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STYLESHEETS FOR CROCHET PATTERN DESIGNERS WORKBOOK

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WELCOME

Hi There!

Welcome to Stylesheets for Crochet Pattern Designers!

As a crochet pattern designer, you know that the creative process can be both rewarding and challenging. You put in countless hours and endless creativity to design patterns that others can enjoy and make their own. However, despite your best efforts, you may still find that your patterns aren't being received as well as you had hoped.

Crochet designers who take this course will be able to create professional-looking patterns that are consistent, easy to follow, and enjoyable for your readers. This will help you to build a loyal following and increase your sales as a crochet designer, ultimately taking your business to the next level.

Let's get started!

Love Lyndsey x

ABOUT ME

Consulting with a specialist Crochet Technical Editor can help you achieve your goals, and is both cost and time effective. Do you have questions about crochet technical editing services?

Schedule a no obligation 30 min chat.
Scan the QR code for calendar. It's free!



STYLESHEET - FORMATTING

When it comes to formatting crochet patterns, a well-crafted stylesheet is essential. However, what exactly do you need to consider? Here are some key elements to keep in mind about formatting.

Consistency

A stylesheet helps you establish consistency in your pattern formatting. By defining rules for things like headings, font sizes, and bolding, you can create a cohesive look that makes it easy for readers to follow along.

Clarity

A good stylesheet also prioritises clarity. It should be easy to read and understand, with clear section headings and concise instructions. Avoid cluttering your patterns with unnecessary details or distracting elements.

Accessibility

It's important to consider accessibility when creating your stylesheet. This means using colours, fonts, and formatting that are easy to read and distinguish for all readers, including those with visual impairments.

Branding

Your stylesheet can also help establish your brand and make your patterns instantly recognizable. Consider incorporating your brand colours, logos, or other elements into your stylesheet to create a consistent look across all your patterns.

STYLESHEET - FORMATTING

Formatting	Your style details here
Header Text - specify font, size, italics/bold, and colour ie Ariel, 18pt, bold, black	
Subheader - specify font, size and colour	
Body Text - specify font, size and colour	
Spacingeg do you use single, 1.5 or double	
Page size - A4 or A5?	
Columns - typical columns on a page	
Images - how and where will you use images	
You may decide to have more text styles than this - just make a note of when and where you use them.	

STYLESHEET - MEASUREMENTS

When it comes to including measurements in your crochet patterns, it's important to consider how you format them. Here are some key things to consider...

Units of measurement

Make sure to specify the units of measurement you're using, whether it's inches, centimeters, or another unit. This will help avoid confusion for your readers.

Placement

Decide where you want to include your measurements in your pattern. It's common to list them at the beginning of the pattern or in a separate section, but you can also include them throughout the pattern as needed.

Consistency

It's important to be consistent in how you format your measurements. Decide on a style that works for you, such as using parentheses or abbreviations, and use it consistently throughout your pattern.

Clarity

Make sure your measurements are clear and easy to understand. Consider breaking down larger measurements into smaller sections, and using visuals like diagrams or illustrations to help readers visualize the finished product.

STYLESHEET - MEASUREMENTS

Measurements	Your style details here
<p>State whether you use metric or imperial, or even provide both. If both offered, clarify what order eg 'metric followed by imperial'.</p>	
<p>Use actual finished measurements and give suggested ease. How is this formatted?</p>	
<p>Specify what your rounding is eg Round to ½ inch and 1cm.</p>	
<p>Clarify if space used between number and cm eg '10cm' on 4in</p>	
<p>Do you use a standard size guide? Include here or link to it for ease of reference each time. You may have different size charts for different garments/gender/age etc</p>	

STYLESHEET - ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviations are a crucial part of crochet patterns, but it's important to consider how you format them in your stylesheet. Here are some key things to keep in mind:

Consistency

Make sure to use consistent abbreviations throughout your pattern, and avoid using different abbreviations for the same stitch or technique.

Clarity

Abbreviations should be clear and easy to understand for your readers. Consider including a key or legend at the beginning of your pattern that lists all the abbreviations used, along with their full names.

Formatting

Decide on a formatting style that works for you and stick to it. Some common styles include listing the abbreviation first, followed by the full name in parentheses, or vice versa.

Special cases

Some stitches or techniques may require additional explanation or clarification, even if they have an abbreviation. In these cases, consider including additional notes or visuals to help your readers understand the technique.

STYLESHEET - ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviations	Your style details here
<p>When listing abbreviations - do you use caps or all lower case? The description should take sentence structure. Listing should be alphabetical. Is this capitalisation throughout the pattern or just for the summary at the beginning of the pattern?</p>	
<p>Write out frequently used special stitches, eg bobble stitches can be worked several ways so explain what you mean by that particular stitch.</p>	
<p>Clarify if you would use abbreviations in the description of an abbreviation and any exceptions.</p>	
<p>Do you use full stops to show abbreviation? ie rather than i.e.</p>	

STYLESHEET - INSTRUCTIONS

The instructional text in a crochet pattern is where you provide step-by-step guidance for your readers to follow. To make sure your pattern is clear and easy to follow, here are some things to consider when formatting your instructional text in your stylesheet:

Break it down

Divide your instructions into smaller, manageable steps, and use bullet points or numbering to help your readers keep track of where they are in the pattern.

Use action words

Begin each step with an action word, such as "chain," "double crochet," or "repeat," to help your readers understand what they need to do.

Be specific

Avoid using vague or ambiguous language in your instructions. Instead, be specific about the number of stitches or rows, and provide clear guidance on any increases or decreases. This is especially important when describing repeats.

Include visuals

Consider including diagrams or photos to help your readers understand more complex techniques, or to show how different stitches should look when worked.

STYLESHEET - INSTRUCTIONS

Instructional text	Your style details here
Decide how to start each section instructional text eg Starting at the neckline: OR Begin the neckline:	
Instruction to Chain Does it come before rows/rounds? OR At the end of the previous row/round?	
FLO, BLO, and raised sts are these always capitalised (eg RtrF)?	
Do you include a space between the number and the instruction?	
Does the ch come before the number? Ch5, 7 dc. OR 6 Ch (7, 9, 10), 6(6, 8, 10)dc.	
How do you label your rows? Row 1 etc Do you start at row 1 for each section? Or continue numbering?	
Specify starting instructions where there are more than one colour or hook size. In MC, using smaller hook, chain 24(30, 36).	
Do you start a row or round with a turning chain?	
Specify whether rounds end with an instruction to turn or not	
How do you denote right/wrong sides?	
Clarify when stitch counts should be used	

STYLESHEET - INSTRUCTIONS

Instructional text	Your style details here
Specify how you accommodate different sizes within your pattern writing Eg Chx(x, x, x, x)	
What situations do turning chains count as stitches and how do you show this in the pattern	
How do you write repeats and what symbols do you use to denote? What about repeats a number of times? repeat x times is ambiguous and is best avoided	
How do you write whether to turn or not when working in rounds?	
Clarify how you write working multiple stitches into one stitch	
State how you denote colours throughout the pattern	
How do you usually specify your finishing instructions?	
Do you have any unusual construction instructions? Then make it clear in the style sheet how these are done	
How do you accommodate instructions for left/right handers if the work is not symmetrical?	
When would you include charts in your pattern?	
Clarify how you capture any commonly used phrases, special stitches and stitch patterns	

STYLESHEET - PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

To create a stylesheet that brings together all the necessary elements of a well-formatted crochet pattern, there are a few things to consider.

First, make sure to clearly define your headings and subheadings for each section of the pattern, such as materials, gauge, and instructions.

Next, consider the formatting of your measurements, abbreviations, and instructional text, ensuring that they are consistent throughout the pattern and easy to read for the crocheter.

When it comes to formatting measurements, it's important to use a consistent unit of measurement, such as inches or centimeters. Be sure to also include a gauge swatch with clear instructions on how to measure it.

For abbreviations, use a standardised list of abbreviations and ensure that they are clearly defined in the pattern. I have provided an industry standard list of abbreviations for you to use.

Finally, instructional text should be easy to follow and broken down into clear steps. Use bullet points or numbered lists to help make the instructions easy to read and follow.

Now that you have all of your design styles and preferences into this document, simply keep a copy of this open (or print a copy for your desk) and use it when you are next pattern writing. You will find you make far fewer mistakes and inconsistencies and may even speed up your writing with all of the references in one place.

SO, WHO AM I?

Hi there. I'm Lyndsey.

I am Crochet Technical Editor. What's that I hear you ask?

A Crochet Technical Editor is a professional who reviews crochet patterns for accuracy, clarity, and consistency. They work closely with designers and publishers to ensure that the patterns are error-free, easy to follow, and meet industry standards.

The primary responsibility of a Crochet Technical Editor is to check and edit written instructions for crochet patterns, including the stitch counts, measurements, and shaping. They also ensure that the pattern language is clear and concise, and that any abbreviations or symbols used are consistent with industry standards.

I can help you with all of this and more; I ensure that my clients patterns are reliable and easy to use, which is essential for the success of designers and publishers, as well as for the satisfaction of crocheters.

I understand that each crochet designer has unique needs and challenges. That's why I offer customised technical editing services tailored to your specific requirements. Whether you're a beginner designer looking to create your first pattern or an experienced designer looking to refine your existing designs, I can help.

So, if you're interested in learning more about our services or would like to schedule a consultation, please don't hesitate to reach out. I'd be happy to discuss how we can help you achieve your crochet design goals.

Love Lyndsey x



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Lyndsey Allen trading as Artisan Crochet Designs



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Consulting with a specialist Crochet Technical Editor can help you achieve your goals, and is both cost and time effective. Do you have questions about crochet technical editing services?

SCHEDULE A NO OBLIGATION
30 MIN CHAT
SCAN THE QR CODE FOR CALENDAR.
IT'S FREE!

