
Crochet The Calvin Tank with Wool And The Gang

Chapter 1 - Crochet The Calvin Tank

Overview

(upbeat music) - Hey guys, it's Beth here, from Wool and the Gang, and today I'm gonna talk you through, step-by-step, how to make the Calvin top, which is a super cute top, perfect for those warm summer days. You can chuck it on over a bikini just to head to the beach, or team up with some jeans for some double-denim action. For this project we're gonna be doing some multiple crochet techniques, starting with how to do a foundation chain. Then we're gonna work in double crochet up to the top here, and then we're gonna do a combination of double crochet, chain stitches, and skipping stitches to make this nice mesh panel at the top. And it's a nice, easy project to do, so not quite an absolute beginner, but if you've got a little bit of crochet experience, this one's perfect for you. (upbeat music)

Materials

- Before we get making, we need to make sure that we have everything ready to go. Our Calvin top is made using three balls of Billie Jean yarn, which is a really fantastic yarn made from 100% upcycled denim. It comes in four really cool denim shades, and today, I'm gonna be using our Dirty Denim color. We're also gonna need a 6.5 mil or 10.5 US size crochet hook. Other things that will come in handy is a tape measure, a pair of scissors, and then a sewing needle to finish off everything at the end. Make sure you have your pattern printed out and ready next to you just so it's handy 'cause that's where you're gonna find everything you need for this project.

Crocheting the front

- Before you get making, it's a really good idea to make a tensional gauge swatch. For double crochet, your tension should work out as 12 stitches of eight rows for every 10 centimeters or four inches. This way your piece will work out exactly the same as your pattern. So now we're ready to go. Let's begin making. Grab your hook and grab your yarn. The front and back of your top are made in exactly the same way, so follow these instructions twice to make your top. To begin with, we need to make a foundation chain of 58 stitches. So begin by making your slipknot. And place it onto your crochet hook. Hold your yarn in the way you find most comfortable and begin to work in chain stitches. So wrap your yarn around your hook and pull through. There you go, you've made your first chain stitch. You now need to do this another 57 times. Two, three, four. Count your stitches to double-check that you've got the right amount. Remember that the stitch on your hook never counts as one of your stitches. Now we're ready to do our first row of double crochet. For this, we need to do three more chain stitches. This will be our turning chain. So one, two, three. Now, starting in the fourth chain from your hook, not including the one that's on your hook, you need to make one double crochet stitch. So one, two, three, four. This is the chain that you'll be working into. So wrap your yarn around your hook once. Insert into the fourth chain. Wrap around your hook again. Now you have three stitches on your hook. Wrap your yarn around and pull it through the first two stitches, like so. Wrap your yarn around again and pull it through the last two stitches. And there you go, that's your first double crochet stitch. Now you need to work in this way into every chain stitch of your foundation row. So wrap, insert into this next stitch. Wrap, pull through two, pull through two. Okay, and now we've got one stitch left, so let's make a double crochet into that last

one. And there we have it, we've completed our first row of double crochet. Now we'll move onto our next row. We need to turn our work around so that we're starting here on the right hand edge. Now we need to make three more turning chains. So one, two, three. Now instead of working into the fourth chain from the hook, this time we need to work into the fifth chain. So if you count, remembering not to count the one that's on your hook. So one, two, three, four, and this one here is where we're gonna start to work in our double crochet. So wrap your yarn around. Insert into that fifth one. Pull through. There we go. And now we're gonna continue working back across our row into every stitch along here and double crochet again until we get to the end of our row. And we'll be doing something a little bit different at the end of our row, so just I'll show you that in a minute. Okay, now we're at the last stitch of our row, so we need to make a double crochet into that. And then we need to make one last double crochet into the top turning chain that we made on our previous row. So you can see we made one, two, three turning chains here. So we're just gonna make a double crochet into this one at the end. Like so. Okay, so that's your second row of double crochet. You now need to keep working in this way, not forgetting to do your three turning chains at the beginning and then working in double crochet into every stitch and not forgetting to do your last double crochet into your top turning chain from your previous row. Keep working in this way until your piece measures 12 inches from your foundation chain edge. Now you've finished your double crochet panel, it should measure, from the top to the edge of the foundation chain, 12 inches or 30 centimeters. Which if your tension was correct, it should be 21 rows of double crochet. Now we're ready to start working on our mesh panel. So grab your hook. Now we need to make four chains. So one, two, three, four. Turn your work around. Okay, beginning in your seventh chain from your hook, again, not counting the one on your hook, you need to make one double crochet stitch. So one, two, three, four, five, six, seven. Wrap your yarn, insert into the stitch, through, and there you go, that's the first step of your sequence. The next step is to make one chain stitch, like so. And then the next step is to skip this next stitch. So begin your sequence again with a double crochet, but because you've skipped this stitch, you'll be starting in this next stitch. So wrap your yarn, insert. Make a double crochet stitch. And then step two is to make a chain stitch. And then step three is skip. So you start again in the stitch next to the one you just skipped. Insert, wrap. Now keep working this way until you reach the end of your row. As you can see, it's leaving these gaps which will make up your mesh panel. Now you're at the end of your row. Make your last double crochet stitch into the last stitch of your row. So wrap your yarn, insert, through. And there you go, that's your first row of your double crochet mesh. Now to start your second row, turn your work, and make four turning chains. One, two, three, four. Now starting in the seventh stitch from your hook, again, not counting the one on your hook. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven. As you can see, that one is the top stitch from a double crochet stitch from the previous row. So that's where you'll begin. So wrap your yarn around. Insert into the top of that stitch. Pull through. Pull through again. And now just continue working in your three-step sequence. So your double crochet was your first step. Then you chain one, and then you skip one, which is this chain stitch from your previous row. So now you'll make your next double crochet stitch in the top of your double crochet stitch from your previous row. So wrap, insert. Chain, skip, and then double crochet into here, like so. Now that I'm nearly at the end of my row, I need to make that last chain stitch. And like before, we were skipping one stitch, which is actually the last turning chain from your previous row. So skip that one, and make your last double crochet stitch into the second turning chain, this one here. So wrap your yarn, insert. Like so. Okay, so that's the end of your second row of your double crochet mesh stitch. Now keep working this way until your mesh panel measures five inches or 13 centimeters. This will

be approximately eight rows if your tension's correct. So now you've finished one piece, repeat the pattern again to make your second panel, and then you'll be ready to start assembling.

Chaining & assembly

- Now we have our front panel and our back panel finished. We're ready to start putting it all together. So we're gonna make two chain ties, which will make a feature of each side seam. And they're gonna look something like this. So let's begin making. To make our chain ties, we need to start with a slip stitch. Place it onto our hook. And then really easily, we're just gonna work in chain stitches until our chain tie measures 59 inches. So just work and chain stitch like so. We're gonna keep working this way until our chain measures 59 inches or 150 centimeters. So now your chain should measure 59 inches or 150 centimeters. You can take your scissors, and snip here, and pull on your hook to secure your last stitch, like so. We're now gonna make some tassels at each end. So take your yarn and measure eight inches, which should be 20 centimeters, and cut there. We now need to cut five more of these. Don't worry if they're not all exactly the same length, because we'll trim them later. Just get them as close as possible. So now we've got six. You can separate them into groups of three, 'cause one is going to be for the bottom of the chain and the other one's going to be for the top of the chain. So grab the tail end and take your first three. Fold them in half and then grab this looped end and thread it through the first chain here. Be a bit fiddly. Like so. Now you have a looped end here. You can separate them out like that. Take the tails of your tassels, and you can also pass through the tail end of your chain, and pass them through this loop. So you can put your fingers through and grab them through, then, the other side like so and then tighten it like that. That'll secure the tassels at the end. Now take the end and trim them so that they're all the same length, like that. Now to the other end of your chain, take the other three. Fold them in half, again, and now pass this looped end through the last stitch of your chain tie. And then grab your loop, pop your fingers through, and pull through the ends like so. And then pull to tighten so that they're all secure. And then trim so that all your ends are same lengths. And there you go, that's your chain tie. You need to repeat this now to make another one for your other side seam. And now we're ready to start putting it all together. Now we've got our two chains ready. We can take our panels back and lay them down next to each other so that your right sides are facing up. Now we can grab our first chain and we're going to start threading it in a crisscross pattern down the side to connect our side seams. Take one of your chain ties and fold it in half. And then your halfway point will start up here. So this is where your arm hole will begin. So we'll start threading here on the last row of your double crochet. Take one side and thread it through here. Take your other side and thread it through this side. As you can see here, they cross over. So now we're going to take this one and thread it through not the row directly underneath, the one you've just threaded through, the row underneath that. So thread it through here. And then this one, again not in the row directly underneath, but the one underneath that. Like so. And keep doing that until you reach the bottom of your two panels. You can pull these as tight as you want and you can always loosen them after, just so that your top fits the perfect way you want it to. Thread it through your last row on both sides. And now you can take both ends and tie them in a knot just to secure them, or you can wear them in a bow or any which way you want. Now we're ready to do the other side. Fold your piece over like this so that your other two side seams line up. Take your other chain tie and work in exactly the same way. So fold it in half. Lay up here, and start threading from one side over to the other side. And thread it through the last row on each side like so. And then you can tie it again to secure. And now you have it, your two side seams are done. And it'll look a little bit like this. Now we're gonna do our last little

bit of seaming, which will be on the shoulders. And we're gonna use the whip stitch technique for this. So grab your yarn and your needle and thread it through like this. So our shoulder seams are going to be six centimeters or 2.5 inches wide. So that's where we'll start doing our whip stitch here. So take your needle and insert it through the top stitch, and then through into the second layer through the top stitch there and pull through. Now you're just going to cross it back over, over the top, and insert it through the next stitch, and the next stitch through your other layer and pull through. It's as easy as that. So keep working through every stitch like so, making sure that you go through both layers of your top. Pulling it tight, and that's your shoulder seam there. You can take your yarn. We'll secure that when we darn in all our ends at the end. Now I have to do our other shoulder. Again, it needs to be six centimeters or 2.5 inches. So this is the point where I will end. Take your needle to there. And then I'm gonna cut our yarn. So we're very much nearly finished now. We just need to darn in all our ends to secure that nothing is going to come apart. You might wanna turn your work inside-out just so you can hide all your ends on the inside of your top so no one is ever going to see them. Thread your tail onto your needle. And now we're gonna follow the closest stitch here. So just thread it through like so. Then we're just gonna secure it this way. It's good to follow the shape of stitches that you've done before, just so then it's less likely that it's going to be seen. And it's always good to go back on yourself a little bit, just for extra security. There we go, it's nice and secure. So now we can trim that end. Now do this with all your ends. This and put back back through here. We'll go back down through this stitch here. Then we'll go back on ourselves a little bit just to secure our ends like so. And there you go, that's your Calvin top completed. So this pattern comes in one size. But if you need a little bit of extra room, you can always adjust your chain ties at the side. And if denim's not your thing, then you can also make this top in our Shiny Happy Cotton, 'cause the tension works out perfectly the same. And what I really love about this project is you only have to learn two different types of stitches and you can make this top that looks much more complex than it actually is.