



Crochet Butterflies

baw 9/5/2013

Materials:

-yarns and hooks of your choice. For stiffer butterflies, use a hook a size or two smaller than normally recommended for your yarn. The white models were made with worsted yarn and a size E hook. They are not necessarily life size. The colored butterflies were made with worsted, sport, and size 10 crochet cotton and are closer to life size.

Use craft and buttonhole thread to make the antennae.

Gauge: not important.

Notes: FLO = front loop only
BLO = back loop only
Picot = ch2, sl st in the second chain
Turning chain(s) NEVER count as stitches.

The butterflies are broken down into four basic shape categories. [Butterflies of Indiana](#), and [Kaufman Field Guide to Butterflies of North America](#) were used for reference. I highly recommend both of these books.

Like real butterflies, the crocheted butterflies have two forewings (left and right), and two hind wings (left and right). The top of each hind wing lies behind the forewing, also like real butterflies. Left and right are defined for these instructions with the top of the butterfly facing you.

The instructions are for single colored butterflies. Use acrylic paint to place dots on the wings, or to gently color the tips of the wings. For colors, use one of the above books, or your imagination, to make your own lovely butterflies.



Sulphurs/Whites/Coppers/Blues:

These butterflies range from tiny to medium size; less than 1 1/4 inches to 2 1/2 inches. They have similar shapes, but a wide range of colors, as indicated by their common names: Cabbage White, Orange Sulphur, Spring Azure, American Copper, to name a few. The dots on the wings of the colored butterflies are acrylic paint applied with a toothpick.

We will crochet the left forewing first, then the left hindwing. Then, the right forewing and right hindwing.

Left forewing: Leave a long tail to crochet the head.

- 1: Chain six, sc in the second ch from the hook and each ch across, ch1, turn. 5sc
- 2: FLO this row, 2sc in the first st, sc in the next two sts, ch1, turn. 4sc.
- 3: Sc in the next three sc, 2hdc in the last sc, ch1, turn. 5 sts
- 4: 2hdc in the first st, hdc in the next st, sc in the last three sts, ch1, turn. 6 sts
- 5: Sc in the next three sts, hdc in the next two sts, dc in the last st, ch1, turn. 6 sts.
- 6: Skip first st, sc in the next three sts, ch1, sl st in the last st. Finish off.

Left hindwing:

- 1: Join yarn with sc in the unused loop of the third sc behind the left forewing. There will be an overlap of one stitch for the fore and hind wings. Sc in the same st, sc in both loops of the next st, 2sc in the last st, ch1, turn. 5sc
- 2: 2sc in the first st, sc in the next three sts, 2sc in the last st, ch1, turn. 7sc
- 3: Sc in each st across, ch1, turn. 7sc
- 4: Skip first st, sc in the next four sts, ch1, sl st in the last st. Finish off.

Right forewing:

- 1: With the left wings pointing down and the forewing to your left, join yarn with a sc in the first chain of the beginning chain 6 and sc in the next four ch, ch1, turn. 5sc.

2: BLO for this row, repeat row 2 of the left forewing.
3-6: Repeat rows 3 through 6 of the left forewing.

Right hindwing:

1: Repeat rows 1 through 4 of the left hindwing.

With the long yarn tail, work three sc in the top of the butterfly between the forewings, sl st in the same place. I used the rest of the tail to whipstitch along the body to tighten it up, but this is optional.

With Size E hook and worsted yarn, the wingspan for this butterfly is 2 1/2 inches



Swallowtails:

Swallowtails are large and beautiful butterflies, with wingspans 3 inches or larger. Everyone is familiar with the distinctive stripes of the Zebra and Tiger swallowtails, but there are black to purple solid colored swallowtails as well: Spicebush, Pipevine, and some female Tigers.

We will crochet the left forewing first, then the left hindwing. Then, the right forewing and right hindwing.

Left forewing: Leave a long tail to crochet the head.

- 1: Chain six, sc in the second ch from the hook and each ch across, ch1, turn. 5sc
- 2: FLO for this row, sc in the first two sc, 2sc in the next, ch1, turn. 4sc
- 3: 2sc in the first st, sc in the remaining three sts, ch1, turn. 5 sc.
- 4: Sc in the next four sts, (sc, hdc) in the last st, ch1, turn. 6 sts
- 5: (Hdc, sc) in the first st, sc in the next five sts, ch1, turn. 7sts
- 6: Hdc in the first st, sc in the next six sts, ch1, turn. 7 sts
- 7: Sc next two sts tog, sc in the next four sts, hdc in the last st, ch2, turn. 6 sts
- 8: Dc in the first st, hdc in the next st, sc in the next two sts, sc next two sts tog, ch1, turn. 5 sts
- 9: Sc next two sts tog, sc in the next st, hdc in the next st, dc in the last st, ch2, turn. 4 sts
- 10: Dc in the first st, hdc in the next st, sc in the next two sts, sl st in the end of the next row to make a smooth edge and fasten off.

Left hindwing:

- 1: Join yarn with sc in the unused loop of the third sc behind the left forewing. There will be an overlap of one stitch for the fore and hind wings. Sc in the same st, sc in both loops of the next st, (sc, hdc, dc) in the last st, ch2, turn. 6 sts
- 2: (Dc, hdc, sc) in the first st, sc in the next five sts, ch1, turn. 8 sts
- 3: Sc in the next 7 sts, (sc, hdc, dc) in the last st, ch1, turn. 10 sts
- 4: Hdc in the first st, sc in the next eight sts, hdc in the last st, ch1, turn.
- 5: Hdc in the first st, sc in the next seven sts, sc next two sts tog, ch5 turn. 9 sts

6: Sl st in the second ch from the hook and each chain, skip next st, sl st in the next st (picot, skip next st, sl st in the next st) three times and finish off.

Right forewing:

1: With the left wings pointing down and the forewing to your left, join yarn with a sc in the first chain of the beginning chain 6 and sc in the next four ch, ch1, turn. 5sc.

2: BLO for this row, repeat row 2 of the left forewing.

3-10: Repeat rows 3 through 10 of the left forewing.

Right hindwing:

1: Repeat rows 1 through 6 of the left hindwing.

With the long yarn tail, work three sc in the top of the butterfly between the forewings, sl st in the same place. I used the rest of the tail to whipstitch along the body to tighten it up, but this is optional.

With Size E hook and worsted yarn, the wingspan for this butterfly is 4 1/2 inches



Milkweed butterflies/Fritillaries/Admirals/Satyrs:

The most distinctive milkweed butterfly is the Monarch, which is a fairly large butterfly with a wingspan of about 3 inches; I'm still thinking about how to render this beauty in crochet. Other milkweed butterflies have less complicated wing patterns, such as the Queen. Diana Fritillaries, Red and White Admirals, and Common Buckeyes can all be created from this pattern. The dots on the wings of the colored butterflies are acrylic paint applied with a toothpick.

We will crochet the left forewing first, then the left hindwing. Then, the right forewing and right hindwing.

Left forewing: Leave a long tail to crochet the head.

- 1: Chain six, sc in the second ch from the hook and each ch across, ch1, turn. 5sc
- 2: FLO for this row, sc in the first two sc, 2sc in the next, ch1, turn. 4sc
- 3: 2sc in the first st, sc in the remaining three sts, ch1, turn. 5 sc.
- 4: Sc in the next four sts, (sc, hdc) in the last st, ch1, turn. 6 sts
- 5: (Hdc, sc) in the first st, sc in the next five sts, ch1, turn. 7sts
- 6: Hdc in the first st, sc in the next six sts, ch1, turn. 7 sts
- 7: Sc next two sts tog, sc in the next four sts, hdc in the last st, ch2, turn. 6 sts
- 8: Dc in the first st, hdc in the next st, sc in the next two sts, sc next two sts tog, ch1, turn. 5 sts
- 9: Sc next two sts tog, sc in the next st, hdc in the next st, dc in the last st, ch2, turn. 4 sts
- 10: Dc in the first st, hdc in the next st, sc in the next two sts, sl st in the end of the next row to make a smooth edge and fasten off.

Left hindwing:

- 1: Join yarn with sl st in the unused loop of the third sc behind the left forewing. There will be an overlap of one stitch for the fore and hind wings. Ch2, 2dc in the same st, hdc in the next st, 2sc in the next st, ch1, turn. 5 sts
- 2: Sc in the next three sts, hdc in the next st, 2dc in the last st, ch1, turn. 6 sts
- 3: Hdc in the next st, sc in the last five sts, ch1, turn. 6 sts

- 4: Sc in the next five sts, hdc in the last st, ch1, turn. 6 sts
- 5: Skip the first st, sc in the next three sts, skip next st, sc in the last st, ch1, turn.
- 6: Skip the first st, [(sl st, ch1) in the next st] three times. Finish off.

Right forewing:

- 1: With the left wings pointing down and the forewing to your left, join yarn with a sc in the first chain of the beginning chain 6 and sc in the next four ch, ch1, turn. 5sc.
- 2: BLO for this row, repeat row 2 of the left forewing.
- 3-10: Repeat rows 3 through 10 of the left forewing.

Right hindwing:

- 1: Repeat rows 1 through 6 of the left hindwing.

With the long yarn tail, work three sc in the top of the butterfly between the forewings, sl st in the same place. I used the rest of the tail to whipstitch along the body to tighten it up, but this is optional.

With Size E hook and worsted yarn, the wingspan for this butterfly is 4 1/2 inches



Angelwings and Tortoiseshells:

These are medium sized butterflies, between 2 and 3 inches wingspan. The Mourning Cloak butterfly is the most striking of these; also included are the Question Mark and the Comma (and I'm not kidding, either!). These butterflies have irregular wing edges, and are sometimes called Leafwings. The dots on the wings of the colored butterflies are acrylic paint applied with a toothpick.

Left forewing: Leave a long tail to crochet the head.

- 1: Chain six, sc in the second ch from the hook and each ch across, ch1, turn. 5sc
- 2: FLO for this row, sc in the first three sts, ch1, turn. 3sc
- 3: 2sc in the first st, sc in the next st, 2sc in the last st, ch1, turn. 5sts
- 4: 2sc in the first st, sc in the next three sts, 2sc in the last st, ch1, turn. 7 sts
- 5: Sc in the first five sts, hdc in the next st, dc in the last st, ch2, turn. 7 sts
- 6: Dc in the first st, hdc in the next st, sc in the remaining five sts, ch1, turn. 7 sts
- 7: Sl st in the first st, picot, sc in the next four sts, hdc in the last two sts, ch1, turn.
- 8: Sl st in the first st, picot, sl st in the next st, sc in the next st, sl st in the next st, finish off.

Left hindwing:

- 1: Join yarn with sl st in the unused loop of the third sc behind the left forewing. There will be an overlap of one stitch for the fore and hind wings. Ch2, dc in the same st, hdc in the next st, 2sc in the next st, ch1, turn. 4 sts
- 2: 2sc in the first st, sc in the next st, hdc in the next st, dc in the last st, ch2, turn. 5 sts
- 3: (Dc, hdc) in the first st, sc in the next three sts, 2sc in the last st, ch1, turn. 7 sts
- 4: Skip first st, sc in the next two sts, picot, sc in the next three sts, 2sc in last st., sl st in side of last dc. Finish off.

Right forewing:

- 1: With the left wings pointing down and the forewing to your left, join yarn with a sc in the first chain of the beginning chain 6 and sc in the next four ch, ch1, turn. 5sc.
- 2: BLO for this row, repeat row 2 of the left forewing.

3-8: Repeat rows 3 through 8 of the left forewing.

Right hindwing:

1: Repeat rows 1 through 4 of the left hindwing.

With the long yarn tail, work three sc in the top of the butterfly between the forewings, sl st in the same place. I used the rest of the tail to whipstitch along the body to tighten it up, but this is optional.

With Size E hook and worsted yarn, the wingspan for this butterfly is 3 3/4 inches