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## **Gaga for Granny Squares** with Cal Patch

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### **Chapter 1 - Introduction**

#### Overview

(bright music) - Granny squares are such a classic style of crochet. They can either go kitschy and vintage or modern and elegant. In this workshop, I'm going to show you how to work up a basic square, how to play with different variations on color, and how to join the squares in a few different ways so that you can work up some modern projects. (bright music)

### **Chapter 2 - Materials**

#### Materials

- To crochet some granny squares, you really don't need many supplies at all. You will need some yarn. And really a wide variety of yarns will work, but a good thing to start out with is just some classic worsted weight simple yarn, nothing crazy, nothing hairy or fuzzy. You can actually use different sizes of yarn, but worsted is kind of the classic that you see for afghans in most projects, so I'd suggest starting out there. And you can always play around with other sizes later. You'll also need some crochet hooks. And I've got a wooden hook and a metal hook. I'm using somewhere between an H and an F. You'll wanna play around with a few different sizes of hooks to get a gauge that you like and that you're happy with for the project you're making. You'll also need a tapestry needle for weaving in your ends and just a pair of scissors to clip off any stray ends after you weave them in.

### **Chapter 3 - Multi-Color Squares**

#### Start the round

- A granny square has a very simple composition made up of consecutive rounds. Usually we change colors with each round that we do so it has a nice multi-colored effect. So, our first step is to start out with round one which would be this little peach colored one in the middle. To begin, we'll need to tie a slip knot just like we always do at the beginning of a crochet project. Tighten it up. Put the hook in. And you're going to start by just chaining four stitches. One. Two. Three. Four chains. There you can see the four chains. And we're gonna join those chains into a round with a slip stitch. So that means I'm bending the beginning of the chain in my first stitch back around on to the hook inserting the hook through it grabbing the yarn with the hook and pulling it through all of the loops. That is a slip stitch. So now I've made a little round loop out of the chain. I like to work my tails in as I go so I'm gonna take that tail and just wrap it around the ring and that way I won't have to weave it in later. So I can go ahead and start with chain three this is the beginning of the first round of the square. Chain three it's just like my turning chain at the beginning of a flat row but in this case I'm working around the ring. So now I'm going to do my first double crochet right into the center of the ring right in the big hole I don't need to work into a stitch just right in the center of the ring. Work a double crochet and then I'll work one more. So I did a chain three and two doubles right into the ring and this little cluster of three stitches because we now treat the turning chain as a stitch so it's as though I have three double crochets. That little cluster is the first cluster of my round. You can see that everything is really made of little clusters of three stitches and that's what I've just done. So now to turn a corner and go on to the second side I'm going to just chain two and then I'm going to do three doubles for this side. After your first side, it's always three doubles it's just that that first

one has the chain at the beginning. And one more double. And as you can see I'm working over that tail as I go around the ring to weave it in as I work. So there, three more doubles have created the second side of the square. And that chain two made a little space here which is my first corner. So from there I really am just going to repeat another chain two another three doubles making the third side of my square. And I've completed the third side chain two again fourth side I'm almost all the way around. My little tail has almost disappeared as I've kept working over it as I went around the ring. And here's my third double crochet stitch of the last side and then, I'm almost there I just need to do two more chains for that final corner. And I'm going to join with the slip stitch into the beginning turning chain where I started the round. So this was my one, two and three chains. I need that third one at the top. I'm going to insert the hook under both loops of the chain. Grab the yarn bring it through everything at once that's my slip stitch that connects and joins the round. So that's the end of round one. And all I need to do is cut the yarn and finish off by pulling that little tail right through that last loop tugging on it to tighten the knot and there's the first round of my square.

#### Add second color

- We've completed the first round, and now we're ready to go on to the second round. You might be confused because I call them rounds but they're actually squares. We just refer to them as rounds because we're working around the ring, and it functions as a circle, even though those chain two spaces are going to create the corners that make it into a square. So I'm going to join on with my second color to begin the second round. It starts the same way, with a slip knot. I'm going to put that slip knot on the hook, and I can pick up my round one that I'm going to join onto. Now, I can join into any of these four chain two corners. Let's just start with one that's not where the tail is. Put my hook in and just work a slip knot in the new color, which has joined me on to the first square. I like to tighten up the slip knot by pulling on that back loop, so that it's not a big loop. So now I'm going to chain three and double crochet into this corner space. There's one, and I'm going to do one more double. So there, again, is my first cluster of three stitches, and I'm going to chain two for a corner, just like before, and I'm going to go ahead and do a second set of three, right into this same corner space. There's double number two, and here's double number three. So now I have two sets of three, and they're joined by a chain two, which creates a corner, and I'm ready to move over to my next corner space. To do that, I need to do one chain in between my sets of corners, and I can go ahead right over here with three double crochets into this space. There's the third double. You probably know what I'm going to do next. Chain two, and three more in the same space. And we have our second corner made. Two down, two to go. Chain one again. We always have a chain one space between the sets of three that are next to each other on the same side, and then the chain twos are always right at the corners. So there's one double, two doubles, and my third double into this space. Chain two. And three more to complete this corner. Now, I forgot to work this tail in as I went. I could've wrapped it over and worked my stitches over it, but I'll just have to weave it in later. On the next round, I will definitely be sure to work that tail in as I go. In the beginning, sometimes it's a little bit much to take in all that at once. But as you get comfortable, you'll find you can work in most of your ends as you go, so you don't have so many to weave in at the end. I'm on the last corner space. Here's my third double. Chain two. Three more, and I'll be done with this round. And one final chain stitch to bridge the gap between these two sections, and I'm ready to do that slip stitch again in the top of my chain three. So I've inserted the hook into the third of my beginning three chains, and I'm working a slip stitch to join the round. And then again, I'll just finish off by cutting the tail maybe two inches away, and pull that last little bit through, tighten it down. And

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there we have round two.

Add third color

- We're two rounds into our Granny Squares, and now we're ready to work on the third round, so I'm going to use this yellow, tie my slipknot as usual. Again, I can join into, really any of these spaces, all the work is happening in the spaces between the sets of three, I like to join in on the corners, so I will, I do my little slipknot join, again, pull on that back loop to tighten down that slipknot, so that it just kind of disappears. This time, I'm going to be conscious of keeping the tail laying across the corner, so that I work over it, and I'll chain three, this part's just like the previous round, it's going to be a corner, so it's made of two sets of three double-crochets, with two chain-stitches in the middle. So there's my three, which of course, started with three chains, but once they're made, we pretend like it's just three double-crochets. Two chains and three more doubles, working over the tail as I go, so this part is just exactly as we've already been doing; now you can see that because we are getting a little bit bigger with each round, in the previous round, we just had a corner, and then we hopped over to another corner. This time, we've done a corner, but there's a little bit more space because we have this hole, here, before we get to the next corner, so when we're going to another set of three on the same side, we always just do one chain, so I've done the one, and now I'm going to put three doubles into this chain space, here. And really, this side shows you basically what you're doing, right here for this side is what you would do for every consecutive row as you go, because each side will just continue to grow, and there will be one more set of three doubles in between the corners on each side. So back to business, as usual for this next corner, whizzing along. And we'll chain one, three doubles in this space, and really, that's the gist of the Granny Square; it's all made up of those corners, and these single sets of three that form the sides. Now that you can see the basic plan for how the Granny Square works, you'll just continue working around as we've been doing; when you get to the end, you'll join with your slip-stitch, the top of your chain three.

Add fourth color

- We've completed three rounds of the square and now we're going to begin a fourth round. And this one will really show you that from here on out it's kind of all the same pattern. I just want you to see how each round is just going to grow a little bit and just change slightly, but basically you've got all the steps down. I'm going to join in the corner just like I do every time. Tighten up that slip knot. Chain three. Double crochet. Chain two for the corner. Three more. And the chain one to bring me to the next section. And you can see that now this time I've got two spaces between my two corners. So I'll just need two sets of three where I in the previous round needed one. And then if I went to another round, I would have three sets of three between the corners. And each consecutive round would have one additional set of three to get across the sides. Hopefully that's starting to make sense and you're beginning to see how it's really just a basic formula that builds as you go. And you can keep going and going as big as you want.

## **Chapter 4 - Solid Color Squares**

Working with solid color

- Let's now create a solid square because there's just a few little tricks that are different than when you're changing colors each round. Basically it's going to begin the same way though. I'm starting with my slip knot, chain four. The first round is the same as what we did before. So this will be a little review. Joining my chain four into a ring with a slip stitch, wrapping my tail around the ring so that I

can work over it. Chain three, and proceed. So, so far everything is the same as when we were doing a multi-colored square. I've joined with a slip stitch. Now instead of finishing off this round, I can actually just proceed with chain three beginning the next round. The thing that's just a little bit different is because I had to chain out of my slip stitch, I'm fixed in this position right here, which is not ideally where I'd like to be. When I join on normally, I'm over at the right side of this corner and I can begin working to the left, because we always go toward the left in crochet. So since I need to work from the left here, and I'm over at the side of this space, I'm going to add one more chain. Because this chain three here is actually going to function as the end of that last set of three when I get all the way around and come back here. And this one chain is the one that I need between that set of three, and the next one. So if that didn't quite make sense, it will as we keep working, I think. So now I'm just going right into a corner just like I normally do. Three doubles, two chains, three more doubles in the same space. And as I work around, this is all just the very same. It's only really the beginnings and the ends of the rounds that are a little bit different. You'll continue working around until you get back to the beginning, and then I'll show you how to join this round and begin the next one. Coming around to the final stitches. There's my last double. And now I have this strange little thing here which is the three chains I began with, and then the extra one. So I need to find one, two, my third chain there, and that's where I want to join with a slip stitch... To complete the round. Onto the third round. Chain three, and you'll here my chain is at the right side of this space, so I can just make two more double crochets and that becomes my set of three. See? And I'll just continue chain one, make the next corner. Now you see how working a solid color square is just a little bit different than a multi-square. Basically, it will alternate with each round whether your chain three at the beginning becomes the final double of your last set, or the first double of your first set of the round. Just keep working and you'll see that they alternate, and you'll get the rhythm of it.

## **Chapter 5 - Finishing Squares**

### Weave in ends

- Now that you see how to work a square, you have a couple different options, you can play with colors, you can do one round in each color like we've been doing so far, and you can either work up a whole bunch of squares and then join them together, which I'm going to show you. Or, the alternative is to continue working in rounds until you have one square that can be as big as you want, it can become a whole blanket or in this case, a pillow cover and you can see here, I've done multiple rounds of one color and then I switched and did a few more, so I have wider bands of repeating color combinations. As we've been working, we've accumulated a lot of ends and tails that we need to weave and deal with, so that they're not hanging out all over the place. So you're going to use a tapestry needle and thread the end of your tail, through the needle, and then, there's a couple different ways you can hide this, I like to turn my square over, so I'm looking at the back, you can either weave it along the outer edge or work your way down into the heart of the square. You just kinda wanna keep the color you're working with, weaving into that same color, that way it will really not show and be camouflaged well. There's always a tunnel, sort of, across the bottom of each of these. Sets of three doubles, so that's a good place to bury your ends, and then, maybe I'll just go back across the other way. Whenever you're weaving ends into, it's a good idea, once you get that needle in, just check from the other side and make sure the needle's really buried between your stitches and not just popping out to the front. And that's probably enough, give it a little tug just to kind of settle it all into place and then you can take your scissors and just snap that right off,

and you can see that that one has completely disappeared. We have a few others that, as I've worked around, like, you can see this white tail, began over here and I worked over the green, but it's still sticking out at the opposite end and I just snip that one right off too. As long as I know that there's at least an inch or so, that's it's buried, you never want to cut your tail very close to a knot. This tail, I can tell, it probably came from right over here, so I better weave it in a little more. And sometimes, I just take the needle and work it in first, because this is a very short little end and if I had threaded it onto the needle before weaving it in, it would probably just fall out, so sometimes I put the needle in and then thread it through and now I can continue pulling the needle through. So that's probably enough for that one and we just have this little pink one here. I'll do the same thing with this one and weave in the needle first. I'm kind of following the pattern of the chain there and weaving the needle through, sort of in a spiral, really anything you can do though, that is going to hide the ends inside of your stitches. It's going to work, there's not any one specific way to do this. I'm just trying to clean everything up. Give it a little tug, we can snip that tail off and now the back looks nice and clean and the front looks pretty, all of our ends are woven in and we can go on to joining.

### Joining squares

- There are a few different ways to join your squares. First one I'm going to show you is a whip stitch, which is this method here. Usually I would try to use a color that blends in, but I'm going to work with a contrast so that you can really see how the stitches look. So I have two squares and I'm going to use this red. So that you can see what we're doing very clearly. I cut off a piece about, at least three to four times as long as the seam that you're going to join. Gonna thread it onto my tapestry needle. So I'm going to work my whip stitch along these two sides. If you want, you could pin them together, but I don't usually feel it's necessary. It's pretty clear in this case to see which stitches correspond because we have exactly the same two sides going on, but if you have two more complicated pieces, you may find you need to attach them first. So I've flipped my squares over. I'm gonna work from the back in order to just tie on by putting my needle through the corner hole of the first square and across to the same corner hole of the second one. Pull through and I can actually just tie... A square knot with my hands. Don't pull it too too tight. Hopefully you... Know how to do a square knot. Basically just a double knot. So that's going to start me off so that I can continue from the front. So I can bring my needle up through one of these holes. And now I'm just going to work into each corresponding stitch Kind of up the ladder as I go. I'm gonna put the needle down through the top of this first double crochet here, making sure you're picking up both of those loops. And I want to come up under both loops of the same stitch on the other square. That's going to wrap the yarn over and through and I'm just going to repeat in the next stitch. It's really a very simple stitch, the whip stitch. You're just... Threading the needle through, across and it will wrap around... Each time. And just keep checking as you go that the stitch you're working into corresponds exactly with the one next to it. Like now I'm in the first double of this cluster here and I'm working across into the first double of that one. If you get off track, when you get to the end, your squares won't line up, so it's important to keep them aligned. But it's also pretty simple because like I said they're exactly the same thing, so it's pretty easy to see your stitches as you go. And just try to keep your tension nice and even. Don't pull it too too tight. You don't want to be gathering up the sides of the squares. You'll get a feel as you work for how loose or tight it should be. You might even wanna even give it a tug now and then just to relax it and make sure there's little bit of give there. So this is probably the easiest way to join. Not necessarily my favorite, but it

really depends on what type of project you're doing. Or... Whether you like sewing with a needle and thread Or if you'd rather keep crocheting them together. So now I'm in the last stitch, which is one of the two chains of the chain two corner. So I pull that one through and I'm going to put the needle back in just to the back and not come through to the front. I can turn this over again. And I can make a knot just by slipping the needle under my last stitch, pulling it through and bringing my needle through the loop, which will make a nice little knot that's snugged right up against the seam. Once you've tied that end, you can weave it in and then we'll be finished. We can go ahead and cut that off. Give it a little tug. And there is your whip-stitched seam. Another way to join your squares together is with the slip stitch method. That's the seam right here and it's nice and invisible and looks like the two squares are just lying right beside each other. But from the back, you'll see that there's actually a slip stitch seam which again, I've done in a contrast so you can see it. But it would be very discreet if you did it in a matching color. To join the two squares with a slip stitch, you're going to need some yarn, of course. And your trusty hook. You'll start with a slip knot. And we're going to take our two squares and put them with the right sides facing together. And line up your two edges. You want to be able to see each edge clearly and see that there are two loops for each stitch on each edge, the edge of each square. Cause you're going to need to see all of those loops in order to do it correctly. So I'm going to begin in the leftmost chain of the two chains of the corner on both squares. And if I'm looking at that stitch on each square and I see one, two three, four loops, I'm going to work under the first and the fourth loop. So I'm taking my hook, inserting it under that first loop and across to the very back one, the fourth one. And that's where I'm going to join on with my slip stitch. Pulling the yarn through those two loops of the squares and then the loop that was already on the hook. Tighten down that little slip knot. Okay, so now what I'm really going to do is very much what I just did. I'm identifying my next two stitches. So here's your white one and your yellow one. And again, first loop and fourth loops. Put my hook in to the first and the fourth. Grab the yarn and I'm just slip stitching them together. Next stitch, first loop, fourth loop, slip stitching together. Now there's a few reasons why I really like this seam. It's kind of my standard, preferred method of joining squares. One is that I'm still crocheting, which means I didn't have to get up from the couch and find my tapestry needle. Also I think it's a little quicker and it's still the same rhythm that I've been doing as I hooked up all my squares. It's also nice and stretchy which is a good thing. And I like the way that from the right side, you really don't see anything. So once you get going, you can see it moves along pretty easily. As long as you can keep finding that first loop and the fourth. And I think this is my last double crochet of the two squares. Just like with the whip stitch you wanna make sure you're really aligning the stitches of each square so that you come out in the right place at each end. So now I'm in my first of two chains of this corner and I'll go across to the first of two chains on the corner of the yellow square. That's my last slip stitch. And I can finish it off just like I finish off everything in crochet. I can cut this a couple inches away. Take this tail, pull it through and tighten it down. Now I have a nice stretchy seam. And... When I open to the right side, I really don't see anything. If I had used white or yellow, that seam would be invisible, but the red gives you a little visual of what you actually did there. So that's a really nice way to join your squares. Here we have a really simple project that's just made with two squares joined together on the seams. And then I made a simple circle at the bottom and joined it with that same slip stitch method. So you have a nice little mason jar cozy. Here we have a lovely baby blanket that's just made with lots of squares joined together using that nice invisible slip stitch method. And then the edges of the entire blanket are worked with three rows of double crochet just to finish it off. Whether vintage or modern, I'm gaga for grannies.