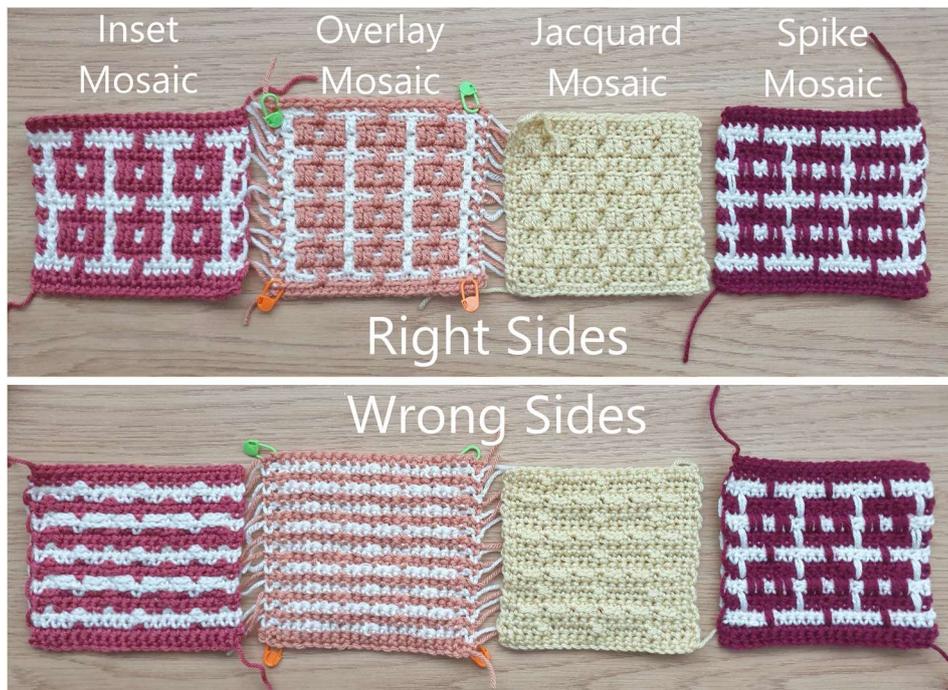


Mosaic Crochet Tutorial

Note: this tutorial has been updated February 2022 to include instructions for my super-easy chain-start Envelope Border method



Materials used

Any scrap yarn in 2 contrasting colours – just make sure both are a similar yardage.
I used Deramores Studio DK (100% acrylic; 250m / 100g), with a 4 mm (US G/6) crochet hook.

Tension / Gauge

Each swatch pictured above is 19 sts wide (excluding the edge sts);
The Inset and Spike swatches are 22 rows high; Overlay and Jacquard are 19 rows;
All swatches were made with the same yarn and hook.

Seeing them all side by side should give you an indication of how each technique affects the gauge:
Overlay and Jacquard mosaic create square stitches;
Inset and Spike mosaic create slightly 'squashed' sts, but a more 'stretched' pattern.

Supporting videos are available from the Mosaic Crochet World YouTube channel
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIZhPuP8OJmbCBZuqn6nbnw>

For abbreviations and instructions for special stitches, please see last page.

If you have researched mosaic crochet on the internet, you may have noticed that there are in fact at least three different crochet techniques, all of which are frequently described as 'mosaic crochet'.

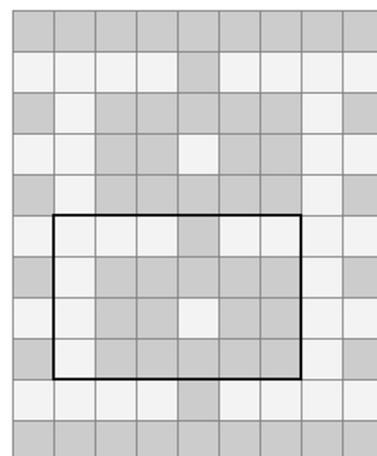
This of course creates a bit of a problem in providing a definition of what mosaic crochet is, but the following hopefully explains what they all have in common:

Mosaic Crochet is a form of colourwork where the design is created without switching colours within a row / round.

You will have a base 'fabric' of dcs, and will work one or two rows in a single colour, before switching to another colour for the next one or two rows. The design is created by making long stitches (usually trs) into lower rows, thus covering some of the background stitches with a contrasting colour, and creating the illusion of a colour change within the previous row(s).

In this tutorial I will give you step-by-step instructions for working the same simple chart (see image on the right) in each of the main techniques, so you can see the differences between each, and the finished effect.

To begin, I have given each mosaic crochet technique a different name, as having several different techniques with the same name is very confusing!



Inset Mosaic Crochet

Inset mosaic crochet involves leaving ch-sps in rows using the first colour, and these are filled in by "in-setting" longer stitches (usually trs) in the next RS row in a contrasting colour, leaving the ch-sps unworked behind.

Inset mosaic crochet is usually worked using 2 rows of each colour, turning your work at the end of each row, so the unused colour can be carried up the side of the work, hence minimising the number of ends needing to be woven in.

Overlay Mosaic Crochet

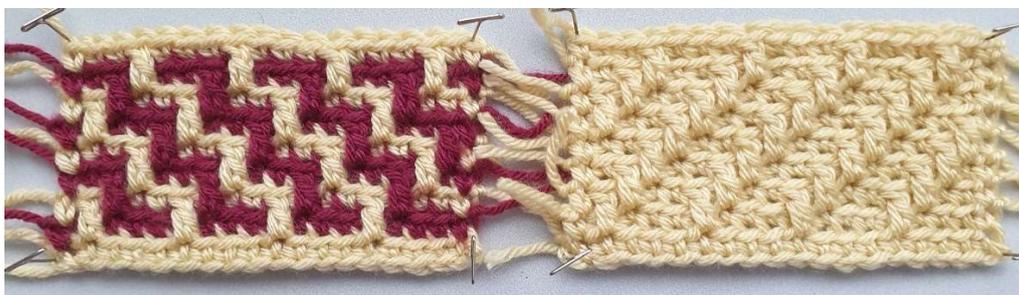
Overlay mosaic crochet is constructed from a base fabric of rows of back loop dcs, and the pattern is created by “**over-laying**” longer stitches (usually trs) into the unworked front loops of lower rows (usually 2 rows below).

Stitches are worked with the right side of your work always facing you, so if you are working in rows, yarn must be cut at the end of each row.

This of course results in a LOT of ends, but they don't necessarily need to be woven in: for example try using an overlay mosaic pattern worked lengthwise to make a scarf – the ends can simply be trimmed to make a fringe at each end, or you can use an envelope (double) border to encase the loose ends.

Note: the front loop stitches used in overlay mosaic crochet also create texture, which becomes more obvious if the colours you choose don't contrast much.

The effect can also be quite different: the swatches below use exactly the same basic 'apache tears' design, the only difference is that I used the same colour for all rows when making the second one.



Jacquard Mosaic Crochet

Jacquard mosaic crochet is a variation on overlay mosaic which I developed specifically to be worked in a **single colour**, for texture rather than colour.

All WS rows are simply dcs worked into the front loops only (which become the back loops when viewed from the RS). The pattern is created on RS rows in a similar manner to standard overlay mosaic, except that the dcs are worked through both loops rather than just the back loop.

Spike Mosaic Crochet

In this form of mosaic crochet both sides will look virtually identical, so it is ideal for items such as scarves or blankets, where both sides are likely to be seen.

As with inset mosaic, this is usually worked using 2 rows of each colour, so the unused yarn can be carried up the side of the work, but in this technique the base fabric is rows of simple dcs, and the pattern is created by working longer sts (usually trs) into lower rows, working over the rows in between to create a **spike** effect.

The above is not an exhaustive list, and I am sure other variations of mosaic crochet will develop over time. If / when I become aware of any, I will try to add them to this tutorial.

On the following pages I have provided a chart, and full written instructions for making up a swatch in the same basic design using each of the different mosaic crochet techniques mentioned above.

If you wish, you may use the same chart / instructions to make a larger item, just remember to start with a multiple of 6 + 3 sts on your first row (multiple of 6 + 5 for overlay mosaic).

Supporting videos

Right Handed

Inset mosaic: <https://youtu.be/KuJChpvH8a0>

Overlay mosaic: <https://youtu.be/TYwRtVMe1pA>

Jacquard mosaic: <https://youtu.be/tC4PoH9eczM>

Spike mosaic: <https://youtu.be/VhVG0VgBD3M>

Envelope Border <https://youtu.be/RB9cG8BxmEk>

Left Handed

<https://youtu.be/wK1f7GF1zWM>

<https://youtu.be/FbltW-V517I>

<https://youtu.be/PIRCTIn9pRs>

<https://youtu.be/dVKZgGMdbGw>

<https://youtu.be/MdaoTDZWRUY>

Inset Mosaic Chart

Read the chart from bottom to top, right to left (left to right if you are left-handed).

Only right side (RS) rows are shown on the chart.

On wrong side (WS) rows 'work sts as set', i.e. 1 dc in each dc or tr3d, 2 ch over all 2ch-sps, 3 ch over all 3ch-sps.

Work a 1ch turning chain between RS and WS rows.

Turning chain does not count as a st.

The first and last sts of each row are always dc and indicate the colour you will be using for the whole row, and the following WS row. You do not change colours within each row.

The pattern is created by leaving ch-sps in rows using the first colour, and these are filled in with trs in the next RS row in a contrasting colour, leaving the ch-sps unworked behind.

Any square without a symbol on the chart represents a dc.

										21
				oo						19
	oo						oo			17
		ooo		ooo						15
	oo						oo			13
				oo						11
	oo						oo			9
		ooo		ooo						7
	oo						oo			5
				oo						3
										1
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		

o	chain
	tr3d (UK) / dc3d (US)
	no symbol = dc (UK) / sc (US)
□	pattern repeat
■	C1
■	C2

Inset Mosaic Written Pattern

To join new colours, or change working colour, simply pull up a loop in new colour (see photo).



Remember to work all tr3ds in front of the chain spaces.

Row 1 **RS.** Using **C1**, make 22 ch, 1 dc in 2nd ch from hook, and in each ch across. **Turn.**
21 sts

Row 2 **WS.** 1 ch (does not count as st here and throughout), dc across. **Turn.**
Do not fasten off.
21 sts

Row 3 **RS.** Join **C2**, 1 ch, 2 dc, [2 dc, 2 ch, miss 1 st, 3 dc] to last st, 1 dc. **Turn.**
18 sts



Row 4 and all foll WS rows 1 ch, work sts as set, i.e. 1 dc in each dc or tr3d, 2 ch over all 2ch-sps and 3 ch over all 3ch-sps. **Turn. Do not fasten off.**

Row 5 Pull up **C1** loop, 1 ch, 1 dc, 2 ch, miss 1 st,
[2 dc, 1 tr3d, 2 dc, 2 ch, miss 1 st] to last st, 1 dc. Turn.

17 sts

Row 5 (RS)



Row 6 (WS)



Row 7 Pull up **C2** loop, 1 ch, 1 dc, 1 tr3d,
[3 ch, miss 2 sts, 1 dc, 3 ch, miss 2 sts, 1 tr3d] to last st, 1 dc. Turn.

9 sts

Row 7 (RS)



Row 8 (WS)



Row 9 Pull up **C1** loop, 1 ch, 1 dc, 2 ch, miss 1 st,
[2 tr3d, 1 dc, 2 tr3d, 2 ch, miss 1 st] to last st,
1 dc. Turn.

17 sts



Row 11 Pull up **C2** loop, 1 ch, 1 dc, 1 tr3d,
[2 dc, 2 ch, miss 1 st, 2 dc, 1 tr3d] to last st, 1 dc.
Turn.

18 sts



Row 12 **WS.** 1 ch, 1 dc,
[3 dc, 2 ch, miss 1 st, 2 dc] to last 2 sts,
2 dc. Turn.

18 sts



Repeat rows 5 – 12 until work is required length.

For the purpose of this tutorial I worked 1
additional repeat
(total of 20 rows to this point).



Next Row **RS.** Cut C2 and pull up **C1** loop, 1 ch, 2 dc, [2 dc, 1 tr3d, 3 dc] to last st, 1 dc.
Turn.

21 sts

Final Row WS. 1 ch, dc to end. Fasten off.

RS

WS



Overlay Mosaic Chart

Read the chart from bottom to top, right to left (left to right if you are left-handed).

Unless otherwise stated in the pattern, all sts are worked with **right side facing you**. Fasten off yarn at the end of each row.

The first and last sts of each row are always dc and indicate the colour you will be using for the whole row. You do not change colours within each row (the colours on the chart are there only to give you an idea of how the piece should look).

You will note this chart is a little wider than the others. This is because I **have added a chain between the edge dcs and the main pattern**. This isn't generally included in overlay mosaic patterns, but can be added to ANY overlay design, and will make the envelope / double border easier to start.

Stitch count will remain the same throughout.

^	o				F					o	^	11	
^	o	F								F	o	^	10
^	o		F	F		F	F				o	^	9
^	o	F								F	o	^	8
^	o				F						o	^	7
^	o	F								F	o	^	6
^	o		F	F		F	F				o	^	5
^	o	F								F	o	^	4
^	o				F						o	^	3
^	o										o	^	2
^	o										o	^	1
11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1			

- ^ dc (UK) / sc (US)
- o chain
- F FLtr2d (UK) / FLdc2d (US)
- no symbol = BLdc (UK) / BLsc (US)
- pattern repeat
- C1
- C2

Overlay Mosaic Written Pattern

Row 1 Using C1 make 24 ch,
working into the back 'bump' of all chains, 1 dc in 2nd ch from hook,
1 ch, miss 1 ch, dc to last 2 ch, 1 ch, miss 1 ch, 1 dc. Fasten off.
21 sts + 2 1ch-sps

Note: if you are planning to add a border, or just to help you locate the chains, you may wish to place a marker in each of the chains



Row 2 Join C2 with a standing dc, 1 ch, miss ch-sp, BLdc to last ch-sp, 1 ch, miss ch-sp, 1 dc. Fasten off.



Row 3 Join C1 with a standing dc, 1 ch, miss ch-sp, 1 BLdc,
[2 BLdc, 1 FLtr2d, 3 BLdc] to last to last ch-sp, 1 ch, miss ch-sp, 1 dc. Fasten off.



Row 4 Join C2 with a standing dc, 1 ch, miss ch-sp, 1 FLtr2d,
[5 BLdc, 1 FLtr2d] to last ch-sp, 1 ch, miss ch-sp, 1 dc. Fasten off.



Row 5 Join C1 with a standing dc, 1 ch, miss ch-sp, 1 BLdc,
[2 FLtr2d, 1 BLdc] to last to last ch-sp, 1 ch, miss ch-sp, 1 dc. Fasten off.



Row 6 As row 4.



Repeat rows 3 to 6 until work is required length, then repeat row 3 one more time.

For the purpose of this tutorial I worked a total of 19 rows.

RS



WS



Jacquard Mosaic Chart

Read the chart from bottom to top, right to left (left to right if you are left-handed).

Unlike most mosaic crochet, this technique is more about texture than colour, and is specifically written for a **single colour**, continuous crochet method, which does not require yarn to be cut at the end of each row.

The shading on the chart is just to help you see how the textured pattern should look.

You will note the following differences compared to my standard overlay mosaic chart:

There are **2 turning chains** between rows (this is to create a neater edge, and avoid the need for a border);

RS dcs are worked through **both loops** (not just the back loop);

WS dcs are worked into the **Front Loop Only** (this is the front loop as you are working it – it will be the back loop when viewed from the RS).

Stitch count will remain the same throughout.

		Λ	Λ	Λ	F	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	o	11
10	o	Λ							Λ	o	
	o	Λ	Λ	F	F		F	F	Λ	o	9
8	o	Λ							Λ	o	
	o	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	F	Λ	Λ	Λ	o	7
6	o	Λ							Λ	o	
	o	Λ	Λ	F	F		F	F	Λ	o	5
4	o	Λ							Λ	o	
	o	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	F	Λ	Λ	Λ	o	3
2	o	Λ							Λ	o	
0	o	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	o	1
		9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	

o	chain
Λ	dc (UK) / sc (US)
F	FLtr2d (UK) / FLdc2d (US)
□	no symbol = FLdc (UK) / FLsc (US)
◻	pattern repeat

Jacquard Mosaic Written Pattern

Row 1 **RS.** Make 22 ch, 1 dc in 2nd ch from hook, and in each ch across. **Turn.**

21 sts

Row 2 2 ch (does not count as st here and throughout), 1 dc, **FLdc** to last st, 1 dc. **Turn.**



Row 3 2 ch, 2 dc, [2 dc, 1 **FLtr2d**, 3 dc] to last st, 1 dc. **Turn.**



Row 4 As row 2.

Row 5 2 ch, 2 dc, [2 **FLtr2d**, 1 dc] to last st, 1 dc. **Turn.**



Row 6 As row 2.

Repeat rows 3 to 6 until work is required length, then repeat row 3 one more time.

For the purpose of this tutorial I worked a total of 19 rows.

RS



WS



Spike Mosaic Chart

Read the chart from bottom to top, right to left (left to right if you are left-handed).

Only right side (RS) rows are shown on the chart.

On wrong side (WS) rows dc across.

Work a 1ch turning chain between RS and WS rows.

Turning chain does not count as a st.

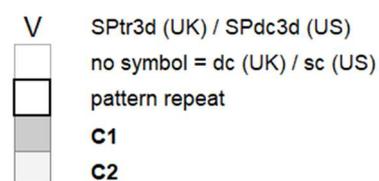
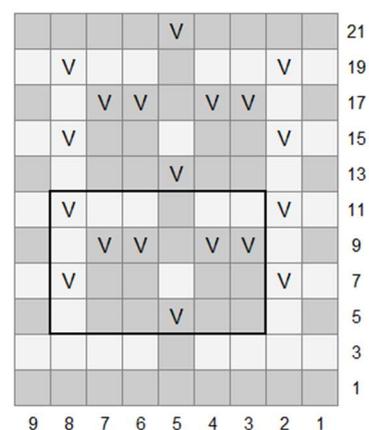
The first and last sts of each row are always dc and indicate the colour you will be using for the whole row, and the following WS row.

You do not change colours within each row.

The base fabric is rows of standard dcs, and the pattern is created by working trs over the contrasting colour stitches into lower rows, so you will usually be working into the last row made using your current colour.

Any square without a symbol on the chart represents a dc.

Stitch count will remain the same throughout.



Spike Mosaic Written Pattern

To join new colours, or change working colour, simply pull up loop in new colour (see photo).



Row 1 RS. Using C1, make 22 ch, 1 dc in 2nd ch from hook, and in each ch across. Turn.
 21 sts

Row 2 and all WS rows 1 ch (does not count as st here and throughout), dc across. Turn.
 Do not fasten off.

Row 3 RS. Join C2, 1 ch, dc to end. Turn.



Row 5 Pull up C1 loop, 1 ch, 2 dc, [2 dc, 1 SPtr3d, 3 dc] to last st, 1 dc. Turn.



Row 7 Pull up C2 loop, 1 ch, 1 dc, 1 SPtr3d, [5 dc, 1 SPtr3d] to last st, 1 dc. Turn.



Row 9 Pull up C1 loop, 1 ch, 2 dc, [2 SPtr3d, 1 dc] to last st, 1 dc. Turn.



Row 11 As row 7.



Row 12 WS. 1 ch, dc to end. Turn.



Repeat rows 5 – 12 until work is required length, then rows 5 and 6 once more.

For the purpose of this tutorial I worked 1 additional repeat (total of 22 rows).

RS



WS



Envelope Border

Designed to enclose the loose ends created when working overlay mosaic crochet.

Please note these instructions only work if you have included a chain between your edge sts and the main pattern.

The border is actually **2 separate borders**: the first is worked with RS facing you, then repeated on the WS; and finally they are both joined together, encasing the loose ends between them.

If you prefer work rounds of dcs instead of trs, replace the [2 tr, 1 ch, 2 tr] in each corner with [1 dc, 1 ch, 1 dc]

Border 1

Round 1 *Note: you may find it helpful to place a marker in the ch made in each corner.*

With RS facing you, and using **smaller hook**,
 join yarn with a standing tr in final ch of last row of blanket,
 1 ch, 2 tr in same ch,
rotate piece, 1 tr in each ch down side edge of blanket,
rotate piece, [2 tr, 1 ch, 2 tr] in 1st missed ch at bottom of blanket,
 FLtr across to next ch, [2 tr, 1 ch, 2 tr] in missed ch,
rotate piece, 1 tr in each ch up side edge of blanket,
rotate piece, [2 tr, 1 ch, 2 tr] in 1st missed ch at top of blanket,
 FLtr in all remaining sts, 1 tr in beg ch to complete corner,
 join to standing tr with a sl st.



Round 2 Sl st in corner ch, **PM in this sl st**, 4 ch (counts as 1 tr, 1 ch),
 2 tr in corner ch, * tr across to next corner, [2 tr, 1 ch, 2 tr] in corner ch;
 rep from * twice more, 1 tr in beg marked sl st, join to top starting ch with an
 invisible join. Fasten off.



Border 2

As border 1, but worked with **WS** facing you throughout.

Weave in all ends created when making the border.

You now have two separate borders, with the loose ends sandwiched between them.

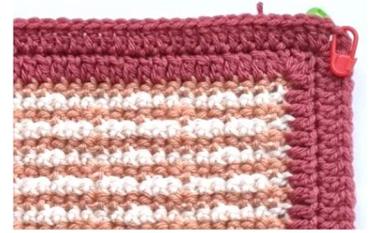
Joining Round

With **RS** (border 1) facing you and **smaller hook**, join yarn with a standing dc through both border 1 and border 2 chains in any corner, 1 dc in same chain,

[dc through inner loops of both borders together to next corner, 2 dc through both corner chains together] 3 times,

dc through inner loops of both borders together to end of round.

Fasten off using an invisible join and secure ends.



RS

WS



Abbreviations and special stitches

UK	US	Instructions for special stitches	
ch	ch	Chain	
ch-sp	ch-sp	Chain space	
st	st	Stitch	
sl st	sl st	Slip stitch	
yrh	yo	Yarn Round Hook (US yarn over)	
pul	pul	Pull Up Loop	
rep	rep	Repeat	
dc	sc	Double Crochet (US single crochet)	
BLdc	BLsc	Back Loop Double Crochet (US Back Loop Single Crochet) Double crochet into Back Loop only	
FLdc	FLsc	Front Loop Double Crochet (US Front Loop Single Crochet) Double crochet into Front Loop only	
tr	dc	Treble Crochet (US double crochet)	
FLtr2d	FLdc2d	Front Loop Treble 2 down (US front Loop Double Crochet 2 down) Treble into unused front loop of st 2 rows down	
tr3d	dc3d	Treble 3 down (US Double Crochet 3 down) working in front of ch-sps, treble in missed st 3 rows down	
SPtr3d	SPdc3d	Spiked Treble 3 down (US Spiked Double Crochet 3 down) working over sts from previous 2 rows, treble in st 3 rows below next st	

Please respect the work it has taken to create this tutorial for you, and do not sell on or copy these instructions in any way.

If you wish to share the tutorial you may do so only by linking to the original documents in my website <https://www.rosinaplane.com/mosaiccrochet>.

Rosina

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