



PLANT PALS

Give your greenery a new lease of life with
Irene Strange's crochet pot cosies





HOW TO MAKE CROCHET PLANT POT COSIES

MATERIALS

- Sirdar Happy Cotton, 100% cotton, 20g/43m per ball, three balls each in Piggy (764) (Yarn A) and Sundae (787) (Yarn B), and one ball each in Shower (762) (Yarn C), Liquorice (775) (Yarn D), Bubblegum (799) (Yarn E), Juicy (792) (Yarn F) and Sorbet (793) (Yarn G)
- 3.5mm (UK 9, US E/4) crochet hook
- One black safety eye, 11mm (3/8")
- Pair of black safety eyes, 7mm (1/4")
- Two pipe cleaners
- Yarn needle
- Stitch marker
- Two plant pots, 10cm (4") diameter x 11cm (4 3/8") high

TENSION

Tension is not important

ABBREVIATIONS (UK)

st(s) stitch(es)
 ch chain
 ss slip stitch
 dc double crochet
 inc increase by working 2dc in st
 htr half treble crochet
 RS right side
 WS wrong side
 magic ring to make a magic ring, hold yarn in your hand and wrap working yarn around forefinger twice to create ring, slip ring off your finger and insert hook to pick up first st, ch1, then work the necessary sts for Row/Round 1 and close the ring tightly by pulling the loose end

FINISHED SIZE

Approx. 10cm (4") tall and 14cm (5 1/2") wide when folded – to fit a 10cm (4") diameter plant pot

We're all for serious grown up interiors here at Mollie, but sometimes you need a quirky touch to liven things up.

These tropical-themed plant pot covers are just the job, and they also happen to be the cutest things we've seen in a while. New to crochet? Check out our handy stitch guide on www.gathered.how.

Instructions

The pattern uses concise crochet terms, e.g. 5 dc means work 1 dc in each of the next 5 sts. Ch1 or ch2 at the start of a row or round doesn't count as a st. When working continuous rounds, don't join at the end of each round. Use a stitch marker in the first st of each round to help keep count. When changing colours in the round, do so on the last loop of the last st of the previous round. For a bigger or smaller pot, make more or fewer rows in the main colour at the Wrap section.

Toucan

Half-circle base

Work in rows, turning at the end of each row
 New colours are joined on with a ch2 start, use a standing stitch if you prefer

Row 1 using Yarn C, start with a magic ring, ch2, 7 htr into ring, pull ring tight to close, turn [7 sts]
Row 2 ch1, inc in first st, 5 dc, inc in

last st, fasten off Yarn A, turn [9 sts]
Row 3 join Yarn B to first st, ch2, 1 htr in first st, 2 htr in each of next 7 sts, 1 htr in last st, turn [16 sts]

Row 4 ch1, inc in first st, 14 dc, inc in last st, fasten off Yarn B, turn [18 sts]

Row 5 join Yarn A in first st, ch2, 1 htr in first st, (2 htr in next st, 1 htr) 8 times, 1 htr in last st, turn [26 sts]

Row 6 ch1, 1 dc in each st, fasten off Yarn A, turn [26 sts]

Row 7 join Yarn E in first st, ch2, 1 htr in first st, (2 htr in next st, 2 htr) 8 times, 1 htr in last st, turn [34 sts]

Row 8 ch1, 1 dc in each st, fasten off Yarn E

Choose the side of the work you prefer to become the RS

Wrap

With RS facing, attach Yarn A to top right-hand side of the long edge

Row 1 work 22 ss evenly along the top edge, turn [22 sts]

Row 2 ch1, working under both loops of each ss, 22 dc, turn [22 sts]

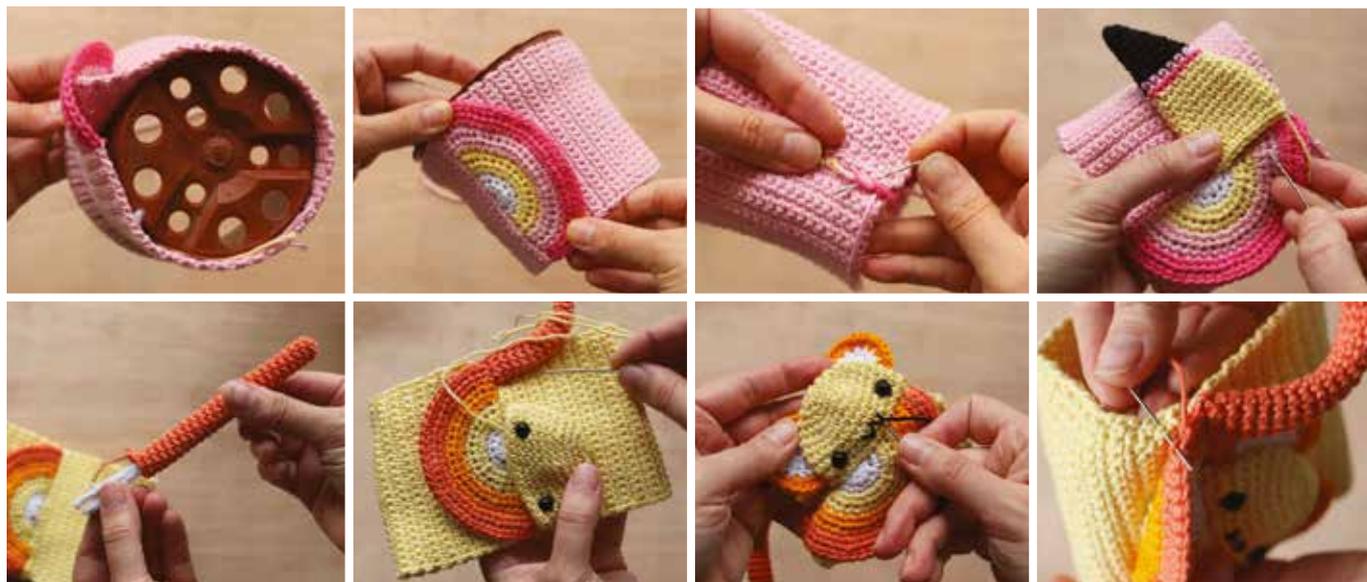
Row 3 ch1, 1dc in each st, turn [22 sts]

Rows 4-76 repeat Row 3 until the piece is long enough to wrap around the plant pot, adding extra rows if needed
 Fasten off Yarn A, leaving a long tail for sewing

Beak

Work in continuous rounds

Round 1 using Yarn D, start with a



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magic ring, ch1, 5 dc in ring, pull ring tight to close [5 sts]

Round 2 2 dc, 3 dc in next st, 2 dc [7 sts]

Round 3 1 dc in each st

Round 4 3 dc, 3 dc in next st, 3 dc [9 sts]

Round 5 1 dc in each st

Round 6 4 dc, 3 dc in next st, 4 dc [11 sts]

Round 7 1 dc in each st

Round 8 5 dc, 3 dc in next st, 5 dc [13 sts]

Round 9 1 dc in each st

Round 10 change to Yarn A, 6 dc, 3 dc in next st, 6 dc [15 sts]

Round 11 change to Yarn E, 1 dc in each st

Round 12 change to Yarn B, 7 dc, 3 dc in next st, 7 dc [17 sts]

Round 13 1 dc in each st

Round 14 8 dc, 3 dc in next st, 8 dc [19 sts]

Round 15 1 dc in each st

Round 16 9 dc, 2 dc in next st, 9 dc [20 sts]

Rounds 17-21 1 dc in each st

Round 22 12 dc, ss in next st
Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing

Tail feathers (make three)

Use Yarn A and work in continuous rounds

Round 1 start with a magic ring, ch1, 5 dc in ring, pull ring tight to close [5 sts]

Round 2 inc in each st [10 sts]

Rounds 3-8 1 dc in each st

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing

Monkey

Work the Half-circle base for the Toucan in the following colour sequence: Yarn C, Yarn B, Yarn F, Yarn G, then work the Wrap for the Toucan in Yarn B

Head

Work in continuous rounds

Round 1 using Yarn B, start with a magic ring, ch1, 6 dc in ring, pull ring tight to close [6 sts]

Round 2 inc in each st [12 sts]

Round 3 (inc in next st, 1 dc) 6 times [18 sts]

Round 4 (inc in next st, 2 dc) 6 times [24 sts]

Round 5 (inc in next st, 3 dc) 6 times [30 sts]

Rounds 6-11 1 dc in each st

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing

Ears

Work Rows 1-3 of Half-circle base using Yarn C and Yarn F
Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing

Tail

Round 1 using Yarn G, start with a magic ring, ch1, 8 dc in ring, pull ring tight to close [8 sts]

Rounds 2-25 1 dc in each st

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing

Finishing

Turn the wrap WS up and sew along the seam. Weave in any loose ends, then turn RS out.

Toucan

Choose which way the half-circle is pointing, then press the beak flat along the increase line and align it with the top edge. Sew in place through the front legs of the stitches rather than the edge to get a neat seam.

Attach the 11mm (3/8") safety eye to the half-circle using the main image as a guide to placement, then sew the half-circle to the wrap with the same colour yarn as the last round. Sew the feathers to the side of the pot to finish.

Monkey

Push the pipe cleaners into the tail. Choose which way the half-circle is pointing, then line up the tail with the top stripe and sew in place. Press the head flat and attach the 7mm (1/4") safety eyes between Rounds 9 and 10, approximately 8 sts apart. Next, sew the head to the wrap, working through the front legs of each stitch.

Sew the ears to the back of the head, then stitch the half-circle to the wrap using the same colour yarn as the last round. Embroider a small mouth between the eyes in Yarn D to finish, using the main image as a guide.

MEET THE MAKER IRENE STRANGE



Irina, A.K.A. Irene Strange, is a crochet designer with a sketchbook full of curious characters waiting to come to life. She loves experimenting with shapes and mixing up textures, and when she's not making amigurumi Irini drinks tea, potters around the allotment with her family, or curls up with a good book.
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