



Crochet
Along

by Stylecraft

Ross Blanket

Designed by Catherine Bligh

Crochet Along*

Welcome to the Ross Crochet Along, designed by our newest Blogstar, Catherine Bligh.

Her blog is called Catherine's Corner and is packed full of colourful inspiration for crocheters of all abilities. This blanket has been inspired by the character 'Ross Poldark' from the very popular BBC Poldark series and follows on from the huge success of Catherine's Demelza blanket. She has used a colour palette drawn from the costumes worn in the series by Ross Poldark which feature classic shades with highlights of colour. Catherine has incorporated lots of inspiration from the Cornish setting, including crossroads and breaking barriers into each square.

A welcome note from Catherine

MATERIALS

I used Stylecraft Special DK, in the following colours: storm blue, copper, white, silver, black, denim, dark brown, grey, mocha, and cream.

I used approximately 134g of storm blue, 88g of copper, 96g of white, 89g of silver, 66g of black, 123g of denim, 110g of dark brown, 91g of grey, 245g of mocha, and 76g of cream. Stylecraft Special DK comes in 100g balls. Your usage may be more or less depending on your gauge.

CROCHET HOOKS

Hook: 4.5mm. Gauge is not essential for this project. As a guide, the big central square turned out roughly 16 inches for me, worked in DK with a 4.5mm hook. The smallest squares were 4 inches, the medium squares 8 inches. If your central square is smaller, your blanket will be correspondingly smaller. If your square is bigger, your blanket will be bigger. Use what feels comfortable to you with the yarn you choose.

Catherine uses Stylecraft Special DK in the following colours and quantities:



1722
Storm Blue
2 balls



1029
Copper
1 ball



1001
White
2 balls



1203
Silver
1 ball



1302
Denim
2 balls



1004
Dark Brown
2 balls



1099
Grey
1 ball



1064
Mocha
3 balls



1005
Cream
1 ball



1002
Black
1 ball

I tend to have a tight gauge; use your own judgement as to whether you want to go up or down a hook size, or even two!

OTHER ACCESSORIES

You will also need a tapestry needle for sewing in ends, and you may find stitch markers helpful. If you don't have stitch markers, short lengths of a contrasting colour yarn work just as well.

BLOCKING

I don't feel the need to block squares when using acrylic yarn - because, short of 'killing' the fibres with steam, blocking doesn't do much! I do, however, wash the blanket when it's done, and tumble dry on low. I find this is a good blocking technique for this particular yarn. It softens the stitches and makes everything relax into shape.

STITCHES USED

This pattern uses UK terminology, and assumes you are familiar with a range of basic and some more intermediate stitches. There are a lot of very good tutorials available online for all of these stitches. Anything that is slightly out of the ordinary will be explained in the pattern, with pictures where necessary.

The stitches and abbreviations used are as follows:

sl st = slip stitch

ch = chain

dc = double crochet

htr = half treble

tr = treble

dtr = treble crochet

bphtr = back post half treble

bpdtr = back post double treble

fptr = front post treble

fpdtr = front post double treble

fptr2tog = work front post treble decrease across two stitches

fpdtr2tog = work front post double treble decrease across two stitches

Note: Post stitches are worked around the post of a stitch, rather than through the top of the stitch. Unless otherwise instructed, always assume that you skip over the top of a stitch that has been worked as a front post stitch.

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V stitch = (tr, ch1, tr) in same stitch

Shell stitch = (tr, ch1, tr, ch1, tr, ch1, tr) in same stitch.

Standing stitches: standing dc, standing htr, standing tr. These are a great way to begin a round without joining new yarn with a slip stitch and chains. It makes the first stitch look like all the others, and you can easily make an 'invisible' join at the end, and so avoid having to slip stitch to join the last stitch to the first stitch in a round. There are a number of excellent tutorials online on how to do these stitches. If you're not happy using standing stitches, just join new yarn in the normal way with a slip stitch and then ch1 for dc, ch2 for htr, or ch3 for tr, and then at the end of the round join with a sl st to the 'top' ch of the beginning chain.

Invisible join: There are a number of good tutorials online, and this can be done with either a chained beginning stitch or a standing stitch. This is optional. If you prefer to join the last stitch to the first stitch with a slip stitch, feel free to do that. I will generally say 'do an invisible join', but if I specifically say to join with a sl st, then please do that.

Magic circle: again, there are lots of tutorials out there. This is a good way of starting a square because it can be drawn tight, and doesn't leave a hole in the middle the way a chain loop does.

Foundation treble: I love foundation crochet. It eliminates the need for a chained beginning, and has much more stretch than a chain, so is more forgiving. There are some excellent tutorials online. If you're struggling with foundation treble, you can work a chain of the correct length and then tr into each stitch as your 'row one'.

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

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

CHARTS AND IMAGES

The patterns include step-by-step images to help guide you through the making process. We think that images like this can be really helpful and are a great alternative to charts (which are not included in the CAL patterns this time) and

we feel it is important that you see how the pieces look as they are worked on, even if they look a little curly and uneven.

We are publishing the CAL in UK & US terms but here is a conversion chart we thought might be useful.

UK		US	
chain	ch	chain	ch
slip stitch	ss	slip stitch	ss
double crochet	dc	single crochet	sc
half treble crochet	htr	half double crochet	hdc
treble crochet	tr	double crochet	dc
double treble crochet	dtr	treble crochet	tr

HELP IS AT HAND

We want you to enjoy this project and we will do our best to make sure that any queries you might have get answered as soon as possible.

We will be producing helpful video tutorials giving instructions and further support for each part of the pattern. These will be available from our YouTube channel Stylecraft Yarns.

The easiest way for you to make contact is via the Pippin Poppycrochet Facebook group who are making and supporting the CAL week by week. They will do their best to make sure all questions are answered and support given. Please note that this group is not run by Stylecraft but by trusted Stylecraft fans who are great ambassadors for the Ross Crochet Along.

Although every effort has been made to ensure instructions are correct, it is possible that some errors have occurred but we are on hand to help with any queries you may have.

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

Finally, as a thank you for taking the time to read our information and being a part of the Ross Crochet Along, on the next page is a preview of the finished blanket. We're sure you'll agree it's just gorgeous!

Thank you for taking part in the new Crochet Along.
We are sure you'll have fun creating this stunning blanket.

Happy Crocheting!

The Stylecraft Team

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