Circular Ladybird/Ladybug rug

This pattern has been written in UK crochet terms but US terms are also included here:

SL ST – slip stitch (same in UK and US)
CH – chain (same in UK and US)
EA – each
DC – UK double crochet (US single crochet)
TR – UK treble crochet (US double crochet)

The chain 2 at the beginning of each row counts as

one tr.

You will need two balls of yarn in two different colours. The photo shows a black ladybird with red spots but you can make yours the other way round, or even with any colour combination you like!

The Spots

The spots are made using Bobble Stitch. If you do not know how to work this stitch (it's *really* easy!), there are lots of places to find out how online. I watched this short video from Mikey at the Crochet Crowd on YouTube:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hHFoIhvay3I

The pattern will show you how to make the basic rug. I have not given an end point as such, because the pattern will allow you to make the rug as large or as small as you want. You could even use this pattern to make little coasters if you use smaller hooks. Once your rug is as big as you want it, finish the row and fasten off as usual.

The spots will replace the 2 dc in one stitch. In other words, from row 4 onwards, your stitches will go as

follows: "tr, tr, **2 tr in next stitch**, tr, tr, **2 tr in next stitch**". You insert a bobble stitch to make a spot every time you see "2 tr in next stitch" (above in bold) from row 4 until your last row (or whenever you decided to finish inserting your spots). The pattern will not tell you when to insert your bobble stitch instead of the "2 tr in next stitch". I've left it up to you to decide. You can make them regular or irregular, on every row or alternating rows, or just a random few here and there. It's totally up to you.

Changing colours

If you haven't worked with two different strands of colour before, please don't cut off your yarn and tie knots! They're visible and lumpy! There is a simple and seamless way to change from one colour to another. Mikey at The Crochet Crowd's video will show you how:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d8xNsbASDCE

Magic Ring

The pattern starts using a Magic Ring. If you don't know how to do this and usually start using chains, the Magic Ring technique is really easy! Once I'd learned, I never looked back. I learned from Planet

June's excellent video which also includes instructions for Lefties:

If at any point you are coming to the end of a row, and your stitch count is out of whack, don't worry – just work in a couple of tr to finish off the row. This will keep the rug flat.

If your rug starts to curl up like a bowl, you are working with too few stitches. Undo your row or rows back to where it was flat, and carry on with the correct number of stitches. If your rug starts to get wavy, you have too many stitches. Again, just undo to where it was flat, refer back to the pattern and carry on with the correct number of stitches.

The Pattern

Start with a Magic Ring. Crochet 8 stitches into ring. Pull ring tightly closed. Join with sl st.

R1: Ch 2. TR into each stitch and join with sl st (8 stitches).
R2: Ch 2. TR twice into each stitch and join with sl st (16 stitches).

R3: Ch 2. *TR. **2 tr in next stitch***. Repeat from * to * to end of row and join with sl st.

R4: Ch 2. *TR. TR. **2 tr in next stitch***. Repeat from * to * to end of row and join with sl st.

R5: Ch 2. *TR. TR. TR. **2 tr in next stitch***. Repeat from * to * to end of row and join with sl st.

R6. Ch 2. *TR. TR. TR. TR. **2 tr in next stitch***. Repeat from * to * to end of row and join with sl st.

R7. Ch 2. *TR. TR. TR. TR. TR. **2 tr in next stitch***. Repeat from * to * to end of row and join with sl st.

R8. Ch 2. *TR. TR. TR. TR. TR. TR. **2 tr in next stitch***. Repeat from * to * to end of row and join with sl st.

R9. Ch 2. *TR. TR. TR. TR. TR. TR. TR. **2 tr in next stitch***. Repeat from * to * to end of row and join with sl st.

R10. Ch 2. *TR. TR. TR. TR. TR. TR. TR. TR. **2 tr in next stitch***. Repeat from * to * to end of row and join with sl st.

From row 11 onwards, continue this sequence, increasing the number of TR before the **2 tr in next stitch**. For example, row 10 had 8 TR then the **2 tr in next stitch**. Row 11 will have 9 TR then the **2 tr in next stitch**. Row 12 will have 10 TR then the **2 tr in next stitch**, and so on. Keep going until the rug is as big as you want it to be, even if you have 50 TR then the **2 tr in next stitch!**

Finish off your row and fasten off as usual.

If you have any ruffles even though you know you've crocheted the correct number of stitches, you can flatten them down by covering them with a damp (not wet) cloth or dish towel, and ironing them gently.

Enjoy the pattern!