Star of Bethlehem ornament

US terms



Finished size
About 3¾ in (10 cm) wide and about 5 in (13 cm) tall without its hanging loop

Skill
Intermediate
Worked in rows and 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 (UK double crochet).

What you need

Yarn A: ivory, rounds 1, 2 and 5 of the star — **about 8 yd (7 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: gold, rounds 3 and 4 of the star and the hanging loop — **about 10 yd (9 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, pins that do not rust, fabric stiffener or white craft glue, plastic wrap, a small brush and a piece of foam board.

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.

Gauge

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

After Rnd 2 the wheel in the middle measures about 1 in (2.5 cm) across.

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.

Notes

- 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.

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- 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 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.
- 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, its picots and the chain spaces between them; slip stitches are not counted.
- In Rnd 2 the first sc goes in the 4th chain of the ch-6, where Rnd 1 was joined, and every other single sc goes in the next tr.
- In Rnd 3 B is joined in the first sc of Rnd 2. Its sc stand over the eight spokes of the wheel, and every chain passes over 2 sc. The ch-51 is the long ray, the three ch-23 are the straight rays and the four ch-13 the slanting rays.
- Rnd 4 goes into the loops of chain, round the chain and not into it: slip stitch into the ch-51 sp, then work up one side of the ray and down its other side. The ch 2 is the tip. Push the stitches evenly up both sides.
- In Rnd 5 the 2nd st is the second sc of the long ray. The first and the last stitch of every ray are not worked: the 2 sts skipped between two rays are the last stitch of one and the first of the next, and the st skipped at the end of the round is the last stitch of the last ray. The picots of a ray stand at the same height on both its sides.

Instructions

US terms.

ch chain, **sl st** slip stitch, **sc** single crochet (UK double crochet), **hdc** half double crochet (UK half treble), **dc** double crochet (UK treble), **tr** treble crochet (UK double treble), **rem** remaining, **sp** space, **st** stitch, **rnd** round.

sk skip, **RS** right side, the one that shows.

ch-2 sp: the gap under two chains; the hook goes in the gap.

[ ] 7 times: work what is inside 7 times in all. **( )**: all of it goes into the one place.

(8 tr, 8 ch-2 sps): the stitches you have when the round is done. **How to read a pattern**.

Special stitches

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

Star

Yarns in order of use: A, ivory; B, gold.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, make a magic ring.
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 6 (counts as tr and ch-2), **[**tr in ring, ch 2**] 7 times**, sl st in 4th ch of ch-6 to join. Pull the tail to close the ring. (8 tr, 8 ch-2 sps)
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 1, sc in same st, 2 sc in next ch-2 sp, **[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next ch-2 sp**] 7 times**, sl st in first sc to join (24 sc)
	Fasten off A.
☐ **Rnd 3**	Join B with sl st in first sc, ch 1, sc in same st, ch 51, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, ch 13, sk next 2 sts, **[**sc in next st, ch 23, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, ch 13, sk next 2 sts**] 3 times**, sl st in first sc to join (8 sc, 1 ch-51 sp, 4 ch-13 sps, 3 ch-23 sps)

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☐ **Rnd 4**	Sl st in next ch-51 sp, ch 1, (2 sc, 2 hdc, 4 dc, 5 hdc, 9 sc, ch 2, 9 sc, 5 hdc, 4 dc, 2 hdc, 2 sc) in same sp, (sc, hdc, dc, hdc, sc, ch 2, sc, hdc, dc, hdc, sc) in next ch-13 sp, **[**(2 sc, hdc, 2 dc, hdc, 4 sc, ch 2, 4 sc, hdc, 2 dc, hdc, 2 sc) in next ch-23 sp, (sc, hdc, dc, hdc, sc, ch 2, sc, hdc, dc, hdc, sc) in next ch-13 sp**] 3 times**, sl st in first sc to join	(74 sc, 42 hdc, 28 dc, 8 ch-2 sps)
	Fasten off B.	
☐ **Rnd 5**	Join A with sl st in 2nd st, ch 1, sc in same st, sc in next 5 sts, picot, sc in next 5 sts, picot, sc in next 5 sts, picot, sc in next 5 sts, (sc, hdc, picot, sc) in next ch-2 sp, sc in next 6 sts, picot, sc in next 5 sts, picot, sc in next 5 sts, picot, sc in next 5 sts, sk next 2 sts, sc in next 4 sts, (sc, hdc, picot, sc) in next ch-2 sp, sc in next 4 sts, **[**sk next 2 sts, sc in next 4 sts, picot, sc in next 5 sts, (sc, hdc, picot, sc) in next ch-2 sp, sc in next 6 sts, picot, sc in next 3 sts, sk next 2 sts, sc in next 4 sts, (sc, hdc, picot, sc) in next ch-2 sp, sc in next 4 sts**] 3 times**, sk next st, sl st in first sc to join	(144 sc, 20 picots, 8 hdc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 6 in (15 cm) tail.	

Hanging loop

Yarn B, gold.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, ch 31.	
☐ **Row 1**	Sl st in 2nd ch from hook, sl st in each rem ch across	(30 sl sts)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving an 8 in (20 cm) tail for sewing.	

Finishing

- Weave in the ends with the yarn needle before you stiffen the piece.
- To stiffen: cover the foam board with plastic wrap. Mix equal parts white craft glue and water, or use fabric stiffener as it comes, brush it into both sides of the star and press out what is too much. Pin the star out right side up: the tip of the picot of the long ray straight down, 3 1/8 in (7.9 cm) from the magic ring; the tips of the three straight rays straight up and to the two sides, 1 7/8 in (4.8 cm) from the ring; the tips of the four slanting rays halfway between two others, 1½ in (3.8 cm) from the ring. Pin the valleys between the rays ¾ in (1.9 cm) from the ring, every side picot straight out and the sides of the rays straight. Let it dry quite hard.
- Hanging loop: fold it in half and sew its two ends, side by side, with its tail to the back of the tip of the ray that points straight up, 1/8 in (0.3 cm) below the tip of the picot. The loop stands about 1 1/8 in (2.9 cm) above the star.

In all: 2 pieces; 366 stitches (336 in the star, 30 in the hanging loop).

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