
Super Slouch Crocheted Cardigan with Marly Bird

Chapter 1 - Crocheted Cardigan

Overview

(upbeat music) - Hi, I'm Marly Bird, proud spokesperson for Red Heart Yarns. And I'm here to show you how to make a super great, comfortable crocheted sweater. I know that there are times you wanna grab your hook and your yarn and make a sweater but you just don't know where to start. I was in your same place several years ago. The shape of the sweater we will learn in this video is the exact same shape that I first started with when I began designing. In this class, you will learn to do a fairly easy decorative stitch, some double crochets, foundation double crochets, and then how to add a color around the cardigan. I find this kind of sweater very casual, universal, wearable, and cozy and I know you will too.

Materials

- The materials you will need for this class are: Chic Sheep by Marly Bird yarn. You will need the number of balls as indicated for the size you are making. Chic Sheep by Marly Bird yarn a hundred percent merino wool, and it is washable. It comes in 24 different colors, and you can choose whichever one you want for your sweater. You also need a size I or a 5.5 millimeter crochet hook, a tapestry needle to weave in your ends, some removable stitch markers, and a pair of scissors. A full list of the materials and the pattern is available in your pattern PDF, so don't forget to print that out.

Cast on and crochet back

- As I mentioned, this sweater is made in one piece and we start on the back. The back of the sweater begins with a really nice and simple decorative stitch. And we begin with a slip knot. Place the tail of your yarn in the palm of your hand, take your working yarn, wrap it around your forefinger and middle finger, when you come back up cross over. Rotate your hand over and if you go underneath the front loop and grab the back one and off you now have a slip knot. Once you have the slip knot on your hook you will go ahead and chain the number of chains necessary for the size you're making. Remember, you never count the loop on your hook in your total of chains. I have chained the number I need to chain for my sample size. I'm making a very small size for the example of the video. So I can go ahead and begin row one, which is double crocheting in the fourth chain from hook, so I've yarned over my hook and I'll count four chains. Two, three, four. And I will place the double crochet in that fourth chain. Now I will double crochet in each chain all the way down this row. So I am on my last double crochet of this row and once that's complete I will go ahead and jump into row two. So I turn my work and I start off with a chain five. Two, three, four, five. This chain five counts as a double crochet and a chain two now and throughout whenever we're working on this particular stitch pattern. Now I'll skip two double crochets and I'll work a single crochet into this stitch. Now I will chain five. Two, three, four, five. I skip three double crochets and single crochet in the next one. And this is my repeat, the single crochet, chain five, skip those three. Okay, so I've single crocheted, I will chain five, and then skip three, one, two, three. So then I start my repeat again. And I will work this particular stitch pattern repeat 'til I get to the end of the row. I've just finished my last repeat, so I'm at the part where I will skip one, two, three, I will place a single crochet in that next stitch, I skip one, and I will chain two, and place a double crochet into that

turning chain from the previous row. So as I set this down this is what your row two will look like. Now that we finished row two let's start row three. So I go ahead, turn my work. I'm back on the right side of my fabric, I chain one, I will single crochet into this first double crochet right here, this first double crochet. Now I'm gonna skip all of those stitches, come over here to this chain five space and I'm gonna work my shell, which is putting three double crochets into that chain five space. Then I will chain one and do three more double crochets into that chain five space. You see that? So I have three double crochets, chain one, three double crochets. Now I come over to the next chain five space, I work a single crochet, and then I carry on to the next chain five space. I will work that shell stitch again. I will repeat all of this until I get down to the end of my row and I finish off with the single crochet all the way down here at the end. So let me get down there. I'm doing the last double crochet of my final shell here and I am up to where I've done my chain five from the previous row, so I wanna make sure that I'm putting my single crochet in the third chain of that chain five. So there's one, two, three, then I have two more chains after that, so I wanna put my single crochet into that third chain. And that completes my row three. Now that I'm done with row three let's work on row four. Go ahead and pick up your work and turn it, and we will start off with a chain six. Four, five, six. This chain six counts as a double crochet and a chain three space. Now I'll carry on. I will skip all of these stitches, come over here to this chain one space, it's the center of the shell, and place a single crochet. Then I chain three. Skip all of these stitches, come over here to this single crochet and work a double. Then I carry on. Chain three, skip all of these, go to the center of my shell, into that chain one space, do a single. Chain three, go to the single crochet and I'll work my double. And I'll do this all the way down my row. I'll finish with a double crochet into the last single crochet of the row. So there's my last single, I'm putting my double right there, and we have just finished row four. Which is great. You can see the shells have already been built, but we've already started to create the space that we will now work row five. Now what's really great about row five as I turn my work here is that we are just going to do a series of double crochets along here worked into these spaces and the stitches. So with row five we start off with a chain three and this counts as a double crochet now and throughout. Now we will put three double crochet in the next chain three space. So I'm gonna go all into that space, I'm not working into the individual stitches, just the space. I'll double crochet in my next stitch, which is the single crochet right there. And then I will repeat that. So this is what I'm repeating all the way down the row. I'll put three double crochets into this chain three space. And then put a double crochet in the next stitch. By the end of this row I will have a solid row of double crochets once again. I'm at the end of the row and I have my turning chain here, so I wanna make sure I place my three double crochet into the space of my turning chain, remember that counts as a double crochet and a chain three. So I've put those in the space. Now I wanna do an actual double crochet in the third chain of that turning chain. So it just kind of locks all of those into place. When I set this down what you're gonna see is it looks like the shells are framed with the really nice double crochet space, which is perfect, that's exactly what I want, because then row six, seven, eight, and nine are all just double crochet rows. Once you have those rows complete your work will look a little something like this. You can see here I have the double crochets and then I have my shells and then this is the series of double crochets that are just framing the sets of shells. And this represents the back of your sweater. So as you're following along in the pattern and it says to work this part of the pattern and then repeat those rows, repeat those rows, repeat those rows, you'll actually have five sets of shell rows before it's time when you get up to this point and that's where we will add for the sleeves. And there you have it, that's everything you need to know in order to complete this portion of the back of your sweater. So follow along

your pattern and get up to the point where it's time to add for the sleeves. Join me back here and I will show you how to do that next.

Sleeves and neck opening

- You've made the back of your sweater, and you're ready to do some sleeves. Let's jump in. By this point, the back of your sweater looks similar to this. Remember, I'm doing a smaller size for my example here. We're going to add sleeves by chaining stitches on this end and working foundation double crochets on this end. The rest of this sweater is all done with double crochet, so we no longer use this particular stitch pattern, making it very simple. Go ahead and turn your work, and at this point we will chain the number of chains as indicated on your pattern. Once you've chained the number of chains that you have written in your pattern, we are now going to work back along these chains and work them in double crochets until we get back to the body. So we carry on. We will do a double crochet in the fourth chain from hook. One, two, three, four. And this is just like what we did at the start of our sweater, correct? We just did double crochets in each one of the chains. So let me get down to where these chains meet up with the sweater itself. I'm down here to the last chain before I get to the body of my work, and all I'm going to do is I will continue on working double crochets along the body of the work so there isn't anything extra. What I've done, though, is I've added a length of fabric here that will be the sleeves of my cardigan. So if, for example, you wanted your sleeves longer, this is where you would want to add that length, okay. And we would do the same thing to the opposite side. But you chain, double crochet back. And when we get to the body, we'll just double crochet all the way across this body, and then we'll do foundation double crochets on this end so that we can get the same length of sleeve. So let's go ahead and get across these stitches here with double crochets. Again, I'm only using very simple double crochets to make it as easy as possible for you at home who might be making this as your very first sweater. All right, so I've got one more double crochet to do in this turning chain. Don't forget to work that turning chain. And then this is where I will begin my foundation double crochets. So to create the foundation double crochet on this end, I will go ahead. I am going to work into this same stitch real quick. Yarn over, pull up a loop. Yarn over, draw through one. That one stitch right there now represents what would typically just be a chain, okay. And now I will complete my double crochet. Can you see that? So to do the next foundation double crochet, I will go into that chain that I just created. Yarn over, pull up a loop. Yarn over, draw through one. Now I have the next chain. Yarn over, draw through two. Yarn over, draw through two. See, I have two double crochets now. I will continue on working foundation double crochets until I have the same number of stitches as I have on the other sleeve, okay. And the reason I'm not giving you specific numbers is because maybe you adjusted your sleeves to make 'em longer or shorter. As long as the sleeves have the same number of stitches, that's what we want. So I've worked the same number of foundation double crochets as I have double crochets at this end. And if I lay this out flat, you should be able to see that I have two sleeves ready to go that are attached to the back. So this would be the armpit area. And you can see here that it's made it really easy, because it's just double crochets all the way across. And I didn't have to stop and re-add yarn at all, because I was able to use the chains with the yarn as it was attached. And then by doing foundation double crochets, I was able just to continue on down this row, making it super easy. So for these sleeves, what we need to do now is work the sleeve up to the point where it would reach the back of the neck. And that's written in your pattern. And once you reach that point, your work will then look like this. So here we are, this is the back of the sweater. Here's where we have the extra sleeves for the length, right? Then we work sleeves to the

point that we need to open up for the back of the neck. So what we would do next is work across to the signified point for the neck opening, leave stitches open, rejoin yarn, and then continue on. And here's how you will work the neck opening. It's really simple. Let me show you how. So this example is ready for the neck opening, so I have gone ahead and worked my double crochets over to the point where it's time for me to work a double crochet two together for my neck opening. Once I do my double crochet two together at this point, it's going to make a nice little curve right here. That's what the two together is going to do. So I yarn over my hook, go into the stitch, yarn over, pull up a loop, yarn over, draw through two, and stop. Yarn over my hook, go into the next stitch, yarn over my hook, pull up a loop, yarn over my hook, draw through two, and stop. Yarn over, draw through all three. So that's my double crochet two together, okay. That would complete row one of my neck opening for this sleeve. I would carry on. I'm gonna leave all of these unworked, 'cause we're gonna come back to these in just a second, okay. We're gonna come back to all of these. So I would go ahead, turn my work, and I would work row two, which has us start off with the chain two. And this is not gonna count as a stitch, okay. It's just kind of hanging out there. We will skip the double crochet two together, and we would double crochet in each one of these stitches all the way to the end of the row. And then we would carry on doing that back and forth for the length of the sleeve of the sweater, okay. So this is just, again, going back and forth with double crochets, all right. So I'm gonna let this be here for a second. All right, so I'm gonna let that go. I'm just gonna pull that up and set this back down. So you see how that works, right? We came across, we stopped, worked a double crochet two together to get us a little bit of a curve, and then we're coming back. So then we would just work back and forth until the sleeve is the length we want it to be. Now, for this side, this would be the opposite neck opening. You wanna grab a new ball of yarn, and we will go ahead. You will skip the number of stitches as indicated in the pattern. For my little sample here, it's seven. So I would count one, two, three, four, five, six, seven. And after this stitch, so whatever the stitch is on yours, you will join with a slip stitch. So I'll put my hook in. And I'm going to go ahead, yarn over, pull up a loop, yarn over, and draw through. So I've joined with a slip stitch. Now I start off with a chain two. And I will double crochet in each of the double crochets across this row. So there's one, two, three, blah, blah, blah, so on and so forth. You'll notice that when I get to the end of this row, I once again will have another series of double crochets, and I've got this neck opening. So now each side of my sweater will be worked independently, each of them with their own ball of yarn, okay. Once you carry on with this, you wanna work until your sweater looks like this, okay. So at this point, my sleeve is complete. Both of my sleeves are complete. I have started my opening for my neck. This would be the front of my cardigan. And now I'm ready to make sure that I work in to the point where I'm just working on the front of my cardigan and I'm leaving the rest of the sleeves, the length of my sleeves alone. Does that make sense? So at this point, I need you to finish up both sleeves and get to the point where it's time to start the fronts, and we'll jump into that part next.

Front and seaming

- Congratulations, you have made it through the meat of the sweater. Once you get past the sleeves it is smooth sailing. Let's go ahead and start the fronts. What's cool about working the fronts is that it's very similar to when we left stitches open here for the neck. We're actually gonna leave stitches open on the sides for the sleeves. So at this point you are right here and your yarn is attached to this side of your sweater. I've gone ahead and I've chained three and I will work across the number of double crochets that I need that corresponds with the width of my back. Now that number is indicated in your pattern, so make sure you're looking at the pattern and look at how many double

crochets you need to work across for the size you're making. What you will notice when you're done with that total number of double crochets is that if you were to fold your sweater in half the end point on the front of your sweater will meet up to the end point of the back of your sweater. So what we are really doing here is taking away all of those extra stitches we did when we started the sleeves. I have gone ahead and I've marked the part of the sweater where I need to stop, so this would be where I need to stop. And then I would just carry on working in double crochets for as many rows as I need to do to complete this side of the front of my sweater. And here's what I mean about it being the same width as the back. So if this were a straight line it meets up right with the back of my sweater. Now for the opposite side we have to do it a little different, because our yarn isn't attached like it was over here. So just like when we separated here at the neck, we wanna grab a new ball of yarn. And for this side we actually would skip the number of stitches as indicated in your pattern and then we will join with a slip stitch. Chain three, that counts as your double crochet, and then carry on working your double crochets along the row just like you did the opposite side. So I'll just work a couple here, put it down, so you can see. Just like that, all right. So I would carry on working double crochets here, back and forth, back and forth, back and forth. So then I will have two fronts. And when all of that is complete your work is gonna look like this. So I'm gonna put it sideways here to make sure that it is in camera. Right here. Here's the back, here are our sleeves right here, here's the other sleeve, and then here are the fronts that we just created. See how they are the same width this way as what the back is. So when I fold my full sweater here. I'm gonna turn it sideways. You can see I have a neck opening right here, I have sleeves, and I have a front. Pretty cool, right? Now all that's left is doing the seaming underneath those sleeves, so underneath the arm and along the side. For seaming you wanna make sure that you have the right sides of your sweater together. One way to tell what's the right side and wrong side is if you're looking at the back of your sweater you wanna look at the right side of your shells. And that's where it looks like it's the front of the double crochets, that's the right side of your fabric. So you wanna make sure that that is facing you as you fold your sweater into place. Now we're going to seam the side and the underarm. So to do that go ahead and grab a length of yarn that is long enough to go the full distance. You don't wanna have to add a new length of yarn. If you should have to add a new length of yarn the best place to do that would be at the armpit. So you would work from the bottom up to the armpit, from the outside to the armpit. But preferably I like to go the full length. Once you have your length of yarn in the same color as you used on your sweater, go ahead and thread that onto your tapestry needle. Now, starting at the bottom here, again, with the right sides facing each other, you are just going to just work a whip stitch and sew these two pieces together. So I like to go ahead and start off just attaching my yarn down here at the bottom, making sure I leave a nice little length here that I can weave in later. And then I just start zooming all the way up, making sure that I'm trying to keep it as consistent as possible and maintaining these strike points. So I wanna make sure that the two, the two points here, the armpit points stay together. Okay, so I wanna make sure that I don't get off. And I will consistently check that throughout the seaming process just to make sure I don't accidentally get a bunched up area.

Collar

- So at this point you should've been able to try on your sweater and the only thing we have left is the collar. It's really simple, because it uses some stitches that you've already done, but I'm gonna introduce a couple of new ones just to spice it up a little bit. So let's jump in. Here's the right side of our sweater and I am gonna go ahead and I'm gonna turn it upside down to me, or actually

sideways, because we are going to begin our collar on the right front. And that would be the right front as you're wearing it. At this point we'll go ahead, grab our yarn, and we will join with a slip stitch to this bottom right corner. So just kind of go in there, best you can. I like to go into the actual stitch or chain there, 'cause I think it looks better. And I will join with a slip stitch. Now my goal is to crochet as evenly as possible all the way around this entire neck in single crochet a multiple of eight plus one. So I'm gonna put my first single crochet down here at the end. So I start off with my chain one, and I will put a single crochet right here. And then what I like to do, when a number is not given to you as far as how many single crochets or stitches you need to do, I will ahead and work my single crochets as evenly as I think they should be. And then I will set my work down and take a look at see if I like the way the fabric is bunching up or not bunching up with that number of stitches, if that makes sense. So I think right here I have just about eight, so I'm gonna stop. Let's see, I have one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, so I have nine. So let's take one out and then let's just set this down and look. Is that fabric too tight? Is it too loose? I actually really like how that looks. And so for this one I have one stitch down there and then it looks like I have two in the edges of each row. Now that works for me, but maybe yours needs one stitch in the edge and then maybe two stitches in the next edge to make it nice and clean. Whatever works for you. The point here is that we wanna make sure we get a stitch multiple of eight plus one. Now the other thing I like to do is try and keep each side of my cardigan symmetrical, so I will count how many stitches I have from this starting point to the center of my neck, and then I will try and get that exact same number on the opposite side and then that's where I'll add my plus one, if that makes any sense. So right here I'm just going along. And you'll notice as I'm working I'm literally just working around the stitch. I'm not going into any particular stitch, because this is just going to be a nice base for us to start working our next row of stitches. Every now and again I'll set it down again just to make sure I'm not getting anything too bunched up. Remember, this collar, as it goes around your sweater is going to lay nice and flat. You don't want it too oversized and you definitely don't want it to be bunched up on you. So just go ahead and carry on and make sure that you get a multiple of eight plus one. So as I set this down and take a look at my edging I just wanna make sure everything's nice and neat, it's even on both sides, and I'm ready to build on this single crochet row that I have just created. So I jump into row two, which is really easy, because it is just a row of double crochets built on top of the single crochets we've just created. So nothing super spectacular. Go ahead, start with your chain three to begin, and then just work a row of double crochets. Really simple. And this is a great chance for you to recheck your count. Make sure that you do have a multiple of eight plus one. So as you're working along just make sure that you do have that stitch multiple. I'm on the last couple double crochet here. And the following row will also be a row of double crochet, but the placement of those double crochets is very unique, so I wanna make sure I show you how to do that. So at the end of row two we will go ahead, turn our work. And for row three we are back on the right side of our fabric and we're going to do double crochets. And the way we do these double crochets, as I mentioned, is going to be a little bit unique. So I start off with my chain three, typically I would put a double crochet in this point right there, okay, so that I get that V, but what I wanna do is I wanna place my double crochet in this bar right there. See that bar that's underneath the V? I wanna grab it and come back with it. And I'm gonna crochet into that bar. We're gonna call that the third loop. Okay. I'm gonna do that again. So I'm gonna go to the next one where I typically, this is where my hook would go, but usually in the opposite direction. I'm just gonna grab that bar and then work my double crochet into that bar. What this is doing is when I grab that bar notice it forces the V that would normally be on top to the front of my fabric, so I get this really cool textural stitch that

happens just because I have placed my double crochet in a unique place. All right, so I'm gonna keep going around. And the reason I'm working into the third loop from behind, like so, is because I want that ridge, that nice V ridge right there, to be on the right side of my fabric. If I were on the opposite side I would go this way and grab, but because I want the V on this side I'm grabbing it from the back. See how that works? And I will do this all the way around. Now I'm gonna set this down, I wanna show you what it looks like on this little sample. Can you see that V? And let me pull in another example, so you can see what it looks like ultimately. Set this aside, pull this in. And right here, this is the front of our sweater. This is a single crochet row, a double row, and then this double crochet row right here is the one that I just showed you. And see that nice row of Vs, how those look really beautiful going up. Gives a really great vertical line and then it goes around the neck and it comes down the opposite side. It just looks really lovely. Once you get past this double crochet row this should look very familiar, because you did a lot of this stitch on the back of your sweater. And that's what you would work into next. After you do this row of double crochets working into the third loop the next couple rows are simply working this pattern stitch, which you did on the back of the sweater. So if I pull in my little swatch here. See, this is the swatch we started off with at the very start of this class. And if I were to set it up right next to that, see how it matches up? Perfectly, right? So you can do this part without extra instruction. But what about this really cool corded look right there? Well, that's accomplished by doing a crab stitch. So this is an example is you're at the end of your collar and you're ready to work your crab stitch back. So I still have the right side of my fabric looking at me. I will chain one, and then taking my hook I will work behind, go into that stitch, yarn over, pull up a loop. And it's very important the loop you pull up is in front of the loop that was on your hook. Yarn over, draw through two. Then I go back to the next stitch back, go in, yarn over, pull up a loop, yarn over, draw through two. Go to the next stitch back, yarn over, pull up a loop. Again, the loop I pull up is in front of the loop that's on my hook. Yarn over, draw through two. You really start to get into a rhythm as you work along. We are literally just doing reverse single crochet, backwards single crochet. We're just going into the stitches behind the one we just worked into and then, hold on, I kind of split my yarn there, go in, yarn over, pull up, and then draw through two. And as you keep going along with this you're gonna notice you get this really beautiful corded look. And it's just a really great finish for the front of this cardigan, I think it kind of pulls it all together. It gives it great texture, it really allows the front of the cardigan, the collar bit to lay flat and look just really nice. It's really just a beautiful stitch. It's one of my favorite finishing stitches to use. Anyways, you would work this all the way around the collar, all the way to the end. You just cut your yarn, finish it off, and then it's done. Like that's the last bit that you have to do for this particular cardigan. Of course, I've been working on a mini sample throughout the entire class, but let's take a look at the full size original sample. As you take a look here you can see that the collar is the perfect complement to the very simple double crochet stitches that we used on the front. And it really highlights those great shell stitches that we did on the back. It really brings them together. I love the look of the double crochet in the third loop we did. Look at this beautiful vertical line of Vs we have that goes up the front of the collar and down the opposite side. It's so flattering. Especially coupled with these beautiful shells. Finished off with this great crab stitch and oh my gosh, I think it just brings this whole piece together. I absolutely love this cardigan. The combination of simple and really intricate stitches is absolutely perfect. Hopefully you had a great time making it along with me.