Stiffened lace tree

US terms



Finished size
About 6½ in (17 cm) tall with its star, and about 4¼ in (11 cm) from side to side when it is pressed flat as one tree

Skill
Intermediate
Worked in rows and rounds, with 4 pieces, color changes and 2 special stitches.

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: white, the half-trees **about 40 yd (37 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: gold, the star **about 3 yd (3 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, fabric stiffener, a board that takes pins, a sheet of plastic and 21 matte gold beads of about 1/8 in (3 mm) with a hole the thread goes through.

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

bead ch (Bead chain): Slide a bead up to the hook, yarn over beyond the bead and pull through the loop. It counts as one chain.

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.

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 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 or a row does not count as a stitch.
- At the start of a round, same st is the stitch the round before 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, and chains that are not named there, are not counted.
- String 7 beads on yarn A before you begin each half-tree, and push them along the yarn until they are wanted. A bead that a stitch holds sits on the side of the work away from you.
- The half-tree is worked back and forth in rows from the top down. Rows 1 to 6 are the upper fan, rows 7 to 14 the middle fan and rows 15 to 24 the lower fan. The right side faces you in the odd-numbered rows. The last row of each fan ends at the straight edge of the half-tree. In rows 6 and 14 only two thirds of the edge are scalloped: the last sts, at the straight edge, are plain, and the next fan begins on the last 4 of them.
- The last st of a row is the chain that began the row before: the top of its ch-3, or the 3rd ch of a ch-4, ch-5, ch-7 or ch-8. In the last row of a fan the bead lies in the middle of each scallop. If it slips to the back, push it through to the right 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 from top to bottom: fine yarn (2) and a 3.25 mm hook, about 10½ in (27 cm); light yarn (3) and a 4 mm hook, about 12¼ in (31 cm); medium yarn (4) and a 5 mm hook, about 15½ in (39 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 row is done. In UK terms sl st is slip stitch, sc is double crochet, hdc is half treble and dc is treble.

Half-tree: make 3

Yarn A, white.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, ch 4, sl st in first ch to form a ring.	
☐ **Row 1**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), 3 dc in ring	**(4 dc)**
☐ **Row 2**	Turn, ch 4 (counts as dc and ch-1), [dc in next st, ch 1] twice, dc in last st	**(4 dc, 3 ch-1 sps)**
☐ **Row 3**	Turn, ch 3 (counts as dc), **[**dc in next ch-1 sp, dc in next st**] 3 times**	**(7 dc)**
☐ **Row 4**	Turn, ch 5 (counts as dc and ch-2), sk next st, dc in next st, [ch 2, sk next st, dc in next st] twice	**(4 dc, 3 ch-2 sps)**
☐ **Row 5**	Turn, ch 3 (counts as dc), **[**2 dc in next ch-2 sp, dc in next st**] 3 times**	**(10 dc)**
☐ **Row 6**	Turn, ch 1, sc in first st, [3 dc in next st, ch 1, bead ch, ch 1, 3 dc in next st, sc in next st] twice, hdc in next st, dc in next 2 sts	**(3 sc, 14 dc, 2 ch-3 sps, 1 hdc)**
☐ **Row 7**	Turn, ch 3 (counts as dc), dc in next 3 sts, leave the rest unworked	**(4 dc)**
☐ **Row 8**	Turn, ch 4 (counts as dc and ch-1), [dc in next st, ch 1] twice, dc in last st	**(4 dc, 3 ch-1 sps)**
☐ **Row 9**	Turn, ch 3 (counts as dc), **[**dc in next ch-1 sp, dc in next st**] 3 times**	**(7 dc)**
☐ **Row 10**	Turn, ch 5 (counts as dc and ch-2), sk next st, dc in next st, [ch 2, sk next st, dc in next st] twice	**(4 dc, 3 ch-2 sps)**
☐ **Row 11**	Turn, ch 3 (counts as dc), **[**2 dc in next ch-2 sp, dc in next st**] 3 times**	**(10 dc)**
☐ **Row 12**	Turn, ch 7 (counts as dc and ch-4), sk next 2 sts, dc in next st, [ch 4, sk next 2 sts, dc in next st] twice	**(4 dc, 3 ch-4 sps)**
☐ **Row 13**	Turn, ch 3 (counts as dc), **[**4 dc in next ch-4 sp, dc in next st**] 3 times**	**(16 dc)**
☐ **Row 14**	Turn, ch 1, sc in first st, [sk next st, 3 dc in next st, ch 1, bead ch, ch 1, 3 dc in next st, sk next st, sc in next st] twice, sc in next st, hdc in next 2 sts, dc in next 2 sts	**(4 sc, 14 dc, 2 ch-3 sps, 2 hdc)**
☐ **Row 15**	Turn, ch 3 (counts as dc), dc in next 3 sts, leave the rest unworked	**(4 dc)**
☐ **Row 16**	Turn, ch 4 (counts as dc and ch-1), [dc in next st, ch 1] twice, dc in last st	**(4 dc, 3 ch-1 sps)**
☐ **Row 17**	Turn, ch 3 (counts as dc), **[**dc in next ch-1 sp, dc in next st**] 3 times**	**(7 dc)**
☐ **Row 18**	Turn, ch 5 (counts as dc and ch-2), sk next st, dc in next st, [ch 2, sk next st, dc in next st] twice	**(4 dc, 3 ch-2 sps)**
☐ **Row 19**	Turn, ch 3 (counts as dc), **[**2 dc in next ch-2 sp, dc in next st**] 3 times**	**(10 dc)**
☐ **Row 20**	Turn, ch 7 (counts as dc and ch-4), sk next 2 sts, dc in next st, [ch 4, sk next 2 sts, dc in next st] twice	**(4 dc, 3 ch-4 sps)**

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☐ **Row 21**	Turn, ch 3 (counts as dc), **[**4 dc in next ch-4 sp, dc in next st**] 3 times**	**(16 dc)**
☐ **Row 22**	Turn, ch 8 (counts as dc and ch-5), sk next 4 sts, dc in next st, [ch 5, sk next 4 sts, dc in next st] twice	**(4 dc, 3 ch-5 sps)**
☐ **Row 23**	Turn, ch 3 (counts as dc), **[**6 dc in next ch-5 sp, dc in next st**] 3 times**	**(22 dc)**
☐ **Row 24**	Turn, ch 1, sc in first st, **[**sk next 2 sts, 4 dc in next st, ch 1, bead ch, ch 1, 4 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st**] 3 times**	**(4 sc, 24 dc, 3 ch-3 sps)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 6 in (15 cm) tail.	

Star

Yarn B, gold.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, 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 6 in (15 cm) tail.	

Finishing

- Weave in all the ends of the half-trees and of the star.
- To stiffen: lay a sheet of plastic over a board that takes pins, such as a foam board. Wet the three half-trees and the star with fabric stiffener, as its label says, and press the spare out of them. Pin each half-tree out flat, right side up, the ring at the top and the straight edge upright on the left: 5¼ in (13.5 cm) from the ring to the lower end of the straight edge, with the three fans in line below one another. The slanting upper edge of every fan is straight. The outer end of row 5 is 1 in (2.5 cm) from the straight edge and 5/8 in (1.6 cm) lower than the ring; the outer end of row 13 is 1 5/8 in (4.1 cm) from the straight edge and 5/8 in (1.6 cm) lower than the straight-edge end of row 6; the outer end of row 23 is 2 in (5.1 cm) from the straight edge and 7/8 in (2.2 cm) lower than the straight-edge end of row 14. Put a pin in every scallop, beside its bead. Pin the star out to five even points. Let everything dry, then wipe the beads clean.
- Lay the three half-trees on one another, all right side up, ring on ring, straight edge on straight edge. Thread the yarn needle with 30 in (76 cm) of A. Begin at the three rings and sew the three straight edges together from top to bottom: at the end of every row take the needle round the edge and through all three pieces, two stitches to a row, and one to the sc at the end of row 24. Fasten off at the bottom.
- Open the three wings like the pages of a book, until they stand evenly all round the seam. The tree stands on the lowest scallop of each wing, the one nearest the seam, which is about ½ in (1.3 cm) out from the seam. These three places are close together, so stand the tree on a level place; or tie a length of B through the three rings at the top and hang it up.
- Star: hold it upright, one point straight up, right side to the front, its two lowest points in front of the three rings at the top of the tree, so that the magic ring of the star is 3/8 in (1 cm) above the rings. With a 12 in (30 cm) length of B sew the stitches between the two lowest points of the star to the three rings, and weave in its ends.

In all: 4 pieces; 692 stitches (219 in each half-tree, 35 in the star).

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