Riviera Skies Crochet Top
Simple construction and effective motives

MATERIALS
- 4 skeins of Jaipur Katia or similar yarn (100% mercerized cotton, 280m/306yds in 50g/1.76 oz). This is a self striping fingering weight yarn with longer runs of colour.
- 2.5mm (US B/C) hook
- Darning needle

GAUGE
Main motive 13 cm/5.1'' in diameter

SIZE
The instructions and gauge will give you M size (Finished chest/hip circumference is 104 cm/41'' with quite a bit of positive ease. Length – 65 cm/ 25,5''). The circumference is made of 8 motives, and the legth is 5 motives. So to adapt the size, you can either use different yard and/or hook to achieve a motive of a different size, or to add/make less motives in the round (for the construction to work, you need even number of motives). For example, to make a larger top, you can either use heavier yarn and/or bigger hook, or increase the number of motives to 10 per round (you will have 7 motives in top/sleeves rows)

SKILL LEVEL
Only basic crochet stitches are used. The motive construction is slightly more complex, but there is a detailed tutorial available on-line.

ABBREVIATIONS – US TERMINOLOGY
sl st – slip stitch. Joining slip stitch is used to join motives as you go. On-line tutorial.
St – stitch
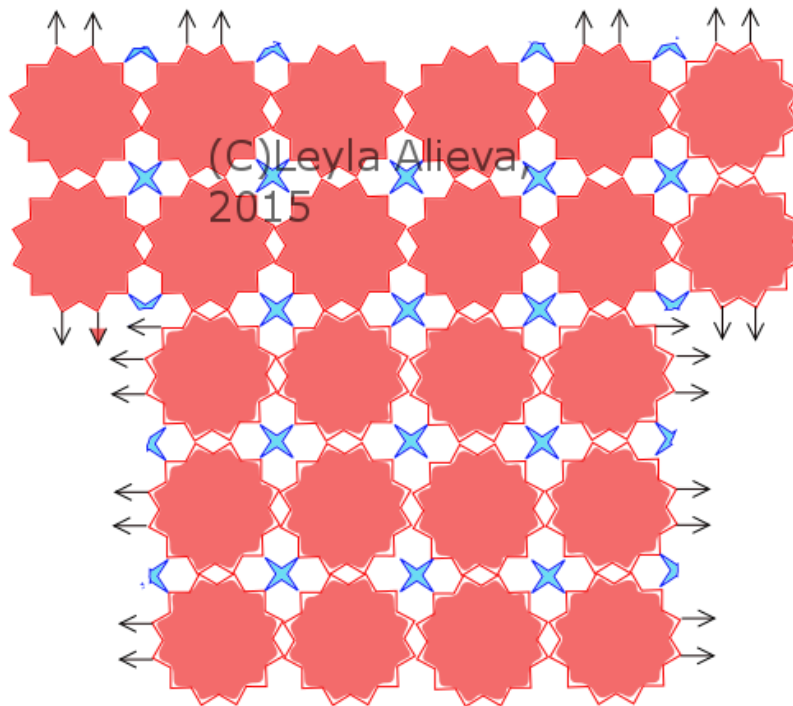Dc – double crochet. Dc 3 = 1 dc in the next 3 stitches. 2dc = 2 dc in one stitch
Ch – chain
Sk – skip
Sc – single crochet

INSTRUCTIONS
Join motives as you go to shape your top. The scheme below shows front/back of the top. The red are the main motives, and the blue are the filler motives. Black arrows show where motives of one side are joined to the other side to create the top. Half blue motives show where filler motive is joined to main motives of both front and back sides. Front and back are identical. Start the filler motives only when all the four surrounding main ones are already in place. In theory, you could first create the whole top using just the main motives, and then crochet in the fillers.

Filler motive.
Using magic ring, crochet 1 round as follows: ch3, dc, ch5, joining sl st, ch 5, [3 dc, ch5, joining sl st, ch 5]x3 times, dc, join round with sl st. Weave in the ends.

Main pinwheel motive.

Detailed photo tutorial on-line.

Round 1.

Use the magic loop to start in the round: ch4, [dc, ch1]x11 times for a total of 12 dc. Sl st in the 3rd ch of ch4 to join the round.

Round 2.

1. Ch 12

2. 2dc in the 4th ch from the hook:

3. 2dc in each of the next 4 ch = 5 clusters of double dc's

4. dc in the next ch

5. dc in the next dc from round 1

6. ch6 and turn your work so that the first "petal" is below your hook

7. dc in the 6th dc from the right

8. ch1, sk1, dc in the next dc

9. repeat previous step 2 mote times

10. ch4 and turn

11. sk1, dc in the next dc, [ch1, sk1, dc in the next dc]x2 times

12. 2 dc in the each of next ch 5 times, dc in the next ch

13. Repeat steps 5-12 until you have done the full circle.

14. sl st in the 3rd ch from the bottom of the initial ch12 that this round was started with.

15. sl st in the back of the next 6 ch

16. Turn and dc into the 5th dc from the bottom of the previous petal.

17. Repeat steps 8 to 11 once again

18. Sl st to join the round

Round 3.

1. ch 1

2. sc in the next space

3. sc in the the next "intersection"

4. sk 1 (small chain, usually hardly to be seen), sc in the next ch

5. 3 sc in the next - turning corner. If you joining this corner to another motive: 2 sc, joining sl st, sc (join into the 2nd sc of the corresponding corner of the other motive)

6. sc in the next ch

7. sc in the next dc

8. sc in the next ch1-space

9. Repeat steps 7 and 8

10. Repeat steps 2-9 until you finish the round. Join with sl st and finish off. Tighten the magic round and weave in the ends.