

Happy Flower Decoration



I'm using a cotton yarn to make this decoration, it's [Rowan Handknit Cotton](#), a fairly robust DK weight yarn which I work on a 4mm hook. I love using this yarn for decorative projects as although it is soft and lovely to work with, the resulting crochet tends to be quite stiff and holds it's shape well. Plus aren't the colours scrummy?!

Before we begin, a little summary of the basic stitches. I'm writing using UK crochet terms ::

sl st [slip stitch] :: insert hook, yarn over, pull the loop back through the stitch, then through the loop on your hook.

dc [double crochet] :: insert hook, yarn over, pull the loop back through the stitch (two loops on hook), yarn over and pull through both loops on hook (*note :: this is equivalent to the US sc stitch*)

htr [half treble]:: yarn over, insert hook, yarn over, pull the loop back through the stitch (three loops on hook), yarn over and pull through *all three* loops on hook (*note :: this is equivalent to the US hdc stitch*)

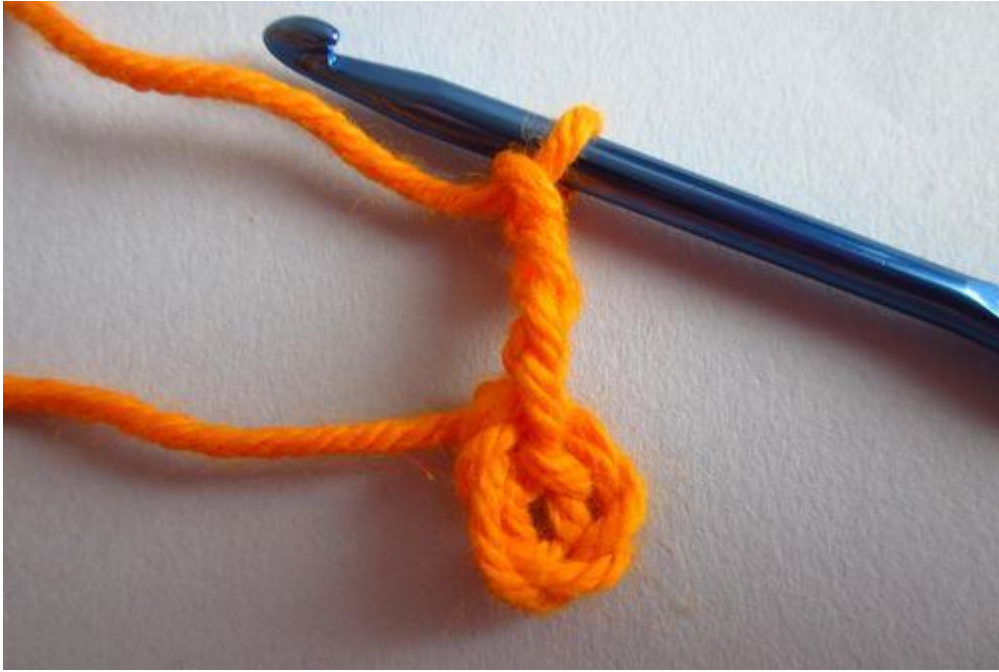
tr [treble] :: yarn over, insert hook, yarn over, pull the loop back through the stitch (three loops on hook), yarn over and pull through *two* loops on hook (two loops left on hook), yarn over and pull through remaining two loops (*note :: this is equivalent to the US dc stitch*)

dtr [double treble] :: yarn over TWICE, insert hook, yarn over, pull loop back through stitch (four loops on hook). Yarn over and pull through two loops (three loops left on hook), yarn over and pull through two loops (2 loops left on hook), yarn over and pull through remaining two loops (*note :: this is equivalent to the US tr stitch*)

OK.....here we go.....



:: PART I :: THE FLOWER ::



To start :: chain 4 and join to form a ring. You'll be working out of the ring for the first round.

:: Round 1 ::

Chain 4 (counts as 1tr + ch-1 space), see pic above.



****Work 1 tr into the ring, ch 1**** (as above)



Repeat between ** 6 more times, so that you have 8 "spokes" altogether (as above)
Slip stitch into 3rd chain of initial chain-4 to join the round. Fasten off.



:: Round 2 ::

You'll be working out of the ch-1 spaces of the previous round.

Insert hook into ch-space and pull through a loop of new colour. You can knot it to the tail end of the previous colour if you like to secure it, but I prefer to just hold the tail end in place whilst I make the first stitch. If you always crochet over your tail ends as you work the first few stitches, they remain secure and you can darn them in for good measure at the end.

Chain 3 (counts as 1 tr), then 1 tr into same space. Chain 2 (as above)



Work 2 tr's into next space, chain 2 (as above)



Repeat between ** all the way around, ending in a ch-2.

Slip stitch into 3rd chain of initial chain-3 to join the round. Fasten off.



:: Round 3 ::

You'll be working out of the ch-2 spaces of the previous round.

Insert hook into ch-space and pull through a loop of new colour.



Chain 3 (counts as 1 tr) then work 4 more tr's into same space.



work 5 tr's into next space

Repeat between ** all the way round.

Slip Stitch into 3rd chain of initial ch-3 to close the round. Fasten off.



:: Round 4 ::

You'll be working out of the stitches for this round.

Insert hook into 1st stitch and pull through a loop of new colour.



Chain 2.



Work 1dc into each of the stitches around...



Slip stitch into 2nd chain of initial ch-2 to close the round. Fasten off (as above)



:: Round 5 ::

You'll be working out of the stitches for this round, BACK LOOPS ONLY.

Insert hook into back loop of first stitch and pull through a new colour.



Slip stitch into back loop of next stitch (as above)



Skip 1 stitch, then work 6 tr's into next stitch (as above, back loop only)



Skip 1 stitch, then slip stitch into each of next 2 stitches (as above)



Skip 1 stitch, work 6tr's into next stitch, skip 1 stitch, sl st into each of next 2 stitches

Repeat between ** all the way round. You should end up as in the above picture with your last 6tr's made and 1 stitch remaining. Skip over this last stitch then slip stitch into the very first stitch to close the round. Fasten off.



:: Round 6 ::

You'll be working out of the stitches for this round, BACK LOOPS ONLY.

Insert hook into the first stitch of the previous round, at the base of the first petal. Back loop only, remember. Pull through a new colour (as above)



Work 1dc into each of the next 6 stitches (as above), back loops only.



Slip stitch (back loops only) into each of the next 2 stitches (as above)



work 1dc into each of next 6 stitches, slip stitch twice

Repeat between ** all the way round. You should end up making 1 sl st into the last remaining stitch of the previous round, then sl st into the very first stitch you made to close the round. Fasten off.

One HAPPY FLOWER MADE, yaayyyyyyyyyyy!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



:: PART 2 :: THE STEM ::



Chain 41.



Starting in 2nd hook from chain, work into single loops only and slip stitch all the way down to the end (40 stitches). Fasten off, leaving a decent tail end for sewing later.



This is what your inner stem should look like. By working in single loops only, you've now got a line of loops running down both sides that you can easily crochet into.



Hold your inner stem so that the right side is facing you, and both tail ends are on the right hand side. insert your hook into the BACK LOOP ONLY of the first stitch and draw your new colour through to the front.



Work 1 dc into each of the next 5 stitches (as above) remembering to crochet over your tail ends as you work (saves darning them in).



Chain 10. This is going to form the first of your leaf veins.



Starting in 2nd hook from chain, work into the single/front loops only and slip stitch down to the end (9 stitches)



This is the same process as the inner stem....the idea is to create neat loops on both sides of the vein so that the leaf itself can be easily worked.



Now work 1dc into each of the next 8 stitches.

Then create your second vein as before [chain 10, sl st in 2nd ch from hook, then work 1 sl st in each of the next 8 stitches]

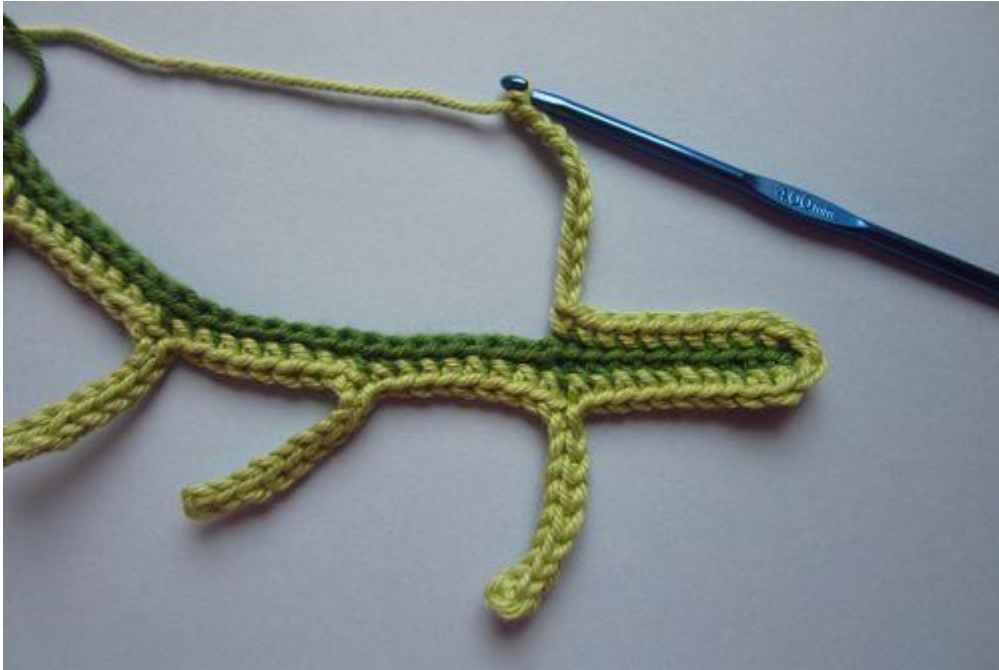


Carry on in this way, creating 2 more veins with 8dc spaces in between. There will be four veins altogether on this side.

Now work 1dc in each of the next 10 stitches to take you down to the bottom of the stem (as above)



Work 1dc into each of the next 2 stitches around the bottom of the stem (as above). Remember to continue working in single/back loops only ok?



You are now working up the second side to mirror the first side. So work 1dc into each of the next 10 stitches.

Then make your first vein as before [chain 10, sl st in 2nd ch from hook, then work 1 sl st in each of the next 8 stitches].

Work 1dc into each of the next 8 stitches, then create a second vein.

Carry on and make the next two veins with 8dc spaces in between. After the final vein, work 1dc into each of the remaining 5 stitches to take you right back up to the top. Fasten off.



Ta-dah! One stem!!! Don't fret if it looks all wibbly, the veins will probably be quite curly until you tweak them and smooth them down a bit.



This is what you should have ended up with. You've now got eight leaves to make.

:: PART 2 :: THE LEAVES ::



You can start in any vein you like...I'm starting at the top left hand side and working my way down.

Insert hook through the first stitch, **BACK LOOP ONLY**, and draw through the new yarn. Chain 1, then work 1dc into same stitch. (note :: remember to crochet over your tail end to save having to darn it in)



work 1 tr into next stitch.

Your next stitch is going to be a "double treble". Don't panic. It's not hard. It's very similar to a treble, but with an extra twist added to give it more height. So instead of yarning over once, you yarn over twice, as in the picture above.

Now insert your hook into the stitch, yarn over and pull the yarn back through the stitch. It should look like you have 4 loops on your hook. Yarn over and draw through 2 loops (3 loops left on hook). Yarn over again and draw through 2 loops (2 loops left on hook). Yarn over one more time and draw through both loops.



Make dtr's into the next 2 stitches so that you've made three of them altogether. See in the above picture how much taller the dtr's are compared to a normal treble?



Now work the following ::

1 tr, 1htr, 1dc. That completes the first side of the leaf.



Into the loop that sits at the very end of the vein, work the following ::

1 dc, chain 2, sl st into second chain from hook (picot point), 1 dc (as above)



Work down the second side of the leaf as follows ::

dc, htr, tr, dtr, dtr, dtr, tr, dc (as above).



Slip stitch into the last stitch on this side to complete the leaf.

Now don't fasten off in the usual way....I'm going to try and explain a slightly different method.

Cut the yarn (leaving a decent tail end for darning), then simply use your hook to pull the loop upwards so that the tail end comes up and through the stitch to the front. Now take your hook to the back of the leaf and insert it up through the same stitch, catch hold of the tail end with your hook and drag it down and through the stitch to the back. I'm sorry I didn't photograph this bit very well, I hope you can make sense of it. Basically what you are doing is avoiding making a bulky fastening-off knot at the bottom of your leaf. It gives a very neat finish look.....



There. First leaf made. Now before you go on to make the next leaf, just spend a few moments seeing to that tail end. Turn your work over to the wrong side.....



....thread the tail end onto a needle and darn it all the way down one side of the leaf....



....then back down the other side. This not only secures the end, but helps to strengthen the leaf.



Now then, off you go and make a second leaf, same as before, as follows ::

Insert hook into first stitch draw new colour through, 1dc in same stitch.

Work tr, dtr, dtr, dtr, tr, htr, dc.

Then in end loop work dc, ch-2, sl st in 2nd ch from hook, dc.

Second side of leaf, work dc, htr, tr, dtr, dtr, dtr, tr, dc, sl st. Finish off as explained above.



So. This is what you should end up with once all eight leaves have been made. It'll be very flopsy and a bit higgledy-piggledy. Don't worry. Soon be time to sort it all out with a little light pinning and some PVA glue.

:: PART III :: MAKING THE DECORATION ::



Right, now we're going to bring all the parts together and get Happy with some creativity. First you need to stitch the stem to the flower. Use the tail ends left at the top of the stem, beginning with the dark, inner stem. Try and stitch neatly, keeping the flower and stem flat, pulling the two together gently. Work over the stitches a few times to secure.



Now thread up the outer stem colour and stitch the outer stem to the flower. First one side, then move across and stitch the other side.



Make the stitching as neat and invisible as you can manage.



The Happy Flower would make a lovely decoration on it's own, but I chose to add a few extra bits to dangle from the bottom. You can do whatever tickles your fancy here. Maybe add some teeny tiny [flowers](#), lots of hearts, or a whole run or circles. I kept it simple and added a small circle, and an edged heart.



For the circle, chain 4 and join to make a ring. Chain 2 (counts as 1dc), then work 6 dc into the ring. Join with a sl st into 2nd chain of initial ch-2 to close round. Fasten off (7 stitches).



Insert hook into first stitch (back loops only), then draw a new colour through to the front. Chain 2 (counts as 1 dc) then dc into same stitch.



Work 2dc's into each stitch around, remembering to work out of back loops only.
Sl st into 2nd chain of initial ch-2 to close round. Fasten off.



It's just a small circle, but with a button added in the centre it makes a sweet little decorative addition.



Now for the heart. you can find the basic pattern for the heart [here](#).

To crochet an edging, insert hook into same hole where you finished off the heart, draw a new colour through to the front and chain 1. Then work 2dc into the next 3 stitches around the top of the heart (as above).



Now work 1dc into each of the next 5 stitches down the side.



Into the bottom stitch, work dc, chain 1, dc.



Now work 1dc into each of the next 5 stitches up the side of the heart. Then 2dc into each of the next 3 stitches around the top. Finally, chain 1 and sl st back into the central hole where you started the edging. Cut the yarn, pull the tail end up to the front, then thread it onto a darning needle and take the end back through to the reverse. Darn it in to secure.



Sweet!!!!!!!!!!



Now back to the flower. Oh dear. It'll probably look a bit sad and sorry for itself if you try and hold it up against a wall. It'll be droopy and very miserable looking. What it needs is a bit of tender shaping and pinning, with a good dose of glue-medicine.



To shape/block my small pieces of crochet, I use an old towel spread over a 1 inch thick piece of foam. But a folded up towel will do well, so long as it's thick enough to pin into.

Place your flower and heart on the towel with the right side facing down, wrong side uppermost. Ease it into good shape, pinning first around the flower petal, then down the stem and out to the leaves. Try and get the leaf veins to line up horizontally with each other and the leaf points to look nice and pointy.



Now use a stiff bristle brush (childrens paint brushes are ideal) to paint a light layer of white PVA glue over the back of the crochet.



Try and paint it evenly over the surface without pushing it down into the holes too much. Pay particular attention to the bit where the leaf veins join the stem, as these are weak spots and need a good blob of glue to strengthen.

You should allow the glue to dry completely...it will turn transparent and feel quite hard and rigid when dry. You'll be amazed when you unpin the flower and hold it up, it'll look beeeeeeeautiful! All flat and stiff and perky and happy!



All that remains now is to bring it all together. You can use whatever you have to hand in the way of buttons and beads. Use sewing thread to string the beads and attach the heart and circle to the bottom of the stem.



A beady hanging loop also looks pretty. Have fun with it!



Ta-dah!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!