

Sunshine & Showers

Crochet Along Blanket



One of the things that I really love about designing and making a project over a long period of time, such as the Sunshine & Showers blanket, is that the crochet becomes a visual reminder of the things that happened over the same period of time. I still love the way the crochet stitch combinations and panels can trigger a memory. I hope you will find the same positivity from your own blankets, that you will be pleased with the outcome of the design and that you feel you have learnt lots of valuable crochet techniques and tips along the way.





When I designed this project on paper (as a rough sketch in my notebook), this month was going to represent the moon sitting high in the sky on a clear spring night, but as I worked through the design it became clear that I would not have enough yarn to make the circular motif in cream as planned, so I have used the yellow-based shades instead. I really like the effect using Gold and Lime as it reminds me of a slightly foggy/misty moon, but if you feel you might have enough cream yarn to complete both pieces I am sure it would look great too!


This month you will be making fans and clusters to create a pinwheel stitch pattern, you will also finally be joining your crochet panels together to make one blanket piece and will be adding a simple edging along two sides.

Last month left you with the wrong side facing. If you are unsure of which side is which take a look at the bobbles that you made in issue 7 and check that they are on the side facing away from you.



MATERIALS

Stylecraft Special DK
100% Premium Acrylic,
100g, 295m (322yds)

	Petrol (1078)	1 ball
	Grape (1067)	1 ball
	Gold (1709)	1 ball
	Lime (1712)	1 ball
	Turquoise (1068)	1 ball
	Fondant (1241)	1 ball
	Raspberry (1023)	1 ball
	Pale Rose (1080)	1 ball

EQUIPMENT

- Stitch Markers
- 4mm, 4.5mm hooks
- Knitter's needle

TENSION

20 sts x 22 rows = 10cm (4in)
measured over dc

Finished size:

186 x 95-96cm (73¼ x 37½-38in)

Blanket construction:

The blanket is made in four pieces, which will be joined together later on. You need to repeat each stage so that you have the correct pieces of crochet completed to the same point at the end of each pattern stage.

For basic stitch terms and tutorials take a look at the [Janie Crow YouTube channel](#) or the [free technique documents on the website](#).

Contact

If you have any queries regarding the patterns you can email:
mail@janiecrow.co.uk



Start Crocheting

● Undo stitch from holder to the point where you can change yarn shade to **Petrol** on the final step of the stitch, turn. (171 sts)

● **Row 83 (WS):** Using **Petrol** and **4.5mm hook**, 1ch (does not count as a st), 1dc into each st to end, turn. (171 sts)



Change to **4mm hook**.

Row 84: Using **4mm hook**, 1ch (does not count as a st), 1dc into each next 3 sts, * miss 2 sts, 7tr into next st, miss 2 sts, 1dc into each next 3 sts; repeat from * to end changing yarn shade to **Grape** on the final step of the last st, turn. (21 fans made)



Change to **4.5mm hook**.

● **Row 85:** Using **Grape** and **4.5mm hook**, 1ch (does not count as a st), 1dc into each st to end changing yarn shade to **Gold** on the final step of the last st, turn. (213 sts)



Change to **4mm hook**.

● **Row 86 (RS):** Using **Gold** and **4mm hook**, 3ch (counts as 1 tr) 1tr into next st, tr3tog over next 3 sts, 3ch, 1dc into back loop of next 3 sts * 3ch, tr7tog over next 7 sts, 3ch, 1dc into back loop only of next 3 sts; repeat from * 19 times, 3ch, tr3tog over next 3 sts, 1tr into each next 2 sts, do not turn. Fasten off.



On the next row you are asked to work into the centre of the cluster (tr7tog) made on previous row. The stitches look best if you work into the stitch where all the yarn loops appear to be made into one stitch and therefore looks like the centre of the cluster.

This 'stitch' is in fact the space made by the first chain after the tr7tog on the previous row, however in the pattern it is referred to as the centre of the cluster.



Because of the way crochet stitches work in this pattern when counting the chain that you need to miss, it will look like you count 4 (not 3) and then 2 (not 3) after you have made 7 tr into the cluster.

● **Row 87 (RS):** Using **4mm hook**, join **Lime** yarn into 3rd ch of 3-ch made at beginning of last row by working 1ch + 2ch (counts as 1 tr), 1tr into next st, 3tr into centre of cluster (tr3tog) made on previous row, miss 3 ch, 1dc into each next 3 sts, * miss 3 ch, 7tr into centre of next cluster (tr7tog) made on previous round, miss 3 ch, 1dc into each next 3 sts; repeat from * 19 times, miss 3 ch, 4tr into centre of next cluster (tr3tog) made on previous row (this is the top of the next tr made on the previous row), 1tr into next st changing yarn shade to Grape on the final step of the last st, turn.

Change to **4.5mm hook**.



Change to **4.5mm hook**.

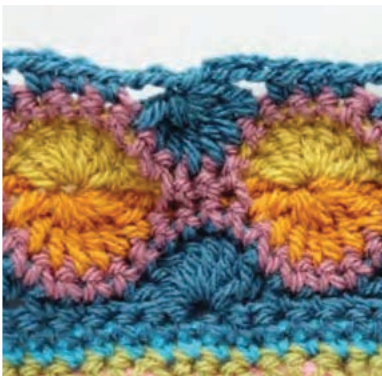
● **Row 88 (WS):** Using **Grape** and **4.5mm hook**, 1ch, (does not count as a st), 1dc into each next 5 sts, * fold last 2 rows forwards do that you can see the remaining loop of the stitches made on row 85, 1dc into each next 3 sts made on Row 85, miss 3 sts made on previous row, 1dc into each next 7 sts; repeat from * 19 times, fold last 2 rows forwards so that you can see the remaining loop of the stitches made on row 85, 1dc into each next 3 sts made on Row 85, miss 3 sts made on previous row, 1dc into each next 5 sts working final st into top of tch made on previous row and changing yarn shade to Petrol on the final step of the last st, turn. **(213 sts)**



Change to **4mm hook**.

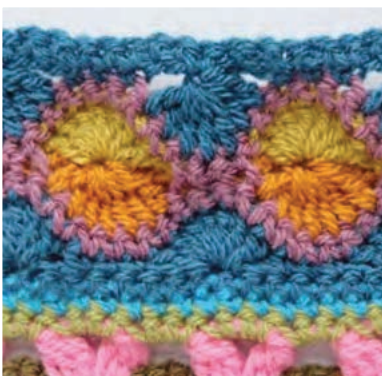


● **Row 89 (RS):** Using **Petrol** and **4mm hook**, 1ch (does not count as a st), 1dc into each next 3 sts, * 3ch, tr7tog over next 7 sts made on previous row (leaving sts on Row 87 unworked), 3ch, 1dc into each next 3 sts; repeat from * to end, turn.



Change to **4.5mm hook**.

● **Row 90 (WS):** Using **4.5mm hook**, 1ch (does not count as st), 1dc into each next 3 sts, * 1dc into each next 2 ch, miss 1 ch, 1dc into next st, miss 1 ch, 1dc into each next 2 ch, 1dc into each next 3 sts; repeat from * to end changing yarn shade to **Turquoise** on the final step of the last st, turn.



● **Row 91:** Using **Turquoise**, 1ch (does not count as a st), 1dc into each st to end fasten off. **(171 sts)**

Sew in yarn ends.

Work other piece to match. Each piece should measure approximately 58cm (22⁷/₈in) from bottom edge x 92cm (36¹/₄in) wide.



Joining the panels

You should have four completed crochet panels: two panels were made May to August and the other two were made September to April. The panels now need to be joined together using double crochet stitches on the reverse side of the work.

When joining the smaller panel (May to August) you will be matching the chain stitch that runs along the last row of April to the remaining part of the foundation chain made at the very beginning of the project back in May.

● Using **Fondant** and **4.5mm hook**, hold the two crochet pieces together making sure you have the wrong side of the work facing you and that both the right sides face inwards towards each other. It is easier if you hold the smaller panel at the back.



Join yarn into the first pair of corresponding stitches by working 1ch, 1dc into each pair of stitches to the end.

At the centre of the blanket you need to work into the remaining part of the foundation chains and match stitch for stitch.

● Using **Turquoise** and **4.5mm hook**, hold the two crochet pieces together making sure you have the wrong side of the work facing you and that both the right sides face inwards towards each other.





Join yarn into the first pair of corresponding stitches (these are the remaining yarn loops of the foundation chain of both pieces) by working 1ch, 1dc into each pair of stitches to the end.

It can be a little tricky working into the remaining part of the chain. I find it easier if I turn my hook away from me to find the yarn loops.

Edging

I have added a simple double crochet edging to my blanket. I worked 2 rows, but if you want to use up more of your leftover yarn you could choose to do a striped version using more shades.

When working edging stitches I work into the obvious space left by double crochet stitches between rows and into the post of all other stitches rather than into the stitch space as this can leave a gap. Try to get 2 or 3 stitches into the post of a treble and 4 into a double treble where necessary.

● **Row 1 (RS):** Working along the side edge from flower edging towards the middle of the blanket using **Raspberry** and **4.5mm hook**, work 43dc along side from flower edging to Fondant join, work 119dc along next panel to next Turquoise join, work 119dc along next panel to next Fondant join, work 43 sts to flower edging, do not turn. Fasten off. **(324 sts)**

● **Row 2 (RS):** Using **Pale Rose** and **4.5mm hook**, join yarn into first dc made at beginning of last row by working ch (does not count as a st), 1dc around back post of each st to end, fasten off. **(324 sts)**
Sew in yarn ends.
Work other side to match.

Measurements

Pre-blocked measurement: approximately 177 x 92-93cm (69 5/8 x 36 1/4-37in)

Blocked measurement: Approximately 186 x 95-96cm (73 1/4 x 37 1/2-38in)

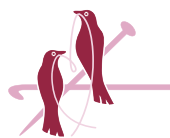


Blocking and Washing

Once your project is completed you may want to wash it. Washing a piece can make a really big difference to its final appearance. Seams become flatter and stitches become more even. It can also make a difference to the size of your project. Wash your project by hand in a liquid specially formulated for that purpose such as Woolite or Soak. It is wise to avoid biological liquids or powders as they can contain brighteners that can destroy the yarn fibres, cause bobbles and shade changes.

Once the piece is washed, place it in a tied pillowcase and give it a short spin in the washing machine to remove as much water as possible. Don't use a really fast spin as this can cause the piece to stretch. Throw in a couple of bath towels at the same time to minimise the amount of movement the project will have; the towels will also help absorb water. Remove the project from the pillowcase and lay your project out on bath towels or a large soft flat surface with RS facing.

Use long pins to hold your project to size, inserting a long rust resistant pin almost vertically into the side edges at 2-3cm intervals and gently easing the zigzag edges into regular peaks and troughs. Leave your project to dry naturally. Don't place in direct sunlight or over a radiator and do not tumble dry.



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