Thread icicle ornaments

US terms



Finished size
The long icicle about 4 in (10 cm) long, the middle one about 3¼ in (8 cm) and the short one about 2¾ in (7 cm), without the hanging loops

Skill
Beginner
Worked in rows, with 3 pieces and color changes.

Yarn
Lace (0), 3 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 long icicle	**about 9 yd (8 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: silver gray, the middle icicle	**about 8 yd (7 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: ice blue, the short icicle	**about 6 yd (5 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 and a sheet of plastic.

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)
tr	treble crochet (UK dtr, double treble)
rem	remaining
st	stitch

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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

- The figures in brackets at the end of a line count its stitches; slip stitches, and chains that are not named there, are not counted.
- The curl is meant: do not pull or press it out. The strip cannot lie flat, because it has more stitches along its edge than there are chains: two to a chain at the tip, then three, and four from there to the top; it turns round the chain, which stays straight in the middle.
- The end of the chain nearest the hook is the tip of the icicle, so the row begins at the tip and grows taller toward the top. At the top, ch 16 and the slip stitch into the chain that holds the last 4 tr make the hanging loop. The length of an icicle is the length of its chain at the gauge above, less what the curl takes up. The sizes in another yarn under GAUGE are those of the long icicle.
- 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 6½ in (17 cm); light yarn (3) and a 4 mm hook, about 7½ in (19 cm); medium yarn (4) and a 5 mm hook, about 9¾ in (25 cm).

Instructions

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, dc is treble and tr is double treble.

Long icicle

Yarn A, white.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, ch 37.
☐ **Row 1**	2 sc in 2nd ch from hook, 2 sc in each of next 3 chs, 2 hdc in each of next 3 chs, 3 dc in each of next 6 chs, 4 tr in each rem ch across, ch 16, sl st in same ch **(8 sc, 6 hdc, 18 dc, 92 tr)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 6 in (15 cm) tail.

Middle icicle

Yarn B, silver gray.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, ch 31.
☐ **Row 1**	2 sc in 2nd ch from hook, 2 sc in each of next 3 chs, 2 hdc in each of next 3 chs, 3 dc in each of next 6 chs, 4 tr in each rem ch across, ch 16, sl st in same ch **(8 sc, 6 hdc, 18 dc, 68 tr)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 6 in (15 cm) tail.

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Short icicle

Yarn C, ice blue.

☐ **Foundation**	With C, ch 25.
☐ **Row 1**	2 sc in 2nd ch from hook, 2 sc in each of next 3 chs, 2 hdc in each of next 3 chs, 3 dc in each of next 6 chs, 4 tr in each rem ch across, ch 16, sl st in same ch **(8 sc, 6 hdc, 18 dc, 44 tr)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 6 in (15 cm) tail.

Finishing

- Hold the long icicle by its loop and turn it between finger and thumb from the top to the tip, always the same way, until its turns are even: about one turn to every ½ in (1.3 cm) of its length. Do the same with the middle icicle and the short icicle.
- Weave in the ends with the yarn needle before you stiffen the piece.
- To stiffen: wet each icicle with fabric stiffener, as its label says, and press the spare out of it. Turn it again until it is an even spiral, and lay it on a sheet of plastic over a board that takes pins, such as a foam board. Put a pin in its tip and one through the top of its loop, so that it lies straight, and let it dry. Turn it over once while it dries, so that it does not go flat on one side.

In all: 3 pieces; 300 stitches (124 in the long icicle, 100 in the middle icicle, 76 in the short icicle).

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