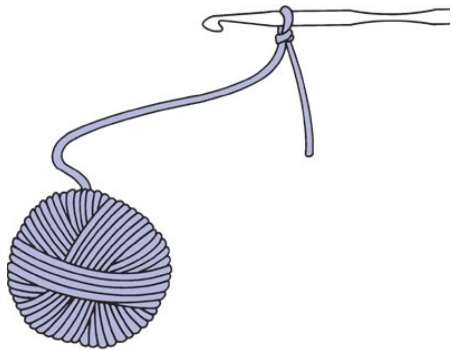


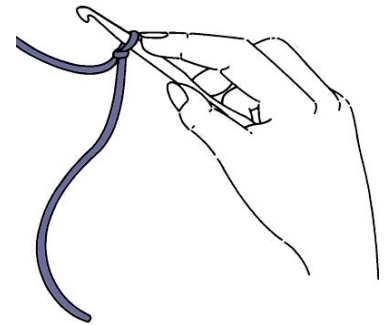
# BEGINNING CROCHET



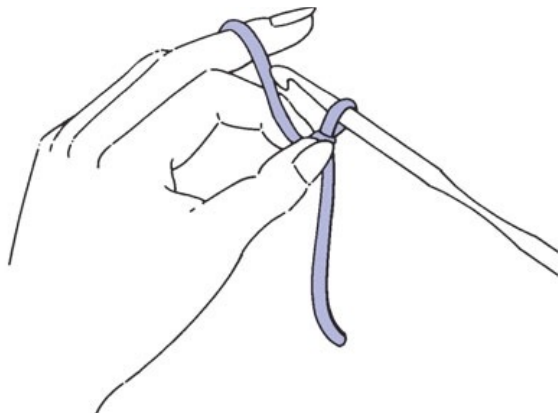
The loop on the crochet hook should be firm, but loose enough to slide back and forth easily on the hook. Be sure you still have about a 6-inch yarn end.

## How to Slip Knot & Chain Stitch

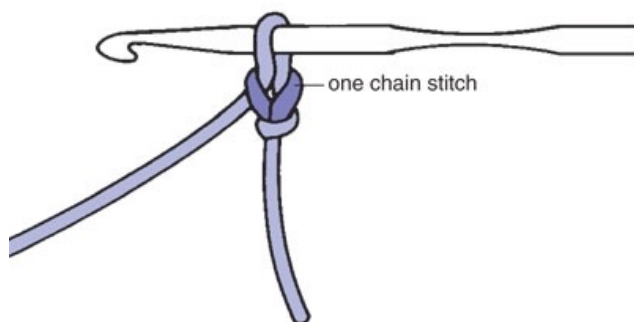
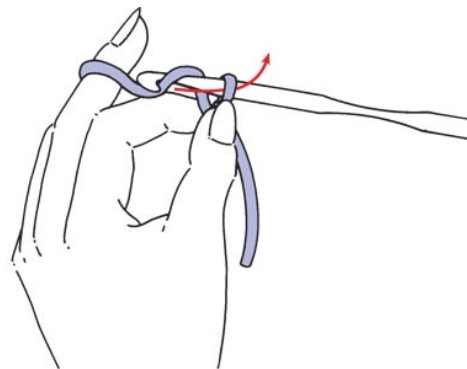
Once you have the yarn wrapped, hold the base of the slip knot with the thumb and index finger of your left hand.



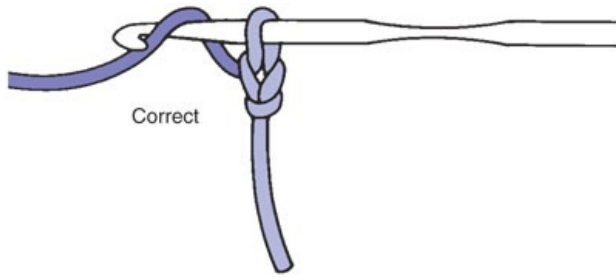
Bring the yarn over the crochet hook from back to front and hook it.



Draw hooked yarn through the loop of the slip knot on the hook and up onto the working area of the crochet hook

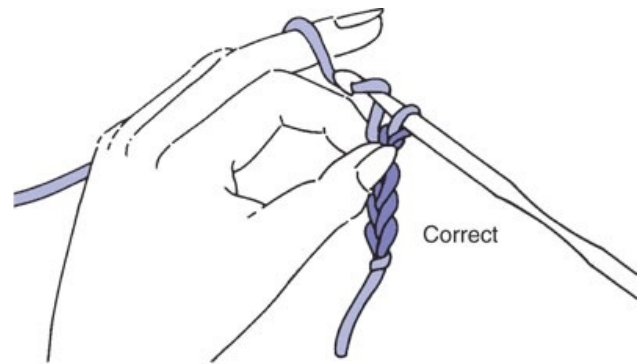


You have now made one chain stitch.



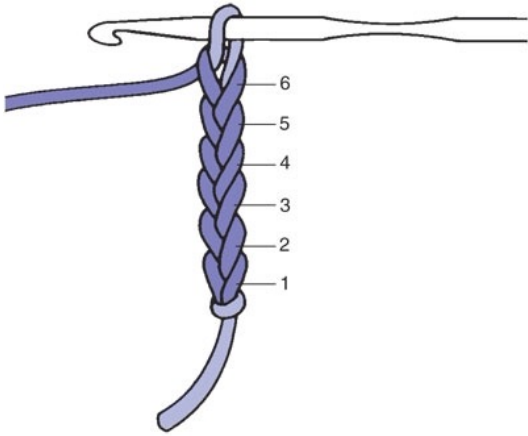
Again, hold the base of the slip knot and bring the yarn over the crochet hook from back to front. Hook it and draw through loop on the hook. You have made another chain stitch. We will repeat Step 3 for each additional chain.

It is important to note that you should always move the left thumb and index finger up the chain close to the crochet hook after each new stitch or two. This helps you control the work. Also, be sure to pull each new stitch up onto the working area of the hook; otherwise your starting chain stitches will become too tight. Practice making chains until you are comfortable with your grip of the crochet hook and the flow of the yarn.



In the beginning, your work will be uneven, with some chain stitches loose and others tight. While you're learning, try to keep the chain stitches loose. As your skill increases, the chain should be firm, but not tight, with all chain stitches even in size.

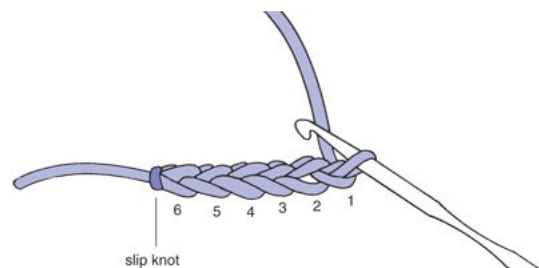
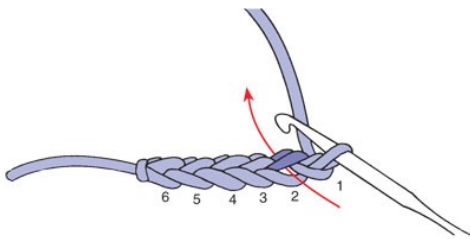
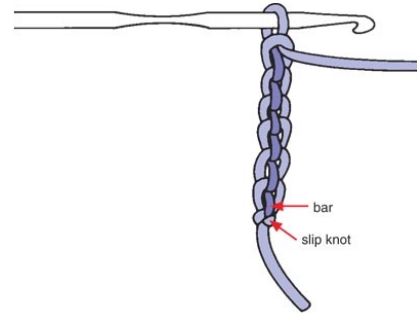
## Working Into the Chain



Once you have worked the beginning chain, you are ready to begin the stitches required to make any crochet project. These stitches are worked into the foundation chain. For practice, crochet six chains loosely.

When counting your chain stitches at the start of a pattern—which you must do very carefully before continuing—note that the loop on the crochet hook is never counted as a stitch and the starting slip knot is never counted as a stitch.

Now stop and look at the chain. The front looks like a series of interlocking Vs, and each stitch has a bump or back bar at the back. You will never work into the first chain from the crochet hook unless your instructions state otherwise. Depending on the stitch, you will work into the second, third, fourth, etc. chain from the crochet hook. The instructions will always state how many chains to skip before starting the first stitch.



When working a stitch, insert the crochet hook from the front of the chain, through the center of the V and under the corresponding bar on the back of the same stitch. Excluding the first stitch, you will work into every stitch in the chain unless the crochet pattern states differently, but not into the starting slip knot. Be sure that you do not skip that last chain at the end.

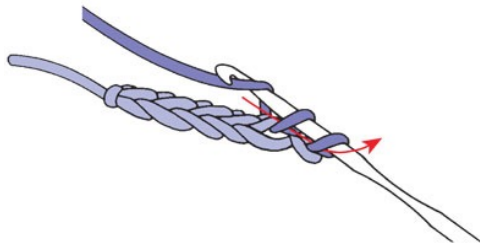
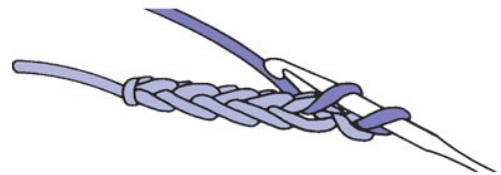
# SINGLE CROCHET

Single crochet is the shortest and most basic of all stitches. Remember, you will never work in the first chain from the crochet hook, unless the pattern you are working specifically directs you to do so. We will now begin working Row 1 of single crochet.

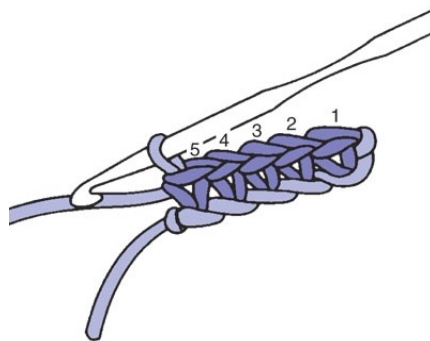
Step 1: Make a slip knot and chain 6. Skip the first chain from the crochet hook, insert hook in the second chain through the center of the V and under the back bar of the chain. Bring the yarn over the hook from back to front.



Draw yarn through chain and up onto the working area of the crochet hook. You now have two loops on the hook.

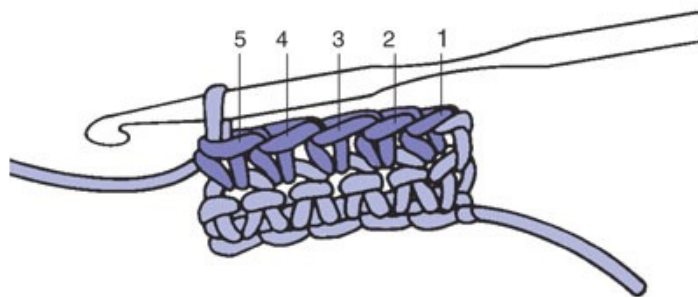
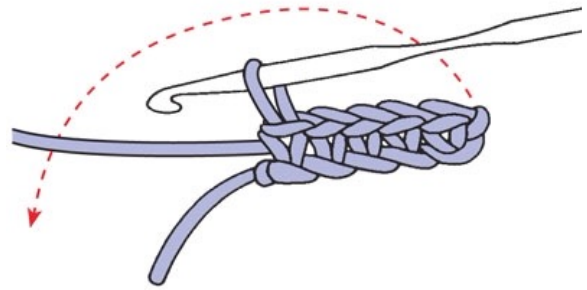


Step 2: Again, bring the yarn over the hook from back to front, and draw it through both loops on the crochet hook.



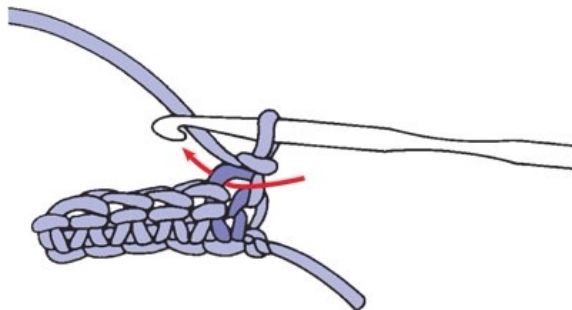
One loop will remain on the hook; you have made one single crochet.

Step 3: Insert hook in the next chain as before, hook the yarn from back to front and draw it through the chain stitch. Yarn over again and draw through both loops. It is important to know that the terms “hook the yarn” and “yarn over” have the same meaning. In both instances, you will bring the yarn over the hook from back to front.



Repeat step 3 in each remaining chain, taking care to work in the last chain, but not in the slip knot. Remember, as you work, to be careful not to twist the chain; keep all the Vs facing you. You have completed one row of single crochet and should now have five stitches in the row.

To work the second row of single crochet, you need to turn the work counterclockwise, so you can work back across the first row.



Do not remove the crochet hook from the loop as you do this. Now you need to bring the yarn up to the correct height to work the first stitch. So, to raise the yarn, chain 1 (this is called a turning chain).

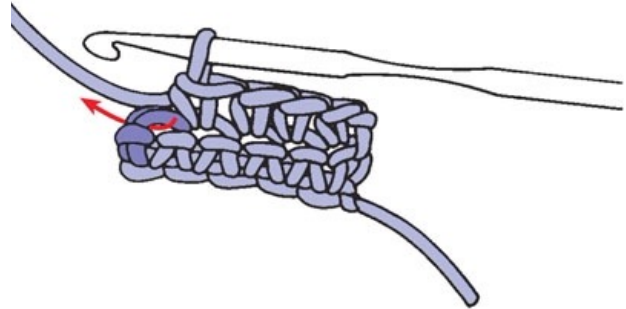
This row and all the following rows of single crochet will be worked into a previous row of single crochet, not into the beginning chain

as you did before. Remember that when you worked into the starting chain, you inserted the crochet hook through the center of the V and under the bar. This is only done when working into a starting chain.

The first single crochet of the row is worked in the last stitch of the previous row, not into the beginning chain. Insert hook in the last stitch of the previous row under top 2 loops, bring the yarn over the hook from back to front and draw yarn through stitch and up onto the working area of the crochet hook. You now have two loops on the hook.

Again, bring the yarn over the hook from back to front and draw it through both loops on the crochet hook.

Work a single crochet into each single crochet to the end, taking care to work in each stitch, especially the last stitch, which is easy to miss.



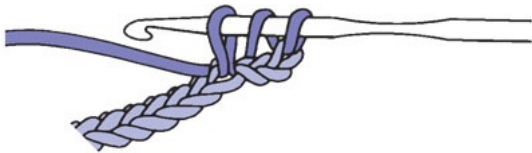
## FASTENING OFF

After the last stitch, cut the yarn, leaving a 6-inch end. As you do when you take your crochet hook out for a break, draw the hook straight up, but this time draw the cut yarn end completely through the stitch. Pull the 6-inch end tight to close.

## DOUBLE CROCHET

Appearance in pattern - dc

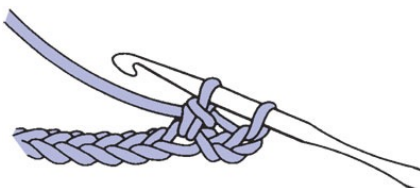
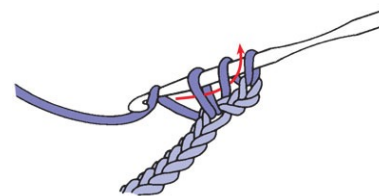
The double crochet stitch is one of the most common crochet stitches. It is a taller stitch than single crochet. Remember, you will never work in the first chain from the crochet hook unless the crochet pattern you are working specifically directs you to do so. Be sure to go through the center of the V of the chain and under the bar at the back; do not twist the chain.

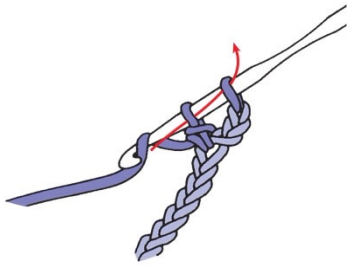


Step 1: Make a slip knot and chain 14. Bring the yarn over the hook from back to front, skip the first three chains from the hook and then insert the hook in the fourth chain.

Step 2: Bring the yarn over the crochet hook from back to front and draw it through the chain stitch and up onto the working area of the hook; you now have three loops on the hook.

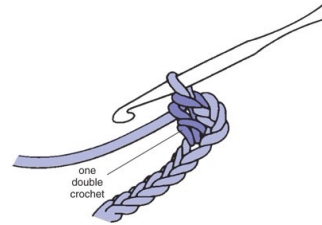
Step 3: Bring the yarn over the crochet hook from back to front and draw through the first two loops on the hook. You now have two loops on the hook.





Step 4: Bring the yarn over the crochet hook from back to front and draw through both loops on hook.

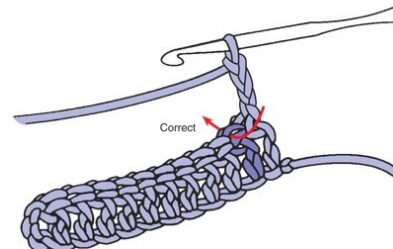
You have now completed one double crochet; one loop remains on the hook.



Continue working one double crochet in each remaining chain across.

After working in each chain across, count your double crochet stitches. There should be 12 of them, counting the first three chain stitches you skipped at the beginning of the row as a double crochet.

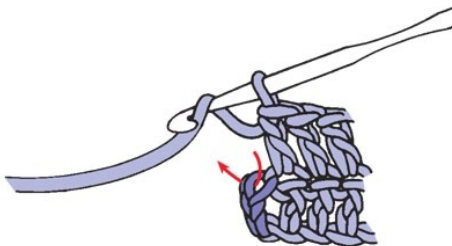
Turn your work counterclockwise and we will begin working row 2. To work row 2, you need to bring the yarn or thread up to the correct height for the next row. To raise the yarn, chain 3 (this is called the turning chain).



The three chains in the turning chain just made count as the first double crochet of the new row so skip the first double crochet and work a double crochet in the second stitch. Be sure to insert the crochet hook under top two loops of the stitch.

We will continue to work a double crochet in each remaining stitch across the previous row; at the end of each row, be sure to work the last double crochet in the top of the three skipped chains from the previous row. Be sure to insert the crochet hook in the center of the V (and back bar) of the top chain of the third chain of beginning chain.

Stop and count your double crochets; there should be 12 stitches.



You can continue practicing or fasten off.