

Dr Anandibai Joshi

Amigurumi Medical Doctor Crochet Pattern



Ada Lovelace Day



Dr Anandibai Joshi

Dr Anandibai Joshi (or Joshee) was the first Indian woman to become a medical doctor, the first Brahmin woman to leave India to obtain an education, and possibly the first Indian woman to visit America.

Born in Kalyan, Maharashtra in 1865, at nine she was married to Gopalrao Joshi, a widower 20 years her senior. She was 14 when she gave birth to her first child, a son, though he died after just ten days.

Gopalrao encouraged Anandi, as he called her, to learn English and suggested she study medicine. He eventually sent her to America on her own, despite her declining health, and despite disapproval from her townsfolk at home. At Serampore College she gave a speech defending her choice, describing the persecution she and her husband had endured, and emphasising the need for Hindu women doctors.

Joshi arrived in New York in 1883 and applied to the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania. She won a three year scholarship of \$600 per year, and wrote her dissertation on "Obstetrics among the Aryan Hindoos".



She graduated "with high honours" and "received quite an ovation" on 11 March 1886, at a ceremony attended by her husband. She also received congratulations from Queen Victoria.

She was offered the position of physician-in-charge of the female ward at Albert Edward Hospital in Kolhapur, where she would also be able to train female students. But she would never take up this position, nor would she open the medical college for women in India as she had dreamed.

The tuberculosis which she had contracted before she left for America worsened, and she died in her mother's arms, aged 21, on 26 February 1887.



Terminology, techniques and materials

Terminology: Pattern uses UK terminology.

Techniques: Magic ring, double crochet, treble crochet, half treble crochet, double treble crochet, slip stitch, increase, decrease, [jogless colour change](#).

Finished size: 21cm tall.

Yarn: Aran/DK or worsted yarn. The sample uses KnitPicks Brava worsted, but you can substitute any similar yarn, though your end size may change.

Colours: Purple, green, mid-brown, red.

Hook: 3.75mm, or appropriate hook for your yarn, but use a smaller size than your yarn usually demands.

Gauge/tension: No specific gauge / tension.

Notions: Safety eyes, brown, 12mm. Stuffing. Rice.

Additional tools: Tapestry needle.

Abbreviations

DC	Double crochet	HTR	Half treble crochet
TR	Treble crochet	ST(S)	Stitch(es)
INC	Increase: Two DC in one stitch	SS	Slip stitch
DEC	Decrease: DC two stitches together		

Tips

It is much easier to stuff as you go along, especially with the arms, than it is to try to stuff through a small hole at the end. Don't stuff all the way up to your current row as you'll risk pulling bits of stuffing through with your hook as you work.

If you would like Joshi to be able to stand up independently, add dry rice bottom of the body. You may wish to fill the toe of an old pair of tights with this rice and tied off to ensure it doesn't squeeze through the holes in the crochet.

For each part, end the final row with a slip stitch, and leave a long tail for sewing on both arms, and the head.

Every body part uses a spiral, started with a magic ring (or sliding loop), rather than rounds finished with a slipstitch.

Notes

It's impossible to tell from photos what colours Joshi would have worn, but Indian fabrics tend to be bright. In her graduation photo, she also wears the pallu, or long part of the sari that drapes over the arm, wrapped around her waist. This is crocheted separately and tied to the doll for ease.

Body

Size: 14cm tall.

Using purple yarn:

Round 1: Magic ring with 6 dc (6)

Round 2: Inc in each st (12)

Round 3: * Inc, dc in next 1 st, repeat from * 5 times (18)

Round 4: * Inc, dc in next 2 sts, repeat from * 5 times (24)

Round 5: * Inc, dc in next 3 sts, repeat from * 5 times (30)

Round 6: * Inc, dc in next 4 sts, repeat from * 5 times (36)

Round 7: * Inc, dc in next 5 sts, repeat from * 5 times (42)

Rounds 8-20: Dc in each st (42)

Round 21: * Dec, dc in next 5 sts, repeat from * 5 times (36)

Round 22: Dc in each st (36)

Round 23: * Dec, dc in next 4 sts, repeat from * 5 times (30)

Round 24: Dc in each st (30)

Round 25: * Dec, dc in next 3 sts, repeat from * 5 times (24)

Round 26: Dc in each st (24)

Round 27: * Dec, dc in next 2 sts, repeat from * 5 times (18)

Change to green yarn:

Round 28: Dc in each st (18)

Round 29: Inc in each st (36)

Round 30-34: Dc in each st (36)

Round 35: * Dec, dc in next 4 sts, repeat from * 5 times (30)

Round 36: * Dec, dc in next 3 sts, repeat from * 5 times (24)

Round 37: * Dec, dc in next 2 sts, repeat from * 5 times (18)

Stuff as you go along, with rice in the bottom if you want extra stability. Do not close up.

Arms

Size: 6cm long. Make 2.

Using brown yarn:

Round 1: Magic ring with 4 dc (4)

Round 2: Inc in each dc (8)

Round 3-9: Dc in each st (8)

Change to green yarn:

Round 10-12: Dc in each st (8). Finish with ss, cut yarn leaving a tail for sewing.

Stuff as you go along. Do not close up.

Head

Size: 7.5cm top to bottom.

Using brown yarn:

Round 1: Magic ring with 7 dc (7)

Round 2: Inc in each dc (14)

Round 3: * Inc in first st, dc in next st, repeat from * 6 times (21)

Round 4: Dc in each st (21)

Round 5: * Inc in first st, dc in next 2 st, repeat from * 6 times (28)

Round 6: Dc in each st (28)

Round 7: * Inc in first st, dc in next 3 st, repeat from * 6 times (35)

Round 8: Dc in each st (35)

Round 9: * Inc in first st, dc in next 4 st, repeat from * 6 times (42)

Round 10-11: Dc in each st (42)

Round 12: * Inc in first st, dc in next 5 st, repeat from * 6 times (49)

Round 13: Dc in each st (49)

Round 14: * Dec in first st, dc in next 5 st, repeat from * 6 times (42)

Round 15-16: Dc in each st (42)

Round 17: * Dec in first st, dc in next 4 st, repeat from * 6 times (35)

Round 18: Dc in each st (35)

Round 19: * Dec in first st, dc in next 3 st, repeat from * 6 times (28)

Round 20: Dc in each st (28)

Round 21: * Dec in first st, dc in next 2 st, repeat from * 6 times (21)

Round 22: Dc in each st (21)

Round 23: * Dec in first st, dc in next 5 st, repeat from * twice (18)

Round 24: Dc in each st (18). Finish with ss, cut yarn leaving a tail for sewing.

Stuff head as you go along. Do not close up.

Pallu

Using purple yarn:

Row 1: Foundation chain with 60 sts (60)

Rows 2-7: Ch 2, turn, tr in next 19 sts, htr in next 5 sts, dc in next 10 sts, htr in next 5 sts, tr in next 20 sts (60).

At the end of Row 7 extend the row with a chain of 25 sts.

Using green yarn, begin row in first stitch at edge of pallu, not at end of chain:

Row 8: Dc in each st (60)

Row 9: Ch 1, turn, dc in each st (60). Finish with ss.

Count back 20 stitches from the end of the pallu with the chain, and in the bottom row (ie, purple, not green) add a chain of 25 stitches in purple yarn.

Sew in all tails.

You may have to block and steam the pallu to ensure it doesn't curl.

Eye placement

Before you sew the hair, position the eyes. They should be about halfway down the head, between either rounds 11 and 12, or rounds 12 and 13. Horizontally, they should be one quarter of the width of the face from the side of the face or wide, and about half the width of the face apart or more.

Use two ball-headed pins to work out where the eyes, and then mark either with a secure stitch marker or a knot of yarn. It is easier to insert safety eyes into the gaps between stitches. If this throws your face off centre, adjust the hairline slightly to compensate.

Sewing the hair

Cut long lengths of black yarn, sew from top of head down to nape in single stitches until head is covered. Dr Joshi has a centre parting, so if you can, make sure that is central between the eyes.

For the plait, cut 12 lengths of black yarn, about 40-50cm long, and braid three groups of 4 strands. Arrange plait into a roll (like a Danish pastry) and sew together, hiding the ends of the plait underneath. Attach to back of head at nape of neck.

Eyes

Once the hair is complete, check the placement of your eyes again and make sure they look right. Use 12mm brown safety eyes, and push the shank through a gap between stitches. You may have to remove some stuffing to get the backs on properly.

Eye alternatives: You can also use felt eyes, crochet eyes, or can embroider them on, whichever you prefer. For more on eye placement, [see this guide from Planet June](#). See below for photos.

Nose & bindi

Using brown yarn, sew a few stitches to create a small nose. Using red yarn, sew a couple of small stitches on the forehead, centrally between the eyes, to create a small [bindi](#).

Construction

Head and body

Ensuring head and body are sufficiently stuffed, trim one tail. Use second long tail to attach head to body, using whip stitch to sewing through final rows. You can add extra stuffing in the neck when it is half-sewn to ensure stiffness.

Arms and legs

Arms should be attached angled slightly forward. It's personal choice whether to stuff all the way up to the shoulder and attach perpendicularly, or whether to stuff less, sew the end closed and attach at a slight angle to make the arms crook forwards.

Photos



About Ada Lovelace Day

[Ada Lovelace Day](#) is an international celebration of the achievements of women in science, technology, engineering and maths. Its aims are to increase the profile of women in STEM, to create new role models to encourage more girls and young women into STEM careers, and to support women already working in STEM.

Founded in 2009 by Suw Charman-Anderson, the day itself is held every year on the second Tuesday of October, with our flagship 'science cabaret', *Ada Lovelace Day Live!*, featuring entertaining talks from women across the STEM disciplines. ALD has grown dramatically from its humble origins as a day of blogging, and is now a truly global event, with independently organised events on every major continent.

With the support of our sponsors, we have expanded our activities well beyond the day itself, producing resources that will support girls and women in STEM all year round. These include a [free education pack](#) to help teachers tackle the gender stereotypes; [two anthologies of essays about women in STEM](#), written by authors from around the world; a line of merchandise, including [posters, spiral-bound notebooks and hard-backed journals](#); a [resources database for women in STEM](#); and a [podcast, highlighting the work of women in STEM](#).

Why aren't girls attracted to STEM?

There are many cultural and structural barriers that reduce the number of girls and women who pursue an education or career in STEM. The idea that STEM subjects are "not for girls" is pervasive. Girls understand gender stereotypes and start thinking about careers from a very young age. The WISE Campaign's report, [Not For People Like Me](#) found that "from age 10 start to self-identify as 'not STEM' so start to plan not to study STEM post-16 very early".

We know that one-off interventions are ineffective and that we need to focus on long-term structural and cultural changes. This includes initiatives to challenge stereotypes, provide careers information, and create suitable role models, all with the aim of supporting and encouraging girls and women to achieve their full potential in STEM.

This series of crochet patterns aims to introduce girls to STEM role models early to help them understand that they can indeed have a career in STEM.

Thanks

Our thanks to everyone who's helped with this pattern, including Revelry users wilmaelee, vrmeenahyd, mugdhamanasa, yardsailor, Melissacar106 and SaraAmanda.

Found an error or got a suggestion?

If you have found a mistake in our pattern or have a suggestion for making it better, please do get in touch! Email Suw Charman-Anderson at suw@findingada.com.

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