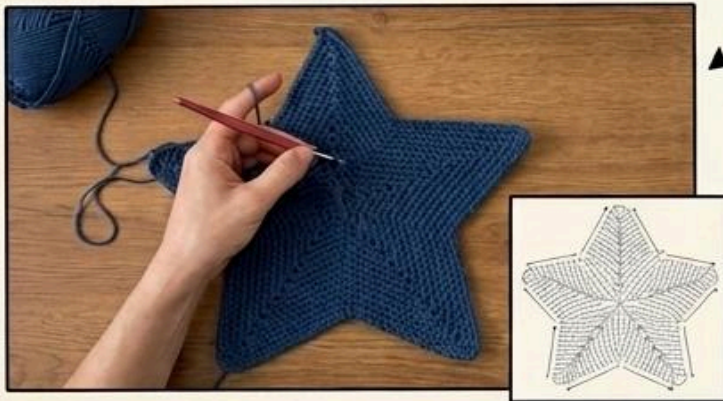


HOW TO CROCHET A STAR-SHAPED LETTER HOLDER

A step-by-step crochet tutorial

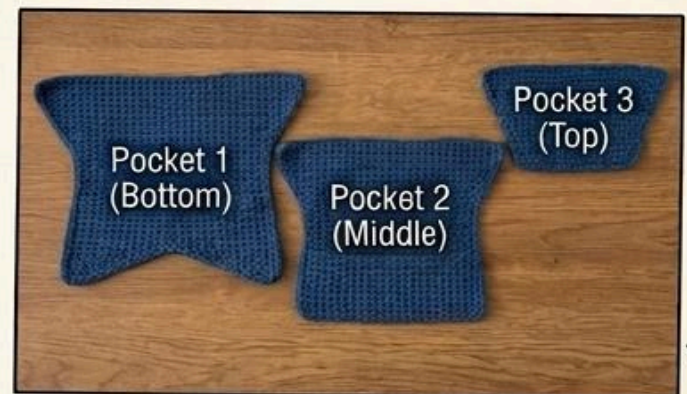


1. CROCHET THE STAR BACKING



Crochet the 5-point star backing following the diagram to serve as your base.

2. MAKE THE THREE POCKETS



Crochet the three pockets. They vary in size to fit the star's shape.

3. POSITION THE POCKETS



Lay the star backing flat and stack the three pockets on top, aligning them from bottom to top.

4. CROCHET & JOIN



Single-crochet (sc join) the sides and bottom edges of each pocket to the star base, leaving the tops open.

5. THE FINISHED HOLDER!

Fasten off, weave in loose ends, and your tiered star pocket is ready to hold your mail and trinkets!



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Star-Shaped Crochet Letter Holder: Complete Tutorial (US Terms)

This step-by-step tutorial explains how to make a star-shaped crochet letter holder with three horizontal pockets. The design consists of one five-pointed star backing and three separate pocket panels that are sewn onto the front.

The finished organizer is ideal for storing letters, envelopes, postcards, bills, notes, and other lightweight paper items. For a look similar to the reference image, use navy blue yarn and tight, even crochet stitches.

Skill level: Intermediate

Estimated time: 8–14 hours, depending on your experience and the size of your project.

Construction: One star-shaped backing and three separate pockets.

Crochet terminology: US terms.

Important pattern note: The supplied image is a visual crochet chart, and some stitch counts and symbols are too small to read reliably. This tutorial follows the illustrated construction, stitch techniques, pocket arrangement, and sewing instructions. Where the chart does not provide a clearly readable stitch count, practical guidance is provided to help you create a similar finished item. The additional measurements and starting counts below are suggested working guidelines, not verified counts from the original chart.

Step 1: Gather Your Materials and Tools

Before starting, prepare all the materials you will need.

Materials:

- Approximately 250–400 yards (230–365 meters) of medium-weight yarn, US category 4 (worsted).
- Cotton or a cotton-blend yarn for a firm, durable fabric.
- One crochet hook, approximately 4.0 mm (US G-6) or 4.5 mm (US 7).
- A pair of scissors.
- A tapestry or yarn needle for sewing the pockets.
- At least five stitch markers.
- A measuring tape or ruler.
- Straight pins or removable stitch markers for positioning the pockets.
- A blocking mat and rust-resistant pins, if available.
- An optional hanging loop or wall hook.

The amount of yarn depends on the yarn thickness, hook size, tension, and finished dimensions. It is a good idea to have extra yarn available, especially if you want to reinforce the pocket seams.

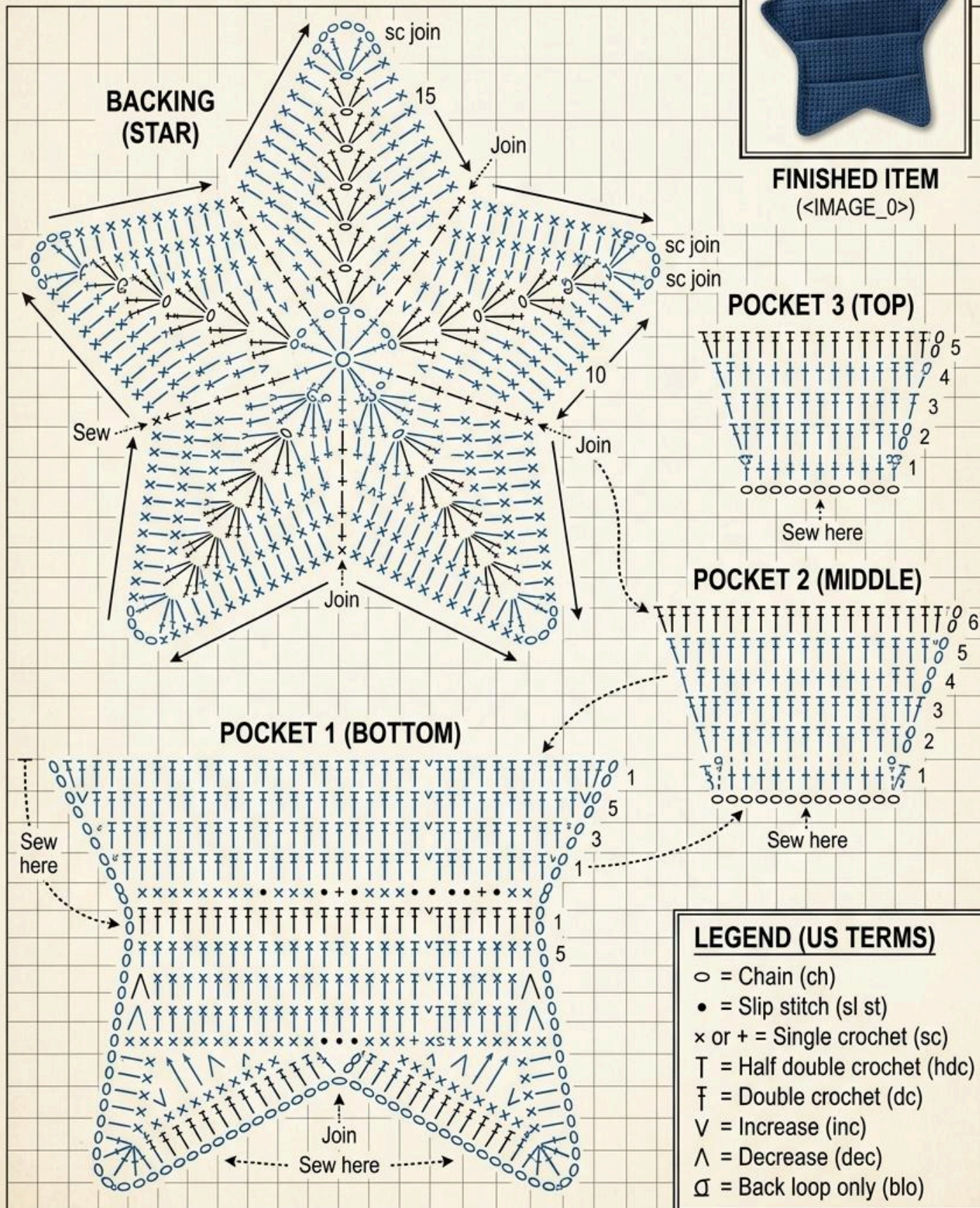
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STAR-SHAPED LETTER HOLDER

Crochet Diagram (US Terms)



FINISHED ITEM
(<IMAGE_0>)



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For a result similar to the reference, choose a dark navy blue yarn and a hook that produces a dense fabric with minimal gaps between stitches.

Step 2: Understand the US Crochet Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used throughout this tutorial.

- **ch — Chain:** Yarn over and pull through the loop on the hook.
- **sl st — Slip stitch:** Insert the hook into the stitch, yarn over, and pull through the stitch and the loop on the hook.
- **sc — Single crochet:** Insert the hook, yarn over and pull up a loop, yarn over again, and pull through both loops.
- **hdc — Half double crochet:** Yarn over, insert the hook, pull up a loop, yarn over, and pull through all three loops.
- **dc — Double crochet:** Yarn over, insert the hook, pull up a loop, yarn over and pull through two loops, then yarn over and pull through the remaining two loops.
- **inc — Increase:** Work two stitches into the same stitch when increasing in single crochet.
- **dec — Decrease:** Combine two stitches into one. For single crochet, use sc2tog.
- **BLO — Back loop only:** Work into the back loop of the stitch only.
- **Join:** Connect a round or section with a slip stitch where instructed.
- **Fasten off:** Cut the yarn, pull the tail through the final loop, and tighten it securely.

The original diagram uses symbols to represent these stitches. Open ovals represent chains, dots represent slip stitches, X-shaped symbols represent single crochet, taller symbols represent half double or double crochet, and V-shaped symbols indicate increases or decreases.

Always use the written abbreviation alongside the chart symbol when identifying a stitch.

Step 3: Check Your Gauge and Choose Your Finished Size

The original diagram does not specify a definitive gauge or finished measurements. The following dimensions are practical suggestions for a decorative wall organizer.

- Star backing: approximately 12–15 inches (30–38 cm) from the top point to the bottom point.
- Pocket openings: approximately 8–10 inches (20–25 cm) wide.
- Pocket depth: approximately 2–3 inches (5–7.5 cm), depending on the pocket.

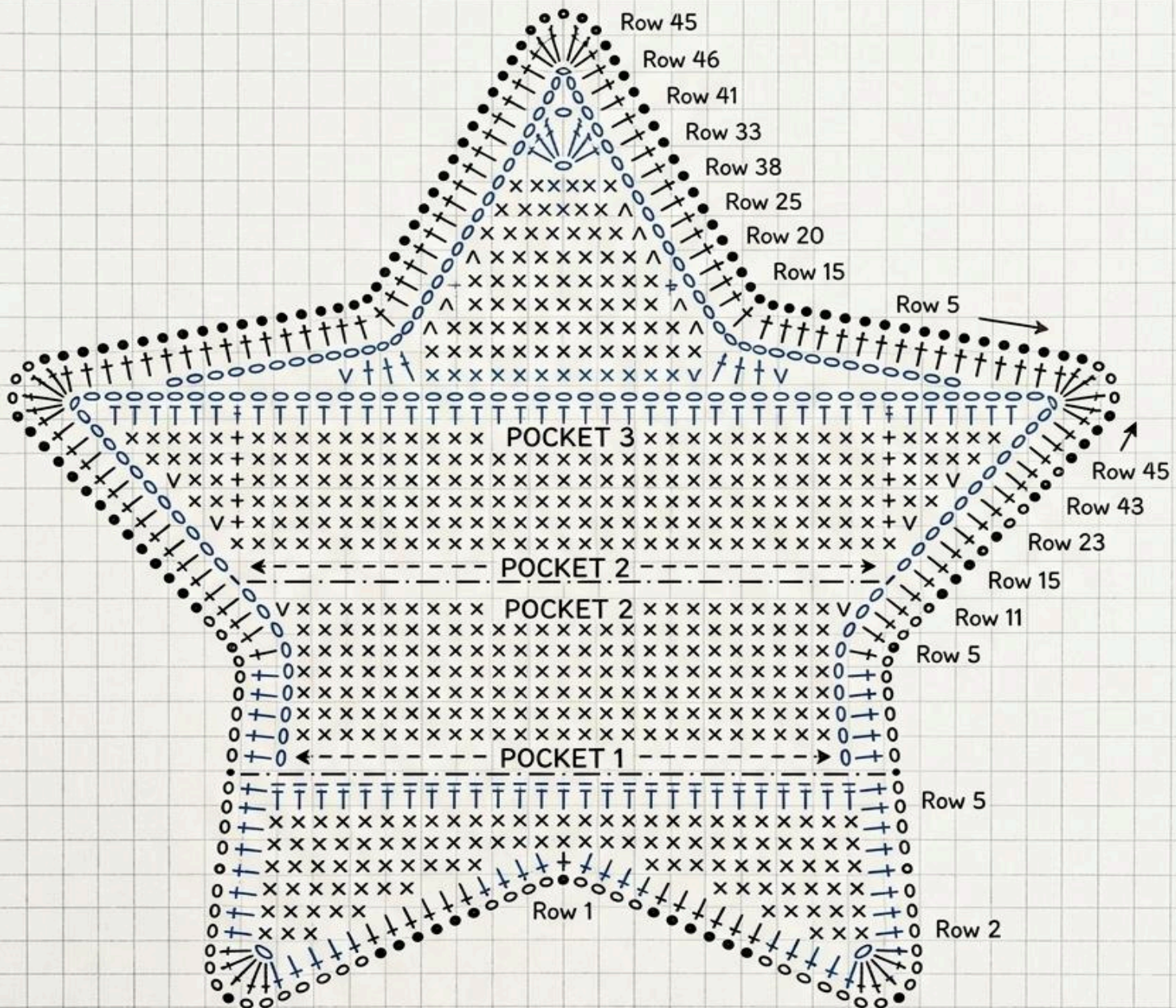
Make a small single crochet swatch measuring approximately 4 × 4 inches (10 × 10 cm).

Count the stitches across 4 inches to determine your gauge. For example, if you have 16 stitches across 4 inches, your gauge is 4 stitches per inch.

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STAR LETTER HOLDER

CROCHET PATTERN (US TERMS)



LEGEND	
○ or 0	: Chain (ch)
•	: Slip stitch (sl st)
x or +	: Single crochet (sc)
T	: Half double crochet (hdc)
V	: Increase (inc)
^	: Decrease (dec)
---	: Pocket Fold / Placement

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To estimate the number of stitches needed for a pocket opening, multiply your desired width in inches by the number of stitches per inch.

For example, a 9-inch pocket opening at 4 stitches per inch requires approximately 36 stitches across.

If your fabric has large gaps, use a smaller hook. If the fabric is excessively stiff and difficult to work, try a slightly larger hook while maintaining a firm stitch structure.

Step 4: Crochet the Star Backing

The star backing is the main structural piece of the organizer. It has five outward points, five inward valleys, and a central section that expands outward.

The diagram shows the use of single crochet, half double crochet, double crochet, increases, decreases, and joining points to create the star shape.

Round 1: Create the Center

1. Make a magic ring.
2. Chain 1. This chain does not count as a stitch.
3. Work 10 single crochet stitches into the ring.
4. Pull the ring closed tightly.
5. Join to the first single crochet with a slip stitch if you are working joined rounds.

Alternatively, chain 4 and slip stitch into the first chain to form a ring, then work the stitches into that ring.

The starting count of 10 single crochet stitches is a practical guideline for this written version; the exact initial count in the supplied chart is not fully legible.

Round 2: Expand the Center

1. Chain 1 if working joined rounds.
2. Work 2 single crochet stitches into each stitch around.
3. You should now have 20 stitches.
4. Join with a slip stitch if working joined rounds.

Lay the piece flat. It should form a small disk rather than a cup.

Round 3: Establish the Five Sections

1. Identify five evenly spaced positions around the center.
2. Place a stitch marker at each position.
3. Work single crochet stitches between the markers.

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- 4. At each marked position, increase as necessary to begin widening the corresponding section.
- 5. Keep the stitches between the marked positions relatively even to prevent excessive ruffling.

The five marked sections will help you maintain symmetry as you shape the points.

Rounds 4 and Beyond: Shape the Star

1. Continue working rounds, increasing in the five point sections to extend the star outward.
2. Work regular stitches between the point sections.
3. Use decreases near the inward valleys when necessary to create a more defined outline.
4. Keep the shaping consistent across all five sections.
5. Move the stitch markers as needed to keep track of the points and valleys.
6. Lay the work flat after every round to check the shape.

The original diagram shows a combination of single crochet, half double crochet, double crochet, increases, and decreases. If you are following the visual chart, maintain consistent stitch heights in corresponding sections. Taller stitches can help widen the point sections, while shorter stitches can help create a compact edge.

If a point becomes too narrow, add increases within that section. If a valley becomes too rounded, use decreases near the valley. Apply the same adjustments to corresponding sections to preserve symmetry.

Continue working until the backing measures approximately 12–15 inches (30–38 cm) from the top point to the bottom point, or until you reach your desired size.

Before finishing, check that all five points are approximately equal, the center lies flat, and the side points are wide enough to support the pocket openings.

Fasten off and weave in the yarn tail with a tapestry needle.

The exact round-by-round shaping sequence cannot be verified from the small symbols in the supplied image, so the method above is a practical construction guide rather than an exact transcription of the original chart.

Step 5: Finish and Shape the Star Edges

The original reference shows a dense, structured outer edge around the star.

1. Examine the entire outer perimeter.
2. If the edge looks uneven, work a final round of single crochet around it.
3. At an outward point, work additional stitches into the point if necessary to prevent it from curling inward.
4. At an inward valley, use a decrease only if the fabric needs to pull inward.

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5. Maintain even tension around all five points.
6. Join with a slip stitch, fasten off, and weave in the yarn tail.

Avoid adding too many stitches at the points, as excessive increases can create ruffles. Too many decreases can make the star curl or pucker.

Block the Star

Lightly dampen the backing if the yarn label permits it. Place it on a blocking mat and arrange the five points and valleys into shape. Pin the outline in place and allow the piece to dry completely.

If you are using acrylic yarn, follow the manufacturer's care instructions and avoid direct heat unless specifically permitted.

Step 6: Crochet Pocket 1 — Bottom Pocket

Pocket 1 is the largest pocket in the supplied diagram. It sits over the lower part of the star, and its bottom edge follows the lower star contour.

The chart shows a broad upper section, multiple rows of dense stitches, and a shaped lower edge.

Create the Foundation Chain

1. Measure the lower area of the star where the pocket will sit.
2. Choose a desired opening width of approximately 8–10 inches (20–25 cm).
3. Calculate the foundation chain using your gauge.
4. Make the required number of chains, plus one turning chain for single crochet.
5. Work single crochet across the foundation chain, beginning in the second chain from the hook.

For example, if your gauge is 4 stitches per inch and you want a 9-inch opening, approximately 36 stitches across will provide a useful starting point. The turning chain is separate.

Work the First Rows

1. Chain 1 and turn.
2. Work single crochet across the row.
3. Count your stitches to make sure the edges remain even.
4. Repeat until the panel reaches the desired height for the upper section.

Keep the stitch count consistent by carefully identifying the first and last stitches of each row.

Shape the Sides

The chart shows the pocket narrowing toward its lower corners.

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1. Work single crochet across the next row.
2. At the beginning and end of a shaping row, decrease one stitch if you need to narrow the panel.
3. Work the following row evenly.
4. Repeat the decrease rows as necessary to form a gentle trapezoid.
5. Add more straight rows between decreases if the panel narrows too quickly.

To make a single crochet decrease, insert the hook into the next stitch and pull up a loop. Insert the hook into the following stitch and pull up another loop. Yarn over and pull through all three loops on the hook.

Shape the Bottom Edge

The bottom pocket should follow the lower outline of the star.

1. Place the pocket panel against the lower section of the backing.
2. Mark the center of the panel.
3. Compare the lower corners with the two bottom star points.
4. Adjust the number of shaping rows so the lower edge follows the star's contour.
5. If you want to reproduce the V-shaped bottom more closely, gradually increase toward the center of the lower edge while keeping both sides symmetrical.

The exact bottom shaping and stitch counts in the supplied diagram are difficult to distinguish, so use the star backing as your template.

Finish Pocket 1

1. Work a final row of single crochet around the panel if necessary.
2. Fasten off.
3. Weave in all yarn tails.
4. Place the panel on the star and check the fit before sewing.

The pocket should cover the lower part of the backing without completely hiding the bottom points.

Step 7: Crochet Pocket 2 — Middle Pocket

Pocket 2 is positioned above Pocket 1 and below Pocket 3. The diagram shows a wide panel with slightly tapered sides and several rows of dense stitches.

Create the Foundation Chain

1. Measure the usable width across the middle of the star.
2. Make a foundation chain for an opening approximately 8–10 inches (20–25 cm) wide, adjusting it to fit the backing.
3. Work single crochet across the chain.
4. Chain 1 and turn.

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Build the Pocket Depth

1. Work single crochet across each row.
2. Maintain a consistent stitch count while building the main body.
3. Check the height against the star backing after every few rows.
4. Continue until the pocket is approximately 2–3 inches (5–7.5 cm) deep, or until it reaches your preferred capacity.

Taper the Sides

The reference shows the sides narrowing slightly toward the lower edge.

1. Decrease one stitch at each end of a shaping row if necessary.
2. Work the next row evenly.
3. Repeat until the panel follows the width of the backing at its intended position.
4. Compare both sides to ensure that they are symmetrical.

Do not decrease on every row unless you want a strongly tapered pocket.

Finish Pocket 2

1. Work a neat final row of single crochet.
2. Fasten off.
3. Weave in the ends.
4. Position the panel above Pocket 1 and check that the opening remains accessible.

The bottom edge of Pocket 2 will be sewn to the backing, while the top edge must remain open.

Step 8: Crochet Pocket 3 — Top Pocket

Pocket 3 is the uppermost pocket. It is smaller and shallower than the two lower pockets.

Create the Foundation Chain

1. Measure the upper section of the star backing.
2. Make a foundation chain for an opening approximately 7–9 inches (18–23 cm) wide, or adjust it to fit your backing.
3. Work single crochet across the chain.
4. Chain 1 and turn.

Work the Rows

1. Work single crochet across the row.
2. Repeat for several rows to build the pocket body.
3. Keep the stitch count consistent at first.
4. Begin tapering the sides if necessary to match the upper shape of the star.
5. Continue until the pocket is approximately 1.5–2.5 inches (4–6 cm) deep.

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These are suggested dimensions. Although the row labels are visible in the chart, not every stitch count can be read clearly enough to reconstruct the original panel exactly.

Finish Pocket 3

1. Work a final row of single crochet around the panel if necessary.
2. Fasten off and weave in the ends.
3. Place the panel on the upper part of the backing.
4. Check that the opening sits below the top point and does not overlap the pocket below more than intended.

The upper pocket should look slightly smaller than Pocket 2, creating the layered appearance shown in the finished reference.

Step 9: Arrange the Three Pockets on the Star

Before sewing the pockets, arrange all three panels on the star backing.

Follow the arrangement shown in the supplied diagram:

- Pocket 1, the bottom pocket, is the largest panel and covers the lower portion of the star.
- Pocket 2, the middle pocket, sits above Pocket 1.
- Pocket 3, the top pocket, sits near the upper point of the star.

Position Pocket 1

1. Lay the star backing flat with the right side facing up.
2. Place Pocket 1 over the lower portion of the star.
3. Align the lower edge with the bottom contour of the backing.
4. Adjust the side edges so they follow the lower star points.
5. Pin the panel in place, leaving the upper edge open.

Position Pocket 2

1. Place Pocket 2 above Pocket 1.
2. Align its lower edge with the backing and the intended overlap above Pocket 1.
3. Make sure the opening is not covered by Pocket 1.
4. Use stitch markers to secure the corners temporarily.
5. Check that the panel sits evenly across the star.

Position Pocket 3

1. Place Pocket 3 in the upper section.
2. Align it centrally with the top point of the star.
3. Position its lower edge above the opening of Pocket 2.
4. Pin both sides and the lower edge.
5. Leave the upper edge open for inserting letters.

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The pockets should overlap vertically, but each must retain a usable opening. Do not sew an upper edge shut.

Step 10: Sew Pocket 1 to the Star Backing

Attach the bottom pocket first so that the next pocket can overlap it neatly.

Prepare the Yarn

1. Cut a length of matching yarn approximately 24–30 inches (60–75 cm) long.
2. Thread it through a tapestry needle.
3. Secure the pocket with pins or stitch markers.
4. Begin at one lower corner.

Sew the Edges

1. Use a whipstitch or mattress-style seam to attach the left side of the pocket.
2. Insert the needle through the pocket edge and the corresponding stitch on the backing.
3. Repeat along the lower edge.
4. Sew the right side in the same manner.
5. Keep the stitches close enough to hold paper securely without pulling the fabric out of shape.

Do not sew across the top opening.

Reinforce the Lower Corners

Add a few extra sewing stitches at each lower corner, as these areas may experience more tension when the pocket is filled.

Keep the seam firm but not so tight that the star curls inward. Weave the yarn tail into the backing and trim the excess.

Step 11: Sew Pocket 2 to the Backing

Pocket 2 is attached above Pocket 1. The dotted arrow in the original diagram indicates the progression from the bottom pocket to the middle pocket.

1. Confirm that Pocket 2 is centered.
2. Check that its lower edge sits neatly above or overlaps the upper region of Pocket 1, depending on your arrangement.
3. Thread a tapestry needle with matching yarn.
4. Sew the left side of Pocket 2.
5. Sew along its lower edge.
6. Sew the right side.
7. Reinforce the lower corners with extra stitches.

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8. Leave the top edge completely open.

Check the Pocket Opening

Slide a folded sheet of paper or a small envelope into the pocket.

If the paper catches on the seam, remove any loose yarn loops from the opening and check that the side seams are even.

The pocket should hold its contents without collapsing or stretching excessively.

Step 12: Sew Pocket 3 to the Backing

Pocket 3 is the final and uppermost pocket.

1. Center the panel on the upper portion of the star.
2. Align its sides with the backing.
3. Thread a tapestry needle with matching yarn.
4. Sew the left side of the panel.
5. Sew the lower edge.
6. Sew the right side.
7. Reinforce both lower corners.
8. Leave the top edge open.

Keep the sewing stitches discreet. Matching yarn helps the seams blend into the dense crochet texture.

Check All Three Pockets

After attaching Pocket 3, inspect the entire organizer.

- Insert a small envelope into Pocket 1.
- Insert a letter into Pocket 2.
- Insert a postcard or folded note into Pocket 3.
- Confirm that the pockets do not pull away from the backing.
- Make sure all three openings remain accessible.
- Check that the star points are still visible and symmetrical.

If a pocket looks uneven, carefully remove a few sewing stitches and reposition the panel before securing it again.

Step 13: Add a Hanging Loop (Optional)

The reference shows a finished star-shaped holder but does not clearly specify how to make a hanging loop. If you want to hang the organizer on a wall, you can add one.

1. Attach matching yarn at the back of the upper star point.
2. Chain approximately 12–18 stitches, depending on your hook and desired loop size.

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3. Slip stitch back into the same attachment area to close the loop.
 4. Reinforce the attachment with several stitches.
 5. Weave the yarn tail into the backing.

Test the loop gently before hanging the organizer.

For a heavier organizer, use a wall hook or mounting method appropriate for the wall material and the organizer's total weight.

Step 14: Complete the Final Finishing

Your organizer is almost finished. Take a few minutes to make the final adjustments.

Weave in All Loose Ends

Use a tapestry needle to weave each yarn tail through several stitches on the wrong side of the work. Change direction at least once to help prevent the tail from working loose.

Trim the excess yarn only after the tail is secure.

Check the Shape

Lay the organizer flat and check the following:

- The star has five clearly defined points.
- The center lies relatively flat.
- The pockets are evenly positioned.
- The side seams do not pull the star inward.
- The bottom pocket follows the lower star contour.

Block the Finished Organizer

Lightly dampen the piece if the yarn permits it. Arrange the points and valleys into shape, pin them in place, and allow the organizer to dry completely.

Avoid stretching the pocket openings too widely during blocking.

Test the Pockets

Use lightweight paper first. Insert and remove each item several times to check that the seams are secure.

This design is intended for lightweight mail and stationery rather than heavy objects.

Step 15: Troubleshoot Common Problems

Problem: The Star Curls or Forms a Bowl

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Cause: There may be too few increases, excessive tension, or an unsuitable hook size.

Solution: Check the stitch distribution, relax your tension, or try a slightly larger hook. Block the backing before attaching the pockets.

Problem: The Star Points Are Uneven

Cause: Increases and decreases may be distributed differently across sections.

Solution: Mark all five points, count the stitches in corresponding sections, and make the same shaping adjustments in each section.

Problem: A Pocket Edge Ripples

Cause: Too many stitches may have been added along the edge.

Solution: Check the stitch count, remove unnecessary increases, and work a neat finishing row.

Problem: A Pocket Opening Is Too Tight

Cause: The top edge may have been stretched during sewing or accidentally caught in the seam.

Solution: Remove the stitches that restrict the opening and reattach the sides and lower edge with more even tension.

Problem: The Pockets Sag When Filled

Cause: The yarn may be too soft, the stitches too loose, or the pocket seams insufficiently reinforced.

Solution: Use a firmer yarn, a smaller hook, or additional reinforcing stitches at the lower corners. Keep the contents lightweight.

Step 16: Care Instructions

To keep your star-shaped crochet letter holder looking neat:

- Follow the care instructions on the yarn label.
- If the yarn is machine washable, place the organizer in a mesh laundry bag and use the recommended gentle cycle.
- Otherwise, hand-wash carefully with mild detergent.
- Avoid wringing or twisting the crochet fabric.
- Press out excess water using a towel.
- Reshape the star and pockets while damp.
- Allow the organizer to dry completely before hanging it again.

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Cotton yarn can stretch under weight, so empty the pockets before washing or reshaping the organizer.

Step 17: Final Checklist

Before using your finished letter holder, make sure that:

- The star backing has five clearly defined points.
- The outer edge is neat and the center lies flat.
- Pocket 1 is attached along its sides and lower edge.
- Pocket 2 is attached along its sides and lower edge.
- Pocket 3 is attached along its sides and lower edge.
- All three pocket openings remain accessible.
- The pocket seams are reinforced at the corners.
- All loose yarn ends have been woven in.
- The organizer has been blocked and dried if necessary.
- The hanging loop or mounting method is secure, if used.

Final Result: Your Handmade Star-Shaped Letter Holder

You now have a decorative crochet organizer featuring a five-pointed star backing and three layered pockets. The finished appearance should resemble the supplied reference: a dense navy-blue star with neatly sewn horizontal pocket openings and clearly visible points.

For the most faithful visual result, use a single color, maintain tight and consistent stitches, keep the pockets centered, and take time to shape the star before sewing the panels in place.

Pattern accuracy note: This tutorial follows the supplied diagram's overall design and construction, but the original chart does not provide enough legible information to verify every round, stitch count, and shaping sequence. The suggested counts, dimensions, and written shaping methods are practical guidance for making a similar organizer, not an exact stitch-for-stitch transcription of the original pattern.