

"AUTUMN PRICKLES" - OVERLAY MOSAIC CROCHET

CHART SIZE: 141 STITCHES × 155 ROWS



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BASIC INFORMATION & GETTING STARTED GUIDE

This file provides general guidance for working with overlay mosaic crochet patterns. It is intended to answer the most common questions about materials, hook sizes, yarn choice, borders, and project planning.

Two instruction versions are included in this pattern:

- Overlay mosaic crochet **with cutting yarn each row**
- Overlay mosaic crochet **turning rows without cutting yarn**

1. Basic Materials

To work any overlay mosaic crochet pattern, you will need:

- Yarn (two contrasting colors)
- Crochet hook suitable for your chosen yarn
- Scissors
- (Optional) stitch markers and a scale for yarn estimation

No additional special tools are required.

2. Hook & Yarn Choice

How They Affect Final Size (Project Size Logic)

The same mosaic chart can produce very different finished sizes.

- Thinner yarn + smaller hook = smaller final piece
- Thicker yarn + larger hook = larger final piece

Choose your yarn and hook based on the intended size and purpose of your project.

Below are yarn options that work very well for overlay mosaic crochet and offer a wide range of color choices. These are recommendations, not requirements.

Option 1 – 100% Cotton on Cones (Fine Weight)

Cotton Kings Cone 500 (8/4)

<https://hobbii.com/collections/cotton-yarn/products/hp-1002481-cone-500>

Recommended hook size: 3.5–4.0 mm

Produces very clean, crisp stitches and is ideal for large mosaic blankets and detailed charts.

Option 2 – Cotton / Acrylic Blend (Fine Weight)

Hobbii Twister Solid (55% cotton / 45% acrylic)

<https://hobbii.com/collections/acrylic-yarn/products/hp-1002587-twister-solid>

Recommended hook size: 4.0–4.5 mm

Slightly softer and lighter than pure cotton, while maintaining excellent stitch definition.

Option 3 – Cotton / Acrylic Blend (Medium Weight)

Hobbii Twister Solid XL

<https://hobbii.com/products/hp-1007710-twister-solid-xl>

Recommended hook size: approx. 5.5 mm

Best for thicker blankets and faster-growing projects with a bolder stitch appearance.

3. Yarn Estimation (with real data example)

Important Note

Yarn consumption and final size vary depending on:

- crochet tension
- hook size
- yarn thickness
- personal working style

For accurate results, each maker should calculate both yarn requirements and final dimensions using a swatch.

YARN ESTIMATION — SWATCH METHOD (Recommended)

Step 1 — Make a Swatch

Here below you'll find a small swatch (20 × 20 stitches) with a row-by-row description.

What you need to do:

- Weigh both yarn skeins (each color) before you start
- Crochet the swatch
- Weigh both skeins again after finishing
- Calculate how many grams of each color you used

The swatch is designed so that yarn usage is approximately equal between both colors (about 50/50).

Overlay Mosaic Swatch (20 × 20)

Abbreviations:	
	• ch – chain stitch
	• sc – single crochet, work in back loop only (BLO)
	• DC – double crochet, work in front loop two rows below (FLO)
Notes:	
	• Odd rows: Dark color
	• Even rows: Light color
	• In fact, the color order doesn't matter here. The swatch is balanced to use roughly equal amounts of both colors (about 50/50), so feel free to start with either one.
	• Don't add edge stitches to the swatch

Row	Instruction
row 0:	CH20 +1 (turning chain)
row 1:	sc20
row 2:	sc20
row 3:	sc3, DC1, sc4, DC1, sc4, DC1, sc4, DC1, sc1
row 4:	sc1, DC1, sc4, DC1, sc4, DC1, sc4, DC1, sc3
row 5:	sc3, DC2, sc3, DC2, sc3, DC2, sc3, DC2
row 6:	DC2, sc3, DC2, sc3, DC2, sc3, DC2, sc3
row 7:	sc2, DC2, sc3, DC1, sc4, DC2, sc3, DC1, sc2
row 8:	DC1, sc3, DC2, sc3, DC1, sc4, DC2, sc3, DC1
row 9:	sc3, DC1, sc4, DC1, sc4, DC1, sc4, DC1, sc1
row 10:	sc1, DC1, sc4, DC1, sc4, DC1, sc4, DC1, sc3
row 11:	sc3, DC2, sc3, DC2, sc3, DC2, sc3, DC2
row 12:	DC2, sc3, DC2, sc3, DC2, sc3, DC2, sc3
row 13:	sc2, DC2, sc3, DC1, sc4, DC2, sc3, DC1, sc2
row 14:	DC1, sc3, DC2, sc3, DC1, sc4, DC2, sc3, DC1
row 15:	sc3, DC1, sc4, DC1, sc4, DC1, sc4, DC1, sc1
row 16:	sc1, DC1, sc4, DC1, sc4, DC1, sc4, DC1, sc3
row 17:	sc3, DC2, sc3, DC2, sc3, DC2, sc3, DC2
row 18:	DC2, sc3, DC2, sc3, DC2, sc3, DC2, sc3
row 19:	sc2, DC2, sc3, DC1, sc4, DC2, sc3, DC1, sc2
row 20:	DC1, sc3, DC2, sc3, DC1, sc4, DC2, sc3, DC1

Step 2 — Measure Yarn Usage

Your swatch contains:

- 400 total stitches (a mix of sc and dc in both colors)
 1. Weigh the yarn used for each color separately

Step 3 — Calculate Base Yarn Estimate

First, determine how many swatches fit into the full design.

Example design size:

- 141 stitches × 155 rows = 21,855 stitches

Calculation:

- $21,855 \div 400 \approx 55$

This means your swatch is repeated approximately **55 times**.

Step 4 — Use Average Yarn per Color

In mosaic crochet, one color in the swatch is often slightly higher due to the starting chain.

To simplify the calculation and avoid overestimating, we use the **average yarn usage** and treat the swatch as **50/50**.

Formula:

$(\text{Dark grams} + \text{Light grams}) \div 2 = \text{average grams per color}$

Step 5 — Calculate Base Yarn per Color (without margins)

Now use the average value to calculate yarn usage for each color (approximately 50/50 ratio).

Color A (dark) = $(\text{average grams} \times 55 \times 55) \div 50$

Color B (light) = $(\text{average grams} \times 55 \times 45) \div 50$

📖 This gives you the **base yarn usage for the pattern only, without border, edge stitches, or safety margin**.

Step 6 — Calculate Final Yarn Amount

Now adjust the base calculation to include finishing and safety margin.

✓ Add **10–12%** for the envelope border and edge stitches

✓ Add an additional **10% safety margin** for tension differences and personal working style

Formula:

$\text{Base yarn} \times 1.10 \times 1.12$ (example with 12% border)

📖 **What do these numbers mean?**

- **1.10 = +10% safety margin**
- **1.12 = +12% for border and edge stitches**

For example:

+10% = multiply by 1.10

+12% = multiply by 1.12

📖 **How to apply the border percentage**

- If you use **one color for the border**, apply the full percentage to that color
- If you use **two colors evenly**, split the percentage between them
(for example, 12% → 6% per color)

📖 **Notes**

You can adjust the border value (**1.10–1.12**) depending on your preference.

Final Step — Convert to Skeins

Divide the total grams by the weight of your skein and round up to the next whole number.

Examples (based on 1867 g total yarn):

- **50 g skeins:**
 $1876 \div 50 = 37.34 \rightarrow$ **38 skeins**
- **100 g skeins:**
 $1876 \div 100 = 18.67 \rightarrow$ **19 skeins**

👉 Use the same method for any skein size — just divide by the weight shown on your yarn label.

👉 The smaller the skein size, the more skeins you will need.

👉 Always round up to make sure you have enough yarn.

Important

- ✓ Always calculate each color separately
- ✓ Always round up your final yarn amounts
- ✓ This method simplifies the math but provides reliable results in practice

EXAMPLE BASED ON REAL SWATCH DATA: Yarn Calculation

If your swatch used:

- Dark color: 6 g
- Light color: 5 g

Usually, the color used in odd rows will be slightly higher because it is also used for the starting chain. However, since the chain will be included later in the safety margin, we will treat the swatch as **50/50** for calculation purposes.

So we average the usage:

$$(6 + 5) \div 2 = \mathbf{5.5 \text{ g per color}}$$

DARK COLOR

Base yarn usage (without border):

$$(5.5 \times 55 \times 55) \div 50 = 333 \text{ g}$$

Total yarn usage (with envelope border and safety margin):

$$333 \times 1.10 \times 1.12 = \mathbf{410 \text{ g}}$$

Convert to skeins (100 g each):

$$410 \div 100 = 4.10 \rightarrow \mathbf{4 \text{ skeins}}$$
 (rounded)

LIGHT COLOR

Base yarn usage (without border):

$$(5.5 \times 55 \times 45) \div 50 = 272 \text{ g}$$

Total yarn usage (with safety margin):

$$272 \times 1.10 = \text{299 g}$$

Convert to skeins (100 g each):

$$299 \div 100 = 2.99 \rightarrow \text{3 skeins (rounded up)}$$

 **Note for border color:**

In this example, the envelope border is calculated using the dark color only.

If you use the light color, apply the percentage to it instead.

If using two colors, split the percentage evenly (5–6% per color, i.e. $\times 1.05$ – 1.06 for each color).

Final Result

Based on a swatch usage of **5.5 g per color**, the estimated yarn requirements for the full pattern are:

- **Dark color:** 4 skeins
- **Light color:** 3 skeins

4. Final Size Calculation (from the Same Swatch)

To estimate the finished size of your project:

1. Measure the width and height of the swatch
2. Divide by 20 to obtain the size of one stitch and one row
3. Multiply by the total stitch and row count of the design

Example:

If a 20×20 swatch measures 12 cm $\times$ 11 cm

One stitch = $12 \div 20 = 0.6$ cm

One row = $11 \div 20 = 0.55$ cm

For a design of 141×155 stitches

Width = $141 \times 0.6 \approx 85$ cm

Height = $155 \times 0.55 \approx 85$ cm

Final dimensions will vary depending on yarn, hook size, and individual crochet tension.

This is the only reliable way to predict the finished size.

5. Working in Turning Rows Without Cutting Yarn

Many mosaic crochet patterns are worked by cutting the yarn at the end of every row.

This pattern also includes instructions for working **turning rows without cutting the yarn**.

The finished result is exactly the same, but this method:

- saves yarn
- avoids many yarn tails
- eliminates the need to weave in multiple ends

Instead, the edges are simply hidden later under the border.

Basic Principle

This technique is **not tapestry crochet**.

The second color is **not carried across the row and not hidden inside the stitches**.

Instead, both colors are worked **from the same side of the project in pairs of rows**.

Row Rhythm

The rows are always worked in pairs from the same side.

Example:

Rows 1–2 ← work from the right side

Rows 3–4 → work from the wrong side

Rows 5–6 ← right side again

Rows 7–8 → wrong side again

and so on.

How the Rows Are Worked

Both colors start from the same side of the work.

Example:

1 — Crochet **Row 1 with Color A**

2 — Return to the same starting side and crochet **Row 2 with Color B**

3 — Turn the work

4 — Crochet **Row 3 with Color A**

5 — Return to the same starting side and crochet **Row 4 with Color B**

6 — Turn the work again

Then repeat this rhythm throughout the pattern.

Color Alternation

In mosaic crochet the colors **always alternate every row**, even when the motif is not visible yet.

Example (background color A, motif color B):

Row 0 — foundation chain — Color A

Row 1 ← Color A

Row 2 ← Color B

Row 3 → Color A

Row 4 → Color B

Row 5 ← Color A

Row 6 ← Color B

and so on.

In the earlier rows the stitches simply prepare the base for the mosaic stitches that appear later.

Stitch Placement

To keep the mosaic design visible only on the right side of the fabric, stitches are worked in different loops depending on the row direction.

Right-side rows

- **single crochet** ← work in the **back loop**
- **double crochet two rows below** ← insert hook in the **front loop**

Wrong-side rows

- **single crochet** → work in the **front loop**
- **double crochet two rows below** → insert hook in the **back loop**

Because of this placement, all mosaic stitches form a clean design on the right side of the blanket.

Following the Pattern

In the written instructions you will see:

- the **color used for each row**
- **direction arrows** showing how the row is worked

This helps you easily follow the rhythm of the rows step by step.

Once you understand the two-row rhythm, the technique becomes very smooth and intuitive.

Row Sequence Example

The rows are always worked in pairs from the same side.

Right Side (RS)

Row 1 — Color A ←

Row 2 — Color B ←

turn work

Wrong Side (WS)

Row 3 — Color A →

Row 4 — Color B →

turn work

Right Side (RS)

Row 5 — Color A ←

Row 6 — Color B ←

The yarn is not cut.

Both colors simply wait at the edge until the next row worked from that side.

Important:

The working yarn always waits at the edge where the next row of that color will begin.

6. Borders & Corners

Practical Edge Finishing Guide

This pattern includes the working design only and does not contain a fixed decorative border. This allows you to adjust the final size and choose your preferred finishing.

Step 1 — Edge Stabilization

Work **1–2 rounds of single crochet (sc)** evenly around the piece using the background color.

Step 2 — Corners (Important)

At each corner stitch:

- work **3 sc in the same stitch**

Repeat this in every round to prevent the edges from pulling.

Border Options

Option 1 — Simple Border

A clean and minimal finish.

- 2–4 rounds of sc in the background color
- optional: finish with reverse single crochet (crab stitch)

- ✓ Easy
- ✓ Minimal yarn usage
- ✓ Keeps the size compact

Option 2 — Contrasting Border

A framed look with color accent.

- 1–2 rounds sc in background color
- 2–4 rounds sc in contrasting color

Optional:

- crab stitch
- picot edging
- any decorative finish

- ✓ Adds visual contrast
- ✓ Slightly increases size

Option 3 — DC Envelope Border (to hide yarn tails)

This border creates a neat “envelope” around your project, hiding all yarn tails inside.

Step 1 — Foundation round (front side)

Work **surface slip stitches (sl st)** all the way around the project.

- Insert hook under both loops of each stitch
- Pull up a loop and continue with slip stitches
- Work evenly along all sides (including edges)
- Do **not use joining stitches** — work along the edge frame

Join invisibly at the end and secure yarn.

Step 2 — First side of the envelope

Turn to the **wrong side**.

- Join yarn and **chain 2** (or use standing DC)
- Work **1 DC in each stitch around**
- In each corner: **DC, ch 2, DC**
- Join with a slip stitch

Step 3 — Build the first flap

Work **2–3 rows of DC**:

- 1 DC in each stitch
- Corners: **DC, ch 2, DC**

Step 4 — Second side of the envelope

Repeat **Steps 2–3 on the right side** of the project.

- Insert hook under the loops created by the surface slip stitches
- This creates the second “flap”

Step 5 — Join the envelope

Join both flaps together:

- Use **slip stitch through back loops only**
- Match stitches and corners carefully
- Work all the way around

Final result

All yarn tails are enclosed inside the border — no weaving needed.

Notes

- Use the **same yarn weight** as your project
- You may use a **slightly smaller hook** for a tighter edge
- Typically uses **5–7 rounds total**
- Can be worked in **one or two colors**