Waldo's Puzzle

12 inch square

This square is named for my paternal grandfather. Waldo loved puzzles, and could figure out any manual puzzle involving rings, string, and bits of wood in a flash!

H hook or size needed for gauge. Two or four colors worsted weight yarn for rings, one color for background.

First, we make four interlocking rings.

Ring 1: Ch 16, join with slip stitch to form ring. Ch 3, dc in same ch. 2 dc in each ch around. Finish off (32 dc).
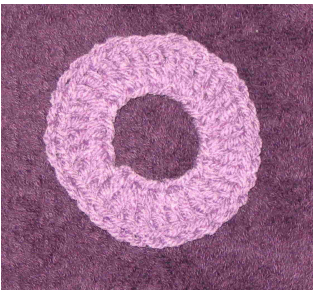
Ring 2: Ch 16, slip end of chain through ring 1 and join with sl st to form ring.

continuing with Ring 2: Ch 3, dc in same ch. 2 dc in each ch around. Finish off (32 dc).

Ring 3: Ch 16, slip end of chain through ring 2 and join with sl st to form ring. Ch 3, dc in same ch. 2 dc in each ch around. Finish off (32 dc).

Ring 4: Ch 16, slip end of chain through rings 1 and 3, taking care to weave the centers, and join with sl st to form ring.

continuing with Ring 4: Ch 3, dc in same ch. 2 dc in each ch around. Finish off (32 dc).

Now we'll switch to working in rounds for the rest of the pattern.

Rnd 1: Join background color with sc in back loop only (BLO) on any ring. Sc in BLO of next 4 dc. Ch 5, skip next 2 dc, sc in BLO of next 5 sc of same ring.
* Ch 3, sc in BLO of 5 dc on next ring. Ch 5, skip next 2 dc, sc in BLO of next 5 dc of same ring. Repeat from * twice more. Ch 3, join with sl st in starting sc.

Rnd 2: Ch 3, dc in next 4 sc. (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in corner. Dc in next 5 sc. * 3 dc in ch 3 sp, dc in next 5 sc, (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in corner, dc in next 5 sc. Repeat from * twice more. 3 dc in ch 3 sp. Join with sl st to top of beginning ch 3. (19 dc per side)

Rnd 3: Ch 1, sc in same dc. Sc in next 7 dc. * 3 sc in corner sp. Sc in next 19 dc. Repeat from * twice more. 3 sc in corner sp, sc in next 11 dc. Join with sl st in starting sc. (21 sc per side)

Rnd 4: Ch 3, dc in next 8 sc. * (2 dc, ch 2, 2 dc) in next sc. Dc in next 21 sc. Repeat from * twice more. (2 dc, ch 2, 2 dc) in next sc, dc in next 12 sc. Finish off. (25 dc per side)

Rnd 5: Join next color with sc in any corner sp. Ch 3, sc in same sp. * (Ch 2, sk next st, sc in next st) to within one st of next corner, ch 2. (Sc, ch 3, sc) in corner. Repeat from * twice more. (Ch 2, sk next st, sc in next st) to within one st of last corner, ch 2, finish off. (13 ch 2 spaces per side)

Rnd 6: Join next color with sc in any corner sp. Ch 3, sc in same sp. * (Ch 2, sc in next ch 2 sp) to last ch 2 sp before corner, ch 2. (Sc, ch 3, sc) in next corner. Repeat from * twice more. (Ch 2, sc in next ch 2 sp) to last ch 2 sp before corner. Ch 2, finish off. (14 ch 2 spaces per side)

Rnd 7: With next color, repeat round 6. (15 ch 2 spaces per side)

Rnd 8: Join background color with sl st in any corner. Ch 3, (Dc, ch 2, 2 dc) in same corner. * Dc in each sc and each ch 2 sp across. (2 dc, ch 2, 2 dc) in next corner. Repeat from * twice more. Dc in each sc and each ch 2 sp across. (35 dc per side)

Measure your square. If square measures less than 12 inches, add more rounds. In general, a round of single crochet will add about 1/2 inch to the square, and a round of double crochet will add a full inch.