



*really*  
wild tea cozies  
Loani Prior

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MURDOCH BOOKS



Designing this cosy was like being in chocolate heaven. What colour next? Devouring the little balls of lusciousness. Then wrapping them all up in a sea of blue. Throw caution to the wind!

Breathe in. Breathe out. And start crocheting. You can do it because the 'doing' is so satisfying and the result is spectacular. This is organic, feral, freeform (call it what you like) crocheting and there is only one rule to follow: have the teapot in front of you at all times. No two Coral Punks will be the same.

# Coral Punk

*{Crocheted cosy}*

## SIZE

I made my cosy to fit a two-cup teapot that stands 9 cm (3½ in) tall (not including the knob) and 12 cm (5 in) in diameter (not including the spout and handle).

## MATERIALS

- Two 50 g (1¾ oz) balls Noro Kureyon Sock wool: Ah! So many colours to choose from ...
- One 50 g (1¾ oz) ball 4-ply wool: Pink

## EQUIPMENT

- 3 mm (UK 11, US D/3) crochet hook
- Darning needle
- Scissors

*Note. American crocheters, please check the **Crochet Abbreviations and Conversions** table on page 134.*

## **CORAL TENDRILS**

Using a 3 mm (UK 11, US D/3) hook and 4-ply pink wool, make 7 chain. Sl st into first chain to close the circle. Make 2 ch (counts as first dc). Make 12 dc into the circle, join with a sl st to first st. Continue working in the round until desired length, working the first 3 rounds in pink before changing colour. There are three general sizes: small, medium and large, the largest being as long as my index finger.

When you have five or six tendrils of the same hue and of different sizes, sew them together at the base. The first three or four might be a bit fiddly but it gets easier and easier as it grows. Don't be too precious about it. It will all work out beautifully in the end.

My first intention was to cover the entire two-cup teapot with tendrils, but feeling well-sated at 51, it was time to drink tea and think sea.

## **BLUE OCEAN BODY**

Remember! You have thrown caution to the wind.

Toss the tendril mass over the top of the teapot in a rakish manner. Mark the tendril sitting at the spout with a contrasting coloured thread.

Begin the blue ocean base by outlining the tendril mass with a round of dc stitch, gathering the tendril edges into as much of a straight line as possible.

Look long and hard at the photograph. There are straight edges and angled lines. Crochet the rows of dc stitches as if you are colouring in shapes. Always start with the straight edge hugging the spout or the handle.

## **Straight edges**

To make a straight edge, make 2 ch (counts as first dc). Miss the last dc of the last row and dc into the next stitch. When you come back to this straight edge, make your last dc stitch into the space made by the 2 ch in the previous row.

## **Angled lines**

To make an angled line, dc to the last 2 stitches before the end of the row. Sl st into the next stitch. Turn. Miss the sl st of the previous row. Sl st into the next dc, then dc to end.

Keep measuring and shaping against the teapot. Measure and shape, measure and shape!

If it is clearly not working out, pull it back and start again. Unlike knitting, there is only one stitch to pick up. But again, don't be too precious about it.

## **Base**

Once you have covered the bowl of the teapot on both sides, join in a round by crocheting straight across from one side to the other. To achieve the flat doily effect at the base of the tea cosy, make 2dc into every fifth or sixth stitch. If it is not sitting flat to the table, increase more often. If it is curling up into a frilly wave, increase less often.

## **FINISHING**

Darn in any ends.

If you've made Coral Punk for a friend, be sure to photograph it in natural daylight before you let it go. Mine has been my computer desktop picture for the past six months. It makes my heart smile all day long.