

Lion Brand Yarn + Michael's Community Classroom

CROCHET 101

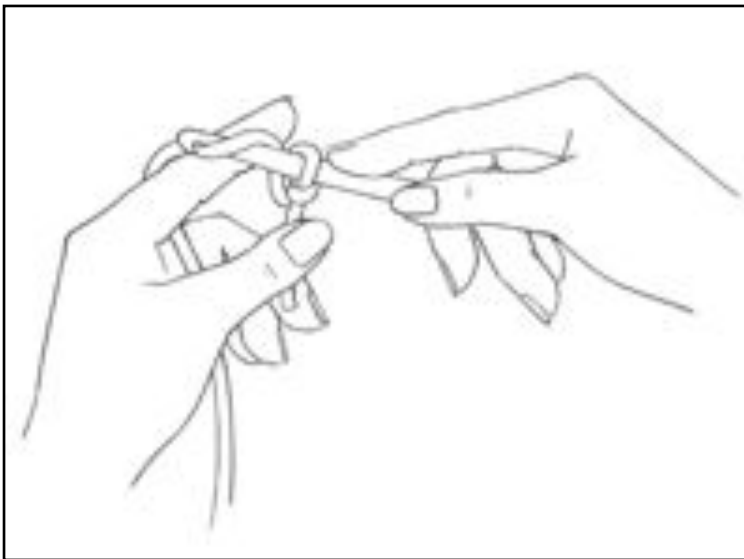
Before You Start

Find a comfortable chair in good light. Read through the steps before you begin. As with any new skill, learning to crochet requires equal measures of patience and perseverance. Remember, crocheting should be a fun experience. If you get stuck, take a deep breath to relax, but keep at it.

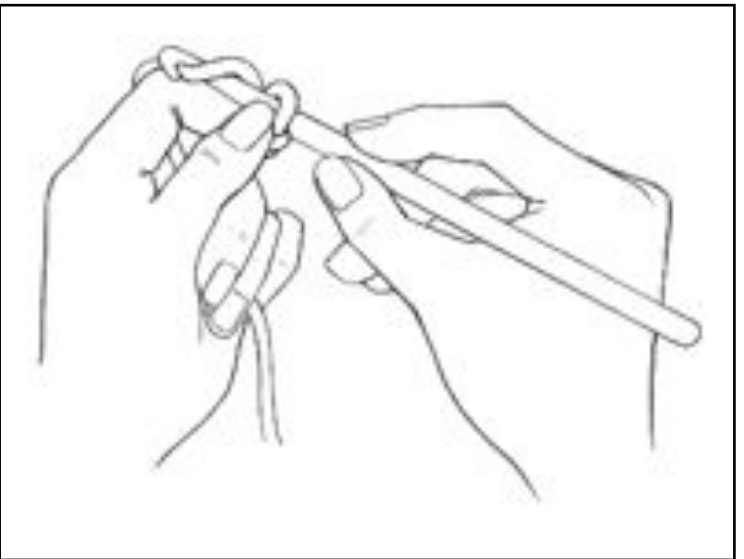


Getting a Grip

Crochet is a method of creating fabric from yarn or thread, by using a hook and a ball of yarn. The hook is generally held in the dominant hand (right hand view shown below). There are two basic "holds."



In the knife method, place your dominant hand over the hook and grasp it between your thumb and index finger as you hold a knife. The left hand is used to control the yarn and to hold the stitches as they are created.



In the pencil method, you hold the hook as you would a pencil, grasping the hook between your thumb and index finger.

Use the method that feels more comfortable to you.

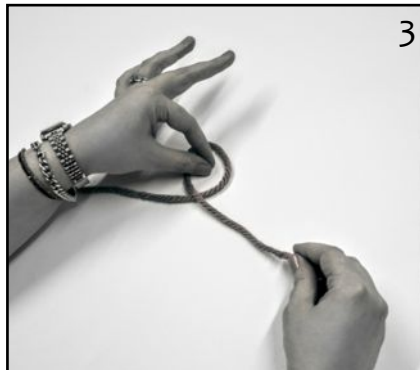
Let's Start at the Beginning

To begin, you'll need to make the first loop on your hook, a slip knot.

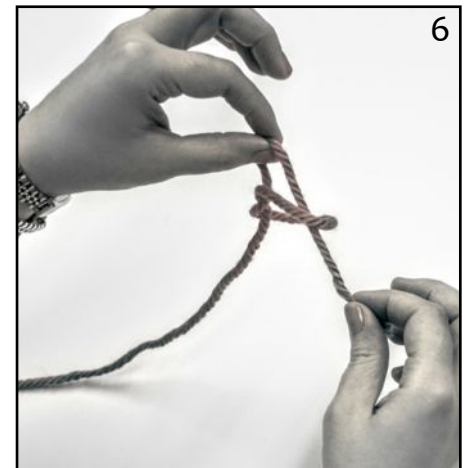


1 - 2: Holding the tail of your yarn, make a loop.

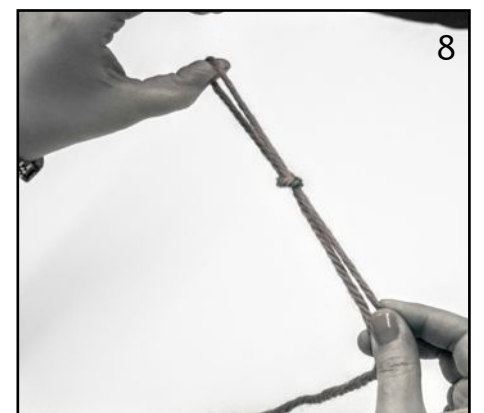
3 - 4: Bring your fingers through the loop.



5 - 6: Pinch the tail and pull a new loop through the loop you just made.

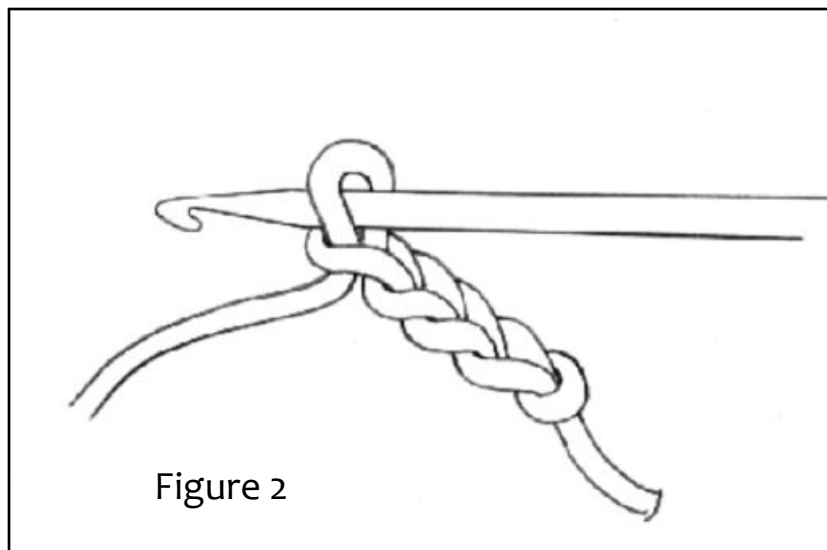
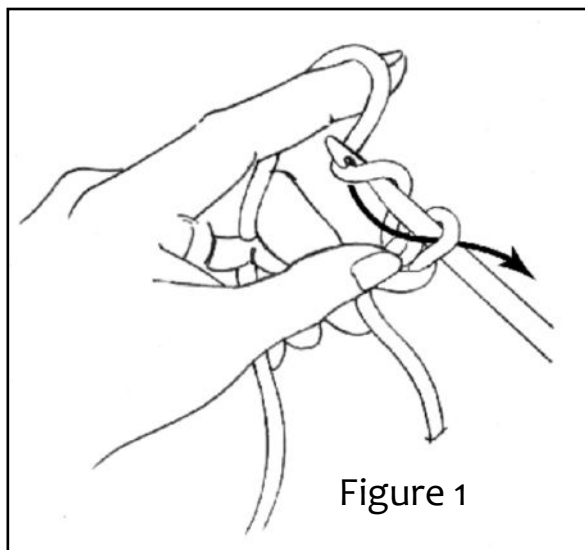


7 - 8: Holding both the tail and the working yarn, pull the loop until the slip knot tightens.



Making A Chain (ch)

Hold the hook in your dominant hand and loop the yarn from the ball over your left index finger. (fig. 1) Hold the end of the slip knot between the thumb and middle finger of your left hand. Wrap the yarn from back to front around the shaft of the hook. Use the hook to draw the yarn through the loop on the hook: one chain is now made. Move your thumb and middle finger up so they are always pinching the loop just below the hook.

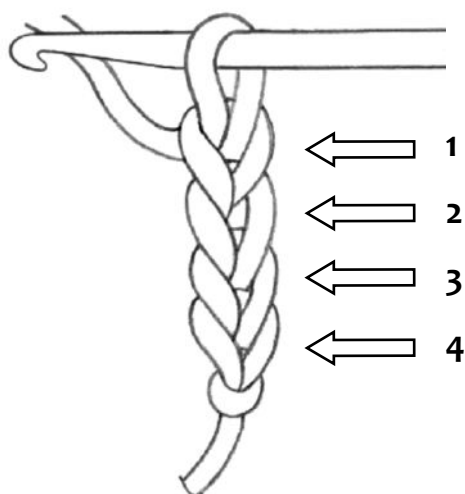


Make as many chains as your pattern calls for. If you count as you go, do not count the slip knot as one of your chains. If you count from the hook down, don't count the loop currently on your hook as a chain. The resulting row of chains is called the foundation chain and never counts as a row. You will build the crocheted fabric off of this foundation. The chain is also used to produce spaces and loops in your fabric.

All About Stitches:

This illustration shows how to count the chain you have worked.

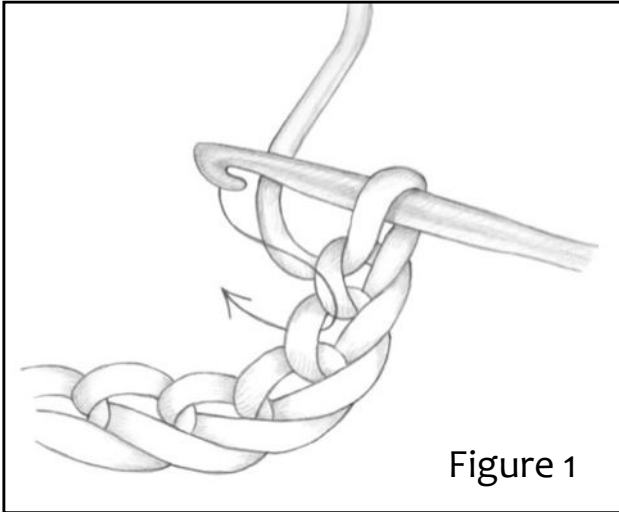
When counting chains, do not include the loop on your hook.



sc = single crochet

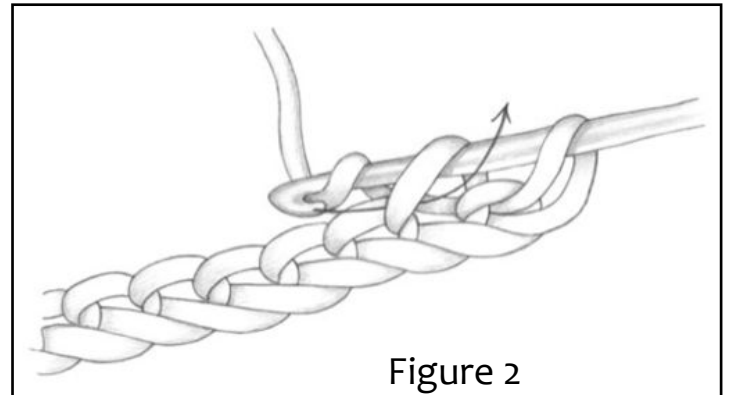
The single crochet is the most basic crochet stitch for making fabric. All the other stitches are variations on this one.

Make a foundation chain one chain more than the number of single crochet (sc) stitches called for.

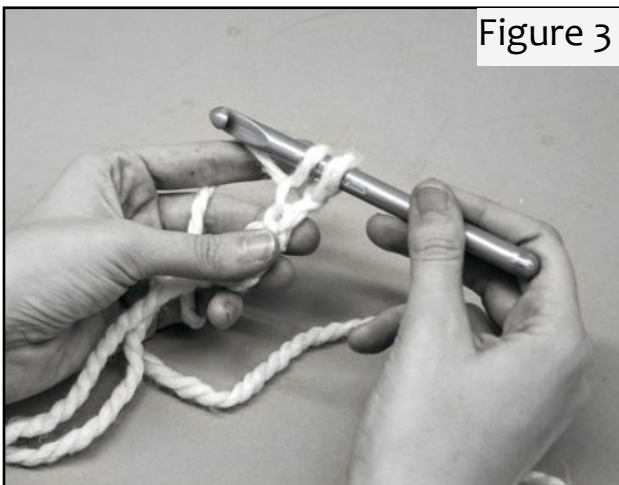


Insert hook from front to back in the center of the second chain from the hook (2 loops on hook). [Figure 1]

Wrap the yarn, from back to front, around the hook (this is called yarn over and is abbreviated yo). [Figure 2]



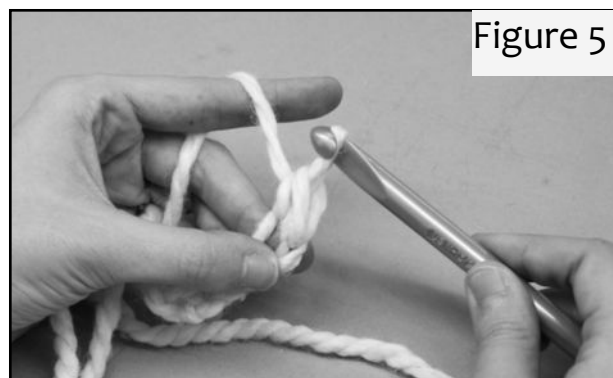
Draw the yarn through the chain (2 loops on hook). [Figure 3]



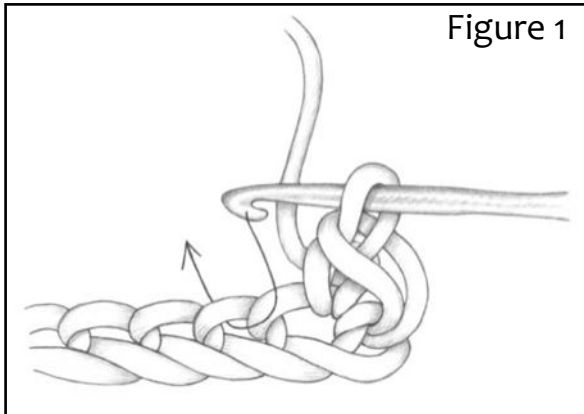
Yo once again. [Figure 4]



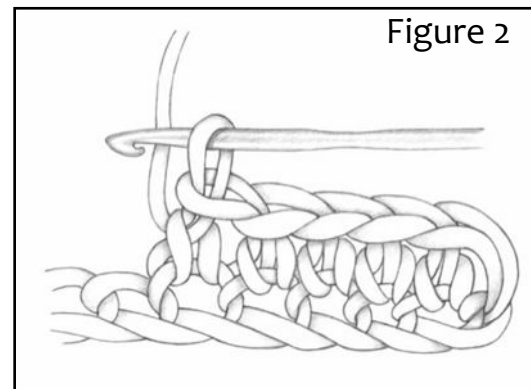
Draw through 2 loops on hook (one sc complete). [Figure 5]



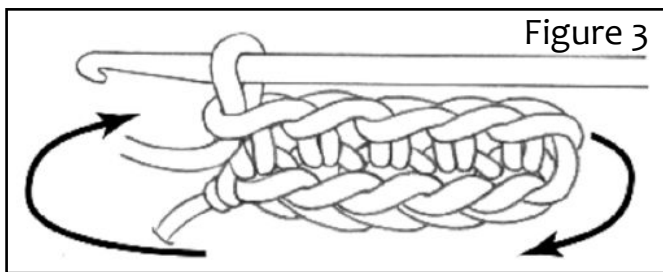
Insert hook in the center of next chain, [Figure 1]



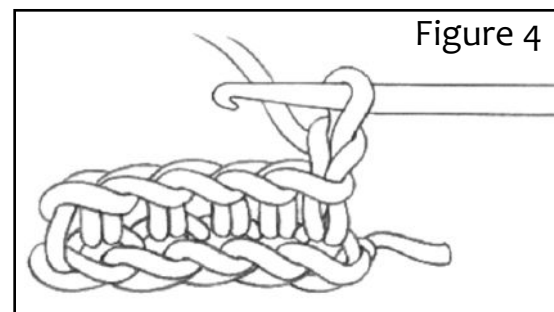
yo, draw yarn through stitch, yo, draw yarn through 2 loops on hook. Repeat across to end of foundation chain. [Figure 2]



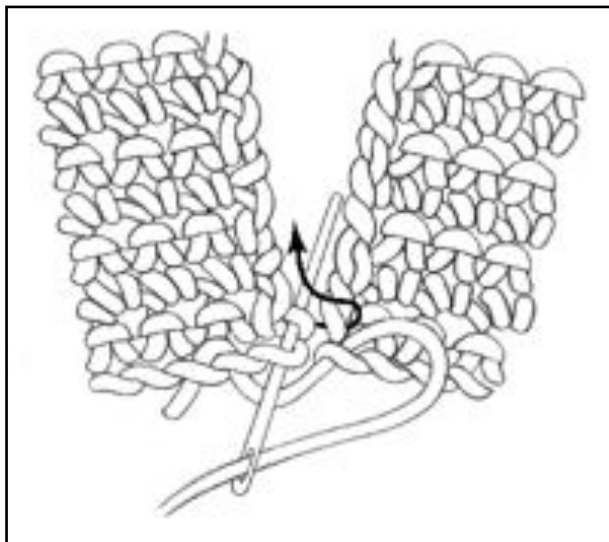
To begin the second row, turn your work. [Figure 3]



Chain one for the turning chain (this does not count as a stitch). [Figure 4]



Invisible Seam



Place the 2 pieces right sides facing up (that's the side you want to show), next to each other, matching stitches across the side edges.

Thread needle with a length of yarn. With the needle, weave the yarn through the stitches on one piece, bringing needle out at the corner to begin sewing. Leave a few inches of yarn woven through fabric to secure. Do not make a knot.

Insert needle through the corner of opposite piece and draw yarn through.

Insert needle through next row-end stitch on the first piece and draw yarn through.

Continue to sew up the seam, working in a zig zag pattern for the length of the seam. Weave yarn through several stitches to anchor it, then cut tail.

WHIP STITCH SEAM



Figure 1

Holding your fabric with the right sides facing in and the edges together. [Figure 1]



Figure 2

Insert the yarn needle in the corner of your fabric, under one strand of your foundation chain and both sides of the first stitch of your last row. Pull, leaving a 6" tail to weave in later. [Figure 2]

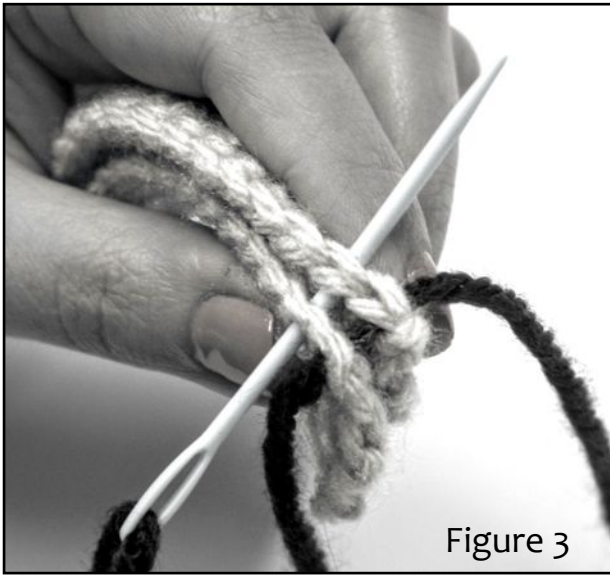


Figure 3

Repeat, bringing your yarn needle in the same direction under the next 2 stitches. [Figure 3]



Figure 4

Repeat across, keeping your stitches even but not too tight. [Figure 4]

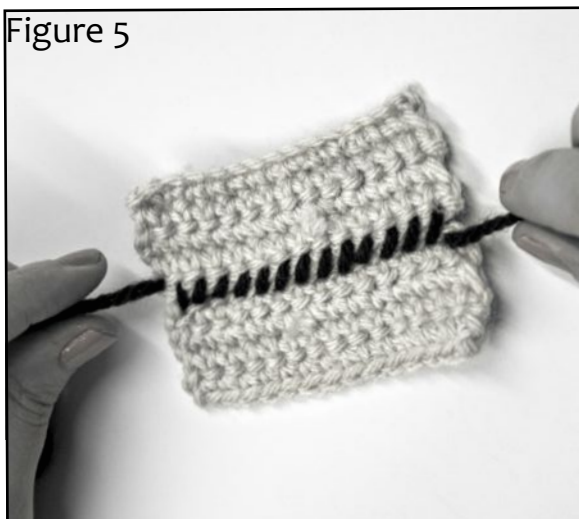


Figure 5

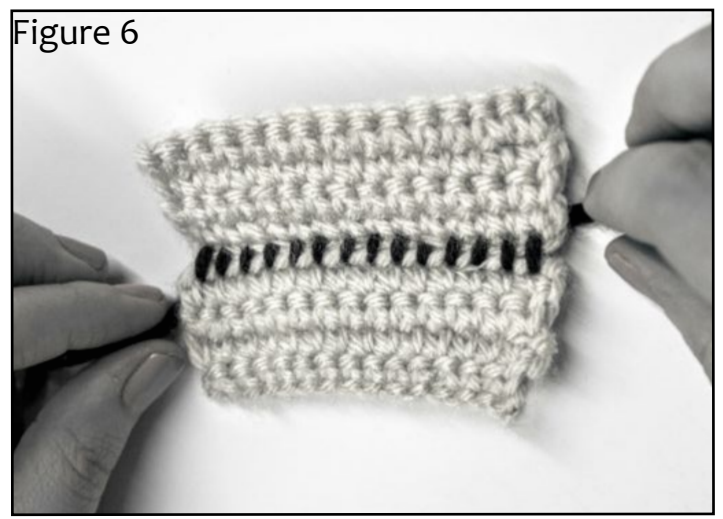


Figure 6

When you have secured all stitches, pull the seaming yarn tight. [Figures 5 & 6]