

Ready, Set, Knit

Air Date: August 22, 2009

Summer Petals Cardigan

Materials List

- Copy of *Interweave Crochet, Summer 2009*
 - Yarn suggested is *Rowan Bamboo Soft* at 112 yds per skein- 8, 9, 10, 12 or 14 sk depending on size chosen. I am using Elsebeth Lavold *Hempathy* at 153 yds per ball - for size 46, 9 balls.
 - Hook suggested is an E. To get gauge, I had to use an F. Be sure to change your hook size as needed.
 - Yarn needle
 - Hook and eye closures - I will be doing another kind of closure for my sweater.
 - Sewing needle and sewing thread that matches your yarn for sewing on the hooks and eyes.
 - LOTS OF LOCKING RING MARKERS
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Air Date: September 5, 2009

Summer Petals Cardigan

A Word of Advice

Generally, it is best to start with the back of a garment and use it as the template for the fronts. If I were to make this cardigan again, I'd start with the fronts to get used to the pattern and the decreases. Smaller pieces = less ripping if you make a mistake.

Before You Start To Crochet

Study the **schematics** (they are your best friend!) and make a note of the measurements of each piece for your size. It's actually a good idea to enlarge the schematics and white out all the numbers that do not pertain to your size. Keep checking the measurements of your piece against the schematic so that you will see a problem before you get too far. Incorrect measurements might indicate that you are misreading the pattern.

- Read through the pattern and note any areas that seem unclear or any abbreviations that you need to look up.

- Be sure to note the concentration rating of 3 for this pattern which means that a fairly constant amount of concentration is required because there are involved stitch patterns and shaping. I found this to be a very accurate assessment of the pattern - at the beginning I had to rip out some rows because I was not paying close enough attention. This is not a pattern to work on when you are tired or distracted.
- I made size 46 because I wanted it to fit loosely; I also made it longer to be more like a duster. Any observations I make are for this size, but they may apply to the other sizes as well.
- And, please, DO A GAUGE SWATCH in pattern **and** in sc, then wash and block your swatches as you will your finished garment. I know this takes time, but it's worth it. Lacey crochet stitches can stretch more than you might think and this may alert you to the need for a change in garment size or hook size. The swatch will give you a chance to practice the cluster stitch. I would also practice the decreases on the swatch before doing them on the sweater itself.

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Summer Petals Cardigan

How to do the Cluster

For you knitters, think of the cluster st in crochet as the equivalent of a bobble in knitting...you are making several stitches in one stitch to produce a little lump on the surface of the garment.

Bring the yarn over the hook and insert the hook into the stitch (I keep my finger on the yo so I won't lose it as I go into the st).

Bring the yarn over the hook again and pull up a loop through the st; there are now 3 loops on the hook.

Yo and draw the yarn through 2 loops. Two loops are left on the hook.

Yo and insert the hook into the same st as where you started, yo and pull up a loop - 4 loops on the hook.

Yo and pull the yarn through 2 loops - 3 loops on hook.

Yo and insert the hook into the same st as before, yo and pull up a loop - 5 loops

on hook.

Yo and pull yarn through 2 loops - 4 loops left on the hook.

Yo and pull yarn through all 4 loops. Cluster done!

The Cluster Pattern

Be very aware that the beginning ch 3 counts as a dc and the beginning ch 5s count as a dc + ch 2. This will help you when you count your stitches per row.

The pattern is easy to learn, but be careful of the **end** of each row:

- For row 2, I would clarify the directions after the asterisk as follows: ...*ch 2, sc in next ch-3 sp, ch 2, dc in next dc; rep from *, **end with a dc in the turning chain.**
- For row 4, I would make the following clarification: ...*ch 2, dc in next dc, ch 2, sc in next ch-3 sp; rep from *, **ending with dc in next dc and sc in ch-5 sp, turn.**
- Always know which patt row corresponds to the one you are working on...for example, row 1 of the Lower Back Shaping corresponds to row 2 of the cl patt and rows 2 - 5 = cl patt rows 3, 4, 1 and 2. To keep track, I copied the cl patt and enlarged it. Then I used highlighter tape to mark the patt row I was working on, moving the tape as I completed a row.

Working the Back of the Cardigan

When you do your foundation ch, **add a few extra ch at the end** - just in case! You can always pick them out later. You can also place a locking ring marker on every 10th ch to help with the counting if you get distracted.

When you work the sc row into the foundation ch, there is more than one way to proceed. You can insert your hook under the top 2 loops of the ch or under just the top loop. I have a friend who puts her hook through the bump on the back of the chain. Just be consistent on all the pieces.

Put a marker on the **RS** of your work. It is **essential** on this patt that you are always aware what side you are on. It is also helpful to put a marker at the beginning and end of each row, especially when you start the shaping.

Since there are separate directions for the different sizes, I found it helpful to photocopy the pattern pages and then cut and paste the directions for my size onto one sheet of paper. I did this for all the pieces.

Whenever the number of sc, dc or cl reps is given at the end of the row, take the time to **count your sts to verify that you have the right number**. I would have liked to see stitch counts more often.

Watch out for dec row 8 in the lower back; you will end with a dc in the next **sc**. In dec row 11, for your count, count only the dc you make in the row itself, not the dc in the last sc of the previous row.

According to the schematic, the back should measure 11" before you start the sc band. If you need to work more rows to get to 11" or you want to make the sweater longer or shorter, just be sure to end having worked a row 3 of the Cl Patt before you start the band. The band should be just below your bustline.

If you don't get exactly the right number of sc on the first row of the band, just inc to the right number over the next 3 rows. This gradual increase will block out nicely.

There's a small wording problem for row 1 of band; it should read in this order: ch 1, sk first dc, 2 dc in ch 2 sp, sc in ea dc and cluster, 3 sc in ea ch-3 sp, end 2 sc in ch-5 sp. If you need to add more rows to the band to equal the one inch indicated in the schematic, be sure to end having completed a RS row.

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Left Front

Make yourself a grid to keep track of what patt row you would be on if you were working in straight patt. Example: Row 2 = cl patt set-up, row 3 – 6 = cl patt rows 1 – 4. Row 7 = row 1 of cl patt.

Row 1 of Lower Body shaping = row 2 of patt, rows 2 – 7 = rows 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 4, row 8 = row 1 of cl patt and so forth. **It's easy to get lost!**

Shaping Lower Body

Row 1: Work in est patt, sc in last ch-3 sp, skip turning ch. Turn.

Row 4: Sc in first dc = sc in dc turning ch.

Row 6: Cl in first dc = a single cl in the dc turning ch.

Row 7: Ch 1, sc in dc turning ch, work in est patt to next ch-3 sp (sc in ch-3 sp), ch 2, dc in next dc, sc in ch 5 turning ch.

Row 10: Sc in last cl, dc in next dc, dc in turning ch.

Armhole and Neckline Shaping

In rows 8, 9, 11, 12, and 13, end dc in turning ch.

Row 14, end dc in next dc.

Right Front

Make yourself another grid to keep track of what patt row you would be on if you were working in straight patt.

Shaping Lower Body

Row 1 (dec) (WS) is the same as row 2 of patt but it begins with a ch 1 instead of a ch 5. This affects the next row.

Row 2 Since there was no turning ch 5 at the end of row 1, end dc in next sc, dc in ch 1

Row 7 End dc in next dc, sc in ch-5 sp.

Row 8 There is no ch-5 sp at the end of this row, so end with a cl-3-cl, sk next sc, dc in next dc, dc in ch 1

Closure Suggestion: I decided to use 4 buttons on my sweater instead of hooks and eyes, so I made a buttonhole in the right band. For the other buttonholes, I just used the spaces in the pattern and it worked beautifully.

Upper Body

Row 5 = Row 4 of patt: sc in next ch 3 sp, dc in next dc, work as est, end sc in ch 5 sp

Armhole and Neckline Shaping

Row 1 Work until 3 sc remain (including sc at end of row), dc in next sc, sc in next ch 2 sp, sc in next dc, sk ending sc. Turn.

Row 9 Ch 5, cl-3-cl in next dc, dc in next sc, work in est patt to end.

Sleeves

For the sleeves, my best advice is to follow the schematic size that works best for you – I measured a sweater with the same general fit and tweaked the patt accordingly. I found that the foundation ch for size 46 was way too wide – the sleeves would have been extremely bell shaped. So, I used the foundation ch for size 35 $\frac{3}{4}$ and made sure that the

sleeve kept a constant measure of 14" wide up to the cap shaping. I measured the armhole of my sweater and gradually dec on each side to that length (7") until the top measured about 5 ¼ inches across and fastened off. The sleeve fit beautifully into the armhole and the length and the width of the sleeve was just what I wanted.

This is a beautiful, very feminine sweater that is easy to wear and the pattern really lends itself to letting you make it fit the way you want it to.

Addendum

This is from Carole, one of our listeners – I thought you all should have this information.

She wrote:

I read your clarifications on the decrease rows for the lower body shaping carefully and followed them for the left front. However I didn't like how I interpreted them when I actually crocheted them. So I decided that I would start the right front before I finished the left front to see if it made more sense to me. I found that row 2 for the right front lower body shaping was not at all instinctive but as I started working row 3 I understood where you were going. However again I didn't like how it looked in the way I was doing it. So I went back and read the instructions for the Back lower body shaping (Row 2 - 5: the same point in the pattern) and saw that it said to go back to rows 1 - 4 of cluster pattern.

I then remembered something I had read on Ravelry by a person ("clatter") who had completed the project: <http://www.ravelry.com/projects/clatter/summer-petals-cardigan>. She had contacted the designer and this was "clatter's" conclusion:

The problem had been that I misinterpreted what "continue with est patt" meant. I thought it meant continue in the row 1, row 2, row 3, row 4 order of the cluster pattern, but it meant (if I'm understanding it correctly) look at the row below to determine what stitch to do next, even if it means starting like you're in row 1 and finishing like you're in row 3. That may not make sense to anyone but me, but I'm just glad to have it figured out.

I tried using that logic and this is what I found for the right front. If I started Row 2 of the lower body shaping (on the right side) as row 3 of the cluster pattern but finished as row 1, started Row 3 of the lower body shaping (on the right side) as row 2 of the cluster pattern but finished as row 4, started Row 4 of the lower body shaping (on the right side) as row 1 of the cluster pattern but finished as row 3, etc. it seemed to work out and look cleaner.

Thank you Carole!