Demelza Blanket

Part 1

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This blanket has been inspired by the character 'Demelza', from BBC's Poldark (2015). I used Demelza's colour palette and incorporated her love of flowers into each square.

Please feel free to sell blankets you make from this pattern, but make sure I am credited as the pattern creator. Please do not sell this pattern, or try to claim this pattern as your own

Hook: 4.5mm. Gauge is not essential for this project. The smallest squares were 4 inches, Use what feels comfortableto you with the yarn you choose. I tend to have a tight gauge; use your own judgement as to whether you want to go up or down a hook size, or even two!

You will also need a tapestry needle for sewing in ends, and you may find stitch markers helpful. If you don't have stitch markers, short lengths of a contrasting colour yarn work just as well
.
Note: I don't feel the need to block squares when using acrylic yarn – because, short of 'killing' the fibres with steam, blocking doesn't do much! I do, however, wash the blanket when it's done, and tumble dry on low. I find this is a good blocking technique for this particular yarn. It softens the stitches and makes everything relax into shape

Stitches used
This pattern uses US terminology

The stitches and abbreviations used are as follows:
sl st = slip stitch
ch = chain
sc = single crochet
hdc = half-double crochet
dc = double crochet
tc = treble crochet
bpsc = back post single crochet
bphdc = back post half-double crochet
bpdc = back post double crochet
fphdc = front post half-double crochet
fpdc = front post double crochet
fptc = front post treble crochet

Note: Post stitches are worked around the post of a stitch, rather than through the top of the stitch. Unless otherwise instructed, always assume that you skip over the top of a stitch that has been worked as a front post stitch.

tc2tog = work treble crochet decrease across two stitches
fphdc2tog = work front post half-double crochet decrease across two stitches
fpdc2tog = work front post double crochet decrease across two stitches
fptc2tog = work front post treble crochet decrease across two stitches
fptc3tog = work front post treble crochet decrease across three stitches or as specified.

V stitch = (dc, ch2, dc) in same stitch
Narrow V stitch = (dc, ch1, dc) in same stitch
Cluster = worked with three dc stitches throughout pattern.
Shell stitch= (dc, ch1, dc, ch1, dc, ch1, dc) in same stitch.

Standing stitches: standing sc, standing hdc, standing dc, standing bpsc, standing bpdc. These are a great way to begin a round without joining new yarn with a slip stitch and chains. It makes the first stitch look like all the others, and you can easily make an 'invisible' join at the end, and so avoid having to slip stitch to join the last stitch to the first stitch in a round. There are a number of excellent tutorials online on how to do these stitches. If you're not happy using standing stitches, just join new yarn in the normal way with a slip stitch and then ch1 for sc, ch2 for hdc, or ch3 for dc, and then at the end of the round join with a sl st to the 'top' ch of the beginning chain.

Invisible join: There are a number of good tutorials online, and this can be done with either a chained beginning stitch or a standing stitch. This is optional. If you prefer to join the last stitch to the first stitch with a slip stitch, feel free to do that. I will generally say 'do an invisible join', but if I specifically say to join with a sl st, then please do that.

Magic circle: again, there are lots of tutorials out there. This is a good way of starting a square because it can be drawn tight, and doesn't leave a hole in the middle the way a chain loop does.

The numbers in brackets at the end of each round's instructions are the numbers of stitches that should be in that round.

Note: when breaking off yarn, remember to leave a nice long tail to make it easier to sew it in securely at the end.

<u>Small corner squares</u>

You'll be making 16 of these, 8 in colour combination A and 8 in colour combination B. The first colour combination, A, is *italicised*, and the second, B, is in **(bolded brackets)**

Combination A: Raspberry, stone, gold, meadow.
Combination B: Camel, claret, saffron, meadow.

1) With *raspberry* **(camel)**, in a magic circle ch3 (counts as dc), 2 dc, and then (ch2, 3dc) three times. Ch2, then join with invisible join to beginning ch3. Break off yarn. Pull the beginning yarn end tight to close the circle. (12 dc, 4 ch2. *20 stitches in total*)

2) With *stone* **(claret)**, begin with standing dc in any first dc after ch2 corner. Fptc around next dc, then dc in next dc. *In corner ch2 space (2dc, ch4, 2dc). Dc in next stitch, fptc around next, dc in next stitch**. Repeat from * to ** three times, omitting final two stitches. Join with invisible join to beginning dc. Break off yarn. (24 dc, 4 fptc, 4 ch4. *44 stitches in total*)

3) With *gold* **(saffron)**, begin with standing sc in any third dc of side. Sc in next two stitches. *Skip next two stitches, then in corner ch4 (5dc, ch2, 5dc). Skip next two stitches, then sc in next three stitches**. Repeat from * to ** three times, omitting final three sc. Join with invisible join to first sc. Break off yarn. (40 dc, 12 sc, 4 ch2. *60 stitches in total*)

4) With *meadow* **(meadow)**, begin with standing sc in any corner ch2. 2sc in same space. *bpsc in next four stitches. Fptc around fptc from round two, skip next two stitches, dc in next stitch. Fptc around same fptc from round two, skip next two stitches, then bpsc in next four stitches. 3sc in corner ch2**. Repeat from * to ** three times, omitting final 3sc. Join with sl st to first sc. (8 fptc, 32 bpsc, 12 sc, 4 dc. *56 stitches in total*)

5) Ch2 (counts as hdc). *3hdc in next stitch, then hdc in next 13 stitches**. Repeat from * to ** three times, omitting final hdc. Join with invisible join to beginning hdc. Break off yarn. (64 hdc)

Sew in all ends.