




The
Memento
Blanket

Part 1 - 'Valentine'

By Anita Gibney



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Introduction

Thank you so much for joining me on my memory saving journey through the year. Every month, for the next 12 months, I will be making a new square with yarn from my stash. The result will be 12 squares that I will join to make a 3x4 panel measuring about 100cm x 130cm. With the addition of a satisfyingly deep border, I am aiming for the finished blanket to measure about 140cm x 170cm.

Each square will be made up of 16 smaller granny squares, either 1 colour or 2 colour half square triangles. This really is a great way to use up your tiniest bits of leftover yarn. In my February square I have little remnants from making my Granddaughter's first baby blankets. It will be a lovely way to keep my yarny memories safe for years to come.

Everything you need to know to make the squares is included with this month. Subsequent months downloads will include a full colour layout diagram and a photo of my square. At the end I will make full instructions for the joining and border.

I really hope you enjoy making this with me! I would love you to share your progress with me on Instagram with @madebyanita or @mycraftlife or on Facebook #Mycraftlife.

Anita x



You will need:

Oddments of coloured dk yarn. Each 1 colour square takes about 9m of yarn and 4.5 each for the two colour squares.

Background colours. I have chosen various creams, beiges, and whites.

4 mm hook

Scissors

Yarn needle

I am using dk yarn, but you can use any weight of yarn you like. Just change to a suitable hook size.

Stitch Terms

ch - chain

tr - treble crochet (US double crochet)

dc - double crochet (US single crochet)

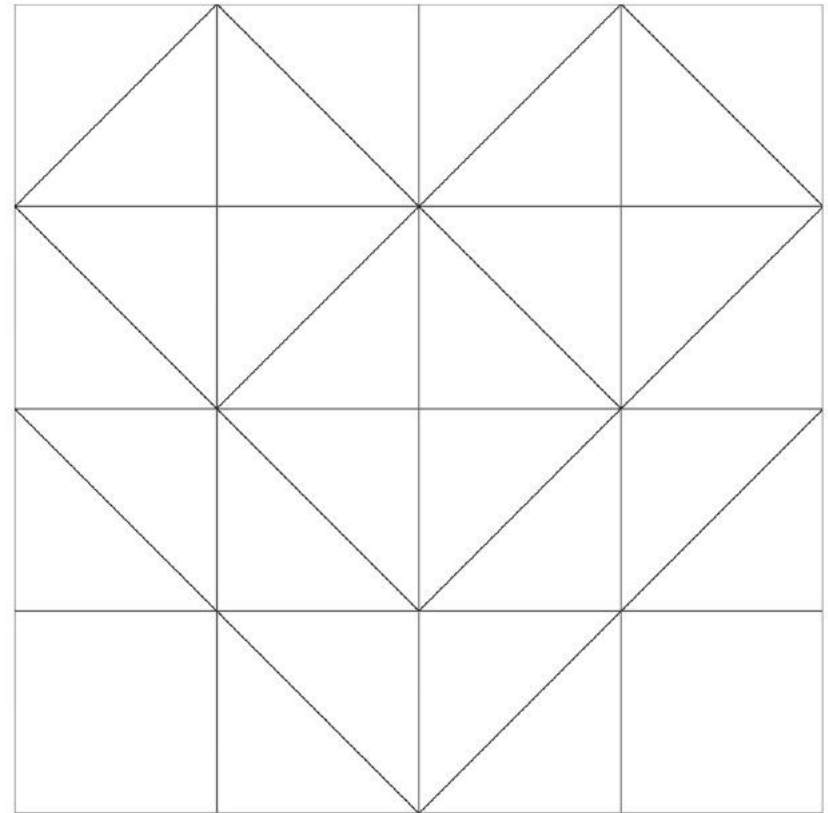
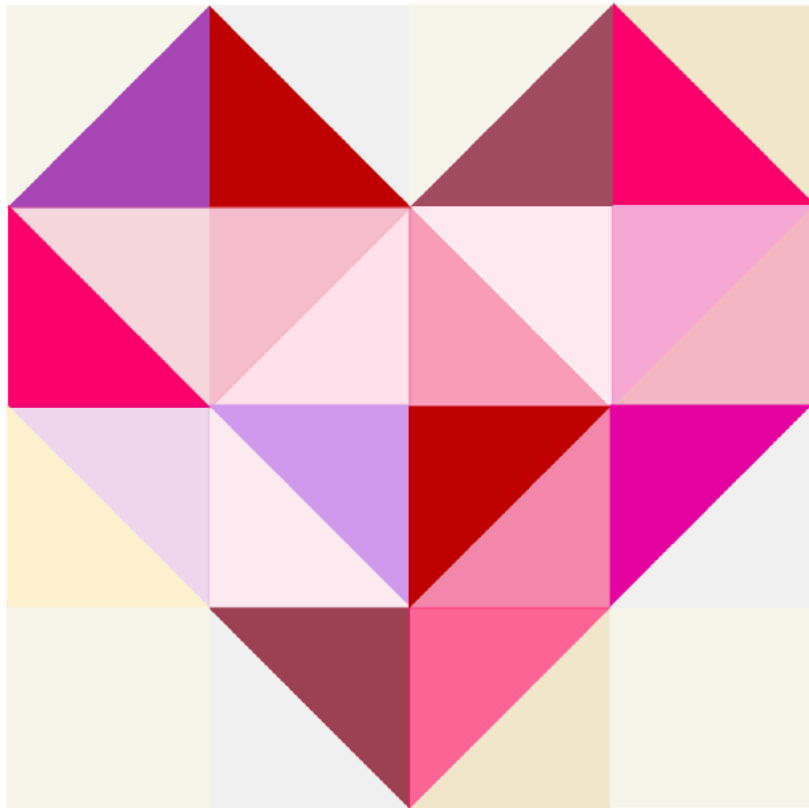
sk - skip

st - stitch

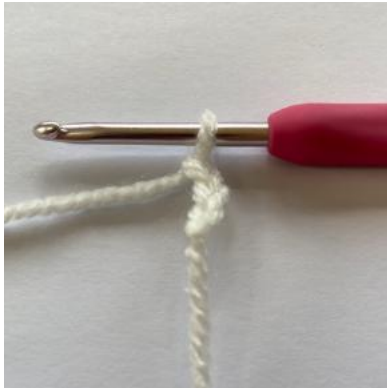
slst - slip stitch

I have introduced the abbreviations towards the end of the instructions to make it easier for anyone who is new to reading patterns.

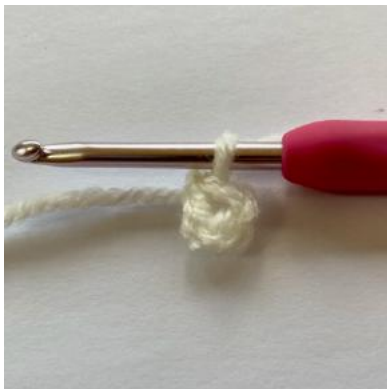
Here is my layout for February, and a blank for you to try out your own scheme with the colours you have in your stash.



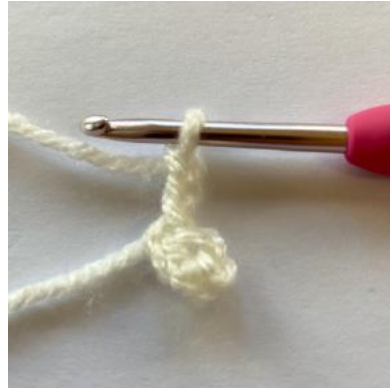
Solid Granny Square



Round 1:
Make a slip knot and 3 chain.



Slip stitch into the first chain to form a loop.



3 chain. This counts as 1 treble crochet.



Make 2 treble crochet into your loop. Make sure you crochet over the tail.



2 chain and make 3 more trebles into the loop. This makes a corner.



2 chain, 3 treble, two more times. 2 chain and slip stitch into the third chain of the first 3 chain. The needle shows you

where. Pull the centre tail tight and snip it off.



Round 2:
3 chain and turn over. (3 chain counts as 1st treble). Turning over between rounds will stop your square from twisting. You will be working in the space indicated by the needle next.



2 treble, 2 chain, 3 treble into the same space.



3 treble, 2 chain, 3 treble in the next three corner spaces and slip stitch into the 3rd chain of the chain 3 to join.



Round 3:

3 chain (3ch) and turn over. 2 treble (2tr) into the space.



Work around your square 3tr, 2ch, 3tr in corner spaces and 3tr in the side spaces between. Slip

stitch (slst) to join and fasten off. Sew in your tail.

Every monthly square will be made from a combination of Granny squares and two colour Granny squares. Instructions for those are next.

Two colour Granny Squares



Round 1:

3ch, slst to form a loop. 3ch, 2tr, 2ch, 3tr into centre loop.



1ch and pull through a loop of the new colour. You will be crocheting over both tails with the new colour. Make sure you don't crochet over the first colour going to the ball. You will pick this up again later.



3tr, 2ch, 3tr into the centre loop, working over the two tails.



1ch and slst into the **back loop only** of the 3rd chain, indicated by the needle.



Back loop only (**blo**) means you insert your hook between the two loops at the top of a stitch and work into the furthest one away from you.



This is what Round 1 of the two colour square should look like.



Round 2: 3ch and turn. (3 chain counts as 1st treble.) You will now be working in the space (**sp**) between the two colours.



2tr in first sp. 3tr, 2ch, 3tr in corner sp. 3tr in next sp between colours.



Now change back to the first colour. 1ch and pull a loop of the 1st colour through the chain. Put the 2nd colour to one side so you don't crochet over it.



3tr in first sp. 3tr, 2ch, 3tr in corner sp. 3tr in next sp between colours. 1ch and slst into the **back loop only** of the 3rd chain, shown by the needle.



This is what the completed round 2 should look like.



Round 3: 3ch and turn. 2tr into sp between colours. 3tr in next sp. 3tr, 2ch, 3tr in corner sp. 3tr in next space. 3tr in sp between colours. 1 ch and change back to colour 2 as before. Cut colour 1.



Complete round 3 as previous rounds, 1ch and slst to join. Cut 2nd colour and sew in tails.



Ta daaaa! A perfect little 2 colour granny square, ready to make magic with!

Making and joining your squares

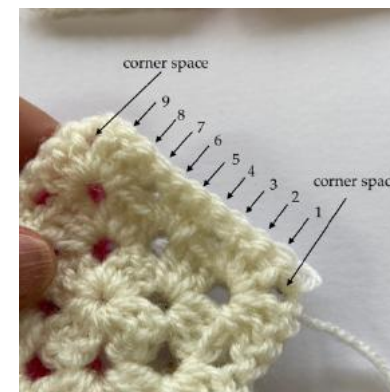
Now it's time to make all the individual squares you need and join them to make a large 4x4 square. Every month there will be a new layout, but the method for making the square will remain the same.



Here are my February squares, all ready to join.



Arrange your squares, face down in front of you. You will be joining with slip stitches in verticals 1,2 & 3 first and then horizontals 4, 5 & 6.



Each square has 9 stitches per side and 2 corner spaces. You are going to join your squares with a slip stitch in each corner space and each of the 9 stitches.



To do this, take the first two squares from columns 1&2 and place right sides together. Pull a

loop of yarn through the corner space and tie a knot.



Now insert the hook into back loop only of each of the first stitch of each square. (That's the loop nearest to you and furthest away). Now yarn over and pull through all loops on your hook to form the slip stitch.



Repeat in each of the 9 stitches along the edge of the square.



When you reach the next corner space, slip stitch through both squares and 1ch.



Now take the next pair of squares and continue to join in the same way. When you have joined all 4 pairs of squares, fasten off.



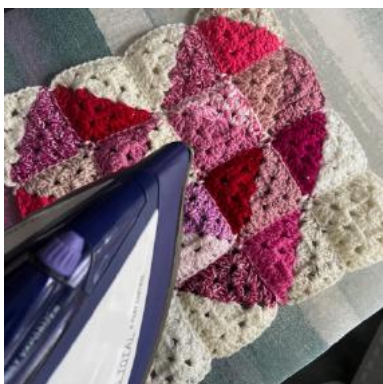
Repeat so all verticals are joined.



Now repeat with the 3 horizontals and sew in the tails.



You may find your square is not laying very flat at this point, particularly if you have used lots of different yarns like I have.



If you want to flatten it out, hold an iron a few centimetres above and give it a few blasts of steam. Pat very gently to coax it to lay flat. Don't place the iron directly onto the crochet.

Border

Each of the 12 monthly squares will have the same border for joining together later.



Round 1: Join yarn in with a knot in the corner space of one of the squares.



Insert your hook into the space, pull up a loop and 1ch. Now 1dc in the same space to start the round.



1dc in the back loop only of each of the 9 stitches. By working in the back loop only you will see a defined line all around the square. 1dc in the corner spaces.



Continue in the same way until you reach an outside corner. 1dc, 2ch, 1dc in the corner space.



Continue all around and slip stitch to join in your first 1ch.



Round 2: 1ch and 1dc in same stitch. 1dc in each stitch around. At the corners, 1dc, 2ch, 1dc. Slip stitch to join and cut yarn.



Round 3: Choose a colour that coordinates with your square. Join in any side stitch and 2ch (counts as 1dc and 1ch). Skip 1 stitch, dc in next stitch and 1ch. Continue to skip 1, 1dc, 1ch all around. At the corners 1dc, 2ch, 1dc. Slip stitch to join in the first 1ch. Cut yarn.



Round 4: Turn over so wrong side is facing up. Join cream in any side chain space and 2ch (counts as 1dc and 1ch). 1 dc in next space and 1ch. Continue to 1dc in chain space, 1ch all around. At the corners 1dc, 2ch, 1dc. Slip stitch to join in the first 1ch. Cut yarn.



Round 5: Turn over again so right side is facing up. Join cream in any dc and 1dc in each dc and chain space around. At corners 1dc, 2ch, 1dc. Slip stitch to join and fasten off. Sew in all tails.



This is my finished square for February.



Here is a little sneak peek of what's coming in March. I haven't decided what the whole year will look like yet, but I'm sure there will be strawberries, pumpkins, and snowflakes!