

Creative Living

remembers when ...



Creative Living
with Sheryl Borden celebrates

30 years!

Crafts Section

5200 Series

Tapestry Crochet Graph Papers

For pieces worked in rounds, the stitches stack up diagonally. On flat pieces, all of the stitches slant to the right on one row, then on the next row they all slant to the left. The tapestry crochet graph papers that I designed are different for that reason.

My tapestry crochet graph papers also take into consideration stitch height. The actual stitch height, or rows per inch measurement, will depend on the yarn, tension, and the number of carried yarns. The stitch height can significantly affect the proportion of the finished motif. The stitches will become taller with each additional yarn that is carried. To determine which graph paper to use for your project, tapestry crochet a sample (while carrying the yarns), then measure the stitches and rows per inch.

Designing a Motif on Tapestry Crochet Graph Paper

I have used several methods to design motifs. One method involves drawing the motif onto the appropriate tapestry crochet paper.

Flat Tapestry face papers from MORE TAPESTRY CROCHET book.

Another method involves **tracing**. Tapestry crochet paper is placed over an image on a light table or against a window and traced with colored pencils. The Self Portrait image was captured with a video camera that was hooked up to a Macintosh computer. The image was printed, placed under tapestry crochet graph paper on a light table, traced, visually transferred with a graphics program stitch by stitch, transferred to square-ruled graph paper then crocheted.

Flat Tapestry with hands from MORE TAPESTRY CROCHET book.

The third method involves **tracing an object onto the tapestry crochet paper**. For the Framed Wall Hanging project, I placed my husband's left hand on tapestry crochet paper, matching up the edges of his fingers with the edges of the stitches wherever possible, then I traced his hand onto the paper. Next, I traced my right hand onto the paper. The height of the stitch can distort the image, so a sample piece should be crocheted to determine the correct graph paper needed to reproduce an exact image.

I still have a dream . . . tapestry

The fourth method also involves **tracing**. An image is projected onto tapestry crochet paper with either a slide projector or an opaque projector, then the appropriate areas are traced and colored. Several graph papers may be

taped together to form a large sheet.

Charting the Design

After the motif has been worked out on tapestry crochet graph paper, it should be transferred to square-ruled graph paper because it is much easier to follow the pattern on the square-ruled paper. The eye perceives stitch placement much more clearly on square-ruled graph paper, making it easier to count stitches and determine color changes.

Be especially careful when transferring a motif from the tapestry crochet graph papers. It is crucial to understand the vertical stitch placement. Look at the edges of the graph papers to see the stitch placement. The stitches along the edge of the graph papers are on top of one another. The last step is to count the number of horizontal stitches in the motif. The base of the piece should be a multiple of the horizontal measurement if you want the motifs to butt together.

Design Sources

Many existing crafts, such as needlepoint, knitting, and embroidery, use motifs that can be transferred to tapestry crochet graph papers. A trip to a museum of folk art or natural history will provide many design ideas. I never copy a motif exactly, though, but vary it a little.

Star of David sampler

The Star of David motif, with its diagonal and horizontal lines, illustrates some basic tapestry crochet design considerations. The motif on the left was copied from a printed square-ruled graph. The motifs on the next page were designed on tapestry crochet graph papers. As you can see, the motifs are quite different since tapestry crochet stitches are not square and do not fall directly over one another. Horizontal lines look the same, but diagonal lines turn out quite different from what you would expect. So, copy designs from other sources onto tapestry crochet paper, then transfer them to square-ruled paper!



COURTESY: Dr. Carol Ventura
artist and designer
www.tapestrycrochet.com





Lovely Reversible Tapestry Crochet Basket

Two threads are tapestry crocheted at the same time to create the diamond and heart motifs on this lovely basket. One thread is carried while the other is crocheted.

The fabric created with

the crocheted threads forms a decorative cloth that is substantial enough to support the beads and the basket structure. For more information about tapestry crochet, please look at www.tapestrycrochet.com.

Hook: Steel crochet hook size 4 (2 mm.) or the size that will give an acceptable gauge

Gauge: 10 stitches equals 1 inch; 9 rows equals 1 inch

Size: 4 3/4" diameter by 2 1/2" high

Materials: One ball each of Teal, Bridal White, and Scarlet Red Aunt Lydia's Fashion Crochet size 3 crochet cotton from Coats and Clark; 744 Rainbow #8 seed beads; heavy beading needle; stitch marker.

Instructions:

Round 1: Make a slip knot with Teal, then chain 4 stitches. Join the ends together to form a ring by working a slip stitch into the first chain stitch. Single crochet 6 Teal stitches into the ring while carrying the tail-end. The basket should have a total of 6 stitches when you finish this round. This basket is worked as a spiral, not in con-centric rings, so it is difficult to tell where each round ends. To keep track of where each round ends, slip a stitch marker into the top of the last stitch of the round. You will remove the stitch marker from the last stitch as you come to it again and slip it into the new last stitch at the end of each round.

Round 2: Cut the tail-end piece of Teal and start to carry the White thread. Increase in every stitch with Teal to 12 stitches.

Round 3: While carrying the White thread, increase in every stitch with Teal for a total of 24 stitches.

Round 4: While carrying the White, increase in every second stitch with Teal for a total of 36 stitches.

Round 5: While carrying the White, single crochet one Teal round without any increases.

Round 6: While carrying the White, increase in every third stitch with Teal to 48 stitches.

Round 7: While carrying the White, increase in every fourth stitch with Teal to 60 stitches.

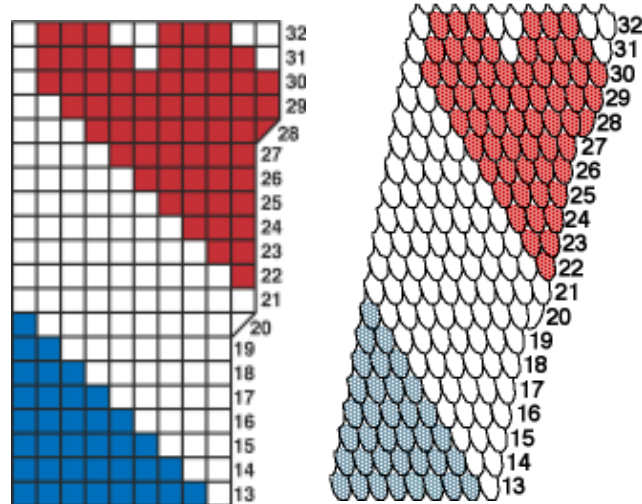
Round 8: While carrying the White, increase in every fifth stitch with Teal to 72 stitches.

Round 9: While carrying the White, increase in every sixth stitch with Teal to 84 stitches.

Round 10: While carrying the White, single crochet one Teal round without any increases.

Round 11: While carrying the White, increase in every seventh stitch with Teal to 96 stitches.

Round 12: While carrying the White, increase in every eighth stitch with Teal to 108 stitches.



The above graphs are for right-handed crocheters. Left-handed crocheters should look at the reversed images of the graphs in a mirror.

Begin the motif:

Round 13: Rounds 13 through 32 correspond to the motif on the side of the basket (read from right to left and bottom to top). To do a tapestry crochet stitch, colors are switched while 2 loops are still on the hook; yarn over with the other thread and pull it through the loops to prepare for the tapestry crochet stitch. Crochet the motif as follows: tapestry crochet 1 White, then 8 Teal stitches. Repeat this sequence around.

Round 14: Tapestry crochet 2 White, then 7 Teal stitches. Repeat this sequence around.

Round 15: Tapestry crochet 3 White, then 6 Teal stitches. Repeat around.

Round 16: Tapestry crochet 4 White, then 5 Teal stitches. Repeat around.

Round 17: Tapestry crochet 5 White, then 4 Teal stitches. Repeat around.

Round 18: Tapestry crochet 6 White, then 3 Teal stitches. Repeat around.

Round 19: Tapestry crochet 7 White, then 2 Teal stitches. Repeat around.

Round 20: Increase in the first stitch with white, then tapestry crochet 7 more White, then 1 Teal stitch. Repeat around.

Round 21: String the beads onto the red thread. Push the beads down, leaving a 2 yard-long piece without beads on the thread. Tapestry crochet almost all the way around with White, while carrying the Teal. Cut the carried Teal flush and begin to carry the beaded Red 10 stitches before finishing the round.

Round 22: To crochet a beaded stitch, insert the hook, slide a bead down next to the crochet hook and project, then continue crocheting the stitch, capturing the bead, which will fall to the back of the stitch. Tapestry crochet 1 beaded Red, then 9 White stitches. Repeat around.

Round 23: Tapestry crochet 2 beaded Red, then 8 White stitches. Repeat around.

Round 24: Tapestry crochet 3 beaded Red, then 7 White stitches. Repeat around.

Round 25: Tapestry crochet 4 beaded Red, then 6 White stitches. Repeat around.

Round 26: Tapestry crochet 5 beaded Red, then 5 White stitches. Repeat around.

Round 27: Tapestry crochet 6 beaded Red, then 4 White stitches. Repeat around.

Round 28: Increase in the first stitch with beaded Red, crochet 6 more beaded Red, then 3 White stitches. Repeat around.

Round 29: Tapestry crochet 9 beaded Red, then 2 White

stitches.

Round 30: Tapestry crochet 10 beaded Red, then 1 White stitch. Repeat around.

Round 31: Tapestry crochet 1 White, 4 beaded Red, 1 White, 4 beaded Red, then 1 White stitch. Repeat around.

Round 32: Tapestry crochet 2 White, 3 beaded Red, 2 White, 3 beaded Red, then 1 White stitch. Repeat around.

Round 33: Single crochet around with White while carrying the Red thread.

Round 34: Single crochet around with White while carrying the Red thread, then cut the carried Red flush, do a slip stitch with White, cut the White (leaving a 6 inch tail), then yarn over and pull it all the way through the loop. Work in the end for 2 inches to secure it, then cut it flush. Cover the basket with a towel and carefully block the basket (too much heat might break the beads) with a steam iron. Now for the big decision: should the beads be on the outside or the inside of the basket?

COURTESY: Dr. Carol Ventura
author and designer

