
Crochet Flowers with Cal Patch

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

(leaves crunching) - Once you know the basics of crochet, making some crochet flowers can be a really fun way to practice and experiment with your new stitch knowledge. Crochet flowers are a great way to embellish simple projects. Take a hat like this, looks so much cuter with a little flower added on to it. In this workshop, I'm going to show you three different centers, and five different types of petals, and how you can combine them all different ways for my freeform flower approach. (soft music)

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

- The materials you'll need for this project are very simple. You'll just need some yarn, a nice assortment of colors. I'm working with worsted weight wool yarns and that's a good size to use, but you can use bigger or smaller yarn. Later you may wanna play around with some fuzzy or novelty yarns. But for now it's probably best if they're kind of smooth. Then you'll just need a hook. Any size that is compatible with your size of yarn will be fine. Since I'm using worsted weight, I'm going to use an F hook. It's a little on the small side for that size of yarn, but it'll make a good dense crochet stitch which is a good effect for the flowers.

Chapter 3 - Centers

Single crochet center

The first of the three types of center I'm going to show you is this very simple single crochet center. You'll begin like every crochet project with a slip knot and your going to chain two and then working in the second chain from the hook skipping this first one, you'll make a single crochet I'm just working into one loop of the chain. There's one single and I'm going to continue making 5 more for a total of 6 single crochet stitches into that one chain stitch. Essentially, I'm working around that chain stitch as though it were a ring and it actually is sort of a small ring and the stitches will naturally just curve around into a circle. So I have one, two, three, four, five and I need one more stitch and I'm back to the beginning. I want to find my first stitch, put the hook in I'm going to make a slip stitch to join the two. So you may not have done slip stitch before, I'm grabbing the yarn up above, bringing it through those two loops of my single crochet and right through that final loop and that's a slip stitch. Its joined. I can finish it off. Cut the yarn a couple inches away and just make one last chain stitch to pull my tail through, let it slip all the way through and tighten that up. And there's your little ring which is your first flower center.

Double crochet center

- The second type of flower center I'd like to show you is a double crochet center. It's just a little bit bigger and has more stitches around it, so it gives you room to make a few more petals. So again I will begin with a slip knot. This time I'm going to chain four stitches. Two, three, four. I'm going to join them into a ring so I'm putting the hook into the very first chain that I made, grabbing the yarn, slip stitching the two together. I've joined my chain into a ring with a slip stitch. Now I'll chain three. I'm going to double crochet into the center of this ring. I'll stretch it out so you can see it more

clearly. I'll continue with the double crochets, all working right into the center hole of the ring. Just keep working around. You'll probably need about 10 doubles to continue around the whole circle. You'll know when you have enough. I've got one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine. Looks like I'll need one or two more to fill the gap there. That should probably do it. I can find the top of my first three chains that I did, insert the hook into the top chain, and make a slip stitch to join the round. Finish off. Cut the yarn with a couple inches of tail. Make one chain. Tighten it up. There it is.

Domed center

- Next we'll do the third center which is a domed center. Very simple. We will begin like always, with a slipknot. And this time we will chain four. Three, four. Do a double into your first chain. So this time we're going to make a circle of double crochets all worked into that very first chain stitch. I did one, here's a second one. And we don't need as many as we did before. We want a domed circle which will happen because we won't have enough stitches to make a flat circle. We'll do maybe about eight of them. Let's see if this is enough. If I pull it together, might be a little bit too domed so I'll do one more. Try closing it again and that looks like it'll be good. Go ahead and insert the hook into the top chain. Pull through all the loops with a slip stitch and so you've joined the circle but this time it's got a dome shape to it. I'm going to continue with a second round to make this center little bit bigger. So I chain three and I'm going to be increasing so I'll do my first double right into the same stitch where I chained from. So that's like two doubles into the same stitch. But then in the next one I'm just going to put one double. I will increase again and put two stitches into the same stitch. There was two and one in the next. Two in this one. One in the next. Continue around just like this. We're almost to the end of the round. One more increase. And we just need one more stitch in the last stitch. And I'm ready to join again into the top of my chain three. Joining with a slip stitch. And that looks like a nice dome. So I can cut. Finish off by making one last chain. Pull the tail all the way through tighten it up and voila.

Chapter 4 - Petals

Small petals

- We've done three kinds of crochet flower centers and now I'm going to show you several kinds of petals. The first one is a simple little single crochet petal. As usual, it will begin with a slip knot. And then we're going to use the single crochet center. Though each of these petals can be done on any of centers we've done. You can mix and match as you like. We're going to join onto the center with a slip stitch. I've got the slip knot on my hook and I'm putting the hook into any one of the stitches. It can be where you've joined or not. And now I'm grabbing the yarn and pulling it through everything at once so that joined me onto the center with a slip stitch. I like to tighten up that first stitch. Now I'm just going to chain one to begin the first petal. Do a single crochet into that stitch, same stitch as my join. One more chain and then go back down into my seam stitch with a slip stitch. And there's one petal completed. Moving on to the next one. Chain one, single crochet, this time into the next stitch. Basically, each stitch of the center can become one petal. So there's my single crochet and I'll chain one, come back down into the same stitch to join and complete that petal. I'll just continue around working one petal into each stitch. Chain one, single crochet, chain one, slip stitch until I have six petals. I'm on the last petal. I'll do my final slip stitch. One chain. Cut the yarn. Pull the tail through to finish off. And I like to just grab that tail with the hook and pull it through to the back. Just to get it out of the way for now. And that's your single crochet petal.

Medium petals

- The second petal that I'd like to show you is the double crochet square petal. Looks like this. I'll make a slip knot. And I'll join onto the same center as we used before. Single crochet center. This time I'm going to show you how you can weave in that tail as you work by working over it. Which will make for less ends you have to weave in at the end. So I'm going into a stitch. Doesn't really matter which stitch. But this time I'm holding the tail across it. Make a slip stitch. And now I'm joined on. Tighten it up. And for this petal, it's made of double crochet, so I'm going to begin with chain three. One, two, three. And then, double crochet into that same stitch. And a second double crochet into the same stitch. And then we need to chain three again, this time to bring us back down toward the center. So, this chain's gonna let us come back and join into the same stitch with a slip stitch. And that's the end of the first petal. You can see how it's kind of square. Beginning on the second petal. Chain three. Double crochet into the next stitch of the center. Working around. Second double into the same stitch. And again, we'll chain three, to take us back down to join in the center. Joining in the same stitch with a slip stitch. Chain three again to begin the new petal. Double crochet into the next stitch. Chain three. Join with the slip stitch. Three chains. Double crochet. Double crochet again. Three chains. And join into the same stitch with the slip stitch. As before, you'll continue around, working one petal into each of your stitches, until you have a flower that you're happy with. You don't necessarily always have to do one petal per stitch. You could spread them around two, across two petals if you like. But just experiment, there's no rules to this. See what works and what you like the look of. I'm on the last petal here. Here's my second double crochet, and chain three. And the last join into the center, with slip knot. I can finish off by cutting. Making one chain. Pull the tail through and tighten it up. And look at that. Sweet little flower.

Large petals

- The third pedal I'd like to show you is the large sideways pedal. This one gives you a little more flexibility for creating a more distinctive pedal. So, let me show you what to do. Begin with a slip knot. And this time we'll work with the double crochet center. We're going to join on with the slip stitch. And again, we'll lay the tail across so that we weave it in as we go. You can actually take both tails, you've got the tail from the center and the tail of your new working yarn that you're joining on. We can hide them both, so you don't have to weave in either one of them at the end. Joined on there with a slip stitch. Tighten up that stitch. And we will start chaining. You can really chain as long as you want for this pedal. You can kind of get creative but, I'll try chaining eight. And I think that's the size I did for the sample. One, Two, Three, Four, Five, Six, Seven. One more is eight. I can really continue back down the chain working any stitches I like. They could be all the same stitch or a variety. I'm going to build them in order of height. So I'll do a single crochet first, then a half double, double, half double, single, and let's see how that looks. So, I need to skip the first chain to do single into the next. I'm just working into the side loop. That was my single. Next I'll do half double. Then double. So these stitches are building in height, which is going to make the pedal thicker at the center. And then it's going to get more narrow again. And back to single. So you can see, I did single, half double, double, they get a little bit taller, half double and single get shorter again, which, makes the pedal narrow. I have one stitch left. I'll do another single there. And then I can join back down with a slip stitch. I can move to the next stitch of the center because this is a little bit of a wider pedal. And you'll see, by experimenting with your connection, you can actually connect it, you could do it in the same stitch, you could do it in the second one, or even the third one if you want to spread your pedals over a couple stitches. I'll try the second one, cause that looks

like it's going to be good. So, I'm just working a slip stitch there. Also, where you join will effect the angle that the pedal comes out of the center at. So, if you ever join and your pedal seems to be leaning one way or the other, maybe try joining into a different stitch, or sometimes you don't need to work all the way to the end of the chain before you join. Let's try another one of these pedals. We'll chain eight. Five, six, seven, eight. We'll skip that first chain and do a single crochet into the second one. We'll half double into the next. Double crochet into the next. Half double. And single again. And one more single to fill in that last space. And then, still keeping our tails wrapped around, we'll work over them into the next stitch to join with the slip stitch. Now we have two pedals done. So I'll just continue working around like that. And then I'll have a full set of pedals.

Skinny petal

- The fourth pedal in our series is the skinny pedal. Looks like this. So, let me show you. We'll begin with the slip knot. And we will join it, we'll do this domed center this time. And another option I'd like to show you, we're working around the edges of these centers in the stitches, but you could work, instead of under both loops, you could just go into the back loop and that way it will give you two rows to work around. Cause you can go around a second time into the front loops. So I've joined on with a slip stitch, just like we've done with all of them. Only I included the tails, and I only worked into the back loop. The front loop is still waiting there for when I'm ready to come around again. I'm going to chain. You can chain however many you like. The longer you do, the longer your pedals will be. So let's just say maybe six chains. One, two, three, four, five, six. And then we're going to work back down the chain with just a simple single crochet stitch. So skipping the first chain, work into the next. And continue with one single crochet in each stitch. Each of your chains. Now, it might look like you still have one more, but I find that the joining has a little bit of height to it, so if I work into that one it usually makes the pedal sit at an angle, so I'm going to skip that last one. I'm gonna skip across the next stitch and work into the second stitch over. Including my tails in the slip stitch, and there I've joined and it's sitting at a nice straight angle from the center. Starting a second pedal, I'll chain six. Three. Four, five. And then we'll skip the first chain, work a single crochet into the next, and continue one in each. Again, I'll skip what looks like the last stitch I should work into and I'll skip the next stitch of the center and go to the next one over. Just the back loop. Wrapping the tails up in the process, and there's my second pedal. And I'll just continue working around until I have a finished flower like this.

Loopy petal

- The fifth petal is the loopy petal. It's actually just a series of loops made from chain stitches. For this one, we're going to be working with a variation of the single crochet center. However, I went around a second time, working two single crochets into each single crochet of the first round, which just makes a bigger center, and gives me a lot more stitches to work into. It also has a center round, so I can work multiple rows of petals. We'll make our slip knot. Join onto the center. Again, I'll just work in the back loop, so that I can go around several times. Tighten it up. Okay, so all there is to this one is make a chain twice as long as you want the petal to be. So, we've got five chains. Let's do nine. Eight, nine. And then we're just looping back down. You can either join it back into the same stitch if you really want a lot of petals, one per stitch. I'm gonna move over to the next one, or maybe even the second one over because I plan to do a few rows of these, and so I don't need so many petals for each row. You can also see, because I skipped a stitch, it opens that up a little bit, makes it look a little extra loopy. Second petal, chaining nine. Two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight,

nine. And back loop of the second stitch over, join with a slip stitch. Don't worry that you can kinda see the tails that you're stitching over, because when you do your next rounds, it will keep covering those up. Let's get around this round quickly, so that I can show you how to work a next row of petals on the same flower. I've worked all the way around the center, and I've got my last nine chain petal. I'll connect it down to the same stitch. So, I've completed one round of petals. Now, I skipped every other stitch, so I still could work one round again into those stitches that I missed. And I was also only working in the back loop, so I have a whole fresh round of front loops available. I think I'll work into those. So I'm going to chain again, but a little shorter chain this time. Maybe I'll do six. So there's four, five, six. And going to join into this front loop that's also in the stitch between the two stitches I worked the previous round. That way, the petals will be staggered between the first round of petals. Six chains, skip a stitch, work into the front loop of the next with a slip stitch. And I'll just keep working like this. So you can probably see how freeform this is. I'm doing it just a little bit differently than I did the sample, because I'm skipping stitches, so these loops are a little more open. Either way is going to look really cool, but give you a different effect. All of these petals and centers I'm showing you are just ideas and starting places that you can totally play around and improvise with. I'll just keep working around like this, and finish that second row of petals. I can even go around again and do a third if I want to. And then I'll have a frilly, loopy flower like this.

Chapter 5 - Flower Combinations

Examples

- I'd like to talk about some of the ways you can play around with the skills you just learned and come up with some new variations on the flowers. Here's one where I did the square double crochet petal on the outer ring. And then I did a second row of the skinny petal which creates a stamen effect. Here's a daffodil, which is made of the larger sideways petal. And then I went around a second time just creating a tube, which makes a center of a daffodil. You might have noticed that a lot of the petals like to curl up as you're making them. A little bit of blocking will help. Basically just dampen the petal, pin it out, and let it dry. And that will keep it nice and flat. I've blocked this white one here and you can see it lays pretty flat. Also if you are stitching it onto something you can use your stitches to flatten out the petals if you prefer. I kind of like them to have a little bit of a three-dimensional effect. So I've shown you three kinds of centers and five kinds of petals. You can mix and match them any which way and come up with ideas of your own. Have fun making crochet flowers.