HOW TO USE YOUR FREE GIFT

Follow our step-by-step guide and you'll be making hairpin lace strips before you know it. Don't forget to head to page 8 to find out how to join them for your first project

1 Set your hairpin lace to the correct width as set by your pattern (here it is set to 10cm). Take out the left-hand peg from the frame, make a slipknot and put it onto the peg. Do not draw tight to close the slipknot – you want the knot to sit about level with the centre of the frame.

2 Re-set the peg into the frame and pull on the necessary end of the yarn to ensure you're as close to the centre as possible. Ensure the working end of the yarn is on the back of the frame as you look at it.

3 Bring the working end of the yarn towards you from back to front around the right-hand peg. Pull it across to the left hand side and hold in place.

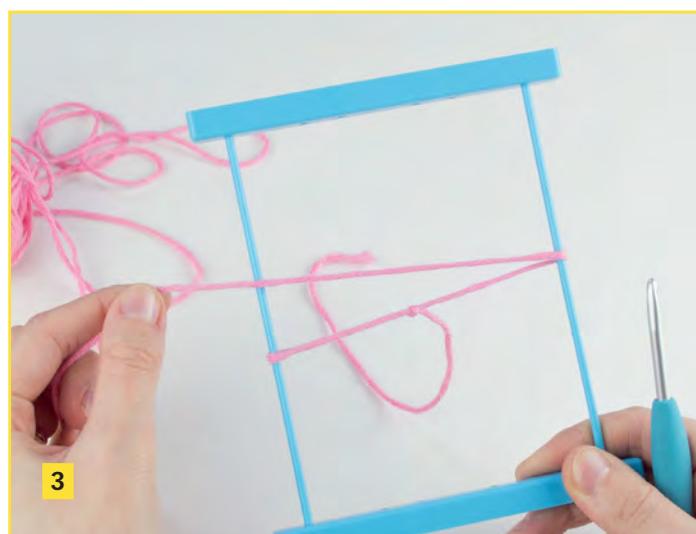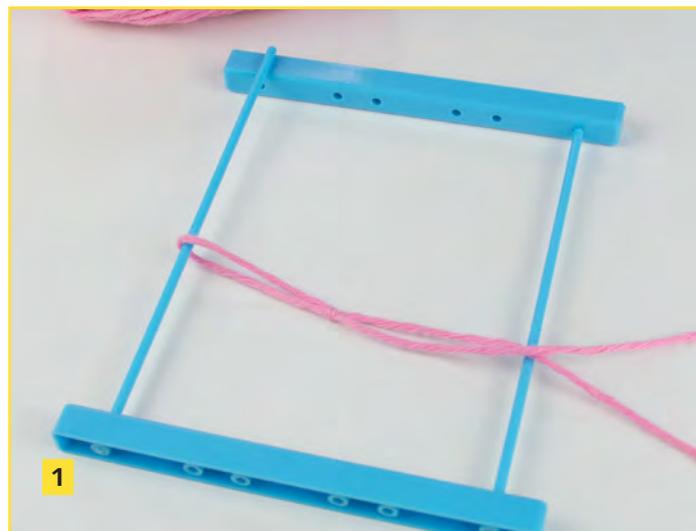**4** Insert your hook through the slipknot.

5 Yarn round hook from the working end of the yarn, and pull through the slipknot.
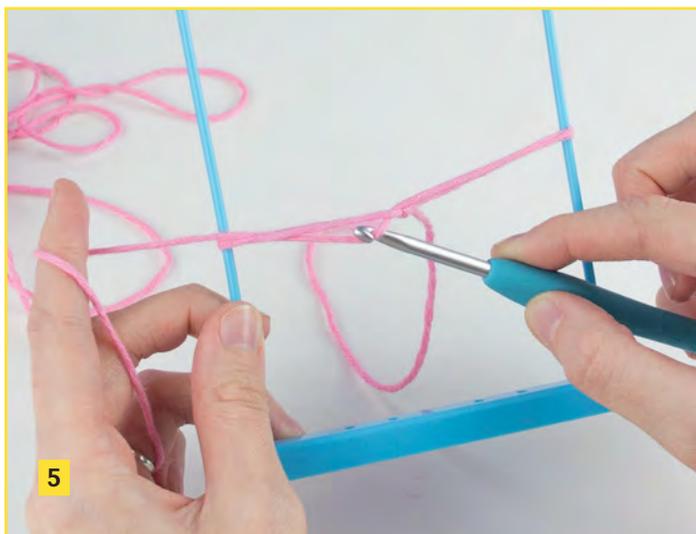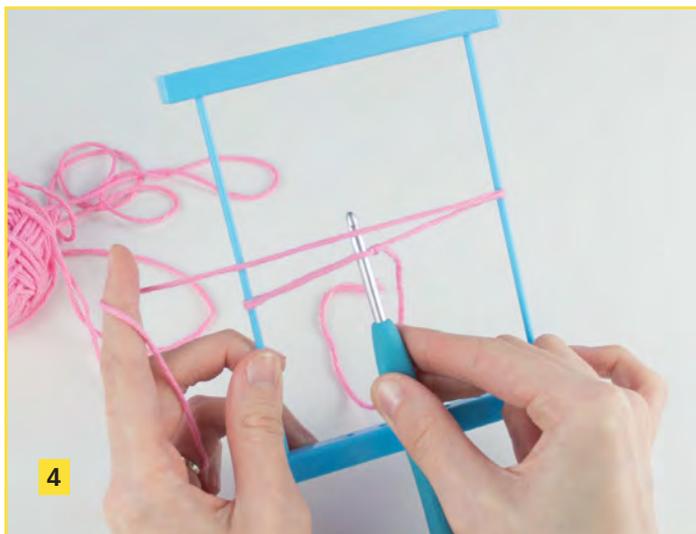
6 Chain 1 to secure.

7 Remove the yarn loop from the hook and take the hook around the back of the frame.
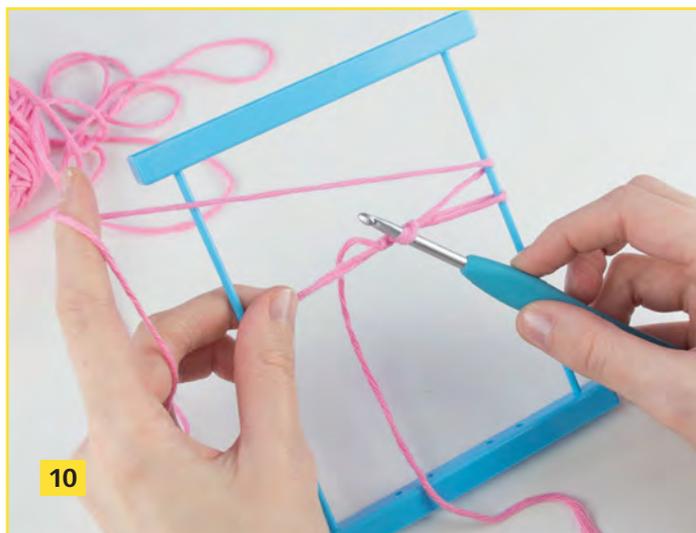
8 Put yarn loop back on the hook.

9 Turn the frame towards you from right to left so the hook is once again on the right side.

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Hairpin crochet

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10 Wrap the working yarn across to the left hand side and hold in place.

11 Chain 1 to secure.

12 Insert hook into the slipknot on left-hand side.

13 Make 1 dc into slipknot.

14 Remove yarn loop from hook.

15 Work steps 9 to 11 once more.

16 Working into the loop on left-hand side, insert hook and make 1 dc.

17 Repeat steps 15 and 16 as set.

Counting Loops
When making hairpin lace strips, a pattern should ask you to make a certain number of loops. For example, the cowl in this magazine asks for 240 loops. This is not individual loops, but rather 240 loops on each side of the loom. You can

add stitch markers around the peg as you work if it helps!

Making room on your loom
Once your loom is full, you'll need to remove some loops before you can continue to work your strip. Do so as follows:
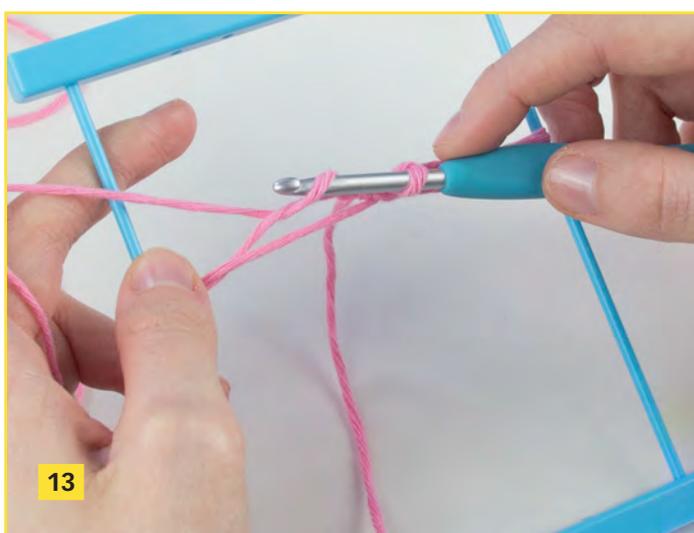
Leave the loop on the hook and hold the top of your work while removing some loops to avoid the whole thing falling off!

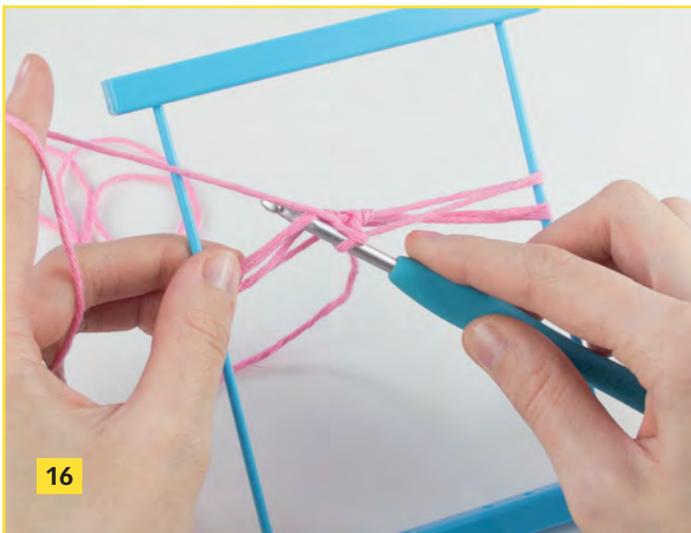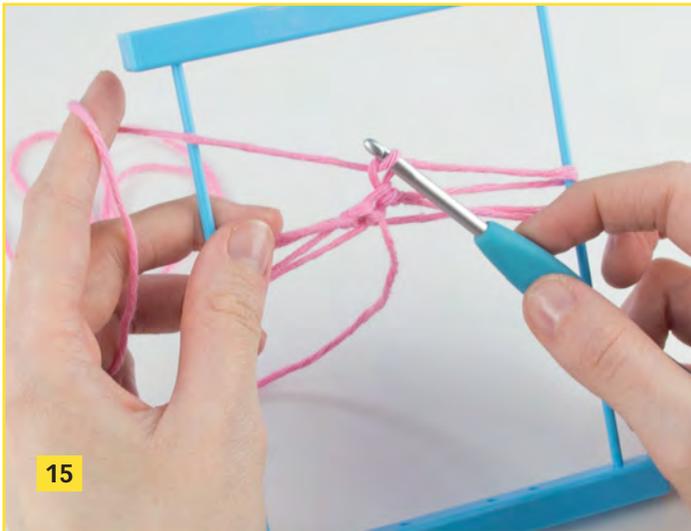**1** Remove the bottom of the frame on both sides and ease off as many loops as necessary.
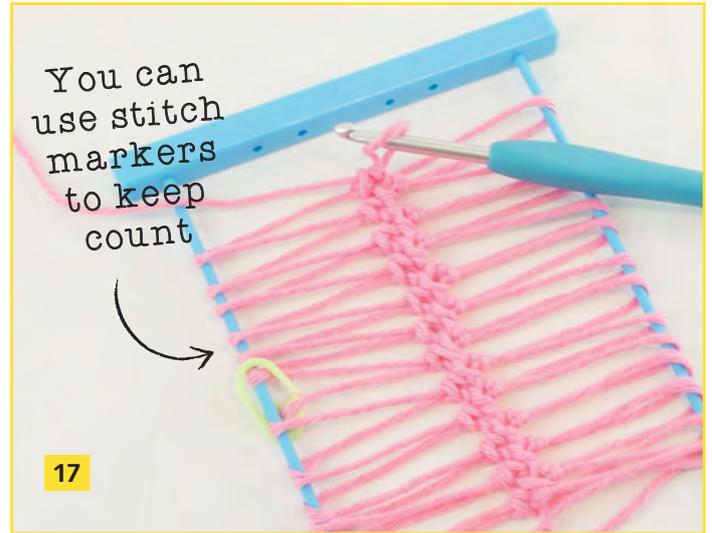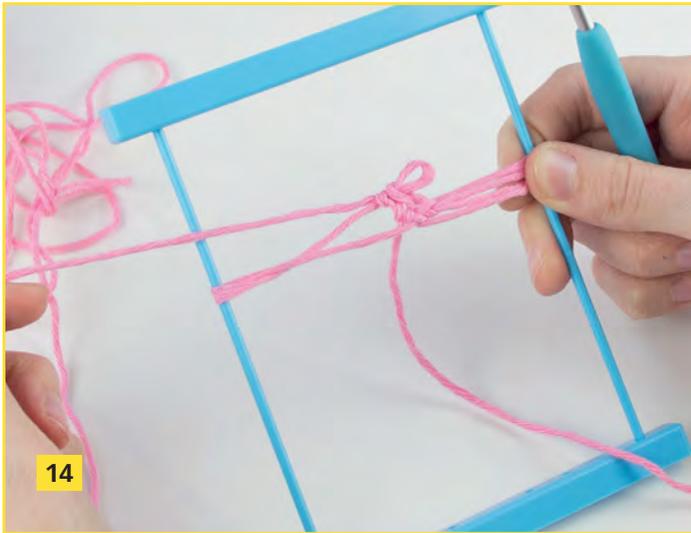
2 Reattach the bottom of the frame and continue as before.

Removing the work
To remove your work, do so in exactly the same way as making room on the loom, but fasten off the 'live' stitch and remove the entire strip, ready to make the next!

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You can use stitch markers to keep count

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JOINING STRIPS

Now you've worked your strips, it's time for the real magic to happen – try these two techniques to create some truly beautiful lacework

Hairpin Cable Join

Make (at least) two hairpin strips. Place them side by side.

1 Insert your hook into the first 5 loops of the first strip, then into the first 5 loops of the second strip.

Note: You can grab and join any number of loops. The more loops you grab, the more textured will be the cable join.

2 Pull the second group of 5 loops on your hook through the first group of 5 loops.

3 *Insert your hook into the next 5 loops of the first strip and pull them through the remaining group of 5 loops on your hook; alternating strips, rep from * to end.

Secure the loops at the end by pulling the tail at the end of the strip through the last group of 5 loops.

Side Edging

(Not a joining method, optional):

With new yarn, 3 dc in the first group of 5 loops, *1 ch, 3 dc in next group of 5 loops; rep from * to end. Rep for the opposite unworked side of the joined strips.
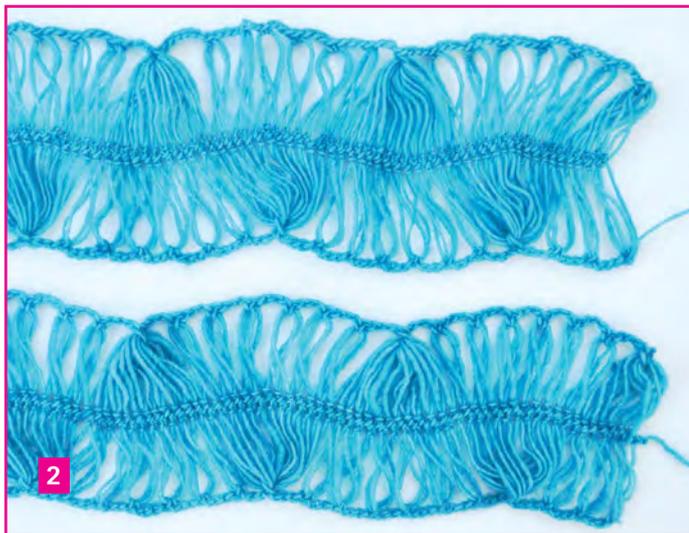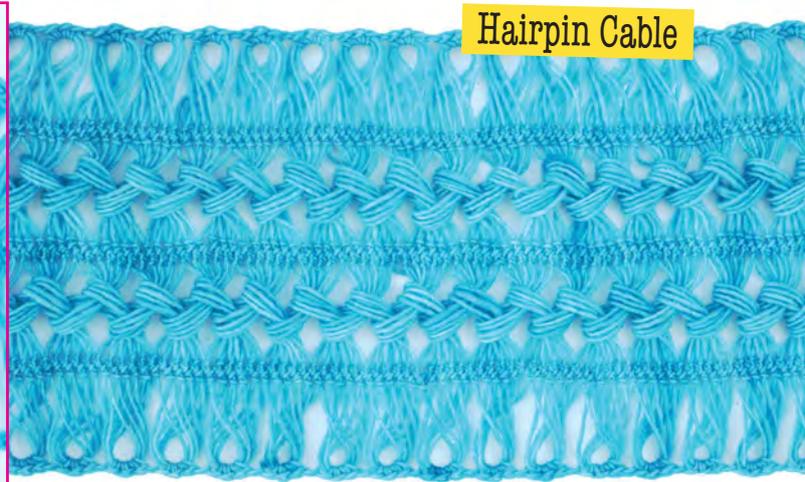
Hairpin Lace Join

Make (at least) two hairpin strips.

First side of the first strip:
Join new yarn with dc through all of the first 6 loops, *[3 ch, 1 dc through both of the next 2 loops] 6 times, 3 ch, 1 dc through all of the next 12 loops; rep from * to last 6 loops, [1 dc through both of the next 2 loops] 3 times. First side of the first strip complete.

Note: One 12-loop group is placed opposite six 2-loop groups on the other side.

Hairpin Cable

Hairpin Lace

You can use any number of chains, for example, work 5 ch instead of 3 ch to achieve a more lacy look

Second side of the first strip:
Start from the beginning of the strip and join new yarn with dc through both of the first 2 loops, [3 ch, 1 dc through both of the next 2 loops] twice, 3 ch, *1 dc through all of the next 12 loops, [3 ch, 1 dc through both of the next 2 loops] 6 times; rep from * to last 6 loops, 1 dc through all of the last 6 loops. Second side of the first strip complete.

Rep both sides for the second strip.

Joining:
Place both edged strips side by side, making sure the first side of one strip, beg with a 6-loop group, is adjacent to the second side of the other strip, beg with a 2-loop group.

Join new yarn with dc in first 3-ch sp of the first strip, 1 ch, 1 dc in first 3-ch sp of the second strip, *1 ch, 1 dc in the next 3ch-sp of the other strip; rep from * to end.