CROCHET TAPESTRY: BEE WALL HANGING

CrochetRooms free printable pattern

Printable Pattern

Adapted in original wording from the free Bee Happy Wall Hanging pattern by Loops and Love Crochet (https://www.loopsandlovecrochet.com/2024/03/25/bee-happy-wall-hanging-free-crochet-pattern/). This pattern is for personal use.

SKILL LEVEL

Advanced beginner. You should be comfortable with chain, slip stitch, and single crochet, and ready to follow a color chart.

FINISHED SIZE

Crocheted panel only: approximately 14.5 inches wide x 16.75 inches tall, after blocking.

Full hanging, from the top of the dowel to the bottom of the fringe: approximately 14.5 inches wide x 20.5 inches tall.

MATERIALS

Worsted weight (#4) yarn, cotton or acrylic or a cotton acrylic blend. The pictured hanging was made with WeCrochet/Knit Picks Comfy yarn, 75% cotton and 25% acrylic, a yarn that runs a little on the thinner side for worsted weight. If you substitute another yarn, check your gauge first, since a thicker or thinner yarn will change the finished size.

Cream (Ivory): approximately 130 yards

Black: approximately 30 yards

Honey yellow: approximately 30 yards

Grey (Whisker): approximately 5 yards

Cream for fringe: approximately 16 yards extra

Crochet hook: 4.5 mm

Wooden dowel, 5/16 inch thick, cut to about 1 to 1.5 inches wider than the panel. An 18 inch pre-cut dowel also works; trim it slightly or leave it a touch long on each side.

Yarn needle

Scissors

Optional: blocking mat and rust proof pins

GAUGE

2 inch square = approximately 9 single crochet stitches x 10 rows, worked in single crochet with a 4.5 mm hook. This is the same as about 18 stitches and 20 rows per 4 inches. Gauge matters here: if your stitches are looser, the panel will come out larger; if they are tighter, it will come out smaller.

ABBREVIATIONS (US TERMS)

ch: chain

sl st: slip stitch

sc: single crochet

RS: right side

WS: wrong side

Color A: Cream

Color B: Honey yellow

Color C: Black

Color D: Grey

PANEL CONSTRUCTION OVERVIEW

The panel is worked flat in turned rows of single crochet, following a color chart. Each square of the chart stands for one single crochet stitch. The panel is 64 stitches wide and 78 chart rows tall, plus a plain foundation row that does not count as a chart row. At the end of every row, chain 1 and turn; the turning chain does not count as a stitch. Keep your tension steady through every color change so the side edges stay straight.

FOUNDATION ROW

With Color A, chain 65. Work 1 single crochet in the second chain from the hook and in each chain across, chain 1 and turn. You now have 64 stitches. This row is the base only and is not counted as chart row 1.

CHART ROWS 1 TO 78

Starting with chart row 1, work 78 rows of single crochet, 64 stitches in every row, changing colors to match the chart. Read the chart from the bottom right corner and work back and forth across it. Odd numbered rows are worked with the right side facing you, and even numbered rows are worked with the wrong side facing you.

The picture is built in three broad bands. The lower and upper bands are a honeycomb lattice worked in cream and honey yellow, which frames the whole design. The middle band carries the bee itself, worked in cream, black, honey yellow, and small touches of grey for the face and wing detail, with plain cream rows giving the eye a rest between the patterned sections. Because the bee sits in the middle of the panel, it helps to mark the center of your work and to count your stitches at the end of each row while you are still learning the chart.

COLOR CHANGES AND CARRYING YARN

Change color on the last yarn over of the final stitch in the old color: work the stitch until two loops remain, then yarn over with the new color and pull through both loops. From that point you are working in the new color until the next change.

This design uses the intarsia method, not the carried yarn method. When a color is finished for the moment, drop it and leave it attached, then pick up the next color where you need it. Do not carry unused colors along under your stitches. On right side rows, drop the finished yarn to the back, away from you. On wrong side rows, drop it to the front, toward you. This keeps all the dropped yarn and floats on the back of the panel, so the front stays clean.

The back will look messy while you work, with ends and yarn carried across it. That is normal and expected. It will not show once the hanging is on the wall. To keep floats across the back short, use a second small ball of a color when two sections of the same color sit far apart in one row, for example two balls of cream for the cream sections on either side of the bee, and two balls of yellow for the bee stripes and the honeycomb. If a row feels uneven at the end, blocking will even it out.

ATTACHING THE DOWEL AND THE HANGING CHAIN

Do not fasten off after chart row 78. Chain 1 and turn so the right side faces you. Lay the dowel along the top edge of the panel. Work one final row of single crochet across the top, 64 stitches in total, working each stitch around the dowel: insert the hook into the stitch, pass under the dowel, yarn over on the other side of the dowel, pull up a loop, yarn over and pull through both loops on the hook. This row encloses the dowel inside the top of the panel.

Do not fasten off yet. For the hanging loop, chain 70, or any length you prefer for your wall, then join with a slip stitch to the first stitch on the other side of the panel. Fasten off and weave in the ends.

KNOTTED FRINGE (OPTIONAL)

Cut a generous bundle of strands in cream, or your chosen fringe color, each about 9 inches long. Wrapping the yarn around a book and cutting one end is an easy way to keep the strands even. Take one strand, fold it in half, and pull the folded loop partway through one stitch along the bottom edge of the panel. Pass the two loose ends through the loop and pull down to tighten the knot. Repeat across the full bottom edge, one strand in each of the 64 bottom stitches.

When all the fringe is knotted, trim the strands evenly to your preferred length. The pictured hanging was trimmed to about 2.75 inches. If the fringe is not sitting quite flat, block the panel before trimming.

FINISHING

Weave in all remaining ends on the wrong side of the panel. Block the panel to its finished measurements, about 14.5 inches wide x 16.75 inches tall, pinning the edges straight and letting it dry fully flat. Blocking evens the sides, flattens any curl, and makes the bee picture crisp. Once dry, hang the piece from its chain and enjoy it.

DESIGN NOTE

The full row by row color chart for the bee picture belongs to the original free pattern by Loops and Love Crochet (https://www.loopsandlovecrochet.com/2024/03/25/bee-happy-wall-hanging-free-crochet-pattern/). This printable text gives the complete construction, materials, gauge, sizing, color change method, dowel finish, and fringe in original wording, so you can work the piece alongside that chart.

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