CT-MMB.740

CROCHET

The word crochet comes from the old French word "croches" or "croc" meaning hook. Originating in France during the 16th century, crochet was a simple method for making lace. It was especially popular during the early part of the 20th century as edgings for linen tablecloths, petticoats, collars, and doilies.

Today, crochet remains an important needle art as it swings in and out of fashion. One of the reasons it continues to be popular is because it requires little equipment and time. With different types and textures of yarn available, you can create many beautiful and useful crocheted items for your wardrobe and your home.

GETTING READY

Crochet is easy … and it's fun! Regardless of the project or the skill level, the right yarn and equipment is essential.

EQUIPMENT

Equipment and materials for crochet are few and simple. Along with a hook, yarn, and scissors, other optional items will come in handy.

Hooks: These tools commonly made from plastic, aluminum, steel, tortoise shell, bone, or wood are available in many sizes. Some are as fine as a pinhead. Others are as fat as a broomstick.

Scissors: A small pair of blunt-end scissors in good condition is preferred.

T pins: Used for blocking and securing pieces of a project together when joining or measuring.

Yarn needle: Made of plastic or metal with a blunt point and large eye. It is used to hide loose ends when joining yarn or when finishing a project.

Tape measure: Generally used for body measurements or to measure the length and width of a project as you establish the gauge needed by the pattern.

Gauge ruler: A 2-inch L-shaped window item that allows you to measure the number of stitches and rows in an inch.

Split markers: Round plastic spiral markers that slip into crochet work. They are used to indicate a certain point in crocheting such as joining continuous rounds, increase points or decrease points.

Small note pad and pencil: Useful to help you keep track of what row or round you are crocheting and the number of times you have repeated stitches when part of the instructions in a row are to be repeated.

Container to hold the above: A pencil box, eyeglass case, or travel toothbrush holder make good containers for hooks, scissors, and yarn needles. A film container will hold split markers.

Folder and/or notebook: This will help you keep up with and house handouts. You will always know where to find useful information when it has a proper "home."

Tote bag with handles or backpack: Designated just for crochet to hold all of the items listed above plus yarn and the project.

SELECTING YARN

When buying yarn for a project, follow the guidelines listed below:

- Look for quality yarn and thread for the project because it will affect the appearance of the finished work. Remember, good quality yarns and threads have firm twist, resiliency, and even thickness or consistency of texture. ("Resiliency" means the yarn will spring back in place when stretched.)

- Always buy enough yarn or thread to make a complete garment or article. Purchase yarn or thread with matching color numbers and dye lots. Sometimes the yarn will say "no dye lot" in which case, do not worry about this aspect of selecting yarn.

- Purchase extra yarn or thread if there is any doubt about the amount needed.

- Use the type of yarn the pattern instructions specify. Pattern instructions are written for the particular type of yarn listed. Sometimes you can use a yarn conversion chart to substitute a different yarn. It is important that the substitute yarn or thread meets the gauge.

- Follow the correct blocking procedures for each type of yarn chosen for a project. The fiber content of the yarn determines the blocking method you should use. Read the yarn label for blocking instructions.

Yarn color

Choose and coordinate colors or hues with intensities that look nice together. Generally speaking, the brighter the intensity, the smaller the amount of the color needed. Example: bright pink (bright intensity), dusty rose (dull intensity), and leaf green (semi-dull intensity).

- Choose no more than five colors for a single project. One to three colors are usually best, depending on the article and its use. An odd number of colors are better than an even number of colors in your project. Example: red, white, and blue.

- Vary the amount of colors in your project but have one color family or hue as the chief color. Varying the amount of color will make your project more interesting.

- Black, gray, and white are considered neutral colors. They can be included in a color scheme without upsetting the color formula. Black and white are often used as accents.

Remember good quality yarn should have:
- Even color throughout the skein.
- A firm twist so it will not separate easily when crocheting.
- Even thickness throughout the yarn to insure even stitches in your project.
- Resiliency so it will spring back when stretched or squeezed.

Yarn labels
- Read the label to make sure you are purchasing the correct yarn for your project.
- Check dye lot numbers. A slight difference in the color might not be noticeable until after you've completed the project.
- Keep the label. It has directions for the care of your project after it is finished.
- Follow these directions carefully to ensure your project looks its best.

For additional information on the selection of yarn, see the Craft Yarn Council's *Standards & Guidelines for Knitting and Crocheting* included in

the **Introduction** section of this *4-H Needlework Notebook* or visit www.yarnstandards.com.

Patience is extremely important, and you need it
- to master crochet skills.
- because it takes time to complete a project.
- when mistakes are made and corrections are necessary.

Imagination is a great asset for
- selecting a pattern and the best yarn.
- being willing to try new methods and techniques.
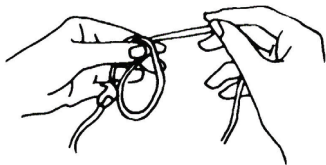- creating and/or designing projects of your own.

LET'S BEGIN

SLIPKNOT AND CHAIN STITCH

All crochet begins with a slipknot and then on to make a chain stitch. The knot and stitch is used as a foundation or base for other stitches, to start a new row, and/or to form pattern stitches.
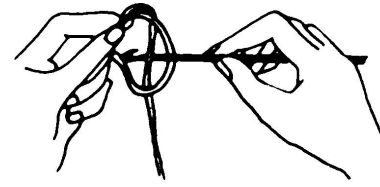
To make a slipknot

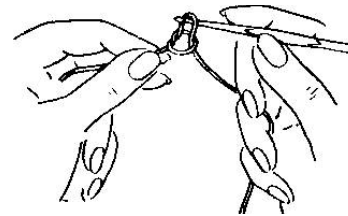1. Form a loop about 6 inches from the end of the yarn.

2. Pick up hook and hold it as you would a pencil or hold it comfortably.
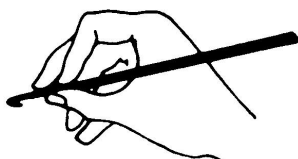
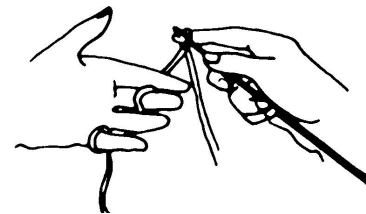3. Hook another loop through the loop you have already formed.

4. Pull the knot close to the hook, but not so tight it will not slide on the hook.

To make a chain stitch

    Abbreviations: ch.............chain
                                      st..............stitch
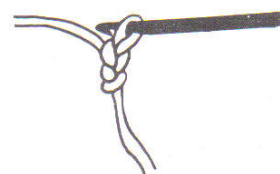   yo.............yarn over

1. Holding the hook with the slipknot in the right hand, thread yarn around the fingers of you left hand.
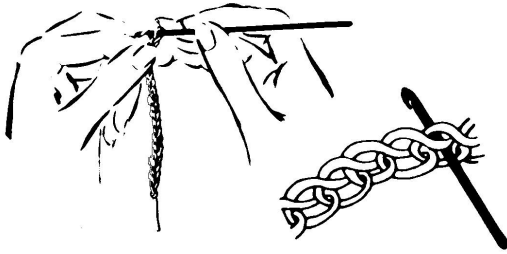
2. Yarn over (yo) and draw yarn through the loop on the hook. This makes one chain.

3. Repeat Step 2 until you have the number of stitches needed. Practice until your chain stitches are about the same size and not tight.

4. After making several chain stitches, look at your chain. The front of the chain has a series of V's coming out of each other.

The back has raised loops in the center. Unless the pattern gives other instructions, always crochet in the front of the chain.

BASIC CROCHET STITCHES

There are several basic stitches.

Single Crochet (sc)

The *single crochet stitch* is the shortest and most compact of the basic stitches.

1. Chain 11 (ch 11).
2. Insert the hook in the second ch from hook, under the top two threads as shown.

3. Wrap the yarn over (yo) hook.

4. Draw through stitch. There are now two loops on hook.

5. Yo and draw yarn through two loops on hook. One loop remains. You have completed one single crochet (sc) stitch (st). Repeat steps 2 through 5 in each chain stitch. You will have 10 sc stitches.

To crochet another row, ch 1 and turn the work around so the reverse side faces you. The chain at the end of the row is called the *turning chain*. You always make a turning chain at the end of a row unless directions instruct otherwise. To crochet another row, insert the hook in the first st, under the top two yarns and continue following Steps 2 through 4. Count your stitches. You should have 10 sc stitches.

Slip Stitch (sl st)

The *slip stitch* has many uses. It can be used to make a thicker chain or edging, to join rounds, to move one or more stitches over in your work, and to end your work smoothly.

1. Insert hook through 2 loops of the chain stitch or the row you are working.
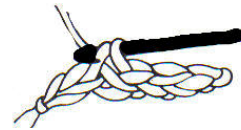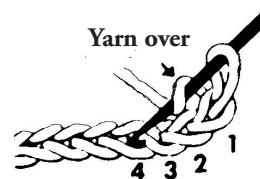
2. Pull yo through all loops on the hook.

Double Crochet (dc)

The *double crochet* stitch is taller and creates work that is more open and lacy-like than an sc stitch.

1. Chain 12 (ch 12).
2. Yo and insert the hook under 2 loops in the fourth chain from the hook.

Yarn over

4 3 2 1

3. Yo over and pull through. You have 3 loops on hook.

4. Yo and pull through 2 loops.

5. Yo and draw through the remaining 2 loops. One loop remains on hook. 1 dc stitch completed.

6. Repeat Steps 3 through 5 to the end of the row, ch 3, and turn.

The turning chain counts as a dc stitch. Insert hook in the next stitch (under the top two loops) to make the next dc.

Half Double Crochet (hdc)

The *half double crochet* stitch is taller than a single crochet stitch but not as tall as a double. It makes a firm-textured fabric.

1. Chain 12 (ch 12).
2. Yo and insert the hook in the third ch from hook.
3. Yo and pull through. There are 3 loops on the hook.
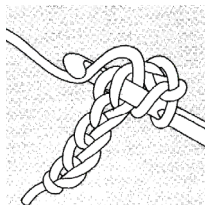
4. Yo and pull through all 3 loops. Half double crochet stitch is completed. Repeat Steps 2 through 4 across chain to the end. There are 10 hdc sts.
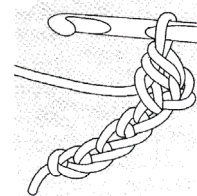
5. Ch 2 turn, yo and insert hook in the second stitch under the top two loops, yo, draw through all three loops. Repeat across row to end. There are 10 hdc sts. (ch 2 counts as a hdc)
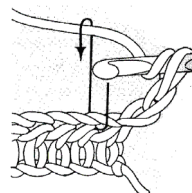
Treble Crochet (tr):

Sometimes called triple stitch, the *treble stitch* is taller and more open than a double stitch. It is a continuation of the double crochet stitch.

1. Ch 14.
2. Yo hook twice; insert hook under two loops of the fifth chain from hook.

3. Yo hook and draw up a loop. There are four loops on the hook.

4. Yo hook and pull through two loops. Yo hook again and pull through two loops.

5. Yo hook and pull through remaining two loops.

6. There should be only one loop on the hook. Your treble stitch is complete.

Repeat Steps 2 through 6 until row is complete. When turning for the next row, chain four, yo 2 times and insert hook in 2nd st, complete as before to finish treble stitch. Turning chain counts as a tr stitch.

Other stitches

Sometimes pattern directions tell you to use a different technique while crocheting the basic stitches. Usually you insert your hook under two loops of a stitch or in a stitch or space. Sometimes you are told to use one loop only or to work in the post. Below are explanations of other terms you may encounter.

Front Loop Only (flo)

Crocheting in the front loop only forms a ridge on the back of your work. This is done simply by inserting your hook in the front loop only (loop closest to you) to create your stitches.

Front Loop

Back Loop Only (blo)

Crocheting in the back loop only forms a ridge on the front of your work. This is done simply by inserting your hook in the back loop only (the loop farthest from you) to create your stitches.

Back Loop

Front Post Double Crochet (fpdc)

This stitch is worked in the row below. Yarn over and insert hook from front to back around post in the stitch below. Complete the double crochet stitch as usual. This can also be worked as a treble stitch.
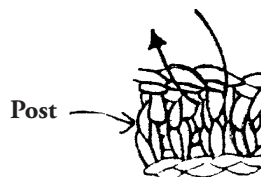
Post

Back Post Double Crochet (bpdc)

This stitch is worked in the row below. Yarn over and insert hook from back to front around post in the stitch below. Complete the double crochet stitch as usual. This can be worked as a treble stitch, also.

Post
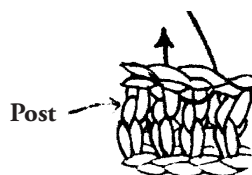
Fastening and Hiding Yarn Ends

After the last stitch, it is very important to fasten the yarn ends and hide them. *Fastening off* will keep your work from raveling out. *Hiding the ends* will give it a neat and completed appearance.

1. After the last stitch, cut the yarn 6 to 8 inches long from the finished work, or as specified by the pattern directions.

2. Next, pull the end of the yarn through the loop, pulling snugly but not too tightly. This will knot the yarn securely.
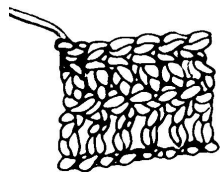
3. Bring all loose yarn ends to the wrong side. Using the yarn needle, thread it with the yarn end and weave the yarn in the top of the row for about 2 inches. Turn back and weave over the same area for about 1 inch. Cut the end close to the work, but be careful not to cut the project.

Never cut the yarn off close to the end right after the last stitch. The yarn will come untwisted and look fuzzy. Your work might also come apart!

ATTACHING A NEW YARN

Sometimes yarn will have knots, color imperfections, or an extra thick blob of threads in one spot. Maybe the project calls for more than one skein of yarn. Join yarn in the middle of the work or at the end of a row.

To join new yarn - *at the end of a row*

1. Crochet up to the last stitch. Work last stitch until two loops remain on hook. Loop new yarn to be attached around hook, leaving a 6-inch tail beyond the hook.
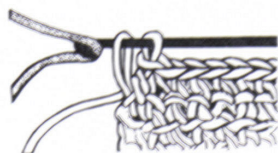
2. Draw a loop of the new yarn through the 2 loops on the hook.

3. Continue crocheting with new yarn. If possible, keep both short ends of yarn on the wrong side of the work (if that is not possible, you can pull them through to the wrong side later). After crocheting 6 or 7 stitches, check the tension where the yarn was joined.

### To join new yarn in the middle of the row

Use the same technique as joining at the end of a row. Crochet until there are 6 to 8 inches of remaining yarn and 2 loops on the hook. Leave a 6-inch tail of the new yarn. Finish the stitch by drawing a loop of the new yarn through the 2 loops on the hook. Keep both short ends of the yarn on the wrong side. Continue crocheting using the new yarn. After crocheting 6 or 7 stitches, check the tension where the yarn was joined.

To hide ends when you join yarn

Bring all loose yarns to the wrong side of your work. Thread yarn needle with one of the yarn ends. Weave the yarn in the top of the row below for about 2 inches. Turn back and weave over the same area for about 1 inch. Thread the other yarn end in the needle and go in the opposite direction, weaving into the work. Cut the end close to your work, but be careful not to cut the project.

WORKING IN ROUNDS

A *round* is the name given to crochet that you work in a continuous circle not turned from front to back as in rows. All motifs start as rounds or circles but may end up either round, oval, square, or tubular depending on the number of increased crochet stitches and where you place them. Notice the variety of patterns and shapes in the motifs that follow.
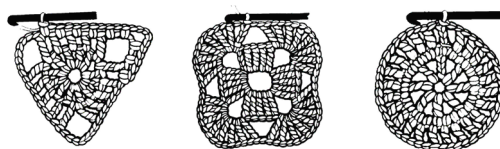
There are many patterns for working rounds. The instructions below are for one method.
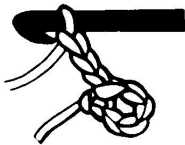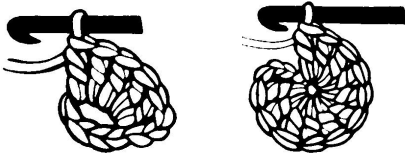
Abbreviation: **Rnd**   round

1. Ch 5 sts.
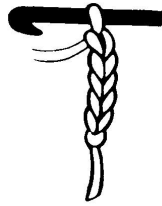
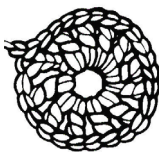2. Insert hook in 5th chain from hook and slip stitch (sl st) to form a ring.

3. Ch 3 (counts as a dc st).

4. Dc in ring 17 times. (18 dc sts counting the ch 3.)

Join with sl st to top of ch 3.

INCREASING STITCHES

Increasing and/or decreasing the number of stitches in the rows creates shaping in a project. Increasing adds width to the article while decreasing makes it narrower.

Increase (inc)

Increasing is very simple to do. It is done exactly the same way with all the crochet stitches you have learned. You simply work 2 stitches in a single stitch of the previous row. Usually your pattern will tell you where to work the increase. There may be several in the same row.

Below is an illustration of a sc increase.
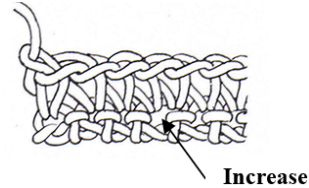
Increase

DECREASING STITCHES

You can decrease at any point on a row. Contrary to shaping by increasing, each basic stitch has a different method of decreasing. It is always important to follow the directions given in your pattern.

To decrease in sc (dec)

1. Insert hook on next sc and draw yarn through (2 loops on hook). Insert hook in next sc and draw yarn through (3 loops on hook).
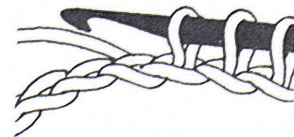
2. Hook yarn and draw through all 3 loops. You have worked 2 sc together, a dec of 1 sc.
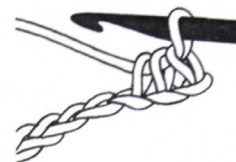
To decrease in dc (dec):

1. Yo hook. Insert hook in next st and draw yarn through (3 loops on hook).

2. Draw through 2 loops (2 loops remain on hook).

3. Yo and insert hook in next st, yo, and draw up a loop (4 loops on hook).

4. Yo, draw through 2 loops. There are now 3 loops on hook.

5. Yo and draw through all 3 loops. One dc decrease made.
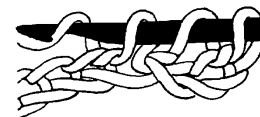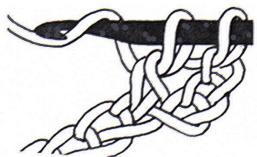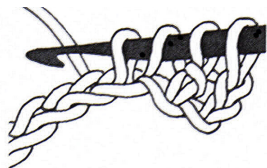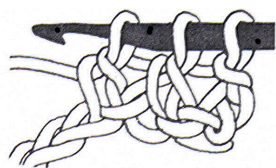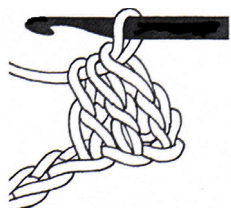
You will seldom find instructions for decreasing with the longer stitches (treble, double treble, etc.). If shaping is called for in such stitches, the pattern will give specific directions.

GAUGE - MAKING IT FIT

Gauge refers to the number of stitches and the number of rows to a specified number of inches. This formula makes an article the size you want it to be. Gauge determines the finished size and fit of the project.

Many factors influence the gauge of your crochet. The pattern will usually suggest the hook size and the type and size of yarn. Using these suggestions, helps achieve the desired gauge. In addition to hook size and yarn, the amount of tension applied to the yarn or thread and your own rhythmic crochet technique also influence gauge. Tension and rhythm, which you gain through practice, varies from person to person.

Tension is the tightness or looseness of crocheting. You control it through the resistance of the yarn as it passes through your fingers. Some people naturally "work loose" while others "work tight." Learn to control your tension so your stitches are loose enough for the hook to pass through them easily.

Rhythm — like tension — is achieved through practice. It is the flow of the hand movement from stitch to stitch. With practice, the rhythm will become steady and smooth, helping to achieve even tension.

Checking the pattern gauge

The crochet pattern will indicate the type of yarn and hook size. The crochet instructions will specify the gauge of the pattern. Unless your pattern specifies otherwise, check your gauge with the pattern by making a sample swatch 4 inches by 4 inches using the same type of yarn, hook, and stitch pattern required by the instructions.

After finishing the practice swatch, place it on a flat surface. A gauge ruler with a 2-inch L-shaped window makes it easy to count stitches and rows. However, simple counting of stitches and rows will also work. Do not measure from edge to edge, but start counting a few stitches in from the edge and count the number of stitches and rows along the 2-inch ruler.

Do not be upset if your gauge is different from the pattern gauge in the crochet instructions. Gauge is simple to adjust. Simply use a larger or smaller hook to achieve the proper gauge. Changing to a smaller hook size will increase the number of stitches per inch. A larger hook will decrease the number of stitches per inch. Use the hook size that gives the correct gauge for the pattern.

CHANGING YARN COLORS

Whether you use rows of colors or different colors in a row, changing yarn colors will create an interesting design and add variety to the project.

Motifs provide an excellent opportunity to use different colored yarns. To change the color, use the same technique as for *attaching a new yarn* (page 7). Crochet instructions will indicate where to change colors.

Sometimes during color changes, the instructions will specify to work over the color not in use or to work over cut yarn ends. To do this, lay the main color yarn end along the top of the previous row. Resume crocheting with the contrasting color yarn, working over the main color yarn while making stitches. The main color yarn will be "enclosed" as the new stitches are completed.
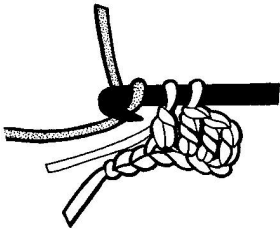
Attaching new yarn color

Work the last stitch until 2 loops remain on hook. Leave a 6-inch tail of the new yarn and finish the stitch by drawing a loop of the new yarn through the 2 loops on the hook. Keep both of the short yarn ends on the wrong side. Continue crocheting using the new yarn. After crocheting 6 or 7 stitches, check the tension where the yarn was joined. Follow instructions for hiding ends of the yarn (page 8).

Carrying color

Advanced crochet students may choose a pattern that uses several colors in a row. These colors will need to be carried along the wrong side of the row or crocheted over when not being used. Bobbins can also be used. Follow instructions given by the pattern.

Joining Seams and Pieces

There are several ways of joining seams and crochet pieces. The finished article will influence the method used. Select a seam based on the type of article and your personal preference. Sometimes the pattern instructions will suggest the most appropriate seam to use.

General points to remember

Match corners of motifs before sewing seams. If a project needs to be blocked, follow the instructions on the yarn label.
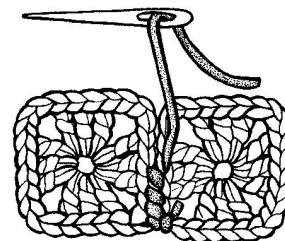
Match row patterns, colors, and/or stitches.

Use the same yarn that you used to crochet the project.

Use about 24 inches of cut yarn to join seams.

TYPES OF SEAMS

Whipstitched seam

This method produces a flat seam that you cannot easily see from the right side. It is used mostly to join motifs such as granny squares.

To sew a whipstitch seam

1. Place two motifs on top of each other, right sides together. Thread a large, blunt-pointed tapestry needle with yarn that matches the yarn in the motif.

2. Starting at a corner, attach the yarn securely by taking two overhand stitches through a crochet stitch on the outermost edge of the top motif. Continue to whip or overcast the edges of both motifs together by picking up one stitch from the edge of each motif.

3. Continue sewing until you reach the next corner. Secure yarn again by stitching into the corner stitch with two stitches. Cut yarn, leaving a 6-inch tail to fasten and hide.

Once you've joined several individual motifs, a long edge may be stitched together without having to cut your yarn and fasten ends. When stitching seams longer than 4 inches, stretch seam slightly to give it some elasticity.

Practice joining motifs using the whip-stitch seam technique until your stitches are even and the seam looks smooth.

Single-crochet seam

A single-crochet seam produces a raised decorative seam. You can use it for joining motifs and as an edge finish around a vest. Using a contrasting color yarn will highlight it.

To form a single-crochet seam

1. Place sections wrong sides together. Working through both thicknesses, insert the hook through the first stitch or space after a corner. Catch the yarn; then draw it through both layers forming a loop on the hook.

2. Catch the two strands of yarn in back (yarn end and working length of yarn), and draw them through the loop.

3. With the single strand of working yarn, continue in single crochet along the edge. Let the yarn end lie along the edge and work over it.

Backstitch seam

The backstitch seam sometimes is used when joining crocheted sections. This seam is slightly less bulky than the single crochet seam but somewhat bulkier than the woven seam.

To sew a backstitch seam

1. Pin pieces to be joined with right sides together. Adjust crochet patterns of the two pieces as well as the length of the seams.
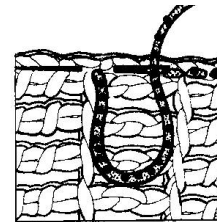
2. Using a blunt-pointed tapestry needle threaded with matching yarn, secure thread at one end with a few whip or overhand stitches.

3. Take stitches through both layers of work, making stitches approximately 1/8 inch to 1/4 inch in length close to the edge. Seam together with somewhat loose, elastic stitches.

Woven seam

You can weave together seams of crocheted items using a tapestry needle and matching yarn. This seam is especially recommended when joining edges of patterned crochet.
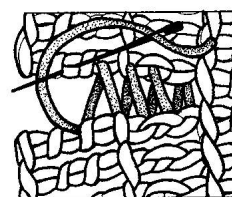
To sew a woven seam

1. Match side by side the edges you want to join.

2. Secure thread at one end. Bring the threaded needle up through the first stitch of the left side. Thread the needle through the center of the first stitch on the right side.

3. Alternate weaving technique from edge to edge in the same manner, matching rows and pattern. Stitches should be slightly loose and elastic.

To use this technique, the pieces to be joined must have the same number of rows and pattern. The result is an almost invisible seam.

CLEANING AND BLOCKING

Sometimes your project will get soiled and needs to be cleaned. Read the yarn label for the correct method of care (washing, drying, and/or blocking) your project.

NOTE: See *Craft Yarn Council Standards & Guidelines for Crochet and Knitting* for changes that are being made to bring uniformity to yarn, needle, and hook labeling, and to patterns whether they appear in books, magazines, leaflets, or on yarn labels. Visit www.YarnStandards.com

METHODS OF CLEANING

Dry cleaning

If the yarn label says dry clean, that is what you must do. Take a copy of the yarn label with the project to the dry cleaner to ensure proper cleaning. Disaster can result if you wash a dry-clean-only article.

Washing

Check the yarn label for washing and drying instructions. If it is safe to wash, follow recommended guidelines.

- **Hand washing** – Wash gently in warm water with a mild detergent by squeezing water through the article. Rinse well in cool water. **Do not wring**. Roll article in a bath towel to remove excess water. Lay flat on a towel to dry (put a plastic garbage bag under the towel to protect the drying surface). Gently pull into shape. Do not twist, stretch, or hang. Never iron articles made of synthetic yarn.

- **Machine washing** – Machine wash using warm water and mild detergent. Use a regular setting on the dryer to dry. Articles washed in a washing machine should always be dried in a dryer. **Never** iron articles made of synthetic yarn.

BLOCKING

For best results, always read the yarn or thread label, and follow the manufacturer's blocking and care recommendations. The method used to block the project is determined by the fiber content of the yarns or threads.

Here are some general procedures to follow when blocking crocheted items:

1. Prepare a blocking surface by covering a flat surface such as a table, cutting board used for sewing, or ironing board with a waterproof cover followed by several layers of towels.

2. Place the project piece wrong side up on the blocking surface. Pin the edges of each piece to the proper shape and measurements given in the crochet instructions. Place T pins as necessary to obtain desired shape of article. If blocking surface would be harmed by

pinholes, insert the pins into the towels at an angle.

For identical pieces, such as sleeves, pin the two together and block at the same time. Place the two pieces right sides together, matching the edges exactly. Never let part of the article hang over the side.

For any blocking procedure that uses a damp cloth or steam, always allow the pieces to dry completely before lifting or moving. Do not block the ribbing portion, as this will destroy the elasticity (ability to stretch).

3. After pinning pieces in place, follow the next step according to the fiber content of the yarn or thread used for the project.

For Synthetics and Blended Yarns – follow the instructions on the yarn label. NEVER press synthetics or blends because pressing destroys the loft of the yarn.

For Cotton Crochet Threads – preheat the iron at the wool setting. Cover the pieces with a damp cloth and steam. The weight of the iron may rest on the crochet work unless the design has a raised design or pattern. A cutting board that has grids makes a good surface when a piece needs to be pinned and shaped. Cover the area to be used with plastic to protect the surface and use T pins or rustproof straight pins to shape the article. When blocking two pieces that are exactly the same shape, place damp cloth between pieces.

Commercial stiffeners are available to stiffen articles that need to stand alone. Follow manufacturer's directions for the best results.

For Wool Yarns – Preheat the iron at the wool setting. Cover the pieces with a damp cloth and steam. Never rest the full weight of the iron on crochet work done in wool yarn.

Finishing Touches

When you have finished the garment, or seamed together all motifs, you may need to add an edging. It is often done around all outside or exposed edges. You may consider a variety of finishing edges such as fringe, single crochet edging, reverse single crochet, or a decorative edging such as a shell or chain loops. Sometimes you use yarn of a compatible or contrasting color to the project.

Single Crochet Edging

Single Crochet edging is often used as the finish around many crochet garments as well as afghans. Start at any place along the outer edge of the item, preferably not in a corner. Insert the hook through the two loops of the outer edge; catch yarn in the hook and bring through loops.

Single crochet in every stitch along the straight edge or every other stitch with a chain stitch between each single crochet stitch. Make sure stitches are even and do not pucker. In the corner stitch or space, work three single crochet stitches. Continue around the article. At the end, slip stitch with the first single crochet of the edge stitching.


Fringe Edging

This finishing technique is a popular one for afghans, shawls, and scarves. The weight of the added yarn can cause items to hang better. Often crochet instructions will give specifics on how to cut and apply fringe.

Measure yarn without stretching it. Decide how many strands you want in a group and how close together each group of yarns will be. Count the number of spaces in which you will place fringe,

multiply by the number of groups, and start with that number.
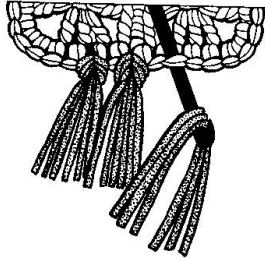
After cutting, take 3 strands of yarn and fold in half. Draw folded yarn through a stitch in the edge of your project (3 strands folded will make 6 strands in the group). Draw ends through the loop and tighten.

ADVANCED CROCHET TECHNIQUES

Afghan stitch – Sometimes called Tunisian, is worked with a long crochet hook with one end similar to a knitting needle. Each row is worked in two parts, first drawing up the loops and then working them off. Fabric is dense and even. It makes a good surface to cross stitch on.

Beadwork – Beads can be worked into an article as a design or to embellish it. Collars, purses, sachets, and ring bearer pillows are just a few of the items you can decorate with beads.

Camel crochet – A method of crocheting that looks and feels like knitting. It uses less yarn than regular crochet.

Cro-Knit/Hook – Using a long double-ended hook, it is worked with two skeins of yarn, one at each end and is softer than crochet. The item is reversible. You can make afghans, dishcloths, sweaters, etc.

Cro-tat – Using a crochet tatting hook and crochet thread creates a method of crocheting that resembles tatting edgings, ornaments, etc.

Filet crochet – A form of drawing using thread. It uses filled and open squares to form an image or motif. Sweaters, shawls, wall hangings, doilies, edgings and borders, curtains, bedspreads, and tablecloths are some of the items you can make.

Irish crochet – Was originally worked as flowers, leaves, and tendrils, all crocheted separately over a cord and then sewn together on a fabric base. Today, patterns for motifs, sweaters, collars, bedspreads, trims, doilies, and tablecloths have been developed that make it easy to make Irish crochet work with thread.

Novelty yarn – Chenille, fun fur, and eyelash are just a few of the new novelty yarns available. Check yarn shops or the Web for newer ones. Used for purses, scarves, vests, sweaters, etc.

Plaids, geometric, checks, etc. – These are worked with different colored yarns in the same row to form a pattern of colors.

CROCHET ABBREVIATIONS

[ ] work instructions within brackets as many times as directed

( ) work instructions within parentheses as many times as directed

* repeat the instructions following the single asterisk as directed

** repeat instructions between asterisks as many times as directed or repeat from a given set of instructions

" inch(es)

alt alternate

approx approximately

beg begin/beginning

bet between

BL back loop(s)

bo bobble

BP back post

BPdc back post double crochet

BPsc back post single crochet

BPtr back post treble crochet

CA color A

CB color B

CC contrasting color

ch chain stitch

ch- chain or space previously made (i.e., ch-l)

ch-sp chain space

CL cluster

cm centimeter(s)

cont continue

dc double crochet

dc2tog double crochet 2 stitches together

dec decrease/decreases/decreasing

dtr double treble

FL front loop(s)

Foll follow/follows/following

FP front post

FPdc front post double crochet

FPsc front post single crochet

FPtr front post treble crochet

g gram

hdc half double crochet

inc increase/increases/increasing

lp(s) loops

m meter(s)

MC main color

mm millimeter(s)

oz ounce(s)

p picot

pat(s) or patt pattern(s)

pc popcorn

pm place marker

prev previous

rem remain/remaining

rep repeat(s)

rnd(s) round(s)

RS right side

sc	single crochet		**tog**	together
sc2tog	single crochet 2 stitches together		**tr**	treble crochet
sk	skip		**trtr**	triple treble crochet
sl st	slip stitch		**WS**	wrong side
sp(s)	space(s)		**yd(s)**	yard(s)
st(s)	stitch(es)		**yo**	yarn over
tch or t-ch	turning chain		**yoh**	yarn over hook
tbl	through back loop			