Tassels, fringes and spirals

Tassels and fringes may be made from cut strands, or they may be crocheted for a firmer result. (Fringes are shown on page 77). Spirals are a fun alternative to tassels.

Cut fringes and tassels

Try using different types of yarn: woollen yarns make soft, light fringes and tassels; cottons, silks and viscose yarns make heavier fringes that drape well.

Simple fringe

1 Cut a rectangle of card, about 2.5cm (1in) wider than the depth of fringe you want. Wind the yarn around the card as many times as required. Cut along one edge to make lots of strands of the same length.

2 Decide on the spacing you want for your fringe, and how many strands to use for each knot. Take two or three strands (three strands are shown above) and fold them in half. Insert a crochet hook through the position required from back through to front and pull the loop of strands through. Then catch the strands and pull them through the loop. Repeat as required. Lay the fringe flat and trim all the strands to the same length.

Beaded fringe

1 Make a simple fringe with extra-long strands. Thread half of the tails from each of two adjacent knots through a large bead and knot with an overhand knot. Use a strip of card to space all the knots equally from the crochet edge.

2 The fringe above was made in green viscose yarn, with large wooden beads. Other arrangements of knots and beads can be found by experiment.

Cut tassel

1 Wind the yarn around a piece of card as for a fringe, left. Thread the tail into a blunt-tipped needle and pass it under the strands at one edge, then back under the last winding as shown, to hold all the strands together. Pull tight.

2 Slip the strands off the card and wind the tail tightly around the tassel, close to the top, several times. Pass the needle back to the centre top and leave the tail uncut for attaching later.

3 Leave the loops uncut, or cut through them and trim them all to the same length.

Crochet tassels

Crochet tassels are more hardwearing than those made from loose strands. These instructions make a tassel approximately 10cm (4in) long in double knitting, or 7.5cm (3in) long in 4-ply, but you can easily vary the length by working more chains to each loop or corkscrew. Vary the fullness by beginning with a different number of chains.

Chain loop tassel

Using hook size to suit yarn, and leaving a long tail, work 19 ch.

Row 1: 1 dc in 2nd ch from hook, 1 dc in each ch to end.

Row 2: 1 ch, skip first dc, 1 dc in each dc, ending 1 dc in 1 ch.

Row 3: 2 ch, skip first dc, * 4 htr tog in next dc, 1 ch, 1 htr in next dc, * repeat from * to *, ending 1 htr in 1 ch.

Row 4: 1 ch, skip [first htr and 1 ch] * 1 dc in top of 4 htr tog, skip 1 htr, 1 dc in ch sp, * repeat from * to * ending 1 dc in 2nd of 2 ch.

Fringe row: 1 ch, [1 dc, 36 ch, 1 ss] in each dc, ending [1 dc, 36 ch, 1 ss] in 1 ch. Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Tightly roll up the rows of dc and use the starting tail to stitch firmly across the top through all the layers, ending with a stitch at the centre. Use the finishing tail to stitch in and out around the base of the roll and pull up tightly. Secure with a backstitch, then join the side edge of the roll and bring the tail out at centre top. Use the two tails to stitch the tassel where required.

Corkscrew tassel

Using hook size to suit yarn, and leaving a long tail, work 17 ch.

Work rows 1 and 2 as for chain loop tassel. Repeat row 2, four more times.

Row 7: 1 ch, skip first dc, 1 dc in next dc, * 16 ch, 3 dc in 2nd ch from hook, 3 dc in each remaining ch, 1 ss in same place as dc at base of ch [1 corkscrew made], 1 dc in each of next 2 dc, * repeat from * to * ending 1 corkscrew in last st. Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Roll up and secure in same way as for chain loop tassel.

Crochet spirals

The construction of spirals is similar to that of the corkscrews on the tassel at left, but with several increasing rows. By varying the number of base chains, spirals of different lengths may be made. Use spirals in the same way as tassels to embellish any project.

Basic spiral

Using hook size to suit yarn, make a number of loose chain: the multicolour spiral above begins with 12 ch; the green one with 24 ch.

Row 1: 1 dc in 2nd ch from hook, 2 dc in each ch to end.

Row 2: 1 ch, 1 dc in first dc, 2 dc in each dc to end.

Repeat row 2, two or more times. Fasten off, leaving a long tail for attachment.

Stroke the spiral between your fingers to even out the coils.

Spirals may be made any length required. They look very effective in stripes – here, the two ends of an 20cm (8in) spiral are joined to make a bracelet.

Flowers

Use crochet flowers to add the finishing touch to accessories such as hats and purses, or stitch one to a brooch pin to wear on any garment.

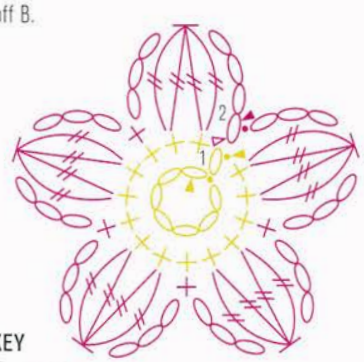
Four, five or six-petal flower

The chart shows the five-petal version of this flower. The four-petal and six-petal versions are constructed in a similar way. Instructions are given below for four [five, six] petals, using two colours, A and B.

Using colour A, make 5[7, 9] ch, 1 ss in first ch made to close the ring.

Round 1: 1 ch, 11[14, 17] dc into ring, 1 ss into 1 ch at beginning of round. Fasten off A.

Round 2: Join colour B to any dc, 4 ch, * 4 dtr tog, inserting hook twice into next dc, and twice into foll dc, 3 ch, 1 dc in next dc, 3 ch, * repeat from * to * 2[3, 4] more times, 4 dtr tog as before, 3 ch, 1 ss in first ch of round. Fasten off B.



KEY

- Chain
- Slip stitch
- Double
- Join in
- Fasten off
- Double treble

Waterlily

For the small version, work rounds 1 and 2 only, then fasten off with 1 ss in first dc of round 2.
For the medium version, work rounds 1–4, then fasten off with 1 ss in first dc of round 4.
For the large version, work all 6 rounds.
Instructions are given for using two colours, A and B.
Using colour A, make 8 ch, 1 ss in first ch made to close the ring.

Round 1: 6 ch, [1 tr into ring, 3 ch] 7 times, 1 ss in 3rd of 6 ch at beg of round. Fasten off A.

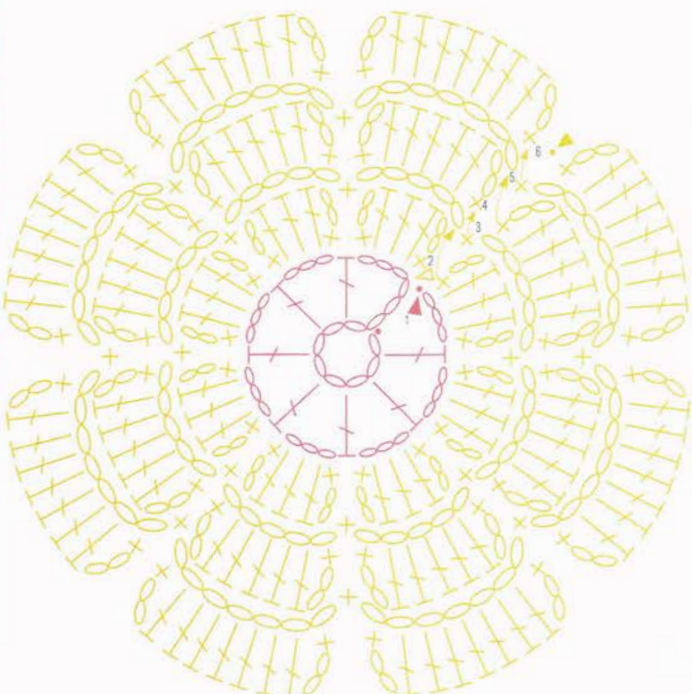
Round 2: Join colour B to any 3-ch sp, [1 dc, 2 ch, 3 tr, 2 ch, 1 dc] into same sp, * 1 dc, 2 ch, 3 tr, 2 ch, 1 dc] into next 3-ch sp *, repeat from * to * 6 more times, do not join. (8 petals made.)

Round 3: Working behind petals of previous round, * 5 ch, miss 1 petal, 1 dc in top of next tr of round 1 *, repeat from * to * 7 more times, do not join. (8 loops made.)

Round 4: * [1 dc, 2 ch, 5 tr, 2 ch, 1 dc] into next 5-ch loop *, repeat from * to * 7 more times, do not join.
(8 petals made.)

Round 5: Working behind petals of previous round, * 7 ch, miss 1 petal, 1 dc in next dc of round 3 *, repeat from * to * 7 more times, do not join. (8 loops made.)

Round 6: * [1 dc, 2 ch, 7 tr, 2 ch, 1 dc] into next 7-ch loop *, repeat from * to * 7 more times, 1 ss in first dc of round. Fasten off B.

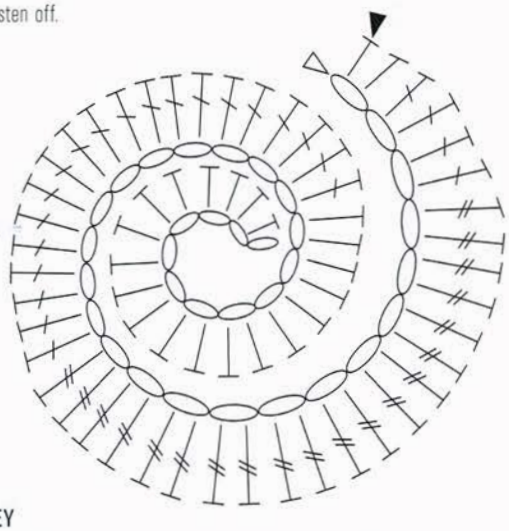


KEY

- Chain
- Double
- Treble
- Slip stitch
- Fasten off
- Join in
- Begin next row without joining

Spiral flower

Make 33 ch.
Beginning in 2nd ch from hook, 2 htr in each of 10 ch, 2 tr in each of 10 ch, 2 dtr in each of 10 ch, 2 tr in each of 2 ch, 2 htr in last ch. Fasten off.

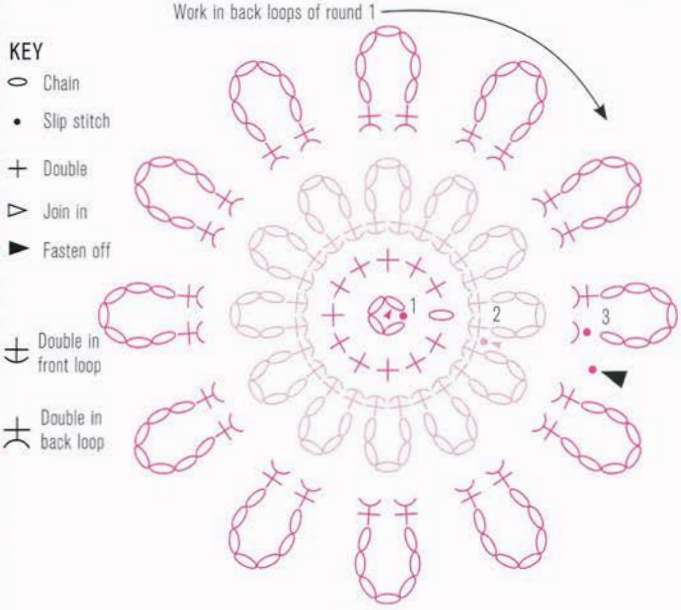


KEY

- Chain
- Half-treble
- Treble
- Double treble
- Begin
- Fasten off

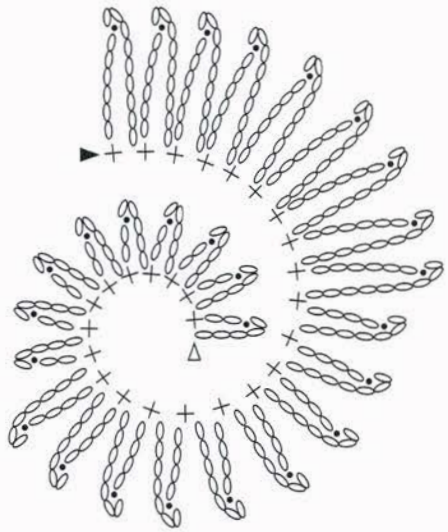
Aster

Instruction below use two colours, A and B.
Using A, make 4 ch, 1 ss in first ch made to close the ring.
Round 1: 1 ch, 11 dc into ring, change to colour B, 1 ss in first ch of round. Do not cut A.
Round 2: Using B, [1 dc, 4 ch, 1 dc] in front loop of first ch and front loop of each dc of previous round, 1 ss in first dc of round. Fasten off B. (12 petals made.)
Round 3: Using A, [1 ss, 7 ch, 1 dc] in back loop of first ch, [1 dc, 7 ch, 1 dc] in back loop of each dc of round 1, 1 ss in first ss of round. Fasten off. (12 more petals made.)
You can vary the lengths of the petals by working more or fewer chains for each petal.



Chrysanthemum

Make 5 ch, 1 ss in 3rd ch from hook, 2 ch, 1 dc in first ch made, do not turn.
[5 ch, 1 ss in 3rd ch from hook, 2 ch, 1 dc in last dc made, do not turn] 8 times.
[7 ch, 1 ss in 3rd ch from hook, 4 ch, 1 dc in last dc made, do not turn] 9 times.
[9 ch, 1 ss in 3rd ch from hook, 6 ch, 1 dc in last dc made, do not turn] 9 times.
Fasten off leaving a long tail. Arrange the petals in a spiral and use the long tail to stitch across the back to hold the spiral in place.



KEY

- Chain
- Slip stitch
- Double
- Begin
- Fasten off