



Cherry & Heart

Nature's Walk

crochet along

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GETTING
Ready
#NaturesWalkCAL

Getting Ready

We've started this Crochet Along a little earlier this time, to give you extra time to get all the yarn you needed ordered and ready to go in time for the first pattern release on the 24th September. That also means you'll have time to start chatting with the other CAL crafters, work up a swatch to check your gauge and watch my video tutorial on charts if you want to.

Take your time and read through all the information I've provided here. You'll find everything you need to prepare for the start of CAL and it will be a handy reference tool once your starting making your blanket.

Yarn Colours

One of the most exciting parts of any project for me, is deciding on and planning the colours. If you are using one of our tailor made yarn packs, you can find a complete breakdown of all the colours in a table on page 11.

Now is a good time to have a look through the colours in your pack and you may like to print out and add a small piece of each colour yarn to the page to make your own colour chart. This will be an easy way to reference the correct colour to use for each step of the project. I've also included a space for you to add your own custom colour scheme if you are planning a different palette.

Charts

For the first time, we've also included some crochet charts with this pattern, there will a crochet chart for each of the square patterns. Charts are a great way to 'see' the pattern as you are working it. If you haven't used them before, this is a great chance to find out if they might suit you, as you can follow the chart but also have the written directions along side to guide you if needed.

To get you started, I've made a video tutorial to show you some chart reading basics and walk you through the first steps of a charted pattern.

Getting Started with Charts videos: [Part 1](#) | [Part 2](#)

Gauge

Gauge (or tension) is sometimes overlooked when it comes to crochet and although that often doesn't matter, depending on the project being made, checking your gauge before you start by making a swatch can tell you much more than the size of the finished project. It's also a way to give your chosen yarn a test run and to see if you are happy with the look and feel of the fabric you are getting. Most important for this project though is that it can help you determine how much yarn you will use.

If you are using a yarn pack you will want to make sure that you are using a gauge that will ensure you have enough yarn to finish the project. We have of course allowed you plenty of yarn to complete the project and even allowed some 'extra' yarn to accommodate any slight discrepancies. But it is still important to make sure that you stay on track throughout the project and don't stray too far from the sizes given here.

If you are using your own choice of yarn, you'll need to see how your chosen yarn works for this pattern and make sure you are happy with the results you are getting. It will also be a useful starting point to help you estimate how much yarn you may need.

Swatching

To check your gauge, make up a square using the Heart pattern on page 8, as a swatch. Then measure the square and compare to the measurements given below to see if your gauge is going to match the pattern or if you need to make any adjustments.

Note: Remember to make a note of the hook size that works for you so that you can refer back to it throughout the project.

Please also keep your swatch safe until the end of the project, just in case the swatch yarn is needed to finish the blanket.

MEASUREMENTS

The square measurement you end up with may vary slightly depending on the pattern worked and yarn pack you are using.

You should end up with a square which measures 16cm across.
I also blocked my finished squares slightly so that my final measurement was 16.5cm.

WILD HEDGEROW & OPEN FIELDS PACKS

If you are using the Scheepjes yarn you may find some of your squares come up slightly smaller. My squares varied between 15.5cm and 16cm and I choose to block them all to one size.

If your square is between 15-16cm then your gauge is fine. This yarn blocks beautifully and you will be able to achieve a nice uniform size.

If your square is smaller than 15cm or larger than 16cm, look at adjusting the gauge you are getting. See the 'Adjusting Gauge' information below for help.

SWEET MEADOW PACK

If you are using yarn, this is an acrylic fibre and therefore doesn't respond to blocking as well and therefore it is more important to get all the squares close to gauge while making them. I found my squares only varied slightly from 16cm or slightly over and I choose not to block them.

If your square is between 16cm and 16.5cm then your gauge is fine.

If your square is smaller than 16cm or larger than 16.5cm, look at adjusting the gauge you are getting. See the 'Adjusting Gauge' information below for help.

BLOCKING

Once you are happy with the size of your swatch, block the square to see how this will effect your yarn and sizing. For details on how to block your swatch see page 5.

Adjusting Gauge

If you need to adjust your swatch to get a closer match to the measurements given have a look at these tips:

Hook Size

Adjusting the size of your swatch is usually just a case of changing your hook size:

If your squares are too small, this usually means your stitches are too tight and you'll need to re-swatch using a larger hook size.

If your squares are too large, this usually means your stitches are too loose and you'll need to re-swatch using a smaller hook size.

Stitch Height

Although adjusting the hook size will adjust the height of your stitches and therefore the size of your squares, stitch height is also affected by individual techniques, the way that the hook and yarn are held and the stitches are formed.

If you are struggling to match the size of the squares by adjusting your hook size alone, then take a look at the following video which will help you adjust the height of the stitches:

[Fixing Gauge When Height Is Incorrect](#) - By Deja Jetmir

Please note that is an American video therefore refers to 'double' crochets. In this pattern which uses UK terms, these stitches are called treble crochets.

Keeping Consistent Gauge

Remember to continue checking you are getting the correct size squares through out your project by frequently measuring your squares and using the tips below:

In the Mood

It's not just hook size and technique that can have an effect on the tension of the yarn and the gauge achieved. Our environment and mood can have a surprisingly large part to play too. Stressful and excited moods in busy environments can make for tighter crochet, fun and relaxed moods in a calm, peaceful room will create a looser result.

Try and make your swatch in the same atmosphere than you anticipate making your blanket. If you usually crochet in quiet alone time, wait to make your swatch when you have a similar time. If you'll be making your blanket in snatched pockets of time between other tasks, then you may as well make the swatch in the same way. It'll give you a more accurate reflection of the results you'll be likely to achieve on your blanket.

Blocking

Blocking can be very useful to even out your stitches and achieve a neat and uniform look to your crochet. It can also help make sure that any small discrepancies in sizing are evened out.

Wild Hedgerow/Open Field Packs

It is also a good idea to block your squares each week as you make them, so that you have a nice regular size square to join.

SPRAY BLOCKING

Use this method for the Scheepjes yarn packs, Wild Hedgerow and Open Fields.

To spray block, pin out the squares to the correct size on a soft surface. Foam mats are ideal for this, but towels over a mattress or carpet also work well. Spray the squares with water until they are wet, using your hand to help the water soak through if necessary. Then leave the blocks to dry out completely before unpinning.

STEAM BLOCKING

Use this method for the Bambino/Belissima yarn pack, Sweet Meadow.

To steam block place several towels over an ironing board and pin out the blocks to size, using a slant on the angle of the pins so that they are low to the towel. With a steam iron, carefully hold the iron low over the blocks letting the steam go down into the yarn. Make sure that the iron doesn't touch the yarn as the direct heat will cause damage. Once the blocks have been steamed thoroughly, leave them to cool and dry completely before unpinning.

Spray Blocking



Steam Blocking



Using this Pattern

CROCHET TERMS

This is a written pattern, using UK crochet terms.

Crochet charts using crochet symbols are provided for the square patterns.

US terms are given to help with translation.

SKILL LEVEL

Easy/Intermediate

This pattern mostly uses basic stitches worked in the round. Some intermediate stitches and techniques are used, helpful photos and some tutorials are included.

SKILLS NEEDED

To be able to follow a written pattern using UK crochet abbreviations.

Working in the round.

Basic stitches (eg: dc, tr, tr, dtr).

It would also be helpful to know how to work decreases (eg: tr2tog, tr3tog).

MULTIPLE STITCHES & INCREASES

If you are advised to work a multiple number of consecutive stitches, these should be worked one after the other into the corresponding stitches in the round below.

eg: "3tr" should be worked as 'make 1tr into each of the next 3 stitches'.

If you need to make an increase, the pattern will advise you how many stitches to work into the next stitch.

eg: "3tr in next stitch" should be worked as: 'makes 3tr's, all of which are to be made into the next stitch'.

STITCH COUNTS

Chain stitches are counted as stitches throughout.

Therefore 1ch from each corner is included when a count is given per side.

Squares

The final stitch count for the last round of every square is 132 stitches (33 stitches per side).

Edging/Border

The stitch count is given for the first rounds of the border to help establish the border pattern repeat.

Abbreviations

beg - beginning
 dec - decrease
 inc - increase
 R - round
 RS - right side
 sp - space
 st/s - stitch/es
 tog - together
 WS - wrong side
 yo - wrap yarn over the hook

Stitch Terms

This pattern is written in UK crochet terms. US terms also given below as a guide:

UK Term	UK Stitch	US Term	US Stitch
ch	chain		
sl st	slip stitch		
dc	double crochet	sc	single crochet
tr	treble crochet	dc	double crochet
dtr	double treble crochet	tr	treble crochet
tr2tog	work 2 trebles together*	dc2tog	work 2 doubles together*
tr3tog	work 3 trebles together*	dc3tog	work 3 doubles together*

*decrease stitch

More useful tutorials and help with the stitches included in this pattern can be found on my crochet site:
 Cherry Heart's Crochet Corner www.cherryheartcrochet.co.uk

Heart Swatch

Chain 4, sl st into first ch to make a loop, then:

Round 1: 4ch [counts as 1tr, 1ch], (3tr, 2ch) 3 times, 2tr, sl st into 3rd ch of beg 4ch.

Round 2: sl st in ch sp, 4ch [counts as 1tr, 1ch], 2tr in same sp, *3tr,** (2tr, 2ch, 2tr) in corner sp, repeat from * 3 times ending the last repeat at **, 1tr in starting sp, sl st into 3rd ch of beg 4ch.

Round 3: sl st in ch sp, 4ch [counts as 1tr, 1ch], 2tr in same sp, *3tr, 1ch, skip 1, 3tr,** (2tr, 2ch, 2tr) in corner sp, repeat from * 3 times ending the last repeat at **, 1tr in starting sp, sl st into 3rd ch of beg 4ch.

Round 4: sl st in ch sp, 4ch [counts as 1tr, 1ch], 2tr in same sp, *3tr, 2ch, skip 2, 1tr in ch sp, 2ch, skip 2, 3tr,** (2tr, 2ch, 2tr) in corner sp, repeat from * 3 times ending the last repeat at **, 1tr in starting sp, sl st into 3rd ch of beg 4ch.

Round 5: sl st in ch sp, 4ch [counts as 1tr, 1ch], 2tr in same sp, *4tr, 2ch, skip (1tr, 1ch), 1tr in next ch, 1tr, 1tr in next ch, 2ch, skip (1ch, 1tr), 4tr,** (2tr, 2ch, 2tr) in corner sp, repeat from * 3 times ending the last repeat at **, 1tr in starting sp, sl st into 3rd ch of beg 4ch.

Round 6: sl st in ch sp, 4ch [counts as 1tr, 1ch], 2tr in same sp, *5tr, 2ch, skip (1tr, 1ch), 1tr in next ch, 1tr, 1ch, skip 1, 1tr, 1tr in next ch, 2ch, skip (1ch, 1tr), 5tr,** (2tr, 2ch, 2tr) in corner sp, repeat from * 3 times ending the last repeat at **, 1tr in starting sp, sl st into 3rd ch of beg 4ch.

Round 7: sl st in ch sp, 4ch [counts as 1tr, 1ch], 2tr in same sp, *6tr, 2tr in next tr, 2ch, skip (2ch, 2tr), 3tr in ch sp, 2ch, skip (2tr, 2ch), 2tr in next tr, 6tr,** (2tr, 2ch, 2tr) in corner sp, repeat from * 3 times ending the last repeat at **, 1tr in starting sp, sl st into 3rd ch of beg 4ch.

Round 8: sl st in ch sp, 4ch [counts as 1tr, 1ch], 2tr in same sp, *10tr, 2tr in ch sp, 3tr, 2tr in ch sp, 10tr,** (2tr, 2ch, 2tr) in corner sp, repeat from * 3 times ending the last repeat at **, 1tr in starting sp, sl st into 3rd ch of beg 4ch.

Once the swatch square is complete, refer to the 'Swatching', 'Blocking' and 'Adjusting Gauge' sections in the Nature's Walk Introduction pdf to make sure you have the right size.

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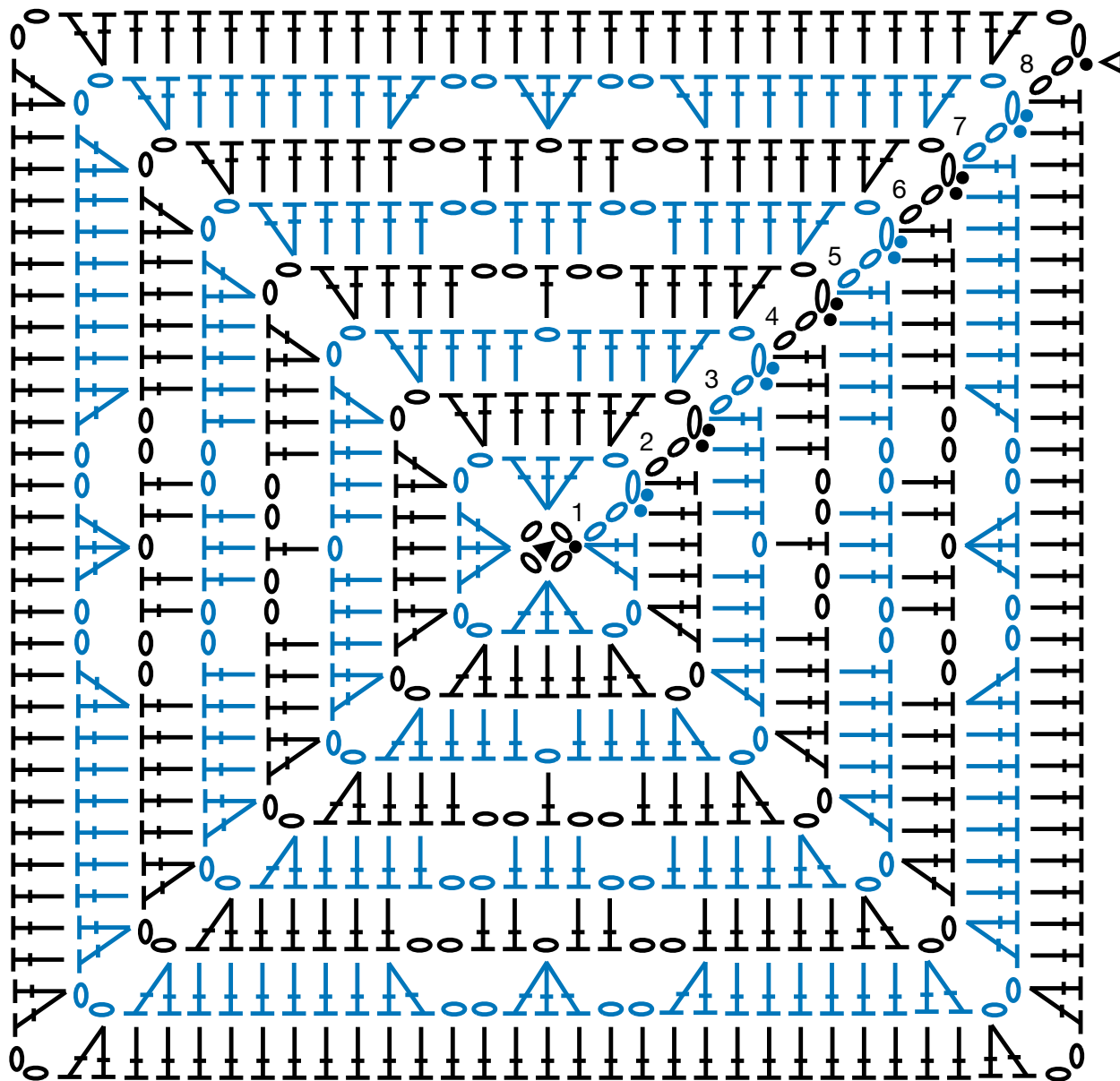
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Heart Chart

Alternating colours have been used to clearly distinguish each round.










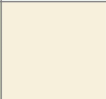


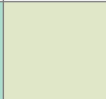
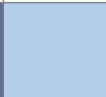









KEY

1 round number
 ▲ start
 ▼ end
 • sl st
 O ch
 X dc (US sc)
 T tr (US dc)

Heart Photo



Yarn Colour Chart

Yarn		Wild Hedgerow		Open Fields		Sweet Meadow		Custom Colours
A		Smokey Quartz (802)		Boulder Opal (804)		Mellow Yellow (3925)		
B		Lepidolite (830)		Blue Apatite (805)		Sugar Snap (3926)		
C		Rose Quartz (820)		Moonstone (801)		Raspberry Riot (3924)		
D		Yellow Jasper (809)		New Jade (819)		Vintage Blue (7116)		
E		Lilac Quartz (818)		Larimar (813)		Denim Dungarees (3943)		
F		Corundum Ruby (808)		Canada Jade (806)		Soft Pink (7113)		
G		Axinite (831)		Crystal Quartz (814)		Single cream (3921)		