How to Crochet: A 2-Part Series with Carla Scott

Chapter 1 - Essential Skills for Getting Started

Overview

- Hi, I'm Carla Scott. I'm executive editor at Vogue Knitting magazine, as well as editor-in-chief of Knit Simple magazine. I learned to knit and crochet when I was seven and I've been doing it ever since. And I'm so lucky that I've been able to be working in this knitting industry for over 30 years now. I'm also a member of the Craft Yarn Council, also known as CYC. This council was formed to create standards for the knitting and crochet world, such as yarn weights and needle sizes. The CYC also educates hundreds of thousands of people around the country by means of knit and crochet classes. As a member of the CYC and a long-time crocheter, I'm going to teach you the basics of beginning crochet. I'm going to show you how to do a slip knot and a foundation chain. Together, we'll do a single crochet and a turning chain. I'll also show you how to fasten off and weave in your ends. We'll talk about gauge and I'll show you how to read a pattern. With these techniques, you'll be able to complete any beginner crochet pattern.

Materials

- You can use any yarn for these beginning techniques, but I've chosen a medium weight yarn, which is a number four yarn. And I have a few samples here. If you see on the label, there's a little ball with a number in it. This has the number four and the word medium above. That means that this is a medium weight yarn. So if you're trying to substitute yarn, just look at the label. And here's another skein of yarn. If you see here, it has the same number four medium weight yarn, but it's a different yarn. Remember, you can use any yarn in your stash. I've just chosen to use a size four. The other materials you'll need, a tape measure for measuring your gauge. Or this nifty little knit gauge, which we'll talk about later. A pair of scissors. A darning or a yarn needle which has a big eye. And this one has a little curved edge or a straight point. The most important thing is the crochet hook. I've used an H five millimeter hook because it matches the four yarn gauge.

Discussing gauge

- Gauge is one of the most important things that you need to understand when you're crocheting anything. You might want to know, what is gauge? Gauge means the number of stitches and rows to one inch. And you need to learn how to measure your gauge. So before you start any project, you need to make a gauge swatch. That is so crucial. You're gauge needs to match your pattern or the label on the ball band. In this case, I used a four yarn and you'll see here to the right, the gauge is 14 S-C, which means single crochet, by 17 R, which means rows. And this is over four inches by four inches. And it's using a five millimeter, or US H/8 hook. So I have made a swatch that is 14 single crochet across and 17 rows high. The next thing you have to do is to measure that swatch. There are a couple of different tools you can use to measure your gauge. My favorite is this stitch gauge because you can lay it right down on your swatch and measure from the beginning of this red line here to the end of the swatch. And you see, this is perfectly four inches. And I have 14 single crochet along here. So now I'm going to measure in the opposite direction and measure the rows. One tip, be sure that you always measure on a flat surface. Never on your lap, or on a bed, something that's not flat. Has to be completely flat. So I turn my gauge the opposite direction and measure the rows from here to here equals four inches. I know I have 17 rows because I counted them as I was

© Carla Scott and Creativebug Inc., 2026

crocheting. Usually I like to make little tick marks with a pencil and paper every two rows, but there are also gadgets out there, row counters, which are also good to use. Now if you don't have one of these stitch gauges you can also use a tape measure which I have here, and it works just as well. You just have to lay it across the work, both ways. One and two. And that works equally as well. So let's say your gauge swatch doesn't measure exactly four inches square. For example here's a swatch, also knit with the same hook size. It has the 14 single crochet across and the 17 single crochet rows high, but when you measure it, look at that, it only measures three and a half inches. And height, again, three and a half inches. That just means that this crocheter was a tighter crocheter. There's absolutely nothing wrong with that. Some people crochet tightly. Some people crochet loosely. So you'll note that this gauge swatch curls up a bit at the edges. But that's because it's a little tight and that's the nature of the crocheting. But in finishing, you can take care of that. So if your gauge doesn't come out to be four by four square, don't throw up your hands and forget about it. There's simple solutions to this. If your gauge is too tight, this swatch here is three and a half inches, you want it to be four inches, so therefore you want the fabric to be looser. So what you need to do is use a bigger hook. I would go up at least one or two sizes. And keep trying. Go up one size hook, since I used an H, you would go up to the next hook size, which is an I. And do your swatch again. And if it's still, maybe it's three and three quarters, you have to get to that four inches. So you can go up one more hook size and try it again. And most likely, between one or two hook sizes, you will get your four by four inch square. Now let's say your gauge is bigger than four inches. Your swatch measure more, that means it's looser and you want it to get smaller. So by getting smaller, you need to use a smaller hook. So again, the same way you used a larger hook, you go down one or two sizes and keep swatching until you get that gauge.

Stitches

- All projects begin with a slip knot, and I'm going to show you two ways to do that. The first way I'm going to talk about the ends of the yarn. You have a tail end here which is the beginning end of the yarn, and the working tail, and that's the yarn that's coming from the skein. So you're gonna form this into a pretzel shape, so you turn it like so, making a little pretzel with your tail end there, pick up your hook, and insert it underneath this loop in the middle of that pretzel, and with your left hand hold onto both ends of the yarn, and pull it to make a loop. Pull on both ends right up to the shaft of the crochet hook. Don't pull it too tightly, just enough that it's right around the hook like that. Then the second way which is the way I usually do it, is by taking the working end of the yarn, the yarn coming from the ball of yarn, wrapping it around two fingers on your right hand. Bring it around and pull the working yarn through the center like so, grabbing it with your left hand. Drop your fingers, and it's the same loop that you did with the pretzel, just using your hands. So then you pick up your hook, insert it into the loop, and pull on both ends until it fits around your crochet hook, and there you have a slip knot. Once you have the slip knot on your hook, you can work the foundation chain. With the yarn held in your left hand, the working yarn, and make sure it's the working yarn and not the tail end, because if you use the tail end, when you get to the end you won't have enough yarn, that's something that people tend to do, and so just make sure that you're not using the tail end, you want the long end coming from the ball. Wrap the yarn any way you'd like around your left hand, we're going to do a yarn around the hook, so you're going to put the yarn underneath your hook like that, grab with your left hand the tail end of the yarn, and hold onto that slip knot there, and with the hook you're gonna pull that yarn through the loop on the hook, and you've made one foundation chain. You're going to continue in that same way. Bring the hook

© Carla Scott and Creativebug Inc., 2026

under the yarn, holding onto that chain that you've made with your left hand, grab that yarn with the hook, and pull it through the loop that's on the hook. Now you wanna remember to not make this chain too tight, because otherwise it'll make that first row difficult to go into. So let's just keep going, we're going to chain 15, I've already done two. That's three. Four. Five. Six. And as you're going move your hand up the chain. Seven. Eight. Nine. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14, and 15. Now remember I said I had 14 single crochet on my gauge swatch, you'll notice that I chained 15 even though I'm going to be working 14 single crochet. That's because the last chain that you worked does not count as a stitch. Next you're going to work a row of single crochet into this foundation chain. So as you can see, here is the last chain that you made, so you're gonna skip that chain. This here looks like a little V, these chain stitches look like Vs going in here. You're going to insert your crochet hook right in the middle of that V and put it through the loop, and the other thing to note here is that you're gonna have two strands on top of that hook to make sure you've gone through the chain correctly. Just as you were chaining before, you're going to put the hook under the yarn, grab it, and pull it through the loop. So on the hook we had the last stitch that we chained, and a new loop on the hook, so there are two loops on the hook. Now you're going to bring your hook under the yarn again, and pull it through both loops on hook. So now you only have one loop on your hook. The whole way across the row, after you finished your single crochet you will have one loop on the hook. So now let's insert it into the next chain, as before into the V. Making sure you go through both loops. Pull the yarn through, you now have two loops on your hook, and you can pull down a bit on your work like that so that the loops are nice and loose to pull the yarn through both loops. You have a second single crochet made. And you continue in that way across the entire row. Now this first row is always the trickiest and the hardest to do. Don't be frustrated, just keep going, and once you get that first row of single crochet done, it will be so much easier after that. And sometimes you have to push it through a little hard, but that's okay. Another thing is make sure you have enough yarn pulled out from the ball, you wanna have enough slack here so if it's too tight, if it's hard coming from the ball it will make your stitches tight as well, so always have plenty of extra yarn pulled out from the ball. So you keep going across. Into each chain, again hold this chain with your left hand, to pull it out so you can see exactly where you're going into the stitches. And if you pull it, it's a little easier to get your hook through. Oh as you see I split a stitch there, so let's take that out and do it again. So I'm going to go into ... The full stitch. Bring it through, and around. So now I'm at the last chain, note this slip knot, this not at the end here does not count. So I'm going to insert it into the chain, and there we go. Let me pull it through. And we have our first row of single crochet. Next you have to turn your work, you turn it around like so. And again making sure that you have the working yarn not the end yarn, and you're going to chain one, just as you did as the foundation chain, you're going to yarn over the hook and pull it through. And that chain one does not count as a stitch, it just gives it the height so that when you go back working over the row it doesn't slant, it just makes a nice even edge. So now you're going to do your second row of single crochet. Turn the work around, you see Vs again looking similar to the crochet foundation chain. Insert your hook into the first single crochet. If you look here you've got the V on top of the hook, you've gone through both loops of that V. You're gonna wrap the yarn around the hook, bring it through, you have two looks on your hook, yarn over the hook again, and bring it through both loops. You'll find that going through the single crochet stitches is so much easier than going through the chains, because the single crochet is looser. Going to the second single crochet the same way, front to back, through the V. Yarn over, pull it through, and through both loops on the hook. And into the next single crochet. Around, pull it through, through both loops on hook. Insert it into the single crochet stitch. I

© Carla Scott and Creativebug Inc., 2026

always like to look and make sure that that V's right there. Pull it through, and yarn over through two loops. Continue making your swatch by turning at the end of every row, chain one, and working your single crochet across each row. Keep going in this way until you have the desired number of rows in your swatch.

Finishing
- In any project or any swatch that you make, you have to learn how to finish it off. In crochet, we call the last stitch to fasten off. So I'm going to show you how to fasten off the last stitch. So you have completed your final single crochet and there's one loop on the hook. You're going to cut your yarn, leaving a few inches, like so. you're going to take that last strand, pull it through the loop on the hook, all the way through, and tighten it. And there you have your stitch fastened off. Nothing will unravel. Now, you have a few ends here. What are you gonna do with those? You're gonna have to weave them into the wrong side of the work. The first thing, this end, which was the beginning end, is a little bit long, so I'm going to cut that so it's easier to sew it in. Now you have to decide which is the right or the wrong side of the fabric. In this case, both sides, it's reversible. This single crochet stitch looks the same on either side. So what you need to do is determine what edge you prefer. There's this edge or if you look around the other edge, this is a little more bumpy. I prefer the smooth edge to be my right side, so that's what I'm going to choose as my right side. Now you want to turn your work to the wrong side. And you're going to use a tapestry needle or a yarn needle. Thread that strand, that's why it's such a big eye, so that it could hold the yarn. Thread that just as you were sewing a button. And you want to work it through, I like to work it through the edge of the fabric. And you wanna weave it a couple of different directions back and forth into the edge like so. Do it at least three or four times into the side edge. Another option would be to work it into the stitches from behind. And the same, in the same way, you're gonna go through different directions. So I'm gonna go up through this stitch here and then down through the next stitch, always weaving in several different directions to keep the yarn from unraveling or coming out. Up through one bump and out through another. And there you have it, either along the side or along the back end in the stitches. And then you cut your yarn very close. Make sure you don't cut any of the fabric. And there you have the strands woven in. When you turn it around, here's where they were here, if you turn it around, you do not see any evidence of that yarn being woven in. And then you would do the same thing with this tail end yarn.

Reading a crochet pattern
- Once you've learned the basics of crochet, have made your gauge swatch and understand exactly what gauge is, you eventually will come upon a crochet pattern. I'm going to walk you through a very basic pattern that I have here. It's for a skinny scarf, worked in single crochet. Let's look at the beginning. Here they list the supplies first. The name of the yarn, the fiber content, how many grams or ounces are in a single ball or skein of yarn. Then the next they'll tell you how many you need. In this pattern you need one ball of color number 04111 denim mist heather. Obviously if you wanna do a different color that's absolutely no problem, you can decide whatever color you'd like. Next they tell you what size hook to use. This calls for a US H eight or five millimeter crochet hook. Then it says or size needed to obtain gauge, very important. That's where you're gauge comes in. As I mentioned before, if your gauge doesn't match the gauge given here, you'll have to use a different size hook, and that's okay. The next is the gauge itself. This pattern calls for 13 single crochet and 14 rows equals four inches or ten centimeters. So in order to make your gauge swatch, you would

© Carla Scott and Creativebug Inc., 2026

chain 14 for you base chain, your foundation chain, and work 13 single crochet into that foundation chain. Then your swatch would be a total of 14 rows, checking them off as you crochet them, and then you do you measuring to make sure it is a four inch square. Now here's where those symbols come in from the Craft Yarn Council. As you can see here there are four little bars, three white and one blackened in. That one blackened in bar represents a beginner, and underneath it says the word beginner, but if it doesn't, you would know that one blackened in bar is a beginner project, so this would be suitable for any beginner crocheter. Right underneath is the yarn label, the medium weight size four yarn, so if you wanted to substitute and could not find or did not want to use the particular yarn that was mentioned here, then you would look for a yarn that had this number four medium weight on the label, and that's the yarn you can choose. Now let's move on to the meat of the instructions. One very important thing to understand about instructions is abbreviations. Abbreviations are used in almost every pattern. At the beginning you will see a list of the abbreviations used in this particular pattern. B-E-G stands for beginnning, C-H is a chain stitch, R-E-P, repeat, and so on. Once you understand the abbreviations, you can go on into the instructions. Chain 14, so you would do your foundation chain over 14 chains. First row, you're beginning your first row right side. In this case, the first row is the right side of the work. One single crochet in second chain from hook. As we did in the foundation chain, you've skipped that first chain and work into the second chain from the hook. One single crochet in each chain across. In other words, work a single crochet to the end of the row. Turn, turn your work. Here they spell out that you will have 13 single crochet in total, that's just to be sure that you understand that you should have 13 at the end. Now we go to the second row. Chain one, there is always a chain one at the beginning of any single crochet row. One single crochet in each single crochet from previous row, so in other words work a single crochet into the one from the row below. And you notice there are periods between each section. Then you turn your work again. Repeat last row until work from beginning measures 68 inches long. So you continue to repeat this last row or the second row over and over until your piece measures 68 inches. From beginning means from the very beginning of that chain, and then you fasten off, very simple. And your scarf is complete. So now you have the basics for crocheting. I know that that first foundation chain row is really difficult, but just keep practicing, keep trying. I promise you, once you get it, you'll be crocheting all the time. So find a project and get crocheting.

Chapter 2 - Advanced Beginner Techniques

Overview

(upbeat music) - This class is a continuation of Beginner Crochet One, in which I will discuss gauge, create a chevron pattern. In addition, I'll show you how to do a double crochet, how to change colors, and how to work over your ends, and how to seam your pieces together. We'll go over an advanced beginner pattern, and in the end, you will have further honed your crochet skills. (upbeat music)

Materials

- You can use any yarn to follow along, but for this swatch that I'm going to show you, I've chosen three different colors in a size four medium weight yarn. So get three different colors and you'll need a size H five millimeter hook, a darning needle, sewing needle, a pair of scissors, and either a stitch gauge or a tape measure in which to measure your gauge swatch.

© Carla Scott and Creativebug Inc., 2026

Understanding gauge
- I can't emphasize enough how important gauge is. In this case I've done a single crochet swatch with 14 single crochet and 17 rows. You take a stitch gauge, this is my favorite tool in which to measure, and lay it across the fabric and voila look at that, four inches exactly in stitches. Then let's turn it around this way and see if the row gauge is four inches, and from here to here, exactly four inches. So now you're ready to begin your project. Remember if your gauge swatch does not measure exactly four by four inches, it might be bigger or smaller, all you need to do is this, if your gauge swatch measures more than four inches that means it's a little too loose. Therefore you have to go down at least one or two sizes and swatch in the smaller size hooks until you get to the four inches square. If your square measures less than four inches then you have to go larger and use at least one or two sizes larger hook and again, swatch it each time until you get the four inches square.

Single and double crochet, changing colors, and chevron patterns
- Every project begins with a slip knot and a foundation chain. Take the yarn, wrap it around your two fingers of your right hand, bring the yarn in your left hand, slip it through the middle forming a loop, take your crochet hook, insert it into the loop, and pull on both ends, tightening it a little bit. Now you're going to chain. In this swatch, I'm going to chain 24. And to do that, you bring the yarn under the hook, grab it with the hook, bring it through the loop on the hook. Always one chain on your hook. Bring your hook under the yarn, pull it through the loop. And you're gonna continue in this way until you have 24 chains. Next I'll work a single crochet into the foundation chain. You need to skip the first chain from the hook, then you insert the hook into the second chain, going under two loops, wrap the yarn around the hook, pull it through, and you now have two loops on your hook. You're going to wrap the yarn around the hook again and draw them through the two loops. Insert the hook into the next chain, remember to go through both loops, wrap the yarn, bring it through, and again, through the two chains on the hook. Continue in this way to the end of the row. Another basic stitch is the double crochet, similar to the single, only this time, when you turn the work as you did in the single crochet, you chain three instead of one, and that is because a double crochet is higher, so you have to do a longer crochet chain, and that is a chain three. So, you've now chained three and that is considered the first double crochet of the row. Now, since that is considered the first double crochet of the row, you're gonna skip this first stitch on the row below, so you're not going to work into that stitch. The first thing you do before you insert the hook is you're gonna wrap the yarn around the hook, which is called yarn over hook. So, you're going to skip the first stitch which is this stitch right here, the first V from the row below, and you're going to insert your hook into the next stitch from the front to the back, wrap the yarn around the hook, bring it through, and now you have three loops on your hook. So, you're going to first wrap the yarn around the hook and draw it through the first two loops, and once again and draw it through the second two loops. And there you have a double crochet. And as you can see, it's a lot higher than a single crochet. So, let's try that again. Yarn over hook, insert the hook into the next stitch, yarn over hook and draw the yarn through. Yarn over and draw through two loops, yarn over and draw through the last two loops. Yarn over the hook, insert from front to back into that next stitch, yarn over, pull it through. Yarn over through two loops, making sure you get the entire strand of yarn, and the last two. So, continue the double crochet to the end of the row. Turn your work, chain three, and then work back, and I'm going to show you how you finish off the end of the next row. So, now I'm at the end of the second double crochet row, and as you can see, there's one more double

© Carla Scott and Creativebug Inc., 2026

crochet left, let me work into that. And remember at the beginning you had a chain three, that counts as one double crochet, so you have to work into the top of that chain to complete the row. So, you're gonna yarn over your hook, go right into the top of that chain, yarn over the hook, draw through once, and draw through twice. And you've now completed the double crochet row. Now I'm going to show you how, by using single crochet, decreasing and increasing will create a Chevron pattern. So, I'm going to work it in single crochet, so, this time, I'm going to just turn my work in chain one, as you would for a single crochet. So, you're going to work two single crochet into the stitch from the row below. So, insert the hook from front to back into that first stitch, yarn over, pull up a loop, yarn over and draw through two loops. You're going to do that again into the same place. You see that hole there? You're gonna go right back into that same stitch you went in for the first time. Insert front to back, yarn over, drop a loop and pull through. So, you've now worked two single crochets into the first stitch. Now you'll work even for a little bit. You're going to work into the next four stitches. Single crochet into the next stitch, one, two, three, and four. Now the next thing is you're going to skip two stitches, one, two. And insert your hook into the third stitch from below and make a single crochet. By skipping those two stitches, you're decreasing two stitches. Now you're going to SC into the next three. One, two, and three. So, you have four single crochet either side of that decrease. Now at the beginning, you increased two, but the next stitch, you're going to increase three stitches, so you're going to work three single crochet into the next stitch. Fork one, insert that hook right into that same stitch, pull the fabric down if you need to see exactly where it is, two, and one more time, three. So, by working three single crochet into one stitch, you've increased two. Before, where you skipped the two stitches, you decreased two so you have to compensate by increasing two. Now you work another four single crochet. One, two, make sure you have yarn pulled out from the ball, three, four. So, you skip the next two stitches, single crochet into the next four stitches, two, three, four. And now you're going to work two single crochet into the last stitch. Now, because I showed a double crochet before and we're building on this swatch, there is a chain three at the end which is considered a stitch, so we're going to insert the hook into the top of that chain and work two single crochet. If you were just doing this Chevron pattern, you would have a base of single crochet in which to work and you would be working this last stitch into a single crochet. But for this purpose, we're going to do two single crochet into the last chain. Now your pattern matches on both sides, you have two increases on either side. We're going to turn the work and work another Chevron row just as before, but before we get to the end, I'm going to show you how to join a new color. So, we turn the work, chain one, two single crochet into the very first stitch, one, two. And we work four single crochet, one. You're going to skip two stitches, you see here how the two decreases create a little V? So, you're gonna skip one, two, and do four more single crochet. Then three single crochet into this next stitch and that causes the peak. One, all in the same stitch, two, three, four singles. One, two, three, four, skip two, one, two, do four more. One, two, three, four. Now you're at your last stitch and you're going to do two single crochet into this last stitch. We'll do the first one, one. Now, here's the key, on the second stitch, the last stitch before your color change, you're going to drop a loop and you have two loops on your hook. So, the next thing you need to do is you're going to join the new color. And you're gonna pull it through those two loops on the hook. So, just take your new color, hold both ends with your left hand, and pull that new color through. And there you have joined your new color. Let's continue with the pattern stitch. Turn the work, and chain one. Now you're using your new color. At this point, if you'd like, you can just cut the yarn 'cause you're not gonna use it again for a little bit, and you have the new yarn joined. What I like to do is just tie a loose knot between the two yarns until you sew it in later,

© Carla Scott and Creativebug Inc., 2026

that just keeps them both in place. So, you pick up the new yarn and continue crocheting in the Chevron pattern across the row. Two in the first, and four. Now, before I go too far, another thing that you can do, you always have to weave in the ends at the end, but let's say you'd rather not, there's an easy way, I'm going to pull this back, an easy way to weave in the ends from the wrong side. So, you're going to hold the two short strands at the back of the work, pick up your working yarn, and hold them with your left hand. You're going to work two single crochet into the first stitch, so when you go into that first stitch, make sure that your hook goes under these two loose strands. Grab the working strand, pull it through, and through two stitches. So, I'm doing two stitches in the first stitch. Let's do it again. Make sure they're underneath these two strands, and complete the single crochet. And keep holding onto these strands. Let's do for the next four stitches. You're gonna do four single crochet. One, two, and you see as I'm moving along, those strands have gotten hidden underneath the gray yarn. Three, and four. It's good to carry these yarns at least four or five stitches and that will alleviate having to weave them in later, so when you're done, you can just cut those ends. So, any time you need to change colors, whether it be at the beginning of the row, in the middle of the row, all you have to do is work to the last two stitches, the last two loops on the hook, whether it be single crochet, double crochet, and once you have two loops on the hook, you pull the new color through those last two loops and your change is complete.

Fastening off and seaming
- I've continued in the chevron pattern and as you can see here, I've changed colors every two rows. Two rows of the darker gray, two rows of the lighter gray, and finally two rows blue. And I wanted to show you here the peaks and valleys that this chevron makes. The decreases right here, where you skipped the two stitches are your valleys, and where you increased or worked three stitches into one stitch is the peak. So here you have a beautiful chevron pattern. Now you need to fasten off. Finished my last stitch, got one loop left on the hook, so I cut the yarn, leaving a few inches for seaming. And I draw the yarn through that last loop on the hook and pull tightly. And there we have the finished piece. Now you have a few ends left over here, and what do you do with them? Remember we wove some of the ends in while we were crocheting, so that's great. All you have to do now is cut these strands close to the edge. Make sure you don't cut any of the crocheting. And those strands are in there nice and tight and they're not going to go anywhere. In this last color change I did not weave in the end. So if for some reason you don't like to or you forgot to weave in the ends while you were crocheting you need to use a tapestry needle. Insert the yarn into the big eye of the needle, and here I'm using the gray yarn. So you want to weave through the gray stitches even though it won't show on the right side. In the event that it might show through, you won't see anything. So you're going to go in and out of the stitches. Follow the bumps, go in different directions. By sewing in different directions, you keep that yarn in place so that it won't poke out through to the right side. And you do this over maybe five or six stitches. And I'll do one more with the blue. And here I'm going to weave it into the blue. Now you see there's a little tiny hole there so I'm going to just close it up with this yarn. Here you go. And weave it back and forth into the blue stitches for about four or five stitches. And as before, you cut the strands close to the fabric. And there you have a nice, smooth edge and you cannot see anything on the right side and they're completely woven in. Many times you will have more than one piece and these pieces need to be seamed and are joined at the side edges. I have two single crochet swatches here. I'm using a contrasting yarn instead of the color of the yarn on the swatch just for clarity. Normally you would use this same blue yarn to seam them together. I'm going to show you what is called the mattress

© Carla Scott and Creativebug Inc., 2026

stitch. Insert your needle into one corner on one piece and into the corresponding corner on the other piece. Laying the swatches or the fabric down on a flat surface is the best way to go. Don't put it in your lap, just lay it down. It's much easier to see and much easier to do. So now you're going to go back and forth between each piece. Insert the needle under the horizontal bar, just inside the edge on the right piece. Pull the yarn through. Then in the corresponding stitch on the left hand side pull the yarn through. As you go along pull it a little bit tightly. Underneath, just inside the edge... Pull it through. And on the other side. Continue up the entire side of the piece on both sides. As you can see as I pull tightly, that gray yarn almost disappears. So if you were using the blue yarn you would not see it at all. They sometimes call this invisible seaming because it is practically invisible.

Reading a crocheting pattern
- The next step up for a beginner are those patterns marked "Easy." Here we have a pattern, as you can see, there are two bars blackened in. That's called an easy pattern. Let's look from the beginning. Here it tells you what stitches you need to use: a chain stitch, a foundation row, and a single crochet. This pattern happens to be for a pair of fingerless gloves. You have stated here the finished measurements, finished circumference is about seven inches, and here it says "will stretch to fit", which means that it will fit a number of sizes. The finished length, about 8 inches. A list of all your supplies, including the yarn and the colors used, and here they talk about color A, B, and C. That just makes it easier, when you're reading the pattern, they will refer to these colors as Color A, Color B, or Color C. It's a lot less words than saying "Colonial Blue," "Mustard," or "White." The crochet hook size and a yarn needle. Here we have some more abbreviations that you may not have seen before, and the most important one is this double star. This means "repeat instructions between the asterisks." So when we get to that part I'll explain a little more. Another abbreviation you may not have seen is "sk" for "skip" as well as "sts" for "stitch" or "stitches." Note that before you begin the pattern, they have the stripe sequence. So that means that when you're working the stripe pattern, you would do this. "Work four rows with A." And when it says work, it means working into the pattern that you've established. So you work four rows with A, Color A, which is Colonial Blue up here, two rows with B, two rows with C, four rows with A, and so on. This tells you how many rows of each color that you will be working. Then there are a few notes here that give you some idea of how the glove is made. Here, the gloves are worked flat, and then sewn together, leaving an opening for the thumb. That's so that you know that when you're making it, you've got this flat piece and you won't be surprised to wonder how is this going to be made into a glove. They explain how to change colors, which we showed you, to work the last stitch of the old color to the last yarn over, yarn over with the new color, and draw through all the loops. And note number 3, "To make finishing easier "work over ends of old colors as you go." Which is something I've already showed you how to do. Now let's go to the pattern itself. It starts with "Gloves (Make Two)." I always find that really funny, because I don't think that anyone's going to just make one glove. However, that's what they say, and then I guess that one reason they could say that is there are occasions where you might have a left glove and a right glove, and the thumb's on a different side. So perhaps that's why they say make two. Anyways, I think that's funny. Here they say, "With A, chain 35," so you look to see what is color A, which is Colonial Blue, and you chain 35 with the blue. "Row 1 (RS)." Now this abbreviation was not in the list from before, but that means right side. "Work two sc in second chain from hook." As I showed you how to do, you're gonna work two single crochet into the second chain from the hook, all in that second chain. "Sc in next 4 chain." That

© Carla Scott and Creativebug Inc., 2026

means one sc in each of the next four chain. Now here comes that asterisk. "Skip next two chain." I'm reading them out instead of using the abbreviations. "Skip next two chain. Single crochet in next four chain. "Three single crochet in next chain." And that's making the peak, working three single crochet into one stitch. "Single crochet in next four chain." Now you have a semi-colon. Then it says "repeat from star." That means you go back to the instructions, where the star is, and you're going to start again. So once you've finished all the instructions up to this semi-colon, you're going to go back to the star and repeat. "Repeat from star to last seven chain." So you're going to continue working from the star to the semi-colon, as many times as you can until you get the last seven chain. And then you work as follows: "Skip next two chain, single crochet in next four chain, "two single crochet in last chain." And that should use up all of the rest of your chains. Then it gives you the sentence, "You will have 34 single crochet at the end of this row." And that's just a helpful hint to make sure that you have the 34 single crochet. It can't hurt to go back and count your single crochet to make sure that's what you have. One thing I really suggest that you do is to read through the entire pattern before you start crocheting. That way you get an idea of what's coming up. You'll understand the pattern stitch. For example, when it says to continue following the stripe pattern, you want to make sure you understand what that stripe pattern is. Four rows A, two rows B, whatever it might be. It's a good idea to keep track of your rows, just so that you don't fall out of pattern. Don't be scared by a pattern. I know it looks like a lot of words, with abbreviations, but think of it as a recipe. It's a recipe for making the garment, the gloves, whatever it is you're making. And if you think of it that way, those abbreviations, as they do abbreviate in recipes, you really understand what they mean. They are very similar to the actual word, and once you get used to them, you won't even think about it anymore. And once you get used to the pattern, you may not even have to refer to the written pattern anymore. So just keep trying and I'm sure you're gonna love it.

© Carla Scott and Creativebug Inc., 2026