Classic Crochet Motifs:

The Simple, One-Color Granny Square

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The granny square is the most iconic motif in crochet. Even people who don't know crochet often know that the granny square is a crochet classic. This simple motif is easy to learn. Once you learn it, you can use the granny square to make everything from simple coasters to elaborate afghans.

Classic granny square pattern

While there are beautiful variations on the classic granny square, every crocheter will come back to the simple pattern over and over again.

You can crochet a granny square using any type of yarn and any size crochet hook. In this example, I've used a basic worsted weight yarn and size H/8 5mm crochet hook.

ROUND ONE:
Chain 3.

Dc into the first chain.

Dc again into the first chain. You now have a cluster of three dc because the first chain three counts as the first dc.

Chain 2; this creates the space that will become your first corner.

3 dc into the same chain spot. Ch 2 to make your next corner. Repeat that previous step twice more.

Slip stitch into the top chain of the first "chain three" to close the round. Your smallest center square is now complete.

ROUND 2:

To begin the next round, you will chain three. This counts as the first dc of the round.

Make 2 dc into the same corner as the ch 3.

In the following corner: 3 dc, 2 ch, 3 dc. This makes the new corner.

Repeat this in the next corner.

In the final corner, you will make 3 dc, chain two and then slip stitch to the top of the first chain in the first "chain three" to close the round.

ROUND 3:

Your next round begins in the same manner as round two. Chain three and then 2 dc into the same corner.

You will see that the next space is not a corner but just a space. Make 3 dc in this space.

Your next space is the corner, so you will make 3 dc, 2 ch, 3 dc into the corner. Repeat the previous two steps around the square. When you get to the final space, make 3 dc, ch 2 and sl st to the top of the first chain three to close the round.

ROUND 4:

Round four is similar to round three except that you are now working with a larger square so there will be two chain spaces in each row between each corner.

You can continue increasing the size of your granny square to make it as large as you would like. Simply work 3 dc, 2 ch, 3 dc in each corner and 3 dc in each space, joining at the end of each row and beginning the new round with a ch 3 for the first dc stitch. The classic crochet granny square is generally considered to be a five round granny square.

A multi-color granny square pattern

Now you know how to crochet a classic granny square in a single color. However, many people want to make those beautiful multi-color crochet granny squares that are featured in such a variety of projects in books and around the web. Here's all that you need to do differently from the instructions above:

- At the end of each round, complete your slip stitch to finish off that round as if you were finishing off any crochet project. Cut the tail and leave the end to weave in later.

- Join your next color into any corner of your crochet granny square. Begin with a chain three for your first double crochet of the corner and proceed as normal.

- You may wish to change colors every round, alternate colors from one round to the next or work a few rounds in each color before ending off and beginning a new color.

Alternatively, of course, you could use variegated yarn to achieve a different style of colorwork for your crochet granny squares.