

Crochet post-box topper

(pattern from National Vice Chair Beryl Hales)

You will need: yarn and a hook of your choice (I used double knitting wool and a 5mm hook)

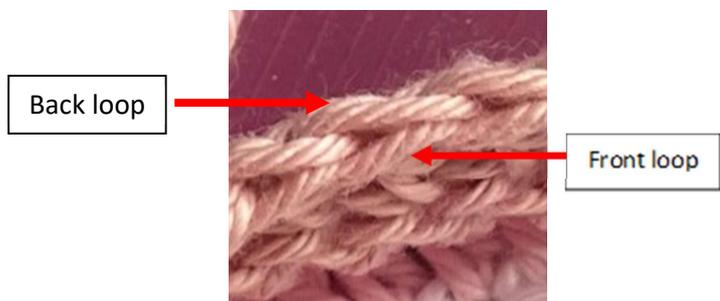
Abbreviations: ch= chain, ss = slip stitch, tr= treble



1. Getting started: ch 4 and ss into the first ch to make a circle
2. Round 1: ch3 (makes your first stitch), 5 tr into the centre of the circle ss to the top of the 3rd chain, so you have 6 stitches in total and have made the first round
OR you can start with a magic circle and 6 tr
3. Round 2, increase by 6 stitches: ch3, tr into same space, 2 tr into the top of each of the rest of the stitches in round 1. Join to the top of the 3rd chain, so you have 12 stitches.
4. Round 3, increase by 12 stitches: ch 3, tr into same space, 2 tr into the top of each of the rest of the stitches in round 1. Ss the top of the 3rd chain, so you have 24 stitches.

Now you will increase each round by 12 stitches each time

5. Round 4, increase by 12 stitches: ch 3, tr into same space, 1 tr into next stitch, continue round the rest of the stitches, (2tr, 1tr), ss to the top of the 3rd chain, so you have 36 stitches.
6. Round 5, increase by 12 stitches: ch 3, tr into same space, 1 tr into the top of each of the next 2 stitches, continue round the rest of the stitches, (2tr, 1tr, 1tr), ss to the top of the 3rd chain, so you have 48 stitches.
7. Round 6 increase by 12 stitches, ch3, tr in same space, 1tr, 1tr, 1tr, continue round the rest of the stitches (2tr,1tr, 1tr, 1tr) ss to the top of the 3rd chain, so you have 60 stitches.
8. Each round will continue to increase by 12 stitches, following the pattern of 2tr into the top of a stitch and increasing the number of single trebles into the top of stitches by one each time so at the end of round 7 you will have 72 stitches, and round 8 will be 84 stitches. Continue the pattern until your work measures 56cm across, or to fit the top of post box you are using.
9. Shape the sides: ch 3, 1 tr into the BACK loop of each stitch from the last round, ss to the top of the 3rd chain to join.
10. Next round: ch 3, 1 tr into the top of each stitch from the previous row, ss to the top of the 3rd chain to join



11. Repeat the last round until the depth of the side is approx. 10 cm, 6 cm to go down the side and 4 cm to go underneath to hold it in place, or to fit the post box you are using.

Why not try the pattern on a small scale making a cover for your glass or mug to take outside to stop flies or leaves falling in, or to dress a jam jar, or try using strips from plastic bags instead of yarn?

Knitted post box topper

(pattern from National Chair Penny Ryan)



To fit 56 cm diameter round post box

You will need: about 125grams of yarn and appropriate needles – I used acrylic double knit and 4mm needles – double pointed at first then a circular.

Abbreviations: k=knit; inc = increase by knitting into the front and back of the stitch; k2tog = knit two stitches together; yfwd = make a stitch by bringing the yarn to the front under the needle and then taking it over the needle to knit the next stitch.

These instructions are for knitting in the round. I place a trailing marker at the beginning of the round (a long thread in a different colour which I move backwards and forwards every few rows, it stays in place until I finish then it is just pulled out)

Cast on 8 sts and spread over 3 needles.

Row 1: inc in each stitch (16 stitches)

Row 2 and every alternate row, knit

Row 3: (inc in next stitch, k1) repeat brackets to the end of the row (24 stitches)

Row 5: (inc in next stitch, k2) repeat brackets to the end of the row (32 stitches)

Row 7: (inc in next stitch, k3) repeat brackets to the end of the row (40 stitches)

Row 9: (inc in next stitch, k4) repeat brackets to the end of the row (48 stitches)

Row 11: (inc in next stitch, k5) repeat brackets to the end of the row (56 stitches)

Continue in this pattern increasing 8 stitches every alternate row, adding an extra stitch between increases every increase row, until the work measures 28cm from the centre to the edge.

Then continue without shaping for another 8 cm.

Next row: make holes – (k2tog, yfwd, k2) repeat to the end of the row

Work 2 or 3 more rounds without shaping

Cast off loosely (I use a larger needle for this)

Finishing and placing

Decorating – remember that your topper will get wet so avoid using unprotected paper or card. Try using plastic canvas as a basis for stitched, letters or numbers. Use the canvas rolled up to stiffen or do a Blue Peter and cut from a plastic bottle. Use the same recycled plastic or felt stitched in the bottom of figures that need to stand or stitch in a circle so that items can support one another.

Stitch things on firmly but consider using a contrast colour thread if you hope to reuse decorations and the topper as it makes unpicking easier. For extra strength consider stitching though the topper and a piece of scrap material on the inside of the topper

Dressing the post-box is easier with help.

To attach to the post-box- thread string or a twisted cord through the holes in the knitting or bottom row of the crochet. Draw up tightly and tuck ends under. (cut the string to remove the topper)