



Mark Twain Mandala

Meditation and Pattern

Hasty Tortoise Crochet
By Ash Naylor

Welcome to Hasty Tortoise Crochet, where mindfulness meets creativity. Our lives today are too busy and chaotic! For me, crochet has always been a small oasis of calm in a too-noisy world. I hope you find a peace of mind, a little wisdom, and creative inspiration as you work your way through this pattern.

Read each quote, passage, or mantra at the start of each round, and focus your attention on the thoughts and feelings that arise. Let those thoughts and feelings flow as your mind and hands are captured by each stitch.

Materials

- Caron One Pound, Medium wt. 4 (100% acrylic, 81 yards total, 45 grams total)
 - Colors used: Claret (Lion Brand), Sunflower, Cream, Claret (Caron), Soft Sage, Espresso,
 - Hook: US G6 / 4.25 mm
 - Yarn Needle, Scissors
-

Finished Size = 11 inches across

Pattern Notes

- Instructions in [brackets] are repeated the indicated number of times or to the end of the round
 - Instructions in (parentheses) are all carried out in the one indicated stitch
-

About this Meditation

Mark Twain has so many wonderful quotes, I could hardly decide where to begin! Although from a time where both the cultural and physical landscape of America were much different than today, Twain's wise, witty and adventurous tales still provide us with plenty of insight and entertainment today. This mandala is made with a color scheme reminiscent of the early American west and a central gold circle with four points off of it representing a compass, as Twain's writing centered so often around travel and adventure. Enjoy pondering over Twain's witticisms as you complete this mandala. When finished, display your mandala proudly, as a wall-hanging, table center-piece, or even a kitchen trivet!

Stitch Key and Techniques

Abbrev.	Term	Technique
Ch	Chain	-
ChSp	Chain Space	-
SC	Single Crochet	Insert hook into indicated St, yarn over and draw up a loop, yarn over and pull through both loops
HDC	Half Double Crochet	Yarn over, insert hook into indicated St, yarn over and draw up a loop, yarn over and pull through all three loops
DC	Double Crochet	Yarn over, insert hook into indicated St, yarn over and draw up a loop, (yarn over and pull through two loops) twice

TrC	Treble Crochet	Yarn over twice, insert hook into indicated St, yarn over and draw up a loop, (yarn over and pull through two loops) three times
DC2Tog	Double Crochet Two Together	YO, insert hook into indicated St, YO and draw up a loop, YO and pull through two loops, YO and insert hook into next indicated St, YO and draw up a loop, YO and pull through two loops, YO and pull through remaining loops
Ch2-picot	Chain-2 Picot	Chain 2, SISt into first Ch
BloSC	Back Loop Only Single Crochet	Make a SC in only the back loop of indicated St
BloHDC	Back Loop Only Half Double Crochet	Make a HDC in only the back loop of indicated St
BloDC	Back Loop Only Double Crochet	Make a DC in only the back loop of indicated St
BloTrC	Back Loop Only Treble Crochet	Make a TrC in only the back loop of indicated St
BPSC	Back Post Single Crochet	Insert hook from back to front to back around indicated St, yarn over and draw up a loop, yarn over and pull through two loops
St	Stitch	None
SISt	Slip Stitch	Insert hook into indicated St, yarn over and draw up a loop, pull this loop through first loop on hook
YO	Yarn Over	-
-	Standing Stitch	With a slip knot on your hook, work indicated stitch as normal.
-	Join & Fasten Off	SISt into beginning St of current working round, Ch1, trim end (leave 5-6" for weaving in when finishing piece), pull loop all the way out and pull tight to secure
-	Magic Circle/Ring	I highly recommend finding a YouTube tutorial if you haven't yet learned how to crochet in a Magic Circle/Ring. As an alternative, Ch4 and SISt to beginning Ch to form a starting ring.

Pattern Instructions and Meditation

The secret of getting ahead is getting started.

Round 1 (Lion Brand Claret): Magic circle, Ch3 (counts as first TrC in circle), 15 TrC in circle, join and fasten off, gently tighten circle [**16 TrC in magic circle**]

You can't depend on your eyes when your imagination is out of focus.

Round 2 (Sunflower): Standing SC in between any two TrC St of the previous round, 3SC in same space, [skip 2 St, 4SC in next space between TrC St's] around, join & do not fasten off [**32 SC**]

A clear conscience is the sure sign of a bad memory.

Round 3 (Sunflower): Ch1 (counts as first SC), SC in next 3 St, [Ch5, Skip 4 St's, SC in next 4 St] around, join & fasten off [**16 SC, 4 Ch5Sp**]

The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why.

Round 4 (Cream): Standing SC in any Ch5Sp, (2SC, Ch2, 3SC) in same space, [Ch2, skip St, DC2Tog, Ch2, Skip St, (3SC, Ch2, 3SC) in Ch5Sp] around, join & fasten off [**24SC, 12 Ch2Sp, 4 DC2Tog**]

A lie can travel half way around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes.

Round 5 (Caron Claret): Standing BloSC in any first SC in a Ch5Sp, BloSC in next 2 St, [(SC, Ch2-picot, SC) in Ch2Sp, BloSC in next 3 St, DC in skipped SC from round 3 BEHIND Ch2 from round 4, Ch3 Skip St, DC in skipped SC from round 3 BEHIND Ch2 from round 4, BloSC in next 3 St] around, join & fasten off [**24 BloSC, 4 (SC, Ch2 picot, SC), 8 DC, 4 Ch3Sp**]

Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect.

Round 6 (Soft Sage): Standing BloSC in any SC after a Ch2-picot of previous round, BloSC in next 3 St, skip DC, [(SC, Ch2, SC, Ch2, SC) in Ch3Sp, skip DC, BloSC in next 4 St, Ch2, skip Ch2-picot space, BloSC in next 4 St, skip DC] around, join & do not fasten off [**32 BloSC, 12 Ch2Sp, 12 SC**]

It is better to keep your mouth closed and let people think you are a fool than to open it and remove all doubt.

Round 7 (Soft Sage): SC in next St after join, SC in next 2 St, skip SC, [(SC, Ch1, 2DC, Ch2-picot, 2DC, Ch1, SC) in Ch2Sp, skip SC] twice, SC in next 3 St, skip SC, (SC, Ch1, 2DC, Ch2-picot, 2DC, Ch1, SC) in Ch2Sp, skip SC, SC in next 3 St, skip SC] around, join & fasten off [**12 “petals” made of (SC, Ch1, 2DC, Ch2-picot, 2DC, Ch1, SC), 24 SC**]

It's not the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the dog.

Round 8 (Espresso): Standing BPSC in first DC of last “petal” made in previous round, BPSC in next DC, Ch1, BPSC in next 2 DC of same “petal,” [Ch4, skip 5 SC, BPSC in next 2 DC, Ch1, BPSC in next 2 DC, Ch3, skip 2 SC, BPSC in 2 DC, Ch1, BPSC in 2 DC, Ch4, Skip 5 SC, BPSC in 2 DC, Ch1, BPSC in 2 DC] around, join & do not fasten off [**48 BPSC, 8 Ch4Sp, 4 Ch3Sp, 12Ch1Sp**]

Truth is stranger than fiction, but it is because fiction is obliged to stick to possibilities; truth isn't.

Round 9 (Espresso): Ch2 (counts as first DC), DC in next St, (DC, Ch2, DC) in Ch1Sp, DC in next 2 St, [3SC in Ch4Sp, DC in next 2 St, (DC, Ch2, DC) in Ch1Sp, DC in next 2 St, SC in Ch3Sp, DC in next 2 St, (DC, Ch2, DC) in Ch1Sp, 3SC in Ch4Sp, DC in next 2 St, (DC, Ch2, DC) in Ch1Sp, DC in next 2 St] around, join & fasten off [**28 SC, 72 DC, 12 Ch2Sp**]

The finest clothing made is a person's own skin, but of course society demands something more than this.

Round 10 (Cream): Standing SC in top of first Ch2 of previous round, SC in next 2 DC, (SC, Ch1, SC) in Ch2Sp, [SC in next 3 DC, (BloTrC in round 7 SC BEHIND 3 SC's of round 9) twice, SC in next 3 DC, (SC, Ch1, SC) in Ch2Sp, SC in next 3 DC, Ch1, skip SC, SC in next 3 DC, (SC, Ch1, SC) in Ch2Sp, SC in next 3 DC, (BloTrC in round 7 SC BEHIND 3 SC's of round 9) twice, SC in next 3 DC, (SC, Ch1, SC) in Ch2Sp] around, join & fasten off [**16 TrC, 96 SC, 16 Ch1Sp**]

Age is an issue of mind over matter, if you don't mind it, it doesn't matter.

Round 11 (Lion Brand Claret): Standing SC in second SC of previous round, SC in next 2 St, [SC in Ch1Sp, SC in next 3 St, Skip St, HDC in next 2 TrC, skip St, SC in next 3 St, SC in Ch1Sp, SC in next 3 St, skip St, SC in Ch1Sp, skip St, SC in next 3 St, SC in Ch1Sp, SC in next 3 St, skip St, HDC in next 2 TrC, skip St, SC in next 3 St] around, join & fasten off [**16 HDC, 88 SC**]

Never allow someone to be your priority while allowing yourself to be their option.

Round 12 (Sunflower): Standing BloSC in first St of previous round, BloSC in next 6 St, [BloDC in next 2 HDC, BloSC in next 7 St, BloHDC in next St, BloSC in next 7 St, BloDC in next 2 HDC, BloSC in next 7 St] around, join & fasten off [**16 BloDC, 4 BloHDC, 84 BloSC**]

The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time.

Round 13 (Caron Claret): BloSC in first St of previous round, BloSC in next 2 St, [2BloSC in next St, BloSC in next 4 St, Ch2, BloSC in next 4 St, 2 BloSC in next St, BloSC in next 7 St, 2 BloSC in next St, BloSC in next 4 St, Ch2, BloSC in next 4 St] around, join & fasten off [**12 Ch2Sp, 116 BloSC**]

I am an old man and have known a great many troubles, but most of them never happened.

Round 14 (Soft Sage): (Standing SC, Ch1, 2HDC, Ch2-picot, 2HDC, Ch1, SC) in first Ch2Sp of previous round, skip 2 St, [BloSC in next 3 St, Ch1, BloSC in next 9 St, Ch1, BloSC in next 3 St, Skip 2 St, (SC, Ch1, 2HDC, Ch2-picot, 2HDC, Ch1, SC) in Ch2Sp, skip 2 St, BloSC in next 3 St, Ch1, BloSC in next 3 St, skip 2 St, (SC, Ch1, 2HDC, Ch2-picot, 2HDC, Ch1, SC) in Ch2Sp, skip 2 St] around, join & fasten off [**8 "petals" made of (SC, Ch1, 2HDC, Ch2-picot, 2HDC, Ch1, SC), 12 Ch1Sp, 84 BloSC**]

Finishing your work

- **Weave in ends using your yarn needle.** I like to use the zig-zag method, where I weave one way, then back the other to make sure the ends are extra secure. Loose ends means a shorter life of your project, and we all want our hard work to last a long time!
- **Blocking:** there are several ways to get your project to lay flat. I like to use the spray bottle method. Spritz your mandala lightly and evenly with water. Shake it out and stretch it gently, then lay it out to dry on a flat surface.

"Living in the moment, it's a gift. That's why they call it the present." ~ Ted Lasso

Pattern Photos



R1: 16 TrC in magic circle
circle



R2: 32 SC



R3: 16 SC, 4 Ch5Sp



R4: 24SC, 12 Ch2Sp, 4 DC2Tog



R5: 24 BloSC, 4 (SC, Ch2 picot, SC), 8 DC, 4 Ch3Sp



R6: 32 BloSC, 12 Ch2Sp, 12 SC



R7: 12 “petals” made of (SC, Ch1, 2DC, Ch2-picot, 2DC, Ch1, SC), 24 SC



R8: 48 BPSC, 8 Ch4Sp, 4 Ch3Sp, 12Ch1Sp



R9: 28 SC, 72 DC, 12 Ch2Sp



R10: 16 TrC, 96 SC, 16 Ch1Sp



R11: 16 HDC, 88 SC



R12: 16 BloDC, 4 BloHDC, 84BloSC



R13: 12 Ch2Sp, 116 BloSC



R14: 8 “petals” made of (SC, Ch1, 2HDC, Ch2-picot, 2HDC, Ch1, SC), 12 Ch1Sp, 84 BloSC