

Crochet Extra

129th Edition- February—2017

Happy New Year to you all and welcome to our first 2017 newsletter. A new year, and I hope some great resolutions to complete many more projects during the year. I myself definitely plan to finish a number of them that I started in 2016 but never quite finished –as there is no room left in my project bags and I can't justify making another one for all my new projects planned for 2017.



The Pantone colour of the year is Greenery. At one time green used to be my favourite colour and the greenery selected fits right into that range. I may just have to revisit it and make some green items this year. Will green feature in any of your masterpieces

for 2017? If you want to see what this colour looks like visit our facebook page www.facebook.com/crochetaustralia

As expected we had quite a backlog of orders when we started back on the 9th, but I'm pleased to say we are now fully caught up. Including unpacking our shipments from suppliers that were unable to be delivered prior to Christmas. This has meant some new books in store and new dishcloth craft yarn.

Next month we will feature our customer masterpieces – so please send in pictures of what you have been making, with the yarn used and the source of the pattern, along with any tips for others who wish to make the same thing or use that yarn – and be in the running to win a \$25 gift voucher. I have received some photos and the work looks amazing. I've also heard many of you made the earrings from the patterns from our last newsletter and were the star of the show wherever you went - I'd love to see these too.

In our February workshop we will be learning the corner to corner technique. We'll start with a dishcloth and go on to a set or placement or plam blanket –you choose how many colours you wish to use.

Until next time.



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Beach/summer wear

I love summer as it is a great time to show off what you can make with cotton. And while we may already be half way through summer, it looks like there are some warm days ahead, and most summer items don't take all that long to make.

There are so many patterns – from the classic bikini, cover-ups and hats to some lovely summer outfits. For yourself, friends, children, babies and even dolls all deserve something. Or you can turn any pattern asking for wool into a lighter summer-wear garment by substituting cotton



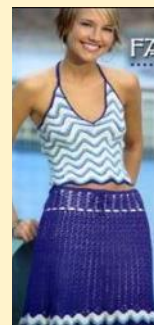
The colours available in cottons are extensive – from the soft pastels to the bright colours that really make a statement. Many items can be made with 4 ply cottons – the Almina, Natura, Clever Country or Dalia. Perle #5 can also be used as a substitute in many patterns – as it can be considered a thin 4 ply.



8 ply cotton is also suitable for summer outfits – the Heirloom 8 ply provides a lovely drape and soft feel to items. Even the finer cotton threads can be used for some lacy summer items – Babylo, Maxi and Lizbeth all fit the bill here.

Or for glamorous evenings the silk yarns make fabulous summer tops.

Crocheting for summer months and in summer months can be fun – don't let the warm weather wear you down. The



hardest part though will be choosing from the large selection of patterns and the colours available. We have featured these in our next section. You can start with our free pattern for a childs halter neck top—to [knit](#) or [crochet](#)



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Tip of the Month

Understanding Cotton



When people say they crochet with cotton, many people associate this with using thread and making fine items such as doilies and table cloths. We've come a long way and cotton is now found in all weights – eg 4ply and 8ply. Cotton is a brilliant fibre to use for making summer wear. Cotton, as a natural plant fibre breathes and conducts heat away from the body – making it perfect for warmer weather. This is because cotton has durability and absorbency up to 27 times its own weight.

Are you familiar with the different treatments applied to cotton and how they change the cotton and affect your finished item? Knowing this can help you select the right cotton and match the cotton to the right patterns when substituting yarn.

Much of the cotton yarn available on the market is mercerized. This means that it has undergone a particular type of finishing process – given a sodium hydroxide bath then neutralized with an acid bath. This strengthens and softens the fibres, increases the lustre and ability to take dye and helps it become more resistant to mildew. It is also less likely to shrink when washed. This cotton is also referred to as 'pearl' or 'perle' cotton. At Crochet Australia, all of the cotton we sell is mercerized cotton.

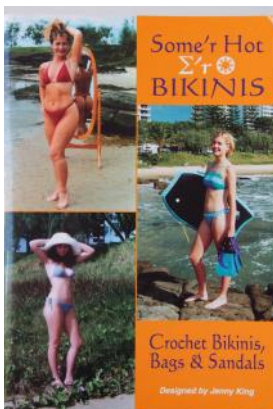
Unmercerized cotton on the other hand, while super absorbent, is not as shiny or soft. It has a slubby appearance – giving it a home spun look.

Gassing is another process that is applied to cotton after being mercerized whereby the thread is passed over an open flame. This incinerates any stray fibres that exist and improves the appearance. The Lizbeth thread we sell at Crochet Australia is gassed.

Cotton, unlike most other yarns lacks elasticity. If the project you are making needs this, cotton may not be the best yarn to use. The stitches also stand-alone and don't snuggle next to one another as with other fibres, so the gaps between stitches can be more obvious with cotton. This factor also means the stitches are distinct and so fancy patterns are enhanced using cotton. For example, cables take on more depth and popcorns are more stable.



Book of the Month



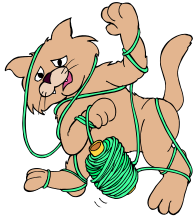
JKB1 Some'r Hot Bikinis \$9.50

By Jenny King

Nothing says summer more than a crocheted bikini. And with 30 years of Crochet Bikini making experience you can be assured that these designs by Jenny King will fit at the crotch and will wear well in water. This book is designed for the beginner crocheter with illustrations and detailed instructions on how to decrease and how to crochet over elastic. For the cost of 2 balls yarn/ thread, and a few hours work you can be wearing a little swimsuit and the admiration of others.

There are 9 contemporary bikini patterns in this book including: 1. A G-string/thong, 2. Little boy leg pants, 3. Tie sided bikinis, 4. A glittering red one piece bikini, 5. There are 6 different bikini tops all with dart shapings (to enhance any bustline). As an added bonus there are 2 sets of "slave sandals" (sole less sandals) and a beach bag, and LITTLE SARONG STYLED WRAP SKIRT.

Australian terminology



Look What We Found



LA4025 Sexy Swimwear to Crochet \$23.95



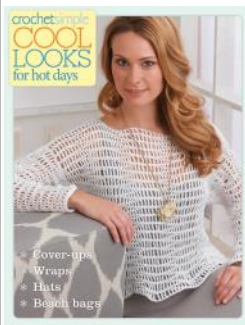
NMTA39546 Quick Crochet Tops \$17.95



LA4383 Summer Fashions in Thread Crochet \$21.80



TW395 Casual Cottons \$17.20



S067057 Cool Looks \$18.50



TW394 Children's Cool Cottons \$17.20



886018 Lace & Grace Tee \$15.75



885246 Velana Cardigan \$12.50



ASN1386 Crochet Trims for Tops \$14.20



885233 Fit & Flare Vest \$15.20



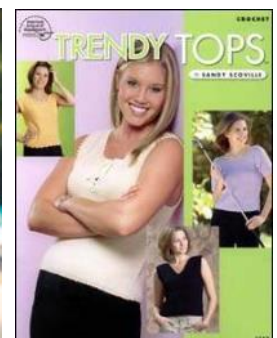
CMPATC004 Tote Bag \$5.00



CMPATC001 Large Crochet Bag \$5.00



871602 Creative Crochet in a Day \$23.50



ASN1352 Trendy Tops \$13.35



846524 Summer Sensations \$22.45



885092 Summer Turtleback Jackets \$11.75



879552 Learn Tunisian Stitches + DVD \$25.10



TW446 Crochet Fashion \$17.20



873552 Baby's Dressin' Fancy \$12.95



871205 Sweet Dresses in Crochet \$12.95



LA3468 Mamma's Girl 5 Knit Dresses \$15.15



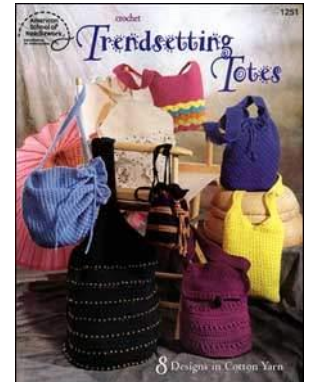
872891 Spring Time Throws \$11.55 Knit



SP1222 Simply Stunning Crochet Bags \$26.50
*Heavy



LA4639 Crochet Totes & Accessories \$42.90 ** Very Heavy



ASN1251 Trendsetting Totes \$14.20



LA4804 Enviro-Totes \$8.30



LA4503 Pretty Summer Fashion \$23.00



121038 Fun-to-Knit Doll Clothes \$16.70



871207 Exquisite Crochet Shawls \$14.50



LA3908 Crochet Hip Hats \$15.20



ASN1449 Sunny Day Dresses (Baby-Toddler) \$12.95



LA3617 Weekend Sweaters \$17.40



CL6323 Crochet Hats \$24.95



MCPA916 Summer Outing Doll \$11.75



Simplicity Crochet Mag \$20.25 each
*Heavy

Issues 32, 34



GC18106 Pamelyn Summer Shrug \$10.00



871026 T-shirt Dresses & Accessories \$15.00



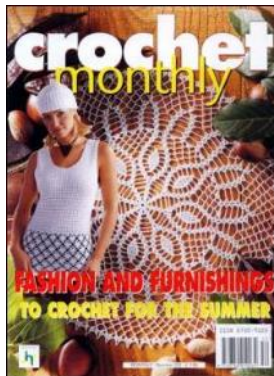
871204 Cute Crochet for Girls \$12.95



872792 Tatted Accents & Accessories \$12.95



HHT449 Tatting 3 \$64.50



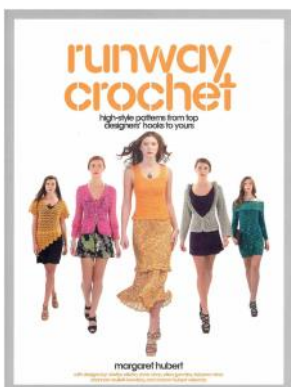
MAGCROMHLY \$9.00 each



LA4379 Total Crochet Fashions \$48.10

****Very Heavy**

Crochet Monthly Magazines
— Issues 252, 279, 298, 299



A3749 Runway Crochet \$36.50 *Heavy



YM38 Yarn Magazine #38 \$10.95



COT8HEIR \$6.05 each

Heirloom 8 ply cotton 50g balls



HL347 Heirloom Leaflet 347 (Knit) \$5.70



COT4DALIA \$13.50 each

4 ply cotton 100g balls



COT4NATURA \$7.95 each

4 ply cotton 50g balls

SILKRISONI \$10.50 each

2ply silk lace 25g balls

Visiting hours:

Mon, Tues, Thurs: 9am—3.00pm

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.