CROCHET GRANNY SQUARE: BEAUTIFUL CLASSIC MOTIF IN 5 EASY ROUNDS

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Free printable pattern

FINISHED SIZE

About 6 in (15 cm) after 5 rounds. The size table below lists 6.3 in (16 cm) for the same 5-round square; both are the source's own approximations of the same square, and your own tension decides the final number, so measure your first square before planning a big project.

SKILL LEVEL

Beginner. You need chains, double crochet, and slip stitches, plus a tapestry needle for weaving in ends. There are no increases or decreases in the usual sense: the square grows because every corner gets two clusters and every side gains one more cluster per round.

TIME

The source pattern estimates about 1 hour for one square. Its FAQ adds that a beginner usually needs 30 to 45 minutes for the first square, including colour changes and weaving in ends, and after a few squares most people get that down to 15 or 20 minutes.

MATERIALS

- Worsted weight (#4) yarn in one to 5 colours. A five-round square takes about 19 yd (17 m) in total; the outer round alone uses roughly a third of that. The sample square on the source page uses mustard, terracotta, sage, dusty pink, and cream, one colour per round.
- 5 mm (US H-8) crochet hook, or whatever hook gives you a fabric you like with your yarn
- Tapestry needle for weaving in ends
- Scissors

For a first square, pick a smooth, light-coloured acrylic or cotton blend. Dark, fluffy, or variegated yarn makes the spaces between clusters much harder to see.

ABBREVIATIONS (US terms)

ch: chain. dc: double crochet. sl st: slip stitch. sp(s): space(s). st(s): stitch(es).

NOTES

This pattern is written in US crochet terms. In UK terms, the double crochet here is a treble crochet. Work with the right side facing you throughout. The ch 3 at the start of each round counts as the first dc. The numbers in brackets are the total double crochet at the end of the

round. A cluster is a group of 3 dc worked into the same space. Corner spaces (ch 2) always get two clusters: 3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc. Side spaces (ch 1) always get one cluster: 3 dc. Every round adds one more cluster to each side, so each round has 12 more double crochet than the one before.

THE SQUARE

Round 1: Make a magic ring (or ch 4 and join with a sl st to the first ch to form a ring). Ch 3, work 2 dc into the ring, ch 2. Work 3 dc into the ring, ch 2. Repeat from the last sentence 2 more times. Pull the ring closed and join with a sl st to the top of the beginning ch 3. (12 dc: 4 clusters and 4 ch-2 corner spaces)

Round 2: If you are changing colour, fasten off and join the new colour with a sl st in any ch-2 corner space. If you are keeping the same colour, sl st in the next 2 dc and into the corner space instead. Ch 3, work (2 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in the same corner space. Ch 1, work (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in the next corner space. Repeat from the ch 1 two more times, so you work the last two corners the same way. Ch 1 and join with a sl st to the top of the ch 3. (24 dc: 8 clusters, 4 ch-2 corner spaces, 4 ch-1 side spaces)

Round 3: Join in any corner space (or sl st across to it). Ch 3, work (2 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in the same corner space. Ch 1, work 3 dc in the next ch-1 space, ch 1, work (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in the next corner space. Repeat from the ch 1 two more times. Ch 1, work 3 dc in the last ch-1 space, ch 1, and join with a sl st to the top of the ch 3. (36 dc: 12 clusters, 4 ch-2 corner spaces, 8 ch-1 side spaces)

Round 4: Join in any corner space. Ch 3, work (2 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in the same corner space. Along each side, work ch 1, 3 dc in every ch-1 space, then ch 1, (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in the next corner. There are 2 side clusters on each side. Finish the last side with ch 1 and join to the top of the ch 3. (48 dc: 16 clusters, 4 ch-2 corner spaces, 12 ch-1 side spaces)

Round 5: Join in any corner space. Ch 3, work (2 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in the same corner space. Along each side, work ch 1, 3 dc in every ch-1 space, then ch 1, (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in the next corner. There are 3 side clusters on each side. Finish the last side with ch 1 and join to the top of the ch 3. (60 dc: 20 clusters, 4 ch-2 corner spaces, 16 ch-1 side spaces)

Fasten off and weave in all the ends. Weave each end through the back of a cluster of the same colour so it does not peek through on the front.

KEEP GOING

Keep going with the same rhythm for as many rounds as you like. Each new round adds one more cluster to each side and 12 more double crochet in total.

SIZE AND YARN BY NUMBER OF ROUNDS

Sizes are approximate for worsted yarn and a 5 mm hook.

- 3 rounds: 12 clusters, 36 dc, about 3.9 in (10 cm), about 8 yd
- 4 rounds: 16 clusters, 48 dc, about 5.1 in (13 cm), about 13 yd
- 5 rounds: 20 clusters, 60 dc, about 6.3 in (16 cm), about 19 yd
- 6 rounds: 24 clusters, 72 dc, about 7.5 in (19 cm), about 26 yd

- 7 rounds: 28 clusters, 84 dc, about 8.7 in (22 cm), about 34 yd
- 8 rounds: 32 clusters, 96 dc, about 9.9 in (25 cm), about 44 yd

HOW MANY SQUARES FOR A BLANKET

Using the 5-round square from this pattern (about 6.3 in each). The yarn totals include an extra 10 percent for joining and a simple border.

- Baby blanket: 5 by 6 layout, 30 squares, about 32 by 38 in (81 by 97 cm), about 630 yd
- Lap blanket: 6 by 7 layout, 42 squares, about 38 by 44 in (97 by 112 cm), about 880 yd
- Throw: 10 by 12 layout, 120 squares, about 63 by 76 in (160 by 193 cm), about 2,520 yd

JOINING

The two easiest methods are whip stitching the squares together with a tapestry needle, or slip stitching them together on the wrong side with your hook.

CARE

The source pattern gives no care instructions. Treat the square gently: hand wash cold and lay flat to dry if you used wool, or machine wash on a gentle cycle if you used acrylic. Do not bleach. Reshape while damp.

TIPS FOR A NEAT SQUARE

- Count the clusters along one side, including the two corner clusters: after round 3 there should be 3, after round 4 there should be 4, and after round 5 there should be 5. If one side has more clusters than the others, you have missed a ch-1 space or doubled one up. Compare the sides before you start the next round; it is much easier to fix now than later.
- If the square is twisting, join each new round in a different corner. Blocking fixes the rest. Some people also turn the work at the end of every round.
- If the edges are wavy, your chains are probably too loose, or you have added an extra ch 1 somewhere. Count the clusters along one side.
- If the middle is cupping, your corner chains are too tight. Try ch 3 in the corners instead of ch 2 for the first 2 rounds.
- If the ch 3 leaves a gap, pull the ch 3 snug, or replace it with a standing double crochet when you join a new colour.
- Work in a new colour by fastening off at the end of a round and joining the new colour in any corner space. To work a solid square in one colour, slip stitch across to the corner space at the end of each round instead of fastening off.

VARIATIONS

- Make it bigger: keep adding rounds with the same rhythm. Each round adds 12 double crochet and about 1.2 in (3 cm) across the square.
- Make it smaller: stop after 3 or 4 rounds for a coaster-sized square.

- Change the yarn weight: the stitch counts never change, only the size. DK yarn with a 4 mm hook gives a smaller, neater square; chunky yarn with a 6 to 8 mm hook makes a big square very quickly.
- Change the colours: use one colour for a solid square, a new colour every round for a classic scrap-buster look, or two colours in stripes.

Pattern adapted from the free pattern by CozyMakery: Granny Square Crochet Pattern for Beginners (Free and Easy), https://cozymakery.com/granny-square-crochet-pattern/

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