



Crochet  
Along   
by  Stylecraft

Lily Pond Blanket

Designed by Jane Crowfoot

# Crochet Along\*

Welcome to the Stylecraft Crochet Along designed by Jane Crowfoot. With less than 3 weeks to go until the launch of the first patterns, we thought it would be a good idea to give you a bit of information about what you can do to prepare for the CAL so that you can start working on the project just as soon as you have downloaded the first set of patterns.

## CHOOSING YOUR YARN

The patterns have been written for Stylecraft Life DK. This is a true DK weight of yarn that knits to a tension of 22sts and 30 rows on 4mm knitting needles. Although we hope that you will be using either our Life DK or Special DK, if you have found a substitute yarn then check the ball band for the knitted tension information. There are some hints and tips from Jane a little further on about how to achieve the correct crochet tension.

Stylecraft Life DK comes in 100g balls and has a length of 326yds/298 metres. If you have chosen an alternative yarn please make sure that the length is as close to Life DK as possible. Yarns that have a different fibre content or a slightly different yarn twist can have varying lengths of yarn, even though they weigh the same. If you are using Special DK instead of Life DK you do not need any extra yarn as there is only a tiny difference in yarn length per 100g ball.

## CROCHET HOOKS

Jane has used a 3.5mm, 4mm & 4.5mm hook in the project. The 4mm hook is used for the majority of the project, but it is important that you do have all 3 sizes as using the incorrect hook size will affect the appearance of your piece.

Jane is a big fan of Clover Amour hooks. They have an elastomer handle which is slightly squishy and stops your fingers from slipping. The ergonomic design of the hook also means there is a flat area for your thumb to rest on.

There are lots of new hooks on the market now. Many of them have a plastic type handle and Jane can vouch for the fact that a sturdy handle really does help if you struggle with sore wrists or fingers when you crochet. You could also take a look at the Knit Pro Waves, Prym or Clover Soft Touch as an alternative to the Clover Amour.

## OTHER ACCESSORIES

Along with the crochet hooks, you will need a few extra pieces of equipment when working through this project.

## STITCH MARKERS

In order to help you through the making up process of the blanket Jane suggests within the patterns that you use stitch markers to denote certain stitches or help when you are joining your seams later on.

Jane tends to use small locking stitch markers – these look like little nappy pins and are really safe as the stitches cannot escape. Locking markers are especially good for holding crochet pieces together while you sew up seams. Jane suggests that you use a stitch marker to mark every corner stitch on the square motifs, of which there will be a total of 21 pieces. If you mark each piece with 4 markers and plan to leave them in your work the whole time then you will need a total of 84 markers. This is a lot of markers, so you could mark your stitches with spare pieces of yarn or small pins or hair slides if you prefer.

## KNITTERS SEWING NEEDLE

You will have a lot of yarn ends to sew in as you work through the project. It can save a lot of time at the end if you sew in all your ends as you go along so that you don't end up with a massive making up job once you have completed all your crochet. The blanket will be crocheted together using double crochet, but you will need a sewing needle to sew in all the loose ends.

Jane uses a chibi bent tip needle. These are great for sewing up knitting and crochet projects. They come in packs of 2 needles and have a handy little container too!

## OTHER BITS AND BOBS

You will also need a sharp pair of scissors and a tape measure. You might also want to sort out a dedicated bag for your project. Jane likes to make sure that she does not muddle up her yarns with other things or misplace any of them. Canvas bags or baskets are great for this. Another top tip is to tape a piece of each colour to the printed colour chart so you can always be sure you are reaching for the correct shade.

The project takes 14 balls in total. You will need 2 balls each of Fern, Teal, Olive and 1 ball of each of the rest.



2319  
Cranberry



2344  
Fuchsia



2417  
Lily



2301  
Rose



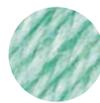
2305  
Cream



2394  
Daffodil



2311  
Fern



2342  
Mint



2416  
Teal



2302  
Olive



2357  
Aqua

# Crochet Along\*

## STITCHES USED

This project is aimed at an intermediate level of crocheter. It is important that you know your stitches and have a good grasp of techniques. If you are planning to use this project as a learning tool then it is a good idea to make sure you know your basics before you start.

The project is written using UK terminology. The US terminology appears in the table below. We are also publishing Dutch language versions of the patterns and they will be available on our website too.

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

## TENSION

If you already have your yarn and the correct hooks then you are ready to work your tension pieces.

Taking the time to work these blocks can seem like a pain, but it is REALLY important that you are sure you are working to the same tension as the tension the patterns are written for. A failure to work to the correct tension will mean that your project will come out a different size and that you will use a different amount of yarn.

If you are using Life DK or Special DK and have full 100g balls you will have enough yarn in almost all of the shades to work your tension pieces and still have enough to complete your CAL project. When Jane completed the project she had at least a 3rd of a ball of all shades except the Fern and Teal left over. She only had approx. 20g of these 2 shades left so we would suggest you don't use these for your tension pieces.

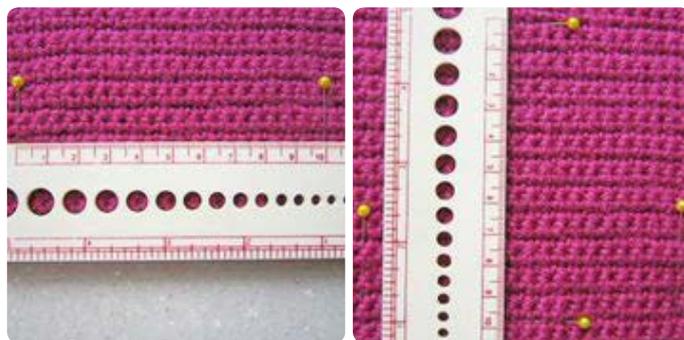
When working a tension piece it is a good idea to work on more stitches and rows than the suggested tension. Jane used 28 or 29sts and worked at least 4 more rows of the stitches so that she could measure a true tension within her pieces. See Jane's images for a guide.



Double Crochet – dc (US single crochet – sc)

Using 4mm hook

Tension = 20 sts and 22 rows to 10cm



Treble Crochet – tr (US double crochet – dc)

Using 3.5mm hook

Tension 20sts and 10 rows to 10cm



Please note the hook sizes above. A smaller hook is used to achieve the treble crochet (US double crochet) tension.

The tension is taken from unblocked swatches. Jane stuck hers down to the work surface with double sided tape (being careful not to stretch them) so that they were less curly and easy to measure.

If your tension is different to that suggested, then change your hook sizes accordingly and try the tension swatches again.

If you have a loose tension use a smaller hook.

If you have a tight tension use a larger hook.

## 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.

## YARN USAGE

All yarns have a varying amount of left overs, with Teal and Fern having the smallest amount remaining once the project is completed.

# Crochet Along\*

Jane advises that you keep hold of all your yarn until the end of the project. By this she means all the pieces you might undo and any pieces that look a bit frayed. Don't be tempted to use any of the yarn for any other project until you have completed this one and make sure you keep everything in a safe place.

## 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. The easiest way for you to make contact is via the Facebook groups.

There are two official Lily Pond CAL Facebook groups. Please note that neither of these are run by Stylecraft but by trusted Stylecraft fans who are great ambassadors for our Lily Pond 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 read our information and being a part of our Lily Pond Crochet Along, here is an exclusive preview of the finished blanket. We're sure you'll agree it's just gorgeous!



We have had so much fun planning this fabulous new project for you and we hope you have just as much fun creating it!

Happy Crocheting!

The Stylecraft Team