

The Loop Stitch

Working the crochet loop stitch is very similar to crocheting the basic single crochet stitch. But this advanced crochet stitch creates a loop of unworked yarn on the WS of the piece or the side farthest from you as you are working the stitch.

This stitch technique is ideal for creating fur on amigurumi, hair on dolls, fringe, or a textured shag fabric that is perfect for rugs, scarves, and other accessories.

The loop stitch requires only your crochet hook, yarn, and an easily created tool to create even loops. One of the

easiest ways to control the size of your loops is to use a piece of cardboard cut to the desired size of the loops. If you are creating 1" loops, cut a piece of cardboard that is 1" wide and long enough to work several stitches over the piece, perhaps 4-6" long. You can also use a ruler or a dowel. Some patterns will tell you to use your fingers to hold the loop at the appropriate length. This takes a little bit more practice but is a handy skill if you do not have a tool nearby.

Let's look at how to work the crochet loop stitch.

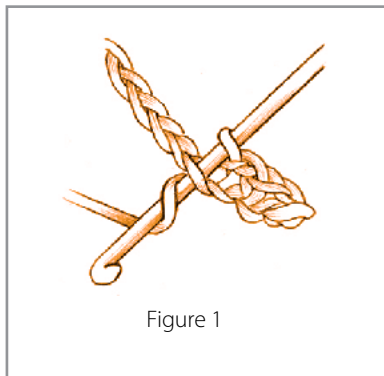


Figure 1

Row 1: Work the desired number of chains and work a row of single crochet stitches across your foundation chain (fig 1). You can work foundation single crochet stitches in place of the foundation chain and first row of single crochet stitches.

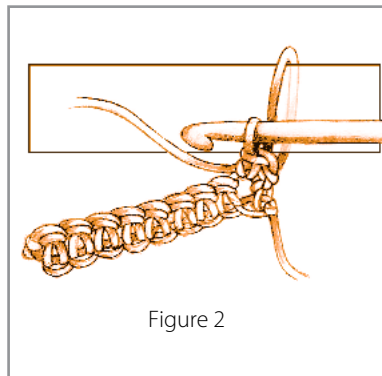


Figure 2

Row 2: *Insert your hook in the next stitch, hold the cardboard or other loop tool as discussed above in back of the piece, wrap the yarn around the tool and bring the end back toward you, yarn over and pull up a loop, yarn over and draw through the two loops on your hook to complete the single crochet (fig 2); repeat from * across. Slip the cardboard, ruler, dowel, or other tool across your piece as you work, removing it from the last stitches when you reach the end of the row.

Row 3: Single crochet across. The loop stitch is generally worked only on one side, though you can work it on both even and odd rows if you want loops on both sides of your project.

Repeat Rows 2-3 until your piece reaches the desired length.

The crochet loop stitch creates an intriguing textured fabric that is perfect for shag carpets, amigurumi creations, or fabulous accessories. Try this simple crochet stitch today.

Linked Crochet

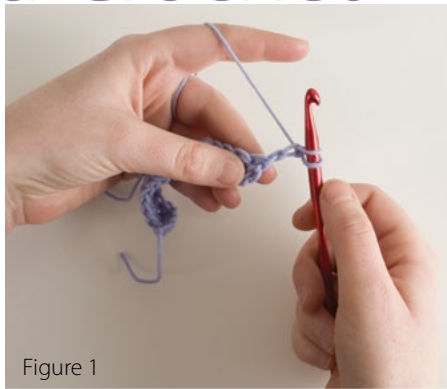


Figure 1

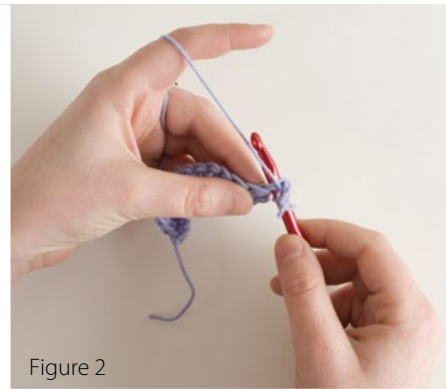


Figure 2



Figure 3

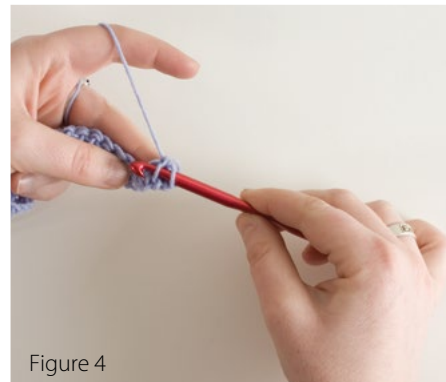


Figure 4

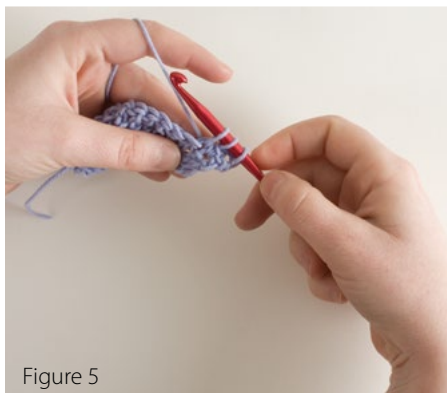


Figure 5

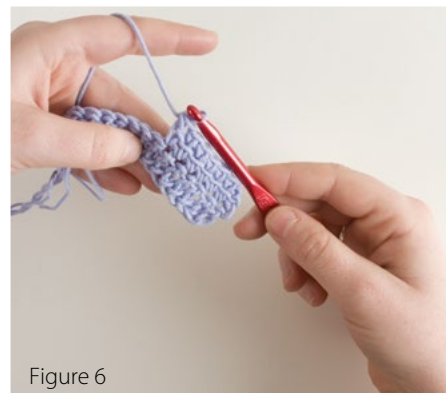


Figure 6

Working linked crochet will make you feel like a crochet wizard. You work a new stitch in the horizontal bars of the previous stitch, in a sort of mini Tunisian method. When you get to the end of the row of linked double crochet (shown here)—presto! You've made, in effect, two rows of single crochet. Linked crochet is a lot drapier than single crochet, without the bulk. So you can make light spring garments. Because the stitches

are linked, there's full coverage, without little peek-a-boo holes. And—no disrespect to our favorite basic stitch—it's a lot more engaging than single crochet.

To make linked double crochet: Working on a base row of stitches:

Step 1: Chain two, insert hook in second chain and draw up a loop (Figure 1), insert the hook in the stitch below as

normal (Figure 2), [yarn over and draw through two loops] two times. First stitch completed (Figure 3).

Step 2: Insert hook in top horizontal bar of stitch just made (Figure 4) and draw up loop; insert hook in next stitch as usual and draw up loop (three loops on hook; Figure 5), [yarn over and pull through two loops] two times. Repeat Step 2 across (Figure 6).

The Bullion Stitch

The bullion stitch, can be a tricky stitch to master. But with the right tools and a few little tips, this stitch, also called the roll stitch, can let you add texture and visual interest to crochet projects.

1. MULTIPLE YARN OVERS

The bullion is a series of yarn overs that are drawn together in the final stitch. The best hook to complete the bullion stitch effectively is a long, slender, in-line hook. The best yarn to use is a tightly plied one.

To begin the stitch, loosely yarn over the number of times called for in the pattern. Working the yarn overs loosely is key to easily drawing the hook through all the loops. If you can't get your loops loose enough, hold the handle of another smaller crochet hook alongside your hook and wrap the yarn over both. Slide the second crochet hook out after wrapping before completing the stitch.

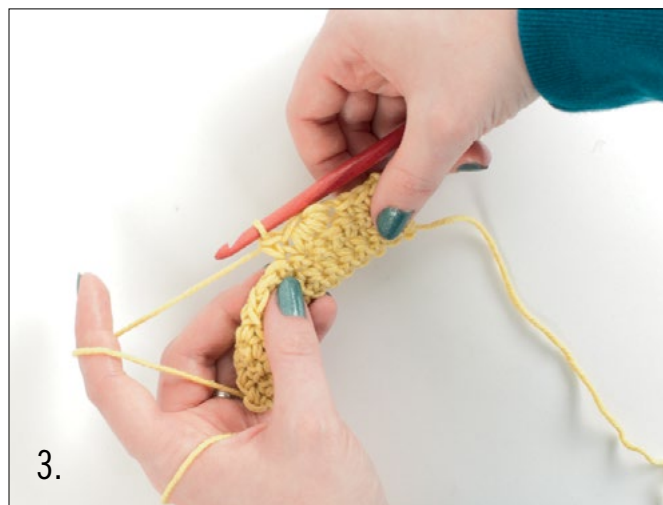
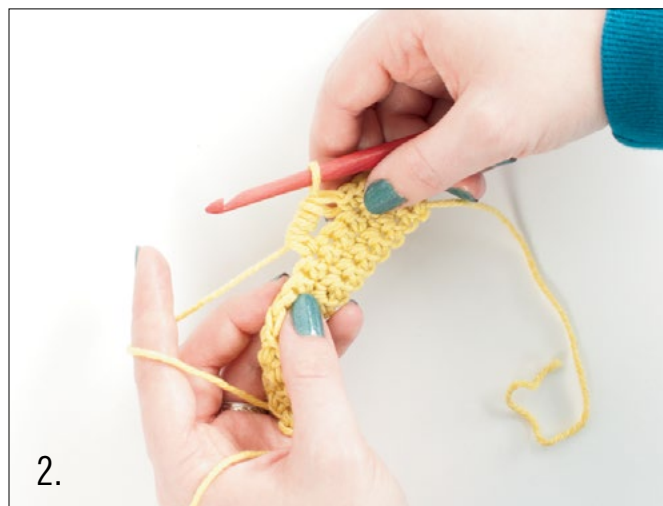
2. YARN OVER AND PULL UP A LOOP

Yarn over and draw through all the loops on the hook. As you draw the hook through, firmly hold the loops in place with the hand that is not holding the hook. If the loops do not slide easily, pick up each loop and pull it off the hook as you draw through.

3. FINISHED BULLION

To close the bullion, yarn over and draw through the last loop on the hook before working the next stitch.

If you get this right away, that's terrific! Most people new to the stitch have to do a bit of ripping out before getting it right. The key to the bullion stitch is to practice it until your hands become familiar with the tension required when making the yarn overs and drawing the hook through.



SOLOMON'S KNOT (SK)

Figure 1

Draw up a long loop on hook to the length specified in pattern; yo, draw yarn through loop.

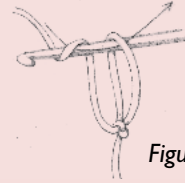


Figure 1

Figure 2

Long chain stitch completed as first part of Solomon's Knot.

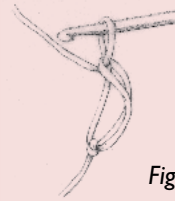


Figure 2

Figure 3

Insert hook from front to back between back loop of chain and 2 front loops. Yo, draw yarn through back loop (2 loops on hook).

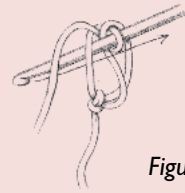


Figure 3

Figure 4

Yo once more, draw yarn through both loops on hook ("single crochet" made).

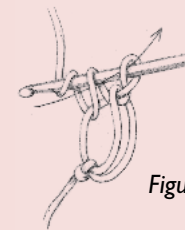


Figure 4

Figure 5

A completed Solomon's Knot stitch, showing how the "single crochet" at the top secures the long "ch st" initially made.

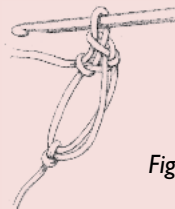
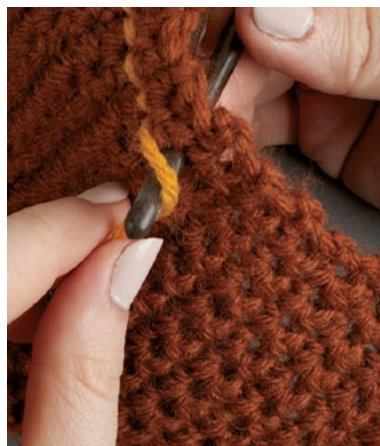


Figure 5

Slip-Stitch Embroidery

Surface crochet uses a range of techniques to add color and dimension to a crochet project. The most basic technique is slip-stitch embroidery. In this issue, we offer three different applications of slip-stitch embroidery, ranging from simple to more complex. When working these stitches, use a hook a size or two up from the one used in the main pattern. For a neat look, maintain a loose, even tension that does not pucker the fabric or distort the stitches.



SINGLE-LINE DECORATIVE EDGE

With the right side of the fabric facing you and the yarn held on the wrong side, insert the hook from front to back in the desired stitch or space and pull up a loop. Insert the hook in the next space, and—taking care to maintain a loose, even tension—yarn over and pull up a loop. Pull through the stitch, but not tightly. Tip: When you insert the hook, take care not to split a stitch or strand of yarn.



PARALLEL LINES

Work your first line as for the single-line decorative edge. For subsequent lines, crochet an even distance from the previous line. You can do this by eyeing the fabric and checking frequently. Or place a piece of tape along the edge of the first line and then work along the opposite side of the tape (sewing stores have precut seam masking tape that works well for this task). Tip: To avoid puckering the fabric when working around a curve, work into every other stitch.



FREEFORM SHAPES

Freeform shapes add a delicious designer touch. First, practice drawing the pattern with a pencil and paper. When you're happy with the design, lightly sketch the design on the crocheted fabric with a washable fabric pen or pencil. Crochet along the line using the same method as the single-line decorative edge and working in every other stitch along curves. Tip: If you don't like the way the line is developing, simply pull out the stitches and rework, inserting the hook into a different place.

5 Tips for Working Wire Crochet



JOE COCA



Yes, it's true! You can actually crochet with wire. Although you can work any traditional crochet stitch with wire, the resulting piece has an organic appearance with not entirely uniform stitches that remind me of the unique nature of crochet.

Wire is easier to crochet with than you might imagine, and I love the precision of making each stitch the same size. Wire holds each turn and bend of the crochet stitch, highlighting its unique construction.

If you are planning on trying wire crochet for the first time here are a few tips found helpful.

- Exaggerate each stitch as if you were trying to see exactly how each stitch is worked. These larger movements make working with the stiff wire easier.
- Hold the wire loosely. Tight tension will crimp the wire and makes it difficult to pull the hook through or insert the hook in a stitch.

- Remember that wire has no elasticity, but the stiffness of the medium also highlights the beauty of the crochet stitch.
- Slide each chain or stitch to the same point on the shaft of your crochet hook. Wire is stiffer than thread or yarn, and by always sliding each stitch to the same point on your hook, you can ensure that the chains or stitches are uniform in size.
- Metal crochet hooks can scrape off the coating on wires that have a colored coating. Plastic hooks have the strength needed and won't rub off this coating.

For a free wire crochet pattern, download the Gold Lace Necklace and Bracelet from *Wire & Bead Crochet Jewelry Patterns: 4 Free Crochet Necklace, Bracelet, and Earrings Designs*.

Create Crocodile Stitches

The crocodile stitch, while quite simple, is a beautiful 3D technique that can be incorporated into complicated crochet patterns. You can work the crocodile scales offset from each other or directly in a column. So let's look at how the stitch is created.



The crocodile stitch is worked into a base of V-stitches. I worked several V-stitches on a base of double crochet and separated by single crochet stitches.



On the next row, work a multiple of double crochet stitches down the first post of the V-stitch. For my "scales," I worked five double crochet.



After you have worked down the first post of the V-stitch, chain one. Now work the same number of double crochets, in our case five, up the second post of the V-stitch. Single crochet in the next single crochet and repeat the crocodile stitch in the next V-stitch.



On the next row, work a V-stitch in each V-stitch and a single crochet in each single crochet across. Then repeat the crocodile stitch in each new V-stitch. Voila! The crocodile stitch is demystified.

Learn the Basics of Hairpin Lace

Hairpin lace or hairpin crochet was traditionally used for trims, insertions, edgings, collars, or to form rosettes that were used for tablecloths or along the edge of shawls. These days this stitch is used to create entire skirts, sweaters, and scarves. Hairpin differs from most crochet methods in its use of a frame or loom (available in craft stores), as demonstrated below.



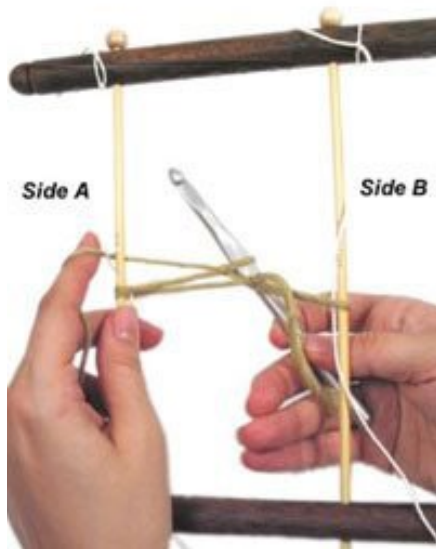
Step 1. Getting started and making first stitch

Hold the frame with spacer at bottom and rods 3" (7.5 cm) apart. With yarn, make loop with slipknot and place loop on left rod (counts as first loop), with knot in center between rods. Yarn end wraps from front to back around right rod, and yarn from ball is in front of right rod. Insert hook through loop from bottom to top. Hook yarn and draw through loop.



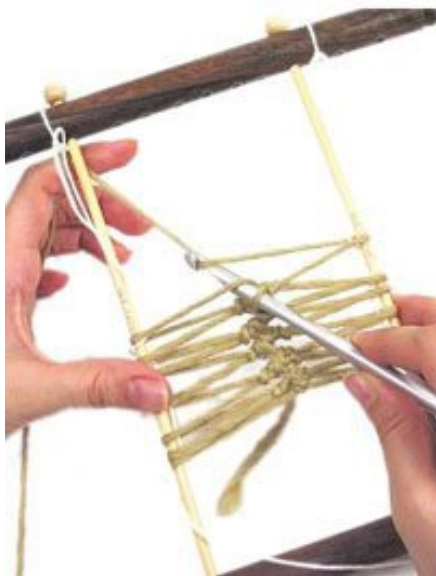
Step 2. Moving hook to back, making room for wrapping yarn around loom

**Drop loop from hook, with hook behind frame. Insert hook from back to front through same loop (just dropped), turn frame clockwise from right to left keeping yarn to back of frame. This allows the yarn to wrap around the frame without the hook getting tangled in the wrap, while retaining the position to continue stitching up the center.



Step 3. Finish 2nd stitch

Insert hook under front strand of left loop, yarn over hook, pull loop through. Yarn over hook, pull through 2 loops on hook (single crochet made).**



Step 4. Continue

Repeat from ** to ** for desired length of strip. This photo shows what the strip looks like with about 10 stitches complete. Remember: You are crocheting in rows of 1 stitch-per-row vertical crochet.

Discover for yourself the fun of hairpin lace!

Learn to Join Hairpin Lace

Hairpin lace is a technique that uses a simple loom and a crochet hook to make a series of loops into a long lace strip. During the Victorian era, this lacemaking technique was very popular with women who couldn't afford the more expensive bobbin lace.

Do you find your interest piqued by this beautiful, intricate technique? With just a few basic skills, you will be ready to tackle hairpin garments and, perhaps, create some designs of your own. Once you have mastered the strip-making technique, here are a couple of simple methods to add a decorative edge your strips.

Single Crochet Edge

This simple, easy to master technique leaves a clean edge on a hairpin strip. You can use the same yarn in a different color to add some pizzazz to an accessory or garment.



Attach yarn by inserting hook from front to back through the first loop in the hairpin strip. Make a slip stitch.



Insert the hook through the same loop as the join, yarn over and pull a loop, yarn over and draw through two loops. This makes your first single crochet. Repeat this step through each hairpin loop to the end of the strip. Voila! A simple and beautiful decorative edge.

Cable Edge

The cable edge is a little trickier, but requires no extra yarn. If your joins aren't quite even, a little blocking with steam or water will even them right out.



Insert your hook from front to back through the first two loops of the strip.



Draw the second loop up through the first loop on the strip.



Repeat the second step to the end of the strip. Fasten off using the loose yarn end at the edge of the strip and weave in the ends.

Enjoy experimenting with all the hairpin lace methods!

Bosnian Lace

You have probably heard of Bosnian crochet, though perhaps you know of it by one of its many other names, including Dutch knitting, shepherd's knitting, pjonning (Norwegian), smygmaskvirkning or påtning (Swedish), gobelinstitch (Danish), or schaapherderssteek (Dutch). This traditional slip stitch technique is not well known in the United States, but has long been a traditional crochet technique in many countries throughout the world.

Bosnian crochet is a slip stitch crochet method in which slip stitches are worked into either the front loop only or back loop only to create a thick, warm fabric. Worked primarily in the round in wool yarn, this stitch was traditionally used to make mittens and hats in climates with cold winters. The traditional Bosnian crochet hook has flat hook at one end, a wide handle, and was generally handcrafted from fishbone, wood, or even old spoons.

More than just a warm fabric, Bosnian crochet's beauty is evident in the creative use of this one stitch. Working slip stitch alternately in a pattern of front loop only and back loop only stitches creates beautifully subtle texture and patterning.

Colorwork was also very popular. Unlike tapestry crochet, which is worked in single crochet over the unused yarn, the examples of Bosnian crochet I have seen stranded the unused color on the wrong side of the piece. Many of the simple colorwork patterns seen in knitted garments were also used with Bosnian crochet.

This traditional slip stitch technique is enjoying renewed interest, but there is still plenty of stitch exploration to be done with this simple technique of working slip stitches in either the front loop only or back loop only to create a colorwork or textured fabric.

Bosnian crochet was usually worked in the round with the colors stranded on the wrong side. After working a few rows of colorwork, I can see how working over the

top of the unused yarn might make the stitches too tall, disrupting the colorwork pattern.

For the center section of these cuff, I decided to play with single color texture by alternating working four stitches in the front loop only and then four stitches in the back loop only. For the last set of four stitches in the back loop only, I worked an additional fifth stitch to create slanted columns of texture. I love the subtle pattern this technique created.

While experimenting with Bosnian crochet, I learned a few important characteristics of this technique.

1. Because it is worked entirely in slip stitch, the fabric tends to be thicker and stiffer than what we think of as traditional crochet. This makes it incredibly warm, perfect for the cold winters where this crochet style originated, but means that it does not have much drape. Play with your hook size and gauge. You can create warm accessories with a smaller gauge or add some drape with a larger gauge.
2. The resulting slip stitch fabric does have significantly less horizontal give than a comparative fabric in single crochet. Keep this in mind if you are crocheting a hat that needs to stretch over your head or a sweater hem or neckline.
3. Because the slip stitches are so short, it can be hard to identify which loop you need to work into next. Try using a light colored yarn when you are first learning this technique. I found that identifying the loops even on the dark burgundy was easier with the majority of the cuff worked in white.

This simple cuff was a fun and easy way to experiment with Bosnian crochet. Find a hook and a couple skeins of yarn and give it a try; I would love to see what you come up with.

Gobelinstitch Cuffs



Getting Started

Finished Size About 7" in circumference and 3" tall. *Note:* These fit my child-sized hands and wrists. To make a larger cuff, try going up in hook size or adding additional stitches in a multiple of 8.

Yarn DK weight wool, 1 ball each in white and burgundy.

Hook Size G/6 (4.0 mm).

Gauge 26 sts and 14 rows = 2".

Cuff

Ch 41

Row 1: With MC, sl st in the 2nd ch from the hook and in each ch around.

Note: Cont working in a spiral.

Row 2: Sl st in the back loop only (blo) in each st around.

Rows 3–4: *With MC sl st blo in next 2 sts, with CC sl st blo in next 2 sts; rep from * around.

Rows 5–6: *With CC sl st blo in next 2 sts, with MC sl st blo in next 2 sts; rep from * around.

Rows 7–14: Rep Rows 3–6.

Rows 15–16: With MC sl st blo in each st around.

Row 17: *Sl st flo in next 4 sts, sl st blo in next 4 sts; rep from * around.

Rows 18–24: Sl st blo in first st, *sl st front loop only (flo) in next 4 sts, sl st blo in next 4 sts; rep from * around. *Note:* The beg of the row will move 1 st to the left each row for Rows 18–24.

Rows 25: Sl st blo in each st around, ending last row at beg of original row.

Rows 26–27: Rep Rows 5–6.

Rows 28–29: Rep Rows 3–4.

Rows 30–37: Rep Rows 26–29. Fasten off.

Glossary

Abbreviations

beg	begin(s); beginning	p	purl
bet	between	rem	remain(s); remaining
blo	back loop only	rep	repeat; repeating
CC	contrasting color	rev sc	reverse single crochet
ch(s)	chain	rnd(s)	round(s)
cm	centimeter(s)	RS	right side
cont	continue(s); continuing	sc	single crochet
dc	double crochet	sk	skip
dtr	double treble crochet	sl	slip
dec(s)('d)	decrease(s); decreasing; decreased	sl st	slip(ped) stitch
est	established	ss	slip stitch
fdc	foundation double crochet	sp(s)	space(es)
flo	front loop only	st(s)	stitch(es)
foll	follows; following	tch	turning chain
fsc	foundation single crochet	tog	together
g	gram(s)	tr	treble crochet
hdc	half double crochet	WS	wrong side
inc(s)('d)	increase(s); increasing; increased	yd	yard
k	knit	yo	yarn over hook
lp(s)	loop(s)	*	repeat starting point
MC	main color	**	repeat all instructions between asterisks
m	marker	()	alternate measurements and/or instructions
mm	millimeter(s)	[]	work bracketed instructions a specified number of times
patt(s)	pattern(s)		
pm	place marker		