Star Christmas ball cover

US terms



Finished size

About to cover a smooth ball 3¼ in (8.3 cm) across; each star measures about 2 3/8 in (6 cm) from its magic ring to the tip of a point

Skill

Intermediate

Worked in rounds, with 2 pieces, color changes and 1 special stitch.

Yarn

Lace (0), 2 colors

Hook

1.75 mm (US steel, between 6 and 7)

Gauge

34 stitches and 36 rows to 4 in (10 cm)

In single crochet.

You will need

Yarn A: silver white, rounds 1 to 6 **about 35 yd (32 m), an estimate**

Yarn B: silver gray, round 7 **about 20 yd (18 m), an estimate**

Fiber: cotton crochet thread, size 10

Hook: 1.75 mm (US steel, between 6 and 7), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: a yarn needle, scissors, pins for blocking, a spray bottle, a board that takes pins and a smooth blue ball 3¼ in (8.3 cm) across, which is about 10¼ in (26 cm) round and with no metal cap or with its cap taken off.

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)
sp	space
st	stitch
rnd	round
RS	right side

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Special stitches

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

Gauge

34 stitches and 36 rows to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet.

Use any hook that gives you this. If you count more stitches than this in 4 in (10 cm), change to a larger hook; if you count fewer, to a smaller one.

Check your gauge on the piece. Begin the pattern and measure the piece itself as you go. After round 2 the piece measures about 1 in (2.5 cm) across.

Before you start

- Rounds are worked with the right side facing; do not turn.
- 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 that counts as a stitch is marked so in its line and is included in the count.
- A chain 1 at the start of a round 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.
- A slip stitch at the start of a round only carries the yarn to the place named; the first stitch of the round is worked in that same place. If stitches lie between the joining and that place, slip stitch across them first.
- The figures in brackets at the end of a line count its stitches, its picots and the chain spaces between them; slip stitches are not counted.
- A point ends in the ch-4 sp of round 7, its tip. A valley is the place between two points: from round 4 on the stitches of two points stand side by side there.
- Round 7 is joined in the top of the ch-3 that began round 6, which is its first st. In round 4 each slanting side of a point has 5 sts, from the valley to the ch-2 sp of the tip. Round 5 works a dc in the 1st, the 3rd and the 5th of these 5 sts and skips the 2nd and the 4th; at a valley the last st of one side and the first st of the next side therefore each get a dc, side by side.
- 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 across the ball: fine yarn (2) and a 3.25 mm hook, about 5¼ in (13 cm); light yarn (3) and a 4 mm hook, about 6¼ in (16 cm); medium yarn (4) and a 5 mm hook, about 8 in (20 cm).

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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 round is done. In UK terms sl st is slip stitch, sc is double crochet, hdc is half treble and dc is treble.

Star: make 2

Yarns in order of use: A, silver white; B, silver gray.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), 11 dc in ring, sl st in top of ch-3 to join	**(12 dc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 5 (counts as dc and ch-2), **[**dc in next 2 sts, ch 2**] 5 times**, dc in next st, sl st in 3rd ch of ch-5 to join	**(12 dc, 6 ch-2 sps)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	Sl st in next ch-2 sp, ch 3 (counts as dc), (2 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in same sp, **[**(3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in next ch-2 sp**] 5 times**, sl st in top of ch-3 to join	**(36 dc, 6 ch-2 sps)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), dc in next 2 sts, (2 dc, ch 2, 2 dc) in next ch-2 sp, **[**dc in next 6 sts, (2 dc, ch 2, 2 dc) in next ch-2 sp**] 5 times**, dc in next 3 sts, sl st in top of ch-3 to join	**(60 dc, 6 ch-2 sps)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	Ch 4 (counts as dc and ch-1), sk next st, dc in next st, ch 1, sk next st, dc in next st, ch 1, (dc, ch 3, dc) in next ch-2 sp, ch 1, **[**dc in next st, ch 1, sk next st, dc in next st, ch 1, sk next st, dc in next 2 sts, ch 1, sk next st, dc in next st, ch 1, sk next st, dc in next st, ch 1, (dc, ch 3, dc) in next ch-2 sp, ch 1**] 5 times**, dc in next st, ch 1, sk next st, dc in next st, ch 1, sk next st, dc in next st, sl st in 3rd ch of ch-4 to join	**(48 dc, 36 ch-1 sps, 6 ch-3 sps)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), **[**dc in next ch-1 sp, dc in next st**] 3 times**, (2 dc, ch 3, 2 dc) in next ch-3 sp, **[**dc in next st, dc in next ch-1 sp, dc in next st, dc in next ch-1 sp, dc in next st, dc in next ch-1 sp, dc in next 2 sts, dc in next ch-1 sp, dc in next st, dc in next ch-1 sp, dc in next st, dc in next ch-1 sp, dc in next st, (2 dc, ch 3, 2 dc) in next ch-3 sp**] 5 times**, **[**dc in next st, dc in next ch-1 sp**] 3 times**, dc in next st, sl st in top of ch-3 to join	**(108 dc, 6 ch-3 sps)**
	Fasten off A.	
☐ **Rnd 7**	Join B with sl st in first st, ch 1, sc in same st, sc in next 2 sts, picot, sc in next 3 sts, picot, sc in next 3 sts, (2 hdc, ch 4, 2 hdc) in next ch-3 sp, **[**sc in next 3 sts, picot, sc in next 3 sts, picot, sc in next 6 sts, picot, sc in next 3 sts, picot, sc in next 3 sts, (2 hdc, ch 4, 2 hdc) in next ch-3 sp**] 5 times**, sc in next 3 sts, picot, sc in next 3 sts, picot, sc in next 3 sts, sl st in first sc to join	**(108 sc, 24 picots, 24 hdc, 6 ch-4 sps)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 6 in (15 cm) tail.	

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Finishing

- Weave in the ends of both stars. Block: lay each star on a board that takes pins, such as a foam board, right side up, and pin it out to six even points, a pin in every ch-4 sp at a tip and one in every valley between two points. The middle may stand up, because the star is meant to bend over the ball. Spray it with water and let it dry.
- For the lacing, with B, begin with a 10 in (25 cm) tail, ch 106 and fasten off, leaving a 10 in (25 cm) tail: the chain is as long as the way round the ball, about 10¼ in (26 cm).
- Put the ball between the two stars, their right sides out, one magic ring in front and the other exactly opposite at the back. Turn the back star until each of its tips meets a tip of the front star. If the ball has a hole where a metal cap was, let it lie under one of these six pairs of tips: that pair is the top.
- Thread one tail of the lacing chain on the yarn needle and begin at the top pair: bring the needle out, from the ball side, through the ch-4 sp of the front tip, put it down, from the outside, through the ch-4 sp of the back tip that meets it, and draw the chain through until only the tail at its other end hangs out. Lead the chain along the ball to the next pair to the left and go through both tips of that pair in the same way. Go on until the chain has been through all six pairs and is back at the top.
- Each star is a little more than 1/8 in (0.3 cm) shorter, from its magic ring to a tip, than a quarter of the way round the ball, so that the lace is stretched over the ball. Draw the chain up, beginning at the first pair and going all the way round, until the two tips of every pair are 1/8 in (0.3 cm) apart or less and both stars lie close to the ball. Tie the two tails together in a double knot at the top pair and push the knot under the lace.
- Hanging loop: join B with a slip stitch in both ch-4 sps of the top pair together, ch 18 (about 1¾ in (4.4 cm) of chain), work a slip stitch in the same two spaces and fasten off. Hang the ball with a star to the front.
- Weave in all the ends that are left with the yarn needle.

In all: 2 pieces; 816 stitches.

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

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