Crochet
for Beginners

- ✔ Learn to read crochet patterns
- ✔ Master essential techniques
- ✔ Perfect the basic stitches
- ✔ Great starter projects

45 techniques inside

Everything you need to know to get started with crochet

Welcome to
Crochet
for Beginners

Crochet as a hobby has boomed in recent years, with the art being passed down to younger generations. Making your own garments, gifts and decorations has become all the rage. In Crochet for Beginners, we will show you all the different techniques, stitches and starter projects you need to get started with Crochet, from foundation chains to your first single crochet, from adding embellishments to making your first unique project. Crochet isn't all about hats and scarves either. In the starter project section you will find easy-to-follow patterns on how to make your own vintage bunting, fetching bag and pretty triangular shawl. So what are you waiting for? Grab your hooks, yarn and buttons and get started with your long-awaited Crochet projects today! Enjoy the book!

Crochet
for Beginners

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For thread crochet, fine steel hooks are available in a range of very small sizes, numbered from US 00 to 14 (from 3.5 to 0.75mm).

Choosing your yarn

One of the many nice things about crochet is the wide variety of yarns you can work with. With so many choices, however, it can get overwhelming sometimes!

So which yarn should you use, especially when you're new to crochet? A smooth yarn that feels good in your hands is the best choice when you're just starting. Choose a plain, soft yarn in a color you love, but avoid very dark colors at first. Your stitches will show more clearly with lighter-colored yarn. Novelty yarns with loops, bobbles, fluff, or glitter might be tempting right now, but they're more difficult to work with. Because the texture obscures your stitches, wait until you have a thorough grasp of the basics of crochet before you attempt to work with one of these yarns.

Whatever yarn you choose, it will likely come wound in a skein, ball, or hank, most often with a paper ball band surrounding it. The ball band contains useful information about the yarn, including its weight, fiber composition, yardage, care instructions, and more.

Yarn Weights

The weight of a yarn refers to its thickness, not the weight of a ball or skein. Yarn varies in thickness, from very thin lace weight that you can crochet gossamer-fine shawls with, through to super bulky, more suited for thick blankets and oversized chunky scarves, and every thickness in between. Lighter yarns need smaller hooks and take more stitches and rows to produce the same sized piece of crocheted fabric you'd get with a heavier yarn paired with a larger hook.

When you're just beginning to learn to crochet, a medium-weight yarn is a good choice. Perfect for a wide range of projects, it's thick enough that you can easily see your stitches. Look for a worsted weight yarn. Depending on the manufacturer, it could also be called medium, #4, aran, or 10-ply.

Yarn Fibers

Yarn can be made from plant fibers (such as cotton, linen, and bamboo), animal fibers (such as wool, alpaca, mohair, and angora), and man-made fibers (such as acrylic, nylon, and microfiber).

Cotton is strong, inelastic, and absorbent, which makes it a good choice for kitchen and bathroom items such as dishcloths and washcloths. Mercerized cotton has been processed to make it strong, smooth, and shiny, but it is also less absorbent. Wool is light and stretchy and makes warm winter clothes. Check the care instructions carefully; most wool shrinks when washed. Superwash wool has been treated so it can be machine washed without the fibers felting, or binding together. Acrylic is inexpensive and easy to care for, but it can't tolerate heat. It's often available in a wide range of colors that make it particularly suitable for blankets and toys.

Yarn can also be produced from a blend of fibers, which combines the properties of each. For example, acrylic can be added to cotton to give it some stretch or to wool to make it washable.

How Much Yarn Do You Need?

When crocheting from a pattern, you need to know how much yarn to buy. Each pattern tells you approximately how much length (yardage) of which weight of yarn is required to complete the project, so look for a yarn that's the same weight, and check the ball band for the yardage. Calculate how many balls of yarn you need by dividing the yardage specified in the pattern by the yardage of one ball and rounding up to the nearest whole number.

Yarn is dyed in batches, all of which have slight color variances from other batches. To be sure all the yarn you buy is exactly the same shade, check each ball band to ensure every ball comes from the same numbered dye lot.

You can crochet using the yarn tail found on the outside of the skein or fish out the tail from the middle of the skein (a center-pull skein). Some higher-end yarn is packaged in a hank – a large loop of yarn twisted into a coil. To avoid tangles when you crochet with a hank, undo the twisted coil and hand-wind the yarn into a ball, or use a yarn winder to wind it into a center-pull skein.

All about crochet hooks

Crochet hooks are available in a range of styles. You want a hook that feels comfortable in your hand and helps you form stitches without difficulty. With time and experimentation, you'll find the type of hook that works best for you and your crocheting style

Hook Anatomy

A crochet hook is made of a few basic parts – the tip, throat, shank, head, thumb rest, handle. A pointier tip can get into tight stitches more easily, while a more rounded tip is less likely to split the yarn. The throat catches the yarn, and the shank holds your working loops and determines your stitch size. The shape of the head varies by manufacturer. In-line hooks have the head directly in line with, and the same size as, the shank, whereas tapered hooks have a more curved shape and a narrower throat.

The thumb rest helps you control and rotate the hook, and the handle helps balance the hook while you crochet. If you have large hands, you might find a longer handle more comfortable. If holding a crochet hook is uncomfortable for you, try a hook with a cushioned or shaped handle.

Hook Sizes

The size of your hook, measured by the width across the shank, determines the size of the stitches you create. The hook size you need is related to the thickness of yarn you choose – thicker yarns require larger hooks.

Crochet hooks are labeled in either US or metric sizes, or both. US sizes are characterized by letters and/or numbers and the equivalent metric measurement is given in millimeters, as shown in the following table. Note that the sizes can vary among brands. If in doubt, check the metric size – it's less ambiguous.

When you're starting out, it's best to use a medium hook size (and a medium weight yarn), so the hook is easy to hold and maneuver and your stitches are large enough to see clearly. For your first hook, a US H/8 (5mm) or US I/9 (5.5mm) is a good choice.

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

Top Tip

For thread crochet, fine steel hooks are available in a range of very small sizes, numbered from US 00 to 14 (from 3.5 to 0.75mm).

"Each material has pros and cons, and you might want to try a couple to see which you prefer"

Hook Materials

Crochet hooks are commonly made from metal or plastic, but you can also find hooks made from wood or bamboo. Aluminum is smooth, strong, and long-lasting, but it might feel cold and inflexible in your hands. Wood feels warm and flexible, but it needs to be well finished so it doesn't have any rough spots that will snag yarn and conditioned so it doesn't dry out. Plastic is smooth and inexpensive, but it makes a squeaky noise when used with some yarns and can bend or break relatively easily. Bamboo is lightweight and flexible, but it's prone to splintering or snapping, especially in smaller sizes.

Each material has pros and cons, and you might want to try a couple to see which you prefer before you invest in multiple sizes.

The tools you need

One of the joys of crochet is its portability. You really only need a hook, a ball of yarn, and maybe a pattern, and you're ready to go. However, a few more tools can make things easier

Yarn needles

Stitch markers

Measuring tape

Scissors

T-pins
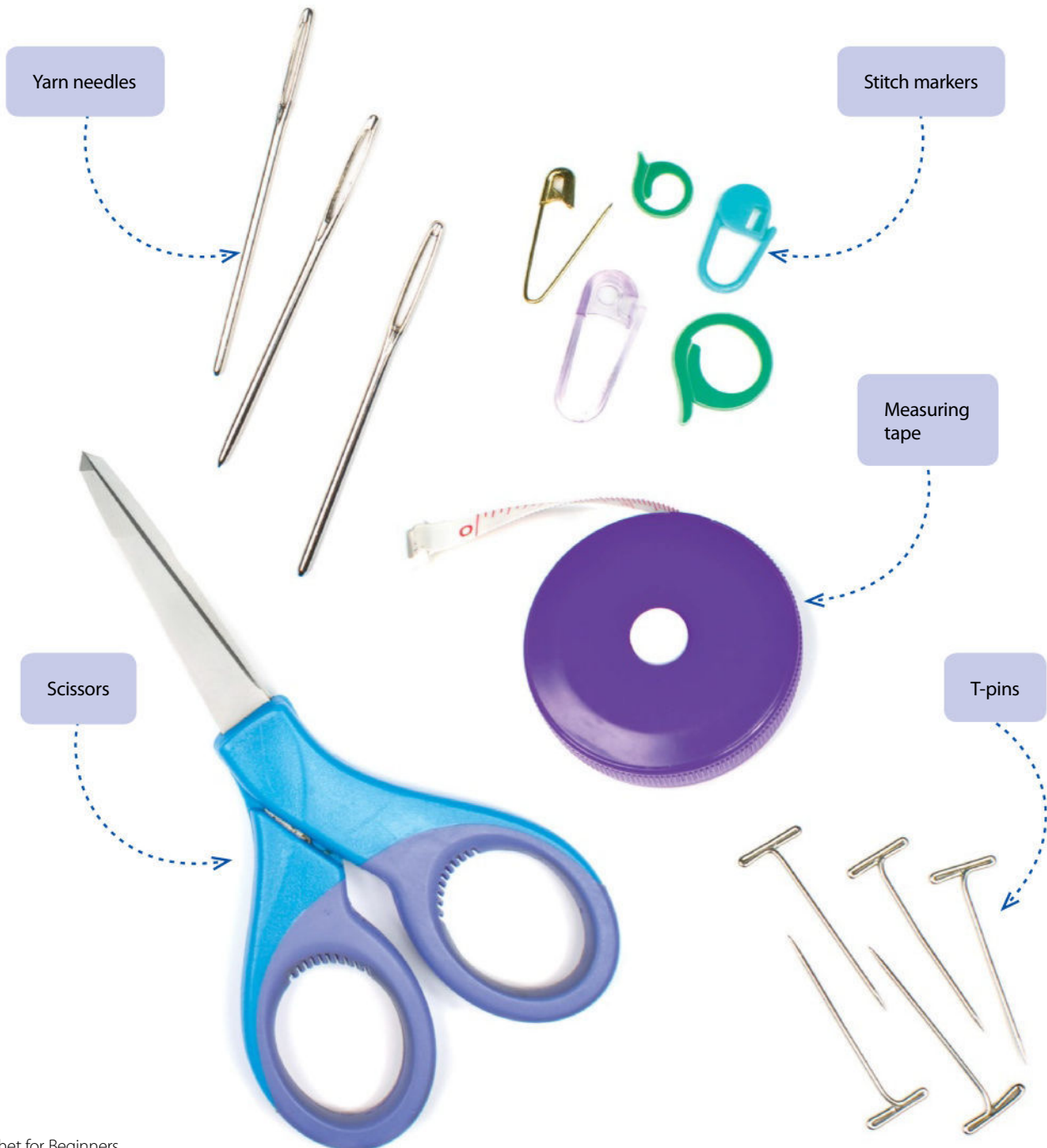
Essential Tools

Scissors are an essential tool for crochet. You'll use them to cut the yarn at the end of each piece and to trim off yarn tails when you finish your work. A small, sharp pair is best, to make clean, accurate cuts.

You'll need a yarn needle (also called a tapestry needle or darning needle) to weave in your yarn tails and to stitch pieces together. Yarn needles are thick and blunt-tipped and have a large eye to fit the yarn into. Metal needles are preferable; plastic needles bend easily and can snap.

- -

Take care when shopping for stitch markers. Ring-shape stitch markers are only used for knitting; crochet stitch markers must have an opening so you can remove them when you're done with them. Plastic split-ring markers, locking stitch markers, and coil-free safety pins are all good choices. In a pinch, you can also use a scrap of yarn or a bobby pin as a marker.

- -

A measuring tape (or ruler) is invaluable for checking your gauge (tension) and the size of your finished pieces. A retractable measuring tape is a good addition to your crochet kit – it's small and portable, and you never know when it might come in handy.

Stitch markers have multiple uses. You can use them to mark specific stitches in your crochet so you don't lose your place in a pattern, and more importantly, you can place a stitch marker in your working loop to save your work from unraveling when you put down your crochet.

Pins are essential if you're going to block your crochet. T-pins are a good choice. They're long, sturdy, and easy to handle. Be sure to choose rustproof pins so you don't end up with rust stains ruining your handiwork.

Other Helpful Tools

A row counter is useful if you're likely to get distracted or working on a large piece. Just remember to advance the counter at the end of each row, and you'll never lose your place.

A case keeps all your crochet tools together. You don't need anything fancy. Your essentials should fit nicely into a pencil case or small makeup bag. When you develop a collection of different hooks, you can store them on your desk in a pen cup, or organize them by size in a roll-up fabric case with a pocket for each hook.

"Be sure to choose rustproof pins so you don't end up with rust stains"

Holding your hook and yarn

There's no single correct method for holding your crochet hook and yarn; with time, you'll discover the method that works best for you

The most important thing when you are crocheting is that you're comfortable. If you feel any discomfort or pain, try a different hold or position until you find one that feels natural to you.

Holding Your Hook

The two most common ways to hold a crochet hook are the overhand or knife grip and the underhand or pencil grip. For either grip, grasp the hook's thumb rest between the thumb and index finger of your right hand so the throat of the hook faces you.

"Your left hand plays an important part in your crocheting, too – it controls the tension in your yarn"
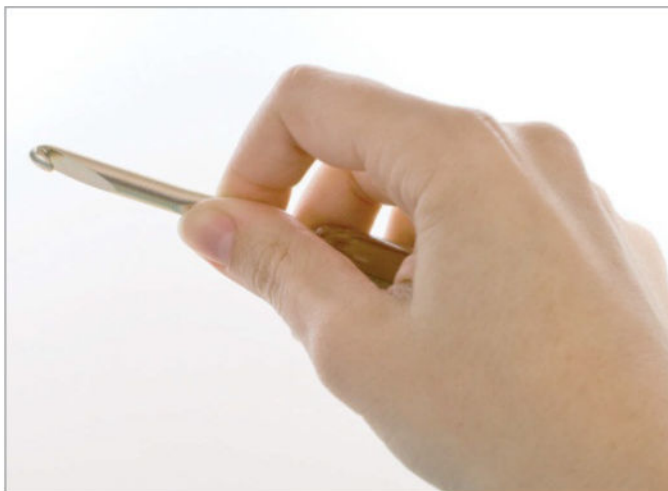
With the knife grip, place your hand over the hook, and support the handle against your palm with your remaining fingers, as if you're holding a knife.

For the pencil grip, let the handle of the hook rest on top of your hand, as if you're holding a pencil.

Holding Your Yarn

Your left hand plays an important part in your crocheting, too – it controls the tension in your yarn, which influences how tight your stitches are. You can wrap the yarn over and around your fingers in any number of ways. Here are two of the most common:

Starting tail

To ball of yarn
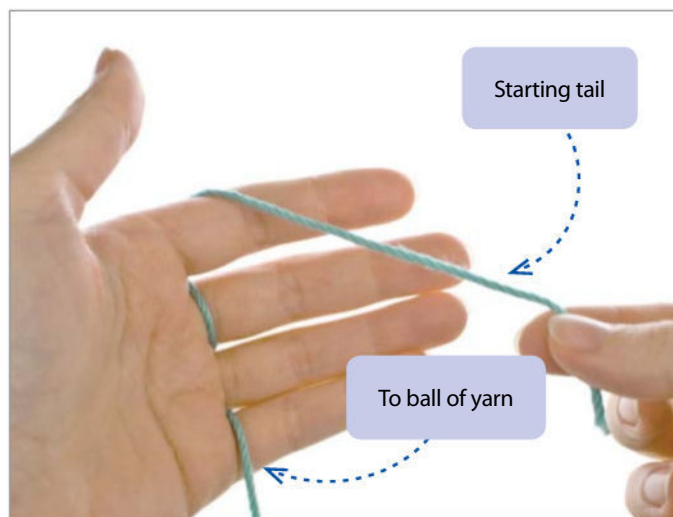
With your left palm facing you and the end of the yarn in your right hand, pass the yarn in front of your little finger, behind your ring finger, in front of your middle finger, and behind your index finger.

Starting tail

To ball of yarn
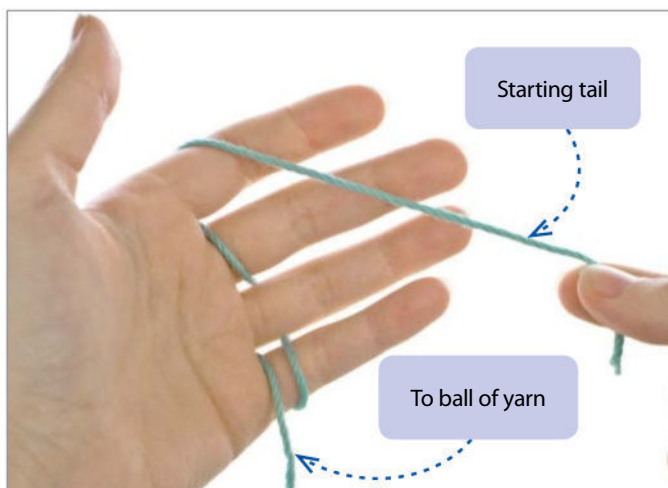
With your left palm facing you and the end of the yarn in your right hand, bring the yarn over and around your little finger in a complete loop and then pass the yarn behind your ring finger, in front of your middle finger, and behind your index finger.

Whichever option you choose, when you have the yarn wrapped through your fingers, close your hand gently around the yarn so your palm faces down. The yarn should be able to slide through your fingers without chafing your hand but not so freely that the working yarn goes slack. Keeping the yarn taut as you work helps keep your stitches even.

Your left hand will stay busy as you crochet. You'll also hold your work steady between your left thumb and middle finger.

Getting started

Crochet for left-handers

Although most crochet patterns and tutorials assume a right-handed crocheter, the good news is that all crochet patterns, and all instructions written in this book, are applicable to left-handers, too – with only four substitutions, as shown in the following table

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

Every Time You See…	Replace It With…
Right	Left
Left	Right
Clockwise	Counterclockwise
Counterclockwise	Clockwise

This is what you'd do if you're left-handed.
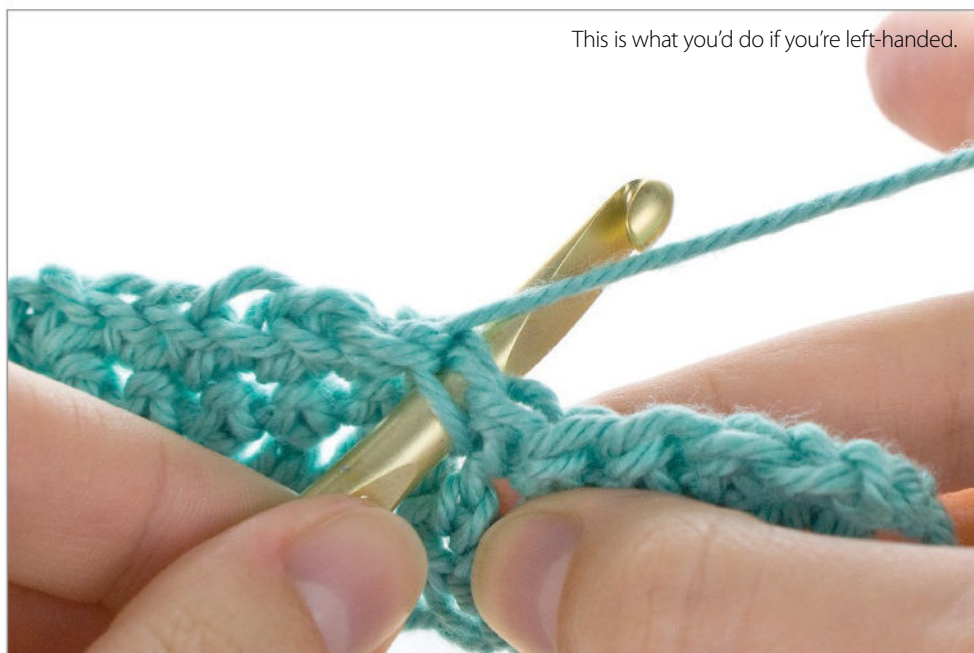
"Left-handed crochet produces a mirror-image of the same article made by a right-hander"

To follow the photos in this book, hold them up to a mirror. The reflection will show each photo from a lefty's perspective.

Left-handed crochet produces a mirror-image of the same article made by a right-hander. This means that almost all crochet patterns are perfectly fine for left-handers to use without making any changes to the pattern. Any diagonal details will slant the opposite way, and spirals will rotate in the opposite direction, but that rarely presents a problem. The only times you have to be careful are when the left and right sides of a piece are not interchangeable. If you follow a colorwork pattern involving text, for example, the letters would all be back to front unless you start the chart at the end of each row and work backward. A cardigan pattern would give you buttonholes and buttons on the wrong sides unless you make changes to the pattern directions.

When you read a crochet chart, every other row will be backward for right-handers, too, so it's no more difficult for lefties to interpret a chart than it is for righties.

This swatch was stitched by a left-handed crocheter.
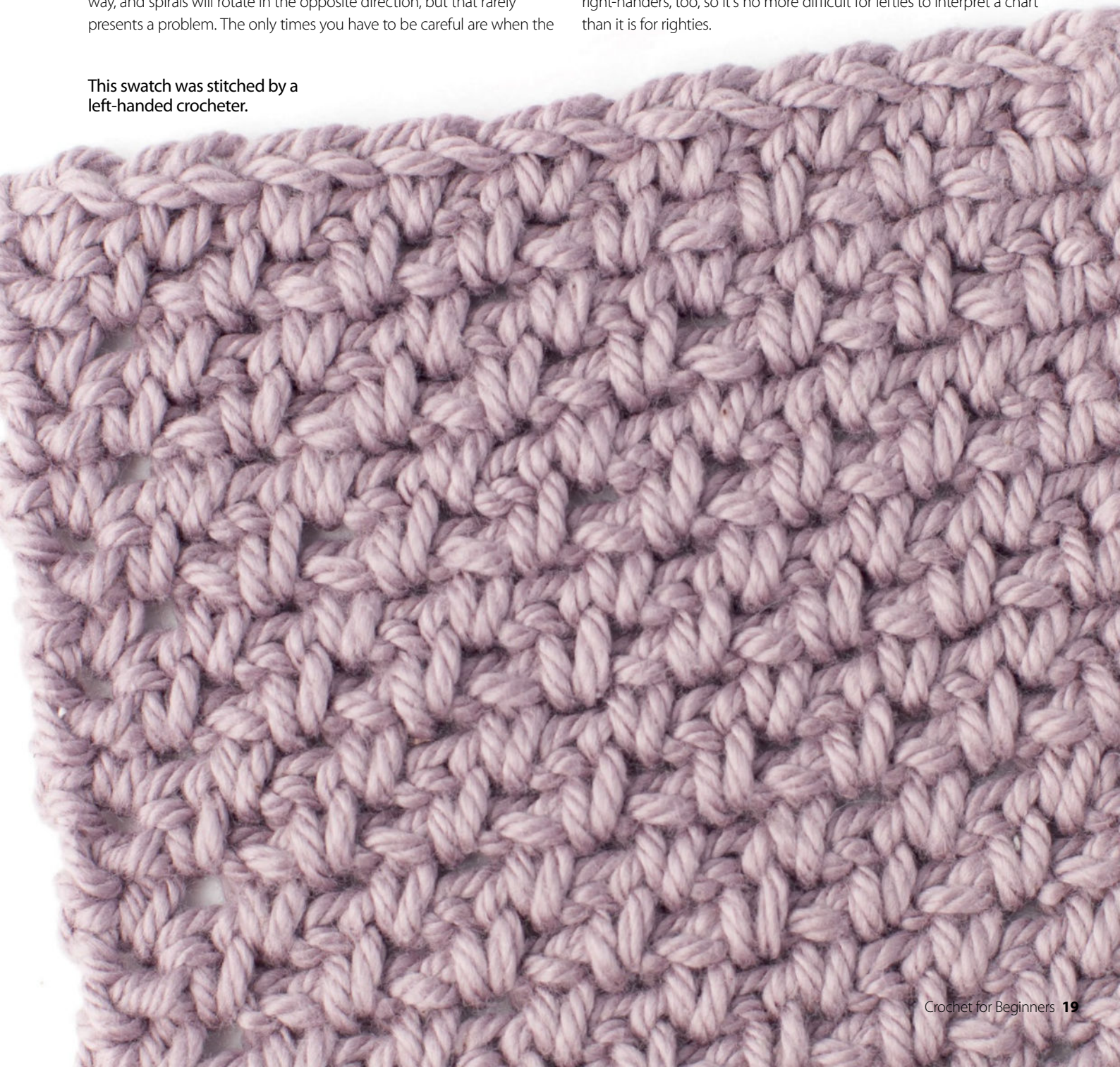
Identifying and counting stitches

The best way to spot a mistake in your crochet is to count your stitches. But you have to know what you're looking for among all those loops

Identifying Stitches

Back loop

Post of stitch

Front loop
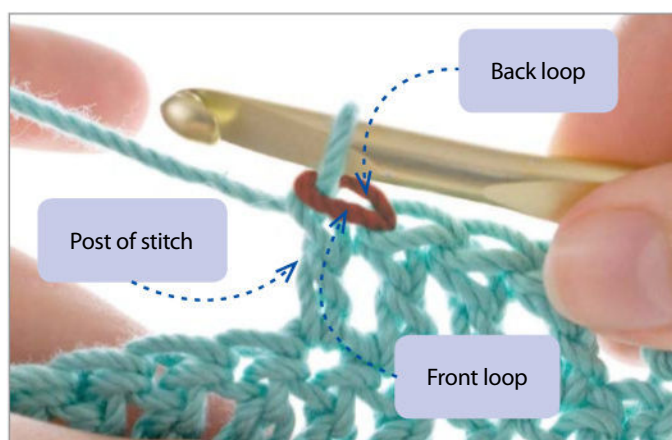
The V at the top of each stitch sits slightly to the right of the post of the stitch.
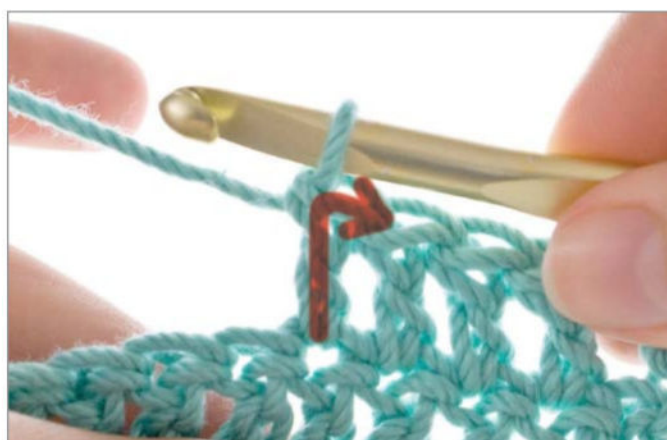
Think of the V as an arrowhead and the post as the arrow's shaft. The arrow points away from the shaft, so the post sits at the wide end of the V.
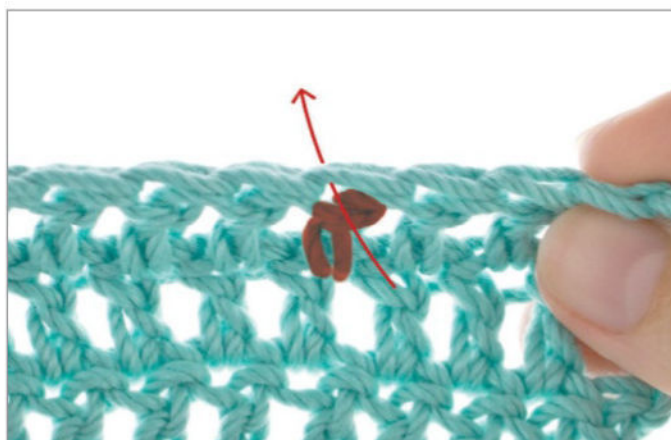
When you turn your work at the end of a row, the Vs from the row below point to the left. To work into those stitches, insert your hook into the V that sits slightly to the left of the post of the stitch.
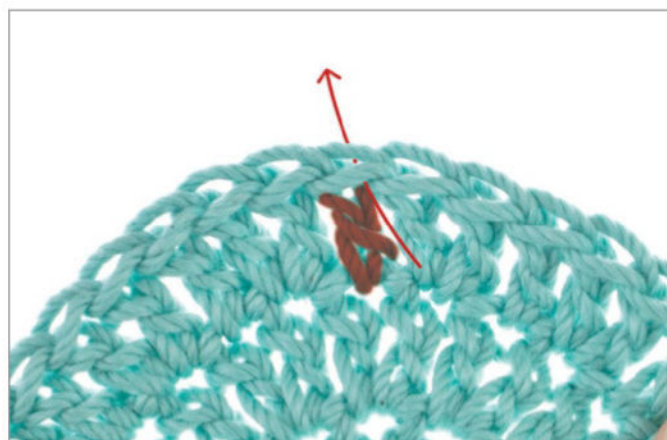
If you don't turn your work between rounds, the Vs always point to the right. To work into those stitches, insert your hook into the V that sits slightly to the right of the post of the stitch.

Counting Stitches
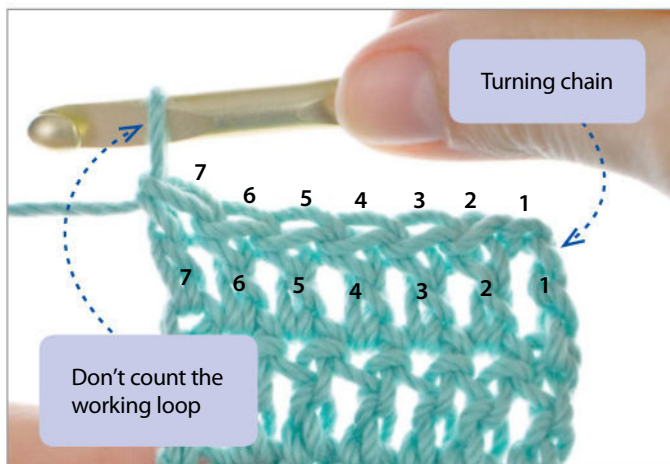
When counting stitches, you can either count the line of Vs across the top of your work or the posts of the stitches. In either case, take care when you reach the turning chain. If it counts as a stitch in your pattern, don't forget to include it in your stitch count. If you're counting Vs, remember that the working loop on your hook never counts as a stitch.

> "If the turning chain counts as a stitch in your pattern, don't forget to include it in your stitch count"

Counting Rows

For tall stitches, you can clearly see the posts of each stitch. Each post corresponds to one row.

With shorter stitches like single crochet, the fabric looks very different depending on whether you're working in rows (or turned rounds) or in rounds and not turning your work.
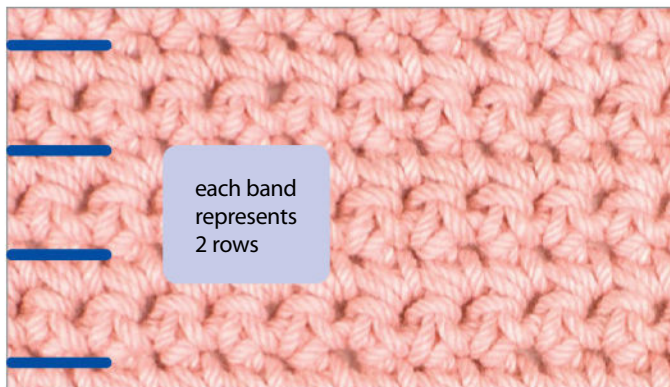
When you're working single crochet in rows, every other row looks the same because you see the front of the stitches in one row and the back of the stitches in the next. Each distinct band you see is actually formed from two rows, so you'll probably find it easier to count the pairs of rows rather than individual rows.
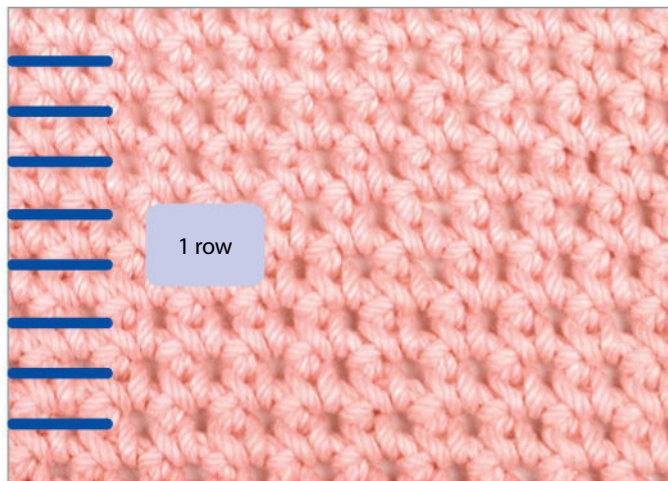
When you're working single crochet in rounds without turning, every round looks the same. Each band of stitches corresponds to 1 row.

Gauge (tension)

Gauge, or tension, is a measure of the number of rows and stitches you make per a certain length and width of crocheted fabric. It's usually listed as the number of stitches and rows in a 1-inch (2.5cm) or 4-inch (10cm) sample. The larger the area you have to measure, the more accurate you'll be
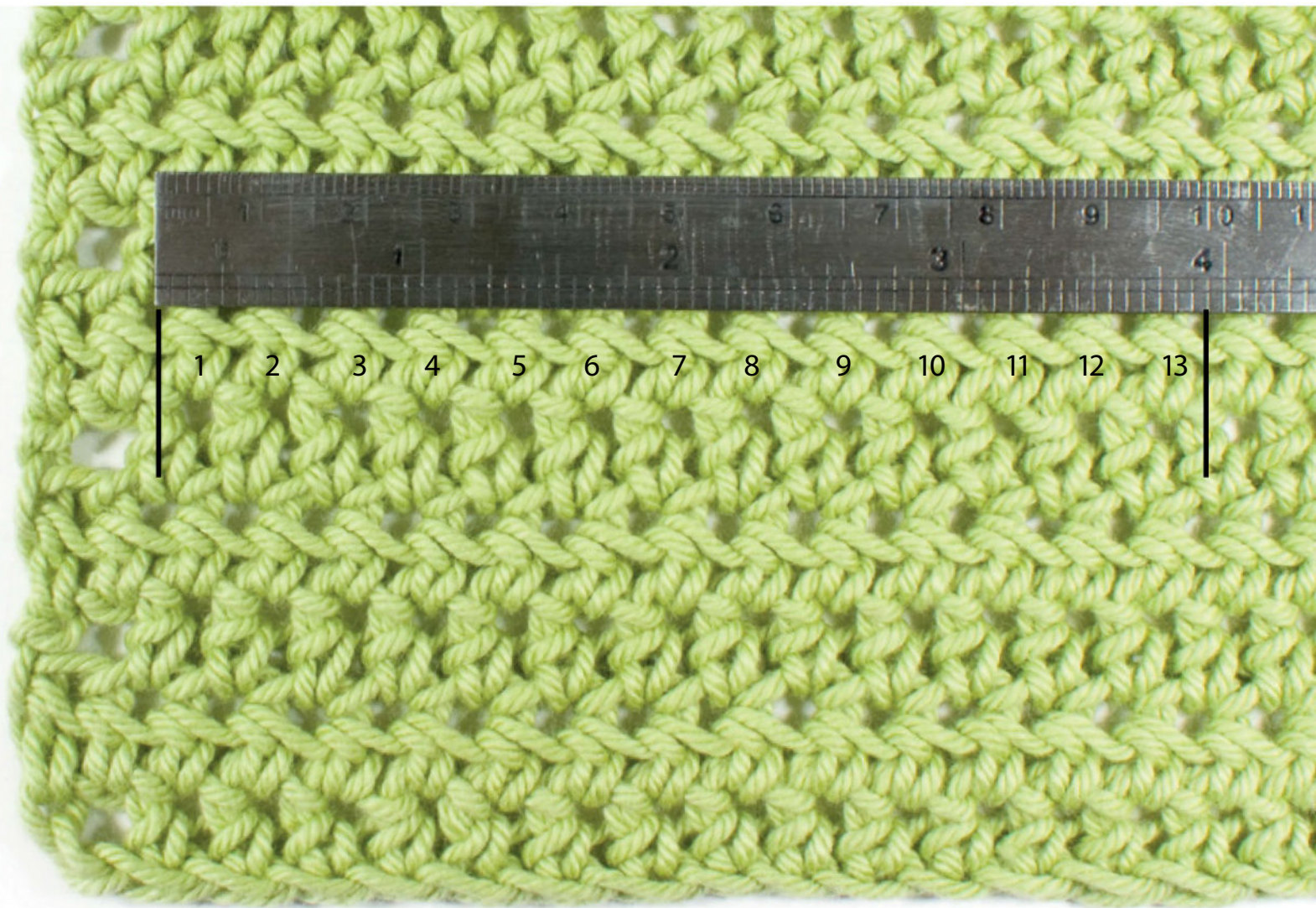
Gauge (tension) depends on your hook size and the yarn you use, but it also depends on your style of crocheting and how loose or tight you make your stitches. You might need a hook two or three sizes larger or smaller than another crocheter to make stitches of the same size, even if you use the same yarn and pattern!

Stitching a Swatch

Crocheting a swatch – a sample of your pattern – is an easy way to measure the size of your stitches. Using your stitch pattern and the hook and yarn you plan to use for the project, crochet a sample piece. This swatch should be at least 4 inches (10cm) square, not including the edge stitches and rows, which may be distorted and won't give an accurate measurement.

Measuring

To measure your gauge (tension), lay out your swatch flat without stretching it. Place a ruler horizontally on your crocheted fabric, with the 0 mark at least 1 stitch away from the edge of your swatch. Then count the number of stitches between 0 and 4 inches (10cm). Repeat the process to check your rows, placing the ruler

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"You might need a hook two or three sizes larger or smaller than another crocheter to make stitches of the same size"

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vertically on the fabric and counting the number of rows over 4 inches (10cm).

If the finished item will be blocked, block the swatch in the same way you plan to block the full project. Then you'll get a more accurate measurement.

If the number of stitches in your swatch measurement is less than the number of stitches in the gauge (tension) statement, your stitches are too large, and you need to make another swatch using a smaller hook. If your swatch measurement contains more stitches than what's indicated in the pattern, your stitches are too small, and you need to make another swatch using a larger hook. To match the pattern, continue making swatches using larger or smaller hooks as required until you find success.

Is It Critical?

If you're making a garment, you want to be sure that it will fit when it's finished, so the gauge (tension) is very important. If you don't match what's stated in the pattern, your garment won't fit.

But with many crochet patterns, it might not be that essential. If you're making an accessory, toy, or home décor item, for example, you have more freedom. Do you mind if your scarf or blanket turns out slightly smaller or larger than the pattern dimensions? If not, you don't need to worry much about the size of your stitches. More important is that you like the look and feel of the fabric you're creating.

Drape

The drape of a crocheted fabric is how it feels and flows. If you match the pattern but your fabric feels too stiff, firm, or rigid, you might crochet more tightly than the pattern designer or be using a thicker yarn than specified or one with different properties. Using a larger hook means your finished piece will be larger than the pattern specifies, but it will improve the drape.

The looseness or tightness of your stitches might change depending on your stress level. If your stitches have become smaller and more difficult to work into, relax and crochet more loosely. Once you get caught up in the rhythm of your crocheting, you'll probably find the repetitive motions help you become less tense.

How to read a pattern

Crochet patterns are written in shorthand so they take less space on the page. Stitch names are abbreviated, and repeated sections are marked as such and only written out once

Once you get used to the way patterns are written, they're far easier to read and follow without losing your place than if the entire pattern had been written out in full.

Rows and Rounds

Crochet patterns are worked in either rows or rounds. Each pattern row (or round) gives you the directions for working all the way across the top of your work (or all the way around your work). Rows and rounds are numbered as Row 1, Row 2, Row 3, etc., or Rnd 1, Rnd 2, Rnd 3, etc. At the end of each row/round, the number of stitches you should have made in that row/round is given in parentheses. This is a helpful checkpoint so you can see if you've made any mistakes before you move onto the next row/round.

> "A stitch pattern is a set of instructions that tells you how to make a specific combination of crocheted stitches"

Working into Specific Stitches

If a pattern says to work into next st, you work in the very next stitch.
sc in next st means you work a single crochet into the next stitch.
2 hdc in next 4 sts means you work 2 half double crochets into each of the next 4 stitches so you end up with a total of 8 hdcs.
(sc, ch 1, hdc) in next st means all the stitches in the parentheses (brackets) are worked into the same (next) stitch. In this case, you work a single crochet in the next stitch, chain 1, and work a half double crochet into the same stitch you worked the single crochet, without moving on.

If a pattern says to work into a specific type of st, for example, sc in next dc, jump straight to the next dc stitch, ignoring all other stitches before you reach it.
If a pattern says to work into a chain space (ch-sp), you work into the space underneath the loop formed by 1 or more chain stitches. To work this stitch, insert your hook into the space beneath the chain, not directly into any of the chain stitches.

Repeats

Repeated instructions are indicated with parentheses (...) or brackets [...], or with asterisks * (or another symbol). For example:
(2 sc in next st, sc in next st) 4 times means you repeat all the instructions within the parentheses 4 times. Work 2 single crochets in the next stitch and then 1 single crochet in the next stitch. Now go back to the beginning of the parentheses and repeat the same instructions into the following stitches: 2 sc in the next st followed by 1 sc in the next stitch. Go through the instructions twice more, so you repeat the instructions a total of 4 times.
*2 sc in next st, sc in next st; rep from * 3 times means you repeat all the instructions from * to ; 3 times. Follow the instructions (2 single crochets in the next stitch and then 1 single crochet in the next stitch), and when you reach rep from *, jump back to the asterisk and work the instructions again 3 more times.
Note that after you crochet the first set of instructions, you repeat them 3 more times. You end up working the instructions a total of 4 times.
An instruction can also be repeated all the way across a row (or around a round).
*dc in next st, ch 1, sk next st; rep from * across to last 2 sts, dc in last 2 sts means you repeat the instruction (double crochet in the next stitch, chain 1, skip over the next stitch without working into it) over and over until you reach the specified point (the last 2 stitches of the row). Then you complete the row with a double crochet into each of the last 2 stitches.

Always read the introductory information at the start of a pattern before you begin crocheting. It contains essential information about the size(s) of the item, the type of yarn and hook you need, abbreviations used, and any special stitches called for in the pattern.

Multiple Sizes

If a pattern includes multiple sizes, the information for the smallest size is given first, followed by the larger sizes in parentheses or brackets:

Size: Small (Medium, Large)

Ch 30 (36, 42)

This means you chain 30 stitches if you want to make a size small, 36 for medium, and 42 for large. Select the option at each point that corresponds to the size you're making.

Reading a Stitch Pattern

A stitch pattern is a set of instructions that tells you how to make a specific combination of crocheted stitches. Stitch patterns are usually given as a general formula, so you can make a piece of any size and shape, and they are based on repeats. The stitch pattern repeat tells you how many different stitches to make before you repeat the same instructions across the row, and the row repeat tells you how many different rows to crochet before you repeat the same row instructions.

The starting chain formula tells you how many chains to start with so you don't end up with half a stitch pattern repeat at the end of your piece. The starting chain formula includes the stitch pattern repeat plus any additional chains you need to make at each edge and for the turning chain. For example, ch a multiple of 10 sts plus 3 means you work any multiple of 10 chains (10, 20, 30, etc.) until the foundation is as long as you'd like the width of your piece to be. Then you crochet 3 more chains to complete the foundation row.

Terminology

Crochet stitches are not named consistently worldwide and, even more confusingly, the same name is used to mean different stitches in different countries. Patterns published in the United Kingdom and countries with historical British influence use a different naming scheme from those published in North America.

Check where a pattern was published to get a good idea of which terminology was used. Also, there is no stitch called single crochet in UK terminology, so if you see sc anywhere, you know the pattern uses US terminology.

US Name	UK Name
chain	chain
double crochet	treble crochet
half double crochet	half treble crochet
slip stitch	slip stitch
single crochet	double crochet
triple (or treble) crochet	double treble crochet

Abbreviations

To save space, stitch names are almost always abbreviated in crochet patterns, as are common repeated words. This table shares some of the most common abbreviations you're likely to encounter in crochet patterns

Not all abbreviations are completely standardized, so check your pattern's abbreviations list for any terms unfamiliar to you. This is typically located at the start of a pattern, or they're all listed together at the front or back of a book.

Abbreviation	Meaning	Abbreviation	Meaning
BL	back loop	inc	increase
BP	back post	MC	main color
BPdc	back post double crochet	rep	repeat
BPtr	back post triple (treble) crochet	rnd(s)	round(s)
CC	contrast color	RS	right side
ch(s)	chain(s)	rsc	reverse single crochet
ch-sp(s)	chain space(s)	sc	single crochet
dc	double crochet	sc2tog	single crochet two together
dc2tog	double crochet two together	sk	skip
dec	decrease	sl st	slip stitch
fdc	foundation double crochet	sp(s)	space(s)
fhdc	foundation half double crochet	st(s)	stitch(es)
FL	front loop	t-ch	turning chain
FP	front post	tog	together
FPdc	front post double crochet	tr	triple (treble) crochet
FPtr	front post triple (treble) crochet	WS	wrong side
fsc	foundation single crochet	YO	yarn over
hdc	half double crochet		

Making a slipknot

To begin crocheting, you need to attach your yarn to your hook with a slipknot

## Get started in crochet Make a slipknot to start your pattern

01 Go around your fingers
Leaving a 6-inch (15cm) tail of yarn hanging down over your left hand, lay the yarn over one or two fingertips and take it around them to form a loop.

02 Insert your hook
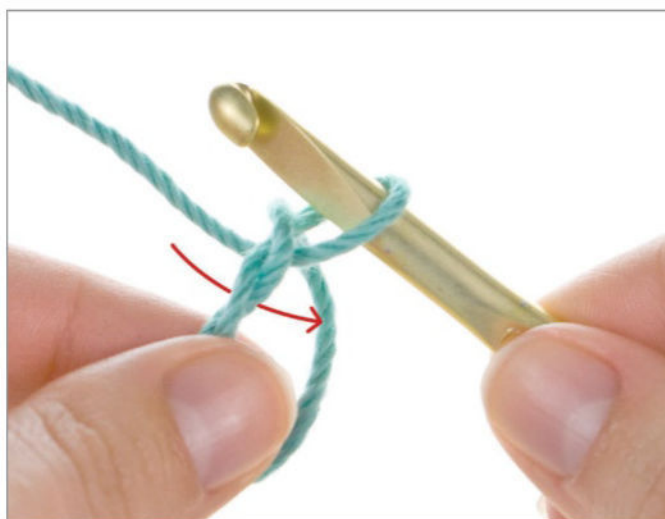Remove your fingers from the loop, holding it in place between your thumb and a fingertip, and insert your hook into the loop.

Working yarn
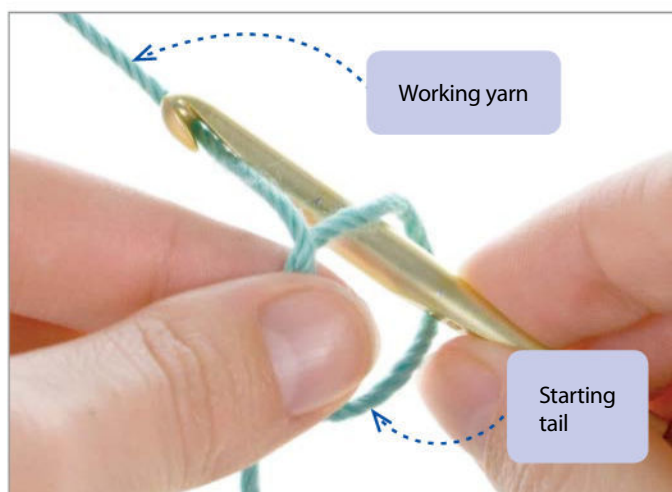
Starting tail

03 Catch the working yarn
Catch the working yarn with your hook. (The working yarn is the yarn that heads to the yarn ball, not the short starting tail.)

04 Pull it through
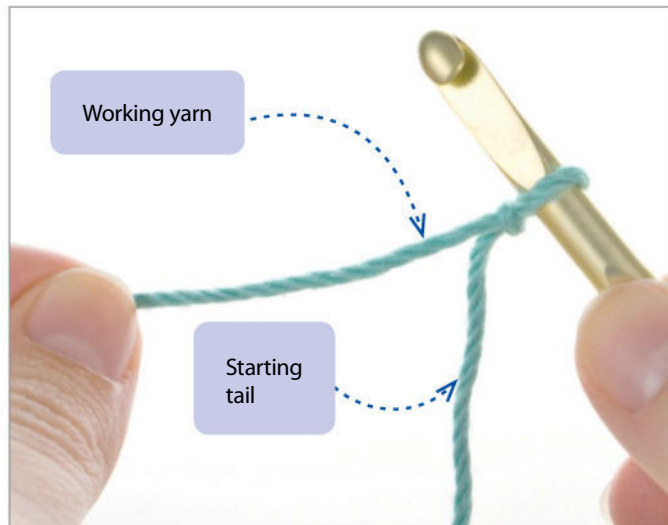Use the hook to pull the yarn up through the loop.

05 Tighten the knot
Pull on the yarn ends to tighten the knot.

06 Pull the working yarn
Pull the working yarn to draw the loop closed around your hook.

Working yarn

Starting tail

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

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

If you find you need to pull on the starting tail instead of the working yarn to tighten the slipknot around your hook, you've made an adjustable slipknot (a knot that can loosen itself). You need a secure knot to start your crochet, so if you've accidentally made an adjustable slipknot, undo it and start again.

Leave a small space around the hook
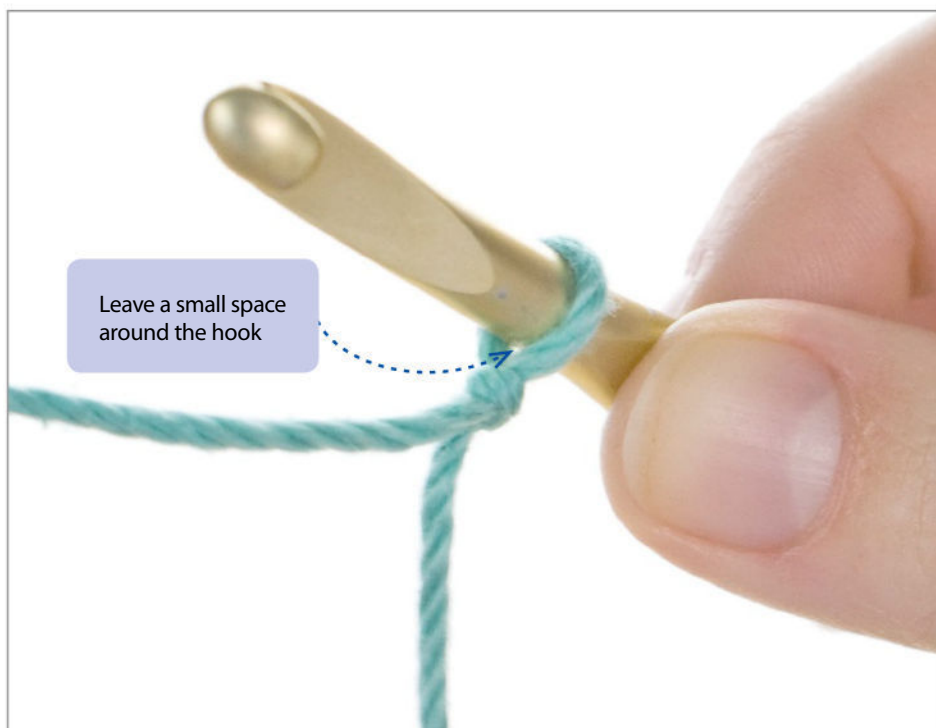
Making a yarn over

A yarn over (YO) is one of the most essential moves in crochet. Although it might sound like you wrap the yarn around the hook with your left hand, it's quicker and easier to keep your left hand still and use your hook to grab the yarn:
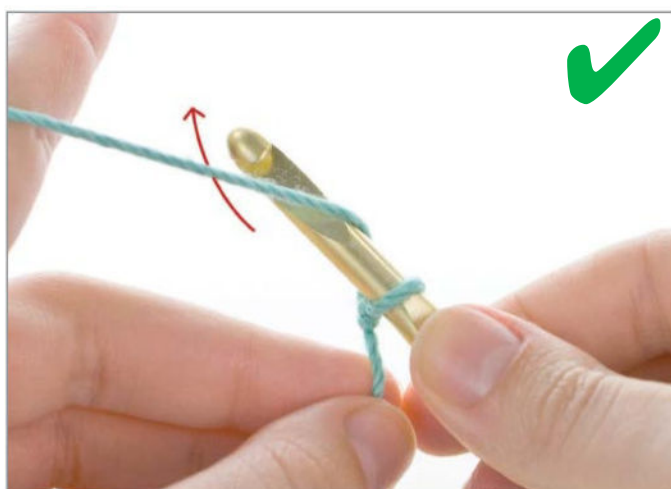
01 Take the yarn over
Pass your hook underneath the yarn, so the yarn lies over the hook. The working yarn (that heads to your left hand) is on the left side of the hook.
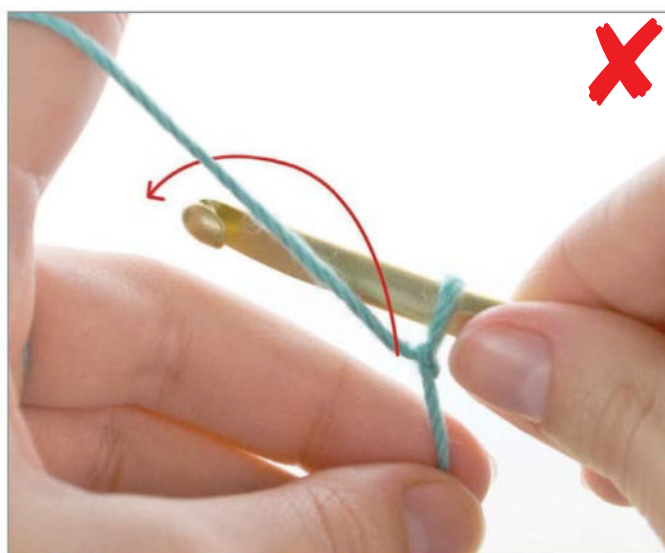
Do not pass the hook over the yarn and catch it from above so the working yarn is on the right side of the hook. This twists your stitches.
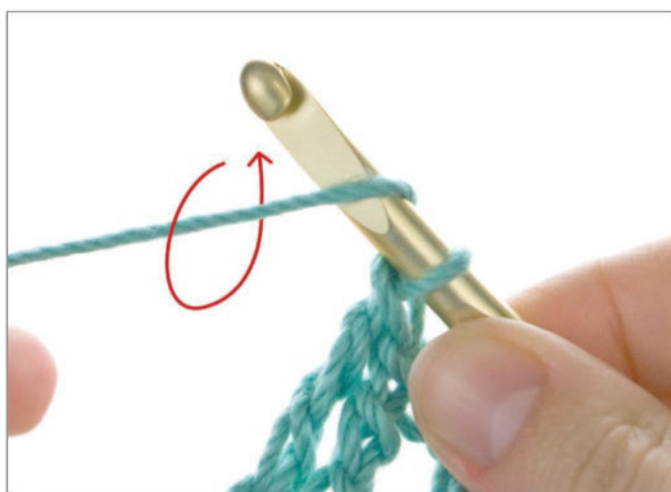
02 And again
To yarn over twice, swing the hook over and back under the yarn again in the same direction.
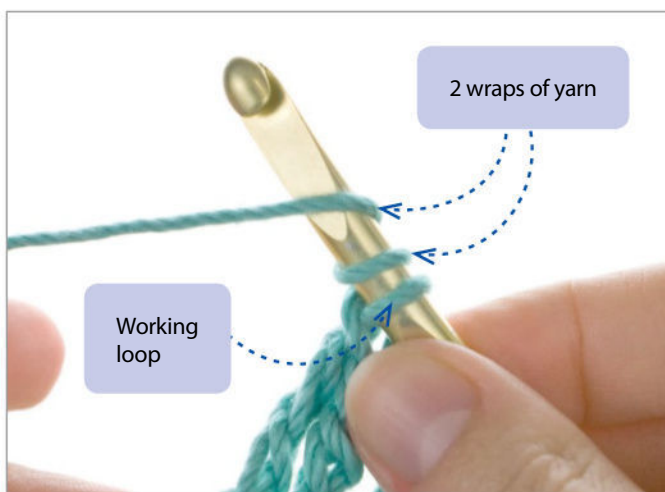
03 Three loops
You now have 3 loops on your hook: the working loop, and the yarn wrapped twice around the hook.

2 wraps of yarn

Working loop

Drawing up a loop

You form crochet stitches by inserting your hook into a previous stitch and pulling a new loop through that stitch. This process is called drawing up a loop

01 Into the next stitch
Insert your hook into the next stitch.

02 Yarn over
Yarn over. To draw up a loop, reverse the path of your hook, so you pull the hook back out of the stitch, drawing the yarn with it.

03 On your hook
The loop you've drawn up is now on your hook, along with the loop you started with.

If you see "insert hook in next stitch and draw up a loop" written in a pattern, that means the yarn over is implied. You can't draw up a loop without having a loop of yarn on your hook to draw up.

Making a foundation chain

The foundation chain runs along the bottom of your crocheted piece and provides a base into which you work your stitches
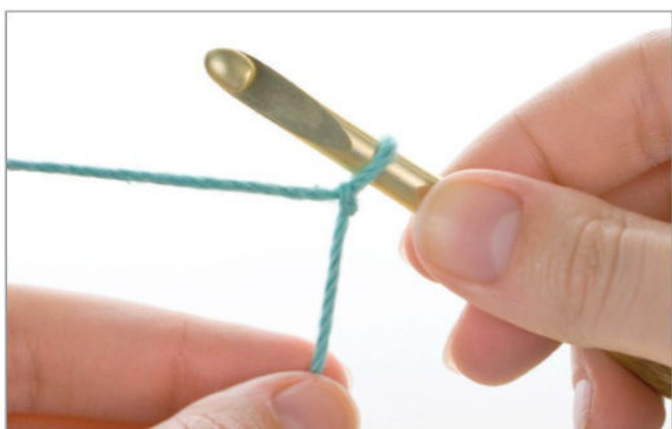
01 Make a slipknot
Start with a slipknot on your hook.
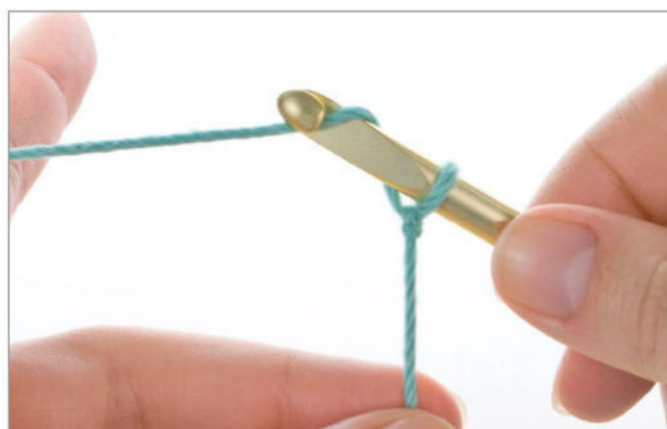
02 Bring it over
Yarn over.
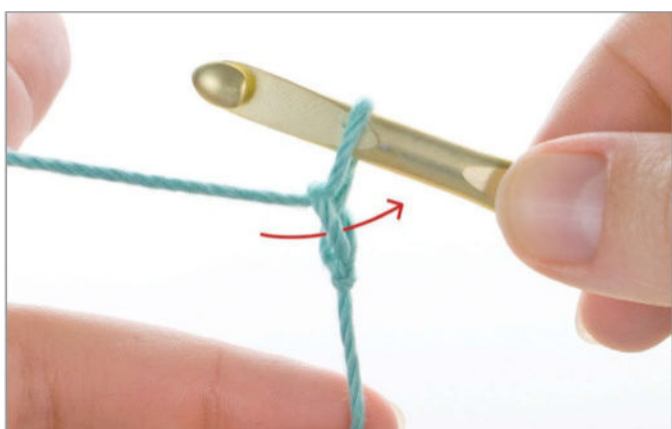
03 Pull it through
Draw your hook back through the loop already on your hook.
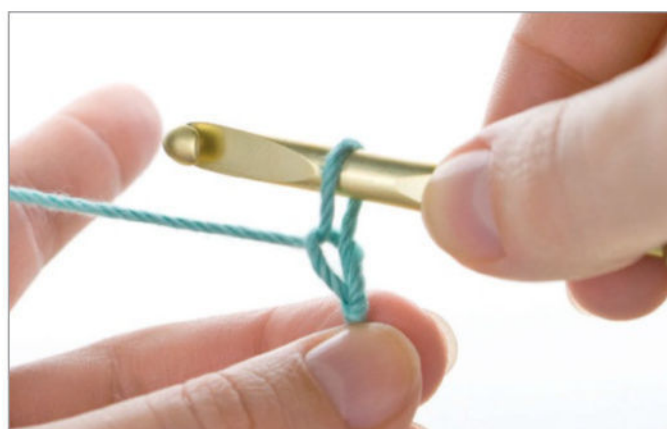
04 And you're done
You now have 1 chain (abbreviated ch).

To make it easier to draw the yarn through your stitches, rotate the hook toward you after you yarn over. With the head of the hook facing sideways, it's less likely to catch on your stitches.
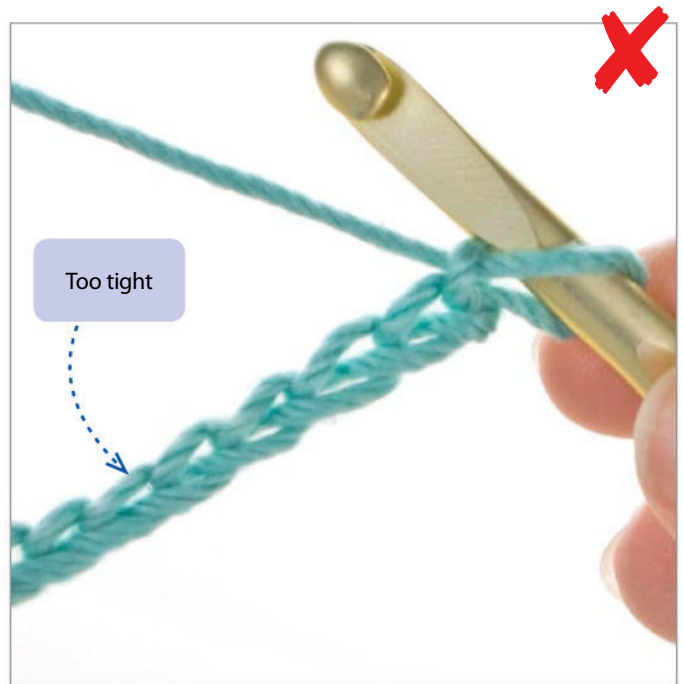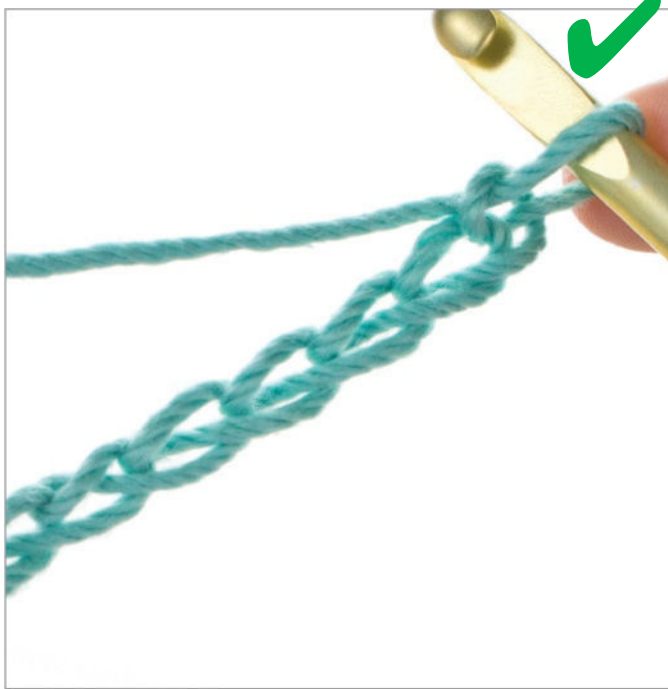
05 Keep going

Repeat steps 2 and 3 for each additional chain. To help support the chain as you pull your hook through, hold on to the stitches you've already chained with your left hand. Move your hand up the chain every few stitches, so you always hold the chain close to your hook.

It'll take some practice to make your chains look consistent. Although a loose chain might look untidy, resist the urge to neaten your chain stitches by pulling on the yarn to shrink the stitch. This tightens the stitch into a knot. That's not what you want. A crocheted chain must be loose and open so you can insert your hook back into each chain loop without a struggle.

Counting Chains

If you look at your chain, the front of the chain – the side that faces you as you crochet – should look like a row of Vs. Each of these Vs is 1 chain stitch. When you count your chains, start from the V above the slipknot, and count each V up to your hook. The loop on your hook is called the working loop. Do not count this as a stitch.

To make it easier to keep count when you're making a long foundation chain, mark every 10 or 20 chains with a stitch marker. If in doubt, especially with a long starting chain, add a few extra chains to ensure you have enough. You can easily unravel the extras after you complete the first row if you have too many. However, if you have too few, you'd have to unravel the entire first row to add the additional chains.
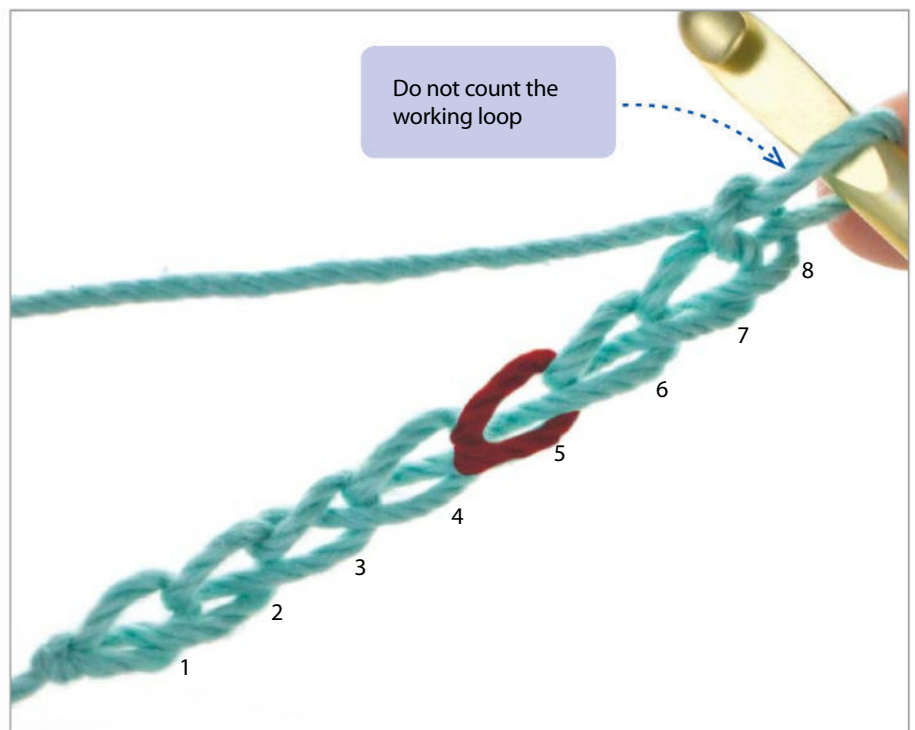
Working into the foundation chain

Take the first steps into your first crochet project with the foundation chain!

top loop

bottom loop

back bump
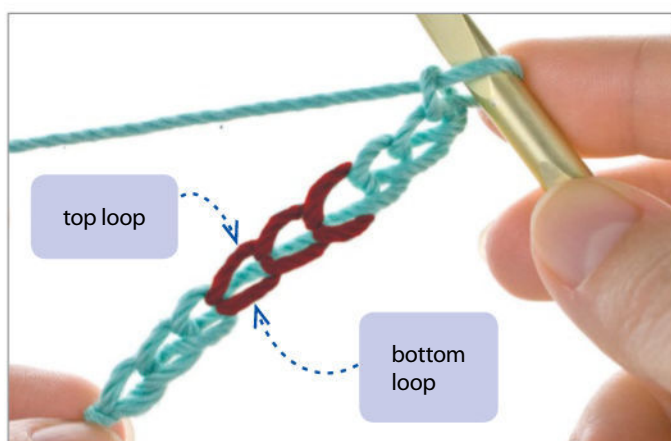
01 Lots of Vs
Look at the front side of your foundation chain, and you'll see it looks like a row of sideways Vs. Each V is made of two loops: the top loop and the bottom loop.
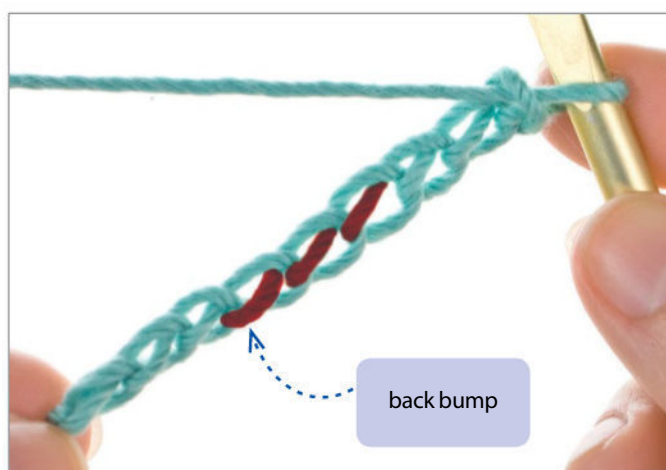
02 Lots of bumps
If you turn over the foundation chain, you'll see a line of bumps along the back. These are called the back bumps of the chain.

Under the Top Loop
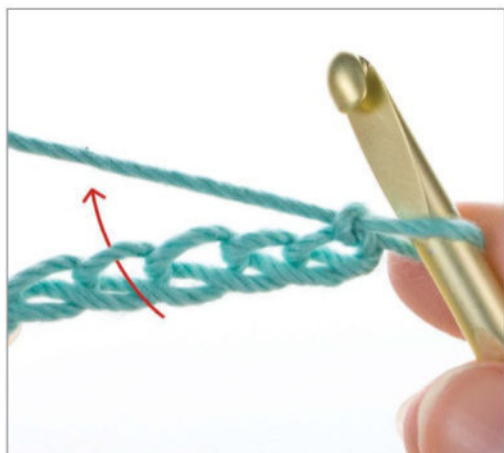
01 Under the top loop
In this method, you hook under the top loop only.

02 Insert hook
Here, the hook is inserted under the top loop only.

There's no one correct way to insert your hook into a chain. The most important thing is to be consistent and insert your hook into the same part of the chain to begin each stitch. The following sections show the most common ways to work into a chain.

Under the Top Loop and Back Bump
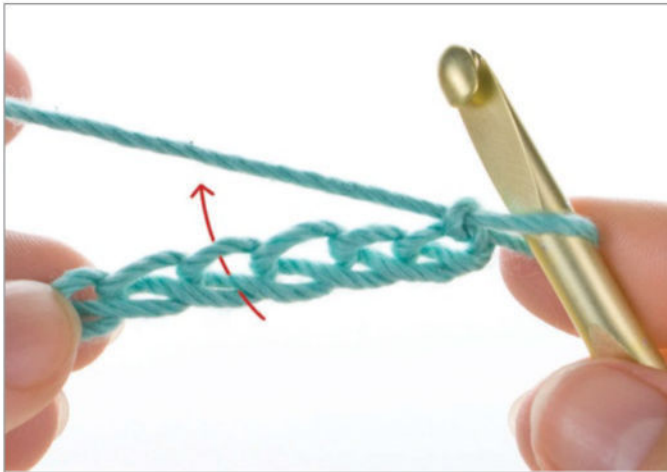
01 Under both
In this method, you hook under both the top loop and the back bump. This is sometimes referred to as the top 2 loops of the chain.
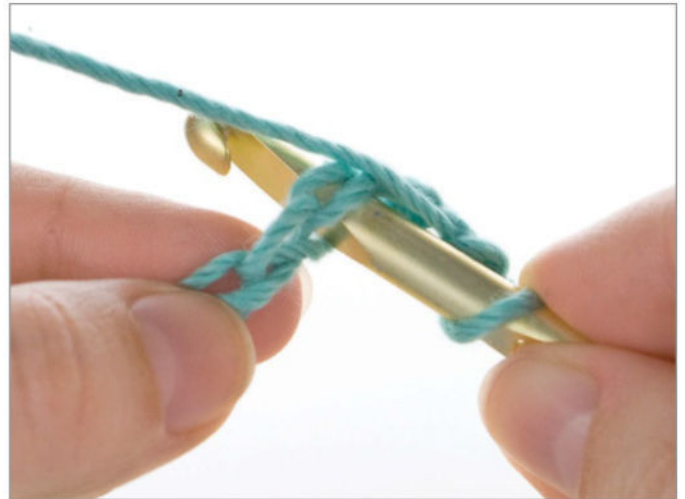
02 Insert hook
Here, the hook is inserted under the top loop and the back bump.

Under the Back Bump
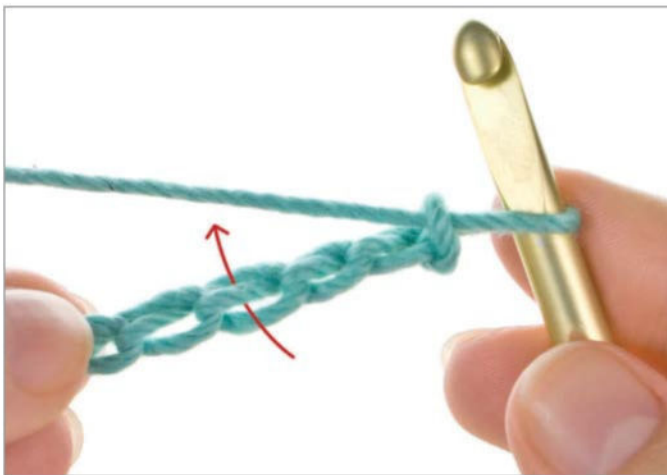
01 Turn over the chain
In this method, you turn over the chain and insert your hook under the back bump of each chain.

02 Into back bump
Here, the chain has been turned over and the hook is inserted under the back bump.

Which should you use? Working into the top loop only is the easiest method for beginners, and the way the stitches in this book are made unless otherwise noted, but it makes a loose edge with large holes. After you've gained some confidence with making crochet stitches, I recommend working into the back bumps of the chain (unless a pattern specifies otherwise) because it makes a strong, neat edge.

Working into subsequent rows

In order to get your projects off the ground, you'll need to master working the rows after the intital chain, here's how

Standard crochet stitches are worked from right to left, so when you reach the end of a row, you turn your work so you can work from right to left across the top of the row you just completed.

You make a turning chain to bring your hook and yarn up to the height of the next row before turning your work. The number of stitches in your turning chain depends on the stitches you're making, single crochets require one chain, double two, etc.

back loop
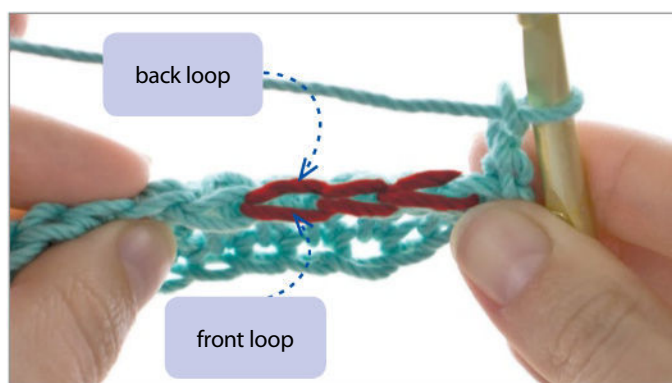
front loop

After turning your work, look at the top of the row. Each stitch looks like a sideways V, similar to the front of a chain stitch. Each V is made of two loops: the front loop and the back loop.

front loop is prominent

back loop is hidden
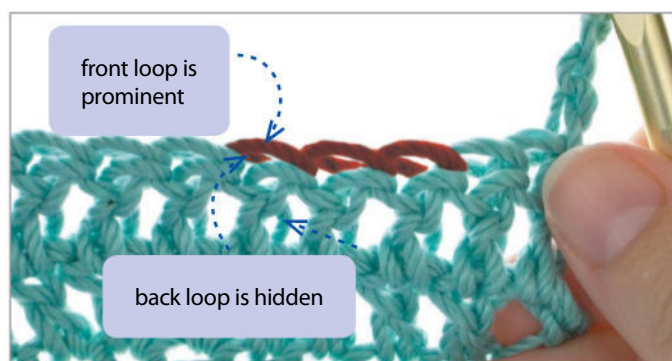
Tilt your work forward so you can clearly see the Vs along the top of the row. If you look straight at your work from the front, you only see the front loops of the stitches because the back loops are lower and farther back.

Top tip

If a pattern doesn't specify which loop(s) to work into, insert your hook under both loops of the stitch below. If you work into only one loop, the unworked loops form a horizontal ridge along the base of every row.

Under the Front and Back Loops
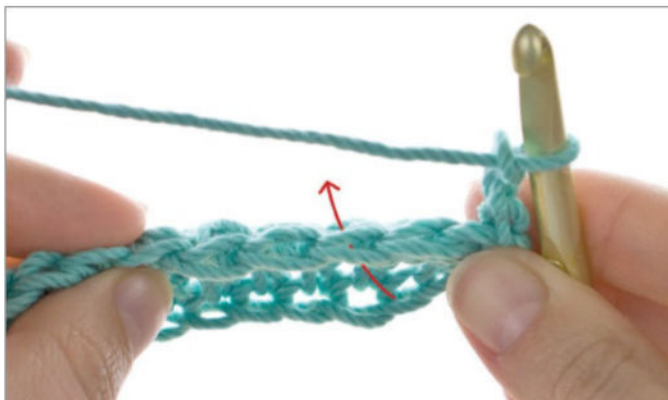
Unless otherwise specified in a pattern, the standard way to work into a crochet stitch is by inserting your hook under both the front and back loops of the stitch in the previous row.

Here, the hook is inserted under both the front and back loops.

Under the Front Loops Only
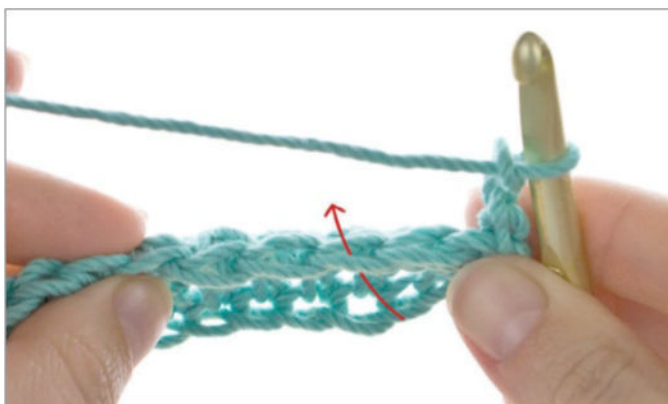
If a pattern specifies that your stitches are worked in front loops only, insert your hook under just the front loop.

Here, the hook is inserted into only the front loop of the stitch.

Under the Back Loops Only
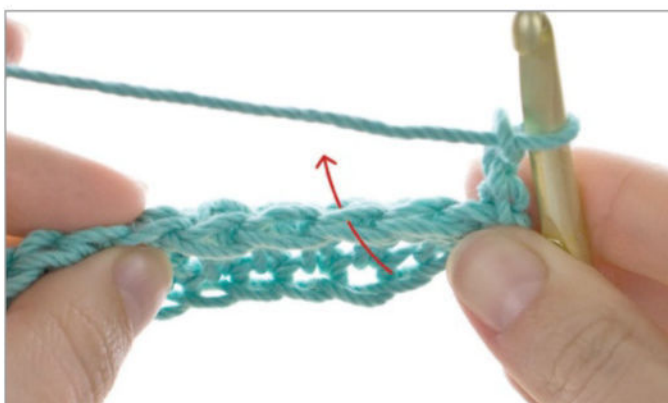
If a pattern specifies that your stitches are worked in back loops only, insert your hook under just the back loop.

Here, the hook is inserted into only the back loop of the stitch.

Getting started

Single crochet

Single crochet (abbreviated sc) is the most basic crochet stitch and is the easiest to learn
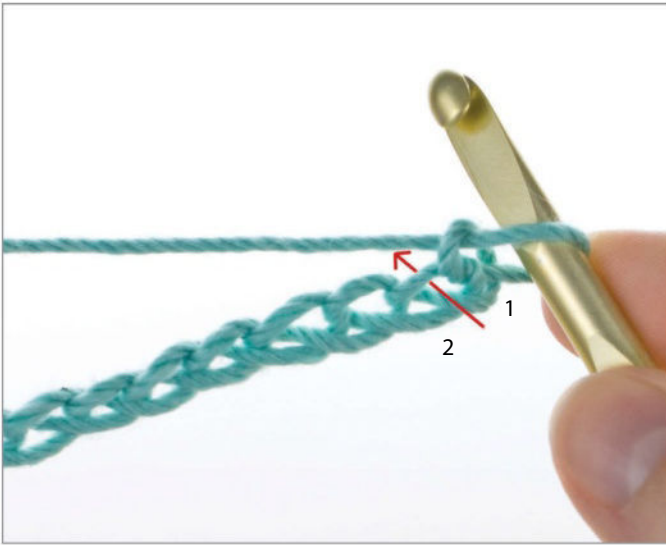
01 Foundation chain
Make a foundation chain of the required number of stitches, plus 1.
Identify the second chain from your hook.

02 Second chain over
Insert your hook into the second chain from your hook, and yarn over.

03 Draw up a loop
Draw up a loop. This leaves you with 2 loops on your hook.
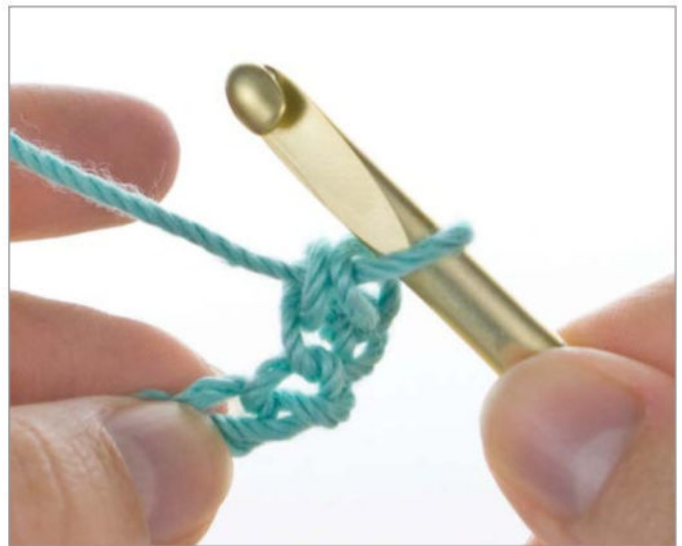
04 Through both loops
Yarn over, and draw the yarn through both loops on the hook to complete the stitch. This leaves you with 1 loop on your hook.

05 First row complete
Complete the first row of single crochet stitches by repeating steps 2 through 4 into each remaining chain. At the end of the row, chain 1.

first chain
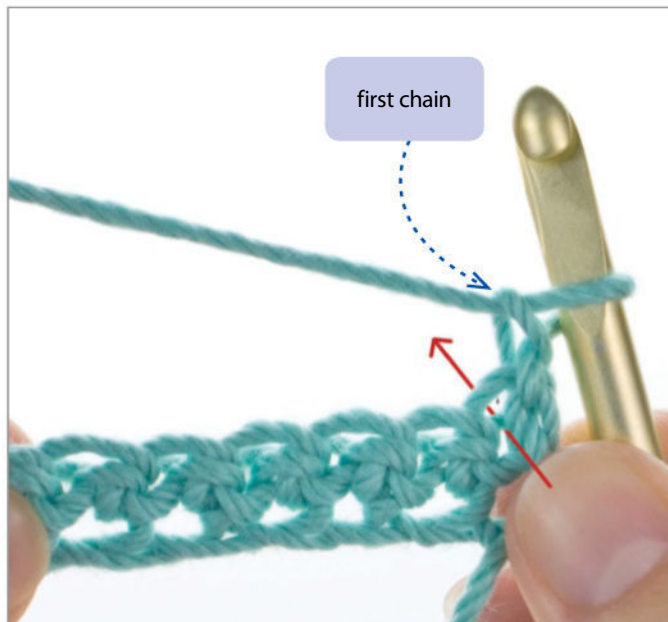
06 Turn
Turn your work, and identify the first stitch of the row.

07 Insert hook
Insert your hook under both loops of the stitch, and yarn over.

08 Repeat
Repeat steps 3 and 4 to complete the stitch.

At the end of each row of sc, remember that the turning chain does not count as a stitch. Don't stitch into it, or your work will get 1 stitch wider with every row.

Double crochet

Double crochet (abbreviated dc) is another common stitch. It's double the height of the single crochet stitch
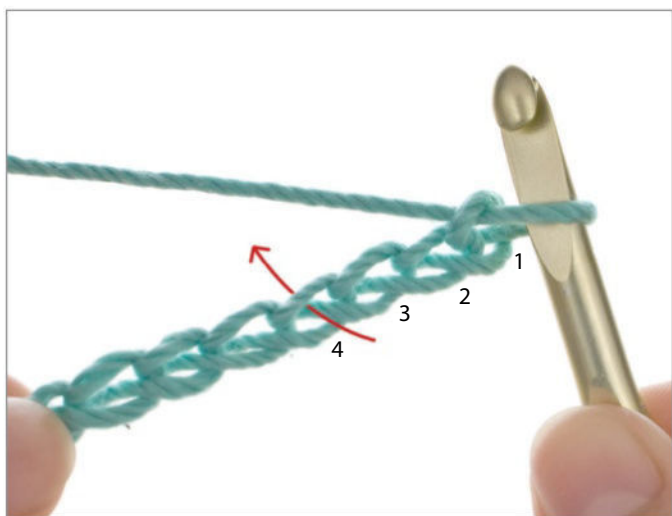
01 Foundation chain
Make a foundation chain of the required number of stitches, plus 2. Identify the fourth chain from your hook.

02 Yarn over
Yarn over, and insert your hook into the fourth chain from the hook.
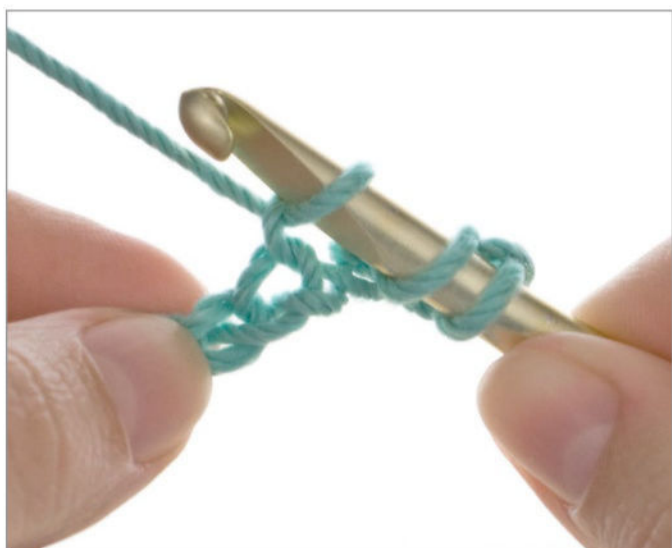
03 Yarn over and draw up
Yarn over, and draw up a loop. This leaves you with 3 loops on your hook.

04 Two loops
Yarn over, and draw the yarn through 2 loops on the hook. This leaves you with 2 loops on your hook.

05 Yarn over

Yarn over, and draw the yarn through both loops on the hook to complete the stitch. This leaves you with 1 loop on your hook.

06 Repeat until finish

Complete the first row of double crochet stitches by repeating steps 2 through 5 into each remaining chain. At the end of the row, chain 3.
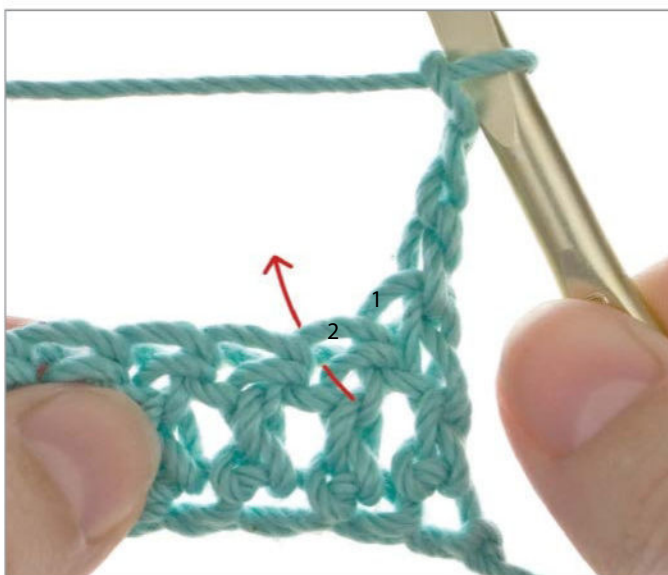
07 Turn

Turn your work, and identify the second stitch of the row. Remember, the turning chain counts as the first stitch, so don't work into that stitch.

08 Work back down the row

Yarn over, and insert your hook under both loops of the stitch. Repeat steps 3 through 5 to complete the stitch.

- -

At the end of each row of dc, remember that the turning chain from the row below counts as a stitch. You must make the last dc stitch into the top of the turning chain, or your work will get 1 stitch narrower with every row.

- -

Half double crochet

Half double crochet (abbreviated hdc) is halfway between the two most common stitches – single crochet and double crochet – in height
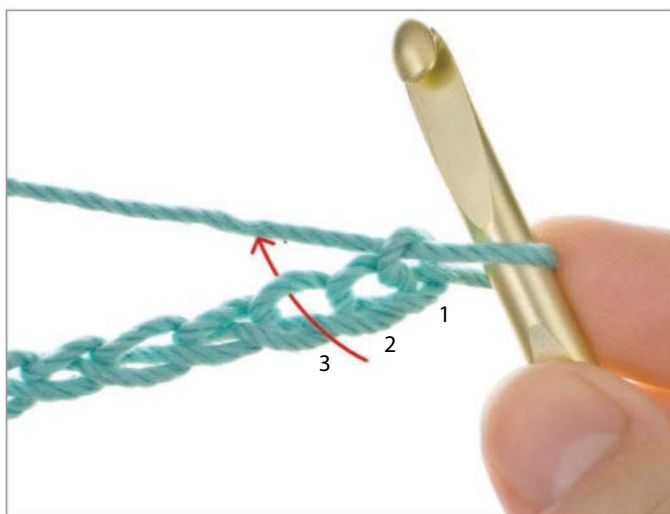
01 Foundation chain
Make a foundation chain of the required number of stitches, plus 2. Identify the third chain from your hook.
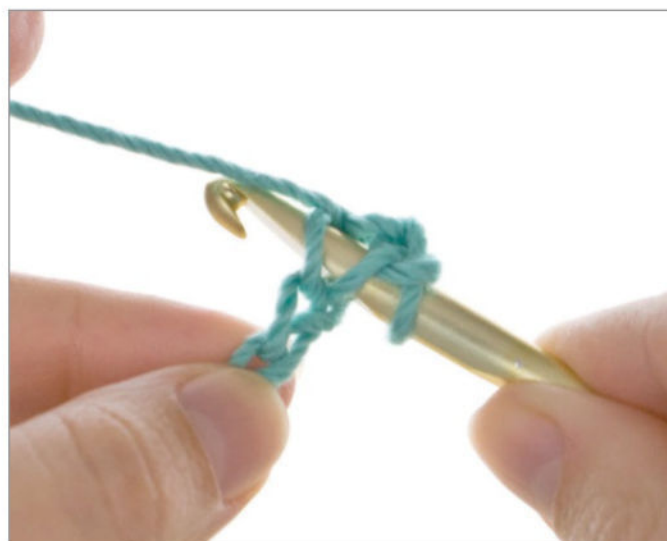
02 Yarn over
Yarn over, and insert your hook into the third chain from your hook.
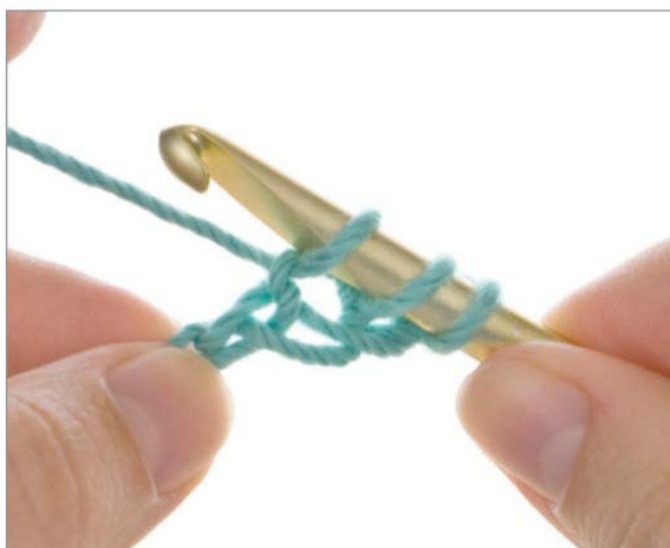
03 Three loops
Yarn over, and draw up a loop. This leaves you with 3 loops on your hook.

04 Pull through
Yarn over, and draw the yarn through all 3 loops on the hook to complete the stitch. This leaves you with 1 loop on your hook.

05 Complete row

Complete the first row of half double crochet stitches by repeating steps 2 through 4 into each remaining chain. At the end of the row, chain 2.
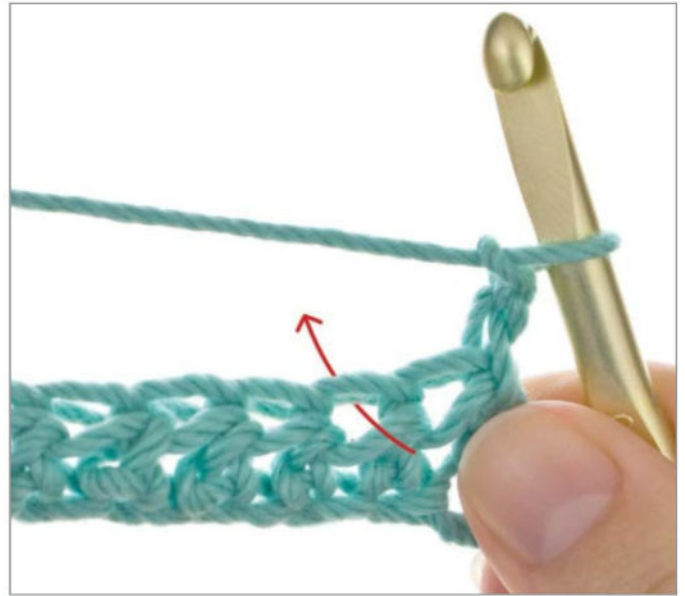
06 Turn

Turn your work, and identify the second stitch of the row. The turning chain counts as the first stitch, so don't work into that stitch.

07 Yarn over

Yarn over, and insert your hook under both loops of the stitch.

08 Repeat

Repeat steps 3 and 4 to complete the stitch.

At the end of each row of hdc, remember that the turning chain from the row below counts as a stitch. You must make the last hdc stitch into the top of the turning chain or your work will get 1 stitch narrower with every row. The turning chain is particularly easy to miss with hdc stitches, so pay close attention at the end of each row.

Getting started

Triple (treble) crochet

Triple crochet (abbreviated tr) is also commonly referred to as treble crochet. This stitch is the tallest of the basic stitches, at about 3 times as tall as a single crochet
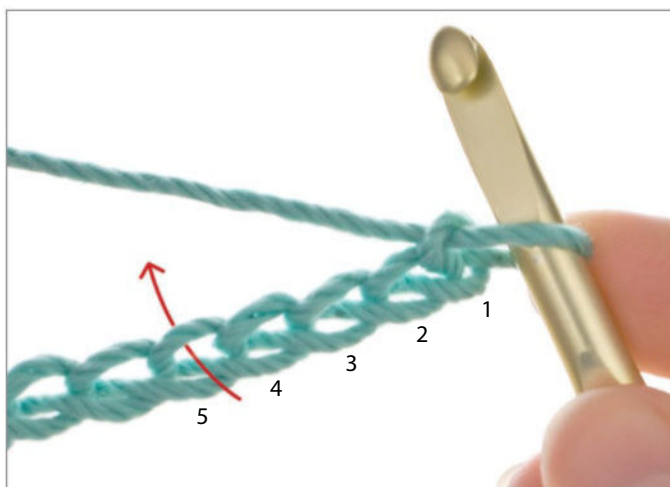
01 Foundation chain
Make a foundation chain of the required number of stitches, plus 3. Identify the fifth chain from your hook. The first 4 chains count as your first stitch.
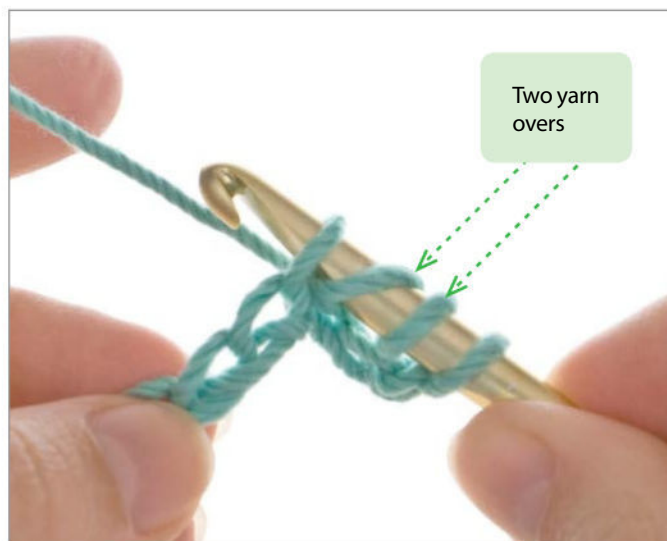
Two yarn overs

02 Twice over
Yarn over twice, and insert your hook into the fifth chain from your hook.

03 Four loops
Yarn over, and draw up a loop. This leaves you with 4 loops on your hook.
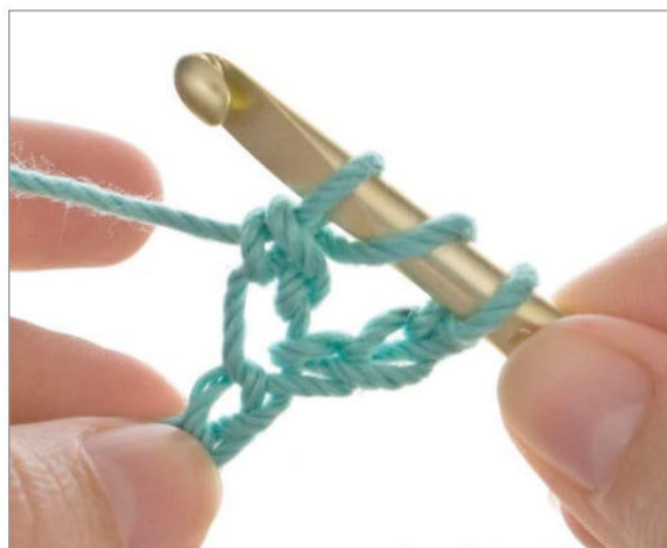
04 Pull through two
Yarn over, and draw the yarn through 2 loops on the hook. This leaves you with 3 loops on your hook.

05 And again
Yarn over, and draw the yarn through 2 loops on the hook. This leaves you with 2 loops on your hook.

06 And again
Yarn over, and draw the yarn through both loops on the hook to complete the stitch. This leaves you with 1 loop on your hook.
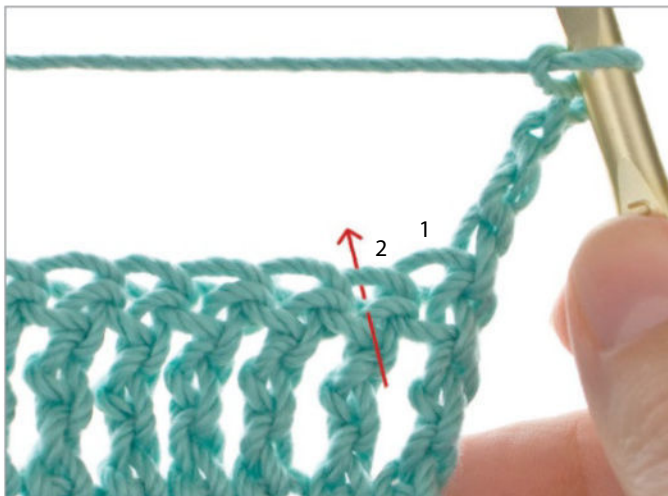
07 To the end
Complete the first row of triple (treble) crochet stitches by repeating steps 2 through 6 into each remaining chain. At the end of the row, chain 4, turn your work, and identify the second stitch of the row. The turning chain counts as the first stitch, so don't work into that stitch.

08 Rinse and repeat
Yarn over twice, and insert your hook under both loops of the stitch. Repeat steps 3 through 6 to complete the stitch.

At the end of each row of tr, remember that the turning chain from the row below counts as a stitch. You must make the last tr stitch into the top of the turning chain or your work will get 1 stitch narrower with every row.

Turning chains

Before you start crocheting subsequent rows beyond your foundation row, you need to make a chain to get your hook and yarn up to the height of the next row. This chain is known as a turning chain, even in cases where you don't actually turn your work

Turning Chain Height

The height of the turning chain you need depends on the height of the stitch you're making in the upcoming row. The length of the turning chain depends on how loosely or tightly you make the chain stitches. You might find that – especially for the taller stitches – you need one fewer chain than specified. If your turning chains bulge out at the edges of your project, try using one fewer chain to see if that gives you a neater edge. If your turning chains pull your work together at the edges, try using one extra chain to see if that helps straighten the edge.

The following table gives you standard turning chain lengths for the basic stitches

| tr | dc | hdc | sc |
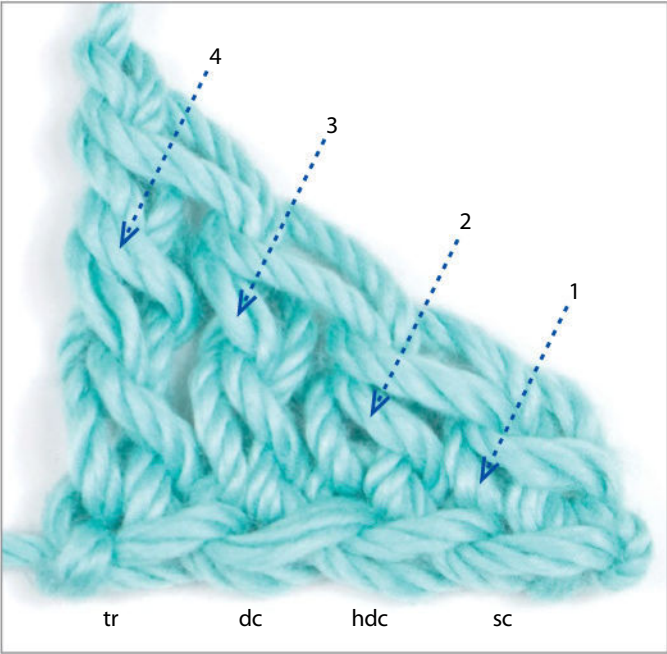
Stitch	Number of Turning Chains
Single crochet (sc)	1
Half double crochet (hdc)	2
Double crochet (dc)	3
Triple (treble) crochet (tr)	4

The Final Stitch

Typically, the turning chain for a single crochet does not count as a stitch. However, the turning chain for any taller stitches is used in place of the first stitch of the next row.

If you're following a pattern, it will advise whether the turning chain does or does not count as a stitch. If it does count, you'll skip the stitch below the chain and make your next stitch into the following stitch. If it does not count, you'll make your first stitch into the final stitch of the previous row, at the base of the chain.

Where the turning chain replaces a stitch, it's vital that you remember to work a stitch into the top of the turning chain at the end of the next row.
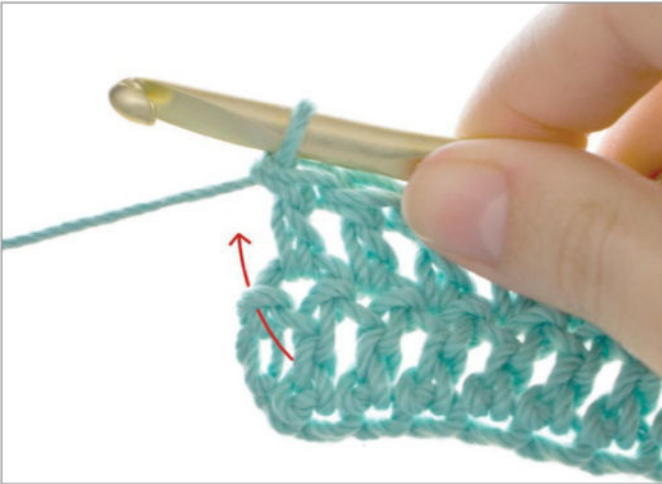
This row might look complete, but it's actually missing the final stitch, which is worked into the top of the turning chain from the row below.

Now the row is complete, with the final stitch at the top of the turning chain. Without this stitch, your work will get narrower with each subsequent row.

Top tip

Don't worry if you notice a larger gap at the start of each row, between the chain and the next stitch. This is normal. A chain is less bulky than the stitch it replaces, so it always leaves a slight space.

If you still find it difficult to tell where to make your final stitch, here's a technique you can try. You need two stitch markers, one for each end of your work.

top of turning chain with stitch marker
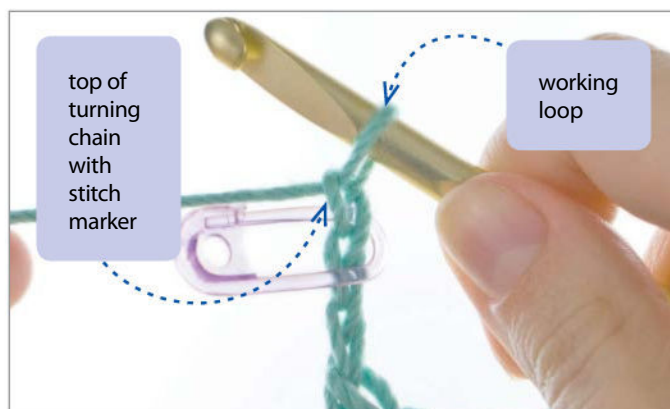
working loop

01 Put in your marker
Immediately after making each turning chain, slip a stitch marker into the last chain you made. This is the chain immediately below the working loop on the hook.

top of turning chain
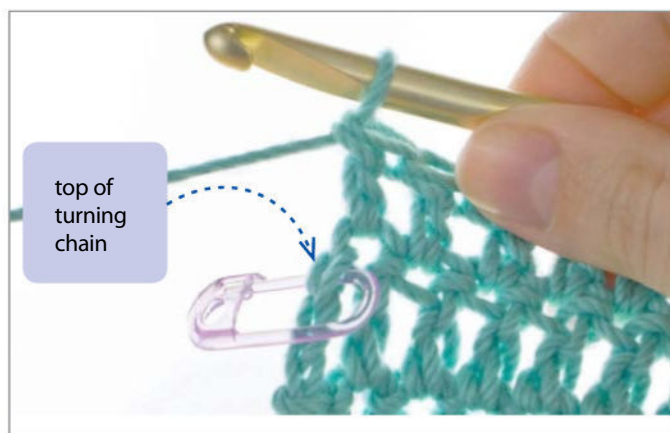
02 Final stitch
At the end of the next row, remove the marker from the top of the turning chain, and crochet the final stitch into that chain.

Turning Direction

At the end of a row, you can either turn your work clockwise or counterclockwise before you start the next row. The direction in which you turn the work twists the turning chain one way or the other.

It doesn't matter if you turn clockwise or counterclockwise, but be consistent in whichever direction you decide on to give your work a more uniform appearance. Also, you'll find it easier to recognize the top of your turning chain if it looks the same every time you need to work back into it.

You can try crocheting a small sample with a few rows turned clockwise and a few counterclockwise to see which way you prefer. (I find that turning counterclockwise gives me the cleanest result, but the choice is yours.) Then try to stick to that turning direction every time you turn your work in future.
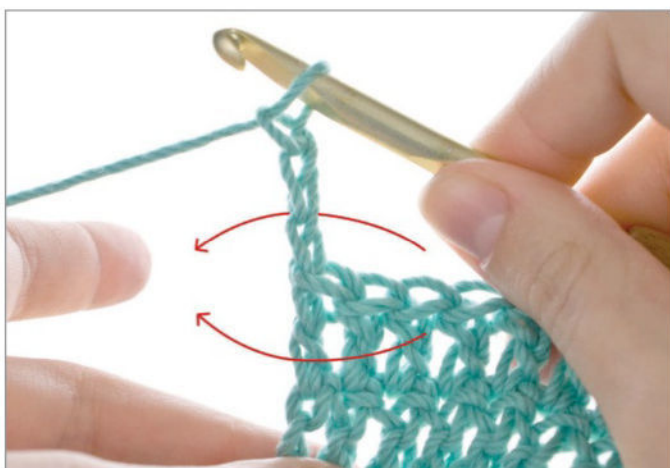
Slip stitch

Slip stitch (abbreviated sl st) is a stitch with practically no height. It's rarely used as the main stitch to form crocheted fabric. Instead, it's usually used to join stitches at the ends of rounds, connect two pieces, or move the hook and yarn to a new position without adding height
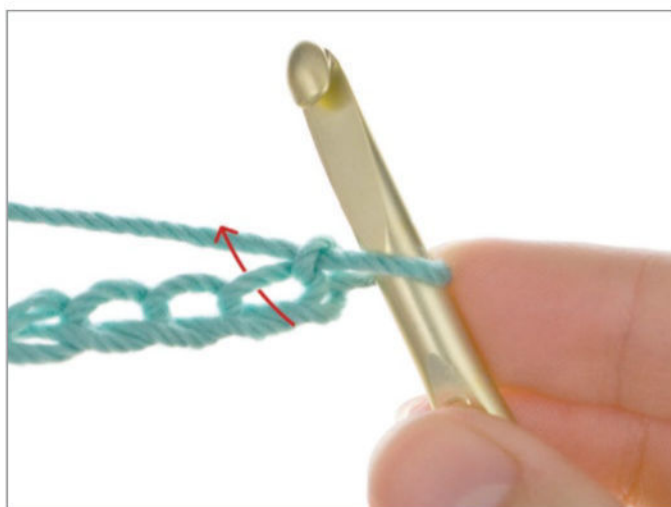
01 Foundation chain
Make a foundation chain of the required number of stitches, plus 1. Identify the second chain from your hook.

02 Into chain
Insert your hook into the second chain from the hook, and yarn over.
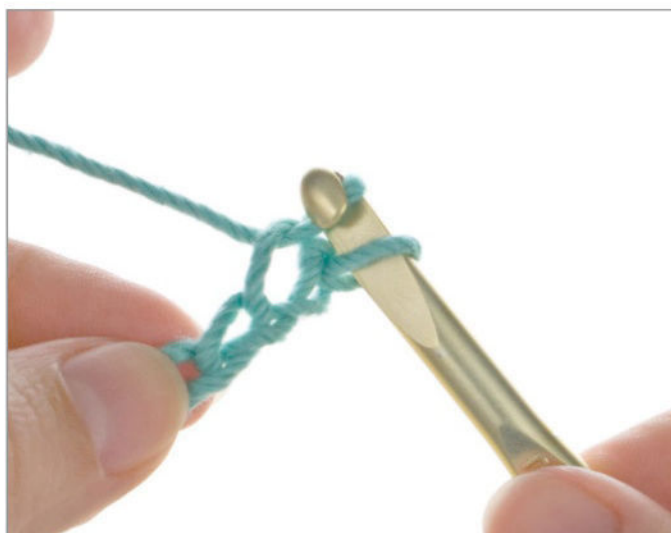
03 Pull up
Draw up a loop. This leaves you with 2 loops on your hook.

04 Don't yarn over
Do not yarn over, but continue to draw the yarn through the remaining loop on the hook to complete the stitch. This leaves you with 1 loop on your hook.

Complete the first row of slip stitches by repeating steps 2 through 4 into each remaining chain Although you won't usually work more than one row of slip stitches, here's how to continue if you want to go on to a second row:

05 Turn clockwise
At the end of the row, turn your work clockwise so the working yarn ends up at the back.

07 Front or back
Slip stitch crochet is usually worked into the front or back loop only, so insert your hook under the loop(s) of the stitch as instructed in your pattern, and yarn over.

With practice, you might be able to complete steps 3 and 4 in one fluid motion. As you learn, however, pausing between the steps helps keep your slip stitches from becoming too tight.

Working yarn
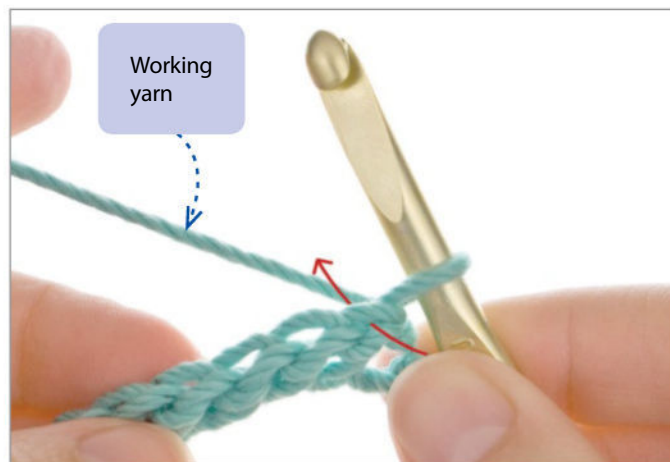
06 First stitch
Identify the first stitch of the row.

08 Repeat
Repeat steps 3 and 4 to complete the stitch.

As with the chain stitch, you form the slip stitch from a single loop of yarn. This means that as you make the next stitch, you pull on the stitch you've just completed, and it shrinks. If you need to work back into your slip stitches, keep your tension very relaxed as you crochet them so they stay loose.

Fixing mistakes

If, as you're stitching, you realize you've made a mistake, it's easy to unravel your stitches back to the point before you went wrong. This is known as ripping back or frogging

01 Remove hook
Remove your hook from the working loop, and take hold of the working yarn.

02 Pull
Pull the yarn, and your stitches will unravel one at a time.

03 Keep going
Continue to pull out your stitches until you reach a point before you made the mistake.

04 Start again
Then, to start stitching again, insert your hook into the loop that remains at the end of the previous stitch.

Depending on how many stitches you need to remove to correct your error, you can either carefully count the stitches you unravel so you know where to resume, or you can undo the entire current row, up to and including the turning chain, and start again from scratch.

Fastening off

Prevent your work from accidentally unravelling by fastening off securely when you reach the end of your crocheting

01 Cut the yarn
Cut the working yarn, leaving a 6-inch (15cm) tail. Yarn over using the yarn tail.

02 Tail through last loop
Pull the tail through the last loop on your hook. Keep pulling until the cut end is drawn through to the top.
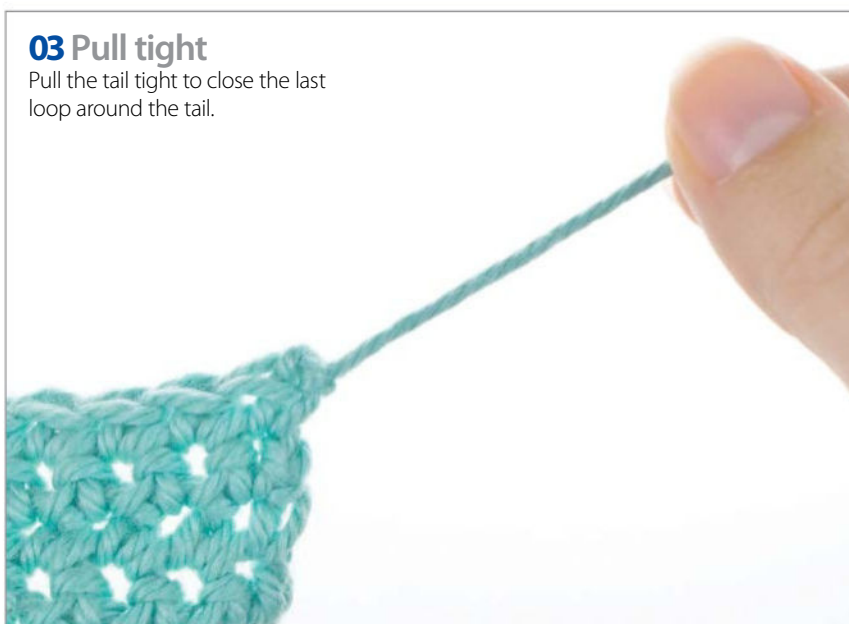
03 Pull tight
Pull the tail tight to close the last loop around the tail.

You want your yarn tail long enough to be able to weave the end in securely so it'll be hidden and won't be visible or pull free, and 6 inches (15cm) is plenty of yarn for that task. If you'll be stitching two pieces together, you can leave a longer tail to use later for seaming. Your pattern should specify if you need to leave an extra-long tail. If you forget to leave enough length for seaming, you can cut a new length of yarn to stitch with. You'll weave in more ends later.

Basic edging

To straighten the sides of your finished piece and make all the edges look the same, you can stitch a border of single crochet all around the edge

01 Into the stitch
Insert your hook into the stitch at the top-right edge of your piece, draw up a loop of the edging yarn, and ch 1. Starting with the same stitch, sc into each stitch along the top of your project.

02 Into the corner
When you reach the corner, make 3 sc into the corner stitch. This keeps the corner square and helps it lie flat.

To keep the edge flat, you'll make a different number of sc stitches into the edge of each row, depending on the height of the stitches in the row. For sc, work 1 sc into the side of each row. For dc, work 2 sc into the side of each row. For taller or shorter stitches, you'll have to adapt the number of stitches you make. Try to keep the spacing between your stitches as even as you can. If the edging looks wavy or ruffly, you have too many stitches so space your stitches farther apart or crochet the edging with a smaller hook. If your edging is pulling the surrounding fabric in, you have too few stitches so space your stitches closer together or crochet the edging with a larger hook.

03 Rotate

Rotate your work 90 degrees so you can crochet along the side of the piece. To prevent large gaps between the edging and the next stitch, insert your hook into the edge stitch (under 1 or 2 loops only), not around the entire stitch.

04 Do the same again

At the next corner, work 3 sc into the corner stitch, and rotate your work 90 degrees. Crochet along the bottom of your piece, making 1 stitch into the unworked loop(s) of each stitch of the foundation chain.

05 And again

At the corner, work 3 sc into the corner stitch, and rotate your work 90 degrees. Crochet as you did for the first side.

06 Join with a slipstitch

At the last corner, work 3 sc into the corner stitch, join with a sl st to the first stitch of the border, and fasten off.

For a neat finish, use the same color for the border as used for the rest of your project, or use a contrasting color to make the border stand out. If your piece has a distinct front and back, crochet the edging with the front (the right side) facing you. This edging can also be used as the base row for other, more decorative edgings.

Weaving in ends

During your projects you might find yourself with ends of yarns dangling free, it's easy to hide them and leave your work neat and tidy

When you've finished crocheting your project, you still have yarn tails dangling from where you started, ended, changed color, or joined new yarn. It's important to weave in these yarn ends carefully and securely so they don't unravel with use.

You want your end weaving to be as unobtrusive as possible, so if your project has a right and a wrong side where the wrong side won't be seen, such as with a hat or a sweater, for example, weave the ends in along the wrong side so they're invisible from the right side. For projects where both sides will be seen, such as with a scarf or a reversible blanket, take a little extra care to ensure your end weaving doesn't show on either side of the piece. If your piece has more than one color, weave each end through stitches of the same color.

Sewing in Ends

01 Thread onto needle
Thread the tail onto a yarn needle, and insert the needle through several stitches. It doesn't matter which direction you choose, but find a path that keeps the needle passing through the middle of your stitches without emerging.

To avoid adding bulk, don't weave through the same stitches twice
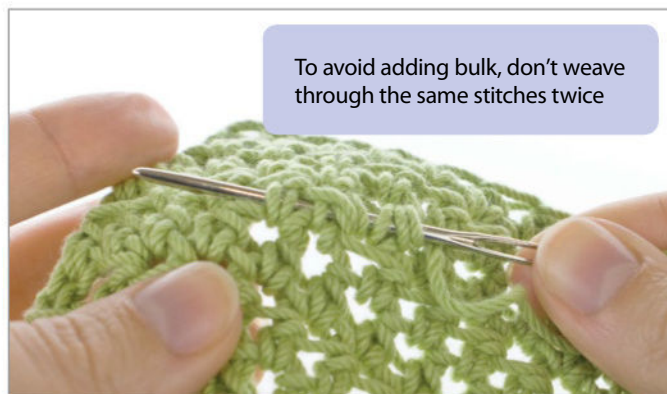
02 Weave securely
To weave the end in securely, change direction after a couple inches, and weave back for another inch or so in the opposite direction.

03 Pull on fabric
When the tail is securely woven in, pull on the fabric in several directions to be sure the tail won't distort the fabric when it's stretched.

04 Trim
With a pair of sharp scissors, trim off the remaining tail close to your work. Stretch the piece again until any remaining tail is hidden inside the last stitch you wove it through.

If your yarn is slippery – common with silk, rayon, or bamboo fiber yarns – the ends are more likely to work loose over time. To prevent this, leave extra-long yarn tails – 8 inches (20cm) should be plenty – and weave them in different directions. If necessary, you can tack the ends to surrounding stitches with matching sewing thread or use a tiny dab of fabric glue. Do a test to be sure you're satisfied with the look and feel of the end result before using them on your project.

Crocheting Over the Ends

Sometimes you can avoid weaving in ends altogether by crocheting over them. This works especially well with motifs where you're changing color with every round or on larger projects where you will end up with lots of ends.
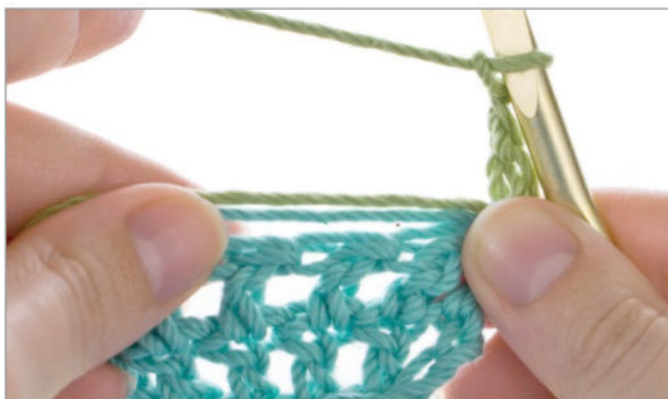
01 Hold the yarn
When you start a new yarn or change color, hold the yarn tails along the top of the stitches you'll be working into.

When you've crocheted over sufficient stitches, trim off the remaining yarn from the tails. Or for added security, weave the ends

02 Merge them in
As you crochet, work around the tails so your stitches encase them.

back through a few stitches in the opposite direction before you trim them.

Weaving in Too-Short Ends

You should always leave a yarn tail of at least 6 inches (15cm) when you start crocheting and whenever you join new yarn or fasten off so you have sufficient length to weave in the ends properly. If you've accidentally cut a yarn tail too short to weave in, however, don't despair.

01 Needle through the path
Insert the yarn needle along the path of your end weaving before you thread the needle.

02 Thread needle
When the eye of the needle is close to the short tail, thread the tail onto the needle and draw it through the stitches.

The next step

Learn the more advanced techniques

"Unlike the foundation chain ring, no hole is left in the middle of your starting round when you use a magic ring"

Joining new yarn

Larger crochet projects such as blankets, shawls, and garments usually require more than one ball of yarn. When you reach the end of one ball, you need to join a new one

The easiest place to join new yarn is at the end of a row. If the item will be seamed or edged, you can hide the yarn ends in the seam or border. If you're running short of yarn and need to add the next ball, try to judge when to stop so you don't run out of yarn partway through a row. (I'm using a different color of yarn in these examples for clarity.) To join new yarn:

01 In the last stitch
Begin the last stitch of the old yarn, but stop before you reach the final step (yarn over and draw through all the remaining loops on the hook).

02 Leave a tail
Leaving a 6-inch (15cm) starting tail on the new yarn, yarn over with the new yarn and draw it through the loops on your hook to complete the stitch.

Weave these ends in later

Tying knots is unnecessary if you weave your ends in securely. If you find it difficult to switch to the new yarn and keep crocheting while the yarn ends are dangling free, tie the ends together in a simple knot until you've worked past them and then untie the knot before you weave in the ends.

03 Drop it
Drop the old yarn, and continue crocheting with the new yarn. You can go back later and weave in both yarn ends.

The next step

Russian Join

An alternative way to join yarn at any point in the row without any wastage is by using a Russian join. With this method, you splice the ends of the old and new balls together. To do this:
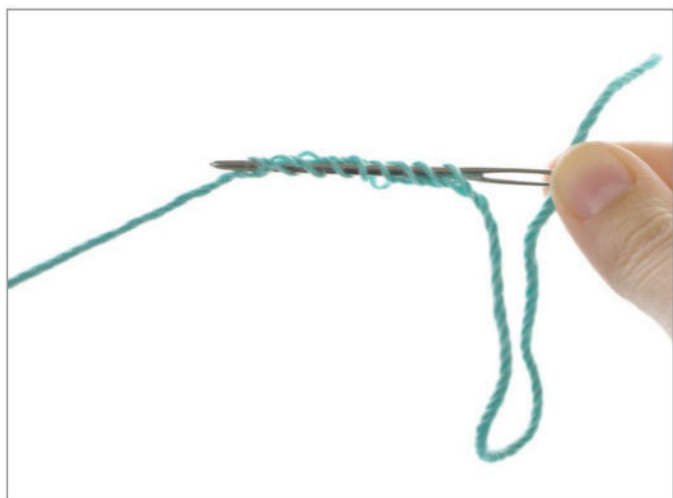
01 Onto a needle
Thread the end of the working yarn onto a yarn needle. Starting about 3 inches (7.5cm) down the working yarn, insert a yarn needle into the yarn strand by picking up some of the plies of the yarn with the needle and leaving others. (This is easier if you untwist the plies of the yarn a bit.)
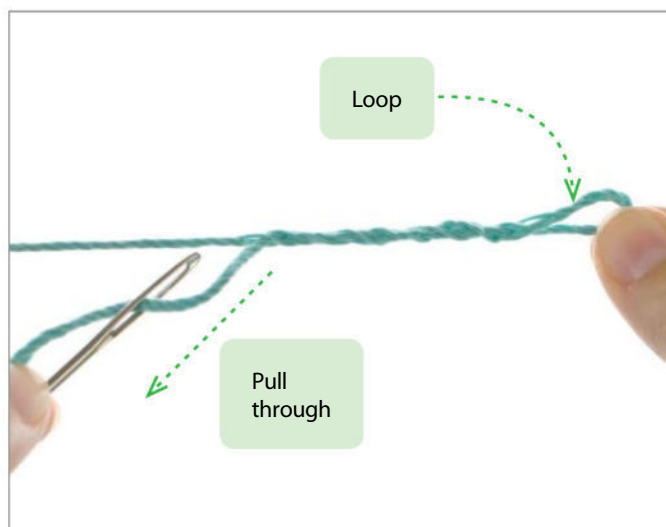
Loop

Pull through

02 Pull through
When you've worked the needle through about 2 inches (5cm) of yarn, carefully pull the needle and tail through the yarn strand so the yarn is woven back through itself, leaving a small loop. Remove the needle.

Pass new yarn through loop

03 Thread on new yarn
Thread the new yarn onto the needle, and pass it through the loop. Insert the needle into the new yarn strand, about 3 inches (7.5cm) down toward the ball of yarn, as you did for the first strand. Pull the needle through to weave the yarn back through itself, leaving you with another loop linked through the first.

Seamless join
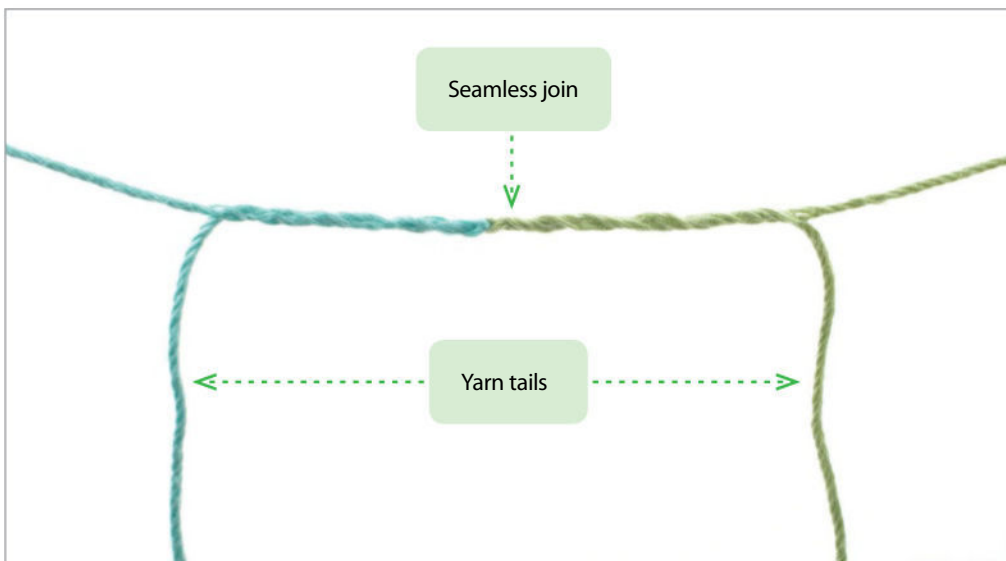
Yarn tails

04 Pull the tails

Pull each yarn tail in turn to shrink each loop. When both loops are closed, you have one joined strand of yarn, with each yarn end woven back into itself. The joined section will be slightly bulkier than the rest of the yarn but smooth and very strong.

You can trim the remaining tails now or ignore them as you crochet with the joined yarn, letting them drop to the back of your work. After you've crocheted the join into your fabric, you can snip off the tails without weaving them in any further because the yarn has already been woven into itself.

"Pull the needle through to weave the yarn back through itself"

Changing colors

Changing colors of yarn in a project can be confusing. The way crochet patterns are written, it's easy to think you complete one stitch in the old color and then change color to begin the next stitch in the new color. But that's not actually the case

Doing it this way leaves a large dot of the old color visible within the new color. Instead, here's how to make a clean color change:

01 Begin with old
Begin the last stitch in the old color, but stop before you reach the final step (yarn over and draw through all the remaining loops on the hook).
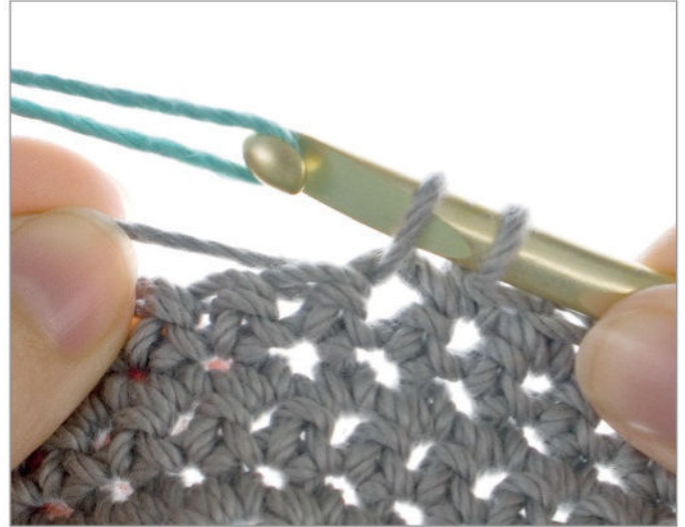
02 Join the new
Leaving a 6-inch (15cm) starting tail of the new color of yarn, yarn over with the new yarn.

When you need to change colors, watch for the approaching color change, and complete the last step of the stitch before the color change with the new color. This is such a universal rule, most patterns won't mention it.

The new color is now on the hook

03 New through the loops
Draw the new yarn through the loops on your hook to complete the stitch with the new color.

04 Drop the old
Drop the old yarn to the back, and continue crocheting with the new yarn. You can go back later and weave in both yarn ends.

The next step

Carrying Yarn

If you're switching between two or more colors, weaving in two ends every time you change color can be a lot of work. Instead, you can often carry the unused strand along until you need it again and then switch back without cutting the yarn. You can do this in one of several ways:

Carried strands along the edge
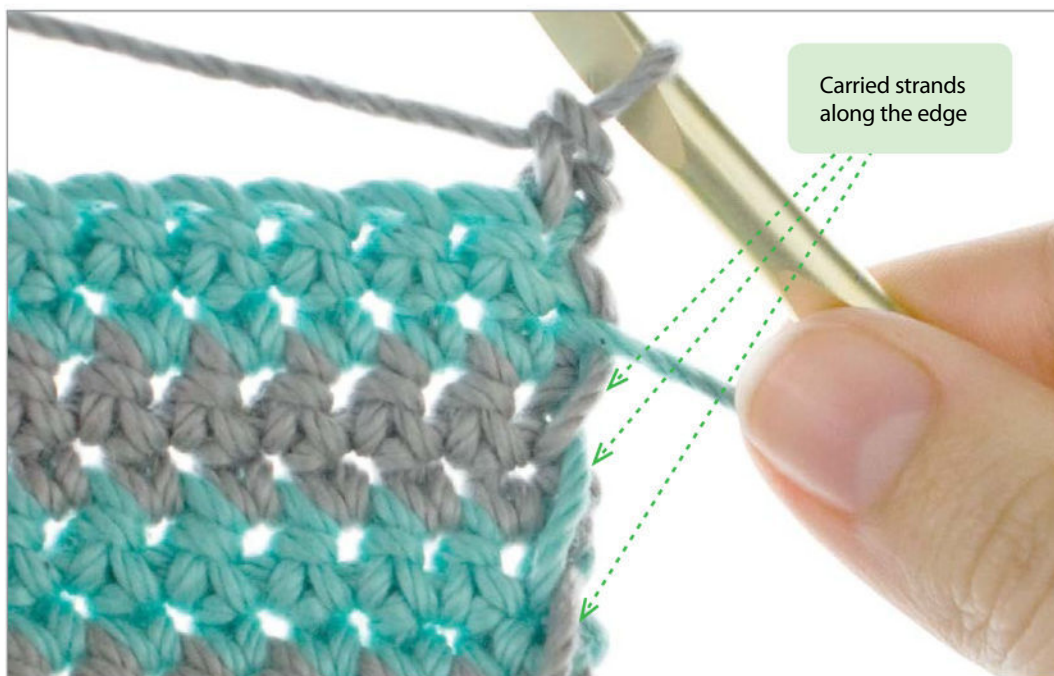
If you're working in stripes, you can leave the unworked yarn hanging at the end of the row after you change color. When you get back to that end, pick up the yarn and carry it loosely up along the edge of your work to the new row. After you finish, you could add a crocheted border to cover the carried yarn strands.

Crochet over the carried yarn with each stitch
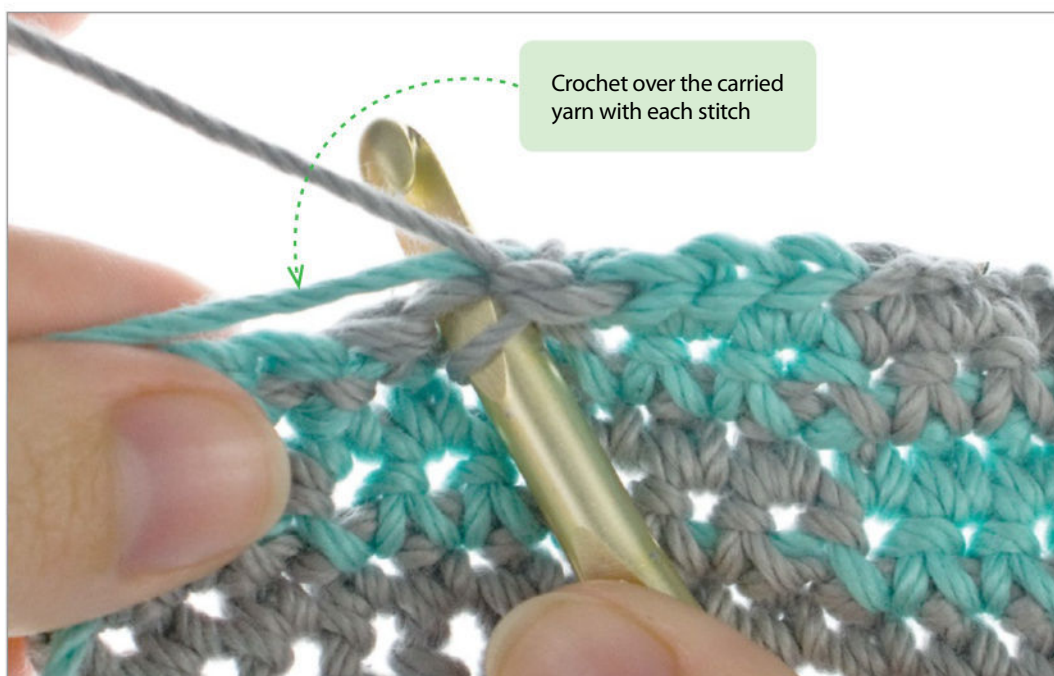
If you're swapping between two (or more) colors, you can lay the unused color across the top of the row and crochet over it to enclose the carried yarn inside your stitches until you need it again. Working over the carried yarn leaves both sides of the work looking tidy, so it's useful if you're making a reversible fabric.

Whenever you carry strands of yarn, the floating strands should lie flat along the surface of the fabric but be loose enough that they don't pull or pucker your fabric.

the floats aren't visible from the right side
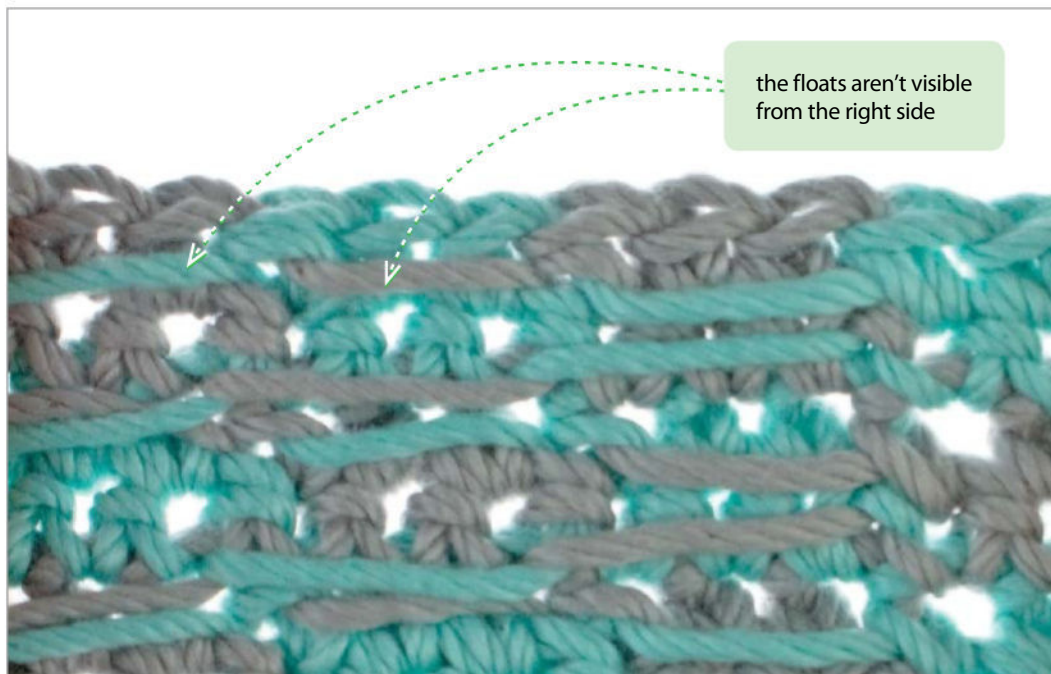
If the back of your work won't be seen, you can carry the unused color(s) loosely along the wrong side of your work. This is called stranding, and it works best if the floats of yarn (the strands running along the back of the work) are only a few stitches long. If your floats are longer, you can either cut them and weave in the ends, or work over the float every few stitches to prevent a long, loose loop of yarn from forming on the wrong side.
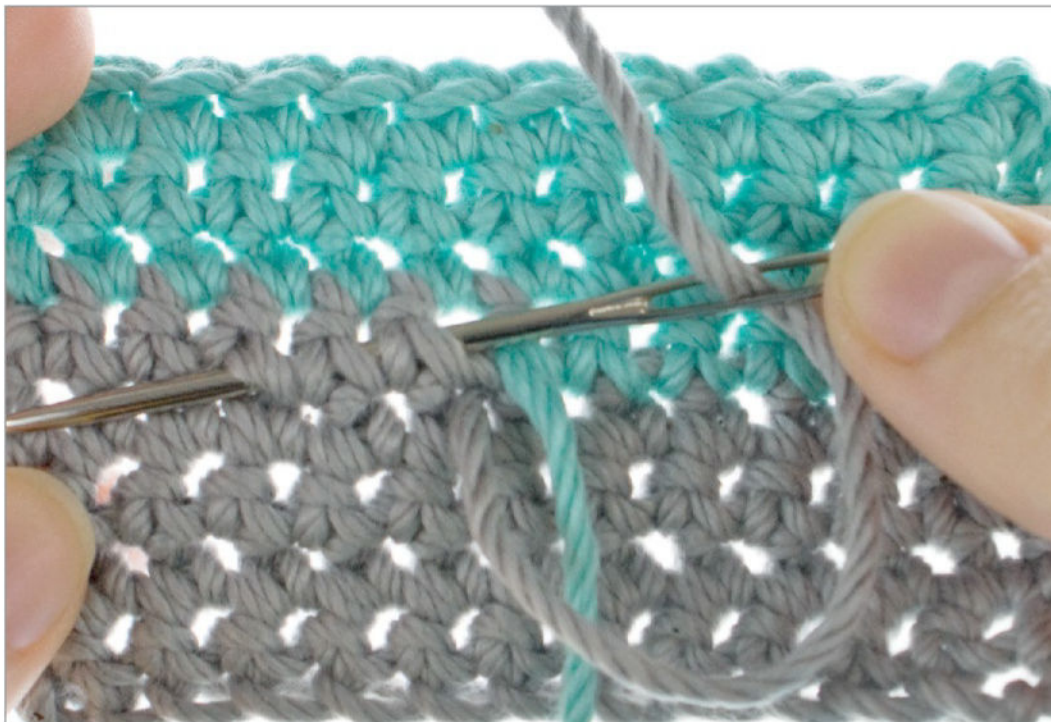
If you're only changing color occasionally, or with a long span of one color, it's usually easiest to cut the yarn at every color change and weave in the ends. For the cleanest results, weave each yarn end into stitches of the same color.

Reading charted stitch diagrams

A charted stitch diagram gives you a way to visualize a crochet pattern. The overall diagram looks similar to how your finished piece will look, with each stitch represented by a symbol

Charts can complement – or in some cases even replace – a written pattern and are especially useful with lacy and motif-based patterns. They make it easier to understand where to insert your hook for the next stitch, and you can see an overview of how the stitch pattern will come together before you even start crocheting.

Standard Stitch Symbols

The following table gives you the symbols for some commonly used stitches and techniques. These basic stitch symbols show the relationship of the stitches to each other: the double crochet symbol is twice as tall as the single crochet, and the half double is midway in height between the two, just as with the real stitches. The taller stitches are crossed by short horizontal bars that represent the number of yarn overs you make to begin the stitch.

Symbol	Stitch
⬭	ch
⬭ or •	sl st
✕ or ✚	sc
⊤	hdc
⊥	dc
⊥	tr
○	magic ring

Variable Stitch Symbols

Combination stitches such as shells, clusters, bobbles, puffs, popcorns, and picots can be worked in different ways, and the symbol is modified to reflect the specific components that form the stitch. The symbol shows which basic stitch to use and how many are combined to form the stitch.

Symbol	Stitch
⋀	sc2tog decrease
⋀	dc3tog cluster/decrease
⋀	5-tr shell
⬯	4-dc bobble
⬯	3-hdc puff
⬯	4-dc popcorn
⊗	ch-3 picot (closed)
⊖	ch-3 picot (open)

Before you sew any seam, line up the knitted pieces to be joined along the entire length of the join. If you want, use safety pins to loosely hold the pieces in place.

Modified Stitch Symbols

When you work a stitch into front or back loop or around the front or back post of the stitch below, the stitch symbol is modified to reflect that. Post stitches use a hook at the bottom of the stitch to show that you work around the stitch below. Back- or front-loop-only stitches include a curved symbol below the stitch that represents the loop you work into. Foundation stitches show the stitch joined to the chain below. And for crossed stitches, the stitch that sits behind the other stitch is shown fainter than the stitch in front.

Symbol	Stitch
	FPdc
	BPdc
	sc in back loop only
	sc in front loop only
	foundation sc
	crossed dcs

Reading a Chart

A charted stitch diagram shows the stitches of the crocheted fabric as seen from the right side. Each stitch is pictured above the stitch or space you should crochet it into. If you're working in rows, start with the foundation at the bottom of the chart, move up to Row 1, and follow the stitches from right to left across the row. When you turn your work, move up to Row 2 and follow the stitches from left to right across the row (although you'll still be crocheting from right to left, as always).If you're working in rounds, start from the central ring, and follow the stitches counterclockwise around the ring. Keep following the stitches counterclockwise for every round, unless the start of a round indicates with an arrow that you should change direction. In this case, turn your work and follow the stitches clockwise around the diagram.

The number at the start of each row corresponds to the row number in the written pattern. This helps you keep your place and shows you clearly where to go next. Alternating rows are usually shown in different colors to help you distinguish the stitches of one row from those of the next. Arrows are sometimes used to indicate start and end points or the direction you should follow on the chart.

Although a chart can show a whole small pattern, charts for larger pieces usually show a reduced sample that demonstrates how the repeating stitch pattern fits together. When you're crocheting the pattern, you duplicate the repeating section across the entire row.

When you start reading charts, try comparing the diagram with the written pattern and using one as a backup for the other. If something isn't clear to you in the chart, check it against the text, and vice versa. When you get the hang of reading stitch diagrams, you might not need to follow the text at all, although the written pattern will include additional details you'll need, such as the number of repeats to make and finishing instructions.
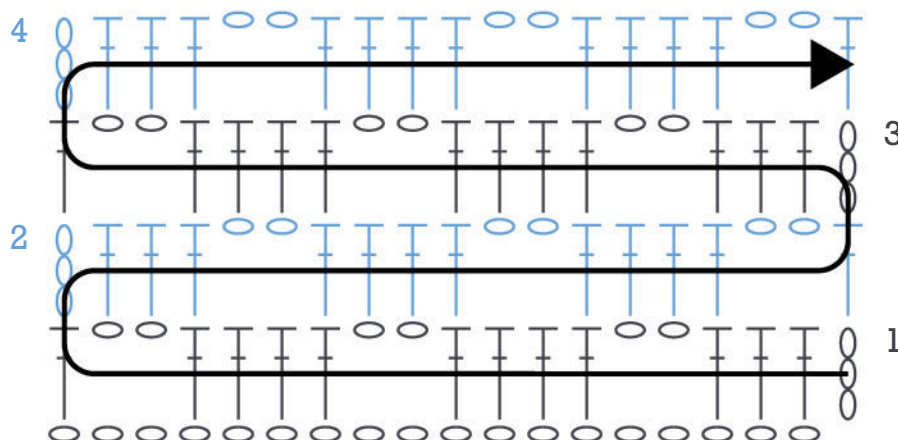
Increasing

Increasing the number of stitches in a row or round is easy: to add a stitch, you simply work 2 stitches into the same stitch

Increasing is written as the number of stitches you will make into that stitch, presented as such "2 dc in next st" or "3 sc in next st".

Here's how to make a double crochet increase (2 dc in next st):

work back into this same stitch to complete the increase
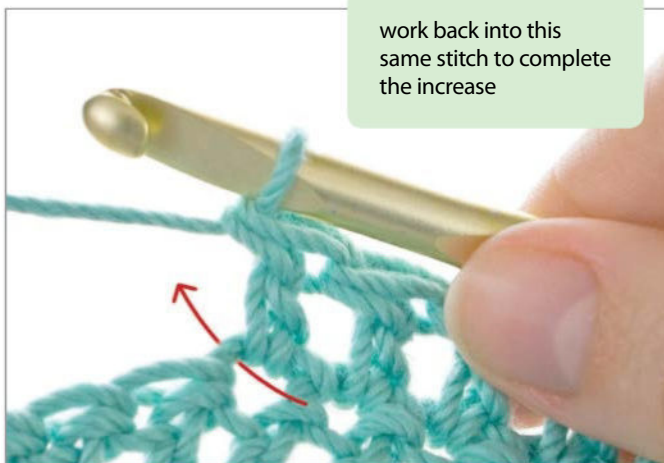
01 Double crochet
Make a dc in the next stitch.

02 Into the same place
Make another dc in the same stitch.

Increasing at the Start of a Row

Increasing at the start of a row is a little different because the turning chain typically counts as the first stitch (unless you're working in single crochet). Here's how to increase at the start of a row in dc:

01 Chain 3 and turn
Ch 3 and turn your work. You usually skip the 1st stitch (at the base of the chain) and insert your hook into the 2nd stitch.

02 Into the first stitch
Instead, work the 1st dc into the 1st stitch at the base of the chain.
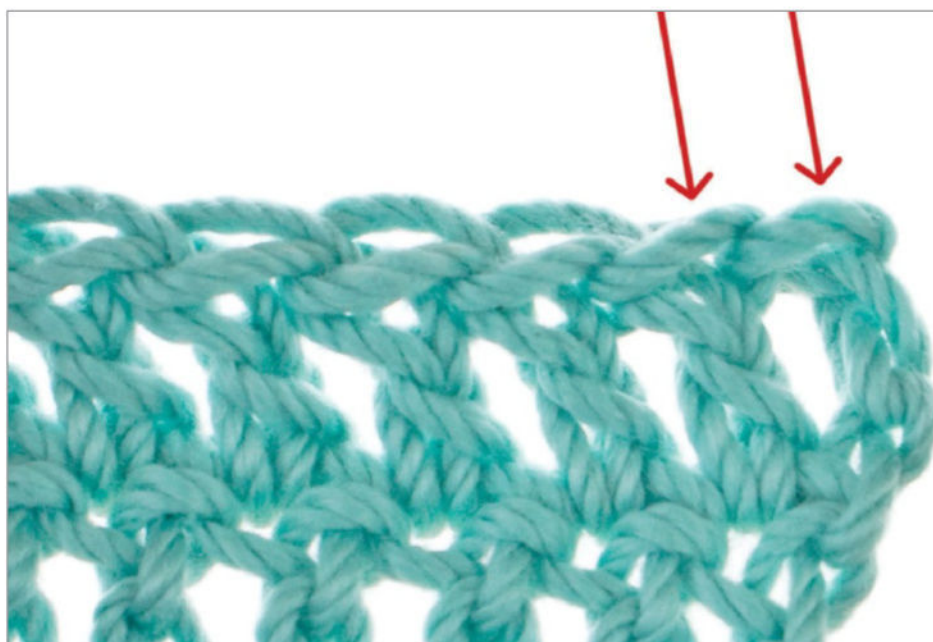
Top tip
For multiple increases, unless you want to shape the fabric asymmetrically – to create a toy or a fitted garment, for example – it's best to space your increases evenly across the row (or around the round).

03 Counts as two
The turning chain plus this stitch count as 2 stitches, so you've added 1 stitch at the start of the row.

Decreasing

The simplest way to reduce the number of stitches in a row or round is by skipping a stitch, but this leaves a hole. To keep your crochet looking more even, you can work decreases

To create decreases, you work multiple stitches together, crocheting incomplete stitches and then completing all the stitches together at once at the top.

The result is a triangular stitch that's wide at the bottom and narrow at the top. Decreases are named for the number and type of stitch being decreased (or crocheted together). For example, sc2tog means 2 single crochet stitches are combined into 1, and dc3tog means 3 double crochet stitches are combined into 1.

To work a decrease in any basic stitch, the pattern is the same: make each stitch up to the final step and then complete all the stitches together. Let's see that in action.

Single Crochet 2 Stitches Together (sc2tog)

01 Insert hook
Insert your hook into the next stitch, and draw up a loop.

02 Into the next stitch
Instead of completing the sc, insert your hook into the next stitch, and draw up a loop. You now have 3 loops on the hook.

The general rule for a decrease in any crochet stitch is to work each stitch of the decrease up to the final step (yarn over and draw through all the remaining loops on the hook) and then do the same for each of the other stitches in the decrease. You should end up with one more loop on your hook than the number of stitches being decreased. Yarn over and draw through all these loops to complete the decrease.

03 Through three

Yarn over, and draw through all 3 loops on the hook to complete the decrease.

> "The result is a triangular stitch that's wide at the bottom and narrow at the top"

Double Crochet 3 Stitches Together (dc3tog)

01 Into next stitch

Yarn over, insert your hook into the next stitch, and draw up a loop. Yarn over, and draw through 2 loops on the hook. You now have 2 loops on the hook.

02 Don't complete

Instead of completing the dc, yarn over, insert your hook into the next stitch, and draw up a loop. Yarn over, and draw through 2 loops on the hook. You now have 3 loops on the hook.

03 Repeat

Repeat step 2 once more, to make the third incomplete dc stitch. You now have 4 loops on the hook.

04 Through four

Yarn over, and draw through all 4 loops on the hook to complete the decrease.

Chain start

When you're working in the round, you have two starter options – a magic ring or working into a chain. Here's how!

To begin working in the round instead of a foundation **chain, you work outward from a central point, increasing the number of stitches with each successive round.** It sounds a little complicated, but once you've figured it out, it's simple!

Working into a Single Chain

The simplest way to do this is to work all the stitches of the first round into a single chain. You ch 1 plus the turning chain length for your stitch, so you ch 2 for single crochet or ch 4 for double crochet. Here's an example in single crochet:

> ## "You ch 1 plus the turning chain length for your stitch"

Sewing Stitches to Stitches

You might use this method for joining a shoulder seam

Work all the stitches into this chain
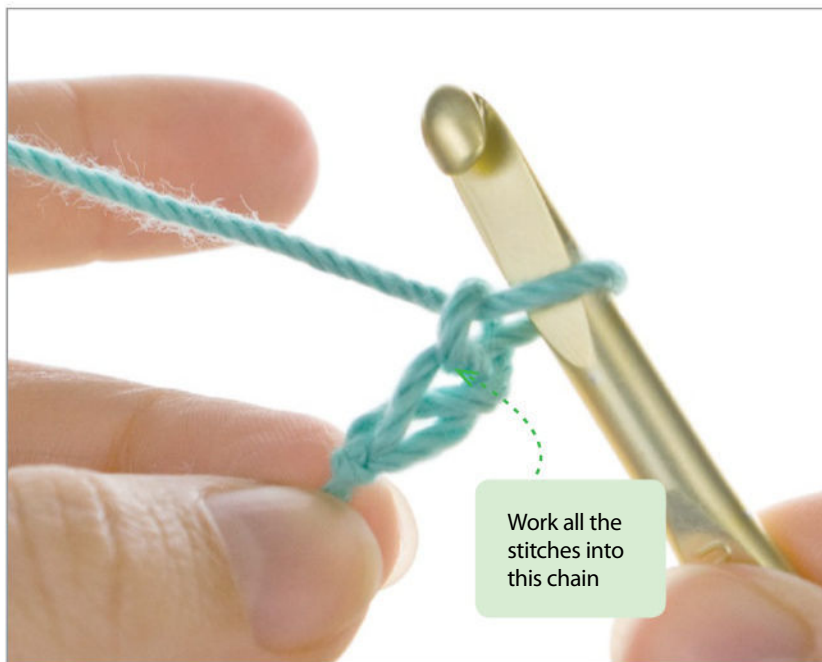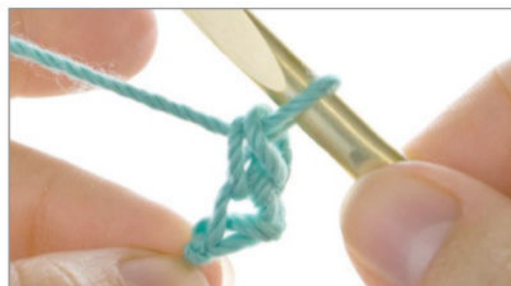
01 Chain stitch
Ch 2.

02 Single crochet
Sc in the 2nd ch from the hook.
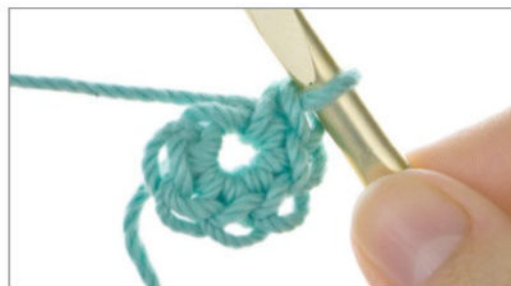
03 Into the chain
Make all the other stitches into the same chain.

To continue crocheting, you can either join the round before continuing or work in a spiral.

Working into a Chain Stitch Ring Make your chain into a ring

Working into a single chain limits the number of stitches you can easily fit into it. A more versatile method is to form a circle from your chain stitches. With this technique, you can make the ring as large as you need it to be to leave a small or large hole in the center of the piece, as required. (This hole can be a decorative feature in some designs, but to avoid it, use a magic ring instead.)

01 Make your chain
To begin, make a short chain. Your pattern will give the exact length needed; in this example, crochet 5 chains.

02 Slip stitch
Slip stitch into the farthest chain from the hook to join the chain into a ring.
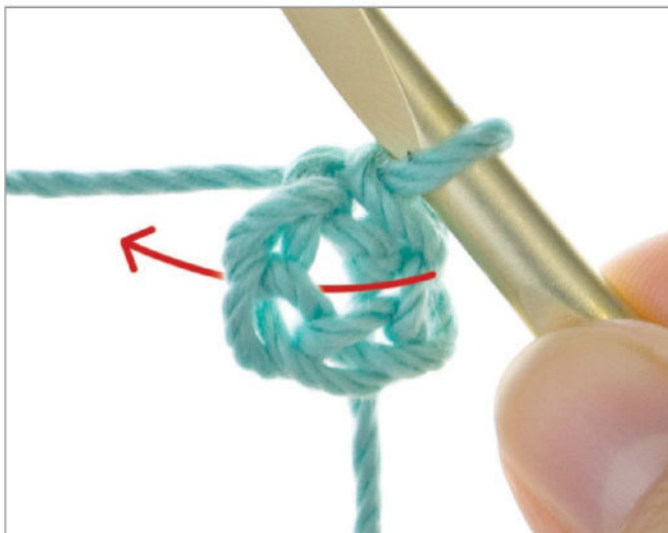
03 Work the round
To work the first round, you insert your hook into the center of the ring, not into any of the individual chains that form the ring.
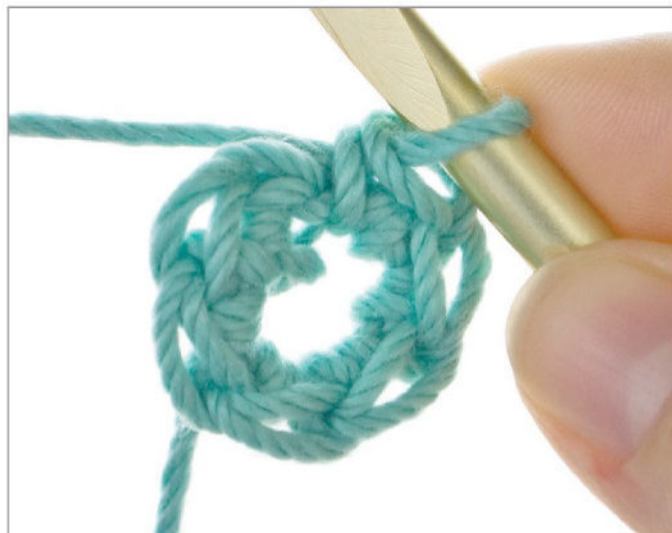
04 Turning chain
Chain the appropriate number of turning chains for the stitch you're making and then crochet all the stitches of the first round into the ring.

To continue crocheting, you can either join the round before continuing, or work in a spiral.

The next step

Magic ring

Another method to start in the round is the magic ring, this sees you creating stitches along the tail, and pulling it tight to produce a closed ring

The magic ring, or adjustable ring, is commonly used when working in the round because it gives a very neat finish. Unlike the foundation chain ring, no hole is left in the middle of your starting round when you use a magic ring.

You begin the magic ring just like a slip knot, but instead of tightening the loop into a knot, you crochet into it and then tighten it around your stitches. Here's how to make a single crochet magic ring:

Make a magic ring Create in-the-round crochet with no gap

working yarn

starting tail

01 Make a loop
Make a loop a few inches from the end of your yarn. Grasp the join of the loop, and insert your hook into the loop from front to back.
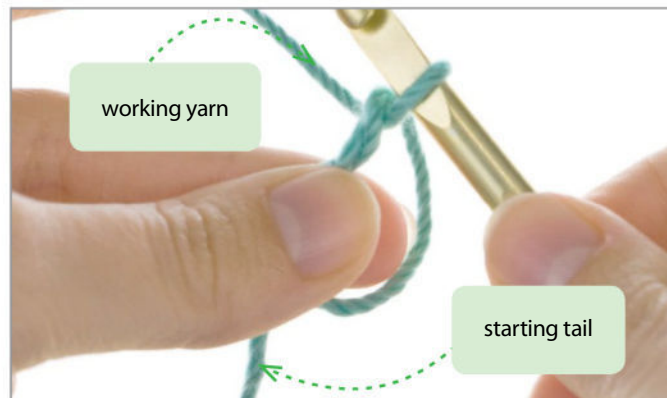
02 Yarn over with working yarn
Draw up a loop, ensuring you yarn over with the working yarn, not the short starting tail.

now the loop is locked together

03 Hook from above
Yarn over, hooking the yarn from above the loop.
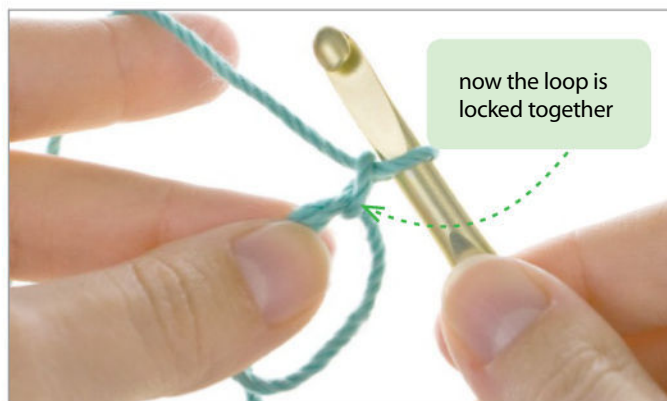
04 Pull through
Draw through the loop on the hook to form a ch 1. This ch does not count as a stitch.

05 Over loop and tail

Insert your hook into the loop so you're crocheting over both the loop and the yarn tail.

06 Single crochet

Draw up a loop to begin your first sc and then complete the sc.
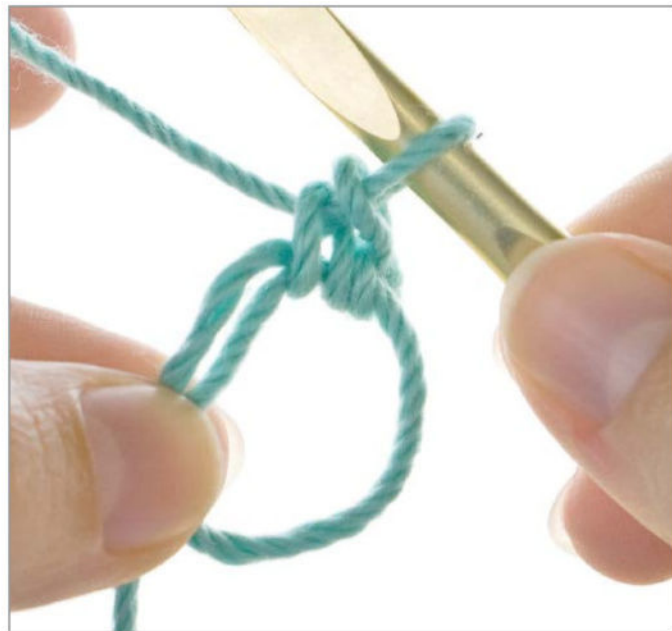
07 Continue

Continue to crochet over both the loop and the tail until you've completed the required number of stitches for your first round.

Top tip

To continue crocheting, skip the ch 1 from the start of the round and work back into the first sc you made. You can either join the round before continuing or work in a spiral.

08 Pull tight

Holding your last stitch loosely between your right thumb and forefinger, pull the yarn tail with your left hand to draw the center of the ring tightly closed.

The Unfixable Dropped Stitch

You can crochet into a magic ring with any crochet stitch. Just replace the ch 1 in step 4 with the appropriate length of chain for the stitch you're making. Note that, as usual with stitches taller than sc, the turning chain counts as a stitch, so you'll work back into that chain at the end of the round.

Working in the round

Once you've made your foundation for working in the round, you can either make each round as a separate ring, like a bull's-eye, or work in a spiral

Working in a Continuous Spiral

Working in a spiral means you have no seam at the end of each round. This method works best for shorter stitches such as single crochet because there's a jog at the very end of the spiral. That jog is easier to disguise with a short stitch height.

> "This method works best for shorter stitches such as single crochet"

01 Crochet all
Crochet all the stitches of the first round into your starting ring.

02 Start again
To begin the second round, work the first stitch directly into the top of the first stitch of the first round.
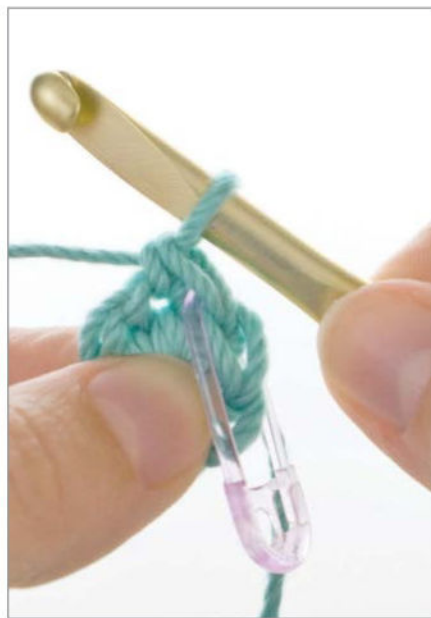
03 Add a marker
Mark the stitch you've just made with a stitch marker, and continue with round 2 of your pattern.

Every stitch around the spiral looks the same, so there's no visual clue at the end of each round. By marking the first stitch of each round and moving the marker each time you begin a new round, you always know where the start of the round is. It's also a built-in safety check: if you overshoot the end of the round, or finish too soon, you know there's a mistake somewhere in that round. You can find and fix it before you continue.

04 Last stitch
Work the last stitch of round 2 into the stitch before the marker.

05 Into marked stitch
Remove the marker, and make the first stitch of round 3 into the previously marked stitch. Place the marker into the stitch you just made.

At the end of the spiral, smooth out the jog by slip stitching into the next stitch. If you're crocheting a spiral with taller stitches, smooth the jog with gradually shorter stitches before making the slip stitch.
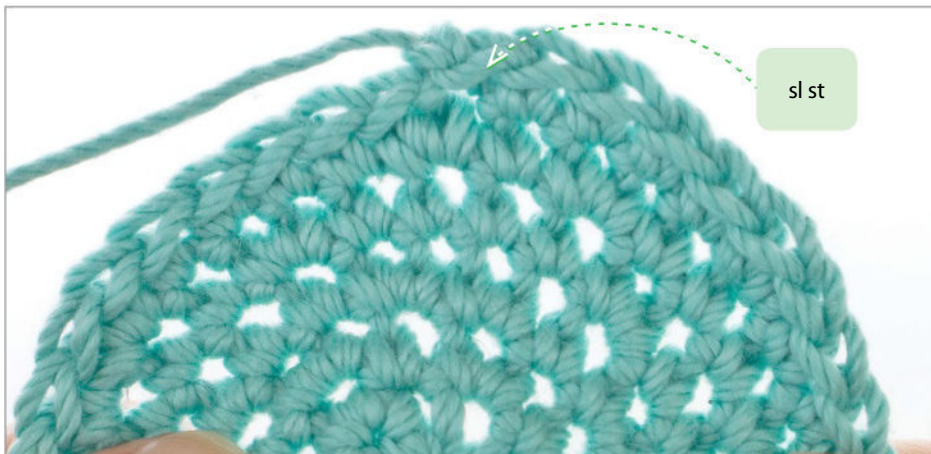
sl st

A single crochet spiral with a slip stitch join.

sl st   sc   hdc
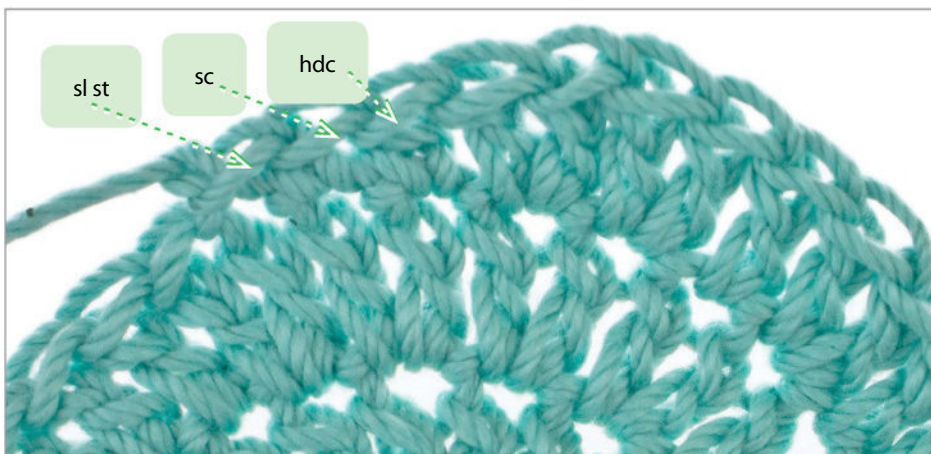
A double crochet spiral. At the end of your work, disguise the jog by adding extra stitches to gradually bring the hook down to the height of the next stitch: hdc, sc, and a sl st to join to the next stitch.

The next step

Working in Joined Rounds

Joining your first and last stitches at the end of each round means you don't have that spiral jog at the end of your piece, but you do have a slight seam that runs along the line of your joins. Joined rounds are usually preferable for working in stitches taller than single crochet. The following examples are worked in double crochet.

01 Crochet all stitches
Crochet all the stitches of the first round into your starting ring.
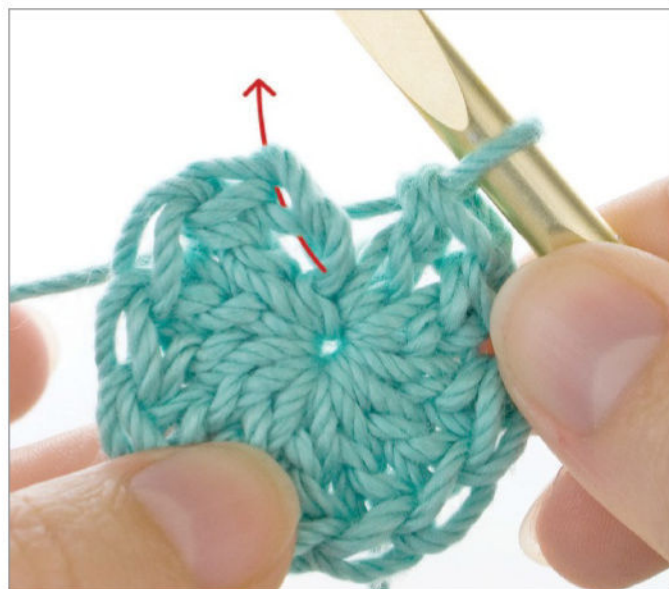
02 Slip stitch
To complete the round, slip stitch into the first stitch of the round. This is the first stitch in sc, or the top of the turning chain for taller stitches.

03 Full circle
Now you've joined the round into a complete circle.

04 Chain to begin
Chain to begin the next round.

You can turn your work at the end of each round or start the next round without turning. Each gives your work a different appearance because the fronts of all the stitches are visible on the right side if you don't turn, and the backs of every other row are visible on the right side if you do turn. With the latter, the stitch pattern looks the same as when you crochet in rows.

   If your pattern doesn't specify if you should turn between rounds or not, the standard method is not to turn.

Not turning your work.

Turning your work after each round.

Standard increases

When you're working in the round, you need to add stitches to each successive round as your piece grows larger. It's important that you add the right number of stitches for the shape you want to create

I f you want a flat circle but add too many increases, the edges will start to ruffle. If you add too few increases, the piece will start to form a bowl shape. The height and width of each crochet stitch determines how many increases you need per round – the taller the stitch, the more increases you need per round to keep your crocheted circle flat.

"The height and width of each crochet stitch determines how many increases you need per round"

Stitch	Stitches in First Round	Increases in Subsequent Rounds
sc	6	6
hdc	8	8
dc	12	12
tr	18	18

18 + 6 = 24

12 + 6 = 18

6 + 6 = 12

6
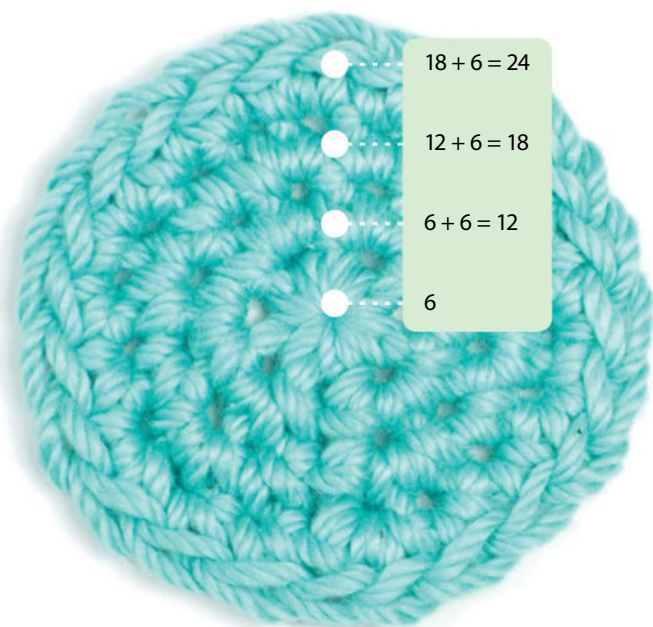
Single crochet is worked in multiples of 6.

24 + 8 = 32

16 + 8 = 24

8 + 8 = 16

8

Half double crochet is worked in multiples of 8.

36 + 12 = 48

24 + 12 = 36

12 + 12 = 24

12
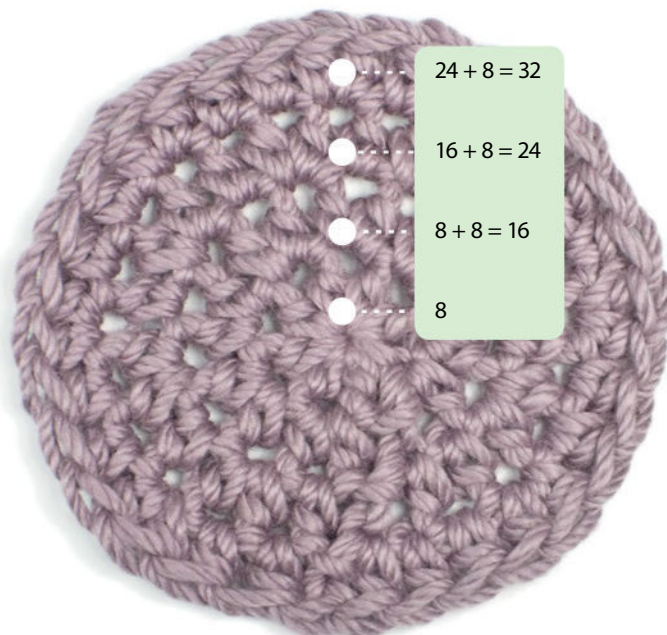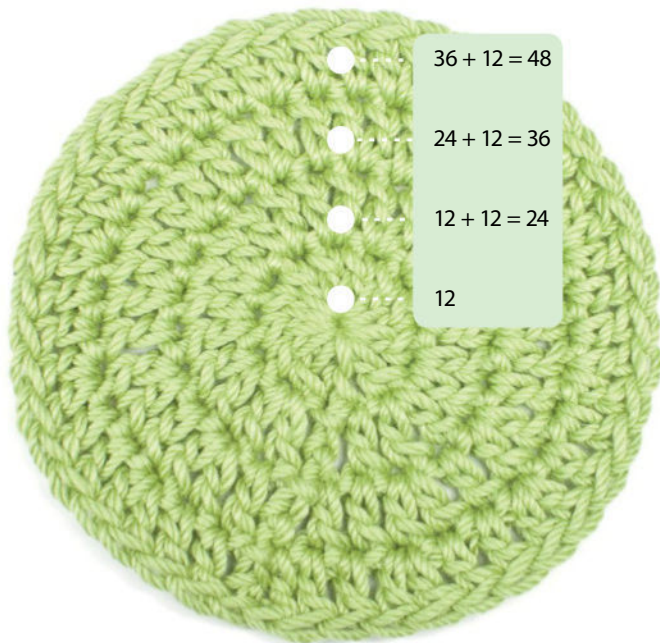
Double crochet is worked in multiples of 12.

36 + 18 = 54

18 + 18 = 36

18

Triple (treble) crochet is worked in multiples of 18.

If you start with the correct number of stitches from this table for Rnd 1, you'll increase in every stitch for Rnd 2, in every other stitch for Rnd 3, in every third stitch for Rnd 4, etc. If you stack the increases on top of each other in each round, your piece will start to develop straight sides with

a corner at each increase point. A single crocheted circle, for example, becomes hexagonal as it grows larger. To prevent this, you can stagger the positions of the increases in each round, keeping them equally spaced around the circle.
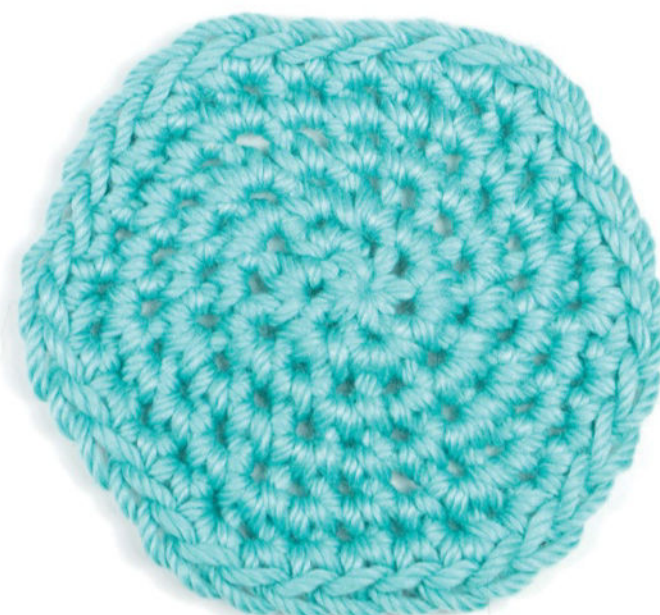
With stacked increases, a single crochet circle starts to look hexagonal.

Staggering the increases helps keep the circle circular.

Invisible finish

The invisible finish is the best way to fasten off when you're working in the round because it leaves an undisturbed ring of sideways Vs around the edge of the piece

Invisible finish Finish your rounds secretly

01 Do not join
At the end of the final round, do not join the last stitch to the first stitch of the round. Cut the yarn, leaving a 6-inch (15cm) tail.

02 Pull on the loop
Pull on the remaining loop on the hook, increasing its size until the tail pulls through to the top.
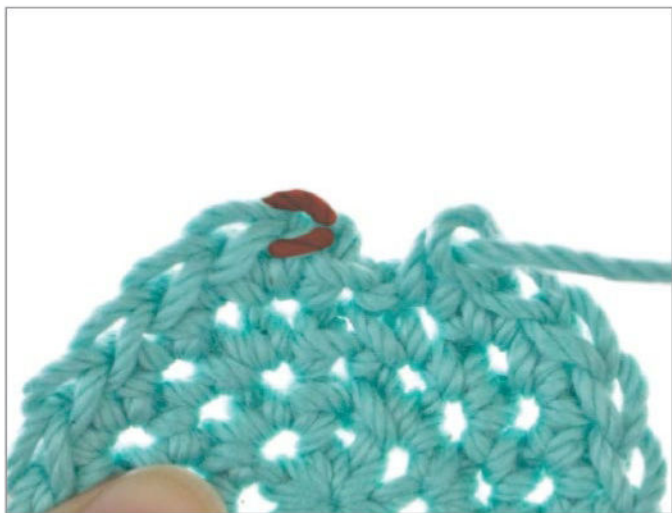
03 Get a needle
Thread the tail onto a yarn needle.
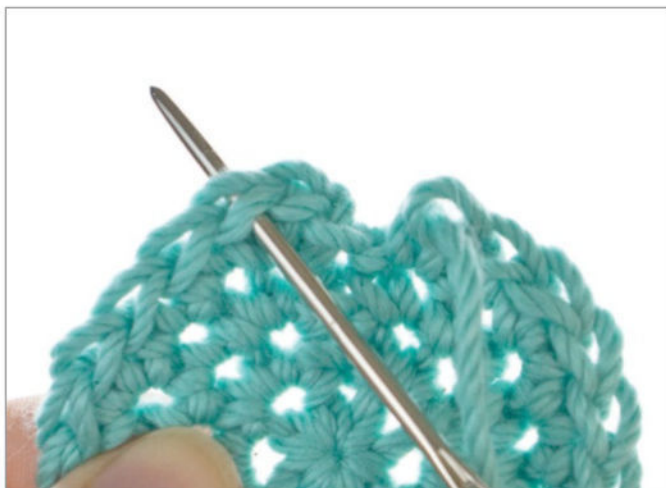
04 Skip the first
Skip the first stitch, and insert the needle from front to back under both loops of the second stitch.

05 Pull through
Pull the yarn through, but do not draw the stitch tight.

06 Into final stitch
Insert the needle back into the middle of the final stitch, between the 2 loops, and pass under the stitch's back vertical bar.
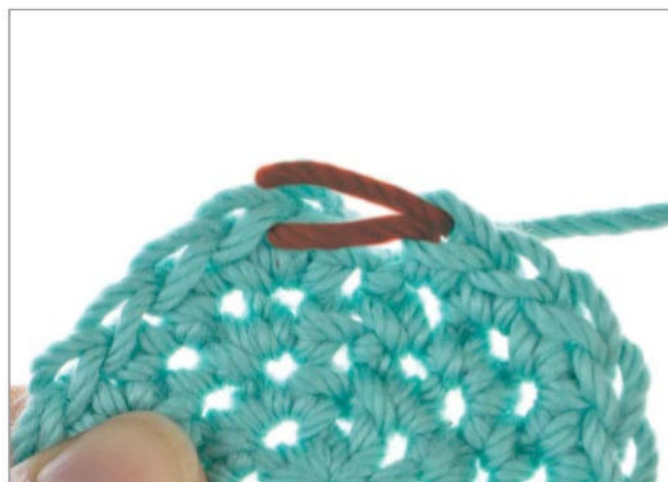
07 Form a stitch
The new loop you formed covers the V of the first stitch of the round.

08 Pull
Pull the yarn tail gently until the loop is the same size as the V at the top of all your other stitches, and weave in the remaining tail. The finished join should be practically indistinguishable from your other stitches!

Blocking

Blocking is the process of using moisture to relax the yarn's fibers and set your stitches. Blocking can help straighten edges and coax pieces into the desired size and shape, which is especially important for garments and pieces that will be joined together

Not all crochet needs to be blocked into shape, but blocking also helps smooth and straighten your stitches and even out any minor variances in your tension while you were crocheting.

You can block your work in several ways: spray blocking is the simplest, steam blocking gives the fastest result, and wet blocking is the most thorough. For every method, you need a flat surface to place your work on and pin into. You can either lay a thick towel over a flat padded surface (such as your ironing board, a carpeted floor, or even your bed) or buy a set of connectable foam mats.

Pinning Your Pieces

Whichever blocking method you choose, you usually need to pin your pieces into shape before leaving them to dry. Always use rustproof pins to prevent rust stains from ruining your work. For motifs or other pieces you'll be joining together, be sure to pin each piece to the same size so the edges match. If you're making a garment or item with specific dimensions, use the schematic from the pattern to pin each piece to the correct dimensions.

"Always use rustproof pins to prevent rust stains from ruining your work"

Lay out each piece with the right side up. Smooth it roughly into shape, working from the center out. Start pinning at the corners, easing the piece into shape as you go and using a measuring tape to ensure your piece is square and even. Add a pin halfway along the edge, using the measuring tape to verify you're pinning straight. Keep adding pins halfway between the previous pins until the fabric edge is straight and even.

Spray Blocking

Spray blocking is easy and fast: all you need is a spray bottle filled with water.

Lay your piece on your blocking surface, and smooth or pin it into position. Spray the piece evenly with water until the surface is saturated. Gently pat the surface to help the moisture penetrate into the yarn fibers. Leave your work undisturbed until thoroughly dry. This could take up to 24 hours depending on the temperature in your room and how thoroughly you saturated the yarn.

Steam Blocking

Steam blocking uses the heat and moisture of steam to relax and set the stitches. You can steam block using your household steam iron (if it has a "shot of steam" feature, this process will be much faster!) or a handheld clothes steamer.

You can steam block almost any yarn, provided you're careful to keep the iron hovering above the surface of your crochet without touching it. Acrylic and other man-made fibers will melt if they come into direct contact with a hot iron. Also, do not use plastic-headed pins when steam blocking. The plastic will melt if your iron accidentally makes contact with them.

Lay your piece on your blocking surface, and smooth or pin it into position. Hold the iron or steamer about 1 inch (2.5cm) above the surface of your crochet. Do not let it come into contact with the yarn. Steam until the entire surface is damp, and gently pat the surface to help the moisture penetrate into the yarn fibers. Leave your work undisturbed until thoroughly dry. This could take up to 24 hours depending on the temperature in your room and how thoroughly you saturated the yarn.

The next step

Wet Blocking

Wet blocking involves complete immersion of your piece in water before you coax it into shape. Thoroughly saturating the stitches enables you to completely reshape your piece.

01 Get it wet
Fill your sink with lukewarm water. You can add some no-rinse wool wash, too, if you want. Immerse your piece in the water, and push down gently until the entire piece is saturated. Leave it to soak for about 20 minutes.

02 Gently squeeze
While supporting the entire piece so it doesn't stretch under its own weight, lift it from the water and gently squeeze without wringing. Continue squeezing to press out as much of the water as you can.

03 Roll it up
Lay out the piece on a clean towel. Roll the towel, and squeeze the rolled towel to remove as much of the remaining moisture from the piece as possible.
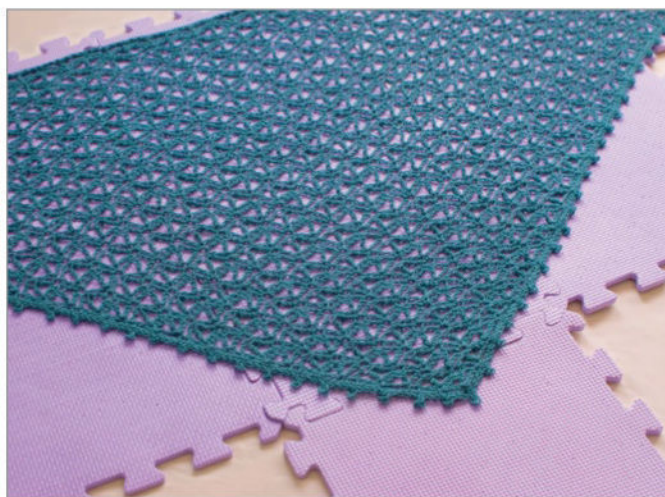
04 Let it dry
Lay the damp piece on your blocking surface, smooth it into position, and pin to keep it in shape if needed.

Leave your work undisturbed until thoroughly dry. This could take a day or more depending on the room temperature, the thickness of the yarn, and how much moisture is left when you begin blocking.

Blocking Lace

Crocheted lace is almost magically transformed by the blocking process. As you stretch open the stitches, you reveal the detail of the stitch pattern and turn your crochet from a crumpled mass into a beautiful, flowing fabric.

Before blocking
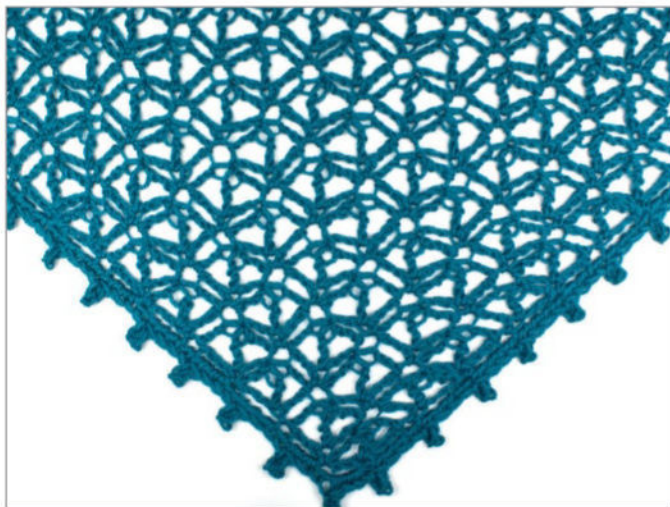
After blocking

You block crocheted lace using the wet blocking method. But after soaking and removing excess moisture, you stretch the lace to open the stitch pattern. (Although it's not essential, if you plan to crochet many lacy items, it's worth investing in stainless-steel blocking wires, which help you block perfectly straight edges with minimal pinning.)

The edge will curve if you don't use enough pins
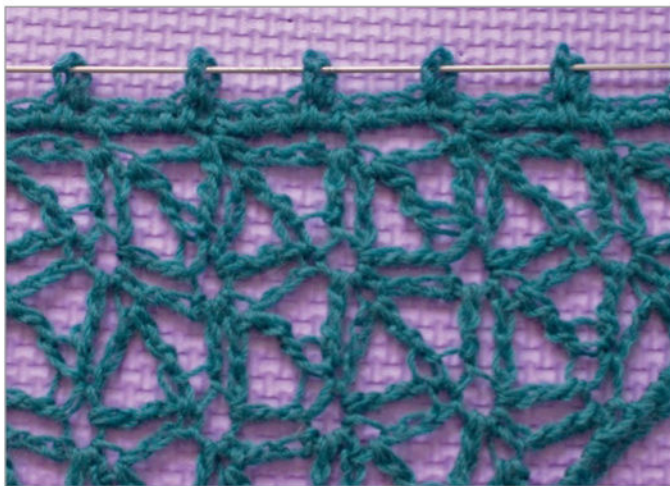
To make it easier to block, weave a blocking wire along the entire straight edge of your work, passing it through every stitch or row edge or each tip of a pointed edging. To hold the piece in shape, add a few pins to keep the wire in position.
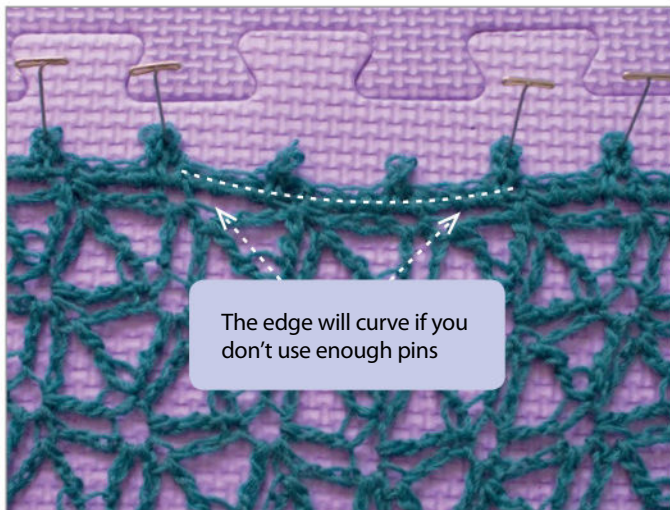
If you don't have blocking wires, insert a pin into every stitch, row edge, or point to achieve the same effect. Using too few pins leaves the piece less stretched between the pins, so the edges won't be straight.

Joining

When joining crocheted pieces together, you usually use the same yarn you used to crochet the pieces so the seam will blend in. You can either crochet the pieces together or sew them using a yarn needle

Joining motifs is straightforward because you should have the same number of stitches along each edge, which makes it easy to either sew or crochet the pieces together, stitch by stitch. Seaming pieces worked in rows (for example, to make a garment or a bag) is more challenging because you have to work into the row edges. The number of stitches might not match, and for taller rows, you might need to make more than one joining stitch per row.

Whichever joining method you use, it's best to block your crocheted pieces, before you start, to straighten the edges and ensure the pieces are exactly the same size.

To join large pieces, or if you have a different number of stitches on each of your starting pieces, use locking stitch markers to hold the pieces together along the seam line while you join them. Insert a stitch marker through the edge of both pieces at both ends of the seam line, and keep adding more markers halfway between the previous ones until the pieces are linked every 2 inches (5cm) or so. Your pieces will remain matched all the way along their length as you seam.

Whip Stitch
The simplest sewn join is a whip stitch (also called an overcast stitch) seam. It's fast and easy, but the stitches are visible from both sides, so you'll get the neatest result if you're joining two pieces of the same color with a new length of the same color of yarn.

01 Hold wrong together
Hold the two pieces with wrong sides together, and pass your yarn needle from front to back under both loops of the first stitch on each piece.

02 To the front
Bring the needle back to the front, and insert it under both loops of the next stitch on each piece. Draw the yarn taut to the fabric.

03 Repeat per pair
Repeat for each pair of stitches along the edge.

Back

Front
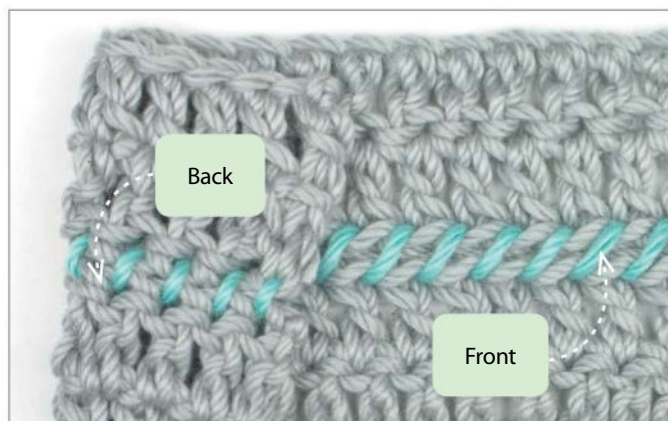
04 Visible line
The finished seam lies flat with a line of visible stitches on both sides.

Mattress Stitch

Also known as ladder stitch, mattress stitches form bars running between the two pieces like the rungs of a ladder. When you pull the yarn tight, the bars disappear, leaving an almost invisible join. Mattress stitch is always worked from the right side, so you can check how neat it looks as you work.

A   B
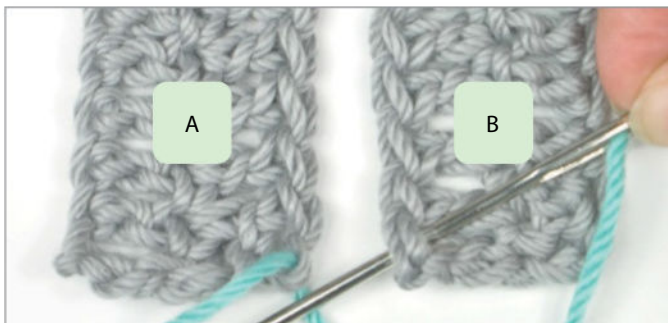
01 Side-by-side
Lay your pieces (A and B) side by side with right sides facing up. Leaving a 6-inch (15cm) yarn tail, insert your needle down through the first edge stitch of A and then down through the first edge stitch of B.

A   B
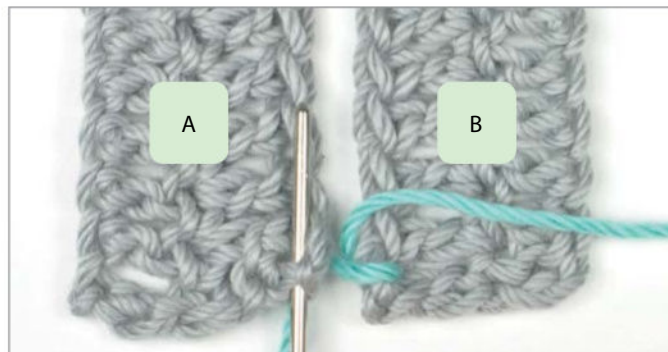
02 Through first
Now insert your needle back down through the first stitch of A and up through the second stitch of A.

A   B

03 To B
Cross over to B, and insert your needle back down through the first stitch and up through the second.

04 Repeat
Repeat for the next few stitches, inserting your needle back down through the previous stitch on that side and up through the next and then crossing back to the other side. You'll form horizontal bars of yarn between each piece.

The next step

05 Pull together
Pull the yarn taut to draw the pieces together, but not so tightly that the seam puckers.
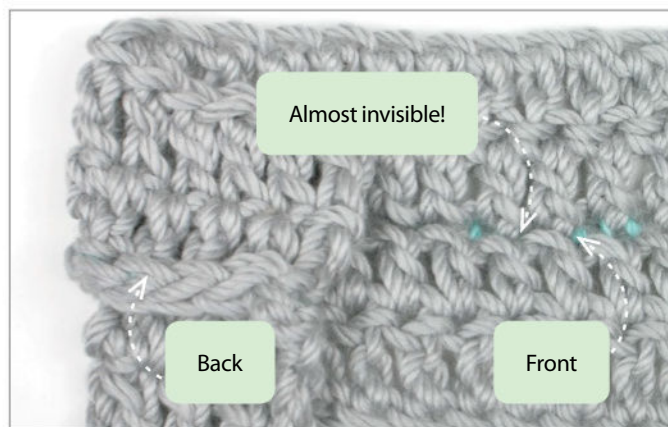
06 Continue
Continue along the seam, pulling the yarn to draw the bars closed every few stitches.

07 Almost invisible
If worked in the same color yarn, the finished seam is invisible from the front. The seamed stitches roll to the back, making a slight ridge.

Almost invisible!

Back

Front

Slip Stitch or Single Crochet Seam
Crocheting your pieces together is faster and easier than sewing, especially when joining motifs together. Hold or pin your pieces with wrong sides together to make a seam with a ridge, or with right sides together to hide the ridge on the back of your work.

01 Slip stitch
Slip stitch (or single crochet) through the first stitch of both pieces, inserting your hook through both loops on each piece to begin the stitch.

02 Repeat
Repeat for each pair of stitches along the edge.

Back   Front

A slip stitch seam is ridged on the side you work it and almost invisible on the other side. (Slip stitches have no stretch, so keep your stitches loose and even to avoid puckering your fabric.)

Back   Front
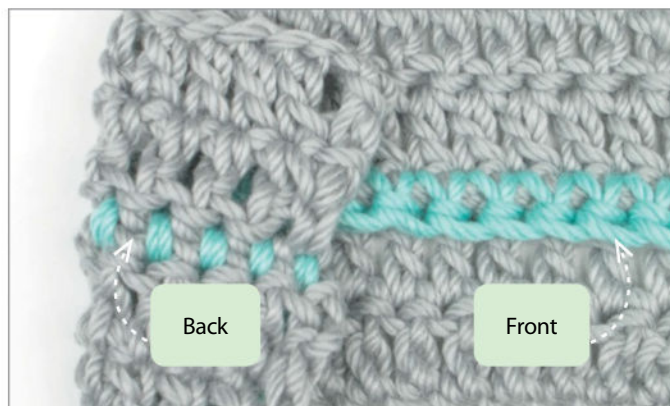
A single crochet seam gives a more pronounced decorative ridge on the front and a slightly stretchier seam.

Flat Slip-Stitched Seam

This method is slower but gives a beautifully flat, symmetrical result for joining motifs. Lay your pieces side by side with right sides facing up. You'll be working into the back loops only of each stitch along the edges – these are the loops that lie closest together, along the outer edge of each piece.

01 Top to bottom
To begin each slip stitch, insert your hook from top to bottom through the back loop of the first stitch on the right piece.

02 Through back loop
Insert your hook from top to bottom through the back loop of the first stitch on the left piece and then yarn over and draw through all the loops on the hook.

03 Repeat
Repeat for each stitch along the edge, inserting your hook from top to bottom through the back loop of both stitches before completing the sl st. Keep your slip stitches loose so they don't pucker your fabric.

Back   Front
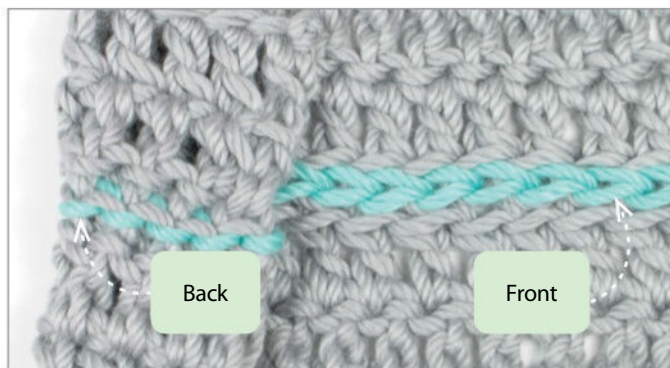
04 The result
The result is a flat row of chains that lie between each piece on the front and a line of stitches on the back.

Easy stitch patterns

Once you have grasped the basics of starting your crochet and the different base stitches, the next step is to apply them to stitch patterns to create fun details in your projects

The beauty of crochet is that you can create a huge variety of stitch patterns from a few simple stitches. You can make all the patterns in this chapter, for example, with only the most basic stitches – chain, single crochet, half double crochet, and double crochet. What's more, you can use these stitch patterns to make any rectangular shaped object, such as a dishcloth, a scarf, or a blanket. To begin each of these patterns, use the starting chain formula to crochet a chain of the desired width of your item. Then continue crocheting until the piece is as long as you want it.

> "To begin each of these patterns, use the starting chain formula to crochet a chain of the desired width of your item"

Single crochet ribbing

Crocheting in back loops (BL) only leaves a horizontal ridge at the base of each stitch, which works up into a stretchy textured ribbing.
   Ch any number of sts.
Row 1: sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each remaining ch across.
Row 2: ch 1, turn, sc in BL of each st across.
   Rep Row 2 for pattern.

Granite stitch

This simple stitch has many names. It's also known as moss stitch and seed stitch.

Ch an even number of sts.

Row 1: sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each remaining ch across.

Row 2: ch 1, turn, *sc in next st, ch 1, sk next st; rep from * across to last st, sc in last st.

Row 3: ch 1, turn, sc in next st, *sc in next ch1-sp, ch 1, sk next st; repeat from * across to last 2 sts, sc in next ch1-sp, sc in last st.

Row 4: ch 1, turn, sc in next st, *ch 1, sk next st, sc in next ch1-sp; rep from * across to last 2 sts, ch 1, sk next st, sc in last st.

Rep Rows 3 and 4 for pattern.
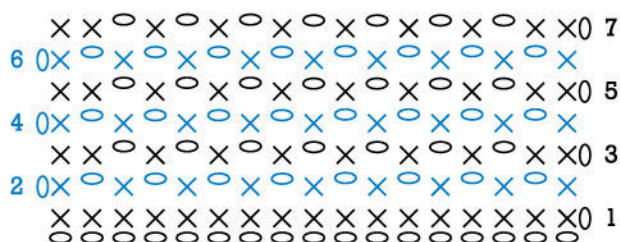
Chain mesh
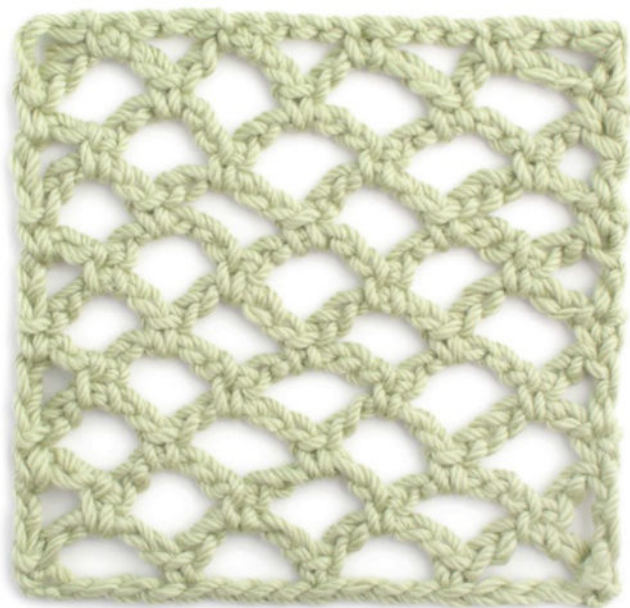
Crochet isn't all solid fabric – with a simple pattern of chains and single crochets, you can create a lacy trellis of stitches. With very open patterns like this, blocking is an important step to open the mesh.

Ch a multiple of 4 sts plus 2.

Row 1: sc in 2nd ch from hook, *ch 5, sk next 3 ch, sc in next ch; rep from * across.

Row 2: ch 5 (counts as dc + ch 2), turn, *sc in next ch5-sp, ch 5; rep from * across to last ch5-sp, sc in last ch5-sp, ch 2, dc in last st.

Row 3: ch 1, turn, sc in next st, ch 5, *sc in next ch5-sp, ch 5; rep from * across to end, sc in 3rd ch of t-ch.

Rep Rows 2 and 3 for pattern.

To make a straight edge along the top of your piece, end with a Row 3, and continue to Row 4:

Row 4 (optional): ch 4 (counts as hdc + ch 2), turn, *sc in next ch 5-sp, ch 3; rep from * across to last ch5-sp, sc in last ch5-sp, ch 2, hdc in last st.
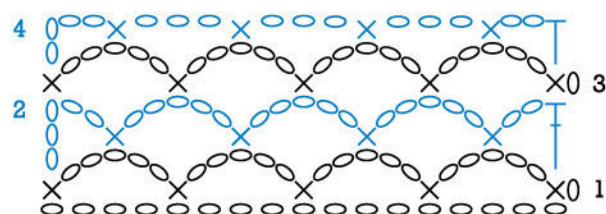
The next step

Up-and-down stitch

A pretty combination of short and tall stitches makes a solid, lightly textured fabric.

Ch a multiple of 2 sts plus 1.

Row 1: sc in 2nd ch from hook, *dc in next ch, sc in next ch; rep from * across to last ch, dc in last ch.

Row 2: ch 1, turn, *sc in next dc, dc in next sc; repeat from * across to end.

Rep Row 2 for pattern.
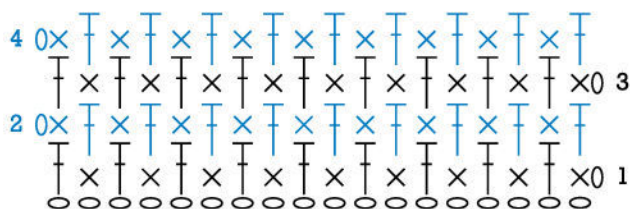
Filet squares

Filet crochet designs are made by alternating empty and filled blocks of stitches. By swapping the ch 2 and 2 dc stitches that form the middle of each block, you can vary the design.

Ch a multiple of 6 sts plus 3.

Row 1: dc in 4th ch from hook (unworked chs count as dc), dc in next 2 chs, ch 2, sk next 2 chs, *dc in next 4 chs, ch 2, sk next 2 chs; rep from * across to last ch, dc in last ch.

Row 2: ch 3 (counts as dc), turn, 2 dc in next ch2-sp, dc in next st, ch 2, sk next 2 sts, *dc in next st, 2 dc in next ch2-sp, dc in next st, ch 2, sk next 2 sts; rep from * across to last st, dc in top of t-ch.

Rep Row 2 for pattern.
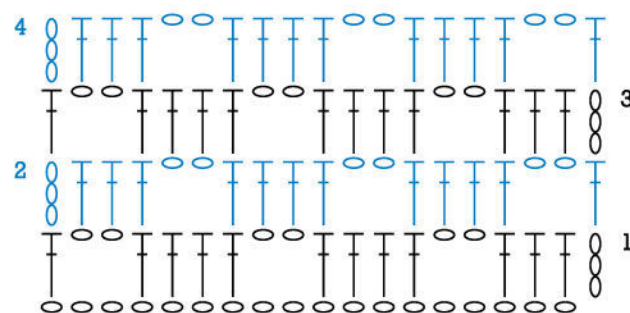
Ripple

The stacked increases and decreases in this pattern turn a line of straight stitches into graceful rippling waves, great for scarves and blankets.

Ch a multiple of 12 sts plus 3.

Row 1: dc in 4th ch from hook (unworked chs count as dc), dc in next 3 chs, dc2tog twice, *dc in next 3 chs, 2 dc in next 2 chs, dc in next 3 chs, dc2tog twice; rep from * across to last 4 chs, dc in next 3 chs, 2 dc in last ch.

Row 2: ch 3 (counts as dc), turn, dc in same st, dc in next 3 sts, dc2tog twice, *dc in next 3 sts, 2 dc in next 2 sts, dc in next 3 sts, dc2tog twice; rep from * across to last 4 sts, dc in next 3 sts, 2 dc in top of t-ch.

Rep Row 2 for pattern.
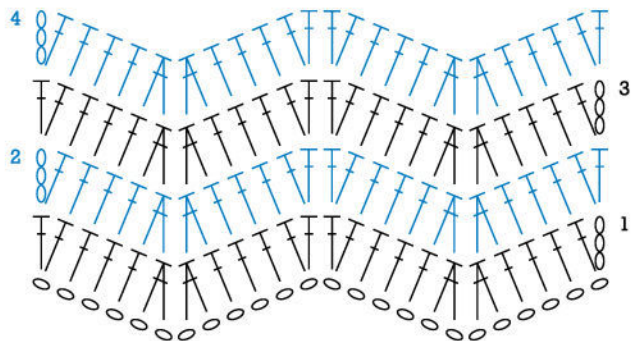
Grit stitch
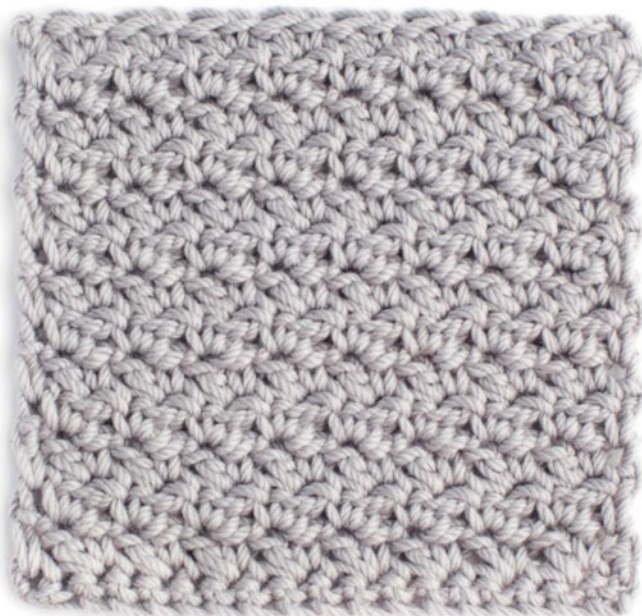
The stitches in this pattern slant in alternate directions with each row, giving a light diagonal texture.

Ch a multiple of 2 sts plus 1.

Row 1: sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each remaining ch across.

Row 2: ch 2, turn, sk first st, *(sc, dc) in next st, sk next st; rep from * across to last st, sc in last st.

Row 3: ch 2, turn, (sc, dc) in each dc across, sc in top of t-ch.

Rep Row 3 for pattern.
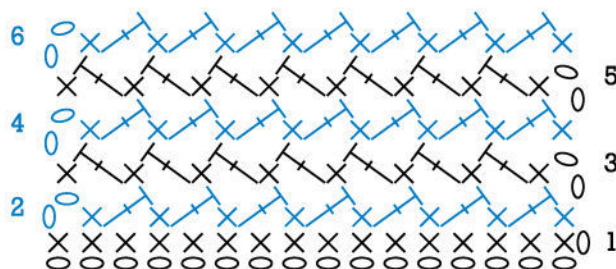
Going further

Start adding embellishments and decorative stitches

Top tip

To continue the next round with the same color, do not fasten off. Slip stitch across the top edge until you reach the starting point for the next round and begin again.

Shells, Fans and V stitches

Shells, fans and V stitches make lovely edgings on crocheted pieces. The process of creating these three decorative stitches is similar

The terms shell and fan are sometimes used interchangeably, but typically, a shell is formed from a solid group of stitches while the stitches in a fan are separated by chains so they look like spokes. A V stitch is a special case with only two stitches separated by one or more chains, which makes the overall stitch look like a V. Each stitch has one or more skipped stitches before and after it to allow space for the width of the shell. Infinite varieties of these stitches exist. Here are some examples, worked into a row of double crochet. (When these stitches are called for in a pattern, it will give the details for the specific shell, fan, or V stitch used.)

> "Each stitch has one or more skipped stitches before and after it to allow space"

Shell: skip the next stitch, and make 5 dc into the following stitch.
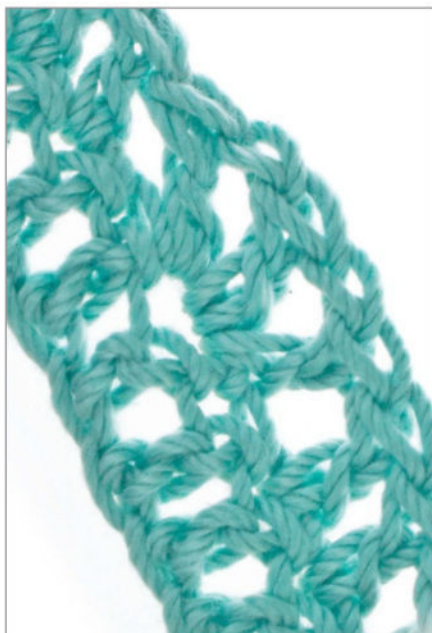
Fan: skip the next stitch, and make (dc, ch 1, dc, ch 1, dc) into the following stitch.

V stitch: skip the next stitch, and make (dc, ch 1, dc) into the following stitch.

To continue with the pattern for each of these stitches, skip the next stitch, and dc in the following stitch.

To continue with the pattern for each of these stitches, skip the next stitch, and dc in the following stitch. Surrounding these stitches with shorter stitches gives the shell or fan space to form a more spread out, scalloped shape.

01 Thread through

Thread the needle under the next two stitch halves on the first piece, starting where the yarn came out. Again, don't pull the yarn tight.

02 Continue

Continue threading through two stitch halves at a time, on alternate sides of the seam, until you've worked about 2 inches (5cm) of the seam.

Top tip

This fan takes up the same space as the previous shell, but it has a more open look. Instead of making 5 dc into the base stitch, make (dc, ch 1, dc, ch 1, dc) into the stitch.

Crossed stitches

Crossed stitches give your crochet a more advanced look, but this method of stitching is actually quite simple

To cross a pair of tall stitches, you skip a stitch, complete a stitch, and work the next stitch into the skipped stitch so the two create an X shape. You can cross stitches in three ways. You can work the second stitch behind, in front of, or wrapped around the first stitch. If a pattern doesn't specify which way to cross the stitches, working behind the first stitch is much easier than working in front.

All crossed stitches begin with the same first stitch: skip a stitch, and crochet into the following stitch (I used double crochet stitches for these examples):

> "You can work the second stitch behind, in front of, or wrapped around the first stitch"

Cross Behind
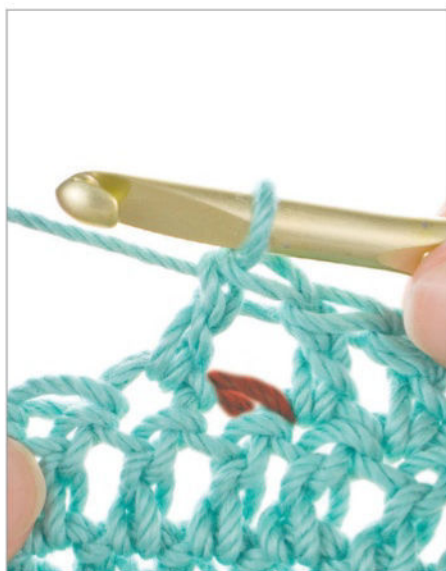
01 Into the skipped stitch
To make the crossed stitch, work into the skipped stitch.
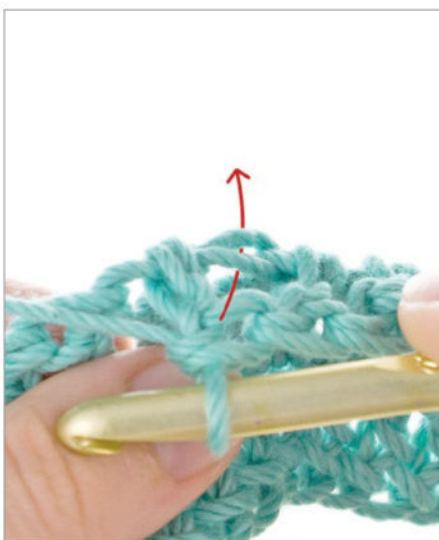
02 Tilt forward
Tilt your work forward, or fold the first stitch forward so you can see the skipped stitch from behind the first stitch.

03 Complete the stitch
Yarn over, insert your hook into the skipped stitch, and complete the dc as usual. The second stitch crosses behind the first.

The wrapped cross works best with double crochet stitches because the cross happens near the base of the stitches and can look unbalanced with taller stitches.

Cross in Front
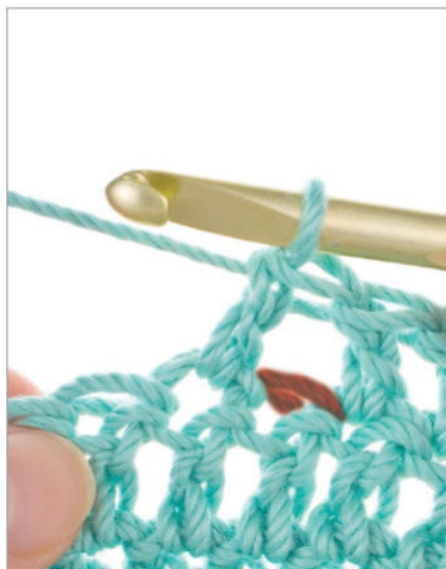
01 Into the skipped stitch
To make the crossed stitch, work into the skipped stitch. To make the crossed stitch, work into the skipped stitch.
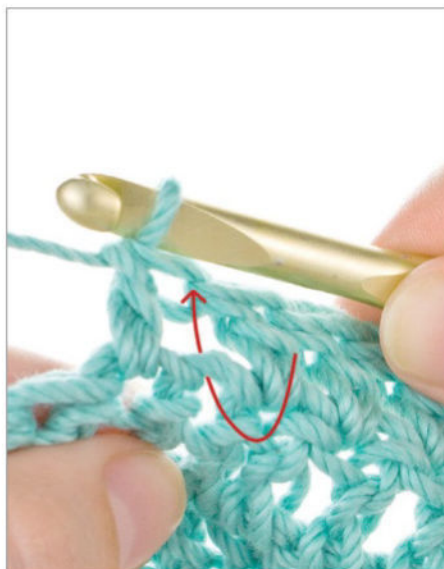
02 Hold backward
Tilt your work forward and fold the first stitch backward so you have access to the skipped stitch from the front.
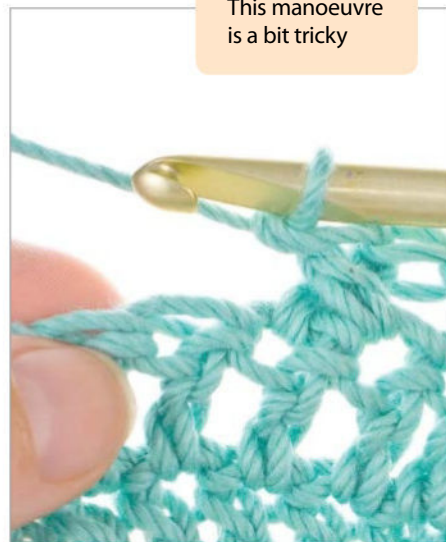
03 Yarn in front
Keeping the yarn in front of the first stitch, yarn over, insert your hook into the skipped stitch, and complete the dc as usual. The second stitch crosses in front of the first.

Wrapped Cross
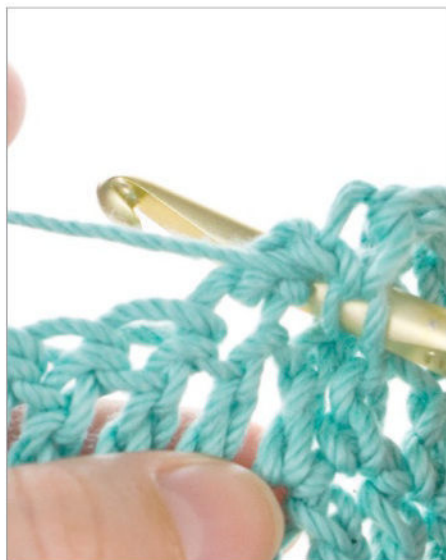
01 YO and insert
Yarn over, and insert your hook into the skipped stitch, working in front of the first stitch. into the skipped stitch.
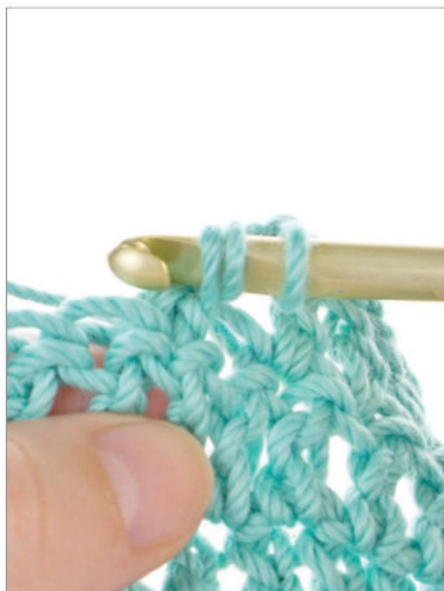
02 Yarn at back
With the yarn at the back, yarn over and draw up a loop, bringing the loop around the first stitch.

03 Complete stitch
Complete the dc as usual. The second stitch encloses the base of the first.

Post stitches

Post stitches are formed by crocheting around the post of the stitch below. This adds texture by bringing the stitch in front of, or behind, the stitch below

Y ou can work post stitches around the post of any stitch, but they're most often worked around dc or taller stitches because the larger spaces between these taller stitches make it easier to insert your hook around the post.

"The larger spaces between these taller stitches make it easier to insert your hook around the post"

Front Post Double Crochet (FPdc)

To form a front post stitch, you work around the post of the stitch below, inserting your hook from the front, behind the post of the stitch, and back out to the front.
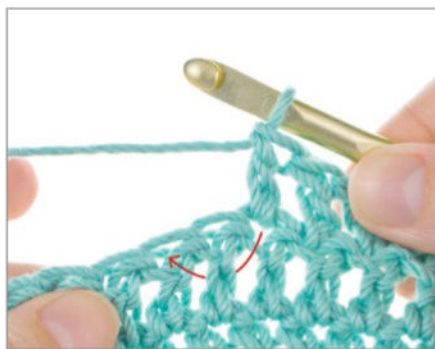
01 YO and insert
Yarn over and insert your hook from front to back to front around the post of the stitch below.

02 Draw up loop
Yarn over and draw up a loop by bringing the hook back around the post of the stitch.

03 Double crochet
Complete the stitch as a double crochet stitch: (yarn over and draw through 2 loops) twice.

Back Post Double Crochet (BPdc) Work around the post

To form a back post stitch, you work around the post of the stitch below, inserting your hook from the back, in front of the post of the stitch, and back out to the back.
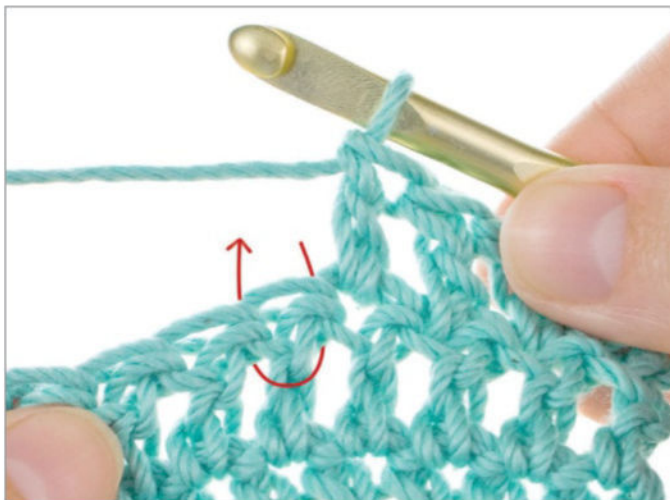
Post stitches are also known as raised stitches and relief stitches.

01 Back to front
Yarn over and insert your hook from back to front to back around the post of the stitch below. (You might find this easier to do if you tilt your work forward first so you have better access to the back of the piece.)

02 YO and loop
Yarn over and draw up a loop by bringing the hook back around the post of the stitch.

03 Complete as double
Complete the stitch as a double crochet stitch: (yarn over and draw through 2 loops) twice.

Spike stitches

Adding a quick flourish of detail to your otherwise quite plain patterns is easily achieved using spike stitches to hop stitch down a couple of rows

Spike stitches are worked around existing stitches to extend down to one (or more) rows below. The resulting spike of yarn is visible on both sides of the finished fabric, giving your work a nice design.

You can use a single color of yarn when making spikes to add texture, but they have the most visual impact when the row with the spikes is a different color from the base row(s) the spikes extend down into.

You can form a spike stitch extending into any space below the next stitch.

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

Spike stitch
Work a spike into your project

1 row below

2 rows below

3 rows below
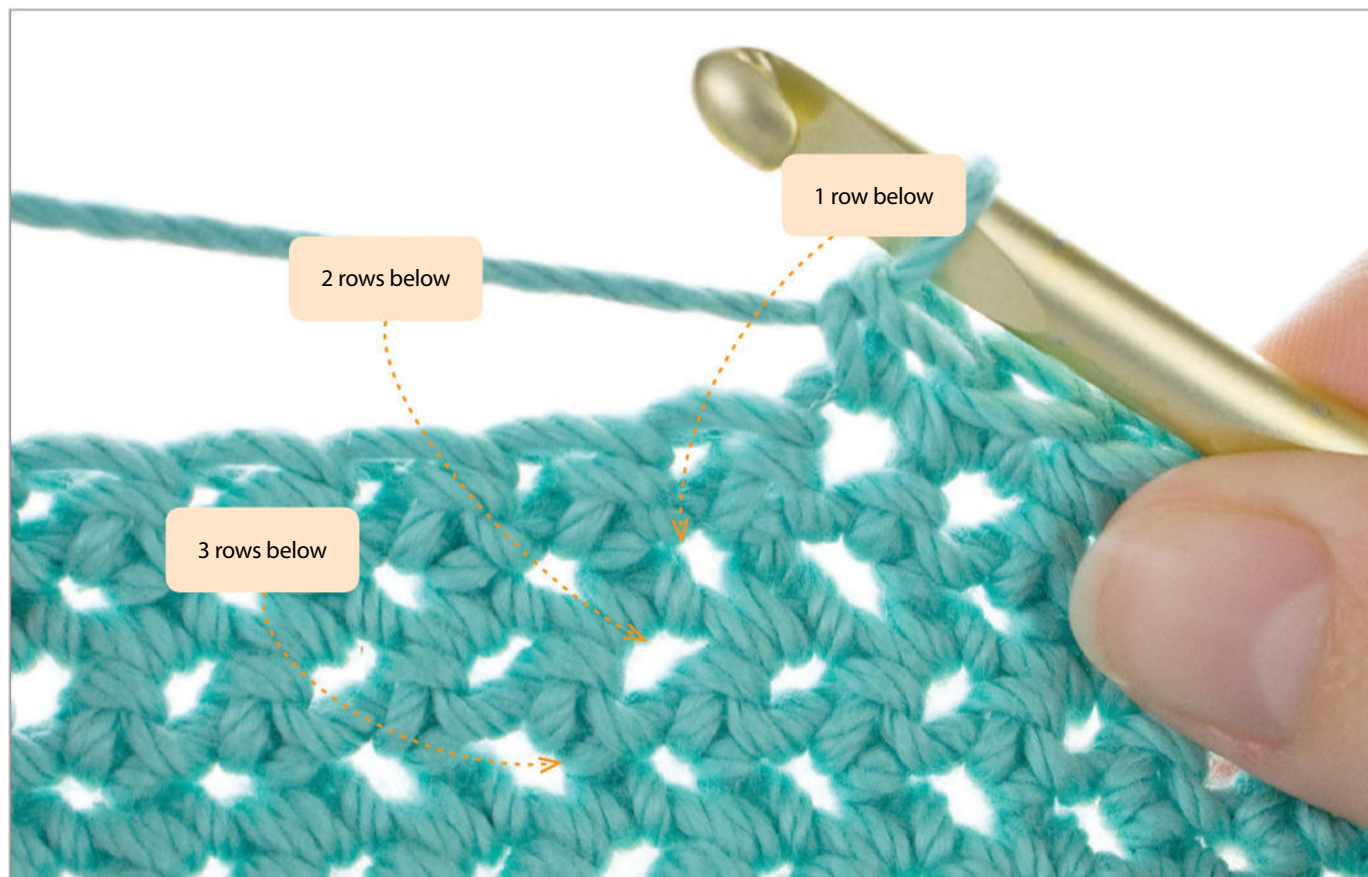
01 Into space below
Insert your hook into the space below the next stitch. Here we're using the space 1 row below.

02 Yarn over
Yarn over and draw up a loop until it reaches the height of your previous stitch so your hook is horizontal.

Be careful not to pull the extended loops that form the spikes too tightly. The spikes should lay flat against the surface of the underlying fabric without distorting it.

03 Complete as single
Complete the stitch as a single crochet: yarn over and draw through both loops on the hook.
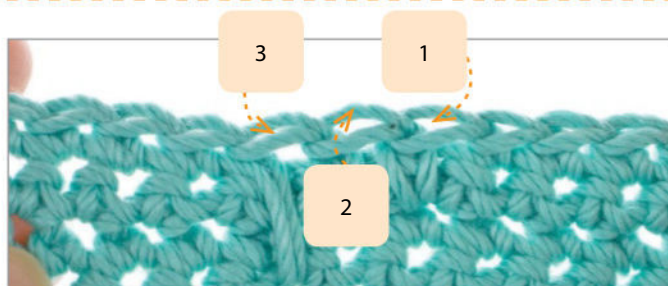
04 Worked into rows
These spike stitches are worked into stitches one row, two rows, and three rows below.

05 Different lengths
These spikes are worked with different lengths in contrasting colors. The pictured pattern is worked as follows: *spike st into st 1 row below, sc in next st, spike st into st 2 rows below, sc in next st; repeat from * to end.

Chainless foundations

You don't always need to start your projects with a chain. Read on to find out how

nstead of making a foundation chain and then your first row of stitches, you can combine the two and create the chain and first row in a single step, essentially skipping a step. Unlike a chain, chainless foundation stitches create a stretchy, elastic edge.

You'll be crocheting two rows at once, so it takes a bit longer to work a chainless foundation than a chain, but it's worth the time. It's much easier to work back into a chainless foundation than to work into a chain, and you won't have to worry about the chain getting twisted or being overly tight.

You can use this technique to replace the first row of any pattern. Simply ignore the chain, and replace the first row with the equivalent number of chainless foundation stitches.

Note that chainless foundation stitches form vertically, so the tops of your stitches are on the right of your work, and the bottom chains are on the left.

Foundation Single Crochet (fsc)
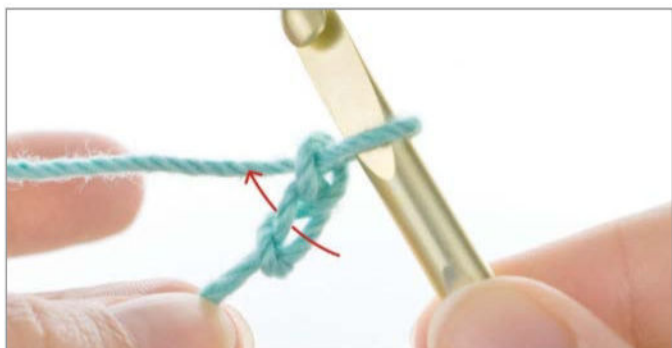
01 First foundation single crochet
To make the first fsc stitch, ch 2. You'll be working into the 2nd chain from the hook.
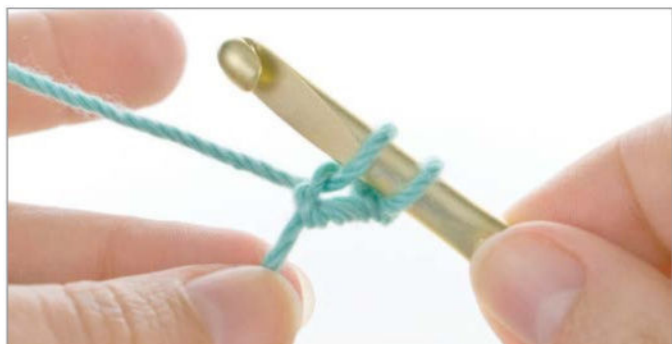
02 Into second chain
Insert your hook into the 2nd chain from the hook, and draw up a loop.

For clarity, this loop is highlighted in every step
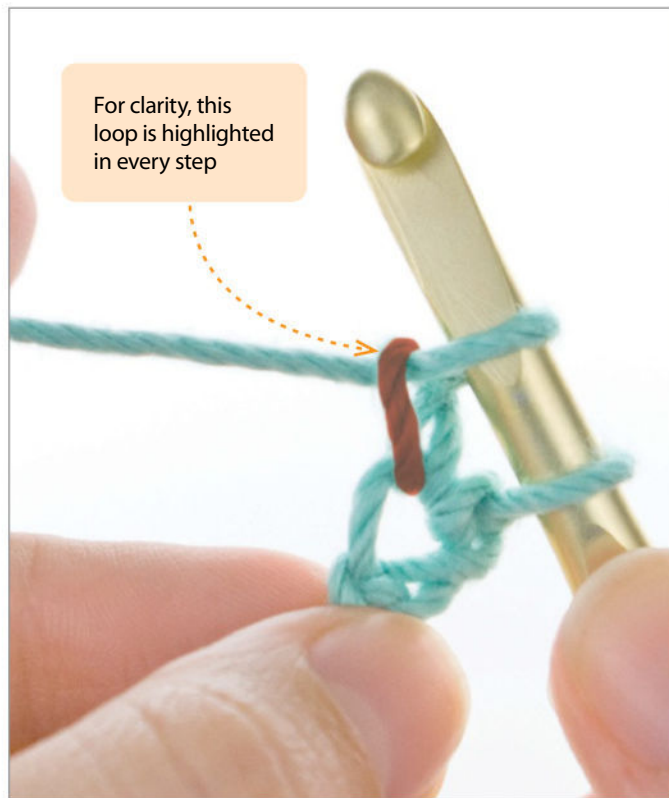
03 Through one loop
Yarn over and draw through 1 loop on the hook. This forms the chain you'll work into with your next stitch.

04 Draw through two loops

Yarn over and draw through 2 loops on the hook. This forms the single crochet. You now have 1 fsc complete.
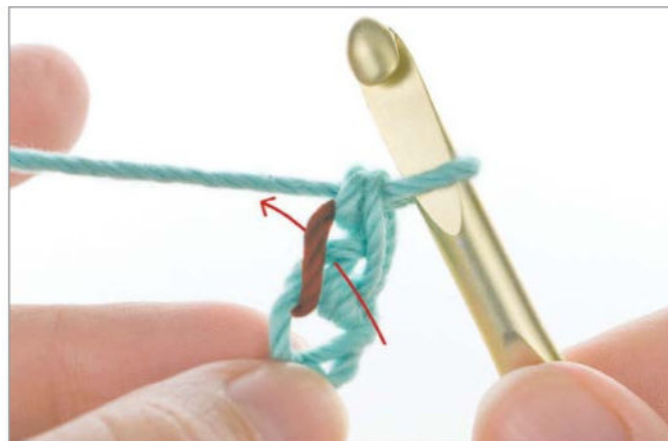
05 Keep working

Work each subsequent fsc stitch by inserting the hook under the 2 loops that form the chain at the bottom of the previous stitch.

06 Under top and back

Insert the hook under the top and back loops of the chain.

make this loop extra long

07 Until horizontal

Draw up a loop until your hook is horizontal. If your loop is too short, the foundation will be tight and you'll find it difficult to insert your hook for the next stitch.

You can make other chainless foundations such as foundation double crochet (fdc) and foundation half double crochet (fhdc) in the same way: yarn over, draw up a loop in the "chain" at the bottom of the previous stitch, draw through 1 loop to make the next "chain," and complete the stitch as usual.

"Chain" Vs at bottoms of stitches

Vs at tops of stitches
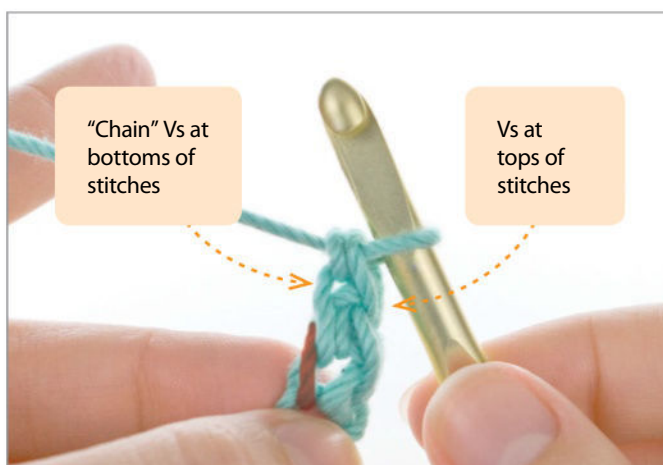
08 Repeat

Repeat steps 3 and 4 to complete the stitch: yarn over, draw through 1 loop on the hook (this forms the chain), yarn over, and draw through 2 loops on the hook (this forms the single crochet).

Linked stitches

- -

Close the gap between your long, loose-looking stitches with this really handy technique

You might have noticed that tall crochet stitches have a vertical gap between each stitch that can make your fabric look loose. Linked stitches close those gaps and produce a smooth, solid fabric – even with the tallest stitches. You can link any stitch taller than a single crochet by replacing the initial yarn over(s) at the beginning of the stitch with a loop that links the stitch to the previous stitch. Also, you do not count the turning chain as a stitch. This example uses linked double crochet (ldc) stitches. to fix it, put a crochet hook or cable needle through it to stop it from unraveling until you decide what to do. An unchecked dropped stitch can unravel all the way to your cast-on edge.

Linked stitches Create vertical gaps

01 Make a foundation chain
Make a foundation chain of the required number of stitches, plus 2. Insert your hook into the 2nd ch from the hook, yarn over, and draw up a loop. Insert your hook into the next ch, yarn over, and draw up a loop. You now have 3 loops on your hook.

02 Standard double
Work the rest of the stitch as a standard dc: (yarn over and draw through 2 loops on the hook) twice to complete the first ldc stitch. The stitch has a horizontal bar halfway up the post. This is the link point for the next stitch.

03 Top to bottom
Insert your hook from top to bottom under the horizontal bar.
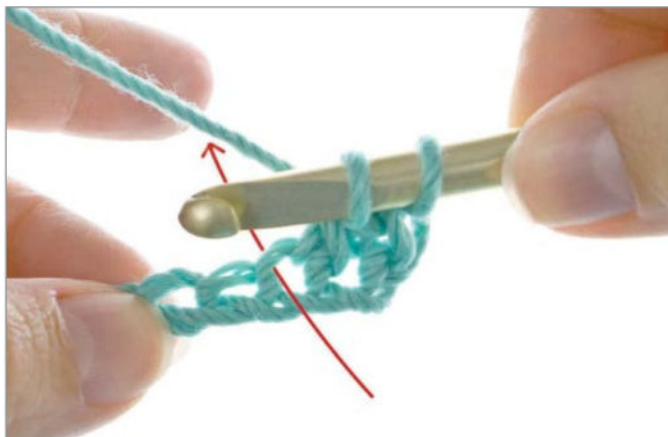
04 Draw up loop

Yarn over, draw up a loop (this loop on the hook replaces the yarn over at the start of a dc), and insert your hook into the next chain.

05 Complete YO

Complete the dc: yarn over and draw up a loop, (yarn over and draw through 2 loops) twice. Repeat steps 3 through 5 for each stitch across the row.

06 Chain two

To begin a new row, ch 2, and turn your work. Insert your hook into the 2nd ch from the hook, yarn over, and draw up a loop. Insert your hook into the 1st stitch (at the base of the chain), and repeat step 5 to complete the ldc.

07 For additional ldc
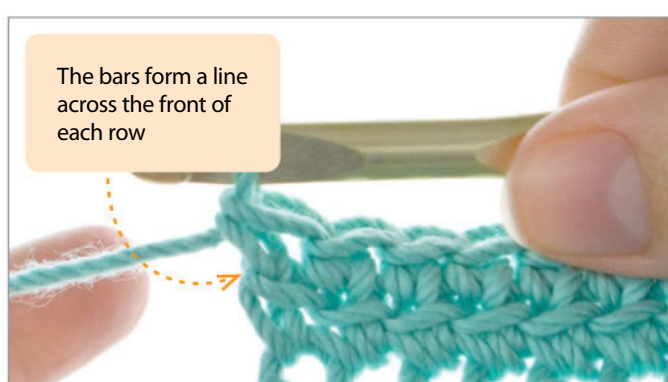
The bars form a line across the front of each row

For each additional ldc, draw up a loop in the horizontal bar of the previous ldc, insert your hook into the next st, yarn over, and draw up a loop, (yarn over and draw through 2 loops) twice. Do not crochet into the end turning chain.
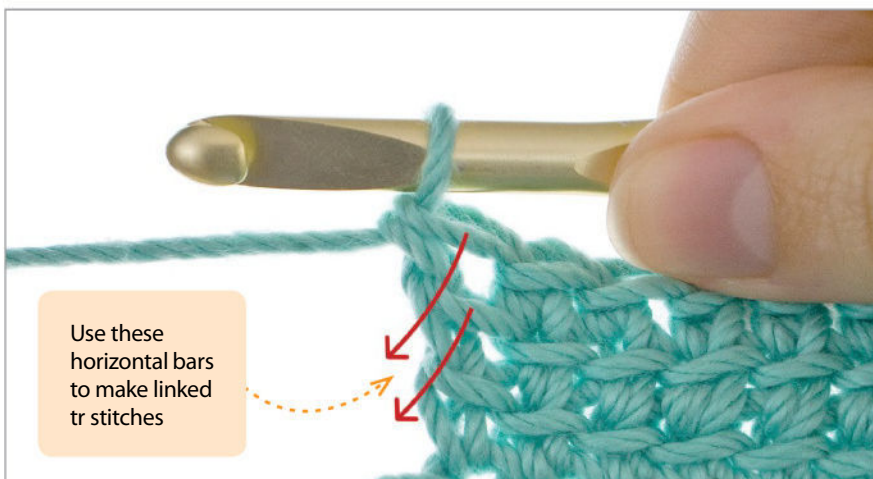
08 Link all

Use these horizontal bars to make linked tr stitches

You can link any tall stitches in this way – just replace each yarn over at the beginning of the stitch with a linked loop and complete the stitch as usual. For example, to make a linked triple (treble) crochet, draw up a loop in the horizontal bars one third and two thirds down the previous stitch (or the 2nd and 3rd chs of a ch3 turning chain) to begin the stitch. To eliminate the gap between the turning chain and the next stitch of double and triple crochets, link the next stitch to the turning chain.

Cluster stitches

Joining long stitches together creates a cluster, they can be created in several different ways with chains or decreases

Many combination stitches can be called "clusters," but a basic cluster stitch is formed by crocheting several incomplete tall stitches and then joining together all the stitches at the top. This creates a triangular stitch that's wide at the bottom and narrow at the top.

You can use cluster stitches as decreases or, in combination with chains or other stitches so the stitch count isn't reduced, to form stitch patterns. Clusters can be made from any number of stitches. Your pattern gives the details for the specific type of cluster required. Here we learn a basic 4-dc cluster.

"This creates a triangular stitch that's wide at the bottom and narrow at the top"

Sewing Stitches to Stitches

You might use this method for joining a shoulder seam

01 YO and insert
Yarn over, insert your hook into the next stitch, and draw up a loop.

02 Yo and draw through
Yarn over and draw through 2 loops on the hook. (You now have 2 loops on the hook.)

03 YO and insert
Instead of completing the dc, yarn over, insert your hook into the next stitch, and draw up a loop.

04 YO and draw through two
Yarn over and draw through 2 loops on the hook. (You now have 3 loops on the hook.)
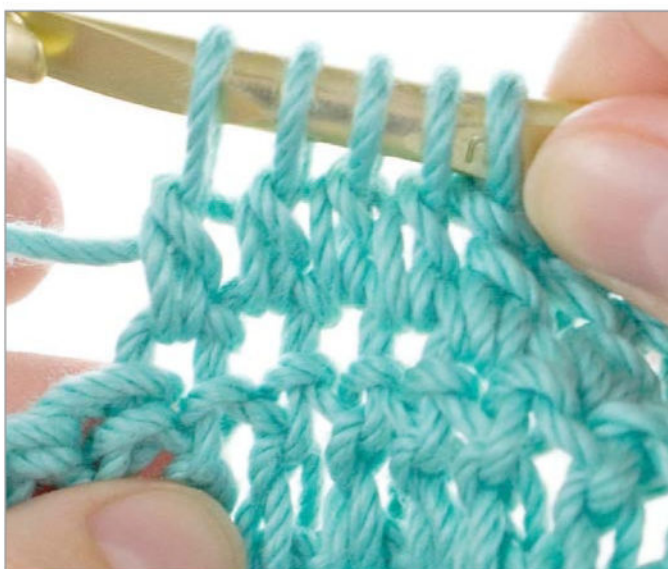
05 Repeat
Repeat steps 3 and 4 twice more to make the third and fourth incomplete dc stitches. Each repeat leaves you with 1 more loop remaining on the hook. (You now have 5 loops on the hook.)

06 Through all 5
Yarn over, and draw through all 5 loops on the hook to complete the cluster.

Before you sew any seam, line up the knitted pieces to be joined along the entire length of the join. If you want, use safety pins to loosely hold the pieces in place.

Puff stitches

Puff stitches look very similar from the front and back, and they create a reversible fabric with a soft, cushioned texture. You can make puffs from any number of half double crochet stitches. Your pattern gives the details for the specific type of puff required. Here we learn a basic 3-hdc puff

A puff stitch is formed by crocheting several incomplete half double crochet stitches into a single base stitch and then joining together all the stitches at the top. Each loop is drawn up farther than usual, so the resulting stitch is smooth and puffy.

Work puff stitches loosely, and draw up your hook to extend the loops. If you don't keep your loops long and loose, you'll find it difficult to draw your hook through all the loops at the end, and the resulting puff stitch will be small and not very puffy. But even with long, loose loops, the final step can be tricky. Try gently holding the base of the wraps between your left forefinger and thumb to provide some support as you draw the hook through. With practice, you should be able to pull your hook through all the wraps in one smooth move.

> "Try gently holding the base of the wraps between your left forefinger and thumb to provide some support"

01 YO and insert
Yarn over, insert your hook into the next stitch, and draw up a loop. (You now have 3 loops on your hook.)
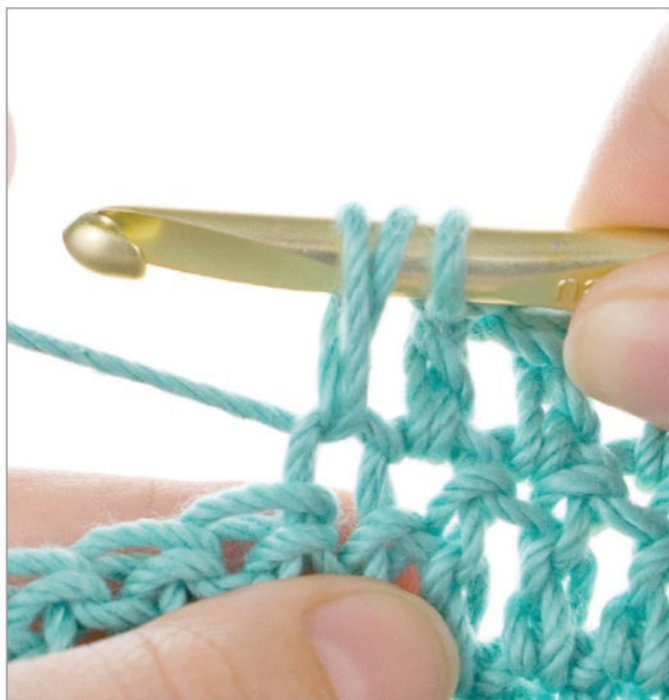
02 Up to height
Draw the loop up to the height of your previous stitch so your hook is horizontal.

03 Keep intact

Keep these extra-long loops intact by holding them in place on your hook with your right forefinger as you complete the remaining steps of the stitch.

04 Keep tension loose

Yarn over, and keeping your tension loose, insert your hook into the same stitch, yarn over, and draw up another loop. (You now have 5 loops on the hook.)

05 Draw up to height

Again, draw up the loop to the height of your previous stitch.

06 Make third stitch

Repeat steps 4 and 5 to make the third incomplete hdc stitch, and draw it up to the height of the previous stitch. (You now have 7 loops on the hook.)

07 Draw through all loops

Yarn over, and draw through all 7 loops on the hook to complete the cluster.

Popcorn stitches

Add some drama to your projects by using the popcorn stitch, which joins the first and last stitch together for effect

You create a popcorn stitch by crocheting several tall stitches into a single base stitch and then joining together the first and last stitches at the top with a chain. This creates a single stitch that "pops" dramatically from the fabric.

"This creates a stitch that 'pops' from the fabric"
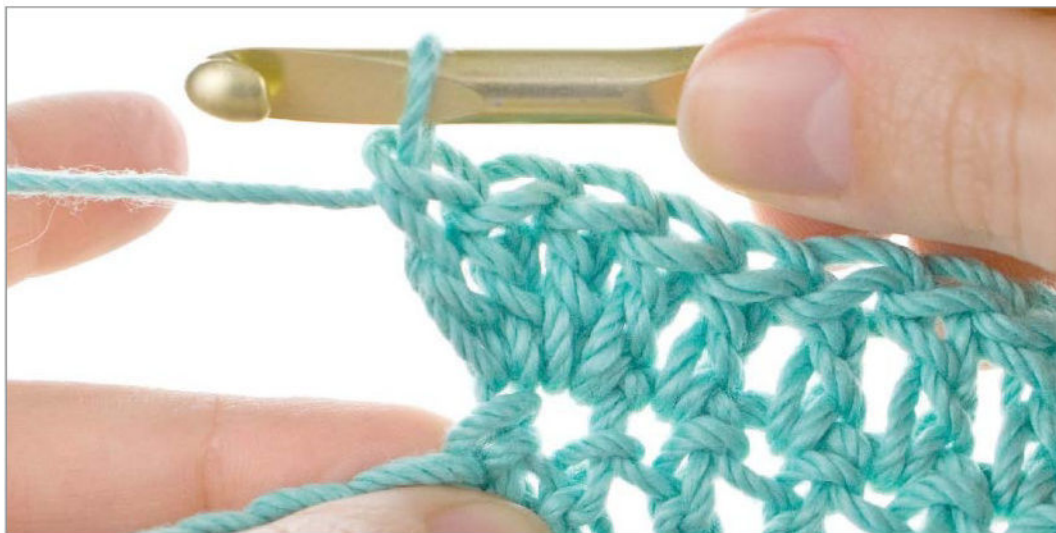
01 4 dc
Work 4 dc stitches into the next stitch.
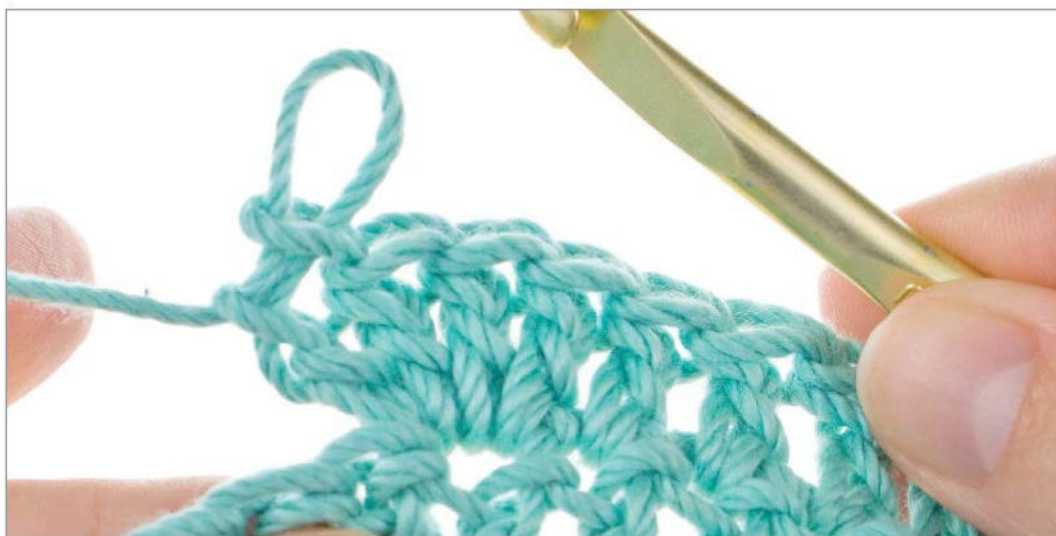
02 Remove hook
Draw the working loop on your hook longer, and remove your hook from the loop.

03 Take hook back
Insert your hook from front to back under both loops of the first dc stitch you made.

04 Pick up working loop
Pick up the working loop on your hook, and draw it back to the normal size.

05 And you're done
Draw up the loop through the first stitch to complete the popcorn. The tops of the first and last stitches are now drawn together.

Some patterns specify that the popcorn be closed with a ch 1 as a final step after drawing the working loop through to the front. Check your pattern to see if this chain is included as part of the popcorn stitch.

Going further

All about motifs

- -

A motif is a crocheted square, triangle, or other shape usually combined into larger pieces to create afghans, shawls, bags, garments, and more

An individual motif is fast to crochet, portable, and a good way to use up scraps of leftover yarn. Squares are the most common shape of motif because they're easy to combine into different items. You can use one row of joined squares as a scarf, or add more rows to create any size and shape of blanket. Just keep adding more squares until you have a rectangle as large as you need. You can even combine different yarns and colours and really mix and match for a unique end product.

You can make motifs with any weight of yarn and an appropriately sized hook. Use the hook size recommendation on the yarn's ball band as a starting point, and move up to a larger hook if the result is stiffer and denser than you'd like.

A slip stitch joins the stitches into a circle

Starting a Motif

Motifs are almost always worked in the round, from the center out, without turning your work between rounds. This means that, no matter the shape of the finished motif, it usually starts out as a circle.

Each motif is started by working into a starting ring – either a magic ring or a loop of chain stitches. You work all the stitches of Round 1 into this ring and then join the round into a complete circle. As the motif progresses with the subsequent rounds, the square (or triangular, hexagonal, etc.) shape begins to emerge.

Starting New Rounds

Motifs are often worked with a different color in every round or a pair of colors that alternate with each round. To get the neatest result, rotate your work before you begin each new round so you fasten on with the new yarn on a different side of the shape each time. As your motif grows, the yarn ends and turning chains will be scattered all around the motif instead of being concentrated on one side, where they'd be more noticeable.

To begin each additional round, fasten on by drawing up a loop of the new color of yarn in the specified stitch or space. Crochet over the starting tail with your next stitches to lock the tail in place.

- -

If you want to continue the next round with the same color, do not fasten off. Slip stitch across the top edge until you reach the starting point for the next round and begin the starting chain for that round.

- -

Motif Tips

As you begin each round, crochet over the starting tail from the new round. When you reach the end tail from the previous round, crochet over that, too. That way, your yarn tails will be partially woven in before you even pick up your yarn needle!

If you're making motifs in a variety of colors, use the same color to crochet the last round of every motif. Then use this same color when you stitch or crochet the motifs together, and the joins will be almost invisible.

You can make larger, even blanket-size motifs by continuing in the established pattern for as many rounds as you want. With oversized motifs like this, you might notice that the pattern begins to twist as it grows because each crochet stitch sits slightly to the right of the stitch below it. If you notice your motifs start to skew, simply turn your work by flipping it over before you fasten on to begin each new round.

Don't worry if your motifs look rounded at the corners when you finish crocheting them. Joining them into a larger piece coaxes each one into the right shape. For the neatest result in your finished piece, pin each motif into the same size and shape before you join them and then spray- or steam-block them. This sets the motifs in the correct shape, makes the corners look crisp, and removes any curling.

Solid squares

With this solid variation of a granny square, you work in every stitch instead of splitting into the standard 3 dc clusters. The result is a solid square with a pattern of holes radiating out to each corner

I t's easy to accidentally skip the first stitch after each ch-sp. The sideways V at the top of each stitch sits slightly to the right of the post of that stitch, so the stitches crammed into the ch-sp may also partially cover the V at the top of the next stitch. If this happens, snug those stitches back to the right to expose the V so you can crochet into it. Check that you haven't lost a stitch by counting the dc stitches along each side of the square. This number increases by 4 with every round, so you should have 7 in Round 2, 11 in Round 3, 15 in Round 4, etc.
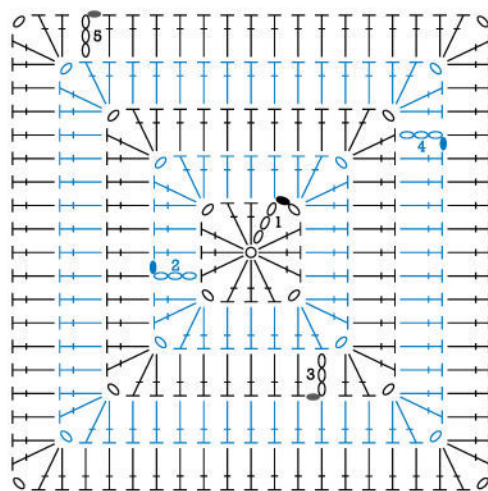
> "Check that you haven't lost a stitch by counting the dc stitches along each side of the square"

ch 3 + 2 dc

ch-sp

ch-sp

3 dc

3 dc

ch-sp

ch-sp

3 dc

Make a magic ring (or ch 4 and join with sl st into a ring).
Rnd 1: ch 3 (counts as dc, here and throughout); working into the ring: 2 dc, ch 1, (3 dc, ch 1) 3 times. If you're using a magic ring, draw the ring closed. Join with sl st to top of ch 3, and fasten off.

ch-sp

11 dc

Rnd 3: fasten on with next yarn at any st immediately preceding a ch-sp. Ch 3, (2 dc, ch 1, 2 dc) in next ch-sp, *dc in next 7 sts, (2 dc, ch 1, 2 dc) in next ch-sp; repeat from * twice more, dc in next 6 sts. Join with sl st to top of ch 3, and fasten off.

ch-sp

7 dc
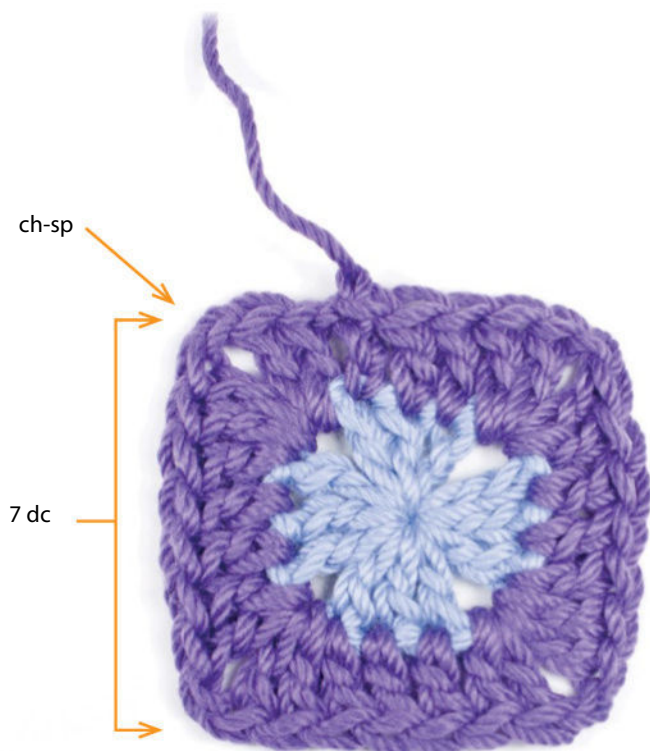
ch-sp

Rnd 2: fasten on with next yarn at any st immediately preceding a ch-sp. Ch 3, (2 dc, ch 1, 2 dc) in next ch-sp, *dc in next 3 sts, (2 dc, ch 1, 2 dc) in next ch-sp; repeat from * twice more, dc in next 2 sts. Join with sl st to top of ch 3, and fasten off.

General pattern for all further rounds: fasten on at any st. Ch 3. Dc in each st and make (2 dc, ch 1, 2 dc) in each ch-sp. Join with sl st to top of ch 3, and fasten off.

Circle in a square

This motif starts out as a circle but transforms into a square – making the finished blocks perfect for stitching together into an afghan! To make the circles pop, crochet Rounds 1 through 3 (the circle) in one color and Rounds 4 and 5 in a different color

Unlike the other motifs in this chapter, which you can stop at any point, this motif is only complete when it has 5 or more rounds. Rounds 1 through 3 form the center circle, and round 4 is a transitional round. From round 5 onward, the motif becomes a standard granny square.
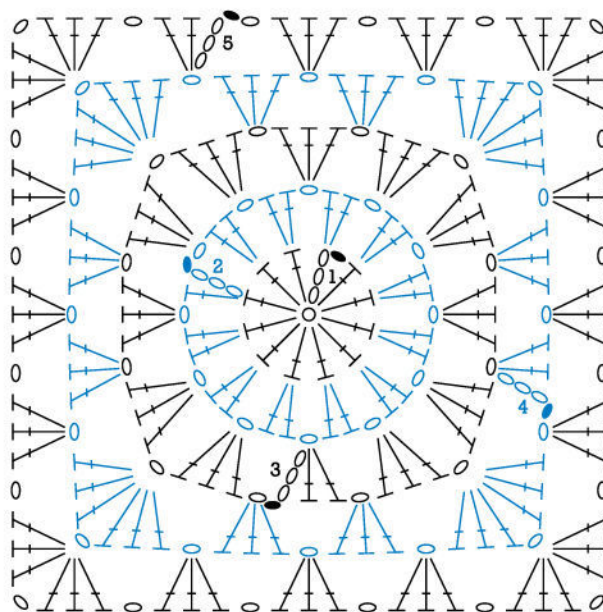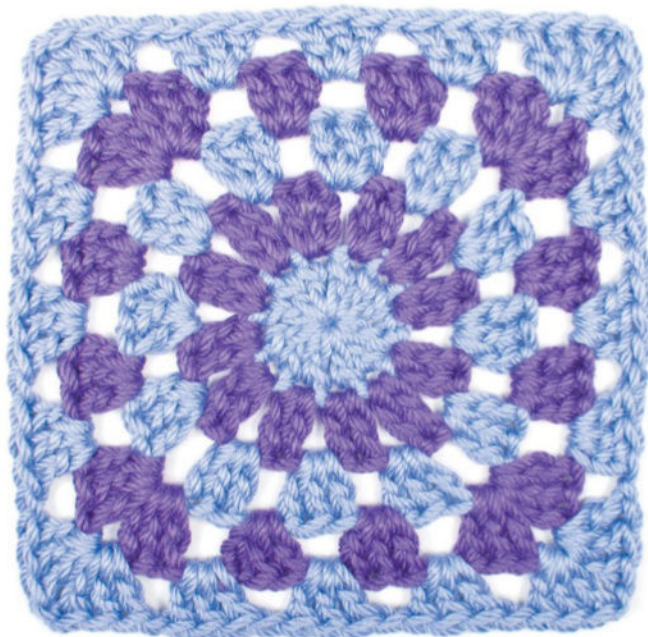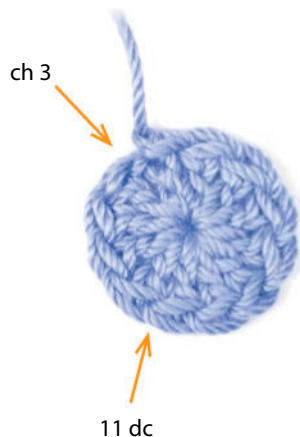
ch 3

11 dc

Make a magic ring (or ch 4 and join with sl st into a ring).
Rnd 1: ch 3 (counts as dc, here and throughout), 11 dc into ring. If you're using a magic ring, draw the ring closed. Join with sl st to top of ch 3, and fasten off.

ch 3 + dc

ch-sp

2 dc
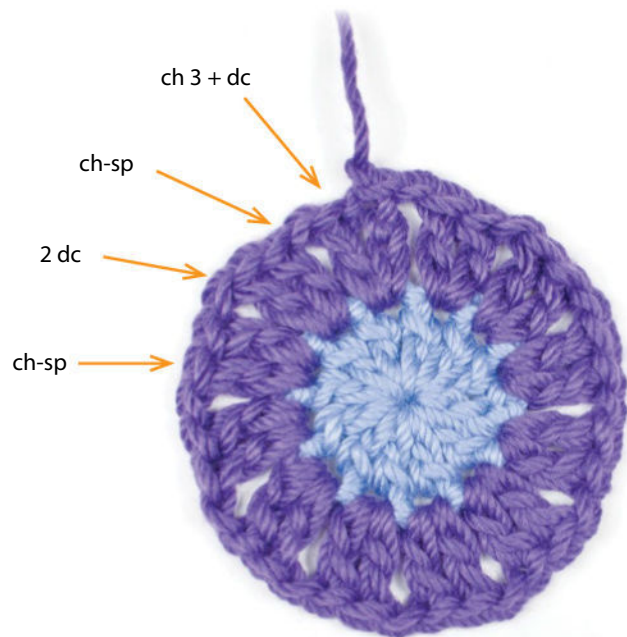
ch-sp

Rnd 2: fasten on with next yarn at any stitch. Ch 3, dc in same st, ch 1, (2 dc, ch 1) in next 11 sts. Join with sl st to top of ch 3, and fasten off.

> "Rounds 1 through 3 form the center circle, and round 4 is a transitional round"

ch 3 + 2 dc

ch-sp

3 dc
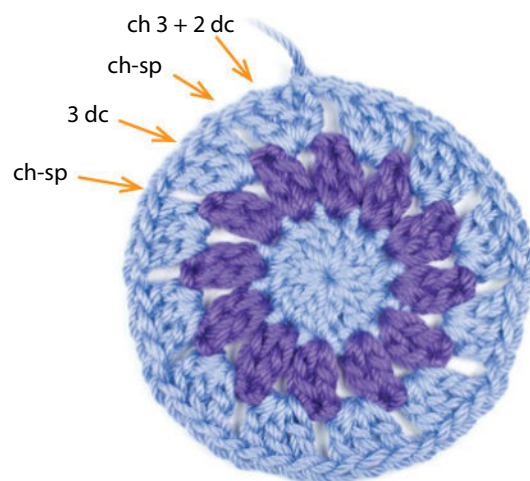
ch-sp

Rnd 3: fasten on with next yarn at any ch-sp. Ch 3, 2 dc in same ch-sp, ch 1, (3 dc, ch 1) in next 11 ch-sps. Join with sl st to top of ch 3, and fasten off.

corner space

edge spaces
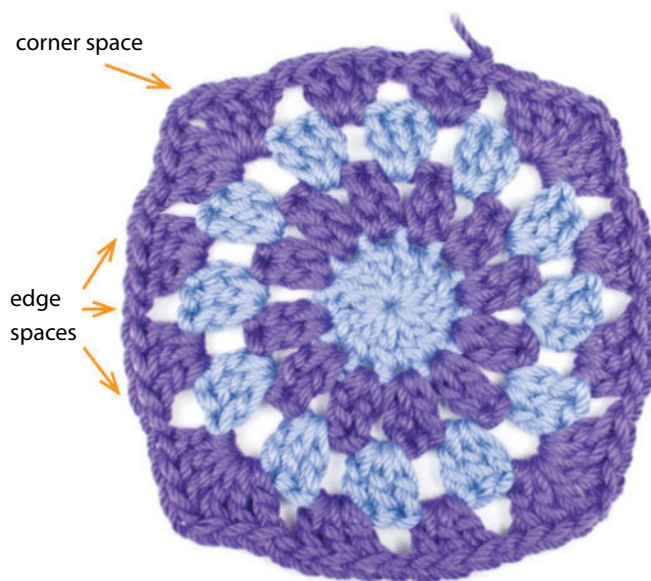
Rnd 4: fasten on with next yarn at any ch-sp. Ch 3, 2 dc in same ch-sp, ch 1, 3 dc in next ch-sp, ch 1, *(3 dc, ch 1, 3 dc, ch 1) in next ch-sp, (3 dc, ch 1) in next 2 ch-sps; repeat from * twice more, (3 dc, ch 1, 3 dc, ch 1) in next ch-sp. Join with sl st to top of ch 3, and fasten off.

General pattern for all further rounds: fasten on at any noncorner ch-sp. Ch 3, 2 dc in same ch-sp, ch 1. Make (3 dc, ch 1) in each edge space, and repeat (3 dc, ch 1) twice in each corner space. Join with sl st to top of ch 3, and fasten off.

Granny squares

The granny square is one of the most recognizable classic crochet motifs. It's an easy pattern to learn, and you can change the look by making it in alternating colors or using a different color for each round. (It's a perfect way to use all your yarn scraps!)
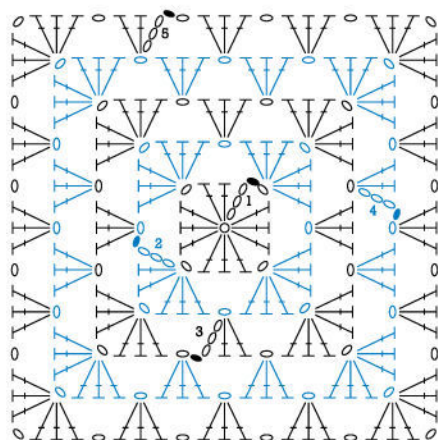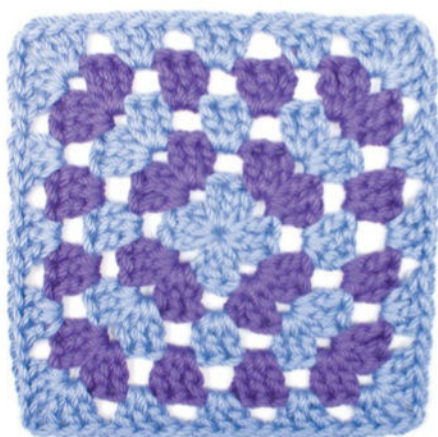
> "You can change the look by using a different color for each round"

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

Rnd 1: ch 3 (counts as dc, here and throughout); working into the ring: 2 dc, ch 1, (3 dc, ch 1) 3 times. If you're using a magic ring, draw the ring closed. Join with sl st to top of ch 3, and fasten off.

ch 3 + 2 dc
ch-sp
ch-sp
3 dc
3 dc
ch-sp
ch-sp
3 dc
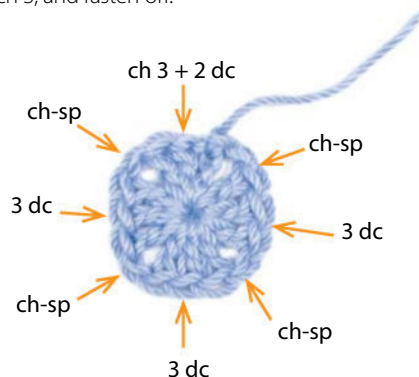
Rnd 2: fasten on with next yarn at any ch-sp. Ch 3, (2 dc, ch 1, 3 dc) in same ch-sp, ch 1, (3 dc, ch 1, 3 dc, ch 1) in next 3 ch-sps. Join with sl st to top of ch 3, and fasten off.

corner space
edge space
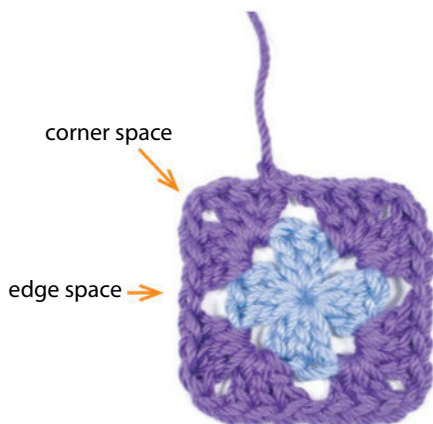
Rnd 3: fasten on with next yarn at any edge ch-sp. Ch 3, 2 dc in same ch-sp, ch 1, *(3 dc, ch 1, 3 dc, ch 1) in next corner ch-sp, 3 dc in next edge ch-sp, ch 1; repeat from * twice more, (3 dc, ch 1, 3 dc, ch 1) in last corner ch-sp. Join with sl st to top of ch 3, and fasten off.
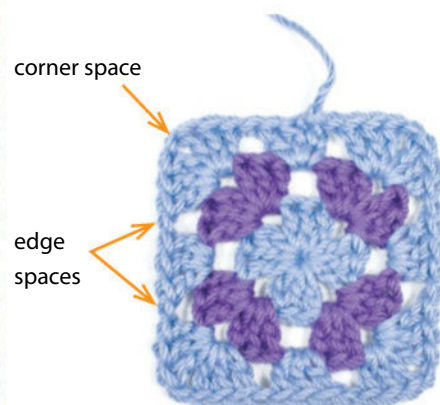
corner space
edge spaces

General pattern for all further rounds: fasten on at any edge ch-sp. Ch 3, 2 dc in same ch-sp, ch 1. Make (3 dc, ch 1) in each edge space, and repeat (3 dc, ch 1) twice in each corner space. Join with sl st to top of ch 3, and fasten off.

corner space
edge spaces
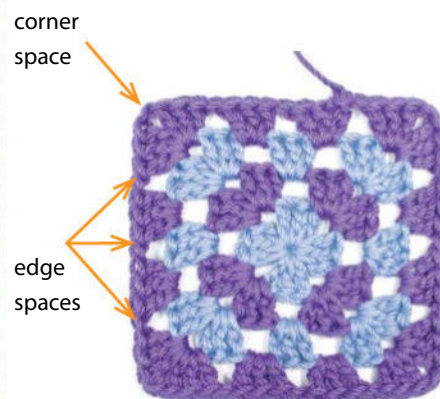
Granny triangles

By removing a corner and adding an extra stitch to each cluster, you can change a granny square into a granny triangle. You can piece these together into an afghan, or they're perfect for a colorful bunting!
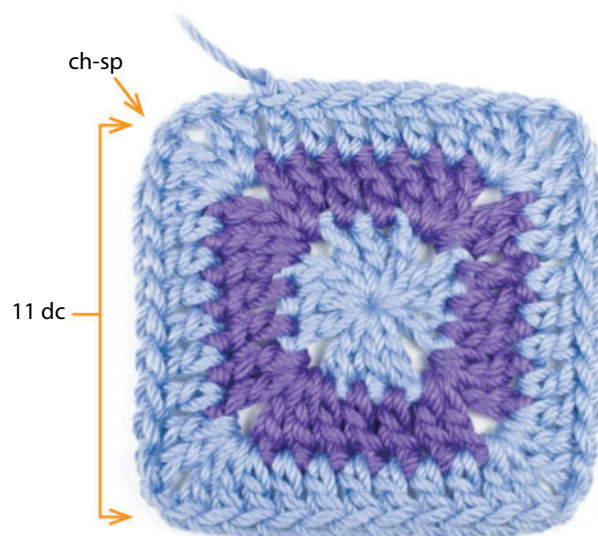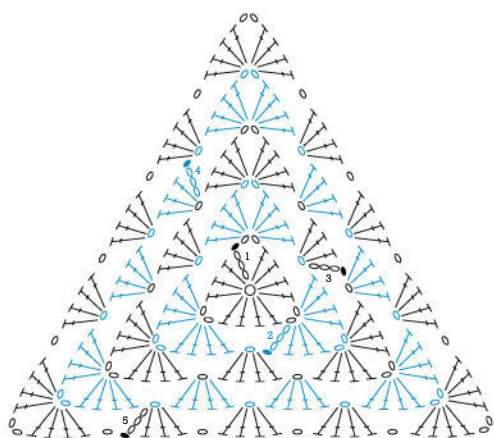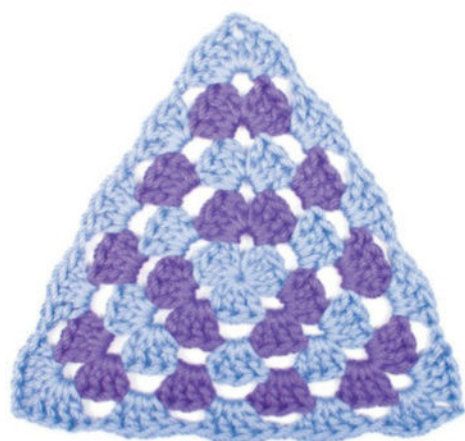
Make a magic ring (or ch 4 and join with sl st into a ring).

Rnd 1: ch 3 (counts as dc, here and throughout); working into the ring: 3 dc, ch 2, (4 dc, ch 2) twice. If you're using a magic ring, draw the ring closed. Join with sl st to top of ch 3, and fasten off.

ch3 + 3 dc

ch-sp

4 dc

ch-sp

ch-sp

4 dc
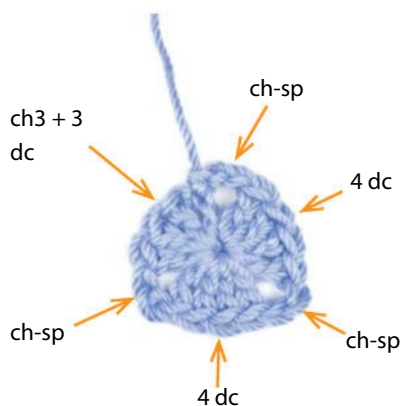
Rnd 2: fasten on with next yarn at any ch-sp. Ch 3, (3 dc, ch 2, 4 dc) in same ch-sp, ch 1, (4 dc, ch 2, 4 dc, ch 1) in next 2 ch-sps. Join with sl st to top of ch 3, and fasten off.

corner space

edge space
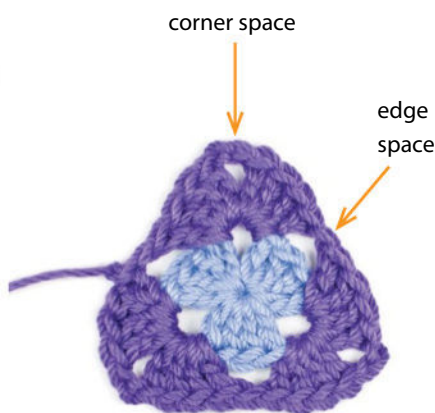
Rnd 3: fasten on with next yarn at any edge ch-sp. Ch 3, 3 dc in same ch-sp, ch 1, *(4 dc, ch 2, 4 dc, ch 1) in next corner ch-sp, 4 dc in next edge ch-sp, ch 1; repeat from * once more, (4 dc, ch 2, 4 dc, ch 1) in last corner ch-sp. Join with sl st to top of ch 3, and fasten off.
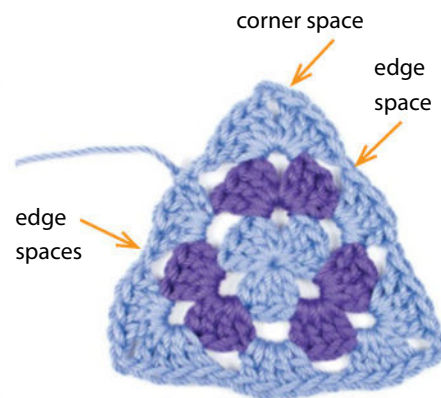
corner space

edge space

edge spaces

General pattern for all further rounds: fasten on at any edge ch-sp. Ch 3, 2 dc in same ch-sp, ch 1. Make (3 dc, ch 1) in each edge space, and repeat (3 dc, ch 1) twice in each corner space. Join with sl st to top of ch 3, and fasten off.

corner space

edge spaces

"You can change a granny square into a granny triangle"
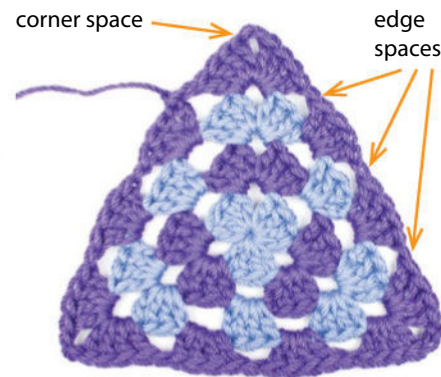
Flowers

Adding embellishments to your projects is a great way of making it more unique, and adding flowers is a really simple ay of making them stand out

Pretty crocheted flowers are quick and easy to make, and they're a fun way to add a decorative touch to other projects. You can stitch them directly onto your other crocheted pieces as embellishments, or you can sew a pin back onto the wrong side to make a removable flower brooch. Make these flowers with any size of yarn you like and an appropriate hook for the yarn. I used worsted weight yarn and an US I/9 (5.5mm) hook. The flowers shown measure about 2 1/2 inches (6cm) across..

Simple Flower

Make a magic ring, ch 1.
Rnd 1: (sc in magic ring, ch 2) 6 times. Pull the ring closed and join with sl st to 1st sc.
Rnd 2: (sl st, ch 2, 2 dc, ch 2, sl st) in each ch2-sp. (6 petals made)
Fasten off and weave in ends, or use the ends to stitch the flower to something as an embellishment.

"You can stitch them directly onto your other crocheted pieces"

Double Flower

This flower is worked in a continuous spiral. Do not join at the end of the round unless the pattern specifies it.

Make a magic ring, ch 1.

Rnd 1: 6 sc in magic ring. (6 sts) Pull the ring closed.

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

Fold the petals forward to expose the unworked back loops of the stitches of Round 1.

You'll be working into these back loops in Round 3:

Rnd 3: (ch 1, dc in next st) 6 times, sl st into 1st ch1-sp. (6 dcs made)

Rnd 4: ch 2, 2 dc in same ch1-sp (at base of ch), ch 2, sl st in same ch1-sp, (ch 2, 2 dc in next ch1-sp, ch 2, sl st in same ch1-sp) 5 times. (6 petals made) Fasten off and weave in ends, or use the ends to stitch the flower to something as an embellishment.

Fringe

Fringe is an easy way to add impact to the ends of a scarf or around the bottom of a shawl and it has a quick and easy method too

You can customize fringe in several ways: you can use the same color yarn as your project or a contrasting color, you can add more or fewer strands of yarn in each knot, and you can vary the space between the knots. You can sometimes also avoid weaving in your yarn ends by incorporating them into the fringe.

For a small project like a scarf, you can calculate how many strands of yarn you'll need to make all the fringe and cut it all at once. For larger projects like a fringed shawl, it's easier to cut a couple dozen strands at a time, tie them on, and cut more strands as you need them.

> "You can calculate how many strands of yarn you'll need to make all the fringe"

Fringe
Add details to scarves and cushions

01 Wrap around
Wrap your yarn loosely around a piece of cardboard about 1⁄2 to 1 inch (1.5 to 2.5cm) longer than the length of the desired fringe. The extra length will form the knot, so you'll need more length if you use thicker yarn or more strands per knot.

02 Cut
Cut all the strands of yarn across the bottom. Each yarn strand formed will now be the same length.

03 Collect your strands

Each length of yarn will form 2 strands in the knot. Decide how many strands to include in each knot (I've used 3 here), hold the strands together, and fold them in half.

04 Insert hook

Insert a crochet hook from back to front through the edge of your project, and hook the midpoint of all the folded fringe strands.

05 Pull yarn through

Draw the yarn loop back through the edge, and enlarge it until you can reach through the loop with your thumb and forefinger.

06 Tighten

Pull all the yarn ends through the loop. You can do this with your crochet hook, but especially with thicker fringes, you might find it difficult to catch all the strands with the hook. Pull to tighten the knot.

Repeat steps 3 through 6 to make equally spaced fringe knots along the edge of your work. When you're finished, straighten the bottom edge of the fringe by trimming off any extra-long yarn strands.

Reverse single crochet

Reverse single crochet (rsc), also known as crab stitch, creates a sturdy, nonstretchy, twisted-cord edging

As the name implies, this stitch is a single crochet stitch worked in the reverse direction. Instead of working from right to left across the row, you work from left to right and begin each new stitch by inserting your hook into the stitch to the right of the current stitch. Working this way twists your stitches so the Vs are hidden and the edge is a neatly finished row of tiny bobbles. You can't crochet back into rsc stitches, so reserve this technique for the final row or round of a piece.

> "Instead of working from right to left across the row, you work from left to right"

Reverse single crochet
Here's how to make a reverse single crochet edging:

Top tip
If you're working all the way around an edge, rsc into the stitch where you fastened on and then fasten off.

01 Fasten on
Fasten on at any point along the edge, and ch 1. To begin each rsc, you work into the previous stitch, the stitch to the right of your current stitch.

02 Insert front to back
Insert your hook from front to back into the previous stitch.

Each rsc stitch should look like a small individual knot or bobble, but if you work too quickly, your yarn can snag around the last stitch you made and the two stitches will tangle together. If this happens, unravel the stitch you just made and try again.

keep your hook and working yarn to the right of the previous stitch so the working yarn doesn't get caught up
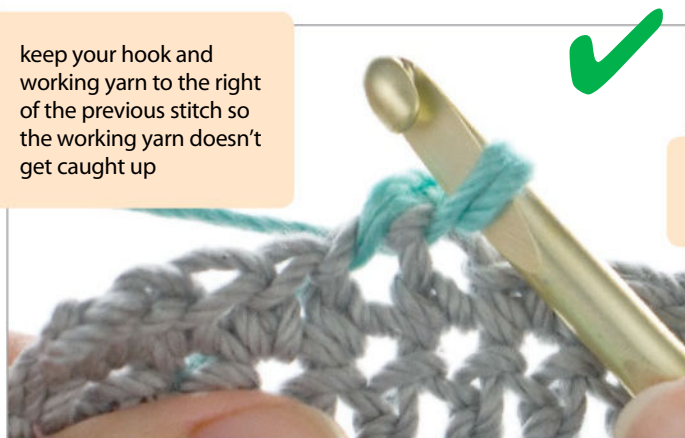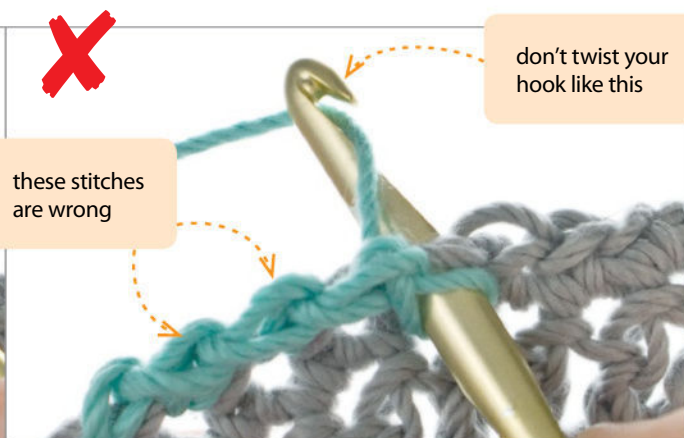
don't twist your hook like this

these stitches are wrong

03 Face toward you
Yarn over and draw up a loop, keeping the throat of your hook facing toward the left, as usual.

If you were to twist the hook as you draw up this loop, you'd end up with a mirror-image single crochet stitch instead of a reverse single crochet.

your next stitch goes here

04 Complete rsc
Complete the rsc in the same way as a standard sc: yarn over and draw through both loops on the hook.

05 Work backwards
Working backward around the edge, rsc in each st around.

06 Three to a corner
At a corner, work as you would for a single crochet edging by making 3 rsc stitches into the corner stitch.

Each rsc stitch should look like a small individual knot or bobble, but if you work too quickly, your yarn can snag around the last stitch you made and the two stitches will tangle together. If this happens, unravel the stitch you just made and try again.

Picot edging

A picot edging gives a pretty and delicate finish and is often used to edge lacy pieces and garments for women and children

A picot is a tiny loop of chain stitches that sits on top of the previous stitch and creates a small round or pointed loop at the edge of a piece or within a lace pattern. Picots can be formed from various chain lengths or in different ways, and each variation creates a subtly new shape. An open picot is a loop of chain stitches; a closed picot joins the end of the chain loop to its start with a slip stitch, either into the base stitch (as shown here), or into the first chain stitch. If you're following a pattern, check the description to be sure you're using the intended form of picot.

Picot Edging Add a fancy edge

01 Chain out
Fasten on in any stitch, and ch 1. Sc into the first stitch and then ch 3.
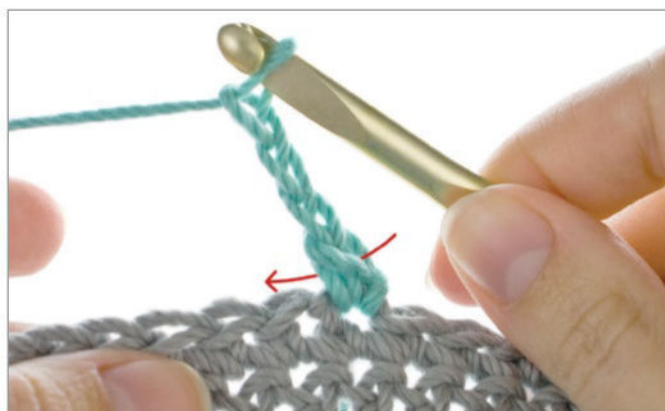
02 Into the loop
Work into the front loop and the left vertical bar of the stitch at the base of this chain.

03 Slip stitch
Complete the picot with a sl st: insert your hook through the front loop and left vertical bar of the sc below, draw up a loop, and draw it through the loop on the hook.

04 Sc onwards
Sc in the next 3 stitches and then ch 3 to begin the next picot.

05 Picot again
Complete the picot with a sl st through the front loop and left vertical bar of the sc at the base of the chain.

06 Keep going
The completed picot edging follows this pattern: *sc in next st, ch 3, sl st into front loop and left vertical bar of sc at base of ch, sc in next 2 sts; rep from * as many times as required.

07 Cornering
At a corner, work as you would for a plain sc edging, making 3 sc into the corner stitch. Continue to count your stitches as you go, and make another picot after every 3 stitches.

3 sc

If you're working all the way around an edge, join with a sl st to the first sc where you fastened on, or use an invisible finish for a smoother join.

This picot edging is worked over a multiple of 3 stitches, but to fit into the number of stitches at the edge of your project, you could space your picots closer together or farther apart by reducing or increasing the number of sc stitches between each picot.

Intermediate stitch patterns

By combining crochet stitches, you can create a huge variety of decorative designs, from lacy, open stitch patterns that make beautiful light shawls and wraps, to densely textured patterns perfect for wonderfully warm blankets

Diamond fans

Special Stitch

V st: (dc, ch 1, dc) in specified st.

Ch a multiple of 4 sts plus 2.

Row 1: sc in 2nd ch from hook, *ch 5, sk next 3 chs, sc in next ch; rep from * across to end.

Row 2: ch 3 (counts as dc), turn, dc in same st, ch 1, *sc in next ch5-sp, ch 1, V st in next sc, ch 1; rep from * across to last ch5-sp, sc in last ch5-sp, ch 1, 2 dc in last sc.

Row 3: ch 1, turn, sc in next st, ch 5, *sc in top of V st, ch 5; rep from * across to end, sc in top of t-ch.

Rep Rows 2 and 3 for pattern.
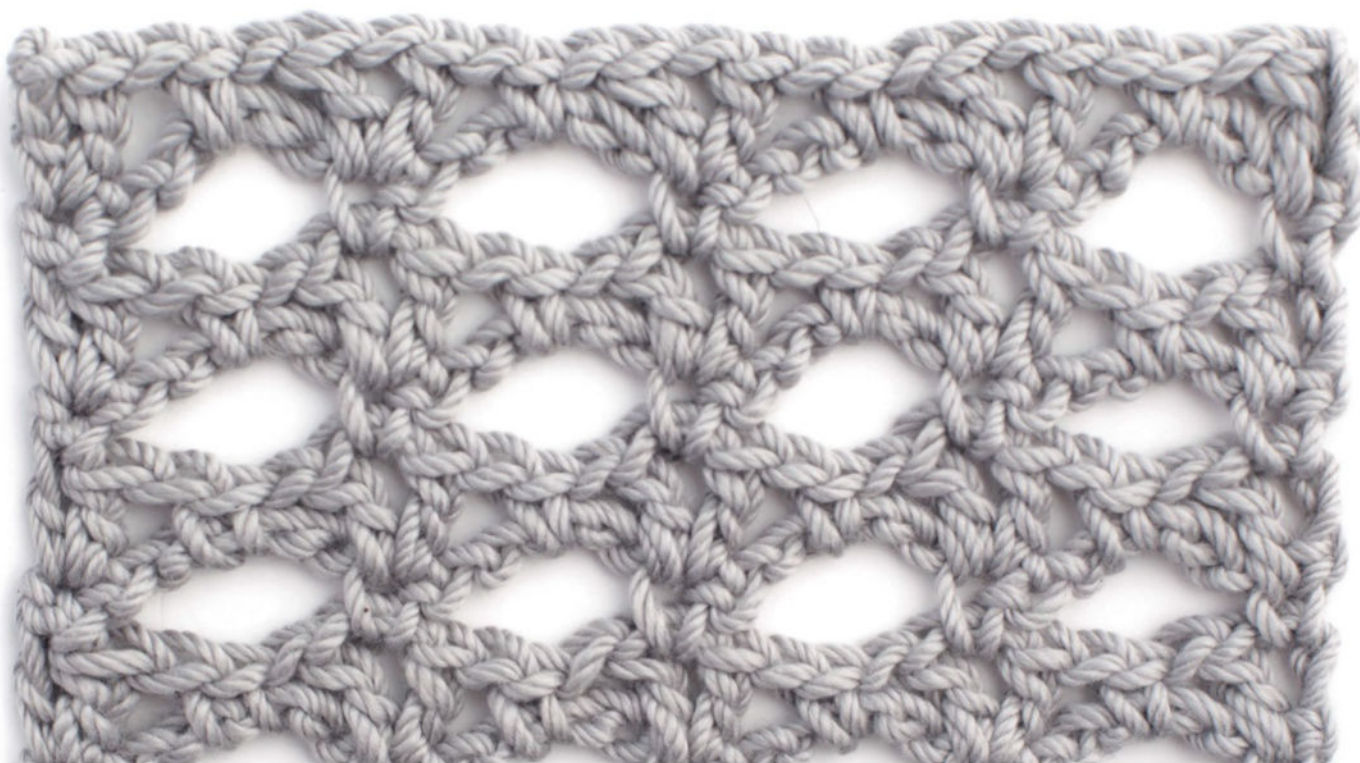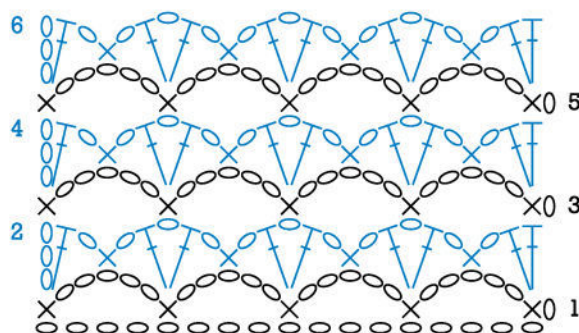
Popcorn squares

Special Stitch

Popcorn: make 4 dc in specified st.

Remove hook from working loop, insert hook from front to back in top of 1st dc made, reinsert hook into working loop, and draw through both loops on hook.

Ch a multiple of 4 sts.

Row 1: sc in 2nd ch from hook, *ch 1, sk next ch, sc in next ch; rep from * across to end.

Row 2: ch 3 (counts as dc), turn, dc in next ch1-sp, *ch 1, popcorn in next ch1-sp, ch 1, dc in next ch1-sp; rep from * across to last st, dc in last st.

Row 3: ch 1, turn, sc in next st, ch 1, *sc in next ch1-sp, ch 1; rep from * across to last 2 sts, sk next st, sc in last st.

Rep Rows 2 and 3 for pattern.
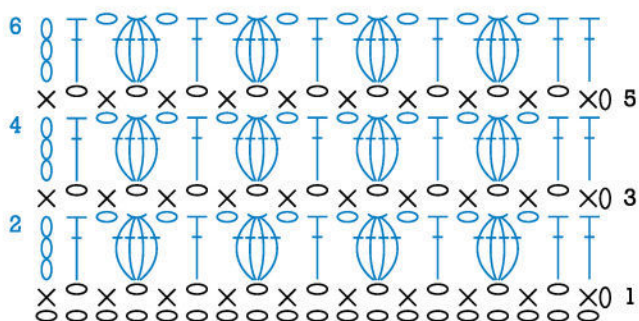
V bobbles

Special Stitches

Bobble: (YO, insert hook into st and draw up a loop, YO and draw through 2 loops on hook) twice, YO and draw through all 3 loops on hook.

V bobble: (bobble, ch 1, bobble) in specified st.

Ch a multiple of 4 sts plus 3.

Row 1: V bobble in 5th ch from hook (unworked chains count as dc), sk next ch, *dc in next ch, sk next ch, V bobble in next ch, sk next ch; rep from * across to last ch, dc in last ch.

Row 2: ch 3 (counts as dc), turn, V bobble in top of next V bobble, *dc in next dc, V bobble in top of next V bobble; rep from * across to last st, dc in top of t-ch.

Rep Row 2 for pattern.
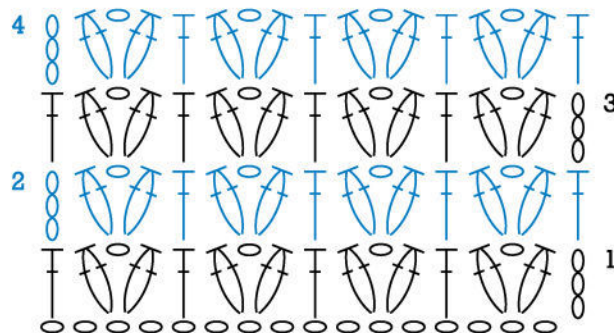
Going further

Post stitch rib

Ch a multiple of 2 sts.
Row 1: dc in 4th ch from hook (unworked chains count as dc), dc in each remaining ch across.
Row 2: ch 3 (counts as dc), turn, *FPdc in next st, BPdc in next st; rep from * across to last st, dc in top of t-ch.
  Rep Row 2 for pattern.

Waffle stitch

Ch a multiple of 3 sts plus 2.
Row 1: dc in 4th ch from hook (unworked chains count as dc), dc in each remaining ch across.
Row 2: ch 3 (counts as dc, here and throughout), turn, *FPdc in next st, dc in next 2 sts; rep from * across to last 2 sts, FPdc in next st, dc in top of t-ch.
Row 3: ch 3, turn, *dc in next st, FPdc in next 2 sts; rep from * across to last 2 sts, dc in next st, dc in top of t-ch.
  Rep Rows 2 and 3 for pattern.
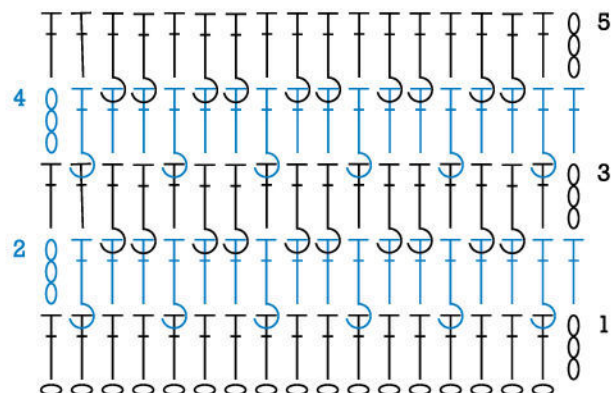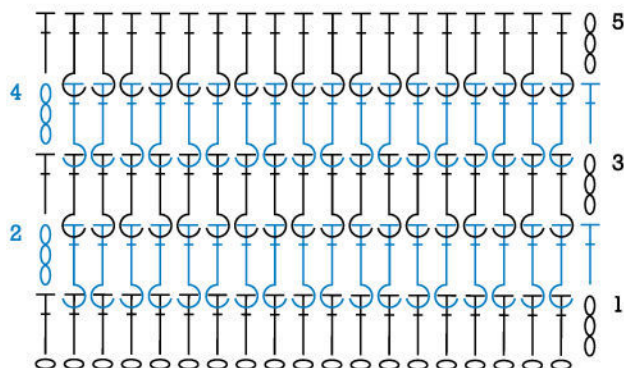
Basket weave

Ch a multiple of 6 sts plus 4.
Row 1: dc in 4th ch from hook (unworked chains count as dc), dc in each remaining ch across.
Row 2: ch 3 (counts as dc, here and throughout), turn, *FPdc in next 3 sts, BPdc in next 3 sts; rep from * across to last st, dc in top of t-ch.
Row 3: rep Row 2.
Row 4: ch 3, turn, *BPdc in next 3 sts, FPdc in next 3 sts; rep from * across to last st, dc in top of t-ch.
Row 5: rep Row 4.
 Rep Rows 2 through 5 for pattern.
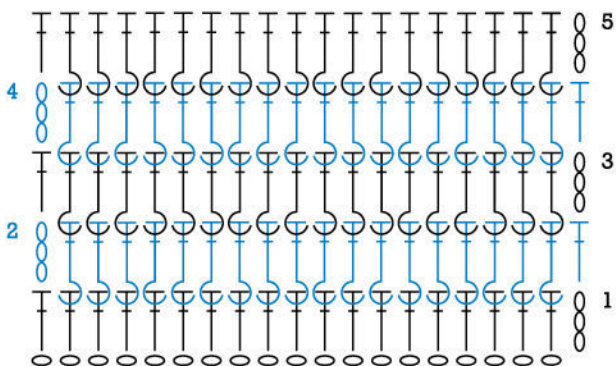
Diamond overlay
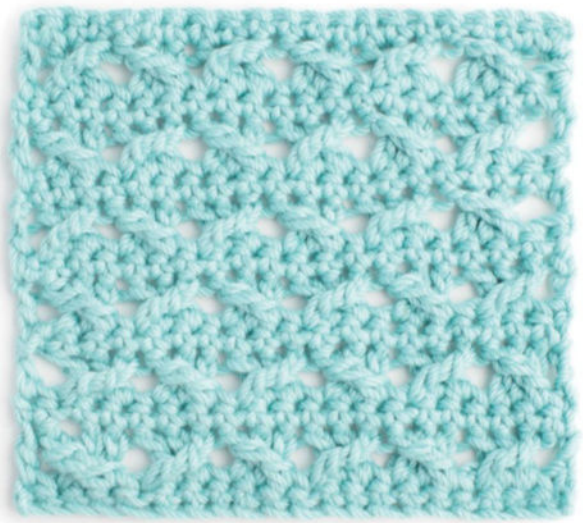
Ch a multiple of 6 sts plus 3.
Row 1: sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each remaining ch across.
Row 2: ch 3 (counts as dc, here and throughout), turn, *sk next 2 sts, tr in next st, dc in 2 skipped sts (working behind st just made), sk next st, dc in next 2 sts, tr in skipped st (working in front of sts just made); rep from * across to last st, dc in last st.
Row 3: ch 1, turn, sc in each st across.
Row 4: ch 3, turn, *sk next st, dc in next 2 sts, tr in skipped st (working in front of sts just made), sk next 2 sts, tr in next st, dc in 2 skipped sts (working behind st just made); rep from * across to last st, dc in last st.
Row 5: rep Row 3.
 Rep Rows 2 through 5 for pattern.

Going further

Triangle spaces

Ch a multiple of 6 sts plus 2.

Row 1: sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in next ch, ch 3, sk next 3 chs, sc in next ch, *ch 1, sk next ch, sc in next ch, ch 3, sk next 3 chs, sc in next ch; rep from * across to last ch, sc in last ch.

Row 2: ch 1, turn, sc in next st, ch 2, 3 dc in next ch3-sp, *ch 2, sc in next ch1-sp, ch 2, 3 dc in next ch3-sp; rep from * across to last 2 sts, ch 2, sk next st, sc in last st.

Row 3: ch 4 (counts as dc + ch 1), turn, sc in next dc, ch 1, sk next dc, sc in next dc, *ch 3, sc in next dc, ch 1, sk next dc, sc in next dc; rep from * across to end, ch 1, dc in last sc.

Row 4: ch 3 (counts as dc), turn, dc in next ch1-sp, ch 2, sc in next ch1-sp, *ch 2, 3 dc in next ch3-sp, ch 2, sc in next ch1-sp; rep from * across to last space, ch 2, 2 dc in t-ch space.

Row 5: ch 1, turn, sc in next 2 dcs, ch 3, *sc in next dc, ch 1, sk next dc, sc in next dc, ch 3; rep from * across to last 2 sts, sc in next dc, sc in top of t-ch.

Rep Rows 2 through 5 for pattern.
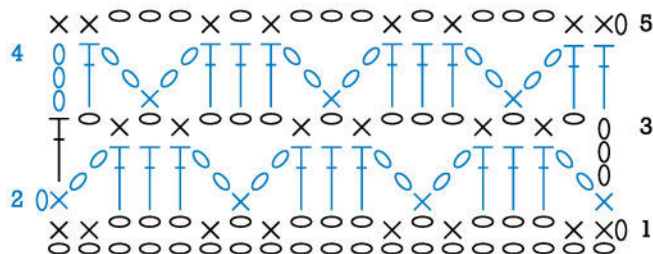
Tumbling blocks
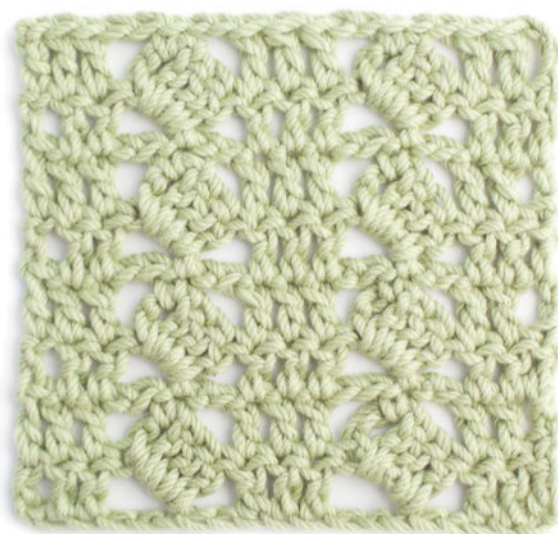
Special Stitch

To work a stitch around the post of a previous stitch, insert the hook under the stitch, instead of into it, and crochet around it.

Ch a multiple of 8 sts plus 5.

Row 1: dc in 4th ch from hook (unworked chs count as dc), *dc in next ch, sk next 2 chs, dc in next ch, ch 3, 3 dc around post of dc just worked, sk next 2 chs, dc in next 2 chs; rep from * across to last ch, dc in last ch.

Row 2: ch 3 (counts as dc, here and throughout), turn, *dc in next 2 dcs, ch 2, sc in ch3-sp, ch 2, sk next dc, dc in next dc; rep from * across to last 2 sts, dc in next dc, dc in top of t-ch.

Row 3: ch 3, turn, *dc in next 2 dcs, dc in next sc, ch 3, 3 dc around post of dc just worked, dc in next dc; rep from * across to last 2 sts, dc in next dc, dc in top of t-ch.

Rep Rows 2 and 3 for pattern.
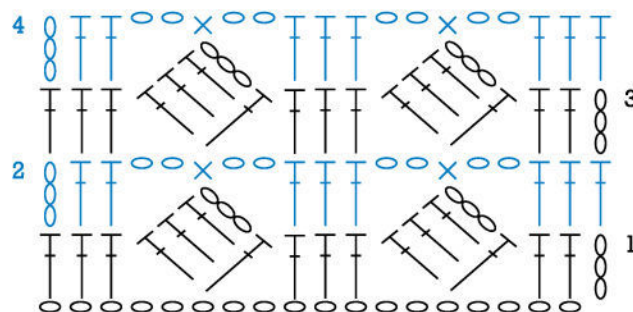
Mini picot mesh

Special Stitch

Picot: ch 3, sl st into front loop and left vertical bar of sc at base of ch.

Ch a multiple of 3 sts plus 2.

Row 1: sc in 2nd ch from hook, *ch 3, sk next 2 chs, sc in next ch, picot; rep from * across to last 3 chs, ch 3, sk next 2 chs, sc in last ch.

Row 2: ch 4 (counts as dc + ch 1), turn, *sc in next ch3-sp, picot, ch 3; rep from * across to last ch3-sp, sc in last ch3-sp, picot, ch 1, dc in last st.

Row 3: ch 1, turn, sc in next st, ch 3, *sc in next ch3-sp, picot, ch 3; rep from * across to end, sc in 3rd ch of t-ch.

Rep Rows 2 and 3 for pattern.

You can omit the picots from the final row to give a straighter top edge. And with lacy patterns like this, blocking is essential to open the mesh and really show off the stitch pattern.
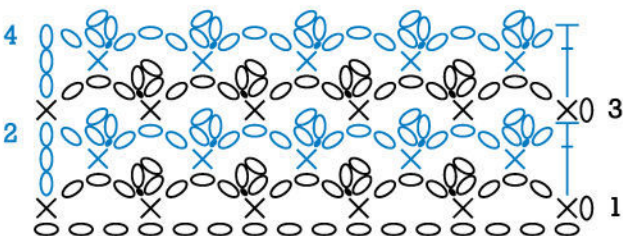
Offset arches
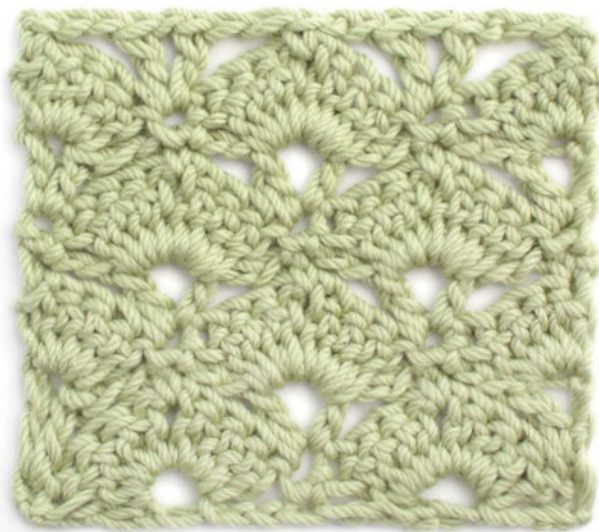
Special Stitches

Shell: (4 dc, ch 1, 4 dc) in specified st.
V st: (dc, ch 1, dc) in specified st.

Ch a multiple of 8 sts plus 2.
Row 1: sc in 2nd ch from hook, *sk next 3 chs, shell in next ch, sk next 3 chs, sc in next ch; rep from * across to end.

Row 2: ch 3 (counts as dc, here and throughout), turn, dc in same st, ch 2, *sc in top of next shell, ch 2, V st in next sc, ch 2; rep from * across to last shell, sc in top of last shell, ch 2, 2 dc in last sc.

Row 3: ch 3, turn, 4 dc in same st, *sc in next sc, shell in top of next V st; rep from * across to last sc, sc in next sc, 5 dc in top of t-ch.

Row 4: ch 1, turn, sc in next st, ch 2, *V st in next sc, ch 2, sc in top of next shell, ch 2; rep from * across to last sc, V st in last sc, ch 2, sc in top of t-ch.

Row 5: ch 1, turn, sc in next st, *shell in top of next V st, sc in next sc; rep from * across to end.

Rep Rows 2 through 5 for pattern.
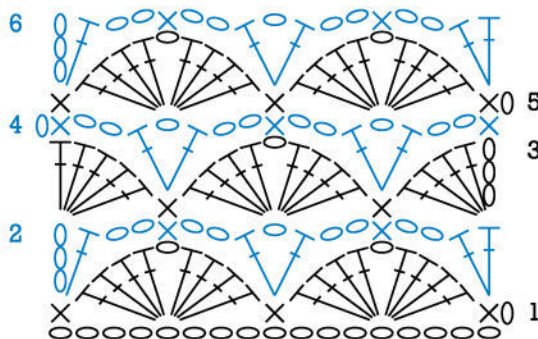
Starter projects

Apply your new skills in these projects

"Practice working in the round while making something decorative and useful"

Three simple washcloths

Get to grips with the first steps in crochet and make these fantastic washcloths that make great presents

With this set of pretty and practical washcloths, you can practice your single, half double, and double crochet stitches. Keep them for yourself, or give them as a gift.

Basic Measurements
Each washcloth is about 7 inches (18cm) square.

Yarn
About 55 yards (50m) worsted weight cotton or cotton blend. Shown in KnitPicks Dishie, 100 percent cotton.

Hook
US I/9 (5.5mm)

Other Supplies
Yarn needle, scissors, measuring tape

Single Crochet Washcloth

Leaving a 6-inch (15cm) starting tail, chain 25.

Row 1: Single crochet in the 2nd chain from the hook and in each remaining chain. You should have 24 stitches.

Row 2: Chain 1 and turn your work. Single crochet in each stitch across. Remember that the turning chain doesn't count as a stitch. You should still have 24 stitches.

Repeat Row 2 until your washcloth is square. It should take about 27 to 30 rows. When you get close to the right size, lay the washcloth flat and use a measuring tape to check the width and height. Continue to measure after every row until the height and the width are close.

Fasten off, leaving a 6-inch (15cm) tail. Thread the tail onto a yarn needle, and weave it into the stitches of the washcloth. Repeat for the starting tail. Snip both yarn ends close to your work.
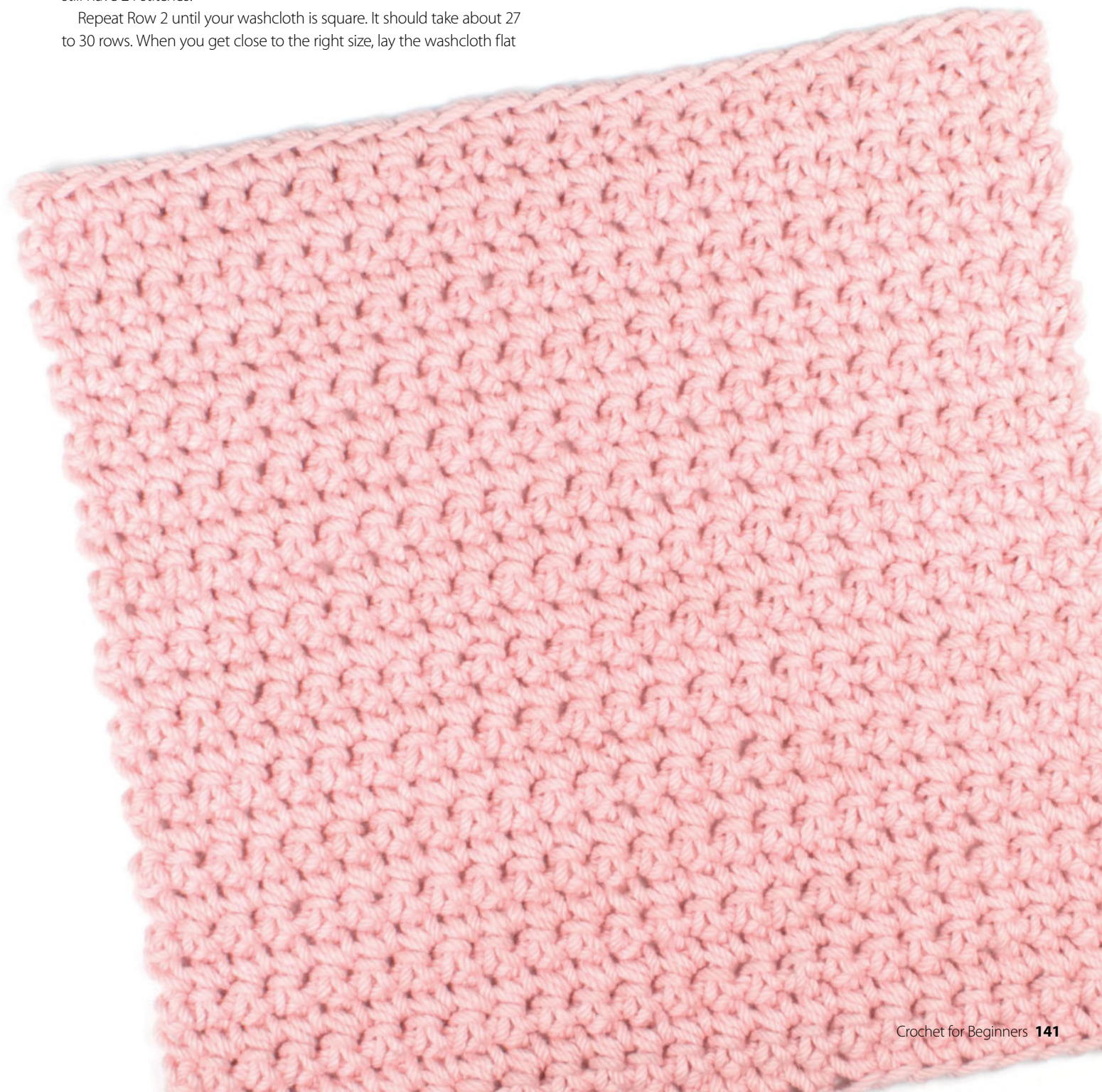
Starter projects

Half Double Crochet Washcloth

Leaving a 6-inch (15cm) starting tail, chain 25.

Row 1: Half double crochet in the 3rd chain from the hook (the first 2 chains count as the first stitch) and in each remaining chain. You should have 24 stitches, including the unworked chains at the beginning.

Row 2: Chain 2 and turn your work. The turning chain counts as the first stitch, so half double crochet in the 2nd stitch and each remaining stitch across.

Don't forget to crochet into the turning chain at the end of the row. You should still have 24 stitches, including the turning chain.

> "Don't forget to crochet into the turning chain at the end of the row"

Repeat Row 2 until your washcloth is square. It should take about 18 to 20 rows. When you get close to the right size, lay the washcloth flat and use a measuring tape to check the width and height. Continue to measure after every row until the height and width are close.

Fasten off, leaving a 6-inch (15cm) tail. Thread the tail onto a yarn needle, and weave it into the stitches of the washcloth. Repeat for the starting tail. Snip both yarn ends close to your work.

Double Crochet Washcloth

Leaving a 6-inch (15cm) starting tail, chain 26.

Row 1: Double crochet in the 4th chain from the hook (the first 3 chains count as the first stitch) and in each remaining chain. You should have 24 stitches, including the unworked chains at the beginning.

Row 2: Chain 3 and turn your work. The turning chain counts as the first stitch, so double crochet in the 2nd stitch and each remaining stitch across. Don't forget to crochet into the turning chain at the end of the row. You should still have 24 stitches, including the turning chain.

Repeat Row 2 until your washcloth is square. It should take about 13 or 14 rows. When you get close to the right size, lay the washcloth flat and use a measuring tape to check the width and height. Continue to check after every row until the height and width are close.

Fasten off, leaving a 6-inch (15cm) tail. Thread the tail onto a yarn needle, and weave it into the stitches of the washcloth. Repeat for the starting tail. Snip both yarn ends close to your work.

Circular coasters

Practice working in the round while making something decorative and useful. A set of these coasters makes a great gift, and you can make an entire set from one ball of yarn

Basic Measurements

About 3.75 inches (9.5cm) diameter.

Yarn

About 12 yards (11m) worsted weight cotton or cotton blend yarn per coaster. Shown in Knit Picks Dishie, 100 percent cotton.

Hook

US I/9 (5.5mm)

Other Supplies

Yarn needle, scissors

Make a magic ring

Rnd 1: ch 2 (counts as hdc, here and throughout), 7 hdc in ring. Join with sl st to top of ch 2. (8 sts)

Pull the ring tightly closed.

Rnd 2: ch 2, hdc in same st, 2 hdc in next 7 sts. Join with sl st to top of ch 2. (16 sts)

Rnd 3: ch 1 (does not count as a st, here and throughout), sc in same st, (ch 1, sc in next st) 15 times, ch 1. Join with sl st to 1st st. (32 sts, including chs)

Rnd 4: ch 2, 3 hdc in next 15 ch1-sps, 2 hdc in next ch1-sp. Join with sl st to top of ch 2. (48 sts)

Rnd 5: ch 1, sc in same st, (ch 1, sk next st, sc in next st) 23 times, ch 1, sk next st, join with sl st to 1st st. (48 sts, including chs)

Fasten off, and weave in ends.

Triangle bunting

Add some color with these super simple, and effective bunting triangles.
They add color to any occasion

Crocheted bunting makes a perfect decoration – just choose an appropriate color scheme, and you can use it for any occasion! Consider pastels for a baby shower, bright colors for a summer party, or seasonal colors for festivities.

Try both pattern triangle variants to practice increasing (bottom up) and decreasing (top down). They both yield the same shape and size of flag, so you can mix and match the patterns.

Basic Measurements
Each flag is about 41/2 inches (11.5cm) wide and tall.

Yarn
Small quantities of worsted weight yarn with any fiber content, in multiple colors. Each flag takes less than 15 yards (14m) of yarn. Shown in Knit Picks Shine Worsted, 60 percent cotton, 40 percent plant fiber.

Hook
US I/9 (5.5mm)

Other Supplies
Yarn needle, scissors

Top-Down Flag

Ch 16.

Row 1: sc in 2nd ch from hook and each remaining ch. (15 sts)

Row 2: ch 1, turn, sc2tog, sc in each remaining st across. (14 sts)

Rows 3 through 15: repeat Row 2. Your stitch count will decrease by 1 with each row. (13 to 1 sts)

Do not turn your work or fasten off. Crochet a sc edging around each edge of the triangle, working 1 sc into the edge of each row, 1 sc along the top of each st, and (sc, hdc, sc) into each corner st. When you reach your starting yarn tail, crochet over it as you work the edging.

When you've crocheted all the way around the triangle, (sc, hdc, sc) in the final corner and then join with sl st to the next st. Fasten off, and weave in the ends.

Bunting Assembly

Arrange the flags so they're all upright (the rows run horizontally across each flag) and right side up (the Vs around the edge of each flag are visible from the front), and order them in a color arrangement you like. You'll be crocheting along the top of each flag to join them together into a garland. Use a contrasting color of yarn, if desired.

Optional: to make a loop from which to hang the bunting, first ch 10, sl st to 1st ch.

Sc in each st across the top of the 1st flag.

At the corner st, hold the 2nd flag next to the 1st, and sc2tog across the last st of the 1st flag and the 1st st of the 2nd flag.

Sc across the top of each remaining flag, joining each to the next with a sc2tog across the last stitch of the old flag and the 1st stitch of the new flag.

Optional: to make a hanging loop on the other end, at the end of the final flag, ch 10, sl st to 1st ch.

Fasten off, and weave in the ends. Hang your bunting with pride!

Bottom-Up Flag

Ch 2.

Row 1: 2 sc in 2nd ch from hook. (2 sts)

Row 2: ch 1, turn, 2 sc in next st, sc in each remaining st across. (3 sts)

Rows 3 through 14: repeat Row 2. Your stitch count will increase by 1 with each row. (4 to 15 sts)

Row 15: ch 1, turn, sc in each st across.

Do not turn your work or fasten off. Crochet a sc edging around each side of the triangle as explained in the Top-Down Flag.

- -

The border around each flag not only flattens out the bumps at the edges but also helps straighten out any curling so your flags should hang flat without the need for blocking.

- -

1st stitch of 2nd flag

last stitch of 1st flag

Pretty headband

The days of buying hair accessories are over, this pretty headband is simple

This lovely headband is good practice for making chainless foundation stitches. It's quick to make, and it's a great way to use up leftover yarn. You'll quickly master every technique, and never buy hair accessories ever again.

Basic Measurements

About 17 inches (43cm) long, excluding ties, and 11⁄2 inches (4cm) wide. One size fits all – the ties make it adjustable.

Yarn

About 25 yards (23m) worsted weight yarn.
Shown in Knit Picks Shine Worsted, 60 percent cotton, 40 percent plant fiber, 75 yards (50g; 69m) per ball.

Hook

US I/9 (5.5mm)

Other Supplies

Scissors

Special Stitches

V st: (dc, ch 2, dc) in specified st.

Foundation sc (fsc): 1st fsc st: ch 2 (does not count as st), insert hook into 2nd ch from hook and draw up a loop, YO and draw through 1 loop on hook (this forms the ch), YO and draw through both loops on hook (this forms the sc). (1 fsc completed) Subsequent fsc sts: work each st under

To make an extra-small or extra-large headband, reduce or increase the number of fsc stitches by a multiple of 3 and follow the remainder of the pattern as written.

the 2 loops that form the ch at the bottom of the previous st. Insert hook under both loops of the ch, draw up a loop, YO and draw through 1 loop on hook (this forms the ch), YO and draw through both loops on hook (this forms the sc).

Stitch Diagram

This stitch diagram shows both ends of the headband (with the chain ties shortened) plus one standard repeat.
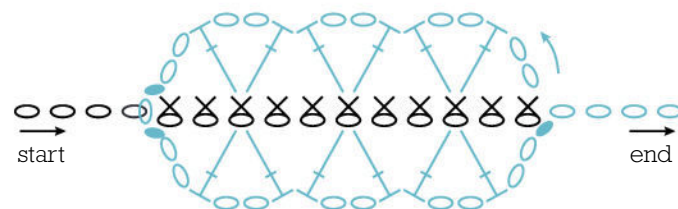
Pretty headband

Ch 27, fsc in 2nd ch from hook, make 56 more fsc sts.

First side: ch 2, turn, sk 1st 2 sts, V st in next st, *sk next 2 sts, V st in next st; repeat from * to last 2 sts, ch 2, sk next st, sl st in last st.
Ch 1, rotate piece so you can work into the bottom of the fsc sts, passing the working yarn strand underneath the headband.

Second side: Sl st in 1st st, ch 2, sk next st, V st in next st, *sk next 2 sts, V st in next st; repeat from * to last 2 sts, ch 2, sk next st, sl st in last st.
Ch 25.

Fasten off and, for extra security, tie an extra knot at each end, over the top of the slip knot and fastening-off knot. Snip the remaining yarn tails to 1⁄4 inch (.5cm) beyond the knots.

Puff stitch scarf

Puff stitches look great and are simple to do, perfect it with this easy scarf

Practice making perfect puff stitches with this fun **scarf!** Worked in a finer yarn, the scarf is warm and squishy without being overly thick. Remember to keep your puff stitches loose.

Measurements
Approximately 5 inches (13cm) wide by 60 inches (150cm) long. It's easy to add more rows to make the scarf as long as you like.

Yarn
About 300 yards (275m) sport weight yarn. Shown in Knit Picks Andean Treasure, 100 percent baby alpaca, 110 yards (50g; 100m) per ball.

Gauge (Tension)
9 1/2 rows and 8 puffs = 4 inches (10cm). Gauge (tension) is not critical for this project, although a different gauge (tension) will affect the final dimensions of the scarf. The row gauge (tension) is very dependent on the length of the loops you use to make your puffs.

Hook
US H/8 (5mm)

Other Supplies
Yarn needle, scissors

Notes
You can make this scarf with a larger hook and thicker yarn for a chunkier result that works up more quickly. Or use a 4- or 5-wrap puff stitch to make the puffs extra puffy with very small gaps between them. But be warned: you'll need a lot more yarn with the 4- or 5- wrap version.

Stitch Diagram
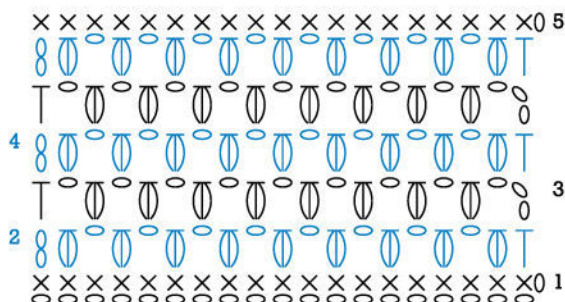
> "Worked in a finer yarn, the scarf is warm and squishy without being overly thick"

Special Stitch
Puff: YO, insert hook into next st and draw up a loop to the height of the previous st, (YO, insert hook into same st and draw up a loop to the same height) twice, YO and draw through all 7 loops on hook.

Puff stitch scarf
Ch 20 loosely (or use a hook one size larger to make the starting ch).
Row 1: sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each remaining ch. (19 sts)
Row 2: ch 2 (counts as hdc, here and throughout), turn, *puff in next st, ch 1, sk next st; rep from * across to last 2 sts, puff in next st, hdc in last st. (9 puff sts)
Row 3: ch 3 (counts as hdc + ch 1), turn, sk next puff, *puff in next ch1-sp, ch 1, sk next puff; repeat from * across to last st, hdc in top of t-ch. (8 puff sts)
Row 4: ch 2, turn, *puff in next ch1-sp, ch 1, sk next puff; rep from * across to t-ch, puff in t-ch space, hdc in 2nd ch of t-ch. (9 puff sts)
Rep Rows 3 and 4 until the scarf is 60 inches (150cm) long, or as many times as desired, ending with a Row 4.
Row 5: ch 1, turn, sc in next st, *sc in next puff, sc in next ch1-sp; rep from * across to last 2 sts, sc in next puff, sc in top of t-ch. (19 sts) Fasten off, and weave in ends.

To ensure you haven't lost or gained a stitch, check the edges of your rows. They should alternate between having a space at each edge of the row (Row 3) and a puff at each edge of the row (Row 4). To modify the scarf's width, begin with a foundation ch of any multiple of 2 stitches and then follow the rest of the pattern as written.

Flecked scarf

It's easier than you think to make this detailed and unique scarf

Despite its multicolored appearance, each row of this scarf is worked in only one color. It's worked lengthwise, which means you don't have any ends to weave. You can combine them in the fringe!

Measurements
About 4 1/2 inches (11cm) wide and 60 inches (150cm) long, excluding fringe.

Yarn
255 yards (235m) DK (light) weight yarn: 80 yards (75m) main color (MC) and 175 yards (160m) contrast color (CC). Shown in Knit Picks Gloss DK, 70 percent merino wool, 30 percent silk, 123 yards (50g; 112m) per ball.

Gauge (Tension)
14 rows and 12 sts = 4 inches (10cm) in stitch pattern. Gauge (tension) is not critical for this project, although a different gauge (tension) will affect the final dimensions of the scarf. Choose a hook size large enough that your fabric drapes nicely and isn't too stiff.

Hook
US J/10 (6mm)

Other Supplies
Scissors, cardboard template for fringe (optional)

Notes
This pattern also looks great as a narrower scarf. If you make a scarf with 5 rows of CC flecks instead of 7, you might only need a single ball of the main color yarn.

Leave a 6-inch (15cm) tail at the start and end of each row. (You'll work these into the fringe after the scarf is complete.)

Special Stitches
Foundation half double crochet (fhdc): 1st fhdc: ch 2 (does not count as st), YO, insert hook into 2nd ch from hook and draw up a loop, YO and draw through 1 loop on hook (this forms

the ch), YO and draw through all 3 loops on hook (this forms the hdc). (1 fhdc completed)

Subsequent fhdcs: work each st under the 2 loops that form the ch at the bottom of the previous st. YO, insert hook under both loops of the ch, draw up a loop, YO and draw through 1 loop on hook (this forms the ch), YO and draw through all 3 loops on hook (this forms the hdc).

Working between stitches: The CC sts are worked between each pair of MC sts in the row below. Insert hook between the posts of the 2 sts, draw up a loop, and complete the st as usual.
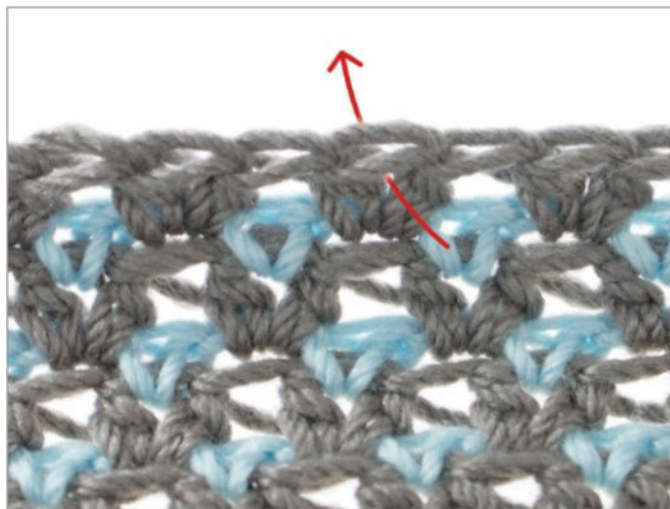
Working between stitches: The CC sts are worked between each pair of MC sts in the row below. Insert hook between the posts of the 2 sts, draw up a loop, and complete the st as usual.

Stitch Diagram
A reduced sample of the scarf's stitch pattern.
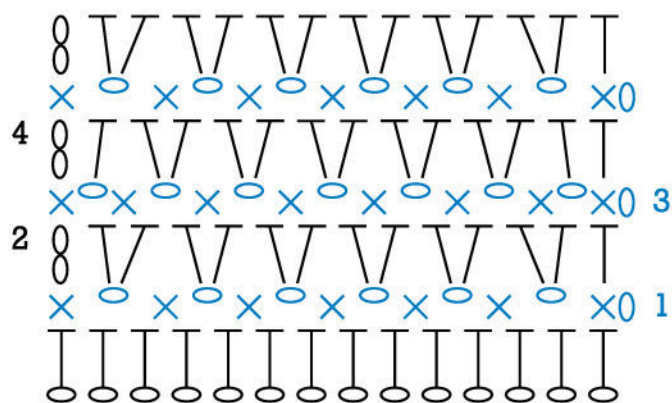
Flecked Scarf
With MC, fhdc 180. (180 sts)

Row 1: with CC, ch 1, turn, sc in 1st st, ch 1, sk next 2 sts, sc in next sp between sts, *ch 1, sk next sp, sc in next sp; rep from * across to last 3 sts, ch 1, sk next 2 sts, sc in last st.
Row 2: with MC, ch 2 (counts as hdc, here and throughout), turn, 2 hdc in each ch1-sp across, hdc in last st.
Row 3: with CC, ch 1, turn, sc in 1st st, ch 1, sk next st, sc in next sp between sts, *ch 1, sk next sp, sc in next sp; rep from * across to last 2 sts, ch 1, sk next st, sc in top of t-ch.
Row 4: with MC, ch 2, turn, hdc in 1st ch1-sp, 2 hdc in each ch1-sp across to last ch1-sp, hdc in last ch1-sp, hdc in last st.

Rep Rows 1 through 4 twice more and then repeat Rows 1 and 2 once more.
Fringe (optional):
Measure and cut 8-inch-long (20cm-long) strands of yarn (32 strands of MC and 16 strands of CC), either with a ruler or by wrapping the yarn loosely around a piece of 4-inch-tall (10cm-tall) cardboard and then cutting all the strands of yarn across the bottom of the cardboard.

Hold 2 strands of MC and 1 strand of CC together, fold them in half, and knot them through the first stitch at one end of the scarf.

To save weaving in the yarn ends from the scarf, pull each end through the nearest fringe knot as you form it. Trim the ends to match the length of the fringe strands. If you prefer to omit the fringe, use a yarn needle to weave all the ends into the stitches of the same color.

Repeat in each MC row across each short end of the scarf. You should have 8 fringe knots along each end.

Cozy cowl

- -

Keep warm in the winter months with this gorgeous cowl

This cowl, with its textured stitch pattern, will keep you warm and in style without adding too much bulk and thickness. It's also completely reversible, so you need not worry about which way you put it on.

Measurements
About 21 inches (53cm) around and 9 inches (23cm) tall.

9 inches (23cm)

21 inches (53cm)
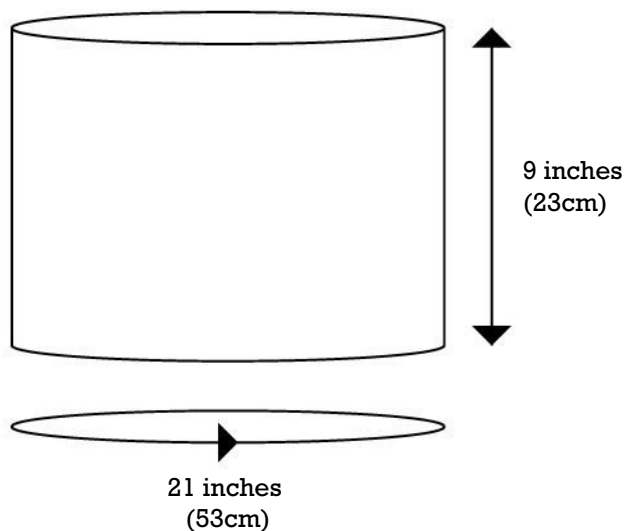
Yarn
About 190 yards (175m) DK (light) weight yarn. Shown in Knit Picks Capra Cashmere, 85 percent merino wool, 15 percent cashmere, 123 yards (50g; 112m) per ball.

Gauge (Tension)
9 rows and 4 (sc, V st) repeats = 4 inches (10cm). Gauge (tension) is not critical for this project, although a different gauge (tension) will affect the final dimensions of the cowl.

Hook
US K/10.5 (6.5mm)

Other Supplies
Yarn needle, scissors

Special Stitches

V st: (dc, ch 1, dc) in specified st.

Stitch Diagram

A reduced sample of the stitch pattern for the cowl.

Cozy Cowl

Leaving a 6-inch (15cm) starting tail, ch 39.

Row 1: dc in 3rd ch from hook, ch 1, sk next 2 chs, sl st in next ch, *(sc, dc) in next ch, ch 1, sk next 2 chs, sl st in next ch; rep from * across to last ch, sc in last ch.

Row 2: ch 2, turn, V st in 1st st, *(sc, V st) in next sc; rep from * across to end, sc in t-ch sp.

Repeat Row 2 46 more times or until you reach the desired length. If you modify the length, finish on an even-numbered row so the starting and ending yarn tails are on opposite sides of the cowl.

   Fasten off, leaving a 3-foot (1m) yarn tail. Thread the tail onto a yarn needle, and whip stitch each ch of the starting chain to the corresponding st along the top of the final row, being sure the cowl isn't twisted before you begin joining the ends. The wavy top and bottom edges align together, making the seam almost invisible.

Block, if desired, and weave in yarn ends.

You can make this cowl as long or short as you like, from a close-fitting pull-on neck warmer to an extra-long cowl you can loop two or three times around your neck. Just repeat Row 2 until you reach the desired length, and seam the ends together. To modify the height of the cowl, begin with a foundation chain of any multiple of 4 stitches plus 3. The starting chain is longer than the height of the finished cowl, so to figure out how tall to make the cowl with your yarn and gauge (tension), start by making a swatch of a few rows of the cowl with the standard height. Then decide how many repeats to add or subtract to your foundation chain to reach the desired height.

Handy baskets

Get the hang of back post single crochet with these neat organisers

These nesting baskets are so handy! Keep one by the front door for your keys and pocket change, a couple in the bathroom for soaps and cotton balls, and some on your desk for stationery and crochet notions. Where else can you think of to use them?

Although single crochet stitches are short, there's still space to insert your hook at either side of the post of each stitch so you can work post stitches around them just as you would with any taller stitch. The post stitches give a neat and defined corner at the edge of the basket base.

Measurements
About 4 (5, 6) inches (10 [12.5, 15]cm) across and 2 (2.25, 2.5) inches (5 [5.5, 6]cm) tall.

Yarn
About 70 (105, 150) yards (65 [100, 140]m) worsted weight cotton or cotton blend yarn: 60 (95, 140) yards (55 [90, 130]m) main color (MC) and less than 10 yards (10m) contrast color (CC). Shown in Knit Picks Dishie, 100 percent cotton, 190 yards (100g; 175m) per ball.

Gauge (Tension)
12 rows and 12 sts = 4 inches (10cm), with yarn held doubled. Gauge (tension) is not critical for this project, although a different gauge (tension) will affect the final dimensions of the baskets.
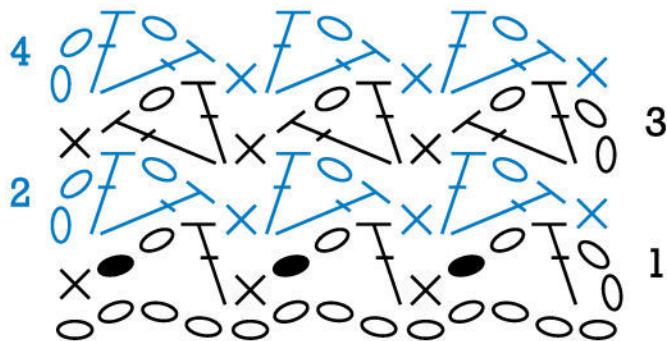
Hook
US K/10.5 (6.5mm)

Other Supplies
Stitch marker, yarn needle, scissors

Notes

You work in a continuous spiral, so place a stitch marker in the first stitch of each round and move it up as you begin each new round to be sure you don't lose your place in the pattern.

You hold the yarn double when crocheting these baskets. Not only does this help make the basket stiff and rigid, it also means you can use a large hook and stitch these baskets very quickly!

To work with 2 strands of yarn held together, find the yarn end from the center of your ball, and hold it together with the yarn end from the outside of the ball so you have 2 strands to work with. For every stitch you crochet, grab both strands of yarn with your hook.

Options: Instead of using 2 strands of the same color yarn, crochet with 2 different colors held together to make a variegated basket. Or for a taller basket, add one or more additional rounds of single crochet before you fasten off to add the contrasting trim. For smaller baskets, crochet these patterns with 1 strand of yarn and a size US H/8 (5mm) hook.

Large basket only:
Rnd 9: (2 sc in next st, sc in next 7 sts) 6 times. (54 sts)
Rnd 10: (sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts) 6 times. (60 sts)
All baskets:
Rnd 11: BPsc in each st around. (36 [48, 60] sts)
Rnd 12: sc in each st around. (36 [48, 60] sts)
Repeat Round 12 an additional 3 [4, 5] times. (36 [48, 60] sts)
Sl st in next st. Join with an invisible finish to disguise the join.
Trim:
Fasten on in the 1st st with 2 strands of CC held together, ch 1 (counts as sc), sc in each remaining st around. (36 [48, 60] sts). Join with an invisible finish, which makes the starting ch 1 appear to be a complete sc stitch. Repeat the trim for a 2nd round, with 2 strands of MC held together.
Finishing:
Weave in ends. To reduce bulk, where possible, weave in each strand individually through different stitches.

Special Stitch

Back post single crochet (BPsc): insert hook from back to front to back around post of next st, YO and draw up a loop, YO and draw through both loops on hook.

Handy Baskets

With 2 strands of **MC** held together, make a magic ring, ch 1.
Rnd 1: 6 sc in magic ring. (6 sts). Pull the ring closed.
Rnd 2: 2 sc in each st around. (12 sts)
Rnd 3: (2 sc in next st, sc in next st) 6 times. (18 sts)
Rnd 4: (sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st) 6 times. (24 sts)
Rnd 5: (2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts) 6 times. (30 sts)
Rnd 6: (sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts) 6 times. (36 sts)
Medium and large baskets only:
Rnd 7: (2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts) 6 times. (42 sts)
Rnd 8: (sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts) 6 times. (48 sts)

To make the join completely invisible, pass the ends from front to back under both loops of the first sc of the round.
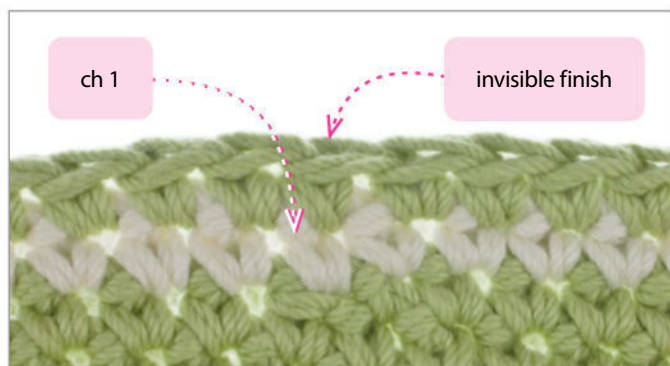
Insert the needle under the back loop and back horizontal bar of the final sc of the round, and pull tight.

Placemat and coaster set

Add a little extra to your home with this decorative set

The solid, textured design of these placemats and matching coasters will add a little crocheted style to your dining table. Choose a color to complement your décor. You'll master the reverse single crochet with this simple pattern.

"These placemats and coasters will add a little crocheted style to your table"

Measurements

Placemat: about 15 inches (38cm) wide and 10 inches (26cm) tall.
Coaster: about 3 1⁄2 inches (9cm) square.

Yarn

DK (light) cotton or cotton blend yarn, about 210 yards (190m) per placemat and 20 yards (18m) per coaster. Shown in Knit Picks CotLin DK, 70 percent cotton, 30 percent linen, 123 yards (50g; 112m) per ball.

Gauge (Tension)

14 rows and 15 sts = 4 inches (10cm) in DK yarn. Gauge (tension) is not critical for this project, although a different gauge (tension) will affect the final dimensions.

Hook

US G/7 (4.5mm)

Other Supplies

Yarn needle, scissors

Notes

For a slightly larger set, use a worsted weight yarn with a size US H/8 (5mm) or US I/9 (5.5mm) hook.

Special Stitches

Reverse single crochet (rsc): insert hook into previous st, YO and draw up a loop, YO and draw through both loops on hook. (1 rsc completed) The main pattern is worked over a pair of stitches, with a sc decrease over both stitches and then a dc worked into the same stitch (the 2nd stitch of the pair).

Stitch Diagram

A reduced sample of the stitch pattern for both the placemat and coaster patterns.
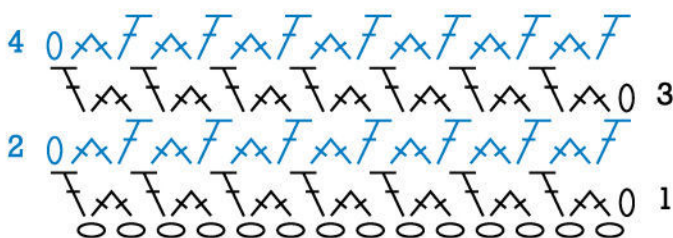
Placemat

Ch 55.
Row 1: sc2tog in 2nd and 3rd chs from hook, dc in same ch, *sc2tog, dc in same ch; rep from * across to end of row. (54 sts)
Row 2: ch 1, turn, *sc2tog, dc in same st; rep from * across to end of row. (54 sts)

Rows 3 through 36: rep Row 2 34 more times, or as desired.
Border: do not turn; rsc in each st across the top of each st, 3 rsc in the corner, rsc in the edge of each row. Continue to work around the placemat in this way, making 1 rsc into each st or row edge, and 3 rsc in each corner.

Fasten off, and weave in ends.

To modify the placemat size, begin with a foundation chain of an odd number of stitches for the width of the mat, and follow the rest of the pattern for as many rows as you like for the height of the mat.

Coaster

Ch 15.
Row 1: sc2tog in 2nd and 3rd chs from hook, dc in same ch, *sc2tog, dc in same ch; rep from * across to end of row. (14 sts)
Row 2: ch 1, turn, *sc2tog, dc in same st; rep from * to end. (14 sts)
Rows 3 through 10: repeat Row 2 8 more times, or as many times as needed to make the coaster square.
Border: do not turn; rsc in each st across the top of each st, 3 rsc in the corner, rsc in the edge of each row. Continue to work around the coaster in this way, making 1 rsc into each st or row edge, and 3 rsc in each corner.

Fasten off, and weave in ends.

To modify the coaster size, begin with a foundation ch of an odd number of stitches, and follow the rest of the pattern for as many rows as needed for the coaster to be square.

- -

For the border on both the placement and coaster, make 1 rsc stitch into the side of each row, making each stitch around each stitch (not into the stitch itself) along the edge. The rsc stitches will be more widely spaced down the sides than along the top and bottom edges, which prevents the placemat/coaster from stretching vertically and keeps it flat.
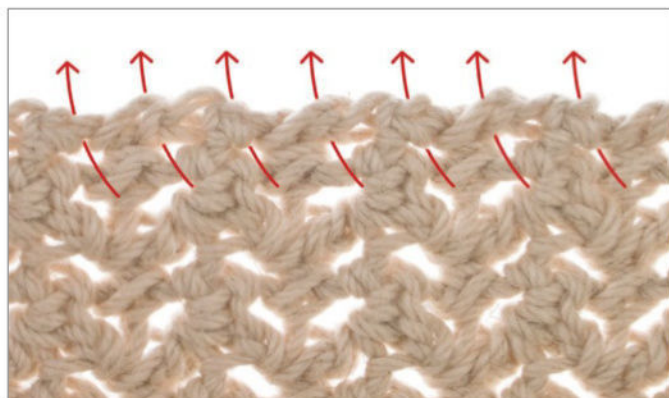
Rolling waves blanket

Personalise winter by creating this gorgeous afghan blanket

Crocheting an afghan is the perfect way to spend a cozy winter's evening – the blanket keeps you warm even as you crochet it!

This design is gender neutral and quick to crochet in any three colors of your choice. It would make a perfect gift – if you can bring yourself to part with it.

> "This design is gender neutral and quick to crochet in any three colors of your choice"

Measurements

About 48 inches (120cm) wide and 36 inches (90cm) tall.

Yarn

Worsted weight yarn in 3 colors: about 765 yards (700m) of main color (MC) and 330 yards (300m) each of colors A and B. Shown in Knit Picks Brava Worsted, 100 percent acrylic, 218 yards (100g; 200m) per ball.

Gauge (Tension)

8 rows and 12½ sts = 4 inches (10cm). Gauge (tension) is not critical for this project, although a different gauge (tension) will affect the final dimensions of the blanket.

Hooks

US I/9 (5.5mm), US J/10 (6mm)

Other Supplies

Yarn needle, scissors

Notes

This pattern also looks lovely with only 2 colors. To do this, simply work all rows of A and B with the same contrast color.

Rows 2 and 3 start with a ch 3 turning chain to prevent a gappy edge. If you chain tightly and your ch 3 edge pulls in, try a ch 4 instead.

Because you cut the yarn after every color stripe, you'll have lots of ends to deal with. You have a few options for dealing with these. For the neatest result, weave the ends of each color into the stitches of the same color. You can speed up your finishing time by working over your ends every time you change color. Or to avoid generating yarn ends, loosely carry the unworked yarns up the side of the piece until you need them again. As you crochet the edging, hide all the carried strands by crocheting over them.

Stitch Diagram

A reduced sample of the blanket's stitch pattern.

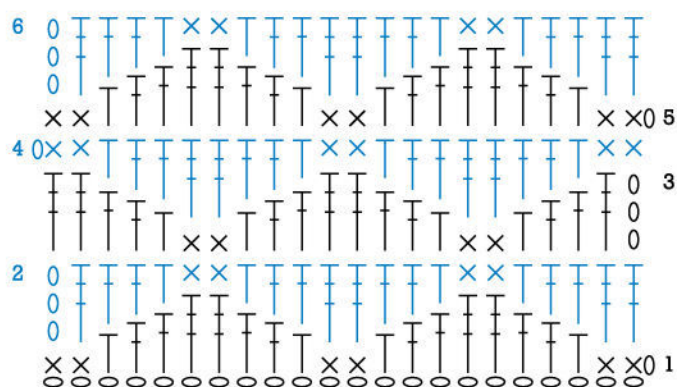## Rolling Waves Blanket

With larger hook and MC, ch 143. Change to smaller hook.

Row 1: sc in 2nd ch from hook, *sc in next ch, hdc in next ch, dc in next 2 chs, tr in next 2 chs, dc in next 2 chs, hdc in next ch, sc in next ch; rep from * across to last ch, sc in last ch.

Change to A.

Row 2: ch 3 (counts as tr), turn, *tr in next st, dc in next 2 sts, hdc in next st, sc in next 2 sts, hdc in next st, dc in next 2 sts, tr in next st; rep from * across to last st, tr in last st.

Row 3: ch 3 (counts as tr), turn, *tr in next st, dc in next 2 sts, hdc in next st, sc in next 2 sts, hdc in next st, dc in next 2 sts, tr in next st; rep from * across to last st, tr in top of t-ch.

Change to MC.

Row 4: ch 1, turn, sc in 1st st, *sc in next st, hdc in next st, dc in next 2 sts, tr in next 2 sts, dc in next 2 sts, hdc in next st, sc in next st; rep from * across to last st, sc in top of t-ch.

Row 5: ch 1, turn, sc in 1st st, *sc in next st, hdc in next st, dc in next 2 sts, tr in next 2 sts, dc in next 2 sts, hdc in next st, sc in next st; rep from * across to last st, sc in last st.

Rows 6 and 7: with B, rep Rows 2 and 3.

Rows 8 and 9: with MC, rep Rows 4 and 5.

Repeat Rows 2 through 9 an additional 7 times for a total of 8 repeats. Repeat Rows 2 through 8, so you finish with a straight edge worked in MC. Do not fasten off.

Edging: do not turn; ch 2 (counts as dc), work 4 dc in the corner st, and dc evenly down the side edge by working 2 dc in every stripe of MC and approximately 5 dc in every stripe of A or B (or as many as needed for the edge to lie flat).

Work 5 dc in the corner st, and dc across the unworked loop(s) of the foundation chain. Work 5 dc in the corner st, and dc evenly up the other side as before. Work 5 dc in the final corner, and dc across the top of the blanket. Join with sl st to top of ch 2 (or use an invisible finish for a smoother join).

Fasten off, and weave in ends.

- -

You can adapt the pattern to make any size of blanket. Chain a multiple of 10 + 3 sts to make the width of your blanket, and follow the pattern as written. Repeat Rows 2 through 9 as many times as desired, and repeat Rows 2 through 8 once more so you finish with a straight edge worked in MC. Work the edging as written.

Solid stripes bag

Use linked stitches to create this effective pattern on your bag

You create the textured stripes of this bag using linked stitches that let you complete the tall rows quickly without leaving any gaps or holes smaller items like pens (and crochet hooks!) could fall through.

Aside from a few stitches to join the short ends of the strap together, this is a no-sew pattern. All the assembly is done by crocheting.

Measurements

Bag: about 8½ inches (22cm) wide and 10½ inches (27cm) tall.
Strap: about 11½ inches (29cm) from top of bag to halfway point.
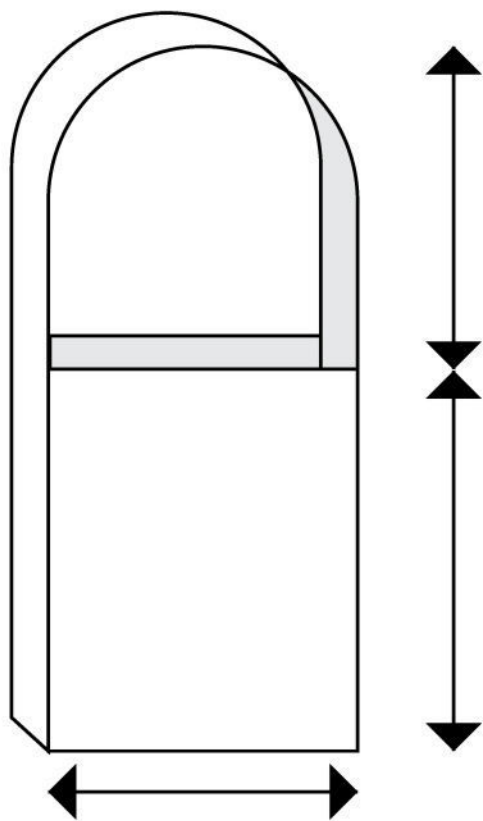
Top tip
The slip stitches that run around the edge of the strap aren't just decoration – the in-elastic edge they create, together with the nonstretchy foundation chain running through the middle, stops the strap from stretching when you use your bag.

Yarn

320 yards (290m) DK (light) cotton or cotton blend yarn. Shown in Knit Picks CotLin DK, 70 percent cotton, 30 percent linen, 123 yards (50g; 112m) per ball.

Gauge (Tension)

8 rows = 5 inches (12.5cm) and 19 sts = 4 inches (10cm). Gauge (tension) is not critical for this project, although a different gauge (tension) will affect the final dimensions of the bag.

Hook

US H/8 (5mm)

Other Supplies

Yarn needle, scissors, stitch markers

Notes

With linked stitches, the turning chain does not count as a stitch.

For this pattern, crochet into the back bumps of the foundation chain. This leaves you with a clear V to work back into when you crochet into the bottom of the chain, which makes assembly easier.

Special Stitch

Linked triple (treble) crochet (ltr): 1st ltr: insert hook in 2nd ch from hook and draw up a loop, insert hook in 3rd ch from hook and draw up a loop, insert hook in next st and draw up a loop. (YO and draw through 2 loops on hook) 3 times (1st ltr made).

Subsequent ltrs: insert hook down through upper horizontal bar of previous st and draw up a loop, insert hook down through lower horizontal bar of same st and draw up a loop, insert hook in next st and draw up a loop. (YO and draw through 2 loops on hook) 3 times (ltr made).

Making solid stripes bag

Bag front/back (make 2)

Ch 43.

Row 1: Complete 1st ltr in back bump of 2nd, 3rd, and 4th chs from hook, ltr in back bump of each remaining ch. (40 sts)

Row 2: ch 3, turn, complete 1st ltr in 2nd ch, 3rd ch, and 1st st, ltr in each st across. (40 sts)

Rows 3 through 17: repeat Row 2.

Fasten off, and weave in ends.

Strap and gusset strip

Ch 230.

Complete 1st ltr in back bump of 2nd, 3rd, and 4th chs from hook, ltr in back bump of each remaining chain. (227 sts)

Sl st in upper horizontal bar of previous st, sl st in lower horizontal bar of same st, sl st in last ch worked.

Rotate the strip so you can work into the unworked loops at the bottom of the foundation chain: ch 3, complete 1st ltr in 2nd and 3rd ch from hook and in 1st st, ltr in each remaining st. (227 sts)

As you did at the other end, make 3 sl st down the side of the last st worked.

Fasten off, and weave in ends.

Assembly

Block each piece, if desired. I recommend a simple spray blocking to square up the edges and smooth out the stitches. This makes the assembly process easier and gives the bag a more polished appearance. The exact dimensions for the bag aren't critical, but check as you pin to be sure the front and back pieces are the same size as each other.

Join the strip

Ensuring the strip is not twisted, match the two short ends of the strip, with the right side (the side with the horizontal lines visible from the linked stitches) facing up. Mattress stitch the two short ends of the strip together to form a continuous loop.

Join the front

Hold the first bag piece over the strip with wrong sides together so the bottom right corner of the bag meets the seam of the strip (A). Fasten on and ch 1. Sc the bottom of the bag to the strip, beginning each stitch by inserting your hook through the next stitch on both the bag and the strip.

At the corner of the bag (B), make a second sc into the same corner of the bag and the next stitch of the strip. Turn your work so you can crochet the side of the bag to the strip.

Match the side edge of the bag to the strip, and hold in place with stitch markers, if desired. Sc the pieces together from B to C. (I crocheted 3 sc into each right-side row of the bag edge and 2 sc into each wrong-side row. If your gauge is different, you might need more or fewer stitches to smoothly join the bag to the strip.)

To make the two sides match perfectly, pause at this stage and count how many stitches of the strip you matched to the side of the bag. From the starting point (A), count the same number of stitches along the strip edge in the opposite direction, and mark this stitch (D) with a stitch marker.

Start crocheting again: drop the bag and sl st along the edge of the strip to the marked stitch. At the marked stitch (D), hold the other corner of the bag over the strip, and begin to sc through both the bag and the strip again to form the final side seam, making the final stitch into the same corner stitch of the bag and the last stitch of the strip.

Join to the first stitch of the seam with a sl st (or use an invisible finish for a smoother join).

Fasten off, and weave in ends.

- -

"This bag is formed from two basic rectangles and a long strip, so it's easy to make a bag of any size"

Personalise your bag

This bag is formed from two basic rectangles and a long strip, so it's easy to make a bag of any size. Just modify the starting chain and number of rows as follows:

Bag width: ch any number for the bag front/back to give the desired width (plus 3 for the turning chain).

Bag height: work as many rows as needed to give the desired height.

Strap length: the strap and gusset are worked as a single strip, so make your starting chain long enough to run down one side of the bag, across the bottom, and up the other side, plus your desired strap length.

Join the back

Turn the bag over and, along the other long edge of the strip, mark the stitches that correspond to the four corners of the bag front with stitch markers.
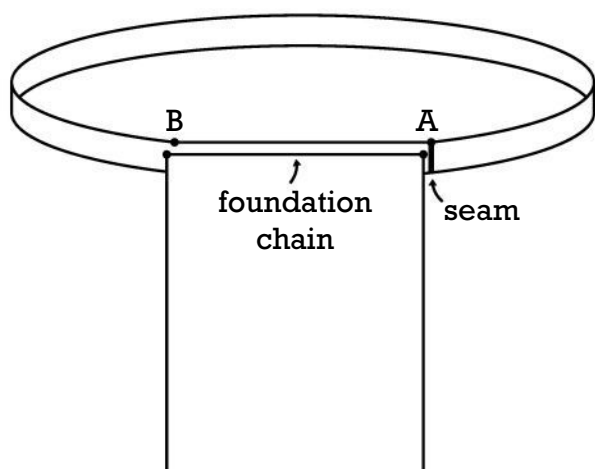
Place the second bag piece over the strip with wrong sides together, matching the bag corners to the marked stitches, and repeat the joining instructions to crochet the back of the bag to the other edge of the strip.

Weave in all remaining yarn ends.

Double diagonals shawl

Create this effective pattern with a few special stitches

You stitch this showstopper shawl from the bottom tip and work upward from there, which means you can keep crocheting until you decide it's large enough – or until you run out of yarn!

The versatile shallow triangle shape is perfect to wear as a stunning lacy scarf as well as a shawl, and the reduced depth means you can complete it faster than a classic half-square triangular shawl.

Measurements

About 62 inches (157cm) wide and 26 inches (66cm) tall, after blocking.

26 inches (66cm)

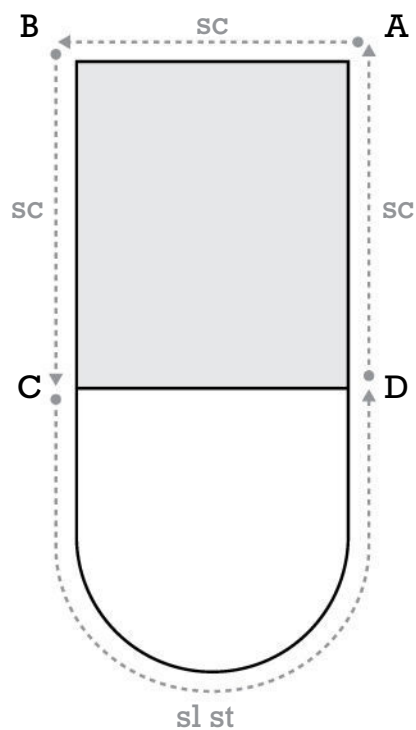62 inches (157cm)
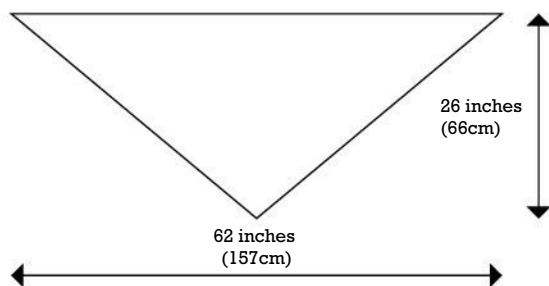
Yarn

About 460 yards (420m) fingering weight yarn (or quantity as desired to make a smaller/larger shawl). Shown in Knit Picks Capretta, 80 percent merino wool, 10 percent cashmere, 10 percent nylon, 230 yards (50g; 210m) per ball.

Gauge (Tension)

5 rows = 4 inches (10cm) and 5 stitch pattern repeats = 9 inches (23cm), after blocking. Gauge (tension) is not at all important for this project. A different gauge (tension) will affect the final dimensions of the shawl, but you can keep adding more rows until the shawl is the desired size.
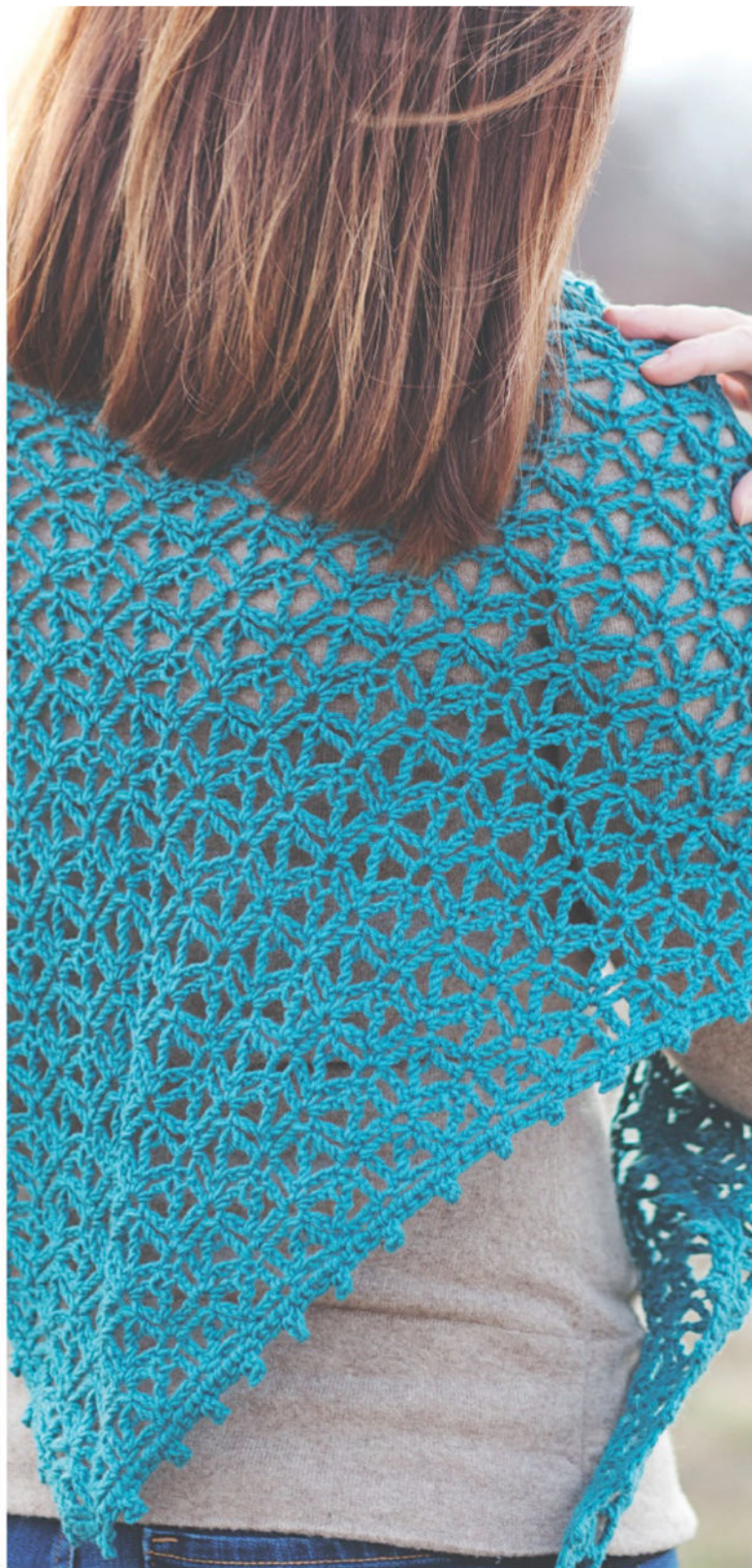
Note that crocheted lace will stretch considerably when blocked. My shawl grew by about 20 percent in each direction during blocking.

Hook
US J/10 (6mm)

Other Supplies
Yarn needle, scissors, rustproof pins, blocking wires (optional), towel, surface for blocking

Notes
Lace patterns like this use a much larger hook than you would usually use with fine yarn. The large hook makes the lace flow and drape beautifully.

   If you plan to crochet until you run out of yarn, bear in mind that you'll need to keep back around 10 percent of your yarn for the final row and the border.

Special Stitches

Triple (treble) three together (tr3tog): *YO twice, insert hook into next st and draw up a loop, (YO and draw through 2 loops on hook) twice; repeat from * 2 more times, YO and draw through all 4 loops.

Picot: ch 3, sl st into front loop and left vertical bar of sc at base of ch.

Stitch Diagrams

The first 3 rows of the shawl, one more repeat of Row 3, and the final row (Row 4).
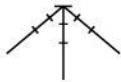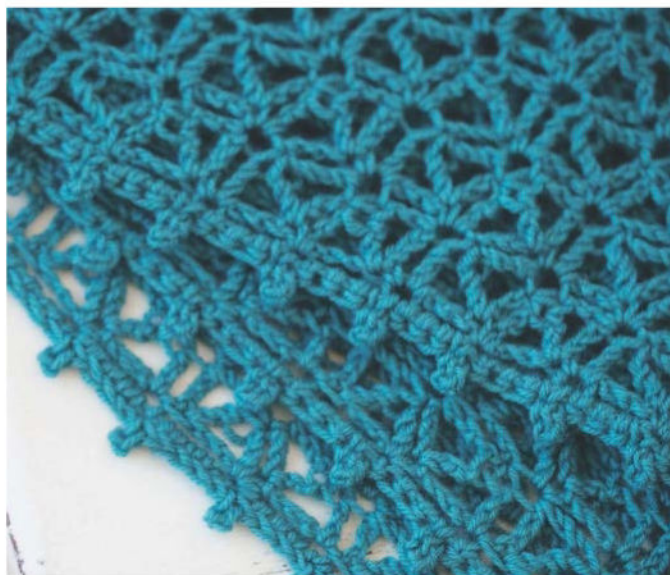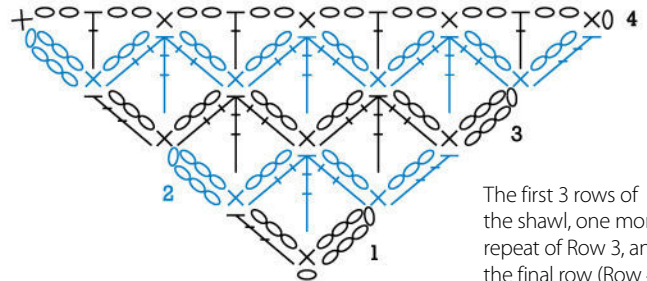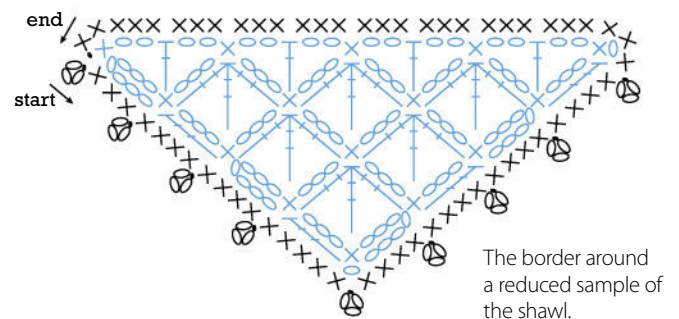

The border around a reduced sample of the shawl.

Double Diagonals Shawl
Ch 8.
Row 1: (sc, ch 3, tr) in 8th ch from hook.
Row 2: ch 7 (counts as tr + ch 3, here and throughout), turn, sc in same st (at base of ch), ch 3, tr3tog over same st, next sc and 4th ch of t-ch, ch 3, (sc, ch 3, tr) in same ch.
Row 3: ch 7, turn, *sc in same st, ch 3, tr3tog over same st, next sc and next tr3tog, ch 3; rep from * across to end, making last leg of final tr3tog into 4th ch of t-ch, (sc, ch 3, tr) in same ch.

   Rep Row 3 an additional 31 times, or until the shawl reaches the desired dimensions.
Row 4: ch 1, turn, sc in 1st st, ch 2, dc in next sc, *ch 2, sc in next tr3tog, ch 2, dc in next sc; rep from * across to t-ch sp, ch 2, sc in 4th ch of t-ch.
Edging: do not turn; to keep the instructions concise, treat the ch3-sp at the start of each row as the post of a tr st.
Work down the first side:
Picot, 3 sc around post of next tr, *picot, sc in edge of next sc, 3 sc around post of next tr**; rep from * to ** across to bottom tip, (sc, picot, sc) in base of ch at bottom tip.
Rotate the shawl to work up the other side:
3 sc around post of next tr, rep from * to ** up to top corner, picot, 3 sc in corner sc to turn corner.
Work along the top:
3 sc in each ch2-sp along top edge, 2 sc in last sc, sl st in same st.
   Fasten off.
   Wet block the shawl to open the lace pattern: pin it out to dry in its triangular shape, ensuring all 3 edges are straight. When completely dry, remove the pins and weave in the yarn ends.

Starter projects

Front-and-back hat

Create this gorgeous hat with a subtle texture using front and back loops

**W**orking into alternating front and back loops only gives this hat a beautiful, subtle texture and stretch. The front-and-back motif is echoed in the brim, which you create by working in front and back post stitches.

As well as complete patterns for child-size and small and large adult sizes, these instructions include bonus measure-as-you-go directions for all sizes. Feel free to substitute a different yarn and hook combination that doesn't meet the specified gauge (tension).

Measurements
To fit child (adult small, adult large), about 18 (20, 22) inches (45 [50, 55] cm) around and 6½ (7½ , 8½) inches (16.5 [19, 21.5]cm) tall.

6½ (7½, 8½) inches
(16.5 [19, 21.5]cm)

18 (20, 22) inches
(45 [50,55]cm)
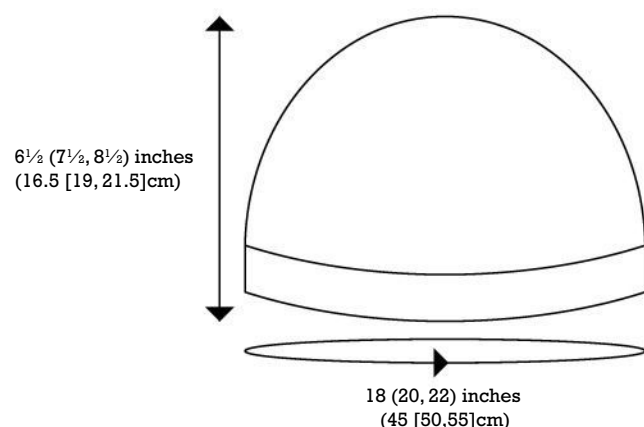
Yarn
About 95 (120, 150) yards (85 [110, 135]m) DK (light) weight yarn. Shown in Knit Picks Gloss DK, 70 percent merino wool, 30 percent silk, 123 yards (50g; 112m) per ball.

Gauge (Tension)
11 rows and 16 sts = 4 inches (10cm) in alternating (hdcFL, hdcBL) pattern. You don't have to meet gauge (tension) to make this hat (although this will affect the quantity of yarn required to make each size); you can instead measure as you go and work the number of rounds needed in your gauge (tension) to meet the stated measurements.

Hooks
US H/8 (5mm), U.S. I/9 (5.5mm)

Other Supplies
Stitch marker, yarn needle, scissors

Notes
For a good fit, select the size that's about 1 inch (3cm) smaller than the circumference of your head just above your ears.

This pattern is worked in a continuous spiral, and the stitch pattern is difficult to "read," so it's vitally important to use a stitch marker to mark the first stitch of each round. Otherwise, if you lose your place, it'll be almost impossible to figure out where you are.

The stitch pattern might look a little crumpled as you crochet, but gently stretch out the stitches every few rounds, and they'll relax into an even texture.

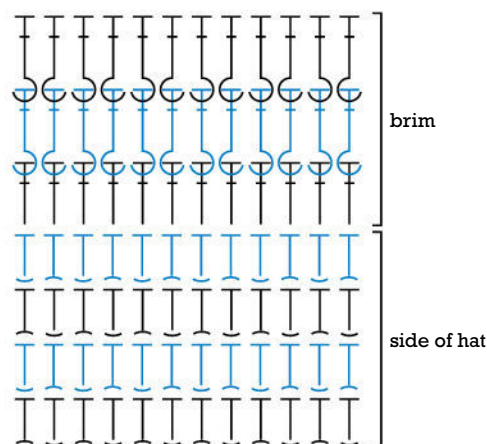## Special Stitches
hdcFL: half double crochet in front loop only.
hdcBL: half double crochet in back loop only.
FBinc: hdcFL in next st, hdcBL in same st.

Stitch Diagram
A sample of the main stitch pattern and the brim.

brim

side of hat

Starter projects

> "The top will be slightly domed, so lay it on a table and smooth it out flat to measure the diameter"

Front-and-Back Hat

Top:
Instead of trying to meet gauge (tension), if you prefer, you can continue these increase rows until the top measures the desired diameter and then move on to the sides of the hat. The top will be slightly domed, so lay it on a table and smooth it out flat to measure the diameter:

Child: 6 inches (15cm)
Adult small: 6 1/2 inches (16.5cm)
Adult large: 7 inches (18cm)

6 (6½, 7) inches
(15 [16.5, 18]cm)
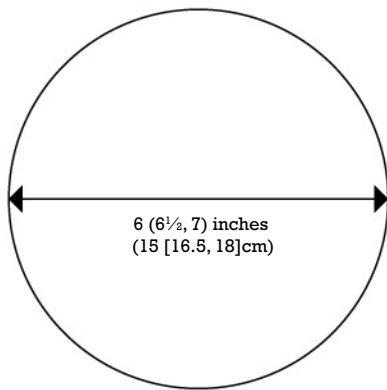
With larger hook, make a magic ring, ch 1.
Rnd 1: (sc, 7 hdc) in magic ring. (8 sts) Pull the ring tightly closed.

Do not join at the end of the round; you'll be working in a continuous spiral, and the 1st st of Rnd 2 should be made into the sc from the start of Rnd 1.

Rnd 2: FBinc in next 8 sts. (16 sts)
Rnd 3: *FBinc in next st, hdcFL in next st; rep from * around. (24 sts)
Rnd 4: *FBinc in next st, hdcFL in next st, hdcBL in next st; rep from * around. (32 sts)
Rnd 5: *FBinc in next st, hdcFL in next st, hdcBL in next st, hdcFL in next st; rep from * around. (40 sts)
Rnd 6: *FBinc in next st, (hdcFL in next st, hdcBL in next st) twice; rep from * around. (48 sts)
Rnd 7: *FBinc in next st, (hdcFL in next st, hdcBL in next st) twice, hdcFL in next st; rep from * around. (56 sts)

Rnd 8: *FBinc in next st, (hdcFL in next st, hdcBL in next st) 3 times; rep from * around. (64 sts)
Rnd 9: *FBinc in next st, (hdcFL in next st, hdcBL in next st) 3 times, hdcFL in next st; rep from * around. (72 sts)
Adult sizes only:
Rnd 10: *FBinc in next st, (hdcFL in next st, hdcBL in next st) 4 times; rep from * around. (80 sts)
Adult large size only:
Rnd 11: *FBinc in next st, (hdcFL in next st, hdcBL in next st) 4 times, hdcFL in next st; rep from * around. (88 sts)
Do not fasten off.

Sides:
When you reach the desired diameter, FBinc in next st and start to work (hdcFL in next st, hdcBL in next st) around in a continuous spiral. (73 [81, 89] sts) Don't stop at the end of each round. You can continue to mark rounds, or lose the marker and just go by length, using the following measurements.
Continue in the alternating (hdcFL, hdcBL) stitch pattern for a total of 6 (8, 10) rounds or until the hat measures as follows (from the tip of the crown):

Child: 5 1/2 inches (14cm)
Adult small: 6 1/2 inches (16.5cm)
Adult large: 7 1/2 inches (19cm)
If your last stitch was a hdcFL, hdcBL in next st.
Sc in FL of next st, sl st in BL of next st.
Do not fasten off.

Brim:
The brim is worked in joined rounds with the smaller hook. Work into both loops from now on.
Rnd 1: with smaller hook, ch 2 (counts as dc), dc in both loops of same st (the st you worked the sl st into), dc in each remaining st around. Join with sl st to top of ch 2. (74 [82, 90] sts)
Rnd 2: ch 2 (counts as BPdc), FPdc in next st, *BPdc in next st, FPdc in next st; rep from * around. Join with sl st to top of ch 2. (74 [82, 90] sts)
Rnd 3: ch 2 (counts as BPdc), FPdc in next st, *BPdc in next st, FPdc in next st; rep from * around. Join with sl st to top of ch 2 (or use an invisible finish for a smoother join). (74 [82, 90] sts)
Fasten off, and weave in ends.

5½ (6½, 7½) inches
(14 [16.5, 19]cm)
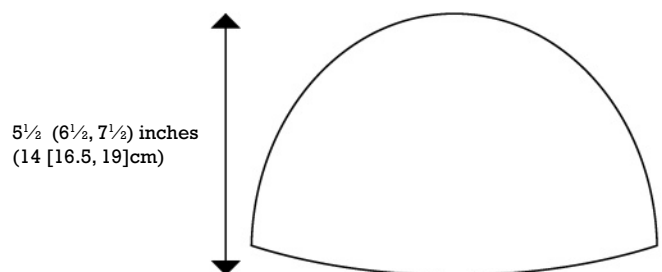
Front-and-back fingerless mitts

Match your new front-and-back hat to these fingerless mitts

Fingerless mitts (or wrist warmers) are the perfect way to keep your hands warm on chilly days while still leaving your fingers free to type, write, or crochet!

Make a matching set by pairing these with the Front-and-Back Hat.

Measurements

To fit adult small (large), about 6¾ (7¾) inches (17 [20]cm) around and 7 inches (18cm) long.

7 inches
(18cm)

6¾ (7¾) inches
(17 [20]cm)
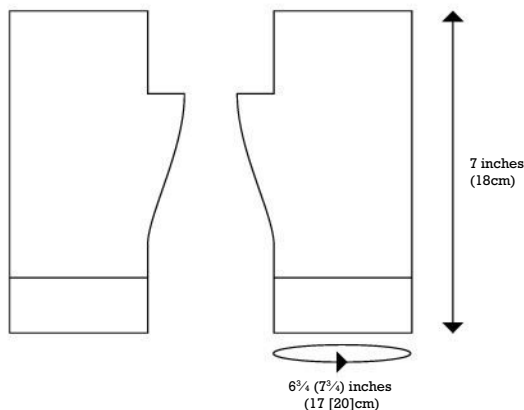
Yarn

About 105 (120) yards (95 [110]m) DK (light) weight yarn. Shown in Knit Picks Gloss DK, 70 percent merino wool, 30 percent silk, 123 yards (50g; 112m) per ball.

Gauge (Tension)

11 rows and 16 sts = 4 inches (10cm) in alternating (hdcFL, hdcBL) pattern

Hooks

US H/8 (5mm), US I/9 (5.5mm)

Other Supplies

Stitch marker, yarn needle, scissors

Notes

These mitts are stretchy, so the two sizes should fit most women's hands. If you meet gauge (tension) but want to make your mitts a little larger or smaller, go up (or down) a hook size.

This pattern is worked in a continuous spiral, and the stitch pattern is difficult to "read," so it's vitally important that you use a stitch marker to mark the first stitch of each round. Otherwise, if you lose your place, it'll be almost impossible to figure out where you are.

The stitch pattern might look a little crumpled as you crochet, but gently stretch out the stitches every few rounds, and they'll relax into an even texture.

Special Stitches

Foundation double crochet (fdc): 1st fdc: ch 3 (does not count as st), YO, insert hook into 3rd ch from hook and draw up a loop, YO and draw through 1 loop on hook (this forms the ch), [YO and draw through 2 loops on hook] twice (this forms the dc). (1 fdc completed)

Subsequent fdcs: work each st under the 2 loops that form the ch at the bottom of the previous st. YO, insert hook under both loops of the ch, draw up a loop, YO and draw through 1 loop on hook (this forms the ch), [YO and draw through 2 loops on hook] twice (this forms the dc).
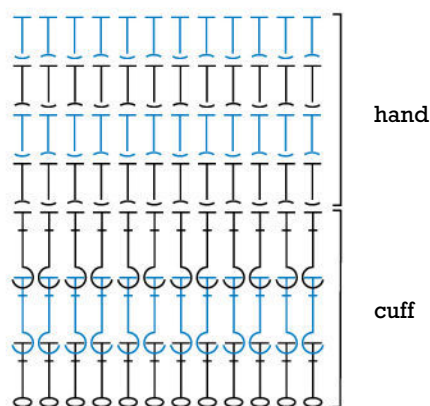
hdcFL: half double crochet in front loop only.

hdcBL: half double crochet in back loop only.

FBinc: hdcFL in next st, hdcBL in same st.

Stitch Diagram

A sample of the cuff and the main stitch pattern.

hand

cuff

Front-and-Back Fingerless Mitts

Make 2.

Cuff:

With smaller hook, leave an 8-inch (20cm) starting tail, and fdc 26 (30).

Join with sl st to top of 1st fdc, taking care not to twist your sts. (26 [30] sts)

Rnds 1 and 2: ch 2 (counts as BPdc), FPdc in next st, *BPdc in next st, FPdc in next st; rep from * around. Join with sl st to top of ch 2. (26 [30] sts)

Hand:

From this point on, you use the larger hook to work in a continuous spiral in an alternating (hdcFL, hdcBL) stitch pattern, without joining between rounds. Don't forget to use a stitch marker in the first stitch of each round so you don't lose your place.

Rnd 3: with larger hook, ch 1, sc2tog in FL of 1st 2 sts, *hdcBL in next st, hdcFL in next st; rep from * around. (25 [29] sts)

Rnd 4: hdcBL in next st, *hdcFL in next st, hdcBL in next st; rep from * around. (25 [29] sts)

Rnd 5: hdcFL in next st, *hdcBL in next st, hdcFL in next st; rep from * around. (25 [29] sts)

Rnd 6: rep Round 4. (25 [29] sts)

Begin increases for the thumb gusset:

Rnd 7: FBinc in next 2 sts, hdcFL in next st, *hdcBL in next st, hdcFL in next st; rep from * around. (27 [31] sts)

Rnd 8: hdcBL in next st, FBinc in next 2 sts, *hdcFL in next st, hdcBL in next st; rep from * around. (29 [33] sts)

Rnd 9: hdcFL in next st, hdcBL in next st, FBinc in next 2 sts, hdcFL in next st, *hdcBL in next st, hdcFL in next st; rep from * around. (31 [35] sts)

Rnd 10: hdcBL in next st, hdcFL in next st, hdcBL in next st, FBinc in next 2 sts, *hdcFL in next st, hdcBL in next st; rep from * around. (33 [37] sts)

Rnd 11: (hdcFL in next st, hdcBL in next st) twice, FBinc in next 2 sts, hdcFL in next st, *hdcBL in next st, hdcFL in next st; rep from * around. (35 [39] sts)

Rnd 12: hdcBL in next st, *hdcFL in next st, hdcBL in next st; rep from * around. (35 [39] sts)

Rnd 13: hdcFL in next st, *hdcBL in next st, hdcFL in next st; rep from * around. (35 [39] sts)

Rnd 14: *hdcBL in next st, hdcFL in next st; rep from * around to last st, hdcBL in next st, hdcFL in same st. (36 [40] sts)

Leave the thumb hole and continue with the hand:

Rnd 15: sk next 10 sts, hdcBL in next st, hdcFL in same st, hdcBL in next st, *hdcFL in next st, hdcBL in next st; rep from * around. (27 [31] sts)

Rnd 16: hdcFL in next st, *hdcBL in next st, hdcFL in next st; rep from * around. (27 [31] sts)

Rnd 17: hdcBL in next st, *hdcFL in next st, hdcBL in next st; rep from * around. (27 [31] sts)

Rnd 18: rep Round 16. (27 [31] sts)

Rnd 19: sc in BL of next st, sl st in next st. (2 sts, plus 25 [29] unworked)

Fasten off (if desired, use an invisible finish in the next stitch to create a smoother join), and weave in the yarn tail.

Use the long starting tail and a yarn needle to stitch closed the gap at the base of the cuff, hiding the starting ch 3 from the chainless foundation on the inside of the cuff. Weave in the remaining yarn tail.

Crochet glossary

asterisk * A symbol used to mark a point in a pattern row, usually the beginning of a set of repeated instructions.

back loop (BL) only A method of crocheting in which you work into only the back loop of a stitch instead of both loops.

back post (BP) stitches Textured stitches worked from the back around the post of the stitch below.

ball band The paper wrapper around a ball of yarn that contains information such as fiber content, amount/length of yarn, weight, color, and dye lot.

block A finishing technique that uses moisture to set stitches and shape pieces to their final measurements.

blocking wire A long, straight wire used to hold the edges of crochet pieces straight during blocking, most often for lace.

bobble A combination crochet stitch that stands out from the fabric, formed from several incomplete tall stitches joined at top and bottom.

brackets [ ] Symbols used to surround a set of grouped instructions; often used to indicate repeats.

chain (ch) A simple crochet stitch that often forms the foundation other stitches are worked into.

chain space (ch-sp) A gap formed beneath one or more chain stitches; usually worked into instead of into the individual chain(s).

chainless foundation A stretchy foundation plus first row of stitches that are made in one step.

chainless foundation stitches Stitches that have an extra chain at the bottom so they can be worked into without first crocheting a foundation chain.

chart A visual depiction of a crochet pattern that uses symbols to represent stitches.

cluster A combination stitch formed from several incomplete tall stitches, joined together at the top.

contrast color (CC) A yarn color used as an accent to the project's main color.

crochet hook The tool used to form all crochet stitches, available in various sizes, styles, and materials.

crossed stitches Two or more tall stitches that are crossed, one in front of the other, to create an X shape.

decrease (dec) A shaping technique in which you reduce the number of stitches in your work.

double crochet (dc) A basic stitch twice as tall as a single crochet stitch.

drape The way in which your crocheted fabric hangs; how stiff or flowing it feels.

draw up a loop To pull up a loop of yarn through a stitch or space after inserting your hook into that stitch or space.

fan A group of several tall stitches, crocheted into the same base stitch and usually separated by chains, that forms a fan shape.

fasten off To lock the final stitch with the yarn end so the crocheted work cannot unravel.

fasten on To draw up a loop of new yarn through a stitch in preparation to begin crocheting with it.

foundation chain A base chain into which most crochet is worked (unless worked in the round).

foundation stitches, chainless See chainless foundation stitches.

fringe A decorative edging made from strands of yarn knotted along the edge.

frog To unravel your crochet work by removing your hook and pulling the working yarn.

front loop (FL) only A method of crocheting in which you work into only the front loop of a stitch instead of both loops.

front post (FP) stitches Textured stitches worked from the front around the post of the stitch below.

gauge (tension) A measure of how many stitches and rows fit into a certain length of crocheted fabric, usually 4 inches (10cm), that indicates the size of each stitch.

granny square A classic motif created from groups of double crochet stitches separated by chain spaces.

half double crochet (hdc) A basic stitch halfway between the height of a single and double crochet stitch.

increase (inc) A shaping technique in which you add extra stitches to your work.

invisible finish A method of finishing a round or edging so the join is not visible.

knife grip An overhand method of holding a crochet hook, similar to holding a knife.

linked stitch A variation of any standard tall stitch that links the stitch to its neighbor partway up the post to eliminate the gaps between stitches and form a solid fabric.

magic ring A technique to begin working in the round, without leaving a hole in the center, by crocheting over an adjustable loop.

main color (MC)   The predominant yarn color of a crocheted piece.

mattress stitch   A stitch to sew a seam that forms an almost invisible join on the right side of the work and a ridged seam on the wrong side.

motif   A crocheted shape, usually worked in the round as a geometric shape and combined with other motifs into larger pieces.

parentheses ( )   Symbols used to surround a set of grouped instructions; often used to indicate repeats.

pencil grip   An underhand method of holding a crochet hook, similar to holding a pencil.

picot   A tiny loop of chain stitches that sits on top of a stitch and creates a small round or pointed shape.

popcorn   A combination crochet stitch that stands out dramatically from the fabric, formed from several tall stitches pulled together by a chain stitch.

post   The main vertical stem of a stitch.

post stitch   A stitch formed by crocheting around the post of the stitch in the row or round below, so the stitch sits in front of (or behind) the surface of the fabric.

puff stitch   A combination crochet stitch that forms a smooth, puffy shape created from several incomplete half double crochet stitches that are joined at top and bottom.

repeat (rep)   To replicate a series of crochet instructions; one instance of the duplicated instructions.

reverse single crochet (rsc)   A variation of single crochet that is worked backward (left to right) around the edge of a piece, producing a corded edging.

right side (RS)   The side of a crocheted piece that will be visible; the outside or front.

rip back   To unravel your crochet work by removing your hook and pulling the working yarn.

round (rnd)   A line of stitches worked around a circular crocheted piece.

row   A line of stitches worked across a flat crocheted piece.

shell   A group of several tall stitches, crocheted into the same base stitch, that spread out at the top into a shell shape.

single crochet (sc)   The most basic crochet stitch.

skip (sk)   To pass over a stitch or stitches and not work into it.

slip knot   A knot that can be tightened by pulling one end of the yarn; used for attaching the yarn to the hook to begin crocheting.

slip stitch (sl st)   A stitch with no height primarily used to join rounds and stitches or to move the hook and yarn to a new position.

space (sp)   A gap formed between or beneath stitches, often seen in lace patterns.

spike stitch   A stitch worked around existing stitches to extend down to one or more rows below, creating a long vertical spike of yarn.

stash   A collection of accumulated yarn.

stitch (st)   A group of one or more loops of yarn pulled through each other in a specified order until only one loop remains on the crochet hook.

stitch diagram   A map of a crochet or stitch pattern that looks similar to the finished piece, with each stitch represented by a symbol.

stitch marker   A small tool you can slide into a crochet stitch or between stiches to mark a position.

swatch   A crocheted sample of a stitch pattern large enough to measure the gauge (tension) and test the pattern with a specific hook and yarn.

tail   See yarn tail.

together (tog)   A shaping technique in which you work two or more stitches into one to reduce the number of stitches.

triple (treble) crochet (tr)   A basic crochet stitch three times as tall as a single crochet stitch.

turning chain (t-ch)   A chain made at the start of a row to bring your hook and yarn up to the height of the next row.

V   The two loops at the top of each stitch that form a sideways V shape; standard crochet stitches are worked into both these loops.

V stitch   A group of two tall stitches crocheted into the same base stitch and separated by one or more chains, forming a V shape.

weave in   A method to secure and hide the yarn tails by stitching them through your crocheted stitches.

whip stitch   A simple stitch to sew a seam by inserting the needle through the edge of both crocheted pieces at once to form each stitch.

working in the round   Crocheting in a circle instead of back and forward in straight rows.

working loop   The single loop that remains on your hook after completing a crochet stitch.

working yarn   The yarn coming from the ball that will form the next stitch.

wrong side (WS)   The side of a crocheted piece that will be hidden; the inside or back.

yardage   A length of yarn, usually expressed as an estimate of the amount of yarn required for a project.

yarn needle   A wide, blunt-tipped needle with an eye large enough for the yarn to pass through that's used for stitching crocheted pieces together and weaving in ends.

yarn over (YO)   To pass the yarn over the hook so the yarn is caught in the throat of the hook.

yarn tail   A short length of unworked yarn left at the start or end of a piece.

yarn weight   The thickness of the yarn (not the weight of a ball of yarn).
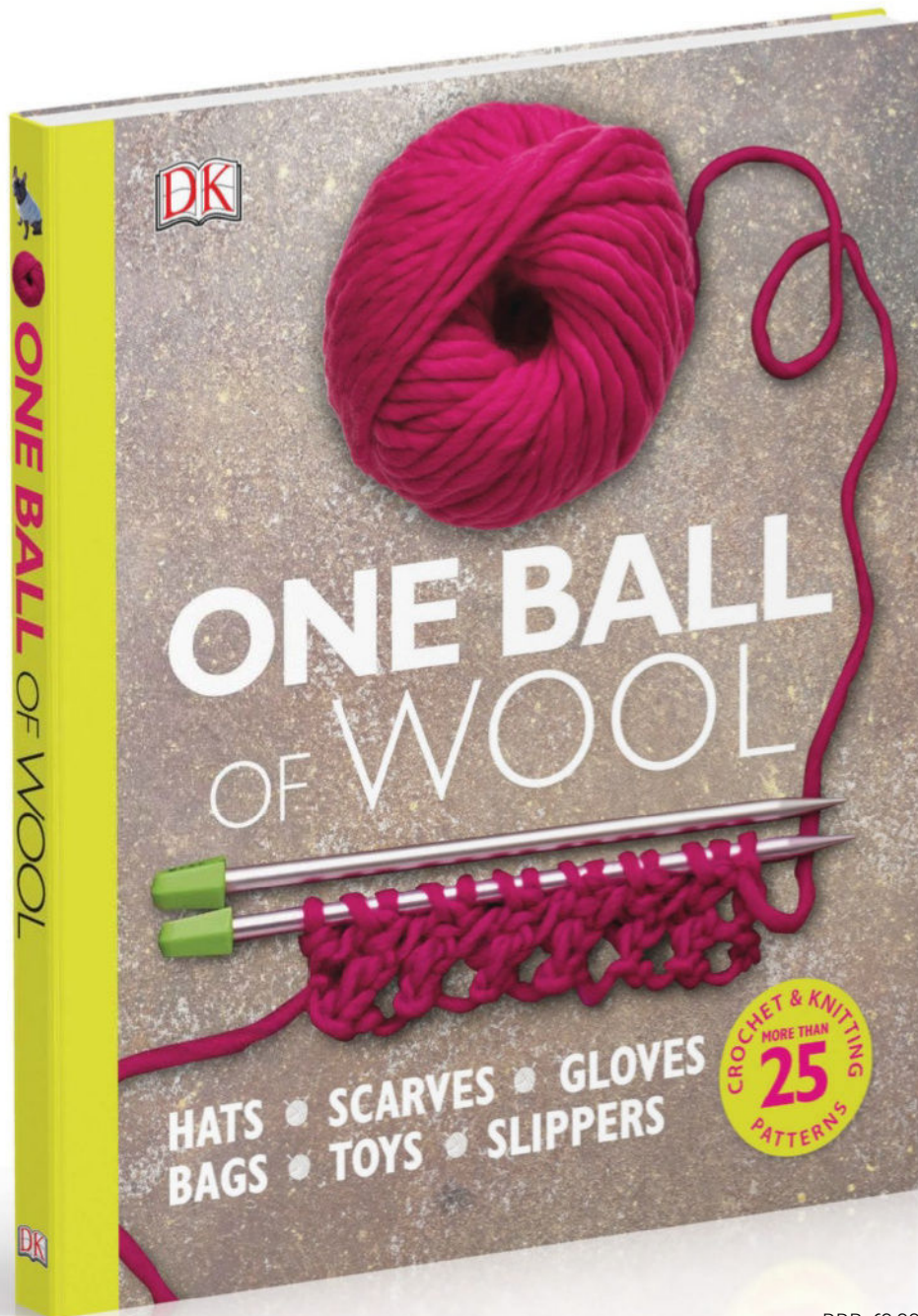
Quick reference

This table offers a quick reference for the standard crochet stitches, abbreviations, and chart symbols used in this book's project instructions

Stitch Name	Abbreviation	Symbol	Description
back loop	BL	⋈	the loop farthest away from you at the top of the stitch
back post double crochet	BPdc	⊤	yarn over, insert the hook from the back to the front to the back around the post of the next stitch, yarn over and draw up a loop, (yarn over and draw through 2 loops) twice
chain(s)	ch(s)	⬯	yarn over and draw through the loop on the hook
chain space(s)	ch-sp(s)		the space beneath one or more chains
double crochet	dc	⊤	yarn over, insert the hook into the next stitch and draw up a loop, (yarn over and draw through 2 loops on the hook) twice
double crochet 2 together	dc2tog	⋀	(yarn over, insert the hook into the next stitch and draw up a loop, yarn over and draw through 2 loops on the hook) twice, yarn over and draw through all 3 loops on the hook
front loop	FL	⋉	the loop closest to you at the top of the stitch
front post double crochet	FPdc	⊤	yarn over, insert the hook from the front to the back to the front around the post of the next stitch, yarn over and draw up a loop, (yarn over and draw through 2 loops) twice

Stitch Name	Abbreviation	Symbol	Description
half double crochet	hdc	⊤	yarn over, insert the hook into the next stitch and draw up a loop, yarn over and draw through all 3 loops on the hook
repeat	rep		replicate a series of given instructions
single crochet	sc	✕ or ┼	insert the hook into the next stitch and draw up a loop, yarn over and draw through both loops on the hook
single crochet 2 together	sc2tog	⋏⋏	(insert the hook into the next stitch and draw up a loop) twice, yarn over and draw through all 3 loops on the hook
skip	sk		pass over a stitch or stitches; do not work into it
slip stitch	sl st	● or •	insert the hook into the next stitch, draw up a loop through the stitch and the loop on the hook
stitch(es)	st(s)		the basic building block of crochet; a group of one or more loops of yarn pulled through each other in a specified order until only 1 remains on the crochet hook
triple (treble) crochet	tr	┼	yarn over twice, insert the hook into the next stitch and draw up a loop, (yarn over and draw through 2 loops on the hook) 3 times
turning chain	t-ch		the chain made at the start of a row to bring your hook and yarn up to the height of the next row
yarn over	YO		pass the yarn over the hook so the yarn is caught in the throat of the hook

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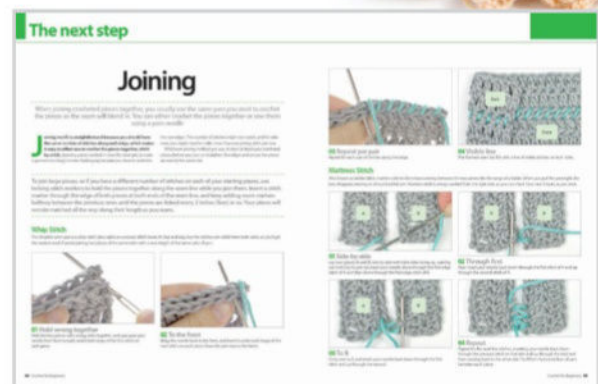
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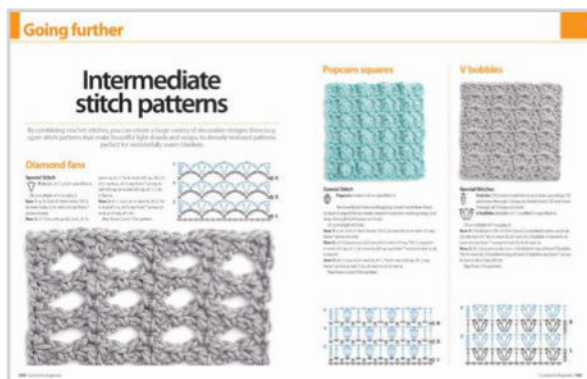
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