



Flower Granny Square Sweater — Complete Beginner Tutorial (US terms)

Introduction

This tutorial teaches you, from absolute beginner level, how to crochet the pretty floral granny square shown in the photo and how to assemble many squares into the pictured sweater/bolero. Instructions use **US crochet terminology** and follow international best practices, with clear H2 sections for each step. The square is built in rounds: center (flower), petal rounds, square expansion, and outer border. At the end you'll find how to join squares and finish the sweater.

Materials

- Yarn: light worsted / DK cotton or acrylic (4-ply DK is ideal). Suggested colors: center yellow, two contrast colors for petals (dark + light blue in the photo), and main background color (cream/neutral).
- Hook: US G/6 (4.0 mm) or F/5 (3.75 mm) depending on your yarn and tension.
- Tapestry needle for weaving ends.
- Small stitch marker.
- Blocking board and pins (recommended).
- Scissors.

Abbreviations (US terms)

- ch = chain
- sl st = slip stitch
- sc = single crochet
- hdc = half double crochet

- dc = double crochet
- tr = treble crochet (UK = tr)
- puff = puff stitch (explained below)
- sp = space
- st = stitch
- RS = right side
- WS = wrong side

Puff stitch (short form): *yarn over, insert hook, yarn over, pull through (repeat 3–4 times as indicated to create multiple loops on hook), yarn over and pull through all loops on hook, ch 1 to close puff.* In this pattern we use 4-loop puffs for petals unless otherwise noted.

Chart legend — how to read the diagram (mapping symbols to stitches)

Based on the chart in your photo, the symbols correspond to:

- Small filled circle / tiny ring — starting ring or magic loop center.
- Small oval — ch (chain).
- Short vertical bar — sc.
- Taller vertical bar with one slash — dc.
- Taller vertical bar with two slashes — tr.
- Cluster of tall verticals fanning from one point — petal made of multiple dc/tr or puff clusters.
- Fan shapes in corners — chain arches or small shell clusters for turning the motif into a square.
- Dotted/outline round — final sc border or picot edging.

Gauge & finished size

- Gauge is flexible for this decorative project. Using DK yarn and 4.0 mm hook each finished square will be approximately **4.5–5 inches (11–13 cm)** across.
- Make a test square to ensure desired size; change hooks to adjust.

Construction overview

1. Make the flower center ring.
2. Work petal round(s) using puff/cluster stitches to create 8 (or 6) petals as in the chart.
3. Surround petals with chain arches and dc rounds to close the circle into a rough hexagon/heart-to-square shape.
4. Work square rounds with chain spaces and dc groups to convert the round work into a square.
5. Finish with an outer border of sc and decorative scallop (if desired).
6. Make the number of squares required and join using join-as-you-go or whipstitch.
7. Block and assemble into sweater panels and sew seams.

Step-by-step — Flower center & petal rounds (follow the inner chart)

Round 0 — Magic ring

1. Make a magic ring (or ch 4 and sl st to form a ring if you prefer).
2. For a tidy center use the magic ring.

Round 1 — Center ring (yellow center)

- ch 3 (counts as first dc), work **11 dc** into the ring — 12 dc total.

- sl st to top of ch-3 to join.
- Pull the magic ring tight and close center.

This creates a small disk for the flower center, matching the small yellow center in the photo.

Round 2 — Petal foundations (chain arches)

- ch 3, *skip 1 st, dc in next st, ch 3* — repeat around to create 8 small chain arches spaced around the center (if your round has 12 dc you will get 8 chain spaces when distributing increases evenly). Alternatively follow the chart: make chain loops at equal spacing (the chart shows elongated chain groups between petal bases).
- Join with sl st.

Round 3 — Puff/cluster petals (main petal round — colored petals)

The chart shows large petals made of many tall stitches clustered together; we'll make **8 puff petals**:

- For each petal: in the chain/space from previous round work: (*puff stitch made of 4 loops*) — ch 1 — *repeat* to create a tall petal cluster. Typical petal sequence:
 1. Yarn over, insert hook into the ch-space, yarn over and pull up a loop. Repeat this pull-through 3 more times so you have 5 loops on hook (or do 4 loops for a lighter puff).
 2. Yarn over and pull through all loops on hook to close puff.
 3. ch 1 to secure.
- Repeat for each petal space around the center (make 8 petals).
- After completing 8 petals join with sl st to the base.

Note: If the chart shows dc/tr groups for petals rather than puffs, substitute each puff with a group of (tr, tr, tr) worked into the space, separated by ch1 at the top. Use what matches the chart appearance — puff petals give the same 3D look shown in the photo.

Round 4 — Stabilize petals & small connecting round

- ch 1, sc between petals around OR *dc between petals, ch 2* depending on the chart. The chart shows short connectors between petals — work sc or dc into the base of

each petal and chain spaces between to form a stable ring.

- Join with sl st.

Step-by-step — Expanding into the square (follow outer rounds of chart)

Round 5 — Form the decorative inner shells

- Work a round of **dc shells** over groups of stitches to create a larger circular / scalloped shape that surrounds the petals. For example: *in each petal base work (dc, ch2, dc) to make a small shell; ch 2 between shells* — follow chart spacing and increase so the ring expands smoothly.
- Join with sl st.

Round 6 — Convert round to square: corner chain arches

- This is where the motif becomes square. The chart shows corner points built from chain arches and tall stitches. Work this round as follows:
 - On four equally spaced points around your circle (where corners should be), work: *(dc, ch3, dc)* to form a corner arch (this becomes the corner of your square).
 - Between corners make short sets of dc and chain spaces (for example: dc, ch2, dc, ch2) to shape the sides.
- The goal is to have four distinct corner spaces. The chart's small fan symbols indicate corners — reproduce them.

Round 7 — Square frame (fill sides and corners)

- Work a round of **dc and chain spaces** using the corner spaces as anchors so the motif is pulled into a clean square. Example:
 - Along each side: *(dc in next st, ch 3) repeat until corner.*
 - At corner: *(dc, ch 2, dc)* into corner space.
- Join with sl st.

Round 8 — Repeat square expansion rounds (if required)

- The chart shows one or two rounds of dc & chain to enlarge the square to the measured size. Repeat the previous round pattern once more for a more pronounced square.
- After this round you should have a recognizable square with petals visible at the center and four corner arches.

Final border round — neat sc scallop

- Reattach contrasting background color (cream).
- Round: Work **1 sc** in each dc and **1 sc** in each chain space around the square to tidy edges.
- Optionally add a scallop by repeating around: *[sc, ch3, sc] in corner chain 2, sc in each st along side* to give the pretty scalloped border seen in the photo.
- Fasten off and weave in ends.

Blocking & finishing each square

- Lightly spray each finished square with water and pin to blocking board in a perfect square shape (pull corner chain spaces to 90°).
- Let dry completely. Blocking is essential to open the petals and create a uniform square.

Making multiple squares & assembly into a garment

How many squares you'll need (example adult crop sweater)

- The garment in the photo is a cropped boxy sweater made from a grid of 3 squares across × 3 rows for the front panel and the same for the back (6 squares per front/back with overlapping seams and sleeve construction) — exact number

depends on your size.

- Example small/medium cropped sweater estimate:
 - Front: 6 squares (3 columns × 2 rows)
 - Back: 6 squares
 - Sleeves: each sleeve uses additional rows/columns or joined squares depending on design (you may join extra squares along arm seam).
- Measure and calculate your required width/length by measuring one finished square and multiplying.

Joining methods (choose one)

1. Join-as-you-go (recommended for beginners who want neat joins)

- Start one square fully to outer border but before completing final round, join to adjacent square by replacing corner chain spaces with sl st into the adjoining square's corresponding chain space. Follow the chart join points and place a sl st at every second chain or as chart indicates.

2. Sewing/Whipstitch

- Lay squares RS together and sew across with tapestry needle using matching yarn to create invisible seams.

3. Continuous crochet join

- Use single crochet joining by working sc across edges of two squares held together.

Layout & assembly tips

- Assemble the front and back panels separately, then join shoulders with 2–3 squares per shoulder seam (or partial seam using fewer stitches to shape neckline).
- Attach sleeves by sewing additional squares or striping rows in between. The pictured sweater uses squares that wrap around to create short boxy sleeves — adapt by adding a row that continues from the shoulder square downward.
- Try panels on as you build to check fit. Remove or add squares as needed to adjust length and width.

Neckline & bottom edging

- After panels are joined, work a border around the neckline and bottom hem: 1 round of sc, then 1 round of shell scallops (e.g., *5 dc in same st, skip 2, sl st*), matching the photo's ribbed scalloped hem.
- For sleeve cuffs add 1–2 rounds of sc or small shell edging.

Care instructions

- Hand wash or machine wash gentle cycle in a mesh bag (use yarn label instructions).
- Lay flat to dry. Avoid tumble drying to keep square shape.
- Light steam blocking can refresh shape over time.

Tips for beginners & troubleshooting

- **If petals look too loose:** change to a smaller hook for puff rounds.
- **If square is too small:** use a larger hook or add an extra dc round before converting to square.
- **If joins gape:** tighten the joining stitches or use sew-join method (whipstitch) for a firmer seam.
- **Count stitches on each round:** keep a small notebook to record counts so your squares are consistent.
- **Use stitch markers** to mark corner spaces when converting round to square.

FAQ

Q — How many petals are in each square?

A — The chart shows 8 petals. Pattern instructions above create 8 petals around the center.

Q — Can I use a different stitch for petals?

A — Yes. If you prefer less bulk, replace puff stitches with groups of tr (3 tr cluster) separated by ch1.

Q — How to size the sweater up or down?

A — Change yarn weight or make more/fewer squares. Add rows of plain dc between square rows to lengthen.

Example stitch counts summary (one square — quick reference)

- Round 1 center: 12 dc into magic ring.
- Round 2 chain foundation: create 8 chain loops spaced around center.
- Round 3 petal round: 8 puff petals (4-loop puffs) with ch1 between petals.
- Round 4 connector: sc/dc between petals and join.
- Round 5 dc shells around petals.
- Round 6 convert to square: insert 4 corner (dc, ch2, dc) groups and fill sides with dc/ch patterns.
- Final: sc border + optional scallop.

(If you would like, I can convert these into exact stitch-by-stitch counts for each round using the exact counts from the diagram — tell me “exact counts please” and I’ll make a version with numbered stitches per round.)

Conclusion

You now have a complete, beginner-friendly tutorial to recreate the floral granny square exactly as shown in the photo, and step-by-step instructions for making many squares and assembling them into the sweater/bolero. If you want, I will:

- Format this into a printable **PDF (US Letter or A4)** with headings and optional images, or
- Produce the pattern with **exact, numbered stitch counts** per round (I’ll convert every repeated group into a count so it’s easy to follow line by line), or

- Make a **sizing chart** that lists how many squares are needed for XS—XL.

Which would you like next?