



MAKE SYMMETRICAL STITCHES

I'm Michael from the Knotmonsters crochet series of books and patterns. When I'm not crocheting, my job as a paediatric dentist keeps me busy. I've always loved working with my hands and putting smiles on people's faces, and my passion is making adorable creations through the art of amigurumi! I'm very excited to share my tips and tricks with you, and I hope that you find these hacks helpful.

Have you ever seen an amigurumi toy that has stuffing showing through the stitches? This is most likely due to inconsistencies in tension. Maintaining a constant tension with your yarn is one of the most difficult parts of amigurumi. If you crochet too tightly, the piece will shrink in certain areas, while crocheting too lightly will lead to large spaces in between stitches that will expose the stuffing material.

A technique that I use to help maintain this tension is called a 'yarn under'. The technique will create a symmetrical cubic stitch. This aesthetic stitch will create the appearance of symmetry as well as help keep all the stuffing hidden inside your amigurumi.

In a normal double crochet, you work a yarn round hook. To do a yarn under, you are switching from a yarn round hook to a yarn under hook instead. Then you complete the rest of the stitch as you normally would. For a double crochet (in a yarn under), follow these steps.

Step 1: Insert hook into next stitch, yarn under hook

Step 2: Pull loop through stitch

Step 3: Yarn round hook

Step 4: Pull through both loops

For other stitches (half treble, treble, etc), all you have to do is work a yarn under hook after inserting your hook into the stitch.

To learn more about Michael and his ami' creations, follow him on Instagram at @knotmonster or visit www.knotmonsters.com

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