

HOW TO Crochet

Basic Crochet Stitches

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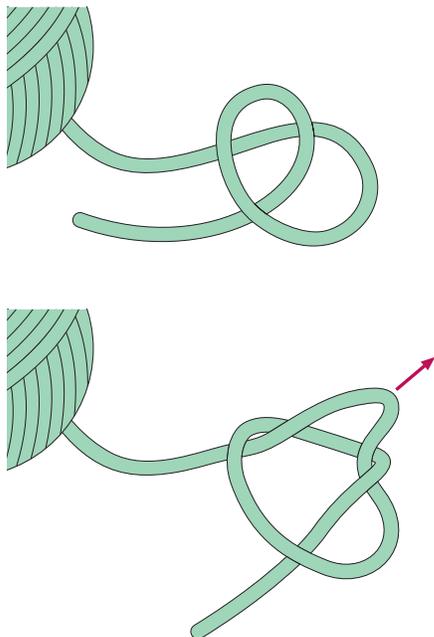
Basic Crochet Stitches

When learning any new skill, you need to start with the basics. You may have your heart set on crocheting a fabulous sweater or a frivolous but oh-so-cute Amigurumi toy. That's what's great about crochet—you can make so many different things with it. But it pays to learn the basics first, and with a good foundation, you'll be advancing to your dream project in no time.

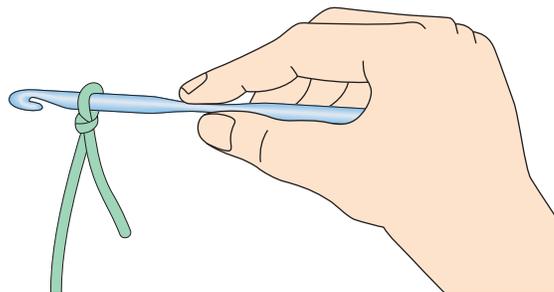
Slipknot

No matter what you're crocheting, you'll start with a slipknot. It's how the yarn is initially attached to the hook.

- 1 Make a loop near the tail end of the yarn. Use your hook or fingers to pull the yarn from the ball through the loop.



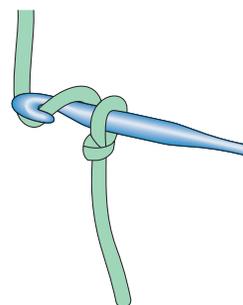
- 2 Put the loop on your hook and pull both yarn ends (tail end and working yarn) to make the slipknot snug on your hook. Don't pull it too tight; you'll need to be able to slip the hook through the loop.



Yarn Over

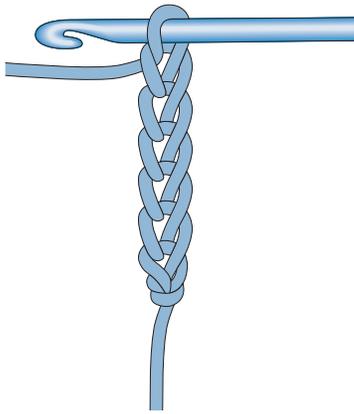
To make crochet stitches you'll need to wrap the yarn over your hook and pull it through an existing stitch or slipknot. That means you'll be making a *yarn over* on every stitch you make—and some stitches involve more than one yarn over. So it's a good skill to practice.

- 1 With the slipknot on your hook and the working yarn *behind* the hook, wrap the yarn up and over the hook, bringing it to the front of the hook.
- 2 Grab the working yarn in the crook of the hook and you'll be ready to pull it through the knot or stitch to form a new stitch. Use the hook to grab the yarn, rather than placing the yarn over the hook with your fingers. Let the hook do the work! It will be faster and your crochet stitches will have a more even tension.



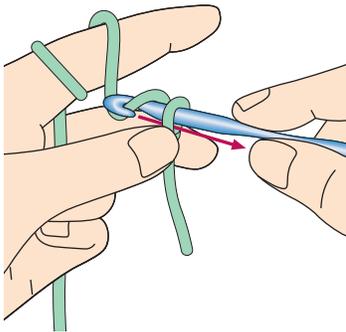
Foundation Chain

You've made a slipknot and you know how to do a yarn over. Now what? Well, crochet really starts with the foundation chain. A *chain stitch* is a loop that's formed on your hook. Chain a series of these loops or chain stitches, and you have what's known as the *foundation chain*. A crochet pattern will tell you how many chain stitches to make for your foundation chain. It could be just a few—or a few hundred! You'll then work other crochet stitches, such as single or double crochet stitches, into the foundation chain stitches.

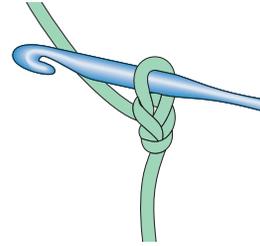


1 To start your chain, make a slipknot at the tail end of your yarn and place it on your hook as described on page 2.

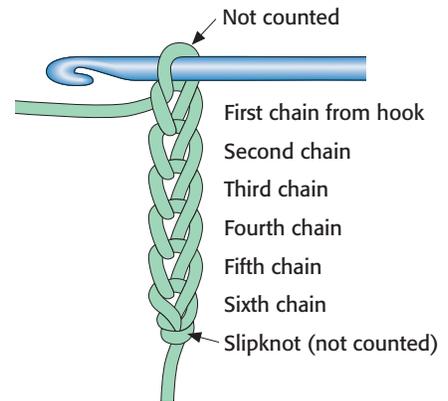
2 Hold the hook in your dominant hand (we're showing the right hand) and hold the yarn in your opposite hand. Use your thumb and middle finger to securely hold the knot and tail end; have the working end of the yarn around your extended index finger. You can wrap the working yarn around your pinkie finger first to give you some tension on the yarn.



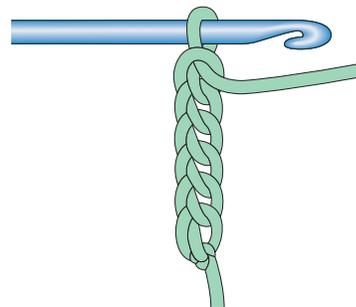
3 To make the first chain stitch, yarn over and pull the hook through the slipknot that's on the hook, forming a new loop on the hook. This is your first chain stitch. (Don't count the starting slipknot in your final stitch count.)



4 Repeat step 3 to make the desired number of chain stitches.



Front of chain



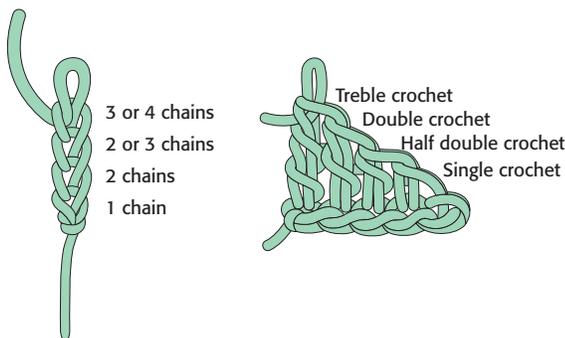
Back of chain



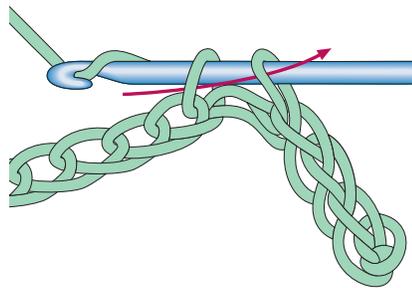
Turning Chains

Chain stitches are also used at the end of rows of crochet to make a *turning chain*, which is abbreviated as “tch.” Your pattern will direct

you to make a specified number of chain stitches before turning the work. The bigger/taller the stitches you’re making, the more chain stitches you’ll generally be instructed to make. For example, for single crochet, you’ll need one turning chain stitch. For half-double crochet, you’ll two chain stitches. For double crochet, you’ll need two or three stitches; for treble crochet, you’ll three or four stitches. These chain stitches are made in exactly the same way as you worked the foundation chain.

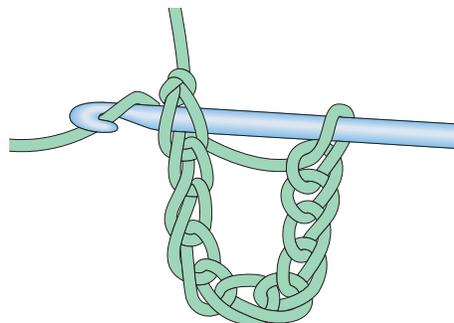


2 Bring the working yarn from behind the hook over the top. Catch the yarn in the crook of the hook and pull it through the chain stitch. You have one loop on your hook and you’ve slipped one stitch.



3 Repeat steps 1 and 2 until you’ve slipped the required number of stitches as stated in your pattern.

4 To join the foundation chain into a circle for working in the round, insert the hook into the stitch furthest from the hook and work a slip stitch as described above.



Slip Stitch

A slip stitch is used to join the ends of your foundation chain into a ring or circle for crocheting in the round. (Think Granny Squares or those adorable Amigurumi toys that are worked in the round.) Or, a slip stitch can be used to move your working yarn and hook to a different spot in your work without cutting the yarn and rejoining it.

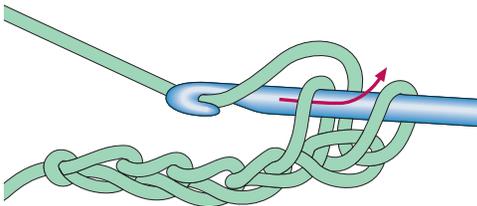
1 Insert the hook into the first chain on your hook from front to back.

Single Crochet

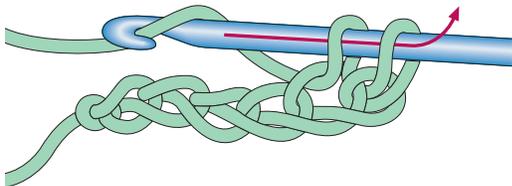
This is the most basic fabric-building stitch. It makes a tight fabric with very little stretch or give, making it great for crocheted toys that will be stuffed firmly.

1 Work the specified number of chain stitches to make a foundation chain. Turn the work so you're ready to work back along the chain you've just formed.

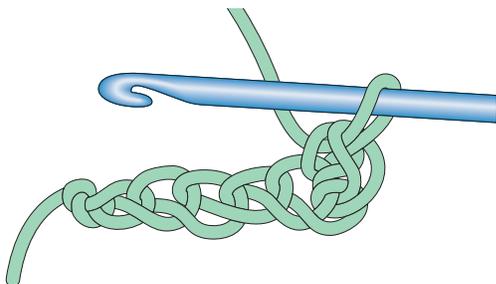
2 For single crochet, you'll skip one chain stitch (the turning chain) and insert your hook from front to back into the next chain on the hook. Yarn over hook and pull the hook through the chain stitch.



3 You'll now have two loops on the hook. Yarn over hook and pull the hook through both loops on the hook.



4 You'll have one loop remaining on the hook. Congratulations—you've just completed a single crochet stitch.

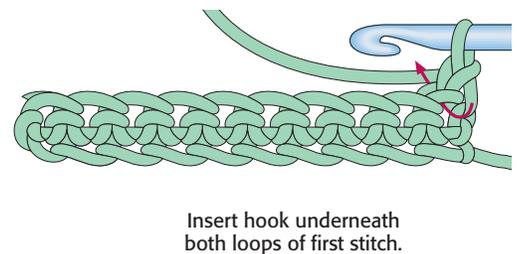
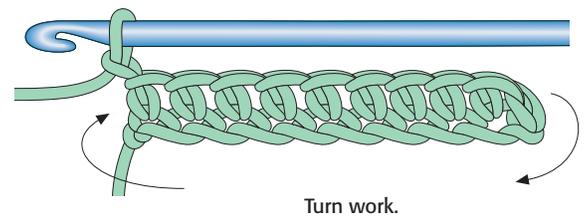
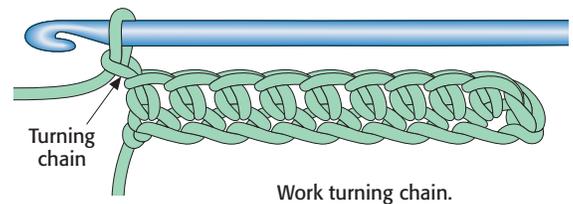


5 Continue working single crochet across the foundation chain, working one single crochet stitch into each remaining chain stitch.



Single Crochet on Subsequent Rows

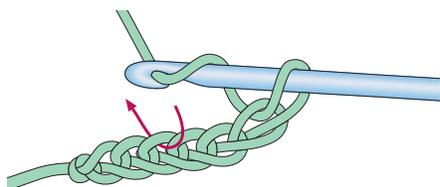
Once you've completed a row of single crochet, chain one (turning chain), and turn your work. Now what? The completed row doesn't quite look like the foundation chain did. But look closely and you'll notice the parts of the stitches you've just made. To work the next row of single crochet, you have the choice of working through the front loop only, both loops of a stitch, or the back loop only. Most patterns will specify when to work through the front or back loop only; if nothing is specified, work through both loops.



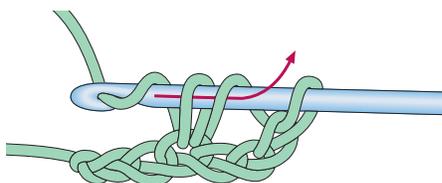
Double Crochet

Double crochet is taller than single crochet, and makes a softer, more flexible fabric.

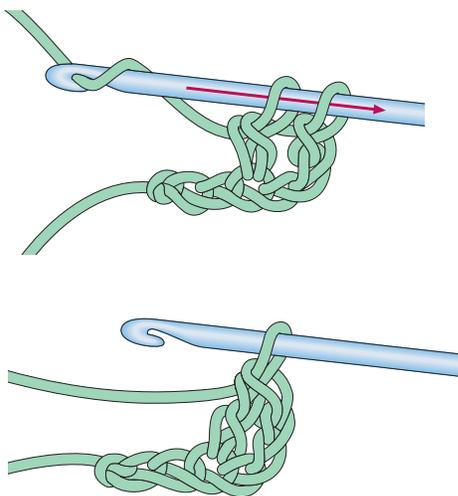
1 To work double crochet into a foundation chain, yarn over hook, skip two or three chain stitches (depending on whether your pattern calls for two or three turning chains), and insert the hook into the next chain from front to back.



2 Yarn over hook and pull the hook through the chain stitch. You'll have three loops on your hook. Yarn over again and pull the hook through two of the loops on the hook. You'll now have two loops remaining on the hook.



3 Yarn over hook and pull the hook through the remaining two loops on the hook. You now have completed a double crochet stitch and have one loop on the hook.

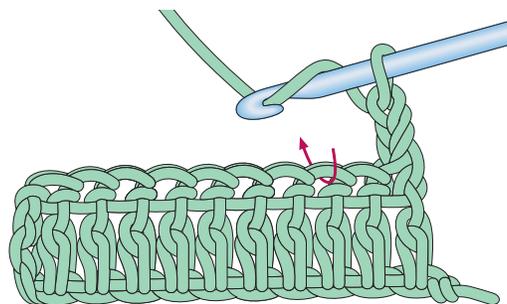


4 Yarn over hook, insert the hook into the next chain stitch, and repeat steps 2 and 3 to make additional double crochet stitches.



Double Crochet on Subsequent Rows

As for single crochet, when you reach the end of the foundation chain, work the required number of turning chains, and then turn your work. Yarn over hook, insert the hook into the designated part of the stitch (front, back, or both loops), and work double crochet stitches as described above across the row.

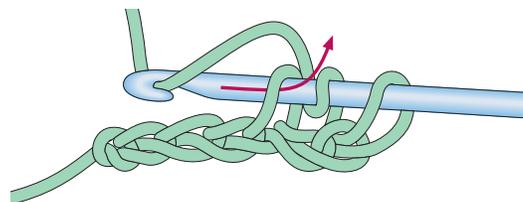


Starting row 2 of double crochet.

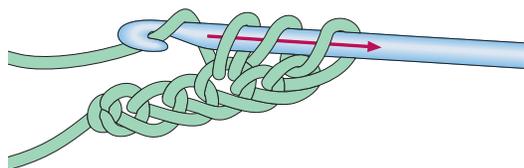
Half-Double Crochet

Taller than single crochet, but shorter than double crochet, this stitch is also halfway in between the two when it comes to firmness and flexibility.

1 To work into a foundation chain, yarn over hook and insert the hook from front to back into the third chain from the hook (first two chain stitches are the turning chain). Yarn over hook again, and pull the hook through the chain stitch. You'll have three loops on the hook.

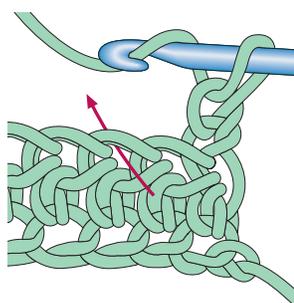


2 Yarn over hook and pull the hook through all three loops on the hook. You've completed one half-double crochet stitch, and you have one loop on the hook.



Half-Double Crochet on Subsequent Rows

As for single and double crochet, when you reach the end of the foundation chain, work the required number of turning chains, and then turn your work. Yarn over hook, insert the hook into the designated part of the stitch (front, back, or both loops), and work half-double crochet stitches as described above.



Starting row 2 of half-double crochet.

Triple (or Treble) Crochet

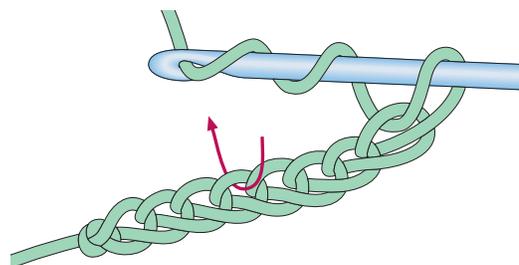
The tallest of the basic crochet stitches, triple (also known as treble) crochet makes a very flexible fabric with gaps between the stitches.



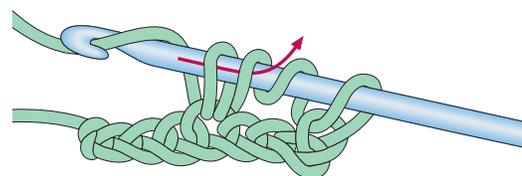
A Note on Terminology

In the United States, triple and treble crochet are interchangeable terms. In Great Britain, Australia, and other Commonwealth countries, the term “treble crochet” is the term used for what we call “double crochet” in the US. So keep on your toes and read your pattern carefully!

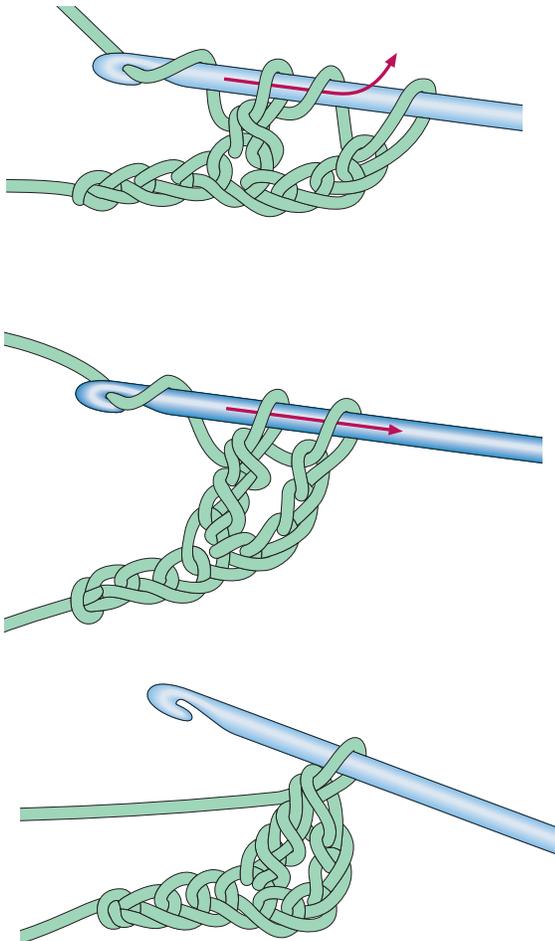
1 To work into a foundation chain, yarn over hook *twice*, skip the first three or four chain stitches (depending on the number of turning stitches called for in your pattern), and insert the hook from front to back through the next stitch in the foundation chain.



2 Yarn over hook and pull the hook through the chain stitch. You'll have four loops on the hook. Yarn over again and pull the hook through two of the loops. You'll now have three loops remaining on the hook.

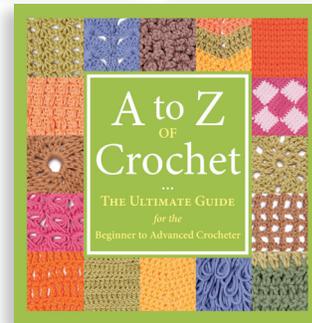
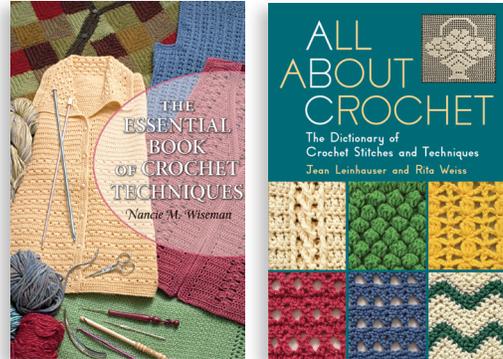


3 Yarn over hook and pull the hook through two of the loops on the hook. You'll have two loops remaining. Yarn over hook and pull the hook through remaining two loops. You've completed one triple crochet stitch and have one loop on your hook.



Completed triple crochet

There you have it! You've now tried all of the basic crochet stitches. If you need more information on these stitches you may be ready to add a reference book to your library, such as *The Essential Book of Crochet Techniques*, *All about Crochet*, or *A to Z of Crochet*.



If you want to learn more about some of the more advanced crochet stitches or need help with any of the following topics, check out our other crochet tutorials at ShopMartingale.com/HowtoCrochet.

- Getting Ready to Crochet (hooks, yarn, notions)
- Now You're Crocheting! (working in rows, working in the round, joining new yarn, and fastening off)
- Gauge

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