

Teach Yourself
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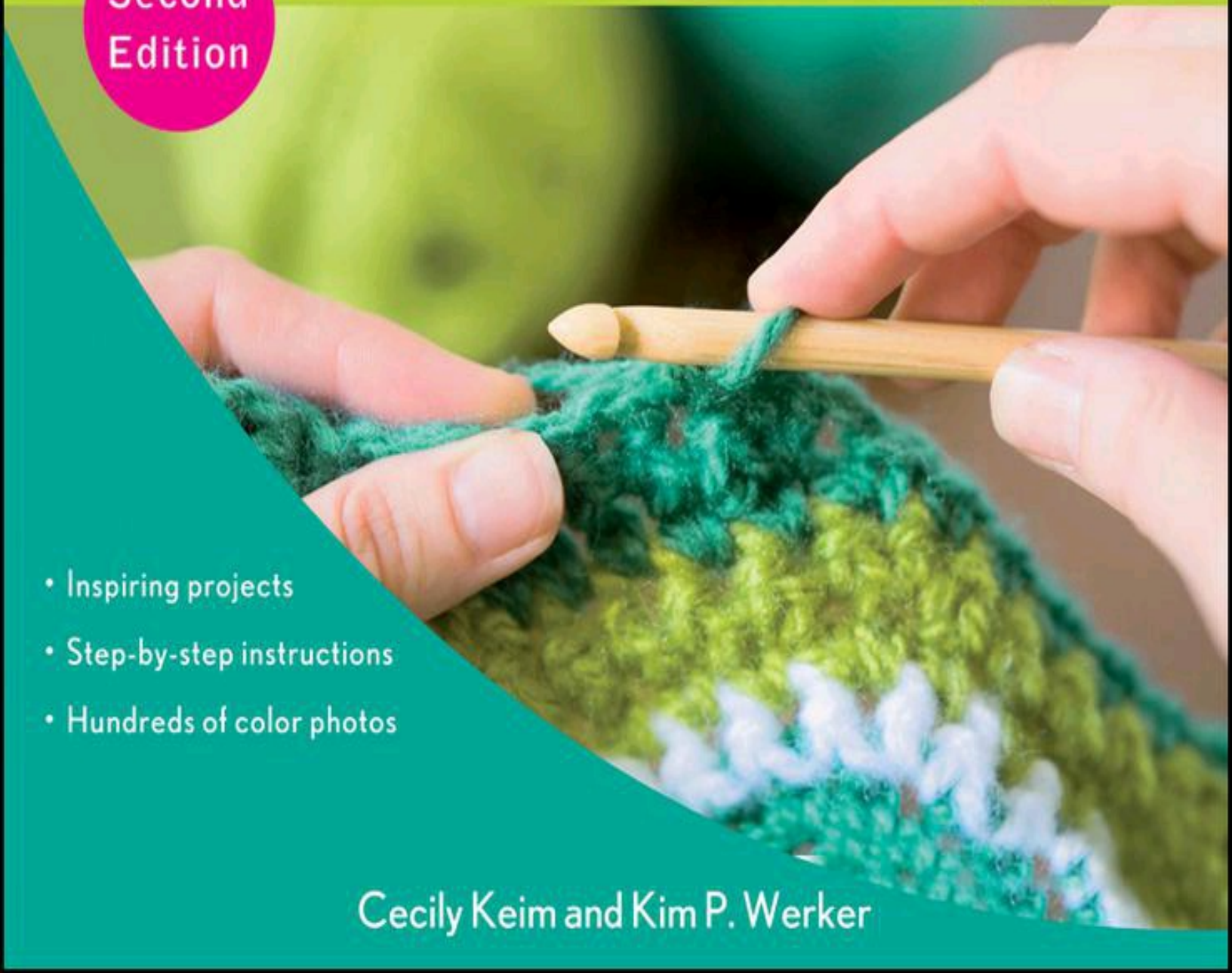
Crochet

Second
Edition

The Fast and Easy Way to Learn

- Inspiring projects
- Step-by-step instructions
- Hundreds of color photos

Cecily Keim and Kim P. Werker



Teach Yourself Visually Crochet®

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Crochet

Second Edition

Cecily Keim and Kim P. Werker



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Teach Yourself VISUALLY™ Crochet, Second Edition

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—Illona Bergstrom (Aventura, FL)

I write to extend my thanks and appreciation for your books. They are clear, easy to follow, and straight to the point. Keep up the good work! I bought several of your books and they are just right! No regrets! I will always buy your books because they are the best.

—Seward Kollie (Dakar, Senegal)

About the Authors

Throughout Cecily Keim's life, regardless of the type of study or type of job, making things has always been her fascination. Her great grandmother, Mama Mac, taught her to crochet at age 9. She is mesmerized by the endless possibilities of crochet and loves passing on the enthusiasm as a writer, designer, and teacher. If she's not crocheting, you will find her exploring quilting, sewing, weaving, and occasionally attempting to understand circuit boards.



Kim Werker is a writer, editor, blogger, crafter and speaker. In 2010 she launched the Mighty Ugly project, an online and in-person adventure in embracing the possibility and eventuality of ugliness in creativity, art and crafting so it's not so scary. Her passion in life is to live creatively and to work with others to foster creative, crafty fun. She's written or co-authored several crochet books, including *Get Hooked and Get Hooked Again* (Watson-Guptill, 2006 and 2007), *Crochet Me: Designs to Fuel the Crochet Revolution* (Interweave, 2007), *Crochet Visual Quick Tips*, with Cecily Keim (Wiley, 2007) and *Crocheted Gifts* (Interweave, 2009). Follow her continuing work and adventures at www.kimwerker.com.



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I owe enormous thanks to Pam, Donna, and Cindy, who went above and beyond with great patience.

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Personal thanks go to Rob and Cara.

Chapter 1: Introduction to Crochet

Crochet is the process of interlocking loops of yarn with a hook. By combining a simple set of basic stitches, you can create an infinite assortment of items, from garments and accessories to home décor. Before you start to crochet, take some time to familiarize yourself with the tools that will help you along the way. This chapter will introduce you to crochet hooks and notions, and you will learn all you need to know to choose the right yarn for your projects. We believe that crochet is both craft and art, and we hope you enjoy crocheting your own creations as much as we do!

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Crochet for Knitters

If you know how to knit, you may have encountered crochet in patterns that call for a crocheted edging or motif. Here are some tips that might help you pick up crochet without getting confused by what you already know about knitting.



The Differences

Stitching

You crochet with only one hook, and you hold the hook in the hand you write with. Right- and left-handed crocheters produce the same fabric, just in opposite directions. Just because you use your hook with one hand does not mean your other hand is idle. Your yarn hand keeps your tension consistent, holds the body of your work, and helps guide your hook into tight places.

If you are a continental knitter (that is, you hold your yarn in your left hand and “pick” stitches with your right-hand needle), you may find it fairly easy to move into crochet because you will continue to hold the yarn in your left hand and maneuver the hook with your right (if you are right-handed). If you’re interested in learning how to knit in the continental style, you may find that knowing how to crochet helps you pick it up more smoothly. If you knit in the English style, you may find that your experience holding yarn and keeping tension with your right hand translates easily to doing the same with your left hand.

In knitting, all stitches remain “open” or “active” throughout your project until you bind off at the end. In crochet, you bind off your stitches as you go; in most cases you have just one loop on your hook when you have completed a stitch.

Gauge

In contrast to knitting stitches, crochet stitches are generally taller than they are wide. Therefore, you crochet more stitches over an inch than you do rows. It

might take a bit of experience with crochet before your instincts adjust regarding how many stitches and rows you require to produce an item of certain dimensions.

Crochet stitches can feel denser than knitting stitches. You might find that you are more comfortable using a hook that is larger than the needles you would use for the same yarn, to produce a fabric with good drape.

Crochet stitches use more yarn than knitting stitches, so when you purchase yarn for your first project, get more than you think you need. See the section [“Estimate How Much Yarn You Need”](#) for more information.

Join the Crochet Community

This book gives you the information you need to learn crochet techniques, but you might want to connect with other crocheters for help or to share your passion. The number of crochet resources you can find online is endless. Crocheters are always sharing tips and projects on blogs and in a variety of online communities. Yarn companies and magazines have Web sites with information, instruction, and patterns. And if you can't find what you need from these sites, simply use your favorite search engine.



Local and Online Yarn Stores

If you live in a large town or city, chances are you can find an independently owned and operated yarn store. Owners of yarn stores tend to be friendly, and many encourage crocheters to spend time in the store by having comfortable

chairs and establishing a welcoming atmosphere. Yarn stores frequently offer crochet classes as well, so they can serve as a very helpful resource to you as you advance your crochet skills.

If you can't find a yarn store in your area, large craft stores tend to carry a selection of yarns, threads, and hooks and may also offer crochet classes. And given the number of online yarn stores that exist, you're sure to find just the yarn you're looking for.

There are many options out there when you're looking for crochet supplies. Many designers sell patterns and kits directly from their own Web sites. Simply search the name of your favorite designer to find his or her site. [Etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com) is another place to look for patterns and yarn to buy from enterprising crocheters. It's a handmade community full of inspiration.

Crochet Guilds, Clubs, and meetups

A crochet guild or club might already exist in your area. Such groups meet regularly for social crocheting and organize classes, fashion shows, charity events, and more. If you can't find a crochet guild or club in your area, you can contact the Crochet Guild of America (www.crochet.org) for information on how to start one.

In many communities, informal groups meet regularly for social crocheting. Meeting at a member's home, at a coffee shop, or even at a bar, crochet clutches are a fun and easy way to connect with people who share your interest in crochet. Some yarn stores even organize social gatherings weekly or monthly. For more information, you can ask at your local store or do a search for groups in your area on www.crochet.meetup.com or groups.yahoo.com.

Online Communities and resources

The Internet offers an extensive and rapidly expanding amount of information about crochet. From patterns (free and for sale), yarns, and tools to message boards, magazines, and blogs, you can spend hours learning and connecting.

Pioneered by enthusiastic crafters, Web sites devoted to making free craft patterns and related articles available to the public are becoming more and more abundant. You can turn to these online communities for information about techniques, to find that perfect pattern, or to request advice. Members also share photos of their completed crochet projects, information about works in progress, and links to resources they find useful.

Crochet Guild of America www.crochet.org Offers tutorials, news, and patterns.

Crochet Me www.crochetme.com Includes patterns, forums, blogs, photo galleries, instructional videos, and more.

Crochet Pattern Central www.crochetpatterncentral.com An online directory providing links to free patterns, indexed by category.

Crochetville www.crochetville.org A message board devoted entirely to crochet.

Ravelry www.ravelry.com Offers a number of ways to track projects and supplies, share notes, get advice on questions and problems, and make friends.

Craft Yarn Council www.craftyarncouncil.com/standards.html Offers a wealth of resources, from definitions of crochet abbreviations and chart symbols to tables of hook sizes, body measurements for standard sizing, and yarn weights.

General community sites also hold some crochet surprises. Try searching Flickr.com for inspiring photos of crochet projects, to share your own, and to join groups that specifically share crochet-related photos. Look to youtube.com for video instructions made by other crochet enthusiasts.

Blogs and Crochet Alongs

Many software programs that simplify the blogging process are available for free, which means that anyone with a computer and an Internet connection can have a blog. Many crocheters maintain blogs devoted to their projects, displaying digital photos of their completed projects and works in progress.

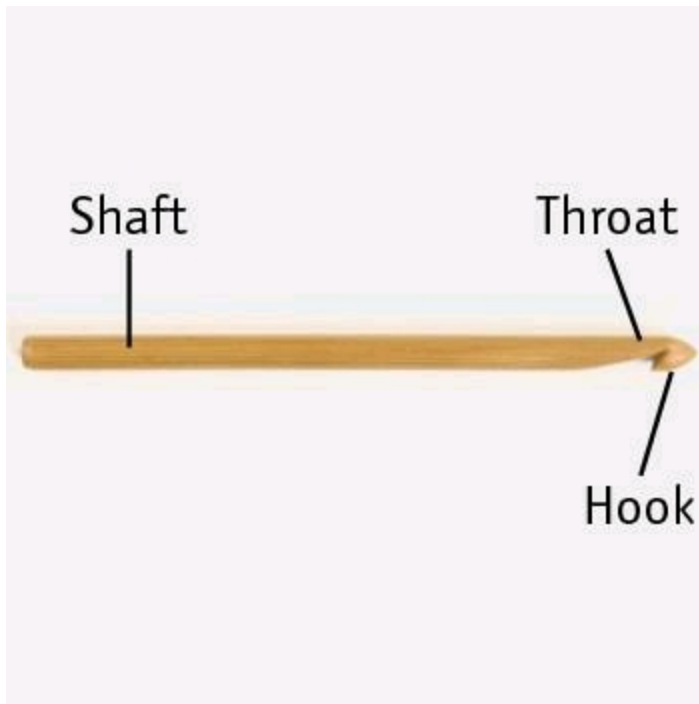
Crochet bloggers and communities occasionally organize *crochet alongs*, during which each participant works on producing an item from the same pattern. This allows for a fun, shared experience, and more advanced crocheters can help beginners.

Hooks

Crochet hooks come in many sizes and are made from a selection of different materials. The hook you choose to use depends on the yarn you are using, how big or small you want your stitches to be, and your personal preference.

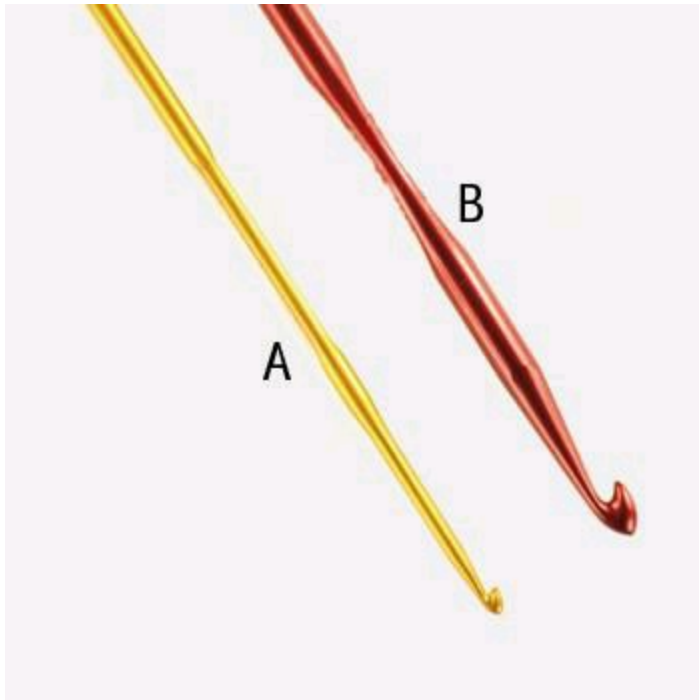
The Hook

Crochet hooks are generally 5 to 7 inches long. There is a hook at one end, which you use to grab yarn or thread and pull it through the stitches of your work. You hold the hook along its shaft, and there may be a flat section of the shaft to serve as a thumbrest or grip.



Hook Shape

Various manufacturers shape their hooks differently, so try out a few different brands until you find the shape that you feel works best. Each brand has its own trademark style. For example, hook A has a round, smooth throat that tapers toward a narrow hook to help yarn loops slide quickly. The point at the top of the hook can aid in inserting the hook into crochet fabric. Hook B has a flat cut in the throat to create a deeper hook. The hook head is also wider, helping to keep loops from slipping off the hook.



Hook types

Hooks are usually made from plastic, metal, wood, or bamboo. The smallest hooks are made of steel and are used with thin crochet thread to make intricately detailed items, such as doilies. Metal hooks can be very smooth, enabling the yarn to slide freely. Wood or bamboo hooks, on the other hand, provide a bit of friction with the yarn, which comes in handy when you're crocheting with slippery yarns. Plastic hooks are slightly flexible and lightweight.



Hook Sizes

Hook size is determined by the diameter of the hook's shaft. Sizes range from tiny ($\frac{1}{16}$ inch/0.75 millimeters) to large ($\frac{4}{5}$ inch/20 millimeters). Smaller hooks work with threads and thin yarns and make smaller stitches. Larger hooks accommodate thicker yarn and make larger stitches. Choose your hook size based on the recommended size for your yarn and on how loose or tight you want your stitches to be.

Most yarn labels suggest a hook size to use with the yarn, and patterns also list a recommended hook size. You may need to change the hook size in order to match the gauge listed in a pattern or to achieve a specific drape and feel. It is more important to match the gauge of a pattern than to use the exact hook size listed.

50% Acrylic/Acrylique/Acrílico

50% Tencel® lyocell

Net Wt. 100g • 3.5 oz

168m • 183yd



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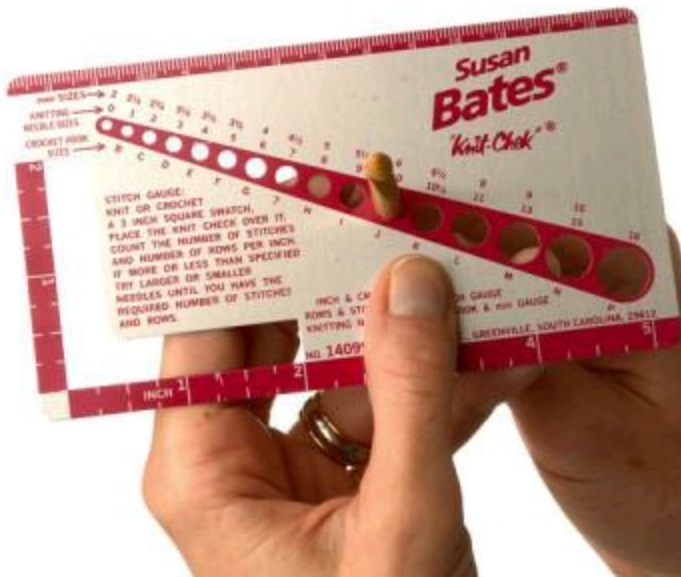
MEDIUM  4 MOYEN Medio	10 x 10 cm 4 x 4 inches  5 mm US 8 23 R 18 S	10 x 10 cm 4 x 4 inches  5.5 mm US I-9 16 R 13 SC
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Hook size

FAQ

How can I determine a crochet hook's size?

If you are unsure of a hook's size, you can use a hook gauge to measure the size of the hook. Find the smallest hole that the shaft of the hook fits into; the size indicated beside that hole is the size of your hook. Hook gauges usually mark both metric and U.S. sizes.



Hook sizes are marked differently in the United States and the United Kingdom, although there is a growing interest in standardizing sizes by using metric measurements. Use the following tables to determine your hook size. In some instances, a yarn label provides only a recommendation for knitting needle size. In this case, use a hook of the same or slightly larger metric size. (If you're using U.S. sizing, find the U.S. size equivalent to the metric size given for the recommended knitting needles.)

Hook Sizes		
Metric Size (in mm)	U.S. Size	U.S. Knitting Needle Size
2	A	0
2.25	B	1
2.75	C	2
3.25	D	3
3.5	E	4
3.75	F	5
4	G	6
4.5	—	7
5	H	8
5.5	I	9
6	J	10
6.5	K	10½
8	L	11
9	M/N	13
10	N/P	15
15	P/Q	19
16	Q	—
19	S	35

Steel Hook Sizes	
Metric Size (in mm)	U.S. Size
0.75	#14
0.85	#13
1.0	#12
1.1	#11
1.3	#10
1.4	#9
1.5	#8
1.65	#7
1.8	#6
1.9	#5
2.0	#4
2.1	#3
2.25	#2
2.75	#1
3.25	#0
3.5	#00

Other Tools

In addition to hooks and yarn, there are other tools and notions you will want to keep handy.

Measuring Tape and Gauge Ruler

Use a measuring tape to take body measurements before you embark on crocheting a sweater or other fitted garment. A measuring tape also comes in handy when checking gauge. (See the section [“Measure Your Gauge”](#)) You may also want a stitch and row gauge (or gauge ruler), to help you count how many stitches and rows you have created.



Stitch Markers

Stitch markers are useful in many situations. For example, when working in the round (see [Chapter 3](#)), you can mark the beginning of the round by placing a marker in the first stitch. You can buy stitch markers designed for this purpose or improvise with scraps of yarn or even earrings. When crocheting a garment, use stitch markers to indicate the placement of increases and decreases for shaping (see [Chapter 3](#)).



Tapestry Needles

A tapestry needle, also called a yarn needle, has a blunt tip and a large eye to accommodate thick yarns. Use your needle to sew pieces together or to weave in yarn ends when you have completed your project. (See the section [“Fasten Off and Weave In Yarn Tails”](#))



Yarn Fibers

Selecting yarn is one of the most exciting parts of starting a new crochet project. The type of material from which a yarn is spun or manufactured has a great effect on your final product. Consider whether your project should be warm, durable, machine washable, and breathe well—the list goes on!



Different Types

Natural Fibers

Natural fibers come from plants or animals. Cotton and wool are perhaps the most common natural fibers, but there are many others.

Plant fibers are usually lightweight, are machine washable, have little stretch, and breathe well. They include cotton, linen, soy, hemp (as shown here), bamboo, and jute.



Animal fibers are very warm (even when wet), have a bit of natural stretch, breathe well, and generally must be washed by hand. They include wool, mohair (as shown here), cashmere, silk, angora, and alpaca.



Synthetic Fibers

Synthetic fibers are manmade. They include acrylic, nylon, rayon, and polyester. Some synthetics are less expensive than natural fibers, and they tend not to breathe as well. However, as technology advances, synthetic fibers are showing an increasing number of desirable qualities, including durability, softness, and

vibrancy of color.



Novelty Yarns

Frequently made from synthetic materials, novelty yarns come in a wide variety of textures and shapes. These include eyelash, fun fur, bouclé, ladder, and beaded—the list goes on. Novelty yarns can be used alone or combined with other yarns to create unique crocheted items. It may not be practical to create entire garments or home décor items solely out of novelty yarns, but they are particularly well suited to trims, accents, and accessories.



TIP

Terms

You will encounter the following terms when choosing yarns:

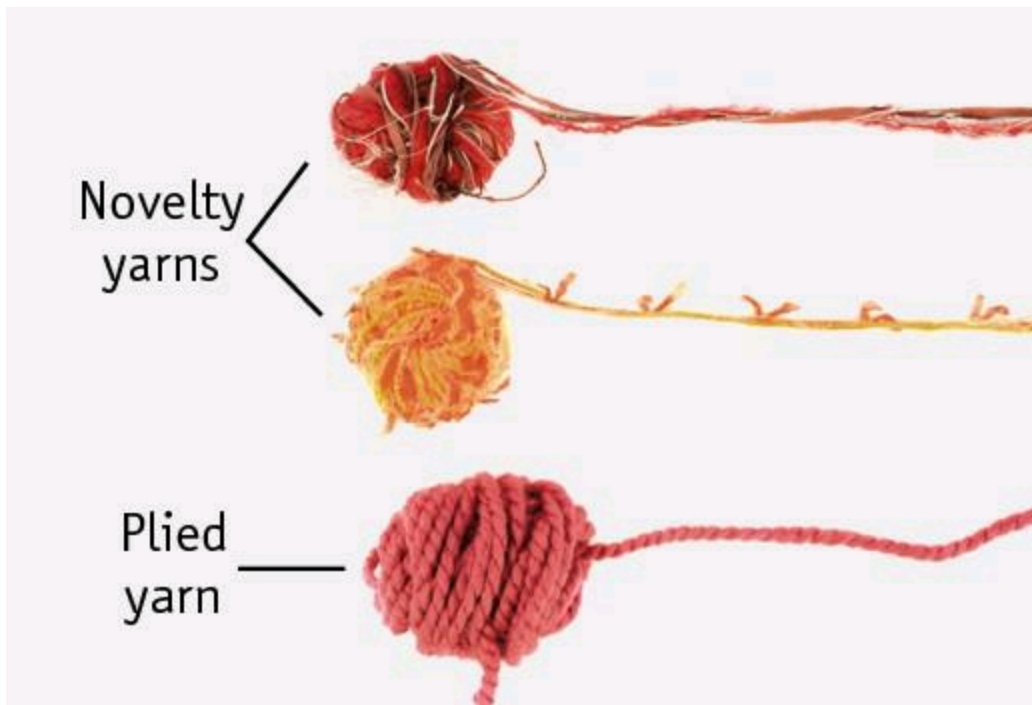
- **Superwash.** This term applies to yarns made from wool, wool blends, and other animal fibers that have been chemically treated to prevent them from *fulling* (shrinking and becoming very dense) when they are agitated in a washing machine or by hand.
- **Mercerized.** This term applies to cotton that has undergone a specific chemical treatment resulting in yarn that is strong, is high in luster, and takes dye extremely well.

Yarn Construction and Packaging

It is important to know a little about the different ways yarn is constructed. Understanding how a yarn is packaged will help you know how to get started.

Yarn Construction

Yarn construction can loosely be divided into two categories: traditional and novelty.



- **Traditional yarn** is spun by hand or by machine and is often plied. Plying consists of taking two or more strands of yarn and twisting them together to create a thicker, stronger yarn. These “smooth” yarns show stitches clearly.
- Many types of **novelty yarn** are available, including ribbon, eyelash, bouclé, fun fur, and so on. You can also crochet with twine, raffia, plastic, and strips of cloth.

Yarn Packaging

Store-bought yarn is packaged in one of two ways:



Step A

- **Hank.** The yarn is wound into a circle and twisted onto itself, creating an attractive, compact skein (a). Yarn pulled from a hank tangles easily and is difficult to undo. To avoid this, wind it before use. (See the section [“How to Wind Yarn”](#))



Step B

- **Center-pull skein.** The yarn is wound into a cylinder. Unwind it from the outside or pull the end out from the inside (b). This results in fewer tangles and prevents the skein from rolling around as you draw yarn from it.

How to Read Yarn Labels

All the information you need to know about yarn is contained on its label. Each skein or hank of store-bought yarn has a label with useful information on recommended hook size, fiber content, care instructions, length, color name, and dye lot.

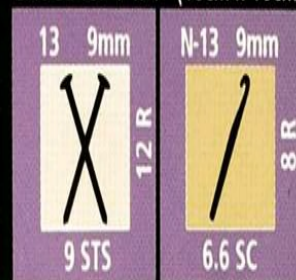
Length

When it comes time to figure out how many skeins of yarn you're going to need for a particular project, you need to know how many yards each skein contains (for example, 100 yards/4 ounces or 75 meters/50 grams). It's important to buy yarn according to length and not weight. A 4-ounce skein of lace-weight yarn might contain 1,200 yards, while 4 ounces of bulky-weight yarn might contain just 45 yards.

Color Name/number and Dye Lot

Yarns are dyed in limited quantities called *dye lots*. This may result in minor variations between lots of the same color. Yarn manufacturers stamp each label with the code for the dye lot of the yarn. To avoid color inconsistencies when you require multiple skeins of the same colored yarn for a project, make sure that you purchase all skeins from the same dye lot.

GAUGE for 4" x 4" (10cm x 10cm)



ozs	gms	yards	meters
6	170	108	98
*ACRYLIC	**WOOL	***RAYON	
86%	10%	4%	

Length

*Acrilico/Acrligue **Lana/Laine ***Rayón/Rayonne



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NY, NY 10011 USA

Suggestion: Please purchase a sufficient quantity of one dye lot to ensure uniformity of color in your completed project.

Color name
and number

Color #

Art # 640

Lot #

Dye lot

Wheat 402

29127A

Yarn Weight and Care Symbols

Although we do consider the weight of a ball of yarn, “weight” is also a type of quality a yarn possesses. **Yarn weight** refers to the thickness, or bulkiness, of a strand of yarn. These categories of yarn weights help us to get a feel for what uses a yarn is traditionally best suited for. You should keep the yarn label after your project is completed, so you’ll know how to care for it properly.

Yarn Weight Symbols

The Craft Yarn Council has established the following general, industry-accepted standard categories of yarn weights. Use this chart along with the information on a yarn’s label to get an even better idea of how best to use the yarn.

Yarn Weight Category Names	Types of Yarn in Category	Crochet Gauge* Ranges in Single Crochet to 4 inches	Recommended Hook in Metric Size Range	Recommended Hook in U.S. Size Range
Super Fine	Sock, Fingering, Baby	21–32 sts	2.25–3.5mm	B–1 to E–4
Fine	Sport, Baby	16–20 sts	3.5–4.5mm	E–4 to 7
Light	DK, Light Worsted	12–17 sts	4.5–5.5mm	7 to I–9
Medium	Worsted, Afghan, Aran	11–14 sts	5.5–6.5mm	I–9 to K–10½
Bulky	Chunky, Craft, Rug	8–11 sts	6.5–9mm	K–10½ to M–13
Super Bulky	Bulky, Roving	5–9 sts	9mm and larger	M–13 and larger

Care Symbols

Although some yarn labels spell out how to wash and dry items made from that particular yarn, universal yarn care symbols are also frequently used. To avoid accidentally ruining the gorgeous crocheted item you have spent hours creating, refer to the following chart to interpret yarn care symbols.



**MACHINE
WASH**

TEMPERATURE



Do Not Wash



Hand Wash



Normal



Delicate/Gentle



Cool/Cold



Warm



Hot



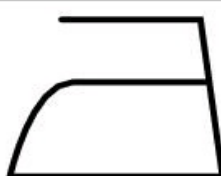
BLEACH



Do Not Bleach



*Any Bleach
(when needed)*



IRON

TEMPERATURE

(Dry or Steam)



Do Not Iron



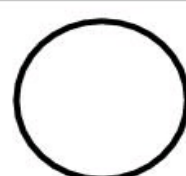
Low



Medium



High



**DRY
CLEAN**

TEMPERATURE



*Do Not
Dry Clean*



*Dryclean,
Petroleum
Solvent Only*



*Dryclean, Any
Solvent Except
Trichloroethylene*



*Dryclean,
Any Solvent*

How to Wind Yarn

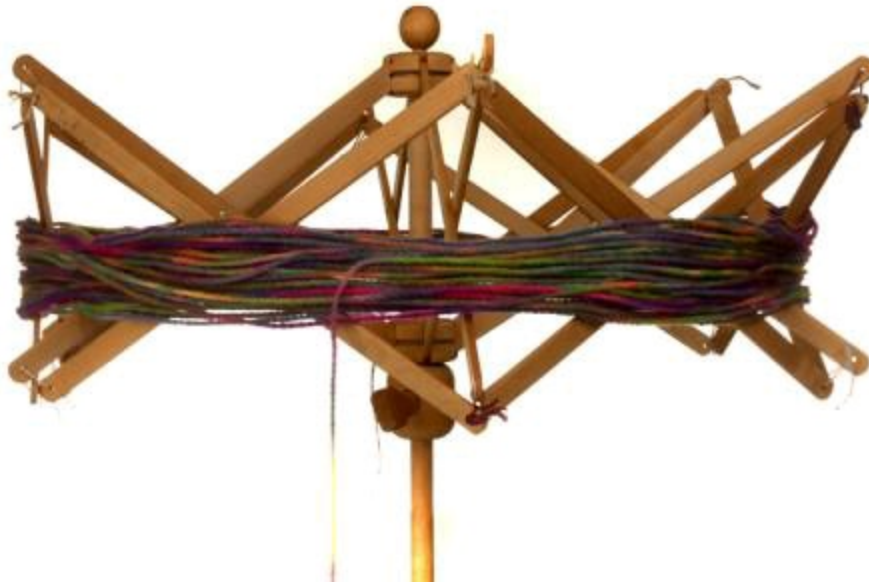
Whether you have a messy skein or a hank, you can use one of the following methods to wind the yarn into a ball.



Before you begin, you should carefully handle hanks after you remove the ties because the yarn might tangle. Secure the hank before you start winding the yarn.

Wind with a Swift

A swift resembles an umbrella apparatus; the hank is wrapped around it and it spins freely to enable you to wind the yarn easily by hand or with a ball winder (see below).



Wind with a Ball Winder

Attach the tail to the ball winder according to the winder's manual. If you're using a swift, wind the yarn while ensuring that the swift is spinning freely and the yarn is winding nicely onto the spool. You can use your free hand to control the tension of the yarn as it feeds from the swift to the winder.



Wind with a Chair

You can either 1) wrap the hank around the chair-back or 2) turn a chair upside

down and use the legs to hold the hank. As you wind the yarn by hand, you will need to walk around the chair instead of using a ball winder.



Wind with a friend

Slip the untwisted hank onto a friend's outstretched forearms. Cut or untie the strings holding the yarn bundled. Starting with an end of yarn, wind it into a ball.



Once the hank is untwisted and secured, cut the ties holding the yarn in a circle. Locate the ends of the yarn and choose the one that comes off the hank with ease.

Wind a Cener Pull Skein by Hand

1. Leaving a 6-inch tail, hold the yarn in the crook of your thumb.



2. Wind the yarn in a figure eight around your fingers about a dozen times.



3. Grab the figure eight by the middle and slide it off your fingers.
4. Fold the figure eight over.



5. Lightly wrap the yarn around the figure eight several times.



6. Rotate the figure eight as you wind the yarn around it, starting to create a ball shape.



7. As you wrap the ball, work around the tail so as not to cover it.

NOTE: Remember to wrap loosely; don't stretch the yarn tight. The ball should be soft, not hard.

Chapter 2: Getting Started and Basic Stitches

In this chapter, you will learn how to begin a crochet project and how to form simple stitches. From attaching yarn to your hook to working in rows—all the basics will be covered.

[Choose a Learning Yarn and Hook](#)

[How to Hold Your Hook](#)

[How to Hold Your Yarn](#)

[Notes for Left-Handed Crocheters](#)

[Make a Slip Knot](#)

[Make a Chain Stitch](#)

[Make a Foundation Chain](#)

[Identify Parts of the Chain](#)

[Make a Turning Chain](#)

[Make a Slip Stitch](#)

[Make a Single Crochet](#)

[Make a Half Double Crochet](#)

[Make a Double Crochet](#)

[Make a Treble Crochet](#)

[Count Your Stitches](#)

[Plan Your Crochet Project](#)

Choose a Learning Yarn and Hook

Starting with a smooth, simple, light colored yarn will help you concentrate on the stitches as well as the process of crocheting. You will soon become familiar with your stitches and using any type of yarn will be easier.

Select your yarn

Starting with a smooth, simple, light-colored yarn will help you concentrate on the stitches and on the process of crocheting.



Use the simplest yarn you can find. It should be smooth and durable. If the yarn frays, unravels, or untwists easily, it won't stand up well to the learning process, during which you will frequently need to pull out mistakes.

Choose a yarn that allows you to see your stitches clearly. Avoid fuzzy, heavily textured yarns. Dark colors make it hard to see the stitches as you're learning, so pick a light color.

Select your hook

Start with the hook size recommended on the yarn label. If you find that your stitches are too tight, switch to a larger hook. If your stitches are too loose, switch to a smaller hook. You should be able to easily insert your hook into the stitches you make, and you should feel comfortable with the shape of the hook shaft and the hook.

How to Hold Your Hook

There are different ways to hold a crochet hook. It's important that you find a grip that is comfortable and enables you to relax while you crochet.



NOTE: For left-hand instructions and photos, see the section [“Notes for Left-Handed Crocheters”](#).

The Hook Hand

Hold your hook in the hand you write with. This hand is in charge of controlling the hook and maneuvering it into and out of the stitches as you work.

You can hold the hook like a pencil...



...or like a knife.

Do what comes naturally as long as you can comfortably control the hook. Hold the hook firmly but not too tightly.



How to Hold Your Yarn

Since you control your hook with one hand, you use your other hand to hold your yarn so that it flows freely but maintains an even tension. Although it seems like your hook hand does all the work, your yarn hand performs an essential role.



NOTE: For left-hand instructions and photos, see the section [“Notes for Left-Handed Crocheters”](#).

The Yarn Hand

The yarn hand is just as important as the hook hand. In fact, the yarn hand does double duty, holding the body of your work and controlling the yarn.

The yarn is attached to the hook with a slip knot. (See the section [“Make a Slip Knot”](#))

Your middle finger and thumb hold the tail of yarn that dangles from the hook and hold the fabric you’re creating.

Use your index finger to hold and guide the yarn. Gently wrap the yarn once or twice around your index finger to achieve the control you need. The yarn should be taut but should slide easily along the hook as you make stitches.



Another popular way to control the yarn is to wrap the yarn around your pinky finger, then behind your other fingers, and finally over your index finger.

Everyone holds and guides her yarn differently. The guidelines above provide a good place to start. Work from here to see what's best for you. When both hands are relaxed, the stitches move easily on the hook.



Notes for Left-Handed Crocheters

Most books and patterns are written from a right-handed perspective. Here's

some information for lefties that will come in handy as you progress through this book.

Crochet Left-Handed

Here are some important techniques, illustrated for lefties.

As noted in the section [“How to Hold Your Hook”](#), the crochet hook can be held like a knife or pencil in your dominant hand or, in this example, your left hand. Referring to the section [“How to Hold Your Yarn”](#), wrap the yarn attached to the hook around your index finger (a). Your middle finger and thumb hold both the fabric you’re creating and the tail of the yarn that hangs from the hook.



Step A

The photo below (b) shows a yarn over as performed by a leftie. (See the section [“Make a Chain Stitch”](#) for more information on yarn overs.) Lefties work crochet stitches from left to right across their rows instead of from right to left.



Step B

TIP

Lefties Learning from Righties

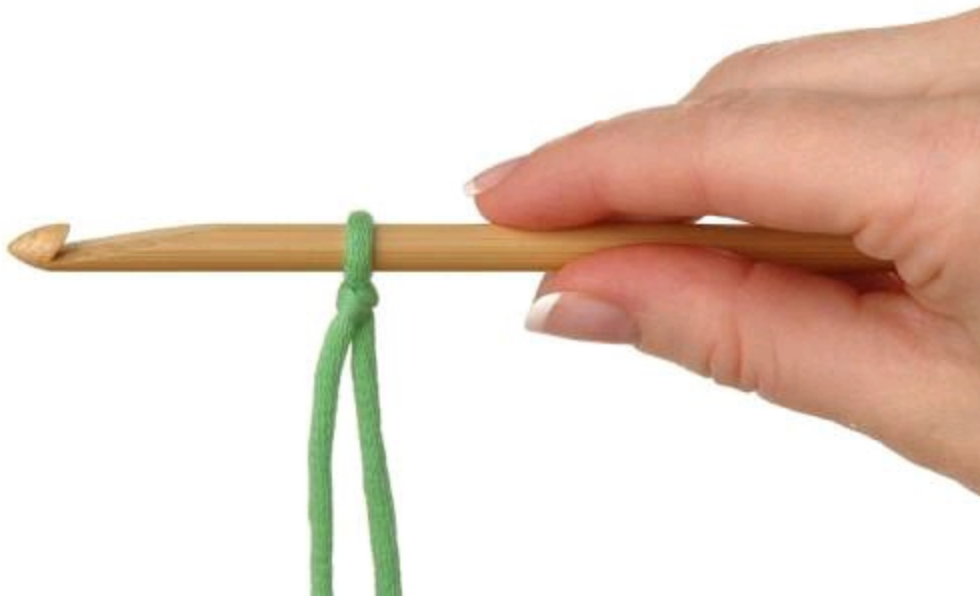
When learning from a right-handed crocheter, sit facing each other instead of side by side. Doing so allows you to mirror right-handed actions.

Mirror images of right-handed graphics may also help ease confusion. Hold a small mirror to the side of an image or use a photocopier to create mirror images.

Don't worry if your left-handed stitches look different from the pictures you see. Left-handed stitches slant differently, but that isn't wrong!

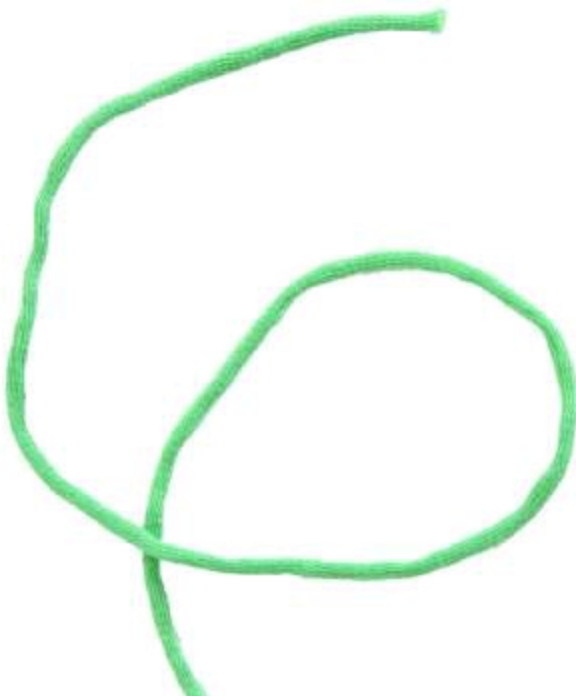
Make a Slip Knot

A slip knot is used to attach the yarn to the hook. Making the slip knot is the first step in beginning any project. There are many methods and tricks for making a slip knot. Try both options shown here and see what works best for you.



Slip Knot, Pretzel Method

1. Create a loop with your yarn, leaving at least a 6-inch tail.



Step 1

2. Place the loop on top of the tail.



Step 2

3. Insert the hook into the loop and under the tail.

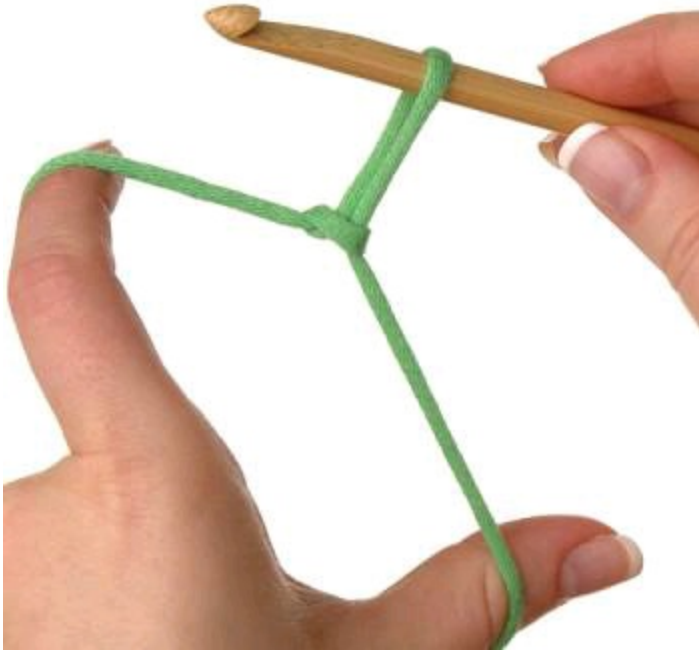


Step 3

4. Hold both ends of the yarn and pull gently to tighten.

The slip knot should be tight enough on the hook that there is no space between

the yarn and the hook, but loose enough that the knot slides easily.



Step 4

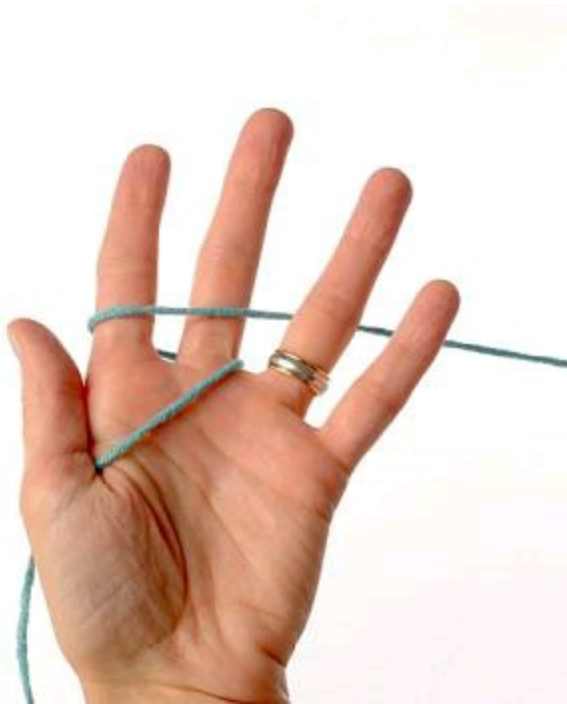
Slip Knot, X Method

1. Place the yarn tail in the crook of your thumb.



Step 1

2. Wrap the long end of the yarn over the back, up, and around your index and middle fingers.



Step 2

3. Wrap the yarn again, this time making an X.



4. Use a hook, or your fingers, to pull the top left part of the X through the X.
5. Slip the knot off your fingers, adjust the size, and place it on the crochet hook.



Make a Chain Stitch

The chain stitch is used to create a foundation for most crochet work as well as to create space between other stitches in lace patterns.

Pattern abbreviation: CH or ch.



Chain Stitch

1. Start with a slip knot on the hook.

NOTE: See the section [“Make a Slip Knot”](#) for more information.

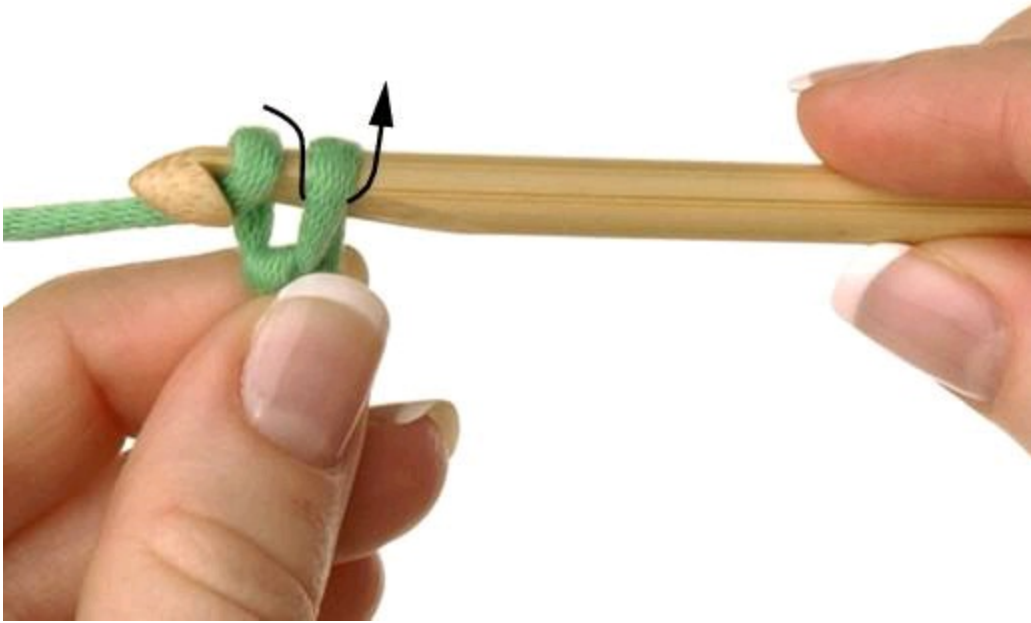


2. Yarn over.

To do a yarn over, wrap the yarn over your hook from back to front so that the yarn is coming toward you.



3. Draw the yarn through the first loop on your hook (the slip knot).
You've made 1 chain stitch. There is also 1 loop left on the hook.



4. Yarn over. Draw the yarn through the loop created by the last chain stitch made.

5. Repeat step 4 until you have made the desired number of chain stitches. (Do not count the slip knot as a chain. Also, do not count the loop on the hook.) Adjust your hold on the chain as it grows so that you're always holding it near the hook. Keep the chain hanging down from the hook. Do not let the stitches you've made twist around on the hook.



TIP

After each stitch, do not tighten the chain you've just made. Resist the urge to control your stitches by pulling them tight. If your chain is too tight, it will be difficult to work stitches into it later. You should have enough room to poke your hook through each chain stitch.



Make a Foundation Chain

To begin a crochet project, most patterns call for a foundation chain into which you will work your first row of stitches. The pattern will specify how many chain stitches you will need.



Foundation Chain

Chain 12. Now take a close look at your chain.

The side facing you as you work the chain stitches looks like a braid.



The back of the chain has a ridge down the middle, almost like a spine. There should be 12 chain stitches. Never count the loop on the hook or the slip knot.

For most patterns and swatches, you work a chain for every stitch you plan to

have in the first row, plus additional chains to serve as your first turning chain.

NOTE: See the section [“Make a Turning Chain”](#) for more information.



Identify Parts of the Chain

Work your stitches into whichever part of the chain you are most comfortable with. The examples in this book work into one loop of the chain.



One loop of the braid



Both loops of the braid



The ridge in the back



The ridge and a loop of the braid

Make a Turning Chain

Crochet stitches can be quite tall. You use chain stitches at the beginning or end of a row to create the height required by the stitches you are making. These **turning chains** (so called because you make them before or after turning your work at the end of a row) also keep the edges of your work neat and even.

The number of stitches required for the turning chain is added to the number needed in the foundation chain for the stitch pattern.

For example, for a row of 5 single crochet stitches, the foundation row is 6 chains. For a row of 5 double crochet stitches, the foundation row is 8 chains.

Each stitch requires a specific number of turning chains at the beginning or end of a row:

Stitch	Number of Turning Chains
Slip stitch	0
Single crochet	1
Half double crochet	2
Double crochet	3
Treble crochet	4

NOTE: See the sections on specific stitches for more information on the number of turning chains required.

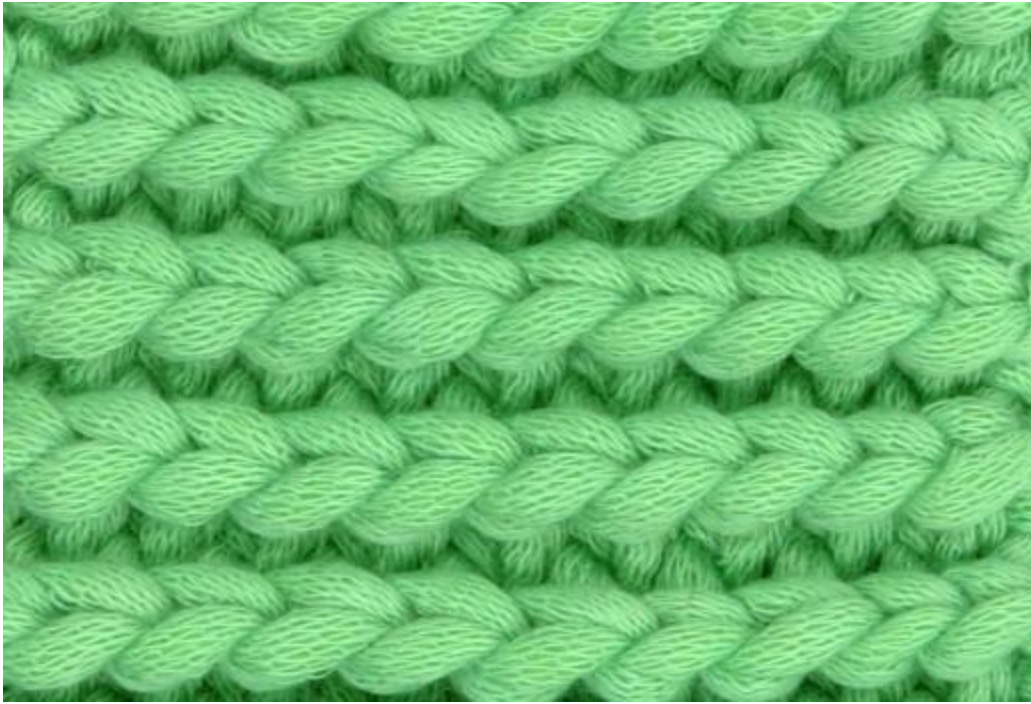
TIP

- This chart is only a guide. With experience, you may find that you prefer to use fewer chains to create a turning chain.
- A turning chain can be made at the end or beginning of a row. Crochet patterns may specify how to make the chains; if your pattern does not, follow your personal preference.

Make a Slip Stitch

The slip stitch creates the tightest, shortest, and stiffest crochet stitch and is frequently used to stitch squares or panels together when assembling an afghan or other large piece.

Pattern abbreviations: SL ST, sl st, Sl st, or SS.



Slip Stitch

To begin a project with a row of slip stitch, create a foundation chain (see the section [“Make a Foundation Chain”](#)) equal to the number of slip stitches you require. Work your first slip stitch into the second chain from your hook.

1. Insert the hook into the next stitch.



Step 1

2. Yarn over and draw the yarn through the stitch and through the loop on the hook.



Step 2

You have created one slip stitch.

3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 until you have completed your first row of slip stitch.



4. Turn the piece. Insert your hook through both loops at the top of the first stitch

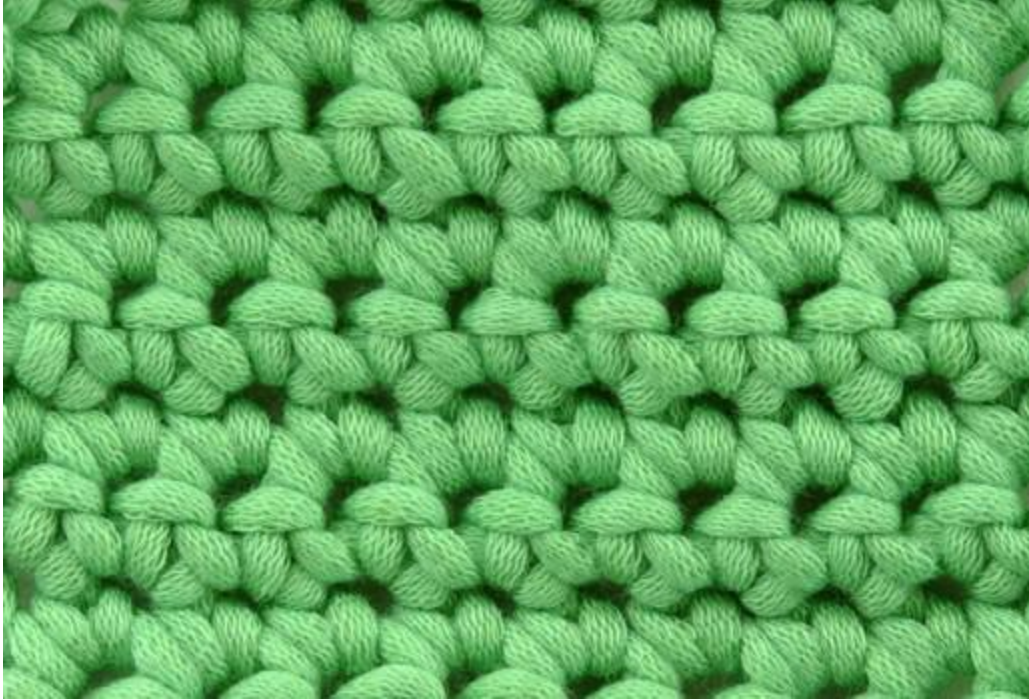
from the previous row. Follow steps 1 and 2.

NOTE: Slip stitches are very tight when worked in full rows. Take care to keep your tension loose, or use a hook that is larger than recommended.

Make a Single Crochet

The single crochet stitch is the basic foundation of crochet. Most other stitches are variations on this stitch.

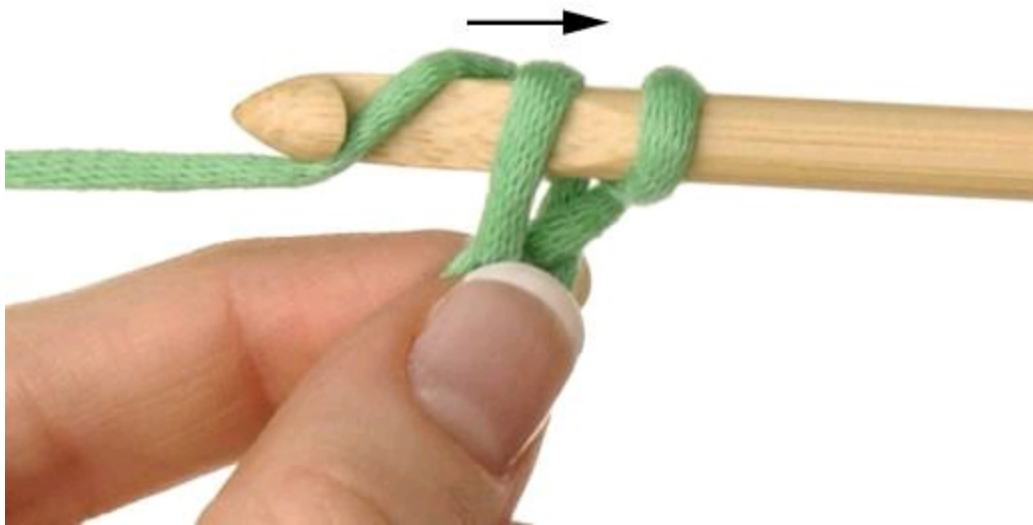
Pattern abbreviation: SC or sc.



Single Crochet

To begin a project with a row of single crochet, create a foundation chain (see the section [“Make a Foundation Chain”](#)) equal to the number of single crochet stitches you require, plus 1. Work your first single crochet into the second chain from your hook. Continue to the end of the chain. Turn.

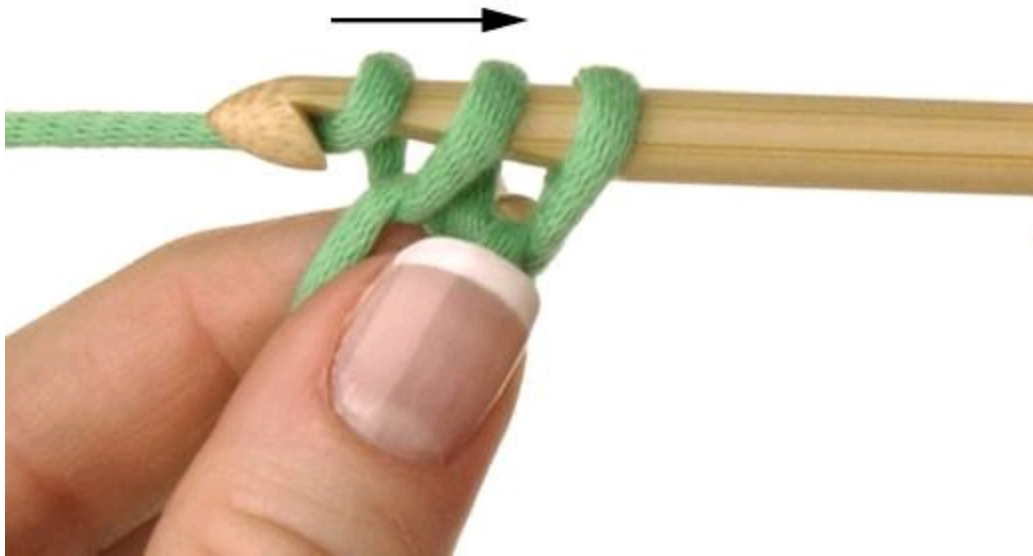
1. Insert your hook into the next stitch, and then yarn over by wrapping the yarn around the hook from back to front.



2. Draw the yarn through the stitch.
There are now 2 loops on the hook.



3. Yarn over and draw the yarn through both loops on the hook.
There is now 1 loop on the hook.



You have created 1 single crochet.



4. Repeat steps 1–3 until you have completed your first row of single crochet. Chain 1 to create a turning chain.

NOTE: For more on turning chains, see the section [“Make a Turning Chain”](#).



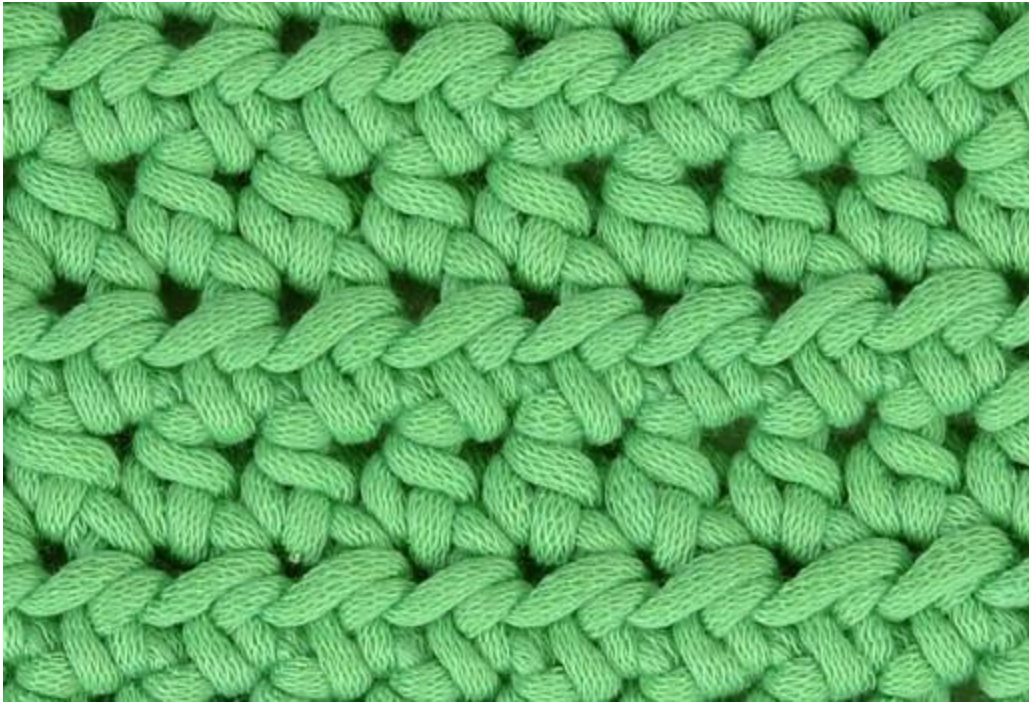
Step 4

5 Turn the piece. Insert your hook through both loops at the top of the first stitch from the previous row. Follow steps 1–3.



Step 5

Make a Half Double Crochet



Half double crochet is a versatile stitch that is commonly used to make garments, hats, and other accessories.

Pattern abbreviation: HDC or hdc.

Half Double Crochet

To begin a project with a row of half double crochet, create a foundation chain (see the section [“Make a Foundation Chain”](#)) equal to the number of half stitches you require, plus 2. Work your first half double crochet into the third chain from your hook. Continue to the end of the chain. Turn.

1. Yarn over once.



2. Insert your hook into the next stitch, yarn over, and draw the yarn through the stitch.

There are now 3 loops on the hook.



Step 2

3. Yarn over and draw the yarn through all 3 loops on the hook.

One loop remains on the hook. You have created 1 half double crochet.



Step 3

4. Continue to follow steps 1–3 until you have completed your first row of half double crochet. Chain 2 to create a turning chain.



5. Turn the piece. Skip the first stitch at the beginning of the row. The turning chain is counted as the first half double crochet of the row. Follow steps 1–3 to create a half double crochet in the second stitch of the row.



NOTE: For more on turning chains, see the section [“Make a Turning Chain”](#).

Remember to insert the hook through both loops at the top of the stitch from the previous row.

TIP

Because the turning chain counts as the first half double crochet at the beginning of a row, you work into it as though it were a half double crochet.



Make a Double Crochet

Like half double crochet, you make a double crochet stitch by doing a yarn over before inserting your hook into the next stitch.

Pattern abbreviation: DC or dc.



Double Crochet

To begin a project with a row of double crochet, create a foundation chain (see the section [“Make a Foundation Chain”](#)) equal to the number of double crochet stitches you require, plus 3. Work your first double crochet into the fourth chain from your hook. Continue to the end of the chain. Turn.

1. Yarn over once.



2. Insert your hook into the next stitch, yarn over, and draw the yarn through the stitch.

There are now 3 loops on the hook.



Step 2

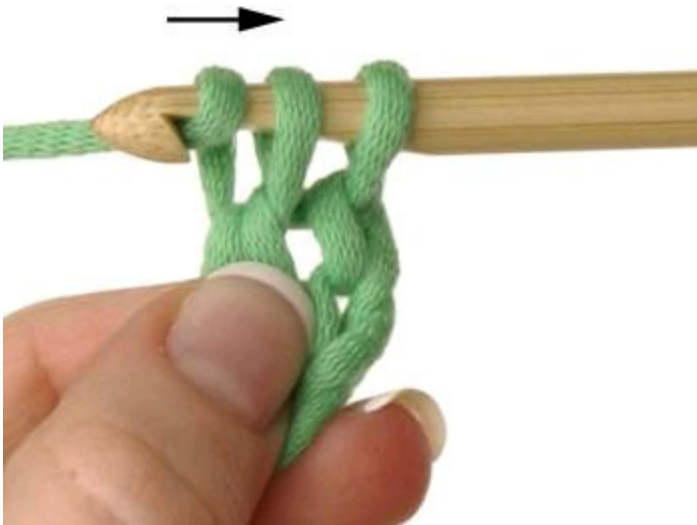
3. Yarn over and draw the yarn through the first 2 loops on the hook.

There are now 2 loops on the hook.



Step 3

4. Yarn over and draw the yarn through the 2 remaining loops on the hook. You have created 1 double crochet.



Step 4

5. Continue to follow steps 1–4 until you have completed your first row of double crochet.



Step 5

6. Chain 3 to create a turning chain (a). Turn the piece. Skip the first stitch at the beginning of the row. The turning chain counts as the first double crochet of the row. Follow steps 1–4 to create a double crochet in the second stitch of the row.



Step 6a

NOTE: For more on turning chains, see the section [“Make a Turning Chain”](#).

Remember to insert the hook through both loops at the top of the stitch from the previous row (b).



Step 6b

TIP

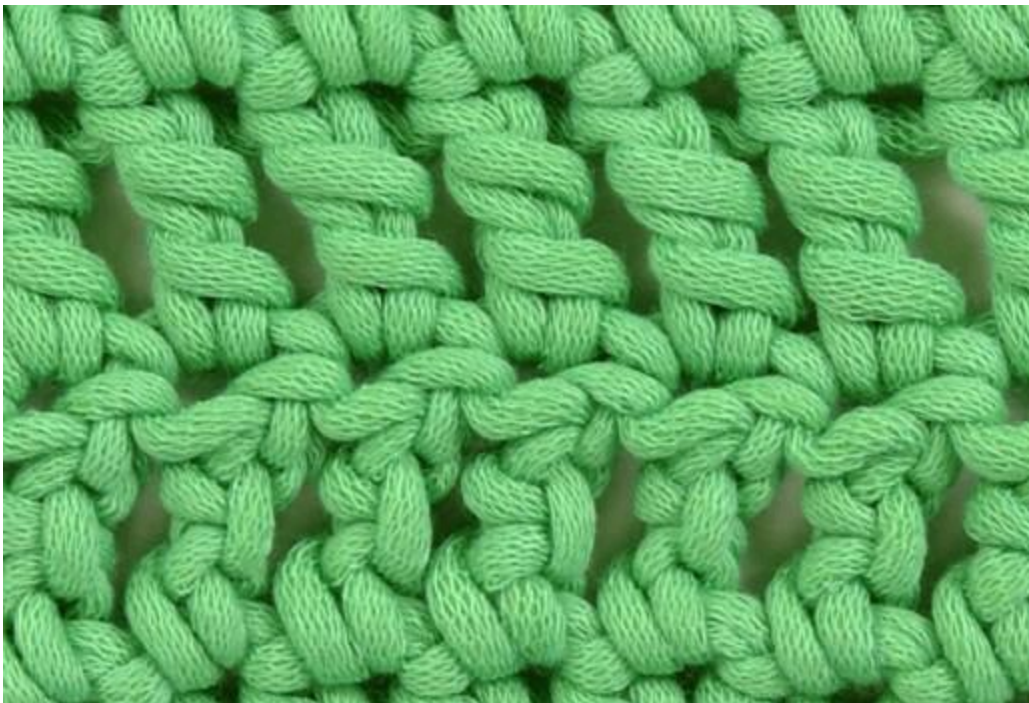
Because the turning chain counts as the first double crochet at the beginning of a row, you work into it as though it were a double crochet.



Make a Treble Crochet

Treble crochet (also called triple crochet) is a very tall stitch, which you create by making two yarn overs before inserting your hook into the next stitch. The tall stitches create a fabric with more drape than the single crochet or half double crochet stitches.

Pattern abbreviation: TR or tr.



Treble Crochet

To begin a project with a row of treble crochet, create a foundation chain (see the section [“Make a Foundation Chain”](#)) equal to the number of treble crochet stitches you require, plus 4. Work your first treble crochet into the fifth chain from your hook. Continue to the end of the chain. Turn.

1. Yarn over twice.



Step 1

2. Insert your hook into the next stitch, yarn over, and draw the yarn through the stitch.

There are now 4 loops on the hook.



Step 2

3. Yarn over and draw the yarn through the first 2 loops on the hook. There are now 3 loops on the hook.



Step 3

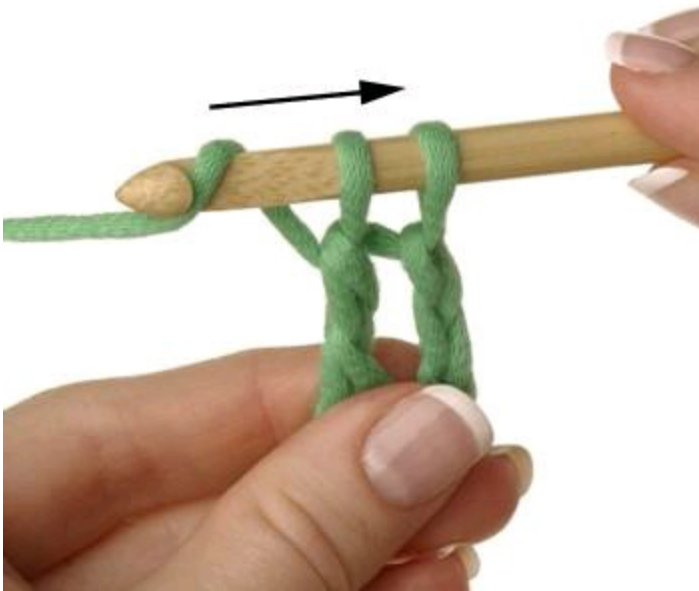
4. Yarn over and draw the yarn through the next 2 loops on the hook.

There are now 2 loops on the hook.



Step 4

5. Yarn over and draw the yarn through both loops on the hook (a).



Step 5a

You have created 1 treble crochet (b).



Step 5b

6. Continue to follow steps 1–5 until you have completed your first row of treble crochet. Chain 4 to create a turning chain.

NOTE: For more on turning chains, see the section [“Make a Turning Chain”](#).



Step 6

7. Turn the piece. Skip the first stitch at the beginning of the row. The turning chain counts as the first treble crochet of the row. Follow steps 1–5 to create a treble crochet in the second stitch of the row.

Remember to insert your hook through both loops at the top of the stitch from the previous row.



Step 7

TIP

Because the turning chain counts as the first treble crochet at the beginning of a row, you work into it as though it were a treble crochet.



Count Your Stitches

You need to count the number of stitches in each row or round of your work to determine whether you are achieving the correct gauge for the pattern you've chosen. It's also important to keep track of how many stitches are in a working piece—often, counting stitches is the best way to diagnose mistakes.



Identify Your Stitches

There are two easy ways to identify an individual stitch in your work:

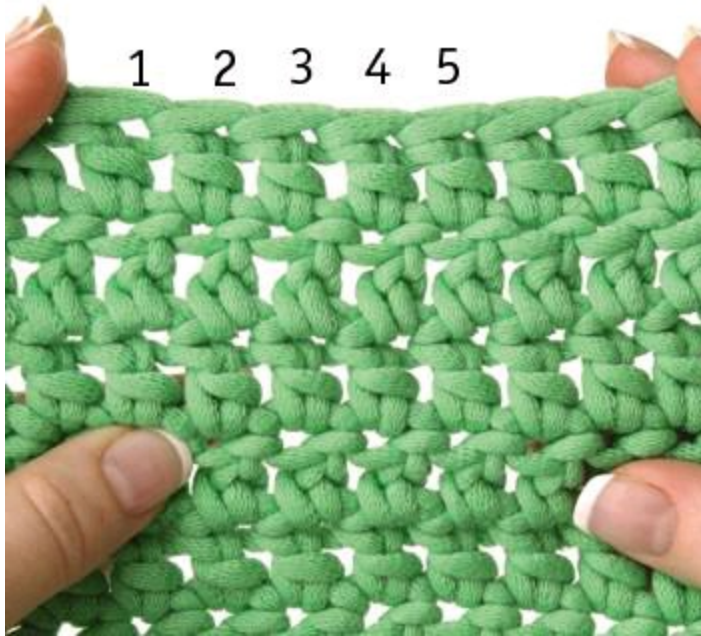
- Examine the tops of the stitches. The top of each crochet stitch looks like a braid or a V. Each braid or V corresponds to one stitch.



- Examine the post of the stitch. The post (a) is the “body” of the stitch. Just count the posts to see how many stitches you have made (b).



Step A



Step B

How Hook Size Affects Stitches

The hook size you use affects the size of the stitches you create; a large hook creates large stitches, while a small hook creates small stitches. The hook size you choose affects the fabric you create just as much as your choice of yarn, stitch, and pattern.



Recommended Hook Size

Most yarn labels indicate the hook size recommended for that particular weight of yarn (see the section [“Yarn Weight and Care Symbols”](#)), and patterns indicate the hook size used by the designer. Using a hook that is close to the yarn label’s recommended hook size results in a solid fabric that is neither too tight nor too loose, as you can see in the middle swatch. If you crochet tightly, you may need to use a hook that is one or two sizes larger than the recommended size to obtain the required gauge. If you crochet loosely, you may need to use a hook that is one or two sizes smaller to achieve the required gauge.

Much Larger Hook Size

Crocheting with a hook much larger than the recommended size for your yarn, like the bottom swatch, results in loose, open stitches that appear lacy and have excellent drape. Experiment with large hooks for making items such as scarves, shawls, and lacy cardigans.

NOTE: *Drape* refers to how well the fabric “flows.” Fabrics with good drape are flexible and move freely when worn; fabrics with little drape feel stiff and boxy.

Much Smaller Hook Size

Crocheting with a hook much smaller than the recommended size for your yarn results in tight stitches and an overall stiff fabric, as you can see in the top swatch. Experiment with small hooks for making items such as baskets, bags, and bowls.

Plan Your Crochet Project

It’s easy to determine how many stitches and rows you need for a project, and this information enables you to estimate how much yarn you require. You should purchase all the yarn you need at the beginning of your project.

Estimate Stitch and Row Count

First, do a little math to figure out how many stitches and how many rows are required.

Sample Project: Scarf

Size: 6 inches wide x 60 inches long

1. With the yarn you plan to use, work a 10 stitch x 10 row swatch. Measure and

count how many stitches are in an inch.

2. Multiply the number of stitches in an inch by the inches of width in the intended project.

For example, if your swatch has 4 stitches to an inch and your finished piece needs to be 6 inches wide, you'll need 24 stitches.

3. Measure and count how many rows are in an inch.

4. Multiply the number of rows in an inch by the inches of length in the intended project.

For example, if your swatch has 4 rows to an inch and your finished piece needs to be 60 inches long, you'll need to complete 240 rows.

For example, 4 stitches in the swatch = 4 inches of yarn.

2. Multiply this yarn length by the number of inches in the desired finished width of your project. This number is the length of yarn required to make 1 row.

For example, 4 inches of yarn x 6 inches of width in a row = 24 inches of yarn needed for 1 row.

3. Multiply the number of rows needed by the number of inches in a row.

For example, 24 inches x 240 rows = 5,760 inches.

4. Convert the inches to yards (36 inches = 1 yard). That's how much yarn you need.

When in doubt, purchase more yarn than you think you'll need. Keep in mind that your gauge may vary slightly throughout a project. You must also remember to account for the yarn tails you leave at the beginning and end of your work and every time you change color or add a new ball of yarn.



Chapter 3: Basic Techniques

Now that you know the basic stitches, you're ready to move on to more adventurous crochet. In this chapter, you will learn how to shape your crochet pieces, work in the round, change colors, and finish off a project.

[Increase](#)

[Decrease by Leaving Stitches Unworked](#)

[Decrease Gradually by Working Stitches Together](#)

[Create a Ring Using the Chain Stitch](#)

[Create a Ring Using a Loop](#)

[Work in the Round](#)

[Shape in the Round](#)

[Join New Yarn](#)

[Fasten Off and Weave In Yarn Tails](#)

Increase

You use increases to add one or more stitches to a round or row.

Pattern abbreviation: INC or inc.



Increase at the Edge of a Row

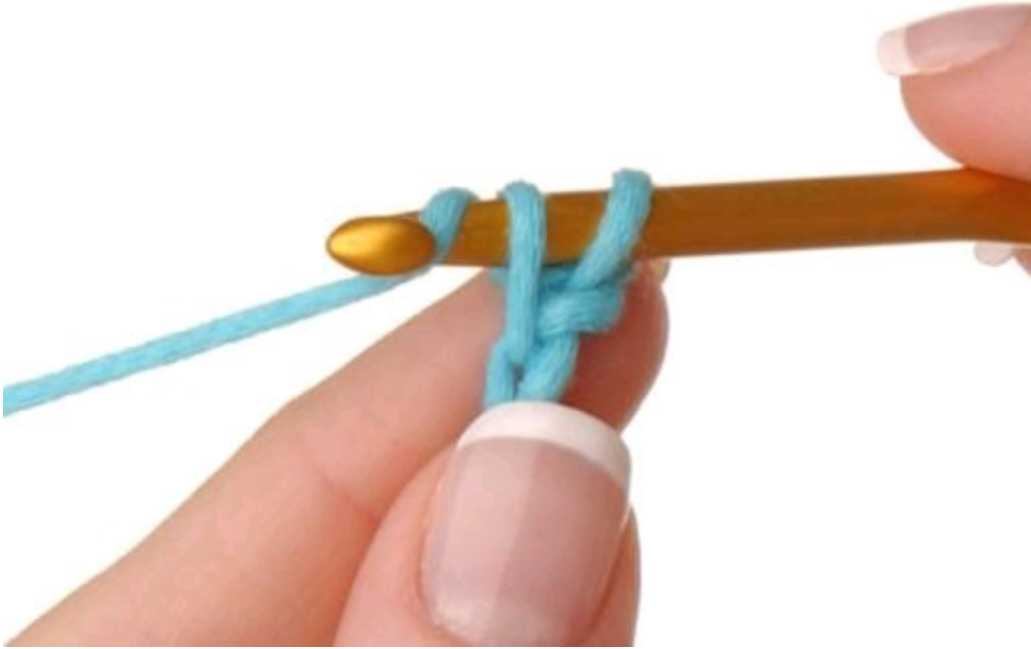
You use extra chains to provide room for more stitches at the edge of a row.

1. At the end of the row before the increase: Work a chain stitch for each increase, plus the turning chain.

NOTE: Refer to [“Make a Turning Chain”](#) for more information.



2. Turn your work. Skip the number of chains necessary for the turning chain. Work stitches into the extra chains.



3. Finish the row as usual.

NOTE: To avoid mistakes, it's important to count the number of stitches in your rows. Doing so is especially critical when increasing or decreasing.

Increase within a Row or Round

Work multiple stitches into 1 stitch to create an increase within a row or round.

To increase by 1 stitch, work 2 stitches into a single stitch from the previous row.



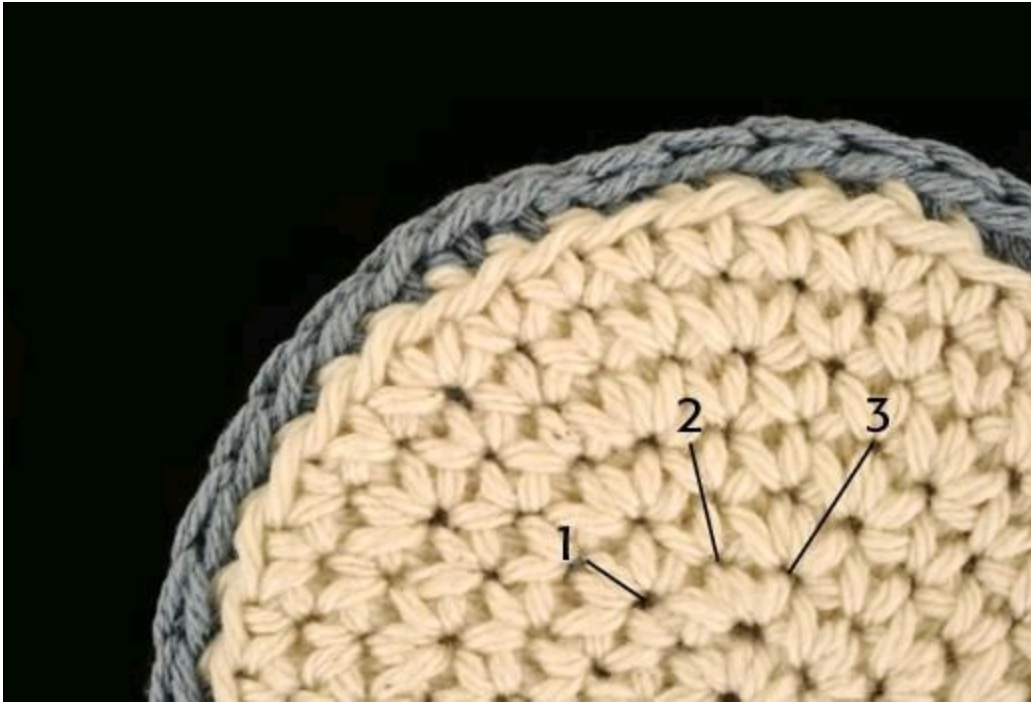
To increase by 3 stitches at once, work 4 stitches into a single stitch from the previous row.



For a more subtle increase of 2 or more stitches, spread the increases out over multiple stitches. (This example shows an increase of 2 stitches.)

1. Work 2 stitches into the stitch from the previous row.
2. Work 1 stitch into the next stitch from the previous row.
3. Work 2 stitches into the next stitch from the previous row.
4. Work even across the rest of the row.

NOTE: “Work even” means to complete the row without changes in stitch pattern and without increasing or decreasing.



Decrease by Leaving Stitches Unworked

You use decreases to reduce the number of stitches in a row or round. Doing so is useful in shaping crocheted fabric. There are several methods for decreasing by leaving stitches unworked; three methods are described here.

Pattern abbreviation: DEC or dec.

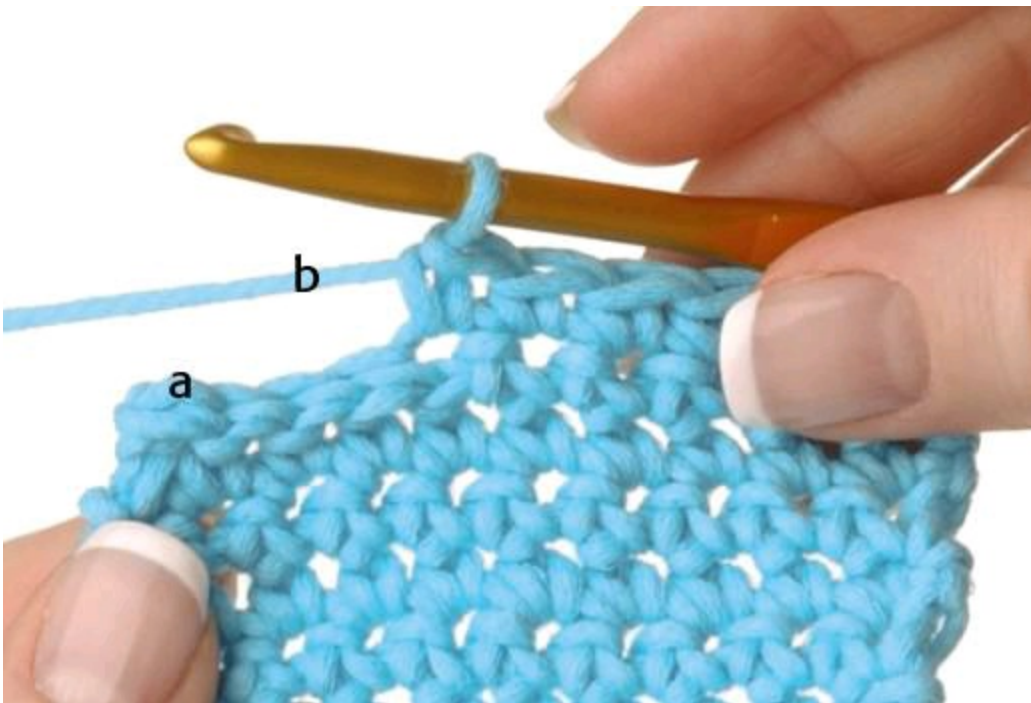
Skip a Stitch

Skip the next stitch and work into the stitch after it as usual. This method decreases a row by 1 stitch but also creates a small hole. Many patterns use this method to create decorative holes in the fabric.



Beginning of a Row

Do not make a turning chain. Work a [slip stitch](#) into each of the stitches from the previous row to be decreased (a). Make a turning chain that is necessary for the height of the row, but do not turn. Continue with the row as usual. This creates a sharp decrease on one side. On the next row, do not work into the slip stitches (b).



End of a Row

At the end of a row, do not work the final number of stitches equal to the number to be decreased. Leave the proper number of stitches unworked, create your turning chain, and proceed to the next row.

NOTE: To decrease by 3 stitches, complete the row by working into the fourth stitch from the end.



Decrease Gradually by Working Stitches Together

You create a gradual decrease by working stitches together. You can use this flexible decrease method anywhere in a row. Any number of stitches can be worked together, depending on the shaping effect you want. You can use any kind of stitch for this type of decrease. We've used double crochet as an example here.

Pattern abbreviation: #TOG (replace # with the number of stitches to be worked together, as in 2TOG).



Work Stitches Together

1. Work the stitch as usual until the final step, when 2 loops remain on the hook. Do not complete the stitch.



Step 1

2. Insert the hook into the next stitch and work to the same point. There are now 4

loops on the hook. Yarn over and draw the yarn through all 4 loops.
The decrease you have created will look like 2 stitches sharing a top.



Step 2

For a gradual decrease, use one or more 2TOGs worked over the course of a row or round. For a sharper decrease, use a 3TOG or 4TOG by repeating step 2 until 4 or 5 loops remain on the hook, respectively.



Create a Ring Using the Chain Stitch

You can use the chain stitch to create a ring as a foundation for working in the round. This method is easy to work and creates a strong center, but will likely leave a hole in the center of your piece.



Chain Stitch

1. Chain 5.

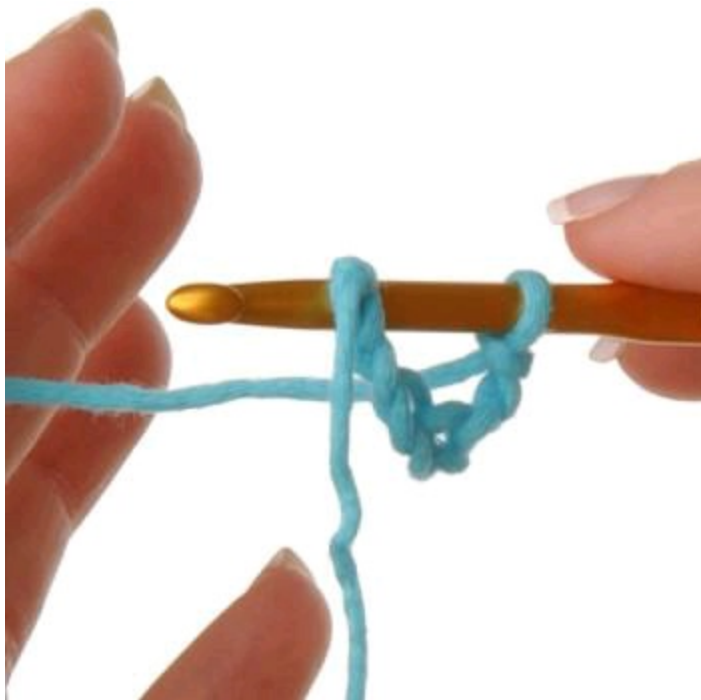
NOTE: We're using 5 chains as an example. You can use this technique with any number of chains greater than 3. See the section ["Make a Chain Stitch"](#) for more on chains.



Step 1

2. Slip stitch in the fifth chain from the hook (the first chain you made).

NOTE: See the section [“Make a Slip Stitch”](#) for more on slip stitch.



Step 2

TIP

There are different ways to work into the ring:

1. Work into each chain stitch as you would work into a foundation chain.
2. Ignore the individual chain stitches and work around the chain, through the center of the ring. To do so, insert your hook through the center of the ring, yarn over, and draw the yarn around the chains. Complete the stitch as usual.



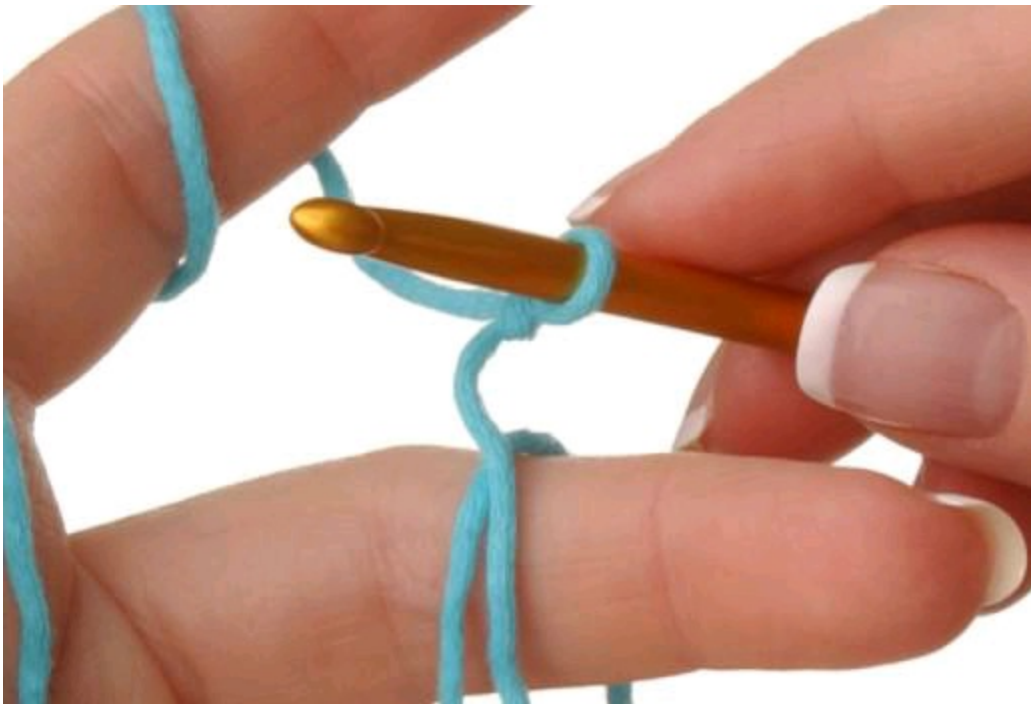
Create a Ring Using a Loop

Using a loop to form your foundation for working in the round creates an invisible, adjustable ring. The first round of stitches is worked into the loop.

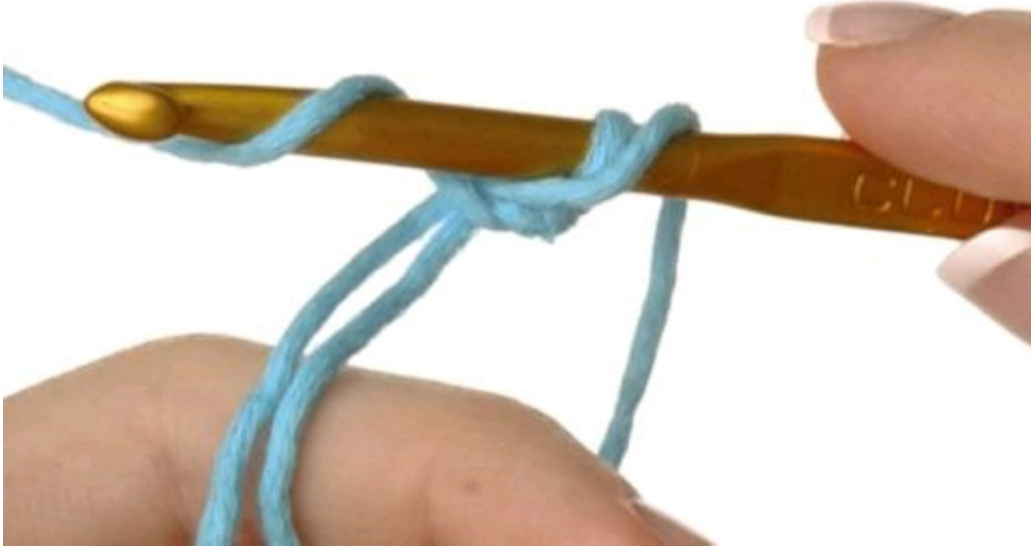


Loop

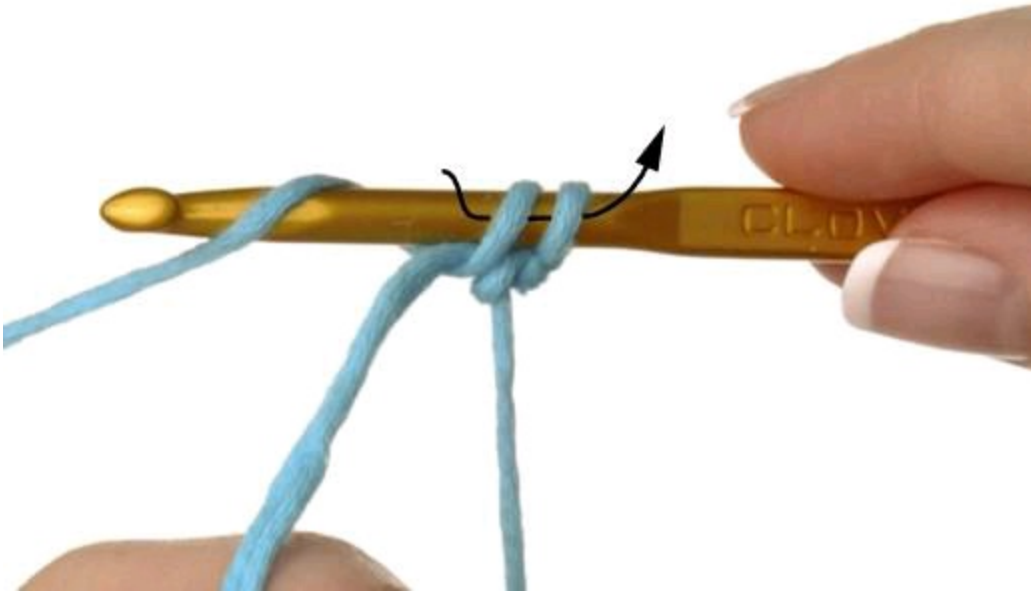
1. Begin with a slip knot on your hook, leaving a longer tail than usual.
2. Wrap the yarn tail twice around your 2 middle fingers to create a loop.



3. Insert your hook into the ring. Yarn over.



4. Draw the yarn through, and continue to draw it through the loop on the hook (the slip knot; see photo). This makes one slip stitch.
5. Work the appropriate number of chains to create the turning chain for the stitch you're using. Proceed by making the required number of stitches into the ring.



NOTE: This image shows how to work a single crochet into the loop ring.

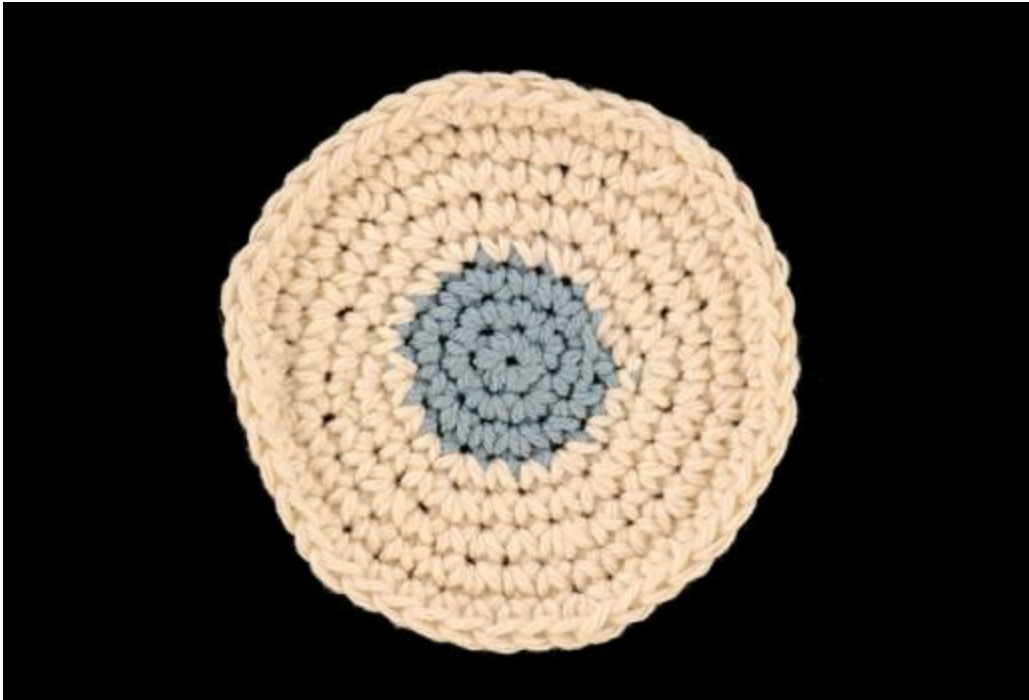
6. Pull the tail gently but firmly to tighten and close the ring.

FAQ

It is important to have a long tail to weave in at the center. Weave through the entire first round before cutting. This makes the center stronger.

Work in the Round

You can make hats, baskets, flowers, and garments by working in the round. Use rows to create a round piece with an even, finished edge. The following instructions use single crochet, but you can use any stitch.



Rounds

To get started, choose one of the ring methods from the preceding sections.

1. Chain 1 to create a turning chain. Do not turn.

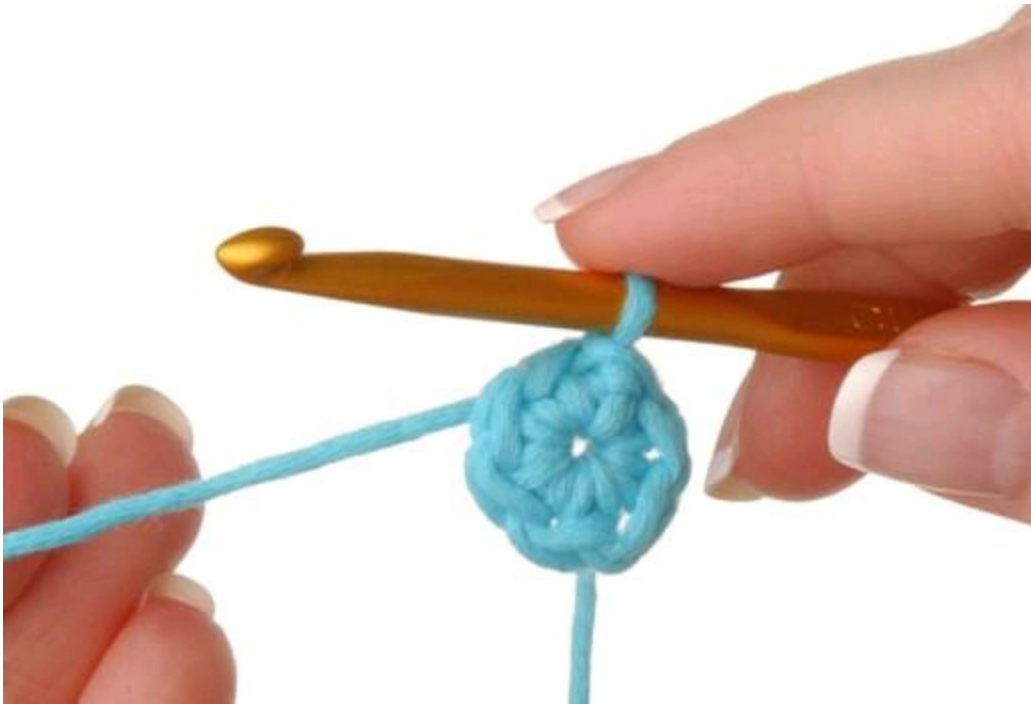
NOTE: Just as you do when working in straight rows, you use turning chains at the beginning or end of a round to accommodate the height of your stitches. Unlike when working in rows, you do not turn your work at the end of a round unless instructed to do so. Make a turning chain and continue working in the same direction.



2. Work 6 single crochets into the ring.
3. Slip stitch into the top of the first single crochet of the round to join.



4. Chain 1. Work 2 single crochets into the first single crochet from the previous round.



5. Work 2 single crochets into each stitch in the round.



6. Slip stitch into the top of the first single crochet of the round to join.
There will be 10 single crochets in this round.



Spiral Method

Work in the round without joining rows or making a turning chain simply by building on top of the last round without a turning chain. The following instructions use single crochet, but you can use any stitch.

To get started, choose one of the ring methods from the preceding sections.

1. Work 6 single crochets into the ring.



2. Work 2 single crochets into each single crochet of the previous round. Mark the first single crochet in this round with a stitch marker or a scrap piece of yarn to help you keep track of where the round started. Move the marker with each new round.



3. Continue to work 2 single crochets into each stitch of the round.

4. Work each round without joining with a slip stitch or creating a turning chain.



Shape in the Round

Working in the round from the center out often involves creating a flat circle. In order to accomplish this, increases are made evenly throughout each round. The following table, "Gradual, Spaced Increases" displays the distribution of increases for several common stitch counts.



Gradual, Spaced Increases

Continue from the final step from one of the methods from the preceding section.

Increasing each row by the same number of stitches you started with is a good general rule for creating gradual increases. You achieve this by interspersing increases with even work so that the number of increases you make are evenly distributed throughout the round.

The following example is for a piece that starts with 6 stitches in the first round.



Gradual, Spaced Increases

Round 1:	5 stitches	6 stitches	7 stitches	8 stitches
Round 2. Increase in every stitch for a total of:	10 stitches	12 stitches	14 stitches	16 stitches
Round 3. Increase in every other stitch for a total of:	15 stitches	18 stitches	21 stitches	24 stitches
Round 4. Increase in every third stitch for a total of:	20 stitches	24 stitches	28 stitches	32 stitches
Round 5. Increase in every fourth stitch for a total of:	25 stitches	30 stitches	35 stitches	40 stitches
Round 6. Increase in every fifth stitch for a total of:	30 stitches	36 stitches	42 stitches	48 stitches
Round 7. Increase in every sixth stitch for a total of:	35 stitches	42 stitches	49 stitches	56 stitches
Round 8. Increase in every seventh stitch for a total of:	40 stitches	48 stitches	56 stitches	64 stitches

TIP

Notice that each round contains a number of evenly spaced increases equal to the number of stitches in Round 1. Distributing the increases as directed creates a polygon instead of a true circle (this is especially noticeable when you have worked several rounds). To create a true circle, work the same number of increases in each round but stagger where you place the first increase so that you're not placing the increases in the same place on each round.

Join New Yarn

Whether it's time to switch to a new ball of yarn because you're running out or because you want to change to a different color or texture, you can make the switch at any point in your work. This method creates a secure and nearly invisible yarn change, whether you are continuing in the same color or switching

to a new color. It's excellent for crocheting stripes.



Change to a New Color or Ball of Yarn

1. Work the final stitch of the row with the original yarn until only 2 loops remain on the hook. Do not complete the stitch.



2. Yarn over with the original yarn and the new yarn held together. Leave a 6-inch tail of new yarn hanging off the back of the hook.



3. Draw both yarns through the loops on the hook to complete the stitch.



Step 3

4. Drop the old yarn. Continue crocheting as directed with the new yarn only.

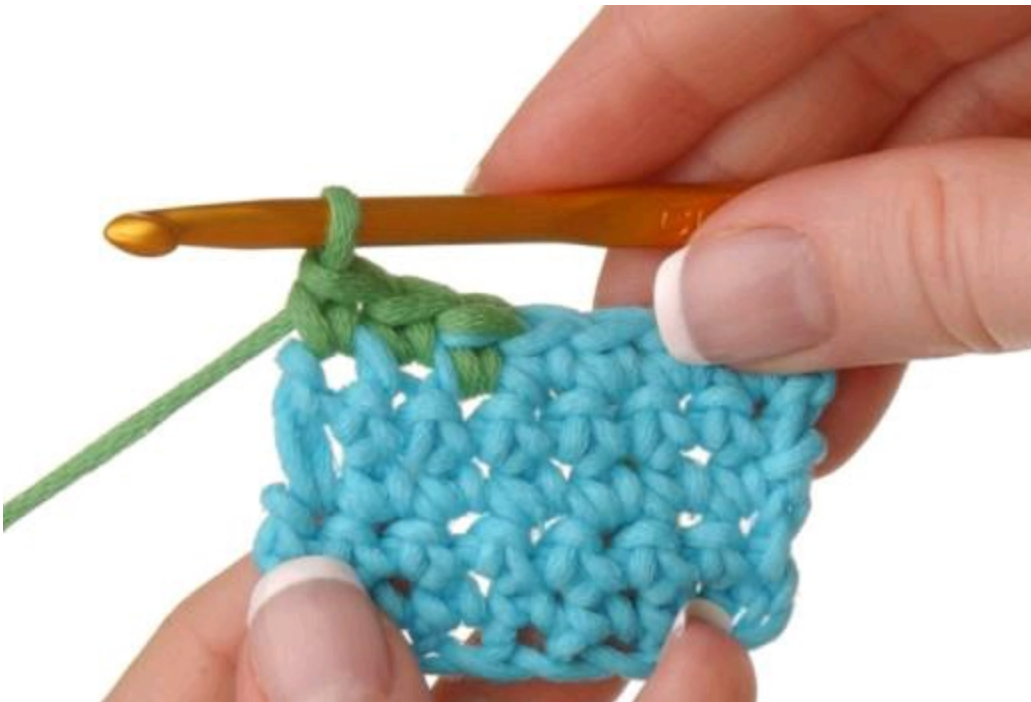


Step 4

5. If you've changed yarn at the end of a row, make a turning chain with the new yarn and turn.

If you've changed yarn in the middle of a row (see the photo), continue to work across the row as normal.

NOTE: You'll need to weave in the tails left by the old and new yarns. See the section [“Weave In Yarn Tails”](#).



Step 5

TIP

The stitch where two yarns are combined may be a bit fragile, which makes weaving in the ends important. Weave in the ends securely and the stitch will stay put.

Fasten Off and Weave In Yarn Tails

Even though you have completed all the crochet stitches for your project, you still have some work left to do. These finishing techniques will help you create a neat, finished-looking item.



Fasten Off

To secure your yarn so that your stitches don't unravel after you've completed your project, you need to fasten off.

1. Complete the last stitch.
2. Cut the yarn, leaving a tail that's at least 6 inches long.
3. Yarn over, draw the entire tail through the loop, and pull tight.



Now you're ready to weave in the tail or add a decorative edging. (See [Chapter 13](#) for more on edgings.)

TIP

Sometimes a knot is necessary to keep the yarn securely fastened. Tie a simple knot before weaving in the tail.



Weave In Yarn Tails

Every project involves at least two yarn tails: one created when you make your slip knot or beginning loop, and one left when you fasten off. You also leave yarn tails when you join new yarn or change colors. Weave the tails into your work to avoid unsightly, bumpy knots and to prevent your stitches from unraveling.

Use a tapestry needle to weave yarn tails through the stitches on the wrong side of the fabric to secure them and hide them from view. The *wrong side* is the side that will not face out when the piece is completed (on a garment, the side worn against the skin).

To make sure that the tail remains secure, create a *U*, *C*, or *Z* shape as you sew the yarn into the crochet stitches. The more zigzags there are, the less likely the yarn will come out.

1. Insert the needle into the body of the first stitch and draw the needle through.



2. Insert the needle into the next stitch.



Step 2

3. Insert the needle into the next row.



Step 3

4. Insert the needle into the next row.

5. Continue weaving in the tail, creating a horseshoe or zigzag shape. Take care to

make the tail as inconspicuous as possible on the side of the work that will show (the right side).



6. When you're sure you've woven in enough that the tail won't slip out, tug on the crochet fabric in all directions to settle the tail in place. Cut the end of the tail if necessary.

Chapter 4: Stitch Variations

Building on the basic crochet stitches opens up infinite possibilities for texture, structure, lace, and beyond. Slight variations in how you make your stitches can create subtle differences in the look and feel of your crocheted fabric.

[Make a Double Treble Crochet](#)

[Make an Extended Single Crochet](#)

[Make an Extended Double Crochet](#)

[Make an Extended Half Double Crochet](#)

[Make a Crab Stitch](#)

[Work in the Front Loop or Back Loop Only](#)

[Make a Spike Stitch](#)

[Make Crossed Stitches](#)

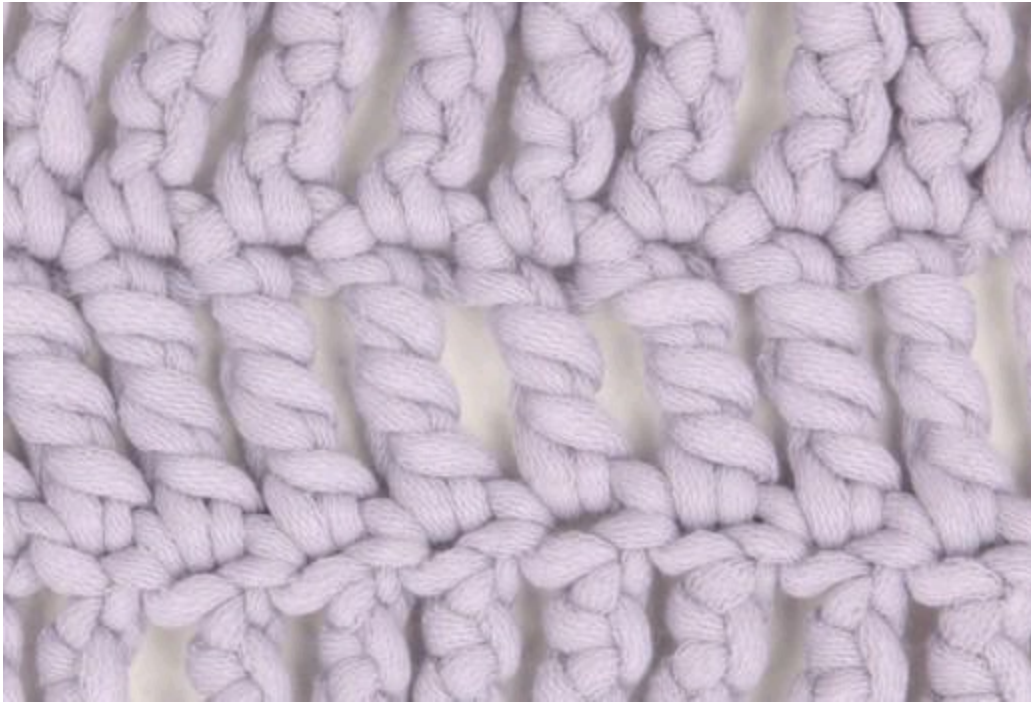
[Work Double Crochet Post Stitches](#)

[Work a Treble Crochet Post Stitch](#)

Make a Double Treble Crochet

The double treble crochet stitch (also known as quadruple crochet) is very tall. It is frequently used in combination with other stitches to create dramatic stitch patterns.

Pattern abbreviation: DTR or dtr.



Double Treble Crochet

Foundation chain: Create a chain equal to the number of stitches you require, plus 5. (See the section [“Make a Foundation Chain”](#) for more information.) Work your first double treble crochet into the sixth chain from your hook.

1. Yarn over 3 times.



2. Insert the hook into the next stitch, yarn over, and draw the yarn through the

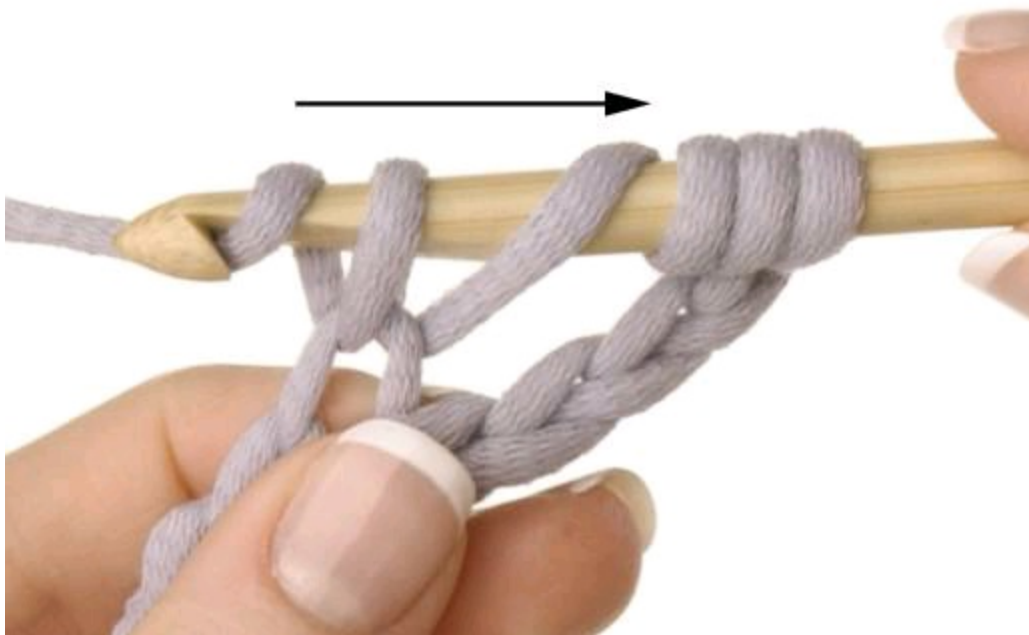
stitch.

There are now 5 loops on the hook.



3. Yarn over and draw the yarn through the first 2 loops on the hook.

There are now 4 loops on the hook.



4. Yarn over and draw the yarn through the next 2 loops on the hook.

There are now 3 loops on the hook.



5. Yarn over and draw the yarn through the next 2 loops on the hook.
There are now 2 loops on the hook.



6. Yarn over and draw the yarn through both loops on the hook (a).



Step 6a

You have created 1 double treble crochet (b).



Step 6b

7. Repeat steps 1–6 until you have completed your first row of double treble crochet. Chain 5 to create a turning chain.



8. Turn the piece. Skip the first stitch at the beginning of the row. The turning chain counts as the first double treble crochet of the row. Follow steps 1–6 to create a double treble crochet in the second stitch of the row and in each stitch thereafter.



TIP

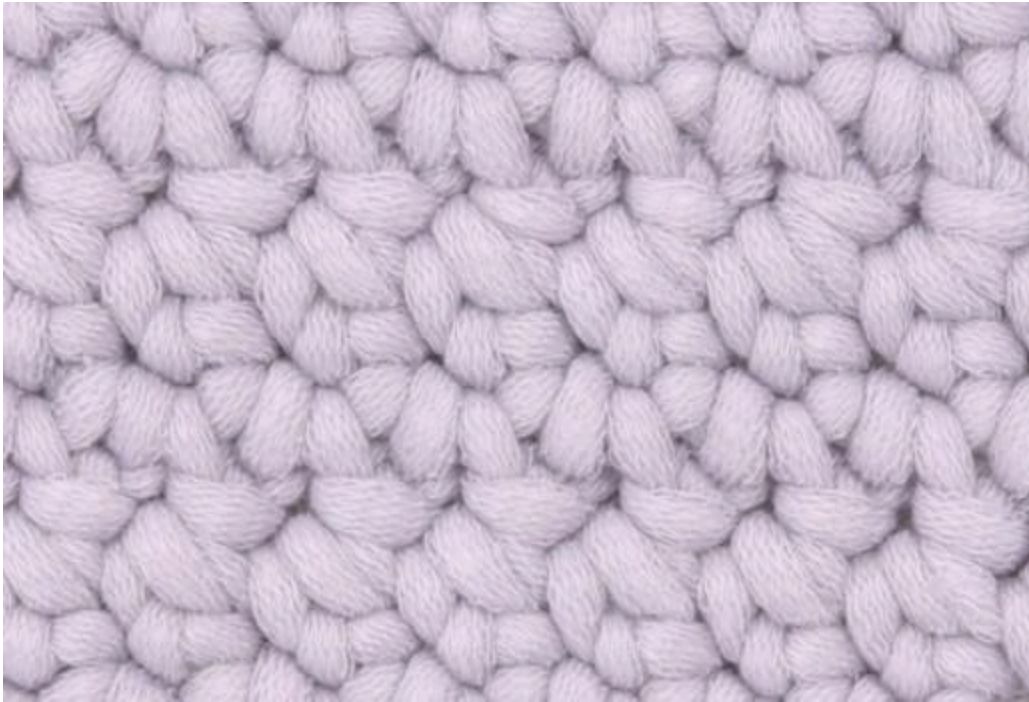
Because the turning chain likely counts as a double treble crochet in your pattern, work into the top chain as though it were a proper stitch, unless your pattern tells you otherwise.

Some patterns call for even taller stitches. Triple treble starts with four yarn overs and follows the same progression of steps: continue to work the stitch as you would the double treble, until one loop remains on the hook.

Make an Extended Single Crochet

The extended single crochet stitch is taller than the single crochet stitch. (See the section [“Make a Single Crochet”](#)) It creates an interesting texture that adds a change of pace to any project.

Pattern abbreviation: ESC or esc.



Extended Single Crochet

Foundation chain: Create a chain equal to the number of stitches you require, plus 2. (See the section [“Make a Foundation Chain”](#) for details.) Work your first extended single crochet into the third chain from your hook.

1. Insert the hook into the next stitch, yarn over, and draw up a loop.

There are now 2 loops on the hook.



2. Yarn over and draw the yarn through the first loop on the hook.
There are now 2 loops on the hook.

NOTE: Add step 2 to any basic stitch to make an extended crochet stitch.



3. Yarn over and draw the yarn through both loops on the hook. There is now 1 loop on the hook.



You have created 1 extended single crochet.



4. Repeat steps 1–3 until you have completed your first row of extended single crochet. Chain 2 to create a turning chain.
5. Turn the piece. Insert your hook through both loops at the top of the first stitch from the previous row. Repeat steps 1–4.



Make an Extended Double Crochet

The extended double crochet stitch is a taller variation of standard double crochet. (See the section [“Make a Double Crochet”](#) for more information.)

Pattern abbreviation: EDC or edc.



Extended Double Crochet

Foundation chain: Create a chain equal to the number of stitches you require, plus 3. (See the section [“Make a Foundation Chain”](#)) Work your first extended double crochet into the fourth chain from the hook.

1. Yarn over. Insert the hook into the next stitch, yarn over, and draw the yarn through the stitch.

There are now 3 loops on the hook.



Step 1

2. Yarn over and draw the yarn through the first loop on the hook.

There are now 3 loops on the hook.



Step 2

3. Yarn over and draw the yarn through 2 loops on the hook.
There are now 2 loops on the hook.



Step 3

4. Yarn over and draw the yarn through the 2 remaining loops on the hook (a).



Step 4a

You have created 1 extended double crochet (b).



Step 4b

5. Repeat steps 1–4 until you have completed your first row of extended double crochet. Chain 3 to create a turning chain.



6. Turn the piece. Skip the first stitch at the beginning of the row. The turning chain counts as the first extended double crochet of the row. Repeat steps 1–5 to create an extended double crochet in the second stitch of the row and in each stitch thereafter.

NOTE: Because the turning chain counts as the first extended double crochet at the beginning of a row, work into it as though it were an extended double crochet stitch.



Make an Extended Half Double Crochet

The extended half double crochet is a bit taller than the standard half double crochet stitch.

Pattern abbreviation: EHDC or ehdc.



Extended Half Double Crochet

Foundation chain: Create a chain equal to the number of stitches you require, plus 2. (See the section [“Make a Foundation Chain”](#)) Work your first extended half double crochet into the third chain from your hook.

1. Yarn over. Insert the hook into the next stitch, yarn over, and draw the yarn through the stitch.

There are now 3 loops on the hook.



Step 1

2. Yarn over and draw the yarn through the first loop on the hook.
There are now 3 loops on the hook.



Step 2

3. Yarn over and draw the yarn through all 3 loops on the hook.

One loop remains on the hook.



Step 3

You have created 1 extended half double crochet.



4. Repeat steps 1–3 until you have completed your first row of extended half double crochet. Chain 3 to create a turning chain.



Step 4

5. Turn the piece. Skip the first stitch at the beginning of the row. The turning chain counts as the first extended half double crochet of the row. Repeat steps 1–4 to create an extended half double crochet in the second stitch of the row and in each stitch thereafter.



Step 5

TIP

Because the turning chain counts as the first extended half double crochet at the beginning of a row, you work into it as though it were an extended half double crochet stitch.



Make a Crab Stitch

Crab stitch (also known as shrimp stitch, reverse single crochet, or corded reverse edging) is simple and decorative. Worked in reverse direction (from left to right if you are right-handed or right to left if you are left-handed), crab stitch is easy to make. It does not have a pattern abbreviation but is frequently referred to as rev sc or rsc.



Crab Stitch

Because crab stitch is worked in reverse, begin with a foundation row of any stitch. Here, we used single crochet. (See the section [“Make a Single Crochet”](#).) These steps are for right-handers. Lefties can reverse the direction.

1. At the end of a row of any stitch, do not turn your work or make a turning chain. Insert your hook into the next stitch *to the right*.
2. Yarn over and draw the yarn through the stitch.

There are now 2 loops on the hook.



Step 2

3. Draw the yarn through the 2 loops on your hook, the same way you would if you were working a single crochet.

You have made 1 crab stitch.



Step 3

4. Continue to make crab stitches by inserting your hook into the next stitch to the right. When you reach the end of the row, do not turn your work.



Step 4

Work in the Front Loop or Back Loop Only

Using texture in your crochet work creates variety and visual interest. In this section, you will learn the simplest technique to add a subtle texture to your basic stitches by working into only the front loops or back loops of stitches from the previous row.

Pattern abbreviations: FLO and BLO.

Front Loop/Back Loop Texture Changes

Throughout this book, we instruct you to create stitches by inserting your hook into both loops of the stitch from the previous row, as shown here. You can also insert your hook into only the back or front loop when you work a stitch. Working into only one of the loops creates a subtle change in texture.



The *front loop* is the loop closer to you when you are holding your crochet work in front of you. Working into the front loop only is also referred to as a *front porch stitch*.



The *back loop* is the one farther from you. Working into the back loop is also known as a *back porch stitch*.



Crochet a swatch using any stitch. After working a few rows using both loops, crochet an entire row working into the front loop only. Note the slight ridge on one side of the fabric created by that unused back loop. Make another swatch by working the back loop only.



Alternating between working stitches into the front and back loops of the same row creates a rumpled texture.

Working into only one loop in every row for an entire piece creates a fabric with gentle drape. The fabric feels less dense than when you work both loops.

NOTE: Patterns indicate whether to work in the front loop or back loop only; if no mention is made, work in both loops.



Make a Spike Stitch

You can use spike stitches in a number of ways to add elaborate-looking details to crocheted fabric. Just work into any space below the top loops of the stitches from the previous row; this results in a “spike” of yarn connecting the stitch you have chosen to the current working row.

You can work a spike stitch into fabric composed of any crochet stitch. This example uses single crochet. Begin with at least 2 rows of single crochet.



Spike Stitch

1. Instead of inserting your hook into the top loops of the next stitch, insert your hook into the space directly below the next stitch from the previous row.



2. Yarn over and draw up a loop. Pull this loop up to the working row, taking care not to pull the stitch too tight.



Step 2

3. Yarn over and draw the yarn through both loops on the hook. You have created one single crochet spike stitch.



Step 3

Use a Spike Stitch

You can use spike stitches in a variety of ways to add interest to your crochet work. Any of the following simple combinations can be used as a border or inside a piece.

Work Alternating Single Crochets and Spikes

Alternate single crochets and spikes in the same row. This effect is striking as a border.



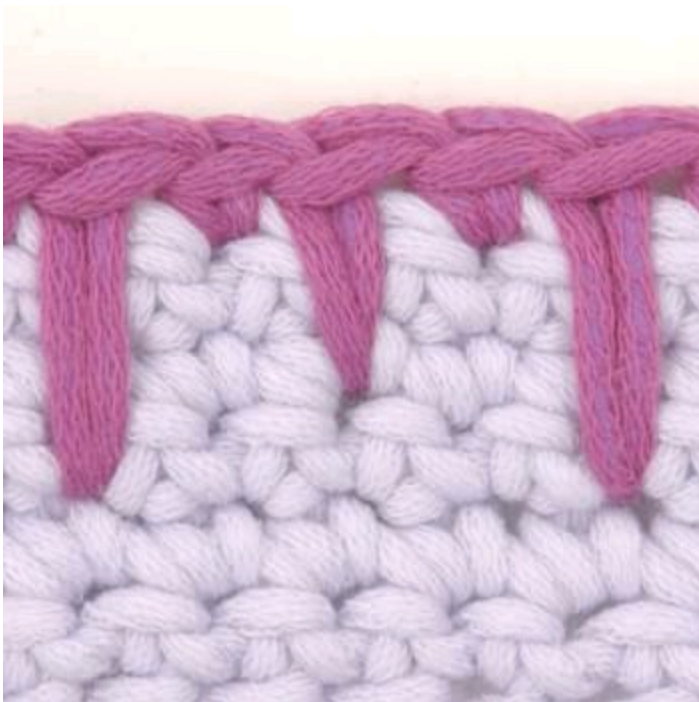
Work Long Spikes

Form longer spikes by working into a space several rows below the working row. When drawing up a loop, be sure to make it nice and long (a). Doing so prevents the fabric from buckling.



Step A

Combine single crochets with long spikes to add dramatic detail (b).



Step B

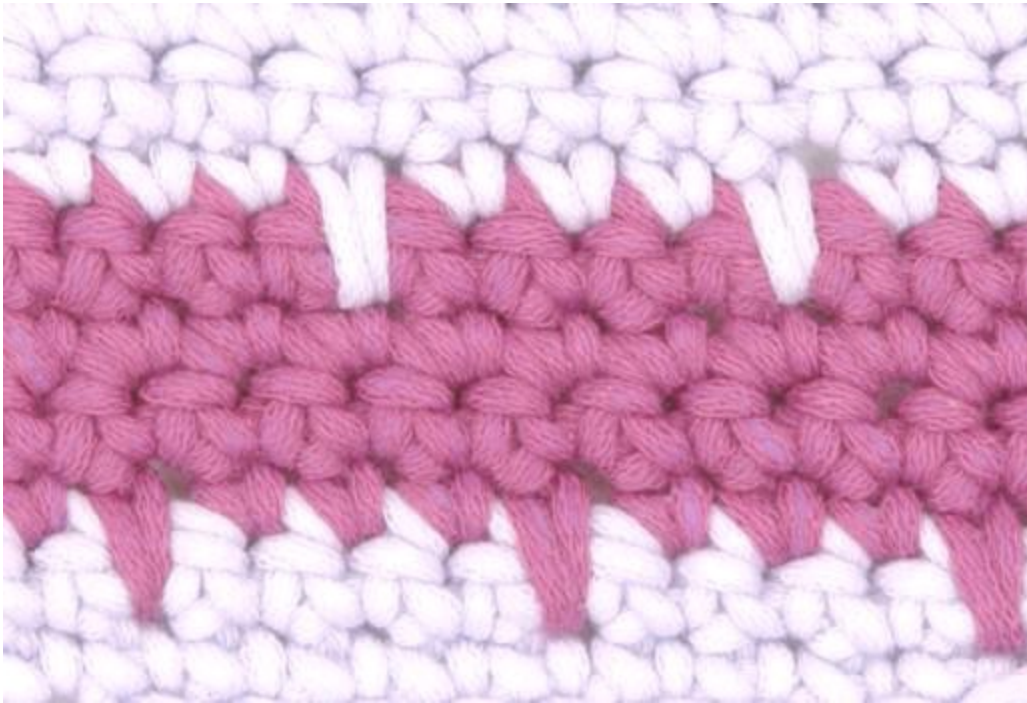
Work * 1 single crochet, 1 long spike. Repeat from * to the end of the row.

Experiment with Color

Changing color with each row, alternate working the following 2 spike rows with rows of single crochet between them. (See the section [“Join New Yarn”](#) for more on changing colors.)

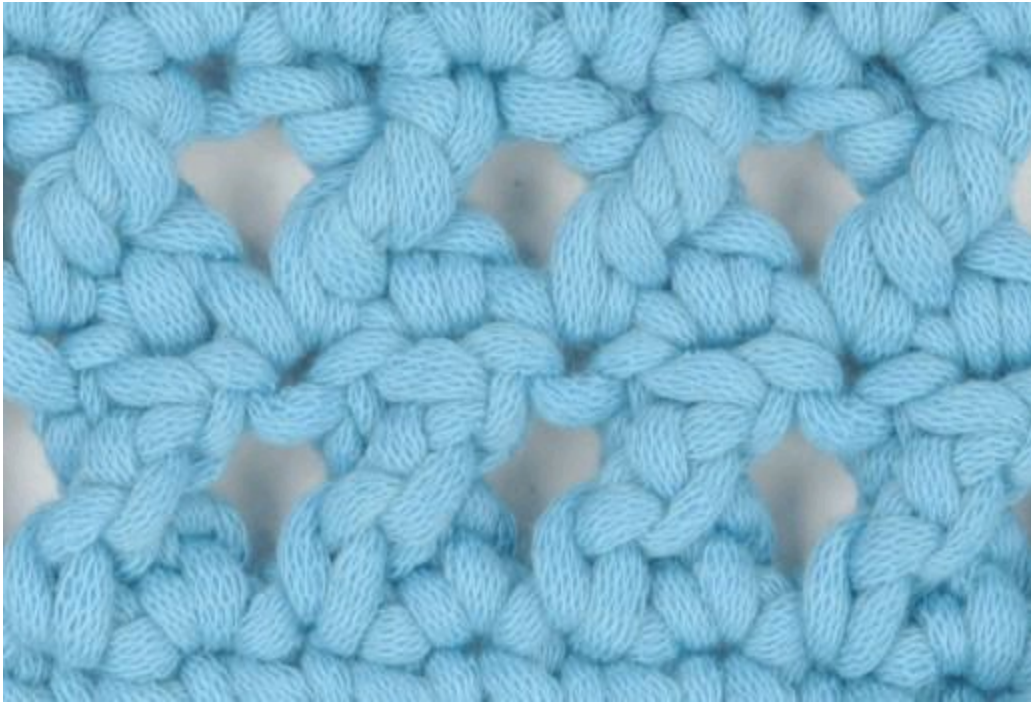
Spike row 1: 1 single crochet, 1 spike, * 3 single crochet, 1 spike. Repeat from * to the end of the row.

Spike row 2: * 3 single crochet, 1 spike. Repeat from * to the end of the row.



Make Crossed Stitches

You create crossed stitches by working pairs of stitches in backward order, creating a pattern of Xs. Using treble crochet as an example, this section shows you a method for crossing stitches that you can use with any crochet stitch.



Make Rows of Crossed Treble Crochet

You can work this stitch directly into a foundation chain or into any row of stitches. To make crossed treble crochet, start with a foundation chain of an odd number of stitches, plus a turning chain of 4.

1. Work a treble crochet into the sixth chain from the hook.
2. Tilt the piece toward you and work a treble crochet into the chain preceding the last stitch made.



You have created a pair of crossed stitches.



3. Skip 1 stitch and work a treble crochet into the next stitch.
4. Work a treble crochet into the skipped stitch preceding the last treble crochet made.



5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 until you have reached the last chain. Work a treble crochet into the last chain. Chain 4 and turn.



Step 5

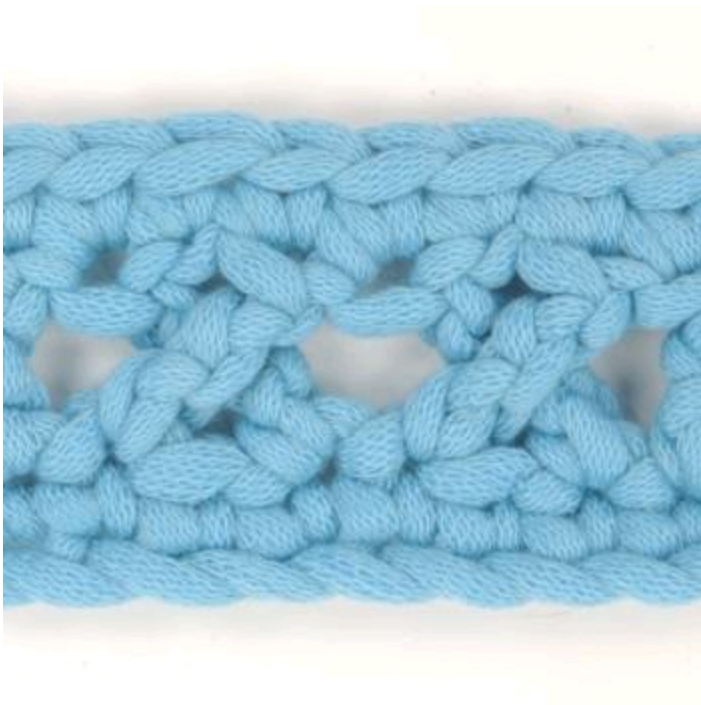
6. Skip the first stitch at the beginning of the row. The turning chain counts as a treble crochet. Repeat steps 3 and 4 until you reach the last stitch. Work a treble crochet into the turning chain of the previous row. Chain 4 and turn.



Step 6

TIP

Any pair of crochet stitches can be crossed. You can also try placing chain stitches between each set of crossed pairs.



Work Double Crochet Post Stitches

Working around the front or back post of a stitch from the previous row creates stitches in relief. This technique is often used to form ribs or cables. A post stitch is also known as a raised stitch.

Pattern abbreviations: FLO and BLO.



Front Post Double Crochet

Post stitches can't be worked into the foundation chain; you must begin with a foundation row of tall stitches (for instance, double crochet, as in this example). At the end of this foundation row, chain 2 for the turning chain and turn.

NOTE: Because a post stitch is shorter than a stitch worked into the top of another stitch, the turning chain for a post stitch is shorter by 1 chain.

1. Yarn over. Insert the hook from front to back to front around the post of the stitch in the previous row.



2. Yarn over and draw the yarn around the post to pull up a loop (a). Complete the double crochet (b).



Step 2a



Step 2b

Back Post Double Crochet

For this example, start with a row of double crochet. At the end of this foundation row, chain 2 for the turning chain and turn.

1. Yarn over. Insert the hook from back to front to back around the post of the stitch in the previous row.



2. Yarn over and draw up a loop. Complete the double crochet.



TIP

To create ribbing, use an even number of stitches. Begin by working a FLO double crochet into the first stitch and a BLO double crochet into the next stitch. Continue alternating front and back post stitches across the row. Make a turning chain and turn. Repeat this row to create a ribbed pattern.

Work a Treble Crochet Post Stitch

Work a treble crochet around the front or back post of a stitch from the previous row to create ribbing or other raised textures.

Pattern abbreviations: FPTR and BPTR.



Front Post Treble Crochet

You can't work post stitches into the foundation chain; for this example, begin with 1 row of treble crochet.

1. Yarn over twice. Insert the hook from front to back to front around the post of the treble crochet stitch from the previous row.



2. Yarn over and draw the yarn around the post. Complete the treble crochet.



Back Post Treble Crochet

For this example, start with a row of treble crochet.

1. Yarn over twice. Insert the hook from back to front to back around the post of the stitch from the previous row.



2. Yarn over and draw up a loop (a). Complete the treble crochet (b).



Step 2a



Step 2b

Chapter 5: Combining Stitches

Now you're ready to combine the stitches you've learned to add another dimension to your crochet. Stitches can be combined, worked into the same space, or joined at their tops to create juicy 3-D stitches. In this chapter, you can also try your hand at some step-by-step patterns as you learn.

[Clusters](#)

[Bobbles](#)

[Puffs](#)

[Popcorns](#)

[Bullions](#)

Clusters

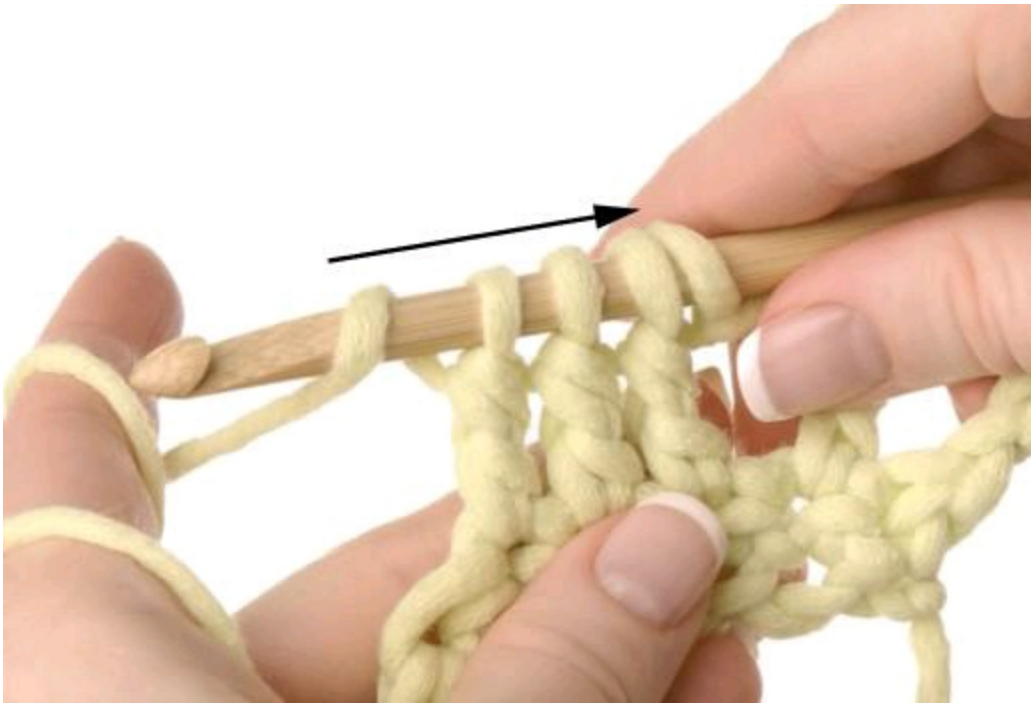
Clusters are in a category that includes a variety of stitch combinations, such as those worked together to create bobbles and puffs. The stitches in a basic cluster are joined at the top, similar to a decrease, and can be worked into one space or over several spaces. This example uses treble crochet (see the section [“Make a Treble Crochet”](#) for more information) but you can make clusters with any stitch.

See [Chapter 3](#) for more on how to work stitches together to decrease.



Make a Cluster with Treble Crochet

1. Work a treble crochet until the final step, when 2 loops remain on the hook. Do not complete the stitch (see photo).



2. Insert the hook into the next stitch and work another treble crochet to the same point. There are now 3 loops on the hook.

3. Repeat step 2 to create a partial treble crochet stitch in the next stitch. There are now 3 partial treble crochets (4 loops on the hook).

4. Yarn over (a) and draw the yarn through all 4 loops (b).



Step 4a



Step 4b

Work a Simple Treble Cluster Pattern

NOTE: The foundation chain for the simple cluster pattern should consist of a multiple of 3 stitches plus 4, plus 1 for the turning chain (for example, $12 + 4 = 16 + 1 = 17$).

1. Row 1: Work 1 single crochet into the second chain from the hook. Work 1 single crochet into each chain across the row, chain 4, and turn.
2. Row 2: Skip the first stitch. The turning chain counts as the first treble crochet of the row. Work 1 treble crochet into the next stitch. * Chain 2 and work 1 cluster of 3 treble crochets over the next 3 stitches (a). Repeat from * until there are 2 stitches left to work in the row. Chain 2. Work 1 treble crochet into each of the last 2 stitches, chain 1, and turn (b).



Step 2a



Step 2b

3. Row 3: Work 1 single crochet into each of the first 2 stitches. * Work 2 single crochets into the chain space; work 2 single crochets into the space between the clusters. Repeat from * until there are 2 stitches left to work in the row. Work 1 single crochet into each of the last 2 stitches, chain 1, and turn (see photo).



4. Row 4: Work 1 single crochet into each stitch across the row, chain 1, and turn.

5. Row 5: Work 1 single crochet into each stitch across the row, chain 4, and turn.
6. Repeat rows 2–5.

Bobbles

A cluster of tall stitches is worked into the same space and joined together at the top, creating a bobble that stands out. The bobble is a popular way to create a playful texture.



Make a Bobble with Double Crochet

To create a bobble, you work stitches together in the same manner as when making a decrease. (See the [section on decreases](#) for more information on how to decrease.)

1. Work a double crochet as usual until the final step, when 2 loops remain on the hook. Do not complete the stitch.



Step 1

2. Insert the hook back into the same stitch and work another double crochet to the same point. There are now 3 loops on the hook.



Step 2

3. Repeat step 2 to create 2 more partial double crochet stitches. There are now 4

partial double crochets (5 loops on the hook).



Step 3

4. Yarn over and draw the yarn through all 5 loops.
5. Chain 1 to complete the stitch. You have made a bobble.



Step 5

Work a Simple Bobble Pattern

The foundation chain for this pattern should consist of an even number of stitches, plus 1 for the turning chain (for example, $14 + 1 = 15$).

1. Row 1: Work 1 single crochet into the second chain from the hook. Continue to work 1 single crochet into each chain across the row. Chain 1 and turn.
2. Row 2: Work 1 single crochet into the first stitch. * Work 1 single crochet into the next stitch; work 1 bobble into the next stitch (a). Repeat from * until 1 stitch remains. Work 1 single crochet into the last stitch. Chain 1 and turn (b).



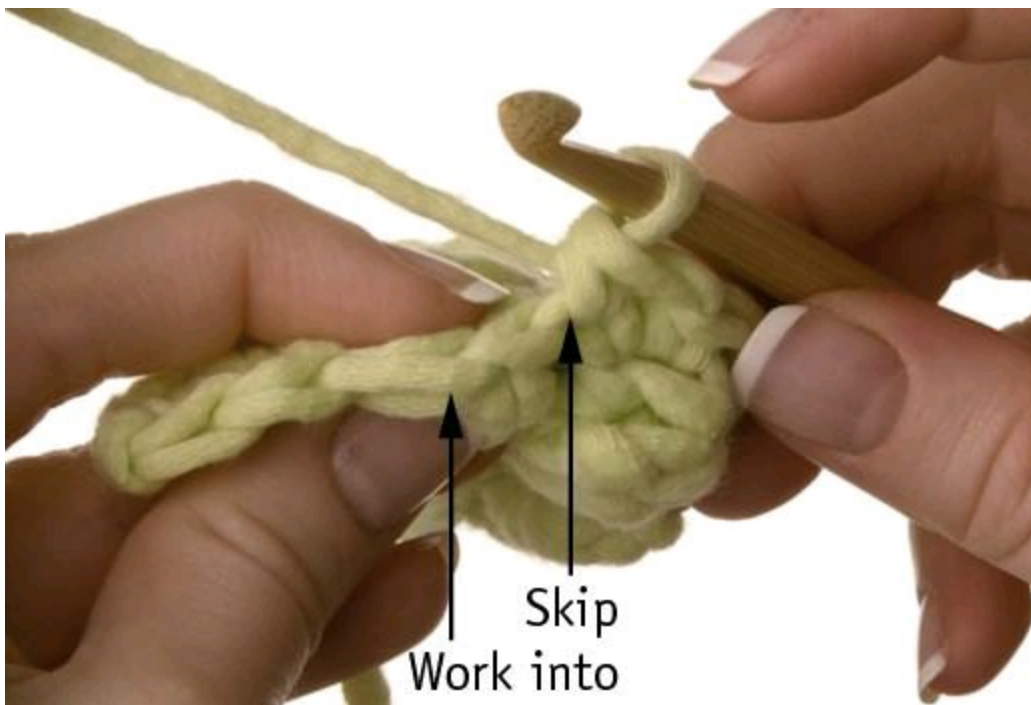
Step 2a



Step 2b

3. Row 3: Work 1 single crochet into each stitch across the row, chain 1, and turn.

NOTE: When working into the tops of bobble stitches, it looks like there are 2 stitches to work into. Skip the chain from the top of the bobble and work into the next stitch (see photo).



4. Row 4: Work 1 single crochet into the first stitch. * Work 1 bobble into the next stitch; work 1 single crochet into the next stitch. Repeat from * until 1 stitch remains. Work 1 single crochet into the last stitch. Chain 1 and turn.



Step 4

5. Row 5: Repeat row 3.

6. Repeat rows 2–5.



Step 6

Puffs

Puff stitches are bobbles worked with a half double crochet instead of a taller stitch. (See the section [“Make a Half Double Crochet”](#) for more information.) This results in the puff being shorter and puffier than a bobble.



Make a Simple Puff

1. Yarn over. Insert the hook into the next stitch, yarn over, and draw a loop through the stitch. This loop should be looser than the loop you normally create when working a half double crochet.
2. Repeat step 1 in the same stitch 3 more times to create 3 more partial half double crochets (4 partial half double crochets in total).

There are now 9 loops on the hook.



3. Yarn over and draw the yarn through all 9 loops on the hook.
4. Chain 1 to complete the stitch. You have created 1 puff stitch (see photo).

NOTE: When working from a pattern with a symbol chart, the symbol for a given cluster, bobble, puff, or popcorn will reflect the type and number of stitches used in that specific pattern.



Work a Simple Puff Pattern

Try your hand at this simple puff pattern. Begin with a foundation chain with an

odd number of stitches, plus 2 (for example, $13 + 2 = 15$).

1. Row 1: Work 1 half double crochet into the third chain from the hook. Continue to work 1 half double crochet into each chain across the row, chain 1, and turn.
2. Row 2: Work 1 single crochet into the first stitch of the row. * Work a puff into the next stitch. Work 1 single crochet into the next stitch. * Repeat from * to * until 1 stitch remains. Work 1 single crochet into the last stitch (see photo). Chain 2 and turn.



3. Row 3: Work 1 half double crochet into the first stitch. * Skip the next stitch (the chain from the top of the puff stitch—see photo). Work 1 half double crochet into each of the next 2 stitches. * Repeat from * to * to the end of the row. Chain 1 and turn.
4. Repeat rows 2 and 3.



TIP

The texture and height of a simple puff stitch are determined by the length of the long loop in step 1. Pulling the long loops can become more difficult as you begin to make the third partial half double crochet. Use your finger to pull it loose enough to match the other loops.



Popcorns

A popcorn consists of several tall stitches worked into the same space. Unlike a bobble, each stitch in a popcorn is worked to completion, and then all are gathered together in the final step.

This example uses double crochet. See the section [“Make a Double Crochet”](#) for more information.



Make a Popcorn Using Four Double Crochets

1. Work a double crochet into the next stitch.
2. Work 3 more double crochet stitches into the same stitch.



Step 2

Four double crochets have now been worked into 1 stitch.

3. Slip your hook out of the remaining loop.
4. Insert your hook into the top of the first double crochet from this group and then into the empty loop.



Step 4

5. Draw the empty loop through the top of that stitch and chain 1 to finish the popcorn.



Step 5

Work a Simple Popcorn Pattern

Try your hand at this simple popcorn pattern. The foundation chain should be a multiple of 3 stitches, plus 1 for the turning chain (for example: $12 + 1 = 13$).

1. Row 1: Work 1 single crochet into the second chain from the hook. Continue to work 1 single crochet into each chain across the row. Chain 3 and turn.
2. Row 2: Skip the first stitch. (The turning chain counts as the first double crochet of the row.) Work 1 double crochet into the next stitch; work 1 popcorn into the next stitch (a). * Work 1 double crochet into each of the next 2 stitches; work 1 popcorn into the next stitch. Repeat from * until there are 3 stitches left to work in the row. Work 1 double crochet into each of the last 3 stitches. Chain 3 and turn (b).



Step 2a



Step 2b

3. Row 3: Skip the first stitch. (The turning chain counts as the first double crochet of the row.) Work 1 double crochet into the next stitch; work 1 popcorn into the next stitch. * Work 1 double crochet into each of the next 2 stitches; work 1 popcorn into the next stitch. Repeat from * until 1 stitch remains. Work 1

double crochet into the last stitch. Chain 3 and turn.



Step 3

4. Repeat rows 2 and 3.



Step 4

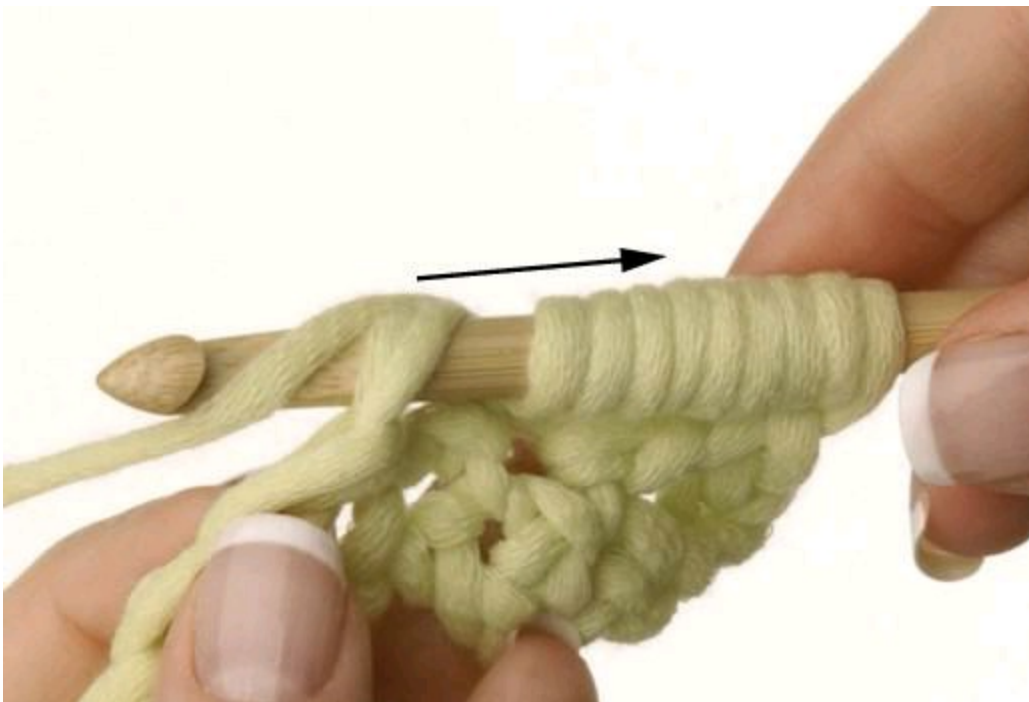
Bullions

The bullion stitch breaks from the standard format of most crochet stitches. This stitch involves making many yarn overs (from 6 to 10, depending on the pattern) and has a texture all its own.



Make a Bullion Stitch

1. Yarn over 8 times. Insert the hook into the next stitch, yarn over, and draw up a loop.



Step 1

2. Yarn over and draw the yarn over through all the loops on the hook.

This can be tricky. Keep the yarn overs loose, and use your fingers to ease loops through one by one.



Step 2

3. Yarn over and draw the yarn through the remaining loop on the hook. You have completed 1 bullion stitch.



Step 3

Work a Simple Bullion Pattern

1. Row 1: Work 1 single crochet into the second chain from the hook. Continue to work 1 single crochet into each chain across the row. Chain 3 and turn.
2. Row 2: Skip the first stitch. (The turning chain counts as the first double crochet of the row.) * Work 1 double crochet into each of the next 2 stitches; work 1 bullion into the next stitch (a). Repeat from * until you reach the last 3 stitches of the row. Work 1 double crochet into each of the last 3 stitches (b).
Repeat rows 1 and 2.



Step 2a



Step 2b

Chapter 6: Follow a Pattern

Crochet patterns can look intimidating, but the information in this chapter will teach you how to navigate them with ease. You will learn how to read crochet shorthand and how to figure your stitch and row gauge.

[Work from a Pattern](#)

[Understand Crochet Abbreviations](#)

[Read a Pattern](#)

[Understand Gauge](#)

[Measure Your Gauge](#)

[Take Your Measurements](#)

[Mesh Fabric Using Crochet Arches](#)

Work from a Pattern

Knowing how to read a crochet pattern enables you to make any project accurately. In this section, you will learn about common pattern conventions.



Understand Pattern Conventions

Abbreviations

A crochet pattern is essentially a set of step-by-step instructions for how to construct a finished piece. In the interest of fitting the greatest amount of instruction onto one page, a fairly standard set of abbreviations is used for frequently occurring terms like stitch names and techniques. Becoming familiar with these abbreviations enables you to effortlessly make sense of crochet shorthand. See the next section for a list of commonly used abbreviations.

Gauge

12 stitches and 14 rows = 4 inches (10cm)

- ① Start with an adjustable ring.
- ② Round 1: Work 6 SC into ring, Sl st in 1st SC to join round
- ③ Round 2: * 1 SC and 1 DC in next SC, rep from * across round (12 sts total).
- ④ Round 3: * 2 SC in next st, 1 SC in next st, rep from * across round (18 sts total).

Syntax

In the interest of brevity, crochet patterns often utilize the following devices to organize steps. With a bit of practice, you'll find that these devices make intricate patterns less wordy and easier to follow.

Parentheses () and brackets [] are used to group sections of instructions. Often, these symbols indicate a certain number of stitches that are to be worked into the same stitch, as in:

Work [SC, ch 2, DC, ch2, SC] into next st.

Asterisks (*) are also used to group instructions. They indicate a set of instructions to be repeated a certain number of times, as in:

SC in first st, * DC in next st, ch 1, skip 1 st, SC in next st. Repeat from * to end of row.

In this case, you would continue to repeat the “double crochet in the next stitch, chain 1, skip 1 stitch, single crochet in the next stitch” until you completed the row.

Understand Crochet Abbreviations

As we have mentioned, professionally produced crochet patterns typically use a set of fairly universal shorthand abbreviations to conserve space. The following is a list of commonly occurring abbreviations and what they stand for.

Crochet Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
beg	beginning
bet	between
bl	back loop
blo or BLO	work through the back loop only
BPdc or BPDC	back post double crochet
BPtr or BPTR	back post treble (or triple) crochet
CC	contrasting color
ch or CH	chain
ch-sp or CH SP	chain space
cont	continue
dc or DC	double crochet
dec	decrease
dtr or DTR	double treble
edc or EDC	extended double crochet
ehdc or EHDC	extended half double crochet
esc or ESC	extended single crochet
Est	established
Fl	front loop
flo or FLO	work through the front loop only
FPdc or FPDC	front post double crochet
FPtr or FPTR	front post treble (or triple) crochet
hdc or HDC	half double crochet

Crochet Abbreviations (continued)

Abbreviation	Meaning
hk	hook
inc	increase
lp	loop
MC	main color
patt st	pattern stitch
pm	place marker
prev	previous
rem	remaining
rep	repeat
rev sc	reverse single crochet
rnd	round
RS	right side
sc or SC	single crochet
sk	skip
Sl st, sl st, SL ST, or SS	slip stitch
sp or SP	space
st or ST	stitch
tch or TCH or TC	turning chain
Tks	Tunisian knit stitch
Tog or TOG	together
Tps	Tunisian purl stitch
tr or TR	treble (or triple) crochet
Tss	Tunisian simple stitch
WS	wrong side
yo or YO	yarn over

TIP

Our discussion in this chapter focuses on how to read and make sense of crochet shorthand in patterns. Some patterns, however—especially those published in Europe and Asia—utilize symbols to convey crochet instructions. Each stitch or stitch cluster is represented by a symbol. See [Chapter 9](#) for more information on crochet symbols.

Read a Pattern

Crochet patterns aren't as complicated as they might seem at first. This section gives you some tips for making sense of the shorthand and gaining the confidence to decipher even the most complicated patterns.

At the top of a pattern, you will find information about sizing, materials, gauge, and stitch notes.

Pattern Information

Sizing

The sizing of a garment is indicated with the smallest size followed by larger sizes in parentheses, as in:

Size: small (medium, large)

Chest measurement: 32–36 (38–42, 44–48) inches

When a pattern calls for different instructions depending on size, those instructions are given in a similar fashion, with instructions for the first measurement followed by instructions for larger measurements in parentheses, as in:

Work 18 (20, 22) SC. CH 39 (39, 45)

Sizing might not be indicated for some patterns, such as bags and scarves.

Cozy, Webby Sweater

This sweater is as cozy as it is contemporary. You use a large hook with two strands of DK-weight yarn to make a simple, webby fabric. The body is worked in one piece, reducing the amount of seaming necessary. You add the collar along the front and neck after the body is complete.

Specifications

Materials

10 (10, 12) balls South West Trading Company *Optimum DK* (100% wool, 154 yd./50g) in Silver

Techniques used

Ch Chain

SC Single crochet

FLO Front loop only

Increasing and decreasing

Finished size

Bust/Chest circumference S (M, XL): 32-36 (38-42, 44-48) inches

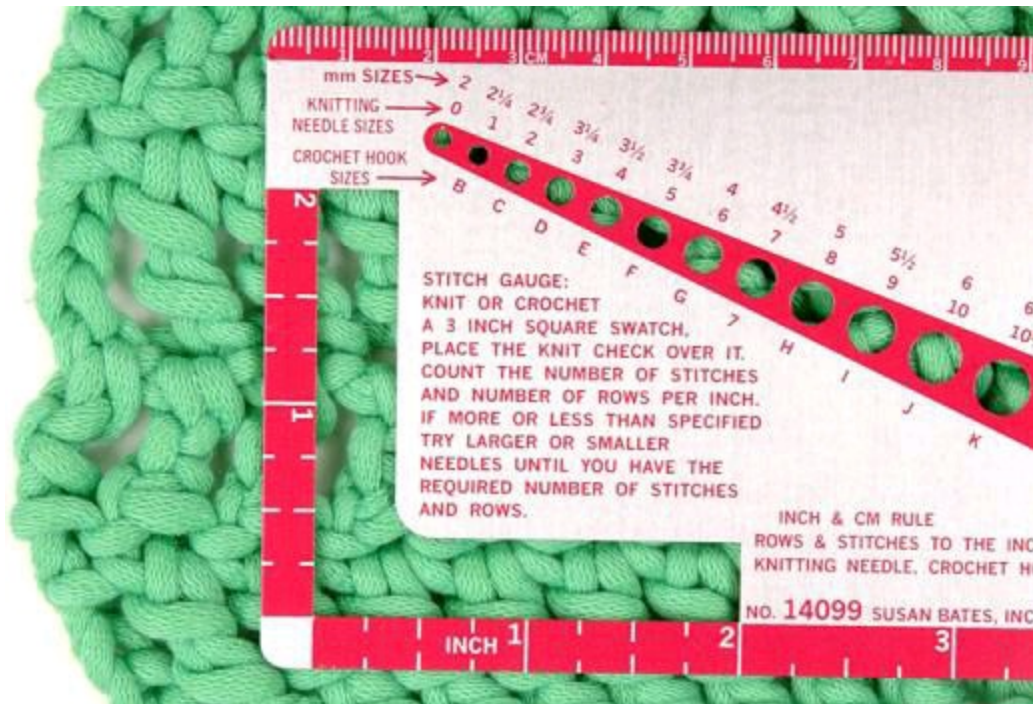
Materials

Patterns specify which yarn is called for and how much of the yarn you need. They also tell you which hook size is recommended and what notions and embellishments you need, such as yarn needles, stitch markers, or buttons.

Gauge

Every pattern for which size is important (such as sweaters, slippers, and hats) includes information about the gauge on which the pattern is based. Always make a [gauge swatch](#) before beginning to work on such patterns so that you're sure to end up with the correct size. If your swatch is under or over gauge, adjust your

hook size so that you obtain the correct gauge. Use the gauge information given in the pattern to choose a yarn to substitute if you prefer not to use the yarn specified.



Stitch Notes

Some patterns utilize complex or unique stitch combinations. Notes at the top of a pattern define the abbreviations that refer to these stitch combinations and give you the instructions once so that they don't have to be repeated throughout the pattern, as in:

Crossed DC: Skip 1 st, work 1 DC into the next st, work 1 DC into the skipped st.



TIP

A crochet pattern is like a recipe: just follow the instructions one step at a time. You might find it helpful to read through the whole pattern before you begin so that you gain a better understanding of the project before you start. On the other hand, you might find the pattern less intimidating if you focus on one step at a time. Whichever way you choose, remember that the pattern is there to help you create something beautiful!

Understand Gauge

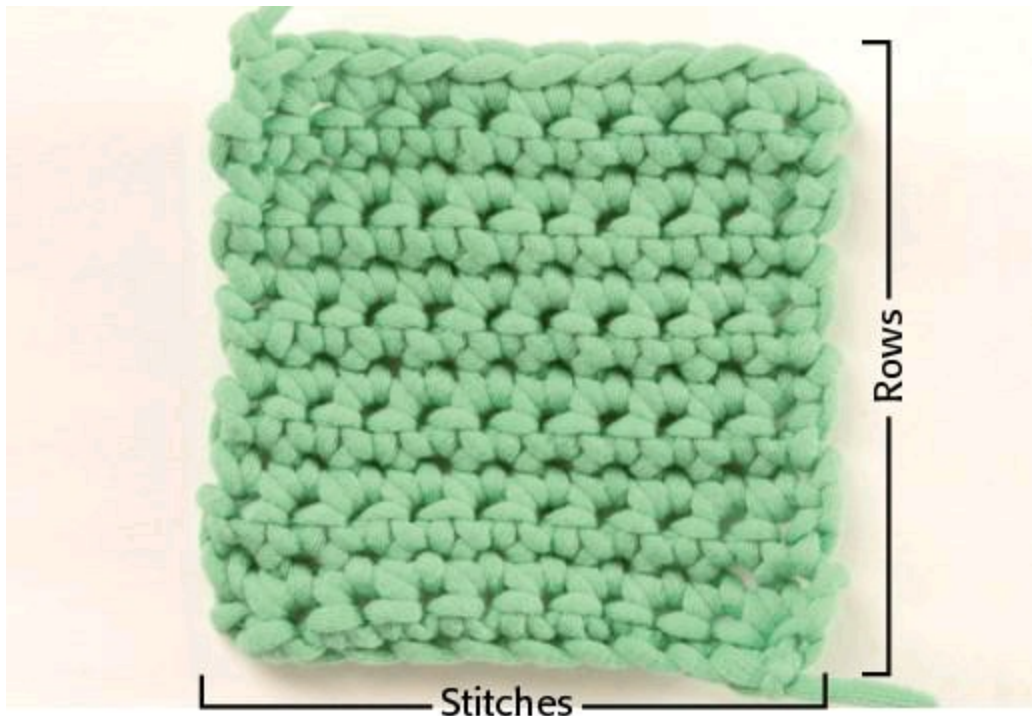
For some projects, crocheting to an exact size is not crucial. For many other projects, however, exact size is imperative. An afghan can be a few inches off, but a few inches off in a sweater creates a garment that is neither useful nor flattering. A little bit of simple math is involved in making sure your finished garments will fit properly. Taking the time to ensure that your gauge is correct will save you from headaches and disappointment down the road.



Gauge

In crochet, *gauge* refers to the number of stitches or rows in a given length of fabric. For example, working a chunky-weight yarn with an 8mm hook might yield 9 single crochet stitches over 4 inches (10cm). For another crocheter, it might yield 6 rows over 4 inches (10cm).

It's important to work up a [*gauge swatch*](#) before you begin a crochet project. If your swatch has too many rows or stitches within an area specified in the pattern, use a larger hook or adjust the number of stitches and/or rows you work. If your swatch has too few rows or stitches within an area, use a smaller hook or adjust the number of stitches and/or rows you work. Continue to adjust your hook size until you attain the required gauge.



Every pattern you use should indicate the gauge required to create a finished piece of the proper dimensions. This information is located toward the beginning of the pattern.

Gauge

12 stitches and 14 rows = 4 inches (10cm)

- ① Start with an adjustable ring.
- ② Round 1: Work 6 SC into ring, Sl st in 1st SC to join round
- ③ Round 2: * 1 SC and 1 DC in next SC, rep from * across round (12 sts total).
- ④ Round 3: * 2 SC in next st, 1 SC in next st, rep from * across round (18 sts total).

Measure Your Gauge

Knowing the number of rows that fit in a given length of fabric is extremely important. If your row gauge is off from the required gauge in the pattern you are following, add or subtract rows to ensure a proper fit.

Knowing the number of stitches that fit in a given length of fabric is important, too. In this section, you will learn how to use this information to ensure that your finished project will be the proper size.



Use a Gauge Swatch to Measure Gauge

Make a Swatch

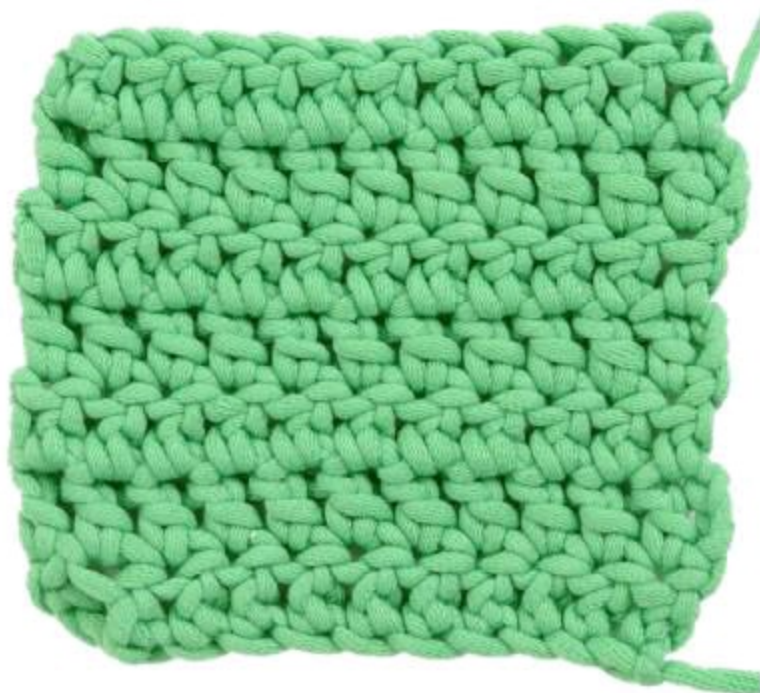
The following instructions are for sport-weight (DK, worsted, bulky, super-bulky) yarn.

1. Using the same yarn and hook you plan to use for your project, chain 28 (24, 20, 16, 12) stitches.



2. Work 24 (22, 18, 14, 10) rows in the same stitch or stitch pattern mentioned in the gauge section of your pattern. Fasten off.

You should end up with a swatch that's approximately 4 inches square. Don't worry if your swatch isn't exactly this size.



NOTE: If you're using a natural-fiber yarn, wash and block your swatch before measuring your gauge. Doing so ensures that your finished project will be the proper size after it's washed. (See the section [“Block Your Finished Project”](#))

Count the Rows

1. Using a ruler, measuring tape, or gauge tool, count the number of rows in 4 inches.

Do not round up or down. If a row is cut off at the 4-inch point, count it as half a row.

2. Make a note of this number.



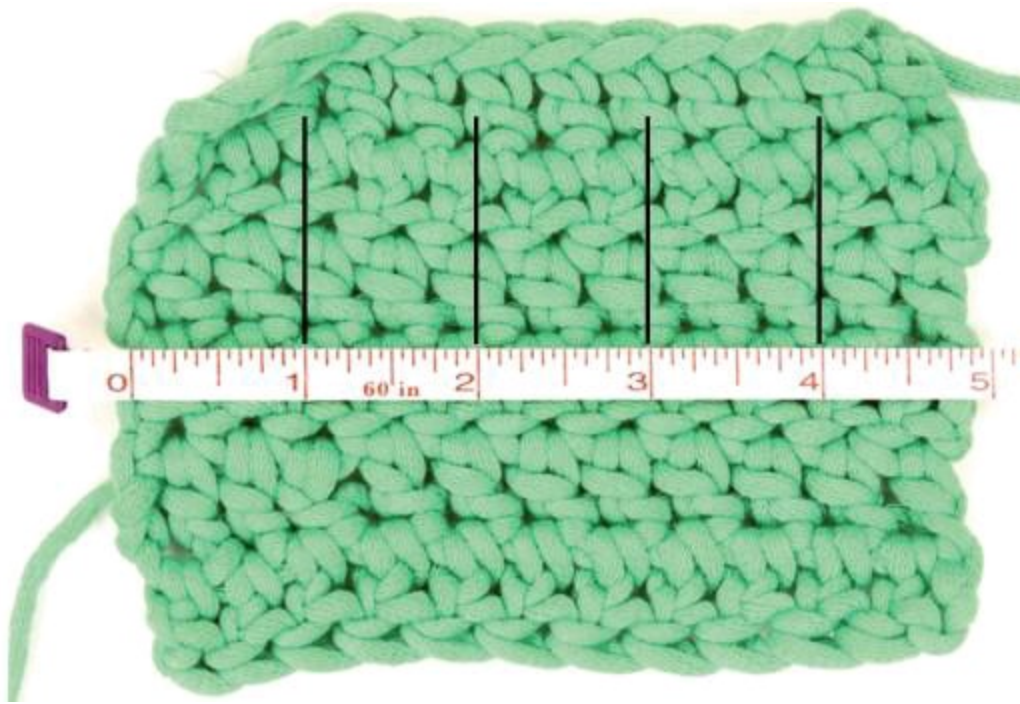
NOTE: It's common for crocheters to be more concerned about attaining the proper stitch gauge, because adjusting a pattern to accommodate a different stitch gauge is generally more complicated than adjusting for a different row gauge. If your row gauge is off by a small amount, you can adjust by crocheting slightly more or fewer rows in your piece.

Count the Stitches

1. Using a ruler, measuring tape, or gauge tool, count the number of stitches in 4 inches.

Do not round up or down. If a stitch is cut off at the 4-inch point, count it as half a stitch.

2. Make a note of this number.



Adjust if Necessary

- If the number of stitches you crocheted over 4 inches is higher than the number required by the pattern you're following, use a larger hook to make a new swatch. Continue to increase your hook size until you create a swatch with the proper gauge. If you need to go up more than a couple of hook sizes, you might want to consider switching to a yarn of a heavier weight.
- If the number of stitches you crocheted over 4 inches is lower than the number required by the pattern, use a smaller hook to make a new swatch. If you need to go down more than a couple of hook sizes, you might want to consider using a lighter-weight yarn.



Take Your Measurements

Whether you are following a pattern or designing your own crocheted garment, you need to start with the measurements of the person who will wear the piece when it is completed. Having correct measurements enables you to create a garment that fits properly and is flattering.

Measure Your Bust/Chest

Standing tall, wrap a tape measure around your bust or chest at the fullest part, taking care not to wrap it too tightly. Use this measurement when deciding how much ease you would like your crocheted top to have. *Ease* is how snugly or loosely a garment fits.

If you always wear a bra under a sweater, take your measurements while wearing a bra so that your sweater will fit properly.

Measure Your Waist

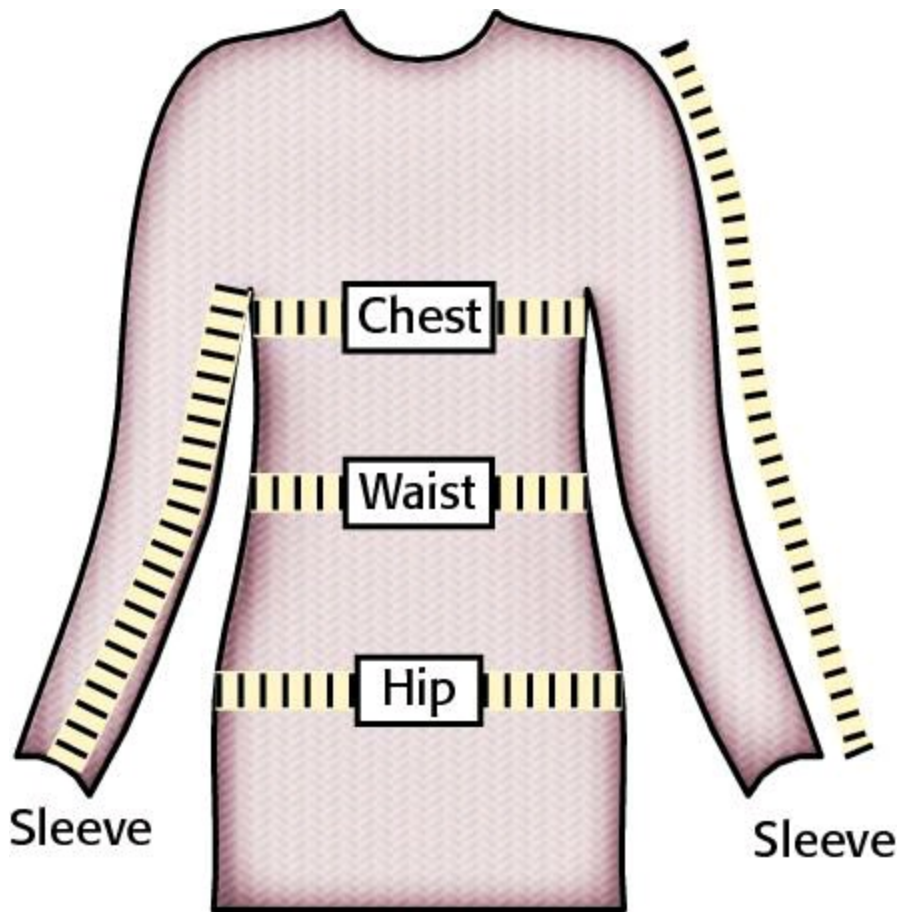
Standing tall, wrap a tape measure around the narrowest part of your natural waist, taking care not to wrap it too tightly. Use this measurement to figure how much to increase or decrease to shape your top at the midsection.

Measure Your Hips

Wrap the tape measure around your hips, over the widest part of your behind. Take care not to wrap the tape measure too tightly. Use this measurement to determine how wide the bottom sweater hem should be if it is going to be long enough to cover your hips.

Measure Your Arm Length

Hold the tape measure from your armpit to your cuff, with your arm slightly bent. Use this measurement to determine sleeve length.



Measure the Width of Your Back

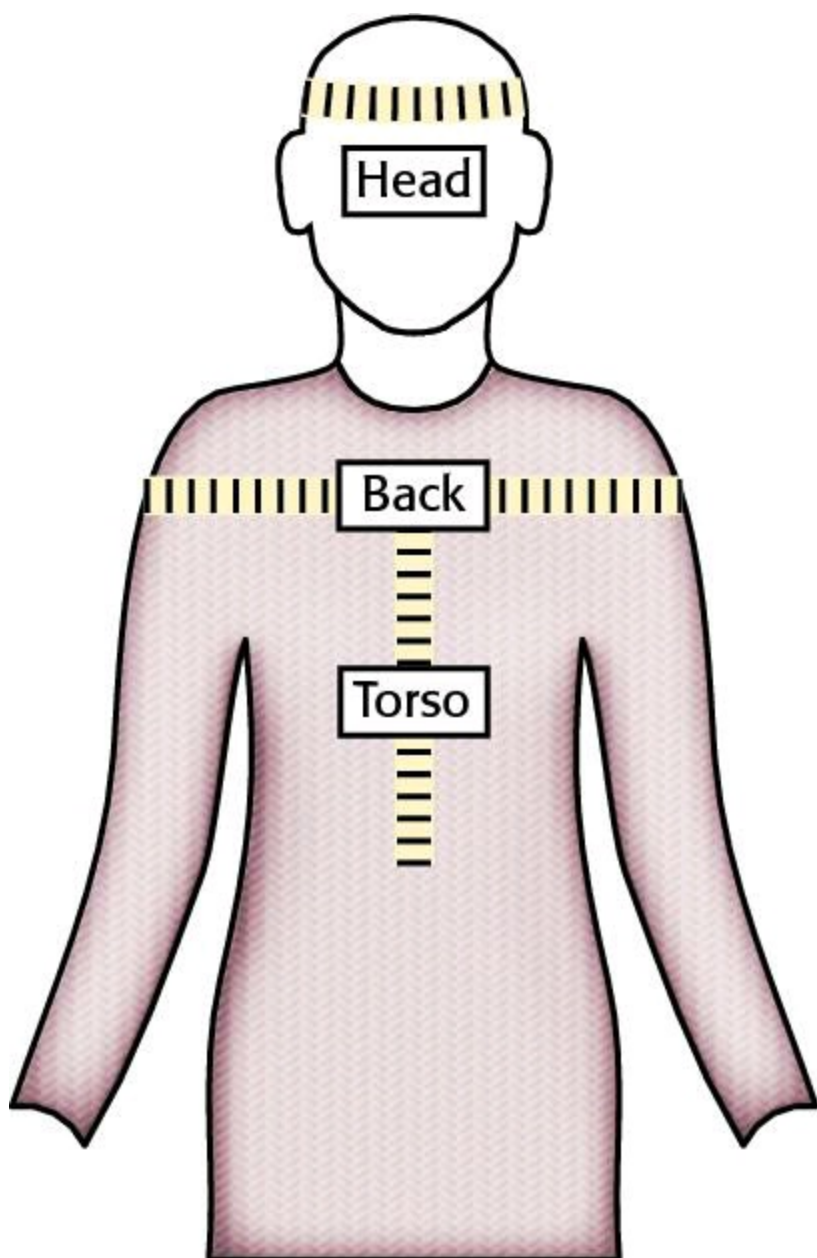
Hold the tape measure from the outside of one shoulder to the outside of the other shoulder, across your back. Use this measurement to determine how wide the back of your sweater should be.

Measure Your Torso

Hold the tape measure beginning at the most prominent bone at the base of your neck, and extend it to your natural waistline. This measurement helps you determine where to place waist-shaping in relation to the neckline.

Measure Your Head

Wrap the tape measure across your forehead and around the circumference of your head, keeping the measuring tape snug. Use this measurement to determine what size to make a hat.



TIP

The Craft Yarn Council has a list of standardized sizing charts on their Web site www.craftyarnCouncil.com. Click on “Standards” and then “Standard Body Measurements/Sizing” in the left column to see the list of charts.

Mesh Fabric Using Crochet Arches

To ease into your introduction to reading patterns, here are two versions of the same mesh pattern. The first is written in abbreviated form, and the second is in “Plain English.”

Mesh is the simplest form of crocheted lace. You use chains connected by

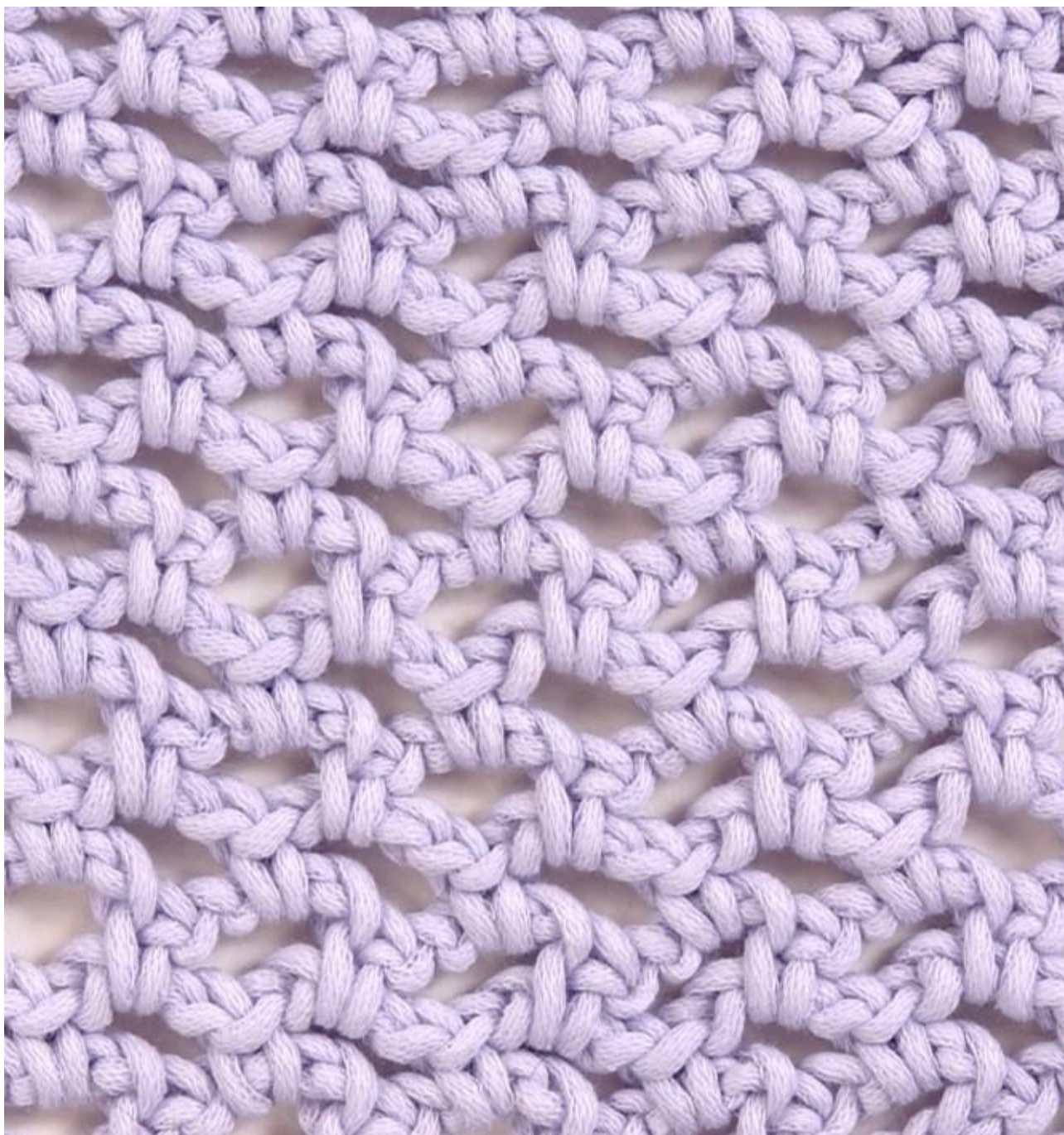
single crochet stitches to create an open, versatile piece.

The Pattern

Row 1: SC into 4th ch from hook. * Ch 3, skip 2 chs, and SC into next ch. Rep from * to end of row. Ch 3 and turn.

Row 2: SC into next ch space. * Ch 3 and SC into next ch space. Rep from * to complete row.

Rep row 2 to desired length.



TIP

Also known as a trellis pattern, this simple format makes it easy to create a loose, mesh fabric. You can vary the type of mesh you create by changing one or more aspects of this pattern:

- Increase the number of chains in each arch, but don't increase the number of skipped stitches.
- Increase the number of chains and skipped stitches.
- Use a taller stitch in place of the single crochet.

The Pattern in Plain English

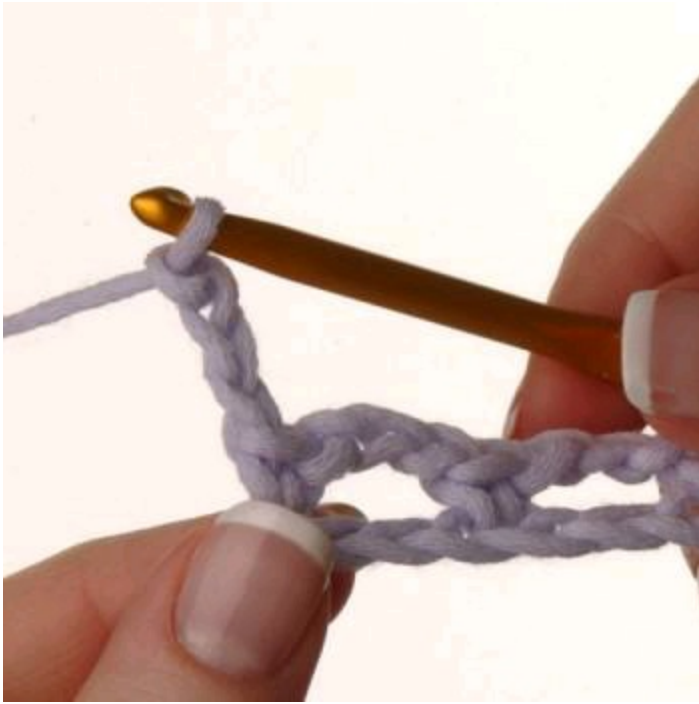
Create a foundation chain that is a multiple of 3 stitches, plus 1.

1. Row 1: Work 1 single crochet into the fourth chain from the hook. (The first 3 chains count as the first arch.)
2. * Chain 3. Leaving the next 2 chains unworked, make a single crochet into the next chain.



Step 2

3. Repeat from * to the end of the row. When the row is complete, chain 3 (see photo) and turn.



Step 3

4. Row 2: Work 1 single crochet into the first space created by chains from the previous row. To work into a chain space, insert your hook into the space, yarn over, and draw the yarn through the space (see photo), yarn over, draw the yarn through both loops (one single crochet completed).



5. * Chain 3 and work 1 single crochet into the next chain space. Repeat from * until you have worked a single crochet into the last chain space of the row. Chain

3 and turn.



Chapter 7: Stitch Patterns

In the previous chapter, you learned how words and abbreviations can be used in a crochet pattern. This chapter contains several simple stitch patterns and also introduces how to crochet using only a diagram composed of symbols.

You can use these patterns in any of your projects to add texture and visual interest. Use them as inspiration to experiment with stitch patterns of your own. Play with fibers and colors to create truly unique fabrics.

[Crumpled Stitch Pattern](#)

[Crunch Pattern](#)

[Crunchy Dots Pattern](#)

[Granite Stitch Pattern](#)

[Trinity Pattern](#)

[Chevron Pattern](#)

[Shells with Double Crochet](#)

[Odd Shells Pattern](#)

[Popcorn Dance Pattern](#)

[Follow a Diagram](#)

[Stitch Pattern 1](#)

[Stitch Pattern 2](#)

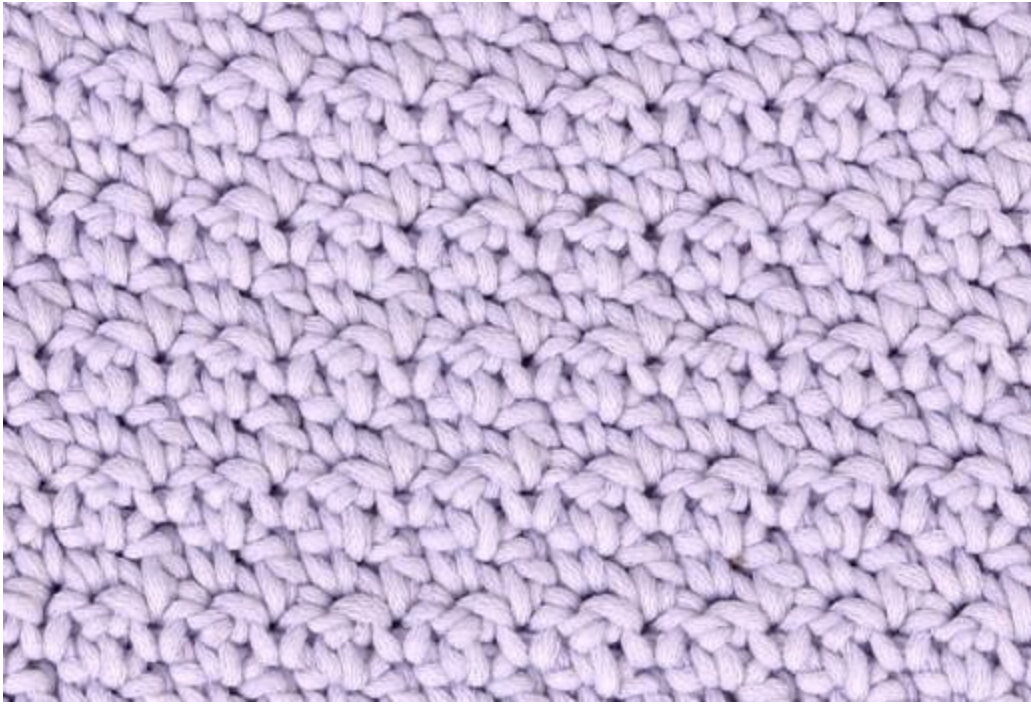
[Stitch Pattern 3](#)

[Stitch Pattern 4](#)

[Stitch Pattern 5](#)

Crumpled Stitch Pattern

Alternating a short stitch with a tall stitch creates a soft, slightly rumped texture. Use this stitch pattern to add style to a simple project.



The Pattern

Row 1: SC into 2nd ch from hook. * DC into next ch and SC into next ch. Rep from * to last ch of row. DC into last ch, ch 1, and turn.



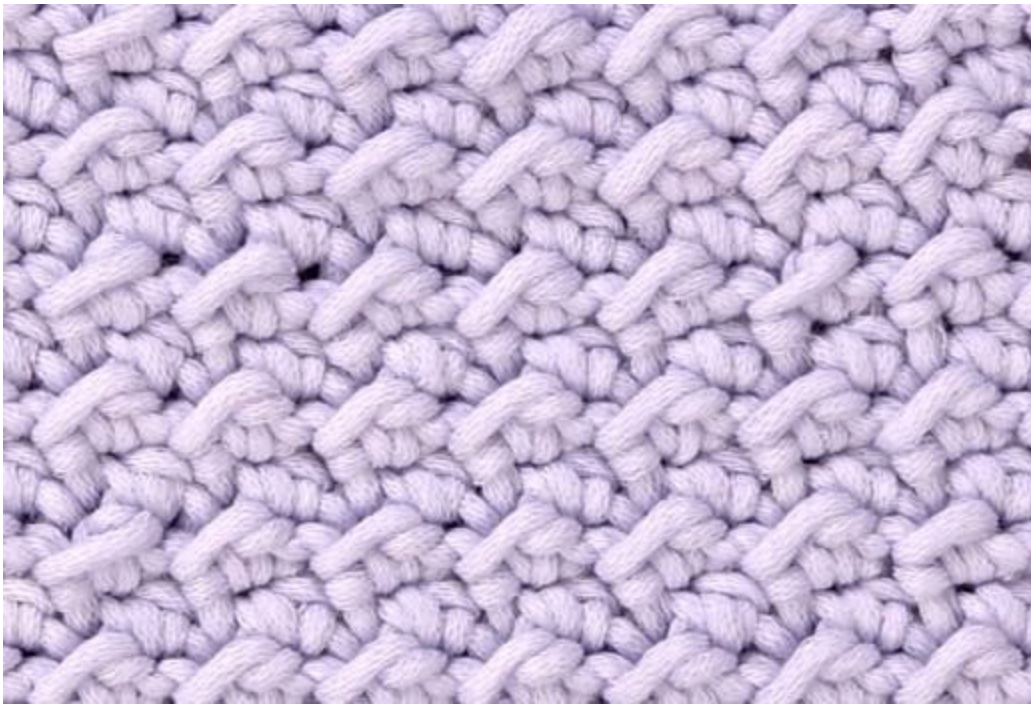
Row 2: SC into 1st st. * DC into next st and SC into next st. Rep from * to last st of row. DC into last st, ch 1, and turn.

Rep row 2.



Crunch Pattern

Combining half double crochets with slip stitches creates a dense fabric with an interesting texture. Try using this stitch pattern for hats or purses.



The Pattern

Row 1: Sl st into 2nd ch from hook. * HDC into next ch. Sl st into next ch. Rep

from * to last ch of row. HDC into last ch, ch 1, and turn.



Row 2: Sl st into 1st st. * HDC into next st. Sl st into next st. Rep from * to last st of row. HDC into last st, ch 1, and turn.

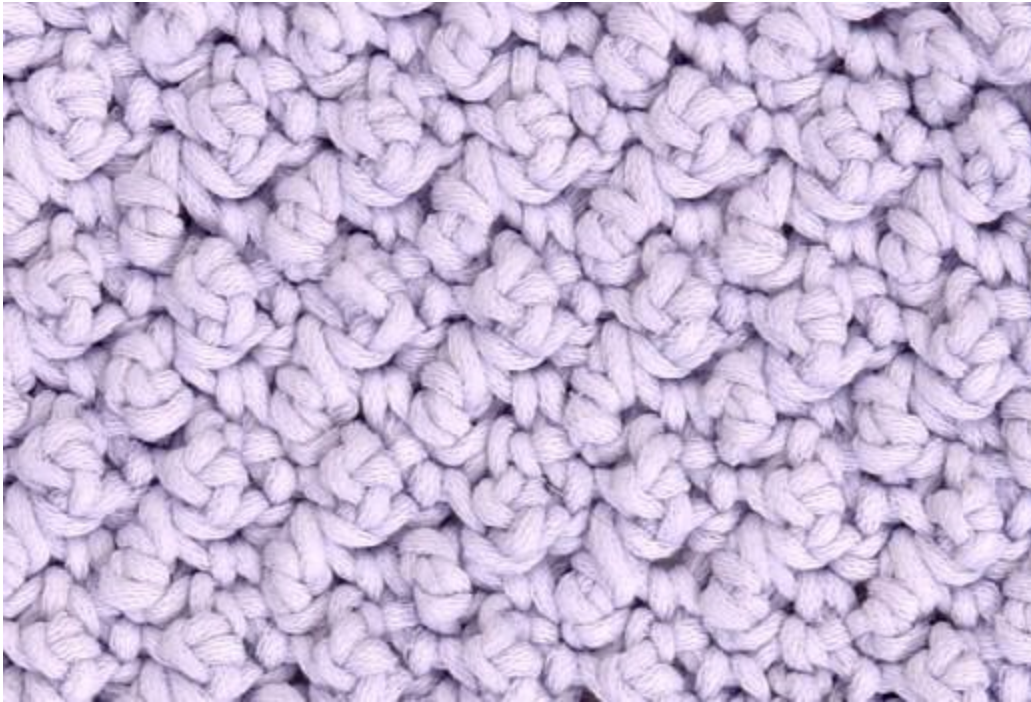
Rep row 2.

Note: You'll work slip stitches into the half double crochet stitches of the previous row and vice versa.



Crunchy Dots Pattern

Placing a tall treble crochet stitch between two single crochet stitches forces the tall stitch to fold on itself and pouf out. This pattern creates a fun, three-dimensional fabric.



The Pattern

Row 1: SC into 2nd ch from hook. * SC into next ch and TR into next ch. Rep from * across to last ch. SC into last ch, ch 1, and turn.



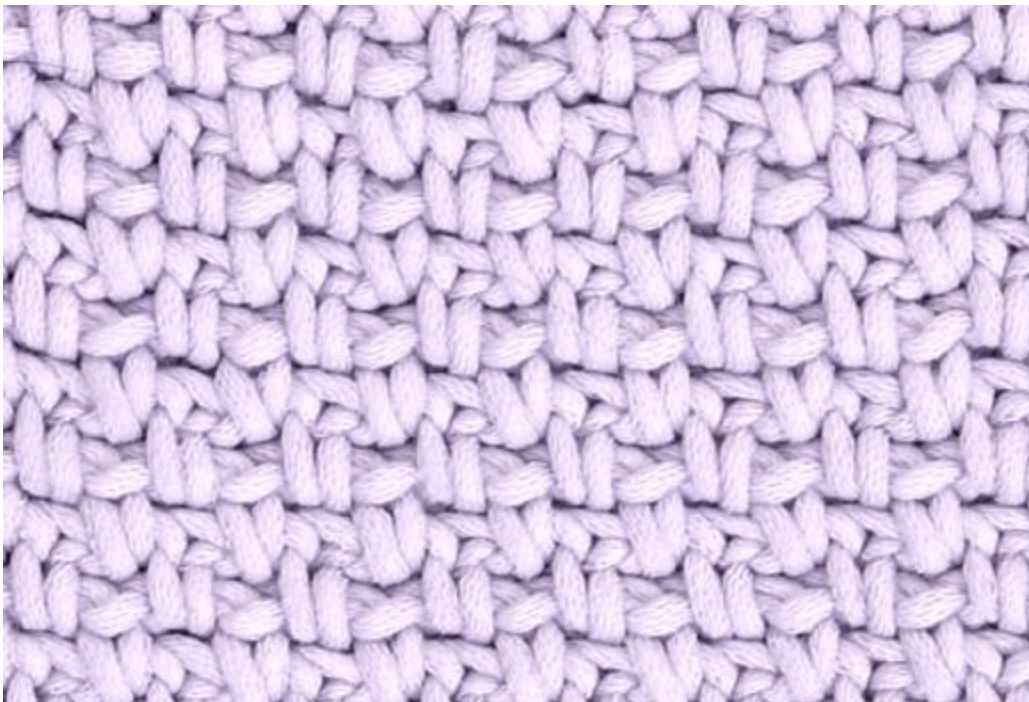
Row 2: SC into 1st st. * SC into next st and TR into next st. Rep from * to last st of row. SC into last st, ch 1, and turn.

Rep row 2.



Granite Stitch Pattern

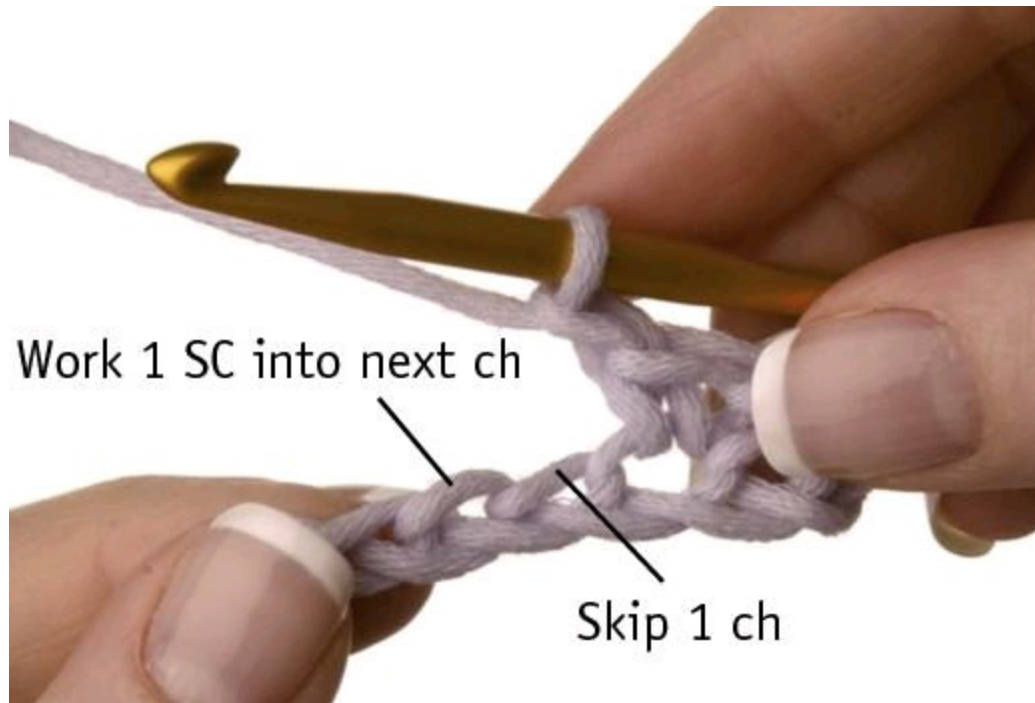
Alternating chain stitches with single crochet stitches results in a woven effect that makes a lovely fabric with excellent drape.



The Pattern

The foundation chain for this pattern consists of an even number, plus 1 for the turning chain.

Row 1: SC into 2nd ch from hook. * SC, ch 1, and skip 1 ch. Rep from * to last 2 chs. Ch 1 and skip 1 ch. SC into last ch. Ch 1 and turn.



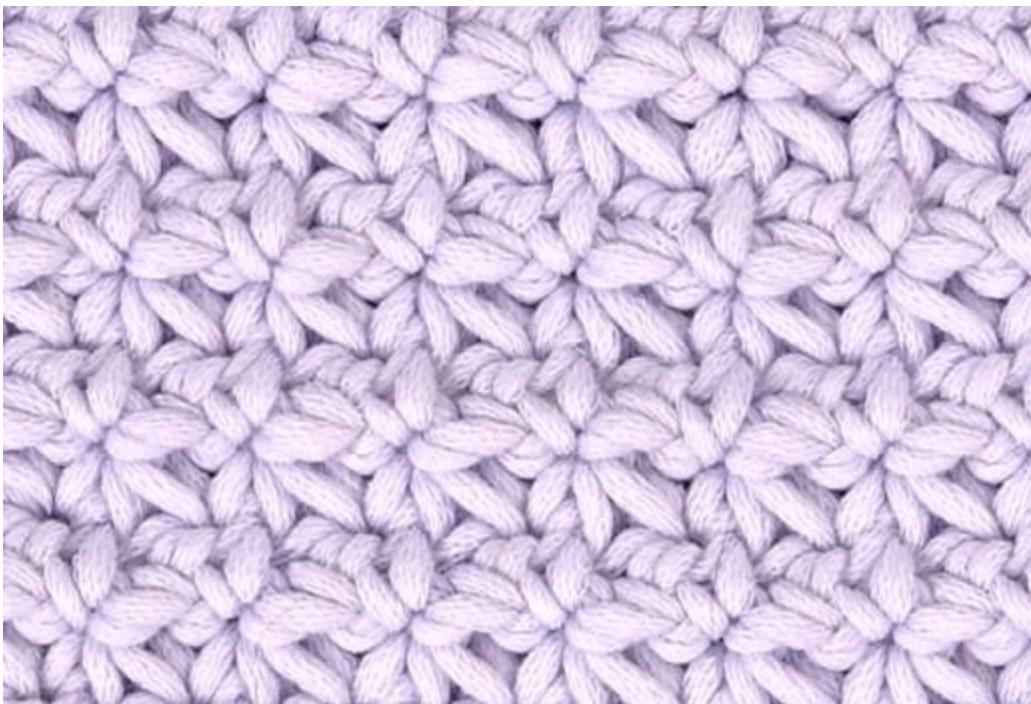
Row 2: SC into 1st st. * SC into ch space, ch 1, and skip 1 st. Rep from * to last 2 sts of row. Ch 1, skip 1 st, and SC into last st. Ch 1 and turn.

Rep row 2.



Trinity Pattern

Use the trinity cluster stitch to create an elegantly textured fabric that you can use either for the body of a work or as a decorative detail. First we explain how to make the stitch, and then follow it with the instructions to create the pattern.



The Trinity Cluster Stitch

1. Insert the hook into the same space as the last stitch, yarn over, and draw the yarn through.
2. Insert the hook into the next stitch, yarn over, and draw the yarn through. Then insert your hook into the next stitch, yarn over, and draw the yarn through.
3. Yarn over and draw the yarn through all 4 loops.



The Pattern

Row 1: SC into 2nd ch from hook. SC into each ch across, ch 1, and turn.

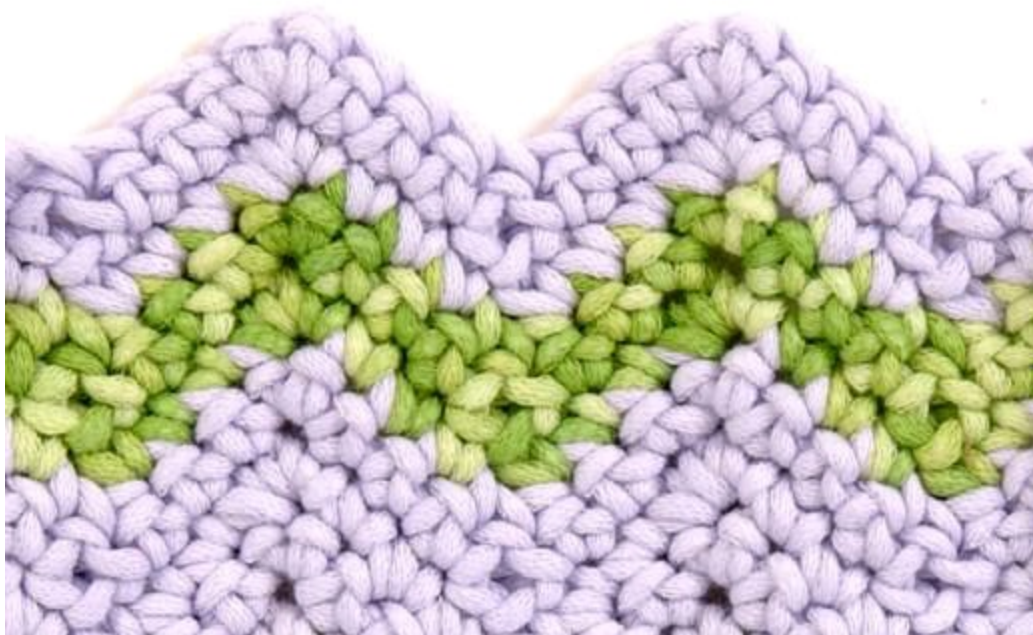
Row 2: SC into 1st st. Work 1 trinity cluster, * ch 1, and work 1 trinity cluster (working 1st st of cluster into same space as prev st). Rep from * across row. Work 1 SC into space of last trinity cluster, ch 1, and turn.

Rep row 2.



Chevron Pattern

Chevrons create a wavy fabric that's especially popular in baby blankets, afghans, and scarves. You shape this chevron by working three stitches into one stitch to create a chevron point.

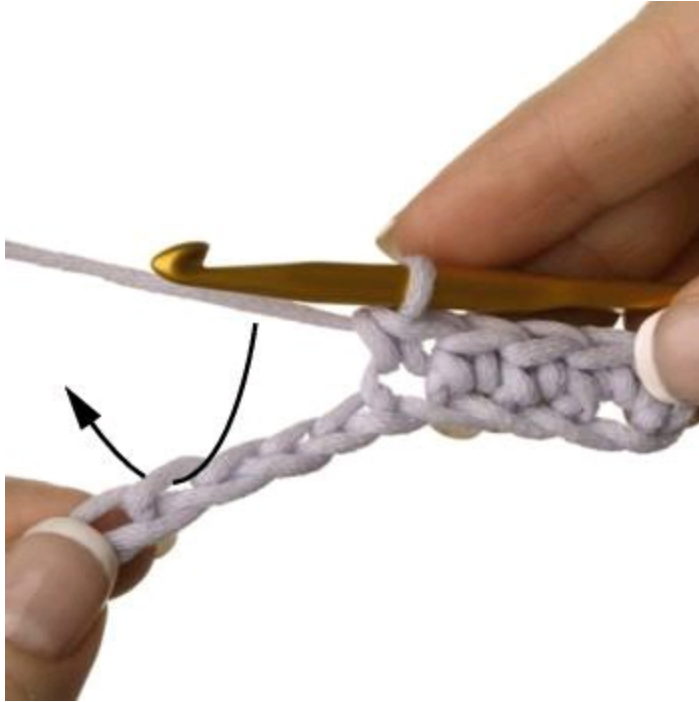


The Pattern

The foundation chain for this pattern consists of a multiple of 10 plus 1, plus 1 for the turning chain (for example, $30 + 1 + 1 = 32$).

Row 1: 2 SC into 2nd ch from hook. * 1 SC into each of the next 3 chs. Skip next 3 chs (a). 1 SC into each of the next 3 chs (b). 3 SC into next ch and 1 SC into each of the next 3 chs. Rep from * to end of row. 2 SC into final ch. Ch 1 and turn.

Row 2: 2 SC into 1st st. * 3 SC, skip 2 sts, 3 SC, and 3 SC into next st. Rep from * to end of row. 2 SC into last st. Ch 1 and turn.



Step A



Step B

Rep row 2 to desired length.



TIP

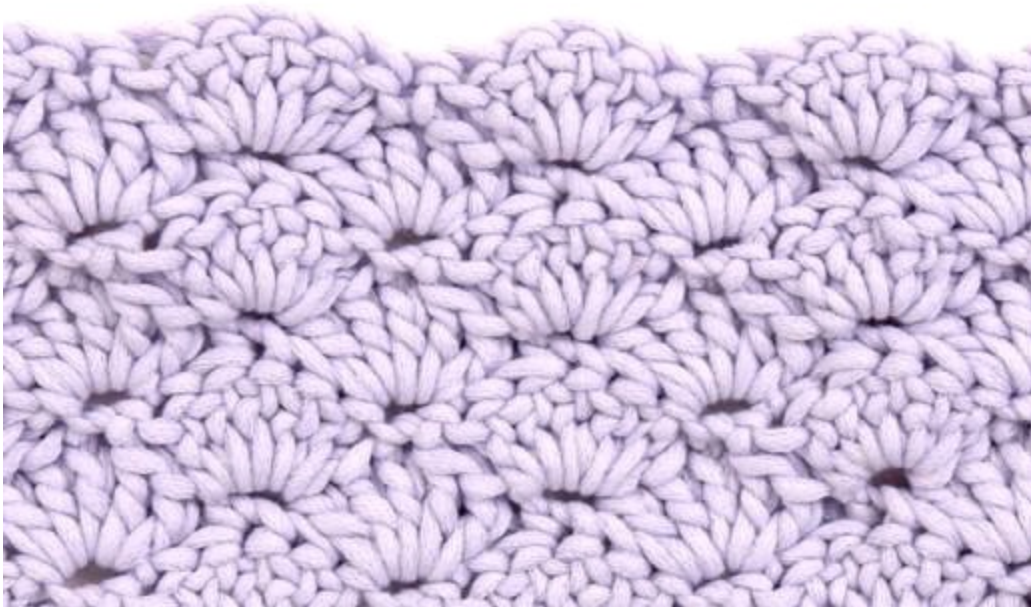
This pattern uses three single crochets after each curve. To vary this chevron pattern, simply add more single crochet stitch spaces between the curves. Adjust the length of your foundation chain accordingly.

For example, to change the pattern to 6 single crochets after each curve, you need a foundation chain with a

multiple of 16 plus 1, plus 1 for turning chain.

Shells with Double Crochet

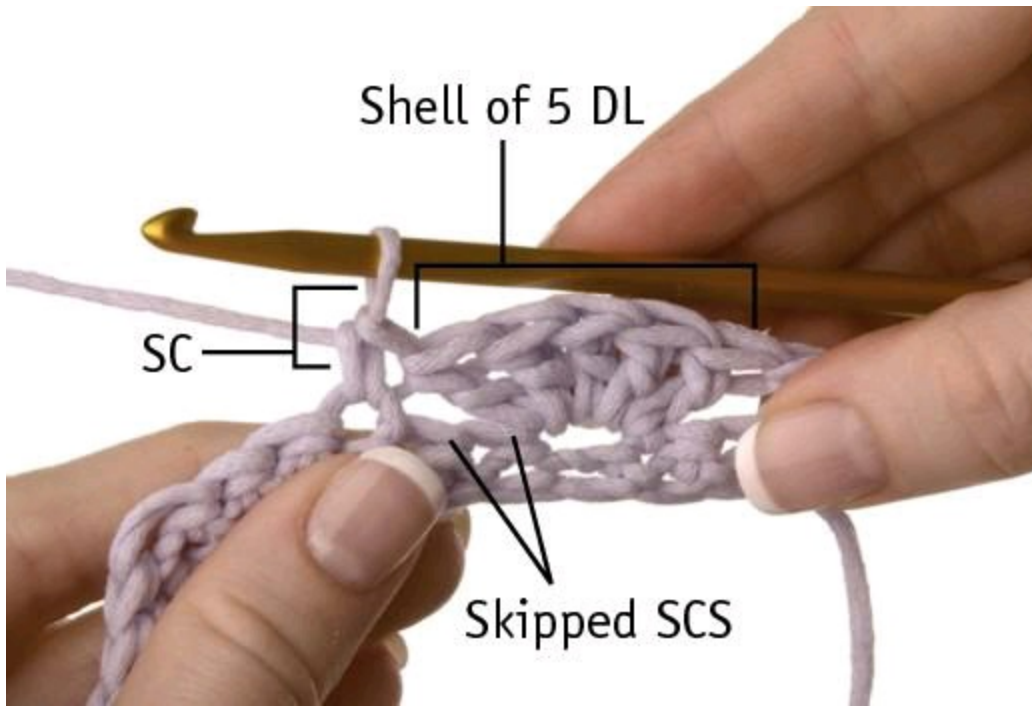
By working several stitches into one space, you can create a shell or fan. There are infinite varieties of shell patterns; this simple double crochet shell looks lovely in feminine garments or as a simple edging.



The Pattern

The foundation chain for this pattern consists of a multiple of 6, plus 1 for the turning chain (for example $4 \times 6 = 24 + 1 = 25$).

Row 1: SC into 2nd ch from hook. SC into each ch across, ch 1, and turn.



Row 2: SC into 1st st. * Skip 2 sts. 5 DC into next st, skip 2 sts, and SC into next st. Rep from * to end of row (a). Ch 3 and turn.



Step A

Row 3: The turning ch counts as 1 DC. 2 DC into 1st st (b). * 1 SC into middle DC of shell from prev row, 5 DC into next SC. Rep from * to last st. Work 3 DC in last st, ch 1, and turn.

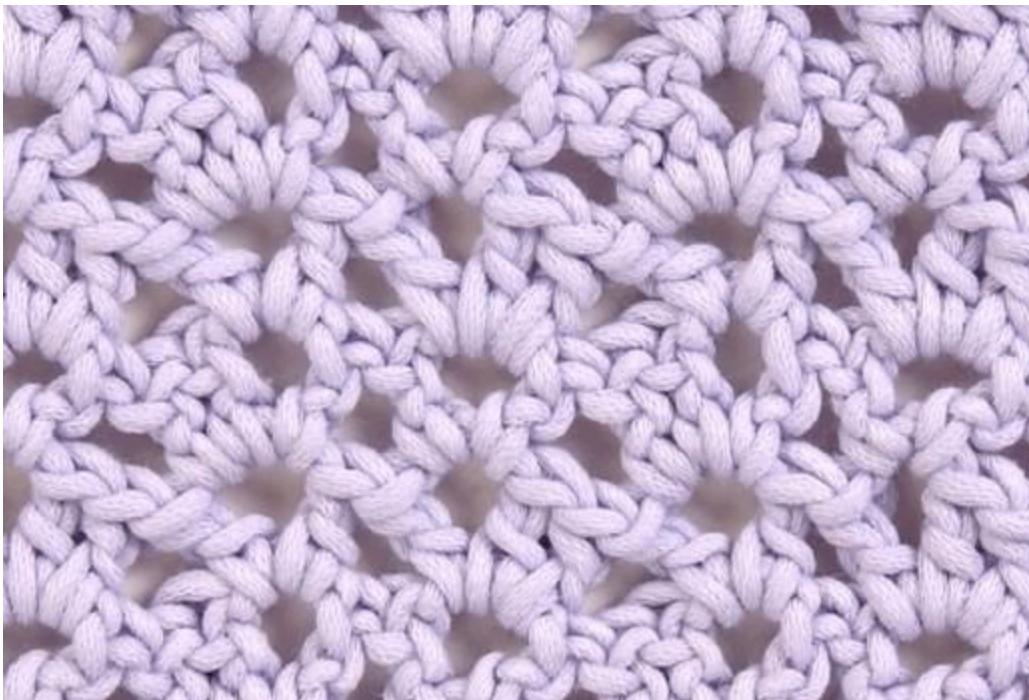
Rep rows 2 and 3.



Step B

Odd Shells Pattern

Lacy and open, this stitch pattern uses V-stitches to create a variation on the basic shell pattern. Use it in similar projects, or experiment with new uses.



Combinations Used in This Pattern

V-stitch: Work [1 double crochet, chain 2, 1 double crochet] into the same stitch (a).



Step A

Odd V-stitch: Work [2 double crochets, chain 2, 1 double crochet] into the same stitch (b).



Step B

The Pattern

The foundation chain for this pattern consists of a multiple of 8 plus 2, plus 1 for the turning chain (for example, $24 + 2 + 1 = 27$).

Row 1: SC into 2nd ch from hook. SC into each ch across. Ch 3 and turn.

Row 2: * V-st into 2nd st, skip 2 sts, and work 1 odd V-st into next st. Rep from * to last 3 sts. Skip 2 sts and DC into last st. Ch 3 and turn.

Row 3: * 1 odd V-st into ch-2 space, and 1 V-st into next ch-2 space. Rep from * to end of row. DC into space between turning ch and DC of prev row. Ch 3 and turn.

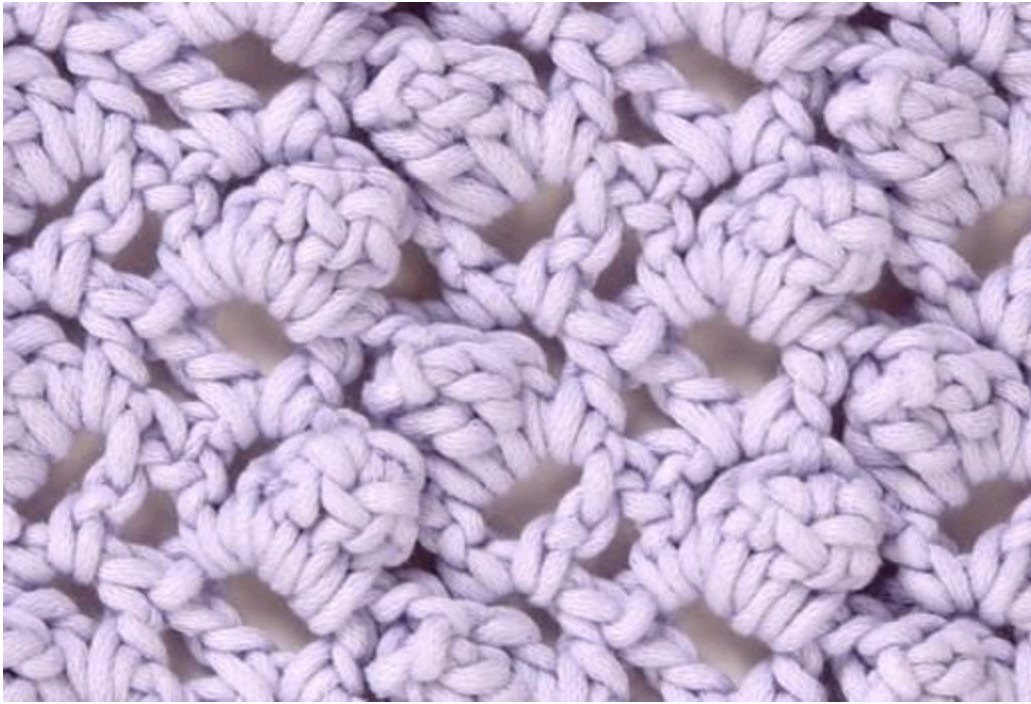
Row 4: * 1 V-st into ch-2 space. Work 1 odd V-st into next ch-2 space. Rep from * to end of row. DC into space between turning ch and DC of prev row. Ch 3 and turn.

Rep rows 3 and 4.



Popcorn Dance Pattern

A popcorn stitch is worked into this lively variation of the odd shells pattern. This pattern creates open fabric with excellent drape, or a great edging.



Combinations Used in This Pattern

V-stitch: Work 1 double crochet, chain 2, and 1 double crochet all into the same stitch (a).



Step A

Popcorn stitch: Work 4 double crochets into the same stitch. Join through the top

and chain 1 (b). (See the section [“Popcorns”](#))

Popcorn V-stitch: Work 1 double crochet, chain 2, and work 1 popcorn stitch all into the same stitch.



Step B

The Pattern

The foundation chain for this pattern consists of a multiple of 8 plus 2, plus 1 for the turning chain (for example, $24 + 2 + 1 = 27$).

Row 1: SC into 2nd ch from hook. SC into each ch across. Ch 1 and turn.

Row 2: * 1 popcorn V-st into 2nd st, skip 2 sts, and 1 V-st into next st. Rep from * to last 3 sts. Skip 2 sts and DC into last st. Ch 3 and turn.



Row 3: * 1 popcorn V-st into ch-2 space and 1 V-st into next ch-2 space. Rep from * to end of row. 1 DC into space between turning ch and DC of prev row. Ch 3 and turn.



Row 4: * 1 V-st into ch-2 space; work 1 popcorn V-st into next ch-2 space. Rep from * to end of row. 1 DC into space between turning ch and DC of prev row. Ch 3 and turn.

Rep rows 3 and 4.



Follow a Diagram

Following a diagram of crochet symbols is easy once you get the hang of it. Look closely at the chart of symbols and you'll find that the symbols represent the stitches well. Once you are used to diagrams, it's easy to follow one at a glance.

Each crochet stitch is represented by a symbol, as shown below. In a diagram, the symbols are laid out to represent a piece of crocheted fabric, showing you which stitches to work and where to work them.

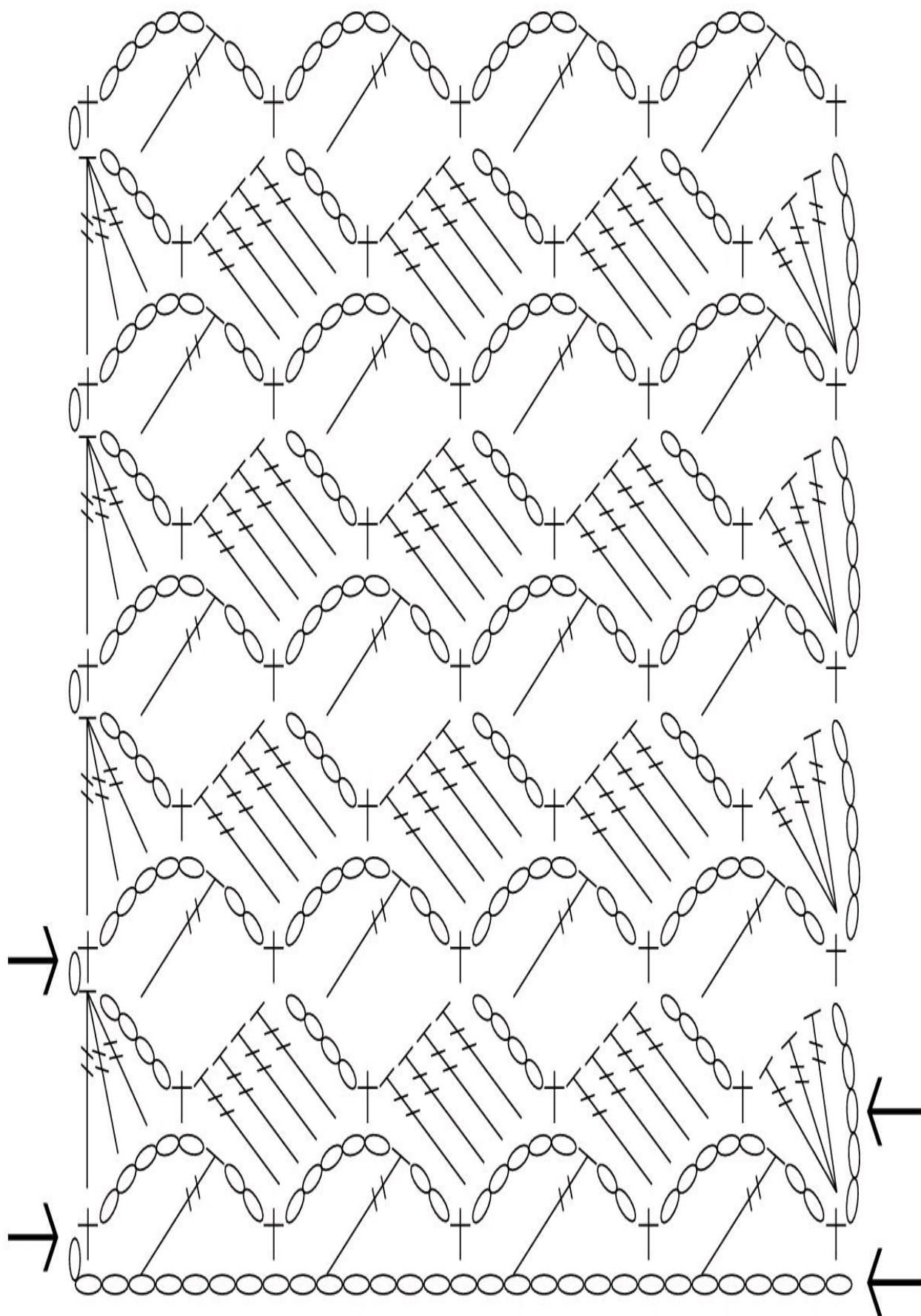
You can practice crocheting with diagrams only using the following stitch patterns. Each of the patterns begins with a row of chain stitches. To follow the pattern, refer to the symbols chart below, start at the first arrow, and work through the diagram stitch by stitch.

Crochet Symbols

chain stitch (ch)		V-stitch (V-st)	
slip stitch (sl st)	• OR 	crossed double crochet (crossed dc)	
single crochet (sc)	 OR 	shell [of 4 dc]	
half double crochet (hdc)		picot [of ch 3, sl st]	
double crochet (dc)		cluster [of 4 dc]	
treble crochet (tr)		reverse [sc]	
double treble crochet (dtr)		puff st [of 3 dc]	
triple treble crochet (trtr)		popcorn (pop or pc) [of 5 dc]	
single crochet in front loop only (fb)		bobble [composed of 5 loops]	
single crochet in back loop only (bb)		loop stitch (loop st)	
front post double crochet (FP dc)		long stitch (long st) or spike	
back post double crochet (BP dc)			

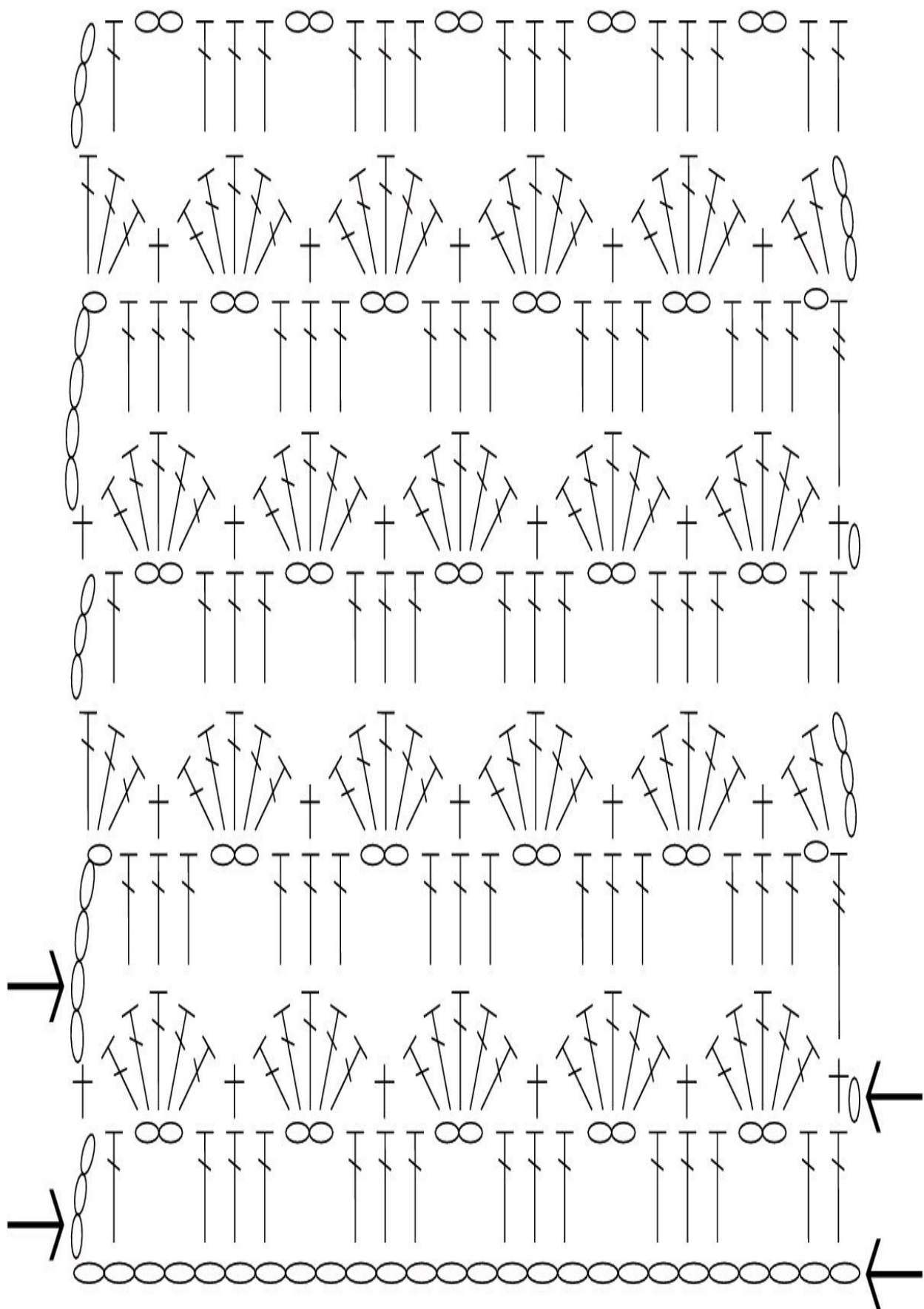
Stitch Pattern 1





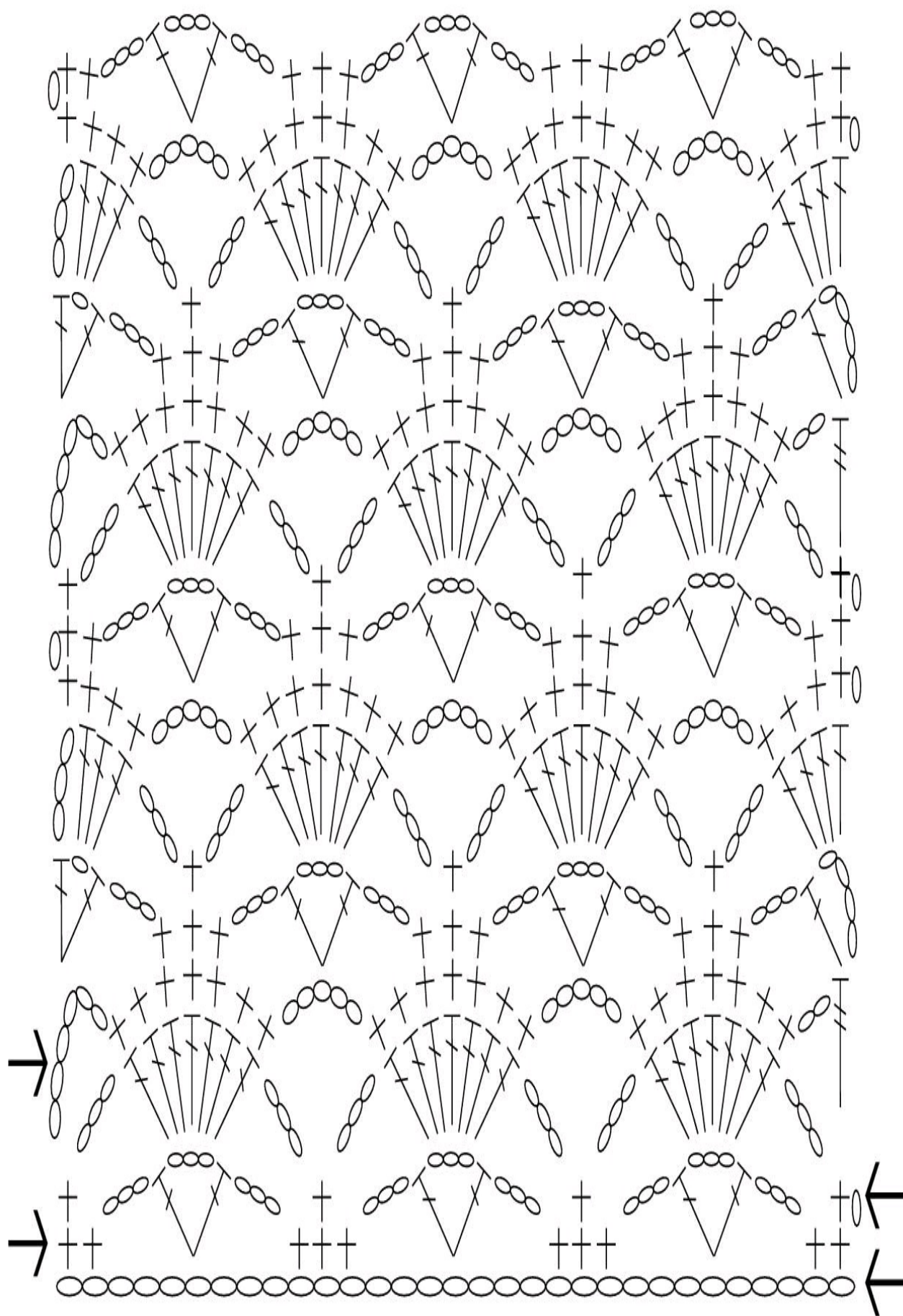
Stitch Pattern 2





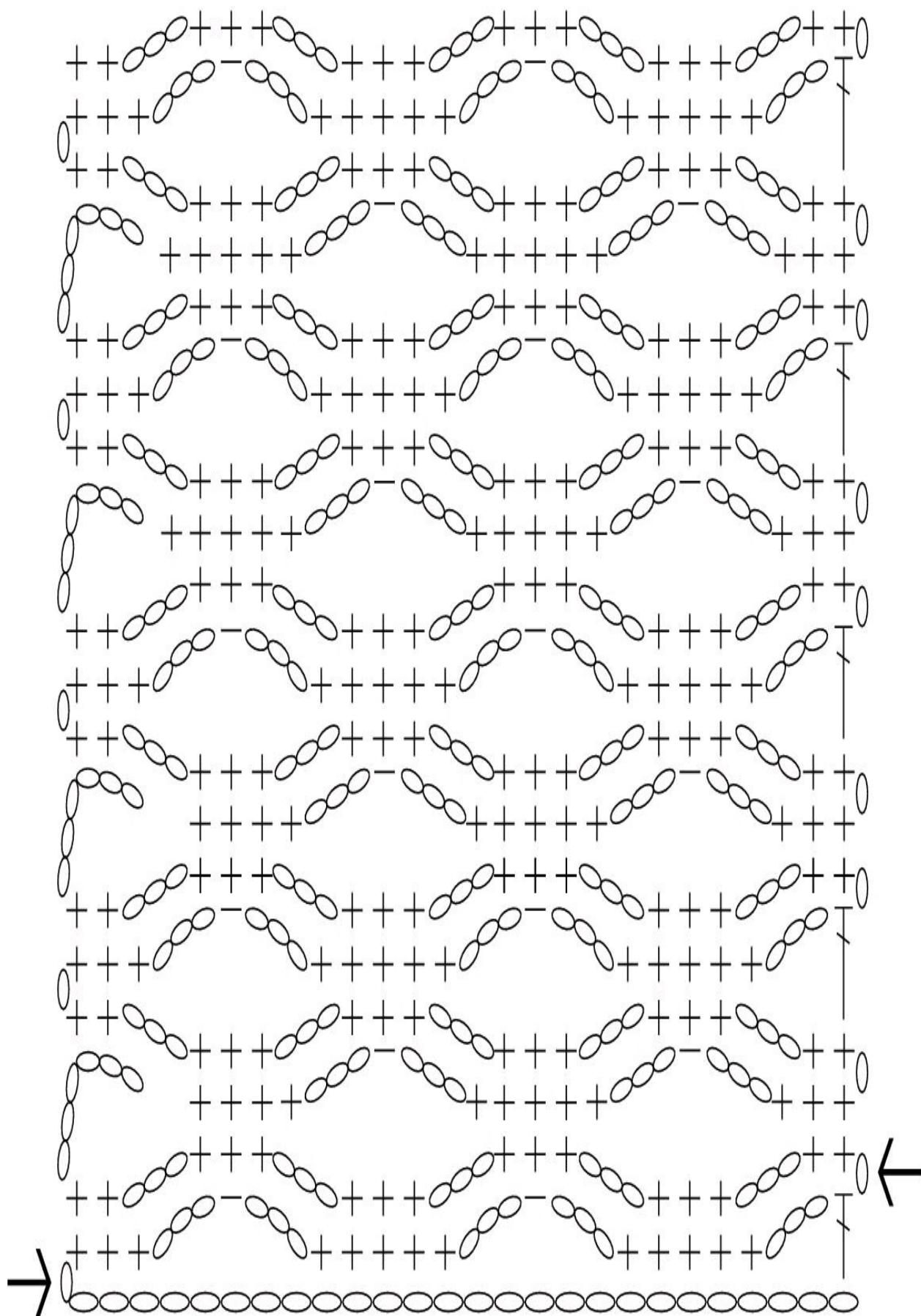
Stitch Pattern 3





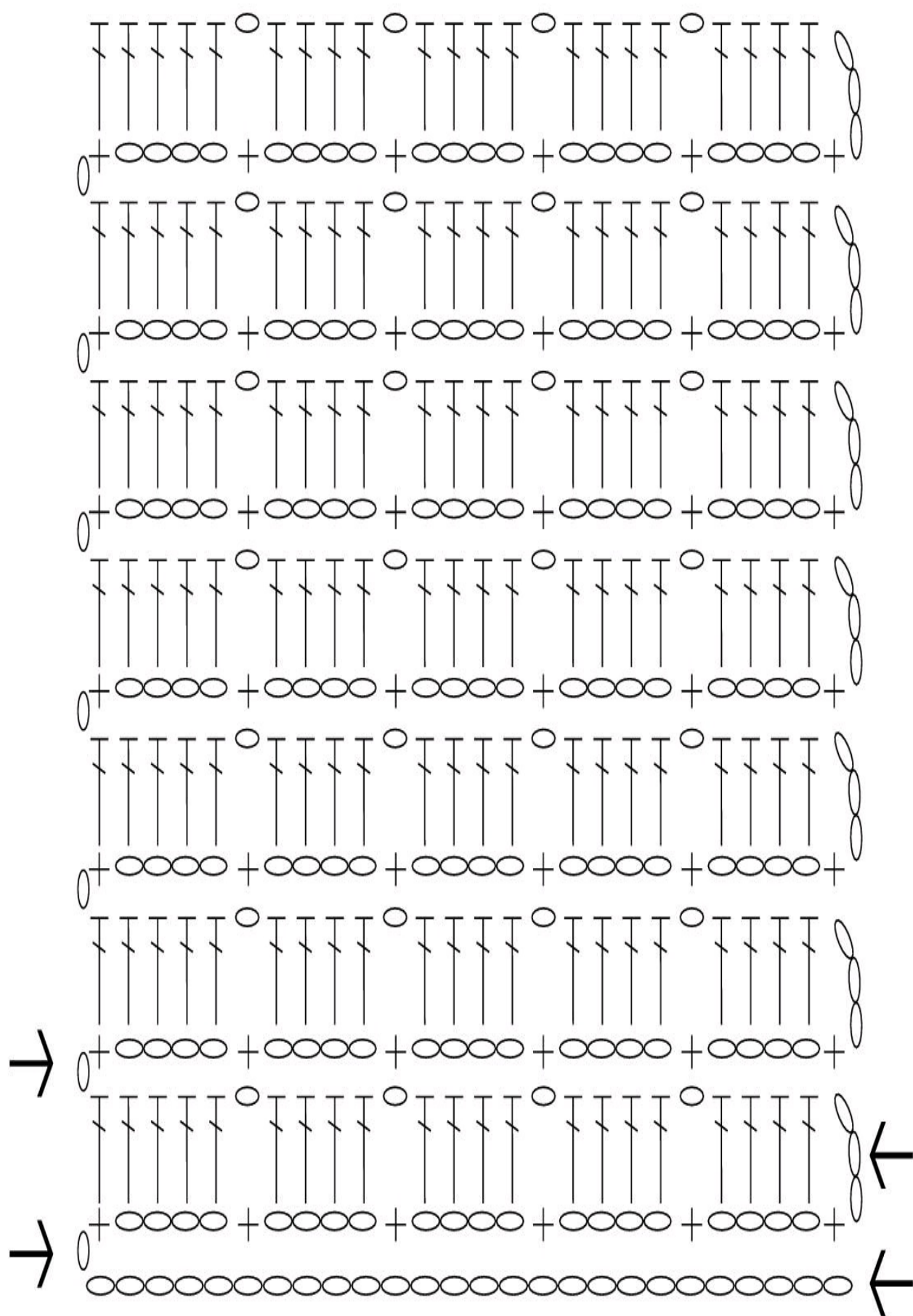
Stitch Pattern 4





Stitch Pattern 5





Chapter 8: More Techniques

Working in multiple colors and lace patterns, making knit-like stitches with Tunisian crochet, and crocheting with beads and other materials are just a few of the fascinating variations on crochet that can add an enormous amount of interest to your work.

[Use Stripes to Add Color](#)

[Follow a Charted Color Pattern by Stranding](#)

[Follow a Charted Color Pattern by Working Intarsia](#)

[Tapestry Crochet](#)

[Tunisian Simple Stitch](#)

[Tunisian Knit Stitch](#)

[Tunisian Purl Stitch](#)

[Increase in Tunisian Crochet](#)

[Decrease in Tunisian Crochet](#)

[Bind Off in Tunisian Crochet](#)

[Free-form Crochet](#)

[Felt/Full a Crocheted Item](#)

[Crochet with Beads](#)

[Crochet with Different Materials](#)

[Make Broomstick Loops](#)

[Make a Broomstick Loop Ruffle](#)

[Make Traditional Broomstick Lace](#)

[Make a Lover's Knot Trellis](#)

[Make a Clones Knot Mesh](#)

[Filet Crochet](#)

[Make Hairpin Lace](#)

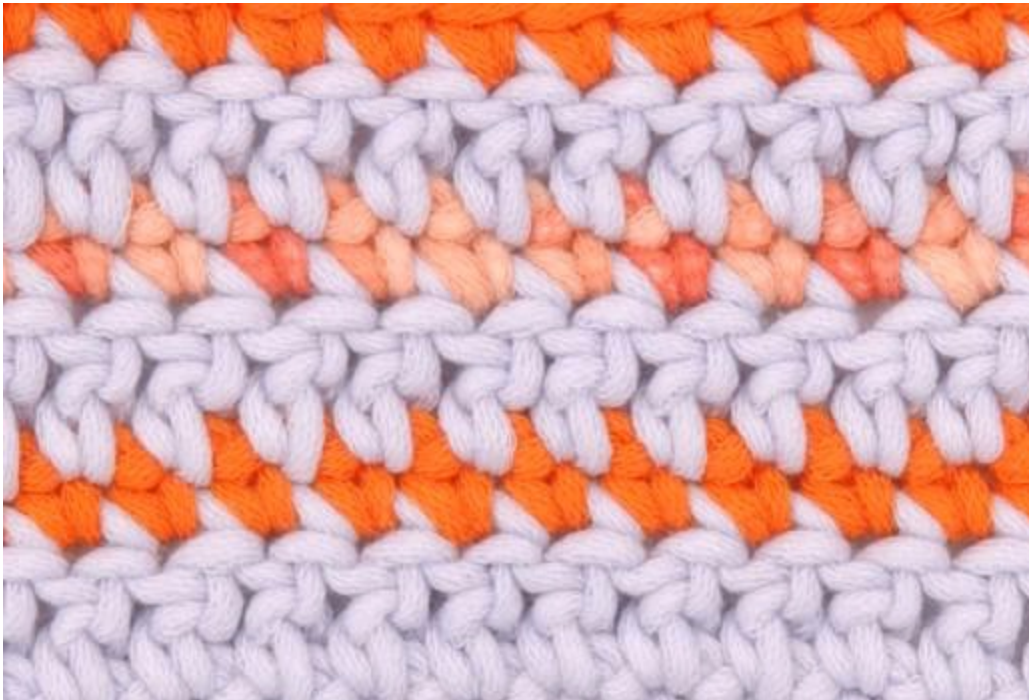
Use Stripes to Add Color

Changing yarn color between rows is an easy way to give your crochet a variety of personalities, even if you're just working a simple stitch. Chapter 3 introduced the technique of adding a new ball of yarn to change color; you can use that technique here to easily crochet an infinite variety of striped patterns.

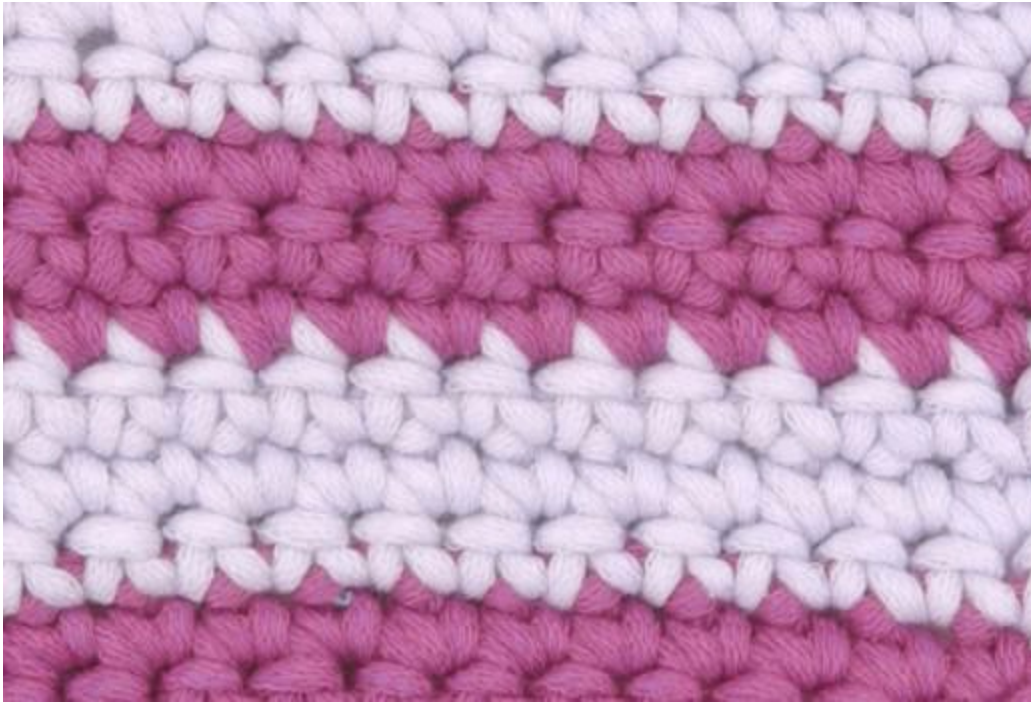
Choose several colors and work each row in a different color (see photo).



Changing yarn color after several rows creates wider stripes (see photo).



Alternate thick and thin stripes by varying the number of rows between color changes (see photo).



For a heathered look, work with two yarns held together for several rows, and then switch out one color for a new one. One color is a consistent base, while the other colors create subtle stripes (see photo).



Follow a Charted Color Pattern by Stranding

Working with color designs is exciting. You can bring the simplest stitches to life just by changing color in prescribed spots to create a design. Here you will follow a charted design to produce a stunning piece of work.

Understand Stranding

Right Side and Wrong Side

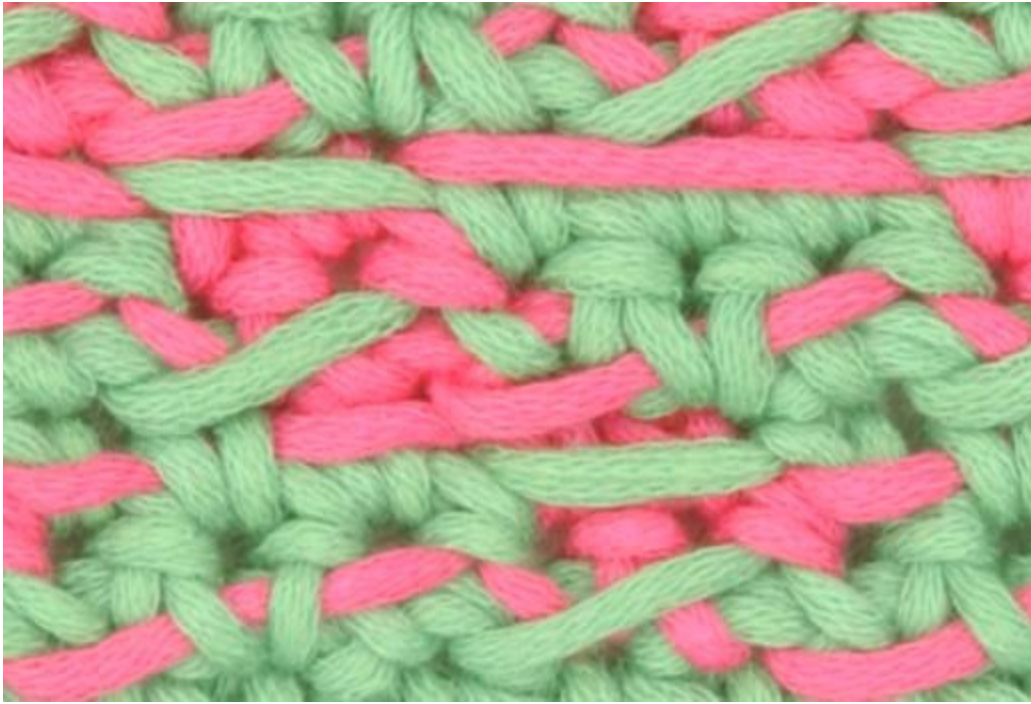
When the spaces between color changes are small, you can carry both colors across the row, working one color and carrying the other loosely across the wrong side of the piece. This kind of color work creates a *right side* (the side that shows the design; see the above photo) and a *wrong side* (the side where the strands can be hidden; see the photo below). The stranded yarn is always carried on the wrong side. Be careful of this as you turn your work with each row.



Secure the Stranded Yarn

To secure the stranded yarn, catch the stranded yarn every few stitches. To do so, allow the stranded yarn to be looped over by the stitch being worked (see photo).

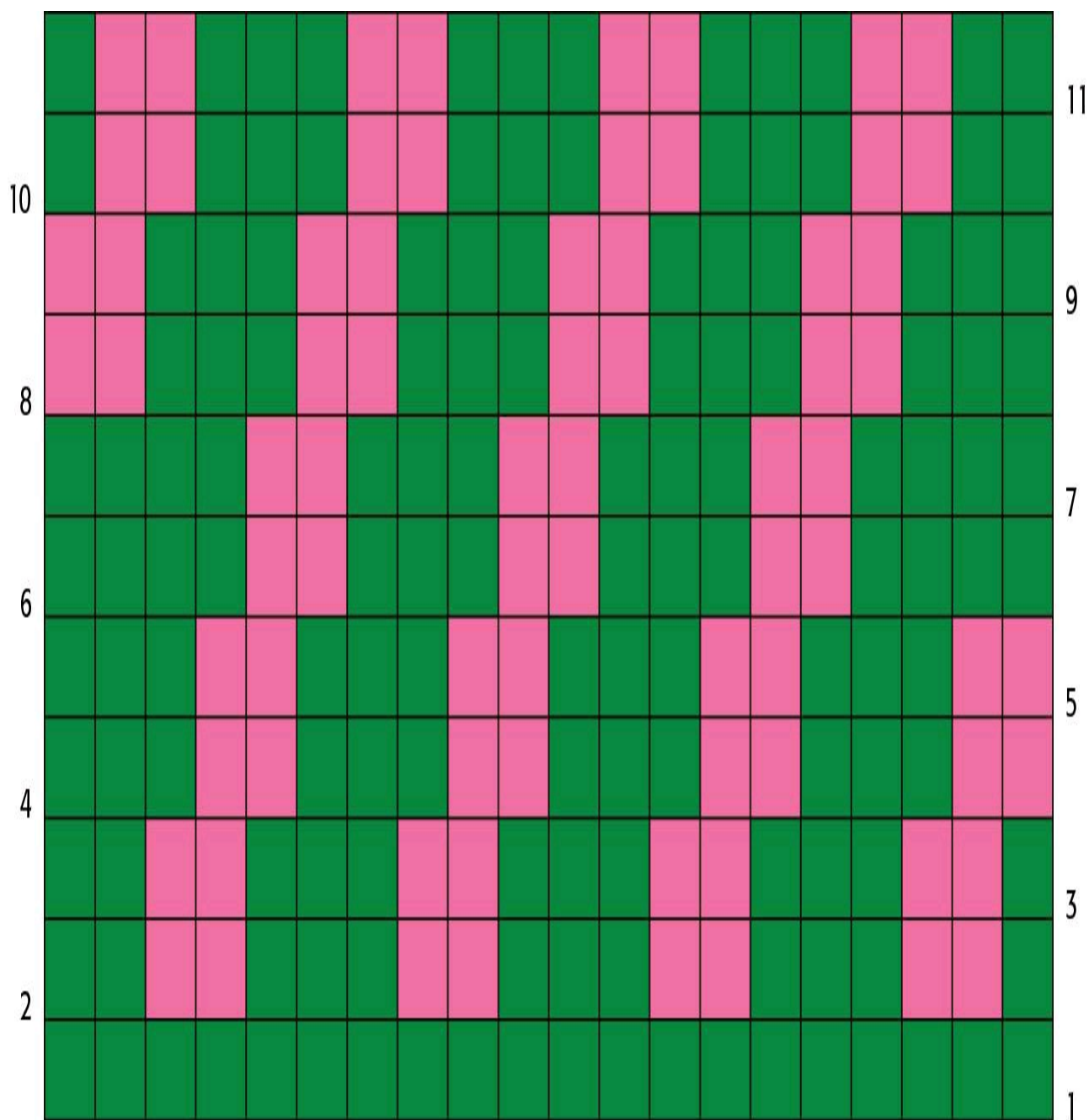
If you catch the yarn securely enough, you can snip the strands and weave them in later to allow for better drape in your fabric.



Follow a Charted Pattern

Crochet patterns that involve color work often include charts. Each square in the chart represents one stitch. For this pattern, you use only single crochet (see [Chapter 2](#)).

1. Your pattern will tell you how long your foundation chain needs to be. For this pattern, start with a foundation chain that is a multiple of 20.
2. Begin working from the bottom-right corner of the chart. Here, you are to work 1 single crochet for each block in row 1.
3. Read row 2 and all the even rows from left to right.
4. Read row 3 and all the odd rows from right to left.



Follow a Charted Color Pattern by Working Intarsia

Intarsia is used for color patterns when the spaces between color changes are too large for stranding to be practical or when more than two yarns are in use. Instead of stranding the unused yarn across the work, you simply drop it and let it hang until you need it again.

Work Intarsia

Dropping one color and picking up another is simple. Using the old color, work

the last stitch to the final step. Pick up the new color and yarn over with both yarns held together to complete the stitch. Drop the old yarn and continue with the new yarn.

There is little difference between the front and back sides when a color pattern is worked with intarsia. The first photo (a) shows the front side of an intarsia swatch. The second photo (b) shows the unworked yarn dangling from the back of the intarsia swatch.



Step A



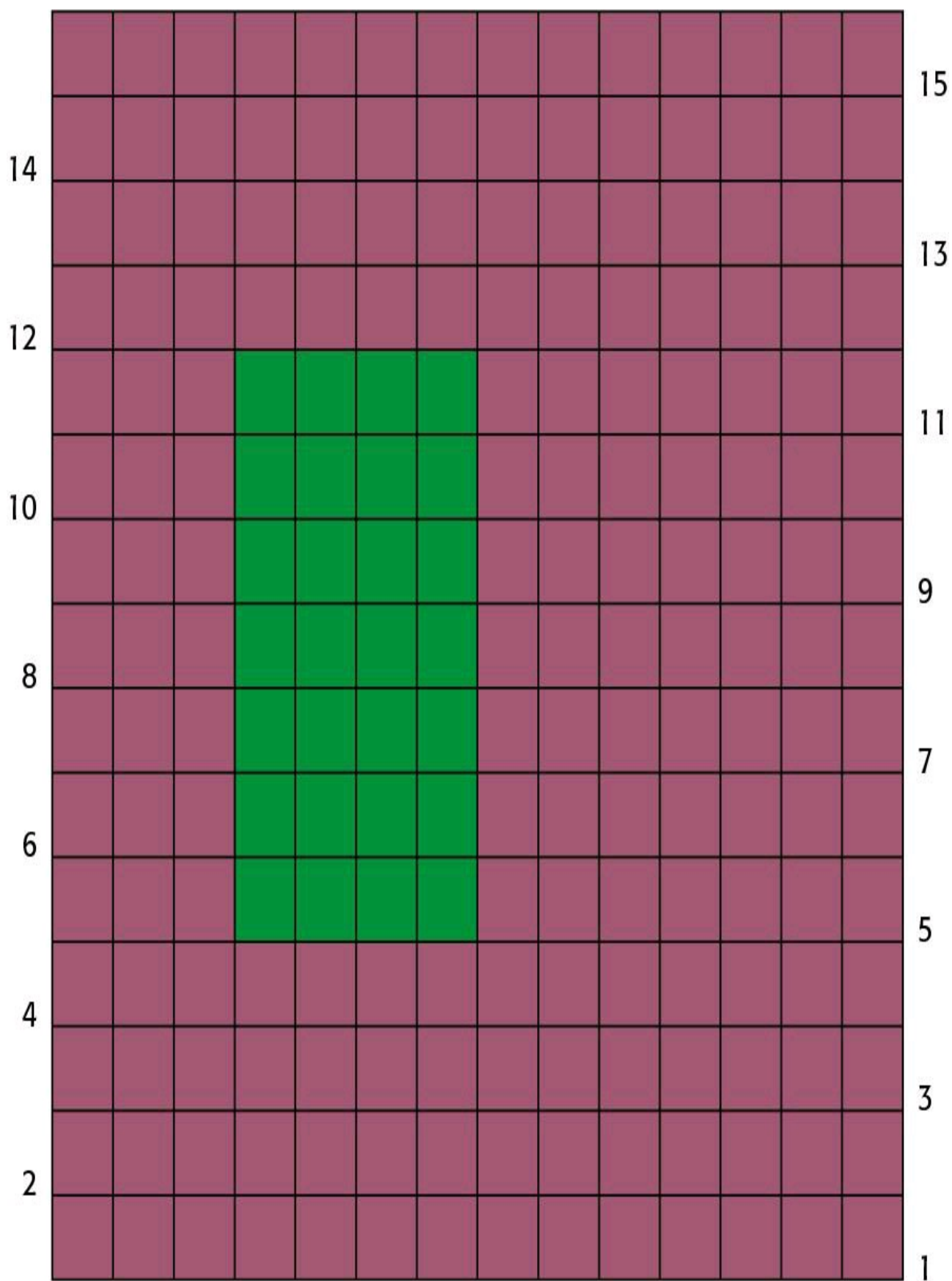
Step B

Many patterns list the precise amount of each color of yarn required; this is so you can make small balls or bobbins of each color (b). Keeping the colors tidy prevents confusion and tangles as you work.

Follow a Charted Pattern

Each square in the chart represents one stitch. For this pattern, you use only single crochet (see [Chapter 2](#)).

1. Start with a foundation chain of 15.
2. Begin working from the bottom-right corner of the chart and work row 1 from right to left.
3. Work the even rows from left to right.
4. Work the odd rows from right to left.



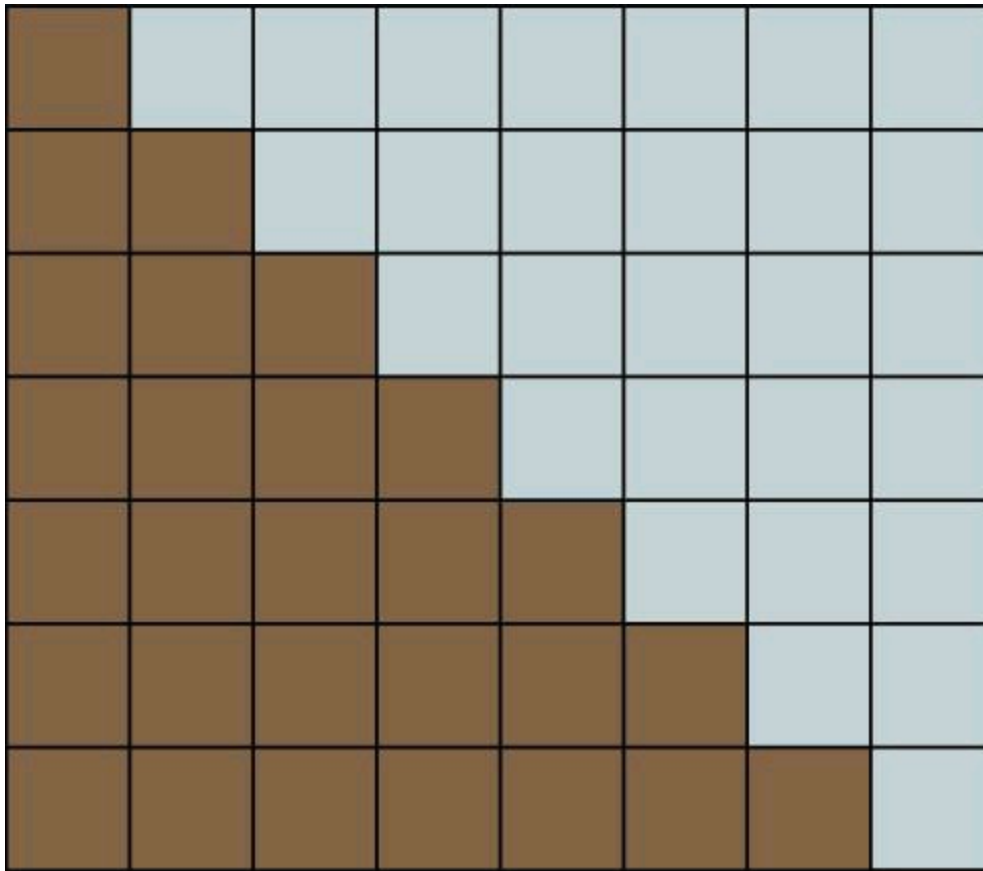
Tapestry Crochet

Tapestry crochet is used to create pieces with intricate color-work designs and motifs. This method is worked at a tight gauge and creates a stiff fabric, perfect for baskets and bags.



Work Tapestry Crochet

Tapestry crochet designs and motifs are depicted in charts like this one. This seven-stitch pattern can be repeated many times to create a motif like the example shown above.



Tapestry crochet is often worked in rounds without turning, meaning that the texture of the front and back sides of the rows doesn't alternate. This keeps the stitches slanting in the same direction and helps create a clear motif on the side facing you as you work—the “right side.” The charted design is made with this in mind. To read the chart, read every row from right to left instead of alternating directions with each row.

NOTE: If you wish to work a motif in flat rows that was designed for a project in the round, you may need to make adjustments to the motif to account for the alternating slant of the stitches created by turning each row.

The method for switching colors used in tapestry crochet is slightly different from the method for switching colors described in [Chapter 3](#). When you reach the last stitch of a section of color in the pattern, work the last stitch to the final step. Pick up the next color in the pattern and yarn over with only this yarn to complete the stitch (see photo). The completed stitch will look a bit funny, with the top half of the stitch in the new color and the bottom half in the previous color.

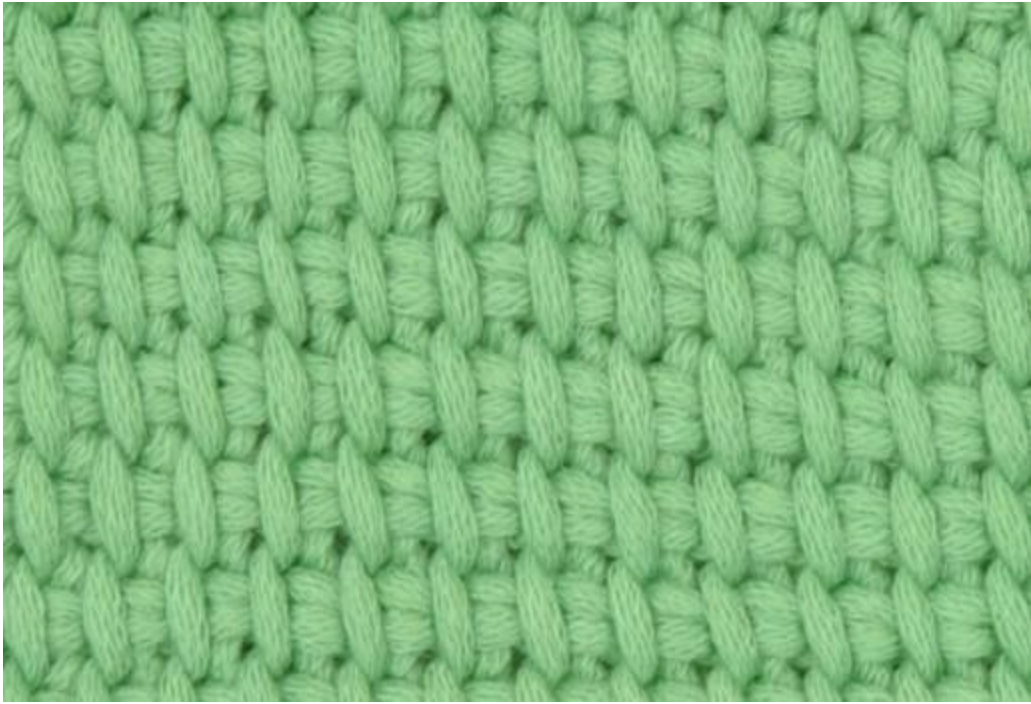


Tunisian Simple Stitch

It has been said that Tunisian crochet—also known as Afghan stitch—is like a cross between knitting and crocheting. This is because you make each row in two steps using a long Tunisian (or Afghan) hook. First you pick up all the stitches (forward pass), and then you bind them off (return pass). To get started, you make a foundation forward pass.

Tunisian crochet creates a fabric that is flat and has a unique texture.

Pattern abbreviation: Tss.



Foundation Forward Pass

The foundation row is the same for any variation of Tunisian crochet.

1. Make a chain equal to the number of stitches you require.
2. Insert your hook into the second chain. Yarn over and draw up a loop.

There are now 2 loops on the hook.



Step 2

3. Insert the hook into the next chain, yarn over, and draw up a loop.
There are now 3 loops on the hook.



Step 3

4. Repeat step 3 until you reach the end of the row. Do not turn your work.
You now have 1 loop on your hook for each chain.

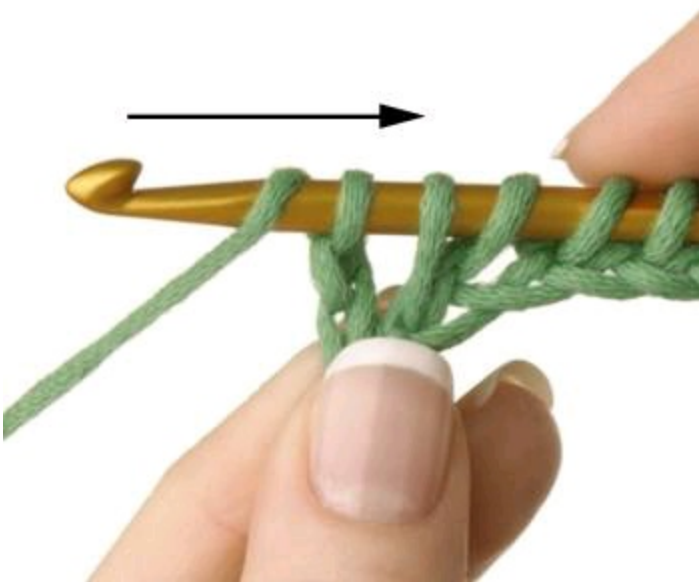


Step 4

Foundation Return Pass

In the return pass, you essentially bind off each stitch that you picked up in the forward pass. You work the foundation return pass with the right side of the work facing you. Do not turn the work.

1. Yarn over and draw the yarn through 1 loop on the hook.



2. Yarn over and draw the yarn through 2 loops on the hook.

You are essentially binding off each stitch that you picked up in the forward row.



3. Repeat step 2 until you reach the last 2 stitches of the return row. Yarn over and draw through the final 2 stitches.

At the end of the row, 1 loop remains on the hook.



Forward Pass

Once you've worked the foundation rows, continue to alternate working forward

and return passes.

1. Skip the first vertical bar from the previous row. Insert your hook behind the next vertical bar.

NOTE: Each vertical bar corresponds to 1 Tunisian simple stitch.



Step 1

2. Yarn over and draw up a loop.
There are now 2 loops on the hook.



Step 2

3. Insert the hook behind the next vertical bar. Yarn over and draw up a loop.



Step 3

4. Repeat step 3 until 1 stitch remains.
5. For the last stitch in the forward pass, insert the hook into both vertical bars at

the end of the row. Yarn over and draw up a loop.

You now have as many loops on your hook as there are stitches in the previous row.



Return Pass

You work the Tunisian simple stitch return pass with the right side of the work facing you. Do not turn the work.

1. Yarn over and draw the yarn through 1 loop on the hook.



2. Yarn over and draw the yarn through 2 loops on the hook.



3. Repeat step 2 until you reach the end of the return row. One loop remains on the hook.



Tunisian Knit Stitch

The Tunisian knit stitch creates a fabric that looks much like the right side of knitted stockinette stitch.

Pattern abbreviation: Tks.



Forward Pass

1. Work a foundation pass as you would for [Tunisian simple stitch](#).
2. Skip the first stitch from the previous row. Working between 2 vertical bars, insert your hook from front to back under both horizontal strands.



Step 2

3. Yarn over and draw the yarn through.
There are now 2 loops on the hook.



Step 3

4. Insert the hook from front to back under the next pair of horizontal strands. Yarn over and draw the yarn through.



Step 4

5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 until you have completed the forward row.



Step 5

Return Pass

You work the Tunisian knit stitch return pass with the right side of the work facing you. Do not turn the work.

1. Yarn over and draw the yarn through 1 loop on the hook.



2. Yarn over and draw the yarn through 2 loops on the hook.
3. Repeat step 2 until you reach the end of the return row.



One loop remains on the hook.



Tunisian Purl Stitch

The Tunisian purl stitch creates a fabric that looks much like the wrong side of knitted stockinette stitch.

Pattern abbreviation: Tps.



Foundation Forward Pass

1. Make a chain equal to the number of stitches you require.
2. Holding the yarn in front of your work, insert the hook into the second chain (a). Yarn over and draw the yarn through (b).

There are now 2 loops on the hook.



Step 2a



Step 2b

3. Holding the yarn in front of your work, insert the hook into the next chain and draw the yarn through.

There are now 3 loops on the hook.



Step 3

4. Repeat step 3 until you reach the end of the row. Do not turn your work.

You now have 1 loop on your hook for each chain. There is a little purl bump for each loop.



Step 4

Foundation Return Pass

Work the foundation return row as you would for [Tunisian simple stitch](#).



Forward and Return Pass

1. Skip the first stitch from the previous row. Hold your hook with the yarn in front of the work (see photo) and insert it behind the next vertical bar, as you would if you were working Tunisian simple stitch.



Step 1

2. Yarn over and draw the yarn through.

There are now 2 loops on the hook.



Step 2

3. Insert the hook behind the next vertical bar. Yarn over and draw the yarn through. Repeat until 1 stitch remains.

4. For the last stitch in the forward row, insert the hook into both vertical bars at the end of the row.



Step 4

5. Yarn over and draw the yarn through.



Step 5

6. Work the return row as you would for Tunisian simple stitch.

Increase in Tunisian Crochet

There are two different ways to shape your Tunisian crochet work. You can increase at the end of a forward or return pass or between stitches in a forward pass.

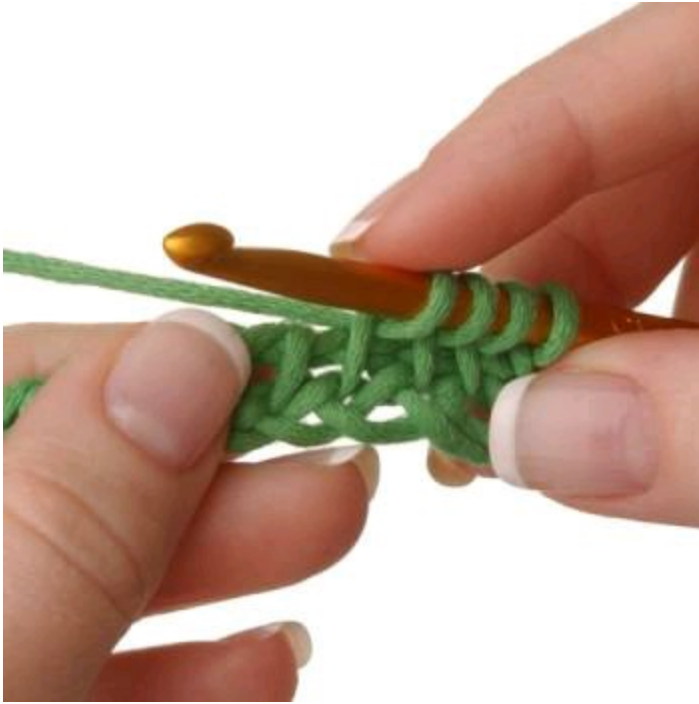


Increase

Increase within a Forward Pass

To increase within a forward pass, pick up extra loops by working into both a horizontal and a vertical strand of the same stitch.

1. Insert your hook into the next horizontal strand. Yarn over and draw the yarn through.



Step 1

2. Insert the hook into the next vertical bar. Yarn over and draw the yarn through. You have picked up 2 loops from the same stitch, resulting in an increase of 1 stitch.



Step 2

Increase at the End of a Forward Pass

1. When you have reached the end of a forward pass, loosely make 1 chain for each stitch you need to increase by, plus 1.



Step 1

2. Remove the hook from the last chain, drawing the loop long to hold your place.



Step 2

3. Insert the hook into the back loop of the first chain. Keep this loop on your hook.



Step 3

4. Pick up the back loop of each remaining chain.



Step 4

5. Return the last loop to your hook, pulling it tighter to fit snugly.
6. Work the return pass as usual.

Increase at the End of a Return Row

1. Work the return pass to the end. One loop remains on the hook. Make 1 chain for each stitch you need to increase by.



Step 1

2. On the next forward pass, skip the first chain. Insert the hook into the second chain, yarn over, and draw up a loop. Repeat for each chain.



Step 2

3. Pick up a loop in the first vertical bar. (You skip this bar on non-increase rows.) Continue to work a forward pass as usual.



Decrease in Tunisian Crochet

When you shape your Tunisian crochet work, you make decreases in the forward

pass by working two stitches together.



Decrease

1. Insert your hook behind the next 2 vertical bars.
2. Yarn over and draw the yarn through both bars.

You now have only 1 loop to work in the return pass, thus decreasing by 1 stitch.



3. Work the return pass as usual.



Bind Off in Tunisian Crochet

The final row of Tunisian crochet is worked differently from the rest of the piece. You work only a forward pass, and you bind off as you go, resulting in a neat, finished edge.



Bind Off

1. At the beginning of a forward pass, insert your hook behind the second vertical bar. Yarn over and draw the yarn through.

There are now 2 loops on your hook.

2. Yarn over and draw the yarn through both loops on the hook.

There is now 1 loop on your hook. You have bound off 1 stitch.



3. * Insert your hook behind the next vertical bar. Yarn over and draw the yarn through. Yarn over and draw the yarn through both loops on the hook (see photo). Repeat from * until the end of the row.

There is now 1 loop remaining on your hook.



Step 3

4. Cut the yarn, leaving a 6-inch tail. Draw the yarn through the loop to fasten off.



Step 4

Free-form Crochet

Free-form is to crochet what jamming is to music. Combining the crochet skills you already have with a variety of stitches, colors, and yarns, you can create truly unique, stunning pieces of art.



Free-Form

To Start

Free-form crochet is made without a pattern or guidelines. Making free-form pieces is a great way to use up small amounts of yarn and leftovers from completed projects, and to play with new stitches and patterns as you learn. Just gather several yarns that complement each other and start crocheting!

Use the stitch of your choice to create a shape of any sort. It can be a perfect circle (a), square, or rectangle, or it can be an amorphous blob (b).



Step A



Step B

Alternative 1: Make Several Pieces

1. Make several more shapes out of different yarns.
2. Lay out the pieces and rearrange them until you like the way the configuration

looks.



3. Attach the pieces together by using slip stitch or any stitch you prefer. (See the [“Seam Pieces Together” sections](#))



Alternative 2: Join Yarn

1. Use the stitch of your choice to create a shape of any sort. It can be a perfect circle, square, or rectangle, or it can be an amorphous blob.
2. Instead of crocheting several separate pieces, you can build upon your initial

piece by joining new yarns and crocheting shapes as you go. (See the section [“Join New Yarn”](#).)



TIP

Use yarns from a similar color family to unite your work into a harmonious piece of art.

Chain a 12-inch cord and attach it in two places to your free-form creation. Use the cord to hang your piece on the wall.

You can make bags, hats, and garments out of free-form pieces. Experiment!

Felt/Full a Crocheted Item

Untreated wool and other animal fibers mat and shrink when agitated. This results in a fuzzy, dense fabric that is strong and extremely durable. Fulling pieces such as bags, slippers, and hats creates uniquely textured and durable products.

Felting refers to the process of agitating raw fibers in water until they bind together; **fulling** refers to agitating stitched fibers (including crocheted fibers) until they bind together. Although fulling is technically the correct term for doing this with crochet, felting has become the popular way to refer to all methods that deal with agitating and matting wool.



How to Felt

Before crocheting an entire project for felting, felt some swatches made with the same yarn and stitch so you can determine how severely the fabric felts and how much it shrinks lengthwise and widthwise. If you're following a pattern, this is the same as working up a gauge swatch. You can compare your results to the dimensions specified in the pattern and make adjustments if needed.

1. Crochet the piece you intend to felt. It's generally best to use a hook that is larger than recommended for your yarn. Be sure your crocheted piece is larger than you want the felted product to be in order to accommodate the shrinkage that results from felting, and that your stitches are looser than normal.



NOTE: You might want to experiment with hook size and with which stitch you use, as different stitches produce different felted fabrics.

2. Place your crocheted piece in a mesh bag, zippered laundry bag, or pillowcase. Doing so will keep the piece from becoming pulled out of shape during agitation.



Step 2

3. Set your washing machine to a warm or hot wash and add a small amount of mild detergent. Place the mesh bag and one or two pairs of jeans in the machine.

The jeans will help with agitation.

4. Once the agitation cycle starts, check on your piece every 5 minutes. If it hasn't yet shrunk to the desired size, return it to the machine for more agitation. Continue to check it every 5 minutes until it is the desired size. You may have to run the machine through several agitation cycles for adequate felting.

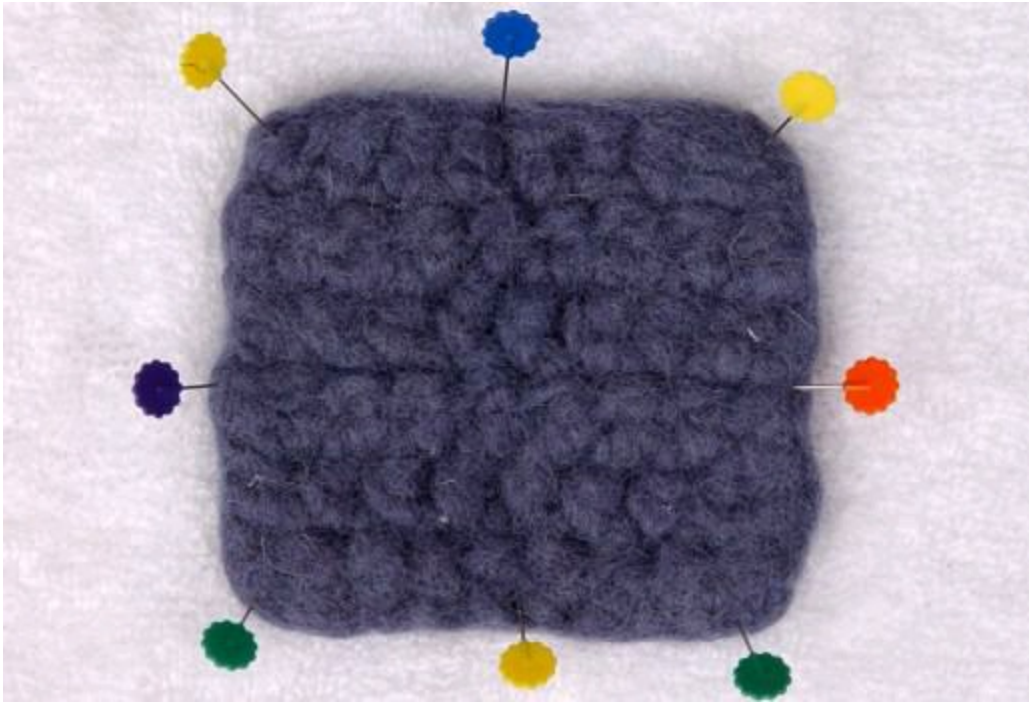
NOTE: Avoid the spin cycle; it may stretch and warp the piece.

5. Rinse the felted piece gently. Without wringing, wrap it in a towel or two and press to remove any excess water.



Step 5

6. Block your piece. (See [Chapter 10](#)) If you're blocking a 3-D item such as a bag or a hat, fill it with rolled towels or plastic bags until it is the proper shape. Let it dry. Drying may take a day or two.



Step 6

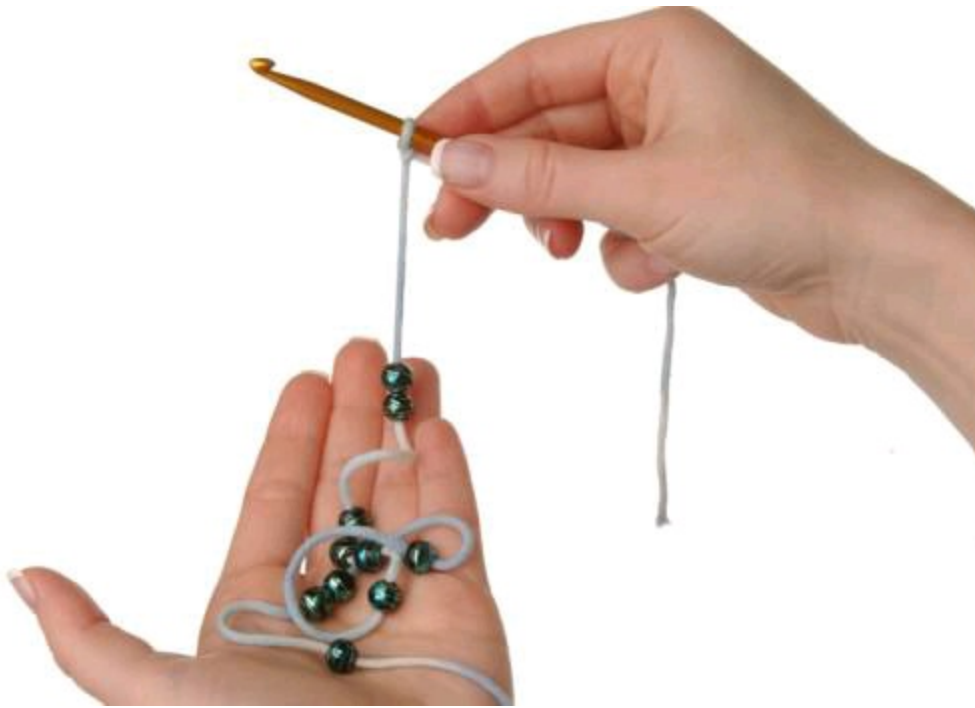
TIP

Read yarn labels carefully to make sure your yarn is suited for felting or fulling. Wool that has been treated to make it machine washable (marked “superwash”) will not felt or full when agitated.

Using bleaches and dyes, and blending other fibers with the wool can affect a yarn’s reaction to agitation. Some won’t felt or full at all, and others might felt only a little.

Crochet with Beads

Beads can add a playful or elegant element to crochet work. Experiment with beads of different sizes, shapes, and textures. Here are the basics you need to start your adventures with beads and crochet. You’re bound to create some masterpieces along the way.



Using Beads

Thread the Beads Onto the Yarn

Patterns calling for bead crochet will specify the quantity and size of beads required. Thread all the beads you need onto the yarn before you begin to crochet.

1. Fold a piece of thread over the yarn tail.

This folded piece of thread works as a flexible needle. Think of the ends of the thread as the point of a needle.

2. Slide beads onto the thread “needle” and then onto the yarn.

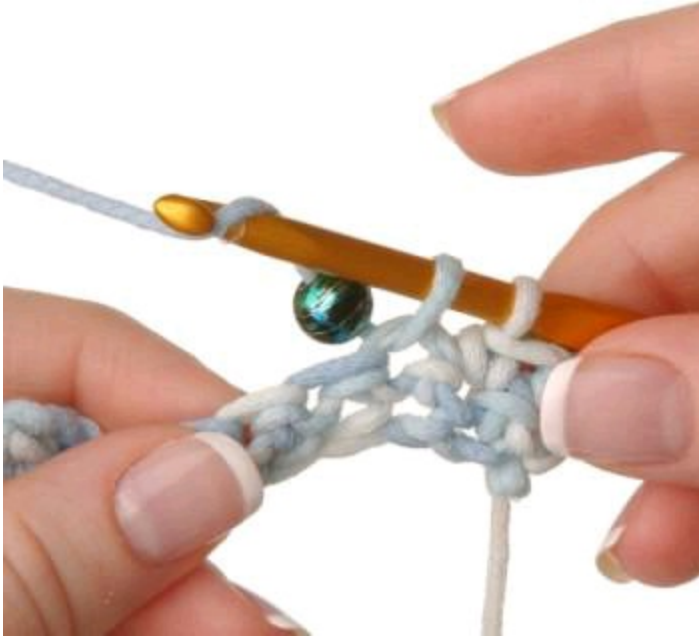


Work Beads into a Crochet Stitch

1. Before completing the final step of any stitch, slide a bead close to your hook. (The example in the photo uses single crochet.)

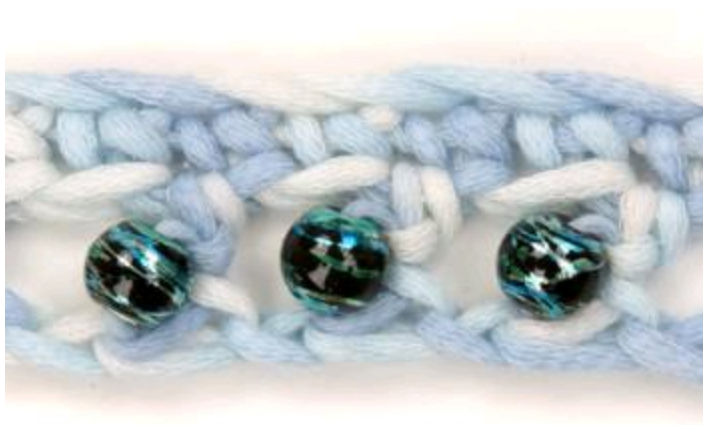


2. Yarn over and pull through to complete the stitch. This step secures a bead in the stitch. The bead sits on the side of the fabric facing away from you as you work the row.



Experiment with Other Stitches

Beads can be worked into any crochet stitch. Here is an example of working beads into a double crochet stitch.



Slip a bead into the final step of a [lover's knot](#). This might sound tricky, but it's the same as working simpler stitches. Give it a try!



Crochet with Different Materials

Once you have the crochet bug, it's hard to resist trying to wrap all sorts of materials around your hook. Have fun trying out these suggestions.

Materials to Try

Twine and Rope

Twine and rope offer an alternative to regular yarn. They are best used for a project that calls for a sturdy, stiff “yarn.” The rough fibers offer a great texture, too. You may want to wear protective gloves while working with rough fibers.



Cassette Tape

The ribbon from an old cassette tape is a perfect example that there are many recyclable “yarns” to try. To use cassette tape for crocheting, cut the ribbon at the beginning of the tape and pull the tape out of the cassette as you work.



Handmade Rag Yarn

Turn your favorite old T-shirts or a tired bed sheet into yarn. This kind of “yarn” is perfect for making rugs and baskets.



Make Rag Yarn

Strip Method

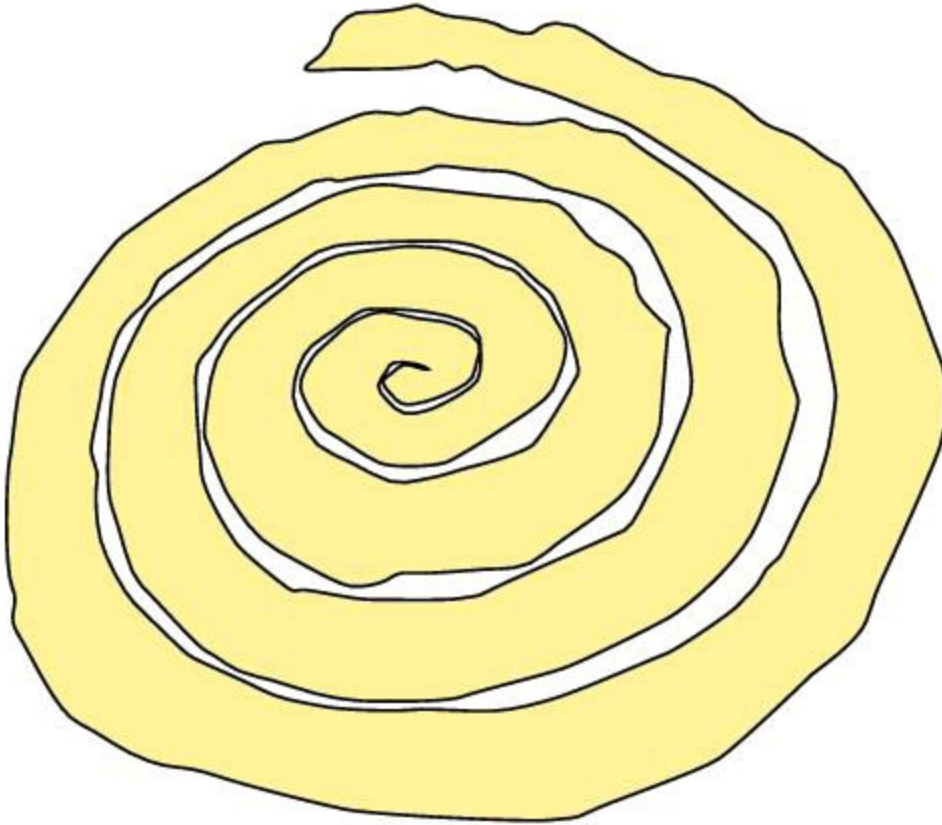
1. Cut or tear strips of fabric.
2. Tie or sew the strip ends together.



Spiral Method

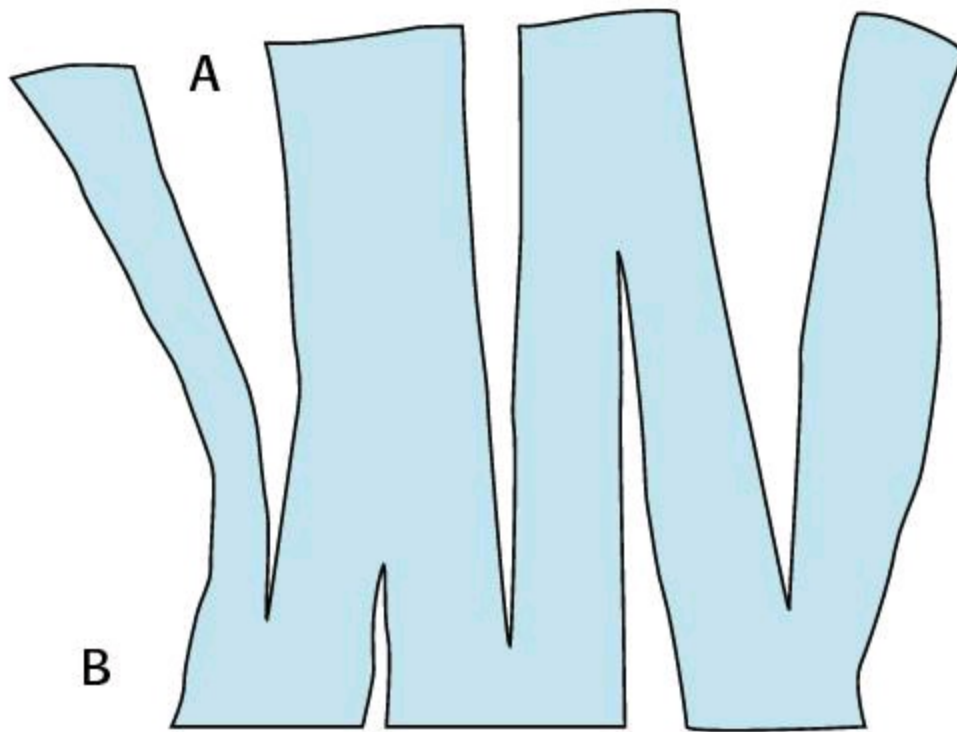
1. Starting at an outer edge, cut a spiral from the outside in.

2. As you wind the ball, allow the strip to fold or twist in on itself. This method works best with lightweight fabric.
3. Tie or sew the strip ends together.



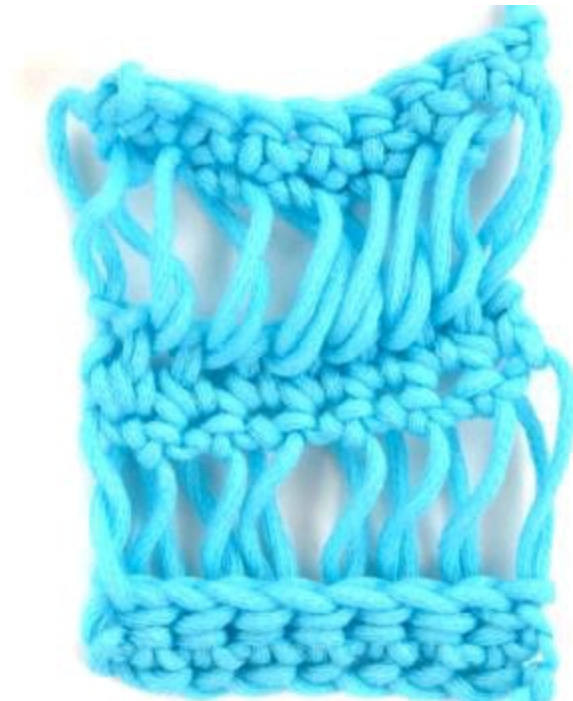
ZigZag Method

1. Cut the fabric approximately 1 inch from edge A. Don't cut all the way; stop approximately 1 inch from the edge.
2. Starting from edge B, cut approximately 1 inch from the last strip that you cut, stopping approximately 1 inch from the edge.
3. Continue to follow steps 1 and 2 across the fabric.
4. Tie or sew the strip ends together.



Make Broomstick Loops

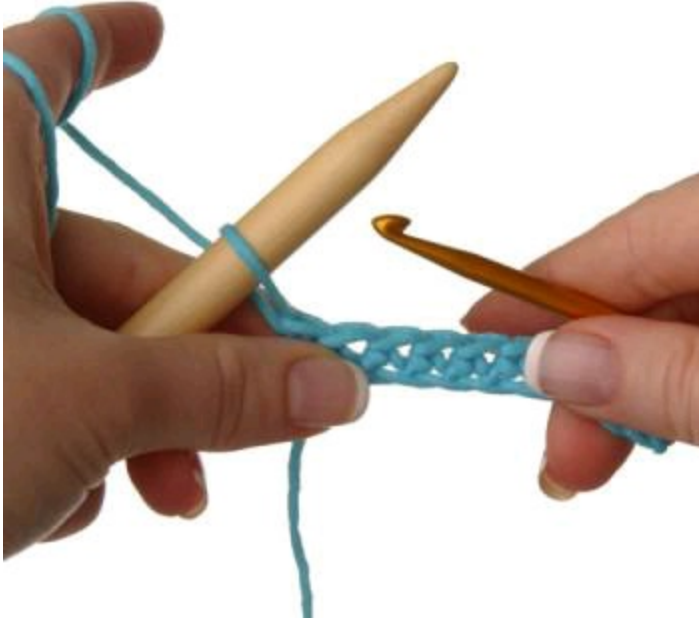
You make broomstick loops by slipping long loops onto any rod that has a wider diameter than the hook you're using. An actual broomstick is not necessary; large knitting needles work well for this stitch. The larger the "broomstick," the larger the loops.



Broomstick Loops

You can work these loops into any stitch. Start with a chain or row of any length.

Right-handed (a): Work from left to right, with the hook in your right hand and the broomstick in your left hand.



Step A

Left-handed (b): Work from right to left, with the hook in your left hand and the broomstick in your right hand.



Step B

1. Row 1: Without turning your work, insert the hook into the next stitch from the previous row, yarn over, and draw up a loop, lengthening the loop so that you can place it on the broomstick (a). Leave the loop on the broomstick. Repeat across the row (b).



Step 1a



Step 1b

NOTE: At the end of a row of broomstick loops, the loops are still on the broomstick. The next row locks these loops in place so they don't unravel.

2. Row 2: Slip 1 loop off the broomstick and onto the hook.



3. Yarn over and draw the yarn through both loops on the hook. Chain 1.
4. Slip the next loop off the broomstick and onto the hook.
5. Yarn over and draw the yarn through both loops on the hook. Chain 1.



6. Repeat steps 4 and 5, working into every loop across the row.
7. Repeat rows 1 and 2.



Make a Broomstick Loop Ruffle

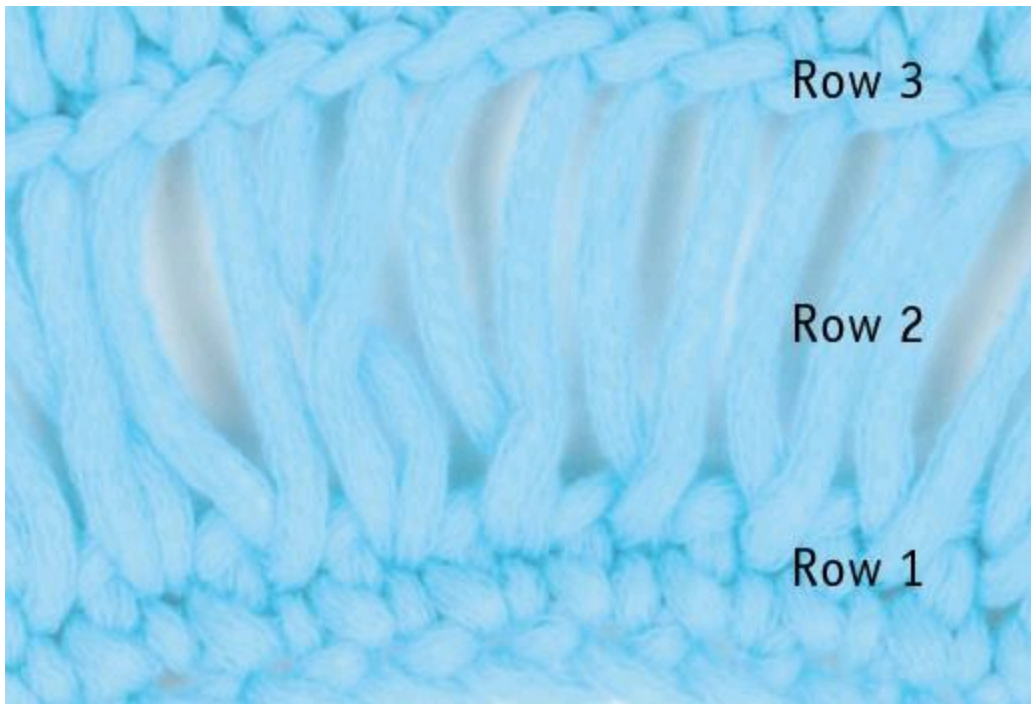
You can add this ruffle to any crocheted fabric for a loopy, ruffled edging.



Broomstick Loop Ruffle

Begin with a completed crocheted fabric.

1. Row 1: Work 2 single crochets into each stitch across. Chain 1 and turn.
2. Row 2: Work 1 broomstick loop into each single crochet across the row.
3. Row 3: * Slip 1 loop off the broomstick and onto the hook. Yarn over and draw the yarn through both loops on the hook. Chain 1. Repeat from *, working into every loop across the row.



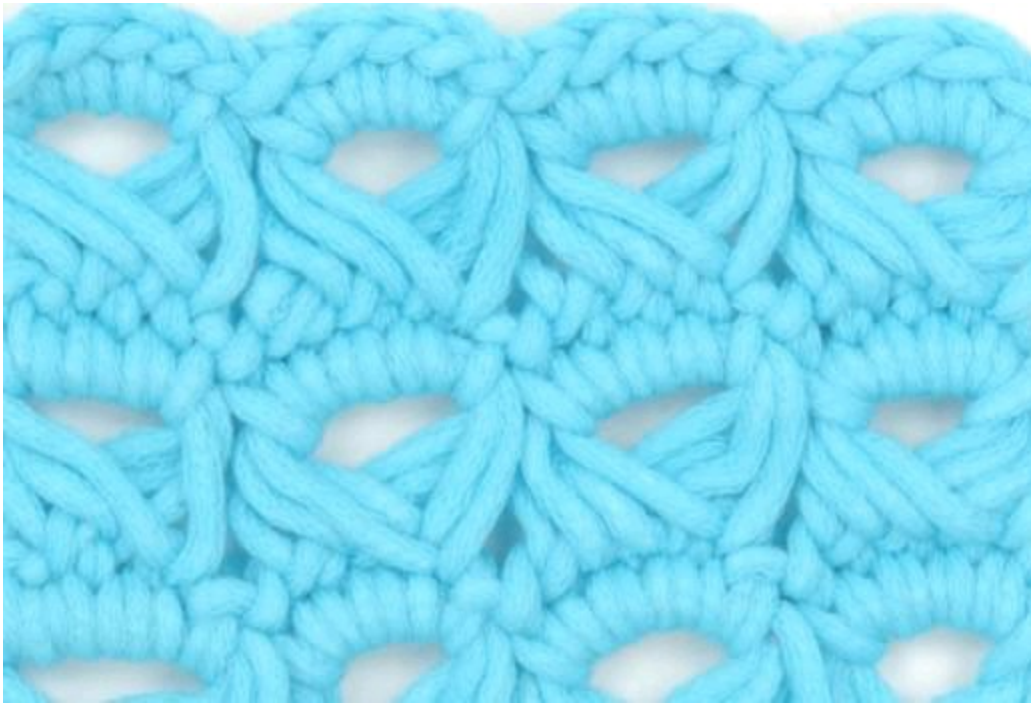
4. Row 4: * Work 1 broomstick loop into the top of the broomstick loop from the previous row. Work 1 broomstick loop into the next chain stitch. Repeat from *, working into each stitch across the row.

5. Repeat rows 3 and 4.



Make Traditional Broomstick Lace

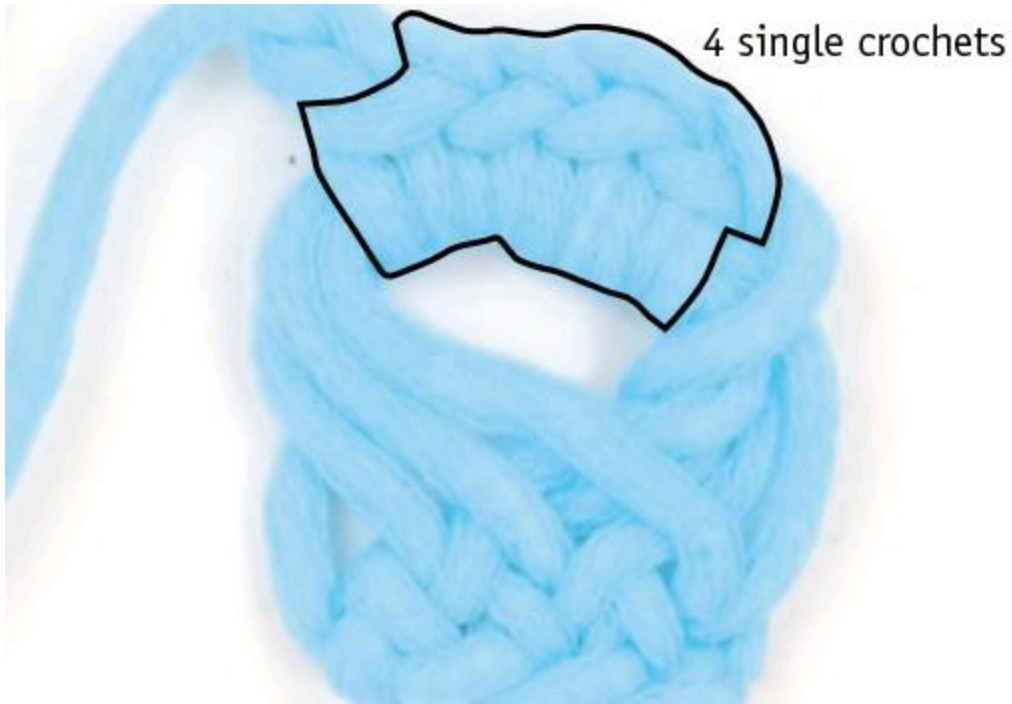
Broomstick loops are often worked together to create a traditional broomstick lace pattern as shown here.



Traditional Broomstick Lace

The foundation chain for this pattern consists of a multiple of 4, plus 1 for the turning chain.

1. Row 1: Work 1 broomstick loop into each chain across. (Refer to the section [“Make Broomstick Loops”](#))
2. Row 2: * Slip 4 loops onto the hook, yarn over, and draw the yarn through all 4 loops to join them together. Chain 1. Work 4 single crochets into the center of the 4 loops you just joined. Repeat from * to complete the row.

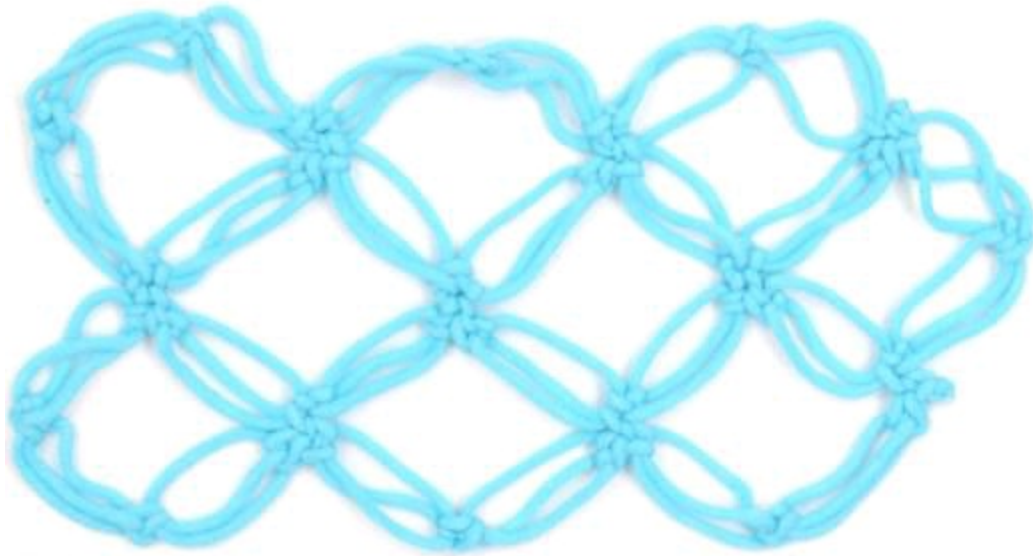


3. Row 3: Work 1 broomstick loop into each single crochet from the previous round.
4. Repeat rows 2 and 3.



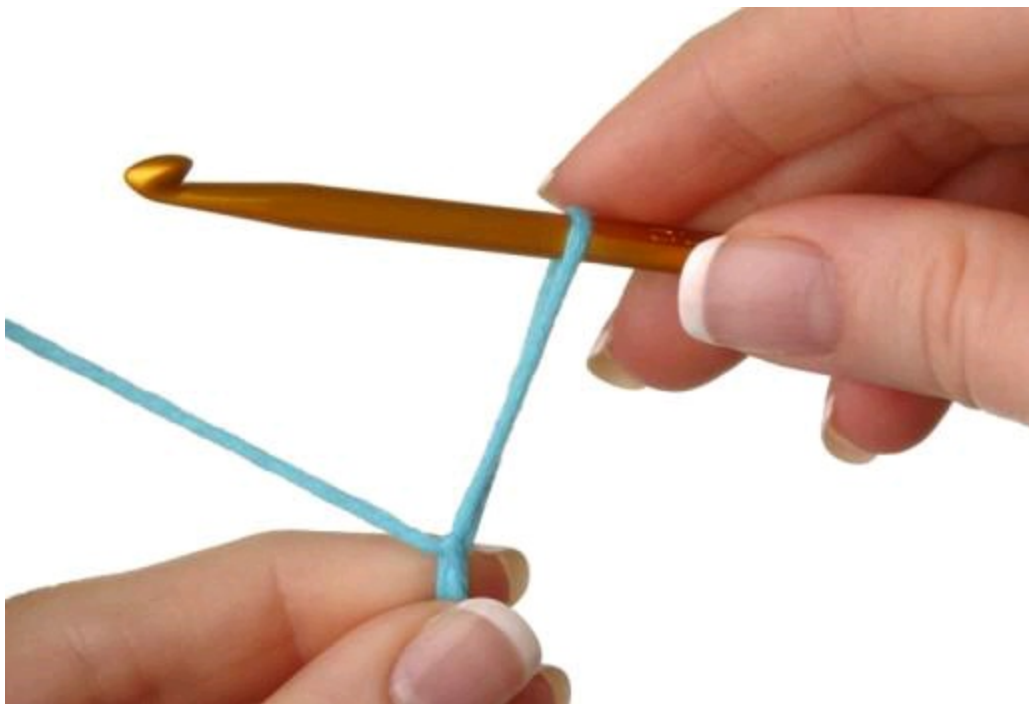
Make a Lover's Knot Trellis

You make this stitch, also known as a *Solomon's knot*, by drawing up a long loop and then locking it with a stitch at the top of the loop. You can change the look of the stitch simply by changing the size of the loop. In this section, you will learn how to make a lover's knot and then how to make a trellis by using this stitch.



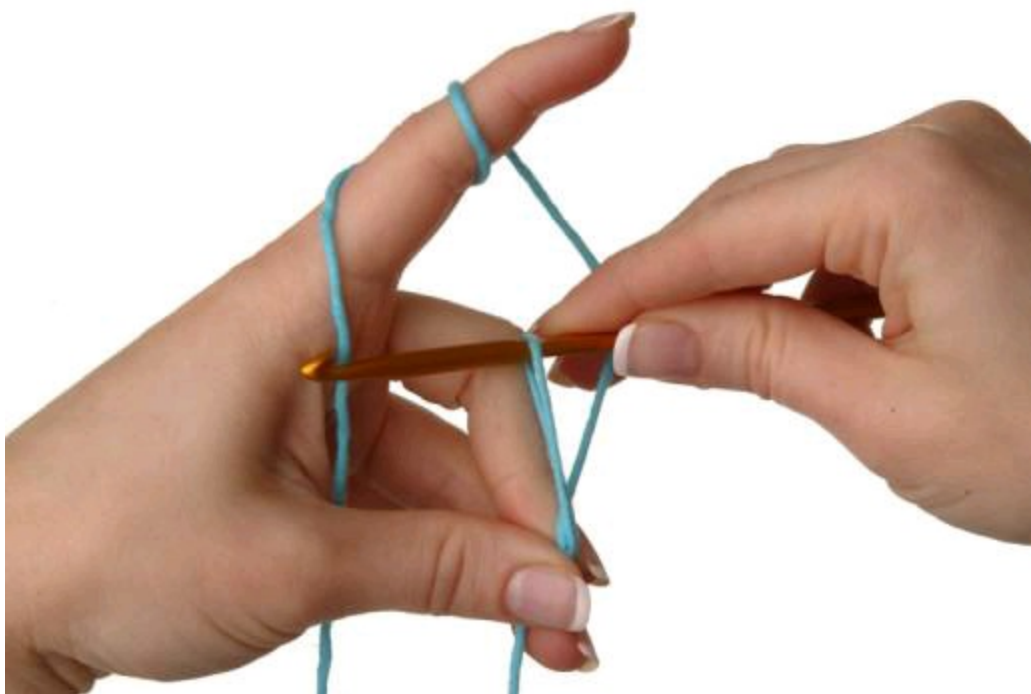
Lover's Knot

1. Chain 1 and lengthen the loop on the hook (a).



Step 1a

NOTE: It is important that the length of each loop is the same so that the stitches match. A great way to keep track is to compare the loop to a given part of your finger. Knuckles make great guideposts. Here, the loop is being measured to the second knuckle of a finger (b).

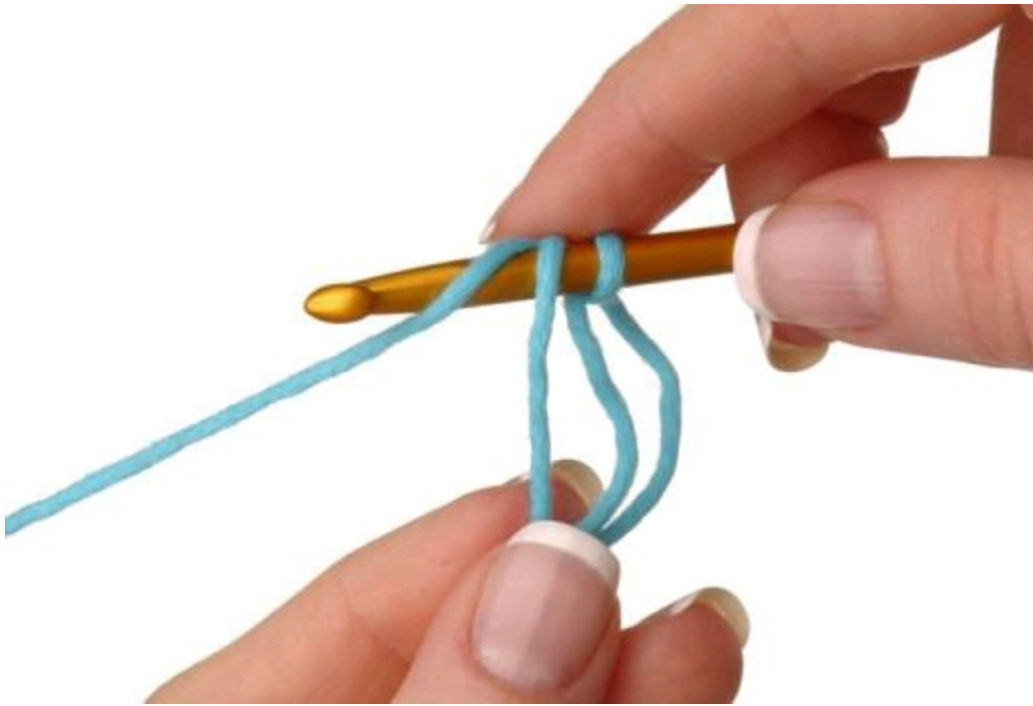


Step B

2. Yarn over and draw the yarn through the long loop.



3. Insert your hook between the long loop and the strand from the yarn over. Yarn over and draw the yarn through this space.



4. Yarn over (a) and draw the yarn through both loops remaining on the hook (b).



Step 4a



Step 4b

Trellis

The foundation row for this pattern consists of a multiple of 8 lover's knots.

1. Row 1: Work 1 single crochet into the fifth lover's knot from the hook (a). * Work 2 lover's knots, skip 1 lover's knot from the previous row, and work 1 single crochet into the next lover's knot (b). Repeat from * to complete the row. Work 3 lover's knots and turn.



Step A



Step B

2. Row 2: In the previous row, you created an arch with a lover's knot in the middle. Work 1 single crochet into the middle knot. * Work 2 lover's knots. Work 1 single crochet into the knot at the middle of the next arch (see photo). Repeat from * to complete the row.



Make a Clones Knot Mesh

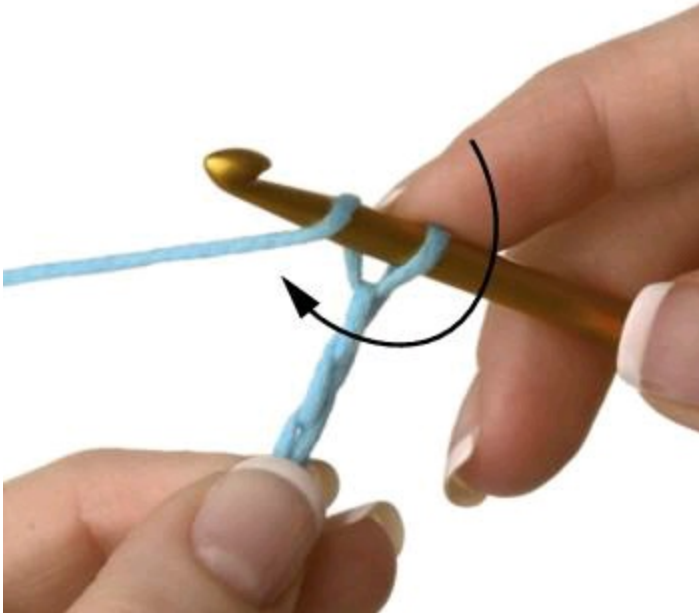
The Clones knot is fun to make once you get into the swing of it. Once you learn how to make a Clones knot, you can use it to add attitude to any simple mesh pattern.



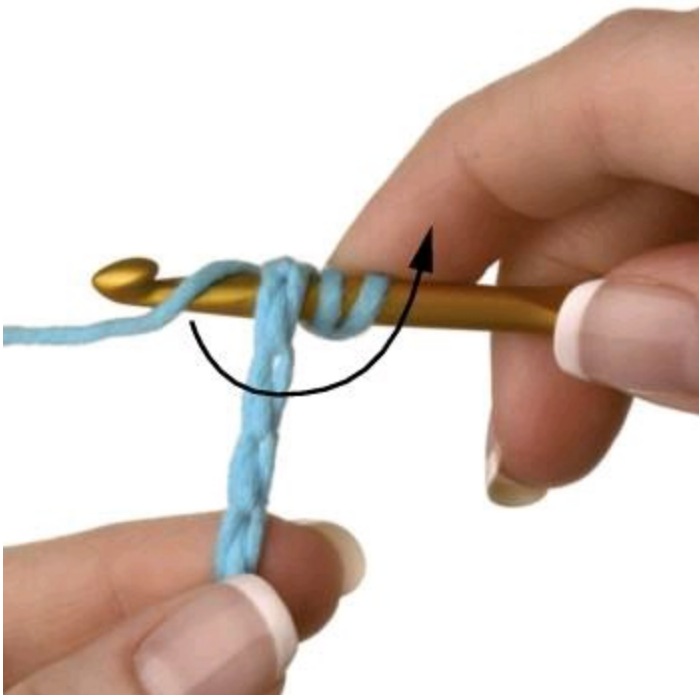
Knot

You work a Clones knot over the 3 chains closest to the hook.

1. Chain 3. Yarn over and wrap the yarn around the chain 3 as follows: Swing the hook from the front under the chain and to the back (a). Yarn over and swing back under the chain to the front (b).



Step 1a



Step 1b

2. Repeat step 1 four times.

There are now 11 loops on the hook.

NOTE: As you work the yarn overs, you are working over and covering 3 chains. If you have covered more than that, simply push the loops together.

3. Yarn over and draw the yarn through all 11 loops.



Step 3

4. Slip stitch into the third chain to complete the Clones knot.



Step 4

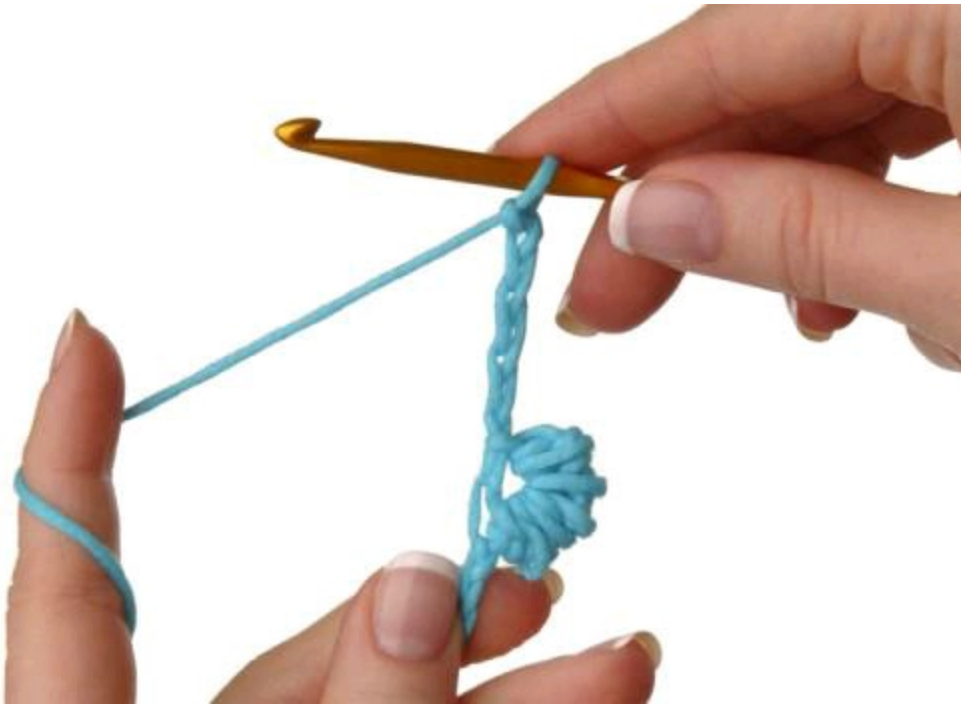
Mesh

The foundation row consists of a multiple of 8 of the following combination:

* Work 1 Clones knot and chain 6.

1. Row 1: Work 1 single crochet into the fourth Clones knot from the hook. * Chain 6, work 1 Clones knot, and chain 6. Skip 1 Clones knot from the foundation row and work 1 single crochet into the next Clones knot. Repeat from * to the end of the row.

2. Row 2: Chain 6, work 1 Clones knot, chain 6, work 1 Clones knot, and chain 6. Work 1 single crochet into the first Clones knot from the previous row. * Chain 6, work 1 Clones knot, chain 6, and work 1 single crochet into the next Clones knot from the previous row. Repeat from * to finish the row.

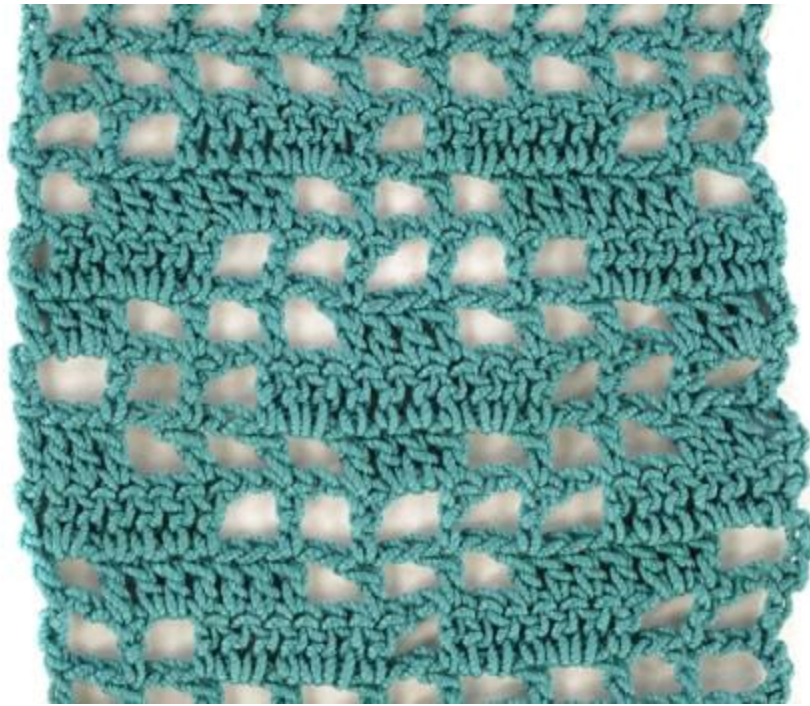


3. Repeat row 2 to the desired length.



Filet Crochet

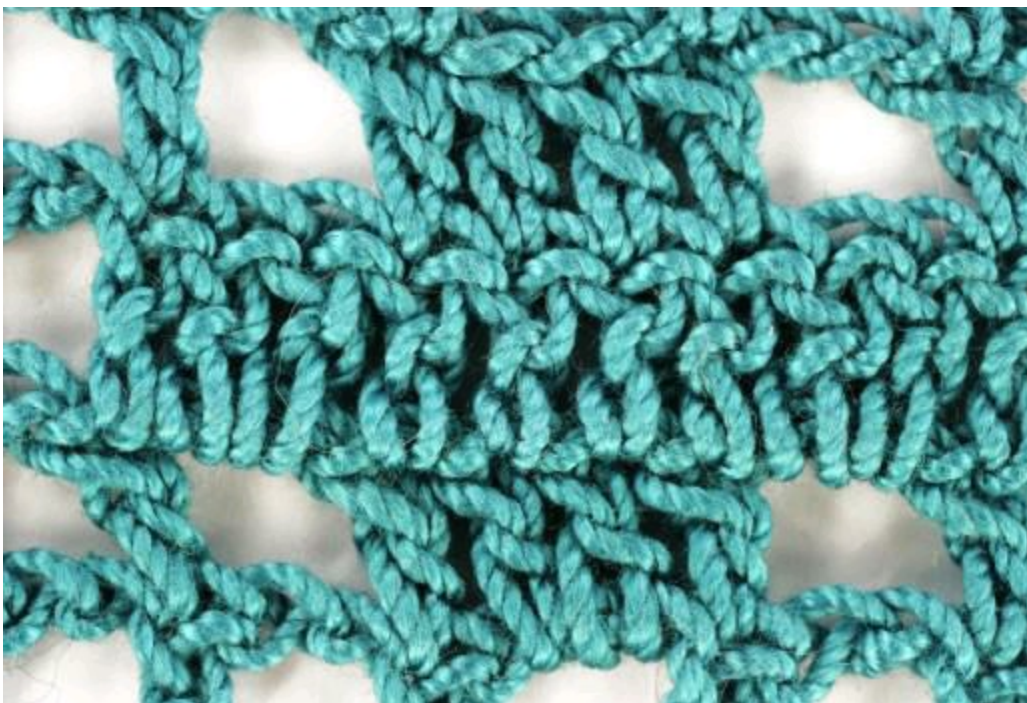
Filet crochet is a simple form of crochet that depicts shapes and pictures in thread. This style of crochet is popular for use in home décor as curtains, tablecloths, edgings, and more. Explore the potential of filet crochet to make modern and interesting pieces.



How Filet Crochet Works

Colors and Grids

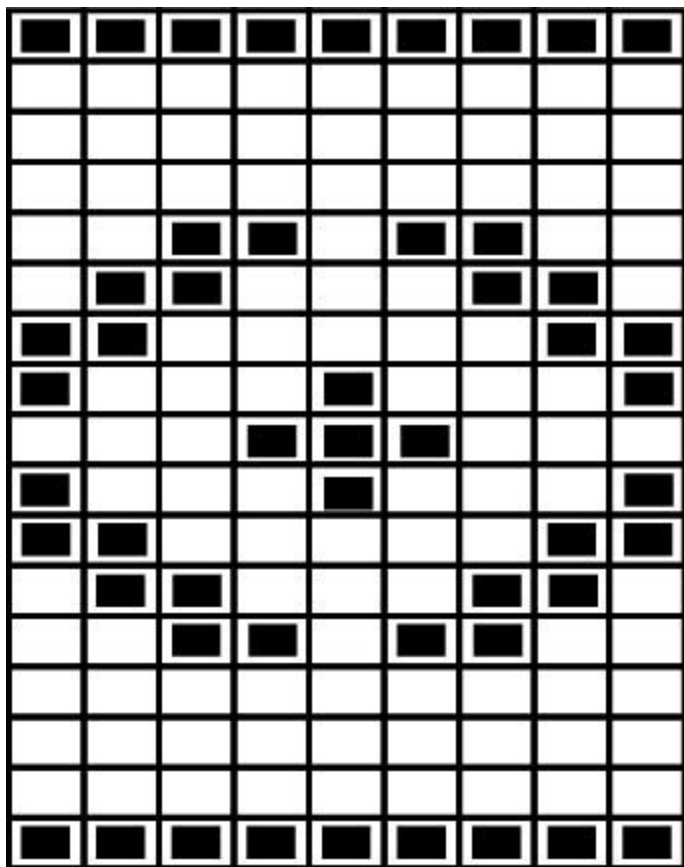
Filet crochet is traditionally made with cotton thread and a steel crochet hook. Traditionally only white thread was used, but experimenting with colors is certainly acceptable. Designs are based on a grid. The grid usually consists of double crochet stitches and chains that combine to create a mesh of squares.



Filet Crochet Charts

Filet crochet designs are depicted in charts, in which each box represents one square of the grid. Read the chart beginning from the bottom right. You read odd-numbered rows from right to left, and even-numbered rows from left to right.

There is an abundance of books and Web sites that offer filet crochet charts.



Make Filet Crochet

Filet crochet utilizes a grid base and positive and negative space to create shapes and pictures. Using a steel hook and cotton crochet thread, you can follow a chart to create delicate edgings and home décor pieces and garments.

Work an Open Block

An open block consists of [chain 2, 1 double crochet] over 3 stitches (or the foundation chain) from the previous row.

1. Where you want the block to begin, chain 2. Skip 2 stitches. Work 1 double crochet into the next double crochet.
2. Repeat step 1 until a filled block is required.



Work a Filled Block

A filled block consists of 3 double crochets over 3 stitches (or the foundation chain) from the previous row.

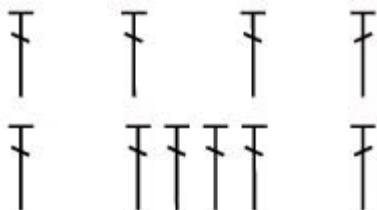
If you're working into an open block from the previous row:

1. Work 2 double crochets into the next chain-2 space. Work 1 double crochet into the next double crochet.
2. Repeat step 1 until an open block is required.



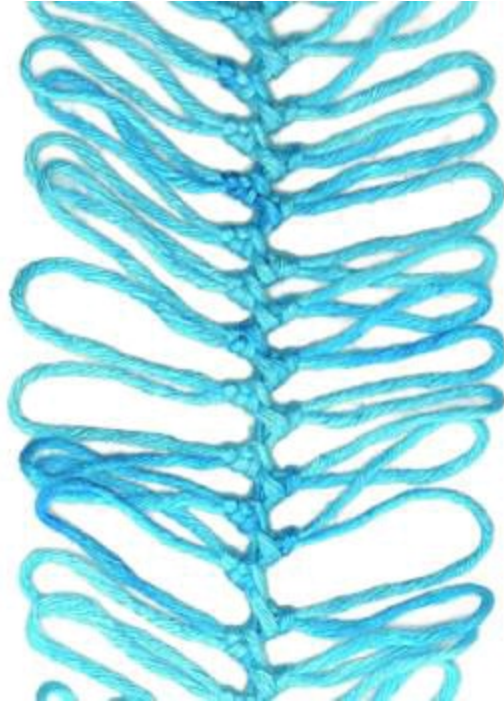
If you're working into a filled block from the previous row:

1. Work 1 double crochet into each of the next 3 double crochets.
2. Repeat step 1 until an open block is required.



Make Hairpin Lace

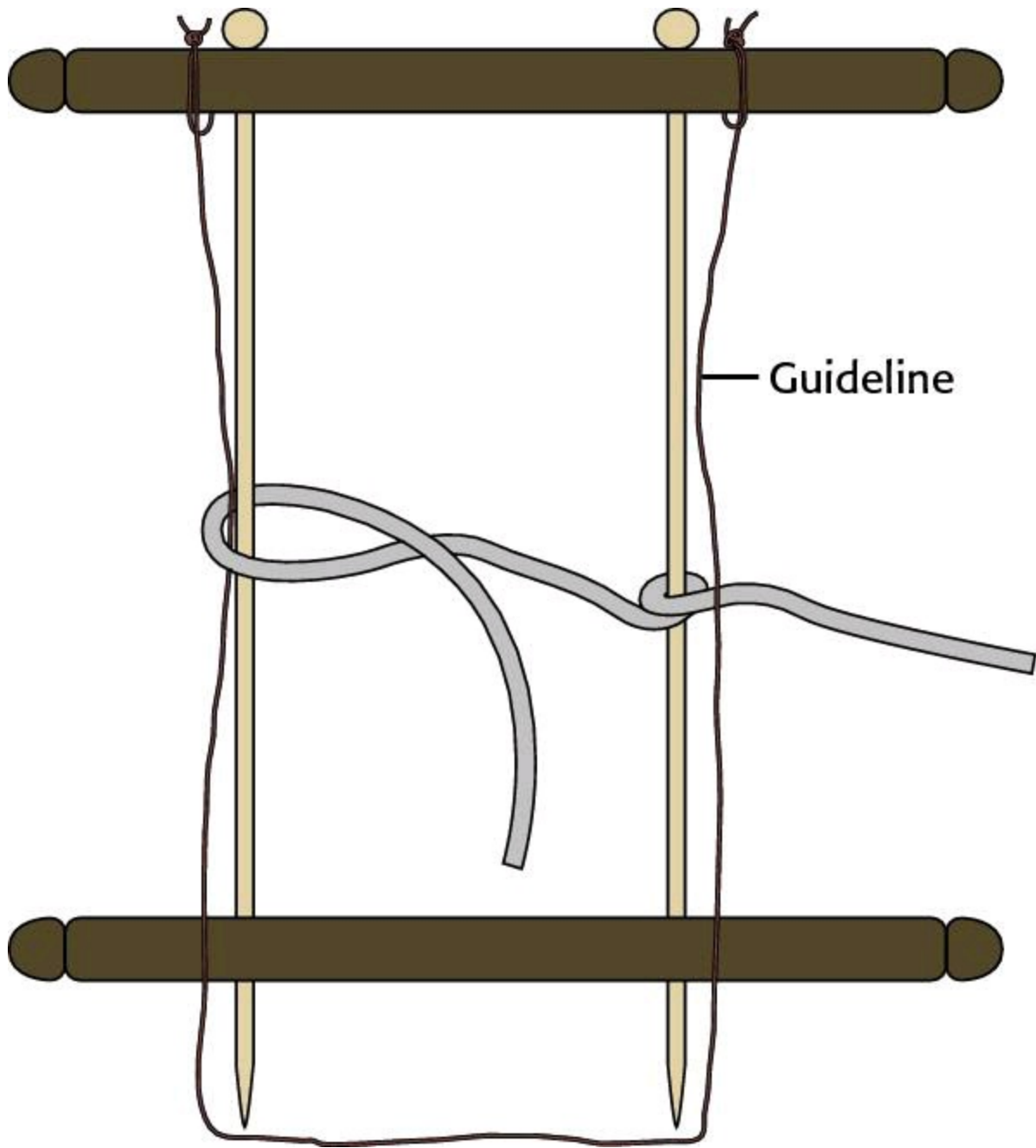
Hairpin lace uses single crochet stitches to secure loops of yarn around a loom consisting of two prongs attached at the top and bottom. You make strips of hairpin lace and then attach the strips into unique-looking garments and other items.



Set Up the Loom and Get Started

Set the prongs of the loom to the desired width. Before placing the bottom on the loom, use a loose slip knot to attach yarn to one of the prongs. Leaving the loop loose, center the knot in the loom.

You will continue to use one hand to hold the hook and one to control the yarn. Start with the slip knot on the prong on the yarn-hand side of the loom. This example features the left hand as the yarn hand and the right hand as the hook hand.



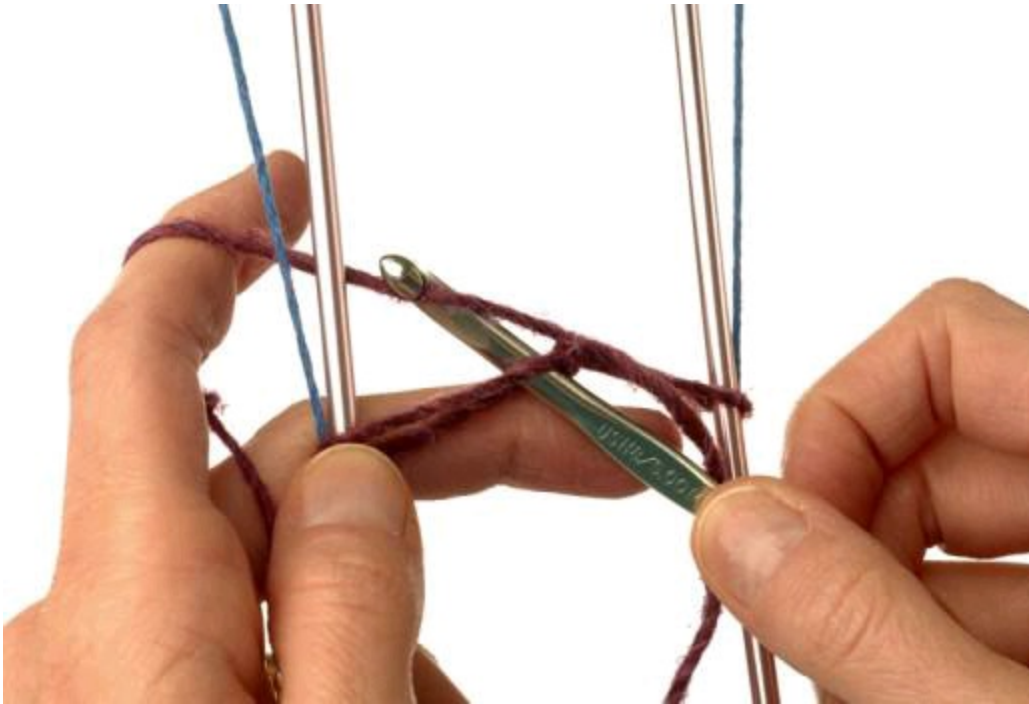
TIP

To manage the strip as it goes, tie on a guideline. With a piece of yarn twice the length you plan the strip to be, tie the yarn at the top of the loom; run it alongside the prong, through the slip knot loop, across the bottom of the loom, and back up the other prong; and then tie the end to the top of the loom (see the above illustration). If you're planning a long strip, the guideline will hang past the loom; wrap the excess guideline on itself until needed.

Work the first stitch

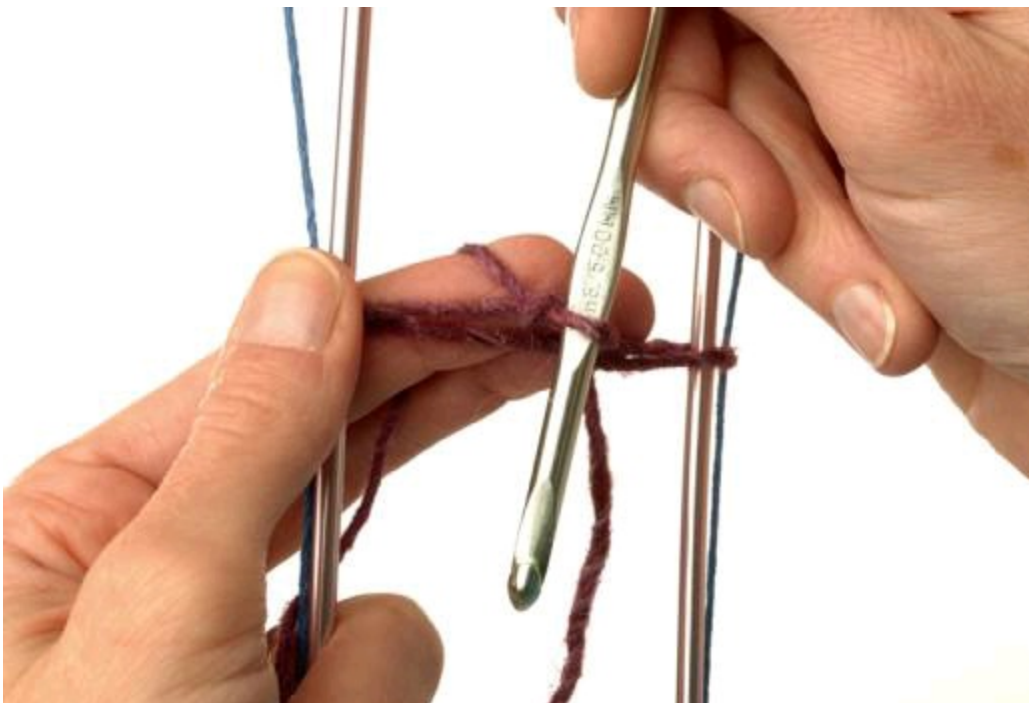
1. Wrap the yarn across the front of the loom (over, not behind, the opposite prong) and to the back, with the yarn hanging in the back middle. Insert the hook

up through the slip knot loop, grab the yarn with the hook, and draw a loop through the slip knot loop. Chain 1. To keep track of the start stitch, mark this stitch.

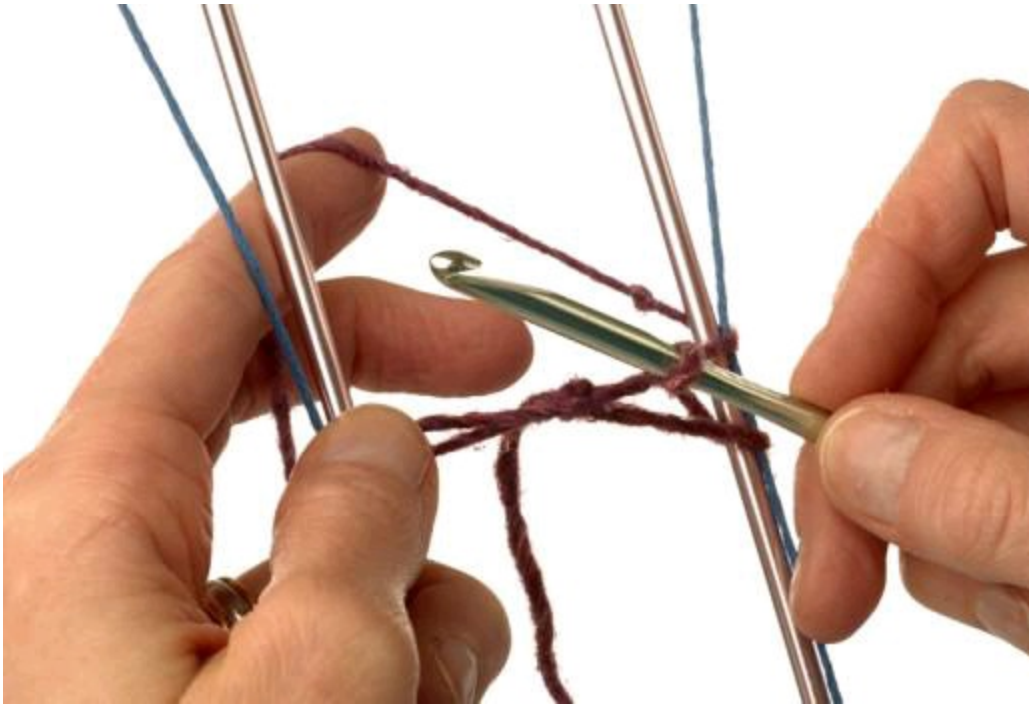


Flip the Loom

2. Do not remove the hook from the loop. Rotate the hook, parallel with the prongs, with the hook pointing down and the handle pointing up. Tilt the handle through the loop and grab it from the back of the loom.

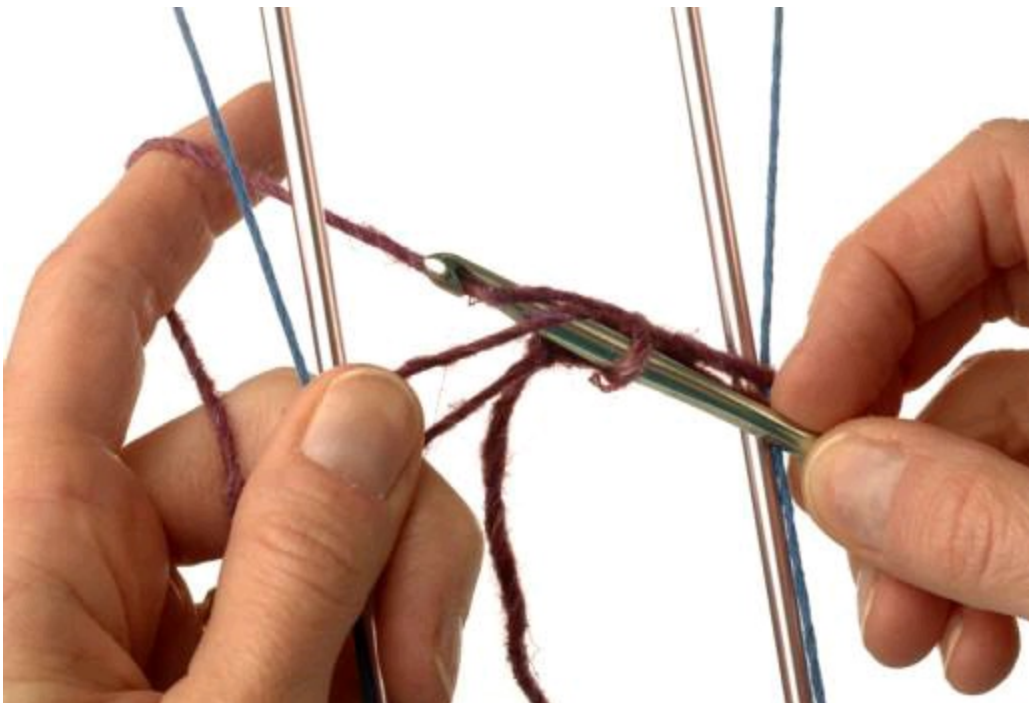


3. Flip the loom toward your yarn hand, allowing the yarn to wrap around. The marked prong is now on the opposite side, the hook is in position, and the yarn is in the yarn hand at the back of the loom.



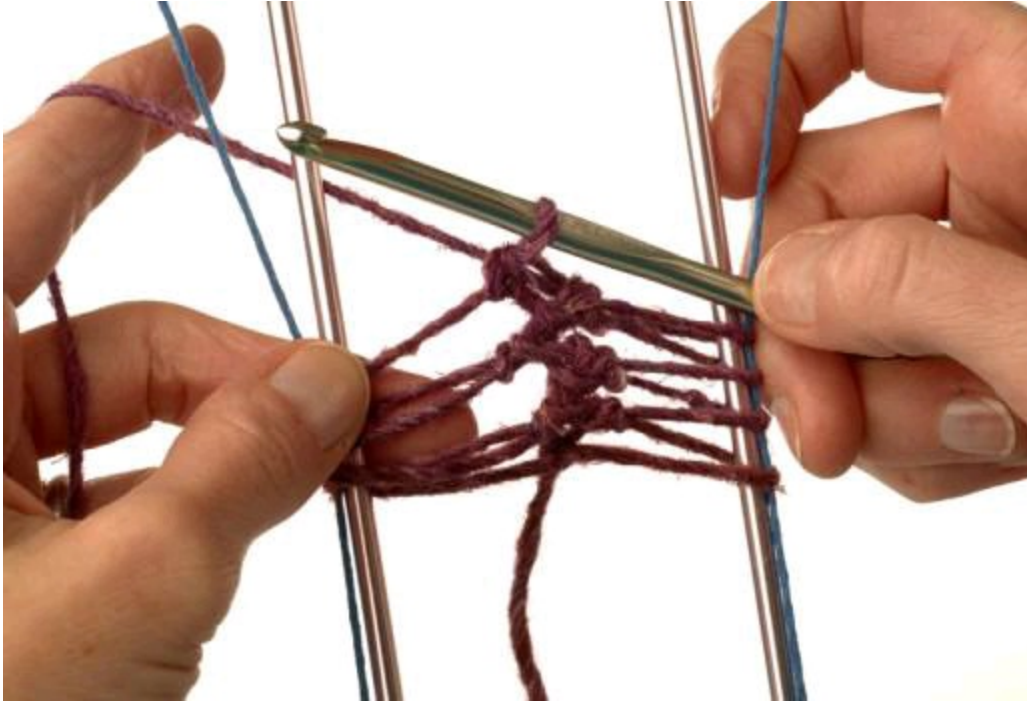
Single Crochet

4. Insert the hook into the loop space closest to the top of the loom, grab the yarn with the hook, and draw a loop through the loop space. Yarn over and pull through 2 loops to make 1 single crochet.



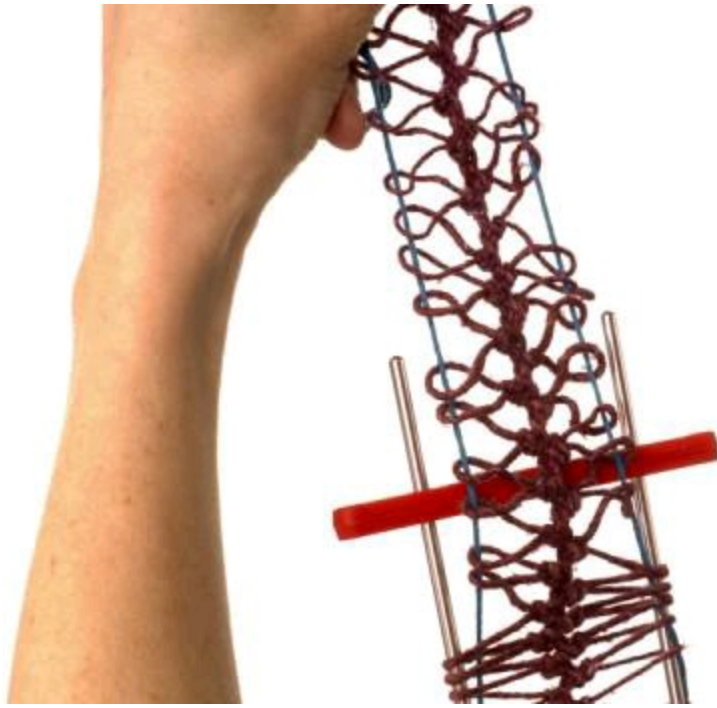
5. Continue to work, repeating the steps to flip the loom and work a single crochet.

NOTE: Keep the work pushed down on the loom to give yourself room to maneuver the hook. When the loom is too full for comfort, remove the bottom of the loom and slide all but the newest loops off the loom. Replace the bottom and roll up the loose hairpin lace. You can use a rubber band or stitch holders to secure the rolled lace.



Step 5

6. To fasten off, cut the yarn, leaving a tail, and draw through the last loop. Leave the guideline in the hairpin loops as you remove the lace from the loom. Use the guideline to keep the strips organized until you are ready to attach them.



Step 6

TIP

There are many different ways to join strips of hairpin lace; if you're working with a pattern, it should provide those instructions. Here is a simple way that is similar to working a [crochet seam](#): Align 2 strips of hairpin lace with the beginning of each strip to the left side. Lay 1 strip on top of the other with loops from each strip lined up with each other. Work a single crochet 2 loops together by inserting the hook through the first loop of each strip. Continue to work single crochet through the loops across the 2 strips.

Chapter 9: Troubleshooting

Oops! Something doesn't look right and you can't figure out where you went wrong? In this chapter, you'll learn how to diagnose where things went wrong, how to correct mistakes, and how to avoid them in the future.

[Diagnose Mistakes](#)

[Fix Mistakes](#)

[If Something Still Seems Wrong](#)

[Use Stitch Markers](#)

[Work with Splitting Yarn](#)

[Smooth Uneven Sides](#)

[Loosen Up a Tight Foundation Chain](#)

[Fix the Fit of a Garment](#)

Diagnose Mistakes

Sometimes things go awry. Before you throw your crochet project across the room or rip it out entirely, take a look and figure out what went wrong. You'll learn from your mistakes and may be able to correct them easily.

Catch Common Mistakes

If your piece is getting narrower or wider where it's not supposed to, count the number of stitches in the row and compare that number to:

- The number of stitches the pattern says you should have in the row.
- The number of stitches in each of the past several rows.

You might find that you accidentally increased or decreased all at once or over several rows.

The best way to prevent accidental increases and decreases is to keep track of how many stitches you're working in each row. By doing so, you'll be able to catch mistakes before you've worked too far.



Accidentally Decrease?

Look for accidental decreases by

- Holding the piece up to a light or a window and looking for holes caused by skipped stitches.
- Examining your piece to see if you skipped any stitches mid-row or mid-round.



Skip the Final Stitch?

Did you accidentally omit the final stitch in the previous row? This is a common mistake when you're making taller stitches because the turning chain that counts as a stitch can be easy to overlook. Take care to ensure that you don't miss it.



Accidentally Increase?

Look for accidental increases. Did you work more than one stitch into the same stitch when you weren't supposed to?



Work in the Turning Chain?

Did you accidentally work into a chain from the turning chain as if it were the first stitch of the row?



Fix Mistakes

Once you have identified a mistake, choose the best way to fix it. Remember that even experts make mistakes; don't be discouraged!

Rip Back

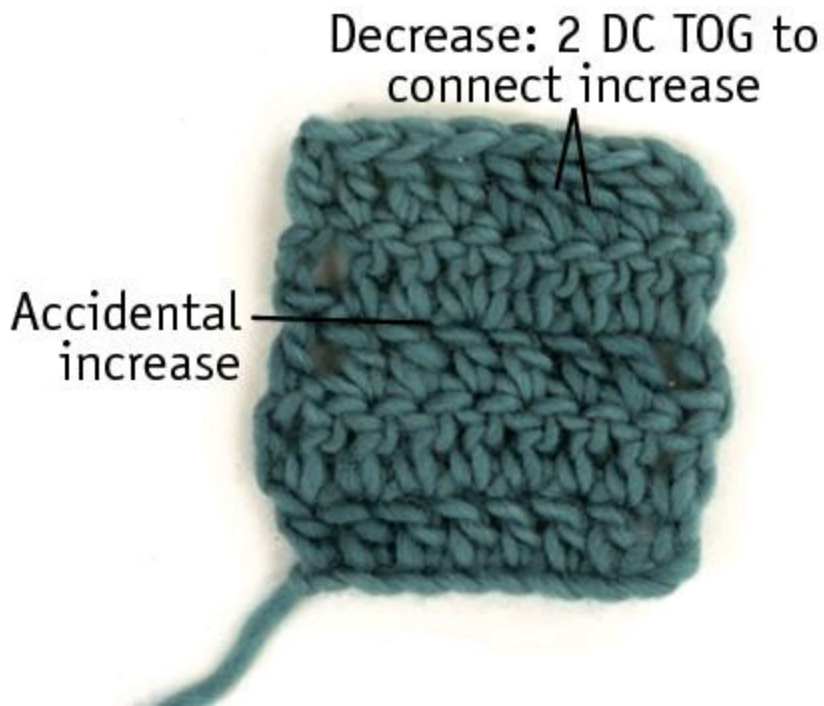
In crochet, it's easy to rip back to a mistake. If you choose to rip back, simply tug gently on your working yarn to unravel the stitches to the error. Then pick up at that point in the pattern.



Do a sneaky Fix

Sometimes the mistake is as minimal as one decrease or increase, and it won't look terrible to simply compensate for it instead of ripping out the rows you worked so hard on. Fix the problem by following these steps:

1. Diagnose the cause of the decrease or increase so that you don't repeat it.
2. Work an increase to correct an accidental decrease or a decrease to correct an accidental increase. Choose a place in the row where this correction will disappear as much as possible.



TIP

Read through your pattern carefully, making notes to help you through tricky spots.

If Something Still Seems Wrong

If things just don't seem right with your project, take a closer look to make sure you're doing what the pattern tells you to.

Check Your Pattern

Take a close look at the pattern's directions. Are you using the right stitch? Are you working the stitches into the correct place? Does the pattern have specific instructions to work a spike stitch, into only one loop, or around the post? Make sure you haven't overlooked a special instruction.

Did you make big changes to the type or weight of yarn suggested? If the yarn is very different from the kind used in the original pattern, be prepared for your finished product to look different.

If your work doesn't match the picture or things don't add up right, compare your work to the instructions step by step. If there is a mistake in the pattern, look online to see if the publisher provides a correction. If not, you may be left to your own ability to improvise. Trust your instinct or ask another crocheter for help.

Check where Your Pattern was Published

If you're using a pattern published in another country, remember that they may use stitch terms differently from the way the terms are used in your own country. For example, the British and Australian *double crochet* stitch is known as a *single crochet* stitch in the United States.

U.S.	UK
slip stitch	slip stitch
single crochet	double crochet
half double crochet	half treble crochet
double crochet	treble crochet
treble crochet	double treble crochet

TIP

If a step in a pattern has you stumped, try asking for help in an online message board (for a list of online resources, see [Online Communities and Resources](#)). Also, check the publication's Web site to see if any corrections (known as *errata*) to the pattern have been posted.

Use Stitch Markers

If you find yourself getting lost in your work or you're doing complicated pattern repeats, or if you're constantly having to recount the number of stitches in a row or round, use stitch markers as guideposts. Also, if your crochet time is interrupted a lot, marked stitches will help you dive right back in where you left off.

Mark Progress in a Row

Use stitch markers to mark your progress in long rows. For example, in a row of 100 stitches, you could mark the 20th, 40th, 60th, and 80th stitches. Not only will this make keeping track of the number of stitches easier and faster, but it will also

make finding accidental increases and decreases easier.



Mark Repeats

- For a pattern that uses repeats of a complicated stitch pattern within a row, mark the end of each repeat to keep track of how many repeats you've made.
- For a pattern that repeats over a number of rows, mark the first row of the repeat sequence you are working.

NOTE: You may want to make notes about what a particular stitch marker means. Clearly marking important information in your work can ease your fretting so you can get back to enjoying the project.



Work with Splitting Yarn

Some plied yarns, as lovely as they are, can be prone to splitting while you work. Here are some tips to control this problem.

- Be gentle with your yarn. Yarn can become strained and worse for the wear if worked too tightly or handled roughly.
- Store and carry yarn in a bag to protect it from getting knocked around.
- Ripping back a project can leave yarn kinked and split; work carefully and rip back gently.
- Working tight stitches with a small hook strains the yarn. Creating loose stitches reduces the chance that you'll stab through the yarn with the hook.



TIP

It may seem that pulling a misbehaving yarn tight would be the best way to control it as you work, but pulling tight can actually cause loosely plied yarn to split.

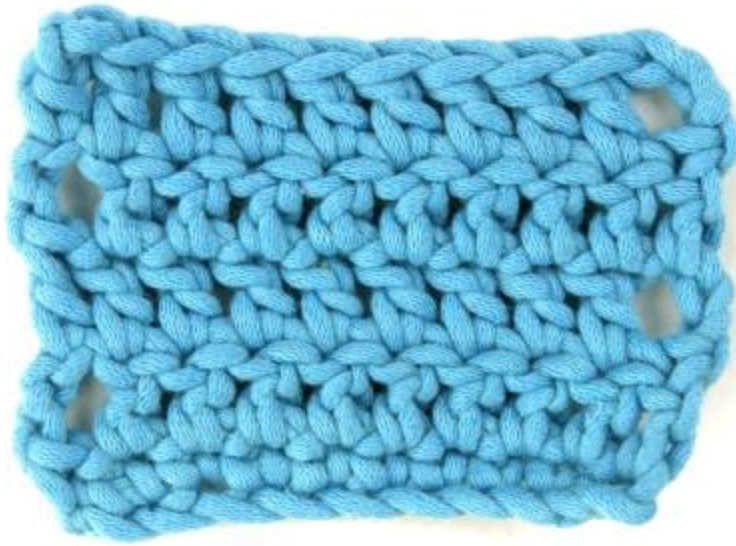
Smooth Uneven Sides

If the sides of your work look uneven, wobbly, or squished, the problem is likely related to turning chains. (See [Chapter 2](#) for more information on turning chains.)

If you make tight chains, your turning chain may not be tall enough. You might try increasing your turning chain by one chain. This only works with a very tight turning chain.

Treating a turning chain like an actual stitch can leave a gap between the turning

chain and the rest of the row.



To remove this gap, work a turning chain that is one chain shorter than is usually called for. Do not skip a space; instead, work into the first stitch of the previous row. In this case, the turning chain doesn't count as a stitch. Experiment to see what works best for your project.



Turning Chain: To Twist or Not to Twist

If you turn your work with the hook in the turning chain, the chain is twisted.

If you remove the hook before turning and then reinsert it, the chain is not twisted. Each method creates a subtle difference in the sides of your work. Experiment to see which works best for you.



TIP

Remember, you can always use a simple edging to even out the sides. See [Chapter 13](#) for more information on edgings.

Loosen Up a Tight Foundation Chain

It's important that your foundation chain isn't too tight. If it is too tight, you will have difficulty working into it. If you continue to have trouble with making loose chain stitches, try using a hook one or two sizes larger than the project calls for (remember to check your gauge on a trial swatch).

A tight foundation chain can restrict the drape and give of your fabric. If you find that your fabric needs an edge with a little extra give, try adding some extra chains throughout the foundation chain. This technique works best with mesh or lace patterns that don't use all the chains in the foundation chain. As an example, for a crocheted mesh, with 30 arches add 30 chains to the foundation chain, and skip one additional chain between each arch when working the first row.

Alternatively, you can use foundation stitches, which produce a much stretchier foundation than a chain (see the section [“Make a Foundation Chain”](#)).



Arch mesh swatch with tight foundation chain



Mesh swatch with loose foundation chain

Fix the Fit of a Garment

As you crochet, use stitch markers to mark any increases and decreases used to shape a garment. This will help you to see where the shaping occurs so you can decide how to fix an ill-fitting garment.

If there are any areas that are simply too baggy, pinch the fabric to “take up” the excess stitches. If you pinched four stitches, try decreasing the number of stitches in that area by four.

If the shaping stitches seem out of place, you can try moving the shaping sequence over a few stitches in one direction or try starting the sequence in a different row.

You might find from a pattern’s schematic that a medium bust size will fit you well, but the waist shaping of a large will make a garment that better fits your body. Do some sleuthing in the pattern to see how you might make the section of the pattern with waist shaping for the large size while working with the rest of the medium instructions.



Chapter 10: Final Details and Finishing

You've completed crocheting a project. Congratulations! But chances are you're not done yet. This chapter covers the final steps to finishing a project and presents some basic embellishments to add as final touches.

[Make a Buttonhole](#)

[Seam Pieces Together by Sewing](#)

[Seam Pieces Together by Crocheting](#)

[Insert a Zipper](#)

[Make Pompoms](#)

[Make Fringe](#)

[Patch Pockets](#)

[Block Your Finished Project](#)

[Care for Crocheted Items](#)

Make a Buttonhole

Buttons are functional and decorative additions to crocheted garments and accessories. They come in all shapes, sizes, colors, and textures, and it's simple to incorporate them into your work. Here are two basic methods for making a buttonhole to fit any button.



Within a Row

Use this technique to make a horizontal buttonhole within a row of crochet.

1. Work to the point where you will insert a buttonhole. Chain 3, skip 3 stitches (see photo), and continue in pattern to the end of the row. Make a turning chain and turn.

We used a 3-stitch buttonhole for this example. Depending on the size of your button, you may need to make your buttonhole larger or smaller. Simply compare the button to the buttonhole to make sure that it's a perfect fit. Adjust the number of skipped stitches and chains as needed so that the buttonhole is slightly smaller than the button.



Step 1

2. Work the next row according to the pattern, working 3 stitches as called for into the chain-3 space (a).



Step 2a

You've made a horizontal buttonhole (b).



Across Rows

Use this technique to make a vertical buttonhole over 2 or more rows of crochet.

1. Work to the point where you will insert a buttonhole. Make a turning chain and turn.
2. Work back to the beginning of your work. Make a turning chain and turn.



3. Work to the end of the short row and fasten off.

4. Join the yarn 1 stitch from the end of the first short row. * Work in pattern to the end of the short row. Make a turning chain and turn.
5. Repeat from * twice.



6. Work in pattern to the end of the short row. Chain 1 (a). Work the next stitch into the last stitch from step 3. Continue to the end of the row, work a turning chain, and turn.



Step 6a

You've made a vertical buttonhole (b).



Step 6b

Seam Pieces Together by Sewing

Inevitably, some of the projects you crochet will need to be assembled in the end. Seaming might seem tedious, but the thrill of putting on a completed sweater for the first time can't be matched. You can use one of several sewing techniques to sew crocheted pieces together.

Whipstitch Seam

A whipstitch seam is perhaps the easiest seam to sew. It works best along straight edges.

1. Hold the 2 pieces to be seamed with right sides together and with stitches or rows matched up.

NOTE: The right side is the side that shows when the garment is worn. The wrong side is the side worn against the skin, or the side where the ends are woven in. When right sides are held facing each other for seaming, the piece will later be turned right side out, hiding the seam on the inside.



Step 1

2. Using matching yarn or thread and a yarn needle, begin on the right by inserting the needle from back to front through the first stitch or row of each piece, leaving a 6-inch tail.



Step 2

3. Bringing the needle over the top of the work, insert it from back to front through the next pair of stitches to the left.



Step 3

4. Repeat step 3 to the end of the seam. Fasten off and weave in the yarn tails.

Backstitch Seam

Backstitch creates a sturdy seam and is suited for use on curved or angled edges.

1. Hold the 2 pieces to be seamed with right sides together and with stitches or rows matched up.
2. Using matching yarn or thread and a yarn needle, begin on the right by inserting the needle from front to back through the first stitch or row of each piece.



Step 2

3. Insert the needle from back to front through the next pair of stitches to the left.



Step 3

4. Insert the needle from front to back through the first pair of stitches again.



Step 4

5. Skipping the next pair of stitches to the left, insert the needle from back to front through the next pair of stitches to the left.
6. Insert the needle from front to back into the pair of stitches to the right.
7. Skipping 1 pair of stitches, insert the needle from back to front into the next pair of stitches to the left.
8. Repeat steps 6 and 7 to the end of the seam. Fasten off and weave in the yarn tails.

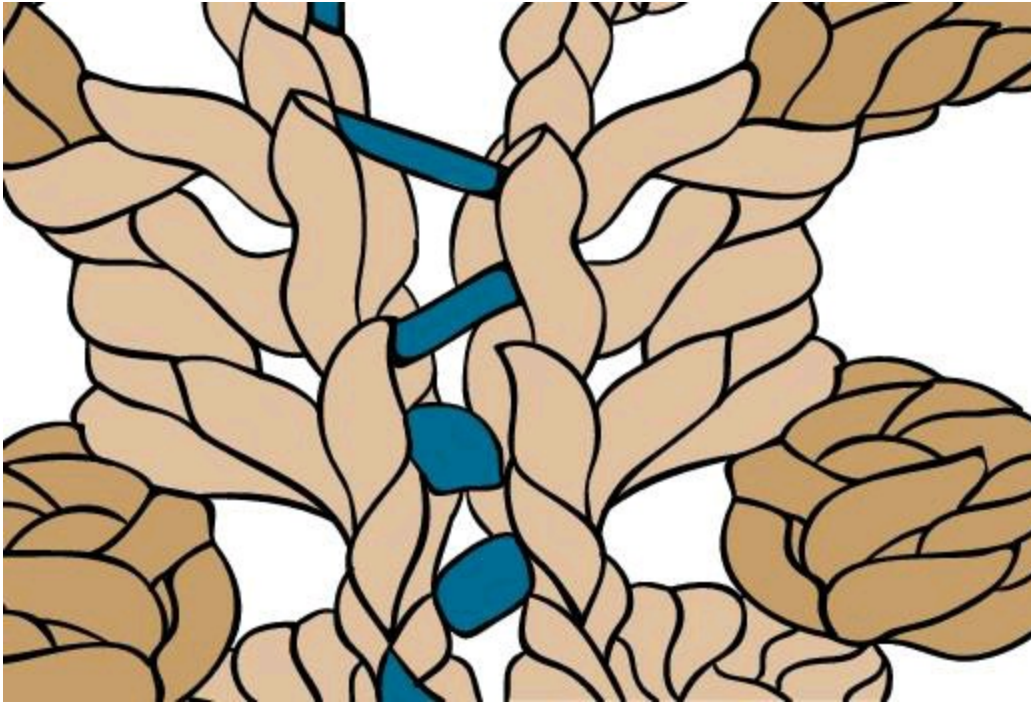


Step 8

Woven Seam

A woven seam (also referred to as *mattress stitch*) is suitable for use only when seaming stitches to stitches (not stitches to row ends or row ends to row ends). It is popular for joining motifs because it is an invisible seam.

1. Hold together the two pieces to be seamed with their right sides together and with stitches matched up. Using matching yarn or thread and a yarn needle, insert the needle into the center of the top of the first stitch or row of one piece and pull the yarn through.
2. Insert the needle into the center of the top of the first stitch on the other piece and pull the yarn through loosely.
3. Continue to alternate from one piece to the other, tightening the seam every few inches.



Seam Pieces Together by Crocheting

As an alternative to sewing pieces together, you can use slip stitch or single crochet to create a seam. Slip stitching creates a simple seam and is suited for use on irregularly shaped edges. Single crochet creates a bulky seam that is decorative if worked on the outside of a piece. These techniques are quick and create sturdy and optionally decorative seams.

Create a Slip-Stitch Seam

1. Hold the 2 pieces to be seamed with right sides together and with stitches or rows matched up.

NOTE: The right side is the side that shows when the garment is worn. The wrong side is the side worn against the skin, or the side where your ends are woven in. When right sides are held facing each other for seaming, the piece will later be turned right side out, hiding the seam on the inside.

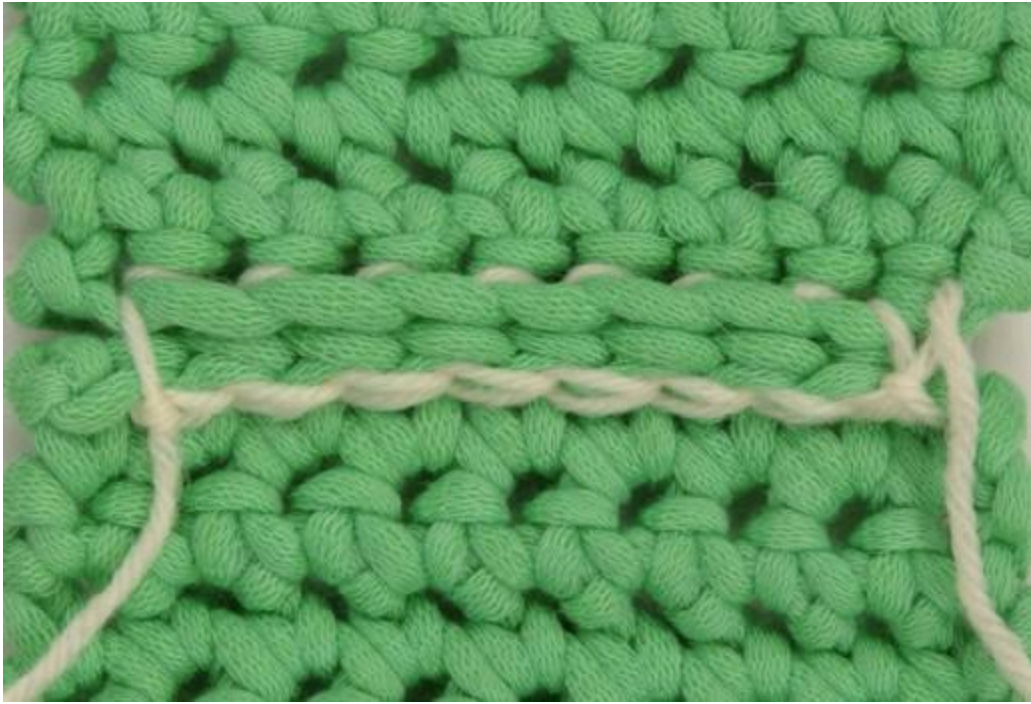


2. Using matching yarn and an appropriately sized crochet hook, begin on the right by inserting the hook from front to back through both loops of each of the first pair of stitches, or through each of the first pair of rows.

NOTE: If your pieces are made from bulky yarn, you may choose to create your seam through only 1 loop of each stitch to keep the seam flat and neat.

3. Yarn over and draw the yarn through both stitches and through the loop on the hook, creating 1 slip stitch.

4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 to the end of the seam, working into the next pair of stitches or rows to the left. Fasten off and weave in the yarn tails.



Create a Single-Crochet Seam

1. Hold the 2 pieces to be seamed with right sides together and with stitches or rows matched up.

Alternatively, you can work this seam with the *wrong sides* together, to have the seam show on the right side.



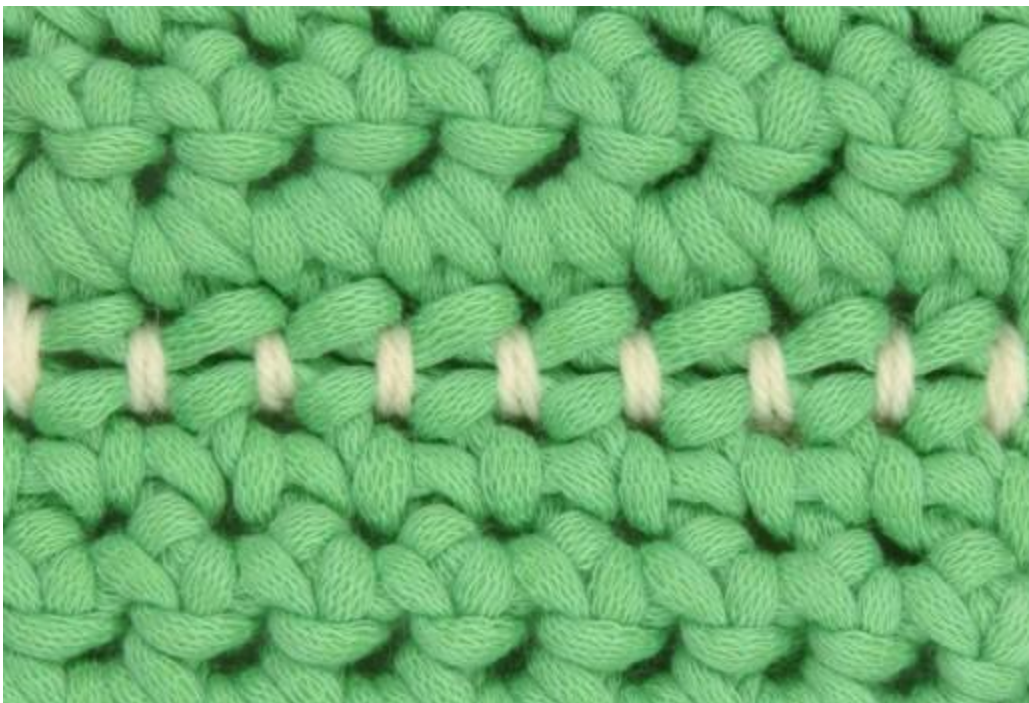
2. Using matching yarn and an appropriately sized crochet hook, begin on the right

by inserting the hook from front to back through both loops of each of the first pair of stitches, or through each of the first pair of rows.



3. Yarn over and draw the yarn through both stitches. Yarn over again and draw the yarn through both loops on the hook, creating 1 single crochet.
4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 to the end of the seam, working into the next pair of stitches or rows to the left. Tie off and weave in the yarn tails.

NOTE: Take care not to work your stitches too tightly. Staying loose keeps your seams flexible and maintains the drape of your garment.



Insert a Zipper

Sewing in a zipper, by hand or by machine, is an excellent skill to have. Use a zipper appropriate for the size of the opening in your project. If your piece features open lace, work rows of solid crochet where the zipper will be attached. If you're sewing a zipper into a bag or other item that will be seamed closed on three sides, attach the zipper before seaming.

Zippers

1. With wrong sides facing and using a contrasting-color yarn, baste the crocheted edges closed using a whipstitch (see the section [“Whipstitch Seam”](#)) so that they lie flat and do not overlap.



2. Lay the right side of the zipper face-down on top of the wrong side of the basted opening, aligning the center of the zipper with the opening. Pin the zipper in place using straight pins, or baste it in place using sewing thread in a contrasting color.



3. If you're using a sewing machine (do so only if the project can lie flat), sew the zipper to the garment. If you're sewing by hand (required for projects that are already closed on 2 or more sides), use a running stitch or backstitch to sew the zipper to the garment.



4. Remove the pins or basting thread. On the wrong side, whipstitch the flat sides of the zipper to the crocheted fabric so they lie flat. Turn the project right side out.



TIP

Be careful if you use a sewing machine to sew your zipper. Bulky fabric can cause trouble for a machine, and a sewing machine may damage your crocheted fabric. Sewing a zipper by hand doesn't take too long.

Make Pompoms

Pompoms add a playful embellishment to crocheted items, especially for kids' garments. Place them on top of hats, at the ends of cords, or in any other spot that could use a little pizzazz.



Pompoms

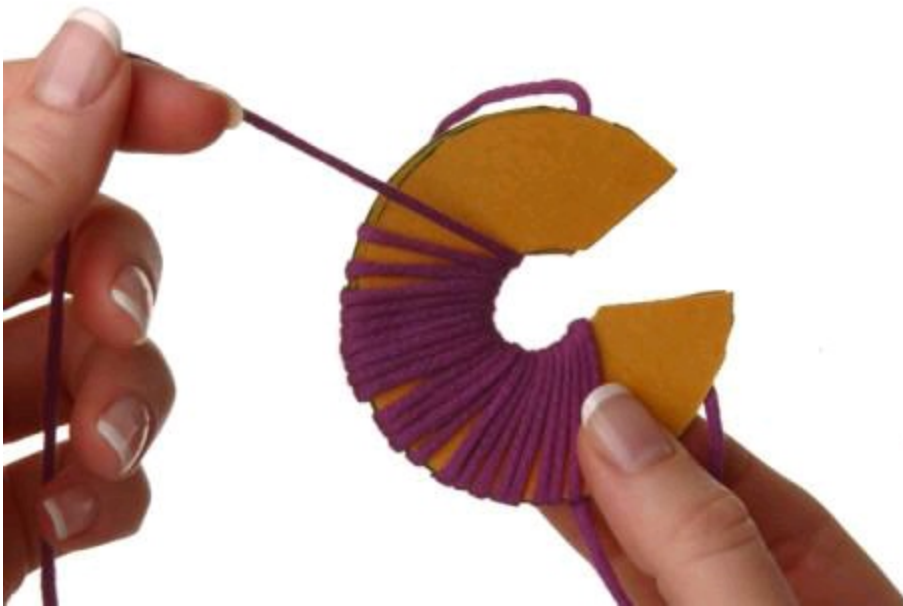
1. Cut 2 pieces of cardboard into circles the same size you want your pom-pom to be. Cut a pie piece out of each circle; then cut a circle out of the center of each of the circles. The 2 pieces should be identical.



2. Lay a piece of yarn in a full circle over 1 of the cardboard circles. Lay the second cardboard circle over this yarn, sandwiching the yarn between the 2 pieces of cardboard.



3. Hold the 2 circles together. Wrap the yarn around the circle about 50 times—or more if you want a really fluffy pompom.



4. Tie the yarn sandwiched between the 2 cardboard circles into a very tight knot; this will secure the pompom and cause the ends to flare out.



5. Using sharp scissors, cut the yarn between the 2 circles.
6. Trim the ends of the pompom so that they are uniform and neat.



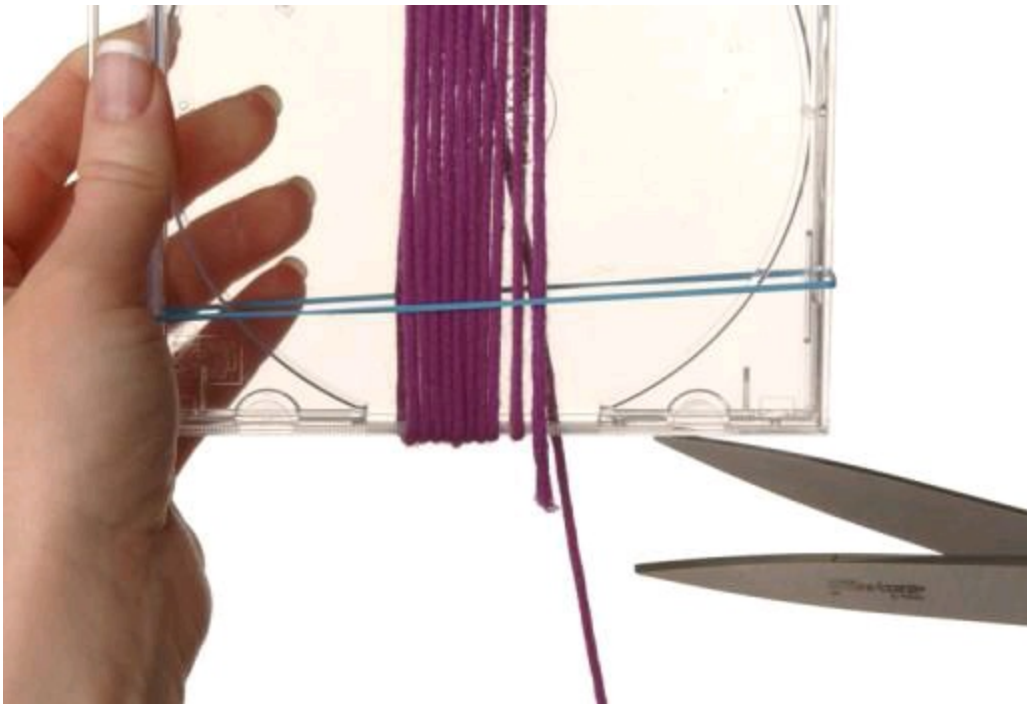
Make Fringe

Fringe is most often used to adorn afghans and scarves, but you can use fringe creatively to add a playful or elegant detail to hats, shawls, belts, and more.

Fringe

Cut Fringe

1. Cut a piece of cardboard that is slightly longer than the fringe you want to make, or use a CD jewel case as shown in the photo. The piece of cardboard should be at least 3 or 4 inches wide.
2. Wrap the yarn lengthwise around the cardboard or jewel case. This ensures that all the pieces of fringe are the same length without having to measure each strand.
3. Secure a rubber band around the yarn. After you've cut the fringe, this rubber band will keep the pieces under control until you're ready to use them. Cut the yarn along the bottom of the cardboard or jewel case. Keep the yarn folded in half.



Attach Fringe

1. Insert a large crochet hook from back to front through the edge stitch to which you want to attach the fringe. Grab the middle of the folded fringe yarn with the hook and bring about 1 inch of the middle of the fringe through the stitch.



2. Keeping the hook inserted through the center of the fringe, use it to grab the entire bunch of fringe.
3. Draw the fringe through the loop and tighten.



4. Trim the ends of the fringe so that they're even.



TIP

There are limitless ways to add flair with fringe. For full, thick fringe, attach several strands of fringe to the fabric in groups instead of individual strands. Consider combining different colors and textures for a lush fringe.

Patch Pockets

Patch pockets are simple to crochet and simple to add to any project. They're also functional and decorative.

1. Crochet a square, semicircle, or rectangle to serve as the pocket.
2. On the garment or accessory, use a pin or stitch marker to mark the placement of the pocket. If you're working on a garment, you might want to try it on to ensure proper placement.



3. Sew the left, right, and bottom sides of the pocket to the right side of the project with a whipstitch, being sure to secure the top corners to prevent separation during wear and use.



Block Your Finished Project

Crocheted pieces made from natural fibers like cotton, wool, and silk look their best after they have been blocked to the proper shape and dimensions. Blocking also helps make stitches look uniform and even.

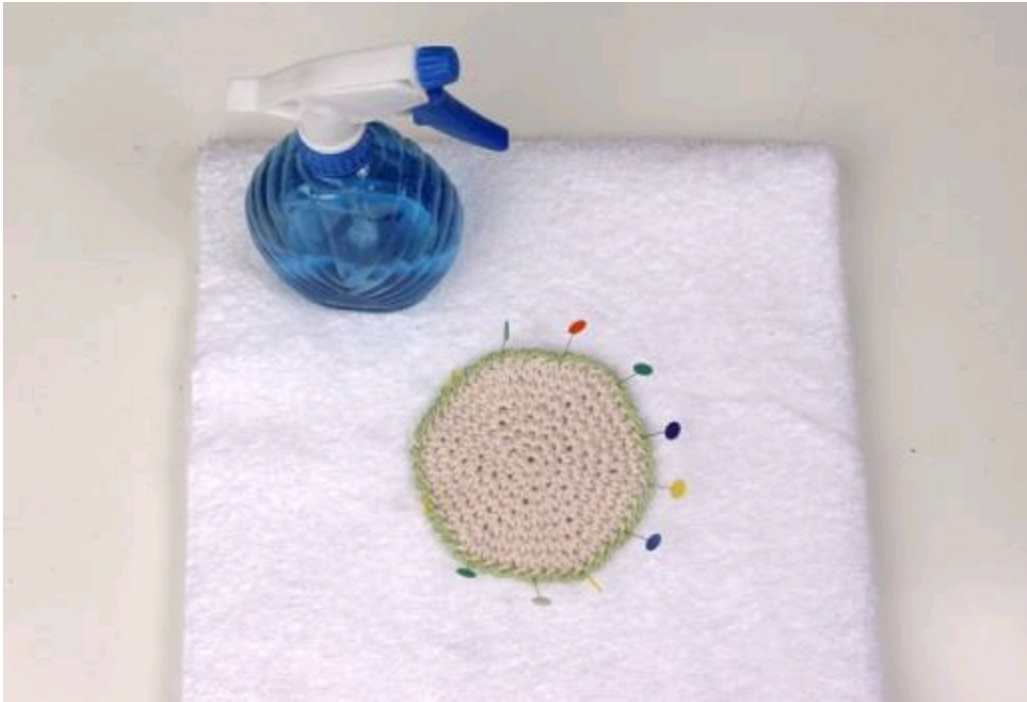
If you're constructing an item from several crocheted pieces, it is generally recommended that you block the pieces separately before assembling them.

Spray and Steam Blocking

You need a firm, flat surface to serve as a blocking board on which to pin your pieces. You can use a bed, lay several towels on a table or carpet, or use a large Styrofoam board.

1. Lay your crocheted pieces out on your blocking board as shown in the photo. Using your pattern as a guide, pin the pieces to the required shape and dimensions.

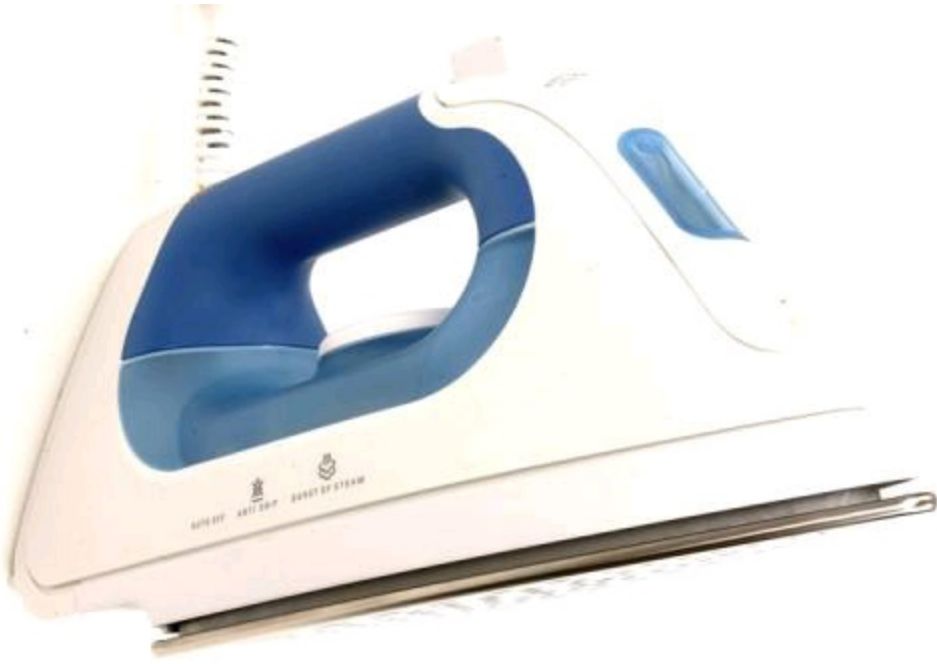
NOTE: Be sure to use rustproof pins.



2. **Spray blocking:** Use a spray bottle to wet the pieces thoroughly, but not to the point of saturation, with tepid water.

Steam blocking: As an alternative to spraying, you can steam your pieces to block them. Use the steam from an iron or steamer held several inches above the pieces.

3. Allow the pieces to dry.



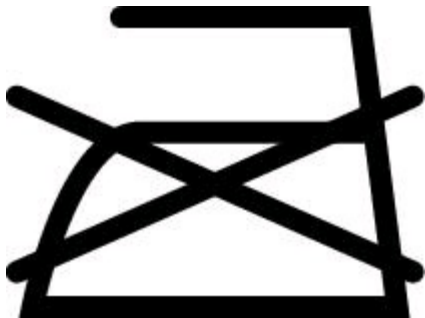
Wet Blocking

1. Gently submerge your crocheted piece(s) in cool water, adding mild soap or detergent to clean them, if desired. Do not agitate. Allow the piece(s) to soak for 10–15 minutes.
2. Drain the water from the sink and gently squeeze the excess water from the piece(s).
3. Roll the piece(s) gently in a towel to remove more water, as shown in the photo.
4. Lay the piece(s) out on your blocking board as directed in step 1 in the previous instructions for Spray and Steam Blocking.
5. Allow the piece(s) to dry completely.



TIP

Unless your pattern specifically calls for it, do not iron your crocheted pieces under any circumstances.



Care for Crocheted Items

After you devote so much time, energy, and love to making crocheted items, it's important to care for them properly so that they remain in excellent condition for as long as possible.



Maintain Your Crocheted Items

Follow Care instructions for washing Crocheted Items

All yarns are not created equal. Some are extremely delicate, and others are so durable you'd think they were made of steel.

When it comes to washing your crocheted items, be sure to follow the care instructions on the yarn label (see the section [“Yarn Weight and Care Symbols”](#)).

If you're giving an item as a gift, include a tag with care instructions and fiber information so the recipient knows how to wash the item correctly.

Made for you by Pam
with lots of love!

This sweater is 100% wool.
Either dry clean it or hand wash it
in warm water with a mild detergent.
Rinse it in warm water and
lie out flat to dry.

Store Crocheted Items

Store crocheted items in a clean, dry place away from pets. If the items are made of natural fibers, be sure to include cedar or lavender to repel moths and other pests that can wreak havoc.



Chapter 11: Flowers, Shapes, and Creatures

The fun flowers and shapes presented in this chapter are a great way to practice reading patterns. Use these motifs alone or combine them for projects of your own invention.

The examples in this chapter were made with DK-weight yarn and a 4.5mm hook. You can use any yarn to make your own flowers, shapes, and creatures; choose a hook size appropriate for the yarn you've selected.

[Loopy Chain Flower](#)

[Simple Daisy](#)

[Add Layers to the Simple Daisy](#)

[Rosette](#)

[Corkscrew](#)

[Hyperbolic Ruffle](#)

[Triangles Using Increases or Decreases](#)

[Shapes in the Round](#)

[Make Creatures Using 2-D Shapes](#)

[Make an Owl](#)

[Crochet a Ball](#)

[Form a Tube](#)

[Make Creatures Using 3-D Shapes](#)

Loopy Chain Flower

This quick and funky flower is made using loops of chain stitches worked into a round of single crochet.



Techniques Used

Ch Chain stitch

Sl st Slip stitch

SC Single crochet

Work in the round (see [Chapter 3](#))

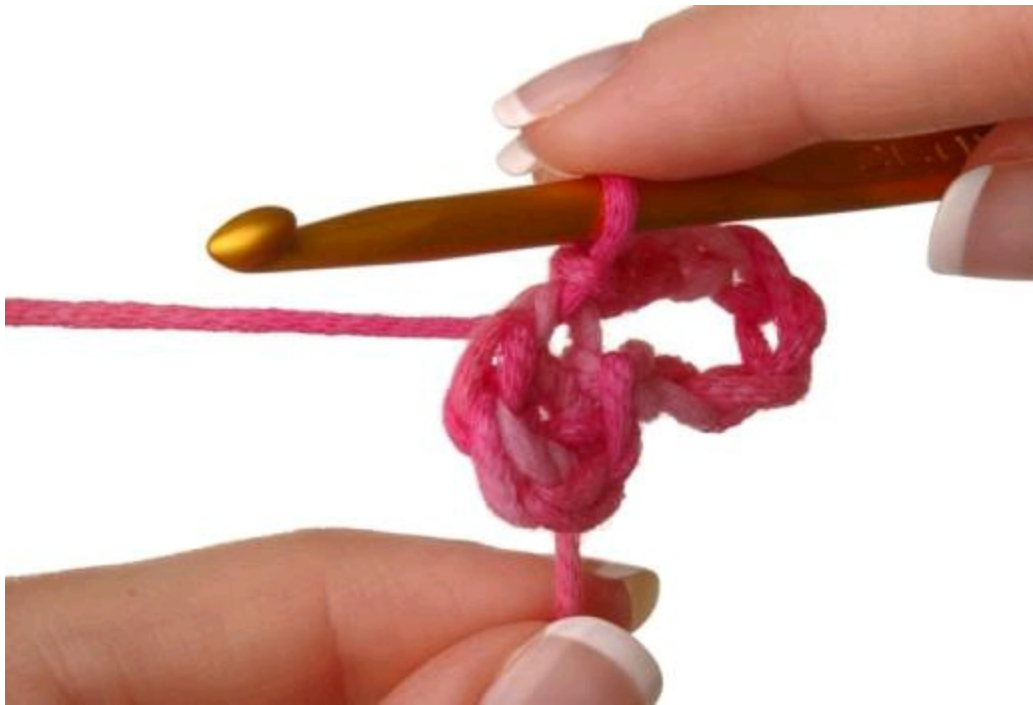
Loopy Chain Flower Pattern

1. Ch 2. Work 4 SC in 2nd ch from hook (see photo). Join with a Sl st. Gently pull tail to tighten ring.

This round of SC creates a base for the petals. Each petal is made with a loop of chain stitches worked into a SC from this round.



2. Ch 8. Sl st into 1st SC.



3. * Ch 8. Sl st into next SC, ch 8, and then Sl st into the same SC.



4. Rep from * to create a total of 8 loopy petals. Sl st to join at base of 1st petal.



Simple Daisy

Easy to crochet, this simple daisy makes a sweet addition to any project. Use it as an appliqué, make it into a pin, or even use it to patch up a pair of old jeans.



Techniques Used

Ch Chain stitch

Sl st Slip stitch

SC Single crochet

DC Double crochet

Work in the round (see [Chapter 3](#))

Simple Daisy Pattern

Foundation Round

1. Ch 2. Work 5 SC into 2nd ch from hook. Join with a Sl st. Gently pull tail to tighten ring.



Petal Round

Each petal is made by using a combination of stitches worked into 1 SC.

1. Starting in 1st SC from prev round, [ch 2, 3 DC, ch 2, Sl st]—1 petal made.



2. * Sl st into next SC (a). Work 1 petal [ch 2, 3 DC, ch 2, Sl st] into this SC (b).



Step 2a



Step 2b

3. Rep from * to create a total of 5 petals. Sl st to join at base of 1st petal.
4. Fasten off and weave in ends.

NOTE: Instead of weaving in the yarn tails, you can use them to sew the daisy onto a crocheted project or tie it

onto a pin.



Add Layers to the Simple Daisy

Adding another layer of petals to the simple daisy is easy. Work one layer into the front loop and one into the back loop of the same round to create a flower with layers.



Techniques Used

Ch Chain stitch

Sl st Slip stitch

SC Single crochet

DC Double crochet

FLO Work in the front loop only (see [Chapter 4](#))

BLO Work in the back loop only (see [Chapter 4](#))

Simple Daisy Layers

Foundation Round

1. Ch 2. Work 5 SC into 2nd ch from hook. Join with a Sl st into 1st SC.

2. Gently pull on tail to tighten ring.

Petal Round 1

1. Starting with 1st SC from foundation round, work 1 petal [ch 2, 3 DC, ch 2, Sl st] into FLO.
2. * Sl st into next SC. Work 1 petal [ch 2, 3 DC, ch 2, Sl st] into FLO of this SC.



Step 1

3. Rep from * to create a petal in FLO of each SC from foundation round. Join with a Sl st at base of 1st petal of round.



Petal Round 2

1. Sl st into BLO of 1st SC from foundation round.
2. Work 1st petal [ch 2, 3 DC, ch 2, Sl st] into BLO of this SC.



Step 2

3. * Sl st into BLO of next SC. Work 1 petal [ch 2, 3 DC, ch 2, Sl st] into back loop of this SC.

4. Rep from * to create a petal in BLO of each SC from the foundation round.
5. Join with a Sl st at base of 1st petal of round. Fasten off.



TIP

Flower Projects

You can use your crocheted flowers to improvise fun projects. Here are a few ideas.

- **Make a flower ring:** Once the flower is made, chain a ring to fit your finger and slip stitch to the back of the flower to close the ring. (See the photo.)
- **Make a scarf:** Simply sew or crochet the flowers together however you like.
- **Make a bouquet:** Attach floral wire to the back of each flower.



Rosette

Unlike the previous flowers, this rosette is worked in a corkscrew and rolled up to create a layered flower that is easy to make.



Techniques Used

Ch Chain stitch

TR Treble stitch

Rosette Pattern

1. Ch any number—the longer the chain, the larger the rosette.
2. Work 4 TR into 4th ch from hook. * Work 5 TR into next ch.



Step 2

3. Rep from *, working into each ch across. Fasten off.
4. Tuck in one end of the row and roll it into a spiral. Sew the bottom of the rosette using the tail from the beginning to fasten the layers at the base.



Step 4

Corkscrew

Increasing by too many stitches in each row creates a ruffle. Increasing by far too many stitches causes the work to turn in on itself, resulting in a corkscrew that makes a playful fringe or ornament.



Techniques Used

Ch Chain stitch

Sl st Slip stitch

SC Single crochet

Corkscrew Pattern

1. Ch any number—the longer the chain, the longer the corkscrew.
2. Sl st into 2nd ch from hook. * Work 4 SC into next ch. (see photo).
3. Rep from *, working into each ch across. Fasten off.



Hyperbolic Ruffle

Mathematician Daina Taimina uses crochet to demonstrate a hyperbolic plane (a plane that curves away from itself at every point). Crochet is a unique fit for modeling this geometric concept that mirrors natural wonders like the growth of a coral reef. On top of all that, this hyperbolic ruffle is fun and easy to make.



Techniques Used

Ch Chain stitch

SC Single crochet

Hyperbolic Ruffle Pattern

1. Ch any number, plus 1 for the turning ch.
2. Row 1: Work 2 SC into 2nd ch from hook. * Work 1 SC into next 3 sts, work 2 SC into next st. Rep from * to finish the row, ch 1, and turn.
3. Rep row 1 as many times as you like.



TIP

The only rule for making a hyperbolic ruffle is to keep increasing at regular intervals. Try changing the number of stitches between increases for a different ruffle shape. You can also experiment with different stitches like double crochet.

Triangles Using Increases or Decreases

Use simple shaping techniques to create a triangle. Start with a point and increase as you go, or start with a long row and decrease to a point.



Techniques Used

Ch Chain stitch

Sl st Slip stitch

SC Single crochet

SC TOG Single crochet together (see [Chapter 3](#))

TIP

Triangles have lots of uses. Appliqué tri-angles to completed projects for a playful look, especially for children's items like the owl in [Make an Owl](#). Or consider making a large triangle to use as a head scarf, dish rag, or face cloth.

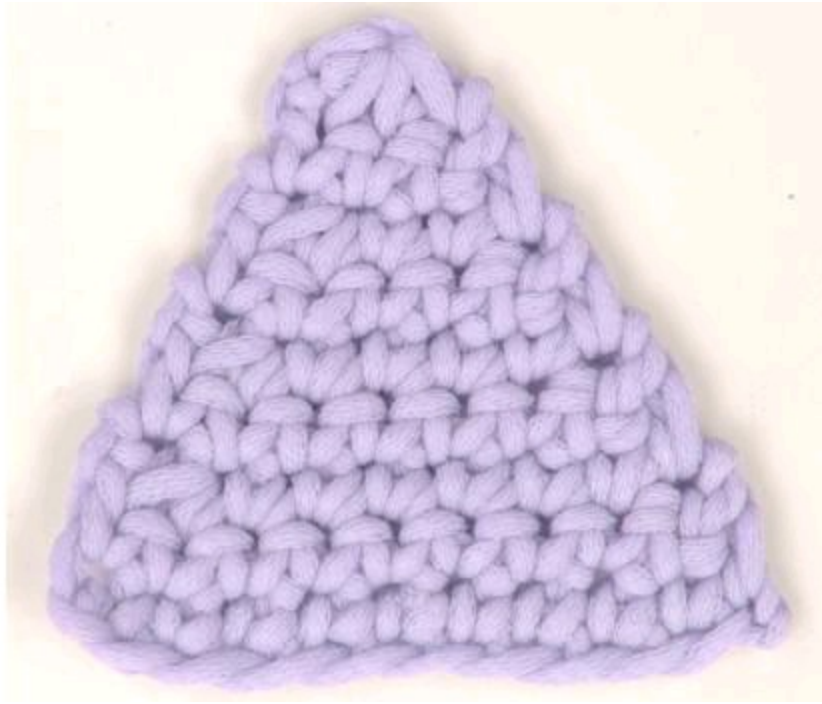
Decrease Triangle

1. Ch any number, plus 1 for the turning chain.
2. Row 1: Work 1 SC into 2nd loop from hook. Work 1 SC into each ch across. Ch 1 and turn.
3. Row 2: Work SC2TOG over next 2 sts from prev row. Work 1 SC into each st across to finish the row. Ch 1 and turn.
4. Rep row 2 to decrease 1 st per row until only 3 sts are left.
5. Final row: SC3TOG to complete the triangle. Fasten off.



Increase Triangle

1. Ch 2.
2. Row 1: Work 3 SC into 2nd ch from hook. Ch 1 and turn.
3. Row 2: Work 2 SC into 1st st of prev row. Work 1 SC in each st across to finish the row. Ch 1 and turn.
4. Rep row 2 until triangle is the desired size.



Shapes in the Round

Follow this pattern to make a triangle, or alter it to make a square, a pentagon, a hexagon, or even an octagon.



Techniques Used

Ch Chain stitch

Sl st Slip stitch

DC Double crochet

Create a ring using a loop (see [Chapter 3](#))

Triangle Pattern

1. Round 1: Use a loop to form a ring ch 3 and work 2 DC into the ring. * Ch 2, work 3 DC into the ring. Rep from *. Ch 2, Sl st in 3rd ch of ch-3 at beg of round to join. Pull on tail of loop to tighten center.
2. Round 2: Ch 3; this chain counts as 1 DC. Skip 1st DC from prev round. Work 1 DC into each DC from prev round until you reach 1st ch space. Work [1 DC, ch

2, 1 DC] into ch space. * Work 1 DC into each DC, work [1 DC, ch 2, 1 DC] into ch space. Rep from * to complete round. Sl st in 3rd ch of ch-3 at beg of round.



3. Rep round 2 until triangle is the desired size. Fasten off.



To Make a Square

Change the number of repeats in the pattern to 2.



To Make a Pentagon

Change the number of repeats in the pattern to 3.



To Make a Hexagon

Change the number of repeats in the pattern to 4.

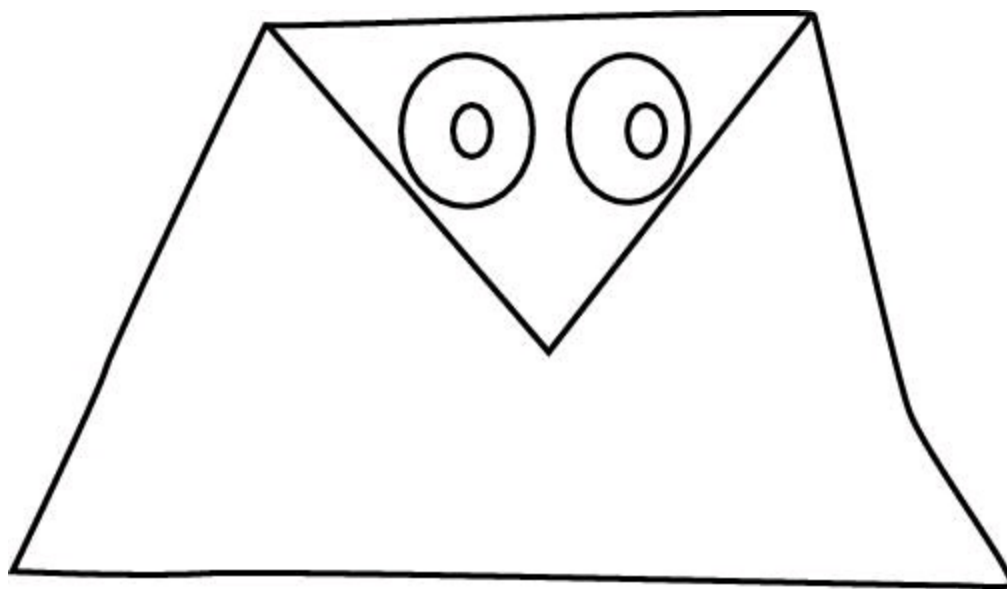


Make Creatures Using 2-D Shapes

Have fun turning flat crocheted shapes into whatever you imagine.

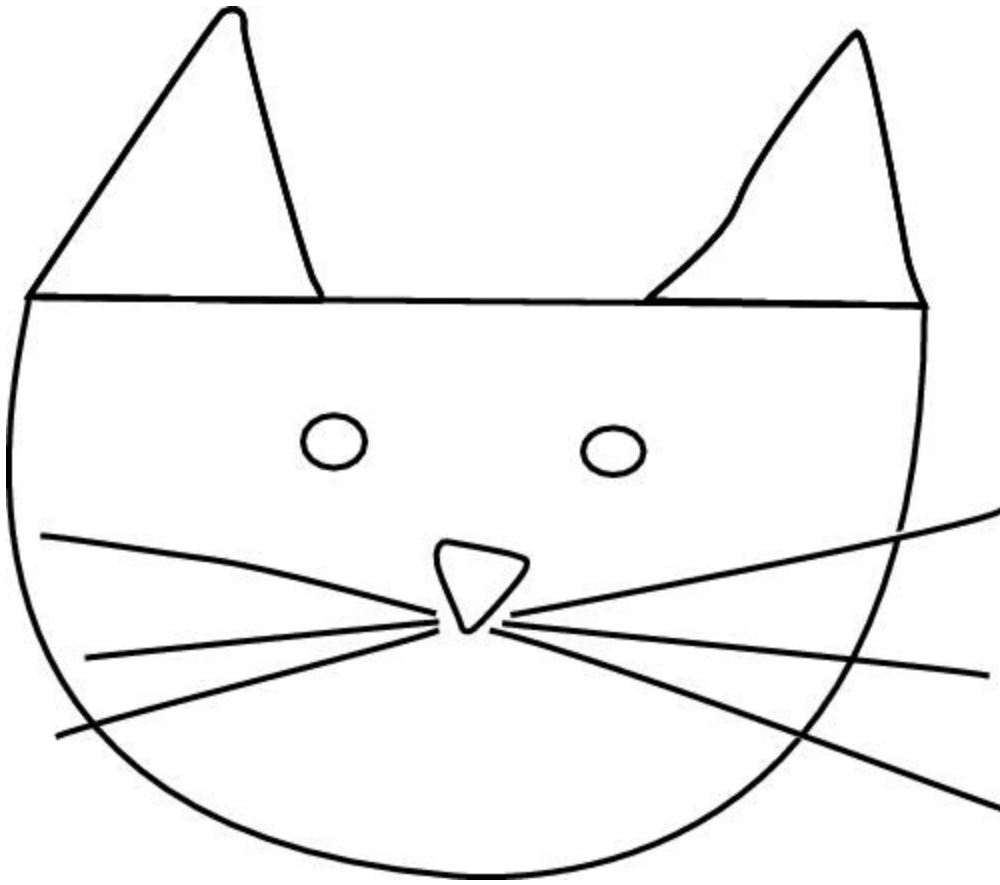
Make an Owl

Seam two triangles together. Fold down the top point and attach it to the body. Attach crochet circles for the eyes. (See below.)



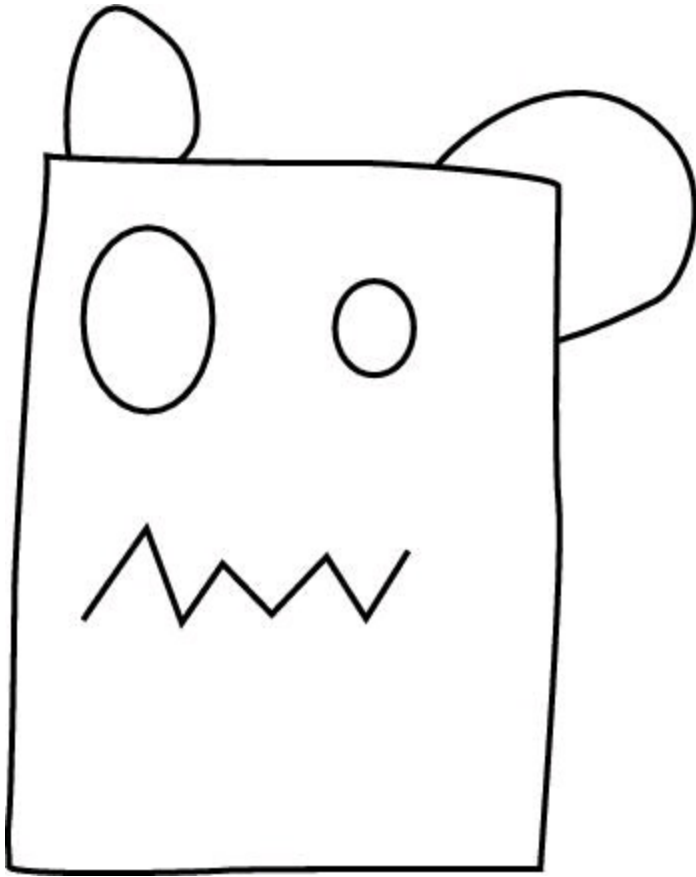
Make a Cat's Face

Fold a circle in half and seam the edges. Attach triangles for the ears and embroider the eyes, nose, and whiskers.



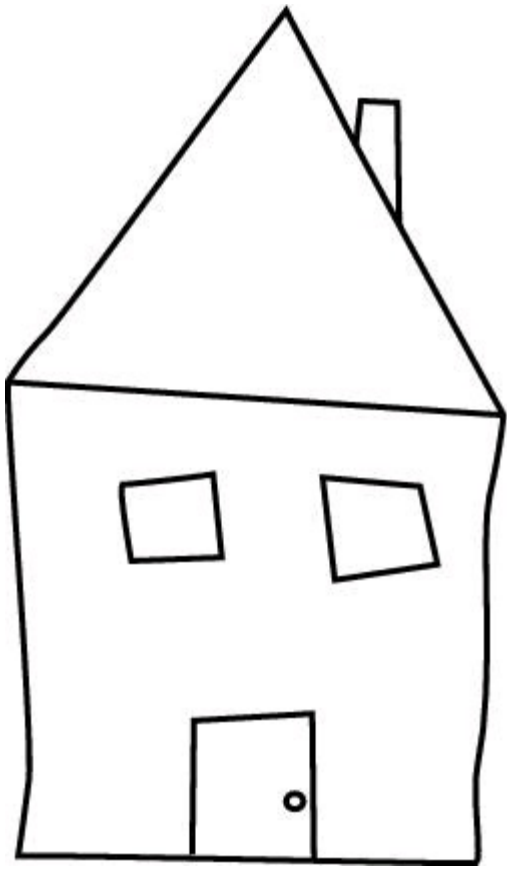
Make a Creature

Seam two rectangles together. Add odd shapes for the ears, arms, or legs. Attach crochet circles for the eyes.



Make a House

Seam two rectangles and two triangles together. Attach crochet shapes for a door, chimney, or window.



Make an Owl

Here's a close-up look at how to make the owl from the previous section.



Techniques Used

Ch Chain stitch

SC Single crochet

Crocheting [triangles](#)

Seaming (see the [Seaming sections in the previous chapter](#))

Owl Pattern

1. Crochet 2 triangles.
2. Seam them together.
3. Fold and attach the point to create a beak.
4. Crochet two circles to make the wings. Fold each wing over the sides of the

owl and attach.

5. Crochet and attach circles for the eyes.



Crochet a Ball

This simple ball pattern can be put to many creative uses, which includes using for the head of the [amigurumi creature](#) at the end of the chapter.



Techniques Used

Ch Chain stitch

Sl st Slip stitch

SC Single crochet

SC TOG Single crochet together (see [Chapter 3](#))

Ball Pattern

This pattern is worked in the round. Do not turn your work at the end of a round.

1. Round 1: Use a loop to form a ring, ch 1. Work 7 SC into ring. Sl st into 1st SC to join (7 SC total).
2. Round 2: Ch 1. Work 2 SC into 1st st and into each st from prev round (14 SC total).



3. Round 3: Work 1 SC into each st from prev round (14 SC total).
4. Continue to work increase rounds until the ball is the width you want.
5. Work several rounds without increases to shape the ball. Use the number of rounds necessary to shape the ball.
6. Decrease rounds: * Work SC2TOG over the next 2 sts and 1 SC in each of the next 3 sts. Rep from * until 10 sts rem. Fasten off, leaving a long tail.



7. Use just enough stuffing to shape the ball, but don't over stuff. Overstuffing can

stretch the stitches and create telltale gaps.

8. Weave tail through last 10 sts and pull gently to close ball.



TIP

Making balls of different sizes is simple. Follow this pattern and add more increase rounds, or consult the section [“Shapes in the Round”](#) earlier in this chapter.

Form a Tube

This simple tube pattern can be put to many creative uses, including an [amigurumi creature](#) in the next section.



Techniques Used

Ch Chain stitch

Sl st Slip stitch

SC Single crochet

Tube Pattern

This pattern is worked in the round. Do not turn your work at the end of a round.

1. Ch 8. Sl st to join 1st ch to the last for working in the round.
2. Round 1: Ch 1. Work 8 SC into ch.
3. Round 2: Work 1 SC into each stitch of prev round.
4. Rep round 2 until tube is the desired size.

Make Creatures Using 3-D Shapes

Known as amigurumi, these 3-D creatures made of balls and tubes are fun to crochet. Follow these simple tips to make up your own lovable creatures.

Make the Head

Crochet a ball, leaving the bottom open.



Make the Body

Start with the ball pattern, but increase the number of even rounds before decreasing. Leave the top open and keep a long tail for seaming.



Assemble the Creature

Stuff the head and body. Line up the openings at the head and the body. Use a long tail to whipstitch the head and body together. Consider adding tubes for arms or legs.



Add Personality to Your Creature

In this example the face is simply sewn on. There are many ways to give your amigurumi a personality. Consider using buttons and other notions to add

features.



Chapter 12: Blocks and Motifs

Blocks and motifs are not only fun to make. They're portable, too—it's easy to carry the yarn and hook in your bag wherever you go. They also offer a lot of versatility; the sky is the limit for how to use them. You can combine different types, or stick with one to make a variety of things: bags, pillows, blankets, potholder covers, scarves—the list goes on!

The examples in this chapter were made with medium-weight yarn and a 5.0mm hook. You can use any yarn to make your own motifs; choose a hook size appropriate for the yarn you've selected.

[Square in the Round](#)

[Mitered Square](#)

[Diagonal Square](#)

[Granny Square](#)

[Granny Shapes](#)

[Log Cabin](#)

[Circle in a Square](#)

[Cross in a Square](#)

[Flower in a Square](#)

[Ten Points Motif](#)

[Diamond Motif](#)

[Join Motifs](#)

Square in the Round

A square worked in the round has a different look and texture than a square worked in rows.



Techniques Used

Ch Chain stitch

Sl st Slip stitch

SC Single crochet

Square in the Round Pattern

- 1 Ch 5, Sl st to 5th ch from hook to form a ring.
- 2 Round 1: Ch 1, 12 SC into ring, Sl st to 1st SC of round.
- 3 Round 2: Ch 1, SC in 1st SC, * 3 SC in next SC, SC in each of the next 2 SC, rep from * twice, 3 SC in next SC, SC in last SC, Sl st to 1st SC of round.



- 4 Round 3: Ch 1, SC in each of the next 2 SC, * 3 SC in next SC, SC in each of the next 4 SC, rep from * twice, 3 SC in next SC, 2 SC, Sl st to 1st SC of round.
- 5 Round 4: Ch 1, SC in each of the next 3 SC, * 3 SC in next SC, SC in each of the next 6 SC, rep from * twice, 3 SC in next SC, 3 SC, Sl st to 1st SC of round.
- 6 To continue working rounds, rep round 4, adding 2 more SC to each side with each round.

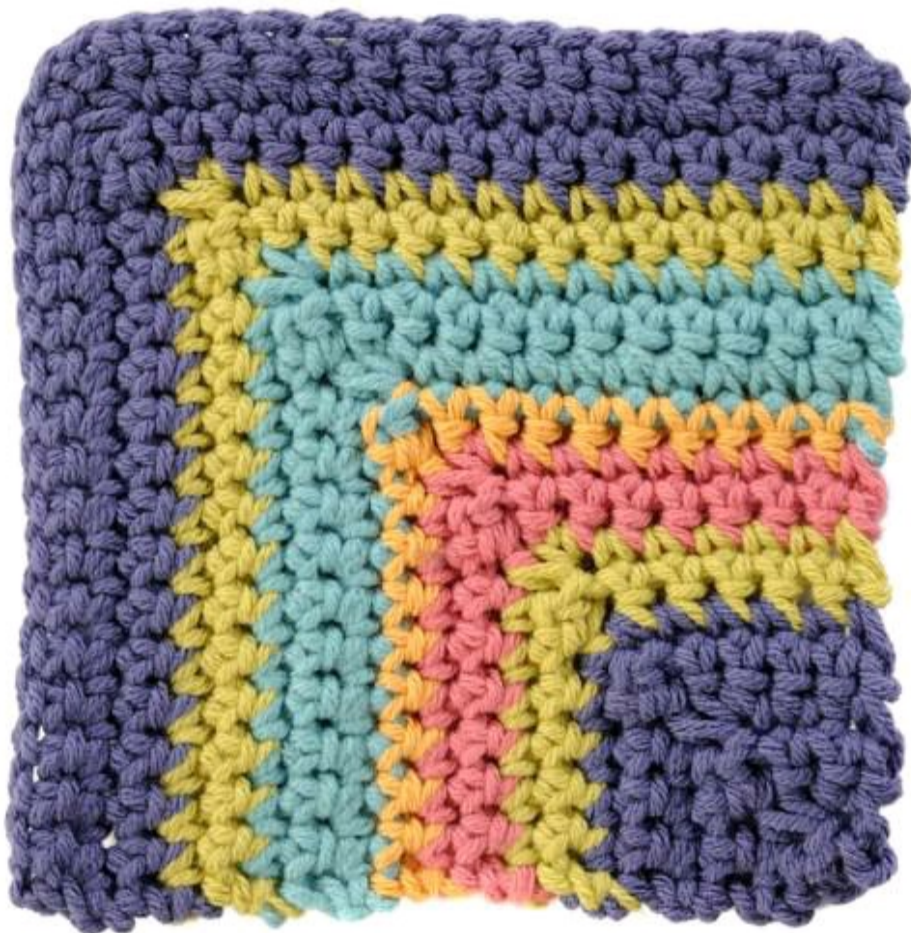


TIP

You can make two different variations on this square: 1) work it in one solid color or 2) change colors per round or several rounds to create a stripe effect.

Mitered Square

You create a mitered square when you make a 90-degree bend by decreasing in the middle of each row. This is a fun way to make a square with an interesting look.



Techniques Used

Ch Chain stitch

Sl st Slip stitch

SC Single crochet

SC3TOG 3 single crochet worked together (see [Chapter 3](#))

Mitered Square Pattern

Create a foundation chain that is an odd number, plus 1 for the turning chain.

1. Row 1: SC in 2nd ch and each ch across. Ch 1 and turn. Place marker in st at center of row.



2. Row 2: SC in each st across to st before marker. Remove marker. Work SC3TOG over center 3 sts. SC into each st across to end of row, ch 1, and turn. Place marker in st at center of row.

3. Rep row 2 until 3 sts remain in the row.

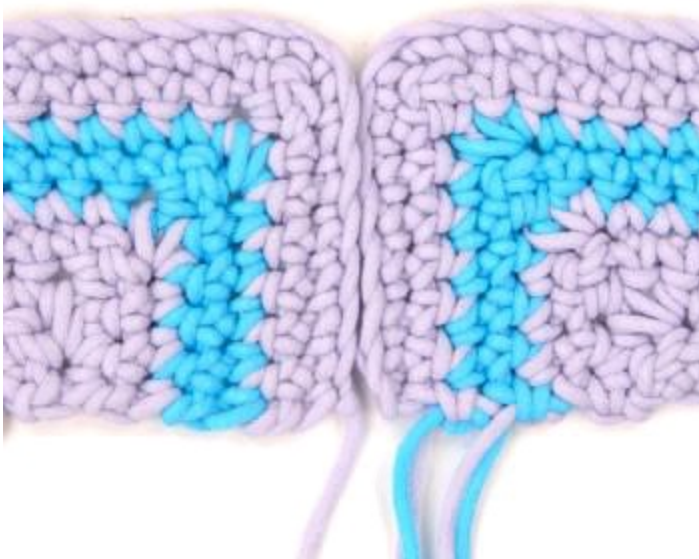
4. Final row: Work SC3TOG. Fasten off and weave in ends.



TIP

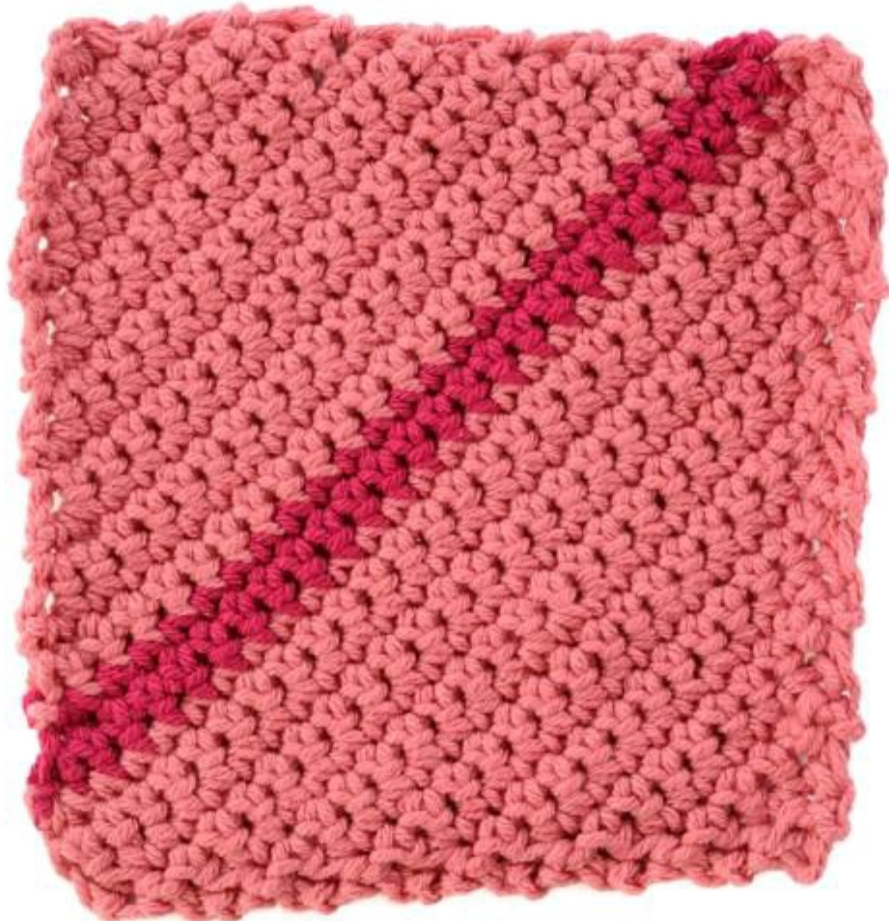
This pattern looks great with stripes of color, as shown here. You can join mitered squares together to make interesting and intricate patterns.

Use the squares as building blocks to create larger designs. Changing colors and using stripes are key in making these kinds of combinations. For a simple but different approach to making a blanket, consider working one blanket-sized mitered square.



Diagonal Square

This square starts with only three stitches, can be worked as wide as you like, and ends again with three stitches. Change yarn colors to accentuate the diagonal rows.



Techniques Used

Ch Chain stitch

SC Single crochet

SC2TOG 2 single crochet worked together (see [Chapter 3](#))

SC3TOG 3 single crochet worked together (see [Chapter 3](#))

Diagonal Square Pattern

1. Ch 2.
2. Row 1: 3 SC in 2nd ch from hook, ch 1, and turn.
3. Row 2: 2 SC in 1st SC, SC in next SC, 2 SC in last SC, ch 1, and turn.
4. Row 3: 2 SC in 1st SC, SC in each SC across row to last SC, 2 SC in last SC, ch 1, and turn.
5. Rows 4 and 5: Rep row 3.
6. Row 6: SC in each SC across row.



7. Rep rows 3–6 several times. The number of repeats you use will determine the size of your square.
8. Next row: SC in each SC across row. Ch 1 and turn.

NOTE: This row falls in the middle of the square; next you will work decreases.



9. Decrease rows: Skip 1st SC, SC in each SC across row to last 2 SC, skip 1 SC, SC in last stitch, ch 1, and turn.

10. Rep decrease row until 3 SC remain.

11. Last row: Work SC3TOG.



TIP

Draw diagonal lines on many pieces of square paper to plan out a project using this square: Arrange them in

different ways to create different patterns. You will find that you can create many different effects depending on how you orient each individual square. This is a really useful method for planning most projects.

Granny Square

The traditional granny square has survived the decades because it's fun to make and easy to modify to suit your preferences. Granny squares make excellent building blocks for pieces like the [purse in the last chapter](#) and for afghans.



Techniques Used

Ch Chain stitch

Sl st Slip stitch

DC Double crochet

Granny cluster 3 DC in ch 1-space

Corner set [3 DC, ch 2, 3 DC] in ch-2 space

Create a ring using a loop (see [Chapter 3](#))

Granny Square Pattern

1. Round 1: Using a loop for a ring, ch 3 and work 2 DC into ring. * Ch 2, 3 DC into ring. Rep from * twice to create 2 more granny clusters. Ch 2 Sl st in 3rd ch of ch-3 at beg of round. Fasten off. Tighten the ring.



2. Round 2: Join yarn in next ch-2 space. Work [ch 3, 2 DC, ch 2, 3 DC] into ch-2 space. * Ch 1. In next ch space, work a corner set [ch 2, 3 DC, ch 2, 3 DC]. Rep from * to work a corner set into each ch-2 space. Sl st in 3rd ch of ch-3 at beg of round. Fasten off.

NOTE: See the section [“Join New Yarn”](#) for information on how to join yarn.



3. Round 3: Join yarn in next corner ch-2 space. Work [ch 3, 2 DC, ch 2, 3 DC] into ch space.
4. * Ch 1. Work 1 granny cluster into each ch-1 space, ch 1. In next ch-2 space, work a corner set [3 DC, ch 2, 3 DC].
5. Rep from * to work into each ch space. Sl st into 3rd ch of ch-3 at beg of round. Fasten off.

NOTE: From here, the number of granny clusters worked into chain spaces between corner sets increases with each round.



Granny Shapes

All these shapes are a twist on the basic granny square.



Techniques Used

Ch Chain stitch

Sl st Slip stitch

DC Double crochet

Granny cluster 3 DC in ch-1 space

Corner set [Ch 2, 3 DC, ch 2, 3 DC] in ch-2 space

Create a ring using a loop (see [Chapter 3](#))

Triangle Granny

1. Round 1: Using a loop for a ring, ch 3 (counts as 1 DC) and work 2 DC into ring. * Ch 3, 3 DC into ring; rep from * once, ch 3, Sl st to top of the ch-3 at beg of round. Fasten off.
2. Round 2: Join yarn in a ch-3 space. [Ch 3, 2 DC, ch 3, 3 DC] into same ch-3 space. * Ch 3, work [3 DC, ch 3, 3 DC] into next ch-3 space; rep from * once, ch 3, Sl st to top of ch-3 at beg of round. Fasten off.



3. Round 3: Join yarn in a corner ch-3 space. [Ch 3, 2 DC, ch 3, 3 DC] into same ch-3 space. Ch 3, work 3 DC in next ch-3 space, * ch 3, [3 DC, ch 3, DC] into next corner ch-3 space, ch 3, 3 DC into next ch-3 space; rep from * once. Sl st to top of the ch-3 at beg of round. Fasten off.
4. Rep round 3, increasing number of 3 DC between corners with each round until granny triangle is desired size.



Round Granny

1. Round 1: Using a loop for a ring, ch 3 (counts as 1 DC) and work 1 DC into ring. * Ch 2, 2 DC into ring; rep from * 6 times, Sl st to top of ch-3 at beg of round. Fasten off.
2. Round 2: Join yarn in a ch-2 space. Ch 3 (counts as 1 DC) and work 2 DC into same ch-2 space, ch 2, * 3 DC into next ch-2 space, ch 2; rep from * 6 times, Sl st to top of ch-3 at beg of round. Fasten off.
3. Round 3: Join yarn in a ch-2 space. Ch 3 (counts as 1 DC) and work 2 DC into same ch-2 space, ch 2. * Work 3 DC into next ch-2 space, ch 2; rep from * until round is finished, Sl st to top of ch-3 at beg of round. Fasten off.
4. Rep round 3 until circle is the size you want.



Granny Pentagon

1. Round 1: Using a loop for a ring, ch 3 (counts as 1 DC) and work 2 DC into ring. * Ch 2, 3 DC into ring; rep from * 3 times, ch 2, Sl st to top of ch-3 at beg of round. Fasten off.
2. Round 2: Join yarn in a ch-2 space. [Ch 3, 2 DC, ch 1, 3 DC] into same ch-2 space. * Ch 2, work [3 DC, ch 1, 3 DC] into next ch-2 space, rep from * 3 times, ch 2, Sl st to top of ch-3 at beg of round. Fasten off.
3. Round 3: Join yarn in a ch-2 space. [Ch 3, 2 DC, ch 2, 3 DC] into same ch-2 space, ch 1, work 3 DC into next ch-1 space, ch 1, * [3 DC, ch 2, 3 DC] into next ch-2 space, ch 1, 3 DC into next ch-1 space, rep from * 3 times, ch 1. Sl st to top of ch-3 at beg of round. Fasten off.
4. Round 4: Join yarn in a ch-1 space. Ch 3 (counts as 1 DC), work 2 DC into same ch-1 space, ch 1, * [3 DC, ch 2, 3 DC] into next ch-2 space, ch 1, 3 DC into next ch-1 space, ch 1; rep from * 4 times, [3 DC, ch 2, 3 DC] into next ch-2 space, ch 1, Sl st to top of ch-3 at beg of round. Fasten off.



Log Cabin

The log cabin is a popular quilt motif. Try this crochet version for the same patchwork effect.



Techniques Used

Ch Chain stitch

Sl st Slip stitch

SC Single crochet

Log Cabin Pattern

Make the Center Square

1. Ch 10 for the foundation chain.
2. Row 1: SC in 2nd ch from hook and each ch across, ch 1, and turn.
3. Row 2: SC in each SC across row.
4. Rep row 2, 9 times. Fasten off.

Make the First Side Rectangle or Square

1. Rotate the square so you can work into the side of the piece.
2. Join a new color to a corner on the side of the center square.
3. Row 1: Ch 1, SC in the side of 1st row and each row across, ch 1, and turn.
4. Rep row 1 until you have the size and shape you want.



Make Another Rectangle

1. Rotate the square. You will be working into the sides of the rows.
2. Join a new color to a corner on the side of the center square.
3. Row 1: Ch 1, SC in side of 1st row or stitch and each row or stitch across, ch 1, and turn.
4. Row 2: Rep row 1 until you have the size and shape you want.



To continue from here, keep rotating your work in the same direction, working another rectangle with each rotation until your block is the size and shape you want.

TIP

Your center square doesn't have to be perfect. You can work with a rectangle if you choose. You can try using a different stitch with each block, too.

Circle in a Square

This motif starts with a circle and ends shaped like a square. Giving you another option when working with squares.



To accent the circles, try working the circles in a color that contrasts the outer square rounds. Use a matching color for the outer square rounds on each block. This will bring out the circles.

Techniques Used

Ch Chain stitch

Sl st Slip stitch

DC Double crochet

Circle in a Square Pattern

1. Round 1: Using a loop for a ring, ch 3 (counts as 1 DC), 15 DC into ring, Sl st to top of ch-3.
2. Round 2: Ch 5. * DC in next DC, ch 2; rep from * 15 times, Sl st to 3rd ch at

beg of round.

3. Round 3: Sl st in next ch stitch, ch 3 (counts as 1 DC), 2 DC in ch-2 space. * Ch 1, 3 DC into next ch-2 space; rep from * 14 times, Sl st to top of ch-3 at beg of round.

4. Round 4: Sl st in each of the next 2 DC, ch 1, work 1 SC into next ch-1 space. * Ch 7, SC into next ch-1 space, ch 5, SC into next ch-1 space; rep from * 3 times, Sl st to SC at beg of round.

5. Round 5: Sl st in each of the next 2 chs of ch-7 space, ch 3 (counts as 1 DC), [2 DC, ch 3, 3 DC] into same ch-7 space, 3 DC into each of the next 3 ch-5 spaces. * [3 DC, ch 3, 3 DC] into next ch-7 space, 3 DC into each of the next 3 ch-5 spaces; rep from * twice, Sl st to top of ch-3 at beg of round.

Cross in a Square

Simple openwork creates a cross pattern inside this square.



Because this block has open spaces, try backing it with a contrasting fabric. This idea could work for a pillow, a small bag, or even a book cover.

Techniques Used

Ch Chain stitch

Sl st Slip stitch

DC Double crochet

Cross in a Square Pattern

1. Ch 6, Sl st to 6th ch from hook to form a ring.
2. Round 1: Ch 3 (counts as 1 DC), work 15 DC into ring. Sl st into top of ch-3 at beg of round.
3. Round 2: Ch 3 (counts as 1 DC), 2 DC in 1st DC, ch 2, skip 1 DC, DC in next DC, ch 2, skip 1 DC. * 3 DC in next DC, ch 2, skip 1 DC, DC in next stitch, ch 2, skip 1 DC; rep from * twice, Sl st to top of ch-3 from beg of round.
4. Round 3: Ch 3 (counts as 1 DC), 5 DC in next DC. * DC in next DC, [ch 2, DC in next DC] twice, 5 DC in next DC; rep from * twice, [DC in next DC, ch 2] twice, Sl st in top of ch-3 from beg of round.
5. Round 4: Ch 3, DC in each of the next 2 DC, 5 DC in next DC, * DC in each of the next 3 DC, ch 2, DC in next DC, ch 2, DC in each of the next 3 DC, 5 DC in next DC, rep from * twice, DC in each of the next 3 DC, ch 2, DC in next DC, ch 2; Sl st to top of ch-3 from beg of round.
6. Round 5: Ch 3 (counts as 1 DC), DC in each of the next 4 DC, 5 DC in next DC, DC in each of the next 5 DC, 2 DC into next ch-2 space, DC in next DC, 2 DC into next ch-2 space. * DC in each of the next 5 DC, 5 DC in next DC, DC in each of the next 5 DC, 2 DC into next ch-2 space, DC in next DC, 2 DC into next ch-2 space; rep from * twice, Sl st to top of ch-3 from beg of round.



Flower in a Square

This pretty square has two layers of petals that stand out.



Techniques Used

Ch Chain stitch

Sl st Slip stitch

SC Single crochet

HDC Half double crochet (see [Chapter 3](#))

DC Double crochet (see [Chapter 3](#))

TR Treble crochet (see [Chapter 3](#))

Flower in a Square Pattern

1. Ch 6, Sl st to 6th ch from hook.
2. Round 1: Ch 1, 16 SC into ring, Sl st to 1st SC of round.

3. Round 2: Ch 6 (counts as 1 DC and 3 chains), skip 2 SC. * DC in next SC, ch 3, skip 1 SC; rep from * 7 times, Sl st to 3rd ch from beg of round.
4. Round 3: Ch 1. Work * [SC, HDC, 5 DC, HDC, SC] into ch-3 arch to form a petal; rep from * 7 times, Sl st to 1st SC of round. Fasten off.
5. Round 4: Join between 2 petals. Ch 1, SC in same space between petals, ch 6. * SC in next space between petals, ch 6; rep from * 6 times. Sl st to 1st SC of round.
6. Round 5: Ch 1. Work * [SC, HDC, 6 DC, HDC, SC] to form a petal into ch-6 arch; rep from * 7 times, Sl st to 1st SC of round. Fasten off.
7. Round 6: Join to 2nd DC of a petal from round 5. Ch 1, SC in same DC, ch 6, skip 2 DC, SC in next DC. * Ch 6, SC in 2nd DC of next petal, ch 6, skip 2 DC, SC in next DC; rep from * 6 times, ch 3, DC in 1st SC of round. Sl st to 1st DC of round.
8. Round 7: Ch 3 (counts as 1 DC), 3 DC into ch space, ch 4, SC into next ch space. ch 6, SC into next ch space, ch 6, SC in next ch space, ch 3. * [4DC, ch 4, 4 DC] into next ch space, ch 3, SC into next ch space, ch 6, SC into next ch space, ch 6, SC into next ch space, ch 3; rep from * twice, 4 DC in next ch space, ch 4, Sl st to top of ch-3 from beg of round. Fasten off.



Ten Points Motif

You can get creative with how you use this kind of motif. Join them close

together or on a field of chain arches.



Techniques Used

Ch Chain stitch

Sl st Slip stitch

DC Double crochet

DTR Double treble crochet (see [Chapter 4](#))

Picot Ch 4, Sl st to 4th ch from the hook

Ten Points Motif Pattern

1. Ch 12, Sl st to 12th ch from hook to form a ring.
2. Round 1: Ch 1, work 30 SC into ring, Sl st to 1st SC of round to join.

3. Round 2: Ch 5 (counts as DTR), DTR in next 2 SC, ch 3, * 3 DTR in next 3 SC, ch 3, rep from * 8 times, Sl st to top of ch-5.
4. Round 3: Ch 1, * SC in next DTR, 3 DC, picot, 3 DC in next ch-3 space, rep from * 9 times, Sl st to 1st SC. Fasten off.



Diamond Motif

Attach four of these small diamonds to make a larger square.



Techniques Used

Ch Chain stitch

Sl st Slip stitch

DC Double crochet

DC2TOG 2 DC worked together (see [Chapter 4](#))

Picot Ch 3, Sl st to 3rd ch from the hook

Diamond Motif Pattern

1. Ch 6, Sl st to 6th ch from hook to form a ring.
2. Round 1: Ch 1. * 3 SC, picot; rep from * 3 times. Sl st to 1st SC of round.
3. Round 2: Sl st in next SC from prev round, ch 2, DC in next st, ch 7, Sl st in 4th

ch from hook, ch 3. * Skip [1 SC, 1 picot, 1 SC], DC2TOG in next SC, ch 7, Sl st in 4th ch from hook, ch 3; rep from * twice, Sl st to top of ch-2 from beg of round.

4. Round 3: Sl st into next ch space, * 5 SC into ch space, [2 SC, ch 2, 2 SC] into picot space, 5 SC into ch space, SC in next DC2TOG; rep from * 3 times, Sl st to 1st SC of round.

NOTE: You may have noticed that the directions to make a picot in this pattern differs from the picot directions in the Ten Points motif. Picots can be made with different numbers of chains to create a different look. Try making one with a lot of chains and compare the difference.

Join Motifs

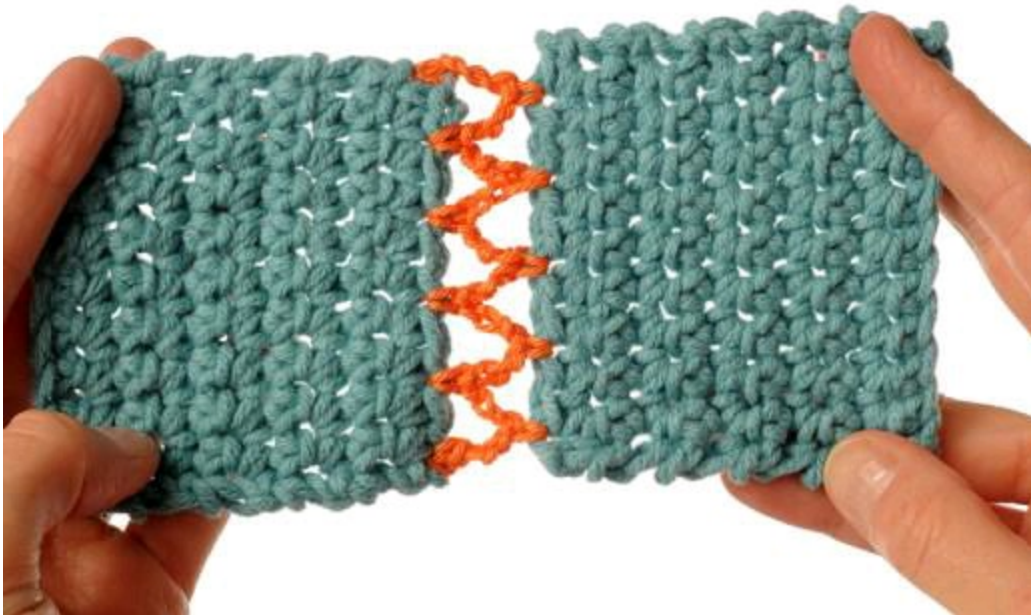
There are many different ways to join blocks and motifs. Each one creates a different look; it's up to you to decide what you want.

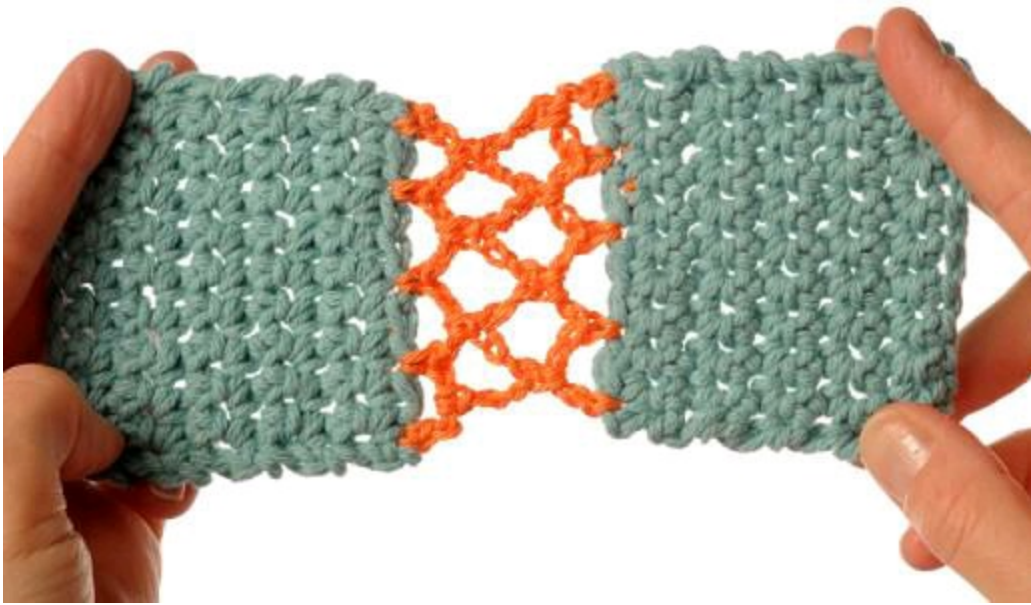
Join with Chain Arches

1. Join yarn to the first piece.
2. Ch 1, SC.
3. Ch 3.
4. SC into the second piece.
5. Ch 3.
6. SC into the first piece.
7. Rep steps 3–6.



These simple steps can easily be changed to fit the design you want. Experiment with chain lengths and taller stitches to get the look you're going for (see the two photos below for examples).

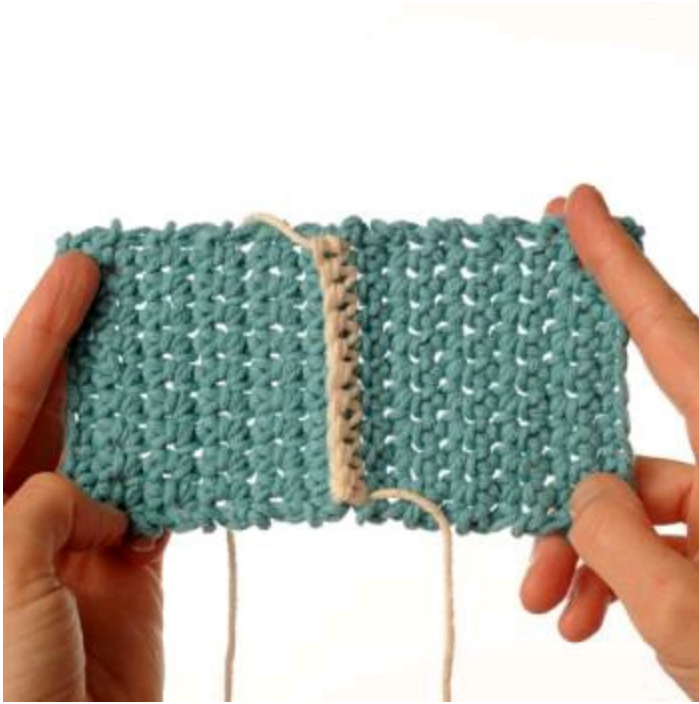




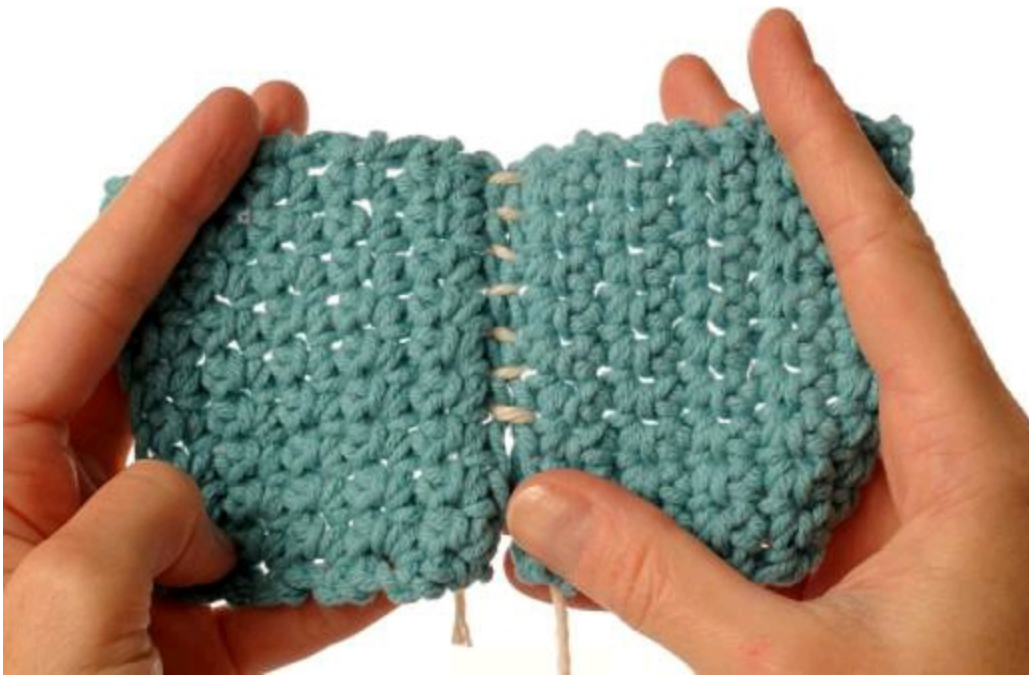
Sew the Pieces Together

Join the pieces with a slip stitch or single crochet. (See [Chapter 2](#) for more on these stitches.) The seams create a solid fabric and leaves a ridge around each piece.





This photo shows the right side of the join.



Sew the pieces together using a whipstitch worked through the back loops only. (See the section [“Seam Pieces Together by Sewing”](#) for more information.) This kind of join creates a solid fabric. Sewing leaves very little trace, creating an invisible join if you use a matching color.



Chapter 13: Edgings

A crocheted edging can be the perfect finishing touch for your project. An edging not only makes borders look neat, but it can also provide an elegant design detail. This chapter shows you how to customize an edging for your crocheted, knitted, or commercial fabric pieces.

[Single Crochet Edging](#)

[Picot Edging](#)

[Crab Stitch Edging](#)

[Tall Stitch Edgings](#)

[Arched Edgings](#)

[Shell Edgings](#)

[Fancy Edgings](#)

[Edging Knit Fabric](#)

[Edging Commercial Fabric](#)

Single Crochet Edging

Single crochet creates a neat, simple, tailored edging.



Make a Single Crochet Edging

1. Insert your hook anywhere along the edge of the piece to be edged and join yarn. See the section [“Join New Yarn”](#).
2. Work 1 SC into each st across.
3. Work 2 or 3 SC into the corner st; experiment to create a corner you like.
4. Continue to work across the next side until you reach the corner. Rep the combination you used to turn your corner.



5. To work into the side, simply work into the side of a stitch from each row (shown on the right). To crochet into the bottom of the 1st row, work into unworked loop(s) remaining from your foundation chain.
6. Continue to work across edge of piece, working corners as needed. When you reach the end of the round, Sl st to 1st crochet of the round. Fasten off and weave in ends.



Picot Edging

Picot edgings are an easy way to create an interesting edging. The size of the picot (see the following tip) determines whether your edging looks dainty, lacy, or even spiky.



Make a Picot Edging

1. Insert your hook anywhere along the edge of the piece to be edged and join yarn.
2. Work 1 SC into next st.
3. Ch 3 (a) and Sl st into 1st ch—1 picot made (b).



Step 3a



Step 3b

4. Skip 1 st; 1 SC into next st.
5. Rep steps 3 and 4 to create a picot edging.
6. Continue working the picot steps 3 and 4 across the piece. When you reach a corner, work 1 SC, 1 picot, and 1 SC into the corner space.



TIP

Work 5 chains to create a larger picot. You may need to skip 2 stitches before working the next single crochet to make the edging lay lie flat. Experiment!

Crab Stitch Edging

Crab stitch is most often used to create a simple and decorative border around a crocheted piece. You might see the stitch referred to as reverse single crochet (RSC).

As mentioned in the section [“Make a Crab Stitch”](#), crab stitch is worked in reverse.



Make a Crab Stitch Border

1. Insert your hook anywhere along the edge of the piece to be edged. Join yarn and work a crab st into each st or space across the piece.
2. Work 2 crab sts into corner st to turn corner.
3. Work 1 crab st into each st or space along the side of your work.
4. When you reach the next corner, work 2 crab sts into corner st.



5 Repeat steps 3 and 4 until you reach the beginning of the edging round. Fasten off and weave in ends.



Tall Stitch Edgings

Single crochet stitches are often used to make a quick and simple edging. Tall stitches can be worked just as easily, but add a different look and feel. These edgings have just enough space between stitches to weave a ribbon through, which makes a lovely finish to your crochet work.

Double Crochet Edging

Ch 3, 1 DC into each st or st space around the piece, working [2 DC, ch 2, 2 DC] in each corner. When round is complete, Sl st to top of ch-3 from beg of round.



Treble Crochet Edging

Ch 4, 1 TR into each st or st space around the piece, working [2 TR, ch 2, 2 TR] in each corner. When round is complete, Sl st to top of ch-3 from beg of round.



Filet Edging

Ch 3, 1 DC into next st, * ch 2, skip 2 sts or st spaces, 1 DC in each of next 2 sts or st spaces. Rep from * across, working [2 TR, ch 2, 2 TR] in each corner. When round is complete, Sl st to top of ch-3 from beg of round.



Arched Edgings

This section starts out with a simple arches edging that can stand on its own to give a piece a simple dainty look. You can add on to the basic arches edging to create more elaborate edgings.

Arches Edging

1. Join yarn to edge of piece.
2. Round 1: Ch 1, 1 SC into each st or st space around the piece, Sl st to join last SC to 1st SC of round.
3. Round 2: Ch 1, * 1 SC in 1st st, ch 3, skip 1 SC, 1 SC in next st. Rep from * to complete round. Ch 3 and Sl st to 1st SC.



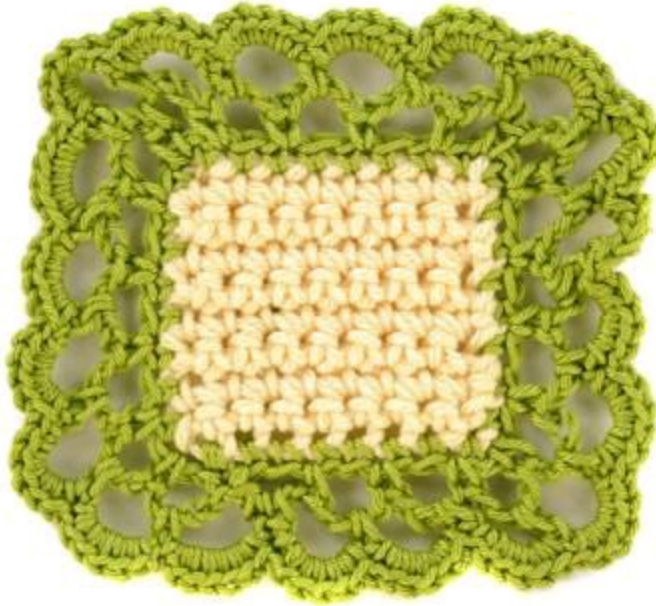
Mesh Edging

1. Repeat steps 1–3 of the arches edging.
2. Round 3: Sl st to ch-3 space, ch 1, * 1 SC into ch space, ch 3. Rep from * to complete round, Sl st to 1st SC.
3. Continue working Round 3 until the mesh edging is the desired size.



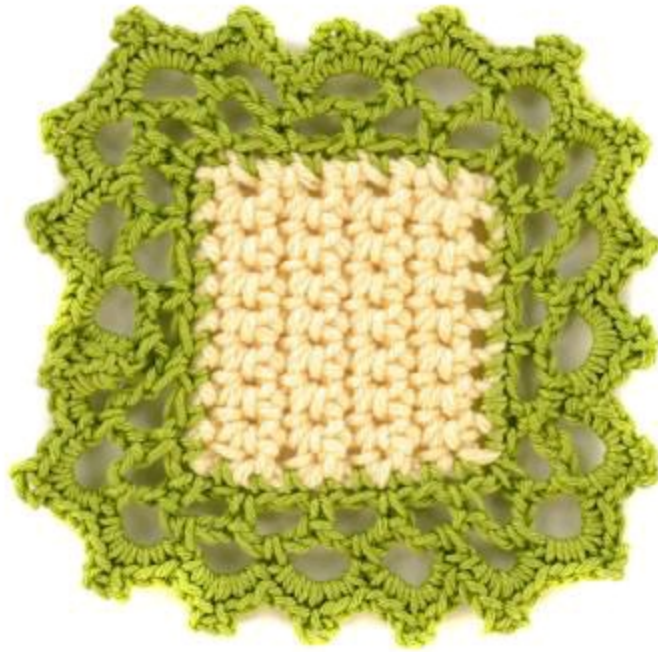
Scallop Edging

1. Follow steps 1–3 of the Arches Edging in the previous section.
2. Follow step 2 of the Mesh Edging in the previous section.
3. Round 4: Sl st into ch space, ch 1, * 6 SC into ch space, rep from * to complete round, Sl st to 1st SC.



Picot Scallop

1. Follow steps 1–3 of the Mesh Edging in the previous section.
2. Round 3: Sl st into ch space, ch 1, * 3 SC into ch space, ch 3, Sl st to 1st ch, 3 SC into ch space. Rep from * to complete round, Sl st to 1st SC.



TIP

Here are a couple of ways to experiment with the arched edgings:

- Change the number of chains in your arches and the number of spaces between arches.
- Work many rows of the mesh edging before adding one of the scalloped edgings.

Shell Edgings

Shell edgings are a classic finishing detail. A simple round of shells can transform the simplest piece into something pretty and charming.

Simple Shells edging

1. Round 1: Ch 1, SC into each st or st space around the piece, working [SC, ch 2, SC] in corner spaces, Sl st to join last SC to 1st SC.
2. Round 2: Ch 1, * SC in next st, skip 2 sts, 5 DC in next st, skip 2 sts. Rep from *, continue to follow the order of the pattern in corner spaces as well, Sl st to 1st SC.



Treble Crochet Shells

1. Round 1: Ch 1, SC into each st or st space around the piece, working [SC, ch 2, SC] in corner spaces, Sl st to join last SC to 1st SC.
2. Round 2: Ch 1, * SC in next st, ch 2, [2 TR TOG, ch 2] 3 times in next st. Rep from * across round, working a Sl st to 1st SC.



Now that you understand the basic idea, try creating shell combinations of your own.

Fancy Edgings

Block Edging

1. Round 1: Ch 1, 1 SC into each st or st space around the piece, Sl st to join last SC to 1st SC of round.
2. Round 2: Ch 3, skip 1st 3 SC, * 1 DC in next SC, ch 3 [1 DC around post of prev DC] 4 times, skip next 3 SC. Rep from * to complete round. Sl st to ch-3 from beg of round.



Petals Edging

1. Round 1: Ch 1, SC into each st or st space around the piece, working [SC, ch 2, SC] in corner spaces, Sl st to join last SC to 1st SC of round.
2. Round 2: Ch 1, * SC in next st or st space, ch 1, skip 1 st or st space, rep from *, working [SC, ch 1, SC] in each corner space. When round is complete, Sl st to ch 1 from beg of round.
3. Round 3: * Sl st into next ch space, [ch 2, 3 DC, ch 2, Sl st] into ch space, rep from * across round, continue to follow the order of the pattern in corner spaces as well. Sl st to Sl st from beg of round.



Fancy Fans Edging

1. Round 1: Ch 1, SC into each st or st space around the piece, working [SC, ch 2, SC] in corner spaces, Sl st to join last SC to 1st SC of round.
2. Round 2: Ch 1, * SC in each of next 3 sts or st spaces, ch 3, rep from *, work [SC, ch 3, SC] in each corner space, when round is complete Sl st to ch 1 from beg of round.
3. Round 3: Ch 1, SC,* [DC, picot, ch 1] 5 times in ch-3 space, DC in same space, skip 1 SC, SC in next SC, rep from * across round, continue to follow the order of the pattern in corner spaces as well. Sl st to 1st SC of round.



Daisy Chain Edging

1. Round 1: Ch 1, SC into each st or st space around the piece, working [SC, ch 2, SC] in corner spaces, Sl st to join last SC to 1st SC of round.
2. Round 2: Ch 1, SC, * ch 8, SC in 5th ch from hook, [ch 3, SC] 3 times into same ch space, ch 3, skip 3 SC from prev round, 1 SC in each of the next 3 SC from prev round. Rep from * across round, continue to follow the order of the pattern in corner spaces as well Sl st to 1st SC.



Edging Knit Fabric

Crochet edgings look great bordering hand-knitted fabric. It may take a little trial and error to figure out exactly where you want to insert the hook to work into the knitted piece.

Practice your crochet edging on the gauge swatch you knit for your project.



Use a hook equal to or smaller than the knitting needles used.

Try this stitch combination for your edging base. It will be forgiving of differences between the knitted fabric (including a stretchy rib) and the crochet edging:

Ch 1, SC in st space, ch 1, rep across round, working [SC, ch 1, SC] in corner spaces, Sl st to 1st SC.



Edging Commercial Fabric

Any trip through a thrift store will show you how popular crochet edgings once were. It used to be common to crochet a lovely border around everyday household objects like dish towels and handkerchiefs. Once you get the hang of it, customizing fabric with crochet is really easy and fun.



Consider the weight of your fabric when choosing your yarn. Most crocheted borders for fabric are done with thread or lace-weight yarn. If you want to use

something thicker, test it out on a swatch of the fabric first to make sure it will work.

You will need to poke your own holes to work into. For this, you will need a craft awl and a ruler.

1. Use the awl to pierce the fabric at regular intervals. If the holes are too close together, the fabric may tear. Try $\frac{1}{4}$ inch between each set of holes.



2. The holes are probably too far apart to work a continuous row of SC. Work a SC into each hole and chain 1 or 2 after each SC.

3. After this first round of edging, you can work any pattern you like.



Chapter 14: Patterns

The patterns in this chapter will help you explore the techniques and stitches you learned in previous chapters. Follow any pattern row by row, and you'll amaze yourself with what you can make!

[Beanie Master Pattern](#)

[Basic Beanie](#)

[Cloche](#)

[Baby Beanie](#)

[Booties Master Pattern](#)

[Sock Master Pattern](#)

[Cozy, Webby Sweater](#)

[Sweet and Chic Granny Square Bag](#)

[Simple Sampler Scarf](#)

[Coasters](#)

[Trivet](#)

[Round Box](#)

[Bold Bag](#)

[Exquisite Washcloths](#)

[Cool Baby Hat](#)

[Magnificent Shawl](#)

[Tunisian Tie](#)

[Spider Woman Belt](#)

[Bunny Amigurumi](#)

Beanie Master Pattern

You can use this basic outline to make your own custom beanie. Try out different stitches and stitch patterns to create your own unique hats.



Specifications

Techniques Used

Ch Chain

Sl st Slip stitch

Work in the round (see [Chapter 3](#))

Beanie Master Pattern

1. Start with the ring or magic loop method of your choice.
2. Work 6, 7, or 8 sts into ring. The number of sts you choose depends on the yarn you use. Work the number of sts that best fits to make a neat 1st round. Sl st to 1st st of round and crochet a ch appropriate for the st you are using.
3. To make top of hat, work rounds of inc:

Round 2: Work 2 sts in each st across, Sl st to 1st st of round, and ch the number appropriate for the st you are using.



Round 3: Work 2 sts in 1st st, 1 st in next st, rep across, Sl st to 1st st of round, and ch the number appropriate for the st you are using.

Round 4: Work 2 sts in 1st st, 1 st in each of the next 2 sts, rep across, Sl st to 1st st of round, and ch the number appropriate for the st you are using.

Continue inc rounds, adding 1 more st between each 2-st inc until rounds worked cover crown of head.



4. To shape crown, divide the number of sts in your last round by 4. For next round, work 4 inc spread out with that number of sts in between. Sl st to 1st st of round, and ch the number appropriate for the st you are using.
5. Work 1 st in each st across round. Sl st to 1st st of round, ch the number appropriate for the st you are using. Continue to work even rounds until hat is the size you want.
6. Turn and work another even round. This creates a subtle finish to the hat.



Basic Beanie

This version of the beanie pattern uses the extended single crochet stitch, giving it a yummy texture.



Specifications

Materials

1 hank Fleece Artist *Kid Aran* (50% kid/50% wool, 410 yd./250g) in Mahogany

5.5mm hook

Stitch marker

Techniques Used

Ch Chain

Sl st Slip stitch

ESC Extended single crochet (see [Chapter 4](#))

Adjustable ring (see [Chapter 3](#))

Finished Size

One size fits most adult heads. See pattern for advice on customizing the fit.

Circumference = 22 inches

Gauge

12 stitches and 13 rows = 4 inches in ESC

Make the Beanie

1. Start with an adjustable ring.
2. Round 1: 8 SC into ring, Sl st into 1st SC to join round. Gently pull on tail to tighten ring. Mark 1st st with stitch marker and ch 2 (8 SC total).
3. Round 2: 1 ESC into same st the Sl st is worked into, * 2 ESC in next SC, rep from * until 1 st remains, remove marker, 1 ESC in same st the 1st ESC was worked into, Sl st in 1st ESC to join. Place marker in 1st st. Continue to move marker to indicate 1st st of every round. Ch 2 (16 ESC total).
4. Round 3: 1 ESC into same st the Sl st is worked into. Place marker in 1st st. Continue to move marker to indicate 1st st of every round. * 1 ESC into next st and 2 ESC into next st. Rep from * until 1 st remains. 1 ESC into next st. 1 ESC in same st the 1st ESC was worked into; Sl st into 1st ESC to join. Ch 1 (24 ESC total).
5. Round 4: Work 1 ESC into same st the Sl st is worked into. * Work 1 ESC in each of the next 2 sts. Work 2 ESC into next st. Rep from * until 1 st remains. Work 1 ESC into next st. Work 1 ESC into same st the 1st ESC was worked into. Sl st into 1st ESC to join. Ch 1 (32 ESC total).
6. Round 5: Work 1 ESC into same st the Sl st is worked into. * Work 1 ESC in each of the next 3 sts; work 2 ESC into next st. Rep from * until 1 st remains. Work 1 ESC into next st. Work 1 ESC into same st the 1st ESC was worked into. Sl st to 1st ESC to join. Ch 1 (40 ESC total).

NOTE: With each round, 1 more stitch is worked even between increases.

7. Round 6: Work 1 ESC into same st the Sl st is worked into. * Work 1 ESC into each of the next 4 sts; work 2 ESC into next st. Rep from * until 1 st remains. Work 1 ESC into next st. Work 1 ESC into same st the 1st ESC was worked into. Sl st to 1st ESC to join. Ch 1 (48 ESC total).

8. Round 7: Work 1 ESC into same st the Sl st is worked into. * Work 1 ESC into each of the next 5 sts; work 2 ESC into next st. Rep from * until 1 st remains. Work 1 ESC into next st. Work 1 ESC into same st the 1st ESC was worked into. Sl st to 1st ESC to join. Ch 1 (56 ESC total).



Shape the Crown

1. Round 8: Work 1 ESC into same st the Sl st is worked into. * Work 1 ESC into each of the next 14 sts; work 2 ESC into next st. Rep from * until 1 st remains. Work 1 ESC into next st. Work 1 ESC into same st the 1st ESC was worked into. Sl st into 1st ESC to join. Ch 1 (60 ESC total).

2. Round 9: Work 1 ESC into same st the Sl st is worked into. * Work 1 ESC into each of the next 15 sts; work 2 ESC into next st. Rep from * until 1 st remains. Work 1 ESC into next st. Work 1 ESC into same st the 1st ESC was worked into. Sl st into 1st ESC to join. Ch 1 (64 ESC total).

3. Rounds 10–19: Work 1 ESC into each st around. Sl st into 1st ESC to join. Ch 1 (64 ESC total).

Turn to Create a Subtle Band

1. Round 20: Turn. Work 1 ESC into each st around. Sl st into 1st ESC to join. Ch 1 (64 ESC total).
2. Rounds 21–22: Work 1 ESC into each st around. Sl st into 1st ESC to join.
3. Fasten off and weave in ends.



Cloche

Add a feminine touch to the beanie pattern with this sweet edging.



Specifications

Materials

1 hank Fleece Artist *Kid Silk* (70% kid/30% silk, 410 yd./250g) in Ruby Red

5.5mm hook

Stitch marker

Techniques Used

Ch Chain

Sl st Slip stitch

ESC Extended single crochet (see [Chapter 4](#))

Adjustable ring (see [Chapter 3](#))

Popcorn Dance pattern (see [Chapter 7](#))

V-stitch: Work [1 DC, ch 2, 1 DC] into the same st.

Popcorn stitch: Work 4 DCs into the same st. Join through the top and ch 1. (See the section [“Popcorns”](#))

Popcorn V-stitch: Work [1 DC, ch 2, and 1 popcorn st] all into the same st.

Finished Size

One size fits most adult heads

Circumference = 22 inches

Gauge

12 stitches and 13 rows = 4 inches in ESC

Make the Cloche

Make the Body

1. Rounds 1–8: Work beanie pattern through round 8 (60 ESC total).
2. Rounds 9–19: Work 1 ESC into each st around. Sl st into 1st ESC to join. Ch 1 (60 ESC total).

Make the Edging

1. Edging round 1: Ch 3. Starting in 2nd st of round, * work 1 popcorn V-st, skip 2 sts, and work 1 V-st. Rep from * around until 5 sts remain. Skip 2 sts and work [1 DC, ch 2] into next st. Sl st into top ch of the ch-3 at beg of round.
2. Edging round 2: Ch 3. * Work 1 V-st into next ch-2 space. Work 1 popcorn V-st into next ch-2 space. Rep from * around. Sl st into top ch of the ch-3 at beg of round.
3. Fasten off and weave in ends.



Baby Beanie

The simple stitch combination used in this version of the beanie creates a soft, springy texture.



Specifications

Materials

1 skein Rowan Cashsoft Baby DK (57% extra fine merino/33% acrylic microfiber/10% cashmere, 140 yd./50g) in Cloud

4.5mm hook

Techniques Used

Ch Chain

Sl st Slip stitch

SC Single crochet

DC Double crochet

Adjustable ring (see [Chapter 3](#))

Finished Size

Circumference = 16 inches

To make a smaller hat, work fewer increase rounds.

Gauge

12 stitches and 14 rows = 4 inches

Make the Baby Beanie

1. Start with an adjustable ring.
2. Round 1: Work 6 SC into ring, Sl st in 1st SC to join round.
3. Round 2: * 1 SC and 1 DC in next SC, rep from * across round (12 sts total).
4. Round 3: * 2 SC in next st, 1 SC in next st, rep from * across round (18 sts total).
5. Round 4: * 1 SC and 1 DC in next st, 1 SC in next st, 1 DC in next st; rep from * across round (24 sts total).
6. Round 5: * 1 SC and 1 DC in next st, 1 SC in next st, 1 DC in next st, 1 SC in next st, 1 DC and 1 SC in next st, 1 DC in next st, 1 SC in next st, 1 DC in next st; rep from * across round (30 sts total).
7. Round 6: * 1 SC and 1 DC in next st, [1 SC in next st, 1 DC in next st] 2 times, rep from * across round (36 sts total).
8. Round 7: * 1 SC and 1 DC in next st, 1 SC in next st, 1 DC in next stitch, 1 SC in next st, 1 DC in next st, 1 SC in next st, 1 DC and 1 SC in next st, 1 DC in next st, 1 SC in next st, 1 DC in next st, 1 SC in next st, 1 DC in next st, rep from * 3 times across the round (42 sts total).
9. Round 8: * 1 SC and 1 DC in next st, [1 SC in next st, 1 DC in next st] 3 times, rep from * across round (48 sts total).
10. Round 9: * 1 SC and 1 DC in next st, [1 SC in next st, 1 DC in next st] 4 times, rep from * 4 times across the round, 1 SC in next st, 1 DC in next st, 1 SC and 1 DC in next st (54 sts total).
11. Round 10: * 1 SC in next st, 1 DC in next st, rep from * across round.
12. Rep round 10 until the hat is the size you want.
13. Fasten off and weave in ends.



Booties Master Pattern

Booties are quick and easy to crochet. Use the master pattern and then add a finishing touch to make a boot, Mary Jane, or crisscross-style bootie.



Specifications

Materials

4mm hook

4 stitch markers

Pencil and paper to take notes

Crisscross

1 skein Mission Falls 136 Merino Superwash (100% wool, 136 yd./50g) in #028 Pistachio

3 yd. Mission Falls 136 Merino Superwash (100% wool, 136 yd./50g) in #025 Mallow

4 buttons

Mary Jane

1 skein Mission Falls 136 Merino Superwash (100% wool, 136 yd./50g) in #025 Mallow

2 buttons

Boot

1 skein Mission Falls 136 Merino Superwash (100% wool, 136 yd./50g) in #015 Putty

3 yd. Mission Falls 136 Merino Superwash (100% wool, 136 yd./50g) in #025 Mallow

Techniques Used

Ch Chain

Sl st Slip stitch

SC Single crochet

SC2TOG 2 single crochet worked together (see [Chapter 3](#))

Finished Size

Custom fit

Gauge

4 stitches = 1 inch

5 rows = 1 inch

Master Pattern for Bootie Sole

1. Make a chain the length of the ball of the foot to the inside of the heel. Ch 1.
2. Write down the number of chains used.
3. Row 1: SC in 2nd ch from hook and each ch across, ch 1 and turn.
4. Round 1: SC in each SC across row, ch 1, rotate, work 1 SC same space as last SC worked, ch 1, SC in same space as last SC, rotate, working into back side of foundation ch, SC across, ch 1, SC same space as last SC worked, ch 1, SC in same space as the last SC.
5. Round 2: 1 SC in 1st SC of round 1 (place marker here). * SC in each SC across to ch-1 space, 1 SC in ch-1 space, ch 1, 1 SC in next SC, ch 1, SC in next

ch-1 space, rep from * to finish round.



NOTE: To keep track of the start of each round, move the marker at the beginning of each round.

6. Round 3: Rep round 2. Rep round 2 again for a wider bootie.
7. Write down how many times you repeat round 2.
8. Rounds 4–6: Work 1 SC in each SC across round.
9. Fold the sole lengthwise and place markers in the 4 sts where you will start your decreases. Space the decreases two on each side.
10. Round 7: * 1 SC in each SC across round to marked st, SC2TOG (move marker to new st), rep from *.. 1 SC in each SC to finish round.
11. Round 8: Work 1 SC in each SC across round. (Move markers as you work.)



TIP

Aside from keeping notes on paper, you can try using sticky notes in the book or photocopy the pattern to write notes on.

12. Round 9: Rep round 7.

13. Use the instructions for one of the following bootie styles or work from here to design your own bootie.

CrissCross

1. Work Bootie master pattern to round 8.

2. Fold bootie in half lengthwise. Place markers at the halfway point on both sides of the bootie.

3. Sew buttons to each side of the bootie.

4. Make the straps: 1 SC in each SC across round to marked st, * work a ch that reaches across to the button (mark the ch) plus enough chains to make a loop for your button, SC in the marked ch, continue to work SC in each ch * and SC across to next marked st.

To create the second strap, rep from * to * working in underside of ch, SC in marked ch and each ch across, Sl st to side of next SC. Fasten off.

5. Trim the bootie: Join a contrasting color and work one Sl st in each st across the bootie and straps.



Mary Jane

1. Work Bootie master pattern to round 8.
2. Fold bootie in half lengthwise. Place markers at the halfway point on both sides of the bootie.
3. Sew the button to the bootie.
4. Strap row 1: 1 SC in each SC across round to marked st, work a ch that reaches across to the button (mark the ch) plus enough chains to make a loop for your button, SC in marked ch, continue to work SC in each ch and SC across to next marked st, ch 1, and turn.
5. Strap row 2: 1 SC in each SC across row to ch loop. 5 SC in ch loop, working in underside of ch, Sl st in each ch across, Sl st to side of next SC. Fasten off.



TIP

Variations

Variation 1: Change to a new color at Strap row 1.

Variation 2: Join a new color and Sl st across.

Boot

1. Work Bootie master pattern to round 9.
2. Fold bootie in half lengthwise. Place 3 markers 1 on each side at the halfway point and 1 at the back of the bootie.
3. Round 10: * 1 SC in each SC across round to marked st, SC2TOG in next SC, rep from * twice.
4. Continue to work 1 SC in each SC across rounds until boot is the desired height, Sl st in next SC. Fasten off.



Sock Master Pattern

Crochet stitches make comfy, springy socks. Use this master pattern to make your own custom fit socks.



Specifications

Materials

2 hanks Shibui Sock (100% superwash merino, 191 yd./50g)

3.75mm hook

Approx. 6 stitch markers

Paper and pencil to take notes

Techniques Used

Ch Chain

Sl st Slip stitch

SC Single crochet

BLO Back loop only (see [Chapter 4](#))

SC2TOG 2 single crochet worked together (see [Chapter 3](#))

Adjustable ring (see [Chapter 3](#))

Finished Size

Custom fit

Gauge

5 stitches = 1 inch

6 rows = 1 inch

Make the Socks

NOTE: You will need to keep detailed notes as you work through the pattern. Use these notes to make the second socks. This also makes it easier to make corrections.

Start the Toe

1. Foundation Row: Working into the ridge on the backside of the chain, Sl st in each ridge loop across the chain. The foundation row will have two sets of loops, one on the top (the slip stitches) and one on the bottom (the foundation chain).
2. Note the number of chains and number of stitches in your foundation row.
3. Round 1: Ch 1, * rotate 180 degrees, SC in each stitch across this side of the round (place marker in this SC), rep from * (place marker in last SC).



Increase rounds

1. Round 2: * 2 SC in the next st, 1 SC in each SC across the round to marked SC, 2 SC in the SC before marked SC, 1 SC in marked SC (move marker to this stitch), rep from * to finish the round.

NOTE: Each marker should be in the SC between increases on each end of the round.

2. Note the number of stitches after the first increase round.
3. Repeat the increase round until the sock reaches the bottom of the toe when stretched a little. Each increase round adds 4 sts to the stitch count.
4. Note the number of increase rounds worked and the number in the stitch count of the last round.



Even Rounds

1. Round 1: SC in each st across the round (place a marker at the beginning of the round).
2. Rep round 1 until the sock foot reaches just past the middle of the arch of your foot.
3. Note the number of even rounds worked from the round with the stitch marker. Also note the total number of rounds worked from the foundation row.

Make the Heel

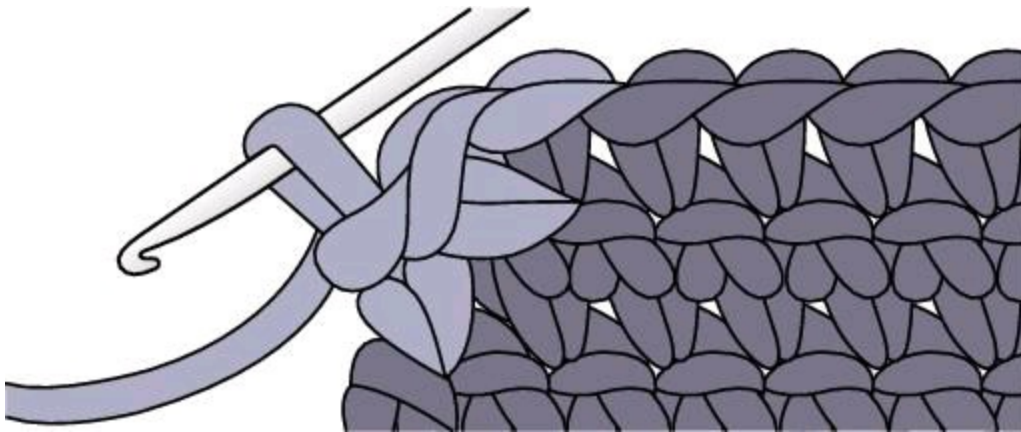
1. Fold the stocking foot flat so that it looks like the bottom of your foot, with the middle of the foundation row centered at the top. The open side of the folded stocking foot, with the end of your last round, is the bottom of the foot. Place a marker in the stitch on the right and left side of the bottom of the foot. To build a heel you will start to work from here in rows between the markers. It doesn't matter where the last round ended, simply work to the next marker.
2. Heel Row 1: SC in each SC across the row to the next marker, turn.
3. Heel Row 2: Ch 1, SC in each SC to the next marker, turn.
4. Heel Row 3: Ch 1, SC in each SC until the last st. Leave the last stitch unworked, turn.
5. Rep row 3 until the number of stitches in the row is equal to the number of stitches in the foundation chain (refer to your notes).

NOTE: You may wish to mark each skipped stitch.

6. Mark the last unworked SC.
7. Note the number of Heel Rows worked.

Heel Turn Rows

1. Heel Turn Row: Ch 1, SC in each SC across the row, 1 SC into the marked SC of the previous row, turn.
2. Rep the heel turn row until you meet up with the last round before the heel rows began.
3. Final Heel Row: Ch 1, SC in each SC across the round, mark the last SC (move this marker up with each round that follows).
4. Note the stitch count of the previous round.



Shape the Ankle

1. There will be a crook on each side of the sock where the ankle will be. Place 1 marker at each crook.
2. Ankle Round 1: SC in each SC across the round to the marked crook, SC2TOG in the next 2 SC, SC in each SC across the round to the next marked crook, SC2TOG in the next 2 SC, SC in each SC to the end of the round.
3. Ankle Round 2: Place markers 1 inch to either side of both ankle decreases. SC in each SC across the round, work 2 SC in each marked st.
4. Ankle Round 3: 1 SC in each SC across the round.



Finish The Sock

From here you can continue to work 1 SC in each SC across the round until the sock is the height you want. Or you can explore using stitch patterns to add some personality to your sock. The example shown here uses a simple rib pattern.

1. Rib Round 1: 1 SC in BLO of the next SC, 1 SC in FLO of the next SC, rep across to end of the round.
2. Rep rib round 1 until the sock is the height you prefer.
3. Note how many rib rows are worked.

TIP

Problem Solving

You may need to experiment to get just the right fit.

- If the sock is too narrow, work another increase round after the first even round.
- If the sock is too wide, unravel to the increase rounds and remove an increase round.
- If the ankle is too big, pinch the fabric and count the number of stitches pinched. Unravel to the place where the fabric gapes, space out decreases equal to the number of stitches you pinched. Take notes on the changes made.
- If the sock is too tight at any point, unravel to that point and add increases. Take notes on the changes made.

Cozy, Webby Sweater

This sweater is as cozy as it is contemporary. You use a large hook with two strands of DK-weight yarn to make a simple, webby fabric. The body is worked in one piece, reducing the amount of seaming necessary. You add the collar along the front and neck after the body is complete. See the end of the pattern for ideas on how to alter this pattern to make other simple sweaters.



Specifications

Materials

This example was made using: 10 (10, 12, 12) balls South West Trading Company *Optimum DK* (100% wool, 154 yd./50g) in Silver

This pattern can be made with any DK-weight yarn.

10mm hook

Techniques Used

Ch Chain

SC Single crochet

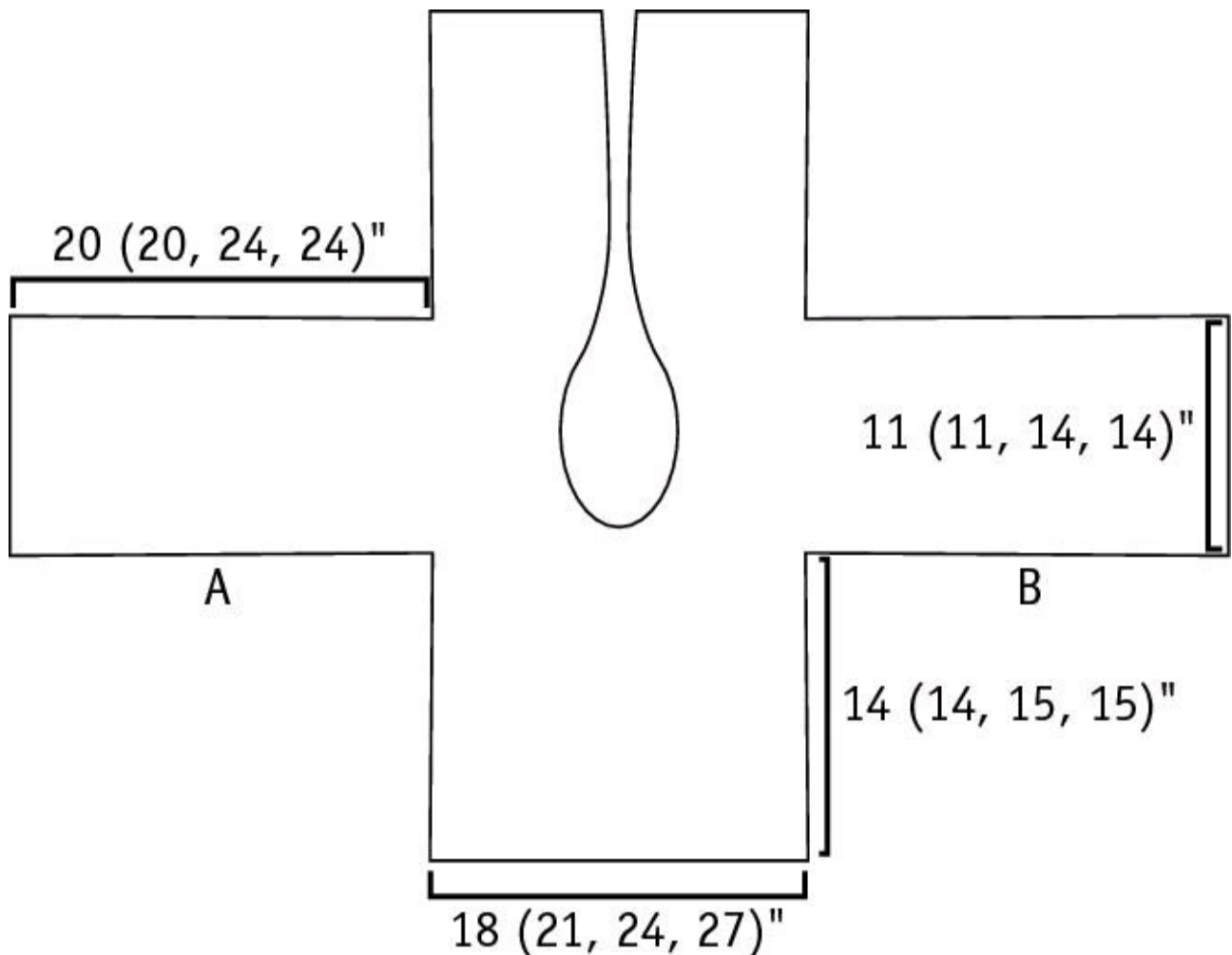
FLO Front loop only (see [Chapter 4](#))

SC2TOG 2 single crochet worked together (see [Chapter 3](#))

Increasing and decreasing (see [Chapter 3](#))

Finished Size

Bust/Chest circumference S (M, L, XL): 32–36 (38–42, 44–48, 50–54) inches



Make the Cozy, Webby Sweater

Get Started

You start this sweater at the bottom of the back and build out from there.

1. Ch 38 (44, 52, 58).
2. Row 1: Work 1 SC into 2nd ch from hook and each ch across. Ch 1 and turn.

3. Row 2: Work 1 SC into FLO of each st in prev row. Ch 1 and turn.
4. Rep row 2 through row 28 (28, 30, 30).

Increase to Add Sleeves

1. Row 29 (29, 31, 31): Ch 39 (39, 45, 45).

This increase creates the left sleeve (A) of the sweater.

2. Row 30 (30, 32, 32): Work 1 SC into 2nd ch from hook and each ch across. Continue to work 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 39 (39, 45, 45) and turn.

This increase creates the right sleeve (B) of the sweater.

3. Row 31 (31, 33, 33): Work 1 SC into 2nd ch from hook and each ch across. Continue to work 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.
4. Row 32–35 (32–35, 34–39, 34–39): Work 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.
5. At row 35 (35, 39, 39): Place marker in st in middle of row.



Work Side A

Row 36 (36, 40, 40): Work 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row until you reach marker. Work 1 SC into this st. Ch 1 and turn.

Shape the Neckline with Decreases

1. Row 37 (37, 41, 41): Work 1 SC into FLO of 1st st and SC2TOG into FLO

over next 2 sts. Continue across, working 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.

2. Row 38 (38, 42, 42): Work 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.

3. Row 39 (39, 43, 43): Work 1 SC into FLO of 1st st and SC2TOG into FLO over next 2 sts. Continue across, working 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.

4. Row 40 (40, 44, 44): Work 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.

5. For small and medium sizes:

Row 41: Work 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.

For large and extra-large sizes:

Row 45: Work 1 SC into FLO of 1st st and SC2TOG into FLO over next 2 sts. Continue across, working 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.

6. Rows 42–48 (42–48, 46–50, 46–50): Work 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.

Shape the Neckline with Increases

1. Row 49 (49, 51, 51): Work 1 SC into FLO of 1st st and 2 SC into FLO of 2nd st. Continue across, working 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.

2. Row 50 (50, 52, 52): Work 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.

3. Row 51 (51, 53, 53): Work 1 SC into FLO of 1st st and 2 SC into FLO of 2nd st. Continue across, working 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.

4. Row 52 (52, 54, 54): Work 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.

5. Row 53 (53, 55, 55): Work 1 SC into FLO of 1st st and 2 SC into FLO of 2nd st. Continue across, working 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.

6. Row 54 (54, 56, 56): Work 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.

7. For small and medium sizes:

Place marker at 39th st in from end of sleeve.

Row 55: Work 1 SC into FLO of 1st st and 2 SC into FLO of 2nd st. Continue across, working 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row until marked st. Work 1

SC into this st. Ch 1 and turn.

Rows 56–84: Work 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.

For large and extra-large sizes:

Row 57: Work 1 SC into FLO of 1st st and 2 SC into FLO of 2nd st. Continue across, working 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.

Row 58: Work 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.

Place marker at 44th st in from end of sleeve.

Row 59: Work 1 SC into FLO of 1st st and 2 SC into FLO of 2nd st. Continue across, working 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row until marked st. Work 1 SC into this st. Ch 1 and turn.

Rows 60–90: Work 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.

Work Side B

1. Row 36 (36, 40, 40): Join yarn at marked st and work 1 SC into this st. Work 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.

2. Row 37 (37, 41, 41): Work 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.

Shape the Neckline with Decreases

1. Row 38 (38, 42, 42): Work 1 SC into FLO of 1st st and SC2TOG into FLO over next 2 sts. Continue across, working 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.

2. Row 39 (39, 43, 43): Work 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.

3. Row 40 (40, 44, 44): Work 1 SC into FLO of 1st st and SC2TOG into FLO over next 2 sts. Continue across, working 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.

4. Row 41 (41, 43, 43): Work 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.

5. For small and medium sizes:

Row 42: Work 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.

For large and extra-large sizes:

Row 44: Work 1 SC into FLO of 1st st and SC2TOG into FLO over next 2 sts. Continue across, working 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.

6. Rows 43–47 (43–47, 45–49, 45–49): Work 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.

Shape the Neckline with Increases

1. Row 48 (48, 50, 50): Work 1 SC into FLO of 1st st and 2 SC into FLO of 2nd st. Continue across, working 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.

2. Row 49 (49, 51, 51): Work 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.

3. Row 50 (50, 52, 52): Work 1 SC into FLO of 1st st and 2 SC into FLO of 2nd st. Continue across, working 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.

4. Row 51 (51, 53, 53): Work 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.

5. Row 52 (52, 54, 54): Work 1 SC into FLO of 1st st and 2 SC into FLO of 2nd st. Continue across, working 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.

6. Row 53 (53, 55, 55): Work 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.

7. For small and medium sizes:

Place marker at 39th st in from end of sleeve.

Row 54: Work 1 SC into FLO of 1st st and 2 SC into FLO of 2nd st. Continue across, working 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row until marked st. Work 1 SC into this st. Ch 1 and turn.

Rows 55–84: Work 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.

For large and extra-large sizes:

Row 57: Work 1 SC into FLO of 1st st and 2 SC into FLO of 2nd st. Continue across, working 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.

Row 58: Work 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.

Place marker at 44th st in from end of sleeve.

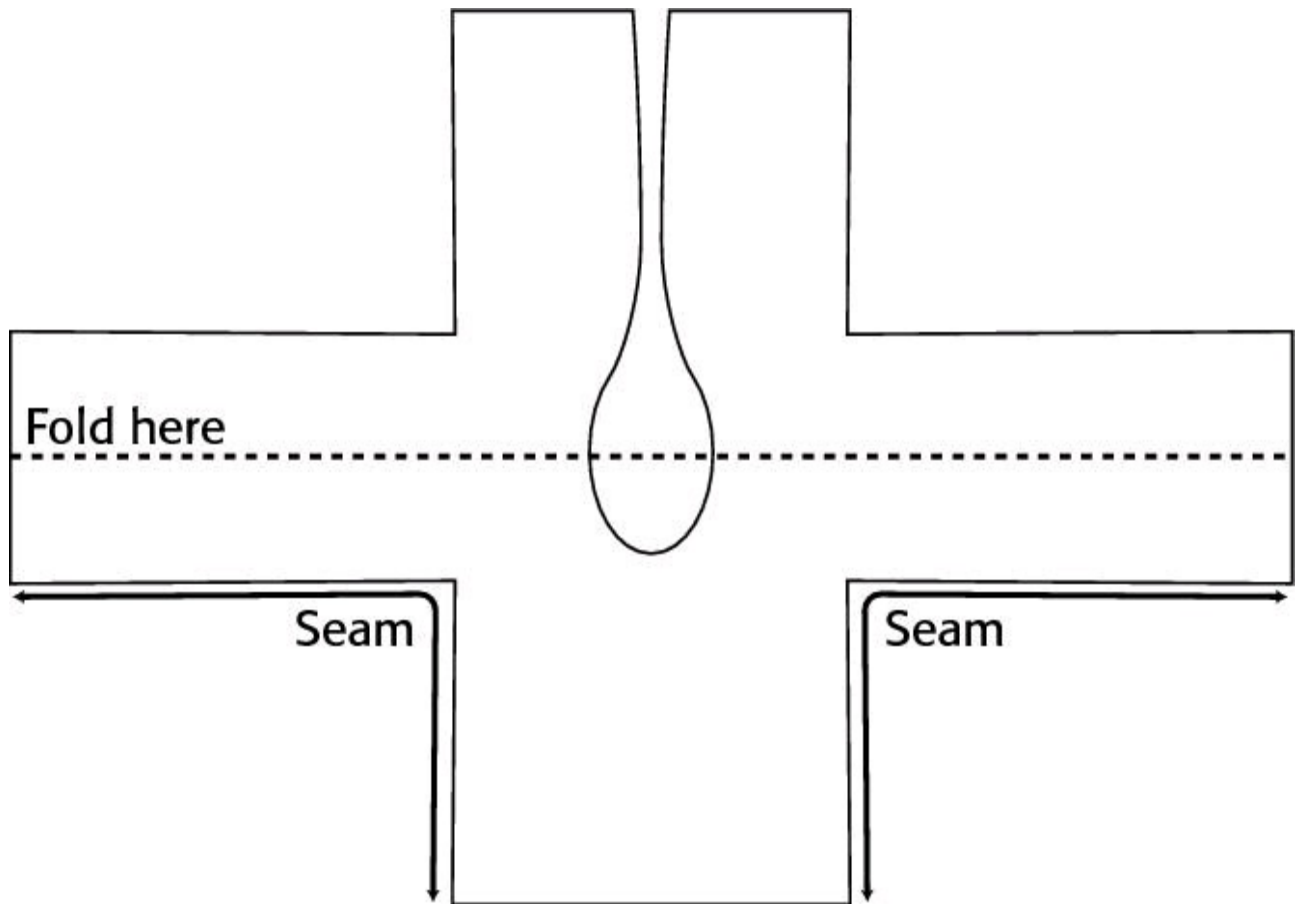
Row 59: Work 1 SC into FLO of 1st st and 2 SC into FLO of 2nd st. Continue across, working 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row until marked st. Work 1 SC into this st. Ch 1 and turn.

Rows 60–90: Work 1 SC into FLO of each st of prev row. Ch 1 and turn.

8. Fasten off and weave in ends.

Finish the Sweater

1. Fold sweater as shown.
2. Use backstitch to seam from edge of sleeve across and down side of sweater.
3. Rep to seam other side of sweater.



Create the Collar

1. Along front and neck, work shell pattern into sides of rows in body of sweater:
2. Join yarn into row space at front bottom edge. * Work [1 DC, ch 1, 1 TR, ch 1, 1 TR, ch 1 and 1 DC] into space. Skip 1 row space and work 1 SC into next row space. Skip 1 row space. Rep from * along front sides and neck of sweater.



Alter This Pattern to Make a Doll Sweater

You can use the basic shape of this sweater to make any simple sweater in any yarn or stitch pattern you choose. Simply work in rows to create the shape like the last [illustration](#), then follow the finishing directions.

The doll sweater shown here was made using the same basic pattern shape.



Sweet and Chic Granny Square Bag

Granny squares are easy, cheery, and quick to stitch. Combine a rich yarn, such as Crystal Palace Cotton Chenille, with sweet colors and a traditional navy to create a bag that is both old-fashioned and irresistibly chic.



Specifications

Materials

Crystal Palace *Cotton Chenille* (100% cotton, 98 yd./50g):

- 2 skeins in #4272 Navy
- 1 skein in #7366 Rose
- 1 skein in #1015 Ecu
- 1 skein in #5638 Ice Blue
- 1 skein in #1240 Lime Green
- 1 skein in #2230 Pumpkin
- 1 skein in #7684 Antique Brown

5.5mm hook

Fabric for bag lining and matching thread

Techniques Used

SC Single crochet

BLO Back loop only (see [Chapter 4](#))

FLO Front loop only (see [Chapter 4](#))

Granny Square pattern (see [Chapter 12](#))

Seaming (see [Chapter 10](#))

Adjustable ring (see [Chapter 3](#))

Finished Size

21 inches wide x 7 inches tall x 3 inches deep

Gauge

14 stitches = 4 inches

13 $\frac{1}{4}$ rows = 4 inches

1 Granny Square without border = 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches

Make the Granny Square Bag

To Begin

You will make 6 squares in total. Each square includes 3 rounds of the granny square pattern and a border. Make 2 squares in each color combination:

Square 1:

Round 1: Ice Blue
Round 2: Antique Brown
Round 3: Lime Green

Square 2:

Round 1: Ice Blue
Round 2: Antique Brown
Round 3: Lime Green

Square 3:

Round 1: Lime Green
Round 2: Ecru
Round 3: Rose

1. Round 1: Using an adjustable ring, ch 3. Work 2 DC into ring. * Ch 2 and work 3 DC into ring. Rep from * twice to create 2 more granny clusters. Ch 2, Sl st into

3rd ch of ch-3 at beg of round. Fasten off.

2. Round 2: Join yarn in next ch-2 space. Work [ch 3, 2 DC, ch 2, 3 DC] into ch space. * Ch 1. In next ch space, work a corner set [ch 2, 3 DC, ch 2, 3 DC]. Rep from * to work a corner set into each ch-2 space. Sl st into 3rd ch of ch-3 at beg of round. Fasten off.

3. Round 3: Join yarn in next corner ch space. Work [ch 3, 2 DC, ch 2, 3 DC] into ch space. * Ch 1. Work 1 granny cluster in next ch-1 space; ch 1. In next ch-2 space, work a corner set [ch 2, 3 DC, ch 2, 3 DC]. Rep from * twice to work into each ch space. Sl st in 3rd chain of ch-3 at beg of round.

4. Fasten off and weave in ends.



Crochet a Border around Each Square

1. Round 4: Join ice blue yarn, ch 3, and work 1 DC into each st and side space from prev round. Work [2 DC, ch 2, 2 DC] into corner spaces.

2. Round 5: Join navy yarn, ch 1, and work 1 SC into each st from prev round. Work [1 SC, ch 1, 1 SC] into each corner. Sl st to 1st st of round and ch 1.

3. Round 6: Rep round 5.

4. Fasten off and weave in ends.



Make the Body

1. Ch 10.
2. Row 1: Work 1 SC into each ch across. Ch 1 and turn.
3. Row 2: Work 1 SC into each st from prev row. Ch 1 and turn.
4. Rows 3–22: Rep row 2.
5. Row 23: Work 1 SC into FLO of each st from prev row. Ch 1 and turn.
6. Row 24: Place marker in this row. Work 1 SC into BLO of each st from prev row. Ch 1 and turn.
7. Row 25: Work 1 SC into FLO of each st from prev row. Ch 1 and turn.
8. Rows 26–89: Rep row 2.
9. Row 90: Work 1 SC into FLO of each st from prev row. Ch 1 and turn.
10. Row 91: Place marker in this row. Work 1 SC into BLO of each st from prev row. Ch 1 and turn.
11. Row 92: Work 1 SC into FLO of each st from prev row. Ch 1 and turn.
12. Rows 93–115: Rep row 2.
13. Fasten off and weave in ends.

Make the Handles

Use leftover yarn from the squares to create striped handles, switching colors

with each row.

1. Ch 41.
2. Row 1: Work 1 SC into each ch across. Ch 1 and turn.
3. Rows 2–5: Work 1 SC into each SC from prev row. Ch 1 and turn.
4. To shape handle, fold in half lengthwise. Seam 1st and last rows to each other using SC; join yarn at 10th st of rows. Work 20 SC across.
5. Fasten off and weave in ends, leaving a tail on each end for seaming.



Finish the Bag

Join the squares to create 2 side panels for the purse:

1. Whipstitch 3 squares together to create 1 side panel.
2. Whipstitch remaining 3 squares together to create other side panel.

Edge each panel with more SC:

3. Join navy yarn and ch 1. Work 1 SC into each st from prev round. Work [1 SC, ch 1, 1 SC] into each corner. Place marker in each ch-1 corner space. Sl st into 1st st of round.



Seam body to granny square panels:

4. With right sides facing outward, match marked corners of 1 panel with marked rows of body. Join navy yarn at 1 end and SC panel to body.

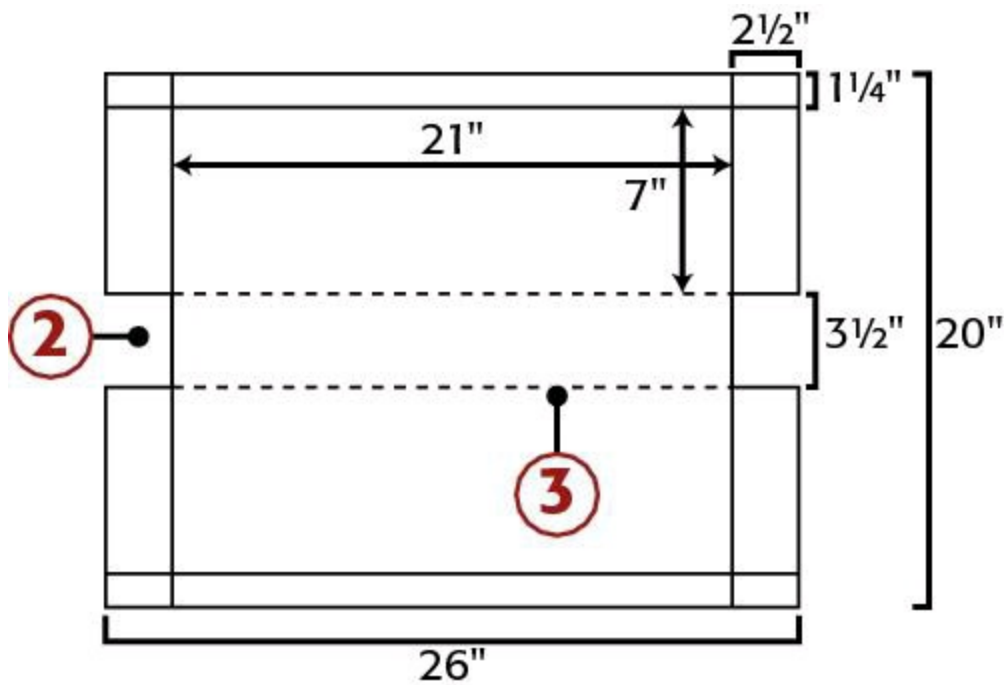
NOTE: This SC seam will be on the outside of the purse. This detail gives the purse a tailored look.

5. Rep with 2nd panel and other side of body strip.
6. Whipstitch handles to inside of panels.

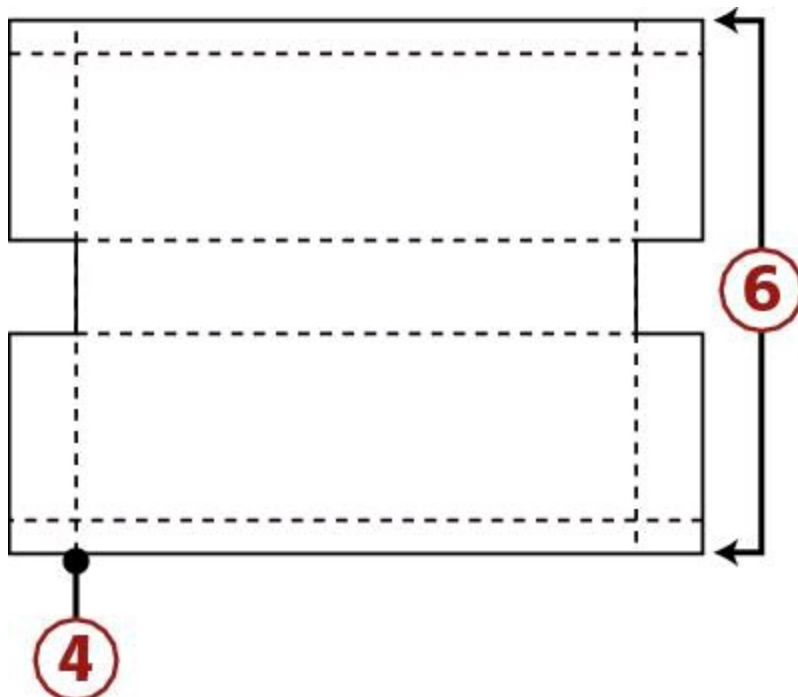
Make the Bag lining

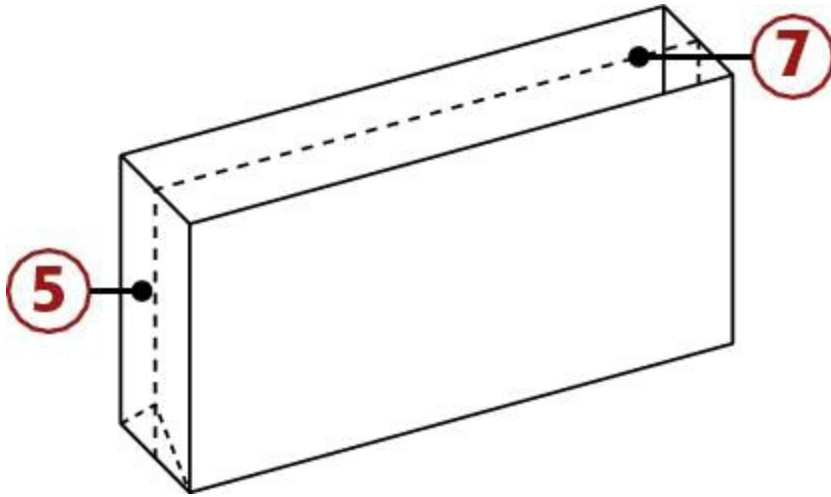
Because the granny squares create a fabric with open spaces, the lining is an important part of this bag's look and feel. Have fun choosing a fabric that reflects your own style.

1. Cut a piece of fabric that's 26 inches x 20 inches.
2. Cut fabric as shown to create a notch on each side.
3. Fold and iron creases to shape bottom of lining.



4. Fold and iron creases to shape each side of lining.
5. Sew each side.
6. Fold and iron creases to shape top of lining.
7. Place lining in bag. Pin lining into place, aligning corners and creases with corresponding parts of bag.
8. Sew lining into place. To keep stitches from showing through on the outside of the purse, sew halfway through each crocheted stitch.





How to alter this pattern to make other Granny square Bags

The first step is to decide the size and shape you'd like for your bag. Then you should choose how many squares and rows of squares you want to use.

Next, choose a yarn that creates the gauge you prefer and matches your size requirements. For instance, you might decide to use a thinner yarn to make smaller squares.

Consider the Granny Squares to be building blocks and have fun designing your own bag.

Simple Sampler Scarf

Practice basic stitches with this sampler scarf. Make the scarf with the suggested hook for a dense fabric, or try a larger hook for a looser look. You can modify the width and length of your scarf so that it fits just right.



Specifications

Materials

Lion Brand *Wool Ease Thick and Quick* (80% acrylic/20% wool, 106 yd./170g)

- 1 skein in Citron
- 1 skein in Lemongrass
- 1 skein in Navy
- 1 skein in Raspberry

15mm hook

Techniques Used

Ch Chain

SC Single crochet

HDC Half double crochet

DC Double crochet

TR Treble crochet

Finished Size

Width: 12 inches. It's easy to change the width if you wish. Simply make a longer or shorter foundation chain.

Length: For a scarf that wraps once around your neck and stops at your hips, make a scarf as tall as your shoulders. To make a longer scarf, work until the length is equal to your height.

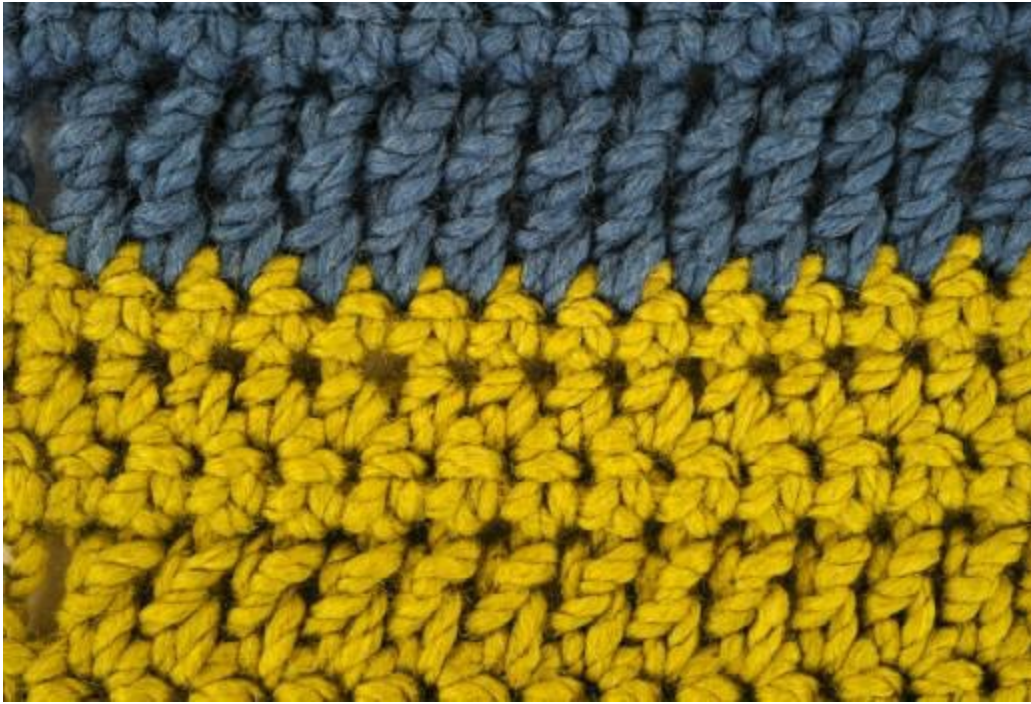
Gauge

5 stitches = 4 inches

2 rows = 4 inches

Make the Simple Sampler Scarf

1. Ch 18.
2. Row 1: Work 1 TR into 5th ch from hook and into each ch across; ch 1 and turn.
3. Row 2: Work 1 SC into 1st st of row and into each st across; ch 3 and turn.
4. Row 3: The turning ch counts as a DC. Work 1 DC into 2nd st of row and into each ch across; ch 1 and turn.
5. Row 4: Work 1 SC into 1st st of row and into each st across; ch 2 and turn.
6. Row 5: Work 1 HDC into 1st st of row and into each st across; ch 1 and turn.
7. Rep rows 1–5 until scarf reaches the desired length.
8. Fasten off and weave in ends.



Coasters

Handmade coasters add warmth and charm to your table.



Specifications

Materials

Approx 12 yards Lion Brand Lion Cotton (100% cotton, 236 yd./140g) in Natural

Approx 12 yards Lion Brand Cotton-Ease (50% cotton/ 50% acrylic, 207 yd./100g) in Lake

5mm hook

Techniques Used

Ch Chain

SC Single crochet

Crab stitch (see [Chapter 4](#))

Finished Size

Width = 4 inches

Circumference = 14 inches

Gauge

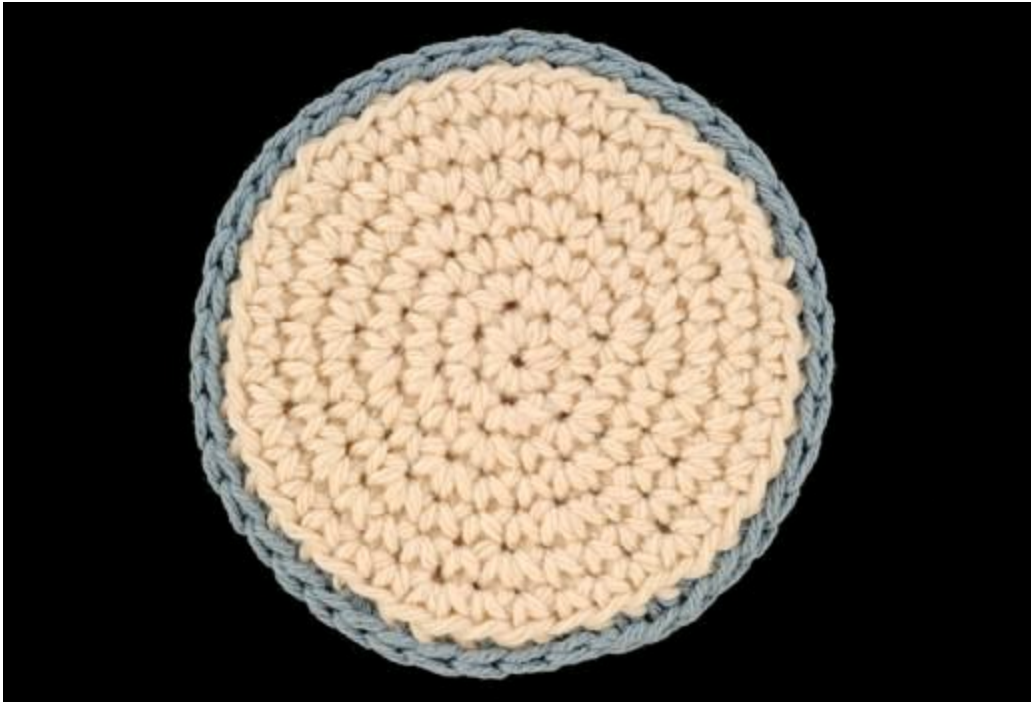
Approx 4 stitches = 1 inch

Approx 4 rows = 1 inch

Make the Circular Coaster

You work this project in the round by using the spiral method to create quick, easy circles. Use one yarn color for yarn A or the main color and a second color as yarn B or the edging.

1. With yarn A, ch 2.
2. Round 1: Work 6 SC into 2nd ch from hook. Mark 1st st with stitch marker.
3. Round 2: Work 2 SC into each st from prev round. Continue to move marker to indicate 1st st of every round (12 SC total).
4. Round 3: * Work 2 SC into next st from prev round and 1 SC into next st. Rep from * across round (18 SC total).
5. Round 4: * Work 2 SC into next st from prev round and 1 SC into each of the next 2 sts. Rep from * across round (24 SC total).
6. Round 5: * Work 2 SC into next st from prev round and 1 SC into each of the next 3 sts. Rep from * across round (30 SC total).
7. Round 6: * Work 2 SC into next st from prev round and 1 SC into each of the next 4 sts. Rep from * across round (36 SC total).
8. Round 7: * Work 2 SC into next st from prev round and 1 SC into each of the next 5 sts. Rep from * across round (42 SC total).



Add the Edging

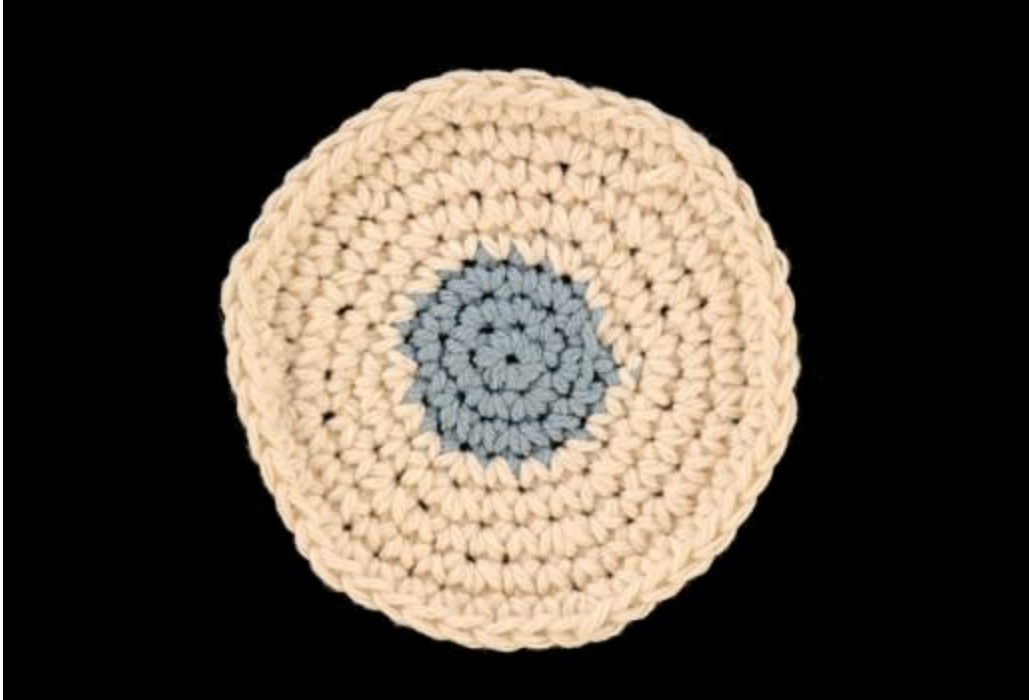
- 1 Join yarn B and work 1 crab st into each st across round. Sl st to 1st st of round to join.
- 2 Fasten off and weave in ends.



TIP

Variations

1. To make a thicker coaster, make 2 coasters and work the edging through both.
2. To back your coaster with felt:
 - Trace your coaster on the felt and cut out.
 - You can either whipstitch the layers together or work the crochet edging. See [Chapter 13](#) for more on crocheting into fabric.
3. Try using contrasting colors in your coasters.



Trivet

This trivet is made with a pentagon granny, but you can try using any of the granny shapes. This example uses two strands of yarn at once to create a thicker Trivet.



Specifications

Materials

1 skein Lion Brand Cotton-Ease (50% cotton/50% acrylic, 207 yd./100g) in Lake

NOTE: To work with two strands of yarn at once, prepare a new ball of yarn pulling from both ends of the skein at the same time.

6.5mm hook

Techniques Used

Ch Chain

Sl st Slip stitch

DC Double crochet

Adjustable ring (see [Chapter 3](#))

Finished Size

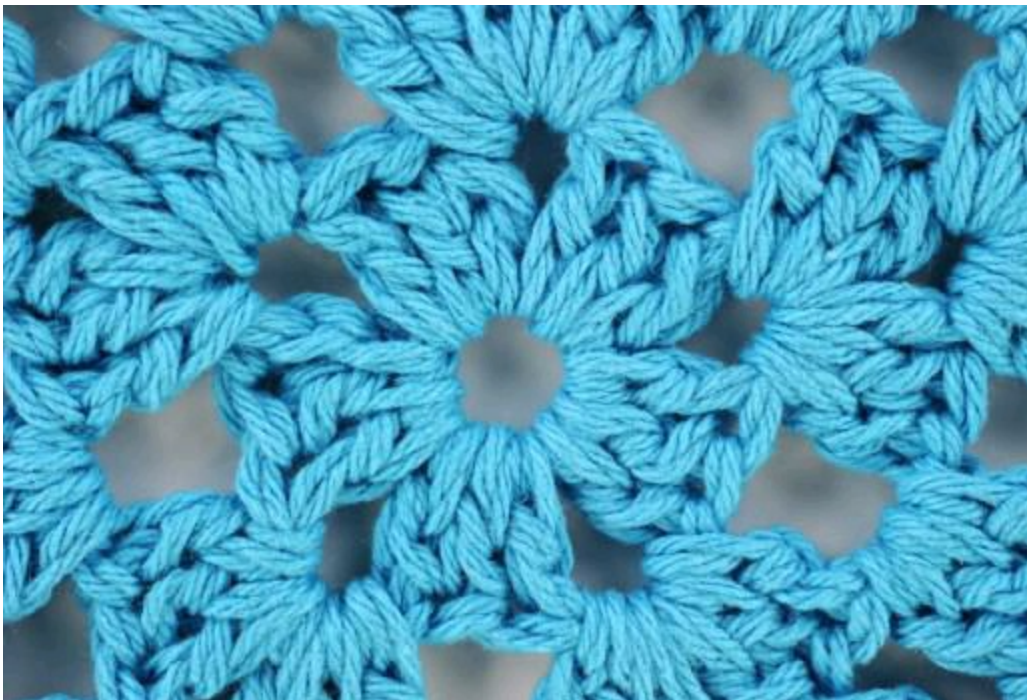
Circumference = 30 inches

Gauge

1, 3 DC cluster = 1 inch tall and $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch wide

Make the Trivet

1. Round 1: Using a loop for a ring, ch 3 (counts as 1 DC) and work 2 DC into ring. * Ch 2, 3 DC into ring; rep from * 3 times, ch 2, Sl st to top of ch 3 at beg of round. Fasten off.
2. Round 2: Join yarn in a ch-2 space. [Ch 3, 2 DC, ch 2, 3 DC] into same ch-2 space. * Ch 1, work [3 DC, ch 2, 3 DC] into next ch-2 space; rep from * 3 times, ch 1, Sl st to top of ch 3 at beg of round. Fasten off.
3. Round 3: Join yarn in a ch-2 space. [Ch 3, 2 DC, ch 2, 3 DC] into same ch-2 space * ch 1, work 3 DC into next ch-1 space, ch 1, [3 DC, ch 2, 3 DC] into next ch-2 space, rep from * 3 times, ch 1, work 3 DC into next ch-1 space, ch 1, Sl st to top of ch 3 at beg of round. Fasten off.
4. Round 4: Join yarn in a ch-2 space. [Ch 3, 2 DC, ch 2, 3 DC] into same ch-2 space * [ch 1, work 3 DC into next ch-1 space] 2 times, ch 1, [3 DC, ch 2, 3 DC] into next ch-2 space, rep from * 4 times, ch 1, Sl st to top of ch 3 at beg of round. Fasten off.



5. Round 5: Join yarn in a ch-2 space. [Ch 3, 2 DC, ch 2, 3 DC] into same ch-2

space * [ch 1, work 3 DC into next ch-1 space] 3 times, ch 1 [3 DC, ch 2, 3 DC] into next ch-2 space, rep from * 4 times, ch 1, Sl st to top of ch 3 at beg of round. Fasten off.

6. Round 6: Work a SC border: work 1 SC in each DC, [1 SC, ch 1, 1 SC] into each ch-2 corner space, and 1 SC into each ch-1 space. Sl st to top of ch 3 at beg of round. Fasten off.



Round Box

Inspired by a lip balm tin, this little round box is perfect for keeping small secrets inside. This versatile pattern can be crocheted with any yarn to create boxes of different sizes.



Specifications

Materials

1 skein Fonty Majorque (60% cotton/40% linen, 135 yd./50g) in #136 Pink

2.75mm hook

This pattern can be made using a wide variety of yarns. Consider using a bulky yarn to make a large box.

Techniques Used

Ch Chain

Sl st Slip stitch

SC Single crochet

FLO Front loop only (see [Chapter 4](#))

Adjustable ring (see [Chapter 3](#))

Working rounds in rows (see [Chapter 3](#))

Finished Size

Lid: $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide x $\frac{3}{8}$ inch deep

Body: $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide x $\frac{1}{4}$ inch deep

Gauge

6 stitches = 1 inch

7 rows = 1 inch

Make the Round Box

Make the Bottom

1. Start with an adjustable ring.
2. Round 1: Work 6 SC into ring. Sl st into 1st SC to join round. Gently pull on tail to tighten ring. Ch 1 and turn (6 SC total).
3. Round 2: Work 2 SC into 1st SC. * Work 2 SC into next SC. Rep from * 4 times. Sl st into 1st SC to join. Ch 1 and turn (12 SC total).
4. Round 3: Work 2 SC into 1st SC and 1 SC into next SC. * Work 2 SC into next SC and 1 SC into next SC. Rep from * 4 times. Sl st into 1st SC to join. Ch 1 and turn (18 SC total).
5. Round 4: Work 2 SC into 1st SC and 1 SC into each of the next 2 SC. * Work 2 SC into next SC and 1 SC into each of the next 2 SC. Rep from * 4 times. Sl st into 1st SC to join. Ch 1 and turn (24 SC total).
6. Round 5: Work 1 SC into FLO of each st from prev round. Sl st into 1st SC to join. Ch 1 and turn (24 SC total).



NOTE: Working in the front loop only in this row creates a ridge to form the bend.

7. Round 6: Work 1 SC into each st from prev round. Sl st into 1st SC to join. Ch 1 and turn (24 SC total).

8. Round 7: Work 1 SC into each st from prev round. Sl st to 1st SC to join. Ch 1, but do not turn (24 SC total).

NOTE: Whether or not a round is turned affects the texture of the fabric. This effect is used to create a slight ridge that the lid rests on.

9. Round 8: Work 1 SC into each st from prev round. Sl st to 1st SC to join. Ch 1, but do not turn (24 SC total).
10. Round 9: Work 1 SC into each st from prev round. Sl st to 1st SC to join. Ch 1 and turn (24 SC total).
11. Fasten off and weave in ends.

Make the Lid

1. Work rounds 1–4 as you did for the body.
2. Round 5: Work 2 SC into 1st SC. Work 1 SC into each of the next 3 SC. * Work 2 SC into next SC and 1 SC into each of the next 3 SC. Rep from * 4 times. Sl st to 1st SC to join. Ch 1 and turn (30 SC total).
3. Round 6: Work 1 SC into FLO of each st from prev round. Sl st to 1st SC to join. Ch 1 and turn (30 SC total).
4. Round 7: Work 1 SC into each st from prev round. Sl st to 1st SC to join. Ch 1 and turn (30 SC total).
5. Round 8: Work 1 SC into each st from prev round. Sl st to 1st SC to join (30 SC total).
6. Fasten off and weave in ends.

Bold Bag

Certain circumstances call for a bold, sturdy bag. This bag is worked in one piece and doesn't require seaming or lining. Felting the completed bag adds structure, strength, and texture.



Specifications

Materials

Yarn A: 4 skeins *Rio de la Plata Wool Solid* (100% wool, 140 yd./99g) in Sparkling Grape

Yarn B: 1 skein *Rio de la Plata Wool Solid* (100% wool, 140 yd./99g) in Natural White

8mm hook

Stitch marker

Techniques Used

Ch Chain

Sl st Slip stitch

SC Single crochet

SC3TOG 3 single crochets worked together (see [Chapter 3](#))

Working rounds in rows (see [Chapter 3](#))

Join new yarn (see [Chapter 8](#))

Fulling (see [Chapter 8](#))

Finished Size

Before felting: 22 inches wide x 15 inches tall x 6 inches deep

After felting: 17 inches wide x 11 inches tall x 5 inches deep

Size after felting may vary.

Gauge

10 single crochets and 12 rows = 4 inches before felting

Make the Bold Bag

Make the Bottom of the Bag

1. With yarn A, ch 43.
2. Row 1: Work 1 SC into 2nd ch from hook and into each ch across. Ch 1 and turn.
3. Row 2: Work 1 SC into each st from prev row. Ch 1 and turn.
4. Rows 3–18: Rep row 2.



Make the Body

1. Round 1: Work 1 SC into each st from prev row. Work 3 SC into last st of row to create a corner, place marker in middle st of corner. Work 1 SC into each row along side of rectangle. Work 3 SC to create a corner, place marker in middle st of corner. Work 1 SC into each st from foundation row. Work 3 SC to create a corner, place marker in middle st of corner. Work 1 SC into each row along side of rectangle. Work 2 SC and Sl st to 1st SC of round to create a corner, place marker in middle st of corner. Ch 1.
2. Round 2: * Work 1 SC into each st from prev round. Work 3 SC into marked st. Rep from * to end of row. Ch 1.
3. Round 3: Work 1 SC into each st from prev round. Ch 1.
4. Rounds 4–38: Rep round 3.
5. Round 39: Work 1 SC into each st from prev round. Change to yarn B and ch 1.
6. Round 40: Work 1 SC into each st from prev round. Ch 1.
7. Round 41: Rep round 40.



Make the Handles

1. Lay bag flat and place marker 8 inches in from the outside on each side of bag. Flip bag over and place marker 8 inches in from the outside on each side of bag.
2. Round 42: Work 1 SC into each st from prev round until you reach 1st marker. Ch 38 and work 1 SC into st after 2nd marker. Work 1 SC into each st from prev

round, until you reach 3rd marker. Ch 38 and work 1 SC into st after 4th marker. Work 1 SC into each st from prev round. Ch 1.

3. Round 43: Work 1 SC into each SC from prev round; work 1 SC into each ch from handle sections as well. Change to yarn A and ch 1.

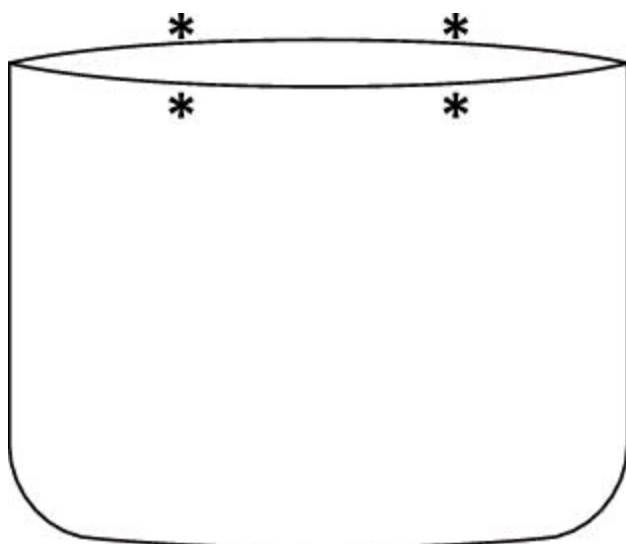
NOTE: See [Chapter 3](#) for information about joining new yarns.

4. Rounds 44–45: Work 1 SC into each st from prev round. Ch 1.

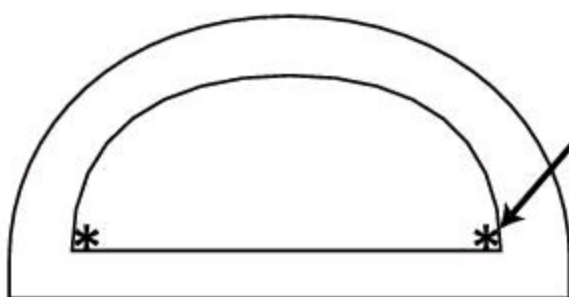


Finish the Handles

1. Place markers at inside corners of handles.



Place markers
8" in from
the sides



Place markers

2. Handle round 1: Using yarn B, join into unworked side of handle ch. Work 1 SC into unworked side of each ch st until 1 st before marked corner. Work SC3TOG over next 3 sts. Work 1 SC into each st until 1 st before marked corner. Work SC3TOG over next 3 sts. Work 1 SC into each ch st to finish round, Sl st to 1st SC of round. Ch 1.
3. Handle round 2: Place markers at inside corners of handles. * Work 1 SC into each SC from prev round until 1 st before marked corner. Work SC3TOG over next 3 sts. Work 1 SC into each SC from prev round until 1 st before marked corner. Work SC3TOG over next 3 sts. Work 1 SC into each SC from prev round to finish round. Sl st into 1st SC of round. Change to yarn A and ch 1.
4. Handle rounds 3 and 4: Rep handle round 2.
5. Fasten off and weave in ends.
6. Follow directions for felting in Chapter 8.

Exquisite Washcloths

This is an excellent pattern for practicing new stitches. A handmade washcloth is a true luxury, and this quick project makes a thoughtful gift, too.



Specifications

Materials

1 skein Organic Cotton by Blue Sky Alpacas (100% cotton, 150 yd./100g) in Nut (yarn A)

Dyed Cotton by Blue Sky Alpacas (100% cotton, 150 yd./100g)

1 skein in Shell (yarn B)

1 skein in Thistle (yarn C)

1 skein Cotton Chenille by Crystal Palace Yarns (100% mercerized cotton, 98 yd./50g), in color #1015 (yarn D)

5.5mm hook

Techniques Used

Ch Chain stitch

SC Single crochet

TR Treble crochet

HDC Half double crochet

FLO Front loop only (see [Chapter 4](#))

BLO Back loop only (see [Chapter 4](#))

Crunchy Dots pattern (see [Chapter 7](#))

Granite Stitch pattern (see [Chapter 7](#))

Finished Size

Half Double Crochet: $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches x $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches

Crunchy Dots: 8 inches x $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches

Granite: 7 inches x $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches

Gauge

Half Double Crochet: 14 half double crochet and 8 rows = 4 inches

Crunchy Dots: 12 stitches and 10 rows = 4 inches

Granite Stitch: 15 stitches and 14 rows = 4 inches

Make the Washcloths

Half Double Crochet Washcloth

1. Using yarn D, ch 24.
2. Row 1: Work 1 HDC into 3rd ch from hook and into every ch across; ch 2 and turn.
3. Row 2: Work 1 HDC in FLO of 1st st. * Work 1 HDC in BLO of next st. Work 1 HDC in FLO of next st. Rep from * across row. Ch 2 and turn.
4. Rep row 2 for 11 more rows or until washcloth is the desired size. Fasten off.
5. Join yarn B a few sts before a corner. * Work 1 SC in each st along row; work 2 SC to turn corner; work 1 SC into each space along side, and work 2 SC to turn corner. Rep from * to complete border.



Crunchy Dots Washcloth

1. Using yarn D, ch 25.
2. Row 1: Work 1 SC in 2nd ch from hook. * Work 1 SC in next ch; work 1 TR in next ch. Rep from * across to last ch. SC in last ch; ch 1 and turn.
3. Row 2: Work 1 SC in 1st st. * Work 1 SC in next st; work 1 TR in next st. Rep from * to last st of row; work 1 SC in last st. Ch 1 and turn.
4. Rep row 2 for 18 more rows or until washcloth is the desired size.
5. Join yarn B a few sts before a corner. * Work 1 SC in each st along row; work 2 SC to turn corner; work 1 SC into each space along side; and work 2 SC to turn corner. Rep from * to complete border.



Granite Stitch Washcloth

1. Using yarn C, ch 24.
2. Row 1: Work 1 SC into 2nd ch from hook. * Work 1 SC into next ch, ch 1, and skip 1 ch. Rep from * until 2 chs remain. Ch 1, skip 1 ch, and work 1 SC into last ch. Ch 1 and turn.
3. Row 2: Work 1 SC into 1st st. * Work 1 SC into next ch space, ch 1, and skip 1 st. Rep from * to end of row. Work 1 SC into last st. Ch 1 and turn.
4. Rep row 2 for 18 more rows or until washcloth is the desired size.
5. Join yarn A a few sts before a corner. * Work 1 SC in each st along row; work 2 SC to turn corner; work 1 SC into each space along side; and work 2 to turn corner. Rep from * to complete border.



Cool Baby Hat

Practice your intarsia skills by adding simple color patterning to this hat. Just make a rectangle, fold it in half, seam the two sides, and find a baby to wear it.



Specifications

Materials

Hat (above)

New Cotton by Lana Grossa (60% cotton/40% microfiber, 88 yd./50g)

2 skeins in #12 mulberry

1 skein in #2 orange

4.5mm hook

Hat (below)

Lorna's Laces Swirl DK (85% merino wool/15% silk, 150 yd./100g)

1 hank in Huron

1 hank in Bittersweet

4.5mm hook

Techniques Used

Ch Chain

SC Single crochet

Join new yarn (see [Chapter 3](#))

Intarsia (see [Chapter 8](#))

Finished Size

Circumference = Approximately 20 inches

Gauge

Hat (above)

14 single crochet and 18 rows = 4 inches

Hat (below)

16 stitches = 2 inches

10 rows = 2 inches

Make the Cool Baby Hat

1. Create small balls of yarn to use as bobbins that can easily be left to hang as you switch between colors.

Yarn A Work from the skein of Mulberry

Yarn B 9 feet of Orange

Yarn C 85 feet of Mulberry

Yarn D 23 feet of Orange

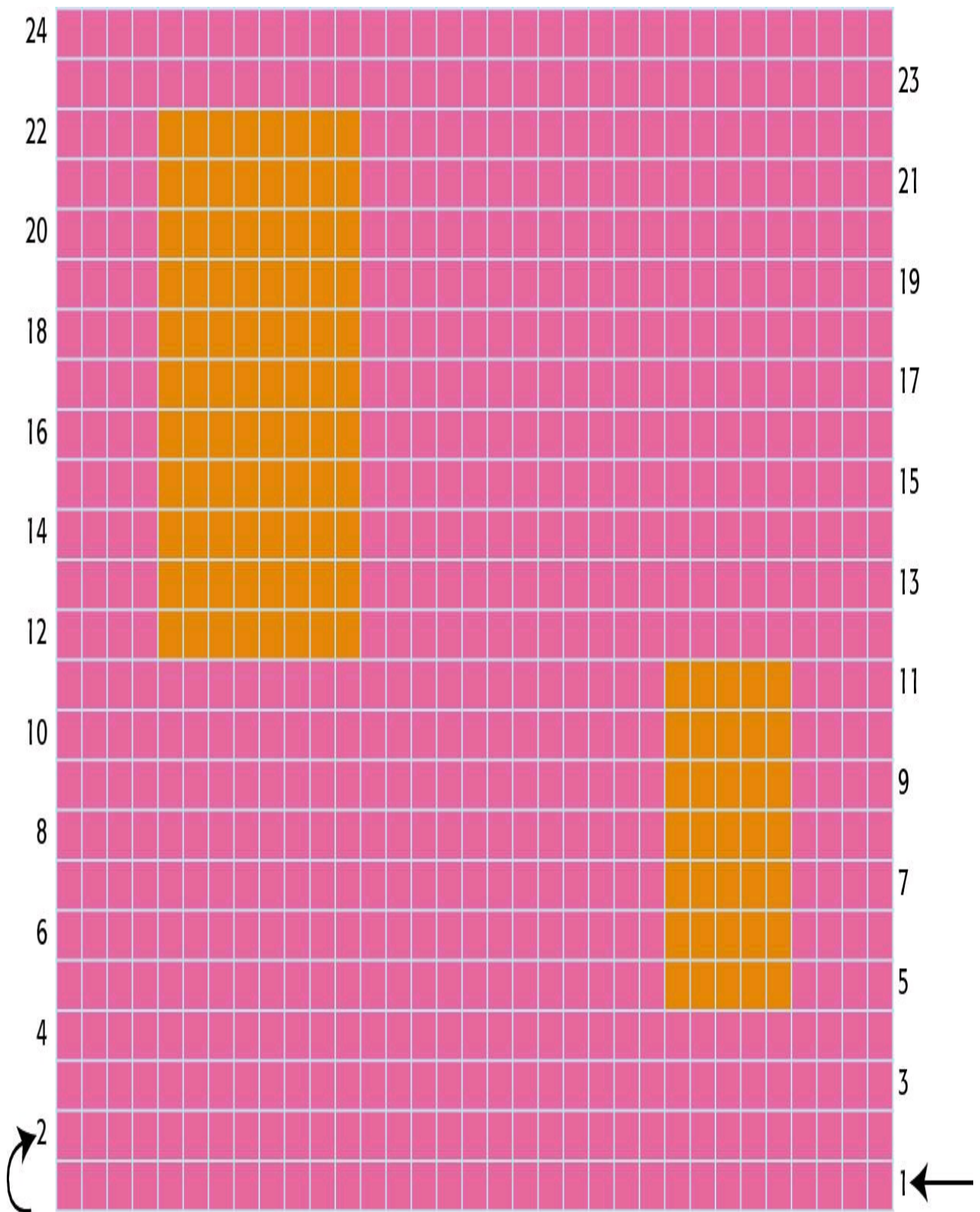
Yarn E Work from the skein of Mulberry

2. Leaving a 12-inch tail (to be used later for seaming), ch 34 for the foundation ch.

3. Row 1: Using yarn A, work 1 SC into 2nd ch from hook. Work 1 SC into each ch across row, ch 1, and turn.



Follow the chart:



4. Rows 2–4: Work 1 SC into each st across row. Ch 1 and turn.

5. Row 5: Work 1 SC into each of the next 4 sts. Change to yarn B and work next 5 SC in yarn B. Change to yarn A and work 1 SC into each st to end of row. Ch 1 and turn.

6. Row 6: Work 1 SC into each of the next 24 sts. Change to yarn B and work next 5 SC in yarn B. Change to yarn A and work 1 SC into each st to end of row. Ch 1 and turn.

7. Rows 7–11: Continue to follow the chart.

8. Row 12: Work 1 SC into each of the next 4 sts. Change to yarn C and work 1 SC into each of the next 8 sts and work 1 SC in each st to end of row. Ch 1 and turn. Change to yarn D and work 1 SC into each of the next 4 sts. Ch 1 and turn.



9. Row 13: Work 1 SC into each of the next 21 sts. Change to yarn C and work 1 SC into each of the next 8 sts. Change to yarn A and work 1 SC into each st to end of row. Ch 1 and turn.

10. Row 14: Work 1 SC into each of the next 4 sts. Change to yarn C and work 1 SC into each of the next 8 sts. Change to yarn D and work 1 SC into each st to end of row. Ch 1 and turn.

11. Rows 15–22: Continue to follow the chart.

12. Row 23: Work 1 SC into each st across row. Ch 1 and turn. Tie off, leaving a 12-inch tail.

13. Rows 24–48: Work 1 SC into each st across row. Ch 1 and turn.

14. Fasten off, leaving a 12-inch tail.

15. Fold finished rectangle in half with crocheted rows running widthwise.

16. Use the tail from beg and end of rectangle to sew up each side.

NOTE: If the hat is too big, simply tuck the sides in from the seams and use a whipstitch to secure the tuck.



Magnificent Shawl

Long double treble stitches make this graceful shawl work up quickly. Shells are worked in the middle of each row to create the increases that form a triangular shape, making this deceptively simple shawl magnificent.



Specifications

Materials

1–3 skeins South West Trading Company *Bamboo* (100% bamboo, 135 yd./50g) in Tequila

5mm hook

Techniques Used

Ch Chain

SC Single crochet

DTR Double treble crochet (see [Chapter 4](#))

Finished Size

One skein will make a scarf measuring 48 inches x 24 inches. For a longer scarf, add a second skein and keep working!

Gauge

14 stitches and 4 rows = 4 inches



Make the Magnificent Shawl

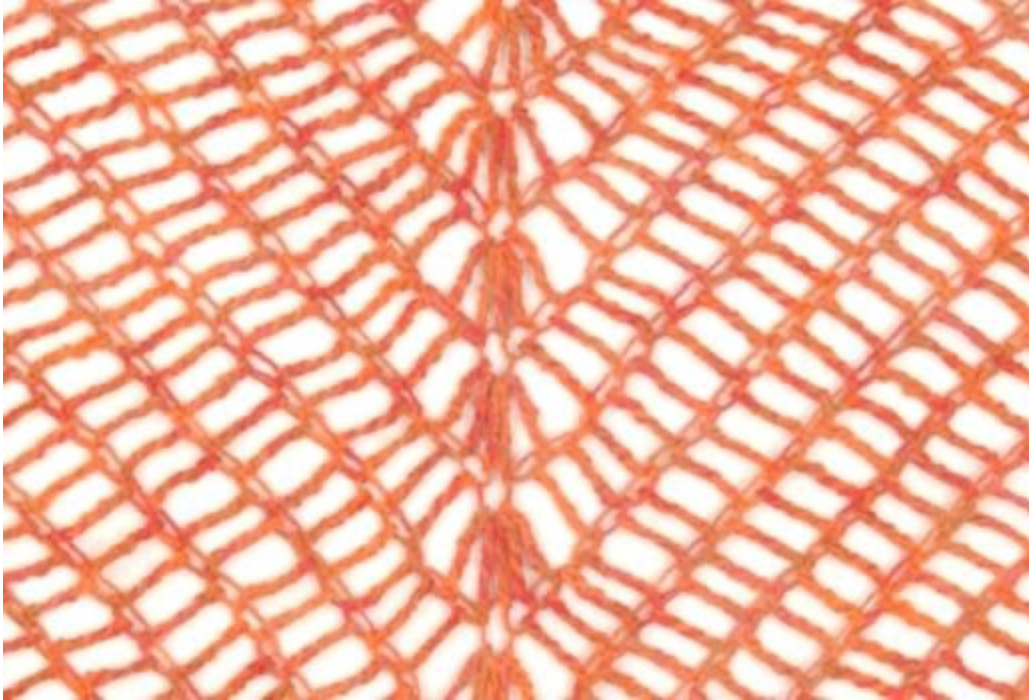
1. Ch 18.
2. Row 1: Work 1 SC into 2nd ch from hook and into every ch across. Ch 5 and turn.
3. Row 2: Work 1 DTR into 1st st and each of the next 7 sts. Into next st: [Ch 1, 5 DTR, ch 1]. This shell creates the increases that shape the scarf. Work 1 DTR

into each of the next 7 sts. Work 2 DTR into last st. Ch 5 and turn.

4. Row 3: Work 1 DTR into each DTR from prev row. Work 1 DTR into ch-1 space and 1 DTR into each of the next 2 DTR from prev row. Into next st: [Ch 1, 5 DTR, ch 1]. Work 1 DTR into each of the next 2 DTR from prev row and 1 DTR into ch-1 space. Work 1 DTR into each DTR from prev row until last st. Work 2 DTR into last st. Ch 5 and turn.

5. Rep row 3 until scarf reaches the desired size.

6. Fasten off and weave in ends.



Tunisian Tie

Have you ever felt like it's hard to find terrific projects to make for the men in your life? Polish your Tunisian crochet skills while you work up this simple necktie. The woven-like fabric makes for a unique and office-appropriate accessory.



Specifications

Materials

1 hank KnitPicks *Sock Landscape* (100% merino wool, 192 yd./50g) in Yukon
4.5mm Tunisian crochet hook

Techniques Used

Ch Chain

Tss Tunisian simple stitch (see [Chapter 8](#))

inc Increase (see [Chapter 3](#))

dec Decrease (see [Chapter 3](#))

Finished Size

One size fits most adults

Gauge

24 stitches and 21 rows = 4 inches in Tss

Make the Tunisian Tie

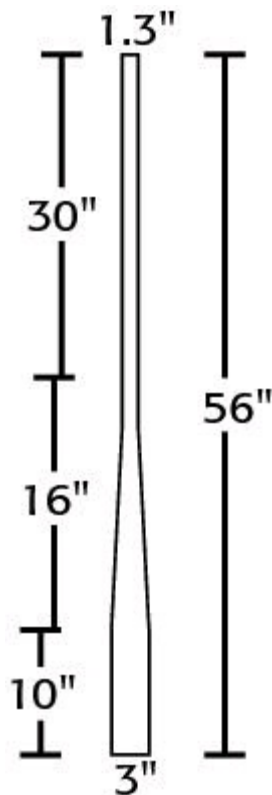
Begin the Tunisian Tie

1. Ch 19.
2. Foundation forward row: Pick up 1 loop in 2nd ch from hook. Pick up 1 loop in each ch across.
3. Foundation return row: Ch 1. * Yo and draw yarn through 2 loops on hook. Rep from * until 1 loop remains on hook at end of return row (18 Tss total).
4. Forward row: Pick up 1 loop in each vertical bar.
5. Return row: Ch 1. * Yo and draw yarn through 2 loops on hook. Rep from * until 1 loop remains on hook at end of return row.
6. Rep pairs of forward and return rows until tie measures 10 inches from beg.



Decrease

1. On next forward row, dec 1 st on each end of row. Work return row as normal (16 Tss total).
2. Continue to dec 1 st on each end of forward rows every 22 rows until piece measures 26 inches (9 sts total). Work even for 30 inches until piece measures 56 inches.



Work the Final Row

1. Work Tunisian bind-off row (see [chapter 8](#)). Fasten off and weave in ends.
2. Block to combat curl at either end (see [Blocking](#) in Chapter 10).

If your tie still curls, make a SC or Sl st border to add structure.

Spider Woman Belt

Spin your own web and wear it to show off your skills. This pattern takes what you already know about working in the round and making arches and turns it all into a web motif.



Specifications

Materials

1 hank LanaKnits *All Hemp 6* (100% hemp, 150 yd./90g) in Sprout

5mm hook

Stitch markers

Techniques Used

Ch Chain

SC Single crochet

DC Double crochet

TR Treble crochet

Work in the round (see [Chapter 3](#))

Mesh arches (see [Chapter 3](#))

Finished Size

45¼ inches plus 12 inch tassels

Gauge

4 arches (3 chs and 1 SC) and 10 rows = 4 inches



Make the Belt

Make the Spider Web Motif

Use markers to help you keep your place as you follow this atypical pattern.

1. Start with an adjustable ring.
2. Round 1: Ch 4; this ch counts as 1 DC and 1 ch. Work * 1 DC, ch 1 into the ring. Rep from * 6 times and Sl st into top of 3rd ch to join (8 DC total).
3. Round 2: Ch 6, work 1 DC into 1st DC from prev round. Ch 3, * DC into next DC from prev round, ch 3, rep from * 5 times. Sl st over ch from beg of round.
4. Round 3: Ch 8 (place markers in 3rd and 6th chs), work 1 DC into next DC from prev round, ch 6, DC into next DC from prev round, * ch 5, DC into next DC from prev round. Rep from * 6 times.
5. Work 4 Sl st, 1 in each ch from marker to marker. Remove markers.
6. Ch 6 (place marker in 4th ch), DC into next DC from prev round, ch 7, DC into

next DC from prev round, ch 7 (place marker in 4th ch), TR into next DC from prev round, ch 6, TR into next DC from prev round, place marker in this st), ch 5, DC into next DC from prev round. This is the end of this round.

7. Ch 6 and turn. Work 1 DTR into TR with marker and remove marker. Ch 6. Work 1 DTR into next DC from prev round. Ch 4. Work 1 DTR into ch with marker and then remove marker.

Create the Body

1. Row 1: Ch 3, turn, SC in 1st ch space, ch 3, SC in next ch space, ch 3, SC in same ch space, ch 3, SC in same ch space, ch 3, SC in next ch space, ch 3, SC into DTR from prev row. Ch 3, SC in same ch space, ch 3, and turn.
2. Row 2: Work 1 SC into 1st space created by chains from prev row. * Ch 3 and work 1 SC into next ch space. Rep from * until you have worked a SC into last ch space of row. Ch 3 and turn.
3. Rep row 2 to desired length.

Crochet the Tapered Ends

1. Tapered row: Work 1 SC into 1st space created by chains from prev row. * Ch 3 and work 1 SC into next ch space. Rep from * until last ch space; leave this space unworked. Ch 3 and turn.
2. Rep tapered row until 1 arch is left.
3. Fasten off and weave in ends.
4. Join yarn to other side of motif and work body pattern to same length.
5. Fasten off and weave in ends.

Make the Tassels

With your arm bent at a 90-degree angle, tuck the yarn between your thumb and forefinger and wrap the yarn around your elbow many times. Cut the tassels and tie them to the tapered ends of the piece.



Bunny Amigurumi

This cute bunny is a great example of what you can do with simple amigurumi shapes.



Specifications

Materials

1 skein Lion Brand Vanna's Choice (100% acrylic, 145 yd./86g) in Silver Heather

4.5mm hook

1 stitch marker

Stuffing: Fiberfill, scrap yarn/fabric, etc.

Techniques Used

Ch Chain

Sl st Slip stitch

SC Single crochet

SC2TOG 2 single crochet worked together (see [Chapter 3](#))

SC3TOG 3 single crochet worked together (see [Chapter 3](#))

Adjustable ring (see [Chapter 3](#))

Finished Size

Circumference = 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches

Gauge

4 stitches = 1 inch

4 rows = 1 inch

Make the Bunny

Make the Body

1. Start with an adjustable ring.
2. Round 1: Work 7 SC into the ring. Place marker in 1st SC and move marker with each round.
3. Round 2: 2 SC in each SC across round (14 SC total).
4. Round 3: * 2 SC in next SC, 1 SC in next SC, rep from * across round (21 SC total).
5. Round 4: * 2 SC in next SC, 1 SC in each of the next 2 SC, rep from * across round (28 SC total).
6. Round 5: * 2 SC in next SC, 1 SC in each of the next 3 SC, rep from * across round (35 SC total).
7. Round 6: * 2 SC in next SC, 1 SC in each of the next 4 SC, rep from * across round (42 SC total).
8. Round 7: 1 SC in each of the next 3 SC, 2 SC in next SC, 1 SC in each of the next 14 SC, 2 SC in next SC, 1 SC in each of the next 4 SC, 2 SC in next SC, 1 SC in each of the next 14 SC, 2 SC in next SC, 1 SC in each SC to finish round (46 SC total).
9. Round 8: 1 SC in each of the next 4 SC, * 2 SC in next SC, 1 SC in each of the next 14 SC, 2 SC in next SC *, 1 SC in each of the next 6 SC, rep from * to *, 1 SC in each SC to finish round (50 SC total).
10. Round 9: 1 SC in each SC across round.
11. Rounds 10–21: Rep round 9.



12. Round 22: 1 SC in each of the next 4 SC, * SC2TOG over next 2 SC, 1 SC in each of the next 14 SC, SC2TOG over next 2 SC *, 1 SC in each of the next 6 SC, rep from * to *, 1 SC in each SC to finish round (46 SC total).
13. Round 23: 1 SC in each of the next 3 SC, * SC2TOG over next 2 SC, 1 SC in each of the next 14 SC, SC2TOG over next 2 SC *, 1 SC in each of the next 4 SC, rep from * to *, 1 SC in each SC to finish round (42 SC total).
14. Round 24: * SC2TOG over next 2 SC, 1 SC in each of the next 4 SC, rep from * across the round. (34 SC total).
15. Round 25: * SC2TOG over next 2 SC, 1 SC in each of the next 3 SC, rep from * across the round (28 SC total).
16. Add stuffing.
17. Round 26: * SC2TOG over next 2 SC, 1 SC in each of the next 2 SC, rep from * across the round (21 SC total).
18. Round 27: * SC2TOG over next 2 SC, 1 SC in next SC, rep from * across the round (14 SC total).
19. Round 28: * SC2TOG over next 2 SC, rep from * across the round (7 SC total).
20. Fasten off.
21. Lace the tail through the last round and draw closed.



Make the Ears

1. Start with an adjustable ring.
2. Row 1: Work 3 SC into the ring, ch 1 and turn. Pull the ring tight.
3. Row 2: 2 SC in the 1st SC, 1 SC in the next SC, 2 SC in the last SC, ch 1 and turn (5 SC total).
4. Row 3–8: 1 SC in each SC across the row, ch 1 and turn.
5. Row 9: Skip the 1st SC, 1 SC in next 3 SC skip the last SC, ch 1 and turn (3 SC total).
6. Row 10: SC3TOG.
7. Edging: Work 1 Sl st into the side of each row, 1 Sl st across the first row, 1 Sl st into the side of each row, Sl st to join at the top of the leaf, fasten off and weave in the top tail. Leave the bottom tail to fasten the ear to the body.
8. Repeat Steps 1–7 to make a second ear.



TIP

You can change the ear's width by adding more stitches in a row. To make a longer ear, work more rows. The ears in the example shown are two different lengths.

Make a Tail

1. Start with an adjustable ring.
2. Round 1: Work 6 SC into the ring.
3. Round 2: 2 SC in each SC across round (12 SC total).
4. Round 3: * 2 SC in next SC, 1 SC in next SC, rep from * across round (18 SC total).
5. Round 4: * 2 SC in next SC, 1 SC in each of the next 2 SC, rep from * across round (24 SC total).
6. Round 5: * 2 SC in next SC, 1 SC in each of the next 3 SC, rep from * across round (30 SC total).
7. Round 6: 1 SC in each SC across round.
8. Round 7: * SC2TOG over next 2 SC, 1 SC in each of the next 3 SC, rep from * across the round (24 SC total).
9. Round 8: * SC2TOG over next 2 SC, 1 SC in each of the next 2 SC, rep from * across the round (18 SC total).

10. Round 9: * SC2TOG over next 2 SC, 1 SC in next SC, rep from * across the round (12 SC total).
11. Add stuffing to the ball.
12. Round 10: * SC2TOG over next 2 SC, rep from * across the round (6 SC total).
13. Fasten off.
14. Lace the tail through the last round and draw closed. Use the yarn tail to sew the tail to the back of the bunny's body.



Finishing

This is where you give your bunny a personality. There are a variety of ways to make a face. For this example some pink scrap yarn was “embroidered” into the stitches.

Consider using the tail pattern to create arms and legs.