

Guide on

CROCHET

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Introduction

Crochet is an interesting and easy kind of handicraft. Work grows quickly and patterns are instantly effective. It is the combination of the basic stitches into groups of blocks that give patterns and varying textures. This art can be developed into a wide variety of articles like laces, sweaters, rugs, booties, and bonnets, caps and other apparels. It is worthwhile to master a few simple stitches, which are the foundation of this work.

For a beginner, it is a good idea to buy a fairly coarse hook to practice the stitches with, and to do this again and again until one is quite familiar with them, and have attained a fair speed. Then follow patterns to make articles of your choice.

Individuals develop their own ways of taking up thread when crocheting. The most important thing to learn is the chain stitch from which variation of stitches develops. For example:-

Slip or single crochet
Double crochet
Trebles (varied) e.g.

Half treble
Double treble
Triple treble
Quadruple treble.

Crochet Tools

1. Hooks

The hooks are made of steel, plastic, bone, wood or aluminium. They come in varying sizes from fine to coarse (size 1-

6) and the smaller the number of size the larger the hooks. The large hooks are for heavier thread and the smaller hooks are for finer thread.

2. Scissors

Scissors for cutting yarn must be shear

3. Measuring Tools

Measuring tools should be smooth so that they do not hold or split the thread used. They include tapes and small rulers.

4. Needles

A crewel with ball tip is more favourable so as to avoid splitting of yarn.

5. Thread (Yarn/Wool)

The thread varies as to twist, size, texture and colour. Some threads are thicker in texture while some are finer. Coarse thread are used for heavy articles like men's cardigan and finer thread are for fine articles like baby's garments. The most important points to consider when selecting thread for crocheting are to:

1. Buy all thread that is needed at one time because dye lots may be slightly different in colour.
2. Check the dye lot number of each label when you purchase your thread to be certain the colour is all the same.

Crochet Abbreviations

Ch	-	Chain
S.S.	-	Slip Stitch
S.C	-	Single Crochet
Half dc	-	Half double crochet
Tr	-	Treble
Dtr	-	Double treble
Tr. tr	-	Triple treble

Sp	-	Space
Inc	-	increase
Dec	-	decrease
P	-	picot
St	-	Stitch
Beg	-	beginning
RNA	-	round
Y.O	-	Yarn over
Bl	-	Block
Lp	-	Loop
Sk	-	Skip
Pat	-	Pattern.

Mastering all these abbreviations will give you broad avenue of variable beautiful pattern stitches for various articles.

HOW TO TURN YOUR WORK

In crocheting, certain number of chain stitches are added at the end of each row to bring work in position for the next row. The turning chains for each basic stitch is as follows:

Half single crochet -	1 chain, turn
Half double crochet	- 3 chain, turn
Double crochet -	3 chain, turn
Half treble crochet-	4 chain, turn
Double treble	- 5 chain, turn
Triple treble -	6 chain, turn
Quadruple treble -	7 chain, turn.

HOW TO CROCHET

1. Chain Stitch (Foundation Chain)

The basis of all crochet is the chain stitch. This is made by forming a loop on the hook, which is held in the right hand in the same way as you hold a pencil.

To make the first chain stitch, make a slip loop several inches from end of thread, and slip it on hook (Figs. 1a and b).

With your first stitch on the hook, place the hook under the thread from left to right and draw the thread through the loop already on the hook (Fig. 1c). Continue this until a number of chain stitches are formed (Fig. 1d). Do not pull the thread too tightly. Try to keep the stitches as uniform in size as possible.

Fig.1: Chain stitch.

2. Slip or Single Crochet

1. Make 20 foundation chains.
2. Put the hook through the first stitch (chain) to the left of the hook.
3. Catch the thread with the hook and draw it through the stitch and loop which is already on the hook. Continue this the chain until the end of foundation chain.
4. For the second and other rows, make 1 chain, turn and work in to the stitches of the previous row. Continue this along the chain until work measures 7.5cm (3 inches).

NOTE:

In crochet, the work always hangs by one loop on the hook.

Fig. 2: Slip or Single Crochet.

3. **Double Crochet**

1. Make 20 foundation chains
2. Draw a loop through next chain or stitch (two loops on hooks)
3. Put the thread over hook and draw through both loops on the hook.
4. Repeat 3 and 4 until end of foundation chain.
5. To turn, make 3 chains then turn.
6. Repeat numbers 2 -5 on the stitches of the previous row. Continue this until work measures 7.5cm (3 inches).

Fig. 3: Double crochet.

4. **Treble.**

Trebles are extensions of double crochet and those mostly in use are:

a) **Treble**

1. Make 20 foundation chains
2. Pass hook over thread
3. For the first stitch, insert the hook in to the second foundation chain.
4. Catch thread and draw it through the chain (stitch). Now three loops on hook.
5. Put thread over hook and draw through first two loops.
6. Then put thread over hook again and draw through the last two loops on hook.b
7. Repeat 4-6 until end of foundation chain.
8. For next and other rows make 4 chains, turn. Repeat 4-6 on the stitches of the previous row. Continue this until work measures 7.5cm (3 inches).

Fig.4 Treble.

B. Double Treble (long treble)

1. Make 20 foundation chains.
2. Thread twice round hook
3. For first stitch, insert the hook into the 3rd foundation chain and draw through the stitch (for stitches on hook).
4. Thread over hook and draw through first two stitches on hook. Thread over hook again and draw through next two stitches on hook.
5. Thread over hook and draw through last two stitches on hook

6. For the next double treble and other subsequent ones, thread twice and insert on next foundation chain and work as for numbers 4 and 5 to end of row.
7. Next and all other rows, make 5 chains, turn. Repeat 2-6 on the stitches of the previous row. Continue until work measures 7.5cm (3inches).

Fig.5: Double treble.

C Triple treble

1. Make 20 foundation chain
2. Pass hook under thread three times
3. Insert hook on the 4th foundation chain (for the first stitch only) and pull the thread through (5 loops on hook).
4. Put thread over hook and pull through first two loops (4 loops remains).
5. Thread over hook and pull through next two loops (3 loops remains).
6. Put thread over hook and pull through next two loops (2 loops remains).
7. Thread over hook and pull through last two loops.
8. For the next and other stitches, pass hook over threads three times and insert hook on next foundation chain. Work from number 4-7 to end of the row.
9. For the next and subsequent rows, make 6 chain, turn.. Work as for number eight on the stitches of previous row. Continue until work measures 7.5cm (3 inches).

Fig. 6: Triple treble.

D. Quadruple Treble

1. Make 20 foundation chains
2. Pass hook over thread four times
3. For the first stitch, insert hook into 5th foundation chain. Pull thread through (6 loops on hook).
4. Pass thread over hook and pull through first two loops on hook (5 loops remain).
5. Pull thread through next two loops (4 loops remains).

6. Pass thread over hook and pull through next two loops (3 loops remains).
7. Pull thread through next two loops (2 loops remains).
8. Thread over hoop and pull through the last two loops.
9. For next stitch, pass hooks over thread, four times and pull through next stitch on foundation chain.
10. Work as for first stitch (4-9). Continue to end of row.
11. Next and subsequent rows, make seven chains, turn. Work as for 9 and 10. Continue work until it measures 7.5cm (3 inches).

Fig. 7: Quadruple treble.

5. **Joining Two Edges**

To join two edges, place edges side by side matching stitches perfectly. Insert hook under two threads of the first stitch in both edges (under four threads). Thread over hook and with one motion draw loop through stitches on the hook. Repeat this process until the two edges are joined completely.

Fig. 8: Joining two edges.

SUMMARY

Crochet articles are very easy to formulate once you have the knowledge of how to make the basic stitches. This guide has outlined the steps of how to make these stitches. With them, your imagination, and creativity, a lot of beautiful articles can be produced which can either be for the use of the family or for income generation.