Casserole Carrier

by Margie Dougherty

Carry your favorite hot dish safely and conveniently to a potluck in this styling but sturdy carrier.

YARN
RED HEART SUPER SAVER CHUNKY, 7oz/170g balls each approx 207yd/189m (100% acrylic)

- 1 ball 7429 Teal Color A
- 1 ball 7802 White Color B
- 1 ball 7873 Cherry Red Color C

CROCHET HOOK
- Size J/6 mm

NOTIONS
- Yarn needle
- Round marker
- Sewing thread in colors to match colors B & C
- Sewing needle to attach appliqués

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS
8" (in diameter) across base.
Fits a 2-3 quart casserole dish with carrying handles, 4.5" tall X 12" across.

GAUGE

12 sts & 12 rows=4"/10 cm in SC. Gauge is not critical for this project, but it should be fairly firm.

CARRIER

Round 1 ◆ With color A, ch 2. Work 6 sc into the 2nd ch from hook, join with a sl st into the first sc (6 sc).

Optional: Place a marker to indicate the beginning of the round. Move up the marker as necessary.

Round 2 ◆ Ch 1. 2 sc in each sc around, including the stitch you joined into. Join with sl st to first sc. (12 sc)

Round 3 ◆ Ch 1. *1 sc in next sc, 2 sc in next sc* Repeat between *'s around. Join with sl st to first sc. (18 sc)

Round 4 ◆ Ch 1. *1 sc in each of next 2 sc. 2 sc in next sc.* Repeat between *'s around. Join with sl st to first sc. (24 sc)

Round 5 ◆ Ch 1. *1 sc in each of next 3 sc. 2 sc in next sc.* Repeat between *'s around. Join with sl st to first sc. (30 sc)

Round 6 ◆Ch 1. *1 sc in each of next 4 sc. 2 sc in next sc.* Repeat between *'s around. Join with sl st to first sc. (36 sc)

Round 7 ◆ Ch 1. *1 sc in each of next 5 sc. 2 sc in next sc.* Repeat between *'s around. Join with sl st to first sc. (42 sc)

Round 8 ◆ Ch 1. *1 sc in each of next 6 sc. 2 sc in next sc.* Repeat between *'s around. (48 sc)

Round 9 ◆ Ch 1. *1 sc in each of next 7 sc. 2 sc in next sc.* Repeat between *'s around. Join with sl st to first sc. (54 sc)

Round 10◆ Ch 1. *1 sc in each of next 8 sc. 2 sc in next sc.* Repeat between *'s around. Join with sl st to first sc. (60 sc)

Round 11◆ Ch 1. *1 sc in each of next 9 sc. 2 sc in next sc.* Repeat between *'s around. Join with sl st to first sc. (66 sc)

The circle should measure approx. 7" in diameter at this point. Ch1, cut yarn and pull it through. Make another circle the same size, also with color A, but do not cut yarn after finishing round 11.

Round 12 ◆Place one circle on top of the other, right sides facing out, CH1, and sc through the matching stitches in both circles to join them together. Do not cut yarn, since you will crochet round 13 with the same yarn.

Round 13 ◆ Ch1, sc in each sc around. Join with sl st to first sc. (66 sc).

Round 14 ◆ Ch1, *1 sc in each of next 5 sc, 2 sc in next sc.* Repeat between *'s

around. Join with sl st to first sc. (77 sc)

Rounds 15-18 ◆ Ch1, sc in each sc around. Join with sl st to first sc. (77 sc).

Round 19◆ Ch1, *1 sc in each of next 10 sc, 2 sc in next sc.* Repeat between *'s around. Join with sl st to first sc. (84 sc)

Round 20 ◆ Ch1, sc in each sc around. Join with sl st to first sc. (84 sc)

Round 21 ◆ Ch 1, *1 sc in each of next 13 sc, 2 sc in next sc.* Repeat between *'s around. Join with sl st to first sc. (90 sc)

Round 22 ◆ Ch1, sc in each sc around. Join with sl st to first sc. (90 sc)

Round 23 ◆Ch1, sc in first st, ch 12, sk next 12 stitches, sc in next 33 stitches, ch 12, sk next 12 stitches, sc in next 32 stitches, join with sl st to first sc. (66 sc and two ch 12 sp)

Round 24 ◆ Ch1, sc in next stitch, make 12 sc in the ch12 sp, sc in next 33 stitches, make 12 sc in the ch12 sp, sc in next 32 stitches, join with sl st to first sc.

Rounds 25-27 ◆ Ch1, sc in each sc around, join with sl st to first sc.

Round 28 ◆ Ch1, *sk next sc, sc in next 9 sc*, repeat between *'s around, join with sl st to first sc. (81 st)

Round 29 ◆ Ch1, sc in each sc around. Join with sl st to first sc. (81 sc)

Round 30 ◆ Ch1, *sk next sc, sc in next 8 sc*, repeat between *'s around, join with sl st to first sc. Join with sl st to first sc. Cut color A, ch1 and pull the cut loop through to fasten. (72 st)

Round 31 ◆ Attach color B with a slip knot into the first stitch of the round. Ch1, sc in same st & in next 18 stitches, ch 12, sk next 12 stitches, sc in next 24 stitches, ch 12, sk next 12 stitches, sc in next 5 stitches. Join with sl st to first sc.

Round 32 ◆ Ch1, sc in next 19 stitches, make 12 sc in the ch12 sp, sc in next 24 stitches, make 12 sc in the ch12 sp, sc in next 5 stitches, join with sl st to first sc.

Rounds 33-35◆ With color B, ch1, sc in next stitch & in each st around, join with sl st to first sc. Ch1, cut color B and pull it through to fasten.

Center Handle Edging ◆ Attach color A in one of the stitches skipped in round 31 (inside of handle), ch1, sc in each st around, including the bottoms of the 12 sc made in the ch 12 space, join with sl st to first sc. Cut color A, ch1 and pull through to fasten. Repeat for the other handle.

Shell Edging

Round 1 ◆ Ch 84, join with sl st to first sc, being careful not to twist. ch 1, *sc in next st, ch 1*, repeat between *'s across. (84 st, 42 *sc, ch1*repeats)

Round 2 ◆ Ch3 (counts as one DC),   make 4 DC in same st, sk next 2 sts, sl sl in next st, sk next 2 sts, *make 5 DC in next st, sk next 2 sts, sl sl in next st, sk next 2 sts*, repeat between *'s across, join with a sl st to top of ch3. (14 shells) Ch 1, cut yarn and pull through to fasten off.

Heart Appliqué (Make 2)

Row 1 ◆ With color C, Ch 2, make 2 sc in 2nd ch from hook, ch 1, turn.

Row 2 ◆ Make 2 sc in each sc from row below, ch 1, turn (4 sc)

Row 3 ◆ Make 2 sc in first st, make 1 sc in next 2 sts, make 2 sc in last st, ch1, turn (6 sc)

Row 4 ◆ Make 2 sc in first st, make 1 sc in next 4 sts, make 2 sc in last st, ch1, turn (8 sc)

Row 5 ◆ Make 2 sc in first st, make 1 sc in next 6 sts, make 2 sc in last st, turn (10 sc)

Row 6 ◆ Skip 1st two sts, make (2 dc, 4 tr, 2 dc) in next sc, skip 1 st, sl st in next sc, skip 1, (2 dc, 4 tr, 2 dc) in next sc, skip 2 sts, sl st in last sc, fasten off.

FINISHING

Weave in all loose ends. With needle & doubled sewing thread matching Color C, sew the two heart shaped appliqués to the carrier using an overcast stitch, centering them under the handles on opposite sides as shown. With needle & doubled sewing thread matching Color B, sew the shell edging to the top of round 23, directly below the openings for the casserole handles made in round 24.

MARGIE'S SCALLOPED POTATOES

My favorite potluck recipe—it's tasty!

INGREDIENTS

* 4-5 cups thinly sliced potatoes

* 2 Tbsp flour

* 1 tsp salt

* 2 Tbsp paprika

* 3 Tbsp butter, cut in small chunks

* 2 cups scalded milk (add 1 peeled garlic clove before heating)

* $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 cups shredded cheese

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 400°

In a buttered 3-qt baking dish, layer ⅓ of the potatoes. In a small bowl, combine flour with salt and paprika. Sprinkle half the flour mixture over the potatoes, cover with ½ cup grated cheese, dot with ⅓ of the butter. Repeat with another layer of potatoes and the rest of the flour mixture. Dot with ⅓ of the butter and ½ cup cheese. Top with remaining potato slices. Dot with remaining butter, then pour hot milk over potatoes, removing garlic clove first. Cover dish and bake at 400° for 45 minutes. Uncover; sprinkle remaining cheese over the top. Return to oven and bake, uncovered, for 15 more minutes or until potatoes are tender and cheese is melted