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Lacy River Rocks

Bring nature indoors with these gorgeous crochet-covered rocks. Designed by eco-artist **Margaret Oomen**, they make great paper weights or simple objects of beauty.

BY MARGARET OOMEN

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The Lacy River Rocks were originally featured in the *Crochet Today!* September/October 2009 issue

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What You'll Need

YARN

AUNT LYDIA'S Classic Crochet Thread, Size 10, each ball approx 350yd/320m (cotton)

- 1 ball #226 Natural (A)
- 1 ball #021 Linen (B)

NOTE

One ball of thread will make 5 to 6 covers.

CROCHET HOOK

- Size 8 (1.5mm) steel crochet hook or any size to obtain correct gauge

NOTIONS

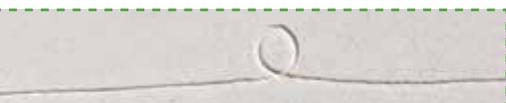
- River rocks, variety of colors and shapes—about 3–4"/7.5–10cm at widest point
- Stitch marker
- Thread needle

Skill Level: Intermediate



the yarn

Crochet Thread
Size 10 in Natural



For more about artist
Margaret Oomen and her nature-inspired
crochet, check out our blog!
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ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS PATTERN

ch(s) chain(s) **sl st** slip stitch
dc double crochet **sp(s)** space(s)
hdc half double crochet **st(s)** stitch(es)
sc single crochet **tr** treble crochet
sk skip

□ Work directions inside brackets as many times as indicated.

() Work directions inside parentheses into stitch or space indicated.

* Repeat directions following * as many times as indicated.

SPECIAL ABBREVIATIONS

beginning tr4tog (beginning treble crochet 4 stitches together) Ch 3; *yarn over twice, insert hook in next st, yarn over and draw up a loop, [yarn over and draw through 2 loops on hook] twice; repeat from * 2 more times, yarn over and draw through all 4 loops on hook.

tr4tog (treble crochet 4 stitches together)
*Yarn over twice, insert hook in next st, yarn over and draw up a loop, [yarn over and draw through 2 loops on hook] twice; repeat from * 3 more times, yarn over and draw through all 5 loops on hook.

V-st (V-stitch) Work (dc, ch 2, dc) in indicated stitch or space.

SPECIAL TECHNIQUE

adjustable ring method Holding the thread a few inches from the end, wrap around your finger. Do not remove wrap from finger, insert hook into the wrap and draw up a loop of working thread. Chain one to secure the loop, and remove ring from finger. Work stitches of first round in the ring. Pull gently, but firmly, on tail to tighten ring.

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Approx 3–4"/7.5–10cm across at widest point, when stretched over rock

Note Covers stretch to fit rocks of varying shapes and sizes.

GAUGE

Same as finished measurements. Gauge is not critical for this project.

NOTES

1 The covers are stretchy and designed to fit snugly over rocks of varying shapes and sizes. The bottom side of the cover is not intended to cover the bottom of the rock completely.

2 Covers are circular, but will stretch over round, oval, and irregularly shaped rocks.

3 While working, frequently compare the size of the cover with the rock. The cover should be slightly smaller than the rock, so that it will fit snugly. Take care to ensure that you will be able to stretch the cover over the rock before finishing. To ensure that the cover will fit the rock, you may choose to work the last round of the cover with the rock in place.

4 It's easy to customize the size of your covers. Since each cover consists of a center motif and then a stretchy mesh-like stitch pattern, simply work more or fewer rounds of the mesh stitch pattern, adding or subtracting chains as desired, to make your cover fit smaller or larger rocks.

RADII COVER

With A, use adjustable ring method to form a ring.

Round 1 (right side) Ch 4 (counts as dc and ch-1 sp), [dc in ring, ch 1] 12 times; join with sl st in 3rd ch of beginning ch-4—13 dc and 13 ch-1 sps.

Round 2 Ch 5 (counts as dc and ch-2 sp), [dc in next dc, ch 2] 12 times; join with sl st in 3rd ch of beginning ch-5—13 dc and 13 ch-2 sps.

Round 3 Ch 3 (counts as dc here and throughout), dc in same st as joining, ch 2, [2 dc in next dc, ch 2] 12 times; join with sl st in 3rd ch of beginning ch-3—26 dc and 13 ch-2 sps.

Round 4 Ch 3, dc in next dc, ch 3, [dc in next 2 dc, ch 3] 12 times; join with sl st in 3rd ch of beginning ch-3—26 dc and 13 ch-3 sps.

Round 5 Ch 3, dc in next dc, ch 4, [dc in next 2 dc, ch 4] 12 times; join with sl st in 3rd ch of beginning ch-3—26 dc and 13 ch-4 sps.

Round 6 Ch 3, dc in next dc, ch 5, [dc in next 2 dc, ch 5] 12 times; join with sl st in 3rd ch of beginning ch-3—26 dc and 13 ch-5 sps.

Repeat Round 6 until cover, when spread flat and slightly stretched, measures about ¼"/6mm less than the rock at its widest point.

Next Round Repeat Round 5—26 dc and 13 ch-4 sps.

Following Round Repeat Round 4—26 dc and 13 ch-3 sps.

Last Round Ch 3, dc in next dc, ch 2, [dc in next

2 dc, ch 2] 12 times; join with sl st in 3rd ch of beginning ch-3—26 dc and 13 ch-2 sps. Fasten off, leaving a 10"/25.5cm tail.

SHAMROCK COVER

With A, use adjustable ring method to form a ring.

Round 1 (right side) Ch 1, [sc in ring, ch 5] 4 times; join with sl st in first sc—4 sc and 4 ch-5 sps.

Round 2 *Work 9 dc in next ch-5 sp**, sl st in next sc; repeat from * 3 more times, ending last repeat at **; join with sl st in first sc on Round 1—36 dc (consisting of four 9-dc groups).

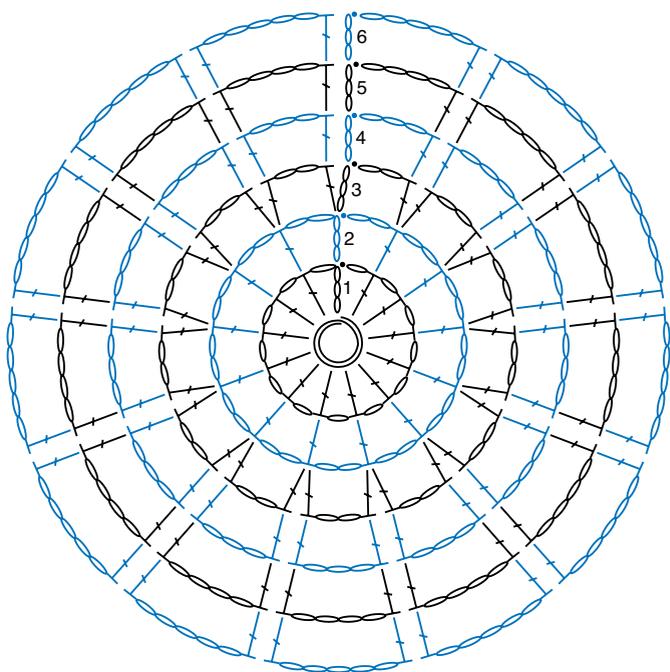
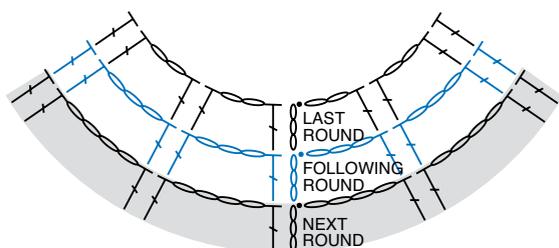
Fasten off.

Round 3 With right side facing, join A with sc in 5th dc of any 9-dc group, ch 8, [sc in 5th dc of next 9-dc group, ch 8] 3 times; join with sl st in first sc—4 sc and 4 ch-8 sps.

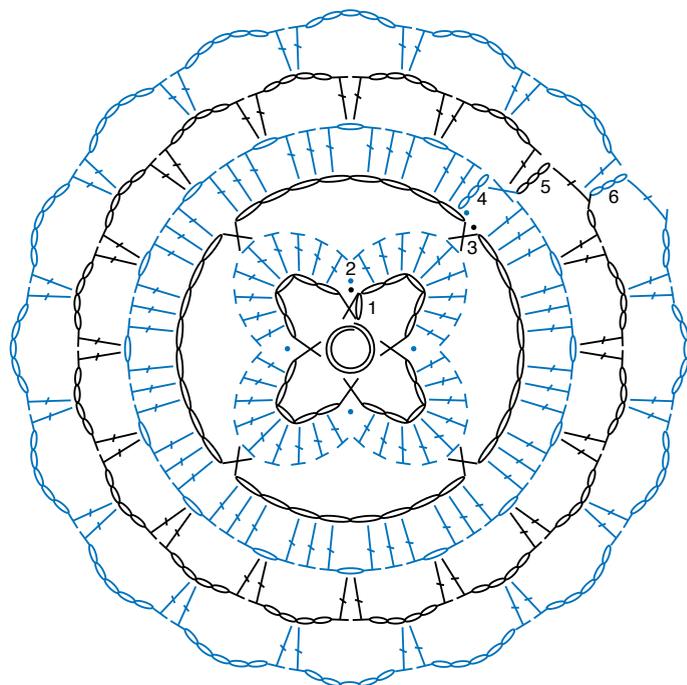
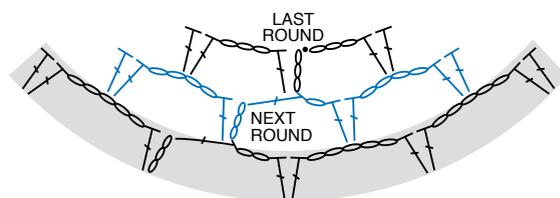
Round 4 Sl st in first ch-8 sp, ch 3 (counts as dc here and throughout), (2 dc, [ch 1, 3 dc] 3 times) in same ch-8 sp, *ch 1, (3 dc, [ch 1, 3 dc] 3 times) in next ch-8 sp; repeat from * 2 more times; join with sc in 3rd ch of beginning ch-3 (joining sc counts as ch-1 sp)—48 dc (consisting of 16 3-dc groups) and 16 ch-1 sps.

Round 5 Ch 3, dc in first ch-1 sp (formed by join), *ch 4, 2 dc in next ch-1 sp; repeat from

RADII COVER STITCH DIAGRAM



SHAMROCK COVER STITCH DIAGRAM



* around; join with ch 1, dc in 3rd ch of beginning ch-3 (joining ch 1 and dc counts as ch-4 sp)—32 dc (consisting of 16 2-dc groups) and 16 ch-4 sps.

Round 6 Ch 3, dc in first ch-sp (formed by join), *ch 5, 2 dc in next ch-sp; repeat from * around; join with ch 2, dc in 3rd ch of beginning ch-3 (joining ch 2 and dc counts as ch-5 sp)—32 dc and 16 ch-5 sps.

Repeat Round 6 until cover, when spread flat and slightly stretched, measures about $\frac{1}{4}$ "/6mm less than the rock at its widest point.

Next Round Ch 3, dc in first ch-5 sp (formed by join), *ch 4, 2 dc in next ch-5 sp; repeat from * around; join with ch 1, dc in 3rd ch of beginning ch-3 (joining ch 1 and dc counts as ch-4 sp)—32 dc and 16 ch-4 sps.

Last Round Ch 3, dc in first ch-4 sp (formed by join), *ch 3, 2 dc in next ch-4 sp; repeat from * around, ch 3; join with sl st in 3rd ch of beginning ch-3—32 dc and 16 ch-3 sps. Fasten off, leaving a 10"/25.5cm tail.

SUNBURST COVER

With B, use adjustable ring method to form a ring.

Round 1 (right side) Ch 2 (counts as hdc), work 23 hdc in ring; join with sl st in 2nd ch of beginning ch-2—24 hdc.

Round 2 Ch 5 (counts as tr and ch-1 sp), *tr in next hdc, ch 1; repeat from * around; join with sl st in 4th ch of beginning ch-5—24 tr and 24 ch-1 sps (48 sts).

Note When working Round 3, each tr and each ch-1 sp of Round 2 counts as a stitch.

Round 3 Work beginning tr4tog, ch 6, *tr4tog, ch 6; repeat from * around; join with sl st in top of beginning tr4tog—12 tr4tog and 12 ch-6 sps.

Round 4 Ch 1, sc in same st as joining, 6 sc in next ch-6 sp, *sc in next tr4tog, 6 sc in next ch-6 sp; repeat from * around; join with sl st in first sc—84 sc.

Round 5 Ch 5 (counts as dc and ch-2 sp), dc in same st as joining (beginning V-st made), sk next 2 sts, *V-st in next st, sk next 2 sts; repeat from * around; join with sl st in 3rd ch of beginning ch-5—28 V-sts.

Round 6 (Sl st, ch 5, dc) in first ch-2 sp (beginning V-st made), V-st in ch-2 sp of each remaining V-st around; join with sl st in 3rd ch of beginning ch-5.

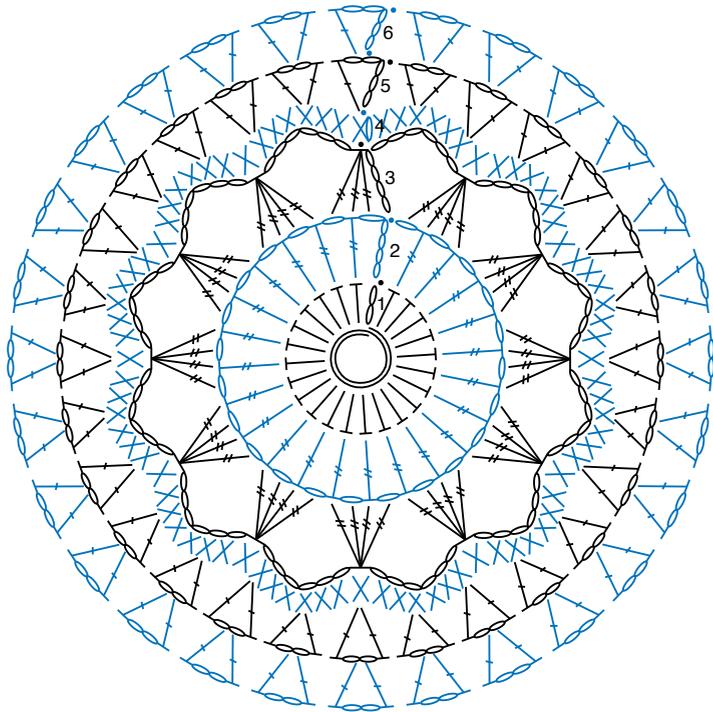
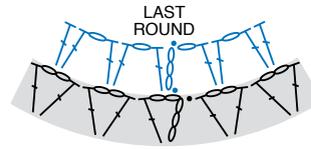
Repeat Round 6 until cover, when spread flat and slightly stretched, measures about $\frac{1}{4}$ "/6mm less than the rock at its widest point.

Last Round Sl st in first ch-2 sp, ch 3 (counts as dc), dc in same ch-2 sp, ch 1, *2 dc in ch-2 sp of next V-st, ch 1; repeat from * around; join with sl st in 3rd ch of beginning ch-3—56 dc. Fasten off, leaving

a 10"/25.5cm tail.

FINISHING

Weave in ends, leaving final tail. Stretch cover over rock. Thread tail onto needle and weave tail through stitches of last round. Gently pull tight, stretching cover snugly over rock, and securely weave in end.





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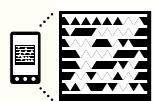
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