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Marie-Line André



MANDALAS & DOILIES TO CROCHET

Delightful Designs to Brighten Your Life



Marie-Line André
de PurPle Laines

MANDALAS
& DOILIES

to crochet

Delightful Designs to Brighten Your Life



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FOREWORD

Jacques Brel once said, "I wish you endless dreams, and the furious desire to realize them." Well, these were my dreams: to learn how to crochet, and to write a book.

When I was eight, I started to "work in the round," just winding pieces of wool I'd found around each other in a spiral. Later years brought the desire to always live in a world full of color. It's important to me to be able to create a certain atmosphere in my own space. Certain colors, for me, evoke specific styles or eras in art and design: natural colors are an invitation to minimalism and the spirit of Zen; bright colors bring back the post-war period of euphoria; oranges remind me of the seventies; pastel shades make everything feel like springtime; a splash of neon is like the crowing of a rooster first thing in the morning ... I love all of these sensations, all of these approaches. And it's worth taking the time to pick materials and colors that work together harmoniously, and to make things with them that suit whatever feel they create.

The doilies and mandalas in this book are an expression of my desire to share these combinations and sensations with you, so you can in your turn crochet yourself a world full of color.

My best wishes to all crocheters: may your head spin in the best way as you travel down these spiraling roads of color!

Marie-Line



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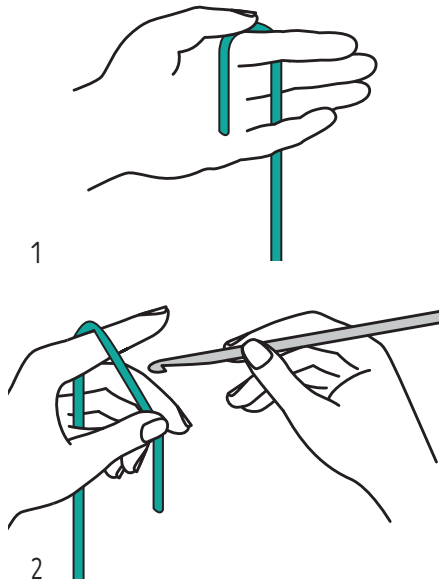
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GUIDE TO CROCHET

Holding the yarn and the hook

1. Place the yarn ball to your left. Lay the yarn across your left hand so the tail lies in your palm; the yarn should wrap around the back of your index finger, return to your palm across the base of your middle and ring fingers, and then pass between your ring finger and little finger to the back of your hand again.
2. Hold the yarn tail between your left thumb and middle finger. Hold the hook in your right hand, between your right thumb and index finger, an inch or two from the hook end.



Crocheting in the round

All the patterns in this book are crocheted in the round. This means you'll always see the same side of the work (the right side), and you'll progress around the work counterclockwise.

It's a good idea to place a stitch marker to remind yourself where the beginning of the round is. Place the marker in the first stitch of the first round, and then move it up to the first stitch of each following round as you go. You can use additional stitch markers to help you keep track of increases, the positions of motifs, stitches you want to work over again later with overlay ... If you don't want to buy stitch markers, you can always use small pieces of scrap yarn instead—just slide one between two stitches and tie it loosely into a loop.

To keep your work in the round as circular as possible, it can be a good idea to stagger the beginnings of rounds a stitch or two instead of stacking them up right on top of each other. Each time you have to change colors, try making the join slightly to one side of the exact beginning of the round. Staggered like this, the beginnings and ends of rounds are less visible when the work is finished, and the increases are a little better distributed.

Charts

The pattern instructions are accompanied by charts, which let you visualize what you need to do very quickly. They aren't a realistic image of the exact placement and appearance of actual crocheting, but if you follow them while working, everything should come out correctly.

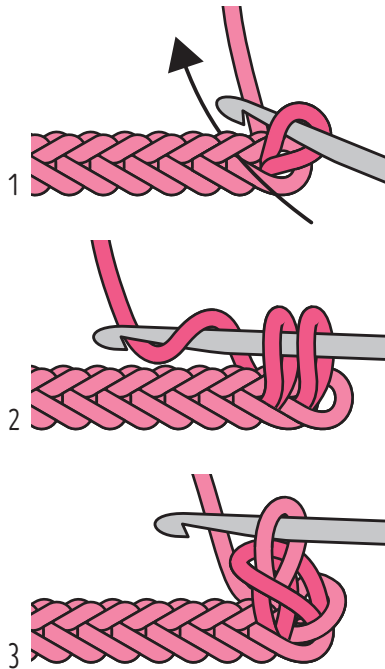
Follow these charts from the center out, and remember that rounds are worked counterclockwise.

Tip

If you're lefthanded, reverse the positions of the hands. You can photocopy the illustrations and look at them in a mirror to help you visualize how your hands should be held and how the yarn should be positioned.

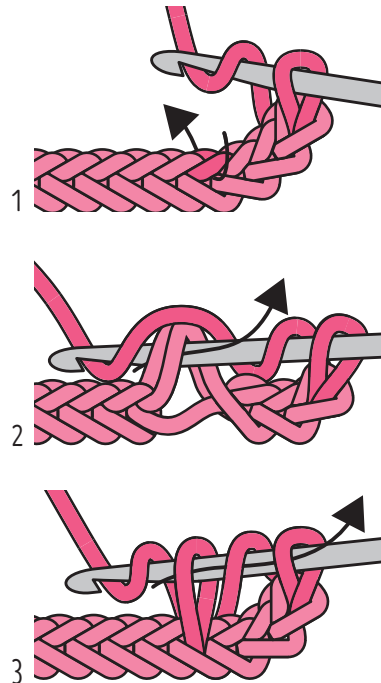
Single crochet (sc)

1. Insert the hook into the stitch of the previous row or round where a single crochet is to be worked.
2. Wrap the yarn around the hook and pull through the stitch. There are now two loops on the hook.
3. Wrap the yarn around the hook again and pull through both loops. You have worked one single crochet stitch and have a new loop on the hook.



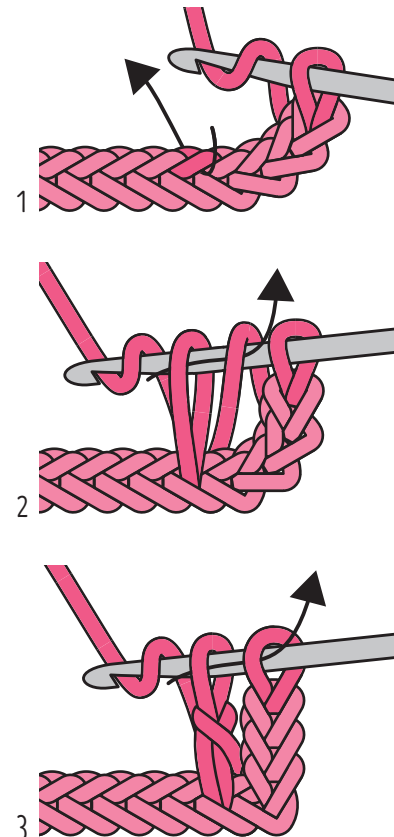
Half double crochet (hdc)

1. Wrap the yarn around the hook, and then insert the hook into the stitch of the previous row or round where a half double crochet is to be worked.
2. Wrap the yarn around the hook again and pull through the stitch. There are now three loops on the hook.
3. Wrap the yarn around the hook a third time and pull through all three loops on the hook. You have worked one half double crochet stitch and have a new loop on the hook.



Double crochet (dc)

1. Wrap the yarn around the hook, and then insert the hook into the stitch of the previous row or round where a double crochet is to be worked.
2. Wrap the yarn around the hook again and pull through the stitch. There are now three loops on the hook. Wrap the yarn around the hook a third time and pull it through two of those loops.
3. There are now two loops remaining on the hook. Wrap the yarn around the hook a fourth time and pull it through both loops. You have worked one double crochet stitch and have a new loop on the hook.



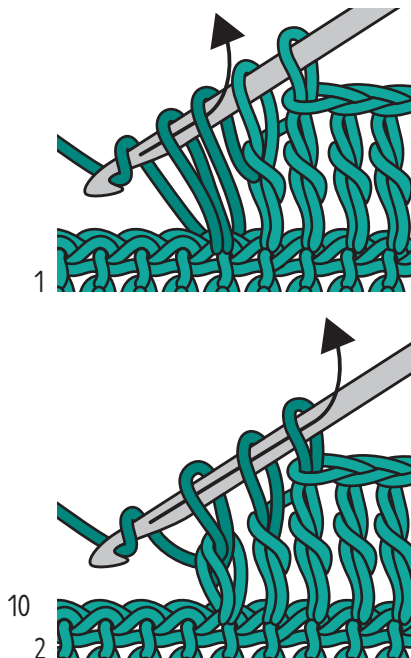
Working stitches together

Decreases are formed in crochet by working two or more incomplete stitches and then completing them simultaneously, as though they were a single stitch.

An incomplete stitch is worked up until the step before the last yarnover, and then the last two loops are simply left on the hook while another stitch is begun. The steps below describe working two double crochet stitches together (abbreviated “dc2tog”).

1. Wrap the yarn around the hook and insert it into a stitch. Wrap the yarn around the hook again and pull through the stitch. Wrap the yarn around the hook a third time, and pull through just two of the loops on the hook = one incomplete double crochet stitch (two loops still left on the hook). Work a second incomplete double crochet in next stitch (three loops still left on the hook).

2. Wrap the yarn around the hook and pull through all three loops on hook.

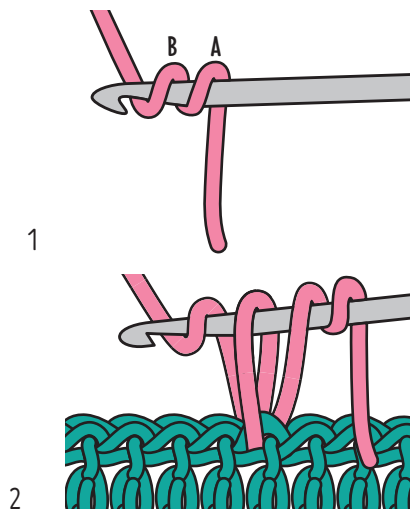


Standing stitches

Usually, when joining a new yarn anywhere along a row or round, it's standard to work a set number of chain stitches—this allows you to match the height the rest of the row will be, and takes the place of the first stitch to make joining easier. However, the patterns in this book use a different method: the standing stitch. The chain stitch method stands out a bit more obviously; standing stitches blend in better. The instructions below explain how to work a standing double crochet stitch, but the basic principle is the same for any standing stitch.

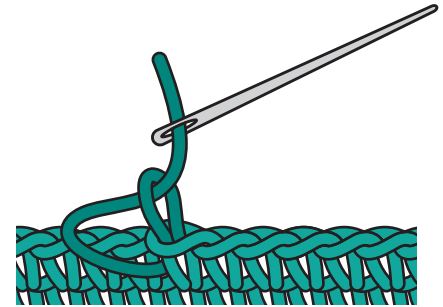
1. Wrap the yarn around the hook, from back to front, to create a loop on the hook (A). Wrap the yarn around the hook again to form the first additional loop for a double crochet (B).

2. Work the double crochet as usual, keeping the yarn tail in place with the right hand. Ensuring that the tail stays on the back of the work, pull on it gently to tighten the double crochet and help keep it from coming undone. The tail can be woven in later.



Fastening off

Cut the yarn about 4 in / 10 cm away from the work. Thread this tail onto a tapestry needle, pass it through the open loop from left to right, then pull gently to tighten and finish weaving in.

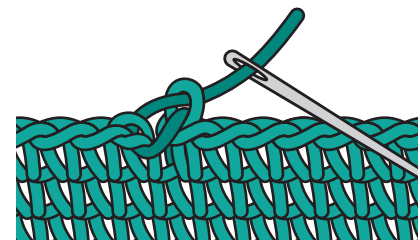


Invisible slip stitch

As the name implies, these blend in better than regular slip stitches. Use this method when you're at the end of a round and cutting the yarn. Unless otherwise indicated, an invisible slip stitch shouldn't be included in the overall stitch count.

1. Fasten off (see above).

2. Slide the tapestry needle under both sides of the first stitch of the round, from left to right, and then back through the open loop. Pull gently on the yarn tail to tighten, and then finish weaving in.



Magic ring

A piece of crocheting that will be worked in the round can be begun with a small foundation chain joined into a loop—or with a ring that can be tightened, which is typically called a “magic ring”. The latter leaves a less obvious hole at the center of a work. The instructions below explain how to use a magic ring to start a work in single crochet, but the basic principle remains the same for any type of stitch.

1. Hold the yarn tail between the left thumb and left middle finger. Wrap the yarn twice around the left index finger.

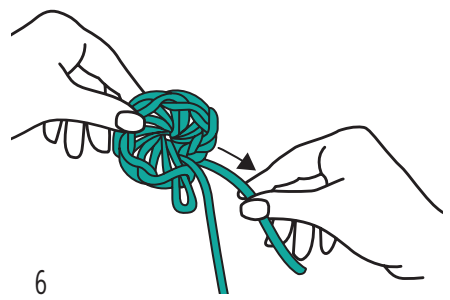
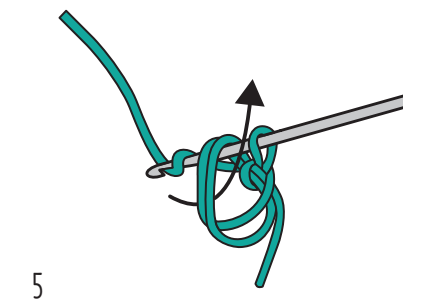
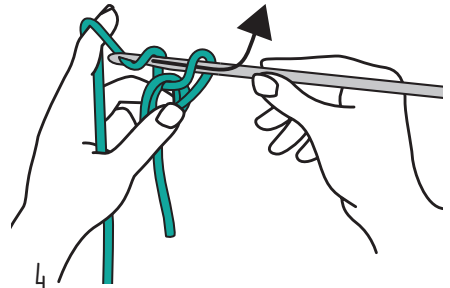
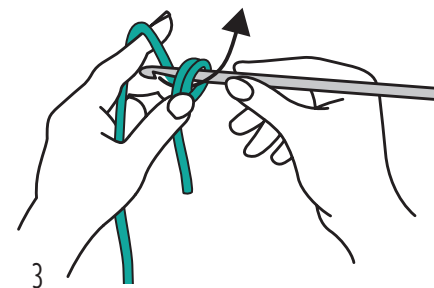
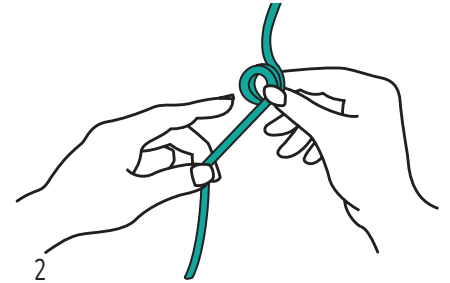
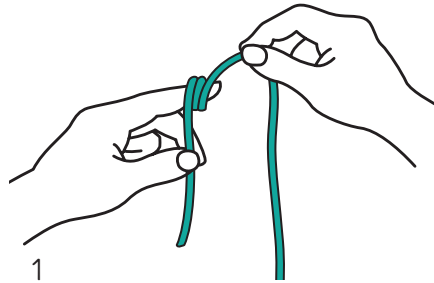
2. Slide the resulting ring off the left index with the right hand, pinching it so it stays a ring.

3. Hold the ring between the left thumb and left middle finger, and extend the working yarn around the left index finger as usual. Insert the hook into the ring, wrap the yarn around the hook, and pull the yarn through the ring.

4. To work the chain stitch that begins the first round, wrap the yarn around the hook again and pull it through the loop on the hook.

5. Work the first single crochet stitch, inserting the hook into the ring instead of into a stitch.

6. When you’ve worked as many stitches as instructed, pull on the yarn tail left over from the ring to tighten it (depending on the effect you want, you can close the ring completely or leave a hole of whatever size you like in the center).



Yarn ends

Before the starting slipknot and at the end of a completed work, leave yourself yarn tails or ends that are long enough to be easily woven into the work. Do the same whenever you change colors or skeins in the middle of a work.

Weave in ends before blocking a completed work. You can use the hook to weave in ends, or you can thread them onto a tapestry needle. In either case, stay on the wrong side of work; weave them around and through several stitches on the same row or round, pull gently to make sure no loops of slack are left hanging out, and then trim the remainder.

Blocking

This is essential to help the work keep its final shape. Immerse the work fully in cold water and let it soak for about fifteen minutes. Then take it out of the water and press it flat—do not twist it or wring it out. Spread it on a towel, roll the towel up, and squeeze to remove excess water. Pin the work to a flat surface (such as a blocking mat), starting at the center and moving outward. If you have a drawing compass or similar, you can use that to make sure you have a perfect circle. Let dry for at least twenty-four hours (the time necessary to dry fully will be longer for multicolor patterns or patterns with overlay crochet).

If you want to stiffen the work, soak it in a mixture of equal parts water and powdered sugar. This method works well on cotton, but is not suitable for wool. You can also use fabric stiffener: once the work has been blocked and has dried, turn it over, pin it down again, and apply a thin layer of stiffener—sparingly, as this tends to darken the yarn colors.

Abbreviations

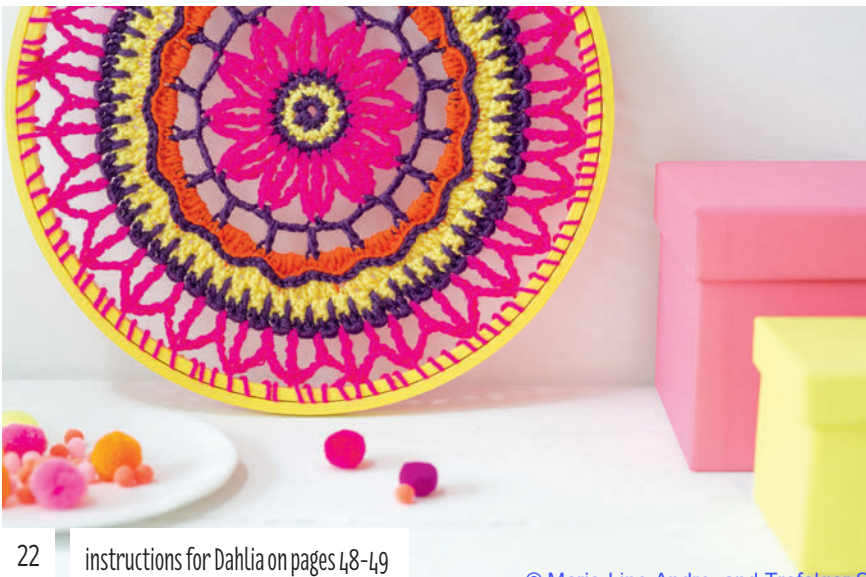
beg	begin, beginning
ch	chain
cl	cluster
cm	centimeter(s)
dc	double crochet (British: treble crochet)
dtr	double treble (British: triple treble)
gr	group
hdc	half double crochet (British: half treble crochet)
in	inch(es)
m	meter(s)
mm	millimeter(s)
pm	place marker
rem	remain(s)(ing)
rep	repeat
rnd(s)	round(s)
RS	right side
sc	single crochet (British: double crochet)
sl	slip
st(s)	stitch(es)
tr	treble (British: double treble)
trtr	triple treble (British: quadruple treble)
WS	wrong side
yd	yard(s)
yoh	yarn over hook, also yarn around hook















○ chain stitch

● slip stitch

○ invisible slip stitch

+ single crochet

± standing single crochet

⌣ double crochet

⌣ treble
crochet

■ Yarn A

■ Yarn B

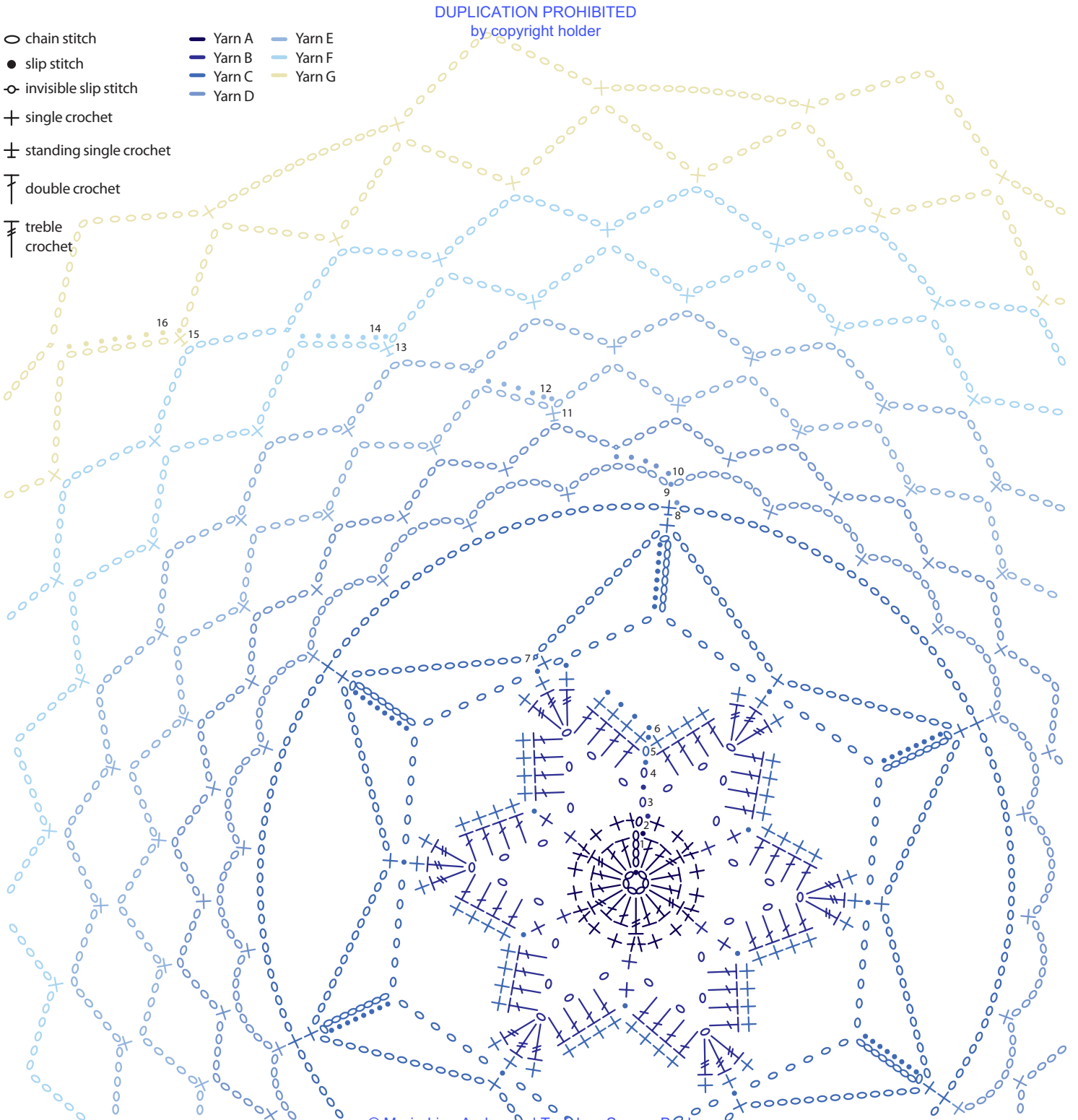
■ Yarn C

■ Yarn D

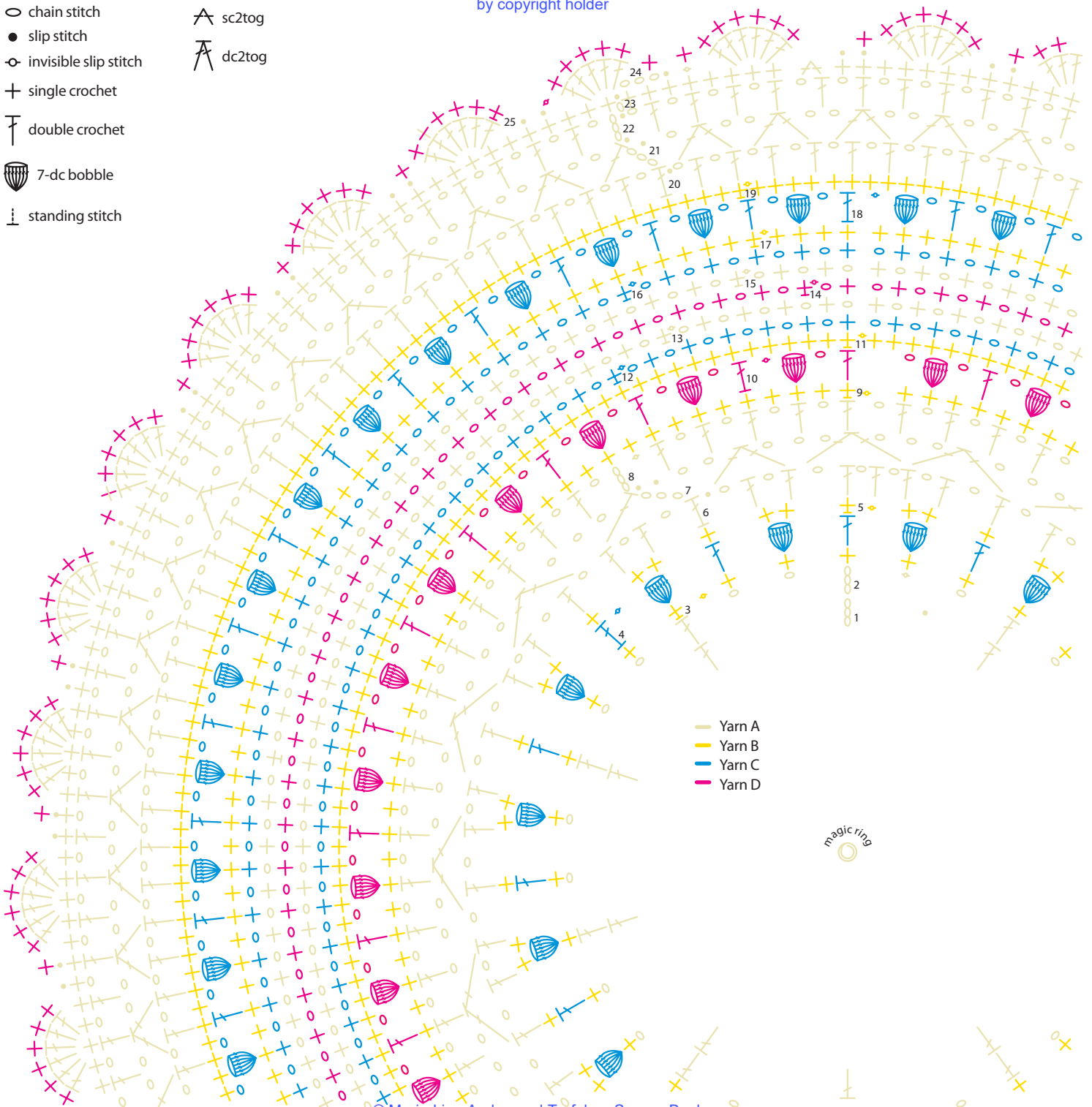
■ Yarn E

■ Yarn F

■ Yarn G



- chain stitch
- slip stitch
- invisible slip stitch
- + single crochet
- ⌣ double crochet
- 7-dc bobble
- ⋮ standing stitch
- △ sc2tog
- ⌣ dc2tog



- Yarn A
- Yarn B
- Yarn C
- Yarn D



On Rnd 11 (Yarn D), the front post triple treble crochets are marked in black for clarity.

○ chain stitch

● slip stitch

○ invisible slip stitch

+ single crochet

T half double crochet

T double crochet

⌘ dc4tog

T treble crochet

T double treble crochet

T triple treble crochet

⋮ standing stitch

⋮ stitch in back loop only

⋮ stitch in front loop only

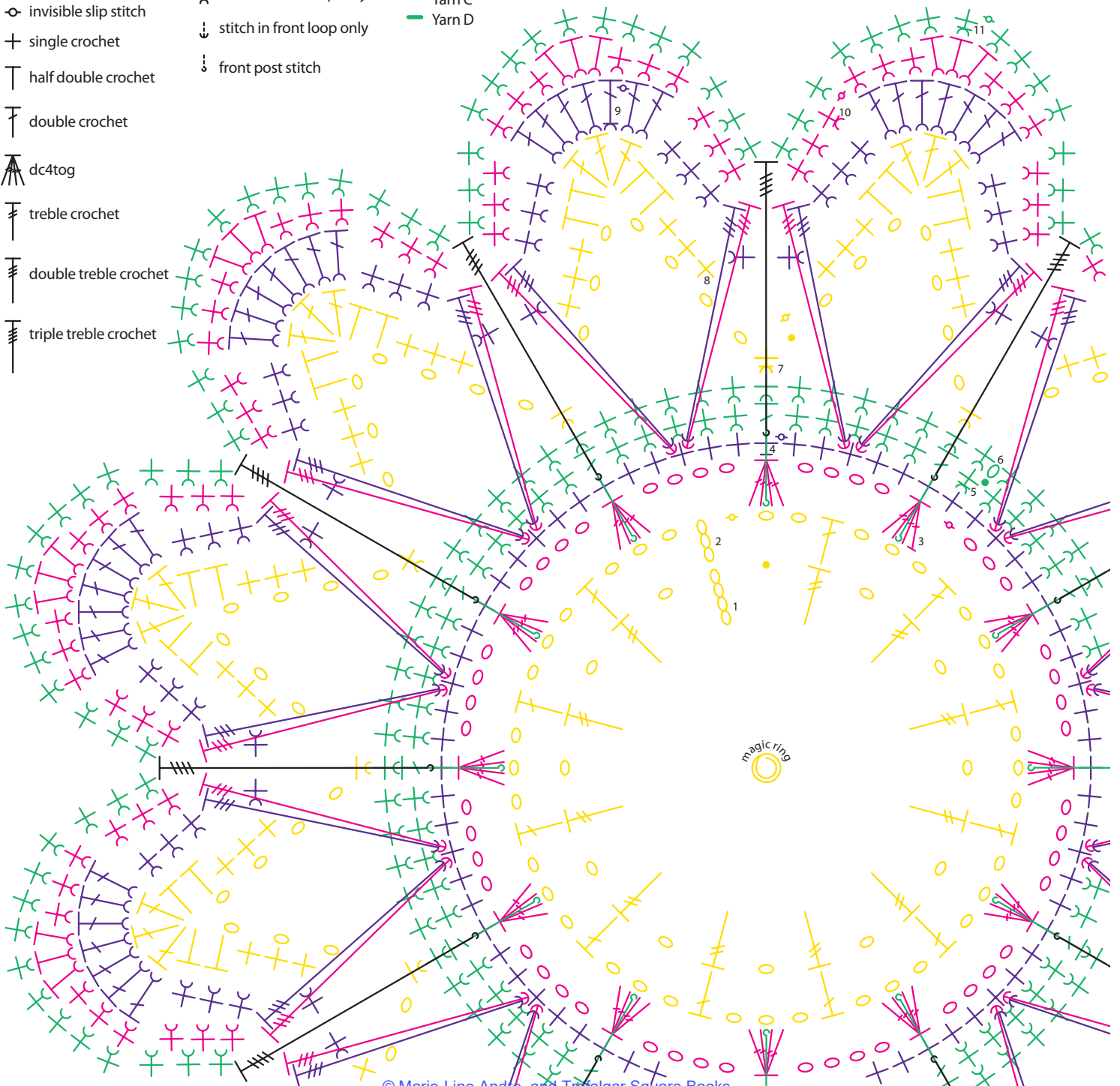
⋮ front post stitch

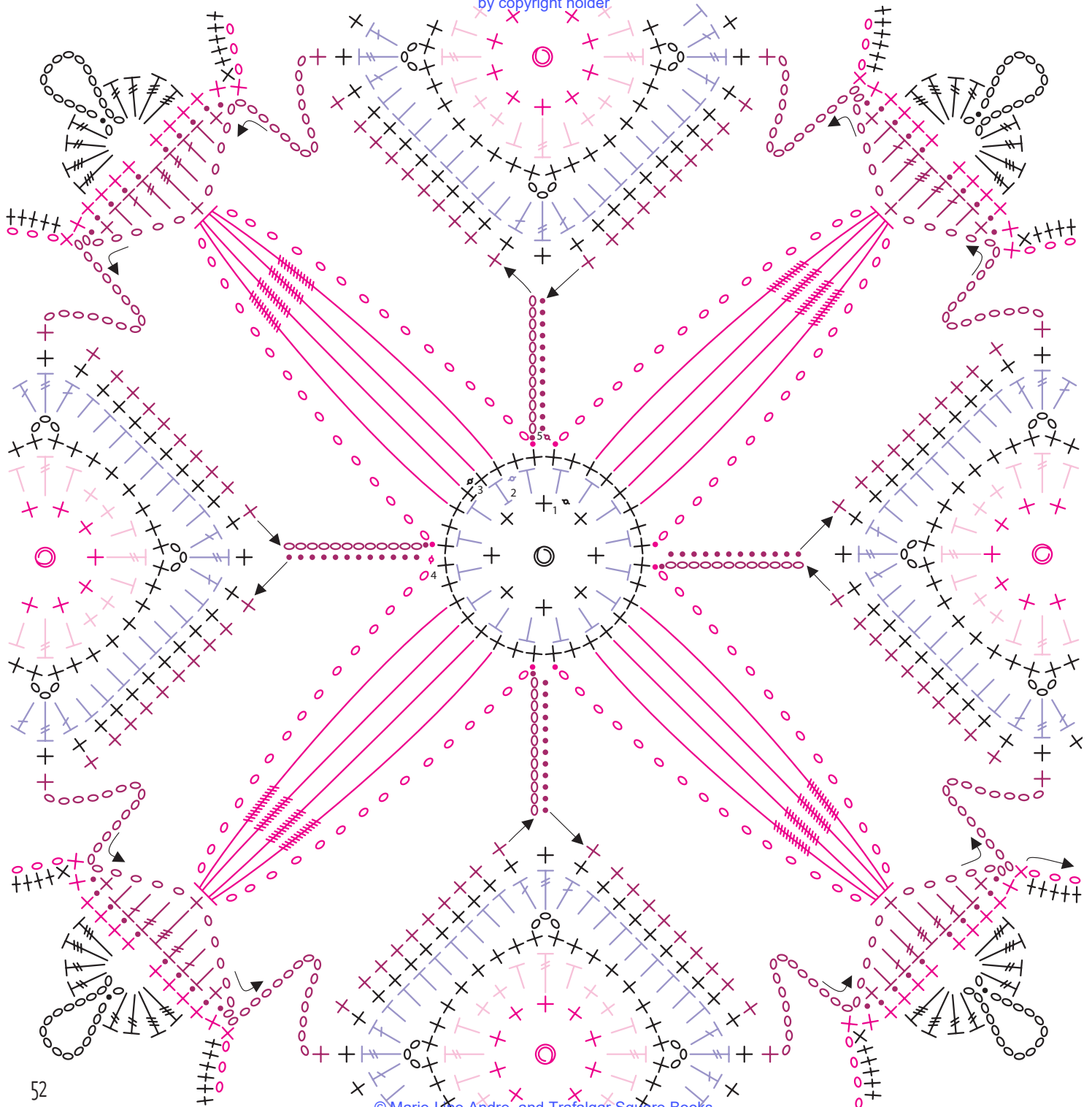
— Yarn A

— Yarn B

— Yarn C

— Yarn D



















ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Marie-Line André, founder of PurPle Laines

Marie-Line began sewing, knitting, and crocheting when she was six years old. When she was in high school, she started making her own sweaters and other clothing, adopting a colorful vintage style. She also has always loved crocheting complex, delicate designs, and soon took up Irish lacework—a technique requiring patience, steady hands, and intense attention to detail.

In 2013, after working for several years as a teacher, Marie-Line changed tracks and began her small business with a shop, PurPle Laines, and the accompanying blog, Le Blog PurPle. She loves offering especially striking color combinations to her clients.

In 2014, she joined the editorial team of the French magazine *Passion Tricot* [Knitting Passion] and now divides her time between her family, her store, and the magazine. In the evenings, she knits and crochets, always with the loveliest colors she can find, in an attempt to make every day a little bit beautiful.

www.purple-laines.com

www.leblogpurple.com

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“CROCHET YOURSELF A WORLD FULL OF COLOR”

—Marie-Line André

The words “doily” and “modern” don’t often go together—but one look at this eye-catching collection will prove that they should! The visual brilliance of these intricate mandalas is a treat for the senses. With earthy combinations and natural shades to soothe and calm, jewel tones or a splash of neon to brighten, and clear step-by-step instructions, it’s impossible to stop at just one!



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