

Muriel Round Cushion

 UK TERMINOLOGY



‘Cherish all your happy moments; they make
a fine cushion for old age.’

Booth Tarkington

JANIE CROW



I adored the velvet smocked cushions that my Auntie Muriel had on her bed when I was a child in the 1970s. I used to love running my fingers over the velvet to play with the pile and found the smocked stitching fascinating. The cushions were just so enticing and luxurious that I remember thinking that I would have some on my bed when I was old enough! I have previously recreated the style of these cushions in a knit design I called Madeleine, which was published in my book 'Homespun Vintage', but I have always wanted to create a crochet version too.

When creating this project I decided to add pretty bobbles instead of smocked style stitching to make a simple accompaniment to my Gertrude cushion, which features pretty flowers and beads. I have always struggled with the way crochet worked in the round can look like it has a 'scar' running through it, so my challenge for this project was to design something that would hide the way slip stitches appear without having to fasten off yarns at the end of every round.

Janie x

Jane Crowfoot



MEASUREMENT


Blocked Measurement:

to fit 35cm (14in) round cushion pad.

MATERIALS

Stylecraft ReCreate DK

40% Wool 30% Acrylic 30% Polyester
(all recycled)
350m/383yds per 100g ball

 Rose (1945) 1 ball

Stylecraft Life DK

75% Premium Acrylic 25% Wool
298m/326yds per 100g ball

 Rose (2301) 1 ball
(small amount used)

EQUIPMENT

- 4mm (US G/6) hook - see notes on tension
- Knitters sewing needle
- Locking stitch holder

OTHER

- 35cm (14in) round cushion pad

PATTERN NOTES

Make Bobble (MB)

Work 5 incomplete tr into next stitch leaving 1 loop on the hook after each stitch so that 6 loops remain on the hook, yarn round hook, draw through all loops.

Working slip stitches (ss) at the end of rounds

When working a tr round, place the ss at the end of it into the 3rd ch of 3ch made at the beginning of the round. When working a dc round, place the ss under the chain at the top of the first st of the round.

Special instructions for drawing yarn through at the end of tr rounds

To avoid producing an obvious join at the end of rounds, which can look like a 'scar' running through your crochet, in this pattern we recommend that you draw yarn through to the reverse of the work on the rounds made using treble crochet and place

it on a holder while you work the subsequent double crochet round.

You do this as follows:

Once you have completed the ss at the end of a tr round, pull hook slightly so that you make the yarn loop a little bigger, remove hook from yarn loop ensuring that it does not unravel, keeping right side facing, but holding your hook at the back of the work, insert hook into st at base of yarn loop, place the yarn loop on the hook and draw through the st to the reverse of the work, place yarn loop on stitch holder.

Dealing with yarn ends

Sewing or weaving in yarn ends as you go along makes the finishing process much easier and means you are less likely to lose stitches or make errors with your tension.

Tension

You need to check that your crochet pieces are not coming up any bigger or a lot smaller than mine. A big difference in tension could mean that your project is different to mine in terms of shape, size and drape. If you achieve a looser tension this could also mean that you may need more yarn. Pre-blocked measurements are given throughout the pattern for you to check your tension against; if your crochet is wider try

using a finer hook, if it is smaller, try using a larger hook. Please note that most yarns will stretch when blocked.

Recommended Tension: 19/20sts & 12 rows to 10cm (4in) using **4mm hook** measured over pattern.

Pre-blocked and Blocked Measurements

The measurements given in the pattern are for pre-blocked sizes throughout. Measuring to a pre-blocked size rather than a blocked size is more accurate as you could overstretch your work in the blocking process.

Order of Making

Make sure that you read the pattern carefully before you start and check methodically as you work. Both sides of the cushion are worked the same. However, do not fasten off at the end of Round 17 on the second piece as you will continue to work the Bobble Round. To keep the circular shape of the cushion cover I have spaced out the increases so that they don't all happen in the same place. Some are at the beginning of the round, whilst others are a few sts in.

Note: All rounds are RS facing

Don't worry if things get a little frilly at times - this sorts itself out when the pieces are blocked later on.

This pattern is written using UK terminology - use the chart below for the US equivalents:

UK		US	
chain	ch	chain	ch
slip stitch	ss	slip stitch	ss
double crochet	dc	single crochet	sc
treble crochet	tr	double crochet	dc
Right Side	RS	Right Side	RS
Make Bobble	MB	Make Bobble	MB

INSTRUCTIONS

Cushion Panel (make 2)

● Using **ReCreate Rose** and **4mm hook** make 6ch, join with a ss to form a ring.

Foundation Round: (RS facing): 3ch (counts as 1tr), 15tr into ring, ss to join, draw yarn through to reverse of work, place yarn loop on stitch holder, do not fasten off. (16sts)

● **Round 1:** Using **Life Rose** join yarn into any st by working 1ch (does not count as a st), 2dc into same st, * 1dc into each next 3sts, 2dc into next st; repeat from * to end omitting 2dc on final pattern repeat, ss to join, fasten off. (20sts)

Round 2: Insert hook into st in line with yarn loop placed on stitch holder at end of Foundation Round, remove stitch holder and place yarn loop on hook, 1ch, draw through the st to front, continuing to use **ReCreate Rose** 3ch (counts as 1tr), 1tr into same st, 2tr into each st to end, ss to join, draw yarn through to reverse of work, place yarn loop on stitch holder, do not fasten off. (40sts)

● **Round 3:** Using **Life Rose** join yarn into any st by working 1ch (does not count as a st), 2dc into same st, * 1dc into each next 9sts, 2dc into next st; repeat from * to end omitting 2dc on final pattern repeat, ss to join, fasten off. (44sts)

Pre-blocked Measurement: approximately 7⁵/₈cm (3in) diameter.

Round 4: Insert hook into st in line with yarn loop placed on stitch holder at end of Round 2, remove stitch holder and place yarn loop on hook, 1ch, draw through the st to front, continuing to use **ReCreate Rose** 3ch (counts as 1tr), * 2tr into next st, 1tr into next st, repeat from * to end omitting 1tr on final pattern repeat, ss to join, draw yarn through to reverse of work, place yarn loop on stitch holder, do not fasten off. (66sts)

● **Round 5:** Using **Life Rose** join yarn into any st by working 1ch (does not count as a st), 1dc into same st, 1dc into each st to end, ss to join, fasten off. (66sts)

Round 6: Insert hook into st in line with yarn loop placed on stitch holder at end of Round 4, remove stitch holder and place yarn loop on hook, 1ch, draw through the st to front, continuing to use **ReCreate Rose** 3ch (counts as 1tr), 1tr into next st, * 2tr into next st, 1tr into each next 2sts; repeat from * to end omitting 2tr on final pattern repeat, ss to join, draw yarn through to reverse of work, place yarn loop on stitch holder, do not fasten off. (88sts)

● **Round 7:** Using **Life Rose** join yarn into any st by working 1ch (does not count as a st), 1dc into same st, 1dc into each st to end, ss to join, fasten off. (88sts)

Pre-blocked Measurement: approximately 14.5/15cm (5³/₄in) diameter.

Round 8: Insert hook into st in line with yarn loop placed on stitch holder at end of Round 6, remove stitch holder and place yarn loop on hook, 1ch, draw through the st to front, continuing to use **ReCreate Rose** 3ch (counts as 1tr), 1tr into same st * 1tr into each next 3sts, 2tr into next st; repeat from * to end omitting 2tr on final pattern repeat, ss to join, draw yarn through to reverse of work, place yarn loop on stitch holder, do not fasten off. (110sts)

● **Round 9:** Using **Life Rose** join yarn into any st by working 1ch (does not count as a st), 1dc into same st, 1dc into each st to end, ss to join, fasten off. (110sts)

Round 10: Insert hook into st in line with yarn loop placed on stitch holder at end of Round 8, remove stitch holder and place yarn loop on hook, 1ch, draw through the st to front, continuing to use **ReCreate Rose** 3ch (counts as 1tr), 1tr into each next 3sts, * 2tr into next st, 1tr into each next 4sts; repeat from * to end omitting 4tr on final pattern repeat, ss to join, draw yarn through to reverse of work, place yarn loop on stitch holder, do not fasten off. (132sts)

● **Round 11:** Using **Life Rose** join yarn into any st by working 1ch (does not count as a st), 1dc into same st, 1dc into each st to end, ss to join, fasten off. (132sts)

Pre-blocked Measurement: approximately 22cm (8⁵/₈in) diameter.

Round 12: Insert hook into st in line with yarn loop placed on stitch holder at end of Round 10, remove stitch holder and place yarn loop on hook, 1ch, draw through the st to front of the work, continuing to use **ReCreate Rose** 3ch (counts as 1tr), 1tr into same st * 1tr into each next 5sts, 2tr into next st; repeat from * to end omitting 2tr on final pattern repeat, ss to join, draw yarn through to reverse of work, place yarn loop on stitch holder, do not fasten off. (154sts)

● **Round 13:** Using **Life Rose** join yarn into any st by working 1ch (does not count as a st), 1dc into same st, 1dc into each st to end, ss to join, fasten off. (154sts)

Round 14: Insert hook into st in line with yarn loop placed on stitch holder at end of Round 12, remove stitch holder and place yarn loop on hook, 1ch, draw through the st to front of the work, continuing to use **ReCreate Rose** 3ch (counts as 1tr), 1tr into each next 5sts, * 2tr into next st, 1tr into each next 6sts; repeat from * to end omitting 6tr on final pattern repeat, ss to join, draw yarn through to reverse of work, place yarn loop on stitch holder, do not fasten off. (176sts)

● **Round 15:** Using **Life Rose** join yarn into any st by working 1ch (does not count as a st), 1dc into same st, 1dc into each st to end, ss to join, fasten off. (176sts)

Pre-blocked Measurement: approximately 28.5cm (11¹/₄in) diameter.

Round 16: Insert hook into st in line with yarn loop placed on stitch holder at end of Round 14, remove stitch holder and place yarn loop on hook, 1ch, draw through the st to front of the work, continuing to use **ReCreate Rose** 3ch (counts as 1tr), 1tr into each st to end, ss to join, draw yarn through to reverse of work, fasten off. (176sts)

● **Round 17:** Using **Life Rose** join yarn into any st by working 1ch (does not count as a st), 1dc into same st, 1dc into each st to end, ss to join, fasten off. (176sts)

Pre-blocked Measurement: approximately 31cm (12¹/₄in) diameter.

Make another piece to match, do not fasten off the second piece.



Bobble Round: 1ch (does not count as a st), 1dc into same st, * MB, 1dc into each next 4sts; repeat from * to end, omitting 1dc on final pattern repeat, ss to join, fasten off.

(44 Bobbles made)

Sew in yarn ends.

Wash and block both crochet pieces using guidance below.

Blocked Measurement:
approximately 33.5cm (13¼in) diameter.

Making Up

With **(RS facing)** and using **Life Rose** and matching sts throughout, place both pieces with wrong sides together and oversew around outside edge. Once you have joined

approximately two thirds of the sts, insert cushion pad and continue to join until all sts have been matched, fasten off.

Sew in yarn ends.

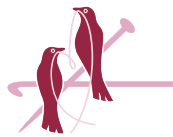
Washing and Blocking

Washing a piece can make a 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 Eucalan and make sure you have a colour catching product in the water in case any dye runs. 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 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 a bath towel 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 (¾ - 1¼in) intervals. Do not pin the bobbles and be careful not to flatten them.

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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