Crafting Together: Crochet the Quick Gift Cowl with Vickie Howell with Vickie

Chapter 1 - Crochet the Quick Gift Cowl with Vickie Howell

Quick Gift Cowl with Vickie Howell

- That. Hello everyone. As per usual, we're gonna give everyone maybe a minute or two to roll on in. If you feel like it, please say hello in the chat. We're hanging out today with Vicki Howell and I'm, hi. Where you're from and where you're at with your holiday making. Like, have we started, are we thinking about it? Do we make plans? What's the vibe? How about you, Vicki? Have you, my - Vibe is that I can't do anything in mirror. Oh, I don't think I've ever been this Ill repair or ill prepared for the holidays, so I'm really gonna need these, these three hour cals for sure. Yeah. Perfect, - Perfect. - I'm still taking down Thanksgiving decorations and yeah, we - Skipped in my household. We skipped Halloween and Thanksgiving. Well, skipping Halloween is, I - Mean, well I don't have kids and Yeah, fair. But is it, I picture you a Halloween. - I love the idea of dressing up, but I like dressing up for like the odd occasion and not like when everyone else is just, yeah, I don't know. Like I like a costume party, but, - And I actually don't care about dressing up. I just like all the like spooky decoration situation. Yeah, - You don't have to have orange and black Halloween, but it's like, it's like the color palette for me is a little odd. And then you can do like Costello wing and pink wing. - Oh, now there's all of the, like now there's no like just pick it, you know, now that there's all the subcultures that are then making their way up. You can really do, you can do whatever you want. There's, there's a neutral one, which made my, my youngest sad. Oh no, I get that. Clover literally did a presentation at school on maximalism. Oh, I love, that's so cool. Like an anti minimalism speech. So, so yeah. Hello everyone. I see people coming in. - Yeah, - Shelly, she, oh wait, oh, Sarah's here from Austin. I know Sarah. She's a stitch wall social club member. Oh, fun. And so it was Kristen. Kristen is also a stitch wall social club member. So I have a, I have a community which is, I think most people do now, but I have a community called Stitch Wall Social Club. So when I say that, that's what I'm, that's what I'm referring to. Should - We do a formal intro? Does everyone here already know - Who Vicki is? No, no. I wanna hear it. Let's go. - So I have Vicki Hall with us, who I've definitely looked up to for years and years and years and years. I would say you are a superstar of the Knit and Crochet community. You had a show on DIY network. I also admire your entrepreneurship. You've done like subscription yarn boxes. You have your 14th book coming out. Oh, it's out. Is it out? It's out. It's out. - Yeah. I think it might even be the 15th. Do you count booklets? - No. Pulled that from your website. It said it was, yeah, I'm sure it's wrong. - Okay. - You should, - Oh, you should not have trusted anything. - Perhaps 15, maybe 16th. We don't know. - I don't know. Do you count booklets? Does that count? There's like 10 projects. Sure. Never really thought about it. I've never like, yeah, because nobody cares except for me who's always in my head going, but I need to be honest anyways, carry on. Many author of many books. Many, - Many books. And you mentioned Stitch. Well, and that's pretty new, right? It's a, what would you call, like a social hub? - Yeah, it's a community hub. It basically, it's like a place like bring the yarn, find your people. It's away from all the like vitriol and the ads and it's just a safe space. Of course there's tons of patterns. And we do expert guests, which miss a, I'm gonna, I'm gonna say Twinkie Chan 'cause that's how you are, that's how you're coming in is going to be our December guest. So it's part skill building. And then an even bigger part, just being, you know, connections with people. - I love how you do keep it fresh with all of your, I see like the calendar, all the guests you have, it's very exciting. Kind of from different parts of the craft community, whether it's like business or, I can't remember, I saw something, I was like, oh that's, it's

© Vickie Howell and Creativebug Inc., 2026

not just like tutorials, it's sort of the world of like the yarn universe, which I think is cool. - Yeah. 'cause for me it's not just about the craft. Like we have this unique, like the things that I've been able to do because of knitting and crochet are crazy. And it's only because it gives you this like opening and an introduction with people that you wouldn't normally be in the same room with. - Yeah. - And to me that's where the magic is, you know? And then obviously like the orange great and the project's scrape, but there's so much more than just that - For sure. I think when I first started crocheting, I didn't really think about the community part of it, but it's like, why you stay, you, you - Stay. Yeah, it's funny 'cause that is exactly why, why I started and I won't take too much of our time. But when I, when I started knitting, I was pregnant with my second son who's now a grown man. And I had like all the same like misconceptions that a lot of people did back in the, you know, in 2000 whatever, early two thousands that like, oh, it's like only grandmothers and all the things. And I lived in LA and I walked into a friend, like drug me into this really nice yarn shop. I'd also never been in a really nice yarn shop. And I had come from the entertainment industry where women are not great to each other. And I look around and at this table there was a film director, you know, a grandmother, probably a trophy wife, a lawyer like this, all of these women. And they were talking and they were laughing and they, it was like it took all of the other stuff away. And I was like, oh, okay. And I sat down and picked up needles and then just never put 'em down. - Aw, amazing. Amazing. The - Community has always been sort of the foundation for me. - That's super cool. And you're really good at building it - As well. Thank you. I keep interrupting your intro, but you're doing a good job. That's okay. My intro. Keeping it brief because, okay. - Okay. Lots more to talk about. A, we wanna talk about what you're wearing and then B let's talk about what we're making. Okay, so - I literally just finished this top, just the ends like five minutes. Yeah, I was, and in fact there's probably still some ends that aren't woven in. This is a top that I have not named yet. So if you've got a name for it, tell me. I have, I'm about to put the pattern out. - Yep. - I love it. It is made with the yarn that we're using today, which I'll show you now so you don't have to, so the, it's the same yarn that for, lemme try that again. It's the same yarn we're using for the project we're making today and I love it so much. It is by Pearl Soho, it's called Poof. Which I mean how cute is that? And it's 50% alpaca and 50% highland wall and it's got kind of a boucle look, which is really just, I mean, how it's spun. I think it is lovely. And I think, I think I need to weigh the yarn, if you get gauge, gauge is how many stitches and rows per inch. I think that you can get two cows outta the two balls if you're making the striped version. Which makes it, I mean for gifs already, it would be like cost effective and beautiful. 'cause it's, so I always, I wish that we had like squi a vision, you know, like already it's beautiful and amazing, but honestly it's like if you can make these gifts in an evening, like once you get going, you could probably do it in two hours. But we're saying three just to be safe and you could do it for, you know, like a decent amount of money. Like it's a win-win win. So anyways, I love it. This is a, this is a top that I'm hoping to put out like imminently it, you can make it in like six hours, which is kind of my speed. It's with an L hook. And so if you have names, let me know. And I might do a class if the, if people are interested, - Someone says it looks like Roman arches from the Coliseum. Oh well with a little little window doorway. - Yeah, - That's a, a cool take on it. Or like a city building or something. - I love it. It's like a war sh of sweaters. So this is, so this is what we're making though. Are we talking about that now? Yeah, let's do it. Let's do it. So what we're making is the three hour cowl, quickif, cowl, all of the things. I do a quickif cowl almost every year now. It can be anywhere from one hour to, you know, four hours depending on the all the things. This one is the latest one and it's just really, I'm, I'm working a lot on with knitters and crocheters on mental health. Lately we've been doing some knit alongs that focus on instead of the doing sort of like

© Vickie Howell and Creativebug Inc., 2026

temperature projects, but instead of tracking the weather, we're tracking our mental health. And one of the modalities of just like comfort is soft and squishy. And so that is another reason that it's just really, I was really attracted to this yarn. Also, their colors are amazing. This, I don't know if you can see, I love a nerdy green. Like this is a 70 couch green. It's got like a little, it looks like cat eyes, just really beautiful colors saturated. And so together they that and then the warmth that you get I think not only feels great just against your skin, but also if somebody opens this up like it's, you'd be hard pressed not to immediately just sort of like couple it. So that's that. It's, it's got some fun, a couple of fun techniques just to keep it interesting. But once you're in the body of it, it's, it's smooth sailing. There's just a couple stitches. They're basic. And I'm gonna show you, oh there's another stitch well social club person waiting in the waiting room. Fun. I love all the peeps. Good to see everybody. And so I'm gonna walk you through as much of it as we have time. I think that we'll be able to get through all of it. 'cause I've made kind of smaller samples and I'll ask for su suspension of disbelief maybe here and there. But I think that we've got enough to cover everything. Do you want me to tell people what they're gonna be learning now or do you want me to just surprise 'em as I go in? I think it's some, maybe some bullets. Yeah, so we, what we gonna look forward to. Sure. We're going to start with foundation half double crochet and I'll explain to you why, why we're using that, how to join it. Then we'll learn half double crochet, double crochet. We'll learn how to join a new color. I'll talk a little bit about carrying the colors up so that you do up the back so that you don't have rill ends to weave. And we'll talk, we'll sort of end with this cute little pico stitch and I'll show you how to reattach the yarn so that you can do the pico stitch on the opposite. And if we have time we'll talk about weaving and ends, but you know. Hmm. We'll see. So, oh, and here's another, lemme - Know. Okay. Favorite - Part. Cute, cute, cute. So yeah, and you could absolutely, if this is too graphic for you, you can absolutely just do it all in one color. You might be able to just use one ball. But I'm just really hesitant to tell people just in case they're gauge with crochet is so subjective in a way that it isn't with knitting that I always get really, really nervous making like absolute statements like that unless I've added a bunch of yardage. You know, - It's a good good to keep in mind as we're shopping. - Yes. Yes. And there and pro Soho's having all kinds of sales right now for the holidays. So this is a really good time to go over and get any of the yarns that you love from them. But specifically poof and with poof. Should I move over to the other? Yeah, let's shift gears a little. All right, I'm gonna move over to the, I'm gonna try not to obsess with how that's sitting. Okay. I'm gonna move over to the other camera. - Grab a drink. So are you also using an L hook for this project? Yes. - So I am using a size L hook. You can use any kind you like. So some people, I had a pink one who knows where that went. I'm using these wooden ones. They're by knitters pride. This was back when I had a line. I do not anymore. The aqua ones, I really like the the shank to be like the sharp situation. But if you prefer the ones that have the more the rounder, that's fine. I mean whatever works for you, you do you if it works, cool. Now we're saying L but if you're trying to get the most out of your yardage, you, you should check your gauge. If you don't care, you don't really have to check it because it's fine. If this towels a little bit smaller, a little bit bigger, it's probably not gonna be a big deal. But if you want to, you know, get the most out of your yarn, check your gauge. And you might, as I was saying earlier, it crochet gauge is so subjective that sometimes you have to go up or down two or even more hooks, hook sizes to get that gauge it. Don't feel bad about it. It's not you. It's just the nature of you know, not having anything to hold the stitches uniform. It's like a handshake. Some are loosey goosey, some are firm, some are in between. Okay. So all you'll need for this project are your hook. And then as we've said, a couple of balls of poof or a super bulky yarn that's equivalent. These have 108 yards each, which is a really nice yardage for this weight of yarn

© Vickie Howell and Creativebug Inc., 2026

for sure. All right. Should we get started? - Yep. You feeling? Let's do it. - Is the lighting still okay? My computer gets really dark and it's hard for me to tell. - I think it looks good so far. I think let's get started and then if people have a hard time seeing, we can take it from there. - Okay. All right. So we are going to start with foundation crochet. And I'm gonna show you, actually let me show you the why before I show you the how. So traditionally when you start a pattern in crochet, as most of you know, you, you start with a just a chain stitch. So a chain stitch is, you know, the most sort of basic of crochet stitches. You know, it's literally just pulling these loops through. So normally, or not normally, but typically you'll start a project with that. The challenge is, is that if you're working on a piece that's big or sometimes in the round or sometimes, well there's a lot of reasons why it can misshape because the chain gauge is different than the other gauge. So you'll see here this piece I've made with foundation stitches and this piece I made with traditional chains. And you can see that that makes a big difference and just how it lays. So that's why we are going this route. All right, so you're gonna leave a long enough tail to be able to do a little seeming in a section in a second. So you know, like eight inches is great, doesn't, you know, it doesn't matter. Then you're gonna make a slip knot. And to do that you just make a little, a little loopy loop, little cursive e and then you're going to push whatever yarn is on top, you bring it under, pull it through until you have a loop and once you have a big enough loop, place it on your hook and then you pull it. So it's T, but you don't want it super tight, it should be able to move along your hook. From here on out you're gonna be working with your working yarn. And when I say that, I mean it's the yarn that's connected to the actual ball and not the tail. Okay, I don't know why I did that. So to make a foundation half double crochet, we're going to start by chaining two. And this is the only time we'll chain two, this is just to get set up and then in the first chain that you made, you're going to yarn over, insert the hook in that chain yarn over and pull that loop through. So now you have your three stitches, your three loops on your hook. But we are simultaneously creating our chain row as well as our half double crochet. So we need to do the, actually the yarn over pulling it through, that actually counts that slip stitch counts as our chain stitch. But we need to make a chain so that there are enough loops. So there's those three loops that you would need to complete a half double crochet. So what I mean by that is, now I don't know why I never use my left hand. I do not know why I just did that. Well here we go. We're going to pull it through all three. So that means that we have our foundation chain is under here and then our, our half double crochet is here. And if we need to, this yarn is super fluffy and it's why I love it, but it may be hard for you to see. So I do have some other yarn for this particular step that if we're doing okay on time, I would like to show you that one. Okay, so now that we are set up from here on out, we're going to be working starting in that chain stitch. So sometimes I'll just take my finger after I've made it my nail and I'll just hold onto it so I know where it is. So you're going to yarn over, you insert it underneath both legs and you have to kind of wiggle, wiggle. And this is why I like these pointy hooks with this particular yarn you wanna get underneath that was a fail. You wanna get underneath both legs of the stitch if you can. If you don't, you'll just get a bigger loop. It'll look like an eyelet, which is a choice, but maybe not for this one. So then we're going to yarn over, pull through and you've got your first, now you have three loops, but we need to make our chain now we've made our chain and we're ready to complete our half double crochet. So that's the repeat from here on out. You go into the chain, oops, you yarn over first into the chain and you can see I'm going, I don't know if you can see that. You can see I'm going underneath both loops, pulling the loop through, slipping through the first loop, chaining one yarn over, pull through all three loops. And this you keep on keeping on for as long as the pattern calls for. Is there, I can't see the chat. Are people needing me to use a different yarn? - Gwen says, I can't

© Vickie Howell and Creativebug Inc., 2026

tell which loops you're going through. And I think that that's probably the toughest part of foundation work is yes, where is that chain? I know some people might use a stitch marker as they're getting comfortable with it. I find that really fussy. But if you have any, any maybe tips on like how do I know where to put my hook? - Yeah, and I think so the rest of the rest of the, the steps that we're going to do, it does not require like all eyes on this one. I think it does. So I brought this to some other, this is just till just some other yarn from Pearl Soho that I dig. So let me show you that process again because honestly this is the most, I don't wanna say most adventurous, beginner part of the entire, of the entire cowl, but it's worth it because it looks so nice. So again, we're going to begin by chaining two, you have a choice, some people work just through the nose part of it I, I like to go through the loops. So you're going to, for this first one though, I'm just going to yarn over and I'm just going inside the chain for this first one. Yarn over, pull through one. Okay, so now we're established and technically we've got our chain, but we're going to slip one stitch or chain one. So now we're set up to complete a half double crochet. And I'm with you Twine. I think that the, for me, the stitch markers get fussy but if they work for people, people should absolutely use them. Okay, so from here on out you're just going to continue working on that underside. So if you can see here, see if I can separate it. I'm gonna kind of go, yeah, - It's just difficult to, it's so tiny. Yeah, can you see this? It's better. Someone also suggested like once you make that foundation chain, if you can squish it with some fingers, you can also mark it with your fingers just depending on how, - Yeah, that's what I was doing with my nails. Absolutely. Yeah, I, I like that method. Better be for me because I don't have to pick up and put down anything else. And remember this might take a, this might feel like it's taking a little longer but you're actually creating two rows at one point. Okay, so I'm just gonna show one more time and then we can move on. So we're going, you can see the bottom, you can see how the chain row, you can start to see it at least is coming together. You're just gonna go under the chain like just pretend it's the top of the stitch. If you're familiar with crochet, - I like the idea of looking at it from the bottom. That's interesting. - It's a little, it makes, at least with my brain, it makes it a little bit, it clears it up for me because I can literally see the chain. Okay, so I'm there and then I'm going to chain one or slip through that first stitch you and over pull through and now you can really see, so you've got your chains under here and you've got your half double crochets and the abbreviation for that is HDC right here. Okay, so - Lot of people have been asking if they can just start with a, the typical chain beginning and then half double crochet into a length of chain. Like that's, it's doable, right? Like it work. So - You can do that but you will need to do a couple extra chains because when with the traditional method you are working into the third for half double crochet, you're working into the third loop, the third chain from the hook at the beginning. So to for a half double crochet, you're not working in this stitch, you're working over here. And so you need a couple extra stitches, a couple extra chains so that you can get your ultimate stitch count that's called for in the pattern and I think it's 50. Yeah it's 50. With foundation crochet, you are crocheting the number of stitches that you'll use, if that makes sense. So yes, you can absolutely do that. Just know the multiples are important because of the pico stitch. Otherwise it wouldn't matter. So just know that. Just know that you're going to have to, I think it's 52, I think 52 is the right number but mean number sometimes you're going to have to add a couple chains. But that is absolutely like if it's fussy for you and it's making the project unenjoyable, this is supposed to be a quick project, you know? Absolutely do it. Go for it. Okay, so let's talk joining. This is gonna be a much smaller piece just so you all can see like just pretend that this is full call size. So once you are finished with all your half double crochets, you are going to need to join it. So there's a few ways to do this. I am choosing to show you the least fussy way because you're already working with a yarn

© Vickie Howell and Creativebug Inc., 2026

that doesn't show clear stitches. So fussy just seems, I mean frankly sadistic, but also, but also the other thing is, is that because it's a fluffy yarn, it also hides so much that you don't have to be fussy. So you're going to put in your right hand the piece, the part of the part that's connected to the working yarn and then you take the end and you're going to slip stitch it, make sure you have your yarn that all tangled, okay? You're going to slip stitch it like you just like you normally would with any project. So you're going to find the first, the first foundation chain and you will just slip stitch it, just join it, insert the hook, you're an over pull through, well get all of the fibers and that would help. - And this is the top of the half double or is it in the foundation - Chamber? No, it's in the, you're right, you're right. Thank you Twinkie. It's the top, it's the top of the half double thank you for that correction. So there is a way and you can do the googles if you want to where you can the last one of your foundation crochets, you can do part of it while you're doing a slip stitch and then you finish the stitch and then you do another slip stitch. I I, it just seems like a lot for this in this yarn. So for me, like you'll see that because of that, because you're joining as Twinkie said at the top of that double crochet, you're gonna have this little opening. That's what our tail was for. So just get your yarn needle and with this yarn, I'm just gonna move this with this yarn, you don't have to worry at all with a clean yarn. You might wanna be careful how you do this. You're just gonna take it and go your tail, go to the opposite side and I'm going underneath both legs of that chain stitch. Make sure you get the fibers, you're just gonna seam it together and then maybe come down on the opposite side. As you can see, it's so fluffy you can't tell. And then from here you would just do the, you could no it if you want, although some people say there's no nodding in these crass. And then you would, and then you would weave in the end and then from there you'd set it aside and you just go on your your merry way And that is that okay, why am I, that's not the right hook. Alrighty, so next what we're going to do is we are going to work a double crochet because, so this stitch pattern repeat is half double crochet then double crochet. Let me bring in the piece so you can see what I'm talking about. I think I started this one with the pink half double crochet with and then double crochet. Since we started with the foundation crochet, we already have that row. We will do the picos later. So right now it's just gonna be this situation. So because we have that, it is time for a double crochet. All right, so for a double crochet, the beginning of the round you're going to chain three and that gives you the height for a double crochet. These stitches are tall so you need to make sure that it's like a ladder, you need to climb the ladder to get to the floor. So from here you'll work double crochets and every stitch. So to do that we're going to yarn over just like we did for our half double crochet. Insert the hook again under both legs of the stitch. So the front loop and the back loop yarn over pull through one. So that first time, what it's doing is it's just getting you over to the next space to where that next stitch is from here is when the stitch magic happens. So I'm using US terms and and the reason why we call it a double crochet is because at this point you're going to yarn over and pull through two loops twice. So it's the twice part that gives us the double and you can see how tall that stitch is. And for the rest of the round all you're going to do is continue those double crochets. So I'm gonna show you a couple more. So urine over insert and I'm just gonna show you since we're using this yarn again, you're going underneath both legs of the stitch pulling up a loop. Now we are where we need to be yarn over, pull through to twice do it once more, ya over pull that loop through yarn over pull through to twice. And if you ever forget if you've worked a stitch, if you know where you need to go, just kind of tug on the last stitch. And you can see here if I tug on that, I can see that I have worked. Use my nail, I have worked in this one. So that must mean that I need to work. I need to go over here. All right, any questions so far? - So far? It looks - Good. We good? Yeah. Okay. Okay. So actually do I wanna do drawing color here? I'm gonna show

© Vickie Howell and Creativebug Inc., 2026

you quickly here I'm gonna talk about color joining. I'm gonna talk about color in a second, but I'm gonna just show you the basic way to join a second color in the round or really yeah, no, in the round you will just take your second color and you want to make sure that you use. And so I'm sorry you've worked your whole round but you have not joined the round with a slips stitch yet. You are dropping your working yarn, the color that you were just working in. You're grabbing your new yarn. There's a lot of tails for you guys to see hotness A little bit, little bit. You're grabbing it and you wanna make sure that you have enough end to weave in later you're going to insert your hook like just as you normally would. But this is going to be at the top of your beginning chain. So this was a half double crochet row. So that would be the top of a chain two. And then you wanna just lay that yarn over and just pretend like it is your working yarn that other yarns dead to you and you pull through with a slip stitch to join. And from here on out you would work whatever the next stitch was. So if we were working our double crochets, we would chain three. Okay, so now that we've talked about that, it won't look weird that I have a piece that has this. I wanna talk about our, well I was gonna show you double crochets but I realize I started that. So what we are going to do is think I'm gonna show you just half doubles even though I showed you already with the foundation just to make sure that everybody is clear. If you're not working a foundation, a half double crochet and you just are are working a plain one, you're going to yarn over just like you would for a double crochet insert again under both loops, yarn over pull through and remember that that whole process is just to get you over to the position you need to be. But unlike a double crochet, we're not going to be yarn doing a yarn over and pulling through two loops twice. We're only going to yarn over once and we pull through all three loops and that creates our half double crochet. So we go to the end the round and then we are going to join with a slip stitch. Okay, I wanna show you, I wanna talk about carrying yarn. So you could absolutely cut and rejoin your yarn with every color change if you wanted. We're changing every two rounds, but you're gonna have a whole lot of ends to weave in and that is not my favorite. I don't know if you love it then do it. But I wanted to show you how this works. So I've got my, my color a let's say down here and I'm about to work my double crochet. So all I'm going to do in the back is I'm just going to kind of loosely bring it, bring it up here and then grab the color that I'm actually working with just so it kind of lays like dramatically like a lady on a cha lounge, I dunno where that came from. And then you'll do your chains and all that's doing is it's just sort of letting it travel up along the side. That's something that you can do when you're working in the round that you can't do it do if you're working back and forth. So you can just see it's these, these long floats and then from here you would just work your double crochets. So we would go all the way around and I will not make you watch me go all the way around, but let's say that we were back, this is not gonna look right, but let's say we were back at the end and we are now ready to start to drop our color B and pick up our color A. We are, let's pretend it's over here. We are going to still hold it up, bring it up along the back and do the exact same thing. The exact lady, dramatic lady, and then pick up our other yarn and work it. And I'll show you what it looks like on the inside. So you can see there's these long floats that are fine, nobody's gonna ever see them. And then you don't have to weave in all those in which I did. Okay, so you are going to repeat the established pattern, which is a row of or a round rather of half double crochet in one color and then a round of double crochet in that same color. And then you repeat half double crochet, double crochet with the next color and so on. And you're ending with a double crochet room. And so next what will happen is it is time for our pico edging. So I actually have a full size cowl ready for its edging here. I made it a little shorter but okay, so use a contrast in color folks so it's easier to see. So we're going to be working a series of pico stitches and half double crochets. So a pico stitch in and of itself can

© Vickie Howell and Creativebug Inc., 2026

be worked on top of really almost any stitch. And I'll explain that in a sec in a second. To begin, we're going to chain three though. And then we were going to slip stitch. This is the pico. We're gonna slip stitch in the first stitch, the first chain that we created. So that means we yarn over and we pull through both loops and that's, that's all a pico stitches. See you get a little nubbin. I'm gonna show you on the other side too with the lighter color. I think that that might be easier to see now from now on. And this is, remember at the beginning when we had the question about whether or not you could use just the regular traditional foundation? And I said that the, the math only mattered because of this part. It's because we're spreading our bobs out be because I mean I love a pico. I was, I was thinking I was gonna just have all the picos, but when you're using, well it would probably do this with any weight yarn, but especially when you've got a yarn that's not only bulky but has all this texture, if you put them too close together, they look like a big blob or else they start to cause the fabric to get roughly. So we're going to separate them with some single crochets and we're doing four single crochets in between. So to single crochet, which I don't think I mentioned at the top, we are going to insert our hook. There's no yarn over first. Yarn over, pull through, we'll have two lips on our hook yarn over pull through both. So that's a single crochet. We learned an exact reverse today we learned double and half double single. That's not normally how things go but you know, have you seen me? And then so from here we're going to, we'll do three more of those. So insert, I make sure people can see Aaron over pull through Aaron over pull through two loops. So that's two three. Oops, you turned over four. All right, so now we're ready for our next pico, but our pico's just gonna go on top of this stitch. You could have also chained four at the beginning if you wanted that extra height. I didn't really feel like it was, it made a big difference when I tried it. So again, you do you. So from here, remember our pico is just those chains. So we're going to chain three right on top of our single crochet and then we will slip stitch in the third chain from the hook. So we're just inserting just right through that chain you and over pull through both loops and we've got our little, our little nubbin and then we start the whole process again. We're going to single crochet and then next four stitches. And that's the repeat all the way around. Okay, any pico questions? - Hmm? Nope. - Okay, I'm gonna, so the last thing that you'll do, you'll do that all the way around is you need to flip your piece over. You could also just have Picos on the top, you know, if you wanted that, I like all the picos. So then you just need to figure out where you wanna join your yarn. Since we do have kind of a clear back, there is a little tiny bit of a scene just from joining. I suggest joining there. But you can just pick a space and you're just going to rejoin your yarn as if you were joining new color. So you'll be, this will be that foundation chain, just kind of jab your hook through again, try and get under the both loops if you can. Otherwise what happens, let's see if I can show you with this yarn is you'll only have one loop and you'll get a little bit more of a space. You'll see that it won't look as tidy. So from here, grab my yarn. We're going to join again. We leave a tail for weaving in and then we chain three, we do our pico stitch. So we slip stitch in that first one. And then we repeat the process just like we did for the top. So we're just single crocheting. And the next four stitches, this might be a little easier to see with a lighter color. And once we get to four, we chain three slip stitch in the third chain from the hook or pico's done. And then we start the process over again and you just lather, rinse, repeat all the way around. You've got these cute little cute little guys and that my friends is it, it's as simple as that. It's so fluffy and fun and there it goes. And really there it's really like eye catching and it looks harder than it is. The yarn does a lot of the work for you, which is one of my favorites. And I, yeah, it's cozy and comfy and fun. Before I switch over to seeing my face again, are there any questions? Does anybody need anything else demoed? - Someone is asking if you can put one on so they can see it on a real person. - Yes,

© Vickie Howell and Creativebug Inc., 2026

but it's gonna be, it's gonna be flu on flu, so get ready for it. I'm moving over. Lean in, lean into the flu. Do you wanna, are we done? Is, does anyone wanna demo any demos? Oh, it doesn't matter, you know i's, got it. Okay, so this, this is gonna be a lot. So you can do a couple things. You can have the cube, oh hi little ticket fence. Or if you don't like 'em by your neck, you can tuck that in. This would be more impactful if I wasn't wearing the exact same yarn. You can have the picos kind of peak out that way and then you can do kind of just like the turtleneck cow situation. Or you can do double, I mean you can change it up every day - Like - You're the boss. - It's awesome. I love how big a pico looks like, it looks like a pompom when you're working with this yarn. Like I think a pico has like snowflakes and little tiny things. So I - Am obsessed with playing with scale, which is why like one of the things that I love about the book that I just wrote, that's all. I don't think I told you this Twinkie. So let's finish this. Okay, that's whole other subject. Anybody else need anything? Anybody else? Questions, comments? General outreach so far? No, I'm gonna put on her, I'm gonna put the other, the plane top now. Okay, so does everybody know how to get all the pattern and all the things? Should I move on and talk about the, what I was gonna talk about Big yarn? - Yeah, let's talk about it. Okay, - Well first, before I go, I just wanna again remind you it's poof from Pearl Soho. They're having all the holiday sales right now, two balls and you might be able to get two cals. So super easy. So I like, I've always been fascinated with working with on different scales in, in one of my books, the Knit vibe, I wonder if I have it right here. Oh I do. I took the very beginnings of the most basic that you could come up with Doy pattern. And I used a huge, huge, huge, huge, huge hook. I don't remember, it's been so long and ginormous yarn to make a rug out of it. - Fun. - And it's just, I mean it's literally just the same thing. And so there's those picos again, you see it's not the best angle for you to see, but, and so I have this new book that I'm, that I'm working on that that, not that I'm working on, it's out not working. That is, this one is can be for knitters but it's not for knitters, it's for, it's for everybody. You don't have to have any experience at all. So Crocheters, if you've been wanting something that sort of vaguely looks knit, I mean, or does look knit, but you're not into learning or if you've got, you know, younger people, you know, teens, 20 somethings or if you have people that are older that are having problems, maybe holding smaller needles, you know, your hands are starting to get a little crampy. This is a great, this is a lot of fun. It's called No Needles Knitting. And it just came out and it is, I think of it as like the big sister of finger knitting. There is a little bit of finger knitting here. I was really interested in, I wrote a finger knitting book for kids a decade ago and I was really interested in what they might be making now. Like those same littles would be in high school, in college, maybe even outta college and getting their first apartments. And so this book is kind of an ode to that. But it also has a million projects that would be great for, for whoever. And so my whole point in bringing this up was huge yarn. So there is a yarn that is, it's tube yarn and it is really big. I'm gonna grab it really quickly. And it - Is so for no needles knitting, is it like mostly home decor? Like can you, are there wearable? - Yeah, yeah, there it's both. So this is technically a scarf, but it's, but you know, but here I'll show you this one. This is not the yarn that I'm talking about. So, but this is, this is a scarf that I love and you can make it in about two hours. - It's awesome. I like the stripe, the stripes you kind of wove through there. - Yeah, so it's just, it's literally garter stitch, which if you're a knitter just means knit every row. But you make it a little differently with with your hands. I can teach somebody how to do this in about 10 minutes, which makes it really accessible for people. And that's fun. That means that you can go to a pub and they're like, have yarn be there and get people who wouldn't normally make something. But I mean even like this is made with hands, - That's super cool, huh? You know, - It doesn't have to be, I'm gonna show you something crazy and it's gonna sound weird because I wasn't ready but that's, so

© Vickie Howell and Creativebug Inc., 2026

it's under a bunch of stuff. But like, this is home decor, but this is one of my favorite projects from the book is this big floor cushion. - It's gigantic. - So big. Alright, so this brings me to this yarn. So you can see like this is huge yarn. You get like half a stitch per inch. - Gosh. - And some of you who know yarn may also be familiar with, there's numbers that are attached to yarn that are for weights. So worsted weight for example, is a number four. Fingering weight, which is the, is really thin is a one. So up until now there is only ever, there's seven was the topper. And that covered anything from this size to this size in the same weight class. Well if you have, if you're making a project with this technique, people aren't gonna have the same success with this to make what I just showed you as they were with this. So I happened to be on the yarn standards committee up to update the standards and I pitched and it got approved a yarn weight giant number eight. Nice. And so as of, there's only a note right now if you go to yarn standards, look at the weight, the weights, 'cause they haven't done any of the updates on the website. They put one sentence up there for me just so we know that says eight's coming. But it's a really fun way to, even if you are an knitter, is play with scale. Like what is another way that you can this craft that people think of as being, you know, maybe a little bit like archaic or you know, like the, like maybe a little bit traditional. It's, it's art, it's craft, it's creativity, it's whatever you want it to be. You can use traditional techniques and love them and try all different things with all different tools, including just your hands. And that's all I have to say about that. Yeah, that yarn is wild. It's like I - Know thing and - Yeah, so it's got, it's got like the batting in it. - Yeah, - It is really heavy but it's so squishy and fun to work with. But you can do anything. So the cool thing about about knitting with your hands versus finger knitting is finger knitting creates these tubes you guys might have learned when you were kids. You create these long tubes and you can only do so much with tubes. I mean you can sew 'em together and you can make things. But when I found out, when I realized that you can make these flat panels just like knitting, that made me also realize that you could do any of the techniques. So there's a hat that has a cable in it that there's a kinda a lacy shawl. And so that opens up things. And for me, I just, I get fascinated by creating looks with different methods. So it's a really fun, it's fun book. It's for anyone of any age really. And no experience is necessary. Have - You ever - Done no hook crocheting? Yes. Oh, inside in the book there is, somebody asked about the sweater on creative bugs. So the sweater pattern doesn't exist yet because I haven't signed it. I'm sorry for the cream lines. We can't hear it. I have, I have these all bagged up, but it will be up on my website vicki howell.com. So this flower is finger crocheted. Super cool. And I have a tutorial for these up on YouTube or whatever. And this is for the knitters among us, if there are any. This is a applied I cord, but you do it with your fingers. So there's a lot of fun that you can have just exploring. - Thanks for showing us all the fun projects. I didn't Yeah, we got it all in. Yeah, did it all in. Do y'all have, we had like five more minutes. So if you have any more questions about Vicki's book or about the three hour cowl now is your opportunity. - And if you're interested in joining the Stitch Social Club, I would love to have you there. We have all kinds. Every month we have a guest expert guest. Like I said, Stephanie AK Twinkie is going to be there showing how to make a wee bibby sweater ornament this month. Last month we had Kate Ather Lee talking about math for knitters and crocheters. It was fantastic. And the recordings are there for members as well. We just had Trisha Malcolm formerly from Vogue Knitting, now she's the VP of sales for rowing. Go through a whole trends report. It's, it's really nice. And then of course there's like workshops and, and I think I have like 55 or 60 patterns up there that are included in it. And, but mostly it's about the meetups that we have and hanging out and being there to support one another on the boards and just not being, being out in all the noise right now. It's real noisy out there. Yeah, and you can find that it's just vicki hell.com/stitch. Well social club or just go to vicki

© Vickie Howell and Creativebug Inc., 2026

hell.com and you can see it. But we would love to have you, it's, it's become a really nice safe haven for sure. - I love it. I need to spend more time on there like the - I know we would love to have you. It's hard, you know, it's, I download the app, the Mighty Network app And it's easier if it's just on your phone. 'cause if you have to go log into another place and the thing and the thing, but actually several people have communities using that same app so you can switch back and forth. I think there's a lot of community members that are a part of multiple networks and it makes it a lot easier and you can share right there. And it's just nice to have it in your pocket and where you know that you can, you're not gonna get bombarded with ads or see anybody's, you know, unkind remark or any, you know, it's a positivity forward inclusive community and I don't know, I just feel like that's what we need right now. Or at least that's what I need. So that's what, that's what I'm trying to - Nurture. Lose your space. - Yeah. Yeah. Have I tried crocheting earrings was super thin your I have, but it's been a minute. It's been a minute. I've, well I think I wanna say that I've crocheted around hoops with like the crochet thread with Picos. You know, you can go around hoops. I don't know if I've crocheted earrings just on their own, but some people do and then they use that, that sticky spray. - Yeah. - Have you done - That earrings? No, I don't wear earrings. So like the things I design are, tend, tend to be things that I would actually use. We've got like hats and earrings, but I've seen someone join me in Spotlight Bill, what was that? No join in spotlight - Bill. I'm like, I'm just staring at myself. Dr. Ivy, I don't think I knew that you didn't wear earrings. - No. Yeah, I know it's been a while. Maybe not since like the early two thousands. Yeah. - Did you have, did you have a earring moment where you're like, no, my new era is earring - Lift? I think what happened was I had a lot and I had to get an x-ray and had to take 'em all out and then I just never put them back in. - Yeah, - The medicals, - They'll do it every time. Do it every time. Okay. Let's see. I don't see anything. No, I think, don't anything Deb's saying there are a visual learner. Me too. ICI need both. I need like several modalities if we're being honest. Like I need to see it, but it's better if I can see it while I'm doing it myself. You know, it's part of the neurodivergence. It just is what it is. So I'm happy to show things whenever I can and the pattern has it all written out, but honestly it's, it's just the same thing again and again. So have fun with it, play with it. And I would love, I would love if you make them, if you would tag at Vicki Howell on the socials. Well really just Instagram to be honest with you. I would love to see them for - Sure. I'm gonna try to make one, I have a box of Pearl Soho that I like randomly bought maybe a year ago of all different colors. So I think I might try like one yarn for this section, one yarn for that section and see how it goes. I love that. Are they super bulky? Some are, some aren't. Oh, I think I'll just throw them in and see what, we'll see. It's gonna be an adventure. - Yeah, - Yeah. I'll tag you. Yeah, love it. Please do. Please do. Alrighty, thank you everyone for joining us. Thank you Vicki. My pleasure. Fabulous tutorial. And I hope you all make tons of hows, make lots of gifts and yeah, we'll see y'all next time. Bye. Thank you for having me.

© Vickie Howell and Creativebug Inc., 2026