Shell stitch Christmas tree

US terms



Finished size
About 4¾ in (12 cm) wide and about 5¾ in (15 cm) tall

Skill
Easy
Worked in rows and rounds, with 7 pieces, color changes and 2 special stitches.

Yarn
Light (3), 5 colors

Hook
4 mm (US G-6)

Gauge
18 stitches and 19 rows to 4 in (10 cm)
In single crochet.

You will need

Yarn A: pine green, the backing, rows 1 to 3 of the first tier and rows 1 to 3 of the third tier	**about 20 yd (18 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: fern green, rows 1 to 3 of the second tier and rows 1 to 3 of the fourth tier	**about 8 yd (7 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: snow white, row 4 of the first tier, row 4 of the second tier, row 4 of the third tier and row 4 of the fourth tier	**about 9 yd (8 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: bark brown, the trunk	**about 3 yd (3 m), an estimate**
Yarn E: gold, the star	**about 4 yd (4 m), an estimate**

Hook: 4 mm (US G-6), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: a yarn needle, scissors, pins for blocking and a spray bottle.

To find how many balls: divide by the length on your yarn's label and round up. Buy them from one dye lot. The estimate is from the stitches and chains of this size at this gauge, with 30 percent added.

Abbreviations

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

ch	chain stitch
sl st	slip stitch (UK ss, slip stitch)
sc	single crochet (UK dc, double crochet)
hdc	half double crochet (UK htr, half treble)
dc	double crochet (UK tr, treble)
sk	skip (UK miss)
st	stitch
rnd	round
RS	right side

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

Special stitches

sc2tog (UK dc2tog): [insert the hook in the next stitch, yarn over and pull up a loop] twice (3 loops on the hook), yarn over and pull through all 3 loops. It leaves 1 st for the next row or round.

picot: Ch 3, sl st in the top of the stitch just made.

Gauge

18 stitches and 19 rows to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet.

Work a piece a little more than 4 in (10 cm) square, lay it flat and count. If you count more stitches than this, use a larger hook; if fewer, a smaller one.

Before you start

- Rounds are worked with the right side facing; do not turn.
- Where a line says turn, turn the piece over and work back along the stitches just made.
- Magic ring: wrap the yarn round two fingers, work the first round or row into the loop, then pull the tail until the ring is closed. Four chains joined into a ring with a slip stitch may be used instead.
- A chain 1 at the start of a round or a row does not count as a stitch.
- Fasten off the old color, then join the new one with a slip stitch in the place named; the first stitch or chain of the line is worked in that same place.
- At the start of a round, same st is the stitch the round before was joined in; after a new color is joined, it is the stitch the color was joined in.
- The figures in brackets at the end of a line count its stitches and its picots; slip stitches are not counted.
- The sc of row 1 of a tier and the shells of row 3 are worked with the right side facing. Do not turn the tier after row 3: for row 4 go back to the beginning of row 3 and work along it again, right side facing.
- Either side of the backing and of the trunk may be the front.
- The distances under FINISHING are for the yarn and gauge above; in another yarn make them larger or smaller in the same proportion as the size.
- The same words in another yarn make another size, measured the longest way: fine yarn (2) and a 3.25 mm hook, about 5 in (13 cm); medium yarn (4) and a 5 mm hook, about 7¼ in (18 cm); bulky yarn (5) and a 6.5 mm hook, about 9¼ in (23 cm).

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

Instructions

Square brackets [ ] hold a repeat: work what is inside as many times as it says. Round brackets ( ) inside a line hold stitches that all go into one place. 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 sl st is slip stitch, sc is double crochet, hdc is half treble and dc is treble.

Backing

Yarn A, pine green.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, ch 14.	
☐ **Row 1**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in next 12 chs	**(13 sc)**
☐ **Rows 2 to 3**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(13 sc)**

A box for each row, 2 to 3: tick them off as you go.

☐ 2 ☐ 3

☐ **Row 4**	Ch 1, turn, sc2tog in next 2 sts, sc in next 9 sts, sc2tog in next 2 sts	**(2 sc2tog, 9 sc)**
☐ **Row 5**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(11 sc)**
☐ **Row 6**	Ch 1, turn, sc2tog in next 2 sts, sc in next 7 sts, sc2tog in next 2 sts	**(2 sc2tog, 7 sc)**
☐ **Row 7**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(9 sc)**
☐ **Row 8**	Ch 1, turn, sc2tog in next 2 sts, sc in next 5 sts, sc2tog in next 2 sts	**(2 sc2tog, 5 sc)**
☐ **Row 9**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(7 sc)**
☐ **Row 10**	Ch 1, turn, sc2tog in next 2 sts, sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog in next 2 sts	**(2 sc2tog, 3 sc)**
☐ **Row 11**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(5 sc)**
☐ **Row 12**	Ch 1, turn, sc2tog in next 2 sts, sc in next st, sc2tog in next 2 sts	**(2 sc2tog, 1 sc)**
☐ **Rows 13 to 19**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(3 sc)**

A box for each row, 13 to 19: tick them off as you go.

☐ 13 ☐ 14 ☐ 15 ☐ 16 ☐ 17 ☐ 18 ☐ 19

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

Trunk

Yarn D, bark brown.

☐ **Foundation**	With D, ch 6.	
☐ **Row 1**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in next 4 chs	**(5 sc)**
☐ **Rows 2 to 6**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(5 sc)**

A box for each row, 2 to 6: tick them off as you go.

☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 12 in (30 cm) tail for sewing.

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

First tier

Yarns in order of use: A, pine green; C, snow white.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, ch 20.	
☐ **Row 1**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in next 18 chs	**(19 sc)**
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 17 sts, 2 sc in next st	**(21 sc)**
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 1, turn, sc in next st, **[**sk next st, 5 dc in next st, sk next st, sc in next st**] 5 times**	**(6 sc, 25 dc)**
	Fasten off A.	
☐ **Row 4**	Join C with sl st in first st, ch 1, sc in same st, **[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 5 times**	**(36 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 6 in (15 cm) tail.	

Second tier

Yarns in order of use: B, fern green; C, snow white.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, ch 16.	
☐ **Row 1**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in next 14 chs	**(15 sc)**
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 13 sts, 2 sc in next st	**(17 sc)**
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 1, turn, sc in next st, **[**sk next st, 5 dc in next st, sk next st, sc in next st**] 4 times**	**(5 sc, 20 dc)**
	Fasten off B.	
☐ **Row 4**	Join C with sl st in first st, ch 1, sc in same st, **[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 4 times**	**(29 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 6 in (15 cm) tail.	

Third tier

Yarns in order of use: A, pine green; C, snow white.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, ch 12.	
☐ **Row 1**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in next 10 chs	**(11 sc)**
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 9 sts, 2 sc in next st	**(13 sc)**
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 1, turn, sc in next st, **[**sk next st, 5 dc in next st, sk next st, sc in next st**] 3 times**	**(4 sc, 15 dc)**
	Fasten off A.	
☐ **Row 4**	Join C with sl st in first st, ch 1, sc in same st, **[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 3 times**	**(22 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 6 in (15 cm) tail.	

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

Fourth tier

Yarns in order of use: B, fern green; C, snow white.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, ch 8.	
☐ **Row 1**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in next 6 chs	**(7 sc)**
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts, 2 sc in next st	**(9 sc)**
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 1, turn, sc in next st, [sk next st, 5 dc in next st, sk next st, sc in next st] twice	**(3 sc, 10 dc)**
	Fasten off B.	
☐ **Row 4**	Join C with sl st in first st, ch 1, sc in same st, [sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts] twice	**(15 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 6 in (15 cm) tail.	

Star

Yarn E, gold.

☐ **Foundation**	With E, make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, 10 sc in ring, sl st in first sc to join	**(10 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 1, sc in same st, (hdc, dc, picot, dc, hdc) in next st, **[**sc in next st, (hdc, dc, picot, dc, hdc) in next st**] 4 times**, sl st in first sc to join	**(5 sc, 10 hdc, 10 dc, 5 picots)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 12 in (30 cm) tail for sewing.	

Finishing

- Block: pin the pieces to shape on a flat surface, spray them with water and let them dry.
- Hold the backing with its foundation edge at the bottom. Lay the last row of the trunk behind the middle of the foundation edge of the backing, with 3/8 in (1 cm) of the trunk hidden, and sew it to the backing with its tail.
- Every tier lies on the front of the backing, right side up, its white edge pointing down, its middle on the middle of the backing, its two ends standing out past the sides of the backing by the same length. Sew down only its foundation edge, with a length of the yarn its shells are worked in, and leave the shells free.
- Begin with the first tier: sew its foundation edge along the top of row 4 of the backing. Sew the second tier along the top of row 8, the third tier along the top of row 12 and the fourth tier along the top of row 16; rows 17 to 19 of the backing stand up above it. The white edge of each tier lies over the top of the tier below.
- Lay the star, right side up, one point straight up, over rows 17 to 19 of the backing, its magic ring on the middle line of the tree and ½ in (1.3 cm) above the top of row 16, so that it covers those rows. With its tail sew Rnd 1 of the star to those rows of the backing, and its two lower points to the fourth tier.
- Weave in all the ends that are left with the yarn needle.

In all: 7 pieces.

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 or copies of it.