

Joyful Mandalas



These were a bit of a challenge for me to make, and even more of a challenge to document! I find so much of crochet is technique, not just counting stitches. So please keep that in mind as you tackle this challenge. If you crochet super-tight, or very loose, you may need to adjust the pattern a bit. Keep in mind that crochet is also an art, so tweaking is part of the program. I hope you enjoy all the various stitches and color changes. I thought the result was quite unique!

Gather your comfort tools: I suggest using a wide variety of leftover, medium weight/4-ply yarn and a “I” sized hook for best results. If you want to change colors each row (highly recommended) just join the new color using a SS into the top of any ST or SP between stitches as indicated.

Row 1 - CH4, SS to first CH to form ring, CH2, work 11 more HDC into center of ring, join to initial CH with SS.

Row 2 – Join yarn into any SP. CH2, DC into same space, 2 DC into each space around, join with SS to initial CH2.

Row 3 – Join yarn into top of any ST. CH1, SC in each ST around, join with SS to first CH1.

Row 4 – Join yarn into any SP, CH3, * work TD into same space, CH1, repeat from * around circle, join with SS to initial CH3. *Note: At this point I found it helped to lay the piece down and stretch it a bit around the circle to get it to lay nice and flat.*

Row 5 – Join yarn into any SP. CH2, work DC into same space, * CH1, work 2DC into next SP, repeat from * around to end, join with SS to initial CH1.

Row 6 – Join yarn into any SP. CH1, work SC into spaces around perimeter, putting 2 SC in between each “V” (formed by prior row), and 1 SC into center of “V”. Join with SS to initial CH1.

Row 7 – Join yarn into top of any ST. CH2 (counts as DC), work DC into each ST around, putting 2 DC into every 9th ST. Join with SS to initial CH2.

Row 8 – Join yarn into any SP, CH4, TC into same space, * skip next CH, work TC into next space, CH1, repeat from * around circle. *Note: Every 3rd time put 2 TC into SP, with no CH1 in between. End by putting a final TC into same SP as initial CH4, and join with SS.*

Row 9 – Join yarn into any SP. Work SC into each SP around circle, putting SC into the top of each TC, and into each CH SP. DON'T tie off yarn, you'll be using it for row 10.

Row 10 – Using the same color yarn, CH1, work SC into each ST around circle, SS to initial CH1.

Row 11 & 12 – You'll be alternating SC and DC for both these rows, using the same color. Join yarn into top of any ST, CH1, DC, * SC, DC, repeat from * around to end. Join with SS to initial CH1. For next row, CH2, * SC, DC, repeat from * around to end, making sure you are putting SC into the top of DC, and DC into the top of SC! SS to initial CH2.

Row 13 – Join yarn into top of at ST, CH1, * Long ST DC into SP between SCs in previous row, SC, repeat from * around to end, SS to initial CH1. (Long ST DC: YO, insert hook into SP between SCs in previous row, pull up loop, YO, pull through 2 loops, YO, pull through final 2 loops).

Row 14 – Join yarn into top of any ST, CH2, HDC into each ST all around, putting 2 HDC into every 12th ST. SS to initial CH2.

Row 15 – Join yarn into top of any ST, CH2, * skip next ST, DC, then DC into ST you previously skipped (forms and "X" or "crossed crochet"), CH1, repeat from * around to end (be sure to end with DC into top of CH2 in previous row. Join with SS to initial CH2.

Row 16 – Join yarn into any SP, CH2, HDC into SP between two crossed crochet DC and into each space between crossed crochet DC. Join with SS to initial CH2.

Row 17 – Join yarn into top of ST, CH2, YO, insert hook into same ST and pull up loop (do this 2 times), YO, draw through 5 loops, * CH1, work Puff stitch (Puff stitch: YO, insert and pull up loop ((do this 3 times)), YO, draw through 7 loops on hook), repeat from * around to end. You'll be alternating a Puff stitch and CH1.

Row 18 – Join yarn into any SP, CH3, * HDC into next SP, CH1, repeat from *, SS to join to 2nd CH in initial CH3.

Row 19 – Join yarn into any SP, CH2, DC into each SP, putting 2 DC at approximately every 13 ST, join with SS to initial CH2.

Row 20 (Border) – Join yarn into top of any ST, CH1, SC * skip 1 ST, 5DC into next ST, skip 1 ST, DC, repeat from * around to end, join with SS to initial CH1.

Key:

CH – chain

SP - space

ST – stitch

SS – slip stitch

SC – single crochet

HDC – half double crochet

DC – double crochet

TC – triple crochet

TD – tear drop (YO, insert hook into space between ST and pull up a loop, YO and draw through 2 loops on hook. Do this three times, then YO and draw through all 4 loops on hook.)

Long ST DC – Long stitch double crochet (YO, insert hook into space between SCs in previous row, pull up loop, YO, pull through 2 loops, YO, pull through final 2 loops).

Puff stitch - (YO, insert and pull up loop ((do this 3 times)), YO, draw through 7 loops on hook.)

