
Macaron Pin Cushion

(Overlay Crochet Pattern)

An original
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What you'll need

Leftovers of yarn in three colors: pink, beige and white. But you can use any colors you like!

I used yarn “**Charme**” by **Circulo** (150g/5.28oz., 396m/433yds.)

and

“**Catania**” by **Schachenmayr** (50g/1.76 oz., 125 m/137 yds.)

Yarn weight: Sport
Texture: 5 ply (12 wpi)

Crochet hook 2.5 mm (B) or size needed to get acceptable gauge.

Scissors, tapestry needle to weave in ends, stuffing.

Finished size

This pattern is written for one size. The size of the finished pin cushion depends on the yarn and hook you use. My cushion is approx. 6 cm (2 1/2 inches) large across and 2.5 cm (1 inch) high.



Introduction

I called this pin cushion “Macaron” as its shape reminds me of colorful French sweets. This cushion consists of two shells joined together with a round of single crochet stitches. You can make both shells similar or you can play with your colors and make them totally different, or you may also place chosen colors in another order.

Abbreviations

rnd	round
st(s)	stitch(es)
slst	slip stitch
ch	chain
sc	single crochet
dc	double crochet
hdc	half double crochet
dc3tog	double crochet 3 together
tr	treble crochet
inc	increase
yo	yarn over
lp(s)	loop(s)
FL	front loop(s)
BL	back loop(s)
NJ	needle join
sk	skip st(s)
...	*crochet following directions* as many times as indicated

Stitch guide

slst – insert hook in indicated st, yo, draw yarn up and pull 2nd lp through the 1st lp on hook.

sc – insert hook in indicated stitch, yo, draw up a lp, yo and pull through both lps on hook.

hdc – yo, insert hook in indicated st, yo, draw up a lp, yo, pull through 3 lps.

dc – yo, insert hook in indicated st, yo, draw up a lp, *yo, pull through 2 lps* twice.

dc3tog– *yo, insert hook in indicated st, yo, draw up a lp, yo, pull through 2 lps* 3 times all in same st, yo, pull through all 4 lps on hook.

sc inc – crochet two sc in the same st: *insert hook in indicated stitch, yo, draw up a lp, yo and pull through both lps on hook* twice.

hdc inc – crochet two hdc in the same st: * yo, insert hook in indicated st, yo, draw up a lp, yo, pull through 3 lps* twice.

Important notes

1. **Reading the pattern.** This pattern uses the overlay crochet technique. The whole idea of overlay crochet is to create a base, a background with simple stitches (single crochet stitches are generally used), and add long, complex stitches above. The only important thing about overlay crochet is that the stitches of the background are always crocheted in back loops only (unless otherwise stated in the pattern) while the overlay stitches are added (“anchored”) in the front loops of stitches of underlying rounds/rows.

This pattern contains written instructions and a lot of pictures showing where the new yarn should be attached and to which sts the overlay stitches should be added (these sts (front loops) are marked by arrows). I would strongly recommend using both kinds of instructions. It will be easier to read and understand the written instructions after looking at the pictures.

2. **Attaching new yarn.** This pin cushion is crocheted in rounds with color changes on every round (unless otherwise is stated in the pattern). To avoid unstable knots and follow the stitch count it is very important to understand how new yarn should be attached. It is attached by simply pulling a loop of new color in the indicated st and making a ch, which will count as the first sc of the round (unless otherwise stated in the pattern).
3. **Crochet in back loops.** As mentioned the stitches (sc) of the background are always crocheted in back loops only (unless otherwise stated in the pattern) while the overlay long stitches are added (“anchored”) in the front loops of sts of previous rounds. If you crochet the background sts through the FL you won't be able to place long stitches.
4. **Finishing rounds (NJ).** The rounds are finished with a needle join (NJ) in the first st of the round (unless otherwise stated in the pattern). I use a hook instead of a needle to join, it saves a lot of time. (I also use a hook to weave in all yarn tails).
 - a. Fasten yarn off leaving a long tail approx. 5 cm (2 inches). Insert hook under “V” (both loops) of the indicated st from the back to front, yo the yarn tail and pull it through lps. (Pic. 1)
 - b. Insert hook under BL of the last stitch of the last rnd from back to front, yo the yarn tail and pull it through BL. (Pic. 2)

If you use this technique, you give the chain stitch at the beginning of the round its BL and FL. (Pic. 3) Weave in the end and clip it close to the surface of

the piece. Please, check this tutorial on how to make NJ with a hook and weave yarn tails “as you go” <http://lillabjorncrochet.blogspot.cz/2015/01/how-do-you-join-and-weave-ends-in.html>



Pic. 1

Pic. 2

Pic. 3

5. **Gauge.** Overlay stitches are used to crochet this pin cushion, that's why it is very important to have their gauge under control: they should be neither too loose nor too tight, because this will lead to a deformation of the mandala's shape. The right tensioned overlay stitches should be made to the height of the working round.
6. **Skipping sts.** Overlay stitches “hide” the stitches of background and this is the reason, why sc of the working round should be skipped. But please note that the number of overlay stitches is NOT always the same as the number of skipped sts. It helps to increase the quantity of sts on each round without making increases. You should be very careful while following the instructions. A stitch count is included at the end of instructions for every round to help you avoid mistakes.
7. **Inserting hook.** It might be tricky to understand how the hook should be inserted while adding (“anchoring”) overlay stitches. If the overlay stitch is anchored in the front loop of the st of some underlying rnd, then the hook is inserted from bottom to top. (Pic. 4-6)



Pic. 4

Pic. 5

Pic. 6

8. **Crochet on right side.** This pattern is written for right-handed people and all rounds are worked on the right side.

TIP

- If you choose to crochet this pin cushion in different colors than offered in this pattern, you will find it easier if you make a color key before you start to work, and mark your own colors on every round in the pattern.
- Please, also check my blog where all the basics of Overlay Crochet are explained <http://lillabjorncrochet.blogspot.cz/p/overlay-crochet.html>

Color Key: C1 – Beige, C2 – pink, C3 – White.

Instructions

Rnd 1. Start with yarn C1.

Make a magic ring, ch1 and 8 sc in magic ring, finish with a sl st in the 1st st after ch1; don't fasten off. (= 8 sts)



Pic. 7 Make a ring, yo through ring



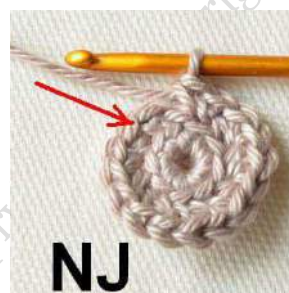
Pic. 8 Draw up a lp, ch1



Pic. 9 Make 8 sc in magic ring, sl st in the 1st sc of the rnd.

Rnd 2. Continue with yarn C1. Work this rnd in BL.

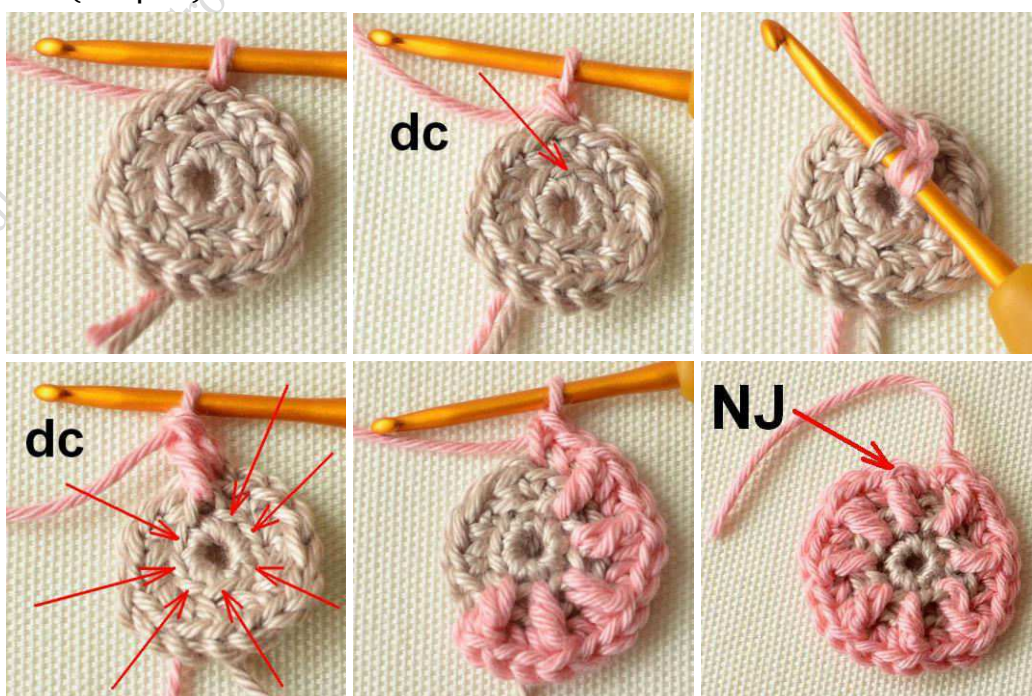
ch 1 (doesn't count as sc), *1 sc inc in next st of rnd 1* 8 times, NJ in the 2nd sc of the rnd after ch1. (= 16 sts)



Rnd 3. Change to yarn C2. Attach yarn in the 1st sc of any inc (BL) of rnd 2. Work this rnd in BL!

Note: don't work dc's neither too tight nor loose. They should be made to the height of the working round.

1 sc (the 1st sc of the rnd will be a ch), 1 dc (FL) in the directly underlying st of rnd 1, sk no sts on rnd 2, 1 sc 8 times, NJ in the 1st dc of the rnd after ch1. (= 24 sts)



Rnd 4. *Change to yarn C3. Attach yarn in any dc (BL) of rnd 3. Work this rnd in BL!*

Note: increases are made in dc's of rnd 3.

1 hdc inc (the 1st hdc of the rnd will be ch2), 2 hdc 8 times, NJ in the 1st hdc of the rnd after ch2. (= 32 sts)



Rnd 5. *Change to yarn C1. Attach yarn in 1st hdc (through both lps) after any hdc inc of rnd 4. Work this rnd through both lps!*

3 sc (the 1st sc of the rnd will be a ch), 1 dc3tog (FL) in the underlying dc of rnd 3, sk no sts on rnd 4, 1 sc 8 times, NJ in the 1st sc of the rnd after ch1. (= 40 sts)



Rnd 6. *Change to yarn C2. Attach yarn in any st (BL) of rnd 5. Work this rnd in BL!*

40 sc (the 1st sc of the rnd will be a ch). NJ in the 1st sc of the rnd after ch1.

Rnd 7. *Change to yarn C3. Attach yarn in any st (BL) of rnd 6. Work this rnd in BL!*

40 hdc (the 1st hdc of the rnd will be ch2). NJ in the 1st hdc of the rnd after ch2.

Rnd 8. *Change to yarn C1. Attach yarn in any st (BL) of rnd 7.
Work this rnd in BL!*

40 sc (the 1st sc of the rnd will be a ch). NJ in the 1st sc of the rnd after ch1.



The first “cup” for your Macaron Pin Cushion is now finished. Crochet another one following the instructions. You can make it exactly as the first one. Or you can play with your colors and place the chosen colors in another order.

For example: **Rnds. 1, 2, 5, 8 – C2. Rnds. 3, 6 – C3. Rnds. 4, 7 – C1**

Putting Macaron Pin Cushion together

You will put your Macaron Pin Cushion together with sc inserting the hook in BL on the last rnd of both cups. I used yarn C3 to join.

To start joining place both cups to form a “macaron”. Insert a hook in BL of any st of last rnd of both cups, pull up yarn and make a ch which will count as 1st sc of the round. Make 30 sc around. Stuff the cushion (not very firmly as the shape should be like “macaron” and not a ball). Make 9 more sc. Then make NJ in the 1st sc of the rnd after ch1, fasten two yarn tails with a knot and pull them inside the cushion.



Congratulations! Your Macaron Pin Cushion is now finished!