Crochet a Strawberry Granny Square with Twinkie Chan

Chapter 1 - Crochet a Strawberry Granny Square

Overview

- Make your granny squares a hundred times sweeter with strawberries. I'm Twinkie Chan. I'm a crochet designer and author, and we're going to crochet the most irresistibly cute strawberry granny square. You'll learn how to create a strawberry shape in rows and how to build a square around it. Then we'll top our strawberry with a row of leaves and I'll show you my favorite way to stitch the seeds. In this little five inch square, you'll get to practice stitches of many heights from single crochet all the way to treble crochet, and you'll have a delightful addition to your Granny Square collection.

Materials

- Here are the materials you'll need to make your strawberry granny square. Three different colors of worsted weight yarn. I'm using Big Twist Value in deep red, forest green and ivory. An H-hook or whatever size you need to obtain the correct gauge. Scissors. A tapestry needle, optionally one stitch marker, and the pattern is available in the class PDF.

Crochet the strawberry

- Let's start with our strawberry. I'm using red and you'll begin with a slipknot on your hook. Then chain four, yarn over, pull through the loop. That's one chain, 2, 3, and then 4. For row one, we'll skip the first chain and work two single crochets in the next chain. So insert your hook, yarn over, pull through one yarn over, and pull through two. Do that again in the same chain for two single crochets. Then one single crochet in the next chain, and two single crochets in the last chain. At the end of this row, you should have five single crochets. For row two, chain one and turn and work two single crochets into the first stitch. 1, 2, and then one single crochet each and the rest of the stitches. You're going to repeat that three more times. So chain one, turn, two single crochets in the first stitch. One single crochet in the rest. Chain one, turn, two single crochets in the first stitch. One single crochet each in the rest. Here's the fourth repeat. Two single crochets in the first stitch. One single crochet and the rest. At the end of this row you should have nine stitches. For the next three rows, chain one, turn and just work one single crochet in each stitch. For row nine, we're going to do a little bit of decreasing to bring the top portion of our strawberry in a little bit. Chain one, skip the first stitch and work one single crochet in the next six stitches. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. You should have two left. You'll skip the first and then one single crochet. And the last, you should have seven stitches across. This is essentially what our strawberry will look like. We're going to work one round of single crochet as a border. Chain one, work one single crochet in each stitch, and leave one remaining at the end. Work two single crochets in the last stitch. This is gonna help us turn the corner. You wanna place another increase into the side of row eight, which is here, so two single crochets in that space. And then work seven single crochets along this edge. - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. I'm at the bottom of the strawberry. We'll work two single crochets, in the center here work one single crochet and if you'd like, pop a stitch marker into that single crochet you just made. And this last stitch at the bottom work two single crochets to turn the corner once again and work seven crochets evenly on this edge. 64 00:04:49,810 --> 00:04:49,990 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. 67 00:05:08,860 --> 00:05:09,860 We're at the side of row eight again, and we'll do two single crochets in that space.

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And then one single crochet sort of on the side of this top row here. It's kind of like we're creating two single crochets in this first stitch. And then join with the slip stitch to the first single crochet of the round. Super cute! You can break off. And to avoid the appearance of a little knot at the top of the strawberry here, I don't yarn over and pull through as I normally would. I'll just gently pull on the hook to not disturb that last slip stitch. And then I'll weave that end in. So we'll go into the center of the next stitch with my needle going toward the back of the strawberry. And you can tie a knot to secure. I usually just do one and then weave this end in by traveling the needle in between on the inside of your stitches, you can tell you're going inside because you can't see the needle from this side or this side. I'm gonna move down to the row below so I can change directions and really lock in that tail. Don't pull too tightly. Wanna maintain the shape of your strawberry, and clip this close. And I'll weave this end in. You only need to go through a couple stitches and there's our strawberry.

Crochet the granny square

- We're going to start building a granny square around this strawberry. Typically, a granny stitch is three double crochets in the cluster separated by chains. However, to transform this strawberry into a square, we're going to play with different heights of stitches. We placed a stitch marker in this stitch because that's where we're going to join our new yarn. I'm gonna keep my finger there and this entire round will be worked in the back loop only. So instead of inserting my hook into both loops, I will only insert it into the back loop. I have my ivory yarn. I'm gonna join by putting a slip knot on my hook first. But you can join the new yarn however you like. We'll begin round one with a chain one and a single crochet in the same stitch chain three, 1, 2, 3, and skip three, 1, 2, 3. And in this next stitch we're going to work a corner. This will begin with a double crochet, which is a yarn over, insert your hook into the stitch, remember just the back loop, yarn over and pull through one, yarn over and pull through two, yarn over and pull through two. The next stitch will be a half treble crochet yarn over twice. Insert your hook into the same stitch. Yarn over and pull through one yarn over and pull through the first two loops. Yarn over and pull through all three loops on your hook. Next, we'll work a treble crochet. Yarn over twice, insert your hook into the same stitch, yarn over and pull through one, yarn over and pull through two, yarn over and pull through two. And then yarn over and pull through the last two. If you're feeling a little bit lost with all these different kinds of stitches, take a break, check out my crochet sampler class, brush up on your skills and then you can come back and return to the project. Chain three, 1, 2, 3, and then treble crochet in the same stitch again, pull through two, pull through two, pull through two a half treble crochet, and then a double crochet. We'll chain two, 1, 2, skip three, 1, 2, 3, and work two single crochets in the back loop, 1, 2, chain two, skip three, 1, 2, 3. And this will be a half double crochet corner. Half double crochet is a yarn over, insert your hook into the stitch, just that back loop, yarn over, pull through one, yarn over, and pull through all three loops on the hook. I'm gonna work two more half double crochets, a chain three and three more half double crochets in the same stitch. Chain one. Skip three, 1, 2, 3, and then three half double crochets in this back loop, 1, 2, 3. Chain one, another half double crochet corner. At this point, since we're at the top and center of the strawberry, we're basically mirroring what we worked on this side, on this side. So skip three, 1, 2, 3, three half double crochets in the next stitch, 1, 2, 3. Chain three, another three half double crochets, all in that corner. Chain two, skip three, 1, 2, 3. Two single crochets in the same stitch. Chain two, skip three, and then we'll work another big corner just like the first, beginning with a double crochet, a half treble, a treble chain three, treble, half treble, a double crochet, chain three, skip three, and single crochet in

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the same stitch as the first stitch. We'll join the round by working a slip stitch to that first single crochet of the round. Let's take a look at our square. Press it out a little bit. It's really satisfying to see how changing up all those stitches around the strawberry creates the square shape. To begin round two, I'm going to work a slip stitch into this chain three space. So stick your hook not in a chain but underneath all the chains. Yarn over and pull through the loops on your hook. We'll begin with a chain two, 1 2, and then two double crochets in this same chain space. This round is going to look more like your classic granny square. Chain one. In all of the corners we're going to work three double crochets, three chains, and three double crochets. 1, 2, 3, chain three, three double crochets in the same chain space. Chain one, three double crochets in the next chain space. We'll do that one more time. Chain one, three double crochets and the next chain space. Chain one, and work the corner, three double crochets. Chain three and three double crochets, chain one, three double crochets in the chain space. Chain one, three double crochets in the following chain space. Chain one, we're in the corner, three double crochets. Chain three. Three double crochets in the same space. Chain one, three double crochets in this space. Chain one, three double crochets in the next space. Chain one, here's our last corner, three double crochets in the chain space. Chain three, three double crochet, chain one, three double crochets in this last chain space. Chain one, and then join the round by slip stitching into the top of the first chain two. 131 00:09:24,870 --> 00:09:25,260 Break off, and yarn over and pull my yarn tail through. Let's take a look. Looks great. You can see that working in the back loop only has popped our strawberry up a little bit more because we left all these front loops visible. Go ahead and weave in your two yarn tails.

Add the leaves and seeds

- Let's finish up our strawberry square by adding leaves and seeds. The leaves will be worked along this top edge and we're going to work in the front loops that are remaining from working in the back loop only in the granny square. I'll grab my green yarn and insert my hook into the first free stitch at the top of the strawberry, there should be seven, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. That looks good. So I'll insert my hook here into the front loop only of this stitch on the right. Join your green yarn and we'll begin with the bracketed portion of the pattern, which creates one leaf. We're gonna make three leaves, chain two, double crochet into the next stitch, this is the front loop only. Chain two, slip stitch into the same stitch as the double crochet and then slip stitch into the next stitch. We'll repeat that two more times. Chain two, double crochet in the next stitch, front loop only. Chain two, slip stitch in the same stitch as the double crochet, slip stitch in the next stitch. Chain two for the third leaf. 28 00:01:42,690 --> 00:01:44,280 Double crochet in the next stitch. Chain two. Slip stitch into the same stitch, and then slip stitch into the next stitch. Break off leaving a little more than you normally would because we're going to do a little bit more stitching with it. Yarn over and pull that yarn tail through. Since we worked in the front loop only, your leaves will probably flop downward. What I like to do is tack the leaves to the granny square stitches using this yarn tail. I'm gonna weave this one in first to get it out of the way. Probably take a look from the back. You might have to flip this front to back just to get a good look at what's happening. There's not a lot of green stitching to weave through, so I just start weaving in through the red and it will be a little bit visible, but I'm okay with that. Weaving it through the top row of the strawberry and then I'll switch directions and come back the other way to lock it in. Thread that long tail that we left. I don't find that there's a super precise method for this kind of just eyeball where you want to place your stitches. I'm just popping the needle to the back of the square and turn this over. And what I'm doing is I'm feeling with my second finger here, my pointer finger, where the leaf is, and pinching it

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with my thumb so I can get an idea of where on this cream colored granny stitch. I want to pop just tiny, a tiny stitch to tack that down. I'm gonna try to stay in the green yarn 'cause we have to weave up to that spot. This feels pretty good. So pop your needle to the front where the leaf is. Make a teeny tiny stitch. Come back into the fabric, not in the exact same spot. And you see we've tacked that down. It doesn't have to be a ton of stitching, just that little stitch makes a huge difference. Weave back toward the center. I'm doing the same thing. I'm gonna figure out where I want to secure my middle leaf. Put my finger there. I'm actually in a pretty good spot already, so I'll, I'll tack this down. Come back through the fabric in a slightly different spot. Weave back through. Get a feel for where I want my next stitch, I'm weaving through the cream portion. That actually does not quite feel like it's in the right spot. It's a okay to smush these around. Make sure they're in a position you like them. I think I need to travel over a little bit here. So see, it's not really a science, it's more of an art. And you can figure out what you feel is the best way to add these tacking stitches. Come over here and you can weave this back in and tie it off. 90 00:06:24,375 --> 00:06:24,665 - For the strawberry seeds, you can use a number of different methods. Sometimes I like to glue on mini pompoms with a fabric glue, you might want to cut out little felt seeds. I like to embroider them on with a seed stitch. I'm going to use the ivory yarn and give myself about a yard. I always like to have too much instead of too little because I don't wanna have to rejoin the yarn agian. I'll thread the needle and you can place these seeds wherever you like. It can be totally random, it can be planned out. I'm kind of a planner and what I'm gonna do is work three rows of seeds sort of toward the top, sort of in the middle, sort of toward the bottom. I like the look of three seeds in the first row, four seeds in the center, and three seeds at the bottom. But again, you can arrange these however you like. I'll come up from the back of the fabric where I want to start my first seed. Wanna leave enough tail to tie off and weave this in later. And then I like the seeds to be at a slight angle. I'll work a stitch there. And I also prefer the look of two stitches together. I think it makes this look less like a line and more like a seed. I'm flip this over and the back is going to have some visible yarn color changes on it. I'm okay with that, but I will travel inside the stitches to make it as invisible as possible. We'll just try to keep this as neat as we can. You can get a sneak peek of where your needle will come out. Let's just peek this out. If it's not right, then you can come back out. Travel some more, like maybe you wanted it to go there. I'm okay with where we were at. And I'll work a second seed maybe in a different direction, angling to the right. You can keep flipping back and forth, traveling through your stitches and stitching on your seeds. When you're finished with your seeds, weave in your ends and your cute little strawberry granny square will look like this.

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