



## Happy December 1<sup>st</sup>! Let's get making!

We are kicking the month off with this striking yet surprisingly easy stitch pattern that uses simple half double crochet stitches worked in the third loop.

### Special Stitches:

**Half Double Crochet 2 Together (HDC2TOG)** - To begin, YO, then insert your hook into the indicated stitch or space. YO and pull up a loop. Immediately insert your hook into the next stitch or space and YO. You should have 4 loops on your hook. YO and pull through all 4 loops.

### Pattern Instructions:

This pattern is worked in continuous rounds so the use of a stitch marker is vital. If not stated in each round, you should place your stitch marker (PM) after making the first stitch of the round.

**Round 1** - Start with a MR, and CH1. Into the MR, make 7 HDC. DO NOT JOIN (7 HDC)

**Round 2** - HDC in the first stitch of the round (PM). Make one more HDC in that same stitch and then make 2 HDC in each stitch all the way around. DO NOT JOIN (14 HDC)

From this point on work into the 3<sup>rd</sup> loop of your HDC stitches. To find the 3<sup>rd</sup> loop, rotate your work toward you so you can see the back of the stitch. The 3<sup>rd</sup> loop is located below the back loop of your stitch, and runs parallel to it.

**Round 3** - \*Make 1 HDC into the 3<sup>rd</sup> loop of the first stitch (PM), and 2 HDC into the next stitch of the round. Repeat from \* all the way around. DO NOT JOIN (21 HDC)

**Round 4** - \*Make one HDC in each of the first 2 stitches, and 2 HDC in the next stitch. Repeat from \* all the way around making sure to replace your stitch marker after you make your first HDC of the round. DO NOT JOIN (28 HDC)

**Rounds 5** - \*Make one HDC in each of the first 3 stitches, and 2 HDC in the next stitch. Repeat from \* all the way around making sure to replace your stitch marker after you make your first HDC of the round. DO NOT JOIN (35 HDC)

**Rounds 6 - 10** - Place one HDC into the 3<sup>rd</sup> loop of every stitch of the round (35 HDC). Be sure to replace your stitch marker into the first stitch of each round, and DO NOT JOIN.

At this point, take the time to tighten the magic ring and sew in that tail. It doesn't have to be 100% invisible as it will be on the inside of your bauble. Just make sure it is secure and won't open back up later.

**Round 11** - Start of the decreasing rounds. Still working in the 3<sup>rd</sup> loop, \*HDC2TOG (see special stitches) over the first 2 stitches (PM), HDC into each of the next 3 stitches. Repeat from \* to the end of the round (28). DO NOT JOIN.

**\*\* INSERT YOUR BAUBLE \*\*** - we will be working around the bauble as we close. Remove the metal top to make it easier to work around the ball.

**Round 12** - Still working in the 3<sup>rd</sup> loop, \*HDC2TOG over the first 2 stitches (PM), HDC into each of the next 2 stitches. Repeat from \* to the end of the round (21). DO NOT JOIN.

**Round 13** - Still working in the 3<sup>rd</sup> loop, HDC in the first stitch then \*HDC2TOG over the next 2 stitches. Repeat from \* all the way around (11). At the end of the round, cut a long tail, pull it out through your stitch. With your yarn needle, weave your tail through the tops of the stitches and pull tight to close. Weave in the end to secure. FO

**Finishing** - Replace the metal top of your bauble and decorate as you desire with ribbon, moss or greenery.