

Beginning Crochet with Shannon Mullett-Bowlsby Stitch Guide

First stitches

Chain (ch)

1. With a slip knot on your hook, tension the working yarn and secure the tail with your yarn hand.
2. Yarn over.
3. Pull up a loop through loop on hook.
4. Repeat Steps 1 and 2 to make as many chains as called for in pattern.

Knotless Starting Chain

The knotless starting chain is an alternate way to start your first stitch without ending up with a knot on the end of your work.

1. Pass the yarn tail (the end of the yarn not attached to the ball or skein) from back to front over your hook with tail crossing the side of the working yarn closest to your hook hand.
2. Hold the point where the yarn crosses.
3. Yarn over and draw up a loop through the loop you are holding.
4. Continue to make desired number of chains.
5. Gently pull tail until length of loop you were holding is drawn through the first chain you made, being careful to tighten loop so it matches the gauge of the rest of the chains made.

Yarn Over (yo)

To make a yarn over, wrap the working yarn from back to front over your hook. You can do this by either moving your hand to manipulate the yarn or by moving your hook.

The Foundation Chain

One of the methods for starting your crochet fabric is to use a foundation chain. The foundation chain is, very simply, a series of chain stitches into which you will then insert your hook in order to make your first row of stitches.

When using a foundation chain to start your fabric, you will make as many chains as needed for the first row of stitches AND the number of chains needed for your turning chain to “step up” to the next row. The number of chains you need to step up depends on the height of the stitches in your working row.

Single Crochet (sc)(UK Double Crochet)

Single Crochet (sc)

Insert hook into indicated st, yo and draw up a lp (2 lps on hook), yo and draw through 2 lps on hook.

Double Crochet (UK Treble Crochet)

Double Crochet (dc)

Yo, insert hook into indicated st, yo and draw up a lp (3 lps on hook), [yo and draw through 2 lps on hook] 2 times.

Half Double Crochet (hdc) (UK Half Treble Crochet)

Half Double Crochet (hdc)

Yo, insert hook into indicated st, yo and draw up a lp (3 lps on hook), yo and draw through all 3 lps on hook.

Treble Crochet (tr)*(UK Double Treble Crochet)*

Treble Crochet (tr)

Yo 2 times, insert hook into indicated st, yo and draw up a lp, (yo and draw through 2 lps on hook) 3 times.

No More Wonky Edges

Linked First Double Crochet

Linked first half double crochet (Linked first-hdc)

Pull loop on hook up to slightly taller than normal loop, ch 1, insert hook in first ch from hook, yo and draw up a loop (2 loops on hook), insert hook into first st, yo and draw up a loop (3 loops on hook), yo and draw through all 3 loops on hook.

Linked First Treble Crochet

Linked first double crochet (Linked first-dc)

Pull loop on hook up to slightly taller than normal loop, ch 1, insert hook in first ch from hook, yo and draw up a loop (2 loops on hook), insert hook into first st, yo and draw up a loop (3 loops on hook), [yo and draw through 2 loops on hook] 2 times.

Foundation Stitches

Foundation Single Crochet (Fsc)

Foundation single crochet (Fsc)

Ch 2, insert hook into second ch from hook, yo and draw up a lp, yo and draw through 1 lp (first "chain" made), yo and draw through 2 lps on hook (first Fsc made), *insert hook under 2 lps of the "chain" just made, yo and draw up a lp, yo and draw through 1 lp ("chain" made), yo and draw through 2 lps on hook (Fsc made); rep from * for indicated number of foundation sts.

Foundation Half Double Crochet (Fhdc)

Foundation half double crochet (Fhdc)

Ch 2, yo, insert hook into second ch from hook, yo and draw up a lp, yo and draw through 1 lp (first "chain" made), yo and draw through all 3 lps on hook (first Fhdc made), *yo, insert hook under 2 lps of the "chain" just made, yo and draw up a lp, yo and draw through 1 lp on hook ("chain" made), yo and draw through all 3 lps on hook (Fhdc made); rep from * for indicated number of foundation sts.

Foundation Double Crochet (Fdc)

Foundation double crochet (Fdc)

Ch 2, insert hook into second ch from hook, yo and draw up a lp, yo and draw through 1 lp (first "chain" made), yo and draw through 2 lps on hook, ch 2 (first Fdc made), *yo, insert hook under 2 lps of the "chain" just made, yo and draw up a lp, yo and draw through 1 lp ("chain" made), [yo and draw through 2 lps on hook] 2 times (Fdc made); rep from * for indicated number of foundation sts.

Variations:

Offset Half Double Crochet

Offset Half Double Crochet (offset hdc)

Yo, insert hook into the sp between the posts of the next 2 sts, yo and draw up a lp, yo and draw through all 3 lps on hook.

Practice Swatch

Foundation Row: Work 30 Fhdc (page 105), turn.

Rows 1–20: Ch 1, sc in first st, work offset hdc in sp between posts of next 2 sts, work offset hdc in sp between sts to last st, sc in last st, turn.

Fasten off.

Offset Double Crochet

Offset Double Crochet (offset dc)

Yo, insert hook into the sp between the posts of the next 2 sts, yo and draw up a lp, [yo and draw through 2 lps on hook] 2 times.

Practice Swatch

Foundation Row: Work 30 Fdc, turn.

Rows 1–16: Ch 1, hdc in first st, work offset dc in sp between posts of next 2sts, work offset dc in sp between sts to last st, hdc in last st, turn.

Fasten off.

Single Crochet Through Front Loop Only

Single crochet through front loop only (sc–tfl)

Insert hook under front lp of indicated st, yo and draw up a lp, yo and draw through 2 lps on hook.

Practice Swatch

Foundation Row: Ch 22, sc in second ch from hook and in each ch to end of row, turn – 21 sc.

Rows 1–22: Ch 1, sc in first st, sc tfl of next st and of each st to last st, sc in last st, turn.

Fasten off.

Half Double Crochet Through Front Loop Only

Half double crochet through front loop only (hdc tfl)

Yo, insert hook under front lp of indicated st, yo and draw up a lp, yo and draw through all 3 lps on hook.

Practice Swatch

Foundation Row: Ch 22, hdc in second ch from hook and in each ch to end of row, turn – 21 hdc.

Rows 1–22: Ch 1, hdc in first st, hdc tfl of next st and of each st to last st, hdc in last st, turn.

Fasten off.

Single Crochet Through Back Loop Only

Single Crochet Through Back Loop Only (sc–tbl)

Insert hook under back lp of indicated st, yo and draw up a lp, yo and draw through 2 lps on hook.

Practice Swatch

Foundation Row: Ch 22, sc in second ch from hook and in each ch to end of row, turn – 21 sc.

Rows 1–22: Ch 1, sc in first st, sc tbl of next st and of each st to last st, sc in last st, turn.

Fasten off.

Half Double Crochet Through Back Loop Only

Half Double Crochet Through Back Loop Only (hdc tbl)

Yo, insert hook under back lp of indicated st, yo and draw up a lp, yo and draw through all 3 lps on hook.

Practice Swatch

Foundation Row: Ch 22, hdc in second ch from hook and in each ch to end of row, turn – 21 hdc.

Rows 1–22: Ch 1, hdc in first st, hdc tbl of next st and of each st to last st, hdc in last st, turn. Fasten off.

Alternating Half Double Crochet TFL/TBL

Practice Swatch

Foundation Row: Work 29 Fhdc, turn.

Rows 1–22: Ch 1, hdc in first st, *hdc tfl, hdc tbl; rep from * to last 2 sts, hdc tfl, hdc in last st, turn. Fasten off.

Alternating Single Crochet TFL/TBL Variation

Practice Swatch

Foundation Row: Work 29 Fsc, turn

Rows 1–22: Ch 1, sc in first st, *sc tfl, sc tbl; rep from * to last 2 sts, sc tfl, sc in last st, turn.

Front Post Double Crochet

Front Post double crochet (FPdc)

Yo, insert hook from front to back and then to the front again around post of indicated st, yo and draw up a lp, [yo and draw through 2 lps on hook] 2 times.

Practice Swatch

Foundation Row: Work 21 Fdc, turn.

Alternate Foundation Row: Ch 23, work Linked first-dc in first ch, dc in each ch to end of row, turn – 21 dc.

Row 1: Ch 1, sc in first st and in each st to end of row, turn.

Row 2: Ch 1, sc in first st, *FPdc around next st 2 rows below, sc in next st; rep from * to end of row, turn.

Rows 3–16: Repeat Rows 1–2.

Row 17: Repeat Row 1.

Fasten off

Back Post Double Crochet

Back Post double crochet (BPdc)

Yo, insert hook from back to front and then to back again around post of indicated st, yo and draw up a loop, [yo and draw through 2 loops on hook] 2 times.

Practice Swatch

Foundation Row: Work 21 Fdc, turn.

Alternate Foundation Row: Ch 23, work Linked first-dc in first ch, dc in each ch to end of row, turn – 21 dc.

Row 1: Ch 1, sc in first st and in each st to end of row, turn.

Row 2: Ch 1, sc in first st, *Fpdc around next st 2 rows below, sc in next st; rep from * to end of row, turn.

Rows 3–16: Repeat Rows 1–2.
Row 17: Repeat Row 1.
Fasten off.

Front Post/Back Post Double Crochet

Here is a commonly used stitch pattern that combines Front Post and Back Post stitches in alternating rows to create a double-sided textured fabric. This fabric is often used for ribbing around the base of hats, the hems of garments, and sleeve cuffs.

Practice Swatch

Foundation Row: Work 21 Fdc, turn.

Alternate Foundation Row: Ch 23, work Linked first-dc in first ch, sc in each ch to end of row, turn – 21 dc.

Row 1: Work first-hdc in first st, FPdc around next st, *BPdc around next st, FPdc around next st; rep from * to last st, hdc in last st, turn.

Row 2: Work first-hdc in first st, BPdc around next st, *FPdc around next st, BPdc around next st; rep from * to last st, hdc in last st, turn.

Rows 3–16: Repeat Rows 1–2.

Row 17: Ch 1, sc in first st and in each st to end of row, turn.

Fasten off.

Linked Double Crochet

Linked double crochet (Ldc)

Insert hook from top to bottom through front of horizontal wrap of previous Ldc, yo and draw up a lp (2 lps on hook), insert hook into next st, yo and draw up a lp (3 lps on hook), [yo and draw through 2 lps on hook] 2 times.

Practice Swatch

Foundation Row: Work 30 FLdc, turn.

Alternate Foundation Row: Ch 31, work Linked first-dc in second ch from hook, work Ldc in next st and in each ch to end of row, turn – 31 Ldc.

Rows 1–17: Work Linked first-dc in first st, work Ldc in next st and in each st to end of row, turn.
Fasten off.

Linked Half Double Crochet

Linked half double crochet (Lhdc)

Insert hook from top to bottom through front of horizontal wrap just below head of previous Lhdc, yo and draw up a lp (2 lps on hook), insert hook into next st, yo and draw up a lp (3 lps on hook), yo and draw through all 3 lps on hook.

Practice Swatch

Foundation Row: Work 25 FLhdc, turn.

Alternate Foundation Row: Ch 26, work Linked first-hdc in second ch from hook, work Lhdc in next ch and in each ch to end of row, turn – 25 Lhdc.

Rows 1–17: Work Linked first-hdc in first st, work Lhdc in next st and in each st to end of row, turn.

Fasten off

Linked Treble Crochet

Linked treble crochet (Ltr)

Insert hook from top to bottom through front of horizontal wrap of previous Ltr, yo and draw up a lp (2 lps on hook), insert hook from top to bottom through front of next horizontal wrap, yo and draw up a lp (3 lps on hook), insert hook into next st, yo and draw up a lp (4 lps on hook), [yo and draw through 2 lps on hook] 3 times.

Practice Swatch

Foundation Row: Work 30 FLtr, turn.

Alternate Foundation Row: Ch 32, work Linked first-tr in third ch from hook, work Ltr in next st and in each ch

to end of row, turn – 31 Ltr.

Rows 1–17: Work Linked first-tr in first st, work Ltr in next st and in each st to end of row, turn. Fasten off.