

Key Lime Pie



By Lettice Rose

So, I had to make dozens of pies and consume zillions of calories to develop this ~~recipe~~ pattern! It is inspired by my sister in law's favourite dessert which she makes at every opportunity. I was struck whilst piping cream, how much the little blobs look like popcorn stitch, so played about to construct a whole pie. It would look equally good in shades of yellow or orange as well. Other colours would obviously not look so edible, but would still be attractive; the lime slices could possibly be reinterpreted as decorative cartwheels in a cottage garden. There are some slightly unusual techniques employed to get the sliced fruit, so I would rate the difficulty as intermediate. But step by step it should be achievable, and I have put extra detail in italics where I think it will help. Remember, this pie is entirely calorie free!

Bon Appetit!

Materials: My sample was made using Stylecraft Special DK, and a 3.5mm hook. You will probably want a size smaller hook than you usually use for other afghan squares to get the right size.

Yarn Colour A, Lime (Lime flesh)

Yarn Colour B, Cream (Lime pith, piped cream, lace tablecloth)

Yarn Colour C, Meadow (Lime zest, tablecloth edging)

Yarn Colour D, Lemon (Pie filling)

Yarn Colour E, Mocha (Pie Crust)

Eight stitch markers. Pieces of contrasting yarn are fine.

Size: DK with a E/4/3.5 mm hook comes up 9.75", a worsted weight with a G/6/4mm hook comes up 12" approximately

At the end of a round, when colours change, an invisible join will make a neater finish and is essential on the "zest" rounds. Similarly, a standing dc would be better than a starting ch-3. Tutorials for these can be found on the internet.

| | Stitches used (US crochet terms): | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Chain stitch (ch) | Half double crochet (hdc) | Popcorn (PC) |
| Slip Stitch (sl st) | Double crochet (dc) | Skip (sk) |
| Single crochet (sc) | Treble crochet (tr) | Stitch (st) |
| Half double crochet on PC (hdc-pop) | Yarn over (yo) | Single crochet on popcorn (sc-pop) |
| Back post single crochet (bpsc) | Back loop only (blo) | Front loop only (flo) |
| Long popcorn (LPC) | Place Marker (PM) | Double treble crochet (dtr) |

Special stitches.

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Popcorn | 5 dc in indicated stitch, remove yarn loop from hook, insert hook in first dc, replace yarn loop on hook and pull through. |
| Starting popcorn | Ch 3, 4 dc in same stitch, remove yarn loop from hook, insert hook in top of starting chain, replace yarn loop on hook and pull through. |
| Long popcorn | 5 dc in indicated stitch which will be several rounds below. Draw up each dc as you stitch it to a dc height above the current round, remove yarn loop from hook, insert hook in first dc, replace yarn loop on hook and pull through. LPC should be roughly one and a half times taller than a PC |
| Sc-pop | A sc worked above a popcorn. Insert hook from front to back in chain space before popcorn, pass hook behind popcorn, then from back to front in next chain space. Yarn over and pull through ch spaces, yarn over and pull through two loops on hook. |
| Hdc-pop | A hdc worked above a popcorn. Yarn over, insert hook from front to back in chain space before popcorn, pass hook behind popcorn, then from back to front in next chain space. Yarn over and pull through ch spaces, yarn over and pull through three loops on hook. |

Round 1: *In this round, you are forming the flesh part of the first lime slice. Some of the stitches for the second round will be going into the starting magic ring between the Round 1 stitches, so it is vital that you use the magic ring to start. A chain ring will not give such a good result. Tutorials on the magic ring can be found on the internet.*

Using Yarn A form a magic ring. Ch 4 (*as starting tr*) into ring, tr, ch 1, [2 tr, ch 1] 7 times, sl st to top of starting chain. Finish off. Gently pull up the ring to about half an inch, your finger should still be able to just fit. Spread the stitches round evenly so there are no big gaps in the ring. Do not attempt to weave in the starting end yet. The work will cup until the ring is pulled up later. (16 tr, 8 ch-1)

Round 2: *This round forms the pith around the fruit and between the segments. When forming the trebles, work in front of the round 1 chain, do not enclose it. Pull the trebles a little long so they are the same height as the rest of the round. The scs are placed in the front loop only, the back loop will be used later.*

Working in flo of Round 1, join Yarn B in the first of any pair of trs with a sc, 2 sc in next tr, tr into magic ring between the Round 1 pairs of trs, in front of the ch-1, [sc in next tr, 2 sc in next tr, tr into magic ring between the round 1 pairs of trs] 7 times. Finish off Yarn B with an invisible join to the first sc. Pull up the magic ring and sew the end in excessively well!
(24 sc, 8 tr)

Round 3: *Adding the zest. This is added to the back loop only, and you need to be careful not to pull the work out of shape by stitching too tightly.*

Join Yarn C with a slip stitch blo of any Round 2 stitch. Sl st loosely in blo of every st around. Join to first sl st with an invisible join. Finish off. (32 sl st)

You should now have a nice flat little lime slice, just a bit bigger than life size. At this point measure your work. It should be no more than 2.5" if you are using DK and aiming for a 9.75" square, or 2.75" if you are using worsted and aiming for a 12" square. If it is bigger, consider starting again with a smaller hook as the design of this square makes it very hard to reduce the size later. Turn it over and look for the ring of 24 loops of round 1. This is where the next round will be placed. But turn it back to the right side to continue stitching.

Round 4: *Stitched from the right side down into the back loops and chains of Round 1, pulling your work slightly forward to see. There should be a circle of 24 unused loops. Don't worry which are chains and which are back loops of trs. Just stitch into them!*

Join Yarn D with a sc in the back loop of any Round 1 st, [2 sc into next st, sc into next st] 11 times, 2 sc in next st, sl st to 1st sc to join. Finish off. (36 sc)

Round 5: *Piping the cream.*

Join Yarn B with a sl st in any sc of Round 4, starting PC in same stitch, ch 2, sk st, [PC in next st, ch 2, sk st] 17 times, sl st to top of starting chain of 1st PC. Finish off. (18 PC, 18 ch-2)

Round 6: *Preparing the filling. The single crochets on the top of the popcorn make them stand up more perkily. Please check the special stitch instructions for "sc-pop". The dcs into Round 4 stitches should enclose the Round 5 chain.*

Join Yarn D with a sl st in any skipped sc of Round 4 (*between the PC, push them apart to find it*), ch 3 as starting dc, dc in same st, sc-pop, [2 dc in next Round 4 sc, sc-pop] 17 times, sl st to top of starting ch to join. (36 dc, 18 sc)

Round 7: Ch 3 as starting dc, dc in every stitch round, sl st to top of starting chain to join. (54 dc)

Round 8: *It will be very much easier on subsequent rounds if you place markers as suggested.*

Ch 1, sc in same st, sc in each of next 3 sts, [(sc, ch 3, sc) in next st, sc in each of next 4 st, PM in the flo of the last stitch, sc in each of next 4 st] 5 times, (sc, ch 3, sc) in next st, sc in each of next 4 st, PM in the flo of the last stitch, sl st to first sc to join. Finish off. (60 sc, 6 ch-3)

Round 9: *Starting to form the second round of fruit slices. Do not worry about the appearance of the slip stitches between the slices. They will be hidden by more cream. Do not pull the sl sts too tight, you will need to be able to stitch into them later. All sl st are back loop only. Leave the markers in until Round 12 is complete.*

Join Yarn A with a sl st in the blo of 4th sc after a ch-3 loop (*one stitch before the marker*), sl st in blo of each of next 3 sc, skip next 3 sc, ch 1, (2 tr, ch 1) 4 times into ch-3 loop, [skip 3 sc, sl st in blo of each of next 4 sc, ch 1, (2 tr, ch 1) 4 times into ch-3 loop] 5 times, sl st to 1st sl st to join. Finish off. (48 tr, 30 ch-1, 24 sl st)

Round 10: *In this round the pith is added around the slices, and between the segments. This is trickier than round 2 because you are not working into an adjustable ring. A tip to place the trebles between the round 9 treble pairs is to insert the hook into the chain ring from back to front. This is easier, and the result looks just the same. Work the trebles in front of the round 9 ch-1s. The sets of four sl st are worked through both loops. You may only be able to find places for 3 sl sts. This is fine, they will be hidden anyway.*

Join Yarn B with a sl st in the 2nd st of the Round 9 group of 4 sl st (*above the marked stitch, do not remove marker*), sl st into next 2 sl st, [tr in Round 8 ch-3 *before the first pair of trebles*, [sc in next tr, 2 sc in next tr, tr in Round 8 ch-3 *between treble pairs*] 3 times, sc in next tr, 2 sc in next tr, tr in Round 8 ch-3 *after last treble pair*, sl st in each of next 4 sl st] 5 times, tr in Round 8 ch-3 *before the first pair of trebles*, [sc into next tr, 2 sc in next tr, tr in Round 8 ch-3 *between treble pairs*,] 3 times, sc in next tr, 2 sc in next tr, tr in Round 8 ch-3 *after last treble pair*, sl st in sl st, sl st to starting sl st to join. Finish off. (30 tr, 72 sc, 24 sl st)

Round 11: *Adding more zest! You can stitch right round; the unnecessary zest will be hidden later.*

Join Yarn C with a sl st in blo of the 2nd sl st of a Round 10 group of 4 sl st, sl st in blo of every st around, invisible join to first sl st to join. Finish off. (126 sl st)

Round 12: *Piping more cream. Some stitches are back post around the round 10 trebles that form the pith. The pairs of Long Popcorn between the slices are formed exactly like the normal popcorn, but the dcs are pulled a little higher to hide and enclose the slip stitches in Round 9, 10, and 11. When making these LPC, poke your hook right through the fabric from front to back just above the Round 8 marked front loop, into the blo of Round 8. They will look considerably taller than the other PC in this pattern. Make sure you pull the stitches high enough, or the work will be distorted from a nice round pie to a hexagon!*

Join Yarn B with a bpsc around the second treble of any Round 10 “slice”, ch 2, bpsc around next Round 10 tr, ch 2, bpsc around next Round 10 tr, ch 2, (*identify the 5th of the Round 8 set of 10 sc which should be marked. Your hook is going into the back loop only of this stitch, right through so the LPC will enclose the sl sts of Round 9, 10 and 11*) LPC in this st, ch 2, LPC in next Round 8 st, ch 2, [bpsc around the second treble of Round 10, ch 2, bpsc around next Round 10 tr, ch 2, bpsc around next Round 10 tr, ch 2, LPC in blo of 2nd sc of next Round 8 set of 4 sc, ch 2, LPC in blo of next Round 8 sc, ch 2] 5 times, sl st to starting sc to join. Finish off, remove the stitch markers. (12 LPC, 18 bpsc, 24 ch-2)

Round 13: Join Yarn D with a sl st in a ch-2 sp after the second of any pair of LPC, ch 2 as hdc, hdc in same ch-2 space, hdc in sc, hdc around placing 2 hdc in every ch-2 sp, hdc in every sc, hdc-pop on every LPC, sl st to top of starting chain to join, Finish off. (90 hdc)

Round 14: *Last of the cream.*

Join Yarn B with a sl st in any hdc, Starting PC in same st, [ch 2, skip st, PC in next hdc] 44 times, ch 2, sl st to top of starting chain to join. Finish off. (45 PC, 45 ch-2)

Round 15: *Scraping the last of the filling. Note that there is apparently a dc missing from the last repeat. This is deliberate to get the correct stitch count for the crust. All dcs should enclose the Round 14 chain.*

Join Yarn D with a sl st in any skipped Round 13 hdc (*between the PCs*), ch 3 as dc, sc-pop on PC, dc in next skipped Round 13 hdc, sc-pop on PC, 2 dc in next skipped Round 13 hdc, sc-pop on PC, [dc in skipped Round 13 hdc, sc-pop on PC, dc in next skipped Round 13 hdc, sc-pop on PC, 2 dc in next skipped Round 13 hdc, sc-pop on PC] 11 times, [dc in next skipped Round 13 hdc, sc-pop on PC] 3 times, sl st to top of starting chain. Finish off. (45 sc-pop, 59 dc)

Round 16: *Raising the pie crust. This is formed with a modified “double crossed” dc. Only stitch in the front loops as you will be stitching the background into the back loops later. This will make a nice little standing up crimped pie crust.*

Join Yarn E with a sl st in FLO of any st of round 15, ch 3 (*as dc*), dc in same st then crossing in front of previous 2 dc, dc into previous stitch, [sk st, 2 dc in next st then crossing in front of previous 2 dc, dc into skipped stitch] 51 times, sl st to top of starting chain to join. Finish off. (156 dc, in 52 sets of 3 “double crosses”)

Round 17: *Setting the tablecloth. Turn your work over and look for the ring of 104 unused back loops of round 15. This is where you will stitch this round. Turn back to the right side before continuing. The first stitch will be placed at the top, dead central point in the square, so decide how you want your square orientated. I chose to start directly above the centre of one of the half slices. I found it helps to count round and place a stitch marker every 13th loop, to mark corners and centres of sides. It is quite tricky to find all those unused back loops.*

Join Yarn B in desired Round 15 blo with sc, sc in each of next 2 st, hdc in each of next 3 st, dc in each of next 3 st, tr in each of next 3 st, dtr in next st, 5 dtr in next st (*take in the back bump too here, to stabilise*), [dtr in next st, tr in each of next 3 st, dc in each of next 3 st, hdc in each of next 3 st, sc in each of next 5 st, hdc in each of next 3 st, dc in each of next 3 st, tr in each of next 3st, dtr in next st, 5 dtr in next st (*take in the back bump too here, to stabilise*)] 3 times, dtr in next st, tr in each of next 3 st, dc in each of next 3 st, hdc in each of next 3 st, sc in each of next 2 st, sl st to starting sc to join. (28 dtr, 24 tr, 24, dc, 24 hdc, 20 sc)

Round 18: Sl st into next st, ch 3 (as starting hdc, ch 1), [sk st, hdc in next st, ch 1] 6 times, sk st, (dc, ch 1, tr, ch 1, dc, ch 1) in corner tr, [[sk st, hdc in next st, ch 1] 14 times, (dc, ch 1, tr, ch 1, dc, ch 1) in corner tr] 3 times, [sk st, hdc in next st, ch 1] 7 times, sl st to top of starting chain to join. (56 hdc, 8 dc, 4 tr, 68 ch-1)

Round 19: Ch 3 (as starting hdc, ch 1), [sk ch-1 space, hdc in next st, ch 1] 7 times, sk ch-1 space, (dc, ch 1, tr, ch 1, dc, ch 1) in corner dtr, [[sk ch-1 space, hdc in next st, ch 1] 16 times, (dc, ch 1, tr, ch 1, dc, ch 1) in corner dtr] 3 times, [sk ch-1 space, hdc in next st, ch 1] 8 times, sl st to the 2nd ch of starting chain to join. Finish off. (64 hdc, 8 dc, 4 tr, 76 ch-1)

Round 20: *The tablecloth edging. You may need to alter this round to sc or dc to get the right size square. If you need to use dc, stitch 3 dc in the corner treble.*

Join Yarn C in any ch-1 space, ch 2 as hdc, hdc in same space. Work round placing 2 hdc in every ch-1 space, skipping every hdc and dc, placing a dc in each corner tr, sl st to top of starting chain to join. Finish off. (152 hdc, 4 dc)

Weave in any stray ends and block if desired.

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