# Lace butterfly in thread

US terms



Finished size
**About 3¾ in (10 cm) wide and about 3 in (8 cm) tall**

Skill
**Intermediate**
Worked in rows and rounds, with 6 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: pale violet, the upper wings and the lower wings **about 20 yd (18 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: deep violet, the body and the head **about 5 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) |
| **sk** | skip (UK miss) |
| **sp** | space |
| **st** | stitch |
| **rnd** | round |
| **RS** | right side |


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### Special stitches

**cluster:** [yarn over, insert the hook in the place named, yarn over and pull up a loop, yarn over and pull through 2 loops] 3 times, all in the same place (4 loops on the hook), yarn over and pull through all 4 loops. It leaves 1 cluster for the next row or round.

**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.
- 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.
- A wing is a fan, worked back and forth in rows from a magic ring; do not join the ends of a row. Pull the ring tight. The right side of a wing faces you in its last row.
- A chain that counts as a stitch at the start of a row stands on the first st of the row before: the next st is the one after it. The last st of the next row is worked in the top of that chain; of a ch-5, in the 3rd ch; of a ch-4, in the 4th ch.
- The right side of the body faces you as you work Row 1.
- In the last row of a wing, each shell, the 8 tr and 3 picots in the brackets, is worked in one st, and the next sc is worked 3 sts on.
- 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 6 in (15 cm); light yarn (3) and a 4 mm hook, about 7 in (18 cm); medium yarn (4) and a 5 mm hook, about 9 in (23 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, dc is treble and tr is double treble.

### Upper wing: make 2

**Yarn A, pale violet.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Foundation** | With A, make a magic ring. | |
| ☐ **Row 1** | Ch 3 (counts as dc), 3 dc in ring | **(4 dc)** |
| ☐ **Row 2** | Turn, ch 3 (counts as dc), dc in same st, 2 dc in each of next 2 sts, dc in next st | **(7 dc)** |
| ☐ **Row 3** | Turn, ch 5 (counts as dc and ch-2), sk next st, dc in next st,<br>[ch 2, sk next st, dc in next st] twice | **(4 dc, 3 ch-2 sps)** |
| ☐ **Row 4** | Turn, ch 3 (counts as dc), **[**3 dc in next ch-2 sp, dc in next st**] 3 times** | **(13 dc)** |
| ☐ **Row 5** | Turn, ch 5 (counts as dc and ch-2), sk next st, dc in next st,<br>**[**ch 2, sk next st, dc in next st**] 5 times** | **(7 dc, 6 ch-2 sps)** |
| ☐ **Row 6** | Turn, ch 3 (counts as dc), **[**2 dc in next ch-2 sp, dc in next st**] 6 times** | **(19 dc)** |
| ☐ **Row 7** | Ch 1, turn, sc in first st,<br>**[**sk next 2 sts, (2 tr, picot, 2 tr, picot, 2 tr, picot, 2 tr) in next st, sk next 2 sts,<br>sc in next st**] 3 times** | **(4 sc, 24 tr, 9 picots)** |
| ☐ **End** | Fasten off, leaving a 15 in (38 cm) tail for sewing. | |

### Lower wing: make 2

**Yarn A, pale violet.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Foundation** | With A, make a magic ring. | |
| ☐ **Row 1** | Ch 3 (counts as dc), 3 dc in ring | **(4 dc)** |
| ☐ **Row 2** | Turn, ch 3 (counts as dc), dc in same st, 2 dc in each of next 2 sts, dc in next st | **(7 dc)** |
| ☐ **Row 3** | Turn, ch 5 (counts as dc and ch-2), sk next st, dc in next st,<br>[ch 2, sk next st, dc in next st] twice | **(4 dc, 3 ch-2 sps)** |
| ☐ **Row 4** | Turn, ch 4 (counts as tr), **[**3 tr in next ch-2 sp, tr in next st**] 3 times** | **(13 tr)** |
| ☐ **Row 5** | Ch 1, turn, sc in first st,<br>[sk next 2 sts, (2 tr, picot, 2 tr, picot, 2 tr, picot, 2 tr) in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st] twice | **(3 sc, 16 tr, 6 picots)** |
| ☐ **End** | Fasten off, leaving a 15 in (38 cm) tail for sewing. | |

### Body

**Yarn B, deep violet.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Foundation** | With B, ch 11. | |
| ☐ **Row 1** | Sc in 2nd ch from hook, hdc in next ch, cluster in next 6 chs, hdc in next ch, sc in next ch | **(2 sc, 2 hdc, 6 clusters)** |
| ☐ **End** | Fasten off, leaving a 15 in (38 cm) tail for sewing. | |


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### Head

**Yarn B, deep violet.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Foundation** | With B, make a magic ring. | |
| ☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)** | Ch 1, 8 sc in ring, sl st in first sc to join | **(8 sc)** |
| ☐ **End** | Fasten off, leaving a 10 in (25 cm) tail for sewing. | |

## Finishing

- Feelers (make 2): with B, ch 18, sl st in 2nd ch from hook, so that this end is a small knob, and fasten off, leaving a 6 in (15 cm) tail at each end.
- Lay the two lower wings down, right sides up and side by side, their magic rings at the top, level with each other and touching. Turn each of them until one of its straight sides runs straight down from its magic ring, so that these two straight sides touch each other from the magic rings to the end of Row 4: the line between them is the middle line of the butterfly. Lay the two upper wings on them, right sides up, each magic ring on top of the magic ring of the lower wing on its side. The middle of the right upper wing points to two o'clock, and that of the left one to ten o'clock, so that each upper wing covers the upper straight side of the lower wing on its side and a narrow wedge of the wing below that.
- Pin the wings so and turn the butterfly over, wrong side up. The sewing tail of each wing hangs at the outer end of one of its straight sides: with a yarn needle, run it up and down through the stitches at the ends of the rows, along that straight side, as far as the magic ring. With the tails of the lower wings, sew the four wings to each other round their magic rings, and sew the two lower wings to each other along the two straight sides that touch, down to the end of Row 4. With the tails of the upper wings, sew each upper wing to the lower wing in front of you, along the straight side of the lower wing that lies on it, for 3/8 in (1 cm) outward from the magic rings. Turn the butterfly right side up again.
- Body: lay it on the middle line, right side up, the end where Row 1 ends at the top and 1/8 in (0.3 cm) above the magic rings of the wings. The rest of it lies down along the line where the two lower wings touch. Sew the body down all round with its tail.
- Head: lay it on the middle line, right side up, its magic ring ¼ in (0.6 cm) above the magic rings of the wings, so that it covers the upper end of the body, and its left and right edges lie on the inner straight sides of the two upper wings. Lay the first 2 ch of each feeler, at the end without the knob, under the upper edge of the head, side by side. Sew the head down all round its edge with its tail: at the left and the right to the upper wings, at the bottom to the body. At the top, where the head lies over the gap between the two upper wings, sew it to the two feelers only.
- Weave in the ends with the yarn needle before you stiffen the piece.
- To stiffen: lay a sheet of plastic over a board that takes pins, such as a foam board. Wet the butterfly with fabric stiffener, as its label says, and press the spare out of it. Pin it out flat on the plastic, right side up, a pin in every picot, with the straight sides of the wings straight and every mesh pulled open. A wing lies flat when it opens to about a quarter of a circle. Measured without the shells, each straight side of an upper wing is 1 3/8 in (3.5 cm) long from the magic ring to the end of Row 6, and these two ends are 2 in (5.1 cm) apart; each straight side of a lower wing is 1 in (2.5 cm) long from the magic ring to the end of Row 4, and these two ends are 1 3/8 in (3.5 cm) apart. Pin each feeler up and outward in a long curve, its last 3/8 in (1 cm), with the knob, curled in. Let it dry before you take the pins out.

In all: 6 pieces.

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