

Crochet Extra

31st EDITION - MARCH 2008

Welcome to the March 2008 newsletter. What can we say about February? Rain, rain, and more rain. Good for some and disaster for others. For those of you who had the unpleasant experience of floods, our heart goes out to you. It seems that Australia post managed to deliver all the parcels this month regardless of the weather situation. A lot of our boxes that went north were lined with bin liner bags for added protection.



Paw On the home front, the dogs are relaxing at home and Kim is back working for the Engineering firm in Narangba where she previously was the accounts clerk. We believe she is now at the front desk answering their phone and organizing everyone and working on improving their filing system. Nothing changes.



Ray and I have adapted to the new lifestyle and still challenge ourselves everyday getting the orders out on time. I don't know what is the best moment of your day, but for us, it is getting a balance at the end of day, knowing that grey power still works well.

The visitors still keep pouring in; some are much unexpected and from far away. Some days I forget that we are really a mail order business. We had a bus load of ladies who enjoyed morning tea and a shopping fix with us. Thank goodness they planned ahead.



C For those of you who use #40 Mercer cotton please note that colours 256, 441, 459, 521, 893 and 4148 are being deleted from the coats range. We still have some stock.



Jenny from Sofala NSW has suggested that some of you may be interested in a crocheted square swap. Any thoughts or ideas on this one would be appreciated. Basically we need around 30 people or groups for this to be feasible. You would need to crochet 29 squares and swap them with the other 29 people. Colour, size, time frame etc is determined by the group. We would be willing to then



display your finished articles on the web. Crochet Australia is happy to co ordinate the event, but the final result is entirely up to you. You may have a group that would like to join and hence share the crochet load. Any interested participants please contact us. We would be using 8ply acrylic yarn.



Until next month.....

Happy crocheting!! Vicki

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PRODUCT OF THE MONTH CROCHET HOOKS

For many, grandma's old crochet hooks are still the tools of trade.



Well things have come a long way since the good old days. Do not get me wrong, the quality of the old hooks is far superior to a lot of brands that are offered to you through the larger retail outlets, BUT there have been some great innovations.

My favourite crochet hooks would have to be the Clover Arthritic - world famous for being the ultimate in crochet hooks.

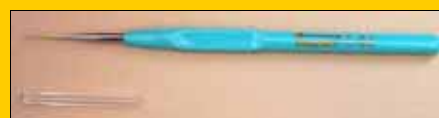


This hook has a gently moulded flat lightweight resin handle (bit like a mini knife handle) and

complete with a soft pad for your thumb. It is so comfortable to work with. Great for beginners, the experienced and those with arthritis. Crochet Australia offers a guarantee with these. If you don't not like it, send it back. To date, none have come back.



We also stock the Klass & Gessmann gold tipped hooks from Germany in all the steel sizes including 0.4mm and 0.5mm. They too have a small flat handle. In the other hooks we stock the better brands of the cheapies, Inox, Aero and Lotus. For those looking for the American sized hooks we have the Boye brand.



Wooden crochet hooks are a favourite of some of the yarnies. Brittany is most popular for these.

All our hooks come in sets as well. These usually work out to be more economical if you intend buying all the sizes. Guess hooks are a bit like paint brushes; the better the tool, the easier the job.



Check out our special deal on Arthritic Steel Clover hooks this month. See page 4.



CROCHETER'S CORNER



Customer Comments

This month we have had so much positive feed back that we will share a lot more with you. By far the most popular comment we have received this month would have to be the speed at which your parcels arrive. Seems some other mail order companies can take up to a month to send your order. Here are a few extracts:



Maureen M from HEATHMONT VIC says - I must write and tell you that you are by far the best company that I have ever dealt with. All 6 orders since November have arrived promptly and in perfect condition and exactly what I ordered. You have no idea how unusual this is.



I received the parcel today thank-you very much. Thank-you for the free pressy. I've started on one of the dearer handtowels already and it's going to look very pretty. I love your choice of colours to go with the towels too, thanks. One happy customer.
Trina H, JULIA CREEK QLD.

Thank you for prompt delivery of order, love the 2 towel topper books and the cotton, the colours are just so sharp I am delighted and many thanks for pattern on towel. Many thanks!
Gwen M, VIRGINIA QLD

Thankyou very much. I have received the doll stands and am very happy with them and the way you packaged them. Hope to do business with you again.
Cheers **Lilley B, MIDDLE SWAN WA**

Hi! My crochet hooks arrived this morning. Many thanks for your quick and efficient service, and my little surprise!
Regards **Robyn McG, NERANG QLD**



Thank you for the prompt delivery of my recent order, and also thank you for the free gift it was a nice surprise.
Elaine H, ULLADULLA NSW



Hi! Order arrived this morning, thank you for fast response, will order again at later date. Fantales are my favourite sweet.
Maureene M, COOTAMUNDRA NSW

Once again thank you for being so prompt. It was great to arrive home on Monday night to find it there, now I think I am hooked on the whole idea of freeform crochet and will be looking for more books and instructions on how to really put it into practise. **Kerry D, PETRIE QLD**

HAPPY HOOKERS COMPETITION

The Crochet Australia Team is proud to announce the winner of our "Happy Hookers Competition" who will receive a \$20 gift voucher. This is the winner from the JAN 2008 period.



CONGRATULATIONS
TRISH D
CORRIMAL NSW



Entering the competition couldn't be easier. All you have to do is place an order. All orders will enter the random draw which takes place on the last day of every month. Good Luck!!

Ann L from WESTLEIGH WA says that she enjoys the newsletters, they are so informative, newsy and I enjoy the odd chuckle.



A special thankyou to **Shirley M from GATTON QLD**. She sent a special tea bag that we would like to share with you. The tag reads "I'd like to come and visit and have a cup of tea, But as you live so far away, please have this one on me".

Just a wee note to say thank you very much for the prompt service in mailing 2 Crochet books I ordered and received within the week. I was quite surprised at the quick turn around at your end and congratulate you on the excellent service. **Joan M R, PRESTONS NSW**



I received my order Wednesday morning, all in good order, and speedy delivery. Thank you very much for the additional Coats mercer crochet cotton and pattern(s), etc freebies, it will all be put to good use by me. I can't wait to try-out the motifs etc in the Learn to Crochet book, edited by you, the explanations you have included make the pattern(s)/stitches instructions so much easier for me to follow.



Ivana V, SUTHERLAND NSW

Thought that we should also tell you that we are human and that I sent Dawn from Victoria Point white cotton instead of ecru, but she was very forgiving.. We promptly rectified this error. Silly us.



HANDY HINTS



Have you ever nearly completed crocheting an article, run out of cotton and cannot find the label anywhere or it is mixed in with several others. What brand? What colour? What dyelot?

Solutions: If the ball has a core, pop the label in the core. May be a good idea to secure it as well with a bit of tape or bluetac. Others take the label and tie a piece of the thread around it adding any relevant info to the back of the label.



Only takes a minute but could save you a lot of heart ache.



Masterpieces of the Month

Send us a photo of your masterpiece and tell us what book it came from and your masterpiece could feature in the next edition of "Crochet Extra"



Edna M, one of the talented ladies in our crochet group, has used 8ply Dazzle and a pattern from Annies Crochet Newsletter Sep/Oct 1983 (no longer available) to make this bright rug.

Valerie K, GRENFELL NSW sent us this tatted doily pic she completed a few years ago from a pattern in DV1499 Elegant Tatting Patterns. Val is part of a group of about 60 ladies involved in a variety of crafts. Tatting is not as popular as crochet but it really is just as easy to master and there are some beautiful patterns available!



DV1499

Maureen L, EVERTON HILLS QLD, proved our Kit040 does indeed turn 2ply baby yarn into a soft and pretty shawl. Maureen finished the shawl with a round of blue which provided a great contrast.



Renate M, GREENACRES SA has created this cheery flower basket using her own design. Similar patterns are available in book ASN1382, Fashion Flowers to Crochet.



ASN1382



Rita C, WETHERILL PARK NSW is into afghans (rugs) in a big way as can be seen from the 2 beauties shown here. This white afghan with ribbons is from LA3267 Best of Terry Kimbrough Baby Afghans.

LA3267



The white afghan with the blue angels is from the USA book LA3201 Contest Favorites Baby Afghans.

LA3201



Eileen V, STANTHORPE QLD forwarded us this photo of her winning piece of crochet in the QCWA Qld competition in Oct 2007. Eileen tells us this piece won at local, division then state level for champion piece of crochet (and she has the trophy to boot!!). It was worked in cream #60 cotton from one of her own designs.

Congratulations Eileen!!



Anne B, BEROWRA NSW proudly sent us this pic of her winning entry in the Castle Hill show in 2007 - 1st prize PLUS Champion piece for her Baby Christening Robe. Anne used 2ply baby yarn from a pattern called "Bundle of Joy" which appeared in an old (1973) magazine. Ask for a copy with your next order if you are interested. It's good to see the old patterns can still win.....guess Anne had a little to do with it too.

Well done Anne!!



We'd love to see your finished projects! We receive lots of letters telling us how inspiring it is to see other peoples works. So if you have a photo of your finished project send it to us and your article could feature in up coming editions of the "Crochet Extra". Please be sure to tell us what book you got the pattern from so we can tell everyone else!