

# I can read charts CAL – Tutorial




























Maggie Bullock



## Universal Stitch Legend

The symbols used in this pattern.

I've kept it simple as there are many more symbols used universally.

	start		chain 3 picot
	end		dc v st ch 1 (1 double crochet-1 chain-1 double crochet in 1 stitch)
	sl st (slip stitch)		2-1-2-dc shell (2 double crochet-1 chain-2 double crochet in 1 stitch)
	Magic Ring		3-2-3-dc shell (3 double crochet-2 chain-3 double crochet in 1 stitch)
	ch (Chain)		
	t-ch 1 (turning chain)		
	sc (single crochet)		FPsc (front post single crochet)
	sc blo (single crochet back loop)		FPdc (front post double crochet)
	hdc (half double crochet)		BPdc (backpost double crochet)
	dc (double crochet)		FPtr (front post treble crochet)
	tr (treble crochet)		
	2 hdc in st (2 half double crochet in one stitch)		2FPdc (2 front post double crochet in one stitch)
	2 dc in st (2 double crochet in one stitch)		5 dc popcorn v (5 doublecrochet popcorn)
	3 dc in st (3 double crochet in 1 stitch)		5tr popcorn v (5 treble crochet popcorn)
	3 dc v (3 double crochet in same space)		
	4 dc in st (4 double crochet in same stitch)		



## I can read charts CAL – Tutorial

Welcome to my first pattern and my first tutorial.

First I will share with you how I came to be doing this. I've always found reading patterns difficult, I'd get lost in the words and feel a bit dizzy. When I first came across crochet charts, I thought, oh my goodness, not for me. However the charts intrigued me, but I thought I would never be able to remember all the symbols. So I plodded along doing mostly freeform and freestyle.

I found myself scribbling down charts symbols, my own version, for the rows of written patterns, as I found it easier to follow. I could see how the pattern was going to look, with a bit of imagination.

Then came along this fabulous computer program "Crochet Charts by Stitch Works Software", and I was hooked. However relearning to navigate a computer again after a few years of using only my Ipad is another story.

Now let's get started.

This CAL – Tutorial is aimed at the chart reading novice. It is not a tutorial for learning to crochet. The beginning of this tutorial is in wee tiny baby steps. The written instructions ease off as the pattern progresses. The chart for the pattern without all the bells and whistles is available for download as a PDF on my blog. Here

<http://nannamaggie.com/myblog/>

Materials:

For the large mandala I used Bendigo Classic 8ply wool, random colours from my stash.

4 mm crochet hook.

My finished mandala measures 42 cm diameter.

For the smaller mandala I used Bendigo 5 ply wool, random colours from my stash.

3.5 mm crochet hook. The mandala measures 31 cm diameter.

You can use any yarn to make this and use a crochet hook to suit the yarn, as gauge does not matter.

You will also need scissors and a wool needle for weaving in ends.

The crochet terms are in US terminology. You will find a conversion chart from US to UK terms here:

<http://www.yarnfwd.com/main/crochet.html>

When completed, I blocked both mandalas, I suggest you do the same.

Ok, are you ready? Have you had a browse at the Legend of crochet symbols?

Please have a read through the tutorial. This will get you used to my style of pattern writing.

Useful hint: I usually start a stitch or 2 after the beginning st of the previous round, and I leave a good length of yarn for weaving in ends before cutting. This also makes frogging easier if you find a mistake in

the previous round, and ensures you have enough yarn if needing to work a missed stitch from the previous round.

Please note: All rounds start with a standing stitch and end with an invisible join.

You will find the standing sc stitch tutorial here:

<http://www.lookatwhatimade.net/crafts/yarn/crochet/crochet-tutorials/crochet-standing-single-crochet/>

You will find a standing double crochet tutorial here:

<http://www.mooglyblog.com/standing-double-crochet-joining/>

You will find a standing half double crochet tutorial here:

<http://www.mooglyblog.com/standing-half-double-crochet/>




You will find a tutorial for the invisible join here:

<http://www.lookatwhatimade.net/crafts/yarn/crochet/crochet-tutorials/crochet-invisible-join-vs-slip-stitch-join/>

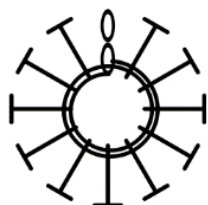
The chart is shown in different colours for each round, this is for easy reading of the chart rounds.

### Round 1 description.

See this funny looking conglomerate of a thing below, well it's actually a group of crochet symbols.

In the middle is the magic ring  and 2 chains,  and 11 half double crochets  poking into the magic ring.

The 2 beginning ch are worked instead of a hdc, if you count them there are further 11 hdc symbols poking into the ring.



The chart above would be written as:

### Round 1.


Into a magic ring work 2 ch and 11 hdc.

Join to the top of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ch with an invisible join. (Total: 12 sts including the 2 starting ch)

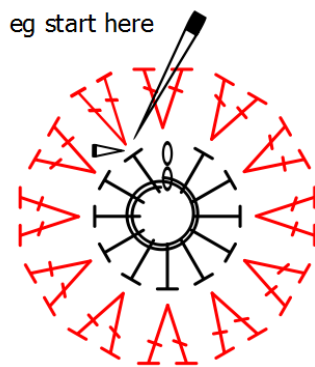
Fasten off.

## Round 2 description:

As you can see below, the chart has grown another layer, showing the next round of symbols in red.

If you look at the legend, you will note these symbols  represent 2 double crochet into one stitch. You will see the tip of the V is placed over each hdc in the round. The way these symbols are placed is showing where to work this round of stitches.

There wouldn't normally be starting symbols in a chart of this type, however, I have indicated where to start to make it easier.



Round 2. The chart above would be written as:

With a new yarn colour.



Standing hdc, and 1 hdc in the top of any hdc. (Or where I have indicated).


\*2 hdc in each st\*, repeat from \* to \* 11 times.

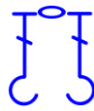
Join in the top of the beginning standing hdc with an invisible join. Cut yarn.

### Round 3 chart description.

As you can see the chart below has grown another layer. The chart now has these symbols -

BPdc - back post double crochet  FPdc - front post double crochet 

ch - chain 

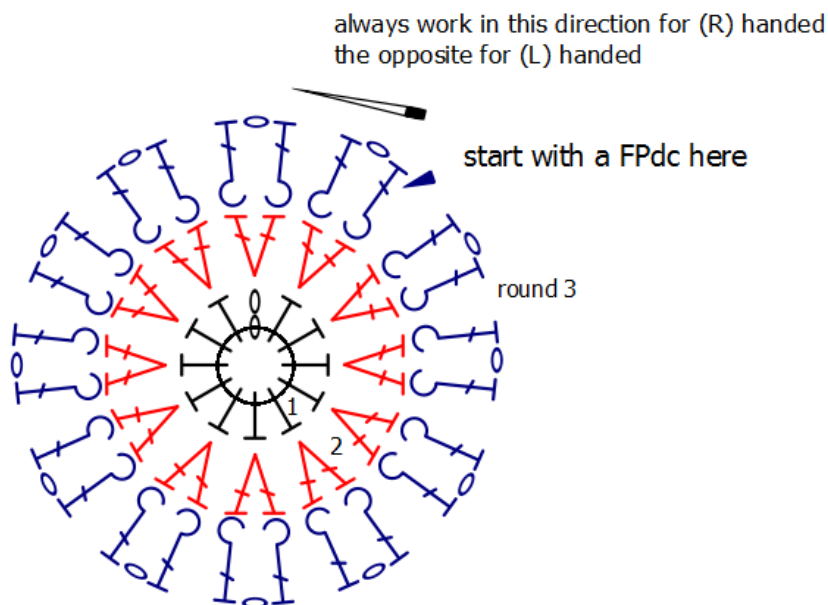


When these symbols are placed together like this, reading from right to left, it is reading FPdc, 1 ch, BPdc. The symbols are repeated all the way round.

You will see they are placed above the double crochet stitches on round 2.

This is showing where to place the FPdc and BPdc stitches.

I have placed the start symbol as an indicator of where to start. However you may start in any of the V st in round 2.



Round 3. The chart above would be written as:

Start in any of the first dc of the v dc sts.

\*1 FPdc, 1 ch, in the next st, 1 BPdc\* repeat from \* to\* 11 times.

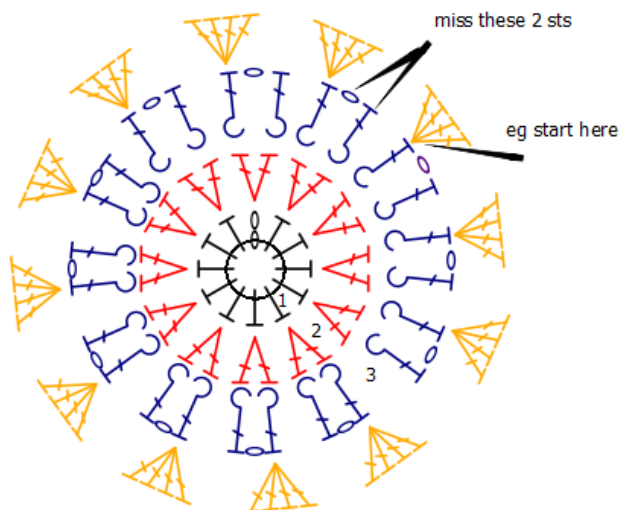
Join with an invisible join in the first FPdc. Cut yarn.

## Round 4 chart description.

The chart now has grown another layer.

This round has this symbol  which is describing 4 dc in one st.



This symbol is placed over the BPdc sts of round 4, which is indicating where to work these sts.



Round 4. The chart above would be written as:

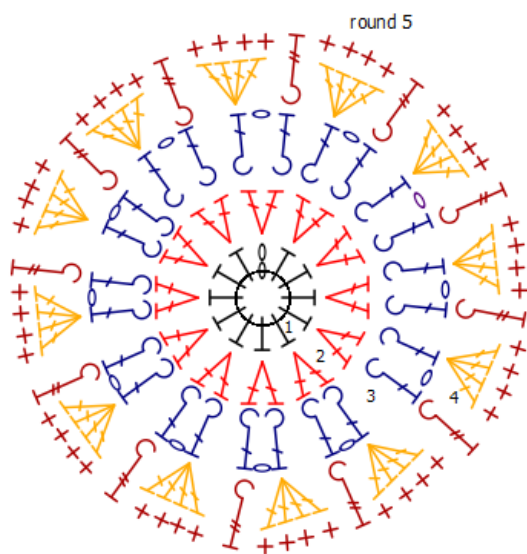
Start with a standing dc in any BPdc, 3dc in same st, \*miss the next st and ch, 4 dc in next st\* repeat from \* to\* 11 times.

## Round 5 chart description.

Another layer of symbols has been added to the chart. FPtr  and sc  in red.

This group of symbols look more complicated than they really are.

The FPtr is sitting above the FPdc in round 4. This is indicating where to place this st. Likewise, the sc are placed over the dc sts of round 4, indicating where to place them.



Round 5. The chart above would be written as:

Start with a standing FPtr in any FPdc of round 4, \*1 sc in the next 4 sts, FPtr in the next st\* (which is the FPdc in round 4). Repeat from \* to \* 11 times.



From now the chart will be displayed a little differently, as it is getting quite big to display without being blurry.

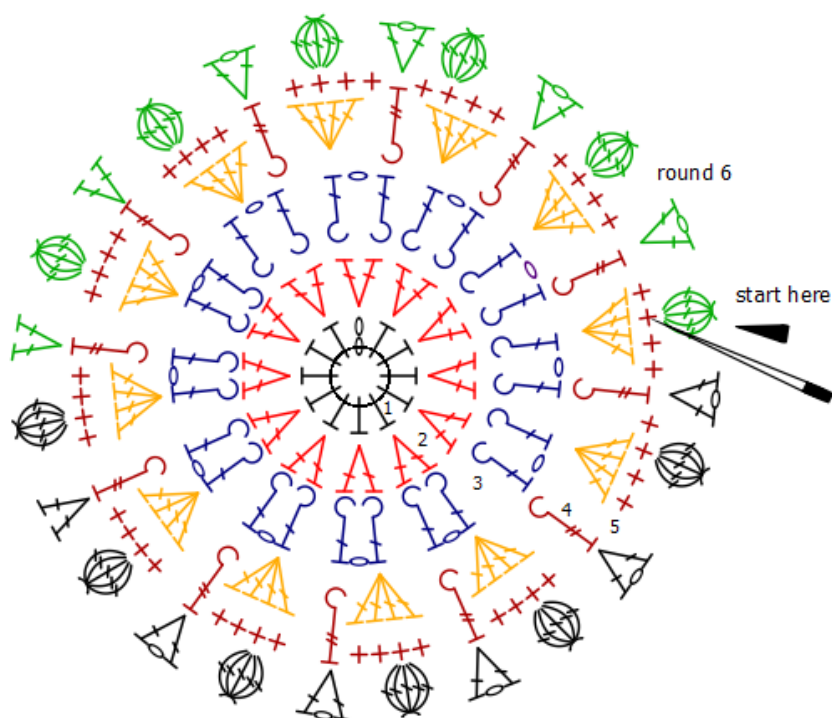
Have you noticed the pattern has 12 repeats in it? These will be broken up into halves then quarters. In the following rounds only half, then  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the pattern rounds will be displayed.

### Round 6 chart description

In this round we have the symbols, 2 dc v st (dc-1 ch-dc in one st)



and 5dc popcorn st




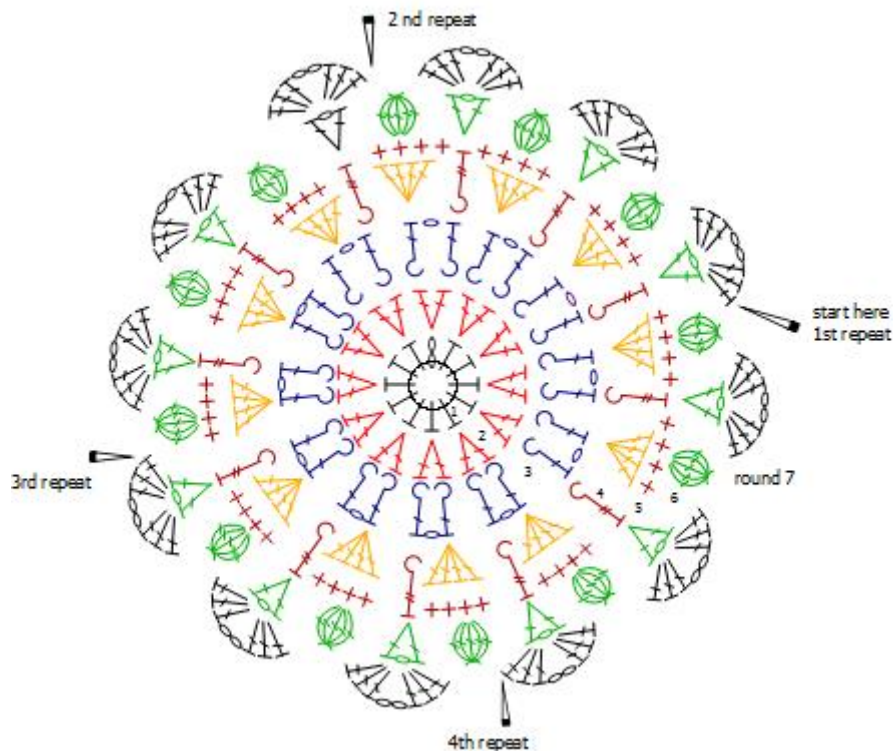
Round 6. The chart above would be written as:

Starting with a standing dc in the 3<sup>rd</sup> sc following FPtr from round 5, continue with 4 dc to form a popcorn, \*miss next st, dc-1ch-dc, in the next st, (which is the FPtr in round 5), miss the next 2 sts, 5dc popcorn in the next st\* repeat from \* to \* 11 times.

### Round 7 chart description

You will see in this round I have broken it up into four sections. These sections are 4 repeats of the pattern. This I have done ease of reading which you will see why in the coming rounds. In this round we have this

symbol  3 dc-2ch-3dc in one st. These symbols hover above the dc v sts in round 6. So this is where the chart is showing where to place these next stitches. There is nothing above the other stitches in round 6, this means these stitches are missed stitches.



Round 7. The chart above would be written as:

Remember the first stitch is a standing stitch, in this case it is a standing double crochet.

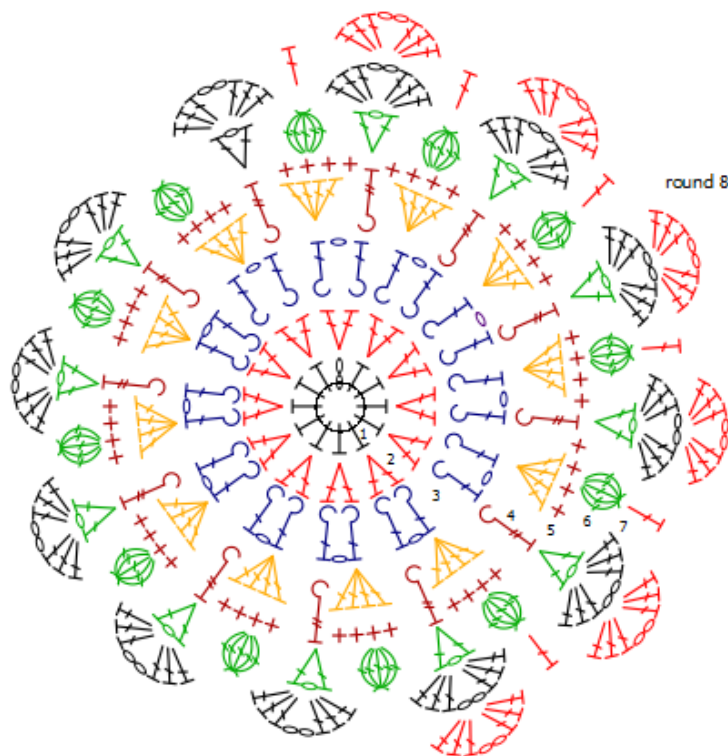
Starting in any ch space of the dc-ch-dc v st from round 6, work \*3dc-2ch-3dc, miss the next cluster from round 6\* repeat 11 times. Work an invisible join into the beginning standing dc.

## Round 8 chart description

In this round you see I have only displayed half the chart, it's getting big now. There are 12 repeats, of which half are displayed.

This round has the symbols for **dc** and the **3dc-2ch-3dc** fan stitch as in the previous round. This time I want you to see if you can start the round without being shown where. The round 8 fan stitch is placed above and worked into the 2 ch space of the Rnd 7 Fan Stitch.

The dc is worked into the top of the Rnd 7 popcorn St.

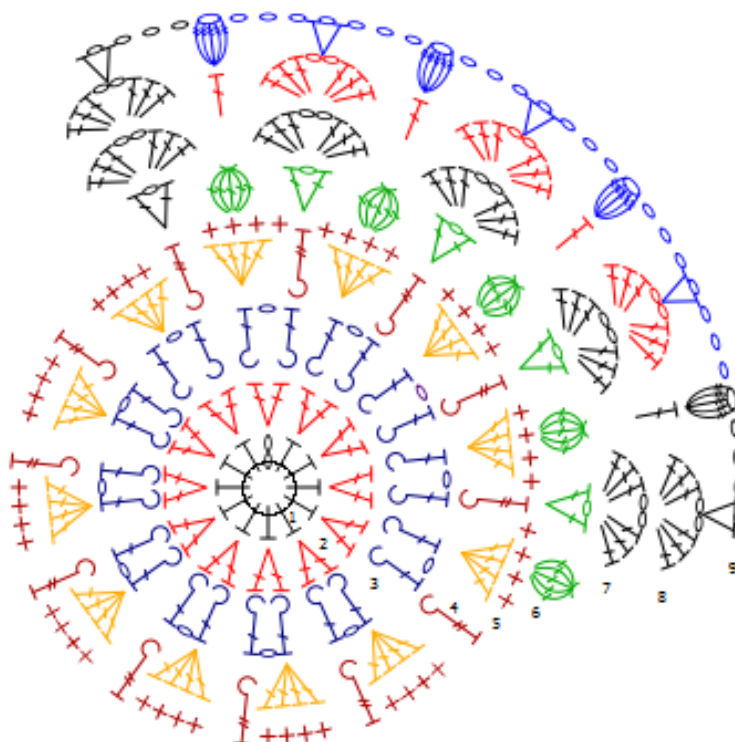


Round 8. The chart above would be written as:

Starting with a standing dc in the 2 ch sp of the fan st from round 7, work the rest of the 3dc-2ch-3dc fan st, dc in the top of the next st which is the popcorn st. \*3dc-2ch-3dc in the 2ch space of the fan st, dc in the top of the popcorn\* repeat 11times. Join with an invisible join in the top of the beginning standing dc.

## Round 9 chart description

I've displayed only ¼ of the chart, as you can see it is growing. The repeat is shown in blue symbols. These symbols are [sc](#) and [5dc popcorn stitch](#) and [hdc-ch-hdc in one st](#). The popcorn st is placed over the dc in round 8, so this is where it is worked. The hdc v st is placed over the 2ch space of the fan st in round 8, so this is where it is worked.



Round 9. The chart above would be written as:

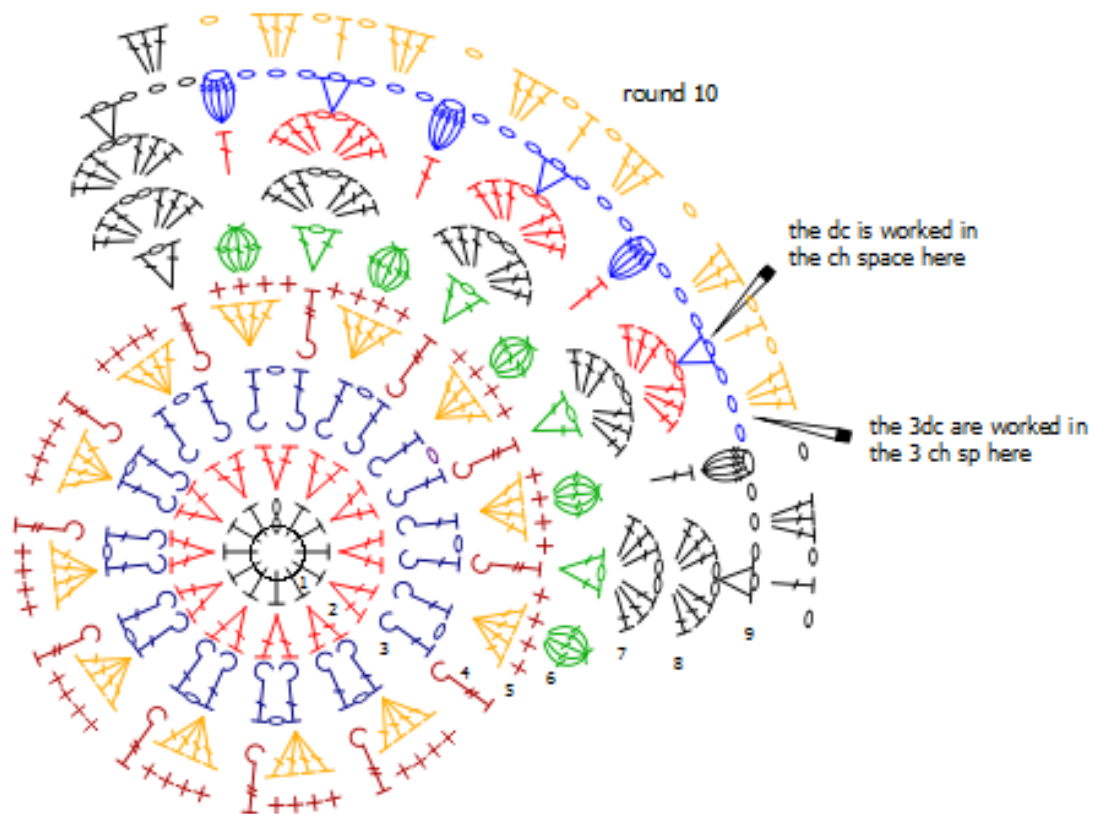
I'm not including the written pattern from now on, as my pattern writings skills leave a lot to be desired. The learning aids will be included in the chart. Hopefully by now you will be able to manage by looking at the chart, and the pics of the mandala for each round.



## Round 10

Can you work this round out without any written help?

Not to worry if you can't, there are helpful stitch placement aids in this pic.



And more help here.

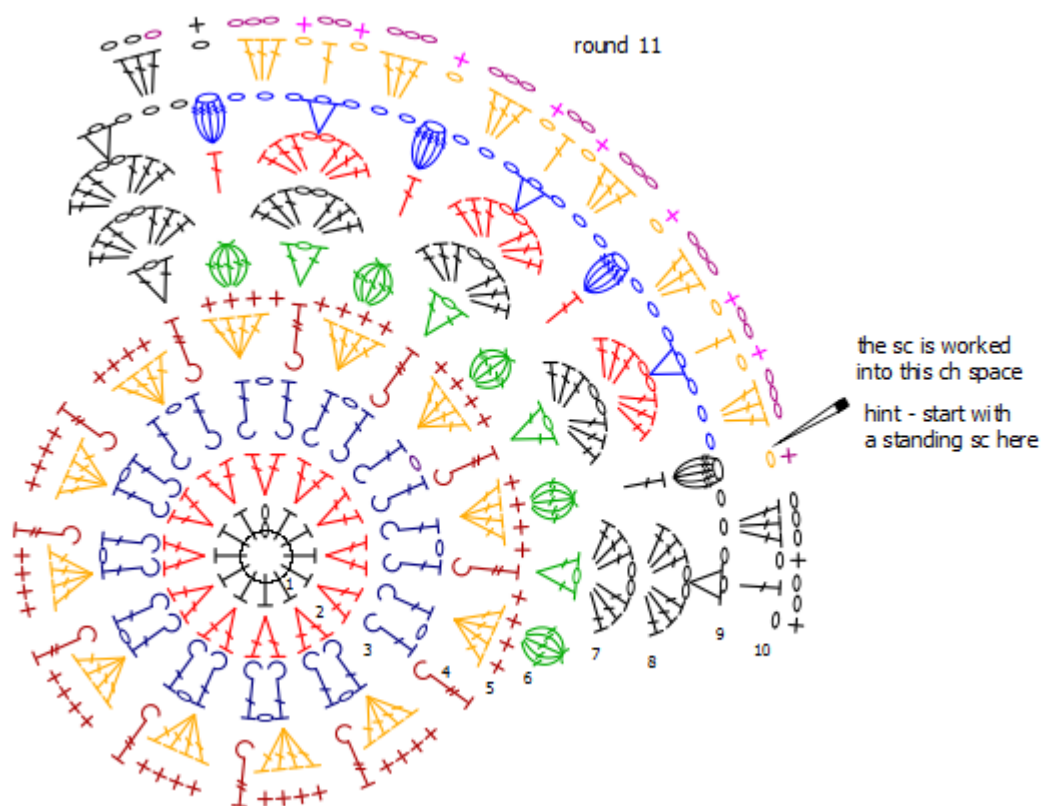
The symbols are showing to work \*3dc, ch, 1dc, ch, 3dc, ch\* repeating 12 times.



## Round 11

As you can see, this round in pink, has some stitch placement aids.

Can you work out the stitches and where they are worked?

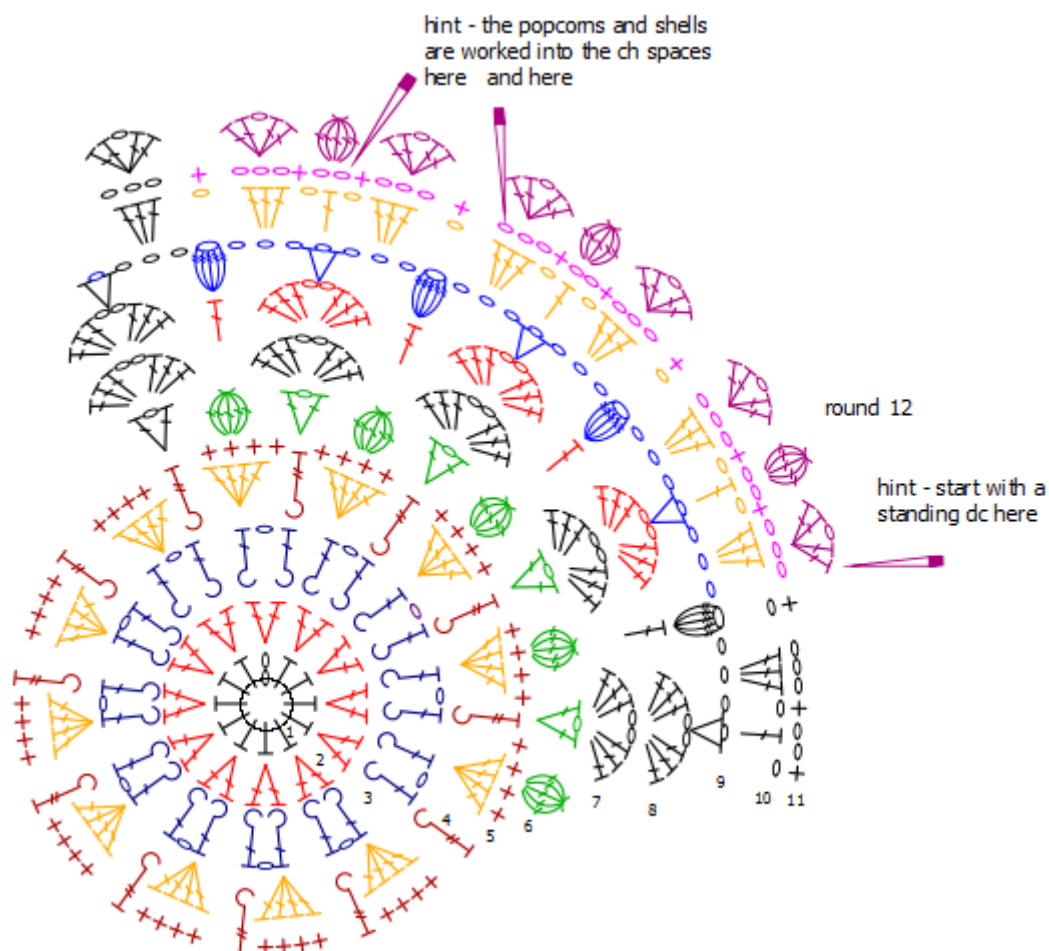


Remember start with a standing stitch. In this case a standing sc. The arrow shows where it is placed. Then there are 3 ch, sc in the next ch sp, 2 ch, sc in the next ch sp, 3 ch, sc in the next ch space, and so on.



## Round 12

Can you work this round out by just looking at the chart?



Remember to start with a standing stitch, which in this case is a standing dc. And end with an invisible join into the beginning standing st.

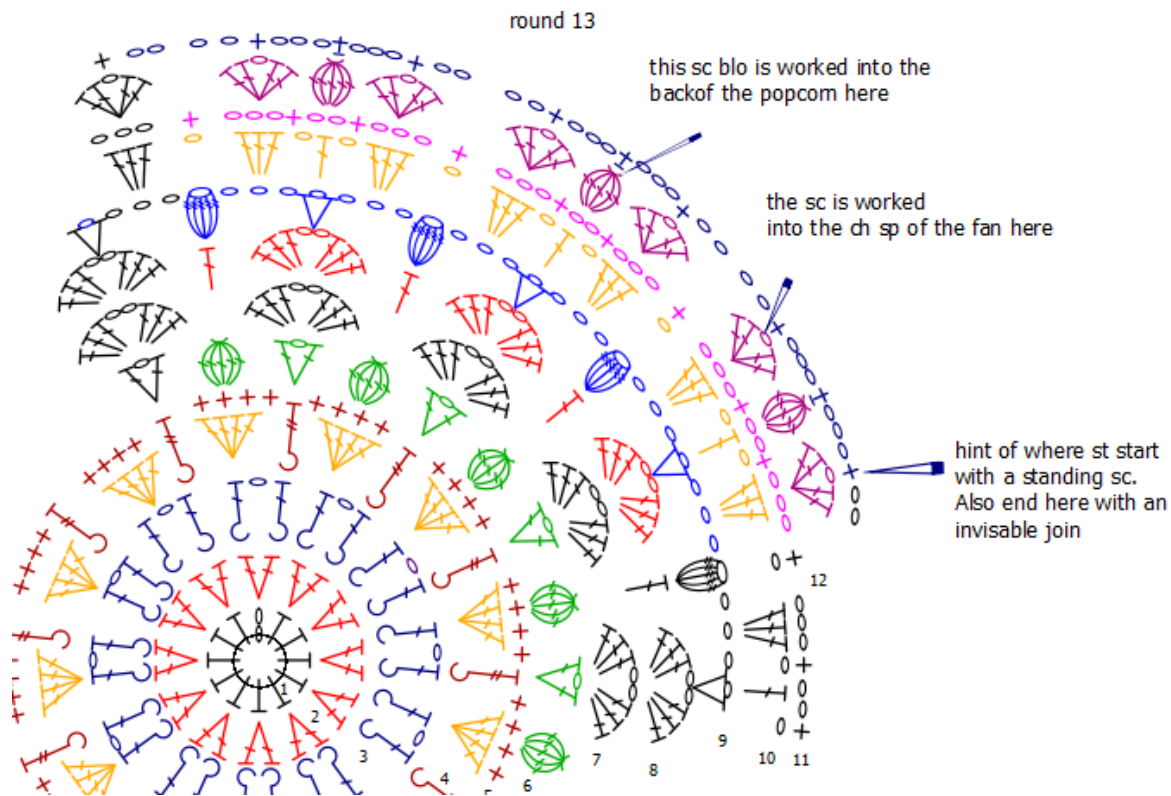
This round 12 in pink has, 2dc-1ch-2dc in 1 st, and 5dc popcorn, these are worked into the ch spaces of round 11.





### Round 13

Come on I'm sure you can do this with just the hints I've given in the chart.



Here's a pic of the mandala to help.



Only read this if you really need to, ok.

Starting with a standing sc in the ch space of any and



of these fans sts. The standing sc is worked

in back of the popcorn shown here  
4.



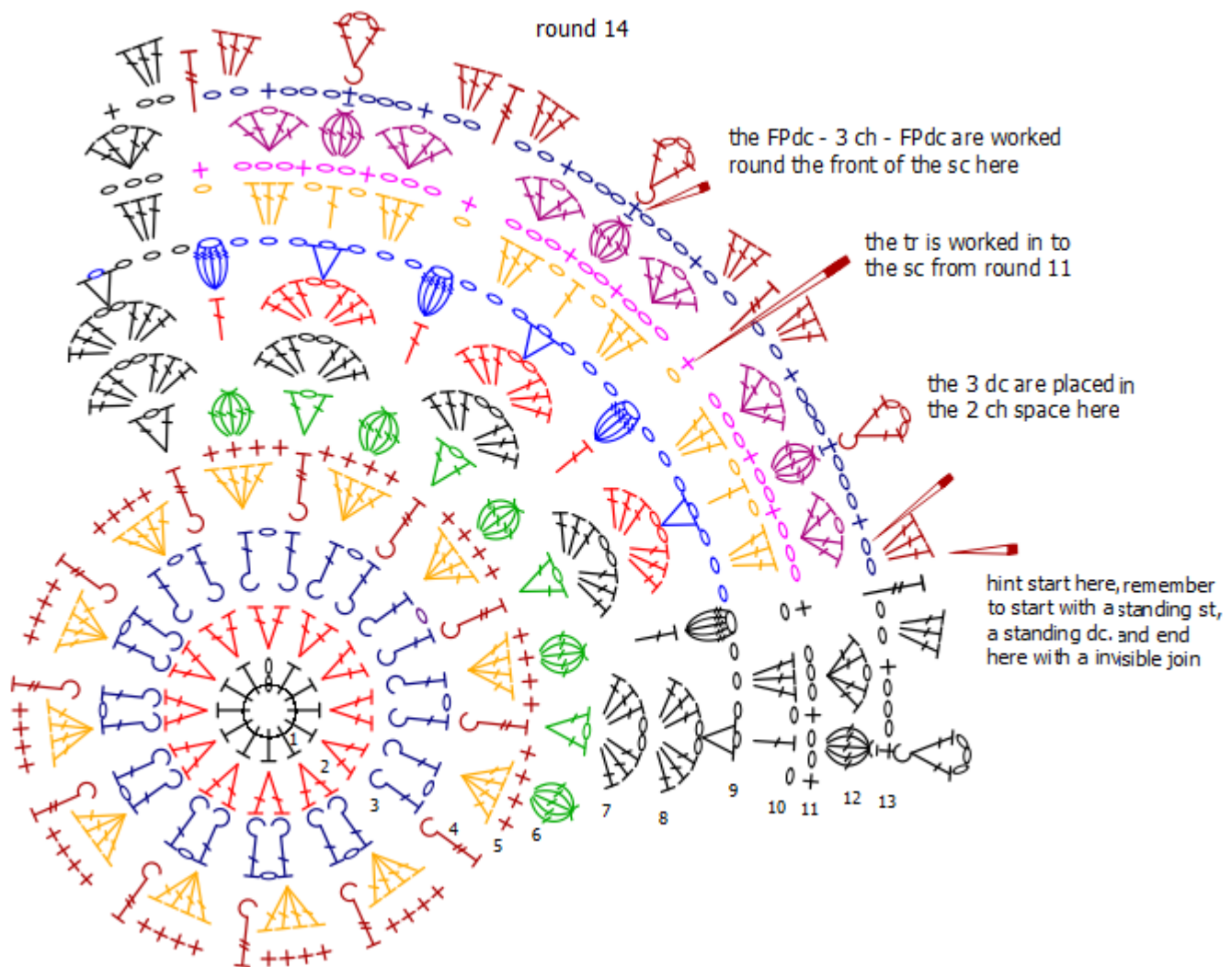
. There are chains worked between these sts, in groups of 3 and

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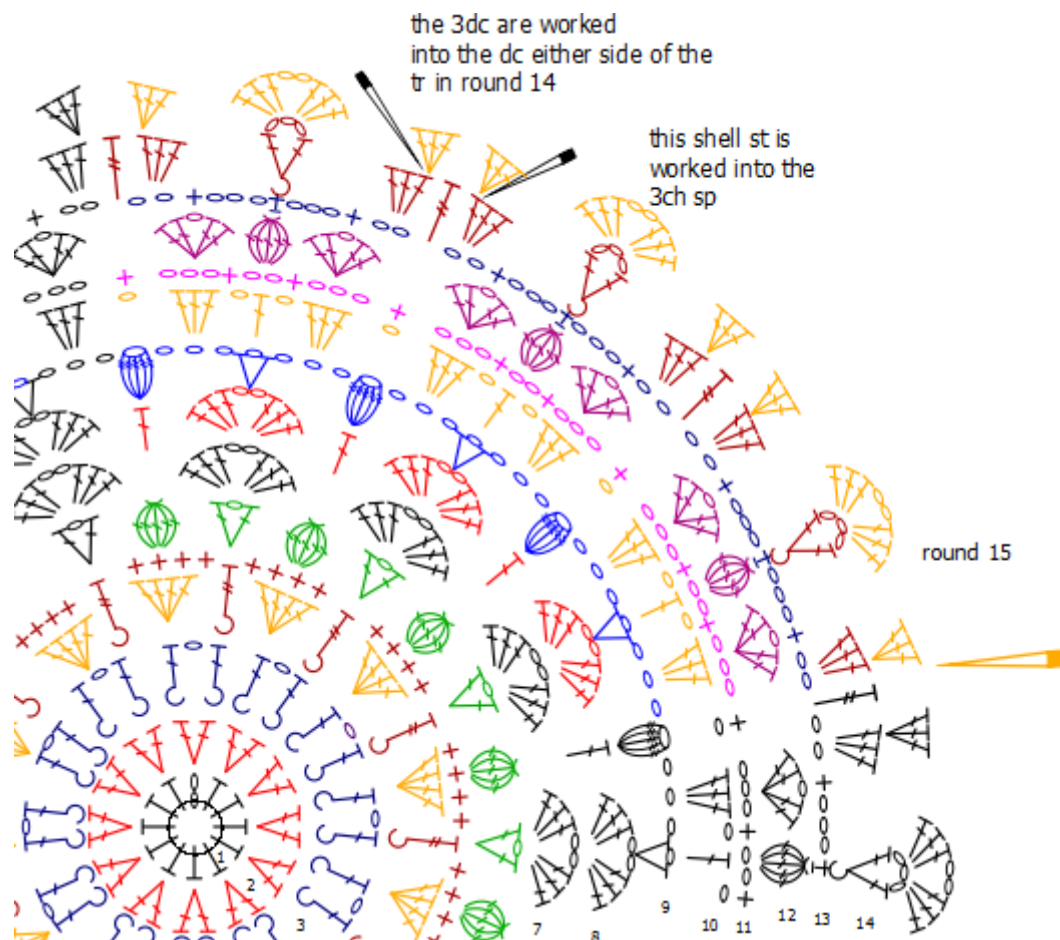
## Round 14

This round looks difficult so you will see, I've given lots of hints in the chart. Let's see if you can do it without further written help.



## Round 15

The hints shown with an arrow where to start and where to place stitches. Remember to start with a standing stitch and end with an invisible join as in other rounds. Remember there are 12 repeats.

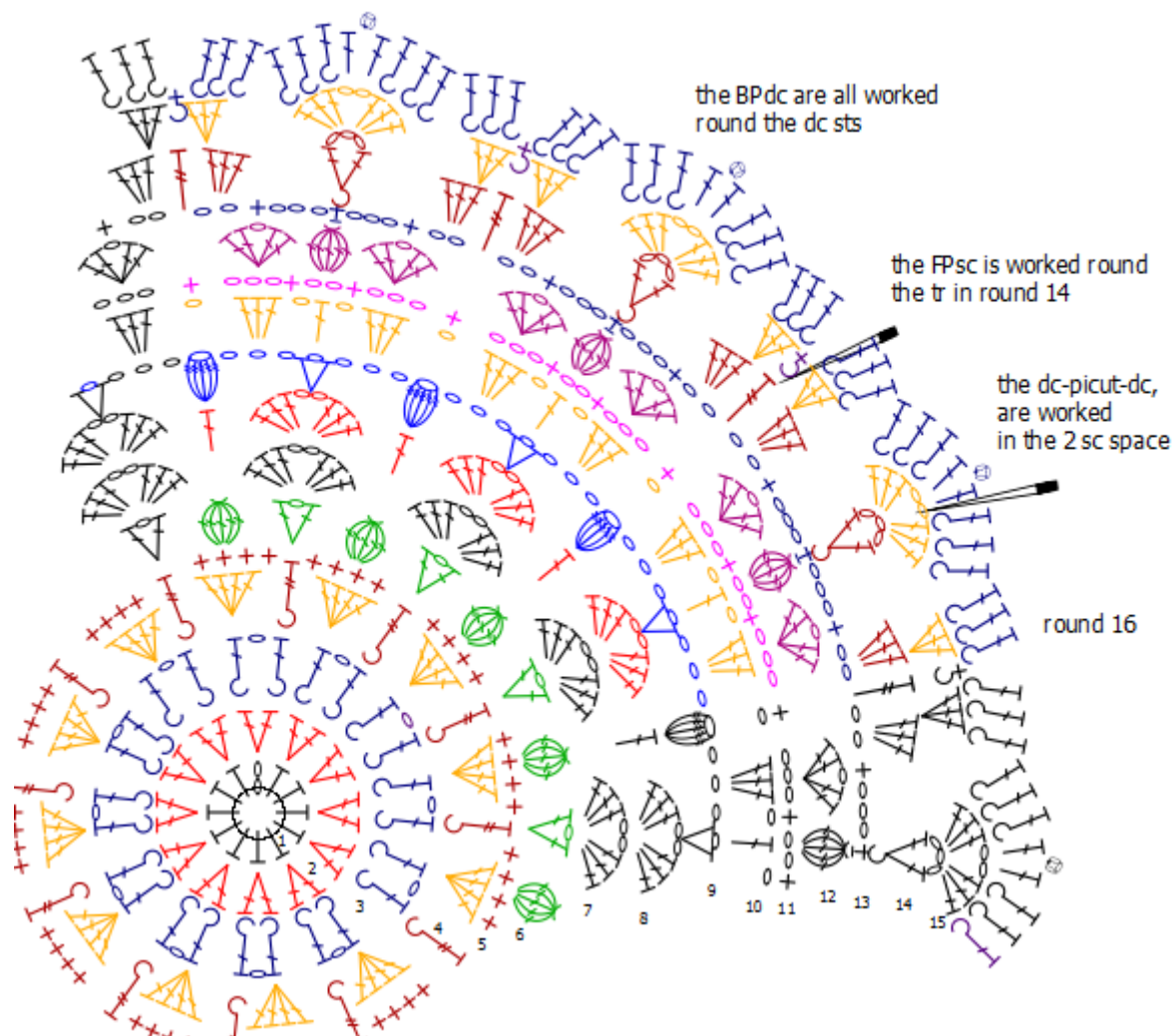




## Round 16

This is the last round for the smaller mandala.

The symbols in this round are BPdc, dc and picot stitch



## Rounds 17 to 20

Rounds for the large mandala.

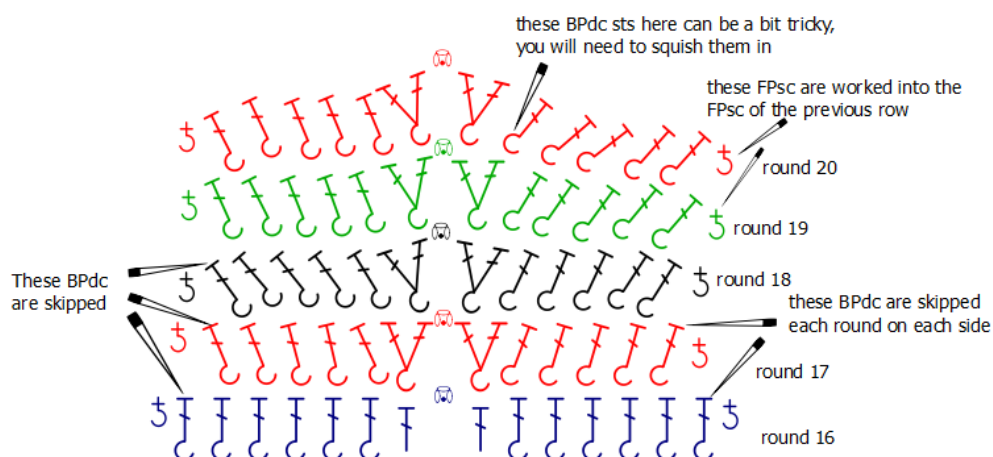
The chart changes in appearance from here, it's getting to big to continue charting in the round.

Round 16 is shown again to help with stitch placement.

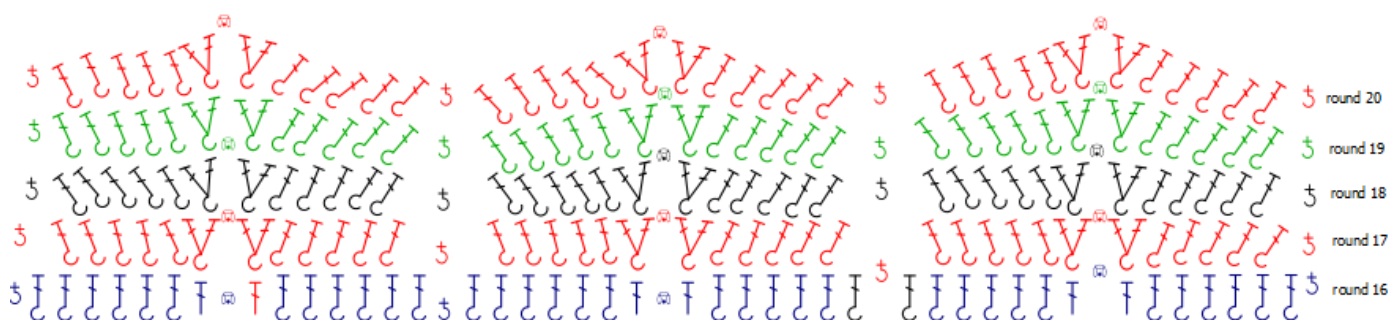
### Round 17

The symbols in this round are 2BPdc in the same stitch, a picut stitch and FPsc.

The FPsc is worked round the FPsc of round 16. The BPdc before and after the FPsc is skipped.



Here is the repeated rounds 17 to 20 in a broader view





Finished! I hope you enjoyed doing this as much as I've enjoyed creating this CAL-Tutorial. Now you can read charts, which is great as I have many lovely patterns I'm wanting to share and they will all be available on my blog in chart form only. Though I'm sure I will add some helpful stitch placement hints in the charts.



Please don't forget to post pics of your finished mandala on my Facebook group  
Crochet and Craft with Maggie

If you find any errors in this CAL-Tutorial please private message me or email me at  
[maggie@nannamaggie.com](mailto:maggie@nannamaggie.com)