



My Colorful Granny Throw

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Pattern Introduction

The most common crochet motif made UN-commonly beautiful with color! Color variations and size of throw are limitless. Just keep adding colors and rounds as you like! Make one small for a baby or lap throw; make one large for a couch or bed. Use up your stash or choose yarns to go with any décor. Your color choices give this piece an artful and personal touch.



What you need

Variety of yarns...just about any weight from fingering to Bulky. Combine yarns so that they all fall in the same weight range. *I used some chunky weight yarns, then combined dk, worsted and fingering weights together to make chunky.

Amount of yarn depends on size of throw. Size crochet hook depends on majority of yarns chosen. *I used size I hook to accommodate chunky yarns, as well as the double stranded yarns.

Yarn Needle

Stitches you need to know

chain
slip stitch
single crochet
double crochet

Techniques you need to know

Crochet in rounds

Gauge is not necessary for this project. A blanket or throw doesn't have to "fit".

However, since you are probably using a variety of yarns with different weights to them, you DO need to combine them in such a way as to create an overall "gauge" for you to work with. This will also help you determine the size crochet hook you need.

For example: I looked at my stash and saw that I had a good many chunky weight yarns I wanted to use. So I chose a size I or J hook. Then I combined yarns together to make them "equal", or come close to equaling, a chunky weight yarn. I stranded a worsted weight with a fingering, 2 DK weights together, and in some cases, stranded 3 fingering weights together. The idea is to keep the rounds of the granny square from puckering when starting with a new, smaller yarn. Just combine them with others to keep the same relative thickness.

Abbreviations you need to know

Beg = beginning

Ch = chain

Dc = double crochet

Lp = loop

Sc = single crochet

Sl st = slip stitch

Sp = space

Rem = remaining

Rep = repeat

Memory Refreshers

1. "Fasten off" means to draw your yarn through the loop you have on your hook, then cut or break your yarn 3-4 inches away from loop. Now pull the yarn out of the securing loop you made. Give the end on your work a tug for good measure.
2. When working in **rounds**, you do NOT turn your work after each round unless told to do so! Some granny square patterns DO have you turn each rnd. Mine doesn't. If you are attached to turning each time, no problem; pattern works great either way.
3. "Join yarn with sc" is an ingenious way to join your yarn to another section. Simply make a slip knot on your hook like you always do to begin. Insert your hook in the st or sp indicated and work a sc. You will pull the yarn through both loops on your hook (the second one being the slip knot). Works like a charm!

Tips & Tricks

** When you are told to work into the "ch-1 sp" or ch-2 sp, you are simply placing your hook into the hole created by the ch-1 or ch-2. You do not actually try to put your hook into the chain...just under it altogether. This makes for very quick & easy crocheting.

Walkthrough

*You will start in the center of the square, working around and around to make the throw ANY size you want. Simply stop at the end of a round and go to the Edging section for the finishing touch you want to put on it.

*You have the freedom to choose which colors you want AND in what order or pattern you want them to appear. I chose to change colors every round OR whenever I ran out of a yarn. You may want to change colors every 2 or 3 rounds, OR several rounds of one color, then different colors on each of the next few rounds. Whatever

pattern you come up with, either random rounds, or a repeated pattern, this is what makes your throw YOUR OWN. Have fun with designing the colors in your throw!

Here are a few simple guides to help you choose:

Multi-Texture: same color, different textures

Value Combo: same color, different values/shades of that color (for example: one dark purple, the others light purples)

Build on a Multi: one variegated yarn, other three that coordinate with colors in that skein

Anything Goes: whatever you have in your stash or whatever strikes your fancy! (mine is example of this)

** For a more IN-DEPTH discussion and examples on choosing yarns, there is a free, downloadable article in the Freebies for You section on my website, www.yarnworksbyjennifer.com ☺.

*A Note on changing colors before you begin: I simply tie on the new color whenever I run out of it, or when I want to change the color. When I strand two colors together and one of them runs out before the other, I simply pick up a new color in the **same yarn weight** as the one that ran out, and tie it onto the last bit of the old color. I keep going with these two until a yarn runs out again, or until I want to change up the colors.

Did you know??

Crochet offers the biggest time-saving opportunity:
we can “weave in ends” AS WE GO!

Here’s how:

Once you’ve tied on a new color, hold these yarn ends over top of the stitches you are about to work into. Work the next sts around these yarn ends for as long as it takes for them to disappear into the new crochet sts. Pretty cool stuff!

Granny Square

*This is MY favorite way to make a granny square...there are several ways out there.

But this way allows for a simpler change in rnds so that you do not have to make several slip stitches over to a corner. It lands you right there IN the corner – perfect!

This is especially helpful if you choose to change colors every round.

*TO JOIN NEW COLOR: Insert your hook into the 3rd ch of beg ch-5 as if you were going to join. Snip old color around 3-4 inches from work, and tie on new color.

Work joining sl st with this new color and continue with pattern. The new color gets added in seamlessly. If you are using yarn until it runs out, then simply tie on the new color whenever that is needed...no need to make it around to the starting point!

Rnd 1: Ch 4, join with sl st to first ch made to form ring. Ch 5 (counts as 1 dc + 2 chs), *work 3 dc in ring, ch 2, rep from *twice more, work 2 dc in ring; join with a sl st to 3rd ch of beg ch-5. (four ch-2 corners) DO NOT TURN WORK. (See Memory Refresher #2)

Rnd 2: Ch 1, sl st into next ch-2 sp, ch 5, work 3 dc in this ch-2 sp, *ch 1, work (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in next ch-2 sp, rep from * twice more, ch 1, work 2 dc in final ch-2 sp (which is right beside the beg ch-5); join with sl st to 3rd ch of beg ch-5.

Rnd 3: Ch 1, sl st into next ch-2 sp, ch 5, work 3 dc in this ch-2 sp, *ch 1, work 3dc in next ch-1 sp (side), ch 1, work (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in next ch-2 sp (corner), rep from * twice more, ch 1, work 3 dc in next ch-1 sp (side), ch 1, work 2 dc in final ch-2 sp (which is right beside the beg ch-5); join with sl st to 3rd ch of beg ch-5.

*Continue working rounds IN THIS MANNER, which means to work 3dc in the side ch-1 sps, and (3dc, ch 2, 3dc) in each corner ch-2 sps, connecting the sides and corners with ch 1 all the way around. When granny throw reaches desired size, fasten off and weave in ends.

Edging

*Using desired yarn for edging, join with sc (See Memory Refresher #3) to any st along side of throw. Work sc sts in each dc st AND ch-1 sp. When you reach the corners, work 3 sc in each ch-2 sp at corner. When you come back around to the beg, join with a sl st to beg sc. Decide whether you'd like an additional round of sc or of another edging (picot or shell). If you wish to end here, simply fasten off, weave in ends.

If you sc again, ch 1, sc in next and every sc around. In the 2nd sc of the 3 corner sc sts, work 3 sc, then continue to work sides. Join with sl st to beg sc. Fasten off. Weave in ends.

If you wish to work a decorative edge, ch 1, then proceed to either Picot or Shell below:

Picot = *3 sc, ch 3, sl st in 1st ch made, 3 sc, rep from * around. Join with a sl st to beg sc. Fasten off. Weave in ends.

Shell = *skip 2 sc, 5 dc in next sc, skip 2 sc, sc in next sc, rep from * around. Join with a sl st to beg dc. Fasten off. Weave in ends.

(These decorative sts will need to be “fudged” when you come around to the beginning again. Don't worry about this! “Fudging” is a very valuable technique to use in crochet and knitting!! ☺)

Variations on a Theme

This pattern alone offers many variations due to color choices and patterning. However, you can use other crochet motifs in this same manner! Simply choose square crochet motif patterns that are **repetitive**: motifs whose rounds are the same every round or every few rounds. There are many books in which to find wonderful crochet motifs. One of my favorites is Crochet Stitch Motifs, edited by Erika Knight, published by Interweave Press.