



STITCH-CATION WORKBOOK

10 SQUARE PATTERNS + TUTORIALS

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INTRODUCTION

Stitch-cation has been designed to teach and build skill sets for crocheters. For new crocheters who are wanting to expand their skills to experienced crocheters who may have forgotten about different stitches.

In this eBook will be 10 squares that have different stitches to explore. You will need internet access to activate the video tutorials and access the written patterns for each stitch combination.

The Stitch-cation Afghan, as seen in this eBook, was crocheted by [Colleen Barden](#), assistant crocheter to [Mikey](#) of The Crochet Crowd.

WORKSHEET & SUPPLIES

THIS PROJECT REQUIRES THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS

- Squares Require 8 Skeins of mixed colours of 7 oz, Red Heart Super Saver Yarns. Colours to randomly put together with squares. Most squares are not a solid colour but that is up to your own creativity. You will not use up all of your skeins.
- 1 Skein of 7 oz Red Heart Super Saver of a colour to border each individual square.
- 5 mm or I Crochet Hook
- Tapestry Needle



MIKEY'S COLOUR CHOICES

This is what I have used within the sample afghan that you have can see. These are just suggestions but I strongly encourage you to explore colours that mean something special to you.

The colours are in no particular order as the entire project was put together randomly.

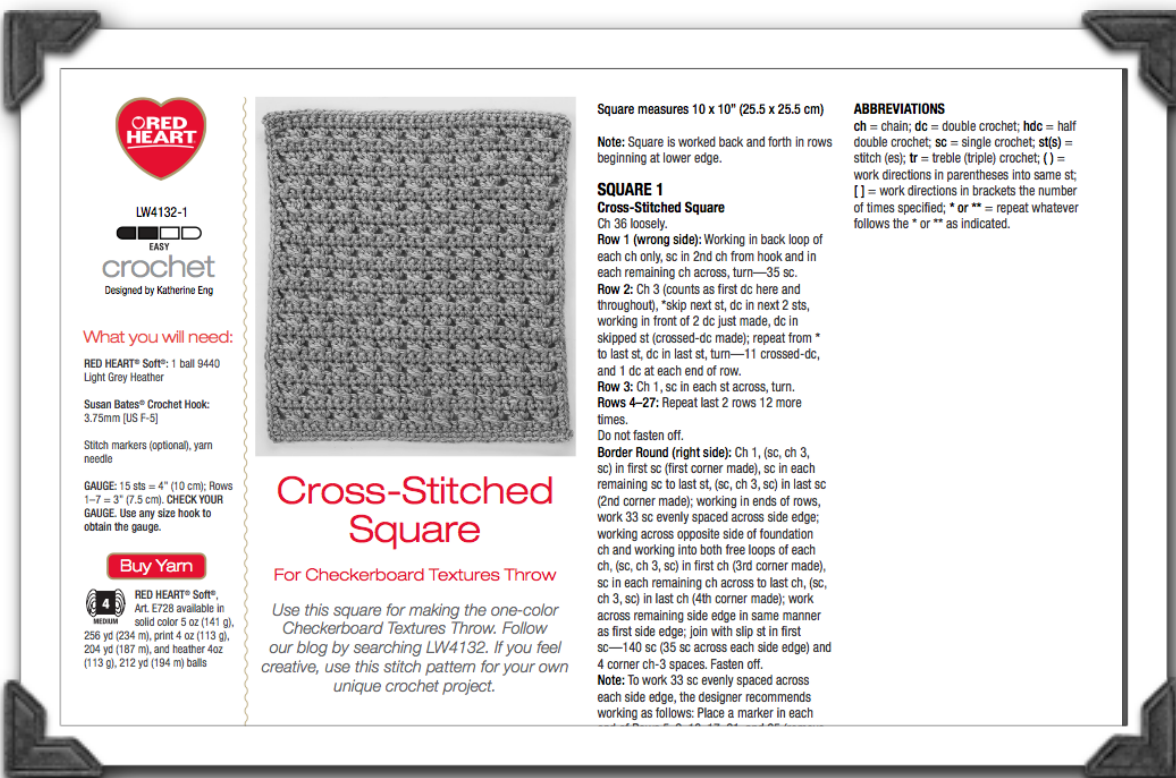
Light Grey, Baby Pink, Lemon, Buff, Light Blue, Pale Plum, Pale Yellow and Honey Dew. The border around each square is Aran.

You can view the entire colour selection of [Red Heart Super Saver](#) to give you colour ideas.



LIST OF PATTERNS

- 1. Popcorn Stitch Square
- 2. Granny Square
- 3. Front Post Treble Crochet Square
- 4. Back Loops Square
- 5. Cross Stitched Square
- 6. Front Post Double Crochet Around Single Crochet Square
- 7. Raised Treble Crochet Square
- 8. Shells with Front & Back Stitches Square
- 9. Front Post Double Crochet Square
- 10. Double Crochet + Slip Stitch Square



SUGGESTED BORDER FOR ENTIRE AFGHAN

I took the border from this afghan pattern to apply it to my Stitch-cation Project.

- Holiday Striped Throw (Border instructions only)

In this eBook, all of the patterns and ideas will be included with video tutorial demonstrations to show you how to crochet it up.

STITCH-CATION CHALLENGE

Though this eBook will be available well after Stitch-cation, July 1st - Sept 1st, 2014, the intention of this project is for crocheters to exercise free will with colours and concepts. Stitch-cation has a criteria to follow.

This afghan is a sampler and is a great teaching based afghan to further skills and try interesting concepts. You may love some new stitches and/or decide what stitches you don't care for. It's great to experiment.



- Crocheters must use at least 8 colours to mix and match in the squares. The concept is not to make it easy to just make one square a solid colour, but to play with the colours as most of the squares have the option to really experiment with. I used 7 colours within the body of the squares and used Aran to border each finished square.
- Crocheters have free choice on how to assemble their afghan. You can opt to whip stitch or use interesting crochet techniques to assemble them together.
- Crocheters have free choice on deciding a border. For the Stitch-cation challenge, the border must have at least 4 rounds to qualify. I think the border I used in the sample has 8.
- Crocheters can also decide which yarn they prefer to use.
- The Stitch-cation afghan must be 20 squares, 4 x 5 squares. To qualify, there must be 2 squares from each of the 10 patterns. Crocheters can make the afghan bigger but they still must have a minimum of 2 squares per pattern inside the afghan.

KEY TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Let's discuss some key factors that will determine your success.

- Firstly, the video demonstrations will show you how to change colour effectively within the squares. Refer to the tutorials to show you key tips of hiding in loose ends.
- All of the squares are equal in width, stitch wise of being 35 stitches. You will find some squares will want to pull in tighter than others. It's nothing to worry about.
- Watch your row counts as you need your squares to be equal in height. If you have squares that are noticeably bigger. Use your own crochet freedom to remove out extra rows to bring it back in balance with your other squares.
- If your square is turning out to be shorter than other squares, add additional rows to compensate.
- Though your widths will be equal, the height of the squares may vary slightly. When creating the final border, it is imperative on the sides of the squares that you are equally spacing 35 single crochets along the edge. Count each side row to ensure it's 35 and adjust if required. You must only have 35 single crochets around each edge. On the side edges, you just have to equally space the single crochets that may require a couple attempts to accomplish. This is part of the challenge.
- The border is the fun part. Look around and look at afghans with interesting borders. You may have to tweak a bit in the corners but you may be able to find a fabulous border to go with your creativity.



HOW THIS EBOOK WORKS

- Each Pattern has it's own page with clickable links.
- This eBook requires internet access to utilize the interactive portions of this book. The patterns are linked directly to Red Heart's Website. If you need to review the video tutorials, the video links will forward you straight to the tutorial on YouTube to play the video.
- I have provided a page for suggestions on how to attach the squares together. Find a method that you prefer and run with it.
- I will provide you border information with a video tutorial. It's merely a suggestion but I encourage you to look around and see what other borders you can explore.





Learn New Stitches
Sampler Afghan Series

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Stitch-cation. This project has been designed to enhance your crochet abilities by introducing you to stitches with making your samples useful at the same time.

Remember in typing class... gggg, hhhh, iii and so on. This course is about putting your skills of repetitive stitches to good use. It's practical so that you have your assignment at the end to be proud of.

You may find stitches you love while other stitches you can say that you did it, liked it but it wasn't your favourite. This is about creative exploration in the end.

Play the introduction video to get a course overview of what to expect with Stitch-cation.

[**PLAY INTRODUCTION VIDEO**](#)



Learn New Stitches
Popcorn Stitches

POP POP POP!

IT'S THE POPCORN STITCH SQUARE!

One of the most interesting squares of the entire afghan is the Popcorn Stitch Square. Diva Dan and I asked Colleen to ensure she changes colours for each popcorn and this is what she came up with.

When you look at the free pattern, the picture is taken straight down onto the square. You completely miss the element of how 3D it truly is.

Colleen says, she's making a kitty bed with this stitch as her cats, Milo and Bella loved the bumps to kneed their paws into.

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[WATCH THE VIDEO TUTORIAL](#)



Learn New Stitches
Granny Square

**IT'S JUST ANY
GRANNY
SQUARE!**

**THIS ONE IS
UNUSUAL!**

Look closely, this granny square is untypical of what we are used to seeing. There are two distinct differences that make this unusual.

- The granny isn't constantly turned in a circle going in the same direction. With each round, you stop and slip stitch and turn the square around. This causes the square to have lines as the right and wrong side will appear on both sides.
- The stop and start of each row is actually in the middle of one of the sides and not a corner. Look at the picture above and on the pattern photo, you will see where the slip stitching appears.

Though our squares were solid in colour, in retrospect, we wish we would have changed the colours after completing two rounds with one colour. It would have been interesting to see the difference.

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Learn New Stitches
Front Post Trebles

GIVE TEXTURE WITH FRONT POST TREBLES!

This square is an interesting one as the texture is only on the front side of the square. The back side is flat. We really liked how the colours played with each other like a mixed ice cream flavour.

Once you get started with this, it's easy to follow along the pattern to ensure the trebles are lining up perfectly.

I challenge you to change colours often with this square as you will definitely love the way it looks. This square is a lot of fun.

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Learn New Stitches
Back Loops

BACK LOOPS CREATE DEFINED RIDGES!

Back loops are used often in crochet patterns. In baby booties, they help define edges from the sole of the shoe to the sides up. You will have noticed the back loops being used in one of The Crochet Crowd's favourite afghan called the [Ocean Waves Throw](#).

Using back loops doesn't make your heights of your projects so compressed. It creates defined edges that are desirable. I will admit, back looping takes a bit getting used to but but you master it, you get into the rhythm and start motoring along. This is definitely a square you will want to change colours with as it looks pretty cool!

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Learn New Stitches
Cross Stitch

DID SOMEONE SAY CROSS STITCH? CROCHET?

This is a type of cross stitching that I was unaware of before this project. The cross stitch is actually only 1 post leaning on an angle and not two criss crossing over each other. I would have never expected this to be possible.

I really came to love this stitch and see possibilities with this stitch in the future. It's easy to keep a count of the stitches and really not hard to remember the stitch work. I know I could sit in front of the TV and handle this project with ease.

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Learn New Stitches
Front Post Double Crochet Square

THIS REMINDS ME OF AN ESCALATOR STEP!

I absolutely loved what Colleen did with the colours of this particular square. The stitching reminds me of an escalator step or even a conveyor belt look. I love it!

This was an easy square to maintain the stitch counts to and due to the stitch work, it makes the square very tight and condensed. Colleen commented that she wished there was more of these squares in the afghan as she thoroughly enjoyed making these.

The original pattern on the written pattern doesn't do this square the justice it deserves. Definitely a stitch I want to play with at a later time in another project.

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[WATCH THE VIDEO TUTORIAL](#)



Learn New Stitches
Raised Crochet Treble Squares

IT'S LIKE A PEBBLE FLOOR TILE!

I think it's the colour choices here with the stitch that really sold me on this square. It's like little colourful cute pebbles sitting perfectly in line. I can see this type of stitch used in festive afghans and other types of projects where a crocheter doesn't want such flat surface.

This type of square could be potentially different colours in each section instead of just two colours of stripes.

[GET THE FREE WRITTEN PATTERN](#)

[WATCH THE VIDEO TUTORIAL](#)



Learn New Stitches
Shells + Back & Front Posts

**IT'S LIKE
CABLING!**

This is one of my favourites as it really looks pretty slick without a whole lot of effort applied to it. This stitching provides an open lacework effect while giving you results that would be suitable for clothing and really lovely home decor afghans.

I'm not sure I would change the colour in the middle of the square at all, I think as a solid colour square, it looks dynamite!

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[WATCH THE VIDEO TUTORIAL](#)



Learn New Stitches
Front Post Double Crochet

WHAT A SURPRISE!

When Colleen came back to our studio with this stitched square, Daniel and I were in awe. What is this stitch? I've never seen anything like it before. It totally reminds me of a sifting grate. It's fabulous!

Using front post double crochets in both directions, it creates deep pockets for every other stitch. This is definitely a stitch worth considering for a future project. I'm not what type of project that is at the moment, but it's definitely got my attention.

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LOOKS LIKE FISH SCALES!

I've done something similar to this before but not a slip stitch between the double crochets. I think the look of it is really interesting as well. I think it may be the colours we have chosen but it does look like a fish scale pattern.

I think this stitching has a really strong potential for even more colour changes to come through to provide a unique looking afghan.

This stitch is highly compact and tight as well, I think that would be a bonus for those who are looking for no gaps in an afghan.

[GET FREE WRITTEN PATTERN](#)

[WATCH VIDEO TUTORIAL NOW](#)



BORDER INSTRUCTIONS

Each square come with it's own border instructions. I want to give you some tips to help you with this because your borders make a huge impact in the next phase of construction.

Your squares are all the same width of 35 stitches across. It's classified as a square, therefore, the sides of the square should also have 35 stitches.

When working on the sides when doing the borders, the sides must have only 35 stitches. Most of the squares, you are going to have to evenly space the stitches as the stitches aren't so obviously like the bottom and tops of the squares.

Getting 35 stitches in is critical as you want the stitches to line up exactly to the neighbour square. You need to specifically count it out. If you go along and you don't have enough room to put in 35 stitches, examine the row and see how you can get more in. vice versa if you do 35 and you are not at the end of the row. You may need to be creative in your thinking. It's not an exact science here.

Remember, ensure you get 35 stitches on each side to keep your project squares in balance.



HOW TO ATTACH YOUR NEW SQUARES TOGETHER

I've left it to you to figure out how to attach your squares together. The reason I have done so is for you to do it the way you most prefer. Some of you enjoy sewing, others prefer to crochet the squares together.

In the photograph, I have opted to single crochet the squares together.

Let me show you how to do different methods. Pick one that is right for you.

- [Single Crochet Method](#)
- [Sewing Method](#)
- [Invisible Seam Method](#)
- [Zig Zag Method](#) - Not really great for This type of afghan.
- [How to Properly Finish Tail Ends](#)



THE FINAL BORDER

Now that your squares are attached together. It's now time to try find a border that you love.

I used the border from the Holiday Stripe Throw. You just have to tweak the corners a bit in order to get it to line up if your stitches are off by one or two. It's an easy border to manipulate to get it work.

Refer to the border section of the pattern to follow.

Get the Free Written Pattern: [Holiday Strip Throw](#)

Video Tutorial: [Holiday Stripe Throw](#) Border begins at the 27:20 minute mark in the tutorial. This video will be available for viewing after July 17th, 2014.

Good luck and watch you afghan transform into something incredible in the end.



ENJOY YOUR NEW AFGHAN

I hope you have had a great opportunity to learn new stitches and create a masterpiece at the same time.

Remember, for more free patterns, videos and ideas, be sure to stay tuned to [The Crochet Crowd Website](http://TheCrochetCrowdWebsite.com).

If you have done this as a challenge, an emailed photo is due by September 1, 2014 to qualify for 1 of 3 Red Heart Fully Load Yarn Bags and Crochet Crowd Gifts.

I would like to thank [Red Heart Yarns](http://RedHeartYarns.com) for making these patterns available for free for us to teach you how to crochet with interesting and fun stitches.

Until next time! W'll See Ya!

Michael Sellick

Creative Director & Video Host for The Crochet Crowd