



Crochet Extra

119th Edition – March 2016

It's March already! February has flown by and there seems to be a never ending stream of new books coming through. I have been waiting for the new colours in Loyal wool to arrive – hopefully this month – just in time for making your winter woolies. The new colours in Natura cotton have also been delayed with only some arriving in February. Hopefully we should have the others in during March.

On the brighter side - we've had the new colours in Maxi – now on the website – and Almina white arrive into the store. So plenty of cotton for crocheting many of the new patterns that have arrived.

For those of you who are not able to visit our store, you can now take a virtual tour on our website. So grab a cuppa, sit back and do some 'window shopping' from the comfort of your chair. The virtual tour will take you through all of our store giving a great overview of the range of stock we have. If you see something that you like but can't find it on our website, let us know and we can help work out what it is. It is also a good way to see the range of colours of the different yarns. Take a tour and let us know what you think by leaving a review or commenting on facebook.

We saw a number of new faces at our workshops this month as we worked on the amamani puzzle balls. Some



returning to refresh their crochet skills after a long break. All are eager to begin this teacosy next month. If you are around please join us.

Next month we will feature our customer corner, so please send in your photos with the details of thread/yarn used and the source of the pattern. So long as you are using either a pattern or yarn from Crochet Australia, you'll go into a draw for a \$15 voucher.

Until next time

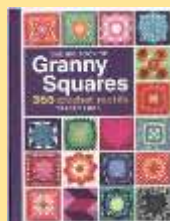
Lynda

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Theme of the Month—Granny Squares – they're not just for Grannies!

When I say I am making items out of granny square, I get one of two reactions from people – 'oh that is so old fashioned' or 'that is so chic'. Of course they are both right! Granny squares have been around a very long time, but are making a revival. Gigi Hadid, US fashion model, has been seen in the streets of New York and Paris in a granny square jacket creating the desire for this new look (even though it was referred to as 'knitting' in one news report).



The thing I love about Granny Squares is the variety available. Generally they all begin at the centre and use various combinations of treble and chains to create interesting looks. There are many stitch directories around to help create interesting granny squares. And you can use your imagination

to create your own designs. Of course they don't have to be square – circles, triangles and hexagons all count—hence we also often hear the term motifs instead of granny squares.



They are also a great way of using up remnants and scraps of yarn and bring colour to projects. Any yarn can be used – bulky, worsted weight or thread. We've featured a few of the books available in the following pages.



The projects available to be made are endless. From small wrist warmers, cup cozies and slippers, to bags, clothing and accessories or pillows and afghans. Why not try decorative wall hangings, toys or even dog-coats.

Try making these [granny square slippers](#) for a child or lady.



Please note: We will be closed over the Easter break, from 24th March to 28th March inclusive.



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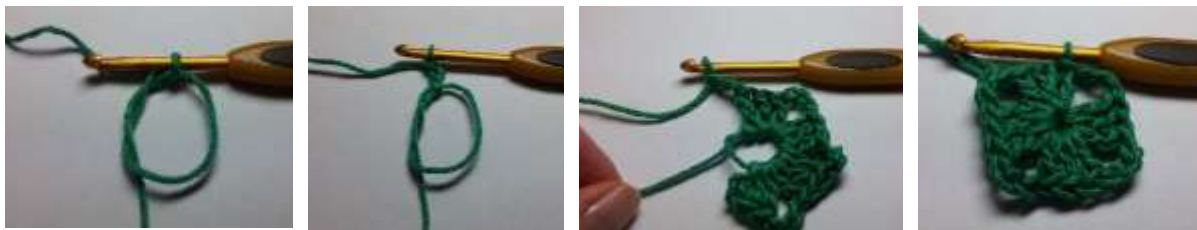
Tip of the Month

Granny Square Success



I learnt to make granny squares many years ago with the traditional chain centre, finishing off at each colour round and use a slip stitch to join the new colour – and if you weren't changing to a new colour slip stitch to the chain space to begin your next row. Fast forward to today and there are a number of new techniques for each of these steps that make it far easier to construct a granny square. Many of the books on granny squares will take you through these new techniques as well as the basics of making a granny square. These techniques themselves are universal once learnt and can be used in many other projects where you begin with a circle – eg amigurumi, beanies – when changing colours and where you need to begin the next row in the middle of a chain space and not where you end the row. I've outlined below three techniques I've learnt that replace the traditional techniques I learnt as a youngster. I hope you find them useful for all your projects.

The magic ring (also called the adjustable ring). Rather than beginning with a series of chains turned into a circle with a slip stitch, begin with a magic ring. The magic ring begins with no chains and can be made as big or as small as needed. If you can make a slip knot to begin your crochet, then you can make the magic ring. Begin to make a slip knot, and rather than tightening the knot, keep it loose, and pinch the yarn so that it fits around the hook and begin your beginning chain for the first row – eg 3 if using trebles in the circle. Then crochet the number of stitches for the first row into the big circle of the slip knot. At the end of the row, pull the tail of the yarn to tighten up the circle to the desired size, or you can stretch and 'grow' the circle as you crochet your first row if needed, then pull the centre tight.



Standing stitches. Instead of beginning each new colour row with beginning chains, create your first stitch from 'midair', whether it be a double crochet, treble, half-treble or double treble. Begin with a slip knot on your hook and begin your stitch – eg if making a double crochet, insert your hook in the designated stitch, pull up a loop, yarn over hook and pull through the two loops on the hook, and if making a treble, wrap the yarn around the hook and then insert hook through the designated stitch.

When you wrap the yarn around the hook before inserting it into the designated stitch you may need to use your fingers to hold the slip stitch and yarn over in place until you complete the stitch. Begin each new colour row in a different chain space from where you ended the previous colour.



Ending round with a stitch. When you are not changing colours, the general rule is to end the round by the specified number of chain then a slip stitch to the first stitch of the round. This leaves your hook above that first stitch. However, when making granny squares, you want to begin the next round in the chain space between the three trebles, and therefore have to stitch over the trebles to get to the next chain space, or turn your work

and slip stitch back to the previous chain space. Try finishing your round by substituting a stitch into the first stitch of the round, rather than the specified number of chain. If you are using 1-chain spaces, substitute this with a double crochet; if you are using 2-chain spaces, substitute this with a half treble; if you are using 3-chain spaces, substitute this with a treble. This will leave your hook in the middle of the chain space ready to begin your next round. The first 3 treble grouping is then made over the stitch just made.



The invisible join. I was taught to finish off on a round with a slip stitch to the beginning stitch, cut the yarn and then pull through the final loop on hook. This can often leave a bump. With the invisible join you avoid the bump. When you complete the last stitch, take the loop off the hook before joining to the beginning of the round. Using your hook or a needle thread the yarn up through the loop, then through the top of the second stitch of the row (back to the front) and then through the top of the loop on the hook and out the back. Pull the yarn gently to tighten up the stitch, and weave in the end.



Even if your patterns don't describe these techniques, you can substitute them to make it easier to create your granny squares and other projects



Lynda's Book of the Month



876513 Scrap Granny Crochet \$15.00

Take your leftover yarns and a few new skeins and work up some of the most beautiful home accents and wearables ever using granny square motifs! Projects include a stunning jacket with matching scarf, afghan with matching rug, hat with matching scarf and an elegant table set. 16 pages, full colour.

US Terminology

Visiting hours:

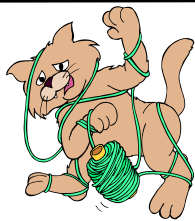
Mon, Tues, Thurs: 9am—3.30pm
Fri: by appointment
Wed: Group visits (6 or more) by appointment

Workshops: Tuesdays 9.30am—11.30am bookings recommended

1563 Yandina-Coolum Road, Yandina

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.



Look What We Found



LA3846 Cozy Slippers & Throw \$13.85



LA4420 50 Fabulous Crochet Squares \$25.95 * **Heavy**



878542 Slippers Hooked on Crochet \$17.20



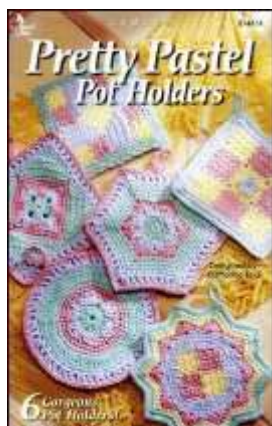
ASN1355 Thoroughly Modern Grannies \$13.35



871204 Cute Crochet for Girls \$12.95



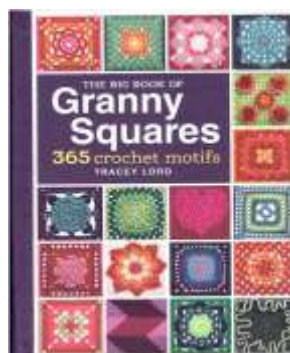
LA4671 Accessories to Crochet in a Weekend \$23.95



874414 Pretty Pastel Pot Holders \$9.50



LA75021 Granny's Delights Afghans \$8.30



IP37110 Granny Squares \$45.50 ** **Very Heavy**



LA6373 Animal Lovie Blankets \$18.50



LA75340 Color Mix & Match \$9.30



LA75475 Complete Guide to Symbol Crochet \$15.95



SP2009 The Great Nth American Afghan (knit) \$21.95 * **Heavy**



LA6083 Totes & Bags \$15.55



LA75439 Baby Afghans (Crochet)
\$7.95



878526 101 Granny Squares
\$24.95 * **Heavy**



LA75438 Motif Afghans \$7.95



SP8819 Crocheted Granny Squares
20 to Make \$12.95



LA4421 50 Fabulous Crochet
Thread Motifs \$25.10



S4361 75 Crochet Floral Blocks \$39.95
** **Very Heavy**



DB1296 Boho Crochet \$47.50
** **Very Heavy**



PB7120 Mollie Makes Crochet
\$23.50 ** **Very Heavy**



ICM001 Com Guide to Crochet
Acc & Home \$26.50



LA4592 Artsy Afghans \$17.20



IW88377 Crochet at Home \$37.95
** **Very Heavy**



871203 When Granny meets
Filet \$21.95 * **Heavy**



A909130 300 Classic Blocks
\$33.50 ** **Very Heavy**



A7803 Granny Square Flowers
\$34.95 ** **Very Heavy**



A3638 The Granny Square Book
\$34.95 **** Very Heavy**



HC4262 Harmony-Crochet Stitch
Motifs \$29.95 ** Very Heavy



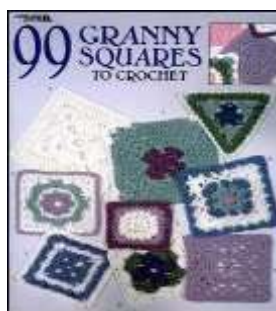
CL395X Easy Crochet (Soft cover)
\$24.95



SC39 Simply Crochet
Issue 39 \$20.25 * Heavy



SC32 Simply Crochet
Issue 32 \$20.25 * Heavy



LA3078 99 Granny
Squares to Crochet \$21.30



LA4439 A Year of Baby Afghans
Bk4 \$25.70



LA2866 Patchwork Afghans Thru
the Year \$15.10



LA2986 Contest Favourites Afghans
Squares \$21.80



LA4326 Crochet on the Go
\$23.95



SP1222 Simply Stunning
Crochet Bags \$33.50



HOOKADDSWMD Addi Hooks \$17.95
each, sizes 2-6mm



CMPATC029 Granny Square
Shoulder Bag \$5.00



N1250 Loyal Tweed
Afghan \$5.50



CMPATC032 Granny
Square Towel Top \$5.00



KNITCIR100LITE1000
100cm—6-10mm
80cm—3.75-6mm
60cm—3.75-5mm
40 cm—3.75-4mm
Priced from \$9.95—\$13.25