

“A Good Heart”

Filet Crochet by Diane Haber

No one is really sure how old crochet is or where it originated. Some people believe it originated in Arabia, others believe South America and yet another choice is China. Crochet became popular in the mid-1800s. At first crochet was looked down upon because it was originally introduced as a less costly substitute for bobbin lace and other laces, rather than a craft of its own. Crochet was considered common. That idea gradually changed, helped I'm sure, by the fact that Queen Victoria learned to crochet. The publication of patterns specifically for crochet also boosted its popularity.

I've always wondered why filet crochet was called that. But I didn't know the French word *filet* meant network. Now that I do it makes perfect sense since the derivation of the word *crochet* comes from a French word meaning hook. The term *filet crochet* dates from the mid-19th century when people first began copying lace by doing *filet lace*. *Filet lace* is made with a knotted mesh net and a darning stitch is used to create the pattern. In *filet crochet* the net is made with a single crochet stitch and the darned design is instead a double crochet stitch.

For those of you who did the sample *filet crochet* piece at July's meeting, the pattern I've designed here is also based on hearts. Remember to work the pattern from the bottom upwards. Work from left to right for odd rows and from right to left for even rows. The odd row side is the right side.

Pattern Instructions

- To start the pattern, chain 77 stitches (36 x 2 + 5 foundation stitches for turning). The foundation chain does not count as a row. This pattern is based on a 3-dc mesh.
- 3-dc mesh (dc, ch1, dc) = open mesh (dc, dc, dc) = filled mesh
- The last thing I want to remind you is that blocks (or mesh) share sides. So a mesh of dc, ch1, dc, the ending dc is the beginning dc of the next mesh.



As you work this pattern of hearts, keep in mind the following quotation:

“A good heart is better than all the heads in the world.”

--Edward Bulwer-Lytton