Colorful Crochet Denim Skirt

A flowing shell-lace extension in hot pink, golden yellow and turquoise.



Turn a favorite denim skirt into a colorful statement.

Work one continuous crochet extension from the top down, then hand-sew its firm upper band inside an existing denim hem. Increasing shell sizes create a soft flare without separate ruffles to join.

Skill level: confident beginner / intermediate. Format: joined rounds, right side facing. Fit: made to your skirt hem; this is not a waist-size pattern.

About this tutorial: an original, untested adaptation inspired by the supplied photos, not a verified transcription. The new 3D images illustrate construction; use the written stitch counts. The supplied decorative chart appears alone on the last page and is not the working chart for this adaptation.

Materials, gauge & sizing

Choose a light yarn for drape

Use smooth sport-weight cotton or a cotton blend, approximately 125 m per 50 g (137 yd per 1.76 oz). Begin with a 3.0-3.5 mm hook; adjust to your swatch. Avoid heavy worsted yarn for a long extension.

Planning allowance: 100 g pink, 100 g yellow and 150 g turquoise, about 875 m / 957 yd total, including swatching. These are generous estimates, not measured consumption. Larger hems, extra rows or looser gauge need more yarn.

Also gather: a denim skirt that fits comfortably, sewing thread matching the denim, a sharp hand-sewing needle, tapestry needle, scissors, tape measure, clips and at least 8 stitch markers. Optional: a lightweight slip beneath the open lace.

Measure the hem, not your waist

Lay the skirt flat without stretching it. Measure the complete finished lower edge with a flexible tape: front plus back. Call this circumference C. Keep the existing finished hem if possible; this tutorial does not require cutting the denim.

Make two swatches before sizing

First, crochet a single-crochet swatch at least 12 × 12 cm (4¾ × 4¾ in). Wash as the yarn label allows and dry flat. Count stitches across the central 10 cm (4 in). Call that count G. Aim for a firm but flexible attachment band.

Then make a small 36-stitch ring and follow the lace instructions on pages 4-5. Measure the blocked height of 6 lace rounds and divide by 6 to find average round height. Test 5-, 7- and 9-dc shells for drape; do not assume every shell size has the same gauge.

Calculate	Worked example
N = nearest multiple of 6 to C × G ÷ 10	C = 108 cm (42½ in); G = 20 sc / 10 cm. N = 216 sc.
Shell count S = N ÷ 6	216 ÷ 6 = 36 shells per round.
Check the finished band against the actual hem	Band should lie smoothly around the hem without stretching or gathering. If not, remake using ±6 stitches or adjust hook size.

All dimensions are blocked targets. Use the actual garment and swatch for fit; the numbers in the example are not universal sizing.

Prepare the attachment band





1 Mark the denim

Wash and dry the skirt first. Mark the side seams, center front and center back along the hem. Mark the same four quarters on the crochet band later so both layers can be joined evenly.

2 Chain and join

With pink, chain N loosely: 216 chains in the example. Lay the chain flat and check that it is not twisted. Slip stitch into the first chain to form a ring. This joining slip stitch is not a stitch in your count.

3 Work the two firm rounds

Band round B1: ch 1 (does not count), sc in each chain around. Join with sl st to the first sc. Count N sc.
Band round B2: ch 1, sc in each sc around. Join to the first sc. Count N again. Do not turn.

4 Check before adding lace

Pin the band temporarily inside the hem, with its upper edge overlapping the denim by about 1 cm (⅜ in). The band must match the hem without pulling. For N = 216, put quarter markers every 54 sc. Remove the pins before crocheting.

Why crochet separately? A sewn attachment avoids forcing a crochet hook through dense denim and makes it easier to remove the lace for repairs.

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Learn the shell-lace repeat



US stitch guide

ch = chain; sl st = slip stitch; sc = single crochet; dc = double crochet; st(s) = stitch(es); sk = skip. A shell is a group of dc worked into one stitch. Brackets show the part to repeat.

Lace round L1: establish 5-dc shells

Ch 1; sc in the first sc of B2. [Sk 2 sc, work 5 dc in the next sc, sk 2 sc, sc in the next sc] around. In the final repeat, omit the last sc because the first sc already occupies that position. Join with sl st to the first sc. Do not turn.

Example check: 216 foundation sc produce 36 shells and 36 anchor sc: 180 dc + 36 sc = 216 stitches. Do not count the joining slip stitch or beginning ch 1.

Lace round L2: offset the shells

From the join, sl st in the first, second and third dc of the first shell. Ch 1, sc in that same third dc. [Work 5 dc in the next anchor sc; sc in the center (third) dc of the next shell] around. Finish with 5 dc in the final anchor sc; omit the last sc and join to the first sc.

Repeat L2 for more pink rounds. Always work shells into the single crochets and single crochets into the center of the previous shells. Leave all other dc unworked. No chain spaces are added between shells and anchors.

Keep the seam clear: move the beginning marker to the new first sc each round. The joining point moves along the lace because you slip to a shell center; this is intentional.

Build three bands of color



Band	Shell size	Starting plan	Check per round (S = 36)
Pink	5 dc	6 lace rounds	36 shells + 36 sc = 216 sts
Yellow	7 dc	6 lace rounds	36 shells + 36 sc = 288 sts
Turquoise	9 dc	6 lace rounds	36 shells + 36 sc = 360 sts

5 Change to yellow and increase shell size

Complete the final pink round. Fasten off. Join yellow with a sl st in the center (third dc) of any pink shell, preferably near the back. Ch 1, sc in the same st. [7 dc in the next anchor sc, sc in the center of the next pink shell] around. Finish with 7 dc in the final anchor; join to first sc.

For each later yellow round, sl st across the first 4 dc to the center of the first 7-dc shell. Ch 1, sc there. Repeat [7 dc in next anchor sc, sc in center (fourth dc) of next shell]. Omit the final duplicate sc; join to first sc.

6 Change to turquoise and widen again

Join turquoise in the center (fourth dc) of a yellow shell. Work as above, but make 9-dc shells. On later turquoise rounds, sl st across the first 5 dc to the center of the first shell; place anchors in the fifth dc of each 9-dc shell. Keep S shells and S anchors in every round.

Length: 6 + 6 + 6 lace rounds is a starting plan only. If your average round height is 1.3 cm (½ in), 18 rounds give about 23.4 cm (9¼ in) of lace. Add rounds within any color to reach your target. The shell count stays constant; larger shells create the flare.

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Block, align & sew to denim



7 Finish and block the crochet

End after a complete turquoise shell round for a naturally scalloped edge. Fasten off, leaving a 15 cm (6 in) tail. Weave each tail through the backs of several stitches, reverse direction, and trim only after blocking. Wash gently as directed on the yarn label; press water out in a towel and dry flat.

8 Pin with the layers overlapping

Place the crochet upper band on the inside of the denim hem. Hide about 1 cm (⅜ in) of the band behind the denim. Match all four quarter markers, then clip halfway between each pair. Keep the denim at its natural circumference; do not pull the lace tight.

9 Sew securely by hand

Use matching sewing thread, preferably doubled and knotted. Make small backstitches about 3-4 mm (⅛ in) long along the existing denim hem stitching, catching the firm crochet band underneath. Avoid sewing into the open shell lace. Keep thread tension relaxed so the denim does not pucker.

Check the right side frequently. Secure the thread at the side seams and end, then hide the knots inside. If the band rolls, add a second discreet line of stitches near its upper edge. Remove every pin and clip.

Fit check: try on the skirt, sit down and walk. The crochet join should feel flexible and the skirt opening must allow a comfortable stride. The denim section determines the fit; a flared crochet edge cannot enlarge a tight denim skirt.

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Finishing checks & print notes

Choose the finished length

Measure from the denim hem to your desired finished edge. This is the visible crochet extension E. Because about 1 cm of the band is hidden behind the denim, visible extension = total crochet height minus overlap. Include the exposed part of the band when planning your lace length.

If you notice...	Try this
The attachment band is too tight	Redo the band with a larger hook or add 6 stitches at a time. Check against the hem before making the lace.
The upper edge gathers or waves	Reduce N by a multiple of 6, or use a smaller hook for the band only. Do not gather the band onto denim.
The lower lace is too full	Use 7-dc shells for turquoise instead of 9. Anchor in the center of the previous shell; on following rounds, slip to the fourth dc.
A shell seems missing	Count shells and anchor sc separately. Each round must have S of each. Check the join for an extra or omitted sc.
The skirt is too heavy or stretches	Choose lighter yarn and fewer rounds. Block and measure the swatch before committing to a long extension.

Before wearing

Check all seam sections for missed stitches; tug gently around the join. Make sure the bottom edge is even, ends are secure and no pins remain. Wear a slip if you prefer more coverage through the lace.

Care

Follow the gentlest care requirements of both yarn and denim. Wash with similar colors; bright yarns may release dye. Support the wet garment, reshape and dry flat. Avoid hanging wet cotton lace, which can lengthen under its own weight.

About the last-page diagram

The final page reproduces only the supplied color diagram, plus the requested footer. It is a visual reference, without reliable row counts, stitch key or shaping instructions. Its symbols are not a stitch-for-stitch match to this adapted shell pattern. Follow pages 3-5 to make the tutorial version.

Print: A4, full color or grayscale, actual size / 100%. The last page is landscape so the diagram can be larger. It is not a full-size sewing template. The footer phrase is clickable in the digital PDF; a paper copy cannot open the link.

