



UK Terms

Crochet Along

Stylecraft



Sunstar Blanket

3 colourways – My Sun & Stars,
My Vintage, My Country Garden – Part 1

Sunstar CAL by Jo Smith Introduction & Inspiration by Jo Smith

How I design...

I'm inspired by colour and patterns that I see all around me; both man-made and natural. I then take photos of all kinds of things; manhole covers, brickwork, graffiti, flowers and leaves to name but a few. Anything that stops me in my tracks!

Rarely looking at them again, just the taking of the photo seems to fix them in my brains inspiration file.

I never plan ahead to make something based on something I've seen. But after I've made something I can see where the inspiration may have come from.

I admit to being a binge crocheter! I may start in the morning working on the beginnings of a motif and try it in 5 or 6 colourways before I'm happy. I start with all the colours around me – everything I 'might' use (at least 20 colours in various shades). I play around holding the colours together and arranging them in groups. I just keep going until I'm happy with what's emerging and lay it on the floor for a while, taking photos (which help me to look more objectively).

Often making and remaking in lots of different colourways, altering the stitches on each until it pleases me.

Although I believe that all colours can work with each other just as they do in nature, my colour choices are never random.

I find I'm unable to be sure I'm happy with my colour choice within a pattern until I've swatched it.

So many times I've nearly finished a project only to realize it needed a different colour or shade in an earlier completed part!

So.... I'm often up doing this first design stage until I hear the birds start singing!

About Sunstar...

The central piece on this blanket design was because I was enjoying experimenting with tapestry crochet and I wanted to make a sunburst pattern.

My Sun and Stars was quite literal; it started with a sun in the sky – the triangles were added as an experiment and I liked them so then it just needed to be softened by adding circles which looked to me like planets. Therefore it became a sun in the middle with planets around. My imagination saw the sun in the night sky. .

My Vintage...

In the second colourway 'My Vintage' the colours are no longer literal and remind me of a vintage tile or carpet with washed colours reminiscent of faded rugs of Eastern origin. Not being my usual colour palette, it was both intriguing and exciting to challenge myself and extend my usual colour range and I love it! The more I used these colours the more I loved their richness and depth and subtlety.



My Country Garden – Introduction & Inspiration by Heather Leal

It has long been my dream to live in a cottage, growing flowers to fill jugs for my home. Picking shades for a colour recipe which evoked this dream, gave me weeks of pleasure, as I hooked these pretty shades together. It is my hope that you too will have a wonderful adventure as you work with the Country Garden colour recipe.



Crochet Along*

My Sun & Stars – Design & colourway by Jo Smith:

1 x 50g ball in each of the following yarns and shades:



1904
A Batik DK
Cherry



1903
E Batik DK
Coral

2 x 50g ball in each of the following yarns and shades:



1909
K Batik DK
Teal

1 x 100g ball in each of the following yarns and shades:



2417
B Life DK
Lily



2394
C Life DK
Dafodil



2359
D Life DK
Melon



2357
F Life DK
Aqua



2447
G Life DK
French Blue



2323
I Life DK
Charcoal



2305
J Life DK
Cream



2416
L Life DK
Teal

2 x 100g ball in each of the following yarns and shades:



2495
H Life DK
Deep Purple

My Vintage – Design & colourway by Jo Smith:

1 x 50g ball in each of the following yarns and shades:



1905
A Batik DK
Raspberry

2 x 50g ball in each of the following yarns and shades:



1907
B Batik DK
Plum



1910
K Batik DK
Pistachio

3 x 50g ball in each of the following yarns and shades:



1933
G Batik Elements DK
Krypton

1 x 100g ball in each of the following yarns and shades:



2319
C Life DK
Cranberry



2306
D Life DK
Cardinal



2344
E Life DK
Fuchsia



2356
F Life DK
Zing



2323
I Life DK
Charcoal



2305
J Life DK
Cream



2311
L Life DK
Fern

2 x 100g ball in each of the following yarns and shades:



2342
H Life DK
Mint

Crochet Along*

My Country Garden – alternative edging & colourway by Heather Leal

1 x 100g ball in each of the following yarns and shades:



1067

A Special DK
Grape



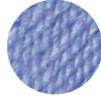
1277

B Special DK
Violet



1023

C Special DK
Raspberry



1188

D Special DK
Lavender



1080

E Special DK
Pale Rose



1834

F Special DK
Lincoln



1820

H Special DK
Duck Egg



1843

I Special DK
Powder Pink



1725

J Special DK
Sage



1724

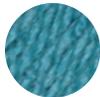
K Special DK
Parma Violet



1390

L Special DK
Clematis

2 x 100g ball in each of the following yarns and shades:



1722

G Special DK
Storm Blue

EQUIPMENT

4mm (UK 8, US G/6) crochet hook
Tapestry needle
Scissors
Tape measure

MEASUREMENT

4in/10cm square

ABBREVIATIONS

beg	beginning	mm	millimeter(s)
ch	chain	rem	remain(ing)
cm	centimetre(s)	rep	repeat
cont	continue	RS	right side
dc	double crochet	sl st	slip stitch
dtr	double treble	sp(s)	space(s)
g	grammes	st(s)	stitch(es)
htr	half treble	tr	treble
in	inches	WS	wrong side

NOTES:

The yarn amounts stated are based on average requirements and are therefore approximate.

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The Sunstar blanket measures approximately 122cm (48in) x 122cm (48in) square. To have this finished size, we have used the tension of 17 trebles x 8 rows on a 4mm hook to 10cm x 10cm (4in x 4in). Play around with your tension and hook until you are happy with how your stitches look, it is however important to keep the same tension throughout to make sure your motifs and when working in the round fit together neatly. Choose your colour-way and follow your colour-way key throughout. It may help to ring your preferred version in pen to ensure you are referencing the correct colours. For our pattern steps we are using 'My Country Garden'.

METHOD

Making your centre main piece

This is worked in the round and continually in one piece. Using 4mm hook and A make 5ch and join with a sl st to form a ring.

Round 1 (RS): Using A, 3ch (counts as 1tr), 11tr into ring, sl st to 3rd of 3ch at beg of round. 12 tr

Round 2: Using B, 3ch & 1tr in top of 3ch, 2tr into each tr, ending with sl st to 3rd of 3ch at beg of round. 24tr



Round 3: Using C, 3ch & 1tr into next tr, *(1tr in next tr, 2tr into next tr), rep from *, ending last rep with 1tr in next tr, sl st to 3rd of 3ch at beg of round. 36tr



Round 4: Using D, 3ch & 1tr in next tr, *(1tr in each of next 2tr, 2tr in next tr), rep from *, ending last rep with 1tr in each of next 2tr, sl st to 3rd of 3ch at beg of round. 48tr



Round 5: Using E, 3ch & 1tr in next tr, *(1tr in each of next 3tr, 2tr in next tr), rep from *, ending last rep with 1tr in each of next 3tr, sl st to 3rd of 3ch at beg of round. 60tr



Begin Sunstar section

In this section you will be using 2 colours, carry the colour not being used along the back of the work (making sure not to make the strand too tight or too loose) and work over the top of it.

Don't forget to work over the top of the strands to hide them within your work. (Encase the strand within your stitch)



Round 6: Using C, 3ch & 1tr in same tr on which 3ch sits, 1tr in each of next 3tr, * using F 1tr in next tr, using C 2tr in next tr, 1tr in each of next 3tr, rep from * ending with using F 1tr into next tr, sl st to 3rd of 3ch at beg of round. 72tr



Joining in your 2nd colour Round 6



Setting the placement of your Sunstar Round 6.

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Round 7: Using F, 3ch, * using C 2tr in next tr, 1tr in each of next 2tr, using F 1tr in each of next 3tr, rep from * ending with using F 1tr in each of next 2tr, sl st to 3rd of 3ch at beg of round. 84tr



Round 8: Using F, 3ch, 1tr in next tr, * using C 2tr in next tr, 1tr in next tr, using F 1tr in each of next 5tr, rep from * ending with using F 1tr in each of next 3tr, sl st to 3rd of 3ch at beg of round. 96tr



Round 9: Using F, 3ch, 1tr in next tr, * 2tr in next tr, using C 1tr in next tr, using F 1tr in each of next 6tr, rep from * ending with using F 1tr in next 4tr, sl st to 3rd of 3ch at beg of round. 108tr



Turn your circle into a square

Round 10: Using G, 1ch, work 1dc in each tr and work 2dc in the top of each foll 2 sunray tr but not in every 3rd Sunray, sl st to 1st ch. 116 sts



Round 11: Using H, work 1dc in each dc to end. Fasten off.



Mark the centre point of every 3rd Sunray with a stitch marker or spare contrast coloured yarn. There should be 4 markers, with 28 sts between. The corners are worked separately.



Rejoin H to the 3rd dc to the right of any marker.

You will now work in rows.

Round 12: Work 1dc in same dc, miss 2 dc, (3tr, 2ch, 3tr) all in next marked dc, miss 2dc, 1dc in next dc, 3ch, miss 2dc, 1dc in next dc, turn.



Round 13: Miss 3ch sp, 1tr in dc on which 3ch sits, 1tr in each of next 3tr, (2tr, 2ch, 2tr) in 2ch sp, 1tr in each of next 3tr, 2tr in next dc from previous round, miss 2dc, 1dc in next dc, 3ch, miss 2dc, 1dc in next dc, turn.



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Round 14: 1ch & 1dc in dc on which 1ch sits, 1tr in dc on which 3ch sits, 1tr in each of next 7tr, (2tr, 2ch, 2tr) in 2ch sp, 1tr in each of next 6tr, 1tr in top of 3ch, 2tr in dc on previous round, miss 2dc, 1dc in next dc. Fasten off & rep Rounds 12-14 for the 3 other corners.



Finished part 1 section



Tip: It will help you along the way to sew in your ends as you go. Doing this a little at a time will prevent having to sew them all at the end.