Crochet Sampler: A Daily Practice with Twinkie Chan

Chapter 1 - Crochet Sampler: A Daily Practice

Overview

(upbeat music) - This is the moment that you learn how to crochet. I'm Twinkie Chan. I've been a crochet designer since 2005 and I can't count how many times people have told me, "I wish I could crochet. I'm trying to crochet but I'm just so frustrated. I've given up and I can't do it." But I believe that you can. It's going to take a little bit of practice, some consistency, some guidance from me and we'll take it one day at a time. The first 10 days of this daily practice are for absolute beginners. We'll start at square one, talking about what goes in your crochet tool kit, how to hold the yarn and how to hold the hook. We'll go on to learning basic crochet techniques, such as the foundation chain, how to work a single crochet stitch, increasing and decreasing, working in rows and working in the round. If you're lefthanded, don't worry, we didn't forget about you. Days two to five will have a special modified section just for you. Once you're comfortable, I'll teach you one new stitch a day. With each stitch, you'll create a small square swatch. These swatches will range from super easy to slightly more elaborate and they should be interesting for crocheters of all levels. Once you have all your squares, I'll teach you how to seam them together and create a wall hanging to commemorate everything that you've learned. I love crocheting. It's accessible, portable. You don't have to spend a lot of money to start. It brings me so much joy and freedom to create anything that I want and I'm so excited to share that joy with you. (upbeat music)

Day 1 - Crochet tool kit

- To get started with any crochet project, you really just need a ball of yarn and a crochet hook. But you might be wondering which yarn and which hooks, and we're gonna talk all about what goes into your basic crochet toolkit. For this class, I'm going to be using Red Heart Super Saver. It's a medium weight yarn, what we call a worsted weight yarn. And it's really accessible, you can find it at most craft stores. And I find that for beginners a medium weight is the easiest to start with. You want to look for the number four on your yarn label, which tells you what weight it is. And if you want to know exactly what colors I'm using, this is baby pink, minty, coral, perfect pink, this is soft white, and gold. You can just start with one color, but ultimately, we'll be making a bunch of little swatches and I like to have mine in various colors, so that's why I picked these six. But you can definitely just start with one color. I also wanted to show you some other kinds of yarn so that you know what to avoid as a beginner. This yarn, it's a scrubby cotton, has the number four on it, it's the right weight, but it has all these sort of little fuzzy things coming off of it. Your number one goal is to learn what your crochet stitches are going to look like. So you want something really plain. This is an example of a weight number three, this is slightly too thin. So it might be too slippery, so you want to avoid anything too fine. And this is just definitely a big no no for you if you are a beginner. It's bulky, it's a number five, and it's super fuzzy, it'll be hard for you to wrap your head around. So definitely stick with the number four medium. If you have something laying around the house that looks like this, it's variegated which means there are different colors going through one strand of yarn. That actually can be super helpful for a beginner, because it'll help you sort of see different stitches apart from each other. So if you have something that's plain and not fuzzy but it has some color variation going through it, that's great and you can work with that as well. For crochet hooks, my favorite brand is Susan Bates. It's what I first started to crochet with and it's what I've used ever since. There

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are a lot of different types and brands of hooks out there, and we'll talk a little bit about what those all are. If you only have to buy one size hook, I would suggest an H or an I, which is a really good size to go with a medium weight yarn. This Susan Bates is what we call an inline hook which means the neck or the shaft of the hook is in line with the head, there's no angle here. And also the Susan Bates has a fairly deep throat here or neck and I like that because it's really easy to catch the yarn. And the Susan Bates also has a fairly pointy tip which can help you insert your hook into your stitches. If you pick up a Clover or Boye brand hook, these are called tapered hooks. You can see the tip of this hook is slightly more rounded rather than pointy. You can also see that the throat is much more shallow than then the Susan Bates. For me, that makes it more difficult to pick up my yarn when I'm crocheting, but again, this is gonna be up to you, and if you have the chance to play with both styles, that's great. You'll also see that the shaft here doesn't quite meet with the head of the hook. It's slightly angled outward. So that can also affect the feel of the crochet hook going through your yarn. I like to use a Susan Bates with a bamboo handle. It's slightly more ergonomic, but it's the exact same head and shaft as the one without the bamboo handle. So if you are just starting and you don't wanna spend a lot of money, go ahead and buy this set that has all the sizes that you'll need for most projects, and you're not spending a ton of money on anything super fancy. Your hooks can also come in all kinds of materials, this is a wooden one. They can tend to be expensive. They have this kind of fancy little handle so you don't need to go here but if you're gifted them, that's kind of a fun treat as well. And some people prefer the feel of wood versus metal, so you can play with that too. You want to avoid super jumbo hooks like this. They won't work with your medium weight yarn at all, but it's kind of fun to see what kind of tools are out there for you to try. You'll also need a tapestry needle. This is a size 16, I just buy a bunch in a packet like this because I tend to lose them. But one should get you through all your projects, this is great for medium weight yarn. In my kit, I tend to have a slightly larger one too in case I have a bulky yarn project, but the size 16 is definitely my go to. I prefer the ones that are just straight. You can also buy yarn needles that have this angle at the top. A lot of my crochet friends prefer this, but for me it doesn't make much of a difference whether their tip has an angle or not, but you can definitely play with that as well. You need a pair of scissors, it doesn't matter what kind as long as they snip through your yarn. You might also want some stitch markers. I actually don't use stitch markers a lot in my day to day work. I just use pieces of scrap yarn because it's just easier for me. But you can certainly buy a set of stitch markers, they kind of look like little safety pins and you can also use safety pins too. They're a little more blunt than the metal safety pins so they won't tear up your yarn as much. And we'll get into when are good moments to use your stitch markers. So they're not essential but I know a lot of people like to use them. For my projects, I also like to have a bunch of straight pins, just for putting stuff together and sewing different crochet pieces together. So those are always good to have around as well. My most favorite part is picking a little bag for all your tools. This is my go to banana bag. It doesn't matter what your bag looks like, it can be a little more dignified like this. But it's the perfect size, I put all my bamboo handled hooks in here and my tapestry needle and scissors float around there, which is probably why I lose my tapestry needles, but feel free to explore any kind of zippered bag that you like for your tool bag. I also recommend that you have either a measuring tape or a ruler. We'll get into, but that's for a bit later. I'll be using a sharpie to sort of draw on my crochet projects to help you see where your stitches are. I don't really think you need that in your kit, but if you also want to draw along with me, a sharpie is great. You'll also maybe you need a piece of cardboard, we'll talk about why it's optional, it's up to you. And if you're going to put together a wall hanging with all of your stitch sampler squares at the end of the

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class, you will need a wooden dowel that's about two inches longer than the width of your wall hanging. So since that doesn't exist yet, you might wanna wait on the dowel, but if you have one laying around the house, it will definitely come in handy.

Day 2 - How to hold a crochet hook and make a chain
- The very first part of your crochet project will be a chain. We're gonna talk about how to hold the yarn, how to hold the hook, and then how to create a yarn over to produce that chain. Grab your ball of yarn. If you're wondering which end to use, the Red Heart Super Saver makes this super easy. There's actually a little diagram on the back. So this tail hanging off on the left, leave that one alone. You wanna use the number two side here because this yarn is coming through the center of the ball, which will make feeding your yarn out so much easier. If you use this outside tail, your yarn ball will keep rotating around and around and around as you work, which is really annoying. And there are different tools to keep that from happening, but I think if you're pulling from the center, that'll make your life a lot easier. Start off with about a six to eight-inch yarn tail. This is to help us weave in our ends later. We'll get to that. And you wanna start all your projects with a slipknot. However you make that slip knot is up to you. Probably the easiest way is to do that with your hands, and I'll show you how to do that with a hook in just a second. So if you make your slipknot, it's just making a loop with your yarn, and then you can grab the tail through that loop, and you make your slipknot right here. You can put your hook right into that slipknot. Tighten it up a little bit, not too tight. You wanna be able to slide your yarn up and down fairly easily, especially when you're starting out. It's better to crochet too loosely than too tightly because you want to be able to stick your hook back into all the stitches that you're making. If they're too small, you're gonna be struggling to shove that hook in, and it'll just be just really difficult for you. The next step is learning how to hold your yarn, and there is definitely more than way to do this. I'm gonna teach you how I was taught. If it doesn't feel right, or if it feels like a speed bump in your crochet process, however you hold the yarn and wrap it is totally fine. Everyone is gonna have a different style from instructor to instructor. What I do is open my nondominant hand, that's my left hand, and you're going to stick the yarn between your pinky and your ring finger like this. So I have my hook in the front of my hand and the rest of my yarn coming out the back. I'm then going to wrap this yarn on top of my index finger, back toward me, and I hold the yarn with my thumb and my third finger. Do that one more time. Take your yarn. You kind of do a Pac-Man with your pinky finger and your ring finger. Chomp onto your yarn. Wrap it over your index finger, back toward you and under your index finger, and hold that yarn between your thumb and your middle finger. Ultimately, what you're doing is your thumb and your middle finger will kind of move around a lot along this yarn. I also use it to hold whatever stitch that I'm working on to keep it stable. So there's a lot of movement and flux, and you'll get the hang of it as you go. If this hand formation, again, is awkward, you can forget it altogether for now and just start using your left hand to wrap your yarn around your hook. That's totally cool also. But I'll show you how I do it. I just feel like it's a good practice, and it's just more efficient for me as I get deeper and deeper into my crochet adventure. To start your foundation chain, and this is the one thing you're going to accomplish today, and if you can get that down, you're totally gold. So let's start with a yarn over. The abbreviation for that in patterns is YO. With the yarn over, I'm going to lean my crochet hook back into my working area and grab the yarn. That's the yarn over. The yarn is over my hook right now. And to make the chain, you're going to pull through. Pull the hook through the slipknot like that. That's one chain. You made one chain! (laughs) That's awesome. This is the number one most important step. And once you get the feel for yarning over and chaining, that's

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essentially the one movement you need to know how to do for crocheting. Going to keep yarning over and pulling through. You can see as I make more chains, I'm gonna move my thumb and my middle finger upward to hold onto those stitches. And my yarn over is leaning back to pick up the yarn, pulling through the chain that's already on my hook. Not too tight. Again, keep it as loose as possible, especially in the beginning. If your chains end up looking bigger than mine because you're crocheting a little bit more loosely, that's totally okay. Just keep practicing. This I would say is a really loose chain. It's kind of bubbly. But it's a good moment to pause, point out the parts of the chain that will come in handy for when you're knowing where to put your hook into more advanced stitches. Take my hook out. If you ever take your hook out of your yarn, I would pull the loop bigger, just so you don't start undoing any of your work. Take my Sharpie. So this is the front of your chain. It looks like a bunch of Vs or a braid. And try to color one of the chains in without making my fingers all black. You can see I've colored in one of the chains. It makes kind of a V. So I have my tapestry needle through the two legs here. There's a right leg and a left leg. If you look on the back of your chain, it's a little bumpier. And they do literally call this the bump of the chain. Sometimes you work through the back bump. For the most part, I ignore that. I usually just use the front of my chain for when we get into more crochet stitches. So that's the basic anatomy of what we call your foundation chain. It's the foundation of all your projects. Your homework is to keep chaining. Just keep making these chains. Make at least two, three yards of chains. Your ultimate goal here is to make them as uniform and even as possible. And you know that you're doing them correctly because this is essentially just one giant slipknot. It should all just unravel really easily when you pull this out. If you want to what we call break off the chain or finish any project so that your chain won't unravel, what you do is simply cut your yarn. Give yourself, again, about a six to eight-inch yarn tail. And to break off, we yarn over, pull through your chain, and pull the yarn tail all the way through. This makes its own little knot, and your project won't go anywhere.

Day 2 - Left Hand Dominant - How to hold a crochet hook and make a chain
- The very first part of your crochet project will be a chain. We're gonna talk about how to hold the yarn, how to hold the hook, and then how to create a yarn over to produce that chain. Grab your ball of yarn, if you're wondering which end to use, the Red Heart Super Saver makes this super easy. There's actually a little diagram on the back. So this tail hanging off on the left, leave that one alone, you wanna use the number two side here, because this yarn is coming through the center of the ball, which will make feeding your yarn out so much easier. If you use this outside tail, your yarn ball will keep rotating around and around and around as you work which is really annoying and there are different tools to keep that from happening. But I think if you're pulling from the center, that will make your life a lot easier. Start off with about a six to eight inch yarn tail, this is to help us weave in our ends later, we'll get to that, and you wanna start all your projects with slip knot. However you make that slip knot is up to you. Probably the easiest way is to do that with your hands, and I'll show you how to do that with a hook in just a second. So if you make your slip knot, it's just making a loop with your yarn. And then you can grab the tail through that loop and you make your slip knot right here. You can put your hook right into that slip knot, tighten it up a little bit, not too tight, you wanna be able to slide your yarn up and down fairly easily, especially when you're starting out. It's better to crochet too loosely than too tightly because you want to be able to stick your hook back into all the stitches that you're making. If they're too small, you're gonna be struggling to shove that hook in and it'll just be just really difficult for you. The next step is learning how to hold your yarn and there is definitely more than way to do this. I'm gonna teach you how I was taught. If it doesn't

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feel right or if it feels like a speed bump in your crochet process, however you hold the yarn and wrap it is totally fine. Everyone is gonna have a different style from instructor to instructor. What I do is open my non-dominant hand and you're going to stick the yarn between your pinky and your ring finger like this. So I have my hook in the front of my hand and the rest of my yarn coming out the back. I'm then going to wrap this yarn on top of my index finger back toward me, and I hold the yarn with my thumb and my third finger. I'll do that one more time. Take your yarn, you kind of do a Pac-Man with your pinky finger and your ring finger, chomp onto your yarn, wrap it over your index finger back toward you and under your index finger and hold that yarn between your thumb and your middle finger. Ultimately, what you're doing is you're thumb and your middle finger will kind of move around a lot along this yarn. I also use it to hold whatever stitch that I'm working on to keep it stable. So there's a lot of movement and flex and you'll get the hang of it as you go. If this hand formation again is awkward, you can forget it all together for now, and just start using your right hand to wrap your yarn around your hook. That's totally cool also. But I'll show you how I do it, I just feel like it's a good practice, and it's just more efficient for me as I get deeper and deeper into my crochet adventure. To start your foundation chain, and this is the one thing you're going to accomplish today, and if you can get that down, you're totally gold. So let's start with a yarn over, the abbreviation for that in patterns is yo. With the yarn over, I'm going to lean my crochet hook back into my working area and grab the yarn. It's the yarn over, the yarn is over my hook right now. And to make the chain, you're going to pull through. Pull the hook through the slip knot. That's one chain. You made one chain, that's awesome. This is the number one most important step and once you get the feel for yarning over and chaining, that's essentially the one movement you need to know how to do for crocheting. I'm gonna to keep yarning over and pulling through. You can see as I make more chains, I'm gonna move my thumb and my middle finger upward to hold onto those stitches, and my yarn over is leaning back to pick up the yarn, pulling through the chain that's already on my hook, not too tight. Again, keep it as loose as possible, especially in the beginning. If your chains end up looking bigger than mine because you're crocheting a little bit more loosely, that's totally okay, just keep practicing. This I would say is a really loose chain, it's kind of bubbly. But it's a good moment to pause, point out the parts of the chain that will come in handy for when you're knowing where to put your hook into more advanced stitches. I'm gonna take my hook out, if you ever take your hook out of your yarn, I would pull the loop bigger just so you don't start undoing any of your work. Take my sharpie. So this is the front of your chain, it looks like a bunch of Vs or a braid. I'm gonna try to color one of the chains in without making my fingers all black. You can see I've colored in one of the chains, it makes kind of a V, so I have my tapestry needle through the two legs here, there's a right leg and the left leg. If you look on the back of your chain, it's a little bumpier. And they do literally call this the bump of the chain. Sometimes you work through the back bump. For the most part, I ignore that. I usually just use the front of my chain for when we get into more crochet stitches. So that's the basic anatomy of what we call your foundation chain, it's the foundation of all your projects. But your homework is to keep chaining, just keep making these chains, make at least like two three yards of chains. Your ultimate goal here is to make them as uniform and even as possible. And you know that you're doing them correctly because this is essentially just one giant slip knot. It should all just unravel really easily when you pull this out. If you want to what we call break off the chain or finish any project so that your chain won't unravel, what you do is simply cut your yarn, give yourself again about a six to eight inch yarn tail. And to break off, we yarn over, pull through your chain and pull the yarn tail all the way through. This makes its own little knot and your project won't go anywhere.

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Day 3 - Single crochet
- Now that you're a master of making chains, we'll start with the very first basic crochet stitch, which we call the single crochet stitch. Using my curly yarn today. And I'm also gonna show you how I put my slipknot onto my hook. I already have my hand in my standard formation and what I do is stick my hook into this working area. I kind of bend it down and around. I hold onto my yarn loop with my thumb and my middle finger, yarn over and pull through. To me it's just more efficient than making the slipknot and then putting it on the chain, but again, whatever you do is perfect. Whatever is comfortable works. To start my single crochet, I'm going to need my foundation chain. For this swatch I'm gonna chain 15. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15. It should look like that. To start the first row of your single crochet swatch you're always going to skip the very first chain, this allows the yarn to kind of flip around and it gives you room for your stitch, otherwise your first stitch is gonna be really squished. So skip that first chain, we call that the turning chain, and you'll see why in a little bit. And then into your next chain I'm just going to insert my hook into the top leg of this V on the chain. Yarn over and pull through that very first loop. You should have two loops on your hook. So I'm gonna yarn over and pull through both loops and that's the single crochet stitch. Super easy, right? Do it again. I'm gonna pull out some more yarn. Remember, the more loosely you work, it's going to be more easy for you to put your hook back into your stitches. So if it's super tight, you might wanna start over and like loosen up your hands and crochet a little loosely. You might also find that you need to move up a crochet hook size, I'm using an H, you might feel more comfortable with an I, this is all stuff that you can play around with. There's really no wrong answer. I'm gonna work my next single crochet into my next chain. So you can see this loop, I already have a stitch in it. I'm gonna go to the next one here, insert my hook, yarn over, pull through the first loop, yarn over, pull through two loops. Going to crochet a couple more and then we can talk about the anatomy of the single crochet stitch. Another thing I wanted to point out about technique is what your left hand and right hand are doing can be different from crocheter to crocheter, so I'm using my right hand a lot to yarn over and do the pull through. Some people will use their left hand more to actively wrap the yarn around their hook like this. If that's more comfortable for you to do the wrap around here, that's totally correct also, this is just preference. When I slowed myself down, I realized I kind of do a combination of both. For me it's like a little dance where the left hand kind of bobs up and down, it's just helping feed the yarn through and keeping even tension. Remember to always use your thumb and your middle finger to hold onto stitches. And that can move around depending on where you are in your stitch and your chain. So when you get to the very last chain, you should have 14 single crochets. And this can be the tough part for a beginner. It's like what is actually my stitch? What did I actually just make? You might end up with more than 14 stitches, or less than 14 stitches, and that's totally okay. You're probably gonna end up with a blob rather than a square when you first start out. And we've all make blobs, it's totally fine. You just need to be consistent and keep practicing. Eventually that muscle memory is going to kick right in. So let's try to pick apart the anatomy of the stitches a little bit. I think that'll be helpful as we go forward. Again, I have 14 single crochets here. Try to use my Sharpie to help point out what a crochet stitch is. I'm gonna go in the center. So the front of the stitch also has a V, like your foundation chain. So in the front there's gonna be a V and the top of your stitch has another V, which can be a little confusing in the beginning. And the tops here are what we're going to work our next row of stitches in. So you can see I have my needle in a V. This is the V that I marked with the Sharpie. Here's the next V. So again, that's the top of your stitches and here's the front, so here's a front V here. We will not be working in those, showing you the different

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parts. Here's the front V I tried to mark with a Sharpie, a little unsuccessfully. So when you're counting your stitches, it's easier to count the top Vs, so here's one, two, three, four, five, six, seven's my Sharpie one, eight, nine, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14. It's probably a good practice to count your stitches after every row, especially when you're starting out, it's going to feel very tedious, but if you're trying to make a square, you don't wanna find out that you missed a stitch or crocheted an extra stitch four rows down and then you're gonna have to take out four whole rows of work and start over. So in the beginning, count after every row. Stick my hook back into my loop. If you're confused about why we chained 15 and then ended up with 14 single crochets, remember we skipped that turning chain at the very beginning and we're gonna make another chain here. (murmurs) Going to turn, we're going to chain one, which is that turning chain, and then turn our project. Now we're looking at the back of it. Again, this turning chain gives us room. It makes sure our next row is not squished. It's equal to about the height of one single crochet stitch. And the taller your stitches, the more turning chains you'll have to create, and we'll get into that as we crochet taller and taller stitches. To start your second row, row two of your single crochet swatch, you're going to insert your hook into both loops that are at the top of your stitch. So you can see I've caught the entire V of the top of my single crochet. Again, yarn over. And I count this as a pull through one, because it's just one stitch basically, even though it's technically two loops. Yarn over and pull through two, just as before. And once again, you wanna move over to your next stitch. Make sure you're catching both of those loops, yarn over, pull through one, yarn over, and pull through both. And keep doing that all the way down your row. And again, you should have 14 single crochet stitches when you get to the end. If you found that your stitch count is off, it can be hard in the beginning to tell where you went wrong, so you might have to unravel the whole row. So again, for just unraveling a mistake, it's really easy, you just pull, just undo your work carefully until you get to the spot where you wanna start over. And you can put your hook back into the yarn loop and you can get going again. Probably one of the most common mistakes you'll run into is adding a second stitch back into the same spot. This is gonna be very difficult for you to see as a beginner, but just so you know, that's probably a mistake that you'll make as you just get started on your crochet journey. So if you can see, I actually have two stitches here in my second row coming out of one stitch in my first row. That's an increase, we will do these on purpose later, but if you're doing it accidentally, just take out that second stitch. You also wanna be careful about not skipping a stitch. So if I might accidentally skip this one and crochet into the next, that'll make your stitch count too low. We can also hunt around for spots where you might have accidentally skipped one. Some people also start only working in one loop or the other of the stitch, and that's not incorrect. I'm gonna do a couple just working in one loop so you can see, but it's gonna leave a line here. It's a technique we do on purpose, called either working in the back loop or the front loop, and we'll get to that later, but just for these swatches, when you're working a regular crochet stitch, always work into both loops of your previous row, otherwise you'll alter the texture, you'll alter the appearance and it can also make the fabric more stretchy and change the shape entirely. So working in both loops is really important as you get started. I'm at the end of my row two. Your swatch should look something like this. It might look a little bit more loose, and that's totally okay. And again, at the end of your row, chain one, that's your turning chain and does not count as part of your stitch count, and just repeat the same thing. You're going to crochet one single crochet into each stitch. What you're going to do ultimately is try to turn this into a square, so just keep single crocheting evenly. When we work evenly that means no increasing, no decreasing, your stitch count will be the same. It's one stitch into each stitch from the previous row. And for me, to create a square, I had to work 15 rows of

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single crochet. So keep crocheting and ultimately you'll have a square like this. How did I pick this size of square? My goal was to make four inch by four inch swatches for the entirety of this class. Four by four to me was kind of a digestible, friendly, not too big, not too small. You'll get plenty of practice each day with each stitch, but it's not too overwhelming. Four by four is also a very typical size for a gauge swatch. And when we talk about gauge, that's the tension you're working in, it's how many stitches you're working and how many rows you're working to achieve a four by four inch square. And that's gonna change from how loosely or tightly you work, what size your hook is, how heavy your yarn is, so it can differ from person to person and project to project, but that's why my ultimate goal for all these patterns was to create a four by four inch swatch in my own gauge. And in going forward, in order to make sure that all my squares were the same, I cut out a little four by four inch piece of cardboard. Since you're a beginner, I don't expect your gauge to be the exact same as mine and it doesn't have to be, we're not making a sweater, or something that has to have an exact fit. Right now we're just getting you comfortable with crocheting, comfortable with looking at stitches, but I do like to give you a goal. So that's just to make a square a day. If your square is bigger than mine, that's totally fine. You don't even have to worry about the four by four, that was sort of a measuring stick for me. You can take your own square and a piece of cardboard and you can measure out the square, or you can just Sharpie around it, cut out your own square. If yours ends up being five inches by five inches, or three and 1/2 by three and 1/2 inches, that's totally fine. Ultimately the exact stitch count or row count doesn't matter. The actual size doesn't matter, but from day-to-day you just want consistency and that's how your own cardboard square will come really in handy. If you've crocheted only 13 or 14 rows and your shape is already a square, it's totally okay to stop there and break off your yarn. As long as your squares are the same size from day-to-day, that's your ultimate goal.

Day 3 - Left Hand Dominant - Single crochet

- Now that you're a master of making chains, we'll start with the very first basic crochet stitch, which we call the single crochet stitch. Using my coral yarn today. And I'm also gonna show you how I put my slipknot onto my hook. I already have my hand in my standard formation. And what I do is stick my hook into this working area. I kind of bend it down and around. I hold on to my yarn loop with my thumb and my middle finger. Yarn over and pull through. To me, it's just more efficient than making the slipknot and then putting it on the chain. But again, whatever you do is perfect. Whatever is comfortable works. To start my single crochet, I'm going to need my foundation chain. For this swatch, I'm gonna chain 15. That's 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15. Should look like that. To start the first row of your single crochet swatch, you're always going to skip the very first chain. This allows the yarn to kind of flip around, and it gives you room for your stitch. Otherwise, your first stitch is gonna be really squished. So skip that first chain. We call that the turning chain, and you'll see why in a little bit. And then into your next chain, I'm just going to insert my hook into the top leg of this V on the chain Yarn over and pull through that very first loop. You should have two loops on your hook. Then I'm gonna yarn over and pull through both loops. And that's the single crochet stitch. Super easy, right? We'll do it again. Gonna pull out some more yarn. Remember, the more loosely you work, it's going to be more easy for you to put your hook back into your stitches. So if it's super tight, you might wanna start over and loosen up your hands and crochet a little loosely. You might also find that you need to move up a crochet hook size. I'm using an H. You might feel more comfortable with an I. This is all stuff that you can play around with. There's really no wrong answer. Gonna work my next single crochet into my next chain. So you can

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see this loop, I already have a stitch in it. Gonna go to the next one here. Insert my hook, yarn over, pull through the first loop, yarn over, pull through two loops. Going to crochet a couple more, and then we can talk about the anatomy of the single crochet stitch. Another thing I wanted to point out about technique is what your left hand and right hand are doing can be different from crocheter to crocheter. So I'm using my left hand a lot to yarn over and do the pull-through. Some people will use their right hand more to actively wrap the yarn around their hook like this. If that's more comfortable for you to do the wraparound here, that's totally correct also. This is just preference. When I slowed myself down, I realized I kind of do a combination of both. For me, it's like a little dance where my right hand kind of bobs up and down. It's just helping feed the yarn through and keep an even tension. Remember to always use your thumb and your middle finger to hold on to stitches. And that can move around depending on where you are in your stitch and your chain. So when you get to the very last chain, you should have 14 single crochets. And this can be the tough part for a beginner. It's like, what is actually my stitch? What did I actually just make? You might end up with more than 14 stitches or less than 14 stitches, and that's totally okay. You're probably gonna end up with a blob rather than a square when you first start out. We've all made blobs. It's totally fine. You just need to be consistent and keep practicing. Eventually that muscle memory is going to kick right in. So let's try to pick apart the anatomy of the stitches a little bit. I think that'll be helpful as we go forward. Again, I have 14 single crochets here. Try to use my Sharpie to help point out what a crochet stitch is. I'm gonna go in the center. So the front of the stitch also has a V like your foundation chain. So the front, there's gonna be a V, and the top of your stitch has another V, which can be a little confusing in the beginning. And the tops here are what we're going to work our next row of stitches in. So you can see I have my needle and a V. This is the V that I marked with a Sharpie. Here's the next V. So again, that's the top of your stitches, and here's the front. So here's a front V here. We will not be working in those. Just showing you the different parts. Here's the front V I tried (laughs) to mark with a Sharpie a little unsuccessfully. So when you're counting your stitches, it's easier to count the top Vs. So here's 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7's my Sharpie one, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14. It's probably a good practice to count your stitches after every row, especially when you're starting out. It's going to feel very tedious, but if you're trying to make a square, you don't wanna find out that you missed a stitch or crocheted an extra stitch four rows down, and then you're gonna have to take out four whole rows of work and start over. So in the beginning, count after every row. Stick my hook back into my loop. If you're confused about why we chained 15 and then ended up with 14 single crochets, remember we skipped that turning chain at the very beginning, we're going to make another chain here. And to turn, we're going to chain one, which is that turning chain, and then turn our project. Now we're looking at the back of it. Again, this turning chain gives us room. It makes sure our next row is not squished. It's equal to about the height of one single crochet stitch. And the taller your stitches, the more turning chains you'll have to create, and we'll get into that as we crochet taller and taller stitches. To start your second row, row two of your single crochet swatch, you're going to insert your hook into both loops that are the top of your stitch. So you can see I've caught the entire V of the top of my single crochet. Again, yarn over. I count this as a pull-through one 'cause it's just one stitch basically, even though it's technically two loops. Yarn over and pull through two, just as before. Once again, you wanna move over to your next stitch. Make sure you're catching both of those loops. Yarn over, pull through one. Yarn over and pull through both. And keep doing that all the way down your row. And again, you should have 14 single crochet stitches when you get to the end. If you found that your stitch count is off, it can be hard in the beginning to tell where you went wrong, so you might have to unravel the whole row.

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So if you're just unraveling a mistake, it's really easy. You just pull. Just undo your work carefully until you get to the spot where you wanna start over. And you can put your hook back into the yarn loop, and you can get going again. Probably one of the most common mistakes you'll run into is adding a second stitch back into the same spot. This is gonna be very difficult for you to see as a beginner, but just so you know, that's probably a mistake that you'll make as you just get started on your crochet journey. So if you can see, I actually have two stitches here in my second row coming out of one stitch in my first row. That's an increase. We will do these on purpose later. (laughs) But if you're doing it accidentally, just take out that second stitch. You also wanna be careful about not skipping a stitch. So if I might accidentally skip this one and crochet into the next, that'll make your stitch count too low. We can also hunt around for spots where you might have accidentally skipped one. Some people also start only working in one loop or the other of the stitch, and that's not incorrect. I'm gonna do a couple just working in one loop so you can see. But it's gonna leave a line here. It's a technique we do on purpose called either working in the back loop or the front loop, and we'll get to that later. But just for these swatches, when you're working a regular crochet stitch, always work into both loops of your previous row. Otherwise, you'll alter the texture. You'll alter the appearance. And it can also make the fabric more stretchy and change the shape entirely. So working in both loops is really important as you get started. I'm at the end of my row two. Your swatch should look something like this. It might look a little bit more loose, and that's totally okay. And again, at the end of your row, chain one. That's your training chain and does not count as part of your stitch count. And just repeat the same thing. You're going to crochet one single crochet into each stitch. What you're going to do ultimately is try to turn this into a square. So just keep single crocheting evenly. When we work evenly, that means no increasing, no decreasing. Your stitch count will be the same. It's one stitch into each stitch from the previous row. And for me to create a square, I had to work 15 rows of single crochet. So keep crocheting, and ultimately you'll have a square like this. How did I pick this size of square? My goal was to make four-inch by four-inch swatches for the entirety of this class. Four by four to me was kind of a digestible, friendly, not too big, not too small. You'll get plenty of practice each day with each stitch, but it's not too overwhelming. Four by four is also a very typical size for a gauge swatch. And when we talk about gauge, that's the tension you're working in. It's how many stitches you're working and how many rows you're working to achieve a four by four-inch square. And that's gonna change from how loosely or tightly you work, what size your hook is, how heavy your yarn is. So it can differ from person to person and project to project. But that's why my ultimate goal for all these patterns was to create a four by four-inch swatch in my own gauge. And in going forward, in order to make sure that all my squares are the same, I cut out a little four by four-inch piece of cardboard. Since you're a beginner, I don't expect your gauge to be the exact same as mine, and it doesn't have to be. We're not making us sweater or something that has to have an exact fit. Right now, we're just getting you comfortable with crocheting, comfortable with looking at stitches. But I do like to give you a goal, so that's just to make a square a day. If your square is bigger than mine, that's totally fine. You don't even have to worry about the four by four. That was sort of a measuring stick for me. You can take your own square and a piece of cardboard, and you can measure out the square, or you can just Sharpie around it. Cut out your own square. If yours ends up being five inches by five inches or 3 1/2 by 3 1/2 inches, that's totally fine. Ultimately, the exact stitch count or row count doesn't matter. The actual size doesn't matter. But from day to day, you just want consistency, and that's how your own cardboard square will come really in handy. If you've crocheted only 13 or 14 rows and your shape is already a square, it's totally okay to stop there and break off your yarn. As long as your

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squares are the same size from day to day, that's your ultimate goal.

Day 4 - Half double crochet
- When I first started crocheting I learned the single crochet stitch and then I had no idea there were any other stitches. And my mind was totally blown when one of our babysitters saw that I was crocheting, took the yarn and the hook out of my hands, and showed me more stitches. So once you've mastered the single crochet you are ready to move on to the half double crochet. For my swatch I chained 16. This is one chain more than the single crochet swatch. That's because the half double crochet stitch is slightly taller, so all your train chains also need to be slightly taller. To start half double crochet skip the first two chains from your hook. That's the turning chain. I'm going to work into the third chain from my hook, which is right here. Before inserting your hook into that chain, yarn over, then insert your hook, yarn over and pull through one loop, yarn over and pull through all three loops. Remember to keep your hands and your stitches nice and loose, so you can get your hook through all of those loops. For the next half double crochet we do the same thing. Yarn over, insert my hook into the next chain, yarn over, pull through that first loop, yarn over, and pull through all three loops. And I'm using my thumb and my middle finger to hold on to the bottom of my stitch just so it doesn't move around. So don't forget to use all your fingers and all your hands. It can be a little weird to get used to in the beginning, but sometimes we forget that, oh, I can move my hand over here, it helps stabilize the stitch that I'm working on right now. And if you're having trouble going through all three at the same time, you can move your holder fingers, again, to help stabilize anywhere you need stabilization. Much like the single crochet swatch, you'll just keep working one half double crochet stitch into each chain until you run out of chains. And that should be 14 half double crochets. To start my row two, remember the turning chain is taller, so that's two chains. One, two, turn your work and start your half double crochet stitches, again, here in the first stitch. So there's one half double crochet. And the second one. Just keep working evenly all the way down your row. Remember, again, we're working in both loops at the top of your stitch. It's gonna look exactly the same on top as your single crochet, it's like this row of Vs or braids, and you want to pick up both sides of the V. You're probably getting the hang of working in rows at this point, but when you get to the end remember to chain two for your turning chain. Chain two, turn your work, and then start again with your half double crochets in that first stitch. For me, to make my square, I needed nine half double crochet rows, and then I noticed that I was pretty close to my square and that another half double crochet row would make my square too tall. So my last row on my square is actually single crochet, because it's shorter. So if you need to have some wiggle room at the top with your half double crochet swatch you can get a little creative and switch up to a shorter stitch. Also, if this is not perfect, perfect, perfect on your cardboard square, that's okay. Some slight variation is okay. Ultimately our cool wall hanging is a little forgiving as far as size variation, but you wanna get as close as you can. So you can see this one is slightly wider than my square, but there's enough here where I'm not super worried about it and it's pretty close. You'll also find that within the same yarn brand and yarn line from color to color, there's also sometimes variances in the weight or thickness of the yarn, and that can affect how big or small your swatch is. So if there's a little variation in your square size because of that, don't worry about it, that's totally normal. That's not on you, that's on the yarn. There's not much we can do about it, so we just work with it. So finish up your half double crochet swatch and you'll be finished for today.

Day 4 - Left Hand Dominant - Half double crochet

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- When I first started crocheting, I learned the single crochet stitch, and then I had no idea there were any other stitches! And my mind was totally blown when one of our babysitters saw that I was crocheting, took the yarn and the hook out of my hands, and showed me more stitches. So once you've mastered the single crochet, you are ready to move on to the half double crochet. For my swatch, I chained 16. This is one chain more than the single crochet swatch. That's because the half double crochet stitch is slightly taller. So all your turning chains also need to be slightly taller. To start half double crochet, skip the first two chains from your hook. That's the turning chain. Going to work into the third chain from my hook, which is right here. Before inserting your hook into that chain, yarn over. Then insert your hook, yarn over, and pull through one loop. Yarn over, and pull through all three loops. Remember to keep your hands and your stitches nice and loose, so you can get your hook through all of those loops. For the next half double crochet, do the same thing. Yarn over, insert my hook into the next chain, yarn over, pull through that first loop, yarn over, and pull through all three loops. And I'm using my thumb and my middle finger to hold on to the bottom of my stitch, just so it doesn't move around. So don't forget to use all your fingers and all your hands. It can be a little weird to get used to in the beginning, but sometimes we forget that, oh, I can move my hand over here, and it helps stabilize the stitch that I'm working on right now. And if you're having trouble going through all three at the same time, you can move your holder fingers again to help stabilize anywhere you need stabilization. Much like the single crochet swatch, you'll just keep working one half double crochet stitch into each chain until you run out of chains, and that should be 14 half double crochets. To start my row two, remember, the turning chain is taller. That's two chains, one, two. Turn your work, and start your half double crochet stitches again here in the first stitch. There's one half double crochet and the second one. Just keep working evenly, all the way down your row. Remember again, we're working in both loops at the top of your stitch. It's gonna look exactly the same on top as your single crochet. It's like this row of Vs or braids, and you want to pick up both sides of the V. You're probably getting the hang of working in rows at this point. But when you get to the end, remember to chain two for your turning chain. Chain two, turn your work, and then start again with your half double crochets in that first stitch. For me, to make my square, I needed nine half double crochet rows, and then I noticed that I was pretty close to my square and that another half double crochet row would make my square too tall. So my last row on my square is actually single crochet because it's shorter. So if you need to have some wiggle room at the top with your half double crochet swatch, you can get a little creative and switch up to a shorter stitch. Also, if this is not perfect, perfect, perfect on your cardboard square, that's okay. Some slight variation is okay. Ultimately, our cool wall hanging is a little forgiving, as far as size variation, but you want to get as close as you can. So you can see this one is slightly wider than my square. But there's enough here where I'm not super worried about it, and it's pretty close. You'll also find that within the same yarn brand and yarn line, from color to color, there's also sometimes variances in the weight or thickness of the yarn, and that can affect how big or small your swatch is. So if there's a little variation in your square size because of that, don't worry about it. That's totally normal. That's not on you. That's on the yarn. There's not much we can do about it, so we just work with it. So finish up your half double crochet swatch, and you'll be finished for today.

Day 5 - Double crochet and treble crochet

- If you wanna guess what happens after half double crochet? If you think double crochet, you'll be right. It is slightly taller than the half double and it looks pretty similar. We'll talk through the differences. I am beginning with a foundation chain of 16, which is the same as the half double

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crochet. That's 14 chains plus two for my turning chain. Conventionally, for a double crochet, the turning chain is three chains. I feel like that's a little too many and you can start seeing the foundation chains kind of getting bunchy and sticking out of the side of my swatch. You can play with either chain two or chain three, it's really up to you, but we're gonna do a chain two, just, I feel like it makes a neater square. I'm skipping the first two chains from my hook. I'm gonna yarn over, much like half double crochet, insert my hook into that third chain from my hook, yarn over, pull through the first loop. And instead of yarning over and pulling all three loops, like half double crochet, we're gonna yarn over and pull through the first two only, yarn over again and pull through the last two loops. So there's a little extra step in there, which makes your stitch taller. We'll do that one more time. Yarn over, insert your hook into the next chain, yarn over, pull through one, yarn over, pull through the first two, yarn over, and pull through the last two. You can see my two double crochet stitches here and here. As with your other swatches, continue to double crochet one in each chain until you run out of chains. Remember to use your thumb and your third finger to hold onto whatever part of the stitch needs stabilization. I usually pinch the chain and the bottom of my stitch together to keep everything still for me while I work. I'm at the last chain here. Don't forget to count your stitches. You should have 14 double crochets. And then this last little nubbin at the end is your chain two turning chain. To start my second row, two chains, or three if that's what you prefer, and just double crochet evenly down the top of these stitches to create row two. There's my first double crochet. My second one. you're starting to see there is a rhythm here and kind of a pattern. You can lengthen your stitches by yarning over before you start one. You might be thinking what happens if I yarn over two times before a stitch? That's what we call a treble crochet. I'll show you that after I finish this one double crochet row. Oops, remember, if anything falls out you can just pop your loops right back in and finish your stitch. So you wanna finish your double crochet swatch. For me, that was eight rows. If it's fewer for you or more for you, that works. If you have like a little bit more room left to make your square, you can always substitute a row of half double crochet or even single crochet at the top. You just wanna make sure that, again, all your squares are about the same size. When you've finished your eight rows of half double crochet, actually, let me count these. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven. For my square I have seven rows of double crochet and my top row is actually single crochet, because I wanted to make it fit better on my piece of cardboard. And this is with the chain two edge. I also wanted to show you what it looks like with a chain three edge. It's the same number of stitches and rows. And as a beginner, it might be a little bit hard to distinguish, but for me, the outer edge kind of ripples out or kind of scallops out a little bit. It's not, I mean, this is not perfectly straight, but I feel like it's a little bit neater than this edge. And some patterns, and pay attention to what each pattern says once you start making your own projects, some patterns for double crochet, will use the turning chain as the first stitch. That is never my preference in my patterns, I never do that, but I do see that's the default for many pattern writers and it's just preference. So this third swatch here, my turning chain counts as the first stitch. So if you can see, it might be difficult for me to point this out, but I'm gonna look at this row. You skip the first stitch from the previous row, because the chain in your new row counts as that first stitch. So to keep your stitch count correct you skip it and then work your actual first double crochet in the second stitch. I feel like it leaves a little gap, so that's why it's not my preference. I can kind of see where those skipped stitches leave little holes. But again, pay attention to the pattern. There are reasons why people have their preference, so I would keep that in mind as you're going and reading patterns. I do wanna show you the treble crochet. I feel like once you have the double crochet down, you basically have all the skills that you need to make as tall of a stitch as you want. So my

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turning chain for a triple crochet will be three. I need a little more room there to get my hook up to the right height. And for triple crochet or sorry, treble crochet. I call it triple sometimes, because that's how I first learned it and the abbreviation for it is TR, so it's hard to tell if it's triple or treble. And I was like, it's logical to me for it to be triple, because the one smaller than it is a double. However, I think that we're trying to standardize the names of the stitches a bit more and I think the convention established by the Craft Yarn Council is treble, so I'm trying to retrain myself to think of it as the treble crochet. So instead of yarning over one, you're gonna yarn over two. Insert your hook into the stitch, yarn over and pull through one, yarn over and pull through two, yarn over and pull through two again, and yarn over and pull through two one last time. You can see like how much taller that stitch is. As you look at all the swatches you've created so far you can sort of feel the different densities of the fabrics you're creating, and that can contribute to what stitch you might choose for a certain project. So our single crochet is pretty dense and pretty tight. I probably wouldn't make a sweater out of just a single crochet worsted weight yarn, 'cause it's pretty thick. It doesn't have a lot of drape, but it's great for toys, which I make a lot, because those little stitches can hold all the stuffing in. This is our half double crochet swatch. If you play with yours, it has a little bit more drape, it's a little softer. The double crochet swatch is even more kind of loosey goosey. This is really not great for toys, 'cause all the stuffing can really poke out of these big gaps here. This is the triple crochet swatch and those gaps are even bigger, but you can use these tall stitches to make some really cool textures and patterns later, which I'm very excited to show you. So after day five, you should have a beautiful array of these cute little square swatches.

Day 5 - Left Hand Dominant - Double crochet and treble crochet
- You want to guess what happens after half double crochet? If you think double crochet, you'll be right. It is slightly taller than the half double and it looks pretty similar. We'll talk through the differences. I am beginning with a foundation chain of 16, which is the same as the half double crochet. That's 14 chains plus two for my turning chain. Conventionally for a double crochet, the turning chain is three chains. I feel like that's a little too many, and you can start seeing the foundation chains kind of getting bunchy and sticking out of the side of my swatch. You can play with either chain two or chain three. It's really up to you, but we're gonna do a chain two, just I feel like it makes a neater square. I'm skipping the first two chains from my hook. I'm gonna yarn over, much like half double crochet, insert my hook into that third chain from my hook, yarn over, pull through the first loop, and instead of yarning over and pulling all three loops, like half double crochet, we're gonna yarn over and pull through the first two only. Yarn over again, and pull through the last two loops. So there's a little extra step in there which makes your stitch taller. We'll do that one more time. Yarn over, insert your hook into the next chain, yarn over, pull through one, yarn over, pull through the first two, yarn over and pull through the last two. You can see my two double crochet stitches here and here. As with your other swatches, continue to double crochet, one in each chain until you run out of chains. Remember to use your thumb and your third finger to hold onto whatever part of the stitch needs stabilization. I usually pinch the chain and the bottom of my stitch together to keep everything still for me while I work. I'm at the last chain here, don't forget to count your stitches. You should have 14 double crochets, and then this last little nubbin at the end is your chain two turning chain. To start my second row, two chains, or three, if that's what you prefer, and just double crochet evenly down the top of these stitches to create row two. That was my first double crochet. My second one. You're starting to see there's a rhythm here and kind of a pattern. You can lengthen your stitches by yarning over before you start one. You might be thinking, what

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happens if I yarn over two times before a stitch? That's what we call a treble crochet. I'll show you that after I finish this one double crochet row, oops. Remember, if anything falls out, you can just pop your loops right back in and finish your stitch. So you want to finish your double crochet swatch. For me, that was eight rows. If it's fewer for you or more for you, that works. If you have like a little bit more room left to make your square, you can always substitute a row of half double crochet or even single crochet at the top. You just want to make sure that again, all your squares are about the same size. When you've finished your eight rows of half double crochet, I want to actually count these, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven. For my square, I have seven rows of double crochet and my top row is actually single crochet, 'cause I wanted to make it fit better on my piece of cardboard, and this is with the chain two edge. I also wanted to show you what it looks like with a chain three edge. It's the same number of stitches and rows, and as a beginner, it might be a little bit hard to distinguish, but for me, the outer edge kind of ripples out or kind of scallops out a little bit. It's not, I mean, this is not perfectly straight, but I feel like it's a little bit neater than this edge. In some patterns, and pay attention to what each pattern says once you start making your own projects, some patterns for double crochet will use the turning chain as the first stitch. That is never my preference in my patterns. I never do that, but I do see that's the default for many pattern writers, and it's just preference. So this third swatch here, my turning chain counts as the first stitch. So if you can see, it might be difficult for me to point this out, but I'm gonna look at this row. You skip the first stitch from the previous row because the chain in your new row counts as that first stitch. So to keep your stitch count correct, you skip it, and then work your actual first double crochet in the second stitch. I feel like it leaves a little gap, so that's why it's not my preference. I can kind of see where those skipped stitches leave little holes, but again, pay attention to the pattern. There are reasons why people have their preference. So I would keep that in mind as you're going and reading patterns. I do want to show you the treble crochet. I feel like once you have the double crochet down, you basically have all the skills that you need to make as tall of a stitch as you want. So my turning chain for a triple crochet will be three. I need a little more room there to get my hook up to the right height, and for triple crochet or sorry, treble crochet. I call it triple sometimes because that's how I first learned it. And the abbreviation for it is TR, so it's hard to tell if it's triple or treble. And I was like, it's logical to me for it to be triple because the one smaller than it is a double. However, I think that we're trying to standardize the names of the stitches a bit more, and I think the convention established by the Craft Yarn Council is treble. So I'm trying to retrain myself to think of it as the treble crochet. So instead of yarning over one, you're gonna yarn over two, insert your hook into the stitch, yarn over and pull through one, yarn over and pull through two, yarn over and pull through two again, and yarn over and pull through two one last time. You can see like how much taller that stitch is. As you look at all the swatches you've created so far, you can sort of feel the different densities of the fabrics you're creating, and that can contribute to what stitch you might choose for a certain project. So our single crochet is pretty dense and pretty tight. I probably wouldn't make a sweater out of just single crochet worsted weight yarn, 'cause it's pretty thick. It doesn't have a lot of drape, but it's great for toys, which I make a lot because those little stitches can hold all the stuffing in. This is our half double crochet swatch. Play with yours, it has a little bit more drape. It's a little softer. The double crochet swatch is even more kind of loosey goosey. This is really not great for toys, 'cause all the stuffing can really poke out of these big gaps here. This is the triple crochet swatch, and those gaps are even bigger, but you can use these tall stitches to make some really cool textures and patterns later, which I'm very excited to show you. So after day five, you should have a beautiful array of these cute little square swatches.

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Day 6 - Increasing
- The next skill I want to show you is increasing, and this allows us to change the shape of our crochet project so you can work beyond just a square. You can make rectangles and even circles, and this may seem like a skill that's not relevant to our swatch project, but there will be times with different stitches where increasing and decreasing will come into play, even within a square. So it's a really good skill to practice, and as I mentioned before, you might have been accidentally increasing in the past while you're still searching around and figuring out what your stitches look like, but now, we're going to do it with purpose. We're going to make a triangle. I'm starting with a chain two. It's one and two. The first chain from our hook is the turning chain. We're still working in rows. So we're going to work a single crochet into the first stitch. There's no increases in row one. That's just the very tip of our triangle. For row two, we're going to chain one. That's the turning chain. Turn over our little tiny single crochet stitch and work two single crochet stitches into that first stitch. There's one single crochet. Here's the second one. You're going back in that exact same stitch to make two. So your stitch count from row one, from one to now two stitches in row two, so you've already made an increase. I'm going to keep going just so you can see how this becomes a triangle. I'm chaining one as the turning chain. Turning over my project and the rate at which you can increase will also affect how wide or how skinny your triangle will be. For this rate of increase, I'm just going to increase one stitch per row. So put my increase in this first stitch. One single crochet. There's the second one in the exact same stitch. So you should have one more stitch left to work in and just one single crochet in that stitch. In my pattern, I write my increases in parenthesis. So anything in one of my patterns that's inside of parenthesis, you work all in one stitch. So my increases look like parenthesis. I guess, open paren, two SC, two single crochets, close paren, and increases can look different from pattern to pattern. Again, standardization is still in progress. Sometimes it just looks like INC for increase and you'll know to increase in whatever stitch you had been working on in that row. Sometimes it can also look like more written out, two SC into the next stitch. So it just depends on the pattern writer and what they prefer. To start row four, I'm going to chain one, turn my project, work my increase at two SC, two single crochets, into the first stitch. I have two left and those each get one each because I'm only increasing in the first stitch. The end of row four, you should have four stitches. You can count them across the top here. One, two, three, and four. For your practice triangle, just keep increasing in that first stitch in every row, and you'll slowly start to see this little triangle grow. In the class PDF, all your practice triangles are 12 rows long. So your finished triangle should look something like this. This has nothing to do with our four-by-four cardboard square. This is just an exercise in increasing. To give you an idea of what happens when you increase every other row. You can see this is the same number of rows. It's 12 rows, but it's a much skinnier triangle because our rate of increase was halved. If you want to double the rate of increase, this triangle also has 12 rows, but I increased on each side. So there were two increases per row, and you can see how wide that became. All three of these triangle patterns are in your PDF. While we won't be using these triangles in our final project, you can always make two and glue them to a headband and make cat ears. They also look like little trees if you want to make a little ornament. I challenge you to make a couple of triangles and see what cute project you can come up with.

Day 7 - Working in the round
- Another useful skill is working in the round, which allows us to create round and circular shapes. Again, this is more of a day about skill building, and we won't ultimately be using our circle

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swatches in our final project, but some of our patterns will be worked in the round to create squares. So I want you to get familiar with kind of spiraling out your work, rather than working in rows as we have been previously. Starting in the round can be a little bit tricky. If you've been knitting or hearing a little bit about crochet, you might've heard of the magic circle, and this can be kind of daunting for some people. I will take you step by step through that, but I'm also going to show you some cheats, which are what I actually use on a day-to-day basis. That's like my secret that I don't use magic circles, but, if I'm teaching, I would always teach you how to start with the magic circle, so I'll show you that first. We do not start with a slip knot. We're going to create a very special knot. You want to wrap the tail from underneath the bottom of your hand over the top of your hand. Take two of your fingers and wrap this tail around those two fingers. You should have two strands on the top of your hand here. Take your crochet hook, want to place it underneath both of these loops, want to hook onto that one on the left, pull it underneath and through the one on the right. Don't let these fingers go anywhere yet. This is the circle that's the magic circle. Just want to make sure that stays open and loose. Remove your fingers, hold onto this little knot you've created here, yarn over and pull through one to secure that. So this is your magic loop. The reason why it's called magic is you work your first round all into this loop. So let's work in single crochet. I'm gonna put six single crochets into the magic circle, or magic ring is also what it can be called. There's three, four, five and six. This would be the end of your round. And at the end of round one, you would pull on the tail of your magic ring, and it closes up the ring. And that's why we call it magical. Put your yarn back on the hook. You would be ready to start round two into the first single crochet that you worked into the magic ring. So it's a little persnickety. It's gonna take a lot of practice for you to get comfortable with the magic circle. I think there are a couple of easy workarounds for it. I'm gonna pull that out. And I will start this time with my slip knot, and the default method I always use is a chain three, one, two, three. And then I work a slip stitch, which I'll tell you what that's all about, into the first chain. I'm making my own little tiny loop. It's not magical, and I won't be able to pull on the tail to close it up, but, for me, it's just so much less finicky and so much easier for me to wrap my own mind around. And it's just a faster pace if I'm trying to crochet a bunch of things in the round. To work a slip stitch, insert your hook into the desired chain or stitch, yarn over and pull through both loops. It's a very tiny stitch, it's super short, it's smaller than a single crochet, and we use it to connect and join a lot of other stitches. So you can sort of see, let me use my tapestry needle, this little ring I've created surrounded by my three chains, and I would work my first round into here. So chain one to start a round one, and then insert my hook into that tiny little circle. Just get that tail out of the way. It's one single crochet. There's my second one, three, four, five and six. And to start my round two, I'd be working into the first single crochet that I just worked. You can see that there is more of a visible hole than if you worked a magic circle, but, when I leave in this end at the end of my project, which I'll show you later, you can see that there's this little hole, but, since I have to weave in my ends anyway at the end of our project, I can use that opportunity to close the hole up. Before we start round two, I want to talk a little bit about standard rates of increases depending on what stitch you're using. We're using a single crochet right now. I started round one with six single crochets, and that means that, from then on, we're going to increase the number of stitches in each round by six. So we started with six. In round two we're gonna have six more, round three, six more, so there's a repeating pattern that you'll start getting used to. For a taller stitch you'll need more increases. So, if we're working a half double crochet circle, you'll start with 10 half double crochets in your magic ring, or your cheat ring, and then 10 increases in round two, 10 more increases in round three. And for double crochet, you'll start with 12 double crochets in your ring, and then

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there's 12 stitches more in round two and 12 stitches more in round three. And I'll show you how that all works with the single crochet circle. So I have my six single crochets here in my fake magic ring. And there are also a couple ways to end around. You can either join with the slip stitch to your first stitch. So the slip stitch, again, is you insert your hook into that desired stitch, yarn over and pull through one, and that makes your first and last stitch join. Or, you can just start round two without slip stitching. That's what we call working in a spiral. So, if you don't join your rounds, you'll kind of make a snail around and around and around. And, if you do join your rounds, it's more of a concentric shape that's forming, and there are different pros and cons. You definitely just need to follow whatever pattern you're using for whatever that pattern writer preferred. For this sample circle, and in the patterns I included in your class PDF, we'll be joining our rounds. I think it's a lot easier to start learning how to count your stitches. And the con is that you'll see a visible seam. As a beginner, it might not be that visible to you, but ultimately that's why we would choose to not join the rounds because you can see that line. But again, this will be easier for counting. So I'm gonna slip stitch to my first stitch and, in round two, I'm still going to need to chain one. It sort of acts as a turning chain, even though we're not turning. So chain one, and I'm going to work two single crochets in each stitch all the way around. So that'll be a total of six increases. Two single crochets in this first stitch, one, two. And in my next stitch, two single crochets, again, one, two. Keep working those increases in each stitch. At the end of round two, you should have 12 single crochets. I would count those just to make sure, one, two, three, four, five, six, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, perfect. And this is the last step. We're gonna slip stitch to the first single crochet to join. You can see our little baby circle forming. To start round three, we'll chain one again. We're always going to start our rounds with an increase. So two single crochets in the first stitch, and the next stitch just a regular single crochet, not an increase. You're gonna repeat that for a total of six times all the way around. So you have one increase and one regular stitch. So one increase and then one regular stitch, so another increase and then a regular stitch. So here we have six increases still in a round three, but they're separated by one regular stitch. Before joining, you want to count all the way around again. You should have 18 stitches. So you can see, it's 6, 12 and then 18. Chain one to start your round four. Again, start with an increase, two single crochets in the first stitch. And now you're going to work two single crochets evenly. So, in the next two stitches, you're only working one single crochet each, one, two. And that would be the sequence that you'd repeat all the way around. So it's two single crochets and then two regular single crochets in the next two stitches. So for round four, you have six increases again, but this time they're separated by two regular stitches. You can keep expanding your circle outward and outward and outward, repeating the same motif, just making sure there are six increases all the way around, and you slowly increase the number of plain stitches that are in between the increases. In your class PDF, I have you working your circles for six rounds. It'll look like this. Kind of looks like a little bit of a hexagon. That's totally normal. That's because all of your increases were at the same points on your circle, so it creates kind of an angle. So, if you're worried that yours looks a little pointy, don't worry about it. That's totally normal. I want to point out here, this is where that seam is from joining our rounds, and it can be tough for a beginner to see. As you get more familiar with what your stitches look like, you'll be able to see that. Sometimes we feel like it's a little unsightly. So working in a spiral and not joining your stitches can help ease that seam. You can see that these two are much larger, and they're also created using this spiral method. You can see it looks like a literal spiral in here. You can also use working in the round to create volume in a project. Let's say you're making parts for a doll or you're making a hat. Otherwise, you can just keep them flat and use them as really cute coasters.

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Day 8 - Decreasing

- If your project calls for a decrease in your stitch count, there are a couple ways to go about that as well. It can look a little different from pattern to pattern. Sometimes it looks like dec, short for decrease, and then you would just assume you're going to work your decrease in the same stitch that you've been working in previously in that pattern. It can also look like some stitch two, T-O-G. So let's say it's single crochet. It would look like SC2TOG, which would indicate you're using two single crochet stitches from the previous row or round and creating one stitch with them in the new one, thus decreasing your stitch count. You can also simply skip a stitch in the current row or round, and you can also work in invisible decrease if you're working in a circle, and we'll get to that in a second. I want to show you the single crochet two together. So I have a little tiny swatch here, and this pattern is also in your PDF. This is two rows of single crochet, 10 stitches across. I'm about to start my row three, and chain one and turn, to work this single crochet two together, insert your hook into the first stitch, yarn over and pull through one. That's the first half of any single crochet stitch. And before completing that, you're going to start the second single crochet stitch. So insert your hook into the following stitch, yarn over, pull through one. Now you're going to complete both stitches at once by yarning over and pulling through all three loops on your hook. So you've used two stitches from row two to create one stitch in row three. For the rest of this row, we're going to crochet single crochet six stitches evenly across, and we'll do one more decrease at the end of the row. So one more single crochet two together, insert your hook into the first stitch, yarn over and pull through one. Insert your hook into the following stitch, yarn over, pull through one, then yarn over and pull through all three loops on your hook. Count your stitches at the end of the row, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, it's perfect. To start row four, I'll chain two for my turning chain, and we'll work two half double crochets together. So that's a yarn over to start your half double crochet, insert your hook into the first stitch. Yarn over and pull through one. Before completing that half double crochet, we're gonna start the next one, yarn over, insert your hook into the next stitch, yarn over and pull through one. You should have five loops on your hook, gonna yarn over and pull through all five of them at once, where you can use your thumb and your third finger to hold onto the bottom of that stitch to help stabilize it. It's kind of bulky and kind of chunky. I don't often use this stitch, but it's good to know how to do it. I'm going to work four half double crochets evenly to get close to the end of the row. That's four, should have two stitches remaining. We're going to work another decrease with half double crochet here, so yarn over, insert your hook into the stitch, yarn over and pull through one, yarn over, insert your hook into the following stitch, yarn over, pull through one, then yarn over and pull through all five loops on your hook. At the end of row four, you should have six stitches. It's one, two, three, four, five, six. For row five, we'll do a decrease with a double crochet stitch. Yarn over, insert your hook into the first stitch, yarn over and pull through one, yarn over and pull through two. Before finishing that double crochet, start the next one. Yarn over, insert your hook into the following stitch, yarn over and pull through one, yarn over and pull through the first two. That's the first half of your second double crochet, then yarn over and pull through all three loops on your hook. So it looks like two double crochets, one here, one here, but ultimately your stitch count is just the one on the top. Work two double crochets evenly. It's one, two, and work another decrease in your last two stitches. Yarn over, insert your hook, yarn over, pull through one, yarn over, pull through two, yarn over, insert your hook into the last stitch, yarn over, pull through one, yarn over, pull through two, yarn over and pull through all three stitches. Your stitch count here should be four. It kind of looks like it could be six, that's just because of the decreased stitch. If you actually count the stitches, it's one, two, three, and four. For row six,

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we're finishing up the top of our triangle here, so I'm going to chain one and turn. We're gonna try skipping for the decrease this time. So skip the first stitch, single crochet in the second stitch, do that two times, or do that a second time. Skip the next stitch, single crochet in the last stitch. Skipping stitches for a decrease works pretty well for a short stitch like single crochet, but if you start using it for half double crochet or double crochet, you'll start making really big gaps in your work. For the very last row, I'll chain one and turn, skip the first stitch, single crochet in the last stitch. That's just one stitch remaining. We can break off our triangle there. Just to build your skills, I also want to show you the invisible decrease. That abbreviation can look like I-N-V-D-E-C, and we mostly only use that for working in the round and creating toys where there's a definite right side and a wrong side. The invisible decrease makes sure that our right side looks really clean and there aren't any holes or bumps or lines in our decreased stitch. So I have this little dome, or like this tiny little hat. This pattern is also in your PDF. It's six rounds of single crochet working in your increase rounds as we talked about previously, and then it's a few rounds of working evenly. So we're starting to create a circle with increases, then when you stop increasing, you can start making a little dome-y shapes. If you want to make a ball, you're going to also have to start decreasing the stitch count. You can see here, I'm also working in a spiral. I'm not joining my rounds. And when you work in a spiral, you're going to use a stitch marker to help keep your place, 'cause it can be difficult to know what the beginning and end of your rounds are. So I'm always flipping a piece of scrap yarn back and forth every time I start a new round. If you're at the practice ball pattern in your class PDF, I'm about to start round nine here. I'm going to flip my yarn over to mark my place and start with the invisible decrease. Pick up the front loop only, remember each stitch has a front and a back loop, and we've been working in both loops this whole time. Just pick up that front loop. That's really important. And before you do anything else, you're going to pick up a loop, front loop only, from the following stitch, yarn over, pull through those first two loops, yarn over and pull through the last two loops. And that's your decrease. For the pattern, you're then working two single crochets evenly, and then your next invisible decrease. I'll show that one more time. Insert your hook into the front loop only. The front one's the one that's closer to you, and then the front loop of the next stitch, yarn over and pull through both of those loops, yarn over and pull through the last two loops. For this ball, you will repeat that sequence, a decrease, and then two even stitches all the way around. It's pretty invisible. This is the right side of your work. We call the right side the side that's facing you while you're working, and the wrong side is the side that's facing away from you as you're working. They do look different. Do pay attention to patterns if they call out the right side or the wrong side. For certain instruction, it does make a difference. So it looks really pretty on the right side, and on the wrong side, if you can see, it does leave a back loop visible. That's why we hide that on the wrong side, 'cause the wrong side can look ugly, like if this were a ball and we're stuffing it, you would never see any of that. So that's why we use the invisible decrease for working in the round. And for our final project, you won't need to be making a ball. I'm just including that as a skill building project. Also just make sure you finish your triangle. That's kind of our main focus here, and then we can move on to the next skill. Another fun pattern I included in your PDF for playing with increasing and decreasing is this parallelogram. You can see on this side, these are all decreases, and on this side are all increases. This is the same number of stitches across and the same number of rows up as my square swatch, but you can see how much you can alter the shape just with increasing and decreasing.

Day 9 - Changing yarn colors

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- As you're working on your crochet projects, you might find yourself in a spot where you need to add in yarn because you ran out of the first one or you need to bring in a new color. I'm gonna take you through the steps on how to add a new strand. I'm in the middle of my row here and let's say I ran out of my pink yarn. I'm going to cut this just to pretend that we ran out of our ball here. Definitely leave yourself a tail anytime you're kind of coming close to the end of your yarn so you can weave this end in later. Gonna pretend this is a new ball of pink yarn. Again, give yourself a tail. And there are two ways to go about this. You can simply start the next stitch. So for my next single crochet, I will insert my hook into the next stitch, use my new yarn to yarn over and pull through, yarn over and pull through both stitches to complete the stitch. You can tug on the tail you initially trimmed to make sure that your stitch isn't too loose. Make sure you're using your new strand here to continue the rest of the row like so. It's pretty seamless. We do have these tails. And I'll show you how to weave those in later. But from this point, you could just continue with your swatch. Another way you can add yarn, and this is the way that I normally do it, just so everything is a little bit more stable and there aren't a bunch of loose ends hanging out that I can loosen or tighten on accident, I start my stitch. So insert your hook into the next loop here, and then before I bring in the new yarn, I put a slipknot on the hook and pull that through as my yarn over. Complete the single crochet by pulling through both loops. And for me, that just tightens the new tail that I just brought in. I know that this previous stitch won't get super loose. Sometimes if you just leave them all loose, they might slowly unravel, so I like to use that slipknot to secure it. If you find that's too finicky and you don't wanna deal with a slipknot in the middle of your work, that is definitely not necessary. It's just a little trick that I prefer. When you are adding in a new color in a certain spot of your project, let's say you're doing some color work and ultimately, just pretend this is gonna be a tapestry and let's say the background is pink and I have to introduce some sort of mint imagery, and there's a very certain spot that the mint needs to be introduced in, you need to keep in mind how to change that color a little bit differently. For a new color, in order to make the color change really seamless, you might think that you just start the next stitch in the new color. However, for a more seamless color change, we actually bring in the new color at the end of the previous stitch. Let's say this is my last pink single crochet. Before I bring in my mint, I'm actually going to pull out one loop. So you can either undo your previous stitch or just make sure when you're working that previous stitch, not to complete it. So this is a single crochet just waiting for its last yarn over and pull through. Bring in my second color, and I'll put my slipknot on and use that as the last to pull through. So you can see the stitch that I just completed is still pink on top. And then my new stitch will be all mint. So there's my single crochet stitch right here. This is also a fun way to be able to see where all your stitches are if you alternate the colors. So you can see like your first pink one was here and your second mint one was here. You can sort of see the structure of the stitch really easily. And then you would just continue on your way. Sometimes when you change colors, the patterns will tell you to carry the previous color because you're going to use it later. It's really easy, I'll show you how to do that too. I'm gonna take out some of my mint stitches. Put my hook back on. If you need to carry your pink yarn, here's my pink yarn, just imagine that you're laying it on top of the stitches you're about to work through, just sits right on top. Take my mint yarn and then work my single crochet stitch again, and make sure that pink tail is right on top of your stitch. You're just gonna sandwich it inside your mint stitch here. Keep going along. This is carrying your yarn color. You're carrying it along with your stitches. And then if my pattern called for needing to drop my mint yarn and pick up my pink yarn, I can do just that. Drop the mint yarn, pick up the pink yarn that I've been carrying, and then I can carry the mint yarn inside the pink yarn. So while changing colors might seem daunting,

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it's actually a pretty easy process.

Day 10 - Weaving in ends
- After accumulating a couple of swatches and little projects, you might be wondering what to do with all of your ends. It's important to weave them in properly so that they don't work themselves out after you're wearing your scarf or playing with a toy, and to do this, we're going to use our tapestry needle. So put one of your yarn tales through your tapestry needle, and insert the needle inside the stitch. You want this to be as invisible as possible, and how I determine that is I can't see the needle on the front side, and I can't really see the needle that much on the backside either. Then I know that means the yarn won't be visible, as well. Don't pull too tightly. You can see that warps your project. You want to kind of work it a little bit and make sure that your square maintains its shape. To make sure this is extra secure, I weave down to a row below. Also, don't pull too tight. And weave your needle back in the other direction, still inside your stitches. Check the front and the back, and pull through. Again, checking it's not changing the shape of my square at all. And then cut this close. Some people weave all the way down and all the way back and then back and forth some more. The more that you weave, the more you're adding density to the project. So I usually will weave through like four or five stitches in one direction, four or five stitches back in the other and call it a day. I don't like altering the density of my crochet too much with all this weaving. But again, this can be up to you. You'll probably come up with your own ways to even the ends to where you're comfortable with them. You're always trying to be as invisible as possible, though. And again, don't pull too tightly. You don't want to ruin all the hard work that you put in to create your square. And that's how you'd finish any of your projects.

Day 11 - Working in the back/front loop only
- Now that you've got your basic crochet skills down, let's play with some texture. A really easy way to do this is to play with back loops only or front loops only. For the most part we've been working in both loops of all of our crochet stitches, and by choosing either the back loop or the front loop only, you're going to leave that remaining loop, and that creates a really fun ridge. Here I've worked row one of my pattern, it's 14 single crochets across. To start row two, chain one and turn your project, and whether you choose back loop only or front loop only, it doesn't matter. Just pick one and be consistent. I'm going to choose the back loop only. So here are both of your loops, just pick up the back loop and finish your single crochet. Again in the next stitch, just the back loop, single crochet, and continue that evenly all the way down the row. To start row three, same thing, chain one, turn and work in the back loop only of all your stitches. You'll start to see this texture form, and not only is it really cool visually, but you'll also be able to feel that your crochet fabric is a little bit less dense and it's a little more stretchy. And we can also use working in the back loops or the front loops as a way to create ribbing for the wrists of sweaters. It just makes a really dense stitch like single crochet a little more flowy. Because of this flowy and stretchiness, you'll also find that you might need fewer rows to complete your square. So for me, instead of 15 rows of regular single crochet, I only needed 14 rows of back loop only single crochet to make my square. So just keep working your single crochets evenly in back loops only until your square is complete. It's a little stretchy and a little squishy, so just kind of use your hands to fit it around your cardboard. Again, mine's four by four, but yours can be whatever your established square size was. I have already woven the ends into my swatch. If you haven't woven your ends in with your other swatches, go ahead and do that. Just keep in mind as we go forward making all of our swatches, weave in all your

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ends when you're finished.

Day 12 - Seed stitch and lemon peel stitch
- Alternating the size of your stitches in the same row can also produce such beautiful texture. I'm excited to show you this seed stitch, which has been one of my favorites recently. It just looks so pretty, and it's so easy. I have my chain 15, going to skip the first chain from my hook and work a single crochet in the next chain. One single crochet. In the next chain, work a double crochet. That's really all there is to it. Keep alternating your single crochet and your double crochet, single crochet, double crochet. Keep alternating those stitches all the way down your foundation chain. You're going to end with your double crochet, and to start row two, chain one, turn, and start that sequence all over again. One single crochet, one double crochet, single crochet, double crochet. I think this stitch is so beloved that it actually has several names. I learned it as the seed stitch. Some people call it the lemon peel stitch. I've also heard people call it the up and down stitch since it's a little stitch and a big stitch, but whatever it's called, it's really easy to do, and it produces just a really beautiful fabric. Keep working your seed stitch. I needed 11 rows to complete my square. Depending on your own gauge, you might need a different amount of rows, but just remember to keep your cardboard handy, line it up for size, break off and weave in your ends.

Day 13 - Bubble wrap stitch
- Let's play with alternating single crochets with treble crochets. It's a small difference seemingly from the seed stitch, but the look of it, I think, is really different. Really pops out of the fabric. The funny thing about this stitch is I don't really know the name. I did a lot of Googling. I did some polling on Instagram and Facebook. No one knows what this stitch is called even though it's super simple. So someone who follows me on Instagram called it the bubble wrap stitch. That's what I'm just gonna go with until I hear differently. I'm starting my bubble wrap swatch here with a row of 14 single crochets across. Sometimes I like to start my textured stitches with a plain row of single crochet because when I'm working with a taller stitch, it can sometimes easily warp my foundation chain and just having this solid structure beneath my fun textured stitches can be really helpful. For row two, I'll chain one and turn. Work my single crochet into the first stitch, and then work a treble crochet into the second stitch. So treble crochet again is yarn over twice, insert your hook, yarn over and pull through one, yarn over and pull through two, yarn over and pull through two again, and yarn over and pull through two one more time. It's your super tall stitch. And just alternate those two all the way down the row. Single crochet, treble. Single crochet, treble. Because the treble stitch is so tall, I don't really like ending the row with it. So just work your single crochet, treble crochet, repeat, until you have two stitches remaining. I'm going to work two single crochets in both of them. So if you look at the back of your work, that's where all those treble crochets start popping out and creating that really fun bubble wrap texture. For row three, I'm gonna chain one and turn, and just work single crochets evenly across. I only want my bubbles to appear on one side of my swatch. So that's why I'm alternating a plain row with a bubble wrap row. So this is just 14 single crochets evenly across. To start row four, chain one and turn, and I'm going to offset my pattern. You could just repeat row two here if you wanted. If you just repeat row two, all of your bubbles will be aligned in a straight row. You can see on my swatch, they kind of are offset. They alternate a little bit. So for a little bit of interest, I thought I would show you how to do that. I've already chained one here. I'm gonna turn. You work one single crochet, and then work another single crochet. That shifts over your sequence by one stitch. So my third stitch will be the treble

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crochet. You just keep alternating single crochet and treble crochet all the way down until you have one stitch remaining. Again, because I don't like to end these rows with the super tall treble crochet stitch. I always want to end on a single crochet. There's one stitch left here. I'm gonna work my single crochet. Chain one and turn. It's looking pretty cute. Row five will be another single crochet row, and you'll just keep alternating your bubble wrap row with your single crochet until you reach the length of your square. Depending on how you're working, you can either end on the single crochet row or the bubble wrap row. It doesn't matter either way, as long as you meet your square shape.

Day 14 - Moss stitch
- Moss stitch is another fun swatch where we'll just be alternating two kinds of stitches, a chain, and a single crochet. And what's great about this fabric you're going to create is that it looks as dense as an SC swatch. However, it's going to feel a lot lighter. Start with an even number of chains. This is chain 18, which is a little bit longer than our previous swatches, but I find that when I crochet in the moss stitch, I end up crocheting more tightly, or my stitches are closer together, so that's why we're doing 18 this time instead of 15. Just make sure it's an even number of chains. For row one, you're going to skip the first chain from your hook and then work a single crochet. Chain one, which counts as your next stitch. So skip the next chain, and then work your next single crochet. You just keep repeating that all the way down the line. So chain one, skip one, one single crochet. Chain one, skip one, one single crochet. So your stitch count is staying exactly the same. Even though it seems like you're chaining extra and skipping chains, all the math ends up working out. It's the same number of chains and the same number of skips. Your very last stitch on the last foundation chain should be a single crochet. So from my 18 foundation chains, I have a total of nine single crochet stitches. It's one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, and nine. Row two is almost exactly the same. You're going to skip the first single crochet stitch. So don't crochet in there. You're actually going to work your next stitch in this, what we call a chain one space. So you're not working through any of your single crochets. You're working through that space created by the chains in the previous row. Insert your hook into that space, and work your single crochet as normal. Chain one, and then insert your hook into the next chain one space and single crochet. So the action is the same as row one, but you're working in these really fun chain spaces you created. It almost gives your fabric a woven texture since you're dipping down into that previous row. This can look a little confusing if you're a beginner. Just try to remember the back of your single crochet has these little Vs on it, and so you don't want to crochet in that stitch. You wanna crochet right after it in that hole. When you have one single crochet stitch left at the end of your row, work one single crochet into that. Rows three and then onward are exactly the same as row two. Chain one. You wanna skip that first single crochet and find your next chain one space. Mine's right here. Again, it can be a little difficult to figure out where that chain one space is, but just be patient. Just try to parse out where your stitch actually is, and then insert your hook to the left of that. For me to complete my square, I needed 15 total rows. For you, it might be a little bit different. So remember just to keep your cardboard square out and crochet your moss stitch until it's the size that you want.

Day 15 - Mesh stitch
- When I was a beginner I loved working in mesh stitch. It's another super easy stitch, just worked in chains and slip stitching. And what's cool about this fabric is that it's really open and flowy, it's really great for scarves. I made a lot of scarves when I first started crocheting. And I also really loved

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buying this lumpy, bumpy hand spun yarn, and it's a fabulous stitch for showing off different textures in yarn. I know we talked about as a beginner to avoid that kind of fun, crazy looking art yarn, but if you happen to get sucked into buying yarn the way I did this is a really fabulous stitch for that. There are a couple different ways you can go about the mesh stitch. You can make the holes bigger, or the holes smaller. The classic diamond mesh stitch here actually has much larger holes. This is the one that I defaulted to when I was making scarves in the very beginning with that thick and thin yarn. However, there is a lot of stretch here and I don't recommend starting here for our particular project, because it's, again, you can see it doesn't keep its shape that well and we're looking for those really cute, consistent squares. So I modified it a little bit to this mesh stitch, and you can see the holes are smaller, the stitches are closer together, and it kind of creates a slightly more of a solid fabric with still a really nice mesh design on it. Row one of your mesh stitch is just 14 single crochets as we've done previously. So that's a chain of 15 and then 14 single crochets. Just establishes a nice straight baseline for our mesh swatch. To start row two, you want to chain three. That's one, two, three, turn your project, skip one stitch, and then slip stitch. Chain three again, one, two, three, skip one stitch, and then slip stitch. You repeat this all the way down the line. Chain three, one, two, three, skip one, slip stitch. It's pretty much the same as your moss stitch, except you're working a couple more chains each time. That creates that more open looking weave. And single crochet in my last stitch here. For rows three and onward you'll chain three, one, two, three, turn your project, and you're slip stitching now into these chain three spaces. Slip stitch into the chain three space. Chain three, slip stitch into the next chain three space. And keep chaining and slip stitching for the rest of the row. Remember, if that hook falls out you can just put them right back in the loops, it's no big deal. This is my last chain three space. It looks like this so far. And you just keep repeating row three until you've created your square shape. We're going to finish the top edge of our mesh with another plain single crochet row. This for me is row 15. I'm going to chain two, turn my project, that chain two just gives us a little bit more room to start working our row. And you're simply working two single crochets into each chain three space. There's two here. One, two, one, two, one, two. Just two single crochets all the way down the row. That keeps my stitch count at 14 single crochets, just like in row one. It just gives it a really nice finish across the top edge. Just break off and weave in your ends.

Day 16 - V-stitch

- The V-stitch, as you might guess, is created by crocheting tons of tiny little V's with double crochets. This is an especially fun stitch to play around with using different colors and different rows. But we're gonna stick with one color first, just to get familiar with the stitch. Your foundation chain needs to be a multiple of three, minus chain 18, and we'll start right in with the V-stitch for the first stitch. You'll skip the first three, one, two, three, and work your first V-stitch into the fourth chain. You're going to double crochet chain one, and work another double crochet in that very same stitch. You can see how those two double crochets form our V-shape. Skip two chains and then work your next V-stitch in that third chain. So one double crochet, chain one, double crochet in the exact same stitch. Keep working your V-stitches and alternating with skipping your two chains until you get to the end of your foundation chain. When you have two chains remaining, just double crochet into that last chain. Row one should look like this. For rows two, and all your rows afterwards, you'll chain two, turn your piece, and V-stitch into this previous V-stitch, so right into that chain one space. Work that V-stitch right in here. Same thing again, V-stitch into this next V-stich. Keep going into all the V-stitches from the previous row. Your last stitch will be a double

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crochet into the top of your turning chain from the previous row. So this is a double crochet here. You're working your last double crochet into the top of this chain three. So keep working your V-stitches until you've achieved your square shape. For me, that was seven rows. Here's a swatch where I alternated different colors for each row of the V-stitch, and you can see just how fun that is. I left the ends unwoven just to give you an idea of how many more ends you're gonna have to weave if you play with color. But I definitely think it's worth trying at least once, 'cause this looks so amazing.

Day 17 - Bobble stitch

- The next three stitches we'll talk about are sometimes confused with each other and called each other's names interchangeably. So after this you'll be able to sort that all out. Let's start with the bobble stitch. The bobble is made out of a cluster of stitches that are worked into one stitch, which creates this little ball. And the textures you can create are super cool. Not only is it three-dimensional, but you can also alter the spacing between them and create letters or shapes. There's just a lot of design potential here. To begin, chain a multiple of three. I chained 15, and my first row is a single crochet row with 14 stitches. To start row two, which is my first bobble row, chain one. And work two single crochets evenly. That's one, and then two. Here is where we'll work our bobble stitch. Think of it as five semi-complete double crochet stitches, which we'll complete altogether on the last pull through. This is gonna seem like a lot, I'm gonna talk through it. It's gonna sound a little confusing. But just think of it as five incomplete double crochets. Yarn over, insert your hook, pull through one, pull through two. That's your first incomplete double crochet. Start the second one, yarn over, pull through one, pull through two, that's two of them. Yarn over, pull through one, pull through two again, there's three. Yarn over, pull through one, pull through two. Here we have four, we have one more. See how they're all getting really squishy here in that one stitch, that's okay. Just keep holding onto them with your thumb and your middle finger, yarn over. Pull through one, pull through two. And here's the grand finale, yarn over one more time. Pull through all six loops on your hook. And what really makes your bobble pop is we're surrounding it with single crochets which are shorter. So it's going to squish this down. Whether or not you pop your bobble toward you or behind you is up to you. It's whatever happens naturally. For me, after I work my next single crochet in the next stitch it naturally pops out toward the back of my work. So, one single crochet, and then the next stitch another single crochet. For this row we're alternating, it's kind of easier to see from the back, two single crochets and a bobble. Two single crochets, and then a bobble. You repeat that to the end of row two. Work the bobble one more time so you can see. It's my first incomplete double crochet. The second all on that same stitch. Three. Four. Five, there's six loops here. So you'll know that you've made the correct number of incomplete double crochets. Yarn over, and pull through all the loops. That's our second bobble. Gonna two single crochet evenly again and finish my row. For row three I'm gonna chain one and turn and work just a single crochet row. I want all my bobbles to show just on one side. So I need to alternate with some single crochet rows. But also my rows four and five will also be just single crochets because I want to create some space between my bobbles and not have them too close to each other. Keep working one single crochet on each stitch for rows three, four, and five. If you want to get crazy you can also alternate with different heights of stitches, like a half double crochet row or a double crochet row, it's up to you. For row six I'm gonna chain one and turn. Row six is actually the exact same as row two. It's two single crochets, a bobble, two single crochets, a bobble all the way down the line. You can complete your square by repeating rows two through five as many times as you

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need. And for me that was twice. And then I needed to repeat rows two and three one more time. And if you keep alternating your bobble rows and your three single crochet rows you'll wind up with this really cute grid-like swatch with your bobbles. As an extra special bonus if you want to play around some more I included the pattern for this bobble heart.

Day 18 - Popcorn stitch
- The popcorn stitch is very similar to the bobble stitch in that they're both created with multiple double crochets into the same stitch, but they're finished slightly differently and have a slightly different look, as you can see here. Here's our bobble swatch, and this is a popcorn swatch. To begin, chain in a multiple of three, just like with the bobble. I have chained 15 and my row one is 14 single crochets. Row two will be our popcorn row. To start the row, chain two and turn and begin with one double crochet in the first stitch. In the next stitch, work your popcorn. And the popcorn is work five complete double crochets, all in this same stitch. There's one complete stitch. Going back into the exact same stitch for number two. Three, four, and five. Here's the fun part. Put some slack into your loop here on your hook and remove the hook, making sure not to undo any of the stitches you've just made. Count back to your first double crochet. So one, two, three, four, five. Insert your hook into the stitch from back to front. So the hook should be pointing right at you. Put the loop back on your hook, pull that tight, and pull this loop through that first double crochet stitch. Gonna lock this popcorn with one chain. It's a little difficult to see right now, but you've just completed one popcorn. You'll alternate your popcorns with two double crochet stitches evenly. So one double crochet in the next stitch, another double crochet in the next stitch. I'm gonna show you the popcorn stitch one more time. So that's five double crochets, all in the next stitch. One, two, three, four, and five. Loosen up the loop by pulling it out here. Remove it. Count back to your first double crochet in this stitch. One, two, three, four, five. Poke your hook from back to front through that first double crochet. Put your yarn loop back on the hook and pull that tight, and pull that loop through the first double crochet. Chain one to lock it in place. Continue your two double crochets and popcorns until you have one stitch remaining in the row. The end of your row will actually look like three double crochets. Since the end of your sequence is two, there's one stitch remaining and you just work one double crochet right there. I'm again alternating my popcorn rows, you can see the popcorns, look how cute they are, with just a plain single crochet row so that all the bobbles only show on one side. Chain one and turn. This is simply a single crochet row so that all my bobbles show on just one side of the swatch. When you get to a popcorn, it might look a little confusing because the popcorn kind of looks like two stitches on top. So here is the top of our double crochet that's right after the popcorn. That's really easy to see. The top of the popcorn now sort of looks like two different stitches, but in order to remain our stitch count, you only want to work one stitch in your popcorn. This is the chain that closed your popcorn stitch. This is actually the first double crochet of the popcorn. I always find that it's easier for me to put my hook through this first double crochet. So you need to skip this chain. I'm skipping this chain and working my single crochet into that next space. There's two single crochets evenly. I've hit my next popcorn. Skipping that first chain and working the single crochet in the next stitch. Just make sure you're alternating your two regular single crochets with that skipped single crochet over your popcorn. It's important to count your stitches here, just to make sure you don't have any extra or missing. You should have 14 single crochets after row three. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen, perfect. Row four will be another popcorn row. So chain two and turn. You could actually just repeat row two, if you like all your popcorns to line up all in a straight line. You can see

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mine are slightly offset. I like to do that sometimes for just a little aesthetic difference. So for my row four, I'll show you the offset design. Row two began with one double crochet. So here for row four, we'll start with two even double crochets, one double crochet in the first stitch, one double crochet in the next stitch. This means that our popcorns are offset by one stitch over. Our third stitch here will then be the popcorn. That's one, two, three, four, and five. One, two, three, four, five. Chain to close. Keep alternating your two even double crochets with a popcorn until the end of the row and you'll be ending on your two double crochets. It should look like that. Row five is another single crochet row. Remember over your popcorns to only work one stitch, not two, to maintain your stitch count. And to finish your square, you're repeating the sequence of rows two and five. And for me, I needed a total of 10 rows to complete my popcorn square.

Day 19 - Puff stitch

- The puffs stitch is the last stitch in our bauble popcorn puff trio. Those are the stitches that are often confused with each other. The puff stitch has kind of a completely different look, but it's also comprised of half finished stitches. It's actually unfinished half double crochets, which you might not guess from it's look. It's a really fun stitch and creates a really fun puffy texture. Your foundation chain can be any odd number of chains. I changed 15 and my first row is 14 single crochets evenly. To start my puff row, which is row two. I will chain three. This is actually counting as the first half double crochet of row two. Turn my piece and when our tuning chain counts as the first stitch, we often skip the first stitch because this chain contributes to our stitch count. I'm actually going to skip another stitch because that's the beginning of our sequence for row two. It's one skip and one puff. I'm skipping the second one and working my first puff into the third stitch here. To work the puff, think of it as four, incomplete half double crochets. Yarn over into your hook and pull through one. In your pull through one, pull your stitch up to about the height of a double crochet. I'm gonna pull it up just a little bit longer than normal. To complete your half double crochet, you would yarn over and pull through all these stitches, but you need to create three more incomplete, half double crochets all in this same stitch. So yarn over again, and pull through and that extra tall length. That's two. Three. Do that one more time. It's your fourth incomplete, half double crochet giving it a tug to pull it up to the height and yarn over and pull through all these loops. It looks like a lot. Just take your time. It helps you can twist your hook around while you're in there to get it through all those loops until lock your puff stitch, chain one. And there's one puff. Super cute. Skip one, according to the sequence and then puff in the next stitch. That puff again, it's my first incomplete, half double crochet, pulling up on that loop. Two, three, four. Yarn over and complete all of the half double crochets at the same time. Chain one to lock it into place. Keep skipping and puffing all the way down this row until one stitch remains and work a half double crochet into that very last stitch. At the last stitch here, that's your half double crochet. And around two, look something like this. I have six puffs total. For row three, chain three again. This counts as the first half double crochet of your row. Skip this space before the first puff. Don't work in that and then work a puff in this next space. You'll be working all your puffs in these spaces between the previous puffs. This puff goes right after your first previous puff. So my second puff of this row goes into that between puff space. We always end our puff rows with a half double crochet. And remember this turning chain from the previous row is a stitch in this pattern. So work your final half double crochet into the top of that turning chain. Oops, try not to split your yarn if possible. I'm noticing I'm getting some splitting. So just reinstate your hook again and try to get all the strands of your yarn to my half double crochet. After row three, you should still have six puff stitches total. One, two, three, four, five, six. Rounds

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four and so on are the exact same as row three. I would skip that first space and work my next puff in this second space. Keep working your puffs stitch rows until you've reached about the height of your square. Grab your cardboard and you can see that for my swatch, I have a little bit more space to go before completing a square, but it doesn't look like quite enough space to work another puff row. So use your judgment and use your own square to see whether or not you can end on a puff row or if you need a little bit extra. I'll show you that little extra single crochet row to finish my square. Chain one and turn. This is my row nine. Work one single crochet into this first half double crochet. So one, then work two single crochets between each puff stitch across. Here's that puffs stitch space. Work two single crochets, one, two. The next space, one, two. All the way down. Don't forget that this turning chain counts as a stitch so you wanna pop a single crochet at the top of that turning chain also. That should be 14 single crochets across. It's really fun to see how these three stitches that are constructed so similarly can yield such interesting and different results. And the puffs stitch just has a really fun, soft squishy texture that is awesome for baby blankets.

Day 20 - Spike stitch

- Spike stitch is a great stitch for playing with colorwork. We're actually going to create our swatch in stripes, so you can see the spike stitch really easily. The spike stitch is basically a modified single crochet, really simple, it just has really long legs. And what creates interesting shapes is you can increase, and decrease the length of those legs. Your foundation chain for this pattern needs to be a multiple of six plus three. My foundation chain was 15. Then your first three rows are just single crochet evenly across. You'll start spiking in row four. I'm also changing colors at this point. That's up to you, whether or not you want to do that, but I'm doing it so that you can easily see the spike. As we talked about when learning how to change colors, you want to do it in the previous stitch, or the very last stitch in your previous color. So I'm actually going to pull out my last single crochet here in mint. Put the loops back on my hook. I'm cutting my mint yarn. Bring in your second color, mine is pink. I'm putting my slip knot on my hook to introduce color number two, and finish that previous mint stitch with the pink. Chain one and turn. You will be repeating a sequence here twice, and I'll show you the very first sequence that will take up half of the row. It starts with a single crochet in the first stitch. It's just regular single crochet. And your second stitch is the spike stitch. So you'll start not in the next stitch in row one, but in a space below it in between row one and two. We call this a spike stitch in the second row. Complete your single crochet around your project like this, and see how the spike stitch wraps around row one. And make sure you're keeping your yarn pretty loose so it can travel up the row. So this is your first single crochet. This is your spike stitch. You can see how the legs are a little bit longer to travel that distance. Our third stitch is another spike stitch one row below the previous one. So not work here in the first row. We'll go down two and then three. Make sure that you pull up that loop so it can travel upward. Yarn over to complete your single crochet. See how these are getting longer and longer creating a really fun pattern. Our fourth stitch is a spike stitch four below, so not here, which would be one, two, three, and four. You're basically working in that very first single crochet row. Pull your yarn all the way back up, and over to complete the single crochet. Those are the four different stitches you'll use for this particular pattern. To complete the sequence, we're gonna go from four stitches below, back up to three. So one, two, three. Pull up the yarn. Complete the single crochet. The next one is two, one, two, spike stitch two rows below. And finishing with a single crochet. That really cool wave pattern. We're gonna repeat these stitches one more time, all the way across. So it starts with a single crochet. Spike stitch two below, one, two. Spike stitch three below, one, two, three. Spike stitch four below,

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one, two, three, all the way down to the bottom of our piece for two. Pull that yarn up. Spike stitch three below, one, two, three. Spike stitch two below, one, two. And in the last stitch, a single crochet. Your next three rows will just be plain single crochet rows. So you can either change colors, or continue to use the same color. For my swatch, I kept using the same pink. Chain one and turn, and just work one single crochet evenly all the way across. The rest of my swatch is a sequence of a spike stitch row with three single crochet rows evenly, and I change color and do another spike stitch row, and three single crochets evenly. Keep doing that until you've reached your square. If at any point in that sequence between rows four and seven, you already reach your square shape, you don't have to totally complete four, three, seven. You can stop at any time in there. We're just looking for that square shape. In your class PDF, I also included this slightly staggered pattern where you work the first two colors exactly the same, but our third color you can see the spikes are shifted a couple stitches over, and it creates this really cool diamond pattern. You can have a lot of fun playing with varying the length of your spike stitches, and also how you alternate your colors. Spike stitch is super exciting for making beautiful afghans.

Day 21 - Shell stitch
- I'm gonna nerd out a tiny bit about this next stitch. It's the shell stitch. I have really nostalgic feels about it because when I was first starting to make my food-themed and salad-themed scarves it just read lettuce and salad to me, which I know is a little bit weird looking at it now but I think I was just starting out. I didn't know a lot of stitches. So I'm super excited to show you shell stitch and just to keep in mind if you work shell stitches in the future there are a lot of different variations. It's made with a cluster of stitches, spaces between, and then single crochets to keep those clusters flat and you might find different numbers of double crochets in these clusters or a different amount of spaces. You can even work the shell stitch with taller stitches like the treble crochet. So there's a lot of different variation you can find for various looks and I'll show you how to create the one I have right here. Your foundation chain needs to be a multiple of six plus one extra. This chain has 19. We'll jump right into shell stitches for row one and the first three chains from my hook count as the first stitch or the first double crochet. In the fourth chain, work two double crochets. There's one and then two. This is just half a shell that we're starting the row with. Skip the next two chains and work a single crochet in the next stitch. Here's where your shell sequence will really begin. We're going to skip two; one, two; and work your shell here which is five double-crochets in one stitch. One, two, three, four, and then five. Skip two chains; one, two; and then single crochet in the next. You can see how the cluster of five double crochets bookended by these spaces and then single crochets kinda squishes that cluster down and creates a beautiful arched shell shape. We'll repeat that sequence until the end of the row here. So skip two, work my five double crochets in the next stitch; one, two. I'm trying to not stretch out my chain too much so I'm always holding on to the base of my shell with my thumb and my third finger and moving it to insert my hook and then holding onto it again. Here's my fifth double crochet. Skip two and ending with single crochet. The end of row one you'll have half of a shell and two complete shells. To start row two, chain three and turn. One, two, three, and turn. We're working that half-shell again, always starting with the half-shell. So that's two double crochets in the next stitch. There's one and two. Skip the next two stitches then work a single crochet and then we'll begin our sequence. Skipping two, here's my single crochet right at the top of the previous shell and our sequence is skip two and work five double crochets in the next stitch. One, two, three, four, five, skip two again, single crochet at the top of the previous shell. Repeat that one more time. Skip two, work your five double crochets in the third, two, three, four,

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and five. Skip two and then single crochet in the last stitch, which is actually the top of your turning chain. After row two, your project should look like this, again starting with half of a shell and then two complete shells. Rows three and onward are the exact same as row two. So keep working your shells until you're almost at your square height. I'll be working through row eight and then we'll come back and I'll show you how to finish off the top of your square. Grab your square. You can see here that I have a little bit farther to go but there's not quite enough room for another shell row and also that this top edge is really wavy and there's a way to remedy that by using different heights of stitches to fill in these waves. For row nine I'm gonna start by chaining two, turning my piece, skip this first stitch, and then we're gonna half double-crochet in the next stitch. Then work the following sequence two times; three single crochets evenly, one, two, and then three, and then half-double crochet and then a double crochet to reach all the way down here, half double crochet again and start the sequence over. That's three single crochets across the top of your shell, a half-double crochet, double crochet, half-double crochet, skip that last stitch and work single crochet in the top of the turning chain. Break my yarn off. You can see how we've now created a really nice top edge for our swatch.

Day 22 - Granny stripe

- Even people who've never crocheted a day in their life have probably heard of the granny stitch or the granny square. The classic granny stitch is a cluster of three double crochets spaced out with two chains in between. Those two chains create really cute windows throughout the pattern, and it makes a really nice, light density to the fabric. This swatch will be a granny stripe, which means we'll work our granny stitches in rows as we have been. You need to create a foundation chain that is a multiple of three plus two extra. I chained 14, and this is 13 single crochets across for my first row. We'll start the granny stitch on row two. To begin your row, chain three. One, two, three. And turn your piece. This starting chain also counts as the first stitch of row two. You'll then work one double crochet into the same stitch, that first stitch. This is a partial granny stitch. Here's where your granny stitch starts. You're going to skip two and then work three double crochets in the next stitch. One, two, three. And that's it, skip two, and then work three double crochets in the next stitch. These are the two spaces in between that create those fun little windows I was referring to before. Skip two. Three double crochets in the same stitch. If you want to, you can hold on with your thumb and your third finger as you work multiple stitches into one space. When you have three stitches remaining at the end of your row, work two double crochets into that last stitch. At the end of row one, you'll have three full granny stitches and then two partial ones on the side. For row three, we're going to chain two and turn. One, two, and then turn. You're going to crochet your granny stitches into these little windows or these little spaces from the granny stitches in the row below. So three double crochets into this first space. One, two, three. Move on to the next space. One, two, three. And again in the following space. Two, three. One more time. One, two, three. And you're going to work one double crochet in the top of your turning chain. It's the very last stitch from the previous row, right in the top. This is row three. Again, we have some partial grannies on each side, just the two little sticks here, and then four complete granny stitches in the center. For row four, chain two and turn. One double crochet in the same stitch, which is the first stitch. That's for your partial granny. And then repeat three double crochets in your granny stitch windows or your granny stitch spaces. One two, three. One, two, three. One, two, and three. When you get to this last space, don't work a cluster here. You're going to work two double crochets into the top of the turning chain. After row four, just to make sure you're on the right path here, count your stitches. You should have 13. And

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the starting chain counts as the first one. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13. Perfect. For the rest of the pattern, you're just alternating rows three and four. For me, I need to alternate that two more times to reach the height of my square. And you'll see for this pattern that since we have 13 stitches across, it might be a little bit too skinny to fit in your square. There's a little bit of an edge here. So we're going to work single crochets along the edges of our stitches. My swatch here is worked up through eight rows. My row nine will be worked down this edge, just to create a little more width. So chain one. Just rotate your project 90 degrees. and you'll have to eyeball this a little bit. I'm aiming for 14 single crochets evenly across. There aren't going to be clear spots to put your single crochets, so do your best to get as close to 14 as you can. You wanna space them evenly and pretend as if you had a previous single crochet row to work with. You've worked single crochet quite a bit up till now, so you might be able to eyeball it better than you think, but just give it a go. You wanna try to squish your hook kind of in between these sides, like into the edge of the stitches you've already worked. Here's one. Let me put two here. Go in here, three. And see how it's kind of arbitrary. Four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11, 12. I'm gonna hit probably 13 here. Well, there's 13. I can squish the 14th one in there. If it's looking too crazy, take it apart and start over. But 14 is a good number of stitches to make sure that you're not squishing the edge or that there's not too much ruffling if you've created too many stitches. You'll also see that sometimes I'm squishing out the fabric a lot. If everything's looking a little crinkly, I know it's really obvious, but sometimes you're like, "Why is this curly?" But it's just really easy to just flatten it out and press it with your hands. Break off. And now your granny stripe is a perfect little square.

Day 23 - Granny square

- Now that you're super familiar with the granny stitch, you're going to create a classic granny square and we crochet this in the round. Take a look at these swatches I have out. We're going to make our swatch all in one color, but so you can see how this is built more easily, we're gonna take a look at this swatch made with a bunch of different colors. We're gonna start here in the center round one. You can see the gold here is round two. This rusty coral orange color is round three. And since that granny square is a little bit too small to fit into my desired size, we're going to do one single crochet around to complete it. To start, chain four. One, two, three, four. This starting chain also counts as the first double crochet of our very first granny stitch. In the fourth chain from your hook, which is the very last one, work two double crochets. One, and then two. Since this is in the round, you'll be working all the rest of your stitches in this round in that very same stitch. Chain two. And then three double crochets into the base of that first stitch again. So one, two, three. That's your second granny stitch. Chain two. Work your third granny stitch. One, two, three. And to complete the square, there's one more. So chain two. And three double crochet cluster. Two, three. One last chain two. And then you'll slip stitch to join at the very top of your first stitch, which is your turning chain. So insert your hook into the top of that turning chain, yarn over and pull through to join. That's a complete round one. For some granny stitch patterns, you have to break off the yarn and bring it back in again. That's a ton of ends to weave in. What I like about this version is you can just keep going with the same yarn if you like. To start round two, chain four. This starting chain also counts as our first double crochet of the round. You'll complete the granny square by crocheting two double crochets in this space right underneath that starting chain. One and two. Chain two to get to your next corner. In each corner here, you're working two granny stitches in each space. So here's my first one. Chain two. Work your next granny cluster. Two and three. Chain two. And put another two granny stitches in this next corner. Here's my first one. Chain two. And the second.

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Chain two again. Two granny stitches in this corner. My first one, chain two. The second cluster. Chain two. And we're back at our first corner. There's only one granny stitch in it right now. So we'll put in one more. One, two, three, chain two. And slip stitch to the top of the first stitch, which again is the top of our turning chain. You can see our square starting to form. It's really cute and little. Round three starts again with a chain four. One, two, three, four. We're working back in the corner right underneath it again, completing the granny stitch with two double crochets. One, two. Chain two to get to the next space. As we're building this square, you'll have your four corners and then chain two spaces in between them on all the edges. We'll work one granny stitch along the side here and two in the corner, one, two in the corner, one, two in the corner, one, and then we'll complete that second one on this edge. Back at our first corner here, I'm working my final granny cluster. Chain two. And then slip stitch the top of my starting chain. You can keep going around and around indefinitely, building out a bigger and bigger granny square. But for our purposes, for a little four-by-four swatch, I'll complete the square with a round of single crochet. Chain one and what you'll be doing is working a single crochet into the top of each double crochet. You'll also work a single crochet into each chain two space. And in each corner, work a single crochet, two chains, and a single crochet. Work the first single crochet into the top of this starting chain. One, our next one is in this second double crochet, then the third double crochet. We're at a space here, so one single crochet in the space. Back at a cluster of three, so that's three single crochet stitches. One, two, and then three. In the space, one single crochet. Across the top of the cluster, one in each, so that's one single crochet, two, and three. We're at the corner now, so here is where we work one single crochet, two chains, and a single crochet. Continue working your single crochet round in the same way, and when you get to the end, slip stitch to the first single crochet of the round to join. And your finished square will look just like this. Again, this is really fun to play with sizing. This is an iconic crochet pattern, and now that you know how to make a granny square, you're going to see them everywhere.

Day 24 - Waffle stitch

- Let's start playing with post stitches. This is when we work our stitches not into the top of the previous row, but around it. This creates really neat textures because we're popping stitches in and out from the surface of our crochet. The waffle stitch is a fabulous introduction to post stitches because it's really easy and makes this super cute waffle shape, which is perfect for dishcloths. Your foundation chain should be a multiple of three plus two extra. This is chain 17. For row one, you'll skip the first three chains, one, two, three, and then work a double crochet. The starting chain here also counts as the first double crochet of your row. Continue working double crochets evenly in all the rest of the chains. Row two is where the fun starts. Let's chain two, and turn. That turning chain also counts as a first double crochet. In this pattern, because of that, you skip the first stitch here because our first stitch is the chain. You're going to repeat this next sequence all the way down the row. The next stitch is a front post double crochet. That means instead of working in the top of this next stich as per usual, you will be working around the entire stitch. So your hook is going to go front to back, wrap around the stitch, back to the front, yarn over, pull through one, yarn over, pull through two, yarn over, pull through two, just like a regular double crochet, except we anchored it much differently. Then work two double crochets evenly. You might look back here and think I did not work a stitch here into the next free stitch, but you worked the front post crochet stitch instead. So whenever you work a front post stitch, skip the next stitch in your current row and work your following stitch in the following space here. So I'm gonna double crochet in this space and then

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work my second double crochet in the sequence in the next stitch. Let's do that again. Our front post double crochet, not in the top of the next stitch, but around here. So front to back, back to front. Yarn over to start your double crochet, pull through two, pull through two. Don't forget to skip what looks like the next free stitch. Work your next stitch in the following stitch. One double crochet. Here's your second double crochet. Let me front post again. I'm gonna skip what looks like the free stitch, double crochet, double crochet. From post, double crochet, double crochet. When you have two stitches remaining, this one and the turning chain, work a front post double crochet in that very last double crochet stitch here, and then a regular double crochet into the top of your turning chain. Whew, you did it! (laughs) So you can see the front post stitches popping out here. It'll get much more easy to see them popping out the further we go and then your two regular double crochets in between them spacing out the little waffle design. For row three chain two, and turn. Remember that turning chain counts as a stitch so don't work a stitch in what seems like the first stitch, because we already created it with the chain. And your sequence for row three is double crochet in the next stitch. And then two front post double crochets. Don't work in here, work around the stitch beneath it. And again, front to back, back to front, and complete the double crochet. Back at the beginning of my sequence, One regular double crochet in the top of the previous row, and then two front post double crochets, just front to back, back to front, complete the double crochet. You'll repeat this sequence until two stitches remain. Here I have the top of my last double crochet here and the top of my turning chain. You're going to work double crochets in each of those. So one in this last double crochet stitch, and then one in the top of this turning chain. All the rest of your rows from here on are just alternating rows two and three. Here's the front, you can see the horizontal line of the waffle starting to form, here we have the vertical lines. I repeat my sequence two more times to reach the height of my square. If you feel like your waffle swatch is slightly smaller than your desired size, you can always work a row of single crochets down the side edge as we did with the granny stripe and then one more row of single crochet, 15 stitches across along the bottom.

Day 25 - Alpine stitch

- The alpine stitch looks super sophisticated, but the secret is it's really easy to crochet. All we're doing is alternating our front post double crochet stitches with regular double crochet stitches. To start the alpine swatch, you can chain any number as long as it's odd, and I chained 15. Row one is simply a single crochet row, one single crochet in each for 14. Row two is a double crochet row, again, just 14 stitches across. And row three is another single crochet row. Row four is where we start working with our front post stitches. Chain two, and turn. Keep in mind whenever we work a front post stitch, we aren't working in the top of that same stitch. The sequence you're repeating is a front post double crochet and a regular double crochet. I'm yarning over to prepare for my first front post stitch. You'll be working in the double crochets from two rows below. That's from row two. Remember to go around the stitch, from front to back, back to front. Yarn over, and complete your double crochet. Pull through two. Pull through two. Skipping that first stitch, 'cause we worked the front post stitch, double crochet in the next. Your second front post stitch... Remember not here. You're gonna go underneath the stitch below it. Regular double crochet in the next stitch. Keep alternating in this way until you get to the end of your row. Finish with a double crochet. I'm gonna count my stitches, just to make sure everything looks good. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14. Perfect. For row five, chain one, and turn. Single crochet evenly across. It's 14 stitches. We're alternating with plain single crochet to make sure that all of our texture pops

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on the front of our swatch. We're looking at the back right now. Okay. Let's count the stitches just to be sure. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine 10, 11, 12, 13, 14. Terrific. Row six, chain two and turn. The pattern for row six will look very similar to row four, with one slight difference, which creates our alpine stitch pattern. Work a double crochet in the first stitch, just regular, right on top of that first stitch, and then work your front post double crochet, not in the previous front post stitch from below, but in that regular double crochet stitch. So yarn over. Front to back, back to front. Yarn over again. Pull through two, pull through two. And one regular double crochet. Work your front post again in the regular double crochet from two rows below, not the front post stitch, and then a regular double crochet. And this is what's creating this alternating texture with the front post stitches. Continue alternating in this way until you reach two stitches remaining. In the last two stitches, work two regular double crochets. Count your stitches again. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14. Fantastic. For rows seven through 10, you'll just repeat rows three to six again, and then we'll finish with a single crochet border on top.

Day 26 - Diamond stitch
- I am a huge fan of the diamond stitch, and I know you will be too because it looks exactly like an ice cream cone. We create that really cool lattice texture with front post treble crochets. Your foundation chain should be a multiple of four plus three extra. I started with chain 15, and the first three rows are just working single crochet evenly. I finished row three. I'm about to start row four, which is our first front post treble crochet row. Chain one and turn. All the front post stitches in row four are worked into or around the single crochet stitches from row one. So we're going to be doing a lot of traveling back up and down the rows we've already crocheted. Here's what front post work means. Instead of inserting your hook into a stitch, we're gonna actually be wrapping our hook around it like this. For the treble crochet, you start with your two yarn overs. And we're going to skip the first two stitches in row one. So skip one and two. And insert your hook from front to back, back to front, around this third single crochet. Yarn over. And your first pull through is through that stitch. Oops, I lost my post there. Bring up your loop. To complete the treble crochet, yarn over, pull through the first two loops, yarn over, pull through the first two loops again, and yarn over and pull through the last two loops. You can see how this stitch travels all the way back down here. Here's where our sequence will start. You're going to single crochet three times evenly. But whenever you work a front post stitch, don't work in the next free stitch because our front post here counts as this stitch. So always skip the stitch that's behind your front post work. To work the three single crochets evenly, I'm working into the next free stitch here. So here's my first single crochet. Number two. Number three. Things are gonna start getting a little bit wild, but take it slowly and have patience with yourself because the next stitch is going to be a front post treble crochet two together. So essentially, just so you know what's happening, we just created this stitch. Our next stitch, we're working this upside down V all in one stitch. So you can see here's two treble crochets, and it's two together. So ultimately they join at the top into one stitch. So it sounds like a lot, and it is a mouthful. I'll show you how that works. The first half of this stitch, we're gonna yarn over twice. The first leg goes around the base of the front post stitch that we just worked. So come back down. Go in the exact same spot, front to back, back to front. Yarn over and pull through the stitch. Yarn over and pull through the first two loops. Yarn over and pull through the first two loops again. But don't complete your treble crochet just yet. You should have two loops on your hook. Now you're gonna prepare for the second leg of that upside down V, the second leg of your decreased stitch basically. Come back down to two rows below here. You're going to skip three stitches in row one.

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One, two, three. And then front post treble crochet around that fourth stitch. So yarn over one, pull through the stitch Yarn over and pull through two. Yarn over and pull through two again. You should have three loops left on your hook. Yarn over and pull through all three. Look at that! Oh, it's so amazing. It's magical. Okay, so don't forget, whenever you work your front post stitch, you're gonna look back here and think that this is your next free stitch, but you need to skip that and then start your sequence over and work your three single crochets starting in here. There's one, two, and then three. There's another front post treble crochet two together. Go into where the base of your previous front post stitch was. Work your treble crochet until there are two loops left. And we're gonna travel again down below, skipping three stitches. One, two, three. And then front post work here. Pull through two. Pull through two. When there are three loops left on your hook, yarn over and pull through all three. There's your second V. In the next three stitches, you'll single crochet evenly again. So skip that next free stitch. Three single crochets. One, two, and three. You should have two stitches left to go. The first one is going to be just a regular front post treble crochet around the base of that last stitch we just worked here, the last front post stitch. Pull through two. Pull through two. Pull through two. Remember, you have to skip that one because of the front post. And then single crochet in the last stitch. Here's what your first front post row looks like. It should look like a little zigzag. Be very proud of yourself. We're getting into some trickier stitches here. You can take it easy for the next three rows because you're just working another set of three single crochet rows. We'll come back for row eight. Chain one and turn. Row eight starts with two single crochets evenly. One, two. And your first front post stitch is a front post treble crochet two together. We're going to be working in the top of this previous front row stitch and the tops of this front post stitch. To start your treble crochet, yarn over twice. Go around the post here, around the top of this treble crochet. Complete it up until two loops left on your hook. Yarn over twice to start the next front post stitch. Wrap your hook around the top here, the top of this V. Pull through. Yarn over two and pull through two. Yarn over and pull through two. When you have three loops left on your hook, yarn over and pull through all three. You'll notice that for row eight, we're completing those diamond shapes that we started in row four. Here's where your sequence starts, with three single crochets evenly. Remember to skip that free stitch back here because of your post-work. Then three single crochets. One, two, three. And your next front post treble crochet two together begins in the same stitch in the same spot that you just worked your last front post stitch. So treble crochet until there are two loops left on your hook. Yarn over twice. And the second leg goes at the top of the next front post stitch from row four. Do the sequence one more time. Skip that first free stitch. Three single crochets. Work your front post treble crochet two together around the same spot you just previously worked. The second leg goes at the top of this front post treble crochet. You should have four stitches left here. Remember, you have to skip that first free stitch, and then three single crochets to the end of the row. Look how cool that is. You should have three little diamond shapes on your swatch right now. Rows 9 through 11 are also just single crochets evenly. To start row 12, gonna chain one and turn. And row 12 is very similar to row 4. It's just that we're working our front post stitches into the tops of the front post stitches from our previous front post row. Just wanted to point that out because the pattern does read a little differently, but all the techniques are exactly the same as row four. As a refresher, let's just go through row 12 one time. You're going to front post treble crochet around the top of this first front post stitch from four rows below to complete the front post stitch. And your sequence is three single crochets. Remember to skip the first one and work your three. One, two, and three. And your front post treble crochet two together will start in the same spot that you just worked through for your front post stitch. Only

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work that to two stitches. Yarn over twice. Travel over to the next front stitch from four rows below, and complete the second leg. From then on, you know where to put your hook, and row 12 is exactly like row four. Rows 13 through 15 are also three rows of just plain single crochet. So you can kind of see how the sequence works, where it's three rows of single crochet, and then a row of front post work, and then three single crochet rows again, and then another row of front post work. To get to my square, I worked to 16 rows. Depending on how you work, that might be a different number, but you can stop anywhere within the sequence, and your square will have this really cute lattice pattern.

Day 27 - Basketweave stitch

- We've been working a lot of front post stitches, and that might leave you wondering, "Is there such thing as a back post stitch?" And yes, absolutely. The basket weave stitch is a really fun and pretty easy way to combine both front post and back post stitches to create an effect that really looks like a woven basket. Begin with a chain that's a multiple of eight. I've chained 16 here. Row one is simply a row of double crochets. You'll skip the first three chains, one, two, three. That's going to count as a chain in this row. Yarn over and double crochet and keep double crocheting one in each chain all the way down. Wanna count your stitches, this is a good spot to do it. Remember that turning chain counts. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14. That's what we want. To start row two, chain three, one, two, three, and turn. Again, this counts as the first stitch of this row. So skip this one and work a front post double crochet around the second stitch. So your front post double crochet is yarn over, wrap your hook from front to back, back to front, yarn over again and pull through, yarn over, pull through the first two loops, yarn over and pull through the last two loops. You have your first front post double crochet. You're going to work three more for a total of four, so go around the next post from the row below and complete your double crochet. Do that two more times. Your next four stitches are back post double crochets. So rather than wrapping your hook from front to back to front, you're gonna come from behind the work and wrap your hook back to front and front to back. So yarn over to start your double crochet and back post comes from the back to the front, from the front back to the back, yarn over, and pull through. That's gonna feel a little weird. Take your time. You should have three loops on your hook. Complete your double crochet, pulling through two, pulling through two. You're going to see there's a little ridge here between your two rows, and that is correct. Work three more back post double crochets. Remember it's back to front, front to back, wrapping around that previous double crochet, yarn over, pull through the stitch, yarn over and pull through two, yarn over and pull through two. Then two more back posts. And then four front posts. The last stitch of the row is a regular double crochet into the top of your turning chain. End of row two looks like this. For row three, chain three and turn. This is basically the reverse of row two. You're starting with back post, then we'll go to front post, and then end with back post. So remember to skip the first stitch because your turning chain counts as that first stitch, and back post double crochet for a total of four stitches. That's two, three, and four. Switch up to front post double crochet for four stitches. That's one, two, three, and four. Back post for four stitches. One, two, three, one more, four. Your last stitch is a regular double crochet at the top of your turning chain. You should always have 14 stitches at the end of each row. Row four is exactly the same as row three. You're skipping the first stitch and then working back post double crochet. Come from the back. Finish your stitch. Do that three more times. Come from the back, front, back. Four front post double crochets next. That's two, three, and four. Then four back post double crochets. That's one, two, three, four. Last stitch, double crochet at the top of the

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turning chain. Row five is a chain three and a turn. Oops, I think I only have two chains there. Three chains and a turn. Again, skipping the first stitch and working front post double crochet around the stitch below. Oops. Work four front post double crochets total. So if you were to basket weave for a scarf or a project that's much larger than this, the sequence you'd be repeating is rows two to five over and over and over. We don't have room in our square for another full motif, so I'm working my pattern to row seven. I'm at the end of row seven here. If you bring in your cardboard square, you can see mine, I'm gonna smoosh it out a little bit just because these back post stitches tend to crinkle up. But even after smoothing this out, there's still some space left all the way around. And this is easy to remedy with a border, which we've been doing with some of our previous swatches. To start your border, you would chain one and turn and work single crochets evenly here. In the corner, you would work single crochet, chain one, single crochet, all in one stitch to get around the corner, 13 single crochets evenly again, and in the corner, single crochet, chain one, single crochet in the same stitch. You repeat that, just working your single crochets evenly and working in the corners a single crochet, chain one, single crochet, all the way around and joining with a slip stitch to the first stitch at the end. When you're finished with your border, you'll see that your square now fits on top of your cardboard.

Day 28 - Herringbone stitch

- Herringbone is a type of woven, twill fabric that is characterized by distinctive zigzag lines. We can replicate this with crochet, and I think it's a really beautiful stitch. You might run into different versions created with half double crochet or even double crochet. I really like the single crochet version. It's the aesthetic that I prefer. And I'll show you how to do that. You can start the stitch with any number of chains that you want. I'm starting with chain 19, which is a little bit more than usual, but to fit my square, I need to chain more, because this stitch is so dense, it requires more stitches to fill out the space. For row one, skip the first stitch and just work a regular single crochet into the next. It's really important to try to keep your stitches as loose as possible or as looser than normal. And you'll see why in a second. So that's kind of a bigger looser single crochet than I'd normally work. Now your single crochet stitch, I'm gonna pull my hook out for a second, is comprised of the top of this stitch, as we've discussed, it looks like a V here. And the front of a single crochet also looks like a V. You can see my tapestry needle in the V that's the front of the stitch. For the herringbone single crochet, you're first sticking your hook into this left leg. So here's the right leg and the left leg. That's why it's nice to keep your stitches nice and loose, so you can get your hook and see this left leg. I'll put my hook back on my yarn, insert into the left leg of the single crochet stitch I just made. Then insert your hook into the next chain. Yarn over and pull through the first loop. Yarn over and pull through all three loops. And we're gonna try to use your thumb and your third finger to anchor the stitch. This also helps you keep your stitch loose, so it doesn't bunch up together and get really tight. You won't really be able to see what this looks like yet, until we start getting a couple of rows going. It will kind of look like a hybrid of a single crochet and a half double crochet. The rest of row one is simply herringbone single crochet all the way down. Insert your hook into the left leg of the past single crochet, insert your hook into the next chain. Yarn over, pull through one, yarn over and pull through all three, nice and loose. Keep repeating that into the left leg first, don't forget, and then in the next chain. Yarn over, pull through one, yarn over and pull through all three loops. I sometimes use my right index finger to push that stitch leg onto my hook. I'm noticing I'm also using the middle finger of my left hand to help push it on from the back. So use all the fingers that you have if you're having trouble getting your hook into the right places. You

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have lots of different appendages at your disposal, don't forget to use them. At the end of row one, I have 18 stitches total. Start row two with a chain one and turn. This part is gonna get wild, so take it really slow and don't forget to work loosely. The first stitch, much like row one, is a single crochet. However, our even numbered rows, our row two, row four, row six, will all be worked from behind. I'll show you what that means. If you were working a single crochet normally, you'd come from front to the back to pick up that top stitch here. For this herringbone, we need to come from behind to the front. Which is gonna feel really weird, but I know you can do it. Also remember, your hook needs to go under this working yarn, not over. Just come underneath everything from behind. Insert your hook from the back to the front, yarn over and pull through. When you do this pull through, you'll probably have to rotate your hook a little bit. It's kind of like a dance. Think of it as just like you're doing a little twirl, reach back, two loops on the hook. Yarn over, keep it loose and complete your single crochet from behind. I don't know that it's really called that, but that's what I'm calling it because it makes sense to me. I'm gonna undo this and just show you what happens if you don't come under the working yarn, you come over it instead. So coming from behind here, doing my pull through, and I end up with three loops on my hook and I should only have two. So that's why you have to remember to dip under this working yarn and come from behind. Pull through two loops, yarn over and pull through two loops. Okay, it's gonna get even more wild, because we have to start doing our herringbone single crochet also from behind. Gonna grab my tapestry needle again, to point out the anatomy of the stitch. Let's say we're working the herringbone single crochet from the front, we would pick the left leg of the stitch. We still kind of want the left leg of the stitch, but we want it from the behind area here. So it might be easier at first to just turn your piece, check the stitch out. You would be grabbing sort of the outer most loop. The loop that's closest to the direction that we're working in. We'll point this out again as we work the next stitch. Insert your hook into that left leg from behind here and start your single crochet from behind here, back to front, yarn over twist your hook. Once you start your herringbone stitches from behind, having three loops on your hook is correct. If you have four, that's when you know you have done it incorrectly. Yarn over and pull through all three loops. The rest of row two is just these herringbone stitches from behind. So you wanna poke your head around the corner here, look on the back. This is the left leg of the stitch we just made. Stick your hook in there. We're gonna come under the working yarn and back to the front into your next stitch. Yarn over, do your twirly pull through. Yarn over and pull through all three loops on your hook. When you start getting more used to this, you won't even have to look back there for the leg. You just sort of feel that back there, it's the outer most loop that I just worked. And since my stitches are nice and loose, it's really easy for me to feel it with middle finger and put it on my hook. Then the left leg from the back. And then into the next stitch from the back. Yarn over and twist. Yarn over and pull through all three stitches. Just keep going all the way until the end of the row. At the end of row three, you should have the same number of stitches as before. For me, that's 18. And all the rest of the rows, you're just alternating rows two and three, over and over again. You can see on my swatch, there's a definite front and back to the herringbone. This looks nice too, but you did all that hard work for this beautiful zigzag design here. It's a really dense fabric and it's actually really great for making bags.

Day 29 - Star stitch

- I read once on a website that the star stitch is the most difficult stitch in crochet. Apparently it's legendary. I think that you can do it. It's going to feel very similar to spike stitch in certain ways, it also feels very similar to a puff. It's actually a modified, super fancy single crochet. It's actually five

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single crochets work into one stitch, but we will work all those five stitches into different spots, which create the spikes of our star. Different patterns might have different numbers of spikes. I'm going with five, 'cause in my brain that's how many spikes a star has. You can also switch up what kind of stitch you use for the alternating row. I'll be alternating with half double crochets, because I think they look nice and it helped me fill out my square shape. Your foundation chain needs to be an even number of chains. I've chained 18. Skip the first chain from your hook, we'll start a corner star stitch by inserting our hook into the next chain, yarn over and pull up a loop, insert your hook into the following chain, yarn over and pull up a loop. You'll do this a total of five times. So here's three in the next chain, four in the next chain, five in the next chain. You should have six loops on your hook. Keep these pretty loose, because you need to yarn over and pull through all of them at the same time. You're going to chain one to close that star stitch, and it creates an eye in the center here, which we're going to work in next. Our first star stitch always starts a little bit differently. So from now on we're going to work the regular star stitch all the way down the line, It's just a repeated sequence, and it starts in the eye of the star that you just stitched in. We're working back through the star stitch and moving forward and then the next stitch we're going to work back through that previous one. It's is kind of this wave almost of working off one of the stitches we've already crocheted. To start the five spikes of our next star stitch insert your hook into the eye of the previous one, yarn over and pull through a loop, and you're going through this outside leg, that last spike stitch, it's going to feel a lot like that herringbone stitch. Yarn over and pull through one. Remember to keep everything nice and loose. For the next leg, insert your hook into the same chain, as the last spike of your previous star. Now you're back into your foundation chains. Insert your hook into the next free chain, pull through one, do that one more time, yarn over and pull through one. Once again, you'll have six loops on your hook, yarn over and pull through all six. Chain one to close the star and make your eye. So here you can see the corner star stitch, and then the next star stitch that we just crocheted. I'll show you one more time, and again, we're just making these star stitches all the way down. Insert your hook into the eye of the previous star, yarn over and pull through one, insert your hook into the last spike leg here, yarn over and pull through one, insert your hook into the same chain as that last previous spike, yarn over and pull through one, back into your foundation chains. The next chain, pull through one, the following chain, pull through one. Six loops on the hook. Yarn over, pull through all six loops and chain one to close it. Once you get your rhythm going it's really easy to count the number of spikes on your star and know when to stop pulling through all those loops. One, two, three, four, and then five, six loops on my hook. Don't forget to chain one for that eye. When you get to the end we're going to finish by working half double crochet into the last stitch, which is actually the same stitch you just worked your last spike in. Count your star stitches, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven. That's exactly how many I want. And for row two we're working our half double crochet row. Chain two and turn, half double crochet into the first half double crochet here, and then in the first eye from the previous row, we're working one half double crochet. It's really hard to tell where our star stitches are from this side of it. If you need to turn your piece and figure out where the eye is. I can see that the eye of this star is right here. So I'm gonna keep that in there and learn what it looks like from this side. You know where to put your next half double crochet. In all the next eyes you'll be working two half double crochets, so if you need to take a peek, go ahead. I've sort of taught myself that what looks like the next stitch is not what I wanna work in, the eye is this tinier little hole to the left of it. Two double crochets. So not this one, but the next tiny hole, which is the eye of the star stitch below. Two single crochets. So just to clarify, it's one half double crochet, one half double crochet in the first eye, and

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then two half double crochets in the following eyes. When you get to the end and you don't have any more eyes to work in work work one half double crochet into the top of your turning chain at the very end of the row right here. Count your stitches, you should have 16 total. For row three you'll start with a chain three. This is very similar to row one, it's just that our first corner star stitch here we'll start a little bit differently, simply because we are now just working with a turning chain and not a foundation chain. So this is chain three. You'll skip the first chain from your hook, insert your hook into the next chain, yarn over and pull through one, then the last chain, yarn over and pull through again, insert your hook into the first stitch, yarn over and pull through one, and do that a total of three times. Six loops, again, all on your hook. Yarn over and pull through, chain one to create the eye. The rest of row three, star stitches all the way down. Much like the end of row one, row three will also end with the half double crochet here in the top of the turning chain. Working my last half double crochet into the top of my turning chain. Chain two and turn. The rest of your rows you're simply alternating rows two and three. So it's the half double crochet row, and then a star stitch row again. Just keep building your star stitch rows and half double crochet rows until you've reached the desired square size. Yay, you've conquered the star stitch. You're the star. Also because this is our very last swatch of the series.

Day 30 - Seaming techniques
- If you'd like to start seaming all of your squares together, I'll show you three of my favorite techniques. You probably want to seam with a matching yarn like a pink, but I'm using a contrasting color so you can see what I'm doing a little more easily. For a seam like this, you want to make sure you have maybe at least three times the length of yarn. I always default to an arm length. It's just my personal habit. It's probably too much, but that's fine. I would rather have too much than run out. String that through. The first, probably easiest seaming technique is the whip stitch. If you've done a lot of sewing or embroidery, you're probably super familiar with this. It's really easy. I'm gonna come down here in the corner from the back to the front, leave myself a little tail for weaving in later, come into the corner of my second swatch from front to back, and then come back over here to my first swatch from back to front, and grabbing that stitch on the side. Pull through. Again, it's the whip stitch, I guess it just sort of feels like things are whipping around and around these side seams here. So you don't really have a defined stitch top like you do on this granny square. So just line it up as closely as you can to the side of the granny square, or you can just eyeball it too. It's pretty forgiving. And front to back, and then come back on the other square, back to front. This is definitely a more visible seam. It certainly is because I'm using a contrasting color, but even with the same color, you would be able to see these stitches. So while it's easy, it's not always preferred. You can see how I sort of skipped a little here. You can either take those out, or if this were the same color, you probably wouldn't see that quite as much. So I apologize for my slightly sloppy work, but again, we're eyeballing here and trying to line up with the stitches on this granny square. Just do that all the way down, super easy, and I like it because it's fast. I always use the whip stitch for sewing my toys together, and it's really a go-to. And keep going all the way down the line. Just tie knots at both ends and weave them in as you normally would. So that's number one. That's the whip stitch. This next one is called mattress stitch. To be honest, I never use it in my own work, but whenever I teach it, it looks super cool. And I'm like, why don't I use this more? It's neat because your seam becomes super invisible, not at all like the whip stitch. It's a little fussier and it takes longer, which is probably why I don't use it very much. But if you have the time and the patience, it's beautiful. Also, if you're using either color of your swatch, it'll be hidden even more, but I'm going to

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stick with my mint so you can see what I'm doing. You can see that these two swatches are slightly a different size. This one's slightly taller, and when you're seaming your projects together, for me, like the differences in size won't make a big deal. Once I seam a whole bunch of squares together, everything sort of falls into place, but if you want to keep them aligned, you can use a pin to make sure that the other end of your swatches is not moving around while you're seaming from the bottom. So I might put one at the top, make sure my bottom is aligned, and stick a pin in the center here just to hold everything together. You don't have to do this. I normally wouldn't. But if you're worried about your swatches slipping around, you can pin. It's okay if it's wiggly like that, as just as long as the corners and the edges here match up. The mattress stitch can be taught in different ways. I feel like there are some really precise, super obsessive ways to go about it. I think it's more forgiving than that, but essentially, it'll look quite similar from instructor to instructor. Come up from the back to the front in the corner from one side, oops, looks like I caught a little bit extra here from another stitch. I don't think that will make a, that won't be a big deal. So pull through until you have a tail for weaving in later, then come up from the back to the front of your second swatch. This is sort of going to feel like a shoelace. So come back, I'm going to work sort of inside through the edge of my stitches, like this. So come back close to where your previous yarn came out, pick up a loop or two, just travel maybe like 1/8 of an inch and come up, stick your hook back close to where your yarn is coming out from this side, on the right side, pick up a loop or two and come up. Come back over on the left side, close to where your yarn came up from before. Pick up a loop or two. Come back over here, close to where you started before. Pick up a loop or two, and come up. So it's just this zigzag motion through the sides of your swatches. You can see how this is a little bit more laborious, but what happens is after you get maybe an inch, or an inch and a half down the way, you can tighten both sides, and look how nearly invisible that is. I might've skipped something around here, but if that mint color were the color of my coral square, you wouldn't see that at all. Keep working at your mattress stitches all the way up. I would seam, you know, an inch at a time and then pull it tight. That's the mattress stitch. The third technique is single crocheting your seams together. This is a very visible seam, but I also think it's really pretty and can add as an accent, it creates a nice border. I'll be seaming these two squares together. Noticing the one on the right is slightly taller than the one on the left. Still not a big deal, but when this happens is when I usually will put a pin in just to make sure that at the end, these line up just a little bit better. Spin this around, stick in a pin, and then I'll just make sure that I begin my border here with the corners meeting. Insert your hook through both pieces. I have my single crochet chain two, single crochet corner here. So I'll stick my hook in that gap to get me in the corner, and then stick your hook in the corner of the next swatch. Bring in your yarn, and join it. I like to start with a slip knot. You don't have to. Pull through and chain one to join it. It's really simple. You're just single crocheting through both pieces all the way down. So I'll work a single crochet in this same corner stitch to start my border here. And my mint yarn, even though this is the same brand and same line, is somewhat thicker than the pink yarn. So I may not decide to single crochet in each stitch on this border, but you can play with that and decide what kind of spacing you like. So I'm like skipping one, 'cause those look really bunchy, and you want to work your hook through the front piece and then the back piece, and then yarn over to start your single crochet. It might be a little tight, so just rotate your hook back and forth to kind of see-saw that yarn right through, yarn over and pull through two loops to complete the single crochet. Just keep doing this down the line. I'll do a couple more just so you can see what that seam ends up looking like. This looks really fun when it creates a grid. So it kind of has a nice side and a less nice side, but when it's on an overall larger piece, it's gonna look really cool, and that little pop

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of color is really nice.

Bonus day - finished projects
- You now have the building blocks or building squares to create almost anything you can think of. I thought that a really fun way to commemorate all the swatches we created was to make this fun wall hanging. I used the single crochet seam, both vertically and horizontally. I also created a single crochet border all the way around after I did all my seeming. I have that single crochet chain two, single crochet corner. So even that really simple border creates a really nice finish to pull it all together, especially if you've used a visible seam like I did. To turn this into a wall hanging, just grab a dowel or a stick from your yard. that's slightly wider than your wall hanging. I used, I'm going to pull off this hanger for a second so you can see, this is just simple whip stitch right on to the dowel. You could actually just hang this on a nail and make sure the nail comes through the top like this to hang on your wall. If you prefer the look of a wall hanger, I included an easy pattern for this wall hanger in your class PDF. Basically just starts with a loop created with 10 chains and you slip stitch to create the loop. I then chained for the length that matches the width of my wall hanging and then chained 10 more and simply crocheted back into that first chain to create my second loop slip. Just slip those loops on the end of the dowel, hang it up like this, looks so cute. If you don't feel like doing all this seeming, your squares are just as cute by themselves. But I happened upon the term mug rug for a coaster and I fell in love with it. It's a new to me. It's probably not new to everyone else, but I thought a cute mug rug set would be so fun. Grab any of the swatches and make tassels for either side. Like how cute this looks. That is precious. If you wanna learn how to create a really simple tassel, it's really quick. I'll just do one. So you can see grab some yarn. I use three strands of yarn for each of these tassels. Use my hand as a measure wrapped around once, twice, three times for my three strands, clip them across the top. There's my three, find the center of those strands, centerish is fine. It doesn't have to be super precise. Insert your hook wherever you want to put your tassel. You can use your fingers for some of this, but I think getting these strands through your square, the crochet hook makes it more easy. So pull up enough so you can fit your fingers in here. Grab the free ends, pull them through. You can then tighten by pulling on the pieces of yarn individually. And then trim. Congratulations, you now have all the skills, stitches, and techniques to crochet basically anything under the sun from two dimensional projects like afghans and scarves to more three dimensional projects like toys and sweaters, big, small, simple, complicated, anything you can dream of, you can crochet.

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