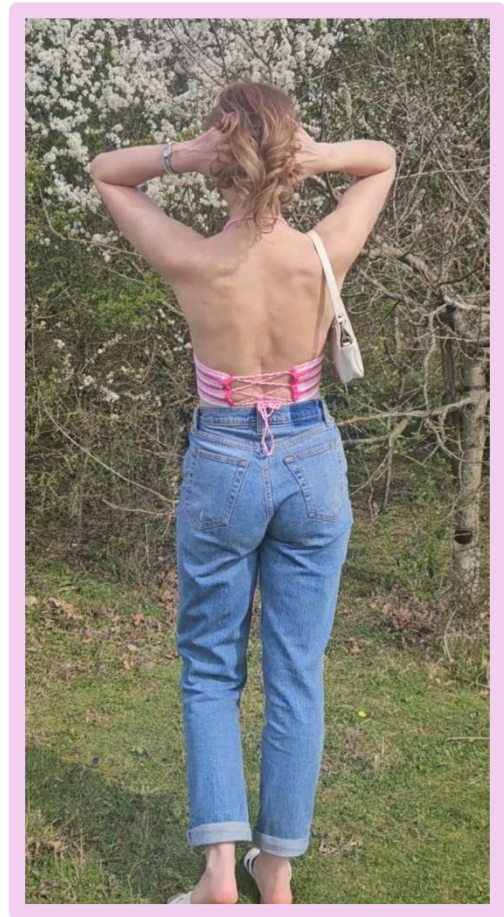




Open Back Tri-Coloured Crop Top



Hey, Little Gem here; I have been crocheting for as long as I can remember, and a few months back, someone gave me the idea that I should start making a note of my patterns so I can share them with others, so this is me giving it a go!

I have made these instructions as beginner-friendly as possible and adaptable so you can adjust the top to your size. For reference, I am approx. 5ft 8 and a dress size 8. There are pictures throughout the instructions, and I will also be uploading some videos onto my Youtube channel to help out -LittleGemsCrochetCompany

What you will need:

- ♥ 4mm hook
- ♥ 2 balls of yarn of Drops Paris in the colour (06) Cerise
- ♥ 2 balls of yarn of Drops Paris in the colour (20) Blush
- ♥ 2 balls of yarn of Drops Paris in the colour (16) White (Or any cotton yarn will work if it fits the 4mm hook)
- ♥ Tapestry needle for weaving in ends
- ♥ Scissors
- ♥ Stitch Marker

Abbreviations you will need to know:

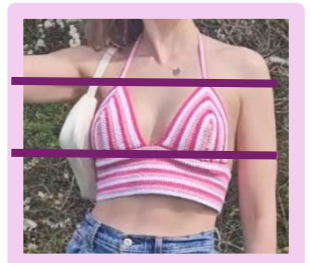
- ♥ SS- Slip Stitch
- ♥ SC – Single Crochet

PLEASE NOTE The amount of yarn may vary if you choose to make the top larger, longer, smaller, or shorter. This was the amount needed for the dress I created. Also, you do not have to choose these colours; you can pick whatever colour you would like.

The top consists of four sections: the cups, bottom section, the neck strap, and the back strap. The cups and midsections are made individually and then crocheted together, while top strap will be crocheted directly onto the top and the back strap is made separately and weaved in.

Here, I have highlighted how the top is broken down into different parts.

You will start off by making the cups. For reference, my bra is a 32 DD, but these instructions will enable you to adjust this to your size. It is worth noting that due to the drawstring nature of the back of the dress, it doesn't matter if the cups are a little big, as you can always pull the dress tighter at the end.



The Cups

For this part, you will need all 3 different coloured yarns, it doesn't matter what order you use the colours in as long as you alternate between all 3. If you are about the same size as me, you can follow the instructions as they are; if not, please follow the variations. For this your 'rows' will look more like arches than straight rows.

Chain 12 stitches (or measure the length between the bottom of your breast to the centre of your nipple and chain the amount that covers that length). Turn your work and SC back down the row, not forgetting the very first stitch – Remember this every row you do, as sometimes the first stitch can be easy to miss

Step 1: Chain one, turn your work.

Step 2: Make a SC back down the row

Step 3: When you reach the end/top of the row, make 3 SC into the top stitch. This will create the point at the top of your cup

Step 4: SC along the row into the remaining stitches



At this point if you are alternating colours, change the colour yarn before the next step. If you are unsure on how to do this, a video tutorial can be found on my YouTube.

Repeat steps 1-4; **REMEMBER** to do 3 SC in the middle of the three single crochets you made at the top of the cup in the previous round.

You can use a stitch marker if this helps you remember.

I changed colour after following points 1-4 twice over so the colours look thicker. However; you can switch colours as often as you would like.



After the first few rows, I checked how the cup fitted me and continued to create rows until I felt the cup was big enough. Once you have reached the desired size, cut the string around 10cm away from the end of your cup, and using the tapestry needle, sew in the end of the yarn. I ended up with 9 "rows," as shown in the picture.

Once you have finished the first cup, repeat the same process for the second cup. You do not need to tie off the end of this cup, as you will continue crocheting from this point.

After crocheting both cups, take the cup still attached to the yarn, chain one, and turn your work.

Make a row of single crochet along the bottom of your cup; once you reach the end of the cup, chain one. Align your second cup, and starting at the corner of the second cup SC along the bottom of the second cup, chain one, and turn your work. Your cups are now connected in the middle with a single crochet.



Bottom section

For the start of the bottom section, you can make this as long or as short as you would like. I wanted this to be just above where my rib cage finished for a cropped look. However, if you prefer more coverage, keep repeating the steps below until your desired length.

Start by chaining 118 (or however many chains it takes to get approx. $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way around where your bra strap would be). SC into the 2nd chain from the hook

Row 1: SC into every stitch across the row. Chain one and turn your work.

Row 2: Repeat row 1 but change the colour of the yarn when chaining two at the end

Rows 3 - 20: Repeat rows one and 2

To complete the sides of the bottom section, SC along the side of the rows you have just created in your preferred colour yarn. Chain one turn your work, SC back down the row. Repeat twice more.



Attaching the Cups

Line the cups up against the bottom part so the middle chain between the cups is in the middle of the bottom section. Insert your hook in the corner of one of the cups (where it's circled on this photo) and SS into every stitch along the cups attaching the cups to the bottom section.



The Straps

For this we are going to do, what I have been referring to as a 'tri-colour chain' Insert your hook into the stitch to the left of the middle stitch on the top of one of your cups, pull through a loop of your first colour and do one SC. In the next stitch along (middle stitch) pull through a loop of your second colour and do one SC. Finally in the next stitch along pull through the third colour and do one SC.

Insert your hook into all three loops (First picture below)

1. Yarn over using the working yarn on the left and pull through the first loop
2. Using the middle working yarn, yarn over and pull through the next two loops
3. Using the working yarn on the right, yarn over and pull through the final two loops
4. Then put your hook through the middle loop you just created
5. Finally put your hook through the loop you created with the first piece of yarn, so all your colours are back on your hook.



Repeat these steps 1 – 5 until the straps are the desired length. The strap should reach from the top of one cup to the other after going round the back of your neck. Measure the length is correct before sewing the ends in, as you don't want this strap too loose or too tight.

If you need more detailed instructions, there is a video tutorial over on my Youtube.

Once you have reached your desired length, instead of pulling through each loop, cut all the yarn with a few inches of tail, then one by one yarn over and pull through the loop and pull the yarn tight to it is secure. Then using a tapestry needle weave in the ends to other cup so the strap is securely in place.

The lower section of the straps

Take all three colours and create a braid about 1.5 m long

Find the middle of the braid and place it where the star is on the photo to the left. Then insert both ends in the top corners of the bottom section, then following the diagram insert the braid in the places/ direction below.

This will allow you to tighten the top once it's on so its not baggy.



You now have your finished top! I hope you enjoyed making this top and now have a new piece of clothing you love! Please feel free to leave me any feedback. If you don't mind me sharing photos of your creations, please send me pictures to my Instagram account @Littlegemscrochetco. Don't forget to check out my website and YouTube and website for other ideas and inspirations.

