COURTHOUSE STEPS

A 12" crocheted modular afghan block

Designs by Muggins C. 2010

Supplies

5.5 mm crochet hook (US 9 or I)

3 colours Vanna's Choice yarn or aran substitute, approximately 1/3 skein colours L and D, 1/4 or less skein CC

Tapestry needle and scissors

Notes: All colours are started on 'back' side for the steps after initial square is made. The work is based on sections of 3 dc into each 3 ch of preceding row. The border is simple sc or dc. Work in ends as they occur or they'll pile up on you! After the initial center block, the 'steps' are created row by row on each side, working back and forth.

CC=Contrast colour L=Light colour   D=Dark colour

Center block

With CC, ch.5 and form ring.

Row 1)with front side facing, ch.3, 2 dc in ring. [ch.1, 3dc] x 3, join with sl. st. to top of ch.3 at beg. **TURN**

Row 2)with back side facing, in first ch. 1 sp, work corner as (sc, ch.3, sc) then, [ch.3, go to next ch.sp work corner) x 3, then ch.3, sl.st. in sc at beg of round. **TURN**

Row 3)with front side facing, sl.st. into first ch.3 lp of previous row; ch.3, 2 dc into that loop. [in next ch. 3 corner lp, work 3 dc, ch1, 3 dc; 3 dc in next ch. 3 lp] x3. In last ch. 3 corner lp, work 3 dc, ch1, 3 dc and sl.st. to TOP of ch. 3 from previous round. Tie off and weave in ends.

First Colour Step

With L (light colour) and BACK side facing, join to corner ch.1 sp. Then [ch. 3, sl. st. in sp between next two 3 dc groups of prev round] x 2; ch. 3, sl. st. in ch. 1 corner sp. **TURN**

With FRONT facing, sl. st. into ch. 3 space of prev round, ch. 3, 2 dc in that sp, then [3 dc in next ch. 3 lp]x 2, ch. 3 **TURN**

With BACK facing, (sl. st. btwn grps, ch3) x 2, sl. st. to TOP of the ch. 3 of previous round on the edge, **TURN.**

With FRONT facing, sl. st. into ch. 3 lp, ch. 3, 2 dc in that lp, [3 dc in next ch. 3 loop]x2, fasten off and weave in ends.

Second Step

With L, repeat the first step on the exact opposite end of the same center block, remembering to start first row on WRONG side.

Third Step

With D (dark colour) and BACK side facing, join into the top of the ch. 3 at beg. of the last colour band, ch. 3, sl. st. in btwn dc grps, ch. 3, sl. st. in ch. 1 corner sp of center sq., [ch. 3, sl. st. btwn next dc groups]x2, ch. 3, sl. st. in corner sp, ch. 3, sl. st. in sp. btwn dc grps, ch. 3, sl. st. in first top of dc of next colour strip, **TURN**

Sl. st. into ch. 3 lp, ch. 3, 2 dc in that lp, [3 dc in next ch. 3 lp] x 6, ch. 3. **TURN**

[sl. st. into sp. btwn next dc groups, ch. 3] x 6, sl. st. in top of turning ch. 3, **TURN**

Sl. st. into ch. 3 lp, ch. 3, 2 dc in that lp, [3 dc in next ch. 3 lp]x6, fasten off and weave in ends.

Fourth Step

Working from the BACK, join on opposite side of third step and do another like it.

Fifth and Sixth Steps

Working in pattern the same as before, with additional tiles as required, using colour L again for these two steps on opposite sides of the block.

Seventh and Eighth Steps

Working in pattern the same as before, with additional tiles as required, using colour D again for these two steps on opposite sides of the block.

Contrasting SC band edging

Using CC, and working in the round, doing 3 sc in corners, and picking up stitches as appropriate in each corner edge until rows are encountered, then use dc loops as your guide. Attempt to get a total of 31 sc per side and 3 in the corners. On the dark edges, simply use the dc loops (using first dc top as the corner) and 31 dc tops as for the sides. NOTE: when picking up the edges on the sides of rows, 'less is more'. In other words, pick up just a loop, not a whole edge, or it will look wonky.

Final Borders—worked in round

I finished with a Light Colour dc (Colour L). Band of corners [2 dc, ch. 1, 2 dc] and 33 per side using air crochet method to start and finish row. Then I needed a row of sc to bring it to 12". You might not need that much; work accordingly!