

8: Crochet Circles Fabric

Circles Fabric – consists of small circles joined together and shaped to fit any outline.

To make variegated Circles Fabric for a cushion, beret or any garment:

Small Circle

4 ch, join into ring with ss.

Round 1: 3 ch, 9tr into ring, ss into top of 3ch. Fasten off. Darn in ends, closing centre hole if possible. Circle forms a bulbous cup shape - convex side usually forms 'right' side (outside).

Choosing a different colour or texture, make second circle, but do not fasten off. To join to first circle, place both together with wrong sides uppermost (so that seam is on the inside) and, always inserting hook through a stitch of both circles simultaneously, work: 1dc into each of 2 sts. Fasten off. Join further circles into the angles between two previous circles thus: work 2 dc to join to first circle as above (or more as required - see below: Large Circles), then 2 dc to join to 2nd circle.

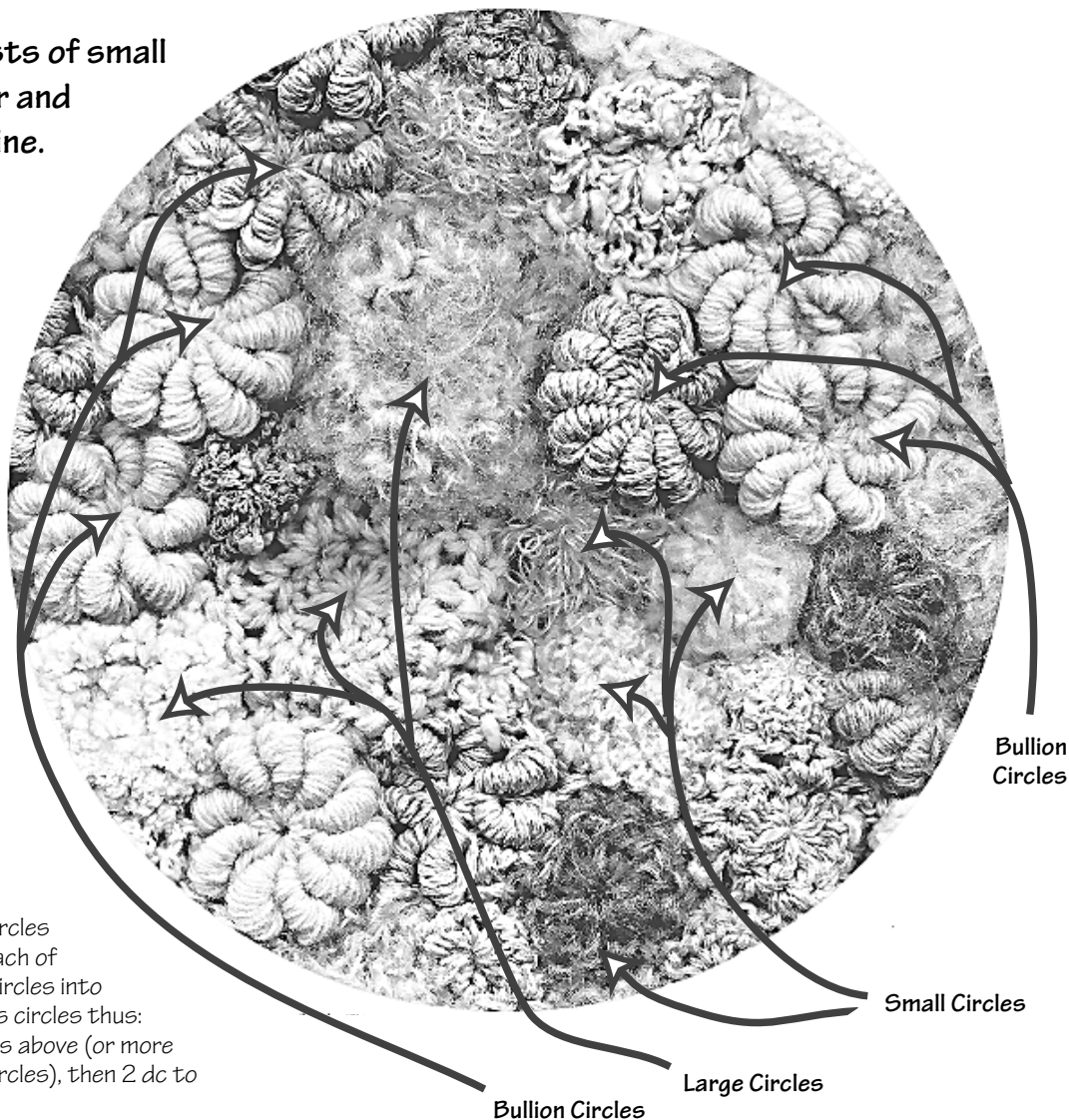
Large Circle

Make larger circles by changing the stitch or working another round. Increase thus: work twice into first stitch and once into next stitch all round - thus keeping the cup shape.

Bullion Circle

4 ch, join into ring with ss.

Round 1: 4 ch, *wrap yarn round hook 10 times, insert hook through centre of ring, pick up yarn and draw through ring, pick up yarn



again and pull through all loops (this requires fiddling!), 'massage' the coils to neaten, work 1 ch loosely to secure - bullion stitch completed; rep from * 8 more times, ss into top of first bullion to join into cup-shaped circle.

Make circles of different kinds/sizes and join them in the same way, sometimes using the 'wrong' side as the 'right' side to form contrasting concave surface features.

Fitting a shape:

Draw the outline shape your fabric is to fit, preferably on some stable material, strong enough to allow you to safety-pin your crochet pieces to it and use it as a template. From time to time place your crochet fabric down on this template (resting on a flat surface!) to check that no part of it extends beyond the outline. When it is nearly large enough all round, ie it just touches in parts and there is no room to squeeze in any more circles anywhere, pin it in position and begin to work around the

edge wherever any 'filling' is required: work short stitches, eg dc or even ss, where the crochet fabric already touches the outline and progressively longer stitches, eg htr, tr, dtr, etc, in the 'dips'. Be careful at the same time to work sufficient stitches to keep the edge flat - too few and you will be 'gathering'; too many and the edge will frill. Maybe you'll need to work more than one row in this way in some places.