

## CROCHET STITCH GUIDE

Learn how to hold a crochet hook, learn how to stitch common crochet stitches such as the slip knot, chain stitch, Half Double Crochet and more.

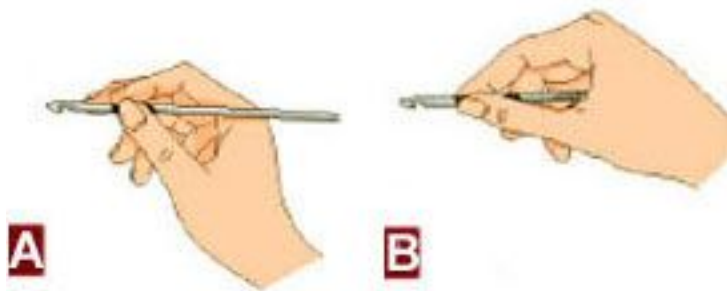
### HOLDING A CROCHET HOOK

There are two ways to hold the hook.

A. Hold the hook between your index finger and thumb the way you hold pencil. This method, which uses your wrist, is most often used when working with thread of light-weight yarns.

B. Hold the hook between your index finger and thumb the way you hold a knife to spread butter or cut meat. This method, which uses your shoulder muscles, is most often used when working with yarn.

Note: Whether you are crocheting with thread of yarn, use the method which is the most comfortable for you. There are no hard and fast rules about which method is correct.



### STARTING YOUR CROCHET PROJECT

- To begin, create a swatch to make sure your gauge is correct.
- Chain your foundation row a little looser than the gauge so the bottom of your project will not pucker or pull inward.
- Carefully follow the written instructions or chart for creating the design.

- Sooner or later you are going to run out of yarn or thread. It's best to join the new thread at the end of a row for a neater appearance. When you're about to run out of thread, work your last stitch until there are 2 loops left on your hook. Leaving a tail, draw the end of the new yarn through the 2 loops on your hook. Then continue working with the new ball of yarn. With a large-eyed needle, weave in the tails of both balls of yarn to secure. This method is also used when joining a new color of yarn.
- With the abbreviations terms at hand, let's look at a typical pattern. A pattern may be worked in rows (that is, back and forth to form a flat piece such as an afghan) or in rounds (worked around to form a tube with no seams, such as a hat).
- Whatever way the pattern is to be worked, the very first thing you must do is make a slip knot on your hook. Usually the pattern does not tell you to do this but it is always assumed that every project is started with a slip knot. See below for how to create a slip knot in 3 easy steps.

### Tips:

Select a crochet design of your choice. Read the instructions carefully to make sure it is in your skill level and that you have the crochet thread and hook called for in the instructions. If you do not want to use the yarn or thread called for, you may substitute a yarn or thread that is the same weight and will produce the same gauge.

### SLIP KNOT

#### Step 1



To begin, slide the hook into the knot, pull the two ends of thread to tighten the knot and form a loop.

#### Step 2 Holding the Thread

Hold the hook (which has been placed through the slip knot) in your right hand. Hold the bottom of the knot with your left thumb and index finger.

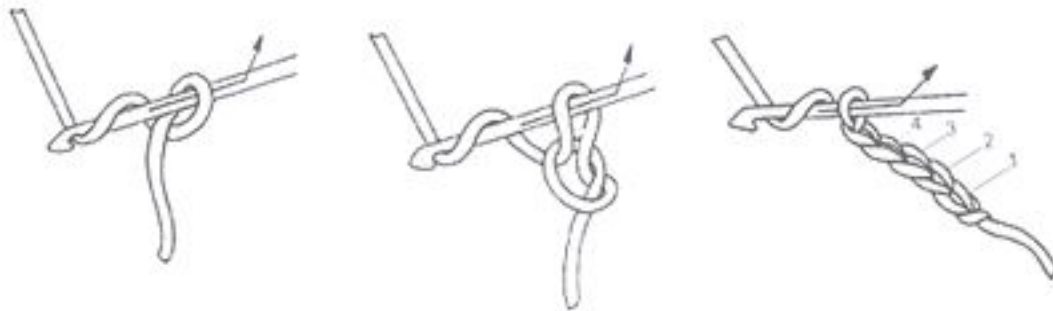
Hold the thread in your left hand so that it runs over the index finger, under the middle finger, over the ring finger and under the pinkie finger. Use the thread between the thumb and index finger to make the crochet stitches.

### Step 3 Yarn Over

Refers to catching the thread in the groove of the hook by bringing the thread over the top of the hook from back to front.

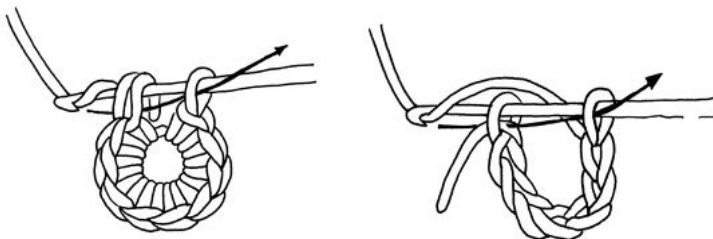
Note: All the illustrations shown are for a right-handed crocheter.

### CHAIN STITCH (CH)



Yo, draw thread through lp on hook. Continue to yarn over and draw thread through loop until desired number of chains.

### SLIP STITCH (SL)



For joining - insert hook in indicated st, yo and draw thread through st and lp on hook. For moving - yarn over—insert hook in indicated st, yo, draw through st and lp

### SINGLE CROCHET (SC)



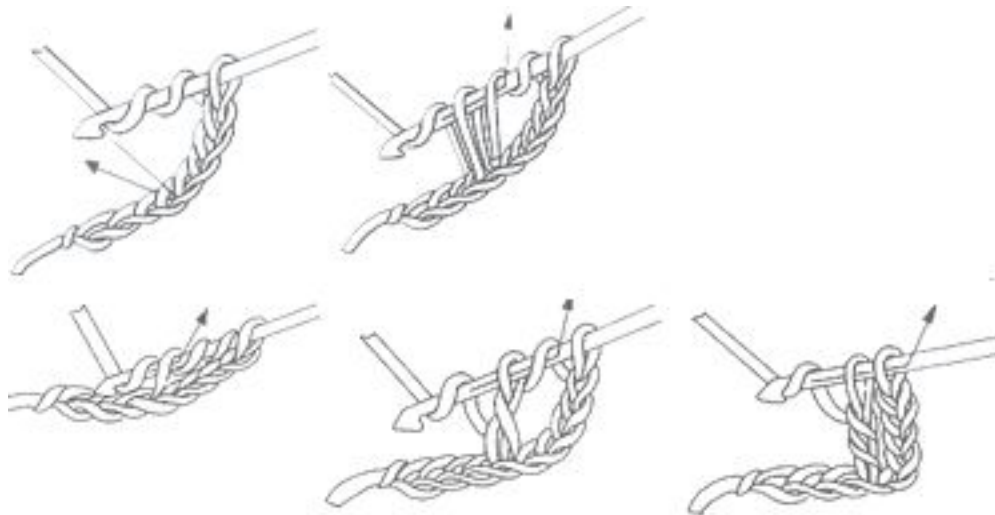
Insert hook in st; yo and draw thread through, yo and draw thread through both lps on hook.

#### HALF DOUBLE CROCHET (HDC)



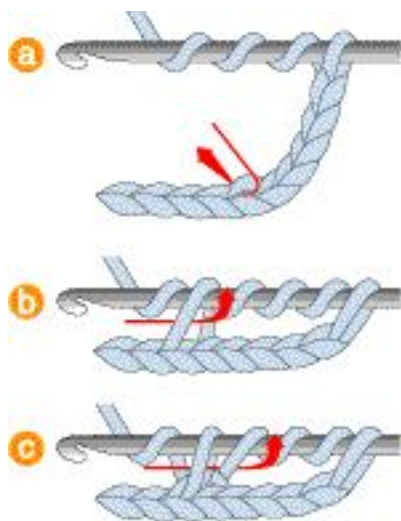
Yo, insert hook in st, yo and draw thread through, yo and draw thread through all 3 lps on hook.

#### TRIPLE CROCHET (TR)



Yo twice, insert hook in 4th st from hook, yo, draw thread through, (yo and draw thread through 2 loops on hook) 3 times.

#### DOUBLE TRIPLE CROCHET (DBLTRC)



Yo 3 times, insert hook in 6th ch from hook, yo and pull through 2 loops; continue yo and pull through 2 lps until 2 lps left on hook, yo and pull through 2 loops, 1 loop left on hook.