# Crochet Along

**Stylecraft**

# Under the Sea CAL

Part 8 | Joining

# Crochet Along ✽

## Under the Sea CAL by Catherine Bligh

Welcome to the start of the Stylecraft Under the Sea Blanket Crochet Along designed for us by Catherine Bligh. Designed in three colorways, the blanket can be made in Special DK, Bellissima & Bambino DK, or Batik DK.

Over the forthcoming weeks we will be bringing you a new block every fortnight (2 weeks). The dates for your diary are: 5th April, 19th April, 3rd May, 17th May, 31st May, 14th June, 28th June, 12th July and 26th July.

The patterns will focus on one motif every fortnight and you will need to complete an average of 3 motifs per set.

We will set out at the beginning of each motif which colors and equipment you will need. We will always repeat abbreviations at the beginning of each pattern. As there are three Color Recipes, the colors have been labelled A, B, C etc so you can easily identify which color you need for your chosen blanket. The step by step images within the patterns have been shown in the first colorway, using Special DK. The completed motifs in the other two colorways will be shown at the end of each pattern.

For general hints and tips please see the Getting Ready document which can be found here: https://www.stylecraft-yarns.co.uk/Content/Downloads/UndertheSea-0GettingReadyv5.pdf

There are 7 different motifs that, when joined together create a 53"/135cm square blanket

The next part will be available 26th July



| 1 | Wavy Rectangles |
| 2 | Starfish |
| 3 | Sea Pennies |
| 4 | Sea Anemone |
| 5 | Nautilus Shell |
| 6 | Sea Swells |
| 7 | Big Shells |
| 8 | Joining |
| 9 | Border |

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## YARN USAGE – COLORWAY 1 – FATHOMS BELOW

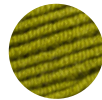**Special DK:** 100g – 295m (322yds), 100% Premium Acrylic.

D
Royal

## YARN USAGE – COLORWAY 2 – BEAUTIFUL BRINY SEA

**Bambino DK:** 100g – 268m (293yds), 100% Premium Acrylic.
**Bellissima DK:** 100g – 268m (293yds), 100% Premium Acrylic.

D
Sugar
Snap
(Bellissima)

## YARN USAGE – COLORWAY 3 – THE EDGE OF THE WATER

**Batik DK:** 50g – 138m (151yds), 80% Premium Acrylic, 20% Wool.

D
Mint

## EQUIPMENT
4.5mm (US 7 / UK 7) crochet hook
(or the size required to give the correct measurements)
Tapestry Needle
Locking Stitch Markers

## PATTERN NOTES
Individual round notes will be marked in **bold**. Example:
**Note: put st markers in 4th, 13th, 22nd and 31st sts.**

Helpful hints (eg, about stitch placements) will be bracketed, italicised, and colored red.
Example: Skip first hdc (*the 'hidden' first hdc*)

A ch3 (*or ch2*) at the beginning of a round always counts as a beginning dc (*or beginning hdc*), unless otherwise stated.

Where you are not working directly into the round below, the relevant round will be **bolded**.

The numbers in brackets at the end of each round's instructions are the numbers of stitches that should be in that round.

A 'hard' repeat (eg, one side of a square) is started with * and ends with **.

A 'soft' repeat (eg, a repeated pattern within each side of a square) is started with << and ends with >>.

Note: when breaking yarn, remember to leave a long tail to make it easier to sew it in securely at the end.

## STITCHES USED
US terminology.

| US | |
|------|------------------------------|
| Ch | chain |
| Sl st | slip stitch |
| Sc | single crochet |
| Sc2tog | single crochet 2 sts together |
| Hdc | half double crochet |
| Dc | double crochet |
| Ttc | half treble crochet |
| Tc | treble crochet |
| Hdtc | half double treble crochet |
| Dtr | double treble crochet |
| Bpsc | back post single crochet |
| Bphdc | back post half double crochet |
| Bpdc | back post double crochet |
| Fpdc | front post double crochet |
| Fptc | front post treble crochet |
| Bptc | back post treble crochet |

## ABBREVIATIONS

| Beg | beginning |
|-------|---------------------------|
| Rep | repeat |
| Rnd | round |
| RS | Right Side |
| St(s) | stitch(es) |
| WS | Wrong Side |
| Yo | yarn over (yarn round hook) |

# Crochet Along

## METHOD

This looks like a complicated blanket to join, but I promise it isn't. Work up sets of squares in the way I suggest, and you'll find it goes very quickly and joins up really quite easily.

All the seams on this blanket are worked in single crochet worked in back loops only, with fronts facing each other. All seams are worked in color D.

You don't have to join with single crochet – a slip stitch also works well, but make sure you keep it from getting too tight. Or, if you prefer, you can just as easily sew the squares together.

I like to pin my squares together with curved 'quilter's' safety-pins – you don't have to, but I find it's easier to keep track of where I'm joining.

Don't worry if occasionally you find you've made a mistake with stitch counts and need to 'fudge' it. You can work two stitches from one square into one stitch of another, working the 'extra' stitch in the corners, not in the middle of the row. You'll never know the difference, once it's all joined. But do double-check that you've started your join in the right place, and included or omitted corner stitches as appropriate.

When you have finished each join, I recommend that you do not sew the ends in. You will find it easier to sew the ends neatly in for the joins once the base round of the border is complete.

**Join 1:** First, join together the 'Sea Anemone' and 'Sea Pennies' squares, as shown by the pink arrows in the picture to the right.

Begin with a slip knot on your hook. Put the first two squares together, right sides facing, and begin in the corner stitch (*which should be the second of 3sc*). Work along the edge of the squares in the back loops only (*the 'outside' loop of the stitches when you look down on it*).

When you get to the end of the join, make sure you finish in the final corner stitches of the squares. This should mean you have a join comprising of 42 sc stitches.



Break yarn at the end of each join.

Make sure you begin and end this join in the corner stitch – the second of 3sc.

**Join 2:** Now, using the method above, join together the central square with the middle round of squares and rectangles, and with the Starfish and Sea Anemone squares on the outer round of squares – as shown by the green arrows in the picture to the right.

I strongly advise you pin together your squares here before you join – especially if you want your Wavy Rectangles, Nautilus Shells and Starfish squares to face the right direction.
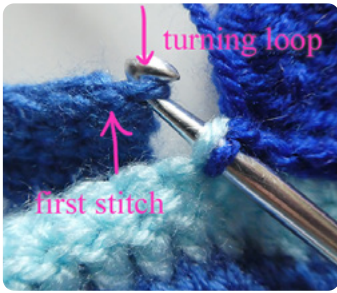
Make sure you read all the instructions before you begin, to make sure you work all the corners correctly; what you will do is different depending on what pieces you are joining.

For each join, begin at a corner of the Big Shells central square (with the central square closest to you as you work). Then work out towards the edge of the blanket, joining Big Shells with a Nautilus Shell square.
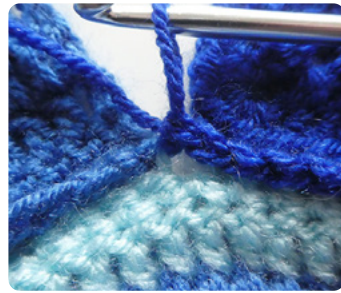


When you reach the end of the Nautilus Shell square, work up to the corner stitch as usual. Then work the next sc into the same stitch of the Big Shells square as the previous stitch, and into a loop at the corner of the Wavy Rectangle (i.e., the turning loop just before the first foundation sc of the rectangle).

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Make sure you work into a corner loop, not the first st of the bottom of the rectangle.

And both corner stitches should be worked through the same st of Big Shells.

Continue on as usual to the end of the central square, but *do not* work a sc into the corner stitch of the central square. Skip the corner stitch of the next square (another Nautilus Shell). Begin instead in the first of 3hdc (*which will look like the third hdc from the back*). Continue on to the end of the join as usual.

When you reach the next corner of the Nautilus Shell, and the end of the Wavy Rectangle, work the final sc into the corner stitch of the square and into a loop at the corner of the rectangle (*i.e., the turning loop just after the first foundation sc of the rectangle*).

Continue on as usual for the final two squares, making sure to work the first and last corner stitches as in the first join section.

Break off yarn at the end of each join.

**Join 3:** Now you'll join the Sea Pennies squares to the Starfish squares, and also the Nautilus Shell squares to the edge of the Wavy Rectangles – as shown by the red arrows in the picture below.

Working up the edge of the rectangles is a little different to the other joins, because you'll be working into the posts of stitches, rather than into the tops.



You will need to end up with 42 sc stitches – two 'corner' stitches (which will be worked into a loop at the corner of the Wavy Rectangle, as above), and forty in between.
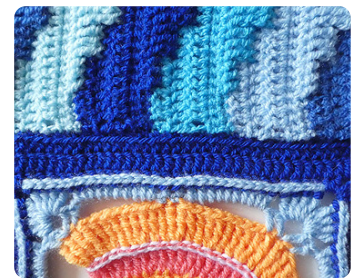
You may find it helpful to find the halfway point of the rectangle edge (you can easily do this by folding it in half and putting a stitch marker midway). This will help guide you to work 21 sc before this point and 21 after (*including corners*).

The halfway point should be near the end of the section in color C.



Aim to work roughly two sc for every three sc rows, and two sc for every dc row – but the general rule is to try to space the stitches out evenly, so the rectangle isn't stretched awkwardly anywhere.

There are, obviously, no back loops to work into along the sides of the rectangle sections. Just try to work *through* the sc and dc stitches, rather than around them.



Begin at the centre, then work outwards, following the direction of the arrows. The beginning corner stitches of the rectangle and square have already been used, in Join Two – but begin there anyway, so that there are two sc stitches worked into each corner stitch.

Break off yarn at the end of each join.

**Join 4:** Finally, you will work four long seams to join the corner squares in to the outer ring of squares, and the outer ring to the middle ring – as shown by the purple arrows in the picture to the right.

This is extremely straightforward, using the method as above.



When you reach the end of one set of squares, work the corner stitches as usual, then go on to the corner stitches of the next set of squares, 'leaping over' any perpendicular join.



Just 'leap' over the perpendicular joins, going straight on to the corner stitches of the next set of squares.

When you reach the point where two squares meet in the middle of a rectangle (*i.e., where the Sea Pennies and Sea Anemone squares meet the middle of the rectangle*), skip the final corner stitch of the first square, and the first corner stitch of the next square (as in Join Two). Then continue on as usual.

Don't forget that you'll need 42 sc stitches along the edge of each rectangle; use the method detailed in Join Three to spread your stitches out appropriately.

Break yarn at the end of each join.