



# Crochet

## INSTRUCTIONS

Enjoy Your Crocheting Time!



# Abbreviations

across	to end of the row	hdc	half double
approx	approximate(ly)	hdc2tog	work 2hdc together
beg	beginning	in next	sts to be worked into the next stitch
blo	insert hook under back loop only	inc	increase
Bpdc	Back Post double: yrh, starting from the back, insert hook from back to front to back around post of st in row below, complete as double st	LH	left hand
ch(s)	chain/chain stitch(es)	lp(s)	loop(s)
ch-sp(s)	chain space(s)	meas	measures
ch-	refers to ch made previously, eg.ch-3	patt(s)	pattern(s)
cl(s)	clusters	pm	place marker
2-dc cl	(yrh, insert hook in sp/st, yrh & pull up loop, yrh & draw through 2 loops) twice, inserting hook in same sp/st, yrh & draw through all loops on hook	prev	previous
cont	continue	qdc	quadruple double
SC	single crochet	rem	remain(s)/remaining
sc2tog	(insert hook in next st, yrh and draw a loop through) twice, yrh and draw through all 3 loops on hook	rep	repeat
dec	decrease	RH	right hand
tr	treble crochet	rnd(s)	round(s)
tr2tog	work 2tr together	RS	right side
fdc	foundation dc	sk	skip
fsc	foundation SC	sp(s)	space(s)
flo	insert hook under front loop only	ss/sl st	slip stitch
folll/foll	following/follows	st(s)	stitch(es)
FPdc	Front Post treble: work in opposite way to Bpdc	tbl	through back loop
		t-ch(s)	turning chain(s)
		tog	together
		dc	double crochet
		dc2tog	(yrh, insert hook in next st, yrh and pull up loop, yrh and draw through 2 loops) twice, yrh and draw through all loops on hook
		dtr	double treble crochet
		WS	wrong side
		yrh	yarn round hook
		*	work instructions immediately foll*, then rep as many more times as directed
		()	work all instructions in the brackets as many times as directed

## Which hook do I use?

Hook size	UK yarn weight
2.5-3.5mm hook	4ply yarn
3.5-4.5mm hook	double knitting yarn
5-6mm hook	aran yarn
7mm and bigger	chunky yarn

## UK/US CONVERSIONS

UK		US	
chain stitch	ch	chain stitch	ch
slip stitch	ss/sl,st	slip stitch	ss/sl,st
double crochet	dc	single crochet	sc
half-treble crochet	htr	half double crochet	hdc
triple crochet	tr	double crochet	dc
double treble crochet	dtr	triple crochet	tr
triple treble crochet	tr tr	double treble crochet	dtr

### TIPS AND TRICKS WORKING FROM A PATTERN

Once you have "cracked the code" and understand the stitches' abbreviations, a pattern becomes much easier to read. Don't read a pattern fully before starting it as it may make it seem more complex, but do take a brief look through to check if there are any abbreviations you are unfamiliar with. Consult the abbreviations tables opposite before beginning.

Where a pattern has an accompanying chart, use this for reference, as it shows the formation of the stitches as they will be worked and can help with tricky instructions.



### FOREFINGER METHOD

Wrap the ball end of the yarn around the little finger of your opposite hand, under the next two fingers and over the forefinger. Hold the work steady with your middle finger and thumb, then raise your forefinger when working to create tension.



### MIDDLE-FINGER METHOD

Wrap the ball end of the yarn around the little finger of your opposite hand and over the other fingers. Hold the work steady with your forefinger and thumb, then raise your middle finger while you are crocheting to create tension.

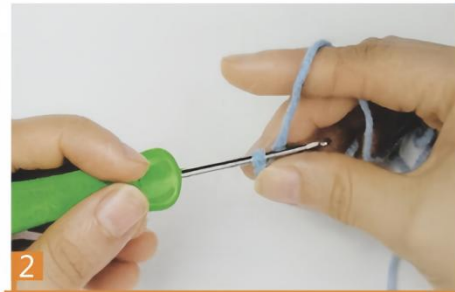
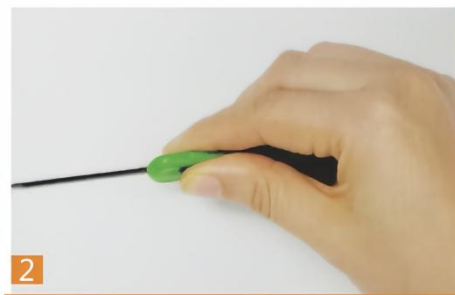


### PEN METHOD

There's no right or wrong way to hold your hook, but many crocheters find it comfortable to hold it as they would a pen.

#### Working left-handed

To crochet-handed, simply do the opposite to the right-handed holds, hold a mirror up to any picture in this guide to see how to work.



### KNIFE METHOD

Others prefer the knife method, with the end of the hook resting against the palm of the hand for extra control of the hook.

## Making a slipknot



Holding the tail end firmly wrap the working end of the ball of yarn around two fingers to make a loop.



Pull a loop from the working end of the ball of yarn up through the centre of the loop you've just made.



Remove the loop from your fingers and you should have something that looks like this.



Pull the tail end of the yarn to close the slipknot-it's now ready to be popped onto your crochet hook and pulled tight to close.

## TOP TIP

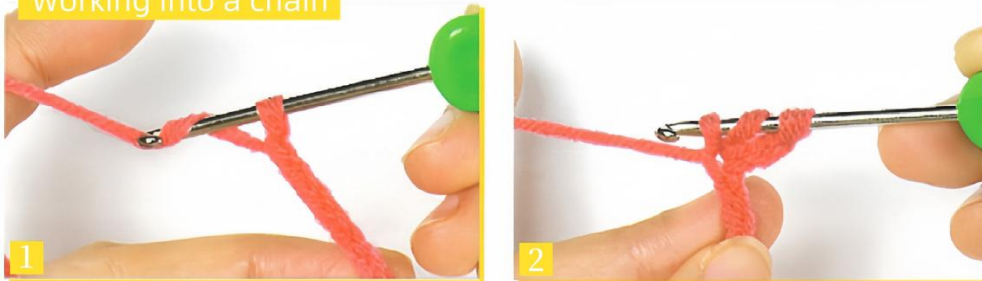
It doesn't matter if your stitches tend towards being slightly tight or even a little loose; you are aiming for an even tension throughout to achieve a professional finish.

## Chain stitch(ch)



1. This is what the start of any crochet project looks like- a slipknot on a hook.
2. To begin making your first chain, first wrap the yarn around the hook (yrh).
3. Pull the hook towards the first loop on the hook - always be sure to move the crochet hook and not the yarn to make your stitches- this will catch the yrh in the head of the hook.
4. Continue to move the hook until you pull through your yrh through the first loop on the hook -you' ve made your first chain stitch!

## Working into a chain

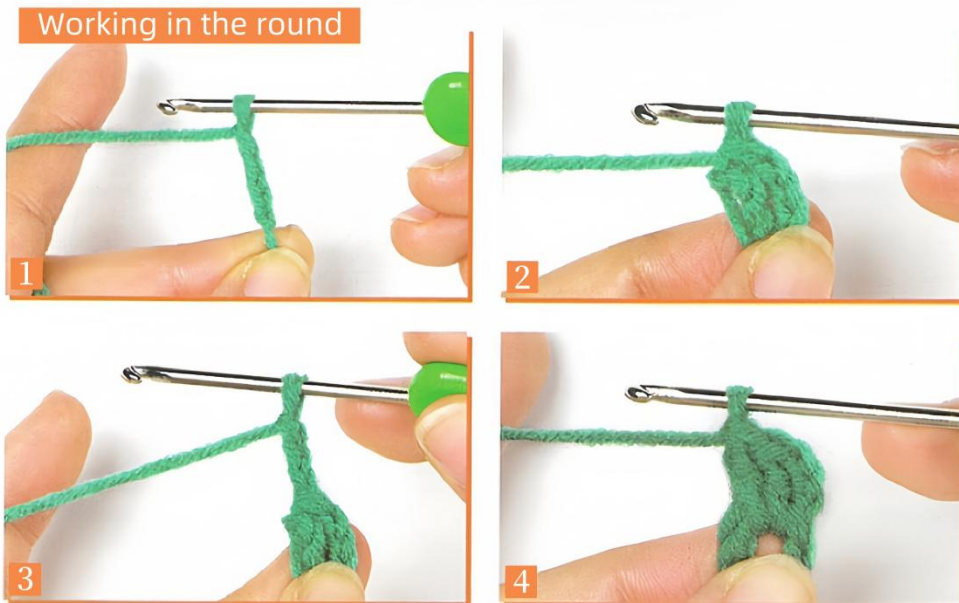


Once you' ve made the required length of chain, you should be left with something looking like this. This is your foundation row, into which Row 1 is worked.

The starting chain instructions often include the turning chain in them already. This example shows a double crochet, so the stitch is worked into the 4th chain from the hook to create the height needed for the first stitch.

## Top Tip

The action of working stitches causes a constant rolling of the hook in your fingers; hold the hook pointing up when performing the yrh, then roll it round towards you to point down when pulling through the loops so that you don't catch the hook in the stitches.



1. To work in the round, first of all you need a centre ring, into which the first round of stitches are worked into. There are many ways to do this, but for this example, we are first making a chain of four stitches.
2. Next, slip-stitch into the first chain you made to create a centre ring.
3. We are creating treble stitches again, so next up we make a chain of three for the turning chain.
4. The stitches are then worked directly into the centre ring—not into the actual chain stitches themselves as we did when working into a row. This allows us to work many more stitches into the ring, without leaving a large hole in the centre.

## Magic ring



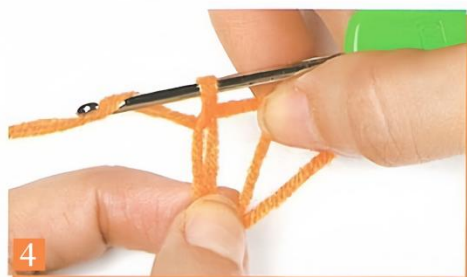
1. A magic ring is a key technique used in the making of toys (also known as amigurumi). It allows you to have even greater control on the size of the hole at the centre ring of your project.



2. To start off, follow the first few steps for making a slip knot by making a loop around your fingers with the working end of the yarn.



3. Pull through a loop of the working end of the ball of yarn - place your hook into the new loop; however, this time don't pull the tail to make a slipknot. Hold the centre ring in your fingers to stop it moving.



4. In this example, we're single crocheting into the magic ring. To secure the magic ring, make one chain.



5. Then continue to work the number of required single crochet stitches directly into the magic ring, ensuring both the loop and the tail end are caught in the stitches.



6. Pull the tail end of the yarn and the magic ring will close up as tightly as it is able, depending on the number of stitches.



## Single crochet (sc)



1. Insert your hook into the next stitch from front to back.



2. Wrap the yarn round the hook(yrh).



3. Pull up a loop through the stitch. You will now have two loops on the hook.



4. Yarn round the hook again.



5. Pull through both loops on hook. You've made your first single crochet.

### Rounds or spirals

#### Check which technique you need to use

Some patterns are worked in rounds that are joined together at the end of each round. Other patterns are worked in a spiral so you don't need to join the rounds at the end, just keep going, working into the next stitch on the previous row.

Amigurumi toys are often worked in a spiral like this.



1. This stitch is a common decrease in single crochet. First up, work a single crochet stitch as far as Step 3. Then insert your hook into the next stitch, yrh and pull up a loop. You will have three loops on the hook.



2. Yarn round the hook again.



3. Pull through all three loops on the hook.



1. To increase the number of single crochet stitches, simply make more than one single crochet in the same stitch as shown in this example.



1. Slip stitches are used as joining stitches and in places where you need to move along a row or round without impacting the height of the row. Insert the hook into the next stitch.



2. Yarn round the hook, pull up a loop not only through the stitch, but also the first loop on the hook.



### Half double crochet (hdc)



1. First up, yarn round the hook.
2. Insert the hook into the next stitch, yrh and pull through one loop. There are three loops on the hook.
3. Yarn round the hook again.
4. Pull through all three loops. One half double stitch made.

### Hdc2tog

1. Work as for half double until Step 2.
2. Work steps 1 and 2 again in the next stitch. There are five loops on the hook.
3. Yrh and pull through all five loops.
4. One half double stitch made.

### Double crochet (dc)



1. First up, yarn round the hook.



2. Insert the hook into the next stitch and pull up one loop. There are three loops on the hook.



3. Yarn round the hook and pull through two loops. There are two loops left on the hook.



4. Yarn round the hook again and pull through the remaining two loops. One double crochet stitch made.

### Dc2tog



1. Work as for a double crochet stitch up to Step 3.



2. Yarn round the hook again, insert into the next stitch and pull up one loop. There are four loops on the hook.



3. Yarn round the hook again and pull through two loops. There are now three loops on the hook.



4. Yarn round the hook again and pull through the remaining three loops.

### Changing colour



1. Crochet colour work can make for some fantastic results. To change colour mid-row, first work the stitch until the penultimate step in colour 1. Yarn round the hook in the new colour.



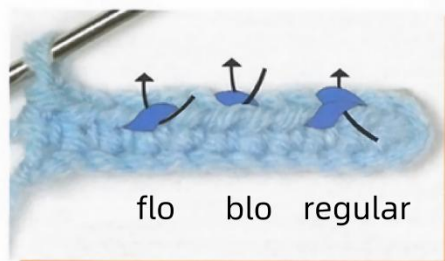
2. Pull through both loops to complete the stitch and continue to work the next stitch in the next colour.



3. Once secured, you can either fasten off the old yarn, or keep it attached if you'll be working it in again soon - this is called stranded colour work.

## WORKING INTO WHICH LOOP?

Crochet stitches are always worked through both loops of the next stitch (this looks like a “v” on top of the stitch), unless the pattern tells you otherwise.



Sometimes a pattern will ask you to work only through one loop of the stitch. To work through the front loop only (flo), insert your hook under the front loop of the next stitch, then bring it out at the centre of the stitch, then complete. To work through the back loop only (blo), insert your hook through the centre of the stitch, then under the back loop to the back, then complete the stitch. Sometimes you are even asked to work in between the stitches. In this case, ignore the top loops of the stitch and insert your hook between the posts of adjoining stitches.

## WORKING STRAIGHT

When working straight, you need to turn your work at the end of a row and then work a turning chain (t-ch) to the height of your intended stitch so that you can continue working along the next row. This chain often counts as the first stitch of the row and each type of stitch uses a different number of chain stitches for the turning chain.



With hdc and taller stitches, you now miss out the first stitch of the row, then work into every following stitch.

This is because the turning chain is tall enough to count as the first stitch itself, so is counted as the first stitch of the row. This also means that you must remember to work the last stitch of a row into the top of the previous row's turning chain.



### WORKING INTO A SPACE

Sometimes you are asked to work into a space or a chain space. To do this simply insert your hook into the hole underneath the chain, then complete your stitch normally.



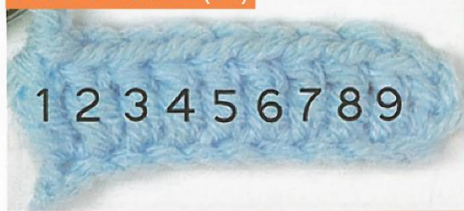
### FASTEN OFF

Pull up final loop of last stitch to make it bigger and cut the yarn, leaving enough of an end to weave in. Pull end through loop, and pull up tightly to secure.

### COUNTING STITCHES

Count the posterior "stem" of each stitch from the side of your work. Each post counts as one stitch.

#### Double crochet (dc)



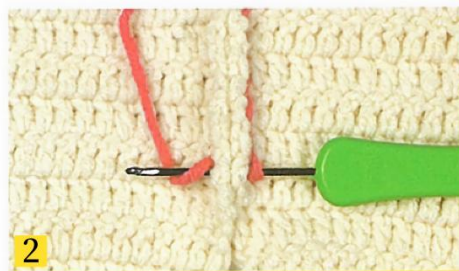
#### Single crochet (sc)



### Sewing seams



1. Sewing with a tapestry needle is the regular and neat way to join seams. Place two pieces of crochet right sides together and over sew them as shown above, using a tapestry or yarn needle.



2. To slip stitch a seam, place the crochet pieces right sides together. \*Insert hook into both edge stitches, yrh and pull through to complete 1 slip stitch; rep from\*working into the next edge stitches, keeping work fairly loose.

### TOP TIP

Try to count your stitches at regular intervals, usually at the end of every, or every other, row and especially after an increase or decrease row. It is best to try to catch any mistakes as quickly as possible, as this will make them much easier to rectify!



Basic Crochet Videos

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[crochetkit8@gmail.com](mailto:crochetkit8@gmail.com)

