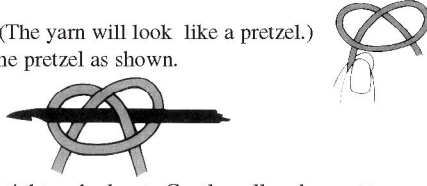


How to Crochet

Beginning

1. Make a slip knot. (The yarn will look like a pretzel.)
2. Slip the hook into the pretzel as shown.

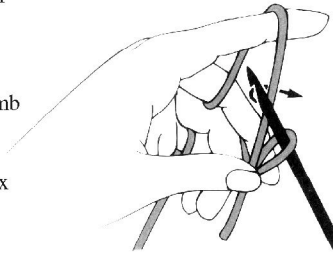


3. Pull ends of yarn to tighten the knot. Gently pull ends apart to tighten the loop.



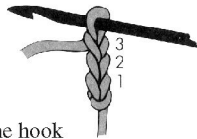
Holding the Yarn

1. Hold hook with slip knot in your right hand.
2. Twine yarn through the fingers of your left hand as shown.
3. Lightly pinch the knot with thumb and middle finger as shown.
4. Working with the section of yarn between the hook and index finger, your index finger should move up and down to create an even tension in the yarn.



Yarn Over (yo)

1. This technique of catching the yarn with the hook is part of every crochet stitch.
2. The yarn is brought over the top of the hook, back to front, and is caught in the groove of the hook.



Chain Stitch (ch)

1. Almost every project begins with a foundation chain, a series of stitches that looks like a chain.
2. After you have made your slip knot, with the hook in front, yarn over and bring hook under and up to catch the yarn. (see above Holding Yarn)
3. Turn the hook so it faces downward.
4. Slide the hook through the original loop, bringing the yarn with it.
5. Continue making chains.

Note: Never count the loop around the hook as a stitch.

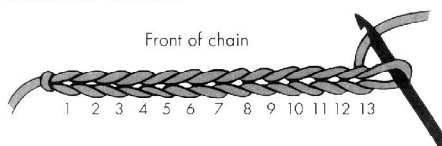
The Stitches

The slip stitch, single crochet, half-double, double crochet and triple crochet are considered the basis of all crochet work. The main difference is their height, which is varied by the number of times the yarn is wrapped around the hook or drawn through the loops on the hook. Single and Double Crochet stitches are described here.



Single Crochet

1. Make a foundation chain.
2. Holding the chain with the front facing you, insert the hook into the second chain from the hook.



3. The hook should be inserted under the top part of the chain in the front, and under the back loop as well.



4. Catch the yarn with your hook (yo) as you did when making the chain stitch.



5. Draw the hook right through the chain, bringing the yarn with it. (Remember to keep the hook facing downward.) You will now have two loops on the hook.

6. Catch the yarn again with your hook as you did before.

7. Draw the hook through the loops that are on the hook.

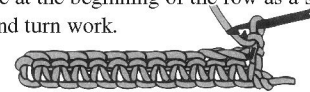


8. Continue across the row. At the end, "chain one," then turn your work around so the hook is on the right side again.



9. Work additional rows by inserting hook under the two strands that form the tops of each of the single crochets stitches of the previous row (these will look like chain stitches)

10. At the end of the row, count your stitches. Don't count the chain one at the beginning of the row as a stitch. Chain one and turn work.

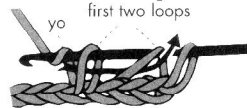


Double Crochet

1. Work in same fashion as single crochet BUT, chain two additional stitches on foundation row.
2. Yarn over hook, then insert hook in fourth stitch from hook and yarn over again. (You will now have 3 loops on hook.)



3. Yarn over again and draw hook through the first 2 loops on the hook. (You should now have 2 loops on hook.)



4. Yarn over again and draw hook through the remaining 2 loops on the hook. (You should now have one loop on hook.)



5. Work to end of row. Count stitches (including the first three chain you skipped as stitch #1).

6. Chain three and turn work.

7. Second row: yarn over, then insert hook under the chain on the second stitch. Stitch to end of row, with last stitch in turning chain.

8. Chain 3 then turn work.

For more information, visit your local NeedleArts retailer. To find a retailer in your area, log onto TNNA.org.