

Tapestry crochet session 10 Nov 2018

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About this session

- Introduction to some basic crochet techniques, and for those who want to try a project we will start to make a tapestry crochet snowflake motif.
- I don't pretend to be an expert on this topic, but I've succeeded in teaching myself and would like to share this with the group. You may have noticed that sessions on tapestry crochet are being run at some of the large yarn events, and there is plenty of information online if you want to delve deeper.
- Hopefully some of you have brought hooks and familiarised yourselves with chains and double crochet.
- Have we got our crocheters spread across all tables? Please help your fellow crafters!

What is tapestry crochet?

- A crochet technique which combines two (or more) colours.
- It uses only double crochet (dc) stitches and a foundation chain.
- You work with both your colours at the same time: one on the outside as your working colour, and the other encased within your stitches.
- Sometimes called by other names e.g. jacquard crochet.
- I discovered it whilst trying to find a crochet technique roughly analogous to the Fair Isle knitting technique which we did at the mittens session. I knew my knitting skills would definitely not be up to that challenge, so I decided to try and find a related crochet technique to try!
The snowflake motif was the first of 12 monthly tapestry crochet motifs to make a blanket. However, I decided to stick to the one design and alternate the colourways as illustrated at the beginning of this worksheet. (I now need to add a border to my 25 finished squares, seam them together and add a border to the whole blanket!)

How is it used?

It creates a substantial fabric, and has the scope to make intricate designs, therefore its uses include:

- Coasters and potholders

- Bags
- Portrait-style hangings
- Blankets
- Cushion covers
- Pencil cases, pen pots, purses and makeup bags
- Slippers
- Hats, scarves and gloves
- Toys.

Note that there are other double-crochet-only techniques e.g. baskets worked in the round, pumpkins where you work into only one of the usual two loops in each stitch. Therefore, even if you only master double crochet you have the building blocks for other adventures. (Note the use of crochet i-cord for pumpkin stems!)

Abbreviations

Ch = chain

DC = double crochet

yrh = yarn round hook

Exercise 1: for beginner/refresher crocheters (confident crocheters please help those on your table)



Use any weight of yarn, in **one colour**: I suggest DK or Aran.

Refer to the instructions from the KCG *Start to crochet* guide – see printout which can also be accessed via <http://kcguild.org.uk/sharing-knowledge/learn-crochet/>. Use the first four pages to learn how to:

- Make a slip knot
- Make chains
- Do double crochet stitches.

Follow this basic pattern to make a square or rectangle:

Foundation chain:

Make a slip knot, ch 16.

Row 1:

Miss one ch then work 15 dc into the remaining 15 ch.
Ch 1 and turn the work.

Row 2:

Miss the turning ch, then work 15 dc.
Ch 1 and turn the work.

Repeat row 2 until you have made the desired length.
Fasten off and weave in ends.

You can stick with Exercise 1 if you like, to get lots of practice with your dc – once you can make neat squares and rectangles you can use these as building blocks for many items.

Exercise 2: if you can do chains and double crochet, try learning the tapestry technique



For this exercise use **two contrasting colours** of yarn in the same weight - I suggest DK or Aran.

Carol Ventura is an American art historian and author with craft history as her specialism, and who seems to be a leading light in tapestry crochet in the USA: <https://www.tapestrycrochet.com>.

Study Carol Ventura's instructions to learn the tapestry crochet technique – see printout called *Tapestry crochet for right-handed crochet*, or the left-handed version. (Available at <http://www.carolventura.com/rightstitches.html> and <http://www.carolventura.com/leftstitches.html>. Note that I have changed to UK terminology on the printouts.)

Using the tapestry technique, follow the pattern below to make a square and practise switching between yarns. The first three rows are illustrated above.

Foundation chain:

Using yarn A, make a slip knot, ch 16.

Row 1:

Miss the first ch then dc in each ch.

Ch 1, turn.

Row 2:

Incorporate yarn B, carrying it inside your stitches made with yarn A.

Miss the turning ch.

Using yarn A do 5 dc, switching to yarn B on the last yrh.

Using yarn B do 5 dc, switching to yarn A on the last yrh.

Using yarn A do 5 dc, switching to yarn B on the last yrh.

Ch 1, turn.

Row 3:

Miss the turning ch.

Using yarn B do 5 dc, switching to yarn A on the last yrh.

Using yarn A do 5 dc, switching to yarn B on the last yrh.

Using yarn B do 5 dc, switching to yarn A on the last yrh.

Ch 1, turn.

Repeat rows 2 and 3 to form the pattern.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Exercise 3: if you have learned the tapestry technique, now start making your snowflake motif

Use two contrasting colours of yarn in the same weight

The pattern is by Divine Debris:

- Record in Ravelry: <https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/8-tapestry-snowflake-afghan-square>
- Free version on the designer's blog: <http://divinedebris.com/afghan-square-project-week-1/>

The pattern as published is very densely-written text and numbers, and the instructions use American terminology. Therefore I made myself a **visual chart to follow**, which we will use – see printout.

Here are my revised instructions:

Notes:

- Motif is approx 7.5 inch square
- Use 5.00mm hook if using Aran weight yarn
- Gauge 16 rows x 15 dc = 4 inches
- Pattern is worked back and forth in rows from the bottom up (not in the round), with a turn at the end of the rows.
- Ch 1 at the start of the row is a turning chain and does not count as a stitch.

Foundation chain:

Using yarn A, make a slip knot, ch 29.

Row 1:

Miss the first ch then dc in each of the remaining 28 ch.

Ch 1, turn.

Row 2:

Incorporate yarn B, carrying it inside your stitches made with yarn A.

Miss the turning ch.

Using yarn A do 28 dc.

Ch 1, turn.

Row 3: where it starts to get interesting!

Miss the turning ch.

Using yarn A do 7 dc, switching to yarn B on the last yrh.

Using yarn B do 1 dc, switching to yarn A on the last yrh.

Using yarn A do 12 dc, switching to yarn B on the last yrh.

Using yarn B do 1 dc, switching to yarn A on the last yrh.

Using yarn A do 7 dc.

Ch 1, turn.

Continue to follow the chart to complete the 30 rows.

Fasten off and weave in ends.