

# ALL ABOUT CROCHET



The Dictionary of  
Crochet Stitches and Techniques

Jean Leinhauser and Rita Weiss



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CROCHET**

*The Dictionary of Crochet Stitches  
and Techniques*



**Jean Leinhauser**

**Rita Weiss**



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## Introduction

You've heard people at your crochet group talking about linked stitches, but you don't know what they are. Or your pattern requires spike stitches and you can't remember how to work them. That beautiful rayon yarn you saw online is calling to you, but you're not sure if it will be suitable for the project you have in mind.

Relax—help is at hand! This handy book lets you quickly look up information about all these and much more—from standard crochet abbreviations to foreign crochet terms to the circumference of a baby's head to standard afghan sizes.

You'll find here the definition of a *scrumble* and the basic technique for broomstick lace.

You will be able to check out how to work decreases in every basic stitch, methods for joining pieces of crochet, and how to work extended stitches.

And it's all arranged in easy-to-follow alphabetical sequence. Part one covers stitches and techniques; part two gives you the facts and figures you've always needed to make your crochet experience better than ever.

The book's handy size means you can tuck it in with your crocheting and carry it with you. We hope you enjoy using the book and that you will find in it the answers to many of your crochet needs.

*Jean Leinhauser and Rita Weiss*

## **Part I: Stitches and Techniques**

## A

### Abbreviations

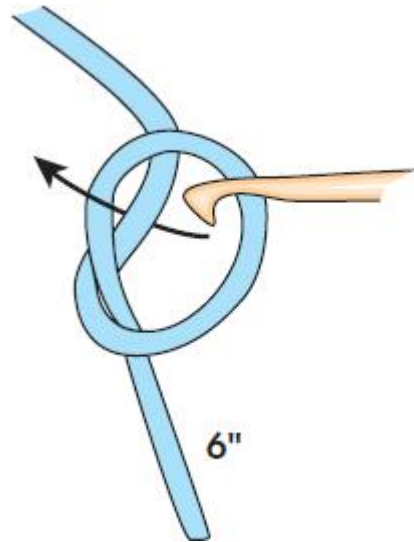
Crochet instructions use abbreviations for many techniques. See [page 89](#) for a list of common abbreviations.

### Adjustable Ring

A method of beginning a circular crochet piece that permits the center hole to be closed tightly.

**Step 1:** Position yarn into ring, leaving loose yarn end about 6" long; insert hook in center of ring and under yarn coming from ball.

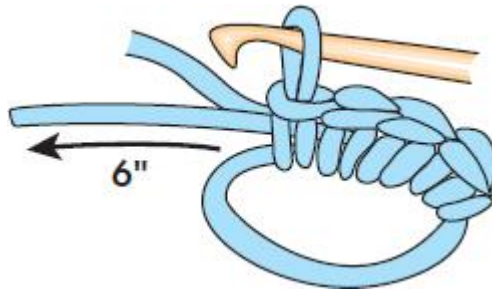




**Step 2:** YO and draw through: sl st made.



**Step 3:** Ch 1, work required number of sc in ring; join with sl st to beg sc. Draw on loose yarn end to close center.



This method can be used with any stitch, such as half double crochet, double crochet, or triple crochet.

### **Afghan Stitch**

See Tunisian Crochet on [page](#)

### **Aran Crochet**

A technique using textural stitches such as cables, popcorns, bobbles, clusters, and others to simulate the look of classic knitted fisherman sweaters from the Aran Isles.



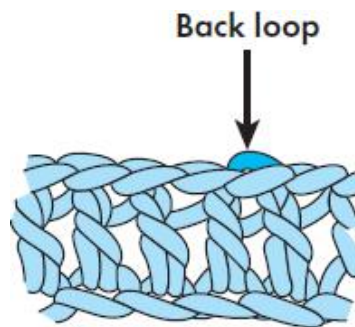
## **Arch**

A term meaning a long loop or space, usually composed of three or more chain stitches, that is frequently found in vintage crochet patterns or in translations of foreign-language patterns.

## **B**

### **Back Loop (bl)**

The loop away from you at the top of a stitch.



### **Back Post (BP)**

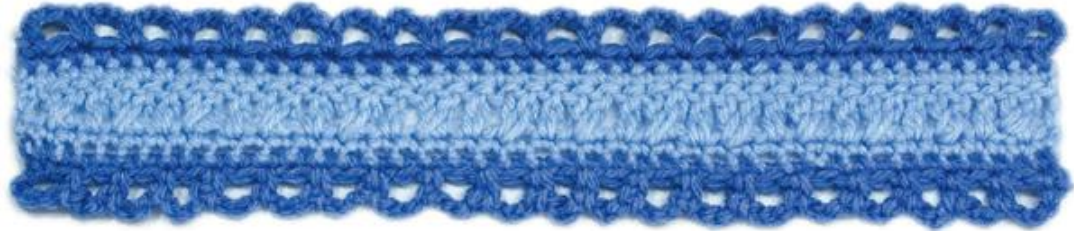
See Post Stitches on [page](#)

### **Back Stitch**

A sewing method used to join pieces of crochet. See Seaming on [page](#)

### **Band**

A decorative length of crochet, with a finished top and bottom, which is sewn onto a crochet project.

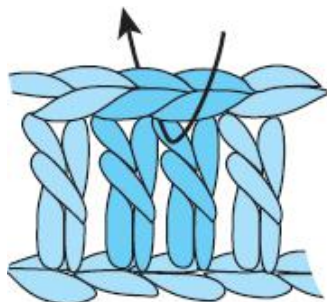


### **Bedsread Weight**

A term used to describe size 10 crochet cotton thread, which is often used for doilies, edgings, bedspreads, and tablecloths.

### **Between Stitches**

Instead of working in the top of stitches in the usual manner, this instruction means to work between two existing stitches. Working between stitches will increase the stitch count for this row unless other stitches in the row are skipped or decreased.



## **Blocking**

A method used to “set” a crochet piece into its final shape. For natural fibers, blocking involves dampening, patting out a piece to the desired shape, and then allowing it to dry. Projects made with acrylic yarn rarely need blocking. For thread crochet items, such as doilies, see Blocking Thread Crochet on [page](#)

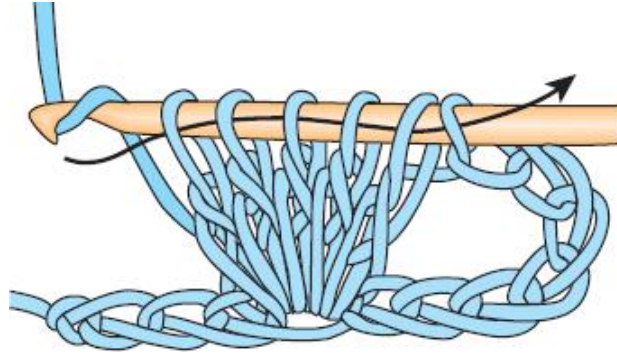
## **Bobble (BB)**

A stitch that adds texture, a bobble will always appear on the opposite side of the work (the side away from the crocheter) and is more prominent when worked between shorter stitches such as half double crochet or single crochet.

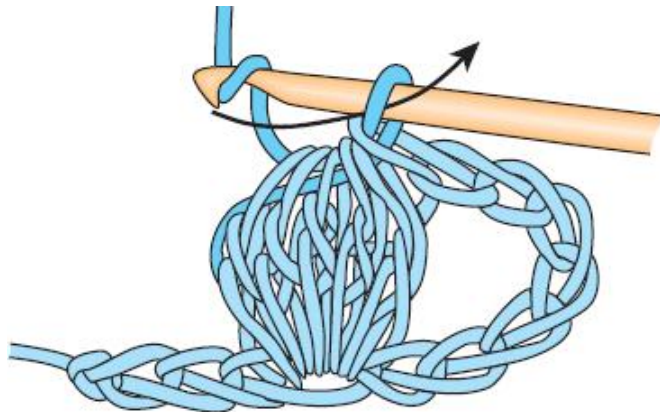
**Step 1:** YO, insert hook in specified ch or st and draw up a lp to height of a dc. YO and draw through first 2 lps on hook: 2 lps rem on hook.

**Step 2:** (YO, insert hook in same ch or st and draw up a lp to height of a dc, YO and draw through first 2 lps on hook) 4 times: 6 lps rem on hook.

**Step 3:** YO and draw through all 6 lps on hook.



**Step 4:** YO and draw through rem lp on hook to secure bobble.



## Border

A decorative finish that can be worked directly on a crocheted piece, or worked separately and sewn on the piece. Borders can be simple or elaborate, wide or narrow.



### **Bouclé**

A type of specialized yarn usually made of three plies. One ply, being looser than the others, forms loops or “curls.” Because this loose thread may be likely to unravel, it must be worked with great care.

### **Braid**

A decorative trim, usually with two flat edges, which is worked separately and sewn on a crocheted project.



### **Broomstick Lace**

A variation of crochet that has a distinctive lacy appearance. Probably originally worked with an actual broomstick, today this stitch uses a large knitting needle,

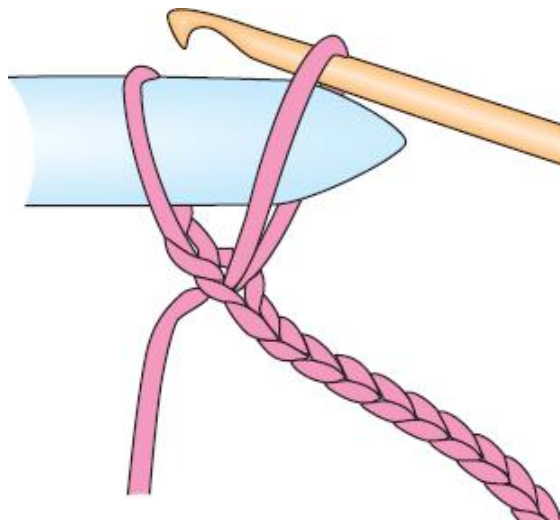


usually size 35 (19 mm) or 50 (25 mm), and a crochet hook suitable for the yarn.

To start, place a slipknot on the hook and chain a multiple of 5 (for practice, chain 15). Each row consists of two parts:

### **Part 1**

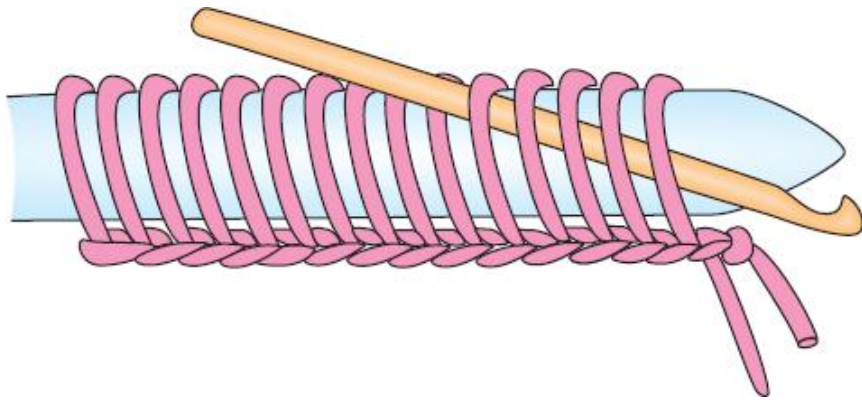
With knitting needle in left hand, draw up lp on crochet hook and sl it onto the needle. \*Insert hook into next ch, draw up a long lp and sl it onto needle; rep from \* across ch: 15 lps on needle.



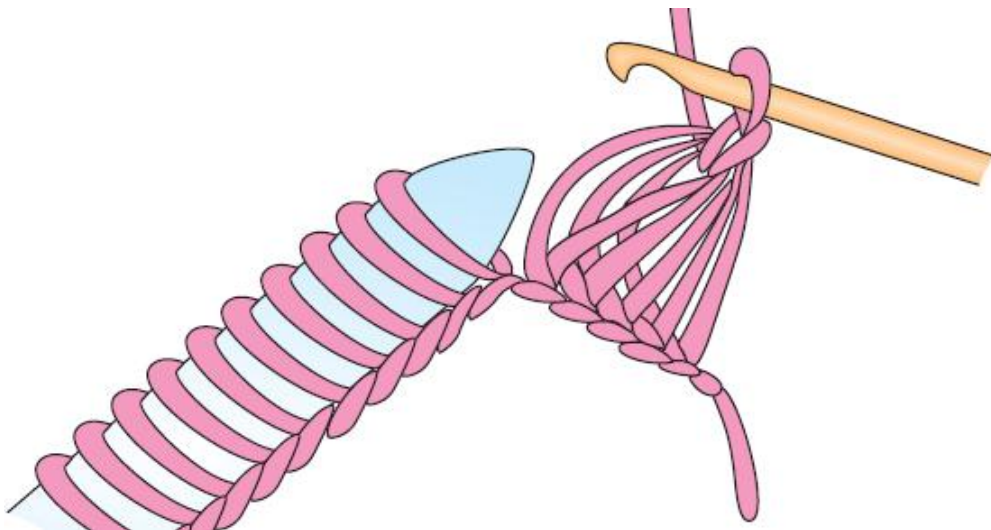
### **Part 2**

**Step 1:** Insert hook from left to right through first 5 lps on needle.

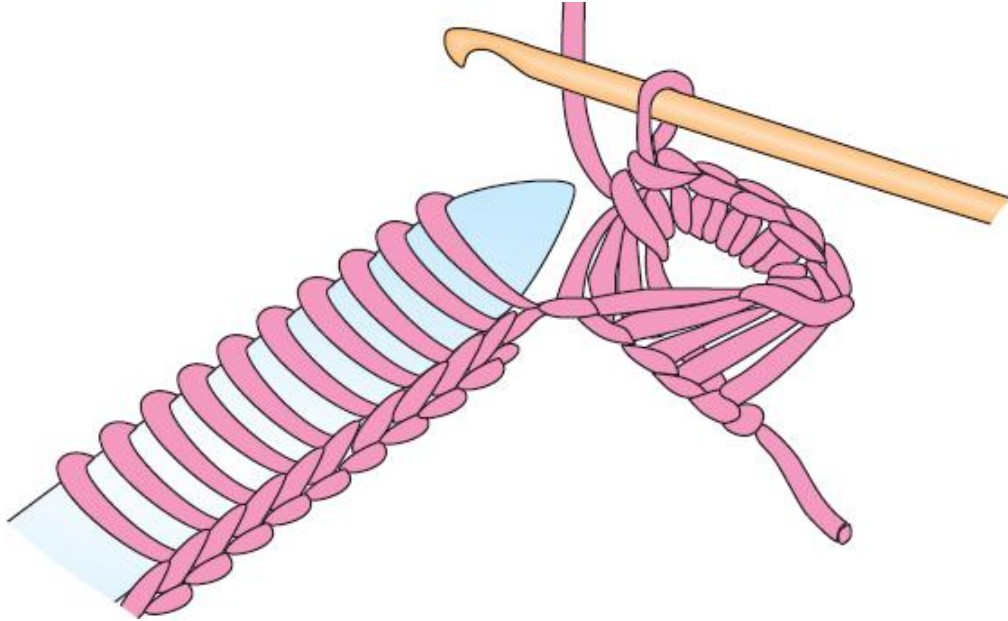
**Step 2:** Sl this group of 5 lps off needle, twisting them from left to



right, and work a sl st in the center of group.

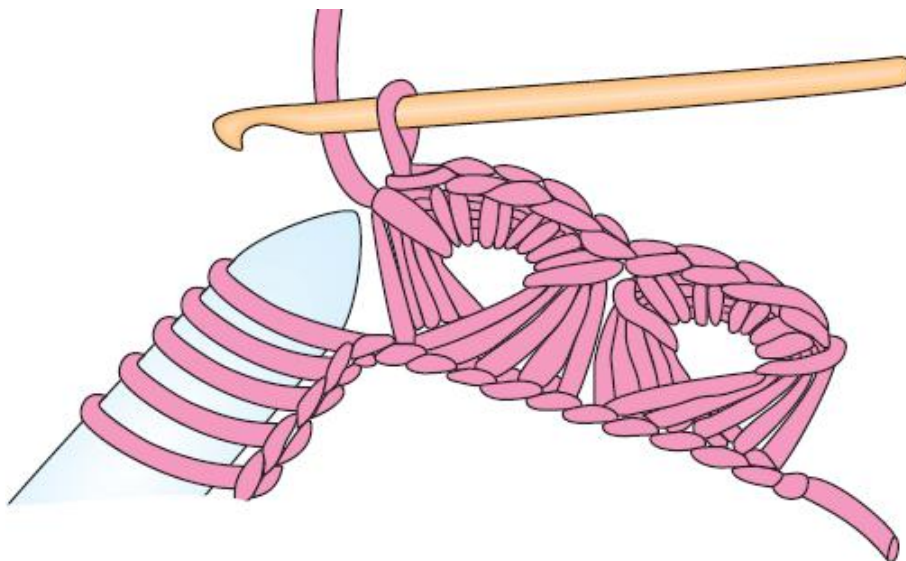


**Step 3:** Work 5 sc in center of group.



**Step 4:** Insert hook from left to right through next 5 lps on the needle.

**Step 5:** Sl these 5 lps off needle, twisting from left to right, and work 5 sc in center of group.



**Step 6:** Rep steps 4 and 5 across row. At end of row, there will be one lp on crochet hook and no lps on knitting needle.

To begin next row, repeat step 1, inserting hook in each sc instead of each ch. Then repeat steps 2 through 6.

## **Bruges Crochet**

An imitation of tape lace developed in Bruges, Belgium during the mid-twentieth century. First lengths of narrow crochet “tapes” are worked in double crochet with turning chains of five stitches that form side loops. These side loops are then joined with crochet into the desired pattern. Originally used primarily for table linens, today Bruges is used for fashion garments as well.

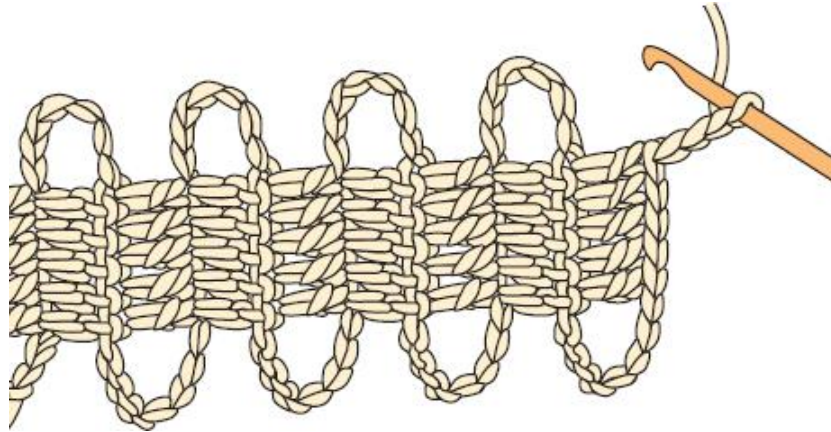
### **Basic Bruges Tape**

Ch 10.

**Row 1:** Dc in 6th ch from hook and in each rem ch across: 5dc; ch 5, turn.

**Row 2:** Dc in each dc; ch 5, turn.

Rep row 2 for desired length. At end of last row, do not ch or turn. Finish off.



### **Bullion Stitch**

A decorative stitch, derived from the bullion embroidery stitch, in which multiple loops of yarn are placed on the crochet hook and then worked off as one unit in a swooping motion. The stitch takes practice to learn.

**Step 1:** YO number of times specified in pattern.

**Step 2:** YO and draw through all lps on hook using swooping motion.



## C

### **Cable**

There are many variations on and methods for making crocheted cables, but all cables resemble a rope and most are formed by crossing one group of stitches over another. For added dimension, front and back post stitches are often used to create the cable.



### **Carrying Colors**

A method of crochet color work in which the color or colors not in use are carried loosely across the wrong side of the work and then picked up again when needed. The carried colors are sometimes called floats.





**Back**



**Front**

## **Chain Stitch (ch)**

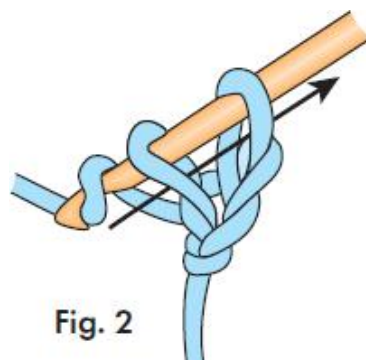
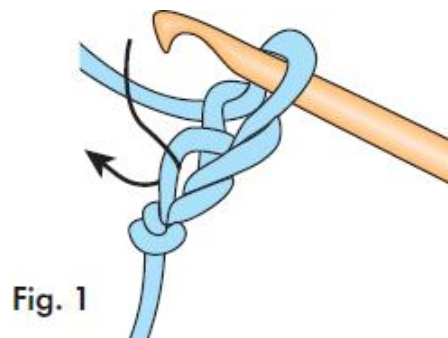
Chain stitches are used to create loops or spaces in pattern stitches. To create a chain stitch, bring the yarn from back to front over the hook and draw the yarn through the loop on the hook. This creates one chain stitch. Repeat as many times as specified in pattern. See Foundation Chain on [page](#)



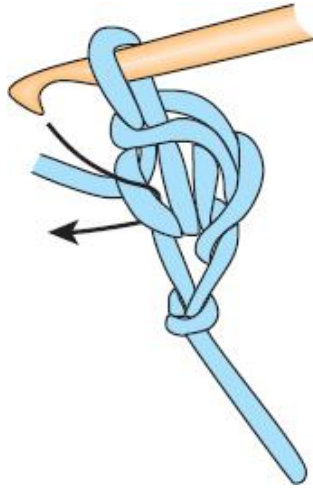
## Chainless Foundation

A method of working the foundation chain and first row of single crochet at the same time that is especially useful when working a long starting chain, such as for an afghan.

**Step 1:** Ch 2; insert hook in 2nd ch from hook YO and draw lp through both lps on hook one sc made.



**Step 2:** Insert hook under far left strand of sc just made and draw up a lp; YO and draw lp through both lps on hook: another sc made.

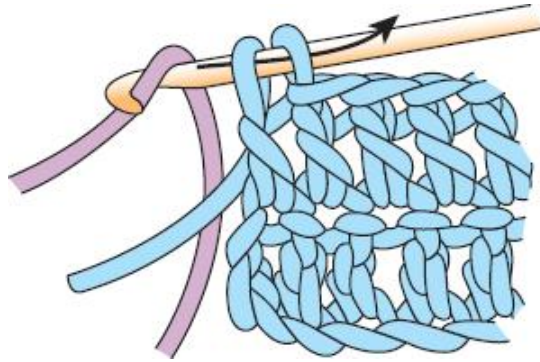


Repeat step 2 for desired length of ch. At end, ch 1, turn work, and work next row of sts into the sc side of foundation.

The same technique can be used to work a chainless foundation in half double crochet, double crochet, or triple crochet. For half double crochet, work 3 chains to start step 1; for double crochet, work 4 chains; for triple, work 5 chains.

### **Changing Colors**

Work the last stitch of the first color until one step remains; then work off the last loop with the new color, always leaving at least a 6" yarn end on each color for weaving in later.



## **Chenille Yarn**

A type of specialty yarn made with short lengths of spun yarn, called the pile, held together by two ends of highly twisted yarn called the core. Chenille yarns can be made from many different fibers, the most common being rayon and acrylic. Because of easy pile loss, the yarn is vulnerable to abrasion.

## **Chevron**

A zigzag type pattern in which the peaks are worked with increases and the valleys with decreases.



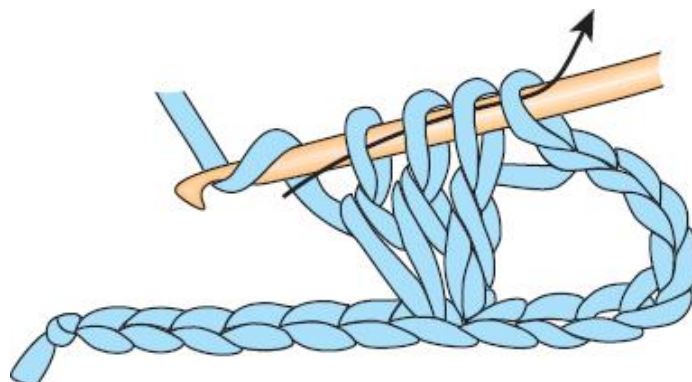
## Cluster (CL)

A cluster is a group of double crochet or triple crochet stitches, usually any number from two through four, which are worked incompletely into the same stitch or chain and then finally completed by joining at the top to form one decorative stitch. Here is how to make a cluster composed of three double crochet stitches.

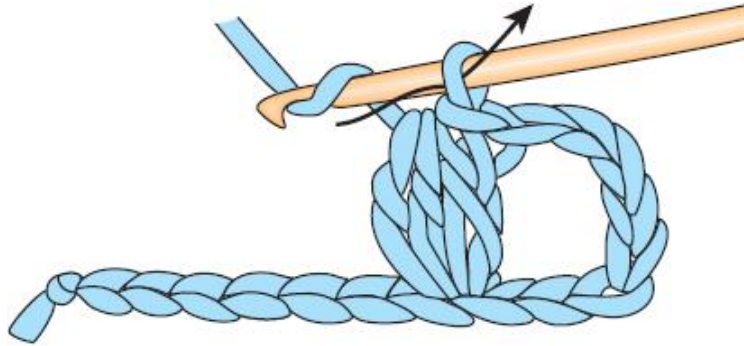
**Step 1:** YO, insert hook in specified ch or st and draw up a lp to height of a dc, YO and draw through first 2 lps: 2 lps rem on hook.

**Step 2:** (YO, insert hook in same ch or st and draw up a lp to height of a dc, YO and draw through first 2 lps) twice: 4 lps rem on hook.

**Step 3:** YO and draw through all 4 lps on hook.



**Step 4:** Ch 1 to secure st.



## Cords

Cords are used as drawstrings for projects such as purses or skirt waistbands and for narrow straps on bathing suits or tube tops.

**Slip-Stitch Cord:** Make a ch of desired length. Work a sl st in 2nd ch from hook and in each rem ch; finish off, weave ends back into ch.



**Single Crochet Cord:** Make a ch of desired length. Work a sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each rem ch; finish off, weave ends back into ch.



## **Corners**

Additional stitches are needed to turn corners squarely in crochet.

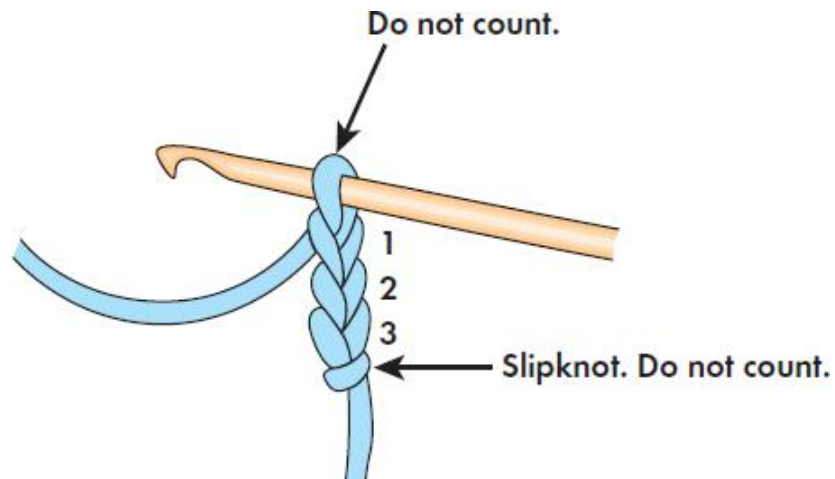
**In single crochet:** Corners can be made by working 3 sc in one st; or (sc, ch 2, sc) in one st; or (sc, hdc, sc) in one st.

**In double crochet:** Corners are usually worked (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc), or by working 5 dc in same st.

## **Counting**

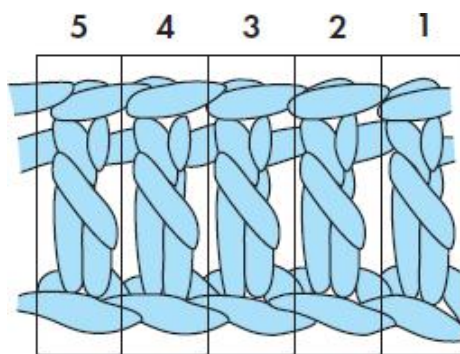
### **Counting Stitches**

When counting stitches, look at the top of the stitch, which looks like a sideways V, and the post (vertical bar) to decide where one stitch ends and another begins. The diagram shows how to count double crochet stitches.



## Counting Chains

When counting chains, it is important to remember that the loop on the hook is never counted as a stitch, and that the beginning slipknot is also not counted as a stitch.



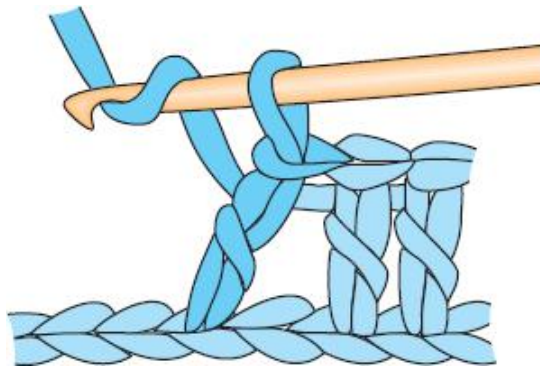
## Crab Stitch

See Reverse Single Crochet on [page](#)

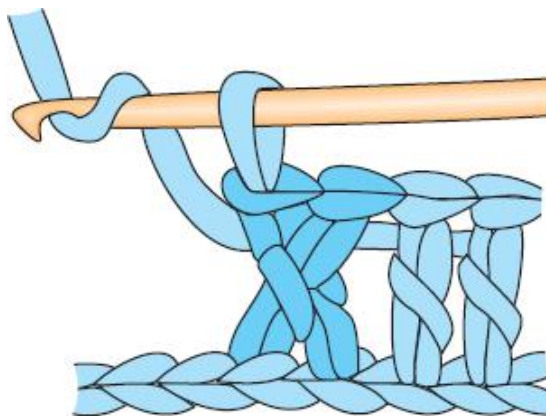
## Crossed Stitches (CS)

Crossed stitches are achieved by skipping one or more stitches, then working one or more stitches, and then going back and working in the previously skipped stitches. They can be worked either in front of or behind the existing stitches.

**Step 1:** Skip next st, dc in next st.



**Step 2:** Working in front (or in back if pattern so states) of st just made, dc in skipped st.





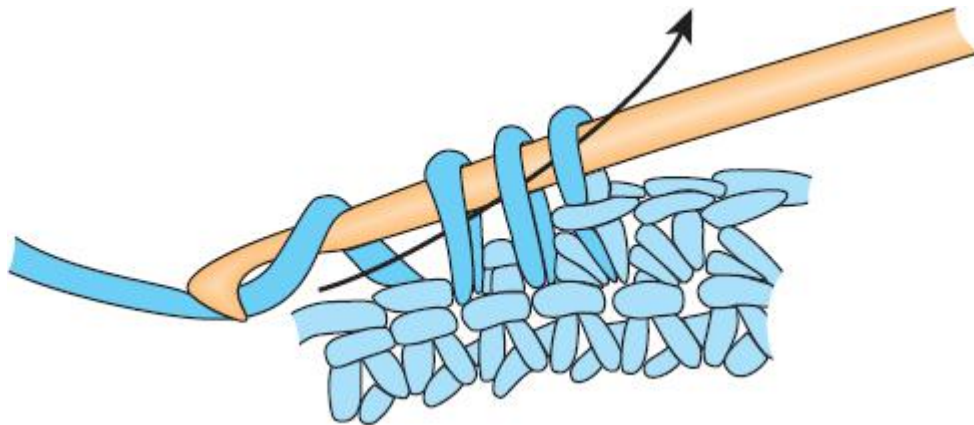
## D

### Decreases

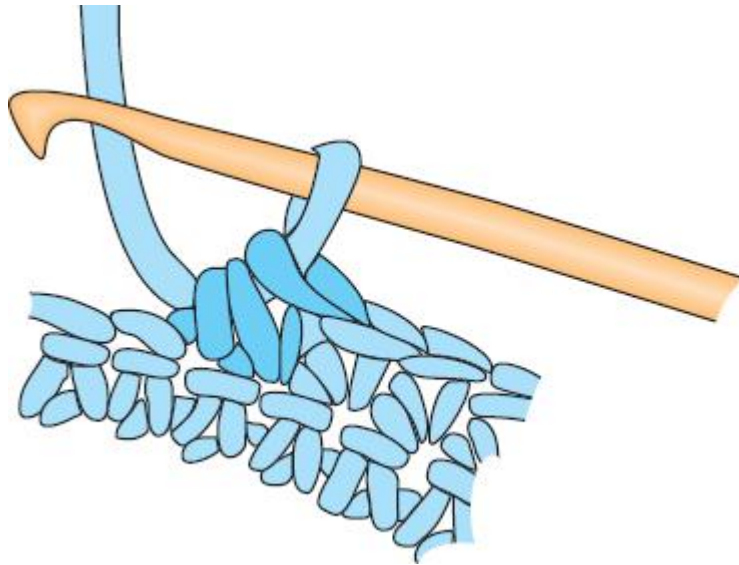
Decreases are used to shape crocheted pieces by eliminating stitches. When the project is worked in a decorative pattern stitch, the instructions will generally explain how to work the decreases. Following are instructions for working decreases for the basic stitches.

#### Single Crochet Decrease (sc2tog)

(Insert hook in next st and draw up a lp) twice: 3 lps now on hook. YO and draw through all 3 lps on hook.

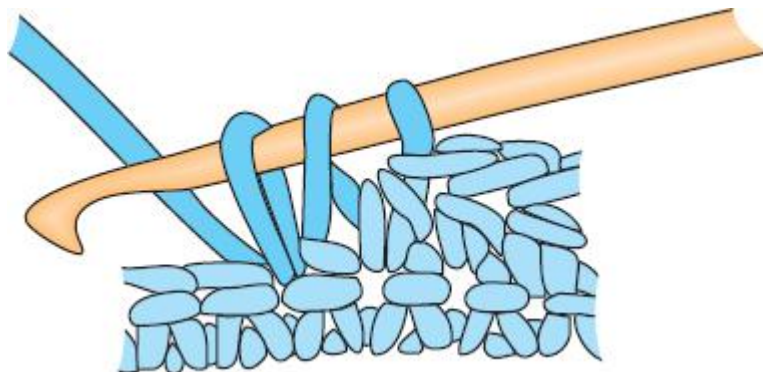


Single crochet decrease completed.

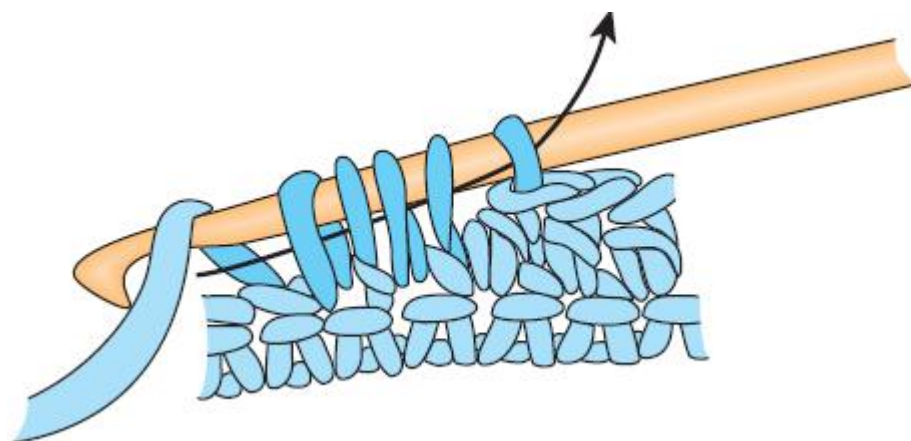


### Half Double Crochet Decrease (hdc2tog)

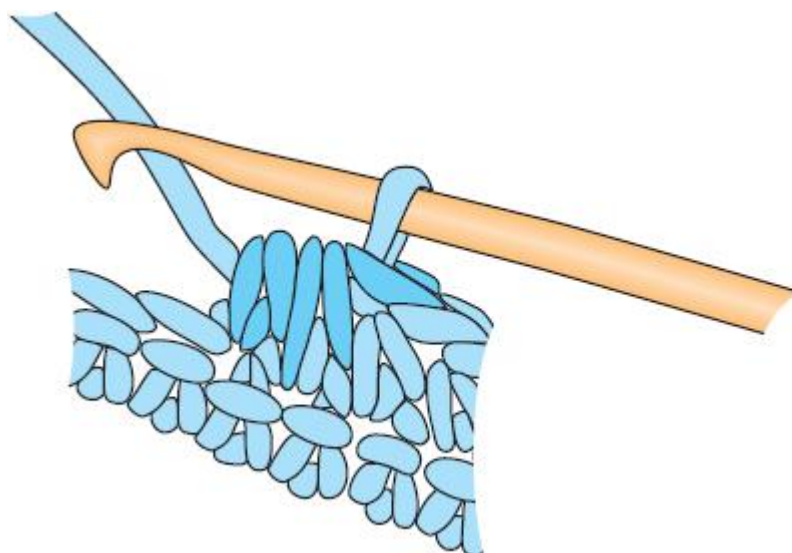
**Step 1:** YO, insert hook in next st and draw up a lp: 3 lps now on hook.



**Step 2:** Keeping 3 lps on hook, YO and draw up a lp in next st: 5 lps now on hook; hook yarn and draw through all 5 lps.

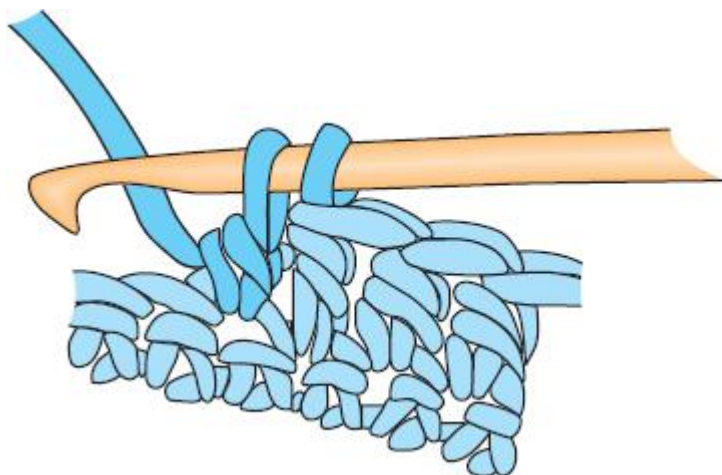


Half double crochet decrease completed.

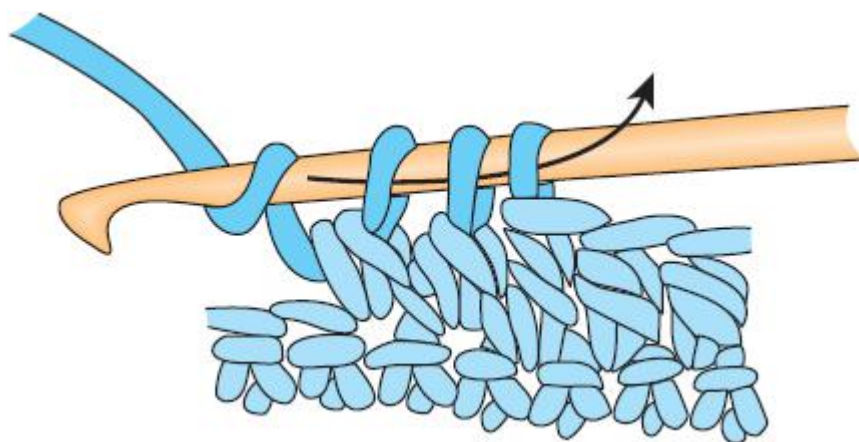


**Double Crochet Decrease (dc2tog)**

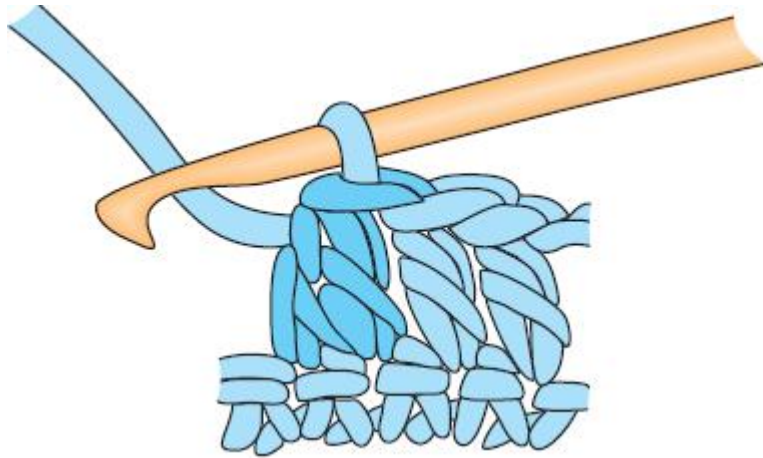
**Step 1:** YO, insert hook in next st and draw up a lp, YO and draw through first 2 lps on hook: 2 lps rem on hook.



**Step 2:** Keeping 2 lps on hook, work another dc in next st until 3 lps rem on hook; YO and draw through all 3 lps.

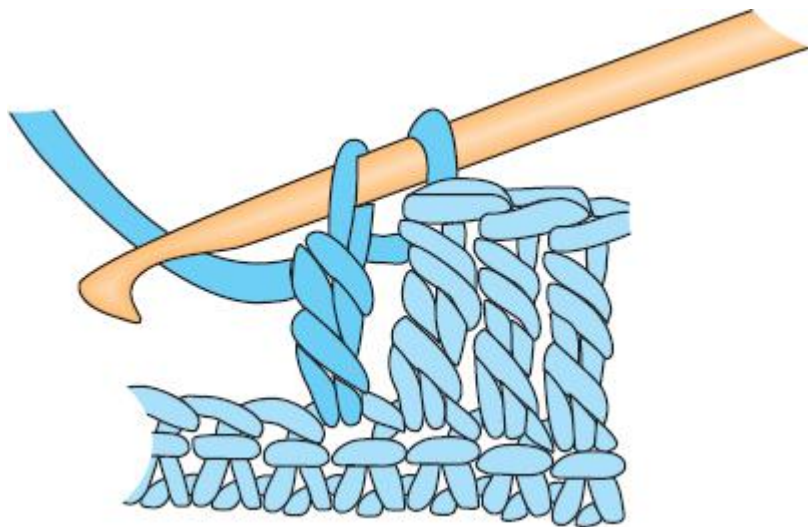


Double crochet decrease completed.

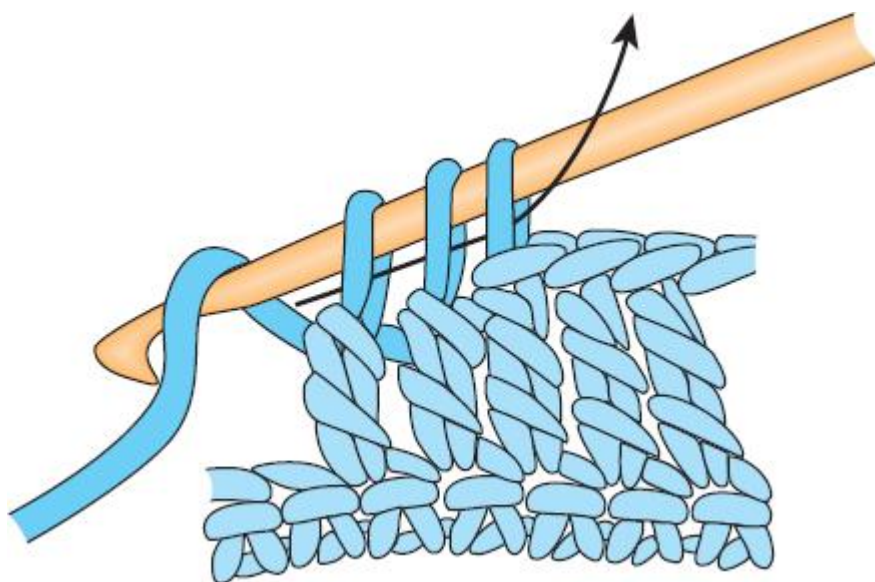


### Triple Crochet Decrease (tr2tog)

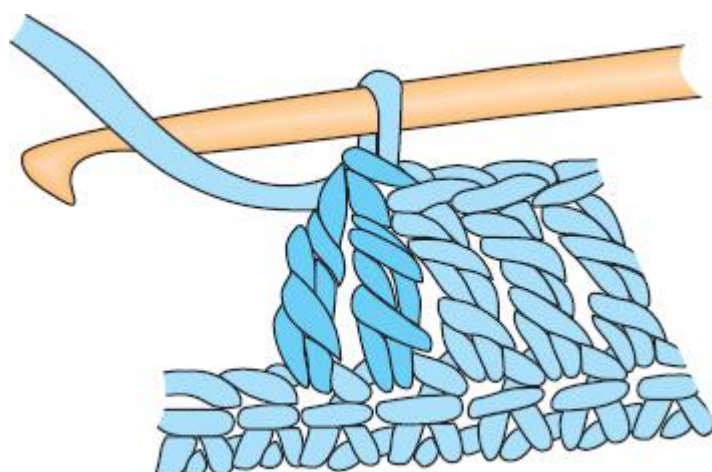
**Step 1:** YO twice, insert hook in next st and draw up a lp, (YO and draw through first 2 lps on hook) twice: 2 lps rem on hook.



**Step 2:** Keeping these 2 lps on hook, work another tr in next st until 3 lps rem on hook; YO and draw through all 3 lps.



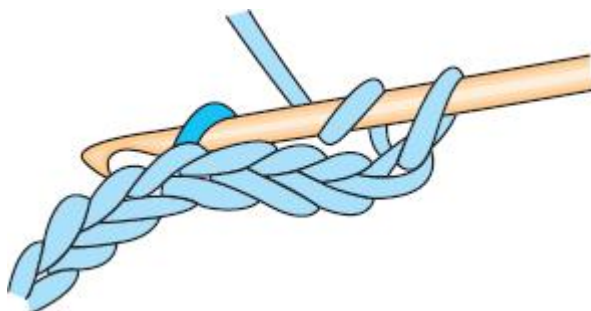
Triple crochet decrease completed.



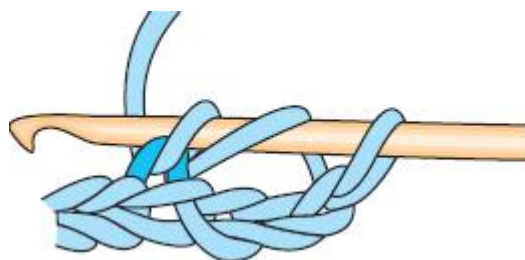
**Double Crochet (dc)**



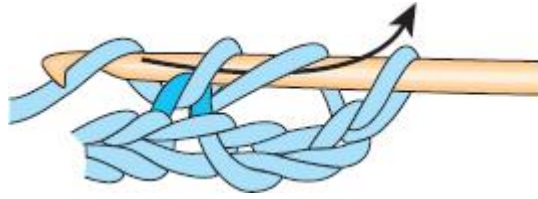
**Step 1:** YO from back to front; skip first 3 chs from hook, and insert hook in back bump of 4th ch.



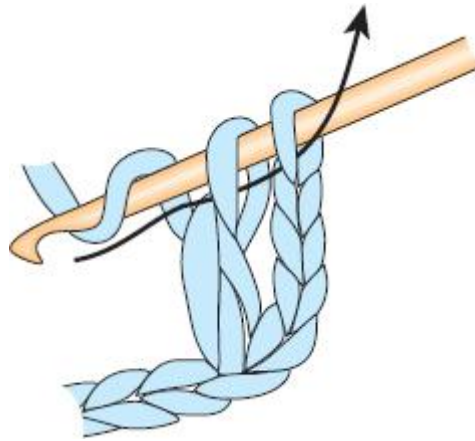
**Step 2:** YO and draw through ch st and up onto working area of hook: 3 lps rem on hook.



**Step 3:** YO and draw through first 2 lps on hook: 2 lps rem on hook.



**Step 4:** YO again and draw through both lps on hook. You have now completed one double crochet (dc) st.





## **E**

### **Ease**

A fashion term meaning the amount of space allowed in sizing a garment to permit ease of body movement.

### **Edging**

A final row or rows on a project, usually narrow.



### **End Off**

See Finish Off on [page](#)

### **Extended Stitches**

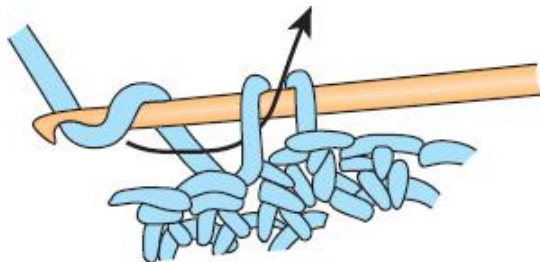
Stitches that are made slightly taller by adding one extra step to the stitch.

## Extended Single Crochet (Esc)

**Step 1:** Insert hook in specified st and draw up a lp.



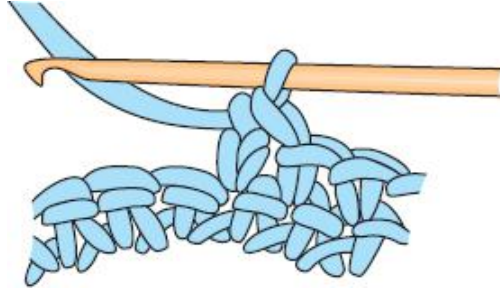
**Step 2:** YO and draw through one lp on hook.



**Step 3:** YO and draw through 2 lps.

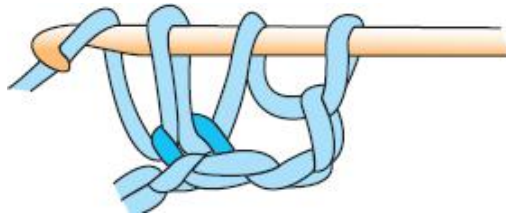


Extended single crochet (Esc) completed.

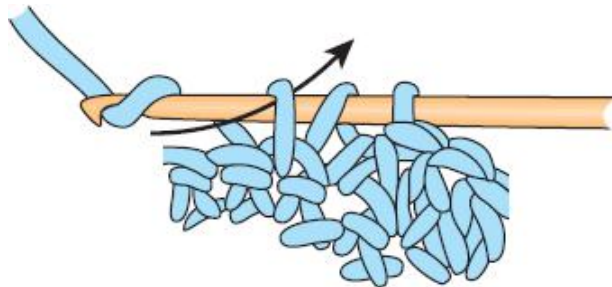


### Extended Half Double Crochet (Ehdc)

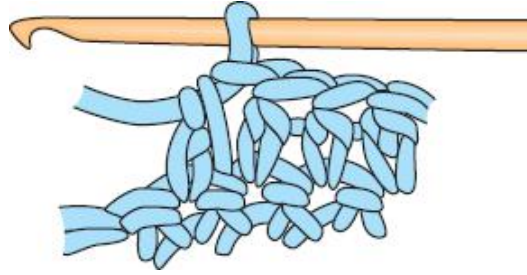
**Step 1:** YO, insert hook into specified ch or st and draw up lp: 3 lps now on hook.



**Step 2:** YO and draw through first lp on hook.

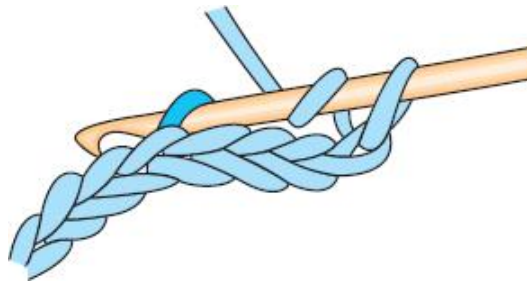


**Step 3:** YO and draw through 3 lps on hook: Extended half double crochet (Ehdc) completed.

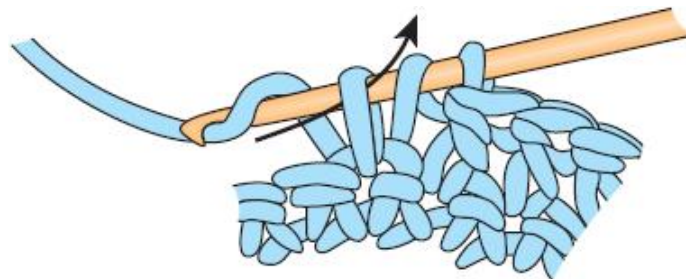


### Extended Double Crochet (Edc)

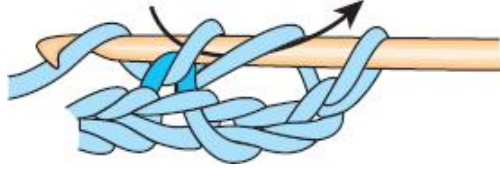
**Step 1:** YO, insert hook in specified ch or st and draw up a lp: 3 lps now on hook.



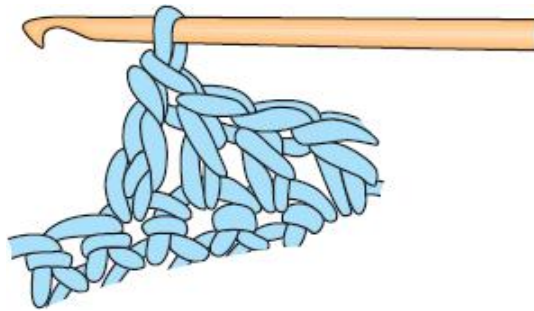
**Step 2:** YO and draw through one lp on hook.



**Step 3:** Yo and draw through first 2 lps on hook: 2 lps rem on hook.

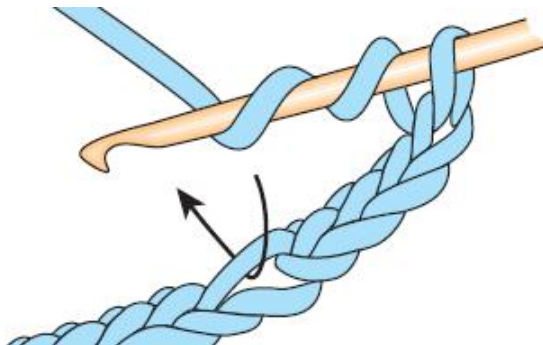


**Step 4:** YO and draw through rem 2 lps: extended double crochet (Edc) completed.

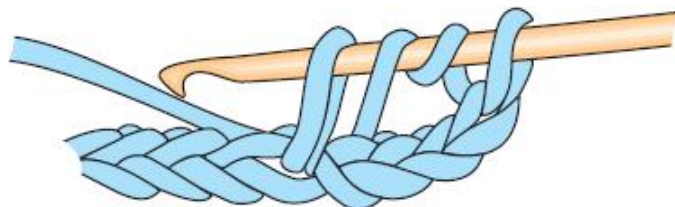


### Extended Triple Crochet (Etr)

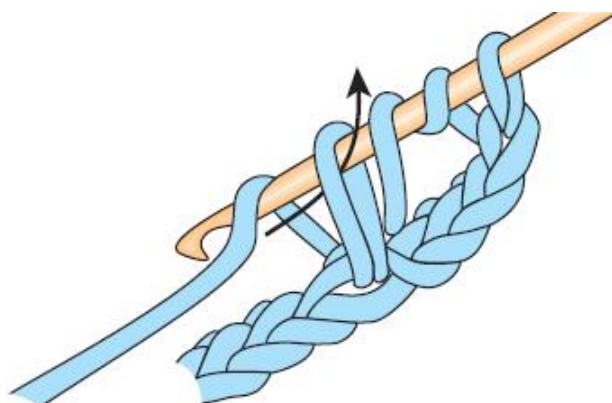
**Step 1:** YO twice, insert hook in specified ch or st.



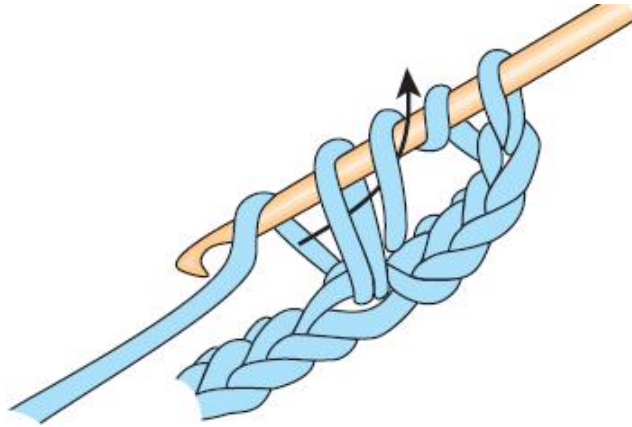
**Step 2:** YO and draw up a long lp; there are now 4 lps on hook.



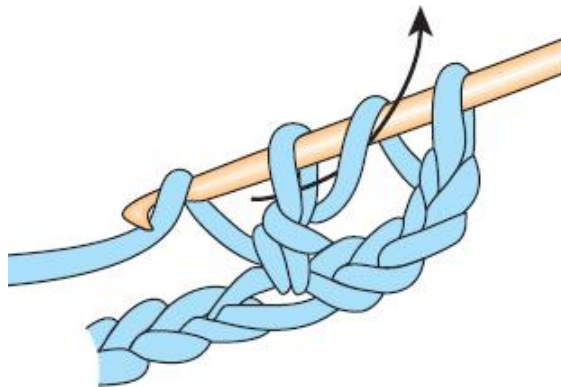
**Step 3:** YO and draw through first lp on hook.



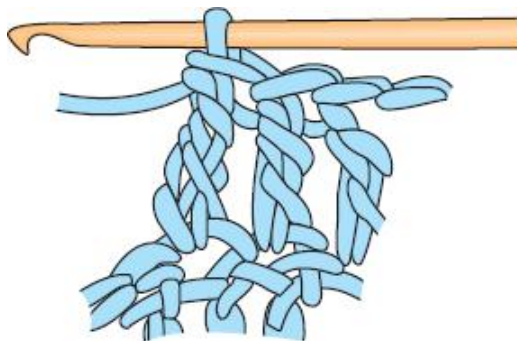
**Step 4:** YO and draw through first 2 lps on hook; there are now 3 lps on hook.



**Step 5:** (YO again and draw through next 2 lps on hook) twice.



Extended triple crochet (Etr) completed.



## **Eyelash Yarn**

A type of novelty yarn made on a thread base with several long strands jutting out at an angle from the main strand. The long strands, either curly or straight, are often metallic, opalescent, matte, or combinations. Since the yarn is very thin, eyelash is normally carried along with a plainer yarn as it is worked.



## **F**

### **Fan**

Several stitches worked into one, creating a type of shell stitch that fans out into an arc wider than a usual shell.



### **Fasten**

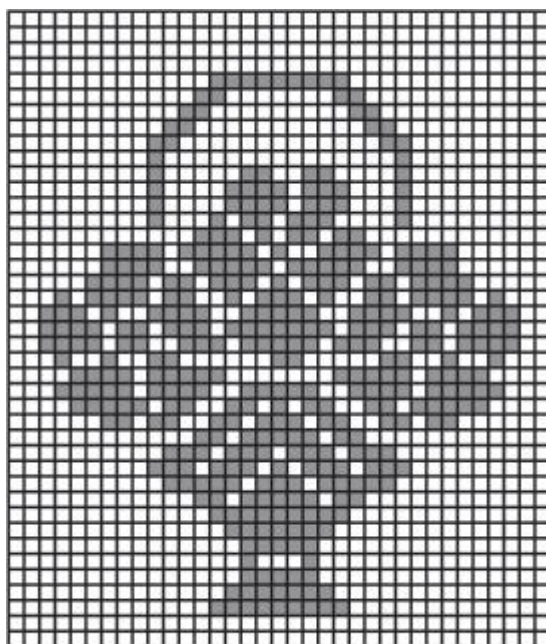
See Finish Off on [page](#)

### **Felting**

A process, using hot water and agitation, that shrinks a wool fabric.

## **Filet Crochet**

A form of mesh crochet using mainly double crochet and chain stitches to form open and closed square blocks. Often used to create pictorial images. Designs are usually worked from a grid pattern. See Mesh on [page](#)



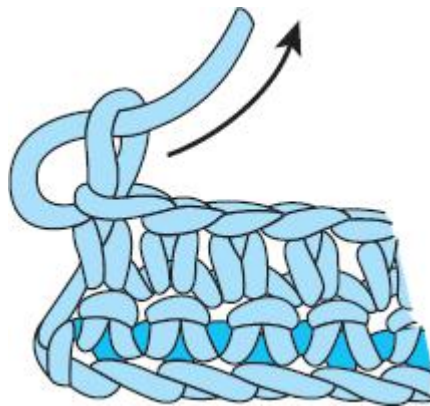
**Chart**



Worked piece

## Finish Off

Term meaning to complete a piece by cutting the yarn, leaving a 6" end, and drawing the end through the last loop on the hook.



## **Fisherman Crochet**

See Aran Crochet on [page](#)

## **Flammé Yarn**

A type of novelty yarn generally made with a loose or untwisted core wrapped by one or more strands. The extra strand is often a metallic thread or a much thicker or thinner yarn.

## **Fleck Yarn**

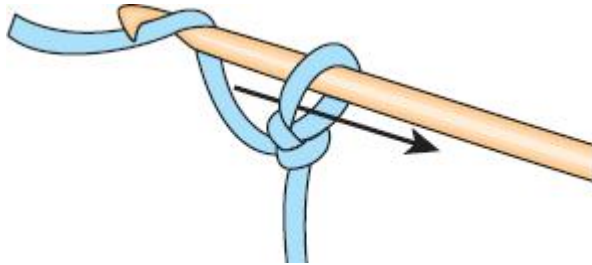
Yarns made with a ply of contrast hues randomly twisted among plies of a solid base color. The darker flecks add a textured appearance. The base is usually a neutral shade.

## **Foundation Chain**

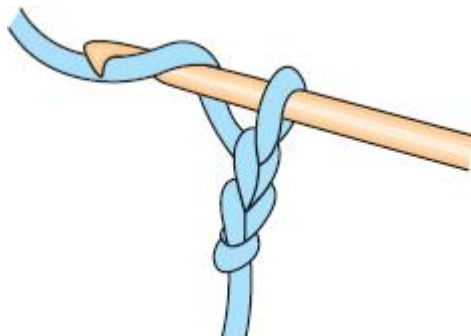
The starting point for all crochet worked in rows, the foundation chain should always be worked loosely. If you are a tight crocheter, use a hook one size larger than usual to make the chain.

**Step 1:** Make a slipknot on hook. See [page](#)

**Step 2:** Bring yarn from back to front over hook and draw it through lp on hook. You have now made one chain st.



**Step 3:** Again bring yarn from back to front over hook and draw it through lp on hook. You have now made 2 ch sts.



Continue to rep step 3 until you have desired number of foundation chs.

## **Foundation Row**

A base row, often worked in single crochet, that is crocheted prior to beginning a pattern stitch.

## **Four-Ply**

A term used when four strands of yarn (plies) are twisted together to form a larger single strand of yarn. The term is often used incorrectly to identify worsted-weight (#4) yarn, but not all worsted-weight yarn is made from four plies. See Ply on [page](#)

## **Free-Form Crochet**

Crochet worked in a random manner, without a pattern, usually made up of a number of small pieces (called scrumbles) and often using a variety of yarn types, colors, and stitches. See Scrumble on [page](#)





### **Free Loop**

A loop that has not been previously worked into. If a row or stitch is worked into a back loop only, the front loop becomes a free loop. Also used to refer to the opposite side of the starting chain after an initial row has been worked.

### **Fringe**

Lengths of cut yarn knotted to form a decorative trim on crocheted projects. See [page](#)

## **Front Loop (fl)**

The loop at the top of a stitch that is closest to you.



## **Front Post Double Crochet (FPdc)**

See Post Stitches on [page](#)

## **Front Post Triple Crochet (FPtr)**

See Post Stitches on [page](#)

## **Fuzzy Yarn**



A term used to encompass all novelty yarns with lashes including eyelash, furlike yarns, and other textured yarns.

## **G**

### **Gauge**

The number of stitches and rows per inch that result from working with a specified yarn and a specified crochet hook size in a specified pattern stitch. Gauge is usually found at the beginning of a pattern and is written something like this:

### **Gauge**

14 dc = 7" (meaning width)

6 dc rows = 4" (meaning height)

*or*

1 pattern repeat = 2.5" (width); 4 rows = 2.5" (height)

*or*

16 sts = 4" (width)

## Gauge Swatch

Before beginning a crochet pattern, make a gauge swatch to be sure the project will be the correct size. Use the exact yarn (or its equivalent) and the pattern stitch specified in the instructions. The swatch should be 6" square, and the gauge should be measured over the center 4". If the swatch has more stitches or rows to the inch than specified, make a new swatch with a larger hook. If the swatch has fewer stitches or rows to the inch than specified, make a new swatch with a smaller hook.



## Granny Square

A four-sided motif, worked in double crochet in rounds, that has been popular with crocheters for over a century. The classic granny square has rounds worked in different

colors, with a final round usually done in black. Today, grannies are often worked in unusual and striking color combinations.



### **Classic Granny Square Instructions**

**Yarn:** 4 contrasting colors (in our photo, red is A, yellow is B, green is C, black is D). All rounds are worked on the right side without turning.

With A, ch 6; join with sl st to form ring.

**Rnd 1:** Ch 3 (counts as first dc of rnd), work 2 dc in ring; (ch 3, 3 dc in ring) 3 times, ch 3, join with sl st in 3rd ch of beg ch-3. Finish off color A. You now have 4 ch-3 corner sps.

**Rnd 2:** Join color B with a sl st in any ch-3 corner sp; ch 3, in same sp work (2 dc, ch 3, 3 dc); \*ch 1, in next ch-3 corner sp work (3 dc, ch 3, 3 dc); rep from \* 2 times more, ch 1, join with sl st in 3rd ch of beg ch-3. Finish off color B. You now have 4 ch-3 corner sps and 4 ch-1 side sps.

**Rnd 3:** Join color C with sl st in any ch-3 corner sp; ch 3, in same sp work (2 dc, ch 3, 3 dc); \*ch 1, in next ch-1 sp work 3 dc; ch 1, in next ch-3 sp work (3 dc, ch 3, 3 dc); rep from \* 2 times more, ch 1, 3 dc in next ch-1 sp, ch 1, join with sl st in 3rd ch of beg ch-3. Finish off color C. You now have 4 ch-3 corner sps and 8 ch-1 side sps.

**Rnd 4:** Join color D with sl st in any ch-3 corner sp; ch 3, in same sp work (2 dc, ch 3, 3 dc); \*(ch 1, in next ch-1 sp work 3 dc) twice, ch 1, in next ch-3 sp work (3 dc, ch 3, 3 dc); rep from \* 2 times more, (ch 1, in next ch-1 sp work 3 dc) twice, ch 1, join with sl st in 3rd ch of beg ch-3. Do not finish off.

**Rnd 5:** Sc in each st and in each ch-1 sp around, working 3 sc in each ch-3 corner sp. Finish off color D. Weave in all yarn ends.

## **Gusset**

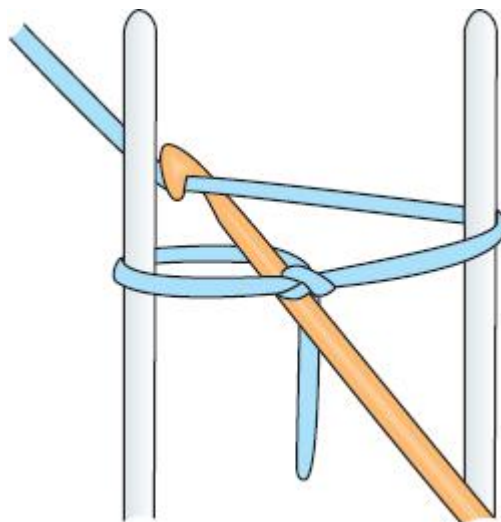
A piece, usually in triangle form, used to add width to an area of a garment, such as at the underarm of a sweater or to form the heel cup of a sock.

# H

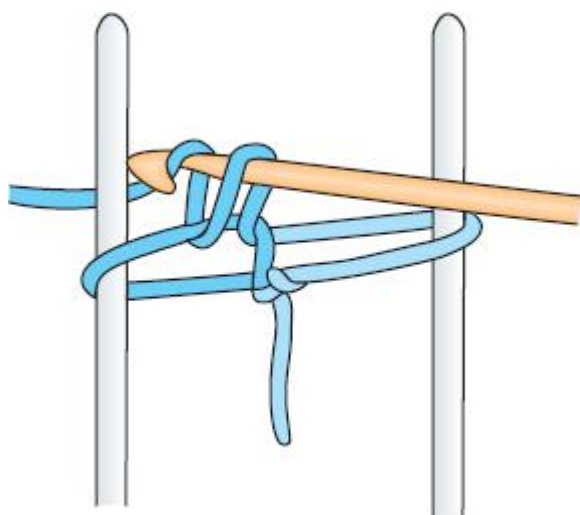
## Hairpin Lace

A type of lace made in vertical strips formed by wrapping yarn around a loom, while creating a center spine with crochet stitches. Looms come in either one set width or in an adjustable form, the adjustable being more versatile. Resulting strips are joined with crochet to form a variety of projects.

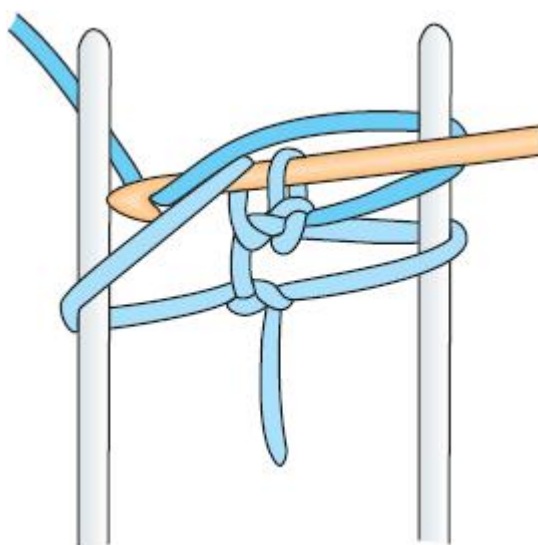
**Step 1:** To work basic hairpin lace, first make a loose slipknot and place it over left-hand loom bar, centering knot between the two bars. Wrap ball yarn around right bar from front to back; insert hook through left slipknot lp and hook wrapped yarn.



**Step 2:** Draw hooked yarn through slipknot lp and complete sc.

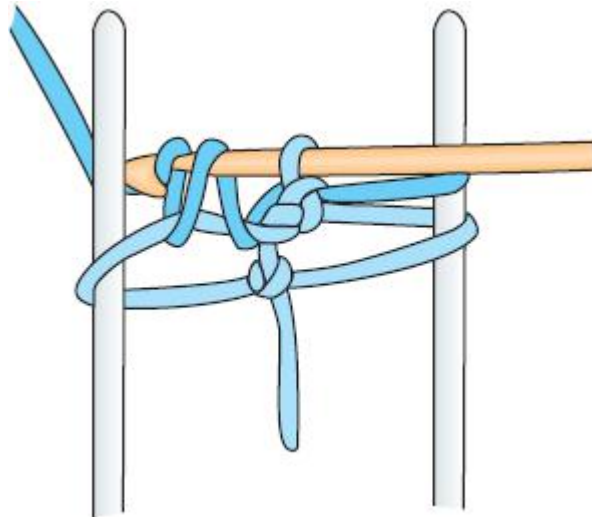


**Step 3:** Keep yarn behind left bar and flip loom to left.





**Step 4:** Insert hook under front strand of left lp, YO and complete sc. This sc starts center spine that holds lps together.



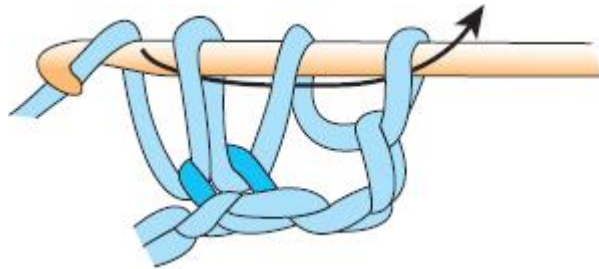
Rep steps 3 and 4 for desired strip length. Keep center spine straight and centered between the two bars as you work; you may find it easier to remove hook from work as you flip loom.

### **Half Double Crochet (hdc)**

A versatile crochet stitch that is slightly taller than single crochet and slightly shorter than double crochet. To work half double crochet, make the desired number of chains.

**Step 1:** YO; insert hook into 3rd ch from hook, YO and draw up lp: 3 lps now on hook.

**Step 2:** YO again and draw yarn through all 3 lps on hook at once: one hdc is completed.



Rep steps 1 and 2 in each ch across row but in step 1, insert hook in next ch instead of 3rd ch from hook.

When turning hdc rows, 2 chs are usually used. They are counted as first st of following row.

## **Hand**

The way a fabric feels to the touch. Hand is very important to the suitability of a crochet fabric for various purposes. A fabric with a loose, soft hand may be ideal for draping in a fashion garment, and

one with a tight, firm hand might be perfect for a rug or a place mat. Hand is determined by the blending of different fibers with the crochet hook size and stitch type, which combine to create the crochet fabric.

### **Heathered Yarn**

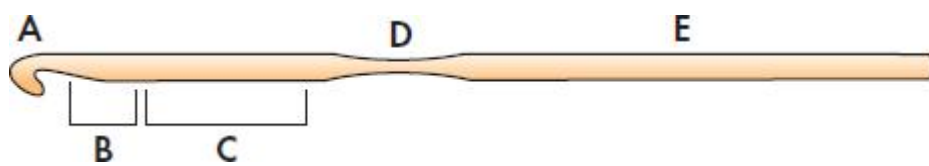
A specialty multicolored yarn where fibers of different colors are added before the yarn is spun. Usually spun with a mix of gray, which gives the yarn a muted watercolor look.

### **Hem**

A folded border often used at the bottom of garments, sleeves, or for hat brims. To form a hemline in crochet, work one row or round in the front loop only of each stitch to make the hem turn up; to make the hem turn under, work in the back loop only of each stitch. Work the following rows in both loops of each stitch. Turn the hem at the row or round worked in the front or back loop only. Sew the edge of the hem in place.

### **Hook**

A shaped tool used to form crochet stitches. Crochet hooks can be made of many materials, such as aluminum, steel, plastic, wood, bamboo, and others, but most have the same basic construction:



**(A) Head:** The end of the hook which is used to draw yarn through the various stitches. Different hook brands have different-shaped heads, but all are used in the same way.

**(B) Throat:** The slanted part that goes from the head to the working area. Do not work on the throat or your stitches will be very tight.

**(C) Working area:** This is the place to form stitches into their final size.

**(D) Finger hold:** An indented space designed to make it easier to hold the hook. Not all hooks

have a finger hold. Whether it's used is a matter of personal choice.

**(E) Shaft:** This is where the hand rests as you work.

Crochet hooks come in a variety of diameters and lengths and in two basic types, inline and shaped. See [page 98](#) for size information. For information on steel hooks, see [page](#)



Inline



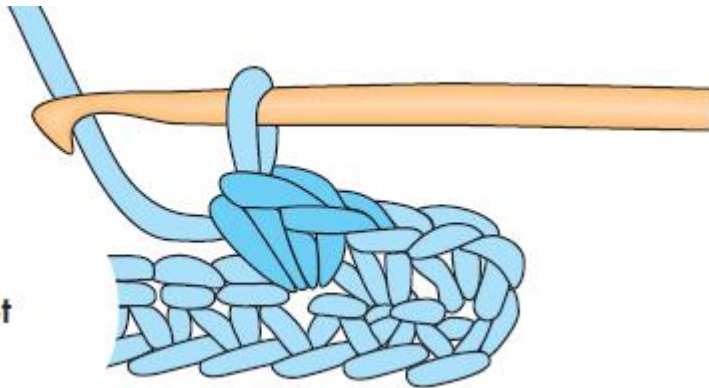
Shaped

I

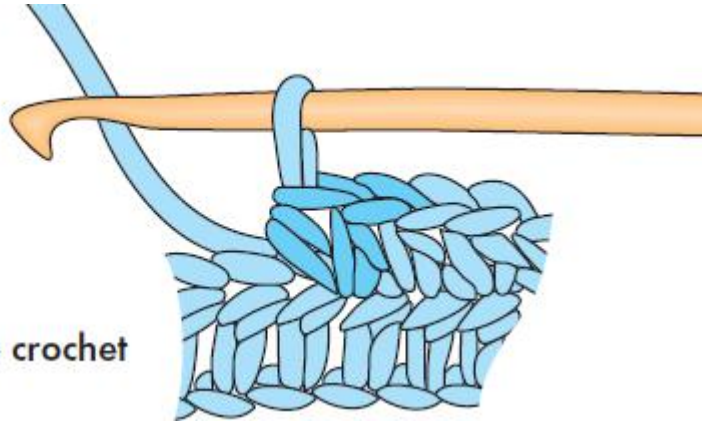
## Increase

Increasing the number of stitches in a row or round is used to shape a piece. In crochet, increases in basic stitches (single crochet, half double crochet, double crochet, triple, etc.) are made by working two or more stitches in the same stitch. In fancy or complicated patterns, methods of increasing are usually given with the pattern instructions.

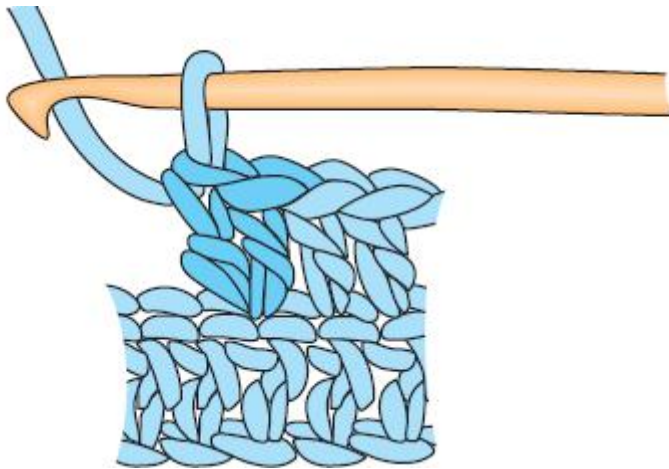
Single crochet  
increase



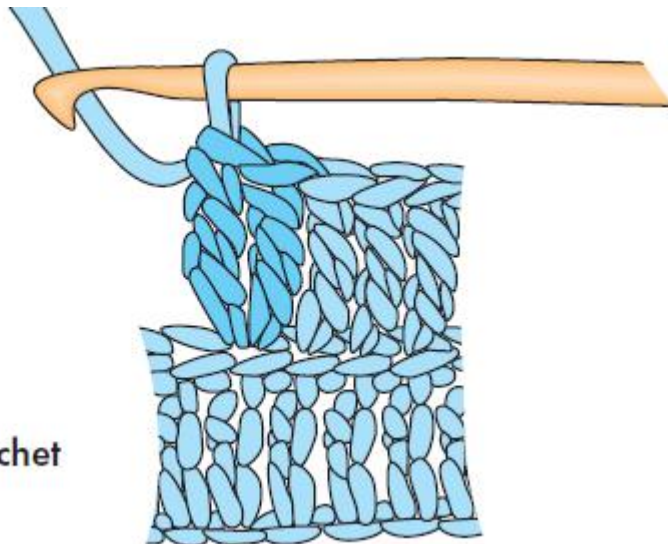
Half double crochet  
increase



Double crochet  
increase



Triple crochet  
increase



Inline Hook

See Hook on [page](#)

## **Irish Crochet**

A type of delicate crocheted lace developed in the mid-nineteenth century in Ireland to provide the population, starving from the potato famine, a method of earning money. The lovely lace, formed from individual floral and leafy motifs joined with decorative backgrounds, became popular all over the world. When machine-made lace became easily available, hand-made Irish work fell out of favor in the early twentieth century. Vintage examples are highly collectible today, and many crocheters are still carrying on the tradition.



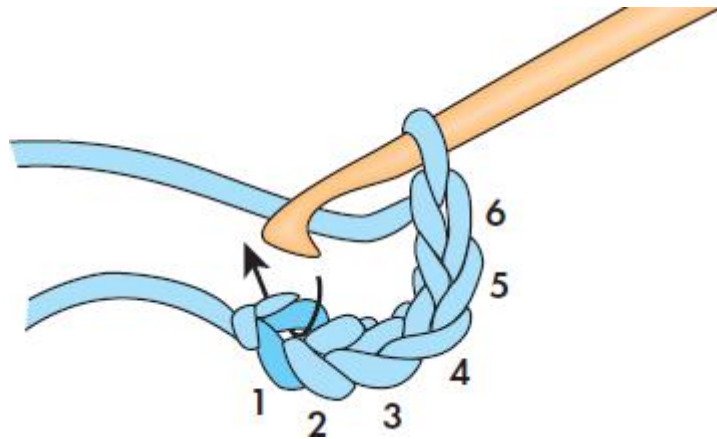


J

## Joining in the Round

### Forming a Chain into a Ring

Make number of chs specified in pattern, then insert hook through top lp of first ch made (right after slipknot).

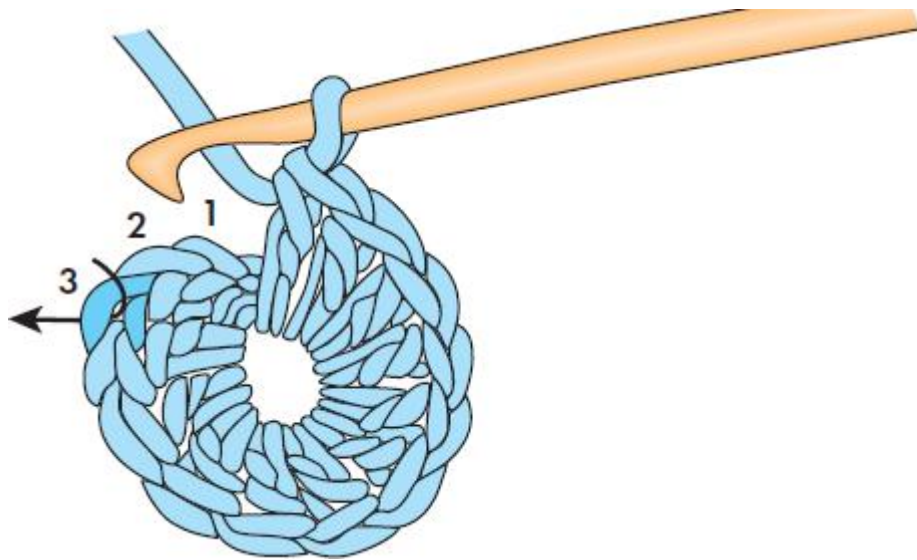


YO and draw through both that ch and through lp on hook in one motion: you've now joined the chs into a ring with a sl st. Further sts will be worked into center of this ring.

### Joining Last and First Stitches of a Round

Form ring as directed above, using 6 chs.

Ch 3 (which will count as one dc), now work 11 dc into center of ring. To complete rnd, join it by inserting hook in 3rd ch of beg ch-3

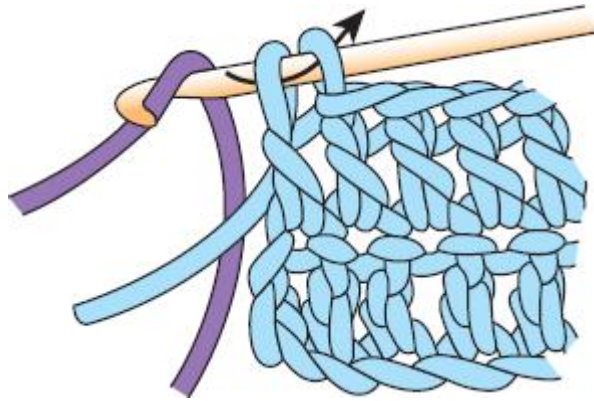


YO and draw in one motion through ch lp on hook, making a sl st which joins the rnd.

### **Joining Yarn**

When joining new yarn, try to make the join at the end of a row, rather than in the middle. This will make it easier to weave in yarn ends later. To join

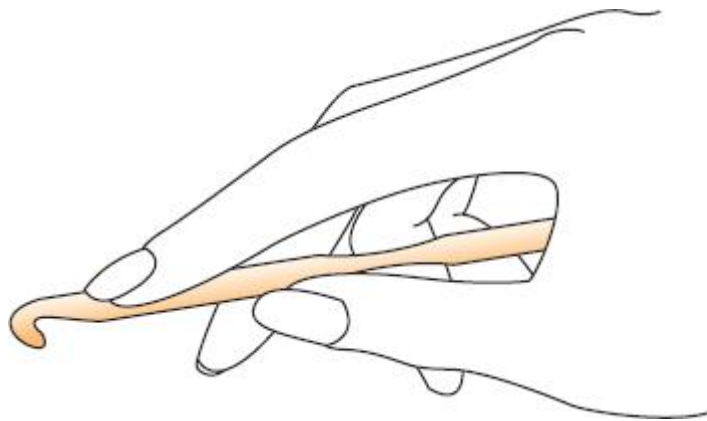
new yarn, work the last step of the stitch with the new yarn. Then drop the old yarn to the back and cut it off, leaving a 6" end for weaving in later. Make the turning chain with new yarn and continue with it. If you need to change colors in the middle of a row, use the same technique, working the last step of the final stitch in the old color with the new color. Cut the old color and continue with the new color.



**K**

### **Knife Hold**

Hold the crochet hook as you would hold a knife when cutting meat.



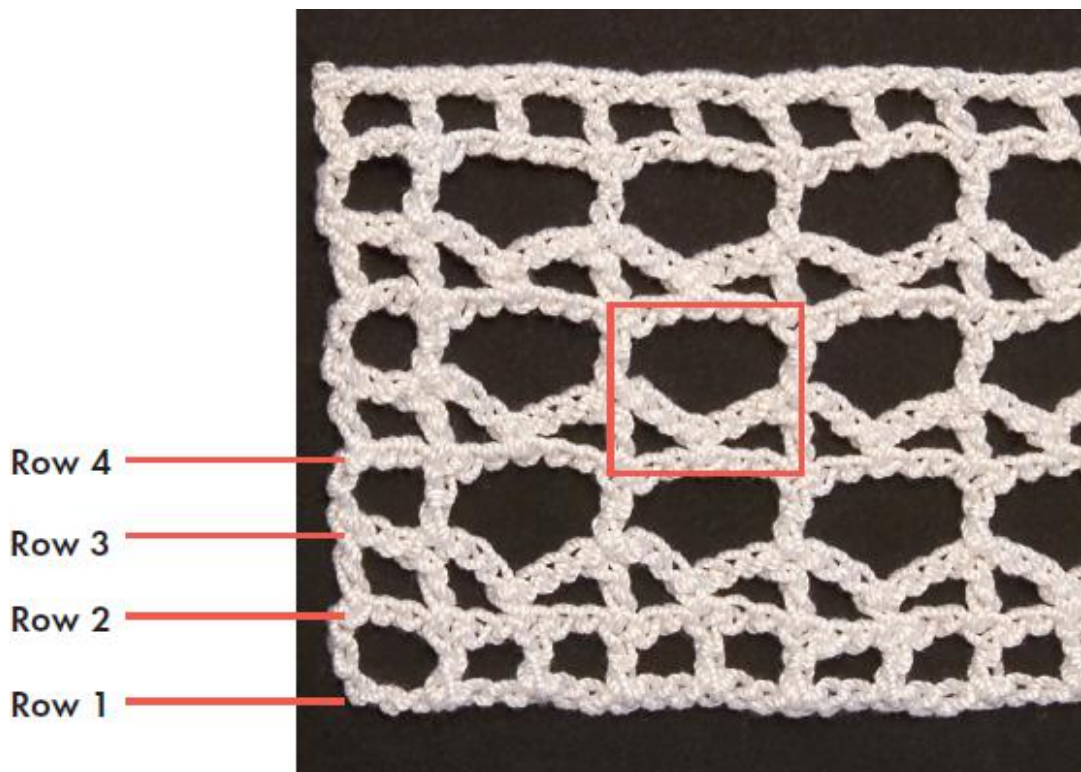
### **Knot Stitch**

See Solomon's Knot on [page](#)

L

## Lacet

A decorative stitch used in filet crochet which adds a V shape to the basic mesh. It is made over two open or closed mesh by working a specified number of chains, then working a single crochet between the two squares, then working an equal number of chains before continuing the mesh pattern.



Lacets in the photo were worked as follows:

**Row 3 (lacet row):** Work in patt to lacet, then dc in next dc, ch 3, skip next 2 sts, sc in next st, ch 3, dc in next st: lacet made.

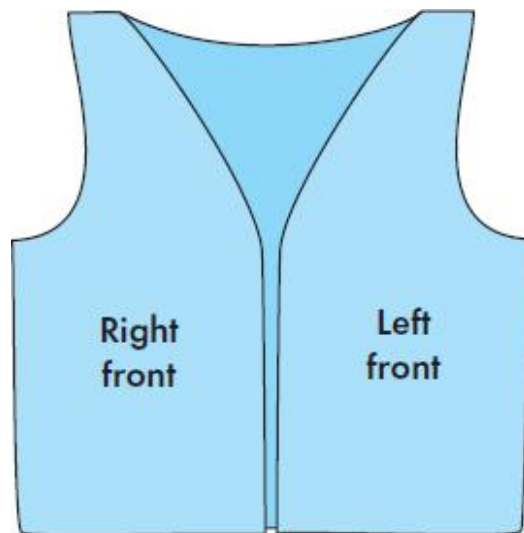
**Row 4:** Work to lacet, dc in first dc of lacet, ch 5, dc in next dc; finish row as per patt instructions.

### **Ladder Yarn**

A novelty yarn that is made like ladders with a horizontal bar between two thinner threads and alternating gaps. The gaps sometimes contain a contrasting strand. Because the yarn looks like railroad tracks, it is sometimes called “train tracks” or “railroad” yarn.

### **Left Front**

In describing a garment, the front that is worn on the left side of the body.



### **Left-Hand Corner**

The corner of a piece to your left as it is being held. It can be either at the top or bottom of the piece as specified.

### **Linked Stitches**

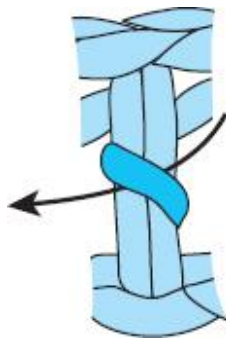
A method of working double crochet or taller stitches to form a firmer, less open fabric. Each new stitch is linked at the side to the previous stitch. Before working a linked stitch, a regular double crochet, triple crochet, or taller stitch must first be made. Then the next (linked) stitch is made differently from the usual stitch. A row of double crochet linked stitches will have a center horizontal line appearing across the row, and a row of triple crochet linked



stitches will have two center horizontal lines across the row.

## **Linked Double Crochet**

Work one dc in usual manner. For next (linked) st, instead of starting with YO, insert hook under shaded lp (shown below) of dc just made and draw up lp: 2 lps now on hook.



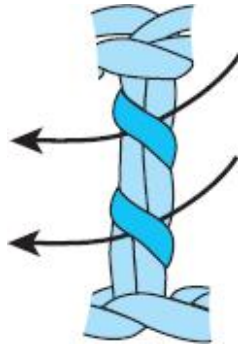
Insert hook in top of next st to left on prev row, YO and draw up lp: 3 lps now on hook; (YO and draw through 2 lps) twice: linked dc made.



**Photo shows several rows of linked double crochet stitches, each row separated by a row of single crochet.**

### **Linked Triple Crochet**

Work one tr in usual manner. For next (linked) st, instead of starting with 2 YOs, insert hook under top shaded lp of tr just made (shown in fig below) and draw up lp: 2 lps now on hook; insert hook in lower shaded lp of same tr and draw up lp: 3 lps now on hook.



Leave these lps on hook as they now replace 2 YOs that begin usual tr. Now complete in usual manner: insert hook in next st to left on row below, YO and draw up lp: 4 lps now on hook; (YO and draw through 2 lps) 3 times: linked tr made.



**Photo shows several rows of linked triple stitches, each row separated by a row of single crochet.**

Linked stitches are really made just like a normal double crochet or triple crochet except that the usual yarn over or yarn overs that begin the stitches are replaced by picking up a loop or loops in the preceding stitch.

Work additional linked stitches in same manner.

### **Lover's Knot**

See Solomon's Knot on [page](#)

## **M**

### **Magic Ring**

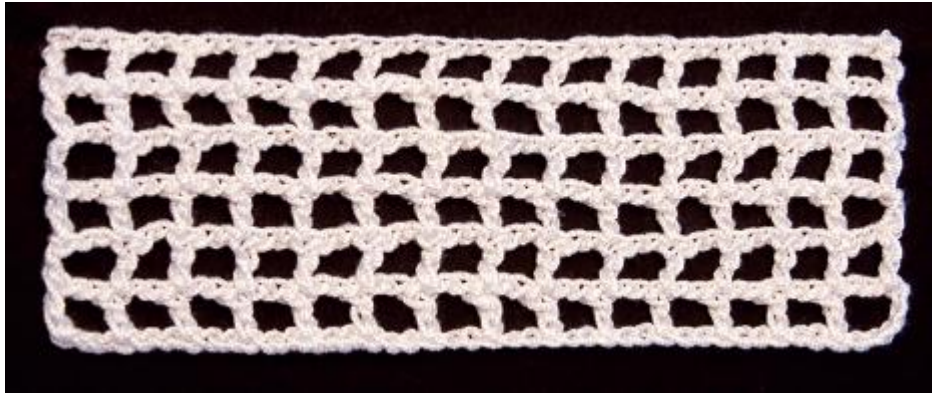
See Adjustable Ring on [page](#)

### **Marker**

A piece of yarn or a commercial marker used to indicate a specific stitch or group of stitches.

### **Mesh**

Mesh, or openwork, is the basis of all filet crochet. (See [page](#) Mesh, which in crochet simply means open spaces, is combined with closed spaces to create the striking designs that make up filet. Whether the design is geometric or pictorial, the interplay of open and closed squares is the signature of a filet design.



## **Miss**

A term meaning to skip a stitch. It is often found in British or vintage patterns, and sometimes in translations of foreign crochet patterns.

## **Motif**

A design element which is worked separately, with a group of motifs often joined later to form a fabric piece.

## **Multiple**

There are two kinds of multiples.

**Chain multiple:** Number of foundation chains needed to work each unit of a specific crochet-stitch pattern plus the number of chains required for the first stitch.

**Stitch multiple:** Actual number of stitches needed to complete one unit of a specific crochet-stitch pattern.

Multiples are often printed like this:

Chain multiple: 6 + 2

Stitch multiple: 9

## **N**

### **Novelty Yarns**

Yarns with interesting texture or other features that make them different from ordinary yarns such as acrylics, cottons, or wool. Usually novelty yarns contain one or two strands of regular yarn that are twisted together with another fiber to make an interesting result.



## O

### **Ombre Yarn**

Yarn which is all one color but dyed in varying shades, such as pale pink, pink, and light red. See Variegated Yarn on [page](#)

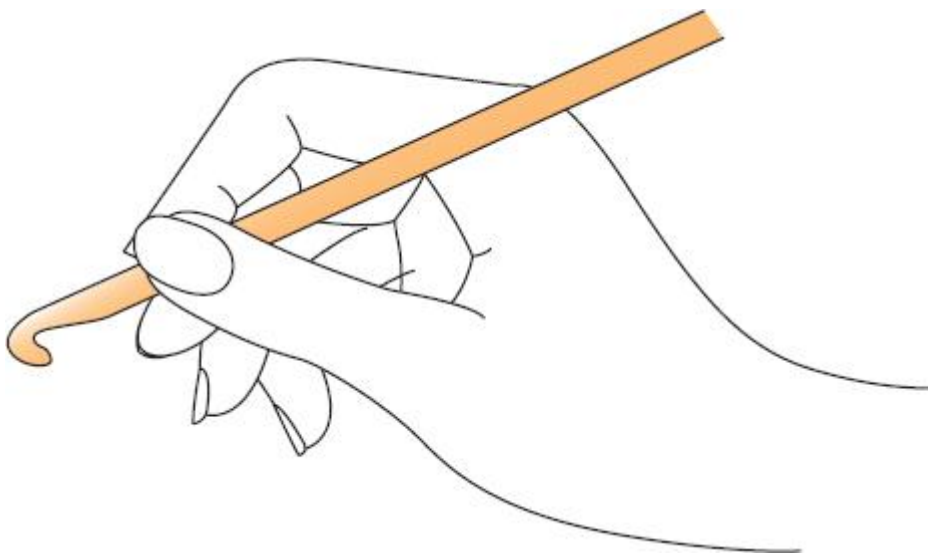
### **Overcast Stitch**

A sewing stitch used to join two pieces of crochet. See Seaming on [page](#)

## **P**

### **Pencil Hold**

A method of holding the crochet hook as a pencil is usually held.

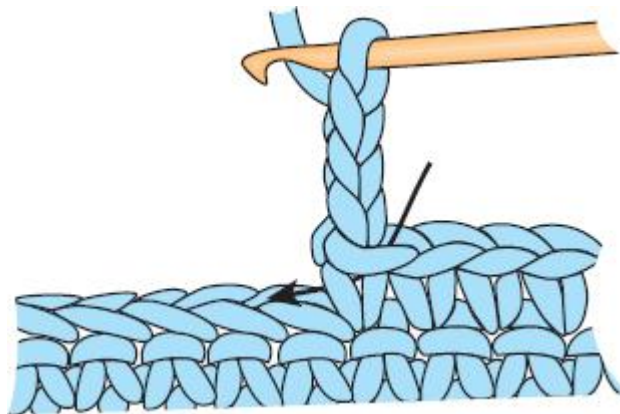


### **Picot**

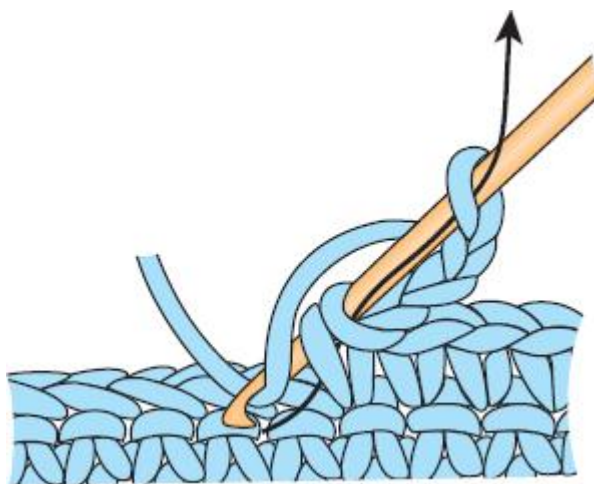
A small decorative loop (pronounced PEE ko) made by working a short chain of three to five stitches and then anchoring this chain with a single crochet or slip stitch back into the base stitch. The base stitch underneath the picot can be any of the basic

stitches. The example shows a base stitch of single crochet.

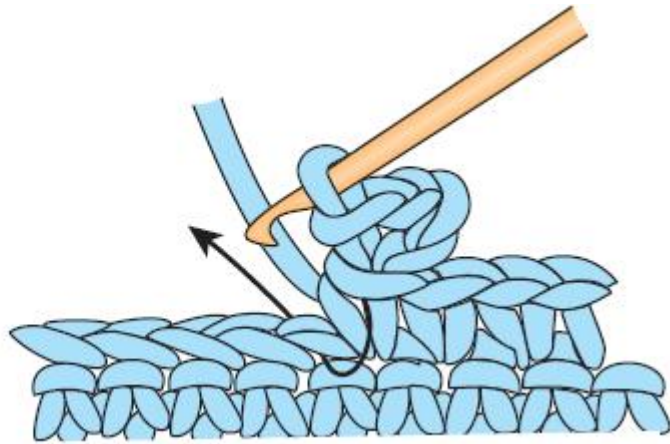
**Step 1:** Ch 3, insert hook in front lp of base st and in left strand of same st.



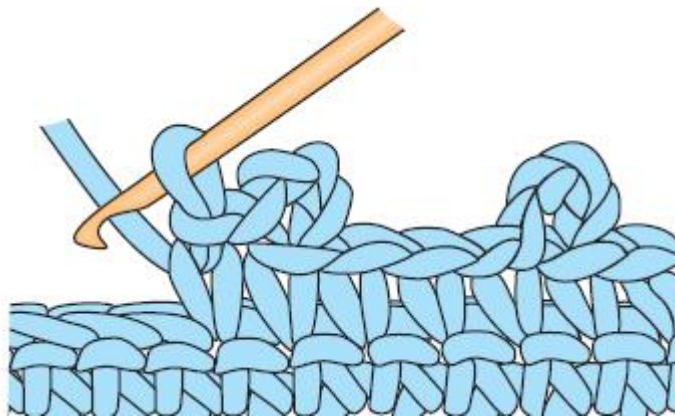
**Step 2:** YO and draw through all 3 lps on hook.



**Step 3:** Finished stitch is a small, rounded bump.



Picots can be spaced as desired.



## **Ply**

A strand of fiber that is often combined with other strands to create two-ply, three-ply, or four-ply (or more) yarn. The number of strands plied together has nothing to do with yarn weight or thickness.

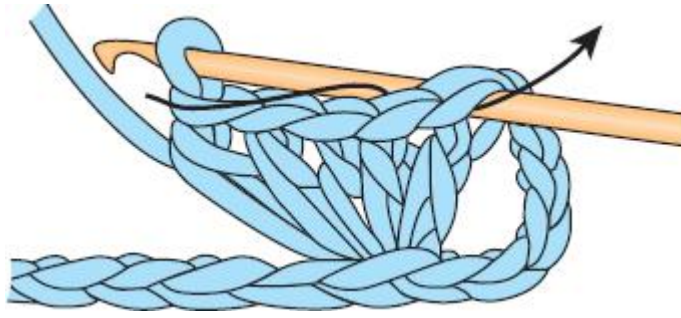
## Popcorn Stitch

This is a stitch that pops out and adds dimension to the work. It usually consists of four or five double crochet stitches worked into the same place. The more double crochet or triple crochet stitches used, the fatter the popcorn.

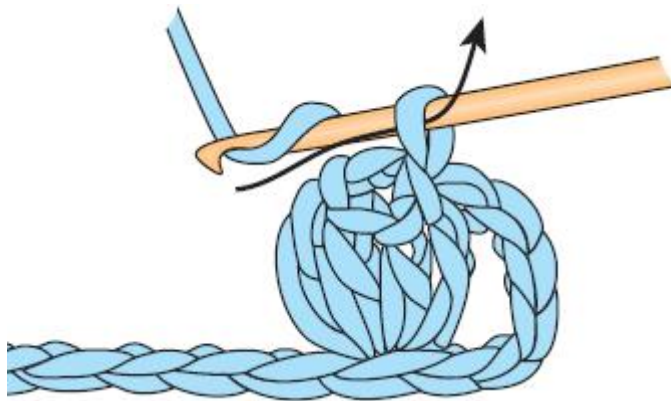
**Step 1:** Work 5 dc in specified st. Drop lp from hook.



**Step 2:** Insert hook from front to back under both lps of the first dc of the 5-dc group. Insert hook in dropped lp and draw that lp through lp on hook.



**Step 3:** Ch 1 to lock top of st in place.



## Post

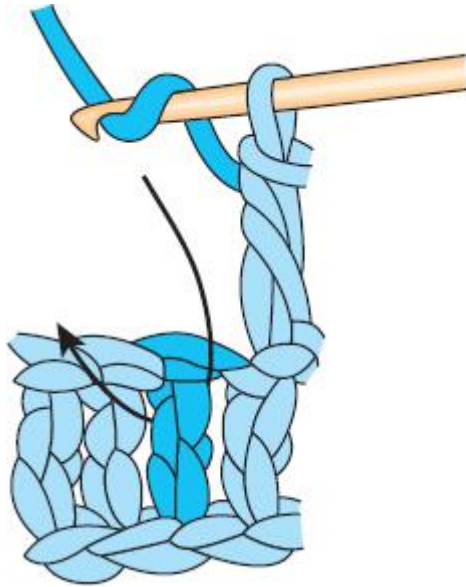
Vertical bar of any crochet stitch, sometimes called a stem.

## Post Stitches

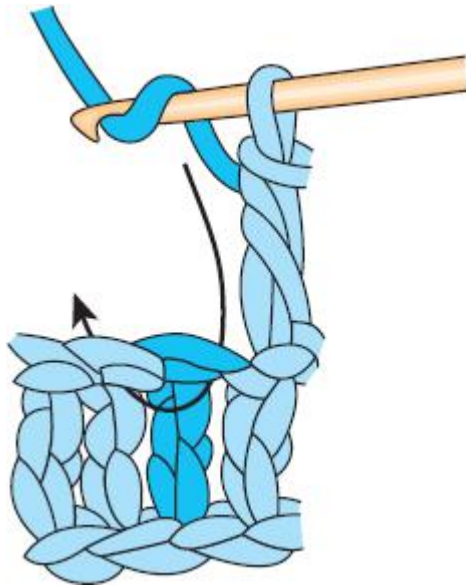
Stitches worked around the post of a crochet stitch in a previous row, rather than in the top of the

stitch.

**Front post stitch:** Insert the hook from front to back to front around the post.



**Back post stitch:** Insert the hook from back to front to back around the post.



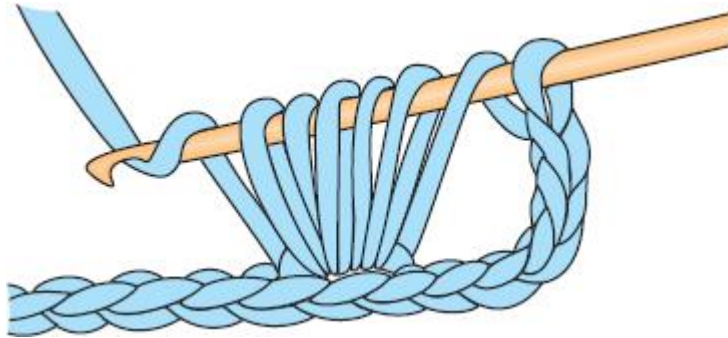
Post stitches can be done in any of the basic stitches: single, half double, double, triple, or taller stitches.

### **Puff Stitch**

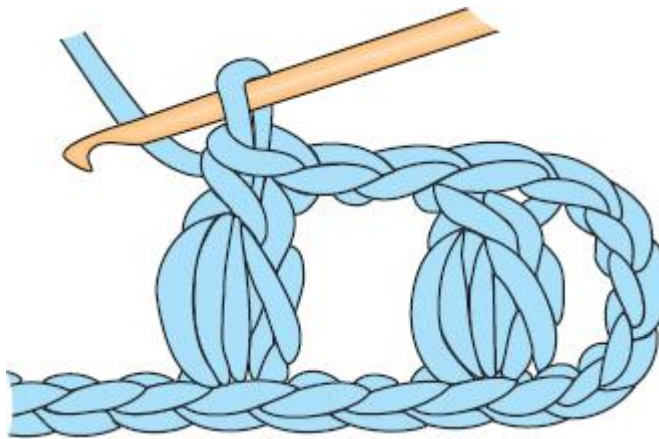
Puff stitches add texture and dimension.

**Step 1:** (YO, insert hook in specified ch or st and draw up lp to height of dc) 3 times: 7 lps now on hook.





**Step 2:** YO and draw through all lps on hook.



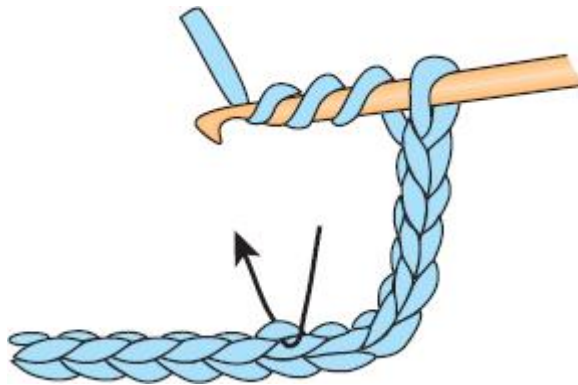
Puff stitches are usually separated by skipping one or more chains or stitches and working one or more chains between them.

Q

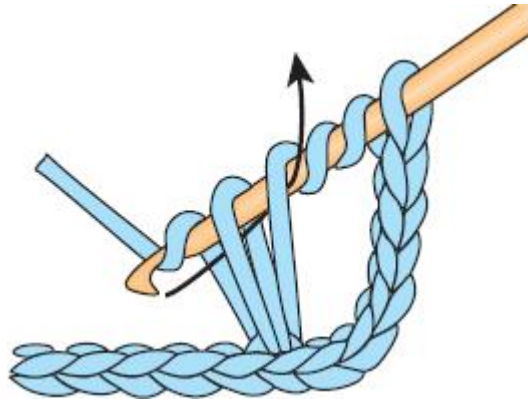
## Quadruple Crochet

A stitch that is similar to triple crochet but has one additional yarn over at the beginning, which adds a little height to the stitch.

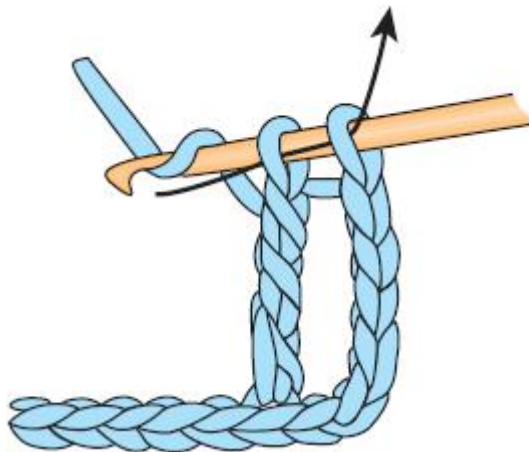
**Step 1:** YO 3 times, insert hook in specified st or ch.



**Step 2:** Draw up lp: 5 lps now on hook; YO and draw through first 2 lps on hook.



**Step 3:** (YO and draw through first 2 lps on hook)  
2 times: 2 lps rem on hook. YO and draw through  
rem 2 lps.

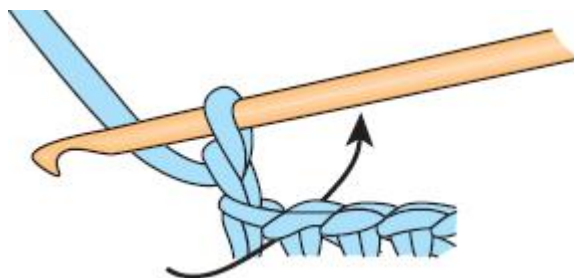


## R

### Reverse Single Crochet

A finishing stitch that gives an attractive corded edging. It is sometimes difficult to learn because it is worked in the opposite, or reverse, direction from normal crochet: from left to right for right-handers, from right to left for left-handers. It is sometimes called the crab stitch.

Reverse single crochet is started at the end of a row. Instead of turning to work the next row, work one chain (worked only once here at the beginning of the row), and then insert the hook in the next stitch to the right (or left).



Work a single crochet in the usual manner. This will feel awkward at first, but with practice the stitch will become easy to do.

## Ribbing

A combination of stitches that create a stretchy fabric, which is often used at the necklines, sleeve cuffs, and waistbands of garments. In crochet, ribbing is usually worked in two ways: working in the back loops only of rows, or alternating front and back post stitches. See Post Stitches on [page](#)

### Method 1: Ribbing Using Back Loops

Ch desired number of sts for depth of ribbing.

**Row 1:** Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each rem ch; ch 1, turn.

**Row 2:** Sc in back lp only of each sc, ch 1, turn.

Rep row 2 until ribbing is desired length.



## **Method 2: Ribbing Using Post Stitches**

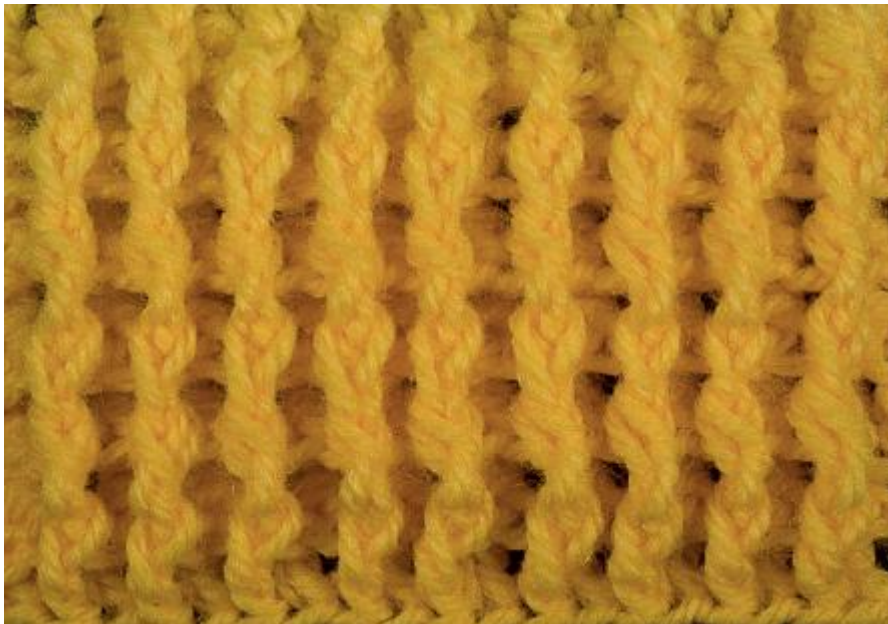
Using multiple (see Multiple on [page](#) of 4, ch desired number of sts for width of ribbing.

**Row 1:** Dc in 4th ch from hook and in each rem ch; ch 3, turn.

**Row 2:** \*FPdc around next dc, BPdc around next dc; rep from \* to last st, dc in last st; ch 3, turn.

**Row 3:** \*FPdc around next BPdc, BPdc around next FPdc; rep from \* to last st, dc in last st; ch 3, turn.

Rep row 3 until ribbing is desired width.



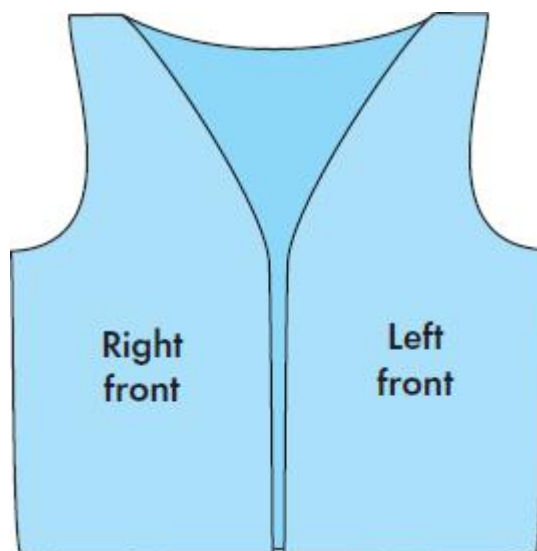
## **Ribbon Yarn**

One of the newer novelty yarns, ribbon yarn is not the kind of ribbon used in sewing or on a little girl's pigtails, but made especially for knitting and crocheting. Some of it comes in tubular form, some flat, and some resembles bias tape. Made of

many materials from synthetics to silk and plant fibers, it usually produces a project with a lovely sheen and attractive drape.

### **Right Front**

In describing a garment, the front that is worn on the right side of the body.



### **Right-Hand Corner**

The corner of a piece to your right as it is being held. It can be either at the top or bottom of the piece as specified.



## **Right Side**

The side of a garment or project that is seen as it is worn or displayed.

## **Ripple Stitch**

See Chevron on [page](#)

## **Roll Stitch**

See Bullion Stitch on [page](#)

## **Rounds**

Crochet worked in rounds, rather than flat. After completing a round, the work may be turned or not, depending on the pattern.

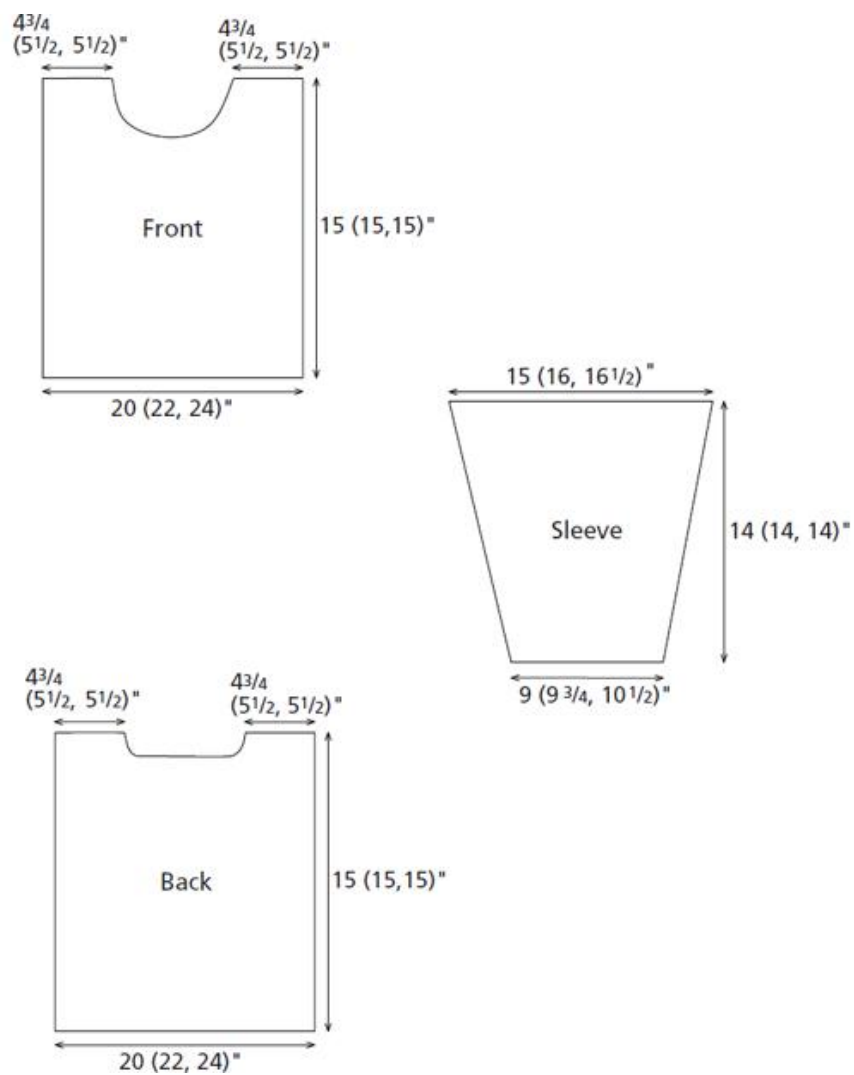
## **Rows**

Crochet worked flat without joining each row.  
Instead, the work is turned at the end of each row.

## S

### Schematic

A drawing that shows the individual parts of a pattern and indicates measurements for different sizes.



### Scrumble

A small unit of stitches that is used to form pieces of free-form crochet. See Free-Form Crochet on [page](#)

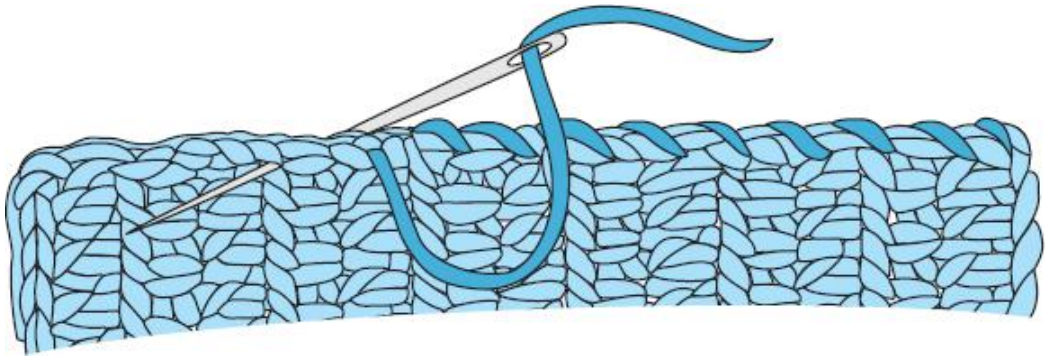


## Seaming

Pieces of crochet can be joined either by sewing with yarn threaded into a needle or by working single crochet or slip stitch through the edges to be joined. Either method can be used, with sewing producing a flatter seam. Pieces are usually joined with right sides held facing each other.

**Overcast stitch:** Thread desired length of yarn into yarn or tapestry needle. Secure yarn by weaving in end at right-

hand edge; then take needle from back to front over edge, carefully matching sts. At end, cut yarn and weave in yarn end.

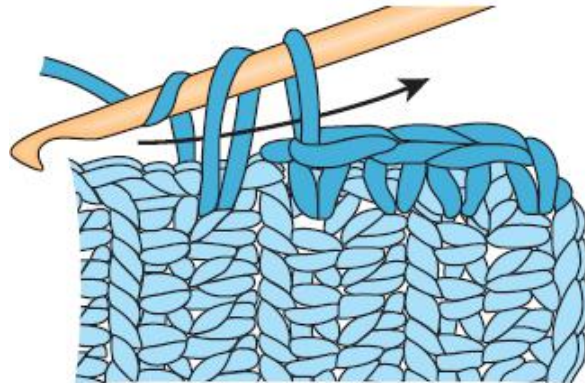


**Back stitch:** Thread desired length of yarn into yarn or tapestry needle. Secure yarn by weaving in end at right-hand edge. St is worked in 2 steps, first taking yarn forward, from front to back to front, then backtracking as shown in diagram. At end, cut yarn and weave in yarn end.



In both sewing sts, work about one row or st in from edge, and take yarn through sts rather than through openings between sts.

**Single crochet:** Hold 2 pieces to be joined with right sides tog. Carefully matching sts, join yarn with sc through both layers in first st or row at far right. \*Insert hook through both layers of next st or row and draw up lp; YO and draw through both lps on hook. Rep from \* across row.



**Slip stitch:** Hold 2 pieces to be joined with right sides tog. Carefully matching sts, insert hook through both layers, YO and draw through both layers and through lp on hook; \*insert hook through both layers of next st or row and draw yarn through both layers and through lp on hook. Be sure to draw yarn well up onto working area of hook (see [page](#) to keep sl sts at correct tension. Otherwise sts may be too tight and distort the work.

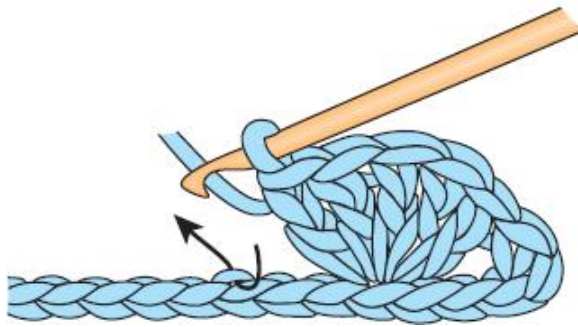
## Shell Stitch

Shells are created by working three or more double crochet, triple crochet, or taller stitches in one stitch, creating a group that fans out at the top. Because of this widening, one or more stitches are skipped before and

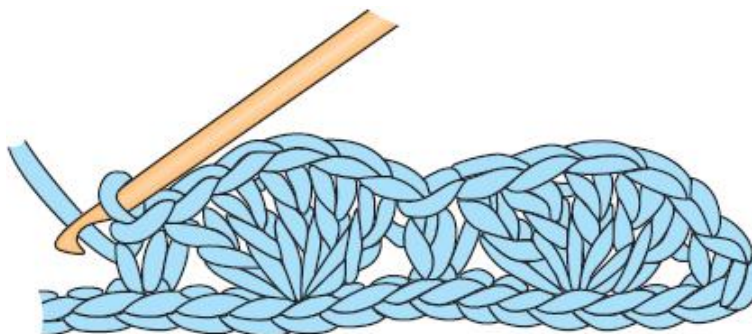
after the shell, which is usually anchored with a single  
crochet on each side.

To work a 5-dc shell:

**Step 1:** Sc in ch or st specified in pattern, \*skip 2 chs or  
sts, then work 5 dc in next ch or st.



**Step 2:** Skip next 2 chs or sts, then sc in next ch or st.



Rep from \* for pattern.

## Single Crochet

Single crochet is the shortest of the basic crochet stitches.

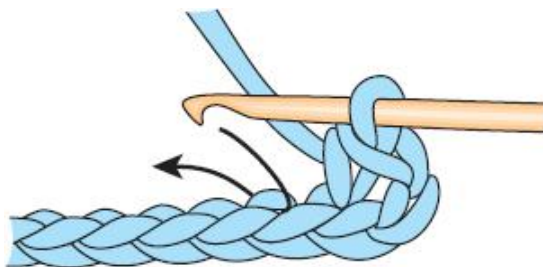
**Step 1:** Insert hook in specified ch or st and draw up a lp: 2 loops on hook.



**Step 2:** YO and draw hook through both lps on hook.



Single crochet completed.

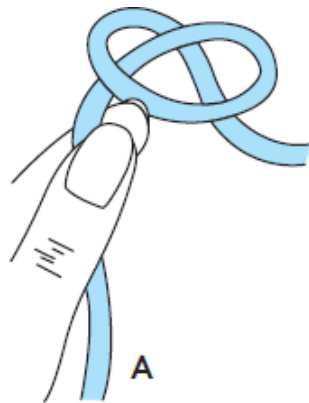




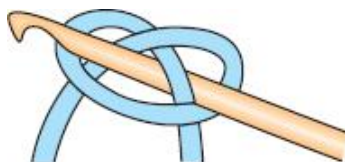
## Slipknot

Almost all crochet starts by first making a slipknot (sometimes called a slip loop) on the hook.

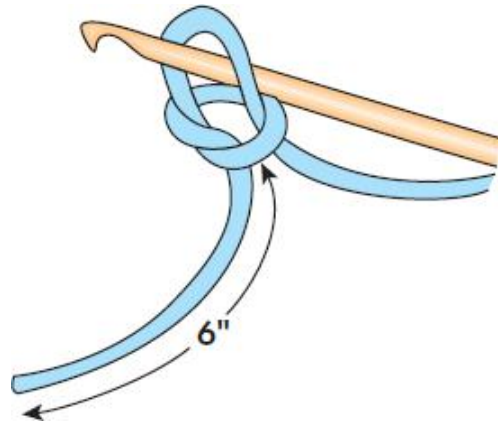
**Step 1:** Place yarn end on a flat surface, keeping a 6" end, and make a loop.



**Step 2:** Insert hook as shown and draw a lp up onto hook by pulling on end marked A. Slipknot should slide easily on hook.



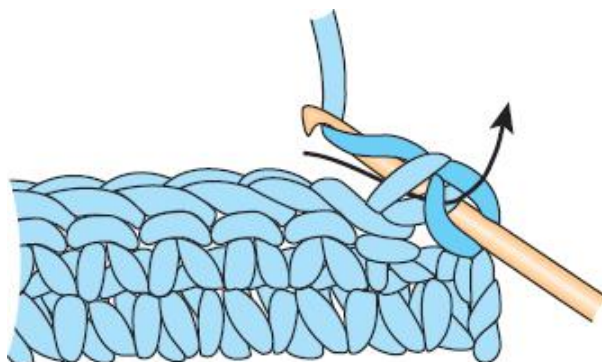
Make certain to leave loose yarn end 6" long for weaving in later.



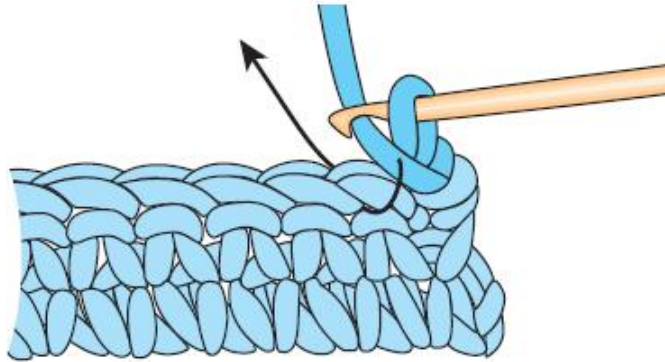
## Slip Stitch

This stitch is used in four ways: to move yarn across an area without adding additional height, to join work at the end of a piece worked in rounds instead of rows, to join new yarn, and to join seams.

**Step 1:** Insert hook in specified st, ch, or lp.



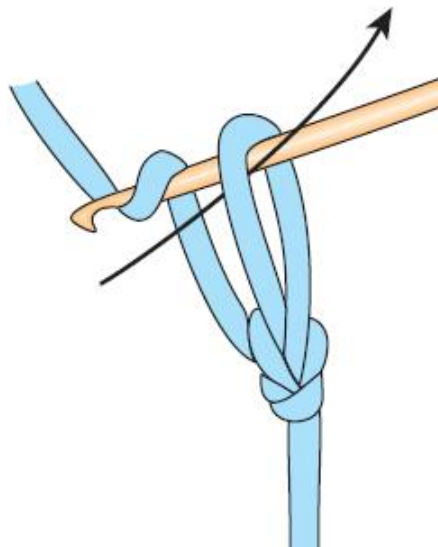
**Step 2:** YO and draw hook through both st, ch, or lp and lp on hook in one motion.



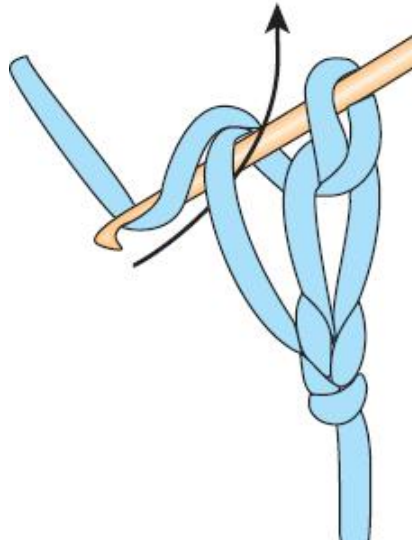
### **Solomon's Knot**

A lacy, open stitch often used for shawls.

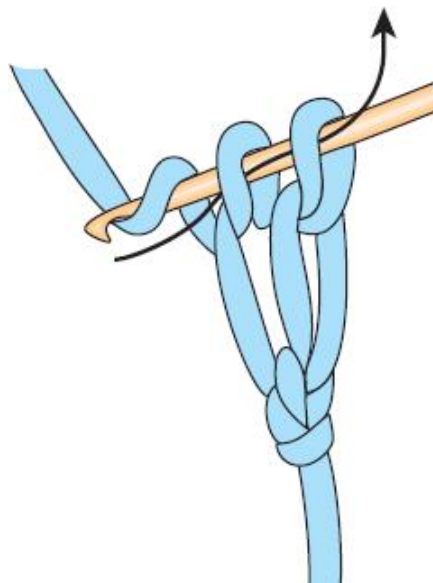
**Step 1:** Ch 1, draw up lp on hook to 1" (or height specified in pattern), YO and draw lp through.



**Step 2:** Insert hook under left lp, YO and draw lp through this lp on hook.

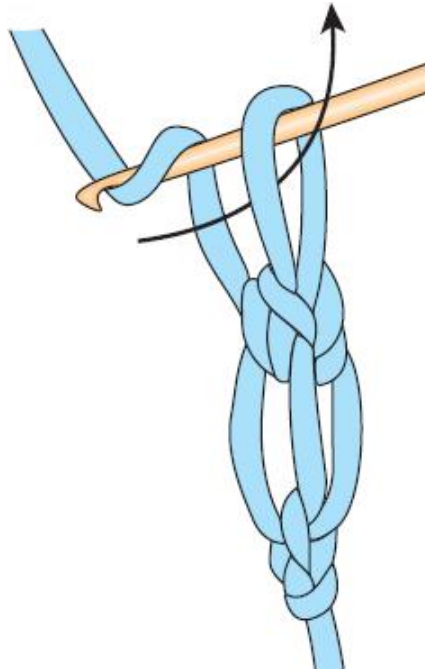


**Step 3:** YO and draw lp through both lps on hook: first knot st made.



**Step 4:** Draw up lp on hook to 1" (or height specified in pattern), YO and draw lp through.

Rep steps 2 through 4 for patt.



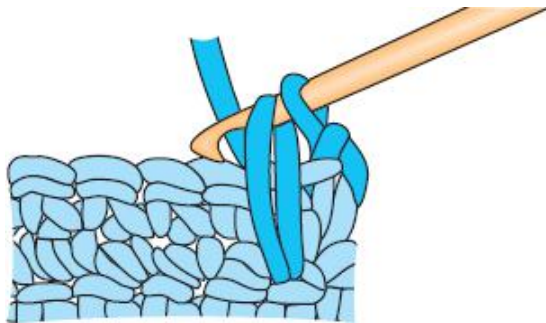
## Space

An area of crochet not occupied by a stitch. Spaces are usually made by working a number of chains and then skipping the stitches in the row below. The area between the chains and the skipped stitches forms the space.

## Spike Stitch

Usually single crochet, worked one, two, or more rows below the working row in a contrasting color.

**Step 1:** Drop down specified number of rows and insert hook between 2 sts directly below st on working row and draw up a lp to height of working row.



**Step 2:** YO and draw lp through both lps on hook.



## Stem

The vertical bar of a crochet stitch. See Post on [page](#)

## **T**

### **Tall Stitches**

Usually refers to any stitches taller than a double crochet.

### **Tapestry Needle**

A steel needle with a rounded point and a large eye used for sewing pieces of garments or projects together and for weaving in yarn ends. These are sized from 13 (the largest) down to 24 (the smallest). Sizes 14 and 16 are most commonly used for yarn, and size 18 works well with crochet thread.

### **Tape Yarn**

A novelty yarn similar to ribbon yarn; it's always flat, which makes it possible to achieve patterns that could not be possible with a round or tubular yarn. Originally available only in cotton or wool

blends, tape yarn can be found today in a variety of fibers, including blends.

### **Thick-and-Thin Yarn**

A nubby yarn that is made of one textured core yarn and one separately textured yarn wound around the core yarn. The yarn is therefore thick where both yarns are visible and thin where only one can be seen.

### **Treble Crochet**

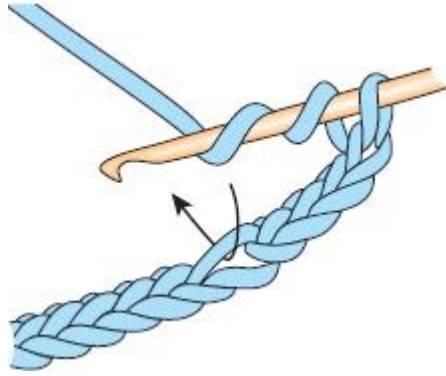
Another name for triple crochet. See [page](#)

### **Triple Crochet**

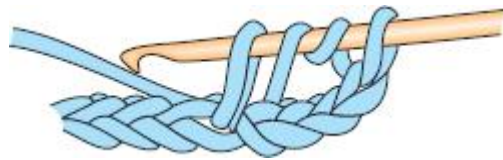
This stitch is taller than double crochet and shorter than quadruple crochet.

**Step 1:** YO twice, insert hook into specified ch or st.

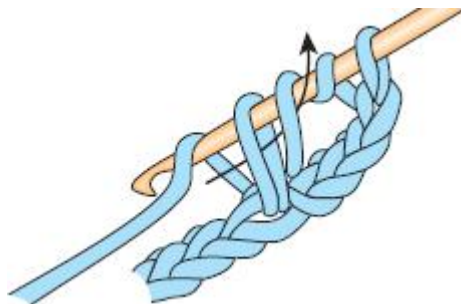




**Step 2:** YO and draw up long lp: 4 lps now on hook.



**Step 3:** YO and draw through first 2 lps on hook: 3 lps rem on hook.



**Step 4:** YO again and draw through next 2 lps on hook.



There are now 2 lps on hook.



**Step 5:** YO and draw through rem 2 lps.



This completes one triple crochet and one lp rem on hook.



## Tunisian Crochet

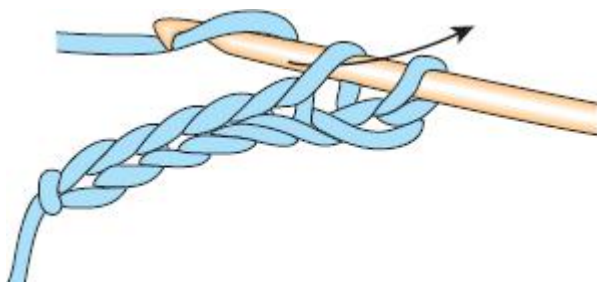
Sometimes called Afghan stitch, Tunisian is a technique which begins with a foundation chain as in regular crochet. Each row consists of two steps: The first step picks up stitches across the chain or row, leaving them all on the hook at the same time. The second step of each row works off all the loops, leaving one last loop on the hook.

To accommodate the number of stitches, Tunisian hooks are much longer than regular crochet hooks and have a knob on the end like a knitting needle to keep the stitches from sliding off.

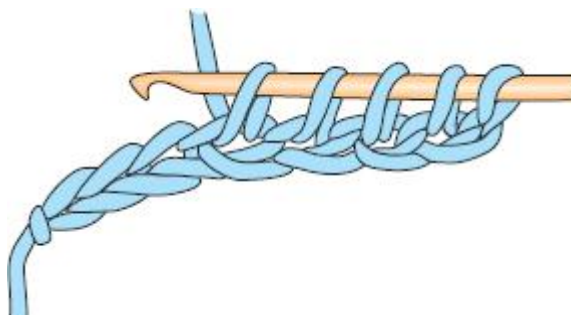
Unlike regular crochet, the loop on the hook does count as a stitch.

**Foundation row:** Ch number specified in patt.

**Step 1:** Skip first ch from hook; \*insert hook through top lp only of next ch and draw lp through, forming new lp on hook.

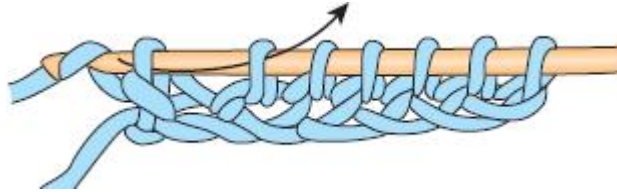


Rep from \* across ch, keeping all lps on hook.



Do not ch or turn at end of row.

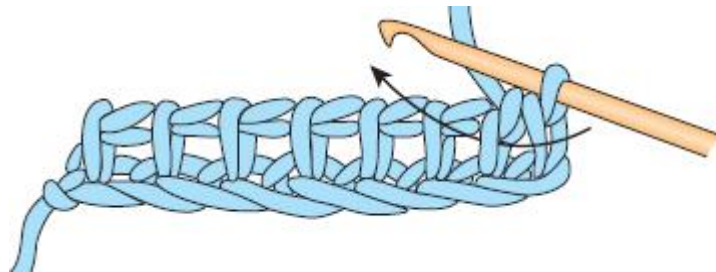
**Step 2:** YO and draw through first lp on hook;  
\*YO and draw through 2 lps.



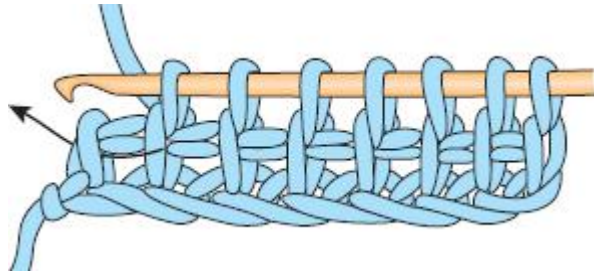
Rep from \* across. At end, one lp will rem on hook and is first st of next row. Do not ch or turn work.

### **Pattern row:**

**Step 1:** Insert hook in upright bar of second st.



YO and draw through, adding new lp on hook;  
 \*insert hook in upright bar of next st and draw through, adding new lp on hook; rep from \* across to last bar. For firmer side edge, on last bar insert hook through both bar and thread behind it and work them tog as one.



**Step 2:** Rep step 2 of foundation row. Rep steps 1 and 2 of pattern row until piece is desired length.

## Turning

At the end of every row of crochet, the work must be turned in order to begin the next row. The row can be turned from left to right or from right to left, but the turns should be done the same way each time. Do not remove the hook from the work when turning.

## Turning Chains


When you turn the work at the end of a row, a number of chains must be worked to raise the yarn to the correct height to work the stitches of the following row. (See chart below.)

## Turning Chains Required

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When the turning chain counts as the first stitch of the row or the next row, work in the top stitch of the turning chain for the last stitch.



## **U**

### **Unravel**

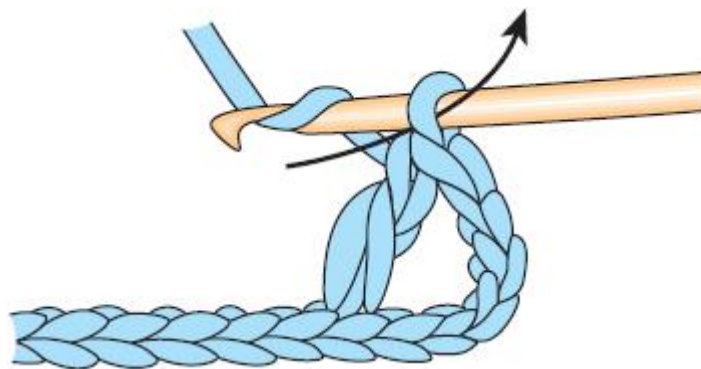
Pull out previously worked stitches to correct an error or to shorten the length of a piece. To do this, remove the hook from the work and gently pull on the yarn until the required number of stitches or rows have been unraveled.

# V

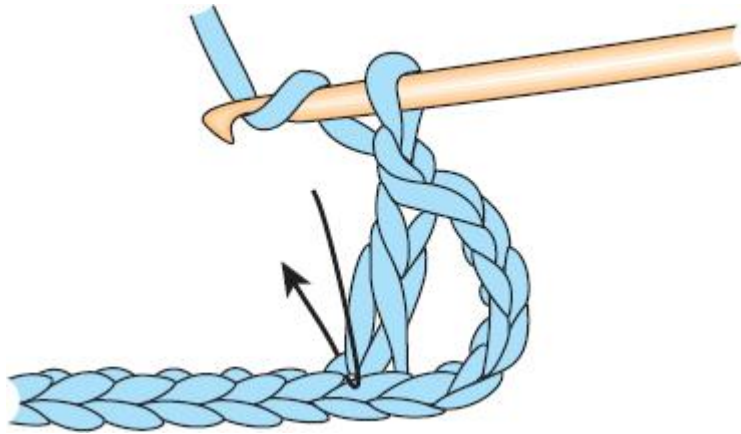
## V Stitch

Two double crochet stitches, separated by one or two chains, worked in the same stitch.

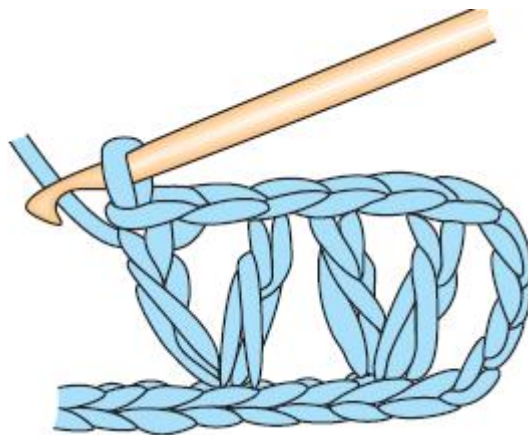
**Step 1:** Work dc in specified ch or st, ch 1.



**Step 2:** Work dc in same ch or st as first dc.



One or two chs or sts are usually skipped between V sts.



### **Variegated Yarn**

Yarn dyed with several different colors blended one after another. See Ombre yarn on [page](#)

## W

### Wave Stitch

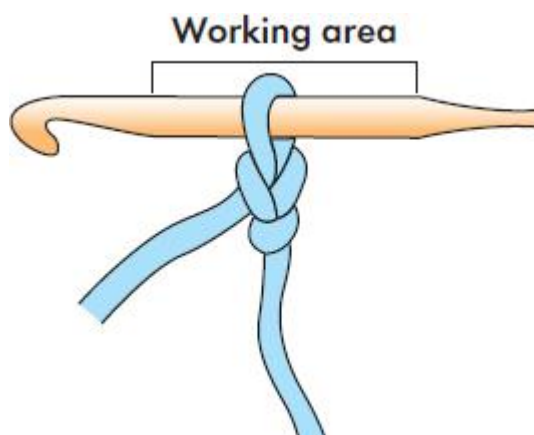
See Chevron on [page](#)

### Work Even

Continue to work without any increases or decreases.

### Working Area

The area of the crochet hook on which all stitches should be formed.



## **Working Row**

The row which you are currently creating.

## **Woven Crochet**

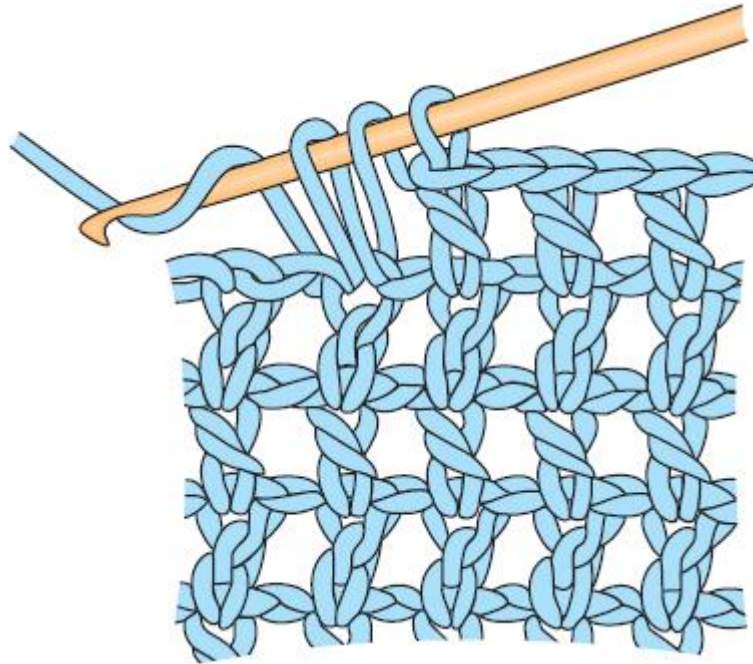
In this technique, an open mesh ground is worked first. The yarn for weaving is threaded into a tapestry or yarn needle, and then woven, either horizontally or vertically, under and over the mesh stitches. Interesting effects can be achieved by using narrow ribbon or metallic threads for the weaving. This technique is often used to create plaid designs.

**Working the ground:** Ch any uneven number.

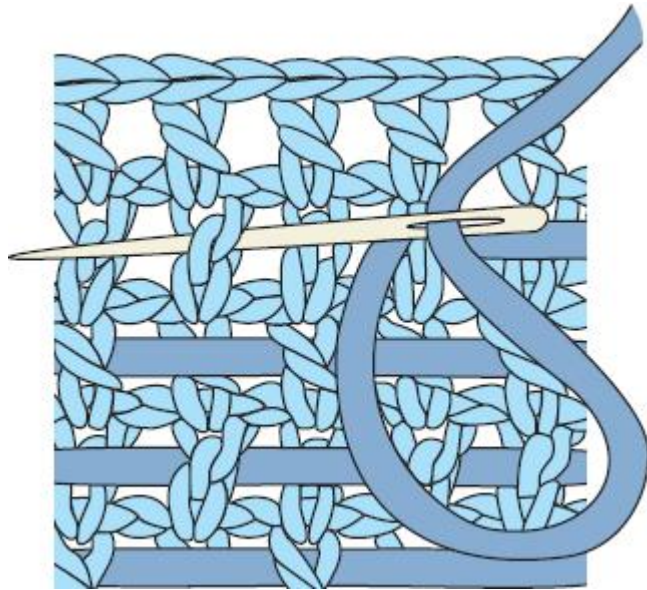
**Row 1:** Dc in sixth ch from hook; \*ch 1, next ch, dc in next ch; rep from \* across; ch 4 (counts as first dc and ch-1 sp of foll row), turn.

**Row 2:** Dc in next dc; \*ch 1, dc in next dc; rep from \* across; ch 3, turn.

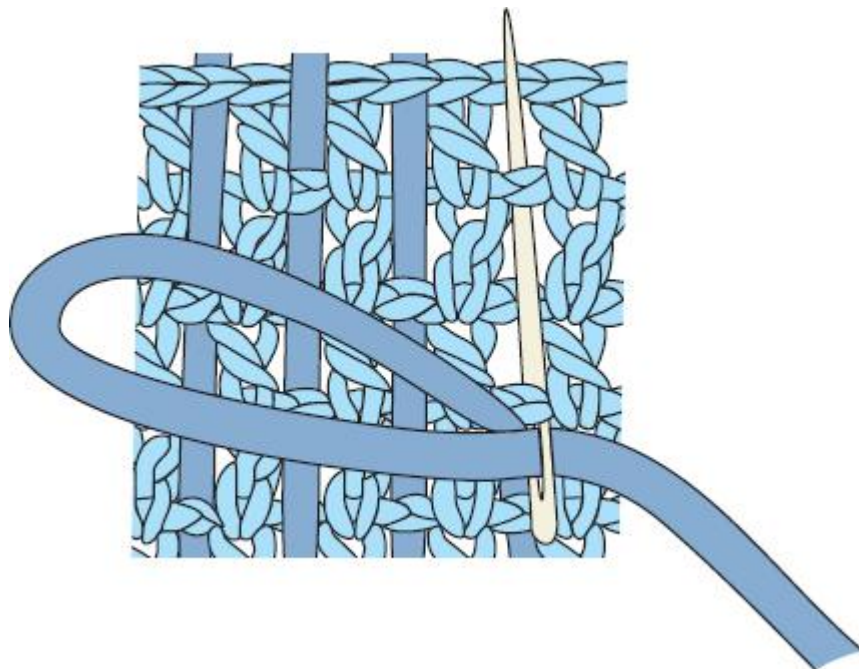
Rep row 2 for desired length. Finish off; weave in yarn ends.



**Horizontal weaving:** Weaving is done one row at a time. Thread yarn or ribbon into a tapestry or yarn needle and weave it alternately over and under one double crochet. On the next row, weave under and over. Alternate the unders and overs on each row.



**Vertical weaving:** Weaving is done in vertical rows under and over chain-one spaces of horizontal rows. As with horizontal weaving, alternate unders and overs.



## **Wrong Side**

The side of a garment or project that will not usually be seen, such as the inside of a garment or the back of an afghan or rug.

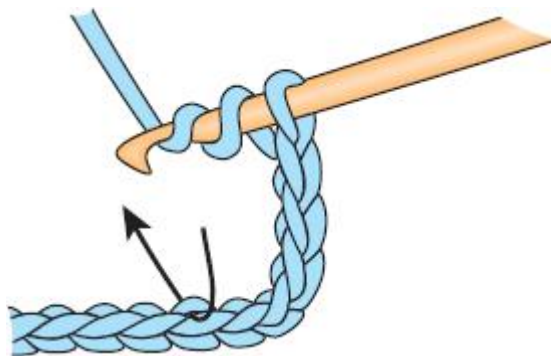


# X

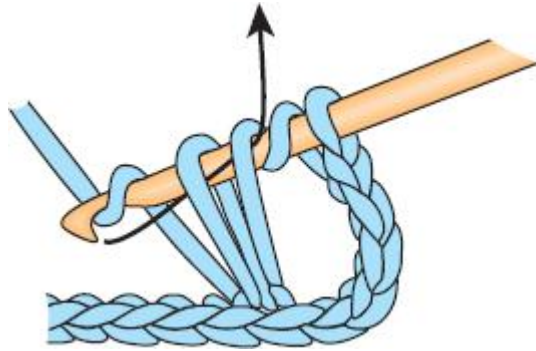
## X Stitch

Not to be confused with crossed stitches this stitch actually looks like the letter X.

**Step 1:** YO twice, insert hook in specified ch or st and draw up lp.



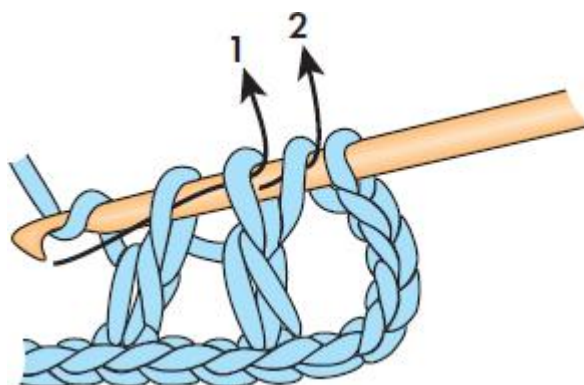
**Step 2:** YO and draw through 2 lps: 3 lps rem on hook.



**Step 3:** Skip next 2 sts, YO, insert hook in next st and draw up lp: 5 lps now on hook.

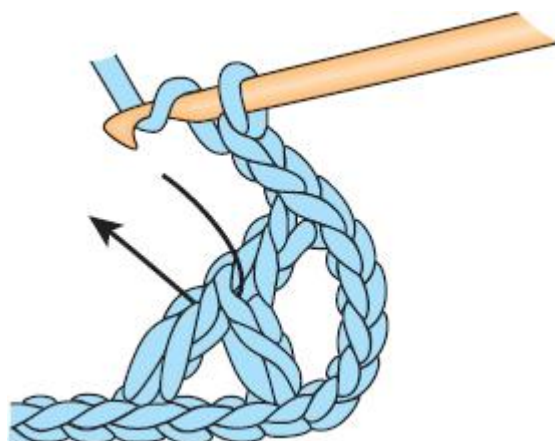


**Step 4:** (YO and draw through 2 lps on hook) 2 times: 3 lps rem on hook.

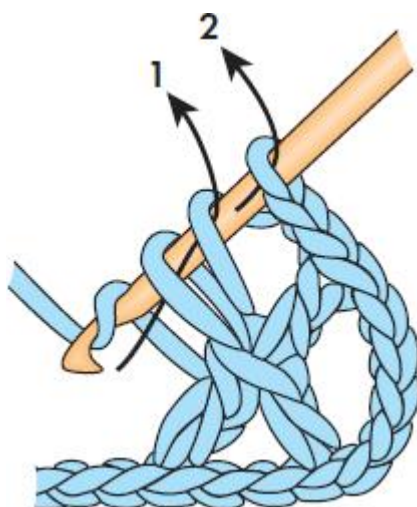


**Step 5:** (YO and draw through 2 lps on hook) 2 times: joined dc made.

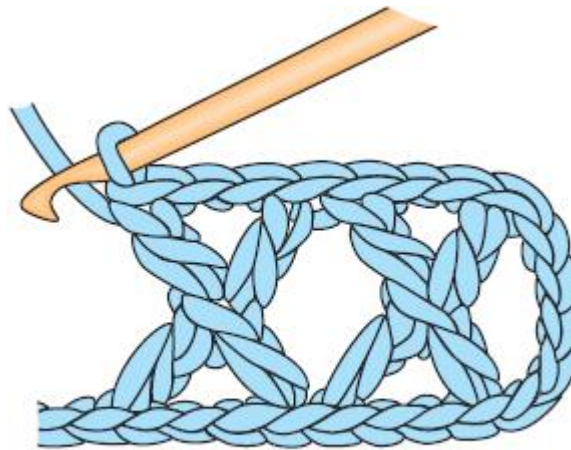
**Step 6:** Ch 2, YO, insert hook in top of joined dc and draw up a lp.



**Step 7:** (YO and draw through 2 lps on hook) 2 times: X stitch made.



Rep steps 1 through 7 for each st.



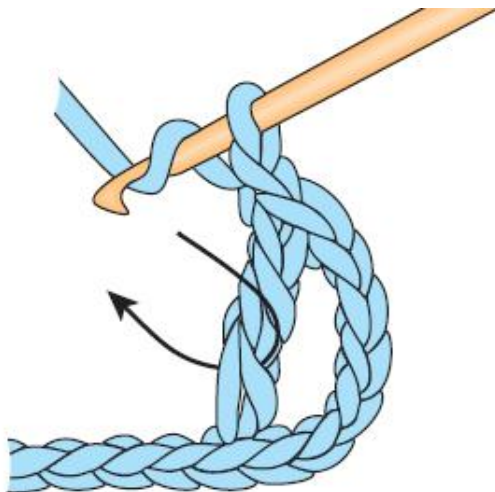
**Two completed stitches**

## Y

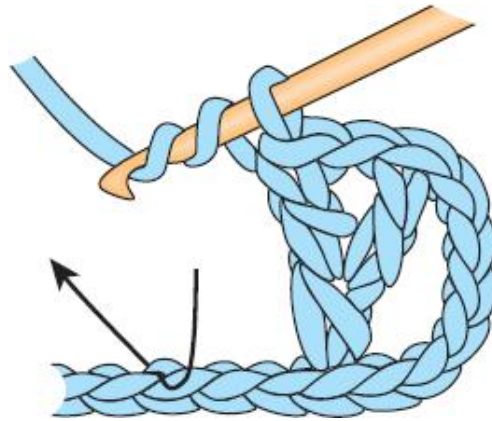
### Y Stitch

This makes an open, airy fabric.

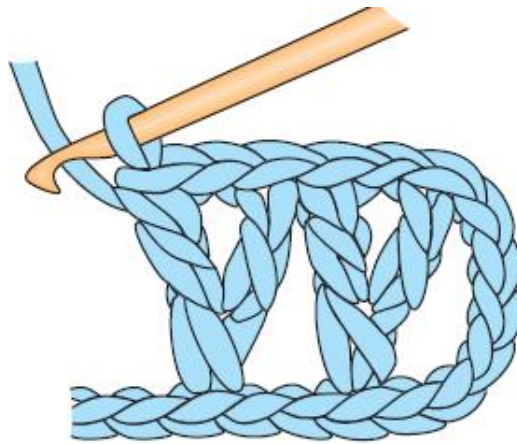
**Step 1:** Work tr in specified ch or st, ch 1, insert hook in lower diagonal bar of tr and draw up lp.



**Step 2:** (YO and draw through 2 lps on hook) 2 times.



Skip 2 chs or sts between each Y st.



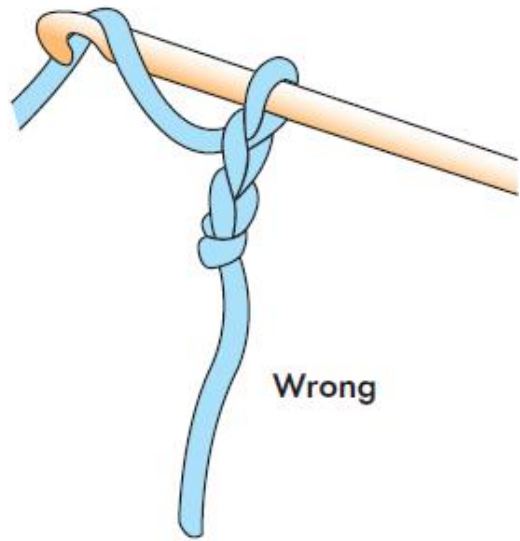
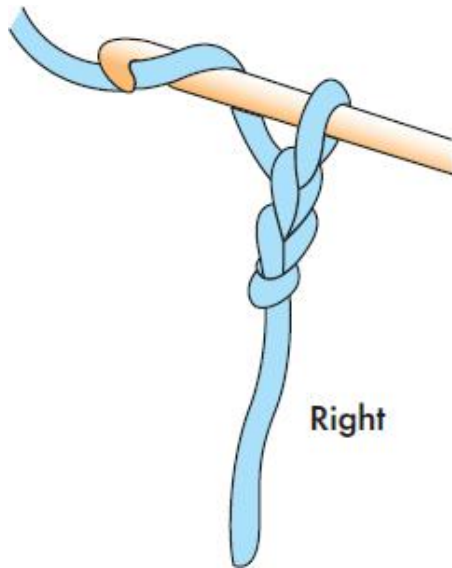
**Two completed stitches**

### **Yarn Needle**

A large-diameter sewing needle, usually made of plastic, with a wide eye to accommodate the threading of thick yarns. It is used for sewing together pieces of garments or crochet projects and for weaving in yarn ends.

## Yarn Over (YO)

Take the yarn from back to front over the crochet hook, never from front to back.



**Z**

**Zigzag Stitch**

See Chevron on [page](#)



## **Part 2: Standards and Useful Information**

## Abbreviations

Crochet patterns are written in a special shorthand which is used so that instructions don't take up too much space. They sometimes seem confusing, but once you learn them, you'll have no trouble following them.

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## Blocking Thread Crochet

Many thread crochet projects need to be blocked to their finished size or shape. Some large projects, such as bedspreads or tablecloths, can be blocked by dampening the project, pinning it out to the correct size, and letting it dry thoroughly. Be sure to use rust-proof pins.

Projects such as doilies, snowflakes, and dimensional items usually need fairly stiff starching before blocking.

## Blocking Supplies

**1. Stiffening:** Craft and needlework stores or departments usually carry commercial products made specifically for stiffening fabrics, but you can also use:

**a. White craft glue mixed thoroughly with an equal amount of water:** This will give a firm result, but does have a tendency to turn yellow after several years.

**b. Commercial boilable starch:** Use this in a very thick solution. One advantage of this is that it can be washed out later to clean and reblock the project.

**c. Spray starch:** This gives a very light stiffness.

**d. Sugar and water:** This is probably the oldest method. It does give a nice stiff finish with a little sheen; however, when the projects are stored, they may attract bugs and may become limp in areas of high humidity. If you choose this method, use two parts sugar to one part water and boil the mixture for at least two minutes. Be sure to cool the liquid completely before using.

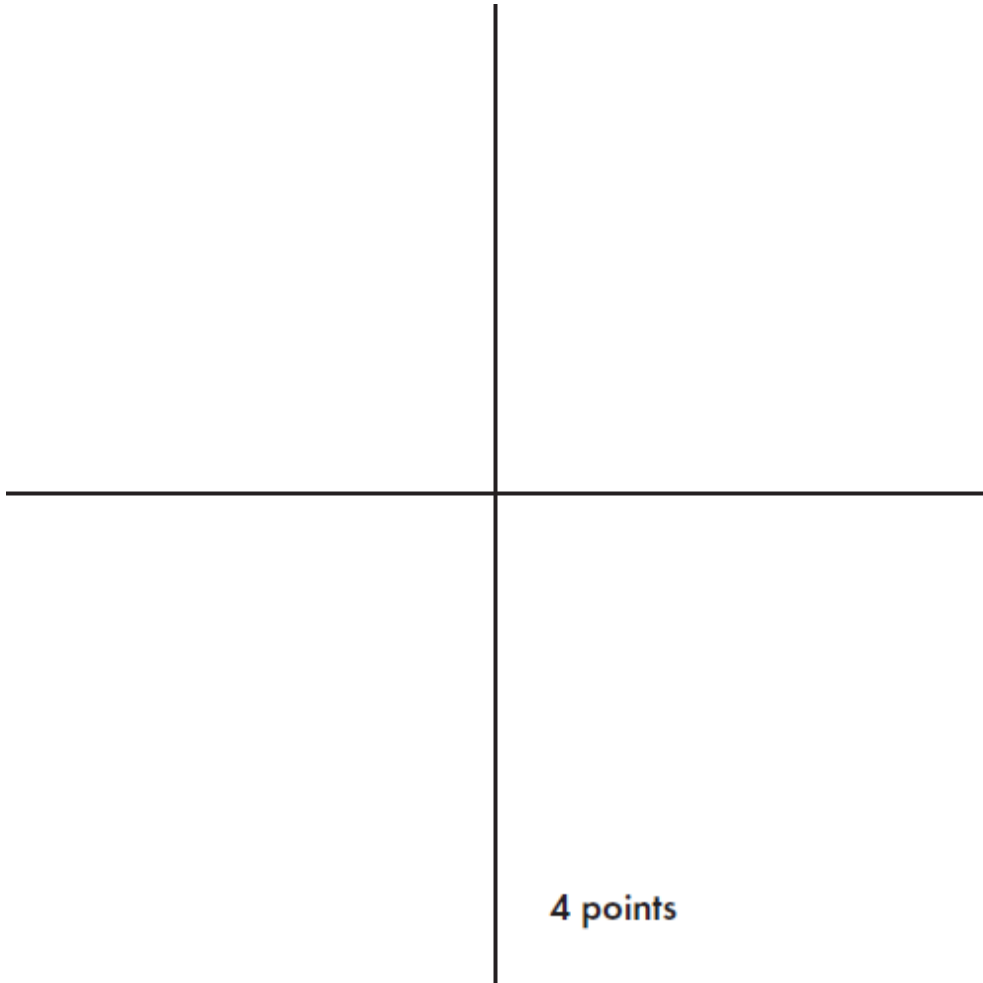
**2. Pinning board:** Any firm, flat surface into which you can insert pins can be used, as long as it is covered first with plastic wrap to protect the surface and make removing the project easier. A sheet of Homosote insulation board, available at hardware and lumber outlets, is ideal for those who do a lot of blocking. Styrofoam sheets work well, as do fabric cutting boards and ironing boards.

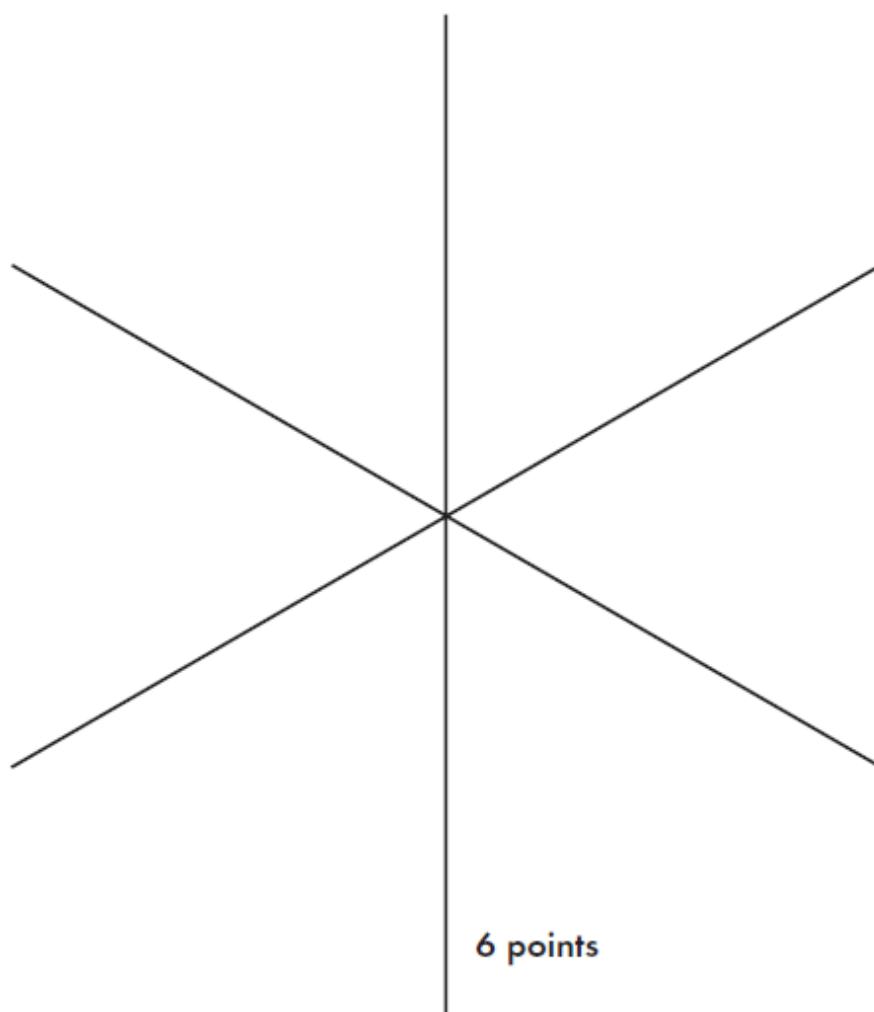
**3. Rustproof pins:** For easier pinning, use T-pins or pins with rounded tops (plastic or glass), but be

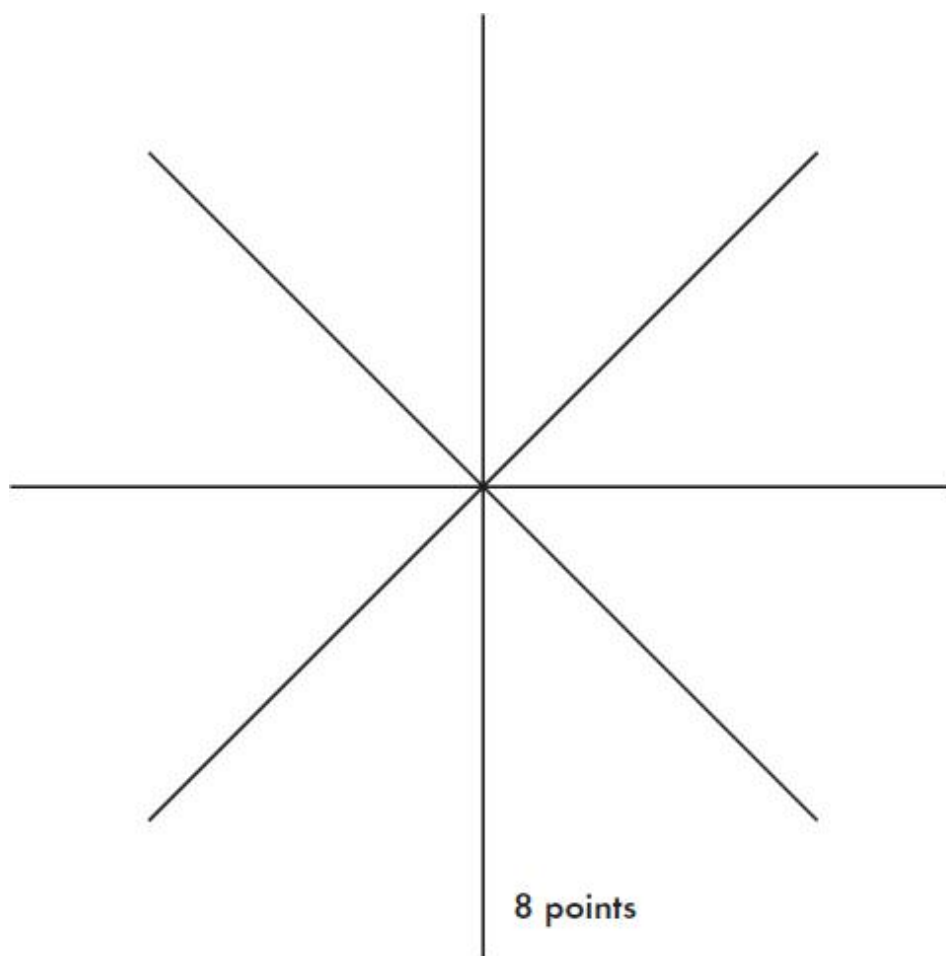


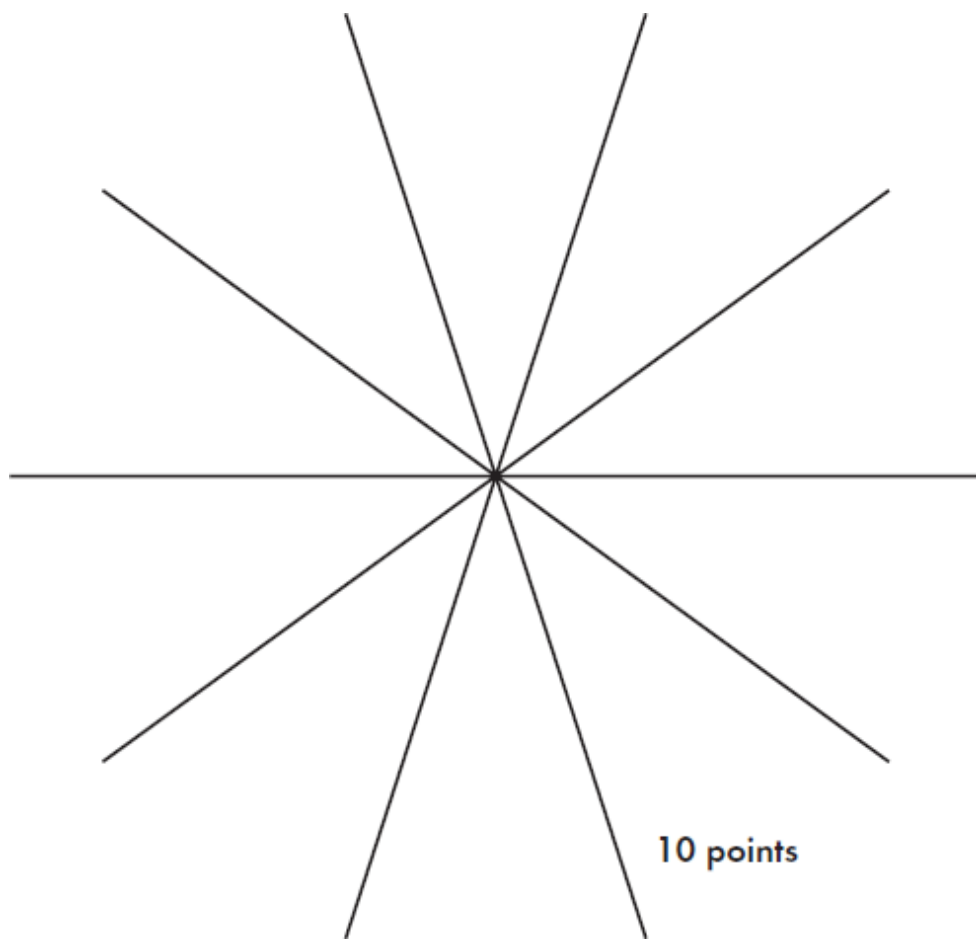
sure they are rustproof. You can also use plastic cocktail picks or wooden toothpicks with pointed ends.

**4. Blocking guides:** To make a guide for blocking a project, select the desired guide and trace the lines with a pencil on a piece of tracing paper. With a ruler, extend the lines out to the finished size of the project. Most doilies and other round pieces are based on a formula of 4 units, meaning they have 4, 8, 12, etc. points to be evenly spaced during blocking.

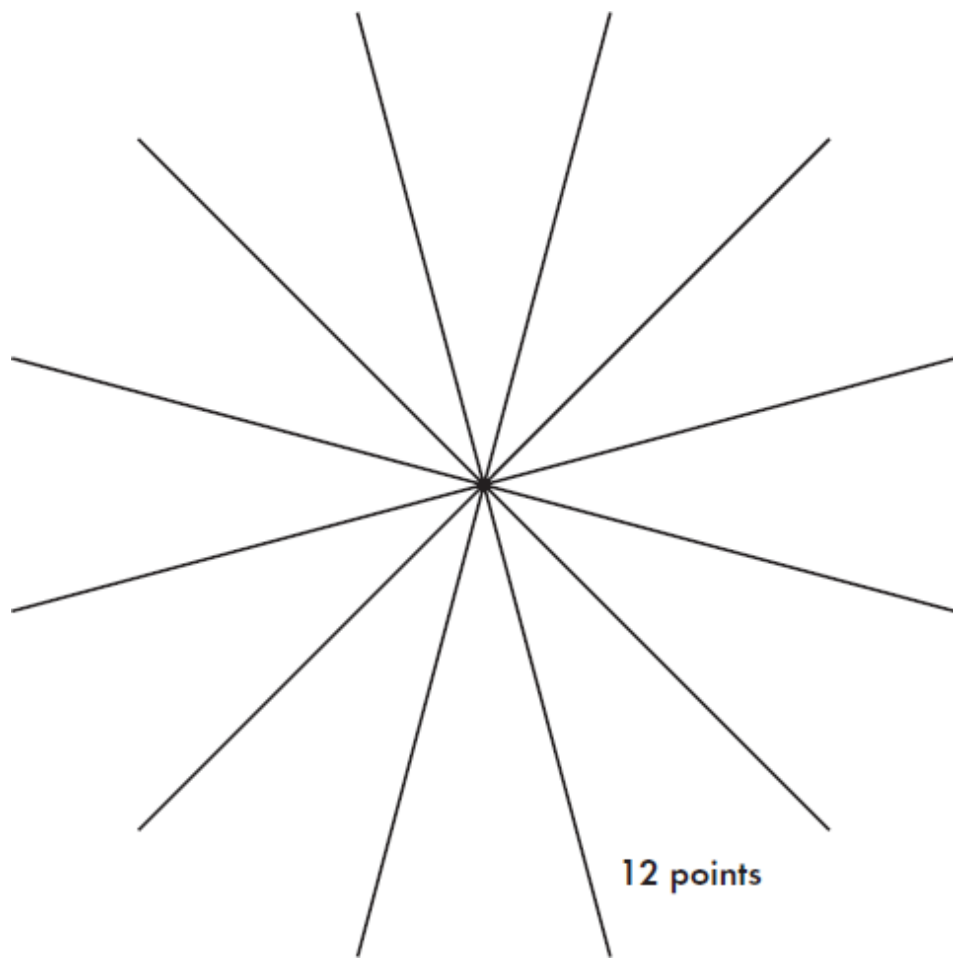








10 points



## **Instructions**

Place the desired blocking guide on pinning board. Cover with plastic wrap. For large projects, it may be necessary to place pinning board on the floor or a bed.

First, wash project carefully by hand, using a mild soap. Rinse well in warm water.

Second, immerse the project in a stiffening solution. A convenient way to do this is to place the project in a zipper-type plastic bag filled with solution. If the project is large, place the bag in a bowl. Allow the project to remain in the solution for about a minute. Then remove it and press out extra solution. Do not squeeze. The project needs to be very wet, but no solution should be sitting in any decorative holes.

Place project right side up on pinning board. Pin out into proper shape. For circular items, start in center, pulling each point of project into alignment with lines of the blocking guide. Make sure that all loops and swirls are open and in their right positions.

Leave project pinned in place until it is completely dry, which in sultry weather may take several days. Remove pins only when project is completely dry.

## Crochet Terms in Other Languages

Helpful when you find interesting patterns in foreign books and magazines

English (US)	English (UK)	French
back post	back post	double ride en relief arrière
chain	chain	maille en l'air chainette
cluster	cluster	grappe
crochet	crochet	faire du crochet
crochet hook	crochet hook	aiguille de crochet
decrease	decrease	diminuer
double crochet	treble	bride
edge	edge	bordure
front post	front post	double bide en relievé/avant
half double crochet	half treble	demi-bride
increase	increase	augmenter
join into ring	join into ring	former un rond
last	last	précédent
loop	loop	boucle
next	next	suivant
picot	picot	picot
popcorn	popcorn	popcorn
repeat	repeat	repetér
ring	ring	rond/cercle
row	row	rang
single crochet	double crochet	maille serrée
skip	miss	passer
slip stitch	single crochet	maille coulée
stitch	stitch	maille
triple crochet	double treble	double bride



Spanish	Italian	German
punto alto triple en relieve/ por detras de la labor	in sosta dietro	hinteres Maschenglied
cadeneta	puto catenella	Luftmasche
puntos altos cerrados/ en el mismo punto	maglia raggruppata	Büschelmasche
tejer	lavorare all' uncinetto	häkeln
ganchillo/aguja de crochet	uncinetto	Häkelnadel
menguar	diminuire	Abnehmen
punto alto doble/ crochet doble	maglia alta	Stäbchen
borde	orlo	Rand
punto alto triple en relieve/ por delante de la labor	in costa davanti	vorderes Maschenglied
punto alto	mezza maglia alta/ mezza punto alto	Halbe Stäbchen
aumentar	aumentare	Zunehmen
unir formando anillo	unire ad anello	in den Ring
último	ultimo	letzte
hebillazada	nodo	Schlinge
próximo	prossimo	nächste
piquito	pippiolino	Pikot
puntos altos cerrados/ juntas con una cadeneta	nocciolina	popcorn-Masche
repetir	rifetere	widerholen
anillo/circulo	anello	Runde
vuelta/hilera	riga	Reihe
punto bajo	maglia bassa punto basso	feste Masche
salt	saltare	überspringen
punto enano/punto deslizado	maglia bassissima	Kettmasche
punto	punto	Masche
punto alto triple	maglia altissima	Doppel-stäbchen

## Crochet Hooks

Buying a crochet hook can be confusing because different manufacturers use different markings. Some use a system of letters and some use a number system. The best way to get an accurate size is to go by millimeter (mm) sizing. In the table below hooks are listed according to the measurement of their diameter.

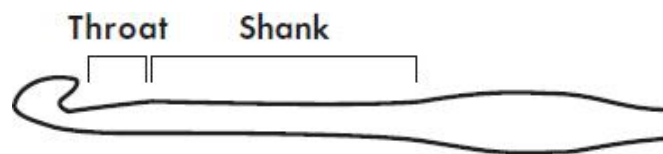
### Regular Yarn Crochet Hooks

Millimeter Size	Letter Size	Number Size
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
4.00 mm	G	6
4.50 mm	-	7
5.00 mm	H	8
5.50 mm	I	9
6.00 mm	J	10
6.50 mm	K	10½
8.00 mm	L	11
9.00 mm	M or N	13
10.00 mm	N	15
12.00 mm	O	-
15.00 mm	P	-
16.00 mm	Q	-
19.00 mm	S	-

## Steel Crochet Hooks

Steel crochet hooks are designed to be used with thinner threads than regular yarn crochet. They are about 5" long, which is shorter than most hooks used for yarns, and are constructed slightly differently.

The hook end is a little sharper than found on yarn hooks; then comes the throat, which gradually becomes thicker until it forms the shank, the area on which the stitches must be formed. Then the hook thickens again until it reaches the finger grip. It is important that every stitch be made on the shank, not on the throat (which will cause the stitches to be too tight) or on the area beyond the shank (which will cause the stitches to be too loose).



Steel hooks are sized differently from regular hooks; the higher the number, the smaller the hook, which is the reverse of regular hook sizing. Steel hooks sold by American manufacturers range in size from 14 (the finest) to oo (the thickest). Even finer hooks are sold in other countries where much delicate lace work is created. Different countries use different numbering systems, and the chart below can help clear up any confusion.

## Steel Crochet Hooks

Millimeter Size	Number Size
0.75 mm	14
0.85 mm	13
1.0 mm	12
1.1 mm	11
1.3 mm	10
1.4 mm	9
1.5 mm	8
1.65 mm	7
1.8 mm	6
1.9 mm	5
2.0 mm	4
2.1 mm	3
2.25 mm	2
2.75 mm	1
3.25 mm	0
3.5 mm	00

Crochet threads used with steel hooks come in a wide range of sizes, and like steel hook sizing, the thinner the thread, the higher the number. The most commonly used threads are size 10, often referred to as bedspread weight and used mostly for bedspreads and tablecloths; and size 20, often used for doilies. The finest thread is size 100, which is about equal to sewing thread.

Although cotton is the fiber most used for thread work, the finer threads are also available in silk, rayon, linen, and other fibers, including synthetics.

## **Fibers**

Many different types of fiber are used in yarn and thread for crochet. Choice of fiber is important in selecting the best product to be used in a project. Different fibers require different care in the completed project as well as determine the drape and feel of the finished work. Here is a list and description of some of the most popular.

### **Acrylic**

Acrylics are probably the most common type of fiber used in crochet. Acrylic yarns are a synthetic fiber made from acrylonitrile, which comes from coal, air, water, petroleum, and limestone. The yarn is very resilient and moderately strong. The yarns are often made to imitate natural fibers, such as wool. They have a good resistance to sunlight and will last through many launderings. Unless specially treated, however, the fiber is not fireproof. Acrylics can be dyed in an endless range of colors.

### **Alpaca**

Not only is alpaca yarn one of the softest fibers, next to cashmere, it is also extremely warm. The alpaca (*Vicugna pacos*) is a domesticated species of South American camelid and is a smaller relative of the llama. Alpacas originated in herds that grazed on the Andes in Ecuador, southern Peru, northern Bolivia, and northern Chile. Alpacas were never used as beasts of burden but were valued only for their fiber. The fiber comes in more than 52 natural colors as classified in Peru, 12 as classified in Australia, and 16 as classified in the United States.

## **Angora**

Angora wool refers to the coat produced by the Angora rabbit. Angora rabbit wool is eight times warmer than sheep wool and so light it provides warmth without weight. Angora wool is continuously renewed and gently harvested during the rabbit's natural molting process; thus, Angora rabbits need never be harmed for their wool. Their coats come in a variety of colors from white to black and can be dyed in a wide range of colors. Since the fiber lacks elasticity, it is sometimes blended with sheep wool to give the yarn some stretch.

## **Bamboo**

Bamboo is a grass that can be harvested, distilled into cellulose, and spun into a fiber. Since bamboo can be harvested without killing the plant, and it only takes a few months before the plant is ready to be harvested again, bamboo is also an environmentally friendly choice.

Recently several Chinese scientists invented a way to turn bamboo fiber into yarn. Selected fibers are heated to 80°C to 90°C (176°F to 194°F), then soaked in a mixture of soap and emulsion oil, dried, rehydrated with another mixture of oils, then allowed to set for five to seven days. The fibers may then be spun, by a variety of methods, into a high-quality yarn which wears well and is naturally antibacterial. It is cool and silky soft to the touch and works up beautifully in anything where a drape is desired.

## **Camel**

Like alpaca and llama, camel yarn comes from another member of the Camelidae family. All of these yarns are not only warm and soft but very lightweight as well.



The wool comes from the two-humped Bactrian camel of central Asia and like cashmere, only the soft underwool or down hair is used in the production of yarn. This extremely soft and fine fur from the undercoat of the camel can be used alone but is most often combined with other fine wools.

Because camel hair cannot be bleached easily, it is usually sold undyed—the most common color being a reddish brown—or dyed a darker color. There is also a white fleece available which is extremely rare and very valuable.

## **Cashmere**

Cashmere, which is actually the term for the soft down undercoat of the Kashmir goat, has long been one of the most exotic and rarest fibers to be found. Kashmir goats were primarily raised in Outer Mongolia, but many were bred in Afghanistan, Iran, India, and China. In recent years, when these countries' political problems seemed to disrupt the raising of cashmere goats, manufacturers began looking for more stable sources. Today also, the goats are raised in New

Zealand and Australia, and some American entrepreneurs have begun raising the goats as well.

Cashmere, which is a soft, lightweight, durable, and exceptionally warm yarn, maintains its downy softness in a variety of weights, from lace to chunky. The finest cashmere comes from the underbelly and throat of the goats and comes naturally in white, gray, and brown, but the wool is easily dyed. It is such a delicate yarn that it is often blended with wool to make it more durable. Because a goat only produces a few ounces of yarn each year, cashmere remains one of the most expensive of fibers.

## **Cotton**

Cotton is a soft, staple fiber that grows around the seeds of the cotton plant, a shrub native to tropical and subtropical regions around the world, including the Americas, India, and Africa. This fiber is spun into yarn and used to make a soft, breathable fiber which is nonallergenic, moisture absorbing, and very strong. Cotton yarn, however, is heavy and dense and contains a limited amount of elasticity. Once wet, the yarn is slow to dry, but it tends to regain its shape once it does dry. Cotton

actually is a weaker yarn than silk or linen but stronger than wool.

Organic cotton yarn is a big trend in yarn materials today. This type of cotton is grown without the use of chemical pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizers. It has the same characteristics as conventionally grown cotton and the yarn is as strong as any other cotton yarn. While organic cotton yarns can be dyed, many yarns are sold natural in beautiful light brown, gray, and green colors.

Mercerized cotton, which is more lustrous than conventional cotton, is also stronger and takes dye a little more easily. It is produced by adding caustic acid to the cotton and is named for the British chemist John Mercer who developed the process. Besides being more resistant to mildew and stronger, mercerized cotton is produced in a variety of beautiful colors.

## **Hemp**

Although hemp and marijuana come from the same species of plant, *Cannabis sativa* they are not the same at all. Marijuana contains a chemical

called THC, which is responsible for its reputation. Any THC in hemp is so low as to be almost nonexistent.

Also called industrial hemp, varieties of cannabis that are grown for their seeds and fiber are actually grown legally in just about every industrialized country in the world.

Grown without the use of pesticides or herbicides because it is immune to diseases that attack other plants such as cotton, hemp is an environmentally friendly fiber. Because hemp repels up to 90% of UV rays it is extremely useful for those with sensitive skin.

A garment crocheted with hemp will be cool in the summer and warm in the winter and can be washed and dried in the machine. It is softer than many other fibers and will not stretch, pill, or fade but will actually get softer with each washing. Because hemp has limited elasticity, it is often combined with wool, cotton, or cashmere. A garment crocheted from hemp will be soft and have great drape and longevity.

## **Linen**

Linen is made from the fibers of the flax plant. While not strictly labeled “organic,” flax is environmentally friendly since the flax plant can grow almost anywhere with little to no pesticides.

The linen yarn spun from the stem fibers of the plant is naturally crisp, strong, and lustrous. The 100%-linen yarn has a natural luster and is found in shades from creamy white to tan. It can, however, be easily dyed in other rich colors. A garment made from 100%-pure linen actually becomes softer after it is machine washed and dried.

Linen fiber produces a strong, lustrous material that lasts a long, long time, but it is not soft, which discourages many crocheters. However, when it is blended with other fibers such as wool or alpaca, linen retains its luminous silkiness and blends well with the softness of alpaca and the warmth of the wool.

Linen is durable and stronger than any other fiber. It absorbs moisture better than cotton and will dry quicker, which makes a linen garment better in hot

climates than cotton. It is easier to wash than wool and won't stretch or shrink.

## **Microfiber**

Microfiber is the name for synthetic fibers that measure less than one denier. These fibers are  $\frac{1}{2}$  the diameter of fine silk,  $\frac{1}{3}$  the diameter of cotton, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  the diameter of the finest of wools. The most common types of microfibers are made from polyester or nylon, or a combination of polyester and nylon.

Because the fibers are so fine, the properties of the regular-sized fibers are changed. As they are spun, the multiple microscopic-size filaments or fibers have more motion, giving the spun yarns more drape and a very soft feel but preventing loss of their yarn structure. Garments made with microfibers do not sag or droop. They also absorb moisture better and seem to breathe. Microfiber yarns feel more like natural fibers than regular synthetic yarns.

Because the fibers are so fine, however, heat penetrates very quickly. The yarn is much more heat sensitive than other fibers. A project made

with microfiber yarn should never be touched with an iron nor placed into a hot clothes dryer.

## **Mohair**

Mohair comes from the coat of the Angora goat, which originated in the district of Angora, now called Ankara, in Turkey. It is one of the oldest fibers and dates back to early biblical times. There is mention of the use of mohair at the time of Moses, sometime between 1571 B.C. and 1451 B.C. It is distinct from angora from the Angora rabbit, which comes from the same part of the world.

Mohair is both durable and resilient and is known for its high luster and sheen. It is often used in fiber blends to add these qualities to other yarns. Mohair is also warm and like wool has great insulating properties. It is durable, moisture-wicking, stretch and flame resistant, and crease resistant. Mohair is soft and fuzzy as well as exceptionally light. It takes dye extremely well and is produced in a multitude of colors.

Since the fleece becomes coarser as the goat ages, the finest and softest mohair is derived from the coats of Angora kids. Despite being very soft,

mohair can be irritating to the skin, like many animal products. As a result, mohair garments are often lined with silk or cotton, and mohair is frequently mixed with other fibers for comfort.

## **Nylon**

Nylon is the generic name for a family of synthetic polymers known as polyamides, first produced in 1935 at the DuPont laboratories. Nylon was the first commercially successful polymer and the first synthetic fiber to be made entirely from coal, water, and air.

It was intended to be a synthetic replacement for silk and substituted for it in many different products after silk became scarce during World War II. It replaced silk in military applications such as parachutes and flak vests.

Nylon is lightweight but strong and very easy to wash. It is elastic and does not stretch or shrink unless it is subjected to high temperatures. Often nylon is combined with wool to give the wool fiber nylon's strength and elasticity, especially in the creation of sock yarns.



## **Polyester**

Polyester is probably the most common of synthetic fibers. Like nylon, polyester was also developed by DuPont when it was discovered that alcohols and carboxyl acid could be combined to form fibers that are inexpensive and durable. Polyester is strong and resistant to stretching, shrinking, and abrasion. It is very washable.

Because of its many properties, polyester is often combined with other fibers where it adds strength and resilience. One of the most popular blends is polyester and cotton, where polyester helps to make the cotton more absorbent. Combined with wool, polyester will help wool keep its shape in all kinds of weather. In addition, since polyester is stronger than wool, it will increase the life of a wool project while wool adds elasticity and draping. Combined with rayon, polyester makes the rayon project more durable while rayon gives a project made with rayon/polyester good draping. When polyester is combined with nylon, the resulting yarn is strong, durable, easy to launder, and resistant to mildew or insects.

## **Qiviut**

Qiviut (pronounced ki - vee - ute) is the fine, soft grayish brown down or undercoat of the rare Arctic animal, the musk ox, and is one of the warmest and most luxurious fibers in the world.

Qiviut closely resembles cashmere in its hand and luster and microscopic appearance, but it is eight times warmer than wool and finer than cashmere. It is hypoallergenic, will not shrink, and is very durable. Unlike wool, qiviut is soft and nonirritating to the skin. When crocheted into a garment, it will be extremely warm yet lightweight, and will be warm in the winter but will also breathe in warm weather.

## **Rayon**

Rayon is one of the most peculiar of fibers in use today. Strictly speaking, it is not an artificial fiber because it is made from naturally occurring ingredients. It is not, however, a natural fiber, because extensive processing of cellulose from wood pulp or cotton is necessary before rayon threads are created. It is the oldest manufactured

fiber, having been in production since the 1880s in France.

Although rayon is a weak fiber, it is highly absorbent, can be hand washed, and dries quickly when wet. It drapes well and is so easy to dye that it is available in a wide variety of colors. Because it has a high luster, which gives it a bright shine, it is frequently blended with other fibers and often is used as an alternative to silk. Rayon yarn is slippery and requires some skill in working with it.

## **Silk**

Since its discovery in China about 5,000 years ago, silk has been considered luxurious and special. Silk yarn is made from the filaments that the silkworm spins around itself to form its cocoon. Actually, the silkworm is really not a worm but the larva or caterpillar of the *Bombyx* a moth.

One silkworm takes from two to four days to spin the cocoon. After harvesting, the cocoons are heated to kill the larva, and the silk filament must be unwrapped. The filament from one cocoon can be as long as 1,500 yards. The unwrapping used to

be done by hand, but today the process is done mechanically.

Originally the moths ate nothing but mulberry leaves and the resulting silk was brown. Today domesticated moths are fed various types of food, which determine their natural color: white, green, or yellow. Silk dyes very well, however, and silk yarn today is available in a variety of beautiful colors.

Although silk is not strictly an animal fiber, it carries some of the properties of animal hair fibers because silk has a protein structure. Because it does not conduct heat, silk is a good insulator and will keep you warm in winter and cool in summer. Silk will work up into light, velvety-soft, ultrasmooth garments that will neither shrink nor stretch.

## **Soy**

In recent years, environmentalists have encouraged the development of eco-friendly yarns. Creating fibers for yarns from vegetable fibers is certainly not new. Cotton and linen are actually vegetable fibers. The concept of turning soy into yarn has actually been talked about for years. Henry Ford

tried promoting the use of soy in the 1940s, even to the point of being photographed wearing a soy suit.

Soy plants are abundant and easily grown, which makes soy yarn readily available and less expensive than some of the other vegetable fibers on the market. It is also easier to make and requires less processing. Soy yarn is actually produced from tofu manufacturing waste. Soy protein is liquefied and then extruded into long, continuous fibers that are then cut and processed like any other fiber.

Although 100%-soy yarn is available, most soy yarns are blended with acrylic, wool, or even silk. Soy/acrylic blends are silky, have a beautiful sheen, and drape beautifully.

Soy is available in an undyed form, which is a soft shade of ivory, as well as several dyed forms.

## **Vicuña**

Vicuña fiber comes from the vicuña, a wild member of the camel family that is native to Peru. A relative of the llama and the alpaca, vicuñas live

in the high areas of the Andes. They produce small amounts of an extremely fine fiber which is finer than any other fleece. The animals can only be shorn every three years so the product is very expensive. It is believed that the Incas raised vicuñas for their wool and that it was against the law for anyone but royalty to wear vicuña garments.

Almost extinct by the end of the twentieth century, the animals are today protected by law, and the fiber obtained from legal shearing operations has been reintroduced. Before being declared endangered in 1974, only about 6,000 animals were left. Today, the vicuña have recovered to about 125,000 but they are still considered endangered.

Any product made with the vicuña's fur is very soft and warm.

## **Wool**

While many fibers shorn from animals are called "wool," to crocheters the term "wool" refers to the fiber that comes from sheep. Sheep grow a wool coat and once a year the coat is sheared off the animal. The shorn wool is called fleece or "grease

wool” because it contains all of the natural oils and lanolin.

The wool that is spun from the fleece is probably the most durable and versatile of all the fibers used in crochet. A garment crocheted from wool will retain its shape and resist wrinkles. The properties of wool make it able to absorb perspiration, releasing it gradually, thereby making a wool garment comfortable year round. Wool garments are worn in the coldest of climates as well as in warm climates among desert-dwelling Bedouins.

Wool is easily dyed, flame-retardant, and retains warmth even when wet. Wool needs to be washed and dried by hand. If it is washed in very hot water and dried in a dryer, it will shrink or felt. Since felting is often a desirable result, the use of wool for felting is common. Wool that has been “super-washed” has been treated to allow machine washing and will not felt.

Merino wool originally was a term used to describe the wool of merino sheep from Spain. These sheep produced the finest and softest wool of any sheep. Today some fine merino wool comes from Australia

and New Zealand and the term is used to describe the very best soft wool.



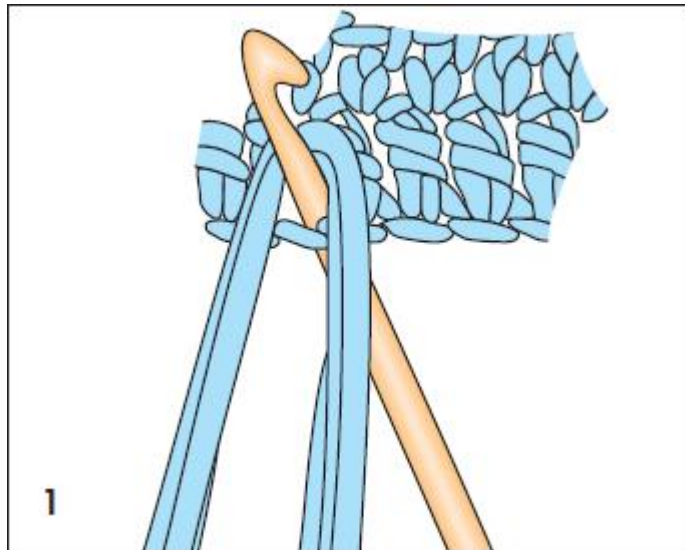
## **Fringe**

Fringe is the term used to describe lengths of yarn knotted to form a decorative trim on a crochet project. Generally the crochet pattern will give instructions for the length of the yarn and the number of strands to be used in each knot. For single and double knot fringe, the yarn should be cut twice the length of the finished fringe plus about 2" extra for the knot. For more elaborate or triple knot fringe, cut the yarn about 3" to 4" extra.

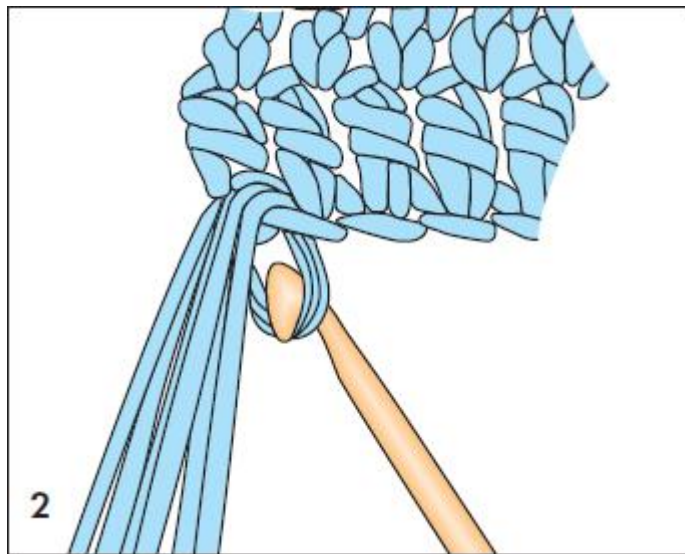
### **Single Knot Fringe**

This fringe is used most often on afghans. Usually four strands are the minimum used.

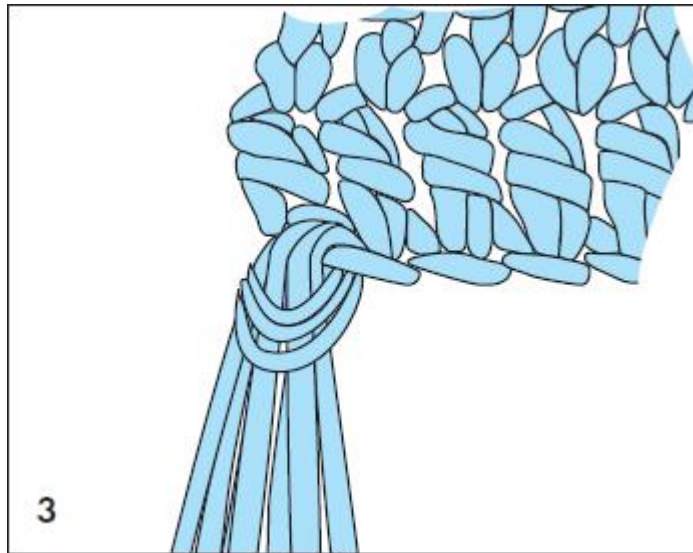
1. Hold the strands for one knot together and fold in half.



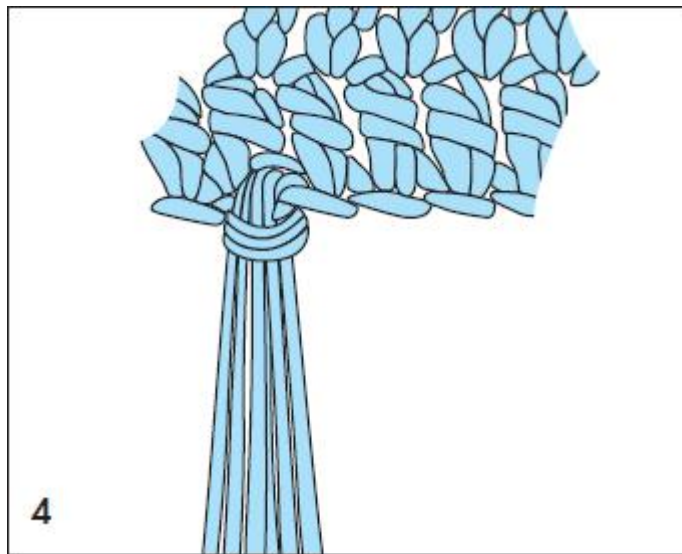
2. With right side facing you, use crochet hook to draw the folded ends through the space or stitch from right to wrong side.



3. Pull loose ends through folded section.

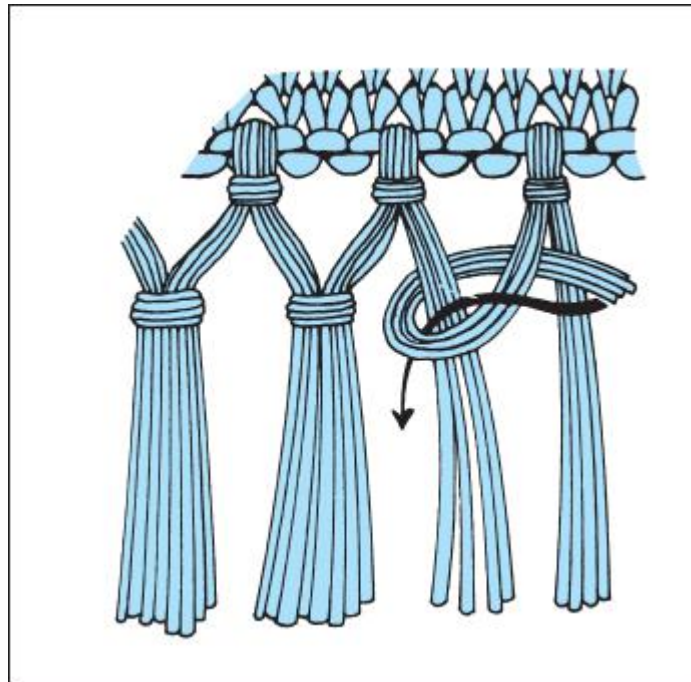


4. Draw knot up firmly.



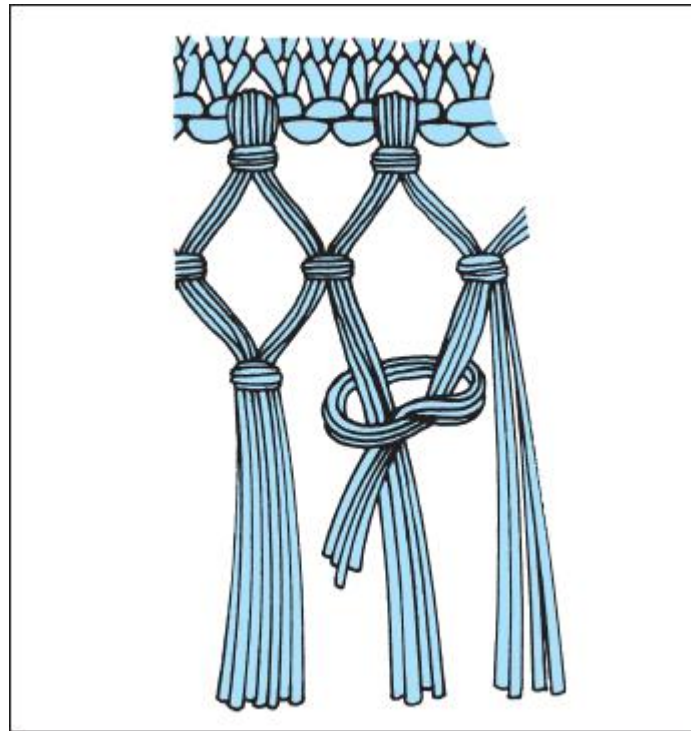
### **Double Knot Fringe**

Work row of single knot fringe. Then use half the strands from one knot and half the strands from next knot to tie a row of knots about 1½" below the first row.



### Triple Knot Fringe

Work a row of double knot fringe. Then add another row of knots.

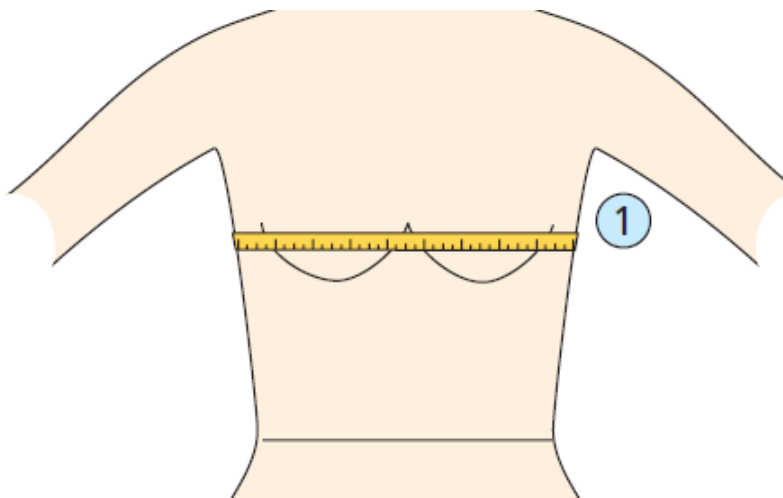


## Garment Sizing

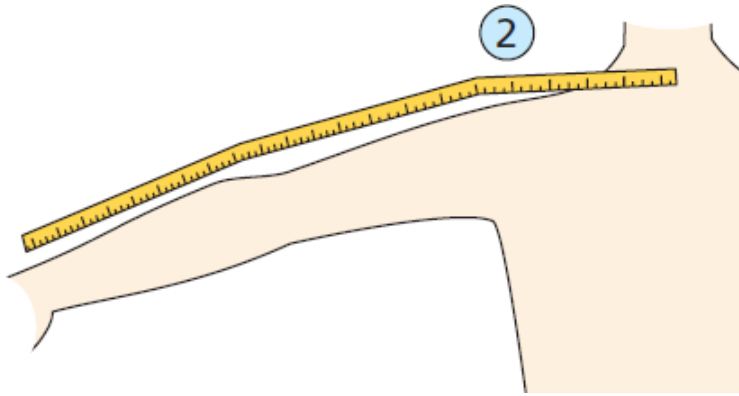
Although each crochet designer uses an individual method of garment sizing, there are some general guidelines that apply. To ensure that a garment will fit properly, always know the measurements of the person for whom the garment is intended, and check this against measurements given in the pattern.

### How to Measure

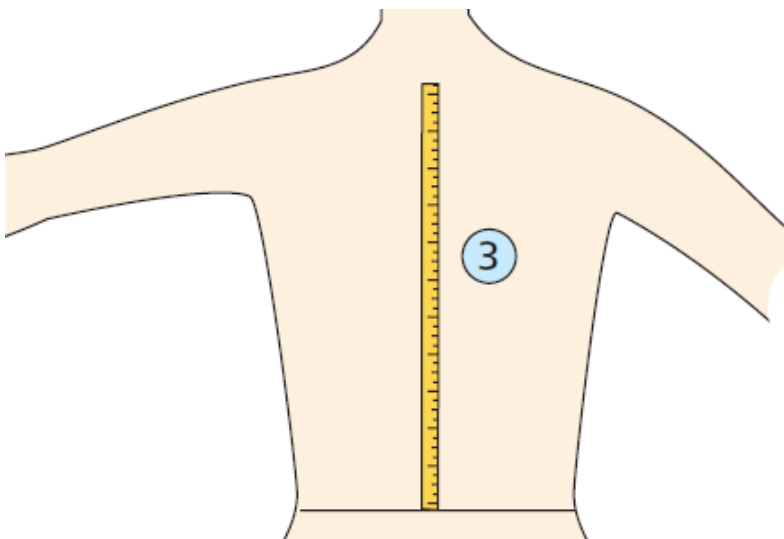
1. **Chest/bust:** Measure around fullest part of chest/ bust. Do not draw the tape too tightly.



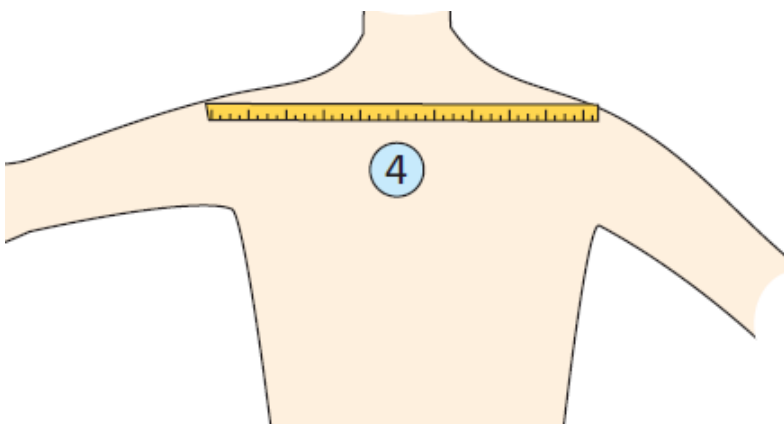
2. **Center back neck-to-cuff:** With arm slightly bent, measure from back base of neck across shoulder around bend of elbow to wrist.



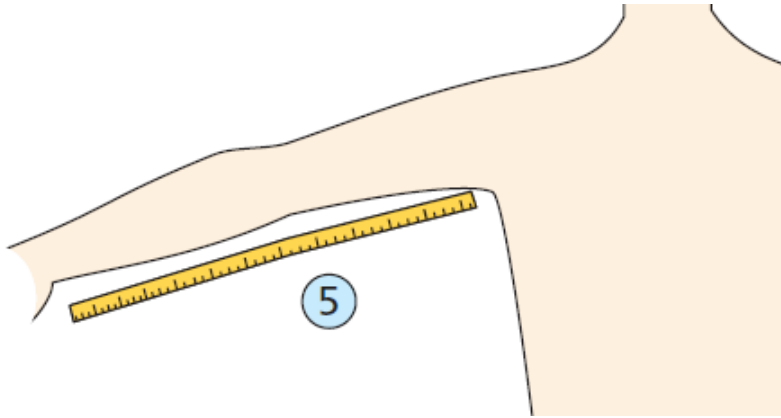
**3. Back waist length:** Measure from most prominent bone at base of neck to natural waistline.



**4. Cross back:** Measure from shoulder to shoulder.



**5. Sleeve length:** With arm slightly bent, measure from armpit to cuff.



**Head circumference:** 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.



**Sizing Charts** (Numbers 1–5 refer to the illustrations above.)



**Baby's size**   **3 months**   **6 months**   **12 months**   **18 months**   **24 months**

1. Chest	16" 40.5 cm	17" 43 cm	18" 45.5 cm	19" 48 cm	20" 50.5 cm
2. Center Back	10½" 26.5 cm	11½" 29 cm	12½" 31.5 cm	14" 35.5 cm	18" 45.5 cm
3. Back Waist Length	6" 15.5 cm	7" 17.5 cm	7½" 19 cm	8" 20.5 cm	8½" 21.5 cm
4. Cross Back	7¼" 18.5 cm	7¾" 19.5 cm	8¼" 21 cm	8½" 21.5 cm	8¾" 22 cm
5. Sleeve Length to underarm	6" 15.5 cm	6½" 16.5 cm	7½" 19 cm	8" 20.5 cm	8½" 21.5 cm

**Child's size**   **2**   **4**   **6**   **8**   **10**

1. Chest	21" 53.5 cm	23" 58.5 cm	25" 63.5 cm	26½" 67 cm	28" 71 cm
2. Center Back	18" 45.5 cm	19½" 49.5 cm	20½" 52 cm	22" 56 cm	24" 61 cm
3. Back Waist Length	8½" 21.5 cm	9½" 24 cm	10½" 26.5 cm	12½" 31.5 cm	14" 35.5 cm
4. Cross Back	9¼" 23.5 cm	9¾" 25 cm	10¼" 26 cm	10¾" 27 cm	11¼" 28.5 cm
5. Sleeve Length to underarm	8½" 21.5 cm	10½" 26.5 cm	11½" 29 cm	12½" 31.5 cm	13½" 34.5 cm
Waist	21" 53.5 cm	21½" 54.5 cm	22½" 57 cm	23½" 59.5 cm	24½" 62 cm
Hips	22" 56 cm	23½" 59.5 cm	25" 63.5 cm	28" 71 cm	29½" 75 cm

Youth's size	12	14	16
1. Chest	30" 76 cm	31 1/2" 80 cm	32 1/2" 82.5 cm
2. Center Back	26" 66 cm	27" 68.5 cm	28" 71 cm
3. Back Waist Length	15" 38 cm	15 1/2" 39.5 cm	16" 40.5 cm
4. Cross Back	12" 30.5 cm	12 1/4" 31 cm	13" 33 cm
5. Sleeve Length to underarm	15" 38 cm	16" 40.5 cm	16 1/2" 42 cm

Woman's size	X-Small	Small	Medium	Large
1. Bust	28"-30" 71-76 cm	32"-34" 81-86 cm	36"-38" 91.5-96.5 cm	40"-42" 101.5-106.5 cm
2. Center Back	27"-27 1/2" 68.5-70 cm	28"-28 1/2" 71-72.5 cm	29"-29 1/2" 73.5-75 cm	30"-30 1/2" 76-77.5 cm
3. Back Waist Length	16 1/2" 42 cm	17" 43 cm	17 1/4" 43.5 cm	17 1/2" 44.5 cm
4. Cross Back	14"-14 1/2" 35.5-37 cm	14 1/2"-15" 37-38 cm	16"-16 1/2" 40.5-42 cm	17"-17 1/2" 43-44.5 cm
5. Sleeve Length	16 1/2" 42 cm	17" 43 cm	17" 43 cm	17 1/2" 44.5 cm
Waist	23"-24" 58.5-61 cm	25"-26 1/2" 63.5-67.5 cm	28"-30" 71-76 cm	32"-34" 81.5-86.5 cm
Hips	33"-34" 83.5-86 cm	35"-36" 89-91.5 cm	38"-40" 96.5-101.5 cm	42"-44" 106.5-111.5 cm

	1X	2X	3X	4X	5X
1. Bust	44"-46" 111.5-117 cm	48"-50" 122-127 cm	52"-54" 132-137 cm	56"-58" 142-147 cm	60"-62" 152-158 cm
2. Center Back	31"-31½" 78.5-80 cm	31½"-32" 80-81.5 cm	32½"-33" 82.5-84 cm	32½"-33" 82-84 cm	33"-33½" 84-85 cm
3. Back Waist Length	17¾" 45 cm	18" 45.5 cm	18" 45.5 cm	18½" 47 cm	18½" 47 cm
4. Cross Back	17½" 44.5 cm	18" 45.5 cm	18" 45.5 cm	18½" 47 cm	18½" 47 cm
5. Sleeve Length	17½" 44.5 cm	18" 45.5 cm	18" 45.5 cm	18½" 47 cm	18½" 47 cm
Waist	36"-38" 91.5-96.5 cm	40"-42" 101.5-106.5 cm	44"-45" 111.5-114 cm	46"-47" 116.5-119 cm	49"-50" 124-127 cm
Hips	46"-48" 116.5-122 cm	52"-53" 132-134.5 cm	53"-55" 137-139.5 cm	56"-57" 142-144.5 cm	61"-62" 155-157 cm

<b>Man's size</b>	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	XX-Large
1. Chest	34"-36" 86-91.5 cm	38"-40" 96.5-101.5 cm	42"-44" 106.5-111.5 cm	46"-48" 116.5-122 cm	50"-52" 127-132 cm
2. Center Back	32"-32½" 81-82.5 cm	33"-33½" 83.5-85 cm	34"-34½" 86.5-87.5 cm	35"-35½" 89-90 cm	36"-36½" 91.5-92.5 cm
3. Back Hip Length	25"-25½" 63.5-64.5 cm	26½"-26¾" 67.5-68 cm	27"-27¼" 68.5-69 cm	27½"-27¾" 69.5-70.5 cm	28"-28½" 71-72.5 cm
4. Cross Back	15½"-16" 39.5-40.5 cm	16½"-17" 42-43 cm	17½"-18" 44.5-45.5 cm	18"-18½" 45.5-47 cm	18½"-19" 47-48 cm
5. Sleeve Length	18" 45.5 cm	18½" 47 cm	19½" 49.5 cm	20" 50.5 cm	20½" 52 cm
Waist	28"-30" 71-76 cm	32"-34" 81.5-86.5 cm	36"-38" 91.5-96.5 cm	42"-44" 106.5-112 cm	46"-48" 117-122 cm
Hips	35"-37" 89-94 cm	39"-41" 99-104 cm	43"-45" 109-114 cm	47"-49" 119-124.5 cm	51"-53" 129-134 cm

## Head sizes

	Infant/child				Adult	
	Preemie	Baby	Toddler	Child	Woman	Man
Circumference	12" 30.5 cm	14" 35.5 cm	16" 40.5 cm	18" 45.5 cm	20" 50.5 cm	22" 56 cm

## Fit

Patterns for sweaters usually give the actual chest/bust measurements plus ease (additional inches or centimeters). Here is the amount of ease recommended to add to body measurements if you prefer a close-fitting garment, an oversized garment, or something in-between.

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

**Close-fitting:** 1" to 2" (2.5 cm to 5 cm)

**Standard fitting:** 2" to 4" (5 cm to 10 cm)

**Loose-fitting:** 4" to 6" (10 cm to 15 cm)

**Oversized:** 6" (15 cm) or more

## Length

Here are the average lengths for children's and youth's, women's and men's garments. These are simply guidelines. For individual body differences, changes can be made in body and sleeve lengths when appropriate.

	Waist Length	Hip Length	Tunic Length
Child and Youth	Actual body measurement	2" (5 cm) down from waist	6" (15 cm) down from waist
Woman	Actual body measurement	6" (15 cm) down from waist	11" (28 cm) down from waist
Man	Man's length usually varies only 1"-2" (2.5 cm-5 cm) from the actual back hip-length measurement.		

## **Metrics**

The United States does not use the metric measurement system, in which units are multiplied or divided by 10. Instead, we measure length in inches and yards. For weight, metrics use grams while the United States uses ounces and pounds. Since most of the world does use metrics, you will find the system appearing often in patterns and on yarn labels.

## **Measuring Weight**

This abbreviation is used: gram (g). To convert, use the following measurement or see Standard Metric Equivalents: Weights chart below:

$$1 \text{ ounce} \times 28.35 = \text{grams (g)}$$

## **Standard Metric Equivalents: Weights**

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## **Measuring Length and Width**

These measurements are used in metrics: centimeter (cm), meter (m), millimeter (mm). To convert, use the following table or see the Standard Metric Equivalents: Lengths and Widths chart below:

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### **Standard Metric Equivalents: Lengths and Widths**

<b>inches</b>	<b>mm</b>	<b>cm</b>
1/8"	3.2 mm	0.32 cm
1/4"	6.35 mm	0.635 cm
3/8"	9.5 mm	0.95 cm
1/2"	12.7 mm	1.27 cm
5/8"	15.9 mm	1.59 cm
3/4"	19.1 mm	1.91 cm
7/8"	22.2 mm	2.22 cm
1"	25.4 mm	2.54 cm
2"	50.8 mm	5.08 cm
3"	76.2 mm	7.62 cm
4"	101.6 mm	10.16 cm
5"	127.0 mm	12.7 cm
6"	152.4 mm	15.24 cm
7"	177.8 mm	17.78 cm
8"	203.2 mm	20.32 cm
9"	228.6 mm	22.86 cm
10"	254 mm	25.40 cm
11"	279.4 mm	27.94 cm
12"	304.8 mm	30.48 cm



13"	330.2 mm	33.02 cm
14"	355.6 mm	35.56 cm
15"	381 mm	38.10 cm
16"	406.4 mm	40.64 cm
17"	431.8 mm	43.18 cm
18"	457.2 mm	45.72 mm
19"	482.6 mm	48.26 cm
20"	508 mm	50.8 cm
21"	533.4 mm	53.34 cm
22"	558.8 mm	55.88 cm
23"	584.2 mm	58.42 cm
24"	609.6 mm	60.96 cm
30"	762 mm	76.20 cm
36"	914.4 mm	91.44 cm
42"	1066.8 mm	106.68 cm
48"	1219.2 mm	121.92 cm
54"	1371.6 mm	137.16 cm
60"	1524 mm	152.40 cm

## **Sizes**

Most crochet patterns for projects such as afghans, tablecloths, and bedspreads will give the size of the finished project. There are times, however, when you may want to make projects a specific size. It is a good idea to measure your bed or table before deciding the size of your finished project.

### **Tablecloth Sizes**

Although at a formal dinner party the tablecloth is supposed to hang over the edge of the table by at least 15", an overhang of about 9" is probably much more in keeping with everyday style. You can measure the table and add 18" all around, or for an easier method of determining tablecloth size, consult the following table.

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**Afghan Sizes**

Afghans can be made in whatever size you wish.  
Here are some standard sizes which you can adapt  
to your own personal needs.

Receiving blanket: 30" x 30"

Baby afghan: 36" x 36"

Toddler afghan: 36" x 40"

Child afghan: 40" x 42"

Lapghan (good for use with wheelchairs): 36" x 46"  
or 40" x 40"

Adult afghan: 48" x 60", 50" x 65", or 50" x 70"

Throw: 42" x 48" or 45" x 45"

### **Bedsread Sizes**

Before making a bedspread, measure the size of the mattress. Here are standard mattress sizes that will help in your planning:

Crib: 28" x 52"

Twin: 39" by 75"

Full: 54" x 75"

Queen: 60" x 80"

Standard King: 76" x 80"

Decide how much overhang you want on the sides and end. You will need to measure the thickness of the mattress. Standard mattresses measure about 12" thick, but the new luxury or pillow tops can measure up to 16". For length, decide if you want the bedspread to cover the pillows, and if so, how much tuck-in will be needed. If you plan to add fringe or a wide crocheted border, take that in consideration. If you are using a bed skirt, the bedspread should fall at least over the top of the skirt.

If you are planning to use square motifs, consider their size. Squares that are 12" can be a bit limiting, but 6" squares may require a lot of joining. Squares 8" or 10" are the most versatile.

## Skill Levels

Yarn manufacturers, publishers, and needle and hook manufacturers have worked together to set up a series of guidelines and symbols to bring uniformity to patterns. Before beginning a project, check to see if your skill level is equal to the one listed for the project.



### **Beginner**

Projects for first-time crocheters using basic stitches and minimal shaping.



### **Easy**

Projects using yarn with basic stitches, repetitive stitch patterns, simple color changes, and simple shaping and finishing.



### **Intermediate**

Projects using a variety of techniques, such as basic lace patterns or color patterns, and mid-level shaping and finishing.










### **Experienced**

Projects with intricate stitch patterns, techniques, and dimension, such as nonrepeating patterns, multicolor techniques, fine threads, small hooks, detailed shaping, and refined finishing.

## Standard Yarn Weights

To make it easier for yarn manufacturers, publishers, and designers to prepare consumer-friendly products and for consumers to select the right materials for a project, the following standard yarn weight system has been adopted.

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
Crochet Gauge* Ranges in Single Crochet to 4 inches	32–42 sts* double crochet	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** 1.6–1.4 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 in U.S. Size Range	Steel** 6, 7, 8 Regular: 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

\*Lace-weight yarns are usually crocheted on larger hooks to create lacy, openwork patterns. Accordingly, a gauge range is difficult to determine. Always follow the gauge stated in your pattern.

\*\*Steel crochet hooks are sized differently from regular hooks—the higher the number, the smaller the hook, which is the reverse of regular hook sizing.



## Symbols

These are standard symbols used in crochet patterns:

\* An asterisk (or double asterisks\*\*) in a pattern row indicates a portion of instructions to be used more than once. For instance, “rep from \* three times” means that after working the instructions once, you must work the instructions after the asterisk again three times for a total of four times in all.

† A dagger (or double daggers ††) indicates that those instructions will be repeated again later in the same row or round.

: The number of stitches after a colon tells you the number of stitches you will have when you have completed the row or round.

( ) Parentheses enclose instructions which are to be worked the number of times following the parentheses. For instance, “(ch 1, sc, ch 1) 3 times” means that you will chain one, work one

single crochet, and then chain again three times for a total of six chains and three single crochets.






















Parentheses often set off or clarify a group of stitches to be worked into the same space or stitch. For instance, “(dc, ch 2, dc) in corner space.”

[ ] Brackets and ( ) parentheses are also used to give additional information.

## Symbol Crochet

We believe that using symbols rather than written instructions was started in Japan. It was probably used as early as the 1920s but became widely used in foreign publications after 1960. Although it is not used often in the United States, there is now a concentrated effort by publishers to make the use of symbols more prevalent.

Here are some of the most common crochet symbols:

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

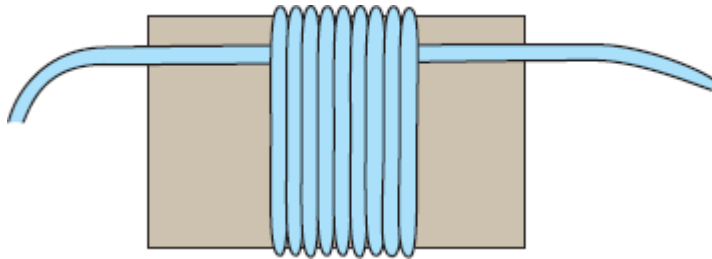
\*Both symbols are commonly used for single crochet.

\*\*Symbol appears at base of stitch being worked.

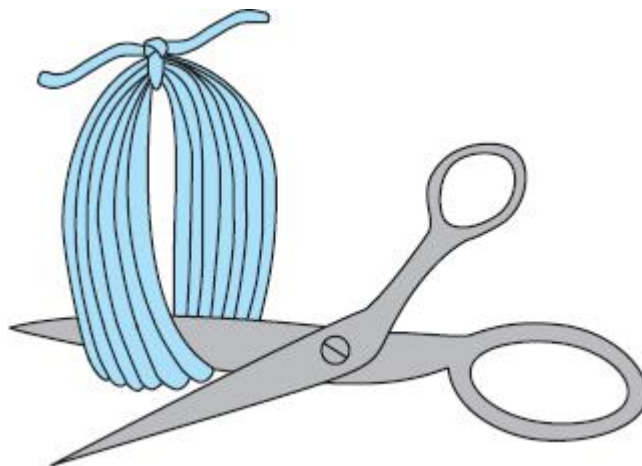
## Tassels

Decide how long the desired tassel is going to be; cut a piece of cardboard to use as a guide that is  $\frac{1}{2}$ " longer than desired length.

For tie, place a 12" piece of yarn across the top of the guide. Wind the yarn around the guide and over the tie. Keep winding until tassel is desired thickness.



Draw the tie up tightly and knot it. Cut the yarn at the bottom of the guide and slide the yarn off the guide.



Cut another 12" yarn strip and wrap it tightly about an inch below top of tassel. Wrap several times and tie a secure knot. Trim the ends of the strip and bottom of the tassel.



## Yarn Labels

Information on most yarn labels is presented in symbols across the yarn band.

Here are some of the most popular symbols:

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Also by Jean Leinhauser and Rita Weiss



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