

# Jane Austen Cameo Doily

## About the Jane Austen Cameo

A silhouette of a young woman bearing the legend “L’aimable Jane” (the amiable Jane) was found pasted into a second-edition copy of *Mansfield Park*. It was thought at the time that the silhouette, being of a young lady named Jane and found in a book by Jane Austen, must therefore be a silhouette of Jane Austen. The provenance is a bit dodgy, but Janeites have long accepted the silhouette as being a symbolic representation of their favorite author. We have formatted it into a filet crochet pattern that can be used to make a doily or any item that can be crocheted using the filet crochet method.

## General Directions – N.B. U.S. crochet notation is used throughout.

Filet crochet makes a picture appear from a grid of meshes. Each mesh can consist of three to five stitches, plus an extra stitch to make up a row. Closed meshes are indicated by the shaded squares, and open meshes by the open squares. The heavy black line is the outline of the doily; the heavier horizontal and vertical lines are 10 meshes apart to assist the crocheter in counting.

Each shaded square = 3 dc, plus one extra dc at the end. Two shaded boxes = 7 dc, five shaded boxes = 16 dc, etc.

Each unshaded square = 2 ch, 1dc, plus one extra dc at the end. Two open meshes = 1 dc, 2 ch, 1 dc, 2 ch, 1 dc, etc.

To start the doily, ch 41, dc in 8<sup>th</sup> ch from hook; ch 2, dc in next ch across; dc in last ch. That will make the first row of open meshes.

To increase at the beginning of a row: ch 7, dc in 5<sup>th</sup> ch from hook, ch 2, skip 2 ch, dc in next dc.

To increase at the end of a row: ch 2, yo 3 times, insert hook in bottom of last dc, (yo, pull through one loop) 3 times.

Follow the chart from there. The directions below assume the crocheter is working from the bottom of the pattern.

Specialty meshes (signified by A, B, C, D) are used to shape the curves of the cameo face and are made as follows:

A = a cluster stitch of 4 dc. If you are crocheting from the right side of the pattern, make dc in previous row dc, then 4 dc in next dc. Then stitch the next closed mesh as 1 dc in each dc, etc. From the left side of the pattern, crochet the previous closed mesh as 1 dc in each dc, then three dc in the last dc, 1 dc in next dc. Then crochet the following open mesh as 2 ch, dc in next dc, etc.

B = a cluster stitch of 3 dc made as follows: (yo, insert hook in next dc, yo, draw thread through one loop) 3 times, yo, draw thread through all four stitches on hook. Working from the right side of the pattern, dc in 1<sup>st</sup> dc of closed mesh below, ch 2, do 3-dc cluster stitch; proceed with next closed mesh as usual. From left side of the pattern, complete two dc of previous closed mesh, work 3-dc cluster stitch over next 3 dc, ch 2, dc in next dc, proceed with next open mesh as usual.

C and D are a little different as we are trying to do the angle of the nose over two horizontal meshes.

C = consists of 1 ch, one 2-dc cluster (yo, insert hook in next dc, yo, draw thread through one loop, yo, insert hook in next dc, yo, draw thread through two loops) and one dc. Working from the right side of the pattern, dc in previous dc to begin the mesh, ch 1, do 2-dc cluster over next 2 dc, dc in next dc, dc in 1<sup>st</sup> dc of next closed mesh. From left side of pattern, dc in first dc, do 2-dc cluster in next 2 dc, ch 1, dc in next dc, proceed with next open mesh as usual.

D = consists of 2ch and one 2-dc cluster. Working from the right side of the pattern, dc in 1<sup>st</sup> dc, ch 2, do 2-dc cluster across next 2-dc cluster and next dc, then dc in first dc of next closed mesh. From left side of pattern, do 2-dc cluster across dc and 2-dc cluster, ch 2, dc in next dc, proceed to next open mesh as usual.

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The final size of the doily depends upon the weight of thread and the size hook used. I have found that a doily made with size 30 thread and a No. 10 hook has been the most popular size and weight. A doily made with size 10 (bedspread weight) thread and a No. 6 hook frames nicely in an 8 x 10 frame. I have made this doily with size 100 thread and a No. 16 hook—using a magnifying glass!

Experienced crocheters can expand upon the basic pattern by using different sizes and weights of yarn and change the stitch count per mesh to create larger items. For instance, we used sport-weight cotton to make a hanging banner. You can also make each mesh out of five triple crochets rather than three double crochets to increase the size of the item.



