

NEW

Simple Steps to Crochet

Everything you need to know as easy as 1, 2, 3

PERFECT
FOR
BEGINNERS



Digital
Edition



NINTH
EDITION



Master all the stitches to start on your very first project

Welcome to Simple Steps to Crochet

Crochet has become one of the most popular pastimes in recent years, it's really as easy as one, two, three. In Simple Steps to Crochet, we start you at the very beginning, taking you through all the different types of yarn, hooks and all the other tools you might need to finish your projects. The easy-to-follow tutorials then lead you through everything you might need to know, from your first chain stitch through to the more exciting shells and popcorn stitches before you'll find some really great patterns from our wonderful designers. Look out for Horace, he's especially menacing...



「 FUTURE 」

Simple Steps to Crochet

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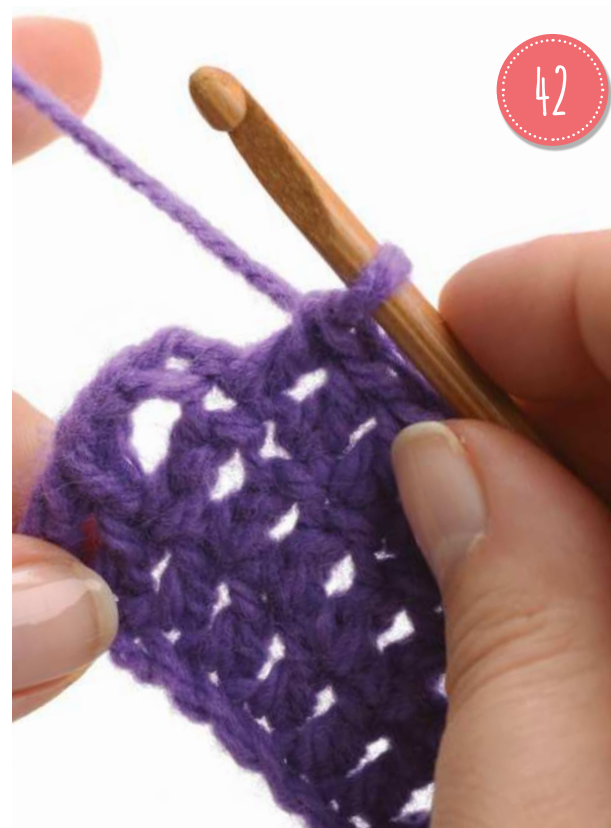
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All our crochet patterns and tutorials use UK terminology. For notes on converting between UK and US terms, head to page 23. There's also a handy list of common abbreviations on page 161 for your guidance.



GETTING STARTED

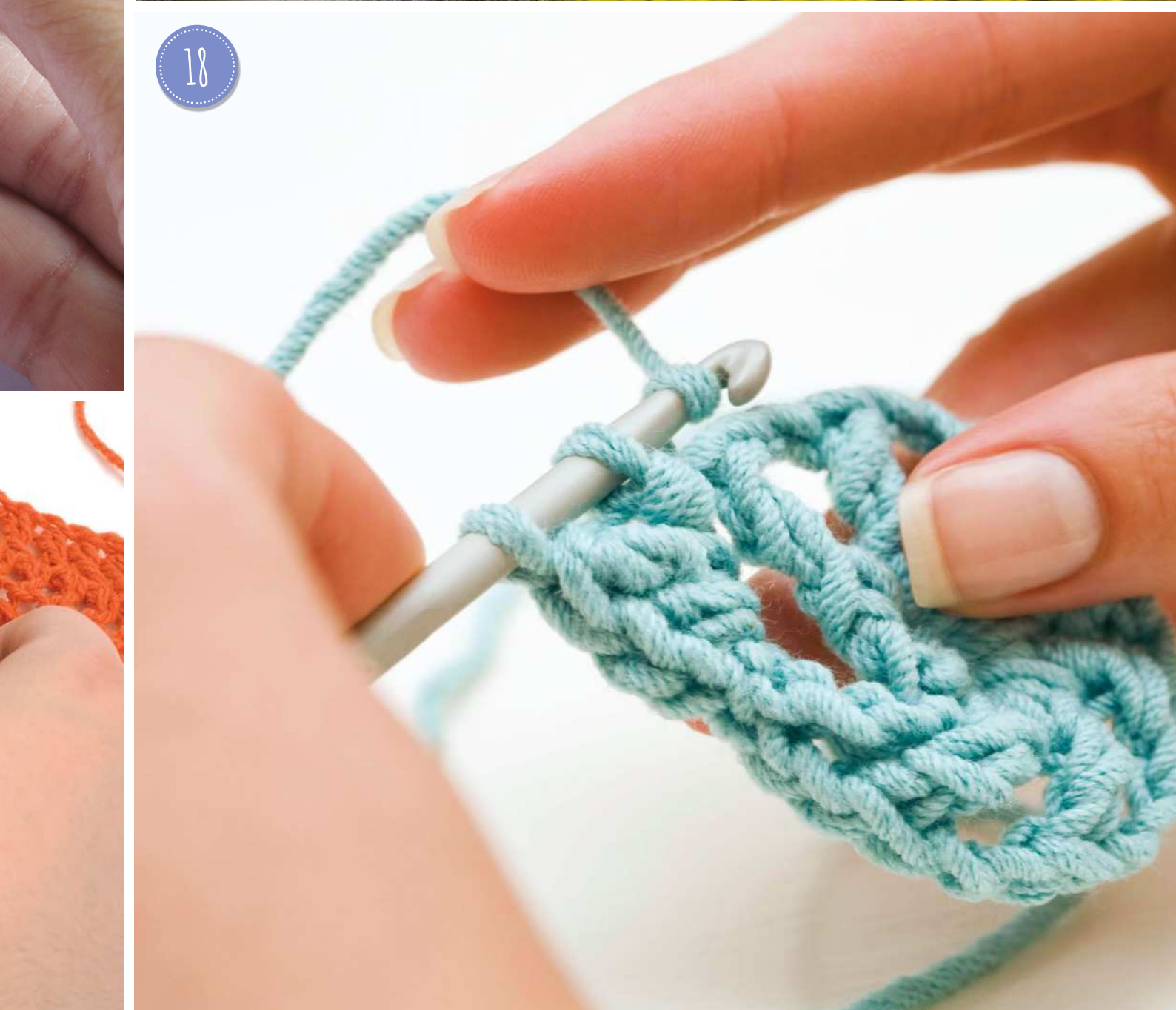
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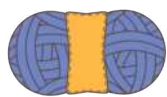
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Getting started

YARNS

From chunky wool to 4-ply acrylic, there is a wide variety of yarns with which you can crochet

To begin crocheting, all you need are two essential pieces of equipment: a crochet hook and a ball of yarn. The yarn that you decide to use will play a part in determining which hook you will work with, so let's start by looking at the many types of yarn available to you.

Yarns are made with a wide variety of fibres; most are natural, some are synthetic, and others blend different fibres together. All yarns have different textures and properties, and will affect the look and feel of your finished project. For example, wool is stretchy and tough, alpaca is soft and

luxurious, while natural and synthetic blends are durable with other enhanced properties.

When choosing a yarn you also need to consider its thickness, usually called its weight. Different weights affect the appearance of your project and the number of stitches needed.

When learning to crochet, it's a good idea to start with a medium-weight yarn that feels comfortable in your hand and is smooth but not too slippery. A yarn described as worsted, Aran or 10-ply in wool or a wool blend is ideal.



WOOL

Wool is very warm and tough, so great for winter wear. It can be fine and soft or rough and scratchy, but will soften with washing. It's a good for new crocheter.



COTTON

This natural vegetable fibre is less elastic than wool. Cotton has a lovely stitch definition when crocheted, and is good for homewares and bags.



MOHAIR

Mohair is a silk-like fibre that comes from the Angora goat. It dyes well and is often blended with other fibres. It is great for winter garments as it is warm.



ACRYLIC

Acrylic yarn is both affordable and washable. This synthetic yarn is very soft to the touch and comes in a wide variety of colours and textures.



ALPACA

Alpaca yarn can be hairy looking, but it is one of the warmest and most luxurious wools out there. It is also incredibly soft, and comes in varieties such as baby and royal.



NATURAL AND SYNTHETIC BLENDS

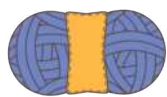
Blending natural and man-made fibres creates yarns that are more versatile. It can also enhance their appearance.

YARN WEIGHTS

Yarn Weight	Properties	Ideal For	Recommended Hook Sizes	
			UK	US
Lace, 2-ply, fingering	Extremely light, Lace yarn produces a very delicate texture on 2mm (US 0) hooks. Bigger hooks will produce a more open fabric.	Lace	2.25mm	B-1
Superfine, 3-ply, fingering, baby	Using very slim hooks, Superfine yarn is perfect for lightweight, intricate lace work.	Finely woven socks, shawls, babywear	2.25-3.5mm	B-1 to E-4
Fine, 4-ply, sport, baby	Fine yarn is great for socks, and can also be used in items that feature slightly more delicate textures.	Light jumpers, babywear, socks, accessories	3.5-4.5mm	E-4 to 7
Double knit (DK), light worsted, 5/6-ply	An extremely versatile weight yarn, DK can be used to create a wide variety of items and crochets up relatively quickly.	Jumpers, light-weight scarves, blankets, toys	4.5-5.5mm	7 to I-9
Aran, medium worsted, Afghan, 12-ply	With many yarns in this thickness using a variety of fibres to make them machine washable, Aran yarn is good for garments with thick cabled detail and functional items.	Jumpers, cabled garments, blankets, hats, scarves, mittens	5.5-6.5mm	I-9 to K-10 1/2
Chunky, bulky, craft, rug, 14-ply	Quick to crochet, chunky yarn is perfect for warm outerwear. Often made from lightweight fibres to prevent drooping.	Rugs, jackets, blankets, hats, legwarmers, winter accessories	6.5-9mm	K-10 1/2 to M-13
Super chunky, super bulky, bulky, roving, 16-ply and upwards	Commonly used with very large hooks, Super chunky yarn crochets up very quickly. Large stitches make mistakes easy to spot.	Heavy blankets, rugs, thick scarves	9mm+	M-13+

Did you know?

Every ball of yarn comes with a recommended hook size, which is printed on the label. Use bigger hooks than this to make a more open stitch, and smaller ones to make a tighter, more compact fabric.



Getting started

CROCHET HOOKS

As well as coming in a variety of different sizes, crochet hooks come in a range of styles, too. With a bit of practice, you'll find the one that suits you

Different crochet hooks are designed with various factors in mind, from the type of project you will be working on to the level of grip and comfort required. Most importantly, crochet hooks come in different sizes, and the size of hook you use – while most of the time being determined by the weight of the yarn you are working with – will determine the look of your finished project.

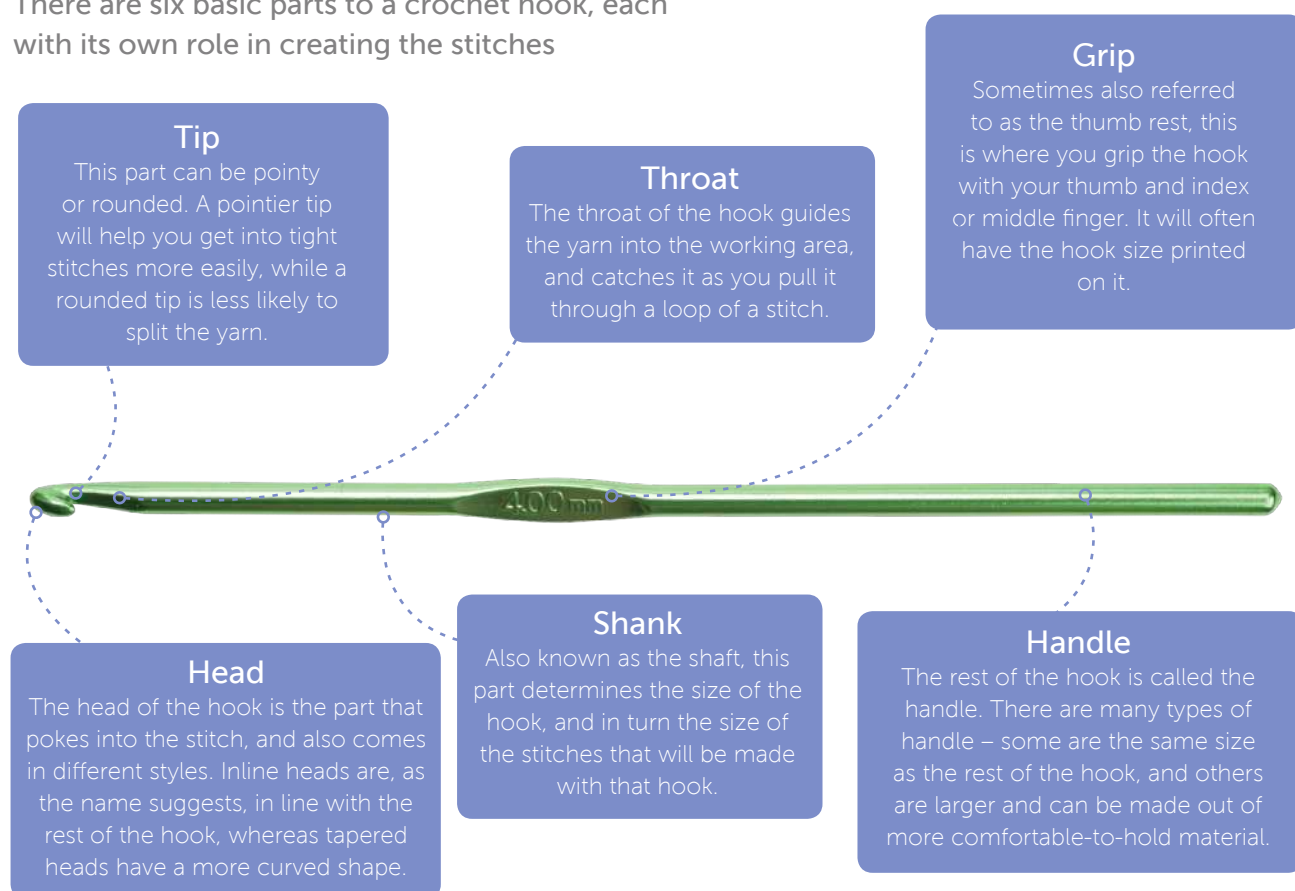
In general, the thicker the yarn that you use the larger the crochet hook you will need to go with it, but using a

large hook with a fine yarn can also produce an interesting, delicate fabric.

Crochet hooks are produced in different materials – mainly metal, wood and plastic – and some come with comfy-grip or ergonomic handles. Finding the right hook for you will most likely be a matter of trial and error, but as a beginner we recommend you work with a hook that is 5mm or larger, with Aran weight yarn. This will produce defined, easy-to-see stitches that will be simple to identify and work with.

ANATOMY OF A CROCHET HOOK

There are six basic parts to a crochet hook, each with its own role in creating the stitches



Crochet hooks

HOOK SIZES

Hook sizes are measured in millimetres, measured by the width across the shank. They are available from as small as 2mm to as large as 20mm or bigger. The size of hook you will need is related to the thickness of yarn that you use – thicker yarns need larger hooks – and will almost always be specified in a pattern.

Hooks can also be labelled in US sizes instead of in metric, with letters or numbers given to identify the size of the hook, as shown in the table below. If in doubt about the size of a particular hook, check the metric measurement, as this is less ambiguous.

HOOK SIZE TABLE

UK Size	US Size
2mm, 2.25mm	B-1
2.5mm, 2.75mm	C-2
3mm, 3.25mm	D-3
3.5mm	E-4
3.75mm, 4mm	F-5
4mm, 4.25mm	G-6
4.5mm	G-7
5mm	H-8
5.5mm	I-9
6mm	J-10
6.5mm, 7mm	K-10.5
8mm	L-11
9mm	M-13
10mm	N,P-15

HOOK MATERIALS

As well as varying in size and style, crochet hooks also come in a variety of materials, most commonly metal, plastic and wood – each with their own set of pros and cons. Aluminium hooks are smooth, strong and long lasting, but may feel uncomfortable in your hand after long periods of working. If you find you like the way a metal hook works with yarn but not the way it feels in your hand, you could try a metal hook with a rubber grip.

Plastic hooks are also smooth and easy to work with, but will bend more easily and could even snap. They can also

make a squeaky noise when working the yarn, which could be off-putting to some. Most larger hooks are made of plastic so as to not be too heavy.

While wooden hooks feel warm to the touch, unlike cold aluminium hooks, and are flexible; they need to be well finished to ensure there are no rough spots that could snag yarn. They also need to be conditioned over time so they don't dry out. An alternative to wood is a hook made out of bamboo, which is lightweight, smooth and flexible, but prone to splintering.

To determine which type of hook is best for you, give each a try to see which feels best in your hand before you invest in multiple sizes.



Did you know?

The world's largest crochet hook was created by Jim Bolin in 2013, and is six foot 1.5 inches tall and three inches in diameter. Bolin also holds the record for the world's largest knitting needles and the world's largest golf tee.



Getting started

CROCHET KIT BAG

Although just a hook and a ball of yarn will get you pretty far in crochet, many other helpful tools are available

CASE

You will only need a small case to keep all your crochet tools together, and ones designed with crochet tools in mind can be found at most craft stores. These will most likely be fitted with multiple elastic straps to keep your hooks and tools in place. However, as crochet hooks are only small, you could alternatively use a pencil case (as pictured) to keep everything in one place.

ROW COUNTER

Row counters are used for marking off how many rows you've worked. Just turn it once when you finish a row and it will keep track for you.

SCISSORS

A sharp pair of scissors is one of the most important tools a crocheter can keep to hand, as you will use them frequently for cutting yarn. Try to avoid using a blunt pair as this can cause yarn to fray, making it difficult to work with.



Top tip

If you need to use a stitch marker but don't have one to hand, a leftover scrap of yarn tied in a loop around the stitch or even a bobby pin can also make pretty good substitutes.

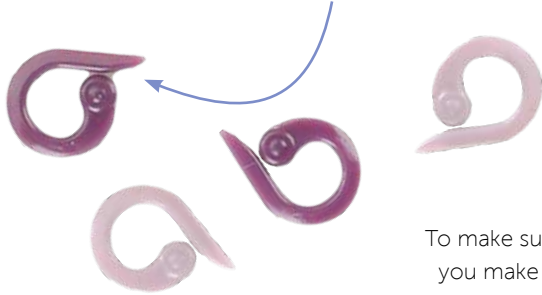
YARN NEEDLES

Also called a tapestry needle or a darning needle, this handy tool will be useful for finishing off your projects neatly. As these needles are thick, blunt-tipped and have a large eye to fit the yarn into, they are the perfect tool for weaving in ends and stitching pieces together, giving a professional finish to your pieces.



STITCH MARKERS

With multiple uses, stitch markers are some of the handiest tools a crocheter can keep in their kit bag. Their main purpose is to mark stitches. Place one in the first stitch of a row so you don't lose your place in a pattern.



FIBREFILL

For stuffing your amigurumi projects you will need 'toy stuffing', also known as fibrefill. You can buy it in good craft stores or simply use the innards of a pillow!

SAFETY EYES

To make sure that the toys you make are suitable for children, use safety eyes as they won't come out even when tugged on!



HOOKE SIZES

Hook sizes are measured in millimetres, measured by the width across the shank. They are available from as small as 2mm to as large as 20mm or bigger. The size of hook you will need is related to the thickness of yarn that you use – thicker yarns need larger hooks. It is suggested that you use a smaller hook than recommended for amigurumi projects – the patterns will tell you.

HOOKE MATERIALS

As well as varying in size and style, crochet hooks also come in a variety of materials, most commonly metal, plastic and wood – each with their own set of pros and cons. You can also get hooks that come with a rubber handle which provide a comfier grip for larger projects. To determine which type of hook is best for you, give each a try to see which feels best in your hand before you invest in multiple sizes.

T-PINS

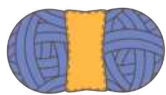
These are essential if you are going to block your finished pieces. While any kind of sharp pin will work for blocking, T-pins are some of the easiest to work with as they are sturdy and long. It's important to check that you're buying rust-proof pins, or else your work could be quickly ruined by rust stains.



TAPE MEASURE

A measuring device is essential for checking your gauge (tension) when crocheting. A ruler will often do, but the flexibility of a tape measure makes it easier to use. A tape measure will also come in handy if you are crocheting something to exact measurements, like items of clothing.





Getting started

HOLD YOUR HOOK AND YARN

First things first: how to hold your hook and yarn. With practice you'll find the method that's most comfortable for you

A crochet hook can feel a bit unnatural in your hand at first, but you'll soon get used to the way it feels and how it moves. If you've got a hook with a thumb rest (one without a comfort grip on the bottom), start by grabbing that part of the hook between your thumb and index finger of your right hand, with the throat of the hook facing towards you. If you're left-handed, or you find that holding the hook in your right hand just won't work for you, turn to the next page

for our guide on crochet for left-handers. While your right hand is busy handling the crochet hook, your left hand has its own job to do – controlling the tension in your yarn.

The tighter you hold the yarn in your left hand, the tighter your crocheted stitches will be, and vice versa. There are many ways you can wrap the yarn around your left-hand fingers to maintain tension, and with practice you will find a method that works best for you.

Top tip

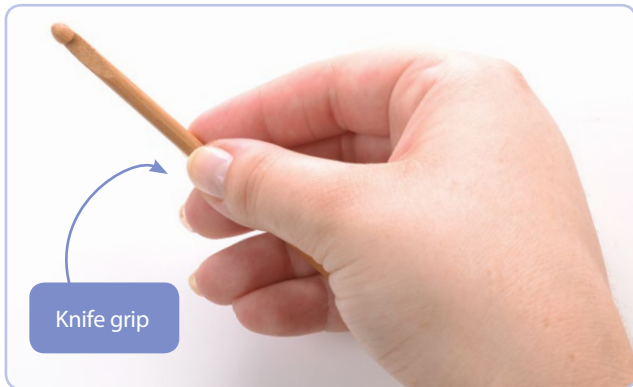
While these are the two suggested forms of how to hold your hook, don't feel like you can't just hold it how is most comfortable for you!



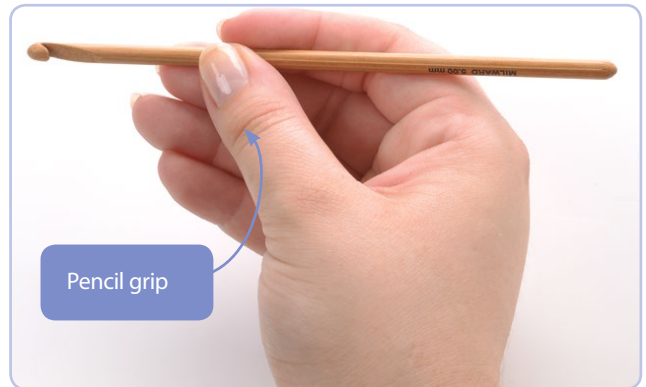
Hold your hook and yarn

HOLDING YOUR HOOK

There are two main ways to hold the crochet hook: overhand (knife grip) and underhand (pencil grip). Try both ways to see which feels right for you. The most important thing to keep in mind is finding a grip that will feel comfortable over a period of time.



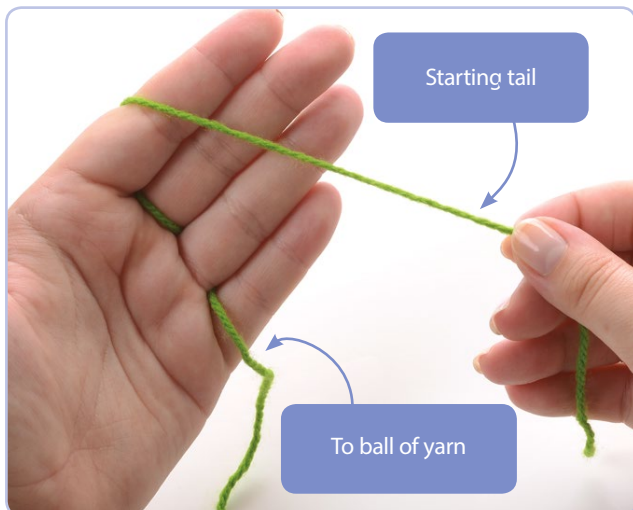
01 Overhand This technique is also known as the knife grip, as you grip the crochet hook as if you're holding a knife. Place your hand over the hook when you grab the thumb rest with your thumb and index finger, then support the handle in your palm.



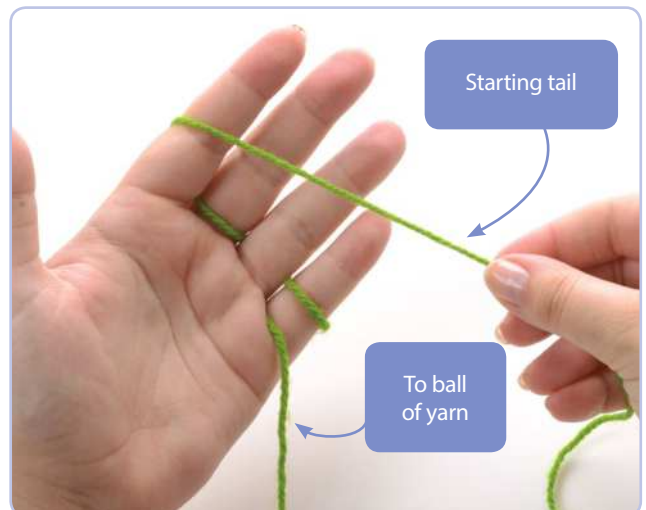
02 Underhand For this technique, hold the hook like a pencil (hence the name pencil grip). When you hold the thumb rest between your thumb and index finger, let the handle rest on top of your hand.

HOLDING YOUR YARN

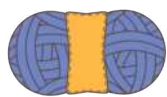
Your left hand meanwhile will be busy holding the yarn and controlling tension. Here are just two of the ways you could hold the yarn in your left hand. When you've chosen a method you're happy with, close your hand gently around the yarn to secure it in place. Make sure the yarn is not so tight that you are unable to move it through your fingers or loose enough to cause the working yarn to go slack.



01 The loose-yarn hold First, make sure you're holding the end of the yarn in your right hand, so that you will feed the working yarn to your hook. With your palm facing you, weave the yarn in front of your little finger, behind your ring finger, in front of your middle finger and behind your index finger.



02 The pinky hold Looping the yarn once around your little finger may help you keep a more secure grip. With the end of the yarn in your right hand and your left palm facing you, begin by looping the yarn around your little finger clockwise. Next feed it behind your ring finger, in front of your middle finger and behind your index finger.



Getting started

LEFT-HANDED CROCHET

If you're left-handed and thinking that crochet isn't for you, don't give up just yet. There's a very simple trick to make crocheting a little easier for you...

While most crochet patterns are written for people crocheting with their right hand, it's easy to make them applicable for left-handed

crocheters. As left-handed crochet produces a mirror image of right-handed crochet, there are just four instructions that need to be reversed – and these can be seen in the table on the next page.

By following these simple rules, you will be able to crochet almost everything that a right-handed crocheter can with ease. The only differences will be that diagonal details slant the other way and spirals will rotate in the opposite direction,

but this will rarely cause significant problems. To see what your finished piece will look like, or to follow a technique tutorial, simply hold the image up to a mirror. This will show the left-handed version.

However, there are some instances in which the mirror image will not be what you want to produce – for example, with lettering. If you simply reversed the four directions, the letters would appear back to front. In cases such as these, work from a chart by starting at the end of each row and working backwards. This should produce the results that you are looking for.



Left-handed crochet

Did you know?

All the tutorials in this book can be followed by left-handed crocheters. Simply follow the chart to reverse the instructions and hold the picture tutorials up to a mirror to see how you should be working.

Every time you see...

Replace it with...

Right

Left

Left

Right

Clockwise

Counterclockwise

Counterclockwise

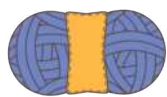
Clockwise

When this is what the photo shows for a right-hander...



This is what you'd do if you're left-handed...





Getting started

TENSION (GAUGE)

When you're working to exact measurements, it's important to know how many stitches you need. Working out your tension will help with this

Top tip

Tension squares don't have to go to waste. You could keep them until you have enough to stitch together a cushion cover, or maybe even a blanket.



When creating some projects, knowing the exact size and feel of the fabric you're about to crochet before you get started will be a big help. Tension is the measure of how many stitches and rows you need to create per a length and width of crocheted fabric. For example, crocheting tight, small stitches will inevitably result in a denser fabric than big, loose stitches will.

How tightly or loosely your crocheted stitches will be depends on several factors. Firstly, the size of your hook plays an important role, with a larger hook creating bigger stitches and vice versa. Secondly, the weight of your yarn will also have an impact on the end product's tension. Lastly, your own tension while crocheting will have the most unpredictable effect on any piece that you're creating. If you crochet very tight stitches, then a piece will most likely be smaller than the dimensions provided in a pattern. Conversely, if you crochet very loose stitches, then the piece may be much larger than the pattern dimensions and could even appear quite holey. Working out your tension before embarking on a project can save you encountering problems further down the line.

CREATING A SWATCH

The easiest way to check your tension is to create a swatch with the hook, yarn and pattern you are planning to use for your project. This will give you an idea of whether you're making it to the right dimensions and what the yarn and pattern actually looks like. The swatch should be at least 10cm (4in) in size, not including the edge stitches and rows, as these may be distorted and not provide an accurate measure. The more you crochet, the more accurate the measurements will be.

WHAT NEXT

Once you have taken your measurements, compare them to the tension statement on the pattern you are using. If you have the same number of stitches, then you are ready to begin crocheting, and the dimensions of your piece should match up to the pattern. However, if you have crocheted more stitches than the tension, then your stitches are too small, and you will need to use a bigger hook to get the right tension. On the other end of the scale, if you have crocheted fewer

stitches than the tension, then your stitches are too loose and you will need to use a smaller crochet hook. If you can't quite match the tension stated on the pattern, best practice is to keep creating tension squares until you do.

MEASURING YOUR TENSION

Lay out your swatch on a flat surface, taking care not to stretch it. Place a ruler or tape measure horizontally across the swatch, making sure it's placed at least one stitch away from the edge. Take a note of how many stitches there are in 10cm (4in) – this is your tension. Next, turn the ruler or tape measure vertically to measure how many rows there are within the same length, again making sure it is at least one row away from the edge. Count and take a note of how many rows there are.

Don't forget, if your finished piece is to be blocked, you will also need to block your tension square in the same way before you measure your tension, as this could have an effect on the final dimensions.

HOW IMPORTANT IS IT

Obviously you won't need to make a tension square for every crochet project you do. When you're making things like children's toys or blankets, there is a bit more freedom when following a pattern. However, when creating garments to exact fitted measurements, tension squares are incredibly important, as you could find you make a piece that does not fit the intended wearer.

Ultimately, it's up to you how important the finished measurements of the piece are, and whether or not you need to check your tension with a tension square.

AMIGURUMI TENSION

Unlike when making larger crochet projects or garments, achieving exact tension is not critical for amigurumi. However, it is important to note that tension should always be quite tight, and this is achieved by using a smaller size hook than you might otherwise expect, and smaller than that recommended on the ball band of your yarn. For example, a DK weight yarn might usually be worked on a 4 mm hook, but for amigurumi you might use a 3 mm hook or even smaller. A tight tension helps prevent the amigurumi figure from being floppy, which is particularly important for figures that are to sit upright. Too loose a tension and you will be able to see the stuffing through the small gaps between stitches; your project may turn out considerably larger than anticipated; and you may also use more yarn than the pattern recommends. The hook size listed in patterns is only a recommendation, or starting point.

It is important to remember that everyone has their own tension – some people crochet more tightly or loosely than others. This is normal and not a problem, you just need to be aware of it and know how to adjust your tension to that required. This is easily achieved by using a smaller or larger hook.



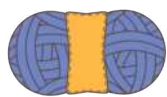
TENSION TOO LOOSE

If you knit at a normal or loose tension, you will find that you will be able to see the stuffing between the stitches, which detracts from the finished appearance of your project. If your crochet looks like this, you should consider using a smaller hook than the one suggested by the pattern.



CORRECT TENSION

Here you will see the stitches are much closer together and so the stuffing is barely visible. It's difficult to be too tight with amigurumi, however you should still be able to work stitches reasonably easily. If you are working too tightly, this can feel difficult and uncomfortable on your hands, and you should consider changing to a larger hook.



Getting started

READING CROCHET PATTERNS

Most crochet projects are made by following a pattern. Although they may look daunting at first, they're easy to read once you understand the terms

When you've decided on what you want your first crochet project to be – whether it's a simple scarf or an amigurumi character – you will most likely follow a pattern to create it. Patterns are the instructions that tell you what stitches to use and how to combine them to make the item you're working on. You can find crochet patterns in a variety of places, including in this book (see page 112 for projects).

As crochet patterns are written in shorthand, to the untrained eye they can just look like meaningless lists of jumbled letters, but they're actually pretty accessible once you've mastered the terms. They are written this way so as to not take up too much space on the page, and also to make them easier to follow. Instead of a long list of words that you could easily lose your place in, patterns are concise and simple to read. All patterns should follow the same conventions, so once you've learned how to read them, any that you pick up should make sense. Read on to learn all about crochet patterns.

STARTING INSTRUCTIONS

At the top of a stitch pattern will normally be very important information that you need to know before beginning work on the pattern. This will include what size hook and weight of yarn is advised, as well as the tension. There may also be information about any special stitches you need and any uncommon abbreviations.

To begin your pattern, the first instruction will usually be to create a foundation chain (for working in rows) or a chain circle or magic ring (for working in the round). If you are not working to exact measurements laid out in the pattern, you will be told to make a foundation chain in a multiple. This is needed to ensure that any repeats don't get cut off halfway through when you come to the end of a row, as well as a small number of stitches for the turning chain. For example, 'ch a multiple of 6 sts plus 3' means you need to chain any multiple of six (6, 12, 18, 24 etc) plus three more chains at the end for the turning chain.

ROWS AND ROUNDS

Crochet is always worked either in rows or rounds, and patterns give you the instructions for what you should do

in each row or round you are about to create. They will be numbered (Row 1, Row 2 or Rnd 1, Rnd 2 etc) to make it easy for you to keep your place when working through the list. At the end of each instruction, the number of stitches you should have worked in that round/row will be given. If you have crocheted more or fewer than this, then you know a mistake has been made. This gives you an opportunity to correct it before you move on.

WORKING INTO SPECIFIC STITCHES

As well as telling you which stitch to make next, a pattern will also tell you where to make it.

If the pattern says to work into the next stitch, you need to crochet into the very next stitch. For example, 'dc in next st' means double crochet in the next stitch.

If it says to work a multiple of stitches into a multiple number of stitches, you need to crochet the same stitch however many times it asks for into the number of stitches it asks you to. For example, '2 tr in next 2 sts' means make two treble crochets in the next stitch and two treble crochets in the one after it, for a total of four stitches made.

When different stitch types are given in brackets, you need to make all of the stitches given in the stitch it's asking you to. For example, '(tr, ch, tr) in next st' means make a treble crochet in the next stitch, then chain, then treble crochet in the same stitch as the first treble crochet.

If a pattern asks you to work a stitch into a specific stitch, then you skip all the ones that come before and work it into the top of the stitch it's asking you to. For example, 'dc in next htr' means double crochet in the next half treble crochet, no matter what comes before it in the row.

If a pattern asks you to work the next stitch into a chain space (ch-sp), then you need to insert your hook in the space underneath a loop that was created by a chain below.

REPEATS

Instead of writing out repeated instructions, they will be identified in patterns either using brackets or an asterisk (or other symbol), followed by an instruction of how many times they should be repeated within your chosen pattern.

Repeated instructions given in brackets – for example, '(2 dc in next st, tr in next st) 4 times' – means that the sequence

Reading crochet patterns

inside the brackets needs to be followed, from beginning to end, as many times as identified by the number outside the brackets. In this case, four times.

Repeated instructions identified with an asterisk – for example, ‘*tr in next 4 chs, ch 2, sk next 2 chs; rep from * 3 times’ – means that the sequence that begins at the asterisk and ends at the semi colon needs to be followed, and then repeated the number of times stated. So in this case, the instruction will be followed four times.

Repeated instructions can also direct that they be worked until the end of the row, or until the last few stitches. For example, ‘*3tr in next st, ch 2, dc in next st; rep from * across to last 2 sts, tr in last 2 sts’ means you repeat the sequence between the asterisk and semi colon until you reach the last two stitches of the row (or round), at which point you end the repeat and follow the further instructions.

MULTIPLE SIZES

A pattern may offer you multiple sizes to make something in, which is common with items for infants and young children. When this happens, the information for the smallest size will be given first with the rest followed in brackets.

For example:

Size: Small (medium, large) - ch 40 (48, 56)

This means that to make the smallest item, you need to

follow the first instruction, for the medium size the first instruction inside the brackets and for the largest the second instruction given inside the brackets. Make sure to not use the wrong instruction, or else you may find the garment won't fit.



UK/US TERMINOLOGY

Always make sure you check whether a crochet pattern uses US or UK crochet terms – or you'll find yourself very confused

FOLLOW THE PATTERN

Confusingly, patterns that are printed in Britain and other places that follow UK naming conventions use different terms to describe stitches than patterns printed in North America. To make things even more difficult, the same name is used to mean different stitches under either convention. Most patterns will state whether they are using US or UK terminology at the start, but if not, checking the pattern's country of origin may be a good place to start in finding out which convention is being used. A handy trick to remember is that there is no stitch called a single crochet (sc) in UK terminology, so if you see this on the pattern, then you know it is using US naming conventions. Everything in this book uses UK terminology.

UK	US
Chain (ch)	Chain (ch)
Double crochet (dc)	Single crochet (sc)
Treble crochet (tr)	Double crochet (dc)
Half treble crochet (htr)	Half double crochet (hdc)
Double treble crochet (dtr)	Triple (treble) crochet (tr)
Slip stitch (sl st/ss)	Slip stitch (sl st/ss)



KEY TECHNIQUES

KEY TECHNIQUES

26 SLIPKNOT

28 YARN OVER

29 DRAW UP A LOOP

30 FOUNDATION CHAIN

32 WORK THE CHAIN

34 WORK SUBSEQUENT ROWS

36 SLIP STITCH

38 DOUBLE CROCHET

40 TREBLE CROCHET

31 HALF TREBLE CROCHET

42 DOUBLE TREBLE CROCHET

44 TURNING CHAINS

46 IDENTIFY STITCHES

48 FIX MISTAKES

49 FASTEN OFF

50 EDGING

52 WEAVE IN ENDS

54 CHANGE COLOURS

56 READ STITCH DIAGRAMS

58 INCREASING

60 DECREASING

62 START IN THE ROUND

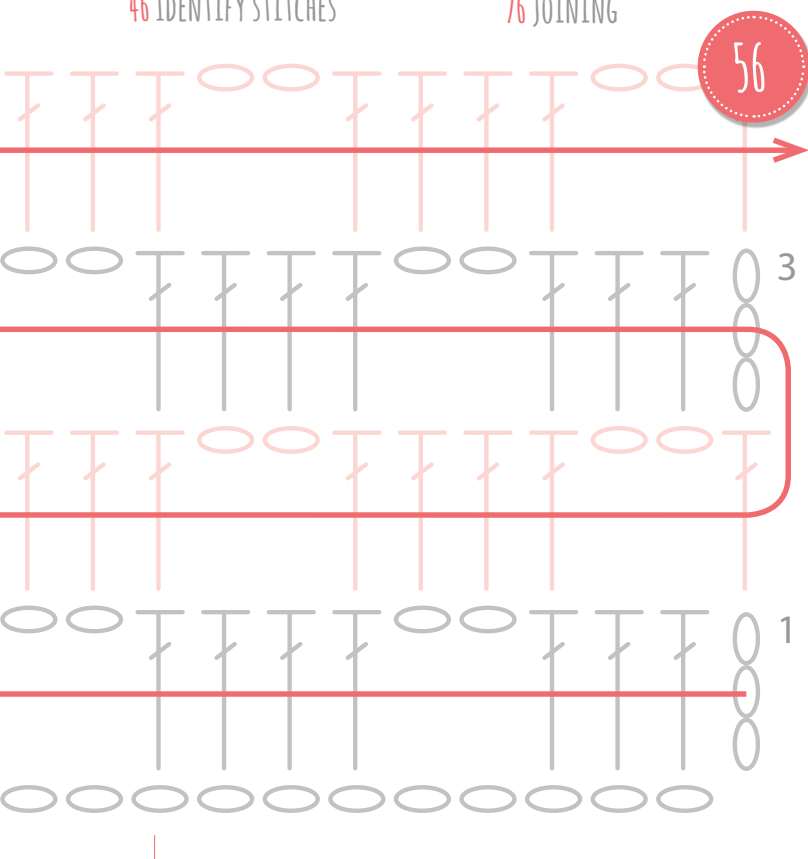
66 WORK IN THE ROUND

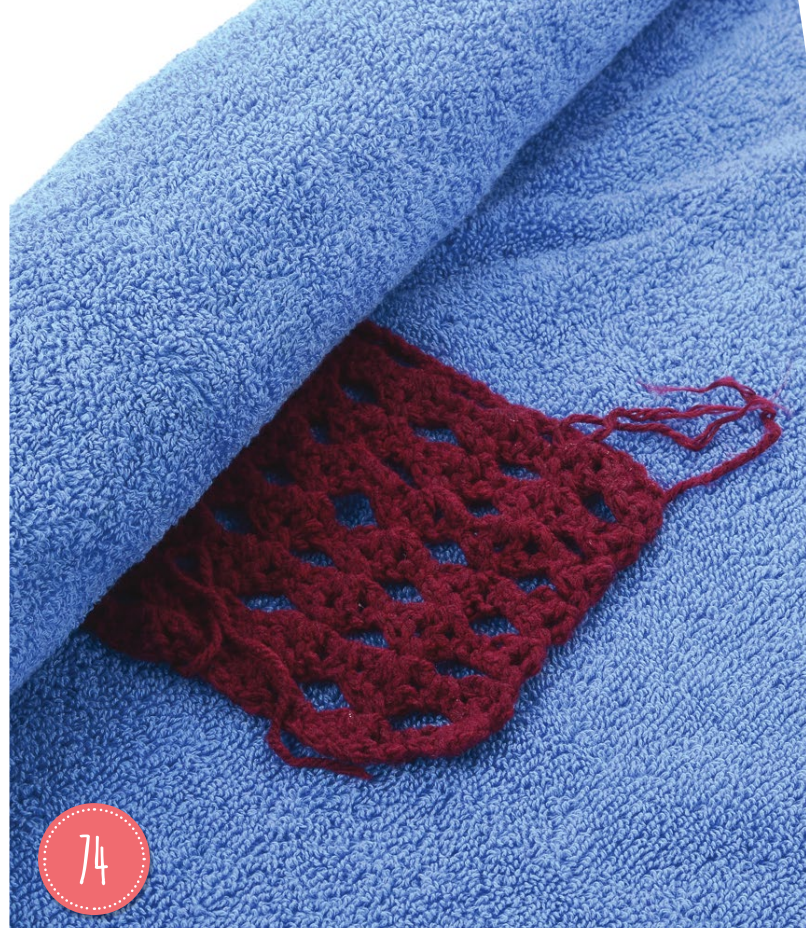
70 STANDARD INCREASES

72 INVISIBLE FINISH

74 BLOCKING

76 JOINING





SLIPKNOT

This easy knot is the place to start when making most crocheted items that are worked in rows



01 Make a loop Wrap the yarn once around one or two of your fingers on your left hand to form a loop, making sure to leave a tail of at least 10cm (or longer if your pattern calls for it).



02 Insert your hook Move your newly formed loop off your fingertips and grip it between your thumb and index finger on your left hand. Insert your hook from right to left into the loop.



03 Identify the working yarn The working yarn is the yarn that is attached to your ball. Catch it with your hook ready for the next step.



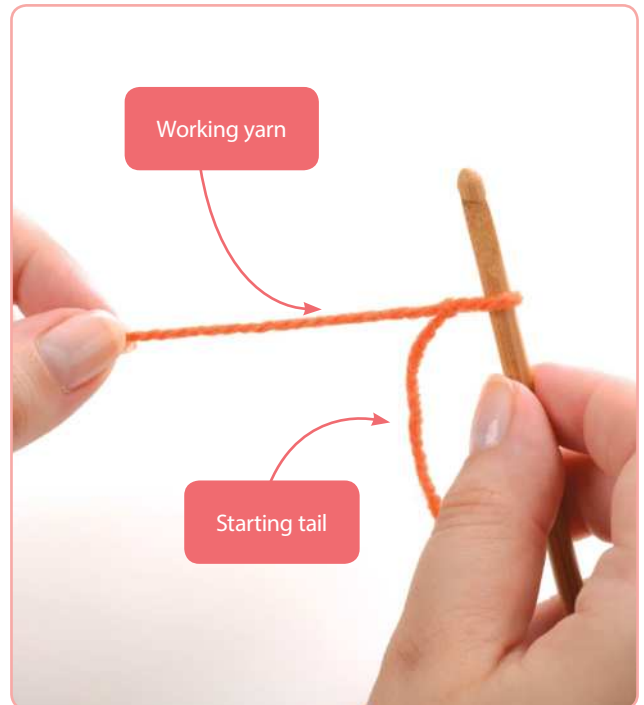
04 Draw up a loop Pull the working yarn through the loop using the hook. There will now be a loop on your hook.

"Leave the loop loose enough that your hook can easily slide up and down inside it"

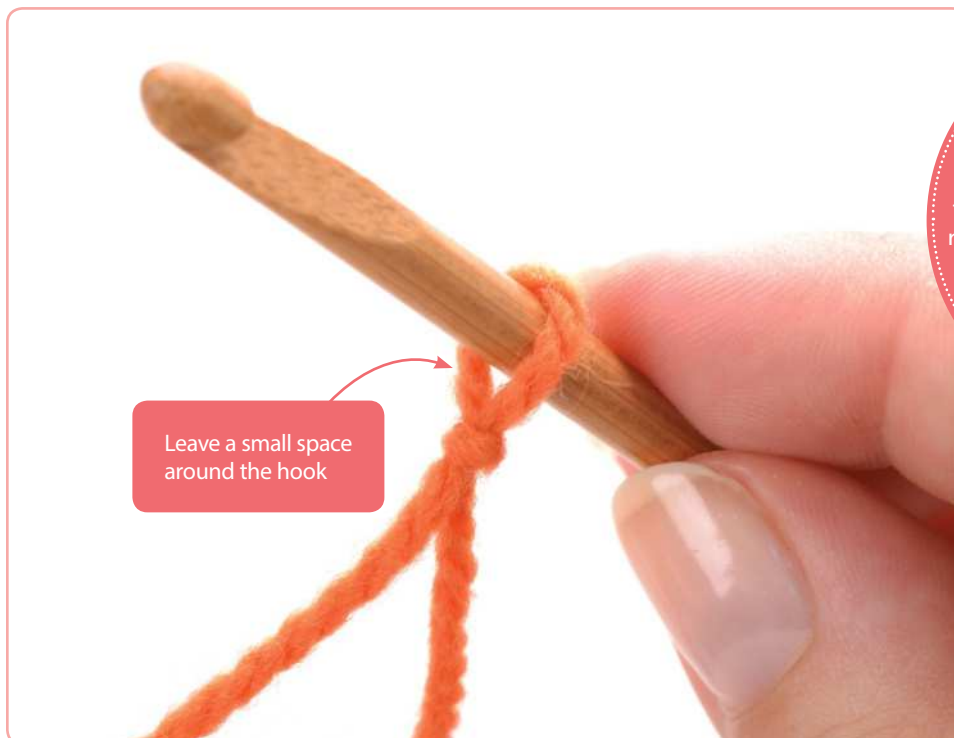
Slipknot



05 Pull it tight Grip the tail and the working yarn between your thumb and fingers on your left hand. Pull them tight to form the knot.



06 Close the loop... Pull on the working yarn to close the loop around your hook. If pulling the tail tightens the knot, then you have accidentally made an adjustable slipknot, which is unsuitable. Undo your knot and start again.



Top tip

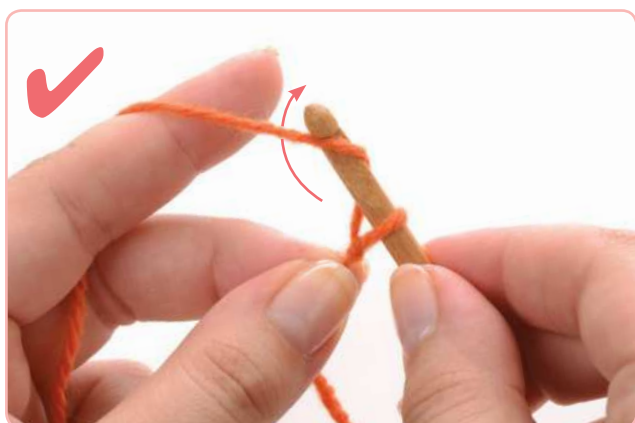
There are many different ways to make a slipknot, and if you're not happy with this one, you can experiment with a couple of others until you find a method that's comfortable for you.

07 ...but not too tight While you want the loop to be tight, it still needs to be able to move up and down the hook. So ensure a small space is left around the hook when you're tightening the knot.

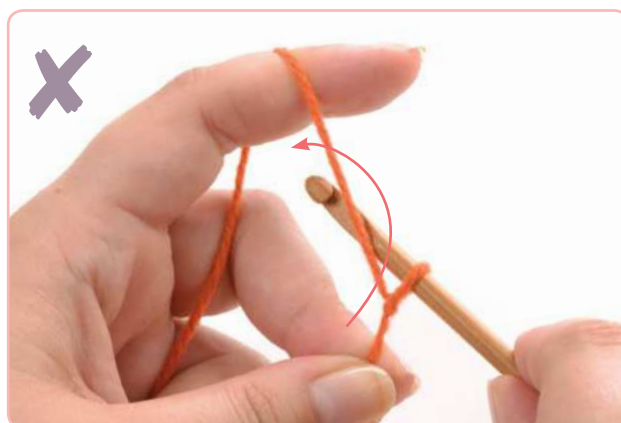
YARN OVER

This is the single most basic step in creating crochet stitches, and a technique that's important to master before moving on

THE RIGHT AND THE WRONG WAY



01 Move your hook, not the yarn While it sounds like a yarn over (yo) should be made by moving the yarn over the hook, it's easier to keep the yarn still and guide the crochet hook around it. With your hook in your right hand and the working yarn in your left, pass your hook underneath the yarn from right to left.



The wrong way Moving the hook under the yarn from left to right will make creating stitches incredibly difficult, and if you do manage it, then the stitches that you have created will become twisted and tangled.



02 Make another There will be times when you need to yarn over twice, and to do this, just repeat the motion from Step 1, making sure to move the hook from right to left.



03 Three loops After two yarn overs, there will be three loops on your hook: the working loop and the two that you just made by wrapping the yarn over twice.

DRAW UP A LOOP

Everything you crochet will be formed by creating loop after loop and joining them together in different ways. Learn how to create those loops here

MAKING STITCHES



01 Insert your hook To draw up a loop, you need to insert your hook into what you've already created. This could be into the foundation chain, into a previous stitch or into a space in the work. Your pattern will tell you where.



02 Yarn over Move your hook to create a yarn over (yo). You will always need to create a yarn over after inserting your hook to draw up a loop.

03 Pull through Move your hook back through the work, making sure to catch the yarn over in the throat of your hook. There will now be two loops on your hook – the loop that you have just drawn up and the one you started with.

Did you know?

When creating basic stitches such as double and treble crochet, the loop only needs to be drawn through enough to sit comfortably on the hook. It should be identical in size to the loop already on your hook. However, there are more complex stitches that will require you to draw your loop up much taller. To do this, simply raise your hook above the work when you pull the loop through to gently tug the yarn through as much as you need to.



FOUNDATION CHAIN

When working in rows to make a piece of flat crocheted fabric, you will need to create a foundation chain to work your first row of stitches into

CREATE A CHAIN OF STITCHES



01 Start with a slipknot The first step is to create a slipknot on your hook



02 Yarn over Move your hook underneath your yarn to create a yarn over.



03 Pull through Move the hook back through the loop already on your hook, making sure to catch the working yarn. You have now made your first chain.



04 Keep going Repeat steps 2 and 3 to make more chains. Hold the stitches you've already made in your left hand close to the hook for stability. Your pattern will tell you how many you need to chain.

Foundation chain

DOS AND DON'TS



01 Even stitches Try to make all the chains a similar size to ensure you are making a strong foundation for your piece. If some are very loose and others aren't, the effect will be a wavy edge to your piece. This will take some practice.



02 Not too tight It's best to keep the chains quite loose to begin with, as tight chains will be very difficult to make stitches in when it comes to the next row, as you struggle to insert your hook into them and pull it through again.

COUNTING CHAINS

When beginning a project, the pattern you are following will tell you how many chains you need to create, either in total or as a multiple. It's important to create exactly the right number, as getting this wrong will mean you have to unravel your work when you find out you've either got too many or not enough at the end of your first row. To count the chains, identify the Vs on the side that's facing you. Each of these is one chain. The V above the slipknot is your first chain, but do not count the loop on your hook. This is the working loop and does not count as a chain. If you are creating a very long chain, it might help to mark every ten or 20 stitches with a stitch marker.



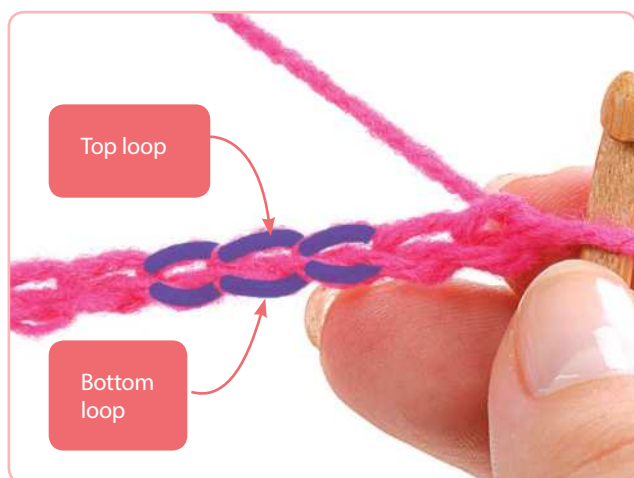
Did you know?

When you become more confident with crochet, you could try starting your pieces with the more advanced foundation double crochet, which creates a foundation chain and the first row of double crochet stitches at the same time.

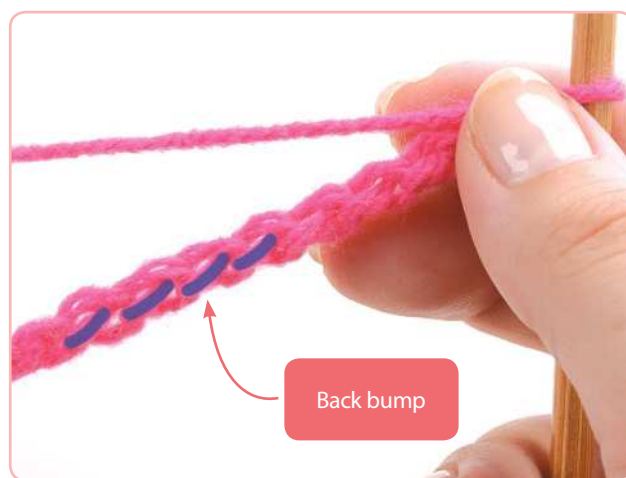
WORK THE CHAIN

Now you've made your foundation chain, it's time to get going on your project by creating your first row of stitches into the chain

GET TO KNOW THE FOUNDATION CHAIN



01 Front of the chain Looking at the front side of your chain, you will see a row of sideways Vs, each with a top loop and a bottom loop.



02 Back of the chain When you look at the back side of the chain, you will see a line of bumps in between the loops. These are called the back bumps.

UNDER THE TOP LOOP



03 Find the top loop For this method, hook under the top loop only.



04 Insert your hook Move your hook to insert it under the top loop of a V.

Work the chain

UNDER THE TOP LOOP AND BACK BUMP



- 01 Under two** Hooking under both the top loop and the back bump is sometimes referred to as the top two loops of the chain.



- 02 Insert your hook** Move your hook to insert it under the back bump and top loop of a chain through again.

UNDER THE TOP LOOP AND BACK BUMP



- 01 Find the back bump** Turn over your chain so that the back bumps are facing you.



- 02 Insert your hook** Move your hook to insert it under the back bump.

Top tip

It doesn't matter which method you use as long as you are consistent when moving along the chain. Working under the top loop is the easiest method for beginners, but does not create as neat an edge as working under the back bumps. With practice you'll find the most comfortable method for you.

WORK SUBSEQUENT ROWS

When you've completed your first row, the only way is up. The next step is to build on the row you've just worked

To work into the row you've just crocheted, you will first need to crochet a turning chain (t-ch), which you can learn how to create on page 44. When you've made this the length suggested on the pattern for the stitch that you are working, you will then crochet into the row you just created in a very similar way to working into the foundation chain. When looking at the top of the row

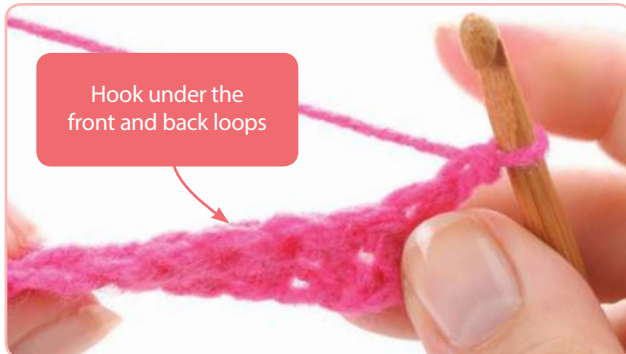
you will see the Vs of the stitches. To work into the next row, you can either crochet under the back loop, under the front loop or under both loops of the stitch on the row below. If your pattern doesn't specify which loops to work into, the standard way is to insert your hook under both, as crocheting under one creates a ridge along the base of the row from the unworked loops.

Top tip

If you're struggling to find the Vs that you need to work into, skip to page 46 for more detail on how to identify and count stitches.

Work subsequent rows

UNDER THE FRONT AND BACK LOOPS



01 Under both Hooking under the front and back loops of the stitch is the most common way to work into a row.



02 Insert your hook After the turning chain (as illustrated in Step 1) insert your hook so that it goes in under both the front and back loops of the V.

UNDER THE FRONT LOOPS ONLY



01 Identify the front loop Working into the front loop of the V only creates a ridge along the bottom of the row on the side of the work that is facing away from you.



02 Insert your hook Make sure your hook only goes under the front loop of the V.

UNDER THE BACK LOOPS ONLY



01 Identify the back loop Working into the back loop of the V only creates a ridge along the bottom of the row on the side of the work that's facing you.



02 Insert your hook Make sure your hook only goes under the back loop on the V.

SLIP STITCH

While rarely used on its own to create a pattern, this versatile stitch is really handy for joining stitches and moving the position of the hook and yarn without adding height

MAKE THE SLIP STITCH



01 Foundation chain Make a foundation chain to the required length. For a precise number of stitches, chain that many plus one. Identify the second chain from your hook.



02 Into chain Insert your hook into the second chain from the hook. Yarn over (yo).

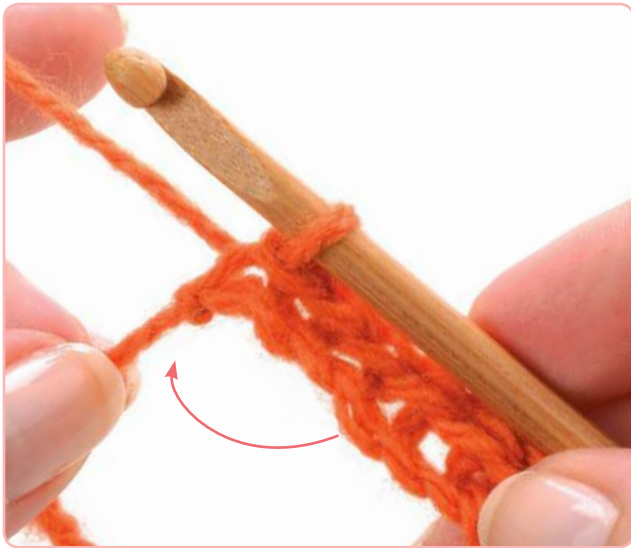


03 Draw up a loop Pull your hook back through the chain. There should be two loops on your hook.

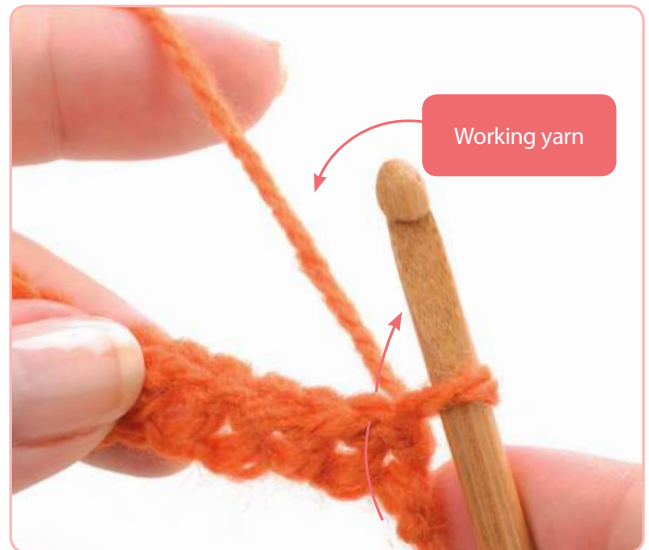


04 Pull through Avoiding the urge to yarn over, continue to pull the yarn through the second loop on the hook. You have completed the stitch and should have one loop on your hook. Repeats steps 2 to 4 to finish the row.

Slip stitch



05 Turn clockwise There will be very few instances in which you need to crochet more than one row of slip stitches. However, if you do, begin by turning the yarn clockwise when you reach the end of the row, so the working yarn is towards the back.



06 Which stitch? There's no turning chain with a slip stitch, so you will need to make your first stitch into the first stitch of the row.



07 Front or back Your pattern should specify whether to make your next stitch in the front or back loop of the stitch, as slip stitch is rarely worked under both loops. Insert your hook under the loop specified in your pattern.



08 Continue Repeat steps 3 and 4 to make the slip stitch.

"There will be very few instances in which you need to crochet more than one row of slip stitches"

DOUBLE CROCHET

The easiest crochet stitch creates short and compact stitches

Double crochet (dc) is a very important stitch in crochet as it is one of the simplest, and therefore the one that most crocheters tend to learn to use

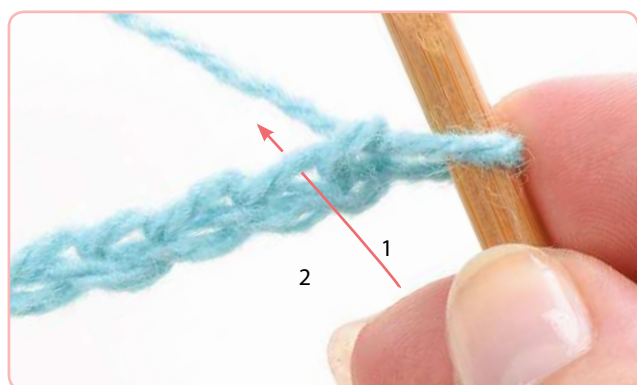
first. Mastering this stitch will also help you when it comes to creating taller stitches, as most are created by just adding steps to the method for making a double crochet.

Using only double crochets creates a very compact, dense fabric, which makes it great for thick, warm winter garments. It is also a very common stitch in amigurumi and toy making, as

the compact fabric created is very good for holding stuffing in. You will be able to create a variety of projects just by mastering this stitch.

If you plan to double crochet into a foundation chain, as we will in this tutorial, then you will need to make one more chain than the number of stitches you want to create, as the first stitch is never worked into the first chain from the hook. However, this will be accounted for in a pattern, so always chain the number stated.

MAKE A DOUBLE CROCHET



01 Foundation chain Make a foundation chain to the required length. If you just want to practise, start by making about 20 chains. If you want to make a piece exactly 20 stitches wide, chain 21.



02 Insert hook Identify the second chain from your hook and then insert your hook here.



03 Draw up a loop Yarn over (yo), then draw up a loop. You will now have two loops on your crochet hook.



04 Pull through two Yarn over and then draw the yarn through both loops on the hook so you have one loop left on your hook. You have completed the stitch.

Double crochet



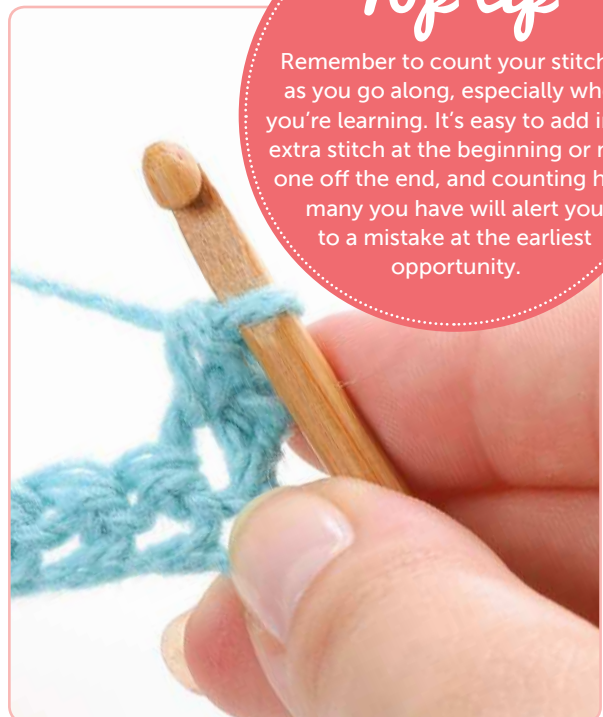
05 Keep going Continue making double crochets by inserting your hook into each remaining chain and repeating steps 3 and 4. When you have finished the row, chain one.



06 Time to turn Turn your work counterclockwise, so that the next stitches ready to be worked into are to the left of the hook.



07 Start a new row Identify the first stitch of the row (not the turning chain). Insert your hook here.



08 Repeat Follow step 3 and 4 to complete the stitch.

Top tip

Remember to count your stitches as you go along, especially when you're learning. It's easy to add in an extra stitch at the beginning or miss one off the end, and counting how many you have will alert you to a mistake at the earliest opportunity.

TREBLE CROCHET

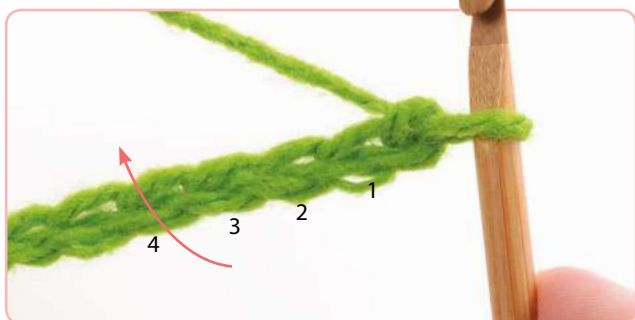
This stitch is twice the size of the single crochet, and worked in a very similar way

The treble crochet (tr) is a very common stitch that is simple to create, especially once you've mastered the technique of making a double crochet (dc). It is created simply by adding a couple of steps to the method for creating a double crochet.

Due to its increased height, the treble crochet creates a much less compact and therefore more versatile fabric than the double crochet. It is a very common and

recognisable stitch, as seen in granny squares. When working a treble crochet into a foundation chain, you must make two more chains than your desired number of stitches. This is because a treble crochet is usually worked into the fourth chain from the hook when being worked into a foundation chain, and the three unworked chains will form your first treble crochet stitch. Let's take a look at how it's done.

CREATE A TREBLE CROCHET



01 Foundation chain Make a foundation chain to the required length. For a precise number of stitches, chain that many plus two. Find the fourth chain from the hook.



02 Yarn over Make a yarn over (yo) and then insert your hook into the fourth chain from the hook.



03 Draw up a loop Yarn over, then draw up a loop. There should now be three loops on your hook.



04 Pull through two Yarn over, then draw the yarn through two of the loops on your hook. There should now be two loops on your hook.



05 Complete the stitch Yarn over and then draw the yarn through the two loops left on the hook. You have completed the stitch and should now have one loop on your hook.

HALF-TREBLE CROCHET

A less common stitch that is taller than double crochet but not quite as tall as treble crochet

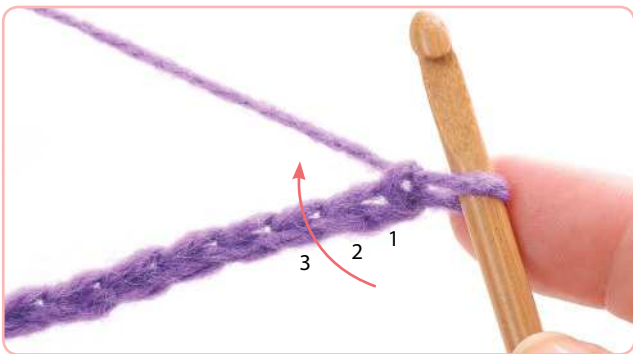
This stitch is strange when compared to the double crochet (dc) and treble crochet (tr) in the way that it's made. Instead of drawing a loop through two loops, the yarn is instead pulled through three to create a half treble crochet (htr). This produces a stitch that's about half as tall as the treble crochet, but taller than the double crochet.

This can be quite tricky to get the hang of the first time, so a little practice may be necessary. When used on its own, the half treble crochet produces a fairly compact fabric, which is

similar in texture to that created when using double crochet by itself. Mastering the techniques used to create the double and treble crochet will help greatly when creating the half treble crochet.

Like with working a double crochet into a foundation chain, you will need to make one more chain than your desired number of stitches. This is because the treble crochet will be worked into the third chain from the hook, and the two unworked chains will form your first half treble crochet stitch.

COMBINE TECHNIQUES TO MAKE A HALF TREBLE



01 Foundation chain Make a foundation chain to the required length, not forgetting to chain one more than the number of stitches you desire. Identify the third chain from the hook.



02 Yarn over Make a yarn over (yo), and then insert your hook into the third chain from the hook.



03 Draw up a loop Yarn over, then draw up a loop. There should now be three loops on your hook.



04 Pull through three Yarn over, then draw the yarn through all three loops on your hook. The stitch is now complete and there should be one loop on your hook.

DOUBLE TREBLE CROCHET

This common stitch is much taller than the treble crochet, and this size allows it to be worked into a piece of fabric fairly quickly

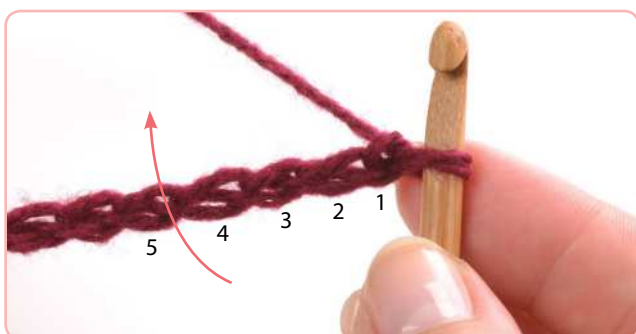
While the other stitches you have learned create quite close, compact stitches, the double treble crochet (dtr) creates very tall stitches that make a loose, stretchy fabric. For this reason, the double treble crochet is most often found in lace work, and details, rather than large swathes of fabric.

The double treble crochet is created by making two yarn overs (yo) before inserting the hook into the stitch or chain below, and this can make it quite fiddly to work with. It's important to check that you have the correct number of loops on your hook after you've drawn up the first loop,

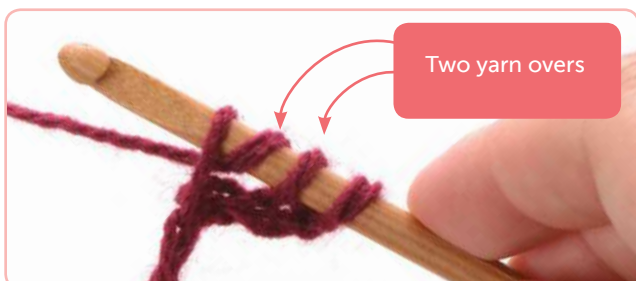
as it's very easy for the second yarn over to slip off the hook before you insert it into your fabric, without you even noticing. However, this is a valuable stitch because when compared to the double crochet (dc), which works up rather slowly, it's very easy to create a large piece of fabric quickly with the double treble crochet.

When creating a foundation chain to work double treble crochets into, you need to make three more chains than the desired number of stitches, as the first stitch will be worked into the fifth chain from the hook, with the four chains making the first double treble crochet hook.

MAKE THE TALLEST CROCHET STITCH



01 Foundation chain Make a foundation chain to the required length, making sure to chain three more than the number of stitches you need. Identify the fifth chain from the hook.



02 Yarn over twice Make two yarn overs and then insert your hook into the fifth chain from the hook.



03 Draw up a loop Yarn over and draw up a loop. There should be four loops on your hook.

Double treble crochet



04 Pull through two Yarn over, then draw the yarn through two of the loops on your hook. There should now be three loops on your hook.



05 And again... Yarn over, then draw the yarn through two of the loops on your hook again. There should now be two loops on your hook.



06 ...and once more Yarn over, then draw the yarn through the two loops on your hook. There should now be one loop on your hook.



07 Complete the row Repeat steps 2 to 6 into each remaining chain to finish the row. When you reach the end of the row, chain four and turn your work clockwise. The chain four counts as the first stitch, so you will need to make the next into the second stitch from the end.



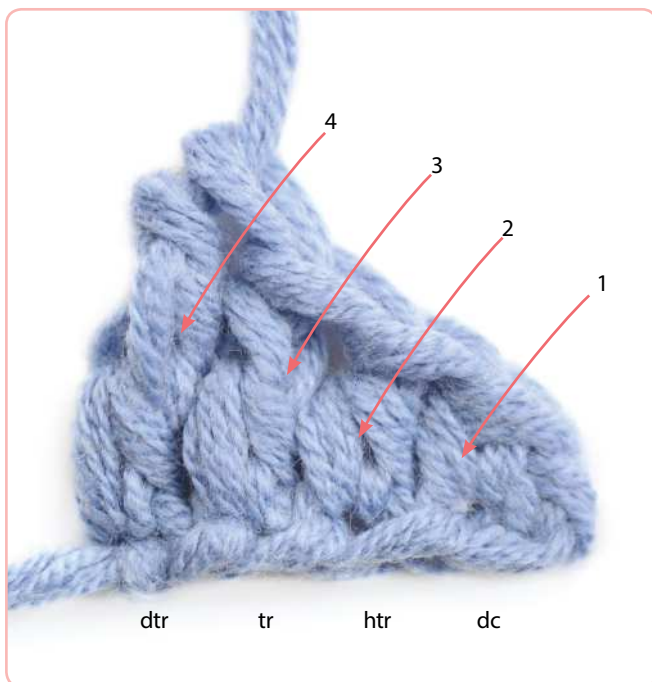
08 Carry on crocheting Yarn over twice, insert the hook into the second stitch from the end of the row and repeat steps 3 to 6 to complete the stitch.

TURNING CHAINS

At the end of every row, you need to move your hook up to the height of the stitches you are about to create. This is done using a turning chain

The turning chain (t-ch) has a very important part to play in crochet. Its purpose is to prepare for the next row to be created, and in most cases it becomes the first stitch of that row. The only exception to this is when using double crochet, as the turning chain in this case is too short to be considered the first stitch. When using anything but double crochet, the turning chain always counts as the first stitch (unless specified otherwise in a pattern), and the next stitch should be created in the second stitch from the hook.

However, with double crochet, the turning chain is too short and leaving it to function as the first stitch would create messy edges, so the first double crochet is made in the first stitch from the hook. Where the turning chain does count as a stitch, don't forget to crochet into the top of it on the next row, or else your work will become smaller by one stitch every row.



TURNING CHAIN HEIGHT

Different stitches need different heights of turning chains, which accommodates for the height of the stitch about to be made itself. However, the standard turning chain heights may not always work for you, as it depends on how loosely or tightly you create chain stitches. If you find your turning chains bulge out of the fabric, try chaining one less than specified. Alternatively, if they are tight and distorting the edge of the fabric, try chaining one more than specified. Use the table to find the standard turning chain lengths for basic stitches.

Stitch (UK)	Number of turning
Double crochet (dc)	1
Half-treble crochet (htr)	2
Treble crochet (tr)	3
Double treble crochet (dtr)	4

Turning chains

CROCHET INTO A TURNING CHAIN



"Its purpose is to prepare for the next row"

01 Identify top of turning chain The top of the turning chain is the V attached to the last stitch you just worked into.

02 Insert your hook To crochet into the top of the turning chain, insert your hook under the back loop and the back bump, then make your stitch. Don't forget to make any yarn overs needed for your stitch before inserting your hook.



IDENTIFY STITCHES

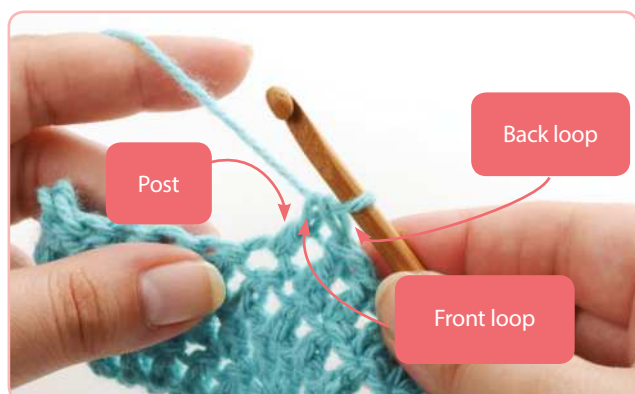
All crocheted fabric is made up of different kinds of stitches, but learning what those stitches look like on their own is essential to creating your own work

With the guides in this book you will already have discovered how to create a foundation chain, as well as different kinds of stitches like double crochet (dc), treble crochet (tr) and half treble crochet (htr). While it is important to know how to create these stitches, it is also necessary to know what those

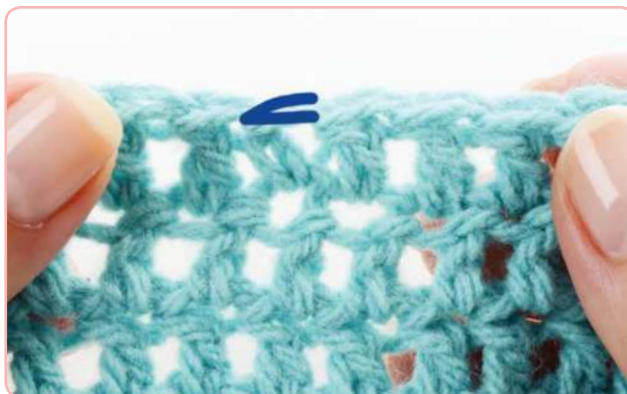
stitches look like in your work so that you know how to count and build upon them.

It can be daunting at first to look at what you've crocheted and to try to count the stitches you have just made, however if you follow these simple steps you'll see just what your fabric is made of.

LEARN TO COUNT STITCHES



Each stitch is made up of a post (which differs in height depending on the stitch worked) and a V (which consists of a front loop and a back loop). The V sits slightly to the right of the post.



The Vs are the stitches most commonly worked into. If you turn your work at the end of a row, the Vs that you work into will be pointing to the left. Insert your hook underneath the V that is slightly to the left of the post.



If you do not turn your work at the end of each row (for example if you're working in the round), then the Vs that you will be working into will point to the right. In this instance, insert your hook underneath the V that is sat slightly to the right of the post.

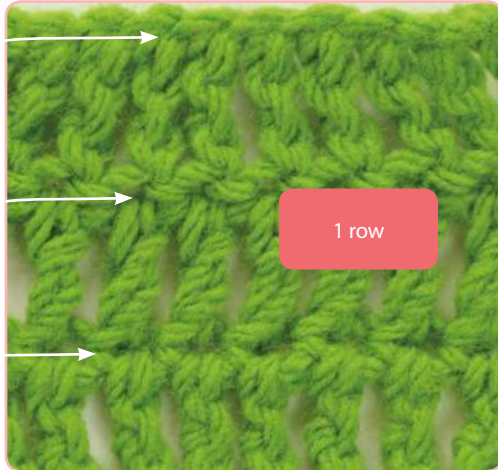
Identify stitches

COUNTING STITCHES

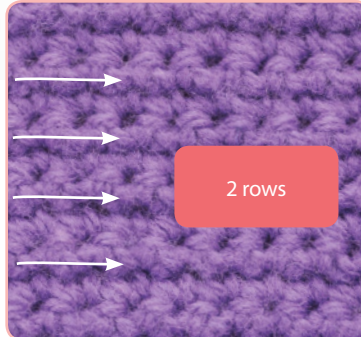
There are two ways to count stitches: either by counting the Vs along the top of the work or by counting the posts. If you count the Vs, make sure you never count the loop that is on your hook. When counting either Vs or posts, you must take careful consideration when you come to the turning chain. If it is counted as a stitch in your pattern, then count it, but if not, leave it out.



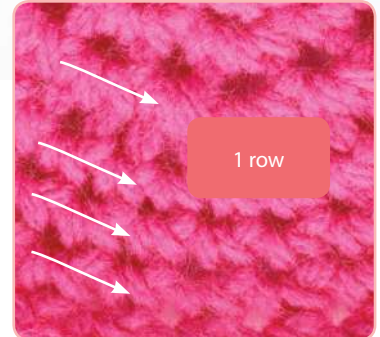
COUNTING ROWS



Counting the posts is the easiest way to count how many rows you've crocheted. When working with tall stitches, such as those made by a treble crochet, these will be easy to identify and count no matter how you're working with them. However, when working with shorter stitches, such as those made by a double crochet, the stitches can look different depending on whether you're turning your work or not.



When using double crochet in rows and turning your work, what looks like one distinct post is actually made up of two rows, as you're seeing the front and the back of the stitch. This makes it easier to count them in twos.



When using double crochet and working in the round, the stitches are more distinct as you're only seeing the front of the stitch in every round. This makes them much easier to count in single rounds.

"Counting the posts is the easiest way to count how many rows you've crocheted"

FIX MISTAKES

A benefit of crochet is how easy it is to undo mistakes – all you have to do is unravel to the point where you messed up, then make it right!

One of the joys of crochet patterns is that they are designed to help you identify a mistake at the earliest possible opportunity. If the number of stitches you've crocheted doesn't match the number at the end of the row on the pattern, you know that you've made a mistake. It's also quite easy to crochet one into stitch when

you actually meant to make another. Or make a double when you meant to make a treble – especially if you are changing between two or more in the same row.

Luckily, mistakes in crochet are easy to fix, and if you catch them early enough, they won't set you back too much at all. Here's how to get yourself back on track.

FIX YOUR CROCHET ERRORS



01 Remove hook When you notice that things have gone awry, take your hook out of the working loop and grab hold of the working yarn.



03 Find the mistake Keep pulling the working yarn until you've unravelled the mistake. Stop pulling just after you've removed it.



02 Unravel Pull on the working yarn to unravel the stitches one by one. This process is also known as frogging.



04 Resume Insert your hook into the working loop and begin redoing the work you've just undone, but this time without the mistake!

Did you know?

Unravelling work is called frogging because you 'rip it, rip it, rip it', which sounds a bit like the noise a frog makes...

FASTEN OFF

When you've finished a project, prevent it from unravelling by fastening off

To prevent all your hard work from going to waste and unravelling before your eyes, one of the most important steps in a project is fastening off. This incredibly simple step will lock your work in place and keep all the stitches secure. Unless otherwise stated in your pattern, always fasten off your work when you come to the end of the instructions and the piece is complete.

"This incredibly simple step will lock your work in place and keep all the stitches secure"

FINISHING TOUCHES



01 Cut the yarn When you've finished your project, cut the working yarn about 15cm (6in) from the last stitch (or longer if your pattern states). Yarn over (yo) with the tail.



02 Pull through Pull the yarn through the loop on your hook, and keep pulling until the cut end goes through the loop.

03 Pull tight Grab the tail and pull it tight, to close the last loop. Your stitches are secure.



EDGING

When you've finished working a flat piece, a simple border made of double crochets will help straighten the sides and give a neat finish

You may find that the edges of a flat piece of crochet worked in rows can tend to become very wavy or unattractively distorted.

This happens to all crocheters at some point, and it is most likely caused by fluctuating tension. But not to worry, there's a simple solution that will give you crisp, neat edges every single time – adding a border of double crochets. This adds a degree of uniformity to all four edges, as without

a border the side edges look very different to the top and bottom edges. If you neaten up your piece and create a seamless looking edge, add your border in the same colour as the rest of the work. However, a border in a contrasting colour will stand out and can add a touch of character to your work.

If your piece has a distinct front and back, make sure you add the border with the front of the piece facing you.

ADD A BASIC EDGE



01 Join the yarn Insert your hook into the stitch at the top right corner of the work. Draw up a loop of the yarn you will be using for the edging, making sure to keep it tight. Chain one.



02 Double crochet Make a double crochet into the same stitch.



03 Along the top Make a double crochet into every stitch along the top of your work, except the last stitch of the row.

Edging



04 Make a corner Into the last stitch of the row, make three double crochets (dc). This will keep the corner square and help it lie flat.



05 Rotate it Now work along the left-hand side of the piece, so rotate the work so you can work into the stitches. Insert your hook into the edge stitch instead of around the entire stitch.



06 Make another corner Work along the edge until you get to the corner. Work three double crochets into the corner stitch. Rotate the work to continue along the bottom, making one stitch in each stitch of the foundation chain.



07 Work on the next side When you reach the end of the foundation chain, again make three double crochets in the corner stitch. Rotate and work along the side in the same way as you did for the first side.



08 Slip stitch When you reach the last corner, make three double crochets and then join with a slip stitch (ss) to the first stitch of the border. Fasten off. Your edging is complete.

Top tip

If you want to create a more decorative edge around your piece, make a double crochet border first, as this provides a stable foundation to work more stitches into.

WEAVE IN ENDS

There are several ways to hide the yarn tails and dangling ends that you'll be left with when you've finished a project

At the bare minimum, there'll always be two yarn tails that you need to deal with when you finish a project – the one at the beginning where you made your foundation chain (or started your project) and one at the end from where you fastened off. However, if you changed colour or joined new yarn, then you could be faced with many dangling ends that need to be secured and hidden away. There is more than one right way to weave in an end, and with a bit of trial and error you'll find the one that works best for you. There are a few things to bear in mind with all

methods. If your piece has a right side and a wrong side, for example a hat, then weaving in the ends along the wrong side will keep them hidden from the right side, and it doesn't matter if they get a little messy. However, if your piece will be seen from both sides, for example a scarf, a little more care needs to be taken to make sure they're hidden from both sides. Similarly, if you've worked with more than one colour, always weave the yarn into the same coloured stitches so that it blends in. Here are the most common ways to secure and hide away ends.

SEW IN ENDS



01 Thread the needle Thread the tail you want to weave in onto a yarn needle. Then, insert the needle through several stitches going in one direction for a few inches. Make sure the needle is passing through the middle of stitches and not underneath or over them.



02 Change direction After a few inches in one direction, move the needle to weave the stitches in the opposite side, making sure to avoid stitches you've already weaved through. This will help to keep the yarn tail secure.



03 Check it's secure Pull on the fabric when you are happy with the weaving in to check that nothing is coming loose and the tail is not distorting the fabric.



04 Trim it Snip off the remainder of the tail with scissors. Pull the fabric again until the remaining tail is hidden under the last stitch you wove it through.

Weave in ends

CROCHET OVER ENDS



01 Hold the yarn When starting a new yarn, there is an opportunity to crochet over the ends, which means they won't need to be woven in later. Hold the ends that you want to weave in over the top of the stitches that you'll be working in to.



02 Crochet over them Continue to crochet as you normally would, but make sure to work around the tails as well so that your stitches encase them.

Top tip

Especially slippery yarns may need a little more help to stay in place. Leaving extra long yarn tails and weaving them in in different directions will help, but you may find you need to secure them with thread or fabric glue.

WEAVE IN SHORT ENDS



01 Insert a needle If you've accidentally cut a yarn tail too short, then try this method. Pass the unthreaded needle through the stitches that you want to secure the end in.



02 Thread the needle Pass the yarn tail through the eye of the needle when they are close together, then draw the needle all the way through the stitches.

CHANGE COLOURS

Adding in different colours is a simple way to make a project look more interesting – here's what you need to know about changing colours

Colour can be used in many different ways to add a decorative element to a piece, from simple stripes to more complicated motifs and lettering. And while it might sound complicated to change colours halfway through a project, it's actually as simple as just picking up a new ball of yarn and continuing to work with it. However, it's important to remember to never start the new colour with a new stitch. Always complete the last step of the last stitch in the first colour with the new colour, as explained here. This

gives a nice fluid join and makes it look like the colours flow into each other, instead of creating a harsh break.

One of the trickier elements of working with more than one colour is working with more than one ball of yarn at the same time, which means you will need to carry the working yarns that you're not using at the same time. This is often easier than cutting the yarn every time you change, as this can create lots of ends that will need weaving in at the end of a project.



Change colours

CARRY YARN TO CHANGE COLOUR



01 Along the edge When you're creating stripes by changing colour at the beginning of every row or so, you might choose to leave the unworked yarn dangling at the edge. That way you can pick it up again when you need to. To do this, carry it loosely up the edge of the work to begin your new row. Adding an edge or border will hide the carried yarn strands.



02 Crochet over the yarn If you need to change colours regularly and mid-row, crocheting over the top of the yarn you're not currently using is a good way to keep it concealed. It is also there ready to use when you need to change colours without having to carry or join, eliminating ends that will need weaving in. This technique is great when you are creating a reversible fabric, as it keeps both sides looking neat.



03 Floating strands If only one side of your work will be seen, then you can carry the unused colours along the back of the work to create loose floats of yarn. Just drop the yarn you're not using, then pick it back up again when you need it, loosely bringing it across the back of the work. This works best if the strands are only a few stitches long. If they are any longer, it may be worth cutting them and weaving them in.



04 Cutting the yarn If you are putting in a big block of one colour, it's best to cut the yarn and treat it like you're joining a new yarn, then weaving in the ends at a later stage.

READ STITCH DIAGRAMS

Some crocheters find these visual representations of crochet patterns easier to follow than a written-out pattern

Made up of symbols to represent stitches, charted stitch diagrams lay out a pattern in a visual way, and will look similar to the actual piece of crocheted fabric. The symbols are uniform and internationally recognised, so you will be able to follow them with ease. Diagrams (sometimes also called charts) can often be found accompanying written-out patterns but may also sometimes be used instead of them, especially for particularly detailed patterns such as lace work and motifs. To begin with it may be best to read a chart alongside a written pattern. Even if using a diagram becomes your preferred method of following a pattern, don't completely disregard written instructions, as these will include important information about special stitches and any repeats you may need to make.

STANDARD STITCH SYMBOLS

The symbols for the most commonly used stitches and techniques are designed to look like the stitches they represent. The treble crochet symbol is twice as tall as the double crochet symbol, with the half treble crochet halfway between the two. The horizontal bars on the taller stitches represent how many yarn overs need to be made to begin the stitch. Use the table below to see what stitches the symbols represent:

Symbol	Stitch
	ch
	sl st
	dc
	htr
	tr
	dtr
	magic ring

VARIABLE STITCH SYMBOLS

When the basic stitches are combined to make special stitches – such as puffs, popcorns, bobbles and shells to name just a few – the stitch diagram represents this, showing the exact combination of basic stitches that is used in the pattern you are following. These may be different from pattern to pattern if the stitches are made in slightly different ways. Here are a few examples of special stitches:

Symbol	Stitch
	dc2tog decrease
	tr3tog cluster/decrease
	5-dtr shell
	4-tr bobble
	3-htr puff
	4-tr popcorn
	ch-3 picot (closed)
	ch-3 picot (open)

"Symbols of crochet charts have been designed to look like the stitches they represent"

Read stitch diagrams

MODIFIED STITCH SYMBOLS

When you need to work the next stitch into a specific part of a stitch – for example in the back or front loop only or around the back or front of the post stitch below – the stitch symbol is modified to represent this. Stitches that need to be worked into the front or back loop only include a curved symbol below them to represent this. Stitches that need to be worked around the front or back post are shown with a hook on the bottom. Foundation stitches show the stitch joined to the chain below. When stitches are crossed, the stitch that needs to go behind the other is slightly more faded than the one that sits to the front:

Symbol	Stitch
	FPtr
	BPtr
	dc in back loop only
	dc in front loop only
	foundation dc
	crossed trs n

HOW TO READ A CHART

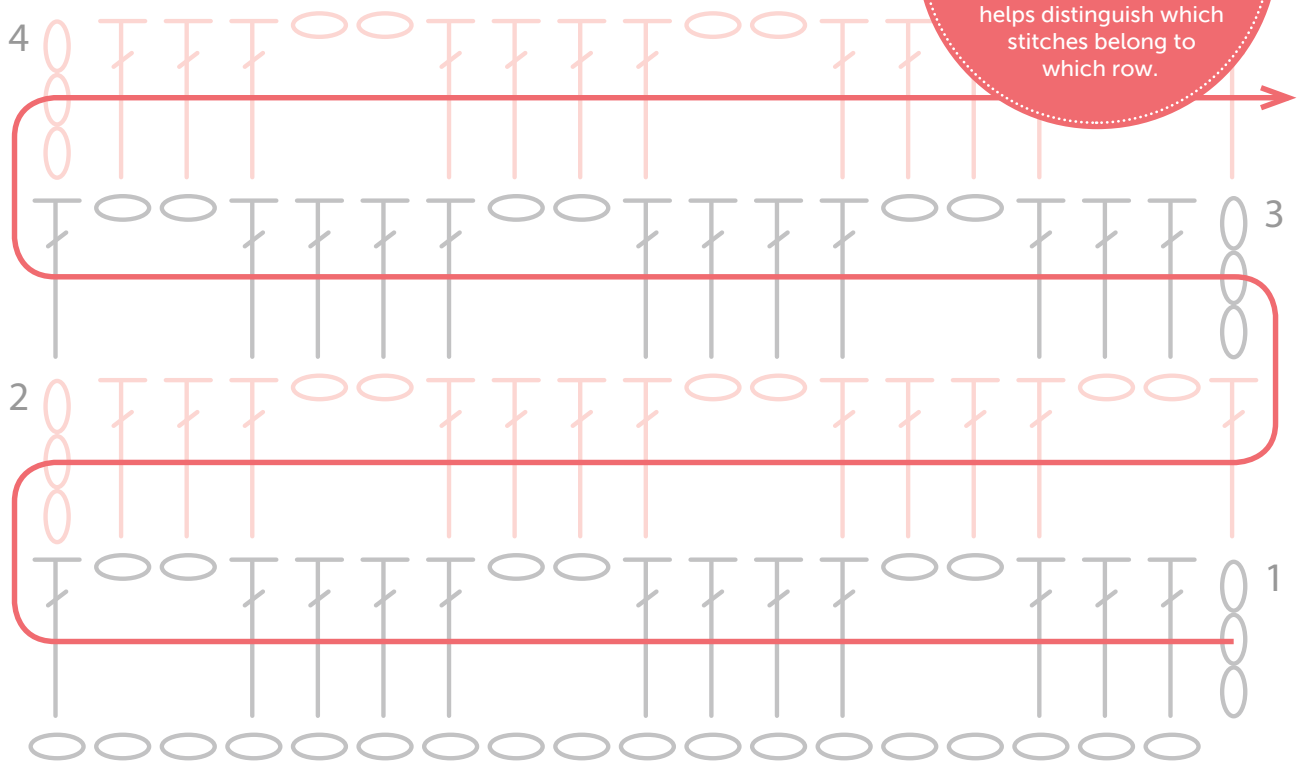
Now that you have our handy reference tables to determine what all the different crochet symbols mean, you will need to know how to put them together in an actual piece of crochet. The diagram below represents the stitches as you will see them from the right side of the work (as opposed to the wrong side), and you will notice that each stitch is shown above the one that it needs to be crocheted into.

When working in rows from a stitch diagram, you almost always begin with the foundation chain and then start to work Row 1 from right to left. When you get to Row 2 if you are turning your work, you need to work from left to right. All subsequent odd rows should be followed from right to left and even rows from left to right.

When working in rounds (for example when crocheting granny squares), start from the central ring and follow the stitches in a counterclockwise direction. Do this for every round, unless an arrow at the start of the round indicates to change direction. In this case, turn the work and follow the pattern around clockwise.

Top tip

Even rows are normally shown in a different colour than the odd rows, as this helps distinguish which stitches belong to which row.



INCREASING

To increase the number of stitches in a row, simply crochet two or more into the same stitch

Increasing is a very useful technique in crochet and one that's incredibly easy to execute. Increasing is essential when working in the round to create something flat, as the extra stitches add width. Without increasing, you would just build upwards, not outwards. Increasing is also very useful when shaping items – such as amigurumi – as it can be combined with decreases to make the shapes you need.

To increase the number of stitches in your round or row, simply crochet two or more stitches into one stitch of the row below. For example, if you have just crocheted a round of eight stitches, then crochet two of each stitch into each stitch below – your next round will have 16 stitches. In patterns, increasing is written as the number of stitches to be made into the stitch below. For example, '2 tr in next st'.

Top tip

Making lots of increases in one place will make bulges (and shells), so if you just want to make the piece larger without distorting the fabric, spread your increases out across the length of the round or row



Increasing

ADD STITCHES IN THE MIDDLE OF A ROW



01 Treble crochet Make a treble crochet in the next stitch.



02 Into the same stitch Make another treble crochet in the same stitch. You have increased your stitch count by one.

INCREASING AT THE START OF A ROW



01 Chain three and turn As the turning chain normally counts as a stitch (except in dc), increasing at the start of a row is different.



02 Into the first stitch To increase, insert your hook into the first stitch at the base of the chain and make the stitch.



03 Two stitches The stitch you've just made and the turning chain count as two stitches, and you have made an increase.

DECREASING

Often worked in conjunction with increases when shaping crochet, decrease stitches reduce the number of stitches in a row

While the easiest way to reduce the number of stitches in a row is to simply skip stitches, this creates a hole, which is not always the desired effect. To avoid this hole, decrease stitches work multiple stitches together, thereby eliminating stitches while also filling in the gap. Decrease stitches are named after the number and type of stitches being crocheted together. For

example, 'dc2tog' means that two double crochet stitches will be combined into one. When the number in the middle increases, this means even more stitches will be crocheted into one. While decreases have many different names and forms, the basic formula is the same: make all the stitches up to the final step so that they are all on the hook, then complete all the stitches together.

DOUBLE CROCHET TWO STITCHES TOGETHER (DC2TOG)



01 Insert hook Insert your hook into the next stitch, as if to make a double crochet. Draw up a loop.



02 Insert hook again Without completing the stitch, insert your hook into the next stitch as if to make another double crochet. Draw up a loop. You should now have three loops on your hook.



03 Through three Yarn over (yo) and draw the loop through all three stitches on your hook. Having worked into two stitches, but only created one, you have decreased by one.

Decreasing

TREBLE CROCHET THREE STITCHES TOGETHER (TR3TOG)



01 Insert hook Yarn over and insert your hook into the next stitch, as if to make a treble crochet. Draw up a loop, yarn over and draw through two loops on the hook. There should now be two loops on your hook.



02 Insert hook again Without completing the stitch, yarn over and insert your hook into the next stitch. Draw up a loop, yarn over and draw through two loops on the hook. There should now be three loops on your hook.



03 And again Repeat step 2 into the next stitch. There should now be four loops on your hook, for three incomplete treble crochet stitches.



04 Pull through four Yarn over and draw the yarn through all four loops to complete the decrease. Having only created one, you have decreased the stitches by two.

START IN THE ROUND

There are two options when working in the round – the most simple of which is with a starting chain

When you are working in the round you have two options for how to start your project. Usually a pattern will tell you which it would prefer for you to begin with – a chain or a magic ring, both of which will be covered on the following pages.

The most simple method to begin with is a chain, which will see you connect a short chain together into a circle and work your first round into the middle of the chain. The second method, starting with a magic ring is a little more

complicated, but it produces a tighter first round, and a more secure final product. It sees you work your stitches onto a loop of yarn, which you later pull tight before proceeding to work your stitches into the round.

It should be pointed out that if you find that you prefer one method over the other, and a project suggests you use the one you aren't so keen on, it wouldn't actually affect the final product too much to use the alternate method. Do what feels most comfortable.

SINGLE CHAIN START



01 **Make a chain** Chain two.



02 **Double crochet** Now make a double crochet (dc) into the second chain from your hook.



03 **Continue into the chain** Make the rest of your doubles into the same chain stitch as your first double crochet.

Start in the round

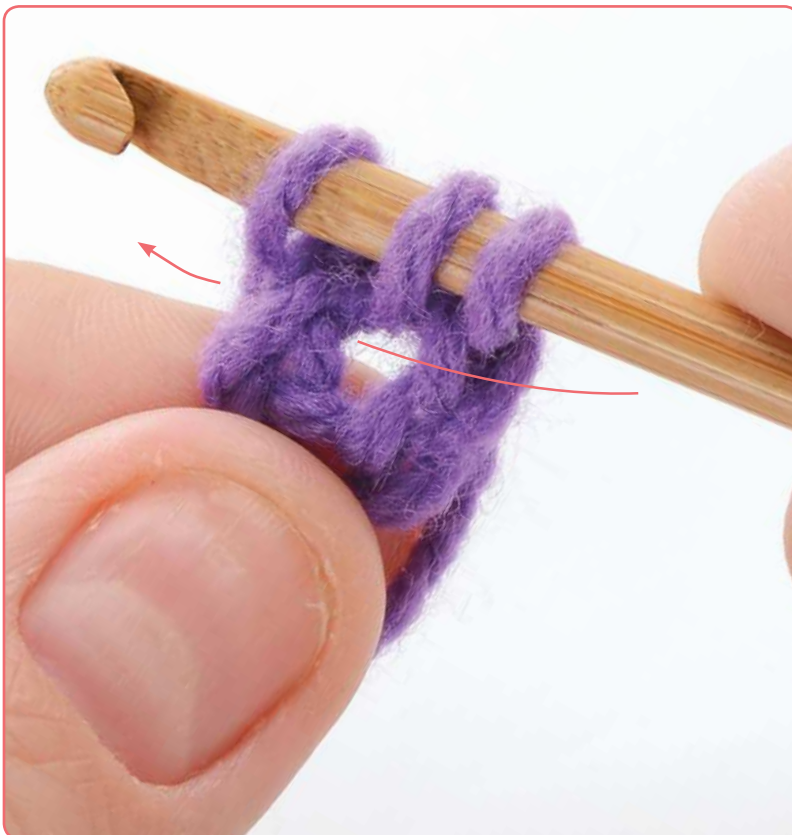
MULTIPLE CHAIN START



01 Create a chain Make a short chain, depending on the pattern that you're following. Here we have shown five chains.



02 Slip stitch Create a slip stitch (sl st) into the first chain that you created.



03 Into the centre Work your first round into the middle of the ring you have created. Now either continue to work in a spiral or connect the last double crochet to the first with a slip stitch, create your turning chains and continue.

Did you know?

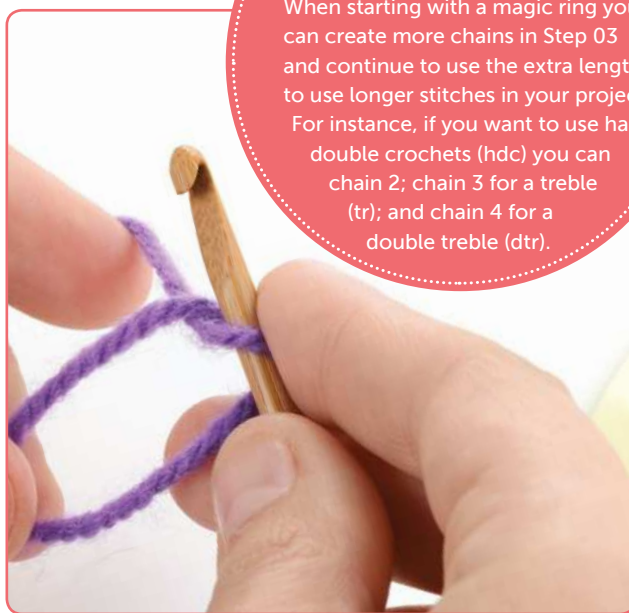
Crochet isn't just fun, it's good for you, too! It has been proven to help with your hand-eye co-ordination and even your maths skills.

Key techniques

MAKE A MAGIC RING TO START



01 Make a loop To begin, create a loop (as if to create a slipknot), hold the yarn where the loop crosses over, with the starting tail in front, and insert your hook from front to back.



02 Yarn over With the working yarn, yarn over (yo) your hook and pull up a loop back through to the front. Make sure you are not using the starting yarn – this will simply unravel.



03 Make your first stitch Yarn over your hook again, this time from above the loop, and pull through to create a chain on your ring.



04 Insert your hook To create your first double crochet (dc), insert your hook into the ring, with both the loop and starting tail above your hook. Your stitches will now be created around both yarns.

Top tip

When starting with a magic ring you can create more chains in Step 03 and continue to use the extra length to use longer stitches in your project. For instance, if you want to use half double crochets (hdc) you can chain 2; chain 3 for a treble (tr); and chain 4 for a double treble (dtr).

Start in the round



05 Crochet a stitch Yarn over and draw up a loop back to the front of the ring. Create your stitch as you would usually.



06 Keep going Carry on with the previous two steps until you have created your ring.



07 Secure Once you have created all of your stitches, keep your hook in the loop and hold it and your round in your dominant hand. Now pull on the starting tail until the gap is closed.



WORK IN THE ROUND

Following on from your chain start or magic ring, start working in the round

There are many uses for working in the round, from the most simple projects to creating brilliant crochet creations like creatures and toys.

There are also various techniques you can adopt when working with this technique, from working in a continuous spiral to working in separated rounds.

Working in a spiral works best when you are working with double crochet (dc) stitches because larger stitches are harder to disguise at the end of the rounds. Having said that, if you have to do it, it isn't impossible. At the end of your working you will hide the last jog of stitches

with an invisible finish (see page 72 for more information on these).

Working in joined rounds works well when you are using longer stitches. It consists of joining the tops of the stitches together at the end of each round, and using a collection of chains in order to create the first stitch of the next round.

Here we will show you both techniques. Your pattern may not specify whether to use a spiral or joined technique, but it will become obvious if you are asked to join each round with a slip stitch (ss).

WORK IN A CONTINUOUS SPIRAL



01 Crochet your round Crochet each of your stitches into your chain start or magic ring. If you're using double crochets do six stitches, for half trebles (htr) use eight and for trebles (tr) use 12.



02 Start the next round To start each new round, work the first stitch into the top of the first stitch of the last round. Now add your stitch marker into this stitch by slipping it through the stitch as you would crochet into it on the next round.

Did you know?

It is theorised that crochet derives from traditional practices in Arabia, China and South America, but there is little evidence of crocheting being popular in Europe until the 19th century.



03 Continue your pattern Now continue to stitch the rest of your round as stated in the pattern. Here we are doing two double crochets into each stitch.

Work in the round



04 Work the end of the round Continue around until you reach the stitch before the marker you inserted earlier. This is the last stitch of the round.



05 Start the next round To stitch your next round, remove the marker, crochet the stitch as normal and then replace the marker into the stitch you have just created.

Top tip

When using a magic ring, make sure to pull your ring tightly closed and secure it, or it will make your circle look wonky.



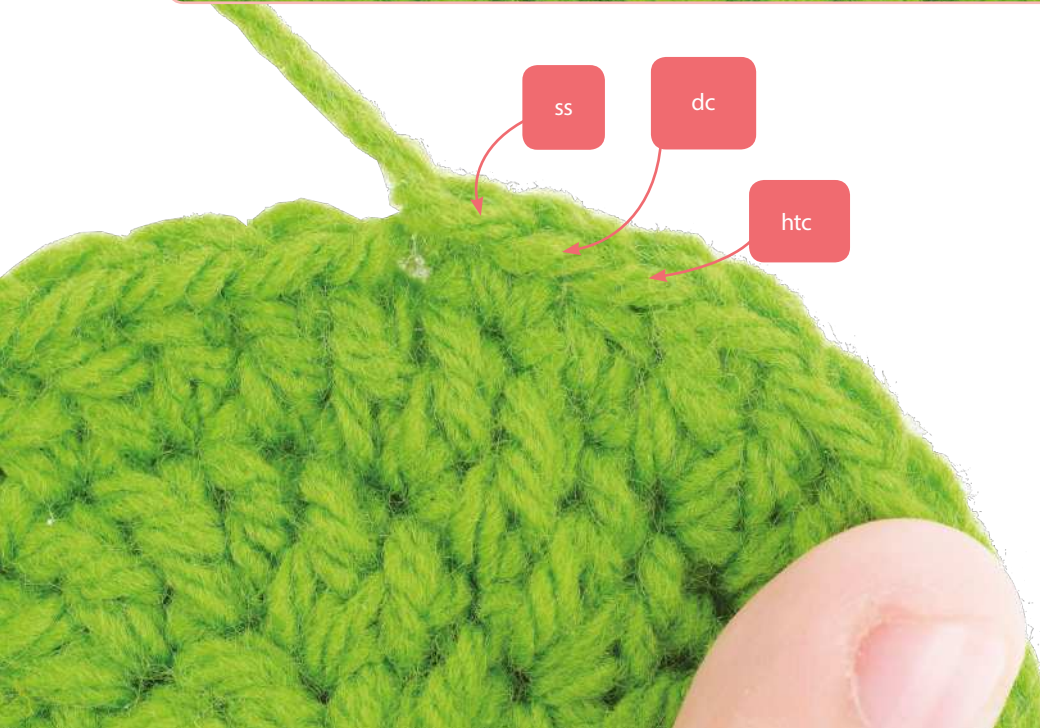
06 Finishing your spiral To finish your spiral you will need to smooth out the jump in stitches between rows. To do so, slip stitch into the next stitch. For taller stitches, gradually crochet shorter stitches as shown in the two images on the left.

DOUBLE CROCHET SPIRAL

To end a double crochet spiral, simply slip stitch into the next stitch to hide the jog between rows.

TREBLE CROCHET SPIRAL

If you have worked your spiral using treble crochets, you will need to end your spiral with a half treble crochet, double crochet, slip stitch.



Key techniques

CROCHET IN JOINED ROUNDS



01 Crochet your first round Finish your first round, stitching treble crochets into your rounding ring.



02 Make a slip stitch To join the rows, make a slip stitch into the top of the first stitch of the round – this will be as if you are creating the next stitch for double crochet – or into the top of the turning chain for any longer stitches.



03 Completed round Now you have finished your first round and created your circle.

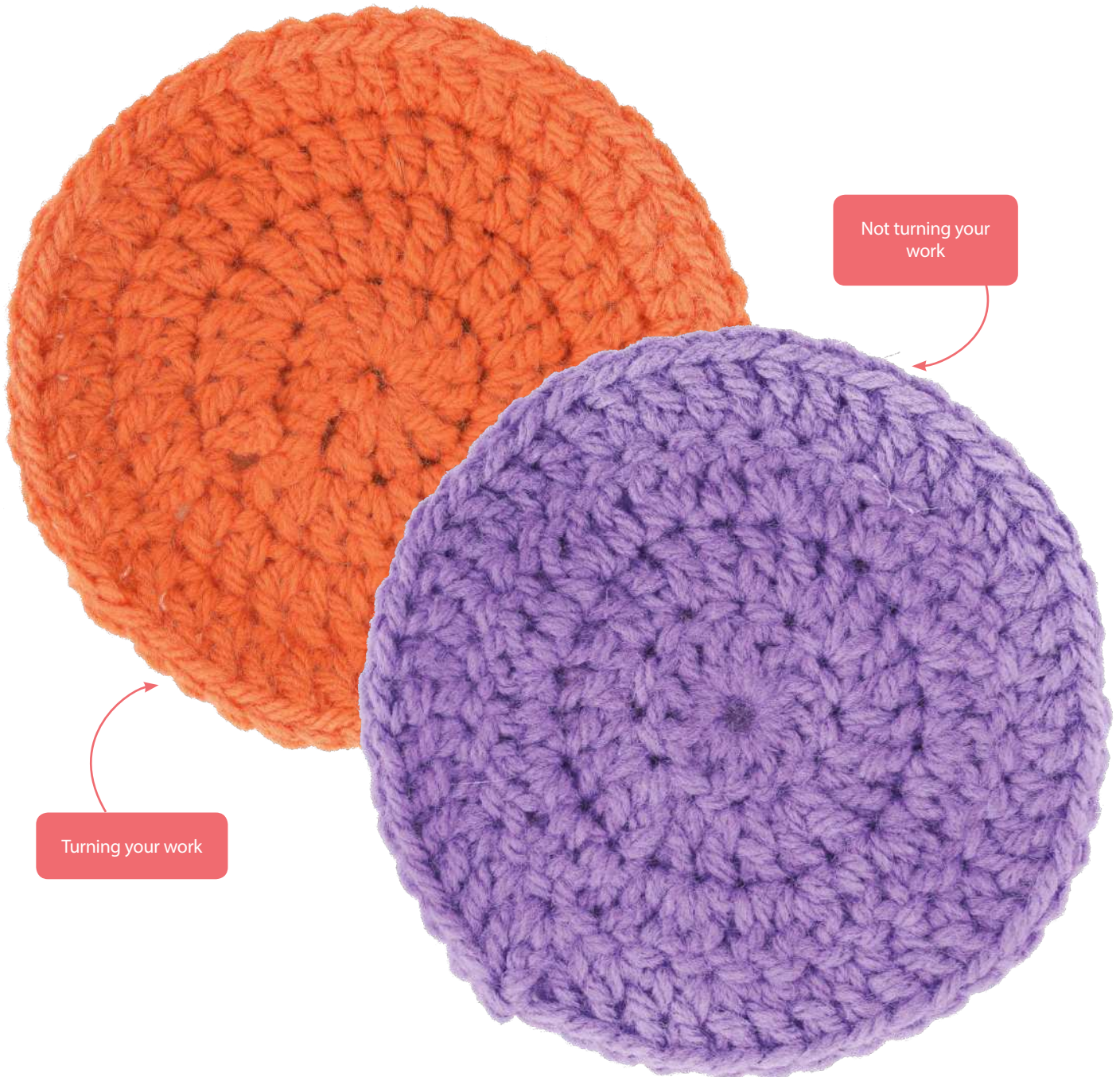


04 Start round two To create your next round, create a chain to the height of your stitch. One for double, two for half treble, three for treble and so on.

Work in the round

TURN YOUR WORK

When you create your next rows you have the choice of turning your work or continuing on around the circle (the same as a spiral stitch). Alternatively, you can turn your work at the end of each round, and it will create a slightly different look. Apart from turning your work, you will work each of the rounds the same way.



"Alternatively, you can turn your work at the end of each round, and it will create a slightly different look"

STANDARD INCREASES

When you are working in the round, you will need to learn how much to increase by each round

When you're working in the round you will need to make sure that you add a certain number of stitches to each round in order to keep your work flat (if this is the desired effect). Adding too many stitches will result in your work starting to ruffle, but not adding enough will result in a ball starting to form, which is actually perfect for amigurumi, so make sure you check the pattern if you think you have taken a wrong turn. The number of stitches that you add per row depends on what type of stitch you have used. Refer to the table (right) to decipher how many stitches you will need to add each round.

Stitch	Stitches in	Increases in
Double	6	6
Half treble	8	8
Half treble	8	8
Half treble	8	8

STAGGER YOUR INCREASES

If you aren't careful with your increases, you will start to form straight edges on your rounds. In order to avoid this you need to ensure that your increase stitches do not stack up on top of each other. So the place to start is by simply making sure once you get into round three that you

do not start or end with your increases, but stagger them instead. For instance, start by doing one stitch, then your increase, then the rest of your stitches. On the next round do two first and so on. You can notice the improvement in the results below.



How your work will look with stacked increases.

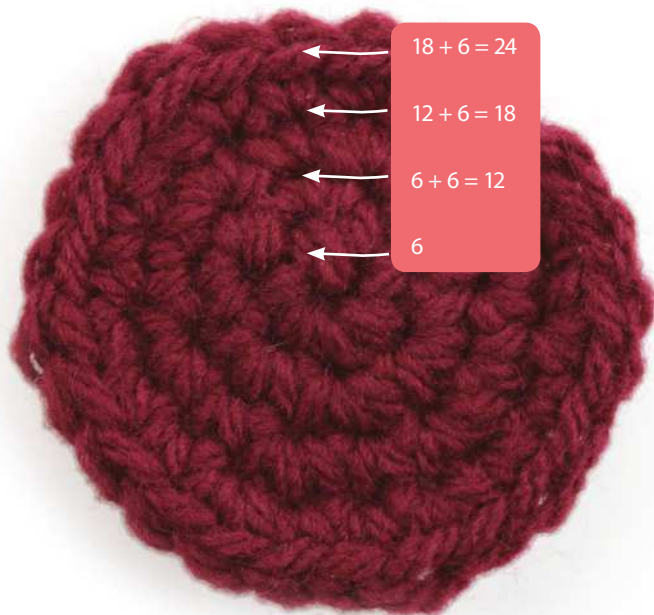


How your work will look with staggered increases.

Standard increases

DOUBLE CROCHET

Double crochet is worked in multiples of six.



HALF TREBLE CROCHET

Half treble crochet is worked in multiples of eight.

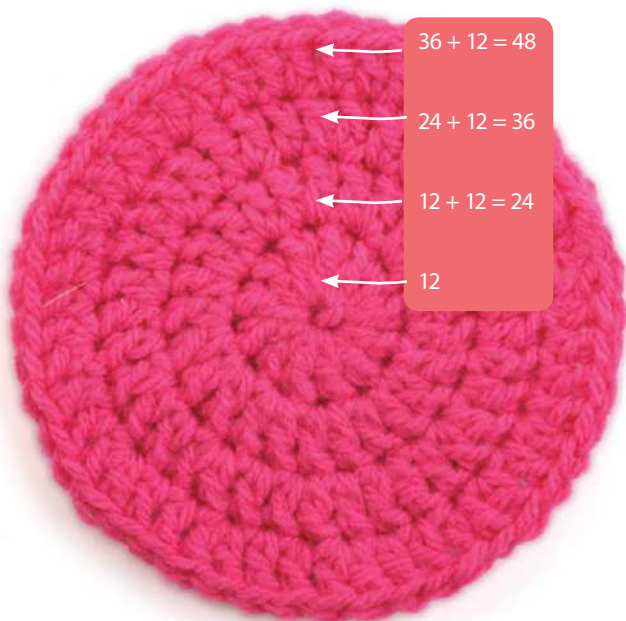


Top tip

Usually the pattern you are working with will give you instructions on how to best stagger your stitches for that particular project.

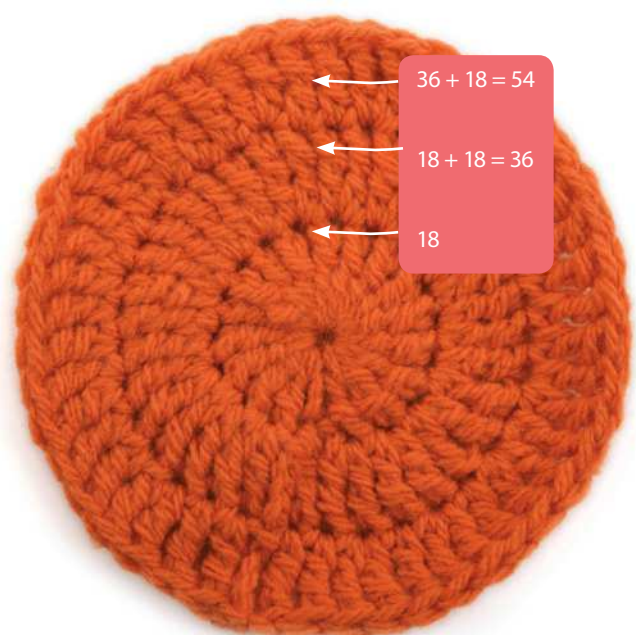
TREBLE CROCHET

Treble crochet is work in multiples of 12.



DOUBLE TREBLE CROCHET

Double treble is worked in multiples of 18.



INVISIBLE FINISH

Finish off your worked-in-the-round projects by hiding the yarn tail from view

When you work in the round there is nothing quite as annoying as when you can see the final stitch that joins the end of the last round to itself.

Luckily, there is a very easy way to join the last stitch of your project to another stitch and create what is known as an invisible finish. To do this you will need a yarn needle.

The invisible finish essentially sees you create your own stitch with your needle, creating a V and making it the same size and shape as the other stitches in your round. It is incredibly simple to do, and it can tie your project together by giving it a very neat finish. Doing a slip stitch (ss) can make it

look a little clunky – which is especially annoying when the rest of your project is so neat and tidy! Here we show you how to hide the end of your project.

"It can tie your project together by giving it a very neat finish"

SECURE YOUR WORK WITH AN INVISIBLE FINISH

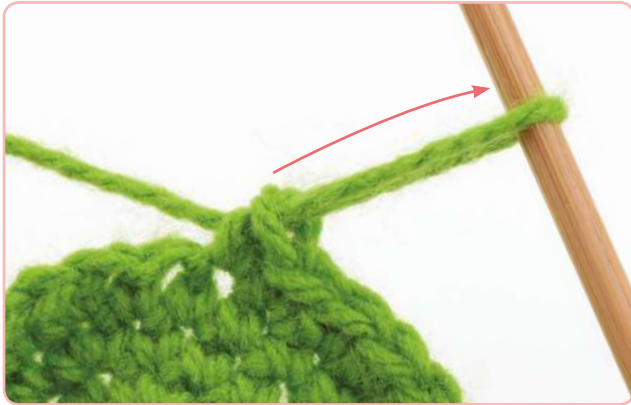
01 Stop crocheting Once you have crocheted your last stitch, do not join with a slip stitch as you would have on the previous rounds if you have been working in joined rounds. Cut the yarn leaving a tail of about 15cm (6in).

Top tip

Do not pull your created stitch too tightly as it will be visible when you look at the finished product – which is the opposite of what you're intending to do!



Invisible finish



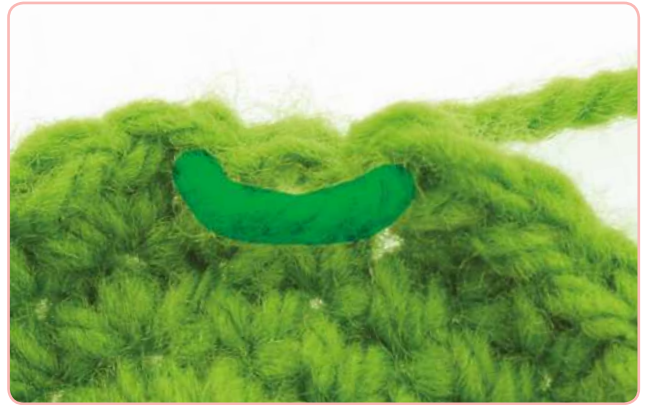
02 Pull on the yarn Carefully pull on the loop that is on your hook until the end of the tail comes thorough.



03 Thread your needle Now get your yarn needle and thread the tail into it.



04 Insert your needle Skip the first stitch of the round and insert your needle from front to back into the second stitch.



05 Pull through Pull the rest of the thread through, but don't pull it tight just yet.



06 Back into final stitch Insert your needle into the middle of the final stitch on your round. Notice that it's between the two loops, making it look like a stitch.



07 Pull it down Gently pull on the tail until the V you've created is the same size as your other stitches. Now weave in the end of the tail.

BLOCKING

This step will set your flat projects into their desired shapes and give you professional results. Follow these simple but effective techniques

Blocking is a process you will go through after making many of your flat projects. It sets the stitches in place, can allow for lace pieces to become more defined and strengthens any straight edges in your work.

This, of course, means that not every piece you make will have to be blocked, but it can help to even out any variants in your tension. There are several methods for blocking, including spray, steam and wet. Each technique achieves

the same goal, while, like most things, being slightly more suitable for one project over another.

To get started, you will need a blocking mat (or other flat, padded surface such as an ironing board or your bed) and some T-pins. For more fiddly projects you may want to invest in some blocking wires, which will help straighten out the edges for lace projects better than simply pinning them.

PINNING YOUR WORK

Whatever the method you decide to use to block your work, the starting point is nearly always the same: pinning. Always use rust-proof pins as each of the methods requires the application of moisture to your project; if your pins aren't rust-proof they may well end up with unsightly stains on your beautiful yarn.

If you are blocking crocheted segments that are due to be joined, make sure you measure them out so they match when you come to sew them together.

To pin, lay out your piece on a flat surface, roughly in the correct shape. Start by pinning the corners to the correct measurement for your final piece. Then pin half way along the edge, and keep doing this until you are happy that the edges are all straight and even.

Top tip

Leave your project for 24 hours or more. The rate at which it dries depends on the room temperature, the type of yarn used and how much moisture was retained in the fibres.



SPRAY BLOCKING

Spray blocking is the easiest and quickest way of blocking your work. Once you've pinned your piece into position, simply take a spray bottle and give a few sprays of water until the surface of your work is evenly coated and saturated. Now gently pat the surface to help the water absorb into the yarn fibres. Leave your work to dry; this can take up to (and sometimes over) 24 hours, depending on how much water your yarn retains, and how much water you used.

"Blocking sets stitches in place and can strengthen straight edges"



STEAM BLOCKING

Steam blocking requires the use of an iron or handheld steamer, and uses the moisture and heat from the steam to block your project. You must be wary of not touching the iron to the yarn at any point. Man-made fibres will melt, and all your hard work will go to waste.

Pin your piece, and hold your steamer or iron about 2.5cm (1in) from your project. Steam it until the entire surface area is moist. Once you're happy, pat the surface gently to allow the moisture to penetrate the yarn fibres more thoroughly. Leave to dry.

This could take up to 24 hours depending on your yarn and how damp it became in the blocking process.



Key techniques

WET BLOCKING



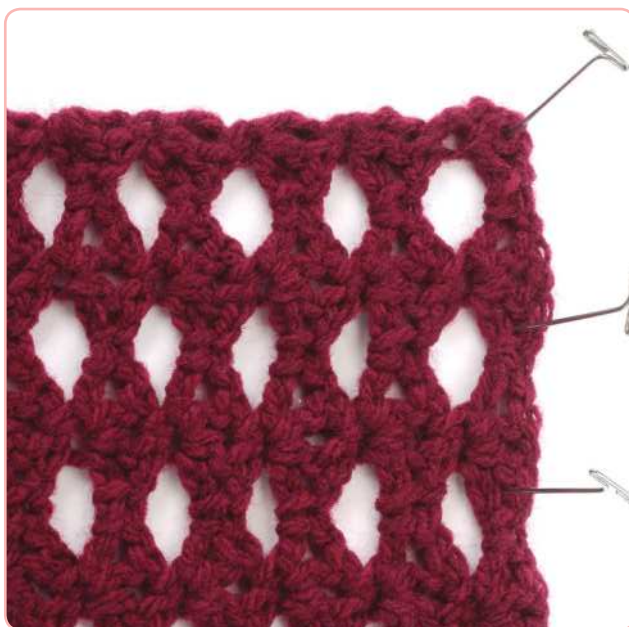
01 Immerse in water Fill your sink, washing-up bowl or even a bath for larger items, with lukewarm water. You can also add in some no-rinse wool wash at this stage. Immerse your project (in this case a simple swatch) in the water, pushing down until it is saturated. Leave it for 20 minutes.



02 Be gentle Take your project from the water and gently squeeze out the excess liquid. Do not wring your project, this will stretch the yarn fibres out of shape. Continue to squeeze gently until you think you can remove no more water.

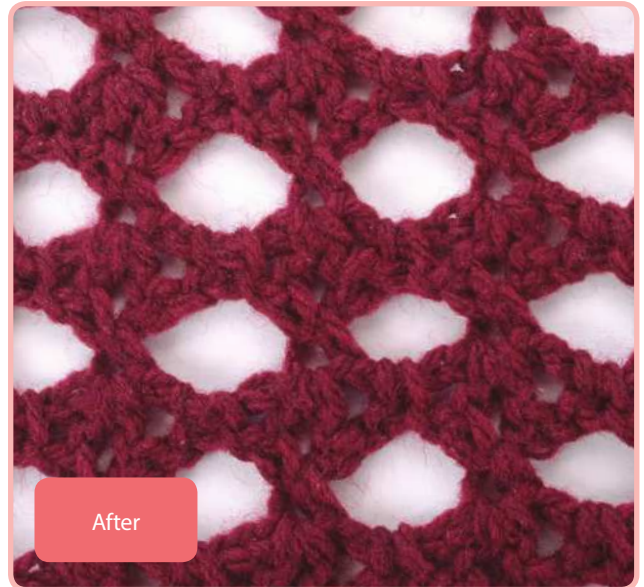
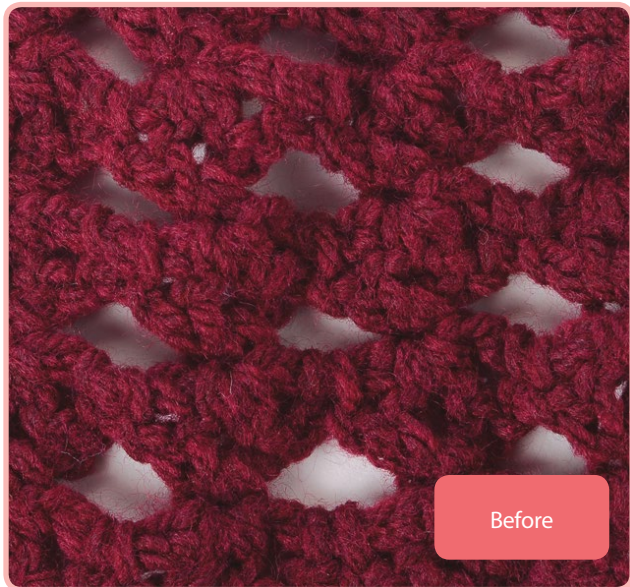


03 Grab a towel Use a towel to squeeze out a little more moisture. Lay the towel on a flat surface and lie your garment flat. Gently roll up your towel. This will gently press out even more water.



04 Pin and leave to dry Now pin your project to your blocking surface (a foam mat or even a mattress is ideal) and leave to dry. This could take at least 24 hours depending on the fibre type.

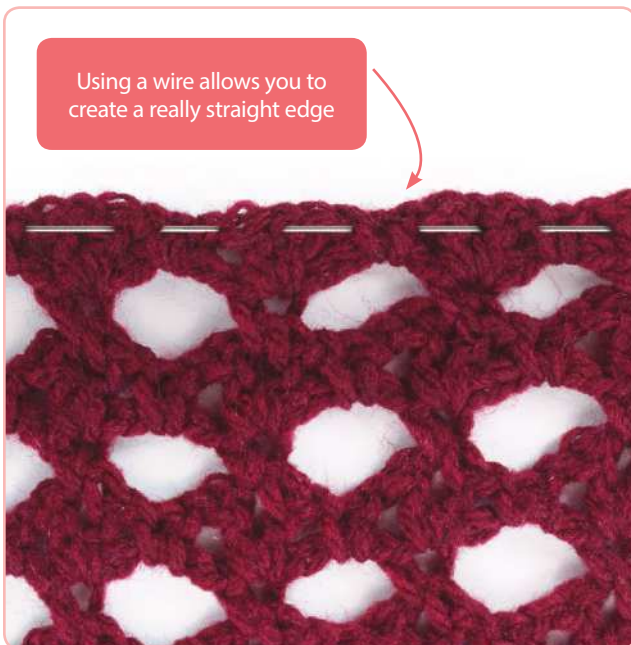
Blocking



BLOCKING LACE

If you have made a lace garment, such as a scarf or a cardigan, blocking your final project can really make it stand out. It will make the lace stitches more defined, and take any crumples out of the final product. You will need to start by using the wet blocking method on the opposite page, but at

the pinning stage make sure you arrange your work to the dimensions stated on the pattern. You can use extra pins at this stage. You can also use blocking wires for the edges to make sure they remain crisp without having to use an excessive number of pins.



01 Using a wire For more refined edging, thread a blocking wire through each stitch or row end along the straight edge of your project. You may wish to add a few pins as you go to keep it in place.

02 Pinning If your lace garment has straight edges you will need to use a lot of pins along the edge of a lace garment in order to obtain a professional result. It will bow in places if you don't use enough.

JOINING

Finish projects that need joining together with these simple techniques

When making larger garments such as bags and items of clothing, a pattern can direct you to join pieces of crochet together. This is simple enough when it is simply attaching a motif, but when you are seaming together two separate parts of crochet, the process can become a touch more complicated, especially if you discover that the number of stitches do not correspond with each other.

When joining pieces you do so stitch by stitch to give a clean finish. Joining a piece worked in rows can be a little more complicated because of the difficulty of working

into the row edges. If the number of stitches per row doesn't correspond then you may have to work more than one joining stitch into each V or row space. It is best when joining pieces of different sizes to place stitch markers along the pieces, holding them together every 5cm (2in) or so. This way you will be able to keep your stitches spaced more evenly.

Before you join your crochet, it is best to block your project's pieces first (if it's required). Otherwise you could experience a rippling effect later if you were to block them afterwards.

"Before you join your crochet, it is best to block your project's pieces first (if it's required)"

JOIN WITH A WHIP STITCH



01 Hold 'wrong sides' together Hold two pieces together with the wrong sides facing each other. Pass your needle through the V stitches on both pieces from front to back and pull the yarn through.



02 Back to the front Instead of doing your next stitch from back to front, simply draw your needle back to the front and repeat step 1, inserting your needle from front to back. Repeat this until complete.



03 The finished look Using a whip stitch will leave a visible line on both sides of the piece. This won't be quite as obvious when you are using the same colour.

Joining

USE A MATTRESS STITCH



01 Lay them down Lay your pieces side-by-side with the right sides facing you. Leaving a tail of 15cm (6in), insert your needle through the first edge stitch of the first piece and then down through the edge of the second.



02 Through stitch Insert your needle down through the first stitch of piece one and up through to the second stitch.

Top tip

Make sure you tie off your seaming yarn securely as if this comes undone the entire seam can unravel and you do not want that!



03 Same to piece two Now repeat the same process on piece two.



04 Repeat Keep going up the edges of your two pieces. A loose 'ladder' will start to form. Stop when you have done about 2.5cm (1in).



05 Pull together Pull gently on the yarn so that the rungs of your ladder draw the two sides together. Don't pull too tightly as this will make the pieces buckle.



06 Keep going Repeat until you have reached the end, pulling the yarn to draw the edges together every 2.5cm (1in) or so. Notice how the seam is almost invisible.

Key techniques

JOIN WITH A SLIP STITCH



01 Slip stitch Insert your hook through the first stitch on both pieces of crochet. Complete your slip stitch (or double crochet) along the edge.



02 Keep going Now keep going, ensuring you match up the stitches as you go.



SLIP STITCH

A slip stitch seam is strong, and will be almost invisible from the other side of the work. Slip stitches do not allow for any give, so making them too tight will pucker the fabric.



DOUBLE CROCHET

Using a double crochet will give a more pronounced edge, but this can be used to your advantage if you want a decorative seam. It is also stretchier than a slip stitch join.

MAKE A FLAT SLIP-STITCHED SEAM



01 Top to bottom Insert your hook from top to bottom through the back loop only on the right-hand piece of fabric.



02 Now to the left Do the same on your left piece, then yarn over (yo) and pull through both loops on the hook. Repeat until you reach the end.



FLAT SLIP-STITCHED SEAM

This seam produces a flat row of chain-looking stitches. It's a neat finish and adds a nice little detail to your seams.

"It is best when joining pieces of different sizes to place stitch markers along the pieces, holding them together every 5cm (2in) or so"

Did you know?

Each of the stitches used here has another name, so it is best to be aware of these just in case the pattern you are using calls them by another name:

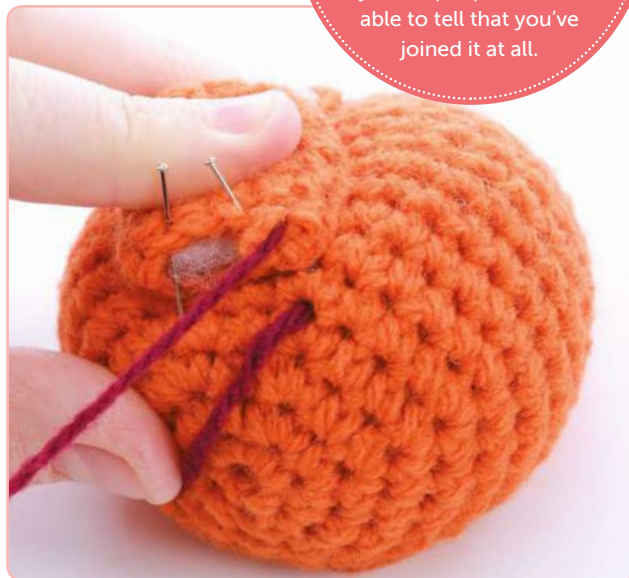
- Whip stitch: overcast stitch
- Mattress stitch: ladder stitch
- Slip stitch: double crochet seam

JOINING AMIGURUMI

Top tip

Make sure you pull your stitches tight as then it will hide them from the average eye, and people won't be able to tell that you've joined it at all.

JOIN A FLAT PIECE



01 Pin your pieces Pin your pieces together, making sure that your attaching piece is exactly where you want it. Insert your needle into the piece of amigurumi that you wish to attach it to, making sure that you have your needle come up below the stitch/your flat piece.

02 Pull it tight Make sure each of your stitches is pulled tight before moving on to the next one, and that the piece you are attaching doesn't move or become out of place.



03 Go through the flat piece Insert the needle through the flat piece, and pull the yarn through.

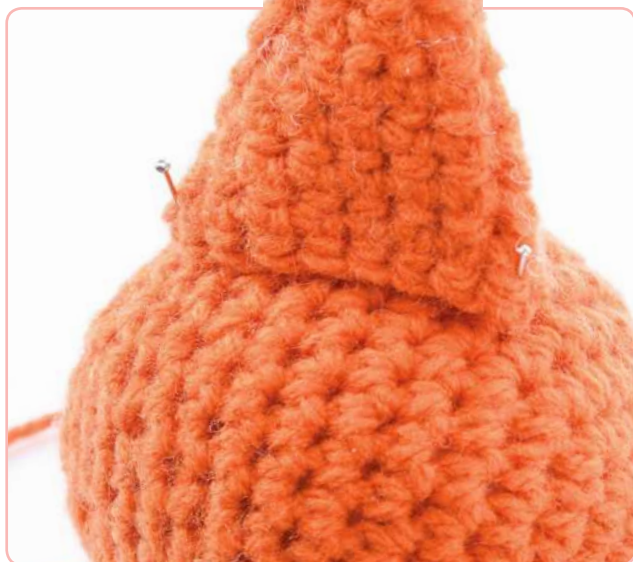


04 Repeat Now keep going along the piece of edge that you want. You may find that you can see some of the stitches. You can make smaller stitches, or pull it tighter, if you wish to hide them if you want to.



05 Hide the end Insert the needle into the main body of the amigurumi, and then insert it to come out a stitch a few stitches down, pull it through and then trim the end.

SEAMLESS JOIN



01 Pin your work You don't need to, but you may find it easier to pin your two pieces together, lining up the stitches with each other. Once you have pinned your pieces (if you have opted to), you need to locate the stitch. With the piece you are joining to the flat surface, locate the V of one of the stitches – it does not matter where you begin if your piece is circular. Now look for the stitch directly below it.



03 Needle up Now insert your needle from bottom to top beneath both parts of the piece you are attaching.



02 Insert your needle Insert the needle in the stitch directly below the stitch you are working from, and take the needle along to the stitch beneath the next stitch and pull the yarn through. Do not pull it tight just yet.



04 Pull it tight Now, to make the stitches 'invisible': Pull tight on the yarn you are working with. This creates a lovely smooth line, and makes the seam disappear from view.

Top tip

If you are attaching a limb that doesn't require you to squash the final edge, you can push your needle through the opposite side of the limb, and work your way around in the circle to secure it.



EMBELLISHMENTS

EMBELLISHMENTS

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V STITCHES

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SHELLS, FANS AND V STITCHES

Create better edges with these three decorative embellishments

In crochet, the terms shell and fan are used interchangeably, but in actual fact they are not quite the same. Where a shell sees you use a solid run of stitches, a fan will utilise the added gap of a chain space (ch-sp).

Meanwhile, the V stitch uses fewer stitches, and comprises two stitches in the same stitch, separated by a chain. The result is a singular chain space. Shells and fans typically use five stitches into the same stitch.

They are best used with treble (tr) or double treble (dtr) stitches as this makes them more prominent. Below are some examples of how each of these would be worked, and what the end product would look like.

"Where a shell sees you use a solid run of stitches, a fan will utilise the added gap of a chain space"



SHELL

Skip the next stitch, 5 treble into next stitch, skip stitch, continue with pattern.



FAN

Skip the next stitch, (treble, chain (ch) 1, treble, chain 1, treble) into next stitch, skip stitch, continue with pattern.



V STITCH

Skip the next stitch, (treble, chain 1, treble) into next stitch, skip stitch, continue with pattern.

SPIKE STITCHES

Add texture and detail to your piece with the simple spike stitch

One of the best things about crochet is that you don't have to do much in order to add an extra little flourish to your work. It's easy to work up a different type of stitch, change colour or add a motif.

A spike stitch is a good example of a really simple way to add detail to your crochet projects, and doesn't take too much work to incorporate. Adding spike stitches in the same colour is a great way of adding subtle texture to your work, and using a contrasting colours is perfect for adding a statement to your projects. Put simply, a spike

stitch is one that extends down more than a single row. You form it by going into the usual V space, but on rows that you have already worked. It forms a longer version of the stitch.

To really add some extra flavour to your work, you could mix spike stitches with crossed stitches, working in the stitch ahead before coming back into the previous stitch. In this following tutorial we will show you how to do the most simple spike stitches. Then you can try to incorporate it in your creative projects!

MAKE A SPIKE STITCH



01 Insert your hook Work your next stitch as usual, but insert your hook into the space however many rows beneath your current row as you desire. Here we have chosen one row beneath.



02 Draw up a loop Bring the yarn over your hook, then pull it back through and draw up a loop to the height of your current row so that it looks level.



03 Complete your stitch Now complete the stitch as usual. Yarn over (yo) and pull it through all loops on the hook.

Top tip

Spike stitches are also known as long stitches and dropped stitches.



DIFFERENT LENGTHS

These spike stitches are worked into different rows in a contrasting colour, adding an easy embellishment.

CROSSED STITCHES

Give your crochet a more detailed and advanced look with a really simple method

Adding detail to your crochet doesn't need to be difficult, feel like a chore or take too long. In fact, adding a varied stitch during your rows can do a lot to make your work look more interesting, and make it look more impressive than a simple flat piece of crochet.

A crossed stitch really isn't too difficult and can be used with great effect to produce a cable-like look to your projects. You can pair them with multiple other stitches to create a pretty effect that you might not have thought possible due to the simplicity of crochet.

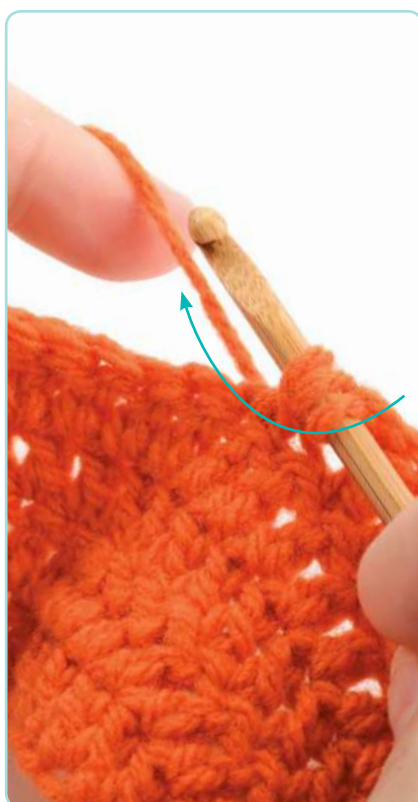
There are three different ways in which you can work a crossed stitch. You can either work the second stitch in front or behind the one before it, or you can wrap it around the first stitch. Patterns may not specify which method you should use, but usually it will reference which option to adopt in the instructions. You will generally be able to follow written out, clear instructions.

All crossed stitches are formed by skipping the next stitch, crocheting into the second stitch from your hook and then going back into the stitch that you missed.

CROSS BEHIND



01 Skip a stitch Skip the next stitch from where you have been working, and then locate the stitch you skipped – this is where you will work next.



02 Tilt your stitches Either tilt your work forward or hold down the previous stitch with your thumb while you insert the hook, working behind the first stitch.



03 Complete the cross Yarn over (yo) your inserted hook, then complete your stitch as required. That's it!

Top tip

Take time to identify the stitches and work carefully to make sure your crossed stitches come out well, especially if working several crossed stitches at once to create a cable effect.

Crossed stitches

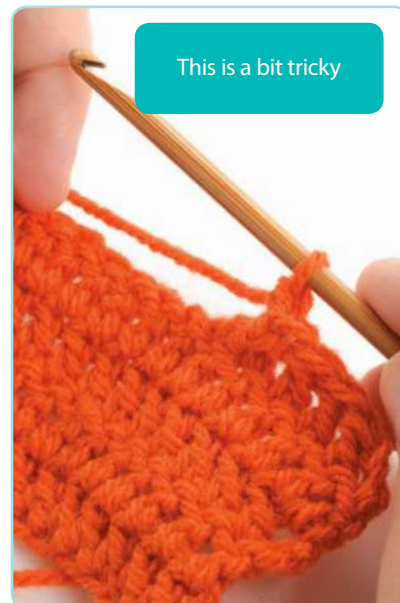
CROSS IN FRONT



01 Skip the stitch As with working behind, skip the next stitch from where you have been working, then locate the stitch you skipped. This is where you will work next.



02 Push back This time, instead of tilting your work forward to work behind it, push it back so you can complete the stitch into the skipped stitch from the front.



This is a bit tricky

03 Complete the stitch Insert your hook into the skip stitch and then complete the stitch as you would usually.

WRAPPED STITCH



01 Yarn over Yarn over and insert your hook into the skipped stitch, working in front of the previous stitch.



02 Yarn to the back With the yarn at the back, yarn over and draw up a loop, bring the loop around the front of the first stitch.



03 Complete the stitch Complete the stitch as usual. The second stitch will enclose the base of the first one.

POST STITCHES

Add texture to your work by using post stitches, which can be worked both in front of and behind the previous row

Post stitches can be used to add texture to your work and, when worked in the correct pattern, they can create a distinctive ribbing effect. Usually post stitches are worked around treble crochets (tr) or bigger stitches, as double crochets (dc) aren't really tall enough to get your hook around. However, they can be done quite easily if

that is what you want to do, so just follow this guide. It seems you insert your hook around the stitch rather than into the top V to create your next stitch. You can work by inserting your hook from front to back or from back to front, which creates a different visual depending on which side you're looking at.

FRONT POST STITCH



01 Front to back to front To work a front post treble crochet you need to yarn over (yo) then insert your hook into the gap between the posts of the row below from front to back, around the post next on the row and come through the other side back to the front of your work.



02 Draw up a loop Yarn over and draw up a loop by pulling the working yarn back through to the right side of your crochet.



Post stitches

BACK POST STITCH



Top tip

Post stitches can also be referred to as raised stitches or relief stitches, so look out for these phrases when you are looking at patterns.

01 Back to front to back As the opposite to the front post stitch, you will take your hook to the back of your work, yarn over, and then insert your hook into the gap between posts coming from the back to the front, around the post and out of the back.



Yarn over and loop Yarn over and draw up a loop back to where you started the stitch.



Complete your stitch Now complete your stitch as normal.

CHAINLESS FOUNDATIONS

Create your first row without making a chain first

Creating your foundation chain and the subsequent first row of crochet can sometimes result in the chain becoming twisted, but this can be avoided by starting your project with a chainless foundation instead.

This combines the foundation chain and the first row in a initial row of crochet rather than two. Using a chainless foundation is a great way to create a stretchy edging

compared to a more rigid chain start. Given that you are working the two rows at once, it does take a little longer to work up the chainless foundation than a foundation chain, but it is easier to work your second row into the chainless foundation than into the chain, as you don't have to worry about your chain becoming too tight or twisting while you work into it.

FOUNDATION DOUBLE CROCHET



Top tip

Chainless foundation stitches form vertically so the chain part of the stitch is at the bottom, on the left, and the tops of the stitches are formed on the right.

01 Chain two To get going, the first step in creating your foundation double crochet (fdc) is to chain two. You will be making your first crochet into the second chain from the hook.

02 Insert your hook Insert your hook into the second chain your from hook, yarn over (yo) and draw up a loop.

Chainless foundation



03 Create the chain Now yarn over once more and pull the yarn through the first loop on your hook. This forms the chain stitch that you will create your first double crochet (dc) into.



04 Yarn over Now yarn over your hook and pull through the two loops that are on your hook. You have now created your first double crochet.



05 Keep going Each following foundation double crochet is worked into the two loops that form the chain at the bottom of the stitch you have just worked.



06 Create your next double crochet Insert your hook under the top and back loops of the chain, yarn over and draw up the loop. Make sure it is level before you continue to work the stitch. If you make it too tight it will be difficult to start your next stitch. Now repeat steps 3 and 4, repeating until you've made the right number of stitches.

CREATE LONGER CHAINLESS FOUNDATION STITCHES

You don't just have to create your first row with double crochets; you can create longer stitches simply by following the same system. You can create a chainless foundation with half treble (htr) and treble (tr) crochets. You merely have to complete the stitch in the same way as you usually would once you have created the 'chain' that you will be working into.



LINKED STITCHES

Close up the loose-looking stitches with this simple technique

Tall crochet stitches can end up looking quite loose, especially when the gaps between them are quite big. You can fix this by using linked stitches to close up the gaps. It helps create a solid fabric and produces a nice texture across them as well. You can apply linked stitches to anything taller than a double crochet (dc) by replacing

the first yarn over(s) (yo) at the start of the stitch with a loop that links it to the previous stitch. It should be noted that you won't be counting the turning chain (t-ch) when you use this technique. Here we have used a linked treble crochet (ltr). It can be a little fiddly, but once you get the hang of it, like most crochet techniques, it's easy!

"You can apply linked stitches to anything taller than a dc"

LINKED STITCHES



01 Foundation chain Make a foundation chain for the number of stitches required in your pattern, then do an extra two chains. Insert your hook into the second chain from the hook, yarn over and draw up a loop. Insert your hook into the next chain, yarn over and draw up a loop. You will have three loops on your hook.



02 Do a treble Now work the remainder of the stitch as a standard treble (tr) stitch. Yarn over, draw through two loops, yarn over, draw through two loops. You have now completed your first linked stitch. You will notice there is a horizontal bar half way up the stitch, this is where your next stitch will link to.



03 Top to bottom Insert your hook into the horizontal bar from top to bottom.

Linked stitches



04 Draw up a loop Yarn over, draw up a loop (this replaces the yarn over at the start of a standard treble crochet). Insert your hook into the next chain.



05 Complete the treble Now continue with the treble crochet. Yarn over, draw up a loop, (yarn over, and draw through two loops) twice. Repeat from Steps 03 to 05 until the end of the row.



06 Chain 2 To start a new row, chain two and turn your work. Insert the hook into the second chain from the hook, yarn over and draw up a loop. Insert your hook into the first stitch (at the base of the chain), and repeat Step 05 to complete the linked treble crochet.



07 Carry along the row For each additional linked treble crochet, draw up a loop from the horizontal bar of the previous linked treble crochet. Insert your hook into the next stitch, as you would any other stitch. Now complete as before.



LINK BIGGER STITCHES

You can use this technique to link taller stitches. Simply yarn over at the beginning of the stitch with a linked loop, and complete the stitch as usual. To link a double treble stitch (dtr), draw up a loop in the horizontal bar one- and two-thirds down the previous stitch (or the second and third chains of a chain three turning chain) to begin the stitch.

CLUSTER STITCHES

Join any number of stitches together to form a cluster

Cluster stitches is a term that can be used to define several different types of collected stitches, but the most basic type are several incomplete stitches that are joined together at the top to form a triangle. Cluster stitches can be used as a decreases, can form patterns when used with a combination of other stitches and chains.

There are no strict rules to follow when it comes to the number of stitches you can use in your cluster, and you can use any long sort of stitch. The pattern you are using will specify what combination of stitches should be used for that pattern, and will never simply define it as a cluster. In this tutorial we will teach you how to do a basic four-treble cluster (4-tr) stitch.

CLUSTER STITCH

"There are no strict rules to follow when it comes to the number of stitches you can use in your cluster, and you can use any long sort of stitch"



01 Start your cluster Yarn over (yo) your hook, insert the tip into the next stitch and draw up a loop.



02 Continue the treble (tr) Yarn over your hook again and draw the yarn through two loops on the hook. Leave the remaining two loops on the hook!

Cluster stitches



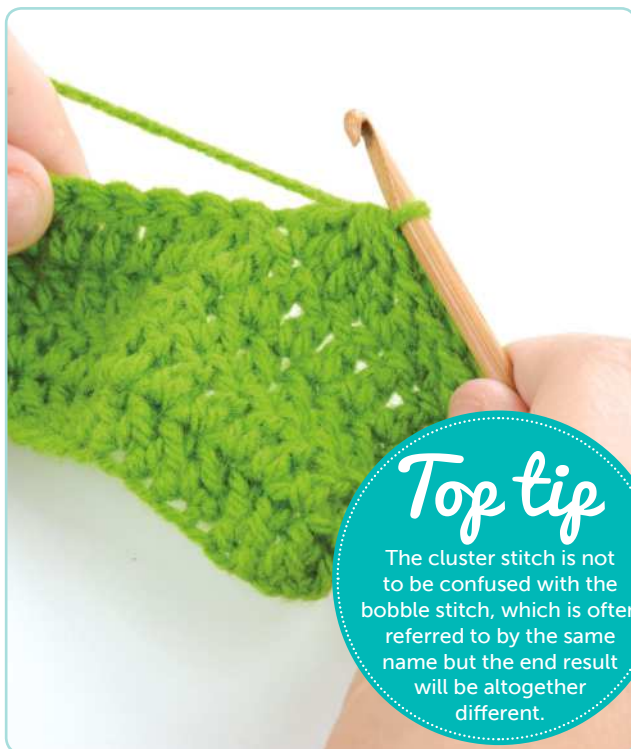
03 Repeat Rather than completing the treble crochet, you will yarn over your hook and insert it into the next stitch before drawing up another loop.



04 Keep going Yarn over once more and pull through two loops on the hook. You will now have three loops left on the hook.



05 Repeat twice more Now repeat steps 3 and 4 twice. You will end up with five loops left on your hook and half-completed four stitches.



06 Through the loops Yarn over and draw the yarn through all five loops on the hook. This completes your cluster.

Top tip

The cluster stitch is not to be confused with the bobble stitch, which is often referred to by the same name but the end result will be altogether different.

POPCORN STITCHES

Add texture to your crochet with the appropriately named popcorn stitch

Popcorn stitches are a great way to add texture to your projects and are one of the only stitches you will use where you need to remove your hook from the working loop in order to complete it. The first time you do this it is quite scary but don't panic, it will produce a fun stitch in the end and it's really easy to do. A popcorn

stitch sees you create several treble (tr) crochets into a single stitch and then collect them together at the top with a chain stitch. This is what makes it stand out from the fabric.

Worked in a thinner yarn it can add fun details, and in a chunky one it can add dramatic and eye-catching finishes.

POPCORN STITCH



01 Treble crochets Work four treble crochets into the next stitch. Remove your hook Pull the yarn out a little further than usual, and remove your hook from the current stitch. Be careful not to let it unravel.



02 Insert your hook Insert your hook from front to back under both loops of the top of the first treble crochet you made at the start of the popcorn stitch.



03 Get the working loop Instead of pulling your working yarn over your hook as you would usually, insert the hook into the working loop and pull on the working yarn until it is the usual size around the hook.



04 Draw it through Draw the working loop through the top of the first stitch and this will complete the popcorn stitch. Some patterns will dictate that you close the popcorn stitch with a chain stitch. Check the pattern that you are using. If it doesn't mention it, just finish it here.

PUFF STITCHES

Use puff stitches to create a reversible, cushioned fabric using half treble crochet stitches

Puff stitches are some of the most unusual crochet stitches you will come across. They don't involve the usual method of completing a stitch every two loops. Instead, a puff stitch sees you draw up loops to the height of the other stitches and secure these longer, puffed-out pieces of yarn with a stitch at the top.

Puff stitches look identical on either side and work brilliantly for projects such as blankets and coasters, when you want them to work either way up. Puff stitches can take a little while to get used to, but just make sure you work them loosely, and you'll get the hang of it in no time at all.

PUFF STITCH



01 Start the puff stitch Yarn over (yo) and insert your hook into the next stitch. Draw up a loop. You should have three loops on your hook. Do not pull the working yarn through any of the loops.



02 Draw up Careful not to pull on the stitch you have worked into, pull the loop up to the desired height. Level it with the height of the other worked stitches. Keep your finger on top to keep the stitches height while you work more stitches.



03 Continue the stitch Ensuring that you have kept the tension loose, yarn over and insert your hook into the same stitch, yarn over and pull up another loop to the same height. You will have five loops on your hook.



04 Create another loop Repeat – yarn over, insert your hook, yarn over and draw up a loop to the same height – until have seven unworked loops on your hook. Pull the yarn through all seven loops to complete.

MOTIFS

Create motifs as part of a whole project or as a final embellishment

The term 'motif' might be a little confusing, as you may think it will simply refer to the additional little pieces that you add to your crochet projects once complete. In actual fact, when it comes to crochet, a motif is any sort of smaller piece of crochet you create that's intended to be part of a bigger project, whether this is indeed a flower to be added to a hat, or a granny square intended to be sewn together with other types of square to create a larger final project. Squares are the most common type of motif (most families will somewhere have a

granny square blanket, we can all but guarantee it...) but they aren't just limited to something your granny made in order to pass down. You can create scarves, tops and even dresses out of the trusty granny square. They're versatile and they are so simple to make.

The best thing about motifs is that they aren't limited to a type of yarn, a weight or thickness of any kind. You can make them out of any yarn you have lying around and even with the scraps you are left with at the end of your other projects. Perfect for making a crazy combination blanket!

STARTING A MOTIF

One common feature of motifs is that they are always worked in the round. You can find out more on how to do this on page 68. You work from the middle outwards and never turn your work. No matter what the end product of your motif, it will always start out looking like a circle – but don't worry, this is how it is meant to be. You start your motif with a ring, either through a magic ring or a small collection of chain stitches linked together. From here, the first round is worked into the centre and then joined to create the first lot of stitches. There are sometimes exceptions to this, as some motifs will have you first work into the front loops, before you go on to continue in a spiral into the back loops, only to create a neat layered effect. In fact, we go into this on page xxx with a double flower. Even if your motif continues to look a bit round as you work, it will eventually turn into the shape it is supposed to be, so rest assured.

"Turn your work every round and fasten on at different points each round; this will stop any wobbly edge"



Top tip

When you make a product using different motifs joined together, it is best to use the same colour for the last round to make the joining neater.

CONTINUING THE PROJECT

It isn't uncommon for motifs to be worked in different colours for each round that you do, which is what makes them so perfect for using up the ends of your various yarns. Depending on the effect you wish to achieve, you could alternate colours, you could never use the same colour twice, or you can come up with a combination and order of colours that you can change per square to create a really neat-looking blanket, for instance. For the cleanest result, turn your work every round and fasten on at different points each round; this will stop any wobbly edge where every fasten on happens, and the joins will be less noticeable if they aren't all in one place! To start each round, fasten on your yarn by drawing up a loop and crocheting over the start of the yarn as you work around the motif. This will make it extra secure, as you don't want it falling apart, and with all the ends that you will end up with connecting different colours, it will take less time to darn in any loose ends if you simply crochet them in instead!



TOP MOTIF TIPS

01 Avoid having to darn With many motifs you will end up with a lot of starts and ends of yarn. We cannot stress enough how much easier life will be when you come to finish up your project if you crochet over any loose ends as you work. Starting yarns are easy to hide in the new colour, and end yarns will soon disappear if you crochet over those as well. By doing this you not only save yourself a lot of time and effort, but you might not even have to pick up a darning needle if you're meticulous about it.

02 Use the same edging colour While you can make motifs in various colours, it is much easier to join them together neatly with near-invisible seams if you use the same colour on the final round. This means you can use this colour everywhere when joining your motifs without having to worry about it looking obvious.

03 Go large! You don't need to stick to small motifs. Whoever said they didn't want a massive granny square? Instead of making them with only four or five rounds, make them larger, and then join them together. You may even find it easier to make bigger projects faster if you aren't having to fiddle each time you join a new colour and get into the groove. If you think your work is starting to skew because of the way the stitches are worked slightly to the right each time, simply flip your work over and this will save it!

04 Ignore rounded corners It's a simple fact that when you crochet a square, the corner will always look a little rounded, unless you have blocked it. But don't worry, this is completely normal. When you connect the squares together they will form the right shape and you don't even realise they were ever rounded in the first place. If you have created one massive motif then you can block the motif instead to form the corners.



GRANNY SQUARES

Create the most recognisable crochet pattern in the world: the granny square!

GRANNY SQUARE

Top tip

Create as many granny squares as you want and join them together with a stitch of your choice (see page 80). It makes a brilliant blanket and it is an absolute classic!



Rnd 1

Rnd 1:

Make a magic ring (or chain 4 and join with a sl st into a ring). Round 1: Ch 3 (counts as a tr here and throughout). Working into the ring, 2 tr, ch 1, (3 tr, ch 1) 3 times. Pull your magic ring closed gently. Join with a sl st into the stop of the chain 3 and fasten off.



Rnd 2

Rnd 2:

Fasten on with your next yarn into any ch-sp. Ch 3, (2 tr, ch 1, 3 tr) in chain ch-sp, ch 1, (3 tr, ch 1, 3 tr, ch 1) into next 3 ch-sp. Join with sl st to top of ch 3. Fasten off.



Rnd 3

Rnd 3:

Fasten on with next yarn at any edge ch-sp. Ch 3, 2 tr in same ch-sp. Cha 1, *(3 tr, ch 1, 3 tr, ch 1) in next corner ch-sp. 3 dc in next edge ch-sp, ch 1. Repeat from * twice more. (3 tr, ch 1, 3 tr, ch 1) in last corner ch-sp. Join with sl st to top of ch 3. Fasten off.



Rnd 4

All future rounds:

For all further rounds, fasten on at any edge ch-sp. Ch 3, 2 tr in same ch-sp, ch 1. Make (3 tr, ch 1) in each edge space, and repeat (3 tr, ch 1) twice in each corner space. Join with a sl st into top of ch 3.

SOLID SQUARES

Add a bit of variety to our granny square blankets with this super simple solid incarnation

SOLID SQUARE



Rnd 1

Start your round with a chain start or a magic ring. A magic ring will give a tighter beginning.

Rnd 1: Ch 3 (counts as tr, here and throughout). Working into the ring, 2 tr, ch 1, (3 tr, ch 1) 3 times.

If you are using a magic ring, pull it closed.

Join with a sl st to the top of ch 3 and fasten off.



Rnd 2

Rnd 2: Join new yarn to a stitch immediate preceding a ch-sp.

Ch 3, (2 tr, ch 1, 2 tr) in next chain space, *tr in next 3 sts, (2 tr, ch 1, 2 tr) in next ch-sp; repeat from * twice, tr in next 2 sts.

Join with sl st into top of ch 3 and fasten off.



Rnd 3

Rnd 3: Join new yarn to a stitch immediate preceding a ch-sp.

Ch 3, (2 tr, ch 1, 2 tr) in next ch-sp, *tr in next 7 sts, (2 tr, ch 1, 2 tr) in next ch-sp; repeat from * twice, tr in next 6 sts.

Join with sl st into top of ch 3 and fasten off.



Rnd 4

All future rounds:

Follow the same pattern, adding an extra 4 sts between ch-sps.



GRANNY TRIANGLES

Drop a corner and add an extra stitch to each cluster to create a triangle

GRANNY TRIANGLE

Top tip

It is slightly harder to make a straight blanket out of triangles, but you can make up hexagons out of six triangles and then join each hexagon together with two triangles. Remember, this won't give you a straight edge – but who needs a straight edge, really?



Rnd 1

Rnd 1:

Make a magic ring (or chain 4 and join with a sl st into a ring).

Round 1: Ch 3 (counts as a tr here and throughout). Working into the ring, 3 tr, ch 2, (4 tr, ch 2) 2 times. Pull your magic ring closed gently. Join with a sl st into the stop of the chain 3 and fasten off.



Rnd 2

Rnd 2:

Fasten on with your next yarn into any ch-sp. Ch 3, (3 tr, ch 2, 4 tr) in chain ch-sp, ch 1, (4 tr, ch 2, 4 tr, ch 2) into next 3 ch-sp. Join with sl st to top of ch 3. Fasten off.



Rnd 3

Rnd 3:

Fasten on with next yarn at any edge ch-sp. Ch 3, 3 tr in same ch-sp. Ch 1, *(4 tr, ch 2, 4 tr, ch 2) in next corner ch-sp. 4 tr in next edge ch-sp, ch 1. Repeat from * once more. (4 tr, ch 2, 4 tr, ch 2) in last corner ch-sp. Join with sl st to top of ch 3. Fasten off.



All future rounds:

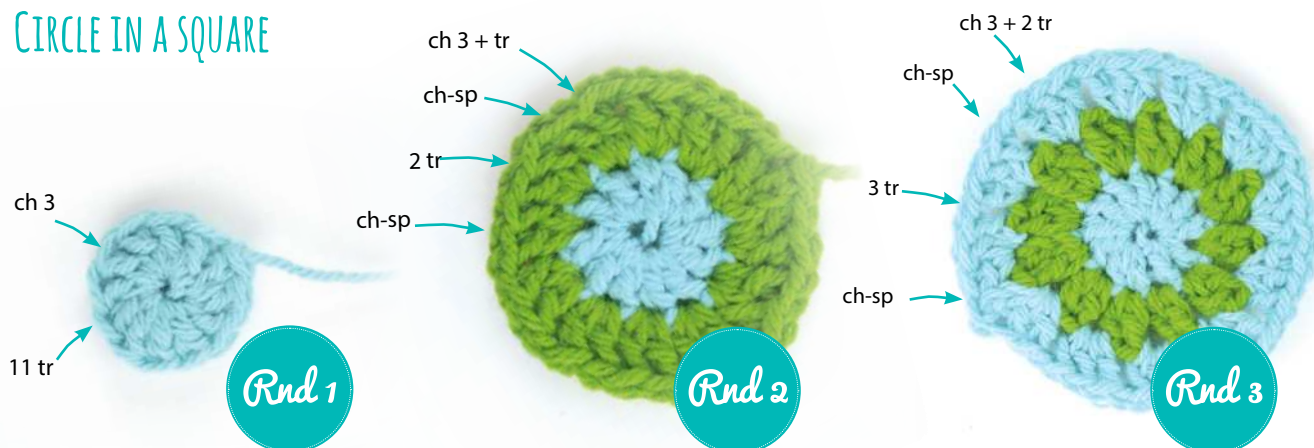
For all further rounds:

Fasten on at any edge ch-sp. Ch 3, 3 tr in same ch-sp, ch 2. Make (4 tr, ch 2) in each edge space, and repeat (4 tr, ch 2) twice in each corner space. Join with a sl st into top of ch 3.

CIRCLE IN A SQUARE

Start with a circle and end up with a square, this crochet creation is absolutely perfect to stitch together for a granny square motif blanket

CIRCLE IN A SQUARE



Rnd 1

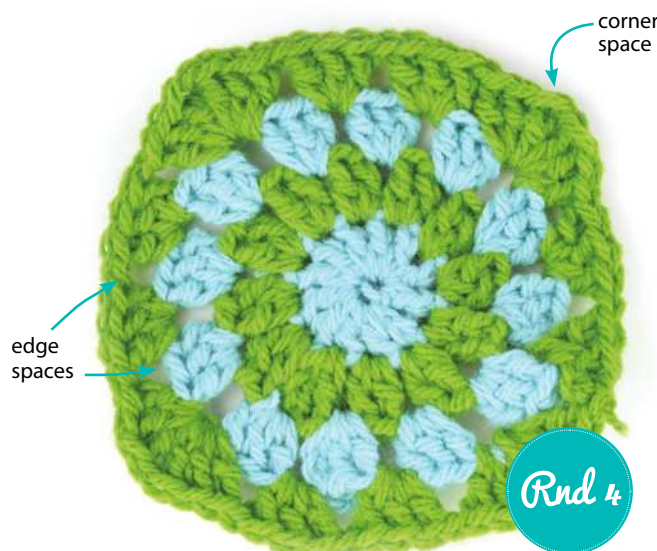
Make a magic ring, or chain 4 and join with a slip stitch (ss). Ch 3 (counts as a tr here and throughout), 11 tr into the ring. Draw your magic ring closed carefully. Join with a sl st into the top of the ch 3 and fasten off.

Rnd 2:

Fasten on a new yarn to any stitch. Ch 3, tr in same st, ch 1, (2 tr, ch 1) into next 11 stitches.

Rnd 3:

Fasten on with new yarn at any ch-sp. Ch 3, 2 tr in same chain space, ch 1, (3 tr, ch 1) in next 11 ch-sp. Join with a sl st and fasten off.



Rnd 4:

Fasten on with next yarn at any ch-sp. Ch 3, 2 tr in same ch-sp, ch 1, 3 tr in next ch-sp, ch 1, *(3 tr, ch 1, 3 tr, ch 1) in next ch-sp, (3 tr, ch 1) in next 2 ch-sp; repeat from * twice more, (3 tr, ch 1, 3 tr, ch 1) in next ch-sp. Join with sl st to top of ch 3 and fasten off.



Rnd 5:

Fasten on at any non-corner ch-sp. Ch 3, 2 tr in same ch-sp, ch 1. Make (3 tr, ch 1) in each edge space, and repeat (3 tr, ch 1) twice in each corner space. Join with a ss at the top of ch 3 and fasten off.

REVERSE DOUBLE CROCHET

Create a non-stretchy cord edge with the reverse double crochet

Also known as a crab stitch, the reverse double crochet (rdc) is worked in the opposite direction to what you are used to. Admittedly, it can take a little while to get the hang of this, as it completely goes against the natural order of all things crochet. You will start at the left-hand side of the piece and work towards the right. This

means that each of the stitches will be twisted so that the usual V formation is hidden and the edge is neatly finished. Note that you can't crochet into a reverse double crochet as it doesn't offer a solid entry point, so make sure you only ever use this technique as a pretty edging to the end of your project.

"Each of the stitches will be twisted so that the usual V formation is hidden and the edge is neatly finished"

Top tip

If you work too quickly your yarn could snag around the last stitch you made and the stitches could tangle together. If this happens, just undo the stitch and start again. Take your time!

REVERSE DOUBLE CROCHET



01 Fasten on Choose any point along the edge of your piece of fabric and chain one. You will work into the previous stitch, the one to the right of your hook, not the one to your left!



02 Start the stitch Insert your hook as you would usually from front to back.

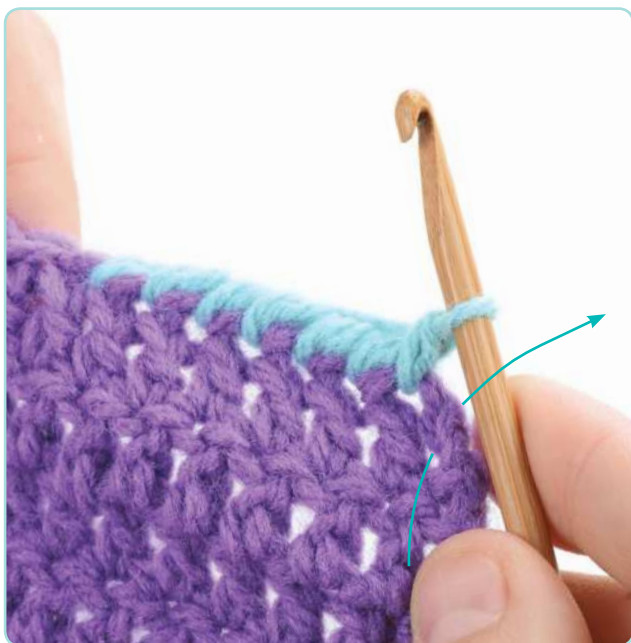
Reverse double crochet



03 Hook facing forward Yarn over (yo) and draw up a loop, making sure your hook faces towards the left as it would usually. If you twist your hook, you will end up with a mirrored version of a standard double crochet (dc), not a reverse stitch.



04 Complete the stitch Now complete the stitch as you would a normal double crochet, yarn over and draw through both loops on the hook.



05 Keep going Continue to work backwards along your edge, making sure not to twist your hook!



06 Reverse around the corner If you are going around a 90-degree corner, work three reverse double crochets into the same stitch.

PICOT EDGING

Give your work a delicate finish with a picot edging, often used on clothing and lace pieces

Quite simply, picot edging is a collection of chain stitches that can be added to the edge of your crochet project. They are brought together by a double crochet (dc) into the next stitch (or into the bottom of the chain) or by skipping stitches to create larger loops, also known as open picot. It has the benefit of being really simple to do while managing to look incredibly effective. You can make your picot stitches as long or as short as you like, from using only two extra chains to create a small bobble or a whole load of them to create a fun fringe effect.

If you are following a pattern it should state what type of picot edging, and whether to go into the bottom of the chain or into the next stitch (or, of course, how many stitches to skip!).

PICOT EDGING

"You can make your picot stitches as long or as short as you like, from using only two extra chains to create a small bobble or a whole load of them to create a fun fringe effect"



01 Fasten on Fasten on your yarn to any stitch, chain one. Double crochet into the first stitch and then chain three.



02 Into the loop Work into the front loop and left vertical bar of the stitch at the base of your chain.

Picot edging



03 Slip stitch Complete your picot stitch with a slip stitch (sl st). Insert your hook into the vertical bar of the double crochet below, draw up a loop and draw it through the loop on the hook.



04 Double crochet Now do a few double crochets along the edge in order to space out the picot edge.



05 Picot again Now repeat Steps 01 to 03 to create another picot. And repeat.



06 Around the bend To picot on a corner, continue as you would for a normal double crocheted edge, making three double crochets into the corner stitch. Continue to count your stitches and make sure you keep the gaps between them the same.

Top tip

It is best to count your stitches before you start and do a little bit of maths to figure out how many picot stitches you want, and how often they will need to occur.

BUTTONHOLES

This simple method for working buttonholes is just the thing for any of your projects that require a button fastening

Often when you are making garments or accessories, you may discover that you need to have a fastening, such as buttons. Where this is the case you will, of course, need to have buttonholes. There are a variety of ways to make buttonholes with crochet, but here is a good basic method to get you started with.

The buttonhole is made horizontally and can be used near the side edge of a jacket, for example, or along a horizontal

button band. This buttonhole is formed over two rows (or rounds) when working in double crochet (dc) and can be sized to fit the button by either reducing or increasing the number of stitches the buttonhole is made over to make it smaller or larger respectively.

In this example we are working the buttonhole over a gap of four stitches. Using this method produces a neat and sturdy buttonhole which will stand up to regular use.



Top tip

While working a buttonhole into a project it is important to test for sizing. Once you've created the hole, check that it's loose enough to ensure easy open and close by slipping the button in and out.

Buttonholes

MAKING BUTTONHOLES



01 Position buttonhole Work in double crochet up to the position required for the buttonhole. Make 4 chain (ch) stitches, or the number required for your buttonhole.



02 Forming the hole Now skip the same number of stitches as you have chains (four in this example) and work a double crochet into the next stitch to anchor the chain to the work.



03 Complete the row Continue working in double crochet until you have completed the row. You will now have a four-stitch gap that is bridged by the chains which form the buttonhole. Turn.



04 Working across the buttonhole Make 1 chain and work in double crochet across the row until you reach the 4 chain. Work 4 double crochet into the chain space (ch-sp), then continue in double crochet as normal to the end of the row.



05 Completed buttonhole Continue working in double crochet (or preferred stitch). As you do so, the buttonhole will become fully anchored into place.



PATTERNS

PATTERNS

Star ratings indicate difficulty. You will learn all skills required in this book

114 SQUARES BABY BLANKET

★★★★★

118 MAGICAL UNICORN

★★★★★

122 SCALLOP-EDGED HAT AND COWL

★★★★★

124 TRADITIONAL TEA COSY

★★★★★

126 EMBELLISHED BUNTING

★★★★★

128 BABY SLOTH

★★★★★

130 BOHO PONCHO

★★★★★

132 SPIKED CUSHION

★★★★★

134 GINGER THE GIRAFFE

★★★★★

138 ACUTE SWEATER

★★★★★

142 HUSHABYE BABY SLEEPING BAG

★★★★★

146 HORACE THE MONSTER

★★★★★





SQUARES BABY BLANKET

Practise making squares, changing colours and crocheting in the round to make this adorable blanket

DIFFICULTY



Approx 5-6 hours

WHAT YOU NEED

- 4mm hook (US G/6)
- Yarn needle
- You will need to use DK weight yarn, in your chosen colours. Here we have used Sublime Baby Cashmere Merino Silk DK in:
MC (main colour):
Pebble, 006 (400g)
CC (contrast colours):
Colour 1: Vanilla, 003 (100g)
Colour 2: Bounty blue, 493 (100g)
Colour 3: Little Lobby, 494 (100g)
Colour 4: Pip, 381 (100g)

MEASUREMENTS

80cm (31½in) x 80cm (31½in)

TENSION

One square to measure 12 x 12cm (4¾ x 4¾in) using 4mm (US G/6) crochet hook, or size required to obtain correct tension.

Pattern

SQUARE 1 – GRANNY IN THE MIDDLE

(Make 12 squares – 1 in each of the 12 colour combinations, see pattern notes)

Using MC, make 4 ch and join with sl st to form a ring.

Rnd 1 (MC): ch 3 (counts as 1 tr), 2 tr into ring, ch 2, (3 tr into ring, ch 2) 3 times, join with sl st in third ch of ch 3. Fasten off.

Rnd 2 (CC1): Join CC1 in any corner ch 2 sp. ch 3 (counts as 1 tr), (2 tr, ch 2, 3 tr) into same ch 2 sp, *ch 1, (3 tr, ch 2, 3 tr) into next ch 2 sp; rep from * twice more, ch 1, join with sl st in third ch of ch 3. Fasten off.

Rnd 3 (CC2): Join CC2 in any corner ch 2 sp. ch 3 (counts as 1 tr), (2 tr, ch 2, 3 tr) into same ch 2 sp, *ch 1, 3 tr into next ch 1 sp, ch 1, (3 tr, ch 2, 3 tr) into next corner ch 2 sp; rep from * twice more, 3 tr into next edge ch sp, ch 1, join with sl st in third ch of ch 3. Do not fasten off.

Rnd 4 (CC2): sl st into each of

next 2 tr and into next corner ch 2 sp. ch 3 (counts as 1 tr), (2 tr, ch 2, 3 tr) into same ch 2 sp, *(ch 1, 3 tr into next ch 1 sp) twice, ch 1, (3 tr, ch 2, 3 tr) into next corner ch 2 sp; rep from * twice more, (ch 1, 3 tr into next ch 1 sp) twice, ch 1, join with sl st in third ch of ch 3. Fasten off.

Rnd 5 (MC): Join MC in any corner ch 2 sp. ch 3 (counts as 1 tr), (1 tr, ch 2, 2 tr) into same ch 2 sp, *(1 tr into each of next 3 tr, 1 tr into next ch 1 sp) 3 times, 1 tr into each of next 3 tr, (2 tr, ch 2, 2 tr) into corner ch 2 sp; rep from * twice more, (1 tr into each of next 3 tr, 1 tr into next ch 1 sp) 3 times, 1 tr into each of next 3 tr, join with sl st into third ch of ch 3. Do not fasten off.

Rnd 6 (MC): ch 1 (does not count as st), 1 dc into each tr of prev round, working 5 dc into each corner ch 2 sp, join with sl st into first dc. Do not fasten off.

Rnd 7 (MC): ch 1 (does not count as st), 1 dc into each dc of prev round, working 3 dc into centre of 5 dc corner group, join with sl st into first dc. Fasten off.

SQUARE 2 – CIRCLE IN A SQUARE

(Make 12 squares – 1 in each of the 12 colour combinations)

Using MC, work 4 ch and join with sl st to form a ring.

Rnd 1 (MC): ch 3 (counts as 1 tr), 15 tr into ring, join with sl st into third ch of ch 3.

Fasten off.

Rnd 2 (CC1): Join CC1 in sp between any 2 tr. ch 3 (counts as 1 tr), 1 tr into same sp, 2 tr into sp between each rem tr of prev round, join with sl st into third ch of ch 3. Fasten off.

Rnd 3 (CC2): Change to CC2. ch 3 (counts as 1 tr), 1 tr into same place, 1 tr into next tr, (2 tr into next tr, 1 tr into next tr) 15 times, join with sl st into third ch of ch 3. Do not fasten off.

Rnd 4 (CC2): ch 4 (counts as 1 dtr), (2 tr, ch 2, 2 tr, 1 dtr) into same tr, *miss 1 tr, 1 htr into each of next 3 tr, 1 dc into each of next 3 tr, 1 htr into each of next 3 tr, miss next tr, (1 dtr, 2 tr, ch 2, 2 tr, 1 dtr) into next tr; rep from * twice more, miss 1 tr, 1 htr into each of next 3 tr, 1 dc into each of next 3 tr, 1 htr into each of next 3 tr, miss next tr, join with sl st into fourth ch of ch 4. Fasten off.

Rnd 5 (MC): Join MC into any corner ch 2 sp. ch 3 (counts as 1 tr), (1 tr, ch 2, 2 tr) into same sp, *1 tr into each of next 15 sts, (2 tr, ch 2, 2 tr) into corner ch 2 sp; rep from * twice more, 1 tr into each of next 15 sts, join with sl st into third ch of ch 3. Do not fasten off.

Rnd 6 (MC): ch 1 (does not count as st), 1 dc into each tr of prev round, working 5 dc into each corner ch 2 sp, join with sl st into first dc.

Rnd 7 (MC): ch 1 (does not count as st), 1 dc into each dc of prev round, working 3



DONNA JONES

Donna Jones designs, edits, writes and teaches handknit and crochet. First taught to knit by her mother when she was four years old, she has been surrounded by yarn for as long as she can remember.

She firmly believes creative expression is essential for our wellbeing and aims to facilitate this in others. To find more about Donna, visit her website at donnajonesdesigns.co.uk or find her on Instagram @djonesdesigns





Squares baby blanket

dc into centre of 5 dc corner group, join with sl st into first dc. Fasten off.

SQUARE 3 – SOLID SQUARE

(Make 12 squares – 1 in each of the 12 colour combinations)

Using MC, work 4 ch and join with sl st to form a ring.

Rnd 1 (MC): ch 3 (counts as 1 tr), 2 tr into ring, ch 2, (3 tr into ring, ch 2) 3 times, join with sl st into third ch of ch 3. Fasten off.

Rnd 2 (CC1): Join CC1 in any corner ch 2 sp. ch 3 (counts as 1 tr), (1 tr, ch 2, 2 tr) into same ch 2 sp, *1 tr into each of next 3 tr, (2 tr, ch 2, 2 tr) into next ch 2 sp; rep from * twice more, 1 tr into each of next 3 tr, join with sl st into third ch of ch 3, do not fasten off.

Rnd 3 (CC1): Sl st into next tr and into next corner ch 2 sp, ch 3 (counts as 1 tr), (1 tr, ch 2, 2 tr) into same ch 2 sp, *1 tr into each of next 7 tr, (2 tr, ch 2, 2 tr) into next ch 2 sp; rep from * twice more, 1 tr into each of next 7 tr, join with sl st into third ch of ch 3. Fasten off.

Rnd 4 (CC2): Join CC2 in any corner ch 2 sp, ch 3 (counts as 1 tr), (1 tr, ch 2, 2 tr) into same ch 2 sp, *1 tr into each of next 11 tr, (2 tr, ch 2, 2 tr) into next ch 2 sp; rep from * twice more, 1 tr into each of next 11 tr, join with sl st into third ch of ch 3, fasten off.

Rnd 5 (MC): Join MC in any corner ch 2 sp, ch 3 (counts as 1 tr), (1 tr, ch 2, 2 tr) into same ch 2 sp, *1 tr into each of next 15 tr, (2 tr, ch 2, 2 tr) into next ch 2 sp; rep from * twice more, 1 tr into each of next 15 tr, join with sl st into third ch of ch 3. Fasten off.

Rnd 6 (MC): ch 1 (does not count as st), 1 dc into each tr of prev round, working 5 dc

into each corner ch 2 sp, join with sl st into first dc.

Rnd 7 (MC): ch 1 (does not count as st), 1 dc into each dc of prev round, working 3 dc into centre of 5 dc corner group, join with sl st into first dc. Fasten off.

MAKING UP

Weave in all loose ends. Place the squares in 6 rows of 6 squares each, moving the order about until you are pleased with the layout. Make a note of this layout so that you can refer to this as you assemble the blanket. Using MC and the flat slip-stitched seam technique, join the squares into strips of 6, then join these 6 strips together to form the blanket.

BORDER

With RS facing, join MC in

any edge dc.

Rnd 1: ch 1 (does not count as st), 1 dc into each dc around edge, working 3 dc into centre st of 3 dc at each corner, join with sl st into first dc.

Rnds 2-3: Rep Round 1.

Rnd 4: Crab stitch edging - ch 1 (does not count as st), 1 rev dc into each dc around edge, working 3 rev dc into each corner, join with sl st into first rev dc. Fasten off.

Finishing

Weave in all remaining ends and block the blanket by pinning it out flat, taking care not to stretch it. Spray with cool water to moisten, patting the water into the crochet and leave to dry completely before unpinning.

Pattern notes

Weaving in the ends as you complete each square will make piecing your blanket together much quicker.

Blocking makes a huge difference to the finish and handle of the blanket, and is well worth the effort.

There are 12 colour combinations for each square: Rounds 1, 5, 6 and 7 are always worked with MC. For the feature rounds use the following combinations:

CC1	CC2
1: Colour 1	Colour 2
2: Colour 1	Colour 3
3: Colour 1	Colour 4
4: Colour 2	Colour 1
5: Colour 2	Colour 3
6: Colour 2	Colour 4
7: Colour 3	Colour 1
8: Colour 3	Colour 2
9: Colour 3	Colour 4
10: Colour 4	Colour 1
11: Colour 4	Colour 2
12: Colour 4	Colour 3



MAGICAL UNICORN

Learn how to easily bring this much-loved fantasy creature into the real world – horn and all!

DIFFICULTY



Approx 6 hours

WHAT YOU NEED

- 2.75mm hook (US C/2)
- 9 mm black safety eyes
- Yarn needle
- Fiberfill stuffing
- Scissors
- Stitch marker (optional)
- You will need to use aran weight yarn in your chosen colours. Here we have used Rosario 4 Catitino in:
Colour 1: White (1 ball)
Colour 2: Dark Pink (oddments)
Colour 3: Grey (oddments)
Colour 4: Yellow (oddments)
Colour 5: Light pink (oddments)

MEASUREMENTS

28 cm tall



MEVLINN GUSICK

Mevlinn is a college graduate with a BFA in Fine Arts Painting. Her interest in knitting and crochet began when her aunt suggested she try knitting. It peaked her curiosity and here she is today, crocheting amigurumi whenever she gets the chance and giving them to those she loves.
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Pattern

BODY

Using col 1, make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 7 dc in magic ring. (7 sts)

Rnd 2: 2 dc in each st around. (14 sts)

Rnd 3: (2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next st) 7 times. (21 sts)

Rnd 4: (2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next 2 sts) 7 times. (28 sts)

Rnd 5: (2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next 3 sts) 7 times. (35 sts)

Rnd 6: (2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next 4 sts) 7 times. (42 sts)

Rnd 7: 1 dc in each st around. (42 sts)

Rnd 8: (2 dc in next st, dc in next 5 sts) 7 times. (49 sts)

Rnd 9: 1 dc in each st around. (49 sts)

Rnds 10-12: dc2tog, 1 dc in each remaining st. (46 sts after rnd 12)

Rnds 13-14: dc2tog, 1 dc in each st to the last 3 sts, dc2tog, 1 dc in last st. (42 sts after rnd 14)

Stuff with fibrefill and continue stuffing as you go.

Rnds 15-22: dc2tog, 1 dc in each st to the last 3 sts, dc2tog, 1 dc in last st. (26 sts after rnd 22)

Rnds 23-28: dc2tog, 1 dc in each remaining st. (20 sts after rnd 28)

Fasten off leaving a tail for sewing. When the head is complete you will use this yarn end to sew the body and head together.

Note: The body has a side specific decrease. This decrease is creating the 'rump' of the unicorn. Keep this in mind when you sew the head on later.

HEAD

Using col 1, make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc in magic ring. (6 sts)

Rnd 2: 2 dc in each st around. (12 sts)

Rnd 3: (2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next st) 6 times. (18 sts)

Rnd 4: (2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next 2 sts) 6 times. (24 sts)

Rnd 5: (2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next 3 sts) 6 times. (30 sts)

Rnd 6: (2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next 4 sts) 6 times. (36 sts)

Rnds 7-15: 1 dc in each st around. (8 rnds of 36 sts)

Change to col 2.

Rnd 16: (2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next 5 sts) 6 times. (42 sts)

Place eyes between rnds 12 and 13 with 10 sts between the eyes.

Rnds 17-21: 1 dc in each st around. (5 rnds of 42 sts)

Stuff with fibrefill and continue stuffing as you go.

Rnd 22: (dc2tog, 1 dc in next 5 sts) 6 times. (36 sts)

Rnd 23: (dc2tog, 1 dc in next 4 sts) 6 times. (30 sts)

Rnd 24: (dc2tog, 1 dc in next 3 sts) 6 times. (24 sts)

Rnd 25: (dc2tog, 1 dc in next 2 sts) 6 times. (18 sts)

Rnd 26: (dc2tog, 1 dc in next st) 6 times. (12 sts)

Rnd 27: (dc2tog) 6 times. (6 sts)

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing. Using your yarn needle, weave the yarn tail through the front ring of each remaining st and pull it tight to close. Sew head onto body. The back of the neck should sew onto rnd 6 of the head.

LEGS (MAKE 2)

Using col 3, make a magic ring.

Rnd 1: 4 dc in magic ring. (4 sts)

Rnd 2: 2 dc in each st around. (8 sts)

Rnd 3: (2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next st) 4 times. (12 sts)

Rnd 4: 1 dc in each st around. (12 sts)

Change to col 1.

Rnd 5-17: 1 dc in each st around. (13 rounds of 12 sts)

Fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing. Lightly stuff the legs with more stuffing near the hooves.





ASSEMBLE THE LEGS

Start by sewing the back legs first. Place the horse on a flat surface in the seated position that you will want it to be, and pin the legs to the sides of the body.

Attach the back legs at rnds 6-8 of the body with 12 sts between the initial attachment points of each leg. Sew each leg about 8 sts down the leg against the body to stop them from bowing out.

(See inset on previous page.)

When the hind legs are attached, the unicorn should be able to sit well on its own, and this helps when sewing the front legs. Attach the front legs at rnd 19 of the body with 4 sts between each leg. Sew each leg about 8 sts down the leg against the body to stop the front legs from bowing out.



EARS (MAKE 2)

Using col 1, ch 5.

Row 1: 1 dc in 2nd ch from hook, 1 dc in next 2 ch, 4 dc in last ch, rotate and work along the opposite side of the foundation ch, 1 dc in next 3 ch, turn. (10 sts)

Row 2: ch 1 (not counted as a st), 1 dc in next 3 sts, 2 dc in next 4 sts, 1 dc in next 3 sts, turn. (14 sts)

Row 3: ch 1 (not counted as a st), 1 dc in each st around. (14 sts)

Fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing. Pinch the base of the ear together and sew the ears 6 rnds behind the eyes with 9 sts between each ear.



HORN

Using col 4, make a magic ring

Rnd 1 (RS): 4 dc in magic ring. (4 sts)

Rnds 2-6 (blo): 2 dc in next st, 1 dc in each remaining st. (9 sts after rnd 6)

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing. Sew the horn unstuffed onto the top of the head between the ears and the eyes.

TAIL

Cut 5 strands each of col 2 and col 5 that are 30 cm in length. Take one strand of each col and fold them in half. With the folded end between your fingers, insert your hook in the rump of your unicorn where you want the tail to be (about rnd 8 of the body), and place the folded ends of the yarn onto the hook and pull them back through the body. Take the loose ends of the yarn, wrap them around the hook and pull them through the ring. Pull to tighten. Repeat this 4 more times in sts adjacent to the first st to create a thick tail.

Separate the strands into 3 sections and braid or plait them. Take a piece of col 4 and wrap it around the end of the braid, then tie it tightly with a bow.

MANE

Cut a few dozen strands each of cols 2 and 5 that are 25 cm in length. Find the centre of the unicorn's head and, using one strand at a time, attach the mane using the same method as given for the tail. To keep the mane straight, follow the sts down the back in a straight line until about 15 strands have been attached, alternating between col 2 and col 5.

Repeat to add another line on each side of the centre mane to create 3 lines in total. Trim and braid or plait the mane if desired.



Top tip

Use different shades of the same colours to create a herd of unicorns to accompany your new friend, or use glittery yarn to give that added dash of magic.

SCALLOP-EDGED HAT AND COWL

This simple hat and cowl pattern uses basic crochet stitches, works up quickly, and the scallop edge adds a fun feminine touch!

DIFFICULTY



Approx 1 hour (Hat)

Approx 2 hours (Scarf)

WHAT YOU NEED

- 9mm hook (US M/13)
- 6.5mm hook (US K/10.5)
- Cardboard (or pom pom maker)
- Fabric glue (optional)
- You will need chunky weight in two colours of your choice. We have used Bernat Softee Chunky in:
Colour 1: Clay (300g per item)
Colour 2: White (100g per item)

TENSION

To test tension using Chunky Yarn and 9mm Hook:

Row 1: Ch 11, 1 tr in 3rd ch from hook and in each across, turn. (9sts)

Row 2: Ch 2 (does not count as st), 1 tr in each st.

Piece should measure approximately 10cm x 5cm.

MEASUREMENTS

Hat: 27 cm x 23 cm

Scarf: 69 cm x 20 cm

Pattern

HAT

Using a 9mm hook in col 1, make a magic ring.

Rnd 1: ch 2, 10 tr into ring, join with ss. (10 sts)

Rnd 2: ch 2, 1 tr in first st, 2 tr in each st to end, join with ss. (19 sts)

Rnd 3: ch 2, 1 tr in first st, *2 tr in next st, 1 tr in next st; rep from * to end, join with ss. (28 sts)

Rnd 4: ch 2, 1 tr in first st, *2 tr in next st, 1 tr in next 2 sts; rep from * to end, join with ss. (37 sts)

Rnd 5: ch 2, 1 tr in first st, *2 tr in next st, 1 tr in next 8 sts; rep from * to end, join with ss. (41 sts)

Rnds 6-10: ch 2, 1 tr in each st, join with ss. (41 sts)

Rnd 11: ch 1, 1 htr in each st, join with ss. (41 sts)

Rnd 12: ch 1, 1 dc in each st, join with ss. (ss counts as a st in this rnd only). (42 sts)

Fasten off.

HAT EDGING

Using a 6.5mm hook in col 2 join with ss in any st from rnd 12.

Next Rnd: *ch 3, skip 1, ss in next st; rep from * to end, join with ss.

Fasten off.

Note: Remember that the ss from Rnd 12 counts as a stitch here.

POM-POM

Using col 2 cut a 61cm length of yarn and lay it on a flat surface and set aside.

1. Using a 10cm x 10cm piece of cardboard wrap yarn around cardboard about 60 times.

2. Carefully slip the yarn off the cardboard and lay on top of the 61cm length of yarn. Tie a double knot around the middle to secure. Using the long ends of the length of yarn and a tapestry needle sew in and out of the center of the pompom to hold it together firmly (note: for an extra secure pompom run a line of fabric glue across the center, let dry). Alternatively use a commercial pompom maker for ease if you have one.

3. Cut through all the loops and trim the pompom up until it's even and looks neat.

FINISHING

Sew your pom-pom to the top of the hat and weave in all the ends.

Pattern

COWL

Using a 9mm hook in col 1, ch 124 and join in round with ss to the first ch taking care not to twist the chain.

Rnd 1: ch 2, 1 tr in same ch as ss and 1 tr in each ch to end, join with ss. (124 sts)

Rnds 2-8: ch 2, 1 tr in each st, join with ss. (124 sts)

Fasten off

COWL EDGING

Using a 6.5mm hook in col 2 join with ss in first tr of Rnd 8.

Edging Rnd: *Ch 4, skip 1, ss in next st; rep from * to end, join with ss.

Fasten off.

Join with ss in any tr on the opposite edge of the scarf and work edging rnd as above.

Fasten off.

FINISHING

Weave in all the ends.





JENNI CATAVU

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TRADITIONAL TEA COSY

Test your skills and add some retro charm to a teapot

DIFFICULTY



WHAT YOU NEED

- 4mm hook (US G/6)
- 4.5mm hook (US G/7)
- Yarn needle

• You will need to use aran weight yarn in your chosen colours. Here have used Drops wool in:

Colour 1: Off-white.

Colour 2: Orange Mix; 82 yards (75m)

Colour 3: Cerise; 82 yards (75m)

Colour 4: Light Olive; 82 yards (75m)

Colour 5: Light Grey Green; 82 yards (75m)

Shown in Drops Nepal, 65% wool, 35% alpaca, 82 yards (50g; 75m) per ball.

MEASUREMENTS

Width: 21.5cm (8.4 in).

Depth: 18cm (7.08in) (excluding gathered top).

TENSION

16 stitches and 8.5 rows = 10 x 10cm (4 x 4in) over main pattern using 4.5mm (G/7) hook.

Pattern

TEA COSY SIDES (MAKE 2)

Using 4mm (G/6) crochet hook and col 1 make ch 36.

Row 1 (RS): 1 dc into 2nd ch from hook, 1 dc into each ch to end, turn. (35 sts)

Row 2: ch 1, 1 dc into each dc to end, turn.

With RS facing work the following:

Colour Sequence

1 row each of colours in the following order: col 2, col 3, col 4, col 1 and col 5.

Change to col 2 and 4.5mm (G/7) crochet hook.

Foundation Row (RS, col 2): ch 4 (count as first tr and ch 1 sp), skip 2 dc, * 3 tr into next dc, ch 1, skip 3 dc; rep from * to last 4 sts, 3 tr into next dc, skip 2 dc, 1 tr into dc, fasten off, DO NOT TURN.

Change to col 3.

Row 1 (RS, col 3): Join with sl st into 3rd ch at beg of prev row, ch 3 (count as first tr), 2 tr into first ch sp, * ch 1, 3 tr into next ch sp; rep from * to last 3 tr and ch sp, ch 1, skip 3 tr, 2 tr

into last ch sp, 1 tr into last tr, fasten off. DO NOT TURN.

Change to col 4.

Row 2 (RS, col 4): Join with sl st into 3rd ch at beg of prev row, ch 4 (count as first tr and ch 1 sp), skip 2 tr, * 3 tr into next ch sp, ch 1; rep from * to last 3 tr, skip 2 tr, 1 tr into last tr, fasten off. DO NOT TURN.

These last 2 rows set the pattern ONLY. Rep these 2 rows 5 times more, AT SAME TIME rep the colour sequence as stated above, thus ending with a patt row 2 with col 4.

TOP EDGE WITH EYELETS

Change to 4mm (G/6) crochet hook.

With RS facing and using col 1 only, join with sl st into 3rd ch at beg of prev row.

Next row: ch 1, dc into same place, 1 dc into each ch sp and tr of previous row, turn. (35 sts)

Next row: ch 1, 1 dc into each dc to end, turn.

Eyelet row (RS): ch 1, 1 dc into first dc, * ch 1, skip next dc, 1 dc into each of next 3 dc; rep from * 7 times more, ch 1, skip next dc, 1 dc into last dc of row, turn.

Next row: ch 1, 1 dc into each dc and ch sp, turn. (35 sts)

Next row: ch 1, 1 dc into each dc to end, turn.

Rep last row 3 times more. Fasten off.

CROCHET FLOWERS (MAKE 2)

Using 4mm (G/6) crochet

hook and col 3, make a magic ring, ch 1 (see p66).

Rnd 1: 10 dc into ring, pull the ring closed, sl st into first dc of rnd.

Rnd 2: * ch 3, 2 tr into back loop only of next dc and leaving the last loop of each on hook, yrh and draw through all loops on hook, ch 3, sl st into next dc, (petal made), rep from * to end, working last sl st into base of first ch 3 of round (total 5 petals made).

Fasten off.

Finishing

Using 4mm (G/6) crochet hook and col 5 make chain 60cm long for the drawstring. Sew up sides of tea cosy leaving space open for spout and handle.

PICOT EDGING

With RS facing and using 4mm (G/6) hook with col 2, join with a sl st into dc of previous row at either top side seam.

Picot Row: 1 dc into same place as sl st, 1 dc into next dc, * ch 3, sl st into 3rd ch from hook (picot made), 1 dc into each of next 3 dc; rep from * to last 2 dc, ch 3, sl st into 3rd ch from hook, 1 dc into each of last 2 dc, sl st into first dc of rnd.

Fasten off.

Thread crochet cord through the eyelets, beginning and ending at the centre side of the cosy. Sew on 1 flower to each end of cord using the yarn left at the ends. Pull cord tight to fit your teapot.





SIAN BROWN

After completing a Fashion/Textiles BA, Sian worked for several years as a designer on factory machine knits for suppliers to the main high street retailers. From there she went on to work as a freelance designer on commercial handknits. Then she turned her hand to design for magazines – both knit and crochet. Her book *Knitted Home* is available now, and she has designed for several other titles. www.sianbrown.co.uk

EMBELLISHED BUNTING

Take bunting to the next level by creating some pretty flower embellishments

DIFFICULTY



WHAT YOU NEED

- 4mm hook (US G/6)
- Yarn needle
- You will need to use DK weight yarn, in your chosen colours. Here we have used Rowan Pure Wool DK in:
 - Colour 1: Pink (50g)
 - Colour 2: Teal (50g)
 - Colour 3: Lime (50g)
 - Colour 4: White (50g)

MEASUREMENTS

Total length: 257.5cm (101.3in).

Each granny triangle measures 17.5cm (6.8in) along top edge with a depth of 15.5cm (6.1in).

Pattern notes

Made from single colour granny triangles (see p104). The triangles are then joined across the top. Flowers are crocheted separately then stitched into position to embellish. For a slightly easier project, omit the flowers.

Pattern

GRANNY TRIANGLES (MAKE 3 IN COLOURS 1, 2 AND 3)

Using 4mm (G/6) hook, ch 4 and join with sl st to form a ring.

Rnd 1: 3 ch (counts as 1 tr), 3 tr in ring, 2 ch, [4 tr in ring, 2 ch] twice, join with sl st into 3rd of 3 ch from beginning of round.

Rnd 2: Sl st in next 3 tr and into 1st ch sp, 3 ch (counts as 1 tr), (3 tr, 2 ch, 4 tr) in same sp, [1 ch, (4 tr, 2 ch, 4 tr) all in next sp] twice, 1 ch join with sl st in 3rd of 3 ch from beginning of round.

Rnd 3: Sl st in next 3 tr and in next 2-ch sp, 3 ch (counts as 1 tr), (3 tr, 2 ch, 4 tr) in same sp, 1 ch, [3 tr in next 1-ch sp, 1 ch, (4 tr, 2 ch, 4tr,) in next 2-ch sp, 1 ch] twice, 3 tr into next 2-ch sp, 1 ch, join with sl st in 3rd of 3 ch from beg of round.

Note: After this point it will be clear to the maker which spaces are corners and which are at the edges.

Rnd 4: Sl st in next 3 tr and in next corner ch sp, 3 ch (counts as 1 tr), (3 tr, 2 ch, 4 tr) in same sp, 1 ch, *[3 tr in next edge ch sp, 1 ch] twice, (4 tr, 2 ch, 4 tr) in next corner ch sp, 1 ch, rep from * once more, [3 tr in next edge ch sp, 1 ch] twice, join with sl st to 3rd of 3 ch from beginning of round.

Rnd 5: Sl st in next 3 tr and in next corner ch sp, 3 ch (counts

as 1 tr), (3 tr, 2 ch, 4 tr) in same sp, 1 ch, *[3 tr into next edge ch sp, 1 ch] 3 times, (4 tr, 2 ch, 4tr) in next corner ch sp, 1 ch; rep from * once more, [3 tr in next edge ch sp, 1 ch] 3 times, join with sl st to 3rd of 3 ch from beginning of round.

Rnd 6: Sl st in next 3 tr and in next corner 2 ch sp, 3 ch (counts as 1 tr), (3 tr, 2 ch, 4 tr) in same sp, 1 ch, *[3 tr in next edge ch sp, 1 ch] 4 times, (4 tr, 2 ch, 4tr) in next corner ch sp, 1 ch; rep from * once more, [3 tr into next edge ch sp, 1 ch] 4 times, join with sl st to 3rd of 3 ch from beginning of round.

Rnd 7: ch 1 (does not count as a st), 1 dc in st at base of ch, 1 dc in each next 3 tr, 5 dc in corner ch sp, 1 dc in each next 4 tr, *[1dc in next edge ch sp, 1 dc in each next 3tr] 4 times, 1 dc in next edge ch sp, 1 dc in each next 4 tr, 5 dc in corner ch sp, 1 dc in each next 4 tr, rep from * once more, [1 dc in next edge ch sp, 1 dc in each next 3 tr] 4 times, 1 dc in next edge ch sp, sl st to 1st dc from beginning of round.

Rnd 8: ch 1 (does not count as st), 1 dc into st at base of ch, 1 dc in each next 5 dc, 3dc in next dc, [1 dc in each next 29 dc, 3 dc in next dc] twice, 1 dc into each next 23 dc, sl st to first dc from beginning of round.

Fasten off.

Flower embellishments

LARGE LAYERED FLOWER (MAKE 5)

Using col 4, make a magic ring and ch 1.

Rnd 1: 6 dc into ring. Pull the ring closed.

Rnd 2: [ch 2, 1 tr in front loop of next dc, 2 ch, sl st in front loop of same dc] 6 times. (6 petals made)

Rnd 3: [ch 1, 1 tr into back loop of next tr on prev row] 6 times, sl st into 1 ch sp from beginning of round.

Rnd 4: ch 2, 2 tr into ch sp at base of ch, 2 ch, sl st in same ch sp, [2 ch, 2 tr in next ch sp, 2 ch, sl st into same ch sp] 5 times. (6 petals made)

Fasten off.

MEDIUM FLOWER (MAKE 4)

Using col 4, make a magic ring and ch 1

Rnd 1: [1 dc into ring, 1 ch] 6 times, pull magic ring closed and join with sl st to dc from beginning of round.

Rnd 2: [Sl st in next ch sp, (2 ch, 2 tr, 2 ch, sl st) all in same sp] 6 times. (6 petals made)

Fasten off.

SMALL FLOWER (MAKE 5)

Using col 4, make a magic ring and ch 1.

Rnd 1: [ch 7, 1 dc into ring] 6 times. (6 petals made).

Fasten off.



MEDIUM ROSE (MAKE 5)

Using col 4, ch 18.

Row 1: 1 tr into 4th ch from hook, 2 tr into every ch to end.

Fasten off.

Gently position the coil into a rose shape and stitch in place at the back.

SMALL ROSE (MAKE 5)

Make ch 15.

Row 1: 1 dc into 3rd ch from hook, 2 dc into each ch to end.

Fasten off.

Gently position the coil into a

rose shape and stitch in place at the back.

Finishing

Darn in any ends and block all triangles to ensure they lay flat.

Arrange triangles in the order in which you would like them to appear. To join, you will make a cord and crochet over the top of each flag, thus:

Joining Row: Using 4mm (G/6) hook and colour 1, ch 30, then with RS facing and beginning at the top-right corner, work 1 dc into each st across the top of the first triangle and ch 10 before

working across next triangle as before. Continue joining triangles in this way, with 10 ch between each triangle until last one is completed, work 30 ch and turn.

Next Row: Sl st into every st to end. Fasten off.

Sew in the ends of the cord. Sew in spare ends of flowers before stitching in place to bunting as required.



DONNA JONES

Donna Jones designs, edits, writes and teaches handknit and crochet. First taught to knit by her mother when she was four years old, she has been surrounded by yarn for as long as she can remember.

She firmly believes creative expression is essential for our wellbeing and aims to facilitate this in others. To find more about Donna, visit her website at donnajonesdesigns.co.uk or find her on Instagram @djonesdesigns

BABY SLOTH

This darling critter loves hanging around. With tiny magnets in its paws, your baby sloth can hang just about anywhere!

DIFFICULTY



Approx 4 hours

WHAT YOU NEED

- 3.25mm hook (US D/3)
- A pair of large (12 mm) black plastic safety eyes
- Yarn needle
- Embroidery needle
- Fiberfill stuffing
- Dark brown and/or black embroidery thread
- Beige and dark brown felt
- Scissors
- 4 12-mm neo magnets
- You will need to use DK weight yarn, in your chosen colours. Here we have used Vanna's Choice by Lion Brand in: Colour 1: Barley (50g)
- Colour 2: Off white (oddment)
- Colour 3: Pink (oddment)

MEASUREMENTS

11.5 cm from head to bottom

Pattern

HEAD AND BODY

Using 3.25 mm hook and col 1, make a magic ring.

Rnd 1: 6 dc in magic ring, join with sl st. (6 sts)

Rnd 2: ch 1, 2 dc in each dc around, join with sl st. (12 sts)

Rnd 3: ch 1, (1 dc in next dc, 2 dc in next dc) 6 times, join with sl st. (18 sts)

Rnd 4: ch 1, (1 dc in each of next 2 dc, 2 dc in next dc) 6 times, join with sl st. (24 sts)

Rnd 5: ch 1, (1 dc in each of next 3 dc, 2 dc in next dc) 6 times, join with sl st. (30 sts)

Rnds 6-10: ch 1, dc around, join with sl st. (30 sts)

Rnd 11: ch 1, (1 dc in each of next 3 dc, dc2tog) 6 times, join with sl st. (24 sts)

Rnd 12: ch 1, (1 dc in each of next 6 dc, dc2tog) 3 times, join with sl st. (21 sts)

Rnd 13: ch 1, dc around, join with sl st. (21 sts)

Rnd 14: ch 1, (1 dc in each of next 6 dc, 2 dc in next dc) 3 times, join with sl st. (24 sts)

Rnd 15: ch 1, dc around, join with sl st. (24 sts)

Do not fasten off.

FACE

Using the pattern opposite (or your own!), cut out one

face from beige felt and two eye patches from dark brown felt.

Make a hole in the eye patch by poking through with a yarn needle, or cutting small x slits with scissors. The holes will be for inserting plastic safety eyes. Mark the eye location on the face, and make holes for fitting the plastic safety eyes.

Position the face over the sloth's head. Make sure the tips of the safety eyes can be completely inserted.

Note: We have placed the face between rnd 6 and rnd 14. The eyes were positioned between rnd 10 and rnd 11.)

Using blanket stitch, sew the face onto the sloth. Secure the safety eyes onto the sloth.

BODY (CONT)

Continue crocheting the sloth's body.

Rnd 16: ch 1, (1 dc in each of next 7 dc, 2 dc in next dc) 3 times, join with sl st. (27 sts)

Rnd 17: ch 1, (1 dc in each of next 8 dc, 2 dc in next dc) 3 times, join with sl st. (30 sts)

Rnd 18: ch 1, (1 dc in each of next 9 dc, 2 dc in next dc) 3 times, join with sl st.

(33 sts)

Rnds 19-20: ch 1, dc around, join. (33 sts)

Rnd 21: ch 1, (1 dc in each of next 9 dc, dc2tog) 3 times, join with sl st. (30 sts)

Rnd 22: ch 1, (1 dc in each of next 8 dc, dc2tog) 3 times, join with sl st. (27 sts)

Rnd 23: ch 1, (1 dc in each of next 7 dc, dc2tog) 3 times, join with sl st. (24 sts)

Begin stuffing the head and upper body firmly, but do not stretch the stitches.

Rnd 24: ch 1, (1 dc in each of next 2 dc, dc2tog) 6 times, join with sl st. (18 sts)

Rnd 25: ch 1, (1 dc in next dc, dc2tog) 6 times, join with sl st. (12 sts)

Finish stuffing the body.

Rnd 26: ch 1, dc2tog around, join with sl st. (6 sts)

Fasten off with a long tail, and stitch the bottom closed.

ARMS (MAKE 2)

Using col 2, make a magic ring.

Rnd 1: 6 dc in magic ring, join with sl st. (6 sts)

Rnd 2: ch 1, 1 dc in each of next 3 dc, 2 dc in next dc, 1 dc in each of next 2 dc, join with sl st. (7 sts)

Rnds 3-4: ch 1, dc around, join with sl st. (7 sts)

Change to col 1.

Rnds 5-7: ch 1, dc around, join with sl st. (7 sts)

Do not fasten off yet. Push one



JASMIN WANG

Jasmin is an artist and crafter

who enjoys painting, sewing, origami, and of course – crocheting! She loves bringing figures, ideas, and other concepts to life. www.etsy.com/shop/Sylemn
www.facebook.com/SweetSofties





magnet into the hand. Keep it in place by stitching through both layers of the hand using beige yarn.

Rnds 8-20: ch 1, dc around, join with sl st. (7 sts)

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for attaching to the body.

LEGS (MAKE 2)

Follow instructions for rnds 1-18 of the arm. The legs are two rows shorter than the arms. Do not go to rnd 20. Fasten off.

BOW

Using col 3, ch 5.

Rnd 1: 1 dtr into 5th ch from

hook (counts as ch 4 and 1 dtr), (3 dtr, ch 4, sl st, ch 4, 4 dtr, ch 4, sl st) all into same ch.

Fasten off with a long tail for wrapping around the centre of the bow. Weave in the ends.

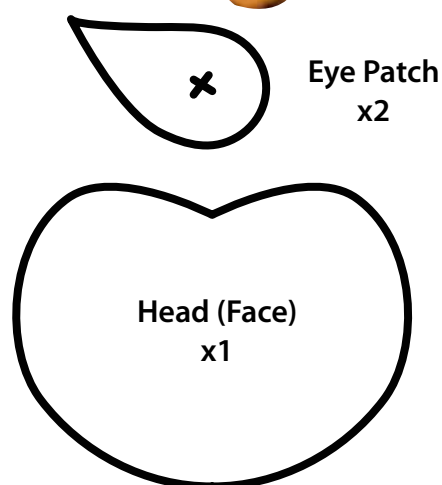
Finishing

Position the arms and legs on the sloth's body. Make sure the magnets in the two hands and two feet stick together. Using a yarn needle, sew the pieces to the sloth's body.

Using brown yarn or embroidery thread, sew three lines over each paw.

Lastly, take the bow and sew it onto the sloth's head.

Template



Eye Patch
x2

Head (Face)
x1



JOLEEN KRAFT

Joleen is an herbalist in Victoria, BC, Canada. An enthusiastic knitter and crocheter, she began designing patterns in 2012. She is kept company by her partner, Chris, and her cat, Ivan.
www.kraftling.ca

Pattern notes

To make the poncho larger or smaller than the sizes given, increase/decrease foundation chain by increments of 6 chains. Alternative sizes are shown in between [and] .

Boho poncho

BOHO PONCHO

An easy-to-crochet poncho featuring a lacy stitch and asymmetrical construction. This poncho hangs beautifully, making it a staple item in any closet

DIFFICULTY



Approx 8 hours

WHAT YOU NEED

- 6.5 mm (US K/10.5)
- You will need to use a chunky weight yarn in your chosen colour. Here we have used Berroco Vintage Chunky (300g [400g : 500g])

TENSION

11 stitches and 12 rows
= 10cm x 10cm over dc
using 6.5mm hook tension

MEASUREMENTS

Child 33 x 51cm

Medium: 43 x 71cm

Large: 53.5 x 81.5cm

Measured at the widest
point when laid flat

SPECIAL STITCHES

For puff stitch see page 99

Pattern

RECTANGLE (MAKE 2)

Using 6.5mm hook, ch 40 [52 : 64].

Row 1: (1 tr, ch 2, 1 tr) in 4th ch from hook, *skip 2 ch, 1 puff st in next ch, skip 2 ch, (1 tr, ch 2, 1 tr) in next ch; rep from * to end, turn. (7 [9 : 11] ch-2 sps and 6 [8 : 10] puff sts.)

Row 2: ch 3, *1 puff st in ch-2 sp between 2 tr of previous row, (1 tr, ch 2, 1 tr) in top of next puff st; rep from * to last ch-2 sp, make 1 puff st in ch-2 sp, 1 tr in 3rd ch of 3 ch, turn. (7 [9 : 11] puff sts and 6 [8 : 10] ch-2 sps.)

Row 3: ch 3, (1 tr, ch 2, 1 tr) in top of next puff st, *1 puff in ch-2 sp, (1 tr, ch 2, 1 tr) in top of next puff st; rep from * to last puff st, (1 tr, ch 2, 1 tr) in top of puff st and 1 tr in 3rd ch of 3 ch, turn. (7 [9 : 11] ch-2 sps and

6 [8 : 10] puff sts.)

Rep rows 2 and 3 until a total of 25 [35 : 40] rows have been completed.

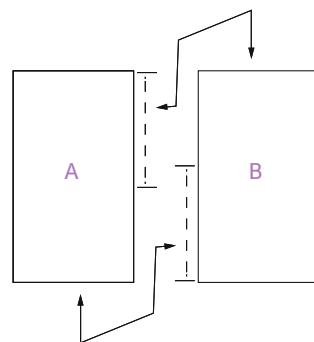
ASSEMBLY

Lay the two completed rectangles side by side as shown in illustration.

With wrong sides facing pin short edge along bottom of rectangle A to dotted line indicated on rectangle B (which is approximately 10 [21 : 26] rows). Join with double crochet into each st along short edge of A, working approximately 5 sts to 2 row edges along B.

FINISHING

Weave in all ends and block.



Pattern notes

When working spike stitches, pull up a generous loop to avoid the square pulling in towards the centre on the edges.



SPIKED CUSHION

Spruce up your couch with a funky spike cushion that's super quick and easy to make

DIFFICULTY



Approx 2 hours

WHAT YOU NEED

- 10mm (US N/P/15)
- Cushion insert 38cm x 38cm
- You will need to use Super Chunky, in your chosen colours.
Colour 1: Dark blue (50g)
Colour 2: Mid blue (50g)
Colour 3: Light blue (60g)
Colour 4: White (60 g)

MEASUREMENTS

40.5cm x 40.5cm

SPECIAL STITCHES

For spike stitch see p.87



SHELLEY HUSBAND

Shelley is a long time crafter whose passion is designing crochet patterns. She lives with her husband and teenage daughters in a tiny town on the coast of Victoria, Australia.

www.spincushions.com

Pattern

SQUARE (MAKE 2)

Using 10mm hook in col 1, make a magic ring (alternatively ch 4, and join with ss to form a ring).

Rnd 1: ch 3 (counts as 1 tr), 11 tr into ring, join with ss to 3rd ch of ch 3. (12 sts)

Rnd 2: ch 3 (counts as 1 tr), 2 tr into base of 3 ch, *skip 2 sts**, (3 tr, ch 2, 3 tr) into next st; rep from * twice and from * to ** once, 3 tr in same place as first sts, ch 2, join with ss to 3rd ch of 3 ch. (6 sts along each side and 4 corner ch-2 sps)

Fasten off yarn and weave in ends.

Rnd 3: Join col 2 with a standing dc to any corner ch-2 sp, *dc in next 2 sts, spike dc in next 2 sts of Rnd 1 below, dc in next 2 sts**, (dc, ch 2, dc) into next corner ch-2 sp; rep from * twice and from * to ** once, dc in same sp as first st, ch 1, join with dc to standing dc. (8 sts along each side and 4 corner ch-2 sps)

Rnd 4: ch 3 (counts as 1 tr), tr over joining dc, *tr in next 8 sts**, (2 tr, ch 2, 2 tr) into next corner ch-2 sp; rep from * twice and from * to ** once, 2 tr in same sp as first sts, ch 2, join with ss to 3rd ch of 3 ch. (12 sts along each side and 4 corner ch-2 sps)

Fasten off yarn and weave in ends.

Rnd 5: Join col 3 with a

standing dc to any corner ch-2 sp, *dc in next 5 sts, spike dc in next 2 sts of Rnd 3 below, dc in next 5 sts**, (dc, ch 2, dc) into next corner ch-2 sp; rep from * twice and from * to ** once, dc in same sp as first st, ch 1, join with dc to standing dc. (14 sts along each side and 4 corner ch-2 sps)

Rnd 6: ch 3 (counts as 1 tr), *tr in next 14 sts**, (tr, ch 2, tr) into next corner ch-2 sp; rep from * twice and from * to ** once, tr in same sp as first st, ch 2, join with ss to 3rd ch of 3 ch. (16 sts along each side and 4 corner ch-2 sps)

Fasten off yarn and weave in ends.

Rnd 7: Join col 4 with a standing dc to any corner ch-2 sp, *dc in next 7 sts, spike dc in next 2 sts of Rnd 5 below, dc in next 7 sts**, (dc, ch 2, dc) into next corner ch-2 sp; rep from * twice and from * to ** once, dc in same sp as first st, ch 1, join with dc to standing dc. (18 sts along each side and 4 corner ch-2 sps)

Rnd 8: ch 3 (counts as 1 tr), *tr in next 18 sts**, (tr, ch 2, tr) into

next corner ch-2 sp; rep from * twice and from * to ** once, tr in same sp as first st, ch 1, join with dc to 3rd ch of 3 ch. (20 sts along each side and 4 corner ch-2 sps)

Rnd 9: ch 3 (counts as 1 tr), tr over joining dc, *tr in next 20 sts**, (2 tr, ch 2, 2 tr) into next corner ch-2 sp; rep from * twice and from * to ** once, 2 tr in same sp as first st, ch 2, join with ss to 3rd ch of 3 ch. (24 sts along each side and 4 corner ch-2 sps)

Fasten off yarn and weave in ends.

FINISHING

Hold squares wrong sides together. Join col 4 with a standing dc through the corner ch-2 sps of both squares, dc in same corner ch-2 sps, *dc in next 24 sts of both squares at the same time**, 3 dc into next corner ch-2 sps of both squares; rep from * twice, insert cushions insert and rep from * to ** once, dc in same sp as first sts, join with ss to standing dc. Fasten off yarn and weave in ends.





GINGER THE GIRAFFE

Ginger the giraffe is an adorable, safari plush that makes for a lovely, handmade gift for babies, children, and giraffe fans!



DIFFICULTY



Approx 5-6 hours

WHAT YOU NEED

- 3.25mm hook (US D/3)
- A pair of large (12 mm) black plastic safety eyes
- Yarn needle
- Fiberfill stuffing
- Hair grips
- Scissors
- You will need to use worsted medium weight yarn, in your chosen colours. Here we have used Caron's Super Soft in:
Colour 1: Yellow (100g)
Colour 2: Light brown (50g)
Colour 3: Brown (50g)

MEASUREMENTS

27 cm in height



JASMIN
WANG

Jasmin is an artist and crafter who enjoys painting, sewing, origami, and of course – crocheting! She loves bringing figures, ideas, and other concepts to life.
www.etsy.com/shop/Sylemn
www.facebook.com/SweetSofties

Pattern

HEAD

Using 3.25mm hook and col 1, make a magic ring.

Rnd 1(RS): 6 dc into the magic ring, ss to first dc. (6 sts)

Rnd 2: ch 1, 2 dc in each st, ss first dc. (12 sts)

Rnd 3: ch 1, (1 dc in next st, 2 dc in next st) 6 times, ss to first dc. (18 sts)

Rnd 4: ch 1, (1 dc in next 2 sts, 2 dc in next st) 6 times, ss to first dc. (24 sts)

Rnd 5: ch 1, (1 dc in next 3 sts, 2 dc in next st) 6 times, ss to first dc. (30 sts)

Rnd 6: ch 1, (1 dc in next 4 sts, 2 dc in next st) 6 times, ss to first dc. (36 sts)

Rnd 7: ch 1, (1 dc in next 5 sts, 2 dc in next st) 6 times, ss to first dc. (42 sts)

Rnd 8: ch 1, (1 dc in next 6 sts, 2 dc in next st) 6 times, ss to first dc. (48 sts)

Rnd 9: ch 1, (1 dc in next 7 sts, 2 dc in next st) 6 times, ss to first dc. (54 sts)

Rnd 10: ch1, (1 dc in next 8 sts, 2 dc in next st) 6 times, ss to first dc. (60 sts)

Rnds 11-19: ch 1, 1 dc in each st, ss to first dc. (60 sts)

Rnd 20: ch 1, (1 dc in next 8 sts, dc2tog) 6 times, ss to first dc. (54 sts)

Rnd 21: ch 1, (1 dc in next 7 sts, dc2tog) 6 times, ss to first dc. (48 sts)

Rnd 22: ch 1, (1 dc in next 6 sts, dc2tog) 6 times, ss to first dc.

(42 sts)

Rnd 23: ch 1, (1 dc in next 5 sts, dc2tog) 6 times, ss to first dc. (36 sts)

Rnd 24: ch 1, (1 dc in next 4 sts, dc2tog) 6 times, ss to first dc. (30 sts)

Rnd 25: ch 1, (1 dc in next 3 sts, dc2tog) 6 times, ss to first dc. (24 sts)

Fasten off with a long tail for attaching to the body. Stuff the head firmly, but be careful not to stretch the stitches

SNOUT

Using 3.25mm hook and col 2, ch 8.

Rnd 1 (RS): 1 dc in 2nd ch from hook and in each of next 6 ch (in outer loops only), continue around the other side of the chain, 1 dc in each outer loop, ss to first dc to join. (14 sts).

Rnd 2: ch 1, (1 dc in next st, 2 dc in next st) 7 times, ss to first dc. (21 sts)

Rnd 3: ch 1, (1 dc in next 2 sts, 2 dc in next st) 7 times, ss to first dc. (28 sts)

Rnd 4: ch 1, 1 dc in each st, ss to first dc. (28 sts)

Fasten off with a long tail for attaching to the head later.

EARS (MAKE 2):

Using 3.25mm hook and col 1, make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc into the magic ring, ss to first dc. (6 sts)

Rnd 2: ch 1, 2 dc in each st, ss to first dc. (12 sts)

Rnd 3: ch 1, (1 dc in next st, 2 dc in next st) 6 times, ss to first dc. (18 sts)

Rnds 4-7: ch 1, 1 dc in each st, ss to first dc. (18 sts)

Fasten off with a long tail for attaching to the body later.

Ears do not need to be stuffed, but will be folded in half when sewn onto the head.

Then, stuff the rest of the body.

OSSICONES (MAKE 2):

Using col 3, make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc into the magic ring, ss to first dc. (6 sts)

Rnd 2: ch 1, 2 dc in each st, ss to first dc. (12 sts)

Rnd 3: ch 1, 1 dc in each st, ss to first dc. (12 sts)

Rnd 4: ch 1, (dc2tog) 6 times, ss to first dc. (6 sts)

Change to col 1.

Rnds 5-7: ch 1, 1 dc in each st, ss to first dc. (6 sts)

Fasten off with a long tail for attaching to the head later. Stuff lightly

ARMS (MAKE 2)

Using 3.25mm hook and col 3, make a magic ring.

Rnd 1: 6 dc into the magic ring, ss to first dc. (6 sts)

Rnd 2: ch 1, 2 dc in each st, ss to first dc. (12 sts)

Rnd 3: ch 1, (1 dc in next st, 2 dc in next st) 6 times, ss to first dc. (18 sts)

Rnds 4-6: ch 1, 1 dc in each st, ss to first dc. (18 sts)



Change to col 1.

Rnds 7-9: ch 1, 1 dc in each st, ss to first dc. (18 sts)

Rnd 10: ch 1, (1 dc in next 7 sts, dc2tog) twice, ss to first dc. (16 sts)

Rnds 11-13: ch 1, 1 dc in each

st, ss to first dc. (16 sts)

Rnd 14: ch 1, (1 dc in next 6 sts, dc2tog) twice, ss to first dc. (14 sts)

Rnds 15-17: ch 1, 1 dc in each st, ss to first dc. (14 sts)

Rnd 18: ch 1, (1 dc in next 5

sts, dc2tog) twice, ss to first dc. (12 sts)

Rnds 19-20: ch 1, 1 dc in each st, ss to first dc. (12 sts)

Rnd 21: Without fastening off, pinch the end of the arm shut. Stitch across that row to close

it, by doing the following: ch 1, 1 dc in next 6 sts. (6 sts)

Fasten off with a long tail for attaching to the body

LEGS (MAKE 2)

Note: The legs and body are

Ginger the giraffe

Rnd 2: ch 1, 2 dc in each st, ss to first dc.. (12 sts)

Rnd 3: ch 1, (1 dc in next st, 2 dc in next st) 6 times, ss to first dc. (18 sts)

Rnd 4: ch 1, (1 dc in next 2 sts, 2 dc in next st) 6 times, ss to first dc. (24 sts)

Rnd 5: ch 1, (1 dc in next 7 sts, 2 dc in next st) 3 times, ss to first dc. (27 sts)

Rnds 6-10: ch 1, 1 dc in each st, ss to first dc. (27 sts)

Make two legs. Fasten off for the first leg, but do not fasten off for second leg. Instead, continue with instructions for the pelvic area.

PELVIC AREA

With yarn still attached to the second leg, ch 3.

Insert hook into first st of first leg. Yarn over to pull through a sl st. Now, you've joined the legs together. Continue working on the body.

BODY PORTION

Note: In rnd 1, you will dc around both legs and the middle chain.

Rnd 1 (RS): ch 1, 1 dc in next st, and around the first leg for a total of 27 sts. Continue to dc in the outer loops of the middle chain for total of 3 sts. Continue to dc around the second leg for a total of 27 sts. Continue to dc in the outer loops of the middle chain for a total of 3 sts, ss to first dc. (60 sts)

Rnd 2: ch 1, (1 dc in next 9 sts, 2 dc in next st) 6 times, ss to first dc. (66 sts)

Rnds 3-7: ch 1, 1 dc in each st, ss to first dc. (66 sts)

Rnd 8: ch 1, (1 dc in next 20 sts, dc2tog) 3 times, ss to first dc. (63 sts)

Rnd 9: ch 1, 1 dc in each st, ss to first dc. (63 sts)

Rnd 10: ch 1, (1 dc in next 19 sts, dc2tog) 3 times, ss to first dc. (60 sts)

Rnd 11: ch 1, 1 dc in each st, ss to first dc. (60 sts)

Rnd 12: ch 1, (1 dc in next 8 sts, dc2tog) 6 times, ss to first dc. (54 sts)

Rnd 13: ch 1, 1 dc in each st, ss to first dc. (54 sts)

Rnd 14: ch 1, (1 dc in next 7 sts, dc2tog) 6 times, ss to first dc. (48 sts)

Rnd 15: ch 1, 1 dc in each st, ss to first dc. (48 sts)

Rnd 16: ch 1, (1 dc in next 6 sts, dc2tog) 6 times, ss to first dc. (42 sts)

Rnd 17: ch 1, 1 dc in each st, ss to first dc. (42 sts)

Rnd 18: ch 1, (1 dc in next 5 sts, dc2tog) 6 times, ss to first dc. (36 sts)

Rnd 19: ch 1, 1 dc in each st, ss to first dc. (36 sts)

Rnd 20: ch 1, (1 dc in next 4 sts, dc2tog) 6 times, ss to first dc. (30 sts)

Rnd 21: ch 1, 1 dc in each st, ss to first dc. (30 sts)

Rnd 22: ch 1, (1 dc in next 13 sts, dc2tog) twice, ss to first dc. (28 sts)

Rnd 23: ch 1, 1 dc in each st, ss to first dc. (28 sts)

Rnd 24: ch 1, (1 dc in next 12 sts, dc2tog) twice, ss to first dc. (26 sts)

Rnd 25: ch 1, 1 dc in each st, ss to first dc. (26 sts)

Rnd 26: ch 1, (1 dc in next 11 sts, dc2tog) twice, ss to first dc. (24 sts)

Rnds 27-31: ch 1, 1 dc in each st, ss to first dc. (24 sts)

Fasten off and stuff the body firmly, but be careful not to stretch the stitches. Set aside for finishing directions.

SPOTS

Using 3.25mm hook and col 3 make magic ring.

Rnd 1: 4 dc into the magic ring, ss to first dc. (4 sts)

Rnd 2: 2dc in each st around (8sts)

Rnd 3: (1dc in next st, 2dc in next st) 4 times (12 sts)

Fasten off.

FINISHING

Position the ossicones, ears, and snout on the head. Gently stuff the snout. Use hair grips to help keep the pieces secure and help give a good idea of placement.

Next, sew the pieces onto the head using a yarn needle and the long yarn tails from each of the pieces.

Attach the 12mm safety eyes onto the head.

Position the arms on the body, and arrange the spots where you'd like them. Again, use hair grips to keep them secure. Sew the pieces onto the body. Last, sew the head onto the body.



worked in one piece, starting with the legs. Do not fasten off until instructed to do so.

Using 3.25mm hook and col 1, make magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc into the magic ring, ss to first dc. (6 sts)

ACUTE SWEATER

The clever use of triangles creates flattering lines in the body of this sweater and makes for a quick and easy project

DIFFICULTY



Approx 15-20 hours

WHAT YOU NEED

- 5.5 mm hook (US H/8)
- 6mm hook (US J/10)
- 2 buttons (optional)
- Yarn needle (optional)
- You will need to use a DK yarn in your chosen colour. You will need approximately 3[4 : 4 : 5] skeins.

MEASUREMENTS

Sizes S/M/L/XL

Choose the size that best matches you or the recipient's actual bust measurement plus a couple of inches to spare for ease.

Bust: 79.5 [90 : 100 : 113.5] cm

Length (excluding collar): 48.5 [52 : 56 : 61] cm

Length sleeve seam: 51.5 [56.5 : 61.5 : 64] cm

SPECIAL STITCHES

Bobble cluster: (yo, insert hook, draw up a loop) 3 times in same st, yo and draw through 7 loops on hook.

Pattern

BOBBLE TRIANGLE (MAKE 2)

Using 5.5mm hook, ch 4.

Row 1: 1 dc in 2nd ch from hook, make bobble cluster in next ch, 1 dc in last ch, turn. (3 sts)

Row 2: ch 1, 2 dc in first st, 1 dc in each st to last st, 2 dc in last st, turn. (5 sts)

Row 3: ch 1, 1 dc in next st, *make bobble cluster in next st, 1 dc in next st; rep from * to end, turn. (5 sts)

Rep rows 2 and 3 inc 1 st at each end on alternate rows as set until 47 [53 : 59 : 67] sts rem, ending with a row 3 (and a total of 45 [51 : 57 : 65] rows have been worked).

Dec row: ch 1, dc2tog, 1 dc in each st to last 2 sts, dc2tog, turn. (45 [51 : 57 : 65] sts)

Next row: ch 1, 1 dc in next st, *make bobble cluster in next st, 1 dc in next st; rep from * to end, turn. (45 [51 : 57 : 65] sts)

Rep last two rows decreasing by 2 sts on alternate rows as set until 27 [33 : 39 : 47] sts rem, ending with a bobble cluster row (and 20 rows have been worked).

Fasten off.

SIDE TRIANGLE (MAKE 2)

Using 5.5mm hook, ch 4.

Row 1: 1 dc in 2nd ch from hook, 1 dc in each ch to end, turn. (3 sts)

Row 2: ch 1, 2 dc in first st, 1 dc in each st to last st, 2 dc in last st, turn. (5 sts)

Row 3: ch 1, 1 dc in each st to end, turn. (5 sts)

Rep rows 2 and 3 inc 1 st at each end on alternate rows as set until 47 [57 : 65 : 73] sts rem ending with a row 3 (and total of 45 [55 : 63 : 71] rows have been worked).

Fasten off.

JOINING BODY

Take a side triangle and one of the bobble triangles and place side by side. Place the side triangle so its longest row is next to the diagonal edge of the bobble triangle, and then dc or sew seam on WS of fabric, gently easing the edges to fit together evenly across the seam (seams are worked on the inside of the sweater). Repeat so that the row ends edge of the same triangle is attached to the second bobble triangle as shown in diagram.

Repeat with second side triangle by seaming in place in the same way, making sure to mirror the direction of the rows of the other side triangle.

SLEEVES (MAKE 2)

Sleeves are worked from the top down towards the wrist.

Using 5.5mm hook, ch 21 [25 : 29 : 33].

Row 1: 1 dc in 2nd ch from hook, 1 dc in each ch to end, turn. (20 [24 : 28 : 32] sts)

Row 2: ch 1, 2 dc in first st, 1 dc in each st to last st, 2 dc in last st, turn. (22 [26 : 30 : 34] sts)

Row 3: ch 1, 1 dc in each st to end, turn. (22 [26 : 30 : 34] sts)

Rep rows 2 and 3 inc 1 st at each end on alternate rows as set until 40 [44 : 48 : 52] sts rem ending with a row 2 (and 20 rows have been worked).

Place a marker at each end of last row.

Next 4 rows: ch 1, 1 dc in each st to end, turn. (40 [44 : 48 : 52] sts)

Dec row: ch 1, dc2tog, 1 dc in each st to last 2 sts, dc2tog, turn. (38 [42 : 46 : 50] sts)

Next 5 rows: ch 1, 1 dc in each st to end, turn. (38 [42 : 46 : 50] sts)

Rep last 6 rows until 20 [22 : 24 : 28] sts rem, ending with a dec row.

Work a further 2 rows straight in dc.

Fasten off.

JOINING SLEEVES

Beginning 12 rows up from wrist end of sleeve, seam sleeves from this point to the markers. Pin sleeve in place

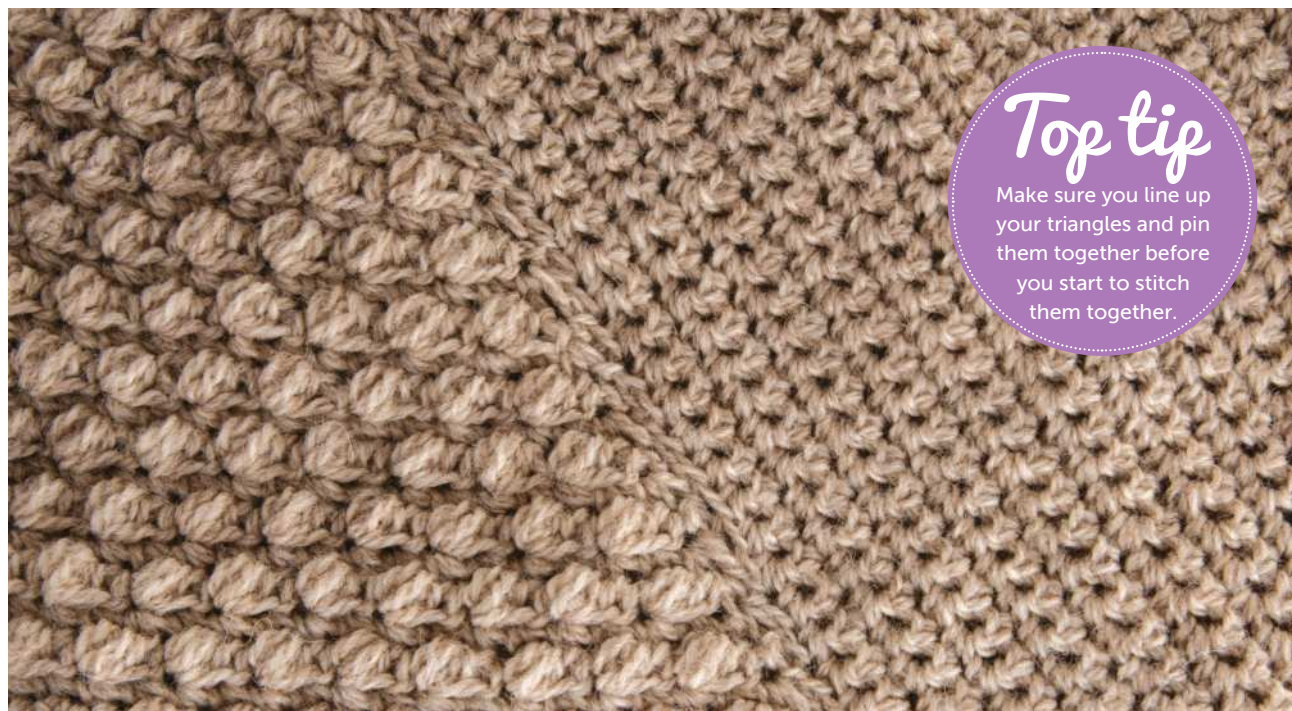


JOLEEN KRAFT

Joleen is an herbalist in Victoria, BC, Canada. An enthusiastic knitter and crocheter, she began designing patterns in 2012. She is kept company by her partner, Chris, and her cat, Ivan.

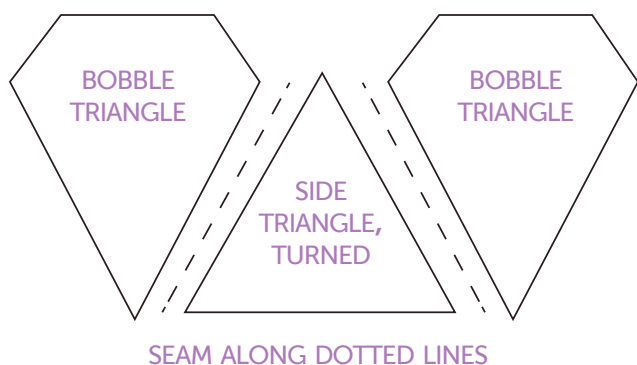
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Top tip

Make sure you line up your triangles and pin them together before you start to stitch them together.



in armhole of sweater body and then dc or sew in place (diagonal edges of upper sleeves to fit with upper diagonal edges of bobble triangles). The top row of the sleeve (first row worked) creates the shoulder width between front and back and is not seamed when stitching sleeve in place.

COLLAR

Choose the front and back of the sweater. You're now going to be working in the round to

add the collar, working into the back loops only of the stitches in row below.

With RS facing and using 5.5mm hook, attach yarn to left back shoulder seam.

Rnds 1-2 (blo): ch 1, 1 dc in each st around neck to end, join with ss to first dc, turn. (2 rnds worked)

Rnd 3 (blo): ch 1, dec 4 [4 : 5 : 5] sts evenly across left sleeve top by working (dc2tog, 1 dc in each of next 3 sts) 4 [4 : 5 : 5] times, dc in each st across front neck, dec 4 [4 : 5 : 5] sts

evenly across right sleeve top as before, dc in each st across back neck to end, join with ss to first dc, turn.

Note: These decreases are for shaping over the shoulder and their placement does not need to be precise.

Rnd 4: ch 1, 1 dc in each st to end, join with ss to first dc, turn.

Rnd 5: ch 1, dec 4 [4 : 5 : 5] sts evenly across left sleeve top by working (dc2tog, 1 dc in each of next 2 sts) 4 [4 : 5 : 5] times, dc in each st across front neck, dec 4 [4 : 5 : 5] sts evenly across right sleeve top as before, dc in each st to end, join with ss to first dc, turn.

Rnds 6-14: ch 1, 1 dc in each st around neck to end, join with ss to first dc, turn. (9 rnds worked)

Fasten off.

BOTTOM HEM

You're now going to be working in the round to add

the hem, working into the back loops only of the stitches below.

With RS facing and using a 6mm hook attach yarn to bottom point of bobble triangle at back of sweater.

Rnd 1: (blo): ch 1, 1 dc in each st or dc row edge to end, join with ss to first dc, turn.

Rnds 2-10 (blo): ch 1, 1 dc in each st to end, join with ss to first dc, turn. (9 rnds worked) Fasten off.

FINISHING

Weave in all loose ends and block sweater if desired. If using buttons, attach one at end of each sleeve. With 5.5mm hook ch 10 (or length required to slip around button) and attach the chained length to the opposite edge of sleeve to form a button loop. Fold up sleeve end or leave down as desired.



HUSHABYE SLEEPING BAG

Reminiscent of homely 'granny' squares, this simple sleeping bag is perfect for newborn babies to snuggle up in

DIFFICULTY



Approx 20-30 hours

WHAT YOU NEED

- 4mm hook (US G/6)
- 10 x 2.5 cm (1 in) buttons
- Double knitting weight yarn, in your chosen colours. Here we have used Sublime Baby Cashmere Merino Silk DK in:
Colour 1: Beige (250g)
Colour 2: Cream (100g)
Colour 3: Pale blue (50g)

TENSION

Tension is not critical for this project, but if you do not match it your sleeping bag will vary in size to that stated and you may need more yarn. 5 pattern repeats and 11 rows measure 10cm square, using 4mm hook.

MEASUREMENTS

Sleeping Bag measures 37 cm wide and 44 cm long excluding hood. Hood measures approx 23 cm from top of bag to point.



DONNA JONES

Donna designs, edits and

teaches yarn crafts. She believes creative expression is essential for our well-being and aims to instil this in others. Follow her on Instagram: [@djonesdesigns](https://www.instagram.com/djonesdesigns) www.donnajonesdesigns.co.uk

Pattern

FRONT

Using 4mm hook and col 1, ch 55.

Row 1 (RS): 3 tr in 7th ch from hook, *miss 2 ch, 3 tr in next ch; rep from * to last 3 ch, miss 2 ch, tr in last st, turn. Place a marker at the end of this row to mark fold line. (16 treble clusters and 2 edge sts)

Row 2: ch 3 (counts as 1st tr), 1 tr in ch-sp before next treble cluster, *3 tr in each space between treble clusters along the row to last ch-sp, 2 tr in last ch-sp, turn. (15 treble clusters with 2 half clusters)

Row 3: ch 3 (counts as 1st tr), 3 tr in each space between treble clusters along the row to last 2 tr, skip next tr, 1 tr in top of beginning ch 3 of previous row. (16 treble clusters and 2 edge sts)

Rows 2 and 3 form pattern. Cont working in pattern for remainder of piece, working in stripes as follows:

Rows 4-5: 2 rows with col 1.

Row 6: 1 row with col 2.

Rows 7-8: 2 rows with col 1.

Rows 9-11: 3 rows with col 3.

Rows 12-13: 2 rows with col 1.

Row 14: 1 row with col 2.

Rows 15-19: 5 rows with col 1.

Row 20: 1 row with col 3.

Rows 21-22: 2 rows with col 1.

Rows 23-25: 3 rows with col 2.

Rows 26-27: 2 rows with col 1.

Row 28: 1 row with col 3.

Rows 29-33: 5 rows with col 1.

Row 34: 1 row with col 2.

Rows 35-36: 2 rows with col 1.

Rows 37-39: 3 rows with col 3.

Rows 40-41: 2 rows with col 1.

Row 42: 1 row with col 2.

Rows 43-44: 2 rows with col 1.

Fasten off.

BACK AND HOOD

Using col 1 and with RS facing, rotate work and fasten on at the marker to begin working along bottom of piece (this will be the fold line along the bottom of the bag). Continue working in pattern throughout in stripes as follows:

Rows 1-5: 5 rows with col 1.

Row 6: 1 row with col 2.

Rows 7-8: 2 rows with col 1.

Rows 9-11: 3 rows with col 3.

Rows 12-13: 2 rows with col 1.

Row 14: 1 row with col 2.

Rows 15-19: 5 rows with col 1.

Row 20: 1 row with col 3.

Rows 21-22: 2 rows with col 1.

Rows 23-25: 3 rows with col 2.

Rows 26-27: 2 rows with col 1.

Row 28: 1 row with col 3.

Rows 29-33: 5 rows with col 1.

Row 34: 1 row with col 2.

Rows 35-36: 2 rows with col 1.

Rows 37-39: 3 rows with col 3.

Rows 40-41: 2 rows with col 1.

Row 42: 1 row with col 2.

Rows 43-47: 5 rows with col 1.



Rows 48: 1 row with col 2.
Place marker at each end of this row.

Rows 49-50: 2 rows with col 1.

Rows 50-53: 3 rows with col 3.

Rows 54-55: 2 rows with col 1.

Row 56: 1 row with col 2.

Rows 57-61: 5 rows with col 1.

Row 62: 1 row with col 3.

Rows 63-64: 2 rows with col 1.

Rows 65-67: 3 rows with col 2.

Rows 68-69: 2 rows with col 1.

Row 70: 1 row with col 3.

Rows 71-74: 4 rows with col 1.

Do not fasten off.

FORM AND SEAM HOOD

Fold the top edge of the work in half with RS facing together, join together along top edge with dc to form hood.

Fasten off.

Sew in all ends to WS of work.

EDGING

With RS facing and using col 1, fasten on at the marker on the fold line.

Begin working in rounds as follows:

Rnd 1: ch 1, (placing marker or safety pin in first st) work 2 dc in each row edge of tr down left side edge, across hood, up along edge to corner, 3 dc in the corner st, 1 dc in each st along front top edge, 3 dc in the corner st, 2 dc in each row of tr up right side edge, and ss to first (marked) dc.

Remove marker.

Rnds 2-5: ch 1, 1 dc same place (replacing marker or safety pin in first st), 1 dc in each dc around edge,

working 3 dc in each corner, join with ss in first (marked) dc. Remove marker.

With RS facing, and front positioned over back ensuring edge of front lines up with markers placed at each end of Row 48 of back, place 5 markers evenly along the two front side edges to indicate placement of buttonholes.

Rnd 6 (Buttonholes): ch 1, 1 dc in same place (placing marker or safety pin in first st), 1 dc in each dc to 1 st before first marker, (3ch, skip 3 dc, 1 dc in each dc to 1 st before next marker) 4 times, 3ch, skip 3 dc, 1 dc in each dc to top corner of front, 3 dc in the corner st, 1 dc in each dc along front top edge, 3 dc in the corner st, (1 dc in each dc to 1 st before next marker, 3ch, skip 3 dc) 5 times, 1 dc in each dc to end, join with a ss in first (marked) dc. Remove all markers.

Rnd 7: ch 1, 1 dc in same place (replacing marker or safety pin in first st), 1 dc in each dc to first 3 ch-sp, (3 dc in 3 ch-sp, 1 dc in each dc to next 3 ch-sp) 4 times, 3 dc in next 3ch-sp, 1 dc in each dc to top corner of front, 3 dc in

the corner st, 1 dc in each dc along front top edge, 3 dc in the corner st, (1 dc in each dc to next 3 ch-sp, 3 dc in ch-sp) 5 times, 1 dc in each dc to end, join with a ss in first (marked) dc.

Remove marker.

Rnds 8-10: ch 1, 1 dc in same place (placing marker or safety pin in first st), 1 dc in each dc along side edge of back, across hood, along second side edge of back to top corner of front, 3 dc in the corner st, 1 dc in each dc along front top edge, 3 dc in the corner st, 1 dc in each dc along side edge of front, join with a ss into first (marked) dc.

Remove marker

REVERSE DC EDGING

(see tutorial on p 106)

Change to col 2.

Next Rnd: ch 1, 1 rdc in each dc around edge, working 3 rev dc in each of the 2 corners, join with a ss to first rdc.

Fasten off.

FINISHING

Sew in all remaining ends and spray block. Sew buttons on back edging to correspond with buttonholes.





Top tip

To help you keep track of the corners, place a marker on the middle of the 3 corner sts.



Pattern notes

This project is sized for a newborn baby. It is simple to adjust the size to suit larger babies as well.

To adjust the width add sts to the foundation chain in multiples of 3; to adjust length add rows. Don't forget you will need more yarn to make a bigger sleeping bag.

For baby's safety it is important to ensure the bag is not so large they can slip down too far as this can cause them to get overheated. As with any bedding, their face should remain above the cover which should tuck under their arms, and make sure they are placed with their feet are at the end of their crib, Moses basket, pram etc.



HORACE THE MONSTER

It's hard to believe but Horace has terrible eye sight, he can't see more than a foot away from his face. Sadly, he can't seem to find a pair of glasses that will fit

DIFFICULTY



Approx 8-10 hours

WHAT YOU NEED

- 2.75mm hook (US C/2 or D/3)
- Safety eyes: five 18mm, six 9mm, four 12mm
- Fiberfill stuffing
- White felt for the tooth
- Glue to attach the tooth
- You will need an aran weight yarn. We have used Rosario 4: Catitano in: Colour 1: White (50g) Colour 2: Blue (50g) Colour 3: Dark blue (50g) Colour 4: Grey (50g) Colour 5: Yellow (50g)

MEASUREMENTS

28 cm tall, while standing, and 12.75 cm wide

SPECIAL STITCHES

Surface crochet: crocheting directly into the body of the amigurumi. This is used to make the rim on each eye and the lines that go around the monster's body.

3 dtr popcorn stitch: work a dtr to the last yarn over (2 loop left on hook), stop and create two more incomplete dtr sts. You should have 4 loops on your hook. yo and pull through all loops.

2 tr popcorn stitch: work a tr to the last yarn over (2 loops left on hook), stop and create one more incomplete trst. You should have 3 loops on your hook. yo and pull through all loops.

Pattern

Note: Be aware that when you work with the wrong side out the front and back loops of a stitch will be reversed. When you see instructions written as "flo (blo)" in this pattern you will work what is before the () if you are crocheting with the right side out, and you will work what is in the () if you are working with the wrong side facing out.

SMALL EYE (MAKE 6)

Using 2.75mm hook and col 1, make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 5 dc into the magic ring. (5 sts)

Place your 9mm safety eye in the middle of the magic ring and pull the ring tight around the post. After rnd 2, fix the back of the safety eye in place.

Rnd 2: 2 dc in each st. (10 sts)

Change to col 2.

Rnds 3-5: 1 dc in each st. (10 sts)

Stuff with fiberfill and continue stuffing as you go.

Rnd 6: (dc2tog) 5 times. (5 sts)

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing. Using your yarn needle, weave the yarn tail through the front loop of each remaining stitch and pull it tight to close. Do not cut yarn.

For the rim, have the white of the small eye facing you, think of the eye as a clock, and attach col 2 at the 12 o'clock

position between rnds 2-3.

Note: If you attach the yarn at 6 o'clock the eye rim will be reversed and incorrect.

Rnd 1 (RS): ch 1 (not counted as a st here and throughout), 1 dc in next 10 sts, ss into first dc. (10 sts)

Rnd 2: ch 1, (2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next 4 sts) twice, ss into first dc. (12 sts) (See Fig. 2)

Fasten off and darn in all ends.

MEDIUM EYE (MAKE 4)

Using 2.75mm hook and col 1, make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 5 dc into the magic ring. (5 sts)

Place your 12mm safety eye in the middle of the magic ring and pull the ring tight around the post. After rnd 2, fix the back of the safety eye in place.

Rnd 2: 2 dc in each st. (10 sts)

Rnd 3: (2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next st) 5 times. (15 sts)

Change to col 2.

Rnds 4-6: 1 dc in each st. (15 sts)

Rnd 7: (dc2tog, 1 dc in next st) 5 times. (10 sts)

Stuff with fiberfill and continue stuffing as you go.

Rnd 8: (dc2tog) 5 times. (5 sts)

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing. Using your yarn needle, weave the yarn tail through the front loop of each remaining stitch and pull it tight to close. Leave the remaining



MEVLINN GUSICK

Mevlinn is a college graduate with a BFA in Fine Arts Painting. Her interest in crochet began when she way too much time between classes and a family member suggested crochet would be fun. It peaked her curiosity and today she's crocheting amigurumi whenever she gets the chance and giving them to those she loves.
www.mevvsan.com



yarn tail so you can use it to sew the eye to the body later. Complete the rim of the eye as you did for the small eye.

Rnd 1 (RS): ch 1 (not counted as a st here and throughout), 1 dc in next 15 sts, ss into first dc. (15 sts)

Rnd 2: ch 1, (2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next 4 sts) 3 times, ss into first st. (18 sts) (See Fig. 2)

Fasten off and weave in all yarn ends.

LARGE EYE (MAKE 5)

Using 2.75mm hook and col 1, make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 5 dc into the magic ring. (5 sts)

Place your 18mm safety eye in the middle of the magic ring and pull the ring tight around the post. After rnd 2, fix the back of the safety eye in place.

Rnd 2: 2 dc in each st. (10 sts)

Rnd 3: (2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next st) 5 times. (15 sts)

Rnd 4: (2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next 2 sts) 5 times. (20 sts)

Change to col 2.

Rnds 5-7: 1 dc in each st. (20 sts)

Rnd 8: (dc2tog, 1 dc in next 2 sts) 5 times. (15 sts)

Stuff with fiberfill and continue stuffing as you go.

Rnd 9: (dc2tog, 1 dc in next st) 5 times. (10 sts)

Rnd 10: (dc2tog) 5 times. (5 sts)

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing. Using your yarn needle, weave the yarn tail through the front loop of each remaining stitch and pull it tight to close. Leave the remaining yarn tail so you can use it to sew the eye to the body later. Complete the rim of the eye as you did for the small eye.

Rnd 1 (RS): ch 1 (not counted

as a st here and throughout), 1 dc in next 20 sts, ss into first dc. (20 sts)

Rnd 2: ch 1, (2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next 4 sts) 4 times, ss into first dc. (24 sts) (See Fig. 2)

Fasten off and darn in all ends.

BODY

Using 2.75mm hook and col 2, make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 8 dc into the magic ring. (8 sts)

Rnd 2: 2 dc in each st. (16 sts)

Rnd 3: (2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next st) 8 times. (24 sts)

Rnd 4: (2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next 2 sts) 8 times. (32 sts)

Rnd 5: (2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next 3 sts) 8 times. (40 sts)

Rnd 6: (2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next 4 sts) 8 times. (48 sts)

Rnd 7: 1 dc in each st. (48 sts)

Rnd 8: (2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next 5 sts) 8 times. (56 sts)

Rnds 9-12: 1 dc in each st. (56 sts)

Rnd 13: (dc2tog, 1 dc in next 12 sts) 4 times. (52 sts)

Rnd 14: 1 dc in each st. (52 sts)

Rnd 15: (dc2tog, 1 dc in next 11 sts) 4 times. (48 sts)

Rnd 16: 1 dc in each st. (48 sts)

Rnd 17: (dc2tog, 1 dc in next 10 sts) 4 times. (44 sts)

Rnd 18: 1 dc in each st. (44 sts)

Rnd 19: (dc2tog, 1 dc in next 9 sts) 4 times. (40 sts)

Rnd 20: 1 dc in each st. (40 sts)

Rnd 21: (dc2tog, 1 dc in next 8 sts) 4 times. (36 sts)

Stuff with fiberfill and continue stuffing as you go.

Rnd 22 BLO (FLO): 1dc in next 9 sts, 1 dc in both loops of remaining 27 sts. (36 sts)

Rnd 23: 1 dc in each st. (36 sts)

Rnd 24: (dc2tog, 1 dc in next 7

Horace the monster

sts) 4 times. (32 sts)

Rnds 25-26: 1 dc in each st. (32 sts)

Rnd 27: (dc2tog, 1 dc in next 6 sts) 4 times. (28 sts)

Rnds 28-29: 1 dc in each st. (28 sts)

Rnd 30: (dc2tog, 1 dc in next 5 sts) 4 times. (24 sts)

Rnds 31-32: 1 dc in each st. (24 sts)

Rnd 33: (dc2tog, 1 dc in next 4 sts) 4 times. (20 sts)

Rnds 34-35: 1 dc in each st. (20 sts)

Rnd 36: (dc2tog, 1 dc in next 2 sts) 5 times. (15 sts)

Rnd 37: (dc2tog, 1 dc in next st) 5 times. (10 sts)

Rnd 38: (dc2tog) 5 times. (5 sts)

Fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing. Using your yarn needle, weave the yarn tail through the front loop of each remaining stitch and pull it tight to close.

BODY LINES

With the back of the body facing you, attach col 3 between rnds 17-16. (Fig 3) Begin to surface crochet by slip stitching evenly around the body until you reach the

point you started from. ss into first st and fasten off. Weave in all ends.

Repeat this for the remaining 4 lines starting with col 4 for between rnds 16-15, col 5 for rnds 15-14, col 4 for rnds 14-13 and col 3 for rnds 13-12.

MOUTH

Using 2.75mm hook and col 2, ss into the first unworked loop from rnd 22 of the body on the far right side. 1 dc into the same st, 1 htr in each st until the second to last st, 1 dc in next st, ss in the last st. Fasten off, weave in all yarn ends

TOOTH

Cut a small triangle out of white felt and glue it with some craft or fabric glue so the lip of the mouth overlaps it.

FOOT AND LEG (MAKE 2)

Using 2.75mm hook and col 2, make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc into the magic ring. (6 sts)

Rnd 2: 2 dc in each st. (12 sts)

Rnd 3: (2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next st) 6 times. (18 sts)

Rnd 4: (3 dtr popcorn st in next st, 1 dc in next st) 4 times (See Fig. 4), dc in next 10 sts. (18 sts)

Rnd 5: 1 dc in each st. (18 sts)

Rnd 6: (dc2tog, 1 dc in next st) 6 times. (12 sts)

Rnd 7: (dc2tog, 1 dc in next st) 4 times. (8 sts)

Stuff with fiberfill and continue stuffing as you go.

Rnds 8-15: 1 dc in each st. (8 sts)

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing. Sew the feet to the bottom of the body on either sides of the body's magic ring.

HAND AND ARM (MAKE 2)

Using 2.75mm hook and col 2, make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc into the magic ring. (6 sts)

Rnd 2: 2 dc in each st. (12 sts)

Rnd 3: (2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next st) 6 times. (18 sts)

Rnds 4-5: 1 dc in each st. (18 sts)

Rnd 6: (dc2tog, 1 dc in next st) 6 times. (12 sts)

Rnd 7: (dc2tog) 6 times. (6 sts)

Stuff with fiberfill and continue stuffing as you go.

Rnds 8-17: 1 dc in each st. (6 sts)

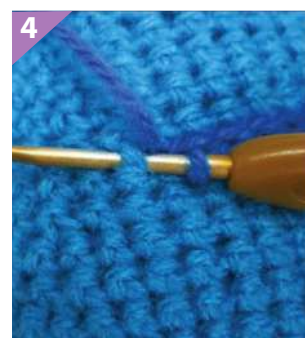
Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing. Sew the arms onto the body between the mouth and the top dark blue body line.

FINGERS

Using 2.75mm hook and col 2, attach your yarn onto one of the stitches on either side of the hand's magic ring. ch 2, work a 2 tr popcorn st in the same space. Turn your hook, and your work, so that you can dc back into the same stitch you started. Fasten off and weave in all yarn ends. Repeat this 3 more times.

ATTACHING THE EYES

With the yarn tail left over from making each eye you can now sew the eyes onto the head. Sew the entire back of the eye onto the body in a circle as this will be more secure. As you add more eyes they will begin to touch and you can sew the eye the ones adjacent to it, this will make the toy safer for young children. We recommend trying to keep two eyes the same size from being next to each other for a better final effect.





Armed with only a few simple stitches in your repertoire, there are many pretty and interesting fabrics you can make

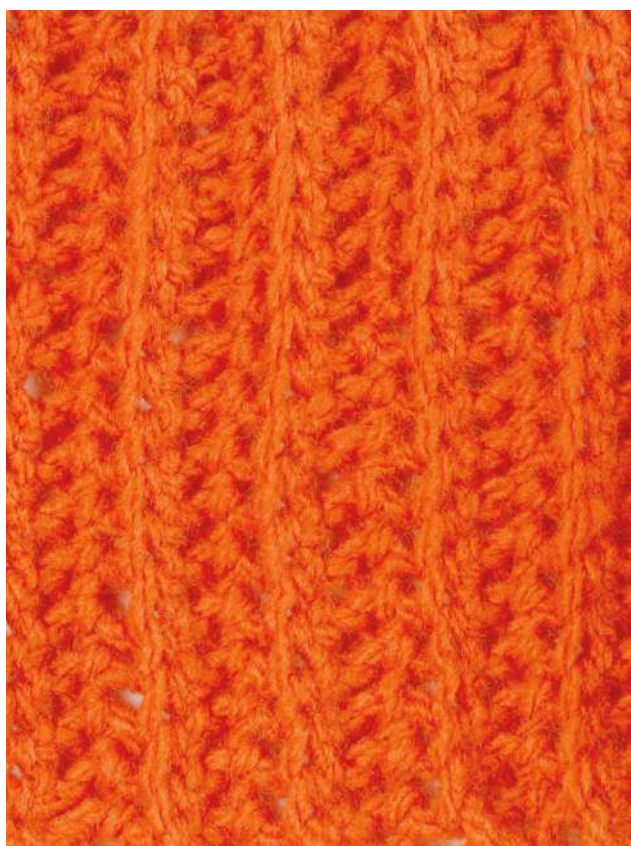
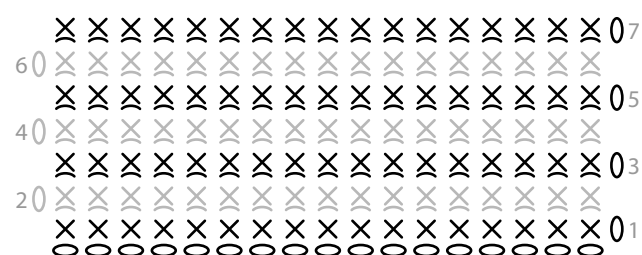
To start off these patterns, make a foundation chain to your desired length, then keep following the pattern until the piece is as large as you would like it to be.

"With these easy stitch patterns, you could create a dishcloth, a scarf or even a blanket – anything rectangular in shape"

By crocheting into the back loops (BL) you will create a horizontal ridge that forms into a stretchy ribbed pattern.

Row 1: dc in 2nd ch from hook and in every remaining ch across.

Row 2: ch 1, turn, dc in BL of each st across.
Rep Row 2 for pattern.



Stitch pattern gallery

GRANITE STITCH



This simple and pretty stitch is also known as moss or seed stitch.

Ch an even number of sts.

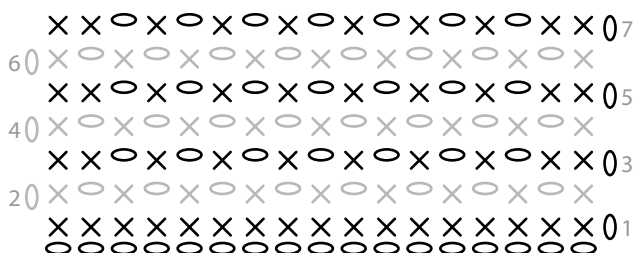
Row 1: dc in 2nd ch from hook and in every remaining ch across.

Row 2: ch 1, turn, *dc in next st, ch 1, sk next st; rep from * across to last st, dc in last st.

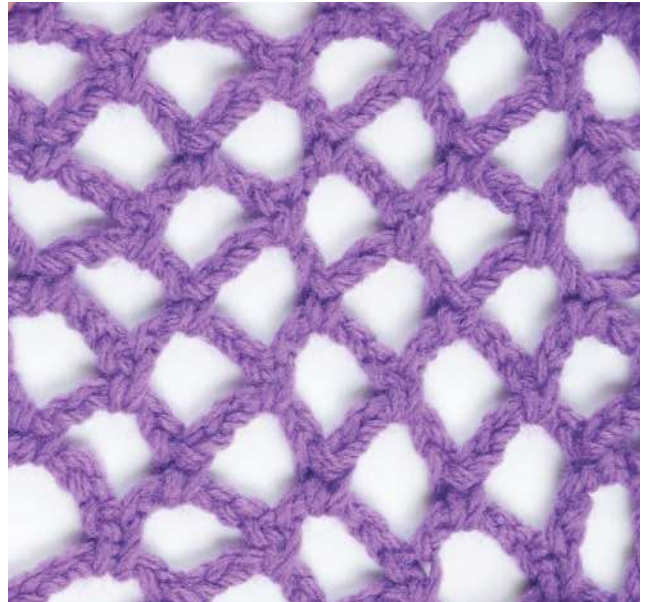
Row 3: ch 1, turn, dc in next st, *dc in next ch1-sp, ch 1, sk next st; rep from * across to last 2 sts, dc in next ch1-sp, dc in last st.

Row 4: ch 1, turn, dc in next st, *ch 1, sk next st, dc in next ch1-sp; rep from * across to last 2 sts, ch 1, sk next st, dc in last st.

Rep Rows 3 and 4 for pattern.



CHAIN MESH



Open and lacy patterns like this are easy to make with a combination of double crochets and chains. It is important to block work like this to really define the pattern.

Ch a multiple of 4 sts plus 2.

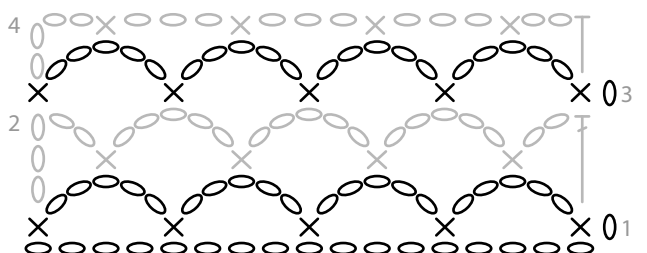
Row 1: dc in 2nd ch from hook *ch 5, sk next 3 st, dc in next ch; rep from * across.

Row 2: ch 5 (counts as tr + ch 2), turn, *dc in next ch5-sp, ch 5; rep from * across to end, dc in last stitch.

Row 3: ch 1, turn, dc in next st, ch 5, *dc in next ch5-sp, ch 5; rep from * across to end, dc in 3rd ch of t-ch.

Rep rows 3 and 4 for pattern. To make a straight edge along the top, follow a Row 3 with Row 4.

Row 4 (optional): ch 4 (counts as htr + ch 2), turn, *dc in next ch5-sp, ch 3; rep from * across to last ch5-sp, dc in last ch5-sp, ch 2, htr in last st.



UP-AND-DOWN STITCH



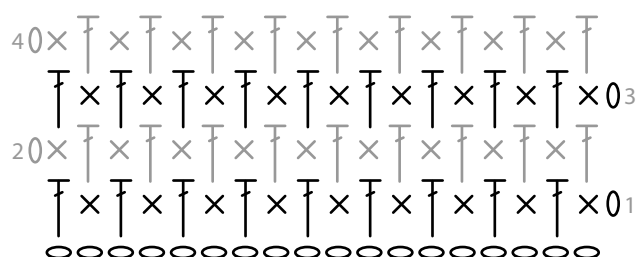
Using a combination of tall and short stitches produces this lightly textured fabric.

Ch a multiple of 2 sts plus 1.

Row 1: dc in 2nd ch from hook, *tr in next ch, dc in next ch; rep from * across to last ch, tr in last st.

Row 2: ch 1, turn, *dc in next tr, tr in next dc; rep from * across to end.

Rep Row 2 for pattern.



FILET SQUARES



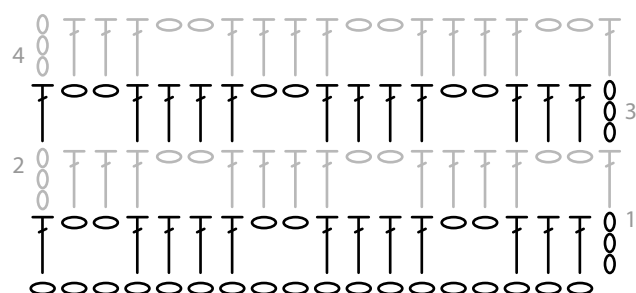
The alternating empty and filled block of stitches are characteristic of filet crochet designs, and can be modified quite simply by adding or subtracting the number of chs and trs for a different look.

Ch a multiple of 6 sts plus 3.

Row 1: tr in 4th ch from hook (unworked chs count as tr), tr in next 2 chs, ch 2, sk next 2 chs, *tr in next 4 chs, ch 2, sk next 2 chs; rep from * across to last ch, tr in last ch.

Row 2: ch 3 (counts as a tr), turn, 2 tr in next ch2-sp, tr in next st, ch 2, sk next 2 sts, *tr in next st, 2 tr in next ch2-sp, tr in next st, ch 2, sk next 2 sts; rep from * across to last st, tr in top of t-ch.

Rep Row 2 for pattern.



Stitch pattern gallery

RIPPLE



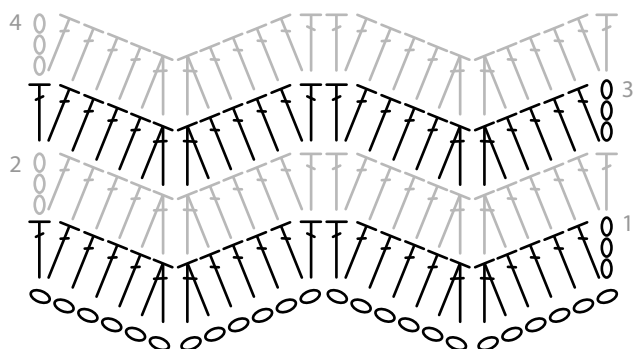
This fun rippling wave effect is created simply by stacking increases and decreases.

Ch a multiple of 12 sts plus 3.

Row 1: tr in 4th ch from hook (unworked chs count as tr), tr in next 3 chs, tr2tog twice, *tr in next 3 chs, 2 tr in next 2 chs, tr in next 3 chs, tr2tog twice; rep from * across to last 4 chs, tr in next 3 chs, 2 tr in last ch.

Row 2: ch 3 (counts as tr), turn, tr in same st, tr in next 3 sts, tr2tog twice, *tr in next 3 sts, 2 tr in next 2 sts, tr in next 3 sts, tr2tog twice; rep from * across to last 4 sts, tr in next 3 sts, 2 tr in top of t-ch.

Rep Row 2 for pattern.



GRIT STITCH



The grit stitch creates a dense and warm pattern, which is perfect for scarves.

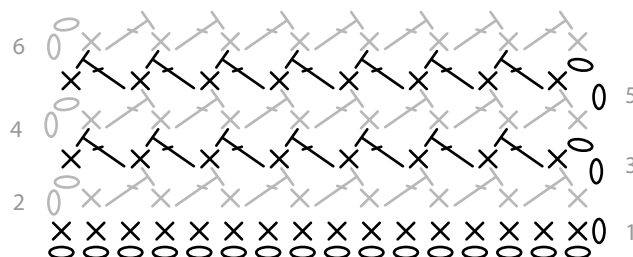
Ch a multiple of 2 sts plus 1.

Row 1: dc in 2nd ch from hook and in every remaining ch across.

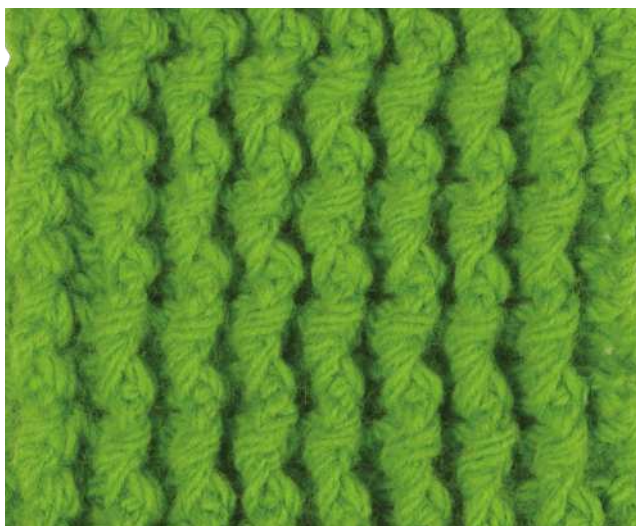
Row 2: ch 2, turn, sk first st, *(dc, tr) in next st, sk next st; rep from * across to last st, dc in last st.

Row 3: ch 2, turn, (dc, tr) in every dc across, dc in top of t-ch.

Rep Row 3 for pattern.



POST STITCH RIB

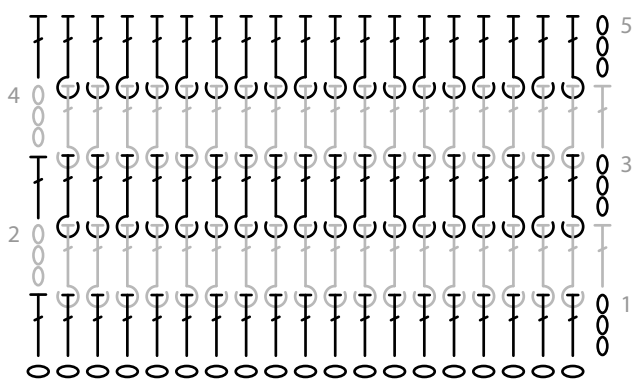


Ch a multiple of 2 sts.

Row 1: tr in 4th ch from hook (unworked chains count as tr), tr in each remaining ch across.

Row 2: ch 3 (counts as tr), turn, *FPtr in next st, BPtr in next st; rep from * across to last st, tr in top of t-ch.

Rep Row 2 for pattern.



WAFFLE STITCH



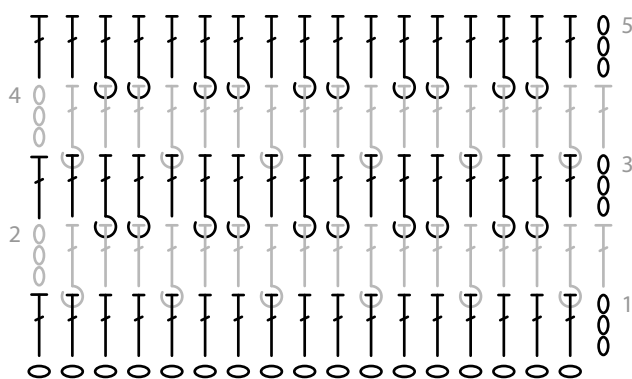
Ch a multiple of 3 sts plus 2.

Row 1: tr in 4th ch from hook (unworked chains count as tr), tr in each remaining ch across.

Row 2: ch 3 (counts as tr, here and throughout), turn, *FPtr in next st, tr in next 2 sts; rep from * across to last 2 sts, FPtr in next st, tr in top of t-ch.

Row 3: ch 3, turn, *tr in next st, FPtr in next 2 sts; rep from * across to last 2 sts, tr in next st, tr in top of t-ch.

Rep Rows 2 and 3 for pattern.



Stitch pattern gallery

BASKET WEAVE



Ch a multiple of 6 sts plus 4.

Row 1: tr in 4th ch from hook (unworked chains count as tr), tr in each remaining ch across.

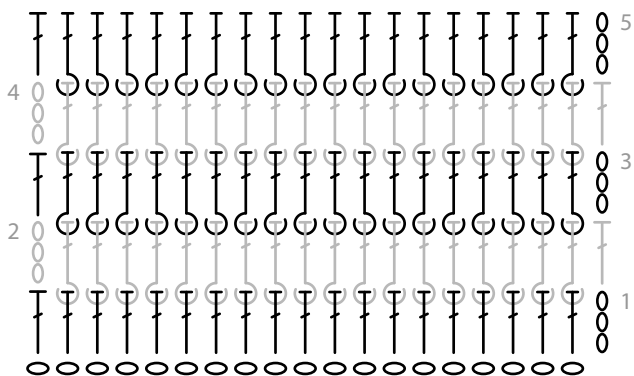
Row 2: ch 3 (counts as tr, here and throughout), turn, *FPtr in next 3 sts, BPtr in next 3 sts; rep from * across to last st, tr in top of t-ch.

Row 3: rep Row 2.

Row 4: ch 3, turn, *BPtr in next 3 sts, FPtr in next 3 sts; rep from * across to last st, tr in top of t-ch.

Row 5: rep Row 4.

Rep Rows 2 through 5 for pattern.



DIAMOND OVERLAY



Ch a multiple of 6 sts plus 3.

Row 1: dc in 2nd ch from hook and in each remaining ch across.

Row 2: ch 3 (counts as tr, here and throughout), turn, *sk next 2 sts, dtr in next st, tr in 2 skipped sts (working behind st just made), sk next st, tr in next 2 sts, dtr in skipped st (working in front of sts just made); rep from * across to last st, tr in last st.

Row 3: ch 1, turn, dc in each st across.

Row 4: ch 3, turn, *sk next st, tr in next 2 sts, dtr in skipped st (working in front of sts just made), sk next 2 sts, dtr in next st, tr in 2 skipped sts (working behind st just made); rep from * across to last st, tr in last st.

Row 5: rep Row 3.

Rep Rows 2 through 5 for pattern.



TRIANGLE SPACES



Ch a multiple of 6 sts plus 2.

Row 1: dc in 2nd ch from hook, dc in next ch, ch 3, sk next 3 chs, dc in next ch, *ch 1, sk next ch, dc in next ch, ch 3, sk next 3 chs, dc in next ch; rep from * across to last ch, dc in last ch.

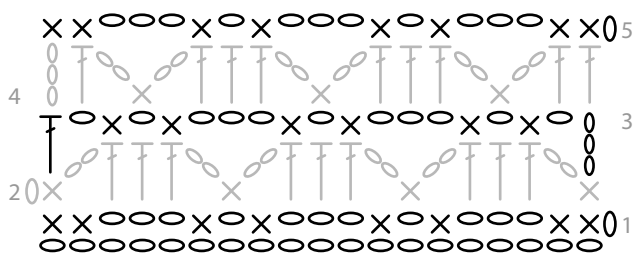
Row 2: ch 1, turn, dc in next st, ch 2, 3 tr in next ch3-sp, *ch 2, dc in] next ch1-sp, ch 2, 3 tr in next ch3-sp; rep from * across to last 2 sts, ch 2, sk next st, dc in last st.

Row 3: ch 4 (counts as tr + ch 1), turn, dc in next tr, ch 1, sk next tr, dc in next tr, *ch 3, dc in next tr, ch 1, sk next tr, dc in next tr; rep from * across to end, ch 1, tr in last dc.

Row 4: ch 3 (counts as tr), turn, tr in next ch1-sp, ch 2, dc in next ch1-sp, *ch 2, 3 tr in next ch3-sp, ch 2, dc in next ch1-sp; rep from * across to last space, ch 2, 2 tr in t-ch space.

Row 5: ch 1, turn, dc in next 2 trs, ch 3, *dc in next tr, ch 1, sk next tr, dc in next tr, ch 3; rep from * across to last 2 sts, dc in next tr, dc in top of t-ch.

Rep Rows 2 through 5 for pattern.



TUMBLING BLOCKS



SPECIAL STITCH

To work a stitch around the post of a previous stitch, insert the hook under the stitch, instead of into it, and crochet around it.

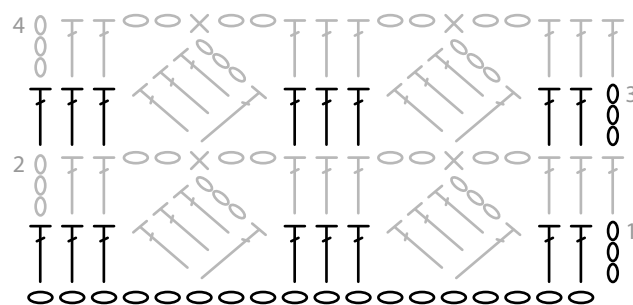
Ch a multiple of 8 sts plus 5.

Row 1: tr in 4th ch from hook (unworked chs count as tr), *tr in next ch, sk next 2 chs, tr in next ch, ch 3, 3 tr around post of tr just worked, sk next 2 chs, tr in next 2 chs; rep from * across to last ch, tr in last ch.

Row 2: ch 3 (counts as tr, here and throughout), turn, *tr in next 2 trs, ch 2, dc in ch3-sp, ch 2, sk next tr, tr in next tr; rep from * across to last 2 sts, tr in next tr, tr in top of t-ch.

Row 3: ch 3, turn, *tr in next 2 trs, tr in next dc, ch 3, 3 tr around post of tr just worked, tr in next tr; rep from * across to last 2 sts, tr in next tr, tr in top of t-ch.

Rep Rows 2 and 3 for pattern.



Stitch pattern gallery

MINI PICOT MESH



SPECIAL STITCH

Picot: ch 3, sl st into front loop and left vertical bar of dc at base of ch.

Ch a multiple of 3 sts plus 2.

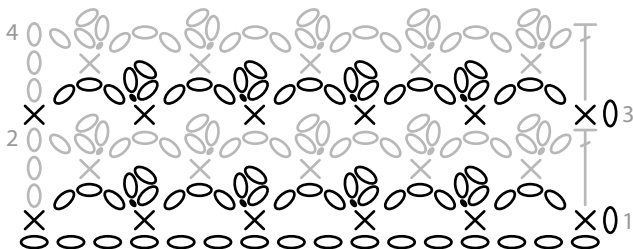
Row 1: dc in 2nd ch from hook, *ch 3, sk next 2 chs, dc in next ch, picot; rep from * across to last 3 chs, ch 3, sk next 2 chs, dc in last ch.

Row 2: ch 4 (counts as tr + ch 1), turn, *dc in next ch3-sp, picot, ch 3; rep from * across to last ch3-sp, dc in last ch3-sp, picot, ch 1, tr in last st.

Row 3: ch 1, turn, dc in next st, ch 3, *dc in next ch3-sp, picot, ch 3; rep from * across to end, dc in 3rd ch of t-ch.

Rep Rows 2 and 3 for pattern.

You can omit the picots from the final row to give a straighter top edge. And with lacy patterns like this, blocking is essential to open the mesh and really show off the stitch pattern.



OFFSET ARCHES



SPECIAL STITCHES

Shell: (4 tr, ch 1, 4 tr) in specified st.



V st: (tr, ch 1, tr) in specified st.

Ch a multiple of 8 sts plus 2.

Row 1: dc in 2nd ch from hook, *sk next 3 chs, shell in next ch, sk next 3 chs, dc in next ch; rep from * across to end.

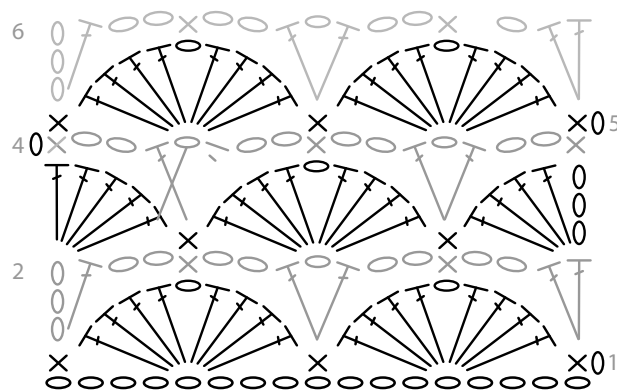
Row 2: ch 3 (counts as tr, here and throughout), turn, tr in same st, ch 2, *dc in top of next shell, ch 2, V st in next dc, ch 2; rep from * across to last shell, dc in top of last shell, ch 2, 2 tr in last dc.

Row 3: ch 3, turn, 4 tr in same st, *dc in next dc, shell in top of next V st; rep from * across to last dc, dc in next dc, 5 tr in top of t-ch.

Row 4: ch 1, turn, dc in next st, ch 2, *V st in next dc, ch 2, dc in top of next shell, ch 2; rep from * across to last dc, V st in last dc, ch 2, dc in top of t-ch.

Row 5: ch 1, turn, dc in next st, *shell in top of next V st, dc in next dc; rep from * across to end.

Rep Rows 2 through 5 for pattern.





References

GLOSSARY

Asterisk*

A symbol used to mark a point in a pattern row, usually at the beginning of a set of repeated instructions.

Back loop (BL) only

A method of crocheting in which you work into only the back loop of a stitch instead of both loops.

Back post (BP) stitches

Textured stitches worked from the back around the post of the stitch below.

Ball band

The paper wrapper around a ball of yarn that contains information such as fibre content, amount/length of yarn, weight, colour and dye lot.

Block

A finishing technique that uses moisture to set stitches and shape pieces to their final measurements.

Blocking wire

A long, straight wire used to hold the edges of crochet pieces straight during blocking, most often for lace.

Bobble

A crochet stitch that stands out from the fabric, formed from several incomplete tall stitches joined at the top and bottom.

Brackets []

Symbols used to surround a set of grouped instructions, often used to indicate repeats.

Chain (ch)

A simple crochet stitch that often forms the foundation that other stitches are worked into.

Chain space (ch-sp)

A gap formed beneath one or more chain stitches, usually worked into instead of into the individual chain(s).

Chainless foundation

A stretchy foundation plus first row of stitches that are made in one step

Chainless foundation stitches

Stitches that have an extra chain at the bottom so they can be worked into without first crocheting a foundation chain.

Chart

A visual depiction of a crochet pattern that uses symbols to represent stitches.

Cluster

A combination stitch formed from several incomplete tall stitches joined together at the top.

Contrast colour (CC)

A yarn colour used as an accent to the project's main colour.

Crochet hook

The tool used to form all crochet stitches.

Crossed stitches

Two or more tall stitches that are crossed, one in front of the other, to create an X shape.

Decrease (dec)

A shaping technique in which you reduce the number of stitches in your work.

Double crochet

The most basic crochet stitch.

Double treble crochet (dtr)

A basic crochet stitch three times as tall as a double crochet stitch.

Drape

The way in which your crocheted fabric hangs; how stiff or flowing it feels.

Draw up a loop

To pull up a loop of yarn through a stitch or space after inserting your hook into that stitch or space.

Fan

A group of several tall stitches crocheted into the same base stitch and usually separated by chains to form a fan shape.

Fasten off

To lock the final stitch with the yarn end so the crocheted work cannot unravel.

Fasten on

To draw up a loop of new yarn through a stitch in preparation to begin crocheting.

Foundation chain

A base chain into which most crochet is worked (unless worked in the round).

Foundation stitches, chainless

See chainless foundation stitches.

Fringe

A decorative edging made from strands of yarn knotted along the edge.

Frog

To unravel your crochet work by removing your hook and pulling the working yarn.

Front loop (FL) only

A method in which you work into only the front loop of a stitch instead of both loops.

Front post (FP) stitches

Textured stitches worked from the front around the post of the stitch below.



Gauge (tension)
See tension.

Half treble crochet
A basic stitch halfway between the height of a double and treble crochet stitch.

Increase (inc)
A shaping technique in which you add extra stitches to your work.

Invisible finish
A method of finishing a round or edging so the join is not visible.

Knife grip
An overhand method of holding a crochet hook, similar to holding a knife.

Linked stitch
A variation of any standard tall stitch that links the stitch to its neighbour partway up the post to eliminate the gaps between stitches and form a solid fabric.

Magic ring
A technique to begin working in the round without leaving a hole in the centre by crocheting over an adjustable loop.

Main colour (MC)
The predominant yarn colour of a project.

Mattress stitch
A stitch to sew a seam that forms an almost invisible join on the right side of the work and a ridged seam on the wrong side.

Motif
A crocheted shape usually worked in the round as a geometric shape and combined with other motifs into larger pieces.

Parentheses ()
Symbols used in crochet patterns to surround a set of grouped instructions, often used to indicate repeats.

Pencil grip
An underhand method of holding a crochet hook, similar to holding a pencil.

Picot
A tiny loop of chain stitches that sits on top of a stitch and creates a small round or pointed shape.

Popcorn
A combination crochet stitch that stands out dramatically from the fabric formed from several tall stitches pulled together by a chain stitch.

Post
The main vertical stem of a stitch.

Post stitch
A stitch formed by crocheting around the post of the stitch in the row or round below, so the stitch sits in front of (or behind) the surface of the fabric.

Puff stitch
A combination crochet stitch that forms a smooth, puffy shape created from several incomplete half treble crochet stitches that are joined at the top and bottom.

Repeat (rep)
To replicate a series of crochet instructions; one instance of the duplicated instructions.

Reverse double crochet
A variation of double crochet that is worked backwards (left to right)

around the edge of a piece, producing a corded edging.

Right side (RS)
The side of a crocheted piece that's visible.

Rip back
To unravel your crochet work.

Round (rnd)
A line of stitches worked around a circular crocheted piece.

Row
A line of stitches worked across a flat crocheted piece.

Shell
A group of several stitches, crocheted into the same base stitch, that spread out at the top into a shell shape.

Skip (sk)
To pass over a stitch or stitches.

Slip knot
A knot that can be tightened by pulling one end of the yarn; used for attaching the yarn to the hook to begin crocheting.

Slip stitch (ss/sl st)
A stitch with no height primarily used to join rounds and stitches to move the hook and yarn into a new position.

Space (sp)
A gap formed between or beneath stitches, often seen in lace patterns.

Spike stitch
A stitch worked around existing stitches to extend down to one or more rows below, creating a long vertical spike.

Stitch (st)
A group of one or more loops of yarn pulled through each other in a specific order until only one loop remains on the crochet hook.



References

Stitch diagram

A map of a crochet or stitch pattern, where each stitch represented by a symbol.

Stitch marker

A small tool you can slide into a crochet stitch or between stitches to mark a position.

Swatch

A crocheted sample of a stitch pattern large enough to measure the tension (gauge) and test the pattern with a specific hook and yarn.

Tail

A short length of unworked yarn left at the start or end of a piece.

Tension (gauge)

A measure of how many stitches and rows fit into a certain length of crocheted fabric, usually 10 centimetres (4 inches), that indicates the size of each stitch.

Together (tog)

A shaping technique in which you work two or more stitches into one to reduce the number of stitches.

Treble crochet (tr)

A basic stitch twice as tall as a double crochet.

Turning chain (t-ch)

A chain made at the start of a row to bring your hook and yarn up to the height of the next row.

V

The two loops at the top of each stitch that form a sideways V shape; standard crochet stitches are worked into both these loops.

V stitch

A group of two tall stitches crocheted into the same base stitch and separated

by one or more chains, forming a V shape.

Weave in

A method used to secure and hide the yarn tails by stitching them through your crocheted stitches.

Whip stitch

A simple stitch to sew a seam by inserting the needle through the edge of both crocheted pieces at once to form each stitch.

Working in the round

Crocheting in a circle instead of back and forward in straight rows.

Working loop

The single loop that remains on your hook after completing a crochet stitch.

Wrong side (WS)

The side of a crocheted piece that will be hidden; the inside or back.

Yardage

A length of yarn, usually expressed as an estimate of the amount of yarn required for a project.

Yarn needle

A wide, blunt-tipped needle with

an eye large enough for the yarn to pass through that's used for stitching crocheted pieces together and weaving in ends.

Yarn over (yo)

To pass the yarn over the hook so the yarn is caught in the throat of the hook.

Yarn tail

See tail.

Yarn weight

The thickness of the yarn (not the weight of a ball or yarn).



ABBREVIATIONS

UK stitch name	Abbreviation	Symbol	Description
back loop	BL		The loop furthest from you at the top of the stitch.
back post double crochet	BPdc		Yarn over, insert the hook from the back to the front, then to the back around the post of the next stitch, yarn over and draw up a loop, (yarn over and draw through two loops) twice.
chain(s)	ch(s)		Yarn over and draw through the loop on the hook.
chain space(s)	ch-sp(s)		The space beneath one or more chains.
double crochet	dc		Insert the hook into the next stitch and draw up a loop, yarn over and draw through both loops on the hook.
double crochet 2 together	dc2tog		(Insert the hook into the next stitch and draw up a loop) twice, yarn over and draw through all three loops on the hook.
double treble crochet	dtr		Yarn over twice, insert the hook into the next stitch and draw up a loop, (yarn over and draw through two loops on the hook) three times.
front loop	FL		The loop closest to you at the top of the stitch.
front post treble crochet	FPtr		Yarn over, insert the hook from the front to the back to the front around the post of the next stitch, yarn over and draw up a loop, (yarn over and draw through two loops) twice.
half treble crochet	htr		Yarn over, insert the hook into the next stitch and draw up a loop, yarn over and draw through all three loops on the hook.
repeat	rep		Replicate a series of given instructions.
skip	sk		Pass over a stitch or stitches – do not work into it.
slip stitch	ss/sl st		Insert the hook into the next stitch, draw up a loop through the stitch and the loop on the hook.
stitch(es)	st(s)		A group of one or more loops of yarn pulled through each other in a specified order until only 1 remains on the crochet hook.
treble crochet	tr		Yarn over, insert the hook into the next stitch and draw up a loop, (yarn over and draw through two loops on the hook) twice.
treble crochet 2 together	tr2tog		(Yarn over, insert the hook into the next stitch and draw up a loop, yarn over and draw through two loops on the hook) twice, yarn over and draw through all three loops on the hook.
turning chain	t-ch		The chain made at the start of a row to bring your hook and yarn up to the height of the next row.
yarn over	yo		Pass the yarn over the hook so the yarn is caught in the throat of the hook.

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