

HOW TO CROCHET

A COMPLETE BEGINNERS
GUIDE WITH STEP BY STEP
INSTRUCTIONS WITH PICTURES

VOL.1



Beatrice Crimbleton

How to Crochet Vol. 1

(Beginners Guide)

*Crochet Is
Everywhere
Head to Toe
Young to Old*



This book is highly recommended for those who are interested in learning, applying and making a profit with their spare time and effort. Crochet is a form of craftsmanship that enhances your creativity, gives a feeling of accomplishment, and makes your spare time productive. This book is a complete guideline to learn the art of crocheting with attractive images and simple instructions.

So, what are you waiting for? Just grab it and enjoy!

Introduction



I want to thank you and congratulate you for downloading the book, “How to Crochet Vol. 1”.

This book contains proven steps and strategies on how to crochet.

Maybe you do not know, but crochet has been one of the most sophisticated forms of craftsmanship and artwork for hundreds of years, all over the world. If you are here to learn how to crochet, you must also learn to treat yourself as a real artist. And the interesting thing is that anyone can learn to crochet very easily and comfortably in their spare time. This means that you can do it at anytime you choose. You can make it your hobby, as well as a good profession.

In the following book, you will learn what crochet is, how to perform it, numerous designs you can apply, how to follow and create new fashion, and how to earn money through crocheting. You will even learn how to expand your little, tiny crochet business into a giant company!

So, take the journey with us and enjoy!

Thanks again for downloading this book, I hope you enjoy it!

Why I Wrote This Book



I wrote this book because I believe I am a good friend of people who want to make their free time productive, meaningful and enjoyable. I like fueling your creativity in many delicate ways. Crochet allows you to develop your talent and interest in the most interesting way. To make things even easier, I assert the simplest ways and methods to learn how to crochet. Hopefully, you will enjoy it very much. This book will provide you with step by step instructions and images which allow you to easily learn the crochet techniques.

Why You Should Read This Book



This book will help you to not only find a great hobby, but make money as well (if you are interested). A hobby or passion can be a profession if you give it enough time every day. If you give a little effort each day for crocheting, you can be a winner. On the other hand, if you have a good amount of money in your pocket already any you just want to spend time alone or with family, you can enjoy crochet as a hobby. Your creativity, fashionable trendy taste, designing sense and a little dedication can make you Crochet Master. In this book, you will find many simple and easy tips to learn how to crochet. I have given pictorial descriptions of the methods of learning crochet to better help you understand the technique. I have also included several images and tips for making fashionable dresses and other accessories so that you can learn it, apply it and make many things easily.

So, learn crochet by reading this book. Accomplish your magnificent creativity. It's fun to give your own handmade little gifts to your friends, family, and other loved ones. Turn your creativity and passion into a little business...turn your fun into a dream!

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Chapter 1

What is Crochet?



CROCHET

Crochet is a form of art and craft used for creating fabric from yarn, thread, or other material strands using a crochet hook. There are several materials such as metals, woods, or plastic that can be used to make the hook. The materials can be commercially manufactured. Though similar, crocheting and knitting are not same. Crochet differs from knitting in that only one stitch is active at one time, stitches are made with the same diameter of yarn and are comparably taller, and a single crochet hook is used instead of two knitting needles. Moreover, crochet has its own system of symbols to represent stitch types.

ELEMENTS THAT ARE REQUIRED TO START LEARNING

There are mainly two materials for crochet: a hook and material. Other tools are convenient for keeping stitches counted, measuring crocheted fabric, or making related accessories, such as a pom-pom circle, used to make pom-poms.

HOOKS



The crochet hook may be made from bone, bamboo, plastic, steel or even aluminum. Because sizing is categorized by the diameter of the hook's shaft, a crafter aims to create stitches of a certain size in order to reach a particular gauge specified in a given pattern.

Usually, steel crochet hooks range in size from 0.4 to 3.5 millimeters. The American size is from 00 to 16. These hooks are used for fine crochet work, such as doilies and lace.

Artisan-made hooks are often made of hand-turned woods, sometimes decorated with semi-precious stones or beads.

A hairpin loom is often used to create lacey and long stitches, known as hairpin lace. While this is not in itself a hook, it is a device used in conjunction with a crochet hook to produce stitches.

For specific reasons, you should keep in mind the classifications and sizes of hook.

- ***Diagram of a crochet hook***



There are two classification of a hook:

1. Yarn hooks
2. Steel hooks; also called a thread hook

Yarn Hooks



Yarn hooks are used only with yarn. They are produced with man-made materials such as aluminum, plastic and acrylic, and natural materials such as bamboo, abalone, bone and hardwoods (birch, maple, rosewood and ebony). As a beginner, aluminum hooks will be the most comfortable for you. Aluminum hooks are easy to hold, inexpensive, durable, and easily available.

The sizes of yarn crochet hooks are listed from the smallest, which is used with thinner yarns, to the largest, which is used with thicker yarns. Hooks are sized by letters of the alphabet, except for the size 7 in the United States. The number is next to the letter that is the equivalent knitting needle

size. For most sizes, you'll find the size of the hook stamped on the grip. Please refer to the following chart:

| yarn crochet hooks | | | | | |
|--------------------|--------|-------|---------|------|---------|
| U.S. | Metric | U.S. | Metric | U.S. | Metric |
| B/1 | 2.25mm | H/8 | 5.00mm | P/16 | 12.00mm |
| C/2 | 2.75mm | I/9 | 5.50mm | | |
| D/3 | 3.25mm | J/10 | 6.00mm | | |
| E/4 | 3.50mm | K/10½ | 6.50mm | | |
| F/5 | 3.75mm | L/11 | 8.00mm | | |
| G/6 | 4.00mm | M/13 | 9.00mm | | |
| 7 | 4.50mm | N/15 | 10.00mm | | |

Steel Hook



You can use steel crochet hooks when you crochet with cotton and linen. They are specifically designed to be used with these materials. These hooks are always listed from the largest, which is used with thicker threads, to the smallest that is used with finer threads. In this case, you should remember

the lower the number, the larger the hook. For this type of hook, the size can always be found on the grip.

| steel crochet hooks | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------|------|--------|------|--------|
| U.S. | Metric | U.S. | Metric | U.S. | Metric |
| 00 | 3.50mm | 5 | 1.90mm | 11 | 1.10mm |
| 0 | 3.25mm | 6 | 1.80mm | 12 | 1.00mm |
| 1 | 2.75mm | 7 | 1.65mm | 13 | .85mm |
| 2 | 2.25mm | 8 | 1.50mm | 14 | .75mm |
| 3 | 2.10mm | 9 | 1.40mm | | |
| 4 | 2.00mm | 10 | 1.30mm | | |

:

YARN



Yarn is another element of crochet. Yarn is made from many different fibers - animal, plant and vegetable. Wool, mohair, angora, silk, cashmere, llama, and alpaca are made of mostly protein and animal fibers. Cotton, linen and ramie are vegetable fibers. Synthetic (man-made) fibers include acrylic, nylon, polyester, metallic and microfibers.

Qualities of yarns vary. Some are good, some are bad. In order to ensure the qualities, manufacturers blend different types of yarns. When you begin to learn how to crochet, you first need to learn about yarn. Choosing the correct selection of yarn is very important for your product or art work. Please see the list of yarns below.








- **Wool:** Wool is made from the fleece of sheep. It may be called the queen of yarns. It is very popular for its quality and warmth. There are different kinds of wool:
 - **Lamb's wool:** It comes from a young lamb's first shearing.
 - **Merino wool:** Merino wool can be considered the finest of all wool.
 - **Pure new wool:** It is called virgin wool. Wool that's made directly from animal fleece and not recycled from existing wool garments.
 - **Shetland wool:** Shetland wool comes from the Shetland Islands. It is a small village in Scotland. This wool is made from the small and hardy native sheep.
 - **Icelandic wool:** This wool is a rustic, soft yarn.
 - **Washable wool:** This kind of wool is treated chemically or electronically to destroy the outer fuzzy layer of fibers.
- **Fleece:** Fleece can be different. Mohair and cashmere come from Angora and Kashmir goats. Angora comes from the hair of Angora rabbits.
- **Silk, cotton, linen, and rayon:** Kind of slippery, smooth, and often shiny yarns.
- **Synthetic:** Nylon, acrylic, and polyester are called synthetic because they are man-made.

● Novelty: Novelty yarns are easy to recognize because their appearance is so different from traditional yarns. They are as follows:

- Ribbon: A knitted ribbon in rayon or a rayon blend.
- Bouclé: This highly bumpy, textured yarn is composed of loops.
- Chenille: Although tricky to crochet with, this yarn has an attractive appearance and velvety texture.
- Thick-thin: Alternates between very thick and thin sections, which lend a bumpy look to crocheted fabric.
- Railroad ribbon: Has tiny “tracks” of fiber strung between two parallel strands of thread.
- Faux fur: Fluffy fiber strands on a strong base thread of nylon resemble faux fur when crocheted.

YARN WEIGHTS

Yarns are basically classified by their weight or thickness, no matter what fibers the yarns are made from. They range from the thinnest to the thickest. The thinnest are the highest quality of yarns. Each weight yarn has a recommended crochet hook size, and a range of how many single crochet stitches you will get to the inch when you crochet using that size hook. This is called the gauge, and it will be discussed in detail starting on page 40. The basic rule of thumb is that the finer the yarn, the smaller the hook size; and the bulkier the yarn, the larger the hook size. Sometimes there are exceptions to the rule. There are lace patterns that call for a fine yarn and large hook to achieve a light and airy fabric. The chart below will help you familiarize yourself with what size hook to use with what weight yarn. This chart will always come in handy when choosing the right yarns and hooks for your projects.

| Yarn Weight Symbol & Category Names |  0 |  1 |  2 |  3 |  4 |  5 |  6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| Type of Yarns in Category | Fingering 10 count crochet thread | Sock, Fingering, Baby | Sport, Baby | DK, Light Worsted | Worsted, Afghan, Aran | Chunky, Craft, Rug | Bulky, Roving |
| Knit Gauge Range* in Stockinette Stitch to 4 inches | 33–40** sts | 27–32 sts | 23–26 sts | 21–24 sts | 16–20 sts | 12–15 sts | 6–11 sts |
| Recommended Needle in Metric Size Range | 1.5–2.25 mm | 2.25–3.25 mm | 3.25–3.75 mm | 3.75–4.5 mm | 4.5–5.5 mm | 5.5–8 mm | 8 mm and larger |
| Recommended Needle U.S. Size Range | 000 to 1 | 1 to 3 | 3 to 5 | 5 to 7 | 7 to 9 | 9 to 11 | 11 and larger |
| Crochet Gauge* Ranges in Single | 32-42 double | 21-32 sts | 16-20 sts | 12-17 sts | 11-14 sts | 8-11 sts | 5-9 sts |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Crochet to 4 inch | crochets** | | | | | | |
| Recommended Hook in Metric Size Range | Steel*** 1.6–1.4mm Regular hook 2.25 mm | 2.25–3.5 mm | 3.5–4.5 mm | 4.5–5.5 mm | 5.5–6.5 mm | 6.5–9 mm | 9 mm and larger |
| Recommended Hook U.S. Size Range | Steel*** 6, 7, 8 Regular hook B-1 | B-1 to E-4 | E-4 to 7 | 7 to I-9 | I-9 to K-10½ | K-10½ to M-13 | M-13 and larger |

Chapter 2

The Process



The process of crocheting is not as difficult as you may think. However, you have to practice and understand the methodology first. Doing crochet is a sophisticated way to learn art, and you have to be careful and patient when you start. We will do it step by step.

Step 1: Hold your hook correctly

There are two ways to hold a crochet hook.

The recommended way is to grip it like a knife. Put the hook in your hand so that your thumb remains flat on the front of the grip, and your index finger remains flat on the back of the grip. Keep the hook tip and throat facing you. Secure the handle by wrapping your remaining fingers around it. It should feel comfortable in your hand. Practice the hold by putting the hook down, then picking it up again, positioning the hook as described, until it feels like second nature to you. Here is the way to hold the hook.



The second way is like holding a pen. Actually, the choice is yours to hold a hook according to your comfort. It was discovered recently that holding the hook like a pencil may cause carpal tunnel syndrome; that's why it's best to go with the knife hold. Below is a model of the pen holding style.

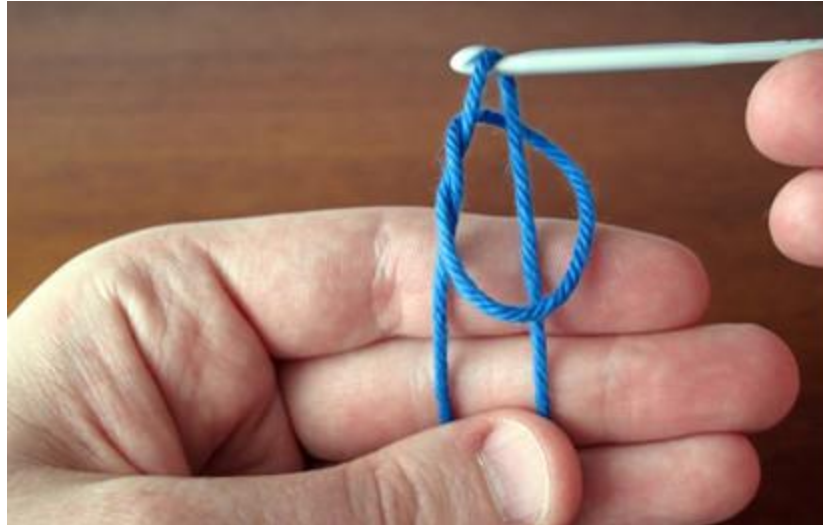


Step 2: Make a Sleep Knot

The slip knot is a way of tying the end of the yarn to create a loop. It must be adjusted to fit the size of the crochet hook. This important little loop anchors the yarn to the hook so one can make a chain and then crochet stitches making a slip knot.

- 1.** First, reel off about a yard (or a meter) of yarn from the ball. Hold the yarn in your palm, with your thumb about 6" or 15cm from the end. Then use yarn that is coming from the ball, wrap the yarn twice around your index and middle fingers.
- 2.** In order to form a new loop, pull the strand coming from the ball through the loop between your two fingers.

3. Place this new loop on the hook. Firm up the knot by pulling on the free end of the yarn. Now, adjust the size of the loop by pulling on the yarn coming from the ball until it fits the hook, but slides easily on the shaft.



Step 3: Holding The Yarn

It is time to learn how to hold the yarn in conjunction with holding the crochet hook before you make your first chain. The hardest thing to remember is to relax and breathe! The tighter you hold the yarn and hook, the harder it will be to work. You may have to do it again and again because you may fail the first time. So, don't get frustrated. Soon it will become more comfortable to you—with a little practice.



1. Hold the hook, with the slip knot attached, in your hand, making sure the free end of the yarn is hanging down. Now, hold the yarn coming from the ball in your other hand, so the yarn goes halfway around your index finger (about 1½" (4cm) from the base of the slip knot), then anchor the yarn with your pinky.
2. Secure the free end that's hanging down by holding the base of the slip knot between your thumb and middle finger. Now you're ready to make a chain!

Chapter 3

Different Crochet Pattern: Basic Level



There are many patterns or stitches of crochet you will see. Best of all, you will learn them very easily.

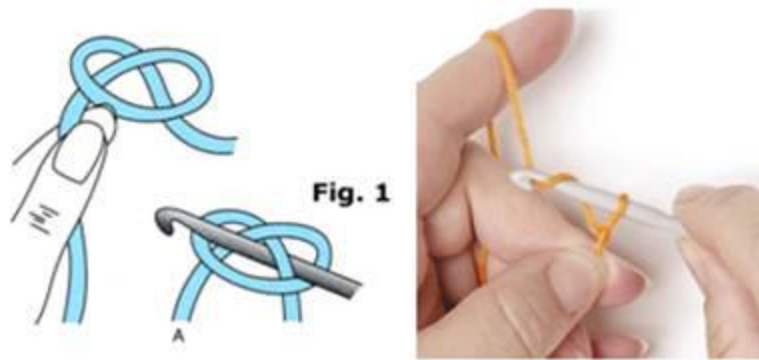
Foundation Chain

The foundation chain is the base pattern for making all the crochet stitches. You'll be learning how to do this stitch first. It is simply a series of loops, which are called chain stitches. They are all linked together. It's in these chain stitches that you will make the crochet stitches. Your arms should stay comfortably at your sides, allowing your wrists to do most of the actions when you work. For each chain stitch, you'll use about 1" (2.5cm) worth of yarn, so let the yarn coming from the ball slide smoothly from under your pinkie and over your index finger every time you make a stitch. Don't forget that your index finger should always be about ½" (4cm) from the tip of the

crochet hook. Every time you've made four or five chain stitches, move your thumb and middle finger up and re-secure the foundation chain by holding the last chain stitch made between these two fingers. Remember that your thumb and middle finger should never be more than ½" (4cm) from the tip of the crochet hook.

Stay relaxed and don't sweat it! If you make a mistake, simply start over by making a foundation chain.

We have to keep in mind a few important things so that we can make the foundation chain:



1. To make each chain stitch, you need to wrap the yarn over the hook, from the back to the front. To do this, keep your index finger straight and twist your wrist toward you. At the same time, twist your other wrist away from you to bring the yarn in front of the hook. Now, twist both wrists back to their original positions. The yarn will now be caught under the hook. This is called a yarn over.

2. To draw the yarn through the loop on the hook, first twist your wrist toward you so the hook is facing down. Now, pull the yarn through the loop, and then twist your wrist back to its original position so the hook is facing you again. You have now made one chain stitch.



3. You might have to adjust the size of the loop on the hook so it slides easily and slightly loosely along the shaft. To make it larger, use the hook to pull up on the loop while allowing the extra yarn needed to feed off your index finger. To make it smaller, use your index finger to pull on the yarn until the loop is the right size. Continue to make chain stitches, adjusting the loop on the hook as you go so all the chain stitches are the same size.

Basic Stitches

The hardest part is getting started, but if you can start successfully, then it will be very easy for you. The rest will be smooth crocheting. You'll be ready to move onto more complicated stitches before you know it.

The first row of any crochet stitch is the hardest. This is because you don't have a lot to hold on to, so it's always going to feel a bit clumsy. Take it slow. Keep in mind that once you've completed the first row, the rest will go much easier. Now, we will introduce you to the basic stitches, otherwise known as single stitches.

Single Crochet

To begin your first row of single crochet, make a foundation chain that has eleven chain stitches. Hold the yarn and crochet hook as before. Now, hold the foundation chain so the top is facing you and your thumb and middle finger are holding the 3rd chain stitch from the hook. For the easiest maneuvering to go into a chain stitch, slide your thumb from the grip up to the throat of the hook, then anchor the loop on the hook with your thumb.

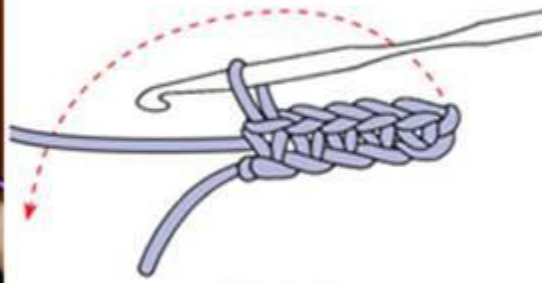
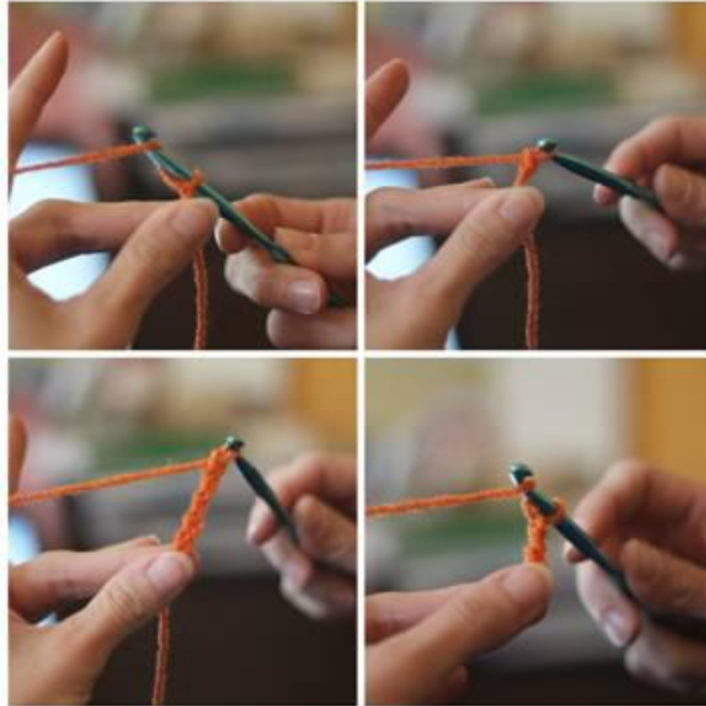


Illustration 22a

1. Insert the hook under both the front and back loops of the 2nd chain from the hook (you can also use your other thumb to help it along). Wrap the yarn over the hook from the back to the front (this is called a yarn over), then catch it with the hook. Now, draw the hook through the two chain stitch loops. You now have two loops on the hook.
2. Wrap the yarn over the hook from the back to the front (yarn over), then draw the yarn over through both loops on the hook.
3. You have now completed one single crochet stitch. Continue to repeat Steps 1 and 2 nine more times, inserting the hook into each chain stitch across. You now have ten single crochet stitches completed across the row.
4. To proceed to the next row, make one chain stitch (this is the turning chain), then turn the piece from the right to the left; this step is called chain and turn. Remember that one chain stitch equals the height of the single crochet stitch, and that you will always turn the piece from the right to the left. To begin the next row, insert the hook under both the front and back loops of the first stitch (skipping the one turning chain stitch). Continue to repeat the steps until you have completed ten rows of single crochet.

Fastening Off



When you have completed the number of rows called for, or have achieved the length measurement stated in a direction, you need to secure the last stitch so the rest of the stitches don't come undone or unravel. This is called fastening off.

Simply cut the yarn coming from the ball about 12" (30.5cm) from the loop on the hook. Bring the yarn over the hook, and then draw the yarn end (called a tail) all the way through the loop on the hook. Pull the tail to tighten and secure the last stitch.



Half Double Crochet

Now you're ready to go on to a more complex stitch. To begin your first row of half double crochet, make a foundation chain that has twelve chain

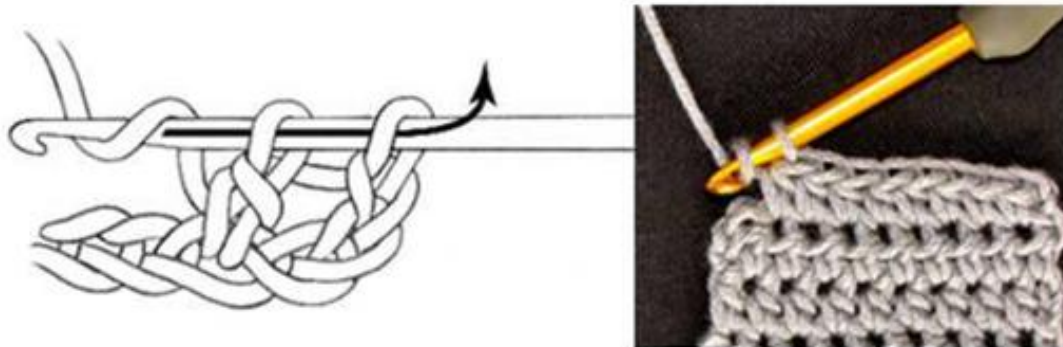
stitches.



1. Hold the yarn and the crochet hook as before, but for this stitch, hold the foundation chain at the 4th chain stitch from the hook. Yarn over the hook, from the back to the front. Insert the hook under both the front and back loops of the 3rd chain stitch from the hook. Yarn over the front of the hook, and then catch the yarn with the hook. Now, draw the hook through the two chain stitch loops. You now have three loops on the hook.
2. Yarn over the hook from the back to the front. Draw the hook through all three loops on the hook.
3. You have now completed a one half double crochet stitch. Continue to repeat Steps 1 and 2, nine more times. You now have ten half double crochet stitches completed across the row. To proceed to the next row, make two chain stitches for the turning chain, then turn. Remember that two chain stitches equal the height of the half double crochet. To begin the next row, insert the hook under both the front and back loops of the first stitch (skipping the turning chain stitches). Continue to repeat the steps until you have completed ten rows of half double crochet.

Double Crochet

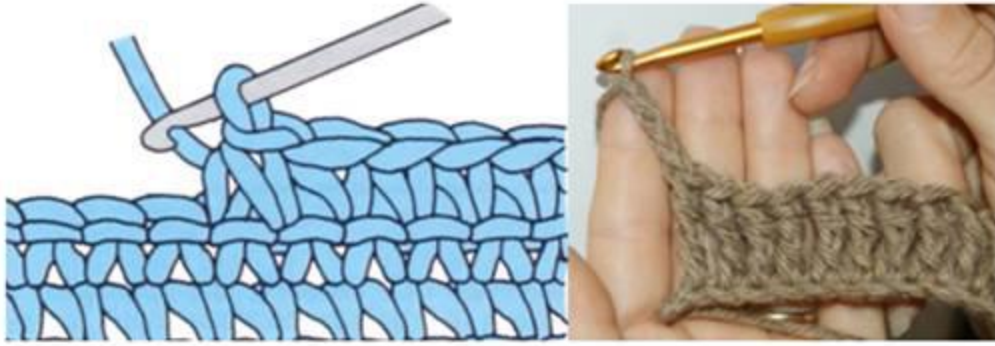
The double crochet has one more step in order to complete the stitch than a half double crochet—and that's how the half double crochet got its name. To begin your first row of double crochet, make a foundation chain that has thirteen chain stitches.



1. Hold the yarn and the crochet hook as before, but for this stitch, hold the foundation chain at the 5th chain stitch from the hook. Yarn over the hook from the back to the front. Insert the hook under both the front and back loops of the 4th chain stitch from the hook.
2. Yarn over the front of the hook and catch the yarn. Now, draw the hook through the two chain stitch loops. You now have three loops on the hook.
3. Yarn over the hook from the back to the front. Draw the hook through the first two loops on the hook. You now have two loops remaining on the hook. Yarn over the hook from the back to the front. Draw the hook through both the loops on the hook.
4. You have now completed one double crochet stitch. Continue to repeat Steps 1–3, nine more times. You now have ten double crochet stitches completed across the row. To proceed to the next row, make three chain stitches, then turn. Remember that three chain stitches equal the height of the double crochet. Continue to repeat the steps until you have completed ten rows of double crochet. Fasten off.

Treble Crochet

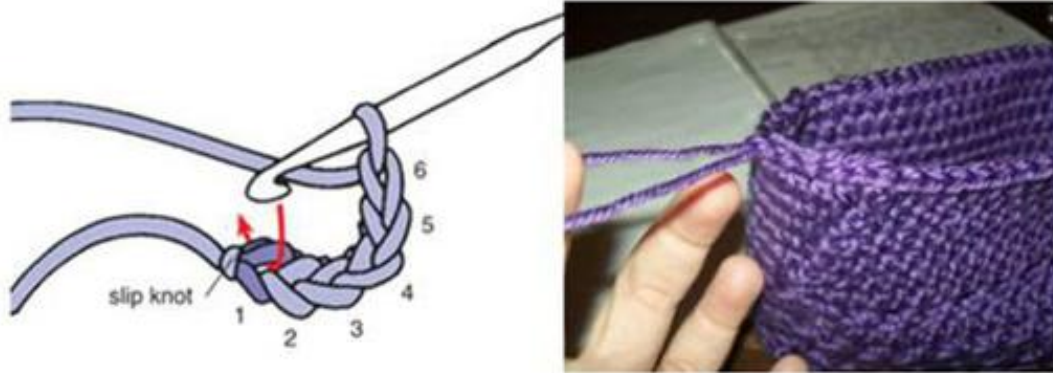
The treble crochet has one more step to do in order to complete the stitch than a double crochet. Now that you have three crochet stitches under your belt, it's time to follow slightly abbreviated directions to begin to prepare you for reading project directions. To begin your first row of treble crochet, make a foundation chain that has fourteen chain stitches.



1. Hold the foundation chain at the 6th chain stitch from the hook. Yarn over the hook two times. Insert the hook under the front and back loops of the 5th chain stitch from the hook. Yarn over and draw the hook through. You now have four loops on the hook.
2. Yarn over the hook and draw through the first two loops on the hook. You now have three loops on the hook. Yarn over the hook and draw through the next two loops on the hook. You now have two loops on the hook. Yarn over and draw through both the loops on the hook.
3. You have now completed one treble crochet. Continue to repeat Steps 1 and 2, nine more times. You now have ten treble crochet stitches completed across the row. To proceed to the next row, make four chain stitches and turn. The four chain stitches equal the height of the treble crochet. Continue to repeat the steps until you have completed ten rows. Fasten off.

Slip Stitch

The slip stitch is an odd little stitch that's shorter than a single crochet, and is more utilitarian than decorative. It's used for anchoring chain stitches, shaping pieces, making drawstring cords, joining circles (called rounds) when crocheting in the round, securing seams together, finishing edges, and more. Although it is used in some pattern stitches, it is never worked in multiple rows all on its own. To practice making slip stitches, make a foundation chain that has eleven chain stitches.



1. Insert the hook under both loops of the 2nd chain from the hook. Yarn over the hook and draw through the chain stitch and then the loop on the hook in one movement. One slip stitch is completed.
2. Continue to work one slip stitch in each remaining chain across. See what a nice drawstring or tie a single row of slip stitches makes.

Tip: It's almost impossible not to get interrupted when making a chain and counting chain stitches. To prevent making an error, write down the number of chain stitches you have to make on a sheet of paper. Chain stitch in increments of ten, making a check mark on the paper for every ten chain stitches. Continue in this manner until you have reached the number required.

Loop-de-Loop

You can create new pattern stitches using the same basic stitches you've already learned by simply changing what loops you crochet into. As you explore more advanced pattern stitches, you will find some that tell you to work into a specific loop. Give them a try and practice these versatile and important techniques.

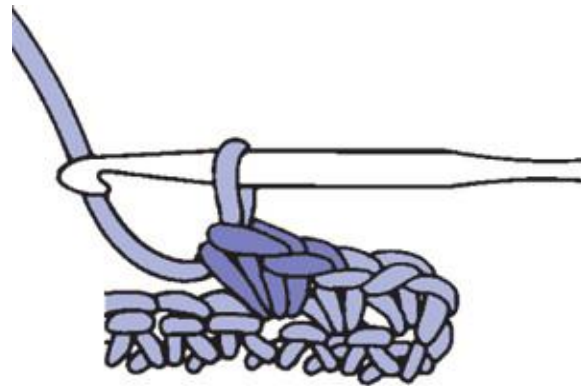


Single and Half Double Crochet Ribbing

For a ribbed pattern, crochet every row by working into the back loops only. Although you can work in any basic stitch, it looks best in single crochet (shown here) and half double crochet. This pattern stitch has a lot of stretchiness to it, making it the perfect choice for a neckband, collar or cuff. Half double crochet worked in front loops and back loops to make a pattern stitch with subtle horizontal lines, alternate working into the back loops of one row, then into the front loops of the following row. Half double crochet is shown here, but you can use this technique for any pattern stitch with equally nice results. Half double crochet worked in front loops and back loops across row create a rich crocheted fabric when you alternate working into the front loop, then the back loop across the same row. This pattern stitch looks best when worked in either single crochet or half double crochet (shown here).

Increasing

Learning how to increase and decrease gives you the key that unlocks the door to all sorts of wonderful pattern stitches and shaping of garment pieces. Although your first projects should be straight and narrow scarves—so you can practice chaining and turning, and making stitches uniform in size—you’ll soon have the itch to advance to something a little more challenging. When you’ve mastered increasing and decreasing, you’ll have the know-how to flex your creative muscles!



single crochet increase

This increase is nothing more than working two (or sometimes more) stitches into one stitch. When a direction states “increase one stitch,” this is the increase you’ll want to use. Let’s say you are making a sleeve, and need to increase one stitch at each side edge. Simply work two stitches in the first stitch and two stitches in the last stitch—one stitch increased each side.

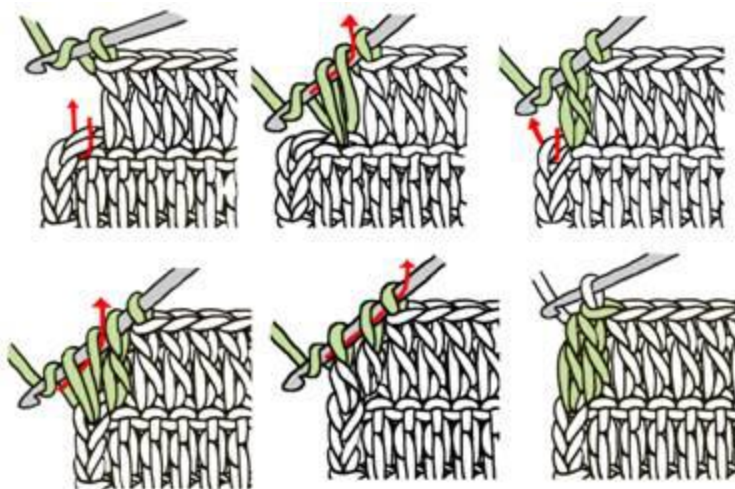
1. Use this increase when you need to increase two or more stitches at the beginning of a row. Make as many chain stitches as stitches needed to be increased, then chain for the height of the stitch you are working in. Here, three stitches are going to be increased at the beginning of a single crochet row, so chain three for the increase and chain one for the height of the single crochet stitch—four chain stitches in total.
2. Work one single crochet in the 2nd chain from the hook, then work one single crochet in each of the next two chain stitches—three single crochet stitches made. Continue to work across the rest of the row.



- Use this increase when you need to increase two or more stitches at the end of a row. Here, the example is worked in single crochet, but you can do it in any basic stitch. To make the first increase stitch, insert the hook under the left vertical strand of the last single crochet stitch. Yarn over and draw up a loop. Yarn over and draw through both loops on the hook to complete the new single crochet stitch.

- To make the next and all following increase stitches, insert the hook under the left vertical strand of the last single crochet stitch made. Yarn over and draw up a loop. Yarn over and draw through both loops on the hook to complete the new single crochet stitch.

Decreasing



Decreasing is a method of reducing the number of stitches (usually one or two at a time) to narrow a piece of crochet. This technique is useful for all kinds of shaping such as tapering an edge to create an armhole.

Decreasing One Stitch Within The Row

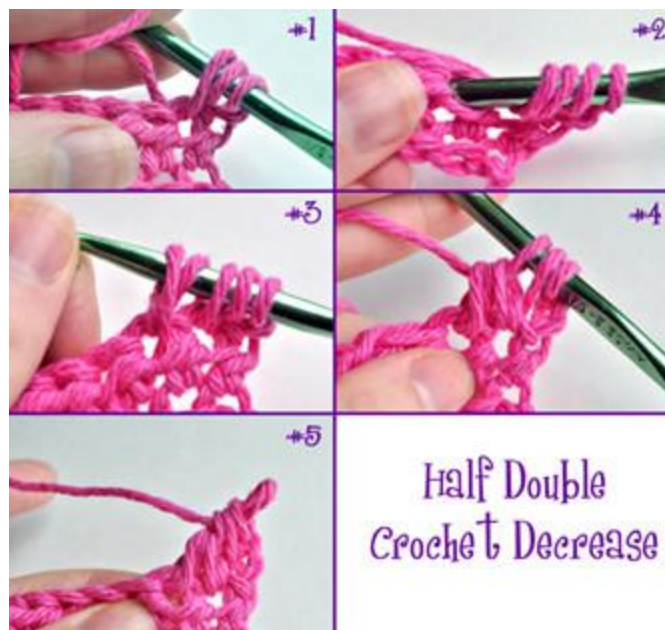
This technique is used to decrease one stitch over the course of two stitches. The whole idea is to work each stitch to within the last step to complete it, leaving the last loop (or loops) on the hook. You will then yarn over and draw through all the loops on the hook to combine two stitches into one.

Decreasing One Single Crochet



1. Insert the hook into the next stitch and draw up a loop. Insert the hook into the following stitch and draw up a loop.
2. Yarn over, and draw through all three loops on the hook. One single crochet stitch decreased.

Decreasing Half Double Crochet



1. Yarn over. Insert the hook into the next stitch and draw up a loop. Yarn over, insert the hook into the following stitch, and draw up a loop.
2. Yarn over and draw through all five loops on the hook. One half double crochet stitches decreased.

Decreasing One Double Crochet



1. Yarn over. Insert the hook into the next stitch and draw up a loop. Yarn over and draw through two loops on the hook. Yarn over, insert the hook into the following stitch, and draw up a loop. Yarn over and draw through two loops on the hook.
2. Yarn over and draw through all three loops on the hook. One double crochet stitch decreased.

Decreasing One Treble Crochet



1. Yarn over the hook twice. Insert the hook into the next stitch, and draw up a loop. Yarn over and draw through two loops on the hook, then yarn over again and draw through two loops on the hook. Repeat in the following stitch.
2. Yarn over and draw through all three loops on the hook. One treble crochet stitch decreased.

Decreasing Two or More Stitches Within The Row

The same method used to decrease one stitch can be used to decrease two or more stitches. Simply work each stitch to within the last step to completion, leaving the last loop (or loops) on the hook, then yarn over and draw through all the loops on the hook.

Decreasing At The Beginning of A Row

Use this decrease when you need to decrease two or more stitches at the beginning of a row. When you have completed the last row before the decrease, do not chain; just turn the work. Work one slip stitch in each stitch that is to be decreased, here four stitches. To continue, chain for the height of the stitch you are working in (one chain for single crochet), then continue to work across the row.

Decreasing At The End of A Row

Use this decrease when you need to decrease two or more stitches at the end of a row. Simply work across the row to within the last amount of stitches

that need to be decreased; here, four stitches. Leaving these last stitches unworked, chain and turn to work the next row.

Chapter 4

Different Crochet Pattern: Medium Level

Circles

Knowing how to crochet in the round opens up a whole other world of possibilities. Hats, booties, bags, trims and granny squares are just some of the wonderful things you will be able to make. There are two basic methods to learn: working in a spiral and working in rounds that are joined. Knowing how to do these two techniques will prepare you for the variations that you are sure to encounter as you peruse pattern directions.

How to Make a Ring

No matter which method you use, or whether you are making a hat from the top of the crown down or making a cuff from the bottom up, you need to start with a ring to form the foundation for your first round of stitches. The only difference between a hat and a cuff is how many chain stitches you begin with.

1. To make a practice ring, chain six. Insert the hook through both loops of the first chain stitch made. Yarn over, and draw through the chain stitch and the loop on the hook in one movement.
2. You have now joined the chain with a slip stitch and formed a ring.

How to Work in a Spiral

A spiral is worked around and around without interruption. This method is usually done in single or half double crochet, so there won't be a big difference in height between the beginning and the end of a round. The only tricky part is to count the stitches accurately and to keep track of the increases from one round to the next. Use a small safety pin as a stitch marker and a pad and pencil to make notes before you begin.

1. Chain five. Join the chain with a slip stitch, forming a ring. Work ten single crochets in the ring. Fasten a safety pin in the last stitch made to indicate the end of the round.

2. Work two single crochets in each of the first nine stitches. Unfasten the safety pin from the last stitch. Work two single crochets in the last stitch. Refasten the safety pin in the last stitch made—you now have twenty stitches. To practice one more round, *work one single crochet in the next stitch, and then work two single crochets in the following stitch. Repeat from the * to the end of the round, unfastening, then refastening the safety pin in the last stitch—you now have thirty stitches.

How to Work in Joined Rounds

This method can be used for any height stitch, because the beginning and end of each round are equal in height. This is accomplished by beginning each round with a chain of stitches that equal the height of the stitch being used. To end each round, a slip stitch is made in the first stitch to join the round or, in other words, complete the circle. Although this method of concentric circles is more advanced than working in a spiral, it is easier to keep track of the number of stitches because you can easily see where the round begins and ends. However, you should still keep track of the increases using a pad and pencil.

1. Chain five. Join the chain with a slip stitch forming a ring. Chain three (equals the height of a double crochet stitch). Work twelve double crochets in the ring, and then join the round with a slip stitch in the top two loops of the first stitch.

2. For the second round, chain three. Work two double crochet in each of the twelve stitches. Join the round with a slip stitch in the first stitch—you now have twenty-four stitches. To practice one more round, chain three, *work one double crochet in the next stitch, then work two double crochet in the following stitch. Repeat from the * to the end of the round. Join the round with a slip stitch in the first stitch—you now have thirty-six stitches.

Tip: To save time weaving in ends, crochet over the foundation chain tail as you work the first round of stitches into the ring.

How to Increase

How increases are distributed around depends on three main factors: what stitch is being used, the weight of the yarn, and what shape is to be achieved. There are no hard and fast rules, but generally the taller the stitch, the more stitches will be worked in the first round and all rounds thereafter, as opposed to a shorter stitch. A thinner yarn requires more stitches in the first round than a thicker yarn. To keep the work flat or to create a conical shape, there might be some rounds that have no increases at all. So expect the unexpected and just go with the flow!

Joining Yarn

So, you're cruising along, doing about 120 sph (stitches per hour), when you have to come to a grinding halt because you've finished the first ball of yarn! Don't fret—it's easy to get going again by joining a new ball of yarn.

Whenever you can, join the new yarn at the end of a row. This is especially important when you are crocheting an open-work or lacy pattern stitch where you have no place to weave in the yarn ends invisibly. Joining at the side might mean you'll have to cut off some of the yarn from the previous ball, but you can always use it for sewing, adding a fringe or making a tassel. If the pattern stitch is not open-work and you find you just have to join mid-row, carefully check the tension of the affected stitches to make sure they are neither too tight nor too loose.

1. To join a new ball yarn at the side edge, tie it loosely around the old yarn, leaving at least a 6" (15cm) tail. Untie the knot later and weave the ends into the seam.
2. Before joining the new yarn mid-row, complete the last stitch that you were working on. Tie the old and new ends together loosely close to the last stitch; yarn tails should be at least 6" (15cm) long. Later, untie the knot and weave the ends under the stitches.

Joining New Yarn Color

Stripes are the easiest way to create a multicolor garment, even for the beginner. But changing from one color to the next is not just a matter of tying ends together at the end of the row. The color change is actually made when you are working the last stitch of the row before, so when you chain and turn, the side edge of the next row will be entirely in the new color. How this is done varies slightly from single, half double, double, and treble crochet, but the end result will be the same.

For Single Crochet:

1. If you are working in single crochet, work across the row to within the last stitch. Insert the hook into the last stitch and draw up a loop. Working 6" (15cm) from the end of the new color, draw the new color through both loops on the hook to complete the single crochet stitch.
2. Chain one and turn. Cut the old yarn leaving a 6" (15cm) tail. Loosely tie the two tails together, close to the side edge, so stitches don't unravel. Later, untie the knot and weave in the ends.

For Half Double Crochet:

Work across the row to within the last stitch. Yarn over, insert the hook into the last stitch, and draw up a loop. Working 6" (15cm) from the end of the new color, draw the new color through all three loops on the hook to complete the half double crochet stitch. Chain two and turn, then join yarns following Step 2.

For Treble Crochet:

Work across the row to within the last stitch. Yarn over the hook twice, then insert the hook into the last stitch and draw up a loop. Yarn over and draw through two loops on the hook. Yarn over again and draw through two loops on the hook. Working 6" (15cm) from the end of the new color, draw the new color through the last two loops on the hook to complete the treble crochet stitch. Chain four and turn, then join yarns following Step 2.

Weaving in the Ends

Tip: Don't throw away even the smallest snippet of yarn. When your project is completed, put the scraps outside for birds to use as nesting material. Just leave them in the middle of your lawn or a similar spot, and they'll fly right in and take them away.

Each time you finish a ball of yarn and join a new one or change colors for a stripe pattern, you'll find yourself with lots of loose ends. Weaving in these yarn ends is an important part of the finishing process, so it must be done properly in order to get the best end result. To do this, carefully untie the knot made when joining the new yarn. Thread one of the loose strands into a yarn needle and insert the needle down through the side edge for approximately ½" (4cm). Snip off the excess end, taking care not to cut into the crocheted fabric. To secure the second strand, thread the yarn needle with the end and weave it up the edge in the opposite direction. If you are dealing with ends from changing colors for a stripe, weave in each end along the edge of the same color.

If you have changed yarns in the middle of a row, first make sure the knot is on the wrong side of the fabric. If it isn't, push it through to the wrong side. Carefully untie the knot. Thread one loose end into a yarn needle. Weave the needle horizontally to the right for about three stitches. Before you pull the needle through, turn the work over to the right side to make sure you cannot see the needle; reweave the needle if necessary. Pull the needle through, taking care not to change the size or shape of the affected stitches. To secure, take one small backstitch, then continue to weave the needle through approximately three more stitches. Pull on the end to embed the backstitch into the fabric, flatten the fabric if it has puckered, then snip off the excess yarn end. Repeat with the remaining loose end, but weave it horizontally to the left.

Understanding Instructions

Learning about crochet is like immersing yourself in a foreign culture, where another language is spoken and written, and where there are unfamiliar rules and customs. It can be a little intimidating and a tad frustrating at times, but the payoff is big and totally worthwhile. So,

continue to follow along as we explain what you'll need to know before you make your very first project!

Gauge

The longest journey begins with the first step, and knowing the meaning and importance of gauge is your first step to crocheting a garment that comes out the correct size. Every pattern direction will have a recommended gauge, plus finished measurements. The gauge is how many stitches and rows you should get over a span of inches/centimeters (usually a 4"/10cm square) when you work in the specified pattern stitch, using the yarn and crochet hook size called for in the materials list. The amount of stitches to the inch/centimeter (or gauge) dictates how many stitches will be crocheted to achieve the finished measurements.

The second step is making a gauge swatch, which enables you to make sure you get the recommended gauge before you begin your project. While the gauge is based on a 4" (10cm) square, you should make a swatch that's at least a 5" (12.5cm) square to be better able to measure accurately. Gather up the same yarn and crochet hook size that is called for in the directions. Crochet enough chain stitches for a 5"(12.5cm) wide swatch, then work in the pattern stitch specified in the directions for 5"(12.5cm). Do not fasten off. Place the swatch on a hard, flat surface. For stitches across, place a ruler, tape measure or stitch gauge horizontally on the swatch. Position the 1" (2.5cm) mark even with a whole stitch, then working toward, the right count 4" (10cm) worth of stitches (don't forget fractions of stitches). If you have more stitches to the inch/centimeter than is recommended, remake the swatch using a hook that's one size larger. If you have fewer stitches than is stated, try again with a smaller hook.

Once you have achieved the recommended gauge, it's time to begin your project! But you'll still want to recheck your gauge once you have crocheted about 5" (12.5cm) of work. Just as before, place the piece on a flat surface and measure the total width to see if it matches the width stated in the finished measurements. If it does, you're good to go, but if it doesn't you'll have to change your hook size. "But why isn't it the right size?" you might ask. This is because sometimes you might crochet looser or tighter (this is called the tension) when you work across a larger piece of fabric. If

you find that you have to change the hook size to get the right gauge, you'll have to unravel all the rows and start again using one size larger hook (if it's too small) or one size smaller hook (if it's too large). This might seem heartbreaking and discouraging, but just imagine how you'd feel when after spending hours to complete the piece you discover that the size is all wrong.

Measuring Gauge

You can measure your gauge swatch using a ruler, or you can use a stitch gauge in the center of your swatch and count the stitches and rows inside the 2" (5cm) right-angle opening.

Tip: Don't be influenced by other crocheters who say they never bother making a gauge swatch. Just keep in mind that professional crochet designers—those creative artists who design the projects that you will be making and wearing—have to make a gauge swatch before they are able to calculate all numbers of stitches and rows needed to form a garment. In order for you to get the same results as the picture of the sweater that you fell in love with, you'll have to match their gauge, stitch for stitch and row for row.

Abbreviation and Terms

The first time you look at the directions for a crochet pattern stitch or directions for a project, you may think it's written in a foreign language. But on second glance you'll begin to see recognizable words emerging, no matter how much they've been shortened. Why condense words and phrases? Well, consider if everything were written out in whole words and sentences; directions that would normally fit on one page now become a whole book! It's actually easier to learn the language of crochet than to wade through pages and pages of directions. Here's a list of abbreviations and terms that you'll encounter as you continue to explore crochet.

approx: approximately

beg: begin, beginning

[]: Repeat the directions inside the brackets as many times as indicated.

ch: chain, chains

cont: continue, continuing

CC: contrasting color

dec: decrease, decreasing

dc: double crochet (UK: **tr**—treble)

hdc: half double crochet (UK: **htr**—half treble)

inc: increase, increasing

lp/lps: loop/loops

MC: main color

mm: millimeter, millimeters

oz/g: ounces/grams. This usually refers to the amount of yarn in a single skein, ball or hank of yarn.

(): Work the directions contained inside the parentheses into the stitch indicated. See "Small (Medium, Large)," for the other uses of parentheses.

pat/pats: pattern, patterns

rem: remain, remains or remaining

rep: repeat, repeating

rep from *: Repeat the directions following the asterisk as many times as indicated. If the directions say "rep from * to end," continue to repeat the directions after the asterisk to the end of the row.

rev sc: reverse single crochet

reverse shaping: A term used for garments such as cardigans, where shaping for the right and left fronts is identical but reversed. For example, neck edge stitches that were decreased at the beginning of the row for the first piece will be decreased at the end of the row on the second piece. In general, follow the directions for the first piece, making sure to mirror the decreases (and/or increases) on each side.

RS: right side; right sides

Rnd /rnds: round/rounds

sc: single crochet (UK: **dc**—double crochet)

sk: skip, skipping

sl: slip, slipping

sl st: slip stitch (UK: **sc**—single crochet)

Small (Medium, Large): The most common method of displaying changes in a pattern for different sizes. In general, stitch counts, measurements, etc., for the smallest size come first, followed by the larger sizes in parentheses. If there is only one number given, it applies to all of the sizes.

sp/sps: space/spaces

st/sts: stitch/stitches

t-ch: turning chain

tog: together

tr: treble crochet (UK: **dtr**—double treble)

work even: Continue in the established pattern without working any increases or decreases.

WS: wrong side, wrong sides

yd/m: yard(s)/meter(s)

yo: yarn over

Understanding Schematics

Tip: To avoid confusion, and perhaps making a mistake, use a yellow marker on the schematics to highlight the measurements that pertain to the size you are making.

Although these little drawings look like sewing patterns for a fashion doll, they are actually drawn-to-scale outlines of what each piece of a sweater should look like and measure after it has been crocheted. Called schematics, they are essential to your decision-making and the ultimate success of a project. When you are considering making a sweater, look at the schematics first. Simple outlines, such as those shown here, usually mean it's a beginner-level project because there is no shaping on the front and back, and the sleeve is pretty straightforward. Generally, the more shaping involved—like a tapered waist, V-neck and slanted shoulders—the more advanced the project. Also consider the style; maybe you don't like how dropped shoulders look on you.

Each main piece of the sweater will be shown as a separate schematic; pieces like pockets are not shown unless they are shaped. Note here that the front and the back are shown as one or, more accurately, one is superimposed on the other. This is usually the case, except when the front and back are drastically different in size and shape. For a cardigan, only one front will be represented, except, of course, when the left front is different than the right.

So, what are all these numbers? All schematics will have the same general information shown. For the front and back: bottom width/bust measurement, length to armhole, armhole depth, shoulder width, neck width, and total length from bottom edge to top. For the sleeve: cuff width, total length from bottom edge to top edge, and width of top edge. Keep in mind that if there is other shaping, like a V-neck, the measurements for the depth (where you begin and end) will be shown as well. When reading the

numbers, the smallest size is listed first, before the parentheses, and each larger size will be inside the parentheses in sequential order.

Finishing

These final steps can be the most important of the crocheting process. Once you've finished creating the body of your piece, you'll need to tie up loose ends and make sure all elements are working together in harmony. These finishing techniques will ensure that your garment looks lovingly handmade rather than like a homemade mess.

Blocking

Although the word “blocking” sounds ominous, like something that should be avoided, it’s actually one of the most important steps to successfully completing your garment. In essence, blocking is a method of shaping and molding your crocheted pieces to match the measurements and shapes on the schematics. Blocking will also remove wrinkles and creases that might occur if the pieces have been folded.

Keep in mind that blocking is only to shape and not to correct mistakes by making a piece wider or longer so it matches another piece. Unlike most grunt work, the payoff to a successfully blocked garment is huge. With some time and effort the end result will be a beautiful sweater that looks lovingly handmade rather than a homemade mess.

There are two main categories of blocking: wet and steam. To know which one to use with the yarn that was used for your project, refer to the ball band for the fiber content and to the pressing guide below. To get started, gather up all the supplies you’ll need, including the schematics or the measurements from the pattern. The schematics and measurements will serve as a blueprint for you to follow, so you’ll know exactly what size and shape the pieces should be stretched and molded into.

Wet Blocking

There are two ways to wet block your crocheted pieces. Both techniques work equally well, so choose the one that appeals to you most. The first is

to immerse the pieces in cool water, then squeeze out the water, taking care not to wring or twist them. Working one at a time, place the piece on a flat, covered, padded surface (or a blocking board), then stretch and mold the piece into the same size and shape shown on the schematic. Referring to “Pinning and blocking,” pin the key edges to hold the piece in shape until it is totally dry. Depending on the room temperature and humidity, drying time can be in excess of twenty-four hours, so just be patient. The second method is to pin the pieces first (following the schematics), then wet them down using a spray bottle filled with cool water. Again, leave them be until they are dry. And no cheating! If you unpin pieces that are even slightly damp, they will lose the blocked shape and you will have to start all over again!

Steam Blocking

To steam block, first pin the pieces on a flat surface following the measurements on the schematics. Set your steam iron on the lowest setting that will still produce steam, or use a handheld steamer. Once you have a good steam going, hold the iron or steamer close to the fabric, then work in a circular motion over the entire piece until every inch is evenly dampened. DO NOT touch the iron to the fabric! If you find that you must lightly press the piece, cover it with a colorfast towel or a pressing cloth to protect the fabric from the hot metal plate. Drying after steaming takes a lot less time than wet blocking, but you still must allow the pieces to dry thoroughly before unpinning.

Pressing guide

All fibers react differently to heat, so it’s a good idea to know what to expect before you press or steam them (or even if you should). Many yarns are a combination of fibers, so you should choose a method that is compatible with all the contents. Read the ball band to see what fiber has the highest percentage, and then go with the recommended method for that fiber first. Test the method on your gauge swatch to see the results and determine if you have to make any adjustments before committing the technique to your garment pieces.

- Angora: Wet block by spraying

- Cotton: Wet block or warm/hot steam press
- Linen: Wet block or warm/hot steam press
- Lurex: Do not block
- Mohair: Wet block by spraying
- Novelties: Do not block, unless there are specific blocking directions
- Synthetics: Carefully follow instructions on ball band—usually wet block by spraying, do not press
- Wool and all wool-like fibers (alpaca, camel hair, cashmere): Wet block by spraying or warm steam press
- Wool blends: Wet block by spraying; do not press unless pretested first blocking supplies

Required Supplies for Pressing

1. Flat, covered, padded surface large enough to hold one piece of crochet and thick enough to insert and hold pins (such as a carpet or mattress covered with plastic and a towel). Or you might want to invest in a blocking board, which is easier to use and more convenient (although a little pricey).
2. Rustproof T-pins or glass-headed pins. Do not use pins with plastic heads. They will melt when they come in contact with heat.
3. Tape measure
4. Schematic for the sweater you are blocking
5. Colorfast towels
6. Spray bottle with cool water or a sinkful of cool water
7. Steam iron or handheld steamer

8. Pressing cloth

Garment Construction

The pieces of your garment are complete; now it's time to put them together. Attaching sleeves and hems requires patience and careful attention to avoid puckering or pulling, and there is a certain order to putting pieces together, so don't skip this important section.

Order of Assembling

When you've finished crocheting the pieces for a sweater, it's time to assemble them. Before you thread your yarn needle, you should block the pieces first to get the most professional-looking results. There is a certain order to putting pieces together, and for good reason. Not to follow the order is like putting the cart before the horse. All sweater patterns have finishing directions at the end. The finishing directions will state what and when to sew and how to complete unfinished edges like a neckline. As an example, here's what you should expect to find for a crewneck pullover that has dropped-shoulder sleeves: First, sew the shoulder seams. Second, finish the neck edge (with a neckband, trim, etc.). Third, sew the sleeves to the body of the sweater. And fourth, sew the side and sleeve seams. This is done in one continuous seam, from the end of the sleeve to the underarm and then down the body of the sweater to the bottom edge.

Marking for Armholes

The simplest sweater to make is one with dropped shoulders. Although the top edges of the sleeves are straight and the side edges of the body are straight, it can be a little tricky to sew the sleeves evenly to the body. First, let's get a handle on how to mark for the beginning of the armholes, and then we'll discuss how to sew the sleeves evenly in place.

Where or how to mark for the armholes depends on the way a sweater directions are written. You will encounter two ways, and both are acceptable. The first way is when you have crocheted the stated amount of inches to the underarms. The directions will say: "Mark beginning and end of last row for beginning of armholes." To mark, simply fasten one safety

pin to the beginning of the last row and one to the end of the last row. Continue to work following the directions, until you have reached the armhole measurement stated in the directions. Before you join the sleeves, join the shoulders (referring to the finishing directions).

The second way is when the directions have you mark for the armholes after the shoulders are joined. To mark, lay the sweater out flat on a flat surface. Measure down from the center of the shoulder seam along the side edge of the back (or front) to the stated amount of inches (take care not to stretch the fabric), then fasten with a safety pin. Repeat along the front (or back) side edge, then mark for the armholes along the opposite front and back side edges. Just to make sure that all things are equal, also measure from the safety pin marks down to the bottom edges. Make any adjustments necessary. Now that you know how to mark for the armholes, here's how to center the sleeves in the armholes. Using a tape measure, measure and mark (using a straight pin) the center of the top edges of the sleeves. Place each sleeve along the armhole edge, between the armhole markers, and so the straight-pin mark is centered in the center of the shoulder seam. Join each sleeve following the seaming directions. Don't forget to remove all the pins!

Measuring Length

Whenever you have two pieces that are to be joined together, they must be the same length. For a cardigan, both fronts and back should be the same exact length. Mismatched seams will give you a lopsided sweater that will not only fit poorly but also look silly. The same goes for sleeves. Each should be equal in length so that when you wear the sweater, each cuff will fall at the same point on both wrists. There are two ways to tackle the issue of length. The first is to measure precisely using a tape measure. Lay the piece on a flat surface, and measure the length without stretching the piece in either direction. Pulling on the fabric to make it meet a measurement is only a temporary solution. Yarn has a memory and will spring back to its original shape once tension has been released. The second way to ensure equal lengths is to count rows. This is the most reliable method. You can either opt for a row counter or go for the old paper and pencil. Mark or check off the row as you are about to crochet it, so you'll always know

where you are and have an accurate count. But just in case a row or two is missed, recount the rows just to be absolutely sure of the count before you fasten off the last stitch.

Seaming

Once you've fastened off the last stitch of all your garment pieces, it's time to assemble them into something you can wear. There are a few ways to join crochet pieces together and each version serves a different purpose. Some use a yarn needle and are woven or sewn together, and some use a crochet hook and are crocheted together. In all instances, you will use the same yarn that was used for your project. For the most part, you want to join edges together neatly without creating bulky seams. However, sometimes you need a very sturdy seam for a garment that will get a lot of wear, so a little bulk is a small price to pay for longevity.

1. This method gives you an invisible seam with no bulk. Work on a flat surface. With the right sides of both pieces facing you, and the two edges adjoined, secure with safety pins every 2" (5cm). Thread a yarn needle with the tail from the foundation chain. To secure the edges together before weaving, insert the needle from back to front into the corner stitch of the piece without the tail. Making a figure eight with the yarn, insert the needle, from back to front, into the stitch with the tail. Tighten to close up the gap.

2. To begin weaving the seam, insert the needle through the first stitch on the left edge and then through the first stitch on the right edge. Insert the needle through the next stitch on the left edge and then through the next stitch on the right edge. Continue to alternate weaving from edge to edge in this manner, carefully matching stitches (or rows) and drawing the yarn only tight enough to keep the edges together.

The Backstitch

The backstitch is used when you need a seam that's extra strong, and bulk is not an issue.

1. Place the pieces together so the right sides are facing, then pin every 2" (5cm). Thread the tail from the foundation chain into the yarn needle. Working from back to front, secure the beginning of the seam by taking the needle twice around the bottom edges. Working from back to front again, insert the needle so it exits about ¼" (.5cm) from the last stitch, as shown.
2. Insert the needle into the same hole as the last stitch, and then back up approximately ¼" (.5cm) in front of the last stitch. Draw the yarn through, and then tighten only enough to keep the edges together. Continue to work in this manner, taking care to keep the stitches straight and the same length.

Whipstitch Seam

The whipstitch is used for joining squares for an afghan together, like grannies, as well as other short, straight edges.

1. Thread the tail from the foundation chain in a yarn needle. Place the pieces together so the wrong-side sides are facing, edges are even, and stitches line up. Insert the needle into the back loop of the piece in front and into the front loop of the adjacent stitch of the piece in back.
2. Continue to work in this manner, drawing the yarn just tight enough to keep the edges together.

Single Crochet Seam

Use this method for decorative exterior seams.

1. Working from the ball of yarn, make a slip knot 6" (15cm) from the yarn end. Place the slip knot on the hook. To work across top edges, place the pieces together, so wrong sides are facing. Working from front to back, insert the crochet hook through both loops of each piece and draw through a loop. Yarn over and draw through both loops on the hook. Continue to work one single crochet in each pair of adjacent loops across

2. To work across side edges, place the pieces together so wrong sides are facing. Working through both thicknesses, work single crochet stitches directly into matching stitches at the side edge, making sure to space them evenly and at the same depth so that all single crochet stitches are the same size.

3. Use this technique when you want an especially sturdy joining but don't mind the extra bulk. Place the pieces together with right sides facing and edges even; pin every 2" (5cm). Working through both thicknesses and from front to back, insert the crochet hook between the first two stitches, one stitch in from the edge. Working from the ball of yarn, catch the yarn on the wrong side (about 6", or 15cm from the end) and draw through a loop. *Insert the hook between the next two stitches. Draw through a loop, and then draw through the loop on the hook. Repeat from the *, keeping an even tension on the yarn so the stitches are even in size and the joining has the same stretchiness as the crocheted fabric.

Chapter 5

Different Crochet Pattern: Advance Level

Granny Square Basics

Everyone loves a granny square. You may have seen this time-honored classic multiplied to make an afghan, featured on a retro-chic cardigan or used by itself as a stylish coaster. As one of the oldest and most recognizable forms of crochet, the granny square is a staple in every crocheter's skill set. Use this section to become a master!

How to Crochet a Basic Granny Square

1. Using the first color, ch 4. Join ch with a sl st forming a ring. For round 1, ch 3 (counts as 1 dc) working in the ring, work two more dc for the first 3-dc group as shown, then ch 2 for the first corner ch-2 sp.
2. To complete the round, [work 3 dc in ring, ch 2] 3 times. (Note: As you crochet around, work the dc groups over the tail of the ring or tail from the previous round. This way you won't have to weave them in later.) This gives you three more 3-dc groups and three more corner ch-2 sps. Join the rnd with a sl st in the top of the beg ch-3 (the first "dc"). Fasten off.
3. From the RS, join the next color in any corner ch-2 sp with a sl st. (Note: Always alternate what corner you join the color in, so joins are evenly distributed.)
4. For round 2, ch 3 (counts as 1 dc), work 2 dc in same ch-2 sp (this forms the first half of the first corner), ch 1, [work (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in next ch-2 sp, ch 1] 3 times, at the end work 3 dc in beg ch-2 sp, ch 2 (this forms the second half of the first corner). Join the rnd with a sl st in the top of the beg ch-3. Fasten off. You now have four ch-2 corner sps and four ch-1 sps (one on each side).

5. Join the next color with a sl st in any corner ch-2 sp. For round 3, ch 3, work 2 dc in same ch-2 sp, ch 1, [work 3 dc in next ch-1 sp, ch 1, work (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in next ch-2 sp, ch 1] 3 times, end work 3 dc in next ch-1 sp, ch 1, work 3 dc in beg ch-2 sp, ch 2. Join rnd with a sl st in top of beg ch-3. Fasten off. You still have four ch-2 corner sps, but now you have eight ch-1 sps (two on each side). For every round that follows, you will increase one ch-1 sp on each side.

How to Crochet an Adjustable Ring

1. To begin, wrap the yarn loosely around 2 fingers, the loose tail near your fingertips and the working yarn to the inside.
2. With the crochet hook, bring the working strand under the outside strand, and then draw a loop through, as shown.
3. Draw through another loop to complete the single crochet. When all the stitches called for have been worked into the ring, close the ring by pulling the loose tail.

Bruges Crochet

1. Begin Row 9 of the pattern by working a ch 5 join (ch 2, sl st into ch-sp ch 2) by inserting the hook into the previous chain-space, as shown by the arrow.
2. At the beginning of Row 17, work ch 5 join into the space formed by the foundation chain used in Row 1 (see arrow), then work dc in each dc from previous row. Note that we have shown the ch 5 join at the end of Row 16, before turning (instead of the beginning of Row 17), for clarity.
3. At the beginning of Row 19, work ch 5 join into (along side of) the last dc worked in Row 1 (see arrow), then work dc in each dc from previous row. Note that we have shown the ch 5 join at the end of Row 18, before turning (instead of the beginning of Row 19), for clarity.

4. At the beginning of Row 21, work ch 5 join into the ch-5 space of Row 2, then work dc in each dc from previous row.

5. At the beginning of Row 23, work ch 5 join into the same ch-5 space on Row 22, and then work dc in each dc from previous row.

Crocodile Stitch

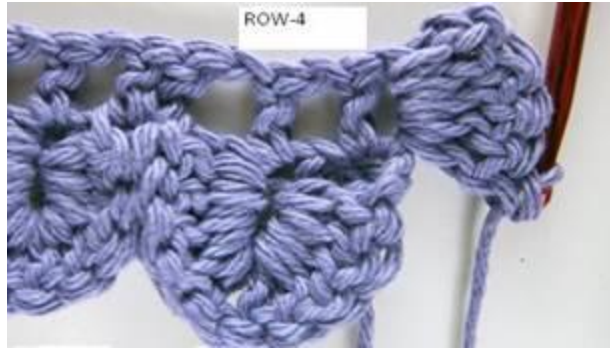


1. After several rows of single crochet have been worked, work Row 1 of the Crocodile stitch as follows: Ch 3 (counts as 1st dc), dc in same st, *ch 2, sk 2 sts, 1 dc in next 2 sts, ch 2, sk 2 sts, 2 dc in next st; rep from *, end 2 dc in last st, as shown above. Do not turn.



2. Then work Rows 2 and 3 of the pattern. Shown here is Row 4 in progress (note that you are going back across the row from right to left and the fabric is upside down). Work the first of the 5 fpdc (front post double crochet) around the next dc as follows: insert hook from front to back behind the dc, then to the front again (see direction of arrow), and complete the double crochet.





3. Once Row 4 is complete, work back across the row from right to left for Row 5. Note that the fabric is now right side up. Shown here is working a double crochet between two shells and inserting the hook, catching both layers of the fabric.



4. Here is the finished swatch of the Crocodile pattern, before felting. Note that the shells overlap each other.



5. Here is the swatch after felting. The shells of the crocodile pattern shrink quite a bit and create a firm, textured fabric, perfect for a bag.

Chapter 6

Designs and Collections of Crochet

Looking around, you will find many designs of crochet. Crochet is getting famous day by day because of all the different designs available. Whether you want to create a soft blanket for charity or explore new pattern of crochet as a loving gift, you can do a lot with crochet. You get splendid textures, beautiful colors and all within your budget. Now we will see the different designs and collections of crochet.

Hats to Crochet

Hats are one of the nice options for your protection from cold climate or a place where the temperature is hot. The basic crocheted hat will keep you hot at the time of chilly weather and keep you cool at the time of hot weather.



In this hat collection, you will get an earflap crochet hat pattern that is great for cold regions and snowy areas. You can also make summer crochet hats as per your requirement which is one of the good ways to protect your head from sun rays. Driving into the art of crochet is not so easy, but learning how to make crochet hat will definitely satisfy your yarn craving. You can make different types of crochet hat such as a reversible crochet brioche hat, Mickey and Minnie crochet hats, straw sun hats, basic chunky hats, easy ear warmers, quick fix winter hats, dread heads, shallow seas blue beanies,

cloche hats, Tezzie hats, retro crochet hats, a crocheted brimmed hat, and the universal slouchy hat.

Clothing Crochet Designs

You can easily transform a closet into a haven of fashionable objects made with your own hands and hooks. These trendy crochet projects will make you stylish and fashionable, without breaking your budget. It is easy to design and add fancy touches to your work. You will be the envy of all your friends because of these trendy crochet designs. You can easily design and made crochet shawl patterns, crochet sweaters such as ripple wrap cardigans, sapphire satin sparkle shawls, ice crystals ponchos, baby doll wraps, sleazy dresses and more.



Crochet Scarf Designs and Crochet Cowls

You can easily design fancy accessories for both the winter season and summer season with crochet. You can design a variety of scarves for winter season and crochet cowls to look fashionable and stylish. It is easy to design and does not take much time to make. You can create variety of crochet scarf designs such as a snow bear hooded scarf, peacock Scarf, luxury scarf, pumpkin spice cowl, angel cowl, and much more.



Home Decor Crochet Patterns

You can easily decorate your home with different crochet patterns. This designable crochet pattern is one of the best to display on your home, and make your home more attractive. These beautiful and colorful crochet designs will truly make your home one of a kind. You can easily create different crochet designs for your home such as teddy bear squares, march squares, funky doilies and much more.



Crochet Accessories

Accessories are one of the best ways apply what you have learned in crochet. Crochet accessories are easy to make, and you can readily try out different crochet stitches that you have learned. You can create accessories such as bags, jewelry, bracelets and much more.



Chapter 7

Starting Your Own Business with Crochet

Turning Your Crochet Hobby into a Crochet Business

Many dream of turning their crochet hobby into a crochet business. Here are 3 key things to consider before taking the plunge from hobbyist to business owner.

What are you good at?

This is a basic, but important point. I love to crochet, and I get lots of compliments on my finished pieces, but selling finished items stresses me out. I learned the hard way that I can't sell completed pieces as my crochet business. So, I make them and give them to my children, or as baby shower gifts, etc. Just because you're good at something doesn't mean you should do it as a business.

What do you love to do? Do you love to write patterns? Or, do you want to just crochet finished items? Do you want to teach, spin, or be a contract crocheter?

Take this into serious consideration. There are so many "things" to do in the crochet field that you should never do something you don't love. I used to sell finished items because I thought that was what was expected from me. All I did was stress myself out. I home school, which always comes first, so my orders backed up, which set me back at the holidays. The end result was that my children were disappointed they didn't receive anything made by me. That was a turning point for me and I stopped taking orders, although I do still make exceptions for close friends. Instead, I turned my focus to pattern writing and tech editing. I am much happier and less stressed.

How much time do you have to invest?

If you're a stay at home mom, how old are your children? When do you plan on working? Decide how much of a priority you are going to make your business. I used to "wing it," but found that my business either got a lot of my attention, or got neglected. Scheduling my day works much better and I'm more productive.

Remember to make sure you love what you're doing, or your business will more than likely fail. By combining what you're good at, and what you love, you will see an increase in sales and/or work. The more time you can invest, the more your hobby will become a business. Whether part time, or full time, you can be successful with a little bit of planning and work.

How Can I Turn My Hobby Into a Home Business?

I am a homemaker, and I crochet during my leisure hours. I would like to begin selling my crocheted items. How can I arrive at pricing and market my products effectively? What are the most important things to keep in mind when doing online sales? Finally, should I set up my own website to sell my products or create a page on an e-commerce site?

Good news! You have a plethora of choices on how you can turn your passion or hobby into a business. Bad news, you have a plethora of choices on how you can turn your passion or hobby into a business.

Let's first focus on the good news with your particular question. First, do you have a plan to make this business run? If not, you will need to figure out a few things:

Who wants what I make? How much will they pay for it?

This is basically you asking your friends if they're willing to pay X amount for what you make. Then go to someone you don't know and offer it to them for that price, and see what kind of reaction you get. You can also go to Survey Monkey and create a quick survey for your friends to answer online whether they would pay a certain amount for a certain kind of product or service. This will help with your pricing model.

Am in the right place and time to be offering this? (In other words, will I have to market a lot or a little?)

Marketing depends on what you're willing to invest. Once you have made this decision, you will need to track it to see what kind of return you get from advertising on Facebook or online with Google. You may wish to take some time to research these options, as they are not just a "plug-and-play" type of deal. It takes some expertise to know how to make online marketing work. There's a site called Etsy, however, that allows you to have your own online store and do marketing through them and share your items right to your social media sites. Don't forget to tweet your special deals here and there. (But not too often or it gets viewed as spammy. Give some content on the art of crochet about 60% - 40% of the time).

If it's really a hobby, then just use Etsy and slowly build it through Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. And don't forget to do some short videos that you can put on YouTube. There's a strategy behind that too, and that's not very hard to learn. There are a ton of people offering courses on it online -- just make sure you have a webcam or a flip cam and share some of your real-time experiences. You'll be surprised at how many pay attention to it.

Bottom line: If you're taking your hobby into the world of e-commerce, then it should be fairly simple since you are doing the work. If you want to make it a full-fledged business, you're probably talking about licensing your designs, which is a whole other ball of wax. I'd say start with the above and work your way into something that is comfortable for you.

Many people make their living selling their crocheted projects. Wouldn't you like to know how they do it? For certain, you won't be a millionaire, but there are ways you can profit from crochet and enjoy yourself while doing it.

Crocheting as a hobby is a great way to pass the time. It fulfills you in so many ways. It relaxes you, helping you deal with the stress of daily life. It also keeps your hands busy so you don't eat mindlessly. Have you ever considered earning money from it?

Crochet is something you can make a living from no matter where you live. Some businesses and organizations hire artists to create large pieces of art, like the Lionheart project for the 2012 London Olympics made by Shauna Richardson. It took her three years and 36 miles of wool yarn to complete. You may never earn thousands of dollars per piece, but it is possible for you to get paid for crocheting.

You don't have to quit your job just yet, after all it's the only source of steady income you have right now. You want to start out slowly and work out all the kinks first. Once you get going you'll find that your hobby is turning into a full-time job right before your eyes.

Six Crochet Business Ideas You Can Take to The Bank

Sell finished products: Hone in on one product or a series of products that you can sell at craft fairs and local boutiques.

Sell craft kits: People are really into learning how to make things on their own. Why not help them out by creating a crochet kit that includes yarn, a hook and detailed instructions?

Write a detailed tutorial and sell it: eBooks are very popular among crafters. If you write-up a complete project, taking detailed photos you can sell it online either on your site, your blog or even on a site like Amazon.

Start a blog and earn through Google ads: Probably the easiest way to earn money is simply to record your hobby through a blog. Add advertisements through Google Ads or another ad network and you'll be earning a little more each day as your audience grows.

Start a paid subscription to a newsletter: As print magazines become less and less popular, you could create a virtual magazine. Feature interviews with top designers, news in the crochet world and original crochet patterns.

Teach others via online classes or workshops: Sites like Craftsy, YouTube and Crochetville make it easier than ever to teach crochet online. Host a

workshop featuring a number of crochet designers. Teach a special technique like amigurumi or sweater design.

Brainstorm other ways you can turn your love for crocheting into a craft that makes you money. Work at implementing these ideas into your business plan and start crocheting for fun and profit today.

(source: **ambassadorcrochet.com/**)

Conclusion

Now that we have taken you through the steps of crochet, let's see what your imagination can do! Whether you begin by following a pattern or just making a simple scarf, keep on practicing and you will soon be itching to try your own designs. Crocheting is a great and relaxing pastime that will produce lovely gifts, clothing, and accessories for anyone you know.

Take some time and really get to learn this craft. You cannot just start one day and expect to have a business the next. Start by making items for yourself and others. If, in the future, you do want to make a business out of this hobby, do your research and do what will be best for you!

I do want to state that the pictures of finished products in this book are advanced in nature and cannot be performed right away. So, if you're looking to make some of the designs posted here, you will need to practice and hone your skills for awhile.

Thank you again for purchasing and reading this eBook! I wish you luck and enjoyment from your new hobby!

Resources for further Reading

I am going to include links to the websites that I have found to be most useful. On these sites, I have found tips, patterns, and ideas that have helped me create my own projects.

www.crochetmagazine.com

www.crochetpatterncentral.com

www.crochettoday.com

www.redheart.com/learn

Also, there are a multitude of videos on YouTube (www.youtube.com) that will help you visually see the techniques used for crocheting. Sometimes people cannot learn by simply reading it. Use all the resources you can to make yourself a great hobby!

One Last Thing...

If you enjoyed this book or found it useful, I'd be very grateful if you'd post a short review on Amazon. Your support really does make a difference and I read all the reviews personally so I can get your feedback and make this book even better.



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