

RIC-RAC CROCHETED SCARF

MATERIALS:

- One skein (180-190 yds, 4 oz) of hand-painted wool/mohair yarn (equivalent to Lamb's Pride worsted). This is enough yarn to make 21 squares, with some left over. Make as many squares as you choose, or have yarn for. I prefer an odd number, so that the ends will mirror each other when the scarf hangs around a neck.

- Size F (3.75 mm) crochet hook.

"ST" is stitch, "DC" is double crochet. Gauge is 4 ST/inch, 2 rows/inch.

These instructions assume knowledge of DC in rows, starting from a chain.

They are for right-handed work, done right to left. Switch left and right for left-handed.

Made in double crochet (after the starting chain), in back-and-forth rows. You will make a series of squares, each one at a right angle to its predecessor and built right onto it. The first row of the new one is worked into the rows of the old one, two STs into each row. In order to make squares, the length of the ST along the row must be equal to the height of the rows. In this case, 12 ST = 6 rows = 3 inches, and the squares measure 3 inches on each side. There must also be an even number of rows in each square, so that each one finishes on the same side it was started, in the correct place to start the next. If the matches are not exact, blocking can help.

Start by chaining 14 ST.

Row 1: Position your work so that the last chain-ST, and your hook, are on the right, and start doing DCs into the 4th chain-ST in from the end (*pics. 1 & 2*). It will take 11 DC to get to the end of the chain. This makes 12 ST in the row, counting the one formed from the last 2 chain-ST.

Row 2 (and 3, 4, 5 and 6): Turn the work, and go back the same way: chain up 2, then DC along the row. When you get to the last one, insert your hook into the loop (*pic. 3*). Turn work over, chain up, and keep going (*pic. 4*).

Make 6 rows (not counting the starting chain), turning the work over at the end of each one. The sixth one will end on the same side that you started the DC rows, with the last ST, and the open loop, on the left. (Note that the chain, which doesn't count as a row, started at the other side, as you can see by its tail hanging down.) This completes the first square.

To start the second square, rotate your square a quarter turn clockwise (do not turn it over). The working loop is at the top right-hand corner of the square you just finished, and you're positioned to start the next.

Chain 2 – counts as first ST (*pic. 5*), make another DC into the same row of your first square (*pic. 6*), and 2 into each of the other 5, 12 in all (*pic. 7*). That's the first row of the second square. Turn work, chain up, start back (*pics. 8 & 9*). Do 6 rows to altogether finish this square, rotate your work (now 2 connected squares) as before, a quarter turn clockwise, and start the third square.

And so on. Make as many squares as you want, or as many as you have yarn for, bind off and work ends in. Wash and block.

