



Knitting and Crochet

🌀 2 Books in 1 🌀

Knitting for Beginners + Crochet for Beginners With
Essential Techniques, Step-by-Step Instructions, and
Detailed Illustrations + Dozens of DIY Projects.

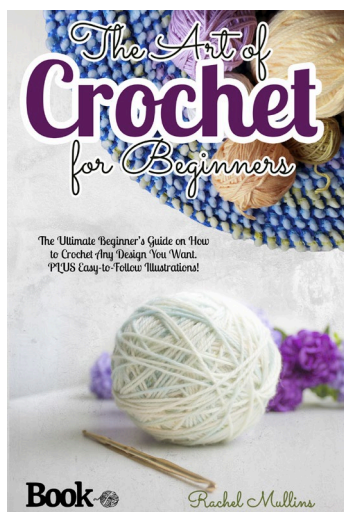


RACHEL MULLINS



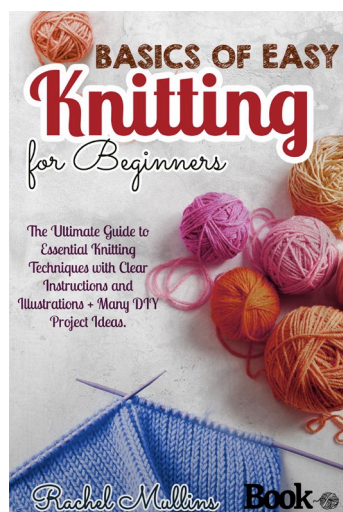
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Comprehensive guides, step-by-step instructions, and detailed illustrations will guide you on this incredible learning journey,

and they will show you everything you need to master the needed skills and knowledge.





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The Art Of Crochet For Beginners

*The ultimate beginner's guide on how to crochet
any design you want.*

Plus easy-to-follow illustrations!

Rachel Mullins



Introduction

Nowadays, and especially in recent years, an old tradition has come back into vogue, which has always been considered original and fun by many: the art of crochet.

It is a technique that consists of only two elements: a metal stick, in which the end has a hook, and a ball of yarn.

The art of crochet has a number of advantages that should not be underestimated: in addition to giving you a great sense of satisfaction when the project is finished, crochet has a therapeutic purpose.

What does this mean?

Crochet, in other words, translates into patience, perseverance, and concentration. These three elements ensure that your attention is focused exclusively on work, leaving aside the thoughts that generally disturb your day for a few hours.

If you have decided to buy this guide, it probably means that you are entering the world of crochet for the first time. If you are unsure about whether or not to start learning this technique due to possible difficulties, do not worry: in this manual, you will find all the information you need.

The first part will consist of explaining the art of crochet, its origins, and its evolutions, just to give you some general knowledge.



Subsequently, a chapter will be dedicated to the use of crochet hooks and the right yarns, their advantages, disadvantages, characteristics, and much more! This way, you will be able to establish which yarn best suits your preferences and, above all, your skills.

The second part of the book is dedicated to the description of the decorative stitches. Decorative stitches refer to a series of techniques that go beyond the basic stitches, which you will learn after acquiring a little more dexterity during processing. These techniques will allow you to not only access a wider range of projects but also to add personalized decorations that will make your garments even more original. Among the decorative stitches described, a paragraph will be dedicated to the Tunisian stitch, famous both for its simplicity and for the countless colorful creations that it allows you to make.

Since this is a beginner's manual, you will find paragraphs consisting of a series of tips that you will find particularly useful when creating, as they will make your work easier.

The final part of the book will be dedicated to a list of projects that you can choose to carry out as you like; they are simple and original projects based, in most cases, on using the fundamental basic points. This way, you will only have to memorize the steps for the basics of crochet, and you can immediately indulge yourself with your creations!

Among the projects are both decorative elements, such as soap dishes and buttons, and neck warmers and covers - in case you want to dedicate your creations as gifts to your friends or to warm you up during the winter!



At the end of this manual, you will realize that the art of crochet is easier than you think, based on patience, perseverance, and the desire to get involved. Moreover, the charm of handmade items is unmatched, as it will give you priceless satisfaction.



Chapter 1

What is crochet?

Origins and evolutions

Crochet, or crocheting (its French equivalent), is a technique of working fabrics (mainly wool and cotton), which consists of two main elements: the crochet hook, a metal tool about 7,9in long that ends with a hook, and the yarn.

It is a fun and relaxing hobby of ancient origins, which has recently come back into fashion thanks to its multiple functions. This technique allows you to create clothing of the most varied types: hats, scarves, sweaters, and more! Thanks to this particular process, you can create many decorative pieces for the home, such as lace and doilies.

If you are a beginner and you are entering the world of crochet for the first time, fear not; this guide will provide you with all you need to know to bring your creations to life in the simplest way, step by step.

The processing of fabrics with this technique can be complex; however, once you understand how it works, the rest of the processes will be easier. It is a technique constituted by precise



movements (but above all repetitive), so the trick lies in understanding the principle.

Unfortunately, we have little information on the exact geographical origin of the art of crochet. It is said that initially, there was not even a real hook and that the processing was done by hand (precisely with the fingers). A finger was used to form a small loop and subsequently resume the stitches. Scholars also argue that the earliest examples of crochet tools were not in steel like modern ones but in bone, ivory, and bamboo. Based on the testimonies received, the first findings belonging to this process date back to the Arab culture. Other materials were recovered from all over the world, including China, Africa, and Turkey. It is also said that the creator of this process was a nun with a particular passion for yarns and balls; in fact, the crochet technique was used to create precious decorations dedicated to sacred vestments inside churches.

The conclusion reached by various sources sees a possible exchange between the Arabian Peninsula and Europe, which may have caused crochet to reach other Mediterranean nations, including Spain.

However, Eleonore Riego de la Blanchardière favored the final push in the spread of the art of crochet. She was a French lady who was struck by the delicate art of the nuns of a Dublin convent and decided to deepen it. She wrote about crochet in her magazine and subsequently published 11 books dedicated to detailed patterns on the conversion from needle lace and bobbin lace to crochet. For this reason, she was credited with inventing Irish lace, which represented excellent sustenance for the Irish



economy after the 1848 famine. Crochet is still in Vogue magazine today, dedicated to women, favoring the creation of “Clones lace.”

Fundamentals and advice

The information you will find in this paragraph may seem obvious, but it is not, especially if this is your first time with crochet.

It is essential that you keep in mind the series of tips, which we will list below.

How to hold the thread

Generally, the thread is held with the left hand (unless you are left-handed), between the thumb and forefinger, making sure that the other fingers are underneath. However, there is no "exact" way to hold the thread; with a little practice, the gestures will come naturally.

The fundamental aspect to consider is to make sure that the thread is smooth and that it is subjected to the correct tension; it must not be too tight or too loose. To make this happen, take a look at the crochet hook as you get ready to start. You will notice that the thread tends to shrink inwards as you get closer to the hook. Consequently, the thickness varies: the further you move away from the hook, the looser the thread will be. If the chains go up close to the hook, it will be easier to work with, and the result will be softer. If, on the other hand, you work close to the hook,



the chains will be tighter, as well as the stitches; therefore, it will weave itself will be tighter.

Keep in mind that the tension of crochet will always have consequences on the creation you are trying to make, a matter that applies in particular to clothing. The greater the pressure exerted, the thinner the thread, the smaller the garment, and vice versa.

If you do not want to take risks on clothing (e.g., failing to respect the size you were aiming for), opt for a process in which tension does not produce particular consequences, such as a shawl.

How to hold the crochet

The crochet is held between the thumb and forefinger of the right hand, but, even in this case, it adopts the gestures that come naturally to you; the important thing is that the hook is in the ideal position to "catch" the thread.

In addition, there are two handles for the use of crochet: one, as mentioned above, between thumb and forefinger, and the other so-called "knitting needle": in this case, the crochet is held in the fist of the right hand.

How to start work

To start the work (most of the time), you must first create a knot, in which you have to insert the crochet inside; in some cases, the magic ring is created instead (you will find the explanation of the latter below).

The methods of starting the work are subjective; there are those who first create a knot and then insert the crochet and those who



create the knot with the crochet itself. The first technique is typical of those who usually knit.

It is very simple: place the crochet hook over the thread, exert a little pressure to make it pass under the thread, and rotate it. This way, you will have obtained a circle around the crochet. Then take a bit of yarn and let it pass inside the crochet hook -that's it!

Now, you just have to start the actual process of the design you have in mind.

Nine good reasons to learn the art of crochet

If you have decided to immerse yourself in this manual, I would like to recommend reasons as to why learning the art of crochet might be the best thing for you.

1. **Take the crochet hook wherever you want.** The advantage of this technique lies in the use of few tools: a few balls of wool and, of course, the hook. These features allow you to put the materials in your bag and take it out at any time: on the beach, in a park, in your doctor's waiting room, and so on.
2. **Versatility.** The crochet technique allows you to give free rein to your imagination. You can choose from many different designs: home decorations, puppets, children's clothing, winter clothes, and much more.
3. **The handmade charm.** With the passing times, and thanks to the development of technology, handwork is not as common as it was in the past. However, becoming familiar with crochet will allow you to solve many



problems: if you need a hat, a scarf or a shawl, you can make it yourself! In addition to being extremely useful, the satisfaction of having created an object with your hands alone will be priceless.

4. **Low expenditure.** Crocheting requires the use of few materials, and it is possible to buy the latter on the market at very low prices. You will be able to choose, in the future, whether to spend a little more for a ball of more precious yarn, or for a particular crochet.
5. **Crochet as a profession.** Although this is not an easy path to take, if crochet becomes your passion, you could choose to make it a profession. Nowadays, more and more people have made crochet a business, by publishing tutorials, books, selling materials and so on.
6. **Crochet as a tool for socializing.** Thanks to the increasingly widespread use of social networks, it is possible to find, especially on Facebook, groups dedicated to crochet enthusiasts. This way, you can make new friends, but also ask for advice on processing and share alternative ideas about your work.
7. **It's back in fashion.** Compared to some time ago, crochet is back in vogue. It is no longer considered a backwards and "grandmother" hobby – it is far from it! People who want to learn the technique are now considered trendy. In addition, some crocheted items of clothing have reached the catwalk; so much so that some prominent personalities have decided to make crochet their hobby.

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8. **Therapeutic tool.** It may seem futile, but crochet has an excellent relaxing effect. Being a technique that requires concentration, it causes you to focus your attention exclusively on the work, leaving aside the thoughts that normally disturb you for a few hours. For this reason, it is often recommended to relax and to improve mood.
9. **It is suitable for all ages.** Another advantage of crochet is that it is suitable for all ages; you can decide to learn the technique, whether you are young or more mature.



Chapter 2

The crochet stitches

Type of basis points

Now that you have an idea of what crochet is, its components, and its history, it is time to learn the basic points to start from; these are especially essential for beginners.

If you initially encounter difficulties, fear not: it is your first time, so naturally, you may be unfamiliar with the techniques! Once you get carried away, the steps will become simple, and the satisfaction in creating your first accessory will be priceless!

The basic points and their purposes

- **Chain stitch**

As we discovered, the chain stitch is the first fundamental step in crochet work. The starting chain, also called the “initial chain” or “base chain,” is the first thing you need to start your creation.

For the creation of new rows in the processing, the so-called “return chain” is used; its size depends on the number of chains you make, based on the stitches used in a row.



In crochet work, different stitches are often used, as in the case of the "granny square." As the name itself implies, it is a process consisting of a series of squares created by isolating double points so as to create a space for each edge of the square.

- **Single crochet**

The single crochet is another of the fundamental basic points necessary for a series of creations of different types. For this reason, many people who are starting to enter the world of crochet, after the slipknot and the chain stitch, aim to practice with the single crochet.

The main feature of this technique lies in the creation of a thick knit; to obtain it, fabrics of various thicknesses can be used. The single crochet can also help you to make the famous amigurumi (crochet puppets), allowing your imagination to run free by creating plants, animals, and even vegetables.

- **Half double crochet**

This technique, as you can guess from the name, represents a middle ground between the single and the double crochet. Before moving on to this point, it is ideal to first learn the single crochet and then move on to the next step. The half-crochet is not classified among the basic stitches, but it is important to know it. It is found in many jobs and allows you to make warm scarves and neck warmers. In addition, it has the advantage of being faster than the single crochet, so you will have the possibility of finishing your projects quicker.



● Double crochet

The double crochet is important because it is versatile; it easily joins the other stitches, which is ideal and is used in many other processes.

Its main feature is that it is the basis for making the filet, the V-crochet, and the granny square technique work. It requires a few more steps than the single crochet, but don't worry! With a little effort and practice, over time, you will be able to even create designs on the yarn!

Familiarity with this technique will also allow you to use additional stitches based on the number of chain stitches you have on the crochet hook; if you want to venture onto something more complex, you could work several times on the same chain; a method that allows you to obtain the so-called "puff" stitch.

● Double treble crochet

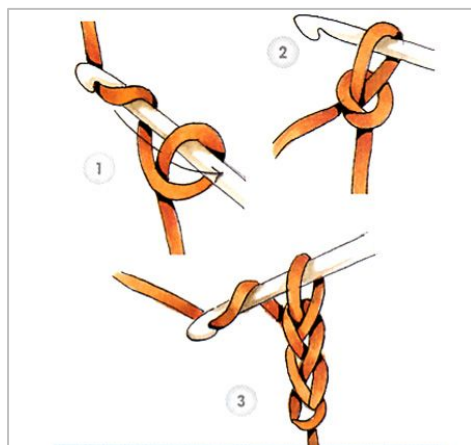
Like the half-double crochet, this technique does not fall into the fundamental points; however, constancy and exercise will bear fruit, allowing you to try your hand at something more.

The double treble crochet is higher than the treble crochet and favors a progression. Through this technique, you can, in fact, make triple crochet, an important point because it makes the work faster. Furthermore, triple crochet has the characteristic of making the fabric softer and, consequently, more breathable.

Having understood the usefulness of the basic points and their purposes, let's see how they are achieved.

❖ Chain

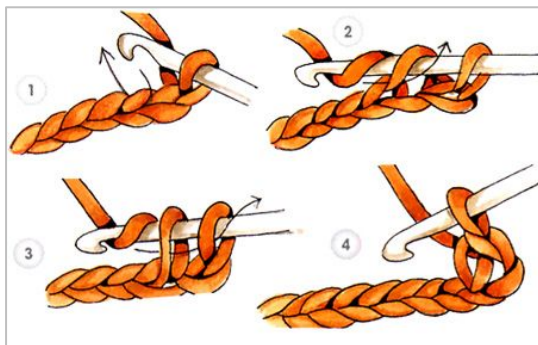
To make it, the first thing you do is create a small loop with the thread. Subsequently, the hook is inserted inside the loop, passing the thread inside. At this point, the thread is pulled; a tight knot will be formed, and the passage will be repeated by passing the thread inside the chain that has formed (this operation is called "throwing" the thread: hook the thread stretched between the fingers with the crochet hook). You can repeat this step until you have created the number of chain stitches you want.



❖ Single crochet

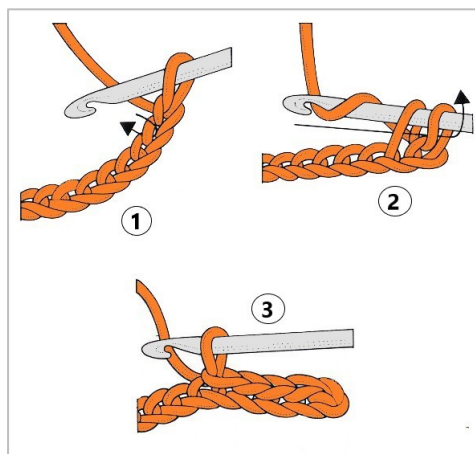
For this, you need to pass the crochet hook through the penultimate stitch of the basic chain stitch series you obtained. After picking up the thread with the crochet hook, you will notice

that you have created two stitches. Collect the yarn again, and pass the hook through two stitches, and so on.



❖ Slip stitch

The slipstitch is a stitch belonging to the crochet technique that does not fall within the fundamental basic stitches. However, in case you decide to deepen the technique and dedicate yourself to slightly more complex projects, the slipstitch will undoubtedly come in handy. In other words, the slipstitch is a fundamental point often used for the creation of models with a circular base, such as caps, hats, and much more. It is a simple, fast stitch to make, but above all, it will give you a lot of satisfaction! Let's see in detail the steps needed to make it happen.



Execution scheme

1. Make a series of chain stitches.
2. Enter the first stitch with the crochet hook, retrieve the yarn and pass it through the two stitches that are on the hook.

These are the first two basic steps to be carried out.

Round processing

1. Crochet under the "braid" of the first stitch of the round just completed.
2. Hook the thread onto the hook and pass it through the two stitches that are on the hook.

Keep in mind that, at this point, you may find it difficult to correctly identify the stitch to enter with the crochet precisely because we are working on a project in a circular motion. To find the stitch, which correctly corresponds to the first stitch worked on the round, keep an eye on the first set of stitches at the start of

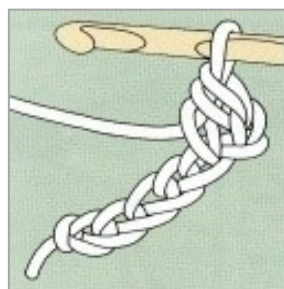
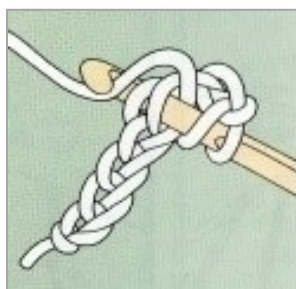
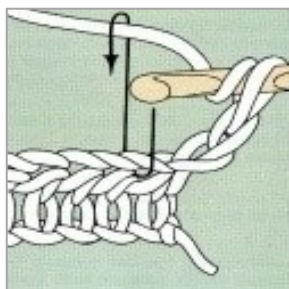
work: the stitch to enter is in the upper "braid" of the stitch in question. So, in summary:

- Identify the first stitch of the first round to enter.
- Enter the stitch with the crochet hook.
- Hook the thread.
- Pass the yarn through both the first and second stitch.

Following these steps, you will have obtained the slipstitch. This will be enough for you to work on a few steps of many other projects in the round. You will also be able to indulge yourself with any type of creation.

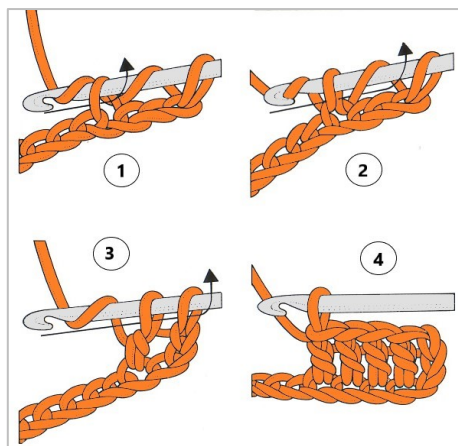
❖ Half double crochet

As the name implies, it is a cross between the single crochet and the double crochet. First, create a series of chains, throw the thread on the crochet hook and point the crochet hook into the chain below; come out of the chain, and you will get 3 buttonholes on the crochet hook. Then, throw the thread on the hook again and close all three buttonholes at the same time with a single stitch.



❖ Double crochet

The double crochet, compared to the previous basic stitches, requires an extra step. In this case, throw the thread on the crochet hook; the hook must be inserted into the fourth last stitch of the initial row of chain stitches; wind the thread on the crochet hook, and then extract it so that three stitches are created on the crochet hook. Throw the yarn on the hook again, and let it pass inside two of the three stitches you created. Throw the yarn again, and pass it inside the two remaining stitches.



These are the fundamental points to which reference is made in the beginning; you just need a little practice with the single crochet, and once you have mastered that, you will be able to give life to original creations such as scarves and hats!

❖ Double treble crochet

As the name implies, these stitches want the double and triple thread on the crochet hook at the beginning of the knitting, then



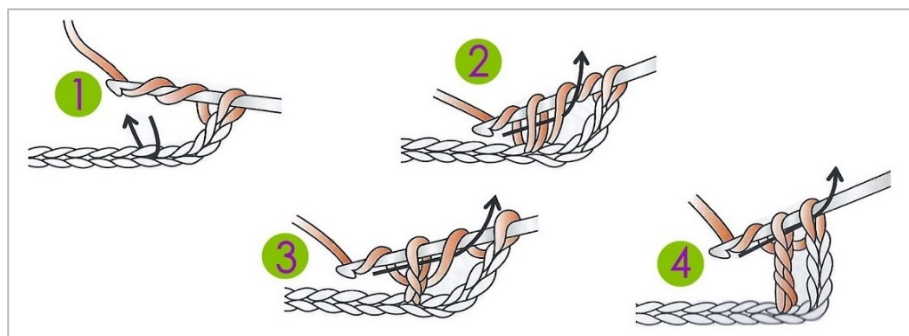
proceed exactly as for the double crochet, closing the buttonholes two by two.

Execution scheme

- First, make a loop and create a series of chain stitches.
- Next, make 4 loose chains.

The 4 loose chains you have made represent the base of the double treble crochet, of which the basic stitch is the 5th chain stitch. To perform the next double treble crochet, you will need to enter the sixth last chain with the crochet hook.

1. Wrap the thread 2 times on the hook and enter the sixth to last chain.
2. Hook the thread and pass it through the chain.
3. After completing this step, you will realize that you have obtained 4 stitches on the hook.
4. Retrieve the thread with the crochet hook and pass it through the first 2 stitches.
5. There will now be 3 stitches on the hook.
6. Recover the thread once again with the crochet hook and pass it through the first 2 stitches on the hook.
7. Retrieve the yarn for the last time and pass it over the last 2 remaining stitches.



At this point, you've finally made your first double treble crochet! As for the subsequent stitches, you will have to wrap the yarn on the hook twice and enter the first stitch on the left of the one that worked. Subsequently, continue the work as described in the previous steps until you reach the last chain of the round. To be sure that you have done the job correctly, count the stitches: initially, you made a series of 5 chain stitches, so the total stitches must be 5.

As for the start of a new round: you will first have to make 4 loose chains and then turn in the work. Wrap the thread on the hook twice, point the hook in the last buttonhole and repeat the numbered steps described above.

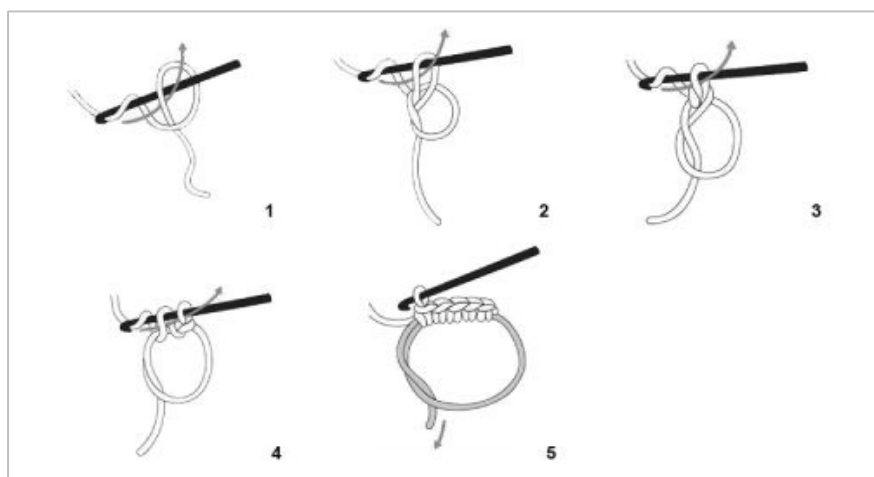
• **The magic ring: what it is and how it is obtained**

The magic ring consists of an alternative technique to the knot that starts the first phase of the work. It is an adjustable circle, which tightens until it closes completely, without leaving any holes inside the work.

The magic ring is often used for the creation of amigurumi (the increasingly popular crochet puppets) and for precision work, such as the finishing of scarves, caps, potholders, and so on.

To be honest, it is faster to create the magic ring than to explain its steps. Let's see together step by step how it is done:

- Wrap the thread 2 times around your fingers or a single finger (your choice, whichever suits you best).
- Insert the hook and throw the thread.
- Take out the crochet hook and work a chain.
- Work the number of single crochets indicated in work.
- Hold the circle of single crochets still between your fingers and pull the starting thread until the ring is completely tightened.



Once you understand the mechanism, you can opt for the method you like best: there are those who, once the ring has been created,



keep it between their fingers like a circle of chains, and those who prefer to carry out the work whilst keeping the magic ring wrapped around their fingers.





Chapter 3

Terminology and abbreviations: how to read graphic schemes

The terminology of crochet

By the time you have acquired a little familiarity with crochet, you will realize that abbreviations are often used in the models, which makes them easier to consult. It is therefore essential that you get used to knowing this terminology, but fear not: the abbreviations are simple and intuitive; once you have them memorized, the work will be much easier!

There is a table below which you can refer to know the basic terminology. You will find the abbreviations used both in Italian and in English so that if you were to buy fabric from a foreign country, you would be able to find your way around easily.

Catenella Chain	Cat Ch
Maglia bassissima Slip stitch	Mb Sl St
Maglia bassa Single crochet	Mb Sc
Mezza maglia alta Tall double crochet	Mma Tdc
Maglia alta Double crochet	Ma Dc
Doppia maglia alta Treble crochet	Dma Tr
Tripla maglia alta Double treble crochet	Tma Dtr
2 maglie chiuse insieme Single crochet 2 together	2m Sc2tog
2 mma chiuse insieme Half dc 2 together	2mma Hdc2tog
2 m.a. chiuse insieme Double crochet 2 together	2ma Dc2tog

After taking a look at the abbreviations, let's move on to the terminology. In the field of crochet, a series of commonly used



terms are used, which are useful to easily identify certain steps that take place during processing.

The list below consists of the main terms used in crochet.

- **Basic stitch:** it is the first stitch to be worked on and at the same time the stitch of the previous round to work on
- **Arch:** a set of one or more chains that allow you to join one point of work to another.
- **Magic ring:** often named, it is the ring that is created with the thread around the fingers; in short, the circle inside which the first lap is worked.
- **Increase:** this term is used when adding points to the job. It is obtained by working two stitches in the base stitch.
- **Decrease:** it consists of decreasing the number of stitches in the process. Usually, two stitches are knitted together and then close later.
- **Throw the thread:** it is the thread that is thrown around the hook before extracting the buttonhole.
- **Crochet patterns:** graphic or written patterns to follow while working.
- **Work in the round:** a typical crochet technique, which consists of turning around the central point from which the work started. The latter can be made up of a magic ring or of chains in a circle closed by a very low stitch.
- **Rib:** this is the upper part of the stitch, made up of two threads.



Terminology and abbreviations: insights

Before proceeding to the next phase dedicated to projects for beginners, it is important to know that, in addition to the basic terminology, you learn to recognize other parts of the crochet language. That way, when you have to follow the steps of a project, you will be able to easily read each step, within which, most of the time, abbreviations are inserted.

Below, there is a reference table that you can use at any time.

N.B. The table you will read below consists of the terminology used in the world of English crochet, while the previous one refers to a more or less universal terminology.

Abbreviations for crochet

DC	Double crochet
INC	Increase
BEG	Begin/beginning
SC	Single crochet
MC	Main colour
CONT	Continue
TOG	Together
DC DEC	Decrease double crochet
SC DEC	Decrease single crochet
RND(S)	Round(s)
YO	Yarn over
TOG	Together
PREV	Previous
CH	Chain
REP	Repeat
SK	Skip
SL ST	Slip stitch
VOLT	Turn
VENT	At fan
UNC	Crochet

Graphic crochet patterns: how to read the symbols

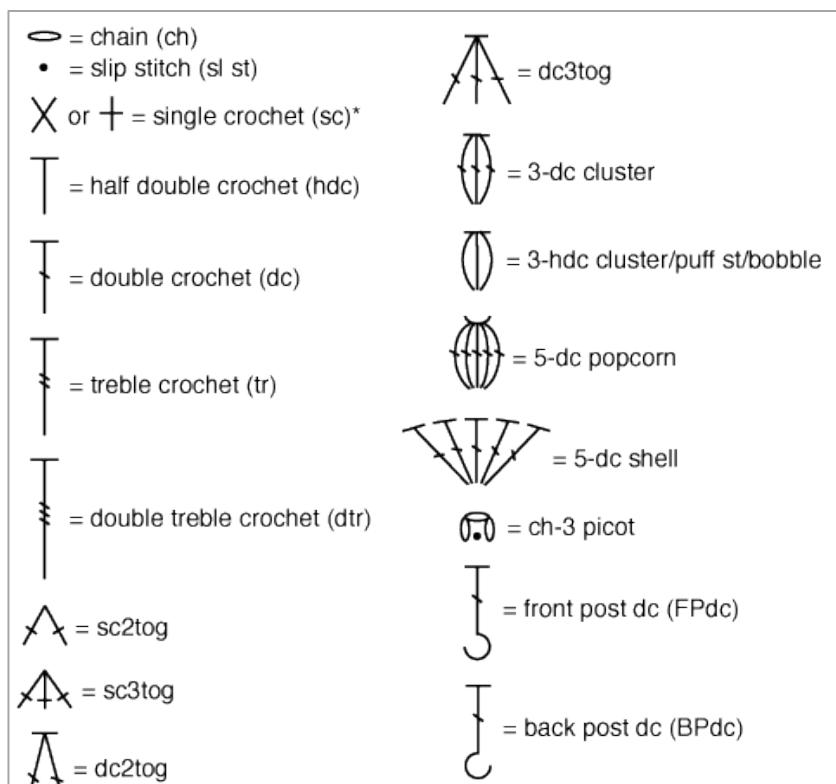
It is common to see various crochet projects on the web, accompanied by written execution patterns, tutorials, and, in some cases, graphic patterns composed of symbols. Beginners may find this difficult because they are confused by the way in which information is organized within the scheme. However, contrary to popular belief, once you have learned the symbols and the order in which to read them, it will be easier to follow than the written passages.

The advantage of the schemes is that they do not need a translation; they are composed of universal symbols, therefore valid in any language; once you have learned them, you will not encounter difficulties in any projects - not even in those in a foreign language.

Let's start with the fact that the schemes differ in the "direction" of reading, according to the type of work.

- In cylindrical work, the diagram can be read from the center outwards.
- In linear processing, the diagram can be read from the bottom, starting from left to right in the first row and going up by alternating the direction of the rows.
- In the case of oval workings, the two previous rules merge: this means that you start by reading from the center, and then

continue linearly from left to right in the first round; in the following laps, we proceed in a spiral, towards the outside.



Keep in mind that the symbols shown in the diagram are the main and most used ones; however, in the world of crochet, there are many others. Remember that, regardless of the symbols shown here, when you are in search of a project, you will have to refer to the symbolism proposed in that context and follow it.

Crochet terminology for clothing

Even though it is considered by many to be unfortunate, it actually has its advantages. The world of crochet has a very wide range of terminology and a number of abbreviations so that when a pattern is presented, instead of having to write it in full, we proceed by abbreviations.

If this is one of the first times you have been confronted with the art of crochet, you may initially feel disoriented; the basic names, terminology, and abbreviations will be completely new to you. However, this shouldn't discourage you! The terminology used is made up of intuitive acronyms, so once you have read several schemes, everything will become easier.

Aside from the basic terminology I mentioned in the previous paragraphs, we can find specific terminology used in patterns dedicated to clothing. “Right shoulder,” “right front,” and “right sleeve” are a series of terms that refer to the part of a garment you are working on, as in the case, for example, of a sweater.

Glossary

- **Ribbing:** this term is used when working with the crochet stitches of the previous round - only one of the buttonholes of the previous round is taken. If you are working on the front buttonhole, you will use "working on the front edge"; otherwise, “work in the backside.”

- **Left front:** as you can guess from the name, it means the part of the garment that will be worn on the left side of the body.
- **Left side:** not to be confused with the previous point; with the left side, we mean the part closest to your left hand during processing.
- **Join:** refers to the use of a slipstitch to join two stitches in a precise point of the work.
- **Sample:** it generally consists of a square of fabric in inch of reference, which will help you understand the number of stitches and lines needed in the final processing.
- **Right front:** refers to the part of the garment that will be worn on the right side of the body.
- **Right side:** as in the previous case, it refers to the part of the work closest to your right hand in the course of processing.
- **Front:** refers to the piece which, once the work is finished, will always be visible.
- **Embossed stitches:** refer to the knitting of stitches around the vertical part of the treble stitches of the previous row. It is obtained by stitching the crochet from front to back, keeping the stitches in relief on the front, or from the back to the front, with the stitches in relief on the back.
- **Back:** refers to the part of the garment that will always be hidden from view.
- **Work in the same way:** this term refers to a generally repetitive type of work, in which the same procedure is used; the same number of rows without increases or decreases.



Chapter 4

Tools and materials

Tools to get started

If you are a beginner, you have come to the right place! On the market, there are not only different types of fabrics available but also crochet hooks, of which the thickness and material mainly vary. With the advancement of technology nowadays, it is possible to buy various types of crochet hooks, including those in bamboo, plastic, steel, and the most common, aluminum. The latter ones best suit beginners, being that they are quite resistant and available in different thicknesses; always keep in mind that, most of the time, steel crochet hooks are the thinnest ones and are dedicated to more expert hands.

Also, crochet hooks vary in shape: you can buy ergonomic crochet hooks, which best fit the shape of your hand, or classic, straight, and flat crochet hooks.

As for the type, the ideal is to use crochet of intermediate thickness (neither too thick nor too thin). It is ideal to opt for an n ° 3, 5, or 7, as they are suitable for thick fabrics and easier to work with.

Here is a diagram you can refer to for the correct crochet thickness, combined with the ideal fabric.

Crochet size	Type of fabric
0.02- 0.03 – 0.04 in	very fine cotton
0.05 – 0.06 – 0.07 in	thin cotton
0.08 – 0.1 – 0.12- 0.14 in	medium thickness fabrics
0.16 – 0.18 – 0.2 in	medium thickness fabrics double worked
0.22 – 0.24 in	wool
0.28 – 0.31 in	tapestry wool
0.35 – 0.39 in	sports wool

As for the fabric (at least at the beginning), it would be better to focus on a soft, solid color and preferably a wool fabric. These are important characteristics to take into account since wool used in sweaters is more evident and, consequently, easier to identify and work with. The solid color ensures that there is no confusion in the processing. Unlike wool, cotton is denser and, therefore, more complex to weave.

If wool seems too expensive to you, you could opt for acrylic or acrylic blend: it is a cheaper fabric where the sweaters are elastic, and it can be counted without difficulty.

There is also another consideration. When choosing the fabric to use, think about the creation you have in mind: if you want to



create a doily or lace, you will have to use a very fine thread. It is different if your purpose is to create a shawl, scarf, or hat, with which you can use thicker threads.

The three main categories of yarns

Before moving on to the description of the main yarns used in crochet, it is important to give you an introduction. In order to properly choose the ideal fabric, think about the project you have in mind and especially about the season. It will go without saying that if your intent is to make an item of clothing such as a hat, a scarf, or a shawl, wool will be the ideal yarn; it will be the opposite if you are moving towards a spring or summer garment.

❖ **Wool yarns**

Wool is one of the oldest fibers of natural origin. It is a warm, soft, and enveloping yarn, resistant to odors, bacteria, and, very importantly, flame retardant.

Points in favor:

- **Elasticity.** This feature makes wool ideal for creating clothing. Garments such as sweaters, scarves, and hats (in order to be comfortable) must be able to expand easily and then return to their original shape. For this reason, wool lends itself to this type of processing.
- **Minor errors.** Thanks to its particular weave, the wool makes sure that, if you are a beginner and have made some mistakes, you will be able to undo the work with ease; furthermore, the errors will not be very evident.



- **Warm and breathable.** As mentioned above, wool is a warm and enveloping yarn, therefore ideal for wearing in winter.

- **Resistance.** This is another point in favor of wool. When crafting works, it is done with the idea that the garment created can last over time; wool will give you this advantage, as it hardly creases.

Points against:

- **Possible allergies.** Wool is a type of yarn that is not always tolerated by everyone; in fact, there are those who find it itchy and annoying. For this reason, it would be better to opt for merino wool, which is smoother, softer, and does not create this type of inconvenience; merino wool is also recommended for children.

- **Expensive.** Due to its many advantages, as well as being a natural fiber, wool is quite expensive. If spending too much money is not on your agenda, you could opt for a synthetic material or a much cheaper acrylic-blend wool.

- **Difficulty in washing.** Unfortunately, wool-based garments cannot be safely put in the washing machine in any setting. Before washing, always make sure you have taken a look at the washing instructions on the label.

❖ Cotton yarns

Cotton is a fresh, breathable material with sturdy fibers, so it can be used for many processes.



Points in favor:

- **Robust fibers.** The main characteristic of cotton is that it is composed of solid and robust fibers. This means that you can use this yarn for jobs that need a solid and resistant structure, such as backpacks, bags, and so on.
- **Quick and easy washing.** Unlike wool, cotton does not need special instructions to be washed, so you won't have to waste time choosing the right setting on the washing machine.
- **Lightweight.** This fabric, thanks to its breathable character, is the ideal solution for creating summer clothing such as swimsuits, crop tops, bandanas, and much more.

Points against:

- **Rigid fiber.** Unlike wool, cotton is a stiff fabric, so it is more difficult to work with and undo in case you make a mistake
- **Different results in coloring.** This is an important element to take into account: Wool colors are bright, but on cotton, they are often muted, therefore less bright.
- **Loses shape.** Being composed of a rigid weave, cotton tends to crease over time. For this reason, its use is indicated in projects that do not have elasticity as the main feature.

❖ Acrylic yarns

These are the yarns that come closest to wool; the difference lies precisely in the composition, being made up of synthetic fibers.

Points in favor:

- **Warm, soft, light.** Features that acrylics share with wool are elements that make these yarns very versatile, so they can be used for almost any type of processing.
- **Cheap.** Especially if you are a beginner, you initially don't want to take the risk of spending too much money on test projects. Acrylics will meet you in this regard, being amongst the cheapest yarns.
- **Easily washable and dried, they do not shrink.** Acrylics do not run the risk of being reduced during washing; when you take the sweater out of the washing machine, you won't find a mini version of your sweater at hand!
- **Many colours available.** Acrylics are available on the market in many different colours, which makes them suitable for creating amigurumi, blankets and home decorations.
- **Workable and easily dismantled.** If you ever make a mistake, don't worry; acrylics will allow you to easily fix the mistake, thanks to these two excellent characteristics, which is why they are suitable for beginners.
- **Rubber bands.** Like wool, acrylics are soft and elastic, so you won't risk of your garment not lasting a long time; they do not crease and last over time.

Points against:

- **Electrostatic charges.** Unfortunately, this is one of the main cons of acrylics. This means that there is the possibility that they can attract dust, or cause shocks.



● **“Faux wool”.** In the world of crochet, this is the negative meaning with which acrylics are often defined, precisely because, according to the most passionate enthusiasts, it is not original material. However, this is not a crippling feature for your creations.

● **Division during work.** Being a cheaper fabric, acrylics are in danger of splitting while you are in the middle of processing. For this reason, it is important that you inform yourself in advance about the quality of the material you will be purchasing.

How much yarn do you need?

This is one of the most frequently asked questions that many beginners ask themselves. As a beginner, during your first projects, you will not be able to accurately understand the amount of yarn needed for a particular project, but do not worry: I will provide you with a series of indications that will help you take the right measurements.

Let's start immediately with the fact that there is no universal calculation that exactly determines the quantity of yarn. What you must first take into consideration is the type of fabric you use, the thickness, and the length, obviously without neglecting the type and thickness of the crochet.

However, there are some measurements you can take to estimate, in principle, how much yarn you might need; amongst these, there is the champion.

The sample consists of a square of yarn of about 4-6in, which you will have to make yourself, with an edge of the 4-present constituted by the point you prefer.

Once you have finished the square, count how many stitches you have in total, how many rounds, and weigh it; in the meantime, write this data down on a piece of paper.

With this data in hand, you can now calculate the number of points and laps you will need to do the final project; If, for example, your project consists of something regular, like a potholder or a cover, the calculation will be simple. If, on the other hand, the project should consist of an irregular garment, such as a hat or a sweater, calculate your data based on the most regular element of your project in order to obtain approximate measurements for the total.

At this point, calculate how many times your sample is used within the total project. By the time you have finished this series of operations, you will have the measurements and approximate weight of your product; however, in order not to run the risk of running out of yarn, it is always better to opt for the purchase of 1.76/3.52 once more, or even 2.29/7 once if the project is very large.



Chapter 5

Decorative stitches, tips, and advice

Tips for beginners

Probably, one of the first things you will think about when you finally want to start a project is “I know a few points, but I can hardly do anything”; this is where you are wrong. You just need to know the chain stitch, the single crochet, or the half-double crochet to make lots of creations!

However, before I give you ideas on projects that might be more suitable for you, I will list a series of tips to follow before and during the making of your creation. Simple rules to follow, nothing demanding, but it is important that you take them into consideration.

Tip 1: Use more stitches for a project

The trick to having access to the many projects available online is to use multiple stitches. With a little practice, you will first have the opportunity to learn the main ones: you just need to join the chain stitch and the single crochet to create lots of fun things! When you acquire sufficient manual skills, you can also decide to



opt for the triple crochet or for the half double crochet, so your creations can be more and more numerous.

Tip 2: Flat and rectangular works

If you are a beginner, this is essential advice to follow. Opt for a rectangular project and leave aside irregular geometric shapes, round or 3D projects: the latter may require increases or decreases in stitches, an element that requires time, patience, and a certain manual skill. Plus, reproducing depth when you're just starting out isn't exactly child's play. Pick the regular projects, just to be on the safe side.

Tip 3: Medium-sized crochet and easy-to-work yarns

As mentioned above, when you are a beginner, it is ideal to opt for a medium-sized crochet hook, which is neither too thick nor too thin (like the steel one).

The same goes for yarns: medium-thick yarns have the most evident stitches, a factor that makes them easier to work with. It is also essential that you use a non-hairy fabric, and above all, a solid color, so that you do not run the risk of creating confusion with the stitches.

Tip 4: Dedicate to small projects

This bit of advice is valid for all the new fields you are approaching. When you pick up crochet for the first time, set yourself a small project that you can do quickly. Choosing a larger project takes time and could discourage you, resulting in the abandonment of the business—small projects, in small steps.

Tip 5: Do your work in a relaxed way

It may seem trivial, but the attitude with which you dedicate yourself to your creation is fundamental. The more relaxed you are, the more likely you will be able to hold the crochet hook in the best way: as mentioned before, it is important that it is firm between the thumb and forefinger but not too rigid. As you do the work, keep an eye on the stitches so that they are all the same size and, at the same time, let the crochet move freely and smoothly so that the yarn is fixed after each crochet stitch is finished.

Tip 6: Always make new chains

This is a tip to facilitate your work as much as possible. When joining new pieces of yarn, always make a new chain stitch. Also, make sure that the crochet is straight towards the end of a column so that the interlacing in the closing yarn is easier.

Difference between knitting and crochet

As a beginner, you may have wondered what exactly differentiates knitting from the crochet technique.

Often, there is a tendency to create confusion between these two types of processing. For those who do not know the field well, it is sufficient to recognize the presence of a ball, a needle, or a hook and to think that it is knitting.

However, it is important to highlight a number of differences that will help you distinguish the two features.

We assume that knitting is a decidedly older and more widespread technique; in its beginnings, this technique was classified as "men's work" and then later spread to the female world. The crochet technique, on the other hand, has a few hundred years behind it. Furthermore, while knitting is, by definition, the tool for the creation of actual clothing, it is a common opinion to consider crochet as a tool for garment ornamentation.

To get a clearer idea, let's see the fundamental differences that distinguish the two techniques:

- In knitting, two needles are used, with sharp ends; in the case of crochet, there is only one hook, which ends with a hook.
- Use of different stitches: knitting has sewn, and curved stitches, whilst crochet uses single crochet and double crochet.
- The result of knitting is a thin and light fabric, whilst with crochet, you get a thicker and heavier fabric.



In regard to the type of fabrics used, there is no particular difference. In principle, the yarns are the same for both processes. However, since crochet is used not only for garments but for decorations, the tendency is to venture into a wider variety of fibers.

Fancy stitches: techniques and decorations

After having listed and explained the basic points necessary for the designing of your first creations, let's look at some detailed techniques to create motifs, which will be useful for making decorations. There are some stitches, such as shell stitches, that will allow you to decorate your garments, such as scarves, shawls, blankets, and so on. This way, you can not only show off your garment but even personalize it!

The types are distinguished from each other by the number of lines used: some have two lines, others a dozen; it depends on what you want to achieve and on the dexterity you achieve over time. Always keep in mind that crochet is an art that requires patience, but it must be relaxing and fun at the same time.

❖ **Surface crochet designs**

The surface designs are real decorations that are added to an already worked crochet fabric; they are useful both to give greater consistency to your work and to make it more personalized and original. If you are wondering how it can be possible for a beginner, fear not, it is a very simple technique; even the least experienced will be able to reproduce it!



The appearance of this technique is that of a simple chain stitch, which is in relief compared to the starting fabric. This characteristic gives a higher consistency and thickness to your work.

The first thing you need to know if you want to make the surface designs is the type of starting fabric; the ideal is to use a single crochet fabric. In this case, the stitches are close together, and you will not run the risk of the design getting lost in the holes between one point and another. For the same reason, use a solid color fabric so that the design does not risk getting confused with the other colors present. If you don't want to run the risk of ruining a new garment, you could use a decommissioned or second-hand sweater; if you like the result, it will be a way to enrich your outfit; otherwise, you can decide to put it aside.

Execution scheme

1. Insert the crochet hook from front to back at the exact point where you want to start your decoration; fold the yarn in half over the hook.
2. Pull the loop through the fabric to the right side, leaving the tail at the back of the piece.
3. Insert the hook from front to back, where the next stitch will go. If you are using a thick thread, leave a space between one point and the other; otherwise, you can continue without leaving any spaces.
4. With the yarn over the hook, pull the loop to the right side of the piece.

5. Pull the loop through the first chain, which is already present on your hook; this way, you will have obtained a crochet stitch on the surface! To create the other surface points, repeat the steps just described.
6. Once you have achieved your result, move on to closing. To do this, cut the yarn and leave a long tail. Use the crochet hook to pull on a ring and pass the hook through the fabric. With the thread over the hook, pull it through the fabric and through the loop.

Tips

- As always, thread tension is a key consideration; try not to keep the thread too tight as the weave would be dense, and the work would suffer in the size you had foreseen.
- As you read earlier, these are the steps to make the points on the surface. However, the crochet does not always have to keep the same straight direction; if your goal is to get a decoration, change direction and create the design and shape you like best (a star, a triangle, a circle, and so on)
- The surface decorations can also be made on knitted products, so it is not necessary to have a basic crochet fabric. What are you waiting for? Get to work!

❖ Shell stitches

This technique is aesthetically pretty and is mainly used for decorating scarves, afghans, and baby blankets.

The shell is made up of a set of three or five stitches, worked in a single stitch or space for the chain stitch. The first rounds of the shell, those closest to the base, are narrower and widen as you go higher. In fact, another way to define this technique is a stitch pattern where multiple treble crochets are worked together.

Basically, a simple shell is created with double crochet at a certain point, followed by two other double crochets within a single chain, and two more crochets at the next point.

To get a clearer idea of how a shell is obtained, let's briefly see the necessary steps.



Execution scheme for the shell stitch

1. Create a chain with a number of stitches equal to a multiple of four; to figure out how many shell points you have obtained, divide the number of chains by 4.
2. Starting with crochet, skip 3 chain stitches and work in the fourth. As mentioned before, this technique requires that you work in the same chain stitch, which will have to contain 2 double crochets, a chain stitch, and 2 more double crochets.
3. Skip three chains and repeat the same step, always within the same point: 2 double crochets, a chain, and then 2 double crochets.
4. Continue with this method until the chain is finished. Keep in mind that the first chain you worked on, which corresponds to the last one in the row, counts as a shell stitch.
5. Once the row is finished (chain three), turn the work. The chains you have just created will represent the height of the next row; they are essential because they ensure that the shell points do not fold back on themselves.
6. Resume creating a shell stitch, using a stitch from the previous chains, and proceed with the same order of steps within the same stitch: 2 double crochets, a chain, and two other double crochets.
7. For the second row of chain stitches, it is not necessary to skip three stitches; proceed to create a shell stitch in each stitch of the previous row.

There are also variations in the creation of the shell stitch; these changes are obtained by making small rounds in small spaces of the chain. This variation will allow you to obtain an even more original decoration, useful, for example, to personalize a piece of clothing for children.

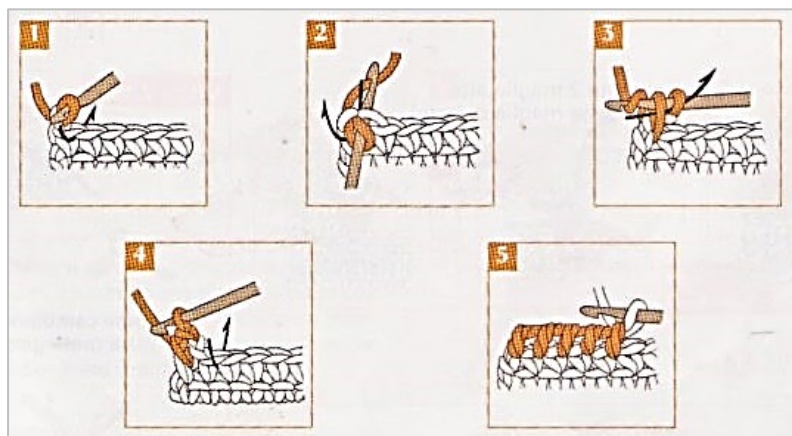
❖ **Shrimp point**

The shrimp stitch is a crochet stitch characteristic of decorations. If, for example, you are making a placemat, a potholder, or a blanket, the shrimp stitch allows you to create special finishes that will make your creation more personalized.



What is it about?

The shrimp stitch, as can be seen from the name, consists simply of single crochet made in reverse: instead of from right to left, it is obtained by working from left to right. The result will consist of a sort of twisted low point, particular and extremely decorative.



Execution scheme

After finishing with the last round of the work, to give more prominence to the crochet shrimp stitch, you could opt for a different color in order to create a contrast of colors between the basic work and the decoration.

- Instead of pointing the hook in the next stitch to the left, turn the hook on itself with the base of the tool upwards and the tip of the crochet downwards.
- Point the hook in the first base stitch, to the right.
- Throw the yarn and pull it out in the same stitch in which you pointed the crochet.
- You will notice that you have obtained two buttonholes with the same structure as classic single crochet.
- Close the stitch.
- Repeat the same procedure for the entire round of chain stitches.

- Block the thread with the needle and with the creation of small hidden stitches between the stitches.

The shrimp stitch is not usually classified among the basic crochet stitches. However, its implementation is quite simple and will allow you to add an extra touch to your work.

❖ **Stockinette stitch: easy even for beginners**

Stockinette stitch is a rather well-known technique; however, it is generally not so much part of the world of crochet but of knitting needles. Despite this feature, a technique was invented to make it equally beautiful even with the use of crochet; moreover, it is very easy to make, even for beginners!

The stitch is obtained by using a variant of the single crochet and working in the round; compared to the single crochet; the resulting weave is a little denser, more compact, and above all resistant, suitable for any type of project.

I propose below the steps to follow to achieve this point, simple but effective.



Execution scheme

- Work a row of chain stitches until you get the length you need, and close in the round.
- 1st round: work the entire first round of chain stitches with the single crochet technique.
- 2nd round and following: continue with the single crochet throughout the work, inserting the hook in the center of the two V-shaped legs of the single crochet of the previous round.

As you have seen, the stockinette stitch requires a few simple steps. However, before deciding to use it, I recommend that you follow a series of tips, including:

- Stockinette stitch is used especially on circle work, therefore ideal for knitting neck warmers, bags, hats, and much more.
- Being equipped with a denser weave than the standard one, the stockinette stitch is suitable for the creation of opaque motifs.

- If you intend to use stockinette stitch for flat work, not in circles, you will need to use one-way turns. This means that after each round is finished, you will need to cut the yarn and start a new round without ever turning the work.
- One way to make your creation more personalized is to alternate different yarn colors during this type of knitting.

❖ **Afghan crochet**

Afghan crochet is one of the best-known and most widespread processes. There are numerous techniques to make it, ranging from the simplest, suitable for beginners to the most complex. It is a process that lends itself to the creation of scarves and shawls; in fact, the name derives from the materials coming from Afghanistan, whose composition is very similar to that of the shawls used in the country. In addition to being a perfect technique for scarves, Afghan crochet also lends itself to the creation of original quilts of the most varied colors.

If crochet is becoming your passion and you need to give a friend a gift, a scarf knitted with the Afghan crochet technique could be the solution to your problems!

On the web, there are many ideas and projects on this technique, being amongst the most popular and simple to implement. Furthermore, Afghan crochet is extremely versatile: in addition to being able to use the colors you like best, you can choose to use combinations of a few stitches or opt for something more complex. Its advantage lies precisely in the points used; to be able to do it, you just need to know the basic stitches: chain stitch, single crochet, and double crochet. If your goal is to give way to

your imagination, Afghan crochet is what you are looking for. Remember, the more you practice, the more you will be able to explore with your creations.

Amongst the options available, if you don't intend to throw yourself into a project that is too large, you could start with a doily square, which you could use to decorate a blanket.



- **What you can create with Afghan crochet**

As we said before, Afghan crochet is simple, so it can be learned quickly, even by beginners.

What mainly distinguishes this motif is the multitude of colors used to make it. For this reason, the final products are very lively and cheerful and can be used as a gift for all ages.



Another feature is that Afghan quilts often have a central subject, such as a national flag or floral arrangements.

If you are a beginner among the various crochet techniques used in this field, you could opt for a striped pattern - a quick and easy idea.

Consider that, even in this type of work, the choice of yarn has its importance: according to the thickness and type of fabric, the work will be softer, more elastic, or stiffer; you can choose between cotton, wool, twine, and so on.

- **Tunisian crochet**

This is a curious topic since it is not a proper technique; if you are a crochet enthusiast, you will have heard of it.

Tunisian crochet represents a cross between knitting and old-fashioned crochet. What distinguishes it from classic crochet is its size. In fact, it is longer than classic crochet; the size is reminiscent of that of the needles used for knitting.

Tunisian crochet hooks are classified into two categories: the rigid ones and the more flexible ones. The latter are often used and have a screw joint between cable and hook, an element that guarantees greater flexibility.

Tunisian crochet also presents a further difference in processing compared to classic crochet; in this case, the work takes place on one side only; therefore, it does not foresee a straight and a purl, as happens for example for knitting. Although different from what we have described previously, the presence of only one side allows you to keep an eye more easily on the progress of the work.



But that's not all: working with Tunisian crochet will allow you to create an even more resistant fabric, ideal for blankets and sweatshirts. The fabric will be more adherent and with a denser weave, consisting of fewer holes.

How to make Tunisian crochet

As mentioned above, the Tunisian crochet technique is a cross between classic crochet and knitting, both for the type of tool used (a much longer hook) and for the technique used.

If you intend to give this technique a try, you can also try classic crochet; in case the technique is not for you, you will avoid spending unnecessary money on crochet that you will not use.

Let's see the steps together.



Execution scheme

- Round trip: create a chain, insert the crochet hook in the penultimate one and extract the thread.
- Next, insert the hook in the next chain and extract the thread.
- Repeat the same step for the entire row of chain stitches.
- Return loop: throw the yarn, pass the hook through the first stitch on the left.
- Throw the yarn again, and pass the hook through the first two stitches on the left.
- Continue until the end of the lap, always taking two points (only at the beginning if you take one).
- From this, you will have obtained the basis for making the actual Tunisian stitch.

- Create a chain, skip the first vertical thread and insert the hook in the second.
- Discard the thread and pull it out.
- Insert the crochet hook into the next vertical thread and repeat the previous step until the end.
- Return loop: throw the yarn, pass the hook through the first stitch on the left.
- Throw the yarn again, and pass it through the first two stitches on the left.

Basically, these two round trips are constantly repeated to obtain the Tunisian crochet technique. The result will be quite compact, compared to the other jobs you usually dedicate yourself to. If you don't like the effect, you can always opt for different crochet.

- **Granny square or granny tiles**





The granny square technique is particularly used and is widespread in the world of crochet; over the years, the projects available on the web-based on this technique have multiplied!

Basically, the granny square consists of a square crocheted using a round knitting technique that takes place from the center outwards.

It is a process that was particularly fashionable in the 1970s, mainly used for the creation of very colorful blankets; the appearance is that of a somewhat coarse lace.

Nowadays, the granny square technique is widely used and is not limited exclusively to the creation of blankets, but bags, purses, tablecloths, and so on.

As for the type of yarn, you can choose to use both cotton, wool, and acrylic; the yarn often varies according to the project, so you can choose to use the one you like best.

The main element of this process lies in the variety of colors: the more your tiles are colored, the more your creations will appear lively and personalized.

Another feature that should not be underestimated lies in the type of stitches used: aesthetically, the grandmother's tiles may be complex, but in reality, they are not at all. In fact, the stitches that characterize it are exactly the basic stitches that beginners learn when they begin to devote themselves to the art of crochet: chain stitch, slip stitch, single stitch, and double stitch.

- **Triangle stitch: quick and easy**

The art of crochet, thanks to the myriad of stitches available, allows you to vary your designs in each process, giving you the possibility of obtaining original, easy, and personalized creations with the use of a few basic stitches.

This sums up the triangle stitch, whose design does not require particular effort, and the result is aesthetically very particular; you can use this point on every creation, such as doilies, covers, placemats, coasters, and so on. To make it, you will need to use the following points: single and double crochets interspersed with chain stitches.



Execution scheme

- Start a number of chains divisible by 4.
- Row 1: create 3 chain stitches (useful for replacing the first double crochet) and make 1 double crochet for each basic chain stitch.

- Row 2: create 1 chain stitch, 1 single crochet on the first stitch below, and 3 chain stitches.
- Skip 3 base stitches and create single crochet in the next stitch.
- Row 3: make chains 3 and 3 double crochet in the first stitch below.
- In the single crochet following the 3-chain stitch arch, make 1 single crochet, 3 chain stitches, and 3 double crochets, all in the same stitch.
- Repeat the previous step for the entire row.
- Row 4: make 6 chain stitches, of which 3 chain stitches replace the first double crochet and 3 for the headband.
- Make single crochet over the third chain of the triangle below, 3 chain stitches, and again 1 single crochet on the third chain of the next triangle.
- Repeat the previous step for the entire row and close it with 1 single crochet on the last triangle.
- As the last step, repeat the pattern in row 1 until you reach the height you want.

As you have seen, the triangle stitch is made up of a few repetitive steps; once you have memorized and become familiar with the mechanism, you can easily complete your work. At this point, the only thing left to do is choose the creation on which you will apply the stitch you have just learned!

Ten tips to become experts in the art of crochet

In the previous chapter, you got to know a series of stitches commonly used in crochet. In case you want to deepen this art, always trying new stitches and new creations; there are several tips below that will be useful for you to become a real expert!

1. If you do not have enough time available because you are too busy taking care of the housework and being a mother, fear not, there is a solution! Since crochet is suitable for all ages, you may decide to teach this fun hobby to your young children; you can start with how to hold the crochet, how to tie a knot, and so on, a series of simple operations that will keep them busy, and at the same time, allow you to practice.
2. If you often find it difficult to wind the thread, you could use a very simple method which consists of winding the thread on two fingers. Continue to wind it up to form a real ball; when the latter has become large enough, remove your fingers and continue winding the remaining thread.
3. Do not combine two different types of yarn. Let's start with the fact that, if washed, the yarns have different drying times (as in the case of cotton and acrylic), and you could run the risk of the work being deformed. Furthermore, at the end of the work, there is a high probability that the difference between one yarn and the other may be noticed, making the result unpleasant.



4. If you are a beginner and you stop working for any reason (work reasons, housework, etc.), remember to use point stops; these will allow you to resume work from the exact point where you started it without creating confusion.

5. As you do the work, mark the points you used on post-its, especially if they are different from those proposed in the diagram. In this way, at the end of the processing, you will be able to identify all the steps carried out and use the same steps for another project.

6. When you have finished the first round, and you are about to start a new one, always perform a back chain; in this way, your work will be clean, without creating any confusion.

7. This suggestion is somehow related to point 4; in the event that you do not have available stitches or pins, you could use a thread of a different color and secure it with a knot, which you can untie at the end of the work; the color contrast will allow you to easily locate the exact spot.

8. If you are working on a project that requires the use of two different colors from the beginning, do not continually break the thread when you have to alternate the color or start a new round; rather, start immediately with the use of two threads, alternating them on the crochet hook.

9. Despite being a beginner, don't limit yourself to using just one crochet hook; this choice could both break your creativity and



limit the number of creations you could get. The materials for this technique are available at very low prices, so to start, buy at least 2 or 3 crochet hooks so that you can alternate and vary the creations you have in mind.

10. The same argument as in point 9 applies to the use of yarns. On the market, there are numerous yarns available: from cotton to wool up to acrylic. The ideal way to test your skills and competencies is to try your work with different types of yarn. In doing so, you will be able to understand which yarn is right for you, what results you will be able to achieve, and so on.

The 5 most common mistakes when crocheting

When you approach the world of crochet for the first time, you will inevitably fall back amongst the most common mistakes, but don't worry. We all make mistakes when starting a new business, so to avoid getting discouraged, just follow the series of tips that I have listed below, to understand what to do in certain situations.

1. **You have stretched the thread too much.** Initially, you may not have the right manual skills yet, so you may keep the thread too taut; as a result, the work could be in danger of slipping off. When you take the hook in your hand, always try to keep an eye on the position of your hand and the tension of the thread. With a few tricks, you will get used to your gestures so that the work does not end.
2. **You have forgotten the chain for the change round.** If you are a beginner, there is the possibility that you may not realize this immediately; however, if you forget the chain for the row change, you risk losing sight of the starting point for the row. In this case, the ideal solution to keep in mind is to always create one or more stitches at the beginning of the row. You could also use a stitch marker, which will help you figure out where to work the next row.
3. **Uneven edges.** This mistake is somehow made in step 2. Uneven edges arise when all the stitches are not worked correctly in succession and forgetting to add the return chain.
4. **The crochet is the wrong size.** In this case, it is not a real mistake; when you are just starting out, you may use a



crochet hook of the wrong thickness, and this will affect the size and shape of the work. The advice is to follow what is written on the ball's label; in this case, you will be able to better orient yourself on the right measure.

5. **Fear of trying new stitches.** Often, for fear of ruining the work, we tend to use the stitches with which we are most familiar without risking something new. However, there is a solution to this too: if you don't want to take any chances, you could make a series of test models so that you don't have to undo the main work in case you make mistakes.



Chapter 6

Crochet projects for beginners

Projects for beginners: ideas

In the course of this manual, we have dealt with a whole series of useful topics to ensure that you deepen the theoretical part concerning the art of crochet. Now is the time to put what you have learned into practice!

A question that beginners often ask themselves is: "and now what do I work on?"

The comeback of crochet art has made it possible for an increasing number of projects to spread on the web; moreover, especially during this year, we had to spend most of our time at home, and we often found ourselves running out of ideas. I propose below a list of ideas for beginners from which to take inspiration, in case you do not know where to start. Keep in mind that you will be able to work on these projects using either cotton yarn or if you prefer, wool yarn.

- **Rectangular or square potholders.** The potholders can be made using just the single crochet stitch, or, if you prefer, you could combine the series of stitches you know. Moreover, if



you aim to make your project more imaginative, you could opt for the use of more colors.

- **You colored cup warmers.** These are simple crochet rectangles that you can choose to decorate as you like, both with the use of some decorative stitch (such as those we mentioned earlier) and with the addition of buttons, colored edges, and so on.

- **Dishcloths.** Just as you would for a cloth or a napkin, you can use the same type of design process required for a potholder. Clearly, the number of stitches and turns will change according to the size you have in mind.

- **Baby blankets.** The covers can be made with the use of stitches such as single crochet, double crochet, or a combination of both; if you want to make the cover more personalized, you could choose to use the lace stitch.

- **Bracelets.** The bracelets require very simple and fast processing based on the single crochet; in a short time, you could create something for yourself or a gift for a friend.

- **Plates or coasters.** These can always be made with the use of the single crochet; alternatively, you could divide them into two semicircles and work one part with an openwork stitch and the other with the chain stitch.

- **Pincushion.** As it is square in shape, we are talking about a very quick and simple project. You can make it by working a series of back-and-forth lines, later decorating it with some ribbon or buttons.



After taking a look at the list, below is a series of projects for beginners, accompanied by the relevant scheme and explanation. You can immediately get to work, following the steps, step by step.

Are you ready?

Project # 01 - Crochet fish

It is a colorful, original, and above all, simple project since it is made with the union of several single crochets. You can choose to stuff it with scented substances or simply hang it in the house where you like best and use it as a decorative element.



Materials to make it

- 3 balls of pink, blue, and light blue, 1.7oz. each of Rowal Purelife Revive (or those you find available on the market).
- 0.14in crochet hook.

Execution scheme

- Create 6 single crochets in the buttonhole with pink yarn.
- Create 1 single crochet in each of the following 2 single crochets; again, 1 single crochet in each of the following 2 single crochets; 2 single crochets in the next single crochet; repeat once from "to."
- Create 1 single crochet in each of the following 3 single crochets; then, 2 single crochets in the next single crochet, and repeat once from "to."
- Create 1 single crochet in each of the 4 single crochets, 2 single crochets in the next single crochet, and repeat once from "to."
- Create 1 single crochet in each of the next 5 single crochets, 2 single crochets in the next single crochet, repeat once from "to."
- Create 1 single crochet in each of the next 6 single crochets, 2 single crochets in the next single crochet, repeat once from "to."
- Create 1 single crochet in each of the next 7 single crochets, 2 single crochets in the next single crochet, repeat once from "to."

- Create 1 single crochet in each of the following 8 single crochets, 2 single crochets in the next single crochet, repeat once from "to."
- Create 1 single crochet in each of the next 9 single crochets, 2 single crochets in the next single crochet, repeat once from "to."
- Repeat this step 2 more times, adding a stitch to the first step of each step.
- Create 1 single crochet in each of the following single crochet with increases on the tenth and twentieth.
- Repeat the previous step.
- Create 1 single crochet in each of the following single crochet with an increase on 15th and 30th stitch.
- Repeat the previous step.
- 1 single crochet in every single crochet 34.
- 1 single crochet in every single crochet but with blue yarn.
- 1 single crochet in every single crochet but with green yarn.
- 15 single crochet + 1 single crochet in the next 2 single crochets (dim), repeat once from "to."
- 14 single crochets + 1 single crochet in the next 2 single crochets, repeat 1 time from "to."
- Repeat the previous step 4 times, always decreasing one stitch in the first step (from 14 single crochets to 13, and so on).
- 8 single crochets + 1 in the next 2 single crochets, repeat 1 time from "to."
- 7 single crochets + 1 in the next 2 single crochets, repeat once from "to."

- 6 single crochets + 1 in the next 2 single crochets, repeat once from "to."
- Repeat the previous step 2 times, decreasing by one stitch in the first step.
- 8 single crochets + 1 in the next 2 single crochets, repeat 1 time from "to."
- Repeat the previous step 4 more times, always decreasing by one stitch in the first step.
- 1 double crochet in each of the single crochets of the previous round + 1 slip stitch.
- 1 double crochet in each of the single crochets of the previous round + 1 slip stitch.
- 23 double crochets + 1 single crochet + 23 double crochet + 1 single crochet with blue yarn.
- 23 double crochets + 1 chain stitch.

As you can see, the steps to take are different, but do not worry: as you take a step, you will realize that you will acquire more and more manual skills: it is more difficult to say than to do!

Pattern for the tail



The first thing you will need to do in order to make the tail is to make two triangles of the same size. Using the single crochet, start and finish each round with a decrease. Subsequently:

- Turn your work around and focus on working on the stitches you just got.
- On each round, make sc in the next 2 sc (dec) and 1 sc for each sc of the previous round, except the last 2 where 1 sc is done in the next 2 sc (decrease) + 1 chain stitch.
- Turn the work over again and resume working on the sc just obtained.
- Finish the tail with a round of single crochet (optional).

Finally, as mentioned above, there is so much you can use your crochet fish for! You could choose to give it as a gift and put some sweets inside or fill it with scented substances. The choice is yours!

Project # 02 - Smartphone cover

Nowadays, the smartphone can be said to represent an extension of our arm. We always have it in hand, and we use it for anything: reading a book, looking for information, watching a movie, or simply maintaining social relationships.

For this reason, I thought of designing a process to make a cover could be both useful and original; you can both keep your smartphone in excellent condition and, if you are short of ideas, choose to give your personalized protection to a friend who has just purchased a new model.

The procedure is based exclusively on the use of basic stitches (such as chain stitch and single crochet), so you will not need in-depth knowledge to bring your creation to life.



Materials and tools for making

- 1 ball of wool in the color of your choice
- Medium thickness crochet hook (an n° 3 can go)
- Velcro

Execution scheme

- Measure the size, width, and length of your smartphone.
- Make a series of rows of chains according to the size of the phone.
- Make a single crochet in each chain, always skipping the chain closest to the hook.
- Once you have reached the end of the chain stitch series, make a single crochet in every single crochet obtained.
- During these steps, never turn in the work.
- After a few laps, try to insert the phone into the "basin" you just obtained in order to make sure you have taken the measurements correctly.
- Continue doing a few more laps until you overtake your smartphone by a lap or two.
- Work up to about half a round, chain, and turn the piece.
- Make three single crochets.
- Make a chain stitch, turn the work again and create three single crochets over the previous ones, to form the closing strap.

- Sew a small piece of Velcro onto the lanyard and pouch you just made.





Since I am giving you a wealth of information regarding beginner projects, it is important that you consider another tip in case you decide to use more colors for your cover. Once you have made the cut after the closing knot, leave about 2/4in of thread. You will use the latter as a refresher of the work, with the help of a wool needle dyed on dye.

Project # 03 - Flowers with pointed petals

If you would like to decorate your home with something delicate, original, and colorful, this is definitely the project for you. These are small flower-shaped decorations, which have the particularity of pointed petals, an element that makes them similar to small stars. Plus, it will only take you 5 minutes to make them!



Materials and tools for making

- Crochet n ° 2.5
- Cotton yarn



You don't need to use these two tools; the tools listed tools are being used as a reference to the project; you might choose to go for wool yarn and thicker crochet.

Execution scheme

- Make a starter chain consisting of 5 chain stitches.

First round:

- Make a chain stitch and 10 single crochets in the circle.
- Close the round with a slip stitch in the chain stitch at the beginning of the round.

Second round:

- Make 1 chain stitch and 1 single crochet in the single crochet below.
- Make 5 chain stitches and 1 single crochet in the same single crochet below.
- Make 1 chain stitch and skip the single crochet below.
- Repeat the steps until the end of the second round.
- Close with a slip stitch in the chain at the beginning of the round.
- When finished, you must have obtained 6 rows.



Third round. Work in each row with the following procedure:

- Make 1 single crochet, 1 half double crochet, 3 double crochet, 1 pin.
- Make 3 chain stitches and single crochet in the first chain stitch.
- Proceed in each row with 3 double crochets, 1 half double crochet, 1 single crochet.
- Continue with the same procedure for each row.
- Close the round with slip stitch and finish the work.
- Hide the thread between the stitches.

As you have seen, only three turns are needed to make this beautiful and original six-pointed flower; in a short time, you will be able to see your work finished.

At your choice, you can later decide whether to starch it or not.

Project # 04 - Neck warmer

Among the projects in this manual, something warm and enveloping could not be missing, especially something easily achievable by those who are beginners. It is a warm and enveloping crochet neck warmer; to make it, you will need to use only two of the basic stitches: chain stitch and single crochet.

Dimensions of the work: 27x15,7in

Non-sewn neck warmer: 55x15,7in

Remember to keep in mind that the chains must be multiples of 4 + 2 in order to be able to turn the work easily. In this case, 62 chains were used; therefore, 60, which is a multiple of 4 plus two additional chains; however, this depends on the size, and especially the length you want to achieve for your neck warmer. Keep this count in mind, and remember to add two chain stitches when you are starting the first round.

Materials and tools for making

- Crochet n ° 15
- 7oz. wool yarn (alternatively, the wool yarn you have available)
- Wool needle



Execution scheme

After you have made the 62 stitches, follow the steps described here.

First-round

- Skip a chain stitch and create single crochet in the next chain stitch.
- Work on five chain stitches, skip three basic chain stitches, and work 1 single crochet in the fourth chain stitch.
- Repeat the previous step until the end of the chain stitches.
- Chain 5 and turn the piece.



Second round

- Work 1 single crochet in the arch of the 5 underlying chains.
- Make 5 chain stitches.
- Repeat the first step until the end of the round.
- Continue the work by repeating the steps of the second round.

When the height of the work reaches about 16in, stop and cut the thread, leaving about 16in of thread; you will need this to close the two ends of the neck warmer. Use a wool needle to sew the two ends together.

As I mentioned earlier, it is a simple process. It takes its time, but the knowledge of the basic points will be enough for you to make your neck warmer. What are you waiting for now?

Project # 05 - American placemat

This type of processing could be very useful, especially if, for social or work commitments, you always have lunch on the fly and in a hurry. Plus, if you're having lunch in the office, you might want to show off your handmade placemat to your colleagues.

If you are struggling with your first projects and fear that your creation may end in failure, you have nothing to worry about: the American crochet placemat is really quick and easy.

In addition, the knitting will require some really simple stitches: single crochet, half double crochet, and, at your discretion, the shrimp stitch, which we talked about earlier.



Materials and tools for making

- Crochet n ° 3
- Twisted cotton yarn, 2 colors (your choice)

Execution scheme

- Make 82 chain stitches.

First-round

- Skip 3 chain stitches and, starting from the fourth, make 1 half double crochet for each chain below until you get 79 half double stitches.
- At the end of the round, you will have 80 chain stitches, including the 3 initials.
- Make 2 chain stitches and turn the work.

Second round

- Create 79 half double crochet for each half double crochet underneath.
- Proceed to the end with the half double crochet.
- Chain 2 before turning the piece.
- Next, work on round-trip lines until you get 38 lines.
- When finished, break the thread.
- Start over with the thread of the second color, which you will need to make the border.

Edging of the placemat with shrimp stitch

- On the long sides of the placemat, work single crochet creating single crochet for each underlying stitch.
- On the short sides, create two single crochets corresponding to the height of each round.
- After the single crochet part, proceed with the shrimp stitch.
- On the long sides, make a shrimp stitch for every single crochet underneath.
- On the short sides, make three shrimp stitches instead, skipping the fourth single crochet (3 stitches with shrimp stitch, one not).
- Cut the thread, secure it with a knot and hide the rest between the stitches.

Once you have acquired the manual skills for this procedure, you can make all the placemats you want, and with all the colors you like best. You can also choose to invite your friends and share your creations with them.

Project # 06 - Kitchen potholders

There are never too many accessories in the kitchen: we use potholders, tea towels, aprons, and so on every day.

If you want to give a more original and colorful touch to what you already own, this could be the right project for you; easy, fast, and beautiful to display.

But that's not all: crochet kitchen potholders could be a fantastic handmade gift, especially to a friend who has just moved into a new house!



Materials and tools for making

- Crochet n ° 7
- The wool yarn of your choice, in any color

Scheme for the execution of the square model

- Begin the work by creating 12 chain stitches.
- Create single crochet in each stitch for 15 rounds.
- At the end of each round, make a chain and turn the piece.
- Every 5 rounds, resume work with a different colored yarn.
- For finishing, create a border for the potholder with the single crochet.
- Add a series of 12 chain stitches.
- When the series is finished, hide the yarn between the stitches.

Scheme for the execution of the round model

If you want to dedicate yourself to making a more challenging potholder, you could opt for the creation of two circular potholders, which are then joined and finished. Take a look at the diagram below.

- Start by creating 3 chains and close the circle.
- First round: chain 3 and double crochet.
- Work 13 chain stitches in the same way as described in the previous step.

- Second round: chain 3 and create 2 double crochets for each stitch.
- Third round: create 3 chain stitches, two double crochets, and a chain stitch.
- For the following stitches, repeat the sequence consisting of 2 double crochets and a chain stitch.
- Fourth round: chain 3. Work with 2 double crochets and a chain stitch all the way around until finished.
- Fifth round: create 3 chain stitches and double crochet, 2 double crochet in the next stitch, and 1 chain stitch until the round is complete.
- Sixth-round: form 3 chain stitches and work two double crochets, 2 double crochets, and 2 chain stitches in the same stitch.
- For each round, close with a slip stitch in the third stitch.

Once you have two round potholders, overlap them and put them together with the following steps: 5 double crochets, 2 chain stitches, single crochet on the hole, and 2 chain stitches.

I thought of describing both projects because, although they are dedicated to beginners, the second is a bit more challenging. However, the usual argument of commitment, patience, and dexterity applies and will allow you to expand on the range of projects available.

Project # 07 - Seamless Poncho

The poncho that you can make with this pattern consists of something really simple: let's start with the fact that it does not have seams, which is an element that will make processing easier. Moreover, you can choose the size you prefer since the work will grow as you proceed.

In this case, two different colored wool yarns were used for the design, precisely 250 g of beige and 150 g of black yarn. If you don't like the combination of these two colors, you can choose the colors you prefer. Another element that makes this process extremely simple lies in the use of basic stitches: chain stitch, single crochet, and double crochet, and, in rare cases, the very slip stitch.



Materials and tools for the design:

- Crochet n ° 3
- Scissors
- Wool needle
- Mark points

Execution scheme

For the neck:

- With the black wool yarn, make 103 chain stitches.
- Starting with crochet, skip the first 3 chain stitches.
- From the 4th chain stitch, work 1 double crochet in each stitch below to the end.
- Then make 3 chain stitches, which will replace the double crochet.
- Turn the piece and make a round of double crochet to the end, but in the back rib (therefore, work on the outer rib).
- Alternate one round of double crochets and one round of back rib for a total of 7 rounds.
- Fold the piece in half, closing the side with a series of slip stitches.
- Make a series of single crochets in the lower part of the work, and mark the beginning of the round with a stitch holder.
- Next, he creates 2 single crochets in each stitch.
- Close the round with a slip stitch.

- Create 3 chain stitches, 2 double crochets, and another chain stitch.
- Skip 1 base stitch and create 3 double crochets + 1 chain stitch; continue with these steps throughout the tour.
- At the end of the round, chain 1 and close with a slip stitch in the third of the 3 chain stitches made at the beginning.
- Cut the thread.

After finishing, put a stitch holder in the row you just got; then, count the rows and divide the total number in half; place another stitch holder. This way, you will have divided the work exactly in half.

The next step is to identify the points where you have positioned the different stitch holders; make the increase by creating 3 double crochets, 1 chain stitch, and 3 other double crochets, working all the stitches in the same row.

- Using the beige thread, hook the thread into the first stitch holder you placed.
- Make the first increase in the middle: create 3 double crochets, the first of which will be replaced by 3 chain stitches. You will complete the increase at the end of the lap.
- When you reach the stitch holder, create 3 double crochets, 1 chain stitch, and 3 double crochets, working all the stitches on the same band.
- Work the side part following the steps described in the diagram above.

- Once you have reached the first stitch holder, enter the headband and create 3 double crochets and 1 chain stitch.
- Close the round with a slip stitch in the third of the 3 chain stitches made at the beginning.
- Repeat this pattern for all the turns until you reach the desired size.

In total, for example, if your work consists of 30 rounds, you will have to alternate 6 beige and 2 black rounds in order to create the right color contrast.

For the edge:

- Take the black yarn and start knitting from one of the two corners.
- For each round, work on the corner halfway, finishing the machining at the end of the round.
- Make a round of single crochet.
- Make 3 chain stitches, 4 double crochet, 2 chain stitches.
- From the next round, make 5 double crochets.
- Skip 2 stitches and repeat the group of stitches just described (3 ch, 5 dc, 2 ch) until the end of the round.
- Make 3 chain stitches, enter the 2-chain stitch arch and create 10 double crochets plus 1 single crochet in the space between one group and another.
- Make 3 chain stitches, enter the next group and repeat the double crochet sequence.
- Take the beige yarn and work from the wrong side.
- Hook the thread in the chain that precedes the fan.

- 
- Create 5 raised chain stitches on the fan stitch.
 - Next, make 2 chain stitches and 5 high stitches in relief, but on the front.
 - Work the remaining number of fans with this procedure.

This way, you will finally have your own seamless poncho! You can choose to wear it in the cold winter months or decide to give it to a friend for some occasion.

Project # 08 - Decorative buttons

If you are a button lover, keep in mind that it is possible to obtain decorative and personalized buttons in any way. However, if crochet is becoming your passion, there is a quick and easy way to make them in less than 5 minutes!

The processing requires only a basic stitch, the single crochet, and the creation of the magic ring: nothing could be simpler!



Tools and materials for the realization

- Cotton yarn of your choice (any color)
- Medium thickness crochet hook (e.g., n ° 5)

Keep in mind that buttons require a certain rigidity to be used properly, so to get this, simply double the thread during processing.

Execution scheme

- Create a magic ring (if you don't remember the procedure, you will find the steps at the beginning of the book).
- Make the first round with 6 single crochets.
- Next, close the single crochet with a slip stitch.
- Always make the second round with the single crochet stitch, inserting an increase for each stitch of the previous round.
- In this way, you will get 12 total single crochets.
- Close the round again with a slip stitch.
- The third and final turn of the button is the finishing. You can make it both with a slip stitch and with the shrimp stitch without making increases. Once you have completed the round, hide the threads on the back of the button.
- Earlier I mentioned the rigidity of the button; in addition to the use of double thread, to obtain a rigid button that is as similar as possible to a real button, you can rely on these suggestions:
- For this type of processing, cotton is the ideal yarn, being more resistant and less elastic than wool; alternatively, you can choose to use double thread.
- Use a slightly smaller crochet hook than what you would usually use for thick yarn, and keep an eye on the thread tension; it is important that the thread is not slack.

Project # 09 - Amigurumi Strawberry

Amigurumi is the so-called crochet "puppets." Especially since crochet has come back into fashion in recent years, there are more and more projects available on the web.

This project consists of the creation of a small strawberry, a process that is perfectly suited to those who are beginners.

On the net, you will be able to find more complex schemes to execute; however, if this is one of your first experiences in the world of crochet, aiming for a pattern based on a complex project may put you off, which is why I always recommend that beginners start with something easier.

Also, in this case, the best known and most popular stitches will be used: single crochet and very low crochet.



Materials and tools for making

- Crochet n ° 3
- Red wool yarn
- Green wool yarn
- Row wadding

Scheme for the execution of the strawberry body

- Create a magic ring of 4 single crochets.
- Close it with a slip stitch.
- First round: increase and single crochet.
- Repeat the previous step 3 times for 6 single crochets.
- Second round: increase and single crochet.
- Repeat the previous step 3 times for 9 single crochets.
- Third round: single crochet in each stitch for 9 single crochets.
- Fourth round: make an increase and two single crochets.
- Repeat the previous step 3 times for 12 single crochets.
- Fifth round: single crochet for each stitch, for 12 single crochets.
- Sixth-round: make an increase and 3 single crochets.
- Repeat the previous step three times for 15 single crochets.
- Seventh round: single crochet for each stitch, for 15 single crochets.
- Eighth round: make an increase and 4 single crochets.
- Repeat the previous step 3 times for 18 single crochets.
- Ninth round: Make an increase and 5 single crochets.
- Repeat the previous step three times for 21 single crochets.

- 10th round: decrease and single crochet.
- Repeat the previous step 7 times for 14 single crochets.
- Stuff the strawberry's body with synthetic wadding.
- Eleventh round: decrease for every single crochet.
- Repeat the previous step 7 times for 7 single crochets.

Processing the stalk of the strawberry

- Create a magic ring consisting of 6 single crochets.
- Then close it with a slip stitch.
- First round: create 4 chain stitches and go back with 4 single crochets.
- Close the base round with a slip stitch.
- Carry out the same procedure for all 5 tips of the stem.
- Close the sixth stitch with a slip stitch.

You may also choose to hang up the strawberry. In this case, just create a chain row with the green yarn. Finally, add the strawberry stalk with a needle and thread.

Project # 10 - Crochet tiles

Crochet tiles are a very common process in this field; they are decorative, particular, and suitable for the creation of personalized covers. In particular, the “granny square” or grandmother's technique is used to create the tiles, which I mentioned earlier in the description of the decorative stitches.

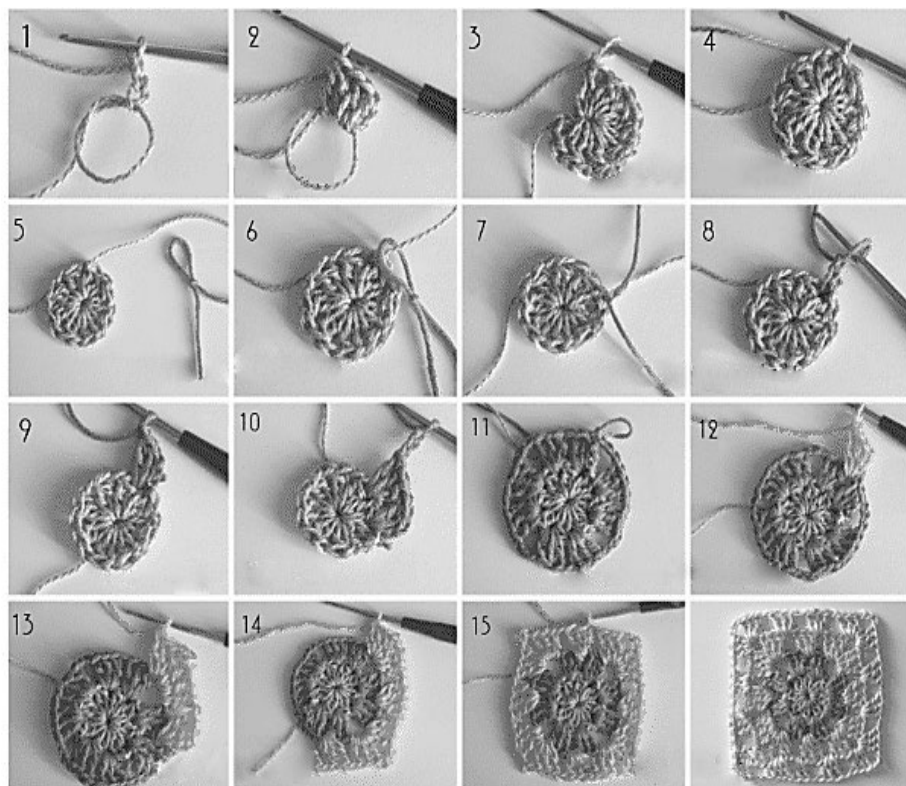
In this project, the tiles were made with cotton yarn, but you can choose to use wool as an alternative as well. They are suitable for beginners and can be made in many ways, thanks to the combination of different colors. Crochet tiles are suitable for decorating covers but can also be used for the creation of potholders, pillows, and scarves.



Execution scheme

- Work for a magic circle by rolling the yarn over your fingers.
- Work on it by creating 3 chain stitches, useful for replacing the double crochet.
- Then create 1 double crochet, 1 chain stitch, and 2 double crochet.
- Continue creating 1 chain stitch and 2 double crochets 8 times.
- Close the round with a slip stitch.
- Cut the thread leaving about 2in.
- Take the thread of the other color and make a noose knot.
- Insert the noose knot inside the thread cut in the previous round.
- Tighten the noose knot until the end, make sure it is tight and leave the threads on the back of the tile (you will cut them at the end of work).
- Make 3 chains in the small chain of the first round.
- Create 2 double crochets; joined to the 3 chains, they will become 3 double crochets.
- Make 1 chain stitch and 3 other treble crochets in the next chain stitch, precisely in the row.
- Enter the third color and repeat the step you used for the previous color.
- Position yourself on the chain-link of the previous round and make 3 double crochets and 1 chain stitch.
- Move-in the row by going back 3 chains.

- Make 3 double crochets, 3 chain stitches, and 3 double crochets in the same row.
- Continue with the next arch and make 3 double crochets and 1 chain stitch.
- Repeat the previous step until the end of the round.



After completing this, you will have completed your first tile. At this point, you can decide to cut the thread and create other tiles with the same steps (described above) or continue with the rounds until you get the size you prefer.

To join the tiles, you can use a needle and thread or use a slip stitch at the end of the work.



Chapter 7

Preservation of crochet tools and creations

If, with the passage of time as a beginner, you become a real expert, you will realize that you will tend to accumulate more and more material, both in terms of yarn and the number of crochet hooks available.

For this reason, it is essential that you take a look at the tips below, which will allow you to preserve both your tools and your creations in the best possible way.

- **Tip 1.** If you are immersed in granny square knitting and want to make a blanket, you will need time. This requires that you store your squares of fabric in the best possible way: put each square in sealed plastic bags, mark in a notepad how many you have made so that it can correctly calculate the total number of squares you need.
- **Tip 2.** Unfortunately, balls and yarns tend to tangle. To prevent this from happening, store them in a plastic container with a slot;



you can pass the thread through the latter during processing, and your yarns will remain in order.

- **Tip 3.** If you're doing multiple projects at the same time, use sticky notes to write the name of each job so as not to create confusion. In addition, to preserve your yarns in the best way, you can stick a piece of adhesive tape in each one, so that the balls retain their scent and can prevent static electricity.

- **Tip 4.** Use a special container to store your projects. As for crochet hooks, you could recycle a pencil holder to hold your hooks, measuring tape, scissors, any wool needles, and so on.

- **Tip 5.** Remember never to throw away the labels that contain information on the ball, such as name, weight, type, and so on; they might come in handy in case you need to buy similar yarns.

- **Tip 6.** Another possibility that often occurs is that the yarn may come off during processing, especially if cheap fabrics are used. To avoid this risk, always try to point the crochet upwards whilst working.

- **Tip 7.** Stitch pins are a fundamental tool that every beginner must always have at hand; they come in handy when, for any reason, you have to stop working. If you don't have stitch holders, you can use hairpins, safety pins, or a paper clip as a substitute, possibly of a different color than the yarn. This way, you will be able to more easily locate where you left off work.

Conclusions

Now that you have come to the end of this manual, you will surely have an idea about the world of crochet and its main features.

You have had the opportunity to discover the origins of this ancient art and, above all, its comeback, thanks to its widespread appearance on the web. In fact, the latter has ensured that a hobby considered by many to be "grandmother's," backward and boring, has instead become fashionable and considered as a trendy and relaxing pastime, or even in some cases, a profession.

Within the guide, you have had the opportunity to learn the fundamental points. Although it is a guide for beginners, having additional information on elements such as decorative stitches can always be useful in case you decide to deepen this technique and dedicate yourself to your creations with all of yourself. Furthermore, being a beginner, I felt that providing a list of suggestions for the processing and conservation of materials could be useful for you. Whoever enters the crochet world for the first time will inevitably make mistakes; if these mistakes can be avoided, your work will be easier and smoother.

However, always keep one thing in mind: mistakes, in the beginning, are normal and above all very common, so this should not discourage you. The same rule of constancy, patience, and



desire apply and will allow you to make your projects better and better.

A further advantage of the spread of crochet lies in the material that you can find online: the guide contains photos of the projects and diagrams with all the steps to refer to. However, should you encounter any difficulties, you can search the web for many tutorials whose visual explanation will facilitate the process.

When you get ready to start your first creations, remember to keep in mind the fundamental tips, which will immediately reflect on the result of your work: always keep an eye on the way you hold the thread so that it is neither too tight nor too loose. Medium thickness crochet hooks are the most suitable for beginners, whilst the simplest yarn to work is wool, compared to cotton, which remains more rigid; and, as I mentioned earlier, if you think wool is too expensive, you can always choose an acrylic.

Also, remember to memorize the terminology and abbreviations: you will always find them in the projects proposed in any blog. It is not necessary to know the secondary terminology, but it is essential to know the terms related to the fundamental basis points of turning the work, increases, decreases, and so on. This way, you will be able to carry out any project with ease.

Having said that, you just have to start your creations! To get started, you could choose from the projects available in the last chapter of the book. As you have seen, these are easy projects, with some quite fast and requiring the use of basic points (and a few others). In some, there are some decorative stitches, such as the shrimp stitch, but don't worry: start from the fact that you can

A decorative border at the top of the page featuring a repeating pattern of blue leaves and stars on a light blue background.

always choose which stitches to use; also, if you have any doubts about the steps, you can take a look at the dedicated chapters.



Good fun !



Basics Of Easy Knitting For Beginners

*The ultimate guide to essential knitting
techniques with clear instructions and
illustrations + many DIY project ideas.*

Rachel Mullins



Introduction

This book is aimed at all the people entering the world of knitting for the first time and to all those who, despite never having picked up knitting needles or balls, wish to create an object for themselves or as a gift. In this guide, we will teach you how to knit in a simple and effective way, to gradually acquire autonomy and familiarity, so to speak, with the tools of the trade!

Taking this short course means learning the art and secrets of knitting, but it also means becoming more attentive knitwear buyers. It means acquiring a skill that we can take with us on vacation in moments of relaxation or help us relax after a tiring day. Finally, it is a hobby that we can share with our children and even with our friends. Knitting is a leisure activity that we can do in the company or in solitude. You could also put your manual skills and creativity to good use to create more and more elaborate garments to wear or give as gifts - perhaps with a hint of justified pride.

The text, which aims to be simple and straightforward, is accompanied by some images that help the visualization of the movements of the hands and the work done correctly.



Chapter 1

History of knitting

The origins of the first weaves, or rather intertwining of natural fibers, date back to the Neolithic and take on a certain structure already in the first centuries after Christ, with naalbinding, an ancient technique that is carried out with the aid of a single needle. The discovery of cotton socks came from medieval Egypt. The Egyptians seem to be the first people to perfect textile processing techniques, and the carved or painted in priestly robes in the tombs suggest a current use of these processes. Even the Gospel reports, with regard to Christ's tunic, that "this was one piece, seamlessly woven without interruptions from top to bottom." It would be a knitted tunic!



The two-piece costumes worn by the Roman girls portrayed in the mosaics, the armor plates, albeit metallic, of the gladiators and legionaries, also seem to be knitted, and then, through the sailors and their wanderings, the knitted fabrics spread to England, and then the American continent.



The Coptic Christians, who had escaped the invasion of the Arabs, had found refuge in the monasteries of the Irish coasts and islands, giving life to the fusion between their symbols and the Celtic motifs of the region. And so, thanks to the Irish monks, the designs were transported to the Aran Islands, famous for the workmanship of Irish sweaters.

In these areas, the shirt lost the vivacity of the colors but gained relief in the extraordinary variety of stitches. When the secret of these points came out of the monks' cells and was taught to fishermen, they became symbols of local families, and each family identified with them, a bit like today for the symbols of the districts in Siena. When two groups, through marriage, became related, the new family inherited the points of the two clans of origin, and in this way, the Aran points spread in the Irish families.

The various islands differ in history and reasons. Each one can be associated with a connotation.

In the Aran Islands, the sweaters were made by the fishermen themselves, while the wives were delegated the task of spinning the wool. Guernsey sweaters are very similar, with the difference that the wool used is not thick and darker in color. The sweaters, based on the different combination of right and back sides, where the effect of the relief is barely mentioned.

The motifs of the Shetland Islands sweaters are finally worked in the natural colors of the earth, from cream to dark brown, and are more stylized and combined with the signature motifs of the Scandinavian lands, such as the ice star and the fern.

Usually, the material used is wool; but when, later, silk was imported from the East, it became the preferred type of yarn for popes and kings.

Very precious garments were made, and the gold threads that intertwined with silk contributed to enrich them.



Although it did not originate in Great Britain, knitting has always been held in great esteem there and has had a very strong development. The various rulers who succeeded each other over time contributed to this. Elizabeth I received a knitted pair of socks as a gift from the island of Jersey and decided to grant the islanders exemption from the duty on exports to England, causing the production of knitting to flourish.

Knitting is seen as an aid to defeating poverty and delinquency among the less well-off classes. It is a job that is mainly done by women, old people, and children to supplement the meager wages resulting from work in the countryside.

At the beginning of the seventeenth century, William Lee invented the first knitting machine but was forced to immigrate to France.

The machine was perfected at the end of the eighteenth century by Joseph-Marie Jacquard (hence the name of a point which we will discuss later), which makes it possible to use multiple colors at the same time.

Also, in the mid-eighteenth century came cotton. Until then, little was used due to difficulties in spinning and coming from distant countries. White cotton was used for bedspreads, socks, lace, and bodices. The white cotton bonnet was born, which became a fundamental part of the peasant costume. Light and openwork stitches similar to real lace were also used.



However, finds of needles before the nineteenth century was rare. The needles were presumably melted down and reused, being considered objects of little value. Moreover, needles in natural materials, bone, perhaps wood, and horn, were also often used, therefore more perishable.

Metal needles seem to have become popular as wire drawing technology became sufficiently refined that it could be applied to hard and resistant metals.

The methods of production changed significantly with the industrial revolution, and so at the end of the eighteenth century, the progress of industrial technique made it possible to produce hard and resistant drawn metals at low prices.

In the same period (between the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries), the wealthiest classes experienced a wave of enthusiasm for knitting and crochet. There was a clear divide, with the poorer classes, for who knitting becomes a source of income, and the upper-middle class, that developed and coded the rules of a high-ranking hobby. Not only did the different processes correspond to this distinction, but also the use of different needles. Straight, single-pointed needles to be used in pairs are born. That is the most common needles and those that we typically associate with a busy grandmother in front of the stove on winter evenings.

Today they are the most popular knitting needles, but also among the most recent, and arise from the need of a specific social class to reduce the productivity of knitting.

The latest addition to the class of needless, however, is the circular needle with nylon cable, which dates back to the 1940s.

Their forerunner, dating back to the nineteenth century, was slightly different from what we know today, with the wire consisting of a metal cable that had the defect of wearing out and breaking easily at the junction, damaging the wool and rendering the needles unusable. This is

why their popularity is only affirmed with the introduction of modern material, nylon, invented by DuPont in the 1930s.



From there, the leap to interchangeable circular needles was short. The first company to do this was 'Boye,' with the introduction of the Needlemaster kit in the 1960s. This first kit already had all the essential features: the tips, which in various sizes could be connected to cables of various lengths, thus leading to the production of a large number of different needles!

Chapter 2

Everything you need

There are different types of needles on the market, which can be useful, depending on the work to be done and the processing phase of the garment.



Normal needles have a point at one end and a rod, or ball, at the other, with the function of preventing the shirts from falling. The number indicated on the end of the needle indicates its thickness. They are used in pairs and are used to work on flat parts. The right size of a needle, as we will see later, depends on the thickness of the wool used, the effect you want to achieve, and our level of skill. Starting with thicker needles can

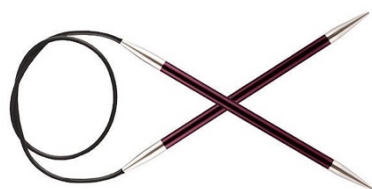
be advantageous at the beginning, so we have dedicated a section to work with thick needles.

Two-pointed needles are used in groups of four or five needles. They are used to work seamless garments in the round.

The auxiliary needle is usually two-pointed (but an extra needle can also be called an auxiliary needle, which serves the work in addition to the pair of normal needles). It is used to hold stitches in suspense that will be worked later, for example, when making weaves.

The size of the auxiliary needle must be as close as possible to that of the needles being used.

The circular needle is a pair of needles reduced in length and connected by a plastic thread. The stitches are on the tips only in the moment of working and remain on the yarn the rest of the time. Circular needles are becoming more and more popular because they allow you to not only complete seamless tubular work such as collars, caps, sleeves, or socks, but also very large garments, such as shawls.



In addition, many say that working with circular needles is faster and less tiring. You just have to try!

The stitch holder is a large safety pin that is used to keep numerous stitches in suspense, which will then be taken up again in the process, keeping them closed so as not to drop it.



Crochet is used to picking up both a dropped stitch and the stitches of the edges, to join two parts, or to attach fringes and for different finishes. We will talk about it in more detail in the specific sections.

The needle counter is a very useful, small object to be inserted at the bottom of a needle to keep the count of the needles already worked.

The wool needle is distinguished from a normal needle by its greater thickness, the wider eye, and above all, the rounded tip. It is used to sew the different parts, to close the stitches, and to embroider on the knitted work.



It is advisable to use a tape measure, and to measure the knitting in centimeters, as it is not rigid and follows the work well. It is also essential to have a tape measure to check the sample at the beginning of the work.



The shuttles, usually in colored plastic, are used in jacquard works and are used to wind a small amount of yarn so as not to use the whole ball.

Chapter 3

A bit of nomenclature

The Asterisk

In the explanations knitting, asterisks (marked by a star *) are always used in pairs, one at the beginning and one at the end of a motif, enclosing it.

The motif between the two asterisks must be repeated for the number of times indicated in work.

In knitting, abbreviations are often used, which you will find in the explanations of the works. Here are the most common:

skp, skpss.o = slip, knit, pass slipped stitch over

c2f.= cable to front

dec(s). = decrease

k. = knit

ndl(s). = needle(s)

co. = cast on

bo. = bring off

work = work

st(s). = stitch(es)

rep. = repeat

p. = purl

susp. = suspended

foll. = following

fo. = finished object(s)

w&t. = wrap and turn



Various processes then require a certain familiarity with crochet (which we do not deal with in this guide) and knowledge of the basic points. We invite those who want to enter the world of knitting to also assimilate the fundamentals of crochet so that they can decorate their garments by embellishing them with more details.

Chapter 4

How to hold yarn and needles

Knowing how to hold the thread correctly and wrap it around the needle is not as easy as it seems, but if you learn the exact position in which the thread and the needles must be held from the beginning, your work will be easier. Knitting requires familiarity with keeping the yarn tension constant, and knitting techniques will benefit from being able to move yarn and needles correctly.

The stitches are worked on from left to right and loaded from the left needle onto the right needle. There is no single way to hold the needles, and here, we do not express preferences. We consider them all valid, as long as the final work is proper!

The best-known ways of holding the needles and working are the English method and the continental method.

The English method involves holding the yarn in the right hand and "throwing" it over the right needle to form the stitch.



However, in the continental method, the thread is in the left hand, and with a delicate movement of the fingers, the needle is helped to collect the thread and form a new stitch.



Whichever method you choose does not affect you carrying out any of the works or schemes proposed here. So, you have the freedom to experience how you feel most at ease!

The working thread comes from the ball and is held in the right hand, where there is also one of the two needles. You must always maintain the same tension during work. Start by wrapping it around your fingers, as you see in the picture.

When you hold the thread in the position illustrated by the image, use your little finger to adjust the tension, and at the same time, the index finger will help you wrap the thread around the needle while you work one stitch after another.

If you are a beginner, I recommend that you keep the needles in your right hand (as if it were a pen), between the thumb and forefinger, instead of keeping the rest of the needles resting on the middle finger. The left needle is held between the thumb and forefinger, and it is the index finger that guides the tip of the needle, while the other fingers hold the rest of the needle in place. After a few stitches, the position of the needles must correspond to that in the figure. Keep the stitches arranged along the entire left needle while you work, instead of keeping them grouped



towards the beginning of the row, so they won't be too tight and won't risk slipping off the needle.

As the work grows in height, you will notice that you will need to change the position of the thumb and index finger of your right hand to better hold the work. This is because the needle and the work can no longer adapt to the curvature of the thumb, so you should move your hand so that your fingers are on top of the needle.

The information we provide in this guide will always refer to a right-handed person. Left-handers have two alternatives: reverse all the indications, favoring the dominance of the left hand, or follow them faithfully (thus favoring the right hand). Often, especially those who are not very young were used to doing many manual jobs with their right hand at school. I, therefore, recommend trying to do a few turns of the needles with both hands before evaluating how you want to set your position.



Chapter 5

How do you start working?

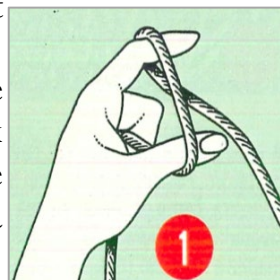
Each work starts with a first step! Learning how to cast on is the first step common to all stitches and jobs. After you learn this, then you can learn how to weave the stitches and remove them from the needle safely at the end of the work.

Knitting, as you will discover in this manual, leaves great freedom to those who decide to devote themselves to this hobby. You can choose from many different stitches, and each part of the work opens up to different variations. The first choice is how to start the process. This can be done in several ways, so here are the most common start-up techniques, accompanied by illustrations.

Normal

Take a needle and hold it firmly under your right armpit. Then take the ball of yarn and unwind it, leaving it free to the left three times the width of the work to be done. Hold this length of thread with the last three fingers of your left hand (middle, ring, and little fingers).

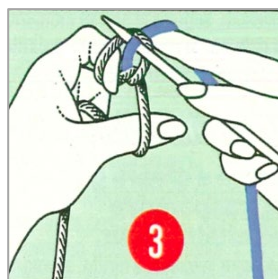
At this point, pass the yarn in the ball on the back of the thumb, then wrap it on the index finger, returning with the movement of the right hand towards the thumb. Thus, a buttonhole was formed (image 1).



Insert the needle into the yarn behind the buttonhole. With your right hand, bring the thread on the right side of the needle to the left, passing under the needle, and then wrap it over the needle itself (image 2).



Always holding the buttonhole with the index finger of the left hand, pass over the tip of the needle (image 3).

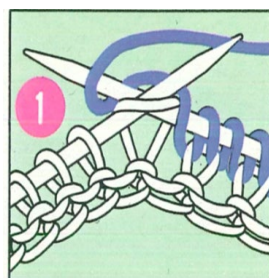


Then, remove the index finger from the buttonhole, hold the right thread with your right hand, and firmly pull the left thread with your left hand, thus forming the first stitch. For all subsequent stitches, repeat these three movements until you have the number of stitches needed to work. The needle you have obtained is called the start needle.

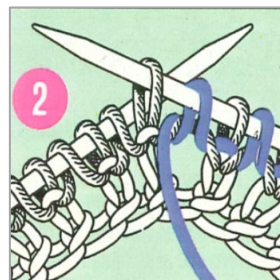
Tubular

Start the base row with a different thread than the one in work. This thread will be pulled out at the end of the work. Work for half of the necessary stitches plus one, following the previously explained starting system, i.e., the normal one:

1st row: take the thread to be used and work it for the whole row: one straight and one yarn over (image 1). End with a right.



2nd row: work the entire row with the yarn in front, pass the stitches that are purl, without working them, on the right needle and bringing the yarn back, knit the yarn-over stitches of the previous row (image 2). Finish with a purl stitch.



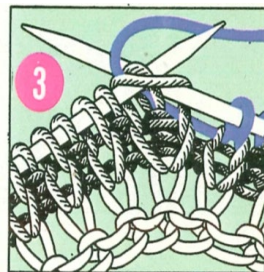
Then, remove the index finger from the buttonhole, hold the right thread with your right hand, and firmly pull the left thread with your left hand, thus forming the first stitch. For all subsequent stitches, repeat these three movements until you have the number of stitches needed to work.

3rd row: knit the first stitch, then alternate throughout the row: a purl stitch, a knit stitch, as in the previous row.

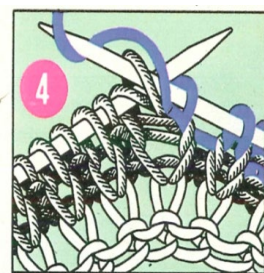
4th row: a purl stitch, then alternate throughout the row: a knit stitch and a purl stitch. Continue to rib 1/1, working and knitting the stitches that appear, and knit and purl the stitches that had previously been passed.

Attention: with this type of tubular start, you always get an odd number of stitches. Whether the piece has rib 1/1 or rib 2/2 and thus requires an even number of stitches. To overcome this problem, work the last two stitches together at the end of the first row and rib—this way. Then, we have the exact necessary number of even stitches.

For ribs 2/2, after having worked 4 tube needles, switch the stitches as follows: * knit one stitch, then knit the second stitch of the left needle, first passing in front of the first stitch (image 3).



Then, purl the first stitch and let them both fall off the needle (image 4). Purl the following stitch *. Repeat from * to * throughout the row. In the following rows, work rib 2/2. At the end of the edge, pull off the different cast-on threads. By cutting the thread of the first stitch on the side opposite to the side with the threads hanging down, all the other stitches are automatically removed.



Cast off the stitches

Work two stitches. Keeping the thread tension even, insert the tip of the left needle into the first stitch, working from left to right. Lift the stitch and pull it over the second stitch. After lifting it, slide the stitch from the right needle; you have woven a stitch.

Work another stitch and repeat the movements explained until you have intertwined all the stitches, except the last one. Then take off the right needle: the ring from the last stitch remains. Cut the thread and pass the end through the last ring. Pull the end of the thread to secure it, which closes the stitch.



Working with very thick needles

Many beginners like to work with yarn and thick needles because they consider this choice easier; the stitches are enlarged, the work increases quickly, and the result is fast. If you use yarn and thin needles, the work is longer and more demanding. Here are some tips for working best in these conditions:

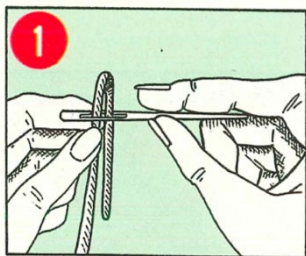
Rather than holding both irons between the thumb and forefinger (which is usually the case), try to hold the right iron with your hand resting on it.

Holding both needles in your left hand, wrap the yarn around the right needle to form the stitch. Large needles are not very heavy, so this move will be easy. Try to keep the stitches on both needles close to the tip. This way, your movements in making the stitches and passing them from one row to the other will be minimal. Slide the stitches forward as needed.

How to fix the threads

In order for the work to also be perfect on the reverse side, the threads must be fixed at each change of ball.

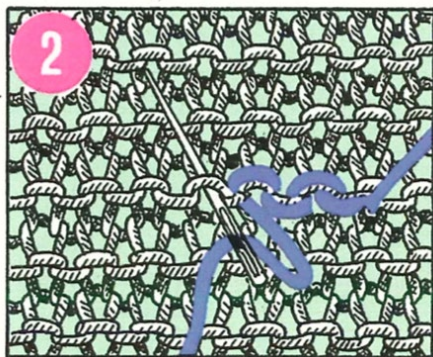
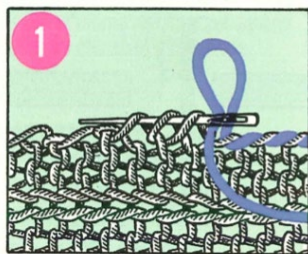
How to thread the knitting needle



Fold the end of the thread so that you have a loop. Hold the loop tightly between the thumb and forefinger of the left hand to make it as thin as possible. With the right hand, take the needle and let the loop passe through this for its entire length until it remains with the simple thread

(image 1).

On edge, pass the needle through the stitches of the upper part of the edge for a short distance (image 1), then break the thread.



At the center of the work, fix the thread on the back, making it pass in winding between the stitches, following the pace of the stitch used (image 2).

The joining seams

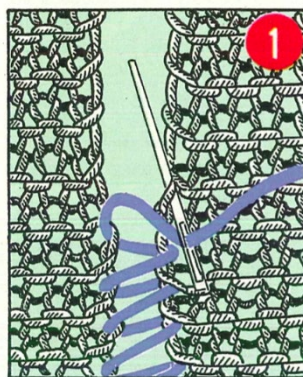
These are used to join the different parts together, both vertically, horizontally, and obliquely.

Vertical

A garter stitch

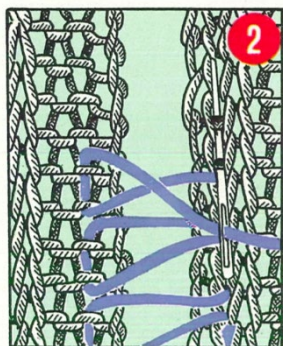
It is performed on garters to make the joining section between the various parts invisible. It is done vertically from the right side by taking the reverse of the first stitch alternately on the right and left sides (image 1).

By carefully pulling the thread after each stitch, the seam remains completely hidden.



N.B. If you want to reinforce this type of seam, you need to repeat it on the reverse side.

On its rib 1/1

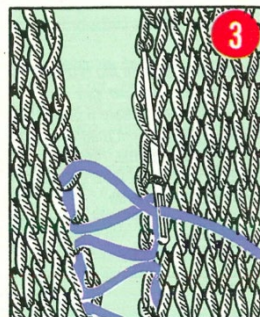


Work is done on labor law to join the parts worked at 1/1 rib. It is important to keep in mind, during the execution, to always work an extra right on each end. Just perform the seam vertically by taking the needle alternately through the stretch of stitches that correspond to two needles on both the right and left sides. This hides one stitch on each side (image 2).

Plain knit

This seam is performed vertically on the normal selvages by alternately taking the section of thread that corresponds to two needles, with the needle on both the right and left sides (image 3).

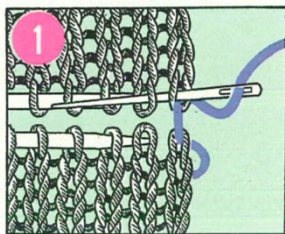
By carefully pulling the yarn after each stitch, the stitches of the two parts are combined.



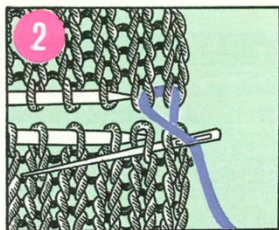
Horizontal

A straight knit

Keep the needles parallel with the stitches hanging. Point the needle into the first stitch of the lower part with a movement from the back to the front. Enter the first stitch at the top again with a movement from the back to the front and extract the thread.



Enter the first stitch of the lower part again with a movement from the front to the back. Point the needle into the second stitch of this lower part with a movement from the back to the front (image 1) and extract the thread.



Repeat the needle in the first stitch of the upper part with a movement from the front to the back. Point it in the second stitch of the upper part with a movement from the back towards the front (image 2), extracting the thread.

Perform this sequence:

* stitch the needle back into the last stitch worked in the lower part with a movement from the front to the back. Point it into the next stitch with a movement from the front to the back and then point it into the next stitch with a movement from the back to the front, extracting the thread *, repeat from * to * alternately for the top and bottom.

A garter stitch

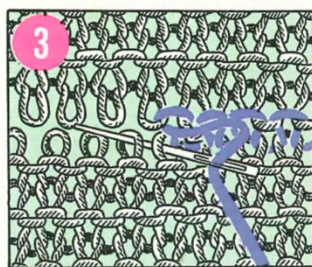
To join the two parts worked in the garter stitch, instead of one part ending on the right side, end it on the reverse side.

These two parts must be placed in the position illustrated (image 3).

Point the needle into the first stitch of the lower part, from the back to the front.

Another sequence: * Point the needle into the first stitch of the upper part from the back towards the front and then enter the following stitch of the upper part from the front towards the back.

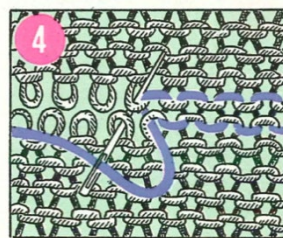
Stitch the needle in the first stitch of the lower part, from the front to the back, and enter the next stitch (of the lower part) from the back to the front *. Repeat from * to *.



A purl stitch

Point the needle into the first stitch of the lower part, from the back to the front.

* Then, point it in the following stitch of the lower part, from the front to the back, and enter the first stitch of the upper part with the needle from the back towards the front (image 4).



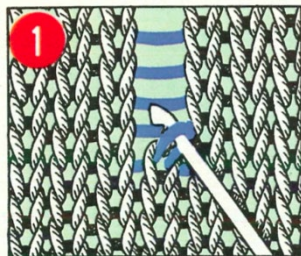
Enter with the needle in the following stitch of the upper part, from the front to the back, and resurface the needle in the previous stitch of the lower part, from the back towards the front
*. Repeat from * to *.

What to do when a stitch drops?

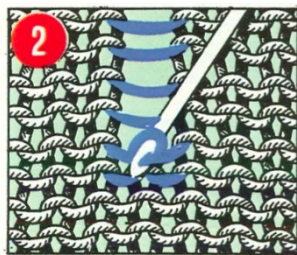
The fall of a stitch is no drama! With a crochet needle, the remedy is immediately found!

If you have dropped a stitch, proceed as follows:

Insert the crochet hook into the stitch from the front, hook the horizontal thread on the back immediately above the stitch (image 1), and pass it through the stitch. Repeat this movement to subsequently pick up any horizontal threads that are located above the stitches, up to the height of the iron being worked.



Return the stitch to the left needle and work it normally. To pick up the purl stitch, bring the horizontal yarn in front of the dropped stitch, insert the hook in the stitch from the back to the front, hook the horizontal yarn (image 2) and pass it through the stitch. Remove the crochet hook and repeat this movement for each horizontal thread to be picked up. Or, more simply, turn the work from the right side and knit the stitches back, as explained above. Finally, bring the stitch back to the left needle and work it normally.



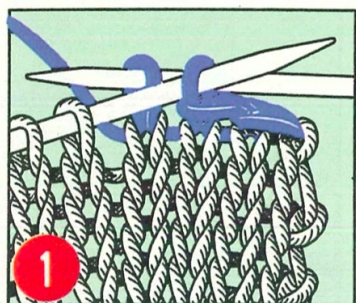
Chapter 6

The job ends like this

At the end of the work, the stitches are intertwined with the needles or closed with the needle. The method you use is dependent on the garment you are working on. The second process is usually used to finish the collars, pockets, and edges of the front.

The interlacing of closing with the needles

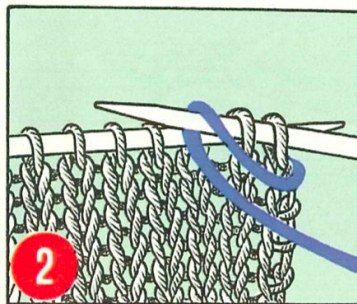
Work the stitches as they appear (knit or purl), crossing the first stitch over the second, knitting the third stitch, and crossing the second stitch over it. Work the fourth stitch and pass the third one over it (image 1).



Only one stitch remains: cut the yarn and remove it.

Still with the needles, purl two stitches together (image 2).

Return the stitch obtained to the left needle and repeat until the end of the needle. Cut the yarn and remove it from the last stitch: break and fix the yarn.



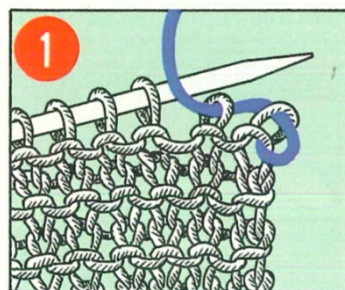
N.B. The stitches can be intertwined, not necessarily at the end of the work, but also during execution to make buttonholes and perform particular stitches.

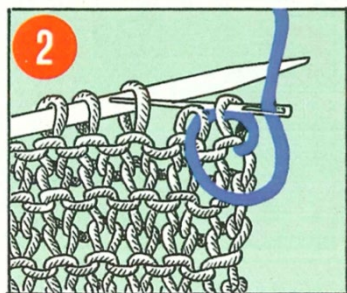
Closing with the needle

A garter stitch

1. Cut the thread after leaving a section equal to approximately 2 times the width of the work to be closed.

2. Enter the first stitch with the needle, with a movement from the front to the back, and in the second stitch with a movement from the back to the front: then let them both fall off the needle (image 1).

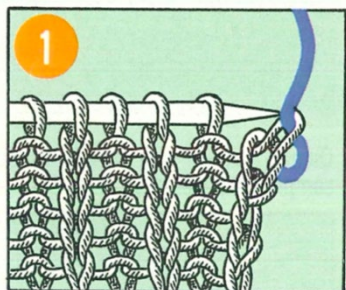




the stitches are exhausted (image 2).

3. Insert the needle again into the first dropped stitch, with a movement from the front to the back, then pass the needle behind the second dropped stitch and then enter the third stitch (i.e., the first stitch on the left needle) with a movement from the back to the front. Always repeat this last step, until

Ribbed 1/1 or tubular knit

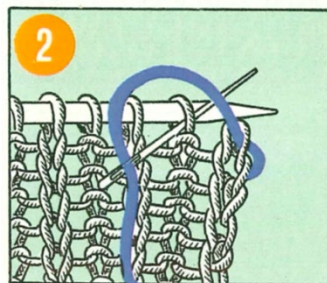


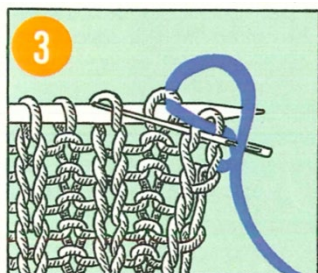
front in the first knit stitch (it is essential that the first stitch is knitted) and let it fall off the needle (image 1).

When the stitches are tubular or ribbed 1/1, they can be closed with the needle in the following way:

1. Cut the thread after leaving a length equal to 2 times the width of the work to be closed and thread it into a wool needle. Enter with the needle with a movement from the back towards the

2. Then, use the needle to enter the second stitch, which is purl, with a movement from the front to the back (image 2), and drop this stitch from the needle.





3. Enter again the first dropped stitch, with a movement from the front to the back, and then enter the third stitch (i.e. the first on the knitted needle), with a movement from the back to the front (image 3) (i.e. the first one that is now on the needle and that is reversed) with a

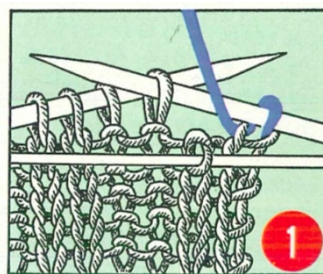
movement from the front to the back and let it fall from the needle. Always repeat these last two movements to alternately close the right and the backhand.

Rib 2/2

To carry out this type of closing, the first two rib stitches must always be on the right side and the last ones always on the reverse.

Here is the sequence between the two asterisks:

* Knit the first stitch, put the next stitch on hold on the front of the piece, and purl the next stitch without knitting it (image 1). Then knit the open stitch, pass the next stitch purl without knitting it *.



Repeat from * to * for all the stitches on the needle. Work the following row in this way: knit the stitch that appears to be knit and go inside out without working it, the stitch that is purl.

At this point, the stitches can be closed with the 1/1 rib technique.

Chapter 7

The basic stitches

They are the "pillars" on which all the points are built, from the simplest to the most complex.

Straight knit

The simplest stitch of all is the knitted one. If you only knit stitches, a stitch called a **garter stitch** is formed. This stitch is usually the first stitch to be learned by beginners and is also very useful for practicing holding needles and adjusting the thread tension.

It is also a stitch used by experienced people, especially when they want to get a job done quickly.

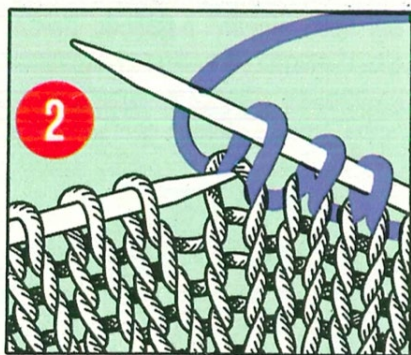
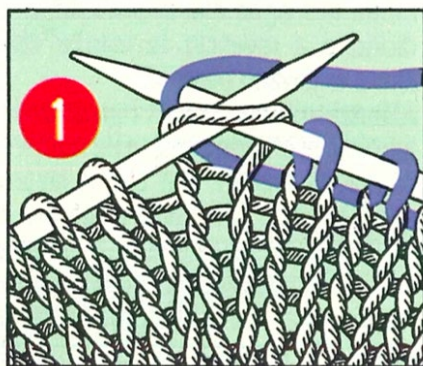
The garter stitch, that is, the stitch obtained by working only straight, has, in fact, many advantages:

- It is quick and easy to execute.
- Is the same on both sides; therefore, it is reversible.
- It holds the shape perfectly because it stays flat and does not roll-up.

The first step in making a garter is knowing how to move the needles well.

1. Insert the right needle from front to back into the first stitch on the left needle (image 1).

2. Now, wrap the yarn around the needle. To make this movement, with the index finger of your right hand, take the



thread that comes from the ball, bring it under the right needle, and then wrap it over, with a movement from back to front.

3. Then bring the thread back.

4. Extract the ring just formed from the yarn wound on the right needle, passing it through the stitch on the left yarn and then sliding it on the right needle (image 2).

A new stitch is formed on the right needle.

5. At the same time, slide the stitch through where the new stitch was extracted from the left needle. Now, there is one less stitch on the left needle and one more stitch on the right needle. At this point, you are ready to knit a new stitch.

Continue until the end of the row, working all the stitches with the same tension so that they are the same. At this point, the stitches that were on the left needle have been transferred to the right needle.

Swap the position of the needles; hold the former right needle in your left hand so that the empty needle is in your right hand. Work the next row exactly like the one just explained.

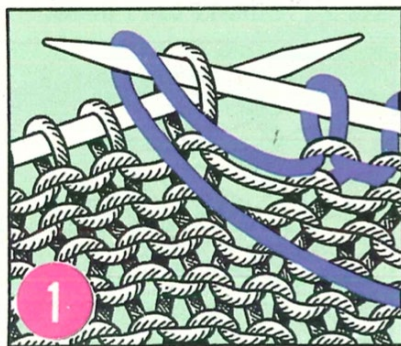
Reverse knit

Coupled with the obverse, it gives rise to many stitches and is performed in the reverse of the obverse; we work from the back to the front.

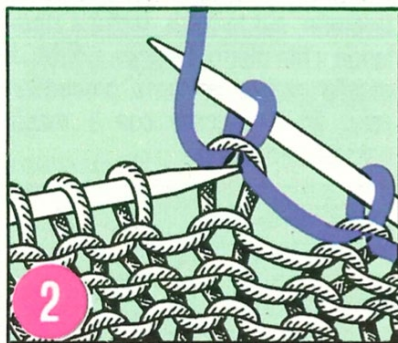
After starting the required number of stitches, remember to check that the stitched stitches are all the same and that the cast on the needle is uniform. Keeping the needle with the stitches cast on in the left hand, you can now start working.

1. Insert the right needle into the first stitch on the left needle, from back to front.

2. With the index finger of your right hand, take the yarn that comes from the ball and bring it to the front and under the tip of the right needle, with a movement from front to back. Bring back the upfront again in order to complete the wrapping (image 1).



3. Exact the ring just formed from the thread wound on the right needle, passing it through the stitch on the left needle. Slide it on the right needle. A new stitch has formed on the right needle (image 2).



4. At the same time, slide the stitch through where the new stitch was pulled off the left needle. There is now one less stitch on the left needle and one more stitch on the right needle. The thread is on the front of the piece.

You can now start knitting a new stitch.

N.B. To work the first stitch, pass the needle under the yarn so that the latter remains on the front of the work you are doing.

Stockinet stitch

Alternating knit and purl rows form stockinet stitch. It has a smooth surface, and the right side has the appearance of small "V's" in succession, while the reverse appears to be composed of horizontal rows of undines in slight relief. The smoother part is the right, worked with knit stitches, while the backhand, in slight relief, is worked with purl stitches.

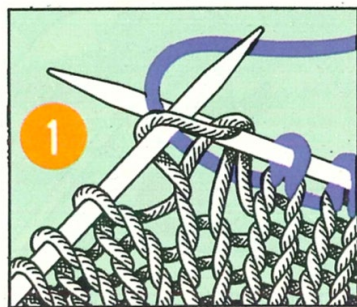
This is the procedure for obtaining a stockinet stitch:

1. Start with the required number of stitches, checking that they are all the same and that the cast-on needle underneath is uniform.
2. Hold the row with the stitches on in your left hand and start working.
3. Knit all the stitches on the first row in the same way as explained for the knit stitch. At the end of the row, all the stitches will be on the right needle.
4. Take the needle on which the stitches are in your left hand and purl the next row. Continue to purl the stitches until the end of the row.
At the end of the row, all the stitches will be on the right needle. The reverse side faces you and features a slightly raised horizontal wavy structure.
5. Continue like this, alternating between a knit row and a purl row until you reach the number of rows needed to complete your work.

Double knit

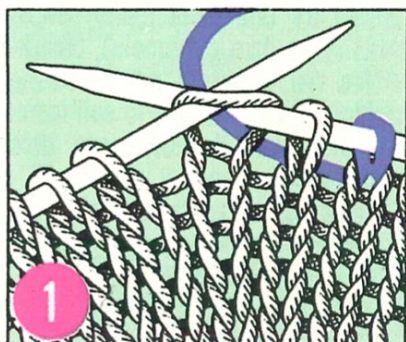
It is widely used, especially on the rib.
Straight: insert the needle into the stitch that lies beneath the stitch that is normally worked on straight in this knit.

Purl: for the double purl stitch, follow the same instructions given for the double knit stitch, but work purl (image 1).



Slip stitch

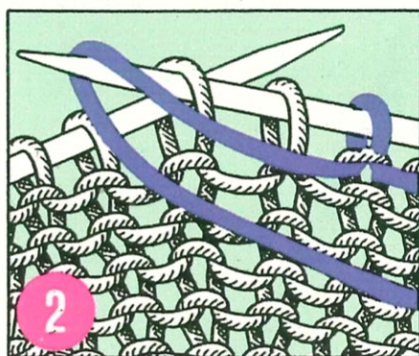
It is especially used for compact spots.



Knit: keep the yarn behind the work, take the stitch as if to knit it, but do not knit it and knit the next stitch (image 1).

0

Purl: the thread stays on the front of the piece. Pass the stitch into the right needle, as if to work it, but do not work it, and purl the next stitch (image 2).



Chapter 8

The fundamental points

These are the easiest stitches, which you will perform without any problem after learning the basic techniques.

Garter stitch

This is the simplest stitch and is done by knitting all the needles purl.

Straight knit

It is the fastest stitch. It is made up of knitted needles from the right side, alternating with purl needles from the reverse side.

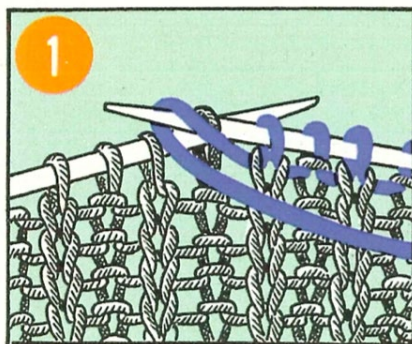
Reverse knit

Vary your perspective. It is the inverse of the previous point since the needles worked in the opposite way. The needles worked in the right way are on the opposite side.

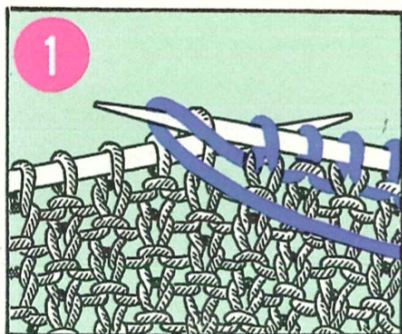
Rib 1/1

It is perfect for borders.

On the 1st row, a knit and a purl stitch are worked alternately throughout the row. In the 2nd row and in all subsequent rows, the stitches are worked as they appear, thus aligning the ribs vertically (dis. 1).



Moss stitch



Create a nice blur effect. On the 1st row, a knit and a purl stitch are worked alternately throughout the row. In the 2nd row and in all subsequent rows, the stitch that is purl is knitted, and vice versa, the stitch that appears to be knit is knitted (image 1)

English rib



knitted in the knit stitch.

It is widely used in nautical sweaters. The double knit is essential to perform the English rib. In the 1st row, a knit stitch and a purl stitch are worked alternately; from the 2nd row onwards, the purl stitch is knitted, and a double stitch is



Chapter 9

The sample

Before starting a job, it is essential to carry out the sample as indicated at the beginning of the explanation. Taking the measurement of the sample of a job is, in fact, a way to immediately check what the measurement of the entire job will be. Usually, the number of stitches and how many needles to be found within 10 stitches are indicated. The size of the stitches depends on the thickness of the yarn, the size of the needles, the type of stitch chosen, and finally, the amount of yarn you will use to make each stitch. Each model presented in this manual has been made considering the most appropriate voltage, so the sample can be considered an excellent guide.

It is very important that you work with the voltage provided by the sample indicated at the beginning of each explanation. For this, it is essential to carry out the sample before starting a job. If your sample does not match the one given and if you keep the stitches too loose or too tight, change the number of needles and use thinner ones if your work is too loose or thicker ones if your work is too tight.

Generally, the sample is given for a 4in square. If you get a smaller square, you should change the needles and use larger ones. If you get a larger square, use thinner needles.

If you do not have the sample measurements, it is also necessary to prepare one.

Prepare a sample

Cast on about 20 stitches and work about 30 rows in the chosen stitch. Place this sample on the floor and measure it in both width and height.

Calculate how many stitches you have in a width of 4in and how many stitches to work for a height of 4in. Multiply these stitches according to the size of the garment to be made.



N.B. Even without an explanation, it is possible to make a garment with the chosen stitch by placing the sample on an already made garment until the number of stitches to start is obtained. For the height, it supports the work on the base garment from time to time. This process can also be used to change size!

How to work a sample

Read the indications given in the explanation (concerning the sample) carefully. To better evaluate your sample, start 8 more stitches than those indicated and work at least 6 more rows, then weave the stitches. Spread the sample onto a flat surface and cover it with a cloth and pin to keep it taut on the sides and corners. To find how many stitches are in 4in, use two pins placed at the same height. Point one at the beginning, count the number of stitches indicated in the sample and point to the other pin. With a tape measure, measure the width of the stitches just



counted. If they measure 4in, your work is correct. If they measure less, it means that they are either too wide or too loose. If they measure more, they are too narrow.

To measure how many rows have been worked in 4in, place the two pins vertically on the same column of stitches (one at the beginning and the other after the number of rows indicated in the sample). If the piece is in stockinet stitch, it is easier to count the number of rows on the wrong side. Measure the distance between the two pins. If it is 4in, your work is correct, and if instead the stitches worked between the two pins measure less than 4in, it means that your work is wider than expected. If instead, the stitches worked measure more than 4in, it means that your work is too tight.

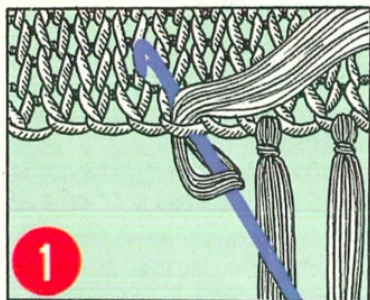
Chapter 10

Fringes, pompoms and tassels

They are used to finish shawls, scarves, caps, blankets, or as a decorative element to be used according to one's own imagination.

The fringes

To prepare the fringes, wrap the yarn around the cardboard (as you do for the tassels) and cut all the threads at the base. Knot

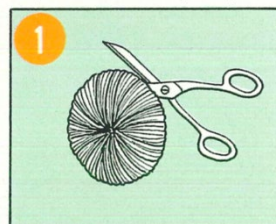


each fringe separately with the help of a crochet hook by taking 3, or 4 threads joined and folded in half. Insert the hook in the stitch where the fringe is to be knotted and then in the buttonhole formed by the bending of the threads, passing it through the stitch (image 1). Pass the

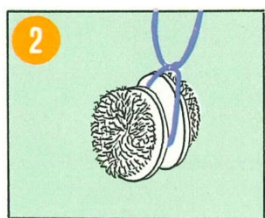
ends of the thread through the buttonhole, tying the fringe.

The pompoms

To make pompoms, which are very fun and decorative, you need to have two rigid discs of the desired size perforated in the center. They can be purchased ready-made, in different sizes, in a normal haberdashery, or on the Internet (but seeing an object in person is always different from seeing it on a screen!).



Overlap the two rods on top of each other and always keep them together. Thread the needle with the thread held double and making a long spire. Pass the needle each time through the center of the circles until they are completely covered and have filled the central hole. Cut the thread. Hold the center of the circles tightly and, with scissors, cut all around along the circumference (image 1).

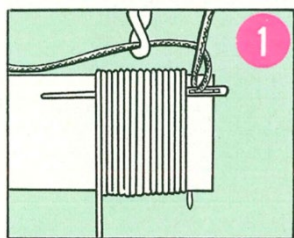


Insert a thread through the center, between the two circles, with the same technique used for the pompom and wrap it tightly 2 or 3 times. Finally, separate the circles and remove them: the pompom is ready (image 2).

N.B. Pompoms with wool yarns are more homogeneous and regular than those in cotton.

The tassels

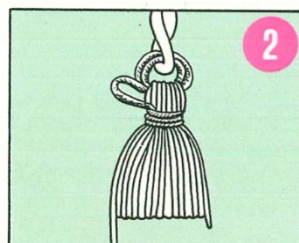
Wrap the thread on cardboard; as many times you want, depending on the tassel you want, and then cut it at the base. Pass



a piece of the same thread along the upper side of the cardboard and knot it tightly, bringing all the threads together well (image 1).

Cut the threads at the base of the card. Then, wrap another thread several times (and very tightly) one centimeter below the upper knot, fixing it with the needle and letting it come out at the top (image 2).

By doing this, the tassel will be ready to be fixed as a decoration!



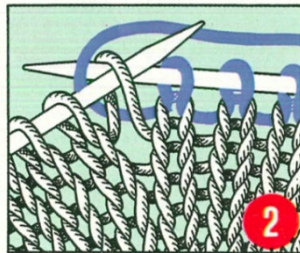
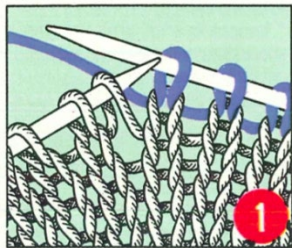
Chapter 11

To model

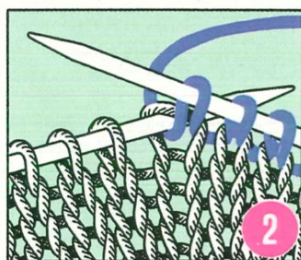
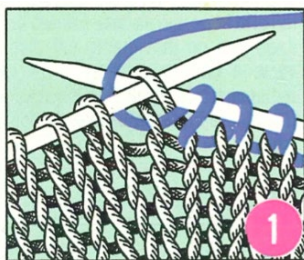
T His work is shaped during the execution through increases and decreases, which can be carried out with different processes.

How to make increases

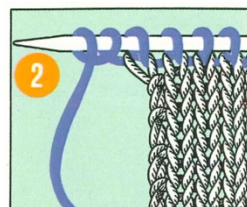
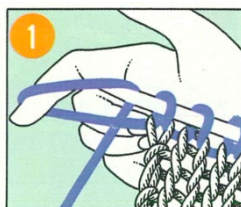
Between two stitches: with the left needle, lift the horizontal thread that is between one stitch (image 1) and in the other, work a twisted right (image 2).



Inside a stitch: when you need to increase a stitch, work a straight stitch and keep it on the needle (image 1). Then, work a twisted right (always) in the same stitch (image 2).



Of one or more stitches on the outside: at the end of the row, start with the desired number of stitches and as follows: hold the yarn with your left hand, place your right index finger on the front of the yarn. Rotate the thread around the index finger so that the buttonhole forms, insert the needle into the buttonhole, and pass it on to the right needle (image 1). Always repeat this movement (image 2).



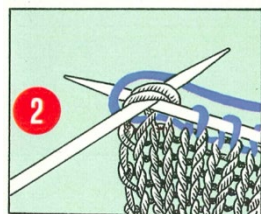
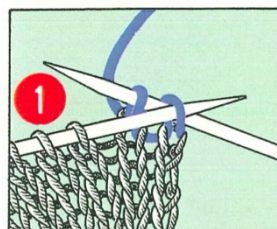
N.B. This type of increase can also be used to start the stitches at the beginning of the work after making the first stitch.

How to make decreases



Insert the right needle first into the stitch on the left needle, and knit them together (image 1).

Simple on the left: to decrease a stitch on the outside of the work, with an inclination to the left, pass the first stitch knit without knitting it and knit the second stitch over the slipped stitch (image 1).



Simple right: to decrease a stitch on the outside of the work, with an inclination to the right, work the last two stitches together (image 2).

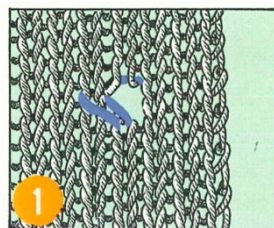
Note: The same type of decrease can also be done on the inside, e.g. in the execution of pleats or raglan.

The buttonhole

Vertical or horizontal, normal or small, the buttonhole is a very delicate process (especially for a child's garment) and must be finished with the utmost care.

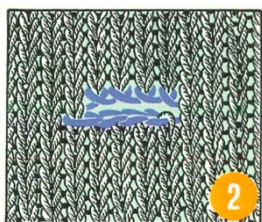
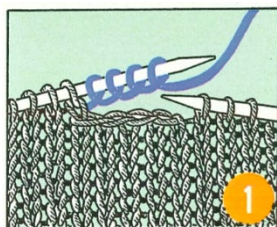
Small

For very small buttonholes, especially in baby layettes, just work a yarn over and two stitches together or yarn over and a simple overlap (image 1). For slightly larger buttonholes, work two stitches together (two casts and a simple overlap).



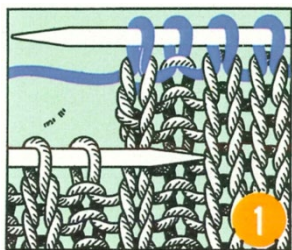
Horizontal

To work a buttonhole horizontally, weave as many stitches for the desired width of the buttonhole on the forward row from the right side (image 1) and on the back row, on the reverse side, cast on the same number of stitches exactly above the intertwined stitches (image 2).



Vertical

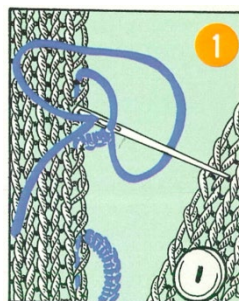
At the point set for the buttonhole, after making a straight (if the knitting is 1/1 rib), divide the work into two parts: leave the left part hanging and work the right part first (looking at the work) to as many stitches for the desired height for the buttonhole. Leave this right part hanging (image 1) and work the left part for as many rows as those working for the right part. At this point, resume and work the two parts together. This type of buttonhole can be made on any stitch basis - from ribs to garter stitches to fancy stitches.



N.B. When making several buttonholes, be careful to always make them in columns, exactly one on top of the other and at a regular distance.

Buttonhole

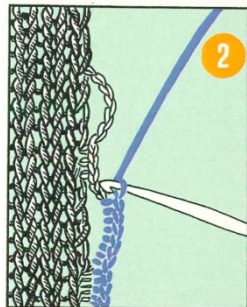
Fix the thread on a section of the edge for a length corresponding to the size of the button, and form a buttonhole on the outside. Finish the entire buttonhole with eyelet stitch, each time entering the buttonhole with the needle from the outside to the inside and keeping the thread under the needle tip (image 1).



Crochet

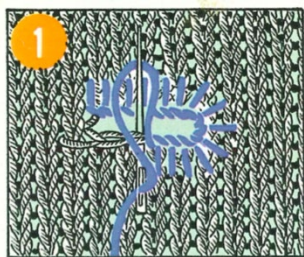
With the crochet hook, work from the wrong side along the edge of the opening as follows:

One single crochet in the stitch and two single crochets in the next stitch. Then, work five chains and skip the next three stitches. Repeat from * to * for all the buttonholes to be made, spacing them evenly with a greater number of single crochets. At the end of the row, turn and work the following row from the right side: single crochet in every single crochet, and work seven single crochets in the arch of five chain stitches of each buttonhole. In the end, cut and fix the thread (image 2).



Festoon stitch

If the buttonhole is not delineated enough, it is advisable to finish it all around at the eyelet stitch with a needle and thread in the same wool or cotton in the same color (image 1).





Chapter 12

The necklines

It is understood that the V-neckline is the simplest to make, so here are five alternate variations instead of the V-neck.

Round

To obtain the proportion of the neckline, divide the actual measurement from one shoulder to the other by three, as this will be the final measurement of the neckline. To weave the stitches at the beginning, divide again by three parts: one for the central stitches to be intertwined and the other two for the stitches to be gradually decreased at the sides. This type of proportion applies to any type of neckline.



A polo

Approximately at the height of the armhole, weave as many stitches in the center (as you want the hem high) and continue on the two parts up to the height of the neckline. On the inner side of the 2 parts, make the neckline explained in round one. Pick up the stitches along the two sides of the opening and knit the loops by making the buttonholes on the



one that will go on top. Sew them at the base overlapped, depending on whether it is for a man or woman. For the neck, pick up the stitches along the entire neckline, up to the middle of the edges. This will almost double the number of basic stitches to be able to turn the neck well, which will be worked in the same point chosen for the edges, in the desired height.

N.B. To calculate the exact number of neck stitches, place the edge stitches softly along the neckline and then calculate how many stitches are needed to obtain a collar in the desired width.

Shawl

It is worked around a V-neckline. It can be done later, picking up the stitches, or it can be worked at the same time as the garment, decreasing the stitches of the front, just like a normal V-neckline. At the same time, on the outside of the decreases, by increasing double the decreased stitches, a cuff is formed.



After you have cast off the shoulder stitches, continue with all the increased

stitches for the neck up to mid-back.

Then, to get a perfect cuff, gradually decrease the stitches four or five times so that the outer side is longer. When finished, join the two parts of the neck in the middle back.

When the stitches are picked up later (for the neck and edges), it will be necessary to obtain the width for the cuff. You can choose between two techniques: either by gradually picking up the stitches and working on the back of the neck only, then the front of the neck and finally the edges or, with the other technique, by picking up all the stitches at once and, after having worked for a width of the edges, continue for the neck, gradually decreasing the

stitches on the sides. Then work two or four more rows over all the stitches before casting off or making a tube.

Square



To get a perfect square neck, weave all the stitches of the width of the neckline at once; on the front about 3in before the shoulders (according to the desired depth) and on the back, equal to the height of the edge.

Pick up the stitches, and on the four corners, make a double decrease every two rows on the right side of the piece. The best is the double-crossing with a central stitch, which also forms a motif.

A turtleneck

Pick up the stitches as you would for a normal neck, starting from one shoulder all around the neckline (if desired, use the circular needles to avoid sewing).

It generally works in rib for a double-height than is desired. In fact, the neck will be turned in half on the right side.



This detail must be kept in mind when performing the side seam.

Closed variant of the V-neckline

If you want the vest closed and not open in front, you must work the front as back up to the height of the neckline and divide the work into two parts. On the side of each of the two parts, decrease using the technique explained in the simple jobs for the vest. For the edge, pick up the stitches all around, mark the central stitch at the base of the V: this stitch, which will be knitted in the execution of the 1/1 rib and will be in the center of the double-crossing with central mesh (photo).

Chapter 13

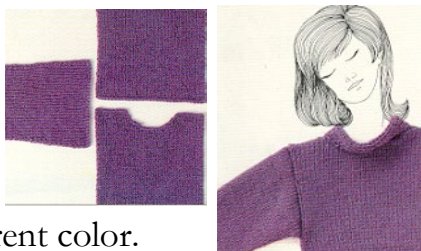
Armholes and sleeves

By armhole, we mean the shaping that is given to the front and back of a garment for the insertion of the sleeve. The processing of the armholes varies, depending on the attachment you want to give to the sleeve. Armholes and sleeves certainly represent a stumbling block for beginners to overcome. By following these directions, you will see that the difficulties are smaller than you think and that you will be able to take your skills to the next level!

Straight line

When you get to the point of the armhole, continue straight without any decrease until you get to the weave for the shoulders. However, it is advisable to mark the point of the armholes with a thread of a different color.

The final width of the sleeve is equal to the total width of the armhole from point to point (the one marked on the front and the one marked on the back).



Square line



At the front and back points of the armholes, weave all the stitches at once. In other types of armholes (such as the round-sleeve), they must be gradually decreased. Continue up to the shoulders without any other

decreases. Then carry out the production of the sleeves considering that, in the end, the width must be equal to the total width of the armhole, from the weave of the back to the weave of the front. When the sleeve is sewn, leave the upper section open, which corresponds, as a measure, to the intertwined stitches. Insert the sleeves, leaving the upper section open, coinciding with the stitches of the armhole.

English

The stitches are decreased as in the armhole and continue by weaving the shoulder stitches 3-1,6in before the actual height. The sleeves will initially be



decreased in the same way and continue until you have the same height as the back and in front of the armholes at the end. There will be many stitches on the needle, equal to a width of 2,6-3,1in (the compensation of the missing inch from the back and front weave at the actual height of the shoulders). Work these stitches again for a distance equal to the length of the shoulders, and weave them.

A kimono



This type of modeling is mainly used for single-piece garments. Before reaching the height of the armholes (about 2,8-3,1in lower), gradually increase the stitches needed to form the sleeves every

two rows, starting with two stitches two or three times. Continue with three stitches for another three or four times, up to seven stitches twice and reaching the total length, almost always excluding the wrist, which will be worked later.

Continue on all the shirts up to shoulder height, making the neckline at the desired height. At this point, you are halfway done. Work the other half exactly in the opposite direction to the first that is, decreasing the stitches that had increased.

Around

At the height of the armholes, weave four or five stitches on each side at once. After two rows, weave two stitches onto each side once and then decrease one stitch on each side every two rows until it is shoulder width. The sleeves must be shorter in



the armhole section at the end by 0,8 or 1,2in, compared to the back and front. Initially, weave like the back and front armholes, since at the end of the work, the stitches left in the center must be intertwined at once. This corresponds to about 1,6in, decreasing one stitch on each side every two rows, and for the last four times of the final weave, stitch two stitches on each side.

A raglan



At the height of the armhole, calculate how many stitches need to be decreased per armhole and shoulder (on each side) and then decrease them regularly (one stitch every two rows or every

four rows). Do this until there are only the neckline stitches left. When making the front, the neckline will be done at the same time as the last raglan decrease; in the sleeves, the top where the raglan decreases must be as long as that of the front and back until there are only a few stitches for the shoulder.

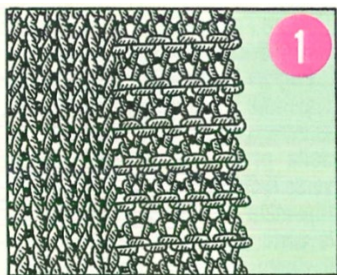
Chapter 14

Edges and hems

When a garment is not finished with a folded hem, it usually has a border made with a different stitch. In the majority of cases, it is done with simple or double ribs or with a moss stitch. When choosing a stitch for the edge, always remember that you need to obtain a compact sweater, which has no tendency to roll up or to stretch. Borders can be embedded or resumed. They are incorporated when they are worked together with the rest of the garment: e.g., the bottom edge of almost all pullovers, and often also the edge that defines the front opening in many cardigans, sometimes the edge around a V-neck. On the other hand, the edges that work around the necklines of pullovers and blouses, in general, are almost always taken up. Most of the picked edges are worked in rib, and in this case, an elastic closure is recommended, i.e., straight over knit, purl over purl. In the case of the edge taken up and knitted with double knitting, it will be necessary to close it with the knitting needle. Here are two different ways of finishing the work: garter edges or scalloped edges.

Garter border performed at the same time

The easiest way to make an edge is to work on it simultaneously to the execution.

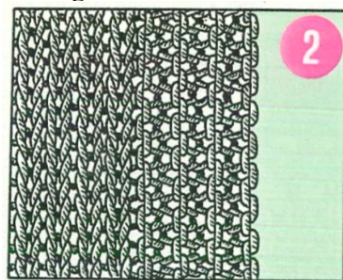


Work the outer stitches; four or more depending on the desired width for the edge, in garter stitch, i.e., straight both on the right side and on the wrong side, while the other stitches are being worked on at the same time with the chosen stitch for the garment (image 1).

Garter edge is taken up

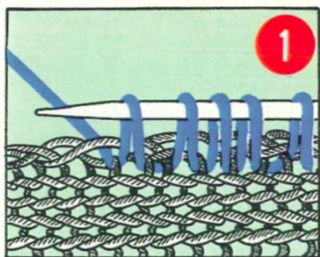
The border is taken vertically along the openings of the front.

After picking up the stitches vertically every two rows and every row alternately (in order to keep the piece flat), work in garter stitch for as many rows as you want, depending on how high you want the edge to be. Then weave the stitches softly (image 2).



The stitches resumed

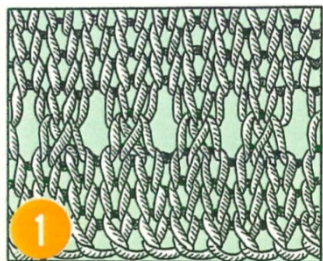
A useful technique for making borders differently.



To pick up the stitches along an edge, point the needle inside a stitch, take the yarn, throw it on the needle with a movement from the back to the front, go over it, and extract it (image 1).

When the stitches are picked up vertically (as shown in the image) or in an oblique direction, repeat the movement once every two rows. Horizontally, instead, pick up the stitches by pointing the needle in each stitch below.

Cat-tooth hem



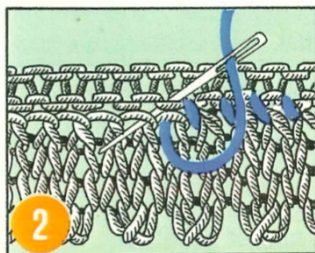
It is a pleasant finish, not only for children's garments but also for delicate and very feminine sweaters.

Work two rows in stockinet, then work one

row, alternating a yarn over and two stitches together for the whole row.

However, knit the first and last stitch for the margin, and then purl one row and

two more rows in stockinet (image 1). Fold the hem in half on the wrong side along the line of the perforations and sew it to the base (image 2).



The edge

The first and last stitch of each row is called the edge, or selvage: these are the most used methods to make the edge.

Simple 1 edge: knit the first and last stitch from the right side and purl on the reverse side. This edge will be the most suitable for the pieces that must then be joined with a hand seam.

Chain edge: always pass the first stitch of each row without knitting it, while the last stitch must be knit on the right sides and purl in the purl rows. It is convenient to use this type of edge when you have to pick up the stitches in the reverse direction.

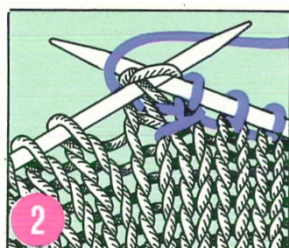
Selvage in garter stitch: always knit the first and last stitch of each row. A decorative edge is obtained.

Pearled edge: for the odd rows, make the first pass stitch and the last reverse stitch. For even rows, the first passed stitch and the last knit. This is also a decorative edge.

Braids and weaves

These are the most classic patterns of knitwear, especially the slightly more casual ones. Here are some examples of weaves with which you can indulge yourself, such as winter sweaters!

Right weave

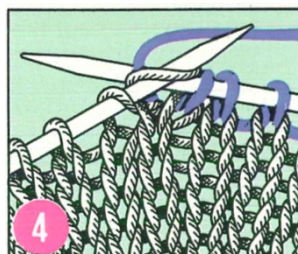
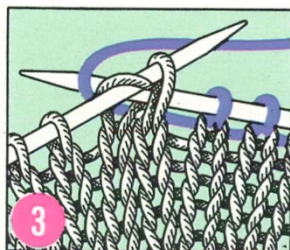


From the right side: knit the second stitch of the left needle, passing in front of the first stitch (image 1), then knit the first stitch (image 2) and let

both stitches fall off the needle.

Left weave

From the right side: knit the second stitch of the left needle passing behind the first stitch (image 3), then knit the first stitch (image 4) and drop both stitches from the needle.



Right crossed braid



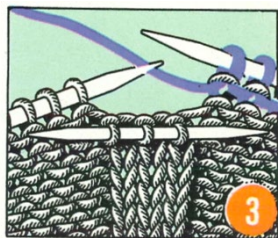
On the right side, hold two or more stitches suspended on a double pointed or crochet needle and keep them on the back of the piece (image 1). Knit the next two or more stitches. The purl is worked in reverse.

Left crossed braid

From the right side, hold two or more stitches suspended on a double pointed or crochet needle, keeping them on the front of the piece (image 2). Knit the next two or more stitches outstanding. The purl is worked in reverse.



Twist braid



From the right side, put three or more stitches on a double pointed or crochet needle (image 3), turn the three or more open stitches clockwise, and knit them (image 4). Continue as normal.



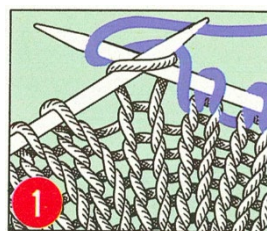
Tunnels

The tunnel is all played on a skillful alternation of yarns and stitches together/overlapping and build splendid motifs.

Cast

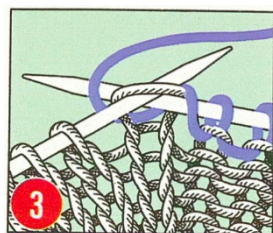
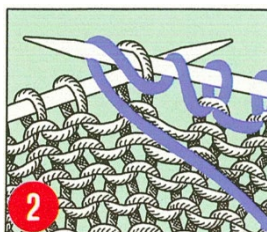
a) Between a right and a right.

Pass the yarn from back to front, under the right needle, and cast it over this needle. Insert the right needle into the following stitch (image 1) and knit it.



b) Between a backhand and a backhand

Pass the yarn from front to back on the right needle and bring it back to the front, from below. Then insert the right needle into the next stitch (image 2) and purl it.

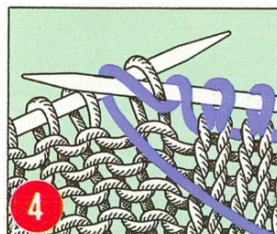


c) Between a backhand and a forehand.

Pass the yarn from front to back on the right needle and knit the following stitch (image 3).

d) Between a forehand and a purl.

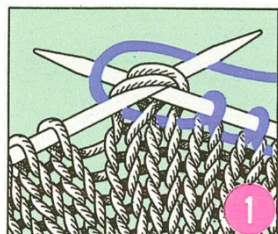
Pass the yarn from back to front, under the right needle; throw it back, above this needle, and then bring it back to the front from below (i.e., one complete turn) (image 4)



4). Purl the next stitch.

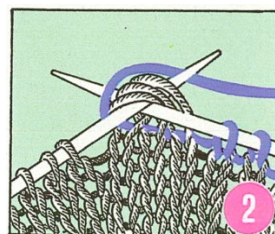
Stitch together

Insert the right needle first into the second stitch on the left needle, then into the first stitch, and knit it together (image 1).



If you want to knit three stitches together, insert the row first in the third stitch, then the second, and finally in the first.

Then, work them



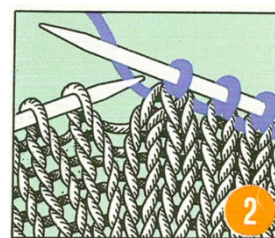
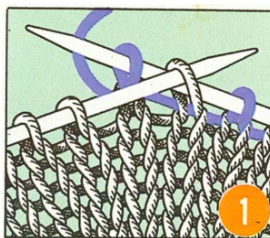
together (image 2).

N.B. When purl stitches together, follow the reverse procedure, i.e., insert the needle first into the first stitch on the left needle and then into the others.

Cross over

a) Simple

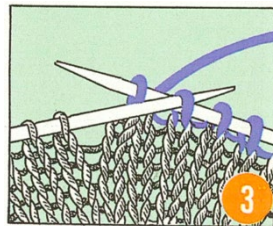
Slip one stitch as if to knit it and knit the next one. With the help of the left needle (image 1), pass the stitch passed from



right to left over the previously knitted stitch (image 2) so that only one stitch is obtained from two stitches.

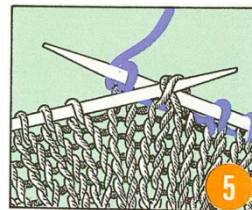
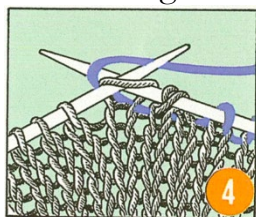
b) Double

Pass a knit stitch without knitting it, knit the next two stitches together (image 3), and over the stitch, thus obtaining an overlap on the last stitch, with the same process used for the simple crossing. From three stitches, only one stitch was obtained.



c) Double with a central link

With the right needle, take two stitches together without knitting them, knit the next stitch (image 4), and overlap the two past stitches on this, always taking them together (image 5).



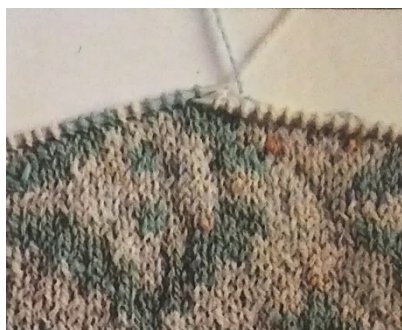
Chapter 15

Jacquard and inlay

Those of jacquard and inlay are techniques that allow you to draw on the stockinet stitch, following the trace of the chosen pattern.

How to knit jacquard

The jacquards are worked in the base color, up to the point where the first contrasting color will be inserted. The color change must be performed from the right side, as follows: work up to the last stitch of the first color, take the second color by passing it under the thread of the



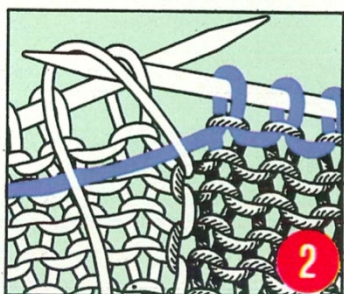
first held on the wrong side of the work (image 1).



Then drop the thread of the first color, holding it softly on the reverse side of the work, and then work with the second color until the next batch change. Make the color change on the reverse side of the work, as follows: purl up to the last stitch of the first

color, pass the thread of the second color under the thread of the

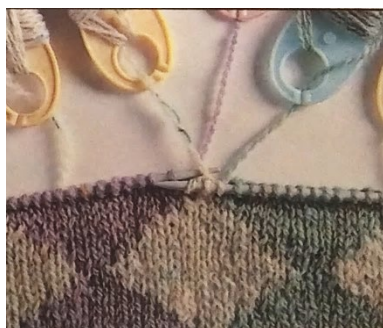
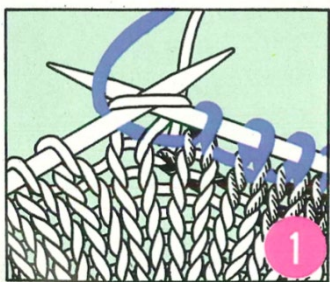
first held on the front of the work (image 2), drop the thread of the first color holding it softly on the front (i.e., on the reverse side of the work) and then purl with the second color until the next color change. Always make these two types of changes, depending on whether you are on the right side of the reverse side. When the distance between one stitch and another of the same color exceeds 4 stitches, the yarn cannot be left free



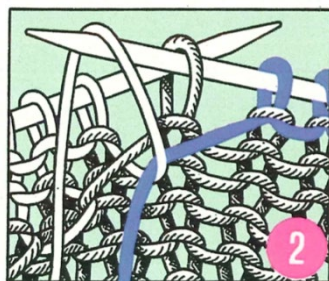
on the reverse side but must be taken up during the execution of a stitch, always inserting it keeping it on the wrong side, in the stitch that is about to be worked.

How to work in inlay

When there is a certain distance between the stitches of the same color, or when a large motif is made in contrasting colors, the inlay technique is used both on the right side (image 1) and on the reverse (image 2).



In the inlay, use a small ball of yarn for each color needed. To prevent threads from getting in the way and hindering your work, wrap each one separately, around the cardboard. There is a small





cut on one side of the latter and insert the thread in this when the color being processed is momentarily left out. Alternatively, use the shuttles. Make the color change as explained for the jacquard and keep all the balls on the reverse side.



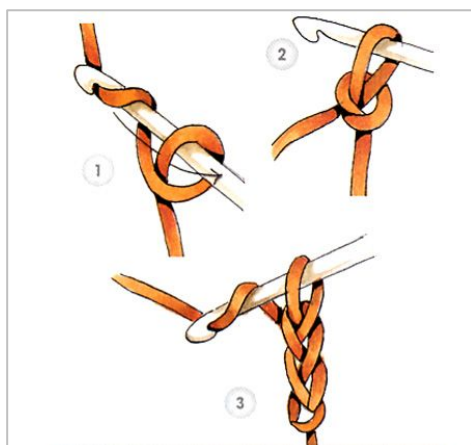
Chapter 16

Crochet: a hint

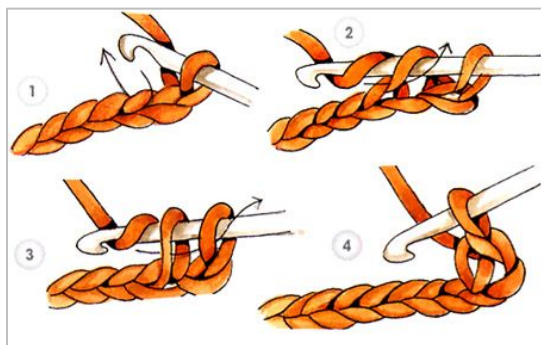
Here are three basic points to crochet. This type of knitting has recently returned to the favors of fashion and offers, compared to knitting, some advantages: firstly, it is easier to acquire, and the work increases more quickly, with the same thickness of the yarn. Finally, you can stop at any point of the lap without the stitches being damaged!

Flying or chain stitch

To make it, the first thing to do is to create a small loop with the thread. Subsequently, the hook is inserted inside the loop, passing the thread inside. At this point, the thread is pulled; a tight knot will be formed, and the sequence will be repeated by passing the thread inside the chain that has formed (this operation is called "throwing" the thread: hook the thread stretched between the fingers with the crochet hook). You can repeat this step until you have created the number of chain stitches you want.



Single crochet

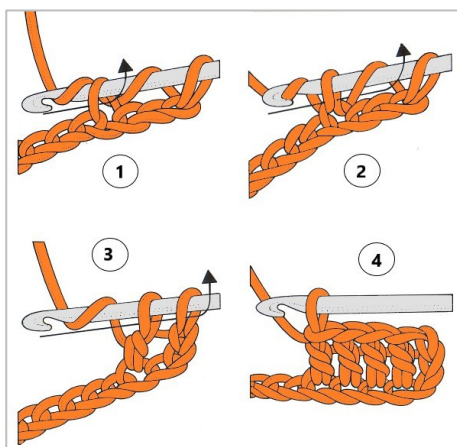


In this case, you need to pass the crochet hook through the penultimate stitch of the basic chain stitch series you obtained. After picking up the thread with the crochet hook, you will notice that you have created two stitches.

Collect the yarn again and pass the hook through two stitches (and so on).

Double crochet

The double crochet, compared to the previous basic stitches, requires an extra step. In this case, the hook must be inserted in the fourth last stitch of the initial row of chain stitches; wind the thread on the crochet hook, and then extract it so that three stitches are created on the crochet hook. Throw the yarn on the hook again, and let it pass inside two of the three stitches you created. Throw the yarn again, and pass it inside the two remaining stitches.



Chapter 17

How to read the working diagrams

Learning to read knitting patterns requires visualization skills that can be improved over time. However, first of all, it is a question of adopting a certain terminology and becoming familiar with the terminology and drawings.

The scheme is presented in the form of a grid, and like any self-respecting grid, this is made up of cells. Each cell represents a point, and in its entirety, the pattern represents the motif being reproduced.

For beginners, the diagrams will often be accompanied by instructions for reading the tables.

Where do we start?

Once you have grabbed the knitting needles and have the ball of wool next to you, the real question is: where do you start?

Well, the first dot is the one on the right in the dot row. So we always start from the end of the work and go up gradually.

Therefore, when you start reading a table, always start from the lower right corner. Although it may seem strange, it is a process that makes perfect sense because even the way we proceed in knitting requires the stitches to accumulate on the right side of the



needles. The first point is the most right and bottom of the final work - have you ever thought about it?

After the first row, reverse the position of the needles. The next line will then be read from left to right. We, therefore, distinguish between odd lines, which are read from right to left, and even lines, which are read in the opposite direction.

These numbers also correspond to the sides of the work that you are completing. The odd numbers, shown on the right side of the table, correspond to the front of the work, while the even numbers, shown on the left, correspond to the back of the work (or the inside of the sweater, so to speak).

Based on the stitch made, we can have a straight that appears the same as the reverse or processing that looks different on the two sides. For a reference to these differences, refer to the section dealing with the different types of points.

The stitch symbols are the small drawings inside the cell and represent the technique that is used for each stitch of the motif.

Chapter 18

First Projects

Colorful pillows



What you need:

For the pink pillow (A)

- 12.3oz. of medium thickness yarn in lightly twisted pink wool
- 1.7oz. of medium thickness yarn in coral-colored lightly twisted wool

For the yellow pillow (B)

- 10.5oz. of medium thickness yarn in lightly twisted yellow wool

For the orange pillow (C)

- 7oz. of medium thickness yarn in lightly twisted orange wool

For the green pillow (D)

- 7oz. of medium thickness yarn in lightly twisted green wool

For the turquoise pillow (E)

- 7oz. of medium thickness yarn in lightly twisted turquoise wool

Tools and accessories:

- No.4 ½ needles

- No.5 needles

- 5 buttons for the pink pillow

- 5 buttons for the orange cushion

- A 1,5in diameter button to cover the green cushion

- 5 internal padded cushions, each of the same size as the external cushion, i.e. 19,7in x 19,7in the pink cushion, 17,7in x 17,7in the yellow cushion, 11,8in x 11,8in the orange and green cushions, 15,7in x 11,8in the turquoise cushion

- Pins

- A wool needle

- Needle and thread for sewing

The sample of 4in x 4in of the pink cushion worked in rib stitch with a moss stitch, and the needle no.5 corresponds to a square made up of 21 stitches and 25 needles. In the yellow one, I worked with fabric stitches; there are 16 stitches and 24 rows. In the orange one, worked with raised striped stitch, we have 19 stitches and 30 rows, while in the green and turquoise one, this time worked in stockinet stitch 19 and needles 24.

How to do it:

The yellow pillow (B)

For the front side, with size 5 needles and yellow yarn, cast on 75 stitches as follows:

For the first row knit, * a purl stitch, knit 3 *, repeat from * to * and finish with a purl stitch and a knit stitch;

For the second and fourth row purl two, * a knit stitch, a purl stitch *, repeat from * to * and finish with a purl;

For the third row, knit 3, * a purl stitch, knit 3 *, repeat from * to * until finished.

These 4 rows form the stitch pattern and are repeated until reaching 11,8in from the beginning, ending with a needle on the reverse side of the work. Weaves the stitches according to the stitch pattern.

For the backside, work as the front side up to 29,5in from the beginning, finishing with a needle on the reverse side, and weave the stitches according to the stitch pattern.

To finish the job, spread the two sides of the pillow on a flat surface covered with an ironing cloth, and point all around the pins, respecting the dimensions of the pillow. Cover each panel with a clean, slightly damp cloth and remove the pins only when the fabric and panel are perfectly dry. Placing the two sides, right sides together, align them by making the interlacing needles coincide. Fold the backside over the front top by 11,8in, thus covering the front side with a 5,9in flap. Point the pins and backstitch three sides, turn the cushion to the right side.

The pink pillow (A)

With size 5 needles and pink yarn, cast on 107 stitches as follows:
For the first row, knit two, * a purl stitch, a knit stitch, a purl stitch, knit 2 *, then repeat from * to * throughout the row;
For the second row, cast on 3 purl stitches, * one knit stitch, 4 purl stitches *, repeating from * to * and ending with a knit stitch and 3 purl stitches. These two stitches form the motif of the rib stitch with a moss stitch. Repeat them up to 17,7in from the beginning, ending with the needle on the reverse side. Continue with 4½-size needles and coral yarn, working the 2 rows of the stitch. Cut the coral thread, pick up the pink thread and work 4 more rows with the stitch pattern.

Buttonhole row: knit 2, purl stitch, knit stitch, purl stitch, knit 2, purl stitch, knit stitch, purl stitch, * knit 2, 1 purl stitch, 1 yarn over, 2 purl stitches, 2 knit stitches, 1 purl stitch, 1 knit stitch, 1 purl stitch, 2 knit stitches, 1 purl stitch, 1 knit stitch, 1 purl stitch purl stitch, knit 2, purl stitch, knit stitch, purl stitch *, repeating from * to * 3 more times, knit 2, purl stitch, knit stitch, one purl stitch, knit 2. Work 4 more rows with the stitch pattern. Cut the pink thread. Take the coral thread and work 2 rows with the stitch pattern, finish with a row from RS. Bind off the stitches according to the stitch pattern.

For the back of the pillow, with the size 5 needles and pink yarn, cast on 107 rib stitch stitches with moss stitches, just like the front, up to 21,6in from the beginning. Finish with a needle from the reverse side. Bind off the stitches according to the stitch pattern.

To finish the job, spread the two sides of the pillow on a flat surface, covered with an ironing cloth, and point all around the pins, respecting the dimensions of 19,7in x 19,7in. Cover each

panel with a clean, slightly damp cloth. Remove the pins only when the fabric and panel are perfectly dry. Placing the two sides and right sides together, align them by matching the cast-on needle. Fold a 2in hem at the top of the backside, which covers the front side by 2in. Point the pins and join the other three sides in the backstitch. Revolt on the law. Sew the buttons on the back flap to match the buttonholes.

The green pillow (D)

For the front side with size 5 needles and green yarn, cast on 59 stitches as follows:

For the first row, knit a stockinet stitch up to 4in from the beginning and finish with a purl row. Now starting with a purl row, purl a stockinet stitch up to 7,8in from the beginning, ending with a knit row. Starting with a knit needle, knit stocking stitch up to 11,8in from the beginning, finishing with a purl needle. Weave the stitches.

For the backside, make the first part with size 5 needles and green yarn, starting with 59 knit needle stitches, and knit a stockinet stitch up to 7,8in from the beginning, ending with a purl needle. Weave the stitches.

For the second part, with size 5 needles and green yarn, start 59 stitches, starting with 1 purl row and purl in stockinet stitch up to 4in from the beginning, ending with a knit row. Starting with a knit needle, continue with knit stitch up to 7,8in from the beginning, then finish with a purl needle and then weave the stitches.

For the lining of the button: with size 5 needles and green yarn, start 13 stitches with a knit needle and knit stocking stitch for 2,4in, ending with a purl needle. Then weave the stitches. Cover the button by placing it in the center of the reverse side of the

work, and with a wool needle, work a string around the work, curling it and closing it around the button.

To finish the work, bring the sides to the size as described for the pink cushion. Lay the front side out on a flat surface, with the right side facing you and the plaiting at the bottom. Stretch the second part of the backside over it, placing the right side against the right side of the back and making the cast needle coincide. Spread over the first part, placing the right side against the right side of the backside, making the cast-on needle coincide and overlapping the two parts in the center. Point the pins and sew the 4 sides backstitch. Turn right and sew the button in the center.

The turquoise pillow (E)

For the front side, using size 5 needles and turquoise yarn, cast on 78 stitches as follows:

For the first row, knit 39 and purl 39 stitches. Repeat the first row up to 5,9in from the beginning and finish with a purl row. Starting with a purl row, work in a stockinet stitch, purl up to 11,8in from the beginning, ending with a knit row. Weave the stitches.

For the backside, make the first part with size 5 needles and turquoise yarn, starting with 58 stitches using a knit needle and knitting a stockinet stitch up to 5,9in from the beginning, ending with a purl knit. Starting with the first row, purl knit a stocking stitch up to 11,8in from the beginning, then finish with a knit row. Weave the stitches.

For the second part, with size 5 needles and turquoise yarn, start 39 stitches, starting with 1 purl row and purl in stockinet stitches up to 5,9in from the beginning, ending with a knit row. Starting with a knit needle, continue with knit stitch up to 11,8in from the beginning, then finish with a purl needle and then weave the stitches.

To finish the work, bring the sides to the size as described for the pink cushion. Lay the front side out on a flat surface, with the right side facing you and the plaiting at the bottom. Stretch over the second part of the backside, placing the right side against the right side of the back. Use the cast needle (the cast-on edge) and the right side to coincide with the needle. Stretch over the first part of the backside, placing the right side against the right side of the front side, making the cast-on needle, the cast iron, and the left side coincide. Point the pins and sew the 4 sides using a backstitch. Turn on the right.

The orange pillow (C)

For the front side with size 5 needles and orange yarn, start 59 stitches as follows:

For the first stitch work straight;

For the second row purl 3, * a knit stitch, purl 3 *, repeat from * to * until the end;

For the third and fourth stitches, work straight.

These 4 rows form the stitch motif and must be repeated until reaching 6,7in from the beginning, ending with the repetition of the fourth row. Continue at this point with a 4 ½-sized needle and work in rib stitch as follows:

For the first row, knit 3, * a purl stitch, knit 3 *, then repeat from * to * to the end. Work 5 more rows in rib stitch. Weave the stitches in the rib.

For the second part, using 4 ½-sized needles and orange yarn, start 59 stitches by knitting 4 rows in rib stitch of 3 knit stitches and a purl stitch, alternating them.

For eyelet row: knit 3, purl, knit, yarn over, knit 2 together, purl, knit 3, purl *, repeat then from * to * and ends with knit 3, a purl

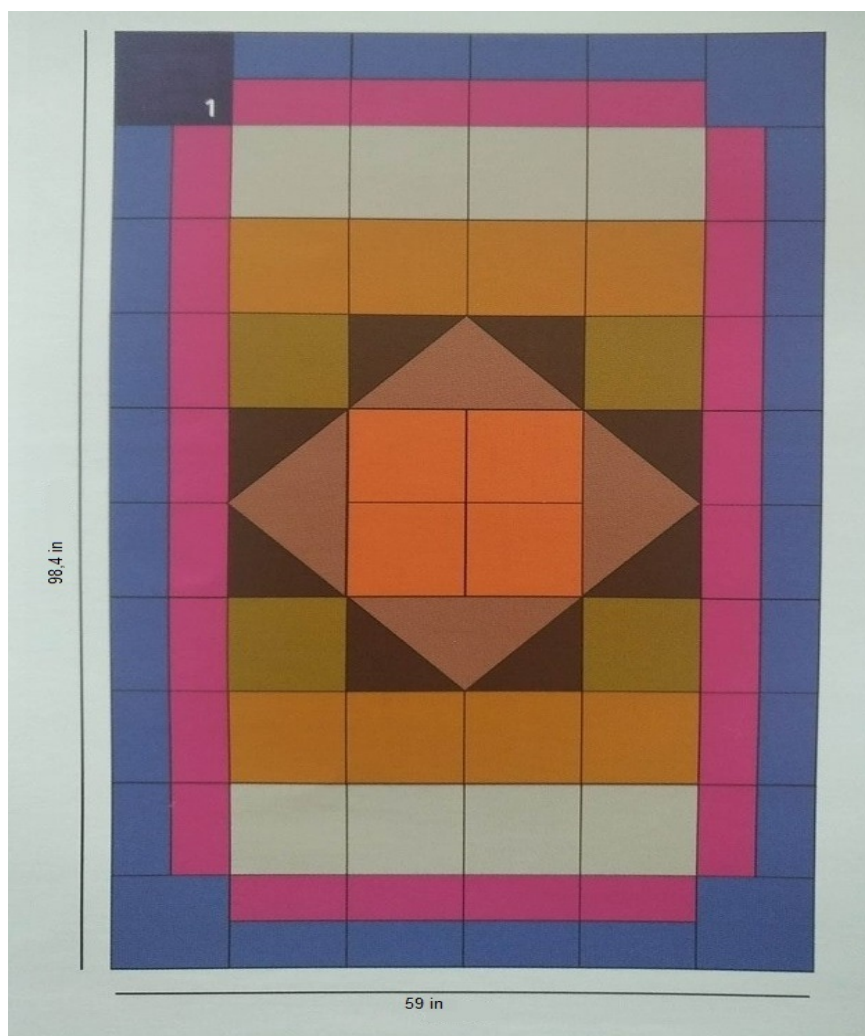


and a knit stitch, a yarn over, knit 2 together, a purl stitch, knit 3. Work 4 more rows in rib stitch. Continue with needles 5
Next row: knit the entire row. Continue with the raised striped stitch motif for the first part up to 5,1in from the beginning, finishing with an iron from the wrong side. Weave the stitches.

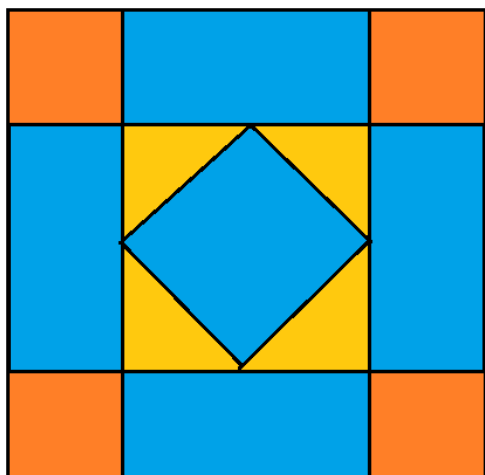
To finish the work, bring the sides to the size as described for the pink cushion. Lay the backside out on a flat surface, with the right side facing you and the plaiting iron at the bottom. Stretch the second part of the front side over it, placing the right side against the right side of the back, matching the cast iron. Stretch over the first part, placing the right side against the right side of the back, making the cast-on needle coincide and overlapping the ribbed edge. Point the pins and sew the 4 sides backstitch. Turn right and sew buttons.

A quilt

Quilts are precious artifacts that women of the American Amish community make by artfully sewing pieces of fabric of different types and colors. The art of quilting is, in fact, very ancient, dating back to the late 1800s, and the motifs, although geometric and simple in their creation, hide a rich symbolism and a lot of tradition



The original blanket that we present to you proposes, through the interlocking of shapes and colors, a series of original stitches. One of the most ancient and representative figures of Amish quilts is the diamond, which in the tradition of the community represents a symbol of protection. It is a creative and original project to fill even the coldest winters with color and warmth.



The blankets are made by assembling several squares to form the geometry shown in the image. Each square is called a tile. The first tile of the Amish blanket is made by alternating three processes: the straight stockinet stitch, the reverse stockinet stitch, and the double moss stitch, which were explained in the section of the manual dedicated to the

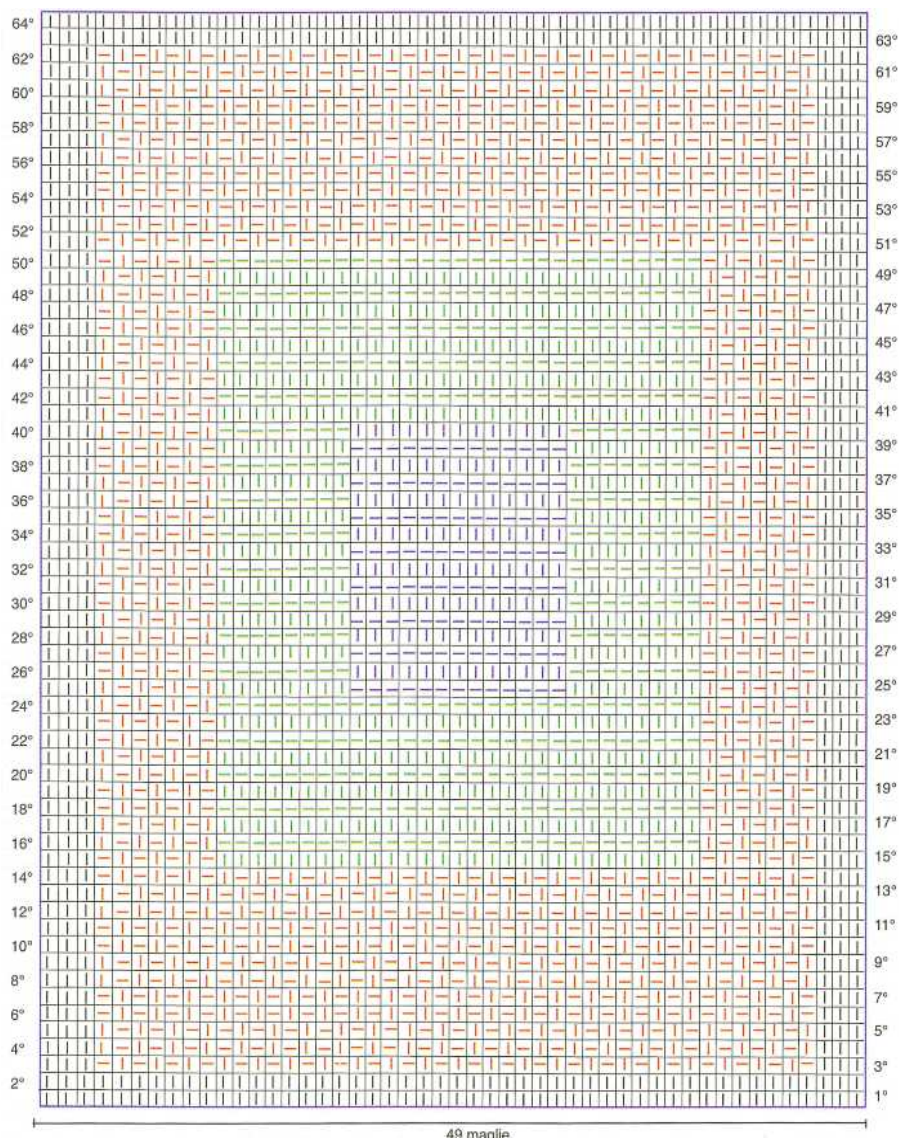
various stitches. They are played with alternating straight and backstitches.

What you need:

Soft Misina yarn in pure Lana Gatto virgin wool in the following colors: lavender, cyclamen, stone, mustard, sage, paprika, sand, and bark.

How to do it:

Start the work by starting 49 stitches with size 5 needles and then continue working the tile for 64 rows, carefully following the explanation, diagram, and legend shown below.



After completing the tile, all that remains is to weave the stitches, cut the thread and secure it.

Legend:

| = Knit 1

- = 1 reverse stitch

Each square corresponds to a stitch and a row.

To carry out the process, it is necessary to proceed as follows:

The first and second row straight knit.

The third and sixth rows: knit 3, * one purl stitch, one knit stitch * 21 times, one purl stitch, three knit stitches

The fourth and fifth row: knit 3, * knit 1 and purl * 21 times, knit 4

From the seventh to the fourteenth row: repeat from the third to the sixth row 2 times

The fifteenth row: knit 3, * purl 1, knit 1 * 3 times, purl 1, knit 29, * purl 1, knit 1 * 3 times, 1 purl, 3 stitches and knit

For the sixteenth row: knit 3, * knit 1, purl 1 * 3 times, knit 1, purl 29, * knit 1, purl 1 * 3 times, 4 knit stitch

The seventeenth row: knit 3, * knit 1, purl 1 * 3 times, knit 31, * purl 1, knit 1 * 3 times, knit 3

The 18th row: knit 3, * purl 1, knit 1 * 3 times, purl 31, * knit 1, purl 1 * 3 times, knit 3

From the nineteenth to the twenty-fourth row: repeat from the fifteenth to the eighteenth row and work the fifteenth and sixteenth rows

The 25th row: knit 3, * knit 1, purl 1 * 3 times, knit 9, purl 13, knit 9, * purl 1, knit 1 * 3 times, knit 3

For the 26th row: knit 3, * purl 1, knit 1 * 3 times, purl 9, knit 13, purl 9, * knit 1, purl 1 * 3 times, knit 3

The twenty-seventh row: knit 3, * purl 1, knit 1 * 3 times, purl 1, knit 8, purl 13, knit 8, * purl 1, knit 1 * 3 times, purl 1, knit 3

The 28th row: knit 3, * knit 1, purl 1 * 3 times, knit 1, purl 8, knit 13, purl 8, * knit 1, Purl 1 * 3 times, knit 4

From the twenty-ninth to the fortieth row, repeat from the twenty-fifth to the twenty-eighth row 3 times



From the forty-first row to the fiftieth row, repeat from the seventeenth row to the twentieth row twice and work the seventeenth and eighteenth rows

From the fifty-first to the sixty-second row, repeat from the third row to the fourteenth row

The sixty-third row and the sixty-fourth row must be worked straight.



Chapter 19

Garments to wear

The braided poncho

It is a one-size-fits-all garment. For this process, tubular knitting stitches are used for starting, the chequered stitch A, the checked stitch B, and the braid stitch, while a knit stitch is made with the needle.



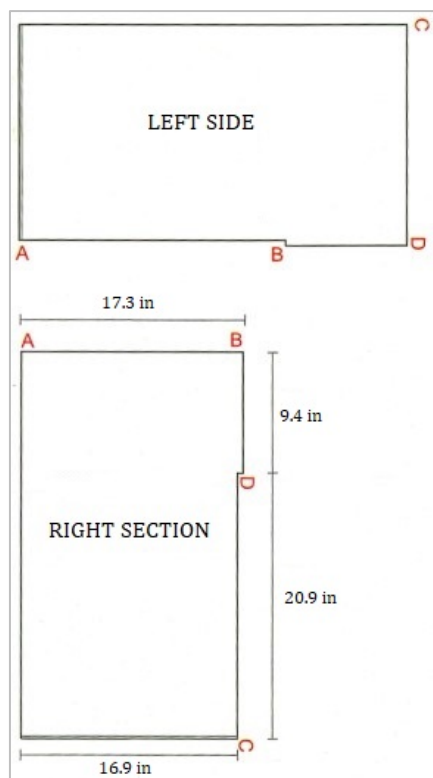
What you need:

- 17.6oz. of New Ireland wool yarn Gatto grey n.4004
- No. 4 ½ needles
- No. 4 ½ Auxiliary needles
- Rounded tip wool needle

The 4in x 4in sample worked in a square stitch, with the needles listed above are obtained by unwinding 17 stitches and 24 rows.

The 16 stitches of the braid stitch measured slightly enlarged = 3,1in.

How to do it:



We report in the diagram the right and the left part of the processing.
For stitch A: a multiple of 6 + 3 stitches are worked.

The first and third row must repeat the pattern: * purl 3, knit 3 * always repeat from * to * and finish with purl 3.

The second row: 3 straight stitches, * 3 purl stitches, 3 straight stitches *, always repeat from * to *.

The fourth and sixth rows: work as the first row.

The fifth row: work as the second row. Resume from the first to the sixth row.

For **checker stitch B**: you work on a multiple of 6 stitches.

The first and third row must repeat the pattern: * purl 3, knit 3 * always repeat from * to * and finish with purl 3.

The second row: * 3 straight stitches, 3 purl stitches *, always repeat from * to *.

The fourth, fifth, and sixth rows: * 3 straight stitches, 3 purl stitches *, always repeat from * to *. Resume from the first to the sixth row.

For the braid stitch: work on 16 stitches.

The first, third, and fifth rows are worked with 2 purl stitches, 12 knit stitches, 2 purl stitches.

The second row and all even rows require the stitches to be worked as they appear - straight if already straight and vice versa.

The seventh row should be purl 2, knit 4, 8 cross-stitches to the right (put 4 stitches hanging on the cable needle behind the piece, 4 straight stitches, and knit the stitches on hold), 2 stitches reverse.

The ninth, eleventh, and thirteenth rows must be worked as follows: purl 2, knit 12, purl 2.

The fifteenth row must be purl 2, 8 cross stitches left (put 4 stitches hanging on the cable needle in front of the piece, knit 4 and knit the open stitches), knit 4 and 2 purl stitches.

For the seventeenth row, resume as the first.

For the right side, cast on 78 stitches with the indicated needles and work 4 tubular knitting needles for the border. Continue by setting the work as follows: 1 edge stitch (i.e., margin), 15 stitches with gingham stitch A, 16 stitches with plait stitch, 12 stitches with gingham stitch B, 16 stitches with plait stitch, 18 stitches with gingham stitch B.

At 20,8in total height, for the neck, start again with 2 stitches on the right side of the piece, on the previous edge stitch, on the stitches started again. For the next 15 stitches, continue to check stitch B; on the remaining stitches, continue the previous workings. At a total height of 30,1in, after having worked an eighth row of the braid stitch, weave the stitches.

The left side should be worked as the right side.

To finish the work, sew the intertwined stitches on the right side, from A to B, to the right edge of the left side, i.e., from A to B,



from the tubular knit edge to the newly started stitches, widening the stitches of the braid until to reach the measurement of the side. In the same way, sew the interlaced stitches on the left side, from C to D, to the right edge of the right side, i.e., from C to D, from the tubular knit edge to the stitches started up again.

A blouse for a girl



Size: 6 years

What you need:

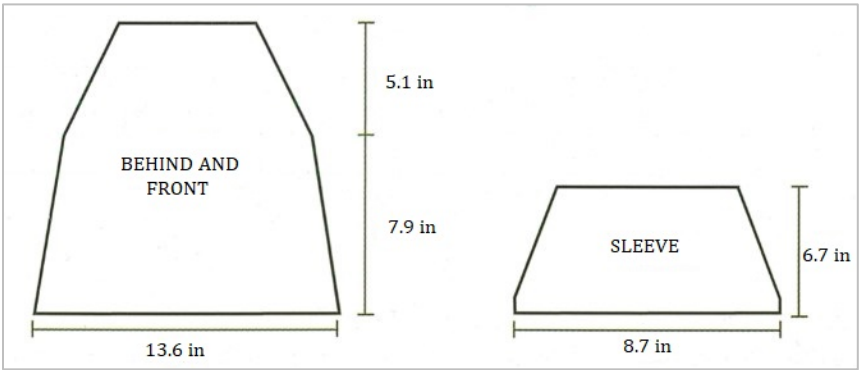
- 7oz. eggplant color n. 364 for the pullover and 0.17oz. of green and brown for the yarn brooch
- 5,9in of 0,8in high mauve velvet ribbon
- 2 ecru pearls and 2 mauve beads
- No. 4 needles
- No. 3,50 crochet needles
- Rounded tip wool needle

For this work, the straight stockinet stitch, reverse stockinet stitch, and the striped pattern is used. With crochet, on the other hand, the chain stitch, the single crochet, and the double crochet are used. The 4in x 4in

samples worked in a stockinet stitch with the above needles, and double yarn are obtained by unwinding 26 stitches and 28 rows. For one size up or down, calculate about 0,8in width (about 5 stitches) and 0,8in height (about 6 rows).

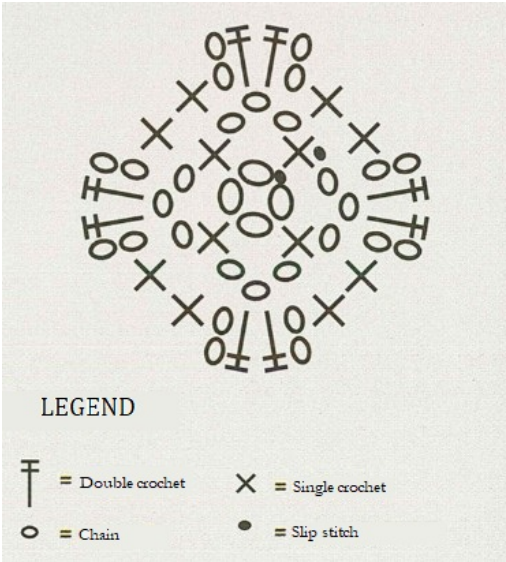
How to do it:

We report in the diagram the measurements of the blouse in the front and back.



For the striped pattern, all stitches are worked. From the first to the fourth row to the right, the fifth row to the right, the sixth row to purl. Always repeat these six rows.

For the flower stitch, start the chain with the crochet hook, close in the round with a slipstitch, and in the circle, work the first round with single crochet and 3 chain stitches four times, closing with single crochet. The second round, on the other hand, must be made with





single crochet on the underlying single crochet; in the chain space work 2 chain stitches, 2 double crochets, and 2 chain stitches, single crochet on the underlying single crochet, 4 times.

Back: with size 4 needles and eggplant color yarn, cast on 90 stitches and work 2 rows in reverse stockinet stitch, 4 rows in straight stockinet stitch, and 4 rows in garter stitch. Then, continue in straight stockinet stitch, decreasing one stitch on each side 4 rows 11 times. At 7,8in of total height, continue with the striped pattern until the end of the work, decreasing at the sides for the raglan alternately one stitch every 2 rows and one stitch every 4 rows, 17 times in total. At 5,1in from the raglan, after having worked the 4 rows in garter stitch, weave the remaining 34 stitches. The front is worked in the same way as the back.

For the sleeves: with size 4 needles and eggplant color yarn, cast on 58 stitches and work 2 rows in reverse stockinet stitch. Continue with the striped pattern, but starting with 2 rows in garter stitch. At the same time, for raglans, alternately decrease one stitch every 2 rows and one stitch every 4 rows 17 times in total. At a total height of 6,7in fter having worked the 4 rows in garter stitch, weave the remaining 24 stitches.

The brooch: consists of 2 flowers and 2 leaves. For each flower, start 4 chain stitches with brown yarn and crochet and continue following the pattern. When finished, break and fasten the thread. For each leaf, start 11 chain stitches with the green yarn and the crochet hook and, starting from the second chain stitch from the hook, work 2 single crochet, 5 double crochet, and 3 single crochet. When finished, break and fasten with the thread. With the velvet ribbon, make a bow and sew the leaves on top. The flowers can then be decorated with beads, as in the photo.



To finish the job, the raglan and sides need to be sewn. With small hidden stitches, sew the pin to the left front of the blouse.



Chapter 20

Jobs for advanced *A soft turtleneck*



Size: 10

What you need:

- 17.6 oz. of Class yarn of Lana Gatto purple color n.5231
- No. 6 and 7 needles
- No. 7 auxiliary needles
- Rounded tip wool needle

For this work, tubular stitches are used for the starting and closing. The braid stitch, garter stitch and the straight stockinet stitch, the rib-stitch 3/2 and the 2/2, while the row is made with a knit stitch.

The samples of 4in x 4in worked in garter stitch with the above needles, and the double yarn is obtained by unwinding 13 stitches and 20 rows.

The 22 braided stitches measure 5,5in. For one size up or down, calculate about 0,8in width (equal to about 3 stitches) and 0,8in height (equal to 4 rows).

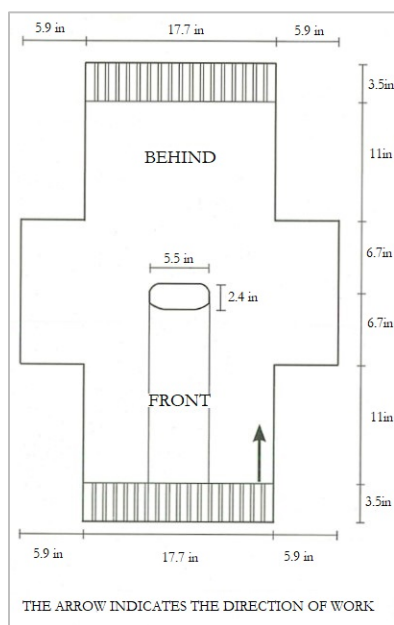
How to do it:

We report in the diagram the measures of the turtleneck where the arrow indicates the direction of work. The work is done with double yarn.

For the braid stitch: 22 stitches are worked:

The first, third, fifth, ninth, eleventh, and thirteenth rows: purl 2, knit 18, and purl 2.

The second row and the even rows: work the stitches as they appear (knit



if already knitted in the previous row and vice versa if not).

The seventh row: purl 2, 12 cross stitches to the right (put 6 stitches hanging on the cable needle behind the piece, 6 straight stitches and knit the open stitches), 6 straight stitches, and 2 purl stitches.

The fifteenth row: purl 2, knit 6, cross stitch 12 to the left (put 6 stitches hanging on the cable needle in front of the piece, 6 straight stitches, and knit the stitches on hold), purl 2 . Resume from the first to the sixteenth row.

For the rib stitch: you work on multiple numbers of stitches of 5 + 2.

The first row is worked with * purl 2, knit 3 *, and the pattern is repeated, finally ending with 2 purl stitches.

The second row requires the stitches to be worked as they appear, straight if already straight and vice versa.

Repeat these two rows.

Back, front, and sleeves: they are made simultaneously, starting from the base of the front. With size 6 needles, start with 82 stitches. For the edge, work 4 needles in tubular knit and 18 needles in 3/2 rib stitch, equal to 3,5in. Continue with size 7 needle, setting the piece as follows and distributing 20 decreases on the first row: 17 stitches in garter stitch, 3 stitches in straight stockinet stitch, 22 stitches in cable stitch, 3 stitches in straight stockinet stitch, 17 stitches in garter stitch. At 11in from the edge, for the sleeves, start 20 stitches again on the sides, and on these stitches, continue working in garter stitch. At 5,1in from the beginning of the sleeves, for the neckline, weave the 14 central



stitches and continue the two parts separately, weaving 2 stitches towards the center every 2 rows twice. 1,6in from the beginning of the washcloth neckline, for the back neckline, start 2 stitches again towards the center and, after 2 rows, join the two parts starting up again 14 stitches in the center. At 6,7in from the beginning of the back, for the sleeves, weave 20 stitches on the sides. At 11in from the interlacement of the stitches, for the edge, continue with the needles n.6 in 3/2 rib- stitch, distributing 24 increases on the first row. At 3,3in from the beginning of the edge, knit 4 tubular knitting needles and close the stitches with the knitting needle.

For the neck with size 6 needles and start 82 stitches and knit 4 rows in tubular knit, then in rib stitch 2/2 up to 6,7in in total height. Leave the stitches hanging.

To finish the job, use size 6 needles and up 42 stitches along the base of the sleeves. For the edges, work with size 5 needles and make 3/2 rib stitches and 4 rows with tubular knit, equal to 1,2in. Close the stitches with the knitting needle. Sew the underarms and sides. Sew the open stitches on the neck, one by one in the backstitch along the neckline, from the right side, starting from the middle of the neckline of the back. Sew the sides of the neck half from the top on the right side, then on the wrong side. Turn the neck half on the right side.

The jacket with a ruffle collar



Size: 10

What you need:

- 26.4 oz. of Camel Hair yarn of Lana Gatto color blue n.5915
- No. 6 needles
- No. 6 auxiliary needles
- Crochet hooks 3.00 and 5.00
- Rounded tip wool needle
- 4 buttons

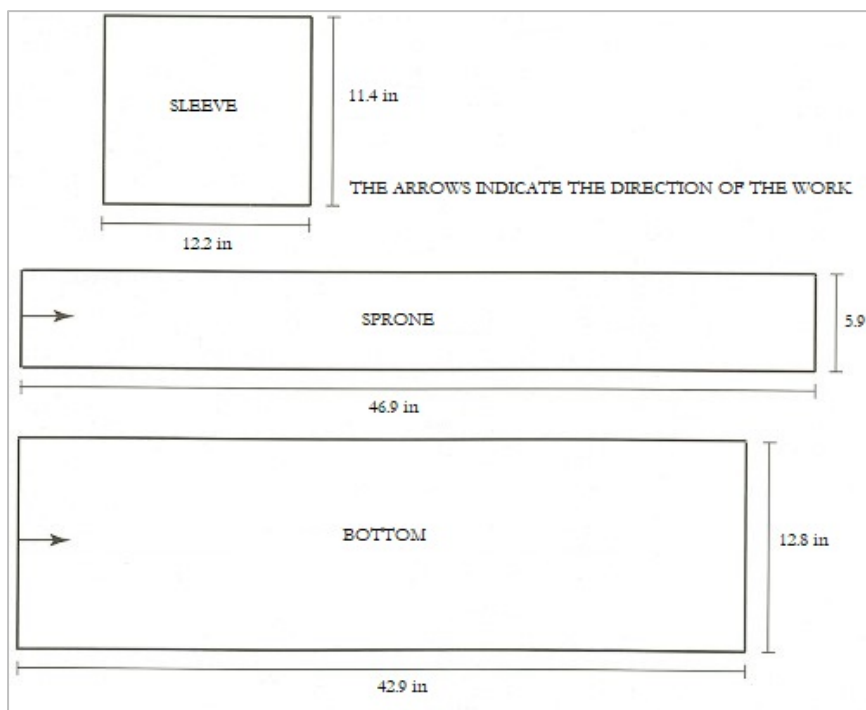
For this work, the straight stockinet stitch, reverse stitch, medallion stitch, and small diamonds stitch are used. With crochet, on the other hand, the chain stitch, single crochet, and double crochet are used.

The 4in x 4in samples are worked in medallion stitch with 6 needles, and the double yarn is obtained by unwinding 16 stitches and 20 rows.

The 14- small diamonds stitches measure 3,5in. For one size up or down, calculate about 0,8in width (equal to about 2 stitches) and 0,8in height (equal to about 4 rows).

How to do it:

We report in the diagram the measures of the jacket where the arrow indicates the direction of work. The work is done with



double yarn.

For the medallion stitch: work on multiple numbers of stitches of 12 + 4.

The first and nineteenth rows should be worked with knit 2, * knit 3, purl 6, knit 3 *, repeating the pattern from * to * throughout the row and finishing with knit 2.

The second row and the even rows: work the stitches as they appear (knit if already knitted in the previous row and vice versa if not).

The third row should be knit 2, * knit 2, 4 cross stitches left B (put one stitch hanging on the cable needle in front of the piece, purl 3 and knit the open stitch), 4 cross stitches right B (put 3 stitches hanging on the cable needle behind the piece, knit one and purl the stitches on hold), knit 2 * and repeat from * to * finishing with knit 2.

The fifth row: knit 2, * a knit stitch, 4 cross stitches to the left B, 2 knit stitches, 4 cross stitches to the right B, a knit stitch *, repeating from * to * and ending with 2 knit stitches.

The seventh row: knit 2, * 4 crossed stitches left B, 4 knit stitches, 4 crossed stitches right B *, repeating from * to * and finishing with 2 knit stitches.

The 9th and 11th rows: knit 2, * purl 3, knit 6, purl 3 *, repeating the pattern from * to * the entire row and finishing with knit 2.

The thirteenth row: knit 2, * 4 cross-stitches right B, 4 knit stitches, 4 cross-stitches left B *, repeating from * to * and finishing with 2 knit stitches.

The fifteenth row: knit 2, * a knit stitch, 4 crossed stitches to the right B, 2 knit stitches, 4 crossed stitches to the left B, a knit stitch *, repeating from * to * and ending with 2 knit stitches.

The seventeenth row: knit 2, * knit 2, cross-stitch 4 right B, cross stitch left B 4, knit 2 *, repeating from * to * and finishing with knit 2.

The twenty-first row repeats the first.

For the small diamonds stitch: 14 stitches are worked.

The first and nineteenth rows are worked with 4 purl stitches, 6 knit stitches, 4 purl stitches.

The second row and the even rows: work the stitches as they appear (knit if already knitted in the previous row and vice versa if not).

The third row is worked with 3 purl stitches, 4 cross stitches on the right A (put a stitch on hold on the auxiliary needle behind the piece, knit 3 and purl the stitch on the left), 4 cross stitches on the left A (put 3 stitches hanging on the cable needle in front of the piece, one stitch purl and knit the stitches on hold), purl 3.

The fifth row: purl 2 stitches, 4 cross-stitches on the right A, 4 cross stitches on the left A, purl 2 stitches.

The seventh row: purl a stitch, 4 cross-stitches on the right A 4 cross-stitches on the left A, a purl stitch.

The ninth and eleventh row: purl 1, knit 3, purl 6, knit 3, and purl one.



The thirteenth row: purl 4 stitches left A, 4 purl stitches, 4 right cross stitches A, and finishing with a purl stitch.

The fifteenth row: purl 2, 4 cross stitches left A, 2 purl stitches, 4 cross stitches right A, purl 2.

The seventeenth row: purl 3 stitches, 4 cross stitches left A, 4 cross stitches right A, purl 3 stitches.

The twenty-first row repeats the first.

The back and front are made simultaneously, starting with the opening side of the left front.

For the lower part, start with 52 stitches with size 6 needles and work in medallion stitch. At a total height of 42,9in, after having worked the 18th row of the stitch, weave the stitches.

For the yoke, cast on 22 stitches with size 6 needles and work as follows: 2 reverse stockinet stitches, 2 straight stockinet stitches, 14 small diamonds stitches, 2 straight stitches in stockinet stitch, and 2 stockinet stitches reverses.

At 48,8in of octal height, completed the eighteenth row of the stitched weave all the stitches.

For the sleeves, start 50 stitches and work in medallion stitch, omitting the first of the 2 initial stitches and the last of the 2 final stitches.

At a total height of 11,4in, after having worked the 18th row of the stitch, weave the stitches.

For the neck, cast on 21 stitches with the needles and work them as follows: 1 edge stitch, 2 straight stitches, 14 rhombus stitches, one stitch in straight stockinet stitch, 2 reverse stitches, and 1 stitch of the edge.

At 31,1in octal height, after completing the eighteenth row of the stitch, he weaves the stitches.

To finish the job, with the 5.00 crochet hook and double yarn, work a row of 118 single crochets, regularly distributed, along the left edge of the lower part (replacing the first single crochet with a chain).

With the 5.00 crochet hook, double yarn, and purl, work a row of 238 single crochets along the right edge of the yoke (replacing the first single crochet with a chain).

For the left front, join 28 single crochets of the yoke with the needle; for the left armhole, skip 47 stitches made on the right edge of the yoke, sew the 68 single crochets of the lower edge to the last 38 single crochets of the yoke.

Close the sleeves and pulls them along the openings.

With the 3.00 crochet hook, the purl, and the yarn used plain, he works a row of 122 single crochets along the left edge of the yoke. At the end of the row, cut the yarn.

Do not turn the work and fix the double thread in the first stitch of the row below. With the 5.00 crochet hook, work 3 chain stitches (equal to the first double crochet), one double crochet in each following single crochet, turn and knit a row with single crochet. Cut and fix the thread.



With the 5.00 crochet hook, the double yarn, and the knitwork, works a row of 122 single crochets along the right edge of the neck.

Sew the single crochets of the right neck edge along the left edge of the yoke.

Starting from the starting row of the neck, with 3.00 crochet hook and plain yarn, work a single crochet row along the end of the neck, along with the stitches of the cast-on edge of the yoke, and continue along the cast-on edge of the lower part, work 3 single crochets in the vertex stitch bottom and continue along with the stitches of the last row of the lower part, along the yoke and the neck, finally work a row in single crochet along the left edge of the neck, close the round with a slip stitch in the chain that replaces the first single crochet of the lap.

Continue with the 5.00 crochet hook and the double yarn and work 3 chain stitches to replace the first double crochet, then double crochet in each following stitch of the underlying round, at the vertex at the base of the opening sides, work 2 double crochets in the first and third of the 3 single crochets worked in the same stitch.

After making the last double crochet on the right hand's yoke, continue with single crochet along the end of the neck and along its left side. Fold the neck in half to the wrong side and sew the single crochets in the left edge to the single crochets worked along the yoke.

Along the opening edge of the right front, secure the yarn with a slipstitch in the first of the two stitches.



Continuing in single crochet up to the base of the yoke, work 4 chain stitches for the buttonhole and skip 2 stitches.

Continuing in single crochet along the yoke, work 2 more eyelets 10 stitches apart, in the end, continue in single crochet up to the stitch knitted in correspondence with the eighteenth stitch of the neck (the straight stitch after the small diamonds stitch) and the following stitch (the first reverse stitch); continuing along the folded neck, insert the crochet hook in the space between this straight stitch and the following reverse stitch, working a row of 82 single crochets along the neck. Cut and secure the thread.

To curl the neck, pass a thread with the needle in correspondence with the last small diamonds stitch.

Attach the buttons on the left front, the last button at the first intersection of the rhombus stitch of the neck, using the space created by the intersection of the other end as a buttonhole.

And that's it; you are done!

Conclusion

In this manual, we have tried to review all the essential elements to put any beginner in a position to carry out the first jobs and make some garments for themselves or as a gift.

Knitting is a beautiful hobby, and it represents one of the oldest occupations. As we have seen, historically, it is not a female prerogative. An extraordinary variety of creations are made possible: from a sweater for the mountains to a bonnet for the newborn - from a pair of socks to the center of the finest lace.

With a little goodwill, you are now in a position to occupy a few free moments in a relaxing and pleasant job, obtaining elegant and practical garments with little expense, which will have the great advantage of having been made by your hands!

At this point, all that remains is to wish you ...



Good job

