

“BEWARE THE IDES OF MARCH” MYSTERY 9” AND 12” CROCHET BLOCK AFGHAN SQUARE



By Margaret MacInnis c. 2014

Part of the Mystery Observational Series in Muggins' Magic Hang-out on Ravelry

The "ides" of March is the fifteenth; which day of the month the ides is depends on a complicated system of calculation Caesar established when he instituted the Julian calendar, a precursor of our own. The quote is from Julius Caesar, written of course, by Shakespeare, as a prophecy of the day Caesar would be assassinated. Otherwise, the 'Ides of March' itself really is not significant in any ominous way.

Thank you to 'ashropshirelass' photo

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

MATERIALS

Yarn: Vanna's Choice in 4 Colors (A, B, C, D), or any worsted to aran- weight yarn

Hook: 5.5 mm or 5.0 mm (US I or H)

Tapestry Needle

STITCHES AND NOTES

Air Crochet Link: <http://www.ravelry.com/discuss/vannas-choice-fan-club/1206917/201-225#223>

Invisible Join Link: <http://mrsmicawber.blogspot.pt/2012/06/pardon-me-but-your-slip-stitch-is.html>

Tapestry-style: Join first Color with a sc, and work first stitches with first Color as indicated. On the last st of the first Color, instead of bringing the loop of the first color through the last step, bring the loop of the second color through. Holding the first Color so it gets worked inside the st (just hold it level over the line of stitching), work the next indicated sts to the last st in the second Color, then in the last st of the second Color, switch by pulling the first Color through, and holding the second Color in line.

Continue in this fashion, switching Colors as indicated, periodically untwisting the yarns. I like to untwist them about every 12 stitches or so.

fpdtrc: front post double treble crochet (yo 3 times)

Btw: between two stitches

fp: front post, work the st from the front, around the post of the indicated st

Around/Btw: around the chain sp, and between the two indicated stitches

Back bump: located behind the two top loops of a stitch, it is the horizontal thread in the back

INSTRUCTIONS—9” AND 12” ARE THE SAME TO RND 7

Rnd 1: Ch 5 with Color A, join with a sl st to make a circle. Ch 3 as dc, 1 dc in circle; (ch 2, 3 dc in circle) x 3, ch 2, 1 dc in circle; join with a sl st in top of beg ch-3. Fasten off Color A. **(12 dc, 4 ch-2 sp)**

Rnd 2: Join Color B with a sl st in any corner ch-2 sp, ch 3 as dc, finish corner as (dc, ch 2, 2 dc) in same sp; [dc in next 3 dc, corner as (2 dc, ch 2, 2 dc) in next ch-2 sp] x 4, omitting corner on last rep only; join with a sl st in top of beg ch-3. Fasten off Color B. **(28 dc, 4 ch-2 sp)**

Rnd 3: Join Color A with a sl st in middle dc (4th) of any side, ch 4 as trc, 8 trc in same st; [ch 3, sk to middle dc of next side, 9 trc in that st] x 3, ch 3; join with a sl st in top of beg ch-4. Fasten off Color A. **(36 trc, 4 ch-3 sp)**

Rnd 4: Join Color C with a sl st in any ch-2 sp of Rnd 2; working ‘over’ ch-3 sp of Rnd 3, ch 4 as trc, 8 trc in same sp; [sk next 2 trc, sl st in back bump of 3rd trc, ch 4, sk next 3 trc, sl st in back bump of 7th trc, sk next 2 trc*; working ‘over’ ch-3 sp of Rnd 3, 9 trc in next ch-2 sp of Rnd 2] x 4, working last rep to * only; join with a sl st in 4th ch of beg ch-4. Fasten off Color C. **(36 trc, 8 sl st, 4 ch-4 sp)**

Rnd 5: Starting Btw first two trc of any corner trc group, Join Color B with an ‘Air Crochet’ dc as [(dc Btw in each of first 2 sp, trc Btw in next sp, 2 trc Btw in next sp, fpdtrc in next trc, 2 trc Btw in next sp, trc Btw in next sp, dc Btw in each of next 2 sp); dc in sp before sl st, sk sl st, 5 hdc in ch-4 sp, sk sl st, dc in sp after sl st] x 4; join with Air Crochet finish to Fasten off Color B. (4 fpdtrc, 24 trc, 24 dc, 20 hdc)

Rnd 6: Join Color D with a sl st in first st past any corner post st, ch 3 as dc, dc in next 16 st, [corner as (dc, ch 2, dc) in fpdtrc, dc in next 17 st] x 3, corner as (dc, ch 2, dc); join with a sl st in top of beg ch-3. **(76 dc, 4 ch-2 sp)**

Rnd 7: Continuing with Color D, ch 1, sc in same st as join, sc in next 17 dc, [corner as 3 sc in next ch-2 sp, sc in next 19 st] x 4, working end of 4th rep as ‘sc in next st’; join with a sl st in first sc. Fasten off Color D (or work Invisible Join). **(88 sc)**

Stop here if you are making the 12” and move to 12” Version below.

Rnd 8: NOTE: Work Tapestry-style with Color C and Color B. Work loosely or block will curl. Some people work tapestry in one size larger hook than their usual. Join Color C with a sc in any corner sc, 2 sc in same st/switch to Color B, continue along the side switching every three stitches and working corners as 3 sts as well; end round with no switch, continue into Rnd 9 with sl st to beg sc in Color B. **(96 sc—worked Tapestry-style)**

Rnd 9: NOTE: Work Tapestry-style, alternating Colors as before (switching to opposite Color to create a checkerboard effect—work loosely or block will curl). Corners are worked as all Color C and will have 5 stitches (one in Color C before corner, three in Color C in corner, and one in Color C after corner). Sides will alternate so the final effect is a checkerboard one when viewed with Rnd 8. Finish by switching to Color C at end, work Invisible Join, and weave in Color B on the back. **(104 sc—worked Tapestry-style)**

Work a 10th Rnd as needed for sizing. This finishes the 9” block.

12” VERSION

Rnd 8—12”: Join Color A with a sc in the middle sc of any side (counting from and not including, the corner sc, it would be the 11th one), sc in next 2 st, [sl st in next sc, sk 3 sc, 9 trc in next sc, ch 2, sk next 7 sc, 9 trc in next sc, sk next 3 sc, sl st in next sc*, sc in next 5 sc] x 4, working to * only on last rep, sc in next 2 sc; work Invisible Join to Fasten off Color A. **(72 trc, 20 sc, 4 ch-2 sp, 8 sl st)**

Rnd 9—12”: (Note: Work dc and side trc in BLO) Join Color C with an Air Crochet dc in BLO of same st as join (the Invisible Join in Rnd 8), dc BLO next 2 st, 2 trc BLO next sl st, [sl st in back bump of 4th trc, ch 3, sl st in back bump of 6th trc; working around ch-2 sp of Rnd 8 and into corner sc of Rnd 7—(2 trc, 3 dtrc, 2 trc)—sl st in back bump of 4th trc, ch 3, sl st in back bump of 6th trc, 2 trc BLO next sl st*, dc BLO next 5 sc, 2 trc BLO next sl st] x 4, working to * only on 4th rep; dc BLO in last 2 sts working Air Crochet finish to Fasten off Color C. **(12 dtrc, 32 trc, 20 dc, 8 ch-3 sp, 16 sl st)**

Rnd 10—12”: Join Color B with a sl st in sp Btw first 2 trc of any corner group, ch 3 as dc; dc in next sp, 2 trc in next sp, fpdtrc in next corner dtrc, 2 trc in next sp, dc in next 2 sp, [2 dc in sp before next sl st, 3 dc in next ch-3 sp, 2 dc in sp after next sl st, dc in next 8 sp, 2 dc in sp before next sl st, 3 dc in next ch-3 sp, 2 dc in sp after next sl st*, dc in sp Btw next 2 trc, 2 trc in next sp, fpdtrc on next dtrc, 2 trc in next sp, dc in next 2 sp] x 4, working to * only on last rep; join with a sl st in top of beg ch-3. **(124 sts—4 fpdtrc, 16 trc, 104 dc)**

If your block is a bit ‘wavy’ along the edges, you could work some hdc in the ‘dips’ as follows; if you don’t have any ‘waves’, sc all.

Rnd 11—12”: Continuing with Color B, ch 2 as hdc, hdc in next st, sc in next 2 st, [corner as 4 sc in fpdtrc, sc in next 2 st, hdc in next 3 st, sc in next 20 st*, hdc in next 3 st, sc in next 2 st] x 4, working to * only on last rep, hdc in next st; join with a sl st in top of beg ch-2; Fasten off Color B. **(136 st)**

Rnd 12—12”: Worked Tapestry-style (see Notes) with Colors D and A (or your choice of course), and working loosely or block will curl, start by joining Color D with a sc in 3rd of any 4 corner sc group, 2 sc in

same st/switch to Color B, sc in next 3 st/switch to Color D. Continue around, working 3 sc in alternate Colors, and working a 3 sc corner in 3rd of 4 corner sc (with Color D); do not 'switch' after last st, but sl st in same st as join with the alternate Color (if the block is big enough, switch and cut yarn, and use to fasten off with Invisible Join, weaving Color A behind). **(144 sc Tapestry)**

Rnd 13—12”: If needed for size, continue in Tapestry-style, working the corner as Color A—worked in st before corner st as ch 1+sc, 3 st in corner st with Color A, and st after corner st with Color A/switch at end to Color D; opposite to Rnd 12, alternate Colors every 3 sts. On the last st, pull through the switch Color A, cut yarn and use to fasten off with Invisible Join, and weave Color D behind. **(152 sc Tapestry)**
Weave in ends and admire your 'Ides of March' Block.