Crochet Curiosities
Pattern no.4

# Palaeolithic Flint Handaxe

Lady Crafthole

## ❖About me❖

I am an archaeological Illustrator & Photographer living near Oxford in the United Kingdom. I have worked in commercial and research archaeology across England and Wales: drawing, photographing and X-raying (and occasionally digging) my way through practically every period of history. When I finally took up the crochet hook I began making replicas of some of the objects I was handling, and formed the notion of a crochet cabinet of curiosities.

## ❖Notes❖

This pattern is worked in the amigurumi style: working in a continuous spiral with a stitch marker to denote the end of a round.
The pattern is infinitely variable and although I have set out explicit instructions, the details can be improvised as much as you like, giving each handaxe its own pattern of ripples and cortex.
I use UK terminology here so for all other users, substitute dc for sc.
The final size of the piece will depend on the yarn size, hook size and crocheting tightness. I used DK yarn with a 3.5mm hook and the final size of my original was 15cm long. My crochet tension is quite tight, so you may feel the need to substitute a smaller hook or slightly finer yarn.
The particular yarn I chose is Stylecraft Batik Elements, Mercury. To me this has an almost miraculous look of flint, but of course there are many types of flint.

## ❖Sharing❖

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions please contact me on the email address below. I particularly love to receive photographs of finished objects and - best of all - burgeoning crochet curiosity cabinets. If you are unhappy with me sharing any images with our crochet curiosity community please let me know.

❖

ladycrafthole@gmail.com

❖

Facebook: crochetcuriosities

❖

Twitter: @ladycrafthole

(#crochetcuriosities)

❖

www.crochetcuriosities.com

## ❖Glossary❖

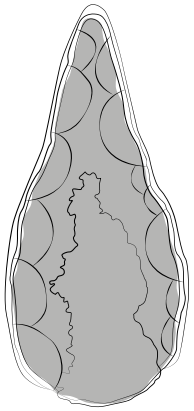
ch (chain): yarn over, pull through loop on hook.
ss (slip stitch): hook in stitch, yarn over, pull through two loops.
dc (double crochet): hook in stitch, yarn over, pull through, yarn over, pull through two loops.
htr (half treble crochet): yarn over, hook in stitch, yarn over, pull through, yarn over, pull through three loops.
tr (treble crochet): yarn over, hook in stitch, yarn over, pull through, yarn over, pull through two loops, yarn over, pull through two loops.
inc (increase): two dc in same stitch.
dec (decrease): dc two stitches together.
Magic ring: This is also known as a magic circle and can be explained best on YouTube videos. It is the technique I use for starting round projects but the same can be achieved in other ways, for example by creating a 2 chain and crocheting the first row of stitches into the first chain.

❖

# ❖Flint Handaxe❖

## ❖Body❖

Stuff as you go, reasonably firmly.
Magic ring
1. 3dc (3)
2. inc around (6)
3. (inc, 1dc) x 3 (9)
4. dc around
5. (inc, 2dc) x 3 (12)
6. dc around
7. (inc, 3dc) x 3 (15)
8. dc around
9. (inc, 4dc) x 3 (18)
10. dc around
11. (inc, 5dc) x 3 (21)
12. dc around
13. (inc, 6dc) x 3 (24)
14. dc around
15. (inc, 7dc) x 3 (27)
16. dc around
17. (inc, 8dc) x 3 (30)
18. dc around
19. (inc, 9dc) x 3 (33)
20. dc around
21. (inc, 10dc) x 3 (36)
22. dc around
23. (inc, 11dc) x 3 (39)
24. dc around
25. (inc, 12dc) x 3 (42)
26. dc around
27. (inc, 13dc) x 3 (45)
28-36. dc around
37. (dec, 13dc) x 3 (42)
38. (dec, 12dc) x 3 (39)
39. (dec, 11dc) x 3 (36)
40. (dec, 10dc) x 3 (33)
41. (dec, 9dc) x 3 (30)
42. (dec, 3dc) x 6 (24)
43. (dec, 2dc) x 6 (18)
44. (dec, 1dc) x 6 (12)
45. dec around (6)
46. At this point seal the hole with a line of dk, then continue to dk right up the side of the flint body, creating the cutting edge.
When you reach the top, create a small point by working as follows in the top stitch: *(htr, tr, htr) in same stitch*, then continue with the dk cutting edge down the other side.
Tie off.



## ❖Cortex❖

This can be as large or as small as you like. I offer here the pattern to make a replica of my one, but this can be randomised as much as you like!
In order to achieve a coarser texture than the shiny flint, I used aran weighted yarn for the cortex. A textured chunky yarn would make an even better cortex.
Worked in rows.

Cortex 1 (suggested)
1. 8ch
2. dc in 2nd ch from hook, dc across, ch (7)
3. inc, 6dc, inc, ch (9)
4. 8dc, inc, ch (10)
5. inc, 9dc, ch (11)
6. dec, 10dc, ch (10)
7. dec, 6dc, decrease, ch (8)

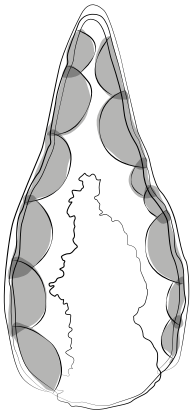
8. 7dc, ch (7)
9. dec, 4dc, inc, ch (7)
10. inc, 6dc, ch (8)
11. inc, 5dc, ch (7)
12. 7dc, ch (7)
13. inc, 6dc, ch (8)
14. dec, 5dc, ch (6)
15. dec, 4dc, ch (5)
16. 5dc, ch (5)
17. dec, 2dc, inc, ch (5)
18. inc, 2dc, decrease, ch (5)
19. dec, 3dc, ch (4)
20. 3dc, ch (3)
21. 3dc, ch (3)
22. 3dc, ch (3)
23. dec, 1dc, ch (2)
24. dec (1)

Cortex 2 (suggested)
1. 8ch
2. dc in 2nd ch from hook, dc across, ch (7)
3. inc, 6dc, ch (8)
4. 8 dc, ch (8)
5. inc, 6dc, ch (8)
6. 8dc, ch (8)
7. 7dc, inc, ch (9)
8. inc, 7dc, inc, ch (11)
9. dec, 9dc, ch (10)
10. dec, 6dc, decrease, ch (8)
11. dec, 6dc, ch (7)
12. dec, 3dc, decrease (5)
13. dec, 1dc, decrease, ch (3)
14. dec (1)

## ❖Ripple (several)❖

Each ripple should appear a little random so vary the sizes of them along each blade length by varying the number of rows you do.
Each one consists of a flat semi-circle worked in rows. They radiate out from a central chain stitch by increasing three times per row. It is a very simple formula which you can follow for each row, or follow the transcribed pattern below.

Worked in rows.
1. 2ch,
2. Turn, 3dc in second loop from hook, ch
3. inc around, ch (6)
4. inc, 2dc, inc, 1dc, inc, ch (9)
5. inc, 3dc, inc, 3dc, inc, ch (12)
6. inc, 4dc, inc, 5dc, inc, ch (15)
7. inc, 6dc, inc, 6dc, inc, ch (18)
8. inc, 8dc, inc, 7dc, inc, ch (21)
9. inc, 9dc, inc, 9dc, inc, ch (24)
10. inc, 11dc, inc, 10dc, inc, ch (27)



## ❖Making Up❖

The flint body should now consist of two distinct faces with an edge of dc stitches separating them. The two cortex pieces should be sewed on each face, with the starting line at the bottom.

The ripples should now be arranged along the edge and individually sewn in place. It is fine for the ripples to overlap each other and the cortex as much as you like.
The handaxe is then given a cutting edge with a line of double-crochet around the whole edge, in the manner of the original edge at the end of the Body instructions.

## ❖Variation❖

I have detailed one way of creating a handaxe here, but an alternative would be to form the flint body in the yarn used for the cortex and sew overlapping layers of flint-coloured ripples over that to cover most of each face. This would then be finished off with an edge of flint-coloured double-crochet, in the same way as above.

Lady CRAFTHOLE'S CABINET OF Crochet Curiosities