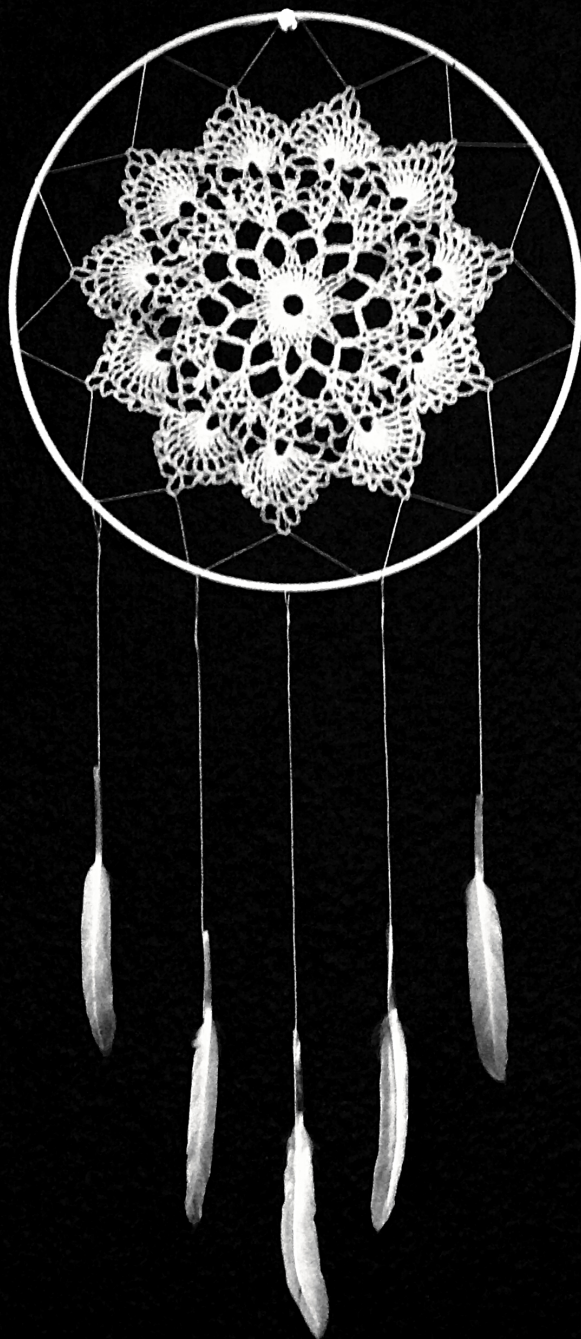


Nightmare Catcher

CROCHET PATTERN BY JOY FROST



Nightmare Catcher Pattern

a glorified doily

Difficulty: Advanced 5/5

Materials

1.5 mm hook
Filet weight lace yarn (any color you desire)
25 cm/10 inch hoop
Fake feathers (or natural feathers gathered safely and ethically)
Glue for stiffening
Pins for stiffening and a board to lie it on.
Superglue

Stitches to know

Chain (ch)
Single crochet (sc)
Double crochet (dc)
Treble (tr)

Single crochet 3 together - sc3tog

(go into spaces between first two stitches, pull up a loop, go into space between last two stitches, pull up a loop, yo, pull through 2 loops, yo pull through final 2 loops. Makes 1 sc.

Pisces stitch -

I will explain this stitch in row 8 because it won't make any sense now. I named this stitch Pisces Stitch because the shape will look like exactly the Pisces symbol. Also, I am a Pisces. ♋

Joy's Prologue

I blended elements from 2-3 vintage doily designs to create this pattern. The blogs I found them on are no longer online, and I lost the pictures of the original filet charts in a hard drive crash, so I sadly don't know how to credit the sources who inspired this pattern. I shall therefore simply call them the Granny Gods and give thanks.

It is also important to mention that despite being made from a doily instead of natural materials, for all intents and purposes, this is a dream catcher. In spirit this project is therefore directly inspired by Native American culture. I believe it is important to acknowledge the origins of the symbols we use, especially when the original creators faced oppression. The Ojibwe tribe first created dream catchers. If you can, please donate to their foundation as I have so they will directly benefit from our continued use of their creation.

The secret to this project is making the chains and single crochet stitches as TIGHT AS POSSIBLE. These stitches will be tiny! We are using a 1.5mm hook. Any hook bigger than that with this lace weight of yarn will turn out looking sloppy instead of delicate. If it's your first time doing lace crochet I recommend making at least 2 practice doilies before getting your self esteem invested in the outcome. If the first projects turn out messy, please, please don't get discouraged. Just try it a few more times. Your stitches will naturally become tighter and more consistent the more you practice. Even after more than a decade of crocheting with hooks around 4-7mm, my first attempt at making a doily with a 1.5 mm hook looked truly *nightmarish*. My second attempt two weeks later was already much better but still rough. After I had those practice projects under my fingers, I made the original Nightmare Catcher doily as my third attempt at filet crochet. Then, after a five year break of returning to projects made with bigger sized hooks, my first doily attempt sucked again. This is hard. You can use regular yarn with a bigger sized hook if this delicate weight of yarn and 1.5mm hook is too small for you, but keep in mind you will then need a much larger hoop to weave your Nightmare Catcher into at the end since it will turn out much, much bigger. We also will be soaking the entire doily in a glue mixture at the end to stiffen the finished product, so don't worry if it's a little floppy throughout the process. (That's what she said)

For filet crochet it's also unfortunately mandatory to remove any press-on or long acrylic nails before you begin. I believe it may be humanly impossible to make consistent stitches this small with long nails. Sadly.

Pattern

This pattern is worked in rounds. Slip stitch to join with the first stitch at the end of every round and turn. Ch4 at beginning of each round counts as a double crochet and chain stitch. I've color coded the alternating patterns throughout the rows to make it easier to follow.

Part One - The Excitement of New Beginnings .

Round 0: Leaving a short tail, create a slip stitch loop to begin. 10ch loosely. Sl st in first chain to make a big loop. turn. (10ch)

JOY'S NOTE (For the upcoming row, I like to wrap my tail around the chain loop and crochet over it to hide it. This way I save myself the step of weaving it in at the end. This also allows me to adjust the loop size if I want to.)

Round 1: Ch 4, tr 31 in loop. Sl stitch in to the top of the initial ch3. At the end of the row, tighten the loop a little bit (not all the way) and scoot the stitches around the loop so they are nice and even. Turn. (32tr)
(If you still have part of your tail left over just bring it up to the next row and keep laying it across the stitches until it's completely covered)

Round 2: Ch 4, Tr 2, Ch 7, Tr in next 3 stitches, Ch 7, {Tr 3, ch 7} around. Sl st into beginning ch3. Turn.
(Basically it's just a tr in each stitch all the way around, but with little chain loops every 3 stitches. It should look a little bit like a wonky flower at this point) (32tr, 11 loops)

Round 3: Sl st over to beginning of first chain loop.

Ch1, sc 9 in chain loop. Don't do it in the individual stitches, do it in the hole.

Next, Sc3together across the 3dc space (this is ultimately a fancy sc 1, see stitch guide above).

Repeat the following around {[sc 9 in chain loops](#), [sc3together in spaces](#)}.

Sl stitch in first ch (11 loops) (The wonky flower should be stabilising. Scoot the stitches around again to keep them evenly distributed around the ring)



Check in - it should look like this by the end of part one.

Part Two - The Murky Middle

Round 4: 5sl st over so you start the round in the center of first loop instead of where you are now. This row will work all stitches in a cluster in the center chain of each loop.

Once you make it to the center of the first loop, Ch4 (counts as dc & ch), then dc in center chain of the loop), ch 3. Then in the same stitch yet again do the following: dc 1, ch 1, and dc 1 again. Ch 5.

Do the following in the 5th/center chain of the next loop **(dc 1, ch 1, dc 1, ch 3, dc 1, ch 1, dc 1) ch5 again.**

Repeat **blue** around.

Sl st in ch4 from beginning of the round to end round.

Round 5: ch4 (counts as dc and 1 ch). Do the following in the mini center ch loop : (dc 1, ch 3, dc again). Now Ch 1. Dc in next ch space. Ch 3.

In big ch loop do the following : (sc 1, ch 3. Sc 1 again. Ch 3.)

Repeat blue and pink around:

{dc 1 in ch space, ch 1. In mini center ch space do : (dc 1, ch 3, dc 1) Ch 1. Dc in next ch space. ch 3, In bigger chain loop, sc 1, ch 3, sc again, ch 3 }

Slip st to end round. Don't turn this time. (11 little thingies)

Round 6 : (This row is extremely similar to row 5). Ch4 (counts as dc and 1 ch).

Do the following In mini center ch loop: (dc 1, ch3, dc1). ch 1, dc in next chain space. Ch 3

Now in the tiny tiny ch loop in the next section do the following: (sc. ch3. Sc) ch3

Repeat blue and pink around:

(Dc 1 in space, ch 1, in mini center ch space do : (dc1, ch3, dc1) Ch1. Dc in next ch space. Ch 3. in tiny ch loop do the following: (sc. ch 3. sc.) ch3.

Sl st to end round.

Round 7: ch 4(counts as dc and ch). Do the following in center loop :(dc, ch3, dc) Ch 1. Dc in next ch space. Ch 7.

Do the following in small ch loop to make a tiny little bump - sc, ch 2, sc. ch 7.

Dc in ch space, ch 1, Do the following in center loop (dc, ch3, dc). Ch1. Dc in next ch space. Ch 7.

Repeat pink and blue around.

Sl st to end round.



Check in - it should look like this by the end of part two.

Part Three - The Grand Finale

Round 8 Sl st over to the center loop. Ch 5 (counts as 1tr). Now tr 11 in the center loop.

From here we are about to do a cute little stitch I've named the Pisces stitch. It will look like the Pisces symbol. Do you see the two big long chains on both sides of the tiny little bump we made in the last row? We are basically going to tie these chains together. It will look like we've combined them with 2 dcs that make a little x shape at the top, but it's actually one stitch acting as a belt between these two long chains.

PISCES STITCH

Ch 3.

Yarn over and dip the hook into the first big chain space. Yarn over and pull just the chain part off (3 loops should then be left on your hook). Yarn over again and pull through two loops. (2 loops should be left on your hook). From here, we are yarning over again, but now we will dip the hook into the next big chain space. Yarn over and pull that chain part off. (4 loops should be left on your hook). Yarn over, pull through 2 loops. (3 loops left). Yarn over and pull through all three loops.

Ch 3.

You did it!

Tr 12 in center loop (11 clusters around).

Pisces stitch.

Repeat pink and blue around. Sl st to end round.

Round 9. Ch 4 (counts as dc and ch). (Dc in next tr. ch 1) Repeat x11. Basically we will dc in all the trebles of this cluster with little 1ch spaces between. After you have finished the dc the last treble of the cluster, dc directly into the first treble of the next cluster, skipping over the Pisces stitch entirely. That part is done. So basically this entire round is double crochets all around with 1ch spaces between. Super easy! :) Sl st to end round.

Round 10. (Ch4. Sl st into the 1ch space.) Repeat 3x. Ch4, skip one ch space dc into next ch space. Ch 5. Dc again into same space. Ch4. skip one chain space, Sl st into the next ch space instead. Ch 4, sl st to next ch. Sl st to next cluster.

Repeat all the way around until all 11 clusters have been given little crowns. Sl st to end row. Cut yarn and tie off. Hide the tail.



Check in - it should look like this!

POST PRODUCTION

You did it! You crocheted a doily! The hard part is done. Now it's time to stiffen and shape this crumpled lace ball.

1. To stiffen the doily, mix glue and water. Soak your entire product in this mixture. Lay out flat. Pin in place on ironing board. Let it dry in this shape. This is the most important step. You could stop here and use it as a regular doily after this stage. You go Granny!

2. If you'd like to continue on, take your hoop. Now take the yarn and gently weave it through the center loops of each crown, pulling it taught around the hoop. Keep adjusting until it is suspended tightly in the center. I super glue the string in place on the hoop

3. It's time to add feathers and strings. Feel free to customise this any way you'd like. I glued 7 fake feathers to 7 strings of equal length. I used the same yarn we made the doily from, but you could use lace, ribbon, crystals, anything you want. I glued those strings in between the spaces of the clusters on the hoop so they stayed in place, making sure the center string was placed directly in the center of one of the 11 clusters.

4. Hang it over your bed (or wherever you want) and gaze at your masterpiece for years to come.

I would love to see your finished creation! Please send me a photo of what you make! Thanks so much for joining me. Enjoy your creation, and may the wish you made on yours come true.

Warmest wishes,
Joy

**10% of all handmade nightmatcher proceeds has been donated to the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation as a creative royalty.
Please consider donating too.**

