Mandala design by

Marinke Slump "Wink" (A Creative Being)

Blanket design by

Christina Hadderingh "Kurisu" (A Spoonful of Yarn)

Intro

Marinke Slump aka "wink" from A Creative Being has lost her battle against depression on June 26th 2015. She was only, and will forever be, 31. This devastating news crept up on us unexpected and hit us hard. The memory of that horrible phonecall will be engraved in my memory forever. Until that day I never fully grasped the meaning of 'being depressed'. But now I do.

After the funeral I had the urge of 'doing something'. Making something to make me happy and take my mind off things as well as healing and coping. With Marinke's beautiful mandalas in mind, the idea of a blanket began to take form. I ordered all the yarn and spent many hours gazing at the mandalas, puzzeling which color went where. I immersed myself in her colorful mandala world, thinking about her with every stitch. It was a way of meditation, a way of therapy. With great happiness and equally great sorrow I thought of the lovely time we spent together as a family. How we could chat endlessly about this or that crochet pattern.

She introduduced me to the craft herself. Without her I probably wouldn't have started crocheting at all. She was also the inspiration to start my own blog only last year.

It goes without saying this blanket is more than just 'something'. I think of it as all my memories of her and our time together put into one giant crochet square, which happens to be a blanket.

I hope you love making it as much as I did.

xx Christina Hadderingh

More info links

You can find her last blogpost, and the goodbye post her sister wrote here:

http://www.acreativebeing.com/2015/06/18/looking-for-the-light/
http://www.acreativebeing.com/2015/06/29/goodbye-not-farewell/

Her memorial site:

http://wink.muchloved.com/

Link for the #mandalasformarinke project hosted by Kathryn Vercillo of Crochet Concupiscence:

http://www.crochetconcupiscence.com/mandalasformarinke/

You can read more about this blanket and the stories behind the memory mandalas on these pages:

http://www.aspoonfulofyarn.com/2015/07/17/crochet-therapy/
http://www.aspoonfulofyarn.com/2015/08/17/winks-mandalas-blanket/
http://www.aspoonfulofyarn.com/2015/08/21/winks-mandalas-blanket-memory-mandalas/
http://www.aspoonfulofyarn.com/2015/08/22/winks-mandalas-blanket-guitar-hero/
http://www.aspoonfulofyarn.com/2015/08/23/winks-mandalas-blanket-christmas-tree/
http://www.aspoonfulofyarn.com/2015/08/24/winks-mandalas-blanket-no-4-and-5/

Notions and yarn

-4 mm (G) crochet hook
-Darning needle
-Thread clippers
- Drops Paris yarn in various colors (see yarn requirements page)
-The standard 12-round crochet mandala pattern designed by marinke :

http://www.acreativebeing.com/patterns/mandala-en/

Blanket size

15 squares: 3x5 squares gives you a blanket of approximately 110x180 cm (44"x72")
20 squares: 4x5 squares gives you a blanket of approximately 145x180 cm (58"x72")

Skill requirements

For the mandalas to be perfectly round and the rows to flow seamlessly together it is important you follow the mandala pattern very closely. This means you need to use the standing stich, as well as the joining method Marinke used to make her mandalas. Lastly it is important to make increases before the increase of the previous round (i.e. not in the increase of the previous round), otherwise the increases will show after a few rounds.

You need to know how to

-make a single crochet
-make a half double crochet
-make a double crochet
-make a treble crochet
-make a standing stitch
-join in the round as Marinke did using a darning needle (see her mandala pattern)
-working in the back loops
-joining squares using single crochets
-block your work

Abbreviations

Using US terms

sc: single crochet
dc: double crochet
trc: treble crochet
hdc: half double crochet
bl: back loops
st: stitch

It is important that you read the whole pattern before you start, so you know if you understand everything.

Yarn requirements

Important notes:

Every round uses aprox. the round number as its weight, i.e. ; Round 5 uses 5 grams, round 10 uses 10 grams etc. This knowledge can be usefull when you're not sure you have enough yarn to finish a round.

If you only want to make the 15 mandalas Marinke made, you need approx. 15 balls of white (color code 16). This covers the white in the mandalas, making them square, crocheting them together and putting on a one - round border. If you want to make 20 mandalas, you need approx. 18 balls of white (color code 16).

The numbers represent the color codes of the yarn colors of Drops Paris yarn

Colors for marinke's mandala's (in Drops Paris)

Quantity needed	1 ball needed	1 ball needed	Maybe 2 balls needed*	2 balls needed
Color code	8	57	2	6
	11	58	14	10
	1	59	19	17
	20	60	60	35
	12	61		
	14	7		
	21	9		
	19	37		
	2	38		
	23	39		
	24	41		
	27	42		
	28	43		
	29	44		
	30	45		
	31	46		
	32	48		
	33	5		

*The Quantity is just an indication. You can need more or less depending on how tight or loose your gauge is.

Color schemes (in drops paris)

Marinke's mandalas

Mandala name	Church window *1	Watermelon	Sparkle beach *2	Halloween *3	Leaves	Peter Max	Pinkapades
Round 1	31	43	14	16	29	14	16
Round 2	21	21	32	35	2	27	20
Round 3	7	57	16	27	14	45	35
Round 4	29	7	41	41	2	5	31
Round 5	21	21	60	12	39	6	6
Round 6	8	6	58	14	2	5	58
Round 7	7	32	23	46	1	10	37
Round 8	35	57	57	14	10	9	46
Round 9	9	39	21	33	33	28	41
Round 10	39	6	60	37	10	6	6
Round 11	35	43	16	46	6	45	58
Round 12	19	17	41	44	9	35	35
Round 13	19	17	14	44	48	11	35

*1 Overlay slip stich in color 28 in rounds 3, 6, 7, 9, 10
*2 Every round is crocheted with extra sparkle thread, alternating with gold and pink sprakle.
*3 Every round is worked in the back loops only, except for the last round

Mandala name	King tut *4	Lolita	Handspun	Blue skies	Winter sky	Dream of flying	Twinkle toes	Carrousel
Round 1	16	1	1	2	21	16	14	17
Round 2	28	58	6	48	42	17	31	32
Round 3	48	60	5	9	27	60	60	57
Round 4	17	16	1	29	20	58	57	60
Round 5	46	46	38	44	59	38	35	16
Round 6	19	45	58	24	17	17	14	58
Round 7	48	29	37	10	58	10	57	31
Round 8	35	2	12	48	23	39	5	6
Round 9	9	42	8	30	17	35	60	1
Round 10	17	60	6	61	29	17	31	19
Round 11	19	61	31	10	17	10	14	14
Round 12	35	32	44	2	30	2	35	37
Round 13	19	5	7	2	30	16	17	60

*4 Row 6, 8, 10 and 12 are crocheted with sparkle thread together with the yarn

Additional memory mandalas (in drops paris)

Mandala name	Gathering leaves	Guitar hero	Christmas tree	Noro boho bag	Back to the 70's
Round 1	43	11	8	6	16
Round 2	25	28	21	11	48
Round 3	43	12	5	8	10
Round 4	42	28	11	21	42
Round 5	19	14	1	5	43
Round 6	21	28	27	45	16
Round 7	25	9	33	7	44
Round 8	39	28	6	8	41
Round 9	42	45	12	33	16
Round 10	43	32	20	25	46
Round 11	25	29	19	38	45
Round 12	43	2	41	7	37
Round 13	42	10	14	31	12

IMPORTANT

For making these 5 memory mandala's, in addition to the colors you have, you might need more of the following colors:

19, 2, 14 and 31. Check your leftover yarn to see if you have enough of these colors.

You also need color 25. This color does not occur in Marinke's mandalas, so you will not have it as leftover yarn.

Don't forget the extra white yarn you need to square the mandalas off ->3 extra balls of color 16(white)

Of course you're free to design your own additional mandalas or leave them out altogether.

Making the mandalas square

After you've made your mandalas it's time to make them all into a square.
Using white(color 16) for all the rounds

round 1: IN BACK LOOPS ONLY: Begin in the stitch after a single crochet with a standing stitch(see photo above); *dc (the first dc is the standing stitch) in first st, hdc in next two st, sc in next st, hdc in next two st, dc in next st* repeat between * * to the end. Cut yarn and close the round as you did with the mandalas

The rest of the rounds you work in both loops.

round 2: Begin in any stitch around with a standing stitch; *sc in next 6 st, hdc in next 4 st, dc in next 5 st, trc in next 6 st, ch 2, trc in next 6 st, dc in next 5 st, hdc in next 4 st, sc in next 6 st* repeat to the end. Cut yarn and close the round as you did with the mandalas

round 3: Start in any ch-2 corner with a standing stitch; *[2 trc, ch 2, 2 trc] in ch-2 corner, trc in next 6 st (make sure to not skip the first stitch, see photo), dc in next 3 st, hdc in next 3 st, sc in next 18 st, hdc in next 3 st, dc in next 3 st, trc in next 6 st* repeat to the end. Cut yarn and close the round as you did with the mandalas.

Blocking

For the blanket to become nice and even it is important that you block your squares to the same size once they're done. I blocked all my squares to roughly 35 cm.

Crocheting the squares together

To crochet the squares together I used single crochets, to get nice standing ridges. Before you crochet your squares together, determine your layout by laying all the squares on the ground to see how the blanket will turn out. If you made 15 squares, your blanket will be 3x5 squares, if you made 20 your blanket will be 4x5 squares.

Step 1: Begin to form your row of 5; Take your first two squares and put them together with the wrong sides facing each other. Begin with a standing stitch and make a sc in the first ch-2 corner through both squares.

Step 2: make sc's in each stitch of the squares by working in the front loops of both your squares, meaning the loop that's closest to you and the loop that's fartest away.

Step 3: when you encounter your first ch-2 corner, make 2 sc through both squares. Do not cut yarn.

Step 4: Take 2 new squares. Make 2 sc in the ch-2 corner, making sure to pull tightly so your old squares and new are neatly joined.

Step 5: Repeat until you have a row of 5 squares. Make one sc in the last ch-2 corner. Cut yarn and weave in ends.

Step 6: Repeat steps 1 to 5 until it's 3 or 4 squares wide.

Step 7: Now you need to join the sides of the squares that are still loose. Repeat step one and two until you come across your first intersection. Make 1 sc in the first ch-2 space, working over the sc ridge you've created earlier; make another sc in the second ch-2 space.

Step 8: Continue working as described and end every sc-ridge with one sc in the last ch-2 corner. Repeat unil all sides are joined.

One round border

A little border is needed to get all the squares to align nicely.

With a standing stitch begin in one of the outer ch-2 corners; *[2 dc, ch 2, 2 dc] in corner, hdc's to intersection, [dc in ch-2 space, dc in first st of sc-ridge (see photos), dc in ch-2 space], hdc's to next intersection(or next corner)* repeat between * to the end.

Weave in your last ends. It might be blocking is still required to make the blanket nice and even. When you need to do that, I recommend that you wet block it. This way you can really pull the blanket into shape.

Enjoy your new blanket!