

Mosaic Crochet Tutorial

Note: this tutorial has been updated August 2020 to include a third Mosaic Crochet style if / when I become aware of any more, I will update it again!



Materials used

Any scrap yarn in 2 contrasting colours – just make sure both are a similar yardage.

I used Deramores Studio DK (100% acrylic; 250m / 100g), with 4mm and 4.5mm (US G/6 and 7) crochet hooks.

Tension / Gauge

Each swatch pictured above is 25 sts wide x 24 rows high, and all used the same yarn and hook size.

Seeing them all side by side should give you an indication of how each technique affects the gauge:

Overlay mosaic creates square stitches;

Inset and Spike mosaic create slightly 'squashed' sts, but a more 'stretched' pattern.

Tania Leis has also kindly produced videos to support this tutorial (in **US terms only**):

Overlay Mosaic: <https://youtu.be/6UtQ3W5BQUU>

Inset Mosaic: <https://youtu.be/rKbiXuvCBIs>

Spike Mosaic Crochet video will follow at a later date.

For abbreviations and instructions for special stitches, please see last page.

If you have researched mosaic crochet on the internet, you may have noticed that there are in fact at least three different crochet techniques, all of which are frequently described as 'mosaic crochet'.

This of course creates a bit of a problem in providing a definition of what mosaic crochet is, but the following hopefully explains what they all have in common:

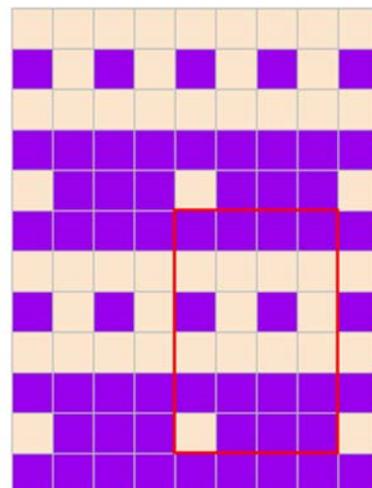
Mosaic Crochet is a form of colourwork where the design is created without switching colours within a row / round.

You will have a base 'fabric' of scs, and will work one or two rows in a single colour, before switching to another colour for the next one or two rows. The design is created by making long stitches (usually dcs) into lower rows, thus covering some of the background stitches with a contrasting colour, and creating the illusion of a colour change within the previous row(s).

In this tutorial I will give you step-by-step instructions for working the same simple chart (see image on the right) in each of the three main techniques, so you can see the differences between each, and the finished effect.

To begin, I have given each mosaic crochet technique a different name, as having three different techniques with the same name is very confusing!

I would like to stress that these are not official names, merely my way to hopefully help you to differentiate between them:



Overlay Mosaic Crochet

Overlay mosaic crochet is constructed from a base fabric of rows of back loop scs, and the pattern is created by "over-laying" longer stitches (usually dcs) into the unworked front loops of lower rows (usually 2 rows below).

Stitches are worked with the right side of your work always facing you, so if you are working in rows, yarn must be cut at the end of each row.

This of course results in a LOT of ends, but they don't necessarily need to be woven in: for example try using an overlay mosaic pattern worked lengthwise to make a scarf – the ends can simply be trimmed to make a fringe at each end, or you can use an envelope, or double, border to encase the loose ends.

Inset Mosaic Crochet

Inset mosaic crochet involves leaving ch-sps in rows using the first colour, and these are filled in by "in-setting" longer stitches (usually dcs) in the next RS row in a contrasting colour, leaving the ch-sps unworked behind.

Inset mosaic crochet is usually worked using 2 rows of each colour, turning your work at the end of each row, so the unused colour can be carried up the side of the work, hence minimising the number of ends needing to be woven in.

Spike Mosaic Crochet

In this form of mosaic crochet both sides will look virtually identical, so it is ideal for items such as scarves or blankets, where both sides are likely to be seen.

As with inset mosaic, this is usually worked using 2 rows of each colour, so the unused yarn can be carried up the side of the work, but in this technique the base fabric is rows of simple scs, and the pattern is created by working longer sts (usually dcs) into lower rows, working over the rows in between to create a **spike** effect.

The above is not an exhaustive list, and I am sure other variations of mosaic crochet will develop over time. If / when I become aware of any, I will try to add them to this tutorial.

On the following pages I have provided a chart, and full written instructions for making up a swatch in the same basic design using the three different mosaic crochet techniques mentioned above.

If you wish, you may use the same chart / instructions to make a larger item, just remember to start with a multiple of 4 + 1 sts on your first row.

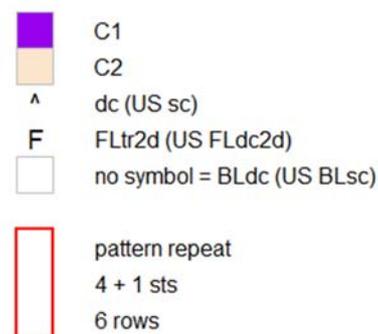
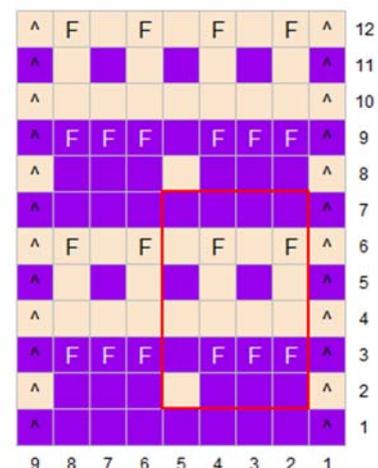
Overlay Mosaic Chart

Read the chart from bottom to top, right to left (left to right if you are left-handed).

Unless otherwise stated in the pattern, all sts are worked with **right side facing you**. Fasten off yarn at the end of each row.

The first and last sts of each row are always sc and indicate the colour you will be using for the whole row. You do not change colours within each row (the colours on the chart are there only to give you an idea of how the piece should look).

Any square without a symbol on the chart represents a back loop sc.



Overlay Mosaic Written Pattern

Use smaller (4mm) hook throughout. Stitch count will remain the same throughout.

Row 1 Using C1, 25 fsc (or make 26 ch, 1 sc in 2nd ch from hook, and in each ch across, if you prefer). Fasten off C1.
25 sts

Row 2 Join C2 with a standing sc in first st, BLsc across to last st, 1 sc. Fasten off C2.



Row 3 Join C1 with a standing sc in first st, 3 FLdc2d, [1 BLsc, 3 FLdc2d] to last st, 1 sc. Fasten off C1.



Row 4 Join C2 with a standing sc in first st, BLsc across to last st, 1 sc. Fasten off C2.



Row 5 Join C1 with a standing sc in first st, BLsc across to last st, 1 sc. Fasten off C1.



Row 6 Join C2 with a standing sc in first st, [1 FLdc2d, 1 BLsc] to last 2 sts, 1 FLdc2d, 1 sc. Fasten off C2.



Row 7 Join C1 with a standing sc in first st, BLsc across to last st, 1 sc. Fasten off C1.



Repeat rows 2 - 7 until work is required length, ending with a row 3 or row 6.
For the purpose of this tutorial I worked a total of 24 rows.



Inset Mosaic Chart

Read the chart from bottom to top, right to left (left to right if you are left-handed).

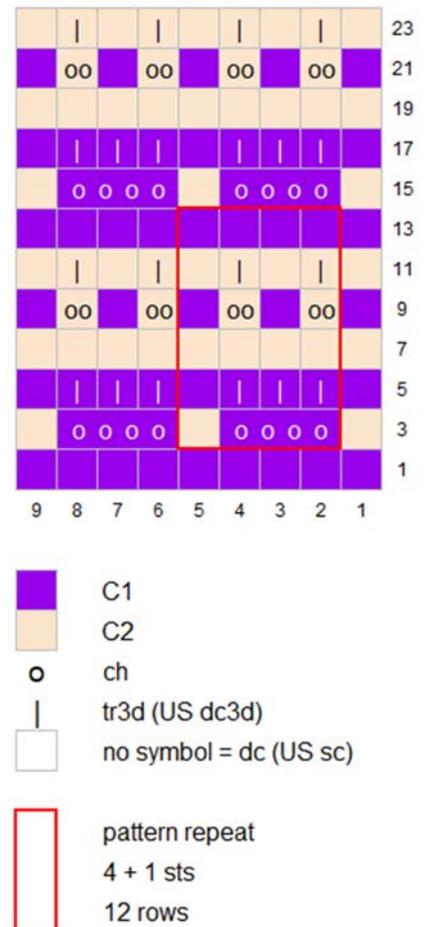
Only right side (RS) rows are shown on the chart. On wrong side (WS) rows 'work sts as set', i.e. 1 sc in each sc or dc3d, 2 ch over all 2ch-sps, 3 ch over all 3ch-sps and so on.

Work a 1ch turning chain between RS and WS rows. Turning chain does not count as a st.

The first and last sts of each row are always sc and indicate the colour you will be using for the whole row, and the following WS row. You do not change colours within each row.

The pattern is created by leaving ch-sps in rows using the first colour, and these are filled in with dcs in the next RS row in a contrasting colour, leaving the ch-sps unworked behind.

Any square without a symbol on the chart represents a sc.



Inset Mosaic Written Pattern

To join new colours, or change working colour, simply pull up loop in new colour (see photo).



Remember to work all tr3ds in front of the chain spaces.

Row 1 RS. Using **larger hook** and **C1**, 25 fsc (or make 26 ch, 1 sc in 2nd ch from hook, and in each ch across, if you prefer). Turn.
25 sts

Row 2 WS. Change to **smaller hook**. 1 ch (does not count as st here and throughout), sc across. Turn. **Do not fasten off C1.**
25 sts

Row 3 RS. Join **C2**, 1 ch, 1 sc, [4 ch, skip 3 sts, 1 sc] to end. Turn.
7 sts



Row 4 and all foll WS rows 1 ch, work sts as set, i.e. 1 sc in each dc or dc3d, 2 ch over all 2ch-sps, 3 ch over all 3ch-sps and so on. Turn. **Do not fasten off.**



Row 5 Pull up **C1** loop, 1 ch, 1 sc, [3 dc3d, 1 sc] to end. Turn.
25 sts

Row 5 (RS)



Row 6 (WS)



Row 7 Pull up **C2** loop, 1 ch, sc across. Turn.
25 sts

Row 9 Pull up **C1** loop, 1 ch, 1 sc, [2 ch, skip 1 st, 1 sc] to end. Turn.
13 sts

Row 9 (RS)



Row 10 (WS)



Row 11 Pull up **C2** loop, 1 ch, 1 sc, [1 dc3d, 1 sc] to end. Turn.
25 sts

Row 11 (RS)



Row 12 (WS)



Row 13 Pull up **C1** loop, 1 ch, sc across. Turn.
25 sts

Row 14 1 ch, sc across. Turn

Repeat rows 3 – 14 until work is required length, ending with a **row 6** or **row 12**.

For the purpose of this tutorial I worked a total of 24 rows.



Spike Mosaic Chart

Read the chart from bottom to top, right to left (left to right if you are left-handed).

Only right side (RS) rows are shown on the chart.

On wrong side (WS) rows sc across.

Work a 1ch turning chain between RS and WS rows.

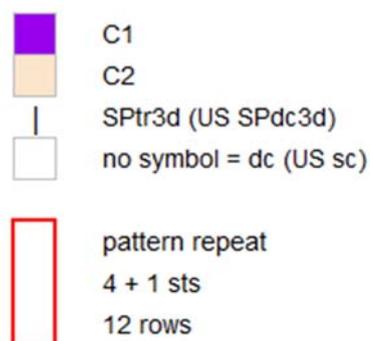
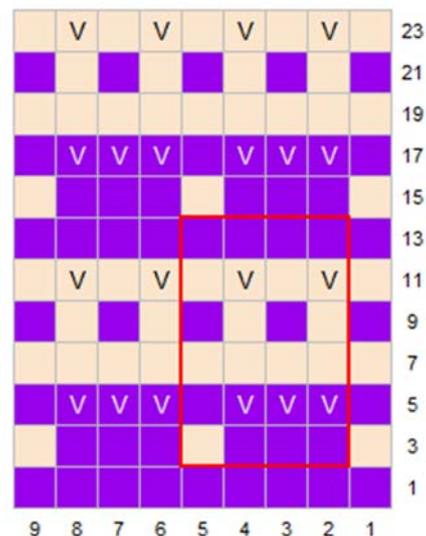
Turning chain does not count as a st.

The first and last sts of each row are always sc and indicate the colour you will be using for the whole row, and the following WS row.

You do not change colours within each row.

The base fabric is rows of standard scs, and the pattern is created by working dcs over the contrasting colour stitches into lower rows, so you will usually be working into the last row made using your current colour.

Any square without a symbol on the chart represents a sc.



Spike Mosaic Written Pattern

To join new colours, or change working colour, simply pull up loop in new colour (see photo).



Row 1 RS. Using **larger hook** and **C1**, 25 fsc (or make 26 ch, 1 sc in 2nd ch from hook, and in each ch across, if you prefer). Turn.
25 sts

Row 2 and all foll return rows WS. Change to **smaller hook**. 1 ch (does not count as st here and throughout), sc across. Turn. **Do not fasten off C1**.
25 sts

Row 3 RS. Join **C2**, 1 ch, sc across. Turn.

Row 5 Pull up C1 loop, 1 ch, 1 sc, [3 SPdc3d, 1 sc] to end. Turn.

Row 5 (RS)



Row 6 (WS)



Row 7 Pull up C2 loop, 1 ch, sc across. Turn.

Row 9 Pull up C1 loop, 1 ch, 1 sc across. Turn.

Row 11 Pick up C2 with a sl st, 1 ch, 1 sc, [1 SPdc3d, 1 sc] to end. Turn.

Row 11 (RS)



Row 12 (WS)



Row 13 Pick up C1 with a sl st, 1 ch, sc across. Turn.

Row 14 1 ch, sc across. Turn

Repeat rows 3 – 14 until work is required length, ending with a row 6 or row 12.
For the purpose of this tutorial I worked a total of 24 rows.



Please respect the work it has taken to create this tutorial for you, and do not sell on or copy these instructions in any way.

If you wish to share the tutorial you may do so only by linking to the original documents in my website or Ravelry store (as applicable).

Rosina

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Abbreviations and special stitches

	Instructions for special stitches	
ch	Chain	
ch-sp	Chain space	
st	Stitch	
sl st	Slip stitch	
yo	Yarn Over	
pul	Pull Up Loop	
rep	Repeat	
sc	Single Crochet)	
fsc	Foundation Single crochet 2 ch, starting in 2 nd ch from hook, * insert hook in ch, yo, pul, yo, draw through 1 loop (ch made) (see 1 st photo), yo, draw through 2 loops (sc made); rep from * inserting hook under 2 loops of ch made in previous fsc (see 2 nd photo) to begin new st	
BLsc	Back Loop Single Crochet Single crochet into Back Loop only	
dc	Double Crochet	
FLdc2d	Front Loop Double Crochet 2 down Treble into unused front loop of st 2 rows down	
dc3d	Double Crochet 3 down working in front of ch-sps, dc in skipped st 3 rows down	
SPdc3d	Spiked Double Crochet 3 down working over sts from previous 2 rows, dc in st 3 rows below next st	