

Say their names, crochet their names.

In preparing for a Black Lives Matter protest, I wanted to make something meaningful that would also allow me to meditate on the lives of unarmed Black people killed by police. Inspired by #SayTheirNames, I used the filet crochet technique to write the names in a scarf or banner. #CrochetTheirNames. Please feel free to share and adapt this pattern.

I welcome feedback and collaboration — in addition to just bringing crochet to #BLM protests, I would love to figure out a way for this pattern to generate money to donate to the cause, for example [the Movement 4 Black Lives](#).

The pattern

This filet scarf is worked in rows from left to right so you can crochet in the name of the person you are memorializing as you go. (Picture it like a very slow dot matrix printer printing a banner.)

You can use whatever yarn you want – the thicker the yarn, the bigger the scale. I used the basic acrylic yarn from Woolworth and a 5mm crochet hook.

Row 1: Slip stitch, chain 25. This is your base.

Row 2: Flip. Chain 2, dc into every stitch in the base.

Row 3 + 4: Flip. Chain 2, dc into the next stitch. Chain 2 and dc into the third stitch, and repeat across the rest of the row. In the final stitch, add an extra dc.

Do this basic row of 8 holes any time you want to add a space in between letters, and do 3 rows in between words.

Essentially, you're crocheting a big grid of empty holes that you fill with 2dc when needed to create the letterforms.

Refer the letter chart to add your letters from left to right. You'll be flipping back and forth, so always pay attention to which side is the front.

When you've finished the name, add 2 rows of empty holes, then do 1 row of all dc, then a row of sc and tie off.

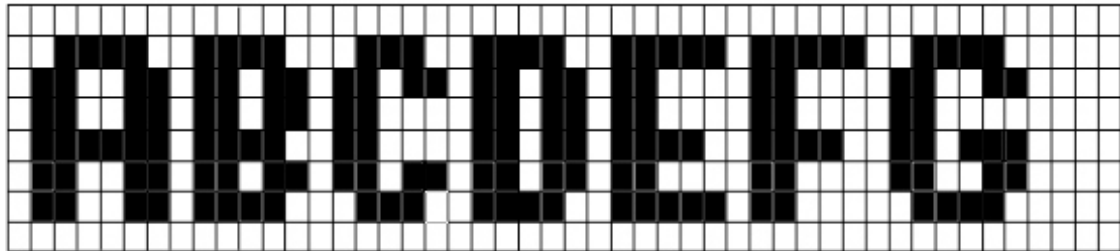
You could potentially crochet the entire grid first and then fill in the name in a contrasting color. To calculate the length, add up the total rows needed for each letter, plus 1 row between each letter and 3 rows between words. I've not tried that myself -- please let me know how it goes!

Grace Dobush

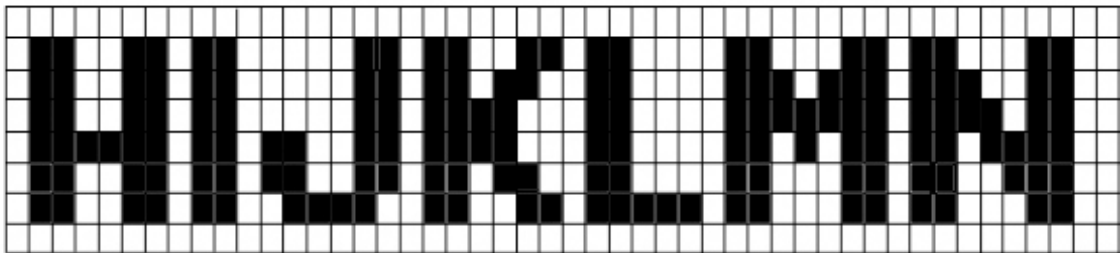
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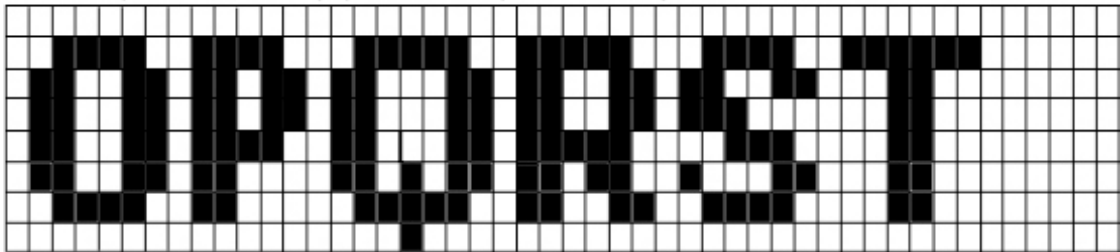
Sample alphabet



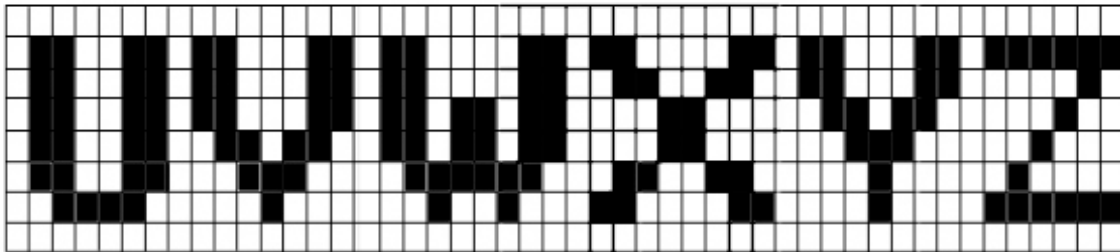
A6 B5 C5 D5 E5 F5 G6



H6 I2 J6 K6 L5 M7 N7



O6 P5 Q7 R6 S6 T6



U6 V7 W8 X8 Y7 Z6

