

Center-Out Tutorial Square

An Overlay Mosaic Crochet Tutorial



Introduction

This pattern was created specifically so I could show you how to do overlay mosaic crochet from the center out. Watch that YouTube tutorial and crochet with me: <https://youtu.be/Z-WsXLgXfg4>

One of the main benefits of the center-out method is that there are no tails to deal with. With regular overlay mosaic crochet, you cut the yarn at the end of each round. When you do a center-out project you carry the yarn.

You can use any weight yarn, just make sure both yarns are the same weight, and your hook size is appropriate for your yarn. It will change the finished size of your square, of course. If you share your works on Instagram, tag me: @AshleesLint

Important Details

- US crochet terminology
- Finished size 5.5" x 5.5" / 14cm x 14cm
- 5 mm hook (H-8)
- Worsted weight yarn (40 yards total)
 - Main color (MC) black – 20 yards
 - Contrasting color (CC) gold – 20 yards
- Gauge: 16 sc x 15 rounds = 4"

Watch all of my [YouTube](#) tutorials!

I also have a free photo tutorial in PDF form on this technique available in my Facebook group ([Ashlee Brotzell Designs](#)) and on [Ravelry](#)

All my social media links are here:

<https://linktr.ee/LFMandMosaic>

Key (US terminology)

MC = Main Color: blue in chart

CC = Contrasting Color: white in chart

ch = chain

SC = single crochet: insert hook, pull up a loop, yarn over, pull through both loops on hook

DC = double crochet: yarn over, insert hook, pull up a loop, *yarn over, pull through two loops* twice

MR = magic ring: place yarn across the front of your fingers with the tail hanging down, wrap yarn over and behind your fingers, cross yarn at the top of your hand towards your wrist, insert hook under first loop on the back of your hand and grab the second loop, pull the loop up and chain to keep it in place. View my video tutorial or photo tutorial online:

[AshleesLint.com/magicring](https://www.ashleeslint.com/magicring)

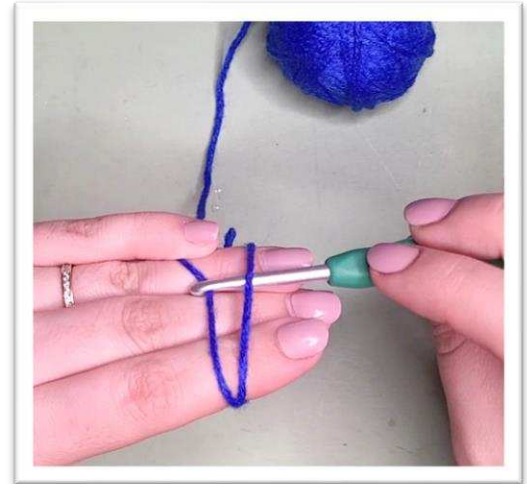


Figure 1: creating a magic ring; hook inserted under first string to pull up a loop using the second string

SPECIAL STITCHES (TAKE NOTE OF THE LOWER CASE VERSUS UPPER CASE WAY OF USING THESE):

sc = SC into Back Loop only

dc = dropped double crochet: DC into *Front Loop* of stitch in the round below, skip the sc stitch that gets hidden behind this dropped stitch

scC = single crochet corner: SC into Back Loop Only of previous round's corner chain, chain 1, SC into the same Back Loop again

dcC = double crochet corner: do a dropped DC into front loop of previous round's corner chain, chain 1, do another dropped DC into *same* front loop again. The next stitch, *if it is a dc*, will use this same front loop as well.

Remember to skip the same number of stitch(es) behind your dc(s) before doing your next sc

Mosaic Technique when working from the CENTER-OUT

Also see the YouTube tutorial: <https://youtu.be/Z-WsXLgXfg4>

- The front of your work is always facing you (this is the right side, the side showing the design)
- Yarn colors can be anything you like
 - They need to contrast well (try a black and white photo to see if they are too similar)
 - They need to be the same weight (size/thickness)
- Foundation round counts as round 0 – it is a magic ring with 8 single crochets in it; uses the MC
- Do not cut your yarn at the end of each round, carry it up through the corner stitch
- **Even-numbered rounds use MC; odd-numbered rounds use CC**

Foundation Round (Round 0): use Main Color (MC)

Crochet 8 single crochets in a magic ring, use an invisible join to close the circle.

Alternatively, chain 2, then do 8 single crochets into the 2nd chain from your hook, use an invisible join to close the circle.

Switch to Contrasting Color (CC) {Even- rounds use MC; odd-numbered rounds use CC}

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1 - *scC, sc1* | 6 - *scC, sc1, dc3, sc3, dc3, sc1* |
| 2 - *scC, sc1, dc1, sc1* | 7 - *scC, sc1, dc1, sc3, dc3, sc3, dc1, sc1* |
| 3 - *scC, (sc1, dc1), sc1* | 8 - *scC, sc1, dc1, sc11, dc1, sc1* |
| 4 - *dcC, dc2, sc3, dc2* | 9 - *scC, sc1, dc1, sc13, dc1, sc1* |
| 5 - *scC, sc3, dc3, sc3* | 10 - *scC, sc19* |

Finished! *Normally, this is where my pattern would end. For this photo tutorial I have repeated the pattern below with longer explanations and photos.*

STEP-BY-STEP PHOTO TUTORIAL

You need two colors of yarn that contrast well. I often design with the intention that the MC is the darker color, but some designs can be switched.

For my sample in the pattern above and on the YouTube tutorial I used charcoal as the MC and gold as the CC.

For this photo tutorial below, I am going to use blue as the MC and yellow as the CC.

Yarn weight of each color needs to be the same, but the technique will work with any weight of yarn.

My sample uses medium – 4, worsted weight yarn. I use a 5 mm hook.

You can adjust hook size based on your own tension and preferences. If you use a different weight yarn, you will need to use a hook size that is appropriate for that yarn.

The finished size of your square will be different than mine if you change yarn weight, hook sizes, or simply have a different tension.




As long as your squares are all the same, they will be easy to join together.

When working from the Center-Out you do not need to cut your yarn at the end of each round, and you do not need to add an envelope border at the end.

Foundation Round (Round 0): use Main Color (MC)

Crochet 8 single crochets in a magic ring, use an invisible join to close the circle.





See my video tutorial / photo tutorial on creating a magic ring: ashleeslint.com/magicring

		
Create magic ring	Create 8 single crochets in the magic ring. To close, do an <i>invisible join</i> : take your hook out of the live loop, insert through the back of the 1 st single crochet where you want to join it, grab the live loop again and pull it through	Foundation (round 0) complete

Alternatively, chain 2, then do 8 single crochets into the 2nd chain from your hook, slip stitch to close the circle.

Switch to Contrasting Color (CC) {Even- rounds use MC; odd-numbered rounds use CC}

To switch colors: pull up a loop of new color, pull MC tight. Carrying the MC, chain 1 with CC. You may wish to knot the tails together at this point, I usually just weave them in after I've done 3 or 4 rounds.

			
Pull a loop of CC yarn through and pull on the MC tail to tighten	Wrong side showing the tight MC loop on the new CC yarn	Bring MC tail to front of work to carry it	Chain 1 with CC, locking in the MC yarn

1 - *scC, sc1*



Round one complete, blue yarn (MC) ready to start round two.

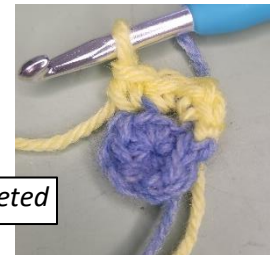
We begin **round 1** with an asterisk (*) which means you will repeat the instructions between the two asterisks until you've completed your square.

Each side of the square starts with scC. The Key on page 2 tells us this is a corner made with single crochets. Insert hook into the back loop only (BLO) of the next MC stitch and do a single crochet (SC). Then chain 1 and do another sc in the same stitch (another thing we learned in the Key is that in my overlay mosaic patterns I simplify the written instructions to just say "sc", but it really means scBLO).



Yellow yarn (CC) shows the first scC completed

The next stitch of round 1 says sc1: single crochet into the back loop only of the next blue stitch. **Side 1** complete.



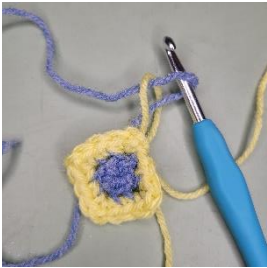

First side completed

Repeat the instructions between the asterisks (*) for each side.

Join with an invisible join:

<p>Remove hook from live loop. Insert through the back of the first sc of the round.</p>	<p>Grab the yellow (CC) loop and pull through to finish the invisible join.</p>

To change colors:

	
<p><i>Pull up a loop of the blue MC yarn, tighten the yellow CC yarn</i></p>	<p><i>To carry the yellow CC yarn, bring the working end to the front before you chain 1 with the blue MC yarn.</i></p>

2 - *scC, sc1, dc1, sc1*



Second round completed

Round two, like all even-numbered rounds, uses the Main Color (MC) which is blue in this tutorial.

It begins the same way as round 1 did: with a *scC*. Place both single crochets (with a chain space between them) in the back loop only of the chain of the first yellow corner.

Blue yarn (MC) shows the first scC completed (single crochet corner = sc, ch, sc)



The next stitch says *sc1*, place the *sc* in the back loop of the next stitch.

Then you get to our first *dc1*. As explained in the Key, the double crochet gets made in the front loop two rounds below. Dropped DCs are always using the front loop of the same color (yellow into yellow, blue into blue) from two rounds before.

The yellow stitch that would have been used next if this had been a *sc* will not get used, you skip that stitch to maintain the proper stitch count.

You finish the side with one more *sc1*.

Repeat round 2's instructions between the asterisks for each side of your square. Join with an invisible join (through the back of the first stitch in this round) like you did with the first round.





First side completed.

Front shown above, back shown below



TIP: It can be hard to find the final stitch before the invisible join.

	
<p>The final stitch of this side needs to go into the back loop of the yellow stitch that looks like it is sort of in front of the first blue sc</p>	<p>The final sc of this round has been made</p>

3 - *scC, (sc1, dc1) x2, sc1*



Round 3 finished

Round 3 uses stitches we've seen before. But the brackets may be new to you. Brackets are similar to asterisks; you repeat what's between the brackets as many times as indicated. In this case, if we remove the brackets the row looks like this:

3 - *scC, sc1, dc1, sc1, dc1, sc1*

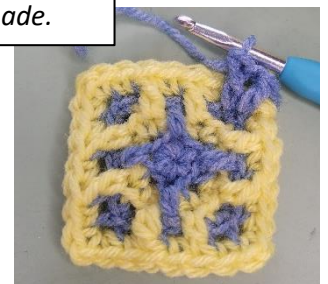
4 - *dcC, dc2, sc3, dc2*

First **dcC** made.



Round 4 finished

Round 4 begins with a **dcC**, and we know from reading the key that this means *double crochet corner*: crochet a dropped DC into front loop of previous round's corner chain 1, then do another dropped DC into the **same** front loop.



The next two stitches are double crochets as well. The first one goes into the same front loop that the corner stitches used. The next dc uses the next available front loop.



Then we do 3 single crochets in the back loop only and then 2 dropped double crochets to finish the first side.



TIP FOR DOUBLE CROCHET CORNER

<p>There are 3 blue front loops available in the corner: the first loop gets used for the first dc after the sc3, the next loop gets used for the final dc of this side. This middle loop ALSO gets used for the next side's dcC.</p>	<p>This image shows the first two sides completed. The full corner area has 6 dropped double crochets. The first and last were each made in their own front loop, the 4 in the middle all use the same front loop.</p>

DON'T FORGET THE FINAL STITCH OF EACH ROUND!

The final stitch seems to “hide” in front of the color changes and can be easy to forget. Round 4 ends like this:

<p>After the 3sc, there are still 2dc to make.</p>	<p>The first dc goes into the front loop below, the second dc goes into the same loop that had previously been used for the first dcC.</p>	<p>Invisible join goes through the back of the first stitch (in this case, that was the first dc).</p>



5 - *scC, sc3, dc3, sc3*



6 - *scC, sc1, dc3, sc3, dc3, sc1*



7 - *scC, sc1, dc1, sc3, dc3, sc3, dc1, sc1*



8 - *scC, sc1, dc1, sc11, dc1, sc1*



9 - *scC, sc1, dc1, sc13, dc1, sc1*



10 - *scC, sc19*

Make sure not to miss the final stitch on the final side (that one that hides in front of the color change)

Congratulations! You did it!

Cut and tie off your yarn, weave in the tails.

All done!

This is what the wrong side looks like



Overlay Mosaic Crochet from the Center-Out

X-Marked Chart Instructions

By Ashlee Brotzell Designs

KEY

(look at row/round numbers to know which yarn to use)



Main Color (MC)

Contrasting Color (CC)

Regardless of color:

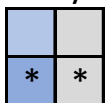


dropped double crochet: DC into *Front Loop* of stitch in the round below, skip the sc stitch that gets hidden behind this dropped stitch



scBLO: SC into Back Loop only

Greyed squares at the ends of each row:



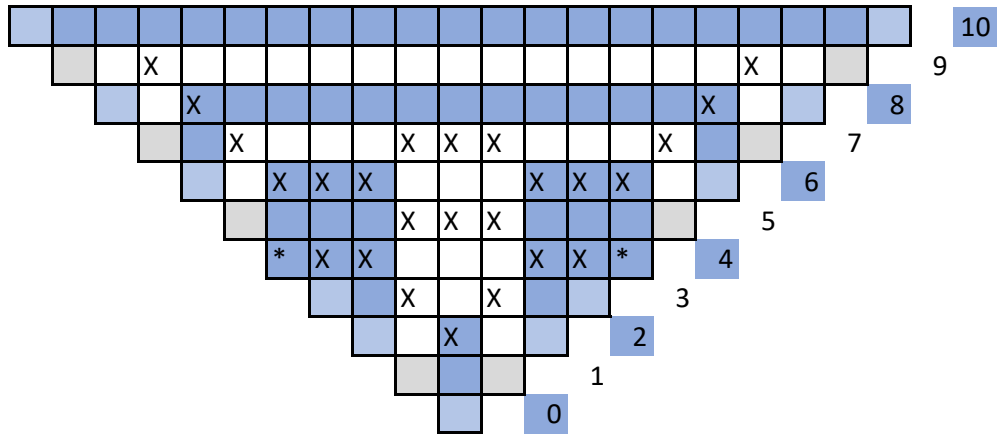
scC = single crochet corner: SC into Back Loop only, chain 1, SC into the same Back Loop again

dcC = double crochet corner: dropped DC into front loop of previous round's corner chain, chain 1, dropped DC into same front loop again. The next stitch, if it is a dc, will use this same front loop as well.

- Chart shows one side of the square; repeat for all 4 sides of your project.
- Corner stitches are shown at the start and end of each row but you only crochet one corner (either a scC or a dcC between each side).
- The right side of your work is always facing you; do not turn your work.
- Do not cut your yarn at the end of each round, carry it up through the corner stitch.

For more information, see YouTube Tutorial: <https://youtu.be/Z-WsXLgXfg4>

Center-Out Tutorial Square (Mosaic)





Thank you for your support! I hope you enjoy this pattern. Check out my tutorials on YouTube and feel free to contact me if you still have questions!

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