

BEGINNERS SERIES – LESSON 3

Working in Rounds and Rows

Welcome! This is LESSON THREE of my *Beginner Series* for Learning to crochet. By now you will be comfortable and confident with how to make the basic stitches! Your tension will be consistent and your stitches will look even. If you're not quite there yet, that is ok, continue with *Beginner Series – The Basic Stitches*, 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 how to work in a round or a row. By the end of this lesson you will have the know-how, and will be confident to:

- Know the difference between a round and a row
- How to count stitches
- How to count rows and rounds
- Make a turning chain know why it is needed
- Start a round using a chain stitch
- Start a round using the magic ring
- Work in a round as a circle
- Work in a round as a square
- Fasten off
- Increase in a row
- Decrease in a row




There is a lot to learn in this lesson! I encourage you to follow this lesson and practice and feel confident in each step before moving on to the next. Once you master one, it will be easier to master the next. You might also find that you start to develop a preference for the type of crochet work that you like. It is ok to not like everything! The important part is to love what you do and love what you make.

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):

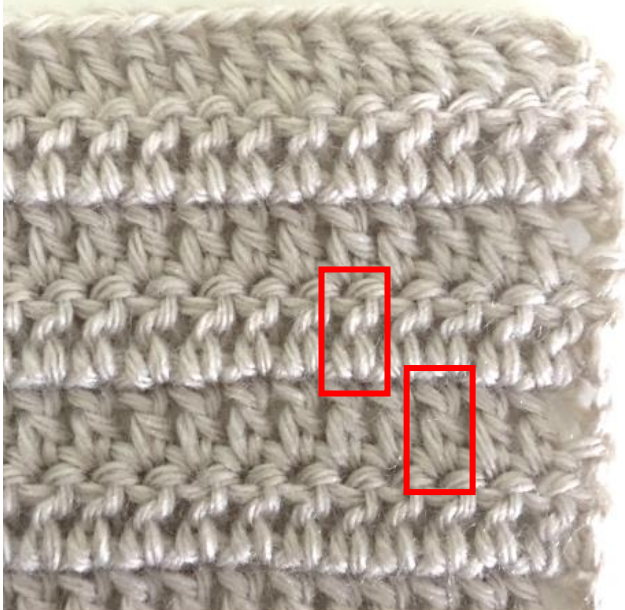
- STEP 1. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A ROW AND A ROUND**
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STEP 1. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A ROW AND A ROUND

In crochet the simplest ways to create a piece are to work in rows and rounds. When working in a round you can keep it as a circle or you can make it into a square or rectangle or even a triangle! For this lesson I will show you rows, and rounds as a circle and square.


		
<p>Piece worked in rows</p> <p>Work from your hook hand towards your yarn hand. When you get to the end you make a turning chain to turn you work and continue in the row from your hook hand towards your yarn hand.</p>	<p>Piece worked as a round</p> <p>You begin by working in a circle from your hook hand towards your yarn hand. Each row is worked in the same direction.</p>	<p>Piece worked as a square round</p> <p>You begin by working in a circle, but create corners with chain stitches.</p>


STEP 2. HOW TO COUNT STITCHES

	<p>Count the posts or count the V in the top of the stitch like you would a chain.</p> <p>The rectangles in the picture are around one stitch in different rows.</p> <p>Practice counting the stitches in the picture – each row has 11 stitches and a turning chain.</p>
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STEP 3. HOW TO COUNT ROWS AND ROUNDS










It is important to be able to count the rows and rounds in your work, especially if there is a requirement in a pattern to keep track of them!

	<p>Similar to counting stitches, you can count the posts or the top of the stitches. It is much easier to count the taller stitches than the shorter stitches.</p> <p>There are 13 rows in this piece.</p>
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	<p>Rounds are particularly important count to ensure that you increase with the right number when needing to keep your piece flat.</p> <p>There are 3 rounds in this piece</p>
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STEP 4. HOW TO MAKE A TURNING CHAIN



Turning chains are made at the end of a row to give height to the first stitches of the next row. Many patterns count the turning chain as a stitch. My patterns quite often don't count it as a stitch, especially when working in rows, so that the edges of the piece end up straighter. When counting the turning chain work into the second stitch on the row. When not counting the turning chain, make one less chain (except for single crochet) and work into the first stitch on the row.



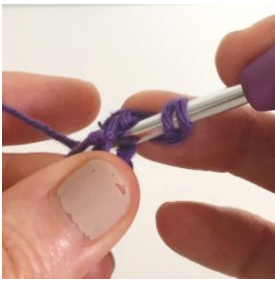

		
<p>SINGLE CROCHET End of row.</p>	<p>Chain 1</p>	<p>Turn piece and you're ready to start new row. <i>If counting the chain then work into the second stitch from the hook. If not counting the chain then work into the first stitch from the hook.</i></p>
		
<p>HALF DOUBLE CROCHET End of row.</p>	<p>Chain 2</p>	<p>Turn piece and you're ready to start new row. <i>If counting the chain then work into the second stitch from the hook. If not counting the chain then work into the first stitch from the hook.</i></p>
		
<p>DOUBLE CROCHET End of row.</p>	<p>Chain 3</p>	<p>Turn piece and you're ready to start new row. <i>If counting the chain then work into the second stitch from the hook. If not counting the chain then work into the first stitch from the hook.</i></p>




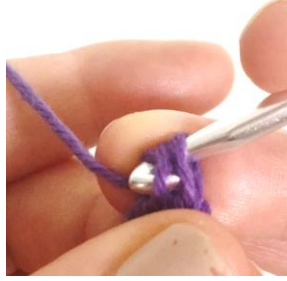
STEP 5. HOW TO START A ROUND USING A CHAIN CIRCLE



This method is the most frequent used in grannie squares. It is best to use when making squares in blankets as it is less likely to come undone when the blanket is being used.

The pattern will tell you how many chains to start to begin with. You will then slip stitch the first chain to the last to make a circle. The make a turning chain to start the row and work your stitches into the circle. This is done by working *around* the chain and not into the stitches. When done correctly you will be able to slide the stitches around the circle. Pictured below is how to start a round with double crochet.

			
Chain 5	Slip stitch the first chain to the last.	Chain 3 (will be counted as your first stitch)	Yarn over


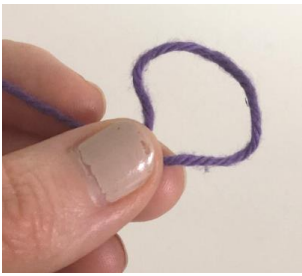

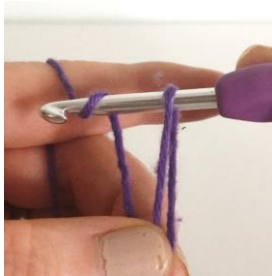
			
Insert your hook into the circle	Yarn over	Pull the yarn through the circle.	You will have 3 loops on your hook


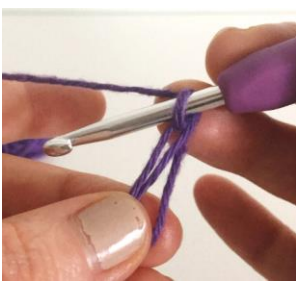


			
Yarn over	Pull through the first two loops on your hook.	Yarn over	Pull through the last two loops on your hook.




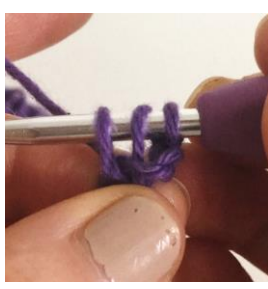
		
Stitch complete	Repeat until you have all the stitches you need.	Slip stitch to the third chain on the turning chain.



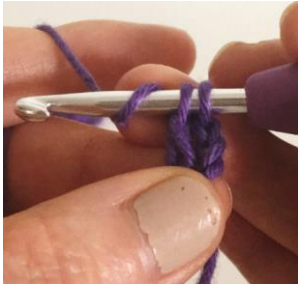
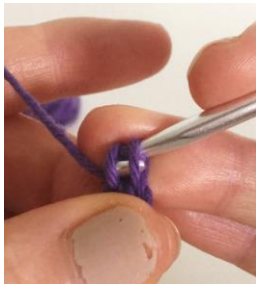
STEP 6. HOW TO START A ROUND USING A MAGIC CIRCLE



Similar to starting a slip knot without making the knot. Using this method enables you to pull the circle closed, which is best when making a hat or making toys. Make sure you are always working over two strands in the circle.

			
Make a circle like you would at the beginning of a slip knot – make sure you have a lengthy tail!	Hold closed with your yarn hand	Insert your hook into the circle	Yarn over

			
Pull the yarn through the circle	Hold the circle so that there are two strands on the side you are working to – the yarn hand side	Chain 3 (will be counted as your first stitch)	Yarn over

			
Insert your hook into the circle	Yarn over	Pull the yarn through the circle.	You will have 3 loops on your hook

			
Yarn over	Pull through the first two loops on your hook.	Yarn over	Pull through the last two loops on your hook.

			
Stitch complete	Repeat until you have all the stitches you need.	Pull the tail to make the ring smaller	Slip stitch to the third chain on the turning chain. Pull the tail to close the circle.





STEP 7. HOW TO MAKE A SQUARE

Squares are made by increasing each round in the corner. How many stitches are worked into the corner will depend on the pattern. In general terms, you will increase by adding a stitch + a chain space + a stitch. What stitch and how many chains in the space will depend on the pattern. In the example below we are making a grannie square. Each grannie stitch is 3 double crochet into a space. In this example a corner is 3 chains. So to increase the size- into each corner we will work 3 double crochet + 3 chains + double crochet.

Round 1




			
Start with a ring	Chain 3 & make 2 double crochet into the ring	Chain 3 to make the first corner.	Make 3 double crochet into the ring
			
Chain 3 to make the 2 nd corner	Make 3 double crochet into the ring	Chain 3 to make the 3 rd corner	Make 2 double crochet into the ring
			
Chain 3 to make the last corner	Slip stitch to the starting chain 3 to close the round	Slip stitch across to the chain space	

Round 2

			
Chain 3	Then make 2 double crochet; chain 3 and 3 double crochet into the corner space.	Then 3 double crochet; chain 3 and 3 double crochet into the 2 nd corner space	Repeat by making 3 double crochet; chain 3 and 3 double crochet into the 3 rd corner space

		
Repeat again by making 3 double crochet; chain 3 and 3 double crochet into the 4 th corner space	Slip stitch to the 3 rd chain of the first chain 3 to close	Slip stitch across to the next chain 3 space (corner)

Round 3





		
Corner is made the same as in round 2.	ON the sides – make 3 double crochet in between the groups of 3 double crochet on the round below.	Continue making corners and working between the double crochet groups to make the sides.

STEP 8. HOW TO MAKE A CIRCLE

Each round is increased by the number of stitches in the first round. This will keep your work flat. If round 1 has 8 stitches, round two will increase by 8 and will have 16 and round 3 will increase by 8 and have 24.

Round two increases by making 2 stitches into each stitch of round 1. Round 3 increase by making 2 stitches into every 2nd stitch of round 2 and so on.

Round 1

			
Make a ring	Chain 3	Work 7 double crochet into the ring	Slip stitch to close





Round 2

			No picture.
Chain 3	Work 1dc into the first stitch	Work 2dc into each stitch	Ss to close

Round 3

	
Increase by working 2 double crochet into every second stitch.	Round three complete

STEP 9. HOW TO FASTEN OFF

			
Slip stitch to close the round	Yarn over	Pull through	Cut the yarn and continue to pull through

STEP 10. HOW TO INCREASE IN A ROW

Increases happen simply by making 2 or more stitches of the row below.

In the example below we have increased 2 stitches into 4 by making 2 double crochet into 2 chain stitches



STEP 11. HOW TO DECREASE IN A ROW

Decreases happen by crocheting 2 or more stitches together.

In the example below we will decrease 4 stitches into 2 stitches by crocheting 2 double crochet together twice

			
<p>Into the first stitch, complete half of a double crochet – stop when you have two loops on your hook</p>	<p>Then start a double crochet into the next stitch and stop when half way through and have 3 loops on your hook</p>	<p>Finish the stitch by yarning over and pulling through all three loops on your hook</p>	<p>Repeat in the next two stitches</p>