

Four Square Poncho

Original Design

by Helen Shrimpton[®]

All crochet terms are in US terms

There are many ways to make a Poncho, this is just one of the ways I do it.

The following information is more of a guide line than a Pattern as you may take the sections you like and mix and match them.

Abbreviations

Sc - single crochet

Hdc - half double crochet

Dc - double crochet

Sl-st - slip stitch

Tog - together

Fpdc - front post double crochet

Bpdc - back post double crochet

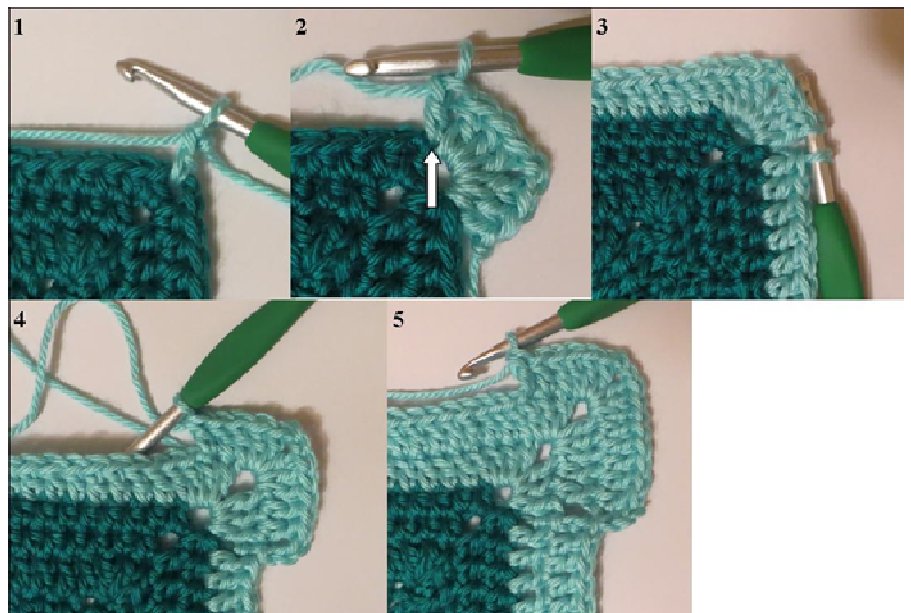


First you will need to make 4 12 inch squares. For the purpose of this pattern/tutorial I have used my own design Spiro Square, which you can find on my Ravelry designs.

Next you will need to enlarge your squares, by **3 rounds of double crochet**.

You can use what ever stitch type you like, but in the two examples here I have used simple double crochet in every stitch in the Green Poncho and Granny stripes in the Blue and Cream Poncho.

To enlarge your squares start with a standing double crochet in any corner space (photo 1) Make 2 more dc, ch2, 3dc, all in the same corner space. Then dc in every stitch, making sure you do not miss the covered/hidden stitch shown by the arrow in photo 2 and in each corner space (3dc, ch2, 3dc). Join with a sl-st to 1st dc. Ch3 and dc in stitches to corner ch2 space, make a new corner of (3dc, ch2, 3dc) and continue as round 1 joining to top of ch3 at end of round (photo 4). Repeat once more for a 3rd round (photo 5) and join to ch3 finish off and sew/weave in ends.



So you have your four squares with 3 extra rounds of a variation of double crochet.

Again with the joining you may choose what ever method you like, here I use the flat chain method, which I will explain. Personally I like the solid flat look of it with the more solid squares, but if you are using a lacy type square you may prefer a chain join or similar.



This shows the layout for the first 3 squares

Joining with the flat chain method.

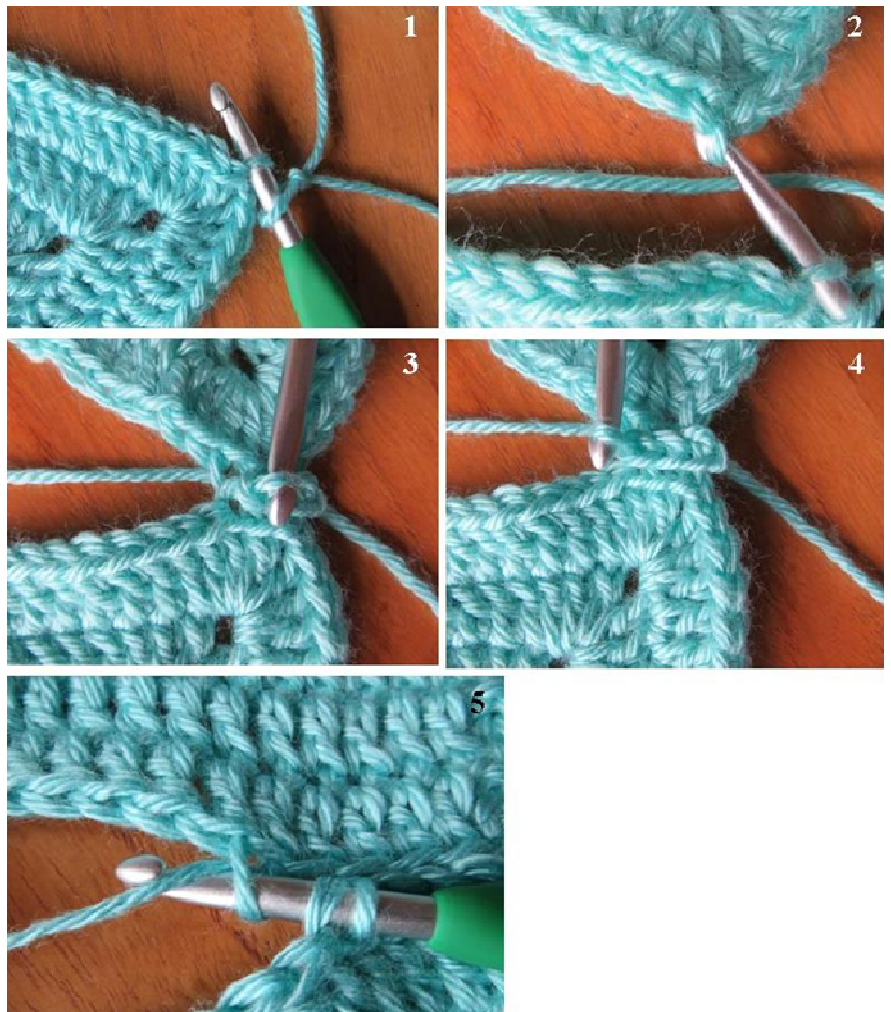
With this method you will be working in the back loops only. Make a slip knot and then place hook through of 1st square, (photo1)

put hook through back loop of 2nd square (photo2)

and pull up a loop through all 3 loops on hook.(photo 3 and 5)

Photo 4 shows the first 3 stitches made.

Continue to the end and make 1 extra loop, cut your yarn leaving a long tail.



Once you have joined the first three squares the fourth one is joined by folding the two side squares in half as shown in the photo

You now have your basic Poncho shape Neck line is again choice, here I show you just two ways of doing it.



For the Green Poncho I chose a lower neckline but as you will see in the photo the back is slightly higher than the front.



For this method you will work directly onto your Poncho starting at the front join the 2 extra loops you made when joining and pull your yarn through to form a sl-st as shown in the photos.



Sc in the next corner space, sc in next 30 st's.
Hdc in next 4 st's, dc in next 23 st's. dc 3 tog (these stitches will be the last dc, corner ch space and the loop from joining).
Dc3tog again (these st's will be corner ch space, loop from join and the next corner ch space).
Dc in the next 23 st's, hdc in the next 4 st's, sc in the next 30 st's.

Sc2tog (corner space and 1st join loop)

Skip 1st sc and sc in next 29 st's.(photo on left)

Hdc in next 4 st's, dc in next 21 st's.

Dc3tog twice (photo on right)

Dc in next 21 st's, hdc in next 4 st's, sc in next 29st's.

Sc4tog, sc in next 28st's, hdc in next 4 st's, dc in next 19 st's, dc3tog twice, dc in next 19 st's, hdc in next 4 st's, sc in next 28st's. sc4tog, sc in next 26 st's, hdc in next 4 st's, dc in next 17 st's, dc3tog twice, dc in next 17 st's, hdc in next 4 st's, sc in next 26 st's, sc 4 tog, ch1 and fasten off.

Sew or weave in all of your ends now from the joins and the neck line.



For the Blue and Cream poncho make a chainless foundation of 80 dc. Or ch82, dc in 3rd chain from hook and in each chain so that you have 80 dc plus 2ch at the beginning. Join with sl-st. Ch2(this does not count as a stitch) fpdc in 1st dc, bpdc in 2nd dc, continue around alternating fpdc and bpdc to form a rib, your last stitch will be a bpdc, join to 1st fpdc with a sl-st, ch2 and fpdc in 1st fpdc, bpdc in next stitch etc around. Repeat for 7 rows to achieve this "stand up neck line" if you wish to make a cowl type neck line then just keep going with more rows until you reach the desired size.

The joining part is the BACK so this is where you will form your 1st corner. Count around to the 40th stitch and place a stitch marker there.

Once you have finished your last round of rib sl-st together and chain 3 (this counts as your 1st dc in the corner group of (3dc, ch2, 3dc) make 2 more dc ch 2 and then another 3dc all in the same 1st stitch, dc in the next 39 stitches, make a corner (3dc, ch2, 3dc) in the next marked stitch, dc in the next 39 stitches.

Join to ch3 with a sl-st and repeat around making your 2 corners in the same way and making a dc in each stitch around, 2 more times. You will now have 3 rounds with 2 corners. Join and fasten off and sew/weave in your ends.

You now need to join your neck piece to the main body of your Poncho, do this in the same way as you joined your squares, making sure you line up the corners with the point of the front and back points of the squares.



Finishing the bottom edge is again your choice of any type of edging stitch or fringing. Before you finish off check the length of your poncho, I like mine on the longer side so with the Blue/Cream one I added an extra 2 rows of Granny Strips and for the Green one I added 2 rows of triple crochet V stitch as I did not want fringing here but a softer look.

What ever stitch you are using to add extra length or for a decorative edging make sure you remember to put in the two corners to maintain the shape!

You may add fringing as I have with the Blue/Cream one (see photo on 1st page) a dvd case is perfect for the length to make fringing, but don't skimp, I used just over a whole ball of yarn for the fringing, 6 pieces in each fringe. Just wrap your yarn... not tightly, around the dvd case and keep wrapping... cut along one side only and you have your lengths to loop through and make your fringe