

Getting Started – Gathering the Right Tools

This guide is written to support my *Beginners Guide to Crochet* that will be commencing in September 2017. This series will be available for free and will consist of written pictorial guides and a video series to help you to learn and master the craft of crochet! We will start from the basics and add on to it each day until you are comfortable

But before we can start learning, you will need the right tools! This guide will provide you with the following:

- Hooks – types you can buy, sizes, and where to buy them.
- Yarn – some of the best yarns to start with and how to choose the right size
- Accessories – some extras that you will need along the way.

STEP 1 – Hooks.

Hooks come in all different sizes and styles and everyone develops their own preference. Below are my favourites, based on comfort when I use them, and some links to where you can buy them from if choosing to shop online. If choosing from a local store, I have found that hooks with a steel/metal hook are easier to use. I haven't tried wood, but believe they are comfortable too. I have not liked any of the plastic ended hooks that I have tried, I find the yarn does not move as smoothly with them.

Not sure what size hook to buy? It will depend on the yarn that you choose. As a beginner, I would choose a 4mm hook. This suits yarn that is not too thick and not too thin, which you will find easiest to learn with.

So take home notes:

- Make sure your hook is metal
- Start with a 4mm hook.

Here are my preferred choices:



The purple one is my favourite and the one I use the most.

You can buy hooks like these from here on [Love Crochet](#) which ships from the UK.

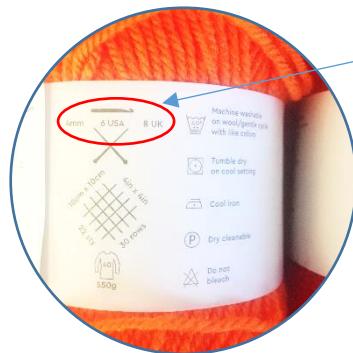
You can buy hooks like these from [Knit Picks](#) which ships from the US.

STEP 2 – YARN

The yarn you buy is going to be dependent on many factors, but your budget and the project will be the biggest considerations. I have tried many different types now and have searched high low for the best ones for price. As I am recommending we start with a 4mm hook, below are my favourites to suit this. These are both priced well for the yarn. One is acrylic and one is cotton. Both are very easy to crochet with and do not tend to split when you use them.

If you're buying from a local shop, don't focus on getting the cheapest. You don't need to buy the priciest either. Things to look for when buying in person:

- Feel it. If it feels stiff you won't like crocheting with it. It should feel soft and squishy. Cotton blend or a good quality acrylic are great to start with. Some 100% cottons can feel quite stiff and make it harder for you to use.
- Read the label and look for the hook or needle size. Look for a 4mm hook, or E-7 hook or even 8ply. Look for these on the label –



- Avoid dark colours. They are hard to see the stitches properly, which will make it hard to learn with. Pick something light or bright.



One of my favourites. 75% pima cotton, 25% acrylic.
LOTS of colours to choose from.
Available from [Knit Picks](http://KnitPicks.com) online in the US.



This is another favourite. 100% acrylic. These too have
LOTS of colours to choose from.
Available from [Love Crochet](http://LoveCrochet.com) online in the UK.



If you're in Australia and have access to a local BigW, then I would recommend the Patons big baby 8ply range. They don't have a huge selection of colours, but it is nice to work with.

STEP 3 – Accessories.

None of these are essential as a beginner, but you will find them handy to have as you gain more experience. Plus they can be super cute! See below for what to look for and where you can get them online.



Stitch markers.

They come in all sorts of shapes and sizes. You will need them if leaving your work unfinished for a day, you will also find them handy when marking rounds if working in circles.

You can find them here online:

[Knit Picks](#)

[Love Crochet](#)



Tapestry needles.

You will need these for weaving in ends or for times when you need to sew squares together.

You can find them online here:

[Knit Picks](#)

[Love Crochet](#)

Other accessories that you will need but will probably find them around the house already are scissors (because yes you will need to cut yarn eventually!) and a ruler or tape measure (because sometimes gauge is important).

And the final accessory is a stitch counter. This can be essential in some patterns. My favourite is an app that I use on my phone. It's created by people from the ravelry site and can be found in the App store for iPhone. Look for K&C Counter which looks like this  or follow this [link](#).

I'm not an android user, but if you search for crochet counter you will definitely find one to use.