

Bloom Anyway Granny Square Blanket

Design by Crochet 365 Knit Too



Size:

Afghan is 50" x 60". A square worked through round 4 is 5" across. If using the join as you go method of joining, a motif (after round 3 is approximately 4").

Materials:

- US H 8/5.00 mm crochet hook
- Worsted weight yarn:
 - Scrap yarn for motifs in various colors.
 - 30 oz, Main color. Sample used Hobby Lobby I Love This Yarn in Ivory.
- Tapestry needle and scissors

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Special Stitches:

Puff Stitch: Yarn over, insert hook into next stitch and pull up a loop to the height of a double crochet (3 loops on hook). Then yarn over again and insert hook into the same stitch and pull up another loop (5 loops on hook). Yarn over again, insert hook into the same space and pull up another loop. (7 loops on hook). Pull yarn through all loops. Chain 1 to lock in the stitch.

Bobble Stitch: Yarn over, insert hook into space between 2 puff stitches and pull up a loop. Yarn over and pull through 2 loops (this leaves 2 loops on hook). Make 3 more incomplete double crochet stitches. There are now 5 loops on the hook. Yarn over and pull through all 5 loops. Chain 2 to lock in the bobble stitch.

Construction Note

Before starting this afghan, you need to decide how you'll join the motifs. I joined my afghan with a join as you go method. Therefore, I worked all the sunburst granny squares through round 3. Then, I joined them together while working the final round. Instructions are written assuming a join as you go join.

(However, you can work the complete granny square and sew together instead. To do this, work the granny squares through round 4 (making sure to work the final round in the main color). Then sew them together with a whip stitch.)

How to Make Every Motif A Unique Color Combination:

Want every finished motif to be a unique color combination? Here's how:

1. Pick 3 colors and assign each color a number (1, 2, 3)
2. Follow this chart to make 6 unique motifs with the same 3 colors:

1, 2, 3
2, 3, 1
3, 1, 2
1, 3, 2
2, 1, 3
3, 2, 1

3. Repeat the first 2 steps with a different set of 3 colors for 6 new motifs. Note that only 1 color needs to change in order for the complete set of 6 to be different. As long as you pick 3 colors that have not yet been used together, this method will create a unique set of 6 motifs! Repeat this process until all motifs have been made.

Crochet Sunburst Granny Motifs for Join as You Go (make 99):



R1: Using center color and a G hook, ch 5 and join with a slip stitch to the 1st chain to form a loop. Ch 3 (counts as first dc), make 15 dc into the loop. Sl st to top of 1st stitch in the row to join. Fasten off 1st color. (16 st)

R2: This row is comprised of puff stitches (described above). First, attach the 2nd color in any stitch and chain 2. *Yarn over, insert hook into same stitch as joining and pull up a loop to the height of a double crochet (3 loops on hook). Then yarn over again and insert hook into the same stitch and pull up another loop (5 loops on hook). Yarn over again, insert hook into the same space and pull up another loop. (7 loops on hook). Pull yarn through all loops. Chain 1 to lock in the stitch. First puff stitch made.

Make puff stitches in all the stitches in the previous row as follows: Yarn over, insert hook into next stitch and pull up a loop to the height of a double crochet (3 loops on hook). Then yarn over again and insert hook into the same stitch and pull up another loop (5 loops on hook). Yarn over again, insert hook into the same space and pull up another loop. (7 loops on hook). Pull yarn through all loops. Chain 1 to lock in the stitch. At end of round, sl st to top of 1st puff stitch. Fasten off Color 2. (16 puff stitches).

R3: This row is worked in bobbles (described above). You can start the row in one of 2 ways. Either attach color 3 in between 2 stitches and chain 3. Or start with a standing stitch. I started with a slip stitch of the new color on my hook, carefully held a yarn over and worked the first bobble. Continue to work bobbles across the row into the spaces in the previous row. At end of row, slip stitch to top of 1st bobble stitch. (16 bobble stitches). Fasten off color 3.

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Before Joining the Motifs:

It is really important to understand what happens in this next step. We are working one more row around each motif WHILE joining it to the next motif.

Because the motif is a circle after row 3 and we need it to be a square, the joining row, ALSO is worked in varying stitch heights to square off the circle.

It's important to get an understanding of what stitches are worked. See the chart below on how to turn the sunburst granny motife into a square:



In the photo, the corner is made up of a cluster of 3 treble crochets (I've abbreviated this TC in the photo), a chain 2 and another set of 3 treble crochets. These are the tallest stitches and make the corner.

Next to this is a cluster of 3 double crochets.

In the center space of the circle-turned-square, 3 half double crochets are worked.

You will be working these stitch heights AS you are joining as you go. If this feels unfamiliar, be sure to refer to this photos as you go and to take time to check your work to make sure you didn't accidently work the wrong stitch.

As you are working, the circles are turning into squares and joining together.

Join As You Go

Join the motifs together using the join as you go technique, making sure to work the appropriate stitch heights to turn the circles into squares. The detailed tutorial on the blog has many step by step photos. An abbreviated 'cheat sheet' follows the afghan directions for your reference.

Afghan Border

Note Before Beginning: Rows 1-4 of the afghan border are in a granny style (with a variation for row 1 see below). In the corners work (3 dc, ch 2 3 dc) and work 3 dc into all the spaces on the sides. *Be sure to look at the photo as you are working row 1 and note how the cluster of 4 stitches (instead of 3) at the point where 2 squares come together.*

R1: Attach yarn in the first space to the left of a corner. Chain 3 (counts as first dc), work 2 more dc in that space. Work 3 dc in each space until you come to the first corner. Note that there are 2 corner square spaces next to each other (one from each adjacent square that were joined together). Work 2 dc into the first corner space and then 2 dc into the next corner space (this gives the appearance of a 4 stitch double crochet cluster). Continue working across row in this manner until the corner of the afghan. Then work (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) into the corner space. Continue working 3 dc into each side space, working the 2dc/2dc when you come to the corner spaces where the 2 afghan squares join and then working (3dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in each of the 4 afghan corners. At the end of the row, join with a slip stitch to the starting chain.

R2-4: Slip stitch to the next space. Ch 3 and work 2 dc into the same space. Then work in a traditional granny pattern: work 3 dc into each space across each side and (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) into the corner space. At the end of the row, join with a slip stitch to the starting chain.

R5: ch 1, sc in same space as joining. Sc around, working a sc into each dc in the previous round. Work 3 sc in each corner space. Fasten off yarn (see note)

Note: In the next round, the very corner stitch needs to have the (sc, ch-3, sc) picot combination. For ease in understanding, I suggest fastening off the yarn in round 5 and re-attaching it for round 6). However you may wish to adjust your stitches a bit (by slip stitching to the next stitch if need be) so that you can achieve this goal without fastening off the yarn at the end of round 5. Also note that if your stitch count is off you may need to fudge a bit to get that picot in the very corner stitch.

R6: Reattach yarn to the corner stich of any corner. In the same stitch work all of the following: (ch1, sc, ch 3, sc). Skip the next stitch. *in the next stitch work (sc, ch 3, sc), skip the next st. Repeat from * around. Fasten off yarn and weave in any ends.

Join As You Go Directions

Please head over to the blog post for detailed step by step directions on working Join As You Go.

These directions are meant to serve as brief notes summarizing the process. If they are confusing and TOO brief, remember to go back to get more information.

Join As You Go Method

There is a lot of turning and rotating when working Join As You Go. I like to think of this as little scenarios I encounter as I work through the process. So I will summarize this as you will encounter them.

Note that the round consists of stitches of varying heights so you will need to keep that straight in your head as you are working.

Basic Sunburst Granny

It's important to understand the normal working of the final row of the particular granny square you are working before starting the join. A sunburst granny square turns a circle motif into a square in the final row. To make the circle into a square, the clusters are worked at different heights. Two groups of treble crochets (separated by a chain 2) are in each corner. A set of double crochets are next to the corner stitches and a set of 3 half double crochet stitches are in the center of each side:



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the steps to "solve" that area. So, for example, as you crochet, you might come up to a point where 3 corners join... pause and think "how do I join 3 corners?" and then do that.

These instructions take you step by step through the process.

Step 1: Working the First Block

Join yarn in the corner of the starting block (I used a standing stitch to start my corner). Work the 3 cluster stitches that comprise the corner. In this case, I worked 3 treble crochets. Then work the rest of the stitches on that side, the corner stitches and stitches to the 3rd corner. Work the first cluster of stitches for the corner:

Step 2: Joining the 2nd Square

Then chain 1 and work the 3 stitches for the first half of the corner of the next motif. Note that the 2nd half of this corner won't be worked until much later. For now the work looks like this:



Then chain 2 to get ready to join in the next step.

Now take your hook OUT of the work, leaving the working loop free for a second. Insert the hook in the first space of the first square from the top of the square to the bottom. Use the hook to grab the loop you just dropped and pull it through. Take a moment to make sure you work looks like this:



Now work the next group of stitches into the second motif. In this case, it is 3 double crochet stitches. Note that this is the group of stitches directly next to the corner stitches. The other part of the corner will be worked later.

Continue to work the stitches on the side of the second motif, connecting each space with the adjacent space on the first motif in the same way all the way up the side.

Step 3 Joining the Top Corner

In the corner of the 2nd motif, work the first half of the corner. In this case, because we are working a sunburst granny, it is 3 treble crochets. (If you are working a traditional granny square or another pattern, it may be a different combination of stitches.) After working the 3 stitch, chain one.

Remove the hook, leaving the loop free. Then insert the hook in the adjacent corner and pull the loop through:



Chain 1. This completes the chains needed for the corner for the 2nd motif. Then work the stitches for the rest of the corner (in this case 3 treble crochet stitches)

Continue joining all the squares in the first row by repeating the above steps. Work the side, corner and 3rd side of the motif. Then join the next motif and so forth until all the motifs are joined for the row.



At the end of the row, turn the work and work down the side.

Step 4 Working the Bottom of the Row

The next step is to work across the bottom of the first row. Continue to work in the pattern until you come to the corner. Work the 3 stitches of the corner. Note that you previously worked the other side of this corner. At this point it looks like the below:



With this step, we complete the first corner, join to the next square and complete that square's corner. It may look and feel awkward, but it's pretty easy. Here's how it is done: First, chain one:

Then, without removing your hook, slip stitch into the space between the joined clusters:



Chain 1 for the corner space on the 2nd square:

Then work the remaining corner stitches for the 2nd square.

Continue to work the stitches across the bottom of the row, joining the squares together as you go. When you are done with this row, the squares of the row are complete with the final row of stitches for the square.



At the end of the row, it is time to crochet and join the 2nd row of squares.

Step 5 Joining 3 Squares Together

Work the first side of the first square of the next row as you've done so far until you come to the point where 3 squares come together. In the new square, make sure you've worked the first 3 stitches of the corner (in this case, 3 treble crochet stitches).



Chain 1, then remove the hook, leaving the loop free. Insert the hook into the corner of the block that is diagonal to the new square and pull the loop through. Take a moment to make sure you are joining to the correct corner like the below photo. You are joining to the square that is on an angle to the new square (and not the one right above it):



Then chain one. Continue to work the stitches along the side of the newly joined square, continuing on the path and working as in the past.



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Step 6 Joining Four Squares Together

Take a deep breath, because you are in the home stretch. This is the last challenge of Join As You Go and after this next step you have everything you need to know to finish join as you go granny squares! Let's dive in.

At this point, you've worked the 3 stitches of the square you are joining in (which is the first half of the corner). Your work looks like the below:



There are a few things different about this join. First, chain TWO:

Remove your hook and insert it into the corner that is diagonal from the square you are joining. This corner already has a lot going on so pause a moment and make sure you are joining in the correct corner space. Then pull the loop through:



After joining, chain 1. Then work the 3 stitches that comprise the rest of that corner.

From here on out you just continue to work in the pattern. Work the next stitches on the new square:



Then continue to work back forth, adding new squares and working the joins and edges as already shown.

When all the rows are joined, work up the unfinished side, using the same techniques already shown.



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In the very last corner, complete the corner stitches by working the stitches, chain 2 and joining to the starting cluster. Weave in all the ends.

Here is an example of a finished 9 square piece. Note that the edges may not be perfectly square and straight, but will correct when the border is worked. I did not block my Sunburst Granny Scrap Afghan, but you certainly can, if you prefer.



Bonus: Alternate Construction & Assembly

If you don't want to work a join as you go technique, you can make the afghan squares through round 4 and sew together when complete. Follow these instructions for making and joining the squares and then follow the instructions for the afghan border.

Crochet Sunflower Squares for Sew Together Method (make 99):

If your plan is to sew the squares together (instead of joining as you go), complete the sunburst granny square then add one more row to turn a circle into a square by working stitches of varying heights



R4: Join color 4 in any space in previous round. Chain 3 (counts as 1st dc). 2 dc in same space. *In next space, work all of the following: (3 triple crochet, ch 2, 3 triple crochet). Corner made. 3dc in next space, 3 hdc in next space, 3 dc in next space*. Repeat from * 3 more times. Then work 3 dc in next space, 3 hdc in last space and join with a slip st to 1st dc in row. I like to use an invisible join for a nice finish. Alternatively, slip stitch to the top of the 1st stitch. Fasten off yarn



Sew Crochet Sunflower Squares Together:

Time to sew the squares together! Lay afghan squares on a flat surface to determine your preferred placement. Then whip stitch all the afghan squares together.

Follow the border instructions to complete afghan.

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