

# Instructions for making the paisley overblouse

The crocheting instructions that follow are for the paisley overblouse shown on the preceding pages. The instructions for the paisleys are on pages 164-167; the basic crochet stitches are in the Appendix.

## CROCHETING THE PAISLEY OVERBLOUSE

The following instructions are for crocheting a small size (8-10) overblouse; the changes necessary to make medium (12-14) and large (16-18) sizes follow in parentheses, in that order. You will need 3 (6,8) ounces of knitting worsted weight yarn in color A (gold in the blouse pictured on the preceding pages); 8 (10,12) ounces of color B (avocado); 4 (6,8) ounces of color C (blue); 8 (10,12) of color D (turquoise); and 4 (4,8) ounces of color E (olive). Use a Size E aluminum crochet hook for the small size, F for medium and G for large. Sew the paisleys together with a tapestry needle. Before you begin to make the overblouse, crochet a 4-by-4-inch sample swatch in a single crochet stitch to check the gauge—that is, the number of stitches and rows you are getting to the inch. For this project, the gauge is 5 stitches and 6 rows to the inch for a Size E crochet hook; 9 stitches to 2 inches and 5 rows to the inch for a Size F hook; and 4 stitches and 4 rows to the inch for a Size G hook. Measure the swatch with a firm ruler. If the required gauge calls for more stitches to the inch, change to a smaller size hook; if it calls for fewer stitches, use a larger hook. This change of hook size should also adjust the row-to-the-inch gauge. If not, try the next size hook.

**Making the individual paisleys:** Crochet 38 identical paisleys, following the detailed instructions for Paisley Variation No. 4 on pages 166-167.

**Joining the paisleys:** Place the paisleys wrong side down on a flat surface according to the diagram opposite, using eight paisleys for each sleeve and 22 for the back and front together. Maintaining this arrangement, move the paisleys close together so that their concave and convex areas touch in several places. Using yarn of the color of the outside edge of each paisley (color D, turquoise), sew the paisleys together through the adjoining tips of the picots—that is, the little triangles that frame each paisley. Then ease together any small openings that remain between the paisleys and sew them in the same fashion. Do not pull the yarn too tightly.

**Note:** If you are left-handed, the paisleys will curve in a direction opposite to that pictured in the diagram. The

placement of the paisleys should, however, be the same.

**Finishing the sleeve edge:** With color B (avocado), add a narrow border along the armhole and underarm edge of the sleeve as follows: with the sleeve wrong side down, start at the top center and make 1 slip stitch in the first picot. Chain 1 and make a slip stitch in the next picot; repeat until you are within two picots of where the first two paisleys are joined. Chain 1, then make 1 half double crochet stitch in the next picot, chain 1, make 1 double crochet stitch in the next picot, chain 1 and make 1 triple crochet stitch in the space in the seam where the paisleys were joined. Chain 1, make 1 triple crochet stitch in the space directly after the space in the seam where the paisleys were joined. Chain 1 and make 1 triple crochet stitch in the space on the other side of the previous stitch. Chain 1, make 1 double crochet stitch in the next picot, chain 1 and make 1 half double crochet stitch in the next picot. Repeat this sequence around the outside of the sleeve, eliminating only the initial slip stitch. Fasten off.

**Attaching the sleeve trim:** Attach avocado yarn to one bottom corner of the sleeve and work a filet trim as follows: chain 5, skip 2 stitches, then repeat the following sequence—make 1 double crochet stitch in the next stitch, chain 2, skip 2 stitches—across the bottom of the sleeve, ending with 1 double crochet stitch in the last stitch. Fasten off. With a tapestry needle and avocado yarn, weave the underarm seam together for 8 inches, starting at the bottom edge of the sleeve and working up toward the sleeve cap. Complete the other sleeve in the same manner.

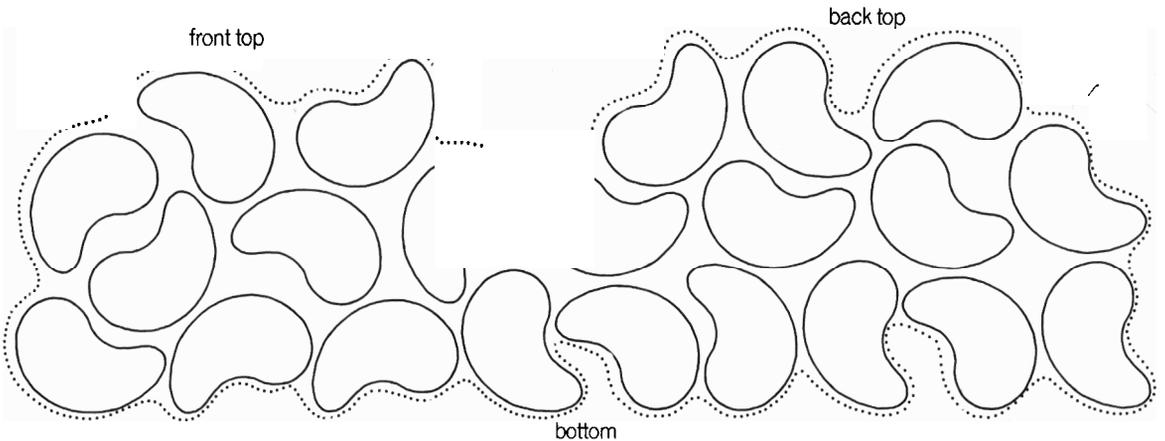
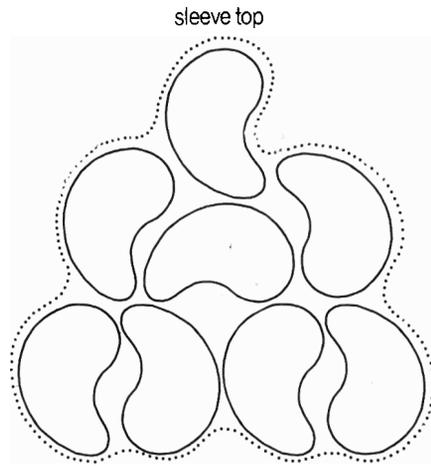
**Finishing the overblouse:** Sew the side of the blouse together from bottom to top by stitching with color D (turquoise) through the picot tips where they meet. Leave an opening at the top sufficient to fit the entire unseamed portion of the sleeve cap in place. Work a filet border around the neck edge and bottom edge of the overblouse as you did across the bottom of the sleeve. Then weave the sleeves to the front and back of the blouse with color D and fasten off. Block the finished overblouse by placing it on a flat surface, covering it with a damp cloth, and pressing it lightly with a warm iron. Do not pin the overblouse to the pressing surface or let the iron rest long in one area lest you leave marks. Enlarge or reduce the size of the overblouse if necessary by dampening it slightly, then pushing or stretching it to the desired size as you lay it out.

## CROCHETING ALTERNATE VERSIONS OF THE OVERBLOUSE

The overall instructions for the alternate versions—using different paisley designs—are the same as those for the pictured version described above.

**Making the individual paisleys:** Crochet 38 identical paisleys following the detailed instructions for Paisley Variations Nos. 1, 2 or 3 on pages 164-166.

**Joining the paisleys:** Although Paisley Variations Nos. 1, 2 or 3 will curve in an opposite direction to those in the diagram opposite, the paisleys should be placed wrong side down in exactly the same order as shown. Use eight paisleys for each sleeve and 22 for the back and front strip. Maintaining this arrangement, move the paisleys close together so that their concave and convex areas touch in several places. Using yarn of the color of the outside edge of



These diagrams show the shapes of the blouse pieces before assembly and the position of the paisleys in them.

each paisley, sew the paisleys together through all of the outside stitches that meet.

**Finishing the sleeve edge:** With yarn of another color in the paisley, add a narrow border along the armhole and underarm edge of the sleeve as follows: with the sleeve wrong side down, start at the top center and make 1 slip stitch in the center stitch. Then chain 1, skip 1 stitch and make a slip stitch in the next stitch. Repeat this sequence to within 4 stitches of where the first two paisleys are joined. Then chain 1, skip 1 stitch and make 1 half double crochet stitch in the next stitch. Chain 1, skip 1 stitch and make 1 double crochet stitch in the last stitch before the next paisley. Chain 1, make 1 triple crochet stitch in the stitch that is in the seam where the paisleys are joined. Chain 1, make 1 double crochet stitch in the next stitch, chain 1 and make 1

half double crochet stitch in the next stitch. Repeat this sequence around the side and top edges of the sleeve. Fasten off.

**Attaching a sleeve trim:** Make a filet trim for the sleeve as you did for Variation No. 4 above.

**Finishing the overblouse:** Sew the side of the blouse together from bottom to top by stitching with yarn the color of the outside edge of each paisley through the outside stitches. Leave an opening at the top sufficient to fit the entire un-seamed portion of the sleeve cap in place. Work a filet border around the neck edge and bottom edge of the overblouse as you did across the bottom of the sleeve in Variation No. 4. Then sew the sleeves to the front and back of the blouse with the same color used to make the sleeve trim, and fasten off.