

Día de los Muertos crochet-a-long pattern – English

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS CAL



By the guy with the hook

The day of the dead is a traditional Mexican holiday celebrated with friends and family. On this day you come together to remember and pray for family and friends that are passed away. By praying and performing rituals they try to support their spiritual journey in the afterlife. Important is to see this day not as a day of sadness. But as a day of joy and color to celebrate as their loved ones awake on the day of the dead as spirit. Such a beautiful tradition and maybe we can take a lesson out of this rich cultural holiday. In a time, full of beloved ones we lose due current diseases like COVID-19 what is a better way to do something and honor someone you lost. I was inspired to use Día de los Muertos into my crochet designs to create a piece where all elements of this Mexican holiday are in. Colors, skulls, flowers and decorations...and with it I created this doily...or mandala, it is what you like to see in it. As the project is full of little details and will take some time to finish, I thought it would be a great idea to split this pattern up into four parts and make a 4-week crochet-a-long out of it. Joining is absolutely free, and if you do, I only ask you to take someone in your mind who is dear to you and who you lost. Second rule to apply, crochet this project with a positive and uplifted mind. Don't see skulls as something dark or sad, but decorate them and get into the celebration mode to guide your spirited deceased person by the end of this project. This is what this theme is all about!

Mark Roseboom a.k.a. theguywiththehook

Information guide of Día de los Muertos CAL:

In this little guide I will explain things like what stitches are used in the pattern, what yarn and colors are used for the pattern including amounts, skill level and materials needed etc. Anything you need to know is in here before the CAL starts, and during the CAL this little guide will be your companion when it comes to stitches used and color references. So, make sure to read this through before you prepare or start.

Materials needed:

- scissors
- sewing needle
- stitch markers

- crochet hook size 2.0 mm and 3.0 mm (important to know is that if you use different yarn with a different hook size, please make sure the smallest hook size is a whole size smaller than the one you crochet the pattern with. So, as example: If you take a 4.0 mm hook size, use a 3.0 mm hook size as smallest size. This applies for all sizes. And please apply this little note as otherwise your format of skulls will not fit into the pattern your crochet.)

- blocking materials

Yarn needed:

For this pattern I used Scheepjes Catona. This is a regular mercerized cotton which consists out of 100 % mercerized cotton. This is a regular yarn type which many brands offer besides Scheepjes. Fun thing about Scheepjes Catona is the wide range of colors available and if you need a small amount of it, they also have little balls of 10 grams and 25 grams. Regular balls of Scheepjes Catona are 50 grams with a length of 125 meters (138 yards). For this pattern I used 8 colors which are named under here with the required amounts for them. Feel free to change colors or yarn, but the amounts named are only for mercerized cotton type yarns. Also take notice that this is the list of color abbreviations named in the pattern itself and amounts named always have some spare grams to avoid shortage.

Abbreviation:	Color:	Colorway used:	Grams needed:
Color A:	White	105 Bridal White	80 grams
Color B:	Black	110 Jet Black	135 grams
Color C:	Green	512 Lime	15 grams
Color D:	Yellow	208 Yellow Gold	25 grams
Color E:	Light blue	397 Cyan	20 grams
Color F:	Pink	251 Garden Rose	25 grams
Color G:	Purple	508 Deep Amethyst	20 grams
Color H:	Sand/Camel	179 Topaz	25 grams

Size:

The finished size of the project will have a diameter of 65 cm / 25,5 inches

Timeline:

The timeline for this crochet-a-long will be:

Introduction of the CAL – up til October 4th 2020

Release of Part 1 – Central Flowers – Sunday October 4th 2020

Release of Part 2 – Black and White (including crocheting skulls) – Sunday October 11th 2020

Release of Part 3 – Skull joining and start of flower crowns – Sunday October 18th 2020

Release of Part 4 – Finishing flower crowns, the border and decorating skulls – Sunday October 25th 2020

Every Sunday in October I will post a part of this CAL; however, I do not mention a time. I will try to post the new part as early as possible on European time zone, but if for some reason there might be a delay on the day of release in a week, you don't panic out by missing it. Of course, I will announce it when I uploaded a new part. This will be done through my website and I will send out an update on Ravelry each week. Within the time range of this CAL you can finish your Día de los Muertos right on time for this year's celebration on November 2nd 2020. After the CAL patterns will still be available for free and stay this way. Pattern parts can be found on my website and on the Ravelry pattern page.

Skill level:

The skill level for this pattern will be intermediate. A beginner would not handle this pattern as there is a lot of detail, stitch work and techniques in it. Please check out the stitches used under here to see if you know them and if you do you safely can join. There will be more than hundred photos to guide you along your way and I made clear instructions. If anyone joined my last CAL, they would know it is very detailed.

Languages and help:

If you wonder what languages are available for this CAL, I advise to visit my website or the Ravelry pattern page of this CAL. It is always up to translators to do a heavy job translating a pattern and these things can't be said before. Sometimes a language is added right before we start, so for the most recent information always check above places.

If you have any questions about the CAL while crocheting it, please note there is no Facebook group available. As I host this on my own and due problems happened in the past, I decided to no longer

provide help through Facebook groups. If you have a question you can always ask it through the contact form on my website or send me a DM on my social media. But, take notice it can take some time before I answer. I can only use a limited amount of time a day and it will depend on the amount of help I need to give. The pattern is really detailed and pretty straight forward, however there are always questions. So, ask away, but keep a patient attitude.

Stitches used:

U.S. terms abbreviations:

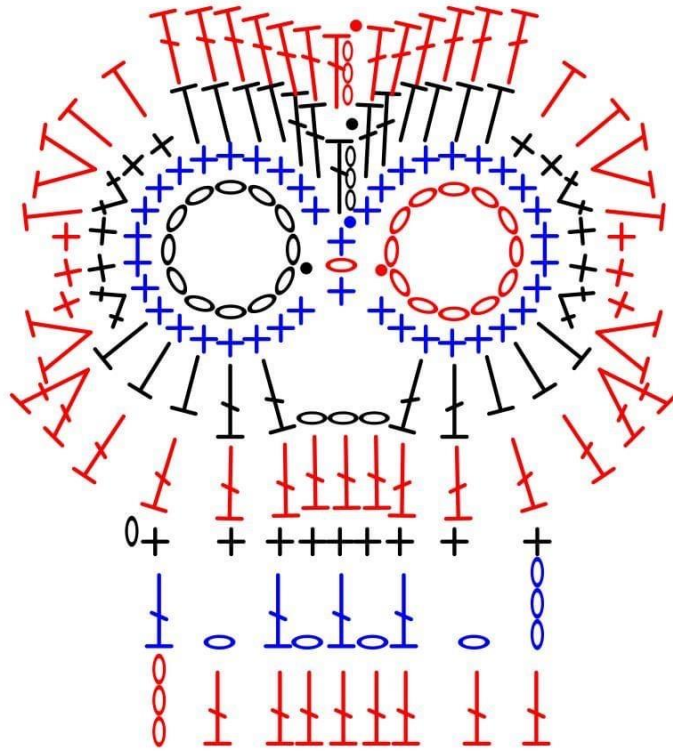
- **SS** – slip stitch
- **SC** – single crochet
- **BPSC** – make a single crochet around the back post of indicated st.
- **FPSC** – make a single crochet around the front post of the indicated st.
- **SC3TOG** – crochet 3 single crochet together over indicated sts.
- **SC4TOG**- crochet 4 single crochet together over indicated sts.
- **HDC** – half double crochet
- **FPHDC** – make a half double crochet around the front post of indicated st.
- **BPHDC** – make a half double crochet around the back post of indicated st.
- **DC** – double crochet
- **DC2TOG** – crochet two double crochets together over indicated sts.
- **BPDC** – make a double crochet around the back post of indicated st.
- **FPDC** – make a double crochet around the front post of indicated st.
- **TR** – treble crochet
- **PC** – popcorn stitch which is made out of 4dc and is always closed with a ch.
- **PUFF** – puff stitch where yarn will be pulled up 4 times through the indicated st resulting in 9 loops on hook to pull through. Always close the puff st with a ch.
- **CH** – chain
- **St** – stitch
- **Sk** – skip (as in skip stitch)
- **Sp** – space (as in ch2-space)
- **Gr** – groups (as in 3sc- group)
- **BLO** – back loop of stitch
- **FLO** – front loop of stitch
- * - marks the start point of a repeat
- [] – gives a total amount of stitches after a Round.
- () – phrases between these indicate a repeat within a Round or sometimes a note.
- **Rep** – repeat
- **RS** – Right side

Pattern notes:

- Stitches used in the pattern are not explained individually. I would suggest you take a look at the internet for any stitch you don't know as there are tons of tutorials and videos out there.
- Stitches typed in Caps Lock are stitches made in current Round, stitches typed in regular format are stitches which refer to previous Rounds.
- Photos can look slightly different due the fact I am a lefthanded crocheted. Most of the time it doesn't deliver any problems, but I just mention it in any pattern I write.
- Popcorn stitches made in this pattern are made out of 4DC, they are closed off with a CH1 and please take note this ch does not count as an official ch. So, when you have to make a CH3 after a PC it means you actually crochet 4CH – 1 close CH of the PC and 3CH from the directions.
- The closing ch note above also applies on the puff stitch.
- As we work in Rounds, the pattern is crocheted on the Right side of the work over the entire pattern. We do turn to the back of the work sometimes, but this is explained carefully in the patterns.
- The pattern contains 4 parts. Each week I will post a new part of the pattern as it is a crochet-a-long. Over four weeks of time the pattern will become complete. See the timeline for the exact dates. This is available totally for free without any terms or conditions.
- There a no charts available for this pattern as it is pretty complicated to make this in a good way.
- There are no videos available for this pattern as I am a lefthanded crocheter and most of you won't get to follow me in mirror view.
- The pattern contains some simple sewing, but this is an optional part and is not required to complete this CAL.
- Photo's hold directions like lines or arrows to guide you along the Rounds. Photos are placed after each written Round to keep things clear.
- In the pattern you will work with two colors which will be changed at some Rounds. For this you can just put aside one color and pick up another. If you don't know how to do this, you can look at my website for a good tutorial about it. Use this technique to reduce your ends by just a few to work away.
- Photos are numbered according the Rounds. So, Photo number 1 is Round 1. If there is a 1.1 or 1.2 for example, then these are extra photos used for the same Round.
- If you pick a different yarn type and decide yourself which hook size you take. Please note that the pattern will talk about the biggest hook size and smallest. In this way the pattern is to make for any size chosen. As long as you keep one full size of difference between the two sizes you decide to take.
- Sometimes you need to attach a new color around the back post of a st. Just crochet around the post of the stitch as you would normally do, only now make a ss around it. After that you complete the regular stitch over it.
- When making a CH1 at the start of a Round is only meant to obtain height, so it doesn't count as st. If it does, it is written down in the pattern.

- The numbering of Rounds will continue in each part of the CAL. Only the skulls are a side-quest.

Making a test skull :



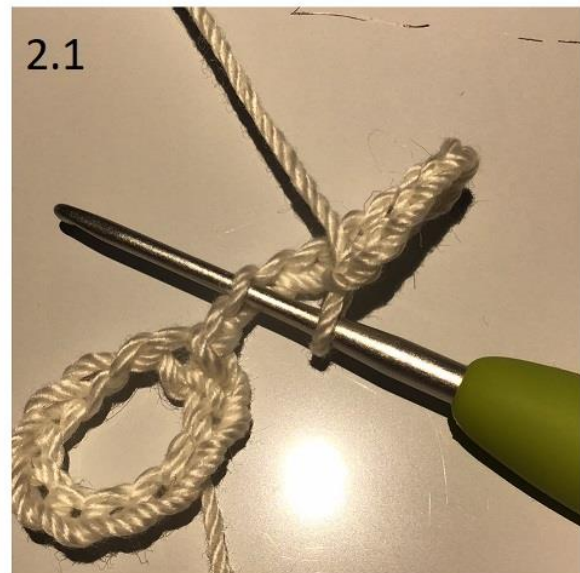
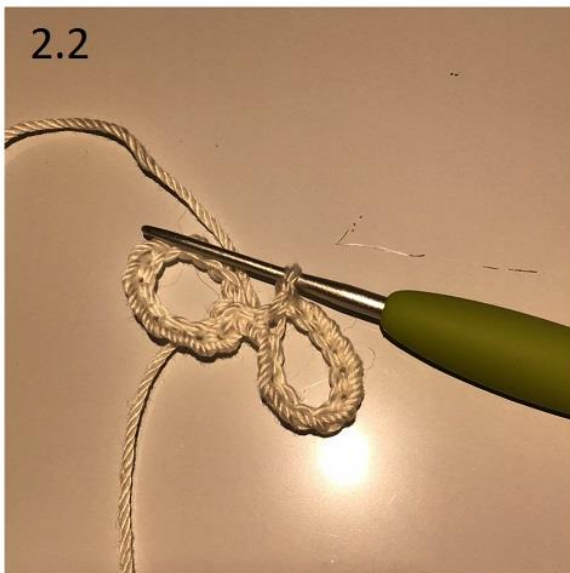
Skull size on a hook size 2.0 mm with Scheepjes Catona: on widest point they are approx. 7 cm / 2.8 inches and the height of a skull is approx. 8 cm / 3,1 inches. It doesn't matter if there is a really small derogation. The pattern can handle a little off-key size as there is tension in it.

Take the smallest hook size – in my guideline and yarn choice this will be the hook size 2.0 mm and Color A.

Step 1: Take Color A and CH12. SS in first ch to form a ring.

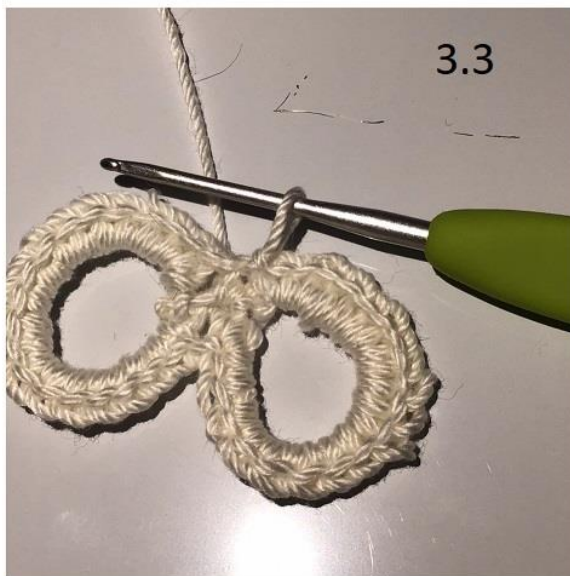
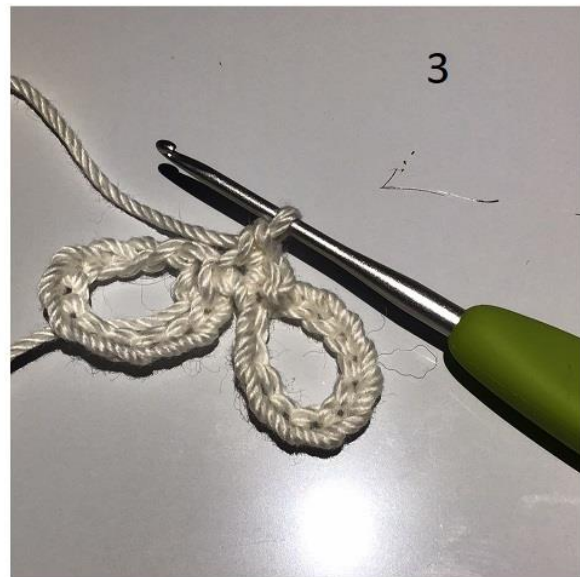
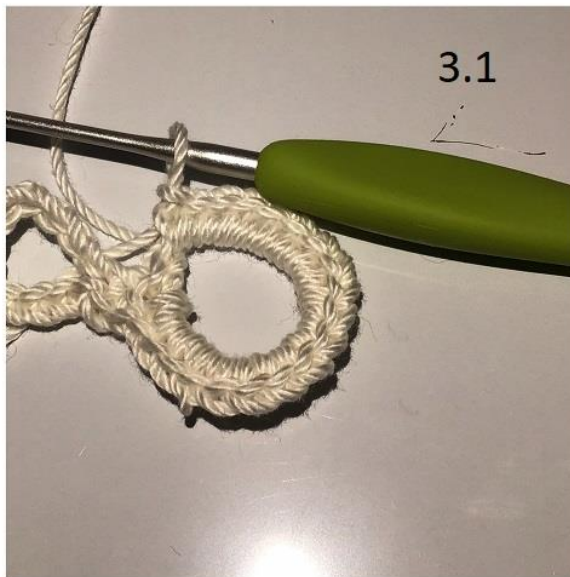


Step 2: CH13, make a SS in second ch out of 13 to form another ring. You will now have two rings of 12ch with 1ch between them. The ch between the two rings is the first ch of the ch13.



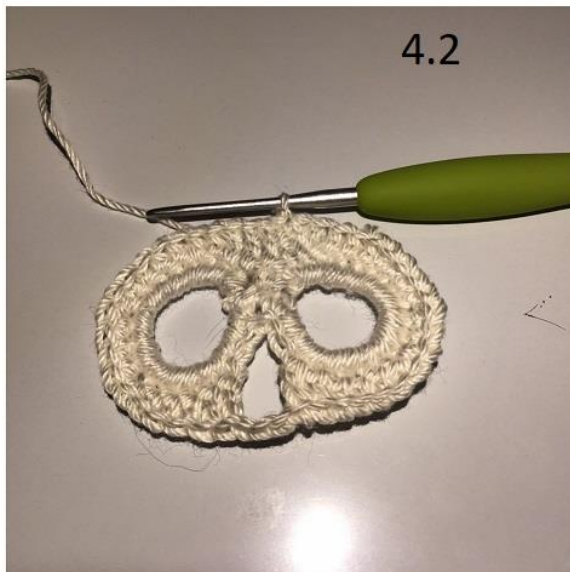
Step 3 : CH1, make a SC in next ch (which will be the 1ch between the two ch12-rings – see photo 3), make 19SC in next 12ch-ring, (by crocheting these sc’s you will crochet around the ring and end at the bottom of the middle ch between the two rings you already made a sc in at the beginning of this step, see photo 3.1). 1SC in same ch (this is the middle ch where you already made a sc in, see photo 3.2),

make 19SC in next ch12-ring to crochet around the ring and end up at your first made st. SS in top of first made st to connect. (see photo 3.3) Now you will have 2 rings of 19 SC and in the middle between them 2SC – one above and one under.



Step 4: starting in a middle sc between the two 19SC-rings. CH3 (doesn't count as a st here), 1DC in same st, 1DC in next 2 sts, 1HDC in next 4 sts, (1SC in next 2 sts, 2SC in next st) twice, 1HDC In next 3 sts, 1DC in next 2 sts, CH3, sk next 5 sts (this will be the last two sts on the 19sc-ring – the middle sc

between them – and the first 2 sts of the next 19sc-gr – see photo 4.1), 1DC in next 2 sts, 1HDC in next 3 sts, (2SC in next st, 1SC in next 2 sts) twice, 1HDC in next 4 sts, 1DC in next 2 sts. SS in top of first st to connect (writing this means make a SS in the top of the official DC and not the CH3 which didn't count).



Step 5 : starting in dc you made in a middle sc. CH3 (doesn't count as st here), 1DC in same st, 1DC in next 6 sts, 1HDC in next 2 sts, 2HDC in next st, 1HDC in next st, 1SC in next 3 sts, 2HDC in next st, 2DC

in next st, 1DC in next 4 sts, 3DC in next ch3-sp, 1DC in next 4 sts, 2DC in next st, 2HDC in next st, 1SC in next 3 sts, 1HDC in next st, 2HDC in next st, 1HDC in next 2 sts, 1DC in next 6 sts. SS in top of first st to connect. (saying this means making the SS in top of the official DC – so not the CH3-sp). Fasten off Color A.

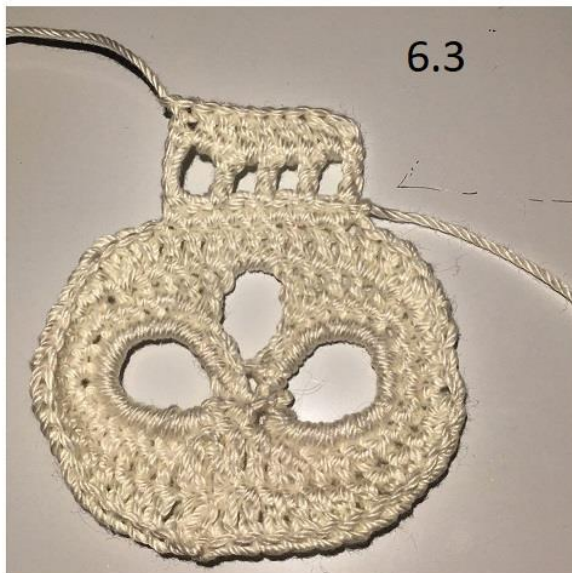
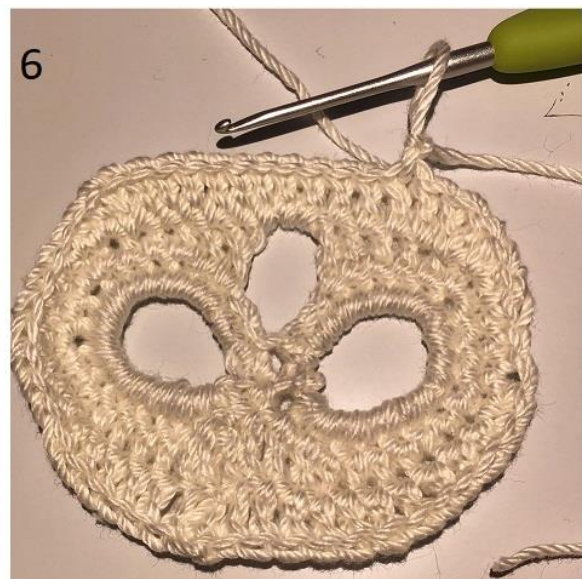


Step 6: Turn the top of the head so the underside of the nose is facing you. This means the side with the dc's you made in the ch3-sp is lying above with RS facing you. Take the middle dc out of the three

you made in the ch3-sp, and count 4 sts to the left/right (*depending if your right or left crocheter*). If you have marked this st, attach Color A in this st (*see photo 6*). CH1, 1SC in next 9 sts. Turn work by making a CH. (*your fifth st will lay in the middle dc of the 3 you made in the ch3-sp*)

Step 7: *as you have turned your work you will crochet now on the Wrong side of the skull. CH4 (first DC + CH1), sk next st, (1DC in next st, CH1, sk next st) 3 times, 1DC in last st. Turn work by making a CH. (see photo 6.2)*

Step 8: *as you turned your work you will crochet now on the right side of the skull. CH3 (first DC), (1DC in next ch1-sp, 1DC in next dc) 3 times, 1DC in next ch1-sp, 1DC in third ch from last st. Fasten off Color A. (see photo 6.3)*



A big thanks to my testers / translators:

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<https://theguywiththehook.com>

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<https://www.ravelry.com/projects/theguywiththehook>

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Feel free to sell made items out of this pattern. I would love if you tag or make a reference to me as a designer when showing your wip's or finished projects. Please use the #diadelosmuertoscal on social media to share this pattern all in one simple search.

As this is also a free pattern, please note that if you like to use this pattern for commercial advertise, please ask me first.

Last but not least, thank you so much for making this pattern. A lot of effort, time and creativity are in this little piece of art and every single thing that comes out of it makes it all the work so worth it.

Mark a.k.a. the guy with the hook