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# Free PDF crochet guide for beginners: hook chart, yarn weights and 5 stitches

Hook sizes, yarn weight categories, the basic stitches and a granny square pattern

## Before you start

Use this guide with a hook in your hand. It teaches with text and charts, not symbol diagrams. For your first project, have a skein of category 3 or 4 yarn in a light color, a hook in the range recommended for that yarn (chart 2) and scissors.

The steps work for both hands. If you are left-handed, hold the hook in your left hand and work from left to right.

A yarn over (UK: yarn over hook) means wrapping the yarn over the hook from back to front. It is part of every stitch.

## Chart 1: crochet hooks

Trust the millimeters. Letters and numbers vary from one manufacturer to another: a G-6, for example, is 4 mm in the reference chart and 4.25 mm in some brands.

| mm | US | UK/Canada (old) |
|---|---|---|
| **2.0** | — | 14 |
| **2.25** | B-1 | 13 |
| **2.5** | — | 12 |
| **2.75** | C-2 | — |
| **3.0** | — | 11 |
| **3.25** | D-3 | 10 |
| **3.5** | E-4 | 9 |
| **3.75** | F-5 | — |
| **4.0** | G-6 | 8 |
| **4.5** | 7 | 7 |
| **5.0** | H-8 | 6 |
| **5.5** | I-9 | 5 |
| **6.0** | J-10 | 4 |
| **6.5** | K-10½ | 3 |
| **7.0** | — | 2 |
| **8.0** | L-11 | 0 |
| **9.0** | M/N-13 | 00 |

| mm | US | UK/Canada (old) |
|---|---|---|
| **10.0** | N/P-15 | 000 |

Source: Craft Yarn Council (YarnStandards.com), accessed November 3, 2026. UK/Canada column: secondary source; actual size varies by manufacturer. — = no US letter or no confirmed number.

## Chart 2: yarn weight categories

The category number may appear on the yarn label. Gauge (UK: tension) is how many single crochet stitches fit in 4 in (10 cm). These are guidelines: the pattern you follow always comes first.

| Cat. | Name | Hook (mm) | Hook (US) | Gauge in 4 in (10 cm) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **0** | Lace (fingering, 10-count thread) | steel 1.4 to 1.6; regular 2.25 | steel 6, 7, 8; regular B-1 | 32 to 42 double crochets* |
| **1** | Super fine (sock, fingering, baby) | 2.25 to 3.5 | B-1 to E-4 | 21 to 32 |
| **2** | Fine (sport, baby) | 3.5 to 4.5 | E-4 to 7 | 16 to 20 |
| **3** | Light (DK, light worsted) | 4.5 to 5.5 | 7 to I-9 | 12 to 17 |
| **4** | Medium (worsted, afghan, aran) | 5.5 to 6.5 | I-9 to K-10½ | 11 to 14 |
| **5** | Bulky (chunky, craft, rug) | 6.5 to 9 | K-10½ to M-13 | 8 to 11 |
| **6** | Super bulky | 9 to 15 | M-13 to Q | 7 to 9 |
| **7** | Jumbo | 15 and up | Q and up | 6 or fewer |

Source: Craft Yarn Council (YarnStandards.com), accessed November 3, 2026. Category names as the source writes them. *Category 0: the source measures in double crochet stitches and notes it is hard to measure; follow the pattern.

## The basic stitches

Each stitch with the name used in US patterns and in UK patterns, sorted by height. Abbreviations in parentheses. This guide uses US terms, with the UK term next to it.

| Stitch | US | UK |
|---|---|---|
| **Chain** | chain (ch) | chain (ch) |
| **Slip stitch (no height)** | slip stitch (sl st) | slip stitch (ss) |
| **Short stitch** | single crochet (sc) | double crochet (dc) |
| **Medium stitch** | half double crochet (hdc) | half treble (htr) |

| Stitch | US | UK |
|---|---|---|
| **Tall stitch** | double crochet (dc) | treble (tr) |
| **Magic ring** | magic ring (MR) | magic ring (MR) |

- Slip knot: make a loop with the yarn tail, pull the working yarn through it and tighten it on the hook. It does not count as a stitch.
- Chain (ch): yarn over and pull through the loop on the hook. Each new loop is 1 chain.
- Slip stitch (sl st; UK ss): insert the hook into the stitch, yarn over and pull through the stitch and the loop on the hook in one motion.
- Single crochet (sc; UK double crochet): insert the hook, yarn over and pull up a loop (2 loops on hook). Yarn over and pull through both.
- Half double crochet (hdc; UK half treble): yarn over, insert the hook, yarn over and pull up a loop (3 loops on hook). Yarn over and pull through all 3.
- Double crochet (dc; UK treble): yarn over, insert the hook, yarn over and pull up a loop (3 loops). Yarn over and pull through 2; yarn over and pull through the last 2.
- Magic ring: wrap the yarn around two fingers, insert the hook into the ring, pull up a loop and chain 1. Work the stitches into the ring, then pull the tail to close it.

## Watch out: one name, two stitches

Double crochet is a tall stitch in a US pattern and a short stitch in a UK pattern. A pattern that uses single crochet follows US terms, because UK patterns do not use that name. The same goes for gauge (US) and tension (UK), two words for the same measure.

## Turning chains and foundation chain

Each row starts with chains that bring the yarn up to the height of the stitch. Not every pattern counts the same way: when the pattern says otherwise, follow the pattern.

- Single crochet: 1 turning chain, which does not count as a stitch
- Half double crochet: 2 turning chains, in most patterns
- Double crochet: 3 turning chains, which count as the first stitch of the row
- On the foundation chain, single crochet goes into the 2nd chain from the hook, and double crochet into the 4th
- Example: a chain of 15 gives 14 single crochets
- The slip knot is not a chain, and the loop on the hook is not a stitch

## Pattern: 3-round granny square

Materials: category 3 or 4 yarn and a hook in the range from chart 2. The finished size depends on the yarn and hook. Uses chain, slip stitch and double crochet. In UK terms, read every dc as tr (treble); the ch 3 counts as the first stitch either way.

1. Start: ch 4 and join into a ring with a sl st in the first chain (or start with a magic ring).
2. **Round 1:** ch 3 (counts as the first dc), 2 dc in the ring, ch 2; [3 dc in the ring, ch 2] 3 more times. Join with a sl st to the top of the ch 3. Result: 12 dc and 4 corners.
3. **Round 2:** sl st in the next 2 dc and into the corner space. Ch 3, (2 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in the same space, ch 1; [(3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in the next corner, ch 1] 3 more times. Join with a sl st. Result: 24 dc.
4. **Round 3:** sl st to the corner as in round 2. Ch 3, (2 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in the corner, ch 1, 3 dc in the side space, ch 1; [(3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in the corner, ch 1, 3 dc in the side space, ch 1] 3 more times. Join. Result: 36 dc.
5. Finish: cut the yarn, pull it through the last loop, tighten and weave in the ends on the back.
6. To make it bigger: each new round adds 1 group of 3 dc per side. The count is 12 times the round number: 12, 24, 36, 48.

## 5 common beginner mistakes

- Holding the yarn too tight: the hook won't go into the next row. Keep a firm grip without choking the yarn.
- Skipping the turning chains: the edges slant. Check the turning chain list at the start of each row.
- Losing count: count your stitches at the end of every row or round, before you turn.
- Reading a UK pattern with US terms: check the stitch page before you start.
- Using a hook that is too small for the yarn: the fabric turns stiff. Go back to chart 2 and stay in the category's range.

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**About this material**

Free informational guide made by our team. The charts follow the Craft Yarn Council (accessed November 3, 2026) and are guidelines: actual sizes vary by manufacturer. We are not responsible for the results of your projects.

Source: Craft Yarn Council (YarnStandards.com), hook and yarn weight charts, accessed November 3, 2026

Secondary source for the UK/Canada hook column: freevintagecrochet.com, accessed November 3, 2026