Cactus graph

US terms

Finished size
About 8½ × 12½ in (22 × 32 cm)
With its border. The panel alone: about 8 × 12 in (20 × 30 cm)

Skill
Intermediate
Single crochet throughout, 3 yarns, a graph of 26 by 45 units, at most 6 color changes in a row, 8 ends to weave in

Yarn
Medium (4), 3 colors

Hook
5.5 mm (US I-9)

Gauge
13 stitches and 15 rows to 4 in (10 cm)
In single crochet, with the idle yarn carried.

You will need

Yarn A: cream, background	**about 80 yd (73 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: green, cross on the graph	**about 35 yd (32 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: orange, dot on the graph	**about 15 yd (14 m), an estimate**

Hook: 5.5 mm (US I-9). Also: yarn needle, scissors and tape measure.

To find how many balls: divide by the length on your yarn's label and round up. Yarn A: the estimate is from the stitches and chains of this size at this gauge, with 30 percent added. Yarns B and C: the estimate is from the stitches of this size at this gauge, with 30 percent added. To measure your own: work the swatch and measure it, mark the yarn where the swatch begins and ends, pull the swatch out and measure the yarn it took; divide by the area of the swatch and multiply by the area of the piece.

Abbreviations

Written in US terms. Where the UK name differs it is given beside the US one.

ch	chain stitch
sc	single crochet (UK dc, double crochet)
sl st	slip stitch (UK ss, slip stitch)
st	stitch
RS	right side
WS	wrong side
sk	skip
rnd	round

For your own crochet, gifts and handmade pieces you sell. Do not resell or share this PDF.

Gauge

13 stitches and 15 rows to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet, with the idle yarn carried.

The pattern also stops you to measure after row 12.

The swatch. A test piece to measure and pull out. It is not the start of the pattern. Gauge is counted over 4 in (10 cm), so make the swatch bigger than that: about 6 in (15 cm) each way, and count in the middle of it. Work it as the piece is worked: in yarn A, with one of the other yarns carried along the row and worked over.

Swatch foundation	Ch 21.	
Swatch row 1 (RS)	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(20 sc)**
Swatch rows 2 to 23	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(20 sc)**

The same graph in other yarn weights

Light (3): 15 single crochet to 4 in (10 cm), hook 4.5 to 5.5 mm, about 7 × 10½ in (18 × 27 cm).

Bulky (5): 10 single crochet to 4 in (10 cm), hook 6.5 to 9 mm, about 10½ × 15½ in (27 × 39 cm).

These sizes are the panel alone, without its border. No yarn amount has been worked out for these weights.

Before you start

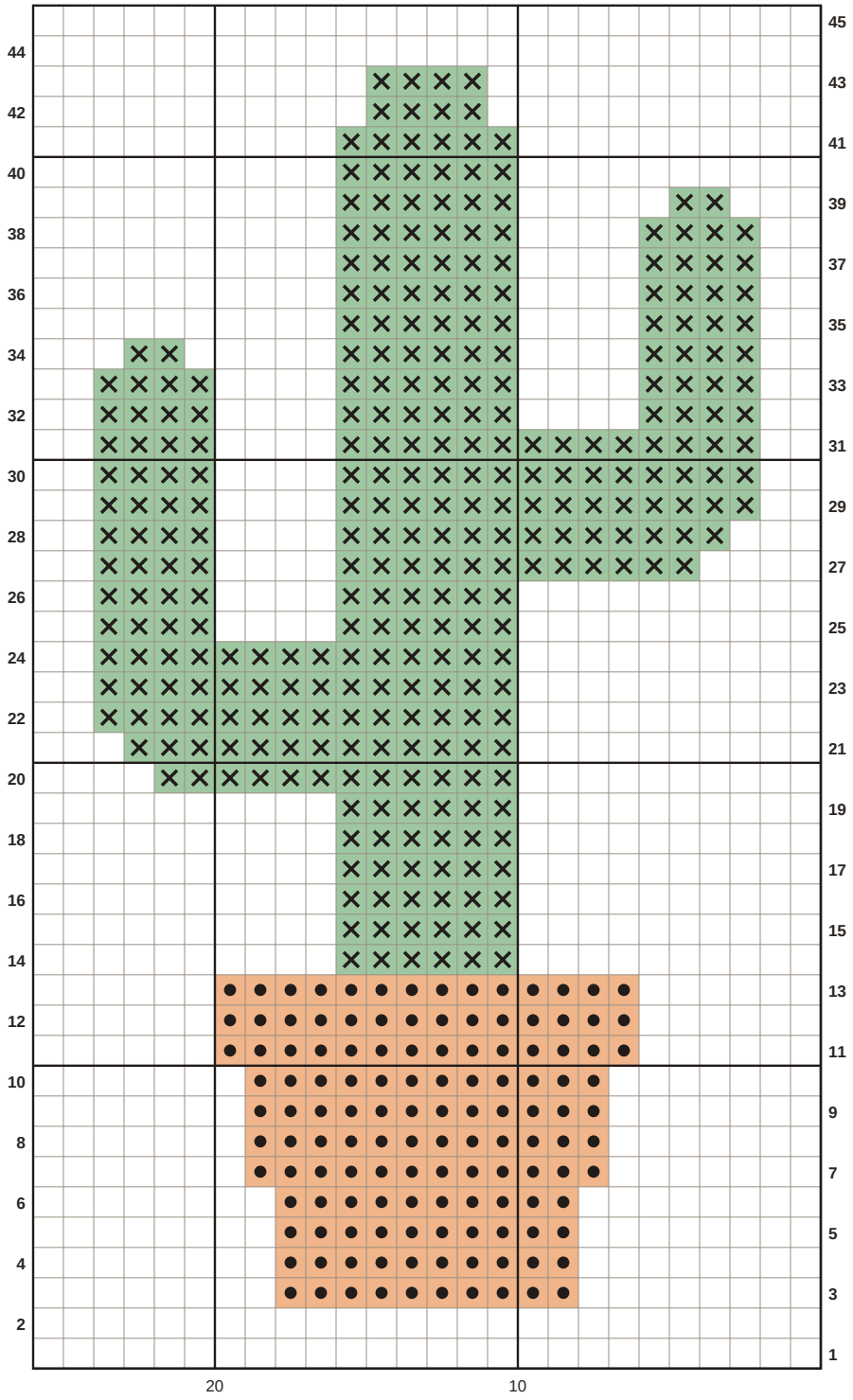
- Each square of the graph is one single crochet. Every row is 26 stitches.
- Row 1 is the bottom row of the graph and is a right-side row. The colors of every row are written in the order you work them. The direction in a row's label says where that row lies on the graph: a right-side row lies on the graph from right to left, a wrong-side row from left to right.
- Ch 1 and turn at the end of every row but the last. The chain 1 does not count as a stitch.
- To change color, work the last yarn-over of the stitch before in the new color.
- Carry the yarn you are not using along the top of the row below and work over it, so that it is hidden inside the stitches. Carry each yarn across every whole row, edge to edge, from the first row it appears in to the last row it appears in: join it at the start of that first row, and cut it at the end of that last row.
- Work firmly. A carried yarn can show between loose stitches, a dark yarn inside light stitches most of all. If it shows in your swatch, change to a smaller hook and measure again: the piece will then be smaller than the size given.
- Rows 1 to 2 and 44 to 45 have nothing carried inside, so they are a little thinner than the rows between.
- Worked flat only. In joined or spiral rounds the picture slants.
- In a row, "8 A" is 1 single crochet in each of the next 8 stitches with yarn A.
- The border is part of the piece: the first size given is with the border, the second is the panel alone.
- Leave a tail of about 6 in (15 cm) when you begin a yarn, and weave it in at the end with the others.
- Left-handed. Worked left-handed, these rows give a mirror image of the picture. To get the picture as drawn, read each row's runs in reverse order.

For your own crochet, gifts and handmade pieces you sell. Do not resell or share this PDF.

Graph

26 squares wide and 45 tall. One square is 1 single crochet in 1 row. Row 1 is the bottom row. Right-side rows are read right to left, wrong-side rows left to right: each row's number stands at the end it begins from.

- ☐ A cream, no symbol, 722 squares
- ✕ B green, cross, 318 squares
- ● C orange, dot, 130 squares



For your own crochet, gifts and handmade pieces you sell. Do not resell or share this PDF.

Instructions

A row of the graph is written as its colors in the order you work them, each with its number of stitches: never read a row's list backwards. On the graph a right-side (RS) row runs right to left and a wrong-side (WS) row left to right. The count in round brackets at the end of a line is what that line leaves. Tick the box when a row is done. In UK terms sc is double crochet and sl st is slip stitch.

Panel

☐ **Foundation**	With A, ch 27. Work row 1 beginning in the 2nd ch from hook.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	26 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 2 (WS)**	26 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 3 (RS)**	8 A, 10 C, 8 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 4 (WS)**	8 A, 10 C, 8 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 5 (RS)**	8 A, 10 C, 8 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 6 (WS)**	8 A, 10 C, 8 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 7 (RS)**	7 A, 12 C, 7 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 8 (WS)**	7 A, 12 C, 7 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 9 (RS)**	7 A, 12 C, 7 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 10 (WS)**	7 A, 12 C, 7 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 11 (RS)**	6 A, 14 C, 6 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 12 (WS)**	6 A, 14 C, 6 A	**(26 sts)**

> **Stop and measure now, after row 12.** The width, across the middle of the rows and not along the chain edge: about 8 in (20 cm). If it is wider, the whole picture will be larger: start again with a smaller hook, or keep going and expect a larger piece. If it is narrower, a larger hook. If the chain edge pulls in tighter than the rows, make the foundation chain with a larger hook. The height of the 12 rows worked: about 3¼ in (8 cm). If the rows are taller or shorter than this, the finished piece will be taller or shorter than the size given, in the same proportion.

☐ **Row 13 (RS)**	6 A, 14 C, 6 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 14 (WS)**	10 A, 6 B, 10 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 15 (RS)**	10 A, 6 B, 10 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 16 (WS)**	10 A, 6 B, 10 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 17 (RS)**	10 A, 6 B, 10 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 18 (WS)**	10 A, 6 B, 10 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 19 (RS)**	10 A, 6 B, 10 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 20 (WS)**	4 A, 12 B, 10 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 21 (RS)**	10 A, 13 B, 3 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 22 (WS)**	2 A, 14 B, 10 A	**(26 sts)**

For your own crochet, gifts and handmade pieces you sell. Do not resell or share this PDF.

☐ **Row 23 (RS)**	10 A, 14 B, 2 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 24 (WS)**	2 A, 14 B, 10 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 25 (RS)**	10 A, 6 B, 4 A, 4 B, 2 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 26 (WS)**	2 A, 4 B, 4 A, 6 B, 10 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 27 (RS)**	4 A, 12 B, 4 A, 4 B, 2 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 28 (WS)**	2 A, 4 B, 4 A, 13 B, 3 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 29 (RS)**	2 A, 14 B, 4 A, 4 B, 2 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 30 (WS)**	2 A, 4 B, 4 A, 14 B, 2 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 31 (RS)**	2 A, 14 B, 4 A, 4 B, 2 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 32 (WS)**	2 A, 4 B, 4 A, 6 B, 4 A, 4 B, 2 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 33 (RS)**	2 A, 4 B, 4 A, 6 B, 4 A, 4 B, 2 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 34 (WS)**	3 A, 2 B, 5 A, 6 B, 4 A, 4 B, 2 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 35 (RS)**	2 A, 4 B, 4 A, 6 B, 10 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 36 (WS)**	10 A, 6 B, 4 A, 4 B, 2 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 37 (RS)**	2 A, 4 B, 4 A, 6 B, 10 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 38 (WS)**	10 A, 6 B, 4 A, 4 B, 2 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 39 (RS)**	3 A, 2 B, 5 A, 6 B, 10 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 40 (WS)**	10 A, 6 B, 10 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 41 (RS)**	10 A, 6 B, 10 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 42 (WS)**	11 A, 4 B, 11 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 43 (RS)**	11 A, 4 B, 11 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 44 (WS)**	26 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **Row 45 (RS)**	26 A	**(26 sts)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 6 in (15 cm) tail.	

Border

With the right side facing, the round begins in the corner stitch at the start of the top edge and goes along the last row, down the side, along the foundation edge and up the other side. Row 45 is a right-side row, so that corner stitch is the first stitch you worked in row 45: it is the "first st" of Rnd 1. The ch 1 does not count as a stitch. A stitch in the end of a row goes into the side of the stitch that ends that row.

The border is one round of 134 single crochet. Each corner is 3 single crochet worked into one place (the first and the last stitch of the last row, the first and the last chain of the foundation edge that hold a stitch of row 1: the turning chain is not counted), and those 3 are the only stitches of that corner: the row end beside each corner is skipped. A row of single crochet is shorter than a stitch is wide, so each side takes 37 stitches in its 43 other row ends and 6 of them are skipped, as Rnd 1 says: with the row end beside each corner, that is 8 row ends skipped on each side. So: 12 in the four corners, 24 along the top, 24 along the foundation edge and 37 up each side (12 + 24 + 24 + 37 + 37 = 134).

For your own crochet, gifts and handmade pieces you sell. Do not resell or share this PDF.

☐ **Foundation**	A finished panel of 26 sc and 45 rows, RS facing.
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Join A with sl st in first st, ch 1, 3 sc in same st, sc in next 24 sts, 3 sc in last st, sk next row end, sc in end of each of next 3 rows, sk next row end, sc in end of each of next 6 rows, sk next row end, sc in end of each of next 6 rows, sk next row end, sc in end of each of next 7 rows, sk next row end, sc in end of each of next 6 rows, sk next row end, sc in end of each of next 6 rows, sk next row end, sc in end of each of next 3 rows, sk next row end, 3 sc in first ch of foundation edge, sc in next 24 chs, 3 sc in last ch of foundation edge, sk next row end, sc in end of each of next 3 rows, sk next row end, sc in end of each of next 6 rows, sk next row end, sc in end of each of next 6 rows, sk next row end, sc in end of each of next 7 rows, sk next row end, sc in end of each of next 6 rows, sk next row end, sc in end of each of next 6 rows, sk next row end, sc in end of each of next 3 rows, sk next row end, sl st in first sc to join **(134 sc)**

> **Stop and measure now, after round 1.** If a side ruffles, work it again with fewer stitches along it; if it pulls in, with more.

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 6 in (15 cm) tail.

Finishing

- Weave in every end along stitches of its own color.

In all: 45 rows; 1,304 stitches (1,170 in the panel, 134 in the border); 118 color changes, at most 6 in a row; 8 ends to weave in.

Found a mistake in this pattern? Tell us at flossfield.com, under Make a request.

For your own crochet, gifts and handmade pieces you sell. Do not resell or share this PDF.