## Astrid's 4 Fallen leaves potholders



## The technique

These potholders are made in crochet, the technique is Interlocking Crochet. Basically, two filet/mesh crochet parts of double crochet - chain one which are interlinked to form a pattern or drawing. Each row is worked first with the main $(A)$ colour and then with the background $(B)$ colour(s) before the work is turned around. At the end of the file there is more information on the technique if needed, including a photo guide on how to get started.

## The video tutorial

If you are unsure about the technique and want to first watch some tutorials, I have some in my YouTube channel: Astrid's Interlocking Crochet. The pattern I used on these videos can be downloaded for free from Ravelry. Here are some links:

Free pattern in Ravelry: Astrid's Christmas tangle potholder
YouTube channel: Astrid's Interlocking crochet YouTube channel

## The size

The finished potholders measure approximately $22 \times 25 \mathrm{~cm}$. If you want it in a larger size, using a thicker yarn and a larger needle would be the solution. If you wish to make squares for a blanket, just avoid making the loop with the A border.

## The yarn

One potholder takes approximately 65grams. The colour A is the one used in the border and the pattern (approx. 35 gr ) and the colour B is the one (or more) used in the background ( 30 gr ).
I used Scheepjes Catona, $100 \%$ cotton mercerized, fingering weight, 125 metres per 50 gr , and used a $3,0 \mathrm{~mm}$ hook though the suggested hook for this yarn is $3,5 \mathrm{~mm}$. My choice of colours is included at the start of each potholder.

The stitches
(US terminology)

| ch | Chain | The pattern is abbreviated to make it simple to read. It consists of B's and F's with a number next to it. To the right is the explanation of the abbreviations. |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| sk | Skip |  | B1 | dcib, ch1 |
| dc | Double crochet |  | B3 | (dcib, ch1) 3 times |
| dcib | Double crochet in the back |  | F1 | dcif, ch1 |
| dcif | Double crochet in the front |  | F2 | (dcif, ch1) twice |
| Sc | Single crochet |  |  |  |
| hdc | Half double crochet |  |  |  |

Row ends: Note: the B rows, end with B or F stitches, however the last stitch does not have a chain 1. I always end all rows with chain 3, instead of doing it at the beginning of the next, it is just a habit, and it is easier to "hang" the B colour back or front at the start of an A row. The last stitch of A and B rows goes in the last window of the previous row and not in a specific chain. Eventually, with a little tug the sides have square windows.

## The solid stitches

The way to work these stitches is a bit different, but if you follow the instructions closely and work a bit slower, you should be fine. The big difference is that on one same row, sometimes we make a chain and skip one, other times we don't. Simply said, "solid stitches" are good old fashioned double crochet stitches, done on a row.


Some basics:

- Part of the row is normal interlocking, part solid stitches.
- The "new" stitches you have here are either dcib (dc in the back) or dcif (dc in the front).
- The dcif and dcib "sets" of stitches have always odd number of stitches. The first and every second after go on dc from the previous row, the rest go on the chain space from the row below.
- You make the dc stitches on a row WITHOUT chain 1 - skip 1.
- At the end of each "set" you make, yes a chain 1 - skip 1 once.


## Example: F5, B1, F2, 5dcif, B2, 3dcif, 3dcif, B2

You make:
a) F5, B1 and F2 as normal ending in the last chain 1 - skip 1 from the F2...
b) then you make 5 dc on a row (the first, third and fifth on the next 3 dc from previous row, and the second and fourth in the chain one spaces in between)...

## REMEMBER TO chain 1 - skip 1 after the set of dcif! ...

c) Then you make B2 as usual,
d) Then a set of 3dcif... chain 1 - skip 1 ... another set of dcif... (when two sets of dcif (or dcib) are together, you have to chain 1 - skip 1 in between!)...
e) And finish off with B2 as usual.

## The colours

Two of the potholders are in just two colours, one for the A rows and one for the B rows. The other two have a second colour in the B rows. The colours are not carried in Interlocking, so you work with different skeins/bobbins. At the start of each potholder I listed the colours used and when you need two or more bobbins of a colour.

## The colour changes

Throughout the years I have seen many ways of doing this and everyone has a meaning. You can chose your own method. If you need inspiration, here is the way I do colour changes:

The very first time you will insert a new colour, you work your first colour until the dc, then chain 1 with the new colour and continue with the second colour. It is returning back and forth these colour changes that can get tricky.

When you are working your first colour and "meet" a new one, you dc and chain 1. Without taking the yarn off your hook, you send the hook through the next stitch and pick up a loop of the next colour, chain 2 (now two loops on hook), yarn over with new colour and pull through 2, continue as normal with second colour. This is an ok system, but the chains are visibly different than the other dc's and don't look so good. However it is a fast way to change colour and perfect for using it on the back side of the blanket, and even better if it is behind solid stitches. Below is a photo guide of the steps

|  | Send the hook through the next stitch and .... |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | .... pick up a loop of the next colour |
|  | Chain 2 (you have two loops on your hook) |



## The questions

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. You can reach me at aschandy@yahoo.no via email or you can join my Facebook group "Astrid's Interlocking crochet lab". You find my work also in Instagram at ati_stitches.

## The chart

A chart is included (with a photo) at the beginning of each pattern table for those who prefer to crochet from a picture. Also it is good to compare to make sure it is looking as it should.

## The pattern

The table with the pattern has grey rows for all A rows, hopefully it is easier to read.
When you are working on even numbered rows, you are working with the back of the blanket facing you. It may help to know that when working on even rows, you are following the drawing from left to write.

When you are working on odd numbered rows, you are working with the front of the blanket facing you. When working on odd rows, you are following the drawing from right to left.

All rows should start with ch3, and at the beginning of each row, pay attention to where the B colour should hang, either to the front or the back, as this will affect the drawing/pattern. This is marked in the second column of the pattern. Also, at the end of all B rows, the very last stitch is not followed by a chain 1.

## The border

The border, as the rest of the potholder, is done one in each colour. First colour B:
With colour B: on colour B windows, 2sc in every window, 5sc in each corner.
With colour A: on colour A windows, start with chain 25 for your loop, and slip stitch into the same corner window. Make 2 hdc in the first window. Continue all around with 2 hdc in every window. The first three corners: 2 hdc , 1 hdc grabbing the middle $\left(3^{\text {rd }}\right)$ sc of the colour B window, 2 hdc. When you reach the end of © Astrid Schandy 2023
the round, 2 hdc in the last window, and 25 sc on the 25 chains of the loop. Join to the first hdc with an invisible join, and cut a bit longer than usual. When you thread a needle to "hide" the last thread, stitch twice on the $3^{\text {rd }} \mathrm{sc}$ (colour B ) of this last corner to fasten it to the A colour, as the other three corners.

Hope you enjoy this!

## The action

Let's get started!


| 11B |  | B10, F1, B3, F1, B6, F3 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 12A | B | B1, F3, 9dcib, F1, 3dcib, F1, 19dcib, B1, dc |
| 12B |  | B2, F20, B2 |
| 13A | F | F1, 7dcif, 15dcif, 9dcif, B1, 5dcif, B1, F1, dc |
| 13B |  | B4, F1, B7, F1, B10, F1 |
| 14A | B | 17dcib, F2, 13dcib, F1, 9dcib, dc |
| 14B |  | F10, B1, F12, B1 |
| 15A | F | 13dcif, B1, 7dcif, B1, 5dcif, B1, 11dcif, F1, dc |
| 15B |  | B7, F1, B3, F1, B10, F2 |
| 16A | B | B1, 7dcib, F1, 11dcib, F1, 3dcib, F1, 13dcib, B1, dc |
| 16B |  | F12, B1, F9, B2 |
| 17A | F | F1, B2, 13dcif, B1, 25dcif, dc |
| 17B |  | F1, B8, F1, B13, F1 |
| 18A | B | B1, 5dcib, 7dcib, 5dcib, 5dcib, 17dcib, B1, dc |
| 18B |  | B1, F2, B1, F3, B1, F2, B1, F11, B2 |
| 19A | F | F1, B1, 9dcif, B1, 5dcif, 3dcif, 5dcif, B1, 5dcif, B3, F1, dc |
| 19B |  | F2, B4, F2, B2, F1, B5, F1, B3, F4 |
| 20A | B | B1, F2, 5dcib, F1, 5dcib, 5dcib, 3dcib, F8, B1, dc |
| 20B |  | B2, F3, B1, F3, (B1, F2)x2, B9 |
| 21A | F | F1, B7, 5dcif, 5dcif, (B1, 5dcif) x2, B1, F1, dc |
| 21B |  | F8, B2, F1, B6, F2, B2, F3 |
| 22A | B | B1, F5, 13dcib, F1, 3dcib, F7, B1, dc |
| 22B |  | B6, F6, B2, F2, B8 |
| 23A | F | F1, B6, 5dcif, B2, 11dcif, B5, F1, dc |
| 23B |  | F5, B4, F3, B6, F6 |
| 24A | B | B1, F4, 5dcib, F1, 3dcib, F4, 7dcib, F4, B1, dc |
| 24B |  | F23, B1 (chain 1 but do not cut off colour B. The chain 1 is the first sc of border B) |
| 25A | X | B24, dc (do not cut off colour A, continue with border A). |




| 8B |  | WH: F1 G: F1, B1, F1, B9, F5, B3 WH: F1, B2 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 9A | F | F1, 3dcif, B6, 3dcif, F1, B2, F1, B1, F1, B3, F1, 5dcif, dc |
| 9B |  | WH: F1 <br> G: B3, F5, B2, F5, B1, F4, B1 <br> WH: B1, F1 |
| 10A | B | 3dcib, F1, (B1, F2)x3, 5dcib, F4, B1, F1, 3dcib, B1, dc |
| 10B |  | G: F1, B10, F3, B1, F4, B2 WH: F1, B2 |
| 11A | F | F1, 3dcif, B5, F1, B1, 5dcif, B1, F1, (B2, F1)x2, B1, 3dcif, dc |
| 11B |  | WH: F1 <br> G: B1, F6, B6, F8 <br> WH: B1, F1 |
| 12A | B | 3dcib, F1, (B1, F2)x2, 7dcib, F8, 3dcib, B1, dc |
| 12B |  | G: F1, B7, F4, B7, F2 WH: F1, B2 |
| 13A | F | F1, 5dcif, F1, B8, 5dcif, B1, F1, B2, F1, B1, 3dcif, dc |
| 13B |  | WH: F1, B1 <br> G: B1, F1, B4, F3, B4, F7 <br> WH: B1, F1 |
| 14A | B | 3dcib, F1, B1, F2, B1, F1, 3dcib, F2, B1, F2, B1, F4, 3dcib, F1, B1, dc |
| 14B |  | G: F1, B2, F1, B3, F2, B3, F3, B5 WH: F1, B3 |
| 15A | F | F1, B1, 3dcif, B10, 5dcif, F1, B1, F1, B2, 3dcif, dc |
| 15B |  | WH: F2 G: B4, F8, B3, F4, B1 WH: B1, F1 |
| 16A | B | 5dcib, F1, B1, F2, 3dcib, B1, F7, B1, F1, 5dcib, F1, B1, dc |
| 16B |  | WH: F1 G: F1, B4, F2, B1, F8, B2 WH: F2, B3 |
| 17A | F | F1, B2, 3dcif, B10, 5dcif, B1, F1, B1, 3dcif, F1, dc |
| 17B |  | WH: F3 <br> G: B1, F11, B4, F1, B1 <br> WH: B1, F2 |
| 18A | B | B1, 5dcib, F1, 5dcib, B1, F10, 3dcib, F2, B1, dc |
| 18B |  | WH: B1, F1 G: F5, B1, F3, B4, F4 WH: F1, B4 |
| 19A | F | F1, B2, 5dcif, B2, F1, B3, F1, B4, 9dcif, B1, F1, dc |
| 19B |  | WH: F3, B1 G: B2, F2, B4, F4, B1 WH: B4, F3 |
| 20A | B | B1, F3, 7dcib, F9, 5dcib, F3, B1, dc |
| 20B |  | WH: B3, F3 G: F3, B6, F2 WH: F2, B5 |
| 21A | F | F1, B4, 7dcif, B5, 7dcif, 5dcif, B2, F1, dc |
| 21B |  | WH: F5, B2 (cut) G: B7 (cut) WH: B3, F1, B3, F3 |
| 22A | B | B1, F1, 5dcib, F3, 17dcib, F6, B1, dc |


| 22B |  | WH: B1, F3, B4, F8, B8 |
| :--- | :---: | :--- |
| 23A | F | F1, B19, 5dcif, F1, dc |
| 23B |  | WH: F20, B2, F2 |
| 24A | B | B1, F22, B1, dc |
| 24B |  | WH: F23, B1 (chain 1 but do not cut off colour B. The chain 1 is the first sc of border B) |
| 25A | X | B24, dc (do not cut off colour A, continue with border A). |



| 12A | B | B1, 9dcib, F1, 3dcib, F2, 17dcib, F3, B1, dc |
| :--- | :---: | :--- |
| 12B |  | B1, F4, B2, F2, B1, F9, B5 |
| 13A | F | F1, B5, 15dcif, 3dcif, B2, 9dcif, F1, dc |
| 13B |  | F6, B9, F3, B5, F1, |
| 14A | B | 11dib, F3, 5dcib, F11, B1, dc |
| 14B |  | F5, B3, F4, B12 |
| 15A | F | F1, B10, 3dcif, B1, 3dcif, B3, 9dcif, dc |
| 15B |  | F5, B7, F1, B3, F3, B4, F1 |
| 16A | B | 9dcib F2, 7dcib, F1, 13dcib, F4, B1, dc |
| 16B |  | F4, B2, F4, B2, F7, B5 |
| 17A | F | F1, B3, 13dcif, B2, 9dcif, B2, 7dcif, dc |
| 17B |  | F3, B7, F3, B5, F2, B3, F1 |
| 18A | B | 7dcib, F1, 11dcib, F2, 15dcib, F2, B1, dc |
| 18B |  | F3, B2, F5, B3, F8, B3 |
| 19A | F | F1, B1, 15dcif, B3, 11dcif, B2, 3dcif, F1, dc |
| 19B |  | F2, B7, F4, B5, F3, B1, F2 |
| 20A | B | B1, F4, 9dcib, F5, 13dcib, F1, B1, dc |
| 20B |  | B5, F4, B6, F7, B2 |
| 21A | F | F1, 13dcif, B6, 9dcif, B4, F1, dc |
| 21B |  | B7, F7, B4, F6 |
| 22A | B | B1, F5, 5dcib, F9, 11dcib, dc |
| 22B |  | B6, F2, B10, F5, B1 |
| 23A | F | F1, B15, 3dcif, B5, F1, dc |
| 23B |  | F16, B1, F7 |
| 24A | B | B1, F22, B1, dc |
| 24B |  | F23, B1 (chain 1 but do not cut off colour B. The chain 1 is the first sc of border B) |
| 25A | X | B24, dc (do not cut off colour A, continue with border A). |




|  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { G: B10 } \\ & \text { WH: B1, F2 } \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 10A | B | B1, 3dcib, F8, 3dcib, F2, 5dcib, F5, B1, dc |
| 10B |  | WH: B1 <br> G: F10 <br> WH: F1, B1, F4, B7 |
| 11A | F | F1, B6, 7dcif, 3dcif, B7, 5dcif, F1, dc |
| 11B |  | WH: F7, B4 <br> G: B9 <br> WH: B2, F2 |
| 12A | B | B1, F1, 15dcib, F1, 7dcib, F8, B1, dc |
| 12B |  | WH: (carry G w/bottom) B2, F6 G: F3 <br> WH: F3, B1, F5, B4 |
| 13A | F | F1, B2, 11dcif, B1, 11dcif, B7, F1, dc |
| 13B |  | WH: F1, B2 <br> G (new, 4st): B4 (cut) WH (new, 3st): B3 (cut) G: B4 WH: B6, F4 |
| 14A | B | B1, F2, 13dcib, B1, 11dcib, F2, 7dcib, B1, dc |
| Remember to ch3 already at the end of the rows to keep the white rim! (as explained in potholder \#2) |  |  |
| 14B |  | WH: B2, F1 <br> G: F6, B2, F10 <br> WH: F2, B1 |
| 15A | F | 5dcif, B8, 3dcif, F6, 5dcif, B1, F1, dc |
| 15B |  | G: B12, F7, B1 WH: B2, F2 |
| 16A | B | B1, 5dcib, B7, 3dcib, F9, 3dcib, dc |
| 16B |  | WH: B1 G: F2, B7, F12 WH: F1, B1 |
| 17A | F | 3dcif, B8, 7dcif, F7, 3dcif, F1, dc |
| 17B |  | G: B10 <br> WH (new, 21st): B2 G (new): B1, F8 WH: B1, F2 |
| 18A | B | B1, 3dcib, B7, 3dcib, 3dcib, F8, 3dcib, dc |
| 18B |  | WH: B1 <br> G: F2, B7 <br> WH: F1, B1 <br> G: F10 <br> WH: F1, B1 |
| 19A | F | 7dcif, B6, 3dcif, 3dcif, F6, 5dcif, F1, dc |
| 19B |  | WH: B2 <br> G: B8 <br> WH: B1, F1 <br> G: B1, F5, B2 <br> WH: B2, F2 |
| 20A | B | B1, F1, 7dcib, B4, 3dcib, 5dcib, F5, 3dcib, F1, B1, dc |
| 20B |  | WH: B2, F2 G: F1, B4, F1 WH: F1, B1, F1 G: F7 |


|  |  | WH: F1, B3 |
| :--- | ---: | :--- |
| 21A | F | F1, B1, 5dcif, B3, 5dcif, B1, 5dcif, F3, 3dcif, B3, F1, dc |
| 21B |  | WH: F2, B1 <br> G: B5 <br> WH: B2, F2, B1 <br> G: B2, F2, B1 <br> WH: B1, F5 |
| 22A | B | B1, F3, 5dcib, B1, 5dcib, F3, 5dcib, F2, 3dcib, F2, B1, dc <br> 22B <br> WH: B4, F1 (cut) <br> G: F3 (cut) <br> WH: F2, B4, F1 (cut) <br> G: F4 (cut) <br> WH: F1, B4 |
| 23A | F | F1, B2, 11dcif, B5, 9dcif, B4, F1, dc |
| 23B |  | WH: F3, B5, F6, B4, F6 |$\quad$| 24A | B |
| :--- | :--- |
| B1, F22, B1, dc |  |
| 25A | X |
|  | WH: F23, B1 (chain 1 but do not cut off colour B. The chain 1 is the first sc of border B) |



## The extra information on the technique

## The Trellis foundation:

A trellis is the first series of dc stitches (with ch1 space in between), and the spaces are called "windows", which are usually squared. The foundation consists of two colours, basically the trellis in colour A , and the required foundation for colour B.

The way to approach the colour B foundation is always specified for each work. How you work this colour B foundation will result in what kind of pattern you have. Sometimes you just lay the chain of colour B on top of the colour A trellis and work from the back of from the front, other times you have to weave the chain of colour $B$ through the windows of the colour A trellis to have a different effect.

At the end of this information you have a guide on three of the different ways to start a project.

## The two colours:

The colour A is the colour of both edges of your work. Rows of colour A always start with a ch3 and end in a dc. The colour B is always one window shorter than the A colour, and therefore it is always "framed" within colour A.

## Working the rows:

Every row is worked twice. First the colour A, and then the colour B. Therefore, the pattern has for example row $5 A$ and 5B. Please note that all colour $A$ stitches will be made on colour $A$, and the same for colour $B$. Never in interlocking crochet do you make one colour stitch on another colour stitch.

Rows are worked back and forth, so you will have the front side and the back side facing you alternatively. At the beginning of each row follow the pattern on where the colour B should "hang", whether to the front or to the back of your work.

## The stitches:

Interlocking filet uses very simple stitches. The whole concept is $1 \mathrm{dc}-1 \mathrm{ch}-$ skip 1 . However, the key is how that dc is made, either from the front (dcif) or from the back (dcib) of the work. It is this that will bring colours front or send them to the back creating the pattern.

Double crochet in back (also called back stitch)
Working with colour A, and when your colour A mesh is IN FRONT, yarn over, place the hook behind the colour B mesh, and putting the hook through the colour B mesh window, insert the hook from front to back into the top 2 loops of the colour A dc of the previous row. Pull the 2 loops of colour A through the colour B mesh window and to the BACK of the work, and finish the double crochet (yarn over and pull through 2, yarn over and pull through last 2 loops)

Working with colour A, and when your colour A mesh is BEHIND, it is a pretty straight forward dc.
Double crochet in front (also called front stitch)
Working with colour A, and when your colour A mesh is BEHIND, yarn over, place the hook in front of the colour B mesh and putting the hook through the colour B mesh window, insert the hook from front to back into the top 2 loops of the colour A dc of the previous row. Pull the 2 loops of colour A through the colour B mesh window and to the FRONT of the work, and finish the double crochet (yarn over and pull through 2, yarn over and pull through last 2 loops)

Working with colour A, and when your colour A mesh is IN FRONT, it is a straightforward dc.

## The trellis photo guide: how to start the project

The trellis is the name (one of the names) for the start of a project. It consists of one row of A colour, to which a row of $B$ colour is added. There are many different variations, the difference may lie in how many dc's are made on a row in the back or front, or how many windows you skip if one is requested to weave the $B$ chain through the A trellis. I will focus here on the way to start this specific blanket.

The blanket is started by laying B chain on A trellis without weaving, most stitches in back, last in front (I used a smaller example here to make it easier):

| 1 A | Chain 44, start in $6^{\text {th }}$ ch from the hook: (dc1, ch1, sk1) $\times 19$ times, dc in the last <br> chain, you should have 20 windows. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1B | Chain 42, lay your chain over the trellis and starting in the second A window <br> through the $6^{\text {th }}$ chain from the hook: B18, F1 |




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