

Spice Up Your Blankets with Starfish!



Here's a fun way to add a little something extra to the pet blankets you're making. On some of the really special blankets I like to add a starfish! If you're already a CFC volunteer, you know why Starfish are special to us...if not check out the * at the bottom.

I like to put these on thick blankets, made by combining two different color yarns (green and orange in the example). Then I make the starfish out of one of the colors to make it super-easy to attach it, almost invisibly. This pattern creates starfish which are about 10 inches across, so keep that in mind as you make the blanket. To attach it, I just use regular sewing stitches at each "point," along the points and a handful at the center. As you stitch it on, keep the trailing yarn tucked between the starfish and the blanket so that it won't be visible.

Here's how to make a starfish:

Supplies Needed: Crochet Hook size K and extra yarn (preferably the same color yarn as one used in the blanket).

Special Stitch:

If you're familiar with a Treble Crochet, there's a variation called the Double Treble Crochet. Here's how you make it: Yarn over 3 times, insert hook in stitch, yarn over, pull loop through (yarn over & pull through 2 loops) 4 times.

Row 1 - CH 2, work 6 SC in 2nd CH from hook, join with SS to first SC.

Row 2 - Ch 1, 2 SC in first SC and in each SC around, join with SS to first SC.

Row 3 - CH 1, SC in same ST, 2 SC in next ST, *SC in next ST, 2 SC next ST; repeat from * around, join with SS to first SC.

Row 4 - CH 1, SC in same ST, SC in next ST, 2 SC in next ST, *SC in next 2 ST, 2 SC in next ST, repeat from * around, join with SS to first SC.

Row 5 - CH 1, SC in same ST, ST in next 2 ST, 2 SC in next ST, *SC in next 3 ST, 2 SC in next ST, repeat from * around, join with SS to first SC.

Row 6 - *CH 11, SC in 2nd CH from hook, SC in next CH, HDC in next 2 CH, DC in next 2 CH, TC in next 2 CH, DTC in last 2 CH, skip 4 SC in round 5, SS in each of next 2 SC in round 5; repeat from * around, ending with SS in last SC of round 5.
Fasten off; weave in ends.

ABBREVIATIONS:

CH = chain
SS = slip stitch
ST = stitch

HDC = half double crochet
SC = single crochet
TC = treble

DC = double crochet
DTC = double treble crochet

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Around the time I was frantically crocheting my first blankets in 2007, I ran across this story. I think it captures the motivation of every CFC volunteer.

The Star Thrower

One day a man was walking along a beach. The sun was shining and it was a beautiful day. Off in the distance he could see a young boy going back and forth between the surf's edge and the beach. Back and forth the boy went.

As the man approached, he could see that there were hundreds of starfish stranded on the sand as the result of the natural action of the tide. The man was struck by the apparent futility of the task. There were far too many starfish. Many of them were sure to die.

As he approached, the boy continued the task of picking up starfish one by one and throwing them back into the sea. As he came up to the boy he said, "You must be crazy! There are thousands of miles of beach covered with starfish. You can't possibly make a difference." The boy looked at the man. He then bent down and picked up one more starfish, and threw it back into the sea. He turned back to the man and said, "But it made a difference to that one."