

Crochet Extra

65th Edition - April 2011

Welcome to the April Newsletter. It is hard to believe but the sun has been here now for over a week. The garden is breathing a sigh of relief and starting to be less soggy. We have planted new trees that like the wet, so hopefully they will thrive.



Thread supply has been all over the place but we are managing to fill most orders. News from Turkey is that some colours in the Mt Perle 5 and the Almina 4ply have been phased out, but the good news is that we hold a lot of stock of most colours. Clever Country 4ply and DMC Cebelia still have some problems with supply, but hoping for stock in the next few months.



Some new crochet books in from Annies Attic, several new novelty knitting books and more Leisure Arts books due next month. The new extra large hand towels are selling well and we have decided to stay with better quality towels in the future. Yes there is always something new. For the tatters several of the out of stock titles should be back in around mid April.



Visitors have been a plenty and it has been lovely to see some of our long term customers, who are more like friends than customers, trek up the mountain. We have also seen a lot of new faces, some local, but all yearning for crochet supplies. On the postal side, Australia Post has an April price rise on parcel post services. They also tell us, that despite all the road and rail problems, delivery times are reasonable, but some of the isolated areas, Darwin and Western Australia are just taking a few days longer. Hopefully things should return to normal before too long.



Until next time,

Vicki

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THEME OF THE MONTH



BAGS, BAGS AND MORE BAGS



For most of us, a bag is the one accessory that is a must. Crocheted bags may vary from little coin purses, clutch purses, totes, enviro bags, handbags, some with handles or straps, and others with a clasp or a drawstring and of course the old fashion string bag.

The variety of patterns available is astounding and there are some great ideas to take that plain bag to a whole new dimension by decorating with some free form crochet, flowers and leaves, small doilies or motifs, pompoms, fabric flowers and bows, beads, jewellery, shells and bobbles. The possibilities are endless.



Bags can be crocheted with fine threads, 4ply and 8ply cottons are common, rayons, ribbon straw, strips of fabric or ribbon and from fancy yarns of all description. Basically anything that can be crocheted is acceptable including the humble garbage and plastic shopping bags cut into strips. Also very popular are the felted bags worked in pure wool.

A bag is an item that a beginner could make from basic granny squares sewn together, a rectangle of crocheting joined at the sides and a drawstring added, a basic round for the base and then a continuous round added for the sides, and a strap or handles added. When worked in variegated colours, no fancy pattern would be required.



So if you have never made a bag before, we have several easy kit patterns to choose from (see page 5). All are written for the beginner and simple to follow. If you are looking for a challenge we have lots of bag books to choose from as well.



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 comments and masterpieces for this month!



Gloria J from Gatton QLD called in last week to stock up on a few things and showed us her new collection of dolls. These 5" Itty dolls look great all dressed up for a big outing and the 8" and 10" Itty dolls have lots to smile about. Gloria used rayon thread and Babylo #10. Well done Gloria.



Thank you for your usual quick delivery of Tatting Books that I ordered from you on 28th February. Also thank you for the little chocolate surprise that was in with the order. The Tatting books have some lovely work in them. I'm trying hard to finish another job that I am doing for our wool shop, so I can really sink my teeth into a couple of the patterns that these books have.

Merrilyn T, Mornington 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 February 2011 period.



Congratulations
Robyn H
Murwillumbah 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!!

I have received my order and I would like to thank you so much for all of the free gifts that you sent. Thank you also for being so helpful and friendly over the telephone when I call to place an order. The service that you give is second to none and I will be definitely getting more things off you in the near future. **Robyn E, Coraki NSW.**

Shirley S of Caboolture QLD showed us this very pretty doily worked in #10 Maxi thread and from a very old crochet book "My home". *Sorry, we do not have this pattern.*



Handy Hints



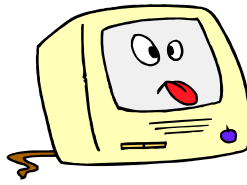
How to stop your crocheted bag from stretching.

When working with thicker yarn for your bag, run a finer thread such as #10 or #20 with your yarn as this will make a stronger finish and prevent the bag from stretching. Lining the bag with fabric will also help to prevent stretching and losses of your precious cargo.



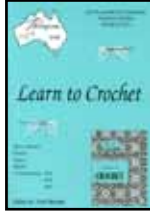
Received my order today, thank you for your prompt service and for your range of products. The doll kit is great. Hope all is well in your neck of the woods. No flooding or storms here, thank God. I just wanted you to know that many of the stores that used to carry handcrafts locally are either closed or don't carry much in the way of crocheting products.

So your Crochet Australia has become for many of us our "local handcraft" store. Thank you. **Lynda N, Davistown NSW.** *Lynda has been with us since 2004.*



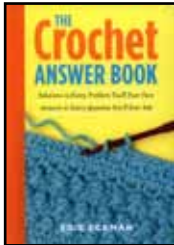
It was lovely to come and see you and to see what you have without going on the internet. I could have spent a lot more time there. I have just put in another order so I hope you get it as I was having a bit of trouble with the computer. I am finding it easier to crochet with the arthritic hooks I got from you.

Lorraine S, Wondai QLD.



Just letting you know that my order arrived safely this morning (Learn to Crochet PARC126). Thank you for sending it so promptly, it is for my 18yr old granddaughter who is at home with glandular fever and wants to learn to crochet. Thank you for sending a copy of Crochet Extra, both she and I have enjoyed reading it. **Anne L, Westleigh NSW.**

Hope your granddaughter has recovered and is madly crocheting!!



I received my parcel of books today and was delighted with my free gift. Thank you so much, it will be a very handy addition to my travel bag. I love it. *(Muriel was sent a Birch travel sewing set as a free gift.)* This small book (Crochet Answer CL5988) has a wealth of good advice and the size is a bonus as it can be slipped into a workbag and taken along if travelling. Thanks

again for your wonderful service. **Muriel P, Benalla VIC.**



Check out these little beauties from **Karen F of Clarinda VIC.** Karen tells us that she was inspired by BK30 Animal Towel Tops but these are her own creations. There is no pattern for them. *Well done Karen.*



I placed my order on Friday and picked up the parcel this morning (Monday). Amazing service! Thank you. **Cynthia L, Port Huon TAS.**

G'day Vicki, just a quick note to let you know that my parcel arrived this arvo safe & sound. Thank you so much for my traveling companion gift - that was quite a surprise and to think I do go away quite a bit so it will be well used. Thanking you. **Bethel S, Bethania QLD.**



Thank you so much for your time on Friday, Maureen and I certainly enjoyed our visit. You live in a lovely part of the world. We did go along to the lookout as you recommended, what a view. I am looking forward to getting on with using all the threads I got from you and no doubt will be putting in further orders. **Elaine R, Cornubia QLD.**



Thankyou for the prompt delivery of my last order. I always make myself a cuppa before I open it, so I can sit and enjoy the books for a little while before I get to work. **Ann B, Surfside NSW.**



Thank you for going out of your way for me over the size of the crochet thread. I sent the unwanted thread back to you in a yellow express envelope yesterday, so you should have it today. I just want to say thank you again, for going out of your way for me, the speed of delivery, the wonderful and many suggestions to help me out of my dilemma, the kindness and patience you give to your customers are second to none with any other business in Australia. In other words PRICELESS! Thanks very, very much.

Jo K, Watsonia VIC.



This is a clever way to display a hat and booties made by **Julie P of Greenpoint NSW.**

I am pleased to advise that my order has arrived safely and I am delighted with the books. Thankyou for sending them so promptly. I am new to crocheting and just love the symbol patterns. **Joyce B, Goosberry Hill WA.** *Joyce is referring to the British Crochet Monthly Magazines.*



Anne B of Berowra NSW scooped up the prizes at the Sofal local show recently with this range of goodies including a cot cover and christening robe. Well done Anne.



Look at the bag books we found!!



873912 Belts & Bags \$12.50



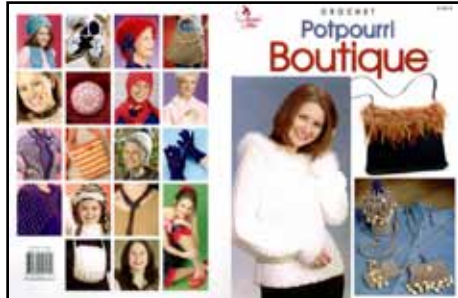
JE16017 Chick Stuff Itty Bitty Bags \$14.45



ASN1399 Love that Bag! \$14.20



874712 Bag Boutique \$12.30



874514 Potpourri Boutique \$12.30



LA3804 Must Have Bags \$14.30



ASN1251 Trendsetting Totes \$14.20 \$11.00



ASN1305 Cro Purses on the Go \$13.25 \$11.00



874523 Purse Panache \$10.95



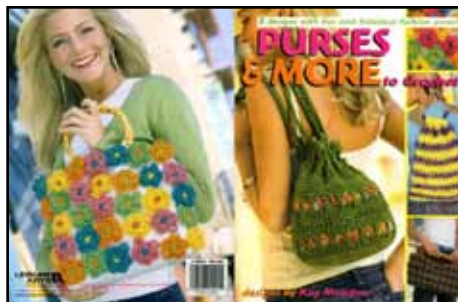
GC27106 Felted Bag \$10.00



GC29106 Felted Entrelac Handbag \$10.00



ASN1333 Delicate Purses for Proms/
Weddings \$13.95 \$11.00



LA4224 Purses & More \$13.65



GC15105 Rosalie Coll Handbags \$10.00



CL3984 Vogue Crocheted Bags \$21.95*



JE16008 Chic Stuff Bags, Bags, Bags \$14.45



TW395 Casual Cottons \$17.20



CL6194 Crochet Bags! \$24.95**



878552 Classy Trash Bags \$15.95

SEEK AND YOU WILL FIND!

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LA4804 Enviro-Totes \$8.30



LA3967 Purses for Sassy Girls \$17.10



LA4639 Crochet Totes & Accessories \$42.90**



LA75273 Must have Handbags \$9.30



871034 In-Style Bags \$15.00

** or ** following the price indicates extra postage may apply.*



KITPAT001
Lge Crocheted
Bag \$5.00



KITPAT002
Small Brown
Crocheted
Bag \$5.00



KITPAT003
Lge Crocheted
Bag \$5.00



KITPAT004
Crocheted
Tote Bag
\$5.00



KITPAT029
Granny
Square
Shoulder Bag
\$5.00



KITPAT030
Draw String
Bag with
shoulder strap
\$5.00



KITPAT031
Broomstick
(Crochet)
Bag \$5.00



KITPAT051
Quick Small
Beaded Bag
Using Jug
Beads \$5.00



BBS048 Bead Knitted Pendant Bags 1 \$26.95



LA75136 Dazzling Mini Bags \$9.30



PM4325 Never too many Handbags \$21.95