

Starfish tablecloth

18

This decorative centerpiece is made of repeated starfish motifs, multiplied to create a textile in which the negative spaces are as important as the positive shapes. The motifs are joined together as you work, leaving minimal finishing.

Skill level



EXPERIENCED

In this project you will learn

Joining shaped motifs as they are worked

Stitches used

Single crochet
Half double crochet
Double crochet

Size

Approximately 27½" in diameter

Materials

No. 10 linen crochet thread, such as Anchor Artiste Linen Crochet Thread No. 10 (2) FINE in one color:

3 x 1¾oz/50g balls (289yd/265m per ball)
in beige

Size C-2 (2.5mm)crochet hook

Gauge

Each motif measures approximately 2¾in/7cm in diameter using a C-2 (2.5mm) hook.

Abbreviation

See page 45.

To make tablecloth

The tablecloth is started at the center with a single starfish motif, then as the motifs are made they are joined onto the previous motifs. The diagrams show how the starfish are added on—outward around the center in rounds.

Center starfish motif

Base ring Using a C-2 (2.5mm) hook, ch 9 and join with a slip stitch to first chain to form a ring.

Round 1 (RS) Ch 1, 18 sc in ring, join with a slip stitch to top of first sc.

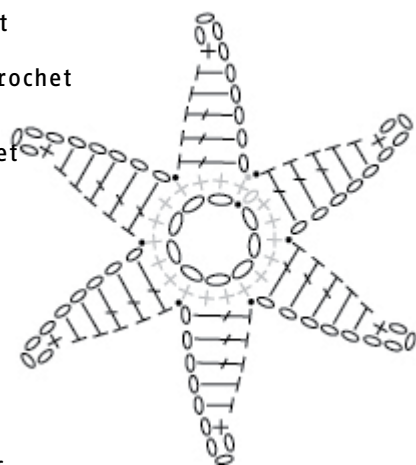
Note: Do not turn at end of rounds but continue with RS of motif always facing.

Round 2 *Ch 9, 1 sc in 4th ch from hook, 1 hdc in each of next 2 ch, 1 dc in each of next 3 ch, skip next 2 sc on ring, 1 slip stitch in next sc; rep from * 5 times more, working last slip stitch in same sc as slip stitch on previous round. Fasten off.

Stitch diagram Starfish

KEY

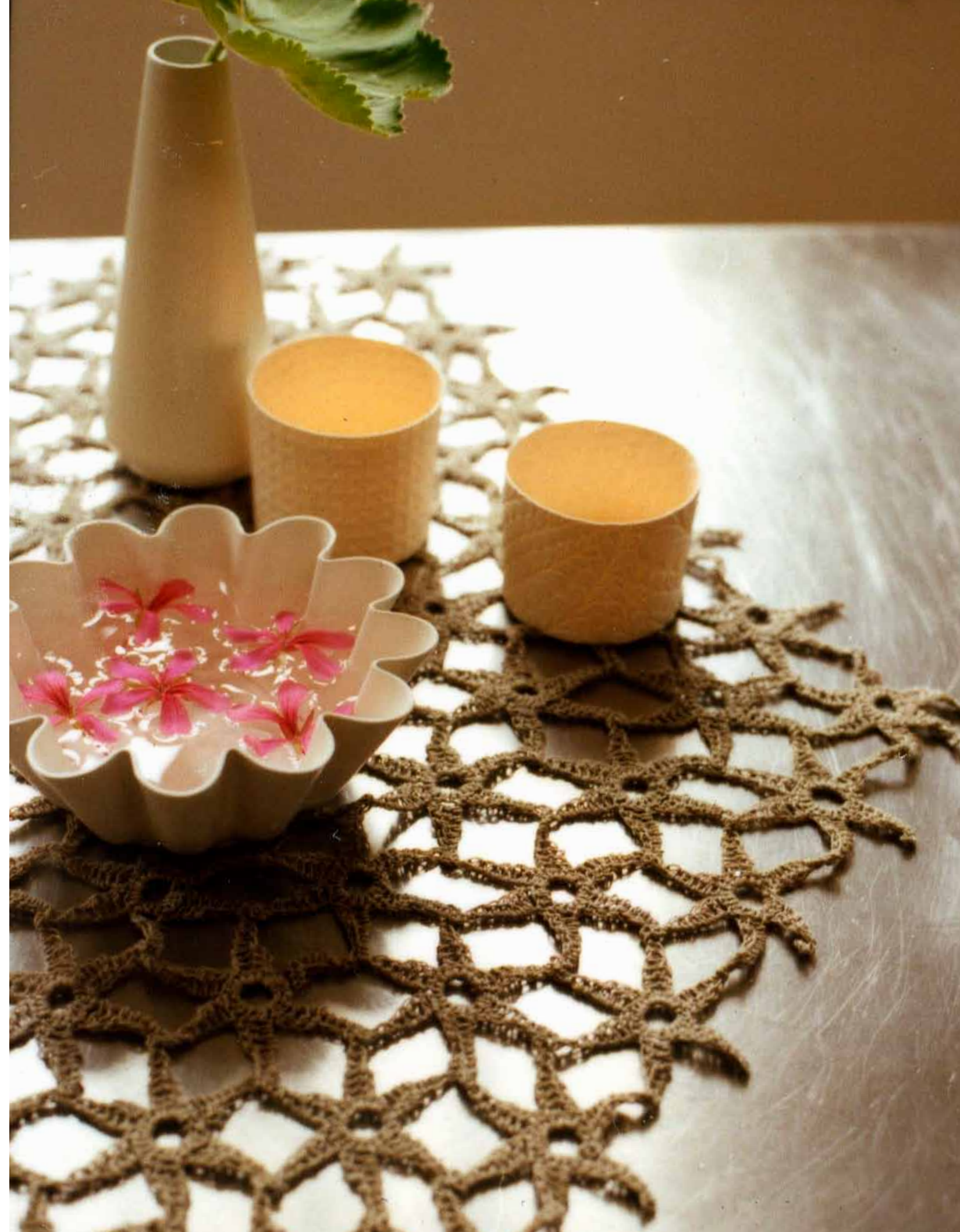
- = slip stitch
- = chain stitch
- + = single crochet
- ┆ = half double crochet
- ┆┆ = double crochet

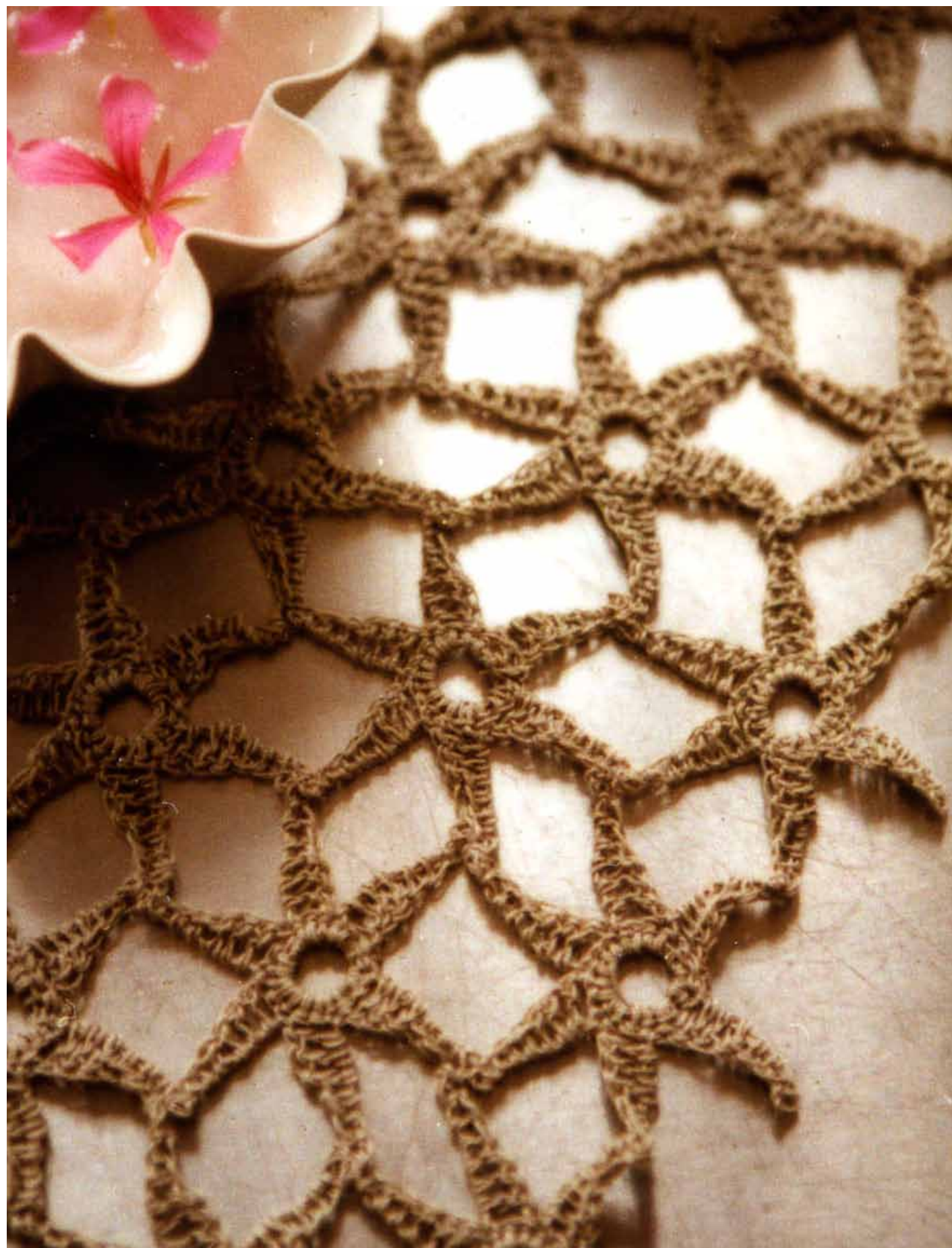


First round of motifs

Join the next six motifs to the center motif in a round around the center as shown in the diagrams as follows:

Work the first of these six motifs as for the center motif, but join the first two legs of this motif to the center motif as it is being worked. To do this, work the 9-ch of the first leg, carefully remove the hook from the loop and insert it through the 3-ch loop at the tip of one leg of the center motif, then pull the last loop of the 9-ch through the 3-ch loop and continue down the chain as instructed. Repeat this for the next leg, then finish the motif in the usual way. Joining on motifs counterclockwise around the



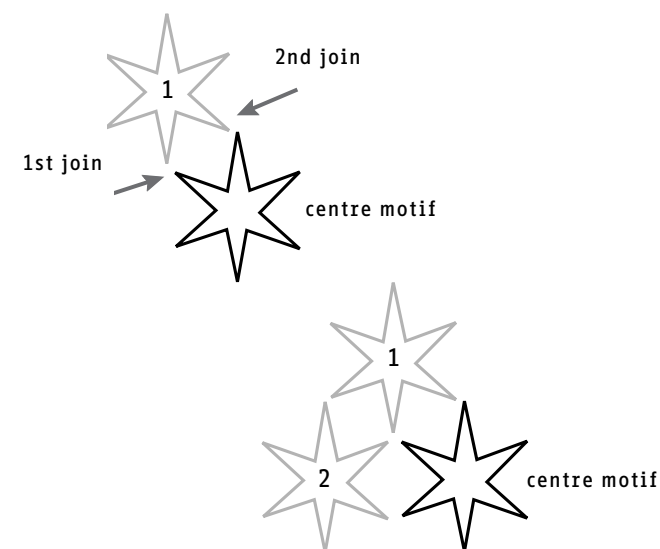


center motif, work the second motif joining the first two legs to the center motif as before but also join the 3rd leg to the last leg worked on the first motif as shown on the diagram. Repeat until you have attached six motifs all around the center motif, joining the last leg of the sixth motif to the third leg of the first motif in this round of motifs.

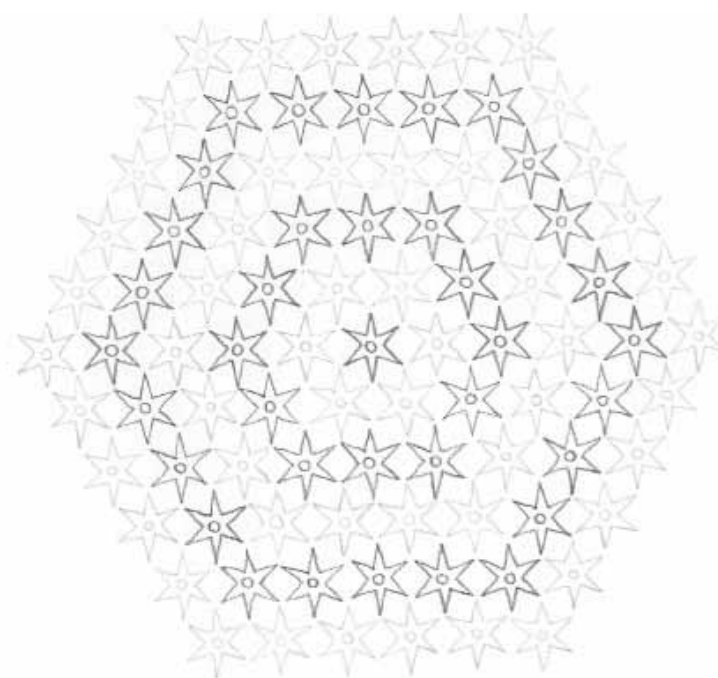
Remaining rounds of motifs
Continue making and joining on motifs in rounds around the center—join on 12 motifs in the second round, 18 in the third, 24 in the fourth, 30 in the fifth, and 36 in the sixth (the last round is not shown on the diagram below).
Note: Make sure you join the legs on the motifs to the legs of the adjacent motifs where they touch as shown in the diagram.

To finish
Weave in any loose ends.
Lay work out flat and gently steam on wrong side.

First motif of first round



Starfish tablecloth Motif Placement



Masterclass

Crocheting motifs together

As well as avoiding having to sew countless motifs together, joining each motif at the connecting points means that you can build the overall shape of the textile as you work.

Make the center motif. Begin the first motif of the first round but join the first two legs to the center motif as it is being worked. To do this, work the 9 chain of the first leg, carefully remove the hook from the loop and insert it through the 3-chain loop at the tip of one leg of the center motif, then pull the last loop of the 9 chain through the 3-chain loop and continue down the chain as instructed. Repeat this for the next leg, then finish the motif in the usual way.

