Project 9: Ruffle cushion

This cushion is delightfully tactile. The front and back panels of the cushion are worked separately, and then blocks of ruffles are crocheted onto the front panel using a simple chain stitch to create highly textured stripes.

before you start

MATERIALS

Aran-weight yarn (70% lambswool, 26% kid mohair, 4% nylon; approx. 140 m/153 yds per 50 g/2 oz ball) x 5 balls (blue)
4 large shell buttons
30 cm (12") square cushion pad

HOOK SIZE

6 mm

TENSION

19 sts x 10 rows = 10 cm (4") in half treble crochet

FINISHED SIZE

30 cm (12") square

KEY TECHNIQUES

- Foundation chains, pages 19–20
- Double crochet, page 21
- Half treble crochet, page 23
- Seams, pages 33–4
- Blocks of ruffles, page 60

ABBREVIATIONS

ch – chain
dc – double crochet
htr – half treble crochet
RS – right side
st(s) – stitch(es)

Back panel

Foundation chain: Using a 6 mm hook, 40 ch.
Row 1 (RS): 2 ch, 1 htr into 3rd ch from hook, 1 htr into every ch to end.
Row 2: 2 ch, 1 htr into every htr to end.
Rows 3–36: Repeat row 2 another 34 times.

Front panel

Foundation chain: Using a 6 mm hook, 50 ch.
Row 1: 2 ch, 1 htr into 3rd ch from hook, 1 htr into every ch to end.
Row 2 (RS): 2 ch, *1 htr into back loop of every htr to end.
Row 3: 2 ch, *1 htr into front loop of every htr to end.
Rows 2–3 form the pattern.
Rows 4–49: Repeat rows 2–3 another 23 times.

Ruffles

Using a 6 mm hook and with the right side of the front panel facing, join the yarn at the bottom right corner by placing the hook under the front loop of the first stitch. Work rows of ruffles vertically up the panel in blocks of four. Space the blocks of ruffles at three-row intervals until you have worked four blocks of ruffles in total. Fasten off the yarn.

Finishing

Weave in any loose ends, then block and press to the correct size. Place the two panels right sides together with the ruffles positioned vertically; about 10 cm (4") of the front panel should extend beyond the back panel to be used for the cushion flap. Backstitch the pieces together. Turn right side out and sew four buttons evenly spaced across the back panel about 2.5–5 cm (1–2") below the edge of the flap. Insert a cushion pad and use the last ruffle of each block as a fastening loop for the buttons.