

## **BEGINNERS SERIES – LESSON 2**

### ***The Basic Stitches***

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Welcome! This is LESSON TWO of my *Beginner Series* for Learning to crochet. By now you will be comfortable and confident in holding your hook and yarn making a chain that is consistent in size! If you're not quite there yet, that is ok, continue with *Beginner Series – Learning the Foundations*, until you are. We all learn at our own pace, so take as little or as much time as you need,

This lesson is designed to get you familiar with the basic stitches that you need to crochet. By the end of this lesson you will have the know-how, and will be confident to:

- Understand the terminology – both US and UK
- Where to work in the chain
- And using US terms –
  - How to make a slip stitch
  - How to make a single crochet
  - How to make a half double crochet
  - How to make a double crochet

These are the basic stitches to many crochet patterns and special stitches. I encourage you to follow this lesson and practice each stitch until you are comfortable with it before moving on to the next. Once you master one, it will be easier to master the next. It is more important to get your stitches consistent than it is to do them quickly. Speed will increase in time with the more that you practice.

The following steps have been included in this Lesson (Note they have been included for Right Handed only and are in US terms unless otherwise stated):

- STEP 1.TERMINOLOGY – US AND UK TERMS**
- STEP 2.WHERE TO WORK IN TO THE CHAIN**
- STEP 3.HOW TO MAKE A SLIP STITCH**
- STEP 4.HOW TO MAKE A SINGLE CROCHET**
- STEP 5.HOW TO MAKE A HALF DOUBLE CROCHET**
- STEP 6.HOW TO MAKE A DOUBLE CROCHET**

## STEP 1. TERMINOLOGY – US AND UK TERMS.

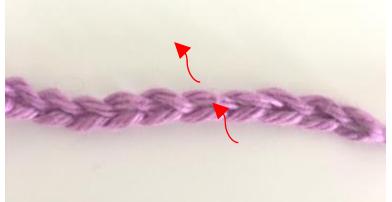
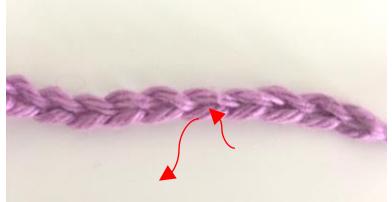
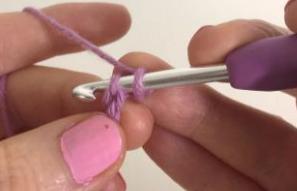
Patterns will be written in either US or UK terms, some patterns (like mine) will also provide both. Below is a quick reference guide to some common stitches and the ones that we will learn in this lesson.

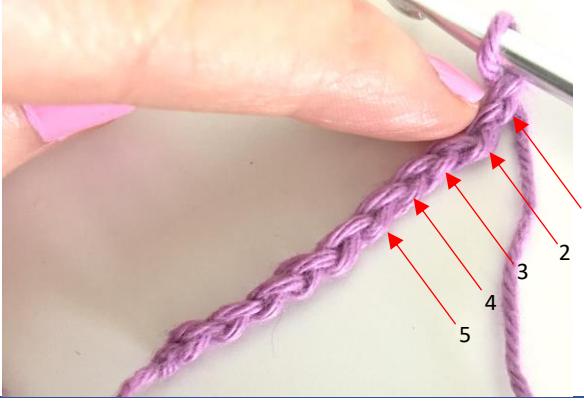
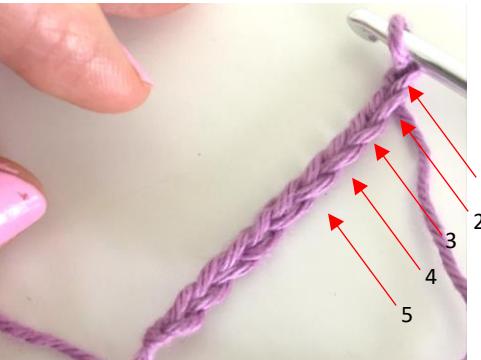
US TERMS	UK TERMS
ss slip stitch	ss slip stitch
ch chain	ch chain
sc single crochet	dc double crochet
hdc half double crochet	htr half treble
dc double crochet	tr treble
tr treble	dtr double treble

## STEP 2. WHERE TO WORK IN TO THE CHAIN.

A chain consists of 3 loops. It can be a personal preference as to where you work in to the chain. My preference is to work in to the “bump” on the bottom as it leaves a nicer finish to the item you’re making. You can also work into the back or front loop of the chain, and even both top loops.

		
<p><b>A chain – top view</b> The top of the chain looks like a V with two loops showing on the top.</p>	<p><b>A chain – side view</b> Looking from the side you can see the “bump” from the bottom and the front or back loop from the top.</p>	<p><b>A chain – bottom view</b> Looking from the bottom you can see the “bumps” that are the bottom loop of the chain.</p>

 	 	 
<p><b>Working in to the back loop</b> Insert your hook in the middle of the V and under the loop at the back.</p>	<p><b>Working in to the front loop</b> Insert your hook in the middle of the V and under the loop at the front</p>	<p><b>Working in to the bump</b> Insert your hook through the 'bump' on the bottom.</p>

	
<p>Counting the Bumps</p>	<p>Counting the V</p>
<p>Counting chains from the hook</p>	

### STEP 3. HOW TO MAKE A SLIP STITCH

A slip stitch is used to join one stitch to another. It is also used to move across from one stitch to another without having to fasten off.

Insert your hook into the stitch you want to join or move to. Yarn over and pull the yarn through the first loop on your hook, then pull the first loop through the second loop on your hook.

		
Insert hook into the stitch joining to or moving to	Yarn over	Pull the yarn over through the first loop on the hook. You will have two loops on your hook.
 <p>Pull the first loop through the second loop on the hook. You will have 1 loop on your hook.</p>		

#### STEP 4. HOW TO MAKE A SINGLE CROCHET

Single crochet is one of the simplest stitches to make.

To make the stitch you need to insert your hook, yarn over, pull the yarn through the first loop on your hook, yarn over, and pull the yarn through both loops on your hook. When the stitch is complete you are left with one loop on your hook.

			
Working in to the second chain from the loop	<p>Insert the hook into the bump  <i>It helps to use your thumb of your yarn hand to hold the bump in place and push the hook against</i></p>	Yarn over	Pull the yarn over through the 1 <sup>st</sup> loop on the hook.

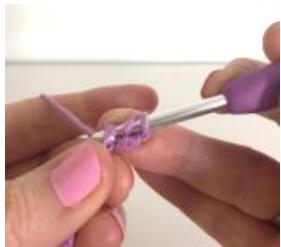
			
Two loops on the hook	Yarn over	Pull the yarn over through both loops on your hook	1 loop on your hook - Stitch complete



### STEP 5. HOW TO MAKE A HALF DOUBLE CROCHET

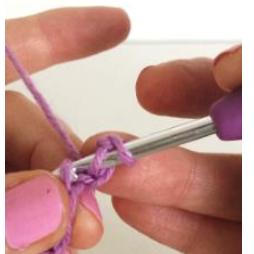
Half double crochet is made by yarning over before you insert your hook into the stitch you're working into. Once inserted, you yarn over again and pull the yarn through the first loop on your hook. You will have 3 loops on your hook. You then yarn over again and pull the yarn through all 3 loops on your hook.

			
Working in to the Third chain from the loop	Yarn Over	<p>Insert the hook into the bump  <i>It helps to use your thumb of your left hand to hold the bump in place and push the hook against</i></p>	Yarn over

			
Pull through the 1 <sup>st</sup> loop	Three loops on the hook	Yarn over	Pull through all three loops on your hook
			
Stitch complete	One row of Half double crochet.		

### STEP 6. HOW TO MAKE A DOUBLE CROCHET.

A double crochet is made by yarning over and inserting your hook into the stitch. Yarn over again and pull the yarn through the first loop on your hook. You will have 3 loops on your hook. Yarn over again and pull the yarn through the first 2 loops on your hook. You will have two loops on your hook. Yarn over again and pull the yarn through the last two loops on your hook. You will be left with 1 loop on your hook.

			
Working in to the fourth chain from the loop	Yarn Over	Insert the hook into the bump <i>It helps to use your thumb of your left hand to hold the bump in place and push the hook against</i>	Yarn over

			
Pull the yarn through the 1 <sup>st</sup> loop	Three loops on the hook	Yarn over	Pull through the first two loops on your hook

			
Two loops on hook	Yarn over	Pull through the last two loops on your hook	Stitch complete



Row of double crochet