of Rnd 12 in each dc (72). The crochet is held and stretched on the ring.
3. Sew the stem on, starting from the bottom edge, then the leaf next to the stem.
4. Sew the sunflower over the stem, through the middle only, so the petals stay loose and raised.
5. Fit the outer ring, tighten the screw and hang it by the screw.

Tip: before sewing, pin the flower in place and look at the picture from a distance. That way you choose the best place for it.

Project 34 · Wall star

Level: intermediate · Time: 3 h · Size: 14 cm from point to point · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A soft star, lightly stuffed, to hang on a bedroom wall or on a door. It looks pretty all year round.

MATERIALS

- mustard yarn (≈ 15 g)
- white yarn (≈ 15 g)
- polyester toy stuffing (≈ 10 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- stitch marker, tapestry needle, scissors

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: mustard front and white back.

STAR CENTRE (MAKE 1 IN MUSTARD AND 1 IN 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
Rnd 5	(dc, inc, 2 dc) ×5	25
Rnd 6	(4 dc, inc) ×5	30

Close with 1 ss. You have 30 stitches: 6 for each of the 5 points.

POINTS (5 ON EACH STAR, IN ROWS)

L1	1 dc in each of the next 6 stitches of Rnd 6. Turn.	6
L2	ch 1 (does not count), 6 dc. Turn.	6
L3	ch 1, dec, 2 dc, dec. Turn.	4
L4	ch 1, 4 dc. Turn.	4
L5	ch 1, 2 dec. Turn.	2
L6	ch 1, dec. Cut the yarn.	1

Attach the yarn in the stitch next to the point you just finished and work the next point. Repeat until you have 5 points.

ASSEMBLY

1. Fasten off the ends of the points on the wrong side.
2. Put the two stars together, wrong sides together, with the points well lined up.

3. With white yarn, work dc around both layers together, with 3 dc at the tip of each point.
4. Before closing the last point, stuff the star with a little stuffing, pushing it into the points.
5. At the top tip, make 15 ch and attach them with 1 ss in the same stitch: this is the loop for hanging.

Tip: use little stuffing: the star should be fluffy but flat, so it sits well on the wall.

Warning: the stuffing must be well enclosed inside. Never hang the star over a cot or a child's bed, and keep the loop short.

Project 35 · Flower garland

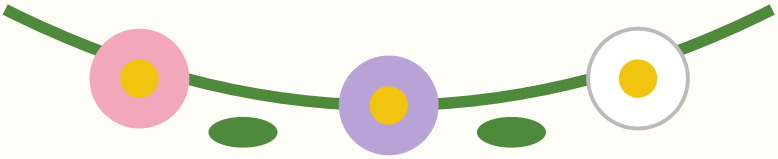
Level: easy · Time: 5 h · Size: 150 cm long · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

A garland of ten small flowers, with leaves, on a green cord. It decorates a window, a shelf or the wall at a party.

MATERIALS

- yellow yarn (≈ 5 g)
- pink yarn (≈ 8 g), lilac yarn (≈ 6 g) and white yarn (≈ 6 g)
- green yarn (≈ 15 g)
- 3 mm crochet hook
- tapestry needle, scissors

COLOUR MAP



middle: yellow · petals: pink, lilac, white
cord and leaves: green

Colour map: yellow middle, petals in three colours, green cord and leaves.

FLOWER MIDDLE (YELLOW YARN, MAKE 10)

Rnd 1	5 dc in MR	5
Rnd 2	5 inc	10

Close with 1 ss and cut the yellow yarn. You have 10 stitches.

PETALS, LEAVES AND CORD (IN ROWS)

Petals	Attach the petal yarn (4 pink flowers, 3 lilac, 3 white) in a stitch of the middle. (5 tr in the next stitch, 1 ss in the next stitch) ×5. Cut the yarn, leaving 20 cm.	5 petals
Leaf	9 ch. From the 2nd ch from the hook: 1 ss, 1 dc, 1 htr, 2 tr, 1 htr, 1 dc, 1 ss. Work ch 1 and repeat on the other side of the chain. Make 10 leaves.	16

Cord	12 ch and 1 ss in the 1st ch (loop). Carry on with 250 ch. At the end, 12 ch and 1 ss in the 250th ch (loop). Work back along the chain with 1 ss in each of the 250 ch.	250

The flower measures about 5 cm. The cord measures about 150 cm, with a loop at each end.

ASSEMBLY

1. Lay the cord out on the table. Mark the middle and then a point every 12 cm in both directions: this gives 10 marks.
2. Sew a leaf on at each mark, under the cord.
3. Sew a flower on top of each leaf, with the yarn you left. Alternate the colours: pink, lilac, white.
4. Make 3 knots on the wrong side of each flower and hide the yarns.

Tip: if you want a bigger garland, add 12 cm of chain and one flower at a time. Count 20 ch for every 12 cm.

Warning: never hang the garland over cots or children's beds: the long cord and the small flowers are dangerous for the youngest. If you put it near lights or candles, use LED candles only.

Project 36 · Bottle cover

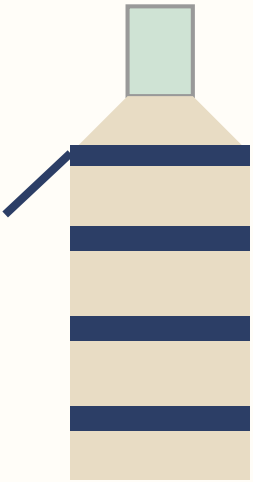
Level: intermediate · Time: 5 h · Size: 7.5 cm base, 21 cm high · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A striped cover for an empty wine bottle. It turns the bottle into a pretty vase for dried flowers, or a wrapping for giving a bottle as a gift.

MATERIALS

- ecru yarn (≈ 45 g)
- navy yarn (≈ 20 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- stitch marker, tapestry needle, scissors
- wine bottle about 7.5 cm across

COLOUR MAP



cover: ecru yarn

stripes and cord: navy

Colour map: ecru cover with navy stripes and cord.

COVER (ECRU AND NAVY)

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	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 8	42 dc	42
Rnd 9-12	42 htr	42
Rnd 13-14	42 htr	42

Rnd 15-18	42 htr	42
Rnd 19-20	42 htr	42
Rnd 21-24	42 htr	42
Rnd 25-26	42 htr	42
Rnd 27-30	42 htr	42
Rnd 31	(5 dc, dec) ×6	36
Rnd 32	(4 dc, dec) ×6	30
Rnd 33	(3 dc, dec) ×6	24
Rnd 34	24 dc	24

Rnd 8 is worked in the back loop only, to mark the bottom. In the htr rounds start with ch 2, which do not count, and close with 1 ss. After Rnd 30, put the bottle inside the cover and work the decreases with the bottle inside. At the end you have 24 stitches; close with 1 ss and cut the yarn.

CORD (NAVY)

L1	70 ch. 1 ss in each ch, from the 2nd ch from the hook.	69

ASSEMBLY

1. Fasten off the stripe yarns inside the cover, each one in its own colour.
2. Thread the cord between the stitches of Rnd 30, going in and out every 3 stitches.

3. Pull the cord around the neck of the bottle and tie a bow.

Tip: take the bottle with you while you crochet and try the cover on from Rnd 12: if it is loose, work the htr rounds with a 3 mm hook.

Warning: if you use the bottle as a candle holder, never light a real candle: use LED candles only, because crochet catches fire easily.

Kitchen and bathroom

Crochet that works every day

In this chapter there are 8 useful pieces for the kitchen and the bathroom. All use 100% cotton yarn, which absorbs water, stands up to washing and does not melt with heat. They are good projects for practising rounds, and they are finished quickly. Start with the scrubbies: you can make a set in one afternoon.

Project 37 · Scrubbies

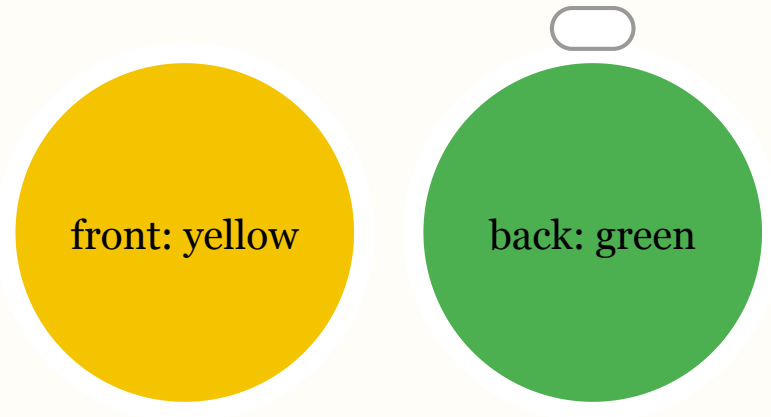
Level: easy · Time: 1 h · Size: 9 cm across · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A round, two-sided scrubby for washing up or wiping the worktop. It is thick, dries quickly and can go in the machine. Make several at once, in different colours.

MATERIALS

- yellow 100% cotton yarn (≈ 8 g)
- green 100% cotton yarn (≈ 8 g)
- white 100% cotton yarn (≈ 3 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is one piece.

FRONT (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	(4 dc, inc) ×6	36
Rnd 7	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 8	(6 dc, inc) ×6	48

Close with 1 ss in the 1st stitch. You have 48 stitches. Cut the yarn and weave in the end.

BACK (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

Work Rnd 5 and 7 in the back loop only of each stitch: this makes raised stripes that scrub better. Close with 1 ss. You have 48 stitches. Cut the yarn and weave in the end.

ASSEMBLY

1. Put the two sides together, wrong sides together, with the stitches lined up.
2. Attach the white yarn in a stitch of the edge. Work 1 dc in each stitch, catching both sides at the same time: 48 dc.
3. At the end of the round, work 12 ch and 1 ss in the same stitch: this is the loop for hanging.
4. Cut the yarn and weave in the ends between the two sides.

Tip: use only 100% cotton yarn: acrylic does not absorb water. Wash the scrubbies in the machine at 60 °C once a week and leave them to dry hanging from the loop.

Project 38 · Oven mitts

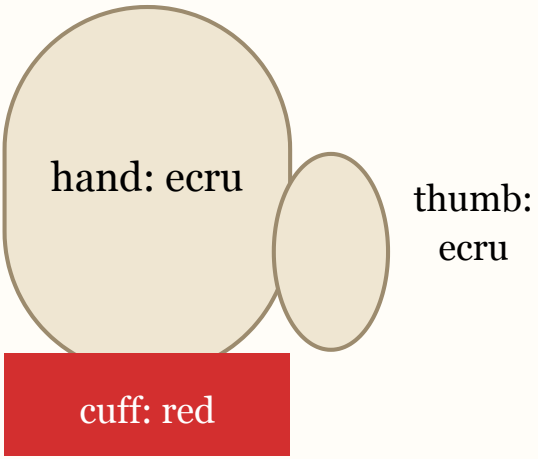
Level: intermediate · Time: 6 h (one mitt) · Size: 21 cm long, 13 cm wide · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

An oven mitt with a thumb, made in two layers to protect better from the heat. The red cuff gives it a cheerful look in the kitchen. For a pair, make everything twice.

MATERIALS

- ecru 100% cotton yarn (≈ 80 g per mitt)
- red 100% cotton yarn (≈ 10 g per mitt)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is one piece.

Work in closed rounds: at the end of each round work 1 ss in the 1st stitch and ch 1 to turn up (the ch does not count as a stitch).

OUTER LAYER — HAND (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	(4 dc, inc) ×6	36
Rnd 7	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 8	(6 dc, inc) ×6	48
Rnd 9-24	48 dc	48

In the next round the thumb hole opens up.

V25	ch 8, skip 8 sts, 40 dc	48 (40 dc + 8 ch)

OUTER LAYER — PALM AND CUFF (ECRU AND RED YARN)

Rnd 26	48 dc	48
Rnd 27-38	48 dc	48
Rnd 39-42	48 dc	48

In Rnd 26 work 1 dc in each ch of the hole. Change to the red yarn in Rnd 39. Close Rnd 42 with 1 ss; do not cut the red yarn.

OUTER LAYER — THUMB (ECRU YARN)

Rnd 1	16 dc	16
Rnd 2-10	16 dc	16
Rnd 11	(2 dc, dec) ×4	12
Rnd 12	(dc, dec) ×4	8
Rnd 13	4 dec	4

Rnd 1: attach the ecru yarn in the hole and work 8 dc in the 8 skipped sts and 8 dc on the other side of the 8 ch. Close the last 4 stitches with the tapestry needle.

INNER LAYER — HAND (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	(4 dc, inc) ×6	36
Rnd 7	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 8-23	42 dc	42

V24	ch 7, skip 7 sts, 35 dc	42 (35 dc + 7 ch)

INNER LAYER — PALM (ECRU YARN)

Rnd 25	42 dc	42

Rnd 26-37	42 dc	42

INNER LAYER — THUMB (ECRU YARN)

Rnd 1	14 dc	14
Rnd 2-10	14 dc	14
Rnd 11	(5 dc, dec) ×2	12
Rnd 12	(dc, dec) ×4	8
Rnd 13	4 dec	4

The inner layer is a little narrower so that it fits inside the outer one without making folds.

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in all the ends on the wrong side of both layers.
2. Put the inner layer inside the outer layer. Push the inner thumb right down to the bottom of the outer thumb.
3. With the red yarn you have left, work 1 round of dc to join the two edges: in each stitch of the outer layer, catch a stitch of the inner one as well; every 7 stitches, catch the outer one only. You get 48 dc.
4. Make 15 ch and 1 ss in the same stitch for the loop. Cut and weave in the yarn.

Tip: work tight stitches: the closer the fabric, the less heat gets through. If the stitches come out loose, use a 3 mm

hook.

Warning: use only 100% cotton yarn; acrylic melts with heat and can burn. Always use the mitt dry: when wet, it lets the heat through. Always make both layers and do not touch flames or the oven elements.

Project 39 · Pot holders

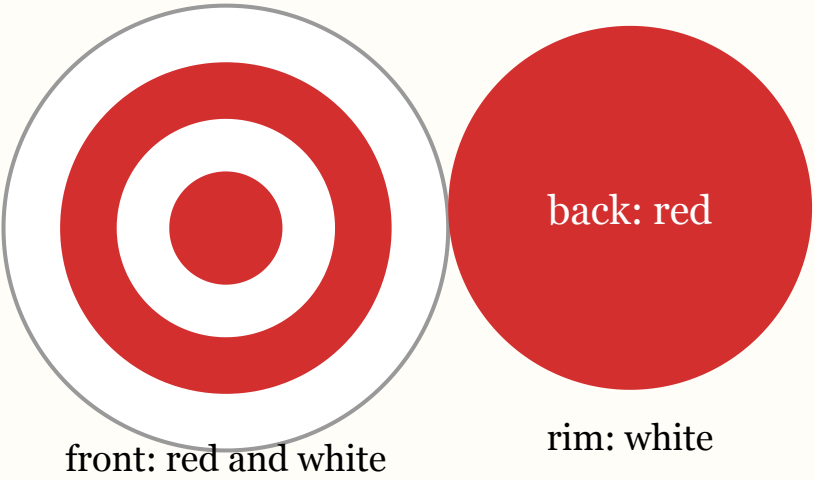
Level: easy · Time: 3 h · Size: 17 cm across · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A round, two-sided pot holder with target stripes, for holding pots and dishes or for putting down a hot pan. It looks pretty hanging by the cooker.

MATERIALS

- red 100% cotton yarn (≈ 30 g)
- white 100% cotton yarn (≈ 15 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is one piece.

FRONT (STRIPES IN 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	(dc, inc, 2 dc) ×6	30
Rnd 6	(4 dc, inc) ×6	36
Rnd 7	(2 dc, inc, 3 dc) ×6	42
Rnd 8	(6 dc, inc) ×6	48
Rnd 9	(3 dc, inc, 4 dc) ×6	54
Rnd 10	(8 dc, inc) ×6	60
Rnd 11	(4 dc, inc, 5 dc) ×6	66
Rnd 12	(10 dc, inc) ×6	72
Rnd 13	(5 dc, inc, 6 dc) ×6	78
Rnd 14	(12 dc, inc) ×6	84
Rnd 15	(6 dc, inc, 7 dc) ×6	90
Rnd 16	(14 dc, inc) ×6	96

Change colour in the last ss of each stripe (Rnd 4, 8, 12). On the odd rounds the increase sits in the middle of the group: that way the pot holder comes out round and not six-sided. You get 96 stitches.

BACK (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	(dc, inc, 2 dc) ×6	30
Rnd 6	(4 dc, inc) ×6	36
Rnd 7	(2 dc, inc, 3 dc) ×6	42
Rnd 8	(6 dc, inc) ×6	48
Rnd 9	(3 dc, inc, 4 dc) ×6	54
Rnd 10	(8 dc, inc) ×6	60
Rnd 11	(4 dc, inc, 5 dc) ×6	66
Rnd 12	(10 dc, inc) ×6	72
Rnd 13	(5 dc, inc, 6 dc) ×6	78
Rnd 14	(12 dc, inc) ×6	84
Rnd 15	(6 dc, inc, 7 dc) ×6	90
Rnd 16	(14 dc, inc) ×6	96

Close with 1 ss. You get 96 stitches.

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in the ends on the wrong side of each side.
2. Put the sides together, wrong sides together. With the white yarn, work 1 dc in each stitch, catching both sides: 96 dc.

3. At the end make 16 ch and 1 ss in the same stitch for the loop.
4. On the loop, work 22 dc over the ch to make it strong. Cut and weave in the yarn.

Tip: to change colour without a step, finish the last ss of the stripe with the new colour and pull both ends before starting the next round.

Warning: use only 100% cotton yarn; acrylic melts with heat. Always use the pot holder dry and with both sides. Do not leave it near the flame.

Project 40 · Kitchen roll cover

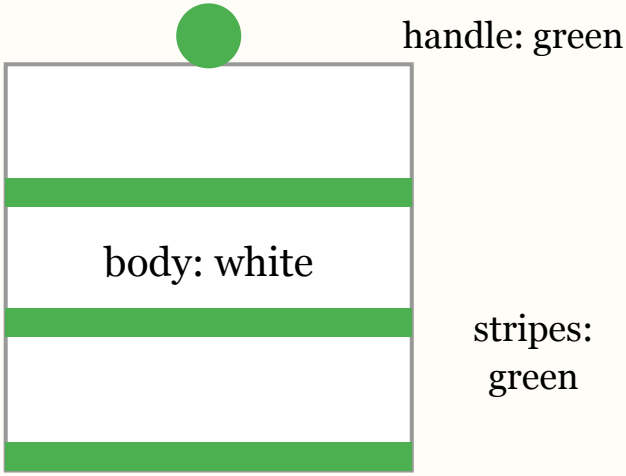
Level: easy · Time: 5 h · Size: 13 cm across, 22 cm high · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A tin-shaped cover, with a lid and a handle, to cover the spare kitchen roll on the worktop. It hides the roll and adds a touch of colour to the kitchen.

MATERIALS

- white 100% cotton yarn (≈ 60 g)
- green 100% cotton yarn (≈ 15 g)
- a little polyester toy stuffing
- 3.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is one piece.

LID AND BODY (WHITE YARN, STRIPES IN 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	72 dc	72
Rnd 14-22	72 htr	72
Rnd 23-24	72 htr	72
Rnd 25-31	72 htr	72
Rnd 32-33	72 htr	72
Rnd 34-40	72 htr	72
Rnd 41	72 dc	72

Work Rnd 13 in the back loop only: the lid gets an edge and the body falls straight. In the htr rounds start with ch 2 (does not count as a stitch) and close with 1 ss. You get 72 stitches.

LID HANDLE (GREEN 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 well before Rnd 5. Close the 6 stitches with the tapestry needle and leave 20 cm of yarn for sewing.

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in the ends on the wrong side.

2. Sew the handle to the centre of the lid, over the magic ring, with small stitches all round.
3. Put the cover over the kitchen roll, with the opening facing down.

Tip: try the cover on your roll before Rnd 41. If your roll is taller, repeat more htr rounds in white; each round adds about 0.7 cm.

Project 41 · Bread bag

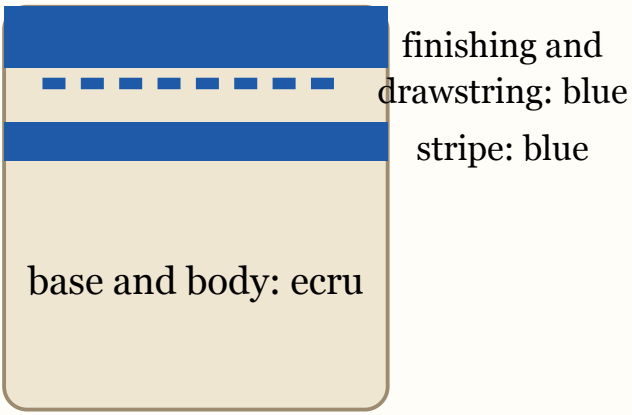
Level: easy · Time: 8 h · Size: 16 cm across, 27 cm high · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A round bag with a firm base and a drawstring to close it, where the bread breathes and does not dry out. It is good for the daily loaf, crusty bread or rolls, and is a nice gift for anyone who likes cooking.

MATERIALS

- ecru 100% cotton yarn (≈ 100 g)
- blue 100% cotton yarn (≈ 25 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is one piece.

BASE AND BODY (ECRU YARN, STRIPE IN 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
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	90 dc	90
Rnd 17-36	90 tr	90
Rnd 37-38	90 tr	90
Rnd 39-40	90 tr	90

Work Rnd 16 in the back loop only: this is where the base folds and the bag stands up. In the tr rounds start with ch 3 (counts as the 1st

tr) and close with 1 ss in the 3rd ch. You get 90 stitches.

DRAWSTRING ROUND (ECRU YARN)

V41	ch 4 (counts as 1 tr + 1 ch), skip 1 st, (tr, ch, skip 1 st) ×44, ss in the 3rd ch of the start	90 (45 tr + 45 ch)

FINISHING (BLUE YARN)

Rnd 42	90 dc	90
Rnd 43-44	90 dc	90

In Rnd 42 work 1 dc in each tr and 1 dc in each ch space. Close with 1 ss and cut the yarn.

DRAWSTRING (BLUE YARN)

Make a chain of 90 cm (about 220 ch). Work back along it with 1 ss in each ch: the drawstring is firm and does not stretch.

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in all the ends on the wrong side.
2. Thread the drawstring through the holes of Rnd 41, going in and out two at a time.
3. Tie a knot at each end of the drawstring and cut 2 cm from the knot, like a fringe.
4. Wash the bag in the machine before using it for the first time.

> **Tip:** keep only dry bread in the bag, with no damp fillings. Wash it at 60 °C once a week and let it dry well before putting bread in again.

Project 42 · Hand towel with lace trim

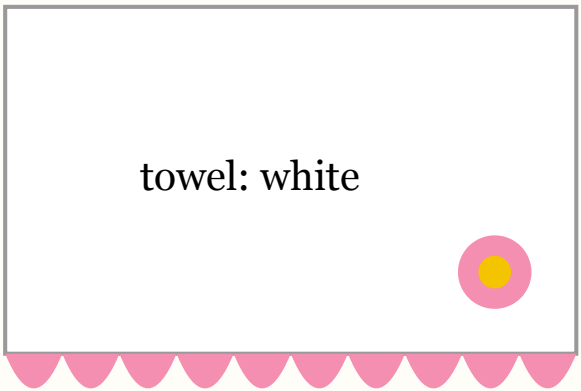
Level: intermediate · Time: 2 h · Size: towel 30 × 50 cm, lace 3 cm · Yarn: cotton, 2.5 mm hook

A plain hand towel gets a pink shell lace and a flower in the corner. It looks lovely in the bathroom or the kitchen and is a quick gift to make.

MATERIALS

- 1 white cotton hand towel, 30 × 50 cm
- pink 100% cotton yarn (≈ 10 g for one side of the towel)
- yellow 100% cotton yarn (≈ 1 g)
- 2.5 mm crochet hook, blunt tapestry needle, scissors, pins

COLOUR MAP



lace and petals: pink · middle: yellow

Colour map: each colour is one piece.

LACE BASE (PINK YARN AND TAPESTRY NEEDLE)

On one of the short sides of the towel, mark a point every 1.5 cm with pins: 20 marks. With the tapestry needle and the pink yarn, work 20 blanket stitches, one at each mark, 0.5 cm from the hem. Each stitch leaves a loop where you will work with the crochet hook.

LACE (PINK YARN)

L1	3 dc in each loop; in the last loop work 4 dc	61 dc
L2	ch 1, turn; dc in the 1st st, (skip 2 sts, 5 tr in the next st, skip 2 sts, dc in the next st) ×10	10 shells (50 tr + 11 dc)

L3	ch 1, turn; in each shell: dc in the 1st tr, dc in the 2nd tr, picot, dc in the 3rd tr, picot, dc in the 4th tr, dc in the 5th tr; ss in each dc between shells	50 dc + 20 picots

Picot = ch 3 and 1 ss in the 1st of those ch. At the end, the lace is 30 cm wide, like the towel, and about 3 cm high.

FLOWER — MIDDLE (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.

FLOWER — PETALS (PINK YARN)

Rnd 3: attach the pink yarn and work (ss in the next st, 4 tr in the next st) ×6. You get 6 petals. Close with 1 ss and leave 20 cm of yarn for sewing.

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in the lace ends on the wrong side, inside the hem.
2. Sew the flower on a corner of the towel, just above the lace, with small stitches around the middle.
3. For both sides of the towel, work the lace on the other short side too (use double the pink yarn).

Tip: wash the towel before making the lace: that way it has already shrunk and the lace will not pucker after the

> first wash.

Project 43 · Soap dish

Level: easy · Time: 1 h 30 · Size: 11 cm across, 2 cm high · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

A soft little dish to rest the soap by the basin. The grooves let the water drain away and the low rim stops the soap from slipping.

MATERIALS

- light blue 100% cotton yarn (≈ 12 g)
- white 100% cotton yarn (≈ 3 g)
- 3 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is one piece.

BOTTOM AND WALL (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
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 12-13	60 dc	60

Work Rnd 4, 6 and 8 in the back loop only: this makes the grooves for the water. Work Rnd 11 in the back loop only as well, so the wall rises. Close with 1 ss. You get 60 stitches.

EDGE (WHITE YARN)

V14	ch 1; 60 crab stitches (dc worked from left to right), 1 in each st; ss in the 1st	60

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in the ends on the wrong side, under the bottom.

2. Wet the soap dish, press it in a towel and leave it to dry resting on an upturned bowl: the wall stays straight.

Tip: once a week, rinse it in clean water and leave it to air-dry. It can go in the machine at 40 °C inside a mesh bag.

Project 44 · Bathroom basket

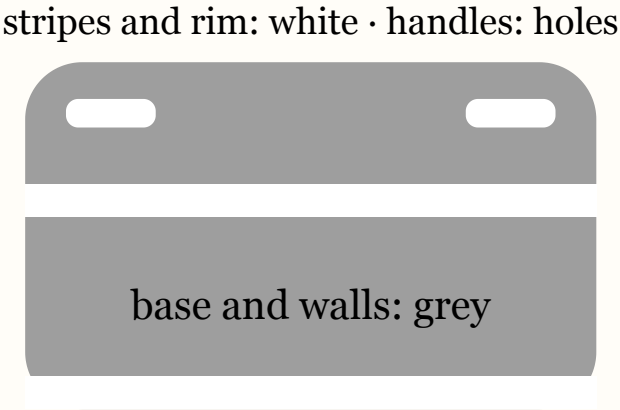
Level: intermediate · Time: 4 h · Size: base 17 × 10 cm, 10 cm high · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

An oval basket with two handles, for storing cotton pads, soaps or combs in the bathroom. It stays firm and can go in the machine.

MATERIALS

- grey 100% cotton yarn (≈ 50 g)
- white 100% cotton yarn (≈ 10 g)
- 3 mm crochet hook, yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each colour is one piece.

OVAL BASE (GREY YARN)

Make 15 ch. Rnd 1: starting in the 2nd ch from the hook, work 13 dc (up to the second-to-last ch); in the last ch work 4 dc; continue along the other side of the chain with 12 dc; in the ch where you made the 1st dc work 3 more dc. You get 32 stitches: 12 on each straight side and 4 on each end. Start Rnd 2 in the 2nd dc of Rnd 1 and put the marker there.

Rnd 2	(12 dc, 4 inc) ×2	40
Rnd 3	(12 dc, (dc, inc) ×4) ×2	48
Rnd 4	(12 dc, (2 dc, inc) ×4) ×2	56
Rnd 5	(12 dc, (3 dc, inc) ×4) ×2	64
Rnd 6	(12 dc, (4 dc, inc) ×4) ×2	72
Rnd 7	(12 dc, (5 dc, inc) ×4) ×2	80
Rnd 8	(12 dc, (6 dc, inc) ×4) ×2	88
Rnd 9	(12 dc, (7 dc, inc) ×4) ×2	96

In each round you work 12 dc on the straight side and the increases only at the ends. You get 96 stitches.

WALLS (GREY YARN, STRIPES IN WHITE YARN)

Rnd 10	96 dc	96
Rnd 11-20	96 dc	96
Rnd 21-22	96 dc	96

Rnd 23-26	96 dc	96

Work Rnd 10 in the back loop only: this is the fold between the base and the wall. Do not close the rounds: work in a spiral and move the marker up each round.

HANDLE ROUND (GREY YARN)

V27	24 dc, ch 10, skip 10 sts, 38 dc, ch 10, skip 10 sts, 14 dc	96 (76 dc + 20 ch)

The two holes sit in the middle of each end of the oval. If they do not, adjust the number of dc before the 1st hole.

RIM (GREY AND WHITE YARN)

Rnd 28	96 dc	96
Rnd 29-30	96 dc	96
Rnd 31	96 dc	96

In Rnd 28 work 1 dc in each ch of the holes. Close Rnd 31 with 1 ss and cut the yarn.

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in the ends on the wrong side.
2. On the handles, with the white yarn, work 14 dc around each hole, over the ch, to reinforce them.
3. Wet the basket, press it in a towel and leave it to dry around a box of the same size: the walls stay straight.

> **Tip:** work with the stitches nice and tight so the basket stays firm. If the walls come out floppy, spray with fabric stiffener and leave to dry over the box.

Sofa, bed and plants

Comfort for resting and greenery to brighten the room

In this chapter there are pieces for the corners where you rest most: a rug, a pouffe, a footstool, a neck roll and a cover for the remote control. There is also crochet for plants: pot covers, a plant hanger and a succulent that never needs water. The bigger pieces take longer, but they are always made with the same stitches.

Project 45 · Round rug

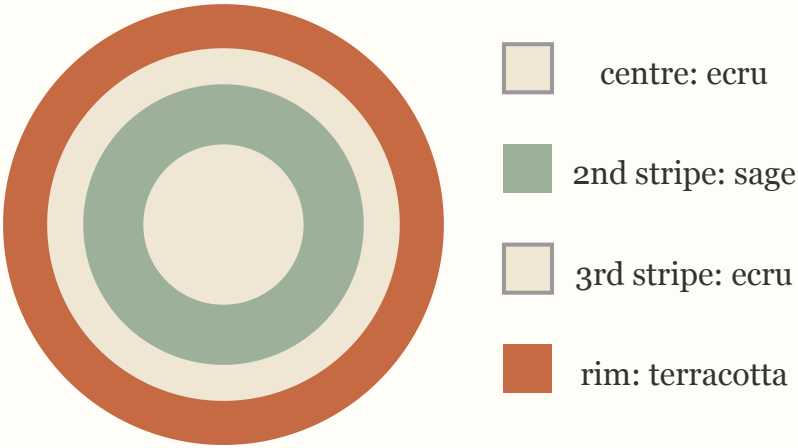
Level: easy · Time: 6 h · Size: 30 cm in diameter · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A small rug with wide stripes, for beside the bed, in front of the sofa or for standing a basket on. It is all double crochet, in a spiral, so it is great for practising increases.

MATERIALS

- ecru yarn (≈ 55 g)
- sage green yarn (≈ 45 g)
- terracotta yarn (≈ 60 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- stitch marker, tapestry needle, scissors
- non-slip rug grip, 30 cm (optional, but recommended)

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each stripe is a colour.

RUG (ECRU, SAGE GREEN AND TERRACOTTA 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	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 8	(3 dc, inc, 3 dc) ×6	48
Rnd 9	(7 dc, inc) ×6	54
Rnd 10	(4 dc, inc, 4 dc) ×6	60

Rnd 11	(9 dc, inc) ×6	66
Rnd 12	(5 dc, inc, 5 dc) ×6	72
Rnd 13	(11 dc, inc) ×6	78
Rnd 14	(6 dc, inc, 6 dc) ×6	84
Rnd 15	(13 dc, inc) ×6	90
Rnd 16	(7 dc, inc, 7 dc) ×6	96
Rnd 17	(15 dc, inc) ×6	102
Rnd 18	(8 dc, inc, 8 dc) ×6	108
Rnd 19	(17 dc, inc) ×6	114
Rnd 20	(9 dc, inc, 9 dc) ×6	120
Rnd 21	(19 dc, inc) ×6	126
Rnd 22	(10 dc, inc, 10 dc) ×6	132
Rnd 23	(21 dc, inc) ×6	138
Rnd 24	(11 dc, inc, 11 dc) ×6	144
Rnd 25	(23 dc, inc) ×6	150
Rnd 26	(12 dc, inc, 12 dc) ×6	156
Rnd 27	(25 dc, inc) ×6	162
Rnd 28	(13 dc, inc, 13 dc) ×6	168
Rnd 29	(27 dc, inc) ×6	174
Rnd 30	(14 dc, inc, 14 dc) ×6	180
Rnd 31	(29 dc, inc) ×6	186
Rnd 32	(15 dc, inc, 15 dc) ×6	192

Rnd 33	(31 dc, inc) ×6	198
Rnd 34	(16 dc, inc, 16 dc) ×6	204
Rnd 35	(33 dc, inc) ×6	210
Rnd 36	210 dc	210

Change colour in the last stitch of the previous round: work the dc until there are 2 loops on the hook and pull the new yarn through. After Rnd 36, work 1 ss in the next stitch, cut the yarn and weave it in. You get 210 stitches on the edge and about 30 cm across.

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in all the yarns from the colour changes on the wrong side, always inside the same colour.
2. Wet the rug, squeeze it out in a towel and leave it to dry flat and well stretched on top of another towel.
3. Cut the non-slip grip 1 cm smaller all round and put it underneath (or sew it on with long stitches).

Tip: if the edge starts to ripple, you have too many increases for your hand: work a round of dc only, with no increases. If the centre lifts, you are missing increases: do not skip any.

Warning: a crochet rug slips on a smooth floor (tiles, wood). Always use a non-slip grip underneath, especially beside the bed and in homes with older people.

Project 46 · Low pouffe

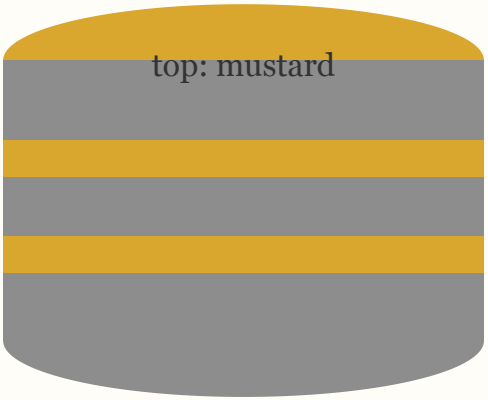
Level: intermediate · Time: 16 h · Size: 29 cm across × 22 cm high · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A low, round, striped pouffe for the living room or bedroom. It is for resting your feet, a tray or for a child to sit on.

MATERIALS

- grey yarn (≈ 320 g)
- mustard yarn (≈ 190 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- polyester toy stuffing (≈ 1 kg) or an old round cushion
- stitch marker, tapestry needle, scissors

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: base and sides in one piece; the top is another piece.

BASE AND SIDES (GREY AND MUSTARD 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	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 8	(3 dc, inc, 3 dc) ×6	48
Rnd 9	(7 dc, inc) ×6	54
Rnd 10	(4 dc, inc, 4 dc) ×6	60

Rnd 11	(9 dc, inc) ×6	66
Rnd 12	(5 dc, inc, 5 dc) ×6	72
Rnd 13	(11 dc, inc) ×6	78
Rnd 14	(6 dc, inc, 6 dc) ×6	84
Rnd 15	(13 dc, inc) ×6	90
Rnd 16	(7 dc, inc, 7 dc) ×6	96
Rnd 17	(15 dc, inc) ×6	102
Rnd 18	(8 dc, inc, 8 dc) ×6	108
Rnd 19	(17 dc, inc) ×6	114
Rnd 20	(9 dc, inc, 9 dc) ×6	120
Rnd 21	(19 dc, inc) ×6	126
Rnd 22	(10 dc, inc, 10 dc) ×6	132
Rnd 23	(21 dc, inc) ×6	138
Rnd 24	(11 dc, inc, 11 dc) ×6	144
Rnd 25	(23 dc, inc) ×6	150
Rnd 26	(12 dc, inc, 12 dc) ×6	156
Rnd 27	(25 dc, inc) ×6	162
Rnd 28	(13 dc, inc, 13 dc) ×6	168
Rnd 29	(27 dc, inc) ×6	174
Rnd 30	(14 dc, inc, 14 dc) ×6	180
Rnd 31	180 dc	180
Rnd 32-41	180 htr	180

Rnd 42-45	180 htr	180
Rnd 46-53	180 htr	180
Rnd 54-57	180 htr	180
Rnd 58-63	180 htr	180

Work Rnd 31 in the back loop only: this is where the base folds and the sides begin. In the htr rounds work in a spiral, as for dc. At the end of Rnd 63 you have 180 stitches; do not cut the grey yarn.

TOP (MUSTARD 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	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 8	(3 dc, inc, 3 dc) ×6	48
Rnd 9	(7 dc, inc) ×6	54
Rnd 10	(4 dc, inc, 4 dc) ×6	60
Rnd 11	(9 dc, inc) ×6	66
Rnd 12	(5 dc, inc, 5 dc) ×6	72
Rnd 13	(11 dc, inc) ×6	78
Rnd 14	(6 dc, inc, 6 dc) ×6	84

Rnd 15	(13 dc, inc) ×6	90
Rnd 16	(7 dc, inc, 7 dc) ×6	96
Rnd 17	(15 dc, inc) ×6	102
Rnd 18	(8 dc, inc, 8 dc) ×6	108
Rnd 19	(17 dc, inc) ×6	114
Rnd 20	(9 dc, inc, 9 dc) ×6	120
Rnd 21	(19 dc, inc) ×6	126
Rnd 22	(10 dc, inc, 10 dc) ×6	132
Rnd 23	(21 dc, inc) ×6	138
Rnd 24	(11 dc, inc, 11 dc) ×6	144
Rnd 25	(23 dc, inc) ×6	150
Rnd 26	(12 dc, inc, 12 dc) ×6	156
Rnd 27	(25 dc, inc) ×6	162
Rnd 28	(13 dc, inc, 13 dc) ×6	168
Rnd 29	(27 dc, inc) ×6	174
Rnd 30	(14 dc, inc, 14 dc) ×6	180

The top is the same as the base, up to 180 stitches. Cut the yarn, leaving 20 cm.

ASSEMBLY

1. Place the top on the sides, with the right side facing out.
2. With mustard yarn, work 1 round of dc, catching a stitch of the top and a stitch of the sides at the same

time (180 dc).

3. When about 20 cm are left to join, stuff it well: the pouffe should be firm and not sink in the middle.
4. Finish the round, work 1 ss, cut the yarn and weave it in well on the inside.

Tip: for a firmer, washable pouffe, first stuff an old pillowcase with the fibre, close it with pins or stitching and put it inside. That way you can take the stuffing out to wash the cover.

Warning: the pouffe is low and soft: do not use it as a step and do not stand on it.

Project 47 · Footstool

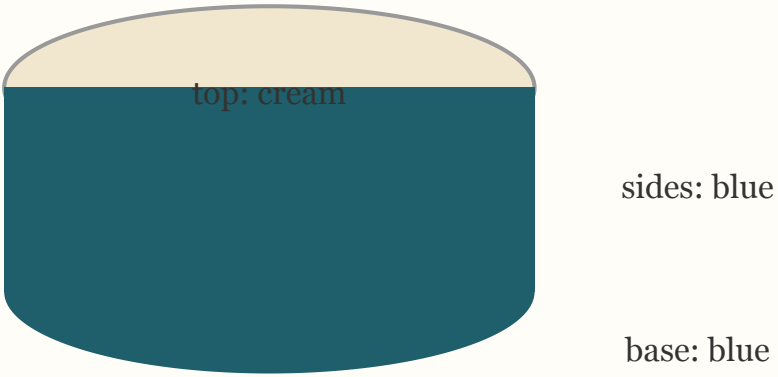
Level: intermediate · Time: 13 h · Size: 40 × 21 cm, 12 cm high · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A firm oval stool for resting your feet in front of the sofa or under the desk. The oval shape is worked around a chain, always in the round.

MATERIALS

- teal yarn (≈ 300 g)
- cream yarn (≈ 130 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- foam block of 40 × 20 × 12 cm, or polyester toy stuffing (≈ 600 g)
- stitch marker, tapestry needle, scissors

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: base and sides in teal, top in cream.

BASE AND SIDES (TEAL YARN)

Make 41 ch. Rnd 1: from the 2nd ch from the hook, work 39 dc; in the last ch work 3 dc; turn the piece and, along the other side of the chain, work 38 dc; in the first ch (where there is already 1 dc) work 2 more dc. You get 82 stitches. Put the marker in the 2nd dc of the round: the following rounds start there, on one of the long sides.

Rnd 2	(38 dc, 3 inc) ×2	88
Rnd 3	(38 dc, (dc, inc) ×3) ×2	94
Rnd 4	(38 dc, (2 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	100
Rnd 5	(38 dc, (3 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	106

Rnd 6	(38 dc, (4 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	112
Rnd 7	(38 dc, (5 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	118
Rnd 8	(38 dc, (6 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	124
Rnd 9	(38 dc, (7 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	130
Rnd 10	(38 dc, (8 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	136
Rnd 11	(38 dc, (9 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	142
Rnd 12	(38 dc, (10 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	148
Rnd 13	(38 dc, (11 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	154
Rnd 14	(38 dc, (12 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	160
Rnd 15	(38 dc, (13 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	166
Rnd 16	(38 dc, (14 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	172
Rnd 17	(38 dc, (15 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	178
Rnd 18	(38 dc, (16 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	184
Rnd 19	(38 dc, (17 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	190
Rnd 20	(38 dc, (18 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	196
Rnd 21	(38 dc, (19 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	202
Rnd 22	(38 dc, (20 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	208
Rnd 23	208 dc	208
Rnd 24-41	208 htr	208

Work Rnd 23 in the back loop only to mark the fold. At the end of Rnd 41 you have 208 stitches. Do not cut the yarn.

TOP (CREAM YARN)

Make the chain and Rnd 1 as for the base (82 stitches).

Rnd 2	(38 dc, 3 inc) ×2	88
Rnd 3	(38 dc, (dc, inc) ×3) ×2	94
Rnd 4	(38 dc, (2 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	100
Rnd 5	(38 dc, (3 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	106
Rnd 6	(38 dc, (4 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	112
Rnd 7	(38 dc, (5 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	118
Rnd 8	(38 dc, (6 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	124
Rnd 9	(38 dc, (7 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	130
Rnd 10	(38 dc, (8 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	136
Rnd 11	(38 dc, (9 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	142
Rnd 12	(38 dc, (10 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	148
Rnd 13	(38 dc, (11 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	154
Rnd 14	(38 dc, (12 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	160
Rnd 15	(38 dc, (13 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	166
Rnd 16	(38 dc, (14 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	172
Rnd 17	(38 dc, (15 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	178
Rnd 18	(38 dc, (16 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	184
Rnd 19	(38 dc, (17 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	190
Rnd 20	(38 dc, (18 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	196
Rnd 21	(38 dc, (19 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	202

Rnd 22	(38 dc, (20 dc, inc) ×3) ×2	208

You get 208 stitches, the same number as the edge of the sides. Cut the yarn, leaving 20 cm.

ASSEMBLY

1. Put the foam block inside the base and sides.
2. Put the top on, with the ends of the oval well lined up with those of the base.
3. With cream yarn, work 208 dc, catching a stitch of the top and one of the sides at the same time.
4. If you are using toy stuffing, stuff well before closing the last 15 cm. Work 1 ss, cut and weave in the yarn.

Tip: ask the foam shop for a cut 1 cm smaller in each measurement: the crochet cover stretches a little and fits snugly, without wrinkles.

Project 48 · Neck cushion

Level: easy · Time: 5 h · Size: 36 cm long, 9.5 cm across · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

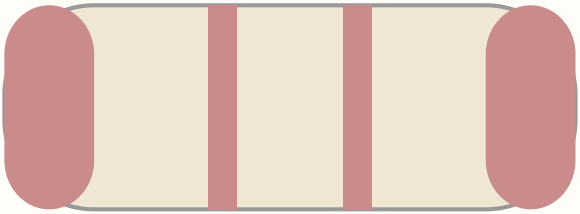
A soft roll to support your neck on the sofa or in bed, while you read or watch television. It closes at the ends like a sweet, with two bows.

MATERIALS

- ecru yarn (≈ 100 g)
- dusty pink yarn (≈ 50 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- polyester toy stuffing (≈ 200 g)
- stitch marker, tapestry needle, scissors

COLOUR MAP

body: ecru



ends and stripes: dusty pink

Colour map: ends and stripes in dusty pink, body in ecru.

ROLL (DUSTY PINK AND ECRU 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	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 8	(3 dc, inc, 3 dc) ×6	48
Rnd 9	(7 dc, inc) ×6	54
Rnd 10	(4 dc, inc, 4 dc) ×6	60

Rnd 11	60 dc	60
Rnd 12-19	60 tr	60
Rnd 20-21	60 tr	60
Rnd 22-31	60 tr	60
Rnd 32-33	60 tr	60
Rnd 34-41	60 tr	60
Rnd 42	60 dc	60
Rnd 43	(8 dc, dec) ×6	54
Rnd 44	(7 dc, dec) ×6	48
Rnd 45	(6 dc, dec) ×6	42
Rnd 46	(5 dc, dec) ×6	36
Rnd 47	(4 dc, dec) ×6	30
Rnd 48	(3 dc, dec) ×6	24
Rnd 49	(2 dc, dec) ×6	18
Rnd 50	(dc, dec) ×6	12
Rnd 51	6 dec	6

In the tr rounds work in a spiral and keep the marker in the 1st stitch. Stuff well after Rnd 47 (30 stitches) and keep adding to the end. In Rnd 51 you have 6 stitches: cut the yarn, thread it through the 6 stitches with the tapestry needle, pull tight and tuck it inside.

TIES (DUSTY PINK YARN, 2 IDENTICAL)

L1	70 ch	70

L2	from the 2nd ch from the hook, 69 ss	69

Each tie is about 35 cm long.

ASSEMBLY

1. Pass a tie around the roll, between Rnd 11 and Rnd 12, pull tight and tie a bow.
2. Do the same on the other side, between Rnd 41 and Rnd 42.
3. Secure each tie with 2 hidden stitches, so it does not move out of place.

Tip: stuff the roll with fibre in small tufts, one at a time, and smooth it with your hands. It comes out evenly round, with no lumps.

Warning: this cushion is for adults. Do not use it with babies, or leave it in the cot or the bed of small children: the ties are long strands and the cushion can cover the nose and mouth.

Project 49 · Television remote cover

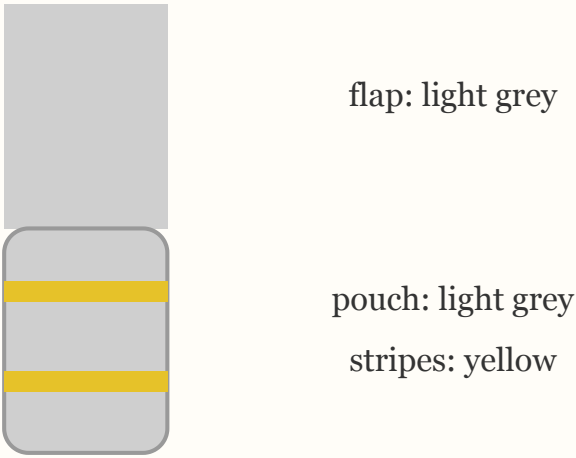
Level: easy · Time: 1.5 h · Size: 6 × 12 cm, with a 6 × 15 cm flap · Yarn: cotton, 3 mm hook

A snug pouch for the remote, with a flap that tucks under the sofa cushion. The remote is always to hand and no longer gets lost between the cushions.

MATERIALS

- light grey yarn (≈ 20 g)
- yellow yarn (≈ 5 g)
- 3 mm crochet hook
- stitch marker, tapestry needle, scissors

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: pouch and flap in light grey, two yellow stripes.

POUCH (LIGHT GREY AND YELLOW YARN)

Make 11 ch. Rnd 1: from the 2nd ch from the hook, work 9 dc; in the last ch work 3 dc; along the other side of the chain work 8 dc; in the first ch (where there is already 1 dc) work 2 more dc. You get 22 stitches. Put the marker in the 2nd dc: the following rounds start there.

Rnd 2	(8 dc, 3 inc) ×2	28
Rnd 3	(8 dc, (dc, inc) ×3) ×2	34
Rnd 4	34 dc	34
Rnd 5-10	34 dc	34
Rnd 11-12	34 dc	34
Rnd 13-20	34 dc	34
Rnd 21-22	34 dc	34
Rnd 23-26	34 dc	34

Work Rnd 4 in the back loop only, so the bottom lies flat. At the end of Rnd 26 you have 34 stitches and the pouch is about 12 cm high. Try the remote: it should fit snugly, but without forcing. If you need to, add or take away rounds of 34 dc.

FLAP (LIGHT GREY YARN)

L1	flatten the pouch; on one of the wide sides work 12 dc along the top edge	12
L2-35	1 ch, turn, 12 dc	12

The flap is about 6 × 15 cm. Cut the yarn and weave it in.

ASSEMBLY

1. Weave in all the yarns inside the pouch.
2. Rest the cover on the arm of the sofa: the flap goes under the seat cushion and the pouch hangs on the outside.
3. Put in the remote with the buttons facing up.

Tip: measure your remote before you start. For a wider remote, start with 13 ch: each 2 extra ch add 4 stitches to each round.

Project 50 · Plant pot covers (three sizes)

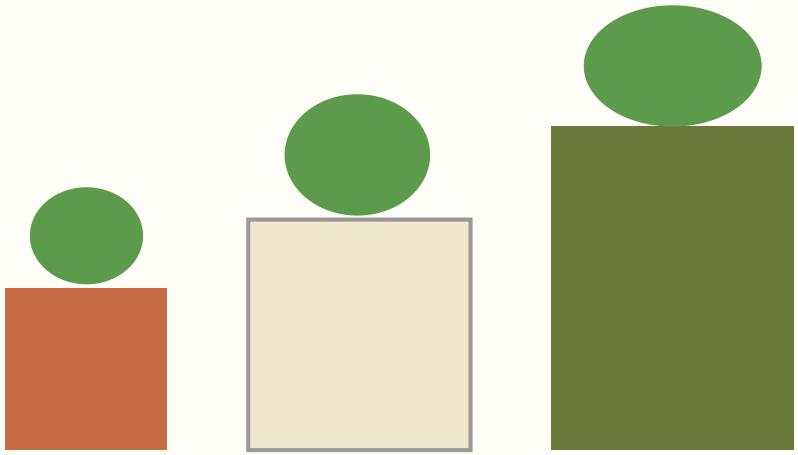
Level: easy · Time: 1.5 h + 3 h + 5 h · Size: 9, 12 and 17 cm across · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

Three covers to hide the plastic plant pots, each in a different stitch: dc on the small one, htr on the medium and tr on the large. They look pretty together, on a shelf or the windowsill.

MATERIALS

- terracotta yarn (≈ 45 g) for the small one
- cream yarn (≈ 80 g) for the medium one
- olive green yarn (≈ 130 g) for the large one
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- stitch marker, tapestry needle, scissors

COLOUR MAP



Colour map: each size is a colour.

SMALL (TERRACOTTA 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	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 8	(3 dc, inc, 3 dc) ×6	48
Rnd 9	(7 dc, inc) ×6	54
Rnd 10	54 dc	54

Rnd 11-17	54 dc	54
Rnd 18	(8 dc, inc) ×6	60
Rnd 19-26	60 dc	60

Work Rnd 10 in the back loop only. The base measures about 8.5 cm and the cover is 8.5 cm high. Finish with 1 ss; you have 60 stitches on the edge. It fits pots up to 8 cm across.

MEDIUM (CREAM 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	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 8	(3 dc, inc, 3 dc) ×6	48
Rnd 9	(7 dc, inc) ×6	54
Rnd 10	(4 dc, inc, 4 dc) ×6	60
Rnd 11	(9 dc, inc) ×6	66
Rnd 12	(5 dc, inc, 5 dc) ×6	72
Rnd 13	(11 dc, inc) ×6	78
Rnd 14	78 dc	78
Rnd 15-20	78 htr	78

Rnd 21	(12 dc, inc) ×6	84
Rnd 22-28	84 htr	84
Rnd 29	84 dc	84

Work Rnd 14 in the back loop only. The base measures about 12 cm and the cover is 10 cm high. Finish with 1 ss; you have 84 stitches. It fits pots up to 11 cm.

LARGE (OLIVE GREEN 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	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 8	(3 dc, inc, 3 dc) ×6	48
Rnd 9	(7 dc, inc) ×6	54
Rnd 10	(4 dc, inc, 4 dc) ×6	60
Rnd 11	(9 dc, inc) ×6	66
Rnd 12	(5 dc, inc, 5 dc) ×6	72
Rnd 13	(11 dc, inc) ×6	78
Rnd 14	(6 dc, inc, 6 dc) ×6	84
Rnd 15	(13 dc, inc) ×6	90

Rnd 16	(7 dc, inc, 7 dc) ×6	96
Rnd 17	(15 dc, inc) ×6	102
Rnd 18	102 dc	102
Rnd 19-24	102 tr	102
Rnd 25	(16 dc, inc) ×6	108
Rnd 26-31	108 tr	108
Rnd 32-33	108 dc	108

Work Rnd 18 in the back loop only. The base measures about 16 cm and the cover is 15 cm high. Finish with 1 ss; you have 108 stitches. It fits pots up to 15 cm.

FINISHING

1. Weave in the yarns on the inside.
2. Fold the last 2 rounds of each cover outwards, if you want a turned-down edge.
3. Put in the plastic pot, with a small saucer underneath if the plant is watered in there.

Tip: before you start, measure the base of your pot. The crochet base should be 1 cm bigger. If your pot is different, stop the increases sooner or later (each round of increases adds about 1 cm of diameter). To water, take the pot out: wet yarn often gets stains and mould.

Project 51 · Crochet succulent plant

Level: easy · Time: 3 h · Size: 10 cm high · Yarn: cotton, 2.5 mm hook

A round succulent in a little terracotta pot, with leaves all round and a pink flower. It never needs water and is a nice gift for the desk or bedside table.

MATERIALS

- terracotta yarn (≈ 15 g)
- brown yarn (≈ 5 g)
- green yarn (≈ 10 g)
- light green yarn (≈ 8 g)
- pink yarn (≈ 2 g)
- 2.5 mm crochet hook
- polyester toy stuffing (≈ 15 g)
- a little fabric bag with 2 tablespoons of rice, sewn up well (for weight)
- stitch marker, tapestry needle, scissors

COLOUR MAP



flower: pink

plant: green

leaves: light green

soil: brown

pot: terracotta

Colour map: each colour is one piece.

POT (TERRACOTTA 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	36 dc	36
Rnd 8-15	36 dc	36
Rnd 16	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 17-18	42 dc	42

Work Rnd 7 in the back loop only. Rnd 16 widens the rim of the pot. Finish with 1 ss; you have 42 stitches. Do not stuff yet.

SOIL (BROWN 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

A flat disc of 36 stitches. Leave 30 cm of yarn for sewing.

PLANT (GREEN 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 6-9	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 well when 18 stitches are left (Rnd 11). In Rnd 13 you have 6 stitches: close and leave 20 cm of yarn.

LEAVES (LIGHT GREEN YARN, MAKE 5)

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

Do not stuff the leaves: flatten them. You have 6 stitches at the opening; leave 15 cm of yarn on each one.

FLOWER (PINK YARN)

Make a MR. In it, work 5 times: ch 2, 1 tr, ch 2, 1 ss. Pull the MR tight. You get 5 petals. Leave 15 cm of yarn.

ASSEMBLY

1. Put the bag of rice in the bottom of the pot and stuff the rest with fibre to 1 cm below the rim.
2. Sew the soil on top, stitch by stitch, on the round below the wide rim.
3. Sew the plant to the centre of the soil.
4. Sew the 5 leaves around the plant, through the opening, with the tips pointing outwards.

5. Sew the flower to the top of the plant. Weave in all the yarns on the inside.

Tip: to make a set, repeat the plant in blue-green or olive green and change the colour of the flower. Three little pots together look lovely on a tray.

Warning: this succulent is decoration, not a toy. The flower, the leaves and the bag of rice are small parts: keep it out of the reach of babies and small children and check that everything is sewn on well.

Project 52 · Plant hanger

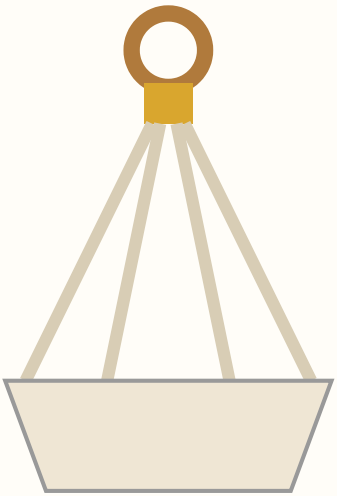
Level: intermediate · Time: 4 h · Size: 55 cm long, for pots of 12 to 14 cm · Yarn: cotton, 3.5 mm hook

A holder to hang a plant by the window, with a small basket at the bottom and eight cords attached to a ring. It is reminiscent of macramé, but is made entirely with the crochet hook.

MATERIALS

- ecru yarn (≈ 70 g)
- mustard yarn (≈ 10 g)
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- wooden ring, 5 cm across
- ceiling hook made for hanging pots
- stitch marker, tapestry needle, scissors

COLOUR MAP



ring: wood

knot: mustard

cords: ecru

basket: ecru

Colour map: basket and cords in ecru, top knot in mustard.

BASKET (ECRU 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	(5 dc, inc) ×6	42
Rnd 8	(3 dc, inc, 3 dc) ×6	48
Rnd 9	(7 dc, inc) ×6	54
Rnd 10	54 dc	54

Rnd 11	(8 dc, inc) ×6	60
Rnd 12-15	60 dc	60

Work Rnd 10 in the back loop only. Finish with 1 ss; you have 60 stitches. Put in 4 markers, every 15 stitches (in the 1st, 16th, 31st and 46th stitch). Cut the yarn.

CORDS (ECRU YARN, MAKE 8)

L1	attach the yarn with 1 ss in a marked stitch on the edge and make 120 ch	120
L2	from the 2nd ch from the hook, 119 ss back to the edge	119

Make 2 cords in each marked stitch: 8 cords in all, each about 60 cm. Cut and weave in the yarn at the edge of the basket.

ASSEMBLY

1. Rest the basket on the table with the cords stretched upwards.
2. At 12 cm from the basket, join each cord to the neighbouring cord of the next group and tie a simple knot. This makes 4 diamonds around the pot.
3. Gather the ends of the 8 cords, pass them through the ring and fold 5 cm down.
4. With mustard yarn, wrap very tightly around the cords, just below the ring, in a band of 3 cm. Secure the yarn with the tapestry needle and hide it inside the band.

5. Stand the pot upright in the basket.

Tip: before tying the knots, put the pot in the basket and hang it from a handle. That way you can see whether the knots sit at the right height for your pot.

Warning: use a firmly fixed ceiling hook made for pots, and only a light plastic pot (up to 1.5 kg with the soil watered). Hang it out of the way, where nobody will bump their head. To water, take the pot out and let it drain before putting it back.

At the end: questions, care and next steps

Before you close the book

You have reached the end of the projects, but crochet goes on. In this chapter you will find answers to the most common problems, how to change the size of a piece and how to care for your pieces so they last for many years. At the end, I leave you a simple 4-week plan to get started without hurry.

Common problems and how to fix them

Everyone who crochets goes through these problems. Do not be discouraged: almost everything is solved by undoing one or two rounds.

Problem	Likely cause	How to fix it
The piece curls at the edges	Starting chain too tight	Make the chain with a hook 0.5 mm bigger and then go back to the hook given.
The flat piece gets wider at the top	Extra stitches at the ends of rows	Count the stitches at the end of each row. Use a marker in the first and the last stitch.
The flat piece gets narrower at the top	The last stitch of the row is missing	The last stitch is often hidden. Look for it and always work it.

The round piece ripples like a skirt	Too many increases or yarn too loose	Undo the last round and check the count. If it continues, use a hook 0.5 mm smaller.
The round piece lifts like a bowl	Too few increases or yarn too tight	Check the increases of each round in the table. If they are right, use a hook 0.5 mm bigger.
You lost count of the rounds	No marker at the start of the round	Put the stitch marker in the first stitch of each round and always move it up.
The stitches come out uneven	The hand holding the yarn changes tension	Wrap the yarn around your finger the same way every time. Work 10 practice rows before you start.
Holes appear between stitches	Stitches worked in the wrong place	Put the hook under both loops of the stitch above, unless the pattern says otherwise.
The yarn splits into fine strands	Sharp hook tip or very twisted yarn	Work more slowly and use a hook with a round tip. Let the ball unwind freely.
The new colour has an ugly step	Colour change made in the wrong place	Change colour in the last step of the previous stitch: pull the new colour through to close that stitch.

> **Tip:** undoing is part of crochet. Pull the yarn gently, pick up the last loop with the hook and start again. Cotton yarn copes well with being undone two or three times.

How to adjust the size with a different yarn or hook

Each project gives the yarn and the hook size. If you use a different yarn, the piece comes out a different size. This is not a mistake: it can even be an advantage, for making the same piece big or small.

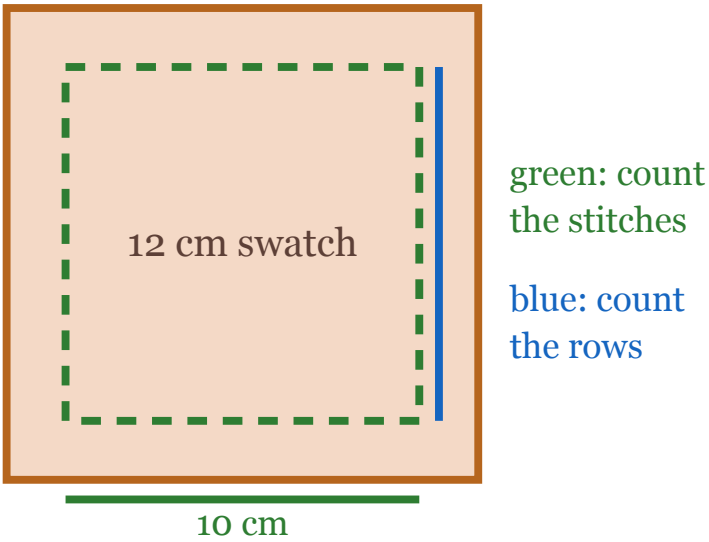
- **Thicker yarn and bigger hook:** the piece comes out bigger and is finished faster. A basket made with chunky yarn and a 6 mm hook comes out almost twice the size.
- **Finer yarn and smaller hook:** the piece comes out smaller and more delicate, but takes longer.
- **Same yarn, hook 0.5 mm bigger:** the piece comes out a little bigger and softer. Good for blankets and cushions.
- **Same yarn, hook 0.5 mm smaller:** the piece comes out firmer. Good for baskets and bases that need to stand up.

ALWAYS MAKE A SWATCH

1. Make a square of double crochet about 12 cm on each side, with the yarn and hook you want to use.
2. Lay the square on the table, without stretching it.
3. Count how many stitches fit in 10 cm of width and how many rows fit in 10 cm of height.
4. Compare with the project. If you have more stitches in 10 cm, your piece will come out smaller. If you have fewer, it

will come out bigger.

5. For a flat piece of the right width, do the sum: stitches in 10 cm ÷ 10 × the width you want in cm = number of stitches in the starting chain.



Swatch: count stitches and rows only within the middle 10 cm, away from the edges.

> **Tip:** on round pieces (basket bases, coaster bases, round rugs) you do not need to change the pattern. Just change the yarn and hook: the rounds stay the same and only the final size changes.

If you change yarn, buy a little more than stated. Thicker yarns use more grams for the same piece.

How to wash and store your pieces

Home pieces are used every day and need to be washed. With this care they keep their shape and colour.

WASHING

1. Read the ball label and keep it with the piece. That is where the washing rules for your yarn are.
2. Prefer to wash by hand, in cold or lukewarm water (up to 30 °C), with a little mild soap.
3. Do not rub or wring. Squeeze the piece gently in the water.
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. Dry flat, on a dry towel, away from direct sun and heaters. Shape it while it is damp.

If the label allows the machine, use the wool or delicate cycle, cold water and a mesh bag. Do not use the tumble dryer: cotton shrinks and acrylic can lose its shape.

> **Warning:** decoration pieces used with candles (coasters, jar covers, lanterns) should be used with LED candles only. Never leave lit candles near crochet: the yarn burns easily.

SHAPING

Baskets and bases that have lost their shape recover well. Wet the piece, take the water out with the towel and leave it to dry around an object of the right size, for example a jar, a box or an upturned bowl.

STORING

- Store pieces clean and fully dry.
- Blankets and cushions are stored folded, never hung: the weight stretches the crochet.
- Use fabric bags or cardboard boxes. Sealed plastic bags trap damp.
- Add a little bag of lavender or a piece of cedar wood to keep moths away.
- Keep leftover yarn with its label. It is useful for mending a piece later.

4-week plan to get started

If you have never picked up a crochet hook, follow this plan. Just 20 to 30 minutes a day is enough. Do not skip stages: each week prepares the next.

Week	What to learn	What to do

Week 1	Holding the hook and yarn, chain, slip stitch and double crochet	Practise with light cotton yarn and a 3.5 mm hook. Make a rectangle of double crochet 15 stitches wide and 15 rows. At the end, use it as a coaster.
Week 2	Half treble, treble and counting stitches	Make a square of half treble and another of treble. Count the stitches at the end of each row. Choose the easiest flat project in the book and make it.
Week 3	Magic ring, increases and working in the round	Practise the magic ring until it closes well. Make a flat circle of 6 rounds. Then make a small round piece from the book, such as a coaster or a small basket.
Week 4	Decreases, changing colour and finishing	Choose an easy-level project in two colours. Make it calmly, weave in the ends with the tapestry needle and shape the piece. It is your first piece for the home or to give as a gift.

> **Tip:** always keep a small journal beside you. Note down the project, the hook, the yarn and the round where you stopped. That way you can pick the work up again without doubts, even days later.

After these 4 weeks, you already know all the stitches used in this book. From there, choose projects in whatever order you like and move on to the intermediate level when you feel comfortable.

Thank you

Thank you for taking this path with me. I hope your hands find a moment of calm in crochet and that your home becomes cosier with every piece.

Remember: the first piece is never perfect, and that is a good thing. It shows how much you have learned. Keep it, give it away or use it every day with pride.

With love and lots of yarn,
Emma Whitfield