Deck The Halls: 20 Holiday Crochet AppliquÃ©s with Twinkie Chan

Chapter 1 - Deck The Halls: 20 Holiday Crochet AppliquÃ©s

Overview

- Hey, crocheters, the holiday season is here. Everyone's probably expecting you to crochet scarves, sweaters, and blankets, but I know you do not need another big project on your to-do list so I have a gift for you. I'm Twinkie Chan, I'm a crochet designer and fi-brrr artist, and my gift is this Daily Practice that I filled with the cutest holiday themed appliquÃ©s. I'll show you how to crochet 20 motifs, each one fits in the palm of your hand and you can use them to make ornaments, brooches, gift toppers and garlands. You can put them on stockings and basically anything you can think of. I encourage you to try all of the designs, but if you only have time for one, you've still completed a whole project. So relax, find some of your favorite yarn in your stash, and let's crochet some holiday magic together.

Materials

- To make your holiday appliquÃ©s, you'll really just need your favorite yarn and your favorite crochet hook. I'm switching it up a bit. If you've taken a lot of my classes, you know I love a worsted weight acrylic, but I'm gonna show you something really special that I worked with for this class. This is a felted tweed by Rowan. It's 50% Merino, 25% alpaca, and 25% viscose. It's a DK weight, which means it's lighter than my usual worsted weight, but it gives our appliquÃ©s like a really sort of delicate, almost fancy rustic feel, like something you would find like on a roadside farmer's market. And I think it just brings a real like sort of magical special touch to an appliquÃ© that might seem a little bit more normal or everyday, like it really punches up sort of that quality feel. It is more expensive than a big box worsted weight so I understand if you don't wanna go out and buy nine different colors, I kind of got really excited about it. But you can pick your favorite colors and you can also still work with your favorite worsted weight yarns for all of these patterns. The Rowan did not come with a cream color, so I'm using a Cascade 220. It's also a wool and it's a light worsted weight, and you can mix your weights a little bit if you're using different yarn brands, but I would try to stay as close to the same weight as possible. I will add one extra note about what kind of yarn you want to gather for this class. Cotton is really good for stiffening, like with starch or glue. Let's say you want to stiffen your snowflakes, which I'll show you later in the month. Cotton is the best. Acrylic is apparently the worst. And wool and natural fibers are okay. This is something I learned after trying to stiffen a lot of snowflakes. So if you want something really, really, really sturdy, you wanna start playing with your cotton yarn. But I really preferred the texture of the Rowan felted tweed, and I was okay with my appliquÃ©s not getting super stiff. You'll also need a crochet hook to go with your yarn. I'm using an H hook and also one size smaller. I have a G hook here to work my snowflakes. That's optional. You'll need a small pair of scissors, a yarn or tapestry needle. And optionally you can grab some stitch markers. I also use a piece of contrasting yarn, and you might want some straight pins for when you're sewing some things together. We'll also be blocking all of our appliquÃ©s at the end of the month so get your blocking kit ready. I have a blocking mat, which is really just a piece of foam. You could also use a pillow if you're okay with pinning it and getting it a little bit wet. I have T pins. You wanna make sure whatever pins you're using are no-rust. And if you're buying them online, definitely read the reviews because people will report if their pins rusted onto their projects. And then I will be wet blocking, so I just need a spray bottle of water. But you

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could also block with an iron, a hair dryer, or a hand steamer. If you're going to turn your appliquÃ©s into ornaments or gift toppers or broaches we'll go over all of that at the end of the month. I wanted to focus now on all the materials you'll need just to crochet your appliquÃ©s.

Day 1 - Peppermint candy
- Before we get started on our first appliquÃ©, I wanted to give you sort of a map of the month. We aren't going to start from like the easiest appliquÃ© to the most difficult. Nothing is gonna be super difficult. I like to make things as straightforward as possible. I grouped our appliquÃ©s loosely, thematically. We're gonna start with some sweet treats, then move into some sort of favorite motifs of the holiday. We're gonna crochet some cozy sweaters and mittens and we're gonna finish with some holiday animals. Our first appliquÃ© is going to be a peppermint candy. You'll want two contrasting colors of yarn. I'm going to use red and white, but you can use whatever combo you want. The peppermint is essentially just a circle worked in double crochet, but we're going to do some very intentional color work to get those peppermint swirls. I'm gonna start with my cream and an H hook, and you can begin with a chain three. So I'll put a slip knot on my hook in chain three, 1, 2, and 3, and then slip stitch to the very first chain to form a very tiny ring. So I'll insert my hook, yarn over and pull through both loops for a slip stitch. We're going to be working a lot of color changes in this round, every stitch. Remember, when you are introducing a new color, you want to bring it in on the last pull through of the previous stitch. I gonna show you exactly what that's all about. Our first stitch is going to be three chains that counts as our first double crochet. So I'm gonna do, 1, 2, and for the third chain, remember we wanna introduce the new color because this will be the last pull through of this stitch. So I'm going to pick up my red. This is also indicated by the red font on your pattern. Instead of saying drop color A, pick up color B and vice versa. I'm just switching the colors of the font on your pattern. I like to bring in my new color with a slip knot, it just feels more stable to me. So I'll put a slip knot with my new color and then pull through. And that's my third chain. Don't tighten it too much. And we're also carrying the color that we're not using. So the first couple stitches of the first round are going to feel a little cumbersome, but once you start making more and more peppermints, you'll get used to that feeling. So right now my active yarn is color B or my red yarn. I'm making sure that my active yarn tail from color A is on top of the ring that I'm working into so that I can incorporate it into my stitch. The first double crochet in red is a yarn over. Insert your hook into that ring you made. We're also including this cream colored yarn tail. Yarn over and pull through one, yarn over and pull through two, and we're gonna yarn over and pull through two, however, we're gonna switch back to our first color. So I'm gonna drop the red, pick up the white, make sure the red is lying on top of the ring here. And then yarn over and pull through two in the new color. Let's do that again with the cream. Yarn over for a double crochet, insert your hook into the ring, yarn over, pull through one, yarn over, pull through two. And for the last pull through two, I'm dropping my cream, picking up the red and pulling through two. So right now it looks a little scrunchie, but we have our first chain three in cream, our first double crochet in red. Second double crochet in cream. And you're gonna keep alternating these double crochets in these two colors until you have 12 stitches all the way around. Oop, be mindful. I'm working with my red. My red is my active yarn. So yarn over, pull through two, drop the red, pick up the cream yarn over and pull through two. Here's my cream. Drop the cream, pick up the red. You'll get a rhythm going here. So 12 double crochets all the way around. Also, to avoid my two yarns twisting, I'm being very mindful of where I place them when I pick them up and drop them. So for my red yarn, I'm keeping it always kind of more forward. And for the cream yarn, I'm

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keeping it more toward the back. So here I'm working with the red, and when I'm dropping it, I make sure it's dropping forward and I'm not dropping it behind. And then I pick up the cream. When I drop the cream, I keep this in back and I pick up the red from the front. If your yarn does end up twisting, I'm gonna pull my hook out for a second, if your yarn does end up twisting and it bothers you, you can always take your hook out and untwist it. I know that seems a little obvious right now, but sometimes while you're working you're like, oh no, this is all twisted, but it's very easy to just remove your hook and fix any twisting. Just count and see how many more I need. That's 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11. I'm working one more red. And then slip stitching to the top of that first chain three. It's getting a little squished in here, that's okay. Just find the top of that chain and slip stitch to join. That's round one. Round two is going to be very similar, except you're going to work two double crochets in each stitch. The first double crochet again is a chain three to begin the round, 1, 2, 3. I'm gonna keep working in my cream color for the second double crochet, just getting my tails organized here. Second double crochet, on the last pull through, and drop the cream and pick up the red. Two double crochets in the next, there's one double crochet, two in the same stitch. Bring in the new color on the last pull through. So you'll see when you're at a cream stitch from the first round, you're working two cream double crochets. When you're at a red stitch from the first round, you'll be working two double crochets in red, so all the colors will always match. It's really easy to keep your place. One cream, two cream, your here's one red and two red. Keep working your two double crochets in each stitch until you get to the end of the round. This is my last double crochet of round two. I'm still gonna bring in the new color and we'll slip stitch to the top of the first chain three to join. And you should have 24 stitches all the way around. You could stop here. This is a perfectly adorable peppermint, but I like to add a little detail. The two sort of twisty wrappers on the side. So if you're gonna do that, don't break off yet. Keep working with your cream. You could use the red as well. I like the cream for this one. And to make one wrapper, you're going to chain eight very tightly, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. And then slip stitch back into the same stitch on the base of that peppermint. And then we'll do one more chain eight, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, slip stitch back into the same stitch. And we'll break off. You want to find that white section or that cream colored section on the opposite side. Going to join my yarn back into the first double crochet of that section and just do the same thing. Chain eight, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 slip stitch back into that same stitch on the peppermint. Chain eight again, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. Slip stitch into the same stitch and break off. Also break off the red. Now we can weave in our ends. Grab one of your yarn tails and thread one of your yarn tails through your tapestry needle. And we're just going to weave these ends in as invisibly as possible. For these little wrappers, there's not a lot of place to hide a yarn tail, so I'm gonna go back into the peppermint itself, kinda weave in and out of the stitches on the inside of them so you can't see the tail. And what I usually do is actually go to the back. So in case any of the tail seems visible, it'll only be seen on the back. But again, if you weave the white in the white and the red in the red, it should be pretty seamless. So I'm just kinda going up and down. When you change directions, that really locks in the tail. So I try to change directions at least once. And we'll trim this close. Let's do a red tail. Same idea. I'll come back into the body of the peppermint here. Get into an area of color that's the same as my tail. I'll go to the back. I try to change directions a couple times back here to lock in the tail. Depending on how you use this appliquÃ©, like if you end up gluing it onto a greeting card, or if you're gluing on a felt backing, all of these yarn tails will be super secure and you won't be able to see any little bits sticking out. So you can think about sort of what the end project is going to be as well. So weave in all the rest of your yarn tails and have a lot of fun playing with different color combos. You're definitely gonna want to crochet a little collection of candy.

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Day 2 - Candy cane
- You have a lot of design options when it comes to your candy cane appliquÃ©. You can have it curved to the left, curved to the right. You can crochet it all in one color and add striping later. You can incorporate your striping while you crochet the candy cane and change colors much like your peppermint candy from yesterday. I'm gonna show you how to crochet them in both directions using one color. You might be wondering right now why we have a pattern for the left and the right, like I could just flip one of these over and it would be in the other direction. However, for appliquÃ©s, I'm kind of a stickler for having the right side of my stitches showing. And so if I have the wrong side, I feel like it'll look a little inconsistent. So that's why I'm providing two directions for the candy cane. We'll start with the candy cane curved to the left slip knot on the hook, and you'll begin with chain eighteen. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18. And these are really quick. They're just one row. So for row one you are gonna skip the first three chains. 1, 2, 3. I'm gonna put my thumb in that fourth chain. That's where I want to work my first stitch. And this first chain three does count as your first double crochet. We'll work our first official double crochet into that fourth chain. So I yarned over, insert your hook into that chain, yarn over pull through one, yarn over pull through two, yarn over pull through two, and you'll work a total of nine double crochets evenly. That's one, two, it's in the next chain, three in the next chain, 4, 5, 6, oops, 6, 7, 8, and then nine. Here's where we'll start working on a curve. You'll work two double crochets each in the next five chains. So here's one, two in the same chain. Moving on to the second chain here. One double crochet, two double crochet. Third, one double crochet, two double crochet. Here's the fourth one double crochet, two double crochet. Here's my fifth increase, one, two, and in the last chain we're going to work just one double crochet to sort of stop that curvature for the very top of the candy cane. And you could break off here. I just wanna put this down to show you I do a little extra finishing because the bottom of the candy cane here is not so straight, but the edge of our double crochet is so straight. So I kind of wanted to curve and round off this sort of finished edge of the candy cane. So we'll do that by working a chain one and then slip stitching back into that same chain, that last chain. And that sort of brings in the edge, that sharp edge of our last stitch. And you'll break off. And there's the candy cane in that curves to the left. I'll show you the one that curves to the right. You'll start again with chain 18. It's kind of the like the opposite of this one, which I guess is logical. It's just a mirror image. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18. We're gonna skip the first three chains again. 1, 2, 3. I'll mark the fourth with my thumb. We're gonna start with our increases, so that first double crochet and then second double crochet go oin the same chain. We'll do four more increases. It's one, two, here's our third increase, one, two, fourth increase, one, two. And then our last increase, one, two, and then 10 double crochets evenly. That's one double crochet each in the remaining 10 chains. Going to round off the edge again with a chain one and a slip stitch to that last chain. We'll break off. And you can see for both of these, the right side of the stitches is facing me and we have them curved in different directions. For striping your candy cane, I recommend spacing out the stripes a little bit. Like I don't prefer the look of one red, one white. I have two white and then one red. And again, you change colors the same way as the peppermint candy. And here I have one that I crocheted all in white. And then I used an embroidered chain stitch to add the stripes. You could also add stripes, a sequins, beads, anything you have around the house, you can have a lot of fun and play with your candy cane design.

Day 3 - Gingerbread person body
- I super duper love a real live gingerbread cookie. It's like one of my favorite cookies and I love this

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gingerbread appliquÃ© just as much. To keep our Daily Practice days as bite-sized as possible, I will be splitting up some of our appliquÃ©s over two days. So today we're gonna focus on the body of our gingerbread person. You can start with a magic circle, but I always kind of like to do my magic circle cheat. I'm gonna chain three, 1, 2, 3 and slip stitch to that first chain to make my own tiny circle. For round one, we'll chain one and work six single crochets into this ring. So I'll insert my hook into the ring. Yarn over and pull through one yarn over and pull through two. And that's one single crochet. We'll work five more. 2, 3, 4, 5. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. That's the end of round one. Don't join your rounds. Round two is working two single crochets in each stitch. Two single crochets in the second. Here's the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth. You could use a stitch marker to mark your rounds, but since it's so few stitches, I'm usually just counting in my head. For round three, we'll work a sequence of two single crochets in the first stitch, and then one single crochet in the next and alternate those. So two single crochets in the first 1, 2, one single crochet in the next. This is my second sequence. Oops. Third, we're gonna do this a total of six times, fourth, fifth, and sixth. Your circle should look something like this. And here we're going to slip stitch to the next stitch to join because the head is complete. We're kind of working on the gingerbread man upside down. We're gonna start working on one arm and then we're gonna work on another arm. So for the first arm, we're gonna begin with a chain five 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Skip the first chain from your hook and then work four single crochets evenly in the remaining chains. 2, 3, 4. And then the next free stitch on the head. Single crochet. Okay, don't chain. We're gonna turn, skip the first stitch and then work three single crochets evenly. 1, 2, 3. We will slip stitch into that last stitch, a total of four stitches at the end of row two. And again for row three, don't chain. We'll turn, skip that first stitch and then work three slip stitches evenly, one, one in the next and then one in the next. Then we'll single crochet into the same stitch as the last single crochet from row one, which sounds a little weird, but it's basically joining our arm to the head in that stitch right there. We're going to work across the head and work two more single crochets evenly. So one single crochet in the next one, single crochet in the next. Your first arm is complete. Let's start the second one. It'll be very similar to the first. Chain five, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Skip the first chain from your hook, work four single crochets evenly. 1, 2, 3, and then four. Single crochet into the same stitch on the head as the last single crochet from the previous row. Again, we're joining the arm to the head. You can see there's a single crochet here already in this stitch. And we're gonna work in that same stitch, single crochet. The right side of the head is still facing me for row two. Don't chain but turn. Skip that first stitch, work three single crochets evenly, 1, 2, 3, slip stitch in that last stitch. For row three again, don't chain, turn, skip that first stitch, then work three slip stitches evenly. 1, 2, 3. And to join this arm back onto the head, we're going to work a slip stitch in the next free stitch on the head right here, slip stitch. And you wanna tighten up this stitch so it basically becomes a knot and it doesn't really look like a stitch anymore. That's where my slip stitch is. It's super tiny. Okay, at this point you could break off your yarn to begin the body and the legs. However, I know none of us like to weave in ends, so I'm gonna show you a little trick that I do on this particular project to avoid breaking off the yarn. What we're gonna do is work slip stitches and secretly travel across the part of the project. We're going to flip the project over like this, so the wrong side of the head is facing me. I wanna make sure that my working yarn is coming from the back of the project because we're going to use surface slip stitch, and you need your yarn to come from the back. And I kind of flip my hook here again, the back of the head is facing me, and we're gonna work slip stitches across this arm so we can get to the right spot on the body. My aim is I wanna land on the slip stitch that is right before this single crochet of the body. If you're not familiar with what stitches look like, this could be a little tricky. But here's one

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single crochet, here's one single crochet, and this is the slip stitch that's sort of in the armpit of my gingerbread man. So it's just kind of think about aiming for that like inner armpit area. So I'll insert my hook into the project. My hook is coming up from underneath, yarn over and pull up your loop and pull through. That is one surface slip stitch gonna move across the project by inserting my hook into the next what feels like the next sort of natural available space. Again, yarning over from underneath and pulling through and pulling through that loop and do another one. And here I'm going to be in the stitch that I wanna be in. If your slip stitches are a little tight, you can also use your tapestry needle to loosen them a bit so you can get your hook in a little bit more easily. And this is where I wanna be. And the cool thing is, I'm gonna take my hook out for a second, I'm in the spot that I wanna be in. You can see the slip stitches, but because this is the back of the piece, you cannot really see them on the front. So I think that's a pretty cool trick. Again, if that feels really strange to you and you're like, that's not my favorite, you can always break off and rejoin your yarn at the same spot that I'm at right now. Let's start with row one of the body. We're going to chain one, single crochet in that same stitch as our last slip stitch, and then four more single crochet evenly across 1, 2, 3. And my last and fourth single crochet is in this slip stitch from the other arm. So again, that one might be a little tight, but you can always just wiggle the hook or use your tapestry needle. Your project should look like this. Now we're gonna work on the first leg. Chain six, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. I'm going to skip the first chain from my hook and five single crochet evenly. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. We're going to single crochet two together in the first two stitches of the body, we're working a decrease. So insert your hook into that first available stitch, yarn over and pull through one, insert your hook into the next stitch, yarn over and pull through one, and then yarn over and pull through all three loops on your hook. That's a single crochet two together. Row two, don't chain, much like the arm we're gonna work four single crochets evenly. 1, 2, 3, 4, slip stitch in that last stitch, don't chain. Row three is, turn, skip the first stitch, four slip stitches evenly. 1, 2, 3, and then 4. Again, we're going to work a single crochet two together in the next two stitches. Insert your hook into that next stitch, yarn over, pull through one, insert your hook into the following stitch yarn over, pull through one, and then yarn over and pull through all three loops. For the second leg, chain six, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. Skip the first chain from your hook, work single crochets evenly in the remaining chains, 3, 4, and 5. We're going to make sure this is oriented the correct way. I have one more stitch here along the body. You want to slip stitch into that to join the leg to the body. Don't chain, turn, skip the first stitch, work four single crochets evenly. 1, 2, 3, 4. One slip stitch in the last stitch. For row three, turn, don't chain, skip the first stitch, work your four slip stitches evenly. 1, 2, 3, 4. And then we're gonna join back onto the body. I just go into the next available space, which is right here, slip stitch, and then break off. Our cookie is looking super cute already. Go ahead and weave in your ends and we'll add some decorations tomorrow.

Day 4 - Gingerbread person details

- When it comes to embellishing, any of your appliquÃ©s, you can really use whatever materials you like. You can use beads, sequins, even dimensional fabric paint. I kind of like the idea of sticking to yarn as much as I could. So I'm gonna show you how to put some features on your gingerbread cookie using very simple stitches. I already started stitching on this cookie. I'm gonna show you a little French knot and some back stitch. We'll start with giving him his last button with a French knot. So I have some yarn here on my tapestry needle. I'm gonna pick the spot where I want the knot to go, and I'm gonna come up from the back. If you haven't embroidered on yarn before, it's a little bit more wily than on fabric because everything's kinda moving around. We have more holes in

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the fabric to contend with. So if stuff is looking a little bit topsy-turvy, like I just kinda lean into that as a characteristic of our medium and try not to worry too much about perfection 'cause it will still all look really cute at the end. I'm gonna pull up some yarn. I'm gonna leave enough so I can tie a yarn tail on this other end. Take your needle and the yarn that's coming up close to the fabric here, I'm wrap my yarn around the needle two times, one, two, and I find that it's easier to complete the knot before going back down into the crochet fabric. So I'm gonna use my thumb to press those coils against the needle and push the needle through. Sometimes it's a mystery, like what my French knot looks like, so we'll see. It's a little thick here. So I'm gonna also pull on the back tail to tighten and kind of neaten up the knot, and then I'll take my needle and push it back down through the fabric right next to where the knot is, but not in the exact same spot. Looks like I have some other yarn that's popping up, push that away. It is a little low compared to the other buttons, but the space above it is just a big hole. So that's what I'm talking about when we're sort of working with the fabric that we have. I'm gonna secure this by tying a square knot. So I'll take this short tail, tie it around the long tail, take the short tail, tie it around the long tail, and there's not really an opportunity to weave in ends here because it's a light color on a dark fabric and you really risk having that show through. So I just clip these close knowing that this will probably end up being sewn or glued onto something else that will secure those tails. Gonna use the same yarn to stitch on a mouth. Again, we're working with sort of the fabric that we have. It has holes in it, so sometimes I don't know what the smile isn't going to end up looking like because I'm gonna bring up my needle. You can sort of lay this out and get a preview, like maybe this is my goal. We'll see how that turns out. I'm going to go into the next space here, come up through the space ahead, come back for my back stitch to complete that stitch. Come up forward into the next space and come back to complete the back stitch. It is not bad. Looks pretty good. He looks happy. I'm gonna turn this over and tie a square knot again. I don't pull these too tightly. It could be I'm really afraid of warping in the fabric and pulling it too tight, which I feel like I almost did. You can use your tapestry needle to see, you can loosen up some of the stitches and if you aren't happy with it, you can always take out the knot and loosen it up. But I think with some wiggling around with the needle, it won't look too squished. Trim these ends. I think I still have enough yarn to show you how I like to embellish the arms and the legs. It's a little like zigzag squiggle of icing, and I just think of it as a W to help me sort of visualize where my stitches are going. I'm gonna come up from the back at the edge of the leg here and start angling down into the right. I'm going to come back up here. That does not look like the right spot. I'm gonna go back down. Okay. I actually don't use back stitch for this. It's just easier for my brain to like visualize this W, I'm gonna come up in the center here and make another stitch that angles downward to the right, and I'm gonna come up through this slip stitch and back down to create that first bottom V and then come back up here and the W. But again, you can do this however you prefer. That's a way that my brain can understand how to make that stitch happen. It's not a back stitch, I don't know what you would call that. I don't know if it's just like a running stitch, but again, if you want to but explore more embroidery, definitely check out other classes here on Creativebug. Rebecca Ringquist teaches a lot of wonderful embroidery stitches. There's a whole world of them. I only just showed you two. I do try to tuck these in a little bit. We do have that stitching from the W to at least tuck a tail into if I can. I like to tuck the tails away from the edges of the body just so they don't stick out beyond the edge there. Just trying to make sure you can't see it from the front. I really like the look of this sort of one color decoration. I think it looks really classic, but totally feel free to play with lots and lots of color. I normally will do like one color for the eyes, a color for the mouth, a different color for the buttons, so you have a lot of room to play there.

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You can also put little accessories on these. This is just a length of chains tied into a bow, and that's really easy to sew or glue on. You can change up the facial expressions, add different accessories. There are a million ways to give your cookie a unique personality.

Day 5 - Gingerbread house base
- Your gingerbread people are gonna need someplace to live so we're gonna crochet them a gingerbread house. We're gonna stay in the same color palette as our gingerbread friend. I have my H hook and we're gonna start with a chain three, 1, 2, 3. We're starting at the tip or the point of the roof and working our way down the house. For row one, you'll skip the first two chains and then work two half double crochets into that first chain. So for a half double crochet, you'll yarn over, insert your hook into that chain, yarn over and pull through one, yarn over and pull through all three loops. We need one more. Yarn over, insert your hook into the same chain. Yarn over, pull through one, yarn over and pull through all three. So you should have two stitches. For row two, we'll chain two. This does not count as a stitch in this pattern. And work two half double crochets in each stitch. That's two increases. There's the second half double crochet in the same stitch, and in the next stitch, two again for a total of four half double crochets, starting a little triangle. For rows three and five, you will chain two and turn and work an increase in the first stitch. So one half double crochet, two half double crochets in that first stitch. Then you'll work one half double crochet in each stitch until you have one stitch remaining. And for this row, that's two. And the last stitch another increase. So you'll repeat that for rows four and five. You'll start with an increase, work evenly, and then finish with an increase. Chain two, turn. There's my increase, working evenly and in the last stitch, another increase. This is row five. Increase and then work evenly until one stitch remains, and then an increase. At the end of row five you should have ten stitches across. Row six is basically the same with one important difference. We're gonna start with a chain three instead of a chain two. This will make the corner of this triangle a little bit pointier. Work two half double crochets in the first stitch, working evenly across until one stitch remains and then working our increase. This is my last stitch. So, 1 and 2. This is what the triangle looks like so far. This triangle is our roof. And now we're gonna start working on the walls of the house. For row seven, you're gonna chain one and turn slip stitch into the first stitch. Don't pull too tightly. Slip stitch into the next stitch. And in the same stitch you'll work a chain two and your first half double crochet. So you're getting a little sort of lip of the corner of that triangle for your roof. Just it's a little extra detail I think that gives your house a little bit more shape. And then half double crochet evenly until one stitch remains. So here's the shaping that's happening. We're gonna start continuing to work even rows for the rest of this appliquÃ©. So rows 8 through 11 will all be the same. It's chain two, turn and work half double crochets evenly across. There's the last stitch, you can break off. Weave in these ends. It already looks super sweet to me. And tomorrow we're going to add decorations.

Day 6 - Gingerbread house details
- For the details on my gingerbread house, I'm gonna use a combination of crochet and embroidery. And I'm gonna start with the snowy roof. Gonna use my cream color, you can use any color that you like. And we're gonna work along this top edge of the roof here. And oftentimes when I want my crochet to look like it's really coming to the edge of my project here and not starting in the middle of it, I like to put my slip knot onto the hook first and then join to the project and kind of take a bite out of the project with my first joining stitch, and it'll kind of wrap the stitch around the edge of my project. I'm gonna insert my hook into this corner here and yarn over for the slip stitch. You can see

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it just brings that white yarn so close to that corner and you don't really get that effect if you just insert your hook and then bring in the yarn. It's just a tiny little detail that I like. For the roof, we're gonna alternate a single crochet, so just take a bite out of the house here, just dip your hook in. Single crochet not too tightly, and sort of the bigger bite you take, the longer your stitch is gonna be and the longer this sort of icicle shape will turn out. So that is totally up to you and your design preference. But I'm gonna space them out with a chain one so they're not all so squished together. And then I'm gonna see where I wanna take my next bite out of the roof. I'm gonna go here. Mine aren't too big of bites. Single crochet, chain one. I'm gonna keep these stitches even if you can, chain one, maybe I'll take my bite here. Single crochet, chain one. If this is starting to ruffle, you need to space apart your single crochets more. If your roof is starting to kind of pinch in, then you need to add more single crochets. So it's kind of an intuitive thing. There's no exact place to put your hook. Just try to make everything feel nice and uniform. Chain one, I'm close to the top corner here, I guess the top point. And that's where you wanna work, three single crochets so you can get around that corner, like so. Then I'm gonna continue my chain one and single crochet, I'll put that one here. Chain one, single crochet, chain one, single crochet, all the way to the next corner. And after my last single crochet, I'm gonna work a slip stitch to join in this corner. Let's take a look. If you like the way it looks, you can go ahead and break off. If you wanna redo any stitches, now is the time to do so. I'm gonna break off and then you can weave in those ends. I just love how this single crochet is a super easy stitch, but then you get this really neat sort of icicle pattern. I'm gonna switch over to this more chocolatey sample because I think it's sort of easier to demonstrate and to see all our embellishments. I started with a window here in surface slip stitch and I'm gonna do the second window over here. Try to figure out where to start my next window, might start...deciding between this spot and this spot. It's 1, 2, 3. Hmm. Let's try here. Put this slip knot on my hook. Make sure my working yarn is coming from the back of the project. Pull through. We did a little bit of surface slip stitch earlier, but as a reminder, insert your hook to the back of the project, yarn over, and then pull through the project and through your loop for that first visible chain on the surface of your project. And then go into the next space, work another slip stitch, and then in the next space. It might be a little far over, but let's just continue and see. I'm gonna start working vertically now. And sometimes it's difficult to decide where to put your hook, but just do your best, see what happens. Here's one, trying to aim it upward. Here's two. This is definitely more of an art than a science here, embellishing the surface slip stitch on half double crochet stitches, and go back horizontally, 1, 2, 3. Let's see. Take a look. Not bad, not bad. I'm gonna come back down. Your windows can be any size. You can have one big window or each of these two windows can be bigger or smaller than the ones I'm doing, but I'm going for three slip stitches horizontally and two slips stitches vertically. Take a step back, look at that. Corners will be difficult. It's just the nature of the slip stitch. So you can kind of use your tapestry needle to see if you can manipulate the stitches a bit more. It looks like I started working a little tightly in this corner, which is why things are getting a little squished. Sometimes you can pop them into place. Another thing you can do is during the blocking process, you can pin this out and the blocking will help reshape some of your embroidery a little bit. But it is a good idea to do your best in the stitching process. So to finish this, I'm going to break off my yarn and pull this tail to the surface. It's just I don't wanna make one more slip stitch, so I'm just gonna pop the yarn out and finish with the tapestry needle. And I'll insert this into that first slip stitch that I made and then can weave in. Or you can also use this tail to make that little cross for your window panes. And this is not looking super symmetrical, but I think I could fix it in the blocking. This is really straightforward. I'll just make a little t shape. Tie a knot to secure and then weave in your

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ends. You could also use surface slip stitch to design your door. Sometimes I like a contrasting color or a little popup dimension. So I'm gonna show you how to crochet a door. I'm gonna keep working in cream. And what you wanna do is pull out about 12 inches of yarn. This is for sewing the door on later. And then you'll begin with a chain five, 1, oops, 2, 3, 4, 5. For row one, you'll skip the first chain and then work four single crochets evenly in the remaining chains. So that's four stitches for row one and for rows two through four, you'll chain one, turn, and work your single crochets evenly across. There are no increases or decreases. You're just making a single crochet rectangle. Here's row three and row four. If you want your door to be a rectangle, I would crochet two more rows of single crochet. However, I want my door to have a rounded top, so I'm going to crochet that a little differently. My row five is going to be a chain one and a turn. You'll skip the first stitch, and in the second stitch you'll work one half double crochet, and then a double crochet in the same stitch. In the next stitch, we'll do the opposite. One double crochet and a half double crochet in the same stitch. We will finish with a slip stitch in that last stitch. And there's that little rounded top for the door. We'll break off and you can weave in the short end, and we'll keep this long end for sewing Changing directions to lock that tail in. You can use whatever sewing method you prefer. Sometimes I just do a top stitch. You could also do a whip stitch. I think I'm going to maybe do a combo of both. We'll see. It's whatever feels comfy to you. And whatever you like the look of and place this in the center, you can use a pin if you like. I usually just use my hands and we'll go ahead and seam this on. Just gonna top stitch here, just going in and out of the appliquÃ© that is on top of my other appliquÃ©. It could also be fun to do this sewing in a contrasting color and see what that looks like. I can always think of different ways of making your seaming almost part of your embellishment, but for this, I'm kind of looking for more of a seamless aesthetic. Sometimes I don't even seam the bottom. It's not gonna make a difference if you do or not. So I'm just gonna pop this to the back of the project and then tie a knot and weave in this end. And if things are looking a little bit askew, you can always adjust that in the blocking process. I have a couple other little houses to show you. This one has a slip stitch door and also a slip stitch on the roof. And I added some little French knots. I just imagine there are little gum drops or little candies. Here is one with a wreath. This little wreath pattern is in your PDF as well. And you could take your gingerbread house into all kinds of directions. You can make a haunted house. And the one that I made is from Slavic folklore. I've always been obsessed with the fairytale of Baba Yaga. She was a witch who had a house that had chicken feet. So I threw some feet on here and a little chimney and embroidered the details. And it's just an example of letting your imagination run completely wild and thinking about what kind of crochet house you'd like to design.

Day 7 - Hot cocoa

- Let's whip up a little mug of hot cocoa. We're gonna start with the hot cocoa section here. Even though my sample isn't dark brown, I'm gonna work in our light brown so it's easier for you to see the stitches. We're gonna start with our slip knot and then a chain ten 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10. I'm gonna call this round one. We're gonna skip the first chain, work one slip stitch. Don't work two tightly on these slip stitches, two single crochets evenly, one single crochet, and the next chain, single crochet. And then three half double crochets evenly. One half double, two half doubles, three, get that third one. Then back to two single crochets, one in the next stitch, one in the following. And in the last chain, a slip stitch. And not too tightly, we're gonna need to work in these slip stitches later. Now we'll work on the other side of the foundation chain. We're gonna do the exact mirror image. So we'll start with a slip stitch again, two single crochets, three half double crochets, two

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single crochets. And in the last chain, a slip stitch. I'm gonna slip stitch to the first slip stitch to join my round. But in working this slip stitch, I'm going to break off my hot cocoa color and join my mug color. So I'll insert into that first slip stitch, break off, and then bring in the new color on that final pull through. You should have 18 stitches in round one. It looks a little asymmetrical, I think, just 'cause I was scrunching my stitches a bit as I was working. But you can see it sort of looks like a little, it's kinda like an elongated eye or an almond shape. We will start working in rows now. So for row one, chain one, don't turn, I still have the right side of my stitches facing me. And single crochet in the same stitch for our first stitch of the row. And then eight single crochets evenly across. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and then 8. So we'll have nine total single crochets in row one. Rows two through six are the same. We'll chain two, turn, we'll start with the decrease. This is to help with shaping of the mug. So a half double crochet two together, yarn over, insert your hook into that first single crochet, yarn over, and pull through one, yarn over again. Insert your hook into the next stitch. Yarn over and pull through one. And then yarn over and pull through all five loops on your hook. That's half double crochet two together. In the following stitch, you'll work an increase, two half double crochets, 1, 2, and then three half double crochets evenly. 1, 2, 3. We'll work our increase again, two half double crochets in the next stitch. And then in the last two stitches that half double crochet two together, turnover, insert, yarn over, pull through one, yarn over, insert, yarn over, pull through one, yarn over and pull through all five loops. The reason we're doing that is because I don't want this to just be a straight kind of 90 degree rectangle. I'm trying to maintain the curvature that the hot cocoa section has. So that's why we work these decreases and these increases. It's to help maintain a curve. Keep repeating row two all the way through row six. I finished row six on this sample. I have the dark hot cocoa here. And the next step is to work sort of a border around the whole appliquÃ©. We're gonna do that in single crochet. Let's chain one and turn. We're gonna maintain that decrease increase motif here at the bottom. We're going to work a single crochet two together. So insert your hook yarn over, pull through one, insert your hook into the next stitch. Yarn over, pull through one, yarn over and pull through all three loops. And then two single crochets in the next stitch. 1, 2. Three single crochets evenly, 1, 2, and 3. Two single crochets in the next stitch. And in the last two stitches of the row, single crochet two together. Now we'll work along the side of the mug. Let's work seven more single crochets evenly until we have one more stitch to work in the mug color. There isn't an exact spot to put your hook, so you kind of wanna do it intuitively, kind of figure out where your single crochets could go that will make all your stitches look even. And there are times that I take my stitches out, like I feel like that's leaving a really big gap in my appliquÃ©. So I might try to put my hook in a different spot. It's tough because this is a chain right here. We'll go in the chain. Go 1, 2, 3, 4. - It's a little gappy. 5, 6, 7. - I'm gonna make the last stitch in this pink color. A half double crochet just because you can see it kind of like dips downward. And I kind of wanna fill that back up with a bigger stitch. So I'm gonna do a half double crochet here. Before we start working in the hot cocoa section, I'm gonna put a stitch marker, not into the half double crochet we just made, but into the single crochet before it. This is so we'll know where to put our handle later for the mug. Now working in the very first hot cocoa stitch, we're gonna work two single crochets, 1, 2, two single crochets again in the next stitch. 1, 2, five single crochets evenly across the top. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and then two single crochets in the next stitch. Two single crochets in the following stitch. Now we're at the other side of the mug. Gonna work that half double crochet again just to even out the shape. It's a little squishy in here. I kind of have to decide where to put my hook. We'll go here and that very first sort of pink colored stitch. And then we're gonna work eight single crochets evenly to the end of this edge. So - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, oops, - 6, 7, and 8. And then we will slip stitch to the first single crochet

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of the round to join. You can break this off and weave in all your ends. Turn your mug over so that the wrong side of the round that you just worked is facing you. We'll rejoin our mug color into the stitch where we placed the stitch marker. And then chain seven 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. You will skip three stitches on the mug, 1, 2, 3, and then slip stitch in the next, and then slip stitch in the following. For row two, you'll turn but you won't chain, those slip stitches act as your turning chain, and then you'll work ten single crochets into this big loop. - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, - And then 10. And to join, we will slip stitch onto the next stitch on the mug, which is here. Break off. And after you weave in your ends, your mug is gonna look like this. So cute. You can add little french knot marshmallows. Sometimes I use very tiny pompoms. And I have a sample here of a mug that is striped. And if you like stripes, I just alternated in that row two through six section between a white and a green. You could also appliquÃ© or embroider any designs you want on your mug.

Day 8 - Christmas tree
- We're going to transition away from the sweet treats and start working on some holiday greenery, beginning with an evergreen tree. We'll begin with a green and the base shape of our tree is a triangle. So we'll begin with a chain two, 1, 2, and for row one you'll skip the first chain and work one single crochet. For row two, we'll chain one and turn and work two single crochets in that stitch, 1, 2. For row three, chain one and turn. You'll work two single crochets in the first stitch. One single crochet in the next. For row four, chain one, turn and single crochet evenly across, no increases, that's three stitches. For row five, chain one, turn. We'll start with two single crochets evenly. So one single crochet in this stitch, one single crochet in the next, and then your increase in the last stitch. So two single crochets for a total of four stitches. For row six, we'll chain one, turn, no increases here, just four single crochets evenly across 2, 3, and then 4. For row seven, chain one, turn, we'll increase again, two single crochets in the first stitch, and then three single crochets evenly. 1, 2, 3. That's a total of five stitches. And then for row eight, chain one and turn, single crochet evenly across. So you'll see we're alternating an increase row with an even row. So that last stitch is a little tight. Sometimes I use my pointer finger to pull the loop over my hook. For row nine, we'll chain one and turn. This is four single crochets evenly. 1, 2, 3, and 4. And the last stitch we'll work two single crochets. You should have a total of six stitches. For row ten, chain one, turn, single crochet evenly across. Row eleven is chain one and turn, your increase here, two single crochets in the first stitch, and then one single crochet in each remaining stitch. At the end of this row, you should have seven stitches. Let's pause and take a look at our triangle. You may have noticed that I alternate which side of the triangle I put the increases on, and that's so I can have an angle on both sides of the shape. If I had all of the increases on one side only, you'd have one angle and one straight. The next step is making the branches on our tree with even tinier triangles. Your stitches are going to go along the edge of the rows here and we'll begin round one with a chain two and a half double crochet into the side of that last single crochet we worked. That's half double. If you just get one loop of that single crochet, that's totally fine. And then a single crochet in the next space and then a slip stitch into the next. We're now working in the bracketed portion of the pattern. So one more slip stitch, a chain two and a half double crochet in that same space, single crochet in the next, slip stitch in the next. And we're gonna repeat that bracketed portion one more time 'cause that bracketed portion represents this little triangular shape. Slip stitch in the next, chain two, half double crochet in the same stitch, single crochet in the next space, slip stitch in the next space. There's another little triangle. The last triangle is worked a little bit differently because we're approaching the tippy top of the tree here. So we'll slip stitch in the next, chain two, half double

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crochet in the same stitch. And then in the next and sort of last space before this very top area, we'll work a half double crochet instead of a single crochet. And then in the top here, this is the bottom of our foundation chain, you're gonna work three half double crochets to turn that corner. 1, 2, 3. Next we're gonna do basically the mirror image of this side of branches on this side of the tree. So it'll look a little bit different. In the next stitch, work half double crochet. And in the next space, again, half double crochet, chain two, slip stitch in the same stitch as the half double crochet. Now working in the next bracketed portion, slip stitch in the next, single crochet in the next, and then half double crochet in the next, chain two, slip stitch in the same stitch as the half double crochet. Going to repeat the bracketed portion two more times. Slip stitch in the next single crochet in the next. Half double crochet in the next. Chain two, slip stitch in the same stitch as the half double crochet. Do that one more time. Slip stitch in the next, single crochet in the next. And in this very last space, it's kind of hard to see. This is the first single crochet of the triangle, like the bottom edge of the triangle. And the side of that stitch is this loop. And we kind of wanna work into this tiny little loop. So it's really handy to use your tapestry needle to find the side of that stitch. So this is the half double crochet, chain two, slip stitch in the same stitch and break off. Let's take a look. This appliquÃ© will really benefit from some good blocking. So if it looks a little crinkly and wrinkly, that's totally normal. Since we work in single crochet, objects tend to curl a little bit more. So if it's not laying super flat, we can take care of that in the blocking process. Let's finish by giving our tree a trunk. I'm gonna keep the tree upside down and I'm joining the yarn into the third stitch of the triangle. So because we worked in the side of this first single crochet, it's a little squished, so don't forget to count that. So 1, 2, and then 3. We're gonna join our yarn into that stitch. I'm gonna start with a chain two, half double crochet in the same stitch, and then two half double crochets evenly. 1, 2. And you could break off here if you wanted to, but because much like the candy cane, I feel like this, this edge is a lot straighter than this edge, which has a little bit of a curvature. I'm gonna add a couple more stitches to sort of mimic this side. I'm gonna chain three, 1, 2, 3, slip stitch to the same stitch as my last half double crochet and break off. And when you've finished weaving your ends, your little tree's gonna look like this. It's so cute. This one has also already been blocked already, so you can see it's, it feels nice and flat and ready to go on whatever project you want to put it on. I'm gonna show you some other little samples of trees 'cause I just think they're so adorable. This is a shorter tree. It can be pretty easy to change the height and size of the trees depending on how many rows of the triangle you work. So this one has fewer rows. This one, let's see, this one's the same. Let me put these in height order...doot, doot, doot. These two are the same height. This one has some little french knot ornaments and this one is extra tall. So you have all the tools that you need to make your very own forest.

Day 9 - Holiday wreath

- Our next piece of greenery is a wreath. We're gonna give it a really cute, tiny scalloped edge and a little bow on top. With your main color, you'll start with a chain of 14. 5 00:00:14,310 --> 00:00:14,400 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14. And smooth it out, make sure there aren't any twists in the chain because you're going to slip stitch to the first chain to form a loop. For round one, we'll chain two this does not count as a stitch. And then work 24 double crochets into this big loop. There's 1, 2, 3, 4...23, and 24. I'm gonna count that one more time before I join. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 - 1, 2, 3, 4. Great. And then we'll slip stitch to the top of the first double crochet to join the round. I like to make sure that the double crochets are distributed somewhat evenly around the wreath. This is more aesthetic. There's nothing like technically required

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for this, but I just like to make sure that everything looks nice and even. Okay. For round two, we're gonna work a tiny scallop. You don't need to begin the round with a chain. You can just start working the first half double crochet. So we'll work a half double crochet into the next stitch, and then another half double crochet into the same. Slip stitch into the next stitch. This is what you'll repeat all the way around: Two half double crochets in one stitch and a slip stitch in the next. Two half double crochets, and then a slip stitch in the next. Two half double crochets and then a slip stitch in the next. My last slip stitch will be into this joining stitch from round one, which is a little tiny, but we'll make it work. You can break off and you can weave in those ends. I like to weave the ends in on this before I add the bow. It just makes the sewing a little less fussy because I'll have fewer yarn tails hanging off of my project. For the bow, you could also use a cute piece of ribbon or a chunky piece of yarn. You could work a length of chains and tie them in a bow. But for my wreath, I'm going to work a bow in slip stitches to give it a little more bulk. You'll start with a chain 25, which I've already worked in this red yarn. It's 25 chains, and we'll skip the first chain from the hook and then work a slip stitch. But we're gonna make sure we pick up two loops of each chain and not just one. There's the slip stitch and the next chain, two loops of the chain and not just one. And that just makes sure that our slip stitch is not so much flat, but a little bit rounder. This is an aesthetic preference for me, and you can play around with what you like the look of best. So we'll just work one slip stitch in each chain all the way down. I'm gonna break off after I finish all my slip stitches. Pull that through. You could weave these ends in now, I'm gonna save that for later. And since this is a little bit more bulky, I don't just tie this in a bow. I have this sort of folding process that I do. So it's very handy to have this in a video so you can see what happens. I'm gonna cross one end over the other, makes a little loop-de-loop. So imagine these will be the tails of my bow, and then I bring the center of the loop down to where that intersection happens. Kind of pinch everything together. This is essentially the shape of our bow and how we're gonna secure it is with a little piece of yarn, which you should probably prep beforehand. I'm gonna have to refold that, but that's okay. Gonna thread my yarn through the tapestry needle, so I have it ready to go. We'll fold this again, tails crossing, midpoint meeting the cross, and gonna pass my needle through trying to capture all of those layers from the back to the front. We'll pass another stitch next to that. Trying to go through, let's see, it's three layers of crochet. Take a look, looks pretty good. And then I will wrap a yarn maybe three or four times. 1, 2, 3. Let's take a look and then I'll secure the yarn on the back. There are a lot of wraps back here, so you don't necessarily need to tie a knot. I just kind of pass this back and forth a couple times, looping over at least one piece of yarn, like that, and then I'll use these tails to secure the bow to the wreath. So I still have my needle threaded, and I'll pass it through the wreath. I'll take the other yarn tail, and then I'll insert the needle right next to the first yarn tail, but not in the same stitch or the same space. You can turn this to the back. Tie a knot. And this is pretty secure, but if you're worried that the bows are a little floppy, I also pop a little tacking stitch to secure the ears of the bow to the wreath. So I put my finger where I want that tacking stitch to go, and I'll travel this yarn tail inside the wreath a little bit and pop it back out. And then go one stitch over, or just like one piece of yarn over, and go back to the back of the wreath and then tie a knot and secure. So it's just one more point of contact for the bow. And you can repeat that for the other ear of the bow. Weave this in a little bit when everything is tacked down and all your ends are woven in, your wreaths will look like this. And then you can decorate with french knots, pompoms, or beads.

Day 10 - Holly sprig

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- While holly seems like a very traditional and popular image of the holidays, I don't have a really nostalgic connection to it. However, after crocheting one sprig, I could not stop and I've been sticking them all over everything. For this appliquÃ©, I'm switching to a smaller hook, this is my G hook, just so my leaves are tinier. You can also stick with your H hook if you like. I'm gonna use this sort of lighter, warmer green so you can see the stitches better. We'll begin one leaf with a chain ten 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. For round one, we'll skip the first chain from the hook and then work eight single crochets evenly. 15 00:00:49,650 --> 00:00:49,890 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. You should have one more chain left. And in that chain we're going to work one single crochet a chain, and don't chain too tightly because you're going to have to work a stitch in that later, chain one, and then another single crochet all in that same chain. Now you'll be working on the other side of the foundation chain and you'll work again eight single crochets evenly across. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. We're going to slip stitch to the first single crochet of the round to join. And at the end of round one, you should have 19 stitches. For round two, we're gonna start creating the little spiky bits of the holly leaf. We'll chain one ,single crochet in the same stitch, slip stitch into the next stitch. Here's our first spiky bit, and the next stitch will work single crochet. A picot, which is like a little bump, often made with a single crochet or a slip stitch. We're going to chain two for our picot, skip the first chain from the hook and then single crochet into that second chain, or I guess it's the first chain you made, it's the second chain from your hook. And then back in that same stitch, you'll work a single crochet. So in one stitch you have single crochet, picot, single crochet. We're gonna skip the next stitch and then work two slip stitches in a row. So one slip stitch here, and in the next stitch, another slip stitch. We're gonna start our second pointy leaf bit. I don't know what the plant term for that would be. We're gonna work in the next stitch, single crochet, picot, that's chain two, skip one chain, work single crochet in the next and in the same stitch, single crochet again. Skip the next stitch and then slip stitch. We are at the very tippy top of the leaf. And in that chain one you worked in the previous round, we'll work single crochet, picot, chain two, skip one, single crochet, and in the same stitch, one more single crochet. Oops, it's a little tiny 'cause it is that little chain one. There we go, whoop. Okay, and then we'll skip the next stitch and then slip stitch. We're now on the other side of the leaf and we're gonna work the mirror image of the first side. In the next stitch, single crochet, picot, single crochet in the same stitch, work two slip stitches evenly so in the next stitch slip stitch and the next stitch slip stitch, we're gonna skip the next stitch. And then in the following, stitch, single crochet, picot, single crochet in the same stitch. Slip stitch in the next stitch, single crochet in the following stitch and then we'll slip stitch to the very first single crochet to join. It seems like a little bit of a leap. It's way over here, but that is totally normal. It's fine, it'll still look good, don't worry about it. Okay, this is what our leaf looks like. It's already really cute. It already looks like a holly leaf, but I'm gonna continue and make a stem. So for the stem, we'll chain five 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. You'll skip the first chain and then work slip stitches in each of the remaining chains. And I like to work through two loops of each chain for my slip stitch. There's 1 and then 2, and then 3 and 4. And we'll slip stitch back into the same stitch to join that stem to the leaf. This little doodad. You could also stop here, but I'm gonna continue and make sort of a center vein line. It's subtle, but I think it adds a nice detail. And we're doing that with surface slip stitch. So I'll dive my hook into the leaf, kind of close to where my last slip stitch was. I'm going to yarn over underneath the leaf, pull through the project and pull through my loop. And you're gonna follow these spaces that are in your foundation chain. They're a really perfect guide for this vein. So in the next space here, another surface slip stitch, you'll just keep going down the line here in these little spaces, try to keep your stitches as uniform as possible by keeping an even tension with each pull through and go all the way to the top and

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break off. You want to make a second leaf. And then I'm gonna show you how to make the holly berries. We're going to use one of my favorite stitches, the bobble. We'll begin with the chain three. 1, 2, 3. And this is where the bobble is gonna happen. So we'll do that in the first chain that you made. We'll yarn over, insert the hook into the chain, yarn over, and pull through one, yarn over and pull through two. That's a partial double crochet. We're not gonna complete it yet. We're gonna work three more partial double crochets. Yarn over, insert your hook into the same stitch. Yarn over, pull through one, yarn over, pull through two. I'm gonna do that again. Yarn over. Insert my hook. Yarn over. Pull through one, yarn over, pull through two. And then one more time. Yarn over and insert to the same chain. Yarn over and pull through one yarn over and pull through two. And see I have 1, 2, 3, 4 partial double crochets, the other loop is from my chain. Then you'll yarn over and pull through all the loops on your hook. That's one bobble. And then to sort of close up the bobble and make it rounder like a berry will slip stitch into that same chain, like this. We're gonna do that two more times for a total of three berries. So chain three, 1, 2, 3. Work the bobble in that third chain from your hook. There's one partial double crochet, 2, 3, 4. Yarn over and pull through all the loops on your hook. And then slip stitch into the same chain. One more time. Chain three bobble and the third chain from your hook. 1, 2, 3, 4. Yarn over and pull through all the loops. Slip stitch into the same chain. I break off leaving a little extra yarn for sewing this onto the leaves. Here's the little cluster that we just made. They're really dainty. It's super cute. I like to have the wrong side of the stitch showing. That's sort of what naturally happens when we create the bobble. We're gonna take the two leaves we made. So let's just assume that I've woven those tails in and place one on top of the other. I like to do it at a little angle. You could also do a third leaf if you like, but I generally just use two. And then you would take your berries and decide where those go. And you can use the tails of the berries to sew everything together. And then you can knot at the back to secure, sewing is a very straightforward for that. And then your little holly sprig will look like this. So cute. Also, I have an example of a sprig using an H hook. So you can see how switching up the size of your hook, but even using the exact same yarn can alter the size of your sprigs.

Day 11 - Toadstool

- I'm one of those people who has multiple Christmas trees up every year, and I have one tree entirely dedicated to mushroom ornaments. I had no idea what the connection was between toadstools and the holidays until I read somewhere that the red and white of the toadstool at the base of the tree is where we get that red and white color combo for like presents at the base of a Christmas tree. So I don't know if that's true, but I like kind of making that connection between gifting and toadstools. And our 2D appliquÃ© mushroom is just as magical as a real one. We'll start with the mushroom cap. So grab whatever color you prefer. I'm going to use red and we'll begin with chain two 1, 2. For row one, you'll skip the first chain and work three single crochets into the next chain. There's 1, 2, and then 3. For row two, we'll chain one and turn you'll work two single crochets in this first stitch, 1, 2, and two single crochets in the two following stitches. Last one, 1, 2. So at the end of row two, you should have six single crochets. For a row three, we'll chain one and turn and work two single crochets in the first stitch. Four single crochets evenly, 1, 2, 3, 4. And in the last stitch we'll work two single crochets again. 1 and then 2 in the same stitch. This is a total of eight single crochets, kind of looking like a funny curved triangle at this point. For row four and six, you'll chain one and turn and single crochet evenly across. No more increasing. That's eight single crochets. Row five, same thing. And then row six again, chain one turn and eight single crochets evenly. Turn this the right way for our mushroom. Sort of looks like an umbrella. What we're gonna

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do now is work a single crochet border around the sides and the top. You don't actually need to follow any particular pattern for this. You just wanna work as evenly as possible around. So don't turn your work. I'm gonna start single crocheting, sort of spacing them out as evenly as I can. If your cap starts feeling like it's getting a little squished, you want to work a couple more increases. So for here I feel like I want to work another single crochet in the same space. Just use your best judgment. Again, the exact stitch count doesn't really matter. You just want a border all the way around and to make sure that your cap stays flat. Across the top, generally, I work a lot of increases just to get around the curve. I work another increase here, and this does mean that maybe your stitch count on this border is different from mushroom to mushroom and it might change the shape a little bit, but I like when they have kind of their own unique shapes. It'll be very subtle, but I think it kinda adds to that organic feel. So that's why I did not write a pattern for these. I think it's fun sometimes just to wing it when you get all the way around and do one more. I think more is better than less for keeping the shape flat. We're going to slip stitch to the first single crochet to join. Break off, leaving about 12 inches of yarn, we'll use that for sewing later and to keep things tidy, go ahead and weave in your beginning yarn tail. Okay, put this aside for now while we work on the stem. Take your stem color, I'm using cream and begin with a chain nine, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. Skip the first chain from your hook and we'll begin working five half double crochets evenly. So there's one half double 2, 3, 4, and five. Then we'll work two double crochets, 1, 2. In last chain, We're going to work a bunch of stitches. The first one is a half treble and I'm gonna show you how to work that. You'll yarn over two times 1, 2, insert your hook into that last chain, yarn over and pull through one, yarn over and pull through two, yarn over and pull through all three loops on your hook. We'll work one more half treble here. Yarn over twice, insert into the same chain. Yarn over and pull through one, Yarn over and pull through two, yarn over and pull through three. still working in that same chain. Three half double crochets. 1, 2, 3, and then two half trebles, again, this is all in the same chain. This is forming the base of our mushroom stem. You're now working in the other side of the foundation chain. You'll work two double crochets evenly. Here's 1 and 2, and then five half double crochets, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. Let's break off. Here's what the stem looks like. I'm going to weave in these ends before I seam in the mushroom together. It's just so everything's nice and tidy. If there's a big hole here from all those stitches we worked in the last chain, you can also use the tail weaving moment to kind of cinch up that hole. I Get my cap and thread my needle. The cool thing about this cap is you can decide how long you want it to be. It can be this long, it can be this short. It's up to whatever you like best. I kind of go somewhere in between. I like using the red yarn to sew because we do need to sew all the way around the top of the stem here. And if there's any show through to the front, it'll be the same color. If you used the cream color, you might see some cream stitching popping out. You can use a pin here. Also, what we're gonna have to do is weave this tail through a couple stitches just to get it into the right spot. That's the one downside of using this tail. But I like using tails when I can for seaming because then I don't have to join a new piece of yarn and weave in more tails. So for the front here, I'm just going to use, I guess you would call this a stab stitch or just sort of an up and down running stitch. You can use whatever seaming you prefer. I find this the most invisible, and as we pop through the back here, I flip it over so I can see what I'm doing. And then what's easiest for me is a whip stitch on the back, just picking up one tiny piece of the red yarn and then working through the stem stitches. And you can tie this off and weave your end. And for the little dots on the mushroom, you don't have to put dots. I think they're fun. You can use french knots the way I did here. Sequins are also really fun. Pompoms are always a good idea. These will be a super cute addition to my mushroom tree.

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Day 12 - String lights single bulb
- A few years ago I purchased Tru-Tone lights for my tree. They have bigger bulbs and have that warm vintage glow. And the Tru-Tones are the inspiration for our string lights appliquÃ©. Pick a color for your bulb. I'm going to use this sort of warm, golden yellow orange color. You can begin with magic circle or a chain three and a slip stitch to the first chain. For round one, chain one and work six single crochets into your ring. ...3, 4, 5, 6. Don't join this round. For round two, we'll work two single crochets in each stitch. 1 and 2, 3 and 4, 5 and 6, 7 and 8, 9 and 10, 11 and 12. Then slip stitch to the next stitch to join. You wanna make sure that the slip stitch is not too tight. It should just cover the stitch you're working into, kind of replacing it, like so. For row one, we're gonna start building the point of the bulb in this direction in rows. Don't turn, we'll chain one single crochet into the next stitch, and then three more single crochets evenly. 1, 2, 3, a total of four single crochets. For row two, we'll chain one and turn and start decreasing. We'll start with single crochet two together, so insert your hook into the first stitch, yarn over, pull through one, insert your hook into the following stitch, yarn over, pull through one, and then yarn over and pull through all three loops. You should have two stitches remaining. We're gonna work one single crochet in each of them, 1 and 2. At the end of row two, you should have three stitches. For row three, we'll chain one and turn, work a single crochet two together one more time. And in the remaining stitch, one single crochet, so that's two stitches. For row four, chain one and turn. There are only two stitches remaining, so we'll work one single crochet two together. This is the shape we have so far. It's kind of like a, a blobby teardrop. Now going to work around the shape and it'll sort of round off the pointy edges. Make it look a little bit more like our bulb. So I don't turn my work. I'm gonna single crochet into the same stitch and then two single crochets evenly into the sides of these rows. So 1 and then 2. In the side of row one, I'm going to work a half double crochet. It's just because of the curvature of this circle. I wanna kind of fill in the dip that's made by the circle kind of curving downward. So that's why we work a taller stitch. This stitch is very tiny. Use your fingers to pull the loop over your hook. Here's my half double crochet. Now I'm working into the stitches of the circle. We're gonna work two single crochets in the first stitch, 1, 2, and then one single crochet in the next. We'll repeat that. Two single crochets in the next stitch. One single crochet in the following. We're gonna put a stitch marker in the single crochet I just made. This is gonna help us place the cap of the light or the cap of the bulb later. And then two more times, we'll repeat two single crochets in the next. One single crochet in the following. Two single crochets in the next, one single crochet in the following. And work that half double crochet. And now working in the sides of the rows again, three single crochets evenly. 88 00:05:03,670 --> 00:05:04,120 1, 2, 3. And then to join, we'll slip stitch to that single crochet two together from row four. It's basically just the next stitch in the round. We'll break off. This is what it looks like. You could weave in the ends now, I'm gonna go ahead and work on the cap of the light. And I would say these are generally either a dark green or a black. But again, you can pick whatever color you like. I'm going to make sure that the right side of round three is still facing me, the round we just made. And I'll join where that stitch marker is. Put in my slip knot. To start the cap, we're gonna chain two half crochet in the same stitch, and then two half double crochets evenly. You could break off there, but once again, to round off this edge, I like to work a chain three and slip stitch to the same stitch. I use that trick a lot in this class. We will break off. You can remove the stitch marker and weave in all your ends. And your bulbs will look like this. I would suggest you make a few of them and then tomorrow we'll string them together.

Day 13 - Strand of string lights

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- You can use any method or material you prefer to string your lights together, but I'm gonna show you how I use crocheted chains. Use the same color yarn as your caps. You could use a different color if you like, but I like them to match. I'm moving to my smaller hook, my G hook, so that my chains will be nice and tight and neat. I start with making a hanging loop. This part is optional, but I think it looks really cute. This is for hanging onto your tree or maybe the nail or push pin that's on your mantle, wherever you're hanging these. And I'm gonna start with a chain eighteen 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18. The exact number of chains throughout this stringing process is not important. You can also make up however many number of chains you prefer. This is just the length that I liked the look of and you wanna write down how many chains because you want them to be consistent. So my loop is 18 chains. I'm going to slip stitch to the first chain. It's really tiny. And then this will be my hanging loop, this little loop here. And now I'm gonna create a length of chains to get me to my first bulb. And for me that'll be chain twenty, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. I'll take my first bulb. I'm gonna look for the center of my cap and I will place a slip stitch. Don't pull too tightly, you don't wanna warp the shape of the cap. And that just joins your light onto this chain. In between the bulbs, I like the look of fifteen chains. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15. Grab the next bulb, dive into the center slip stitch loosely, and then another fifteen 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15. And then you would join your next bulb and so on. You can have as many bulbs as you like. I have a sample here where I've strung together five bulbs and I'm gonna show you how to finish. After my last bulb, I worked twenty chains. That's to mirror the 20 chains in front of the first bulb over here. And then I'm going to make another hanging loop. I'm gonna chain 18 for my loop, but first I'm going to use a stitch marker so I know where to slip, stitch back into, and then chain eighteen 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 4, 0, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and come back to where my marker is. That was right before the first chain that I made. So I'm gonna slip stitch to the chain after it. It's such a tiny distance, like the exact perfect number isn't necessary to find, but like to get as close as I can break off, you can remove the marker and then weave in your ends. Ta- Da! You can use this method actually to string any of your holiday appliquÃ©s.

Day 14 - Snowflake

- I feel like crocheted snowflakes are one of those crafts that feels like a classic "granny craft". And although I did not have a grandmother who made crochet snowflakes, as I'm designing and crocheting them, I feel like I'm joining this long tradition. And there are as many patterns for snowflakes as there are real snowflakes themselves. And I tried to keep this pattern to one or two rounds. We're gonna do two rounds to keep it as simple as possible, but also have a little flare with some picots. Traditionally, one might make a snowflake with a cotton yarn. This is a size three cotton fashion thread, and the stitches will look cleaner and it'll be easier to stiffen with glue. However, I am sticking with my wool Cascade 220 just for consistency of aesthetic with my other ornaments. So my snowflakes will be a little bit chunkier, but the stitches will probably be easier to see as I'm teaching you. I am going down a hook size. This is my G hook. We're gonna begin with a chain eight 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and then slip stitch to the first chain to form a ring. Round one starts with a chain four, 1, 2, 3, 4. The first two chains represent a half double crochet and then a chain two. And that's the motif that will repeat all the way around. So one half double crochet chain two, you'll repeat half double crochet, chain two eleven times. Here's my second one, it's third half double crochet chain two, usually I'll stop counting at some point and just try to fill up my ring and then count and see where I'm at. Okay, let's see where we are. Chain two, so that's my first chain four here. Then 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. I need to work two more. Here's 10 and then 11 half double crochets

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chain two. Close up the ring by slip stitching to the second chain. Round two is where we'll work our picots. And for round two, anytime you work into round one, we're working in the chain two space. So you're not working into any of the chains themselves or any of the half double crochets, it's the chain two space. So to get our hook into the first chain two space, we'll start round two with a slip stitch into the next chain two space. Now we're in the center of that chain two, and we'll begin with chain four 1, 2, 3, 4. And then we'll work what I'm calling a triple picot. In this pattern, a picot is going to be a chain four and then a slip stitch to the first chain. So I'm gonna hold this last chain here with my thumb and my third finger. I'll chain four, 1, 2, 3, 4. This is gonna be my picot. And I like to slip stitch into the back bump of the chain. You can actually slip stitch wherever you want. It slightly changes the look of the picot. You can experiment with that. I know that working in the back bump sometimes can be a little fussy, but that's the aesthetic that I prefer. So I slightly rotate the chain to find the back bump and slip stitch and keep an eye on this back bump because you're going to work two more picots into it. So chain four, 1, 2, 3, 4, slip stitch back into the same stitch. And then for the third picot, I'm gonna chain three, 1, 2, 3, slip stitch into the same chain. And we're going to chain four like we started with 1, 2, 3, 4, and then slip stitch to the next chain two space. And pause for a minute so you can see what this looks like. This is one of the longer arms of the snowflake, and we're gonna alternate a long arm and a short arm, a long arm, and a short arm all the way around. So for our shorter arm, we'll chain two instead of chain four, 1, 2, I'm gonna hold that last chain with my thumb as a place marker and start a picot. 1, 2, 3, 4. I'm gonna rotate it a little bit so I can get my hook into the back bump of that first chain. And we're just doing a single picot here, not a triple. So then chain two and slip stitch into the next chain two space. This is what this looks like along and a short, so keep repeating one long, one short until you get all the way around. I have a snowflake that I've almost completed. And remember, if you need a refresher on how to work the long arm and the short arm, you can always rewind the video and have another watch. This is my last slip stitch after my last short arm, you go right back into that first chain two space Break off. So this is looking super curly. This snowflake definitely benefits from at least blocking, if not stiffening. And again, we'll cover that at the end of the month for all of our appliquÃ©s. Let me show you a few samples that I have. This is the same pattern, same yarn. This is blocked. So you can see how pretty and kind of neat and tidy it looks after the blocking process. This is one that I decided to glue sequins onto. It's fun to have a little sparkle. You can also add glitter in the stiffening process if you happen to do the glue method. This is a snowflake that I used a larger hook with. This is with an H hook. This is with the G hook. So you can kind of change the size of the snowflake even with the same yarn. This is the cotton I talked about. It's a little thinner, so your snowflake will end up smaller. And also there's a little bit more stitch definition with cotton. If that is something that you prefer, I am missing a triple picot, don't look there. This is some of that Rowan, it's also missing, I sometimes notice that I'm missing triple picots after the blocking or stiffening process, and they're just samples, I figure it's okay. So definitely take a look at all of your picots, make sure they're all there before you finish up and start blocking your projects. And then here's one that I had in the sparkle yarn, which I think is also super fun. And this does have a little bit of glue stiffening and the sparkle in the yarn still showed through the glue. So that's always a fun thing to keep in mind as well. So dig around in your yarn stash and see what kinds of snowflakes you can make.

Day 15 - Gift box with a bow

- Our gift box appliquÃ© is essentially a rectangle. So if you're familiar with crocheting, it will be very easy for you to change the shape and the size of your gift box. However, I do give you a

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starting point in the pattern, but just keep in mind this is one of those projects where the pattern is super flexible and you can kind of play with it as you wish. Pick a color for your box. I'm going to be using cream and we'll start with a chain ten 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. For row one, we'll skip the first two chains from the hook and then work a half double crochet in each chain. At the end of row one, you should have eight stitches. Rows two through five are all the same. Once again, this is a simple rectangle. You'll chain two turn and work one half double crochet in each stitch, no increasing or decreasing. Keep working your half double crochets straight across until you finished row five and I have a sample to switch to. Your rectangle will look like this. And again, this is almost arbitrary, it's just the look of the rectangle that I wanted. This is the size and shape that my gift box will be. And the next step is we'll make it a little lid to add some dimensionality. For row six, I'm gonna start with chain three instead of chain two. This just helps with shaping and to make sure my half double crochets in this row do not get too squished. So we'll chain three, 1, 2, 3, turn and then work this row in the front loop only. Normally we'll work in both loops. This time we're just gonna work in the front loop of each chain. That's the loop closest to you, so we'll keep working in half double crochet. But remember, it's the front loop for every stitch. You're gonna work until there's one stitch remaining. And in this last stitch, I'm gonna work a double crochet. Again, this helps with the shaping of the lid. 'cause sometimes the last and first stitches can get a little squished. Break off, leaving about 12 inches of yarn. I'm going to thread my needle on the long tail. The reason we work that last row in front loop only is that it makes it easier to fold over itself. So make sure that the right side of row six is facing you and then fold it down onto row five. So the wrong side now of the stitches should be showing. And then you'll stitch the top of row six to the box. You can use whatever seaming method you prefer and you can pin this too if that makes it easier for you. I like to use a whip stitch through the loop that's closest to the box. I feel like this makes the most invisible stitch and that's totally just a preference and you might prefer something else. You can also just work a running stitch across again through that closest loop to the box only. You don't really have to worry about show through on the other side. I think it's more of my habit just to kinda pick up a little bit of the fabric, but you could stab all the way through if that's easier. This is my last whip stitch, and see how this creates the illusion that there's a lid over our box. And then I'll pop my needle to the back of the project and tie off. Weave this in a little bit. And to keep our project tidy as we keep working on it, I'm just going to go ahead and weave in this other end as well. Our box is finished and we're going to work on a ribbon and a bow. I'm using red and there's not really a specific number of chains to work here. I'm just gonna work enough chains to go from this point to this point. From the bottom to the top or the top to the bottom. So let's see, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. Probably need more than that. Maybe one more or two more. Here's nine. Again, the number of these is not important. You're just trying to make that distance. Okay, like the look of that and a break off. Leave a little extra tail because we're also going to use that tail to sew the bow on later. So I'll leave the long tail for the top and I'll sew the bottom of this ribbon to the bottom of my box. Just find the center. It doesn't have to be perfect. Just do your best to eyeball it. It doesn't take too many stitches. You just need a little tacking stitch. I might do two just so it looks more like maybe a chain and not just one piece of yarn and tie off. I'm not gonna weave this in too much since it's a really contrasting color here to the box and I don't want it to show through. Tie the top off in the same way, or I guess sew it and then tie it. Do two here again and secure with the knot, but don't weave in or cut this yarn just yet. For the bow, use the same color. Or I guess you could use a different color if you like, and work a length of chains. Again, this number of chains is not important. You just want a long enough length to be able to tie a bow. You kind of do it bunny ear style, like I

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am tying a shoelace. This is 24 chains. That's a length that I feel like works for me and we'll adjust the length of these tails and the ears. I try to get it symmetrical, but it's okay if it's slightly off. Okay, that feels good. And then what I'll do is make sure that my needle is coming up from the back of my project. I'll bring it back up. This is probably like a quarter inch or an eighth of an inch away from the top of the box. And then go through your bow from back to front. It's pretty dense. Go back into it from front to back right next to where your yarn is. It's really tight. Okay. And then bring your needle back into the box and pull and tighten that. There's a lot of stuff dangling off here, but this is what it looks like. And I'm gonna tie this off in the back weave in just a little bit. And for the tails that are on the end of the bow, you could trim them, they would be totally fine. But since I have these yarn tails, I use them to sew back onto the box. So they're a little bit more like in a, in a fixed position, I guess I would say, and not just flying around all over the place. That's really easy. You just pop your needle through and would make sure there's not too much tension. You don't wanna warp the shape of your box and then you can come back here and tie a knot. This step again is optional. I just feel like it's a nice finish. Looks like this tail ended up being a little bit longer. That's okay. Then anchor that in the back. Here's your gift box with the bow. I have a couple other boxes that are all different sizes and colors. You can work more chains for a wider box at the beginning of the project. You can work more rows to make a taller box. So these are really fun to play with size and shape. These make the perfect gift toppers, and I love the idea of putting a present on top of a present.

Day 16 - Ball ornament

- Our next three appliquÃ©s have a circle as their base shape, and the first one is going to be an ornament. With your ornament color, you can start with a magic circle or a chain three and a slip stitch to the first chain. We're working this circle in double crochet. Round one starts with chain two, and that does not count as a stitch. And then work 13 double crochets into your ring. I know that 12 is the standard, but I sometimes for these circles like to add in an extra stitch just to make sure everything is flat and doesn't start curling or turning into a little bowl. I'm going count here. Let's see. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and slip stitch to the top of the first double crochet to join. For round two, we'll chain two and work two double crochets in each stitch. It's 1, 2. 1, and 2 all the way around, so there should be a total of 26 double crochets at the end of round two. There's 26, and then we'll join to the top of the first double crochet. If it feels like it's a long distance to stretch over and it's altering the shape of the circle, I would just sneak in one more double crochet into that first stitch. No one's gonna know. It just helps you get around. It changes the stitch count by one, but it totally doesn't matter because that is the last stitch. For this shape, there's our double crochet circle, and then we'll work on the cap. I'm using cream. You can use whatever color you like and you can join anywhere on this circle. I'll just go right next to where I broke off. Join your yarn. I'm going to chain two and half double crochet in the same stitch and work two more half double crochets evenly, 1, 2, and then chain two and slip stitch back into that same stitch. If it's looking a little squishy, you can also do chain three. Sometimes it just depends on how tightly I'm working. I'm gonna redo this one and give it one more chain just for a little bit more symmetry and squish the base of those chains next to the half double crochet. Line everything up. This is the basic shape of your ornament. You'll weave in all of your ends, and the real fun comes into play when you get to decide how to design it. What kind of elements to put on? Here are some that I've done. I kind of went with like a vintage sweater kind of feel for my ornaments. These are just the same zigzag I put on the gingerbread cookie. These are French knots. This is surface slip stitch, which we've done quite a bit of, and some more zigzags. And then this one is super fun. It has some sequins as well as

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some embroidered stars, and we'll talk about how to do a hanging loop at the end of the month.

Day 17 - Snow globe
- Our next circle appliquÃ© is going to be a snow globe. This is another project where the basic shape is pretty simple and the real beauty comes in with your decorations. For the globe, you'll work the same circle as you did for the ball ornament. And I'm using my cream Cascade 220 and we're going to add a little wooden stand. You can join anywhere on the circle. I'm gonna go pretty close to where I broke off the globe yarn. I'm using brown for the stand, and we're going to chain one and work two double crochets in the same stitch. And then we'll be in the bracketed portion of the pattern, which begins with one half double crochet and then two half double crochets in the next stitch. We're gonna repeat that one more time. One double crochet in the first, two half double crochets in the next. You should have a total of eight half double crochets. For row two, we'll chain one and turn. And this is just single crochets evenly across, so one single crochet in each stitch. I'm gonna break off my brown. Have a cute little stand for your magical snow globe. When you weave in your ends, it'll look like this. It's a perfect little canvas for whatever you'd like to put in your snow globe. I went for a lot of botanicals, I'd imagine I would put in my snow globe. I was heavily inspired and learned a lot of techniques. And Anna Hultin's class here on Creativebug, she has an evergreen tree embroidery class. I tried to experiment with some of her thread painting techniques on this mushroom. I also added some sequins to sort of represent the glitter inside a snow globe. You can kind of take this project wherever you'd like and just think about, you know, like if you have your own snow globe collection, which is your favorite piece, and how you can represent that in yarn.

Day 18 - Snowman head and body
- Our last circular motif is a snowman, and he's comprised of two circles. The body of the snowman is the same circle that we've been making for the past two projects, so you'll wanna work one of those in white. And I'm gonna show you how to work the head, which is also a circle, but smaller. Start with a magic circle or chain three and slip stitch to the first chain to join. For round one, we'll chain one and work ten half double crochets into the ring. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10. Slip stitch to the top of the first half. Double crochet to join. And for round two, we'll chain one and work two single crochets in each stitch around ...two, two... And just keep working your increases until you get back to the beginning. And there should be a total of 20 single crochets at the end of round two. Slip stitch to the first single crochet to join and then break off leaving about eight-ish inches of yarn. I'm gonna weave in my beginning yarn tail. And then we'll use the long yarn tail to sew the head to the body. I like to overlap the two pieces just a little bit, and for this project, I don't necessarily need or want to have the stitch definition here, super sharp and defined. So I'm gonna use a whip stitch, which is faster for me, but it does squish the stitches down a little bit, so you can decide which method or aesthetic you prefer. I'm gonna pop my needle to the back and make sure that I sew down the back as well. And gonna continue with the whip stitch, but just taking a little bit of the yarn from the back so that my stitches don't show in the front. Just gonna check and make sure I don't need to sew anything else down. This looks good. You can tie off and weave in on the back. When it comes to putting facial features on your snowman, you can totally decide what it looks like. I started to decorate this one. I used French knots for two eyes as as well as buttons and a back stitch for the smile. I'm gonna give him a little carrot nose with a couple little stitches. It's a very small space to work with. And again, embroidering into crochet fabric can be a little kind of floppier, a little more mysterious than embroidering into fabric that's stretched taut in a hoop. So give

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yourself some grace, give it a try. If it doesn't look good, you can always take it out and start over. I'm gonna aim for making three small stitches, one angle this way, one straight across, and one angle this way to sort of make a triangular-ish shape like a little pointy carrot-y shape, we'll see what happens. I'll start here and maybe go here-ish. Come a little bit underneath where my first stitch started. Gonna go into the same opening on the other side, and then come a little bit below that second stitch and go into the same opening on the other side. It's triangle-y. I'm gonna do a small stitch vertically to cover these ends to try to kinda just neaten up that edge. I'm happy with that. And then I'll just tie these two ends together. Do a little bit of weaving. You don't need to do too much. There's a lot going on back here. There's a lot of yarn. It's all kind of holding each other in. So I'm not super worried about these yarn tails flying out, but I like to tuck them in just a little bit. I think he looks very happy. And tomorrow we'll give him some arms and accessories.

Day 19 - Snowman details
- I'm going to show you how to make arms, a top hat, and a scarf for your snowman. But you get to decide which one of these items, or all of them, you want to add. I've already added one arm and we're gonna work on the second one. I'll want to join your yarn wherever you want the arm to be. I'm gonna go pretty close to the sort of juncture between the head and the body. I'll pick this stitch. I'm using brown. So let's join and we'll start the arm with chain three. 1, 2, 3. These three chains represent sort of this first segment, the actual arm, and then our next set of chains will be the fingers. I'm gonna, oops, I kind of pulled that chain a little tight. I'm gonna redo that third chain. If the chains are really tight, it's difficult to work in them later. So there's my third chain. I'm gonna hold onto it with my thumb and then work three more. 1, 2, 3. This is gonna be for the finger. You'll skip the first chain from your hook and then the slip stitch and the next chain through two loops. Here's one, and then slip stitch in the next chain through two loops. This is the first finger we're gonna work two. Chain three again, 1, 2, 3. Skip the first chain slip stitch in the next through two loops. Slip stitch in the next through two loops. That's the second little finger. And then we're going to slip stitch through both loops in the three chains from the arm. This is completing the arm, so 1, 2, and then 3. Sometimes I find it difficult to find the two loops on this final chain, so use all your fingers. I'm using a couple fingers here to pull the loops over. Sometimes it's easy to do one and then find another. There we go. Slip stitch. And then to join the arm back to the body slip stitch into the same stitch that you joined. Break off and weave in your ends. For your hat, we'll begin with a chain five, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. For row one, skip the first two chains from your hook and then work one half double crochet in each of the remaining three stitches. So that's three half double crochets. For row two, we'll chain two and turn and work three half double crochets evenly across. You could keep repeating row two for a taller hat, but I'm going to start working on the hat brim for row three. So chain four, 1, 2, 3, 4. I'm gonna turn and skip the first two chains from my hook and then work a single crochet in the third and a single crochet in the fourth. Single crochet evenly across the hat, there's 2 and then 3. We'll chain three to work on the other side of the brim. 1, 2, 3, skip the first chain working a single crochet in the second, a single crochet in the third. I know it looks detached here, but we're gonna break off. Without that sort of last yarn over and pull through I normally do, I'm just going to pull the yarn out to free the tail and you'll use this yarn tail to connect the brim back to the hat. So the shape we have here is the top of the hat. Here's one side of the brim, and we're gonna stitch this side like this. So I'm gonna angle this and sort of figure out where I wanna put my stitch. This looks like the spot. I'm gonna come through and do another stitch so it's stable. And then tie a knot and weave in my end on the back. There's not a lot of room for weaving here.

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It's such a tiny, tiny area. Do your best. You only need to go across like two or three stitches. Change directions come the other way. Then you'd weave in this other end and sew the hat on like so. For the scarf, we're essentially working chains, but attaching them in a certain way, so it has a sort of like a free flowing, loose kind of three dimensional, sort of like, two and a half dimensional aesthetic. I'm using green and we'll join the yarn pretty much in the same spot as the arms. There's no number of chains you have to work here. I'm going to work a length that will loosely cover from this point to this point. That's eight. Let's just see what this looks like. I might do one more. No, yes, no, I think eight feels good. And then I'll slip stitch to the other side here where the other arm is. Now we'll chain a little bit more to create the end of the scarf. Again, the number of these chains is up to you. Maybe I'll go a little bit longer. Do three more. Okay. You could break off here and have a little sort of one piece of yarn as your tassel where you could weave it in. I find weaving the tail into a chain to be very difficult. It makes the chain bulky. The tail will probably pop out. So I devised this sort of weird little technique to give us at least three little pieces of yarn for a fringe. I'm gonna show you how I do that. I'm gonna work about 10 extra chains. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. The number doesn't matter. I'm giving myself enough runway to tie a knot. I'm going to cut the yarn, but don't break this off. Remember how long-ish you want your scarf to be. I'm gonna say about here and try to tie a knot in that spot. Gonna move it up. Decide where you want the end of the scarf to be. That looks good. Okay. I know this part's a little weird. You can again handle this however you want. I'm gonna pull out my chains. Apparently I did a ton extra and pull until you have about one loop left on the chain, or I guess one chain left on your length of chains. This is pretty close. What I'm gonna do is make this loop bigger so it's easier to work with. And then I'm gonna cut it at that halfway point. Okay. These are the three pieces of what I'm gonna call scarf fringe. And if you pull on them gently, one of them will be stable. This is the stable one, and the other two is actually the same piece. So I'm gonna tie a knot so that they don't come out and then trim. It seems a little fussy at first, but I prefer it. So I wanted to show you. I trim to about, I don't know, somewhere between an eighth and a quarter of an inch. The length is up to you and you have these two kind of, it's a little dinky, but I like it more than just one little tail hanging out. Here are two other snowman that I made earlier. This one has arms. This one doesn't. You can dress up your snowman however you like.

Day 20 - Sweater body and sleeves

- We're going to start working on a collection of a snuggly winter wear, beginning with a sweater. I'll be using pink for the main color of my sweater. If you want a contrasting color for your collar, you don't need to have an extra long yarn tail to begin. However, if your sweater's going to be all one color, you'll need to pull out about 12 inches to use for the collar later. You'll begin with chain six, and we're starting at the yoke of the sweater. That's six. For row one, we'll skip the first chain from the hook and work one single crochet, two single crochets in the next, one single crochet, two single crochets in the next, and then one single crochet in the last chain. You should have seven single crochet stitches. For row two, you'll chain one and turn, work one single crochet in the first stitch, two single crochets in the next, three single crochets evenly across, so that's 1, 2, and then 3. Two single crochets in the next stitch, and then one single crochet in the last. We have this sort of curvature happening here at the top of our sweater. For row three, chain one and turn and single crochet evenly across. Your stitch count will remain at nine stitches. We're gonna start working on the first sleeve. This is what I'm calling row 4A. Chain one and turn, work two single crochets evenly. So one single crochet, one in the next, and that's it for row 4A, just two stitches. Rows 5A through 8A will be the same, chain one, turn, two single crochets evenly across. So there's a row of 5A, This

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is 6A, 7A, and 8A. If your cuffs will be a contrasting color, row 8A could also be where you make a color change. I'm gonna break off. We're gonna work on the body. So I have the first sleeve on the right side of my project, and we're gonna rejoin the yarn into the same stitch that this second single crochet of the sleeve is on, so they will share the same stitch. Join here. This is what I'm calling row 4B. Chain one, single crochet in that very same stitch, and then work six more single crochets across. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. There should be one stitch remaining on the yoke. You're gonna leave that one unworked for now. This is now row 5B, chain one, turn, and rows 5B through 8B will all be the same. It's just single crochets evenly across, and your stitch count should always be seven stitches. This is 5B, this is 6B, and then 8B. If you want a contrasting sort of bottom hem, this is where you can make a color change, as well. We'll break off and then we'll work the second sleeve. Remember, we have this remaining stitch on the yoke. We're saving that for this last sleeve. I'm joining my yarn into the stitch right before it, so it will share this stitch with the body. Join here. This is row 4C, single crochet in the same stitch, single crochet in the last stitch. And once again, rows 5C through 8C will all be the same. Chain one and turn and single crochet evenly across. 81 00:05:44,530 --> 00:05:44,710 It's 5, 6, 7, and 8. This is what our sweater looks like. I think it's super adorable weave in all of your ends, except for that extra long tail we started with at the beginning and tomorrow I'll show you how to work a collar and some details.

Day 21 - Sweater collar and details
- The collar for our tiny sweaters is a pretty straightforward surface lip stitch. But I'm gonna show you the tiny little tweaks I make so that the collar looks exactly the way that I want. I'm going to start with the sweater with a contrasting color because it'll be easier for you to see what I'm talking about with my little tweaks. So I'll work a pink collar on this orange sweater. Normally when we start a surface slip stitch, we would insert our hook into that first space and then bring up the yarn from the back and you would continue to the next space and pull up your yarn. This is totally a fine way to go about your collar, but there are sometimes subtle details that bother me, so I try to think of solutions for them. So let's say I went all the way across here. If you can see there's still a little bit of my sweater color sticking out on the side here. And for some reason that really bugged me. I wanted the collar to fully wrap around the side edge of my sweater, and I showed you this slight tweak when we put the icing on our gingerbread house. But what I do is I start with a slip knot already on my hook. That means we're already beginning with a loop that will encase this outer strand of yarn. And I know we're talking about one yarn piece here. It's not a lot of coverage, but these little details can make a big difference to my eye. So I'm gonna go in the same space with the loop already on my hook. You wanna make sure the knot is pretty tight. That's a small knot, not necessarily tight around your hook, but that the knot itself is small. And then you can go into that first space, pull up the yarn, and that loop that was on your hook becomes the first slip stitch. So you also get to sneak in one more slip stitch if you begin with that loop already on your hook before you dive into the fabric. So you can work five slip stitches here, and then I'm gonna break off. And if I just pulled this yarn up and pull the tail out again, I would have some of that orange yarn still showing on the side. So you do wanna do that final yarn over and pull through and you'll get that pink yarn to wrap around the edge. This is a cool little trick that I hope you find helpful in a lot of your projects for the sweater with the same color collar. The concept is the same, however, we're not joining new yarn. So there's another slightly different thing that I do. So we can get that extra slip stitch in and get that yarn to wrap around the edge of the collar. Here's the pink sweater we worked on the other day. Here's my longer yarn tail. So rather than inserting my hook from front to

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back and drawing up my yarn, what I'm going to do is insert my hook from the back to the front in that first space, yarn over and pull up a loop. Now I'm sort of at a similar place to when I joined a new color of yarn, and I'm still gonna work back in that first space. So now you can go from front to back, yarn over from the back, pull through to the front, and I have this first slip stitch wrapping around the edge of my sweater. It's more difficult to see because everything's the same color, but it's basically the same result that we get from working in the contrasting yarn color. ...3, 4, and 5, and then the final pull through. So adorable. I can hardly stand it. I've made basically a million of these and I have a couple to show you. You can really do whatever you like with the design of this sweater. I've tried a couple different things to show you. This is, I guess kind of like a Nordic ski-ish sweater star. Again, it's a really tiny canvas, so kind of do your best. If you wanna explore using your embroidery thread, which is finer than yarn, you can maybe get a little more detail. But any design that you try should probably be not too intricate. This is a stripe. A note about working with stripes. When you carry your yarn, it does make the fabric thicker and the appliquÃ© will end up a tiny bit bigger. So if you're wondering why your striped sweaters are larger, that's why, 'cause you're carrying an extra piece of yarn. This is my favorite striping cadence. It's two of one color, one of one color, two of one color, one of one color. That would be cute to make. One of these sweaters look like a Christmas tree. So there's some pompoms on there. You can add little buttons. We're getting into some sweaters that are not blocked. So you can see the difference between these three blocked sweaters and these that are a little bit like they're flying in the wind. But I know what I'm gonna do with these and I don't really need to block, and I will show you at the end of the month. This is one, I know this is not really a holiday, but I had a vision and I wanted to try it. So there's a little flower and this one is worked in a worsted weight yarn. And you can see that the same pattern in the heavier yarn produces a much larger sweater. You can kind of be like a fashion designer, it feels like playing with paper dolls, and I cannot wait to see what your sweaters look like.

Day 22 - Stockings

- Our next appliquÃ© is going to be a very cute and very small stocking. Pick your main color. I'll be using pink. We're gonna start with a chain eleven. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11. For round one, which will create the shape of our stocking, you'll skip the first two chains and then begin to work four half double crochets evenly. 9 00:00:31,470 --> 00:00:31,770 So, 1, 2, 3, 4. Next we're going to work sort of a modified half double crochet three together. Working a half double crochet three together results in a very bulky stitch. But I do want to turn three of these chains just into one stitch. So I'm going to do a slightly different technique to get us to where we need to go. I'm going yarn over and insert my hook into the next chain. Yarn over and pull through one, skip the next chain yarn over to begin the next partial half double crochet. Insert your hook into that third chain, yarn over and pull through one and then yarn over and pull through all five loops on your hook. Essentially you have a half double crochet three together, but since we skipped a stitch, there's less bulk and it's actually a more of a half double crochet two together, but we used three chains from our foundation chain. In the next stitch, work one half double crochet. And in the last chain you'll work five half double crochets. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. This is the toe of our stocking. And the next chain on the other side of the foundation chain, work one half double crochet. And then to make the heel, work three half double crochets into the next chain. 1, 2, 3, and then you'll work half double crochets evenly in the rest of these stitches. That should be six half double crochets. Sometimes when I work the stocking, it feels like the right side does not quite match up with the left. This can just depend on your tension that day. If you feel like there's kind of a discrepancy because you want this edge across the top to be

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straight, you can work one more half double crochet in that last chain and sometimes that can help. Going to break off the main color and join the cuff color. I'm using cream. Join with my slip knot and pull through and then pull my main color tightly. We're gonna work stitches across the top of the stocking here. So row one of the cuff begins with chain two, this counts as one half double crochet. And then you'll work a half double crochet into the last half double crochet you worked, kind of into the side of the stitch. As we make our way across, I'm gonna pick up a loop on the side of this stitch. And then the next few stitches are actually our chain two that we skipped at the beginning of round one. Going to work one half double crochet in that first chain and another half double crochet in the second chain. You'll have a total of four stitches because that chain two in the beginning counts as a half double. For row two, now this chain two does not count as a stitch, turn. Row two will be worked in the back loop only. You'll work four half double crochets evenly across 1, 2, 3. And this last stitch, remember is our chain two. So I'm going to pick up the back loop of that top chain two, and then we will break off leaving a little bit of extra yarn for sewing. Gonna thread this long tail on a tapestry needle. Oops. And this method is the same as our present with a bow on it. We're gonna fold the cuff down. I have the right side of the stocking stitches facing me. You are gonna fold the first half of the cuff down here, and working in those back loops helps make that fold a little easier. And then you'll sew the edges of the cuff to the stocking. I'm using a whip stitch through the back loop of the cuff only because I think it helps keep those stitches defined. And I like the fold over method because it does create that sense of dimension and a little bit of thickness on the cuff. I'm on the back here. I'm gonna weave back up to the top here so I can tie a knot in my cream stitches and weave in the ends, and then tuck this in. With these tiny, almost blobby projects, we're squishing the appliquÃ© a lot. We're manipulating the fabric a lot. If yours is looking a little scrunchy like mine is, do not worry about it. You can just use your hands to press everything out, reshape things. You'll weave in the rest of your ends. You'll have this really adorable, tiny stocking. I think these would look really cute hanging on a garland.

Day 23 - Left-handed mitten

- I grew up in California, so I don't have personal memories of wearing mittens in the winter, but when I see them, I still somehow get nostalgic childhood feels, and I think they always look super cute when you tie two of them together. We're gonna start with the left hand. I'm going to make this pair in red. So start with your main color and we're gonna chain two 1, 2. For row one, you'll skip the first chain and then work two single crochets in the next chain. For row two, chain one and turn and work two single crochets in each stitch. So you should have four single crochets at the end of this row. For rows three through seven, you'll chain one, turn and work single crochets evenly across, so no more increases. That's row three. This is row four. This is row seven. For row eight, we're gonna begin to decrease. Chain one, turn, single crochet two together as a refresher, we're gonna insert our hook into the stitch yarn over and pull through one, insert your hook into the next stitch yarn over and pull through one and then yarn over and pull through all three loops. And then in the remaining two stitches, another single crochet two together. So at the end of row eight you'll have two stitches. For row nine, chain one and turn, and one single crochet in each of those two stitches. This is our shape and these little things are a little bit blobby. This is the bottom of the mitten and this is the top of the finger. We're gonna work around here and also work the thumb. I'm calling this row ten even though it's more of a round. So don't turn, I still have the right side of row nine facing me and work two more single crochets into that same stitch to get around the corner. There's 1, 2, and then one single crochet each in the next two spaces, we're working in the sides of

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the rows here, so 1, and then in the next space 2, this is where we're making the thumb. Chain one and work a half treble crochet in the same stitch as your last single crochet. For half treble, yarn over two times, insert your hook into that same stitch yarn over and pull through one yarn over and pull through two yarn over and pull through all three loops on the hook. Then chain two, 1, 2, and slip stitch back into that same stitch. So all those stitches form the thumb. Now working back into the side of the mitten will work two single crochets evenly. There's 1, 2, and the next, work two single crochets and the next, work one single crochet. You should be at the top of the mitten. We'll work two single crochets at the top. We're using these increases to get around the curve. A single crochet in the next, and then two single crochets again in this curvature, to get around that top of the mitten. Working in the other side of the mitten, you'll single crochet evenly to the end of row nine, and that should be about seven single crochets. I want my last single crochet. I know this is very small, very blobby. This is the first stitch of row nine, and I want my last single crochet to be on the side of this stitch because I want it to be flush, I want this to be a straight line as I complete my row ten. I'm gonna go in this side of the stitch here. Gonna pick that loop over your hook like so, and it does squish that stitch from row nine a little bit, so I'm trying to make sure that the last single crochet I made makes a straight line across here. And we're gonna join our cuff color. I am using cream, gonna put my slip knot on and join and snug up my main color. We will start with a chain two, and I am going to work a half double crochet in that same stitch as our last single crochet. So half double and then you'll work evenly across. This is across row nine. Again, that stitch got pulled really tightly because we worked into the side of it, so use your tapestry needle to loosen this up. One half double crochet, another in the next. We're working to make that edge look really even so 1, 2, 3, 4. I might work one more and see what that looks like. I ended up working five half double crochets evenly. If you end up working four and you like the look of that, that is fine too. Just be consistent from mitten to mitten. If you want to just have one separate mitten, you could break off and weave in your ends here. If you think you're gonna connect this to your right hand mitten, I would make a length of chain for that connection. And there's no specific amount of chains for that. I maybe would go for three or four inches. It's totally up to you. And maybe ultimately what this will be, is it gonna be an ornament, a gift topper? You get to decide. I'm gonna stop here and break off my yarn knowing that I need some length for sewing to the next mitten so you can weave in your ends and we'll get started on the right hand.

Day 24 - Right-handed mitten

- The right hand of our mitten begins the same way as the left hand. So go ahead and repeat rows one through nine of the left hand and I'll show you the slight difference we make in row ten. This is my row nine. Once again, we're going to work two more single crochets in the same stitch as the last stitch of row nine. That helps get us around the corner. Then we'll work along this side five single crochets evenly. One in the next, two in the next, ...3, 4, 5. Gonna work two single crochets in the next to get around this corner, one single crochet in the next and at the very top of the mitt, we're gonna work two single crochets. One single crochet in the next, two single crochets in the next, and then two single crochets evenly down the side. 1, 2. Now we're gonna work the thumb. What we'll do is slip stitch into the next stitch, chain one, half treble crochet in that same stitch, chain two, and this is a little different, we're gonna single crochet into the side of that half treble. Just pick up two loops from the side of this half treble. Single crochet. And then we'll work three single crochets evenly in the remaining stitches. 1, 2. And this last single crochet, once again, should be flush with row nine. It looks a little gappy because we're pulling on this last stitch. So don't forget

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that this stitch exists. And you might use your tapestry needle to open that up. This is where you'd break off. And then join your cuff color like we did before, and we'd work it in the same way. Chain two, work your half double crochet in the same stitch. And again, I've pulled on this first single crochet here quite a bit, so I'm gonna try to open that up my second half double crochet, 3, 4, and we'll do the fifth one to match our first mitt. You can break off and weave in all your ends. Now we can connect the two. I'm going to thread this long tail from the first mitten onto my tapestry needle. And just really simple stitch, just like one or two tacking stitches. Also to the inner edge of this right hand mitten. Nothing fancy, just the little whip stitch. And then you can tie this off in the back of the cuff. Weave this in. Look how adorable these turned out. I think they would look so sweet hanging from your tree.

Day 25 - Reindeer body
- Our reindeer appliquÃ© is truly a fun exploration in shaping the head, the body, the tail, and the legs are all worked in one piece. We're gonna start at the top of the head and then work our way down, and the very final row will be our legs. Start with your main color and you're going to chain five. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. For round one, you are gonna skip the first chain from the hook and then slip stitch in the remaining chains. 1, 2, 3, and then 4. Here's where we're working on the nose, you're going to work a picot. So chain two, skip the first chain from your hook, slip stitch in that second chain. Now you're working back into the other side of the foundation chain. You are gonna work two single crochets evenly, 1, 2. In the next space, you'll work a half double crochet and you're gonna leave this last chain unworked. This is going to end up being the ear. For row one, we'll start working on the neck, you'll chain one, turn, skip the first stitch, and then work two single crochets in the next. You'll leave the remaining stitches unworked. For row two, we'll chain one and turn, you'll skip the first stitch, and work a single crochet, and you're going to work a half double crochet, it looks like you run out of stitches, but we're gonna work it into, this is the turning chain from the row below, and that allows us to create a really smooth and straight edge along the side of the neck. So we still have two stitches in row two. For row three, chain one, turn, again we're skipping the first stitch, working half double crochet in the other stitch and single crocheting into the turning chain from the row below. We still have two stitches for our stitch count. For row four, chain one, turn. You're not skipping stitches this time you'll work a single crochet in the first stitch, a single crochet in the next stitch, and then half double crochet in the turning chain from the row below, we're doing a little bit of an increase. Your stitch count should be three. There we go. For row five, we're gonna start working on the body. This is what the nose, the head, the ear, and the neck look like. It'll chain seven 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. You're going to skip the first two chains from the hook and then work five single crochets evenly in the remaining chains. 1, 2, 3, 4, and then 5. Now we're working back on the stitches on the main body, so make sure this is oriented correctly. I have the head down at the bottom here and my stitches that I'm working on here at the top, you're going to work two single crochets evenly. Here's 1 and then 2. And in the last stitch, two single crochets. At the end of row five, you should have nine stitches across. For row six, we'll chain one and turn, you'll skip the first stitch. Six single crochets evenly. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. Work an increase in the next stitch, two single crochets, and then you're gonna leave that final stitch unworked, this is going to be the tail. For row seven, we'll chain one and turn. Skip the first stitch, half double crochet two together. So yarn over, insert your hook into that second stitch, yarn over and pull through one, yarn over again, insert your hook into the next stitch, yarn over and pull through one. Then yarn over and pull through all five loops on the hook. Then a half double crochet in the next stitch. Three double crochets evenly. 1, 2,

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and 3. We'll slip stitch in the last stitch, and then also slip stitch into the turning chain from the row below. We're kind of giving ourselves an extra stitch at the end here, this helps with the shaping when we start working on the legs. Here's what our deer looks like right now and all over row eight will be the four legs worked off the body. For the first leg, we'll chain seven 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. You'll skip the first chain from the hook and then work six single crochets. I'm going to work my single crochets into two loops of each chain and not just one. It's a little bit more fiddly, but it makes the legs a little bit more spindly. If you work in one loop only of the chain, the leg will be a bit flatter and wider. Just take your time working through two loops of each chain. We want to orient this correctly, we wanna continue working off of row seven, so I need to turn my work. You are gonna skip that first stitch on the body, which was a slip stitch, and then slip stitch into the next stitch. We're gonna work on leg number two, chain seven 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. Skip the first chain from your hook and then work six single crochets. - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, - And slip stitch to the next stitch on the body to join leg number two. Let's take a look. We're gonna continue to work along the body a little bit to get to legs three and four. Work a single crochet in the next stitch and then a slip stitch in the following, you should have two stitches remaining. Leg number three is chain seven 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. Skip the first chain from your hook and work your six single crochets evenly. 1, 2, slip stitch into the next stitch on the body. For leg number four, once again, chain seven. Skip the first chain, single crochet in the remaining six chains. Skip the last stitch on the body and slip stitch into the turning chain from the row below. Again, those turning chains can sometimes be tricky, so try to use your finger. It looks like I might need a little help from my trusty tapestry needle. 149 00:09:02,310 --> 00:09:03,310 - Slip stitch. Break off. 151 00:09:15,115 --> 00:09:15,235 Smooth this out. 153 00:09:23,820 --> 00:09:24,820 It's very sweet. Weave in your ends and we will work the antlers tomorrow.

Day 26 - Reindeer antlers

- For our reindeer's antlers, each branch of the antler is two slip stitches. But since there are a series of two slip stitches branching off each other, the pattern can look a little overwhelming so I've also color coded it so you can see which section of the antler you're working on at any given point in the pattern. You could actually decide which way your reindeer faces, I prefer this direction. The right side of the head is facing me, so that feels like the right side of the reindeer. We're gonna join our yarn at the base of the ear, for me that's the third stitch in, but you can also decide which placement you like best. Going to insert my hook into that stitch up top and then join my antler color. We'll begin with a chain five 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. We're working on the first little branch of the antler, so we'll skip the first stitch from the hook and then work two slip stitches evenly. I'm gonna work through two loops of each slip stitch for the entire antler. Two slip stitches. Moving up the antler, chain five 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. I'm in the yellow portion of the pattern right now. Skip the first chain from your hook, two slip stitches evenly, 1 and 2. Chain three, in the green portion of the pattern. ...2, 3. Skip the first chain from the hook and then two slip stitches evenly. 1, 2. Slip stitch in the same chain as the base of the, I call it the yellow branch in the pattern, but it's this first little branch. So they're gonna share a slip stitch here. Now working back down the antler, two slip stitches evenly. 1, 2. Now we're back in the red portion of the pattern. You are gonna slip stitch into the same stitch as the base of the red antler, and then slip stitch evenly in the remaining two chains, 1 and 2. I always find the base chains to be a little tricky for some reason. I'm gonna use my tapestry needle as a guide to pick up one, find that second one, kind of ease it out so I know where to go. There we go, slip stitch. And then to join, you'll slip stitch into the same stitch that you originally joined your yarn into. One more

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slip stitch. Woo. Okay, let's take a look. Completed the back side of the antler. And now we're gonna do the front side. It's very similar, it's just smaller. Chain five 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. We're now in the orange area. Skip the first chain from your hook work two slip stitches evenly, 1 and 2. For the next branch of the antler, we will chain three 1, 2, 3. You'll skip the first chain from the hook, work your two slip stitches, 1, 2. Slip stitch into the same chain as the base of your first branch. And then two slip stitches evenly in the remaining chains, 1, 2. And to join, you'll slip stitch into the next stitch on the head. These are really tiny, so I love using the tapestry needle to help ease open the stitch. Break off. When you your ends, this is what your reindeer will look like. It's a little small and subtle, but I used a tiny French knot for the eye. And then just a couple of stitches, small stitches at the end of the face or the head to make a little nose. This is not blocked and actually kind of like how the reindeer looks like it's flying through the air, so you can decide whether or not to block your reindeer. Really cute for appliquÃ©s, like on a sweater. This one has a red nose, and this is an example of one that I did block out of curiosity. And you can see, you can pin out the legs and they're straighter. So these look more like they're in motion. This one looks more like it's standing. I also used a G hook for this one, and it didn't change the size that much. It's a little bit shorter than the camel color, but they're all really cute.

Day 27 - Dove body
- I thought it would be a nice touch for our final appliquÃ© of the practice to be a dove, a symbol of peace. Pick the main color. I'm going to use pink, and we'll start with the body. We'll do the wing tomorrow For the body for row one, we're gonna begin with chain seven 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. You'll skip the first two chains from the hook, then work three half double crochets evenly. 1, 2, 3. We're gonna start increasing with two half double crochets in both of the remaining chains. ...2, and then 1 and 2. You should have seven stitches. For row two, we'll chain two, which does not count as a stitch. And then work a half double crochet in the first stitch. We're gonna increase two times again, so two half double crochets in the next, 1, 2, and two half doubles in the next again. And then four half double crochets evenly. 1, 2, 3, and then 4. At the end of row two, you should have nine stitches. There's a bit of a curvature happening on this end. For row three, we're actually gonna start building the tail. This is the belly of the bird. You'll chain six 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and then skip the first two chains from your hook and work two half double crochets in that third chain, 1 and then 2. And you'll work two single crochets evenly, 1 and 2, and then a slip stitch in the last chain slip stitch, and then a slip stitch into the side of this half double crochet from row two. I'm gonna insert my hook into the side of that stitch and work a slip stitch. Now you'll slip stitch into the same space that that half double crochet lives in, here. We're kind of working our way across the rows here. A slip stitch, don't work Your slip stitches too tightly because we do have to work in some of them, and you don't want them to be too small. For row four turn, there's no turning chain. We're gonna skip the first stitch and then slip stitch in the next, but in the front loop only, so it's the loop closest to us. Slip stitch, slip stitch again into the next stitch front loop only. Just turning to make sure I'm in the right stitch. Sometimes it helps to see the front of them. That's front loop only slip stitch. And then two single crochets working back in both loops of the stitch now. So there's one single crochet, got two loops on my hook, 1, 2, two half double crochets in the next stitch. 1, 2, there's one stitch remaining in this row, we're leaving that unworked as part of our tail shaping. For row five, chain two, turn. We're not working in these chains. Skip one stitch on the tail and then in the next stitch, work a slip stitch chain two, two half double crochets, all in the same stitch. In the next stitch, one half double crochet, and then three single crochets evenly. 1. This one is looking very tiny. I'm gonna pick it out a

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little bit with my tapestry needle. Number 2. Oh, that's really small. Yeah, cautionary tale, don't work your slip stitches too tightly. Another tip is you can work with a smaller hook just to get your yarn through. Let's see if the tapestry needle helped. Yeah, okay, there's 2 and then 3. And then to join the tail to the body, we're gonna slip stitch to the bottom of the chain two from row one, which is this space. And it kind of looks like the first space of the foundation chain. It's actually one space to the right of it. And to ensure that you know you're going in the right space and that you'll have enough foundation chain to work in, we'll have five foundation chain spots. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. And to the right of it is where you wanna go. This is the base of that chain two. Slip stitch to that. Now you're working in the foundation chain itself. We're gonna work four single crochets evenly. 1, 2, 3, 4. And in that last space, you'll work a slip stitch. We'll make the head and the beak now. Kind of in a, in a weird spot. This is sort of the remaining runway we have. We wanna work our head into the middle. So you wanna pick a loop of yarn that's in the center between the point you're at and the end of the appliquÃ©. This loop looks pretty good to me, so you're going to work a half double crochet into that center loop that you picked. Two half treble crochets, all in the same stitch. There's one half treble, the second half treble, and then another half double crochet. For the beak, you'll chain two, skip the first chain from your hook, slip stitch into the second chain, and then you'll slip stitch into the side of the half double crochet you just worked. That anchors the beak. And then half double crochet again, all in the same stitch, the same stitch you worked your other half double crochets and half trebles. To join he head, we will slip stitch into the first half double crochet of row two. That's just the next stitch along the body here. And then you can break off. Let's take a look. You worked a lot of stitches to make the head, and there is a gap here. So as you weave in your ends, you can take that opportunity to also tighten up any openings that you might want to.

Day 28 - Dove wings
- We're going to crochet the dove's wing as a separate piece and then sew it onto the body and you'll see it shares some similar design elements to the dove's tail. Chain ten, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. For row one, you'll skip the first two chains and then work eight single crochets evenly across ...2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. For row two, we'll chain one, turn and work seven single crochets evenly, ...2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. We're gonna leave the last stitch unworked. For row three, chain two, turn. You're not going to work in these chains. Skip the first stitch, slip stitch in the next, and then in the next stitch work slip stitch chain two half double crochet, and then four single crochets, 1, 2, 3, and 4. To round off this edge of the wing across the edge of our rows, we're gonna work a couple more stitches, so find the center point between where your hook is and this edge and insert your hook. For me that looks like this point, I might use my tapestry needle to open up that stitch a little bit. There we go. And you'll work three single crochets into that stitch. 1, 2, 3, and then slip stitch to this first space here on the foundation chain. Let's break off leaving about 8 to 10 inches for sewing. It's a good idea to weave in the other end. Keep everything tidy. I'm gonna thread the long tail on the needle, and this is the direction that the wing goes in. That rounded three single crochet edge we worked is on the left side. And then there should be sort of three scalloping shapes on the right side of the wing. You can use a pin if you'd like to secure this before you start sewing. I have a few other doves to show you. I enjoyed playing with different colors for doves. You don't typically see an orange dove probably flying around, but I think there's kind of a modern touch to playing with bold colors and traditional motifs. I do super like this one that I worked in ivory. I also added some sequins to the wing, and I'll show you how to do that later. That is the last of our 20 holiday appliquÃ©s, and in the next few days I'm gonna show you how to prep them and use them.

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Day 29 - Blocking and stiffening appliquÃ©s
- Today I'm going to show you a few ways to prep your appliquÃ©s for use in various projects. We're gonna start with blocking, which is a process that flattens any curls or crinkles in your crochet work. You'll start with your foam blocking board. This again, can be like an old cushion, something that you don't mind poking pins into and getting wet. I'm gonna block out my little sweater. You can see it's a little twisty sometimes you can let your projects just relax for a few days and they'll get flat just from the nature of the yarn relaxing. But this one I think needs a little help. So we're going to give it a little blocking. What you'll do is take your rust free pins and tack down certain points of the appliquÃ©. The idea is not to change the shape or stretch it. What you're doing is flattening everything you've worked on and kind of enhancing that shape. Working out the crinkles, it's kind of like ironing a shirt where you're not trying to lengthen a sleeve or shorten the hem, you're just trying to make sure everything is flat. But with our crochet, we can't really iron it because you'll squish your stitches. So we'll pick some points to kind of tame the curls in the appliquÃ©. Some people find that their projects will start sliding up the pin, and so they insert the pin at an angle. I've never experienced that sliding, so by nature I just stick them in sort of perpendicularly. But if you're finding, you know, the next day you check on your appliquÃ©s and they're up here on the pin, just remember to angle them and it'll help press the piece down. I'm using a wet blocking method with water, and I like the spray bottle method. You could also put all of your appliquÃ©s in a bowl of water first before pinning and get them thoroughly saturated, and then press as much moisture as you can out with a towel and then start your pinning. But I find that with these tiny projects, the spray bottle method is really efficient. So get this all pinned out. Now that I'm looking at it, I might put one right here. And you just wanna get this thoroughly wet. You want every little bit of fiber to have touched water. I can see there are some beads of water and I just wanna tap them in to make sure that they don't just evaporate off the surface. I want all that water to get into those fibers all the way to the other side. And then you'll wanna wait until this is 100% bone dry. Don't mess with the pins, don't lift it up. It normally takes at least 24 hours at my house for this to get dry. I live by the beach. It's pretty humid. It might happen more quickly for you, but definitely let it dry completely. And then you'll notice when you take it off the pins, it'll be nice and flat. For your more delicate crochet projects like your snowflakes, you might consider stiffening. There are starch methods, sugar methods, and glue methods. You can try all of them. I prefer the glue method because white glue is easily accessible and also it does not attract pests. My glue solution is two parts, Elmer's glue to one part water. You could also use tacky glue and you can also play with that ratio. I feel like a lot of people defer to one-to-one or 1.5 of glue to one of water. That to me, didn't provide enough stiffening for my projects. And this will depend on what fibers you're using and probably the humidity where you live. So you can play with those ratios, but 2 to 1 is where I think is a good start. This snowflake happens to already be blocked. You do not need to block before you stiffen. It looks pretty good, blocked it is still a little bit floppy. So we're gonna try the glue method. You wanna cover your blocking mat with Saran wrap so the glue doesn't ruin it. And you'll take your crochet piece and just drop it in the glue. You can drop in multiple pieces at the same time, I'm just gonna do the one, and you wanna try to make sure there's as much saturation as possible. Some people like to moisten their appliquÃ© with water first before dropping it into the glue so that that water really draws the glue into the fibers. I didn't find it changed much for my end product, so I just skipped the spray of water and stick it right in the glue. This is messy. You might wanna put some gloves on. You might wanna let this sit for a couple minutes. I'm gonna go ahead and wring this out. This is the super messy part. You wanna squeeze out as much glue as possible. The more glue you

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leave on here, there's more of a likelihood of sort of a hard gluey nubbins on your crochet project, which you might not want. And also what happens with wool, this is wool, is it's fibrous and kind of fuzzy than like a cotton or plant-based yarn. And the fuzzies, if they're loaded with too much glue, will sort of stick out and harden. So your whole project will look fuzzy and gluey. So I'm gonna try to press this out. Also if you have a a wet paper towel or like a wet wipe, you can roll it in that to get some of the excess off. If I were home, I would just put this in my fist and squeeze it, but that sounds really messy right now. So I'm just trying to use my fingers. You can see all the gloop coming off. I have a a wet wipe here. And just spread this out and kind of clean up your fingers and clean up the project a little bit. And if you don't have a wet wipe, a wet paper towel is totally fine. Okay, I'm gonna flop that on there. I've seen some people stiffen their snowflakes without pinning. They'll just lay it out with their fingers and then leave it to stiffen. I think most people pin that is up to you because like this looks pretty good to me. But I'll pin for that sort of security of knowledge that it's gonna stay in place. For pinning the snowflake, I would start at one end of a long arm and then the opposite long arm. And you wanna make sure that all your long arms form a straight line. And for me, rotating my mat is the easiest way to check all of my lines. Make sure from here to here is a straight line and you can adjust this after getting your first six pins on. I also have a little red fiber in here. I'm gonna try to get off. Scoot that over and then after your long arms look good, you can do the same with the short arms. We do have a lot of little picots here. I've seen people with really elaborate snowflakes. Put a pin in every picot because it does kind of stick up a little bit. But this is up to you. I feel like some of us get bothered by different things in our projects than others. And having super flat picots is not that important to me. But if it's important to you, that's totally cool. You might wanna buy two packs of T pins. Did I get all of them? Yes. Some people also pin out the center. Since our snowflake, it's, you know, I think it's a beautiful snowflake, it is definitely not the most intricate or complicated of patterns. There's not a lot going on in here, so I don't feel like I need to pin anything out of the center. Once again, you'll wanna wait until this is completely dry and then it won't stick to the Saran wrap, it won't stick to the pins, and then you'll be ready for the next step in making your ornament or whatever this is gonna end up being. Let's take a look at some snowflakes that have already dried. This is the Cascade 220. It's a wool. And I mentioned at the beginning of the class that wool, acrylic, sort of non cotton yarns, won't take the stiffening process as well. I wish you could feel this through the screen. It still has a little bit of flop, but there's definitely more structure and I would feel more secure about it hanging from a tree with a little bit of the glue in the fibers. This is an example of the Rowan felted tweed. Again, this is an animal fiber, so it still has flex, but you can definitely feel the glue in the picots. For a metallic yarn, I wanted to see if the glue would put a film over the yarn and kind of mute the shine. But the 2 to 1 ratio seems to have kept the shine of the glitter so that's something to keep in mind if you also use a glitter yarn. And this is my cotton example, this one has more flex than I expected, but I do love how clean the stitches look with the cotton fiber, it feels a little bit more stiff, I might experiment with upping my ratio to 3 to 1. It's not conventional, but again, the humidity in my house, the specific yarn that I chose might affect how flexible or stiff my snowflakes get and you might find the same. If you'd like to add embellishments to your piece, like sequins or pom-poms or beads, and you've stiffened your project, you're going to need to use glue. For pom-poms, I would say a fabric glue, tacky glue would work, for sequins in particular, you need to make sure that glue dries flexible. And for that, I would recommend tacky glue. I put a little bit of tacky glue in a dish. I'm gonna use a really fancy tool here, a toothpick. And you can also use a pair of tweezers, but I just use my fingers. So what you'll wanna do is get a little glue on your toothpick or whatever tool you're using, a small tool, and put a dot of

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glue wherever you want your sequins. This dries clear, so it doesn't matter if it gets a little messy, it's a little stringy. There we go. Here's where you might want tweezers. I'm fine with using my fingers. We'll place that right on. And I use one side of the pick for glue and one side will not have glue, so I can use that for placing. Ideally, you're going to use this center hole in this sequin as another sort of point of adhesion. So what I mean by that is you want the glue to come up through the hole. So you kind of have glue sequin and then glue. And if there's not a lot of glue coming through the top, you can add just a little dot to make that tiny sandwich. And that's it. So we just go around, figure out where you want your next sequin to go. Drop it on, tap it in with the clean side of the toothpick, and then try to make your tiny little sandwich. If you didn't stiffen your project and you want to sew on your sequins, I'll show you how to do that tomorrow.

Day 30 - Using your appliquÃ©s
- On our last day together, we're going to explore a few ways that you can use all the festive appliquÃ©s that you just made. I'm gonna start with ornaments. With ornaments, I like to back them in felt for a little structure, but before backing in felt, I do want to sew on any of my sewn on embellishments like sequins. I'm gonna show you how I sew on one sequin, like a polka dot and also several sequins in a line. If you're going to sew multiple colors of sequins to one appliquÃ©, it can be handy to try sewing with an invisible thread. But the convention is to use a matching color thread for your sequins. And I'm gonna show you on a candy cane. I have some red thread on a needle. It's two strands with a knot on the other side. I'll start with one polka dot, even though I wouldn't put a polka dot on a candy cane, but this is just for demonstration. You wanna decide where your dot is going to be. And then I need to attach my thread first. It's a little different than embroidering on a piece of fabric. And before that tail goes all the way through, I'll put my needle through the loop to secure the thread and then bring your needle back to the front. Grab your sequin, whether the cup goes up or the cup goes down, that is up to you. I like cup up. From the back to the front thread your sequin, and it's pretty simple, we're gonna do just two lines here to the edge of the sequin from the back, come back through that center hole of the sequin and then we will go to the exact opposite side to secure that. For decorative reasons, you could also work more spokes coming out from the center like I did here with the ornament in gold, I decided I'd like the idea of representing stars with five spokes coming out from the center. So that's a design aesthetic you can think about. And then you would just tie this off in the back. And because we're backing these in felt any threads or knots or stitches will be pretty much covered up, especially if you keep them sort of away from the edge. So you know that a felt backing will provide coverage. I'm gonna put another knot back on my thread and we're gonna do a line of sequins. If you have a washable fabric marker, it can be helpful to draw a line of where you want your beads to go. I just freehanded everything. Again, I'm perfection is not one of my main goals, but if it's helpful to give yourself a guide, draw a line, making it kind of in a diagonal direction here, and we'll start the same way. Gonna figure out where I want my first sequin to go, and then anchor my thread in the back. And come back up. Grab my sequin cup up, come through it from the back to the front. I'm gonna secure it on the left side. And then if you've done a back stitch, that's basically the technique that we're using. I'm gonna come back up from back to front slightly just the teeniest bit away from the edge of the sequin, the right edge, and I'm imagining where the center of the next sequin will go. And I'm following that line that I made with my marker. Second sequin. And then insert your needle through the center of the first or previous sequin. Make sure your second one is flipped out the right way. It is tiny and floppy. Sometimes the sequins do not go exactly where you want them, and that's okay

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too. We're doing our best here. All right, for the next one, same thing. You would come back up through the fabric where you imagine the center of the next one. And I usually put that not just at the edge of the previous sequin, but a little teeny, tiny bit farther away. You can also play with that distance. Do the third one and then go back into the project for the center of the previous sequin, making sure these are overlapping the way that I want them to. And there's room for one more. So we'll come back up through the end of my marked line. Go back through the center of the previous sequin. There we go. Make sure this is flipped cup up. And then what I do is secure it one more time through this right side edge so it's not flipping up and down. We'll go through from front to back one last time and then tie a knot. You could attach your felt backing at this point, but I like to attach my hanging loop first. This way I can hide some stringy tails in between the felts and the appliquÃ©. I really love to use bakery string for my hanger, but you can definitely just use another piece of yarn or any twine that you like. I'll cut off maybe, I don't know, what is this, like eight inches, an approximation, and we'll tie a knot. Wanna think about how long you like your loop, but also leave a little room for when we apply the hangar to the appliquÃ©, which then kind of takes up a little bit more of the loop. So go a little bit longer than you might think. I'll probably put my knot about there. - That looks pretty good. - We're going to use a G hook to help bring this loop through. It's gonna go through the top here and draw the side without the knot through. And then I pull the knot to the back. So then I have a loop without any knot showing. And then the knot and the tails are at the back of my appliquÃ©. You can trim that a little bit, but I do think this is a nice opportunity to not only hide the tails, but also really secure this loop to the ornament. 'cause you can have this side of the tails glued to the back. Your next step would be to trace your ornament on a piece of felt. This is 100% wool felt. I find that it's very sturdy. Sometimes the acrylic felt that I find at the craft store can feel a little bit shreddy or thin, but you can also use whatever you have. Just wanna get a rough idea of what this shape is. And then you can cut this out. You will have to trim so that you can get the felt shape a little smaller than your actual appliquÃ©. I really like tacky glue for this. First, I'm gonna make sure I have the correct side. My crochet is not symmetrical and yours might not be either. So the felt shape will definitely have a right side and a wrong side. While my appliquÃ© is not symmetrical, nor is my felt, it seems like it doesn't matter which way I put this. So yeah, just make sure you give it a fit because sometimes things go awry if you don't double check and really simply apply a lot of tacky glue here. I stay a little bit away from the edge so that there isn't a lot of oozing, but this dries clear so if there is a little bit of oozing, it's not a big deal. Gluey fingers. And then make sure you have your tails of your hanger secure downward. And then let this dry. And that's it. On the felt, I also like to write messages for the ornament. You can sign your name. I always like putting the year. I have some handmade ornaments on my tree from people I've known since childhood, and it's really cool to see like you know, 1986 on the back of the ornament when you put them up on your tree. You can also use these to make really cute gift toppers. which can then also be a tag, and then they can keep this and turn it into an ornament. After felt backing, you can also glue on pin backings, hair clips, so these are really fun to put on yourself or your tote bag. I think a fun idea is to use them as a napkin ring. I have a pin back here. And just use a piece of ribbon or string on your napkin and then poke this through. And not only is it a fun table decoration, but it's a little present that your guests can take home with them after your meal. For making garlands, I already showed you how to crochet your appliquÃ© together, like we did with our string lights. My preferred method for garlands is actually just stringing them together on my favorite bakery string, like it did with these super cute gingerbread houses and people. I like the string method because I might wanna place my garland in a different spot from year to year, and it makes them more flexible as far

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as positioning, so I can have them closer together or farther apart. It's really adorable. Underneath here, I have a stocking. At first, I thought I was going to completely cover this stocking with appliquÃ©s all over. Ultimately, I felt like it looked nicer just to have one accent in the corner with my holly berries and leaves. I sewed this on, but this could also be a broach that's removable that you could change out from year to year. Finally, I have my "ugly sweater". I put sweaters on sweaters! I think it turned out really cute. I have some star sequins. I turned this one into a tree. You can add little buttons. This is so hot pink, I don't know if you can see it, but I stitched the word "joy" here. This was a really fun place to play with different sweater design. By working up all 20 of these holiday appliquÃ©s with me you've learned so many fun shaping techniques, different methods for embellishment. You've seen how versatile these appliquÃ©s can be and you're all set for the holidays.

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