



## Christmas Topiary Tree



Skill Level: Easy

| Size: 13.5" x 10" Dia. |

Hook: 6 mm / j Hook

### Yarn

**Caron Simply Soft Party Grace**, 85g / 3 oz, 150 meters / 164 yards

**MC** - Spring Sparkle - 2 Balls

12" Styrofoam® Cone required.

Picture above is showing discontinued Bernat Holidays. Felted and steel beads were added with glue gun.

You can easily substitute yarn for this project. There is a tutorial available to explain it further.

### Abbreviations

Approx = Approximate(ly)

Beg = Begin(ning)

Ch = Chain(s)

Rep = Repeat

Sc = Single Crochet

Sl St = Slip Stitch

St(s) = Stitch(es)

V-st = 2 dc in Same Stitch

### Concept General

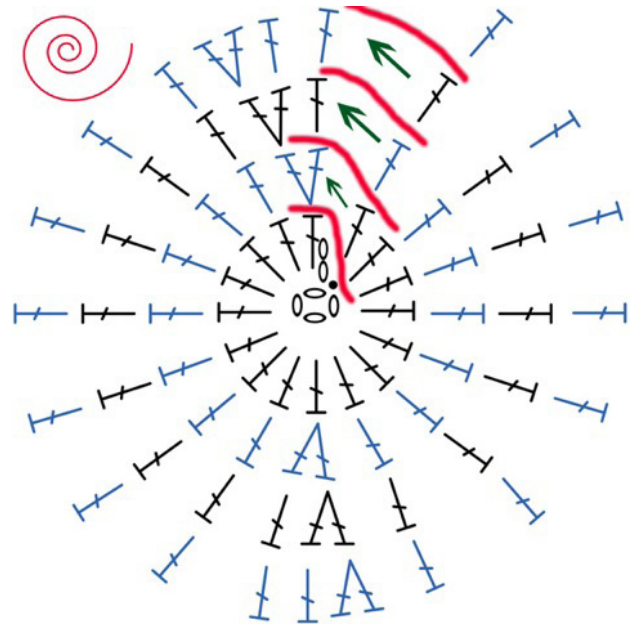
You will crochet a cover that resembles the shape of the 12" cone. The trick is to do a **continuous rotation of the stitchwork** around. This will allow you to apply the scale stitch aka crocodile stitching to go back up the tree.

The scale stitching starts at the bottom. You will see the diagram. The scale stitch takes 2 posts. You will skip over 3 posts and then apply the scale stitch to the next 2.

Due to the continuous add on of stitches as the cone got bigger, the scales will sit onto the tree in a for-



mat that looks random.



*Diagram showing continuous revolution from the start.*

Ch 4, sl st to the beg ch to form ring.

**Rnd 1:** Ch 2 (doesn't count as st), 16 dc in ring, do not sl st at the end.

Continuous round starts here.

**Rnd 2:** V-st into next st. Mark second dc with stitch marker. 1 dc into the next 7 sts. V-st in next st, mark second dc with stitch marker. 1 dc in each st around.

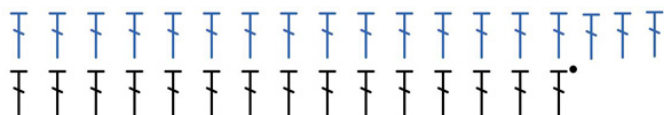
Each marked dc will be where you will put the v-st. Each time you finish a new v-st, move the stitch marker up to the 2nd dc.

**Rnd 3+:** Continue following the stitches around with 1 dc in

each st. Sts marked with st marker will get a v-st.

Continue to crochet in a never ending spiral until you get the height you want. The height is determined by a Styro-foam Cone or whatever height you have in mind. You don't need to count your revolutions.

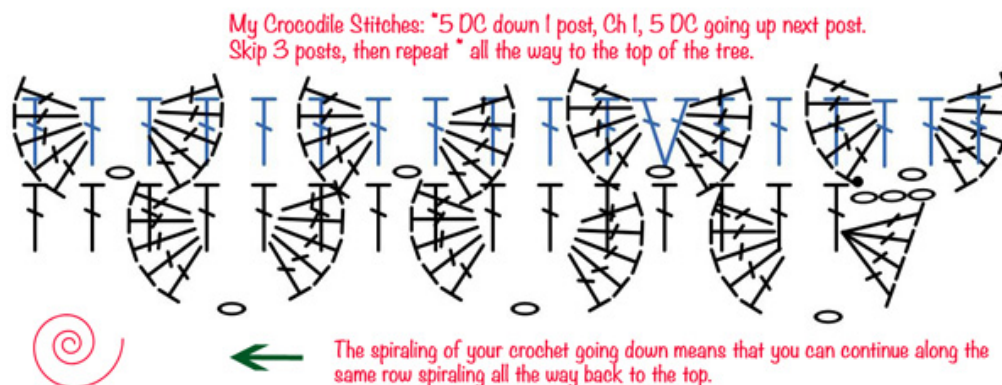
When you have your desired height, fasten off and weave in your ends.



### Let's Review

Right now, if you look at the bottom of your project, you will have double crochets that line up. For the ones in the v-st, consider those two separate double crochet stitches.

We have a tutorial to show you how to do this next part. Here's a diagram on what it looks like. The tutorial will show you how to start so the branches don't appear upside down.



The diagram above is what the branches will do to the existing foundation. The bottoms of the crocodile scales face down, it is much easier to crochet the stitches from the bottom to top of tree for easier access to the posts. Because we have worked down in a continuous spiral, this means the end of the row is at the top of the tree. We continue to work on the row (*crocheting left if you are right handed or moving right if you are left handed*).

**Start Here:** Fasten on yarn on the side of the first post. Ch 3 (counts as dc). 4 dc on same post going down to the bottom of the project. Ch 1, 5 dc up next post. Skip 3 posts. \*5 dc going down next post. Ch 1. 5 dc up next post. Rep \* until you have reached the top of the cone.

**Tip:** As you continue onward, it will get faster and faster as you circle closer to the top as with each revolution, there

are two posts missing because the cone is getting smaller. In the beginning, it can feel labour intensive but you will be encouraged to see it get faster and faster to finish.

Finish the final scale at the top of the tree when you have run out of posts to crochet. Simply fasten off at the end on the final 5th FPDC stitch. This will allow the scale to stand up on one side to form a perfect top.

### Decorate Your Tree

I used assorted colours and sizes of felted balls and metallic beads. I used a hot glue gun to fasten the balls into place onto the tree.

I had yarn that simulated tinsel but found it hid my stitch-work too much for me to like it. You can put a star on top or leave as is.

You are the artist, enjoy and have fun.