

Website Implementation

Luk Hauser - 47439070

Overview

Crochet Cache provides solutions to features often lacking from other crochet pattern repositories. By presenting a unified layout and styling to users eases the burden of poorly designed PDFs and website ill-fit for patterns. Mitigating the barriers to the hobby for beginner crocheters, providing step-by-step instructions with a clutter free experience.

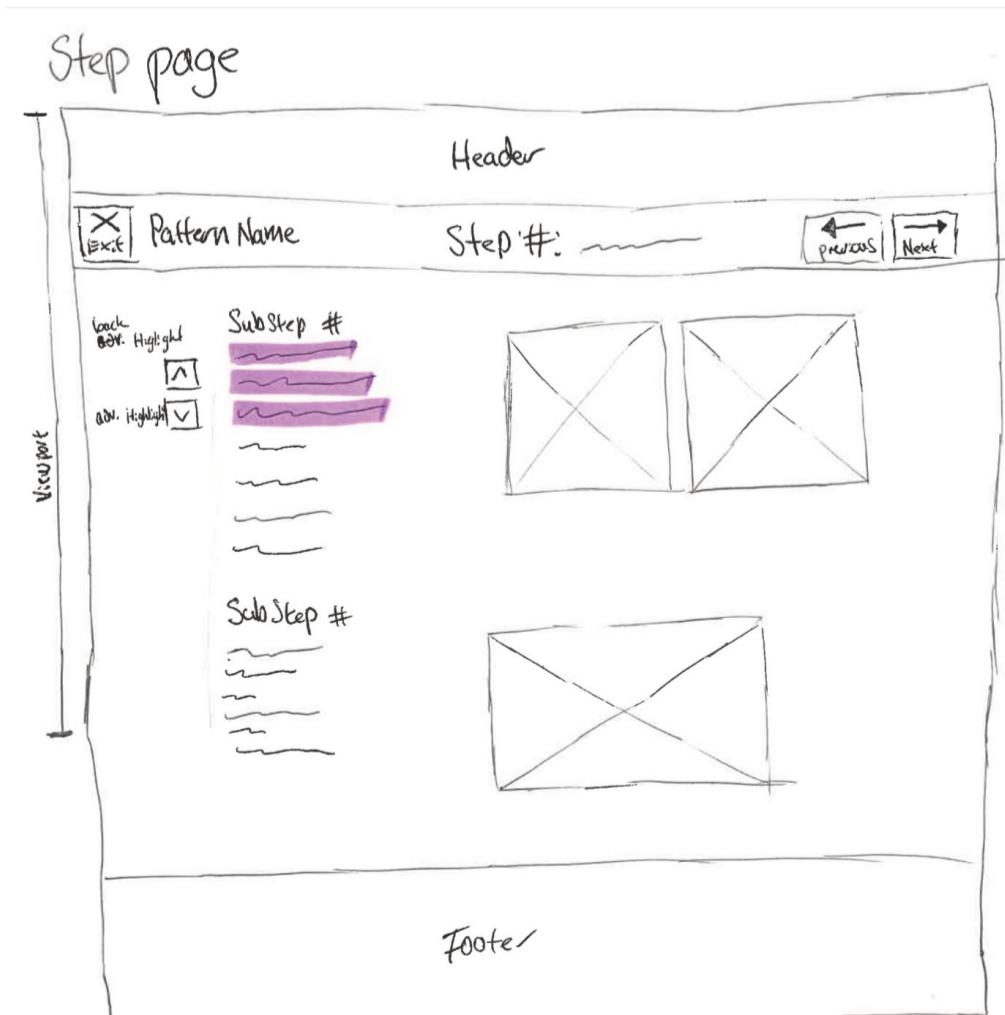
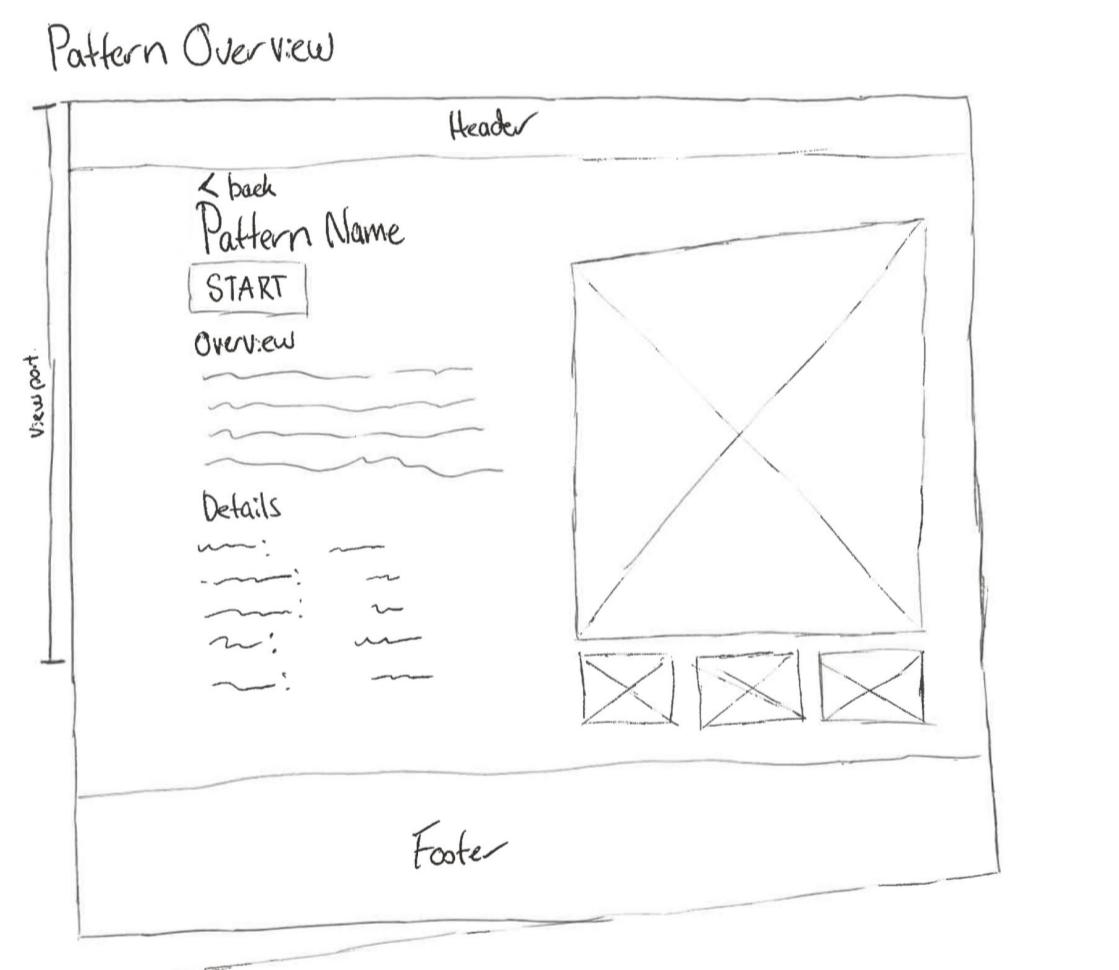
Allowing users to store their yarn and search for patterns further invites users to participate in their hobby. The experience of crocheting is then make less burdensome by solving the problem of marking progress. No longer are stitch markers and highlighted printouts to keep track of one line of instruction among a dozen necessary, *Crochet Cache* has a highlight progress control which is advanced (or retracted) as the user wishes - with progress being saved in browser storage for later retrieval. The whole site is responsive so tablets and mobile phones may be used in bed, and a dark mode lessens eyestrain during late-night crochet sessions.

Target Audience

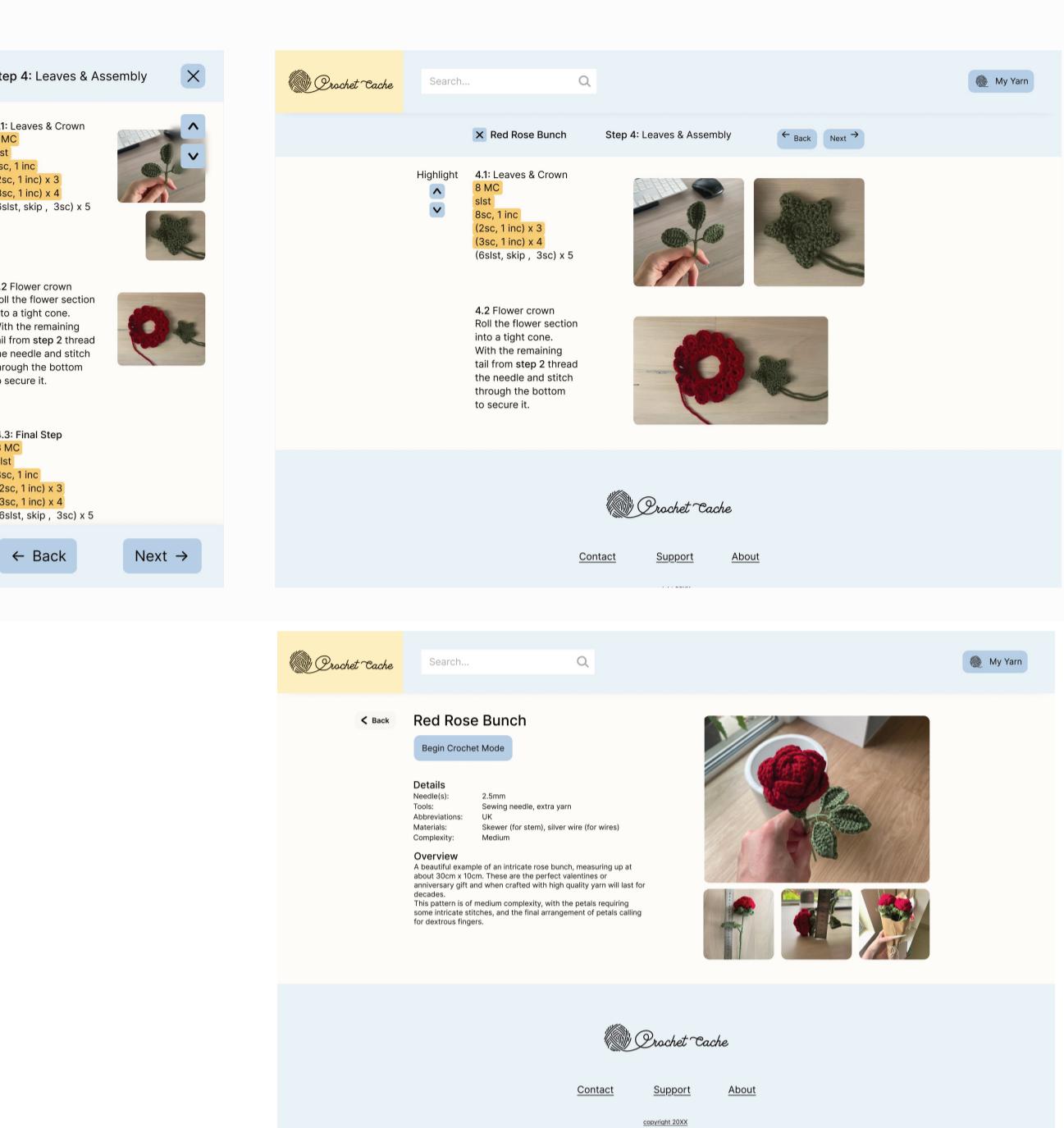
The site was designed with older generation Z and millennials in mind, those who have only recently taken up the hobby and those who have partaken for years. They are those who will seek out digital alternatives themselves and appreciate the more minimal and clutter free experience seldom provided on other websites.

The older generation may also benefit from the website too. More frequently are they being introduced to phones, or more likely, tablets and thereby digitally emulate their hobbies. Being a website, the instructions can be easily zoomed enlarged, fonts changed through the browser, and contrast increased for improved legibility. Catering to those who may have poorer eyesight.

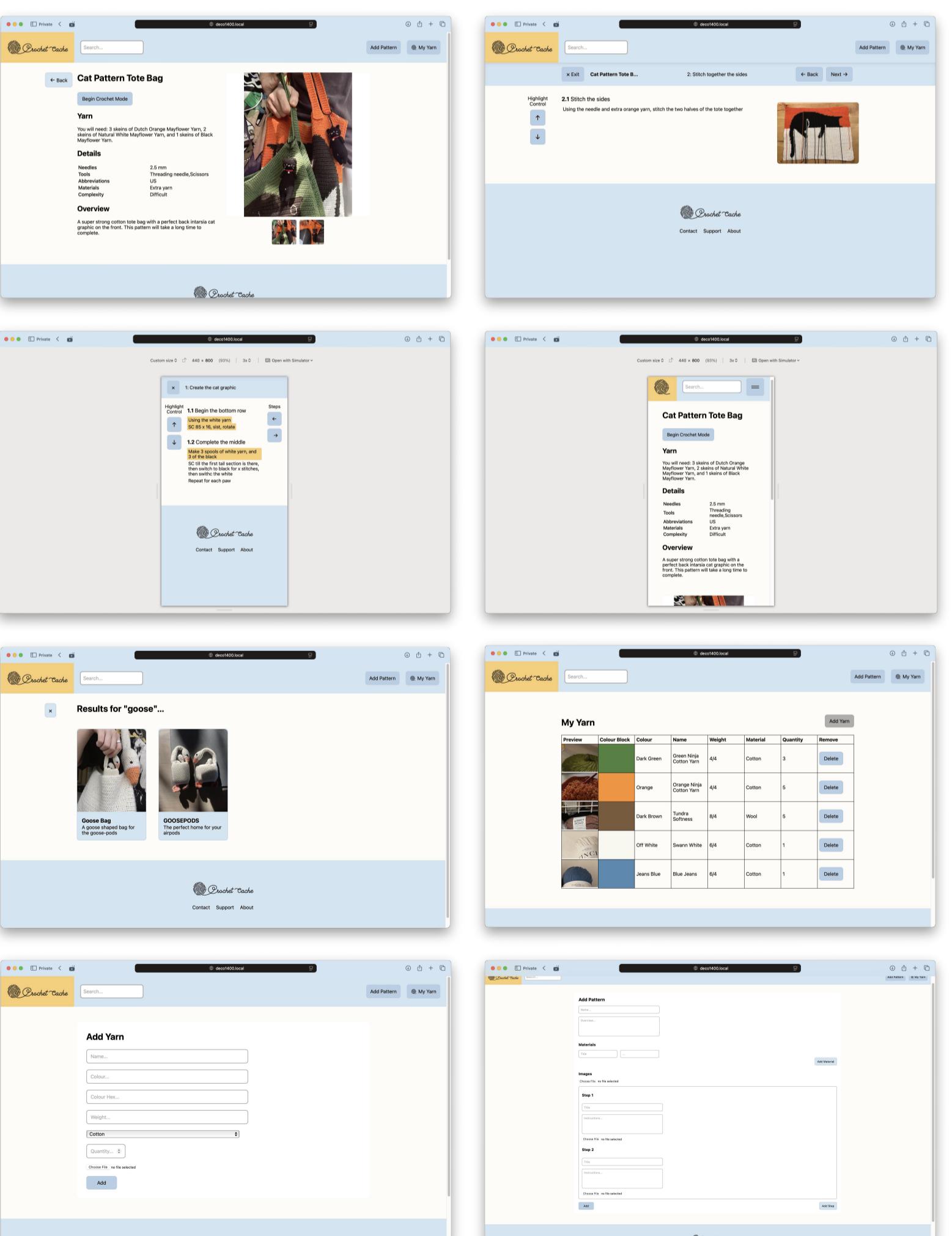
Low Fidelity Prototype



High Fidelity Prototype



Website Screenshots



Lessons Learned

Chief among the lessons learned was underestimating the time that styling can take, since spacing, font sizes, and colours that look good in high fidelity prototypes may not translate directly to implementation. With this in mind, the colour palette needed to be altered since the 'light blue' was almost white in reality and the site lacked contrast. A second colour palette was also required for the dark mode.

Another is failing to designate the requisite time to implement technically advanced features like matching patterns a user *could* crochet with the yarn that is in their catalogue. This requires a more sophisticated approach as it goes beyond simply matching exactly the amount of yarn x to yarn x. You don't want to know ~exactly~ what you can crochet but what you almost can, if you don't have exactly the right shade of brown doesn't mean you can't crochet the capybara - you could use red. Such fuzzy searching and looseness required data structures and handling too complex for my knowledge of JS.

Throughout this implementation process, I have gained a renewed appreciation for flexbox and the wealth of simple positioning options it provides. Nonetheless, though I had attempted to rely more on HTML structure to achieve the desired layout, I often had to resort to using flexbox, which may come at the expense of page performance.

Over the course of the implementation, there were features that were changed and altered. For example, delta buttons were added to each row of the yarn catalogue rather than checkboxes and a single delete button - to reduce accidental deletions. When adding yarn, quantity was changed from a drop down to a number input, avoiding ridiculously long drop-downs. Furthermore, since it was too complex, the "what can I crochet" button was replaced with "Add Pattern".

Implementing the website provided many challenges, which pushed me to sleuth for solutions on the Mozilla Developer Network, which often delivered, exposing JS functions new to me.

Future Work

Since this project incorporates direct interfacing with data, and in particular user submitted data, there is endless work to be done making this safer for the server.

From a design perspective there are many features that would be necessary to take this from a scant personal project to a fully featured site. These include typewriter mode for the highlight progress control, snapping the next line to the middle of the viewport for less scrolling, the progress indicator ought to also be operable with the keyboard, requiring less clicking.

The search functionality could be visually improved, for example, by having real-time fuzzy search, providing suggestions as the user types, or when a user enters the search menu, the screen fades to a list of previous search results. Searching should also be able to be filtered (loosely) by the yarn that a user has in their catalogue.

The yarn table would be improved by having the option to filter it by the table headers (ascending or descending), or even a search bar to search your yarn - if you have a lot.

Currently there is nothing happening when a user finishes a pattern, but it could be nice if there as some sort of celebration when they complete one.

As part of the pattern view, accessibility could be improved with a font editor; enabling font selection, size control, contract settings, page zoom etc. A print mode / export to PDF could also be beneficial to users.

Of course submitting patterns comes with user profiles, saving patterns to ones bookmarks, a pattern rating system and improved pattern tagging / searching.

References

Across Pages
Site Logo - Crochet Cache name,

Barkes, A. (2025). Custom yarn graphic for crochet website [Designed by commission for myself for this assignment].

Yarn Catalogue

1. Brown Ball of Yarn – Photograph by Author, 2025.
2. Orange Bowl of Yarn – Photograph by Author, 2025.
3. Blue Ball of Yarn – Photograph by Author, 2025.
4. Green Ball of Yarn – Photograph by Author, 2025.
5. White Ball of Yarn – Photograph by Author, 2025.

Pattern Photos

- Barkes, A. (2024). Photographs of Cat Tote Bags, photographs used with permission.
 Barkes, A. (2023). Photographs of Rose bunch held in hand (x2), photographs used with permission.
 Barkes, A. (2022). Photographs of Goose shaped tote bag, photographs used with permission.
 Barkes, A. (2021). Photographs of Tulip Bunch, photographs used with permission.
 Barkes, A. (2021). Photographs of Capybara Adult, photographs used with permission.
 Rose Bunch Crown - Photographed by Author, 2023.
 Rose Bunch next to ruler - Photographed by Author, 2023.
 Capybara parent and child - Photographed by Author, 2021