Funky Doily (or whatever)

designed by Annette Petavy

*This can be a doily, tablecloth, placemat, cushion cover
or whatever you decide it to be.
It all depends on which yarn you use, and how big you make it.*

*The pattern was first published on the site Crochet Me in 2006.
This is the updated version from 2020, published on my own website.*

Yarn
2 balls of Schachenmayr Crazy Cotton (100% cotton, 125m / 137yds per 50g / 1.75 oz ball).
This yarn has been discontinued, and can be replaced with any other sportweight cotton
yarn; e.g. Annette Petavy Design Organic cotton

Hook
3 mm (US C2 or D3) – adjust hook size to the yarn used.

Size
Approx. 34 x 34 cm / 13.5" x 13.5".

Gauge
I had made no notes of gauge in this pattern, written in 2006! Aim for a solid yet not too stiff fabric. The final size will, of course, depend on your yarn, hook and gauge.

Notes
This is a square made in the round! This means that the increases in every round are made in four evenly spaced places, forming the corners. A 3-ch space in every corner keeps the angles straight – and creates nice eyelets. The sc-groups form the sides of the square.

All stitches are worked in the back loop only – except, of course, in round 1, and when stitches are worked into chain spaces.

There is no chain at the beginning of each round. You start right off with a sc in the 3-ch space in the previous round. The aim is to make the change between rounds as unnoticeable as possible. It is very useful to place a stitch marker in the first stitch in the round. Each round is joined with a not-too-tight slip stitch into the first stitch. The loop forming the slip stitch will sit on top of the stitch it's worked into. At the end of the round, the last stitch is worked into the slip stitch.
You simply work into every "loop" on top of the round below. As long as you mark that first stitch in the round, it's very easy.

Abbreviations and techniques
ch = chain
sl st = slip stitch
sc = single crochet
sc blo = single crochet in the back loop only

The pattern uses US terminology

Adjustable loop:
Make a slip knot to put on your hook, leaving a slightly longer end of the yarn than usual.
Make a loop with the yarn end around two of your fingers close to the slip knot. Take the loop off your fingers, and work the first round around this loop.
At the end of round 1, before joining, pull the tail tight to close the round.
Photo tutorial: https://blog.annettepetavy.com/2013/07/annette-petavy-design-newsletter-june-2010-the-adjustable-loop/

This makes the tiniest of holes when you start with 8 stitches in the first round, which is the case here.
In other designs, in which you start with 6 stitches, this technique suppresses the "starting hole" completely.

Pattern

Make an adjustable loop.

Round 1: In the adjustable loop, work 1 sc, 3 ch, (2 sc, 3ch) 3 times, 1 sc. Pull tail to tighten loop. Join in first sc with a slip stitch. There are four sc-groups with 2 sc in each group, separated by 3-ch spaces.

Round 2: 1 sc in first 3-ch space (place marker in the stitch just made), *3 ch, 1 sc in same 3-ch space, 1 sc blo in every sc from previous round, 1 sc in next 3-ch space* 3 times, 3 ch, 1 sc in same 3-ch space, 1 sc blo in every sc from previous round (the last sc is worked into the slip stitch), slip stitch in first sc of the round (where the marker is). There are 4 sc in each sc-group, forming the sides of the square. The 3-ch spaces form the corners

Repeat round 2 until you run out of yarn! Every round adds 2 sc to each sc-group/side.

Fasten off at the end of the last round. Block with a pin in each corner.