

2nd Edition

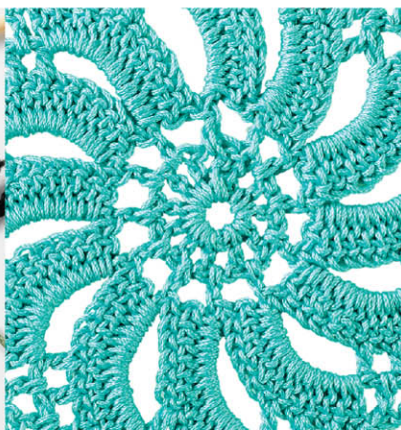
The Complete Photo Guide to

# CROCHET



All New  
Projects  
•••  
20 New Stitch  
Patterns

- ✦ All You Need to Know to Crochet
- ✦ The Essential Reference for Novice and Expert Crocheters
- ✦ Comprehensive Guide to Crochet Tools and Techniques
- ✦ Packed with Hundreds of Tips and Ideas
- ✦ Step-by-Step Instructions, Charts, and Photos for 220 Stitch Patterns



Margaret Hubert

More than

**400**

Large Color  
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2nd Edition

The Complete Photo Guide to

# CROCHET



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## Dedication

For my family—my children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren; they are the sunshine of my life.

The Complete Photo Guide to

# CROCHET



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# CONTENTS

<b>Introduction to Crochet</b>	<b>6</b>
Crochet Basics	8
Crochet Hooks and Other Tools	9
Techniques	11
Crochet Instructions	22
Details and Finishing Techniques	28
<b>STITCH PATTERNS</b>	<b>34</b>
Basic Stitches	35
Shell Stitches	48
Bobbles, Poppers, and Puffs	66
Ripple Stitches	78
Lace Stitches	88
Mesh Stitches	104
Color Combinations	119
Heavy Textures	135
Unusual Stitches	148
Motifs	176
Edgings and Trims	220
Tunisian Stitches	232



<b>SPECIALTY CROCHET METHODS</b>	<b>247</b>
One Piece, Top Down	248
Intermeshing Crochet	252
Freeform Crochet	256
Hairpin Lace	260
Broomstick Lace	264
<b>About the Author</b>	<b>268</b>
<b>Acknowledgments</b>	<b>268</b>
<b>Index</b>	<b>269</b>



# Introduction to Crochet

Crochet is such an amazing craft. With a simple hook and a single strand of yarn, one can explore countless variations of this multifaceted technique.

While crochet has been around for several hundred years, recently it has experienced a huge resurgence in popularity. Not only is it a favorite way to create home décor items, but crochet has also made its way onto trendy designer runways, has taken a turn on Hollywood's red carpet, and is often featured in fashion magazines. Today, crochet is well on its way to becoming the favorite pastime of many crafters around the world.

I am often asked which I like better, crochet or knitting. My answer has always been, "I love both, but I can crochet a lot faster than I can knit."


Last year I was honored to be inducted into the Jean Leinhauser Crochet Hall of Fame—what a great way to top off a very long career in the needle arts industry. My first book was published in 1978, and that book included both knit and crochet designs. My early books were equally divided between knit and crochet, but of the last seventeen books that I have done, fourteen have been crochet. I have Creative Publishing international to thank for recognizing the need to make more crochet books available.

Crochet has its own defined look and the variety of textures that can be created with a crochet hook is almost limitless, from a very lacy delicate shawl with fine yarns to a warm, cozy afghan with a thicker wool and larger hook. In this new edition, I have added twenty new stitches to the extensive collection of stitches in the original book. Everything from delicate and lacy openwork to heavier textures like bobbles, bullions, limpets, basketweave, double-sided crochet, edgings, motifs, and Tunisian stitches are all included.

Detailed, step-by-step instructions, charts, and photographs accompany each stitch. The stitches are all ranked by level of difficulty to help you try your hand at progressively complex stitches. There are fifteen new sample projects throughout the book that showcase at least one of the stitches used in each group.

In addition to the stitch section, there is a specialty crochet methods section. In this section, I have included methods such as freeform crochet, intermeshing crochet, and crocheting raglans from the top down.

I have tried to include something for everyone, so please enjoy!



Margaret Hubert





# CROCHET BASICS

In this section, you will find all the information you need to get you started. If you are new to crochet, use these pages to learn the basic techniques and terminology of crochet. If you are a seasoned crocheter, you will still refer to this section often for guidance on abbreviations, hook sizes, and more.

# Crochet Hooks and Other Tools

Crochet hooks come in a large range of sizes and types. There are very fine steel hooks for fine cotton crochet, and aluminum, wood, and plastic hooks for heavier wools and synthetic yarns.

The diameter of the hook shaft determines the size of the hook and, ultimately, the size of the stitches the hook will make. Hook sizes range from a tiny A hook to a large Q and everything in between. There are many manufacturers of hooks, and it is very possible that two hooks with the same number or letter can vary from manufacturer to manufacturer. This enforces the need to take the time to check your gauge (see page 27) before starting a project.



## CROCHET HOOK SIZES

Metric Size	U. S. Size
2.25 mm	B/1
2.75 mm	C/2
3.25 mm	D/3
3.5 mm	E/4
3.75 mm	F/5
4 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

Note: Steel hooks are sized differently than regular hooks: the higher the number, the smaller the hook. They range from the smallest #14 or .9 mm to the largest of #00 or 2.7 mm.



Tapered hook vs inline hook

For crochet hooks, there are two main categories in head shape; the inline hook and the tapered hook. On an inline hook, the neck just below the hook is the same diameter as the shaft of the hook. The neck below the hook on the tapered style is narrower than the rest of the shaft. You might find one style easier to use than the other, or you may notice no difference in how they work—it is strictly a personal preference.

In addition to hooks, a crochet kit should have a tape measure, sharp scissors, stitch markers, and a variety of tapestry or yarn needles. The bent-end yarn needles are particularly helpful in sewing seams in crocheted projects.

You can purchase yarn in different textures, styles, and thicknesses, which will affect your choice of crochet hook.



Yarn needles

Generally, projects that require very thick yarns will require larger hooks. Projects crocheted with very fine yarn will require a smaller hook. Crochet patterns will recommend a yarn type and weight as well as the size hook to use. You can substitute the yarn used providing you check your gauge (see page 27).

The variety of yarn available to crocheters is overwhelming. In addition to wool, cotton, linen, silk, and acrylics, choices include bamboo, corn, and sugar cane fibers. You can crochet with any yarn, but you'll find that some yarns will be more difficult to crochet with. When crocheting with very highly textured yarns—ribbon, eyelash, bumps, and bobbles—it is more difficult to see the stitches, but you can produce some wonderful results.

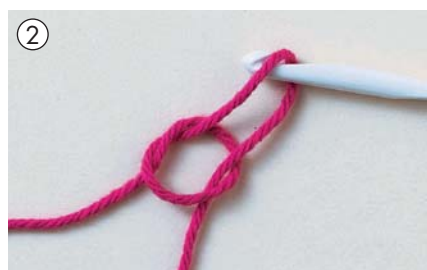
# Techniques

These are the techniques used for crochet. Beginners can use this section to learn the skills they will need to tackle a crochet project. Refer to them whenever you need to brush up on stitches and maneuvers you have already learned. The instructions are written out completely, making them easier to understand.

## BASIC SKILLS

### Slip Knot and Chain

All crochet begins with a chain, into which is worked the foundation row for your piece. To make a chain, start with a slip knot. To make a slip knot, make a loop several inches from the end of the yarn, insert the hook through the loop, and catch the tail with the end **(1)**. Draw the yarn through the loop on the hook **(2)**. After the slip knot, start your chain. Wrap the yarn over the hook (yarn over) and catch it with the hook. Draw the yarn through the loop on the hook. You have now made 1 chain. Repeat the process to make a row of chains. When counting chains, do not count the slip knot at the beginning or the loop that is on the hook **(3)**.



### Slip Stitch

The slip stitch is a very short stitch, which is mainly used to join 2 pieces of crochet together when working in rounds. To make a slip stitch, insert the hook into the specified stitch, wrap the yarn over the hook **(1)**, and then draw the yarn through the stitch and the loop already on the hook **(2)**.



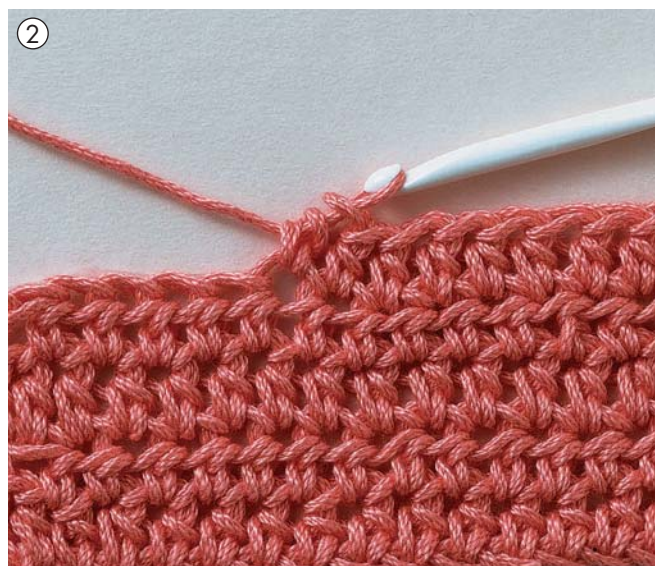
## Single Crochet

Insert the hook into the specified stitch, wrap the yarn over the hook and draw the yarn through the stitch so there are 2 loops on the hook **(1)**. Wrap the yarn over the hook again and draw the yarn through both loops **(2)**. When working in single crochet, always insert the hook through both top loops of the next stitch, unless the directions specify front loop or back loop only.



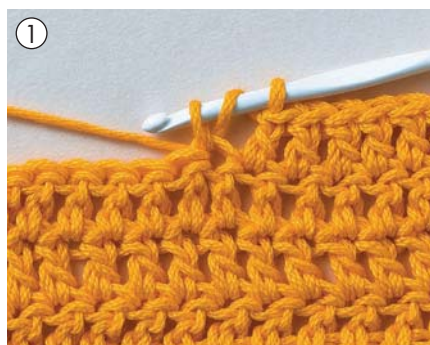
## Half Double Crochet

Wrap the yarn over the hook, insert the hook into the specified stitch, and wrap the yarn over the hook again **(1)**. Draw the yarn through the stitch so there are 3 loops on the hook. Wrap the yarn over the hook and draw it through all 3 loops at once **(2)**.



## Double Crochet

Wrap the yarn over the hook, insert the hook into the specified stitch, and wrap the yarn over the hook again. Draw the yarn through the stitch so there are 3 loops on the hook **(1)**. Wrap the yarn over the hook again and draw it through 2 of the loops **(2)**. Wrap the yarn over the hook again and draw it through the last 2 loops **(3)**.



## Triple Crochet

Wrap the yarn over the hook twice, insert the hook into the specified stitch, and wrap the yarn over the hook again. Draw the yarn through the stitch so there are 4 loops on the hook. Wrap the yarn over the hook again **(1)** and draw it through 2 of the loops so there are now 3 loops on the hook **(2)**. Wrap the yarn over the hook again and draw it through 2 of the loops so there are now 2 loops on the hook **(3)**. Wrap the yarn over the hook again and draw it through the last 2 loops **(4)**.



## Double Triple Crochet

Wrap the yarn over the hook 3 times, insert the hook into the specified stitch, and wrap the yarn over the hook again. Draw the yarn through the stitch so there are 5 loops on the hook. Wrap the yarn over the hook again and draw it through 2 of the loops so there are now 4 loops on the hook. Wrap the yarn over the hook again and draw it through 2 of the loops so there are now 3 loops on the hook. Wrap the yarn over the hook again and draw it through 2 of the loops so there are now 2 loops on the hook. Wrap the yarn over the hook again and draw it through the last 2 loops.



## Working Through the Back Loop

This creates a distinct ridge on the side facing you. Insert the hook through the back loop only of each stitch, rather than under both loops of the stitch. Complete the stitch as usual.



## Increasing and Decreasing

To shape your work, you will often increase or decrease stitches as directed by the pattern. To increase in a row or round, you crochet twice into the same stitch, thereby increasing the stitch count by 1. To increase at the end of a row, you chain extra stitches, then turn and work into those stitches, thereby increasing the stitch count.

To decrease in a row or round, you crochet 2 (or more) stitches together as directed, thereby decreasing the stitch count. The technique varies depending on which crochet stitch you are using.



## Single Crochet Two Stitches Together

This decreases the number of stitches in a row or round by 1. Insert the hook into the specified stitch, wrap the yarn over the hook, and draw the yarn through the stitch so there are 2 loops on the hook **(1)**. Insert the hook through the next stitch, wrap the yarn over the hook, and draw the yarn through the stitch so there are 3 loops on the hook **(2)**. Wrap the yarn over the hook again and draw the yarn through all the loops at once.



## Double Crochet Two Stitches Together

This decreases the number of stitches in a row or round by 1. Wrap the yarn over the hook, insert the hook into the specified stitch, and wrap the yarn over the hook again. Draw the yarn through the stitch so there are 3 loops on the hook. Wrap the yarn over the hook again and draw it through 2 of the loops so there are now 2 loops on the hook. Wrap the yarn over the hook and pick up a loop in the next stitch, so there are now 4 loops on the hook. Wrap the yarn over the hook and draw through 2 loops. Wrap yarn over and draw through 3 loops to complete the stitch.

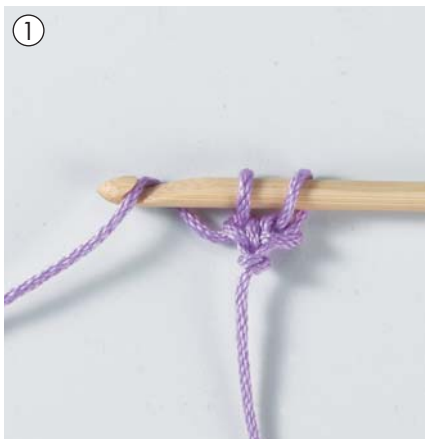
## INTERESTING TWISTS TO BASIC STITCHES

### No-Chain Foundation

The no-chain foundation is an alternate way to start a crochet project. This method is especially useful if your beginning chain and foundation row tends to be too tight. Using the no chain method eliminates this problem as you are making your chain and the first row at the same time. Because you don't start with a lengthy chain, this method is also very useful when making a large project, such as an afghan.

### No-Chain Single Crochet

Chain 2. Insert the hook under the top 2 loops of the 2nd chain, yarn over hook, and pull loop through the chain (2 loops on hook), yarn over, pull through 1 loop (2 loops on hook) **(1)**. Yarn over hook, pull through both loops on hook (one loop left on hook), first stitch completed **(2)**. \* Insert hook under both strands of the foundation chain of the stitch just made **(3)**. Yarn over, pull loop through chain, yarn over, pull through 1 loop **(4)**. Yarn over, pull through both loops on hook (1 loop on hook), second stitch completed **(5)**. Repeat from \* for desired length **(6)**. Turn and work the first row after the foundation **(7)**.



## No-Chain Double Crochet

Chain 3, yarn over, insert hook under 2 strands of 3rd chain from hook, yarn over, pull up a loop, yarn over, pull loop through 1 loop (3 loops on hook) **(1)**. Complete stitch as a normal double crochet (yarn over, pull through 2 loops) twice **(2)**. First stitch made.

\* Yarn over, insert hook under 2 strands of first chain made **(3)**. Yarn over, pull loop through chain, yarn over, pull loop through 1 loop (3 loops on hook) **(4)**. Complete stitch as a normal double crochet (yarn over, pull through 2 loops) twice. Second stitch made **(5)**. Repeat from \* for each stitch for desired length **(6)**. Continue rows as regular double crochet **(7)**.



## Front Post Double Crochet

This stitch follows a row of double crochet. Chain 3 to turn. Wrap the yarn over the hook. Working from the front, insert the hook from right to left (left to right for left-handed crocheters) under the post of the first double crochet from the previous row and pick up a loop (shown). Wrap the yarn over the hook and complete the stitch as a double crochet.



## Back Post Double Crochet

This stitch follows a row of double crochet. Chain 3 to turn. Wrap the yarn over the hook. Working from the back, insert the hook from right to left (left to right for left-handed crocheters) over the post of the first double crochet from the previous row (shown) and pick up a loop. Wrap the yarn over the hook and complete the stitch as a double crochet.



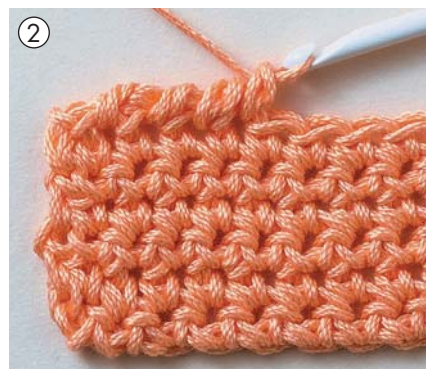
## Front Post Triple Crochet

Wrap the yarn over the hook twice. Working from the front, insert the hook from right to left (left to right for left-handed crocheters) under the post of the indicated stitch in the row below (shown) and pick up a loop. Wrap the yarn over the hook and complete the triple crochet stitch as usual.



## Reverse Single Crochet

This stitch is usually used to create a border. At the end of a row, chain 1 and do not turn. Working backward, insert the hook into the previous stitch **(1)**, wrap the yarn over the hook, and draw the yarn through the stitch so there are 2 loops on the hook. Wrap the yarn over the hook again and draw the yarn through both loops. Continue working in the reverse direction **(2)**.





## Cross Stitch

Skip 1 stitch and double crochet in the next stitch. Then double crochet in the skipped stitch by crossing the yarn in front of the stitch just made.



## Shell

There are many types of shell stitches (page 48). Here is one example.

Make 2 double crochets, chain 1, and then work 2 more double crochets in the same stitch (shown). This is often called a cluster. In the following row, work the same cluster into the space created by the chain stitch. Other versions of the shell stitch may have more than 2 double crochets and more than 1 chain stitch between them.



## Bobble

Bobbles, also called popcorns, are decorative bumps that can be created in various ways. Here are two examples. For more examples, see page 66.

(Worked from the wrong side.) Wrap the yarn over the hook and pick up a loop in the next stitch. Wrap the yarn over the hook again and pull it through 2 of the stitches on the hook. Repeat this 5 times in the same stitch. Then wrap the yarn over the hook and pull it through all 6 loops on the hook. The bobble stitch is worked from the wrong side and pushed to right side of the work.

## Popcorn

(Worked from the right side.) Make 5 double crochets in the specified stitch, draw up the last loop slightly, and remove the hook **(1)**. Insert the hook into the first of the 5 double crochets made, pick up the dropped loop, and draw it through. Chain 1 **(2)**.



## Bullion

Chain 3. Wrap the yarn loosely around the hook 10 times, insert the hook in the next stitch, yarn over, and draw up a loop **(1)**. Wrap the yarn over the hook again and carefully draw through the coil of loops on the hook. You may find it necessary to pick the loops off the hook with your fingers, 1 at a time **(2)**. Yarn over the hook again and draw through the remaining stitch.



## Picot

This stitch pattern is used as an edging.

\* Chain 3, work 1 single crochet in the first chain **(1)**, skip 1 stitch, and work 1 single crochet in the next stitch. Repeat from \* across the row **(2)**.





### **Puff Stitch**

This stitch is worked the same way as the bobble stitch on page 19, but not necessarily from the wrong side. Because it is preceded and followed by double crochet stitches, this puff stitch is flatter than the bobble stitch.



### **Loose Puff Stitch**

This stitch is worked the same as the puff stitch and bobble stitch above, but the loops are pulled up to at least ½" (1.3 cm) long.

# Crochet Instructions

Crochet instructions are written in a shortened form, using standard abbreviations. This greatly reduces the space and overwhelming confusion that would result if the instructions were written out completely, word for word. Diagrams with symbols that represent the stitches are often given along with the written instructions, or sometimes the diagrams stand alone.

## READING WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS

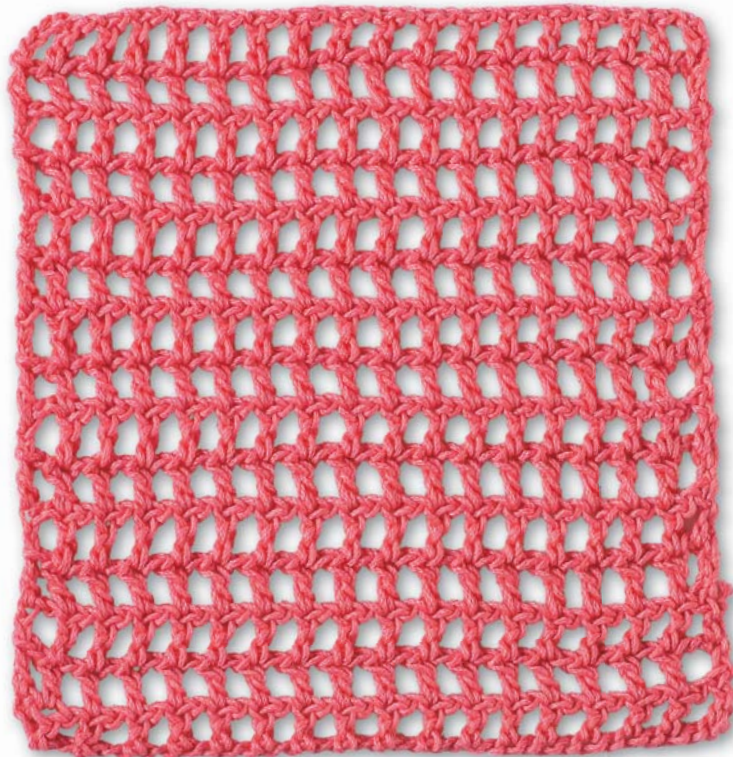
Crochet patterns are often groups of stitches that are repeated a certain number of times in a row or round. Rather than repeat the instructions for the stitch group over and over, the group is enclosed between brackets [ ] immediately followed by the number of times to work the stitches.

For example: [ch 1, sk 1, 1 dc in next st] 4 times.

This is a much shorter way to say “chain 1, skip 1 stitch, work 1 double crochet in the next stitch, chain 1, skip 1 stitch, work 1 double crochet in the next stitch, chain 1, skip 1 stitch, work 1 double crochet in the next stitch, chain 1, skip 1 stitch, work 1 double crochet in the next stitch.”

Another way to indicate repeated stitch patterns is with asterisks. This same instruction could be written: \* ch 1, sk 1, 1 dc in next st, repeat from \* 3 times more.

Parentheses are used to clarify or reinforce information: Ch 3 (counts as 1 dc). They may be used at the end of a row to tell you how many total stitches you should have in that row, such as (25 sc). Sometimes this information is set off with an em dash at the row end—25 sc. Parentheses are also used to tell you which side of the work you should be on: (WS) or (RS). For multisize patterns, parentheses enclose the variations you must apply to the different sizes. For example, a pattern may include directions for size 2 (4, 6, 8). Throughout the instructions, wherever you must choose for the correct size, the choices will be written like this: ch 34 (36, 38, 40).



## Abbreviations

Here is the list of standard abbreviations used for crochet. Until you can readily identify them, keep the list handy whenever you crochet.

approx	approximately	dc2tog	double crochet 2 stitches together	prev	previous
beg	begin/beginning	dec	decrease/decreases/ decreasing	qutr	quadruple triple crochet
bet	between	dtr	double treble	rem	remain/remaining
BL	back loop(s)	FL	front loop(s)	rep	repeat(s)
bo	bobble	fol	follow/follows/following	rev sc	reverse single crochet
BP	back post	FP	front post	rnd(s)	round(s)
BPdc	back post double crochet	FPdc	front post double crochet	RS	right side(s)
BPsc	back post single crochet	FPsc	front post single crochet	sc	single crochet
BPtr	back post triple crochet	FPtr	front post triple crochet	sc2tog	single crochet 2 stitches together
CC	contrasting color	g	gram(s)	sk	skip
ch	chain	hdc	half double crochet	Sl st	slip stitch
ch-	refers to chain or space previously made, e.g., ch-1 space	inc	increase/increases/increasing	sp(s)	space(s)
ch lp	chain loop	lp(s)	loop(s)	st(s)	stitch(es)
ch-sp	chain space	Lsc	long single crochet	tbl	through back loop(s)
CL	cluster(s)	m	meter(s)	tch	turning chain
cm	centimeter(s)	MC	main color	tfl	through front loop(s)
cont	continue	mm	millimeter(s)	tog	together
dc	double crochet	oz	ounce(s)	tr	triple crochet
		p	picot	trtr	triple treble crochet
		patt	pattern	tr2tog	triple crochet 2 together
		pc	popcorn	Tss	Tunisian simple stitch
		pm	place marker	WS	wrong side(s)
				yd	yard(s)
				yo	yarn over
				yoh	yarn over hook
				[]	Work instructions within brackets as many times as directed
				*	Repeat instructions following the single asterisk as directed
				**	Repeat instructions between asterisks as many times as directed or repeat from a given set of instructions

## Term Conversions



















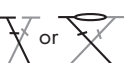



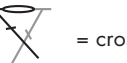




























Crochet techniques are the same universally, and everyone uses the same terms. However, US patterns and UK patterns are different because the terms denote different stitches. Here is a conversion chart to explain the differences.

US	UK
single crochet (sc)	double crochet (dc)
half double crochet (hdc)	half treble (htr)
double crochet (dc)	treble (tr)
triple crochet (tr)	double treble (dtr)








## READING SYMBOLS

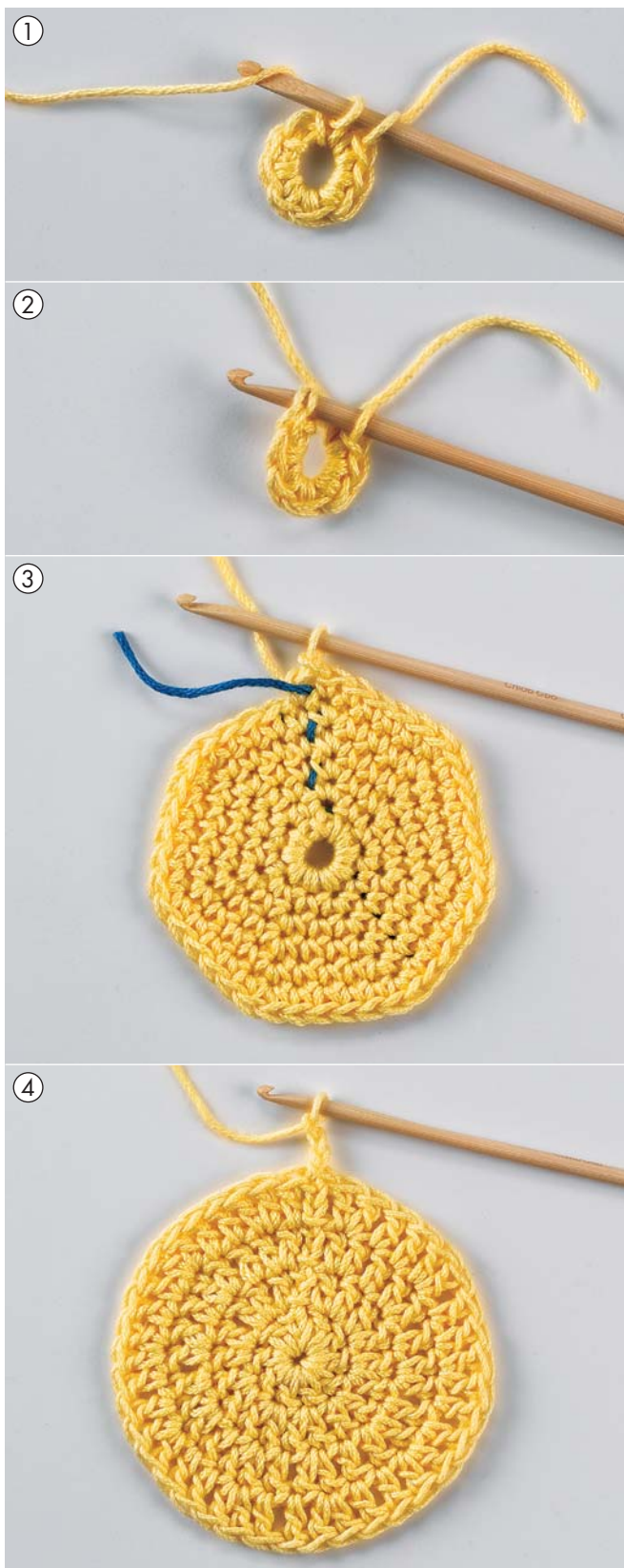
Symbol diagrams are another way to convey crochet instructions. Every symbol in the diagram represents a specific stitch as it appears from the right side of the work. The rows are marked on the diagram, beginning at the bottom with the foundation row (FR). The numbers alternate side to side, even rows on the right, odd rows on the left, because you will be working in alternating directions as you move from row to row, right side to wrong side. The diagram is accompanied by a key to help you identify the symbols. Though there may be some subtle differences in the way the symbols look, designers use a standard set of symbols.

### Crochet Diagram Symbols

 = chain (ch)	 = slip st (Sl st)	 = bullion st	 = dc2tog	 = side puff st
 = single crochet (sc)	 = linked hdc	 = double crochet cluster (Cl)	 = crisscross puff st	
 = half double crochet (hdc)	 = linked dc	 = bobbles	 = popcorns	
 = double crochet (dc)	 = linked tr	 = tr2tog	 = star st	
 = triple crochet (tr)	 = crossed dc	 = tr3tog	 = tatted picot	
 = double triple crochet (dtr)	 = crossed dc variation	 = tr4tog	 = limpet st	
 = reverse sc (rev sc)	 = crossed shell	 = dtr2tog	 = picots	
 = long sc	 = sc3tog	 = dc7tog	 = worked in back loop only	
 = long dc	 = hdc3tog	 = dc9tog	 = worked in front loop only	
 = long tr	 = dc3tog	 = BPtr4tog	 = adjustable center ring	
 = front post dc (FPdc)	 = tr2tog	 = BPtr8tog	 = stitch marker	
 = back post dc (BPdc)	 = FPdc2tog	 = puff sts	 = placement of st	
 = front post tr (FPtr)	 = dc5tog			

#### TUNISIAN STITCHES

-  = Tunisian simple st (Tss)
-  = purl
-  = knit
-  = FPtr
-  = Tss2tog
-  = Tss3tog, dec 2 sts
-  = cluster st



## TWO WAYS TO CROCHET

### Working in Rows

Many flat crochet pieces are worked back and forth in rows, beginning with a chain and foundation row. As you crochet, you alternate from right side to wrong side with each row. At the end of each row, you crochet a turning chain of 1 to 4 stitches, depending on the height of the next row of stitches. If the next row will be single crochet, the turning chain is 1 stitch; half-double crochet: 2 stitches; double crochet: 3 stitches; triple crochet: 4 stitches, etc. The directions will tell you how many chains to make. The turning chain counts as a stitch. For instance, the directions may say, "ch 3 (counts as dc)." At the end of each row, the last stitch is worked into the turning chain from the previous row.

### Working in Rounds

Another way to crochet is in rounds, going around in continual circles. When working in the round, the right side of the fabric is always facing you. To begin, the directions will tell you to chain a certain number of stitches and join them into a ring by slip stitching into the beginning chain. For the first round, the stitches are worked into the ring (the hook is inserted into the center of the ring), so the stitches will wrap around the beginning chain **(1)**. When you reach your starting point, slip stitch into the beginning stitch. To continue on the next round, the directions will tell you to crochet a starting chain equal to the height of the stitches in the next round. Then continue, crocheting into the stitches of the previous round, and complete the round by stitching into the starting chain **(2)**.

When working in rounds, it is necessary to note where the round begins and ends to keep track of rows worked. When working in single crochet, the easiest way to mark your rounds is by inserting a different colored piece of yarn in your work, then carrying it up as you work **(3)**. Using a different colored yarn makes it very easy to see and pulls out easily when your work is done.

If you are working in half double crochet, double crochet, or triple crochet, the chain at the beginning of the row creates a seam stitch, so using a marker is not necessary **(4)**. A typical instruction line might read, "ch 3 to begin the round, \* work 1 dc in each of the next 2 sts, 2 dcs in next st (inc made), repeat from \* around, join with a Sl st to the top of the beg ch 3." This would complete 1 round. The instructions will vary but they always begin with a starting chain and end with a joining at end of the round.

## Invisible Join

When working in the round, connecting the end of the round to the beginning can sometimes seem awkward. Here is a way to connect the last stitch in a way that will leave the connection nearly invisible.

End the last stitch but do not join to the beginning with a slip stitch **(1)**. Cut the yarn, leaving a tail several inches long. Pull

the yarn through the last stitch and set the hook aside. Thread the tail on a tapestry needle, and run the needle under the beginning stitch, pulling the tail through **(2)**. Insert the needle back through the center of the last stitch of the round and pull the tail to the back of the work (not too tightly) **(3)**. This will join the beginning to the end invisibly **(4)**. Weave the tail into the back of the work.

