Crochet the Strawberry Stitch with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1
Strawberry Stitch
(upbeat music) (upbeat music continues) - Hey, everyone, this is Twinkie Chan. Thanks so much for joining us for Creativebug Live. I know we haven't been doing these quite as often as before, since Faith and Courtney are on their maternity leave, but we miss you so much, and I'm gonna do the best that I can to fill in the blanks until they get back. We're here today to talk about a really wonderful organization called Warm Up America. If you don't know anything about them, they were, well, the founder intended to create a place for people to donate crochet and knit items, and they run drives all the time to donate warm goodies to like the homeless or veterans or soldiers or refugees or even the Australian wildlife, which need a lot of help from us right now. So if you go to warmupamerica.org, you can find places to donate. You can also find patterns for knit and crochet pieces. And one of the cool things about Warm Up America is they know that we don't have a lot of time, so not everyone has the time to create a gigantic afghan. So what they have you do is you can crochet or knit a seven-inch by nine-inch rectangle. And so you can sorta make as many of these or as few of these as you have time for, and then you can send them to Warm Up America, and volunteers will take all these rectangles and sew them together. So it's this really cool kind of collaborative group project. It's all for a good cause, and you should definitely check it out. So what we're going to do today is think of a slightly more creative way to think about your crochet rectangle. So instead of maybe just stripes or just doing regular single crochet or double crochet rows, you can kind of play around with really fun different stitches. And this is the strawberry stitch, which is so cute. If you know me at all, you know I love food and food crochet. You can check out my food crochet classes on Creativebug. And when I saw this stitch, I was like, "I have to show you guys how to do this." It's basically made with popcorn stitches, and it's just kind of a fun, innovative way to play with this technique. The other thing that I wanted to mention was that JOANN is having a ginormous craft sale right now, which includes yarn. It's a yarnormous (laughs) yarn sale. So you should definitely check that out. It's a good time to stock up on yarn for either your Warm Up America projects or just your personal projects. So we're gonna get going with our rectangle. And another really cool tip that Warm Up America gives you is you might wonder like, "How do I know that my rectangle is going to be exactly seven inches by nine inches if I follow a pattern?" And what you can do is cut out cardboard and use it as a template so as you're working, you can kinda go, "Oh, is this wide enough? Is this long enough?" and kind of adjust from there. So I thought that was a really cool tip. And I took that tip and also made myself a little template for swatching a gauge. And if you don't know what gauge is, it's sort of the size of your stitches, and it determines the size of your project. So if you're really aiming for a specific measurement, you need to make sure that your gauge matches the pattern's gauge that you're working with. So normally they're based on a four-inch by four-inch square. And whatever yarn you're using, I'm using a worsted weight yarn and an H hook. And if you crochet tighter or more loosely than I do, your gauge might be different. So you just wanna make sure that your gauge swatch can match this four-inch by four-inch square. So for me, the gauge that I work in is about 16 single crochets across by 18 rows up. So however you're working, if you can match up with those numbers, then my pattern will turn out seven inches by nine inches for you. So let's get all that technical stuff out of the way, and we can start with the stitching. What I'm going to do is show you this pattern in three colors because I figured it's a live,

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let's go big, let's make it exciting. (chuckles) But this pattern also is really cute in two colors. So you can also work it... I just started a little bit here just with red and green. But we're gonna go for all three. So what you're going to do is start by chaining with white. And if you're new to crocheting, Creativebug also has a lot of fun and helpful beginner crochet classes. You can check out the one by Cal Patch. I think that's a really great place to start if you're a beginner. So we're going to start with a chain 32. So chaining is just yarning over and pulling through that first loop, and that's chain one. And I'm going to do 32 chains total. Sorry, (laughs) I'm looking at my pattern too. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, (laughs) 31, 32. Okay, and this is we're creating this length here. So to start your first row... Sorry, there's a lot of strings all over my table. What you do to begin is you skip the first chain from your hook, and then you're just going to work single crochets for the entire first row. So single crochet is you insert your hook into this next chain, yarn over, pull through the first loop, yarn over, and pull through both loops on your hook. And that's one single crochet stitch. And I'm just gonna keep working one single crochet into each chain across. And again, if this is a little too fast or it's confusing, definitely check out the beginner crochet classes, as they are really helpful. And if you have any questions along the way today or after today's live, we have Erica moderating (laughs) our Facebook page, so you can ask her questions live, and I can answer them for you right now while we're working, but also if you think of questions later, we can always address them. I'll go back and look at all the comments in case you guys have questions. Oops, sorry, I'm just (laughs), just gonna hit the camera a little bit. So I'm still single crocheting my way across these chains. So the first row is super easy, and it's kind of a good warm-up to get your rectangle going. So I'm almost done here. And the strawberry stitch is a little fussy, but I think it's really worth the effort to kind of work slowly and go through it, and you'll become a pro in no time. So I'm at the end of my first row, and we're gonna chain one and turn. I think I chain two and turn. And our first three stitches are just going to be regular double crochet stitches, so they're a little taller than the single crochet stitches we just worked. That's one, two, and I'll slow down for the third one, because we're also changing colors here. So you're gonna yarn over, insert your hook into the next stitch, yarn over, pull through the first loop, yarn over, pull through the first two loops. And normally to finish this stitch, you would yarn over and pull through, but we're gonna finish this stitch with our second color, the strawberry color, which is red. And this makes our color change really clean. So I'm going to join my red yarn and finish that stitch with the red. What we're also doing, which makes it complicated, is carrying this white yarn along so we can use it later without breaking it off. So to start the strawberry stitch, you're going to work five double crochets into the next stitch. So here's my first double crochet. Here's the second one in that same stitch, in the same spot. Three, four, and five. Now what you do is you take your hook off, so pull up a little bit of yarn so you don't unravel your stitches. You insert your hook back into the work, in the first red double crochet stitch you worked. Pick up this loop again. And we're gonna bring in our third color, which is this green. Oops. Untangle this a little bit. So you're gonna pull. This is actually a popcorn stitch. So you're gonna finish your popcorn stitch by pulling in this green yarn, and it kind of draws this popcorn stitch together, and it'll make it pop out. It's super cute. So to make our strawberry leaves, we're going to work a single crochet four together, which is decreasing these four red stitches basically into one green stitch. So you wanna chain one and insert your hook back into that first red double crochet. Yarn over and pull through one. And you're going into the next stitch and yarning over and pulling through one, and you're doing that with the next four stitches. And you do have one more double crochet back here, but it's so hard to reach and it's kinda weird to get your hook through it, that I just, I think it's okay to ignore it. We can just leave that. So you

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finish this decrease by yarning over and pulling through all of these loops, and you can sort of see our strawberry forming, and it's super, super adorable. So to secure this really (chuckles) funky decrease stitch we just worked, I'm going to drop my green and pick up the red, or, sorry, pick up the white and chain one. And you can tug on the green yarn to kind of tighten that all up. We're not working in that slip stitch, so you don't have to worry about it being super tiny. And now you have to carry along these two pieces of yarn. So if you're not used to manipulating all these strands, it might take some used to, but it's really helps that you don't have to break off your yarn and keep weaving in like a kabillion ends at the end of your project. So I'm gonna continue with three more double crochets. There's a nice space between our strawberry stitches. Oops, I think I missed. You kinda wanna check back here and see if you've missed working around your carried stitches. And don't forget, which I just did, so I'm gonna take this out, to switch back to your red yarn for your second strawberry. So what we're basically doing is alternating strawberry stitches with these white double crochets to space out the little berries. We're just creating our little pattern. So I'm gonna work the second strawberry stitch here. And taking out my hook, and this is the popcorn. You're picking up your green yarn, yarning over. There's the chain, and this is our decrease. This is the single crochet four together. You can start to see this forming. This is super adorable. I think it's my new favorite. So we're gonna chain one, and then we're back to our double crochets. And the nine-inch-wide swatch admittedly is quite wide, so these rows are gonna take a bit of time. I do wanna try to get you through the end of this first row because there's a little bit to show you as far as our second row. I guess it's our third row. Our third row is just single crochets worked evenly again, but you'll see it gets a little weird because of the strawberry stitch, so I just wanna show you that. I know that in general, watching crochet is not (laughs) super exciting, but I think it'll be helpful if you can be patient with me for just a little bit. So that's our decrease again. - [Erica] Katie's wondering if the written pattern will be available to view once this live is over. - That is an excellent question. Katie is wondering if this pattern will be available somewhere, and I think what we'll do is we'll put it in the description afterward on the Facebook page. And I'm not sure if this live will live on our site or not 'cause a lot of them do. But if it does happen (chuckles) to live on the site, you can probably just search strawberry stitch. And we can also just copy that pattern into the description on our site as well. And again, if you're like, "This strawberry stitch is so crazy. There's no way I wanna deal with it," warmupamerica.org has patterns already there for you. And they do have a variety of stitches there too where you can learn like shells. I can't remember all of them right now, but there are basic stitches and then kind of some more fun stitches so you can also practice with those. We're almost at the end. (laughs) It's gonna get exciting. - And for those who have just joined, can you clarify one more time exactly what you're making? - So for those of you who have just joined, we are making a nine-inch by seven-inch rectangle piece using this really cute stitch called the strawberry stitch. And what you do with these rectangles is with an organization called Warm Up America, you can donate hats, scarves, and blankets to charitable organizations, you know, to like clothe the homeless or refugees or veterans. And the cool thing about these squares is if you don't have the time or the resources to finish an entire blanket, you can just make a square. And then you can send your squares, or I guess rectangles, into Warm Up America, and their volunteers are trained to sew them all together. So you don't ever (chuckles) really have an excuse where you're like, "Oh, I don't really have time." Even if you have, you know, like half an hour, you can still help make a difference in someone's life. And I don't know, I think that's really cool. It makes crocheting for a cause very easy. Think I have maybe two more strawberries to go. Also, if your yarn is getting really tangly, you don't have to worry about it because we're going to break it off anyway,

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and then you can sort of reassess at that point. - [Erica] Can you share a little bit more about our Facebook group that we have just created? - [Twinkie] Sure. Erica is asking me to share more (chuckles) about the Facebook group we've just created. For Courtney and Faith's maternity leave, we knew that we wouldn't be able to have as regular Facebook Lives as normal, so we established our Facebook group, and that's... Do we have like a link for that? - No link. - Okay. And we wanted to create a space for you guys who missed each other, 'cause I know you guys talk to each other in the comments during the lives, for just any of your crafty biz, like whatever projects you're working on, maybe just something new you saw that inspired you. So we wanted to really create a fun space for you to hang out with other like-minded people. So you should definitely join and check it out. It's kind of in its infancy right now, which is cool for you because you can really sort of direct what this Facebook group will become. Okay, we're almost done. (laughs) The crew, I think, is like rolling their eyes, like, "Why are you doing this?" (laughs) Okay, (laughs) all righty. So when you're at the end of your row, let's get that last one in, you can cut off these really fiddly red and green pieces. Just gonna break that off. Don't break off the white one, we're still using that one. And I won't take you through the whole entire row three. And again, you can check out the pattern later when we post it. So chain one, and you can just work regularly, one single crochet in each stitch here for your first three. And when you take a closer look at this strawberry stitch, there's kind of a lot happening here, and you'll probably wonder, "Where the heck do I stick my hook?" And this strawberry stitch actually is just equal to one stitch, so you're only working one single crochet stitch in this whole strawberry. And I suggest you put it as far to the left as possible into this red stitch because the strawberry stitch kind of leans to the left, and so we're using this opportunity to kinda like wrangle it back in so that your whole rectangle doesn't turn into a parallelogram, 'cause we want it to have a lot of right angles and fit right into the other seven-inch by nine-inch squares that people are donating. So let me show that to you one more time. So when you work into the strawberry, just go all the way over here. Skip all of this and go all the way over here and work your single crochet stitch. And that's basically it. Let's turn it around and look at the front. You can see like all these super cute strawberries that are starting to form. I hope you liked checking that out. I had a lot of fun researching it. Apparently there's kind of a legend behind the strawberry stitch. It started as like a tapestry crochet pattern that someone posted, I think it was in a different language. It was in like Thai, and people were trying to interpret it and try to figure it out, and it became this whole like mystery that people were chasing. But now we've sort of (chuckles) sussed out the mystery, and hopefully now you can incorporate this into all your projects. So thank you for joining us. Thanks for hanging out with me. I don't think we have... Do we have any more questions before I (laughs) cut it off? Okay, so don't forget to check out our Facebook group. And I'll be back with Warm Up America, I think every last Thursday of the month. So if you also have other projects you'd like us to show you that are related to Warm Up America, we are always open to your suggestions. So thanks so much. Bye! (upbeat music)

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