

The Crafty Therapist



Cuddly Clusters Bonding Square

An original crochet pattern

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A gorgeously textured pattern designed as a 5" x 5" bonding square, and is easily adapted for other sizes.

Learn how to do Two Double Crochet Clusters in making this pattern. Includes photos to help you with this easy stitch pattern.

Pattern uses US Crochet terminology throughout.

Recommended Yarn

Any soft baby DK #3 weight yarn approx. 8.75-10.9yds (8-10m) to make 2.

Yarn used: [King Cole Cherished](#) (100% anti-pilling acrylic) in shade Laurel, 273yds (250m) per 3.5oz (100g).

Hooks & Other Materials

- US Size 7 (4.5mm)
- US Size H (5.0mm)
- Yarn needle
- Stitch marker

Skill Level

Easy

Sizes/Finished Measurements

Approx. 5" x 5" (12.7cm x 12.7cm)

Abbreviations

St – Stitch

Ch – Chain

Dc – Double crochet

Sts – Stitches

Yo – Yarn over

2dc-cl – Two double crochet Cluster

Notes

1. Starting chain is worked using a larger hook to ensure it isn't too tight.
2. Beginning Ch-3 counts as 1st st in 2dc-cl throughout.
3. Use stitch marker to mark 1st 2dc-cl (in 1st dc, not ch-3) in row, if helpful.
4. For row 2 onward, make last 2dc-cl in dc (not ch-3) of 1st 2dc-cl of previous row.
5. Stitch count is shown at the end of each row in **bold**.
6. Check stitch count at the end of each row.
7. To increase size of finished square, increase starting number of chains and number of rows to suit.

Gauge

With US size 7 (4.5mm) hook: 3 x 2dc-cl and 2 rows = approx. 1" / 2.5cm.

Matching the number of sts to 1" is more important than matching row height. Adjust hook size if necessary to obtain gauge.

Special Stitches/Techniques

Two Double Crochet Cluster (2dc-cl) = A simple cluster stitch made from two double crochet stitches worked together as one stitch: *Yo, insert hook into indicated st, yo, pull up a loop, yo, pull through 2 loops on hook, in same stitch repeat from * once more, yo, pull through all 3 loops on hook (2dc-cl stitch complete [Photo 1]). [Tutorial here.](#)



INSTRUCTIONS

What is a Bonding Square? Bonding squares are used in NICUs to help the bond to form between premature and sick babies and Mom when they can't always be together. They are made in pairs. Mom wears one against her skin to pick up her scent, it is then placed with the baby to comfort them. Every 12 hours or so they are swapped, so the baby is always comforted by Mom's scent.

Make 2 the same.

With size H (5.0mm) hook, Chain 18.

Row 1: Switch to size 7 (4.5mm) hook, dc in 4th ch from hook (ch-3 and dc count as 1st 2dc-cl) [Photos 2 & 3], 2dc-cl in next ch [Photo 4] and in each ch to end [Photos 5 & 6]. Turn. – **15 2dc-cl**



Row 2: Ch 3 [Photo 7], dc in same st [Photo 8], 2dc-cl in next st [Photo 9] and in each st to end. Turn. – **15 2dc-cl**



Rows 3-9: Repeat row 2. – 15 2dc-cl

Fasten off yarn and weave in ends.



I hope you love the pattern! If you have any problems please get in touch through social media or my website so I can help.

Please add the pattern to your Favorites on Ravelry/Lovecrafts/Etsy and add it to your queue/projects if you use Ravelry.

I'd love to see your finished makes, tag @thecraftytherapist on Instagram or tag my [Facebook](#) page. I'll share your makes in my stories.

Thank you, love *Janferie* xx

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