

Margarita Skirt

Design by Susan L. Harrison

Ahh, Friday night. It's my favorite time of the week, when hubby and I unwind with our favorite beverage. As designated bartender, I squeeze the limes and mix top shelf tequila with Paula's Texas Orange to create those smooth margaritas that kick off the weekend. The ubiquitous cactus-stemmed glasses work best – not too sloshy, not too big, just right. In this achingly hot summer of 2011, 'ritas and rocks cause cactus condensation that fills our thirsty stone coasters. What's a margarita lover to do? Crochet an extra coaster layer, of course. How to make something that will resist the naughty glass' efforts to tip over when the second round is poured? How about a tree skirt for the cactus? In the fiesta spirit, it doubles as a mini sombrero. ¡Que te diviertas!

Notes & Abbreviations

Ch 1 at the beginning of a row counts as one single crochet stitch.

CC: contrasting color (yellow in photo)

Sc: single crochet

Ch: chain

Sl st: slip stitch

MC: main color (red in photo)

Tbl: through back loops

Supplies

Approx. 10 yards worsted weight cotton yarn in 2 colors, about 6 yds MC to 4 yds CC.

Size G crochet hook, tapestry needle

Gauge

Rather than a normal gauge, I'm adding tips ✓ so you can check the fit on your favorite margarita glass as you work and adjust hook size if needed.

Instructions

- Leaving a 6" yarn tail, ch 13 in MC.
- Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in next 11 sts, switching to CC in loop pulled through final sc. (12 sc) Turn.
 - ✓ Hold your work around the stem of a margarita glass. It should fit gently around with the initial chain about ½" – ¾" above the glass base, not overlapping but not stretched.
- Ch 1. Sc in next 11 sts across. (12 sts) Turn.
- Ch 1. Sc **tbl** in next 11 sts across, changing back to MC in final sc. (12 sts) Turn.
- Ch 1. 1 sc in same st, 2 sc in next 11 sts across. (24 sts) Turn.
- Ch 1. 1 sc in same st. *1 sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st. Repeat from * until 4 sts remain unworked. 1 sc in each of the next 3 sts, 2 sc in final st (turning chain). Change to CC in final sc. (31 sts) Turn.
 - ✓ Hold your work around the stem again. The row worked **tbl** should form a turning point around the bottom of the stem so the two rows below flare out onto the glass base. All rows should meet around the glass without stretching or overlapping.
- Ch 1. 1 sc in the same st and in the next 30 sts. (32 sts) Cut CC yarn and pull through final loop.
- Move to the other end of the piece, which has the working MC yarn tail emerging through the front side. Move the MC yarn to the back around the edge of the piece, and pull up a loop through the turning chain of CC.
- Ch 1. 1 sl st in the next 31 sts. Work loosely to avoid tightening the edge. (32 sts)
- Cut yarn to leave a 6" tail. Ch 1, and draw yarn tail through final loop.

Finishing

Weave in CC yarn ends.

Thread each MC tail onto a tapestry needle, weave to the edge of the row worked through back loops, and tie a knot in the end of each to prevent unraveling. Wrap the sombrero / tree skirt around your glass stem, tie the MC yarn tails together, fill the glass with your favorite margarita, and shout "¡Vamos a rumbear!"

