



Crochet Extra

141st Edition- March—2018

It's all quite exciting around here as I get ready to go on Australia's first crochet cruise with Cruise Express. If you saw Better Homes & Gardens on 9th February, you would have seen the ship we are going on – Celebrity Solstice. I have never cruised before, but can imagine the combination of cruising the seas, visiting islands, relaxing and crocheting is going to be a



fantastic combination – so I can't wait. Of course I will be working as I lead some of the workshops along with Jenny King but I do also plan to enjoy myself. Look forward to seeing some of the photos in April.

While I will be on the cruise (21st to 30th March), the shop will be in the capable hands of Sarah, however it will be closing at 2.30 during this time as Sarah will be doing school pickups.

Our April Newsletter will include our customers corner, so please send in your masterpieces with details of the pattern and yarn used and any hints for others making the same pattern, and you could be in the running to win a \$25 voucher.

March is National Crochet Month in the US. While we are not in the US it is a good reason to promote our craft. To celebrate we will be having daily specials on our yarn— check the specials section of our website daily to see which yarns are on special. Specials begin at 9am each day we are open.

We are fortunate to have Jenny King once again coming to conduct 1 day workshops on her new Kids Squared technique. See the details [here](#).

This month's workshop we will be making this bolero using a 4ply yarn. It is constructed from the sleeve to the centre in two parts and then joined together. Book your spot today.



We will be closed the following days over Easter:
Good Friday 30th March
Easter Saturday 31st March
Easter Monday 2nd April

Crochet Australia,
PO Box 285
Yandina Qld 4561.
(07) 5472 8586.



Theme – A Crocheters' toolkit

I was forced to clean out my project bag recently and I gave myself the challenge to question whether I really needed everything I had included. But like any craft, a good toolkit is essential to not only get the job done, but get it done well and enjoyably. So what are the items that crocheters should have in their toolkit?



The obvious is a good selection of crochet hooks. You can never have just one. And they must be comfortable to use – there are the ergonomic hooks such as clover soft touch, clover amour and addi – or add handles to steel and aluminium hooks – or the light up hooks for night or with dark yarn. Hook cases are also a must to store hooks so they don't get damaged – buy them or make your own.

A good selection of needles for finishing is also a must. Pointed and blunt, bent and straight, small eye and large eyes will give you needles for all occasions. Scissors or cutters are also essential – if you plan on doing a bit of travelling, investing in a cutter is very worthwhile. Yarn threaders have become a must in my toolkit – it makes threading the needles so much easier and quicker.

Stitch markers can certainly make crocheting and knitting easier, by marking places to remember – beginnings, increases, decreases, joins, etc or even just for ease of counting.

Yarn holders can be helpful to stop yarn rolling all over the place, by giving it a clean place to roll so it doesn't twist. A project book or other electronic log of projects is also very handy. This is a must for me particularly when I have several WIPS – I record yarn used, colour and dye lots, hook size, where the pattern was from, any alterations I've made to the pattern and ultimately how much yarn I actually used.

See the selection of these and other useful tools, such as stitch directories, in the next sections.

With Easter just around the corner, surprise the little ones with a [bunny](#) hand puppet for a mornings' entertainment—a free pattern from Softiez.



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Tip of the Month



Doubling up your yarn

Have you ever tried doubling up your yarn—or using two strands at once? It does create a totally different fabric and can give some great results. However it doesn't suit everything. Using two strands together is especially beneficial when you want to create a stronger fabric—for baskets, potholders, cozies, rugs. It can also be used in afghans designed for bulky yarns, however choosing the right yarn to double up is key—to get the same drape. Two medium weight yarns, don't automatically create a super bulky yarn. Similarly two 4ply yarns together won't necessarily equate to an 8ply yarn. There is no specific formula to follow, and a gauge swatch is the only way to determine whether you will get the look you are looking for.

Using two strands together can also create some great colour effects, and help to blend colours together by changing one strand at a time. Your colour combinations can truly be unique. Here are some tips I picked up from using several strands together and reading the web:



1. Keep an even tension on both strands of yarn. It is quite common for one ball to pull /unravel easier than others. To help keep tension, pull out more yarn from each ball than you need.
2. To avoid the yarns tangling, keep them in separate balls, or on either side of you. As you use them they can and should twist together so that they feel like one yarn. Alternatively, you can use a winder to rewind the two balls together into one ball.
3. The increased thickness will make your hands tired, so have frequent breaks. You'll also likely need to experiment with the hooks to get the right hook size. If your hook is too small, this can put additional strain on your hands/wrist you don't need.

I love using two strands together when I'm joining different weights/fibre content. For example cotton with metallic. It adds strength to the metallic yarn and softens the look of the sparkle.

Some novelty yarns look great but are awful to work with—adding a second yarn, even if a thin cotton, in similar colour can help to see the stitches better.



Book of the Month



871201 Crochet Stitch Patterns & Edgings \$29.95** Heavy.



With these great patterns you can create everything from doilies to afghans. Expand your creative crochet knowledge with this collection of 81 unique stitch patterns and 20 beautiful edges all in one book. You will find open weave open stitches, ripples, bobbles, popcorns, textured stitches and more. Each stitch pattern includes multiples needed to get the stitch pattern shown, a close up photograph, plus written instructions. Also included are 2 sampler afghans from the stitches patterns. This all in one book is a must have for the reference library. 128 pages.



Look What We Found



Crochet Accessories Kit Basic \$38.00
KITCROACC
Deluxe \$150.00



Knitting Accessory Kits Basic \$38.00
KITKNITACC
Deluxe \$150.00



ACCLIZHOLDER \$16.50.



HOOKCASEDELUXE Birch Crochet Hook Case \$10.95



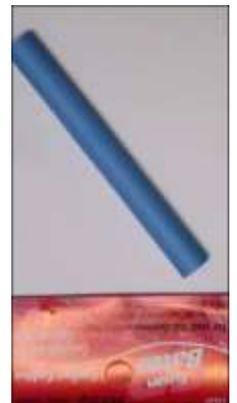
HOOKSETBIRCH 24 Pc Crochet Hook Set \$32.00



HOOKSETCVARALGETAWAY Clover Hook Set with Pouch \$105.90



HOOKSETCVARAL10 Clover Arthritic Hook Set \$101.00



ACCHOOKCUSH Comfort Cushions \$6.20 for set of 2—large or small

Needle Threaders



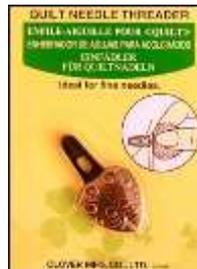
ACCNDLTHREADDLED Needle Threader with led light \$12.50



ACCTHREAD Birch set of 2 \$1.75



ACCYRNTHREADCV \$18.50



ACCTHREADCV \$11.50



ACCYRNTHREAD-CLOVER \$10.40



HOOKHDLEW \$7.80 Ergonomic cover for Crochet hooks

NEEDLES for Various Applications



ACCJUMBOND \$9.50



ACCYRNNDLSET 4 piece \$7.50



ACCYARNNDLBENT \$4.50



ACCTAP13 \$2.50



ACCWOOLNDL \$1.15



ACCKNITNDL \$1.15



ACCNDLCHEN \$2.00



ACCTAPMIX \$1.85



ACCYRNGUIDE To use when knitting with several yarns at once \$6.50



Pendant Cutters \$14.50 Yarn or Thread



ACCTHRCUTSC \$10.50 Precision Scissors & cover



ACCTHRDCLIP \$19.50, Precision cutters



ACCTHREADCUTFINE \$2.40 each. Threader & cutter



ACCHOOKGAUGELAC \$15.50



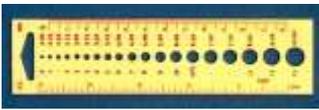
ACCHOOKGAUGE \$5.75 ChiacGoo Hook gauge for crochet & knitting



ACCTAPESPRING \$5.50



ACCMAGPINH \$3.95 Magnetic Pin Holder



ACCKNITGAUGE \$2.85

STITCH MARKERS



ACCCSTNTRINGSB \$3.20



ACCCSTMKOP \$5.20



ACCCSTMKCV \$10.25



ACCCSTCNRING \$1.90

ACCCROWCOUNTDIG \$8.95



ACCYARNBOB \$4.00



ACCYARNCADDY \$12.00



ACCYARNWINDEROPRY \$52.00



ACCCROWCTRS \$3.20

Visiting hours:

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 9am—3.00pm

Sat: 1st Saturday of each month 9am—12pm

Wed: Group visits (6 or more) by appointment

Workshops: Tuesdays 9.30am—11.30am bookings recommended

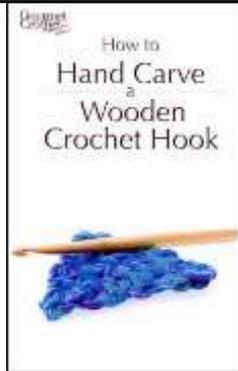
Order three ways (See front page for contact details):

Secure shopping cart, phone or mail.

We ship Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. We endeavour to ship all orders received before 12pm on these days, and orders received after this are shipped on the next day we ship.



GC48107 \$10.00
Crochet Hook Cady
Pattern



GC44107 \$10.00 How to
Hand Carve a Crochet
Hook



LA75434 \$15.95
Everything about
Crochet * Heavy



KNITCABLESET
\$7.25



ACCTIPCIRC
SML \$9.75
LGE \$10.50



ACCTIPPROSBLGE
\$2.50



ACCTIPS\$11.20
Double needle
Protectors
SML \$9.75
LGE \$10.50



LA75433 Everything
about Knitting
\$20.50 * Heavy



ACC FIX A STITCH \$25.50 pkt 3



ACCTATGAUGE
\$6.70



LA5543 Crochet Stitches \$9.95



LA75033 More Crochet
Stitches \$8.30