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

Part 1

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

Please take note that if you need a list of stitch or color abbreviations you can find them in the introduction guide to this CAL which is already published during the announcement of this CAL. In this introduction you will also find pattern notes which will help you understand things in the pattern along the way. Check this guide always before rushing off to questioning me as many things are explained in this guide.

The Pattern – Part 1:

Take the biggest hook size out of the two suggested – according to my instructions this will be the hook size 3.0 mm and Color A. Make a magic ring or use the old-fashioned way and ch6- ss in first ch to form a ring.

Round 1 (RS): CH3 (first DC), make 11DC in ring. SS in top of first st to connect. [12DC]
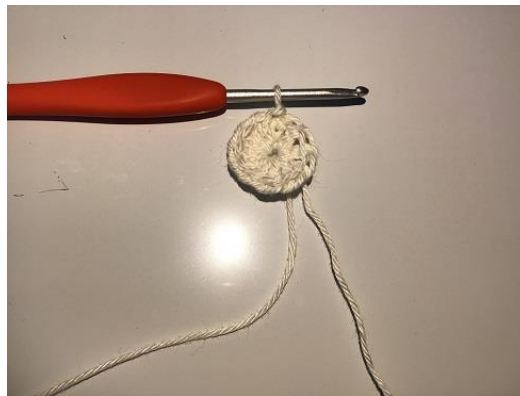
Round 2: CH1 (doesn't count as st here and throughout entire pattern), (1PUFF in st, CH1) 12 times. SS in top of first made PUFF to connect. Fasten off Color A. [12PUFF sts and 12 times a CH1-sp]
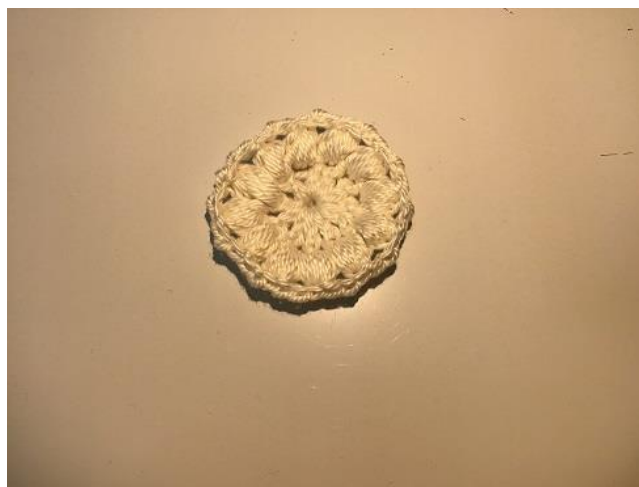
Round 3: Take Color C and attach it in any ch1-sp on last Round. CH1, (3SC in ch1-sp, sk next puff) 12 times. SS in top of first made st to connect. [36SC]

Round 4: CH1, (1SC in st, CH2, sk next st) 18 times. SS in top of first st made to connect. SS to next CH2-sp. [18SC / 18 times a CH2-sp]

Round 5: *starting in a ch2-sp.* CH1, * 1SC-1HDC-1DC-1TR in ch2-sp, CH2, sk next st, 1TR-1DC-1HDC-1SC in next ch2-sp, sk next st. Rep from * 8 more times. SS in top of first st to connect. Fasten off Color C. [9 petals of 1SC/1HDC/1DC/1TR/CH2/1TR/1DC/1HDC/1SC]

*In Round 6 we are going to work at the backside of the work. Just turn your work with wrong side facing you.*

Round 6: Take Color D and attach it around the back post of a sc out of Round 4 with a ss. *(see arrow photo 6).* Make sure to join around a sc that is in the middle of a petal made in Round 5. I have marked some of them with red dots on Photo 6.

CH1, * make a FPSC around the sc under a petal on Round 4 *(see photo 6.1 on the current side and photo 6.2 how your work looks on the other side – which will be the RS),* CH7, sk everything til next sc on Round 4 in the middle of a petal *(photo 6.3).* Rep from * 8 more times. SS in top of first to connect. *(photo 6.4 shows you the end result on the backside of the work and photo 6.5 shows you the work on the right side of the work).* SS to next ch7-sp. CH1 and turn work back to RS so you can work behind the petals now. [9FPSC / 9 times a CH7-sp]

6.1

6

6.3

6.2

6.5

6.4

6
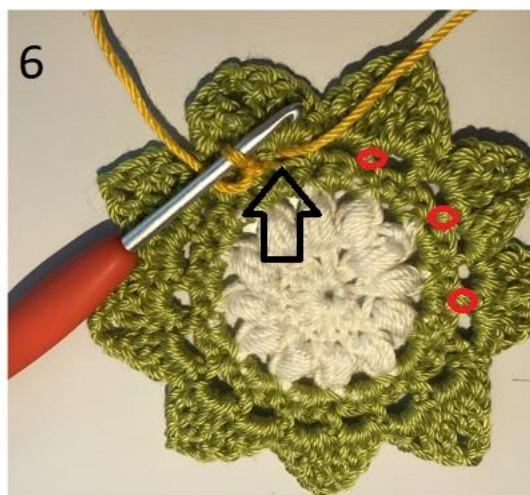
Round 7: *As you made a ch1 while being in the ch7-sp you turned your work according to the instructions in Round 6. You'll start off just as Photo 6.5 while being in a ch7-sp behind a petal.*

CH1 *(this one is to obtain height),* * (1 PUFF, CH1) 4 times in ch7-sp. Rep from * 8 more times. SS in top of first made PUFF to connect. Fasten off Color D. [9 gr of 4PUFF sts with between them a CH1-sp]
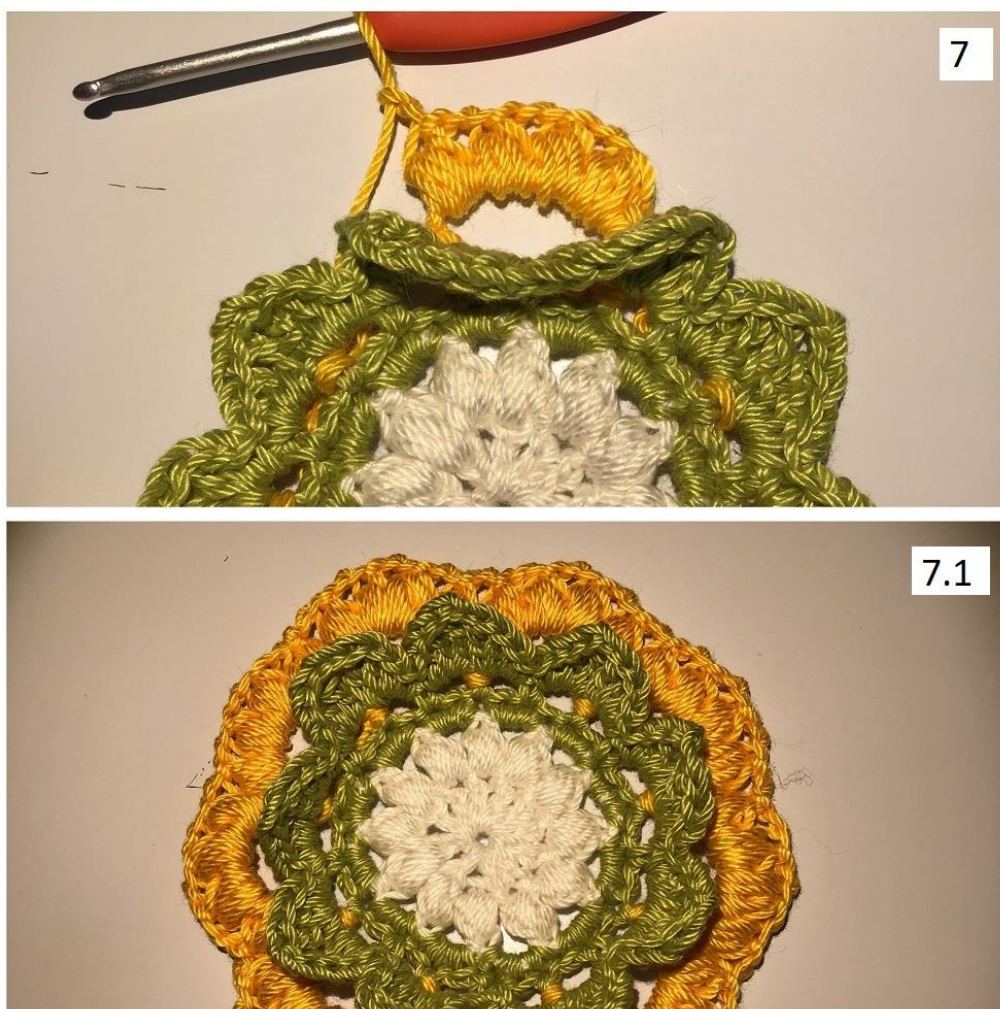
In Round 8 you will work through both the ch2-sp from the petal of Round 4 as through the ch1-sp behind it between 2 puff sts on Round 7. See the red lines on Photo 8.

Round 8: Take Color E and attach it through any ch2-sp of a petal and at the same time a ch1-sp between 2 puff sts behind it. CH3 (first dc of PC your going to make), make 3DC more through both ch-sps and finish those 4 dc off like a pc, CH3, 1PC through same ch-sps as first pc *(photo 8.2)*, CH5, 1BPSC around sc on Round 4 *(these are the same sc's you used in last Round 6 to make a fpsc around – only now you use the ones which are between them and still are not used – see photo 8.3 and 8.4, and 8.5 shows the front of the work with the bpsc's around them.),* CH5. * 1PC-CH3-1PC through next ch2-sp of petal and at the same time the ch1-sp between two puff sts behind it, CH5, 1BPSC around sc on Round 4 *(these are the same sc's you used in last Round 6 to make a fpsc around – only now you use the ones which are between them and still are not used – see photo 8.3 and 8.4, and 8.5 shows the front of the work with the bpsc's around them.),* CH5. Rep from * 7 more times. SS in top of first made PC to connect. (*See Photo 8.6 and 8.7 for the result after this Round from both sides)* Fasten off Color E. [9 gr of PC-CH3-PC / 18 times a CH5-sp and 9 times a BPSC]

8.1

8

8.3

8.2

8.5

8.4

8.7

8.6

Round 9: Take Color H and attach it in any ch3-sp between two pc's on last Round. CH3 (first DC), make 10DC in same sp, 1FPSC around next 2 puff sts on Round 7 *(with these two puff sts I mean the second and third puff out of a 4 puff st gr),* * 11DC in next ch3-sp between 2 pc's of last Round, 1FPSC around next 2 puff sts on Round 7 *(with these two puff sts I mean the second and third puff out of a 4 puff st gr).* Rep from * 7 more times. SS in top of first DC to connect. Fasten off Color H. [9 fans of 11DC and between them 2 FPSC]
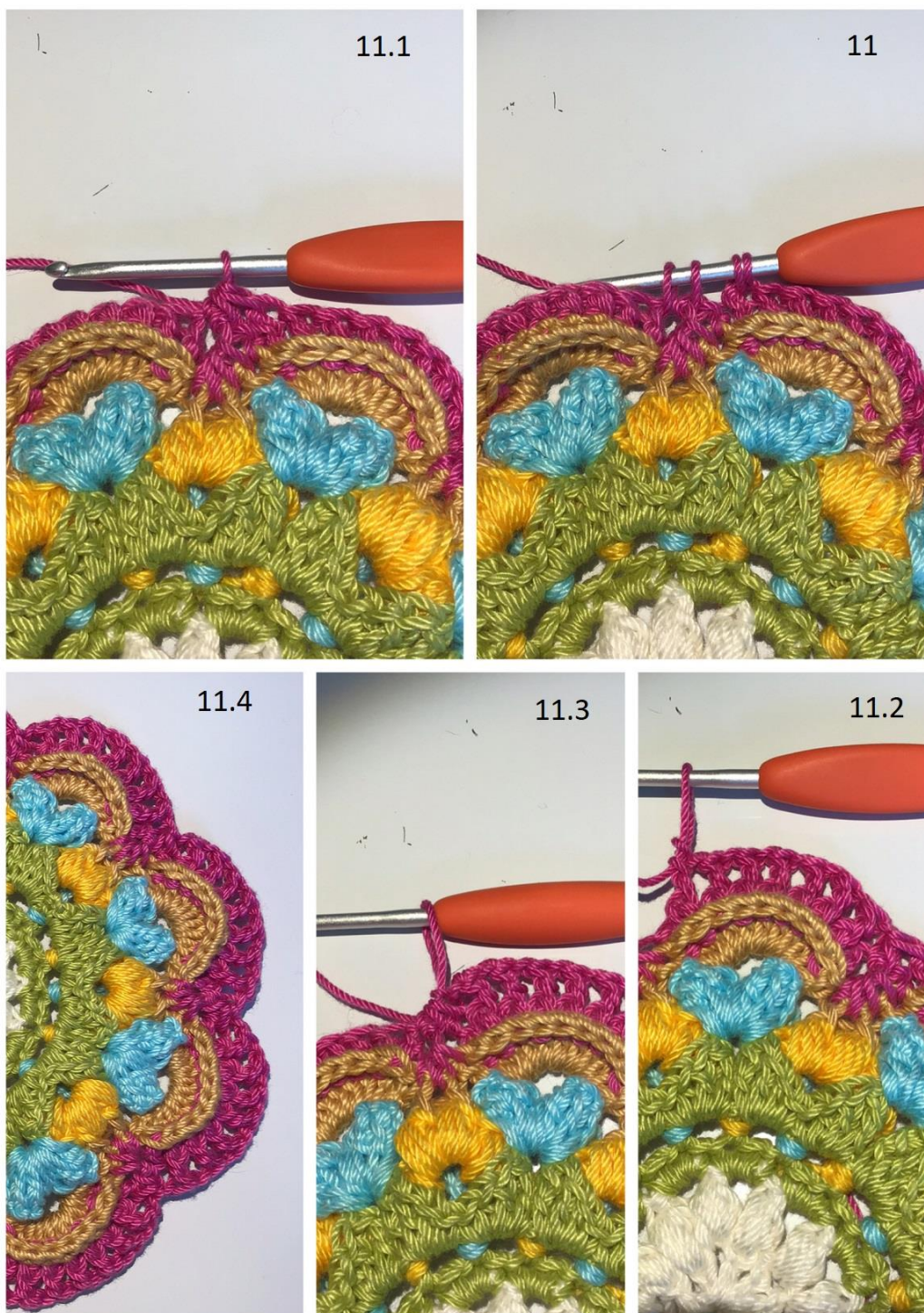
Round 10: Take Color F and attach it in any last dc of a 11dc-fan out of last Round *(photo 10)*. CH1, * SC4TOG over next 4 sts *(this will be the last dc of a 11dc-fan – the two fpsc – and the first dc of next 11dc-fan, also see photo 10.1),* 1BPDC around next 9 sts *(photo 10.2)*. Rep from * 8 more times. Stay in 9th st of last rep with your last st made, make sure not to ss to connect. *(photo 10.3)* [9 fans of 9BPDC and between them a SC4TOG]

Round 11: *starting with last st made on previous Round.*

CH2 (this is meant to obtain height as you will work in same st), * SC3TOG over next three sts *(which will be the last bpdc of the fan you're on, the sc4tog and the next bpdc of next 9bpdc-fan, also see photo 11 and 11.1),* CH1, (1FPDC around next bpdc, CH1) 7 times *(see photo 11.2)*. Rep from * 8 more times. SS in top of first SC3TOG made. Fasten off Color F. [9 fans of 7FPDC with a CH1-sp between them all and between the fans a SC3TOG]

Round 12: Take Color G and attach it in any sc3tog of last Round. CH1, * 1SC in sc3tog, sk next ch1-sp and the next fpdc, (1SC-1DC-1SC in next ch1-sp, sk next fpdc) 6 times, sk next ch1-sp. Rep from * 8 more times. SS in top of first st to connect. Fasten off Color G. [9 fans with six sc-dc-sc gr and between them all a SC]

Round 13: Take Color D and attach it around the back post of any sc you made in a sc3tog on last Round.

CH1, * 1BPSC around st made in a sc3tog.*(photo 13)*, CH2, sk ch1-sp and next fpdc on Round 11, (1BPSC around next fpdc on Round 11, CH1) 4 times, 1BPSC around next fpdc on Round 11,*(see red dots on photo 13),* CH2, sk next fpdc on Round 11 and next ch1-sp. Rep from * 8 more times. SS in top of first BPSC to connect. Fasten off Color D. [9 fans with 5fpdc with a BPSC around them and a CH1-sp between the BPSC, 1BPSC between each fan and 18 times a CH2-sp]
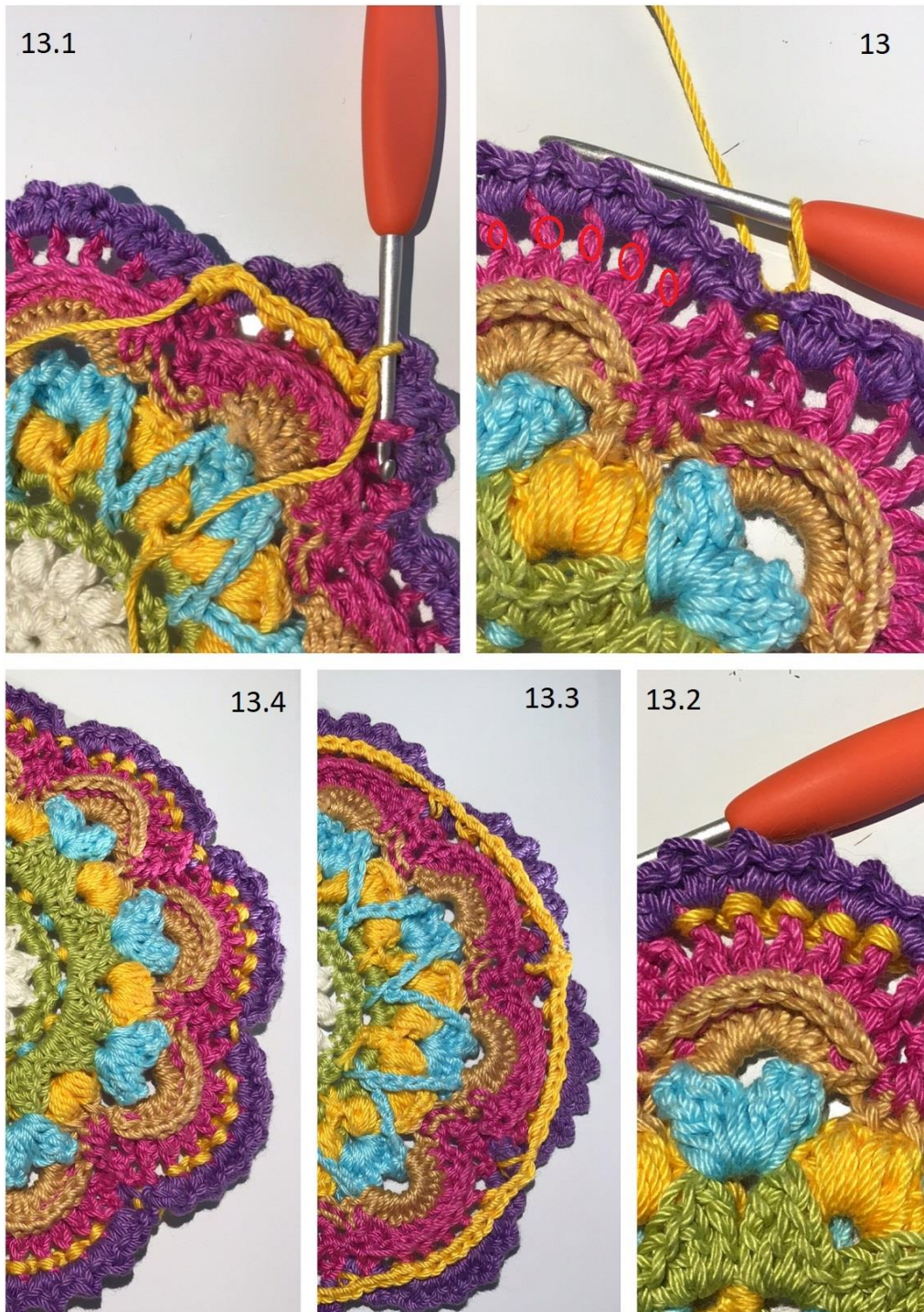

Photo 13.1 and 13.3 shows the backside of the work.

So far this week's part. We created the centre flower part of the Día de los Muertos which is a bright and colorful piece to crochet. This was really one of the harder parts of this CAL due the fact you work in so many different stitches on the backside sometimes. I hope to see you back next week on Part 2 where we are going to do the Black and Whites and also start crocheting skulls! Isn't that fun?!

Designed by: *the guy with the hook – 2020*

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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.

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