

3rd Row: 1 dc into each dc, 1 ch, turn.

4th Row: 1 dc into each dc to within last 5 dc, 1 hlf tr into each of next 5 dc (base of neck), 1 ch, turn.

5th Row: 1 dc into each st, 1 ch, turn.

6th Row: 1 dc into each of first 2 dc, (insert hook into next dc and draw thread through) twice, thread over and draw through all loops on hook (a joint dc made), (1 dc into each of next 2 dc, a joint dc over next 2 dc) twice, 1 dc into each dc, 1 ch, turn.

7th Row: 1 dc into each st. Fasten off. Sew last row to foundation ch to form neck.

Sew neck neatly in position to body.

Beak

Using Orange commence with 8 ch.

1st Row: 1 dc into 2nd ch from hook, 1 dc into each of next 4 ch, (insert hook into next st and draw thread through) twice, thread over and draw through all loops on hook (a joint dc made), 1 ch, turn.

2nd and 3rd Row: Miss first joint dc, 1 dc into each dc to within last 2 dc, a joint dc over next 2 dc, 1 ch, turn.

4th Row: Miss first joint dc, 1 dc into next dc, 1 ch, cut thread leaving sufficient to sew beak to neck.

Sew row ends together to form beak shape. Sew in position to neck.

Using Black sew in eyes fastening off thread between beak and neck to form head feature as shown in illustration.

Make 5 more swans in same manner joining to alternate 7 dc groups on centre mat to correspond.

Edging

1st Row: With right side facing attach White to centre dc of any free 7 dc group on centre, 3 ch, 1 dbl tr into same place as join, * 9 ch, miss first 3 free sps on next swan, (1 dc into next sp, 5 ch) 7 times, a V st into sp of next V st, (5 ch, 1 dc into next sp) 7 times, 9 ch, leaving the last loop of each on hook work 2 dbl tr into centre dc of next free 7 dc group, thread over and draw through all loops on hook (a 2 dbl tr cluster made); repeat from * omitting a cluster at end of last repeat, 1 ss into first dbl tr.

2nd Row: 1 dc into same place as ss, * 9 ch, (1 dc into next 5 ch loop, 5 ch) 7 times, a V st into sp of next V st, (5 ch, 1 dc into next loop) 7 times, 9 ch, 1 dc into next cluster; repeat from * omitting 1 dc at end of last repeat, 1 ss into first dc.

3rd and 4th Rows: 1 dc into same place as ss, * 9 ch, (1 dc into next 5 ch loop, 5 ch) 7 times, a V st into sp of next V st, (5 ch, 1 dc into next loop) 7 times, 9 ch, miss 1 dc, 1 dc into next dc; repeat from * omitting 1 dc at end of last repeat, 1 ss into first dc.

5th Row: 1 dc into same place as ss, * 9 ch, (1 dc into next 5 ch loop, 6 ch, 1 ss into 4th ch from hook, 3 ch - a picot loop made) 7 times, into next loop work 1 dc a picot loop and 1 dc, (a picot loop, 1 dc into next loop) 7 times, 9 ch, miss 1 dc, 1 dc into next dc; repeat from * omitting 1 dc at end of last repeat, 1 ss into first dc. Fasten off.

Damp and pin out to measurements placing a small ball of cotton wool or tissue paper in each swan body to keep shape. Remove cotton wool or tissue paper when dry.

Laundering

Mercer-Crochet colours are fast dyed and are highly resistant to even the most severe washing treatments but these colours may be adversely affected when washed in certain commercial washing preparations which contain high levels of fluorescent brightening (whitening) agents. To maintain the true tones of Mercer-Crochet colours it is recommended that pure soap flakes type washing agents be used as these generally contain only low concentrations of fluorescent brightening (whitening) agents. Items should not be washed when work is still in progress. The assembled article should be washed on completion.

Make a warm lather of pure soap flakes and wash in the usual way, either by hand or washing machine. If desired, the article may be spin-dried until it is damp, or left until it is half dry. Place a piece of paper, either plain white or squared, on top of a clean, flat board. Following the correct measurements, draw the shape of the finished article on to the paper, using ruler and set square

Crochet Stitches

ch - chain

This is the foundation of crochet work. With yarn in position and the loop on the hook as shown in Fig. 1, pass the hook under the yarn in left hand and catch yarn with hook (Fig. 2), draw yarn through loop on hook, repeat this movement until chain is desired length.

ss - slip stitch

Insert hook into stitch to left of hook, catch yarn with hook and draw through stitch and loop on hook (Fig. 3).

dc - double crochet

Insert hook into stitch to left of hook, catch yarn with hook (Fig. 4), draw through stitch (2 loops on hook) (Fig. 5), yarn over hook and draw through 2 loops on hook (1 loop remains on hook) (Fig. 6).

hlf tr - half treble

Pass hook under yarn held in left hand (Fig. 7), insert hook into stitch to left of hook, yarn over hook and draw through stitch (3 loops on hook), yarn over hook (Fig. 8), draw yarn through all loops on hook (1 loop remains on hook) (Fig. 9).

tr - treble

Pass hook under the yarn of left hand (Fig. 10), insert hook into stitch to left of hook, yarn over hook and draw through stitch (3 loops on hook), yarn over hook (Fig. 11), and draw through 2 loops on hook, yarn over hook (Fig. 12), and draw through remaining 2 loops (1 loop remains on hook) (Fig. 13).

dbl tr - double treble

Pass hook under the yarn of left hand twice, insert hook into stitch to left of hook, yarn over hook and draw through stitch (4 loops on hook) (Fig. 14), yarn over hook and draw through 2 loops on hook, yarn over hook and draw through other 2 loops on hook, yarn over hook and draw through remaining 2 loops (1 loop remains on hook).

for squares and rectangles and a pair of compasses for circles. Using rustless pins, pin the work out to the pencilled shape, taking care not to strain the article. Pin out the general shape first, then finish by pinning each picot, loop or space into position. Special points to note carefully when pinning out are :-

(a) When pinning loops, make sure the pin is in the centre of each loop to form balanced lines.

(b) When pinning scallops, make all the scallops the same size and regularly curved.

(c) Pull out all picots.

(d) Where there are flowers, pull out each petal in position.

(e) When pinning filet crochet, make sure that the spaces and blocks are square and that all edges are even and straight.

If the work requires to be slightly stiffened, use a solution of starch - 1 dessertspoonful to ½ litre (1 pint) hot water, and dab lightly over the article. Raise the article up off the paper, to prevent it sticking as it dries. When dry, remove the pins and press the article lightly with a hot iron.

