HOLDING THE YARN

FOREFINGER METHOD

1 Wrap the ball end of the yarn around the little finger of your left hand, under the next two fingers and over your forefinger.

2 Hold the yarn steady with your middle finger and thumb, then when crocheting raise your forefinger to create tension.
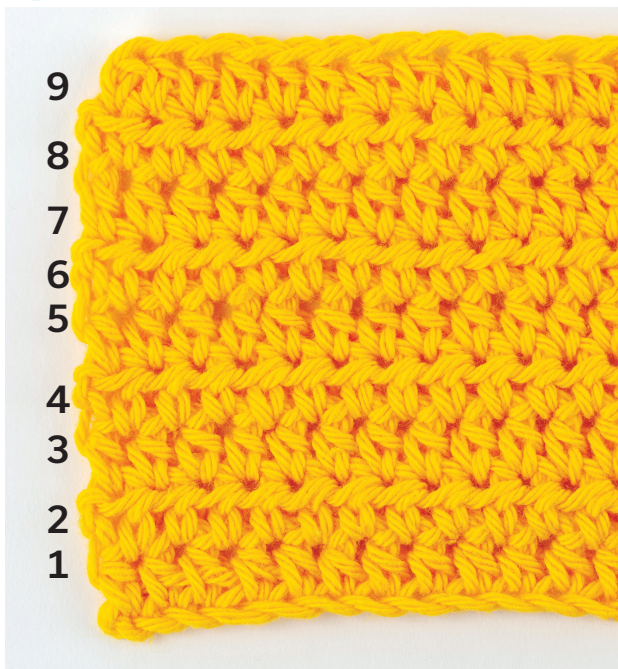
MIDDLE FINGER METHOD

1 Wrap the ball end of the yarn around the little finger of your left hand and over your other fingers.
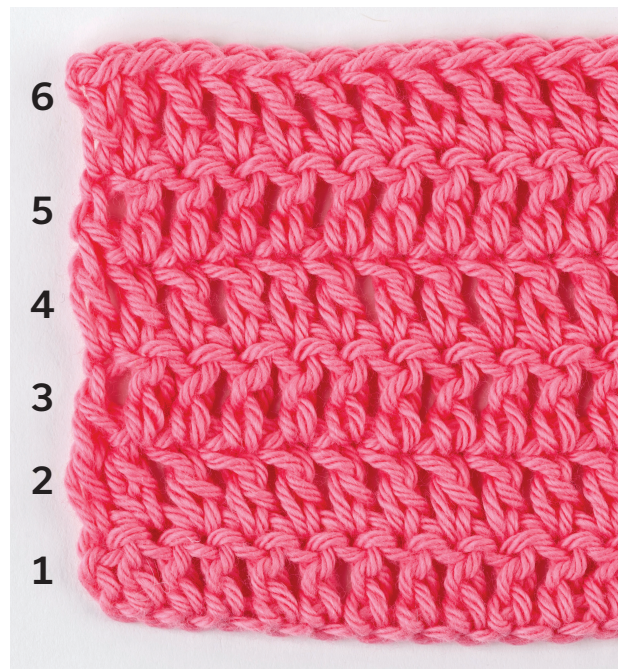

2 Hold the yarn steady with your forefinger and thumb then raise your middle finger when working to create tension.

WORKING LEFT-HANDED

If you are left-handed, you will hold the hook in your dominant left hand and the yarn in your right. Therefore, you will crochet in the opposite direction to right-handers: from left to right rather than right to left. To follow the step photographs, hold a mirror to the images to show the altered direction of the stitches.

Half treble crochet.

Treble crochet.

MEASURING TENSION (GAUGE)

Every crocheter works to their own individual tension, which makes it hard to predict the resulting size and shape of a project without guidance. This is where a tension swatch comes in handy. Your pattern will tell you at the start how many stitches you should be producing in a given measurement (your working tension), to ensure you can create a finished piece in the size it is intended to be.

Before working a project, make a sample swatch in the desired yarn and using the suggested hook to see if your tension is the same as the one stated in the pattern.

To do this, you need to crochet a small square of just over 10 x 10cm (4 x 4in) in the main yarn and stitch used in the pattern. Hook a few more stitches and work more rows than the tension in the pattern suggests, as the edge stitches tend to get a bit distorted so these might give you the wrong result. When the swatch is completed, use a measuring tape or ruler to take some measurements. Count how many stitches and rows there are to 10cm (4in) at different points over the swatch, then calculate the average to get your tension.

If you find you have more stitches per 10cm (4in) than indicated in the pattern, your tension is too tight and you need to work more loosely to ensure your project will come out at the right size. The best way to do this is to increase the hook size by 0.5mm and work the swatch again as many times as needed until the tension is as close as you can get it. If there are fewer stitches than required then the tension is too loose, and you will need to decrease the size of hook and make more swatches in the same way until the tension is correct.

Pattern

Using 4mm (UK 7, US 7) hook , make 5 ch.

Round 1: work (1 tr, 1 ch) seven times in fifth ch from hook (missed 4-ch counts as 1 tr, 1 ch), join round with sl st in third of 4-ch (8 tr and 8 ch sps).
Round 2: 5 ch (counts as 1 dtr, 1 ch here and throughout), 1 dtr in ch sp, 1 ch, *(1 dtr, 1 ch, 1 dtr) in next ch sp, 1 ch; rep from * around, join round with sl st in fourth of 5-ch (16 dtr and 16 ch sps).
Round 3: 5 ch, (1 dtr, 1 ch) in next ch sp, (1 dtr, 1 ch) in next st, miss next ch sp, *(1 dtr, 1 ch) in next st, (1 dtr, 1 ch) in next ch sp, (1 dtr, 1 ch) in next st, miss next ch sp; rep from * around, join round with sl st (24 dtr and 24 ch sps).
Round 4: 6 ch (counts as 1 dtr, 2 ch here and throughout) (1 dtr, 2 ch) in each st around, join round with sl st in fourth of 6-ch (24 dtr and 24 ch sps).
Round 5: 6 ch, *(1 dtr, 2 ch) in next ch sp, (1 dtr, 2 ch) in each of next 3 dtr; rep from * around, ending last rep with (1 dtr, 2 ch) in each of last 2 dtr, join round with sl st (32 dtr and 32 ch sps).
Round 6: 6 ch, (1 dtr, 2 ch) in each dtr around, join round with sl st (32 dtr and 32 ch sps).
Round 7: 6 ch, *(1 dtr, 2 ch) in next ch sp, (1 dtr, 2 ch) in each of next 4 dtr; rep from * around, ending last rep with (1 dtr, 2 ch) in each of last 3 dtr, join round with sl st (40 dtr and 40 ch sps).
Round 8: 6 ch, (1 dtr, 2 ch) in each dtr around, join round with sl st (40 dtr and 40 ch sps).

Repeat round 8 until desired length of bag before decrease has been reached. Sample size is 16 rounds in total to this point.
Round 17: 6 ch, (1 dtr, 2 ch) in next dtr, * dtr2tog, 2 ch, (1 dtr, 2 ch) in each of next 2 dtr; rep from * around ending last rep with dtr2tog across each of last 2 dtr, 2 ch, join round with sl st (30 dtr and 30 ch sps).
Round 18: 6 ch, (1 dtr, 2 ch) in each dtr around, join round with sl st (30 dtr and 30 ch sps).

Now split to begin decreasing for each handle.
Row 1 (RS): 4 ch (counts as 1 dtr here and throughout), (1 dtr, 2 ch) in each of next 11 dtr, dtr2tog, inserting hook in each of next 2 dtr, turn, leaving rem sts unworked (13 dtr and 11 ch sps).
Row 2: 4 ch, (1 dtr, 2 ch) in each of next 9 dtr, dtr2tog, inserting hook in each of next 2 dtr, turn (11 dtr and 9 ch sps).
Row 3: 4 ch, (1 dtr, 2 ch) in each of next 7 dtr, dtr2tog, inserting hook in each of next 2 dtr, turn (9 dtr and 7 ch sps).

Row 4: 1 ch, 1 dc in each dtr and 2 dc in each 2-ch sp across, turn (16 sts).
Rows 5–7: 1 ch, 1 dc in each st across (16 sts).
Fasten off yarn.

With RS facing, rejoin yarn to round 18, 2 dtr along from the last stitch worked into on that round.
Now work as for rows 1–7 of first side.
Do not turn at end of last row and do not fasten off yarn.

Handles

Round 1: 1 ch, *turn work 90 degrees and work evenly in dc down the side of the 7 rows of the split, then up along the 7 rows of the next split, now make 50(58) ch, then miss the 16 sts along the top of row 7 of next split, rejoin yarn to side of row 7; rep from * once more, join round with sl st.
Rounds 2–4: 1 ch, 1 dc in each st around, join round with sl st.
Fasten off yarn.

Finishing

Weave in all ends and block lightly to shape.

Adding in some chains between each of the tall stitches opens out the fabric even further, to create an attractive mesh.

Large puff flower

Pattern

Using 4mm (UK 8, US 6) hook and yarn D, make 2 ch.

Round 1: 12 dc in second ch from hook, join round with sl st (12 dc).
Fasten off yarn D.

Join yarn E with sl st to any dc around.
Round 2: 1 ch, (1 dc, 1 ch) in each st around, join round with sl st (12 dc and 12 ch sps).
Fasten off yarn E.

Join yarn F with sl st to any ch sp around.
Round 3: 2 ch (does not count as st), (1 puff, 2 ch) in each ch sp around, join round with sl st (12 puffs and 12 ch sps).
Fasten off yarn F.

Join yarn G with sl st to any ch sp around.
Round 4: 1 ch, (3 dc, 1 ch) in each ch sp around, join round with sl st (36 dc and 12 ch sps).
Fasten off yarn G.

Join yarn B with sl st to any ch sp around.
Round 5: 1 ch, 1 dc in first ch sp, 6 tr in next ch sp (shell made), (1 dc in next ch sp, 1 shell in next ch sp) around, join round with sl st (6 petals made).
Fasten off yarn B.

Using yarn D work a final surface crochet round in sl st.
Round 6: holding the yarn at the back of the work, insert hook from front to back through fabric through any dc from round 5, draw a loop of yarn through to the front of the fabric for first chain, now work 1 sl st in every treble and double crochet around to create the surface crochet chain st, join round with sl st.
Fasten off yarn.

Large bobble flower

Pattern

Using 4mm (UK 8, US 6) hook and yarn H, make 2 ch.

Round 1: 12 dc in second ch from hook, join round with sl st (12 dc).
Fasten off yarn H.

Join yarn A with sl st to any dc around.
Round 2: 1 ch, (1 dc, 1 ch) in each st around, join round with sl st (12 dc and 12 ch sps).
Fasten off yarn A.

Join yarn D with sl st to any ch sp around.
Round 3: 3 ch (does not count as st), (1 bob, 2 ch) in each ch sp around, join round with sl st (12 bobbles and 12 ch sps).
Fasten off yarn D.

Join yarn F with sl st to any ch sp around.
Round 4: 1 ch, (3 dc, 1 ch) in each ch sp around, join round with sl st (36 dc and 12 ch sps).
Fasten off yarn F.

Join yarn E with sl st to any ch sp around.
Round 5: 1 ch, 1 dc in first ch sp, 6 tr in next ch sp (shell made), (1 dc in next ch sp, 1 shell in next ch sp) around, join round with sl st (6 petals made).
Fasten off yarn E.

Using yarn B work a final surface crochet round in sl st.
Round 6: holding the yarn at the back of the work, insert hook from front to back through fabric through any dc from round 5, draw a loop of yarn through to the front of the fabric for first chain, now work 1 sl st in every treble and double crochet around to create the surface crochet chain st, join round with sl st.
Fasten off yarn.

Granny Square Blanket

SIZE

Blanket measures approx. 110cm (43¼in) wide and 170cm (67in) long

MATERIALS

Any DK (8-ply/light worsted) weight wool, wool mix or man-made fibre yarn will create a soft and cozy blanket – yarn scraps are perfect!

I used Stylecraft Special DK (100% acrylic), 5 balls in 1005 Cream (A) and 1 ball each in 1856 Dandelion (B), 1712 Lime (C), 1841 Cornish Blue (D), 1435 Bright Pink (E), 1724 Parma Violet (F), 1836 Vintage Peach (G), 1820 Duck Egg (H) and 1834 Lincoln (I); 100g/3½oz/295m/322yd

4mm (UK 8, US 6) crochet hook

Darning needle

TENSION

Exact tension is not essential for this project.

PATTERN NOTES

1 ch at the start of round does not count as a stitch.

3 ch at the start of round counts as 1 tr.

SKILLS USED

- Working in the round
- Adding stripes
- Joining motifs as you go
- Edging
- Blocking

MOTIFS

SOLID GRANNY SQUARE

With yarn A, make 4 ch.

Round 1: 2 tr in fourth ch from hook, 3 ch, *3 tr in same ch as first 2 tr, 3 ch; rep from * twice more, join round with sl st to top of 4-ch. Fasten off yarn. Join yarn B with sl st to any corner 3-ch sp.
Round 2: 3 ch (counts as 1 tr here and throughout), (1 tr, 3 ch, 2 tr) in same sp, 3 tr, *(2 tr, 3 ch, 2 tr) in next corner sp, 3 tr; rep from * twice more, join round with sl st to top of 3-ch.
Fasten off yarn. Join yarn C with sl st to any corner 3-ch sp.
Round 3: 3 ch, (1 tr, 3 ch, 2 tr) in same sp, 1 tr in each tr to next corner sp, *(2 tr, 3 ch, 2 tr) into next corner sp, 1 tr in each tr to next corner sp; rep from * twice more, join round with sl st to top of 3-ch.
Round 3 can now be repeated as many times as desired to make motif as big or small as you wish, working stripes of different colour as desired.

GRANNY HEXAGON

With yarn A, make 4 ch.

Round 1: 2 tr in fourth ch from hook, 3 ch, *3 tr in same ch as first 2 tr, 3 ch; rep from * four more times, join round with sl st to top of 4-ch. Fasten off yarn. Join yarn B to any 3-ch sp.
Round 2: 3 ch (counts as first tr here and throughout), (2 tr, 3 ch, 3 tr) in same 3-ch sp, 1 ch, *(3 tr, 3 ch, 3 tr) in next 3-ch sp, 1 ch; rep from * four more times, join round with sl st to top of 3-ch.
Fasten off yarn. Join yarn C to any corner 3-ch sp.
Round 3: 3 ch, (2 tr, 3 ch, 3 tr) in same 3-ch sp, 1 ch, 3 tr in next 1-ch sp, 1 ch, *(3 tr, 3 ch, 3 tr) in next 3-ch sp, 1 ch, 3 tr in next 1-ch sp, 1 ch; rep from * four more times, join round with sl st to top of 3-ch.
Fasten off yarn.

GRANNY TRIANGLE

With yarn A, make 4 ch.

Round 1: 2 tr in fourth ch from hook, 3 ch, *3 tr in same ch as first 2 tr, 3 ch; rep from * once more, join round with sl st to top of 4-ch.
Fasten off yarn. Join yarn B with sl st to any corner 3-ch sp.
Round 2: 3 ch (counts as first tr here and throughout), (2 tr, 3 ch, 3 tr) in same 3-ch sp, 1 ch, *(3 tr, 3 ch, 3 tr) in next 3-ch sp, 1 ch; rep from * once more, join round with sl st to top of 3-ch.
Fasten off yarn. Join yarn C to any corner 3-ch sp.
Round 3: 3 ch, (2 tr, 3 ch, 3 tr) in same 3-ch sp, 1 ch, 3 tr in next 1-ch sp, 1 ch, *(3 tr, 3 ch, 3 tr) in next 3-ch sp, 1 ch, 3 tr in next 1-ch sp, 1 ch; rep from * once more, join round with sl st to top of 3-ch.
Fasten off yarn. Join yarn D to any corner 3-ch sp.
Round 4: 3 ch, (2 tr, 3 ch, 3 tr) in same 3-ch sp, 1 ch, (3 tr in next 1-ch sp, 1 ch) to next corner, *(3 tr, 3 ch, 3 tr) in corner 3-ch sp, 1 ch, (3 tr in next 1-ch sp, 1 ch) to next corner; rep from * once more, join round with sl st to top of 3-ch.
Round 3 can be repeated to make motif bigger or smaller, working stripes of different colour as desired.