

Crochet Bowl Cozy for rectangle Meals on Wheels tray

A note about yarn for cozies:

Yarn should be 100% cotton. Acrylic yarn can melt in the microwave.

Materials: #4 worsted cotton yarn doubled up, 5.5mm/I-9 hook, ruler, embroidery needle, optional stitch markers

Stitches: chain stitch, double crochet, slip stitch

Tray size: This meals on wheels style tray (Oliver Products) is shy of 5 inches x shy of 7 inches at the bottom and the tray walls rise 1.25 inches.

Method: This is a granny cluster rectangle, crocheted in the round.

Foundation Chain: Use a double strand of #4 cotton yarn for this project. Chain 6 for two inches. Adjust your stitches or hook until you achieve a 2-inch chain-6. *Fig 1* Once your gauge is achieved, chain 2 more to be the turning chain.



Figure 1 Adjust your hook or stitches until you have a chain-6 that is 2 inches long.

Row 1 foundation double stitches: Starting in the 3rd stitch from the hook, crochet a row of double crochet (6 stitches). At the end of this row, you will have 6 double crochet and the chain-2 turning stitch. *Fig 2*

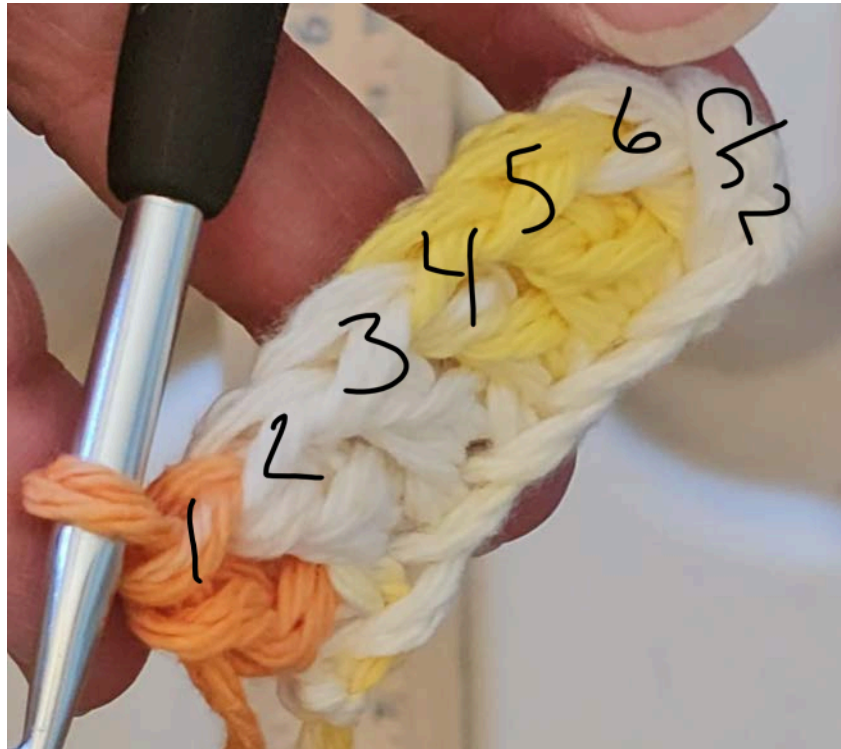


Figure 2 You will start with 6 double stitches plus the turning chain-2.

Round 1: first round of granny clusters:

- Turn your work over. Chain 3 (counts as first double crochet). Work 2 double crochets into first stitch (your first granny cluster). Skip 2, and work 3 double crochets into the next stitch.

Fig 3



Figure 3 Foundation round of double crochet at the bottom; first granny cluster top right, skip two and next granny cluster top center



Figure 4 The top right shows a granny cluster in the **space**, then a chain-2; the top shows another granny cluster into the **space**; the top left shows another chain-2 then another granny cluster

- Skip 2 stitches. Work 3 double crochets into the **space** made by the starting chain-2 (use the space, not the stitch). Chain 2. Working into the same **space**, insert 3 double crochets. Chain 2. Still working into the **same** space, insert more 3 double crochets. The two chain-2 stitches will be the corners of the rectangle, so push and pull to help shape toward the rectangle shape. *Fig 4*
- Skip 2 stitches. Work 3 double crochets into the 3rd stitch, making sure it is across from the granny cluster on the opposite side.
- Skip 2 stitches. Work 3 double crochets into the final stitch in the row.
- Chain 2. Work 3 double crochets into the middle of the 1st double crochet stitch from the foundation row. *Fig 5*
- Chain 2. Finish the round with a slip stitch into the top of the chain-3 that started the round. *Fig 6*



Figure 5 Top middle shows 3 double crochet, then a chain 2 for the next corner; left side shows the first double crochet of the next cluster in the side of a double crochet from the foundation row.



Figure 6 first round of granny clusters complete.

Round 2-3: Each granny cluster will now be worked into the **space** between the clusters in the previous round.

- Slip stitch into the corner space, and chain 3 (counts as first double crochet). Work two double crochets into the same space.
- Work 3 double crochets into each space.
- Each corner is 3 double crochets, chain 2, and 3 double crochet into the corner space.
- Finish each round with 3 double crochets in the starting corner space, chain 2, and then a slip stitch to the top of the starting chain-3 stitch.

Gauge check: the piece is now approximately 6.25 inches x 4.25 inches. *Fig 7*



Figure 7 Rectangle is approximately 6.25 inches x 4.25 inches. It is short of the tray's bottom parameter.

Round 4: Begin going up the walls of the tray. This will be a soft turn up the walls, so the piece is intentionally short of the 7 inches x 5 inches goal.

- Slip stitch into the corner space. Chain 3 (counts as first double crochet). Turn your work to whichever side you like best. Work two double crochets into the same space.
- Work 3 double crochets into each space the whole way around.
- At each corner, work 2 granny clusters into the space **without** chain stitches in between. (Essentially 6 double crochets.) This will cause your work to start turning inward. *Fig 8*
- In the corner where you started, finish the round with another granny cluster into the same corner space so that you now have 6 stitches into the corner (the starting chain-3 counts as one), and slip stitch into the top of the starting chain-3.

Round 5: continue turning up the walls of the tray. The corners in this row will be the middle of the 6 double crochets from the previous row (between stitches 3 and 4).

- Slip stitch into the **space** between the 3rd and 4th double crochets from the previous row's corner. Chain 3 (counts as first double crochet). Work two double crochets into the same space.
- Work 3 double crochets into each space the whole way around.
- At each corner, work one granny cluster into the middle of the 6 double crochets from the previous row. Work **one** cluster into the **space** between the 3rd and 4th double crochet. (Just the 3 double crochets this row, not 6.) This will cause your work to turn in much harder. *Fig 9*
- When you get to the starting corner, you already placed one granny cluster here, so just slip stitch into the top of the starting chain-3. You have now rounded the bottom of the tray!



Figure 8 In Round 4 insert 2 granny clusters side by side into the corner spaces without chain stitches in the middle (essentially 6 double crochets).



Figure 9 In Round 5 insert 1 granny cluster between the 3rd and 4th corner double crochets from the previous round.

Round 6: Switch to double crochet this round.

- Chain 3 (counts as first double crochet). Double crochet into every **stitch** from the previous round. No more clusters. Don't do anything special on the corners. (60 stitches)
- Slip stitch into the top of the opening chain-3.

Cozy Handles

Round 7:

- Find your starting corner and slip stitch into it. For me I had to slip stitch into the next stitch. You can either find the corners and mark them based on what looks the most uniform for the rectangle shape or you can count stitches. The long sides have 17 stitches **between** the corner stitches, and the short sides have 11.
- Chain 3 (counts as first double crochet) and turn your work.
- Double crochet into the first stitch, chain 2, and place 2 more double crochets into the same stitch. (This will be an increasing corner to turn outward for the handles.) *Fig 10*
- Place 1 double crochet into the **front loop only** of each stitch until the next corner. (11 stitches)
- Into the next stitch, place 2 double crochets, chain 2 and place 2 more double crochets.
- Place 1 double crochet into the **front loop only** of each stitch until the next corner. (17 stitches)
- Into the next stitch, place 2 double crochets, chain 2 and place 2 more double crochets.
- Place 1 double crochet into the **front loop only** of each stitch until the next corner. (11 stitches)
- Into the next stitch, place 2 double crochets, chain 2 and place 2 more double crochets.
- Place 1 double crochet into the **front loop only** of each stitch until the next corner. (17 stitches)
- Slip stitch into the top of the opening chain-3.



Figure 10 To turn outward for the handles, expand by inserting 2 double crochets in the corner stitch, chain 2, then insert 2 more double crochets into the same stitch.

Round 8: final round!

- Slip stitch into the corner space, and chain 3 (counts as first double crochet). Work another double crochet into the space, chain 2, and work 2 more double crochets into the space.
- For each side double crochet into each stitch until you get to the next corner space.
- Each corner is 2 double crochets into the corner **space**, 2 chain, and 2 more double crochets into the same corner **space**.
- Finish the round by slip stitching into the top of the opening chain-3. Cut off a length of yarn and pull your yarn through the slip stitch.

Finishing!

- Weave in your finishing tail and knot it as well. Weave in your opening tail.

