

Keep the basics close

A calm, practical reference for your first crochet projects.

- US TERMINOLOGY
- PRINT & KEEP

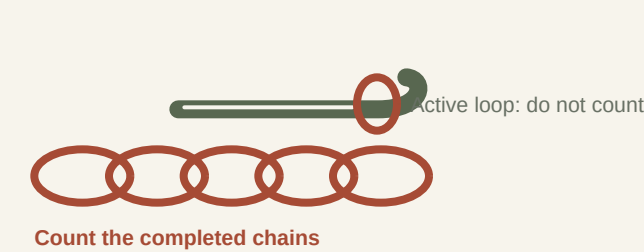
A simple starting kit

Tool	What to look for
Crochet hook	The millimeter size describes the hook shaft. Start with a 5 mm (US H-8) hook and medium / worsted yarn for practice; use your pattern and yarn label as the guide.
Yarn	Choose smooth, light-colored yarn so you can see each stitch. Cotton creates firm fabric; acrylic is another practice option. Avoid fluffy or very dark yarn at first.
Useful extras	Small scissors, a blunt large-eye yarn needle, two removable stitch markers, and a ruler or tape measure.

Know your yarn and hook

Yarn weight describes thickness, not the weight of a ball. Read the label for fiber, yardage, suggested hook sizes, and care. US hook letters can vary between brands; compare the **mm size**. A thicker yarn or larger hook generally changes the fabric and gauge.

Count chains carefully



A foundation chain starts the project. Count the completed chain stitches below the hook. Do not count the slip knot or the active loop. This drawing is a counting schematic, not a stitch chart.

Comfort tip: Hold the hook and yarn gently. Pause and relax your hands when your grip gets tight. Comfortable, repeatable movements help you build an even rhythm.

Six stitches to recognize

Read these instructions using US crochet terms.

Yarn over (yo)

Bring the working yarn over the hook from back to front. Catch that strand in the hook groove before drawing it through a loop or stitch.

Chain (ch)

With a loop on the hook, yarn over and pull through that loop. One new chain is made and one active loop remains on the hook.

Slip stitch (sl st)

Insert the hook into the indicated stitch. Yarn over and draw through the stitch and the loop already on the hook in one motion. One loop remains.

Single crochet (sc)

Insert the hook into the stitch. Yarn over and pull up a loop: 2 loops on the hook. Yarn over and pull through both loops: 1 loop remains.

Half double crochet (hdc)

Yarn over, insert the hook into the stitch, yarn over and pull up a loop: 3 loops on the hook. Yarn over and pull through all 3 loops.

Double crochet (dc)

Yarn over, insert the hook into the stitch, yarn over and pull up a loop: 3 loops. Yarn over and pull through 2 loops; yarn over and pull through the last 2.

Treble crochet (tr)

Yarn over twice. Insert the hook into the stitch, yarn over and pull up a loop: 4 loops. Yarn over and pull through 2 loops three times. One loop remains.

Where to insert the hook: For an ordinary stitch in a completed row, go under both strands of the top V unless your pattern says otherwise. Foundation chains and special stitches may use a different insertion point.

Read the pattern with ease

Check the terminology before you make your first stitch.

US and UK terms

US name / abbreviation	UK equivalent
Chain / ch	Chain / ch
Slip stitch / sl st	Slip stitch / ss
Single crochet / sc	Double crochet / dc
Half double crochet / hdc	Half treble / htr
Double crochet / dc	Treble / tr
Treble / tr	Double treble / dtr
Gauge	Tension

Three habits that help

- 1. Count.** A stitch count such as (18 sts) means 18 completed stitches in that row. Check whether the pattern counts its turning chain.
- 2. Measure.** Gauge is stitches and rows over a measured area. Make a swatch larger than the area you measure, and count away from the edges.
- 3. Follow the row.** Work the stated first and last stitches. Markers help catch missed end stitches before the piece narrows.

Turning and finishing

Turning-chain rules vary by pattern. In Crochet Academy's coaster and bookmark, ch 1, turn, then work into the first stitch; the chain does not count. To fasten off, cut a 6 in (15 cm) tail and pull it through the last loop. Use a yarn needle to weave in loose ends.

Terminology reference: Craft Yarn Council - Crochet Abbreviations. Stitch instructions are independently written; all diagrams are original schematics.

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