



Welcome to the Craft Yarn Council Certified Crochet Instructors Program



The Craft Yarn Council (CYC) is a non-profit organization which was formed in 1981 and is committed to developing greater consumer awareness and acceptance of crocheting, knitting and crafting with yarn through educational and promotional programs. Its members are the nation's leading yarn producers, hook and needle manufacturers, publishers, and industry consultants.

The Certified Instructors Program is an expansion of the Extension Master Volunteer: Knitting and Crocheting Program which the Council for many years offered through various local county cooperative extension offices around the United States. It now focuses on the preparation of instructors to teach crocheting and knitting.

It is the wish of the Craft Yarn Council and of those who assisted in developing the Certified Instructors Program that your participation in this educational program will not only bring you the satisfaction of enhancing your own personal knitting and crochet skills, but the satisfaction and personal gratification of expanding this artistry to future generations. May your participation in this program impart knowledge and skills that will bring benefits both you and your students can enjoy for a lifetime!

Special thanks to The National Association of Family and Community Education (formerly National Extension Homemakers' Council), The National NeedleArts Association and the Cooperative Extension Service for making the accomplishments of this program possible.

Also, special thanks to the Certification Master teachers who have worked tirelessly to improve the quality of this program and to guide students. They include Evie Rosen, Dixie Berryman, Arnetta Kenney, Barbara Van Elsen and Edie Eckman. Very special thanks to Tina Bliss of Bliss Design without whose technical expertise in graphic design, knitting and crocheting these revisions would not have been possible. Finally, thank you to Leisure Arts, Inc. [www.leisurearts.com] for providing many of the diagrams included in this program.



DIAGRAM 0

Tip: Throughout the notebook, there are stitch and technique instructions. We encourage you to make samples of each using a smooth, light colored, medium-weight yarn (Diagram 0). These samples help you to better understand a technique AND will be excellent visual aids for teaching.





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Crochet Hooks

Crochet Hook Sizes

Millimeter Range	U.S. Size Range*
2.25 mm	B-1
2.75 mm	C-2
3.25 mm	D-3
3.5 mm	E-4
3.75 mm	F-5
4 mm	G-6
4.5 mm	7
5 mm	H-8
5.5 mm	I-9
6 mm	J-10
6.5 mm	K-10½
8 mm	L-11
9 mm	M/N-13
10 mm	N/P-15
15 mm	P/Q
16 mm	Q
19 mm	S

DIAGRAM 1



DIAGRAM 3



DIAGRAM 4

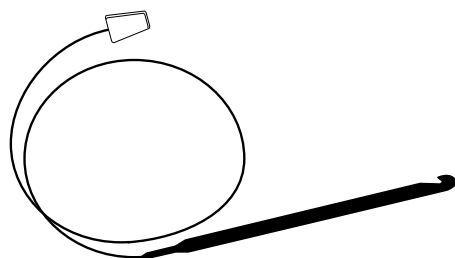


DIAGRAM 5



DIAGRAM 6



DIAGRAM 7

Crochet hooks are the primary tool used in crocheting. They are made from a variety of materials, including aluminum, plastic, wood, bamboo and steel.

In the U.S. a numbering and letter system is used for determining hook sizes, while in other countries a metric designation representing the actual circumference of the hook, is used. In most packaging you will see the metric sizing shown first, followed by the U. S. sizing in parenthesis. The most commonly used hooks sizes range from 2.25 mm (B-1) to 19 mm or S, the largest. Most hooks come in 6" lengths (Diagram 1).

Steel hooks are used with threads to crochet finer work, such as lace and doilies. They have a different sizing range, which has changed over the years: the larger the size number of the steel hook, the smaller it is. Currently, steel hooks range from 00 (3.5mm), which is the largest, to 14 (.75mm), the smallest.

Single ended hook: This is the most commonly used crochet hook. There is a hook at one end and it is generally 5½" to 6" (14cm–15cm) in length (Diagram 3).

Afghan hook: Used for working Tunisian crochet (formerly called afghan stitch), there is a hook on one end and a stopper on the other (Diagram 4). Generally afghan hooks come in a 10" (25cm) and 14" (35cm) lengths.

Flexible afghan hook: Has a flexible plastic cable at one end which makes it possible to work wider pieces of Tunisian crochet (Diagram 5). There are also interchangeable hook sets which attach to flexible plastic cable or which attach to an aluminum handle.

Double ended hook: As the name suggests, there is a hook on each end (Diagram 6). A double-ended hook is used for cro-hooking and is generally 14" long. It also comes in a version with a flexible cable, like the flexible afghan hook.

Broomstick lace needle: Large knitting needle, size 50 (25mm) is used in combination with a regular crochet hook to create broomstick lace, which is a lacy, openwork fabric (Diagram 7).



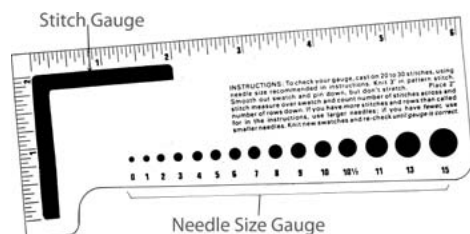


DIAGRAM 8



DIAGRAM 9

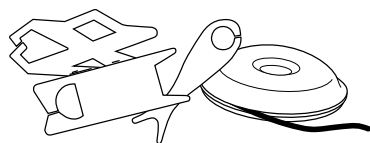


DIAGRAM 10



DIAGRAM 11



DIAGRAM 12

Crochet Accessories

Stitch gauge tool: Available in a variety of configurations, these tools have a ruler that is used to check the gauge of crocheting or knitting (Diagram 8). Many have holes that can be used to check the mm size of hooks, since that is not written on all hooks.

Stitch markers: The split-lock design works best for crochet because it can be slipped onto a loop in your work to mark points of increase, decrease, or changes in pattern (Diagram 9).

Yarn bobbins: In multi-colored crocheting, each color being used in the design is wrapped around a bobbin, and the bobbins are allowed to hang from the work. Since the bobbin stores the yarn, there are no long strands to tangle or become knotted while crocheting, so the colors are much easier to manipulate while creating the design. Bobbins are available in several sizes to accommodate different weights of yarn (Diagram 10).

Yarn or tapestry needles: Used to sew crocheted pieces together and to weave in ends, these large eye needles allow easy threading of various thicknesses of yarn and the blunt ends prevent splitting the yarn (Diagram 11). They come in straight and bent versions.

Pins: Long, rust-proof "T-pins" and straight pins with large heads are used for holding together your garment pieces for sewing and also are used for blocking (Diagram 12).



Standard Yarn Weight System

There is a vast range of yarns available today in natural and manmade fibers and blends of the two, from fine strands to bulky textures. To make it easier for consumers to select the right yarn for a project, members of the Craft Yarn Council teamed up with industry manufacturers, editors, publishers and designers to create a standardize system of organizing yarns by weights or thicknesses called the Standard Yarn Weight System.

To simplify the vast number of yarns available, they grouped similar yarns into broad ranges and assigned each category a symbol ranging from 0 to 6, with 0 being the finest weight yarn, 6, the thickest.

For each category, there are suggested crochet and knit gauges and hook and needle ranges. However, they stress these are only guidelines and reflect the most commonly used gauges and hook or needle sizes for specific yarn categories.

For teachers with first-time crocheters, it is extremely helpful to discuss the differences in yarn weights and the general end uses for each category. It's also important to guide first-timers away from heavily textured yarns, which make it difficult to see stitches and which are sometimes difficult to rip out.



Standard Yarn Weight System

Categories of yarn, gauge ranges, and recommended needle and hook sizes

Yarn Weight Symbol & Category Names	 Lace	 Super Fine	 Fine	 Light	 Medium	 Bulky	 Super Bulky
Type of Yarns in Category	Fingering 10 count crochet thread	Sock, Fingering, Baby	Sport, Baby	DK, Light Worsted	Worsted, Afghan, Aran	Chunky, Craft, Rug	Bulky, Roving
Knit Gauge Range* in Stockinette Stitch to 4 inches	33–40** sts	27–32 sts	23–26 sts	21–24 sts	16–20 sts	12–15 sts	6–11 sts
Recommended Needle in Metric Size Range	1.5–2.25 mm	2.25–3.25 mm	3.25–3.75 mm	3.75–4.5 mm	4.5–5.5 mm	5.5–8 mm	8 mm and larger
Recommended Needle U.S. Size Range	000 to 1	1 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 7	7 to 9	9 to 11	11 and larger
Crochet Gauge* Ranges in Single Crochet to 4 inch	32–42 double crochets**	21–32 sts	16–20 sts	12–17 sts	11–14 sts	8–11 sts	5–9 sts
Recommended Hook in Metric Size Range	Steel*** 1.6–1.4mm Regular hook 2.25 mm	2.25–3.5 mm	3.5–4.5 mm	4.5–5.5 mm	5.5–6.5 mm	6.5–9 mm	9 mm and larger
Recommended Hook U.S. Size Range	Steel*** 6, 7, 8 Regular hook B–1	B–1 to E–4	E–4 to 7	7 to I–9	I–9 to K–10½	K–10½ to M–13	M–13 and larger

DIAGRAM 13



Crochet Techniques



Yarn Label

The label on a ball, skein or hank of yarn contains important information about the manufacturer, content, recommended hook and needle sizes, gauge and care of the yarn, as well as the yarn weight symbol (Diagram 14). Key for diagram:

1. Name and identifying number of color
2. Dye lot number
3. Company name or symbol yarn
4. Yarn's brand name
5. Care instructions
6. Company name and address
7. Length of yarn in meters and in yards
8. Weight in grams and ounces.
9. Ply—number of thin strands twisted together to make the yarn
10. Yarn content—what the yarn is made of
11. Suggested hook size and expected gauge (number of stitches to the inch) for this yarn.
12. Yarn weight symbol



DIAGRAM 14

Dye lots

Yarn is dyed in batches called “dye lots.” Each time the dye is mixed for a new lot, the dye is a little different. When buying more than one skein of yarn for a project, check the dye lot number carefully. If all the skeins you purchase are marked with the same dye lot number, you can be sure they will be identical in color. Try to buy all of the yarn you will need for a project at the same time, so you will be sure to get enough skeins of the same dye lot number.

On some labels it will say: “no dye lot” yarn. These yarns are spun from fiber that is already colored before it is assembled into skeins or balls and color differences are not evident.



Yarns



DIAGRAM 15

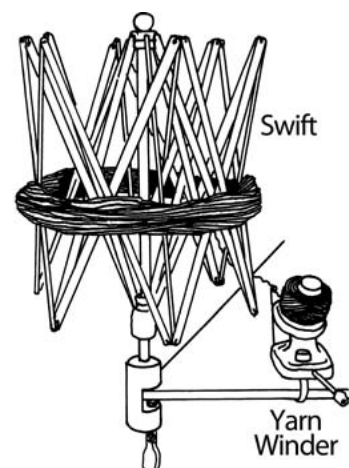


DIAGRAM 16

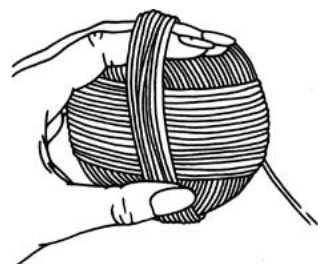


DIAGRAM 17

Yarn is sold in balls, hanks, on spools, or on cones, but it is most often wound into skeins. A skein is wound in a special way that prevents the yarn from tangling as you work. Hanks get tangled if you try to use them, so they must first be rewound into balls (Diagram 15).

You can wind the yarn by hand, using the instructions shown here, or use one of the commercially available yarn winders and “swifts”, which are basically an extra pair of arms” (Diagram 16).

Winding a Hank of Yarn Into a Ball

Whether you are using a commercial winder or working by hand, first remove any labels, yarn ties and knots from the yarn hank.

Untwist the hank, so it looks like a thick circle of yarn. Either follow the commercial winder instructions or place yarn over the back of a chair.

Find one end and wind the yarn around your fingers about 20 times.

Slip the yarn off your fingers. Now hold it in your fingers and wind another 20 times or so around your fingers **and** the already wound yarn.

Slip the yarn off your fingers, turn slightly and start winding again, around the yarn and your fingers (Diagram 17). As you are wrapping and turning the yarn, it is important not to wind the ball so tightly that the yarn stretches and loses its elasticity.

Care Symbols

The care symbols used on yarn labels are the same as those used on ready to wear garments. You should become familiar with these symbols. Here is the guide of commonly used care symbols prepared by the Textile Industry Affairs and accepted by the Federal Trade Commission’s Care Labeling Rule on the next page.

It is advisable to keep the yarn label on file after a project is finished in order to have the correct laundering instructions. When giving a gift, enclose a label so the recipient can care properly for the garment.



GUIDE TO APPAREL/TEXTILE CARE SYMBOLS*

 Wash	Machine Wash Cycles  Normal  Permanent Press  Delicate/Gentle  Hand Wash Water Temperatures <table><tr><td>(Maximum)</td><td>(200F)</td><td>(160F)</td><td>(140F)</td><td>(120F)</td><td>(105F)</td><td>(65F-85F)</td></tr><tr><td>Symbol(s)</td><td>95C ●●●</td><td>70C ●●●</td><td>60C ●●●</td><td>50C ●●●</td><td>40C ●●</td><td>30C ●</td></tr></table>	(Maximum)	(200F)	(160F)	(140F)	(120F)	(105F)	(65F-85F)	Symbol(s)	95C ●●●	70C ●●●	60C ●●●	50C ●●●	40C ●●	30C ●	Warning Symbols for Laundering  Do Not Wash  Do Not Bleach  Do Not Dry (used with Do Not Wash)  Do Not Iron
(Maximum)	(200F)	(160F)	(140F)	(120F)	(105F)	(65F-85F)										
Symbol(s)	95C ●●●	70C ●●●	60C ●●●	50C ●●●	40C ●●	30C ●										
 Bleach	 Any Bleach When Needed  Only Non-Chlorine Bleach When Needed	 Do Not Dry (used with Do Not Wash)  Do Not Iron														
 Dry	Tumble Dry Cycles  Normal  Permanent Press  Delicate/Gentle  Line Dry / Hang to Dry Tumble Heat Settings  Any Heat  High  Medium  Low  No Heat/Air  Drip Dry  Dry Flat	Additional Instructions (in Symbols or Words)  Do Not Wring  Do Not Tumble Dry  In the shade (added to line dry, drip dry, or dry flat)  No Steam (added to iron)														
 Iron	Iron-Dry or Steam  200C (390F) High  150C (300F) Medium  110C (230F) Low Maximum Temperatures															
 Dryclean	Dryclean - Normal Cycle  Any Solvent  Any Solvent Except Trichloroethylene  Petroleum Solvent Only  Do Not Dryclean	Dryclean - Additional Instructions  Short Cycle  Reduced Moisture  Low Heat  No Steam Finishing														

* This chart illustrates care symbols accepted by the Federal Trade Commission as part of a conditional exemption to the FTC Care Labeling Rule (16 CFR 423). This chart is referenced from ASTM D5489-96C, Fig. 1, Commercial and Home Laundering and Drycleaning Symbols, which illustrates the symbols to use for laundering and drycleaning instructions. As a minimum, laundering instruction shall include, in order, four symbols: washing, bleaching, drying, and ironing; and drycleaning instructions shall include one symbol. Additional words may be used to clarify language-dependent instructions.

We urge you to purchase the latest Annual Book of ASTM Standards that contains the complete symbol set from the American Society for Testing and Materials, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959.

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Substituting Yarns

Can't find the yarn recommended in a pattern or simply don't like it and want to substitute another? Theoretically, yarns are interchangeable if they have the same gauge when crocheted by the same person with the same hook. However, if the textures and fibers are different, the "hand" or feel of a project using a substitute yarn might be entirely different. Be wary of using fibers such as cotton or linen when the pattern calls for wool and vice versa: the first two fibers have less elasticity and will require additional stitches to achieve the right fit. Ask the assistance of a local yarn retailer or an experienced crocheter for advice.

Crochet Abbreviations and Symbols Found In Commercial Patterns

Crochet patterns are written in a special language, full of abbreviations, asterisks, parentheses, and other symbols and terms. These short forms are used so instructions will not take up too much space. They may seem confusing at first, but once understood, they are really easy to follow.

Following is a list of crocheting abbreviations used by yarn industry designers and publishers and adopted for the Craft Yarn Council's Standards & Guidelines for Crochet and Knitting. The most commonly used abbreviations are highlighted. In addition, designers and publishers may use special abbreviations in a pattern, which you might not find on this list. Generally, definitions of special abbreviations are given at the beginning of a book or pattern. (See Diagram 18 on next page.)



Abbreviation Description

[]	work instructions within brackets as many times as directed
()	work instructions within parentheses as many times as directed
*	repeat the instructions following the single asterisk as directed
**	repeat instructions between asterisks as many times as directed or repeat from a given set of instructions
"	inch(es)
alt	alternate
approx	approximately
beg	begin/beginning
bet	between
BL or BLO	back loop or back loop only
bo	bobble
BP	back post
BPdc	back post double crochet
BPsc	back post single crochet
BPtr	back post treble crochet
CA	color A
CB	color B
CC	contrasting color
ch	chain stitch
ch-	refers to chain or space previously made: e.g., ch-1 space
ch-sp	chain space
CL	cluster
cm	centimeter(s)
cont	continue
dc	double crochet
dc2tog	double crochet 2 stitches together
dec	decrease/decreases/decreasing
dtr	double treble
FL or FLO	front loop or front loop only
fol	follow/follows/following
FP	front post
FPdc	front post double crochet
FPsc	front post single crochet
FPtr	front post treble crochet
g	gram
hdc	half double crochet

Abbreviation Description

inc	increase/increases/increasing
lp(s)	loops
m	meter(s)
MC	main color
mm	millimeter(s)
oz	ounce(s)
p	picot
pat(s)	pattern(s)
or patt	pattern(s)
pc	popcorn
pm	place marker
prev	previous
rem	remain/remaining
rep	repeat(s)
rnd(s)	round(s)
RS	right side
sc	single crochet
sc2tog	single crochet 2 stitches together
sk	skip
sl st	slip stitch
sp(s)	space(s)
st(s)	stitch(es)
tch or t-ch	turning chain
tog	together
tr	treble crochet
trtr	triple treble crochet
WS	wrong side
yd(s)	yard(s)
yo	yarn over
yoh	yarn over hook

Abbreviation Differences in U.S. and United Kingdom (U.K.)/Canada.

U.S.	U.K.
single crochet (sc)	double crochet (dc)
half double crochet (hdc)	half treble (htr)
double crochet (dc)	treble (tr)
treble (tr)	double treble (dtr)
double treble (dtr)	triple treble (trtr)
yarn over (yo)	yarn over hook (yoh)
U.S.	U.K./Canada
gauge	tension

DIAGRAM 18



Crochet Chart Symbols

Stitch charts in knit and crochet patterns are being used more and more as an addition to or in place of words to describe a pattern stitch. Following are the standardized crochet symbols that have been adopted by members of the Craft Yarn Council and are considered to be the clearest and easiest to render and to read (Diagram 19). For the most part each symbol represents a stitch as it looks on the right side of the work. Always refer to the pattern key for additional symbol definitions.

Standard Stitch Key

 = chain (ch)	 = slip stitch (sl st)	 or  = single crochet (sc)*	 = dc3tog
 = half double crochet (hdc)	 = double crochet (dc)	 = treble crochet (tr)	 = 3-dc cluster
 = double treble crochet (dtr)	 = sc2tog	 = sc3tog	 = 3-hdc cluster/puff st/bobble
 = dc2tog	 = 5-dc popcorn	 = 5-dc shell	 = ch-3 picot
	 = front post dc (FPdc)	 = back post dc (BPdc)	 = worked in back loop only**
			 = worked in front loop only**

*Both symbols are commonly used for single crochet

**Symbol appears at base of stitch being worked

DIAGRAM 19



Standards & Guidelines for Crochet and Knitting

The Standard Yarn Weight System, the Standard Crochet Abbreviations and Symbols, and the Standard Crochet Chart Symbols are part of the Industry Standards & Guidelines for Crochet and Knitting. In 2003, the publishers, fiber producers, needle and hook manufacturers and yarn members of the Craft Yarn Council worked together to set up these series of guidelines to bring uniformity to yarn, needle and hook labeling and to patterns, whether they appeared in books, magazines, leaflets or on yarn labels. This included establishing uniform pattern sizing and the ranking of patterns by skill level. The goal was to make it easier for consumers to select the right materials for a project and complete it successfully. These changes are being implemented over time as products and packaging are redesigned and new books and leaflets are published.

The Craft Yarn Council received valuable input from allied associations in the United States, such as The National NeedleArt Association, the Crochet Guild of America, and The Knitting Guild Association, as well as from industry designers and knitters and crocheters nationwide.

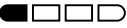
Ultimately, the objective is to design global standards and guidelines that will be used by companies worldwide. To this end, the Council has reached out to individuals, manufacturers and trade associations in the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, France, as well as in Australia and New Zealand to ask for their input.

The Council stresses the Standards & Guidelines are 'organic' and will change over time as requests are made for helpful information and new products enter the marketplace.

Manufacturers, publishers and designers are urged to adopt these guidelines. Downloads of the graphic symbols are available at www.YarnStandards.com at no charge. The Council asks that the following credit line be given:

Source: Craft Yarn Council, www.YarnStandards.com

SKILL LEVELS FOR CROCHET

1		Beginner	Projects for first-time crocheters using basic stitches. Minimal shaping.
2		Easy	Projects using yarn with basic stitches, repetitive stitch patterns, simple color changes, and simple shaping and finishing.
3		Intermediate	Projects using a variety of techniques, such as basic lace patterns or color patterns, mid-level shaping and finishing.
4		Experienced	Projects with intricate stitch patterns, techniques and dimension, such as non-repeating patterns, multi-color techniques, fine threads, small hooks, detailed shaping and refined finishing.



Holding the Hook

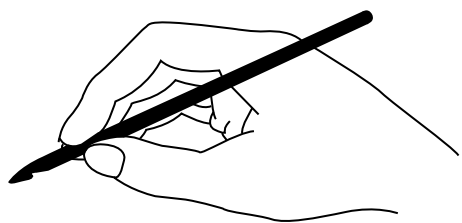


DIAGRAM 20

There are two main methods of holding a crochet hook—pencil hold or knife hold. Try them both, to see which one feels most comfortable to you. Place the hook in your right hand, holding it between your index finger and thumb, as you would a pencil (Diagram 20).

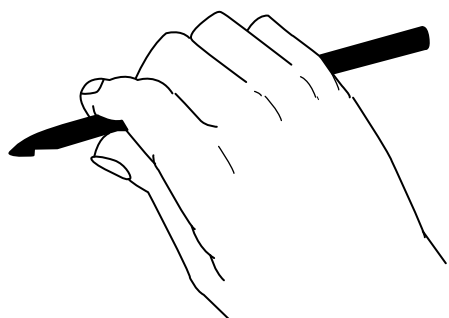


DIAGRAM 21

Hold the hook in an “overhand” clutch, similar to the way you might hold a knife or a spoon while mixing cake batter (Diagram 21).

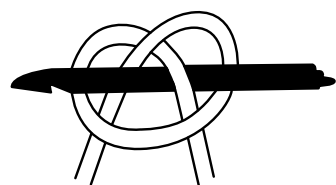


DIAGRAM 22

Making a Slip Knot

To make a slip knot to fit the hook, shape the yarn like a pretzel (Diagram 22).

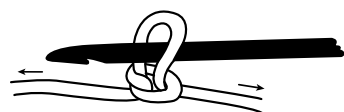


DIAGRAM 23

Slip the hook into the pretzel as shown and pull down on both ends of the yarn to tighten the knot (Diagram 23). The starting slip knot is never counted as a stitch.



Chain Stitch

○ = chain (ch)

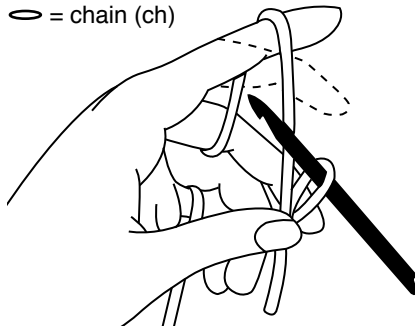


DIAGRAM 24

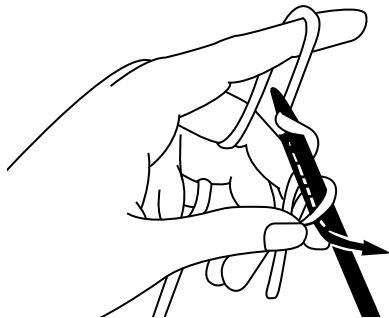


DIAGRAM 25

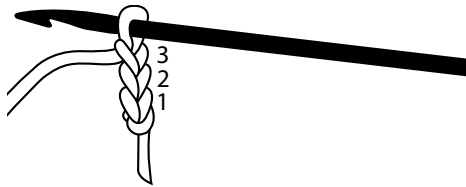


DIAGRAM 26

Holding the Yarn

Hold the hook in the right hand while keeping an even tension on the yarn with your left hand. A common method to control the tension of your yarn is shown in Diagram 24, which is to drape the yarn over your index finger, under the middle and ring fingers. However, people hold the yarn differently and whatever works best to control the yarn is fine.

Holding the base of slip knot with your thumb and index finger, pull yarn from back of the hook over and around the front of the hook, pulling yarn through the loop to form the first chain (Diagram 25). Continue making additional chain stitches.

Note: The chain on the hook is never counted as a stitch, as in Diagram 26. Chains should be uniform in size, each as large as the shank of the hook.

Tip: It is easier to pull yarn through loops if the hook is turned slightly down. Hold the hook stable in the fingers while moving at the wrist.

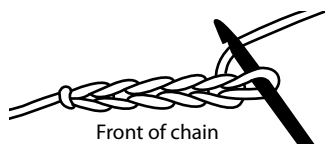


DIAGRAM 27

Foundation Row

The first set of chain stitches that is made is the foundation row. The first row of crochet stitches is usually worked into these chain stitches. The stitches you crochet from this row can be started in several different ways. Three versions follow but there is also a method by which the foundation row is created at the same time as the first row of stitches. We encourage you to explore other resources and decide which method you prefer.

Before you begin, look at the chain stitches. The front looks like a series of "V's" (Diagram 27).



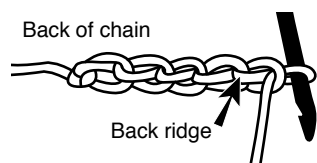


DIAGRAM 28

Turn it over and there is a ridge or bump on the wrong side (Diagram 28).



DIAGRAM 29

One of the most common ways to begin to crochet stitches is to have the front of the foundation row facing you (the V's). Insert the hook into the center of the V's and under the back bar (Diagram 29).

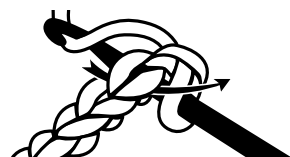


DIAGRAM 30

Another popular way is to hold the front of the chain facing you (V's), and work under two loops of the V (Diagram 30).



DIAGRAM 31

A third way is to work into the back ridge or bump. Have the back of chain facing you. Work each crochet stitch through the back bump only. This leaves the remaining two chain loops, which creates a foundation row that is a perfect match to the last row (Diagram 31).

Tip: On the foundation row, with the exception of working into the back ridge or bump, always work under two strands. Crocheting under one strand causes a row of little holes between the foundation chain and the rest of the work.



Single Crochet

✕ or + = single crochet (sc)

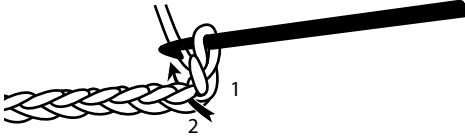


DIAGRAM 32



DIAGRAM 32A



DIAGRAM 33



DIAGRAM 34



DIAGRAM 34A



DIAGRAM 35



DIAGRAM 36

The most common crochet stitches are single (sc), half double (hdc), double (dc) and treble crochet (tr). Each differs in height and is mainly determined by the number of times yarn is wrapped around the hook. The following steps show a single crochet made into the center V of the foundation chain.

First Row

STEP 1

Holding the chain with the V's facing you, insert hook into the center of the V in the second chain from the hook (Diagram 32).

Tip: Never work into the first chain from the hook. Instructions will generally tell you in which chain to start.

STEP 2

Wrap yarn from behind the hook, over the top and to the front of the hook (Diagram 32A). This step is referred to yarn over, sometimes yarn over hook, and abbreviated yo or yoh.

STEP 3

Pull yarn toward you through the chain. There will be two loops on the hook (Diagram 33).

Wrap yarn around the hook again, pull it through the two loops on the hook. One loop will remain on the hook and you have completed one single crochet (Diagram 34).

STEP 4

To make the next stitch, insert the hook into the next chain stitch (at arrow in Diagram 34A) and follow steps 2, 3, and 4 above for each stitch.

Note: Another way to sc is to insert the hook under the two loops of the V and continue with Steps 2, 3 and 4 or insert the hook under the back ridge and continue with Steps 2, 3 and 4 (Diagram 35). It is important to be consistent. If you start an item one way, continue in the same way for the rest of that item.

Diagram 36 shows how to count stitches. You should have one less stitch than you chained. Chain 1 before beginning Row 2. This is called the turning chain and it is worked at the end of each row to bring the hook level with the height of the stitches in the new row. Now turn your work like a book page so the working yarn is on the right end of the work.



Note: Some teachers prefer to turn their work and then make the turning chain because it is easier for students to understand the need for bringing the yarn to the correct height for the next stitch. Try both methods.

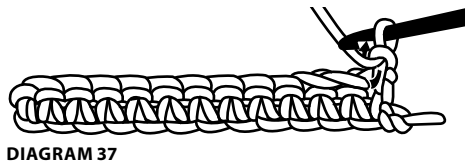


DIAGRAM 37

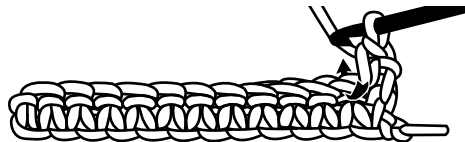


DIAGRAM 38

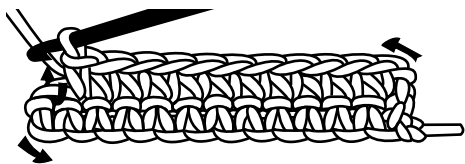


DIAGRAM 39

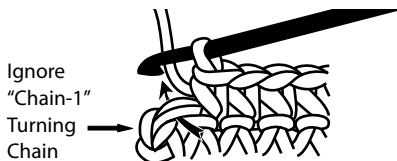


DIAGRAM 40

Second Row and All Other Rows

For the second and following rows, to begin slide the hook under the top two loops of the first stitch (Diagram 37), which is the last stitch of previous row, not the turning chain. (The hook should be under the loops forming the V.)

Yarn over and proceed using steps 2, 3 and 4 for single crochet. (Diagram 38 shows where to place hook for second stitch.)

Be sure to finish the row as in Diagram 39. Count stitches at the end of every row to insure that the stitch count is consistent so that the edge of the work will be even and straight.

You do not count the turning chain as a stitch nor make a stitch into it (Diagram 40).

Tip: It's important that you know and that you teach your students that patterns will assume you will work under both loops of each stitch unless told otherwise.

Single Crochet Test Sample

With H/5mm hook and medium-weight yarn, ch 13.

Row 1: Sc in 2nd chain from hook, sc in each ch to end, ch 1 and turn. (12 sts)

Row 2: Sc in each sc of the previous row, ch 1 and turn.

Repeat Row 2 until a square is formed. Fasten off.



Left-handed Instructions

As a right-handed teacher, it's a good exercise to try to learn crochet using your left hand to better understand the frustrations a left-handed student might face. And the same is true if you are a left-handed teacher. Many left-handed people learn to crochet right-handed but others find it too difficult to master. Right-handed teachers find it helpful to sit across from a left hand student so they are seeing a mirror image of the technique being taught.

Left-handed crochet is exactly opposite to right-handed crochet. Following are instructions and diagrams for holding the yarn, chain stitch and single crochet. From that point, the crocheter should be able to reverse the right-handed instructions. If he/she finds it difficult to do, hold a small hand mirror next to the right handed diagrams, so they appear as left-handed ones.

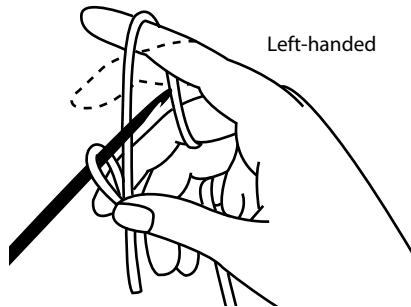


DIAGRAM 41

Holding The Yarn

To control the tension of your yarn, it is helpful to wind the yarn that comes from the skein through your fingers. One suggestion is to drape the yarn over your index finger, under the middle, over the ring finger and around your pinky of your right hand as shown in Diagram 41. However, people hold the yarn differently and whatever works best to control the yarn is fine.

Lightly pinch the slip knot between the thumb and middle finger as shown. You will work with the section of yarn that runs between the hook and your index finger.

As you work, your index finger should move up and down to create an even tension (tightness) in the yarn.

Foundation Row — Left-Handed Instructions

Almost every crochet project begins with a foundation chain, which is a series of stitches that looks like a chain. You will build rows of stitches on this foundation chain.

Hold the yarn as shown in Diagram 43. With the hook in front, bring hook under and up to catch the yarn (yarn over).

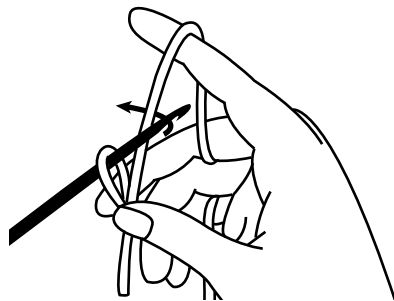


DIAGRAM 43



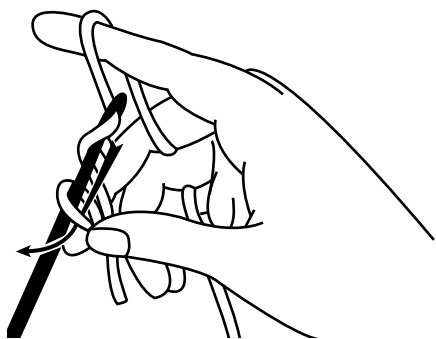


DIAGRAM 44

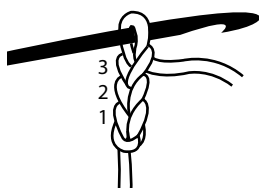


DIAGRAM 45

Turn the hook so it faces downward. Slide the hook through the original loop, bringing the yarn with it (Diagram 44).

You have just made one chain stitch. Make a few more. The way to count the stitches is shown by the numbers next to the stitches. You never count the loop around the hook as a stitch. Refer to Diagram 45.

Single Crochet—Left-Handed Instructions

Single crochet, like chain stitch, is made by using the hook to form loops of yarn. However, the way to form the loops for single crochet is a little different than for chain stitch, and single crochet uses a foundation chain as a base.

Foundation Chain and the First Row:

Make a foundation chain of 13 stitches for a practice swatch.

Take a moment to look closely at the chain. The front of the chain looks like a series of “V’s” (Diagram 46).

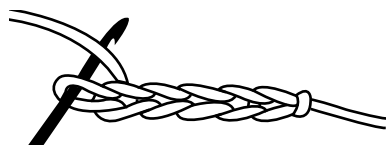


DIAGRAM 46

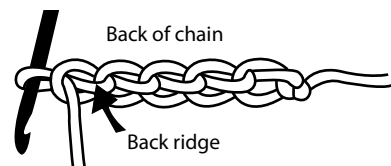


DIAGRAM 47

Now look at the back. There is a ridge or bump running along the back (Diagram 47).

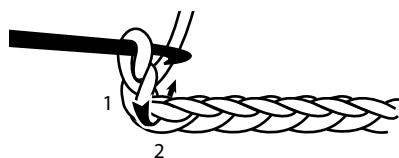


DIAGRAM 48

Hold the chain with the front facing you. Insert the hook into the second chain from the hook. You should insert the hook under the top part of the chain in the front, and under the back loop as well (Diagram 48).



DIAGRAM 49

Yarn over (yo) catching the yarn with your hook in the same way you do when you make a chain stitch (Diagram 49).

Now draw the hook right through the chain, bringing the yarn with it. (Remember to keep the hook facing downward.) You will now have 2 loops on the hook.



DIAGRAM 50

Yarn over again and draw the hook through the two loops that are on the hook (Diagram 50).



DIAGRAM 51

You have just completed one single crochet stitch (Diagram 51).

To make the next stitch, insert your hook into the very next chain stitch. Follow the steps above to make the next single crochet stitch. Continue across the row, working one single crochet in each chain stitch.

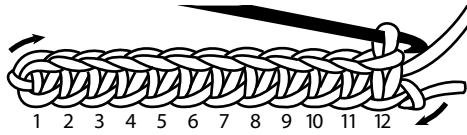


DIAGRAM 52

Count your stitches. You started with 13 chain stitches and will end up with 12 single crochets, since you skipped the first chain stitch (Diagram 52).

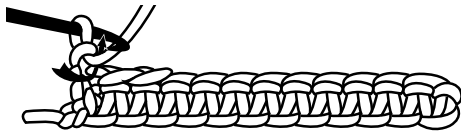


DIAGRAM 53

After you count your stitches, make 1 chain stitch. This is called the turning chain and it is worked at the end of the row to bring the hook level with the height of the stitches in the new row. Now turn your work so the hook is on the left side of the work (Diagram 53).

Note: Some teachers prefer to turn their work and then make the turning chain because it is easier for students to understand the need for bringing the yarn to the correct height for the next stitch. Try both methods.

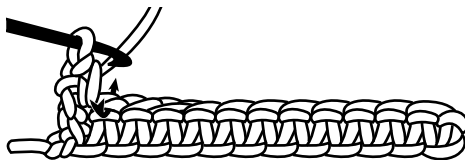


DIAGRAM 54

Second Row and All Other Rows

Working additional rows is a little different than the first row, since now you will be working into single crochet stitches, instead of a foundation chain. Once you insert the hook, however, the stitch will be made in exactly the same way.

For the second and following rows, to begin slide the hook under the top two loops of the first stitch, which is the last stitch of the previous row, not the turning chain (Diagram 54). (The hook should be under the loops forming the V.)

Yarn over and catch the yarn as you usually do, then draw the hook back through. There should be 2 loops on your hook. Now yarn over again, and draw the hook through the two loops—one single crochet completed.

Continue working across the row, making one single crochet in each single crochet from the previous row. When you get to the end of the row, do not count the "chain 1" turning chain of the previous row as a stitch or make a stitch into it. Place for the last stitch is shown in Diagram 55.

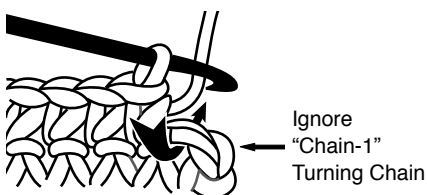


DIAGRAM 55



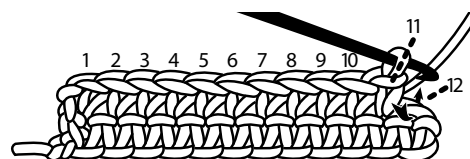


DIAGRAM 56

At the end of each row, count your stitches, then chain 1 and turn. You should have 12 stitches in each row (Diagram 56).

NOTE: In single crochet, you do not count the turning chain as a stitch, and you do not make a stitch into it.

Single Crochet Test Sample

With H/5mm hook and medium-weight yarn, chain 13.

Row 1: Sc in 2nd chain from hook, sc in each ch to end, ch 1 and turn. (12 sts)

Row 2: Sc in each sc of the previous row, ch 1 and turn.

Repeat Row 2 until a square is formed. Fasten off.



Half Double Crochet

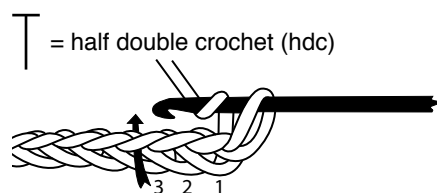


DIAGRAM 57



DIAGRAM 58

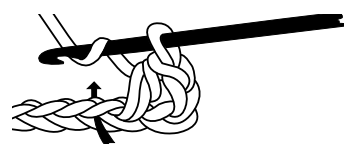


DIAGRAM 59



DIAGRAM 60

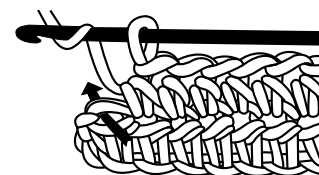


DIAGRAM 61

The half double crochet (hdc) is a versatile stitch that is quick to do and makes a good solid fabric.

STEP 1

Yarn over (yo) and insert the hook into third ch from hook (Diagram 57).

STEP 2

Yo, pull through ch to form 3 loops on hook (Diagram 58).

STEP 3

Yo, pull through all 3 loops (Diagram 59). To begin the next stitch, yo, insert hook into the next chain and work steps 2 and 3.

At the end of the row, ch 2 and turn.

The first st on the second row is worked into the first hdc of the row below (Diagram 60).

The last st is worked into the last hdc of the previous row (Diagram 61), ignoring the turning ch.

Note: Unless told otherwise, hdc patterns will expect you to complete the stitches as explained above. However, it is not unusual for patterns to treat the hdc as a dc by working into the turning chain and skipping the first stitch of the row and this will say so clearly at the start of the pattern.

Half Double Crochet Test Sample

With H/5mm hook and medium-weight yarn, ch 14.

Row 1: Hdc in 3rd st from hook, hdc in each ch to end, ch 2, turn (12 st).

Row 2: Hdc in each st to end of row.

Repeat Row 2 until square is formed. Fasten off.



Double Crochet

 = double crochet (dc)

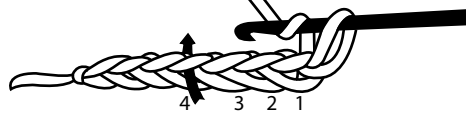


DIAGRAM 62



DIAGRAM 63



DIAGRAM 64



DIAGRAM 65

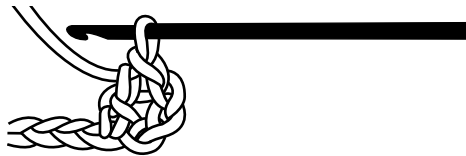


DIAGRAM 66

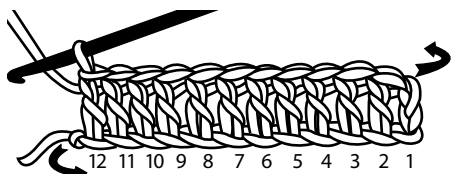


DIAGRAM 67

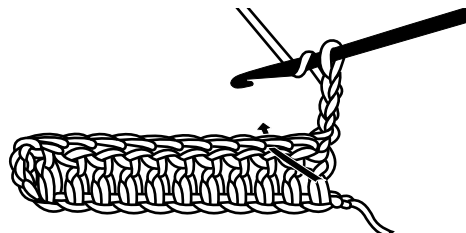


DIAGRAM 68

Double crochet (dc) is one of the most popular stitches because it creates a fabric with good drapability. It is frequently used for shawls and wraps.

STEP 1

Holding foundation chain in desired position, yo and insert hook into the 4th chain from the hook (Diagram 62).

STEP 2

Yo, pull through chain (Diagram 63). You should have 3 loops (lps) on hook.

STEP 3

Yo as in Diagram 64, pull through 2 lps. Two loops remain on the hook.

STEP 4

Yo as in Diagram 65, pull through 2 lps.

One double crochet (dc) has been made (Diagram 66).

Work one dc in each ch to the end, then count sts (Diagram 67). The first 3 ch at the beginning of the row count as a double crochet stitch.

At the end of dc rows, ch 3 to achieve the same height st as dc. The turning ch counts as the first dc on the next row, so the first dc is actually worked in the SECOND st (Diagram 68).



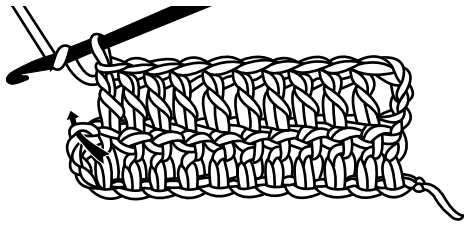


DIAGRAM 69

The last dc is worked into the top of the turning chain to complete the row (Diagram 69).

Double Crochet Test Sample

With H/5mm hook and medium-weight yarn, ch 14.

Row 1: Dc in 4th ch from hook, and each ch to end (12 sts) ch 3, turn.

Row 2: Dc in 2nd st and each st to end, including turning chain (12 sts) ch 3, turn.

Repeat Row 2 until sample forms a square. Fasten off.

Treble Crochet

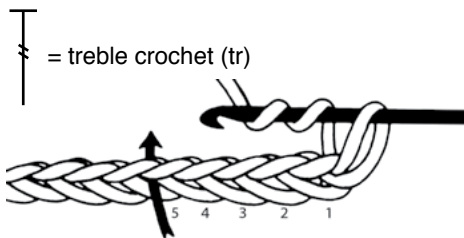


DIAGRAM 70

Treble crochet (tr), also known as triple crochet, is a tall stitch which works up very fast and makes a more open fabric. The thing to remember is to yo twice before inserting the hook into the chain.

STEP 1

Yo hook twice. Insert hook in fifth chain from hook (Diagram 70).

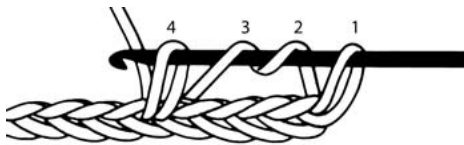


DIAGRAM 71

STEP 2

Yo and draw up a lp on hook, 4 loops on hook (Diagram 71).



DIAGRAM 72

STEP 3

Yo and draw through 2 loops (Diagram 72).



DIAGRAM 73

STEP 4

Yo and draw through 2 loops again (Diagram 73).





DIAGRAM 74

STEP 5

Yo and draw through last 2 loops (Diagram 74).

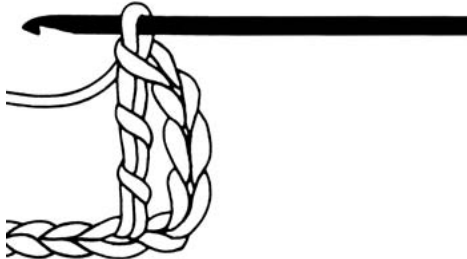


DIAGRAM 75

STEP 6

You have completed the first two treble crochet stitches, because the first 4 ch at the beginning of the row count as the first stitch (Diagram 75).

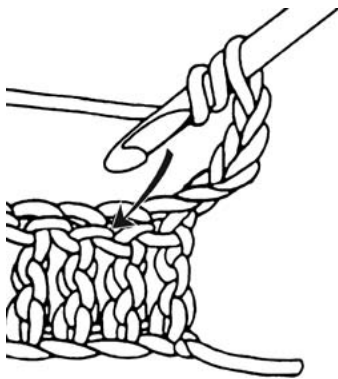


DIAGRAM 76

Continue across the row making one tr in each ch st.

Ch 4, turn. Yo twice and insert hook in 2nd stitch to start a new row (Diagram 76). The ch 4 will be counted as the first stitch of the next row.

Work a tr into each stitch across the row. The last stitch should be worked into the top of the turning chain of the previous row.

Note: You can make a stitch as tall as you want by starting with more yarn overs and working loops off two at a time. Remember to increase the turning chain by one for every loop that you add, insert hook in the 2nd stitch to start a new row and the last stitch should be worked into the top of the turning chain of the previous row.



Slip Stitch

- = slip stitch (sl st)



DIAGRAM 77



DIAGRAM 78

A slip stitch is used when you want to crochet across stitches without adding to the height of the work. It is commonly used to join work when crocheting motifs, crocheting in the round, for seaming and to straighten edges.

STEP 1

Insert hook into chain (or stitch), yarn over (Diagram 77).

STEP 2

Draw the yarn through both the chain (or stitch) and the loop on the hook (Diagram 78).

Repeat Steps 1 and 2 for a slip stitch.

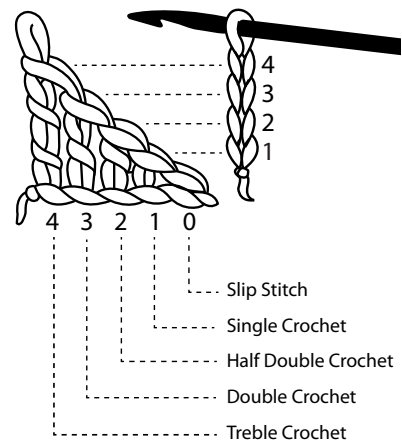
Chart for Turning Chains

This is a handy reference guide for remembering where to insert the hook on the foundation row and the number of turning chains to make at the end of a row so that you will have the correct height for the next row of stitches (Diagram 79).

Chart for Turning Chains

Type of Stitch in Next Row	On Foundation Row, Insert Hook:	Turning Chain Before Beginning Next Row:
Slip stitch		No turning ch
Single Crochet—sc	In 2nd Stitch	Ch 1
Half-Double Crochet—hdc	In 3rd Stitch	Ch 2
Double Crochet—dc	In 4th Stitch	Ch 3
Treble Crochet—tr	In 5th Stitch	Ch 4

DIAGRAM 79



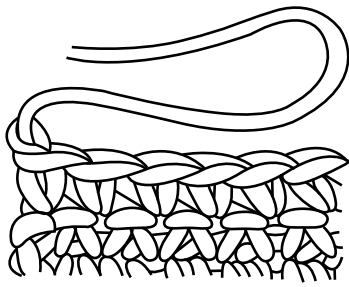


DIAGRAM 80

Fastening Off

To end your work, cut the yarn leaving at least 6" (10cm) tail. Draw the yarn through the last loop; tighten gently (Diagram 80). This will prevent unraveling.

Tip: Do not tie yarn ends with a knot. Knots create bumps, unravel and are unsightly. Instead, follow the finishing instructions that follow.

Seaming and Weaving in Ends



DIAGRAM 81

Weaving in Ends

Before your crochet project is complete, you must finish off ALL your yarn ends. This means weaving in all the yarn ends securely so they don't unravel. Alternatively, if using a solid a pattern and solid color yarn, you can work over yarn ends as you go.

You can weave in your ends anywhere, just be sure they are encased within the stitches and don't show and be sure to weave them in at least three different directions. To do this, thread the yarn end through a tapestry needle or a yarn needle (blunt point with a large eye) and weave it so the yarn is "encased" at the base of a row of stitches, weaving 1" (2.5cm) in one direction, 1" (2.5cm) in the reverse direction (Diagram 81) and then reverse directions again. Cut off excess yarn. Weave in only one yarn end at a time to avoid a bulky spot in your work.

If you decide to work over the yarn ends as you go, leave a very long tail (at least 6"/15cm). Work over half of it, work it up the stem of one stitch, and then work over the other half when you come back in the opposite direction. Working over yarn ends firmly encases them with the stitches but it is not the suggested finishing method if you are using different colored yarns or a lacy stitch pattern.

Many crocheted projects must be assembled. Common methods for joining pieces used are mattress stitch, back stitch and slip stitch. Many variations are described in other crochet books and may be more appropriate for your project.



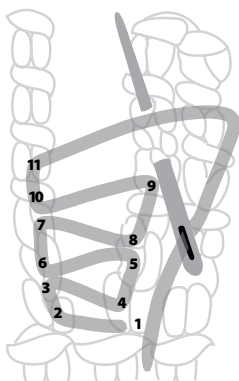


DIAGRAM 82

Mattress Stitch

Mattress Stitch is excellent for most sweater seams and leaves a small but comfortable inside seam. It is sometimes called an “invisible seam” because it almost disappears. Thread a yarn needle with matching yarn. With right sides facing you, place edges to be seamed together (Diagram 82).

Beginning at hem edge, secure yarn through both sides. Bring the point of the needle up at 1, which is the post of the stitch. Cross to the opposite edge and with the tip of the needle pick up the post of the stitch at the corresponding point 2. With the needle pointing up, pick up the post of the stitch above (3). With the tip of needle return to the first side, picking up the post at point 1 again. At this point, do not pull the yarn too tightly but continue the back and forth motion. Be sure to keep needle pointing up to the top of the work rather than to the side of the work. Tighten yarn in seam after picking up 3 or 4 stitches. Yarn must be tight enough to disappear, but not enough to shorten seam. Sometimes it helps to tighten the thread, then give a gentle tug to the fabric of the seam to even it out.

Seaming is not an exact science. Adjustments have to be made depending on the stitches used in the project. The important things to remember are staying as close to the edge as possible and weaving the edges together so there are no gaping holes or visible seam.

Tip: This stitch may be worked with any crochet st. You may prefer to leave dc “spaces”, running seaming yarn up through the dc post and connecting work at the top of each row. Whatever is done, rows should be matched. If extra rows must be “worked in”, do this near the arm hole, easing gradually. This method may be used to sew in sleeves.

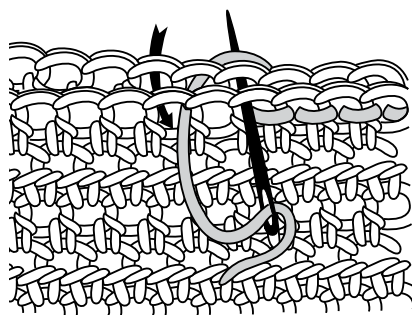


DIAGRAM 83

Back Stitch

A firm stitch, back stitch is appropriate for seams which receive heavy wear. It gets its name from the way that each stitch is started—halfway back from where the needle started. Use a tapestry or yarn needle with matching yarn. Place pieces with right sides together, stitching as shown. Secure yarn on the edge of work before coming through both pieces (Diagram 83).



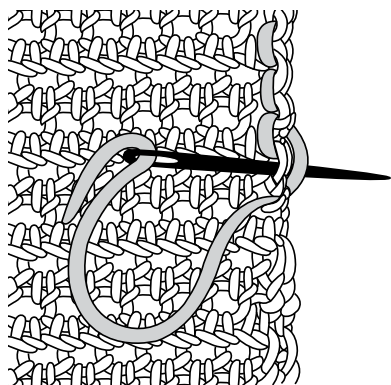


DIAGRAM 84



DIAGRAM 85



DIAGRAM 86

On vertical or row gauge edges (Diagram 84), this stitch may be worked one or $\frac{1}{2}$ stitch from edge. Stitching must be pulled tight enough to be hidden but not so tightly that it distorts the fabric.

Slip Stitch

This is a strong stitch, excellent for afghan assembly. It may be used for garments, but is bulkier than mattress or back stitch. It is especially good to use after blocks or edges have been edged with single crochet.

To start, make a slip knot on yarn end. With right sides together, insert hook under both bound off edges, catching the slip knot and pull through work. Insert hook under the next stitches, yarn over and pull through all loops on hook. Continue until seam is complete, being very careful to make stitches loose enough so that the seam has the same amount of give as the pieces you are joining. This leaves no edge showing on the right side (Diagram 85).

Slip stitch may be worked under the innermost or two outermost loops of both pieces for a different appearance (Diagram 86).

Tip: Slip stitch can be very tight and distort the fabric. Using a larger hook will generally eliminate the problems of pulling and puckering.

Note: Joining with a single crochet from the right side gives a decorative edge especially when assembling afghan sections.



Gauge

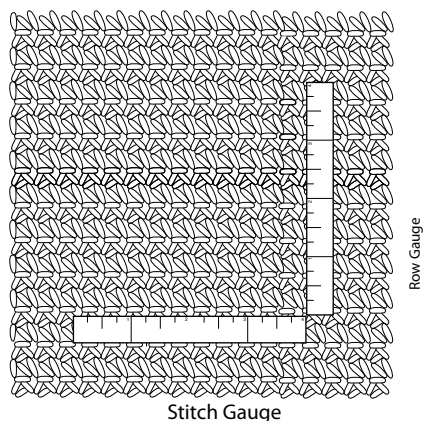


DIAGRAM 87

Understanding gauge is the key to successful crocheting and knitting. Gauge is the single most important element in producing a crochet project of a specific size. It is the number of stitches and rows in each inch. You must achieve the gauge specified in a pattern to ensure that the garment made will fit properly. Yarn and hook size, weather and emotions can change your personal crochet tension.

In a pattern, gauge is usually given for a 4" (10cm) square. However, many teachers recommend that you crochet at least a 6" (15cm) square and then measure 4" (10cm) in the center (Diagram 87) because the stitches along the edge can be loose or curl and distort the gauge.

Do a gauge swatch for each project using the yarn, hook and pattern stitch called for at the beginning of every pattern. Chain four times the desired number of stitches per inch, plus one chain and extra chains for a more accurate measurement. Example: Gauge is 5 sts = 1" (2.5cm). Chain 21 sts (plus extra stitches). Work in pattern st for 4" (10cm) or more. Lay right side down on a smooth hard surface and measure across the center of the swatch (Diagram 87).

Your swatch should measure 4" (10cm) square. If it does not measure exactly 4" (10cm) by 4" (10cm), you are off gauge and you must make adjustments.

If your swatch measures smaller, crochet another swatch using the next larger size hook. If it larger, crochet another swatch using the next smaller size hook. Work your gauge swatch until you come as close as possible to the gauge called for.

When crocheting a project, continue to measure across the width of the entire piece every 3" (7.5cm) to be sure that your gauge has not changed.

If a pattern only specifies the number of rows, then row gauge IS important. It is only not critical if the pattern specifies project length.



Starting a New Skein of Yarn or Changing Yarn Colors

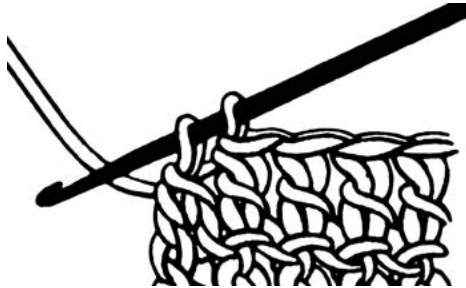


DIAGRAM 88



DIAGRAM 89

When starting a new ball or skein of yarn, work to the last step of the last stitch when you have two loops on the hook (Diagram 88).

Draw the new yarn through both loops (Diagram 89) and continue with the pattern. Always leave at least a 6" (15cm) tail of yarn.

Follow this same method whether you are at the end of a row or in the middle. If you change yarn in the middle of a row and are working with the same color yarn and pattern, secure the end of the old yarn as you continue crocheting (see Seaming and Weaving in Ends). Alternatively, the end can be secured on the reverse side of your crocheted fabric during finishing.

When changing yarn colors, follow the above method, working until there are two loops on the hook and drawing the new yarn color through the loops. There is further discussion about changing yarn colors in the Crocheting with Colors section.

Increasing

Increases can go anywhere and are made by placing two sts in the row below where you would usually make one st. Another option for increasing in double crochet or taller stitches is to work into the first stitch, the st that is normally skipped.

Decreasing

To decrease, it is possible to skip a stitch but that generally leaves a hole in your fabric. It is most common to crochet two stitches together and how this is accomplished varies with the stitch, though the principle is the same.

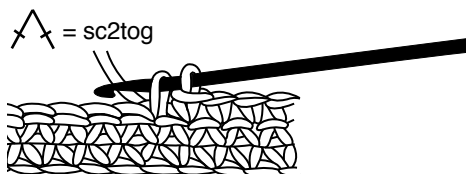


DIAGRAM 90

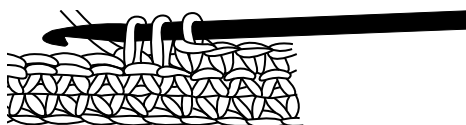


DIAGRAM 91

Single crochet

STEP 1

For single crochet, insert hook in the next stitch, yo and pull yarn through, 2 loops on hook (Diagram 90).

STEP 2

Instead of completing the sc, insert hook into the next st, yo and pull through (Diagram 91) for 3 lps in hook.



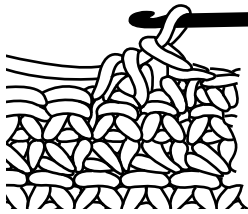


DIAGRAM 92

STEP 3

Yo and pull yarn through all 3 lps (Diagram 92). One sc decrease (dec) is made, which is also known as sc2tog (single crochet two together).

Half double crochet

To decrease in half double crochet, yo and insert the hook into the next stitch, yo, pull through ch to form 3 loops on the hook, insert hook into next st (with NO yo first), yo in the next st and then pull the strand through (4 loops on hook), yo and draw yarn through all four loops on hook. One hdc decrease completed. This is also known as hdc2tog (half double crochet 2 together.)

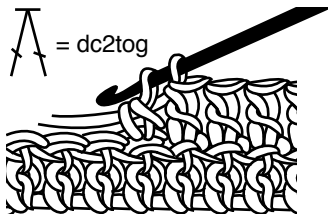


DIAGRAM 93

Double crochet**STEP 1**

To decrease in double crochet, yo and insert the hook in the next st, yo and pull strand through (3 loops on hook). Yo and pull through 2 loops. 2 loops remain on the hook (Diagram 93).

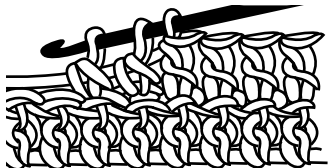


DIAGRAM 94

STEP 2

Yo, insert hook into next st, yo and pull through stitch (4 loops on hook). YO, pull through 2 loops (3 loops on hook) (Diagram 94).

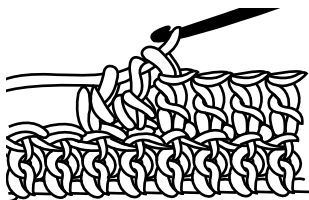


DIAGRAM 95

STEP 3

Yo, pull yarn through all 3 loops for a completed dc decrease (Diagram 95). This is also know as dc2tog (double crochet 2 together).

Tip: To decrease taller sts, follow the same procedure as you did for dc. Work until you have 2 loops on the hook and then work your next st until you are left with 3 loops on the hook. Yo, pull yarn through all three loops.

Double Crochet Increase and Decrease Test Sample

With H/5mm hook and medium-weight yarn, ch 5.

Row 1: Dc in 4th ch from hook, dc in each ch to end (3 dc), ch 3, turn.

Inc Row: Dc in first st of previous row, dc in each st, 2 dc in top of turning ch, ch 3, turn.

Repeat Inc Row until piece measures 4" (10cm) from Row 1.

Dec Row: Working in dc, dec in 2nd & 3rd sts, dc in each st to last 2 sts, dec over last dc and turning ch, ch 3, turn.

Repeat Dec Row until 3 sts remain. Fasten off.



Stitch Variations

⤿ = worked in back loop only

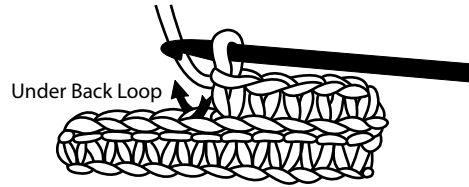


DIAGRAM 97

⤿ = worked in front loop only

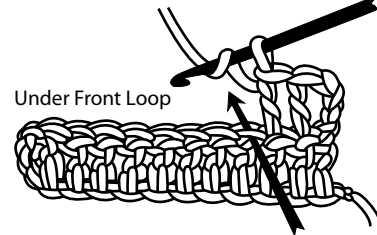


DIAGRAM 98

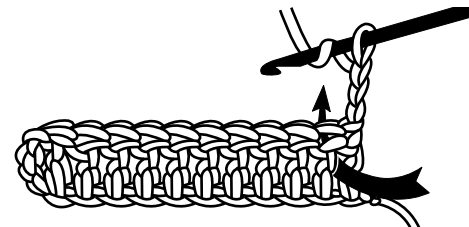


DIAGRAM 99

Once you learn the basic stitches in crochet, there are interesting textural variations you can create simply by changing where you insert the hook. Most stitches are worked into the two top loops of the next stitch, however, if you insert the hook between stitches, in one loop, or beneath the previous row of stitches, you can make a fabric with a variety of textures.

Working Under One Loop

Some patterns will instruct you to insert the hook under one top loop only, either the back or front loop. The unworked loop creates a horizontal bar or ridge but the fabric created is quite different: front loop only (FLO) makes a flatter fabric with more drape and back loop only (BLO) makes a deeply ridged fabric and when worked in sc is often used for ribbing.

As you look at the chain, the leg closer to you is the front loop; the leg further away is the back.

Diagram 97 illustrates inserting the hook under the back loop only.

Diagram 98 illustrates inserting the hook under the front loop only.

Working Between Two Stitches

Working between two stitches produces a slightly heavier fabric. Insert the hook between the stems of the stitches of the row below, literally going beneath all the horizontal threads of the previous row of stitches (Diagram 99).



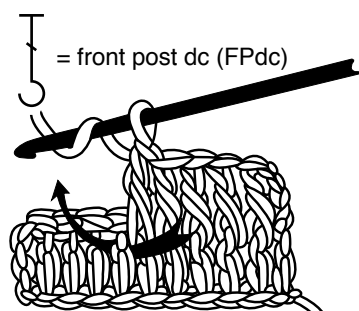


DIAGRAM 100

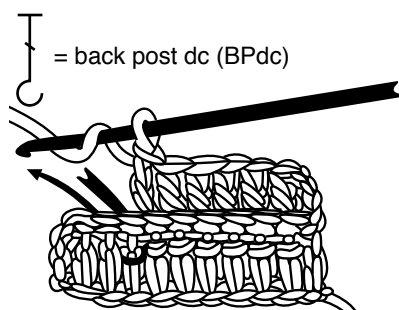


DIAGRAM 101

Post Stitches

Post stitches are generally made with double crochet or taller stitches and create a raised texture on crocheted fabric. They are made by inserting the hook around the stem of the next stitch in the previous row instead of inserting the hook into the V or top two loops. This can be done either by inserting the hook from the front (the side facing you) or from the back and then working as you would any crochet stitch.

For example, to make a front post double crochet, yo, insert the hook from the front of the post, around the back and out the front again. Yo again with the working yarn and carefully pull the yarn around the post so that you have three loops on your hook. Now complete the dc as normal: yo, pull through two loops on the hook, yo and pull through the last two loops on the hook.

To complete a back post double crochet stitch, yo, insert the hook from the back of the work, around the front and out the back again. Yo, pull the yarn carefully around the stem so you have three loops on the hook and complete the stitch.

In order to keep stitch count even, when working less than a complete row of post stitches, be careful to leave the tops of the stitches unworked. In other words, after completing, for instance 2 post stitches, count 2 V's on the top of the piece that you leave unworked before working your next regular stitch.

If you are working back and forth and want a raised surface on just one side of the fabric, you will need to work both front and back post stitches. Post stitches are also used to create crochet cables. Diagram 100 shows a front post double crochet.

Diagram 101 shows back post double crochet.

Tip: Consider fiber choices carefully when selecting highly textured stitches like these. Any fiber that is very silky, like rayon or silk, will have too much drape to give the dimension that these stitches need to look their best.



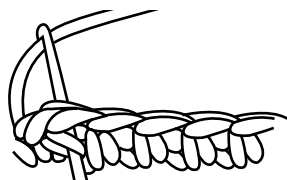


DIAGRAM 102

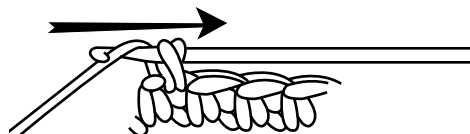


DIAGRAM 103

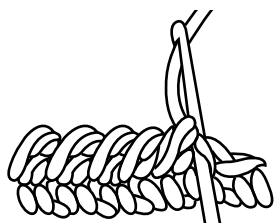


DIAGRAM 104

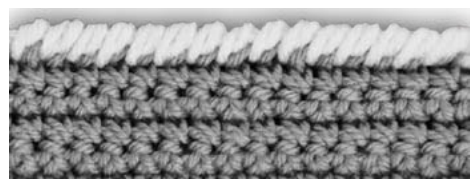


DIAGRAM 104B

Reverse single crochet

Edging method

Reverse single crochet creates a corded effect. It is an excellent stitch for edging garments and accessories but can also be used to create interesting raised surface textures. The stitch is challenging because it is worked from left to right—in the opposite direction from a regular single crochet stitch.

With the right side of the fabric facing you, begin at the left side. With one loop on the hook, insert the hook from the front to the back into the first stitch (Diagram 102).

Draw up one loop of yarn so you have two loops on hook, yo and pull yarn through the two loops on the hook (Diagram 103). One reverse single crochet completed.

As you continue across the row, you will see the cord-like appearance of the stitch (Diagram 104).

Tip: The initial reverse single crochet stitches may look messy but the cord-like effect becomes more apparent after about an inch (2.5cm). See Diagram 104B.

Raised surface texture

As mentioned, reverse single crochet is also used to create a horizontal raised surface effect. With the right side of the fabric facing you and working left to right, insert the hook in front loop only of the next stitch from front to back (directions shown by arrow in Diagram 105).

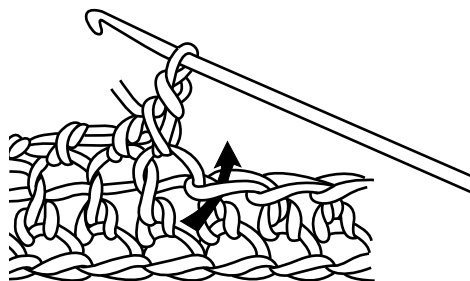


DIAGRAM 105

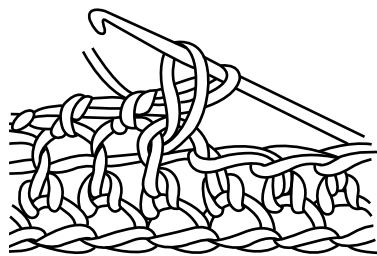


DIAGRAM 106

Yo and draw loop through stitch, bringing loop under and to the left of loop already on hook (Diagram 106); yo and draw through both loops now on hook. Repeat across the row to the last stitch. Slip stitch in front loop only of last st. Chain whatever number of stitches are necessary for the height of the next row of stitches. Without turning, work your next row of stitches into the free back loops of the row into which you just worked. (In other words, there will be two rows of stitches worked into one row below.)



Stitch Combinations



DIAGRAM 107A

There are numerous crochet stitch patterns and lots of books to explore on the topic. Many enthusiasts crochet swatches of a variety of stitch patterns and use them as teaching samples or assemble them into a throw or afghan, much like a stitch sampler in embroidery (Diagram 107A). Following are just a few pattern stitch ideas.

Cluster Stitches

Like stitch variations, combining basic crochet stitches results in interesting surface textures and designs. The following is just an introduction to one of the most common combinations: cluster stitches. We encourage you to experiment with your own combinations and to explore numerous books available on this subject. We should mention that there are many different names for these cluster stitches.

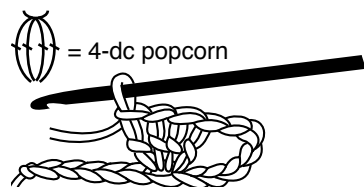


DIAGRAM 107B

Popcorn Stitch

To create a popcorn stitch, the number and type of stitches may vary, but the process remains the same.

STEP 1

For instruction purposes, work four double crochet stitches in one stitch (Diagram 107).

STEP 2

Remove the hook from the working loop you've been using. Insert the hook under the top two loops before the stem of the first double crochet in the group you just made and reach through, picking up the working loop (Diagram 108).



DIAGRAM 108

STEP 3

Draw working loop past the rest of the working stitches and through that first dc, pulling the popcorn together—it should “pop” toward you. Ch 1 to secure (Diagram 109).



DIAGRAM 109

Tip: The popcorn can also be worked to project toward the “back” of the fabric. When working a row on the “wrong” side, insert the hook from behind and draw the group of stitches closed so that it projects toward the back of the fabric as it faces you. Alternatively, you can make it as usual and then push it out to the side you want.





DIAGRAM 109A

Popcorn Stitch Test Sample Diagram 109A

For test sample with H/5mm hook and medium-weight yarn, ch 19.

Foundation Row: Dc across, ch 3, turn. (17 dc.)

Row 2: Dc across, ch 3, turn.

Row 3: Dc in next 8 sts (Note that the turning chain counts as a stitch here and throughout.), work a 5 dc-popcorn in next dc, dc in remaining 8 dc, ch 3, turn.

Row 4: Dc in next 7 sts, work popcorn, dc in ch 1 of popcorn st in previous row, work popcorn in next st, dc in remaining 7 sts, ch 3, turn.

Row 5: Dc in next 6 sts, work popcorn, 3 dc, popcorn, 6 dc, ch 3, turn.

Row 6: Dc in next 5 sts, popcorn, 5 dc, popcorn, 5 dc, ch 3, turn.

Rows 7–9: Repeat Row 5, then 4 and 3 to complete the popcorn diamond.

Rows 10 & 11: Dc across row. Fasten off.

Note: Those popcorn sts made on wrong side of work should be pushed to the front. They may also be made all on the right side.

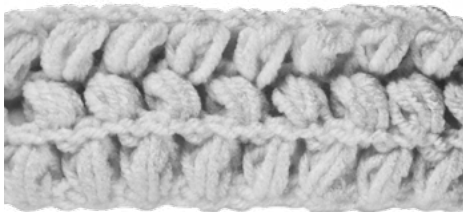


DIAGRAM 110

Puff Stitch

STEP 1

To create a puff stitch, you can use from three to five stitches in one "puff", but for instruction purposes, we will use three.

Yarn over, insert the hook in the chain or stitch, yarn over again, then draw a loop through, leaving three loops on your hook (Diagram 110A).

Tip: Each loop should be about ½" (1.5cm) in height, as shown in Diagram 111 or as tall as a double crochet.

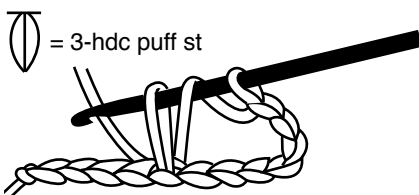


DIAGRAM 110A

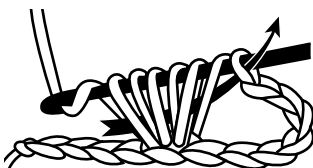


DIAGRAM 111

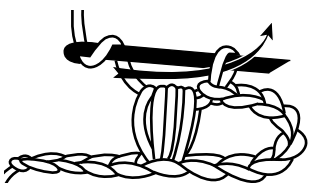


DIAGRAM 112

STEP 2

Repeat Step 1 two more times in the same stitch, so you have seven loops on your hook (Diagram 111). Then yarn over and draw through all the loops on your hook. You have one loop on hook.

STEP 3

Work one chain stitch to secure the puff stitch (Diagram 112).

Tip: On the following row, instructions will usually say: work into the chain in the previous row. This refers to the chain that secures the puff stitch. Be carefully to crochet into only that chain or you will be adding unintended increases. This applies to other cluster stitches that are closed with a chain stitch.

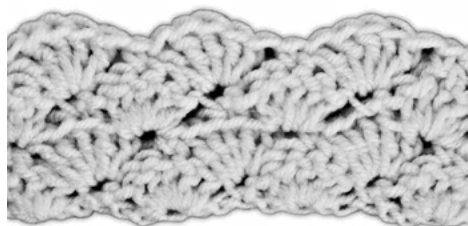


DIAGRAM 113

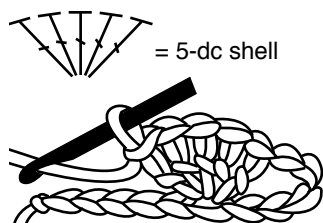


DIAGRAM 114

Shell Stitch

These stitches, also known as fan stitches because that's what they look like (Diagram 113), are created by working more than one stitch, generally a double crochet or taller, in the same place.

If you work **three** or more double crochets in one stitch, you create a Shell Stitch. Diagram 114 shows five double crochets worked in one chain. Generally, these stitches are anchored with a single crochet stitch on each side.

Shell Stitch Test Sample

Working with multiple of 6 + 1.

With H/5mm hook and medium-weight yarn, ch 25.

Foundation Row: Work 2 dc in 4th ch from hook, *sk 2 ch, 1 sc in next ch, sk 2 ch, 5 dc in next ch (one shell made), repeat from *, ending, sk 2 ch, 1 sc in last ch, ch 3, turn.

Row 2: 2 dc in 1st sc, *1 sc in 3rd dc of next shell, 1 shell in next sc, repeat from *, end with 1 sc in top of turning ch. Ch 3 and turn.

Repeat Row 2 for pattern.

Cluster Stitch

Cluster Stitch Test Sample

Working with multiple of 3 + 1.

With H/5mm hook and medium-weight yarn, ch 22.

Foundation Row: Holding back the last loop of each stitch, work 3 dc in 4th ch from hook, yo, pull lp through 4 lps on hook, ch 1 to secure, *ch 1, sk next 2 ch, work cluster in next st, repeat from * across, ch 3, turn.

Row 2: *Work cluster in next ch-sp, ch 1, repeat from * across row, end with 1 cluster in turn ch.

Repeat Row 2 for pattern.



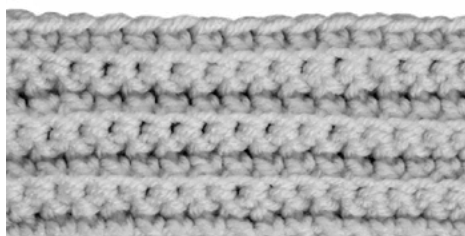


DIAGRAM 116

Single Crochet Rib

Single Crochet Rib Test Sample

With H/5mm hook and medium-weight yarn, ch 21.

Row 1: Skip 1 ch, sc in 2nd ch and in each ch across row, ch 1, turn.

Row 2: Work in back loop only. Work in each sc across, ch 1, turn.

Repeat Row 2 for pattern (Diagram 116).

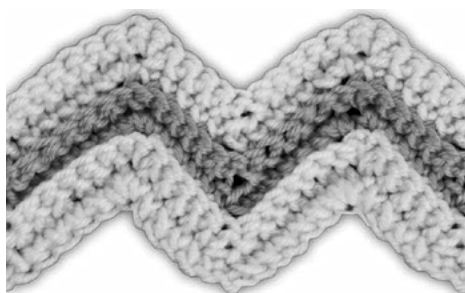


DIAGRAM 117

Ripple Stitch

This pattern stitch is formed by stacking increases and skipped stitches to create a wave effect. It is commonly used for afghans (Diagram 117).

Ripple Test Sample

Multiple of 13 sts + 12.

For a test swatch, ch 25.

Row 1: Sc in 2nd ch from hook, 1 sc in ea of next 4 ch, *3 sc in next ch, 1 sc in each of next 5 ch, skip 2 ch, 1 sc in ea of next 5 ch, repeat from * across, ending 3 sc in next ch, 1 sc in each of last 5 ch, turn. (Note: Test swatch has NO repeats in this row).

Row 2: Working through the back loop only, ch 1, sk 1 sc, *1 sc in each of next 5 sc, 3 sc in next sc, 1 sc in each of next 5 sc, skip 2 sc, repeat from * until 6 sc remain; end with 1 sc in each of next 4 sc, skip 1 sc, 1 sc under BOTH loops of last st, turn.

Repeat Row 2 until piece measures desired length.



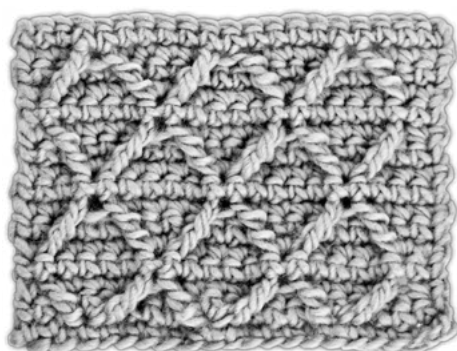


DIAGRAM 118

Aran Diamond

Diamond patterns add attractive surface interest and are frequently used in richly textured Aran sweaters as well as afghans (Diagram 118).

Notes: In the following rows, stitches are worked into the usual row (the last complete row) and around stitches 3 rows below. Unless otherwise stated, work and skip stitches in the usual row. Only work or skip stitches 3 rows below when instructed.

Diamond Test Sample

With Aran or medium-weight yarn and size G/4mm hook, ch 21.

Rows 1 and 2: Ch 1, sc in each st across, turn. (20 sc)

Row 3 (Right Side): Ch 1, sc in first st, FPtr around 4th sc 3 rows below, skip next st (behind the FPtr), sc in next 4 sc, FPtr around next sc 3 rows below (next to the last FPtr worked), *skip next 4 sc 3 rows below, FPtr around next sc 3 rows below, skip next 2 sc (behind the 2 FPtr sts), sc in next 4 sc, FPtr around next sc 3 rows below; repeat from * once, sc in last st, turn.

Rows 4–6: Ch 1, sc in each st across, turn.

Row 7: Ch 1, sc in first 3 sts, FPtr around 2nd sc 3 rows below (directly above FPtr of previous FPtr row), skip next 4 sc 3 rows below, FPtr around next sc 3 rows below, skip next 2 sts, *sc in next 4 sts, FPtr around next sc 3 rows below (next to the last FPtr worked), skip next 4 sc 3 rows below, FPtr around next sc 3 rows below, skip next 2 sts; repeat from * once, sc in last 3 sts, turn.

Row 8: Ch 1, sc in each st across, turn.

Rows 9–16: Repeat Rows 1–8.

Tip: Consider fiber choices carefully when selecting highly textured stitches like diamonds and cables. Any fiber that is very silky, like rayon or silk, will have too much drape to give the dimension that these stitches need to look their best.



Cables

Cables add wonderful dimension to fabric and there are many variations depending on the number of post stitches you wish to include. In the sample that follows, there are 3-post and 4-post cables (Diagram 119). Again, we urge you to experiment with this pattern stitch and here are some helpful notes.

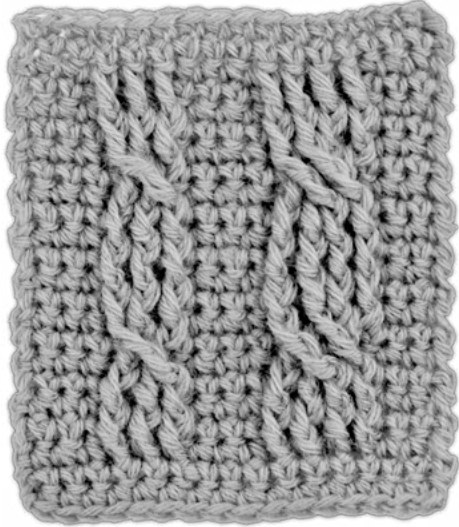


DIAGRAM 119

Notes:

- Be careful to differentiate between front post double crochet (FPdc) and front post treble crochet (FPtr).
- When working the 3 sc after each cable, be careful to leave unworked the same number of stitches as are in the cable (3 or 4). Since you worked around the posts of those stitches, the tops are unworked. It is easy to skip an additional stitch by accident. It may be helpful to count each time.
- When repeating the pattern, you may adjust to your taste the number of rows between the rows where the stitches cross (as in row 9).
- There are many types of crocheted cables; these are just two and may of course be worked independently of each other and in combination with any other Aran crochet feature like bobbles, diamonds and reverse sc through the front loop.

Cable Test Swatch

With size H/5mm hook and medium-weight yarn, ch 17.

Row 1: Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each st across, ch 1, turn. (16 sc)

Row 2–4: Sc in each sc across, ch 1, turn.

Row 5: Sc in first 3 sc, FPdc in next 3 sc 2 rows below, sc in next 3 sc, FPdc in next 4 sc 2 rows below, sc in last 3 sc, ch 1, turn.

Row 6 and all even numbered rows: Sc in each sc across, ch 1, turn.

Row 7: Sc in first 3 sc, FPdc in next 3 FPdc, sc in next 3 sc, FPdc in next 4 FPdc, sc in last 3 sc, ch 1, turn.

Row 9: Sc in first 3 sc, sk one FPdc, FPdc in next 2 FPdc, FPtr in skipped FPdc 2 stitches back, sc in next 3 sc, sk next 2 FPdc and FPtr in 3rd FPdc, FPtr in 4th FPdc, FPtr in first skipped FPdc, FPtr in 2nd skipped FPdc. sc in last 3 sc, ch 1, turn.

Row 11: Sc in first 3 sc, FPdc in next 2 FPdc and in FPtr, sc in next 3 sc, FPdc in next 4 FPtr, sc in last 3 sc, ch 1, turn.

Row 13: Sc in first 3 sc, FPdc in next 3 FPdc, sc in next 3 sc, FPdc in next 4 FPdc, sc in last 3 sc, ch 1, turn.

Repeat Rows 7–13 at least once, or as many times as desired.

End with 4 rows of sc.



Working in the Round

There are two basic methods of working in the round. The first method is a spiral, where you work the first stitch of round 2 directly into the top of the first stitch of round 1 and continue stitching around and around from there. A stitch marker is useful to keep track of what round you are working on. The second method is to work in separate rounds, where you join the last stitch of each round to the first with a slip stitch and chain up to start the next round.

And there are two basic shapes formed by working in the round: a tube, which is formed by just putting one stitch in each stitch below, without increasing, so that the stitches stack and form a tube; and a flat circle, where you need a specific pattern of increases to keep the circle flat as its perimeter increases.

The basic formula for crocheting a flat circle is this: however many stitches are in the first round are how many increases you need in each subsequent round. This is the foundation of the familiar increase pattern, where round 2 has an increase in every stitch, round 3 an increase in every other stitch, round 4 in every third stitch, and so on.

Note that it is important to change the placement of increases from round to round; if your increases stack on top of each other they will form little points rather than a round circle.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Either shape can be made using either method. Tubes and flat circles (and anything in between) can both be made using either separate rounds or a continuous spiral. And either shape can be modified. A circle with fewer increases will cup and form a bowl shape; more will ruffle. A circle that has 3 increases in one stitch placed at four equidistant spots will become a square as increases stack on top of increases, forming corners. The traditional granny square is an example of a square that is worked in the round.

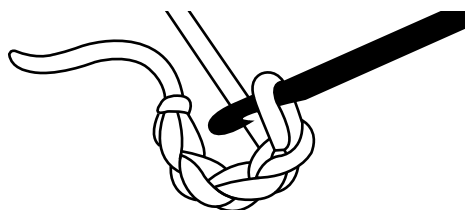


DIAGRAM 120



DIAGRAM 121

Joining a Ring

When making a motif for an afghan or a project such as a cap, stitches are worked around a center ring. To begin, work the desired number of chains and form a ring by slip stitching into first chain (Diagram 120).

Insert the hook into the first stitch in the same way you usually do on a foundation row, inserting the hook under the top part of the chain in the front, and under the back loop as well.

Yarn over, then draw the yarn through both the stitch and the loop that is already on the hook which completes the slip stitch and joins the ring (Diagram 121).

Work the first round directly into the space formed by the center of the ring, not into the chain stitches.



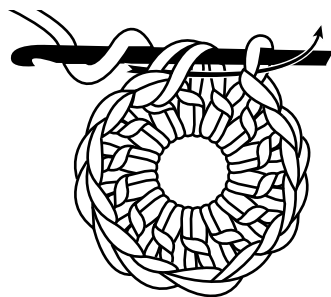


DIAGRAM 122

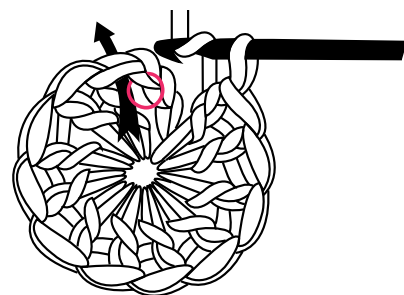


DIAGRAM 123

How to Work into a Ring

The first round is worked over the chain ring. Ch 1, or the number needed for the height of the first stitch, insert hook into center of ring, instead of into a chain stitch, and complete stitch in the usual way. Continue working into the ring until you have the number of stitches required by the pattern. In subsequent rounds, stitches are worked into the top loops of the stitch below in the usual way. If the pattern calls for it, you close each round with a slip stitch in the beginning stitch (Diagram 122).

If you are making a project requiring spiral shaping, do not end each round with a slip stitch, instead continue stitching without joining. Each round continues out of the previous one. Place a stitch marker in the top turning ch on the first round, then move it up on each round as you work (Diagram 123).



DIAGRAM 124

Square Motif

This familiar pattern is one of the most common crochet motifs and is referred to as a granny square. It originated in 1890 when Weldon and Company of London printed the pattern directions to use up odd ends of yarn. While used extensively for afghans, today granny squares are also popular for a variety of garments and accessories (Diagram 124).





DIAGRAM 125



DIAGRAM 126



DIAGRAM 127

Granny Square Test Sample

Granny Square Directions:

It is suggested to work each round in a different color.

With size H/5mm hook and medium-weight yarn, ch 5, join with a sl st to form ring.

Round 1: Ch 3 to count as the first dc, 2 dc in ring, ch 2 for corner space *3 dc in ring, ch 2 repeat from * 2 more times, join with a sl st to top of first ch 3 (Diagram 125). Fasten off.

Round 2: Join new color in any corner space. Ch 3, 2 dc, ch 2, 3 dc all in corner space, *ch 1, 3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc in next corner space, repeat from * 2 more times, ch 1, join with a slip stitch to top of first ch 3 (Diagram 126). Fasten off.

Round 3: Join new color in any corner space. Ch 3, 2 dc, ch 2, 3 dc all in corner space, *ch 1, 3 dc in next ch1-space, ch 1, 3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc in next corner space, repeat from * 2 more times, ch 1, 3 dc in ch1-space, ch 1. Join with a slip stitch to top of first ch 3 (Diagram 127). Fasten off.

Round 4: Join new color in any corner space. Ch 3, 2 dc, ch 2, 3 dc all in corner space, *[(ch 1, 3 dc in next ch1-space) twice], ch 1, 3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc in next corner space, repeat from * 2 more times, repeat between [] once, ch 1. Join with a slip stitch to top of first ch 3. Fasten off.

You may want to experiment by crocheting a larger granny square, following the format established in Rounds 1–4. Two large granny squares could be used to make a purse or pillow. You can create your own afghan by continuing the rounds and making an even larger granny square.

Tip: Join a new color by working a slip stitch into any ch-2 corner space.



Hexagon Motif

Hexagons are another popular motif. Sometimes the edges may appear wavy but the waviness is not evident when the motifs are joined together (Diagram 128).



DIAGRAM 128

Hexagon Test Sample

With size H/5mm hook and medium-weight yarn, chain 7, join with a sl st to form ring.

Round 1: Ch 3, to count as first dc, 2 dc in ring, *ch 2, 3 dc in ring, repeat from * 4 more times, ch 2, sl st in top of ch 3; sl st across next 2 dc. Sl st into next ch 2-sp.

Round 2: Ch 3, 2 dc, ch 2, 3 dc all in ch 2-sp, *ch 1, in next ch 2-sp work 3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc, repeat from * 4 more times, ch 1, sl st in top of ch 3; sl st across next 2 dc; sl st into next ch 2-sp.

Round 3: Ch 3, 2 dc, ch 2, 3 dc all in ch 2-sp, *ch 1, 3 dc in next ch 1-sp, ch 1; in next ch 2-sp work 3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc, repeat from * 4 more times, ch 2, 3 dc in next ch 1-sp, ch 1, sl st in top of ch 3. Fasten off.

You may want to experiment by crocheting a larger hexagon following the format established in Rounds 1–3.

Circular Motif

A circular motif is another popular shape. Experiment with incorporating different textured stitches in one of the rounds (Diagram 129).



DIAGRAM 129

Circular Test Sample

Puff Stitch (PS): (Yo and pull up a lp to height of a dc) 3 times in space indicated, yo and draw through all 7 lps on hook

With size H/5mm hook and medium-weight yarn, ch 6, join with sl st to form a ring.

Rnd 1: Ch 4 (counts as first tr), work 19 tr, in ring, join to beg ch 4.

Rnd 2: Ch 1, in same st work (sc, ch 1); (sc, ch 1) in next st and in each st around, join with sl st in beg sc: 20 ch-1 sps.

Rnd 3: Sl st into next ch-1 sp, ch 1, work (PS, ch 1) in same sp and in each ch-1 sp around, join in top of beg PS: 20 PS.

Rnd 4: Sl st into next ch-1 sp, sc in same sp, ch 3; *sc in next ch-1 sp, ch 3; rep from * round, join in beg sc: 20 ch-3 lps.

Fasten off.



Crochet Meshes

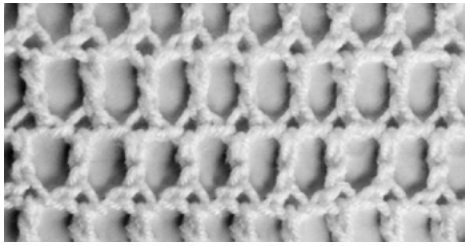


DIAGRAM 130

A crochet mesh consists of chain stitches and double crochet stitches combined to form a regular pattern of open spaces (Diagram 130). Crocheted meshes are used in a variety of techniques, two of which are filet crochet and woven overlay.

In order to form the blocks and spaces for these two techniques, work the following instructions.

Crochet Mesh Test Sample

Multiple of 2, plus 6.

With size H/5mm hook and medium-weight yarn, ch 26.

Row 1: Work 1 dc in 6th ch from hook, ch 1, skip 1 ch, *1 dc in next ch, ch 1, skip 1 ch, repeat from *, ending 1 dc, ch 4, turn.

Row 2: Sk 1st dc of previous row, *1 dc in next dc, ch 1, repeat from *, ending 1 dc in 2nd ch at beginning of previous row, ch 4, turn.

Repeat Row 2 for mesh pattern.

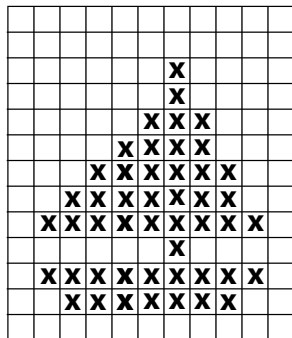


DIAGRAM 131

Filet Crochet

A filet crochet pattern is formed by filling in the spaces of the above mesh pattern. The spaces are filled by working a double crochet in the chain so that you have 3 dc's in a row. You may also find some filet instructions will have two chains between the double crochet stitches in order to have a more open pattern. This can be worked using two double crochet stitches to fill a space.

Directions for filet crochet are usually charted, with mesh spaces represented by blank squares and the blocks represented by filled ones. The chart is read from right to left on odd (right side) rows, from left to right on even rows. However, for left-handed crocheters, the first or odd row of the chart is read from left to right; the second or even row is read from right to left, the opposite direction.

Traditional filet crochet patterns consist of monograms, flowers, and geometric borders and motifs.

Tip: Filet crochet charts may be challenging to read so it may be helpful to number the rows and stitches in the chart and to use a sticky note, which you move with each row completed. You can also put arrows on the chart and/or the note to remind you which direction to work each row.

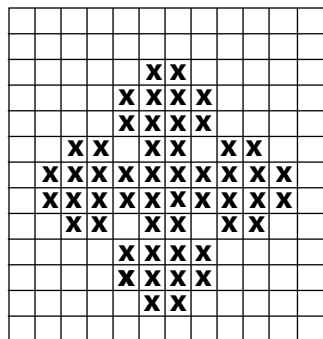


DIAGRAM 132

Filet crochet test sample

With size H/5mm crochet hook and medium-weight yarn, complete a filet crochet test sample following either the chart in Diagram 131 or 132.



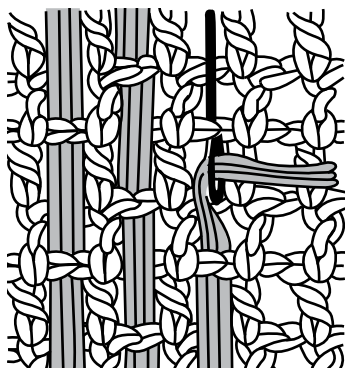


DIAGRAM 133

Woven Overlay

Overlaid patterns are formed by weaving separate strands of yarn or long crocheted chains through a mesh background. The fabric is thick and firm. The woven strands could be materials other than yarn, such as fabric strips or ribbon. The background can be worked vertically, horizontally, or diagonally. You should check your resources for other types of overlays, such as chained overlays.

To weave the overlay: use 3 strands (or desired thickness) of yarn threaded in a yarn needle. Weave the yarns vertically over and under the chain bars, filling alternate spaces on each row. Be careful to regulate the tension so no loops remain, and not to pull too tightly so the mesh will not pucker (Diagram 133).

You might want to stabilize the woven yarn with a row of stitching at top and bottom of the piece or by making fringe that incorporates the ends of the woven yarn.

Crocheting with Color

Adding color to your crochet work adds design interest and dimension. Crocheting with two or more colors is not very difficult to do. Stripes and color blocks are the simplest to work, but once you master the following basic color-changing techniques we encourage you to experiment. Start by working with two or more colors in single crochet because that allows more flexibility than other crochet stitches.

When working with color, you will most likely be working from a chart. As with filet crochet, the chart is a graph with each square representing a stitch and each horizontal line representing a row. Plain squares usually represent the background color, filled-in squares usually represent a second color, and if there are more than two colors, each additional color is depicted by a different symbol. Increasingly, publishers are producing color charts where the individual boxes of the graph are colored to represent a yarn shade. When reading a chart, start at the bottom, reading right to left for a right-side row and left to right for a wrong-side row.

Note for Left-Handed Crocheters: While many color charts should be read in the opposite direction—left to right for a right-side row and right to left for a wrong-side row—that is not always true. Review the chart carefully before you begin a project because adjustments may have to be made on one side of the chart.

Initially, circular charts are read counterclockwise. However, if the pattern calls for completing one round at a time, then you will also have to work clockwise.



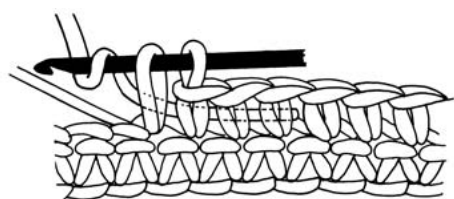


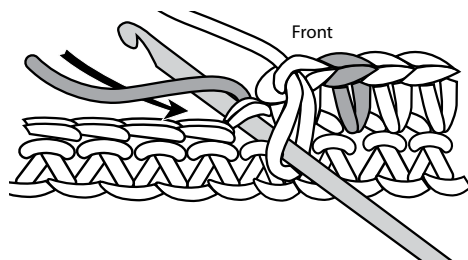
DIAGRAM 134

Changing Yarn Colors

This section will introduce three methods of crocheting with more than one color: (1) fair isle crochet, (2) tapestry crochet, and (3) intarsia crochet.

When changing colors at the end of a row, say for a stripe pattern, the old color can be carried along the side of the work. When the yarn color changes in the middle of a row, there are different options.

For all color techniques, a color change is made the same way (which is the same as adding a new skein of yarn covered in the earlier lessons). Work the last stitch to final 2 loops on hook, draw up a loop using the new color and complete the stitch (see Diagram 134). As you continue, this final loop in the new color will bend over and rest on top of the post of the next stitch, making a neat, clean color change.

**DIAGRAM 135**

Fair Isle Crochet

In Fair Isle crochet, also known as the carried yarn method, where there are frequent color changes across a row, the yarn not in use is carried behind the crocheted stitches. This leaves a strand of yarn, known as a float, on the back of the work. This method is suitable for any crocheted fabric that reveals just one finished side. If yarn is carried more than 3 or 4 stitches, it should be caught into the work every 2 or 3 stitches. This is simply done by slipping the hook under the unused yarn and covering it with the new stitch (Diagram 135). Be careful to make the floats loose enough so that your work does not pucker but not so loose that the floats can catch on things or the color changes bleed into one another.

Tapestry Crochet

Tapestry crochet, also known as the woven yarn method, consists of working over the colors not in use. This method produces a reversible fabric and results in a heavier fabric. To carry the unused color, lay it on top of the previous row and work over it. Depending on the colors used, the distance from which the item will be seen and the texture of the fabric, the carried yarn is often visible between the worked stitches.

Fair Isle or Tapestry Crochet Test Sample

With size H/5mm hook and medium-weight yarn, work a sample of the carried yarn method or woven yarn method by following the chart in Diagram 136. This has a 6-stitch repeat.

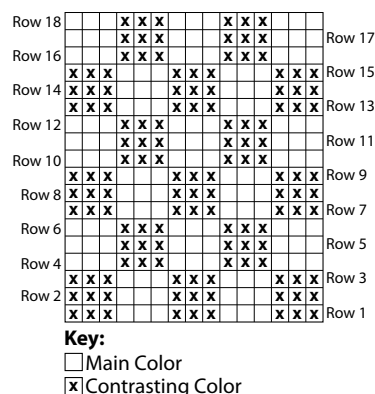


DIAGRAM 136



Intarsia Crochet

Intarsia crochet, also known as the crossed yarn method, is used when the design is made of large sections of different colors. It is a simple method where each color is worked separately and the yarn is not carried along the back. Each color or motif has its own skein or bobbin of yarn. At each change of color, the skeins or bobbins of yarn not in use are left on the wrong side of the work. You may wish to use a bobbin for each small colored motif.

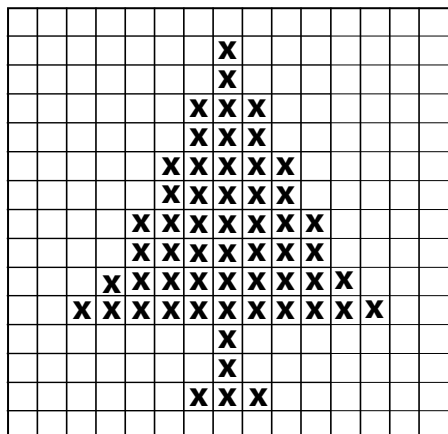


DIAGRAM 137

Intarsia Test Sample

With size H/5mm hook and medium-weight yarn, work a sample of the crossed yarn method in double crochet following the chart in Diagram 137.



Techniques Using a Crochet Hook

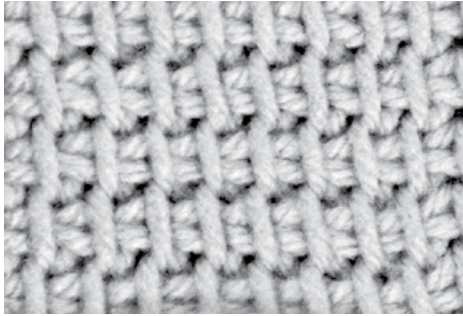


DIAGRAM 138

Tunisian Crochet—Tunisian Simple Stitch

Tunisian crochet is often described as a cross between knitting and crochet and the tool used for this technique, called an afghan hook, also looks like a hybrid of a hook and needle. It is a long hook with a knob on the end to keep stitches from sliding off.

The stitches create the effect of a woven fabric, which make them especially suited for cross-stitch embroidery (Diagram 138). There are many variations of this stitch which we encourage you to explore. Instructions for the Tunisian Simple Stitch, which is sometimes referred to as afghan stitch, follow.

In Tunisian crochet, there are two steps to completing a row. There is a forward row AND a returning row. At the end of the forward row, you complete the return row without turning the work. These two steps make up a row. (Odd-numbered rows are worked from right to left, and involve "picking up" stitches onto the hook, similar to knitting. The even-numbered rows will be worked in reverse, that is left to right, binding off the stitches.)

Left-handed crocheters will work in the opposite direction.

Tips: This fabric curls. The Tunisian crochet stitch pulls the fabric on the bias so blocking will be necessary. If you use a larger hook, it will curl less.



DIAGRAM 139

Base Forward Row

The two base rows must be worked for any of the variations on Tunisian crochet stitches.

Make a foundation chain as you normally do in crochet. Count the loop on the hook as the first stitch.

With the right side of the chain facing you, insert hook into the back bump of the second chain from the hook, yarn over, draw the loop through and LEAVE IT ON THE HOOK (Diagram 139).

Repeat for the length of the chain. This is call the "loop row." DO NOT TURN (Diagram 140).



DIAGRAM 140



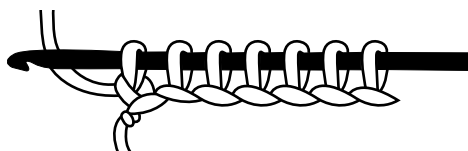


DIAGRAM 141

Base Return Row

For the Base Return Row, yarn over, draw the yarn through one loop—this is the equivalent of your turning chain (Diagram 141).

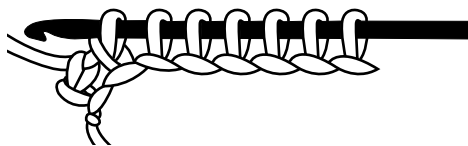


DIAGRAM 142

Yarn over, and draw the yarn through TWO loops (Diagram 142).

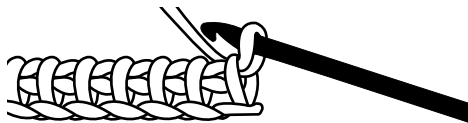


DIAGRAM 143

Repeat this last step until only one loop remains on the hook. You have completed the Base Return Row (Diagrams 143).

Remember: DO NOT TURN. You will be working in forward and reverse, always looking at the same side of the work.

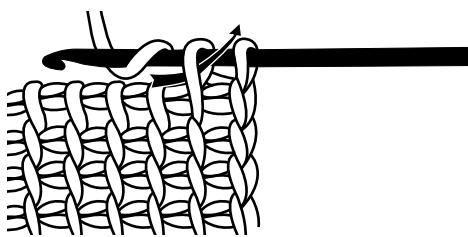


DIAGRAM 144

Third Row

STEP 1

After you have completed the two base rows detailed above, skip the first stitch. The loop remaining on your hook counts as this stitch.

On the third row, insert the hook from right to left through the vertical bars formed by the previous reverse row (Diagram 144).

STEP 2

Yarn over and draw the loop through. Leave the loop on the hook.

Repeat Steps 1 and 2 in each stitch to the end. Insert hook under both loops of last stitch.

Remember: DO NOT TURN.

Fourth Row

Repeat the Return Base Row for the entire row. (See Diagrams 141, 142, & 143.)

Fifth Row

Repeat the Third Row and continue repeating the Second and Third Row until the fabric measures the desired length.

The finish to most Tunisian crochet is a row of slip stitches. Slip stitch across the row, picking up sts as for Tunisian crochet stitch. The ending yarn should be on the left side of the work facing you.



Cro-Hook

The cro-hook is a long crochet hook (14"/35cm long) with a hook at each end and is worked much like Tunisian crochet. It uses two different colors of yarn—one at each end of hook. The fabric is reversible with subtle ridged stripes.

For practice, use a size I cro-hook and 2 balls of medium-weight yarn, preferably each in a different color.

To begin, use first ball of yarn and crochet specified number of chains as given in pattern instructions. For practice, chain 12.

NOTE: Loop on hook counts as first loop of next row.

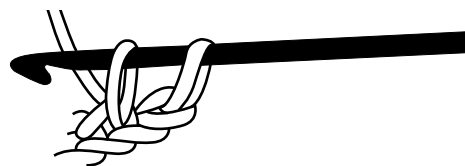


DIAGRAM 145

First Row

Continuing with first ball of yarn, insert hook in 2nd chain from hook, yarn over and draw loop through (Diagram 145). Keep this loop on hook. *Insert hook in next chain, yarn over and draw loop through, keeping loop on hook. Repeat from * across. (NOTE: Number of loops on hook equals same number of chains in foundation chain.) Drop yarn (do not cut). Slide work to other end of hook and TURN.

Second Row

With 2nd ball of yarn, yarn over and draw loop through first loop on hook. *Yarn over and draw loop through next 2 loops on hook LOOSELY (otherwise it is difficult to pick up loops on next row). Repeat from * across until 1 loop remains on hook. (Note: Loop counts as first loop of next row.) DO NOT TURN.



DIAGRAM 146

Third Row

Continuing with same ball of yarn, *insert hook in next stitch under top horizontal strand (Diagram 146). Yarn over and draw loop through, keeping loop on hook. Repeat from * across. (Note: Number of loops on hook equals same number of starting chains.) Drop yarn (do not cut), slide work to other end of hook and TURN.

Fourth Row

With other ball of yarn, work off loops in same manner as in Row 2. At end of row, DO NOT TURN.

Repeat Rows 3 and 4 for cro-hook pattern. To practice, continue working Rows 3 and 4 until you become familiar with the technique.



Tips:

- Each ball of yarn is used for two rows at a time—first to work off loops and then to pick up loops.
- When all loops are on hook, it is time to slide work to opposite end of hook and TURN.
- Always work to gauge but be sure to work LOOSELY especially when working off loops.
- Count loops at end of every loop row as it is easy to miss one.

Broomstick Lace

This lacy, openwork fabric is worked from the right side only, using a giant knitting needle, also known as a broomstick lace pin, and a regular crochet hook. Size of crochet hook, number of starting or foundation chains, and number of loops worked together in a group varies according to individual pattern instructions.

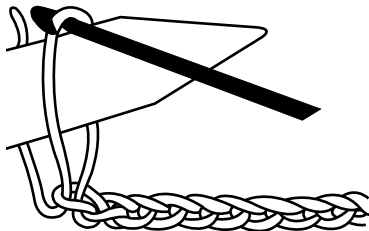
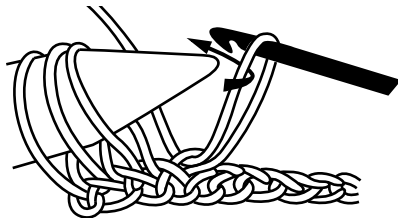
Broomstick Lace Test Sample

For the sample, you will need a broomstick lace pin size 50 or a size 50/25mm knitting needle, size I/5.5mm crochet hook, and medium-weight yarn.

To begin, use the crochet hook to make a foundation chain of 20 stitches.

First Row

Hold broomstick needle in left hand, slip loop from crochet hook to broomstick needle (Diagram 147).

**DIAGRAM 147****DIAGRAM 148**

Working from left to right, * insert crochet hook in next chain, yarn over and draw loop through, slip loop onto the broomstick needle. Repeat from * to end of chain (Diagram 148). Do not turn work.

Note: Number of loops on broomstick needle equals same number of chains in foundation chain.



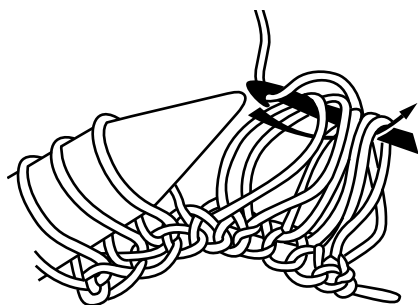


DIAGRAM 149

Second Row

Working from right to left, slide first 5 loops from broomstick needle to crochet hook without twisting them, yarn over and draw loop through these 5 loops (Diagram 149).

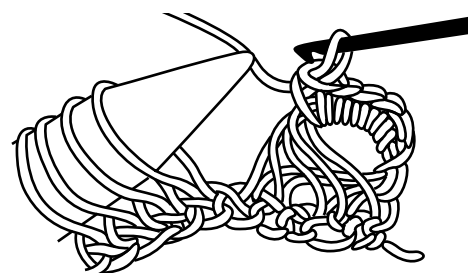


DIAGRAM 150

Chain 1, work 5 single crochet stitches in same space (Diagram 150).

*Slide next 5 loops from broomstick needle to crochet hook, work 5 sc through these 5 loops. Repeat from * to end of row. Do not turn work.

Note: Number of single crochet stitches in this row equals same number of chains in foundation chain.



DIAGRAM 151

Third Row

With broomstick needle in left hand, slip loop from crochet hook to broomstick needle. Working from left to right, * insert hook in back loop (loop away from you) of next sc, yarn over and draw loop through (Diagram 151). Slip loop onto broomstick needle. Repeat from * to end of row. Do not turn work.

Repeat Rows 2 and 3 for broomstick lace pattern, ending with Row 2 (single crochet row). For practice, work as many rows as needed to master the technique.



Hairpin Lace

This lovely and delicate lace consists of loops made on a hairpin lace tool, sometimes referred to as a crochet fork, and secured at the center with crochet stitches. The tool adjusts so you can create different loop sizes. Strips of hairpin lace can be joined and edged in a wide variety of stitches.

Hairpin Lace Test Sample

For the sample, you will need a hairpin lace tool, size F/3.75mm crochet hook, and medium-weight yarn.

STEP 1

To begin, loop yarn around each prong of tool and tie knot in center tightly (Diagram 152).

Hold fork in left hand and crochet hook in right hand.

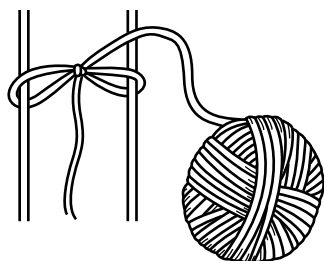


DIAGRAM 152

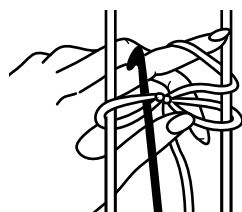


DIAGRAM 153

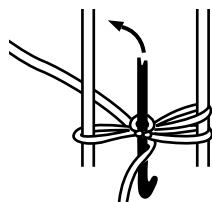


DIAGRAM 154

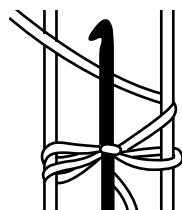


DIAGRAM 155

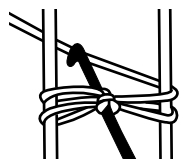


DIAGRAM 156

STEP 2

Bring yarn from ball around right prong of fork from front to back. Insert the hook between the 2 strands of loop on left prong (Diagram 153). Yarn over and draw loop through, then chain 1.

STEP 3

Leaving loop on hook, turn hook upside down and move handle of hook through top center of fork to opposite side (Diagram 154).

Turn fork 1/2 turn from right to left, wrapping yarn around other prong of fork (Diagram 155).

STEP 4

Holding hook in correct position in right hand, insert hook in new loop on left prong (Diagram 156). Yarn over and draw loop through (2 loops now on hook), yarn over and draw loop through both loops on hook (single crochet made).



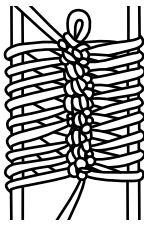


DIAGRAM 157

Continue as in Steps 3 and 4, turning the fork from right to left after completing each stitch and then working single crochet in loop on left prong (Diagram 157).

To fasten off at end of strip, cut yarn, leaving 6" tail. Draw end up through loop on hook tightly.

Note: For ease in counting loops, place a stitch marker every 25 or 50 loops. Count loops carefully. The same number of loops should be on each side of fork.

If the tool is filled before the required number of loops in the pattern are made, remove bottom bar and slide loops off leaving the last 4 or 5 loops on fork. Replace bottom bar, roll up strip and secure to bottom of the tool with a stitch holder, safety pins or a rubber band to prevent strip from twisting out of shape. Continue working as before until required number of loops are made.



Hairpin Lace Joining Methods

Depending on the project, there are different ways of joining hairpin lace strips. Whatever method you chose, it will be a challenge to match up loops because they curl. Some find it easier to place strips side by side on a flat surface; others hold them back to back. You can work through a single loop or several at one time and how you pick up a loop will also change the appearance. Always check after joining a certain number of loops to make sure you haven't missed any. There is a front and back to each strip. When joining, start from the bottom and work up.

METHOD 1 WEAVING

Weaving strips together does not require a stitch. Place strips side (left) by side (right). With a crochet hook pick up two stitches from the left strip, hold them on the hook, then pick up two loops from the right strip and draw them through the loops on the hook. Pick up two loops from the left strip and draw them through the loops on the hook. Continue picking up stitches, alternating sides until you have secured all of the loops except the two left on the hook, which you tie with a knot until the edges are finished. This method of joining creates a plaited effect.

METHOD 2 JOINING WITH STITCHES

For joining hairpin lace strips with stitches, follow the basic method outlined for weaving but you will need yarn. To join strips with single crochet, for example, with a crochet hook, pick up a loop(s) from one strip and single crochet into the loop(s). Chain 1 or 2 stitches depending on the appearance you prefer. Pick up a loop(s) from the other strip, yarn over and draw up the yarn so you have two loops on hook and single crochet. Chain 1 or 2 stitches. Continue criss crossing and picking up loops from both strips and single crocheting until all loops have been joined. Strips can be joined with slip stitches or other stitches.



Surface Crochet

Texture, design and color can be added to crocheted fabrics by surface stitchery.

This is chain stitch worked with a crochet hook over a finished fabric, either knit or crochet. It is sometimes used to create mock cables. The following diagrams illustrate how to work a vertical stripe.

The working yarn will be held at the back of your project. Keep tension loose and even to prevent puckering of the base fabric.

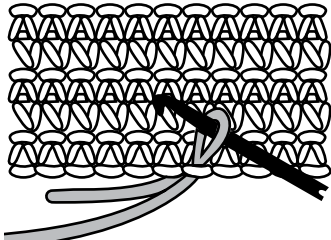


DIAGRAM 158A

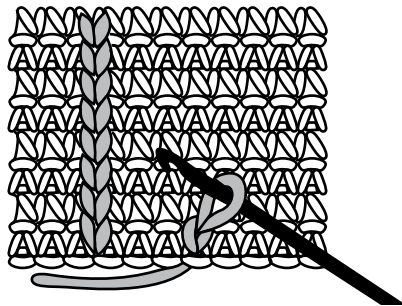


DIAGRAM 158B

Surface Slip Stitch

STEP 1

Holding the working yarn on the wrong side, insert the hook from front to back (through the foundation chain if you are working from the lower edge of the fabric), and pull a loop through to the front (Diagram 158A). Leave a 4" to 6" (10–15cm) tail to weave in later.

STEP 2

With the loop on your hook, insert the hook again, this time between two stitches above where the hook was first inserted. Yarn over and draw a second loop through the fabric, and draw that loop through the first loop on your hook, being careful not to make the stitch too tight so your fabric doesn't pucker. One chain completed (Diagram 158B).

Continue working as described in the last step. You can vary the length of the chain stitch depending on the effect you wish to achieve. If you would like a horizontal stripe, work between the stitches, not the rows. Note that you do not have to work horizontally or vertically, but can move your hook any place within the radius of one stitch and thus go in any direction. You can make very pretty faux embroidery this way.

Cross Stitch on Single Crochet

Cross stitches on single crochet fabric are made the same as on woven fabric using a tapestry or yarn needle so it will slip easily through the crocheted fabric. (Stitches will not have as square an appearance as they would on evenweave fabric.) When embroidering across a horizontal row, work half of each cross stitch across the row, and return completing the cross. When embroidering a vertical row or individual cross stitch, work each stitch individually. Just remember to cross the stitches in the same way each time.

STEP 1

The following steps start the cross stitch from left to right. You can also begin the row of half cross stitches from right to left. Think of each single crochet as a box. Position a tapestry needle at the back of the fabric. Bring the needle up through an open space at the left lower edge of a stitch and pull the yarn through leaving a 4" to 6" (10–15cm) tail at the back. Insert the needle down through the space at the top right edge of a stitch, creating a diagonal line that slants to the right and is called a half cross stitch. Bring the needle up through the lower left edge of the next single crochet and down through the space at the top right edge of the stitch (Diagram 159). Repeat the up and down motion in each stitch according to the pattern.

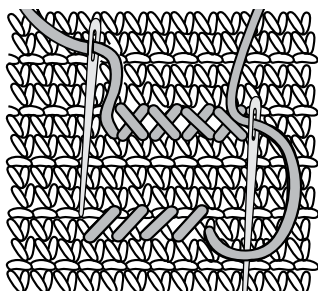


DIAGRAM 159



STEP 2

Work back across the same row completing the cross, bringing up the needle at the lower right-hand edge of the stitch and inserting it down at the top left-hand edge. Take care to match the tension of the crochet, otherwise the item may pucker (Diagram 159).

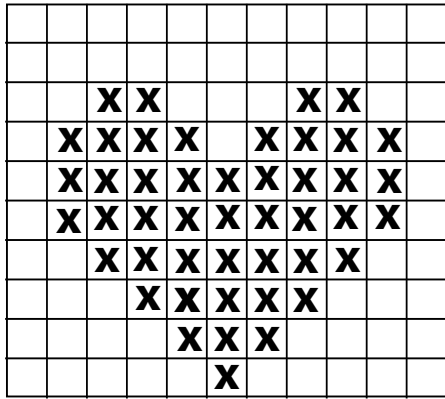


DIAGRAM 160

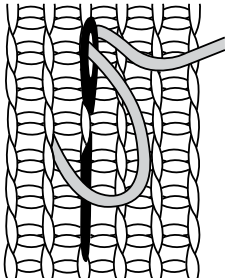


DIAGRAM 161

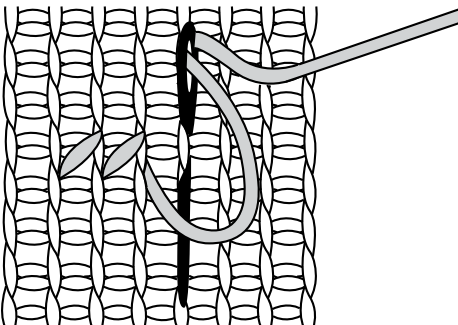


DIAGRAM 162

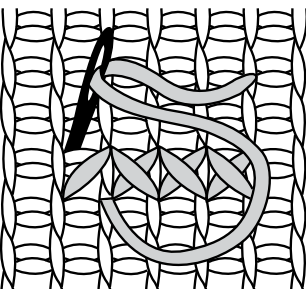


DIAGRAM 163

Cross Stitch Test Sample

With size H/5mm crochet hook and medium-weight yarn, chain 12.

Single crochet each row for 10 rows. Fasten off.

Cross stitch a heart in a contrasting color yarn on the single crochet fabric, following the chart in Diagram 160.

Cross Stitch on Tunisian Crochet

This method is the same as cross stitch on evenweave fabric. Position a tapestry needle at the back of the fabric. Bring the needle up at the lower left point of the vertical bar (Diagram 161). Pull the yarn through leaving a 4" to 6" (10–15cm) tail on the wrong side.

Insert the needle into the point of the vertical bar at upper right (Diagram 162) to form a half-cross. Continue across the row as your pattern directs, pulling yarn to match the tension in the afghan stitch.

To complete the cross, work from right to left, bringing up the needle at the lower right edge of the bar and inserting it down at the top left edge (Diagram 163).

Cross stitches in the same way each time. When stitching is completed, weave in ends on the wrong side to secure the yarn.



Crocheting Edging and Insertions

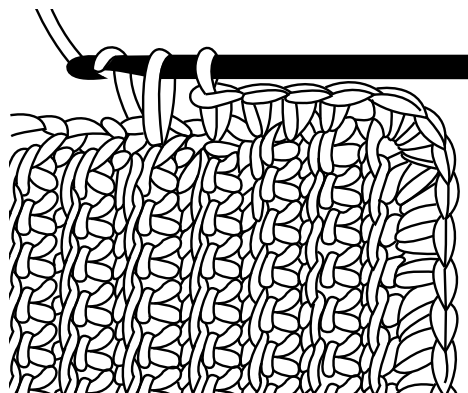


DIAGRAM 164

Crocheted edges are often used to add body to a piece or the edge of a piece, to prevent it from curling, to add color and a decorative touch. They can be worked directly onto the fabric or worked separately and attached. Single crochet is often used and many basic stitch patterns can be used as decorative edgings as well, such as the shell or popcorn.

If you are working the edging directly on the fabric, always work the initial row with the right side of your work facing you, unless otherwise specified. Work 3 stitches into corner stitches (Diagram 164). The pattern you are working with may call for a decorative edging, and the method of forming it will be given in the instructions.

Following are directions for some popular edgings and insertions. Experiment with different hook sizes, yarn and crochet cotton and check other resources for further exploration of edgings and insertions.

Note: If the edging will be in a different color, it is recommended that you first complete a row of single crochet in the original yarn, then complete the edging. It gives a neater, more attractive finish.

Reverse Single Crochet

Reverse single crochet, discussed in *Stitch Variations*, is a very popular edging because of the corded finish it creates (see Diagram 104B). This is the stitch that is worked from left to right and the hook is inserted in the stitch to your right, instead of working from right to left. For left-handed crocheters, the technique is reversed.

Rick-Rack

This edging can be stitched directly onto fabric.

First Row

Chain 4.

Work (3 dc, ch 2, 1 dc) into 4th ch from hook, ch 3, turn.

Second Row

Work (3 dc, ch 2, 1 dc) into ch-2 space of previous row, ch 3, turn.

Repeat Row 2 for rick-rack. At end of last row do not chain 3.



Mile-A-Minute Lace Edging

First Row

Chain 7.

Work (2 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) into 4th ch from hook, skip 2 ch, dc into last chain, ch 3, turn.

Second Row

Work (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) into ch-2 space of previous row, ch 3, turn (scallop edge).

Third Row

Work (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) into ch-2 space of previous row, dc into top of turning chain of previous row, ch 3, turn (straight edge).

Repeat Rows 2 and 3 for desired length. Last row worked is Row 3. Do not chain 3 at end of last row.

Mile-A-Minute Lace Insertion, Sample 1.

First Row

Chain 9.

Work (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) into 6th ch from hook, skip 2 ch, dc into last ch, ch 3, turn.

Second Row

Work (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in ch-2 space of previous row, dc into top of turning chain of previous row, ch 3, turn.

Repeat Row 2 for desired length. Do not chain 3 at end of last row.

Mile-A-Minute Lace Insertion, Sample 2.

First Row

Chain 13.

Work (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) into 6th ch from hook, skip 3 ch, work (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) into next chain, skip 2 ch, dc into last chain, ch 3, turn.

Second Row

Work (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) into each ch-2 space of previous row, dc into top of turning chain of previous row. Ch 3, turn.

Repeat Row 2 for desired length. Do not chain 3 at end of last row.



Buttonholes

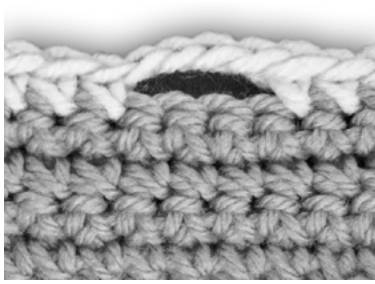


DIAGRAM 165

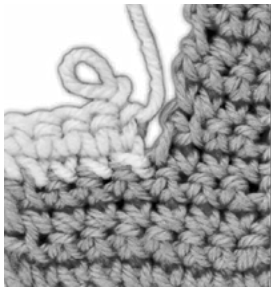


DIAGRAM 166A

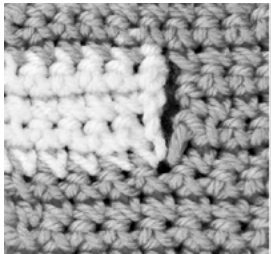


DIAGRAM 166B

There are basically three types of buttonholes used in crochet: horizontal, vertical and loop. Buttonholes will stretch so make them as small as possible and still allow the button to pass through.

Horizontal buttonhole in single crochet

At the buttonhole position, work the desired number of chain stitches and skip the same number of stitches in the row below. On the next row, work into or over the chains of the previous row in whatever stitch you are using, keeping the same number of stitches in this row as there are in those below (Diagram 165).

The horizontal buttonhole may be worked directly into the body of a sweater when using single crochet. It can also be worked into a band to attach to the finished sweater.

Vertical buttonhole

At the desired buttonhole position nearest the end of the row, drop working yarn, pick up another ball or bobbin of the same color (Diagram 166A). Work rows, leaving the hole by turning and not crossing the yarns. When the buttonhole is as tall as desired, work across it to close and continue again using only one ball of yarn.

Diagram 166B shows a completed vertical buttonhole.

Loop buttonhole

Work single crochet on the edge of work. At the desired point, chain enough to fit around the size button you use, slip stitch in same stitch or next stitch to where chain was started to form a loop. To strengthen and finish the loop, single crochet or slip stitch around the loop chain and continue the edging. This is effective for bag closures, cuffs and jacket fronts.



Crochet button

When making crochet buttons, experiment with the yarn in which the project is being made and try different crochet hook sizes. The button size and thickness will depend upon the yarn weight and hook size.

Buttons can be crocheted around plastic button rings or by forming a crochet ring.

METHOD 1 BUTTON RING

Selected a plastic ring approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ " (1cm) smaller than desired button size. Make a slip knot and place onto crochet hook. Inserting hook into center of ring, work in single crochet around ring until the ring is completely covered. Slip stitch into first single crochet and fasten off, leaving a 12" yarn end. Thread yarn end with a tapestry needle. Work an overcast stitch in each outside loop, then pull stitches toward center. Secure beginning and end strands together on back side of button.

METHOD 2 CROCHET

STEP 1

With the appropriate yarn and hook size, chain 3, join with a slip stitch to form ring.

STEP 2

Work 8 single crochet into ring, join with a slip stitch to first single crochet.

STEP 3

Chain 1, *1 single crochet in next stitch, 2 single crochet in next stitch repeat * around, join with a slip stitch to beginning chain.

STEP 4

Chain 1, *insert hook through center hole, draw up a loop to edge of circle, yarn over and draw through 2 loops, repeat from * 15 more times, join with a slip stitch to beginning chain.

STEP 5

Chain 1, work 1 single crochet into every other stitch. Fasten off leaving 12" yarn end. Thread yarn end with a tapestry needle. Work an overcast stitch in each outside loop, then pull stitches toward center. Secure beginning and end strands together on back side of button.



Blocking

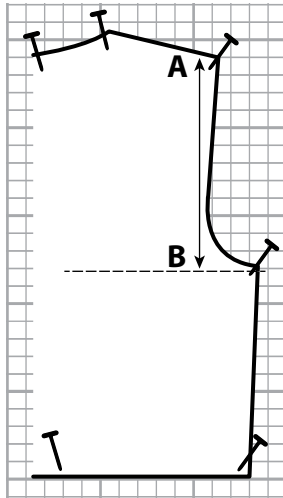


DIAGRAM 168

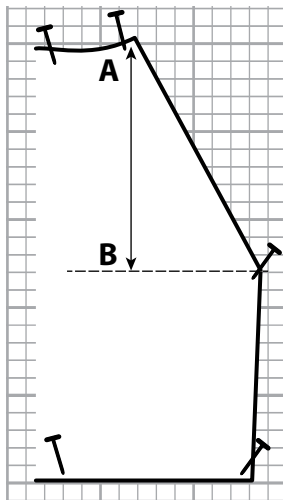


DIAGRAM 169

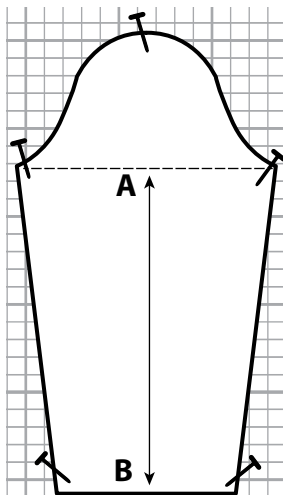


DIAGRAM 170

Blocking is a process of wetting or steaming crocheted or knitted fabric to shape pieces to specific dimensions, to smooth stitch irregularities, and to flatten curling edges. Steam is most commonly used by professionals because of its speed. It should be carefully used by the non-professional since the damage caused by oversteaming is irreversible. It can destroy the elasticity and resilience of the fibers. Never set a steam iron directly on a garment. It should be held at least 1" (2.5cm) above. Leave the piece flat to "rest" and dry.

Before blocking any project, carefully check the yarn label for care instructions. Some yarns should never be washed; others must be machine washed and dried in order to retain their shape; others, like cotton yarns, must be blocked carefully because these fibers have little resiliency and are easily overstretched.

It's also important to check for color fastness before certain blocking methods, especially if more than one color yarn is used. To check for colorfastness, wet a small piece of yarn and blot it between paper toweling. If the color comes off, do not wet block.

There are tools that make the blocking process easier, such as blocking boards, rust-proof pins, and blocking wires. Blocking boards provide a graph for neat edges and corners and a smooth surface on which project pieces can be shaped and/or pinned in place. However, many people improvise blocking surfaces by spreading towels on ironing boards, table tops, mattresses or on the floor. Rust-proof pins are a necessity to avoid rust marks on your knitted or crocheted fabric. Blocking wires can be used instead of pins or in combination with pins.

Generally, individual pieces of a project are blocked before joining. To ensure that project pieces are blocked to the correct size and shape, always refer to your pattern instruction sheet and the schematic diagram if provided.

Lay the piece(s) out flat without stretching it. When measuring a shaped armhole depth, it is important to measure correctly, measuring straight up from lowest underarm edge to desired length of underarm (see Diagram 168). Do not measure around the armhole curve.

You would measure a raglan armhole depth as in Diagram 169.

Sleeve length should be measured as in Diagram 170.



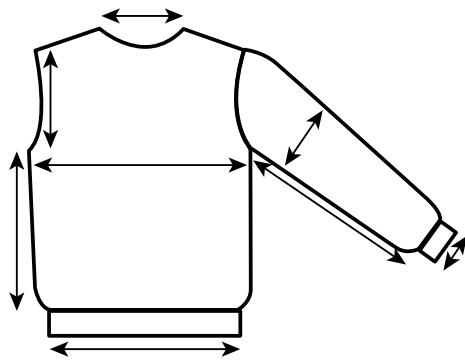


DIAGRAM 170B

Care of Crocheted Articles

You should fold your crocheted projects and store them flat because they are stretchy by nature and will sag out of shape if you hang them up. Wrapping them in acid-free tissue paper, which is sold in craft stores, is recommended. This rule applies to projects made of either natural or man-made fibers.

If you store your crocheted projects in a plastic bag, make sure that the bag is not sealed airtight. Many times changes can occur in yarn color in an air-tight atmosphere because of interaction between the plastic and dyes used in yarn production. If using a "zip-tight" type of storage bag be sure to punch a couple of small holes in the bag with a needle to allow air to circulate.

Follow the care instructions on the yarn label. If an item is made of a machine washable and dryable yarn, then be sure to machine wash and dry that item, otherwise you may find your project has not regained its original shape after washing.

If you have used a yarn which recommends dry cleaning or hand washing, do not put that garment in the washing machine. First, either trace the outline of your project on a piece of paper, or measure it carefully and write the measurements on a schematic (Diagram 170B).

Wash it gently in a basin or sink, using lukewarm water and a mild soap or washing solution designed for fine hand washables.

It is always best to check the colorfastness of the yarn before you do any washing, hand or machine. Use your gauge swatch or several strands of leftover yarn. Dip the yarn in water. Blot the fibers with paper towel. If any color comes off on the paper, dry clean the piece.

If you are planning to hand wash your crochet, do not wring, twist or scrub it. Those motions are ones which will cause the yarn to shrink and mat. Rinse your garment until the water runs clear. Gently squeeze the water out, do not wring. Pick up the item using your hands to support the wet fabric. Do not pick it up by the shoulder or corner, for this could cause it to stretch and sag.

Now lay it out flat on a thick bath towel, roll it up and squeeze out the water. Unroll it and lay it out flat once more on a dry bath towel. Pat it into shape using your traced outlines as a measurement guide.

Let the piece remain flat until completely dry. Do not place it near a heat source, nor dry it in the sun. Heat and direct sunlight will damage the fibers.



Standard Body Measurements/ Sizing & Crocheting To Fit

Most crochet and knitting pattern instructions will provide general sizing information, such as the chest or bust measurements of a completed garment. Many patterns also include detailed schematics or line drawings. These drawings show specific garment measurements (bust/chest, neckline, back, waist, sleeve length, etc.) in all the different pattern sizes (Diagram 171). To insure proper fit, always review all of the sizing information provided in a pattern before you begin. Also refer to: YarnStandards.com

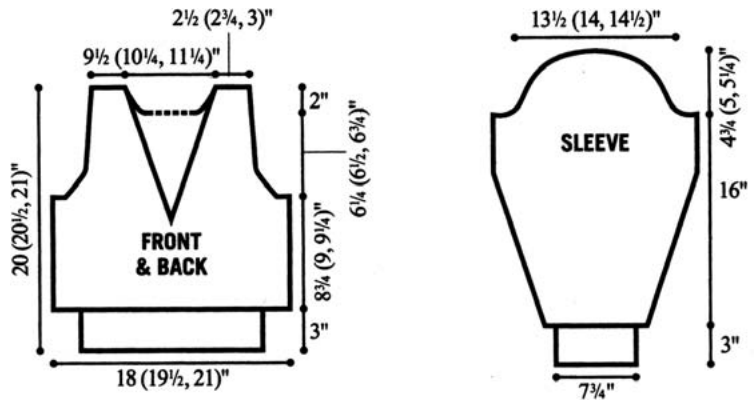


DIAGRAM 171

When sizing sweaters, the fit is based on actual chest/bust measurements, plus ease (additional inches or centimeters). The chart entitled "Fit" recommends the amount of ease to add to body measurements if you prefer a close-fitting garment, an oversized garment, or something in-between.

FIT

Very-close fitting: Actual chest/bust measurement or less

Close-fitting: 1–2" (2.5–5cm)

Standard-fitting: 2–4" (5–10cm)

Loose-fitting: 4–6" (10–15cm)

Oversized: 6" (15cm) or more



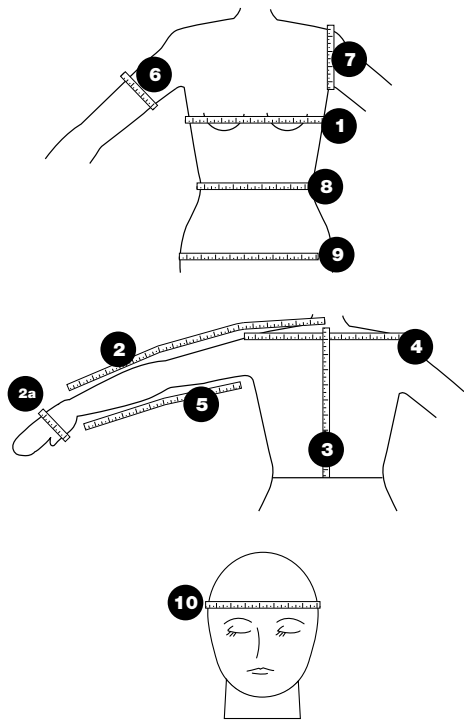


DIAGRAM 172

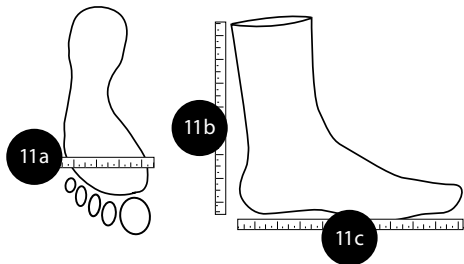


DIAGRAM 173

How to Measure

1. Chest/Bust —Measure around the fullest part of the chest/bust. Do not pull the measuring tape too tightly.
2. Center Back Neck-to-Cuff —With arm slightly bent, measure from back base of neck across shoulder around bend of elbow to wrist.
- 2a. Hand —For the cuff measure, lay the hand out flat with the thumb laying close to the hand and measure around.
3. Back Waist Length —Measure from the most prominent bone at base of neck to the natural waistline.
4. Cross Back —Measure from shoulder to shoulder.
5. Sleeve Length —With arm slightly bent, measure from armpit to cuff.
6. Upper Arm —Measure around the widest section of the upper arm located above the elbow.
7. Armhole Depth —Measure from the top outside edge of the shoulder down to the armpit.
8. Waist —Measure your waist at the smaller circumference of your natural waist, usually just above the belly button.
9. Hip —Measure at the widest part of your lower hip.
10. Head —For an accurate head measure, place a tape measure across the forehead and measure around the full circumference of the head. Keep the tape snug for accurate results (Diagram 172).
11. Foot Measurements for Socks —The following measurements are for crew-style or dress socks, which usually come several inches above the ankle and below the calf (Diagram 173).

Foot Circumference: Measure around the widest part of your foot (11a).

Sock Height: Measure from where you start to turn for the heel shaping to the top of the sock (11b).

Total Foot Length: Place a ruler or tape measure on the floor. Position the back of your heel at the beginning of the tape and the measure to your longest toe (11c).

Another option is measuring a garment you know fits well and duplicating its size.

Sometimes you are unable to measure the person who will be wearing the sweater. As crocheted fabric has some elasticity, you would usually be safe in making a small, medium or large, depending on the general size of the person.



It is also helpful to refer to the following sizing charts which are used extensively throughout the yarn industry. These charts show Chest, Center Back, Neck-to-Cuff, Back Waist Length, Cross Back, Sleeve Length, Upper Arm, Armhole Depth, Waist, and Hip. These are actual body measurements for babies, children, women, and men in both inches and centimeters.

Baby's size	3 months	6 months	12 months	18 months	24 months
1. Chest (in.) (cm.)	16 40.5	17 43	18 45.5	19 48	20 50.5
2. Center Back Neck-to-Cuff	10½ 26.5	11½ 29	12½ 31.5	14 35.5	18 45.5
3. Back Waist Length	6 15.5	7 17.5	7½ 19	8 20.5	8½ 21.5
4. Cross Back (Shoulder to shoulder)	7¼ 18.5	7¾ 19.5	8¼ 21	8½ 21.5	8¾ 22
5. Sleeve Length to Underarm	6 15.5	6½ 16.5	7½ 19	8 20.5	8½ 21.5
6. Upper arm	5½ 14	6 15.5	6½ 16.5	7 17.5	7½ 19
7. Armhole depth	3¼ 8.5	3½ 9	3¾ 9.5	4 10	4¼ 10.5
8. Waist	18 45.5	19 48	20 50.5	20½ 52	21 53.5
9. Hips	19 48	20 50.5	20 50.5	21 53.5	22 56

Child size	2	4	6	8	10
1. Chest (in.) (cm.)	21 53	23 58.5	25 63.5	26½ 67	28 71
2. Center Back Neck-to-Cuff	18 45.5	19½ 49.5	20½ 52	22 56	24 61
3. Back Waist Length	8½ 21.5	9½ 24	10½ 26.5	12½ 31.5	14 35.5
4. Cross Back (Shoulder to shoulder)	9¼ 23.5	9¾ 25	10¼ 26	10¾ 27	11¼ 28.5
5. Sleeve Length to Underarm	8½ 21.5	10½ 26.5	11½ 29	12½ 31.5	13½ 34.5
6. Upper arm	7 17.5	7 ½ 19	8 20.5	8 ½ 21.5	8 ¾ 22
7. Armhole depth	4 ¼ 10.5	4 ¾ 12	5 12.5	5 ½ 14	6 15.5
8. Waist	21 53.5	21½ 54.5	22½ 57	23½ 59.5	24½ 62
9. Hips	22 56	23½ 59.5	25 63.5	28 71	29½ 75



Youth size	12	14	16
1. Chest (in.) (cm.)	30 76	31½ 80	32½ 82.5
2. Center Back Neck-to-Cuff	26 66	27 68.5	28 71
3. Back Waist Length	15 38	15½ 39.5	16 40.5
4. Cross Back (Shoulder to Shoulder)	12 30.5	12¼ 31	13 33
5. Sleeve Length to Underarm	15 38	16 40.5	16½ 42
6. Upper arm	9 23	9¼ 23.5	9½ 24
7. Armhole depth	6½ 16.5	7 17.5	7½ 19
8. Waist	25 63.5	26½ 67.5	27½ 69.5
9. Hips	31½ 80	33 83.5	35½ 90

Woman's size	X-Small	Small	Medium	Large
1. Bust (in.) (cm.)	28–30 71–76	32–34 81–86	36–38 91.5–96.5	40–42 101.5–106.5
2. Center Back Neck-to-Cuff	27–27½ 68.5–70	28–28½ 71–72.5	29–29½ 73.5–75	30–30½ 76–77.5
3. Back Waist Length	16½ 42	17 43	17¼ 43.5	17½ 44.5
4. Cross Back (Shoulder to Shoulder)	14–14½ 35.5–37	14½–15 37–38	16–16½ 40.5–42	17–17½ 43–44.5
5. Sleeve Length to Underarm	16½ 42	17 43	17 43	17½ 44.5
6. Upper arm	9 ¾ 25	10 ¼ 26	11 28	12 30.5
7. Armhole depth	6–6½ 15.5–16.5	6½–7 16.5–17.5	7–7½ 17.5–19	7½–8 19–20.5
8. Waist	23–24 58.5–61	25–26 ½ 63.5–67.5	28–30 71–76	32–34 81.5–86.5
9. Hips	33–34 83.5–86	35–36 89–91.5	38–40 96.5–101.5	42–44 106.5–111.5



Woman's (cont.)	1X	2X	3X	4X	5X
1. Bust (in.) (cm.)	44-46 111.5-117	48-50 122-127	52-54 132-137	56-58 142-147	60-62 152-158
2. Center Back Neck-to-Cuff	31-31½ 78.5-80	31½-32 80-81.5	32½-33 82.5-84	32½-33 82.5-84	33-33½ 84-85
3. Back Waist Length	17¾ 45	18 45.5	18 45.5	18½ 47	18½ 47
4. Cross Back (Shoulder to Shoulder)	17½ 44.5	18 45.5	18 45.5	18½ 47	18½ 47
5. Sleeve Length to Underarm	17½ 44.5	18 45.5	18 45.5	18½ 47	18½ 47
6. Upper arm	13½ 34.5	15½ 39.5	17 43	18½ 47	19½ 49.5
7. Armhole depth	8-8½ 20.5-21.5	8½-9 21.5-23	9-9½ 23-24	9½-10 24-25.5	10-10½ 25.5-26.5
8. Waist	36-38 91.5-96.5	40-42 101.5-106.5	44-45 111.5-114	46-47 116.5-119	49-50 124-127
9. Hips	46-48 116.5-122	52-53 132-134.5	54-55 137-139.5	56-57 142-144.5	61-62 155-157

Man's Size	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	XX-Large
1. Chest (in.) (cm.)	34-36 86-91.5	38-40 96.5-101.5	42-44 106.5-111.5	46-48 116.5-122	50-52 127-132
2. Center Back Neck-to-Cuff	32-32½ 81-82.5	33-33½ 83.5-85	34-34½ 86.5-87.5	35-35½ 89-90	36-36½ 91.5-92.5
3. Back Hip Length	25-25½ 63.5-64.5	26½-26¾ 67.5-68	27-27¼ 68.5-69	27½-27¾ 69.5-70.5	28-28½ 71-72.5
4. Cross Back (Shoulder to Shoulder)	15½-16 39.5-40.5	16½-17 42-43	17½-18 44.5-45.5	18-18½ 45.5-47	18½-19 47-48
5. Sleeve Length to Underarm	18 45.5	18½ 47	19½ 49.5	20 50.5	20½ 52
6. Upper arm	12 30.5	13 33	15 38	16 40.5	17 43
7. Armhole depth	8½-9 21.5-23	9-9½ 23-24	9½-10 24-25.5	10-10½ 25.5-26	10½-11 26.5-28
8. Waist	28-30 71-76	32-34 81.5-86.5	36-38 91.5-96.5	42-44 106.5-112	46-48 117-122
9. Hips	35-37 89-94	39-41 99-104	43-45 109-114	47-49 119-124.5	51-53 129-134

Head Circumference Chart

	Infant/Child				Adult	
	Premie	Baby	Toddler	Child	Woman	Man
6. Circumference (in.)	12	14	16	18	20	22
(cm.)	30.5	35.5	40.5	45.5	50.5	56

For an accurate head measure, place a tape measure across the forehead and measure around the full circumference of the head. Keep the tape snug for accurate results.



Crocheting to Fit

Adjusting the Pattern

For people who are not a perfect size, adapting commercial crochet patterns to individual requirements is possible with the help of a calculator or a pen and paper and a friend with a tape measure to take accurate measurements. Record measurements on a sketch of the project for easy reference.

Before beginning, make a gauge swatch for the pattern to be altered, making a sample of the stitch the pattern calls for, using the actual yarn and hook suggested for the project. Now compare your measurements and gauge with those in the pattern.

If your gauge is the same as that given in the pattern, compare the measurements given in the pattern with your own. If there are any differences, you will be able to decide where changes should be made (sts added or subtracted) in the pattern so it will fit you perfectly. If your gauge is not the same as the gauge given in the pattern, change hook size until you can obtain the specified gauge, then you can compare your measurements with the pattern.



Creating Your Own Pattern

One of the many reasons you crochet may be to enjoy wearing a garment or having an article that is all your own and shows your individuality. You may be ready to create your own designs.

Start with a design that uses simple shapes, working up to more complex ones. Creating a chart to follow, draw the pattern pieces on a large sheet of paper. (Paper with grids is helpful.) After taking body measurements, write them on the chart in inches, width and length. Be sure to allow the desired amount of ease in all measurements.

Make a gauge swatch from the yarn selected for your project. Measure the swatch and count the number of stitches across the width. Divide the number of stitches by the inches and this equals the stitch gauge per inch. Measure the swatch lengthwise and count the total rows. Divide the number of rows by number of inches and this equals row gauge.

Now you are ready to calculate the number of stitches and rows on the pattern sheet. When figuring inches/centimeters to stitch gauge, multiply inches/centimeters times stitch gauge.

Example: Stitch gauge is 5 sts = 1 inch (2.5cm), row gauge is 6 rows = 1 inch (2.5cm)

The sweater front is 20 inches (51cm) across, including ease:
 $20 \times 5 = 100$ sts.

The sleeve length is 17 inches (43cm) from wrist to armhole. To figure the number of rows: $17 \times 6 = 72$ rows.

If the answer is a fraction, go to the number before or after, depending on whether an odd or even number is preferred.

Calculating increases and decreases is also easily done.

Example: To make a V-neck opening, if 12 dec must be made at each neck edge, there are 51 rows to complete these decreases. Divide 51 by 12 = 4 rows.

Decrease one st each side every 4 rows, 12 times.

Sometimes the math does not come out even, but liberties may be taken. For a simple sleeve with increasing to 76 sts at the armhole, 26 increases must be made over 84 rows for correct length. Increasing will be done one st at each edge, or 2 per row. The 13 double increases divided into $84 = 6$ with 6 rows left over; increase every 6th row until there are 76 sts. Crochet even until sleeve measures a total of 17 inches.



Basic Crocheted Sweater Pattern

GAUGE: 3 stitches or 4 rows = 1 inch

Sample Measurements

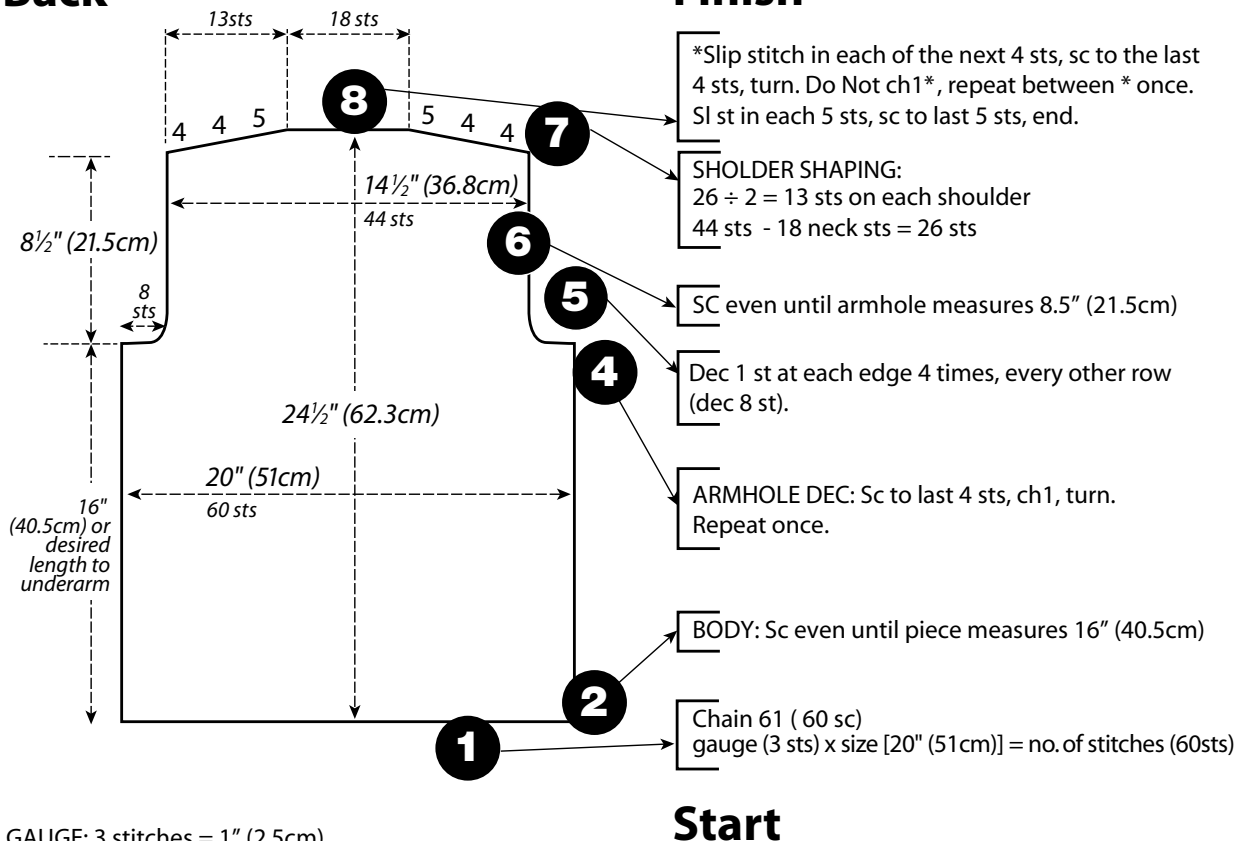
	ACTUAL	FINISHED
Bust	34" (86.5cm)	40" (101.5cm)
Shoulder	14.5" (37cm)	14.5" (37cm)
Back of neck to bottom	24.5" (62cm)	24.5" (62cm)
Upper Arm	13" (33cm)	15.5" (39.5cm)
Wrist	5.5" (14cm)	10" (39.5cm)
Sleeve length	17" (43cm)	17" (43cm)

DIAGRAM 174

NOTE: These schematics should be read from the bottom up.

Back

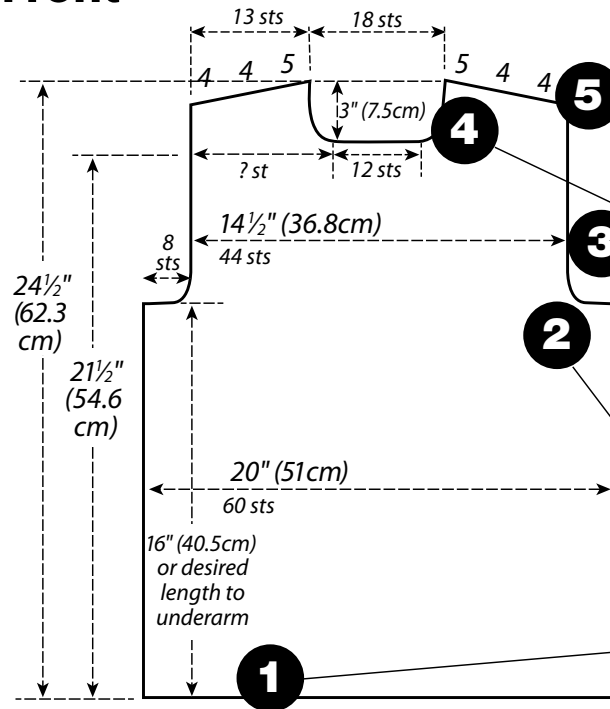
Finish



GAUGE: 3 stitches = 1" (2.5cm)

DIAGRAM 175



Front

GAUGE: 5 stitches = 1 inch (2.5cm)

DIAGRAM 176

Finish

SHOULDER SHAPING: At armhole edge, dec to match back.

44 sts - 18 neck sts = 26 sts,
 $26 \div 2 = 13$ sts on each shoulder

NECK SHAPING: Center 12 sts are unworked.
 Dec 1 st at each neck edge each right side row 3 times

Sc even until armhole measures 8.5" (21.5cm)
 Sc 16. Center 12 sts (neckline) are not worked.
 With new yarn, sc remaining 16 sts.

ARMHOLE DECREASE: Sc to last 4 sts, ch 1 turn, repeat once. Dec 1 st at each edge 4 times, every other row (dec 8 sts).

Work same as back until piece measures 3" (7.5cm) less than back (21 1/2"/54.5cm)

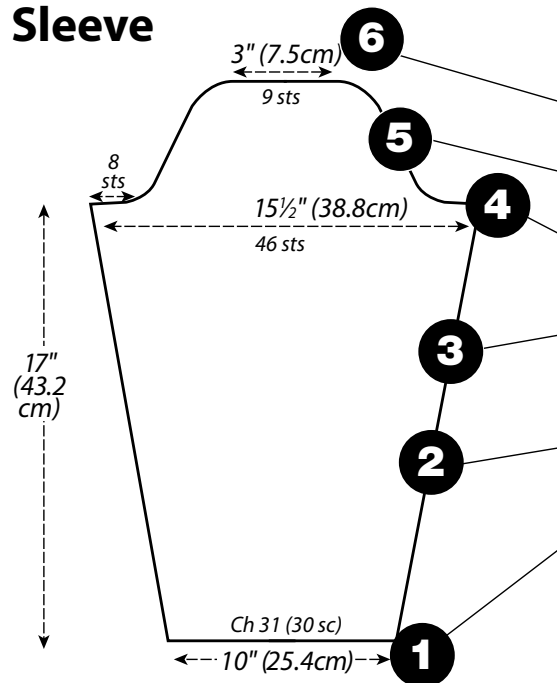
Start**Sleeve**

DIAGRAM 177

Finish

Cap Dec: Dec 1 st at end of each row until 3" (7.5cm) (9 sts) remain. Fasten off.

ARMHOLE: *Sc to last 3 sts, turn, * repeat once.

Work even until the piece measures 17" (43.2cm).

Upper arm [15.5" (38.8cm)] x Gauge (3 st) = 46 sts
 Inc 1 st at each edge every 8th row 8 times
 $(8 \times 2 = 16$ sts).

To figure inc: Length (17" (43.2cm) x row gauge (4) =
 $(68) \div$ inc needed (8) = every 8th row.

Gauge (3 st) x size [10" (25.4cm)] = 30 sts

Start

Designer Guidelines

If you are interested in designing crocheted or knitted projects for publication, there is a section in the Standards & Guidelines for Crochet and Knit [YarnStandards.com] with tips for submitting a project idea and common pitfalls to avoid. These guidelines were prepared by editors and yarn company designers and should always be followed when submitting design ideas as well as final projects.



Glossary of Common Crocheting Terms

Back Loop: The loop at the top of a stitch that is the farthest away from you.

Brackets []: Used for clarity when a section of instructions already contains a set of parentheses. Instructions in brackets are worked in the same way as instructions in parentheses.

Dye Lot: Yarn is dyed in batches or “dye lots” and yarn labels will list a dye lot number. Every skein of yarn dyed in the same batch will be exactly the same color. Skeins from different dye lots will have slightly different colors. When purchasing yarn for a project, it is important to check the dye lot number on each skein of yarn to be sure they are the same.

Fair Isle: Describes a variety of patterns created by the use of two or more colors in a row. The unused color is carried along the back of the work.

Fasten Off: Pulling the cut end of the yarn through the last remaining stitch and tighten. Finishing off the last stitch prevents the work from unraveling.

Front Loop: The loop at the top of the stitch that is closest to you.

Gauge: The number of stitches to the inch/centimeter, and/or number of rows to the inch/centimeter on a crocheted piece. For a complete description of the importance of gauge, and instructions on how to measure it, see the section of the text entitled Making a Gauge Swatch.

Marker: Used to indicate the beginning of a round, the beginning of a section of pattern stitches or the beginning of decreases or increases. There are a variety of markers sold, but the ones with an opening on one side called split markers are recommended for crochet. Many people also use a contrasting color of yarn or thread.

Measure Your Work: Measure the length of a project by laying it on a flat surface. Start measuring from the row just completed to the starting edge.

Multiple: The number of stitches required to complete one repeat of the pattern stitch.

Place marker: A small ring marker or loop of contrasting yarn to keep track of a specific stitch or round in your work.

Work even: To continue to work in the pattern as established, without working any increases or decreases.

Post or Bar: The vertical part of the stitch.

Turn: Turn work over so the reverse side is facing you and you are ready to start a new row.

Turning chain: The number of chain stitches worked at the end of a row to achieve the required height for the stitches in the next row.



Evaluating Students' Projects and Judging a Competition

There are many variables to consider when evaluating a student's project or judging a competition. For instance, you might be asked to judge at a state fair where most entries might be made from commercial patterns and kits, or you might be asked to judge an original design contest at an art exhibit. Following are general skill guidelines to assist you in evaluating completed knit and crochet projects and are points to suggest any needed improvements.

It is important to note that an individual's work should not be compared to others, but that each piece of work should be evaluated on its own merits. Also, a judge's personal preferences should not influence her or his ability to evaluate an entry fairly.

CRAFTSMANSHIP

A uniform tension should be evident throughout the project. The individual should achieve gauge and be able to understand and control the technique used to make the project. An appropriate method of joining sections should be used and all yarn ends should be properly finished. The project should be clean. If used, the ribbing should be even, firm, and elastic.

MATERIALS

The weight and texture of yarn should be appropriate to project appearance and function. The fiber content should be appropriate for the type of project.

DESIGN

Color should enhance the stitch technique used and the type of project. Texture of the yarn or stitch should be appropriate and compliment the project.

PROJECT COMPLEXITY

In some instances the overall complexity of the project will figure into a judge's evaluation, whether the project is made from a commercial pattern or an original design.

