



Tip of the Month— July 2017

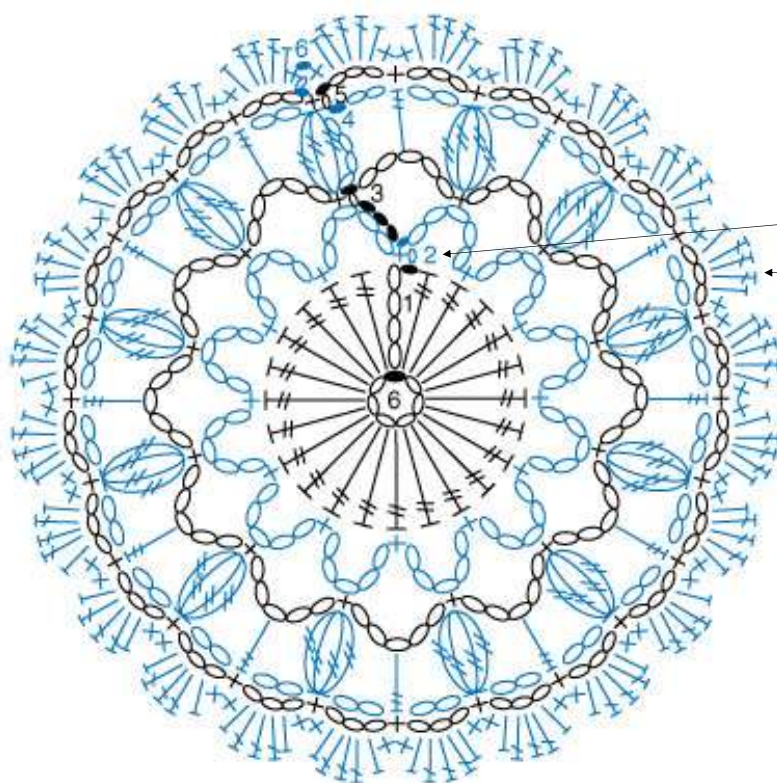


Reading Symbol Charts

Stitch charts or symbols are being used more as an addition to or in place of words to describe a pattern stitch. Symbol charts overcome the language barrier between countries and allows access to a much wider range of patterns than just English language crochet instructions. It also helps to overcome the US v UK terminology differences. At first glance these charts can look daunting. However the diagram looks similar to the finished item and shows how it is constructed.

In symbol charts, each stitch is represented by a little picture or symbol and when these symbols are arranged as a diagram they form a rough picture of the finished article. For the most part, each symbol represents a stitch as it appears on the right side of the work, and provides all the information required - # of chains/stitches, where to join, and the round/row numbers.

The Craft Yarn Council of America has established a standard set of symbols, but the best chart I've seen is on [Dabbles and Babbles](#) as they cater for US and UK terminology and include some of the newer symbols. Some diagrams use different colours for each row as below, while others may just number it. There are also videos available and books to help with reading symbol charts .



Row number

Type of stitch (See table next page)

Instructional DVD—[Learn to Ready Symbol Crochet Diagrams](#) (CDV02D)

Book—[Complete Guide to Symbol Crochet](#) (LA75475)

