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Detailed Crochet Tutorial: Antlered Stag Head Mandala & Granny Square (US Terms)



This tutorial is fully based on the crochet diagram provided and written in clear US crochet terminology so that beginners and experienced crocheters alike can follow it from start to finish. The project combines a lacy circular mandala with a dimensional stag head centerpiece, antlers, scalloped borders, and granny-style mesh construction.

Finished piece can be used as:

- Wall hanging
- Blanket centerpiece
- Pillow panel
- Table décor
- Art mandala
- Nursery woodland décor

Skill Level: Intermediate

Language: US Crochet Terms

Construction: Worked in sections and assembled

Style: Textured Mandala with Appliqué Stag Head

Materials Needed

Yarn

DK weight cotton yarn is recommended for structure and stitch definition.

Suggested colors:

- Sage green or woodland green for head and border
- Cream or ivory for muzzle and beard
- Brown or taupe for antlers
- Black for nose
- White for eye details

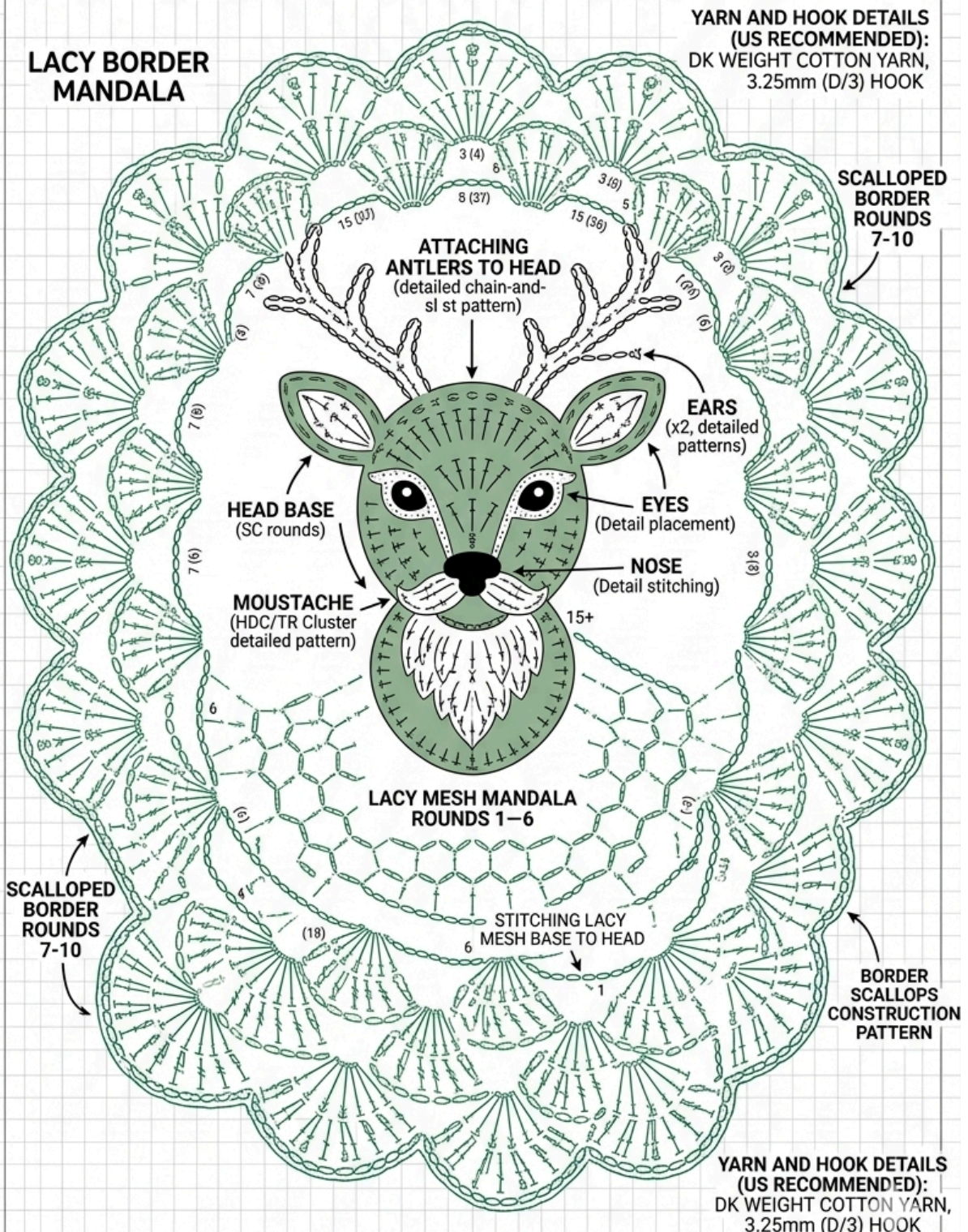
Hook

3.25 mm (D/3) crochet hook

DETAILED CROCHET DIAGRAM: ANTLERED STAG HEAD MANDALA & GRANNY SQUARE (US TERMS)

US SYMBOLS LEGEND:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| ○ CH (Chain) | ○ CL (Cluster, e.g., 3DC-CL) | • SL ST (Slip Stitch) |
| — SC (Single Crochet) | ‡ TR (Treble) | △ INC (Increase) |
| ⌈ HDC (Half Double Croche) | ∨ INV-DEC (Invisible Decrease) | > DEC (Decrease) |
| ‡ DC (Double Crochet) | — SL ST (Slip Stitch) | |



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Additional Supplies

- Yarn needle
- Stitch markers
- Scissors
- Blocking mat
- Pins for shaping

Abbreviations (US Terms)

Abbreviation	Meaning
ch	chain
sl st	slip stitch
sc	single crochet
hdc	half double crochet
dc	double crochet
tr	treble crochet
inc	increase
dec	decrease
inv-dec	invisible decrease
cl	cluster stitch
st	stitch
sp	space
rnd	round

Project Construction Overview

The project is made in this order:

1. Crochet the lacy mesh mandala base
2. Build scalloped border rounds
3. Crochet stag head base
4. Make ears
5. Add muzzle and beard
6. Crochet antlers
7. Attach eyes and nose
8. Sew all pieces to mandala

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9. Block and finish

Mandala Base — Rounds 1–6

The central base uses open lacy mesh construction.

Round 1

Make a magic ring.

Work:

- Ch 3 (counts as first dc)
- 11 dc into ring
- Join with sl st to top of beginning ch-3

Total: 12 dc

Round 2

- Ch 4
- Dc in same st
- Ch 1
- 2 dc in next st
- Repeat around

Join with sl st.

You now have:

- 12 V-stitches
- Ch-1 spaces between groups

Round 3

Slip stitch into first ch-space.

Work:

- Ch 3
- 2 dc in same sp
- Ch 2
- 3 dc in next sp

Repeat around.

Join with sl st.

Round 4

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Move into next ch-2 space.

In each ch-2 space:

- 3 dc
- Ch 3
- 3 dc

Repeat around.

This forms the growing mandala shell structure.

Round 5

In each corner space:

- 3 dc
- Ch 2
- 3 dc

Between corners:

- Ch 1 mesh spaces

Keep tension loose so the mandala remains flat.

Round 6

Continue mesh expansion:

- Dc groups into each shell
- Ch spaces between groups

The circle should now resemble the lacy center shown in the diagram.

Creating the Lacy Mesh Section

This section creates the openwork visible behind the stag head.

Mesh Pattern Repeat

Work:

- Ch 5
- Skip 2 sts
- Sc in next st

Repeat around.

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Next round:

- Sl st into first loop
- Ch 5
- Sc into next loop

Continue building layered mesh arches.

Scalloped Border — Rounds 7–10 ✨

The outer edge uses dramatic shell scallops.

Round 7

In each mesh arch:

- 9 dc

Between shells:

- Sc

Repeat around.

You should now see rounded fan shapes.

Round 8

In each shell:

- Dc in each dc

At top center:

- Ch 2

This gives shell definition.

Round 9

Around each scallop:

- Sc
- Hdc
- Dc
- Tr
- Dc
- Hdc
- Sc

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Repeat around every shell.

This creates the lace edging shown in the diagram.

Round 10

Final decorative edge:

Work around each scallop:

- Sl st
- Ch 3 picot
- Sl st

Repeat around border.

Fasten off and block lightly.

Stag Head Base

The head is worked from top downward in continuous rounds.

Round 1

Magic ring:

- 6 sc

Round 2

Inc in each st around.

Total: 12 sts

Round 3

Pattern:

- Sc
- Inc

Repeat around.

Total: 18 sts

Round 4

Pattern:

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- 2 sc
- Inc

Repeat around.

Total: 24 sts

Round 5

Pattern:

- 3 sc
- Inc

Repeat around.

Total: 30 sts

Round 6

Pattern:

- 4 sc
- Inc

Repeat around.

Total: 36 sts

Round 7–11

Sc evenly around.

This shapes the forehead and face.

Neck Extension

Continue downward in oval shaping:

- Add increases at sides only
- Maintain center symmetry

Stuff lightly if desired for dimension.

Fasten off leaving long tail.

Ears (Make 2) 🦻

Round 1

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Magic ring:

- 5 sc

Round 2

Inc around.

Round 3

Sc around.

Round 4

Shape point:

- Sc
- Hdc
- Dc
- Hdc
- Sc

Fold slightly and sew base closed.

Inner ear:

- Embroider using cream yarn.

Muzzle Section

Using cream yarn:

Round 1

Ch 6.

Starting in second chain:

- Sc 4
- 3 sc in last ch

Continue opposite side:

- Sc 3
- Inc

Join.

Round 2

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Sc around with increases at ends.

Sew beneath eyes.

Beard / Mustache Detail

This textured section uses hdc and tr clusters.

Beard Base

Attach cream yarn under muzzle.

Work:

- Hdc cluster
- Ch 1
- Tr cluster

Repeat downward in pointed rows.

Fringe Detail

Add long vertical stitches using:

- Tr stitches
- Surface slip stitches

This creates realistic fur texture.

Antlers (Make 2)

Antlers are built from chains with branch extensions.

Main Stem

Ch 22.

Work back:

- Sl st in each chain

Branches

At selected points:

- Ch 6
- Sl st back

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Repeat with varying lengths:

- Ch 4
- Ch 7
- Ch 5

Create natural asymmetry.

Shaping Tip

Steam lightly and pin antlers into curved positions before attaching.

Eyes 🐾🐾

Eye Base

Using black yarn:

- Magic ring with 6 sc

Using white yarn:

- Embroider highlights

Optional:

- Add safety eyes instead.

Sew evenly onto face.

Nose 🐾

Using black yarn:

Round 1

Magic ring:

- 5 sc

Round 2

Sc around in oval shaping.

Flatten slightly and sew centered on muzzle.

Attaching the Stag to the Mandala

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Place head in center opening of mandala.

Pin pieces first:

- Antlers
- Ears
- Head
- Beard

Sew securely using whip stitch.

Attach antlers behind ears exactly as shown in the diagram.

Final Border Reinforcement

To strengthen the edge:

Work:

- Sc evenly around backside border

Optional:

- Add hanging loop with ch 20

Blocking Instructions

Blocking is very important for lace definition.

Wet Blocking

1. Soak piece in lukewarm water
2. Gently squeeze excess water
3. Pin scallops outward evenly
4. Shape antlers carefully
5. Allow to dry completely

Finished Measurements

Approximate size:

- 18–24 inches depending on yarn tension

Helpful Beginner Tips

Keep Stitch Counts Accurate

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Count every shell and mesh arch each round.

Use Stitch Markers

Especially helpful for:

- Antler branches
- Shell repeats
- Head shaping

Maintain Loose Tension

Tight stitches can cause mandala curling.

Block Aggressively

Lace patterns look dramatically better after blocking.

Optional Customizations

You can personalize the project by:

- Using rustic brown tones
- Adding beads
- Using metallic yarn for antlers
- Making larger mandalas with extra mesh rounds
- Turning it into a pillow front

Care Instructions

- Hand wash only
- Lay flat to dry
- Do not wring
- Store flat to preserve lace shape

Final Notes

This crochet stag mandala combines:

- Granny-style mesh work
- Lace shell borders
- Dimensional appliqué techniques
- Textured cluster stitches
- Decorative woodland styling

Take your time with shaping and blocking, because those finishing steps are what make the piece look truly elegant and professional.

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