How to Crochet- the Very Basics!!

by Aries Jo

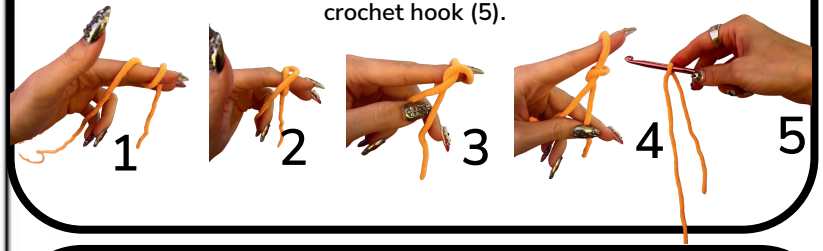


Beginner Crochet Terms & Abbreviations:

Slip Knot (SK), Chain (CH), Yarn Over (YO), Single Crochet (SC), Front Loop Only (FLO), Back Loop Only (BLO), Double Crochet (DC), Half Double Crochet (HDC), Slip Stitch (SL ST)

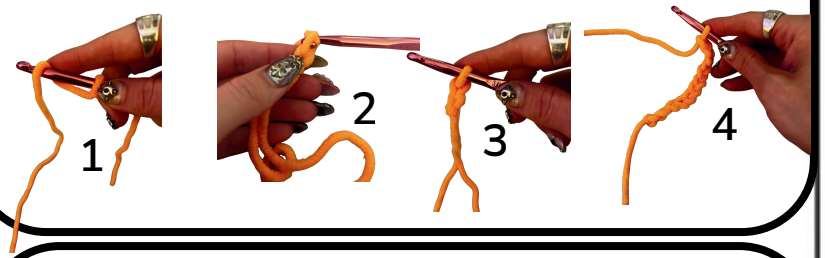
1: Create a Slip Knot

Pull out about 6 inches of yarn from the end of the ball. This is your "tail." The part still attached to the ball is the "working yarn. Wrap the tail around your pointer finger twice (1). Looking at the two strands of yarn on top of your finger, leapfrog the back strand over the front strand ("front" being closest to your fingernail, "back" being closest to your palm) (2). Then, repeat, taking the former front yarn, now back yarn, all the way over the front yarn and down over the tip of your finger (3). Slip your crochet hook into the loop that your finger is in (4). Remove your finger, pull the yarn tail to tighten the slip knot onto your crochet hook (5).



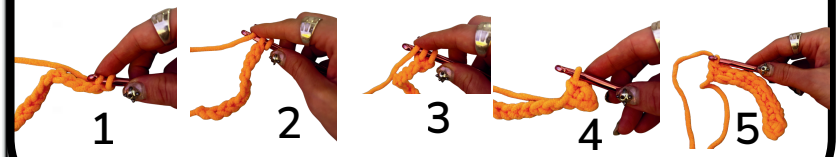
2: Create a Chain

Pinch the base of the slip knot between your thumb and index finger. Let the working yarn (the strand attached to the ball) run over your index finger so you can control the tension. Yarn over (YO) by wrapping the working yarn over the hook from back to front with your non-hook hand (1). With the hook, catch the working yarn and pull it towards the slip knot on your hook. The hook's opening (the throat) should face you. Pull through the loop (2). You now have one new loop on the hook, and you've made your first chain stitch (3). Repeat. Yarn over and pull through again, over and over. Make your chain as wide as you want your project to be(4).



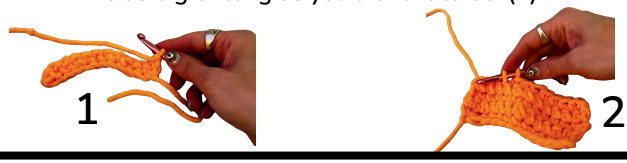
3: Create a Row of Single Crochets

Find your first stitch. Skip the chain closest to the hook. Insert your hook into the second chain from the hook, going under the top "V" (both strands of yarn on the front of the chain)(1). YO(2). Pull up a loop by drawing the hook and yarn-ed over yarn back through the chain stitch toward you. You'll have two loops on the hook. YO again by wrapping the working yarn over the hook once more(3). Pull yarn through both loops. You'll have one loop left. That is one SC stitch complete (4). Repeat SC's across the row: Insert the hook into the next chain, yarn over, pull up a loop, yarn over, and pull through both loops. Work one SC into each chain across the row (5).



4: Chain 1, Turn- Repeat Until You're Finished!

When you reach the end, CH 1 (this is the turning chain, and it doesn't count as a stitch). Then turn your work so the stitches you just made are on the left side (for right-handed crocheters)- it's like the action of closing a book (1). Work your next row of single crochet into the top of each stitch from the previous row. Make as many rows of SC until your project is as big or long as you'd like it to be! (2)



Things to Look Out For

Too tight: If your hook is hard to push into stitches, relax your grip on the yarn.
Wrong stitch count: Count at the end of each row. Gaining or losing stitches usually means skipping a stitch or working twice into the same one.
Splitting the yarn: If the hook pokes through the middle of the yarn instead of around it, back up and reinsert the hook under both strands.
DON'T FORGET TO HAVE FUN!!!!