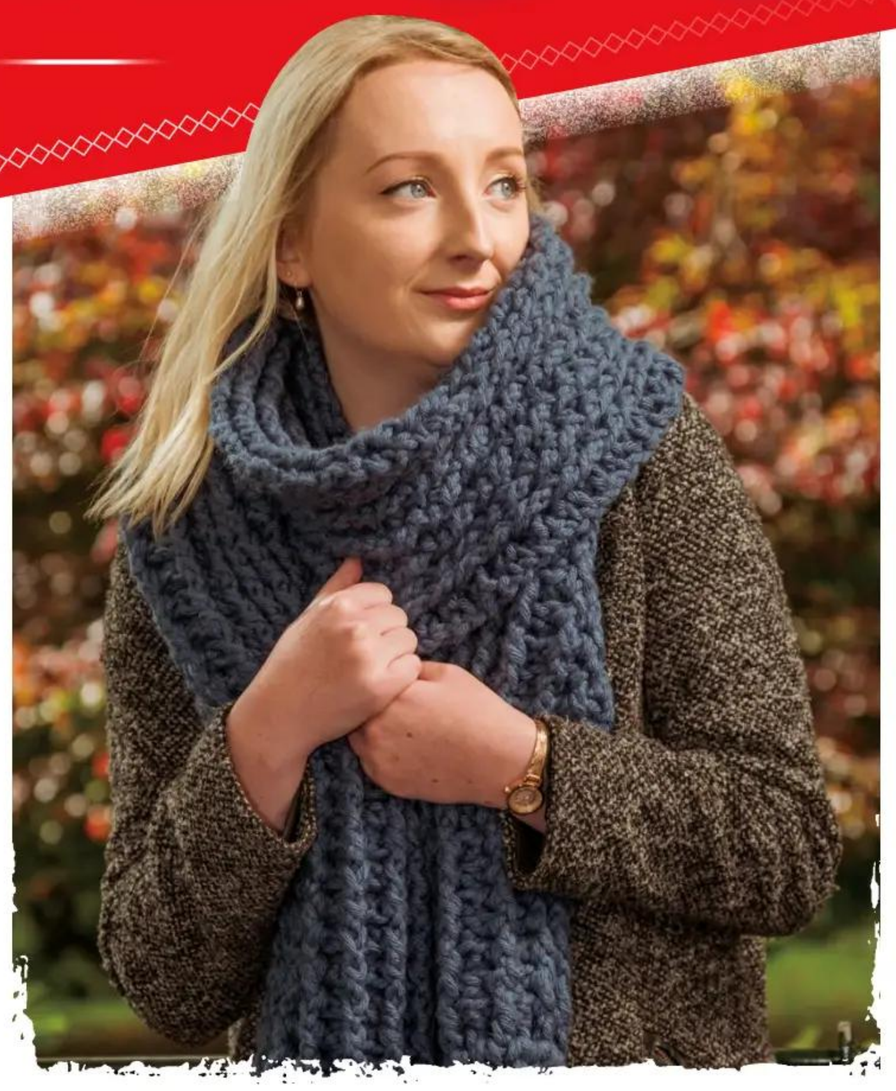
New

MASTER THE STITCHES FOR YOUR FIRST WINTER PROJECTS

The Winter Crochet BOOK



14 patterns inside



KEEP WARM in seasonal fashion



WINTER-GURUMI Celebrate with Martin the Snowman



CUDDLY CRITTERS



WINTER CLOTHING

DECORATE with homemade flair



HOLIDAY CHEER with fun minis

Digital Edition

FUTURE

EIGHTH EDITION

Welcome to

The Winter Crochet Book

Crochet has become one of the most popular pastimes in recent years, and what better time to learn than in winter when hats and scarves are at the height of usage. In this brand new title, The Winter Crochet Book, we start you at the very beginning, taking you through all the different types of yarn, hooks and all the other tools you might need to finish your projects. The easy-to-follow tutorials then lead you through everything you might need to know, from your first chain stitch through to the more exciting shells and popcorn stitches before you'll find some really great patterns from our wonderful designers.



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All our crochet patterns and tutorials use UK rather than US terminology. For notes on converting between UK and US terms, head to page 23.

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

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YARNS

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

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

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

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

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



WOOL

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



COTTON

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



MOHAIR

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



ACRYLIC

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



ALPACA

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



NATURAL & SYNTHETIC BLENDS

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

YARN WEIGHTS

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



DID YOU KNOW?

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

CROCHET HOOKS

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

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

In general, the thicker the yarn that you use the larger the crochet hook you will need to go with it, but using a large hook with a fine yarn can also produce an interesting, delicate fabric.

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

ANATOMY OF A CROCHET HOOK

TIP
This part can be pointy or rounded. A pointier tip will help you get into tight stitches more easily, while a rounded tip is less likely to split the yarn.

THROAT
The throat of the hook guides the yarn into the working area, and catches it as you pull it through a loop of a stitch.

GRIP
Sometimes also referred to as the thumb rest, this is where you grip the hook with your thumb and index or middle finger. It will often have the hook size printed on it.



HEAD
The head of the hook is the part that pokes into the stitch, and also comes in different styles. Inline heads are, as the name suggests, in line with the rest of the hook, whereas tapered heads have a more curved shape.

SHANK
Also known as the shaft, this part determines the size of the hook, and in turn the size of the stitches that will be made with that hook.

HANDLE
The rest of the hook is called the handle. There are many types of handle – some are the same size as the rest of the hook, and others are larger and can be made out of more comfortable-to-hold material.

Crochet hooks

HOOK SIZES

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

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

HOOK SIZE TABLE

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

HOOK MATERIALS

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

Plastic hooks are also smooth and easy to work with, but will bend more easily and could even snap. They can also make a squeaky noise when working the yarn, which could be off-putting to some. Most larger hooks are made of plastic so as to not be too heavy.

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

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



DID YOU KNOW?

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

CROCHET KIT BAG

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

CASE

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

SCISSORS

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

ROW COUNTER

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



TOP TIP

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

YARN NEEDLES

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

STITCH MARKERS

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



SAFETY EYES

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





T-PINS

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

TAPE MEASURE

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



FIBREFILL

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

HOOK SIZES

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

HOOK MATERIALS

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



HOLD YOUR HOOK AND YARN

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

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

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



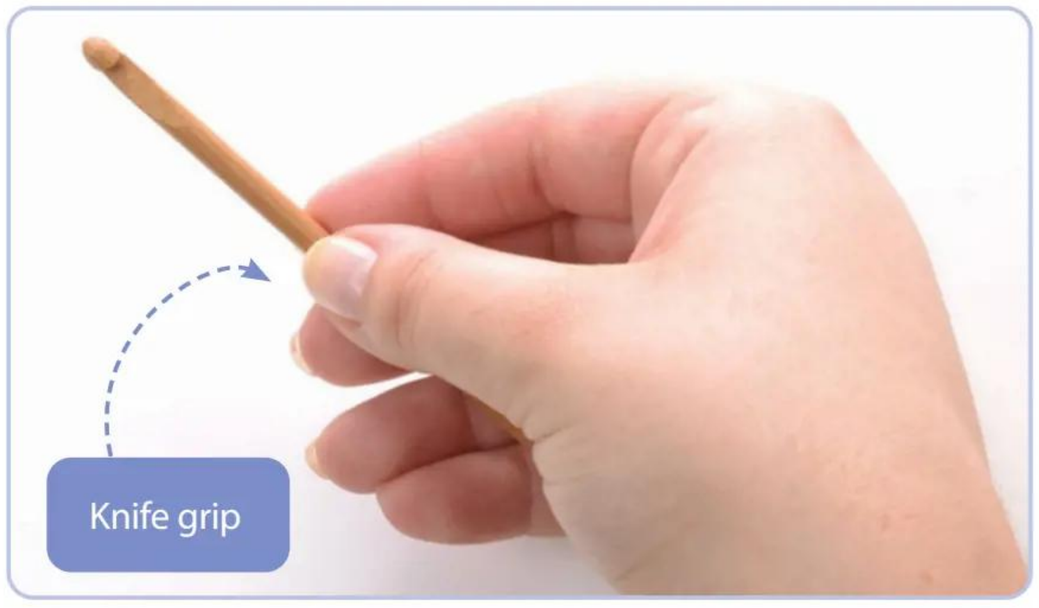
TOP TIP

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

Hold your hook and yarn

HOLDING YOUR HOOK

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



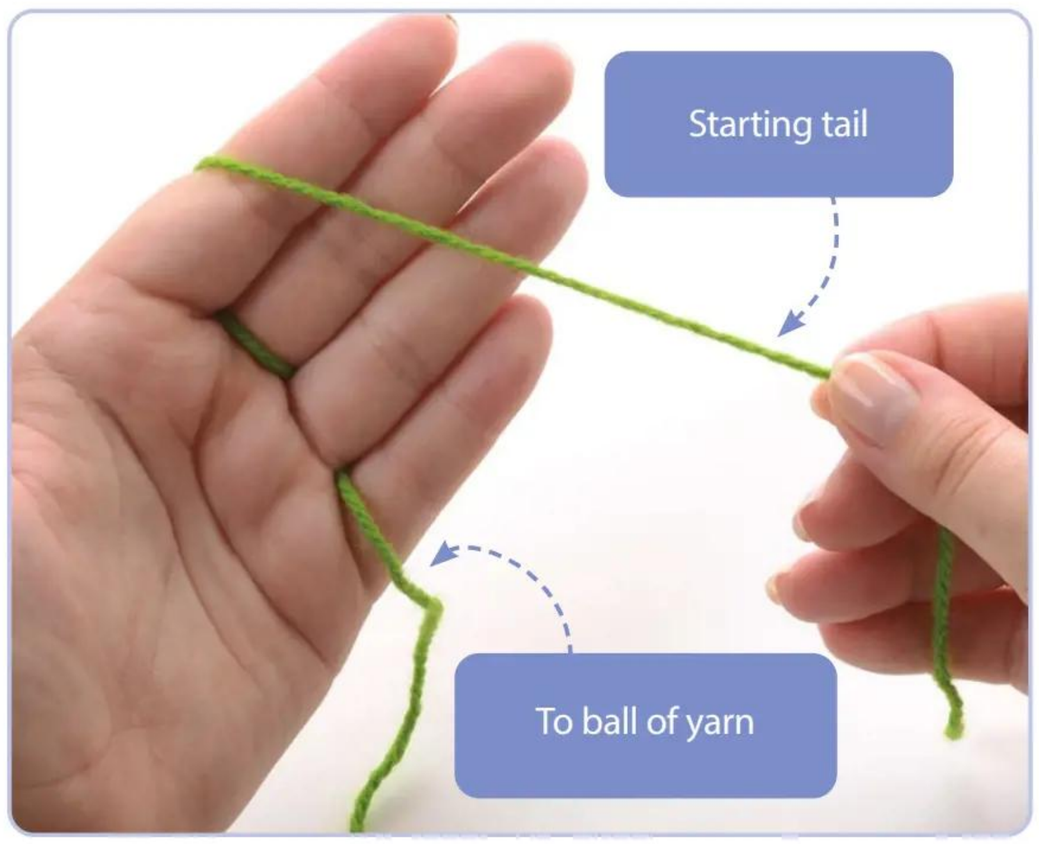


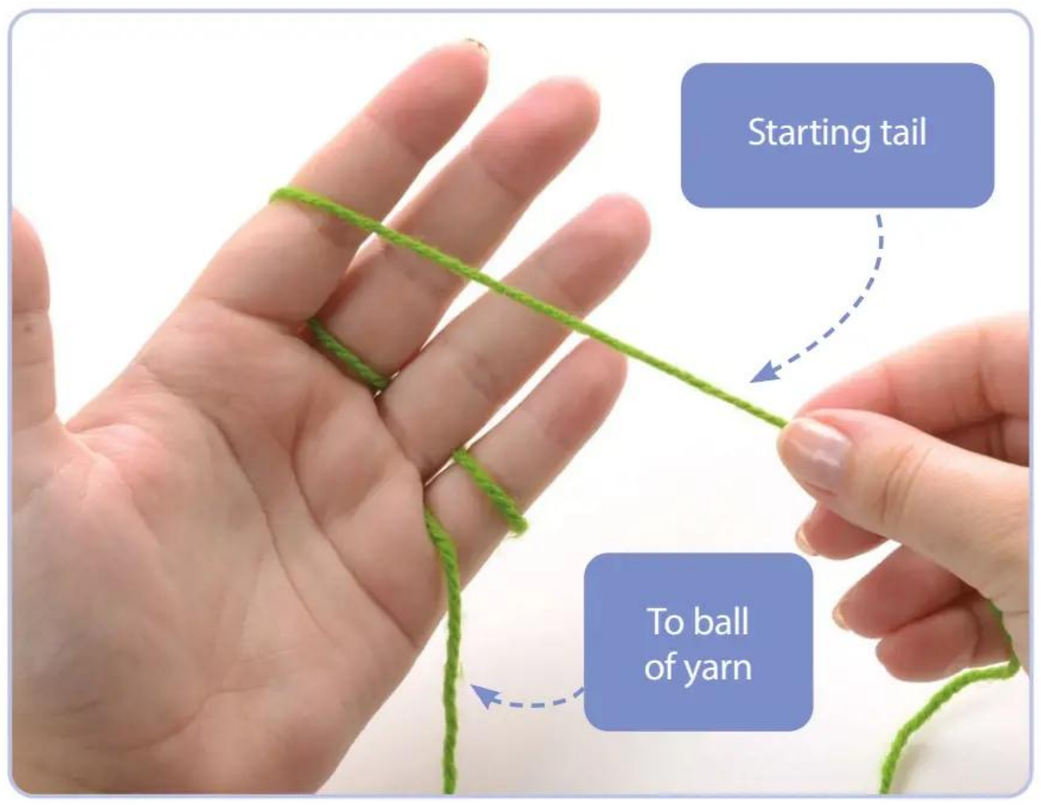
1 **Overhand** This technique is also known as the knife grip, as you grip the crochet hook as if you're holding a knife. Place your hand over the hook when you grab the thumb rest with your thumb and index finger, then support the handle in your palm.

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

HOLDING YOUR YARN

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





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

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

LEFT-HANDED CROCHET

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

While most crochet patterns are written for people crocheting with their right hand, it's easy to make them applicable for left-handed crocheters. As left-handed crochet produces a mirror image of right-handed crochet, there are just four instructions that need to be reversed – and these can be seen in the table on the next page.

By following these simple rules, you will be able to crochet almost everything that a right-handed crocheter can with ease. The only differences will be that diagonal details slant the other way and spirals will rotate in the opposite direction, but this will rarely cause significant problems. To see what your finished piece will look like, or to follow a technique tutorial, simply hold the image up to a mirror. This will show the left-handed version.

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



Left-handed crochet

DID YOU KNOW?

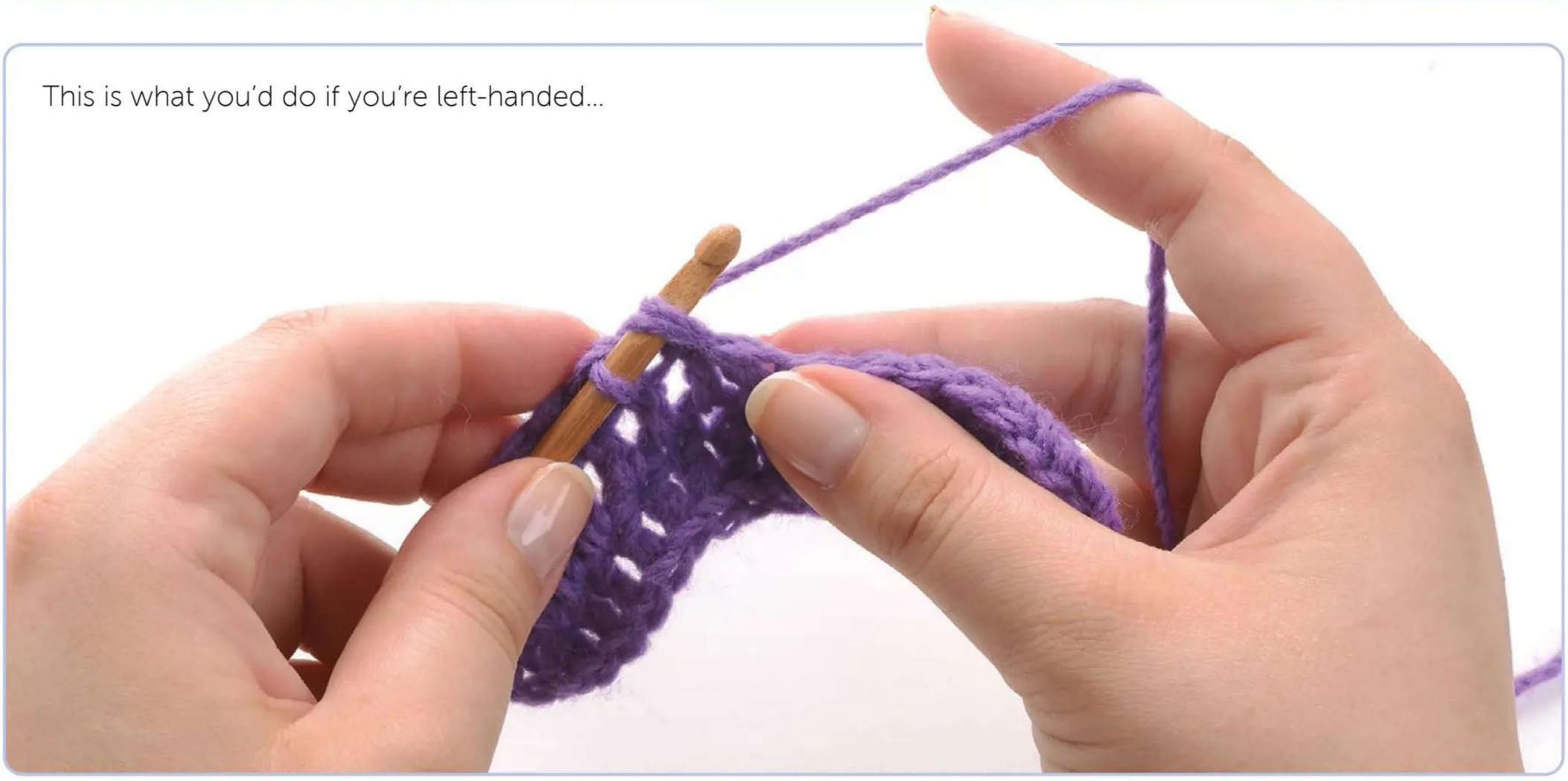
All the tutorials in this book can be followed by left-handed crocheters. Simply follow the chart to reverse the instructions and hold the picture tutorials up to a mirror to see how you should be working.

Every time you see…	Replace it with…
Right	Left
Left	Right
Clockwise	Counterclockwise
Counterclockwise	Clockwise

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

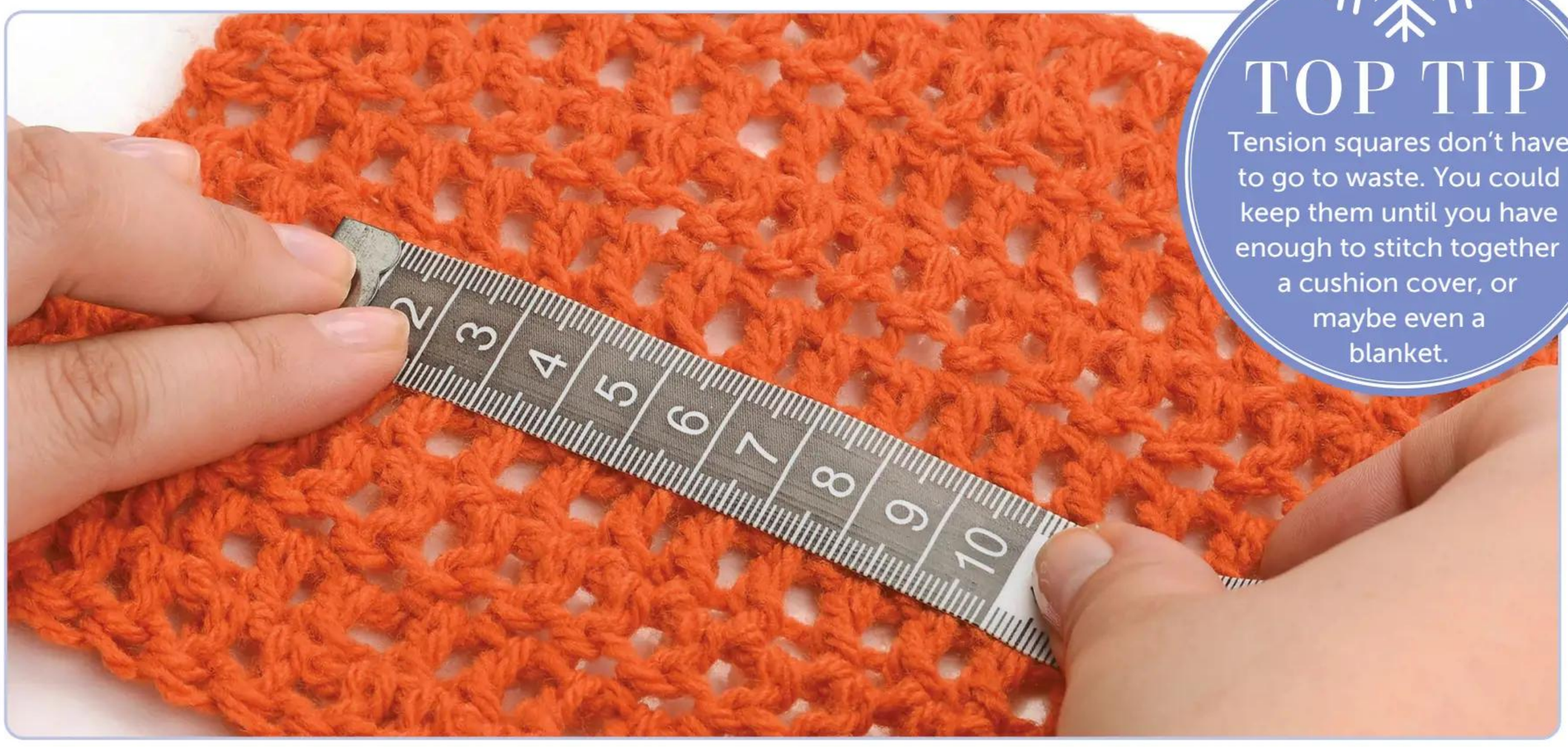


This is what you'd do if you're left-handed…



TENSION (GAUGE)

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



TOP TIP

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

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

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

CREATING A SWATCH

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

WHAT NEXT

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

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

MEASURING YOUR TENSION

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

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

HOW IMPORTANT IS IT ?

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

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

AMIGURUMI TENSION

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

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



TENSION TOO LOOSE

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



CORRECT TENSION

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

READING PATTERNS

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

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

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

STARTING INSTRUCTIONS

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

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

ROWS AND ROUNDS

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

WORKING INTO SPECIFIC STITCHES

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

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

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

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

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

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

REPEATS

Instead of writing out repeated instructions, they will be identified in patterns either using brackets or an asterisk (or other symbol), followed by an instruction of how many times they should be repeated within your chosen pattern. Repeated instructions given in brackets – for example, '(2 dc

in next st, tr in next st) 4 times' – means that the sequence inside the brackets needs to be followed, from beginning to end, as many times as identified by the number outside the brackets. In this case, four times.

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

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

MULTIPLE SIZES

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

For example:

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

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



UK/US TERMS

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

FOLLOW THE PATTERN

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

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

SLIPKNOT

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



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



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

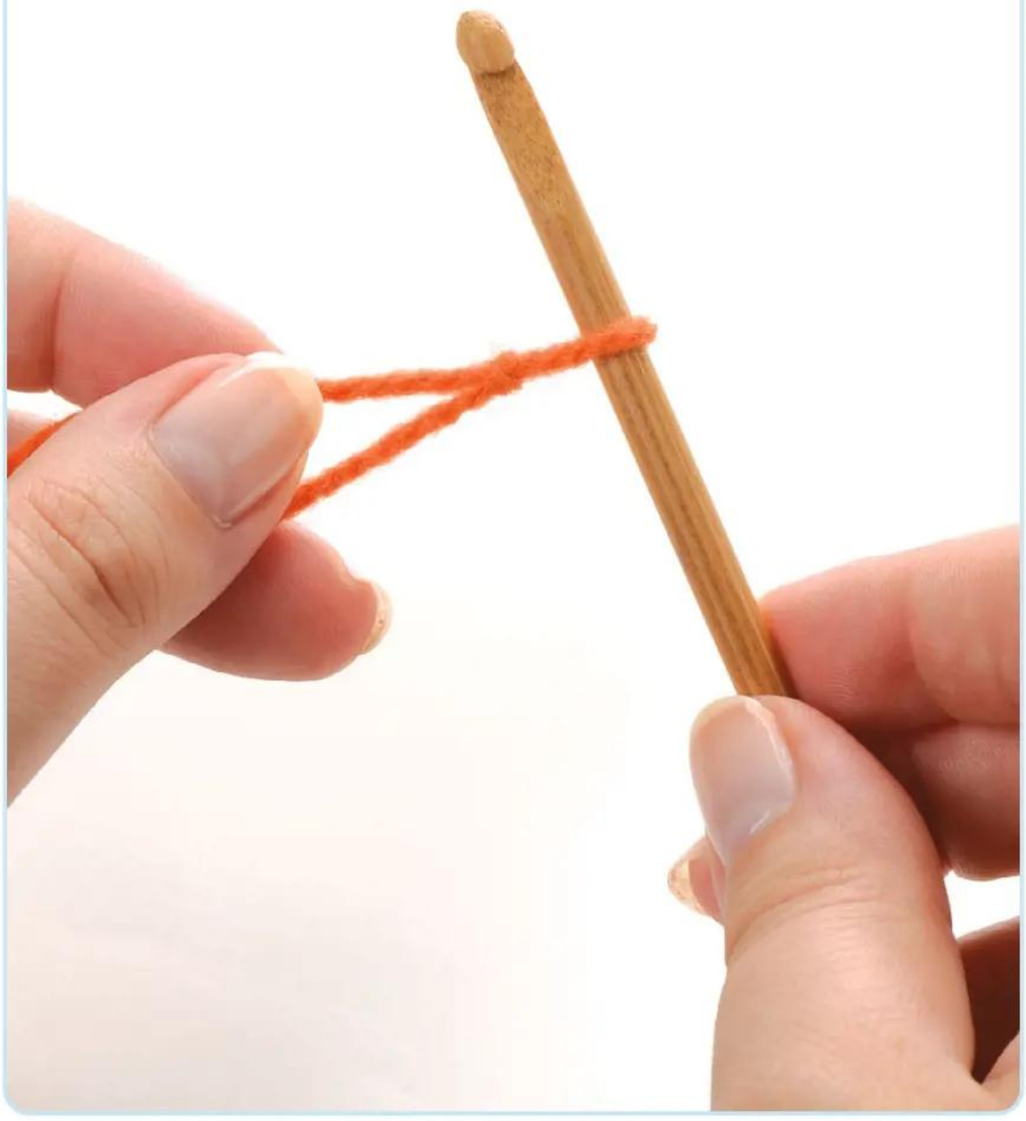


3 **Identify the working yarn** The working yarn is the yarn that is attached to your ball. Catch it with your hook ready for the next step.

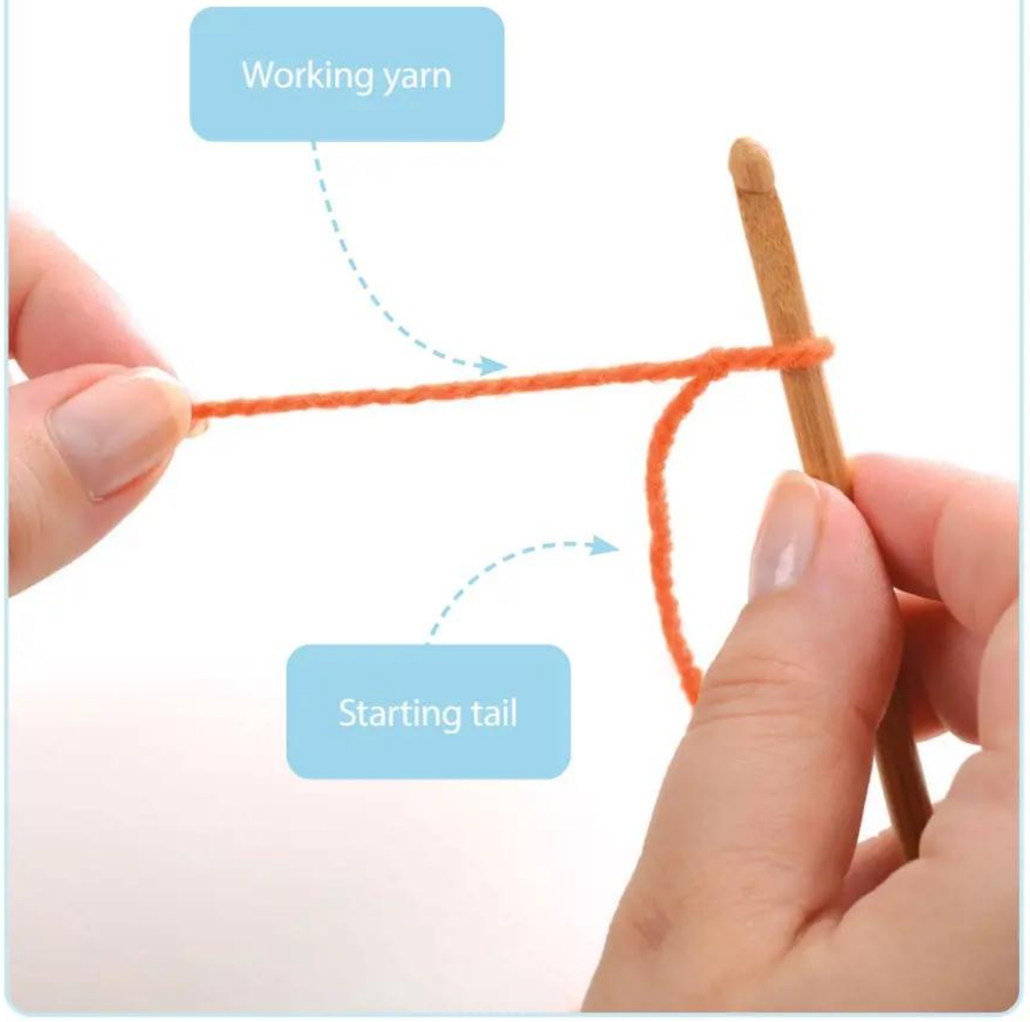


4 **Draw up a loop** Pull the working yarn through the loop using the hook. There will now be a loop on your hook.

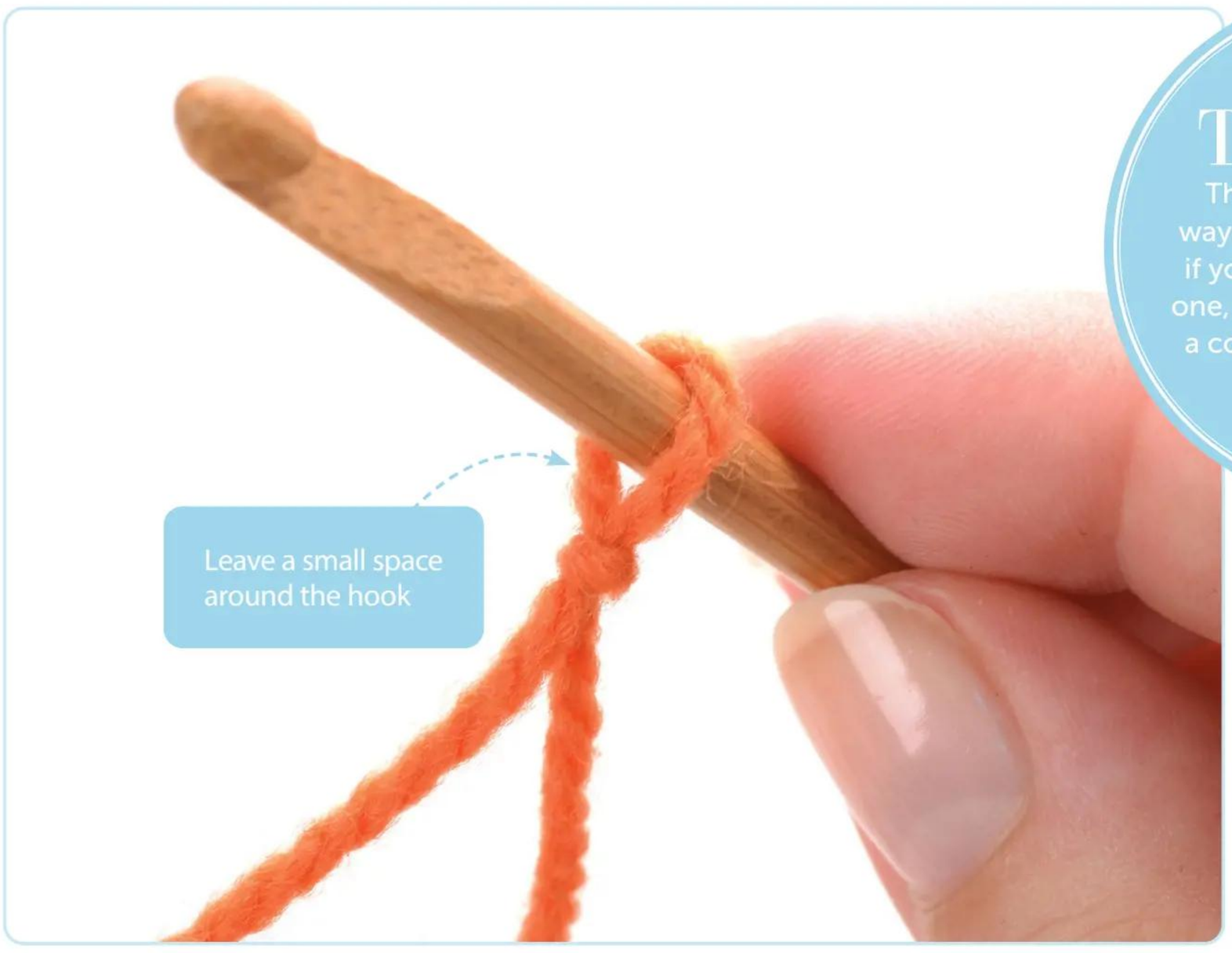
"Leave the loop loose enough that your hook can easily slide up and down inside it"



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



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



TOP TIP

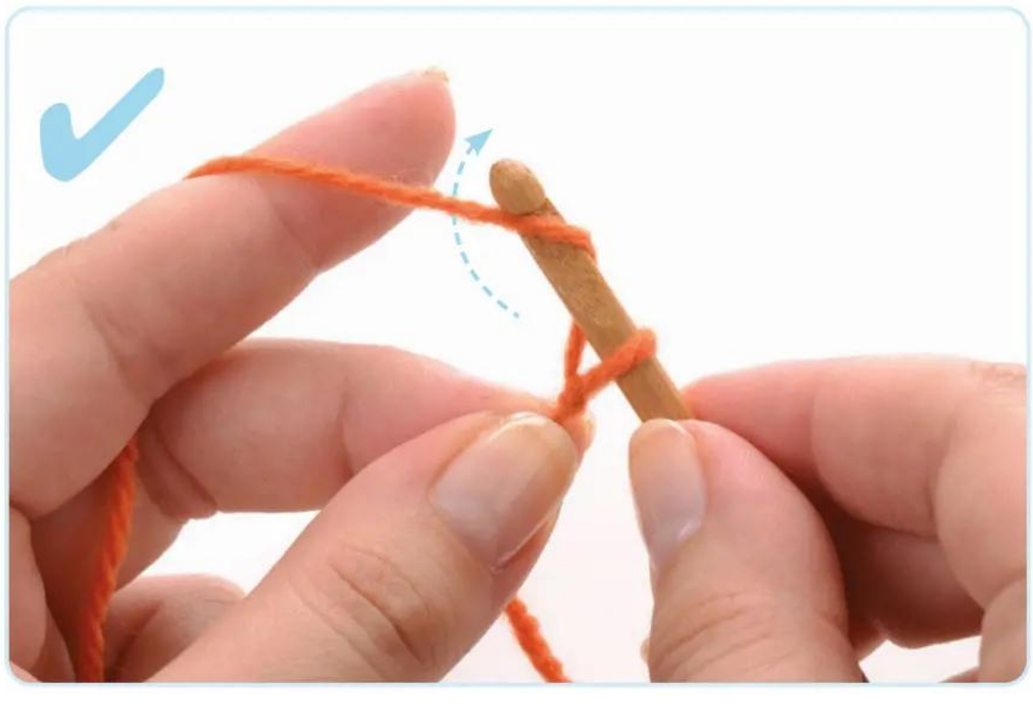
There are many different ways to make a slipknot, and if you're not happy with this one, you can experiment with a couple of others until you find a method that's comfortable for you.

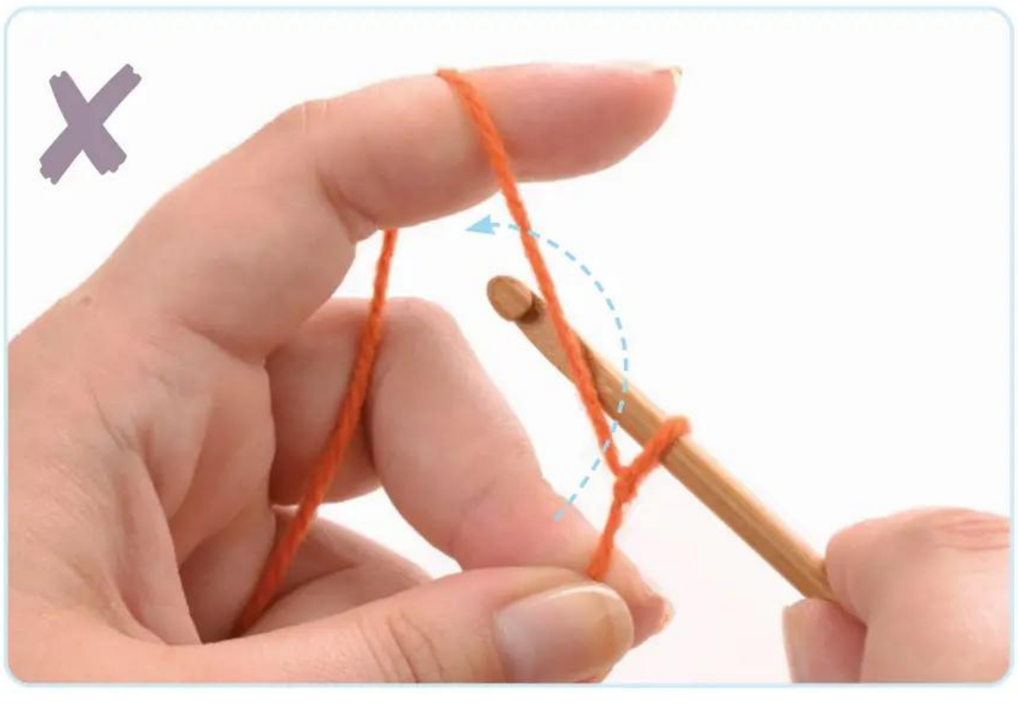
7 **...but not too tight** While you want the loop to be tight, it still needs to be able to move up and down the hook. So ensure a small space is left around the hook when you're tightening the knot.

YARN OVER

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

THE RIGHT AND THE WRONG WAY



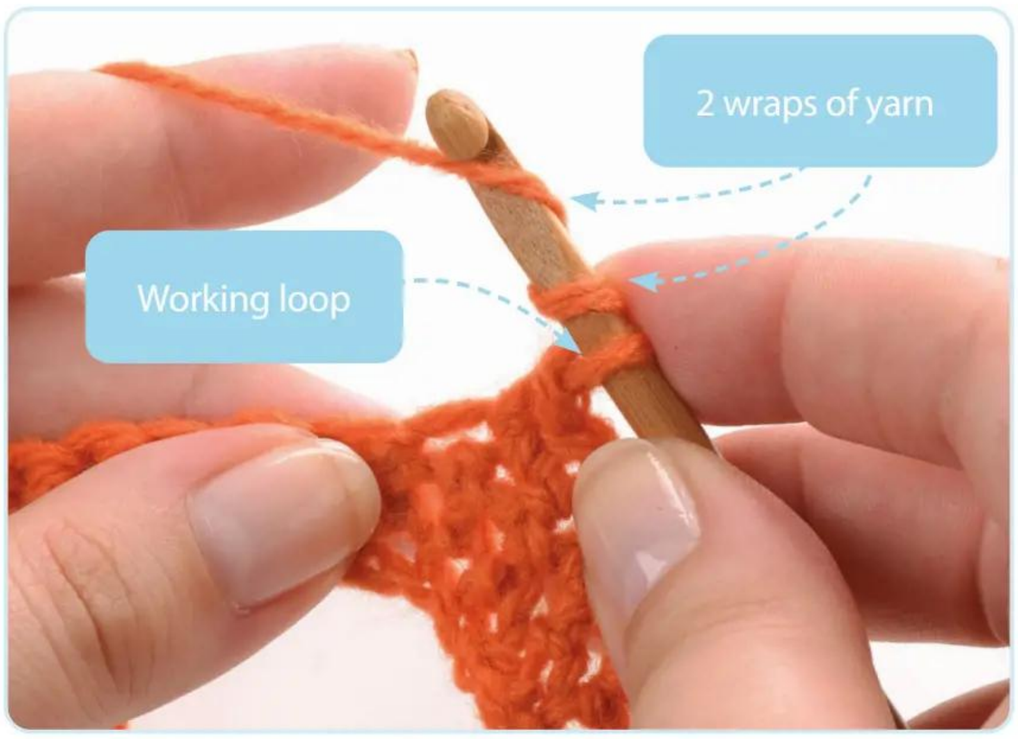


1 **Move your hook, not the yarn** While it sounds like a yarn over (yo) should be made by moving the yarn over the hook, it's easier to keep the yarn still and guide the crochet hook around it. With your hook in your right hand and the working yarn in your left, pass your hook underneath the yarn from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

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



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



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

DRAW UP A LOOP

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

MAKING STITCHES





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

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

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

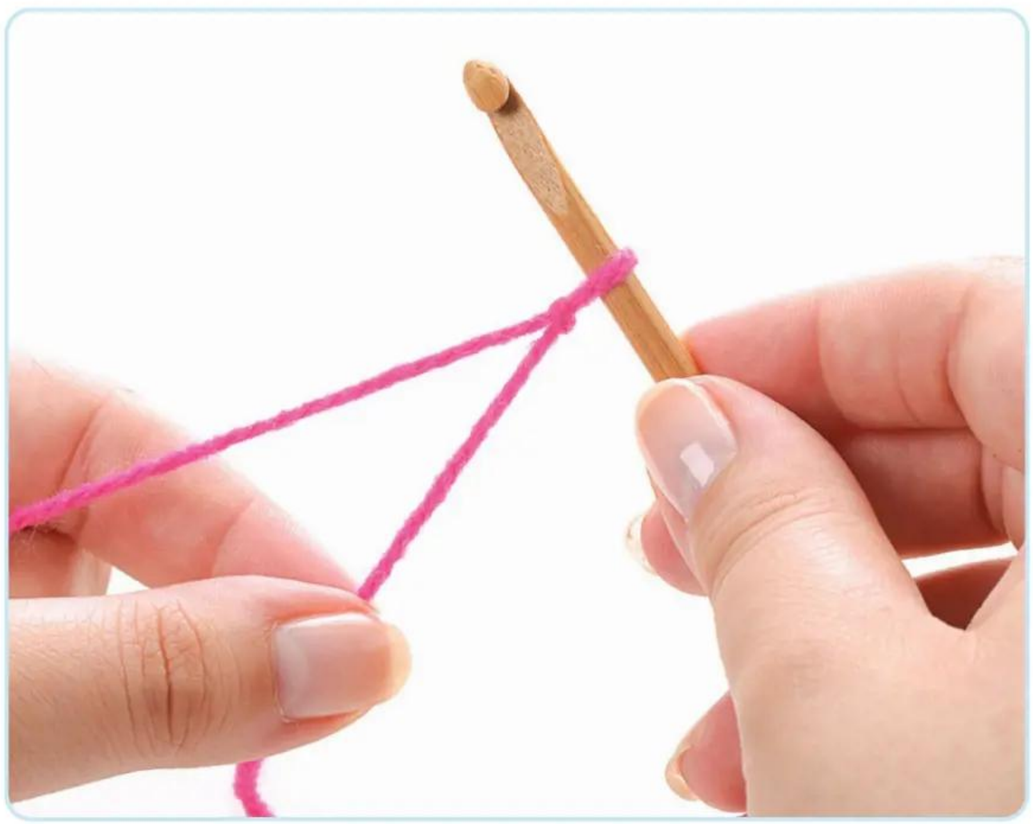
DID YOU KNOW?

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

FOUNDATION CHAIN

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

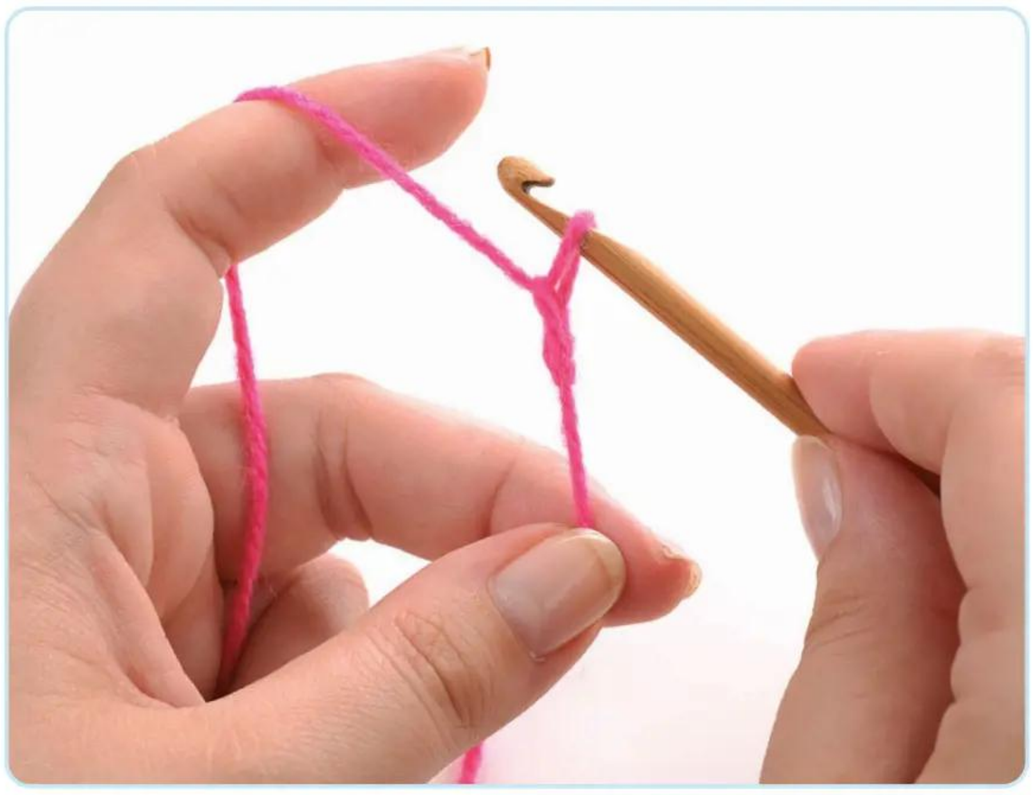
CREATE A CHAIN OF STITCHES





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

2 **Yarn over** Move your hook underneath your yarn to create a yarn over.

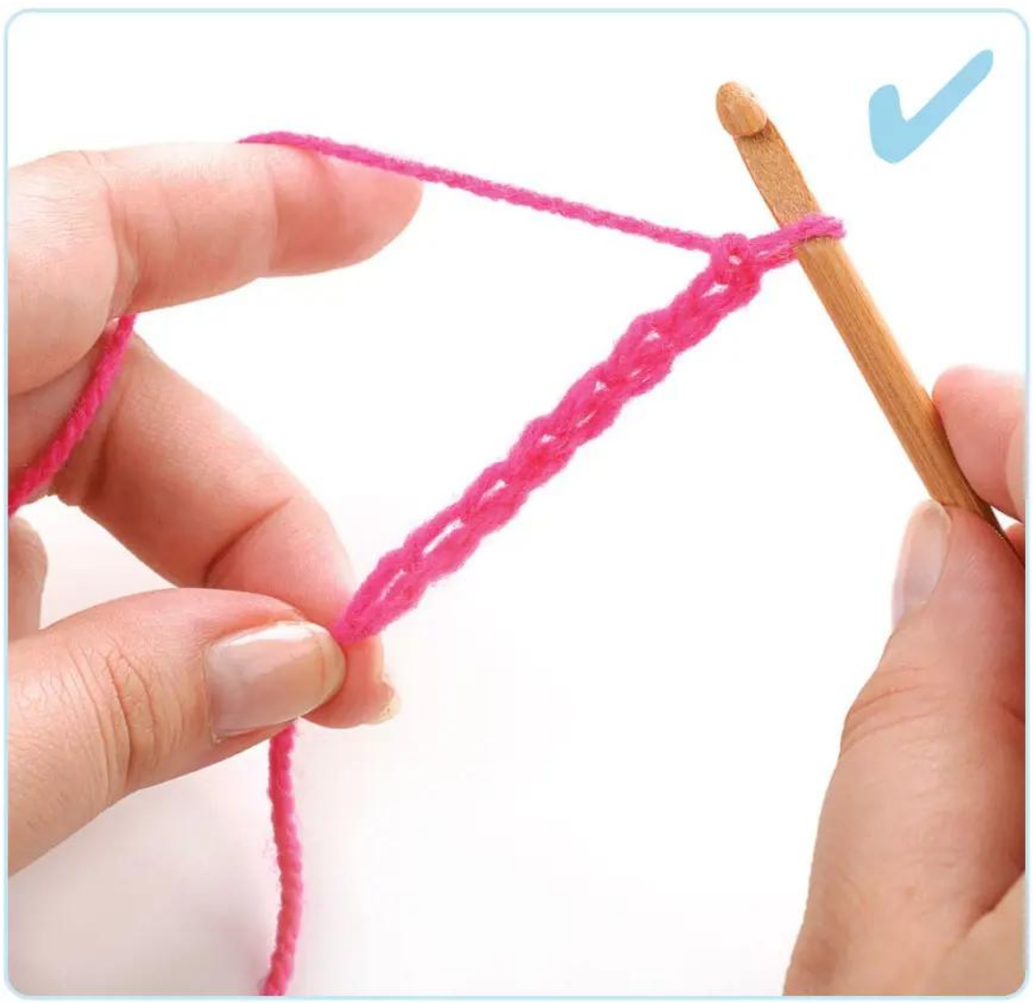


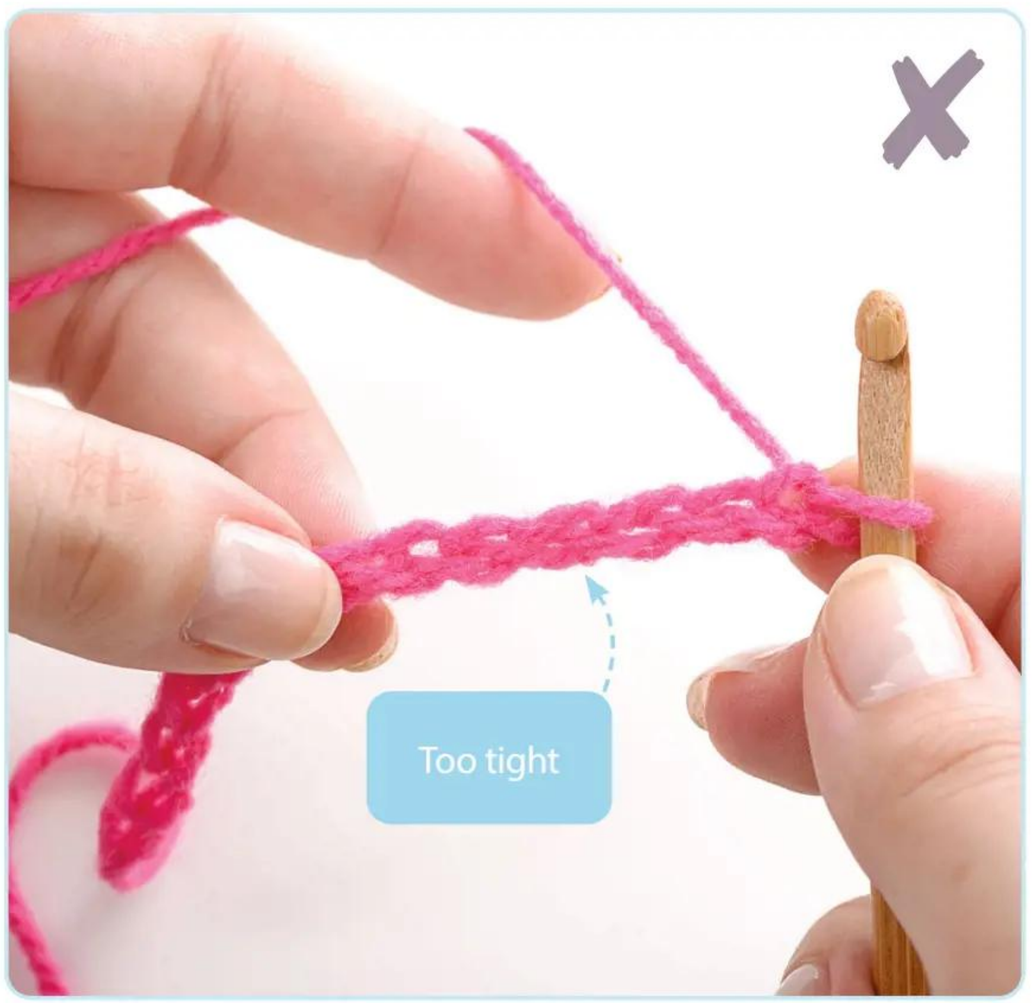


3 **Pull through** Move the hook back through the loop already on your hook, making sure to catch the working yarn. You have now made your first chain.

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

DOS AND DON'TS



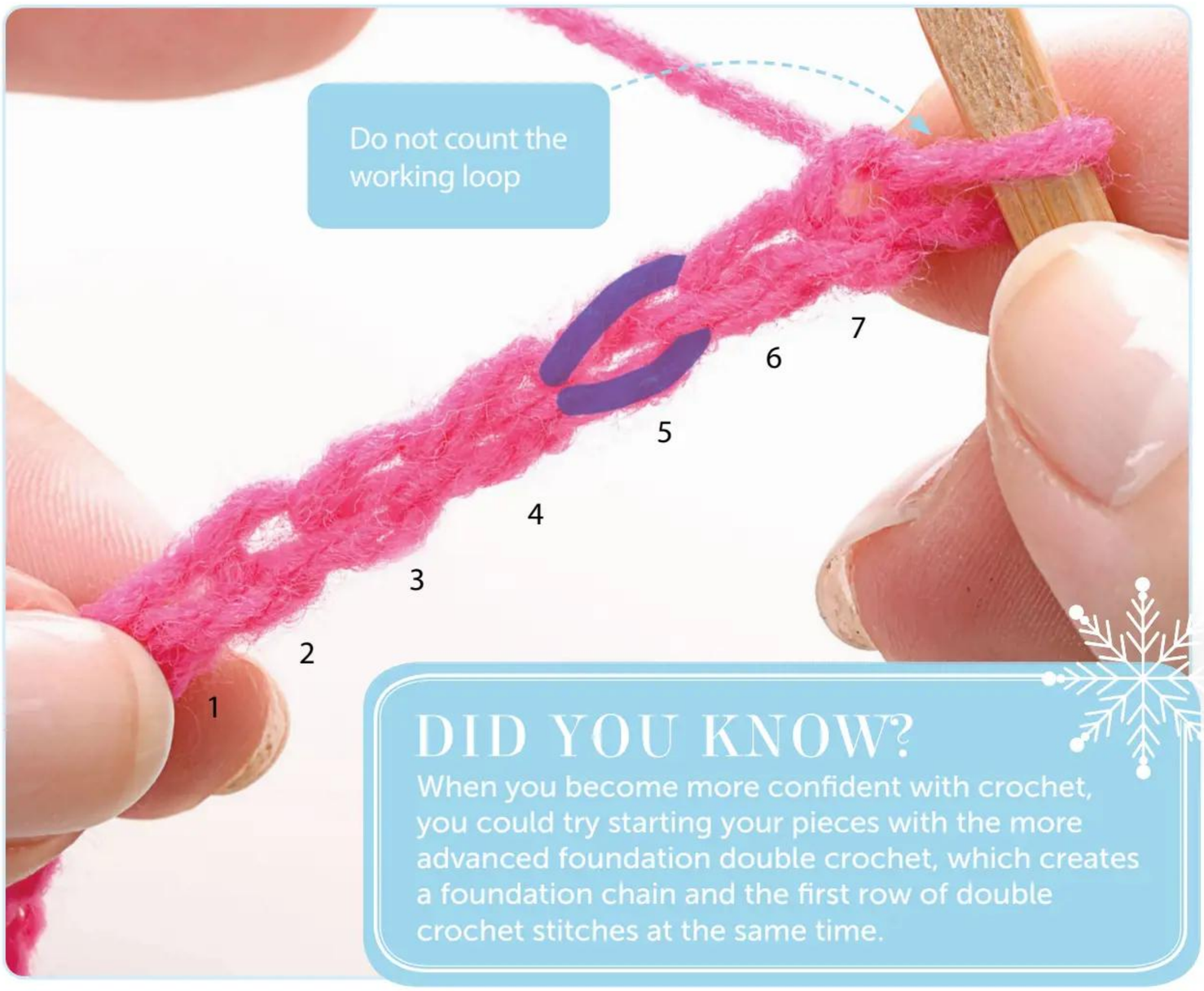


1 **Even stitches** Try to make all the chains a similar size to ensure you are making a strong foundation for your piece. If some are very loose and others aren't, the effect will be a wavy edge to your piece. This will take some practice.

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

COUNTING CHAINS

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



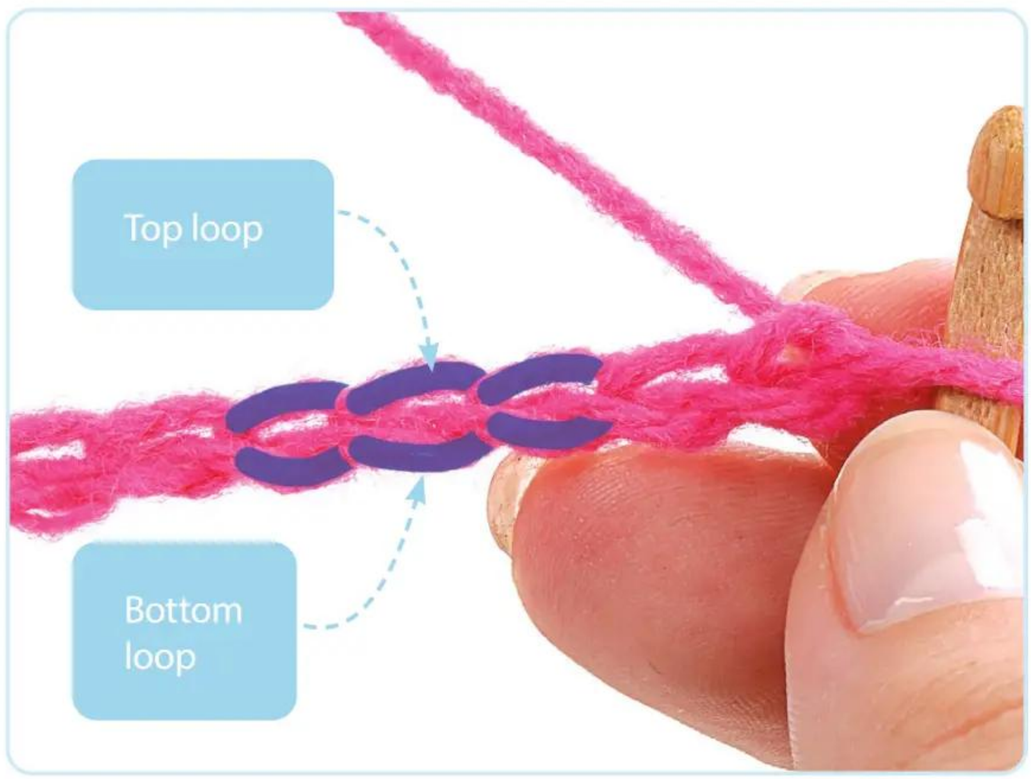
DID YOU KNOW?

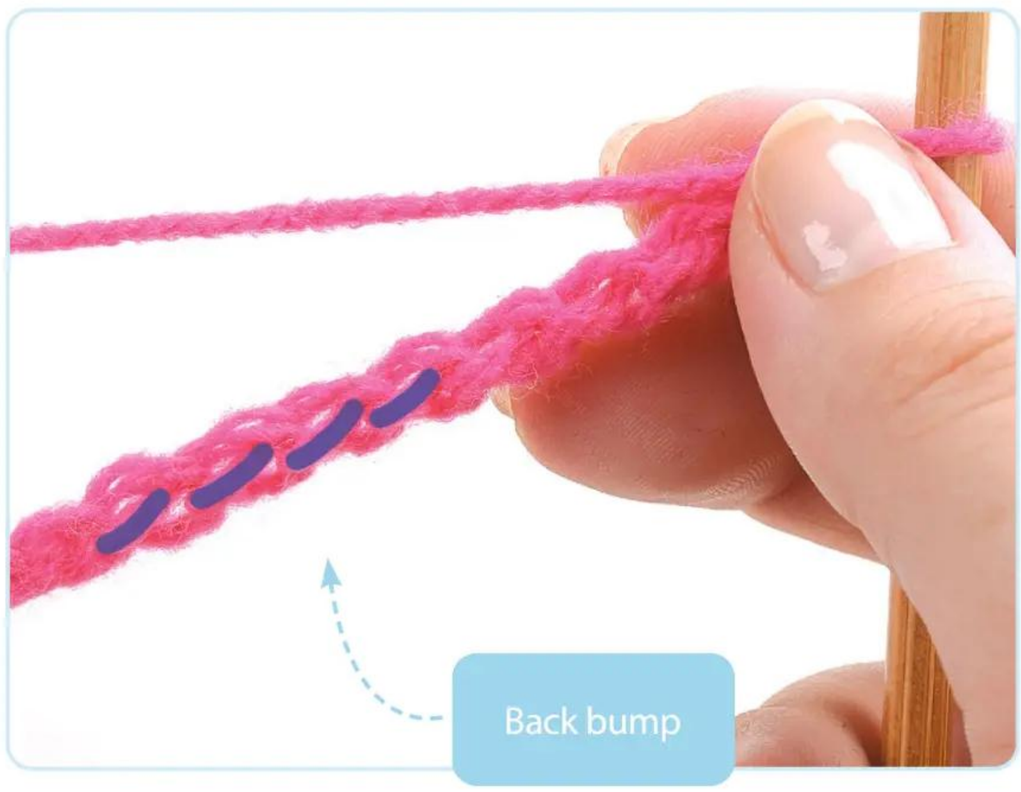
When you become more confident with crochet, you could try starting your pieces with the more advanced foundation double crochet, which creates a foundation chain and the first row of double crochet stitches at the same time.

WORK THE CHAIN

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

GET TO KNOW THE FOUNDATION CHAIN

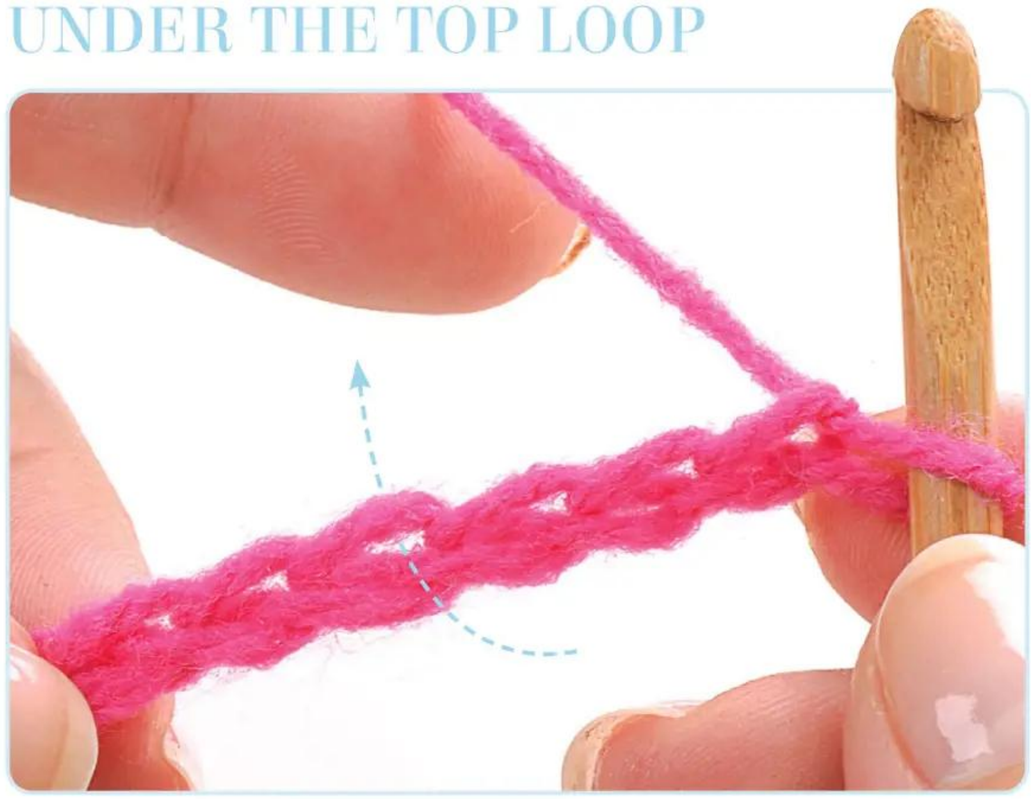




1 **Front of the chain** Looking at the front side of your chain, you will see a row of sideways Vs, each with a top loop and a bottom loop.

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

UNDER THE TOP LOOP





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

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

Work the chain

UNDER THE TOP LOOP AND BACK BUMP

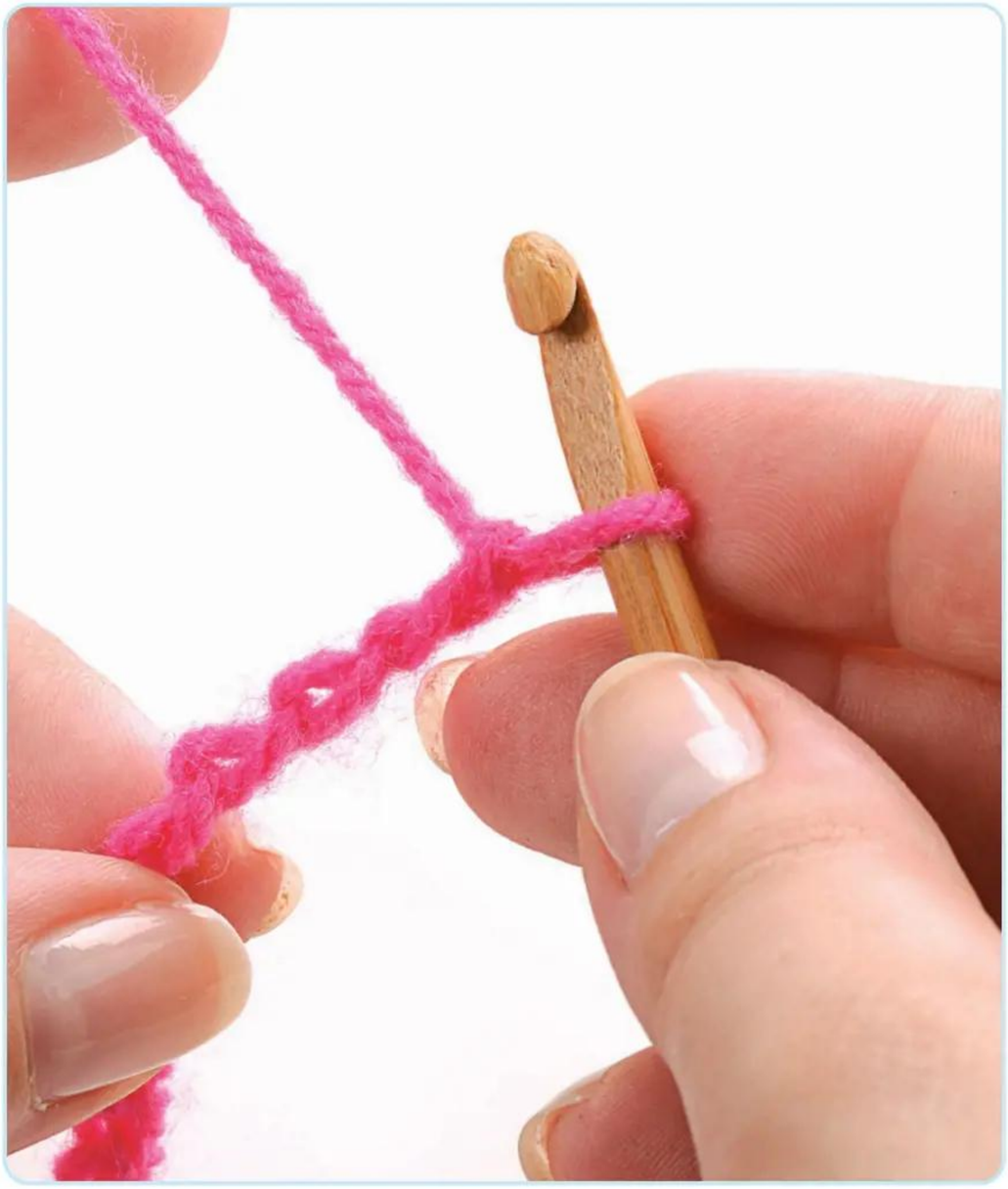


1 **Under two** Hooking under both the top loop and the back bump is sometimes referred to as the top two loops of the chain.

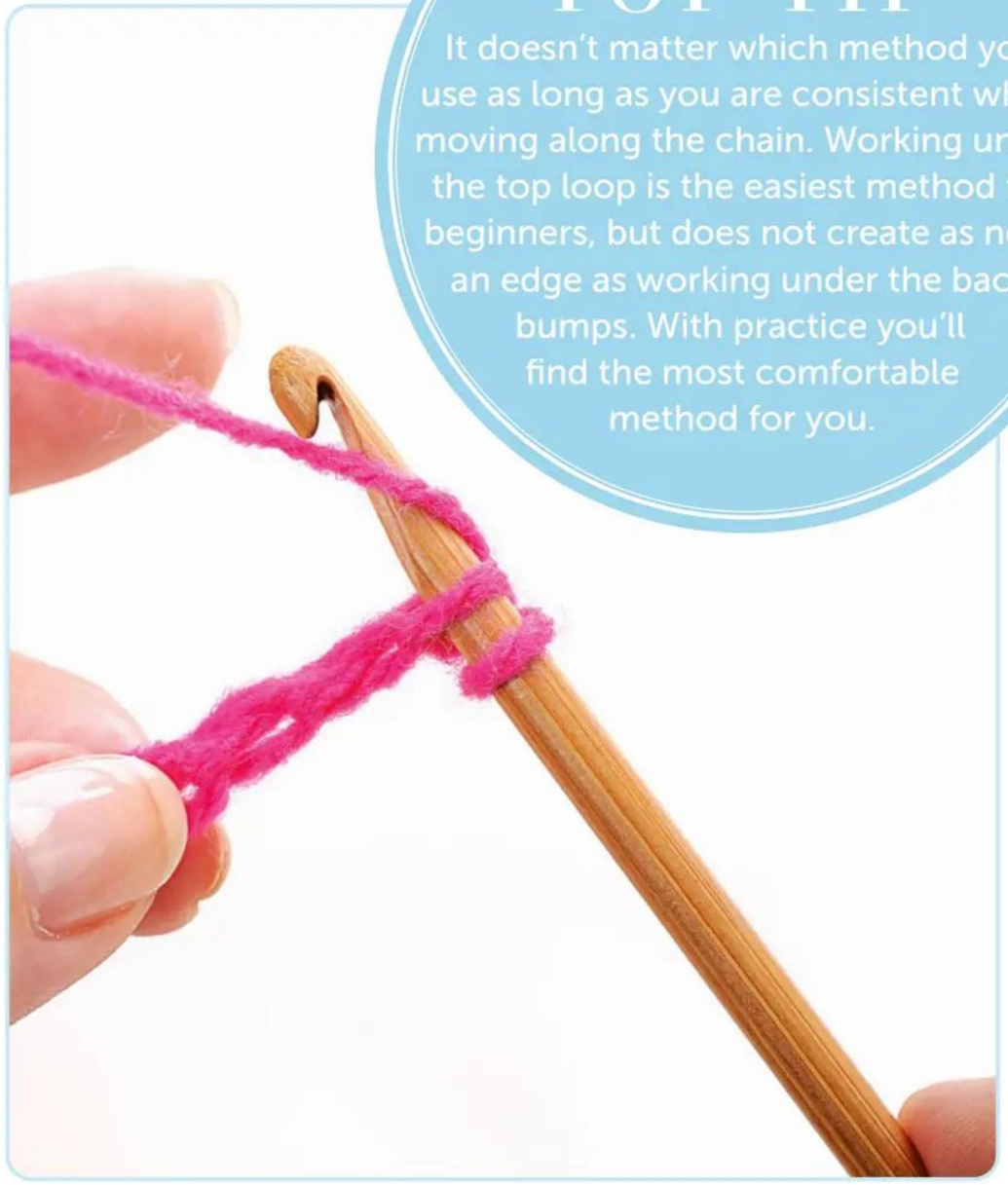


2 **Insert your hook** Move your hook to insert it under the back bump and top loop of a chain.

UNDER THE TOP LOOP AND BACK BUMP



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



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

TOP TIP

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

WORK SUBSEQUENT ROWS

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

To work into the row you've just crocheted, you will first need to crochet a turning chain (t-ch), which you can learn how to create on page 44. When you've made this the length suggested on the pattern for the stitch that you are working, you will then crochet into the row you just created in a very similar way to working into the foundation chain. When looking at the top of the row you will see the Vs of the stitches. To work into the next row, you can either crochet under the back loop, under the front loop or under both loops of the stitch on the row below. If your pattern doesn't specify which loops to work into, the standard way is to insert your hook under both, as crocheting under one creates a ridge along the base of the row from the unworked loops.



TOP TIP

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

Work subsequent rows

UNDER THE FRONT AND BACK LOOPS



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



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

UNDER THE FRONT LOOPS ONLY



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



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

UNDER THE BACK LOOPS ONLY



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



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

SLIP STITCH

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

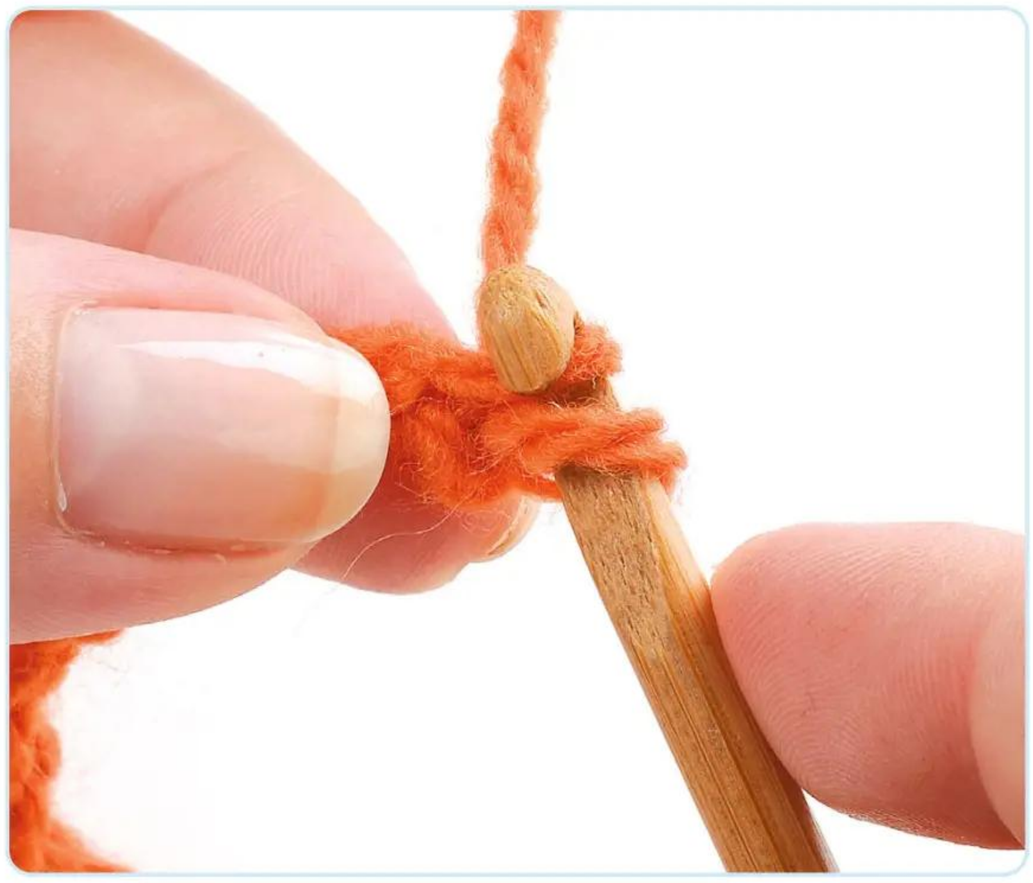
MAKE THE SLIP STITCH



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



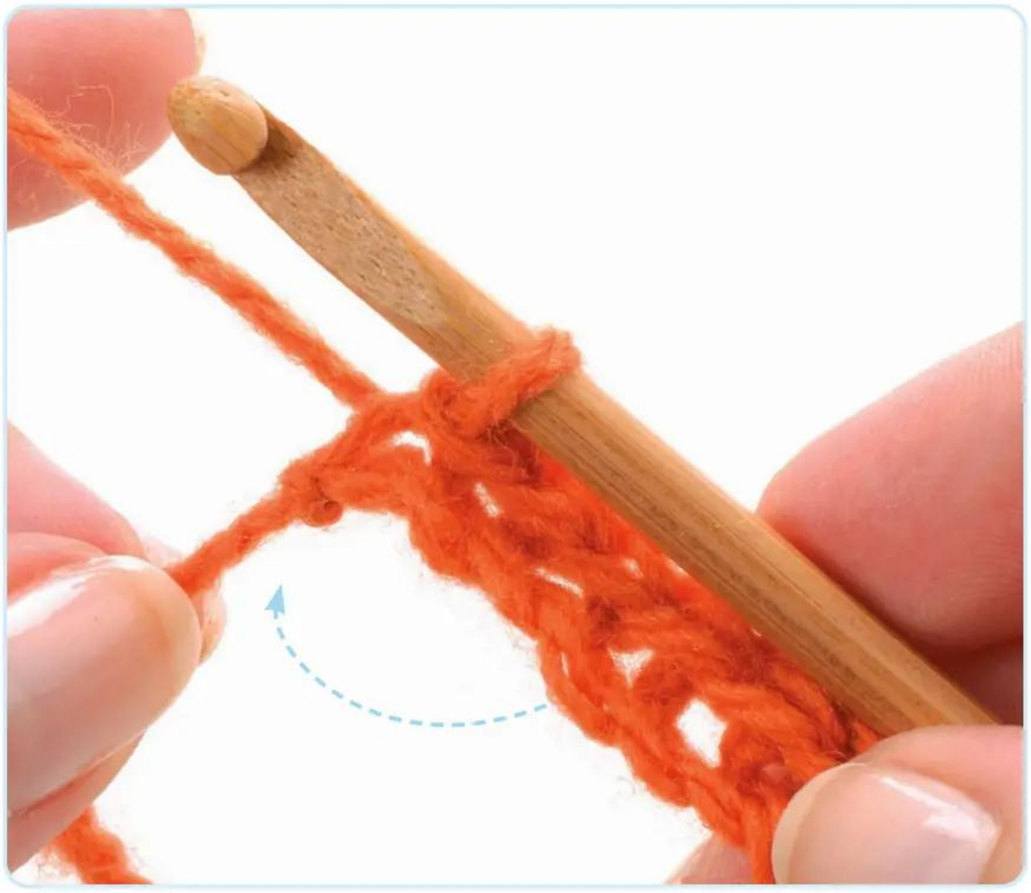
2 **Into chain** Insert your hook into the second chain from the hook. Yarn over (yo).



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



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



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



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



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



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

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

DOUBLE CROCHET

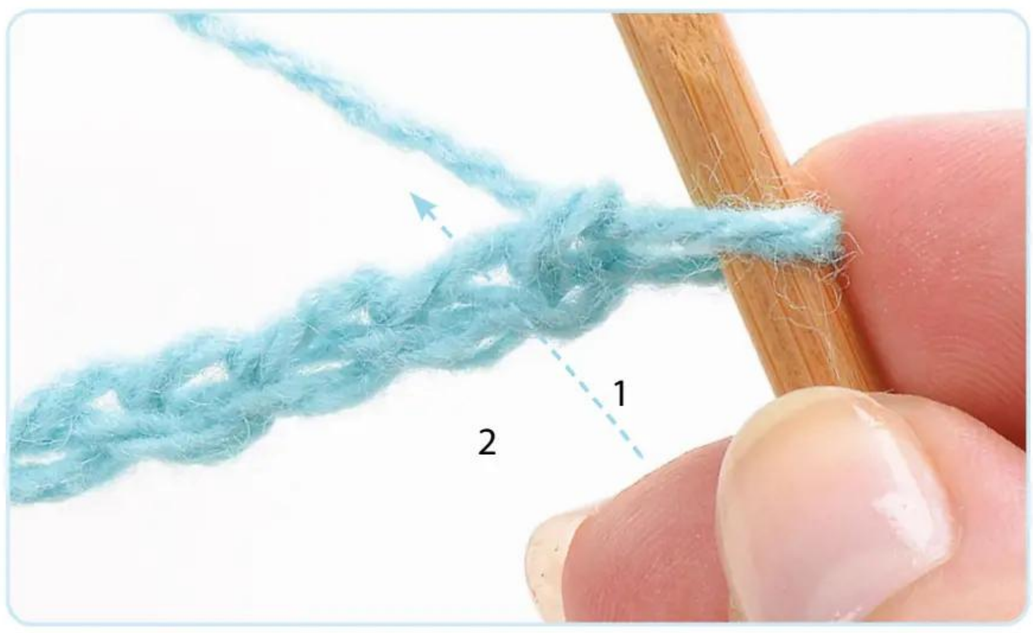
The easiest crochet stitch creates short and compact stitches

Double crochet (dc) is a very important stitch in crochet as it is one of the simplest, and therefore the one that most crocheters tend to learn to use first. Mastering this stitch will also help you when it comes to creating taller stitches, as most are created by just adding steps to the method for making a double crochet.

Using only double crochets creates a very compact, dense fabric, which makes it great for thick, warm winter garments. It is also a very common stitch in amigurumi and toy making, as the compact fabric created is very good for holding stuffing in. You will be able to create a variety of projects just by mastering this stitch.

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

MAKE A DOUBLE CROCHET



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



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



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



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

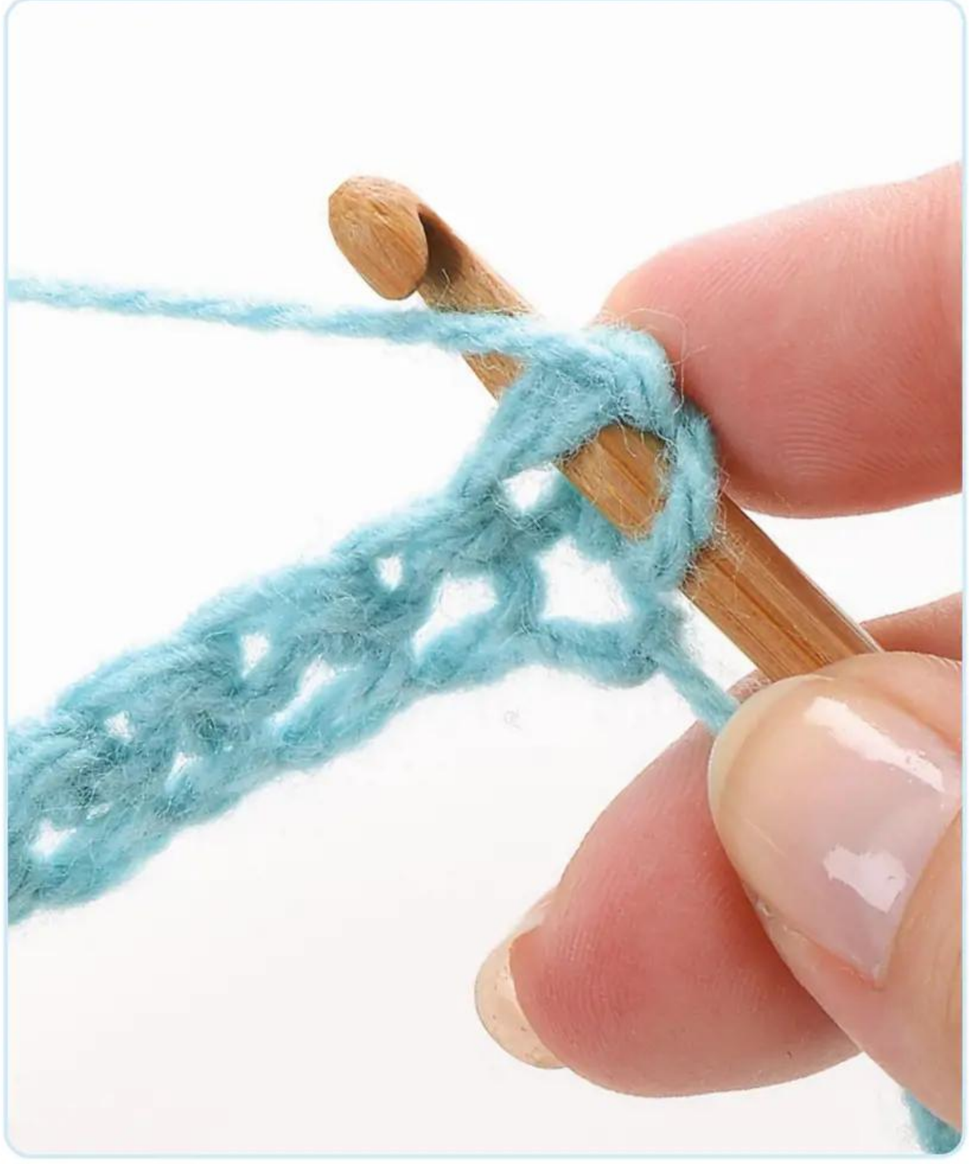
Double crochet



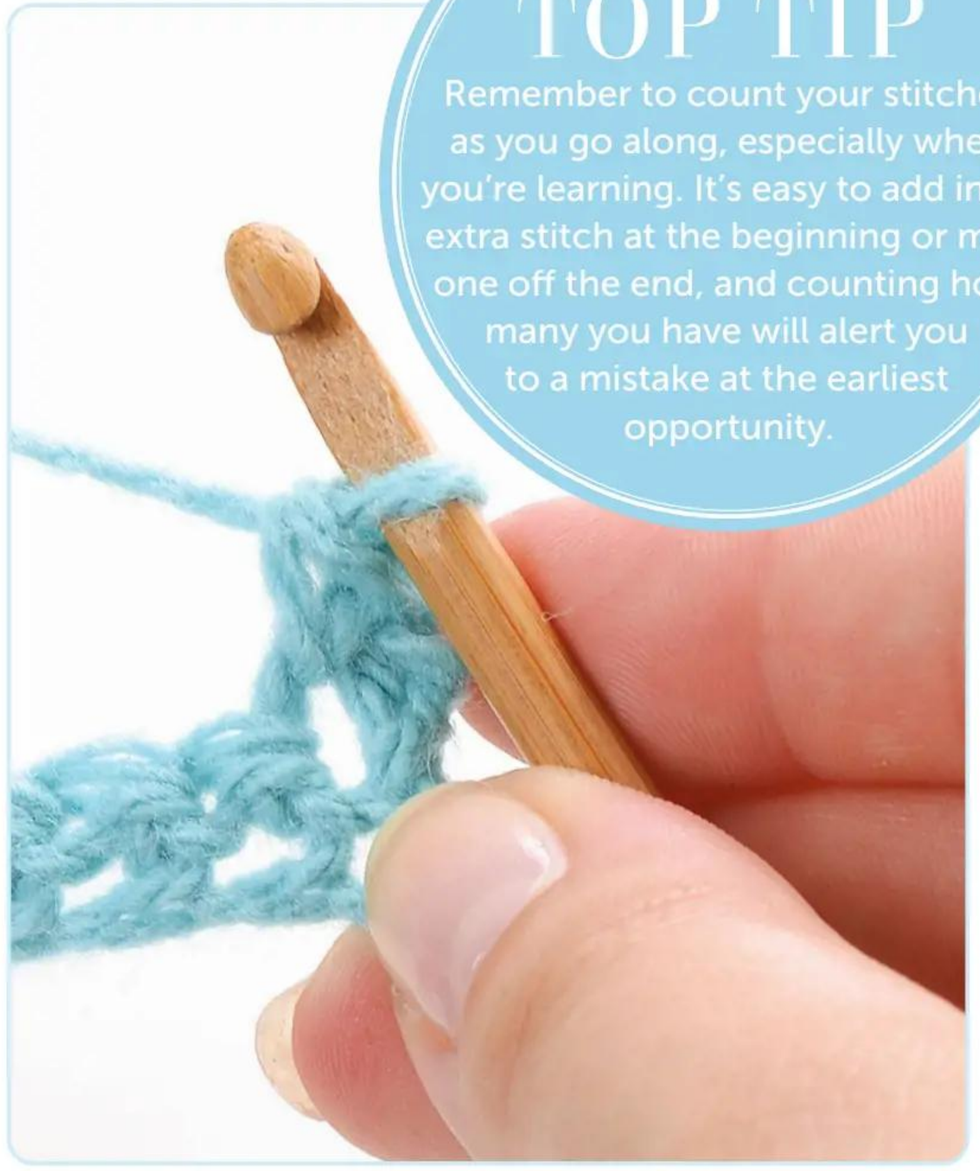
5 **Keep going** Continue making double crochets by inserting your hook into each remaining chain and repeating steps 3 and 4. When you have finished the row, chain one.



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



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



8 **Repeat** Follow step 3 and 4 to complete the stitch.

TOP TIP

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

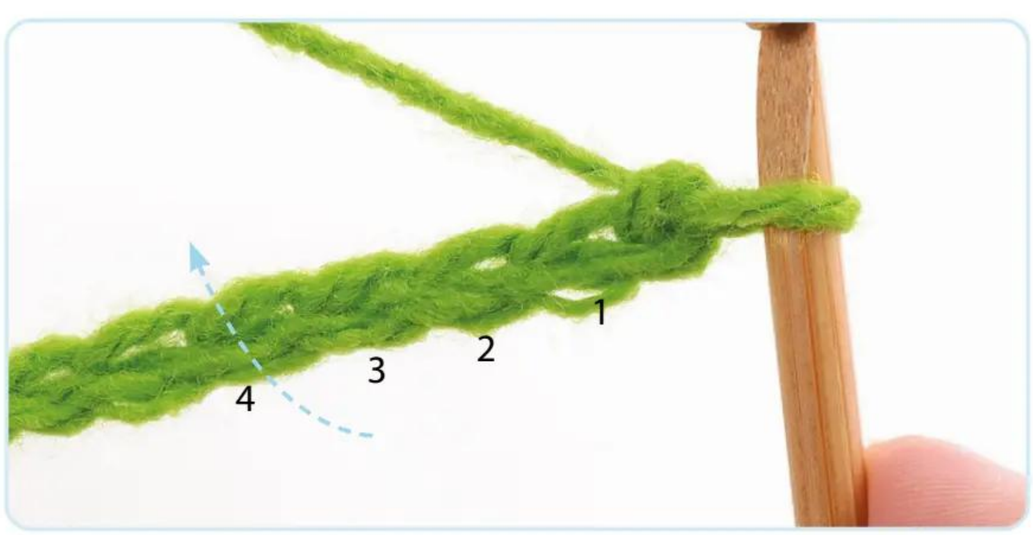
TREBLE CROCHET

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

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

Due to its increased height, the treble crochet creates a much less compact and therefore more versatile fabric than the double crochet. It is a very common and recognisable stitch, as seen in granny squares. When working a treble crochet into a foundation chain, you must make two more chains than your desired number of stitches. This is because a treble crochet is usually worked into the fourth chain from the hook when being worked into a foundation chain, and the three unworked chains will form your first treble crochet stitch. Let's take a look at how it's done.

CREATE A TREBLE CROCHET

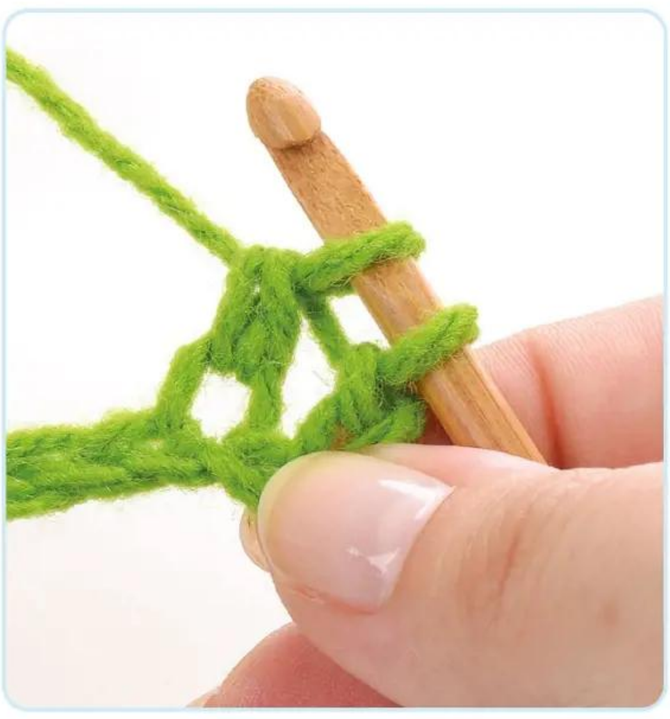




1 **Foundation chain** Make a foundation chain to the required length. For a precise number of stitches, chain that many plus two. Find the fourth chain from the hook.

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







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

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

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

HALF TREBLE CROCHET

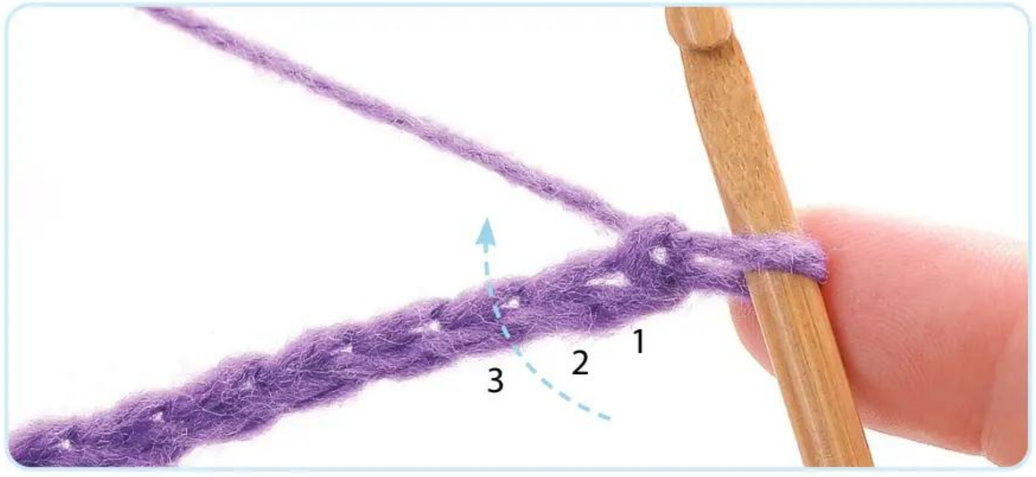
A less common stitch that is taller than double crochet but not quite as tall as treble crochet

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

This can be quite tricky to get the hang of the first time, so a little practice may be necessary. When used on its own, the half treble crochet produces a fairly compact fabric, which is similar in texture to that created when using double crochet by itself. Mastering the techniques used to create the double and treble crochet will help greatly when creating the half treble crochet.

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

COMBINE TECHNIQUES TO MAKE A HALF TREBLE



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



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



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



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

DOUBLE TREBLE CROCHET

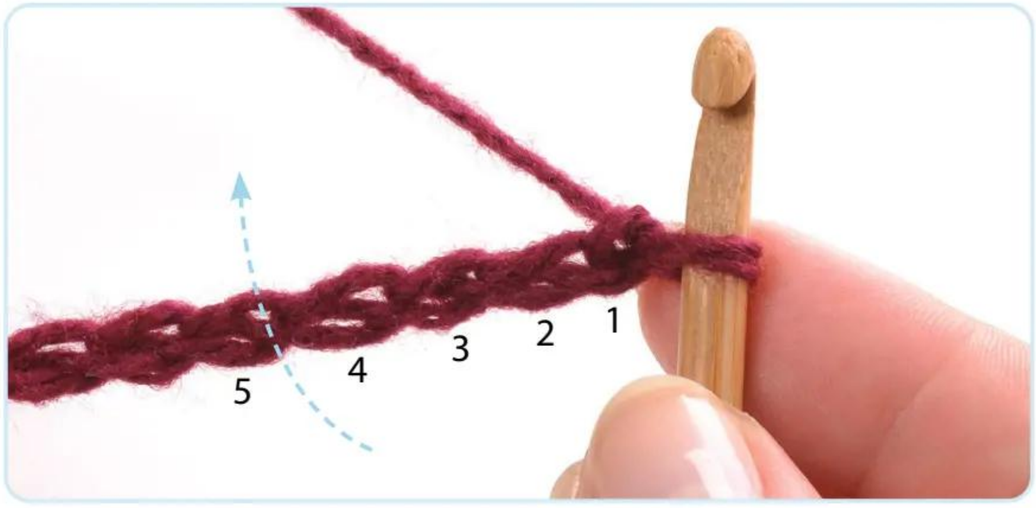
This common stitch is much taller than the treble crochet, and this size allows it to be worked into a piece of fabric fairly quickly

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

The double treble crochet is created by making two yarn overs (yo) before inserting the hook into the stitch or chain below, and this can make it quite fiddly to work with. It's important to check that you have the correct number of loops on your hook after you've drawn up the first loop, as it's very easy for the second yarn over to slip off the hook before you insert it into your fabric, without you even noticing. However, this is a valuable stitch because when compared to the double crochet (dc), which works up rather slowly, it's very easy to create a large piece of fabric quickly with the double treble crochet.

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

MAKE THE TALLEST CROCHET STITCH



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



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



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

Double treble crochet



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



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



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



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

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

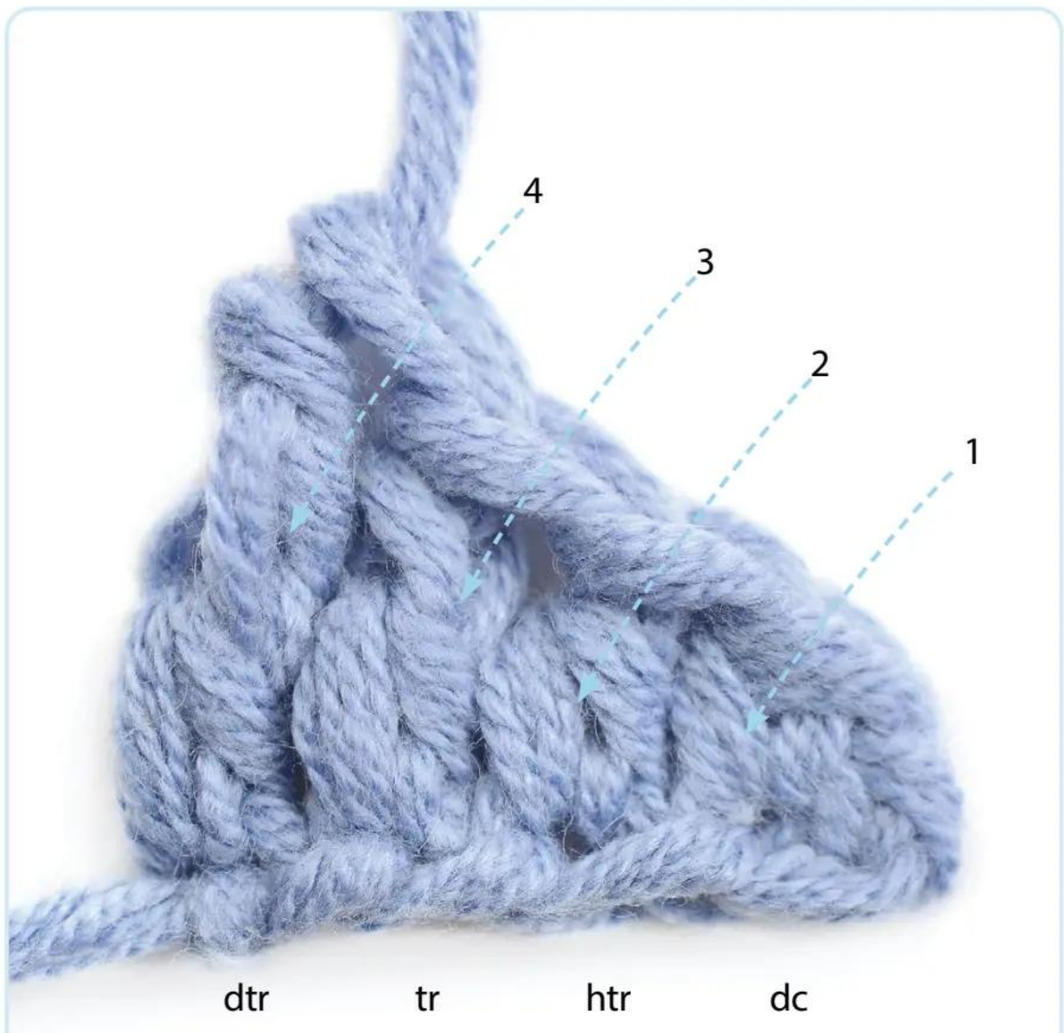
TURNING CHAINS

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

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

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





TURNING CHAIN HEIGHT

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

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

Turning chains

CROCHET INTO A TURNING CHAIN



"Its purpose is to prepare for the next row"

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

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



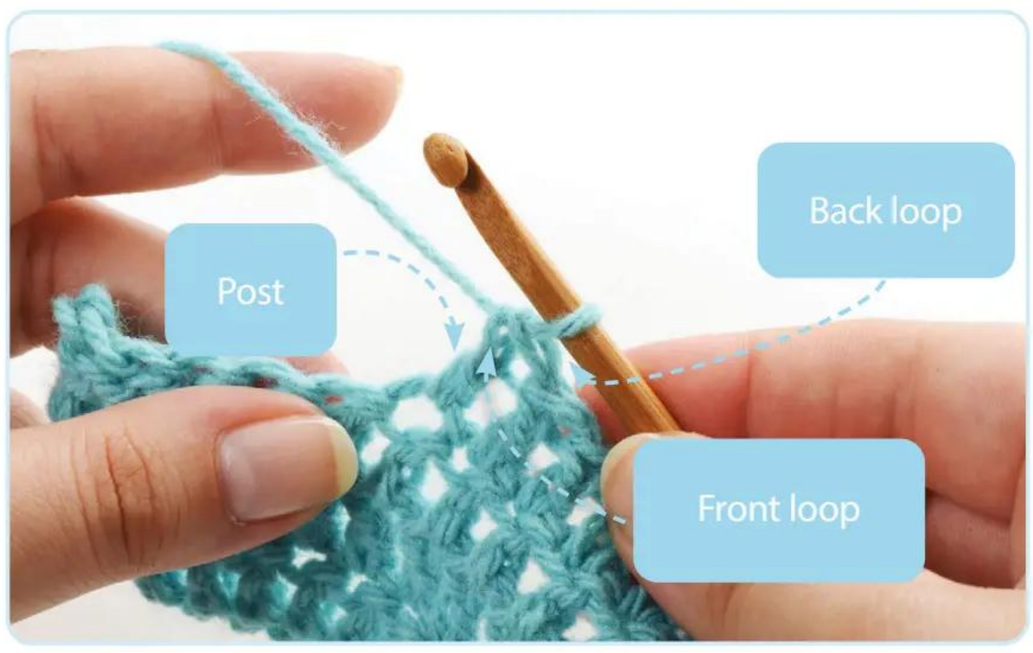
IDENTIFY STITCHES

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

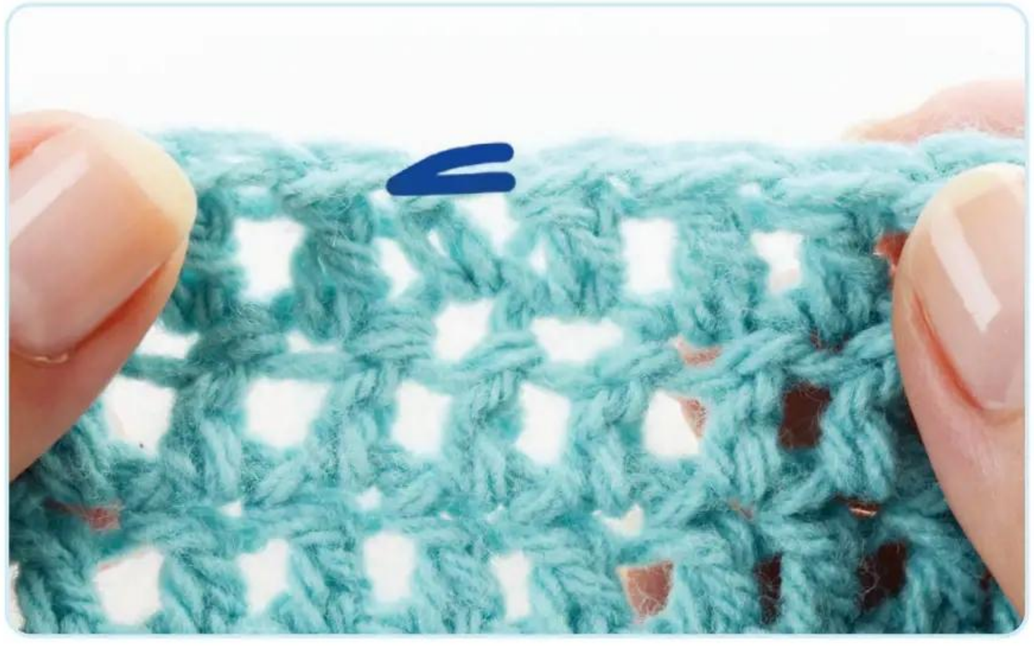
With the guides in this book you will already have discovered how to create a foundation chain, as well as different kinds of stitches like double crochet (dc), treble crochet (tr) and half treble crochet (htr). While it is important to know how to create these stitches, it is also necessary to know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

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

LEARN TO COUNT STITCHES



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



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

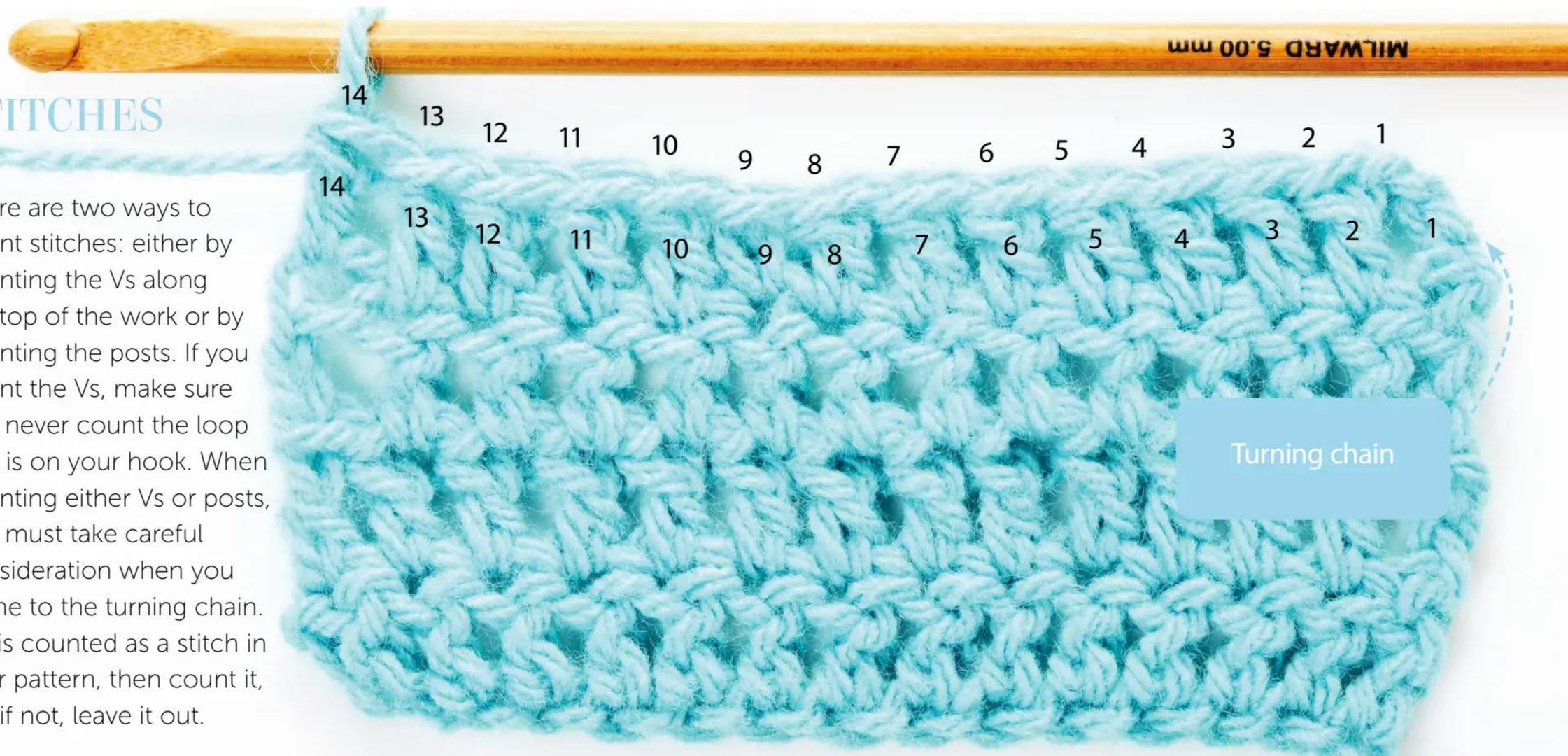


If you do not turn your work at the end of each row (for example if you're working in the round), then the Vs that you will be working into will point to the right. In this instance, insert your hook underneath the V that is sat slightly to the right of the post.

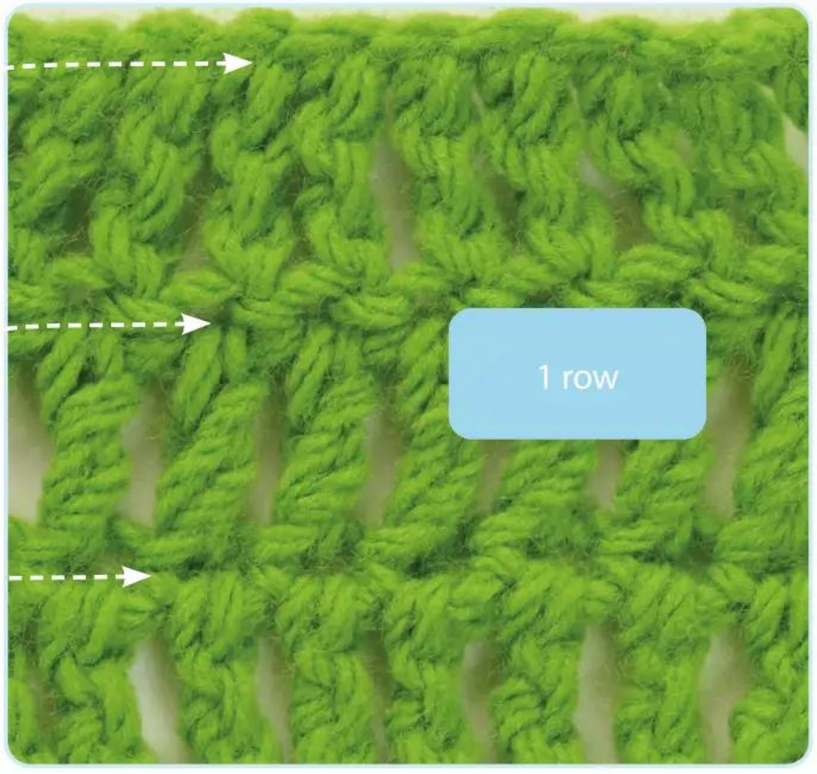
Identify stitches

STITCHES

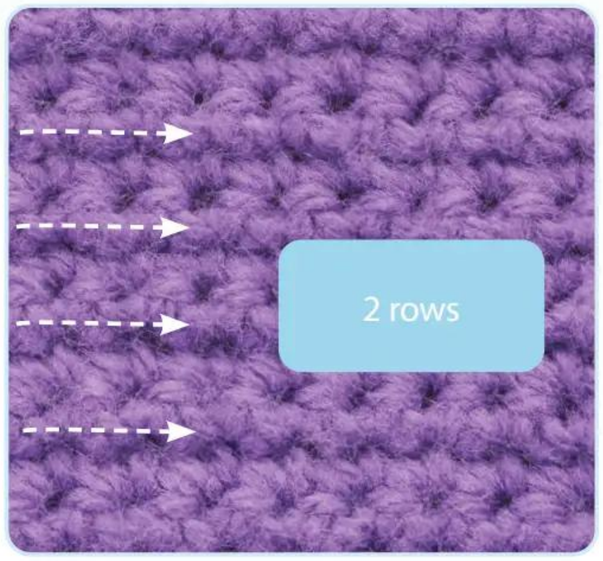
There are two ways to count stitches: either by counting the Vs along the top of the work or by counting the posts. If you count the Vs, make sure you never count the loop that is on your hook. When counting either Vs or posts, you must take careful consideration when you come to the turning chain. If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



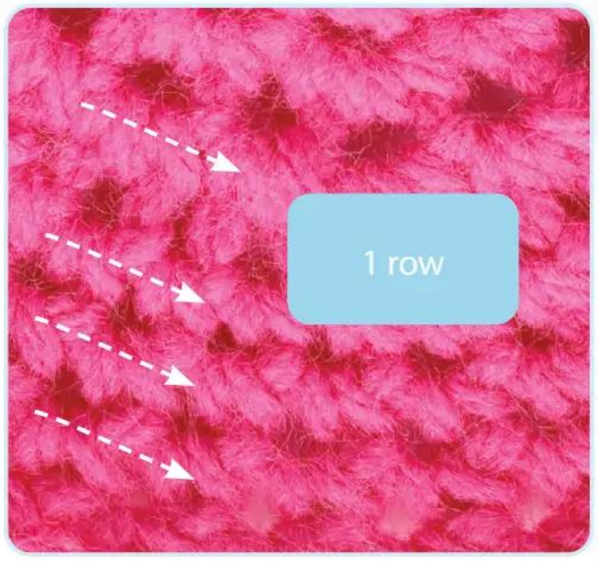
ROWS



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



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



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

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

FIX MISTAKES

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

One of the joys of crochet patterns is that they are designed to help you identify a mistake at the earliest possible opportunity. If the number of stitches you've crocheted doesn't match the number at the end of the row on the pattern, you know that you've made a mistake. It's also quite easy to crochet one into stitch when you actually meant to make another. Or make a double when you meant to make a treble – especially if you are changing between two or more in the same row.

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

FIX YOUR CROCHET ERRORS



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



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



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



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

DID YOU KNOW?

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

FASTEN OFF

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

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

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

FINISHING TOUCHES



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



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

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

EDGING

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

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

This happens to all crocheters at some point, and it is most likely caused by fluctuating tension. But not to worry, there's a simple solution that will give you crisp, neat edges every single time – adding a border of double crochets. This adds a degree of uniformity to all four edges, as without a border the side edges look very different to the top and bottom edges. If you neaten up your piece and create a seamless looking edge, add your border in the same colour as the rest of the work. However, a border in a contrasting colour will stand out and can add a touch of character to your work.

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

ADD A BASIC EDGE



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



2 **Double crochet** Make a double crochet into the same stitch.



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



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



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



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



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



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

WEAVE IN ENDS

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

At the bare minimum, there'll always be two yarn tails that you need to deal with when you finish a project – the one at the beginning where you made your foundation chain (or started your project) and one at the end from where you fastened off. However, if you changed colour or joined new yarn, then you could be faced with many dangling ends that need to be secured and hidden away. There is more than one right way to weave in an end, and with a bit of trial and error you'll find the one that works best for you. There are a few things to bear in mind with all methods. If your piece has a right side and a wrong side, for example a hat, then weaving in the ends along the wrong side will keep them hidden from the right side, and it doesn't matter if they get a little messy. However, if your piece will be seen from both sides, for example a scarf, a little more care needs to be taken to make sure they're hidden from both sides. Similarly, if you've worked with more than one colour, always weave the yarn into the same coloured stitches so that it blends in. Here are the most common ways to secure and hide away ends.

SEW IN ENDS



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



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



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



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

Weave in ends

CROCHET OVER ENDS





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

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

WEAVE IN SHORT ENDS





TOP TIP

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

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

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

CHANGE COLOUR

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

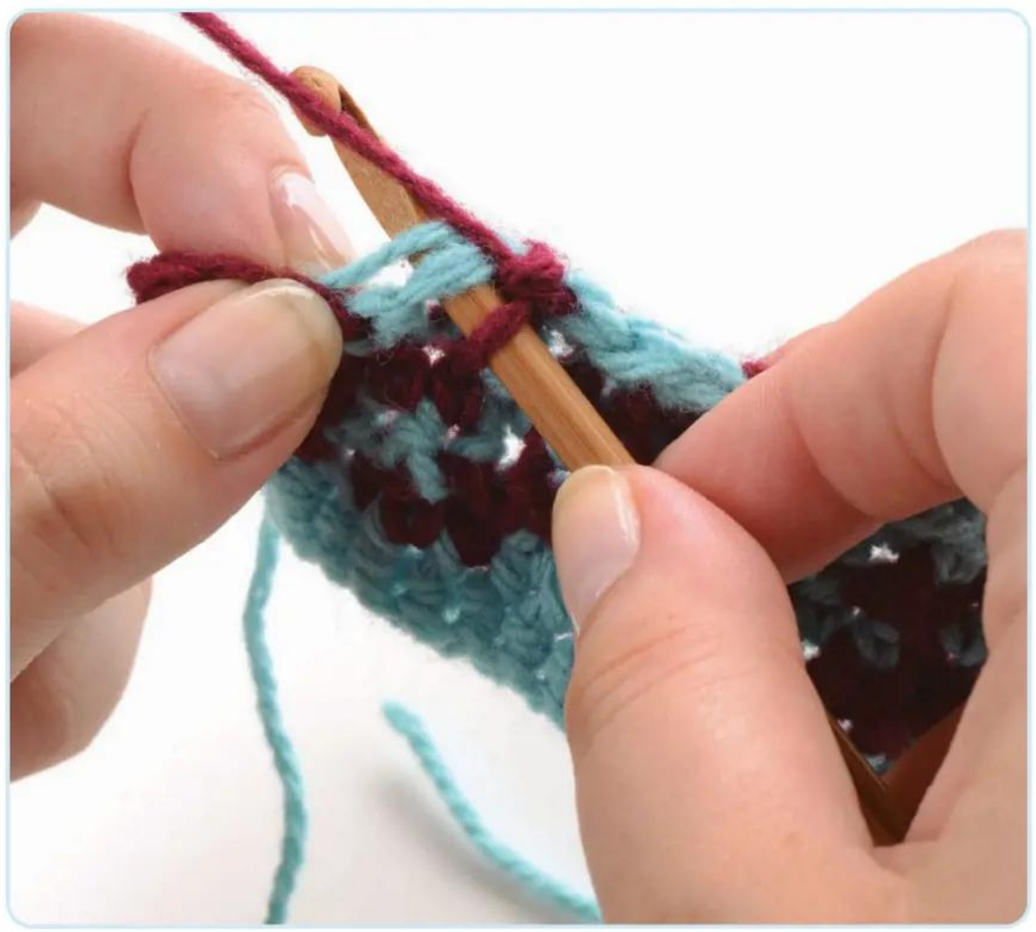
Colour can be used in many different ways to add a decorative element to a piece, from simple stripes to more complicated motifs and lettering. And while it might sound complicated to change colours halfway through a project, it's actually as simple as just picking up a new ball of yarn and continuing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

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



CARRY YARN TO CHANGE COLOUR





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

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



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



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

STITCH DIAGRAMS

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

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

STANDARD STITCH SYMBOLS

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

Symbol	Stitch
	ch
or	ss (sl st)
or	dc
	htr
	tr
	dtr
	magic ring

VARIABLE STITCH SYMBOLS

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

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

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

Stitch diagrams

MODIFIED STITCH SYMBOLS

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

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

HOW TO READ A CHART

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

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

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

TOP TIP

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

INCREASING

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

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

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



TOP TIP

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

Increasing

ADD STITCHES IN THE MIDDLE OF A ROW





1 **Treble crochet** Make a treble crochet in the next stitch.

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

INCREASING AT THE START OF A ROW







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

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

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

DECREASING

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

While the easiest way to reduce the number of stitches in a row is to simply skip stitches, this creates a hole, which is not always the desired effect. To avoid this hole, decrease stitches work multiple stitches together, thereby eliminating stitches while also filling in the gap. Decrease stitches are named after the number and type of stitches being crocheted together. For example, 'dc2tog' means that two double crochet stitches will be combined into one. When the number in the middle increases, this means even more stitches will be crocheted into one. While decreases have many different names and forms, the basic formula is the same: make all the stitches up to the final step so that they are all on the hook, then complete all the stitches together.

DOUBLE CROCHET TWO STITCHES TOGETHER (DC2TOG)





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

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



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

TREBLE CROCHET THREE STITCHES TOGETHER (TR3TOG)





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

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





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

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

START IN THE ROUND

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

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

The most simple method to begin with is a chain, which will see you connect a short chain together into a circle and work your first round into the middle of the chain. The second method, starting with a magic ring is a little more complicated, but it produces a tighter first round, and a more secure final product. It sees you work your stitches onto a loop of yarn, which you later pull tight before proceeding to work your stitches into the round.

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

SINGLE CHAIN START



1 **Make a chain** Chain two.



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



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

Start in the round

MULTIPLE CHAIN START



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



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

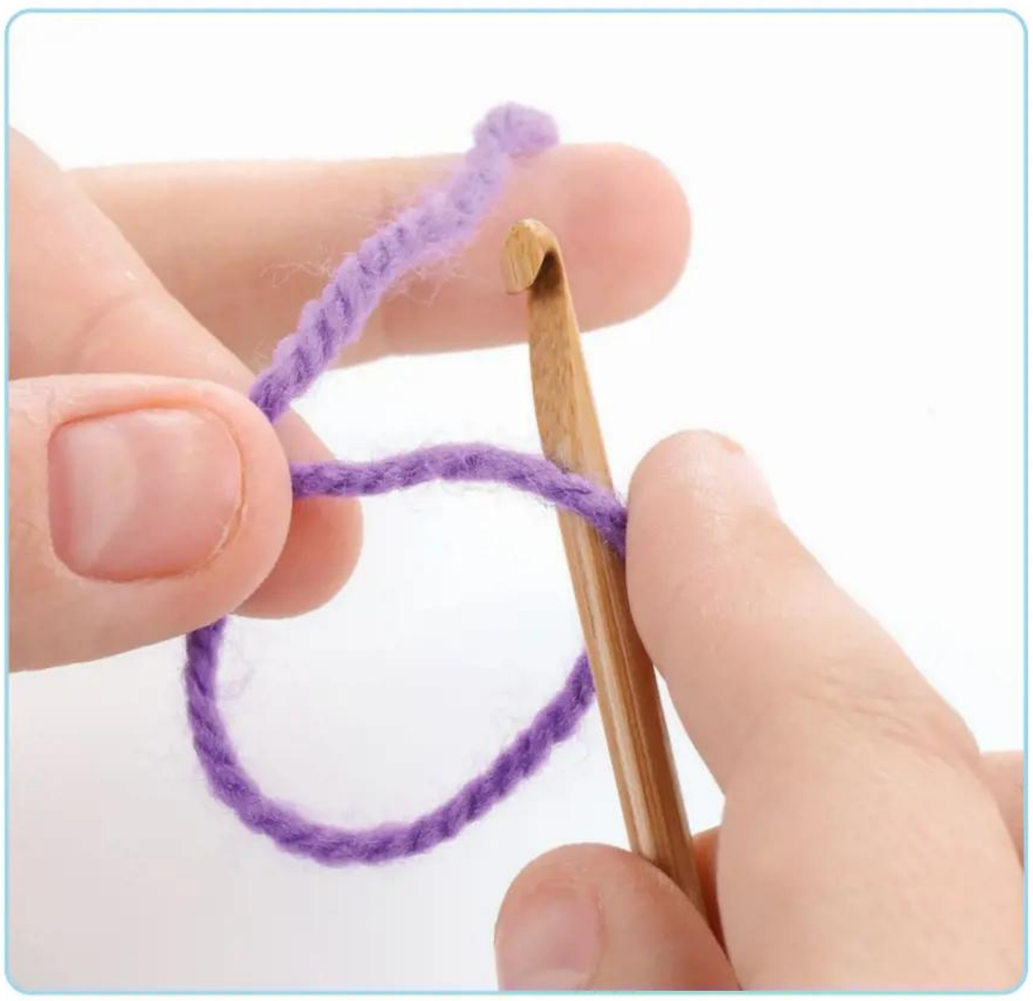
3 **Into the centre** Work your first round into the middle of the ring you have created. Now either continue to work in a spiral or connect the last double crochet to the first with a slip stitch, create your turning chains and continue.

DID YOU KNOW?

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

Key techniques

MAKE A MAGIC RING TO START





TOP TIP

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

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

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





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

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

Start in the round



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



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



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



WORK IN THE ROUND

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

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

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

Working in a spiral works best when you are working with double crochet (dc) stitches because larger stitches are harder to disguise at the end of the rounds. Having said that, if you have to do it, it isn't impossible. At the end of your working you will hide the last jog of stitches with an invisible finish (see page 72 for more information on these).

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

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

WORK IN A CONTINUOUS SPIRAL





DID YOU KNOW?

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



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

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

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

Work in the round



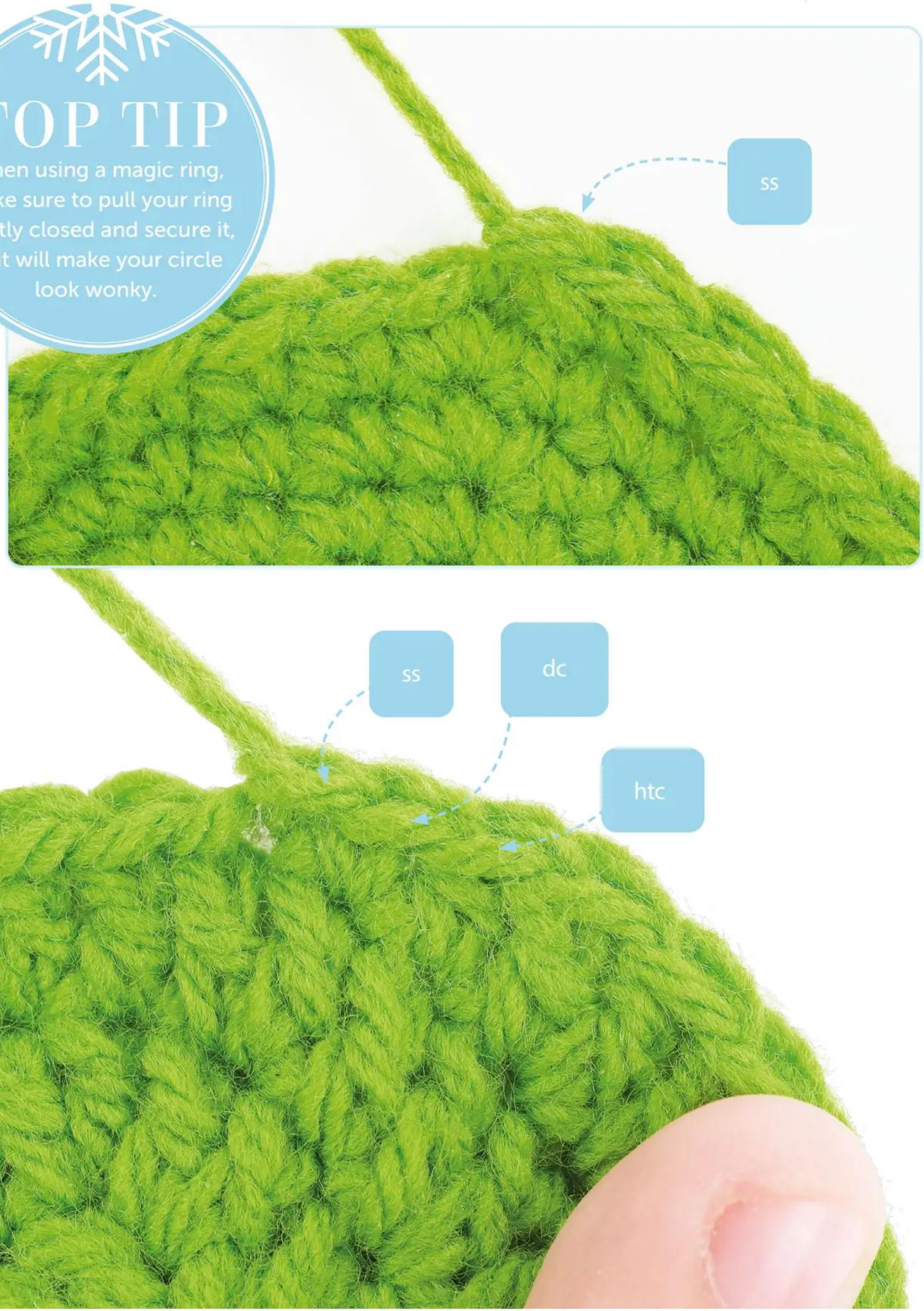


4 **Work the end of the round** Continue around until you reach the stitch before the marker you inserted earlier. This is the last stitch of the round.

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

TOP TIP

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



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

DOUBLE CROCHET SPIRAL

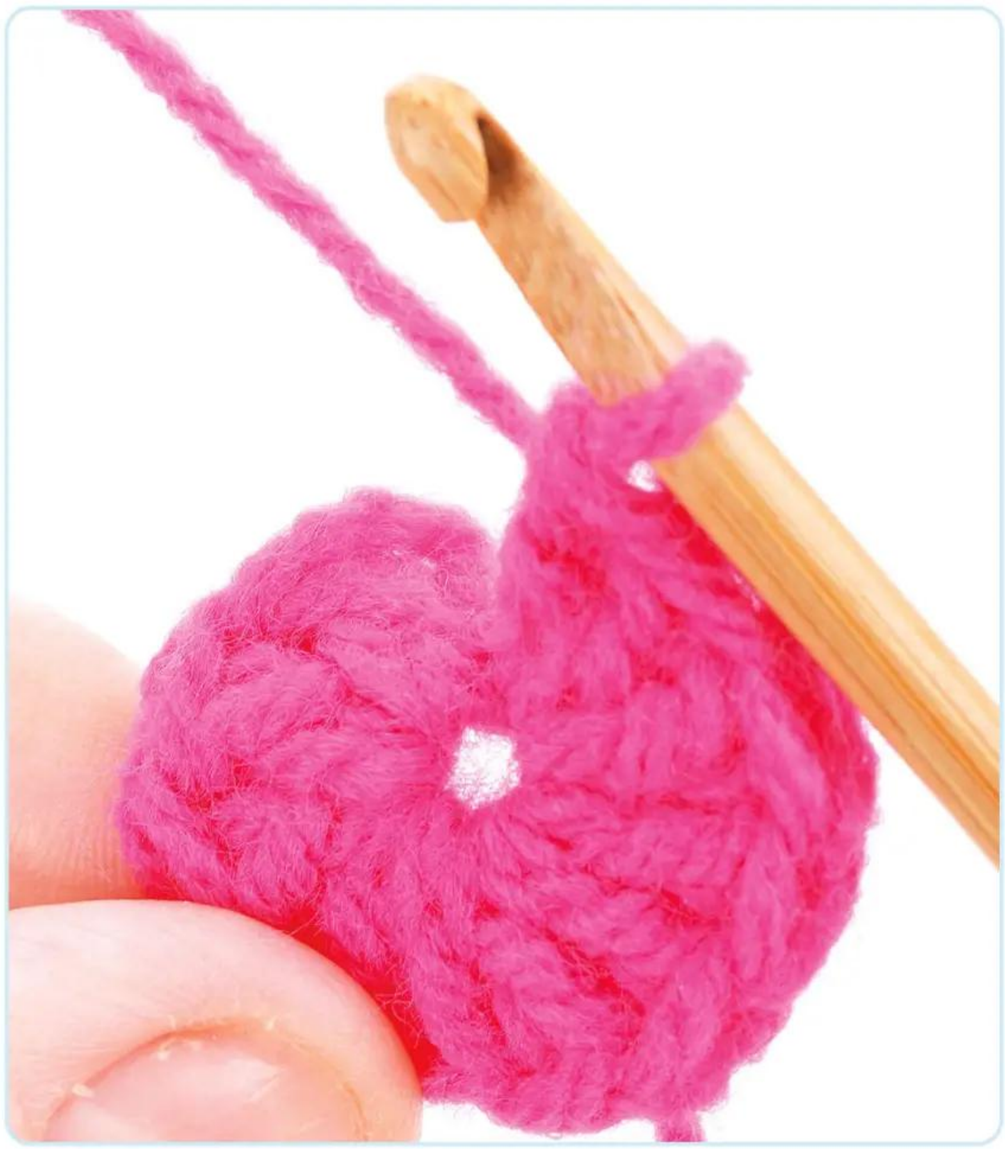
To end a double crochet spiral, simply slip stitch into the next stitch to hide the jog between rows.

TREBLE CROCHET SPIRAL

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

Key techniques

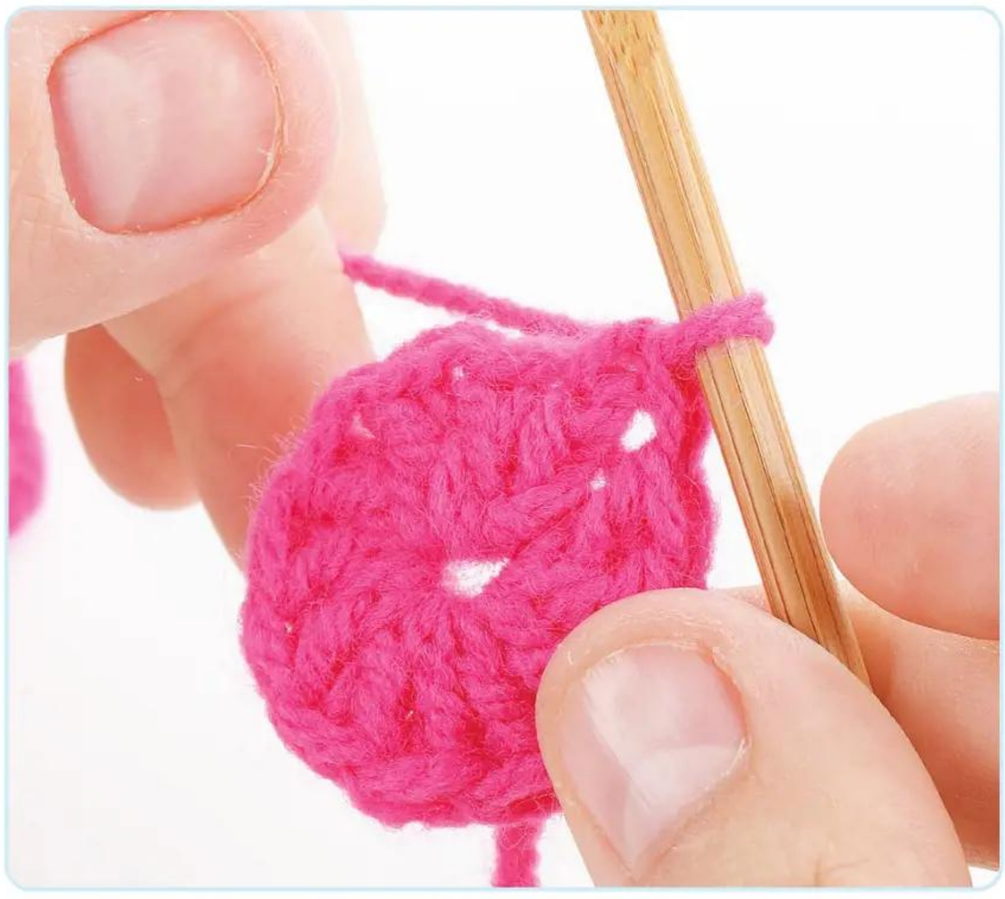
CROCHET IN JOINED ROUNDS



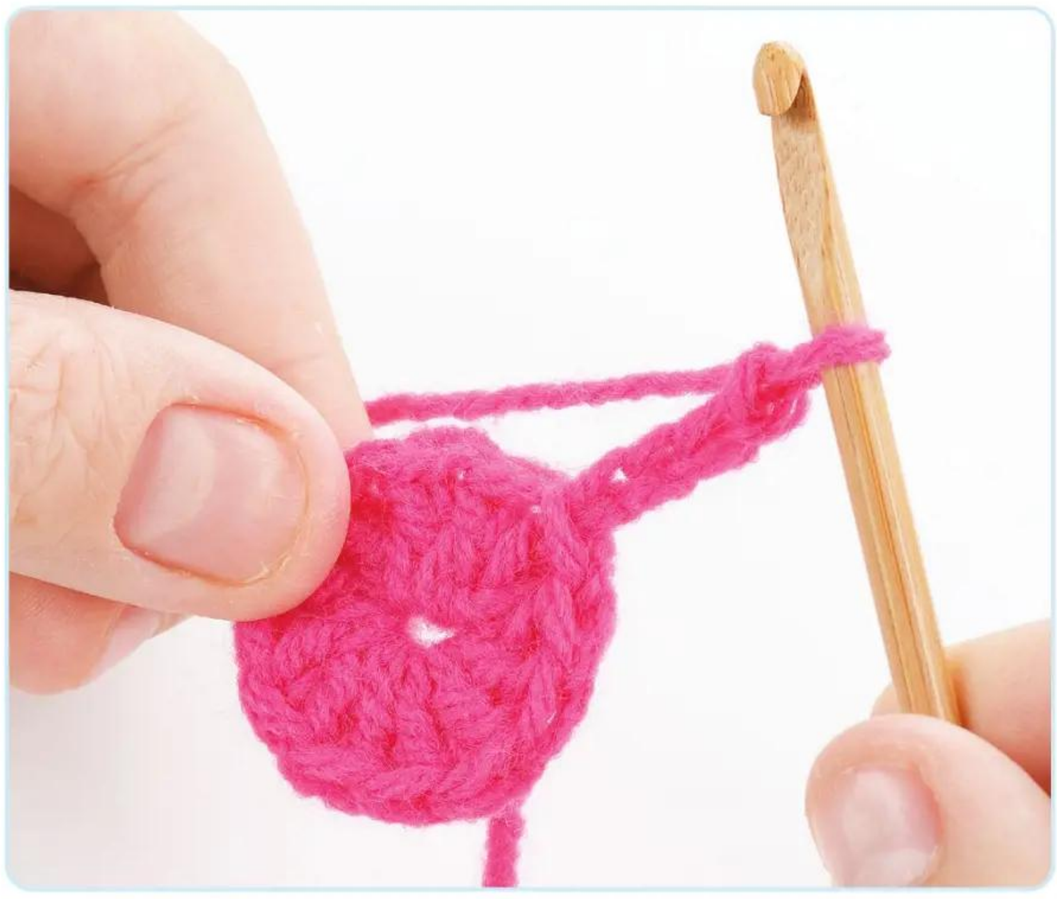
1 **Crochet your first round** Finish your first round, stitching treble crochets into your rounding ring.



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



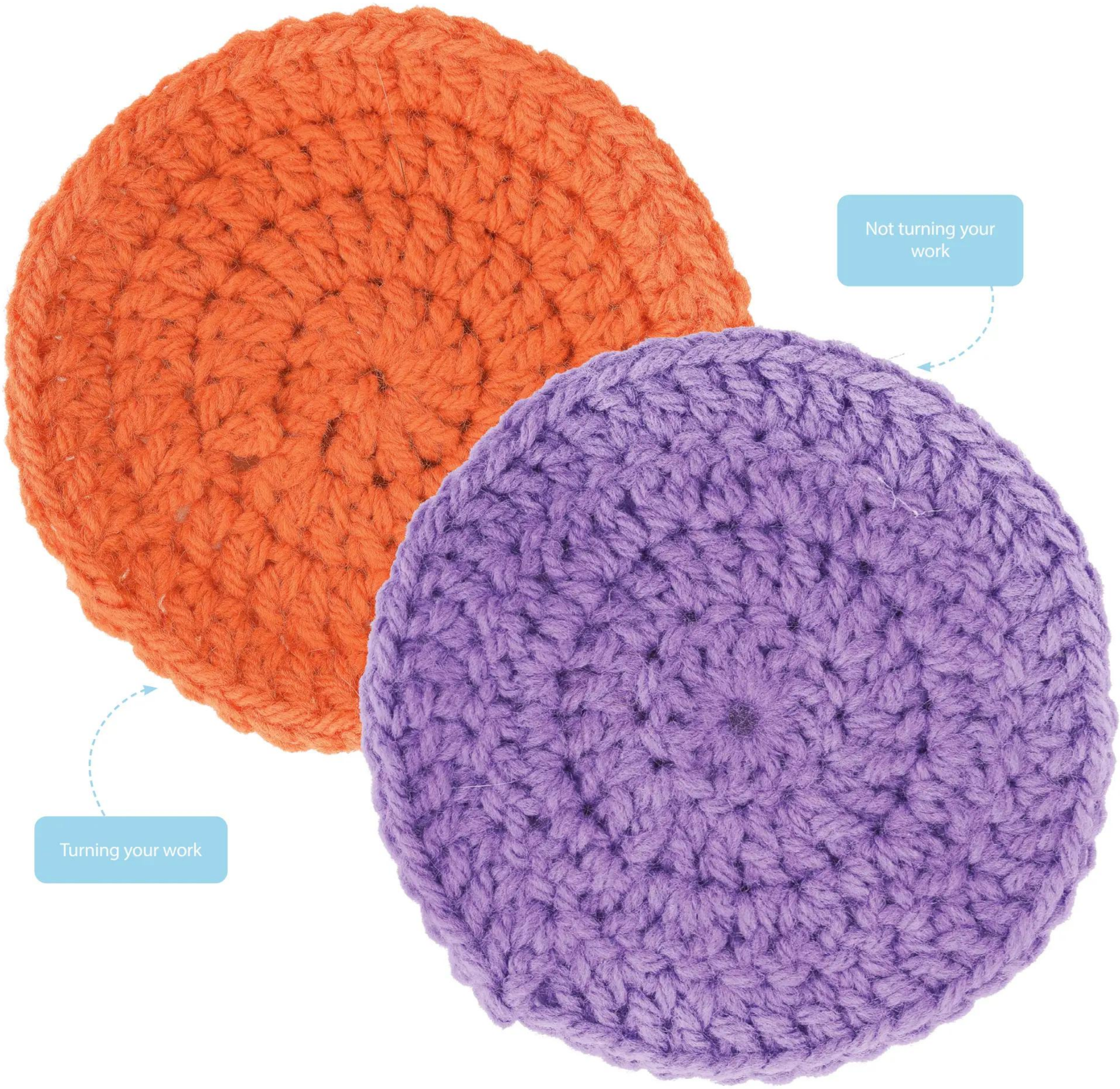
3 **Completed round** Now you have finished your first round and created your circle.



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

TURN YOUR WORK

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



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

STANDARD INCREASES

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

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

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

STAGGER YOUR INCREASES

If you aren't careful with your increases, you will start to form straight edges on your rounds. In order to avoid this you need to ensure that your increase stitches do not stack up on top of each other. So the place to start is by simply making sure once you get into round three that you do not start or end with your increases, but stagger them instead. For instance, start by doing one stitch, then your increase, then the rest of your stitches. On the next round do two first and so on. You can notice the improvement in the results below.



How your work will look with stacked increases.



How your work will look with staggered increases.

Standard increases

DOUBLE CROCHET

Double crochet is worked in multiples of six.



HALF TREBLE CROCHET

Half treble crochet is worked in multiples of eight.

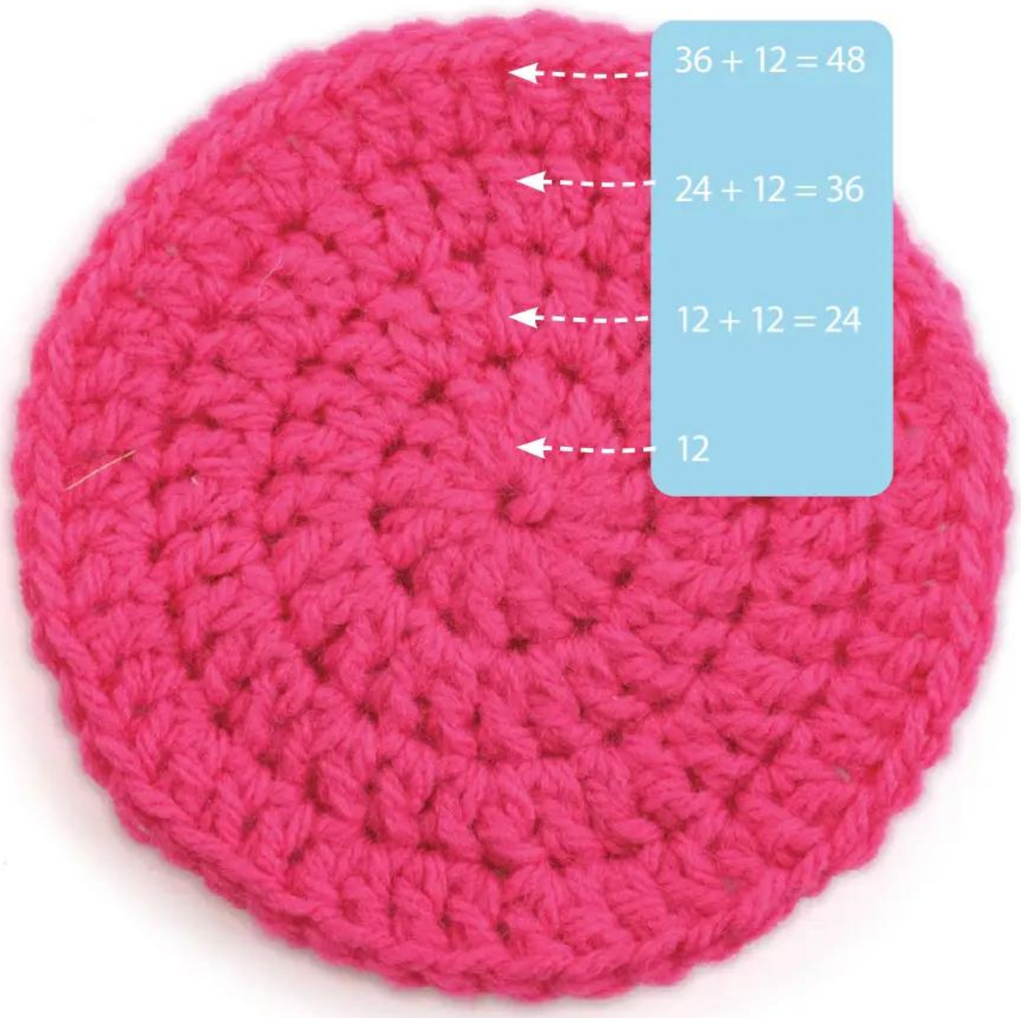


TOP TIP

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

TREBLE CROCHET

Treble crochet is work in multiples of 12.



DOUBLE TREBLE CROCHET

Double treble is worked in multiples of 18.



INVISIBLE FINISH

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

When you work in the round there is nothing quite as annoying as when you can see the final stitch that joins the end of the last round to itself. Luckily, there is a very easy way to join the last stitch of your project to another stitch and create what is known as an invisible finish. To do this you will need a yarn needle.

The invisible finish essentially sees you create your own stitch with your needle, creating a V and making it the same size and shape as the other stitches in your round. It is incredibly simple to do, and it can tie your project together by giving it a very neat finish. Doing a slip stitch (ss) can make it look a little clunky – which is especially annoying when the rest of your project is so neat and tidy! Here we show you how to hide the end of your project.

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

SECURE YOUR WORK WITH AN INVISIBLE FINISH

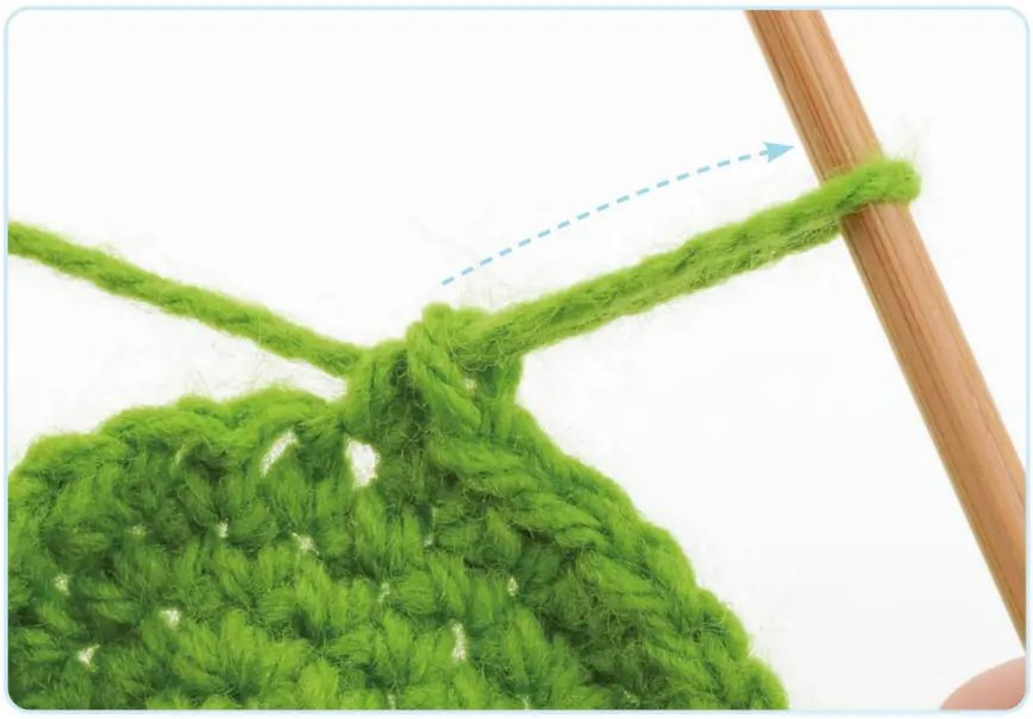


1 **Stop crocheting** Once you have crocheted your last stitch, do not join with a slip stitch as you would have on the previous rounds if you have been working in joined rounds. Cut the yarn leaving a tail of about 15cm (6in).

TOP TIP

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

Invisible finish



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



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



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



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



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



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

BLOCKING

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

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

This, of course, means that not every piece you make will have to be blocked, but it can help to even out any variants in your tension. There are several methods for blocking, including spray, steam and wet. Each technique achieves the same goal, while, like most things, being slightly more suitable for one project over another.

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

PINNING YOUR WORK

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

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

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



TOP TIP

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

SPRAY BLOCKING

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



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

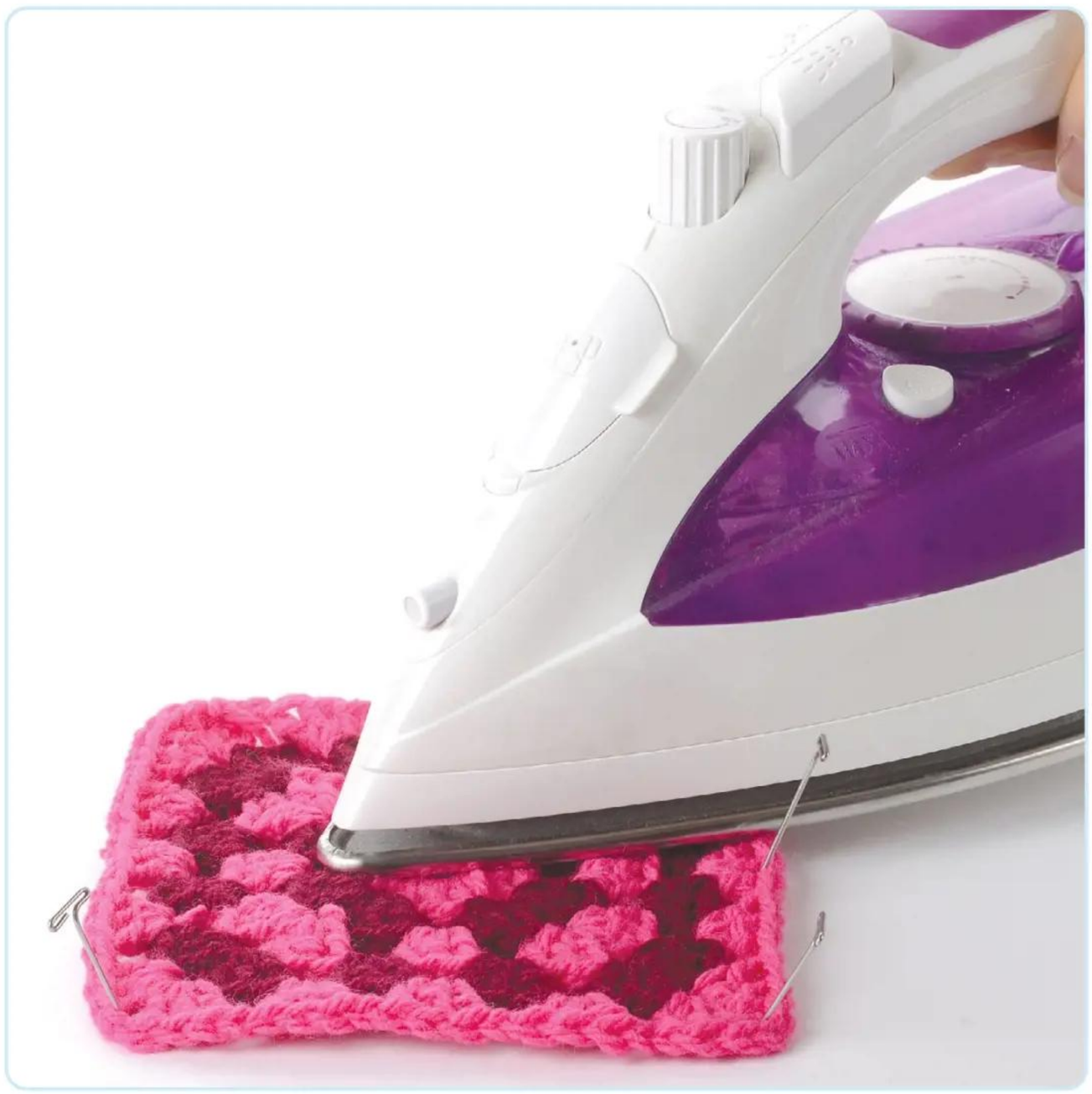


STEAM BLOCKING

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

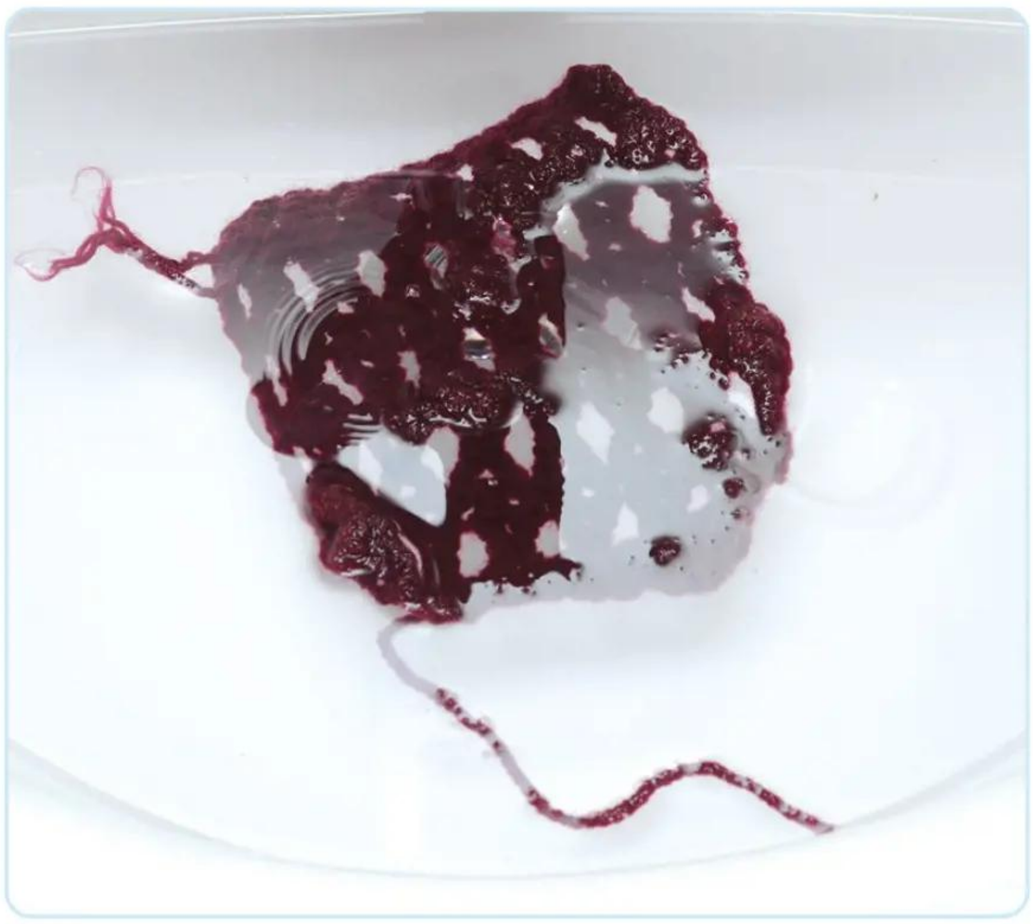
Pin your piece, and hold your steamer or iron about 2.5cm (1in) from your project. Steam it until the entire surface area is moist. Once you're happy, pat the surface gently to allow the moisture to penetrate the yarn fibres more thoroughly. Leave to dry.

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



Key techniques

WET BLOCKING

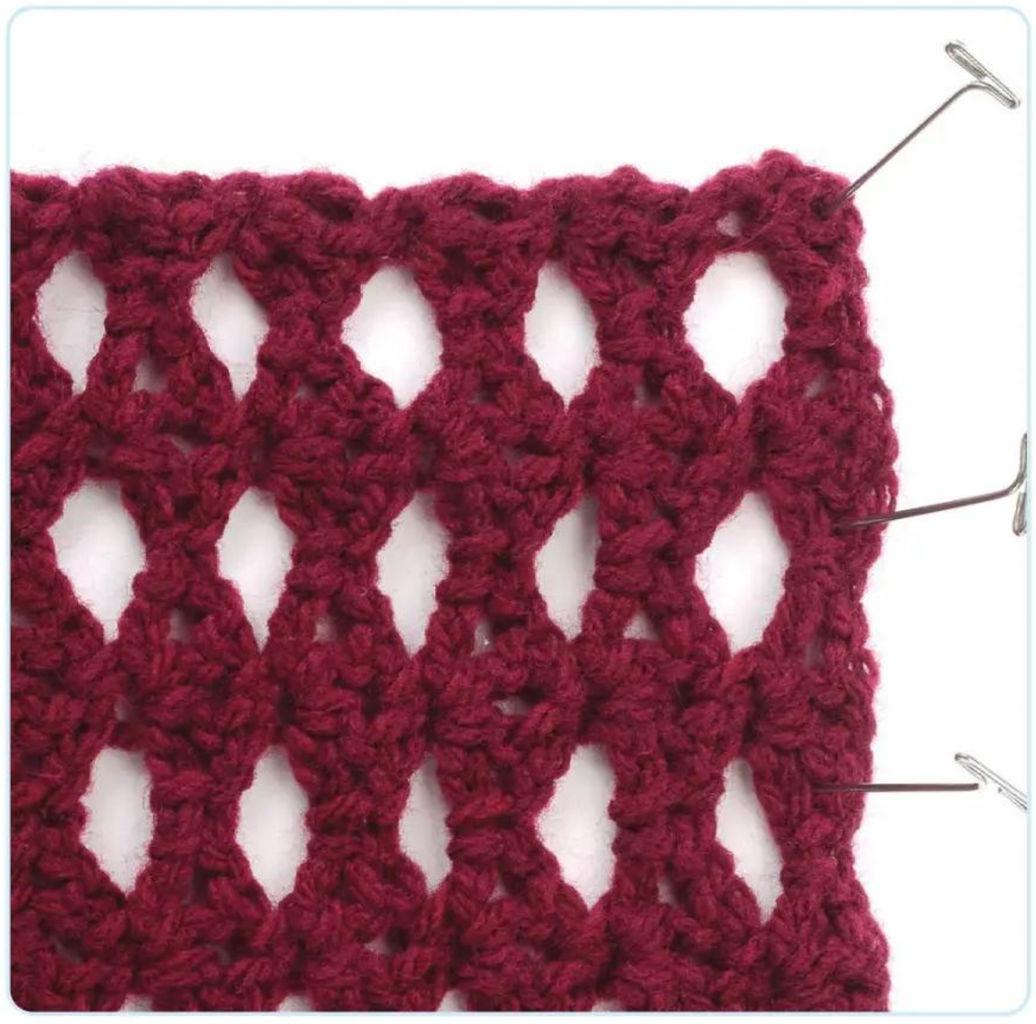




1 **Immerse in water** Fill your sink, washing-up bowl or even a bath for larger items, with lukewarm water. You can also add in some no-rinse wool wash at this stage. Immerse your project (in this case a simple swatch) in the water, pushing down until it is saturated. Leave it for 20 minutes.

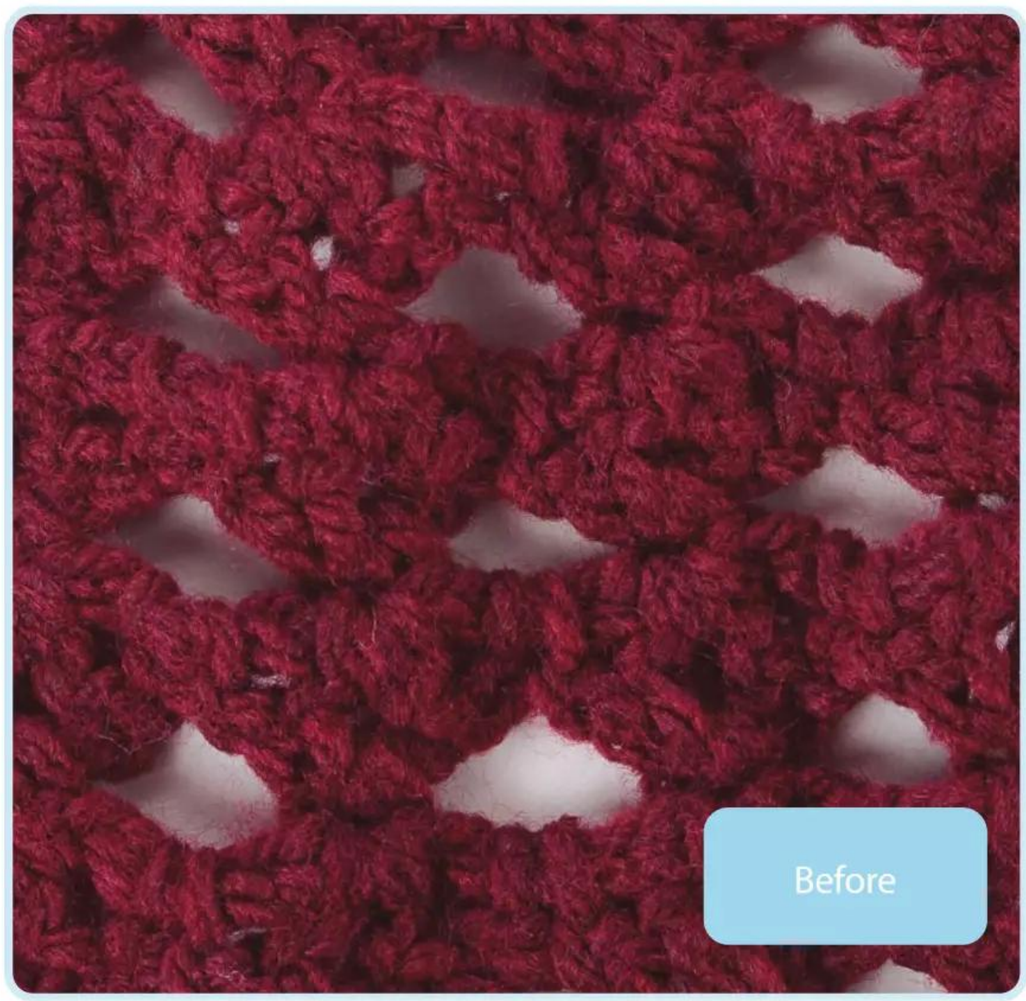
2 **Be gentle** Take your project from the water and gently squeeze out the excess liquid. Do not wring your project, this will stretch the yarn fibres out of shape. Continue to squeeze gently until you think you can remove no more water.

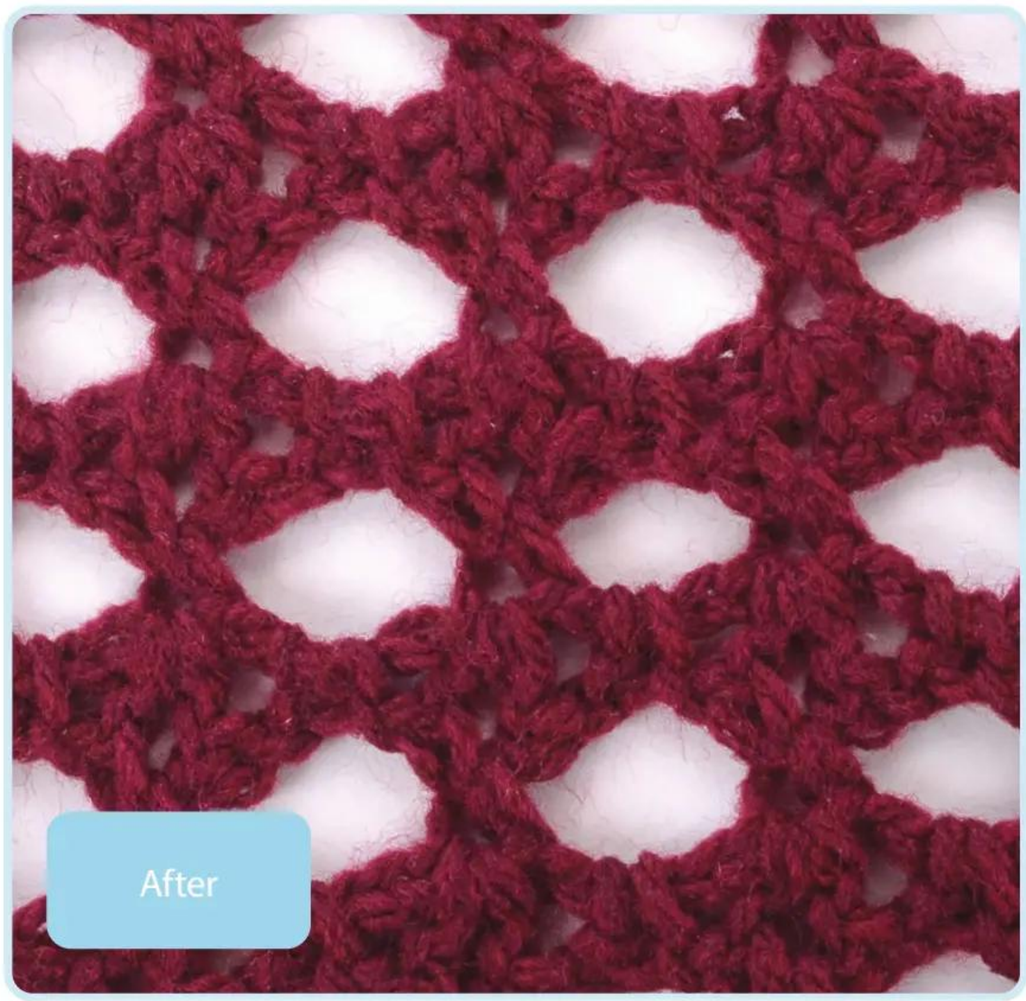




3 **Grab a towel** Use a towel to squeeze out a little more moisture. Lay the towel on a flat surface and lie your garment flat. Gently roll up your towel. This will gently press out even more water.

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





BLOCKING LACE

If you have made a lace garment, such as a scarf or a cardigan, blocking your final project can really make it stand out. It will make the lace stitches more defined, and take any crumples out of the final product. You will need to start by using the wet blocking method on the opposite page, but at the pinning stage make sure you arrange your work to the dimensions stated on the pattern. You can use extra pins at this stage. You can also use blocking wires for the edges to make sure they remain crisp without having to use an excessive number of pins.





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

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

JOINING

Finish projects that need joining together with these simple techniques

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

When joining pieces you do so stitch by stitch to give a clean finish. Joining a piece worked in rows can be a little more complicated because of the difficulty of working into the row edges. If the number of stitches per row doesn't correspond then you may have to work more than one joining stitch into each V or row space. It is best when joining pieces of different sizes to place stitch markers along the pieces, holding them together every 5cm (2in) or so. This way you will be able to keep your stitches spaced more evenly.

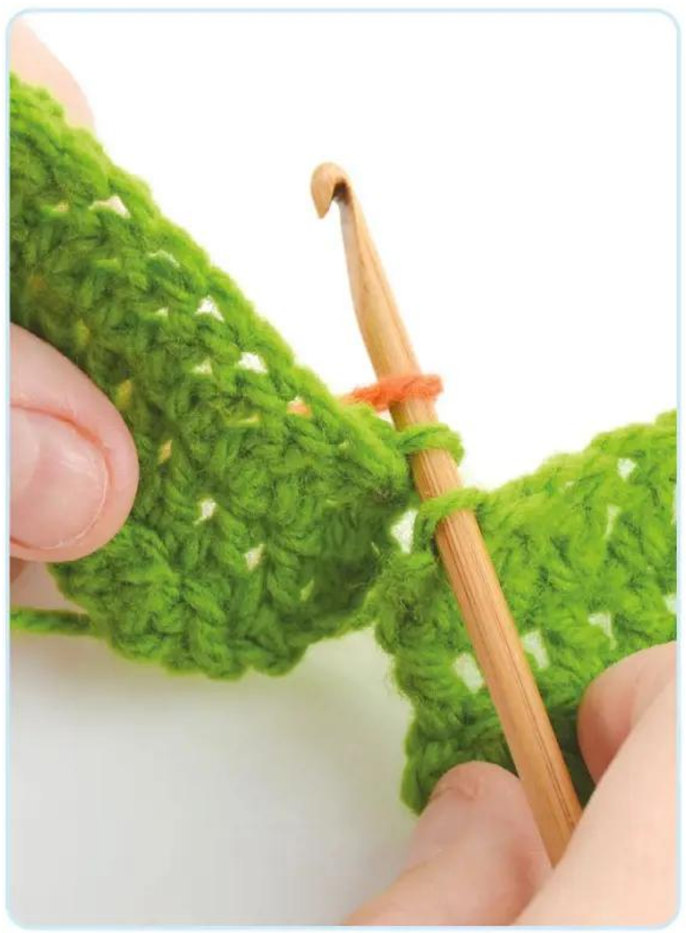
Before you join your crochet, it is best to block your project's pieces first (if it's required). Otherwise you could experience a rippling effect later if you were to block them afterwards.

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

JOIN WITH A WHIP STITCH



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



2 Back to the front Instead of doing your next stitch from back to front, simply draw your needle back to the front and repeat step 1, inserting your needle from front to back. Repeat to end.



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

USE A MATTRESS STITCH



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



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



3 **Same to piece two** Now repeat the same process on piece two.



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



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



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

TOP TIP

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

Key techniques

JOIN WITH A SLIP STITCH



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



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



SLIP STITCH

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



DOUBLE CROCHET

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

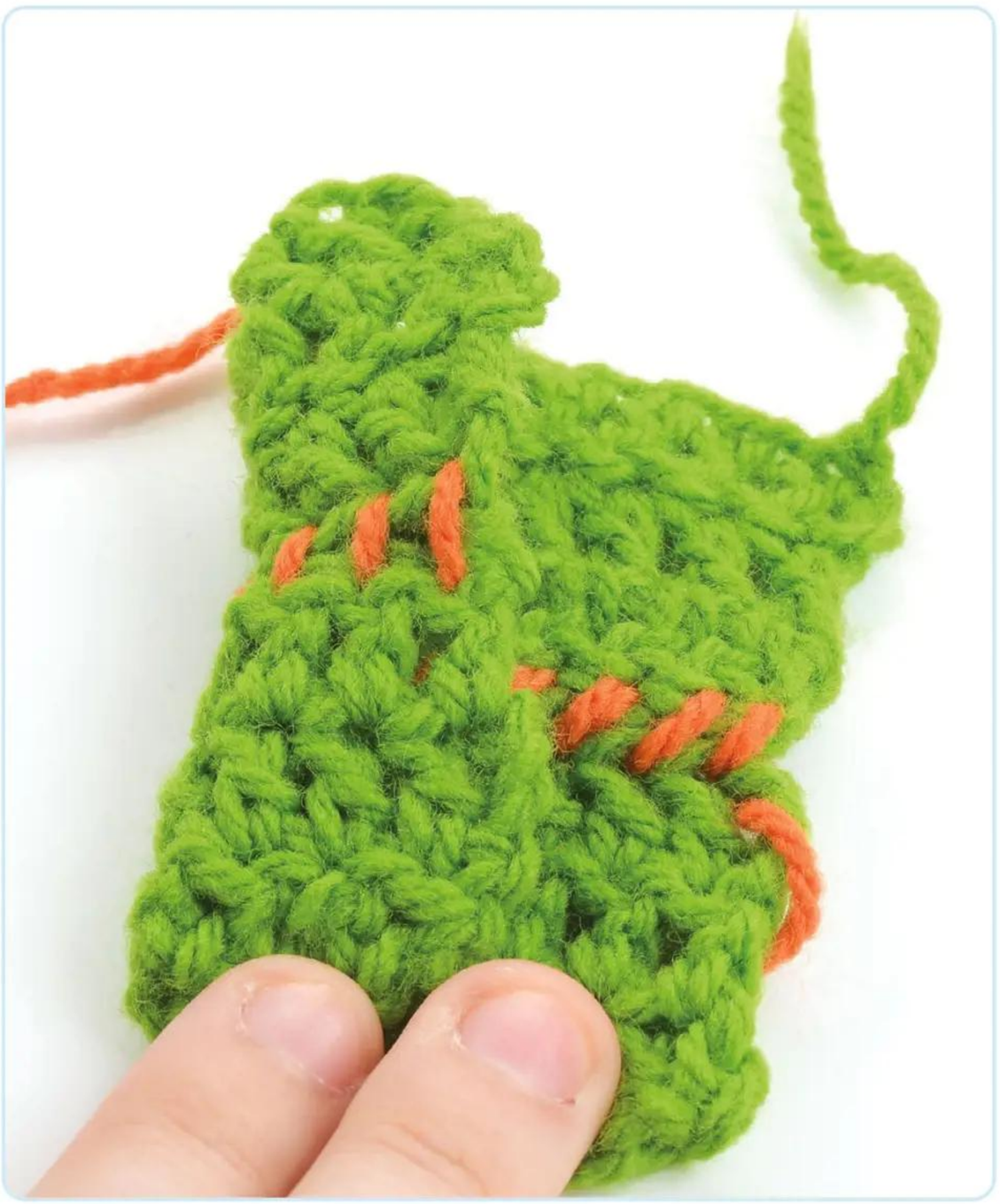
MAKE A FLAT SLIP-STITCHED SEAM





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

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



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

FLAT SLIP-STITCHED SEAM

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

DID YOU KNOW?

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

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

JOINING AMIGURUMI

Keep your amigurumi projects held tight with these joining stitches

JOIN A FLAT PIECE





TOP TIP

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

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

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



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



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



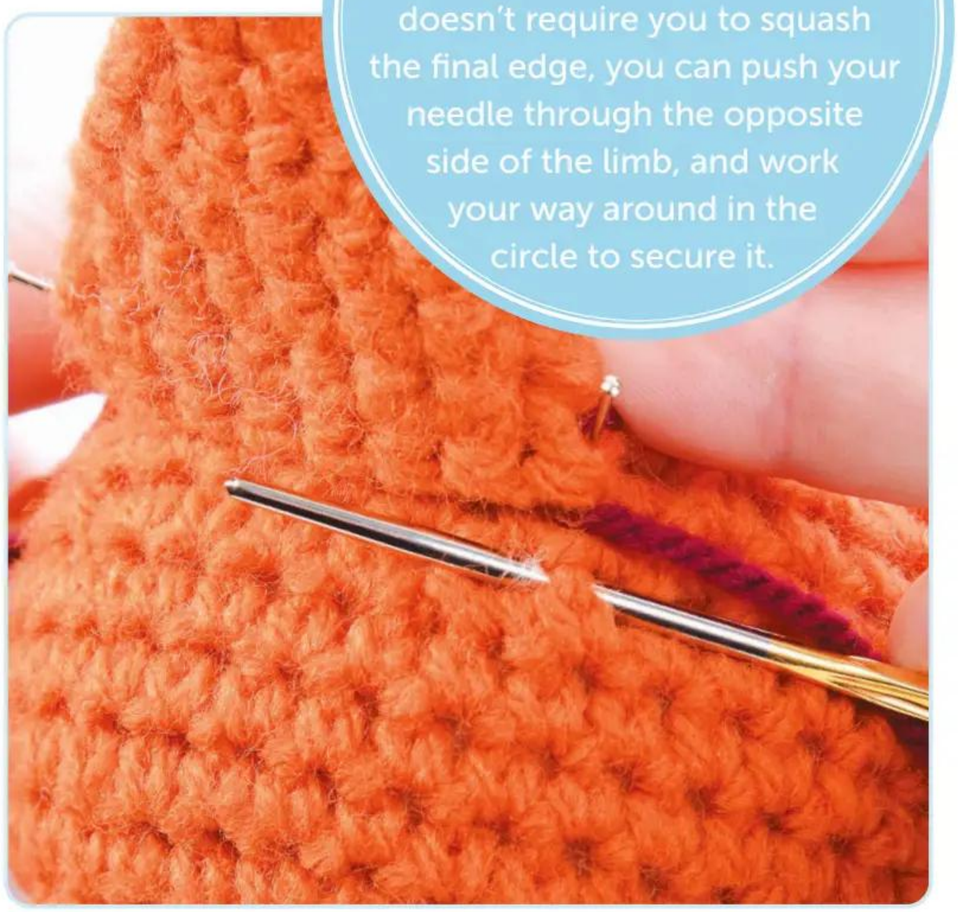
5 **Hide the end** Insert the needle into the main body of the amigurumi, and then insert it to come out a stitch a few stitches down, pull it through and then trim the end.

SEAMLESS JOIN



TOP TIP

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



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



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



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

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

SHELLS, Vs & FANS

Create better edges with these three decorative embellishments

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

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

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

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



SHELL

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



FAN

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



V STITCH

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

SPIKE STITCHES

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

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

A spike stitch is a good example of a really simple way to add detail to your crochet projects, and doesn't take too much work to incorporate. Adding spike stitches in the same colour is a great way of adding subtle texture to your work, and using a contrasting colours is perfect for adding a statement to your projects. Put simply, a spike stitch is one that extends down more than a single row. You form it by going into the usual V space, but on rows that you have already worked. It forms a longer version of the stitch.

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

MAKE A SPIKE STITCH



1 **Insert your hook** Work your next stitch as usual, but insert your hook into the space however many rows beneath your current row as you desire.



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

TOP TIP

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



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



DIFFERENT LENGTHS

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

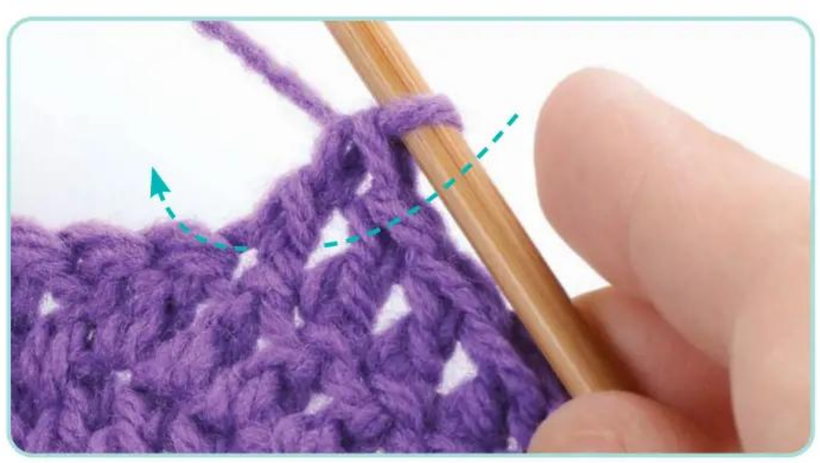
POST STITCHES

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

Post stitches can be used to add texture to your work and, when worked in the correct pattern, they can create a distinctive ribbing effect. Usually post stitches are worked around treble crochets (tr) or bigger stitches, as double crochets (dc) aren't really tall enough to get your hook around. However, they can be done quite easily if that is what you want to do, so just follow this guide. It sees you insert your hook around the stitch rather than into the top V to create your next stitch. You can work by inserting your hook from front to back or from back to front, which creates a different visual depending on which side you're looking at.

FRONT POST STITCH





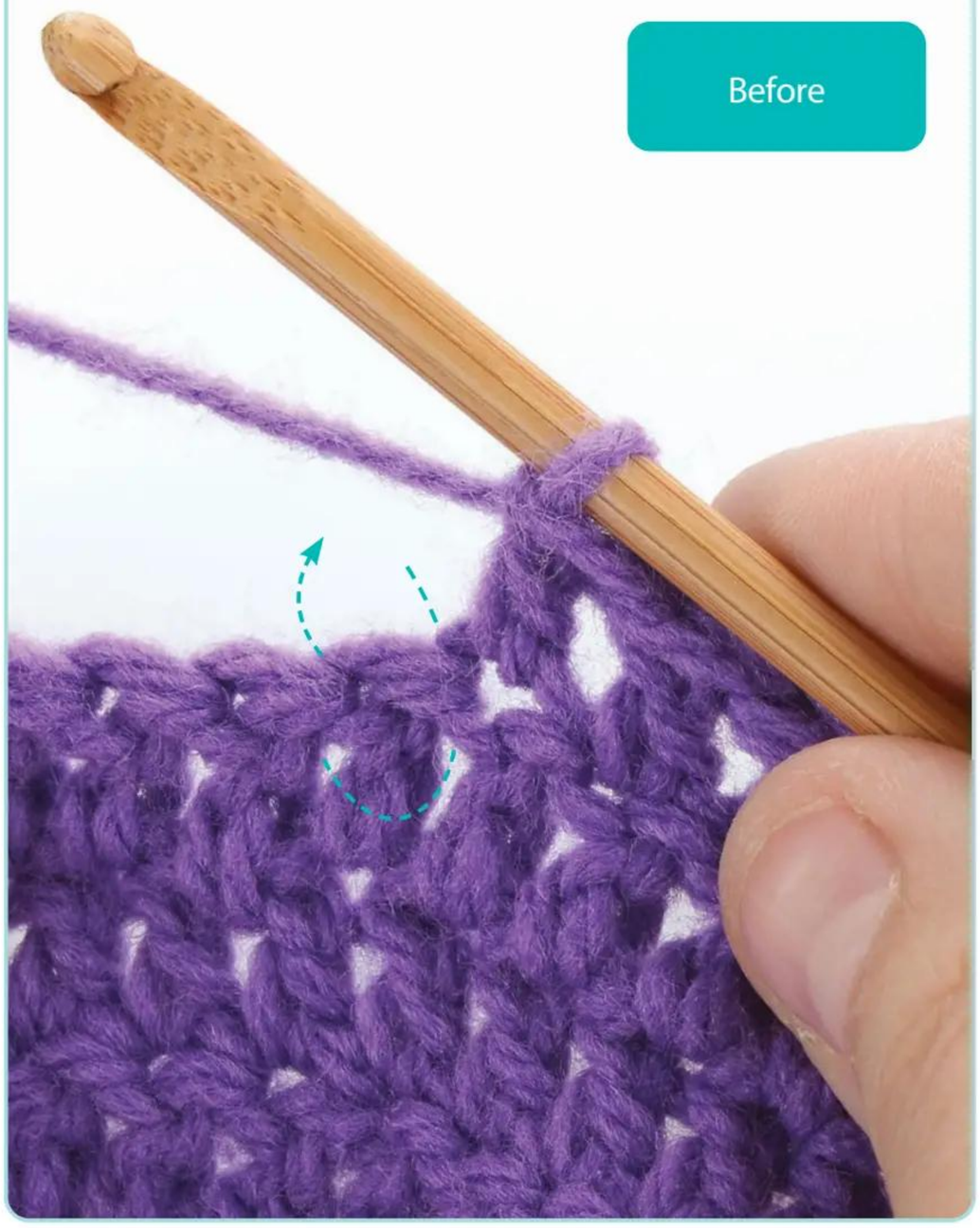
1 **Front to back to front** To work a front post treble crochet you need to yarn over (yo) then insert your hook into the gap between the posts of the row below from front to back, around the post next on the row and come through the other side back to the front of your work.



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



BACK POST STITCH





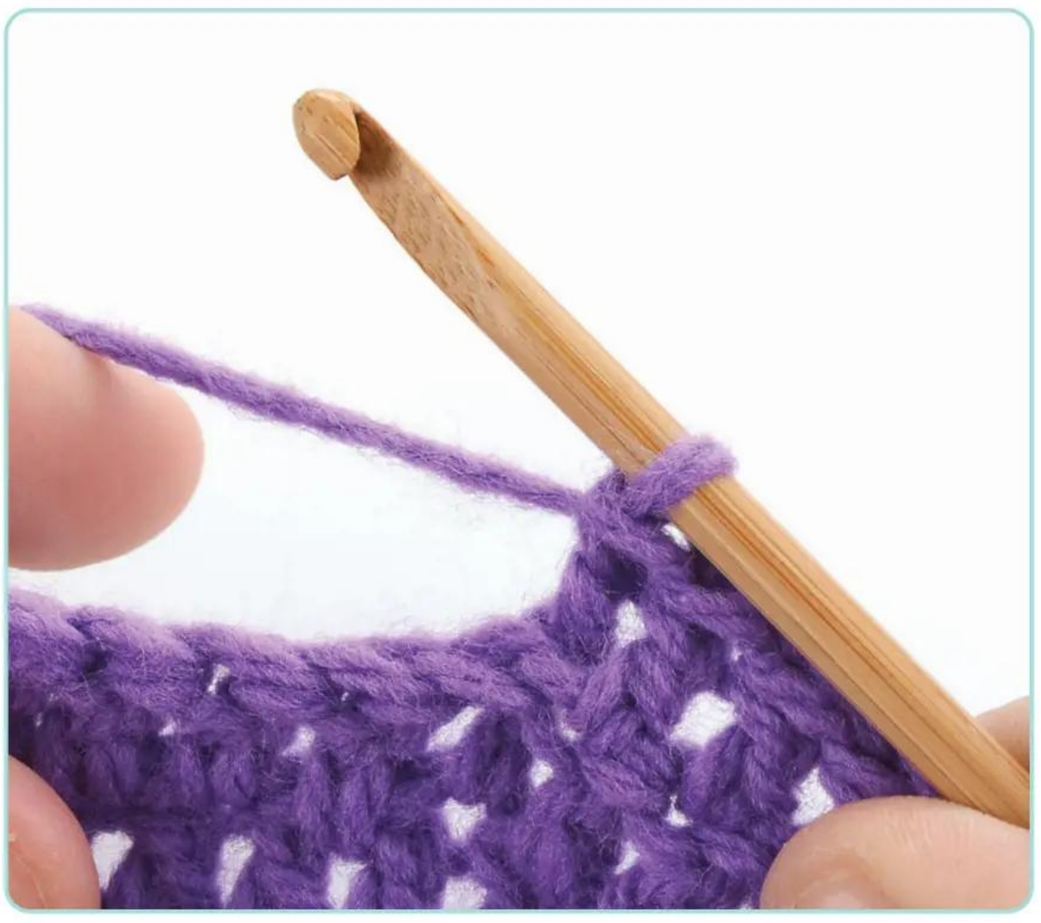
TOP TIP

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

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



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



3 **Complete your stitch** Now complete your stitch as normal.

CHAINLESS FOUNDATIONS

Create your first row without making a chain first

Creating your foundation chain and the subsequent first row of crochet can sometimes result in the chain becoming twisted, but this can be avoided by starting your project with a chainless foundation instead. This combines the foundation chain and the first row in a initial row of crochet rather than two. Using a chainless foundation is a great way to create a stretchy edging compared to a more rigid chain start. Given that you are working the two rows at once, it does take a little longer to work up the chainless foundation than a foundation chain, but it is easier to work your second row into the chainless foundation than into the chain, as you don't have to worry about your chain becoming too tight or twisting while you work into it.

TOP TIP

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

FOUNDATION DOUBLE CROCHET





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

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





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

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





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

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



CREATE LONGER CHAINLESS FOUNDATION STITCHES

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

CLUSTER STITCHES

Join any number of stitches together to form a cluster

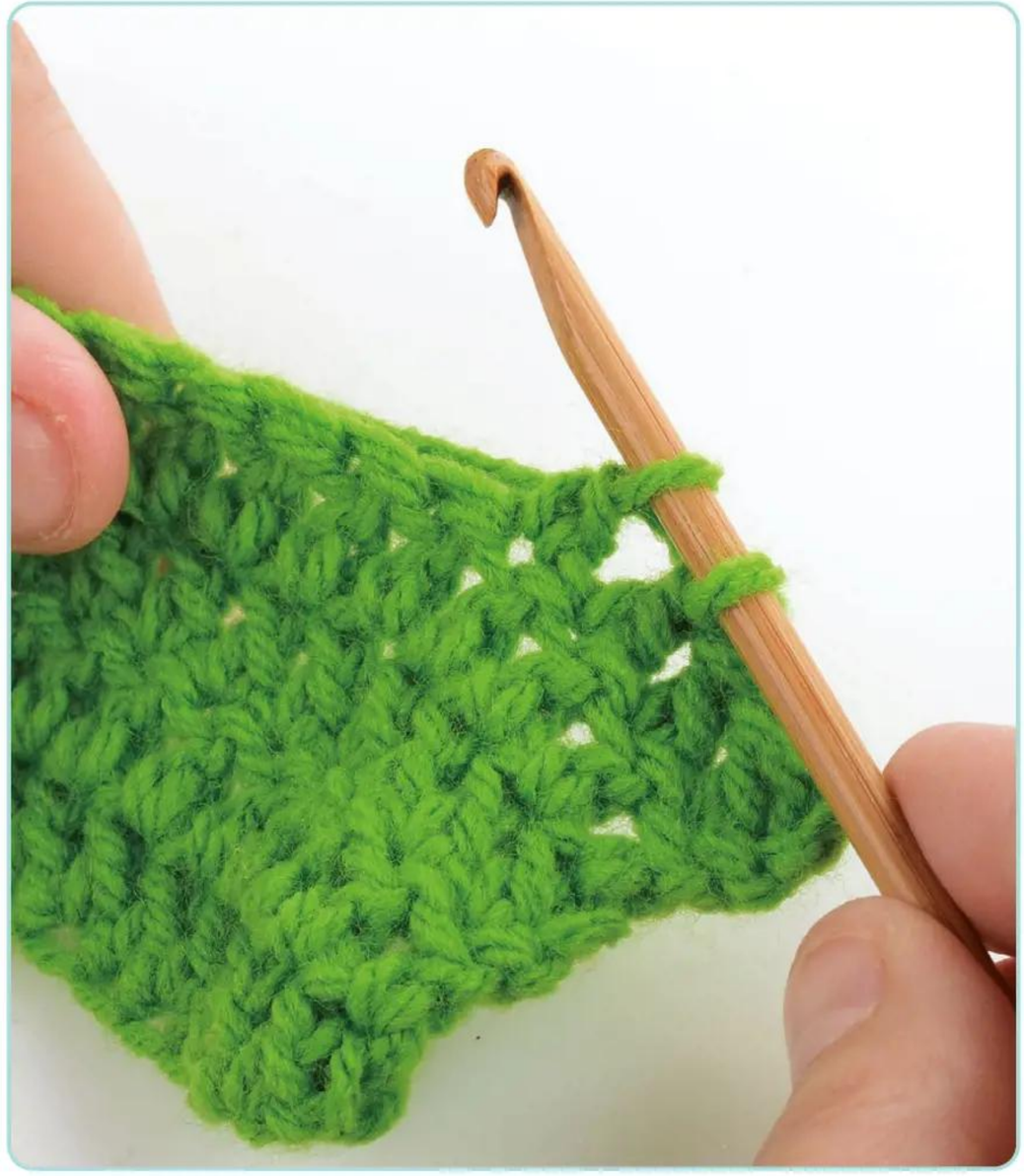
Cluster stitches is a term that can be used to define several different types of collected stitches, but the most basic type are several incomplete stitches that are joined together at the top to form a triangle. Cluster stitches can be used as a decreases, can form patterns when used with a combination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

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

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

CLUSTER STITCH





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

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





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

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





TOP TIP

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

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

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

POPCORN STITCHES

Add texture to your crochet with the appropriately named popcorn stitch

Popcorn stitches are a great way to add texture to your projects and are one of the only stitches you will use where you need to remove your hook from the working loop in order to complete it. The first time you do this it is quite scary but don't panic, it will produce a fun stitch in the end and it's really easy to do. A popcorn stitch sees you create several treble (tr) crochets into a single stitch and then collect them together at the top with a chain stitch. This is what makes it stand out from the fabric.

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

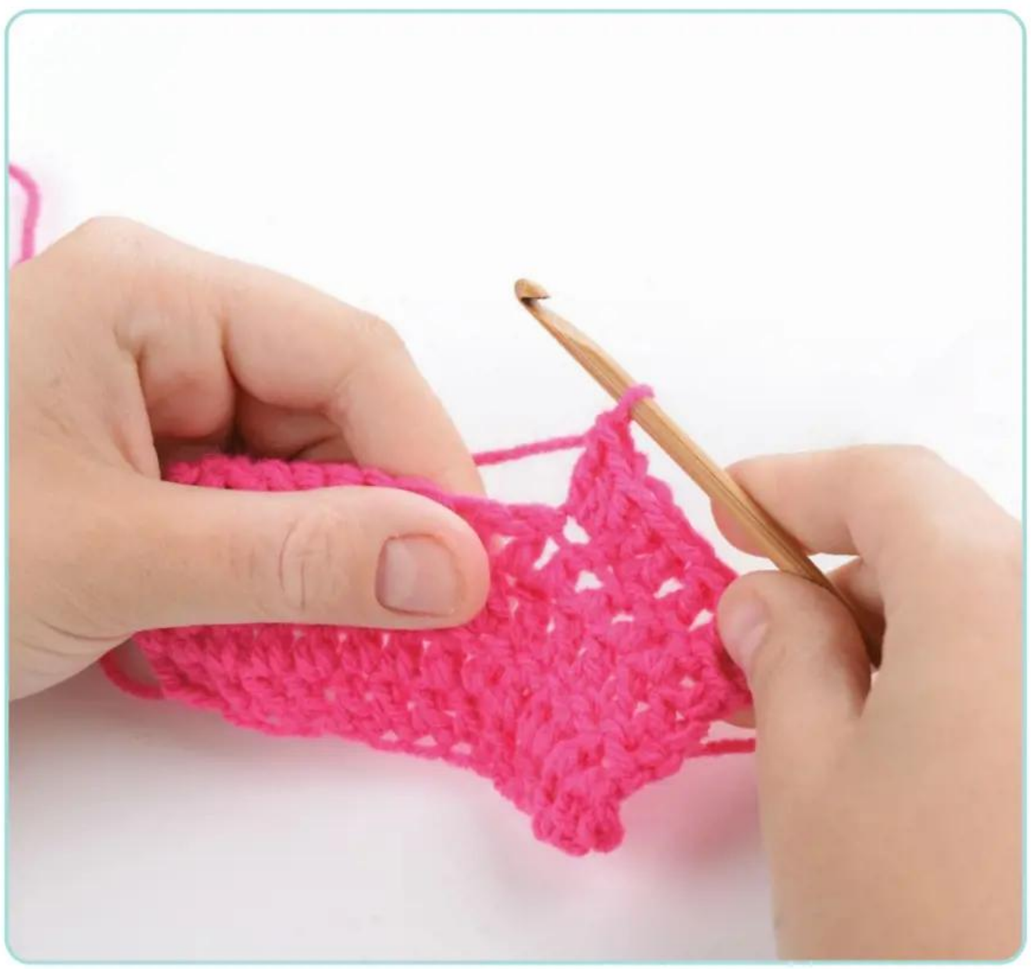
POPCORN STITCH

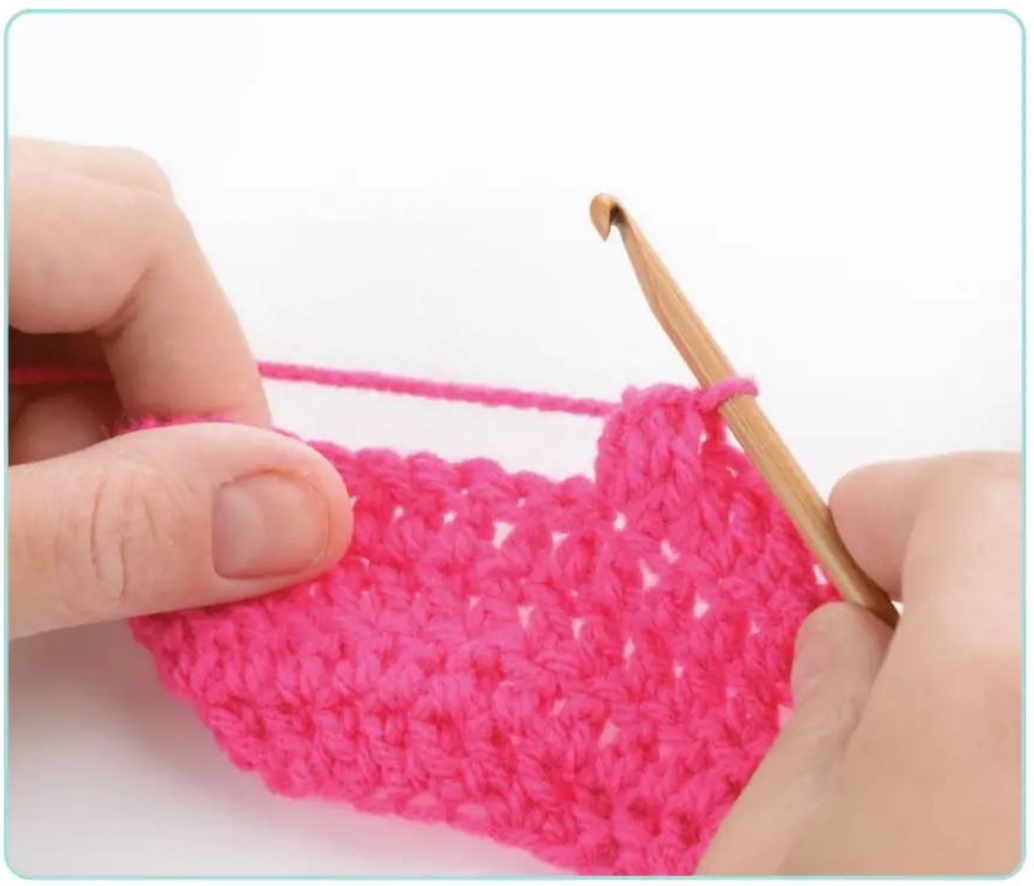




1 **Treble crochets** Work four treble crochets into the next stitch. Remove your hook Pull the yarn out a little further than usual, and remove your hook from the current stitch. Be careful not to let it unravel.

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





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

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

PUFF STITCHES

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

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

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

PUFF STITCH





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

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





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

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

MOTIFS

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

The term 'motif' might be a little confusing, as you may think it will simply refer to the additional little pieces that you add to your crochet projects once complete. In actual fact, when it comes to crochet, a motif is any sort of smaller piece of crochet you create that's intended to be part of a bigger project, whether this is indeed a flower to be added to a hat, or a granny square intended to be sewn together with other types of square to create a larger final project. Squares are the most common type of motif (most families will somewhere have a granny square blanket, we can all but guarantee it...) but they aren't just limited to something your granny made in order to pass down. You can create scarves, tops and even dresses out of the trusty granny square. They're versatile and they are so simple to make.

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

STARTING A MOTIF

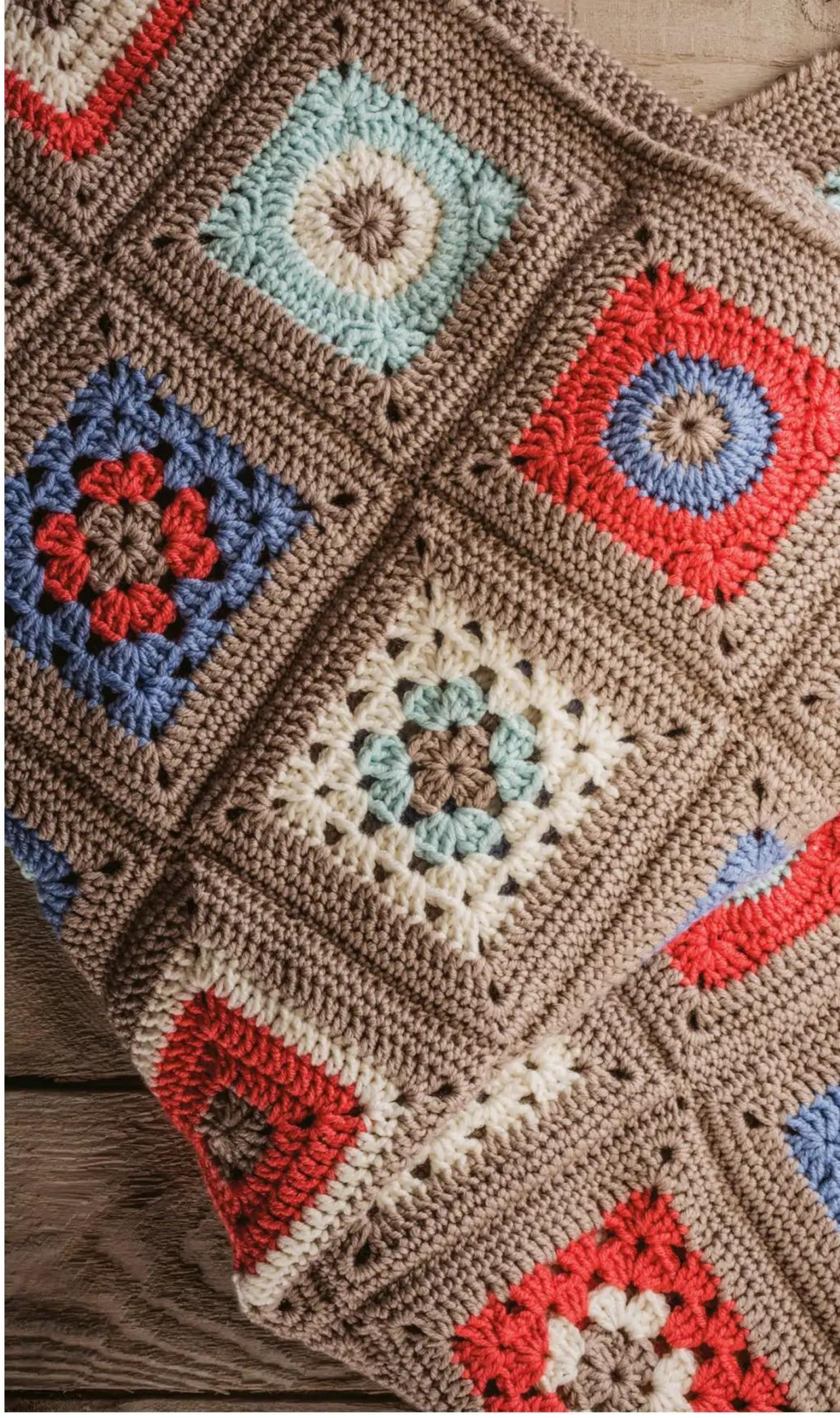
One common feature of motifs is that they are always worked in the round. You can find out more on how to do this on page 68. You work from the middle outwards and never turn your work. No matter what the end product of your motif, it will always start out looking like a circle – but don't worry, this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



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

TOP TIP

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



CONTINUING THE PROJECT

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

TOP MOTIF TIPS

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

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

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

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

GRANNY SQUARE

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

GRANNY SQUARE



Rnd 1:

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



Rnd 2:

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



Rnd 3:

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



All future rounds:

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

SOLID SQUARE

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

SOLID SQUARE



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

Rnd 1: Ch 3 (counts as tr, here and throughout). Working into the ring, 2 tr, ch 1, (3 tr, ch 1) 3 times.
If you are using a magic ring, pull it closed.
Join with a sl st to the top of ch 3 and fasten off.



Rnd 2: Join new yarn to an stitch immediate preceding a ch-sp.
Ch 3, (2 tr, ch 1, 2 tr) in next chain space, *tr in next 3 sts, (2 tr, ch 1, 2 tr) in next ch-sp; repeat from * twice, tr in next 2 sts.
Join with sl st into top of ch 3 and fasten off.



Rnd 3: Join new yarn to an stitch immediate preceding a ch-sp.
Ch 3, (2 tr, ch 1, 2 tr) in next ch-sp, *tr in next 7 sts, (2 tr, ch 1, 2 tr) in next ch-sp; repeat from * twice, tr in next 6 sts.
Join with sl st into top of ch 3 and fasten off.



All future rounds:
Follow the same pattern, adding an extra 4 sts between ch-sps.

JUMBO RIB SCARF

This is an ideal project to make if you're new to crochet as the thick yarn and large hook will mean that you'll complete it in no time

DIFFICULTY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

WHAT YOU NEED

- 12mm hook (US O/17)
- Yarn needle/bodkin
- Sharp scissors
- In this project we have used Hayfield Super Chunky with Wool 80% acrylic, 20% wool (100g/72m/79yd). For this project you will need in your chosen colours: Colour: Poole; 7 balls

TENSION

7 stitches and 6 rows = 10 x 10cm (4 x 4in) over rib pattern using 12mm (US O/17) hook.

MEASUREMENTS

24cm (9½in) wide and 210cm (82¾in) long, excluding fringe.



DONNA JONES

Donna Jones designs, edits and teaches handknitting and crochet. She firmly believes creative expression is essential for our well-being and aims to facilitate this in others. You can follow Donna on Instagram @djonesdesigns www.donnajonesdesigns.co.uk

Pattern

Cut 64 lengths of yarn each measuring 60cm long and set aside for the fringe.

SCARF

Using 12mm hook, and your chosen col, ch 19.

Foundation Row: 1 tr into 4th ch from hook (counts as 2 tr), 1 tr into every ch to end, turn. (17 sts)

Row 1 (RS): ch 2 (counts as 1 st), miss st at base of ch, (1 FPtr into next tr, 1 BPtr into next tr) 7 times, 1 FPtr into next tr, 1 tr into 3rd of ch 3, turn.

Row 2: ch 2 (counts as 1 st), miss st at base of ch, (1 BPtr into next tr, 1 FPtr into next tr) 7 times, 1 BPtr into next tr, 1 tr into 3rd of ch 3, turn.

These 2 rows form rib pattern. Repeat these 2 rows until work measures 210cm (82¾in), or your desired length.

Fasten off.

FRINGE

Holding 2 of your pre-cut tassel lengths together, fold in half. With RS facing, and spacing tassels evenly as you work, insert your crochet hook from back to the front through the short edge of scarf. Hook the midpoint of the folded fringe strands and draw the loop through the edge. Pull the ends through the loop and tighten.

Continue adding tassels in this way until all 16 have been made. Repeat for the other end of the scarf. Trim with scissors to straighten the edge of the fringe.

FINISHING

Block the scarf by pinning it out flat without stretching it, spray liberally with cool water to moisten, gently patting the water into the crochet and leave to try completely before unpinning.



TOP TIP

For tree decorations, take a length of ribbon, using your crochet hook pull it through the stitch behind the bobble/ bell and pull through.

CHUBBY SANTA & ELF

This chubby Santa and his elf helper are simple to make as cute decorations for Christmas

LUCY COLLIN

Lucy has been designing amigurumi for 7 years. Her children encouraged her to use her crochet skills to make them cute toys, and she then started to sell the patterns online. She has had two books published, including *Star Wars Crochet*.

lucyravenscar.blogspot.com

Pattern

HAT

Using 3.5mm hook and col 1, ch 2.

Rnd 1: 6 dc into second ch from hook. (6 sts)

Rnd 2: (2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next st) 3 times. (9 sts)

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

Rnd 4: (2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next 3 sts) 3 times. (15 sts)

Rnd 5: (2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next 4 sts) 3 times. (18 sts)

Rnd 6: (2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next 5 sts) 3 times. (21 sts)

Rnd 7: (2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next 6 sts) 3 times. (24 sts)

Rnd 8: (2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next 7 sts) 3 times. (27 sts)

Rnd 9: (2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next 8 sts) 3 times. (30 sts)

Rnd 10: (2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next 9 sts) 3 times. (33 sts)

Rnd 11: (2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next 10 sts) 3 times. (36 sts)

Rnd 12: 1 dc in each st around. (36 sts)

Rnd 13: (2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next 11 sts) 3 times. (39 sts)

Rnd 14: 1 dc in each st around. (39 sts)

Rnd 15: (2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next 12 sts) 3 times. (42 sts)

Rnd 16 (flo): 1 dc in each st

Chubby Santa & elf

DIFFICULTY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

WHAT YOU NEED

- 3.5mm hook
- Fibrefill
- 1 pair 9mm black safety eyes
- Small bell for elf's hat
- Yarn needle
- In this pattern we have used Stylecraft Special DK. You will need a DK weighted yarn in the colours you choose:

Santa:

Colour 1: Red; 1 ball

Colour 2: White fuzzy yarn; 1 ball

Colour 3: White; 1 ball

Colour 4: Skin; 1 ball

Colour 5: Black; 1 ball

Elf:

Colour 1: Green; 1 ball

Colour 2: Green (amount is included in col 1)

Colour 3: Brown; 1 ball

Colour 4: Skin ; 1 ball

Colour 5: Black; 1 ball

Colour 6: Red; 1 ball

MEASUREMENTS

9cm tall

SPECIAL STITCHES

Spike stitch: See page 87



around. (42 sts)

Change to col 2.

Rnd 17: 1 dc in each st around. (42 sts)

ss in next st, fasten off and weave in ends.

HEAD AND BODY

Note: The head is worked continuously from rnd 16 of the hat, into the back loops only (blo) that remain after you have already worked into the front loops.

Holding hat pointing downwards, make a slip knot onto hook using col 3 and join with a ss into the first back loop of rnd 15.

Rnd 1 (blo): ch 1 (not counted as a st), 1 dc in same st at base of ch 1, 1 dc in each st around. (42 sts)

Rnd 2: 1 dc in each st around. (42 sts)

Rnds 3-5: 1 dc in next 14 sts, change to col 4, 1 dc in

next 14 sts, change to col 3, 1 dc in next 14 sts**. (3 rnds of 42 sts)

Rnd 6 (partial round): 1 dc in next 14 sts, (beard) 1 dcflo in next 14 sts, ssflo in next st, ch 1, turn and work on these 15 sts only for beard.

Beard Row 1: Miss ss, 1 dc in next 12 sts, dc2tog, ch 1, turn. (13 sts)

Beard Row 2: Miss 1 st, 1 dc in next st, 1 htr in next 2 sts, 1 tr in next 4 sts, 1 htr in next 2 sts, 1 dc in next st, miss next st, ss in next st. (11 sts).

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Join in col 1 to the start of rnd 6.

Rnd 7: 1 dc in next 14 sts, 1 dcblo in next 15 sts (behind beard), 1 dc in next 13 sts. (42 sts)

Fix eyes between rnds 4 and 5, approx 9 sts apart.

Rnd 8-10: 1 dc in each st around. (42 sts)

Change to col 5.

Rnd 11: 1 dc in each st around. (42 sts)

Change to col 1.

Rnd 12-13: 1 dc in each st around. (2 rnds of 42 sts)

Rnd 14: (dc2tog, 1 dc in next 5 sts) 6 times. (36 sts)

Rnd 15: (dc2tog, 1 dc in next 4 sts) 6 times. (30 sts)

Start to fill Santa with toy filling.

Rnd 16: (dc2tog, 1 dc in next 3 sts) 6 times. (24 sts)

Rnd 17: (dc2tog, 1 dc in next 2 sts) 6 times. (18 sts)

Rnd 18: (dc2tog, 1 dc in next st) 6 times. (12 sts)

Rnd 19: (dc2tog) 6 times. (6 sts)

ss in next st, fasten off and weave in ends.

BOBBLE (FOR HAT)

Using col 2, ch 2.

Rnd 1: 6 dc into second ch from hook (6 sts)

Rnd 2: 1 dc in each st around. (6 sts)

ss in next st, fasten off, sew the hole shut and sew to the top of the hat.

FINISHING

Using col 5, embroider a mouth. Finish stuffing Santa and close hole neatly using a yarn needle.

Pattern (Chubby elf)

Follow the instructions for Santa up to **, using the cols as given for the elf and working all rows of hat in col 1.

Continue as follows:

Rnd 6: 1 dc in next 14 sts, change to col 4, 1 dc in next 14 sts, change to col 3, 1 dc in next 14 sts. (42 sts)

Change to col 6.

Rnd 7-8: 1 dc in each st around. (2 rnds of 42 sts)

Fix eyes between rnds 4 and 5, approx 9 sts apart.

Change to col 1.

Rnd 9: *1 dc in next st, spike stitch in next st; rep from * to end. (42 sts)

Rnd 10: 1 dc in each st around. (42 sts)

Change to col 5.

Rnd 11: 1 dc in each st around. (42 sts)

Change to col 1.

Rnds 12-19: Work as given for Santa pattern.

EARS (MAKE 2)

Using col 4, ch 2.

Rnd 1: 6 dc into second ch from hook. (6 sts)

Rnd 2: 2 dc in next 3 sts, (1 htr, 1 tr) in next st, (1 tr, 1 htr) in next st, ss in next st. Fasten off leaving a length of yarn.

To make the ear more pointed sew a stitch or two through htr and tr stitches, then thread the yarn through the ear to the opposite end to attach the ear to the head. Weave in any loose ends.

FINISHING

Sew a bell to the the hat or make bobble the same way as Santa.



COSY ALPACA MITTENS

When there's a chill in the air but you still want to be able to use your fingers for texting or crocheting, these mitts will keep your hands warm

DIFFICULTY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

WHAT YOU NEED

- 4mm hook (US G/6)
- Yarn needle
- In this project we have used 100% alpaca, 50g/100m/109yd. For this project you will need the following in your chosen colours:
  Colour 1: Pebble; 1 ball
  Colour 2: Cream; 1 ball

TENSION

18 htr in the round measure 10cm.

MEASUREMENTS

18cm long x 20cm around



LYNNE ROWE

Lynne Rowe is a freelance knit and crochet designer, technical editor, craft author and tutor. Lynne loves to pass on her skills to help others to knit, crochet and create. Read more about Lynne's yarn adventures at www.thewoolnest.blogspot.co.uk www.knitcrochetcreate.com

Pattern

MAIN MITTEN (MAKE 2)

Starting at the top of the mitten, with 4mm hook and col 1, ch 34, ss into first ch to join into a ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): Ch 2 (not counted as a st here and throughout), 1 htr in same st at base of ch 2, 1 htr in each st around, ss into top of first htr to join, changing to col 2, turn (34 sts).

Rnd 2: Ch 2, 1 htr in same st at base of ch 2, 1 htr in each st around, ss into top of first htr to join, turn.

Rnd 3: Ch 2, 1 htr in same st at base of ch 2, 1 htr in each st around, ss into top of first htr to join, changing to col 1, turn. Cut col 2.

Rnds 4-6: Rep round 2.

Rnd 7: Ch 2, 1 htr in same st at base of ch 2, 1 htr in each of next 16 sts, 2 htr in next st, 1 htr in each of next 16 sts around, ss into top of first htr to join, turn (35 sts).

Rnd 8: Ch 2, 1 htr in same st at base of ch 2, 1 htr in each of next 13 sts, ch 7, skip next 7 sts, 1 htr in each of next 14 sts, ss into top of first htr to join, turn (28 htr and 7 ch).

Rnd 9: Ch 2, 1 htr in same st at base of ch 2, 1 htr in each of next 13 sts, 1 htr in each of next 7 ch, 1 htr in each of next 14 sts, ss into top of first htr to join, turn (35 sts).

Rnds 10-12: Rep round 2.

Rnd 13: Ch 2, 1 htr in same st at base of ch 2, 1 htr in each of next 16 sts, htr2tog, 1 htr in each of next 17 sts around, ss into top of first htr to join, turn (34 sts).

Rnds 14-18: Rep round 2.

Rnd 19: 3 ch (counts a 1 FPtr), 1 BPtr in next st, *1 FPtr in next st, 1 BPtr in next st; rep from * around, ss into top of beginning 3ch (do not turn).

Rnds 20-23: Rep Round 19, changing to Cream on ss of round 23.

Rnds 24-25: In col 2, rep round 19. Fasten off.

TOP EDGE

Rejoin col 2 to any st around top edge.

Rnd 26: Ch 2 (not counted as st), 1 htr in each st to end, ss into top of first htr to join (34 sts).

Rnds 27-28: Repeat Round 19 of Main Mitten. Fasten off.

FINISHING

Weave in ends to WS and trim.

Make second mitten to complete the pair.

PATTERN NOTES

For the Main Mitten pattern, each round is joined and work is turned ready for the next round. The beginning ch 2 of each round is not counted as a stitch. It is used to help create an invisible join. When joining each round, skip the beginning ch 2 and ss to top of first htr. The first stitch of each round is worked in the same st at the base of the beginning ch 2.



SPECIAL STITCHES

Blo (back loop only): See page 35.

Puff stitch: See page 99.



SWEET CHRISTMAS BUDDIES

Spend a fun afternoon making these unique ornaments to decorate your home, to give them as a gift or make someone happy!

DIFFICULTY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

WHAT YOU NEED

- In these project we have used Red Heart Super Saver and Lion Brand Vanna's Choice. See each project for colours needed.
- 6mm toy safety eyes; 1 pair per project
- Embroidery thread: pink, black, white, brown, dark brown.
- Fibrefill
- Pipe cleaner for candy canes
- Yarn needle

MEASUREMENTS

Gingerbear Boy & Girl: 14 x 10 cm

Hot Chocolate with Marshmallow: 9 x 7.5 cm

Christmas Pudding: 9 x 5 cm

Candy Cane: 11.5 x 6 cm

GINGERBEAR BOY AND GIRL

YARN YOU NEED

Colour 1: Brown; 1 ball
Colour 2: Beige; oddment
Colour 3: White; 1 ball
Colour 4: Light Blue; oddment
Colour 5: Light Green; oddment.
Colour 6: Red; oddment



Pattern (Ginger bears)

HEAD AND BODY

Using 2.75mm hook, in col 1 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (6 sts)

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

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

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

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

Rnds 6-9: 1 dc in each st. (30 sts)

Fix safety eyes (6mm) in Rnd 7, 2-3 stitches apart.

Rnd 10: (1 dc in next 3 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. (24 sts)

Rnd 11: (1 dc in next 2 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. (18 sts)

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

Rnd 13: (1 dc in next st, 2 dc in next st) 6 times. (18 sts)

Rnd 14: (1 dc in next 2 sts, 2 dc in next st) 6 times. (24 sts)

Rnd 15: 1 dc in each st. (24 sts)

Rnd 16: (1 dc in next 3 sts, 2 dc in next st) 6 times. (30 sts)

Rnds 17-19: 1 dc in each st. (30 sts)

Rnd 20: (1 dc in next 3 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. (24 sts)

Rnd 21: (1 dc in next 2 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. (18 sts)

Add fibrefill before closing.

Rnd 22: (1 dc in next st, dc2tog) 6 times. (12 sts)

Rnd 23: (dc2tog) 6 times. (6 sts)

Ss in next st, fasten off.

EARS (MAKE 2)

In col 1 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (6 sts)

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

Rnd 3: 1 dc in each st. (12 sts)

Ss in next st, fasten off.

No fibrefill is needed.

SNOUT

In col 2 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (6 sts)

Rnd 2: 1 dc in each st. (6 sts)

Ss in next st, fasten off.

ARMS (MAKE 2)

In col 1 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (6 sts)

Rnd 2: (1 dc in next st, 2 dc in next st) 3 times. (9 sts)

Rnd 3: 1 Puff st in the next st, 1 dc in next 8 sts. (9 sts)

Change to col 3.

Rnd 4: 1 dc in each st. (9 sts)

Change to col 1.

Rnds 5-8: 1 dc in each st. (9 sts)

Ss in next st, fasten off.

No fibrefill is needed.

LEGS (MAKE 2)

In col 1 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (6 sts)

Rnd 2: (1 dc in next st, 2 dc in next st) 3 times. (9 sts)

Rnd 3: 1 dc in each st. (9 sts)

Change to col 3.

Rnd 4: 1 dc in each st. (9 sts)

Change to col 1.

Rnds 5-8: 1 dc in each st. (9 sts)

Ss in next st, fasten off.

Fill the legs with fibrefill before sewing.

BUTTON (MAKE 2)

In col 4 or col 5 (make one in each colour) make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 4 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (4 sts)



ANNERIS KONDRATAS

Anneris is an illustrator, designer, and a crochet artist . Everything started as a hobby, writing a blog about food characters and creatures that she called Amigurumi Food. Since 2015 she has been selling her creations and patterns on Etsy. www.etsy.com/shop/Amigurumifood

Patterns



GINGERBEAR GIRL

Follow same pattern as Gingerbear Boy, but work Rnd 20 of the body in BLO.

SKIRT

In col 6, ss in the spare front loops of Rnd 20.

Rnd 1: 1 dc in each st. (30 sts)

Rnd 2: (2 tr in each of the next 2 sts, ss in the next st) 10 times.

Fasten off. Weave the tail inside the bear.

Crochet one button (as given for Gingerbear Boy) in col 5.

FINISHING

Embroider the nose and the mouth with light brown thread on the snout.

Sew one button to the belly of the bear.

Add a hanging loop for the Christmas tree.

HOT CHOCOLATE WITH MARSHMALLOW

YARN YOU NEED
Colour 3: White; oddment
Colour 7: Light Green; 1 ball
Colour 8: Dark Brown; oddment

Pattern (Hot chocolate)

CUP

Using 2.75mm hook, in col 7 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (6 sts)

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

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

Rnd 4 (blo): 1 dcblo in each st. (18 sts)

Rnd 5: (1 dc in next st, dc2tog) 6 times. (12 sts)

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

Rnd 7: (1 dc in next 2 sts, 2 dc in next st) 6 times. (24 sts)

Rnd 8: (1 dc in next 3 sts, 2 dc in next st) 6 times. (30 sts)

Rnds 9-15: 1 dc in each st. (30 sts)

Ss in next st, fasten off.

Fix toy safety eyes between Rnds 11 and 12.

HANDLE

In col 7 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 4 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (4 sts)

Rnds 2-9: 1 dc in each st. (4 sts)

Ss in next st, fasten off.

No fibrefill is needed.

CHOCOLATE

In col 8 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (6 sts)

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

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

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

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

Ss in next st, fasten off.

MARSHMALLOW

In col 3 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (6 sts)

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

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

Rnd 4 (blo): 1 dcblo in each st. (18 sts)

Rnds 5-7: 1 dc in each st. (18 sts)

Ss in next st, fasten off.

Fix toy safety eyes between Rnds 4 and 5.

FINISHING

Sew the handle to the cup between Rnds 9 and 14.

Sew the marshmallow to the top of the chocolate.

Sew the chocolate to the cup, stuff before closing the seam.

Embroider the mouth on the cup with white thread between the eyes, making two diagonal back stitches.

Embroider the cheeks with pink thread next to each eye.

Add a hanging loop.

For the marshmallow cut the shape of a half circle on pink felt and glue it between the eyes.

CHRISTMAS PUDDING

YARN YOU NEED
Colour 3: White; oddment
Colour 6: Red; oddment
Colour 8: Dark Brown; 1 ball
Colour 9: Green; oddment

Pattern (Christmas pudding)

PUDDING

Using 2.75mm hook, in col 8 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (6 sts)

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

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

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

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

Rnd 6 (blo): 1 dcblo in each st. (30 sts)

Rnds 7-13: 1 dc in each st. (30 sts)

Fix toy safety eyes between Rnds 10 and 11.

Rnd 14: (1 dc in next 3 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. (24 sts)

Rnd 15: 1 dc in each st. (24 sts)

Rnd 16: (1 dc in next 2 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. (18 sts)

Rnd 17: (1 dc in next st, dc2tog) 6 times. (12 sts)

Place the fibrefill inside the piece.

Rnd 18: (dc2tog) 6 times. (6 sts)

Ss in next st, fasten off.

ICING

In col 3 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (6 sts)

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

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

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

Rnd 5: (2 tr in each of next 2 sts, ss in each of next 2 sts) 6 times. (36 sts)

Cut yarn, leaving a long tail for sewing.

CHERRY

In col 6 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (6 sts)

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

Rnd 3: 1 dc in each st. (12 sts)

Rnd 4: (dc2tog) 6 times. (6 sts)

Place the fibrefill inside the piece.

Ss in next st, cut yarn and leave long tail.

Insert the needle into the cherry passing through to the other side. Cut the remainder of the thread leaving a little stem as decoration.

LITTLE HOLLY LEAF

Rnd 1 (RS): 1 htr in 3rd ch from hook, 1 tr in next ch, 1 tr in next ch, 1 ss in next ch, 1 htr in next ch, 1 htr in next ch, 3 dc in next ch, now rotate your piece to work along the opposite side of chain, 1 htr in next ch, 1 htr in next ch, ss in next ch, 1 tr in next ch, 1 tr in next ch, 1 htr in next ch, ss to first st to join. (15 sts)

Fasten off.

FINISHING

Sew the cherry and holly leaf to the top of the icing.

Sew the icing to the top of the pudding.

Embroider the mouth on the pudding with white thread between the eyes, making two diagonal back stitches.

Embroider the cheeks with pink thread next to each eye.

Add a hanging loop.

CANDY CANE

YARN YOU NEED

Colour 3: White; 1 ball
Colour 6: Red; 1 ball

Pattern (Candy cane)

You will need a pipe cleaner for this project.

Note: Don't cut the yarn when making the colour changes, carry it along the side of your work instead.

Place the pipe cleaner inside the candy cane between Rnds 4 and 6. It's too difficult to do it when you're finished.

Using 2.75mm hook, in col 3 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (6 sts)

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

Rnd 3 (blo): 1 dcblo in each st. (12 sts)

Change to col 6.

Rnds 4-6: 1 dc in each st. (12 sts)

Change to col 3.

Rnds 7-9: 1 dc in each st. (12 sts)

Change to col 6.

Rnds 10-12: 1 dc in each st. (12 sts)

Fix safety eyes in Rnd 11.

Change to col 3.

Rnds 13-15: 1 dc in each st. (12 sts)

Change to col 6.

Rnds 16-18: 1 dc in each st. (12 sts)

Change to col 3.

Rnds 19-21: 1 dc in each st. (12 sts)

Change to col 6.

Rnds 22-24: 1 dc in each st. (12 sts)

Change to col 3.

Rnds 25-27: 1 dc in each st. (12 sts)

Change to col 6.

Rnds 28-29: 1 dc in each st. (12 sts)

Place the filling inside the piece.

Rnd 30: (Dc2tog) 6 times. (6 sts)

Ss in next st, cut yarn and leave a long tail for finishing.

FINISHING

Bend the candy cane with your hands until you get the desired shape, the pipe cleaner is a perfect tool for this project. Using the tail of the red yarn, insert the tapestry needle inside the candy cane, and bring it out at one stitch from Rnd 23 or 24. Sew the bend to secure in place, this way the curve will be more noticeable. Hide the tail inside the piece.

Cut the shape of a small half circle in pink felt and glue it to the face.

Embroider the cheeks with pink thread next to each eye.

Note: Try same pattern in col 3 and col 7 for a Minty candy cane.





ROCKIN' ROBIN

This little robin is the perfect size to sit on a shelf, Christmas tree, wreath or stocking

DIFFICULTY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

WHAT YOU NEED

- 2.75mm hook
- In this project we have used Rosario 4 Catitano, 100% acrylic, 50g/100m, in 4 different colours. You will need to use any aran (worsted weight) yarn, in your chosen colours.
  Colour 1: Brown; 2 balls
  Colour 2: Orange; 2 balls
  Colour 3: Beige; 2 balls
  Colour 4: White; 2 balls
- 12mm black safety eyes, 1 pair
- Fibrefill
- Yarn needle

MEASUREMENTS

Approx 12.75cm tall x 9cm wide



MEVLINN GUSICK

Mevlinn is a college graduate with a BFA in Fine Arts Painting. Her interest in crochet began when she way too much time between classes and a family member suggested crochet would be fun. It peaked her curiosity and today she's crocheting amigurumi whenever she gets the chance and giving them to those she loves.

www.mevvsan.com

Pattern

HEAD

Using 2.75mm hook, in col 1 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 8 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (8 sts)

Rnd 2: 2 dc in each st. (16 sts)

Rnd 3: (1 dc in next st, 2 dc in next st) 8 times. (24 sts)

Rnd 4: (1 dc in next 2 sts, 2 dc in next st) 8 times. (32 sts)

Rnd 5: (1 dc in next 3 sts, 2 dc in next st) 8 times. (40 sts)

Rnd 6: 1 dc in each st. (40 sts)

Rnd 7: (1 dc in next 4 sts, 2 dc in next st) 8 times. (48 sts)

Rnd 8: In col 1, 1 dc in next 2 sts, in col 2, 1 dc in next 5 sts, in col 1, 1 dc in next 41 sts. (48 sts)

Rnd 9: In col 1, 1 dc in next st, in col 2, 1 dc in next 7 sts, in col 1, 1 dc in next 40 sts. (48 sts)

Rnds 10-16: In col 2, 1 dc in next 9 sts, in col 1, 1 dc in next 39 sts. (48 sts)

Rnd 17: In col 2, 1 dc in next 4 sts, dc2tog, 1 dc in next 3 sts, in col 1, 1 dc in next st, dc2tog, (1 dc in next 4 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. (40 sts)

Rnd 18: In col 2, 1 dc in next 3 sts, dc2tog, 1 dc in next 3 sts, in col 1, dc2tog, (1 dc in next 3 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. (32 sts)

Fix 12mm black safety eyes between Rnds 12-13 with 12 spaces between the eyes. There should be all 9 orange stitches (col 2) and 2 brown stitches (col 1) between the two eyes - one brown stitch on either side of the orange stitches.

Add fiberfill and continue filling as you go.

Rnd 19: In col 2, 1 dc in next 2 sts, dc2tog, 1 dc in next 2 sts, in col 1, dc2tog, (1 dc in next 2 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. (24 sts)

Rnd 20: In col 2, 1 dc in next st, dc2tog, 1 dc in next st, in col 1, dc2tog, (1 dc in next st, dc2tog) 6 times. (16 sts)

Rnd 21: In col 2, dc2tog, in col 1, (dc2tog) 7 times. (8 sts)

Ss in next st, cut yarn and fasten off, leaving a brown tail for sewing. Using yarn needle, weave the yarn tail through the front loop of each remaining st and pull it tight to close.

BEAK

In col 3 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 5dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (5 sts)

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

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

Rnd 4: 2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next 6 sts. (8 sts)

Rnd 5: 2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next 7 sts. (9 sts)

Ss in next st, cut yarn and fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing. Add a small amount of fibrefill and sew the beak between the eyes.

HEAD FEATHERS

In col 1 ch 9.

2 htr in 3rd ch from hook, 1 htr in next ch, 1 dc in next 4 ch, 1 ss in last ch.

Ch 7, 2 htr in 3rd ch from hook, 1 htr in next ch, 1 dc in next 2 ch, 1 ss in last ch.

Cut yarn and fasten off. Sew head feathers to the top of the head, where the magic ring is.

BODY

In col 1 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (6 sts)

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

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

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

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

Rnds 6-7: 1 dc in each st. (30 sts)

Rnd 8: In col 1, 1 dc in next st, in col 4, 1 dc in next 5 sts, in col 1, 1 dc in next 24 sts. (30 sts)

Rnds 9-10: In col 4, 1 dc in next 7 sts, in col 1, 1 dc in next 23 sts. (30 sts)

Rnd 11: In col 2, 1 dc in next 7 sts, in col 1, 1 dc in next 9 sts, dc2tog, 1 dc in next st, dc2tog, 1 dc in next 9 sts. (28 sts)

Rnd 12: In col 2, 1 dc in next 7 sts, in col 1, 1 dc in next 8 sts, dc2tog, 1 dc in next st, dc2tog, 1 dc in next 8 sts. (26 sts)

Rnd 13: In col 2, 1 dc in next 7 sts, in col 1, 1 dc in next 7 sts, dc2tog, 1 dc in next st, dc2tog, 1 dc in next 7 sts. (24 sts)





Perfect for...

Perching in your Christmas tree or putting into a child's stocking as the perfect filler.

Rnd 14: In col 2, 1 dc in next 7 sts, in col 1, 1 dc in next 6 sts, dc2tog, 1 dc in next st, dc2tog, 1 dc in next 6 sts. (22 sts)

Rnd 15: In col 2, 1 dc in next 7 sts, in col 1, 1 dc in next 5 sts, dc2tog, 1 dc in next st, dc2tog, 1 dc in next 5 sts. (20 sts)

Ss in next st, cut yarn and fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing. Add fibrefill to the body and sew it directly under the head so that the orange (col 2) stitches on both pieces match up.

WINGS (MAKE 2)

In col 1 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (6 sts)

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

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

Rnd 4: 1 dc in each st. (18 sts)

Flatten this semi-circle so that your hook is on the right side. You will be crocheting through both the front st and the one behind it to create the wing's feathers. Doing this will also crochet the wing closed at the same time.

FIRST WING FEATHERS

Ch 3, 1 dc in first st and straight through to the st behind, (1 ss in next st, 1 dc in next st, ch 3, 1 dc in same st) twice (this makes a total of 3 feathers), 1 ss in remaining 4 sts.

To get the second wing to face the same way you must reverse the feather instructions as follows:

SECOND WING FEATHERS

1 ss in first 4 sts, (1 dc in next st, ch 3, 1 dc in same st, 1 ss in next st) twice, 1 dc in next st, ch 3, 1 ss in same st (this makes a total of 3 feathers).

Sew the wings on Rnds 11-13 of the body, with 2 rounds between them and where the head attaches to the body.

LEGS (MAKE 2)

Rnd 1 (RS): 5 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (5 sts)

Rnds 2-7: 1 dc in each st. (5 sts)

Ss in next st, cut yarn and fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing.

TOES (MAKE 6)

In col 3 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 5 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (5 sts)

Rnds 2-3: 1 dc in each st. (5 sts)

Ss in next st, cut yarn and fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing. Sew three of these toes to the end of each leg where the magic ring is. Weave in all yarn ends and use the yarn tail on the leg to sew it to the bottom of the bird's body.

LONGER TAIL FEATHER

In col 1 ch 12.

Row 1 (RS): 1 htr in 3rd ch from hook, 1 htr in next 8 ch, 5 htr in last ch, do not turn your work, instead rotate and work along the opposite side of foundation chain, 1 htr in next 8 ch, 2 htr in last ch. (24 sts)

Cut yarn and fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing.

SHORTER TAIL FEATHER (MAKE 2)

In col 1 ch 8.

Row 1 (RS): 1 htr in 3rd ch from hook, 1 htr in next 4 ch, 5 htr in last ch, do not turn your work, instead rotate and work along the opposite side of foundation chain, 1 htr in next 4 ch, 2 htr in last ch. (16 sts)

Cut yarn and fasten off; weave in yarn ends.

FINISHING

Lay your long tail feather down on a table, face up, and place the two shorter feathers on top in a 'V' shape and overlapping one another. Use the yarn tail from the long tail feather to sew all three layers of feathers together in place. Then sew this bunch of feathers to the rump of the bird. Make sure the feathers are sewn low enough on the body so that they act as a support when the bird is placed on a table.



Perfect for...

Sitting on the mantle or tucked under the Christmas tree.

COSY PENGUIN

Cosy Penguin is sturdily designed but cuddly to hold. Use bright primary colours to make your Cosy Penguin stand out!

Pattern

HEAD

Using 3.75mm hook, in col 1 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (6 sts)

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

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

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

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

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

Rnd 7: (1 dc in next 5 sts, 2 dc in next st) 6 times. (42 sts)

Rnds 8-12: 1 dc in each st. (42 sts)

Rnd 13: 1 ss in each st. (42 sts)

Change to col 2.

Rnd 14: (1 dc in next 6 sts, 2 dc in next st) 6 times. (48 sts)

Rnd 15: (1 dc in next 7 sts, 2 dc in next st) 6 times. (54 sts)

Rnd 16: (1 dc in next 8 sts, 2 dc in next st) 6 times. (60 sts)

Rnd 17-21: 1 dc in each st. (60 sts)

Rnd 22: (1 dc in next 8 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. (54 sts)

Rnd 23: (1 dc in next 7 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. (48 sts)

Rnd 24: (1 dc in next 6 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. (42 sts)

Rnd 25: (1 dc in next 5 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. (36 sts)

Ss in next st, cut yarn and fasten off.

BODY

In col 2 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (6 sts)

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

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

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

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

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

Rnd 7: (1 dc in next 5 sts, 2 dc in next st) 6 times. (42 sts)

Rnd 8: (1 dc in next 6 sts, 2 dc in next st) 6 times. (48 sts)

Rnd 9: (1 dc in next 7 sts, 2 dc in next st) 6 times. (54 sts)

Rnds 10-21: 1 dc in each st. (54 sts)

Rnd 22: (1 dc in next 7 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. (48 sts)

Rnd 23: (1 dc in next 6 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. (42 sts)

Ss in next st, cut yarn and fasten off.

WINGS (MAKE 2)

In col 1 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (6 sts)

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

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

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

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

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

Rnd 7: (1 dc in next 5 sts, 2 dc in next st) 6 times. (42 sts)

Cosy penguin

DIFFICULTY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

WHAT YOU NEED

- 3.75mm hook
- In this project, we have used Bernat Handicrafter Cotton, 100% cotton, 50g/73m, in 5 different colours. You will need to use any aran (worsted weight) yarn in your chosen colours.
  Colour 1: Skin colour 1 (Grey); 1 ball
  Colour 2: Skin colour 2 (White); 2 balls
  Colour 3: Beak colour (Orange); 1 ball
  Colour 4: Ear muffs colour (Blue); 1 ball
  Colour 5: Scarf colour (Red); 1 ball.
- 9mm safety eyes, 1 pair
- Yarn needle
- Fibrefill

MEASUREMENTS

23cm tall



AMY KEMBER

Amy is a technical writer living in Ottawa, Canada. Since 2010, she has been designing and selling her own amigurumi patterns on Etsy.
www.etsy.com/shop/AmysGurumis/

Ss in next st, cut yarn and fasten off.

FEET (MAKE 2)

In col 3 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (6 sts)

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

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

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

Rnds 5-8: 1 dc in each st. (24 sts)

Rnd 9: (1 dc in next 2 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. (18 sts)

Ss in next st, cut yarn and fasten off.

BEAK

In col 3 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (6 sts)

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

Rnd 3: 1 dc in each st. (12 sts)

Ss in next st, cut yarn and fasten off.

EAR MUFFS (MAKE 2)

In col 4 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (6 sts)

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

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

Rnd 4: 1 dc in each st. (18 sts)

Rnd 5: (1 dc in next dc, dc2tog) 6 times. (12 sts)

Ss in next st, cut yarn and fasten off.

EAR MUFFS CHAIN

In col 4 ch 20.

Cut yarn and fasten off.

Sew one ear muff piece to each end of the chain.

Weave in ends.

SCARF

In col 5 ch 76.

Row 1: 1 tr in 3rd from hook (skipped 2 ch counts as 1 tr), 1 tr in each ch. (75 sts)

Cut yarn and fasten off; weave in ends.

ASSEMBLING THE FACE

Insert 9mm safety eyes between Rnd 13 and Rnd 14 of the head and position them 6 sts apart.

Stuff the head firmly.

Sew the beak to the head between Rnd 13 and Rnd 15 between the eyes.

Sew the ear muffs to the head.

ASSEMBLING THE PENGUIN

Fill the body and feet with fibrefill.

Sew the body to the head – there is one extra decrease round on the head than on the body so the last round of the body (Rnd 22) should be sewn around the second last round on the head (Rnd 23).

Sew the wings to the body on Rnd 22 and position them 12 sts apart in the front.

Sew the feet to the body between Rnd 6 and Rnd 9 and position them 3 sts apart in the front.

Tie the scarf around the penguin's neck.









DIFFICULTY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Approx 3-5 hours

WHAT YOU NEED

- 2.75mm hook
- In this project we have used Rosario 4 Catitano, 100% acrylic, 50g/100m, in 4 different colours. You will need to use any aran (worsted weight) yarn, in your chosen colours.
  Colour 1: Beige; 1 ball
  Colour 2: White; 1 ball
  Colour 3: Black; 1 ball
  Colour 4: Brown; 1 ball
- 12mm black safety eyes, 2 pairs
- Fibrefill
- Yarn needle

MEASUREMENTS

Approx. 15.25cm tall x 10cm wide

RUPERT THE REINDEER

Looking for a reindeer to pull your sleigh? This little deer is the perfect size to sit on a shelf, hold in your hands or place into a stocking

Pattern

HEAD

Using 2.75mm hook, in col 1 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 8 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (8 sts)

Rnd 2: 2 dc in each st. (16 sts)

Rnd 3: (1 dc in next st, 2 dc in next st) 8 times. (24 sts)

Rnd 4: (1 dc in next 2 sts, 2 dc in next st) 8 times. (32 sts)

Rnd 5: (1 dc in next 3 sts, 2 dc in next st) 8 times. (40 sts)

Rnd 6: 1 dc in each st. (40 sts)

Rnd 7: (1 dc in next 4 sts, 2 dc in next st) 8 times. (48 sts)

Rnds 8-16: 1 dc in each st. (48 sts)

Rnd 17: (1 dc in next 4 sts, dc2tog) 8 times. (40 sts)

Rnd 18: (1 dc in next 3 sts, dc2tog) 8 times. (32 sts)

Fix 12mm black safety eyes between Rnds 12-13 with 12 spaces between the eyes.

Add fibrefill and continue filling as you go.

Rnd 19: (1 dc in next 2 sts, dc2tog) 8 times. (24 sts)

Rnd 20: (1 dc in next st, dc2tog) 8 times. (16 sts)

Rnd 21: (dc2tog) 8 times. (8 sts)

Ss in next st, cut yarn and fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing. Using yarn needle, weave the yarn tail through the front loop of each remaining stitch and tight to close.

NOSE

In col 2 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (6 sts)

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

Rnds 3-4: 1 dc in each st. (12 sts)

Ss in next st, cut yarn and fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing. Lightly fill the muzzle with fibrefill and sew it to the face in between the eyes.

NOSE TIP

In col 3 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 4 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (4 sts)

Rnd 2: 1 dc in each st. (4 sts)

Ss in next st, cut yarn and fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing. Do not add fibrefill. Sew the nose onto the muzzle.

INNER EAR (MAKE 2)

In col 2 ch 7.

Row 1 (RS): 1 htr in 3rd ch from hook, 1 htr in next 3 ch, 4 htr in last ch, turn and work along the opposite side of the foundation chain, 1 htr in next 4 sts, turn. (12 sts)

Row 2: 2 ch (not counted as a st), 1 htr in each st. (12 sts)

Ss in next st, cut yarn and fasten off; weave in yarn ends.

OUTER EAR (MAKE 2)

In col 1 ch 7.

Row 1 (RS): 1 htr in 3rd ch from hook, 1 htr in next 3 ch, 4 htr in last ch, turn and work along the opposite side of the foundation chain, 1 htr in next 4 sts, turn. (12 sts)

Row 2: 2 ch (not counted as a st), 1 htr in each st, turn. (12 sts)

Note: Row 3 will be worked through the last row of the inner ear at the same time by placing both pieces with wrong sides together. This will

Rupert the Reindeer

join both pieces and form a completed ear.

Row 3: 2 ch (not counted as a st), 1 htr in next 5 sts, 2 htr in next 2 sts, 1 htr in next 5 sts. (14 sts)

Pinch the base of each ear together and use the yarn tail to sew it in place. Next, sew both ears to the head about 5-6 rounds away from the centre of the magic ring and about 4 stitches behind the placement of the safety eyes. This will leave enough room to place the antlers later.

ANTLER (MAKE 2)

In col 4 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 5 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (5 sts).

Rnds 2-7: 1 dc in each st. (5 sts)

Ss in next st, cut yarn and fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing. Do not add fibrefill.

ANTLER POINT (MAKE 2)

In col 4 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 5 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (5 sts).

Rnds 2-3: 1 dc in each st. (5 sts)

Ss in next st, cut yarn and fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing. Do not add fibrefill. Sew one antler point to each antler to create a 'Y' shape where they join. After they are sewn together you can use the antler's yarn tail to sew the completed antler to the head of the deer.

BODY

In col 4 make a magic loop.

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (6 sts)

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

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

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

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

Rnds 6-10: 1 dc in each st. (30 sts)

Rnd 11: (1 dc in next 13 sts, dc2tog) twice. (28 sts)

Rnd 12: (1 dc in next 12 sts, dc2tog) twice. (26 sts)

Rnd 13: (1 dc in next 11 sts, dc2tog) twice. (24 sts)

Rnd 14: (1 dc in next 10 sts, dc2tog) twice. (22 sts)

Rnd 15: (1 dc in next 9 sts, dc2tog) twice. (20 sts)

Ss in next st, cut yarn and fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing. Set the body aside until the limbs are made.

ARMS (MAKE 2)

In col 3 make a magic loop.

Rnd 1 (RS): 4 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (4 sts)

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

Rnd 3: 1 dc in each st. (8 sts)

Change to col 2.

Rnd 4: 1 dc in each st. (8 sts)

Change to col 1.

Rnds 5-11: 1 dc in each st. (8 sts)

Do not fasten off after Rnd 11. Instead insert your 12mm black safety eye or doll joint inside the arm and have the post stick out between Rnds 10 and 11. Lightly fill the arm with fibrefill and continue with Rnd 12.

Rnd 12: (Dc2tog) 4 times. (4 sts)



Ss in next st, cut yarn and fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing. Using your yarn needle, weave the yarn tail through the front loop of each remaining stitch and pull it tight to close. Weave in all yarn ends. When both arms are made they can be attached to the body at Rnd 14 at equal distance from one another.

LEGS (MAKE 2)

In col 3 make a magic loop.

Rnd 1 (RS): 5 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (5 sts)

Rnd 2: 2 dc in each st. (10 sts)

Rnd 3: 1 dc in each st. (10 sts)

Change to col 2.

Rnd 4: 1 dc in each st. (10 sts)

Change to col 1.

Rnds 5-13: 1 dc in each st. (10 sts)

Do not fasten off after Rnd 13. Instead insert your 12mm black safety eye (or use doll joints) inside the leg and have the post sticking out between Rnds 12 and 13. Lightly fill the leg with fibrefill and continue with Rnd 14.

Rnd 14: (Dc2tog) 5 times. (5 sts)

Ss in next st, cut yarn and fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing. Using your yarn needle, weave the yarn tail through the front loop of each remaining st and pull it tight to close. Weave in all yarn ends. When both legs are made they can be attached to the body around rnd 5 or wherever they look good when the body of the plush is seated on a flat surface. The joint should be inserted into the body directly below the spot where the arm joint was placed.

TAIL

In col 1 make a magic loop.

Rnd 1 (RS): 5 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (5 sts)

Rnd 2: 2 dc in next 3 sts, change to col 2, 2 dc in next 2 sts. (10 sts)

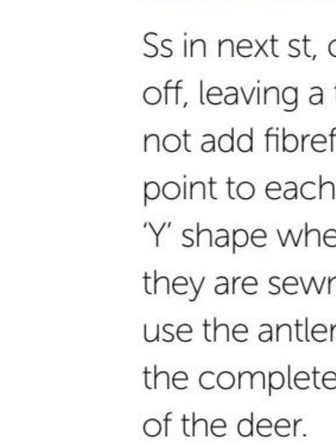
Rnd 3: 1 dc in each st with the same colour used in the last round (6 in col 1 and 4 in col 2). (10 sts)

Rnd 4: In col 1, dc2tog, 1 dc in next 2 sts, dc2tog, change to col 2, (dc2tog) twice. (6 sts)

Fasten off, leaving a tail in beige yarn for sewing up. Pinch the tail shut then attach it to the rump where it touches the table when the reindeer is seated. The white stitches should face downwards.

SPOTS

In col 2 embroider spots randomly onto the back with white yarn in a star pattern, using the image as a guide. After creating your first spot, move your needle to the next place on the body where you want to the centre of the next spot to be and make the next star. Repeat as many times as you like.



MEVLINN GUSICK

Mevlinn has a BFA in Fine Arts Painting. Her interest in crochet began when she had too much time between classes and a family member suggested crochet would be fun. It peaked her curiosity and today she's crocheting amigurumi whenever she gets the chance and giving them to those she loves.

www.mevvsan.com

STOCKING BUNTING

Use up your oddments of 4ply yarn to create this cute mini-stocking bunting. Choose Christmas colours or opt for brights or pastels, then fill them with sweets or hand-written notes

DIFFICULTY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

WHAT YOU NEED

- 2.75mm hook
- You will need to use 4ply weight (sport) yarn in nine chosen colours.
  In this project we have used DMC Natura Just cotton, 100% cotton, 50g/155m/70yds.
  You will need oddments each of:
  Colour 1: White
  Colour 2: Red
  Colour 3: Orange
  Colour 4: Light green
  Colour 5: Bright green
  Colour 6: Yellow
  Colour 7: Blue
  Colour 8: Lilac
  Colour 9: Dark green
- 2m of twine or thick yarn
- Mini wooden pegs – one for each stocking
- Stitch marker
- Wool needle

MEASUREMENTS

Each stocking is approx 10 cm long (excluding hanging loop)

Pattern

STOCKING

Using chosen main colour and 3mm hook, make a magic loop or ch 2.

Rnd 1: 6 dc in the centre of the magic loop, or into 2nd ch from hook. (6 sts)

Pull yarn end gently to close up the magic loop.

Place marker to show the start of the rnd and move it up as you work.

Rnd 2: 2 dc in every st to end. (12 sts)

Rnd 3: *1 dc in next st, 2 dc in next st; rep from * to end. (18 sts)

Rnds 4-10: 1 dc in every st to end, changing to col 1 during the last dc of Rnd 10.

Now work in rows for heel.

HEEL

Row 1: 1 dc in next 11 sts, turn and continue in rows (leaving remaining sts unworked).

Rows 2-4: 1 ch (not counted as a st), 1 dc in each st to end, turn. (11 sts)

Row 5: Miss st at base of loop on hook, 1 dc in next 8 sts, miss next st, 1 dc in next st, turn. (9 sts)

Row 6: Miss st at base of loop on hook, 1 dc in next 6 sts, miss next st, 1 dc in next st, turn. (7 sts)

Row 7: Miss st at base of loop on hook, (dc2tog) twice, miss next st, 1 dc in last st, do not turn. (3 sts)

Fasten off and keep RS facing.

LEG

Worked in a continuous spiral.

Rnd 1: Make a slip knot onto hook with main colour and join with a ss to the centre stitch of Row 7 of Heel. 1 ch (not counted as a st), 1 dc in same st, work 5 dc evenly along the heel edge, work 1 dc in each of the 7 sts of the stocking, work 5 dc evenly along the next edge of heel. (18 sts)

Continue in a spiral.

Rnds 2-11: 1 dc in every st to end, changing to col 1 during the last dc of Rnd 11. (18 sts)

Rnds 12-14: In col 1 , 1 dc in back loop only of every st to end.

At the end of Rnd 14, ss in next 2 sts so that you are at the centre back of stocking.

HANGING LOOP

Ch 18, ss in next st. Cut yarn and fasten off.

Weave in all ends and trim.

FINISHING

When you have made all 8 stockings (or more if desired), gently steam them flat and leave to dry. Cut a 2m length of twine or thick yarn and fix each stocking to the twine with a tiny wooden peg.



LYNNE ROWE

Lynne Rowe is a freelance knit and crochet designer, technical editor, craft author and tutor. She loves to pass on her skills to help others to knit, crochet and create. Read more about Lynne's yarn adventures at **www.thewoolnest.blogspot.co.uk www.knitcrochetcreate.com**

PATTERN NOTES

- Stockings are worked in a continuous spiral (without joining rounds) from the toe up
- The heel is worked in rows
- Your finished size may vary depending on your yarn weight, hook size and tension
- Always use a stitch marker to mark the first stitch of the round



CHRISTMAS ANGEL

Create an elegant, winged angel with a bell-shaped dress as the perfect Christmas décor or gift!

DIFFICULTY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

WHAT YOU NEED

- 2.75mm hook
- In this project we have used Caron Simply Soft, 100% acrylic, 170g, 288m (in 3 colours) and Red Heart Soft, 100% acrylic, 141g, 234m (in 1 colour). You will need to use any Aran (worsted weight) yarn in your chosen colours.
  Colour 1: Peach; 1 ball
  Colour 2: White; 1 ball
  Colour 3: Blue; 1 ball
  Colour 4: Brown; 1 ball
- Polyester fibre
- Safety pins
- Scissors
- White pipe cleaners
- Yarn needle
- Optional: flower applique or embellishment for hair

MEASUREMENTS

Approx 20 cm talll



JASMIN WANG

Jasmin is an artist and crafter who enjoys painting, sewing, origami, and of course – crocheting! She loves bringing ideas and concepts to life through the art of crochet.
www.sweetsofties.com

Pattern

HEAD AND BODY

Note: The head and body are all worked in one piece from head to toe. Do not fasten off until instructed to do so.

Using 2.75mm hook, in col 1 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close, ss to first dc. (6 sts)

Rnd 2: Ch 1 (not counted as a st here and throughout), 2 dc in each st, ss to first dc. (12 sts)

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

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

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

Rnds 6-11: Ch 1, 1 dc in each st, ss to first dc. (30 sts)

Rnd 12: Ch 1, (1 dc in next 3 sts, dc2tog) 6 times, ss to first dc. (24 sts)

Rnd 13: Ch 1, (1 dc in next 2 sts, dc2tog) 6 times, ss to first dc. (18 sts)

Fill head firmly with fibrefill, but be careful not to stretch the stitches.

Rnd 14: Ch 1, 1 dc in next 3 sts, (dc2tog) 6 times, 1 dc in next 3 sts, ss to first dc. (12 sts)

Continue with neck

Rnd 15: Ch 1, (dc2tog) 6 times, ss to first st. (6 sts)

Rnds 16-17: Ch 1, 1 dc in each st, ss to first dc. (6 sts)

Continue with upper body

Rnd 18: Ch 1, 2 dc in each st, ss to first dc. (12 sts)

Rnd 19: Ch 1, (1 dc in next st, 2 dc in next st) 6 times, ss to first dc. (18 sts)

Change to col 2.

Rnd 20: Ch 1, 1 dc in next 7 sts, 2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next 2 sts, 2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next 7 sts, ss to first dc. (20 sts)

Rnd 21: Ch 1, 1 dc in next 7 sts, 2 dc in next 2 sts, 1 dc in next 2 sts, 2 dc in next 2 sts, 1 dc in next 7 sts, ss to first dc. (24 sts)

Rnd 22: Ch 1, 1 dc in each st, ss to first dc. (24 sts)

Rnd 23: Ch 1, 1 dc in next 7 sts, (dc2tog) twice, 1 dc in next 2 sts, (dc2tog) twice, 1 dc in next 7 sts, ss to first dc. (20 sts)

Rnd 24: Ch 1, 1 dc in next 8 sts, dc2tog, 1 dc in next st, dc2tog, 1 dc in next 7 sts, ss to first dc. (18 sts)

Rnd 25: Ch 1, 1 dc in next 5 sts, (dc2tog) 4 times, 1 dc in next 5 sts, ss to first dc. (14 sts)

Rnds 26-28: Ch 1, 1 dc in each st, ss to first dc. (14 sts)

At this point, you can fold a pipe cleaner in half and insert it up the neck to provide neck support and stability. Fill the upper body and chest firmly with fibrefill, but be careful not to stretch the stitches.

Rnd 29 (blo): Ch 1, (1 dcblo in next st, 2 dcblo in next st) 7 times, ss to first dc. (21 sts)

Note: The dress skirt will begin in the front loops of Rnd 29.

Continue with lower body

Rnd 30: Ch 1, (1 dc in next 6 sts, 2 dc in next st) 3 times, ss to first dc. (24 sts)

Rnds 31-50: Ch 1, 1 dc in each st, ss to first dc. (24 sts)

Fill the rest of body firmly with fibrefill.





Patterns

Rnd 51 (blo): Ch 1, (1 dcblo in next 2 sts, dc2togblo) 6 times, ss to first dc. (18 sts)

Rnd 52: Ch 1, (1 dc in next st, dc2tog) 6 times, ss to first dc. (12 sts)

Rnd 53: Ch 1, (dc2tog) 6 times, ss to first dc. (6 sts)

Ss in next st, cut yarn and fasten off; weave in the ends.

DRESS SKIRT

To begin, hold the doll upside-down and facedown. Start with col 2. Attach yarn to the back side of the doll, at a spare front loop of Rnd 29 of the body.

Rnd 1: Ch 3 (not counted as a st), (1 tr in next st, 2 tr in next st) 7 times, ss to top of first tr. (21 sts)

Rnd 2: Ch 3 (not counted as a st), (1 tr in next 6 sts, 2 tr in next st) 3 times, ss to top of first tr. (24 sts)

Rnd 3: Ch 3 (not counted as a st), (1 tr in next 7 sts, 2 tr in next st) 3 times, ss to top of first tr. (27 sts)

Rnd 4: Ch 3 (not counted as a st), (1 tr in next 8 sts, 2 tr in next st) 3 times, ss to top of first tr. (30 sts)

Rnd 5: Ch 3 (not counted as a st), (1 tr in next 9 sts, 2 tr in next st) 3 times, ss to top of first tr. (33 sts)

Rnd 6: Ch 3 (not counted as a st), (1 tr in next 10 sts, 2 tr in next st) 3 times, ss to top of first tr. (36 sts)

Rnd 7: Ch 3 (not counted as a st), (1 tr in next 11 sts, 2 tr in next st) 3 times, ss to top of first tr. (39 sts)

Rnd 8: Ch 3 (not counted as a st), (1 tr in next 12 sts, 2 tr in next st) 3 times, ss to top of first tr. (42 sts)

Rnd 9: Ch 3 (not counted as a st), (1 tr in next 13 sts, 2 tr in next st) 3 times, ss to top of first tr. (45 sts)

Rnd 10: Ch 3 (not counted as a st), (1 tr in next 14 sts, 2 tr in next st) 3 times, ss to top of first tr. (48 sts)

Rnd 11: (Ch 3, miss next 2 sts, ss in next st) 16 times.

Cut yarn and fasten off; weave in the ends.



HAIR CAP

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (6 sts)

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

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

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

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

Rnds 6-9: 1 dc in each st. (30 sts)

Ss in next st, cut yarn and fasten off with a long tail for sewing to the head later.

HAIR BUN

In col 4 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (6 sts)

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

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

Rnds 4-5: 1 dc in each st. (18 sts)

Ss in next st, cut yarn and fasten off with a long tail for sewing to the hair cap later.

ARMS (MAKE 2)

In col 1 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 5 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close, ss to first dc. (5 sts)

Rnds 2-3: Ch 1 (not counted as a st here and throughout), 1 dc in each st, ss to first dc. (5 sts)

Change to col 2.

Rnds 3-12: Ch 1, 1 dc in each st, ss to first dc. (5 sts)

Ss in next st, cut yarn and fasten off with a long tail for attaching to the body later.

WINGS (MAKE 2)

In col 3, ch 5.

Row 1 (RS): 1 dc in 2nd ch from hook, 1 dc in each remaining ch, turn. (4 sts)

Rows 2-5: Ch 1 (not counted as a st), 1 dc in each st, turn. (4 sts)

Row 6: Ch 1, 1 dc in next 4 sts, next, continue down the left side of the piece, making 5 dc evenly spaced along the row ends, turn. (9 sts)

Row 7: Ch 6, 1 dc in 2nd ch from hook, 1 dc in next 8 sts, 2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next 4 sts, turn. (15 sts)

Row 8: Ch 1, dc2tog, 1 dc in next 13 sts, turn. (14 sts)

Row 9: Ch 5, 1 dc in 2nd ch from hook, 1 dc in next 15 sts, dc2tog, turn. (17 sts)

Row 10: Ch 1, 1 dc in each st, turn. (17 sts)

Row 11: Ch 4, 1 dc in 2nd ch from hook, 1 dc in next 17 sts, dc2tog. (19 sts)



TOP TIP

This angel can easily be customised in a variety of ways! You can change her hair and dress colours or style. You may also add embellishments, such as beads in her dress, appliques in her hair, and more!

Next, work 2 dc in the same st at the last dc, work 10 dc evenly along the left edge of the wing.

Cut yarn and fasten off with a long tail for attaching to the body later.

FINISHING

Stuff the hair bun lightly.

Position the hair bun over Rnd 3 of the hair cap. The stitches should match up, because Rnd 3 of the hair cap = 18 sts, and the opening of the hair bun = 18 sts. Using a yarn needle and the yarn tail from the hair bun, sew it securely onto the hair cap.

Position the doll's arms on both sides of the body, and sew them using a yarn needle and the yarn tails from the arms.

Position the two wings back-to-back. Join them together by sewing the bottom 5 stitches together.

Position the joined wings in the middle of the doll's back, above her dress. Sew securely onto the doll's back.

Sew the hair cap onto the doll's head. For a more natural look, sew the fringe one strand at a time on the doll's head.

Optional: Add embellishment (eg, flower, applique) onto the doll's hair.

MARTIN THE LIGHT-HEARTED SNOWMAN

A cheery snowman with charcoal buttons, branches as arms and an old bucket like hat

DIFFICULTY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

WHAT YOU NEED

- 3mm hook
- In this project we have used BBB Filati Full, 100% merino wool, 50g/90m. You will need to use any Aran (worsted weight) yarn, in the following colours:
  Colour 1: White; 2 balls
  Colour 2: Orange; oddments
  Colour 3: Light Grey; oddments
  Colour 4: Dark Grey or Black; oddments
  Colour 5: Blue; oddments
- 8mm toy safety eyes, 1 pair
- Black thread for stitching the mouth
- Buttons
- Pink felt and thread for the cheeks
- Polyester fibrefill
- Stitch marker
- Yarn and embroidery needles

MEASUREMENTS

Approx 22cm tall



MARI-LIIS LILLE

Mari-Liis, known as lilleliis, has been crazy about amigurumi since 2008 when she first discovered crochet. Since then designing toys has become her greatest passion and self-realisation. Her first pattern book has been published in many languages including English. Keep your eyes open, because in 2018 there is a new book coming!

www.lilleliis.com

Pattern

HEAD

Crocheted from top to bottom.

Using 3mm hook, in col 1 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (6 sts)

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

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

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

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

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

Rnd 7: (1 dc in next 5 sts, 2 dc in next st) 6 times. (42 sts)

Rnd 8: (1 dc in next 6 sts, 2 dc in next st) 6 times. (48 sts)

Rnds 9-13: 1 dc in each st. (48 sts)

Rnd 14: (1 dc in next 7 sts, 2 dc in next st) 6 times. (54 sts)

Rnds 15-19: 1 dc in each st. (54 sts)

Place the safety eyes between Rnds 13 and 14. Insert the first eye between 2 stitches, then count 5 holes to the left and insert the second eye in the next hole. Fix the safety eyes with the washers supplied, on the inside of the work.

Rnd 20: (1 dc in next 7 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. (48 sts)

Rnd 21: (1 dc in next 6 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. (42 sts)

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

Fill about half of the head with fibrefill. Add more fibrefill as the work progresses and make sure it`s stuffed quite heavily.

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

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

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

Ss in next st, cut yarn and fasten off.

CARROT NOSE

In col 2 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (6 sts)

Rnd 2: 1 dc in each st. (6 sts)

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

Rnd 4: 1 dc in next 3 sts, 2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next 3 sts. (8 sts)

Rnd 5: 1 dc in next 7 sts, 2 dc in next st. (9 sts)

Rnd 6: 1 dc in next 4 sts, 2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next 4 sts. (10 sts)

Rnd 7: 1 dc in next 9 sts, 2 dc in next st. (11 sts)

Ss in next st, cut yarn and fasten off. Add just a tiny bit of fibrefill to the nose and sew it to the face. Cut small round pieces of pink felt and sew them as cheeks to the face. Stitch a mouth using black thread.

BODY

Crocheted from the bottom up.

In col 1, make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (6 sts)

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

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

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

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

Rnd 6: (1 dc in next 4 sts, 2 dc in next st) 6 times. (26 sts)

Rnd 7: (1 dc in next 5 sts, 2 dc in next st) 6 times. (42 sts)

Rnd 8: (1 dc in next 6 sts, 2 dc in next st) 6 times. (48 sts)

Rnd 9: (1 dc in next 7 sts, 2 dc in next st) 6 times. (54 sts)

Rnd 10: (1 dc in next 8 sts, 2 dc in next st) 6 times. (60 sts)

Rnd 11: (1 dc in next 9 sts, 2 dc in next st) 6 times. (66 sts)

Rnds 12-26: 1 dc in each st. (66 sts)

Rnd 27: (1 dc in next 9 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. (60 sts)

Rnd 28: (1 dc in next 8 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. (54 sts)

Rnd 29: (1 dc in next 7 sts,



Perfect for...

Sitting on your mantle or windowsill during the Winter period. Great for young children, too!

dc2tog) 6 times. (48 sts)

Rnd 30: (1 dc in next 6 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. (42 sts)

Fill about half of the body with fibrefill. Add more fibrefill as the work progresses and make sure it`s stuffed quite heavily.

Rnds 31-40: 1 dc in each st. (42 sts)

Rnd 41: (1 dc in next 5 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. (36 sts)

Rnd 42: (1 dc in next 4 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. (30 sts)

Rnd 43: (1 dc in next 3 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. (24 sts)

Rnd 44: (1 dc in next 2 sts, dc2tog) 6 times. (18 sts)

Ss in next st, cut yarn and fasten off. Sew the head and body together.

LEGS (MAKE 2)

In col 1 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (6 sts)

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

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

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

Rnds 5-8: 1 dc in each st. (24 sts)

Rnd 9: (1 dc in each of next 6 sts, dc2tog) 3 times. (21 sts)

Rnd 10: 1 dc in each st. (21 sts)

Rnd 11: (1 dc in next 5 sts, dc2tog) 3 times. (18 sts)

Rnd 12: 1 dc in each st. (18 sts)

Rnd 13: (1 dc in next 4 sts, dc2tog) 3 times. (15 sts)

Rnd 14: 1 dc in each st. (15 sts)

Ss in next st, cut yarn and fasten off. Add only a small amount of fibrefill to keep the legs quite soft. Attach the legs to the body, approx 10 stitches apart, at the same time skipping 11 rounds of the starting point at the bottom of the body.

ARMS (MAKE 2)

The arm starts with making two branches which are later joined into one.

In col 3 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (6 sts)

Rnd 2-4: 1 dc in each st. (6 sts)

Ss in next st, cut yarn leaving a tail about 10 cm long and fasten off.

Put the piece aside until you prepare the second branch. To do this, rep Rnds 1-4. Without

Martin the light-hearted snowman

cutting the yarn continue on the second piece:

Rnds 5-7: 1 dc in each st. (6 sts)

Rnd 8: Now join the pieces together. Continuing with the second piece, 1 dc in each of next 6 sts. Continue around the first piece starting with the first st in what would have been the next round and work 1 dc in the each of next 6 sts. You should now have 12 sts. Continue to work in a spiral without joining each round.

Rnd 9: (1 dc in next 2 sts, dc2tog) 3 times. (9 sts)

Rnd 10: 1 dc in each st. (9 sts)

Rnd 11: (1 dc in next st, dc2tog) 3 times. (6 sts)

Rnds 12-13: 1 dc in each st. (6 sts)

Change to col 1.

Rnd 14: 2 dc in each st. (12 sts)

Rnd 15: (1 dc in next st, 2 dc in next st) 6 times. (18 sts)

Rnds 16-18: 1 dc in each st. (18 sts)

Ss in next st, cut yarn and fasten off. Fill the white part of the arm with fibrefill.

Sew the arms to the body leaving enough room for the scarf.

HAT

In col 4 make a magic ring.

Rnd 1 (RS): 6 dc into the ring and pull ring tight to close. (6 sts)

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

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

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

Rnd 5 (blo): 1 dcblo in each st. (24 sts)

Rnd 6: 1 dc in each st. (24 sts)

Rnd 7: (1 dc in next 3 sts, 2 dc in next st) 6 times. (30 sts)

Rnd 8: 1 dc in each st. (30 sts)

Rnd 9: (1 dc in next 3 sts, 2 dc in next st) 6 times. (36 sts)

Rnd 10: 1 dc in each st. (36 sts)

Rnd 11: (1 dc in next 3 sts, 2 dc in next st) 6 times. (42 sts)

Rnd 12: 1 dc in each st. (42 sts)

Rnd 13 (flo): 1 dcflo in each st. (42 sts)

Stitch an edging using col 3. Work double crochet around the edge stitches skipping every second stitch of the last round.

Fill the hat with fibrefill and sew onto the head using the back loops left unworked on the last round.

SCARF

Work in rows and in the back loops throughout the piece.

In col 5 ch 4.

Row 1: 1 dc in 2nd ch from hook, 1 dc in each of next 2 ch, turn. (3 sts)

Row 2 (blo): Ch 1 (not counted as a st, 1 dcblo in next 3 sts. (3 sts)

Repeat Rnd 2 until the scarf is long enough to tie around your snowmans neck.

Cut yarn and fasten off. Weave in ends.



STITCH PATTERN GALLERY

Armed with only a few simple stitches in your repertoire, there are many pretty and interesting fabrics you can make

With just three basic crochet stitches – double crochet (dc), treble crochet (tr) and half treble crochet (htr) – you can create a really wide variety of patterns, and these can be used to make many different projects. With these easy stitch patterns you could create a dishcloth, a scarf or even a blanket – anything rectangular in shape. These are all items that don't require strict measurements, so would make a great starter project if you're trying to improve your tension and technique.

To start off these patterns, make a foundation chain to your desired length, then keep following the pattern until the piece is as large as you would like it to be.

"With these easy stitch patterns, you could create a dishcloth, a scarf or even a blanket - anything rectangular in shape"

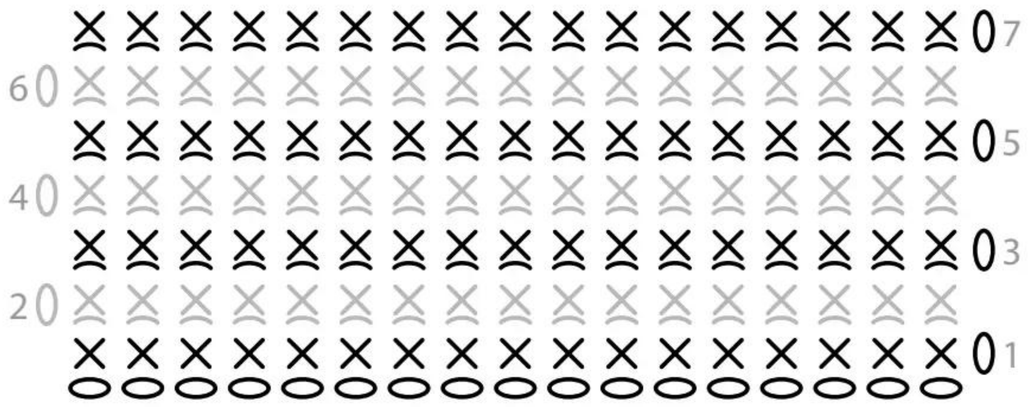
SINGLE CROCHET RIBBING

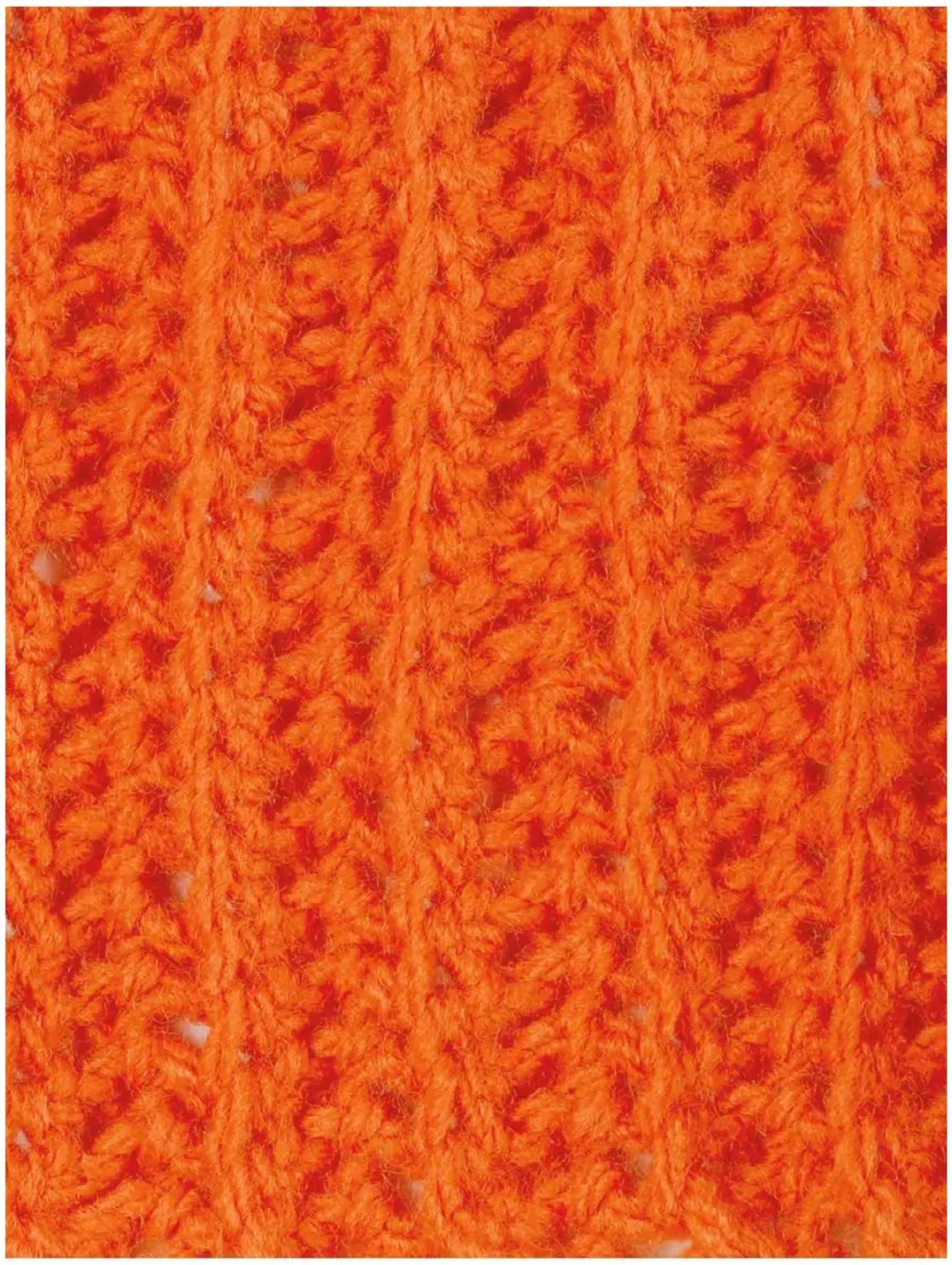
By crocheting into the back loops (BL) you will create a horizontal ridge that forms into a stretchy ribbed pattern.

Ch any number of sts.

Row 1: dc in 2nd ch from hook and in every remaining ch across.

Row 2: ch 1, turn, dc in BL of each st across.
Rep Row 2 for pattern.





GRANITE STITCH



This simple and pretty stitch is also known as moss or seed stitch.

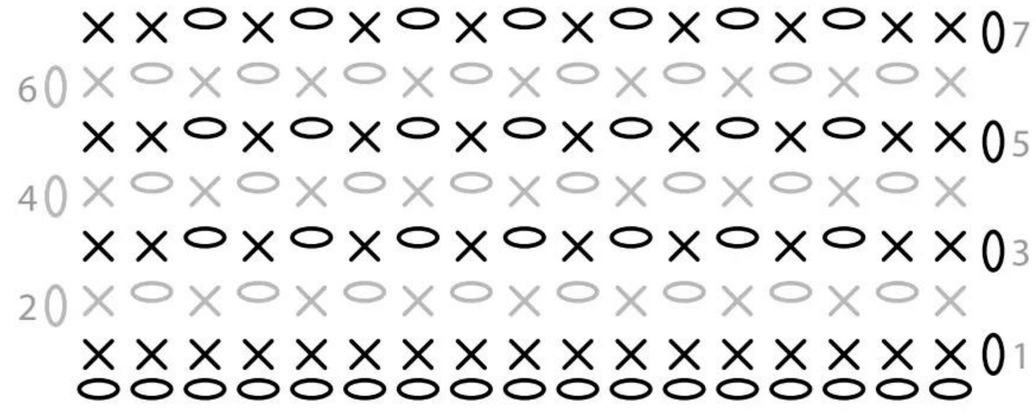
Ch an even number of sts.
Row 1: dc in 2nd ch from hook and in every remaining ch across.

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

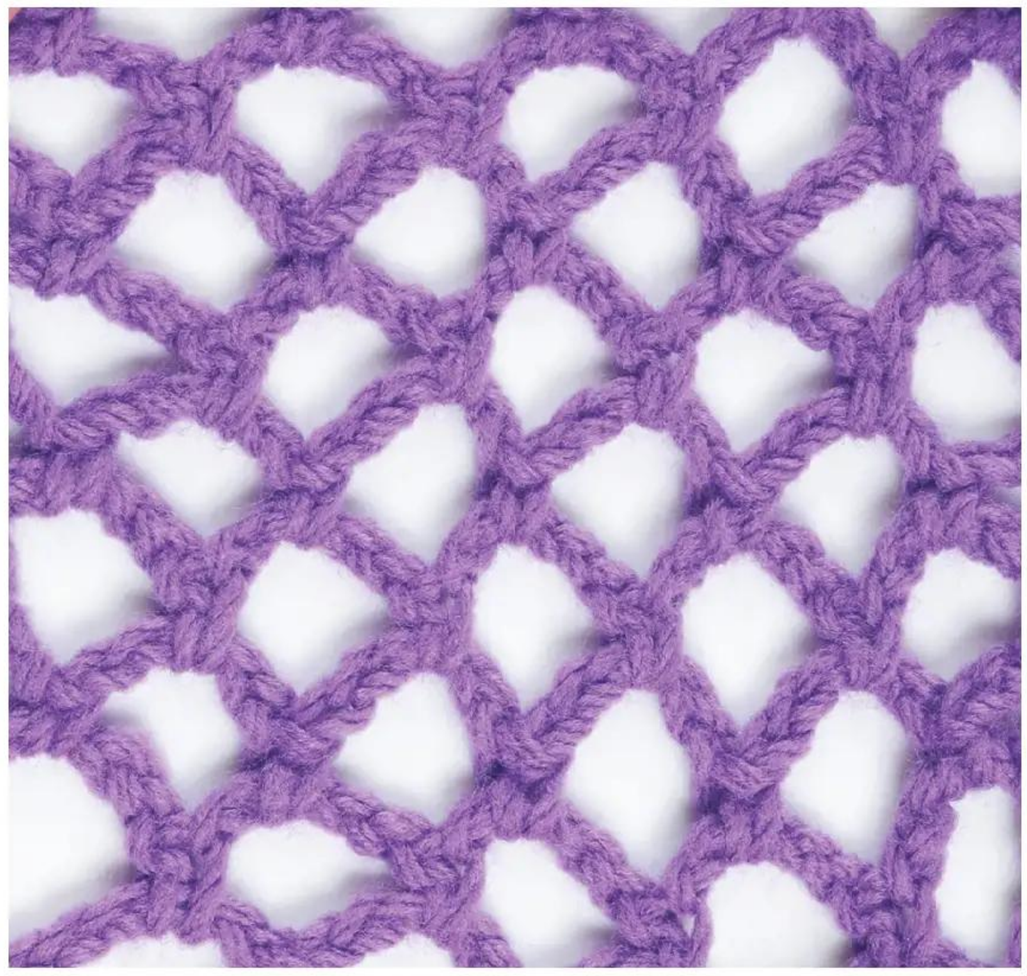
Row 3: ch 1, turn, dc in next st, *dc in next ch1-sp, ch 1, sk next st; rep from * across to last 2 sts, dc in next ch1-sp, dc in last st.

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

Rep Rows 3 and 4 for pattern.



CHAIN MESH



Open and lacy patterns like this are easy to make with a combination of double crochets and chains. It is important to block work like this to really define the pattern.

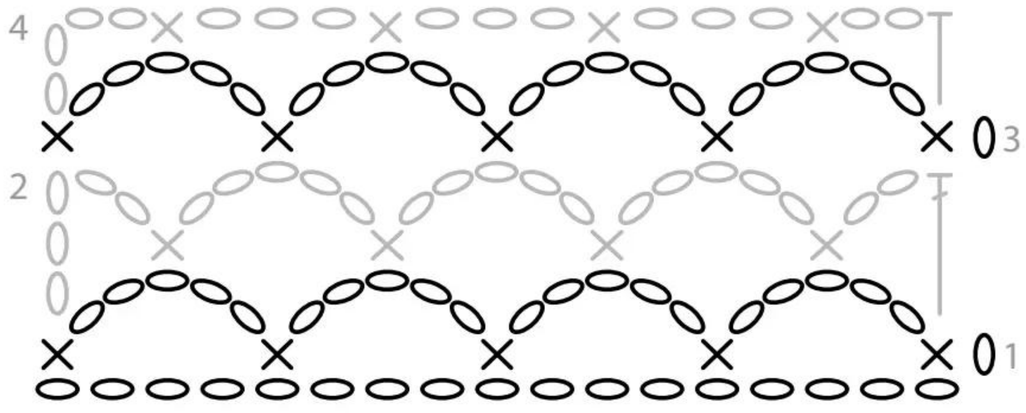
Ch a multiple of 4 sts plus 2.
Row 1: dc in 2nd ch from hook *ch 5, sk next 3 st, dc in next ch; rep from * across.

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

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

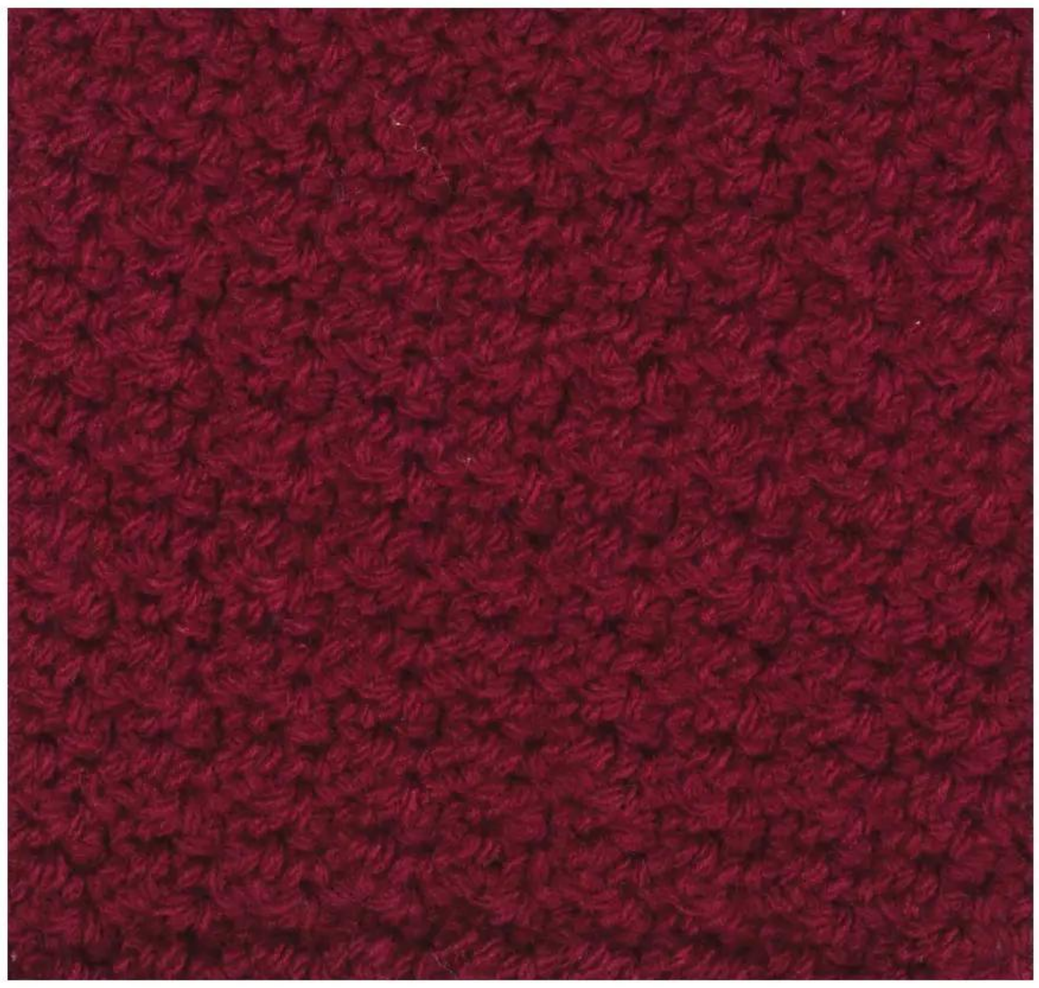
Rep rows 3 and 4 for pattern. To make a straight edge along the top, follow a Row 3 with Row 4.

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



References

UP-AND-DOWN STITCH

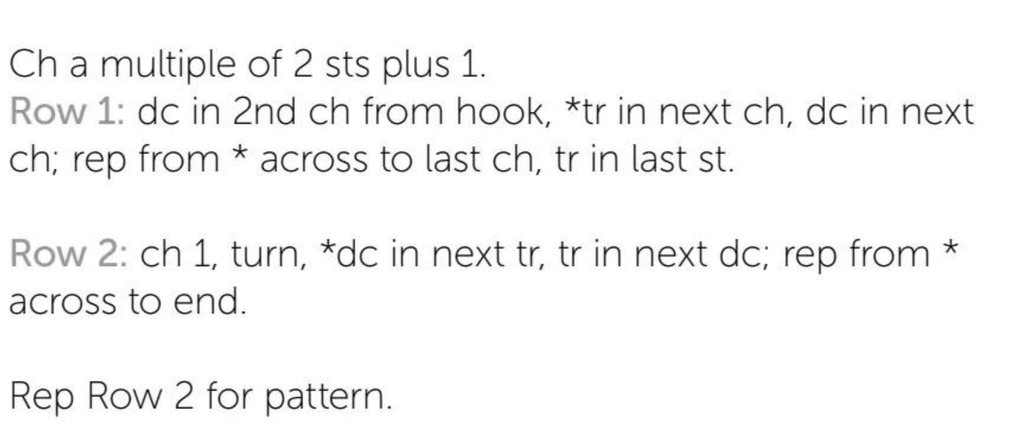


Using a combination of tall and short stitches produces this lightly textured fabric.

Ch a multiple of 2 sts plus 1.
Row 1: dc in 2nd ch from hook, *tr in next ch, dc in next ch; rep from * across to last ch, tr in last st.

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

Rep Row 2 for pattern.



FILET SQUARES

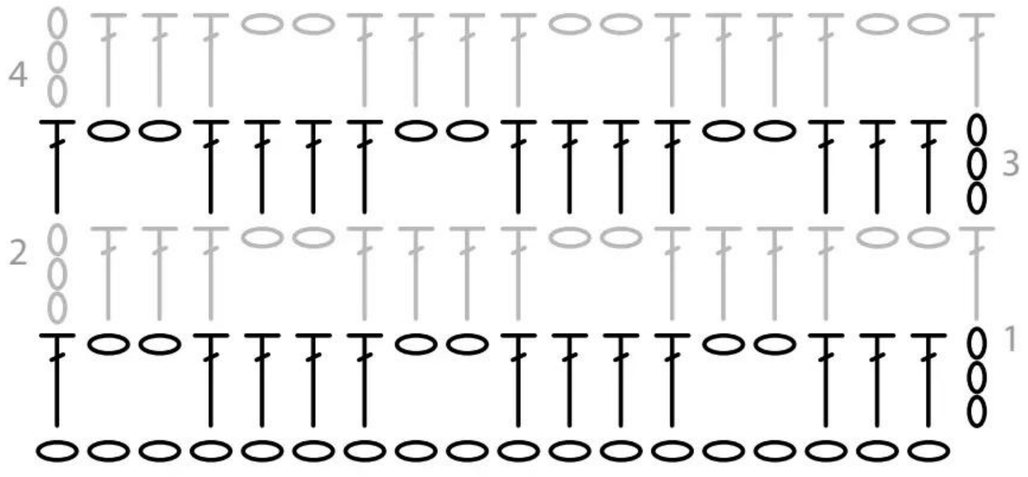


The alternating empty and filled block of stitches are characteristic of filet crochet designs, and can be modified quite simply by adding or subtracting the number of chs and trs for a different look.

Ch a multiple of 6 sts plus 3.
Row 1: tr in 4th ch from hook (unworked chs count as tr), tr in next 2 chs, ch 2, sk next 2 chs, *tr in next 4 chs, ch 2, sk next 2 chs; rep from * across to last ch, tr in last ch.

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

Rep Row 2 for pattern.



Stitch pattern gallery

RIPPLE

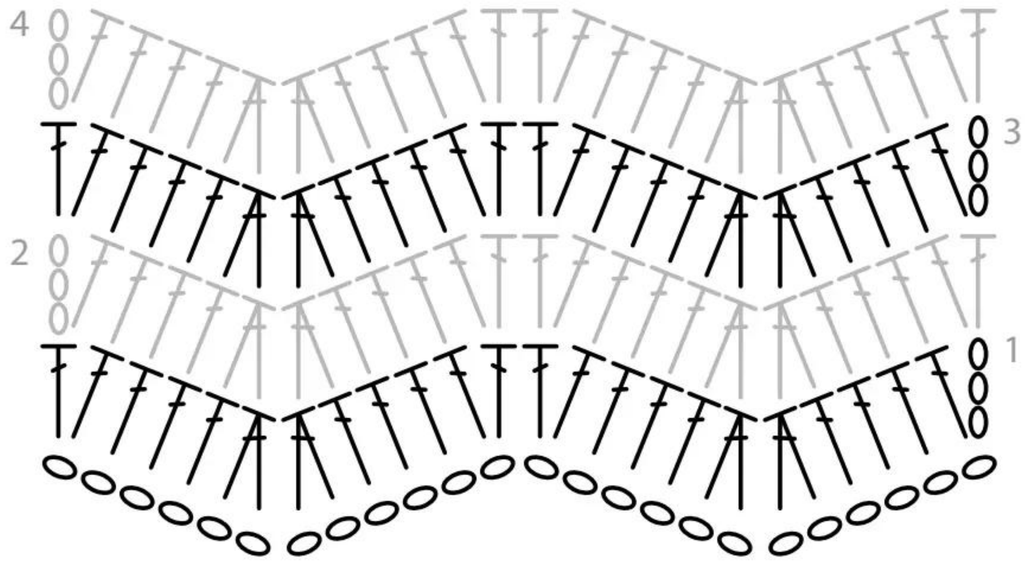


This fun rippling wave effect is created simply by stacking increases and decreases.

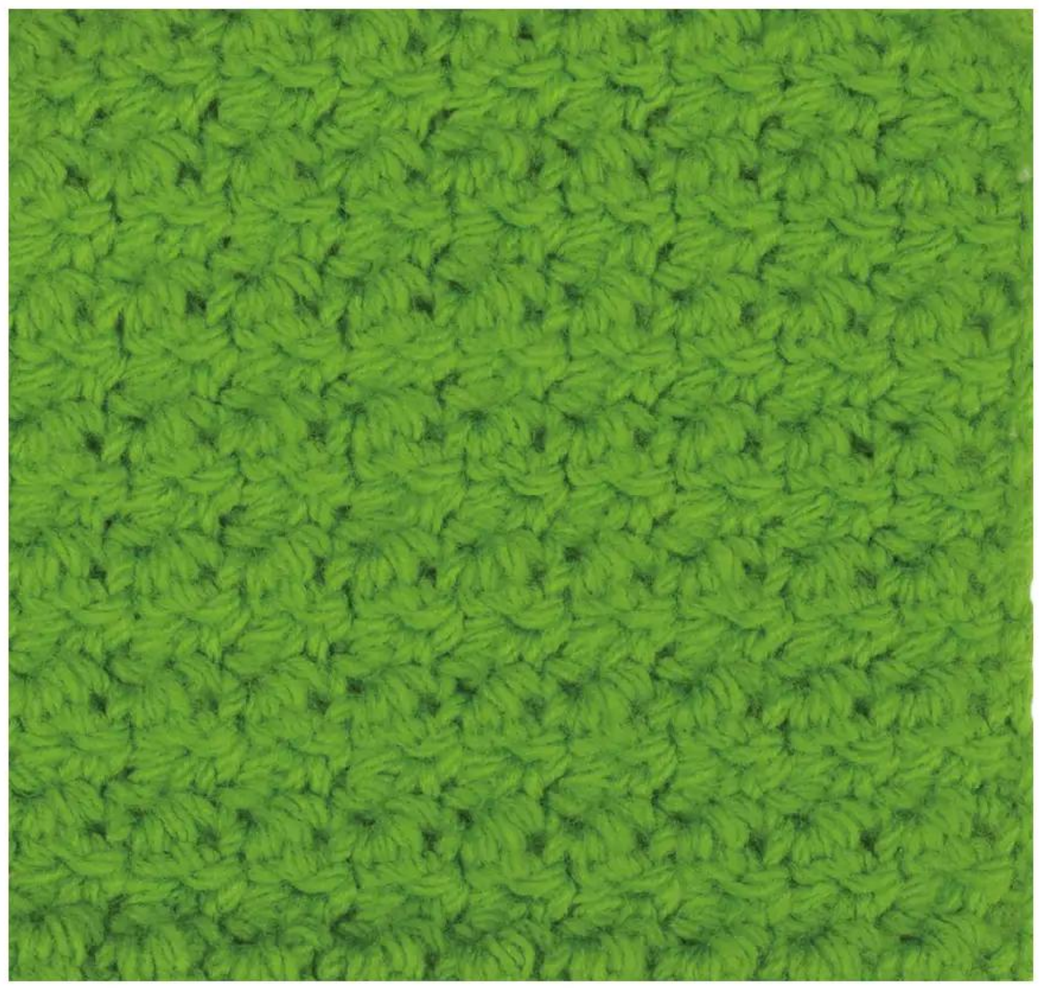
Ch a multiple of 12 sts plus 3.
Row 1: tr in 4th ch from hook (unworked chs count as tr), tr in next 3 chs, tr2tog twice, *tr in next 3 chs, 2 tr in next 2 chs, tr in next 3 chs, tr2tog twice; rep from * across to last 4 chs, tr in next 3 chs, 2 tr in last ch.

Row 2: ch 3 (counts as tr), turn, tr in same st, tr in next 3 sts, tr2tog twice, *tr in next 3 sts, 2 tr in next 2 sts, tr in next 3 sts, tr2tog twice; rep from * across to last 4 sts, tr in next 3 sts, 2 tr in top of t-ch.

Rep Row 2 for pattern.



GRIT STITCH



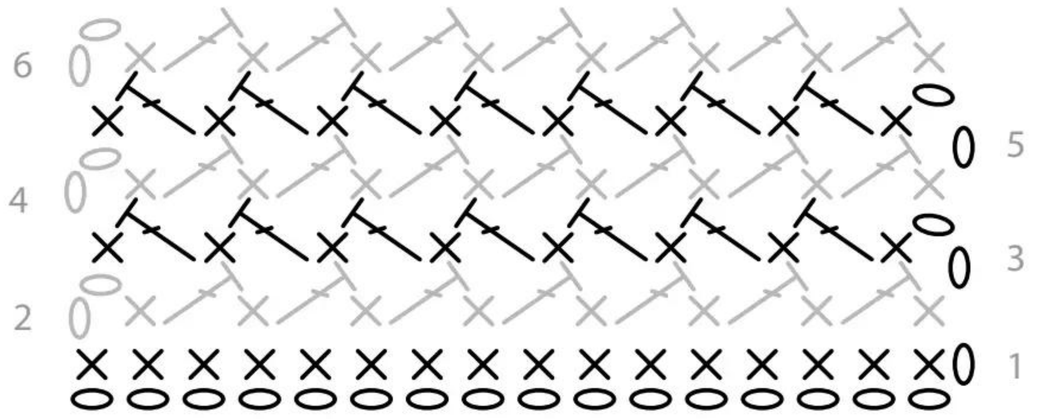
The grit stitch creates a dense and warm pattern, which is perfect for scarves.

Ch a multiple of 2 sts plus 1.
Row 1: dc in 2nd ch from hook and in every remaining ch across.

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

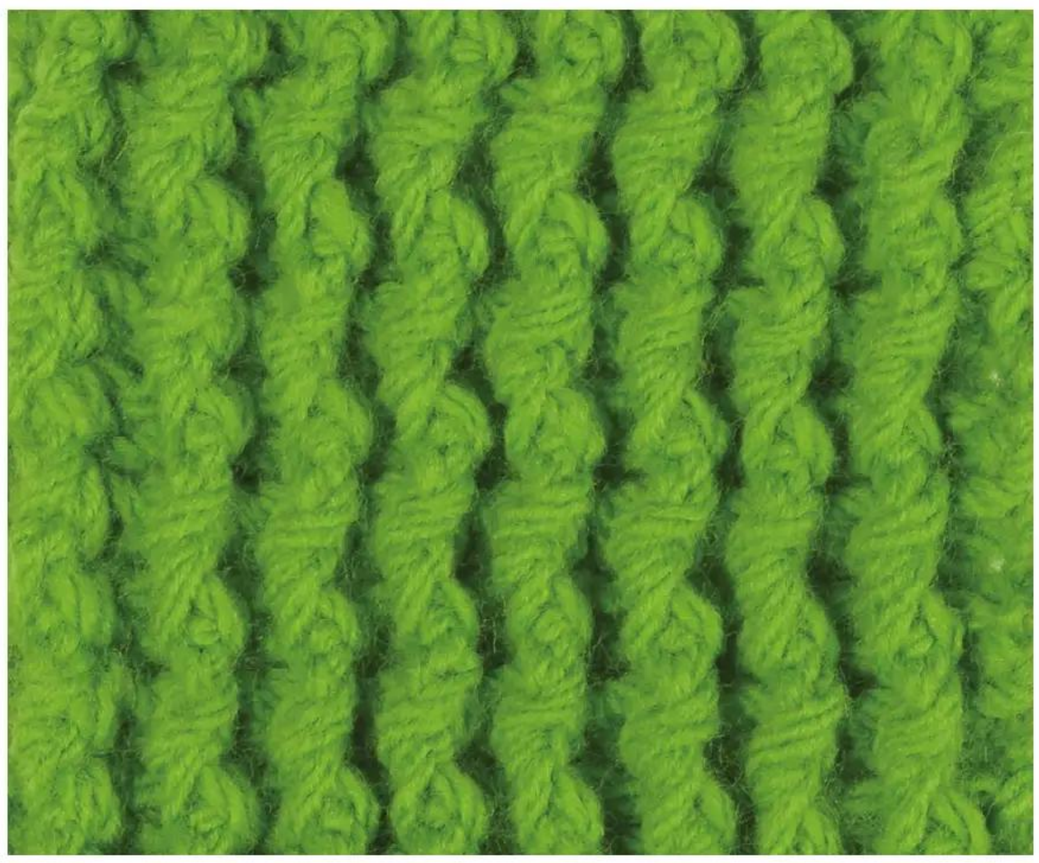
Row 3: ch 2, turn, (dc, tr) in every dc across, dc in top of t-ch.

Rep Row 3 for pattern.



References

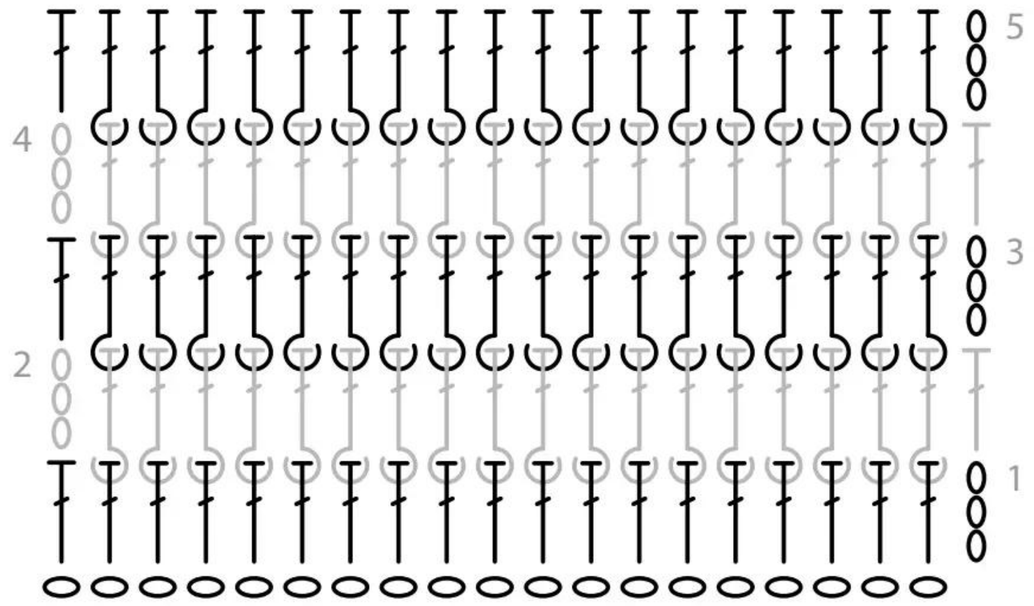
POST STITCH RIB



Ch a multiple of 2 sts.
Row 1: tr in 4th ch from hook (unworked chains count as tr), tr in each remaining ch across.

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

Rep Row 2 for pattern.



WAFFLE STITCH

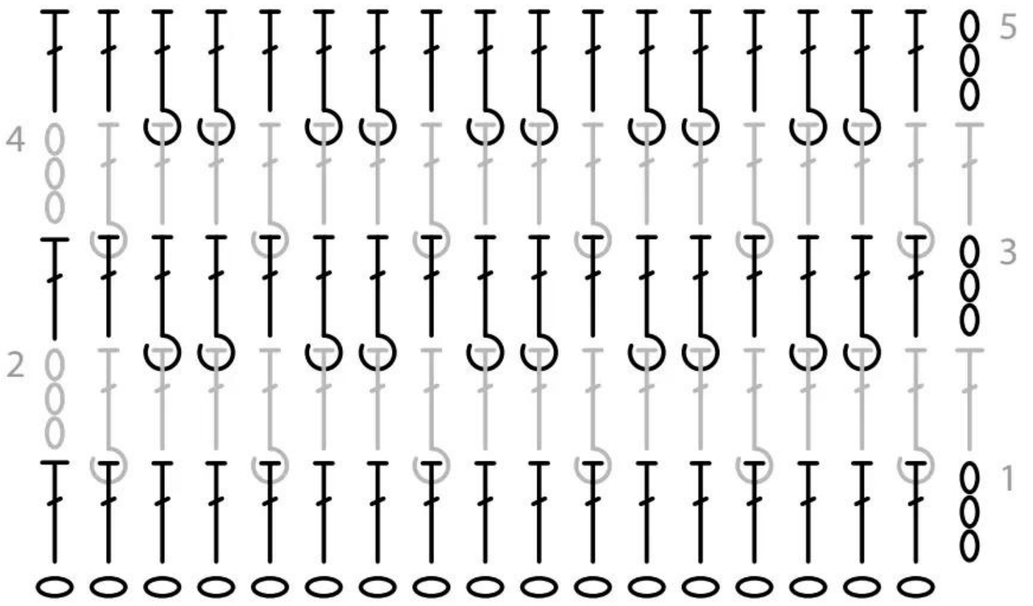


Ch a multiple of 3 sts plus 2.
Row 1: tr in 4th ch from hook (unworked chains count as tr), tr in each remaining ch across.

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

Row 3: ch 3, turn, *tr in next st, FPtr in next 2 sts; rep from * across to last 2 sts, tr in next st, tr in top of t-ch.

Rep Rows 2 and 3 for pattern.



Stitch pattern gallery

BASKET WEAVE



Ch a multiple of 6 sts plus 4.
Row 1: tr in 4th ch from hook (unworked chains count as tr), tr in each remaining ch across.

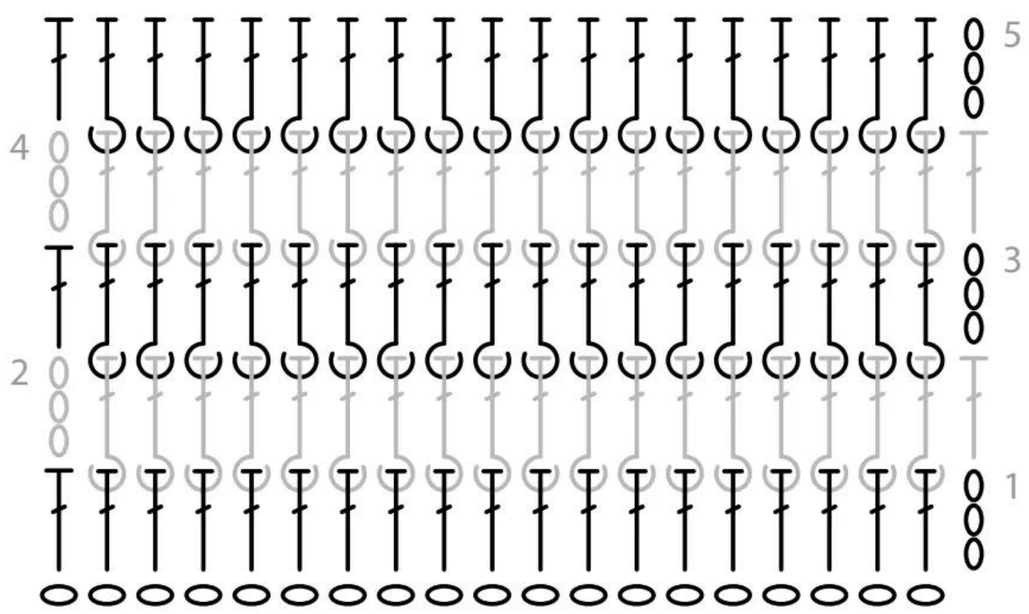
Row 2: ch 3 (counts as tr, here and throughout), turn, *FPtr in next 3 sts, BPtr in next 3 sts; rep from * across to last st, tr in top of t-ch.

Row 3: rep Row 2.

Row 4: ch 3, turn, *BPtr in next 3 sts, FPtr in next 3 sts; rep from * across to last st, tr in top of t-ch.

Row 5: rep Row 4.

Rep Rows 2 through 5 for pattern.



DIAMOND OVERLAY



Ch a multiple of 6 sts plus 3.
Row 1: dc in 2nd ch from hook and in each remaining ch across.

Row 2: ch 3 (counts as tr, here and throughout), turn, *sk next 2 sts, dtr in next st, tr in 2 skipped sts (working behind st just made), sk next st, tr in next 2 sts, dtr in skipped st (working in front of sts just made); rep from * across to last st, tr in last st.

Row 3: ch 1, turn, dc in each st across.

Row 4: ch 3, turn, *sk next st, tr in next 2 sts, dtr in skipped st (working in front of sts just made), sk next 2 sts, dtr in next st, tr in 2 skipped sts (working behind st just made); rep from * across to last st, tr in last st.

Row 5: rep Row 3.

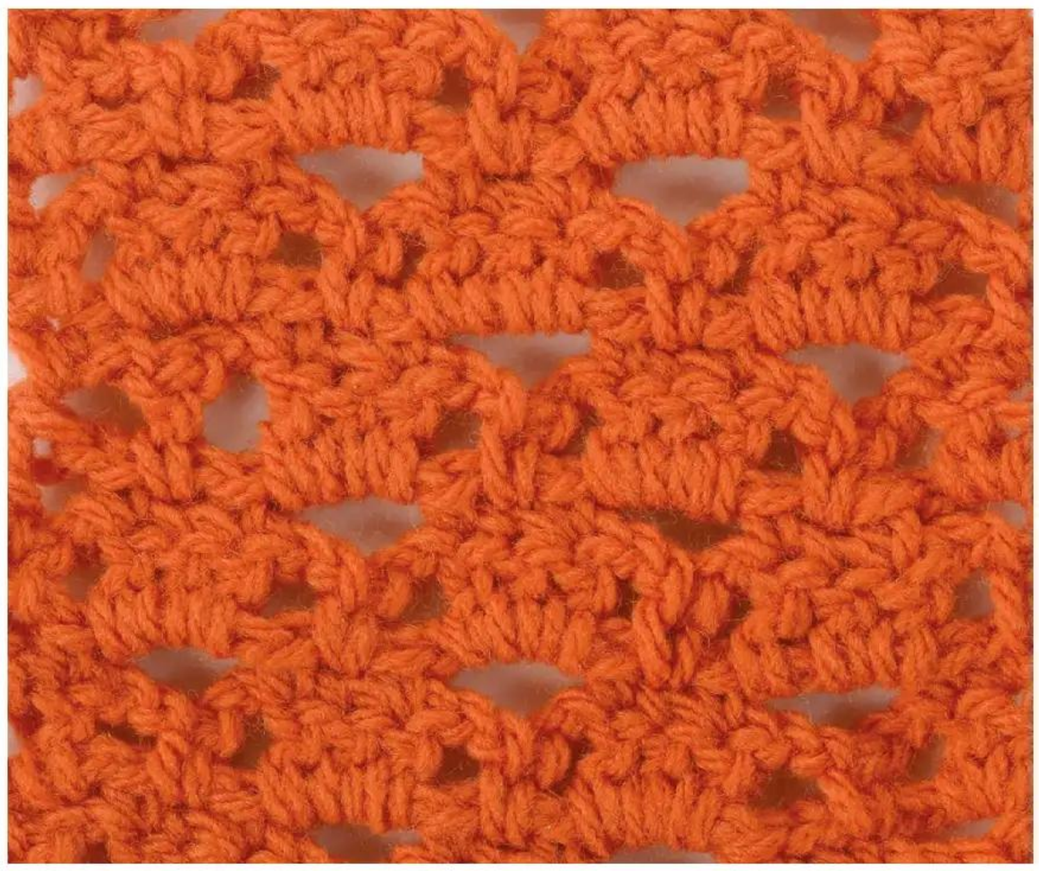
Rep Rows 2 through 5 for pattern.





References

TRIANGLE SPACES



Ch a multiple of 6 sts plus 2.

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

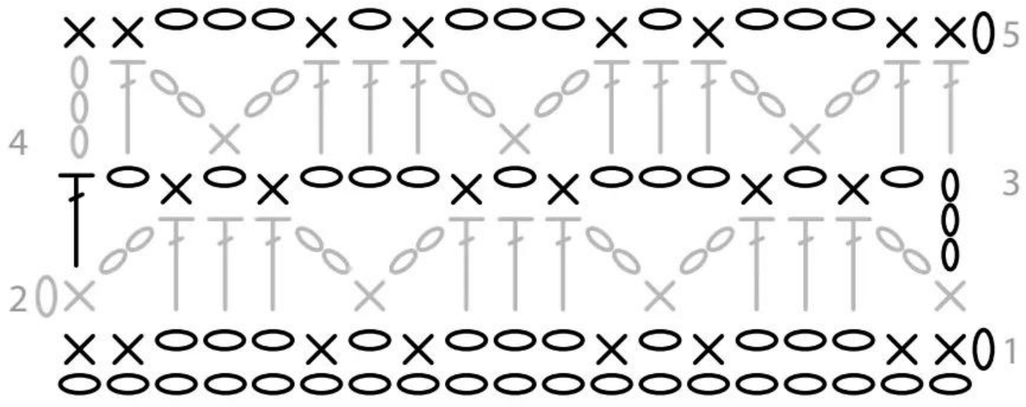
Row 2: ch 1, turn, dc in next st, ch 2, 3 tr in next ch3-sp, *ch 2, dc in] next ch1-sp, ch 2, 3 tr in next ch3-sp; rep from * across to last 2 sts, ch 2, sk next st, dc in last st.

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

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

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

Rep Rows 2 through 5 for pattern.



TUMBLING BLOCKS



SPECIAL STITCH

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

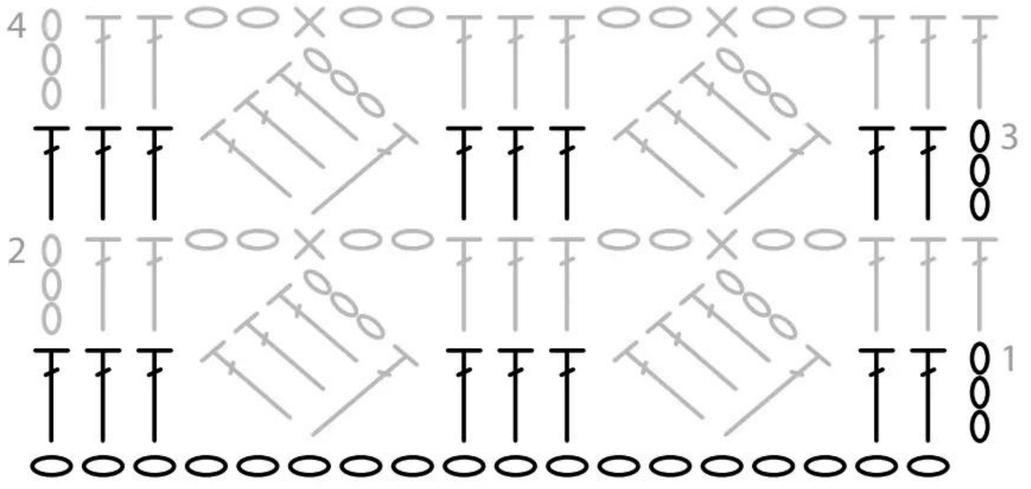
Ch a multiple of 8 sts plus 5.

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

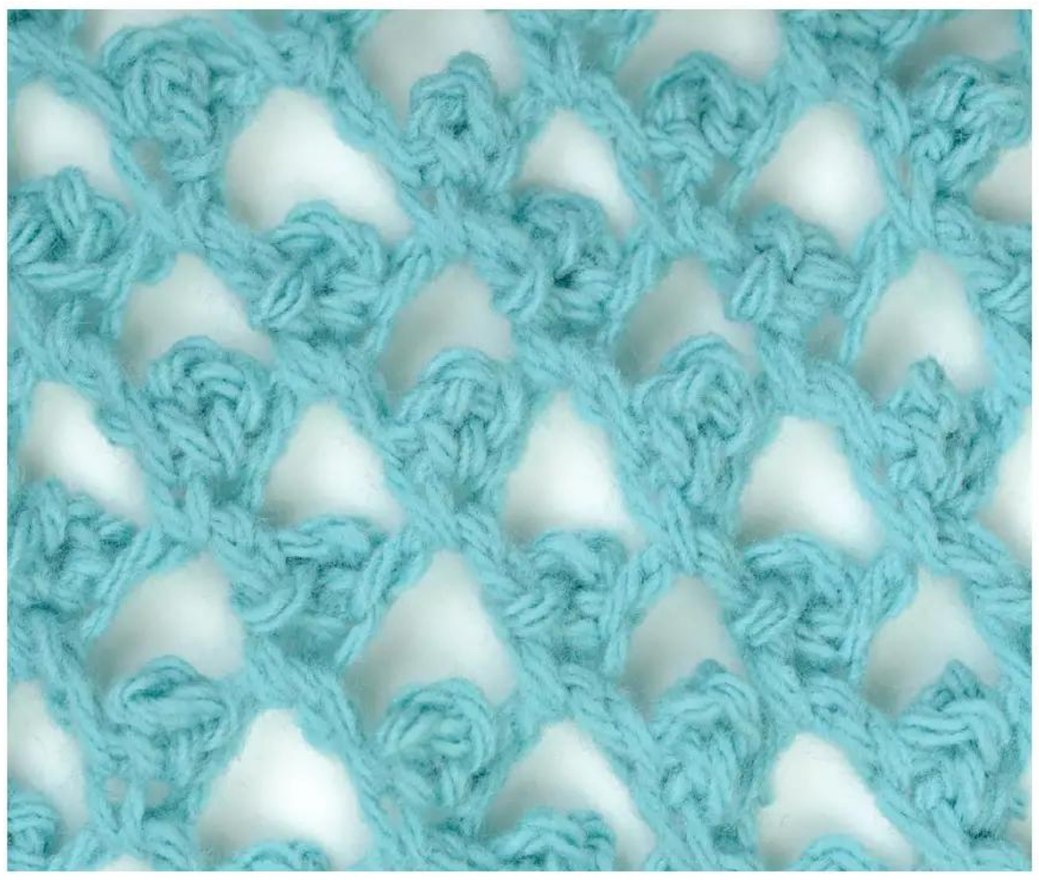
Row 2: ch 3 (counts as tr, here and throughout), turn, *tr in next 2 trs, ch 2, dc in ch3-sp, ch 2, sk next tr, tr in next tr; rep from * across to last 2 sts, tr in next tr, tr in top of t-ch.

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

Rep Rows 2 and 3 for pattern.



MINI PICOT MESH



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

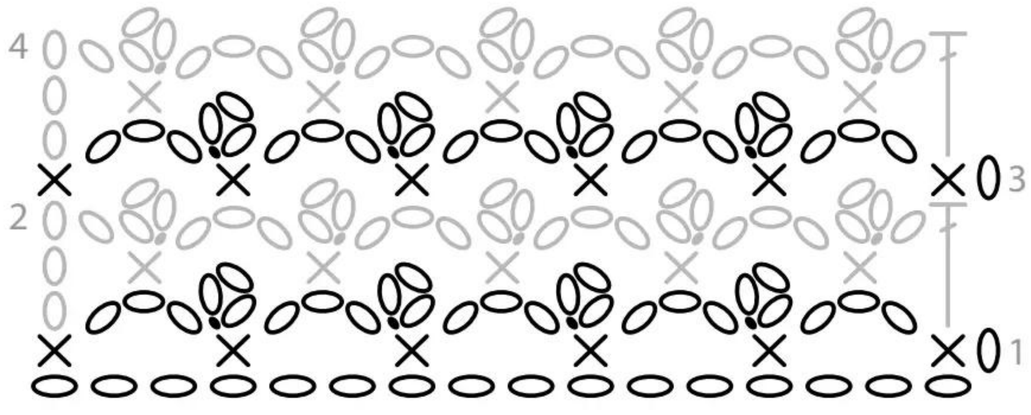
Ch a multiple of 3 sts plus 2.
Row 1: dc in 2nd ch from hook, *ch 3, sk next 2 chs, dc in next ch, picot; rep from * across to last 3 chs, ch 3, sk next 2 chs, dc in last ch.

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

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

Rep Rows 2 and 3 for pattern.

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



OFFSET ARCHES



SPECIAL STITCHES
Shell: (4 tr, ch 1, 4 tr) in specified st.

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

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

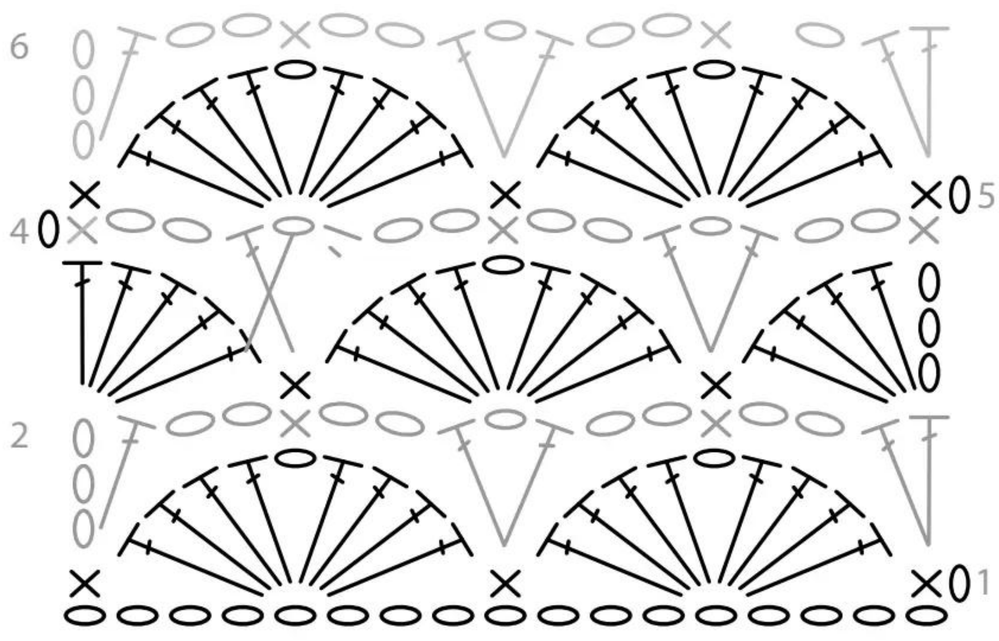
Row 2: ch 3 (counts as tr, here and throughout), turn, tr in same st, ch 2, *dc in top of next shell, ch 2, V st in next dc, ch 2; rep from * across to last shell, dc in top of last shell, ch 2, 2 tr in last dc.

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

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

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

Rep Rows 2 through 5 for pattern.





GLOSSARY

Asterisk*
A symbol used to mark a point in a pattern row, usually at the beginning of a set of repeated instructions.

Back loop (BL) only
A method of crocheting in which you work into only the back loop of a stitch instead of both loops.

Back post (BP) stitches
Textured stitches worked from the back around the post of the stitch below.

Ball band
The paper wrapper around a ball of yarn that contains information such as fibre content, amount/length of yarn, weight, colour and dye lot.

Block
A finishing technique that uses moisture to set stitches and shape pieces to their final measurements.

Blocking wire
A long, straight wire used to hold the edges of crochet pieces straight during blocking, most often for lace.

Bobble
A crochet stitch that stands out from the fabric, formed from several incomplete tall stitches joined at the top and bottom.

Brackets [ ]
Symbols used to surround a set of grouped instructions, often used to indicate repeats.

Chain (ch)
A simple crochet stitch that often forms the foundation that other stitches are worked into.

Chain space (ch-sp)
A gap formed beneath one or more chain stitches, usually worked into instead of into the individual chain(s).

Chainless foundation
A stretchy foundation plus first row of stitches that are made in one step

Chainless foundation stitches
Stitches that have an extra chain at the bottom so they can be worked into without first crocheting a foundation chain.

Chart
A visual depiction of a crochet pattern that uses symbols to represent stitches.

Cluster
A combination stitch formed from several incomplete tall stitches joined together at the top.

Contrast colour (CC)
A yarn colour used as an accent to the project's main colour.

Crochet hook
The tool used to form all crochet stitches.

Crossed stitches
Two or more tall stitches that are crossed, one in front of the other, to create an X shape.

Decrease (dec)
A shaping technique in which you reduce the number of stitches in your work.

Double crochet
The most basic crochet stitch.

Double treble crochet (dtr)
A basic crochet stitch three times as tall as a double crochet stitch.

Drape
The way in which your crocheted fabric hangs; how stiff or flowing it feels.

Draw up a loop
To pull up a loop of yarn through a stitch or space after inserting your hook into that stitch or space.

Fan
A group of several tall stitches crocheted into the same base stitch and usually separated by chains to form a fan shape.

Fasten off
To lock the final stitch with the yarn end so the crocheted work cannot unravel.

Fasten on
To draw up a loop of new yarn through a stitch in preparation to begin crocheting.

Foundation chain
A base chain into which most crochet is worked (unless worked in the round).

Foundation stitches, chainless
See chainless foundation stitches.

Fringe
A decorative edging made from strands of yarn knotted along the edge.

Frog
To unravel your crochet work by removing your hook and pulling the working yarn.

Front loop (FL) only
A method in which you work into only the front loop of a stitch instead of both loops.

Front post (FP) stitches
Textured stitches worked from the front around the post of the stitch below.





Glossary

Gauge (tension)
See tension.

Half treble crochet
A basic stitch halfway between the height of a double and treble crochet stitch.

Increase (inc)
A shaping technique in which you add extra stitches to your work.

Invisible finish
A method of finishing a round or edging so the join is not visible.

Knife grip
An overhand method of holding a crochet hook, similar to holding a knife.

Linked stitch
A variation of any standard tall stitch that links the stitch to its neighbour partway up the post to eliminate the gaps between stitches and form a solid fabric.

Magic ring
A technique to begin working in the round without leaving a hole in the centre by crocheting over an adjustable loop.

Main colour (MC)
The predominant yarn colour of a project.

Mattress stitch
A stitch to sew a seam that forms an almost invisible join on the right side of the work and a ridged seam on the wrong side.

Motif
A crocheted shape usually worked in the round as a geometric shape and combined with other motifs into larger pieces.

Parentheses ( )
Symbols used in crochet patterns to surround a set of grouped instructions, often used to indicate repeats.

Pencil grip
An underhand method of holding a crochet hook, similar to holding a pencil.

Picot
A tiny loop of chain stitches that sits on top of a stitch and creates a small round or pointed shape.

Popcorn
A combination crochet stitch that stands out dramatically from the fabric formed from several tall stitches pulled together by a chain stitch.

Post
The main vertical stem of a stitch.

Post stitch
A stitch formed by crocheting around the post of the stitch in the row or round below, so the stitch sits in front of (or behind) the surface of the fabric.

Puff stitch
A combination crochet stitch that forms a smooth, puffy shape created from several incomplete half treble crochet stitches that are joined at the top and bottom.

Repeat (rep)
To replicate a series of crochet instructions; one instance of the duplicated instructions.

Reverse double crochet
A variation of double crochet that is worked backwards (left to right) around the edge of a piece, producing a corded edging.

Right side (RS)
The side of a crocheted piece that's visible.

Rip back
To unravel your crochet work.

Round (rnd)
A line of stitches worked around a circular crocheted piece.

Row
A line of stitches worked across a flat crocheted piece.

Shell
A group of several stitches, crocheted into the same base stitch, that spread out at the top into a shell shape.

Skip (sk)
To pass over a stitch or stitches.

Slip knot
A knot that can be tightened by pulling one end of the yarn; used for attaching the yarn to the hook to begin crocheting.

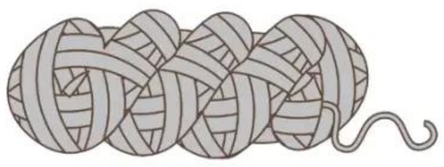
Slip stitch (ss/sl st)
A stitch with no height primarily used to join rounds and stitches to move the hook and yarn into a new position.

Space (sp)
A gap formed between or beneath stitches, often seen in lace patterns.

Spike stich
A stitch worked around existing stitches to extend down to one or more rows below, creating a long vertical spike.

Stitch (st)
A group of one or more loops of yarn pulled through each other in a specific order until only one loop remains on the crochet hook.





References



Stitch diagram
A map of a crochet or stitch pattern, where each stitch represented by a symbol.

Stitch marker
A small tool you can slide into a crochet stitch or between stitches to mark a position.

Swatch
A crocheted sample of a stitch pattern large enough to measure the tension (gauge) and test the pattern with a specific hook and yarn.

Tail
A short length of unworked yarn left at the start or end of a piece.

Tension (gauge)
A measure of how many stitches and rows fit into a certain length of crocheted fabric, usually 10 cm (4 in), that indicates the size of each stitch.

Together (tog)
A shaping technique in which you work two or more stitches into one to reduce the number of stitches.

Treble crochet (tr)
A basic stitch twice as tall as a double crochet.

Turning chain (t-ch)
A chain made at the start of a row to bring your hook and yarn up to the height of the next row.

V
The two loops at the top of each stitch that from a sideways V shape; standard crochet stitches are worked into both these loops.

V stitch
A group of two tall stitches crocheted into the same base stitch and separated by one or more chains, forming a V shape.

Weave in
A method used to secure and hide the yarn tails by stitching them through your crocheted stitches.

Whip stitch
A simple stitch to sew a seam by inserting the needle through the edge of both crocheted pieces at once to form each stitch.

Working in the round
Crocheting in a circle instead of back and forward in straight rows.

Working loop
The single loop that remains on your hook after completing a crochet stitch.

Wrong side (WS)
The side of a crocheted piece that will be hidden; the inside or back.

Yardage
A length of yarn, usually expressed as an estimate of the amount of yarn required for a project.

Yarn needle
A wide, blunt-tipped needle with an eye large enough for the yarn to pass through that's used for stitching crocheted pieces together and weaving in ends.

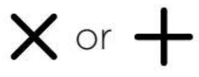
Yarn over (yo)
To pass the yarn over the hook so the yarn is caught in the throat of the hook.

Yarn tail
See tail.

Yarn weight
The thickness of the yarn (not the weight of a ball or yarn).



ABBREVIATIONS

UK stitch name	Abbreviation	Symbol	Description
back loop	**BL**		The loop furthest from you at the top of the stitch.
back post double crochet	**BPdc**		Yarn over, insert the hook from the back to the front, then to the back around the post of the next stitch, yarn over and draw up a loop, (yarn over and draw through two loops) twice.
chain(s)	**ch(s)**		Yarn over and draw through the loop on the hook.
chain space(s)	**ch-sp(s)**		The space beneath one or more chains.
double crochet	**dc**		Insert the hook into the next stitch and draw up a loop, yarn over and draw through both loops on the hook.
double crochet 2 together	**dc2tog**		(Insert the hook into the next stitch and draw up a loop) twice, yarn over and draw through all three loops on the hook.
double treble crochet	**dtr**		Yarn over twice, insert the hook into the next stitch and draw up a loop, (yarn over and draw through two loops on the hook) three times.
front loop	**FL**		The loop closest to you at the top of the stitch.
front post treble crochet	**FPtr**		Yarn over, insert the hook from the front to the back to the front around the post of the next stitch, yarn over and draw up a loop, (yarn over and draw through two loops) twice.
half treble crochet	**htr**		Yarn over, insert the hook into the next stitch and draw up a loop, yarn over and draw through all three loops on the hook.
repeat	**rep**		Replicate a series of given instructions.
skip	**sk**		Pass over a stitch or stitches – do not work into it.
slip stitch	ss/**sl st**		Insert the hook into the next stitch, draw up a loop through the stitch and the loop on the hook.
stitch(es)	**st(s)**		A group of one or more loops of yarn pulled through each other in a specified order until only 1 remains on the crochet hook.
treble crochet	**tr**		Yarn over, insert the hook into the next stitch and draw up a loop, (yarn over and draw through two loops on the hook) twice.
treble crochet 2 together	**tr2tog**		(Yarn over, insert the hook into the next stitch and draw up a loop, yarn over and draw through two loops on the hook) twice, yarn over and draw through all three loops on the hook.
turning chain	**t-ch**		The chain made at the start of a row to bring your hook and yarn up to the height of the next row.
yarn over	**yo**		Pass the yarn over the hook so the yarn is caught in the throat of the hook.



The Winter Crochet Book

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