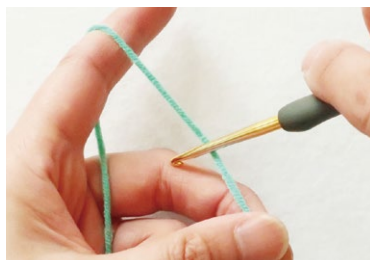


◉ BASIC CROCHET STITCHES ◉

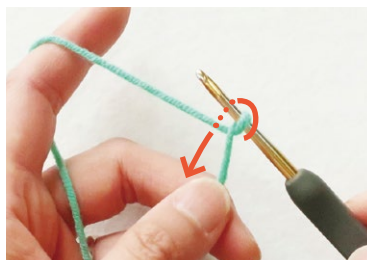


Chain Stitch (ch)

This stitch is the basis of many crochet projects. It is used as a foundation when working in rows or when making ovals. It is good to practice this stitch.



1 Place the hook on the yarn.



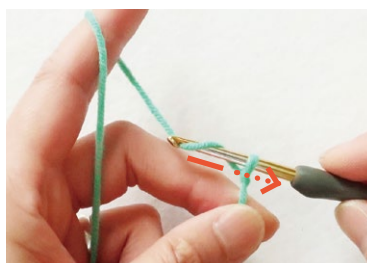
2 Turn the hook downwards under the yarn, and then lift the hook up to form a loop on the hook.



3 Hold the twist in the yarn tightly with your thumb and middle finger, and wrap the yarn over the hook.



4 Pull the wrapped yarn through the loop on the hook to make a knot. This is not the first chain stitch.



5 Wrap the yarn over the hook and pull the wrapped yarn through the loop on the hook to make the first chain stitch.



6 Repeat this process to make as many chain stitches as you need. In the photo, there are 10 chain stitches made.

tip

Chain Front: The shape of a "V" is at the front of a chain stitch.

Back Ridge: An arch shape is on the back of a chain stitch.



Chain Front



Back Ridge



Single Crochet (sc)

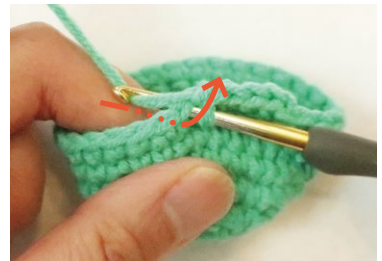
This is the stitch most used when crocheting dolls. It is also the most suitable stitch to use because of its tight structure. It is used to form the overall shape of every doll's body and head, so be sure to learn and practice it.



- 1 Insert the hook under both loops of the next stitch on the previous round.



- 2 Wrap the yarn over the hook.



- 3 Pull the wrapped yarn through the stitch to make a loop. There are now two loops on the hook.



- 4 Wrap the yarn over the hook again. Pull the yarn through the two loops on the hook to complete the single crochet stitch.



- 5 Repeat the process in steps 1-4 for every single crochet stitch, as many times as necessary. The photo shows 5 single crochet stitches.



Back Loop Only (blo)

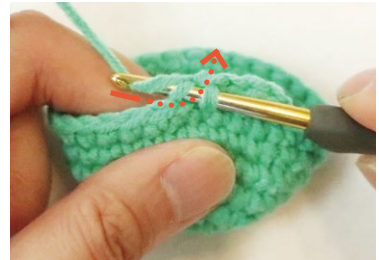
Working in the back loop only is a technique often used in stitch patterns, where the hook is inserted only in the back loop of a stitch instead of under both loops of the stitch. The process of making the stitch is the same, only where the hook gets inserted is different. If you are confused, please refer to the Single Crochet explanation.



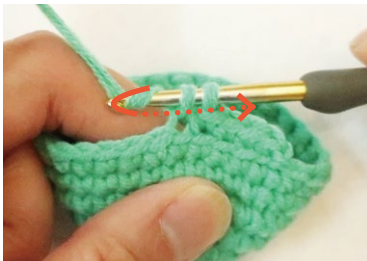
1 The colored part is where to insert the hook.



2 Insert the hook into the back loop only of the next stitch on the previous round.



3 Wrap the yarn over the hook and pull it through the back loop.



4 Wrap the yarn over the hook again and pull it through the two loops on the hook to complete a back loop only single crochet stitch.



5 Repeat the process in steps 2-4 as many times as necessary. The photo shows a round of back loop only stitches completed. You can see a horizontal line (formed by the unused front loops) under the current round.

tip

Different stitches can be worked in the back loop only or front loop only, including decreases, increases and other basic crochet stitches.



Back loop only



Front loop only



Front Loop Only (flo)

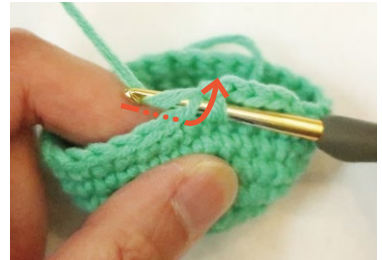
This technique is used when you need your work to fold outwards, or have a shaped part, like a visor on a hat. Working in the front loop only is where the hook is inserted under the front loop of a stitch. Please note that this technique can be used with various crochet stitches.



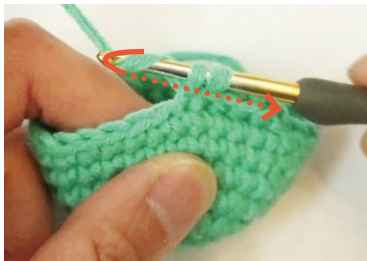
1 The colored part is where to insert the hook.



2 Insert the hook into the front loop only of the next stitch on the previous round.



3 Pull the yarn through the front loop.



4 Wrap the yarn over the hook again and pull it through the two loops on the hook to complete the stitch.



5 Repeat the process in steps 2-4 as many times as needed. The photos show a round of front loop only stitches completed. On the inside, you can see the horizontal line (formed by unused back loops) under the last round.





Single Crochet Increase (sc-inc or 2sc)

This is a crochet technique that increases the number of stitches so that the total area of the doll becomes larger as you progress. Working another single crochet stitch into the same stitch, increases one stitch to two stitches.



1 Complete 1 single crochet.



2 Insert the hook into the same stitch and work one more single crochet.



3 When that is done, it shows the 2 single crochets worked into the 1 stitch. You can see the 1 stitch extended at the end.



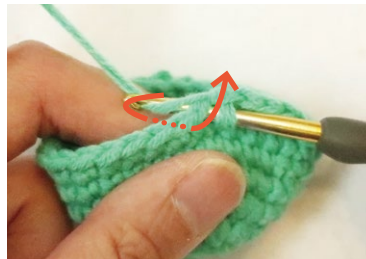
Single Crochet Decrease (sc-dec or sc2tog)

This is how to reduce two stitches to one stitch. We'll show you both the normal decrease and the invisible decrease, which is more suitable for doll making, so practice both ways.

» A normal decrease



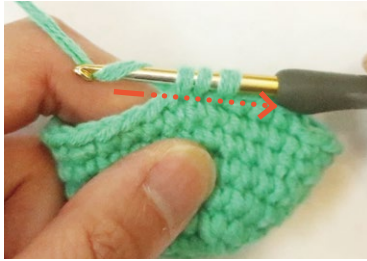
1 Insert the hook into the next stitch on the previous round.



2 Wrap the yarn over the hook and pull the wrapped yarn through the stitch to make a loop. There are now two loops on the hook.



3 Then insert the hook in the following stitch, wrap the yarn over the hook and pull the wrapped yarn through the stitch. There are now three loops on your hook.



- 4 Wrap the yarn over the hook and pull through all three loops on hook.



- 5 After making 4 single crochets, the following 2 stitches were reduced to 1 single crochet.

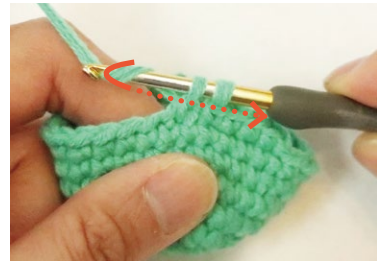
» Invisible decrease (suitable for making dolls)



- 1 Insert the hook into the front loop only of the next stitch on the previous round.



- 2 Then insert the hook under the front loop only of the following stitch and pull the yarn through both these front loops. There are now two loops on the hook.



- 3 Wrap the yarn over the hook and pull through both loops on hook.



- 4 After 4 single crochets, the following 2 stitches were reduced to 1 single crochet with an invisible decrease.

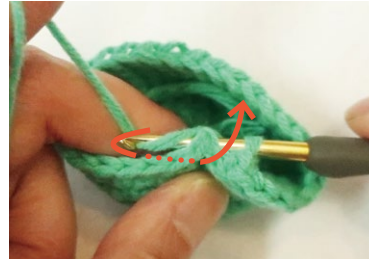


Back Post Single Crochet (BPsc)

This technique bends the tops of the stitches on the previous round towards you and is achieved by working between the stitches around the post of the stitch.



1 Insert the hook from the back and around the post of the stitch.



2 Wrap the yarn over the hook and pull the wrapped yarn through the stitch post to make a loop. There are now two loops on the hook.



3 Wrap the yarn over the hook again, and pull through both loops on the hook to complete the single crochet.

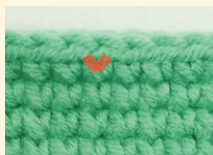


4 Repeat the process in steps 1-3 for each back post single crochet. The photo shows one round worked in back post single crochet stitches.

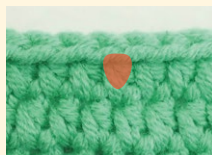
tip

Stitch Height: The height of the stitch in terms of chain stitches.

The photo shows the height of single crochet (one chain), half-double crochet (two chains), and double crochet (three chains) stitches respectively.



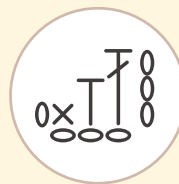
Single Crochet

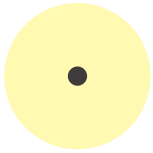


Half-Double Crochet



Double Crochet





Slip Stitch (sl st)

When working in rounds, a slip stitch is used to join the last stitch of the round to the first stitch. It can also be used to move across to another stitch position, or to secure the ends when finished crocheting.

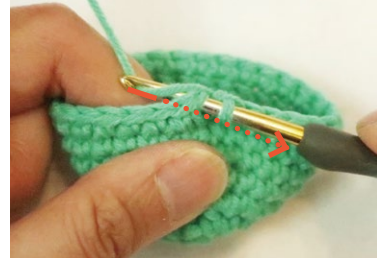
» Joining with a slip stitch



- 1 When the last stitch is made, it's time to join to the first stitch to finish the round.



- 2 Insert the hook in the first stitch.



- 3 Wrap the yarn over the hook, and pull the yarn through the stitch and through the loop on the hook.



- 4 The photo shows the finished slip stitch join.

» Slip stitches to move position



- 1 Insert the hook in the next stitch.



- 2 Wrap the yarn over the hook and pull it through the stitch and loop on the hook.



- 3 The position has been moved by 5 slip stitches.



Half-Double Crochet (hdc)

The height of this stitch is twice as long as the single crochet, and can work up more quickly. However, due to the longer length, there's a chance of the stuffing escaping, so this stitch is used mainly for clothes and accessories.



1 Wrap the yarn over the hook.



2 Insert the hook into the next stitch on the previous round.



3 Wrap the yarn over the hook and pull it through the stitch. There are now three loops on the hook.



4 Wrap the yarn over the hook again and pull through all three loops on the hook, to complete a half-double crochet stitch..



5 Repeat steps 1-4 for each half-double crochet as needed. The first photo shows 5 half-double crochet stitches, and the next photo shows a finished round of half-double crochets.



Double Crochet (dc)

The height of the double crochet is three times as long as the single crochet. These longer stitches are better suited to use when making clothes and accessories.



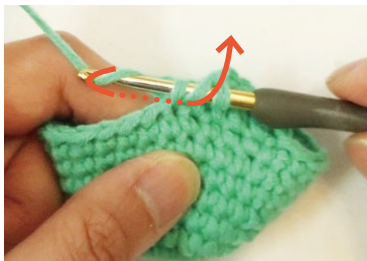
1 Wrap the yarn over the hook.



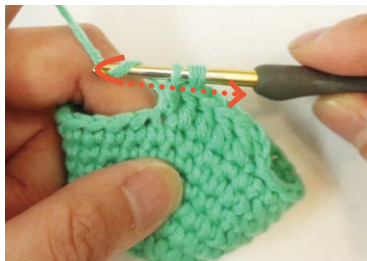
2 Insert the hook into the next stitch.



3 Wrap the yarn over the hook and pull it through the stitch. There are now three loops on the hook.



4 Wrap the yarn over the hook and pull it through the first two loops on the hook. There are now two loops left on the hook.



5 Wrap the yarn over the hook once more and pull it through the remaining two loops to complete the double crochet stitch.



6 Repeat steps 1-5 for each double crochet needed. The first photo shows 5 double crochet stitches, and the next photo shows a finished round of double crochets.



Double Crochet Increase (dc-inc or 2dc)

This crochet technique makes the pieces bigger by increasing the number of stitches. As with the single crochet increase, you can increase the number of double crochet stitches, by working two stitches into one stitch.



1 Complete a double crochet stitch. Wrap the yarn over the hook.



2 Insert the hook into the same stitch and work one more double crochet.



3 In the photo, after the first 4 double crochets, there is a double crochet increase. You can see the 1 stitch extended at the end.



Double Crochet Decrease (dc-dec or dc2tog)

This crochet technique reduces two stitches from the previous row into one stitch, using double crochet stitches.



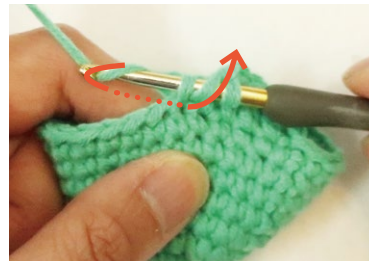
1 Wrap the yarn over the hook.



2 Insert the hook into the next stitch.



3 Wrap the yarn over the hook and pull it through the stitch. There are three loops on the hook.



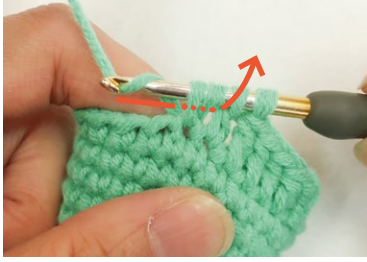
4 Wrap the yarn over the hook and pull it through the first two loops on the hook. Two loops remain on the hook.



5 Wrap the yarn over the hook again.



6 Then insert the hook in the following stitch, wrap the yarn over the hook and pull it through the stitch. There are now four loops on your hook.



7 Wrap the yarn over the hook and pull it through the first two loops on the hook.



8 Wrap the yarn over the hook once more and pull it through the remaining three loops on the hook.



9 In the photo, after the first 4 double crochets, there is a double crochet decrease. You can see that 2 stitches on the previous round are now reduced to 1 stitch.



Double Crochet Shell (shell or 5dc-shell)

This crochet technique makes a fan-like shape using double crochet stitches. It looks like a sea shell, so it's called a shell stitch. In this book, it is often used as a decorative border at the bottom of skirts or as hair bangs.



1 After a single crochet stitch is made, wrap the yarn over the hook.



2 Skip the next 2 stitches, insert the hook in the third stitch and make a double crochet stitch. The photo shows one completed double crochet.



- 3 Make 4 more double crochets in the same stitch. The photos show the series of double crochets made - 2 times, 3 times, 4 times, & 5 times - all in the one stitch.

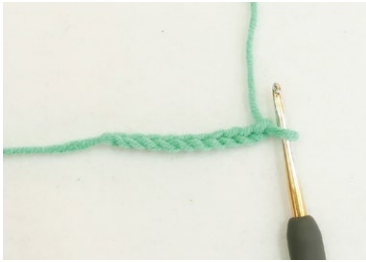
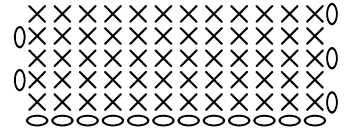


- 4 Then skip the next 2 stitches, insert hook in the following stitch and make a single crochet. The single crochet stitches are made before and after each shell.
- 5 Repeat steps 1-4 for as many shells as needed. The photo shows a finished round of double crochet shell stitches.

◦ CROCHET SHAPES ◦

Working in Rows

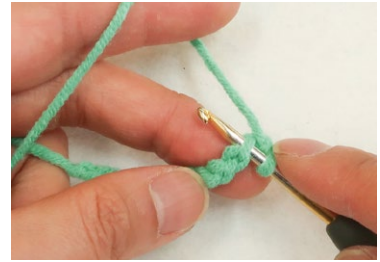
This is the basic style of crocheting. At the end of each row, change direction and work back across the stitches of the previous row. This style can be used to make flat faces, and in this book is used to make suspender straps, bow ties, ribbons, collar, and Ricky's head.



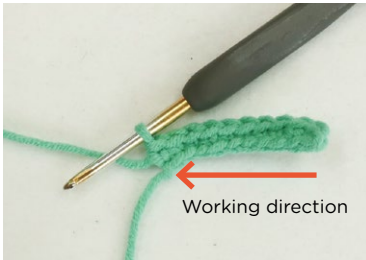
- 1 Make a string of chain stitches (○). This is the foundation chain.



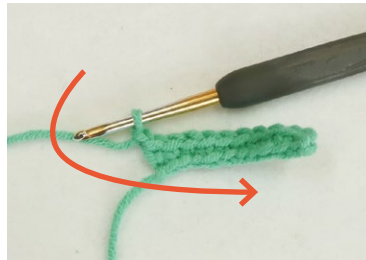
- 2 Add one more chain stitch. This stitch is known as the "turning chain" (○) and brings the row up to the height of the stitches. It is not included in the stitch count of the row.



- 3 Skip the turning chain and insert the hook in the next chain and make a single crochet (X).



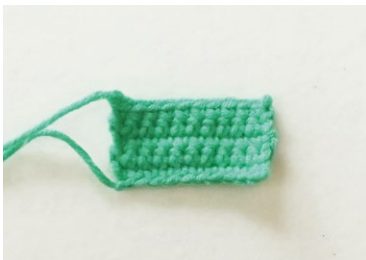
- 4 Work a single crochet in each of the remaining chain stitches to finish the row.



- 5 At the end of the row work one chain stitch (turning chain), and then turn your work around.



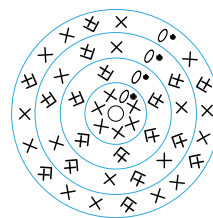
- 6 Insert your hook in the stitch at the base of the turning chain and work a single crochet (X). Continue working single crochet stitches across the row. Repeat steps 5 & 6 as needed.



- 7 The photo shows the unique pattern created by alternating right side rows and wrong side rows of single crochet stitches.

Working in Rounds

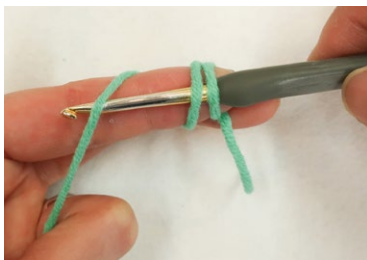
This style is most frequently used when making dolls, as it creates a pouch which can be stuffed. There is a formula which needs to be learnt, so practice it well.



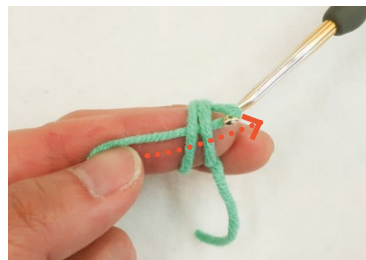
» Starting Ring (Magic / Adjustable Ring)



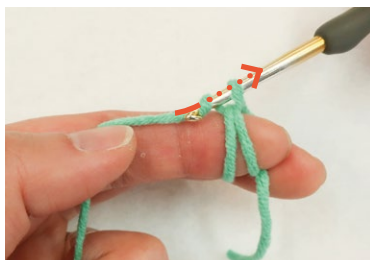
- 1 Wind the yarn tail twice around the index finger on your left hand.



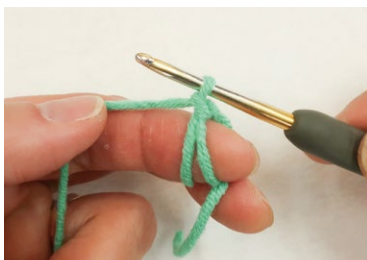
- 2 Insert the hook under the wound yarn and under the working yarn.



- 3 Pull the working yarn through, holding the yarn tail between the index and middle finger.

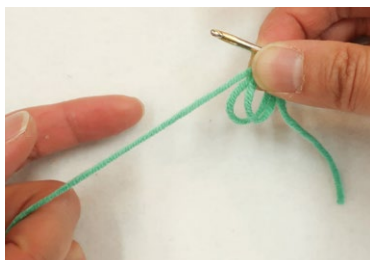


- 4 Wrap the yarn over the hook and pull it through the loop on hook.

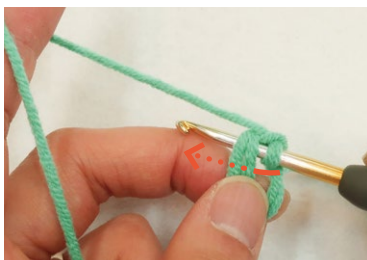


- 5 The ring is made and you can start crocheting.

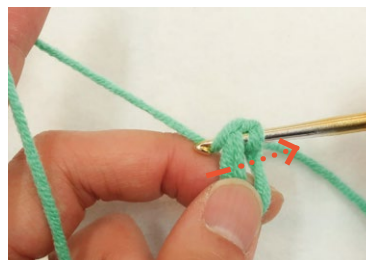
» First Round



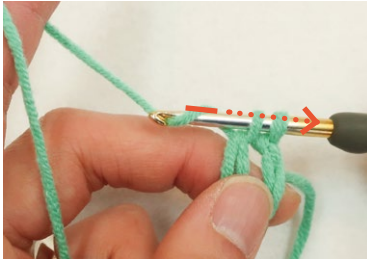
- 6 Take the ring off your finger carefully.



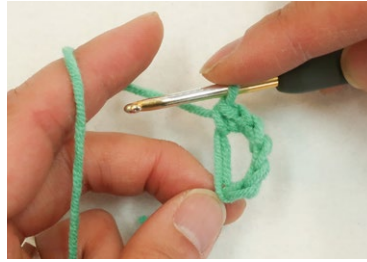
- 7 With the ring in your left hand, insert the hook into the ring under two strands of yarn.



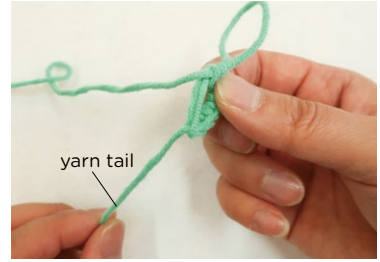
- 8 Wrap the yarn over the hook and pull it through the ring.



9 Wrap the yarn over the hook again and pull it through both loops on hook to complete a single crochet (X).



10 Repeat steps 7-9 five times more. You have made 6 single crochets.



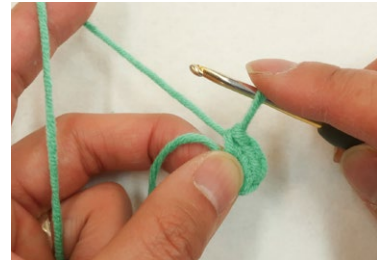
11 Enlarge the working loop on hook and remove hook (taking care not to pull out the stitches). Holding the stitches (with the thumb near the working loop), gently pull the yarn tail to identify which of the two yarn rings is moving.



12 Hold that yarn ring and gently tug the bottom of the ring downwards (away from your thumb) to close the other ring.



13 When the other ring is tightly closed, tug on the yarn tail to close the first ring.



14 Place the hook back in the working loop.



15 Insert the hook in the first single crochet made.

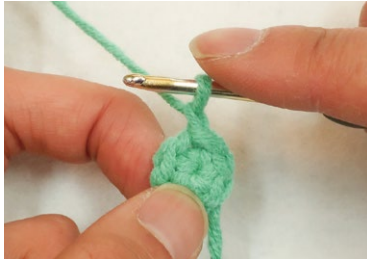


16 Wrap the yarn over the hook and pull the yarn through the stitch and through the loop on the hook to make a slip stitch (•).



17 You have now joined the first round of single crochet stitches with a slip stitch.

» Second Round



18 To start the round, make one chain stitch, known as the "raising chain" (0), to bring the round up to the height of the stitches.

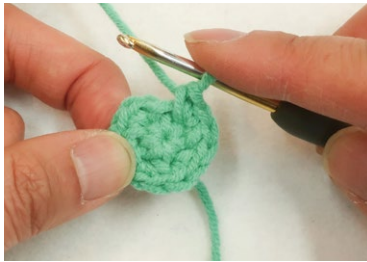


19 Work two single crochet (↘) in the first stitch.

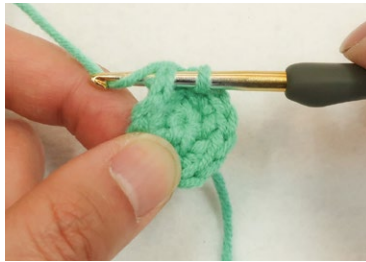
tip

Finding the first stitch of a round: At the end of a round, take care not to work in the chain stitch you made, as this stitch is not included in the stitch count of the round. The next stitch is the first single crochet you made.

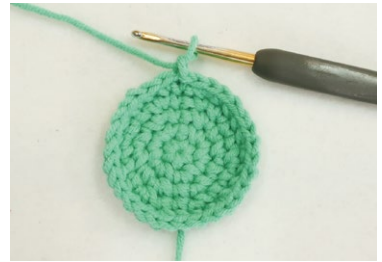
Raising chain
Skip the slip stitch



20 Work 2 single crochet stitches in each of the next five stitches - twelve stitches made.



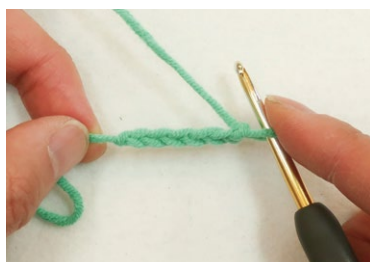
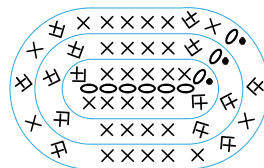
21 Insert the hook in the first single crochet and join with a slip stitch.



22 The photo shows 5 rounds of stitches complete.

Making Ovals

This method is created by working stitches around both the top and the bottom side of the foundation chain. It is similar to working in rounds, as each oval round is also joined with a slip stitch. We use this method for making soles of shoes, or the base of a bag. In this book, it is used for Benjy's head and Caleb & Clara's shoes.



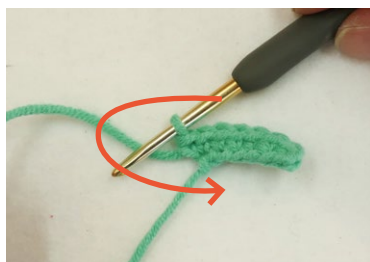
- 1 Make a foundation chain of 6 stitches (O).



- 2 Add one raising chain (0) to bring the row up to height.



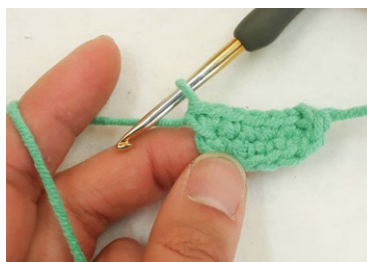
- 3 Skip the raising chain and insert the hook in the next chain and make a single crochet (X).



- 4 Work single crochet stitches in each of the next 4 chains. In the last chain, work 2 single crochets (X) in the same stitch. Rotate the piece.



- 5 With the other side of the foundation chain on top, starting in the first chain, work single crochet (X) stitches in each of the first 5 chains.



- 6 In the last chain work 2 single crochets (X). On each end of the chain is an increase.



- 7 Find the first single crochet and join with a slip stitch (•).



- 8 The first oval round is finished. The next rounds are similar to working in the round.



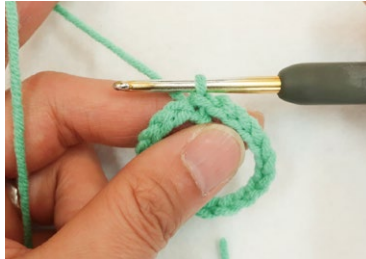
- 9 The photo shows 3 completed oval rounds.

Making Tubes

This is used to create circular tubes. We use this to make the Caleb & Clara's pants and Jack Lion's mane.



1 Make a foundation chain of 20 stitches (O).



2 Taking care not to twist the stitches, insert the hook in the first chain and make a slip stitch to form a ring (•).



3 Make one raising chain (0). - to bring the round up to height.



4 Work a single crochet (X) in each stitch around. The photo shows the first 5 stitches of the round.



5 After finishing the round, join with a slip stitch to the first single crochet.



6 Repeat steps 3-5 for as many rounds as needed. The photo shows the first two rounds of a tube.

TECHNIQUES

Changing Colors

This method can also be used to start a new ball of yarn, or when the yarn breaks and you need to rejoin. It is best to change colors at the end of a row or round.



- 1 Before finishing the last stitch of the round, when there are two loops left on the hook.



- 2 Move the yarn to the back of the piece and place the new yarn next to it.



- 3 Hold the two strands of yarn against the piece with your middle finger and wrap the yarn around the index finger of your left hand, as it is now the working yarn.



- 4 Wrap the new yarn over the hook and pull it through the remaining two loops on the hook to complete the stitch.



- 5 Slip stitch in the first stitch to join and complete the round.



- 6 Make a raising chain stitch to bring the yarn up to height.



7 Instead of knotting the yarn tails together, work over the two strands with the new yarn for about 4 stitches.



8 After working another 4 stitches without working over the tails, the old tails can be cut and the tail ends neaten.



9 The first round in the new color is complete.

tip

When working over the yarn tails, keep them to the inside, making sure they are not visible from the outside.



[inside]



[outside]

Cutting the Yarn and Finishing Off

This is the default method for finishing off all crochet pieces, regardless of the stitch used. It is a way to tie off the work to make sure the stitches don't unravel.



- 1 When you have finished crocheting, without removing the hook, cut the yarn leaving a tail. Wrap the yarn over the hook again.



- 2 Pull the wrapped yarn through the stitch and then pull the yarn tail all the way out, removing the hook.



- 3 Tug the thread to tighten the knot, then trim the yarn, unless you need the yarn tail to assemble the pieces.

Hiding the Yarn Tails

This is a way to neaten up the long tails on pieces where the wrong side is visible or not stuffed. In this book, it is used for the skirt of the Bear Bride and Mister Hottie.



- 1 Cut the yarn and finish off. Using a yarn needle, sew under a few stitches on the wrong side (inside) of the work to hide the tail.



- 2 When the tail is neatly sewn in, remove the needle and trim the yarn to finish.

Stuffing the Doll

Some stuffing tends to clump together, so tear off small pieces at a time and fluff it out before inserting it to shape the doll. Take care not to overstuff the doll by adding too much stuffing.



- 1 Using the forceps, tear off small amounts of stuffing and fill about one-third of the piece.



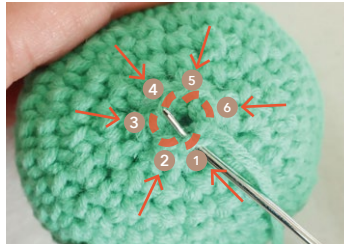
- 2 Use your fingers to push the stuffing towards the sides before adding more stuffing. Continue adding more stuffing with the forceps until the desired shape is obtained.

Closing the Last Round

This is used to close the hole after completing the last round. It is needed to finish off the dolls' heads and torsos, so practice it well.



- 1 After following the instructions for "Cutting the Yarn and Finishing Off", thread the tail onto a yarn needle.



- 2 Working clockwise, insert the yarn needle (from outside towards center) under the front loop only of each of the six stitches in the last round.



- 3 Then tug the tail tightly to close the hole.



- 4 Insert the needle into the center hole, through the stuffing, and bring it out on the other side.



- 5 Trim the yarn and then using the tweezers, hide the small tail in the stuffed piece.

Sewing Crochet Pieces

Crochet fabrics are more difficult to sew because the surface is more uneven than other fabrics. We'll show you the various ways to sew the different pieces of the doll together.

Straight Stitching

Thread a medium-sized yarn needle with the same type of yarn used to make the doll. To create neat and even sewing stitches, sew in the gaps between the crochet stitches or in the gaps between the crocheted rows or rounds.

1 Embroidery

This stitching is mainly used for decoration. Create even stitches by sewing between each crochet stitch and each row or round.

» between the crochet stitches



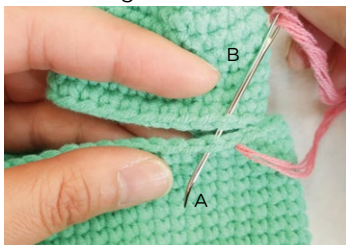
» between the rows or rounds



2 Whipstitch

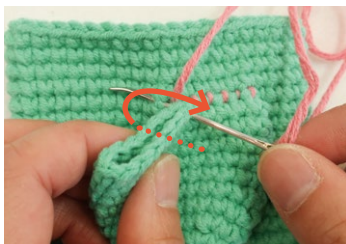
This technique leaves the sewing yarn exposed. It is mainly used to attach the arms or ears.

» across edges of fabric



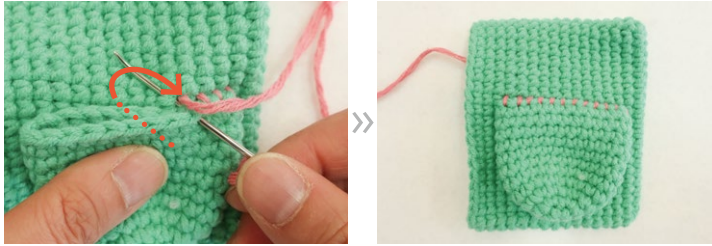
Bring the needle out from the inside in a stitch on crochet piece A. Insert the needle from front to back in a stitch on crochet piece B and bring it out to the front in a stitch on crochet piece A. Continue sewing in each stitch across, alternating A & B crochet pieces.

» horizontally across stitches - attaching arms



On the folded piece to be attached, insert the needle under both corresponding stitches, then insert needle in and out between the crochet stitches on the main piece. Continue sewing across until piece is attached.

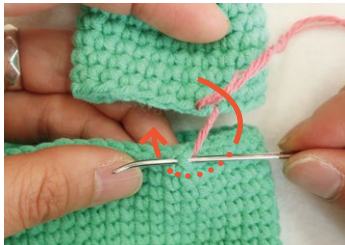
» vertically across rounds - attaching ears



On the folded piece to be attached, insert the needle under both corresponding stitches, then insert needle in and out between crocheted rounds on the main piece. Continue sewing across until piece is attached.

3 Mattress (Invisible) Stitch

The sewing yarn is not visible with this stitch. It connects crochet pieces together firmly and is mainly used to attach the body and head.



1 Insert the needle in and out between crochet stitches on first one piece and then on the second piece.



2 Now repeat, inserting the needle back in the same place it came out of on each piece.



3 Repeat this for about 3 to 4 stitches.



4 Then gently tug the yarn until the stitching disappears.



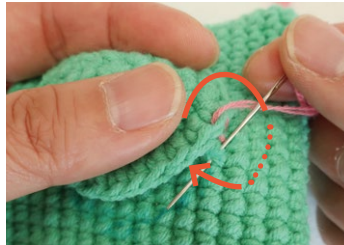
5 Continue doing this until the two pieces are joined together.

Curved Stitching

Separate the yarn used to make the doll into two strands. Thread one strand onto a smaller yarn needle for sewing, hiding the other strand under the piece. This technique is mainly used for stitching on a snout, cheeks, and other curved pieces.



- 1 Using the water-soluble marking pen, mark the position of the curved piece on the fabric, making sure the shape is not distorted.



- 2 With the one strand threaded on the needle, and the other strand tucked under the piece, sew the curved piece onto the fabric, following the marked shape.



- 3 The curved piece is attached.

Taking a Break

When you are in the middle of crocheting and need to stop for a while, there is a risk that the stitches will unravel. Here is a tip to prevent that.



- 1 When you want to stop, finish the last stitch.



- 2 Pull the hook to make a large working loop and then remove the hook. Even if the yarn is pulled, the big loop will prevent the stitches from pulling out.

Making Dolls of Different Sizes

By changing the weight of the yarn and the hook size, you can make a variety of different sized dolls using the same pattern.



- 1 Two strands Medium Weight yarn & 4.00 mm hook
- 2 Single strand Medium Weight yarn & 3.00 mm hook
- 3 Single strand Fine Weight yarn & 2.25 mm hook

The photo shows three bears all made with the same pattern, just using different yarns and hooks. The thicker the yarn used (with appropriate hook), the larger the doll, with bigger stitches in the fabric. Please note: When I use one strand of Medium Weight yarn, I use a 3.00 mm hook or US size D-3 (3.25 mm).

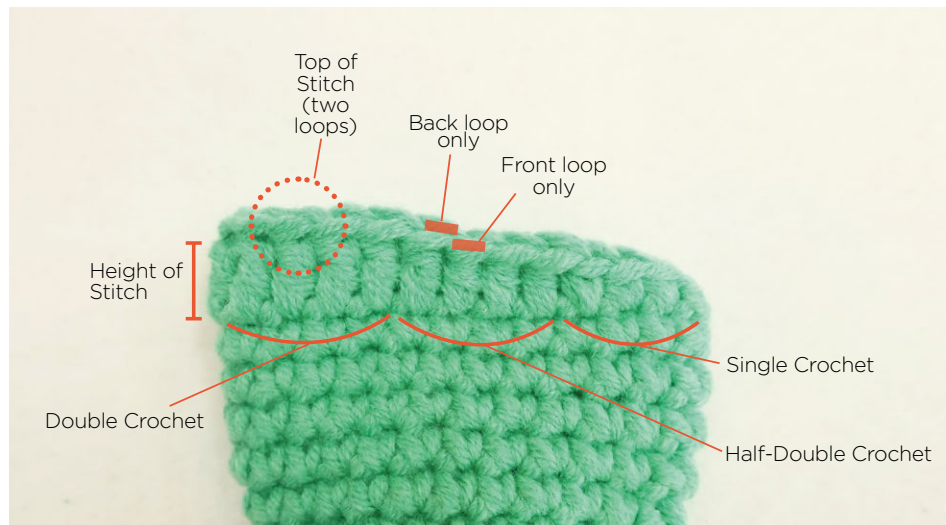
◦ Frequently Asked Questions ◦

Q1 Do you need special yarn to crochet the dolls?

You can use any type of yarn for making the dolls. The important thing is to use the appropriate hook for the yarn used. (See page 25 - Finding the Correct Hook for the Yarn.) Feel free to choose any type of yarn to create your dolls, regardless of the fiber content. By using a different yarn, you can create a unique doll using the same pattern. But please bear in mind, using pure cotton yarn is more healthier than any other fiber content for babies and children.

Q2 Why do crochet words confuse me?

If you're new to crochet, the terminology can be confusing at first. But if you look at each of the terms, it's easy to understand why they were so named. In the photo, the different crochet terms are labelled on the swatch, so let's make sure you know them before you start making your doll.



Q3 Do I have to join each round and start the next round with chain stitches?

Even if you decide not to join each round, and work the piece in a spiral, you will still be able to follow the pattern, but there will be a difference in how the pieces look. By joining the ends of rounds and starting the next round with raising chain stitches, makes it easier to count the stitches in the round as well as to count the number of rounds worked. It also makes the lines cleaner when you change colors. Compare the photos to see the difference.

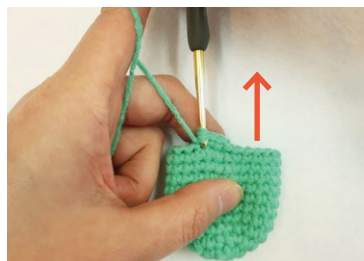


Q4 The slip stitch joins slant diagonally. What should I do?

In crochet, when making a stitch, the right hand naturally pulls to the right (or to the left, if you're left-handed). The stitches made tend to lean towards that direction. To prevent this, pull the wrapped yarn upwards when making a new stitch. This is one way to keep the stitches straight.



- Left: The joins slant to the right
- Right: The joins are more straight



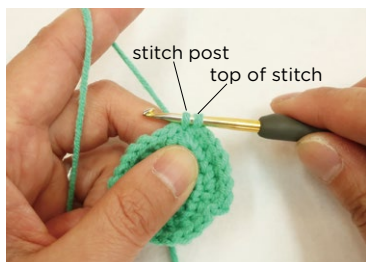
When pulling the wrapped yarn through, consciously pull the yarn upwards. This gives your dolls a neater finish.

Q5 How can I make my stitches tighter?

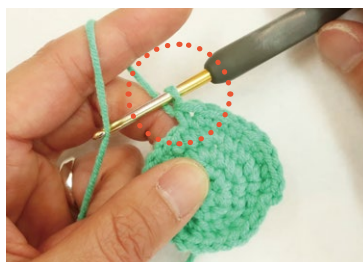
For a beautifully made doll, it is important to have all your stitches neat and uniform. Knowing the principles and processes of making crochet stitches, helps to improve your doll-making skills.

Let's look at the process of making a single crochet stitch.

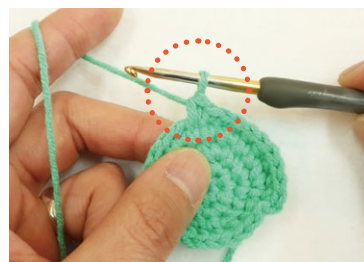
» Uneven stitches



When making a single crochet stitch, the first loop on the hook becomes the post of the stitch, and the second loop becomes the top of the stitch.

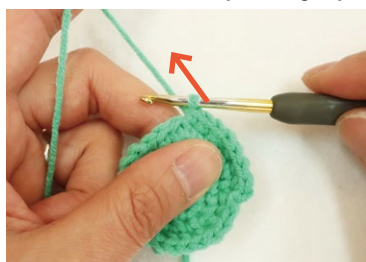


Therefore, if the first loop is loose, and the second loop is tight on the hook, the resulting post of the stitch will be slack and create a hole in the fabric.

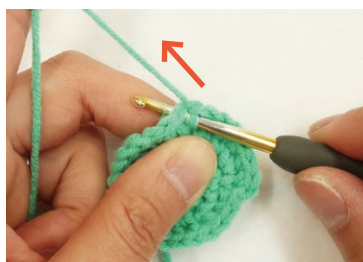


Similarly, when the first loop is tight and the second loop loose, the stitch post is smaller and the tops of the stitches are floppy.

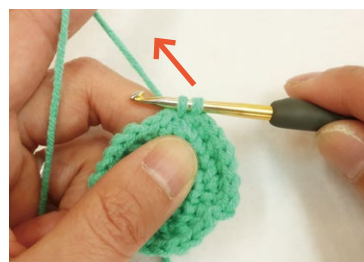
» How to crochet evenly and tightly



Before starting a single crochet stitch, make sure the loop is tight on the shaft of the hook. Move your index finger in the direction shown, to get tension in the yarn.



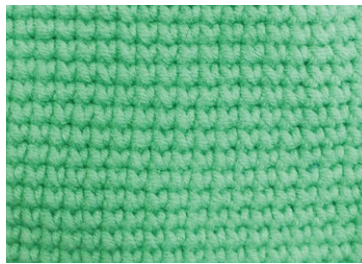
After inserting the hook in the stitch on the previous round, tension the yarn again, before wrapping the yarn over the hook.



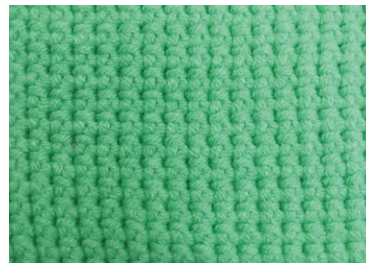
After pulling the wrapped yarn through the stitch, with the two loops on the hook, tension the yarn once more before completing the stitch. Working like this will make your stitches neat and even.

Q6 How do I distinguish between the right and wrong sides of the crochet fabric?

When working in crocheted rows, the direction changes with each row, so the right and wrong sides alternate. However, when working in rounds, ovals and tubes, the direction stays the same and there is a definite right side and wrong side. In the case of single crochet stitches (X) which are mostly used in this book, the letter V is visible on the right side of the fabric. On the wrong side, one can see small horizontal lines on the stitches. You can decide which side you want to have on the outside of your doll, and then make sure all your doll pieces have the same side showing.



Single Crochet - right side (outside)



Single Crochet - wrong side (inside)

Q7 How do I wash my dolls?

Basically, we recommend that you follow the laundry instructions on the yarn label. Use a gentle detergent and rinse very thoroughly. If the yarn allows it, place the doll in a laundry net bag before tumble drying. To dry the stuffing, place the doll in a well-ventilated area.

• Reading the Patterns •

For a beginner, or even someone with experience in crochet, it is easy to miss a row or round, or even miss some stitch instructions when trying to follow written crochet patterns. In this book I use a narrative stitch pattern, so that you can see the instructions at a glance and reduce mistakes.

I also use crochet stitch charts and photo tutorials to help you understand the pattern so you can create your own doll.

1

Part

Identifies which part of the doll you're working on.

Starting Chain & Slip Stitch

The starting chain stitches and the end slip stitches are here, so you don't miss them.

Multiply

Repeat the instructions in the parentheses by the amount of the number.

Feet (Socks) + Legs

*Please see Making ovals on page 46.

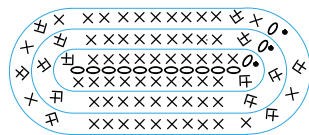
Cream

Chain stitch 8

Round 1: (18) 0 (X 7 ↻ 1) * 2 •
 Round 2: (24) 0 ↻ 1 X 6 ↻ 3 X 6 ↻ 2 •
 Round 3: (30) 0 X 1 ↻ 1 X 6 (X 1 ↻ 1) * 3 X 6 (X 1 ↻ 1) * 2 •
 Round 4: (30) 0 X 30 •
 Round 5: (24) 0 X 6 (X 1 ↻ 1) * 6 X 6 •
 Round 6: (18) 0 X 6 ↻ 6 X 6 •
 Rounds 7-8: (18) 0 X 18 •

Number of Stitches

Repeat the listed stitch by the amount of the number.



Crochet Stitch Chart

If the narrative pattern is difficult to follow, I've included a stitch chart to help you understand.

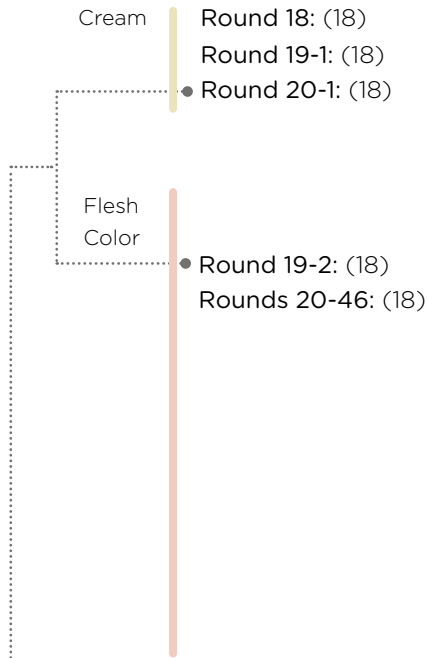
Number of Row or Round & Stitch Count

Each row or round is numbered sequentially. When a range of numbers is listed, it means to repeat the same pattern instruction for each of the row or rounds. The stitch count for the row or round is listed in parentheses.

Color

We can also see at a glance the color yarn to use for which rounds.

2



0 X 18 •

0 X 18 • (Don't miss the front loop only!)

0 X 18 •

Cut the yarn and finish off, hiding the tail on the inside.

Insert the hook in the back loop of the first stitch on Round 18 and pull the yarn through.

0 X 18 • (Don't miss the back loop only)

0 X 18 •

Stuff and shape the foot.

Continue stuffing, referring to Making the Leg Joint on page 163.



[Starting Caleb's Leg]

Rounds with Back Loops Only and Front Loops Only

Working in either back or front loops only, leaves the other loop available to work in. When a round is first worked in one loop only, that round and the rounds following it are numbered "-1". When going back and working in the remaining loops, that first round and those rounds following are numbered "-2"..

Photo Tutorial

When the pattern instructions are unclear, the photos will illustrate how to proceed.

3

Face + Antenna



- **Eyes:** About 10 rows from bottom, 8 stitches between them.
- **Mouth:** About 5-6 rows from bottom, across 13 stitches.
- **Scar:** Between 3rd and 5th row from top.
- **Antenna:** In the center at top of Head

Placement Description

- These photos show the correct positioning of the head, facial features, arms, and body features, when assembling and decorating the doll.

The exact positions can be confirmed by the captions below the photo.