

Crochet Extra

35th EDITION - JULY 2008

Welcome to the July 2008 newsletter. Here at Crochet Australia we have made a few changes to the business, in an effort to improve our service to you. We have decided that by having a break mid week on Wednesdays, we may be more efficient on the other working days, as it will allow us to attend to those other important jobs that usually get put off. So, if you are one of our "call ins" please remember not to visit Wednesdays as there will be no one here to look after your needs. Times to call in are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8.30am to noon and please ring first. The afternoon time is to process all those other orders received by phone, fax, email, on line and post.



At present there is a shortage of Coats Mercer, Pellicano and Milford threads. Our suppliers are experiencing a few difficulties. To overcome this we have Maxi #10 and Daphne #20 in the 100g balls, and for the 4ply cottons we have the Madam Tricot perle #5 in a range of plain, variegated and metallic colours. If you require colour charts for any of these threads do not hesitate to request them with your next order. See price comparison chart on page 5.



Australia post has increased parcel postage so our rates may have to rise as well. At this stage we are looking at around 50 cents per package. Still makes posting a cheaper option than fuel.



There has been a run on Tricot hooks and to our dismay the extra large sizes from 8mm up are now only available in the cable set. Did you know that you can also use the double ended cro-hooks for tricot?



Yet again there have been orders to interesting places like India, Switzerland, Malta, UK, USA, Italy, Canada and Ireland. Our visitors have been from Canada, New Zealand and interstate, along with locals and not so far away places within a 3 hour drive.

So until next time
Happy Crocheting

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PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

Hardanger



Some of this information has been taken from Wikipedia.

The exact origins of Hardanger embroidery are not known but it is thought to have its beginnings in ancient Persia and Asia. In the period between 1650-1850 Hardangersom (meaning: work from Hardanger area) flourished in Norway. Flax was grown, carded, spun and woven into white fabric and thread which was used to make and decorate traditional Norwegian costume items called bunads (long aprons) as well as other items of clothing and household linens such as mats, curtains and bedspreads.



Modern Sulta Hardanger fabric is an evenweave cotton material woven with pairs of threads, typically 22 pairs per linear inch in both directions, referred to as '22-count'. The weave gives a squared appearance to the fabric (similar to Aida cloth), with distinct holes, making it easy to count and work on. Other evenweave fabrics are also suitable for Hardanger embroidery but do not usually have the clearly defined block appearance. These include pure linen, cotton or mixed fibre fabrics that may also vary in count from Davosa 18 threads per inch to finer counts of Lugana 26 threads per inch or higher. We stock both Sulta and Lugana in whites, ecru and colours. Davosa in white and ecru only.

Traditional Hardanger embroidery is worked with a thread colour that matches the fabric. On normal 22-count Sulta Hardanger fabric this is usually Pearl cotton #5, a heavier weight used for satin stitch Kloster blocks and motifs, and Pearl cotton #8, a thinner thread used for more delicate filling stitches and other surface details. On finer, higher count fabrics the combination of #8 and #12 threads is often more suitable.



A wide range of patterns is available today. We currently have about 60 book titles for you to choose from. Hardanger is still used to decorate cushions, table linen and other household items as well as items for display on a wall.



If you have not tried our Oren Bayen Perle #12 we are happy to send a sample ball. This yarn is also available in perle #8 in over 150 matching colours to the Perle #12. Some are variegated. If you would like a colour chart or the sample Perle #12 please let us know and we will include one with your next order.

So if you have not tried hardanger embroidery there are a few good beginners books to get you started, lots of pretty threads and fabrics.

Don't miss our hardanger combo in the specials. \$20 will get you started.

WE'RE HOOKED ON CROCHET!



CROCHETER'S CORNER

and

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"



Here are some customer masterpieces and comments for this month.

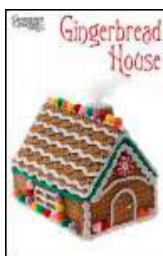


I was one of those tatters visiting you in September 2006 and among other things I bought some variegated green Coats thread size 20. I have now finished a doily with a diameter of 32cm made in that thread. Design is from Mary Maynard's book "Tatting a 4 Square Ring" (which we do not stock).

I really enjoyed visiting that lovely day, it is a very good memory from my trip to Australia, and I just wish you were not that far away so I could come more often. You have so many lovely things in your shop and Aussie tatters are so lucky to have you for when they need supplies. **Susanne from Denmark**

Many thanks to the team at Crochet Australia for the promptness of the delivery of the Gingerbread House patterns which I received in the mail today. These little crochet houses are really gorgeous. Thank you all again.

Merrilyn T of Mornington Vic



Just a big big thank you for your speedy service. I only ordered "The Crochet Bible" on Friday afternoon, and here we are at 12.00 noon Monday. I am amazed at your speediness and so pleased with the book. I should also mention that I love your website and the notices that come thru with the new books, etc. Please keep up the good work.

Yvonne H of Endeavour Hills Vic



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 MAY 2008 period.



Congratulations
Lone S
Annerley QLD



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!!

Just to let you know my order arrived safe and well this morning. Very pleased with items, in particular the needle tatting doilies. Very difficult to obtain patterns here. Thank goodness other countries are keeping wonderful crafts like crochet, tatting and other lace work going. Keep up the good work. Will call again.

Linda H from UK

(These patterns are very difficult for us to obtain too as most are discontinued - but we have our ways!!)



Lorraine S of Kingaroy QLD has used Daphne #20 crochet cotton and 12 "Bella" embroidered linen panels (LINBEDPANEL12) to create this stunning bedspread which took out first prize at the Kingaroy show. Well done Lorraine!!!



Handy Hints



As well as crocheting I like to knit and often the pattern calls for you to "thread a needle and slip remaining stitches on before pulling up tight and fastening off". Well that's when I put my crocheting to work and using the wrong end of a crochet hook I slip the stitches onto it. I then reverse the hook to the right way and draw the thread through. I find this much easier than trying to thread needles. Hope this helps someone.

Margaret M. Esperance WA

The order arrived safe and sound --- and very quickly as usual.



I always get such a thrill when it arrives, it makes my day, as the saying goes.

Cynthia C Buderim QLD

The books arrived in wonderful condition.

Thank you for all of your help with this transaction! **Cathy G from USA**

My order arrived today - the hooks will be great as I am getting arthritis in my thumbs, the patterns are lovely and I love the colour of the cotton. **Mavis R Claremont TAS**



What a joy to find Clover crochet hooks. I learned to crochet with the shorter Clover hooks and really do battle with the longer hooks that usually have very sharp ends as well. Thank you so much. Now I can begin another heirloom shawl as two daughters into one shawl does not work. **Jenny P Albany Creek QLD**

Just letting you know my last order arrived safely and also to say thank you for the three free tea towels, it is very much appreciated. As always your service is wonderful, no wonder so many people keep coming back.

Denyce B Narrabri NSW



Elisabeth K Townsville QLD has sent us these pics of her recent creations using DMC Traditions #30 cotton. "Governor's Lady" cloth is from an unknown Crochet Monthly and the bird edging is from Crochet monthly magazine No 273.



In addition to the bedspread on page 2, **Lorraine S of Kingaroy QLD** also took out first prize for this crocheted doll outfit using Daphne #20 cotton from one of our Spanish MYM symbol crochet books SELEC30. Lorraine sure has been busy!!



Just wanted to let you know my book arrived on Tuesday. What great service. Often mail from Adelaide takes 2 days to get to Kangaroo Island, so from Queensland that was fantastic. Would definately order from you again. **Karen H Kingscote SA**



Avis W Everton Park QLD showed us this unusual and dainty 3 piece set on her recent visit to stock up on goodies. The set was made using Daphne #20 crochet cotton from a pattern in the Spanish MYM symbol crochet book GANCH80.

*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!*



Wendy D of Grafton NSW, recently sent us this beautiful doily as a thank you gift for our assistance. This gave us a warm fuzzy feeling to know that our help is appreciated - thank you Wendy.

The doily was made from the August pattern in LA2593 A Year of Doilies which unfortunately is no longer available, but a similar pattern is available in the book 101117 Double Ruffle Doilies. Wendy is impressed with the arthritic clover crochet hooks - "talk about absolute magic, my hand hasn't had one twinge since crocheting".



Wendy is also impressed with a sunflower pattern "that is totally different" in the book 873753 Dozen and One Floral Doilies.



Lorraine D of Kuttabul QLD, usually crochets tea towel tops but has sent us this hold-all for socks, crafty bits, soaps, plastic bags - or whatever you choose.

Thank you Lorraine, we will put this to good use.

Jan A and Jo G of Nanango QLD, took some photos around our office on a visit a few months ago. They called in again recently and gave us these pretty laminated bookmarks

made from some of the photos they had taken. Thank you girls, well done.

If anyone is interested, the girls take orders and can provide similar items for a reasonable price.



I love my Crochet Extra!!

Thread comparisons

The following tables provide interesting comparisons of thread prices by grouping similar thread types and quoting the price per 100g for each thread. This way you are able to easily compare the real cost of each thread without worrying about the ball size. While this is still not comparing apples to apples, it provides a better comparison.

CROCHET COTTON THREAD

THREAD	SIZE BALL in g	\$ BALL PRICE	\$ PRICE per 100g
MAXI	100	9.85	9.85
DAPHNE	100	9.85	9.85
COATS MERCER	20	3.65	18.25
TRADITIONS	50	5.95	11.90
CORDONNET SPECIAL	20	4.25	21.25
CEBELIA	50	6.85	13.70
CEBELIA	25	4.45	17.80
KLASIK	20	3.50	17.50
FINCA 30	50	9.35	18.70

4PLY CROCHET COTTON

THREAD	SIZE BALL in g	\$ BALL PRICE	\$ PRICE per 100g
REGAL	50	3.80	7.60
CLEVER COUNTRY	50	3.30	6.60
MILFORD	50	3.50	7.00
PELLICANO	50	4.65	9.30
MT PERLE 5	50	4.40	8.80

COTTON PERLE

THREAD	SIZE BALL in g	\$ BALL PRICE	\$ PRICE per 100g
DMC PERLE 5, 8, 12	10	3.75	37.50
OREN BAYEN PERLE 8	8	2.15	26.88
OREN BAYEN PERLE12	5	1.85	37.00

RAYON THREAD (3PLY)

THREAD	SIZE BALL in g	\$ BALL PRICE	\$ PRICE per 100g
ROYAL RAYON	50	9.50	19.00
ROYAL RAYON	1000	88.85	8.88

Generally, the smaller the ball size the more expensive the thread. You can see that a 50g ball of Cebelia is more economical than a 25g ball of Cebelia or 20g ball of Mercer. Also the 100g balls of Maxi and Daphne are more economical than the other smaller balls. Remember that thread quality is also important, so while Cordonnet Special may be the most expensive - it is a high quality thread.

The most interesting comparison is with the Royal Rayon, where the 1kg cones are less than half the price of the 50g balls, so keep this in mind if you are a big user of this thread.