



# CROCHET



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AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO THE ESSENTIAL CROCHET STITCHES







# CROCHET BASICS

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#### STITCH ENCYCLOPEDIA

An Illustrated Guide to the Essential Crochet Stitches







#### Welcome.

For those of you who are about to try crochet for the first time, or those who already know the basics, you'll be able to master the art of crochet by following the easy-to-understand illustrations contained in this book.

Perhaps you already know how to crochet with yarn and a hook but find instructions in published patterns difficult to follow. Or maybe you need a little help to be able to crochet evenly or to neatly finish your pieces.

This book illustrates precisely where to place the hook, where to hold the yarn, and where to pull the yarn through for each stitch. By practicing these steps as you work your projects, each piece will come out a beautiful work of art.

The basic techniques are the same whether using thin crochet thread or thick yarn to work the pattern stitches or to join finished pieces together. You no longer have to dream about being able to crochet; you will find all the answers in this book.

#### Basic Techniques

#### Basic Crocheting —

Holding yarn & hook 5
Chain stitch
Single crochet 8
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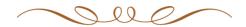
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# Basic Techniques

#### BASIC CROCHETING



A hook and a strand of yarn are all that you need to begin crocheting. Crocheting can be a simple or an intricate process, depending on the stitches and techniques used. First you need to master the basics in this chapter as your foundation; then you can try a variety of crocheting patterns.

This illustration shows the first technique you will need for crocheting in rows.



#### TURNING YOUR WORK

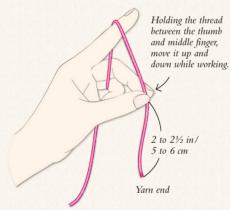
When working in rows, it's important to be consistent in your method of turning your work before beginning the next row. This will keep the ends of your crochet piece neat. After finishing the row, work the required number of chains for the turning chain, and then turn your work toward the right while holding the hook and the turning chain in place.



# HOLDING YARN & HOOK

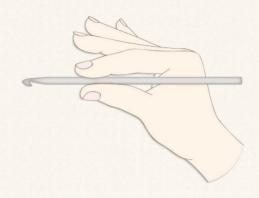
#### HOLDING THE YARN



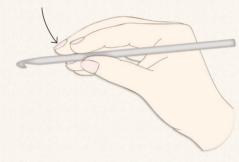




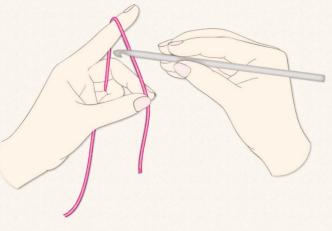
#### HOLDING THE HOOK



The middle finger supports the movement of the hook



Holding the yarn and hook together



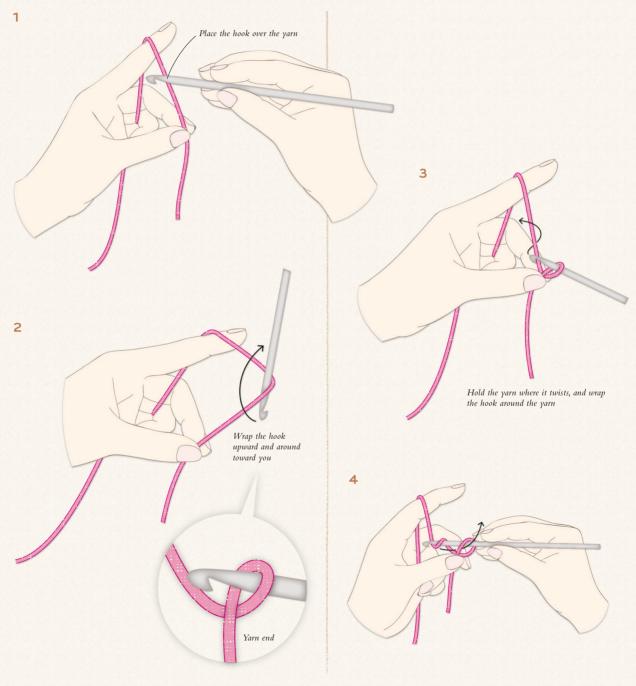
#### Basic Techniques

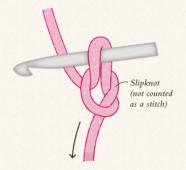
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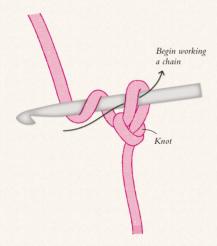
SLIPKNOT

The most basic stitch used to begin a piece.

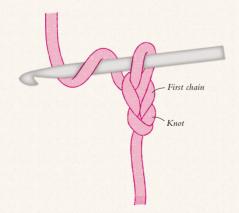




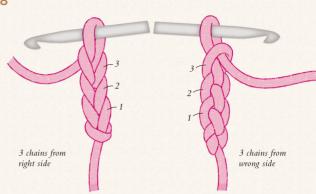
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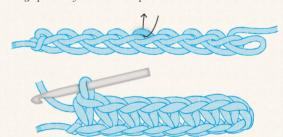


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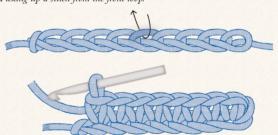


## PICKING UP STITCHES FROM THE FOUNDATION CHAIN

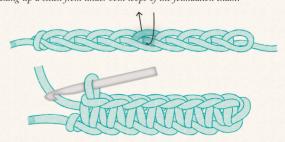
Picking up a stitch from the back loop.



Picking up a stitch from the front loop.



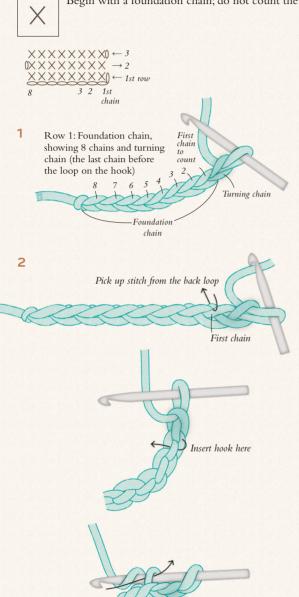
Picking up a stitch from under both loops of the foundation chain.

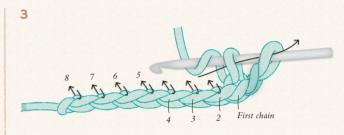


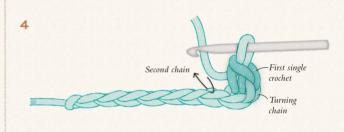
# ING BORDER

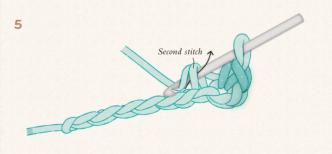


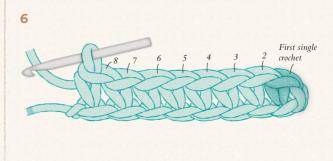
Begin with a foundation chain; do not count the slipknot.



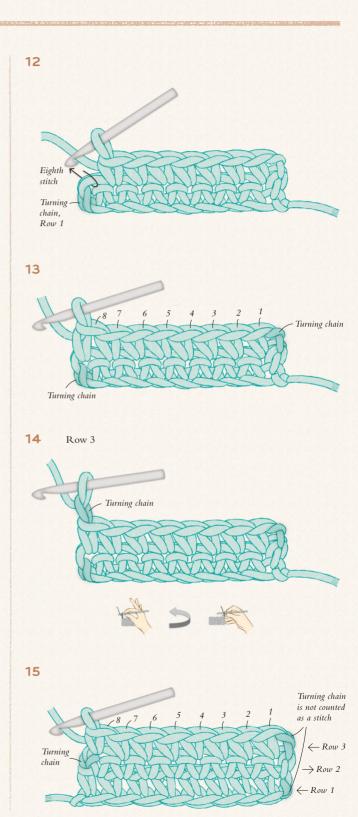






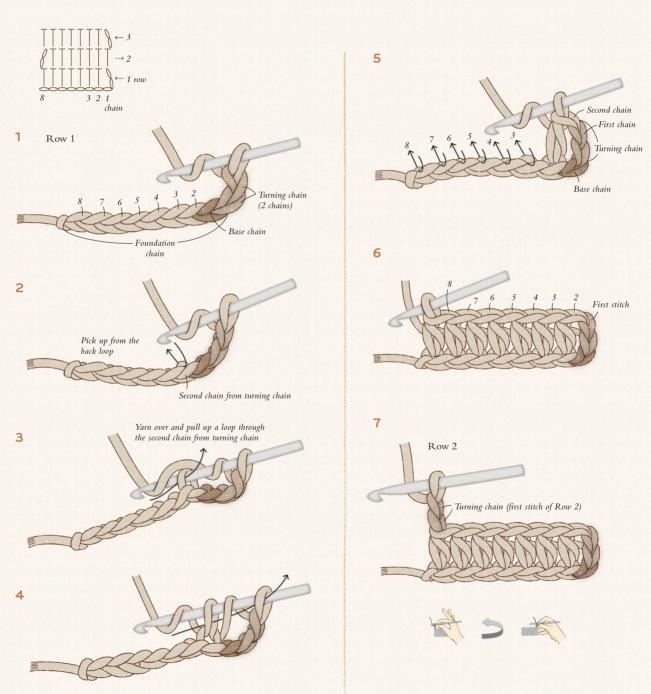


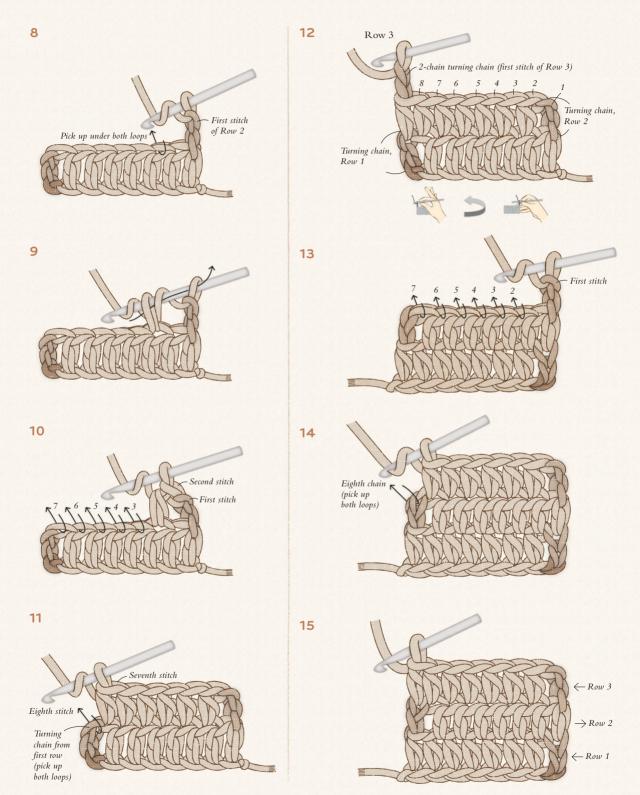
# 7 Row 2 Turning chain 8 Pick up both loops Turning chain 9 10 First stitch Second stitch 11 Second stitch



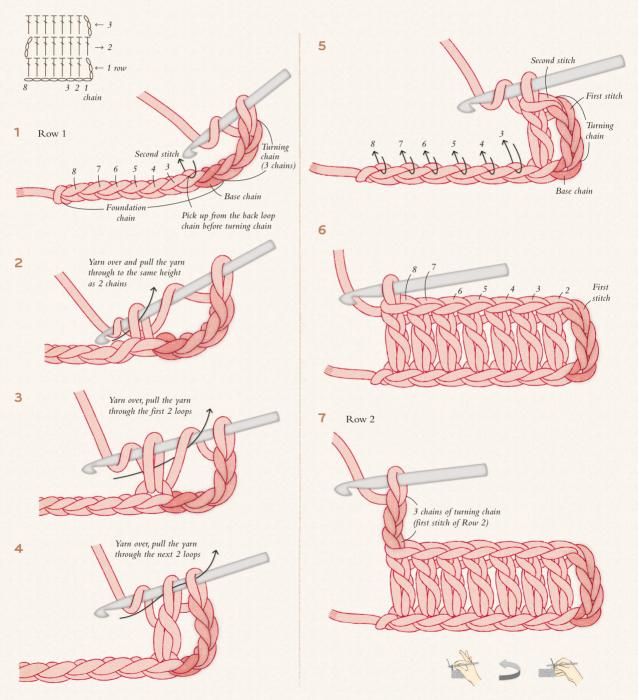
# HALF DOUBLE CROCHET

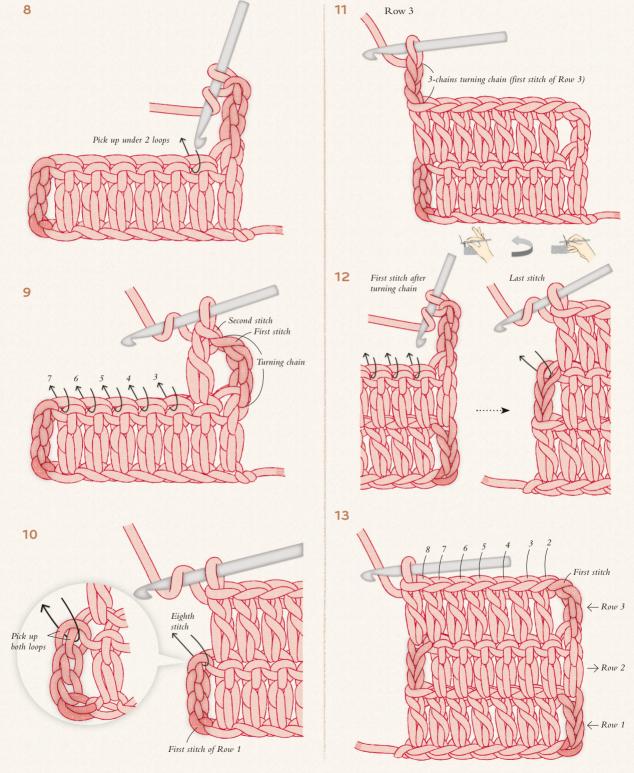
The first 2 chains of the foundation row are the turning chain for the first row and are counted as the first stitch. Wrap the yarn once around the hook, insert the hook in the foundation chain and pull up a loop (3 loops are on the hook), yarn over, and pull up a loop through all 3 loops.





The first 3 chains are the turning chain for Row 1 and are counted as the first stitch. Yarn over once, insert the hook in the foundation chain and pull up a loop (3 loops are on the hook), yarn over, and pull the yarn through 2 loops twice.

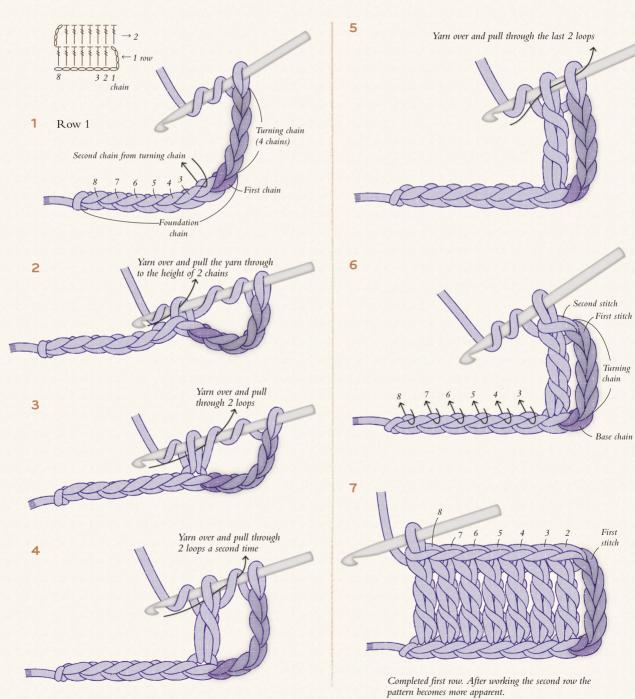




# TRIPIE (TREBIE) CROSIET

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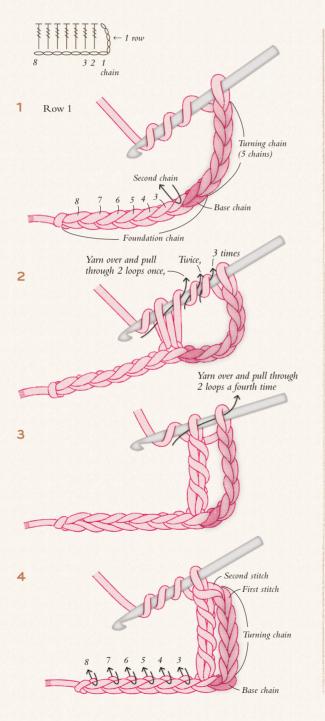
The first 4 chains of the foundation chain are the turning chain for the first row, and are counted as the first stitch. Yarn over twice, insert the hook in the foundation chain and pull up a loop. Yarn over, and pull through 2 loops, 3 times.



#### DOUBLE TREBLE CROCHET

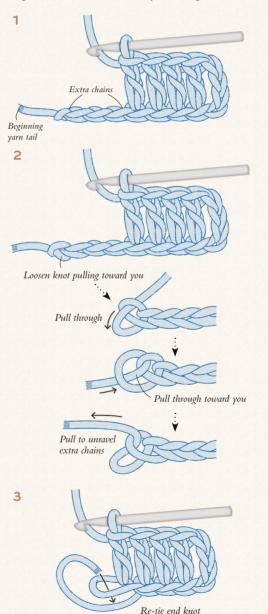
1

The first 5 chains are the turning chain for the first row and count as the first stitch. Yarn over 3 times, insert the hook in the foundation chain and pull up a loop (4 loops on the hook), yarn over and pull through 2 loops 4 times.



#### ADJUSTING THE NUMBER OF STITCHES IN THE FOUNDATION CHAIN

If you work too many chains for the foundation chain, adjust the length at the end of the first row by unraveling the extra chains.



6

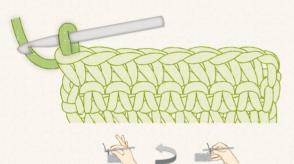


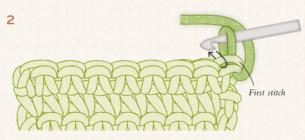
There is no height to this stitch, thus no turning chain is needed. Insert the hook into the previous row, yarn over, and pull a loop through the loop on the hook.

#### WHEN THE PREVIOUS ROW IS SINGLE CROCHET

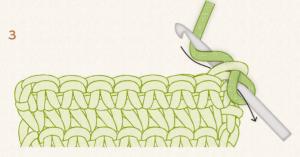


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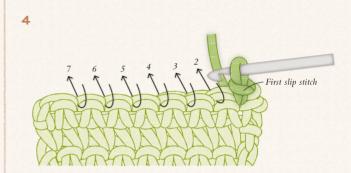


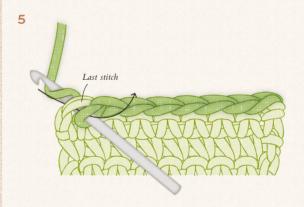


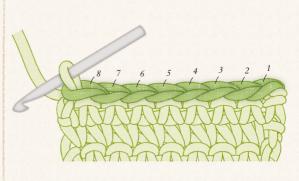
Placing the yarn on the side away from you, insert the hook into the first stitch of the previous row.



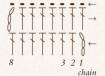
Yarn over and pull the yarn through the loop on the hook.

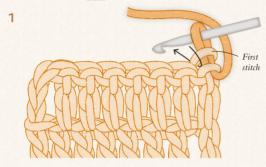


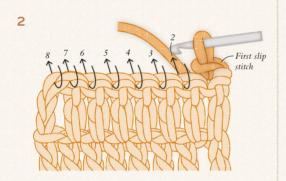




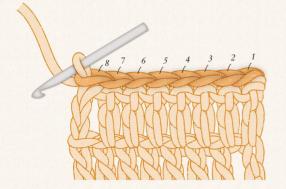
# WHEN THE PREVIOUS ROW IS DOUBLE CROCHET





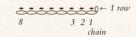


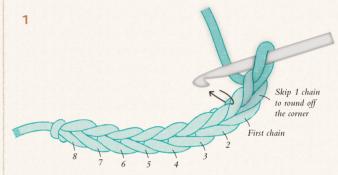
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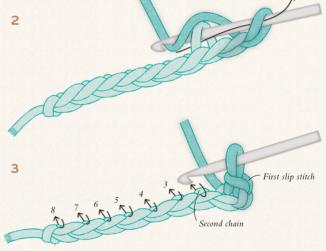


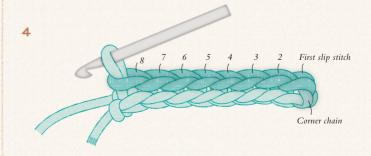
#### SLIP STITCH CORD

Working a row of slip stitch onto a foundation chain creates a cord. Work into the back loop of the chain only to make the cord.







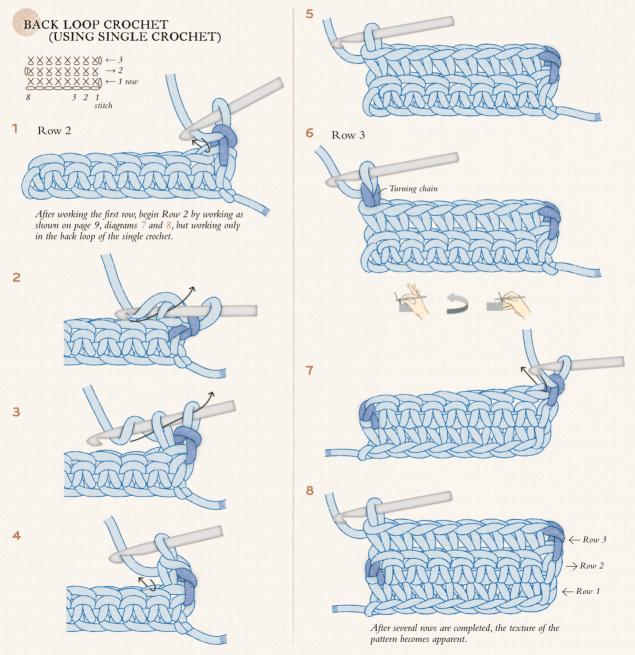


# GROSIET IN THE BACK LOOP



#### BACK LOOP SINGLE CROCHET

This technique is usually started after the first row, with Row 1 having been worked in single crochet, half double crochet, or double crochet. The same basic stitch is used for the second row; the difference is where to pick up the next row of stitches. Normally, you would pick up under both loops (into the entire stitch); for this technique, the stitches for the second row are picked up in the back loop only. Use this technique both working in rows and working in the round.



## JOINING FOR WORKING IN THE ROUND (USING SINGLE CROCHET)



The following illustrations show how to join rounds and complete the first row.

3 2 1 stitch

(the turning chain).

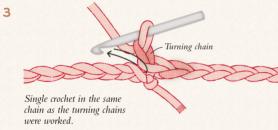
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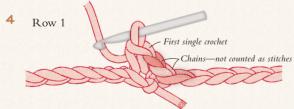
Yarn over and pull loop through

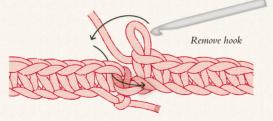




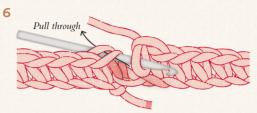
First chain





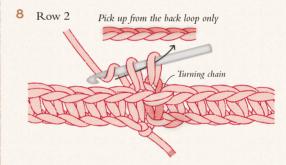


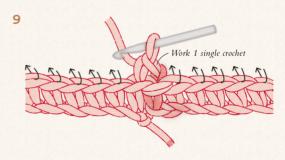
Reinsert the hook in the first single crochet, from behind.

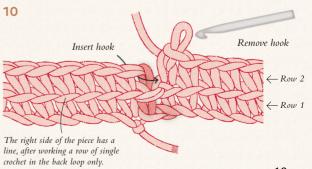


From there, pull the loop through to join the row.









CROCHET (BASICS)

# Crochet Patterns

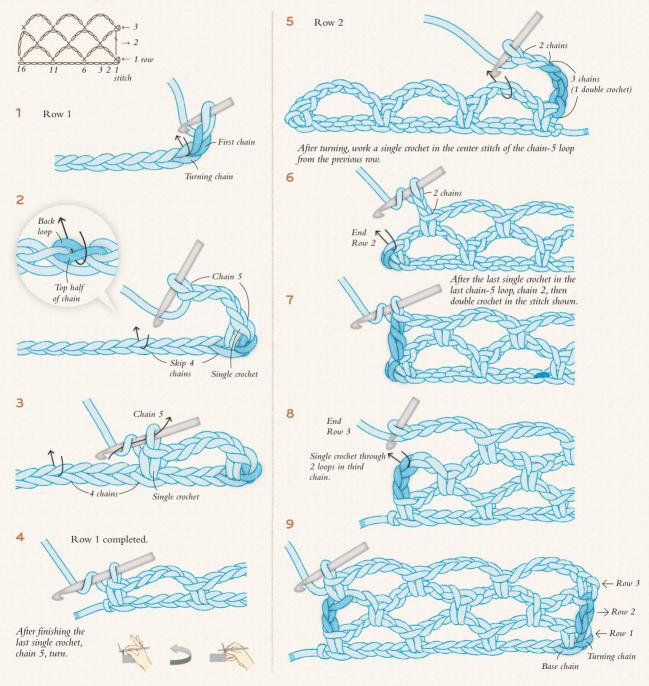
BASIC STITCH PATTERNS



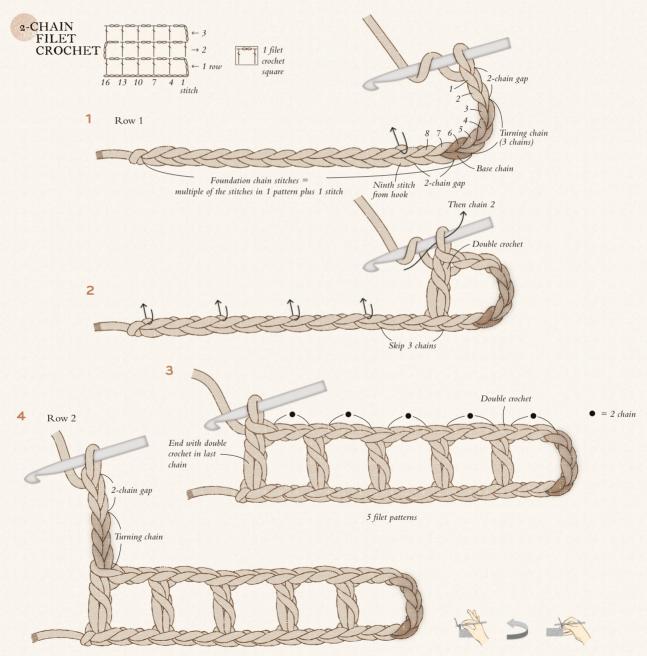
The five crochet stitch patterns illustrated on the following pages commonly appear in many crochet patterns. These are simple, beautiful designs that can be used time and time again; they are also used in antique crochet patterns. These stitch patterns are worked using a combination of the basic stitch techniques presented in the previous chapter. There are several techniques for adding texture to your piece by increasing stitches or using variations of chain stitch at the end of the chapter. They are just a few ways to add depth to your piece.



Plain net stitch is worked by using both chain stitch and single crochet. Work the first row of single crochet, picking up from 2 loops on the foundation chain as shown.

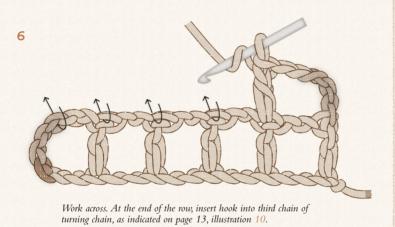


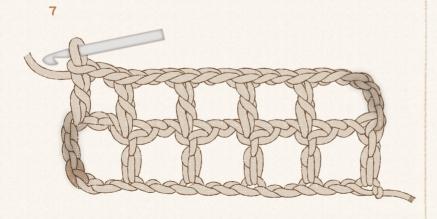
Filet crochet is worked using chain stitch and double crochet. The size of the space (square) is determined by the number of chains worked before the double crochet is worked, and this number corresponds to the number of double crochet worked in the filled squares.



Turn to begin next row.

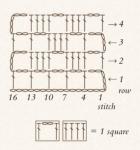
# Row 1, 3-chain turning chain Turning chain Insert hook into top of double crochet from previous row, work double crochet, chain 2.





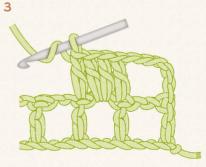
# FILLED PATTERNS USING FILET CROCHET

Changing the chain-2 spaces to double crochet will create a new stitch pattern.

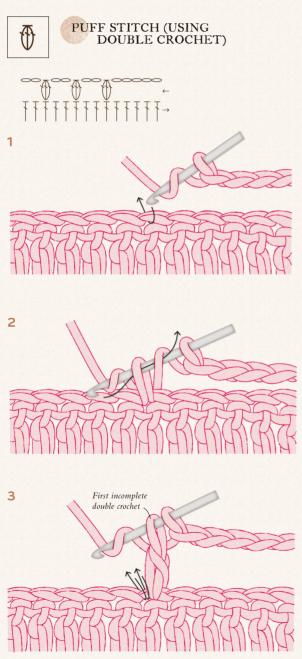




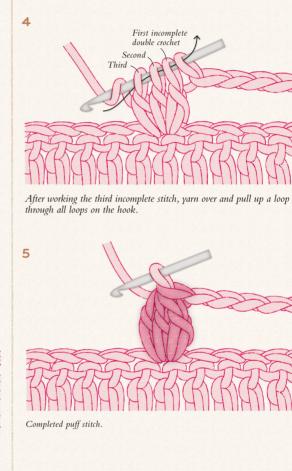


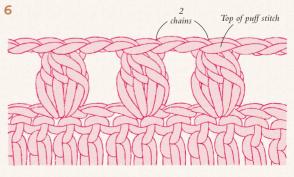


A puff stitch is made by working 3, 4, or 5 incomplete half double or double crochet stitches in the same chain, and then completing all stitches at the same time, clustering them together.



Working in 1 stitch from the previous row, work a total of 3 incomplete



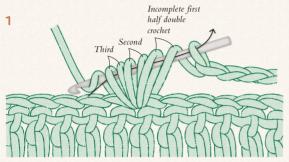


double crochet.



#### PUFF STITCH (USING HALF DOUBLE CROCHET)

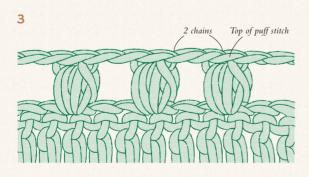




Work 3 incomplete half double crochet, yarn over, and pull up a loop through all 3 incomplete stitches.



Completed 3-stitch half double crochet puff stitch; chain 2.



#### WORKING A PUFF STITCH ON A CHAIN STITCH

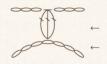
A Find the center of the loop, or the area on the chain where you want to work a puff stitch.

Work the puff stitch into the chain space.





B If you want a puff stitch in a specific chain, find the center loop of the chain space, and work into that stitch.





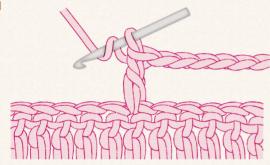
# POPSORN STIT

A popcorn stitch is created by working 5 complete stitches (half double, double, or treble crochet) in the same stitch. To finish the popcorn stitch, the hook is removed from the loop after working the last stitch, inserted in the first stitch, and then back into the loop from the last stitch. Then, yarn over and pull a loop through all loops on the hook. This rounded stitch looks like popcorn, hence its name. Be careful how the hook is inserted if working on the wrong side instead of the right side.

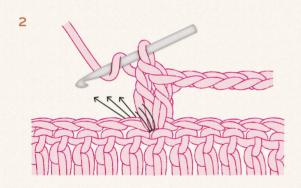


#### POPCORN STITCH (USING DOUBLE CROCHET)

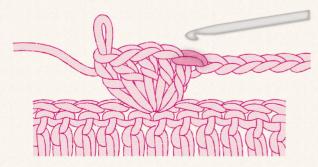
With right-side facing



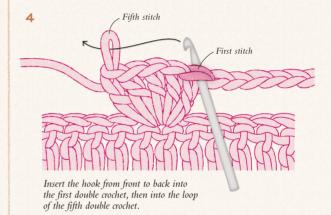
Work 5 double crochet in 1 stitch from the previous row.



3

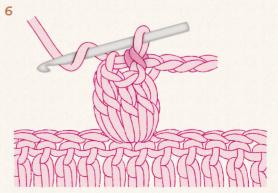


After working the last double crochet, remove the hook.

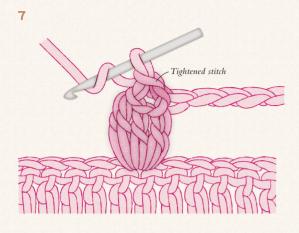


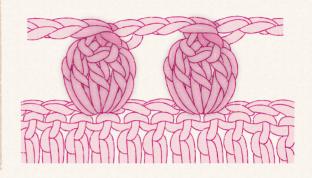
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Pull the loop from the fifth stitch through the first stitch.

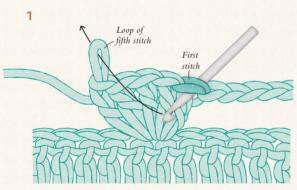


Yarn over and pull to tighten the popcorn stitch, then pull the loop through.

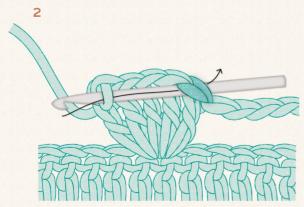




#### With wrong-side facing



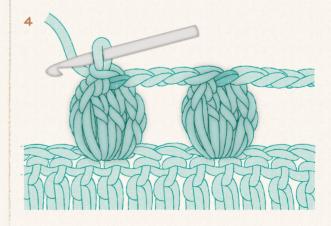
Work 5 double crochet as for right-side popcorn stitch; remove the hook from the loop, insert the hook from back to front through the first stitch, then reinsert the hook into the loop of the last stitch.



Pull the loop through the first stitch.



Yarn over and pull to tighten the stitch, then pull the loop through. The popcorn will pop out toward the right side of the piece.



Relief stitches (also called posting) are picked up beneath the stitch of the previous row, around the post; they create a raised finished look. This technique may be made on the right side or the reverse side (front posting or back posting). Any crochet stitch with a post (height) can be worked in this manner.

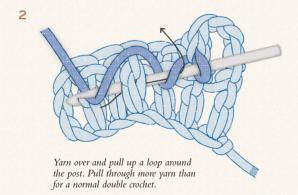


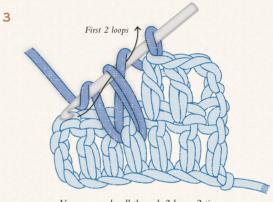
#### FRONT POSTING (USING DOUBLE CROCHET)



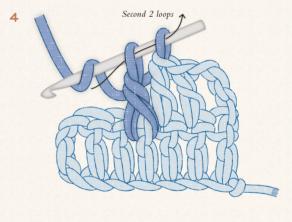


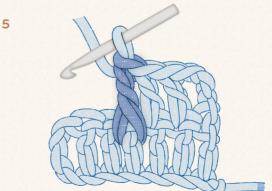
Yarn over and insert the hook from front to back to front around the post of the double crochet from the previous row (as shown by arrow).



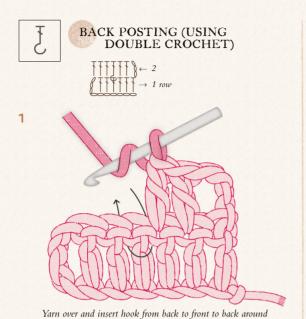


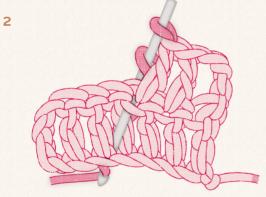
Yarn over and pull through 2 loops, 2 times, leaving extra length both times.





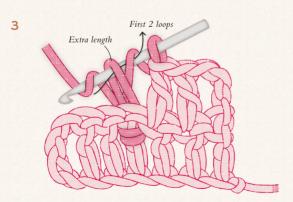
Finished front post stitch using double crochet.



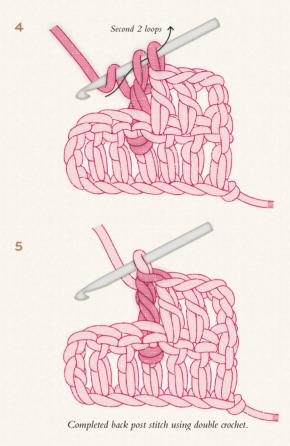


the post of the double crochet from the previous row.

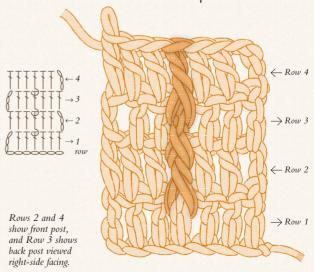
With the yarn in back of the work, yarn over, and pull up a loop, leaving extra length as for a front post.



Yarn over and pull through 2 loops twice to complete the double crochet, leaving extra length each time.



# ALTERNATELY WORKING FRONT POST AND BACK POST OVER 4 ROWS



CROCHET BASICS



# Other Techniques shaping, seaming, and edging



Shaping (increasing or decreasing) is used when making crochet garments or any item that does not remain a constant size, such as crocheted motifs, hats, or toys. Increases and decreases are also important when making lace doilies or circular shawls.

Seaming (joining two pieces together) is used for garments, home décor items, or bags of all sorts.

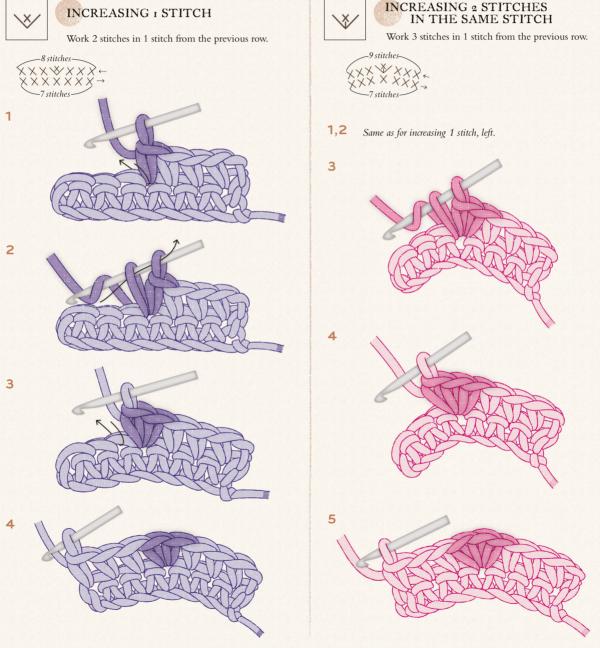
Edging can add a subtle finish to a neckline or pillow cover, or it can be decorative, adding an extra element to a simple piece.



# INCREASES & DECREASES

Increases and decreases can be used as needed, evenly spaced across a row or round or only at the ends, depending on where the extra stitches are needed. Use shaping to gradually straighten or round the ends of a piece, or as part of a decorative stitch pattern.

#### USING SINGLE CROCHET



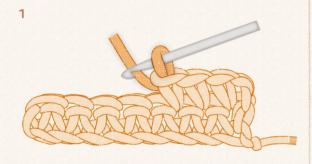
#### Other Techniques



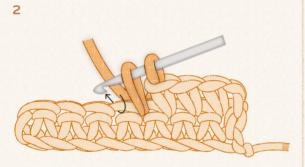
#### DECREASE 1 STITCH

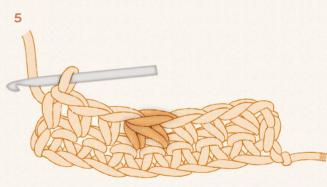
Work 2 incomplete stitches in 2 adjacent stitches on the previous row, yarn over, and pull up a loop through all loops on the hook, completing both stitches.



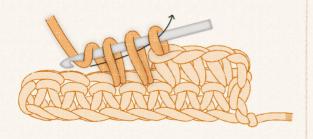








3



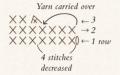
#### SKIPPING STITCHES

When decreases need to be made at the beginning of a row, skip 2 stitches or more before beginning the pattern stitch. This way the yarn is carried across the number of stitches to be skipped, and the row begins in the new location. Alternately, the stitches to be skipped can be worked in slip stitch across to the new beginning of the stitch pattern. Then work the turning chain (if necessary) and continue across, stopping the same number of stitches from the end. If a large number of stitches need to be decreased at the same time, it is neater if the yarn is fastened off.

5

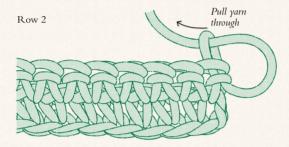
6

7

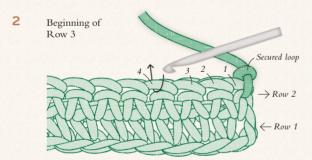


1

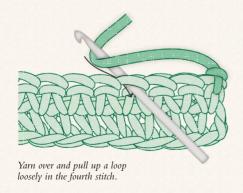
3

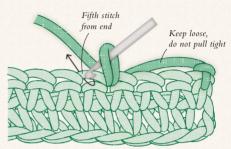


After stitching to the end, pull the yarn through to fasten off before beginning the next row.

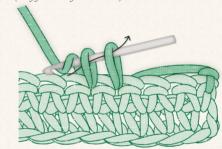


Insert the hook from front to back into the fourth stitch from the end.

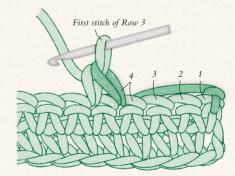




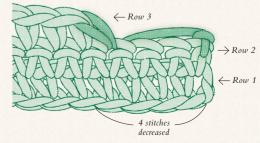
Insert the hook into the first stitch to be worked for Row 3 (the fifth stitch from the end).



Yarn over and pull up a loop through both loops on the hook.



Stitches decreased at the beginning of the row.



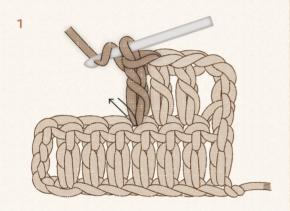
#### USING DOUBLE CROCHET

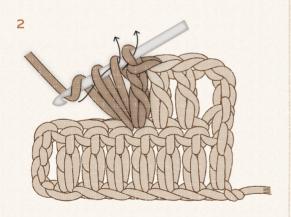


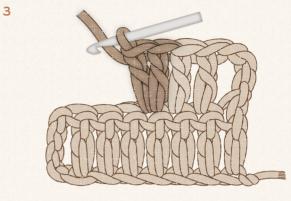
#### INCREASE 1 STITCH

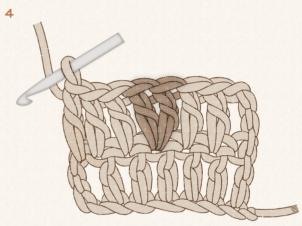
Work 2 stitches in the same stitch from the previous row.



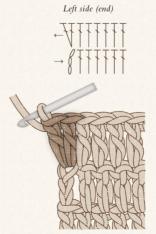








#### INCREASING AT BOTH ENDS





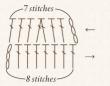


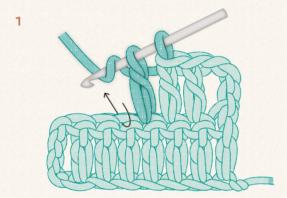


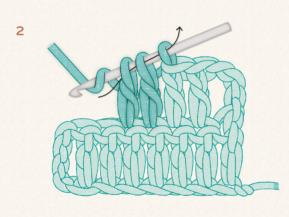
3

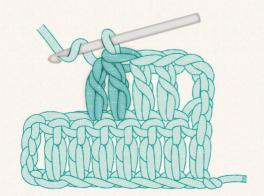
# DECREASE 1 STITCH

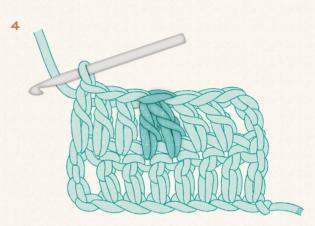
Work 2 incomplete stitches in adjacent stitches from the previous row. Yarn over and pull up a loop through all loops on hook, completing the stitches and decreasing 1 stitch.





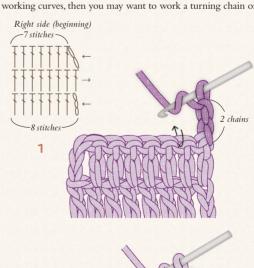






# SINGLE DECREASE AT THE BEGINNING OF A ROW

Normally a turning chain for double crochet is a chain 3. When decreasing at the beginning of a row, work a 2-chain turning chain. Working 3 chains when decreasing makes the turning chain too long and makes the end of the row loose and uneven. The exception is if the stitches are tight, or you are working curves, then you may want to work a turning chain of 3 or 4 chains.



2

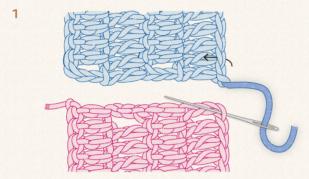
# SEAMING & JOINING

Both of the following methods attach 2 crocheted pieces. Seaming connects pieces by rows and joining connects pieces by stitches. These methods can be used with pieces crocheted in a variety of stitch patterns; the examples shown are made of double crochets.

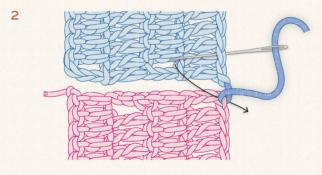
# WHIPSTITCH

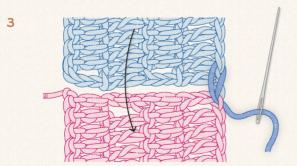
For this method, use a yarn needle threaded with a length of yarn. The total length of yarn used, wrapping at an angle, will be 3½ times the length of the edge to be joined. This method is a quick and simple way to produce a flat finish.

# Whipstitch seaming

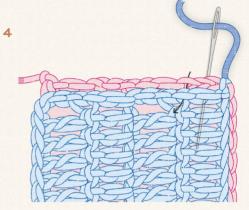


Lay the pieces side by side, with right-sides up. (Illustration shows using an attached tail, but you can use a separate strand of yarn.) Insert the needle into the adjacent piece and pull the thread toward you.

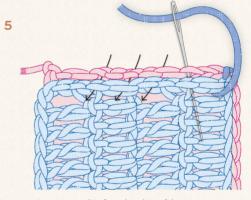




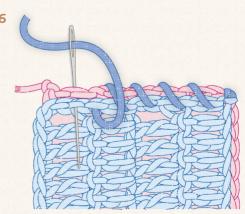
Place the pieces on top of each other, right-sides together.



Insert the needle from back to front, pulling it through at a slight angle to the left.



Seaming together from the edges of the rows.



Working across both rows of double crochet.

# Whipstitch joining 1 (Wrong side) (Right side) 2 3

4

# CHAIN CROCHET METHOD

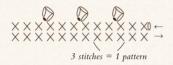
This method uses a crochet hook and is suitable for looser patterns. The number of chain stitches used is determined by the size of the pieces. Use a strand of yarn approximately 6½ times the length of the finished seam.

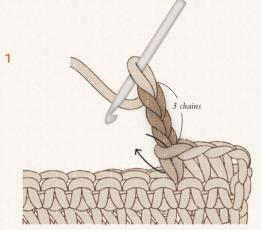
# Chain and single crochet seaming

Place 2 pieces with right-sides together; insert the hook through the ends and pull up a loop through both pieces. Chain 2, insert the hook at the row edge, work 1 single crochet; repeat across. (Right side) (Wrong side) 2 chains 3 Loop pulled through Single crochet 5

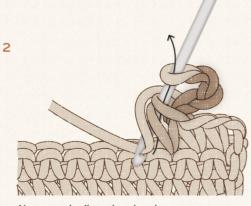
Picot crochet is a fun technique using chain stitches to create loops, small curves, ball-like shapes, and decorative patterns. This edging stitch pattern combines single crochet, double crochet, and other basic stitches to create designs.

# 3-CHAIN SLIP-STITCH PICOT CROCHET (USING SINGLE CROCHET)

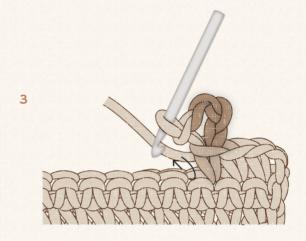


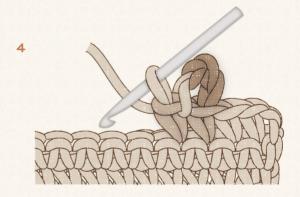


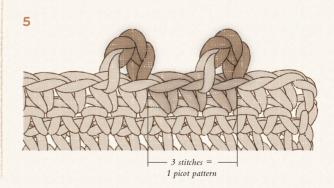
Chain 3; insert the hook into the front loop and leg of the single crochet (as shown by arrow).



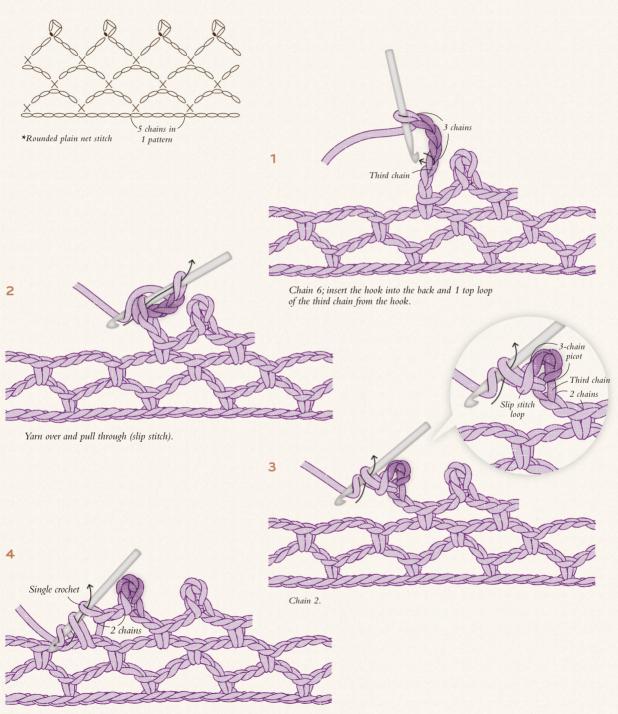
Yarn over and pull up a loop through.







# 3-CHAIN SLIP-STITCH PICOT CROCHET (USING PLAIN NET STITCH)



Single crochet in the next chain space from the previous row.

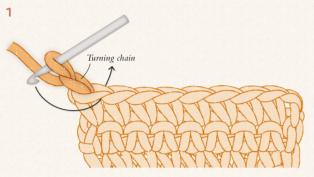
# TRYETS SINGIE GROSIE



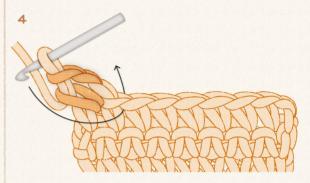
2

Reverse single crochet is worked from left to right (instead of right to left as with single crochet), without turning the work.

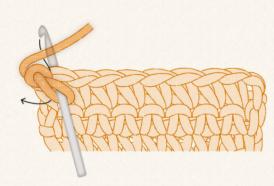




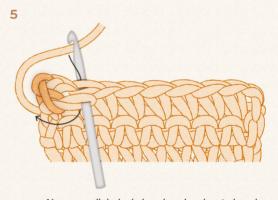
Work a 1-chain turning chain and, following the arrow with the hook, insert into the top of the previous row.



Following the arrow, insert the hook into the next stitch.



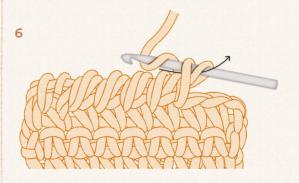
Yarn over and pull up a loop.



Yarn over, pull the hook through, and work a single crochet.



Yarn over and complete the single crochet.



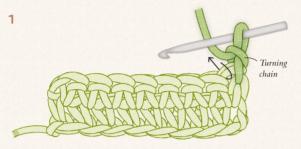
# TWISTED SINGLE CROCKET



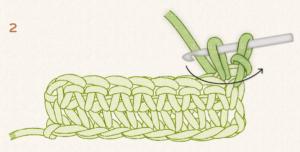
# TWISTED EDGING

This edging is worked the same as single crochet, working from right to left. Twisting the loop while on the hook creates a thicker stitch and an attractive edging.

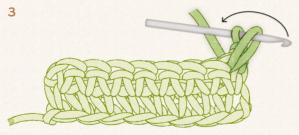




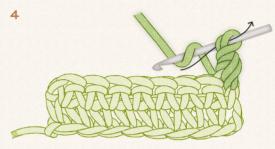
Work a turning chain, turn. Insert the hook into the first single crochet of the previous row.



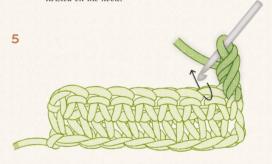
Pull extra yarn through; turn the hook around toward the front once, twisting the loop on the hook.

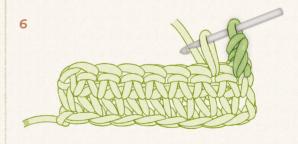


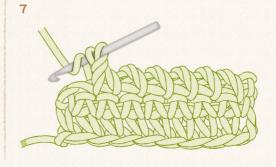
Half-turn view.



Work a single crochet while the loop is still twisted on the hook.









CROCHET (BASIUS)



# Making Motifs

# CROCHETING IN THE ROUND & JOINING MOTIFS



Motifs are worked in rounds from the center outward, with evenly spaced increases worked on every round. An important part of crocheting motifs is the starting point, and techniques for beginning a motif are introduced in this chapter. By beginning with the most appropriate technique for your motif, it will be easier to obtain the desired finished piece.

Motifs with corners start the same way as round pieces; only the placement of the increases on each round will vary, with the increases placed at or near each corner.

Joining finished motifs together can be accomplished in a number of ways. There are joining techniques at the end of the chapter, as well as instructions for working a button loop. Choose the appropriate technique that best suits the overall design you are creating.



Motif on page 50



Motif on page 52

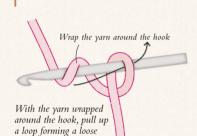
# WORKING IN ROUNDS

Increasing stitches from the center out is a technique used to make round pieces, such as hats, motifs, or lace doilies. There are many ways to start the first round, depending on what is being made. Usually each round begins with a turning chain to raise the next round to the proper height for the stitch being used, but when working single crochet, you may also create a spiral by continuously working around.



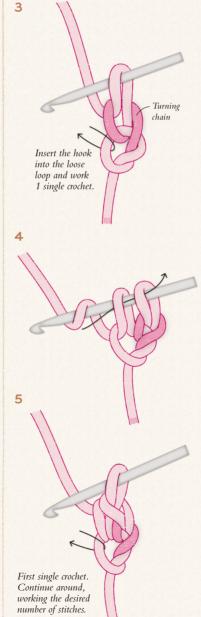


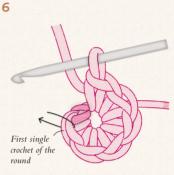
stitch.



Loose chain stitch

This stitch becomes the center of the round.

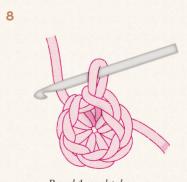




Insert the hook into the top of first single crochet to join the round.



Yarn over and pull up a loop through all loops on the hook.

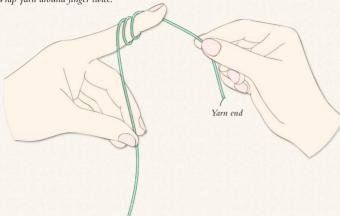


Round 1 completed. Round 2 is shown on page 45.

# MAGIC CIRCLE TECHNIQUE (USING SINGLE CROCHET)

Using a loose double circle

Wrap yarn around finger twice.



3

Using Single Crochet

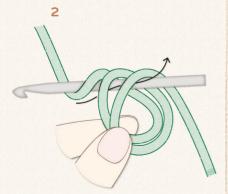
1 Round 1



Securely holding the shape, remove the double looped circle from your finger.



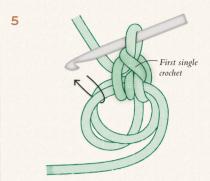
After pulling the yarn through, work 1 chain for a turning chain.



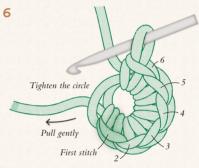
Insert the hook from front to back into the circle, yarn over, and pull up a loop following the direction of the arrow.



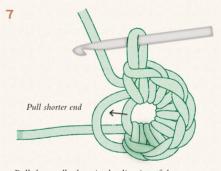
One chain for turning chain; continue around, working single crochet into the center of the double circle.



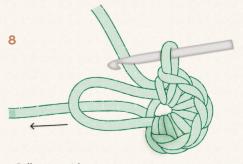
Finished single crochet; continue around.



After working the desired number of single crochet, gently pull the end of the yarn.



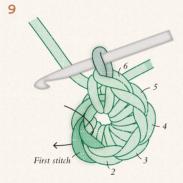
Pull the smaller loop in the direction of the arrow.



Pull again to tighten.

# ROUND 2—USING A TURNING CHAIN

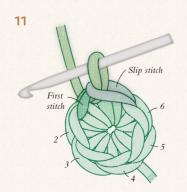




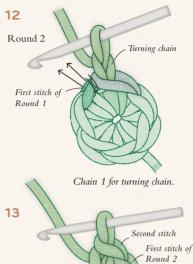
Insert the hook into first single crochet of the previous round.



Yarn over and pull through both loops.



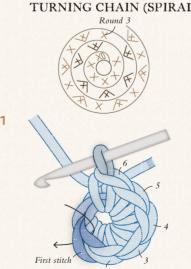
Round 1 joined.



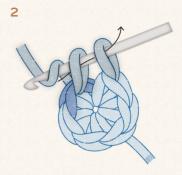
Second stitch of Round 1

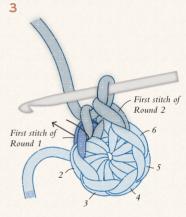
Work 2 single crochet in each single crochet of Round 1.

# ROUND 2—WITHOUT A TURNING CHAIN (SPIRAL)

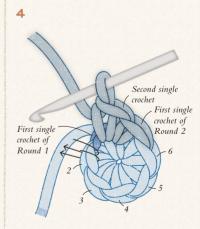


Work the sixth single crochet into the center of the round. Insert the hook and work the first single crochet of Round 2 into the first single crochet stitch of Round 1.



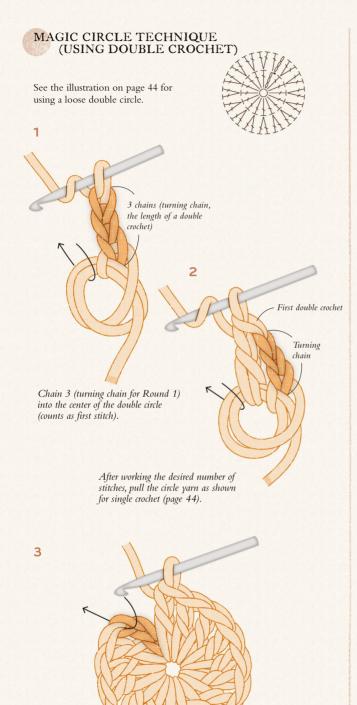


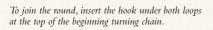
The first single crochet is complete; work another single crochet in the same space (increase 1).

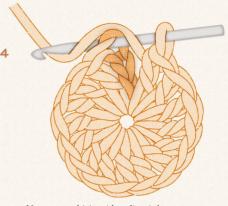


Finished second single crochet.

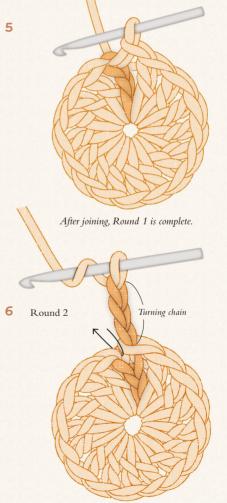
When working in a spiral, it may be difficult to find the beginning stitch at the end of each round; placing a marker on the first stitch (see page 59) will make it easier.





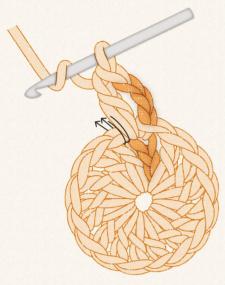


Yarn over and join with a slip stitch.

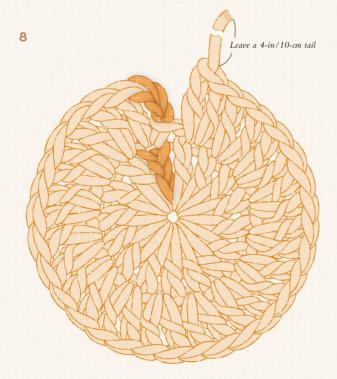


Chain 3 for the turning chain, yarn over, insert the hook into the top of the turning chain from the previous round, and complete the double crochet.

7



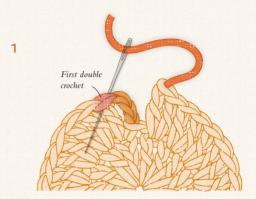
There are now 2 stitches in the first stitch (turning chain) of the previous row. For the remainder of Round 2, work 2 double crochet stitches in each double crochet of the previous round.



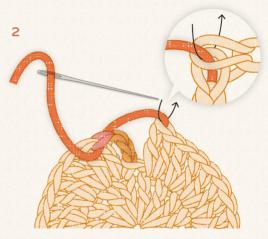
To continue to Round 3, follow steps 3 to 5 to join. To finish after Round 2, cut a 4-in/10-cm yarn tail after working the last stitch. Then follow instructions for fastening off, following.

# Fastening Off

Finish with a chain join; this will give your work a neat finish after the last row.



Thread a yarn needle with the tail and insert the needle from behind into the top of the first double crochet of the round.



Pull the needle through and insert it into the last double crochet of the round.



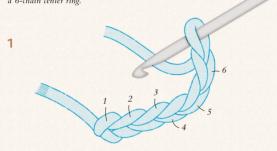
Pull the tail, adjusting it to the same size as the other stitches. Thread the tail into the back of the stitches.

# CHAIN TECHNIQUE

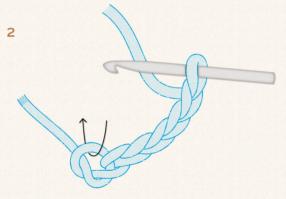
This technique is best when you want a firm center or if you find that the magic circle technique does not give you the result you want. Generally the number of chains worked for the center chain is half the number of stitches worked in single crochet or a third of the number worked in double crochet on Round 1 of the motif. Individual instructions may call for a larger or smaller center.



12 stitches, worked into a 6-chain center ring.



Include the beginning knot when counting the number of chains.



Loosen the knot and insert the hook from front to back.

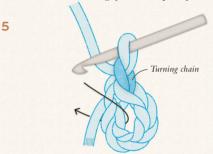


Yarn over and pull up a loop through the loop on the hook to join.

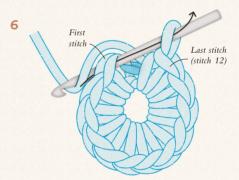


4

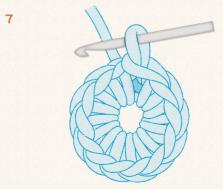
Ring of chains completed for center.



Work 1 chain for the turning chain, insert the hook into the center of the ring, pull up a loop, and complete the first single crochet.



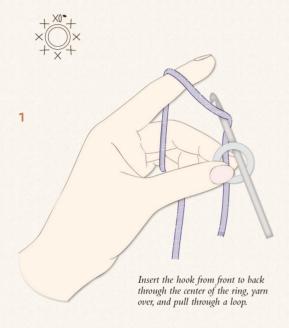
After working the desired number of single crochet stitches, insert the hook into the first stitch, pull up a loop, and join.

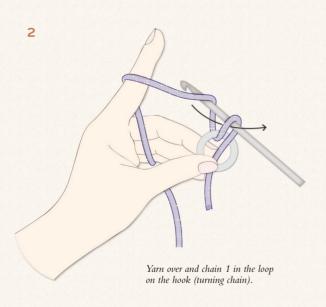


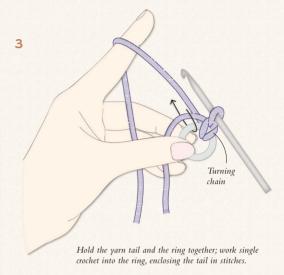
Finished Round 1. Round 2 is worked using one of the methods shown on page 45.

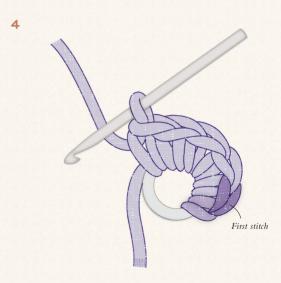
# RING TECHNIQUE (USING SINGLE CROCHET)

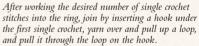
Plastic and vinyl rings are available in most craft shops and come in a variety of sizes. When making many motifs, the centers need to be uniform, making rings helpful to use for centers.

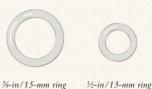












# TECHNIQUES FOR JOINING MOTIFS

The main techniques used for joining motifs are joining finished pieces and the join-as-you-go technique. The second technique is used both for motifs with straight edges, such as squares and triangles, and for pieces with fewer connecting points, like rounds and flower motifs.

# JOINING FINISHED PIECES

When connecting motifs that have straight edges, the edges are placed together and joined using your method of choice. If a long tail was left at the beginning and end of the finished motifs, the tails can be used to join the seams.

## WHIPSTITCH METHOD

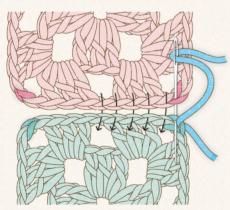
Use a yarn needle to join the pieces together. If a long tail is not attached, cut a 24-in/60-cm strand of yarn; longer strands can be used, but the yarn may begin to fray and become difficult to handle. If the yarn runs out before finishing, begin a new strand in the same stitch as the old yarn ended, weaving the ends in as you go or after the seam is completed.

## Wrapping 1 loop only

Motifs can be joined through the back loops only, giving the seam a smooth appearance.

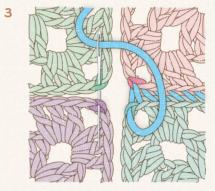
1

2



Lay 2 pieces rightside up, edges aligned. Thread the yarn needle, leaving a tail to weave in later. Insert the needle into the loops at the corners as shown. Whipstitch across, joining facing stitches through the back loops.

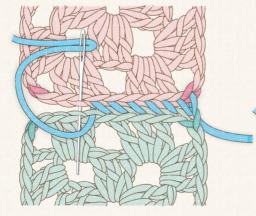
5

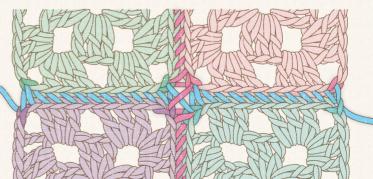


When the first two motifs have been joined across, lay the next 2 motifs beside the first two, and continue joining.



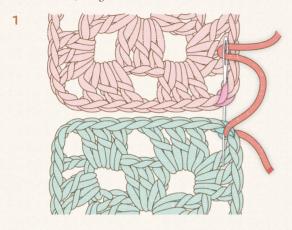
Work a cross at the corners to avoid leaving a hole.

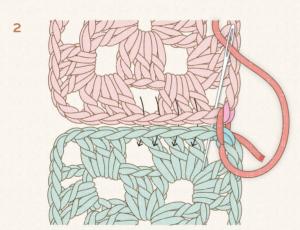


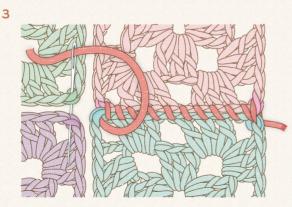


# Wrapping both loops of a stitch

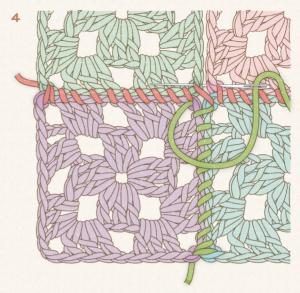
Lay the pieces out right-sides up, edges aligned, and thread a needle. Insert the needle through both loops of each stitch, instead of just the back loops. Joining the motifs by wrapping the whole stitch will create a thicker, stronger seam.



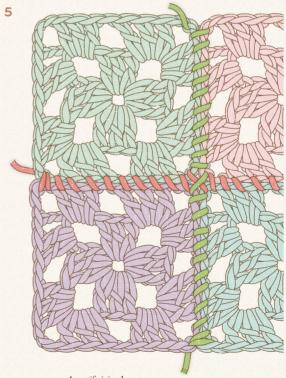




Work into the full stitch of the next 2 motif corners.



Work a cross at the corners to avoid leaving a hole.



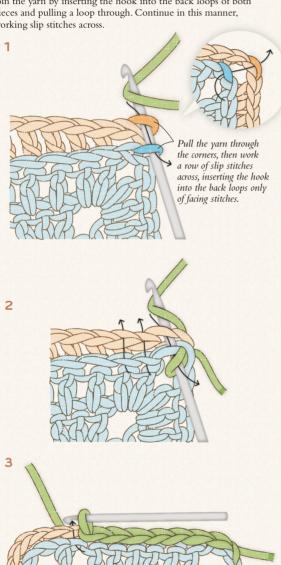
4 motifs joined.

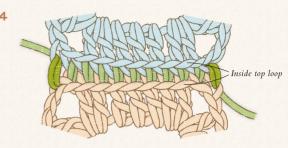
## JOINING WITH CROCHET

Using a hook to join, place the pieces to be joined on top of each other with right-sides together.

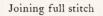
## Joining back loops

Join the yarn by inserting the hook into the back loops of both pieces and pulling a loop through. Continue in this manner, working slip stitches across.

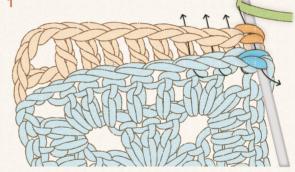


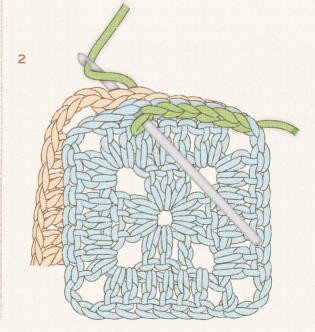


When the seam is complete, lay the pieces flat with right-sides up; the front loops of each stitch should line up neatly.



The same technique can be worked by inserting the hook into both loops of each edge stitch, and working slip stitch across.

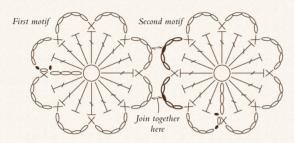


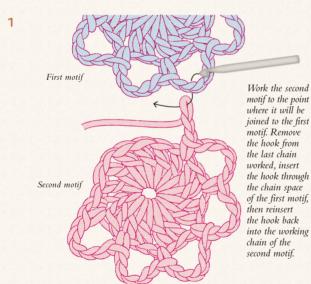


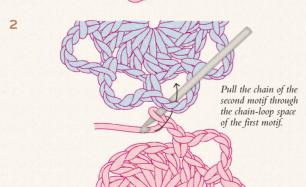
# JOIN-AS-YOU-GO TECHNIQUE

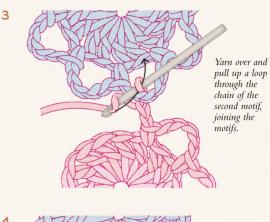
This technique is used to join motifs while working the final round. It also works well for joining other pieces. The following illustrations show a flower-type motif being joined to a completed flower as the final round is worked. They are joined at the center of the chain-loops of both motifs.

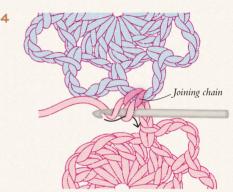
## Joining chain

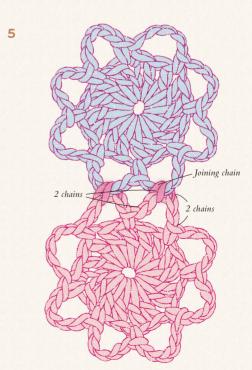






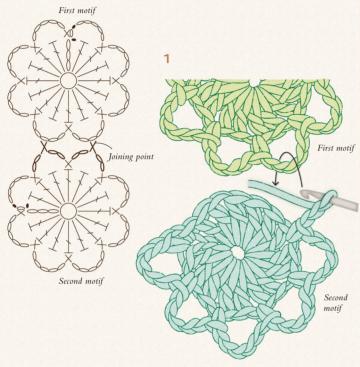




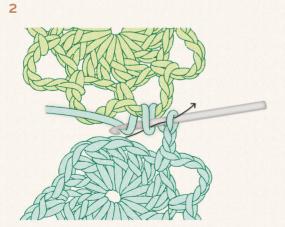


# Joining single crochet

Join the motifs together by working a single crochet in the chain-loop space.

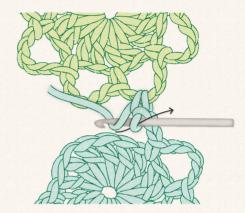


Work in pattern to the joining point; insert the hook into the chain-loop space of the first motif.

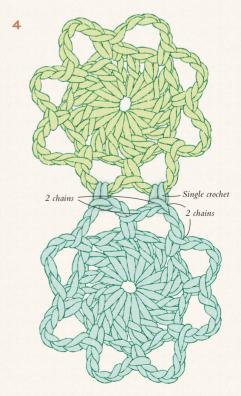


Work a single crochet with a slightly tighter tension.





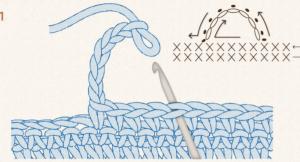
After working the single crochet join, chain 2 to complete the chain-loop on the second motif.



Second motif is completed and joined to the first motif.

Button loops can be made in whatever size is needed to fit the chosen buttons. Button loops are worked while working a row of slip stitches on the edge of the piece.

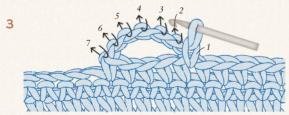
# BUTTON LOOP (USING CHAIN STITCH AND SLIP STITCH)



Work single crochet to where the button loop should end. Chain 7. Remove the hook and count back 4 stitches. Insert the hook into the top of the stitch, reinsert the hook into the end of the button-loop chain, and pull it through to the right side.



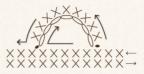
Working in the back loop only, slip stitch in each chain of the button loop across.





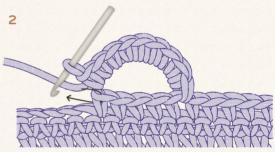
Work a stitch into both loops at the end of the button loop (see illustration), then continue working single crochet edging to the position for the next button loop.

# BUTTON LOOP (USING CHAIN STITCH AND SINGLE CROCHET)

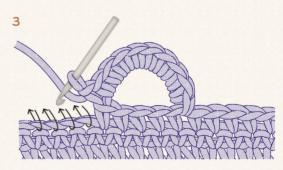




Work the button loop the same as Step 1 of the chain and slip stitch technique (at left).



Work single crochet across the button loop to the last chain. Work a single crochet into the last single crochet of the edging.



Continue single crochet edging.

CROCHET (BASIUS)

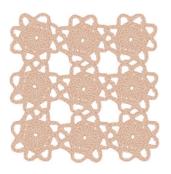


# Tools & Tips

# **GETTING STARTED & FINISHING TOUCHES**



Crochet is an easy craft, needing only a hook and yarn to begin. Varying the size of these items will produce a variety of results, from fine lace to heavy rugs. Use the sizes recommended in your pattern books and on the ball bands of your chosen yarn or thread. Be sure to check your gauge with the recommended sizes, and if your piece is too tight or too loose, change the size of your hook and work another swatch. The hook size should be what is comfortable for you to use in order to obtain the gauge desired. If you crochet loosely, use a smaller hook; if you crochet tightly, use a larger hook. It is easier to change the size of the hook than to try to work with a looser or tighter tension, which may be unnatural for you.



## YARN

Crochet may be worked with a vast variety of threads. In addition to yarn (which is also used for knitting), there are thinner threads (also used for embroidery), and many types of specialty cords. Threads specifically designed for crochet may be made from cotton, wool, or linen and will vary in texture, color, and strength. Choose the thread that best suits what you wish to make.

Yarn comes in balls or skeins; pull the yarn ends from the center of the balls and wind skeins into balls before using. Yarn labels indicate the type of yarn (fiber or a blend of fibers), color, dye lot, and usually how the yarn should be washed or blocked. It is a good idea to save the label in case this information is needed in the future. Keep any leftover yarn; it will be useful for repairs if the piece is damaged or if extra is needed for joining.



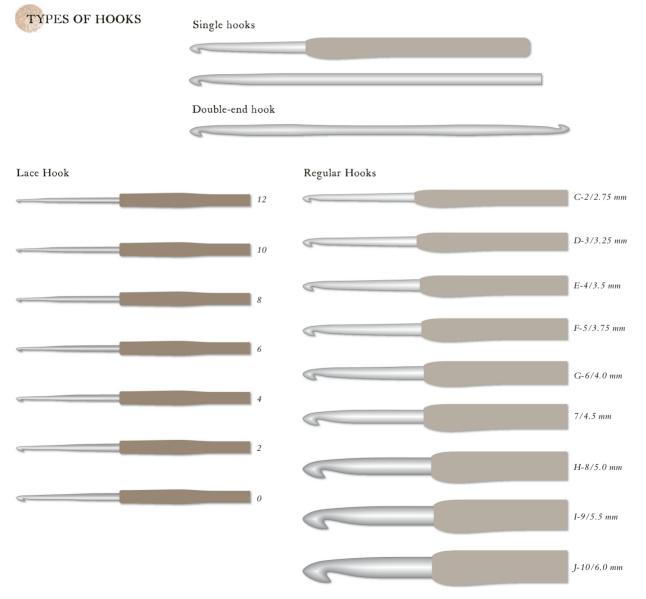
Lace Threads and Yarn			
	#40 Size 10 steel crochet hook		Lace (0)—Fingering, size 10 crochet thread Size 6 to 8 steel crochet hook or B-1/2.25 mm
			Very fine (1)—Sock, Fingering, Baby Hook size B-1 to E-4/2.25 to 3.5 mm
	#18 Size 0 to 2 steel crochet hook		Fine (2)—Baby, Sport Hook size E-4 to 7/3.5 to 4.5 mm
	#5 Size 0 steel crochet hook or A-0/2 mm		Light (3)—DK, Light worsted Hook size 7 to I-9/4.5 to 5.5 mm
			Medium Light (4)—Worsted, Aran Hook size I-9 to K-10½/5.5 to 6.5 mm
	#3 Hook size C-2 to E-4/2.75 to 3.5 mm		Heavy (5)—Chunky, Rug Hook size K-10½ to M-13/6.5 to 9 mm
	Hemp Thread Hook size C-2 to E-4/2.75 to 3.5 mm		Bulky (6)—Bulky, Roving Hook size M-13/9 mm or larger
		aymarkanikkisaankeeniMihaankeeniMihaankeeniMihaankeeniMihaankeeniAiihina juhankeenikkis oo la ja	Mohair
	Andaria Hook size F-5 to 7/3.75 to 4.5 mm	200202000000000000000000000000000000000	Loop yarn
			Mole yarn

# **HOOKS**

Crochet hooks may be made of bamboo, wood, metal, or plastic and increase in size as you progress through the alphabet. There are also steel (lace) hooks, which get thinner (decrease in size) as the number increases. There are 2 categories of hooks: single hooks, which have a hook on one end, and double-end hooks, which have hooks on either end.



Use the recommended hook size for the yarn chosen. Yarn labels indicate what hook size works best with it and the approximate gauge that will be obtained with the yarn using the suggested hook size.

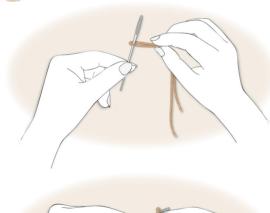


## YARN NEEDLES

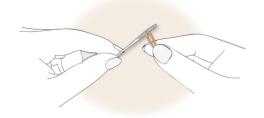
These needles may also be called darning needles or tapestry needles. They are used for joining motifs, seaming, and finishing pieces. They are available in various lengths and sizes, both straight and with a bent end. Choose a style suitable for the thickness of the yarn being used.



# THREADING THE NEEDLE







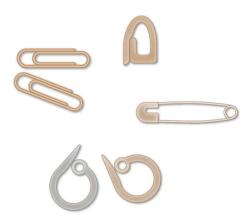
Use the needle to create a loop; insert the loop through the eye of needle.

## YARN SCISSORS

A small pair that is lightweight with sharp points is the most useful.



## OTHER USEFUL TOOLS



# Row and stitch markers

Paper clips, safety pins, o-rings, or split-ring markers help indicate rows or the location where shaping is to be worked within the body of a piece.

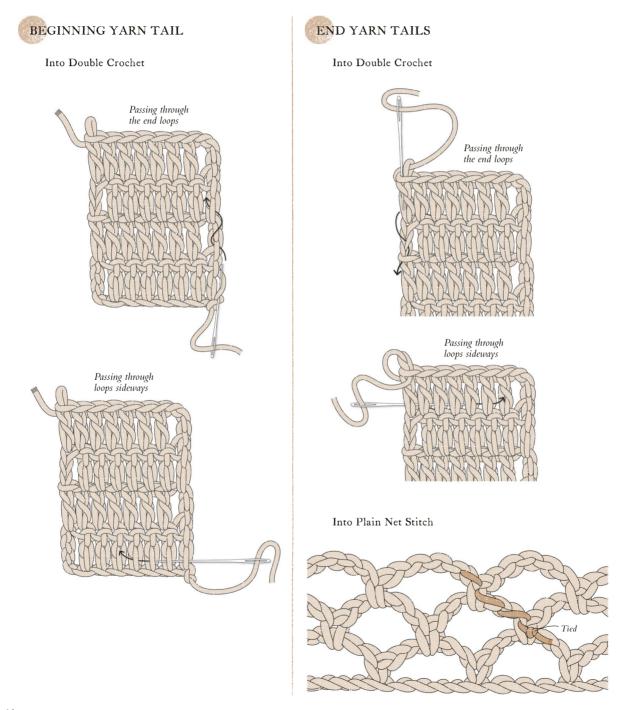


### Fasteners

Straight pins, clothespins, or clips are useful to hold crochet pieces together.

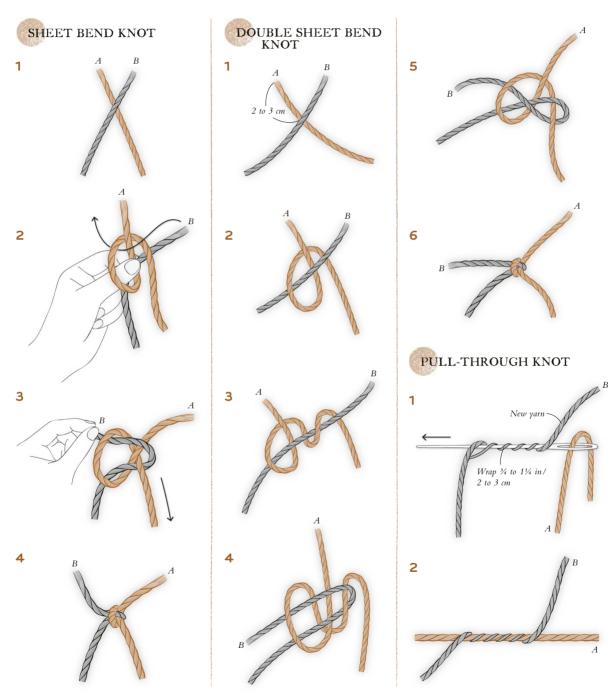
# WEAVING IN ENDS

Thread the yarn end into a yarn needle. With the wrong-side facing, weave the end neatly and securely into a single row or several stitches, or wrap it into the loops of the bottom of the rows, so that it is not visible on the right side of the piece. Usually, a length of ¾ to 1¼ in/2 to 3 cm will be sufficient to weave in, but it will depend on the thread or yarn being used. Cut the remaining tail.



# JOINING KNOTS

Although it's better to join a new strand of yarn at the beginning or end of a row, the following 3 techniques can be used for joining yarn mid-row, if this becomes necessary.



5
5
, and the second
5
58
ole crochet 34
e crochet 31
me stitch 31
34
31, 34
crochet join) 53, 54
36
50
round 19
50
titch) 52, 53
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op 7
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	Puff stitch (using double crochet)	24
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crochet stitches is as timeless as the craft itself. The encyclopedic approach is well-suited for beginners looking to build a foundation of stitch techniques, as well as experienced crafters in need of an occasional refresher. Easy to use and classically designed, Stitch Encyclopedia: Crochet is an invaluable reference for visual learners and a handsome addition to any craft library.

