



Mosaic Sampler Afghan CAL

designed by Moira Douglas of daisyknots



Welcome to the Mosaic Sampler CAL which is worked in mosaic crochet.

Introduction to the Mosaic Sampler CAL

When I first saw mosaic crochet I was immediately struck by how dense the fabric was and how it resembled more of a chunky knit or woven fabric. After creating a sample of the wonderful apache tears and realizing how easy and rewarding it was to work, I was hooked. So much so that I challenged myself to create my own patterns and the Mosaic Sampler CAL was born.

The name comes from the embroidery samplers that Victorian ladies used to make. When I was designing the different patterns, and fitting them together I did feel a bit like those ladies of yesteryear, but instead of using a needle and thread I was using a hook and yarn and just like in their samplers not all the patterns worked, a couple of them had to be taken back and reworked.

I gave myself a 12 stitch and 12 row grid to work with when designing the patterns and I used Drops Alaska which is a wool yarn as I like the way that wool felts naturally with wear over time. As the patterns are designed in a 12 x 12 grid it is very easy to make the blanket larger, just make sure you extend in multiples of 12.

I wanted my afghan to have a light, contemporary feel, so I chose to use an off white colour as the base with contrasting colours of two dark, three medium and one colour that would pop, giving me a total of seven colours. Patterns one, three, five and seven use all seven colours and patterns two, four and six use only three colours alongside the base white. You can choose to use my colour scheme or create your own one as each pattern has two charts, one which is the same colour way as my afghan and one which is in black and white and into which you can insert your own colour way by using paints or felt pens.

Pattern Information

This sampler afghan is crocheted using the mosaic technique, with the instructions for this CAL being mostly in chart form with any extra information required included in a key below the chart. If you are unsure how to crochet using this technique you can find a short [video](#) on daisyknots YouTube channel. All crochet terms and measurements are UK ones.

- UK Double Crochet is US Single Crochet
- UK Treble Crochet is US Double Crochet

The patterned section of the blanket is 103 cm x 150 cm (40.5 inches x 59 inches) and is made up of seven sections. Each section has a different pattern which will allow for lots of practice in reading charts and working the mosaic technique.

- The pattern consists of charts and an associated KEY which gives the instructions on how to create the stitches required.
- Always start on the front of the blanket and work from right to left. (Or left to right if you are left handed.)
- The ends at each side will be trapped in an envelope border that goes around the afghan, so no sewing in of ends is required, unless you choose to not crochet the envelope border.

The Border

The border is also done in mosaic crochet and is made up of three patterns. You can choose to stop after pattern one, pattern two or crochet all three patterns. I have separated out the yarn amounts required for each border section.

If you do not want to add the patterned mosaic crochet border you can add a plain border using double crochet stitches into the back loop.

The border is also crocheted as an envelope border so that all the ends can be trapped. An envelope border is where you crochet up from the back of the afghan (this is done in treble crochet) as well as the front and you join the front and back borders together with slip stitches. An envelope border also gives a lovely weight to the afghan, however it does use a lot of yarn, but do remember if you choose to do the front border only, you will have all the ends to weave in.

The Chart Patterns

You will always be given two chart patterns, one in my colour way and one as a black and white chart. The black and white chart allows for you to substitute a different colour way from mine. The patterns are organised in the afghan where the odd pattern numbers use all 7 colours and the even pattern numbers use only four of the colours.

- The chart is read from right to left.
- Each line on the chart represents a row and you can see the colour of the row at the beginning and end of each line.
- Each square represents a double crochet stitch into the back loop, unless it has a X in it, then it represents a treble crochet stitch into the front loop two rows below.

Materials and Equipment

You will need a 5 mm crochet hook for the main pattern, a 4.5 mm for the back border and a 5.5 mm hook for the slip stitch border row.

You require seven colours of yarn, one for the main background colour and then six contrasting colours. I used drops Alaska which is Aran (worsted weight) and 1 ball is 50g which is equal to 70 meters. Therefore if you are going to do the full envelope border with all 3 sections you will require 78 x 50g balls of yarn or 5460 meters of yarn.

Yarn is Drops ALASKA Colours I used are:	Colour code in chart	Patterns 1 - 7 require	Border Pattern 1+2+3	Border Pattern 1+ 2	Border Pattern 1
(02) Off White	A	20	17	12	6
(62) Fog Mix	B	4	6	3	3
(61) Wheat	C	3			
(58) Mustard	D	4	7	5	2
(50) Dark Brown Mix	E	3			
(49) Light Brown Mix	F	3			
(05) Dark Grey Mix	G	4	7	5	3
Total amount of balls required		41	37	25	14

Gauge

Using a 5 mm hook, a 10 cm (4 inches) by 10 cm (4 inches) swatch is 18 stitches by 17 rows.

Getting started with the cast on and first row:

- Using a no 5 mm crochet hook, chain 183 stitches in colour A. 180 stitches are for the patterned section (15 repeats of the pattern) and there is a stitch at each end for the first and last border stitches (instructions on how to do these are on the charts) and the last chain stitch is the turning stitch for the first row. If you require a larger blanket make sure you add the stitches in multiples of 12 as this is the pattern repeat.
- Double crochet into the second chain. Double crochet into the next 181 stitches. Finish off colour A. You should now have 182 stitches.

PLEASE NOTE:

It is extremely important that you finish this first row with 182 stitches as your mosaic pattern will not work otherwise. You can find a [tutorial](#) explaining how to work the cast on and first row on daisyknots YouTube channel.

You are now ready to start Pattern one at row 2 with colour E.

Pattern one will be available to download from Wednesday 28th August from www.daisyknots.co.uk and if you are looking for colour inspiration, you can see all the different colourways that the wonderful testers used to make their mosaic samplers in the [CAL gallery](#).

Thank you

And a massive thank you to the following people who have inspired this design and helped make this CAL possible.

Kirstie of @stinkysewnsew for introducing me to mosaic crochet. Kirstie was working on the gorgeous Havana CAL and kept insisting that I would love this type of crochet and she was absolutely correct, I haven't stopped working on mosaic crochet or writing patterns since.

The talented textile designer Tinna Þórudóttir Þorvaldar for having the vision to reintroduce mosaic crochet back into the crochet community and also for designing the Havana CAL which inspired me to create my own charts and patterns.

All the testers from the CAL - Crochet A Long facebook group who have done a fabulous job testing my pattern and I will never forget how thrilling it was when I saw those first pictures with my design worked up in different colour ways.

Silvana and Laurene from the CAL - Crochet A Long facebook group for making this CAL a reality, it would not have happened without their enthusiasm and vast knowledge of organising test groups and running CALS.

Finally...

One of the things that I love most about mosaic crochet is that it only uses two stitches which makes this type of crochet accessible to everyone regardless of their skill level. So, whether you are an old hand at crochet or a newbie welcome to the Mosaic Sampler CAL and enjoy.

I'm so excited to share this pattern with you, please do share your progress with me. Tag @daisyknots and #mosaicsamplercal if posting on Instagram or join us in the CAL - Crochet A Long facebook group or the event page on facebook.

Have Fun.

Moirá x