

# Tunisian essentials

Simple Step-by-Step guides to some of the most commonly used Tunisian and standard crochet stitches, as well as tips on blocking and washing your crochet

## SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO WORK CHAINS



**1** Hold the hook and yarn end in your right hand, and the working yarn in your left hand. Move the hook under and over the yarn to wrap it around anti-clockwise.



**2** Pull the hook towards the slip knot, catching the yarn in the hook, and pulling it through the slip knot loop. This forms the first chain (ch) stitch. Repeat Steps 1 and 2 to form a chain.



**3** This is what the row of chains will look like. Hold the chain with your right hand near the hook, to keep the tension. Keep going until you have the number of chains stated on the pattern.



**4** Each chain or loop counts as 1 stitch. Do not count the slip knot or the loop on the hook (called the working loop). For accuracy, make sure the chain is not twisted and that the front is facing you.

## SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO WORK A TUNISIAN FOUNDATION ROW



**1** Work a foundation chain as usual, with the same number of chains as stitches you want (so ch15 for 15 stitches). To begin the 'forward pass' of your foundation row, \*insert the hook into the second chain from the hook.



**2** Work yrh and pull a loop of yarn through the chain and onto the hook. Leave the loop on the hook.



**3** You will now have 2 loops on your hook. Repeat the same action from \* in Step 1 for each chain along the row. Place one stitch onto the hook for each chain – do not work into the slipknot at the end.



**4** When you've finished the forward pass, you should have one loop on the hook for each chain you started with – with a chain of 15, there should be 15 stitches on the hook. Now work the standard return pass to finish the foundation row.

## SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO WORK A TUNISIAN RETURN PASS



**1** Also called the 'Standard' or 'Basic' return pass. With all the stitches on the hook and RS facing you, do not turn – work back along the row from left to right. Yrh and pull yarn through the first loop on the hook only.



**2** The action in Step 1 is exactly the same as making one chain stitch, and in patterns, this is sometimes called 'ch1'.



**3** Now work yrh and draw the yarn through the next 2 loops on the hook.



**4** Repeat Step 3 across the row until there is one loop remaining on the hook. You will have completed the return pass, and the loop left on your hook will make the first stitch of the next row.

## SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO WORK TUNISIAN SIMPLE STITCH



**1** After working the foundation row, have the RS facing you. Skip the vertical strand on the outside edge of the work and \*insert the hook from right to left under the second vertical strand of yarn on the row below.



**2** Yrh and pull a loop of yarn through the vertical strand and onto the hook.



**3** You will now have 2 loops on the hook. Repeat from \* in Step 1, inserting hook under the next vertical strand across the row, except for the last strand on the outside edge of the work.



**4** On the last stitch of the row, insert hook under front and back of outside loop. Yrh and pull through as before, to create a firm edge. Now work the standard return pass to complete one row of Tunisian Simple Stitch.

## SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO WORK TUNISIAN PURL STITCH



**1** After the foundation row, have the RS facing you. Bring the working yarn to the front of the fabric and \*insert the hook from right to left under the second vertical strand of yarn on the row below.



**2** Yrh and pull through the vertical strand. Leave the loop on the hook.



**3** Keeping the working yarn at the front of the fabric, repeat from \* in Step 1, placing a loop on the hook for each vertical strand across to form a row of Tunisian purl stitches.



**4** The fabric created looks a lot like bumpy knitted purl stitches, but is a lot thicker. This stitch is often used in combination with other stitches to create texture, rather than on its own.

## SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO WORK A SLIP STITCH SEAM



**1** First, make sure you fasten off, weave in ends and block pieces. Place pieces right sides together. Insert hook into the first stitch on both pieces. Make a slip knot and place it onto the hook.



**2** Pull the slip knot through both stitches to bring it to the front. Now insert hook into the 2nd stitch of both layers and work a slip stitch. Work a slip stitch in the 3rd stitches of both layers.



**3** Continue working slip sts along the edge, as far as you need to. Fasten off, weave in ends, open out the seam and lightly press from the wrong side.



**4** From the right side, the slip stitch seam forms an 'invisible' join (see above). It forms a firm, flat seam that won't give much stretch. It's best to use a matching yarn.