How to Crochet a Bow with Jenny Doh

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview of crochet bow necklace

This bow necklace project is something that I made when I wanted to create a special and simple gift for my girlfriend. And once I made it, I realized how easy it is to make. And so it's the perfect project to make when you're in front of the TV. You can make several. Or you're on a road trip. You can make several while you're in the car. And the bow has such versatility, because it can become slightly larger, and used as a topper for a gift. Or you can keep it small and put it on a bobby pin for your hair. It is just the perfect project to make, and I love making several.

Chapter 2 - Getting Started

Tools & materials

The materials that we'll need to make the bow necklace project include cotton bamboo yarn from Lion Brand yarns, three-ply hemp yarn, which is available at various stores online, a size C or 3.25 millimeter crochet hook, some white buttons, a hand embroidery needle, some scissors, and a spray bottle filled with water.

Overview of stitches needed

The stitches that we will be using to create this project are as follows. The first stitch is the slip knot where you bend the yarn like this, twist it like this, and then pulling the yarn that is attached to the ball of yarn through the loop and then pulling the tail. That's a slip knot. The next stitch that we will use is the chain stitch. We put the crochet hook into the slip knot. And to create a chain stitch, the yarn is placed over the crochet hook and pulled through-- yarn over, pull through, yarn over, pull through, yarn over, pull through, yarn over, pull through. And there we have made five chain stitches. And when reading patterns, chain stitches are abbreviated with CH. The next stitch that we will use is the single crochet. And the single crochet is made by placing the hook into the stitch-- yarn over, pull, and then yarn over and pull again. That's a single crochet. Let's make another single crochet. The hook goes in, yarn over, pull, yarn over, pull. And in patterns, single crochet is abbreviated with SC. So SC equals single crochet. And the final stitch that we'll use for this project is the slip stitch, and here's how you do a slip stitch. The hook goes into the stitch, yarn over and pull through all the way. That's a slip stitch. And in patterns, slip stitch is abbreviated with SLST. And that's it. Those are the stitches that you'll need to make this very simple project.

Starting the small bow

To make the bow necklace, the first part that we need to do is to make the actual bow. And the way you do that is to start with a slip knot and chain 21. So there's one, two, three, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21. So now, it's time to start on Row One. And the way we begin Row One is to create a single crochet in the second chain from the hook. And remember, there's the first chain from the hook and there's the second chain from the hook. And that's where we go into to make our first single crochet. The hook goes in, yarn over, pull, yarn over, and pull again. There's our first single crochet. Now, what we do is exactly what we just did, which is to make one single crochet into each chain stitch all the way across. In we go, yarn over, pull, yarn over, pull again. There's our next single crochet, and we just continue doing that again and again into every chain stitch until we're done.

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And you will remember that we began by making 21 chain stitches. And then, for Row One, which we're working on right now, we started our first single crochet in the second chain stitch from the crochet hook. And so now, we're working all the way through, which means that by the end, we will have 20 single crochets. So once we're all done with Row One, we will have a total of 20 single crochet. And so here's 19 and 20. Hemp yarn is wonderful to work with. It feels good in the hands. But you'll notice as you crochet with it that it gets kind of curly. And the way I like to get the curl out is with a spray bottle filled with water. I just spray it with some water, and that's usually what does the trick in getting the curl out of this natural fiber.

Finishing the small bow

Now it's time to work row two. And we do that by turning the work, chain one, single crochet into the first single crochet, and then single crochet into each single crochet all the way across. Easy peasy. And there is our finished second row. So now it's time to do the third and final row. And we do exactly what we did in row two for this final third row. We turn the work, we chain one, and we single crochet into that first single crochet, and then single crochet into all the other single crochets across. As you can tell, this project is very simple and easy. There are no increases or decreases. It's just a straight band that we're creating. And you can make several in no time, which means you can make several gifts for gift giving in no time. And we're almost done with our final single crochet. There we go. And there is our finished third row. And so now we cut they yarn and pull the yarn through to fasten off. And then all we have to do to make the bow is to stitch the short ends together. And the way you do that is to get a hand embroidery needle and thread it with one of the tails of what we have just crocheted. Put the short ends together and whip stitch both thicknesses together. And by joining the short ends together like this we're creating the center back of the bow. This will become the center back. We've stitched the ends together. And there's the center back and therefore there is the center front, right. There's the center back and there's the center front. And to secure the center back to the center front we just make a small reinforcement stitch, which is just a small straight stitch up and down a couple of times so that it's nice and secure, like so. And then with the other tail, wrap right where you've made the reinforcement stitches like so. And then on your final wrap grab a small button and thread that tail through the button and then bring that tail to the back and tie it with the other tail so that it's nice and secure. And then with this needle you'll want to weave in that one end, trim, and do the same with the other end. And there we have made our bow.

Creating the cord and button closure

We've made the cute little bow. And so to finish off and make the bow necklace we will learn to make the cord in two parts. The first part will have the loop at the end and then the second part will have the button at the other end so that those two parts can come together and attach nicely on your neck. So let's get started with the first part of the cord. What you'll want to do is when the bow is facing you insert your crochet hook into the upper left corner of the bow and then draw up the hemp yarn with a loop. And then from that point on it's chain stitches. There's two, there's three. And the number of chain stitches that you want to make for this first part of the cord depends on where you want the necklace to fall on your neck. Some people like to wear the necklace so that the bow falls close to the neck like me and some people like to wear it so that the bow falls a little bit lower. And so the one that I'm wearing, the one side is about six inches and the other one here, the cord is about nine inches. And depending on how tight you crochet or how loosely you crochet,

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you'll be crocheting about six to seven chain stitches per inch give or take. So let's see how this compares. So if this is about nine inches we're right at about eight inches so I'm going to stop right there. So once you decide that that's where you want the length to be, from that point you want to chain stitch five more. So let's do one, two, three, four, five. We're going to go into that fifth chain to secure this into a loop with a slip stitch. That was a slip stitch. And we fasten off by cutting the yarn and pulling it through. And then with our embroidery needle we weave in that end. And we trim that end. And there we've created the first part of the cord with the loop. To start the second part of the cord we will insert the crochet hook to the upper right corner of the bow and draw up the hemp yarn with the crochet hook and then start with the chain stitches. And although you can count every change stitch, I have found that just eyeballing the chain stitches so that they look similar in length is really all you need to do, especially if you are wanting to make several of these for gifts. There's really no need to be precise with the number of chain stitches on the cord. So let's see how the second part of the cord looks compared to the first part. And I can see that it's a little bit shorter. I mean, if you decided to stop here that would be OK too, but I feel like I'm going to add three more chain stitches to the second part of the cord so that it matches the length a little bit better to the first part of the cord. And I will just do that by inserting the crochet hook back into the work and chaining one, two, three more. And then I'm going to fasten off by cutting the yarn, draw up the yarn and fasten off. The final step for the second part of the cord is to attach the button. Thread the tail through the button, tie that tail. Give it a nice tug. And then thread the tail back into the embroidery needle and weave that tail into the work and trim. You'll also want to use the needle to weave in the tails at the beginning. And then also take your spray bottle filled with water and spritz the cord to make it nice and flat. Now your necklace is ready to wear by putting the button into the loop that you've made so that it can stay on your neck nicely. So pretty.

Chapter 3 - Additional Projects

Bobby pin bow

One of the things that I love about this project is that the bow portion of the bow necklace can be used to make other accessories like this cute little, sweet little bobby pin accessory that you can wear on your hair. And the way you do that is really very simple. If you remember, when we made the bow portion of the necklace we had crocheted the band and then we had stitched the short ends together and then cinched the middle and added the button and tied it in the back, right. So we'll start from there. And so what we need to do is add a bobby pin or secure the bobby pin to the back of the bow. And the way we do that is to thread one of the tails into the embroidery needle and then position the bobby pin at the center back and then thread or place the needle into the bobby pin. And then poke the needle through that back layer to start securing that bobby pin to the back of the bow. And you'll want to go back and forth with the reinforcement stitches so that the bobby pin is nice and secure. And once that's done you weave in the ends. And then trim that end and do the same thing with the other tail. And we trim that tail. And there we have the cutest little bobby pin in the world. Little girls and adolescent girls, my daughter, my teenage daughter loves these bobby pin bows. It looks so cute on your hair.

Large bow gift topper

Another terrific variation that you can make with this bow is this larger gift topper. And the way you do that is very similar to the smaller bow that you made earlier. If you recall, the smaller bow was made by chaining 21 stitches. To make the larger bow for the gift topper, we will want to start with

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31 chain stitches. And if you remember, for the smaller bow, after we chained 21 stitches, we made three rows of single crochet. To make a larger bow, after we chain 31 stitches, we make five rows of single crochet and then fasten off, just like we did for the small bow. And once you fasten off, the band-- before we make it into the bow-- will look like this. And it makes sense, because we've chained extra stitches at the beginning, and we've single crocheted extra rows to finish this band. So it makes sense that this is fatter and longer. So from this point, again, it's the same thing. We bring the short ends together, and we thread one of the tails into an embroidery needle. And we stitch the two ends together like this. So once you stitch the two short ends together, you've created the center back. You place the center back so that it hits the center front. There's the center front. And you use one of the tails, with the embroidery needle, to make a small stitch right in the middle-- a reinforcement stitch, so that the center back and the center front get nicely secured together. And then, with the other tail, you'll want to wrap the center of the bow to make it nice and tight and cinched, like so. And then, you'll want to tie the two tails together nice and tight. So there is the larger bow. So the next step is to create the green circle, crocheted circle, for the center of the bow. And the way you do that is to take the green bamboo cotton, create a slip knot. Chain five-- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Join with the slip stitch into the first chain stitch. There we go. Now, it's become a ring. And into the ring, we will make 10 single crochet. So the hook goes into the center of the ring. Yarn over, pull, yarn over, pull. That's our first single crochet made into the ring. We'll make nine more. 2, 8, 9, and 10. And then we join with a slip stitch into the first single crochet. So the hook goes into the first single crochet, yarn over. And pull through all the way for a slip stitch. So we cut the yarn and pull the yarn through to fasten off. And then we weave in the ends with our needle. Trim that. And we weave in the final tail. And we trim that. And now, we're ready to place the circle onto the center of the bow with a small button in the middle. Now, you'll see that I have not woven in the long tails on the larger bow. And that's because you'll want to use those tails to attach to the gift package and anchor that bow onto the extra yarn or fiber that you're using to wrap the gift with. To attach the button and the green circle, the crocheted circle, to the center of the larger bow, place the three items together. And with an embroidery needle that has a length of hemp yard threaded through it and a knot at the end, come from the back and pull the yarn through all the layers of the bow, and the crocheted circle, and the button. And then all through the layers back down into the center of the bow. And you'll want to do that a couple of times to make it nice and secure. And of course, we weave in the end to the backside of the bow. And then we trim that end. Now that the bow is complete, it's time to attach it to the gift. And I want to tell you about how I love to wrap my gifts. I love to wrap the actual box that the gift is in with newsprint paper. Newsprint paper is very much available at any office supply store or craft store, and it comes in various sizes. This is a 9 by 12 pad, but it comes in much larger sizes, as well, for larger gifts. So for this gift, I've wrapped the box with a sheet of newsprint paper. And then, I've used my hemp yarn to wrap it vertically and horizontally a few times. To me, you can never have too much fun fibers on your gift. So whether you wrap it three times or four times, that's really up to you. But once you have that part done, then remember we did not weave in the tails on the larger bow. But you can use the tail to attach onto the yarn that you've wrapped the gift with, and tie it into a little bow like this. And then trim the ends, and voila. You have your most adorable gift that's ready to be given to the lucky recipient.

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