

Valentine Hottie



Cuddle up and keep cozy this Valentine's day with a pretty cover for your warming hottie ...

★ Yarn:

Rico Creative Twist Super Chunky:

Yarn A: 2 x Azalea (008)

Available from [Black Sheep Wools](http://www.black-sheep-wools.com)

A few yards of two contrasting colour yarns:

Yarn B - Pale Pink

Yarn C - White

★ Hook:

10mm

7mm

★ You'll also need:

Yarn needle (blunt tip)

3 buttons approx 1.5cm diameter

2 stitch markers

Sewing needle and thread

★ Size:

35 x 22cm

★ Gauge:

8.5 stitches by 10 rows per 10cm over double crochet

★ Other Notes:

A full written pattern including pictures to help with construction and a tutorial for working cross stitch on crocheted fabric.

★ Abbreviations & Translations:

This pattern is written using UK crochet terms. (American terms in brackets)

RS - right side

st/s - stitch/s

ss - slip stitch

sp - space

ch - chain

yo - wrap yarn over hook

dc - double crochet (sc - single crochet)

2dc tog - work 2 double crochets together to make a decrease (2sc tog)

★ Special Stitches:

2dc tog

Insert hook, yo and pull through, insert hook in next st, yo and pull through, yo and pull through all 3 loops.

For more help with any stitches included in this pattern, please visit my tutorial site, Cherry Heart's Crochet Corner: www.cherryheartcrochet.co.uk

Hot Water Bottle Body

Worked in the round.

Using the 10mm crochet hook and Yarn A, chain 36 and then, taking care not to twist the chain, make a ss into the first chain to form a loop.

Round 1: 1ch, 1dc into each ch, ss to the top of the 1st dc to close the loop. *[36 stitches]*

Round 2: 1ch, 1dc in same st, 1dc into each st, ss to top of the 1st dc of the round.

Work another 20 rounds as per Round 2.

SHOULDER DECREASES:

Round 23: 1ch, 1dc in same st, 6dc, 2dc tog twice, 14dc, 2dc tog twice, 7dc, ss to top of the 1st dc of the round. *[32 stitches]*

Round 24: 1ch, 1dc in same st, 5dc, 2dc tog twice, 12dc, 2dc tog twice, 6dc, ss to top of the 1st dc of the round. *[28 stitches]*

Round 25: 1ch, 1dc in same st, 4dc, 2dc tog twice, 10dc, 2dc tog twice, 5dc, ss to top of the 1st dc of the round. *[24 stitches]*

BOTTLE NECK OPENING:

Round 26: 1ch, 1dc in same st, 1dc in each st, ss to top of the 1st dc of the round.

Round 27: 1ch, 1dc in same st, 4dc, (2dc in next st) twice, 10dc, (2dc in next st) twice, 5dc, ss to top of the 1st dc of the round. *[28 stitches]*

Round 28: 1cd, 1dc in same st, 1dc in each st, ss to top of the 1st dc of the round.

Work another 2 rounds as per Round 28, then break yarn.

Bottom Flap

Worked flat, turn work at the end of each row.

In order to work the bottom flap, we need to only crochet into half of the stitches which form the round. Hold the bottle body so that the shoulder decreases lay flat, with the neck opening at the bottom and the seam facing towards you. (The seam should be roughly in the centre of the back.)

Using stitch markers to mark the edge stitches, determine the 18 stitches which form the back half. Please see the pictures on page 3 to help you further. Join Yarn A to stitch marked by the first marker. The first row is worked into the back loops of the starting chain.

Row 1: 1ch, 1dc in same st, 17 dc. (The last dc should be worked into the stitch marked by the second marker.) *[18 stitches]*

Row 2: 1ch, 1 dc in same st, 17dc.

Row 3: As row 2

BUTTON HOLE ROW:

Row 4: 1ch, 1dc in same st, 2dc, (1ch, skip 1, 4dc) twice, 1ch, skip 1, 2dc, 2dc tog. *[17 stitches]*

Row 5: 1ch, 1dc in same st, 2dc, (1dc into ch sp, 4dc) twice, 1dc into ch sp, 1dc, 2dc tog. *[16 stitches]*

Row 6: 1ch, 1dc in **next** st, 1dc in each st to last 2 stitches, 2dc tog. *[14 stitches]*

Break yarn and weave in all the ends.

Edgings

The edgings are worked using a two strands of YARN C held together and with a 7mm hook.

TOP EDGE:

Join yarn to the back of the top edge of the bottle and work as follows:

Round 1: *ch2, ss into next st,* repeat from * to * around the top and finish with a ss into the base of the first stitch of the round.

Break yarn and weave in ends.

BOTTOM FLAP:

To work the flap edging you will need to work into the stitches at the sides of the flap, use the picture on page 3 as a guide.

With the back of the hot water bottle facing you, join the yarn to the right hand side of the flap and work as follows:

Round 1: *ch2, ss into next st,* repeat from * to * around the edge of the flap and finish where the flap meets the body of the cover.

Break yarn and weave in ends.

Cross Stitch

The heart pattern is stitched into place using your yarn needle and two strands of yarn held together. Use the cross stitch diagram on page 5 for the correct colour placement of stitches. You can also refer to the pictures on page 4 for more help on making cross stitches onto crochet fabric.

Finishing

Weave in any remaining ends. If you need to straighten out the cross stitch and to prevent the bottom flap curling you can also give the cover a light blocking.

NECK BOW:

With two strands of YARN B held together and the 7mm hook, chain 80 and then break the yarn and weave in the ends. Tie the chain around the neck of the hot water bottle and make a bow. You can sew a few stitches through the bow if required to keep it in place.

BUTTONS:

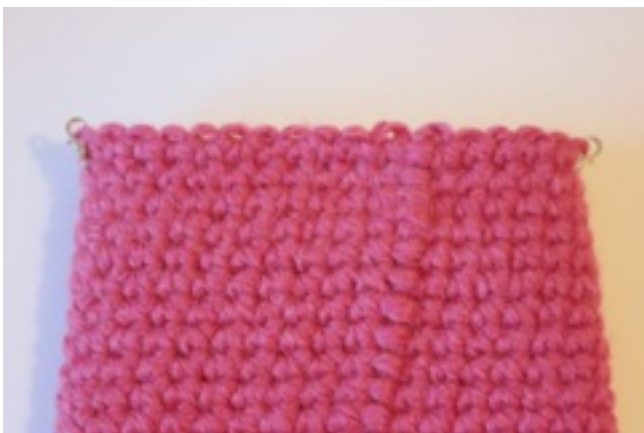
Fold up the bottom flap and line up the buttons with the button-holes. Sew the buttons into place using a needle and thread.

Bottom Flap Pictures

Placing Stitch Markers for Bottom Flap:



Lie the bottle cover out flat as shown.



Use the stitch markers to mark the edge most stitches that are facing you. Count the stitches to make sure that 18 stitches on the side facing you.

You should have a stitch marker in the 1st and 18th stitches.

This picture shows the markers in place from the other angle.

Bottom Flap Edging:



Use the picture above as a guide to working the edging row.

In order to get an even look along the side edges and corners you'll need to work roughly 1 slip stitch per row, but use your judgement and vary this slightly if you need to on the corners to make sure the stitches stay even.

Cross Stitch on Crochet



To work out where you want your design to go, it's a good idea to work out where the middle of the area you want to work on is and then count out how many stitches you'll need either side of this. You can also place a few pins to help you remember where the edges are.

This will help you correctly place the stitches as you work the cross stitch pattern.



To make the stitches, you need to use the holes between the double crochets to thread the yarn through. If you look at the fabric of the crochet, you'll see all these little holes make a sort of grid, which you can use to work out where each stitch will go.

I've highlighted a few of the holes on the picture above so you can see the grid clearly.



Because the crochet fabric is worked in the round, the stitches slant slightly so it's best to make the right leaning part of the cross first, as shown above. A blunt needle is best for this as it won't snag the fabric of the cover.



Then complete the cross by working the left leaning part. Carry on working in this way until all the stitches have been made as per the diagram, then turn the cover inside out to weave in the ends.



The completed cross stitch design.

Cross Stitch Diagram

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 12 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | | | X | X | X | | X | X | X | | | | | | |
| 10 | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | | | |
| 9 | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | | | |
| 8 | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | | | |
| 7 | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | X | X | X | X | X | | | X | | X | | |
| 5 | | | | | X | X | X | | | X | X | X | X | X | |
| 4 | | | | | | X | | | | X | X | X | X | X | |
| 3 | | | | | | | | | | X | X | X | | | |
| 2 | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | |
| 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |

Key

X Yarn B

X Yarn C

X Middle stitch