Basic Stitches

In this section we explore the basic stitches: slip stitch, single crochet, half double crochet, double crochet, and triple crochet, plus some common combinations and variations of these stitches.

Some basic stitches make a very dense fabric, others a lacy fabric. The size of your crochet hook and the weight of the yarn or thread play a big part in the drape of the finished project. Light and airy stitches made with a finer yarn make wonderful tops that drape well. Many stitches are suitable for blankets; heavily textured stitches are great for hats and bags.

SLIP STITCH IN THE BACK LOOP

Skill Level: Easy

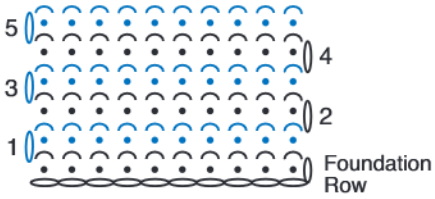
The slip stitch in crochet is mostly used for joining a circle, moving from one place in your work to another, or ending off a group of stitches without adding height to your work. While there are always exceptions, making a fabric of all slip stitches worked in the whole stitch is unusual. The slip stitch, when worked in the back loop only, makes a fabric that resembles knitting; when turned vertically, it makes a very sturdy ribbed look that would be good for the bottom of crochet garments.

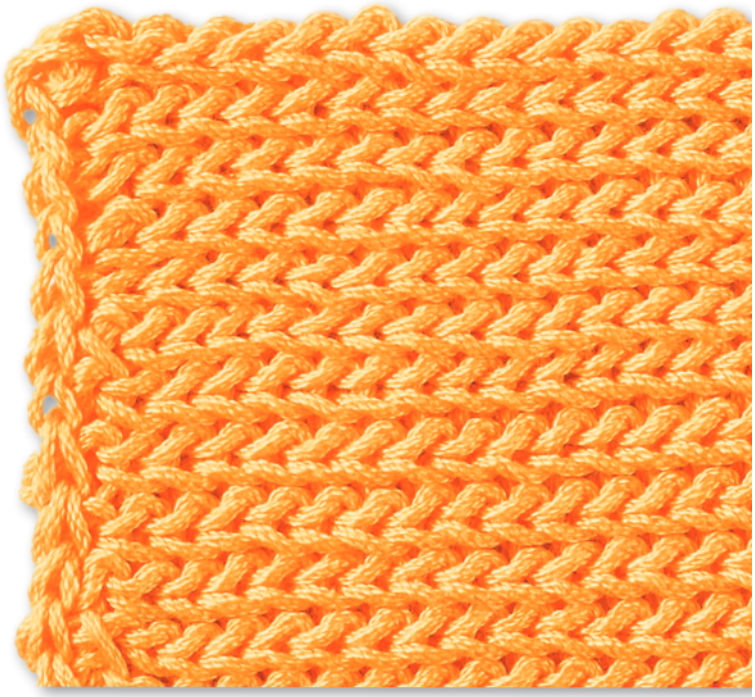
Ch any number of sts.

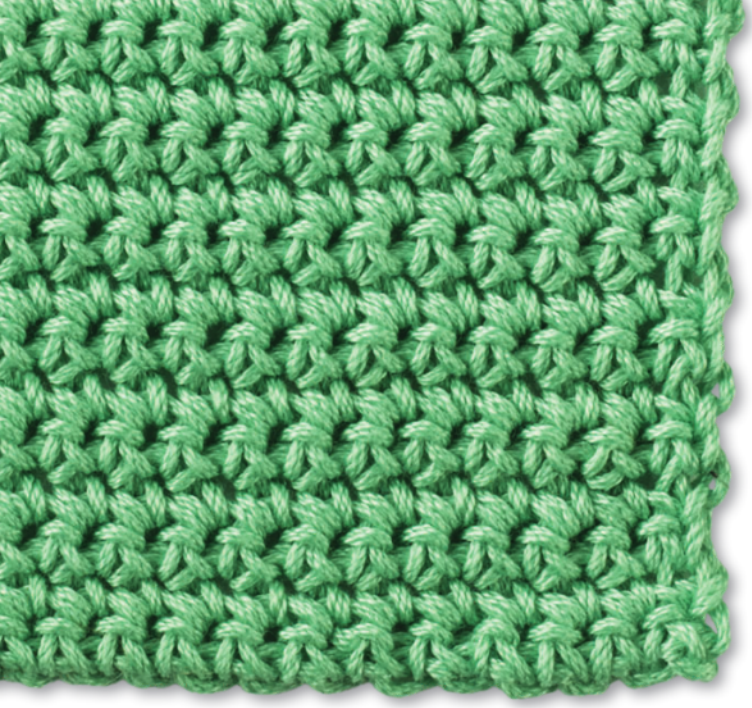
Foundation Row: Pick up a loop in second ch from hook, draw this loop through loop on hook (Sl st made), *pick up a loop in next ch, draw this loop through loop on hook (Sl st made), rep from * across row, turn.

Row 1: Ch 1, working in back loop only, Sl st in first Sl st, Sl st in each Sl st across, turn.

Rep Row 1 for pattern.







SINGLE CROCHET

Skill Level: Beginner

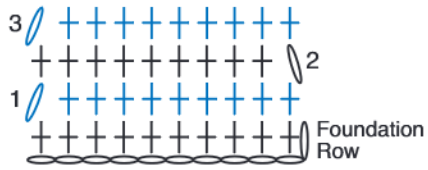
Ch any number of sts.

Foundation Row: Starting in 2nd ch from hook, work 1 sc in each ch across row, turn.

Row 1: Ch 1 (counts as first sc), skip first sc, 1 sc in each sc across row, turn.

Row 2: Ch 1 (counts as first sc), skip first sc, 1 sc in each sc across row, 1 sc in top of turning ch, turn.

Rep Row 2 for pattern.



HALF DOUBLE CROCHET

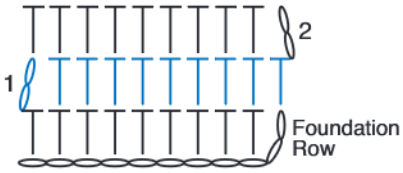
Skill Level: Beginner

Ch any number of sts.

Foundation Row: Starting in 3rd ch from hook, yo hook, pick up a loop, yo hook, pull through all 3 loops on hook (hdc made), 1 hdc in each ch across row, turn.

Row 1: Ch 2 (counts as first hdc), skip first st, 1 hdc in each st across row, 1 hdc in top of turning ch, turn.

Rep Row 1 for pattern.



DOUBLE CROCHET

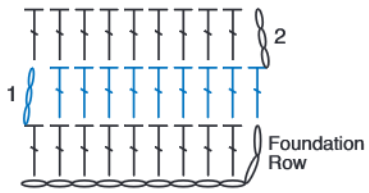
Skill Level: Beginner

Ch any number of sts.

Foundation Row: Starting in 3rd ch from hook, yo hook, pick up a loop, (yo hook, through two loops) twice (dc made), 1 dc in each ch across row, turn.

Row 1: Ch 3 (counts as a dc), skip first dc, 1 dc in each st across row, 1 dc in top of turning ch, turn.

Rep Row 1 for pattern.



TRIPLE CROCHET

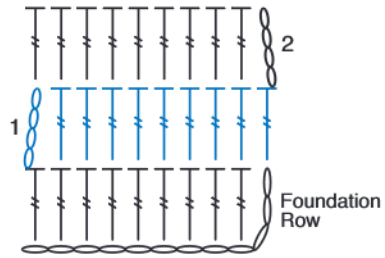
Skill Level: Beginner

Ch any number of sts.

Foundation Row: Starting in 4th ch from hook, yo hook twice, pick up a loop, (yo hook, through two loops) 3 times (tr completed), through 1 tr in each ch across row, turn.

Row 1: Ch 4 (counts as a tr), skip first tr, 1 tr in each st across row, 1 tr in top of turning ch, turn.

Rep Row 1 for pattern.



SINGLE CROCHET THROUGH THE BACK LOOP

Skill Level: Easy

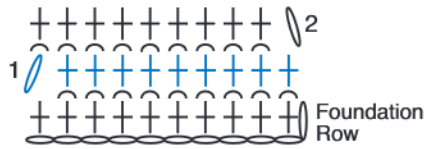
Ch any number of sts.

Foundation Row: Starting in 2nd ch from hook, work 1 sc in each ch across row, turn.

Row 1: Ch 1 (counts as first sc), skip first sc, working in back loop, work 1 sc in each sc across row, turn.

Row 2: Ch 1 (counts as first sc), skip first sc, working in back loop, work 1 sc in each sc across row, work 1 sc in top of turning ch, turn.

Rep Row 2 for pattern.



TEXTURED SINGLE CROCHET

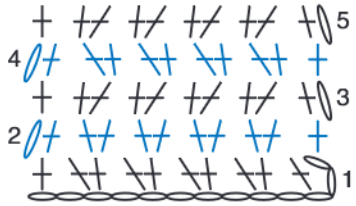
Skill Level: Easy

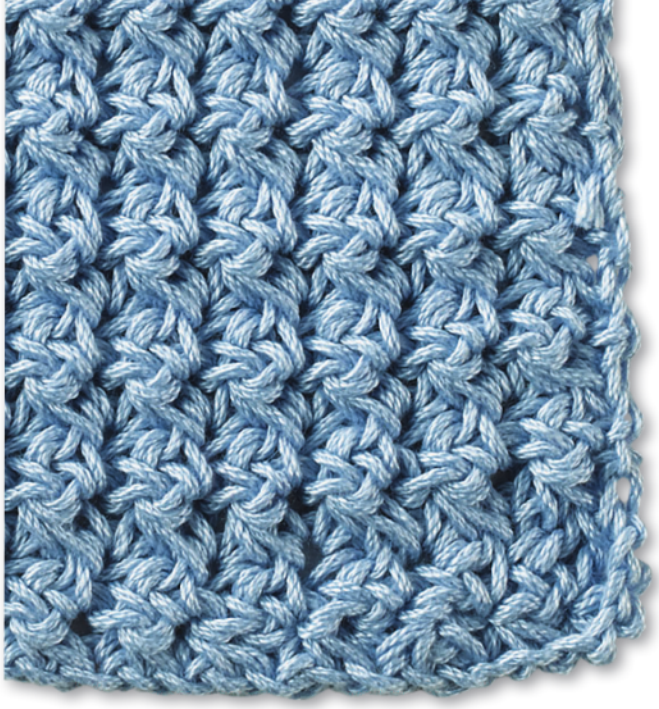
Ch a multiple of 2 plus 3.

Row 1: 1 sc in 3rd ch from hook, *skip 1 ch, 2 sc into next ch, rep from * to last 2 ch, skip 1 ch, 1 sc into last ch, turn.

Row 2: Ch 1 (counts as first sc), 1 sc in first sc, *skip 1 sc, 2 sc into next sc, rep from * to last 2 sts, skip 1 sc, 1 sc in top of the turning ch, turn.

Rep Row 2 for pattern.





SINGLE CROCHET 3 TOGETHER

Skill Level: Easy

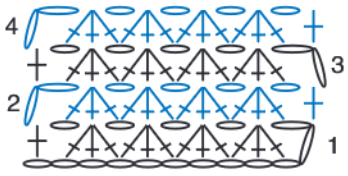
Sc3tog: pick up a loop in each of 3 designated sts, yo hook, draw yarn through all 4 loops on hook.

Ch a multiple of 2 plus 3.

Row 1: Starting in 3rd ch from hook, pick up a loop in next 3 chs, yo, draw through all 4 loops on hook (sc3tog made), ch 1, *pick up a loop in same ch as previous sc, pick up a loop in next 2 chs, yo, draw yarn through all 4 loops on hook (sc3tog made), ch 1, rep from * across, end 1 sc in last ch, turn.

Row 2: Ch 2, *pick up a loop in the ch-1 space, in the sc3tog, in next ch-1 space, yo, draw yarn through all 4 loops on hook, ch 1, rep from * across row, end 1 sc in tch, turn.

Rep Row 2 for pattern.



CROSSED DOUBLE CROCHET

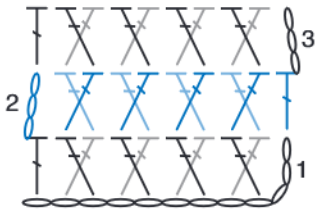
Skill Level: Easy

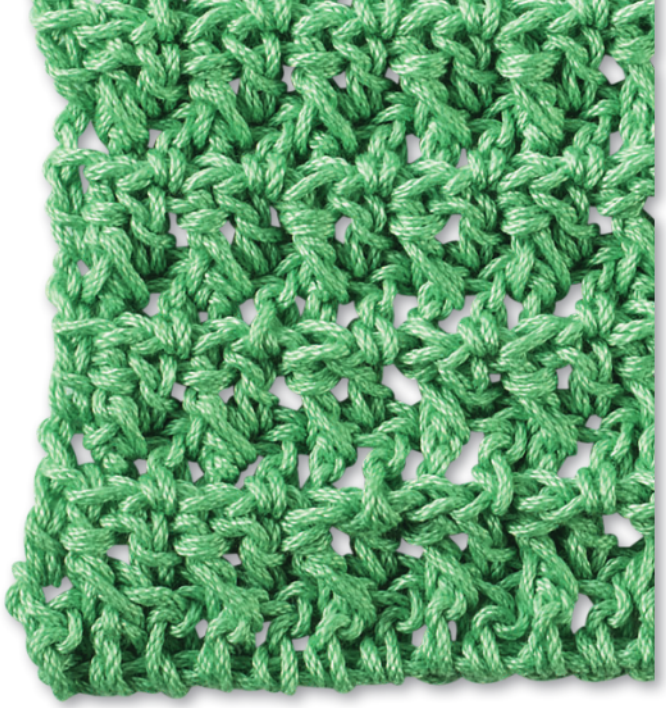
Ch an even number of stitches.

Row 1: Work 1 dc in 5th ch from hook, crossing in front of dc just made, work 1 dc in last skipped ch, *skip 1 ch, work 1 dc in next ch, crossing in front of dc just made, work 1 dc in last skipped ch, rep from * across row, end 1 dc in last ch, turn.

Row 2: Ch 3 (counts as first dc), skip first 2 sts, work 1 dc in next dc, crossing in front of dc just made, work 1 dc in last skipped dc, *skip next dc, work 1 dc in next dc, crossing in front of dc just made, work 1 dc in last skipped st, rep from * across row, working 1 dc in top of tch, turn.

Rep Row 2 for pattern.





CROSS HATCH

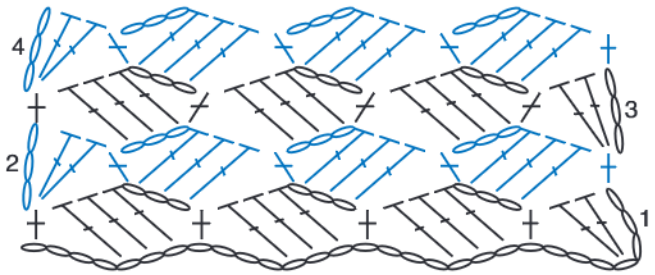
Skill Level: Easy

Ch a multiple of 7 plus 1.

Foundation Row: Work 2 dc in 4th ch from hook, skip 3 ch, 1 sc next ch, *ch 3, 1 dc in each of the next 3 chs, skip next 3 ch, sc in next ch, rep from * across, turn.

Row 1: Ch 3, 2 dc in first st, *skip next 3 dc, [1 sc, ch 3, 3 dc] in the next ch-3 space, skip next st, rep from * across, ending skip last 2 sts, sc in the top of turning ch.

Rep Row 1 for pattern.



BEEHIVE STITCH

Skill Level: Intermediate

Front Post Double Crochet (FPdc): Yo hook, pick up a loop inserting hook from right to left under designated stitch, [yo, draw through 2 loops] 2 times.

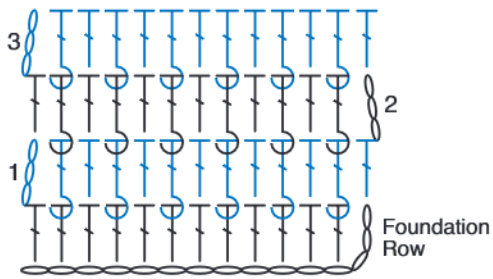
Ch a multiple of 2 plus 1.

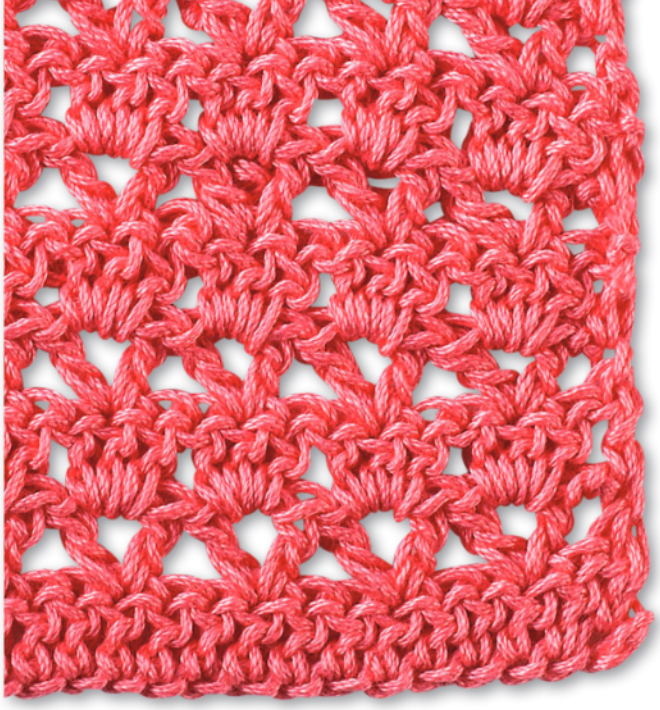
Foundation Row: Start in 4th ch from hook, work 1 dc in each ch across row, turn.

Row 1: Ch 3 (counts as a dc) skip first st, *1 FPdc in next dc, 1 dc in next dc, rep from * across, ending 1 dc in top of turning ch, turn.

Row 2: Ch 3, skip first st, *1 FPdc in the next FPdc, 1 dc in next dc, rep from * ending with 1 dc in top of turning ch, turn.

Rep row 2 for pattern.





DOUBLE CROCHET LACE

Skill Level: Easy

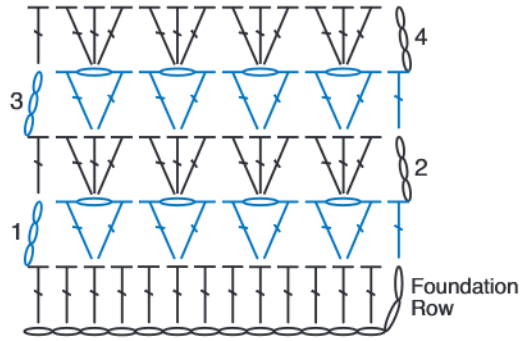
Ch a multiple of 3.

Foundation Row: Starting in 3rd ch from hook, work 1 dc in each ch to end of row, turn.

Row 1: Ch 3 (counts as first dc), skip first 2 dc, *[1 dc, ch 1, 1 dc] in next dc, skip next 2 dc, rep from * ending with skip 1 dc, 1 dc in top of the turn ch, turn.

Row 2: Ch 3, *3 dc in next ch-1 space, rep from * across, ending with 1 dc in top of turning ch, turn.

Rep Rows 1 and 2 for pattern.



TEXTURED SC/HDC/DC COMBO

Skill Level: Easy

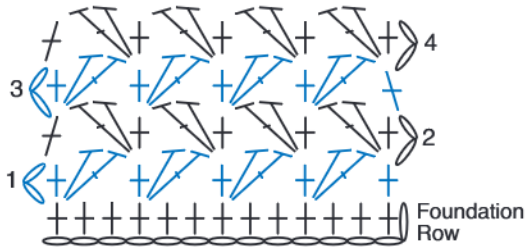
Ch a multiple of 3 plus 2.

Foundation Row: Starting in 2nd ch from hook, work 1 sc in each ch across row, turn.

Row 1: Ch 2, [1 sc, 1 hdc, 1 dc] in first sc, skip next 2 sc, *[1 sc, 1 hdc, 1 dc] in next sc, skip next 2 sc, rep from * across, ending with 1 sc in last sc, turn.

Row 2: Ch 2, [1 sc, 1 hdc, 1 dc] in first sc, *skip next 2 sts, [1 sc, 1 hdc, 1 dc] in next sc, rep from * ending with 1 sc in top of turning ch, turn.

Rep Row 2 for pattern.



TEXTURED SC/DC #1

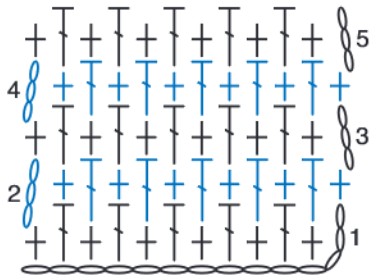
Skill Level: Easy

Ch an even number of sts.

Row 1: 1 sc in 4th ch from hook, *1 dc in next ch, 1 sc in next ch, rep from * across, turn.

Row 2: Ch 3 (counts as a dc), skip first st, *1 sc in next dc, 1 dc into next sc, rep from * across, ending with 1 sc in top of the turning ch, turn.

Rep Row 2 for pattern.



TEXTURED SC/DC #2

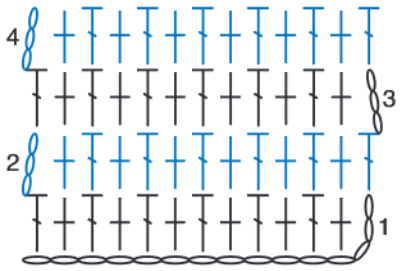
Skill Level: Easy

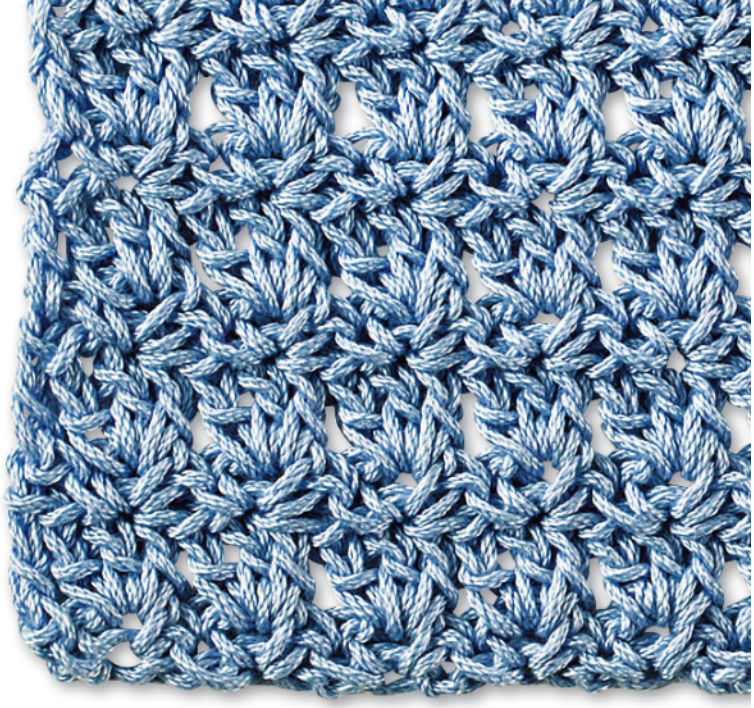
Ch a multiple of 3 plus 1.

Row 1: 1 sc in 4th ch from hook, 1 dc into next ch, *1 sc in next ch, 1 dc in next ch, rep from * across row (dc will be last st), turn.

Row 2: Ch 3 (counts as a dc), skip first st, *1 sc into next sc, 1 dc into next dc, rep from * ending last rep dc in top of the turn ch, turn.

Rep Row 2 only for pattern.





TEXTURED SC/DC #3

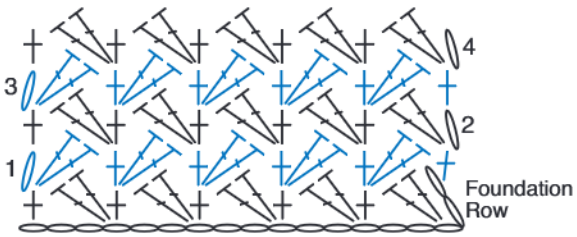
Skill Level: Beginner

Ch a multiple of 3.

Foundation Row: Work 2 dc in 3rd ch from hook, *skip next 2 ch [1 sc, 2 dc] in next ch, rep from * to within last 3 ch, skip next 2 ch, 1 sc in last ch, turn.

Row 1: Ch 1 (counts as a sc), work 2 dc in the first st, *skip 2 dc [1 sc, 2 dc] in the next sc, rep from * to last 3 sts, skip 2 dc, 1 sc in the top of the turning ch, turn.

Rep Row 1 for pattern.



PRIMROSE STITCH

Skill Level: Easy

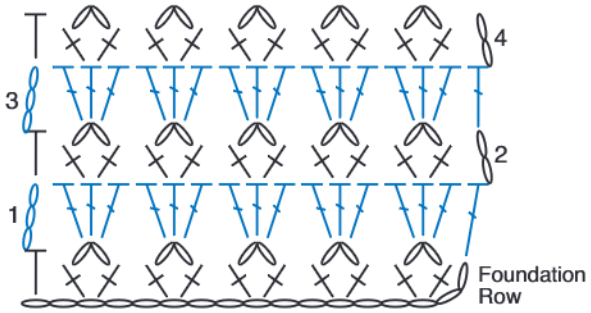
Ch a multiple of 3 plus 2.

Foundation Row: Work [1 sc, ch 2, 1 sc] in 3rd ch from hook, *skip next 2 chs, [1 sc, ch 2, 1 sc] in next ch, rep from * across, ending with 1 hdc in last ch, turn.

Row 1: Ch 3, *3 dc in next ch-2 space (shell made), rep from * across, ending with 1 dc in top of turning ch, turn.

Row 2: Ch 2 (counts as first hdc), * [1 sc, ch 2, 1 sc] in 2nd dc of next shell, rep from * across, ending with 1 hdc in top of turning ch, turn.

Rep Rows 1 and 2.



DOUBLE CROCHET SHELL

Skill Level: Easy

Ch a multiple of 6 plus 2.

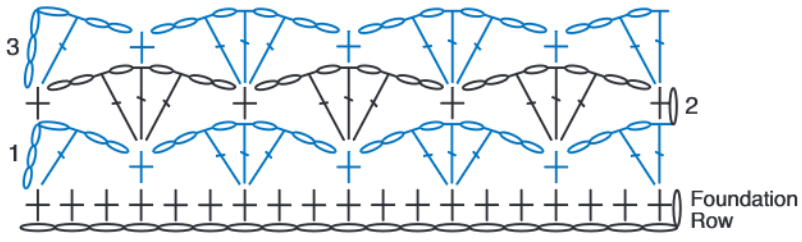
Foundation Row: Starting in 2nd ch from hook, 1 sc in each ch across.

Row 1 (RS): Ch 4 (counts as dc, ch 1), 1 dc in first st (half shell made), *ch 2, skip next 2 sts, 1 sc next st, ch 2, skip next 2 sts, [1 dc, ch 1, 1 dc, ch 1, 1 dc] in next st (full shell made), rep from * across to within last 6 sts, ch 2, skip next 2 sts, 1 sc next st, ch 2, skip next 2 sts, [1 dc, ch 1, 1 dc] in last sc (half shell made), turn.

Row 2: Ch 1, 1 sc in same st, *ch 2, 1 shell in next sc, ch 2, 1 sc in 2nd dc of the next cluster, rep from * across, ending with 1 sc in the third ch of the turning ch 4, turn.

Row 3: Ch 4 (counts as a dc, ch 1), 1 dc same st (half shell made), * ch 2, 1 sc in center dc of the next cluster, ch 2, 1 shell in next sc, rep from * ending with [1 dc, ch 1, 1 dc] in the turning ch (half shell made), turn.

Rep Rows 2 and 3 for pattern.



BARS AND LOOPS

Skill Level: Easy

Ch a multiple of 2 plus 1.

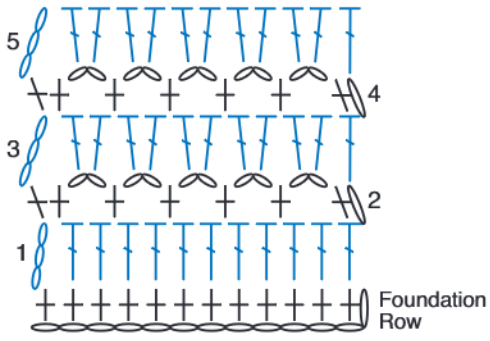
Foundation Row: Starting in 2nd ch from hook, 1 sc in each ch across row, turn.

Row 1: Ch 3 (counts as first dc), skip first sc, 1 dc in each sc across row, turn.

Row 2: Ch 1, 1 sc in first dc, ch 2, 1 sc in space after next 2 dc, *ch 2, 1 sc in space after next 2 dc, rep from * ending ch 2, 1 sc in sp between the last dc and the turning ch, 1 sc in top of turn ch, turn.

Row 3: Ch 3, 2 dc in first ch-2 space, *2 dc in next ch-2 space, rep from * across, ending with 1 dc in top of turning ch, turn.

Rep Rows 2 and 3 for pattern.



DENIM RUFFLE BAG

Here's a great handbag for everyday use, made entirely of single crochet and double crochet stitches. Single crochet stitches worked through the back loop create a ribbed effect for the bag flap. I saw a designer bag similar to this at Saks Fifth Avenue with a price tag of over $900!

YOU WILL NEED

Yarn

- Bulky-weight cotton
- Shown: Blue Jeans Cable by Schachenmayr, 100% cotton, 1.75 oz (50 g)/54 yd (50 m): Dark Denim #055, 10 balls

Hooks

- 9/I (5.5 mm) for main body of bag
- 6/G (4 mm) for strap only

Stitches

- Single crochet
- Single crochet through the back loop
- Double crochet

Gauge

- 13 sc = 4" (10 cm) using 9/I hook

Notions

- Tapestry needle
- ½ yd (0.5 m) lining fabric (optional)
- Hand-sewing needle
- Thread

Finished size

- Approximately 10" × 14" (25.4 × 35.6 cm)

(continued)

Denim Ruffle Bag (continued)

Notes

Single Crochet Decreases (sc2tog): To dec, pick up lp in next st, yo, pick up lp in next st, yo and pull through all 3 lps on hook.

Back

Foundation Row: With 9/I hook, ch 44. Starting in second ch from hook, work 1 sc in each ch across, turn—43 sc.

Row 1: Working in BL throughout, ch 1 (counts as sc), sk first st, 1 sc in next 41, 1 sc in tch, turn.

Repeat row 1 for 30 rows (15 ridges), turn.

Next row: Ch 1, sk first st, sc2tog, sc in each st until last 3 sts, sc2tog, 1 sc in tch, turn—41 sc.

Next row: Ch 1, sk first st, 1 sc in each st across, 1 sc in top of tch, turn.

Rep last 2 rows 2 times more—37 dc. Fasten off.

Front

Same as back.

Flap

Work in BL throughout.

Foundation Row: With 9/I hook, ch 32. Starting in second ch from hook, work 1 sc in each ch across, turn—31 sc.

Row 1 (RS): Ch 1, 2 sc in next st (sc inc made), 1 sc in each st to last 2 sts, 2 sc in next st (sc inc made), 1 sc in top of tch, turn.

Row 2: Ch 1 (counts as first sc), sk first st, 1 sc in each st across, 1 sc in top of tch, turn.

Rep rows 1 and 2 until 39 sts.

Rep row 2 for 14 rows more, then dec 1 st at each side every other row until 31 sts rem. Work 1 row even. Fasten off.

Ruffle

Foundation Row: With 9/I hook, ch 11. Starting in second ch from hook, 1 sc in each ch across, turn—10 sc.

Row 1: Working in BL, ch 1 (counts as sc), sk first sc, 1 sc in next 8 sc, 1 sc in top of tch, turn.

Rep row 1 for 170 rows (85 ridges). Do not fasten off, turn to work along one end of ruffle.

Beading Rnd 1: Work 1 sc in every other row end, Sl st to first sc to join. Do not turn.

Rnd 2: Ch 4, sk 1 sc, 1 dc next sc, * ch 1, sk 1 dc, 1 dc next st, rep from * around, ending ch 1, Sl st to top of beg ch to join. Fasten off.

Strap and Gusset

Make in one piece.

Foundation Row: With 6/G hook, ch 7. Starting in second ch from hook, 1 sc in each ch across, turn—6 sc.

Row 1: Ch 1 (counts as first sc), working in both loops, 1 sc in next 4 sc, 1 sc in top of tch, turn—6 sc.

Rep row 1 until strap is 60" (152.4 cm) long. Do not fasten off. Work 1 row sc around entire strap. Fasten off.

Tie

With 6/G hook, ch 200. Fasten off.

Finishing

1. If lining is desired, line back and front and part of strap that will form gusset before sewing together.

2. Sew short ends of strap together, center this seam at bottom of bag, pin back of bag to gusset, sew in place. Pin front of bag in place and sew.

3. Pin beading edge of ruffle all around flap and sew in place. Thread tie through beading row, starting and ending at center front, tie in a bow.

4. Mark row at exact center of flap, pin to back top of bag, and sew in place at back only.

5. Weave in ends using a tapestry needle.

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