

Party Basket

What You Need:

ROYAL SOCIETY "EVERSHEEN"

400 yard balls: 1 ball.

Steel Crochet Hook No. 4.

1 yard ribbon, 1 inch wide. A large ribbon rosette.

Starting at base, ch 5, join with sl st to form ring. **1st rnd:** Ch 3 (to count as dc), 21 dc in ring. Join with sl st to 3rd st of ch-3 first made. **2nd, 3rd and 4th rnds:** Ch 4 (to count as dc and ch 1), dc in each dc, having ch 1 between dc's on 2nd rnd; ch 2 between dc's on 3rd rnd; ch 3 between dc's on 4th rnd. Join as before (22 sps). This is bottom of basket. **5th to 12th rnds incl:** Sl st to center of 1st sp, * ch 5, sc in next sp. Repeat from * around (22 loops). **13th rnd:** Sl st in 1st loop, ch 5, dc in same loop, * in next loop make 3 dc, ch 2 and 3 dc (large shell); in next loop make dc, ch 2 and dc (small shell). Repeat from * around. Join with sl st to 3rd st of ch-5 first made. **14th to 22nd rnds incl:** Sl st in center of 1st sp, ch 5, dc in same sp, * in ch-2 sp of next shell make 3 dc, ch 2 and 3 dc (large shell over large shell); 2 dc with ch 2 between (small shell over small shell) in ch-2 sp of next shell. Repeat from * around. Join as before. **23rd rnd:** Same as 22nd rnd, making ch 1 between shells. Join. **24th to 36th rnds incl:** Work as before, having ch 2 between shells on 24th rnd; ch 3 between shells on 25th rnd, and continue thus having 1 additional ch between shells on each succeeding rnd (14 ch on 36th rnd). Join. **37th rnd:** Sl st in sp, ch 1, sc in same sp, * ch 16, large shell over large shell, ch 16, sc in sp of small shell. Repeat from * around. Join to 1st sc made. **38th rnd:** Ch 1, sc in same place as sl st, * ch 17, shell over shell, ch 17, sc in next sc. Repeat from * around. Join. **39th rnd:** Ch 1, in same place as sl st make sc, ch 4 and sc; * ch 18, in sp of shell make (sc, ch 4) 3 times and sc; ch 18, in next sc make sc, ch 4 and sc. Repeat from * around. Join and fasten off.

BASE OF BASKET . . . 1st rnd: Holding bottom of basket away from you, attach thread to any sp on 4th rnd, ch 3 and complete a large shell in this sp, * make a small shell in next sp, large shell in next sp. Repeat from * around. Join. **2nd rnd:** Sl st in 2 dc, sl st in sp of shell, ch 3 and complete large shell as before, * ch 1, make a small shell over small shell, ch 1, large shell over large shell. Repeat from * around. Join. **3rd rnd:** Sl st in 2 dc, sl st in sp of shell, ch 3 and complete shell, * ch 4, sc in sp of next small shell, ch 4, large shell over large shell. Repeat from * around. Join. **4th rnd:** Sl st in 2 dc, sl st in sp of shell, ch 3 and complete shell, * ch 5, sc in next sc, ch 5, shell over shell. Repeat from * around. Join. **5th rnd:** Sl st in 2 dc, sl st in sp of shell, ch 3, 2 dc in same sp, * ch 3, sc in 3rd ch from hook (p made), 3 dc in same sp, ch 6, in next sc make sc, ch 3 and sc; ch 6, 3 dc in sp of next shell. Repeat from * around. Join and fasten off.

HANDLE . . . Starting at one narrow end, ch 12. **1st row:** In 4th ch from hook make 2 dc, ch 2 and 3 dc; sk 3 ch, sc in next ch, ch 3, sk 3 ch, in last ch make 3 dc, ch 2 and 3 dc. Ch 3, turn. **2nd row:** Shell in sp of next shell, ch 7, shell in sp of next shell. Ch 3, turn. **3rd row:** Shell in sp of next shell, ch 3, sc in center st of ch-7, ch 3, shell in sp of next shell. Ch 3, turn. Repeat the 2nd and 3rd rows until Handle measures 25 inches.

To Stiffen Basket . . . Since sugar stiffening has a tendency to harden quickly, it is important to act promptly. Before proceeding, it is necessary to have handy—blocking pins, a large piece of cardboard, a tumbler to fit into body of basket, and a pot large enough to hold all crocheted pieces. Place tumbler upside down on center of cardboard. Mix 1 cup of sugar with $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of water in pot and boil for 2 minutes, stirring constantly. Dip crocheted pieces in this mixture and boil for 2 more minutes. Squeeze out excess moisture. Fit body of basket over tumbler. Stretch points well and pin to cardboard. Remove basket while still pliable and shape as desired. Handle should be stretched and allowed to dry thoroughly. Bend handle carefully to avoid breaking, and sew to basket. Run ribbon through and sew rosette in place. If desired, pass wire through handle to keep it in shape.

