MATERIALS

Small quantities of DK weight cotton – you will need 8 colours (choose 4 for the centre flower and 4 for the surrounding circle)

4mm hook

30cm metal wire craft ring

ABBREVIATIONS

UK crochet terms are used for this pattern:

Sl st = slip stitch

Dc = double crochet

Tr = treble crochet

Double V-st = (2 tr; ch-2; 2 tr) worked into same space/stitch

Ch = chain

St(s) = stitch(es)

Beg = beginning

Sk = skip
**Round 1: use colour A**
Ch 4; sl st in beginning ch to form a ring;
Ch 2 (counts as 1 dc); 9 dc into the ring; fasten off. [10 dc]

**Round 2: use colour B**
Join yarn in any st.
Ch 3 (counts as 1 tr); 1 tr in same st; *2 tr in next st;
Repeat from * to end; sl st into 3rd ch of beg ch-3 to close round; fasten off. [20 tr]

**Round 3: use colour C**
Join yarn in any st.
Ch 3 (counts as 1 tr); 1 tr in same st; ch 2; sk 1 st; *2 tr in next st; ch 2; sk 1 st;
Repeat from * to end; sl st into 3rd ch of beg ch-3 to close round; fasten off. [10 tr groups and 10 ch-2 spaces]

**Round 4: use colour D**
Join yarn in any ch-2 space.
Ch 3 (counts as 1 tr); (1 tr; ch 2; 2 tr) in same space; *double v-st in next ch-2 space;
Repeat from * to end; sl st into 3rd ch of beg ch-3 to close round; sl st across top of next 2 sts, then sl st into ch-2 space. DO NOT FASTEN OFF. [10 double v-sts]

**Round 5: continue with colour D**
Ch 3 (counts as 1 tr) 6 tr into same sp; *1 dc into sp between double-v stts; 7 tr into next ch-2 sp;
Repeat from * to end; sl st into 3rd ch of beg ch-3 to close round; fasten off. [10 shells]

**Round 6: use colour E**
Join yarn in 4th tr (centre) of any shell.
Ch 12 (counts as 1 tr and ch-9); *1 tr in 4th (centre) tr of next shell; ch 9;
Repeat from * to end; st into 3rd ch of beg ch-12 to close round; fasten off. [10 tr and 10 ch loops]

**Round 7: use colour F**
Join yarn in any tr st.
Ch 4 (counts as 1 tr and ch-1); sk 1 ch; (1 tr in next ch; ch 1; sk 1 ch) 4 times; *1 tr in next tr; ch 1; sk 1 ch; (1 tr in next ch; ch 1; sk 1 ch) 4 times;
Repeat from * to end; sl st into 3rd ch of beg ch-4 to close round; fasten off. [50 tr and 50 ch-1 spaces]
Round 8: use colour G

Join yarn in any ch-1 space.

Ch 3 (counts as 1 tr); (1 tr; ch 2; 2 tr) in same space; 1 dc in next ch-1 sp; *double v-st in next ch-1 sp; 1 dc in next ch-1 sp;

Repeat from * to end; sl st into 3rd ch of beg ch-3 to close round; fasten off. [25 double v-sts and 25 dc]

Round 8: use colour H

Join yarn in any ch-2 space.

Ch 3 (counts as 1 tr); (1 tr; ch 2; 2 tr) in same space; *double v-st in next ch-2 space;

Repeat from * to end; sl st into 3rd ch of beg ch-3 to close round; fasten off. [25 double v-sts]

Round 9: use colour C

Join yarn in any ch-2 space.

Ch 3 (counts as 1 tr) 4 tr into same sp; *1 dc into sp between double-v sts; 5 tr into next ch-2 sp;

Repeat from * to end; sl st into 3rd ch of beg ch-3 to close round; fasten off. [25 shells]

Joining to ring

Your mandala will benefit from a little light steam press at this point to gently relax and ease out the stitches. Your mandala should measure around 25-26 cm across (4-5 cm smaller than the metal ring). Use 5 or 6 locking stitch markers to attach the mandala at regular intervals to the metal ring - hook the markers through the back loops only of the 3rd/middle tr stitch of a shell group, then attach to the ring.

Round 10: use colour B

Join in BL of any dc st. Work in BLO for this round.

Ch 1; sl st in BLO into each of next 3 sts; *ch 3; pass yarn and hook through metal ring to the back, then bring the ch-3 over the hoop edge from the back to the front (yarn, hook and ch-3 all now at the front of the work); sl st in same st as last sl st; sl st in BLO into each of the next 6 sts;

Repeat from * to end.

Invisible fasten off

Snip yarn leaving a tail end and pull up on the loop on your hook until the tail end pulls through the stitch. Thread tail end onto a darning needle, then pass the needle under the loops of the very first slip stitch of round 10. Pass the needle down through the centre of the last slip stitch made in round 10 and pull the tail end through to the reverse side of the work. Darn in ends securely.

There is a full tutorial with step by step photos on my blog: