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The itsy bitsy spider went up the water spout. Down came the rain and washed the spider out. Out came the sun and dried up all the rain, and itsy bitsy spider climbed up the spout again!

# Spider

## Materials

- Any DK yarn in black, white, red and blue for spider; yellow for sun; white, blue and silver/grey for rain cloud; grey for water spout
- 3.25mm (USD/3, UK10) and 3.5mm hooks (USE/4, UK9)
- Cardboard tube for water spout (a bathroom tissue tube is ideal)
- Darning needle and scissors

*For further guidance, see the branching out and turning back stitch diagram on page 149.*

## Method

**Spider:** The spider body consists of an inner and outer body, with legs and facial features then added on.

**Sun:** The sun is made from two centre pieces joined together and rays are then worked outwards in rounds.

**Rain:** The rain cloud begins much as the sun. Scallops are then added in a spiral by working into 'spare' front loops, and rain is attached as lengths of blue yarn. Finally, a crescent of silver/grey is worked – because, of course, every cloud has a silver lining!

**Water spout:** Finally, the water spout is created by making two rectangular pieces, joining them on three sides with double crochet and using a cardboard tube for structure.

## Spider

Work inner and outer bodies in spiral TBLs throughout.

### Inner body

With 3.5mm hook and black yarn, mk floop and 1 ch.

**Rnd 1:** 6dc into floop. 6 sts.

**Rnd 2:** Dc2inc 6 times. 12 sts.

**Rnds 3–7:** Wk even in dc.

**Rnds 8–10:** Wk even in ss.

**Rnd 11:** (1dc, dc2inc) 6 times. 18 sts.

**Rnd 12:** (2dc, dc2inc) 6 times. 24 sts. Wk 2ss to finish. Fasten off.

### Outer body

**Rnd 1:** 6dc into floop. 6 sts.

**Rnd 2:** Dc2inc 6 times. 12 sts.

**Rnd 3:** (1dc, dc2inc) 6 times. 18 sts.

**Rnd 4:** (2dc, dc2inc) 6 times. 24 sts.

**Rnds 5–8:** Wk even in dc.

Place inner body inside outer body.

**Rnd 9:** Ss2pcs tog to end. Fasten off.

## Legs

Now turn spider body upside down and re-join black yarn to last rnd. Next rnd: \* (11ch, sk1ch, 10ss) to mk leg, 3ss into base. Rep from \* to end. 8 legs. Fasten off.

### Eyes (make 2)

With 3.25mm hook and white yarn, mk floop and 1 ch.

**Rnd 1:** 6dc into floop. 6 sts.

Ss to join, and fasten off. Sew in beg end of yarn to WS of eye. Sew eyes to outer body.

### Finishing

Sew in any loose ends. You can steam the legs if you'd like them to be straight rather than curling under.



## Sun

Work sun in spiral TBLs throughout.

### Centre back

With 3.5mm hook and yellow yarn, mk floop and 1 ch.

**Rnd 1:** 6dc into floop. 6 sts.

**Rnd 2:** Dc2inc 6 times. 12 sts.

**Rnd 3:** (1dc, dc2inc) 6 times. 18 sts.

**Rnd 4:** (2dc, dc2inc) 6 times. 24 sts.

**Rnd 5:** (3dc, dc2inc) 6 times. 30 sts. Wk 2ss loosely. Fasten off.

### Centre front

Wk as for centre back but do not fasten off.

Put centre front and back tog with RSs facing outwards.

**Rnd 6:** Ss2pcs tog to last 5 sts, then work rem 5 sts as ss into front centre only (creating finger hole). \*\*\*

## Rays

**Rnd 7:** \*\* (7ch, sk 1 ch, 1ss, 2dc, 2htr, 1tr, 1j-tr) for ray, then 1ss into next st of centre. Rep from \*\* to end. 10 rays. The rays will curl over as you make them on this row, but don't worry: this will be corrected by both the next two rows and by steam pressing during finishing.

**Rnd 8:** Ss around edge of rays, working (1ss, 1ch, 1ss) into each tip.

**Rnd 9:** Now ss one rnd right through the fabric between the centre and the rays. Fasten off and sew in any loose ends of yarn.

## Finishing

To encourage the rays to stay flat, lightly steam (if yarn is acrylic) or steam press (if yarn is a wool or cotton).



## Variations

*I have designed these puppets to be a little larger than the other sets in this book, on the premise that this playset is more likely to be used by grown-ups to entertain very young children. To make them smaller, try using 4-ply yarn and a smaller hook.*

## Rain cloud

With 3.5mm hook and white yarn, work as for sun to \*\*\*.

Fasten off, then re-join yarn to beg st (at middle of cloud). The 'fluffy' crescent bits of the cloud will be worked in surface crochet, into the spiral of 'spare' front loops. \*\*\*\* Wk (1dc in next loop, 1ch, 3tr in foll loop, 1ch), rep from \*\*\*\* until you've worked to the edge of the cloud. You will now have a nice round cloud: to make this into more of an oval, break off yarn leaving a tail approx 8in (20cm) long and with darning needle run a line of gathering stitches through the centre of the cloud. Fasten off and sew in any loose ends.

## Rain

Cut eight pieces of blue yarn, each 6in (15cm) long. Fold each in half and knot onto underside of cloud.



## Silver lining

With 3.5mm hook and silver/grey, join yarn to RH side of cloud.

Work 1ch, 1dc, 2tr 6 times, (1htr, 1dc) in next st, and finish with a ss. Fasten off.

## Finishing

Trim rain so that the blue strands of yarn are even lengths. Sew in any loose ends.

## Water spout

### Inner piece

With 3.5mm hook and grey yarn, mk sl-knot and 27ch.

**Row 1:** Sk2ch, 25htr: 25 sts.

**Row 2 and foll even rows:** (RS) Wk even in htr TBL.

**Row 3 and foll odd rows:** Wk even in fhtr:

Work 21 rows in total.

Fasten off.

### Outer piece

Work as for inner piece but do not fasten off.

Place both pieces tog with RS facing you. Dc2pcs tog on three sides, working (1dc, 1ch, 1dc) into corners. Leave fourth side open and fasten off.

## Finishing

Cut cardboard tube lengthwise and trim to size if necessary, and place it inside spout 'envelope'. Sew in any loose ends.

## Branching out and turning back

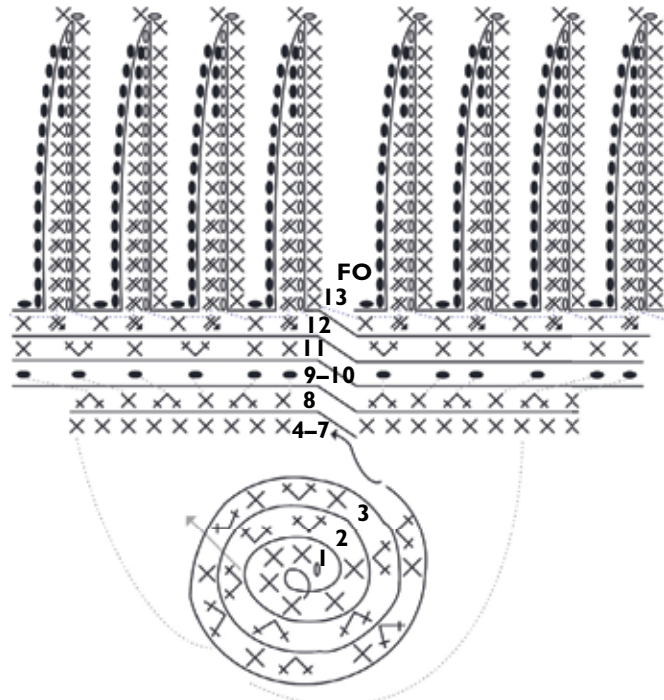
This is a technique that's really handy for creating non-standard shaping. A good example is the Big Octopus, illustrated here.

Rnds 1–3 are worked like the outer body. You now have 18 sts. Rnds 4–7 are worked even in dc, rnd 8 decreases to 12 sts and rnds 9–10 are worked even in ss to draw the fabric in.

We are going to make 8 arms for the octopus; so we inc on the next rnd (from 12 sts to 16, so we have a number of sts divisible by 8).

Now we are ready to make the octopus' arms. \* Mk 15ch (this is 'branching out'). Then work back along the chain you just made (this is 'turning back'), by skipping 1 ch st first, then working 5ss, 5dc and 4htr along the rem 14 ch sts. Finally, make a j-htr followed by a dc into the base. Rep from \* 7 times.

The next rnd finishes off the arms and body. Wk in dc up along the RH side of each arm, then (1dc, 1ch, 1dc) into each 'tip', and finally just ss back down along the LH side of each arm.



Rnd	Sts (inc/dec)
1	6
2	12 (+6)
3	18 (+6)
4–7	18 (wk even in dc)
8	12 (-6)
9–10	12 (wk even in ss)
11	16 (+4)
12	128 (+110)
13	144