

Blue Tit Cushion Crochet Version

Tips & Tricks



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Blue Tit Cushion

Crochet Version - Tips & Tricks



By Liz Barraclough

This document contains important information on techniques used in the crochet version of the Blue Tit Cushion. Read carefully before beginning this project.

MATERIALS

Scheepjes Scrumptious (50% Recycled Polyester (Recycled Plastic Bottles), 50% Acrylic; 100g/300m)

Yarn A 343 French Blue Macaron x 3 balls

Scheepjes Cahlista (100% Natural Cotton; 15g/26m)

Yarn B 164 Light Navy x 1 ball

Yarn C 406 Soft Beige x 1 ball

Yarn D 512 Lime x 1 ball

Yarn E 280 Lemon x 1 ball

Yarn F 100 Lemon Chiffon x 1 ball

Yarn G 106 Snow White x 1 ball

Yarn H 244 Spruce x 1 ball

Yarn I 528 Silver Blue x 1 ball

Yarn J 124 Ultramarine x 1 ball

Yarn K 201 Electric Blue x 1 ball

Yarn L 511 Cornflower x 1 ball

45 x 45cm cushion pad

2.5mm and 4mm crochet hooks

Stitch marker

Tapestry needle

MEASUREMENTS

45 x 45cm

GAUGE/TENSION

21 sts and 26 rows to measure 10 x 10cm over dc using 4mm hook, after blocking.

Use this information to make a gauge swatch.

TIPS & SPECIAL TECHNIQUES

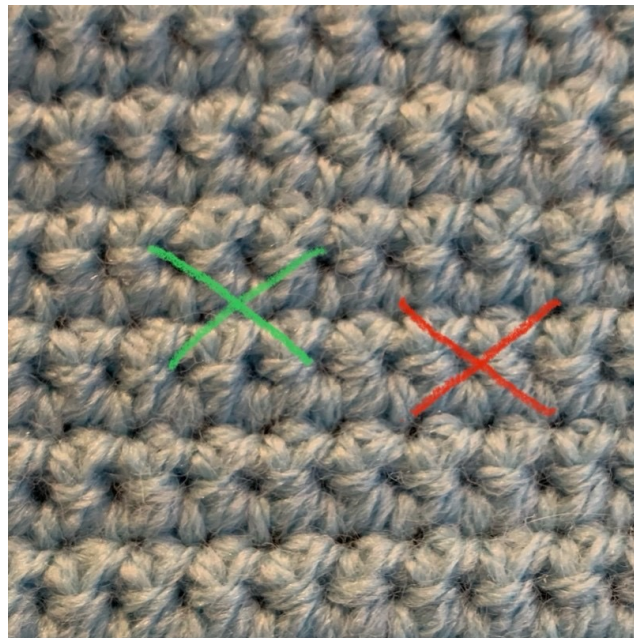
Carefully check stitch counts

When crocheting the Cushion Front, check for errors regularly, such as a missed stitch or two stitches made into one dc, and correct. It is important that the dc stitches lie directly above each other to create a base fabric with an even grid to cross stitch onto.

Placement of cross stitches

Cross stitches are made over two stitches and two rows. There are two possible ways to do this; one will give slightly neater results than the other.

Compare the red and green crosses. At each corner of the red cross there is a vertical bar. Look closely at the top right corner. There are two possible holes your needle could find, either side of the vertical bar. Now look at the corners of the green cross; there is only one hole for your needle to find between the more pronounced horizontal bars of the crochet. The holes are larger and easier to identify, so for the neatest, most consistent stitches, green is the preferred way!



Working cross stitches

Cross stitches can be worked individually (work a complete stitch) or in rows (work one half of the cross stitch for several consecutive stitches in a straight row, then the second half of the cross stitch back in the opposite direction to complete the stitches).

Before working an area of stitches in the same colour, plan the direction of stitches to be worked to avoid carrying yarn over too many stitches at the back of your work. Aim for no more than 4 stitches at once, taking care not to pierce through the Scrumptious yarn as you work.

You may find working the cross sts easier with the fabric supported, particularly when stitching the central area. A foam blocking board approx. 35 x 35cm enables you to pin the top of the fabric to it and lean the board on a table as you stitch. An embroidery hoop may also work, depending on the size and style of hoop; the Cushion pieces may be too thick to be clasped into some hoops.

Yarn ends

Put any trimmed ends of Cahlista to the side to keep as shorter lengths to use when working small groups of cross stitches.

Cahlista yarn tails are not woven in. It is important to follow the method of knotting the strands together described in the pattern. As well as saving time, it uses the yarn efficiently and keeps everything tidy to avoid tangles. You won't be able to see or feel the knots when the cushion is made up.





Correcting misplaced cross stitches

Should you need to correct a recent misplaced stitch or stitches, and are still using the working yarn, do not attempt to unstash back to the mistake. Instead, unthread the tapestry needle and use the blunt end to place under the strand of the last stitch worked at the front of the work. Gently lift the yarn until the tail emerges, taking care not to catch the strands of the base fabric. Repeat at the back of the work and continue working your way back until the misplaced stitch is removed. Re-thread the needle and continue if the yarn is in good condition. Otherwise cut a fresh strand.

Should you need to correct a misplaced stitch or stitches in an area already fastened off, use a small sharp pair of scissors to carefully snip the yarn at the knot and work your way back until the misplaced stitch is removed. Secure the ends, taking out further stitches if you need more length to knot around the strand. Cut a fresh strand of yarn to continue.

