

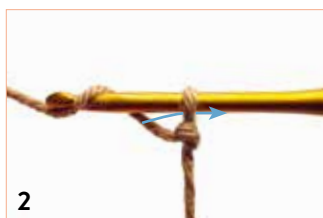
Crochet techniques

UK crochet terms are used throughout this book. For a UK to US conversion chart please refer to page 24.

STITCHES

CHAIN STITCH (ch)

- 1 Tie a slip knot on the hook (1).
- 2 Wrap the yarn over the hook (2) and draw the yarn through the first loop (3). Repeat as many times as required to make a foundation chain (4).



WHAT IS A 'YARN OVER'?

To work a yarn over, you simply need to wrap the yarn over the hook before or after having inserted the hook into a stitch. You can pass the yarn under or over the hook (see the X-shaped double crochet stitch on page 11, which illustrates the two versions of yarn over).

SLIP STITCH (sl st)

- 1 Insert the hook into the stitch (1).
- 2 Wrap the yarn over the hook (2) and draw the yarn through the two loops (3).



DOUBLE CROCHET (dc)

V-SHAPED DOUBLE CROCHET

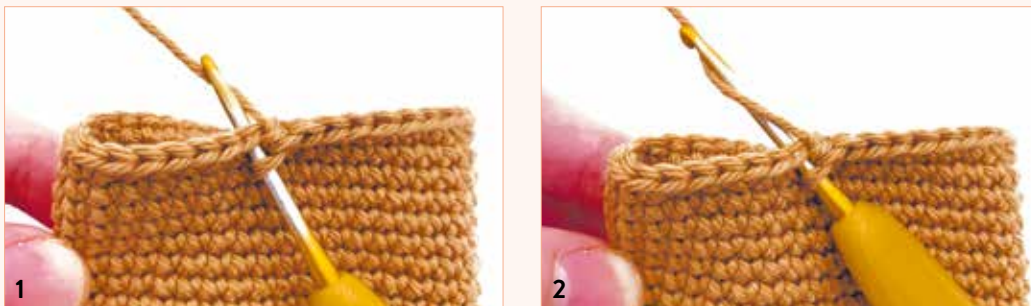
This is the classic double crochet.

- 1 Insert the hook into the stitch (1).
- 2 Wrap the yarn over the hook and draw the yarn through the first loop on the hook (2).
- 3 Wrap the yarn over the hook again and draw the yarn through the two loops on the hook (3 and 4).



X-SHAPED DOUBLE CROCHET

If you work the two yarn overs that you need to form a double crochet stitch in the same way, namely over the hook, the stitch you obtain will be V-shaped. However, if you work the first yarn under the hook (1) and the second over (2), the stitch will be X-shaped. I think this gives a denser, more attractive finish.



To work X-shaped double crochet stitches, follow the steps below.

- 1 Insert the hook into the stitch, wrap the yarn under, passing it under the hook.
- 2 Draw the yarn through the first loop. Wrap the yarn over the hook and draw the yarn through the two loops.

V-shaped stitches (left) and X-shaped stitches (right) using the same hooks and yarn and following the same pattern.



WEAVING IN YARN ENDS

ON AN UNSTUFFED PIECE

1 Thread the end of the yarn into a needle, then weave it through several stitches on the wrong side of the work (**1**).

2 If any excess yarn remains cut it off flush against the back (**2**).



ON A STUFFED PIECE

1 Thread the end of the yarn into a needle, then insert it into the stuffed part, bringing it out and reinserting in different locations (**1 and 2**) until the tail is very short.

2 Cut off flush (**3**).



TYING OFF THE REMAINING STITCHES

When you are working the last round of a circular design there is often a small hole to fill.

1 Work the last stitch, cut the yarn and thread it onto a needle.

2 Insert the **needle** from outside to inside through the front loops of each stitch of the last round (**1**).

3 Pull gently on the yarn to draw the hole closed (**2**), then weave in or leave according to the instructions of the pattern.



MAKING UP

Sew on the arms 1 round below the neck. Using black embroidery thread, embroider eyes over round 10, 4 sts apart. You can make the elves look playful (**21**) or happy (**22**).

Using brown embroidery thread, embroider eyebrows 2 rounds above each eye and a mouth between the eyes over round 12.

Pin the ears in place on either side of the head over rounds 10 and 11, approximately 5 sts from the eyes, then sew in place.

Apply pink blusher to the cheeks, and inside the ears (**21 and 22**).

Place the hair on the head, distributing it nicely across the rounds, with more at the back, then sew into place (**23, 24 and 25**).

Sew the hat to the head (**26**).

Use scissors to trim the hair to the desired length (**27**).



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ARM (make 2)

Round 1: using yarn A, 8 dc into an adjustable ring (8 sts).

Round 2: (2 dc into next st, 3 dc) twice (10 sts).

Rounds 3–5 (3 rounds): 1 dc into each st around (10 sts).

At end of round 5, switch to yarn B and cut yarn A.

Round 6: (4 dc, 2 dc into next st) twice (12 sts).

Round 7: 1 dc TBL of each st (12 sts).

Rounds 8–14 (7 rounds): 1 dc into each st around (12 sts).

Fold the arm flat and line up the stitches on both sides of the opening (14). Work 1 dc in each pair of sts opposite each other along the top to close (6 sts). Cut yarn, leaving a long enough tail for making up.

HEAD

Round 1: using yarn A, 8 dc into an adjustable ring (8 sts).

Round 2: (2 dc into next st) eight times (16 sts).

Round 3: (1 dc, 2 dc into next st) eight times (24 sts).

Round 4: (2 dc, 2 dc into next st) eight times (32 sts).

Round 5: (3 dc, 2 dc into next st) eight times (40 sts).

Round 6: 1 dc into each st around (40 sts).

Round 7: (4 dc, 2 dc into next st) eight times (48 sts).

SLEEVE DETAIL (work for both arms)

Turn arm. Using yarn B and working TFL of round 6, insert hook into last st of round and draw through yarn B (15), 1 ch, 1 htr into each st around, join with sl st into top of first st (12 sts).

Cut yarn and weave in end (16).



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Rounds 8–11 (4 rounds): 1 dc into each st around (48 sts).

Round 12: 24 dc, (dc2tog, 4 dc) four times (44 sts).

Rounds 13–15 (3 rounds): 1 dc into each st around (44 sts).

Round 16: 21 dc, (2 dc into next st, 2 dc) three times, 5 dc, (2 dc into next st, 2 dc) three times (50 sts).

Rounds 17–20 (4 rounds): 1 dc into each st around (50 sts).

Place the eyes between rounds 15 and 16, with the first eye between sts 27 and 28 of round 15 and the second between sts 35 and 36.

Start stuffing the head, then continue stuffing as you go.

Round 21: (8 dc, dc2tog) five times (45 sts).

Round 22: 3 dc, dc2tog, (7 dc, dc2tog) four times, 4 dc (40 sts).

Round 23: (6 dc, dc2tog) five times (35 sts).

Round 24: 2 dc, dc2tog, (5 dc, dc2tog) four times, 3 dc (30 sts).

Round 25: (3 dc, dc2tog) six times (24 sts).

Round 26: 1 dc, dc2tog, (2 dc, dc2tog) five times, 1 dc (18 sts).

Cut yarn, leaving a long enough tail for making up.

Using black embroidery thread, embroider eyebrows 2 rounds above each eye.

Using yarn A, embroider a nose between the eyes on round 16. Apply pink blusher to the cheeks (17).



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