hdc Border Join for Twinkling Granny Square
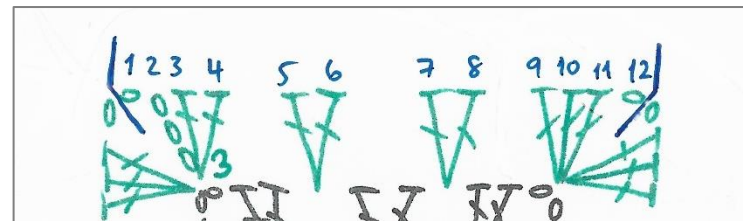
(US Crochet Terminology)

A crochet pattern by Merrian Holland

Hdc Border for Twinkling Granny Square – Instructions

This border join could be used for any square motif with 12 stitches per side or a stitch count that's divisible by 3.
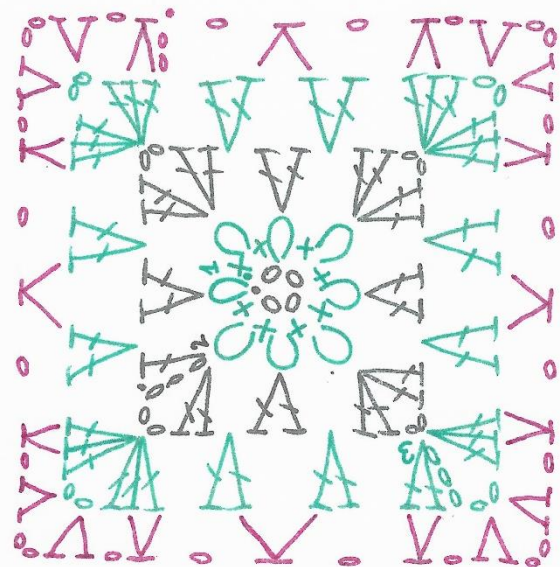
Note : on the Twinkling Granny Square motif, I am counting the ch1 from each corner as a stitch *(see illustration).*

You can find the instructions for the Twinkling Granny Square here: [Twinkling Granny Square Crochet Pattern with Video (mezzacraft.com)](mezzacraft.com)

Tools & Materials : You can use any yarn weight and corresponding hook size but for these instructions, I am using a Light DK / Sport weight yarn in contrasting colour with a 4mm / G hook.

Chart

| sl st (slip stitch) |
| ch (chain) |
| hdc2tog (half double crochet two together) |
| 2hdc (2 half double crochet) |

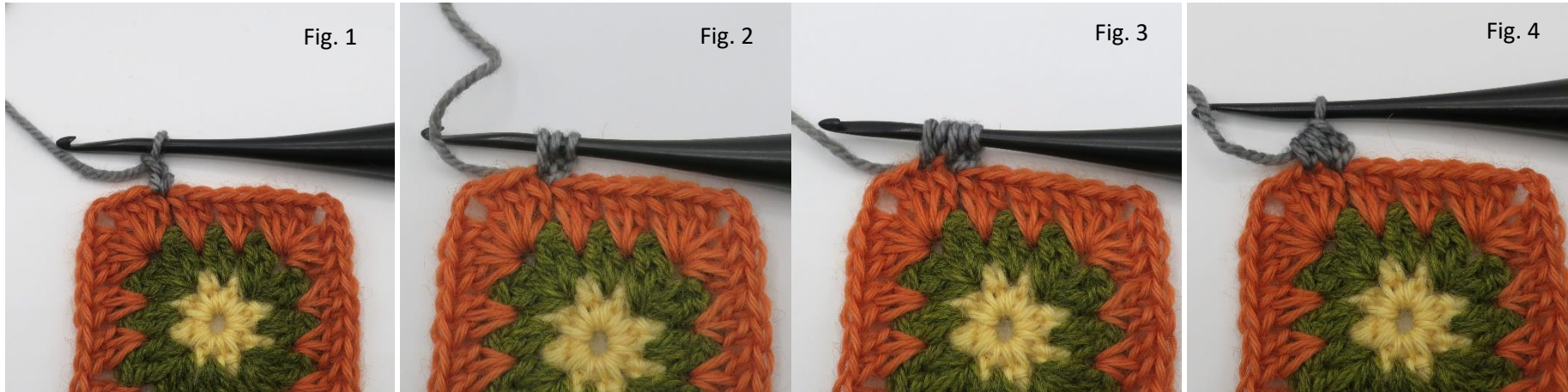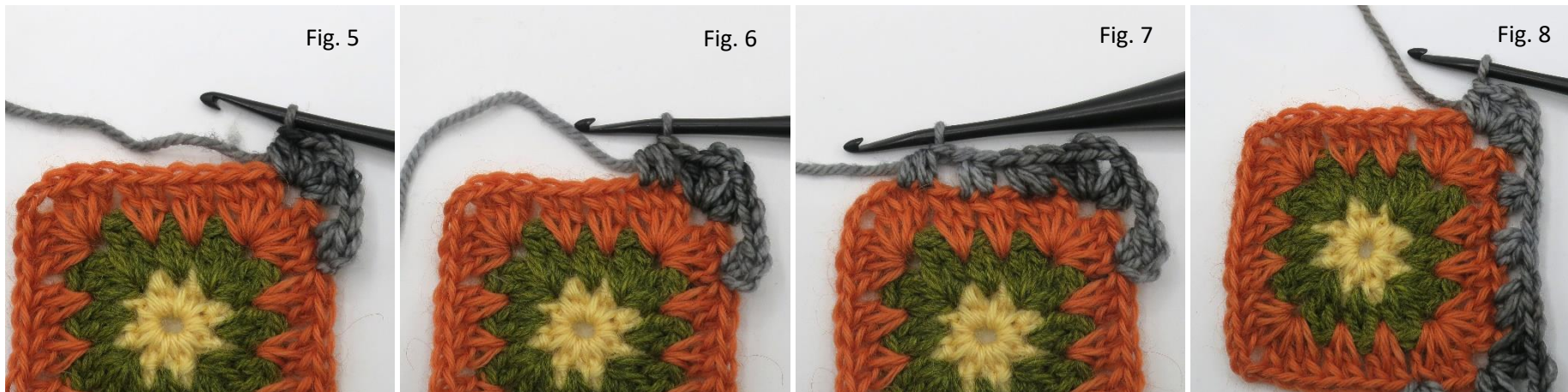| Key (US crochet terminology)	Special stitch instructions
beg – beginning ch – chain dc – double crochet hdc – half double crochet hdc2tog – half double crochet 2 together (see special stitches) prev – previous rnd - round sc – single crochet sl st – slip stitch sp – space	**hdc2tog** : yo & insert hook into the next st, pull up a loop (3 loops on hook), yo, insert hook into next st, pull up a loop (5 loops on hook), yo and draw though all loops on the hook – hdc2tog made! **drop loop join :** after a completed stitch, remove the live loop from the hook, insert the hook into the appropriate stitch you're joining the work to, then put the live loop back on the hook. Pull the live loop through the stitch from the joining motif.

Border round : join border colour in 8th st along (3rd st from the left corner), ch2 *(fig.1)*, make a partial hdc in the same sp as follows: yo, insert hook into st, pull up a loop (3 loops on hook) *(fig.2)*, make a partial hdc in next st (5 loops on hook) *(fig.3)*, yo and draw off all 5 loops - 1st hdc2tog made *(fig.4)…*

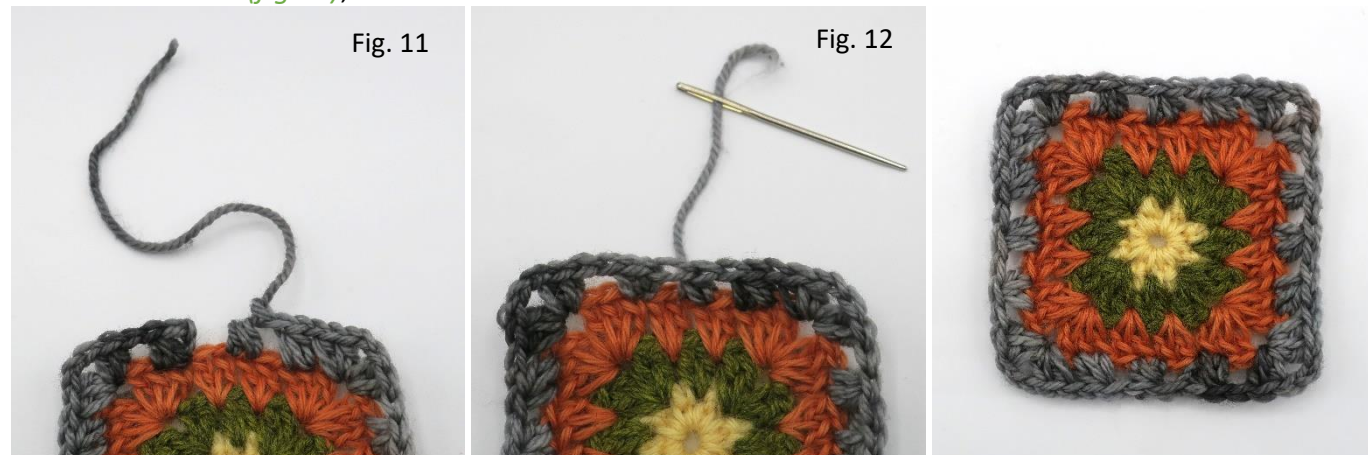|			
Fig. 1	Fig. 2	Fig. 3	Fig. 4

…ch1; in corner sp – 2hdc, ch2, 2hdc – corner made *(fig.5)*; *(ch1, sk1 st & hdc2tog across the next 2sts *(fig.6)*) 3 times *(fig.7)*; ch1; in next corner sp - 2hdc, ch2, 2hdc *(fig.8)…*

Fig. 5	Fig. 6	Fig. 7	Fig. 8

…repeat from * to * 3 times; (ch1, sk1 st & hdc2tog across the next 2sts) 2 times *(fig.9)*; ch1; join with sl st in 1st hdc2tog *(fig.10)*; fasten off.

Fig. 9

Fig. 10

Alternative fastening off method *if you don't like the look of the sl st join* : at the end of the round, don't crochet the last ch1, instead make a sewn bind off for the last ch as follows - cut the yarn and pull the live loop open until the tail end pops out *(fig.11)*; thread the tail end onto a needle; insert the needle into the 1st hdc2tog made in the same way as you would a crochet hook, i.e. from front to back and through both loops; turn the work and thread the needle down through the last hdc2tog made, being careful not to pull the stitches tight; gently adjust the mock chain you've just created until it matches the rest of the sts *(fig.12)*; weave in the tail end.

Fig. 11

Fig. 12

Hdc Border Join

To join these motifs, you have several options.

1. Sew together : Make the borders for each square separately and then join by sewing together, either with a mattress stitch or a whip stitch.
2. Join as you go (JAG): As you make the border for each square you join to the adjacent motif(s). The yarn is fastened off at the end of each round.
3. Continuous border join : The border is made and joined in one continuous sequence of crochet.

In these instructions, I will be going over the "Join as you go" (JAG) method.

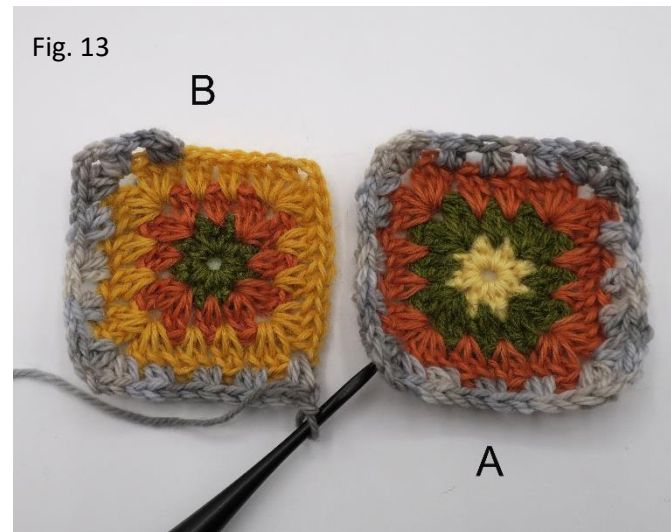See next page…

Hdc Border JAG Method

Here I'll go over the technique using 4 motifs. The instructions assume you have already made the 4 motifs. Instructions in **BOLD GREEN** are the sections where the motif is being joined.

Note: Due to the way hdc stitches are formed and fall, i.e. the top of the stich falls far to the right of the post, there is are two slight adjustment to the way the border is joined to keep it looking symmetrical.

1. The stitches are always joined one stitch to the left of the corresponding st on the adjacent motif. Most of the time, inexperienced crocheters misread hdc stitches anyway, so chances are the correct stitch placement is made inadvertently.
2. The 2nd ch of the ch2 in the corners is omitted to avoid an unsightly hole.

Start by making one complete border (**Motif A**). We'll be joining motif B to A.

Motif B. Start by doing as much of the border on motif B as you can, before you need to join. In this case that is : join border colour in 8th st along (3rd st from the left corner), ch2, make a partial hdc in the same sp as follows: yo, insert hook into st, pull up a loop (3 loops on hook), make a partial hdc in next st (5 loops on hook), yo and draw off all 5 loops - 1st hdc2tog made; ch1; in corner sp – 2hdc, ch2, 2hdc – corner made; (ch1, sk1 st & hdc2tog across the next 2sts) 3 times; ch1; in next corner sp - 2hdc, ch2, 2hdc; (ch1, sk1 st & hdc2tog across the next 2sts) 3 times; ch1*; in next corner sp - 2hdc, ch1 *(fig.13),* **sl st in ch2 corner sp of motif A** *(fig.14)…*

Fig. 13

B

A

Fig. 14

…1hdc in corner sp of motif B, make a drop loop join (*see special stitches*) in the ch1 before the 1st hdc from motif A *(see fig. 16 & remember the note at the start of the instructions)*; **make another hdc in the corner sp of motif B and attach to the next st on motif A with a drop loop join** *(fig.17)*; **(ch1, sk1 st & hdc2tog across the next 2sts; sk1 st on motif A, attach a drop loop join) 3 times** *(fig.18)…*
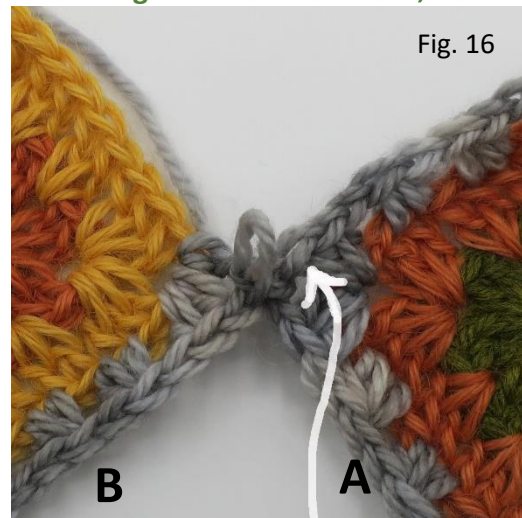

Fig. 16

Fig. 17

Fig. 18

B   A

… **ch1; in next corner sp - 2hdc, ch1, sl st in ch2 corner sp of motif A** *(fig.19)…* finish off the border, 2hdc in corner sp of A; ch1; (sk1 st & hdc2tog across the next 2sts; ch1) 2 times. Fasten off. *(fig.20)*

Fig. 19

Fig. 20

Motif C same as motif B, up to * : in next corner sp - 2hdc, ch1 *(fig.21),* **sl st in sl st join of A & B** *(fig.22)...*

Fig. 21

C
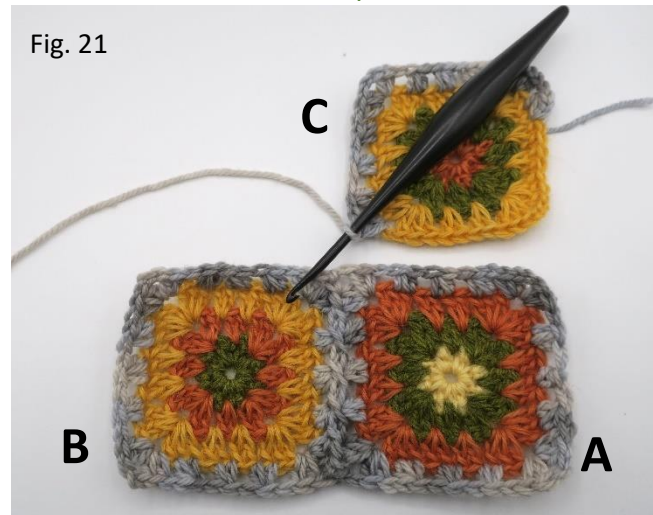
B   A

Fig. 22

...1hdc in corner sp of motif C, make a drop loop join in the ch1 before the 1st hdc from motif A; make another hdc in the corner sp of motif C & attach to the next st on motif A with a drop loop join*; (*ch1, sk1 st & hdc2tog across the next 2sts; sk1 st on motif A, attach a drop loop join) 3 times*; *ch1; 1hdc in corner sp of motif C, make a drop loop join in the ch1 before the 1st hdc from motif A; make another hdc in the corner sp of motif C & attach to the next st on motif A with a drop loop join *(fig.23)...*

Fig. 23

C

B   A

Fig. 24

...finish off the border, 2hdc in corner sp of A; ch1; **(**sk1 st & hdc2tog across the next 2sts; ch1) 2 times. Fasten off. *(fig.24)*

Motif D. Start by doing as much of the border on motif C as you can, before you need to join. This motif is joined along 2 sides and in 3 corners: join border colour in 8th st along (3rd st from the left corner), ch2, make a partial hdc in the same sp as follows yo, insert hook into st, pull up a loop (3 loops on hook), make a partial hdc in next st (5 loops on hook), yo and draw off all 5 loops - 1st hdc2tog made; ch1; in corner sp – 2hdc, ch2, 2hdc – corner made; (ch1, sk1 st & hdc2tog across the next 2sts) 3 times; ch1; in next corner sp - 2hdc, ch1 *(fig.25),* **sl st in ch2 corner sp of motif B; …1hdc in corner sp of motif D, make a drop loop join in the ch1 before the 1st hdc from motif B; make another hdc in the corner sp of motif D and attach to the next st on motif B with a drop loop join**; **(ch1, sk1 st & hdc2tog across the next 2sts; sk1 st on motif B, attach a drop loop join) 3 times** *(fig.26)*; **ch1; 1hdc in corner sp of motif D, make a drop loop join in the ch1 before the 1st hdc from motif B; make another hdc in the corner sp of motif D and attach to the next st on motif B with a drop loop join**;**, ch1***,* **sl st in sl st join of A, B & C** *(fig.27)…*

Fig. 25

D

C

B

A

Fig. 26

Fig. 27

…1hdc in corner sp of motif D, make a drop loop join in the ch1 before the 1st hdc from motif C; make another hdc in the corner sp of motif D and attach to the next st on motif C with a drop loop join; (ch1, sk1 st & hdc2tog across the next 2sts; sk1 st on motif B, attach a drop loop join) 3 times; ; (ch1, sk1 st & hdc2tog across the next 2sts; sk1 st on motif C, attach a drop loop join) 3 times; 1hdc in corner sp of motif D, make a drop loop join in the ch1 before the 1st hdc from motif C; make another hdc in the corner sp of motif D and attach to the next st on motif C with a drop loop join; *(fig.28);* finish off the border, 2hdc in corner sp of D; ch1; (sk1 st & hdc2tog across the next 2sts; ch1) 2 times. Fasten off. *(fig.29)*

Fig. 28

D

C

B

A

Fig. 29

I hope you like the join I've used for my **Twinkling Granny Square** pattern…once you've mastered the basic principles, it's pretty easy to add squares to make the shape and size you need – if you give it a try, please let me know!

My Project

I have used these squares & join to make a granny square jumper/sweater! This sweater is part of my upcoming course at The Riverhouse Barn in Walton-on-Thames where I will be teaching students how to make their own, custom fit, granny square sweater.

Connect with me!

You can often find me on Instagram. Please do follow and tag me @mezzamay if you make one of my patterns, use one of my tips or stitch patterns. I really love to see what you're making.