



Crochet Extra

126th Edition – October 2016

Summer arrived here in the last week following the rain which now means spending more time outdoors and in the garden with our puppy—but I still carve out time to crochet. I've started my Christmas list—but not sure I'm going to get through it all.

News for this month is that Australia Post have announced an average 3% increase in their parcel post rates, meaning postage will go up. We've calculated the new postage rates and this is now on our [website](#). These rates will become effective from 4th October.

15th October is I Love Yarn Day (ILYD)—a day for all crocheters, knitters, tatters and other yarn lovers to show everyone what we enjoy, make something in public and teach someone new. While the day has its origin in the Craft Yarn Council of America, it is a day we can use to keep our craft alive. We will be having an ILYD special - 10% off the normal retail price of all yarn and thread ordered on 14th October.

I have had two enquiries from ladies wanting some hand-made crochet items—one in Toowoomba (summer vests) and the other in Sydney (Halloween decorations). If you make crocheted items to sell and are interested, please let me know and I can pass on the details.

We've received some photos of the magnificent master pieces you have made—showing the talent that many of you have. These are featured in our Customer Corner. The winner of our \$25 voucher this month is Flavia Lawson.

At this month's workshop we are continuing our theme of Tunisian crochet by extending it and learning entrelac crochet— This consists of coloured squares or diamonds arranged in a repeating pattern. These look great as blankets, cushion covers and bags—but the design can also be used in clothing and accessories.



Until next time,
Lynda

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



Theme—Recycling and Scraps

Every day we look at what we throw out and question can it be recycled. Have you ever thought about how it can be recycled in crochet or knitting? We can crochet or knit with all sorts of medium—not just yarn. I've seen/heard of crocheting with tea bags, plastic shopping bags (plarn), cassette/VHS tapes (for those of us who remember these), sheets, and T-Shirts (Tarn). And I'm sure there are more.



The best items to make from such yarns are baskets, bags, floor rugs, art and sculptures (Such as this coral reef made with tea bags). Saying that, I have also seen a dress crocheted from plastic bags! Plarn is also being used to help the homeless—crocheting sleeping mats, as they are light and portable, waterproof and more hygienic. Check out the details at www.1millionwomen.com.au.

Left-over yarn from other projects can also be used rather than thrown out—particularly for small projects such as flowers and other embellishments, edgings and dolls clothes or colourful granny squares or bunting. Or join them all together and create your own multi-coloured ball of yarn.



Even if you don't want to turn fabric into yarn, you can recycle or 'refresh' it in other ways. Add some edgings or embellishments, turn it into lining for crocheted bags, or backing for pillows—just to name a few.

Even old crocheted and knitted items can be recycled— by cutting and crocheting edges, or pulling it all undone for a new ball of yarn and a new project—great for yarnbombing!

Once you start thinking about it, the possibilities are endless. In the next section we have a range of books focusing on recycling and using scraps, as well as projects suitable for plarn, tarn or fabric yarn.



As a starter, try making this [bag](#) from plastic bread bags—a real conversation piece.



Email: info@crochetaustralia.com.au
Website: www.crochetaustralia.com.au
Facebook: www.facebook.com/crochetaustralia
ABN: 31 595 069 229



Tip of the Month

- Using Plarn



While I have never yet crocheted with plarn, I have been collecting bags to give it a go. I did get thinking about what could I learn from others who have used it, so I went searching for some tips, beyond how to prepare your plarn (which most books give you). I've summarised what I've found, along with some useful links if you want to find more tips and ideas what you can make from recycled items.

1. It can be hard on your hands and arms, so take regular rests. One way of doing this is by only cutting up a few bags at a time rather than all of them at once. This also allows you to adjust the thickness of the strips as you go if needed—see tip 6.
2. Work loosely—while it is also easier on your muscles and joints, this will also ensure the plarn doesn't tear or break. In particular don't make the chain or knots too tight.
3. Keep your tension constant. The plarn will likely stretch and thin out a bit as you apply tension. Keeping tension consistent will not only keep your stitches even, it will also keep your yarn even, reducing your chance of accidentally breaking through it.
4. The size and thickness of the stitch vary with the weight of the plastic, so stick with the same type of plastic for your project if possible. See tip 6 if this is not possible.
5. Mesh crochet patterns are best, as are those using double crochet (UK terminology).
6. Cut strips according to the thickness of the plastic **and** the size of the hook you are using. When using light flimsy plastic with a large hook, cut the strips thicker (you might cut the strips 5cm thick). If you are using a smaller hook, cut the strips thinner (you might cut the strips 2.5cm thick). If using heavy-weight plastic with a large hook, cut the strips thinner (you might cut the strips 1.5cm thick). As you are cutting the strips in 'circles' you are doubling them when they are joined—for heavy-weight plastic you may need only use single strips.
7. Paint and dye will generally rub off the bags as you use them, making the plarn stick and crocheting awkward. Wash hands and your hook regularly with soap and water to make it easier.
8. If you do have to unpull some stitches, do it slowly so you don't tear or weaken the plarn.
9. There are several types of joins you can use—choose one that suits your project.

Useful links:

www.myrecycledbags.com—many recyclable products and project ideas.

www.bagsbegone.com—primarily recycled bags—tips and project ideas

www.amandashappyhearth.com.au—general crochet and knitting site with tips and patterns for recycled bags and t-shirts

www.lagringasblogicito.blogspot.com.au—primarily recycled bags—tips and project ideas



Sleeping mats for the homeless crocheted from plastic shopping bags.

Would you like to participate? Click [here](#) to see how





Lynda's Book of the Month



878552 Classy Trash Bags \$15.95

By Carolyn Dickson. This is a fun and fashionable way to recycle plastic bags or use large kitchen bags to make 10 exciting designs. Instructions include the best way to cut your bags into strips. Make a shoulder bag, crescent moon purse, water bottle carrier, clutch purse, jazzy black rose tote bag, mini bag for you mobile and a real classy hat. All this from the humble plastic bag. 16 pages. US terminology

Customers Corner

Below are some comments and masterpieces submitted by customers over the last quarter.

Send us a photo of your masterpiece (by email or on our facebook page—www.facebook.com/crochetaustralia), telling us which book it came from and which yarn or thread you used, and be in the draw to win a \$25 voucher in February (see conditions on our website). Please also add any tips you've picked up when making them.



Carol C, Pooraka SA

I just wanted to share a project I finished using cones of rayon I bought from you last year. My mum has always crocheted things for others but rarely has she ever crocheted anything for herself so I decided to crochet her a table cloth.

The pattern is from Hass Designs. My tip for this pattern is to use cones to limit joins. I also changed the pattern to crochet closed squares instead of open ones at the beginning and end of the rows.



Christine G, Summerland Point NSW

This blue beanie is made from Loyal using the instructions and dimensions mentioned in your July tip. It fit perfectly. I made the pom pom with the pom-pom maker I bought from you.

The cushion is a Japanese Shashiko pattern embroidered using your silk thread, Mulberry Native. I love the slub texture of the result.



Lastly, I completed the White Frosting shrug from the JKD Get Squared video in Heirloom 8ply cotton. It was an enjoyable project to complete.



Christine T, Nambour Qld

Crocheted this doily in 4 ply Clever Country cotton. The pattern is from the book Extra Special Doilies (LA3588)



Dianne T, Yandina Qld

Crocheted this Mobius wrap from MT Perle 5 Metallic cotton as part of our July workshop.



Ellen B, Deception Bay Qld

Crocheted these towel edgings from 4ply Clever Country cotton. Ellen makes up her own patterns to have a mirrored image on the ends.



Evelyn K, Mapleton Qld

I was given a miniature challenge and crocheted a miniature outfit for a miniature doll (2cm) from Cebelia #20. I had to crochet the panties directly onto the doll! I also crocheted edgings around hankies bought from you—making up my own patterns, and using Cebelia #20 thread.



Dorothy C, Caloundra Qld

Recently picked up crocheting and crocheted this hat from Peter Pan yarn for her newborn granddaughter.



Elaine M, Narangba Qld

Made this from clever country for her granddaughter – 2 years. The pattern was adapted from an old Paragon hat pattern



Julie K, Kureelipa Qld

Using Loyal 8ply yarn weaved squares which she then joined together with crochet, making a beautiful blanket to fit her bed. Julie learnt weaving and crochet only recently.



Joy F, Highland Park Qld

Crocheted these table centres in Cebelia cotton. The circular one has hairpin crochet edging which was separately attached and was quite challenging.



Leigh W, Yandina Creek Qld

Crocheted these wine glass holders using Clever Country 4 ply cotton—for a hens party



Marilyn B, Obi Obi Qld

Has been crocheting her way through the book Crochet Boutique Hats, giving them to her family and friends. She is wearing one she made for herself.





Pam H, Yandina Qld

Crocheted this baby blanket using Peter Pan Baby Yarn, replicating the pattern from a blanket her own Mother had made many years ago.

Susan M, Mont Albert North, Vic

I've attached my butterfly necklace, tatted using Lizbeth tatting cotton. It won 1st prize at the Royal Melbourne Show—This was Susan's own design.



Flavia L, Banksia Beach Qld

Crocheted 'June's Quilting Buddy'— The Happy Hippo from the book Animal Amigurumi (871374) as a gift for a quilter who is in a wheelchair



Val D, Zillmere Qld

Tatted these beautiful bookmarks using Lizeth #20 thread.



Sue Z, Nambour Qld

Crocheted these jug covers (CMPATC079 and CMPATC080) using Cebelia #20 cotton and left over coloured cotton from other projects.

Yvonne F, Qld

Crocheted these colourful mandalas in hoops from 4 ply Clever Country cotton.

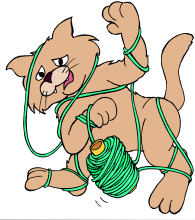
Visiting hours:

Mon, Tues, Thurs: 9am—3.30pm
Fri: by appointment
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.



Look What We Found



879526 Recycle It! \$17.80



874513 From Rags to Raves \$12.30



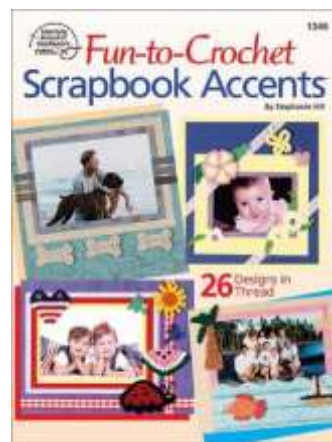
SP4867 Eco-Friendly Knits \$12.95



DO5476 Rag Rugs \$26.50



871535 Scraps to sensational \$23.50 *



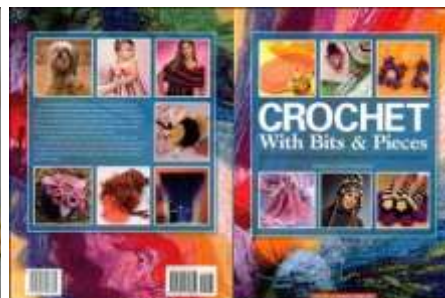
ASN1346 Scrapbook Accents \$16.50



SP8875 Knitted Phone Sox \$14.50



LA5572 Use up that Yarn! \$15.30



104025 Crochet with Bits & Pieces \$39.95 **



879548 Scrap Crochet \$15.00



876513 Scrap Granny Crochet \$15.00



LA5169 More Project from Scrap Bag \$13.70



LA4858 Unexpected Crochet for the Home \$28.50**



SP1222 Simply Stunning Crocheted Bags \$26.50 *



871034 In-Style Bags \$15.00



LA4639 Crochet Totes & Accessories \$42.90 **



ASN1440 Any Day Bags \$14.20



LA4804 Enviro-Totes \$8.30



LA3804 Must Have Bags \$14.30



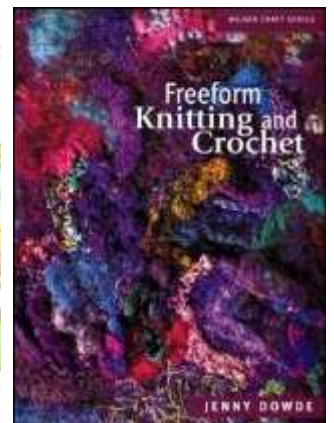
LA5504 Totes for All Reasons \$17.10



871530 Baskets for All \$19.40



ICM001 Complete Guide to Crochet—Homeware and Accessories \$26.50 *



SM3272 Freeform Knitting and Crochet \$44.95 **



873217 Easy Place Mats & Trivets \$15.30



ASN1386 Crochet Trims for Tops \$14.20



ASN1379 Happy Feet Flip Flops \$15.30



LA4475 I Can't believe I'm freeform Crocheting \$22.00

LA4639 Crochet Totes & Accessories \$42.90 **





ASN1251 Trend
Setting Totes \$14.20



876507 Hair Accessories \$12.20



LA75273 Must Have Handbags
\$9.30



871602 Creative
Crochet \$23.50 *

Individual patterns—\$5.00 each



CMPATC058



CMPATC001



CMPATC030



121081 Quick-Knit Flower Frenzy \$13.80

HOOKCVAMOUR

15mm \$18.30

12mm 16.50

10mm \$13.95



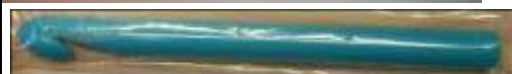
LA4300 Boutique Style Knits \$19.70



HOOKUS10—10mm Plastic Hook
\$4.65



HOOK12PL—12mm Plastic
Hook \$5.95



HOOK15PL—15mm Plastic



HOOK19—19mm Plastic Hook
\$11.50



Pom Pom Makers:

ACCPOMPOMCVLGE—65 and 85cm—\$14.50

ACCPOMPOMCV—35 and 45cm—\$12.50

ACCPOMPOMCVXS—20 and 25cm—\$8.60

ACCPOMPOMCVXLGE—115cm—\$19.10



Liteflex Knitting Needles

12mm—\$7.50

10mm—\$7.25