

afghan makeover



BEFORE

A dainty bedspread from the Thirties takes on new life as a graphic, mod throw with just a quick yarn update and color change.

In 1939, \$750 could buy a brand new car, a loaf of bread was a mere 8 cents, and three pennies could mail a letter from coast to coast. Americans sat on the edge of their seats during the blockbusters *Gone With the Wind* and *The Wizard of Oz*, likely snacking on nickel Hershey bars. And, lots of women were busy crocheting. With the Great Depression just drawing to a close and little disposable income on hand for most families, needlework was a popular way for women to beautify their homes. The decorating style of the day, Art Deco, emphasized crisp lines, geometric shapes, and high-contrast colorways—characteristics echoed in this simple yet striking afghan from that era (left). Proving that good design never goes out of style, a fresh color change makes this crochet creation perfectly contemporary.—*Mary Beth Temple*



AFTER

BEFORE (opposite) A throw from the Thirties showed design potential, but looked a little tired. **AFTER** (this page) Updated yarn colors infuse this blanket with stylish good looks!

what you'll need

- YARN**
TLC Essentials, 6oz/170g balls, each approx 312yd/285m (acrylic)
- 3 balls #2772 Light Country Rose (A)
 - 5 balls #2313 Aran (B)
 - 5 balls #2112 Black (C)

- CROCHET HOOK**
- Size G/6 (4mm) crochet hook or any size to obtain correct gauge

- NOTIONS**
- Yarn needle

the yarn

 Essentials in Light Country Rose



SKILL LEVEL: intermediate

finished measurements
Approx 45½"/115.5cm x 71½"/181.5cm

gauge
1 Afghan Square = 6½"/16.5cm measured diagonally from corner to corner, using G/6 (4mm) crochet hook.
Remember to check gauge for best results!

how to make a gauge swatch
Starting at center of square with A, ch 4; join with sl st to form a ring.

Round 1 (right side) Ch 3 (counts as first dc), 2 dc in ring, ch 2, [3 dc in ring, ch 2] 3 times; join with sl st in top of beginning ch-3 – 12 dc and 4 corner ch-sp.

Work Rounds 2–5 of Afghan Square instructions below. Resulting square should measure approx 6½"/16.5cm measured diagonally from corner to corner. Adjust hook size if necessary to obtain correct gauge.

Abbreviations used in this pattern

- ch chain
- dc double crochet
- sl st slip stitch
- sp(s) space(s)
- st stitch
- yo yarn over

special abbreviations

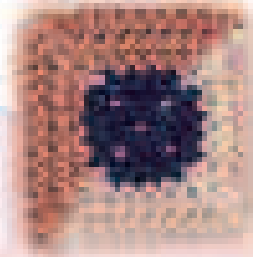
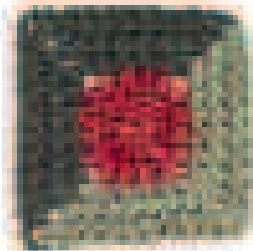
hdc2tog yo, insert hook in indicated st or ch-sp, yo and draw up a loop; yo, insert hook in next indicated st or ch-sp, yo and draw up a loop; yo and draw through all 5 loops on hook, notes hdc2tog can be used to group two stitches or spaces, or the entire hdc2tog can be worked in the same chain space. When two stitches or spaces are indicated following the hdc2tog the hook should be first inserted in the first stitch or space indicated and then inserted in the next stitch or space indicated. When only one chain space is indicated, the entire hdc2tog should be worked in that chain space.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARCUS TULLIS

try this!

Go for a different look with these colors. (Use the same yarn amounts listed on the previous page.)

- TLC *Essentials*, # 2675 Dark Thyme, #2915 Cranberry, and #2673 Medium Thyme
- TLC *Essentials*, # 2335 Taupe, #2855 Navy and #2332 Linen



AFGHAN SQUARE (make 136)

Starting at center of square with A, ch 4; join with sl st to form a ring.

Round 1 (right side) Ch 3 (counts as first dc), 2 dc in ring, ch 2, [3 dc in ring, ch 2] 3 times; join with sl st in top of beginning ch-3 – 12 dc and 4 corner ch-sp.

Round 2 Ch 2, hdc2tog same st as join and next st, ch 1, hdc2tog last st worked and next st, ch 1; (hdc2tog, ch 3, hdc2tog, ch 1) in corner ch-sp, *hdc2tog next 2 sts, ch 1, hdc2tog last st worked and next st, ch 1, (hdc2tog, ch 3, hdc2tog, ch 1) in corner ch-sp; repeat from * around; join with sl st in top of beginning hdc2tog – 16 hdc2tog, 4 hdc2tog per side.

Fasten off.

Join B with sl st in any corner ch-sp.

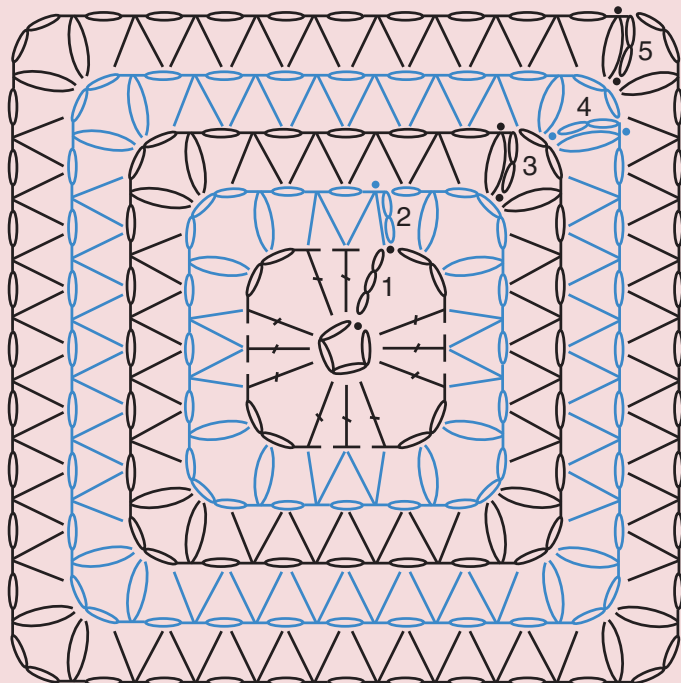
Round 3 Ch 2, hdc2tog in same corner ch-sp, ch 1, *[hdc2tog same ch-sp and next ch-sp, ch 1] 4 times, (hdc2tog, ch 2, hdc2tog, ch 1) in corner ch-sp, [hdc2tog same ch-sp and next ch-sp, ch 1] 4 times, hdc2tog in corner ch-sp, ch 1*; drop but do not cut B, yo with C and draw through loop on hook; hdc2tog in same corner ch-sp, ch 1; repeat from * to *; ch 1; join with sl st in top of beginning hdc2tog – 24 hdc2tog, 6 hdc2tog per side.

Round 4 (wrong side) Turn, sl st into first corner ch-sp, ch 2, hdc2tog in same corner ch-sp, ch 1, *[hdc2tog same ch-sp and next ch-sp, ch 1] 6 times, (hdc2tog, ch 2, hdc2tog, ch 1) in corner ch-sp, [hdc2tog same ch-sp and next ch-sp, ch 1] 6 times, hdc2tog in corner ch-sp, ch 1*; drop but do not cut C, yo with B and draw through loop on hook; hdc2tog in same corner ch-sp, ch 1; repeat from * to *; ch 1; join with sl st in top of beginning hdc2tog – 32 hdc2tog, 8 hdc2tog per side.

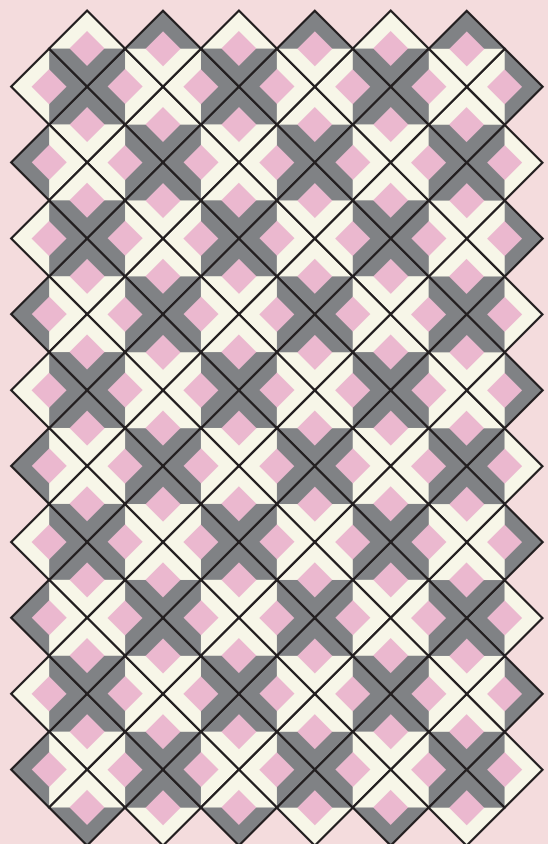
Round 5 (right side) Turn, sl st into first corner ch-sp, ch 2, hdc2tog in same corner ch-sp, ch 1, *[hdc2tog same ch-sp and next ch-sp, ch 1] 8 times, (hdc2tog, ch 2, hdc2tog, ch 1) in corner ch-sp, [hdc2tog same ch-sp and next ch-sp, ch 1] 8 times, hdc2tog in corner ch-sp, ch 1*; drop but do not cut B, yo with C and draw through loop on hook; hdc2tog in same corner ch-sp, ch 1; repeat from * to *; ch 1; join with sl st in top of beginning hdc2tog – 40 hdc2tog, 10 hdc2tog per side.

finishing

Following the diagram, sew squares together from the wrong side, placing squares so that background colors form a checkerboard pattern. Weave in all ends. ■



afghan square



construction diagram