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Heidi B. Johannesen & Pia H.H. Johannesen

Classic Christmas Crochet

Traditional
Danish Holiday
Decorations
and Gifts

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

10	Preface
15	About This Book
16	Video Guides and Help
17	Skill Levels
18	Yarn Information
20	Gauge
22	Blocking
24	The Patterns
26	Woven Hearts
44	Christmas Bell
50	Christmas Balls
64	Kringle
68	Drums
80	Hunting Horn
86	Tin Soldier
100	Snowflakes
106	Cornets
116	Christmas Candy Canes
120	Elves
140	Christmas Stockings
154	Christmas Miscellany
162	Abbreviations and Symbols
164	Acknowledgments
168	About the Authors

PREFACE

We love to crochet as Christmas approaches. There's something so special about this holiday season, and it's such a joy, every year, to decorate our homes and create that magical Christmas feeling for our families. In Denmark, we use a lot of tealight candles and strings of Christmas lights, since the winter days are so short and the nights are so dark, and we especially enjoy Christmas baking, Christmas cutouts, and making homemade gifts. Everything's just as it should be, as usual, but even if many of the traditions we follow during Christmastime are old, there's always something new created every year, too. We're sisters, and one of our shared family Christmas traditions is to add homemade Christmas decorations to our collection. Our crocheted Christmas decorations fill more and more room in our homes, because we keep making new ones all the time.

And classic Danish Christmas decorations, in traditional colors of red, green, gold, and white, have a special place in our collection of Christmas decorations. Every now and then, we do like to experiment with new colors and aesthetics, but there's something timeless, a quintessential elegance, that always draws us back to those traditional shapes and classic colors, year after year, and makes them our firm favorites. Nostalgia works its own kind of magic, too: we remember the decorations we hung on the tree when we were little, and we can't help but want to recapture the Christmases of our childhood, the simple and dependable charm that made the holiday season special. Perhaps we're a little old-fashioned—but these traditional Danish decorations come with irreplaceable personal history for us, along with everything else that makes them such enduring favorites for so many people.

There's a strong association between "real Christmas decorations" and red, white, and green, with a touch of shining gold or silver. Therefore, that's the palette we used for the projects in this book. You can crochet these designs with any colors you want, but with the mood we've tried to capture in this collection, we think the classic Christmas colors are perfect.

We hope that with these patterns, you can create a treasure chest full of classic Danish Christmas decorations, and make your own holiday season truly merry. You'll find designs included for all kinds of beloved Christmas favorites—bright red Christmas balls, Christmas stockings for lots of little gifts, red and white drums with gold trim, joyful Christmas bells, a neatly-dressed “tin soldier,” and Christmas candy canes. And we've also included decorations drawn from uniquely Danish and Scandinavian tradition: pretzel-shaped Danish kringles, woven hearts, cornets, and sweet little Scandinavian elves, and more. All of them are worked in a classic Christmas style, charming, comforting, and ever-so-traditional.

We wish you many wonderful winter evenings crocheting these Christmas decorations for yourself and those you love.

Merry Christmas,
Heidi and Pia



TOGETHER WITH TURBINE PUBLISHING,
OUR ORIGINAL DANISH PUBLISHER, WE
HAVE CHOSEN TO DONATE A PORTION OF
OUR PROFITS FROM THIS BOOK TO THE
CHRISTMAS SEAL FOUNDATION.



VIDEO GUIDES AND HELP

If you need help as you work with the given techniques and stitches in this book, you'll find video guides on our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/kreadeluxe. (The videos are titled in Danish, but there are no spoken instructions; you'll be able to follow every step done in each video just by watching, without needing to know any Danish.)

In any individual pattern, there may be special techniques, which go beyond the basics of crochet. In these cases, we've included a tips box with the name of a suggested video guide (in both English and Danish, to help you find the right video on our channel or search for additional instructions, whichever you prefer) listed for that technique.

Below you'll find a list of all our video guides, which you can refer to as you work through the book.

Stitch Types

Slip stitch ("Hæklede luftmasker")
Chain stitch ("Hæklede kædemasker")
Single crochet stitch ("Hæklede fastmasker")
Half double crochet stitch ("Hæklede halvstangmasker")
Double crochet stitch ("Hæklede stangmasker")
Treble crochet stitch ("Dobbelte stangmasker")

Starting Out

Magic ring ("Hæklet magisk ring")
Joining chain stitches into a ring ("Samle luftmasker til en ring")
Crocheting back and forth in rows ("Hækle frem og tilbage")
Working into loops on back of foundation chain stitches ("Hækle i luftmaskekæden på bagsiden af luftmaskerækken")
Working into both sides of a foundation chain ("Hækle på begge sider af en luftmaskerække")
Attaching yarn with a slip stitch ("Løkkemaske")

Techniques

Decrease ("Tag ind - metode 1" and "Tag ind - metode 2")
Increase ("Udtagning")
Work into front loop ("Hækle i forreste maskeled")
Work into back loop ("Hækle i bagerste maskeled")
Crocheting around a chain loop ("Hækle rundt om en luftmaskebue")
Joining at the end of a round ("Sammentrækning af sidste omgang")
Changing colors ("Farveskift")
Changing colors when crocheting around in a spiral ("Farveskift når der hækles i spiral")
Crocheting ribbed cuff—Christmas stocking ("Hæklet Rib - Julesok")
Joining 5 double crochet stitches together ("5 stangmasker hæklet sammen")
Joining 8 double crochet stitches together ("8 stangmasker hæklet sammen")
Joining a leg—tin soldier ("Tinsoldat Sammenkobling af ben")





WOVEN HEARTS



FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Small Heart: approx. 1¾ in / 4.5 cm long and 2 in / 5 cm wide, not including loop

Large Heart: approx. 3⅛ in / 8 cm long and 3⅛ in / 8 cm wide, not including loop

MATERIALS

Yarn:

CYCA 2 (sport) Krea Deluxe Organic Cotton (100% cotton, 180 yd/165 m / 50 g)

Yarn Colors and Amounts:

Small Heart:

5 g for one heart—2 g of each color for the heart, and 1 g for the hanging loop

Large Heart:

14 g for one heart—6 g of each color for the heart, and 2 g for the hanging loop
The hearts shown here use White 01 and Red 35.

Crochet Hook: U. S. size B-1 or C-2 / 2.5 mm

Notions: blunt tapestry needle, scissors

GAUGE

29 sts x 36 rnds crocheted around in a spiral with Organic Cotton = 4 x 4 in / 10 x 10 cm.

Adjust hook size to obtain correct gauge if necessary.

Pattern History

Christmas is a holiday that's about celebrating love, and it just isn't a Danish Christmas if there aren't any woven hearts.

It has been said that the world's oldest woven Christmas heart was made by the famous Danish author Hans Christian Andersen, and since the 1940s, many Scandinavian families have cut out, glued, and woven hearts in untold numbers.

In this pattern, you'll find variations with classic block patterns. We used red and white Organic Cotton for our hearts. You can, of course, combine any colors you like, and you can crochet these hearts in all sorts of yarn. The thicker the yarn, the bigger the hearts will be. Make hearts to hang on your tree with sparkling Glimmergarn that'll catch your Christmas lights—or use the finest, thinnest yarn you own, and you'll end up with lovely, tiny miniature hearts.



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CHRISTMAS BELL



FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Approx. 1 $\frac{5}{8}$ in / 4 cm high without bow, 1 $\frac{5}{8}$ in / 4 cm wide at base of bell

MATERIALS

Yarn:

CYCA 1 (fingering) Krea Deluxe Shiny Glimmergarn (80% rayon/viscose, 20% polyester, 104 yd/95 m / 25 g)

Yarn Colors and Amounts:

The bell shown here was crocheted with Shiny Glimmergarn in Gold, with Organic Wool 1, Color 35, for the bow

Crochet Hook: U. S. size A / 2 mm for Shiny Glimmergarn and D-3 / 3 mm for Organic Wool 1

Notions: blunt tapestry needle, scissors

GAUGE

33 sts x 37 rnds crocheted around in a spiral with Shiny Glimmergarn = 4 x 4 in / 10 x 10 cm.

Adjust hook size to obtain correct gauge if necessary.

Pattern History

There's no doubt about it, everyone pays a little extra attention to Christmas music whenever there are Christmas bells in the song. They bring

a special kind of joy to Christmas that nothing else can match, when you hear them ring out merrily on Christmas Eve.

There are many different types of Christmas bells, and they can appear on wreaths, branches, and the Christmas tree, too, to create a bright and cheery atmosphere.

The kind of Christmas bells you buy in a store are often made out of porcelain, but for this pattern, we made our bell with Shiny Glimmergarn so it would look like old-fashioned brass Christmas bells.

Tip

The bell will also look lovely if you use a red silk ribbon instead of making a crocheted cord.







CHRISTMAS BALLS



FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Round Ball: approx. 2¾ in / 7 cm in diameter

Drop-Shaped Ball: approx. 3¾ in / 9.5 cm long with top and 2¼ in / 5.5 cm in diameter

MATERIALS

Yarn:

Round Ball: CYCA 2 (sport) Krea Deluxe Organic Wool 1 (100% wool, 159 yd/145 m / 50 g)

Drop-Shaped Ball: CYCA 1 (fingering) Krea Deluxe Shiny Glimmergarn (80% rayon/viscose, 20% polyester, 104 yd/95 m / 25 g)

Yarn Colors and Amounts:

Round Ball: Organic Wool 1, Red 35, 15 g per ball

Drop-Shaped Ball: Shiny Glimmergarn, Red or Gold, 10 g per ball

Shiny Glimmergarn, Gold, small amounts for top and embroidery

Crochet Hook: U. S. size E-4 / 3.5 mm for Organic Wool 1 and A / 2 mm for Shiny Glimmergarn

Notions: blunt tapestry needle, scissors, Styrofoam ball, approx. 2¾ in / 7 cm in diameter for each round ball, approx. 15 g fiberfill for each drop-shaped ball

GAUGE

30 sts x 35 rnds crocheted around in a spiral with Organic Wool 1 and larger hook = 4 x 4 in / 10 x 10 cm.

33 sts x 37 rnds crocheted around in a spiral with Shiny Glimmergarn and smaller hook = 4 x 4 in / 10 x 10 cm.

Adjust hook size to obtain correct gauge if necessary.

Pattern History

The Christmas balls are the first ornaments we hang on the tree, right after stringing on the lights. We arrange our lovely glass balls evenly all over the tree, so they can be seen in the sheen from the lights.

You don't have to be as careful when you're hanging these crocheted balls, because they won't shatter if they drop on the floor.

The round Christmas balls are crocheted over a Styrofoam ball, which will make them perfectly round. If you don't have any Styrofoam balls, you can stuff them with fiberfill. If you substitute fill for the Styrofoam, we recommend that you crochet the balls with cotton or Shiny Glimmergarn; that way, they'll be a little stiffer and firmer, and hold a nice round shape more easily.









Rnd 6: Ch 1; with Color 3, 1 sc in each of next 3 sts, (with Color 2, 1 sc in next st; with Color 3, 1 sc in each of next 7 sts) 4 times; with Color 2, 1 sc in next st; with Color 3, 1 sc in each of next 3 sts. Join with 1 sl st = **39 sts**.

Continue with Color 3 (Organic Cotton, White).

Rnd 7: Ch 1, 1 sc in each st around. Join with 1 sl st = **39 sts**.

Change to Color 1 (Shiny Glimmergarn, Gold).

Rnd 8: Ch 1, 1 sc in each st around. Join rnd with 1 sl st = **39 sts**.

Cut yarn. Weave in ends on WS.

After crocheting all drum pieces, continue with “Finishing” on page 76.

Each round begins with ch 1 to even up the height of the round. The 1st sc of each round is worked in the same stitch the slip stitch was worked into (also the same stitch the chain stitch came up from).

Note: The slip st and chain st at the beginning of each round are not included in the stitch count.

With Color 1 (Organic Cotton, Red), ch 39. Join chain with 1 sl st into 1st ch. Make sure the foundation chain does not twist.

The first rnd is crocheted into the foundation chain on the back of the chain. When crocheting into the foundation chain, the first and last rounds will join and create a stitch row in the base of the piece with two stitch loops. This makes it easier to finish the drum neatly when the pieces are joined.

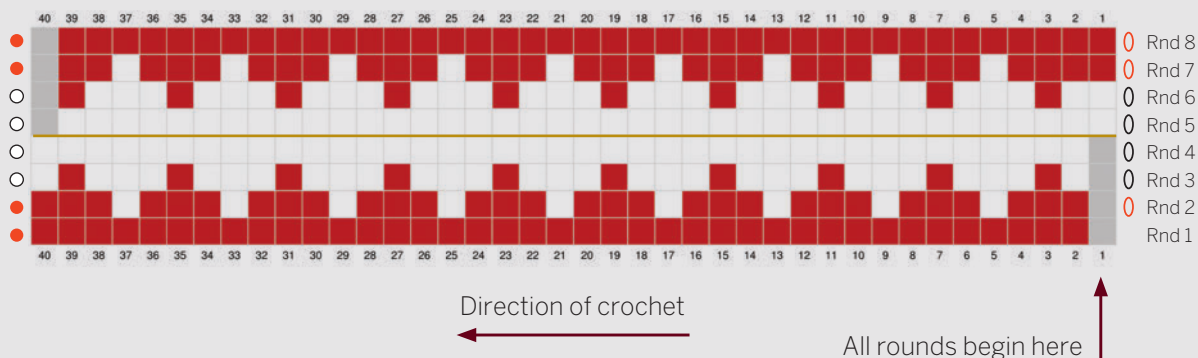
Rnd 1: On back of foundation chain, work 1 sc into the 1st ch of the rnd. Work 1 sc in each ch around = **39 sts**.

The next 2 rnds are worked in both Colors 1 and 2 (Organic Cotton, Red and White).

DRUM 3

This drum shell is crocheted in rounds. Each round is joined with 1 slip stitch. The slip stitch is worked from the last stitch into the 1st stitch of the round.

CHART 3—DRUM 3













LARGE SNOWFLAKE

Work Rnds 1-3 as for mini snowflake, but do not cut yarn after Rnd 3. Rnd 4 is shown on chart (on page 103) with red symbols.

Rnd 4: Ch 1 (= 1 sc), 1 sc in 1st sc of Rnd 3. Ch 2. Work 1 sc around ch loop of previous rnd.

Now crochet the large snowflake tips as follows: [Ch 7, 1 sl st in 7th ch from hook, ch 6, 1 sl st in 6th ch from hook, ch 7, 1 sl st in 7th ch from hook, ch 5, 1 sl st in 5th ch from hook. To attach the first four snowflake tips to the base, work 1 sl st into 1st ch on 1st snowflake tip. Ch 7, 1 sl st in 7th ch from hook, (1 sl st in top of sc crocheted around ch loop, ch 2, 1 sc in sc of previous rnd)]. Repeat the instructions in brackets for each large snowflake tip until you have a total of 6.

On last snowflake tip, work 1 sl st instead of last sc at beginning of round (sl st is worked into ch 1 at beginning of rnd).

Cut yarn, weave in ends, and continue with "Finishing" below.

EXTENDED SNOWFLAKE

Work Rnds 1-3 as for mini snowflake, but do not cut yarn after Rnd 3. Rnd 4 is worked as for the large snowflake, *at the same time* as you add the smaller snowflake tips in between the large snowflake tips, as described below. Rnd 4 is shown on chart (on page 103) with red and yellow symbols.

Rnd 4: Ch 1 (= 1 sc), 1 sc in 1st sc of Rnd 3.

[Crochet a smaller snowflake tip as follows: Ch 4, 1 sl st in 4th ch from hook, 1 sl st in base of sc, ch 2. Work 1 sc around ch loop of previous rnd.

Then crochet a large snowflake tip as follows: Ch 7, 1 sl st in 7th ch from hook, ch 6, 1 sl st in 6th ch from hook, ch 7, 1 sl st in 7th ch from hook, ch 5, 1 sl st in 5th ch from hook. To attach the first four snowflake tips to the base, work 1 sl st into 1st ch on 1st snowflake tip. Ch 7, 1 sl st in 7th ch from hook, 1 sl st in 1st ch of 1st snowflake tip, ch 7, 1 sl st in 7th ch from hook, 1 sl st in top of sc that was crocheted around ch loop. Ch 2, 1 sc in sc of previous rnd.]

Repeat the instructions within brackets, a smaller snowflake tip followed by a large snowflake tip, until you have a total of 6 smaller snowflake tips and 6 large snowflake tips.

On last large snowflake tip, work 1 sl st instead of last sc at beginning of round (sl st is worked into ch 1 at beginning of rnd).

Cut yarn, weave in ends, and continue with "Finishing" below.

FINISHING

You'll get the best results by blocking the snowflakes as described in the section on blocking on page 22. Add a cord to each snowflake for hanging.











CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS



FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

19¼ in / 49 cm long from top of the folded cuff to tip of toe, when hanging; approx. 9¾ in / 25 cm at widest point.

MATERIALS

Yarn:

CYCA 2 (sport) Krea Deluxe Organic Wool 1 (100% wool, 159 yd/145 m / 50 g)—two strands held together

OR

CYCA 4 (worsted, afghan, Aran) Krea Deluxe Organic Wool 2 (100% wool, 93 yd/85 m / 50 g)—one strand

Yarn Colors and Amounts:

Colors shown: White 01 and Dark Green 36

Stocking with snowflake: 195 g MC, 60 g CC (pattern + ribbed cuff)

Striped stocking: 160 g MC, 100 g CC (pattern + ribbed cuff)

Crochet Hook: U. S. size 7 / 4.5 mm

Notions: blunt tapestry needle, scissors

GAUGE

20 sts x 22 rnds crocheted around in a spiral with 2 strands Organic Wool 1, or 1 strand Organic Wool 2 = 4 x 4 in / 10 x 10 cm.

Adjust hook size to obtain correct gauge if necessary.

Pattern History

Christmas stockings are a beloved tradition in many places all over the world, not just in Denmark. Everyone in our family has their own personal stocking—sometimes, we label the stocking with a name, but sometimes we use a motif representing something the person loves, or we make their stocking in their favorite colors.

And of course we had to include a stocking in our book, so crocheted Christmas stockings can hang in your house for the holidays, too. There's nothing else like the sound of a pair of little feet racing across the floor early on Christmas morning, for a look into a stocking for the first handful of little gifts and treats.

Obviously, you can substitute just about anything you want in place of the patterns on these stockings: names, initials, or other shapes or motifs that will make it more personal. The striped stocking can be made with as many different colors as you like, if you want to use more than just two colors.



CHRISTMAS MISCELLANY



FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Tree: approx. 2¼ in / 5.5 cm high and 1¾ in / 4.5 cm wide

Christmas Ball: approx. 1⅝ in / 4 cm high, including top and 1⅜ in / 3.5 cm wide

Heart: approx. 1⅛ in / 3 cm high and 1⅜ in / 3.5 cm wide

MATERIALS

Yarn:

An assortment of leftover yarns

Crochet Hook: Recommended hook sizes:

U. S. size A / 2.0 mm for Shiny Glimmergarn

U. S. size C-2 / 2.5 mm for Organic Cotton

U. S. size E-4 / 3.5 mm for Organic Wool 1

U. S. size 7 / 4.5 mm for Organic Wool 2

Notions: blunt tapestry needle, scissors

GAUGE

The gauge isn't very important for these patterns; as long as they look nice, it doesn't matter if they're crocheted a little extra loosely or tightly. The only thing you should really keep in mind here is that your results are going to depend on which yarn you're using and whether you're using one strand, two, or more. These little projects work

up quickly; try out your hook and yarn, starting with the hook size recommended for the yarns above, and see whether you get a look and feel you like.

Pattern History

Once Christmas is over, there are always tasty leftovers in the refrigerator that can be eaten the day after, and perhaps a few little cakes and uneaten Christmas candies that you can enjoy when the children are looking the other way.

In much the same way, when you sit down and crochet a wonderful pile of Christmas decorations, you'll end up with some nice yarn leftovers that can still be used to make a few extra treats. Nothing should go to waste—so here are five small, quick projects you can use your leftovers for.

You can use any type of yarn—just make sure the yarn and hook work well together. You can hang these little hearts, Christmas trees, and mini Christmas balls on branches, or string them together on a chain cord to make bunting for a window or as a garland for a wreath or the tree. They can also be tied to Christmas gifts with ribbon as decorative tags, for a lovely, personal touch.







ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Heidi B. Johannesen and Pia H. H. Johannesen

We are sisters and co-proprietors of our own company, Krea Deluxe. Every day, you'll find us at Krea Deluxe, where we do what we love most: We produce organic, high-quality luxury yarns, with an eye toward natural, sustainable products in soft, harmonious colors. We knit, crochet, design, and develop patterns and kits. All of our work is driven by the endless possibilities we see for creating and working with handcrafts. Classic Christmas Crochet is our fifth book together.

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Capture the Spirit of the Season

with compelling simplicity in this classic, coordinated selection of crochet patterns rooted in Danish history and Yuletide lore. From steadfast holiday staples like shining bells and personalized stockings, to friendly Scandinavian elves and the elegant woven hearts first popularized by Danish author Hans Christian Andersen, everything you need to handmade all trappings of a quintessential Christmas is right here at the end of your hook. This book features:

A range of difficulty levels, allowing novice crocheters to keep it quick and straightforward, while seasoned veterans can craft tin soldiers, toy drums, and more.

Full-color photographs, including ideas for placing and arranging decorations inside and outside the house.

Delights of every shape and size, from snowflakes and Christmas trees to full-size stockings ready to hold piles of holiday treats.

Heidi B Johannesen and Pia HH Johannesen are sisters; together, they founded the yarn company Krea Deluxe in 2015. The passion to create with their own hands has followed them since they were very young, when they learned to crochet, knit, and sew from their grandmother. With Krea Deluxe, they have created a universe based on the shared joy and love of needlework.

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