Lion Brand Yarn + Michael's Community Classroom
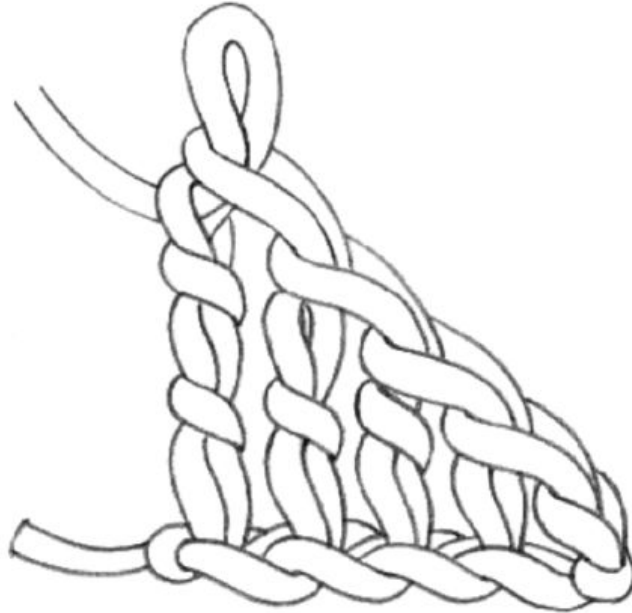
Crochet stitches come in varying heights. When you begin a row of any stitch, you will be starting at the base of the row. In order to come up to the height of the stitch you will be working in that row, you must start with a chain that is the same height as the stitches in the row you are working. This chain is called the **turning chain**. It can be worked before or after turning your work. The illustration above shows the most common stitches and the length of the turning chain for each stitch.
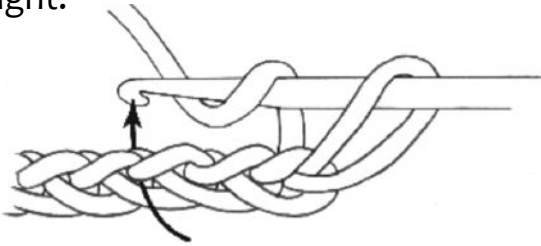
Single crochet: one chain
Half double crochet: two chains
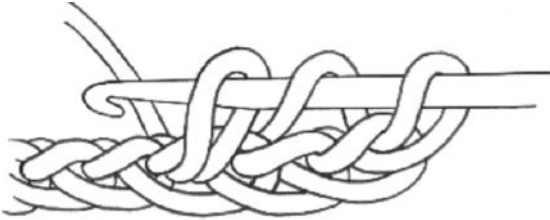Double crochet: three chains
Triple crochet: four chains
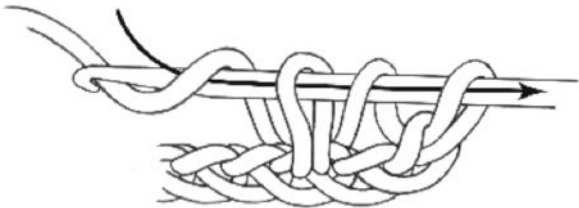
hdc = half double crochet

The half double crochet comes halfway between a single crochet and a double crochet in height.
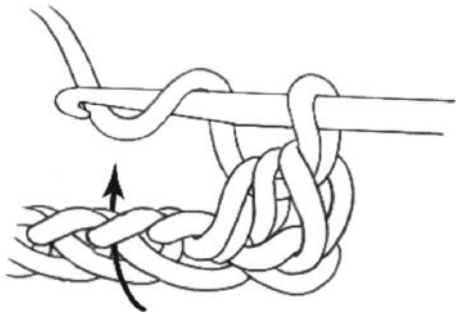
Make a foundation chain two chains more than the number of half double crochet stitches called for. Skip first 2 chain stitches (will count as the turning chain). Yo hook once, insert hook from front to back in the center of the third chain from the hook.

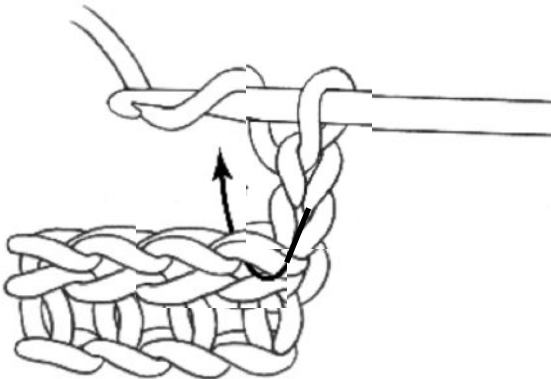Yarn over, draw the yarn through the chain (3 loops on hook).

Yarn over, draw through 3 loops on hook (one half double crochet complete).

Yarn over, insert hook in the center of next chain, yarn over, draw yarn through stitch, yarn over, draw yarn through 3 loops on hook. Repeat across to end of foundation chain.

To begin the second row, turn your work. Chain two for the turning chain.
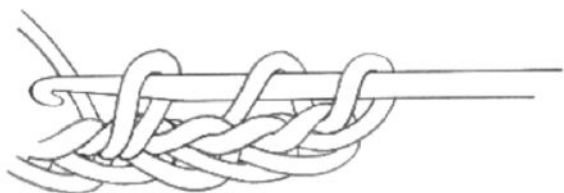
Yo, insert hook from front to back under the top 2 loops of the next half double crochet in the row below, yarn over, draw yarn through stitch, yarn over, draw yarn through 3 loops on hook (first half double crochet complete). Repeat this step in each half double crochet across.

DOUBLE CROCHET
dc = double crochet

The double crochet is about twice the height of a single crochet. It is a very popular stitch producing a looser fabric than single crochet.
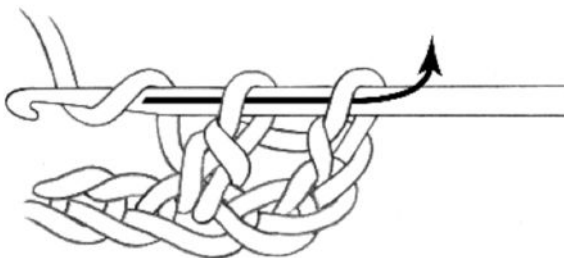
Make foundation chain 3 chains more than the number of double crochet stitches called for. Skip first 3 chain stitches.
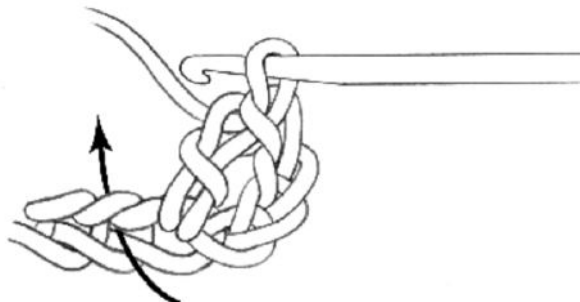
Yo hook once, insert hook from front to back in the center of the fourth chain from the hook.

Yo, draw the yarn through the chain (3 loops on hook).

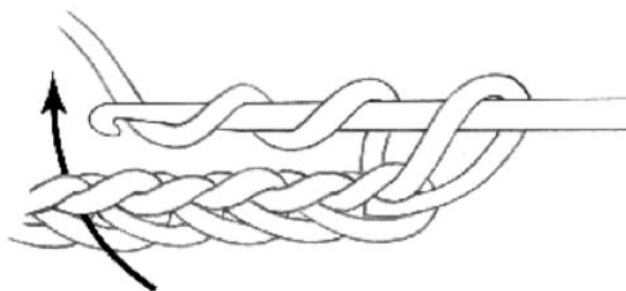Yo, draw yarn through 2 loops on hook (2 loops remain on hook).

Yo, insert hook in the center of next chain, yarn over, draw yarn through stitch, yarn over, draw yarn through 2 loops on hook, yarn over, draw yarn through 2 loops on hook. Repeat across to end of foundation chain.

To begin the second row, turn your work. Chain three for the turning chain.
Yo, insert hook from front to back under the top 2 loops of the next double crochet in the row below, yarn over, draw yarn through stitch, yarn over, draw yarn through 2 loops on hook, yarn over, draw yarn through 2 loops on hook (first double crochet complete). Repeat this step in each double crochet across.

TREBLE (TRIPLE) CROCHET
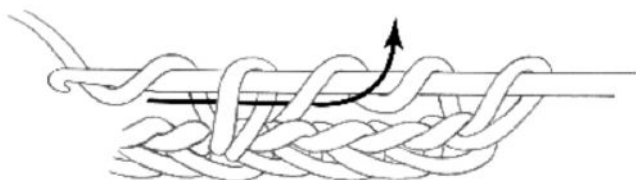## tr = treble (triple) crochet

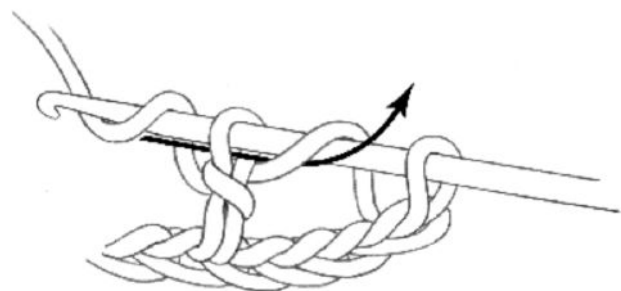The triple crochet is a little taller than a double crochet.

Make foundation chain 4 chains more than the number of triple crochet stitches called for. Skip first 4 chain stitches. Yarn over hook (twice), insert hook from front to back in the center of the fifth chain from the hook.
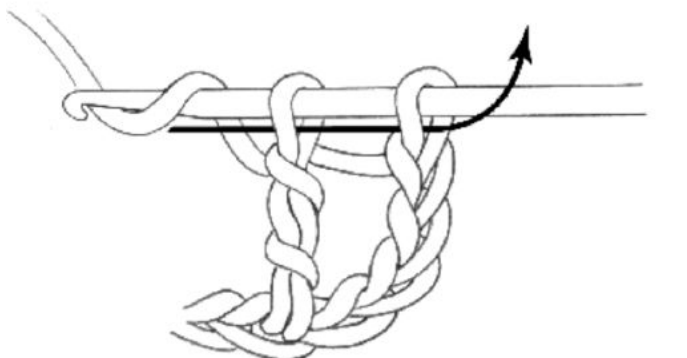
Yo, draw the yarn through the chain (4 loops on hook).

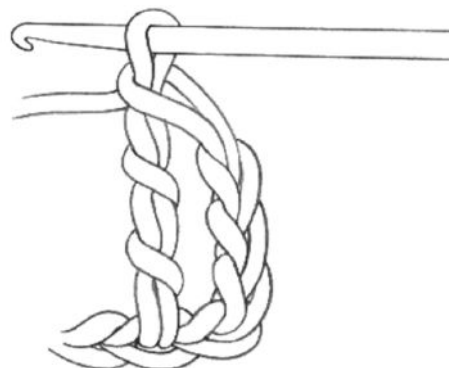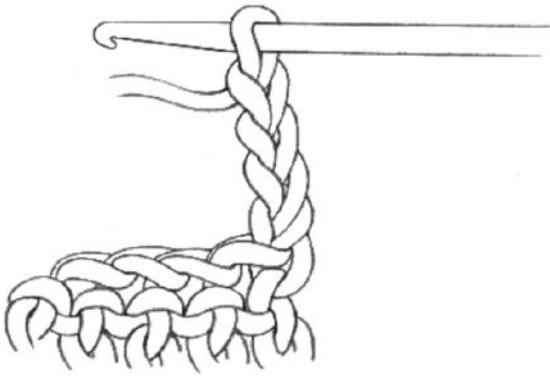Yo, draw yarn through 2 loops on hook (3 loops remain on hook).

Yo, draw yarn through 2 loops on hook (2 loops remain on hook).

Yo, draw through 2 loops on hook (one triple crochet complete).

Yo (twice), insert hook in the center of next chain, yarn over, draw yarn through stitch, [yo, draw yarn through 2 loops on hook] 3 times. Repeat across.

To begin the second row, turn your work. Chain four for the turning chain.

Yo (twice), insert hook from front to back under the top 2 loops of the next triple crochet in the row below, [yarn over, draw yarn through 2 loops on] 3 times (first triple crochet complete). Repeat this step in each triple crochet across.

Joining a new ball of yarn

Sooner or later you are going to run out of yarn. It's best to join the new ball at the end of a row for a neater appearance.

When you're about to run out of yarn, work your last stitch until the last yo of the stitch.

Leaving a tail, draw the end of the new yarn through the loops on your hook. Then continue working with the new ball of yarn.

This method is also used when joining a new color of yarn. Shown here with a second color for clarity.