

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS 1

Property of  
MacCroknit Club

# Tree Skirts



Tenth card of 11 in Pattern/Pack 1

Designed by Marge Wita

*Made in afghan stitch, this plain tree skirt works up very quickly. Then you can embellish it with embroidered cross-stitch candy canes or ornaments.*

# Tree Skirts

## MATERIALS

Worsted weight yarn, approximately:

15 ounces (985 yds) MC

3¼ ounces (215 yds) Color A

3¼ ounces (215 yds) Color B

Note: The Candy Canes Tree Skirt uses green as MC, red as Color A, and white as Color B; the Ornaments Tree Skirt has white as MC, green as Color A, and red as Color B.

20" flexible afghan hook, size H (5.00 mm), or size needed for gauge

Markers

Note: Abbreviations are on page 4 of "All About Crochet" Newsletter 1, and instructions for stitches are in your free booklet, "Crochet Basics."

## FOR THE CROSS-STITCH DESIGNS

Yarn needle

Sewing needle and thread

Candy Canes: 1½ ounces (100 yds) each white and red worsted weight yarn

5 yds of ¼" white satin ribbon

Ornaments: 1¼ ounces (85 yds) red worsted weight yarn  
1 ounce (65 yds) each green and blue worsted weight yarn

Small amounts each white and gray worsted weight yarn

7 yds of ¼" red satin ribbon

## GAUGE

18 afghan sts = 4"

## PANEL (MAKE 3)

With MC, ch 150 loosely.

**Row 1, Step 1:** Working in top lps only and beg in second ch from hook, yo and pull up a lp in ea ch across, keeping all lps on hook: 150 lps. Do not turn work; the side facing you is the rs.

**Row 1, Step 2:** Yo and draw through 1 lp (beg afghan st made); yo and draw through 2 lps (afghan st made) across until 1 lp remains on hook: 150 afghan sts.

Note: These 2 steps always count as 1 row.

**Row 2, Step 1:** Insert hook through upright bar of second lp, yo and pull up a lp in next 74 bars, place marker, pull up a lp in ea bar across to last bar; insert hook through last bar and strand behind it, yo and pull up last lp.

**Row 2, Step 2:** Rep row 1, step 2: 150 afghan sts.

**Row 3, Step 1 (dec row):** Work across to within 2 bars of marker, work bar dec as folls: insert hook under next 2 bars, yo and pull up a lp (bar dec made), work across to last 2 bars, bar dec: 148 lps.

**Row 3, Step 2:** Rep row 1, step 2: 148 afghan sts.

**Row 4, Step 1:** Work across: 148 lps.

**Row 4, Step 2 (dec row):** Work across to within 2 lps of marker, work lp dec as folls: yo and draw through 3 lps (lp

dec made), work across to last 2 lps, lp dec: 146 afghan sts.

Note: When you reach a lp dec on subsequent rows, treat the 2 bars of the dec as 1 and pull up 1 lp in both bars.

**Rows 5–43:** Rep rows 3 and 4, 19 times; and then rep row 3 once more: 68 afghan sts.

**Row 44, Step 1 (dec row):** Work across to within 2 bars of marker, bar dec, work across to last 2 bars, bar dec: 66 lps.

**Row 44, Step 2 (dec row):** Work across to within 2 lps of marker, lp dec, work across to last 2 lps, lp dec: 64 afghan sts.

**Rows 45–56:** Rep row 44, 12 times: 16 afghan sts.

## JOINING

With rs tog and working through bk lps only of two panels, join MC with sl st in end of first row; sl st in end of ea row across, being careful to match rows; finish off. Rep for last panel, leaving back open.

## TOP EDGING

**Row 1, Step 1 (dec row):** Using Color A with rs facing, pull up a lp in first 6 bars, (bar dec, pull up a lp in next 5 bars) 6 times: 42 lps.

**Row 1, Step 2:** Beg afghan st, afghan st, work popcorn as folls: ch 3, yo and draw through 2 lps on hook (popcorn made), afghan st, (popcorn, afghan st) across; finish off.

Note: Keep popcorns to front (rs) of work when working step 1.

**Row 2, Step 1:** Using MC with rs facing, pull up a lp in ea bar across: 42 lps.

**Row 2, Step 2:** Beg afghan st, afghan st, (popcorn, afghan st) across; finish off.

**Row 3, Step 1:** Using Color B with rs facing, pull up a lp in ea bar across: 42 lps.

**Row 3, Step 2:** Beg afghan st, work popcorn across.

**Bind-off row:** Insert hook through next bar, yo and draw loosely through bar and lp on hook (sl st made); sl st across; finish off.

## BOTTOM EDGING

**Row 1, Step 1:** Using Color A with rs facing, pull up a lp in ea bar across: 450 lps.

**Row 1, Step 2:** Beg afghan st, afghan st, (popcorn, afghan st) across; finish off.

**Row 2, Steps 1 and 2:** Using MC with rs facing, rep row 1, steps 1 and 2.

**Row 3, Step 1:** Using Color B with rs facing, rep row 1, step 1.

**Row 3, Step 2:** Beg afghan st, work popcorn across.

**Bind-off row:** Insert hook through next bar, sl st across; finish off.

(Continued)

Tree Skirts (continued)

Working Cross-Stitch Design

Using cross-stitch embroidery, follow the appropriate chart to work candy cane border or ornaments on each panel of tree skirt separately. For how-to information on working cross-stitch over afghan stitch and a color photo of the Ornaments Tree Skirt, see Newsletter 1.

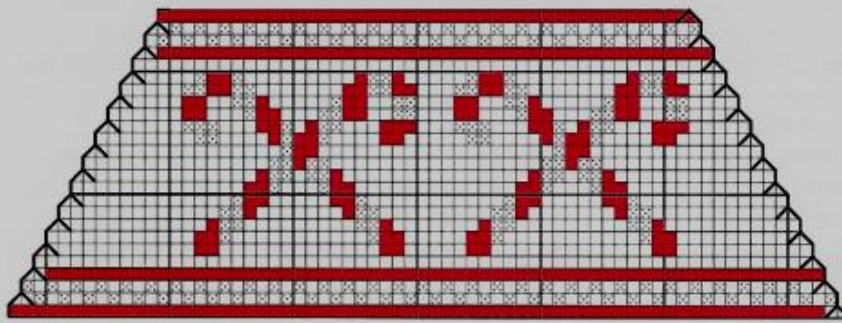
For the **candy canes**, go back and work over the decrease lines and seams, adjusting stitches as necessary to align the border. For the **ornaments**, because individual row gauge may vary, you may need to add or delete stitches from the chart to keep your ornaments round.

**FINISHING**



**For Candy Canes:** Weave in yarn ends. Make bows with ribbon and sew or hot-glue them in the centers of the crossed candy canes.

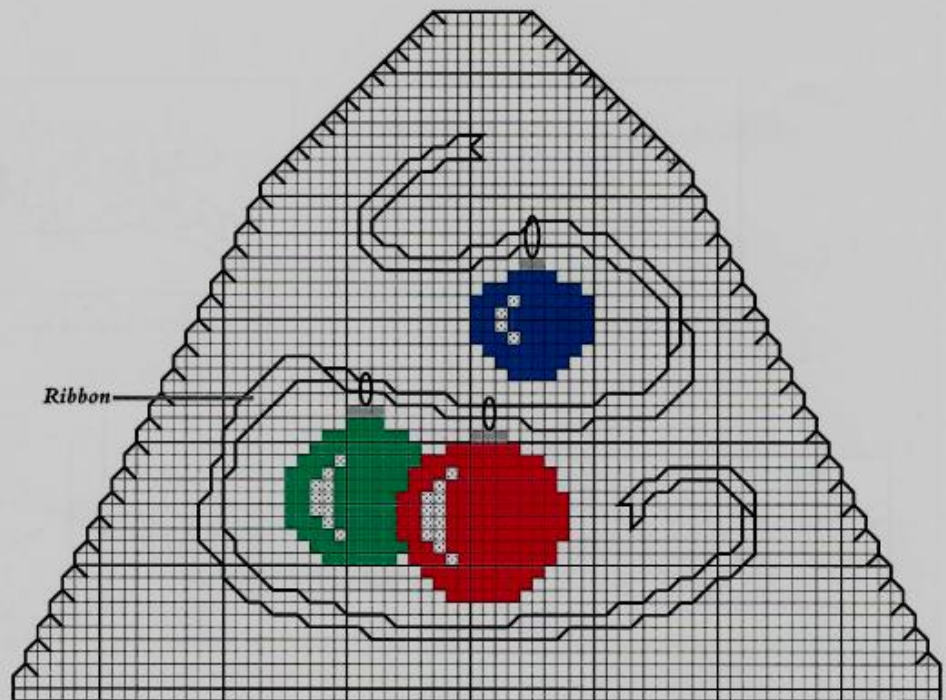
**For Ornaments:** Tie a knot in 1 end of a length of ribbon. Using the photo and chart as a guide, pull the unknotted end of the ribbon through the tree skirt from back to front, leaving the knot on the back to hold the ribbon in place. Lay the ribbon on top of the tree skirt in the pattern indicated. Wherever the ribbon curves, use the sewing needle and thread to tack it in place. Draw the unknotted end through to the back of the tree skirt and knot the ribbon to hold it in place.

Using gray yarn and the yarn needle, pull a straight stitch over the ribbon directly above each ornament to look like an ornament hook (see the photo in Newsletter 1, page 3).



Candy cane border

- White 
- Blue 
- Green 
- Red 
- Gray 



Ornaments

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BONUS INFORMATION

## How to Work Afghan Stitch

The tree skirts in this card are made from a crochet stitch called afghan stitch. Even experienced crocheters may never have used this stitch, which makes an even grid pattern that serves as a great background for embroidered cross-stitch patterns.

Afghan stitch is worked in two steps. First you go across a row from right to left, pulling up loops and keeping all the loops on your hook. Then you work from left to right, completing each stitch by yarning over and pulling through one loop at a time.

Because you have all the loops for an entire row on the hook at the same time, working afghan stitch requires a special afghan hook, which is longer than a regular hook and has a knob on the end to keep loops from sliding off the back.

### Afghan Stitch Sample:

Ch 12 loosely.

**Row 1, Step 1:** Insert hook into top lp only of second ch from hook (*Fig. 1*), yo and pull up a lp (2 lps on hook); rep in ea ch across (*Fig. 2*), keeping all lps on hook. You will have 12 lps on hook.

**Row 1, Step 2:** Yo and draw through 1 lp (beg afghan st made); yo and draw through 2 lps on hook (*Fig. 3*, afghan st made), and rep until only 1 lp rem on hook. This is first st of next row. You will have 12 completed afghan sts.

**Note:** These 2 steps always count as 1 row.

**Row 2, Step 1:** Insert hook through upright bar of second lp (*Fig. 4*), yo and pull up a lp (2 lps on hook). Pull up a lp in ea bar across to last bar. For a firmer edge, insert hook through last bar and strand behind it (*Fig. 5*), yo and pull up a lp. You will have 12 lps on your hook.

**Row 2, Step 2:** Rep row 1, step 2 to make 12 afghan sts.

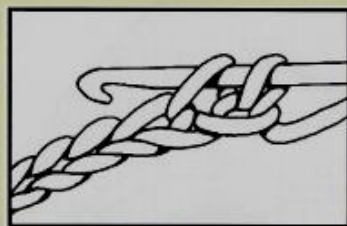


Fig. 1: Pull up a loop

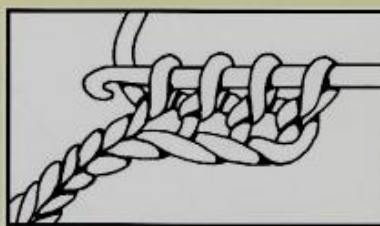


Fig. 2: Keep all loops on hook



Fig. 3: Draw through 2 loops



Fig. 4: Work into upright bar



Fig. 5: End of row



