




10: Spiral Scrumble

Spiral Scrumbling is an extendable form of spontaneous fabric-making with a recognisable structure. You go around and around . . . conjuring up a spiral galaxy!

This technique is best for designs involving two main colour elements - 'F' (foreground, ie the galaxy) and 'B' (background, ie the sky). Within that plan you need as many different yarns of similar thickness as you can lay your hands on for each element. You make up the fabric as you go along, starting in the 'eye' of the swirl and extending the same piece indefinitely. You keep several different yarns at once 'in play' so you can return to them. This means removing the hook temporarily from one working loop and picking up another (indicated - ) . Use safety pins or pass a ball through its own last loop to prevent unravelling.

To begin: With a background yarn ('B') make a ring of 3 or 4 chain (or use your favourite method) for the 'eye'. *Work 1 dc, 1 htr, 2 tr into ring - ; join in another 'B' yarn into the ring and rep from *. Maybe do this once more with a 3rd 'B' yarn. Join a foreground yarn ('F') into top of first dc of next 'B' segment, work 1 dc into each of 3 sts, 2 dc into last st -  - now you have 2 or 3 'B' and 1 'F' yarn 'in play'. Go to each in turn and work a few tr over the next segment as for conventional spiral fabric. Join in more 'F' and 'B' yarns as required, always starting with a few short stitches and building up to tr.

To make the separate 'arms' of either 'B' or 'F' deeper than 1 tr, join in other yarns of same family on top. Create texture by working combinations of dcs and bobbles (see below). To have a segment tail off and disappear, work a few htr and dc, ending with a slip stitch, and then fasten off - see diagram 2 (2A).

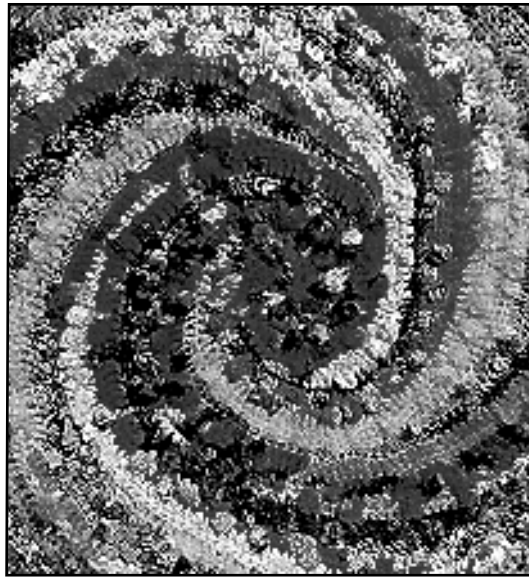


Diagram 1

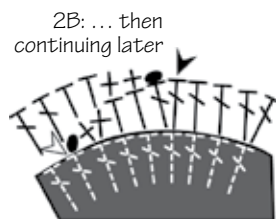


Diagram 2

Golden 'Rules'

Guidelines for keeping the fabric both flat and squared up:

- ✿ increase (work 2 sts into the same place) 12 times on average per complete round in tr (or only 6 times in dc) or just whenever the stitch you just worked is leaning backwards, ie not 'aiming' straight towards the centre of the fabric.
- ✿ Check up how this is working out by laying the fabric flat. (Don't try and kid yourself by pulling it around!)
- ✿ Admit when it has gone too far wrong before it's too late! If it's too full around the edge, make small gathers (with sewing needle or when you next crochet) to look like bobbles

Other good 'rules' are:

- ✿ Change yarn very often
- ✿ Don't work every segment as far as you can - you'll quickly end up with a snail shell shape, which may be difficult to extend without a visible tide-mark! Try instead to keep segments in progress evenly spaced all round the perimeter and work a little more to each in rotation.
- ✿ When you're not sure if a segment needs to be smoothed off, smooth it off anyway - see Diagram 2 - it's easy to rejoin later into the top of the last tr and then work over the shorter finishing stitches (work dc into htr; work htr into dc) so as to rebuild the smoothed off 'arm' and continue ...!
- ✿ Try your own variations, but, to create a fabric with its own consistent character, keep to the same few routines, applying them in different ways to avoid a build-up of exact repetition.

To make Bobbles:

The following bobble is based on 5 tr worked into the same place and joined at the top: *yoh, insert hook, yoh, draw loop through, yoh, draw through 2 lps; rep from * into same place 4 more times [6 lps on hook], yoh, draw through all lps - Bobble made. In the same way you can make smaller/larger bobbles by using lesser/greater numbers and/or shorter/longer stitches - whichever stitch you're working, make each one normally, except omit the last 'yoh and pull through ...' until you have done them all. For

variety we have used single stitches and clusters of from 2 to 7 trs and dtrs.

In general Bobbles work best when worked between short stitches, eg dc, and on 'wrong' side rows, because, although they always can be pushed through to either side of the fabric, they stick out better towards the back of the work. When you have room, therefore, you can turn and work some rows with the wrong side facing before the next right side row comes over it and so take advantage of this.