



UK Terms

Crochet Along

Stylecraft



White Cosmos

Frida's Flowers Blanket - Block 1

Crochet Along*

Introduction by Jane Crowfoot

I am delighted that Stylecraft asked me to design another Crochet Along project for them following the success of the Lily Pond Blanket last year. The inspiration for the design has been sitting at the back of my mind for a while and I knew that the Stylecraft Classique cotton would be a perfect choice for this project. The shades are bright and crisp and the yarn has fantastic stitch definition making it perfect for the 3D aspect of some of the flower designs.

My design process is pretty slow and I estimate that this project took me approximately 4 months to design from start to finish. I design almost all my pieces from scratch and on the whole I do not use existing pattern motifs as the basis for my design, so for every motif that became part of the blanket there are many other trial pieces and test scraps that didn't make it into the final design.

I will admit that the prospect of following Lily Pond with a new design was pretty daunting. I have tried my best to look at the positives and the negatives of the last design and think about how best this new project can work as a Crochet Along project. Like the Lily Pond Blanket, this project starts with the simpler pieces and the motifs get progressively harder, but this time the motifs are made solely in the round which should hopefully cut down on some of the tension issues some crocheters had when working through the Lily Pond. I have written a long piece about tension and why it is so important so please read this before you embark on the project.

I was introduced to the art of Frida Kahlo when I was in my late teens and was taken to an exhibition of the work of her husband Diego Rivera. I adore his work and was awed by his massive murals depicting the struggles of the Mexican people and the revolution. Rivera and Frida were incredibly famous as a pair of artists fighting for the rights of their people, but they had quite different painting styles; whilst Rivera painted on a huge scale with a watery, almost romantic style, his wife's paintings were often brutal and maybe a little crude. Kahlo used bright colours and chose very personal subject matter for her paintings, many of which feature herself as the main character.

Whilst I have always admired Frida's art, it is the woman herself that I am fascinated by. She was a tough person, who, despite her tiny frame and poor health, battled her way through her life. She is a symbol of feminine force and many people now recognize her as a huge figure within the women's rights movement.

Frida was a very colourful person and so I have chosen to base the design for this new crochet along on her costumes and the floral aspect of her paintings. Frida wore bright traditional style Mexican clothes at a time when this was very much against convention. She wore her hair long with flowers and ribbons interlaced and she was a lover of embroidery and hand made items, often layering her clothes to create some really stunning combinations of colour and style.

The Frida's Flowers blanket takes its main inspiration from traditional Mexican embroidery work with the bright shades sitting against the dark back ground. I have used Black within a blanket design for the very first time and hope that you will all forgive me for this when you're finding it a little harder to see your stitches!

I am really proud of this new design and hope that you will enjoy working through the new crochet along.

Janie x

Crochet Along*

Welcome to the start of the Stylecraft Frida's Flowers Blanket Crochet Along designed by Jane Crowfoot using one of our most popular Summer yarns Classique Cotton DK. Alternative shades in Special DK and Life DK are also available and details of these can be found on our shade list which is available from our website: <http://www.stylecraft-yarns.co.uk/Crochet.htm>

Over the next 15 weeks we will be bringing you a new block every fortnight. The dates for your diary are: 5 April, 19 April, 3 May, 17 May, 31 May, 14 June, 28 June and 12 July.

The patterns will focus on one motif every fortnight and you will need to complete an average of 4 motifs per set.

We will set out at the beginning of each block which colours and equipment you will need. We will always repeat abbreviations at the beginning of each pattern.

For general hints and tips please see our Crochet Along Introduction pdf which can be found here: <http://www.stylecraft-yarns.co.uk/Crochet.htm>

Block 1 – White Cosmos

Frida Kahlo loved her home and garden. The 'Blue House' where she was born and that she later shared with Diego Rivera is now preserved as Frida's beloved gardens where she spent a lot of time and surrounded herself with native Mexican plants and flowers.

The first motif is pretty straightforward with a small cosmos flower sitting at the centre of a pretty plain treble crochet motif. We have cosmos in our garden in the summer, but they are a native flower of Mexico and are bound to have grown in Frida's garden at the Blue House.

Use this motif as the template for all your others and try your best to make sure the width measurement is as close to 20cm (8in) as possible. You will need to make sure you check your stitch count at the end of each round and keep an eye on the consistency of your treble crochet stitches. If you find your piece is coming up too big or too small take a minute to read the notes about how you work a treble stitch as well as the notes on tension.

The next Block is available 19 April.

EQUIPMENT

3.5mm (UK 9 / US E/4), 4mm (UK 8 / US G/6), crochet hooks
Sewing needle

MEASUREMENT

Pre blocked – 19.5cm wide at widest point

ABBREVIATIONS

ch chain

cm centimetre(s)

dc double crochet

mm millimetre(s)

RS right side

sp(s) space(s)

ss slip stitch

st(s) stitch(es)

tch turning chain

tr treble

WS wrong side

NOTES:

Fastening Off and rejoining Yarn

You will achieve a much neater colour change if you complete rounds and fasten off the yarn, rather than joining mid stitch. When fastening off a yarn at the end of a round, the slip stitch that you have made to join can look like a stitch when you are working the following round. Make sure you count correctly and do not count the slip stitch as a stitch when working subsequent rounds.

Dealing with yarn ends

I tend to sew yarn ends in as I go along – doing this makes the finishing process much easier as you will have less to do. Sewing yarn ends in as you go along also means that you are less likely to lose stitches or make errors with your tension.

Crochet Along*

Block 1 – White Cosmos (make 4)

Yarns used:



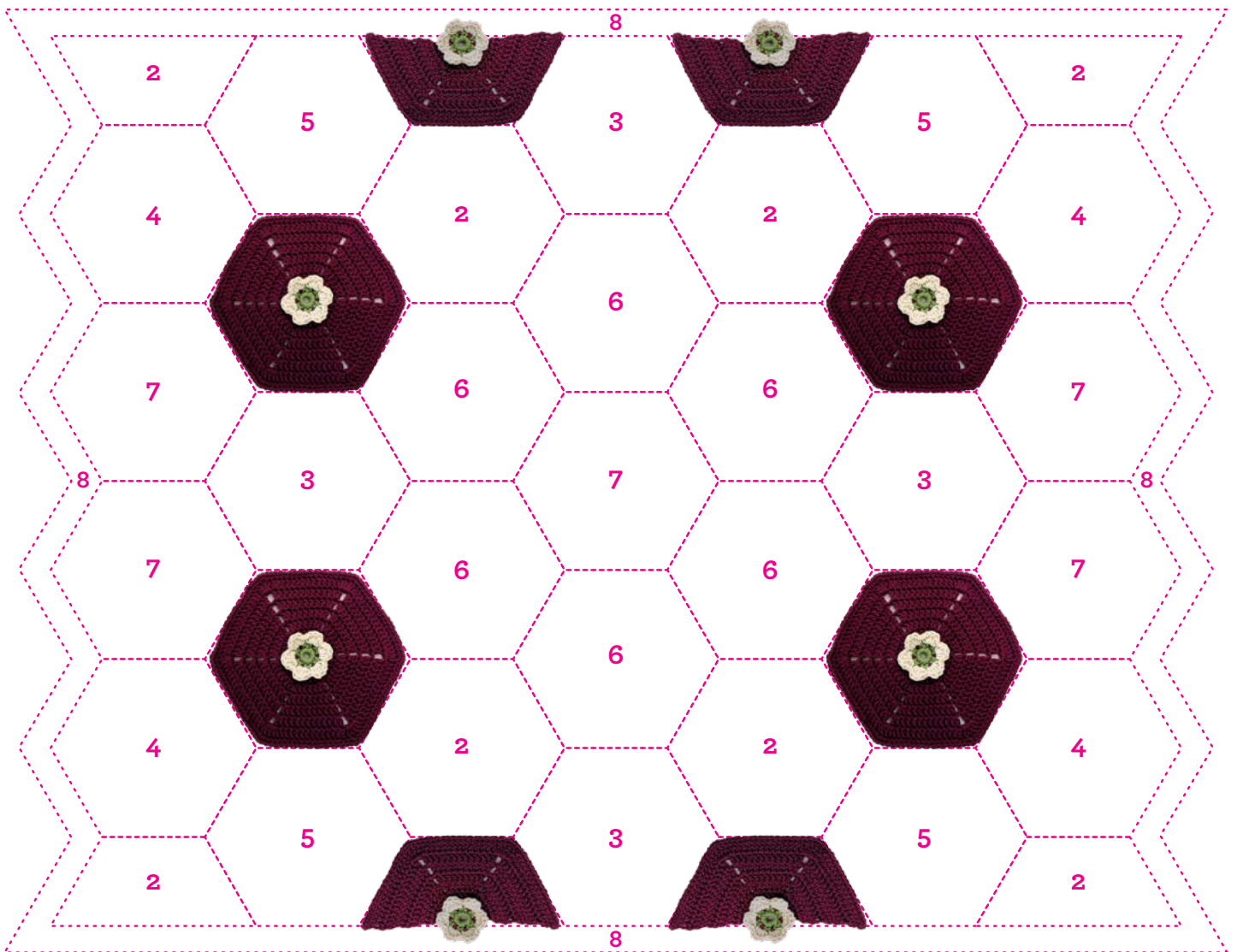
3097
Leaf



3665
Ivory



3567
Plum



Although every effort has been made to ensure that instructions are correct, Stylecraft cannot accept any liabilities. In the unlikely event that there are errors in the patterns we will work as quickly as possible to issue an addenda.

Stylecraft cannot accept responsibility for the result of using any other yarn.

Crochet Along*

METHOD

Using Leaf & **4mm** hook make 5ch, join with a ss to form a ring

Foundation Round: 1ch (does not count as a st), 12dc into ring, ss to join, (12sts)



Round 1: 1ch (does not count as a st), 1dc into next st, * 2ch, skip next st, 1dc into next st; repeat from * to end, omitting last dc on final pattern repeat, ss to join, fasten off (6sts & 6ch sps)



Round 2: Using Ivory join yarn into any ch sp by working 1ch (does not count as a st), [1dc, 3tr, 1dc] into same ch sp, * [1dc, 3tr, 1dc] into next ch sp; repeat from * to end, ss to join, fasten off (6 petals made)



Round 3: (RS facing) Using Plum & **3.5mm** hook & working from behind the flower you have just made, join yarn into any skipped dc made on Foundation Round by working 1ch (does not count as a st), 1dc into st at base of 1ch, 3ch, * 1dc into next skipped st, 3ch; repeat from * to end, ss to join, (6sts & 6ch sps)



Round 4: ss into next ch sp, 3ch (counts as 1tr), 4tr into ch sp at base of 3ch, 1ch, * 5tr into next ch sp, 1ch; repeat from * to end, ss to 3rd ch of 3ch made at beginning of round to join, (30sts & 6 ch sps)



Round 5: 3ch (counts as 1tr), 1tr into st at base of 3ch, 1tr into next st (this is the ch that sits on top of the 1st true tr made on the previous round), 1tr into each next 2sts, 2tr into next st, 1ch, skip 1ch, * 2tr into next st, 1tr into each next 3sts, 2tr into next st, 1ch, skip 1ch; repeat from * to end, ss to join (42sts & 6ch sps)



Round 6: 3ch (counts as 1tr), 1tr into st at base of 3ch, 1tr into next st (this is the ch that sits on the 1st true tr made on the previous round), 1tr into each next 4sts, 2tr into next st, 1ch, skip 1ch, * 2tr into next st, 1tr into each next 5sts, 2tr into next st, 1ch, skip 1ch; repeat from * to end, ss to join (54sts & 6ch sps)



Round 7: 3ch (counts as 1tr), 1tr into st at base of 3ch, 1tr into next st (this is the ch that sits on the 1st true tr made on the previous round), 1tr into each next 6sts, 2tr into next st, 1ch,

Crochet Along*

skip 1ch, * 2tr into next st, 1tr into each next 7sts, 2tr into next st, 1ch, skip 1ch; repeat from * to end, ss to join (66sts & 6ch sps)



Round 8: 3ch (counts as 1tr), 1tr into st at base of 3ch, 1tr into next st (this is the ch that sits on the 1st true tr made on the previous round), 1tr into each next 8sts, 2tr into next st, 1ch, skip 1ch, * 2tr into next st, 1tr into each next 9sts, 2tr into next st, 1ch, skip 1ch; repeat from * to end, ss to join (78sts & 6ch sps)



Round 9: 3ch (counts as 1tr), 1tr into st at base of 3ch, 1tr into next st (this is the ch that sits on the 1st true tr made on the previous round), 1tr into each next 10sts, 2tr into next st, * 3tr into next ch sp, 2tr into next st (this is the ch that leads into the next tr & sits above it - it might be difficult to see as part of it may be covered by the 3tr you have just made into the ch sp), 1tr into each next 11sts, 2tr into next st; repeat from * to last ch sp, 3tr into ch sp, ss to join (108sts)



Round 10: Using 4mm hook 1ch (does not count as a st), 1dc into each next 15sts, [3dc into next st, 1dc into each next 17sts] 5 times, 3dc into next st, 1dc into each next 2sts, ss to join, fasten off (120sts)



Sew in yarn ends

Place stitch marker into corner sts (central st of 3dc) if required

Pre Blocked Measurement: 19.5cm at widest point



Half White Cosmos

Using Leaf & 4mm hook make 5ch, join with a ss to form a ring

Foundation Round: 1ch (does not count as a st), 12dc into ring, ss to join, (12sts)

Round 1: 1ch (does not count as a st), 1dc into next st, * 2ch, skip next st, 1dc into next st; repeat from * to end, omitting last dc on final pattern repeat, ss to join, fasten off (6sts & 6ch sps)

Round 2: Using Ivory join yarn into any ch sp by working 1ch (does not count as a st), [1dc, 3tr, 1dc] into same ch sp, * [1dc, 3tr, 1dc] into next ch sp; repeat from * to end, ss to join, fasten off (6 petals made)

Round 3: (RS facing) Using Plum & 3.5mm hook & working from behind the flower you have just made, join yarn into any skipped dc made on Foundation Round by working 1ch (does not count as a st), 1dc into st at base of 1ch, 3ch, * 1dc into next skipped st, 3ch; repeat from * to end, ss to join, (6sts & 6ch sps)

From this point you are going to work in rows rather than in rounds, this means you need to turn at the end of each row. Check that you have the correct side facing you at all times. (WS) means wrong side facing (RS) means right side facing

These 3 rows are the same as for the main piece - please refer to the pictures on page 3.

Row 1: (RS facing) ss into next ch sp, 3ch (counts as 1tr), 5tr into same ch sp, 1ch, * 5tr into next ch sp, 1ch, 6tr into next ch sp, turn (17sts & 2 ch sps)



Row 2: (WS facing) 3ch (counts as 1tr), 1tr into st at base of 3ch, 1tr into each next 4sts, 2tr into next st, 1ch, skip 1ch, 2tr into next

Crochet Along*

st, (because you are WS facing this st looks like it is beyond the post of the last tr of group made on the previous row), 1tr into each next 3sts, 2tr into next st, 1ch, skip 1ch, 2tr into next st, 1tr into each next 4sts, 2tr into 3rd ch of tch made at beginning of last row, turn (23sts & 2ch sps)



Row 3: (RS facing) 3ch (counts as 1tr), 1tr into st at base of 3ch, 1tr into each next 6sts, 2tr into next st, 1ch, skip 1ch, 2tr into next st, 1tr into each next 5sts, 2tr into next st, 1ch, skip 1ch, 2tr into next st, 1tr into each next 6sts, 2tr into 3rd ch of tch made at beginning of last row, turn (29sts & 2ch sps)



Row 4: (WS facing) 3ch (counts as 1tr), 1tr into st at base of 3ch, 1tr into each next 8sts, 2tr into next st, 1ch, skip 1ch, 2tr into next st, 1tr into each next 7sts, 2tr into next st, 1ch, skip 1ch, 2tr into next st, 1tr into each next 8sts, 2tr into 3rd ch of tch made at beginning of last row, turn (35sts & 2ch sps)



Row 5: (RS facing) 3ch (counts as 1tr), 1tr into st at base of 3ch, 1tr into each next 10sts, 2tr into next st, 1ch, skip 1ch, 2tr into next st, 1tr into each next 9sts, 2tr into next st, 1ch, skip 1ch, 2tr into next st, 1tr into each next 10sts, 2tr into 3rd ch of tch made at beginning of last row, turn (41sts & 2ch sps)



Row 6: (WS facing) 3ch (counts as 1tr), 1tr into st at base of 3ch, 1tr into each next 12sts, 2tr into next st, 3tr into next ch sp, 2tr into next st, (as before - this st is beyond the post of the tr), 1tr into each next 11sts, 2tr into next st, 3tr into next ch sp, 2tr into next st as before, 1tr into each next 12 sts, 2tr into 3rd ch of tch made at beginning of last row, turn (53sts)



Row 7: Using 4mm hook 1ch (does not count as a st), 3dc into st at base of 1ch, 1dc into each next 16sts, 3dc into next st, 1dc into each next 17sts, 3dc into next st, 1dc into each next 16sts, 3dc into 3rd ch of tch made at beginning of last row, fasten off (61sts)

Sew in yarn ends

Place stitch marker into corner sts if required

Pre Blocked Measurement: 19.5cm at widest point

