

# Paper Airplanes Poncho

JENNIFER CHAPMAN



Photos by Matt Graves

## HANDWOVEN<sup>®</sup>



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## STRUCTURE

Plain weave.

## EQUIPMENT

3½" right-angle triangle pin loom; H-8/5 mm crochet hook; tapestry needle. **Note:** A square made from 32 pieces woven using this size loom measures 14" on all sides. Use a larger or smaller loom size to make a poncho of different dimensions.

## YARNS

Hatteras (100% organic cotton; 109 yd/100 g; Tahki Yarns), #02 Natural, 256 yd; #05 Teal, #06 Steel Blue, #21 Seaweed, and #15 Charcoal, 64 yd each. Montague (100% organic cotton; 110 yd/50 g; Valley Yarns; WEBS), #02 Natural, 150 yd.

## DIMENSIONS

**Finished size:** Poncho 44" along long edges, 15" wide at neck.

*Pin looms give me the ability to create quilt-like patterns* without cutting or wasting fabric. Equally exciting and inspiring are the nearly infinite design possibilities from just a few basic loom shapes. While thinking about the theme of flight for this issue, I designed several blocks featuring my favorite pollinators. In the end, however, it was a pair of my daughter's pants, printed with a silly pattern of paper airplanes, that provided the spirit of fun and whimsy I was looking for.

My kids have spent many happy afternoons folding and flying paper airplanes. From the highest point on the playground equipment to the long hallway at home, we have observed how slight variations in wing shape, elevation, or even our own thrust can result in planes that loop and spin as they coast to the ground. I wanted to capture this loop-the-loop movement and eventually settled on the Dutchman's Puzzle quilt block, which references the spinning of windmill blades, with four pairs of Flying Geese blocks arranged in a pinwheel pattern.

To keep this project easy, I used a supersoft bulky organic cotton yarn, which wove quickly and beautifully on the quarter-inch spacing of my pin loom's pins.

**1** Following the manufacturer's directions and using Hatteras yarn, weave 128 triangles as shown in Figure 1.

**2** Using Montague Natural, join one Natural triangle to one color triangle by holding the triangles with right sides together and crocheting along the hypotenuse (sl st, ch 1), until all triangles are joined into 64 squares.

**3** Crochet squares together (sl st, sl st, ch 1) in pairs along the Natural color edges to make "airplanes," with same-color triangles to the upper right and upper left, forming 32 rectangles (see Figure 2). Note that in Figures 2 and 3, only Seaweed is shown, but you will be using the other three colors as well.

**4** Crochet two same-color rectangles together (sl st, sl st, ch 1) so that the two airplanes face the same direction. Repeat to form 16 squares (see Figure 3).

**5** Arrange the four different-colored squares (clockwise from upper left: Seaweed, Teal, Charcoal, Steel Blue) with airplanes in a pinwheel pattern (pointing up, right, down, left). Make three identical blocks, crocheting (sl st, sl st, ch 1) along seams (see Figure 4).


**6** For the fourth block, change the order of the colors to join it at a 90-degree angle (clockwise from upper left: Steel Blue, Charcoal, Teal, Seaweed), but keep the airplanes oriented the same way (pointing up, right, down, left; see Figure 5).

**7** Assemble the four blocks. Line up the three similar blocks in front of you, wrong side up, with the Seaweed in the upper right corner, to form a large 1 × 3 rectangle. Fold the left and right blocks in half on the diagonal, forming a trapezoid (see Figure 6a). With right side up, place the fourth (different) block over the center block, with the Steel Blue and Charcoal squares at the top over the Teal and Seaweed squares of the back block (See Figure 6b).

**8** Crochet (sc) blocks together on the right side of the cloth using Montague Natural, starting at the bottom and working up and over the shoulder to the bottom of the other side. Do the same for the other seam.

**9** Crochet (sc) around the neck and bottom edge with Montague Natural.

**10** Weave in ends.

**11** Reinforce neck openings (optional). Cut two 20" pieces of Natural. Set one aside. Lace up the corners of the neck opening about 1" and tie a bow. Repeat on the other side of the neck opening. 

*JENNIFER CHAPMAN holds an MFA from the Hope School of Fine Arts at Indiana University. She has been working with yarn since her grandmother taught her to crochet 40 years ago and loves nothing more than to share this love of fibers with her three children.*

**1. PIN LOOM PIECES**

64		Natural
16		Teal
16		Steel Blue
16		Seaweed
16		Charcoal
128 triangles total		

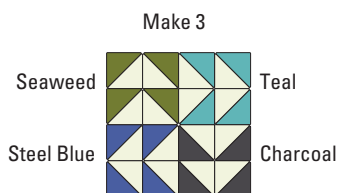
**2. AIRPLANE ASSEMBLY**



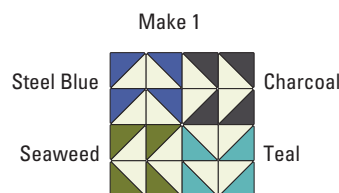
**3. AIRPLANES COMBINED**



**4. BLOCK ASSEMBLY FOR 3 BLOCKS**



**5. BLOCK ASSEMBLY FOR 1 BLOCK**



**6. PONCHO ASSEMBLY**

