Muriel
Round Cushion

'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 14in (35cm) round cushion pad.

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

Rose (1945)   1 ball

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

Rose (2301)   1 ball
(small amount used)

EQUIPMENT
● US G/6 (4mm) hook – see notes on gauge
● Knitters sewing needle
● Locking stitch holder

OTHER
● 14in (35cm) round cushion pad

PATTERN NOTES
Make Bobble (MB)
Work 5 incomplete dc 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 dc 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 sc
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 dc 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 double crochet and
place it on a holder while you work the
subsequent single crochet round.

You do this as follows:
Once you have completed the ss at the end
of a dc 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 gauge.

Gauge
You need to check that your crochet pieces
are not coming up any bigger or a lot smaller
than mine. A big difference in gauge could
mean that your project is different to mine
in terms of shape, size and drape. If you
achieve a looser gauge this could also mean
that you may need more yarn. Pre-blocked
measurements are given throughout the
pattern for you to check your gauge 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 Gauge: 19/20sts & 12 rows
to 4in (10cm) using US G/6 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 US terminology - use the chart below for the UK equivalents:

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

INSTRUCTIONS

Cushion Panel (make 2)

● Using **ReCreate Rose** and **US G/6 hook** make 6ch, join with a ss to form a ring.

Foundation Round: (RS facing): 3ch (counts as 1dc), 15dc 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), 2sc into same st, * 1sc into each next 3sts, 2sc into next st; repeat from * to end omitting 2sc 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 1dc), 1dc into same st, 2dc 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), 2sc into same st, * 1sc into each next 9sts, 2sc into next st; repeat from * to end omitting 2sc on final pattern repeat, ss to join, fasten off. **(44sts)**

Pre-blocked Measurement: approximately 3in (7⅝cm) 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 R**eCreate Rose** 3ch (counts as 1dc), * 2dc into next st, 1dc into next st, repeat from * to end omitting 1dc 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), 1sc into same st, 1sc 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 1dc), 1dc into next st, * 2dc into next st, 1dc into each next 2sts; repeat from * to end omitting 2dc 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), 1sc into same st, 1sc into each st to end, ss to join, fasten off. **(88sts)**

Pre-blocked Measurement: approximately 5¾in (14.5/15cm) 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 1dc), 1dc 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, 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), 1sc into same st, 1sc 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 1dc), 1dc into each next 3sts, * 2dc into next st, 1dc into each next 4sts; repeat from * to end omitting 4dc 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), 1sc into same st, 1sc into each st to end, ss to join, fasten off. **(132sts)**

Pre-blocked Measurement: approximately 8⅝in (22cm) 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 1dc), 1dc into same st * 1dc into each next 5sts, 2dc into next st; repeat from * to end omitting 2dc 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), 1sc into same st, 1sc 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 1dc), 1dc into each next 5sts, * 2dc into next st, 1dc into each next 6sts; repeat from * to end omitting 6dc 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), 1sc into same st, 1sc into each st to end, ss to join, fasten off. **(176sts)**

Pre-blocked Measurement: approximately 11¼in (28.5cm) 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 1dc), 1dc 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), 1sc into same st, 1sc into each st to end, ss to join, fasten off. **(176sts)**

Pre-blocked Measurement: approximately 12¼in (31cm) diameter.

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

Bobble Round: 1ch (does not count as a st), 1sc into same st, * MB, 1sc into each next 4sts; repeat from * to end, omitting 1sc 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 13¼in (33.5cm) diameter.

Finishing

🔴 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.
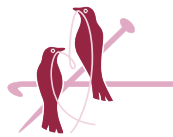
Sew in yarn ends.

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 color 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 ¾ - 1¼in (2-3cm) 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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With Thanks to Inside Crochet Magazine

Photography: Mavric Photography • **Styling:** Clare Montgomerie • **Graphic Design:** Steph Peat