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INTERLOCKING FILET CROCHET THINGS TO KNOW

All notes are written using standard U.S. terms. Additional terms have been created to define the various diagonal stitches.

<u>General</u>

The Right Side (RS) refers to the design side of the work.

The Wrong Side (WS) refers to the hidden or non-public side of the work.

Front (F) refers to mesh stitches made on the side of the work facing you.

Back (B) refers to mesh stitches made on the side of the work facing away from you.

A window is defined as the square space created by a mesh stitch on the right and left side and a chain stitch at the top and bottom.

Main Color (MC) mesh stitches are only worked into the top of a MC mesh stitch; Contrasting Color (CC) mesh stitches are only worked into the top of a CC mesh stitch.

Mesh stitches (F or B) are worked as a double crochet (dc). If necessary, pull the top of the stitch to work into, to the front or back of the work, through the window of the opposite color.

(Ch 1, skip ch-1 sp) after each mesh stitch.

The number following the F or B indicates the number of consecutive Front or Back mesh stitches to make. When no number is listed, once is implied.

Outside Stitches refer to the dc at the ends of MC rows. At the end of the row, the dc are worked into the top of the same color Outside Stitch as follows: sk 1 ch of turning ch, dc in next ch.

Inside Stitches refer to the dc at the ends of CC rows. At the end of the row, the dc are worked in either the Front or Back into the same color Inside Stitch as follows: sk 1 ch of turning ch, dc in next ch.

Ch 4 at the end of each row - counts as Outside or Inside Stitch + ch 1 for next row.

When a row is complete, place stitch marker in the last ch of the turning ch 4 to keep it from unraveling while the other color is being used.

Always work two rows (one MC and one CC row) in the same direction on one side, then turn the work and work two rows in the same direction on the opposite side.

After turning the work, make sure the CC yarn is moved to the front or back of the work to be in the proper position for the next CC row.

Solid Stitches

A mesh stitch is worked into every mesh stitch. Solid stitches are optional.

Solid stitches are worked as a dc and replace the ch-1 sp between mesh stitches.

MC solid stitches are only worked into a MC ch-1 sp or the top of a MC solid stitch; CC solid stitches are only worked into a CC ch-1 sp or the top of a CC solid stitch. It is not necessary to replace the ch-1 sps on the WS of the work since it increases the yardage needed in addition to adding more weight to the project.

Solid stitches are identified by a number of dc followed by an F or B indicating which side the group is to be worked.

Ch 1 after each solid stitch group.

Following are two examples illustrating how a solid stitch group is worked:

- *3dcB All dc are worked in <u>Back</u> as follows:* B in mesh st; dc in ch-1 sp (or solid stitch); B in mesh st; ch 1, sk ch-1 sp (or solid stitch). *Total of 3 dc made in Back followed by ch 1*.
- **5dcF** All dc are worked in <u>Front</u> as follows: F in mesh st; dc in ch-1 sp (or solid stitch); F in mesh st; dc in ch-1 sp (or solid stitch); F in mesh st; ch 1, sk ch-1 sp (or solid stitch). Total of 5 dc made in Front followed by ch 1.

Diagonal Stitches

A mesh stitch is worked into every mesh stitch. Diagonal stitches cross one grid on the chart and are always extra stitches that are paired with a mesh stitch. Diagonals are identified in two ways: right diagonal (dR) or left diagonal (dL).

The mesh and diagonal(s) enclosed within [brackets] are counted as one mesh stitch. The mesh stitch defines the working stitch for the group and the diagonal(s) are made to the right and/or left of that working mesh stitch.

Diagonal stitches are worked as a treble crochet stitch (tr -2 yarn overs) and are typically worked in the CC yarn. Diagonals are always worked on the RS of the work. If necessary, pull the top of the stitch to work into, to the RS of the work, through the MC window as follows: when working on the RS, diagonals will be worked in front; when working on the WS, diagonals will be worked in back.

For each group of stitches enclosed within the [brackets], hold the last loop of each individual stitch on the hook until all stitches for the group have been created, then yarn over and pull through all remaining loops on the hook to complete the stitch.

(Ch 1, skip ch-1 sp) after each mesh stitch group.

When working MC mesh stitches near diagonals, make sure the diagonal stitch is ending up in the correct window, especially when working on the wrong side of the work. Push the diagonal in the direction of its attached mesh stitch to make it easier to access the stitch to work into.

When viewed from the RS of the work, diagonals will always be in front of the mesh stitches.

Long Diagonal Stitches

A mesh stitch is worked into every mesh stitch. Long diagonal stitches cross two grids on the chart and are always extra stitches that are paired with a mesh stitch. Long diagonals are identified in four ways: long right diagonal (dR_2), long left diagonal (dL_2), vertical right diagonal (vR), or vertical left diagonal (vL).

The mesh and diagonal(s) enclosed within [brackets] are counted as one mesh stitch. The mesh stitch defines the working stitch for the group and the long diagonal(s) are made to the right and/or left of that working mesh stitch.

Long diagonal stitches are worked as a double treble crochet stitch (dtr - 3 yarn overs) and are typically worked in the CC yarn. Long diagonals are always worked on the RS of the work. If necessary, pull the top of the stitch to work into, to the RS of the work, through the MC window as follows: when working on the RS, diagonals will be worked in front; when working on the WS, diagonals will be worked in back.

For each group of stitches enclosed within the [brackets], hold the last loop of each individual stitch on the hook until all stitches for the group have been created, then yarn over and pull through all remaining loops on the hook to complete the stitch.

(Ch 1, skip ch-1 sp) after each mesh stitch group.

When working MC mesh stitches near long diagonals, make sure the long diagonal stitch is ending up in the correct window, especially when working on the wrong side of the work. Push the long diagonal in the direction of its attached mesh stitch to make it easier to access both mesh stitches to work into.

When viewed from the RS of the work, long diagonals will always be in front of the mesh stitches.

Since long diagonals span two grids, make sure not to skip any mesh stitches, especially when working a dL_2 stitch. Refer to Special Stitches on page 16.

Combined Mesh & Diagonal Stitches

It is possible to have up to six diagonals attached to a single mesh stitch. For example, the following mesh group $[dR_2/dR/vR/F/vL/dL/dL_2]$ is broken down into seven parts that will be joined together in the last step:

- dR_2 = worked diagonally across two grids to the right
- dR = worked diagonally across one grid to the right
- vR = diagonal worked down two grids and one to the right
- F = Front mesh stitch
- vL = diagonal worked down two grids and one to the left
- dL = worked diagonally across one grid to the left
- dL_2 = worked diagonally across two grids to the left

See Diagonal Stitches in Detail section on page 16 for a detailed description of these stitches.

ABBREVIATIONS:

Bback mesh
begbeginning
CCcontrasting color
ch(s) chain(s)
dLleft diagonal
dL ₂ long left diagonal
dc double crochet
dc2tog double crochet 2 tog
dRright diagonal
dR ₂ long right diagonal
Ffront mesh
lp(s)loop(s)
MCmain color
reprepeat
RSright side
scsingle crochet
sc2togsingle crochet 2 tog
skskip
sl stslip stitch
spspace
st(s) stitch(es)
tch turning ch
thruthrough
togtogether
trtreble crochet
vLvertical left diagonal
vR vertical right diagonal
WS wrong side
yoyarn over



Learn how to convert a blackwork embroidery chart to an interlocking filet mesh crochet project using both short and long diagonals as well as solid stitches:

Blackwork Embroidery to Interlocking Filet Crochet

80CS

8003

If you haven't tried interlocking crochet with diagonals yet, please watch the following video as a pre-requisite to this tutorial:

Interlocking Filet Mesh: From Start to Diagonals

TUTORIAL NOTES

This tutorial includes six practice charts. Practice Chart 5 has been chosen for the tutorial examples in order to address the long diagonal stitches which are often encountered in a blackwork embroidery design.

The following notes are provided as support for the YouTube tutorial.

DO YOU NEED A BORDER?

If your chosen chart does not have a border around the outside edge, draw a simple border on the chart before determining the number of main color windows needed. The border is necessary to join the two layers of crochet around the outside edge. Refer to the practice charts for examples.

DETERMINE MAIN COLOR (MC) WINDOWS

Count the number of vertical lines on the chart to determine how many windows are needed for the main (background) color. One window is needed for each vertical line on the chart. For purposes of this tutorial, all of the practice charts have 21 vertical lines; therefore, 21 MC windows are needed for the design.

FOUNDATION CH and ROW 1 (MC)

Multiply the number of MC windows by 2, then add 4.

Example: 21 windows x = 42; 42 + 4 = 46 foundation ch

Work the MC foundation and Row 1 as follows: Ch 46, dc in the 6th ch from hook, *ch 1, sk 1 ch, dc in next ch,* rep from * to * across, ch 4, do **not** turn.

CONTRASTING COLOR (CC) FOUNDATION CH

The contrasting color has one less window than the main color, or two less chains.

Example: 46-2=44 ch

Set up for CC Row 1 as follows: Ch 44, mark the 6th ch from hook for alignment with the second MC window. The bottom bold grid line is the CC foundation ch for CC Row 1. If the line is solid bold across the bottom, the chain will be placed across the front of the MC windows; however, if there is a break in the bold line, the foundation chain will need to pass to the WS in the appropriate window and back to the RS in the appropriate window to match the chart. There are three different set-ups for this tutorial – refer to the specific practice chart to determine which set-up to use (*see Set-Ups on page 15*). For Practice Chart 5, use Set-up A.

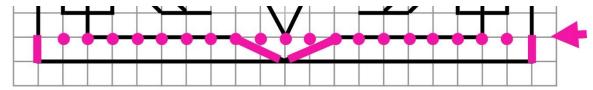
DETERMINING STITCHES TO USE

The grid lines represent the CC design stitches while the space between the grid lines represents the MC background stitches.

Contrasting Color Row 1 – Right Side (RS)

Reading the chart from right to left: if the vertical grid line is bold, work as a Front stitch; if the vertical grid line is thin, work as a Back stitch. When the intersection of the grid lines is attached to a diagonal line at the top, work the diagonal together with the mesh stitch to count as one mesh stitch. On RS rows, all diagonals are worked in the front.

Based on the chart below, CC Row 1 is worked as follows: Inside Front (*first 5 ch*), B7*, [B/dL₂], B3, [dR₂/B], B7, Inside Front, ch 4, turn work.



*The first Back stitch is worked through the second MC window into the marked CC foundation ch.

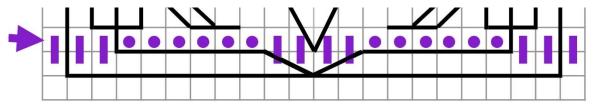
Main Color Row 2 – Wrong Side (WS)

Before determining which stitches to use for the MC, be sure to move the CC yarn to the correct side to prepare for the next CC row. Reading the chart from left to right, if the border grid line for the next CC row is bold, move the CC yarn to the back; if the grid line is light, move the CC yarn to the front.

Looking at the space between the horizontal grid lines, just above the horizontal grid line for the previous CC row, and reading the chart from left to right: if the horizontal grid line below is bold, work as a Front Stitch; if the horizonal grid line below is light, work as a Back stitch. Main color rows can be worked in two different ways: all mesh stitches or by adding solid stitches.

All Mesh Stitch Version

Based on the chart below, move the CC yarn to the back, then work MC Row 2 as follows: Outside Stitch (*turning ch-4*), B2, F6, B4*, F6, B2, Outside Stitch, ch 4. Do **not** turn work.

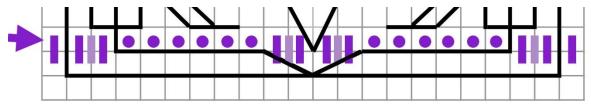


*Make sure diagonals are pushed out of the way toward their attached mesh stitch to access the stitch to work into. Do not work over the top of a diagonal.

Solid Stitch Version

Solid stitches are worked as a dc and replace the ch-1 sp between mesh stitches. Only replace the ch-1 sp with a solid stitch if the vertical line between the mesh stitches is light. Do <u>not</u> replace the ch-1 sp if either the vertical line is bold and/or a diagonal line meets the intersection of the grid lines to leave an opening for the stitch that will need to be worked in that location.

Based on the chart below, move the CC yarn to the back, then work MC Row 2 as follows: Outside Stitch (*turning ch-4*), 3dcB, F6, 3dcB*, 3dcB*, F6, 3dcB, Outside Stitch, ch 4. Do **not** turn work.

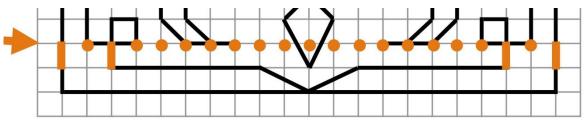


*Make sure diagonals are pushed out of the way toward their attached mesh stitch to access the stitch to work into. Do not work over the top of a diagonal.

Contrasting Color Row 2 (WS)

Reading the chart from left to right: if the vertical grid line is bold, work as a Back stitch; if the vertical grid line is thin, work as a Front stitch. When the top of a grid line intersects with the top of a diagonal line, work the diagonal together with the mesh stitch to count as one mesh stitch. On WS rows, all diagonals are worked in the back.

Based on the chart below, CC Row 2 is worked as follows: Inside Back (*turning ch-4*), F1, B1, F15, B1, F1, Inside Back, ch 4, turn work. *Note there are no diagonals in this row – the tops of the long diagonals don't intersect with the tops of any of the grid lines until the next row.*



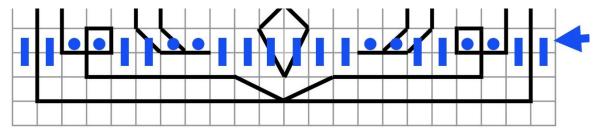
Main Color Row 3 – Right Side (RS)

Before determining which stitches to use for the MC, be sure to move the CC yarn to the correct side to prepare for the next CC row. Reading the chart from right to left, if the vertical border grid line for the next CC row is bold, move the CC yarn to the front; if the grid line is light, move the CC yarn to the back.

Looking at the space between the horizontal grid lines, just above the horizontal grid line for the previous CC row, and reading the chart from right to left: if the horizontal grid line below is bold, work as a Back Stitch; if the horizontal grid line below is light, work as a Front stitch.

All Mesh Stitch Version

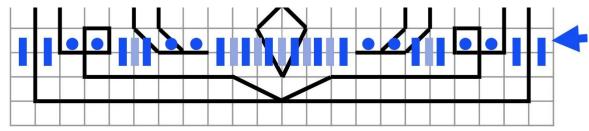
Based on the chart below, move the CC yarn to the front, then work MC Row 3 as follows: Outside Stitch (*turning ch-4*), F1, B2, F2, B2, F6, B2, F2, B2, F1, Outside Stitch, ch 4. Do **not** turn work.



Since no diagonals were worked on the previous CC row for this example, no diagonals needed to be pushed out of the way.

Solid Stitch Version

Based on the chart below, move the CC yarn to the front, then work MC Row 3 as follows: Outside Stitch (*turning ch-4*), F1, B2, 3dcF, B2, 11dcF, B2, 3dcF, B2, F1, Outside Stitch, ch 4. Do **not** turn work.

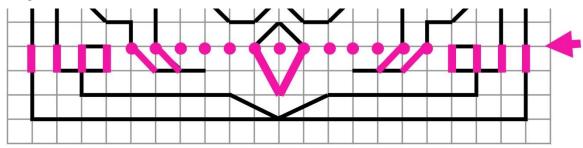


Since no diagonals were worked on the previous CC row for this example, no diagonals needed to be pushed out of the way.

Contrasting Color Row 3 (RS)

Reading the chart from right to left: if the vertical grid line is bold, work as a Front stitch; if the vertical grid line is thin, work as a Back stitch. When the top of a grid line intersects with the top of a diagonal line, work the diagonal together with the mesh stitch to count as one mesh stitch. On RS rows, all diagonals are worked in the front.

Based on the chart below, CC Row 3 is worked as follows: Inside Front (*turning ch-4*), F3, [B/dL]x2, B3, [B/vL], B1, [vR/B], B3, [dR/B]x2, F3, Inside Front, ch 4, turn work.

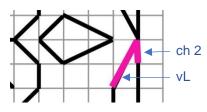


Continuing the Chart

Continue in the same manner, working two rows (MC and CC) on the wrong side, then turn the work and work two rows (MC and CC) on the right side. After the last CC row, fasten off CC.

Diagonals Intersecting at Border

When diagonals intersect with the border, it changes the number of turning chains needed. At the beginning of the row, remove 2 turning ch, leaving only 2 chains, which creates the beginning of the dc for the Inside Stitch, then work the diagonal according to the chart. Completing the diagonal will complete the Inside Stitch, then ch 1 before proceeding to the next mesh stitch.



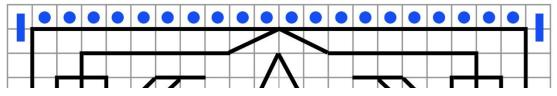
At the end of the row, work the diagonal with the Inside Stitch at the border in the same manner as attaching a d R_2 , dR or vR to a mesh stitch (*See Diagonal Stitches in Detail section on page 16 for a detailed description of these stitches.*)

Main Color – Last Row

Right Side Version (used for this example):

Reading the chart from right to left: if the horizontal grid line below is bold, work as a Back Stitch; if the horizonal grid line below is light, work as a Front stitch.

Based on the chart below, the RS Last MC Row is worked as follows: Outside Stitch, B20, Outside Stitch. Fasten off or continue to Borders, if desired.



Wrong Side Version

Alternatively, if the last MC row is a WS row, read the chart from left to right and work a Front stitch if the horizontal grid line below is bold or a Back Stitch if the horizonal grid line below is light.

Based on the chart above, the WS Last MC Row would be worked as follows: Outside Stitch, F20, Outside Stitch. Fasten off or continue to Borders, if desired.

BORDERS

See Border Special Stitches after CC Border for an explanation of terms noted in **bold italics**.

MC Border 1

Works with any number of windows. All rnds are worked on the RS.

Rnd 1:

If the last MC row is a RS row, begin working in windows down the side of rows; if the last MC row is a WS row, turn work to RS and begin working in windows across the top of the last MC row.

Using MC and working around outside edge in MC windows, beginning with corner window, ch 1, *2 sc in each window across, (2 sc, ch 1, 2 sc) in corner window,* rep from * to * twice, 2 sc in each window across ending in corner window, ch 1, join with sl st in beg sc.

Rnd 2:

(Ch 2, dc in next sc – *beg dc2tog made*), ch 1, *†*dc2tog* over next 2 sc, ch 1,† rep from † to † across side, (dc2tog, ch 1) 3 times in corner ch-1 sp,* rep from * to * around, join with sl st in beg dc2tog.

Rnd 3:

Ch 1, *sc in next ch-1 sp, ch 2, sc *in center of sc* just made,* rep from * to * around, join with sl st in beg sc. Fasten off. Weave in ends.







MC Border 2

This border only works with an odd number of windows on all four sides. All rnds are worked on the RS.

Rnd 1:

Follow instructions for MC Border 1 – Rnd 1.

Rnd 2:

Ch 1, *sc2tog* over same sc and next sc, \dagger (hdc, dc) in next sc, ch 2, sc *thru top* of dc just made, (dc, hdc) in next sc, sc2tog over next 2 sc, \dagger rep from \dagger to \dagger across side, (hdc, dc, ch 2, sc thru top of dc just made, dc, hdc) in corner ch-1 sp, \dagger sc2tog over next 2 sc,* rep from * to * twice, then rep from * to \dagger † once more, join with sl st in beg sc2tog. Fasten off. Weave in ends.

CC Border

For use with square CC border only, as shown on Practice Charts 4 & 5.

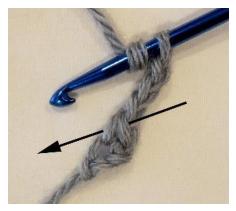
With RS facing, using CC and working around the outside edge of CC windows, *join with sc* in any CC corner window, (ch 2, sc, sl st) in same corner, ch 2, *†sl st in next window, ch 2,† rep from † to † across side, (sl st, sc, ch 2, sc, sl st) in corner window, ch 2,* rep from * to * twice, then from † to † across last side, sl st in corner window, join with sl st in beg sc. Fasten off. Weave in ends.

စာ Border Special Stitches જ

The following special stitches are used for the Border Rnds:

dc2tog – *yo, insert hook in specified st, yo, pull up lp, yo, pull thru 2 lps on hook;* rep from * to * once more; yo, pull thru all lps on hook.

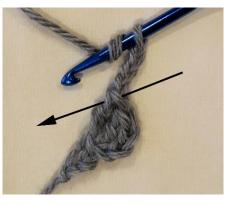
st in center of sc – work indicated st by inserting hook thru one horizontal bar and one vertical bar of sc (*see photo for hook placement*).



join with sc – with slip knot on hook, insert hook in specified st, yo, pull up loop, yo, pull thru all loops on hook.

sc2tog – *insert hook in specified st, yo, pull up lp;* rep from * to * once more; yo, pull thru all lps on hook.

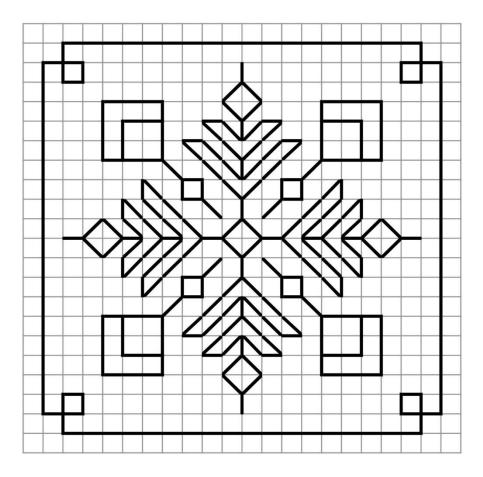
st *thru top* - work indicated st by inserting hook thru one horizontal bar and one vertical bar at top of specified st (*see photo for placement*).



PRACTICE CHARTS

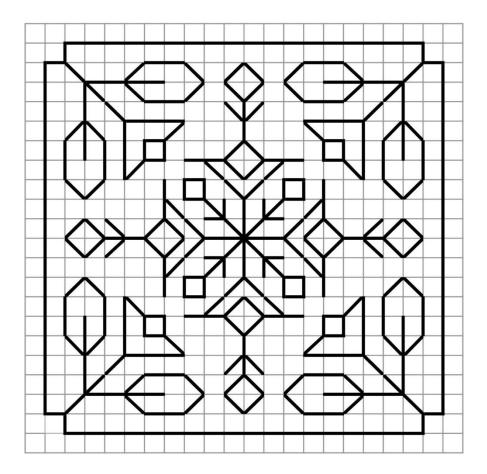
Practice Chart #1

Easy set-up. Mirrored design with some open space. Begin with Set-up B.





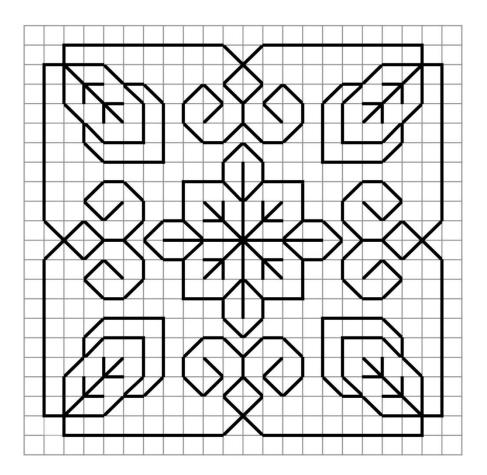
Practice Chart #2 Easy set-up. Mirrored all-over design. Begin with Set-up B.





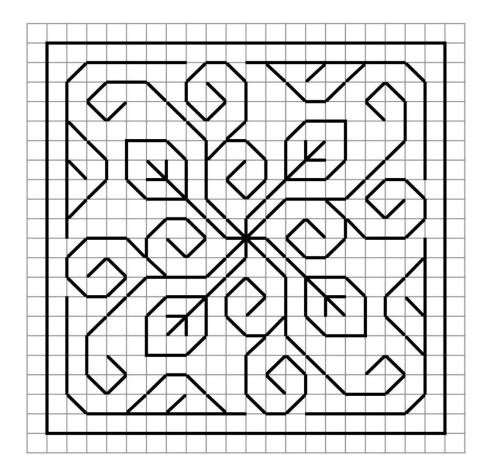
Practice Chart #3

Skipped windows in set-up row. Mirrored design with diagonals intersecting at the border. Begin with Set-up C.





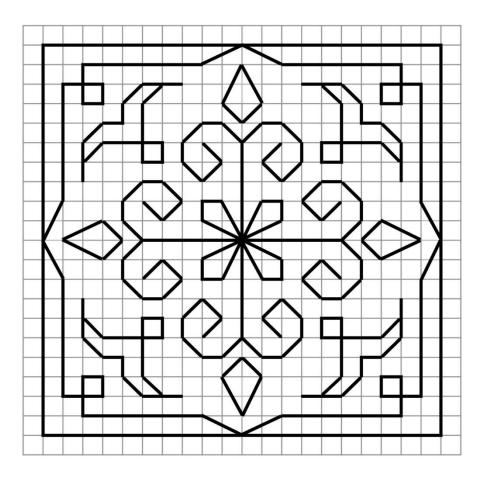
Practice Chart #4 Easy set-up. Non-mirrored design. Begin with Set-up A.





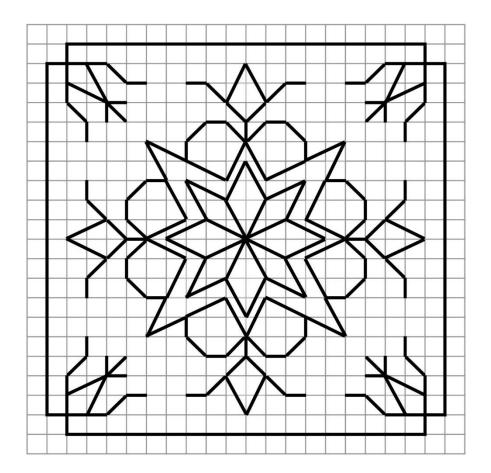
Practice Chart #5

Easy set-up. Mirrored design with a few long diagonals. Diagonals intersecting at the border. Begin with Set-up A.





Practice Chart #6 Easy set-up. Mirrored design with many long diagonals. Begin with Set-up B.





SET-UPS

Six practice charts are provided in this tutorial with increasing levels of difficulty. Each chart is 21 x 21 grids and uses one of the following three set-ups:

Set-up A – Solid Line Across the Bottom

Place the CC foundation over the front of MC Row 1 windows lining up the marked ch with the 2nd MC window. The last ch will line up with the last MC window.



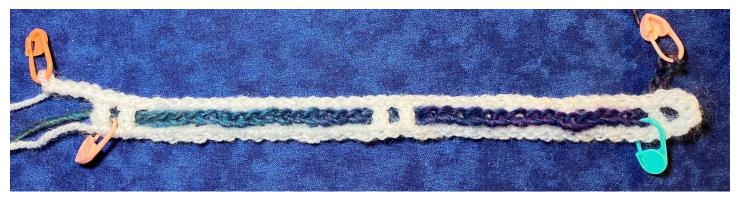
Set-up B – Indented Corners with Solid Line Between

Pull the tail of the CC foundation from WS to RS through the 2nd MC window until the marked ch matches up with this window. With the center of the chain laying across the front of the MC windows, now pass the tail end from RS to WS in the 20th MC window, then line up the last ch with the last MC window.



Set-up C – Indented Corners with Skipped Windows in the Center

Pull the tail of the CC foundation from the WS to RS through the 2nd MC window until the marked ch matches up with this window. Pass the tail end from RS to WS in the 10th window, then from WS to RS in the 12th window to create the skipped section. Finally, pass the tail end from RS to WS in the 20th MC window, then line up the last ch with the last MC window.



DIAGONAL STITCHES IN DETAIL

The mandatory mesh stitch (step 4 + step 8), worked in either the Front or Back, is the working stitch for each mesh stitch group. Diagonals are always extra stitches and may or may not be included in the group. There can be up to six diagonals attached to a single mesh stitch. Diagonals are defined as follows: dR_2 – crosses two grids to the right (step 1); dR – crosses one grid to the right (step 2); $v\mathbf{R}$ – crosses one grid to the right and two grids down (step 3); $v\mathbf{L}$ – crosses one grid to the left and two grids down (step 5); dL – crosses one grid to the left (step 6); and/or dL_2 – crosses two grids to the left (step 7).

Odd Number (RS) Rows:

Even Number (WS) Rows:

Step 1:	dR_2 – yo 3 times, pulling st to RS (front), insert hook 2 mesh stitches to the right of where the working mesh st for the group will be made, yo, pull up lp, (yo, pull thru 2 lps on hook) 3 times,	Step 1:	dR_2 – yo 3 times, pulling st to WS (back), insert hook 2 mesh stitches to the right of where the working mesh st for the group will be made, yo, pull up lp, (yo, pull thru 2 lps on hook) 3 times,
Step 2:	$d\mathbf{R}$ – yo twice, pulling st to RS (front), insert hook 1 mesh stitch to the right of where the working mesh st for the group will be made, yo, pull up lp, (yo, pull thru 2 lps on hook) twice,	Step 2:	$d\mathbf{R}$ – yo twice, pulling st to WS (back), insert hook 1 mesh stitch to the right of where the working mesh st for the group will be made, yo, pull up lp, (yo, pull thru 2 lps on hook) twice,
Step 3:	vR – yo 3 times, pulling st to RS (front), insert hook 1 mesh stitch to the right and 1 row down from where the working mesh st for the group will be made, yo, pull up lp, (yo, pull thru 2 lps on hook) 3 times,	Step 3:	vR – yo 3 times, pulling st to WS (back), insert hook 1 mesh stitch to the right and 1 row down from where the working mesh st for the group will be made, yo, pull up lp, (yo, pull thru 2 lps on hook) 3 times,
Step 4:	F or B – yo, pulling st to F or B as indicated, insert hook in next mesh st, yo, pull up lp, yo, pull thru 2 lps on hook,	Step 4:	F or B – yo, pulling st to F or B as indicated, insert hook in next mesh st, yo, pull up lp, yo, pull thru 2 lps on hook,
Step 5:	vL – yo 3 times, pulling st to RS (front), insert hook 1 mesh stitch to the left and 1 row down from where the working mesh st for the group was just made, yo, pull up lp, (yo, pull thru 2 lps on hook) 3 times,	Step 5:	vL – yo 3 times, pulling st to WS (back), insert hook 1 mesh stitch to the left and 1 row down from where the working mesh st for the group was just made, yo, pull up lp, (yo, pull thru 2 lps on hook) 3 times,
Step 6:	dL – yo twice, pulling st to RS (front), insert hook 1 mesh stitch to the right of where the working mesh st for the group was just made, yo, pull up lp, (yo, pull thru 2 lps on hook) twice,	Step 6:	dL – yo twice, pulling st to WS (back), insert hook 1 mesh stitch to the right of where the working mesh st for the group was just made, yo, pull up lp, (yo, pull thru 2 lps on hook) twice,
Step 7:	dL_2 – yo 3 times, pulling st to RS (front), insert hook 2 mesh stitches to the right of where the working mesh st for the group was just made, yo, pull up lp, (yo, pull thru 2 lps on hook) 3 times,	Step 7:	dL_2 – yo 3 times, pulling st to WS (back), insert hook 2 mesh stitches to the right of where the working mesh st for the group was just made, yo, pull up lp, (yo, pull thru 2 lps on hook) 3 times,
Step 8:	yo, pull thru all lps on hook to complete the stitch, ch 1, continue to next* mesh stitch.	Step 8:	yo, pull thru all lps on hook to complete the stitch, ch 1, continue to next* mesh stitch.

*The next mesh stitch will always be worked in the same color mesh stitch immediately to the left of the mesh stitch just completed in step 4.

