

FEBRUARY MYSTERY BLOCK for 'A New Twist' Group on Ravelry

Part of SpinCushions CAL in 2013

Part of Moogly's CAL in 2014

ANTICIPATION—a 12" afghan block



Co-designed by Margaret MacInnis and Donna Kay Lacey; Photo by MaryFairy

Materials

Worsted Yarn in 3 Colours. As shown Vanna's Choice in (A—30 grams), (B—35 grams), (C—25 grams)

Crochet Hook US H (5 mm) and US I (5.5 mm)—**larger hook used for Clue 3...**

TIP: Use one hook size smaller than you normally would, for the body of the block. It's relatively 'loose' and the testers found it to be bigger than average at the end, with their usual hook.

Yarn Needle

Stitches

ch2Vst---in the same st (dc, ch 2, dc)

fpSC—front post single crochet—work a sc around the post of the indicated st from the front

bpsc—back post single crochet—work a sc around the post of the indicated st (or around the back two vertical loops if indicated), from the back

sk—skip/skipped

fasten off—it is advised to fasten off using the Invisible Join technique if possible, particularly in the Surface Crochet rounds. In this project, you will frequently be Invisibly Joining from a chain series to a stitch---I like to chain one fewer than directed, pull the yarn through as though fastening off, then use the yarn needle to 'form' the last chain around the top of the stitch to which it is worked. Most of those joins will be in the Surface Crochet section; if they are in another section, they are subsequently covered by the next round, and not so crucial to be perfect.

sc join—make a slip knot on your hook. Insert hook into indicated st, yo and draw up a loop, yo and pull through two loops on hook.

CLUE 1

Colour A--Ch 5, sl st to first ch to form a ring. (Or work Magic Circle for RND 1)

RND 1: Ch 3, 11 dc in ring. Sl st in top of beg ch-3. (12 dc)

RND 2: Ch 3, dc in same st, 2 dc in each st, sl st in top of beg ch-3. Fasten off. (24 dc)

RND 3: Join Colour B with a sl st in any dc, Ch 5 and dc in same st (acts as ch2Vst), (sk next st, ch2Vst in next st) x 11, sk next st, sl st in 3rd ch of beg ch-5. (12 ch2Vst)

CLUE 2

RND 4: Sl st to ch-2 sp, ch 3 (as dc), dc in same sp, ch3, [2 dc in next ch2Vspace, ch 3] rep to last sp and sl in top of beg ch-3. (24 dc, 12 ch-3 sp)

RND 5: Note: some people worked ch 3 in lieu of ch 4 and found it okay if they chained loosely. Sl st to dc, and then to ch-3 sp, ch 1, sc in same sp, ch 4, (sc in next ch-3 sp, ch 4) rep around and sl st in first sc.

Fasten off. (12 sc, 12 ch-4 sp)

RND 6: Join Colour A with a sl st to any sc, ch 3 as dc, [(3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in next sp*, dc in next sc] repeat around finishing last repeat at *, and sl st in top of beg ch-3. Fasten off. (84 dc, 12 ch-2 sp)

The groups of the dc will be counted as 'one group of 7 dc is from ch-2 to ch-2 sp' in the next Clue.

CLUE 3

RND 7: Larger Hook used for Surface Crochet Sc join (see Stitches Key) Colour C in any ch-2 sp, [ch-3, fpssc around next sc of RND 5, ch 3*, sc into ch-2 sp of RND 6] x 11, work a 12th repeat to * only and sl st in beg sc.

RND 8: (ch 4, sc into 4th dc of next dc group, ch 4*, sl st into sc at top of peak) x 11, work a 12th rep to * only, sl st (or invisibly join) in base of beg ch-4. Fasten off. (24 ch-4 sp, 12 sl st, 12 sc)

RND 9: (Revert to smaller hook, and work in BLO throughout). Sc join Colour B in BLO of RND 6 dc (2nd of a 7 dc group), [ch-3, sc to RND 6 dc (6th of a 7 dc group), ch-3*, sc to RND 6 dc (2nd of a 7 dc group)] x 11, work a 12th repeat to * only, sl st in sc join st. (24 sc, 24 ch-3 sp)

CLUE 4

TIP: You can include RND 8 sl st as you work RND 10, if you feel the need to 'tack' down the Surface work. I went through the vertical back two loops of the RND 8 sl st. There are 12 sl st in RND 8, so it's not too difficult to figure out where to include them. You will tack 3 of them per side. In each side, I put them on the (2nd trc, 2nd sc, and the 3rd of the second set of hdc) on the sides of RND 10; that works out to every 8th stitch.

RND 10: Sl st to next ch-3 sp, ch-3 as dc, (dc, 2 trc) in same sp, ch-2 as corner; in ch-3 sps that follow, work one upcoming set in parentheses as [(2 trc, 2 dc), (4 hdc), (4 sc), (3 sc), (4 hdc)*, (2 dc, 2 trc, ch-2)] x 3, work a 4th rep to * only, sl st in top of beg ch-3. (16 trc, 16 dc, 32 hdc, 28 sc, 4 ch-2 sp)

RND 11: Sl st into next dc, ch 5 and dc in same st (acts as ch2Vst), [sk 2 st, corner as (ch2Vst, ch-2, ch2Vst) in ch-2 sp, (sk 2 st, ch2Vst in next st) 7 times] x 3, work a 4th repeat with 6 V-st instead of 7, sl st in 3rd ch of beg ch-5. (36 ch2Vst, 4 ch-2 sp)—*there are 7 ch2Vst on each side, and 2 ch2Vst in each corner. The corner ones are separated by an additional ch-2 space.*

RND 12: Sl st into next ch-2 sp, ch 1, sc in same sp, (ch 3, sc in next ch-2 sp) 39 times, ch 3, sl st in beg sc. Fasten off. (40 ch-3 sp, 40 sc) (there should be a sc in each 'corner', and a ch-3 on either side of that)

CLUE 5

RND 13: Join Colour A with a sl st in any corner sc, ch 4 (as trc), 2 trc in same st, *[(2 dc in next ch-3 sp, dc in next sc) 9 times, 2 dc in next ch-3 sp*, 3 trc in next sc] x 3, work a 4th rep to * only, sl st in 4th ch of beg ch-4. Fasten off. (12 trc, 116 dc)

TIP for RND 14: Each time you finish a side, look back and check that you have five big 'V's from corner to corner. It's really easy to miss one, and easier to rip back now than later!

RND 14: Larger Hook used for Surface Crochet: Sc join Colour C in any *middle* corner trc, [ch-4, sk **RND 12** corner sc, fpssc around next **RND 12** sc, ch 4, sk next trc and sk 5 dc, sc in next dc, (ch 4, sk next RND 12 sc, fpssc around next RND 12 sc, ch 4, sk 5 dc, sc in next dc) 3 times, ch 4, sk next RND 12 sc, fpssc around next RND 12 sc, ch 4, sk 5 dc and next trc*, sc in next trc] x 3, work a 4th repeat to * only, sl st in beg sc. (20 sc, 20 fpssc, 40 ch-4 sp)

RND 15: (all skipped st indicated are from **RND 13**) [Ch 4, sk 3 st, sc in next dc, ch 4, sk 2 dc, sc in next RND 14 sc, (ch 4, sk 2 dc, sc in next dc, ch 4, sk 2 dc, sc in next RND 14 sc) 3 times, ch 4, sk 2 dc, sc in next dc, ch 4, sk 3 st, sc in next RND 14 sc] x 4. Last sc is in corner sc of RND 14. (40 sc, 40 ch-4 sp)

CLUE 6

Note for Rnd 16: Depending on where you end out in RND 15, the intention for RND 16 is to have a ch-4 space on either side of the corner sc. If that doesn't work for you as written, you may have to start with a ch 4, and finish with a ch 4 for each repeat, instead of working a 2 ch-4 in a row. There will be 8 ch-3 spaces on the sides otherwise.

RND 16: Continue Note: all bpsc are **through vertical back two loops** only of the sc from RND 15. [(ch 4, bpsc around next sc) x 1, (ch 3, bpsc around next sc) x 8, (ch 4, bpsc around corner sc)] x 4. Final bpsc is around corner sc back vertical loops only. Fasten off and carefully weave ends so as to not disturb the chain sequence. (40 bpsc, 32 ch-3 sp, 8 ch-4 sp)

RND 17: Revert to smaller hook. Join Colour B with a sl st to any ch-4 sp directly before a corner sc, ch 2 as hdc, 3 hdc into same sp, [corner as (hdc, dc, ch-2, dc, hdc) in sc, 4 hdc in next ch-4 sp, (3 sc in next ch-3 sp) 8 times*, 4 hdc in next ch-4 sp] x 3, work a 4th rep to *, sl in top of beg ch-2. Fasten off. (96 sc, 40 hdc, 8 dc, 4 ch-2 sp)

You may wish to continue or not, depending on the size of your block at this point.

RND 18: Join Colour A with a sl st to any corner ch-2 sp, ch-4 (as hdc, ch-2), hdc in same sp, [hdc in next 4 st, sc in next 28 st, hdc in next 4 st*, corner as (hdc, ch-2, hdc)] x 3, work a 4th repeat to * only, sl in 2nd ch of beg ch-4. Fasten off. (112 sc, 40 hdc, 4 ch-2 sp)

That leaves you with 40 'relative' stitches per side

Weave in ends, block, and enjoy!