

# *Back-to-School September 9" and 12" Block*

~~Mystery Afghan Block for Observational Series~~

Designed by Margaret MacInnis c. 2013

**Skill Level:** Intermediate

**Finished Size:** 9" square at Round 12; 12" square when completed to Round 17.



## *Materials*

Vanna's Choice yarn in 4 colors

Color A: mustard

Color B: cranberry (petal color)

Color C: lamb (background color)

Color D: olive

Crochet Hook sizes    US H (5 mm)  
                                      US I (5.5 mm)

Yarn Needle

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## *Stitch Guide*

**V-st:** (dc, ch 2, dc) in sp indicated

**sc join:** single crochet join; make slip knot on hook and use as the first loop of a sc

**fpdc, fptrc:** front post double or front post treble crochet. Work around the next stitch from the front to the back to the front again, working around the post of it.

**long hdc/long dc:** work the joining loop around the indicated chains, and pull out a little more yarn than usual so as to keep the loop longer.

**BLO:** back loop only; work in back loop of indicated st/s

## *Pattern Instructions*

**RND 1: (Smaller hook)** With Color A, ch 2; 8 sc in second ch from hook; join with a sl st in first sc. Fasten off. (8 sc)

**RND 2: (Smaller hook and BLO if you like)** Join Color B with a sl st in BLO of any sc, [ch 5, hdc in 3<sup>rd</sup>, dc in 4<sup>th</sup>, and dc in 5<sup>th</sup> ch from hook\*, sl st in next sc] x 7. Work 8<sup>th</sup> petal to \*, cut yarn 6" and pull through last dc, thread yarn needle and weave yarn as invisibly as you can around first ch of beg ch-5. (8 petals)

**RND 3: (Smaller hook)** Join Color C with a sc around top loop of any petal, (ch 3, sl st in top of last dc on petal, ch 3, sc in top lp of next petal) x 8, omitting last sc on last rep ; join with a sl st in joining sc. (16 ch-3 sp, 8 sc, 8 sl st)

**RND 4: (Switch to larger hook for remainder of block)** Ch 1, sc in same sc; (ch 4, sc in next sc) x 7, ch 4; join with a sl st in first sc. (8 ch-4 sp, 8 sc)

**RND 5:** Sl around first ch-4 sp, ch 5 (as dc and ch 2) and dc in same sp (beg V-st made); V-st in same ch-4 sp; 2 V-st in each ch-4 sp around; join with a sl st in 3<sup>rd</sup> ch of beg ch-5. (16 V-st)—**HINT: count!**

**RND 6:** Sl st in beg V-st ch sp, ch 1, work 3 sc in same sp; [corner in sp between V-sts as (sl st, ch 5, sl st)\*; 3 sc in EACH OF THE CH-SP OF next 4 V-st] x 4; working last repeat to \* only; 3 sc each in last 3 V-sts ch sps; join with a sl st in first sc. Fasten off Color C. (48 sc, 4 ch-5 corners)

**RND 7:** Join Color D with a sl st in any corner ch-5 sp, ch 3 as dc; (dc, ch 2, 2 dc) in same sp; [dc in next 3 sc skipping sl st; hdc in next sc, sc in next 4 sc, hdc in next sc, dc in next 3 sc, sk sl st, corner as (2 dc, ch 2, 2 dc) in ch-5 sp] x 4, omitting corner on 4<sup>th</sup> rep; join with a sl st in top of beg ch-3. Fasten off Color D. (64 st, 4 ch-2)

**RND 8:** Join Color C with a sc in 1<sup>st</sup> dc of a corner, sc in next st, ch 4, sk corner ch-2 sp, (sc in next 3 dc, ch 4, sk 3 st, sc in next 4 sc, ch 4, sk 3 st\*, sc in 3 dc, ch 4, sk corner ch-2 sp) x 4, working 4<sup>th</sup> rep to \* only; sc in next dc; join with a sl st in first sc. (12 ch-4 sp, 40 sc)

**RND 9:** Ch 1, sc in same st as join, sc in next sc, (ch 5 over corner, sc in next 3 sc, ch 4, sc in next 4 sc, ch 4\*, sc in next 3 sc) x 4, working to \* on 4<sup>th</sup> rep; sc in next sc; join with a sl st in beg sc. Fasten off Color C. (8 ch-4 sp, 4 ch-5 sp, 40 sc)

**RND 10:** Join Color B with a sc in a sc before any corner, (ch 2, long dc around 2 loops of RNDs 8 & 9, ch 2, sc in next 3 sc, ch 1, long hdc around 2 loops, ch 1, sc in next 4 sc, ch 1, long hdc around 2 loops, ch 1\*, sc in next 3 sc) x 4, working 4<sup>th</sup> rep to \* only, sc in next 2 sc; join with a sl st in first sc. Fasten off Color B. (loop gathering round)

**RND 11: (BLO in regular sts, work both loops of ch sps, work front posts in previous post sts)** Join Color C with a sl st in first ch-2 sp of any corner, ch 3 as dc, 2 dc in same sp, [ch 1, fptrc in next dc, ch 1, 3 dc in next ch-2 sp, dc in next 3 sc, dc in ch-1 sp, fptrc in hdc, dc in next ch-1 sp, dc in next 4 sc, dc in ch-1 sp, fptrc in next hdc, dc in ch-1 sp, dc in next 3 sc\*, 3 dc in next ch-2 sp] x 3; work to \* only on a 4<sup>th</sup> rep; join with a sl st in beg ch-3. Fasten off Color C. (80 dc, 12 fptrc, 8 ch-1 sp)

**RND 12:** Join Color D with a sl st in a ch-1 sp before any corner, ch 2 (as hdc), [corner as (ch 1, fpdc in next fptrc, ch 1), hdc in next ch-1 sp, hdc in next 7 dc, fpdc in next fptrc, hdc in next 6 dc, fpdc in next fptrc, hdc in next 7 dc, hdc in next ch-1 sp] x 4, omitting last hdc on final rep; join with a sl st in top of beg ch-2. Fasten off Color D. (12 fpdc, 88 hdc, 8 ch-1 sp)

That finishes the 9" square. If you need it a little bigger of course, feel free to make it bigger ☺

## **12" square**

**RND 13:** Join Color C with a sc in hdc before any corner, [ch 4, sk corner ch and post st, sc in next 4 hdc, ch 4, sk 3 sts, sc in next 3 st, ch 5, sk 4 sts, sc in next 3 st, ch 4, sk 3 st, sc in next 4 st] x 4, omitting last sc on 4<sup>th</sup> rep; join with a sl st in joining sc. (12 ch-4 sp, 4 ch-5 sp, 56 sc)

**RND 14:** Ch 1, sc in same st as join, [ch 5 over ch-4 corner sp, sc in next 4 sc, ch 4 over next ch-4, sc in next 3 sc, ch 5 over next ch-5, sc in next 3 sc, ch 4 over next ch-4, sc in next 4 sc] x 4, omitting last sc on 4<sup>th</sup> rep; join with a sl st in joining sc. Fasten off Color C. (8 ch-4 sp, 8 ch-5 sp, 56 sc)

**RND 15:** Join Color B with a sc in a sc before any corner, [ch 2, long hdc around 2 loops of RNDs 13&14, ch 2, sc in next 4 sc, ch 1, long hdc around 2 loops, ch 1, sc in next 3 sc, ch 2, long hdc around 2 loops, ch 2, sc in next 3 sc, ch 1, long hdc around 2 loops, ch 1, sc in next 4 sc] x 4, omitting last sc on 4<sup>th</sup> rep; join with a sl st in joining sc. Fasten off Color B. (loop gathering round)

**RND 16: (BLO in sts, both loops of ch sps, front post of post sts)** Join Color C with a sl st in first ch-2 sp of any corner, ch 3 as dc, 2 dc in same sp, [ch 1, fptrc in next dc, ch 1, 3 dc in next ch-2 sp, dc in next 4 sc, dc in ch-1 sp, fptrc in hdc, dc in next ch-1 sp, dc in next 3 sc, 2 dc in ch-2 sp, fptrc in next hdc, 2 dc in ch-2 sp, dc in next 3 sc, dc in next ch-1 sp, fptrc in next hdc, dc in next ch-1 sp, dc in next 4 sc, 3 dc in next ch-3 sp] x 4, omitting last 3 dc on 4<sup>th</sup> rep; join with a sl st in beg ch-3. Fasten off Color C. (112 dc, 16 fptrc, 8 ch-1 sp)

**RND 17: Stitch size as required. Current block is 11" so this pattern is using hdc for sides, and dc in corners, with a fptrc on fptrcs for height. If your block only needs sc, use sc for the sides, hdc in the corners, and a fpdc on the fptrcs for height. If it needs more than an inch, consider working an additional round after you are finished Rnd 17.**

Join Color A or D with a sl st in ch-1 sp before any corner, ch 2 as hdc; dc in same sp, [fptrc over next fptrc, dc and hdc in next ch-1 sp, hdc in next 8 dc, fpdc over next fptrc, (hdc in next 6 dc, fpdc over next fptrc) x 2, hdc in next 8 dc, (hdc and dc) in next ch-1 sp] x 4, omitting final hdc and dc in last rep; join with a sl st in beg ch-2. Fasten off Color A (or D). (120 hdc, 8 dc, 12 fpdc, 4 fptrc) or (144 sts)

Weave in ends, and block as desired.





Rounds 1, 2, 3



Rounds 4, 5, 6



Rounds 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 FINISHING 9" BLOCK







Rounds 13, 14, 15



Rounds 16, 17 FINISHES 12" BLOCK

The Mystery Observational Series can be followed in my group

<http://www.ravelry.com/discuss/muggins-magic-hang-out/2514588/1-25>