







GENERAL INFORMATION

YARN

Instructions will indicate what type of yarn to use. The yarn label will give invaluable information such as dye lot number, yarn weight, fiber content and suggested hook size. See the chart below for yarn classification symbols and their meanings:

STANDARD YARN WEIGHT SYSTEM

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

Yarn Weight Symbol & Category Names	 1 SUPER FINE	 2 FINE	 3 LIGHT
Type of Yarns in Category	Sock, Fingering, Baby	Sport, Baby	DK, Light Worsted
Crochet Gauge* Ranges in Single Crochet to 4 inches	21-32 sts	16-20 sts	12-17 sts
Recommended Hook in Metric Size Range	2.25-3.5 mm	3.5-4.5 mm	4.5-5.5 mm
Recommended Hook U.S. Size Range	B-1 to E-4	E-4 to 7	7 to I-9
Yarn Weight Symbol & Category Names	 4 MEDIUM	 5 BULKY	 6 SUPER BULKY
Type of Yarns in Category	Worsted, Afghan, Aran	Chunky, Craft, Rug	Bulky, Roving
Crochet Gauge* Ranges in Single Crochet to 4 inches	11-14 sts	8-11 sts	5-9 sts
Recommended Hook in Metric Size Range	5.5-6.5 mm	6.5-9 mm	9 mm and larger
Recommended Hook U.S. Size Range	I-9 to K-10½	K-10½ to M-13	M-13 and larger

*GUIDELINES ONLY: The above reflect the most commonly used gauges and needle or hook sizes for specific yarn categories.

METRIC EQUIVALENTS





Comparison of ounces (oz.) and grams (gm.)
(slightly rounded off)

oz.	½	1	1½	1¾	2	2½	3	3½	4
gm.	14	28	42	50	57	71	85	100	113

Be sure to purchase all yarn for your project at one time. A difference in dye lot can make a huge difference in the appearance of the finished project.

SKILL LEVELS FOR CROCHETING

Patterns in this book will be identified by skill level. Although most are designed with the beginner in mind, there are some that will challenge and increase your skills.

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

CROCHET HOOK SIZES

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

CROCHETING ABBREVIATIONS

The following list of abbreviations and symbols are used in crocheting patterns. The most common are in bold print. Occasionally, patterns use unique symbols and abbreviations not on this list. In that case, they are usually defined at the beginning of the pattern.

Abbreviation	Description	Abbreviation	Description
[]	work instructions within brackets as many times as directed	FPdc	front post double crochet
()	work instructions within parentheses as many times as directed	FPsc	front post single crochet
*	repeat the instructions following the single asterisk as directed	FPtr	front post treble crochet
**	repeat instructions between asterisks as many times as directed or repeat from a given set of instructions	g	gram
"	inch(es)	hdc	half double crochet
alt	alternate	inc	increase/increases/increasing
approx	approximately	lp(s)	loop(s)
beg	begin/beginning	m	meter(s)
bet	between	MC	main color
BL	back loop(s)	mm	millimeter(s)
bo	bobble	oz	ounce(s)
BP	back post	p	picot
BPdc	back post double crochet	pat(s) or patt	pattern(s)
BPsc	back post single crochet	pc	popcorn
BPtr	back post treble crochet	pm	place marker
CA	color A	prev	previous
CB	color B	rem	remain/remaining
CC	contrasting color	rep	repeat(s)
ch	chain stitch	rnd(s)	round(s)
ch-	refers to chain or space previously made: e.g., ch-1 space	RS	right side
ch-sp	chain space	sc	single crochet
CL	cluster	sc2tog	single crochet 2 stitches together
cm	centimeter(s)	sk	skip
cont	continue	Sl st	slip stitch
dc	double crochet	sp(s)	space(s)
dc2tog	double crochet 2 stitches together	st(s)	stitch(es)
dec	decrease/decreases/decreasing	tch or t-ch	turning chain
dtr	double treble	tbl	through back loop
FL	front loop(s)	tog	together
fol	follow/follows/following	tn	tapestry needle
FP	front post	tr	treble crochet
		trtr	triple treble crochet
		WS	wrong side
		yd(s)	yard(s)
		yo	yarn over
		yoh	yarn over hook

SECTION FOR RIGHT-HANDED CROCHETERS

To practice the following lessons you will need a BOYE® crochet hook size I and a ball of worsted weight yarn.

Lesson 1 CHAIN STITCH

abbreviation: ch

Chain stitch is the beginning stitch in crochet. Almost all pieces of crochet start with a length of chain stitches which resembles a series of V's, called the foundation chain.

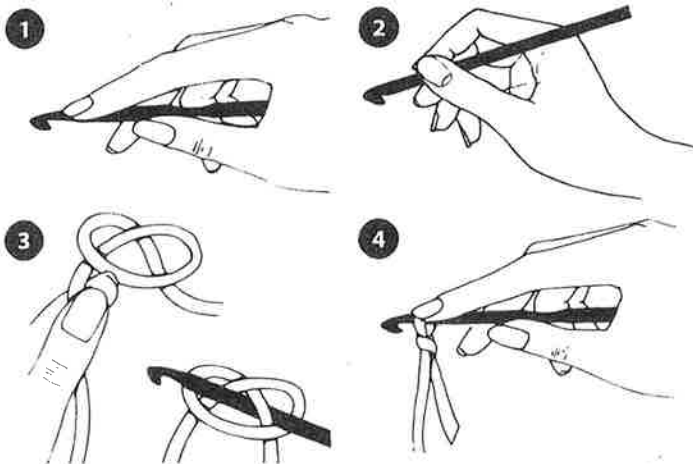
To begin, grasp crochet hook in right hand, between thumb and middle finger, with your index finger resting near tip of hook.

SEE DIAGRAM 1. Or, if you prefer, hold hook like a pencil.

SEE DIAGRAM 2.

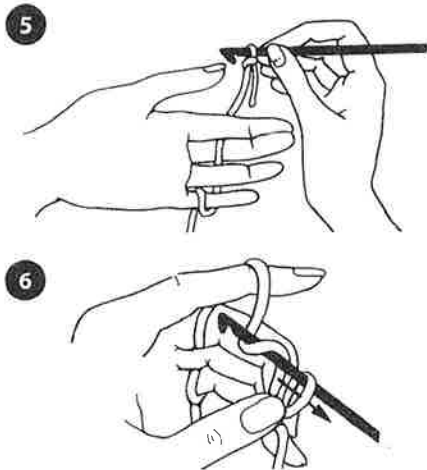
Next make a slip loop (knot) on hook, several inches from yarn end.

SEE DIAGRAM 3 AND 4.



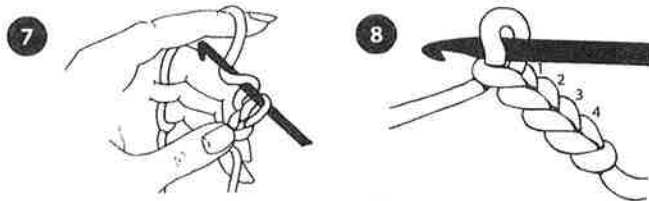
Thread yarn through fingers of left hand, wrapping yarn around little finger, over 4th finger and under middle finger, then over index finger. SEE DIAGRAM 5. Hold slip loop between left thumb and middle finger. SEE DIAGRAM 6.

How to make a chain stitch: Bring yarn over hook and draw yarn through loop on hook. SEE DIAGRAM 6. One chain stitch made and one loop remains on hook.



Continue to make chain stitches in this manner (SEE DIAGRAM 7), moving left middle finger and thumb up the chain as you work (keep fingers close to hook). Practice until you reach an evenness of tension, rhythm, and stitch appearance.

Note: When counting the number of stitches in the foundation chain, do not include the loop on the hook. SEE DIAGRAM 8.



Lesson 2 SLIP STITCH

abbreviation: sl st

The slip stitch is a versatile stitch as it is used to join work, fasten off stitches, reinforce an edge, or to carry yarn to a different working position without adding height.

To begin, make a foundation chain of 12 stitches (try to work loosely).

How to make a slip stitch: Insert hook in 2nd chain from hook (under top loop). SEE DIAGRAM 1.

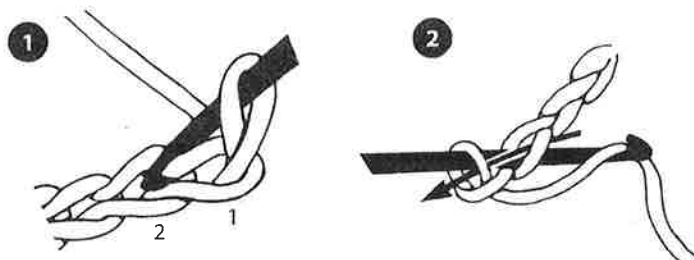
Yarn over hook and draw loop through stitch and loop on hook. SEE DIAGRAM 2. One slip stitch made and one loop remains on hook.

Work a slip stitch in each following chain across row.

SEE DIAGRAM 3.

For practice, unravel piece and repeat instructions as many times as necessary to become familiar with the technique.

To fasten off at end of work: Make a chain stitch, then cut yarn leaving 4" end. Pull end up tightly through loop on hook.



Lesson 3 SINGLE CROCHET

abbreviation: sc

Lessons 3 through 6 cover the 4 Basic Crochet Stitches: Single crochet, half double crochet, double crochet, and triple (sometimes called treble) crochet. Each will be one step taller than the last. This variation in height is the result of wrapping the yarn around the hook as you work.

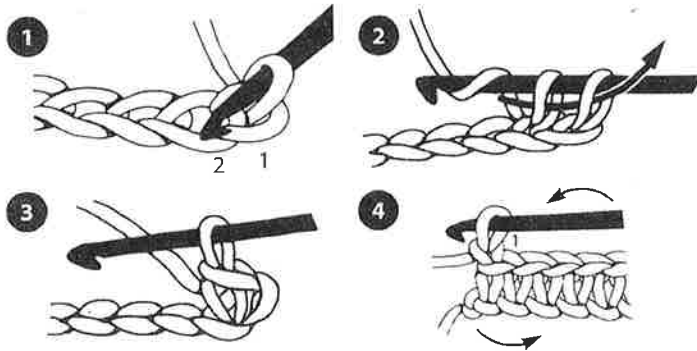
Single crochet is the shortest in height of the 4 basic crochet stitches. Remember to work evenly, firmly but not tightly, and with a medium tension.

To begin, make a foundation chain of 12 stitches (do not work too tightly).

How to make a single crochet: Insert hook in 2nd chain from hook (under top loop). **SEE DIAGRAM 1.**

Yarn over hook and draw loop through stitch. There are now 2 loops on hook. Yarn over hook again and draw loop through both loops on hook. **SEE DIAGRAM 2.** One single crochet made and one loop remains on hook. **SEE DIAGRAM 3.**

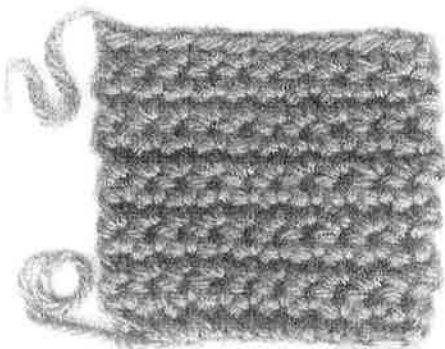
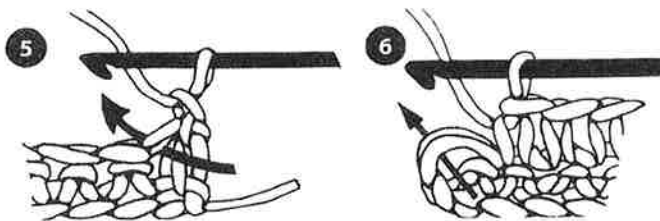
Work a single crochet in each following chain across row, making sure foundation chain is kept flat with V's facing you. At end of foundation chain, complete last single crochet, then chain one. This is called the turning chain and is made in order to give the necessary height to begin next row. **SEE DIAGRAM 4.**



After making the turning chain, turn work around from left to right until the opposite side is facing you. **SEE DIAGRAM 4.** Work one single crochet in first stitch of previous row (under top 2 loops). **SEE DIAGRAM 5.** Work a single crochet in each following stitch across row, being sure to work last single crochet under top 2 loops of last stitch. **SEE DIAGRAM 6.**

For practice, repeat previous row until you have mastered the technique and can work with ease.

To fasten off at end of work: Make a chain stitch, then cut yarn, leaving 4" end. Pull end up tightly through loop on hook.



Lesson 4 HALF DOUBLE CROCHET

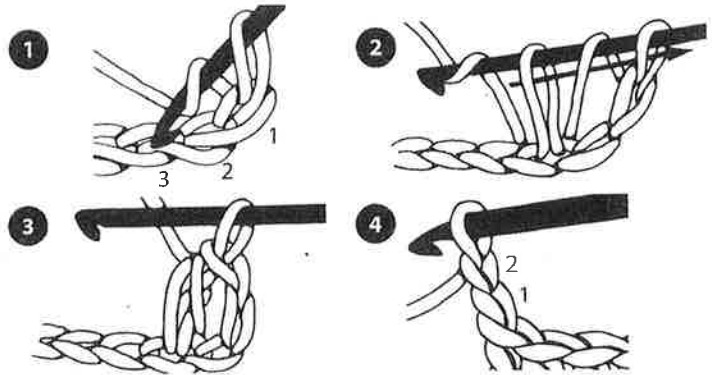
abbreviation: hdc

Half double crochet is twice as tall as a single crochet, but is shorter than a double or triple crochet. It is a simple stitch to master.

To begin, make a foundation chain of 12 stitches.

How to make a half double crochet: Yarn over hook, insert hook in 3rd chain from hook (under top loop). **SEE DIAGRAM 1.**

Yarn over hook and draw loop through stitch. There are now 3 loops on hook. Yarn over hook again and draw loop through all 3 loops on hook. **SEE DIAGRAM 2.** One half double crochet made and one loop remains on hook. **SEE DIAGRAM 3.**



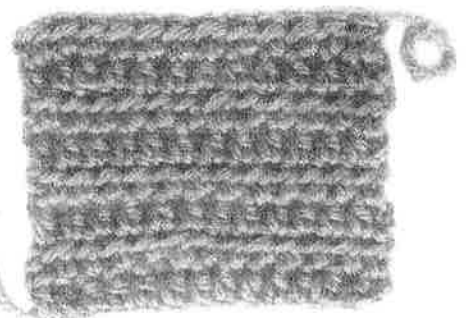
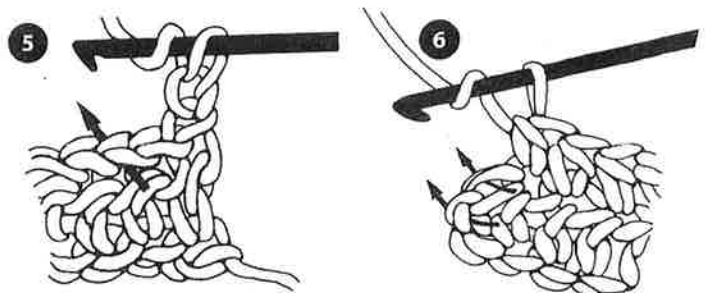
Work a half double crochet in each following chain across, making sure foundation chain is kept flat with V's facing you. After working last half double crochet of row, chain 2 for the turning chain.

SEE DIAGRAM 4. This counts as the first half double crochet of the next row and gives proper height to continue the row.

Turn work around from left to right until the opposite side is facing you. Work one half double crochet in 2nd stitch of the previous row (under top 2 loops). **SEE DIAGRAM 5.** Work half double crochet in each remaining stitch across the row, ending by working half double crochet in last stitch and in top chain of the turning chain (remember that the turning chain counts as one stitch). **SEE DIAGRAM 6.**

For practice, repeat the previous row as many times as desired.

To fasten off at end of work: Make a chain stitch, then cut yarn, leaving 4" end. Pull end up tightly through loop on hook.



Lesson 5 DOUBLE CROCHET

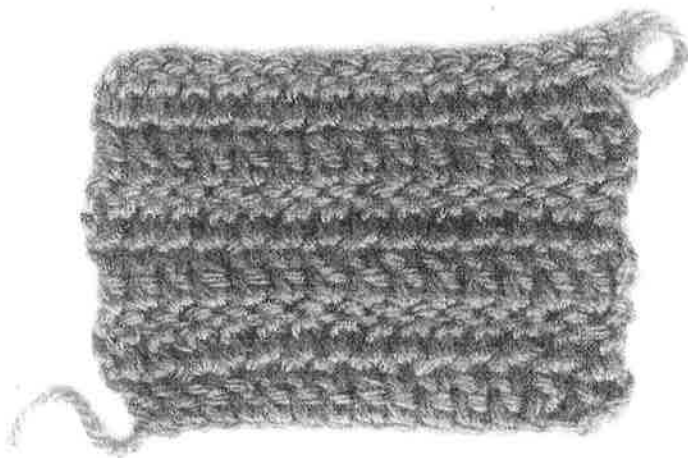
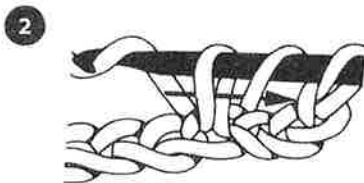
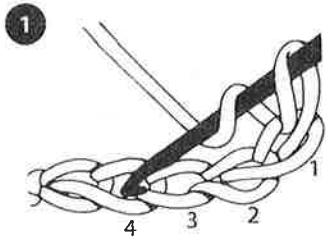
abbreviation: dc

This stitch is taller than the half double crochet and is 3 times the height of the single crochet. It is an easy stitch which works up quickly because each row is taller, there are less rows of work.

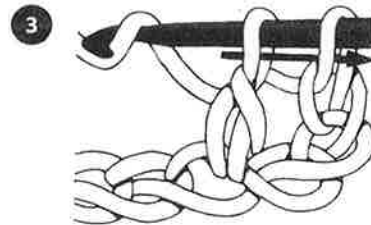
To begin, make a foundation chain of 12 stitches.

How to make a double crochet: Yarn over hook, insert hook in 4th chain from hook (under top loop). **SEE DIAGRAM 1.**

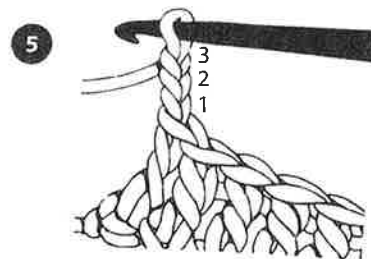
Yarn over hook and draw loop through stitch. There are now 3 loops on hook. Yarn over hook and draw loop through first 2 loops on hook. **SEE DIAGRAM 2.** There are now 2 loops on hook.



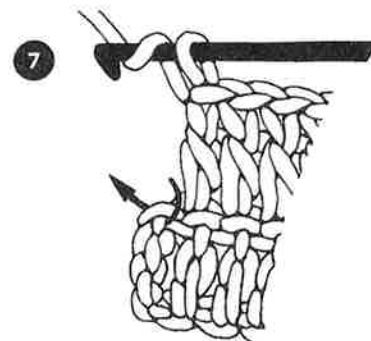
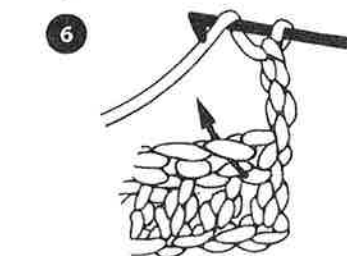
Yarn over hook again and draw loop through both loops on hook. **SEE DIAGRAM 3.** One double crochet made and one loop remains on hook. **SEE DIAGRAM 4.**



Work one double crochet in each remaining chain across, making sure foundation chain is kept flat with V's facing you. After last double crochet of row, chain 3 for the turning chain. **SEE DIAGRAM 5.** This counts as first double crochet of next row and gives proper row height.



Turn work from left to right until the opposite side is facing you. Work one double crochet in 2nd stitch of previous row (under top 2 loops). **SEE DIAGRAM 6.** Work double crochet in each remaining stitch across row, ending by working last double crochet in top chain of the turning chain (remember that the turning chain counts as one stitch). **SEE DIAGRAM 7.**



For practice, repeat previous row as many times as desired.

To fasten off at end of work: Make a chain stitch, then cut yarn, leaving 4" end. Pull end up tightly through loop on hook.

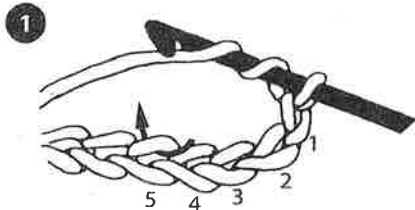
Lesson 6 TREBLE CROCHET

abbreviation: tr

Treble crochet has one more step than double crochet, making it the tallest of the previous crochet stitches.

To begin, make a foundation chain of 12 stitches.

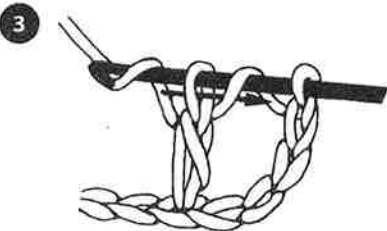
How to make a treble crochet: Yarn over hook twice, insert hook in 5th chain from hook (under top loop). **SEE DIAGRAM 1.**



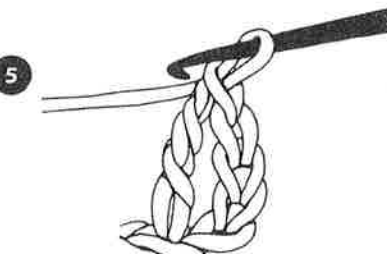
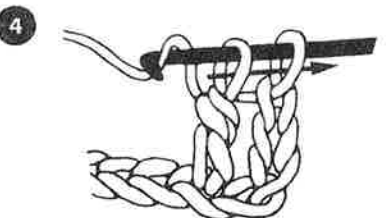
Yarn over hook and draw loop through stitch. There are now 4 loops on hook. Yarn over hook and draw loop through first 2 loops on hook. **SEE DIAGRAM 2.** There are now 3 loops on hook.



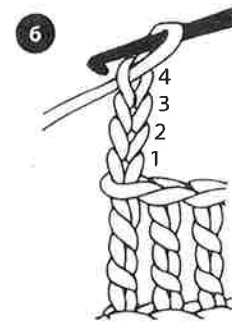
Yarn over hook and draw loop through next 2 loops on hook. **SEE DIAGRAM 3.** There are now 2 loops on hook.



Yarn over hook again and draw loop through both loops on hook. **SEE DIAGRAM 4.** One treble crochet made and one loop remains on hook. **SEE DIAGRAM 5.**



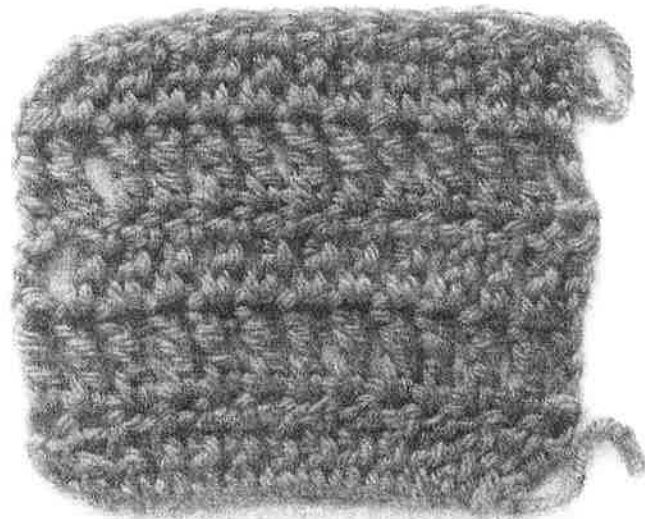
Work one treble crochet in each remaining chain across, making sure foundation chain is kept flat with V's facing you. After last treble crochet of row, chain 4 for the turning chain. **SEE DIAGRAM 6.** This counts as first treble crochet of next row and gives proper row height.



Turn work from left to right until opposite side is facing you. Work one treble crochet in 2nd stitch of previous row (under top 2 loops) and in each remaining stitch across, ending by working last treble crochet in top chain of the turning chain.

For practice, repeat previous row as needed.

To fasten off at end of work: Make a chain stitch, then cut yarn, leaving 4" end. Pull end up tightly through loop on hook.

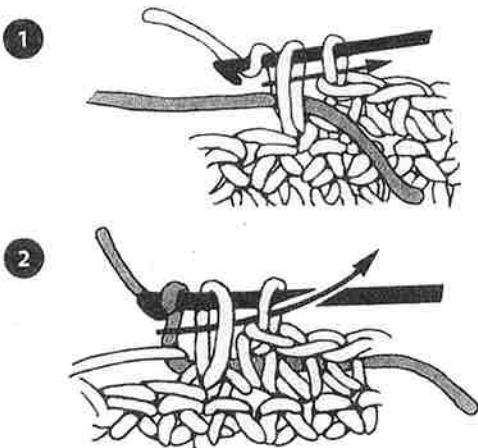


Lesson 8 JOINING YARN & CHANGING COLORS

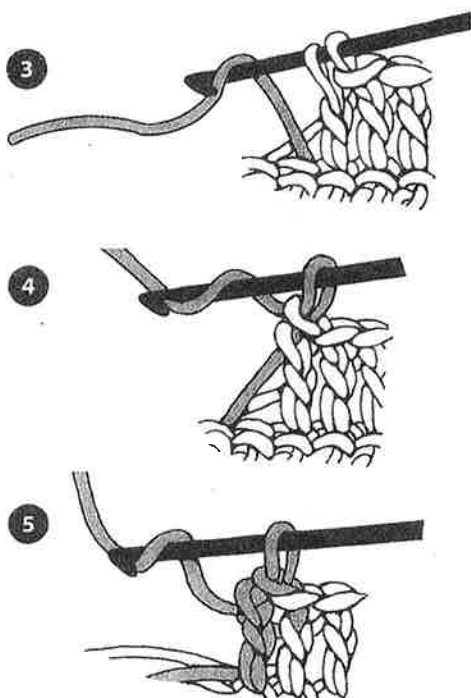
Always try to join new yarn at the end of a row, leaving at least 4" ends to weave into the seam later. Professionals frown upon tying knots in the middle of a row but there are times when it is necessary, as when starting a new color of a design.

One method is to knot the old and new yarns together close to your work about 4" from the ends. Then conceal the ends by working the following stitches over them, or weave them in later along an edge or across a row through 8 to 12 stitches.

Another method is to hold the end of new yarn along top of working row before finishing off old yarn and then working stitches over it. **SEE DIAGRAM 1.** Then change colors by working last stitch in old color until 2 loops remain on hook, place old color on top of working row, pick up new color and complete stitch. **SEE DIAGRAM 2.** Continue with new color and work stitches over end of old color. You will find this method works very well in single crochet fabric.



For double crochet and other stitches, it is usually better to change colors as shown (**SEE DIAGRAM 3, 4 AND 5.**) leaving at least 4" ends and working stitches over them now or weaving them in later.

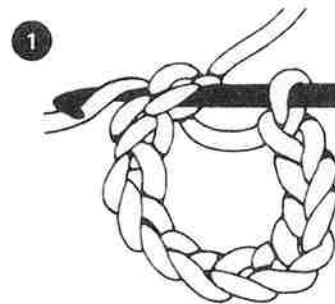


Lesson 9 WORKING IN ROUNDS

Working in rounds is just as easy as working back and forth in rows.

Crocheting in rounds can form many different seamless shapes, such as a circle, square, oval, or tubular piece. This is helpful in creating items such as hats, doilies, rugs and granny squares. It usually begins with a foundation ring of chain stitches. Directions will specify the number of chains to make and then will say "join with a slip stitch to form a ring" or simply "join" which means the chains will then form a circle.

How to join to form a ring: After crocheting the specified number of chains, insert hook in first chain made, being careful not to twist foundation chain. Yarn over and draw loop through chain and loop on hook. **SEE DIAGRAM 1.** Crochet stitches are then worked from this beginning ring outward. It is important when working in rounds to mark the first stitch of each round, otherwise it is difficult to know when one round begins and the other one ends. You may use a stitch marker, small safety pin or a piece of contrasting yarn.



Lesson 10

FINISHING TECHNIQUES

Proper finishing is essential to the look of your project.

Weaving in ends: Thread yarn end of finished piece into a BOYE® yarn needle and weave through stitches along a side edge or along a row of crochet for several inches on wrong side until hidden and secure. **SEE DIAGRAM 1.**

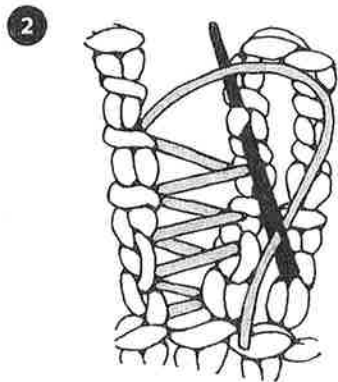


Blocking: Not all crochet pieces need blocking. You will find with experience that wool yarns may need more steaming and shaping than man-made yarns. Some man-made fibers may require no blocking at all. A light steaming of the seams may be all that is needed. Always check the yarn label for specific instructions for laundering or blocking before proceeding. Do not block ribbing or raised pattern stitches.

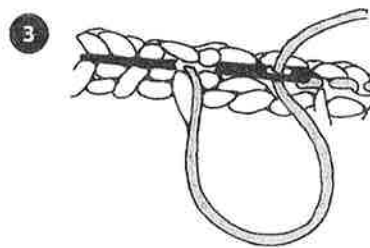
To block, place each crocheted piece down on a padded surface with wrong side facing up or correct sides together if identical pieces are being blocked together. Use BOYE® rust-proof T-pins if needed to hold edges in place. Cover with a damp cloth and press **lightly** with steam or dry iron at moderate setting. The weight of the iron should never rest on the material. Remove cloth, allowing pieces to dry thoroughly before removing.

Joining Pieces: There are several basic methods to use when joining seams. Whichever method you decide to use, always sew with matching yarn and keep edges even, matching rows and stitches, colors and pattern stitches.

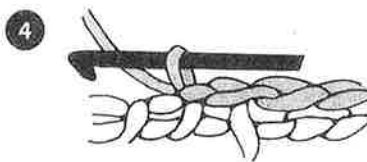
To **weave seams together**, use a BOYE® yarn needle threaded with a length of yarn. Hold edges side by side with right side of each piece facing up. Pass threaded needle through first stitch of left edge and then through first stitch of right edge. Pass needle through next stitch on left edge and then through next stitch on right edge. Alternate weaving from edge to edge in this manner, carefully matching rows and stitches until completed. **SEE DIAGRAM 2.** Keep seam slightly loose and elastic for best results. This method is most commonly used since it produces a flat, almost invisible seam.



To make a **back stitch seam**, thread yarn length into a BOYE® yarn needle. Pin pieces with right sides together and sew with small, loose back stitches. **SEE DIAGRAM 3.** The seam should have the same stretchability as the crocheted piece itself.



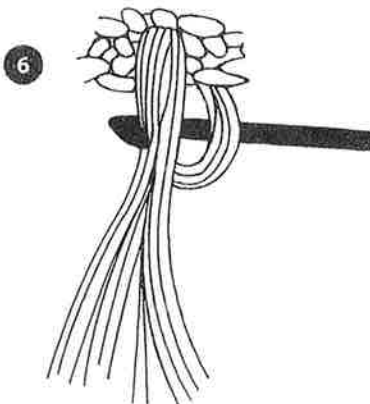
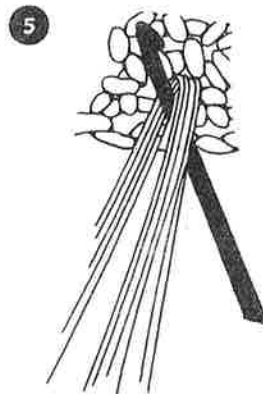
To make a **slip stitch seam**, use a BOYE® crochet hook the same size as used in the project. Pin edges together and loosely slip stitch seams together. **SEE DIAGRAM 4.**



Fringe: Cut strands of yarn the length specified in pattern instructions. Hold number of strands specified for one knot of fringe together and fold in half. Use a BOYE® crochet hook and pull folded end through edge to be fringed from right to wrong side.

SEE DIAGRAM 5. Draw loose ends through folded end.

SEE DIAGRAM 6. Pull knot up securely.



Continue making knots in this manner until edge(s) is completely fringed, then trim ends evenly.

Lesson 11

GAUGE

A very important lesson

Understanding gauge is crucial for successful crocheting. Gauge is the number of stitches and rows to the inch used to calculate the sizing of patterns. The number of stitches to the inch determines the width of the crocheted piece while the number of rows determines the length. Gauge is stated at the beginning of the pattern instructions. Your crocheting must match the gauge given. A variation of even a half stitch per inch will drastically change the size. For example, a sweater designed with a 40" chest measurement at a gauge of 4 stitches per inch will measure 45" crocheted at a gauge of 3-1/2 stitches per inch!

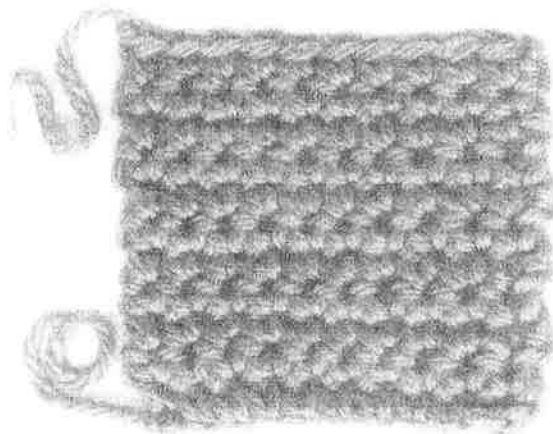
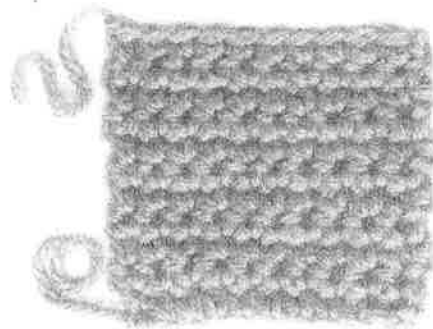
HOW TO CHECK GAUGE

Crochet a swatch in the specified pattern stitch to measure at least 4" square using the hooks and yarn stated in the pattern. Place swatch on a flat surface being certain not to stretch it as you measure 4" in both directions and mark with a pin. Count stitches and rows within the 4". If your gauge differs from the one given, change needle size and work another swatch. If there are too many stitches to the inch use a larger hook and if there are too few stitches use a smaller one. *Use the hook that gives the correct gauge regardless of the size specified in the pattern!*

THESE TWO SWATCHES ARE EXACTLY THE SAME SIZE!

Or are they?

These 2 swatches were made by two different crocheters. They used the same yarn, the same size hook and worked the same number of stitches. Note the difference in size. The pattern writer may crochet differently than you - always check your gauge before beginning a project!



**Note to Right Handers:
PROCEED TO SPECIAL LESSON 1 ON PAGE 18.**