



African Flower Pincushion



A quick and easy little make for you or as a gift...

★ Yarn:

You'll just need a few yards of 4ply/DK/aran or worsted yarn. (I used Debbie Bliss Baby Cashmerino)

★ Needles/Hook:

A crochet hook, or size appropriate for the yarn you're using. (I used 3.5 mm - E USA)

★ You'll also need:

Toy filling or some other stuffing material
Yarn needle

★ Size:

This will vary depending of the weight of yarn and size of hook you use. (Mine are 8cm/3" across and 3cm/1" high)

★ Other Notes:

There is also an online tutorial of this pattern, showing step by step directions together with pictures which can be found on the Cherry Heart website:

★ Gauge:

Will vary with weight of yarn and size of hook used. You just want it to be tight enough to hold a nice shape when stuffed.

★ Abbreviations & Translations:

This pattern is written using English crochet terms. (American terms in brackets)

st - stitch
ss - slip stitch
ch - chain
dc - double crochet (**sc - single crochet**)
htc - half treble crochet (**hdc - half double crochet**)
tr - treble crochet (**dc - double crochet**)
dtr - treble crochet (**tr - treble crochet**)

African Flower Motif

For this part you'll need to refer to the original African Flower pattern by Lounette Fourie & Anita Rossouw, which you can find here: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/africanflowers/> (Please note that it is written using US crochet terms, whereas this pattern is written in UK terms.)

Once you've completed the African Flower pattern, we can start turning it into a pincushion.

Pincushion

Attach a new colour yarn then:

Round 1: ch 1, make 1 dc into each of the 7 dc's around the petal, then when you get to the long stemmed dc between the petals, make 2dc's. Repeat this around the circle. You should have 54 stitches.

SIDES

Round 2: Working into the back loops only: ch 1, work 1 dc into the back loop of each dc of the round below.

Return to working into the stitches in the normal way.

Round 3: ch 1, 1 dc into each dc of the round below.

Repeat Round 3 a further 4 times.

BOTTOM

Round 8: Working into the back loops only: ch 1, work 1 dc into the back loop of each dc of the round below.

Round 9: ch 1, *make 8 dc's, skip 1 stitch of the round below, repeat from * to the beginning of the round, ss to first dc.

Round 10: ch 1, *make 7 dc's, skip 1 stitch of the round below, repeat from * to the beginning of the round, ss to first dc.

Round 11: ch 1, *make 6 dc's, skip 1 stitch of the round below, repeat from * to the beginning of the round, ss to first dc.

Round 12: ch 1, *make 5 dc's, skip 1 stitch of the round below, repeat from * to the beginning of the round, ss to first dc.

Now it's time to stuff the pincushion. Get your toy stuffing or what ever you're using and pop it into the cushion.

You want to get it stuffed pretty much how you want it to be when finished at this stage so take your time and have a squash to see if it feels right. I like to have it reasonably firm to keep a nice shape, but still with a nice amount of squishy.

Once you're happy with the stuffing, continue making decreasing rounds:

Round 13: ch 1, *make 4 dc's, skip 1 stitch of the round below, repeat from * to the beginning of the round, ss to first dc.

Round 14: ch 1, *make 3 dc's, skip 1 stitch of the round below, repeat from * to the beginning of the round, ss to first dc.

Round 15: ch 1, *make 2 dc's, skip 1 stitch of the round below, repeat from * to the beginning of the round, ss to first dc.

Round 16: ch 1, *make 1 dc's, skip 1 stitch of the round below, repeat from * to the end of the round but you don't need to do a ss to finish.

Cut the yarn leaving a 4 or 5" tail, then using a yarn needle, thread the tail through the remaining stitches and pull tight to close the hole.

Weave the end of the yarn through some of the bottom stitches then push the needle through from the bottom of the pincushion to the top. Pull the thread taut and snip off next to the cushion top. The end of the yarn should then disappear back into the cushion.

