Basic Crochet Techniques

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Abbreviations:

ch = chain stitch(es)

sl st = slip stitch(es)

dc = double crochet stitch(es)

inc 1 = increase 1 double crochet

dec 1 = decrease 1 double crochet

st = stitch

tr = treble

htr = half treble

dtr = double treble

foll = follows/following

rnd = round

[ ] = total number of stitches in a row /round

CC = contrasting colour (to mark the rounds)

General Tips:

• The decrease of a dc (= dec 1) will be nearly invisible if you insert the crochet hook only into the front loop of the previous row or round.

• TO CROCHET OFF: When your crochet has been completed, cut the thread the desired length and pass through the loop on the crochet hook.
Usually, the thread will be used to sew the pieces together and should therefore not be left too short.
Finally, conceal the thread so it is not visible on the right side of the crochet.

• When a slip stitch is worked within a round, it counts as a stitch.
Important: When a round is closed with a slip stitch, the slip stitch is not counted as a stitch.

• Sometimes a number of chain stitches is worked to span an opening; these chain stitches should not be visible at the end. I explain how to work these chain stitches with illustrations and a You Tube film at my web site: www.haakpret.nl See the button for DOWNLOAD.

There are different methods to close a round. Please read the instructions for each project on how to close a round.
If all rounds are closed in the same manner for part of a project, this will be mentioned at the beginning of the instructions. Variations will always be noted separately.
There are 3 ways to close a round:
• Close with 1 sl st; start the next rnd with 1 beginning chain stitch.
• Turn the work over and crochet back on the other side.
• Work in spiral rounds continuously – e.g. without sl st! – place a marker or contrasting colour thread at the start of each round. Move the marker up after every round.

It is important to close the round exactly as noted in the instructions, otherwise the number of stitches will be incorrect. If a round is closed in a different manner, the number of stitches will vary from the number given in the instructions.

The Instructions Explained

Explanation of symbols used in the instructions:

The Long Dash –

A long dash in the instructions separates the steps required to work a row or round. In other words, the long dash can be understood to mean: THEN.

Example: 10 dc — 5 htr — 6 tr — (2 tr into 1 st):

-     work 10 dc, working 1st st into st of previous row/rnd and repeating 10x altogether — THEN

-     work 5 htr, working 1 htr into st of previous row/rnd and repeating 5x altogether — THEN

-     work 6 tr, working 1 tr into st of previous row/rnd and repeating 6x altogether — THEN
-     work 2 tr into 1 st: 1 tr into st of previous row/rnd, then work 2nd tr into the same st. This will increase 1 st.

Parentheses (...)

Sometime a group of stitches is to be repeated completely. Parentheses are used to clearly define these stitches as a group. How often the group of stitches should be repeated is indicated before the parentheses.

Example: 4x (1 dec – 4 dc):

Work the group of stitches 4x one after the other: decrease 1 dc and then work 4 dc.

Written out completely, this means:

decrease 1 dc, then work 4 dc (= work 1 dc into the foll st of the previous row / rnd – repeat this 4x altogether),
decrease 1 dc, then work 4 dc (= * work 1 dc into the foll st of the previous row / rnd – repeat this 4x altogether),
decrease 1 dc, then work 4 dc (= * work 1 dc into the foll st of the previous row / rnd – repeat this 4x altogether),
decrease 1 dc, then work 4 dc (= *work 1 dc into the foll st of the previous row / rnd – repeat this 4x altogether).
After repeating this group of stitches 4x, you have crocheted 20 sts.

Asterisk * ... *, repeat from * to *

If a group of stitches should be worked more often, asterisks are used to indicate the repeats.

The first asterisk marks the start of the group of stitches. The second asterisk marks the end of the group of stitches. The number of repeats is indicated after the second asterisk.

Example: * 1 dc – (1 tr – 1 dtr – 1 tr) worked into 1 st – 1 dc – 2 st st – 1 dc – (1 tr – 1 dtr – 1 tr) worked into 1 st – 1 dc – 1 st st *, repeat from * to * 3x altogether.

Crochet the complete group of stitches as foll: * work 1 dc, then work as foll into 1 st: 1 tr + 1 dtr + 1 tr; then work 1 dc, then work 2 sl st (= * work 1 sl st into the foll stitch of the previous row/rnd, repeat from * 1x), then work 1 dc, then work as foll into 1 st: 1 tr + 1 dtr + 1 tr; then work 1 dc, then work 1 sl st *, then repeat the complete group of stitches from * to * 3x altogether.
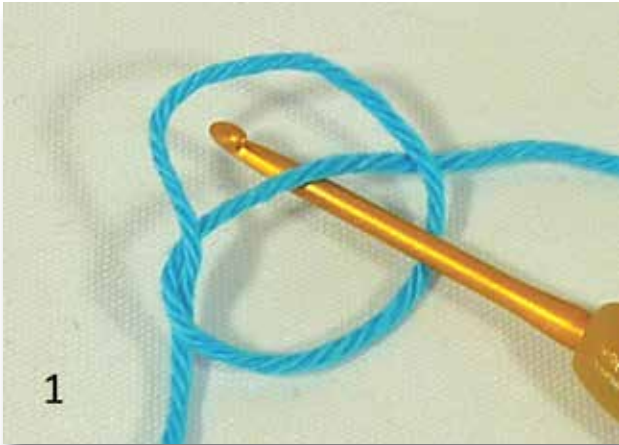
The Basic Stitches Explained

How to crochet the basic stitches:

Chain Stitch

Photo 1: Loop the yarn as illustrated and pull it through. Photo 2: Lay the yarn over the crochet hook and pull it through the loop. The first chain stitch is finished (3)
Work every next chain stitch by laying the yarn over the crochet hook and pulling it through the loop on the hook (4).


Slip Stitch

Slip stitches can be worked within a row/rnd or can be used to close a round.
Insert the crochet hook into the st of the previous row / rnd, yarn over hook and draw through (1), then pull the loop through the loop on the crochet hook (2).

Double Crochet Stitches

Insert the crochet hook into the foll ch or st, yarn over and draw through (1), then lay yarn over hook again and draw through both loops on the hook (2).
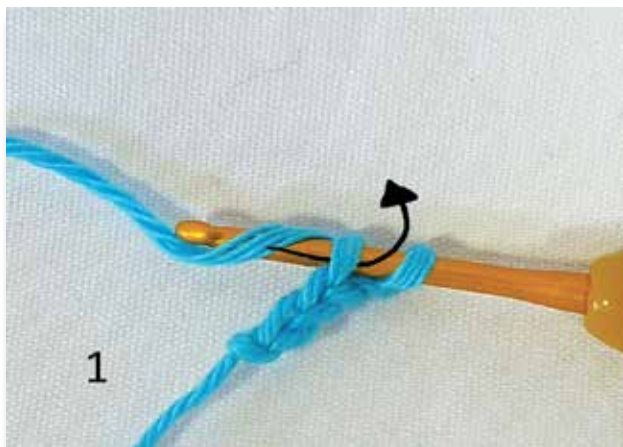
1 Decrease One Double Crochet

To decrease 1 stitch of double crochet, work 2 double crochet stitches together as foll:
* Insert the crochet hook into the foll stitch, yarn over hook and draw yarn through, repeat from * 1x.

Then yarn over hook and draw yarn through all 3 loops on the hook (2).
The instructions use the abbreviation "dec 1" (decrease one) to indicate when to decrease one double crochet stitch.

Increase One Double Crochet

To increase 1 stitch of double crochet, work 2 double crochet stitches into one stitch of the previous row / rnd. The instructions use the abbreviation "inc 1" (increase one) to indicate when to increase one double crochet stitch. When the instructions show inc 2, it means to increase 1 dc twice, one after the other.

Half Treble

Lay yarn over crochet hook (1) and insert hook into the foll chain stitch (or stitch of a row/ rnd) and draw yarn through (2). Then lay yarn over hook again and draw through all 3 loops on the hook (3).
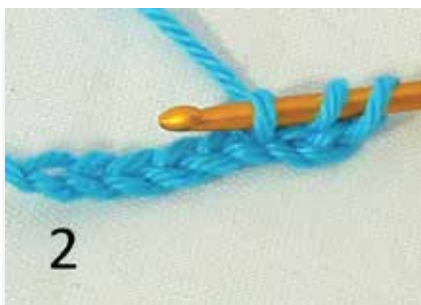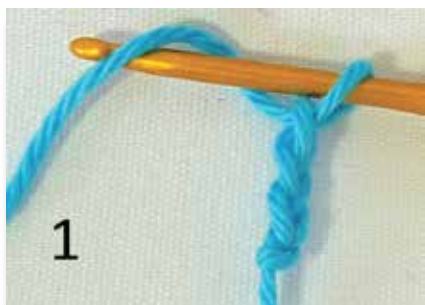
Treble

Lay yarn over crochet hook (1) and insert hook into the foll chain stitch (or stitch of a row/ rnd) and draw yarn through (2). Then lay yarn over hook again and draw through 2 loops on the hook (3).
Finally, lay yarn over hook again and draw through the last 2 loops on the hook.

Double Treble

Lay yarn over crochet hook twice (1) and insert hook into the foll chain stitch (or stitch of a row/ rnd) and draw yarn through (2).
Then lay yarn over hook again and draw through 2 loops on the hook (3).
Now lay yarn over hook again and draw through 2 loops on the hook (4).
Finally, lay yarn over hook once more and draw through the last 2 loops on the hook. (5).

Triple Treble

Lay yarn over over crochet hook 3x (1) and insert hook into the foll chain stitch (or stitch of a row/ rnd) and draw yarn through (2).
Lay over hook again and draw through 2 loops on the hook.
Then lay yarn over hook again and draw through 2 loops on the hook (3).
Now lay yarn over hook once more and draw through 2 loops on the hook (4).
Finally, lay yarn over hook and draw through the last 2 loops on the hook.

A Thread Ring

1: Wrap the yarn around the index finger of your left hand as illustrated (see photo).
2 - 3: Slip the crochet hook underneath the first 2 loops on your finger and draw through.
4: Now draw the yarn through the loop on the crochet hook = 1st ch.
5: Draw the yarn through the ring and leave the loop on the hook. Then lay the yarn over the hook again and draw through both loops on the hook.
6 - 7 Repeat step 5 according to the instructions. Example: Work 6 dc into a thread ring.
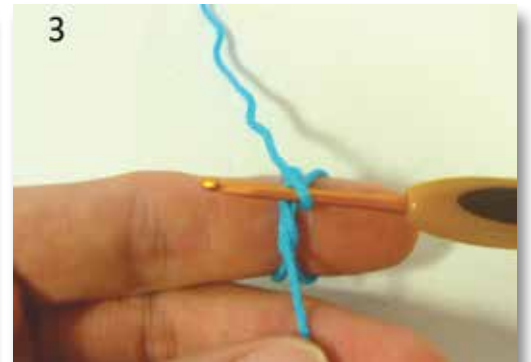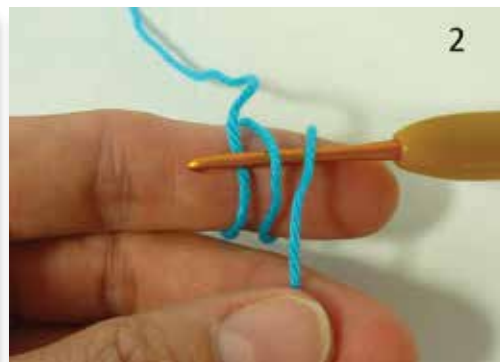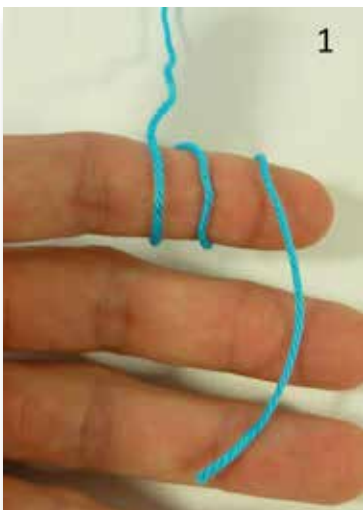
8: To close the thread ring, carefully pull the beginning of the yarn (see red arrow) so that the yarn moves in the direction of the small black arrow.
9: Pull the thread at the place indicated by the red arrow– this will shorten the other part of the thread ring and the ring will begin to close (10).
10: Now pull the yarn as indicated by the black arrow to completely close the ring.
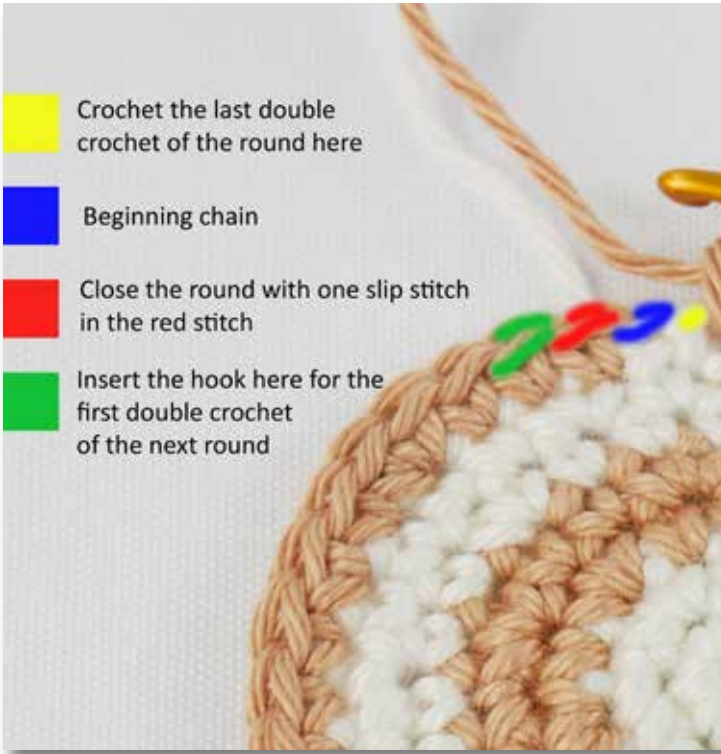**11:** The thread ring is now complete.
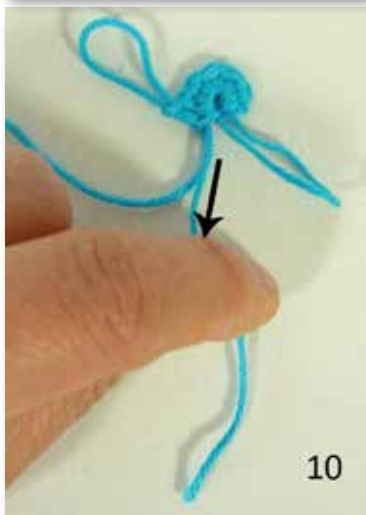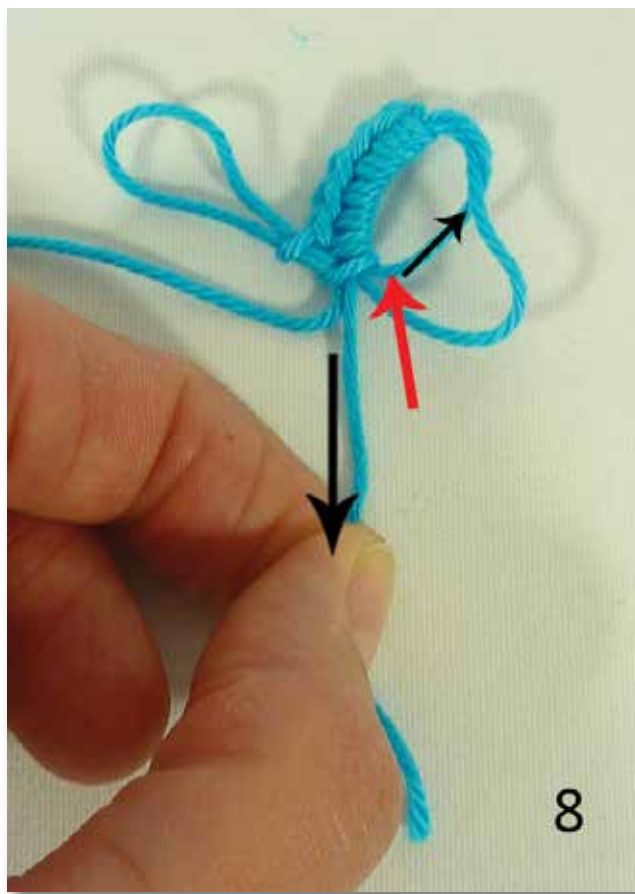
How to Close a Round

Where do you close a round with a slip stitch?

The loop marked in yellow is the slip stitch that closes the round. This slip stitch is marked yellow on every photo. You crochet the last double crochet of the next round in this loop before you close the round.
The loop marked blue is the beginning chain. You crochet this after closing a round so as to achieve the correct height.   Do not count the beginning chain.
The following round is closed at the loop marked red (to the left of the blue loop).
After the beginning chain, you crochet the first double crochet of the new round in the second double crochet (green on the photo) of the previous round.

Crochet the last double crochet of the round here

Beginning chain

Close the round with one slip stitch in the red stitch

Insert the hook here for the first double crochet of the next round

How to Begin a Row After Turning

After turning the work, begin with 1 chain stitch.
Work the following dc into the next stitch of the previous row, see arrow in photo 1. Phote 2: Finishing the dc.

2

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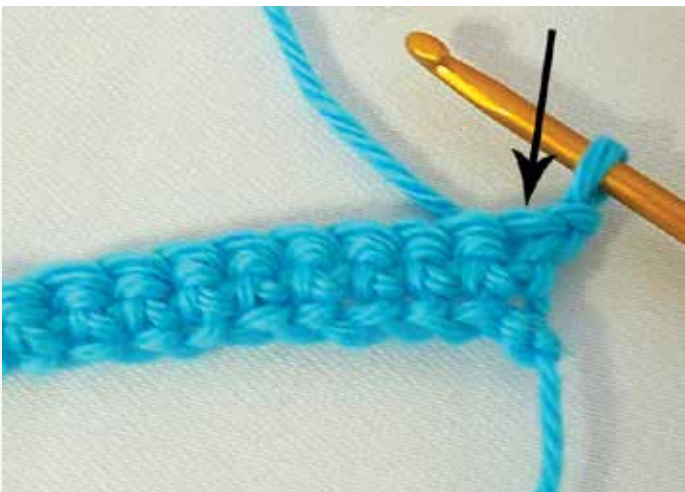
Changing Coulours

1: To close the round, insert the crochet hook into the stitch indicated by the arrow.
2: Change colours: Use the new colour for the slip stitch to draw the yarn through and the loop onto the hook.
3: Draw the yarn through the loop = 1st chain stitch of the next round.
4: Work 1 dc into the foll stitch, then work 1 dc into every stitch.
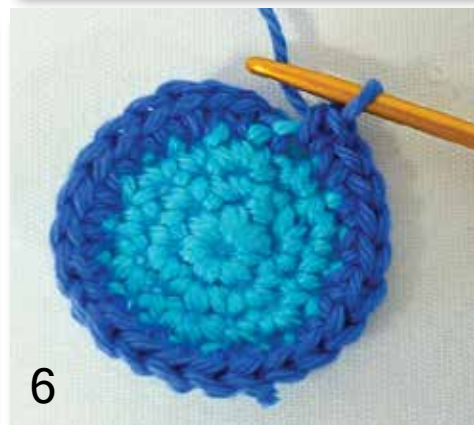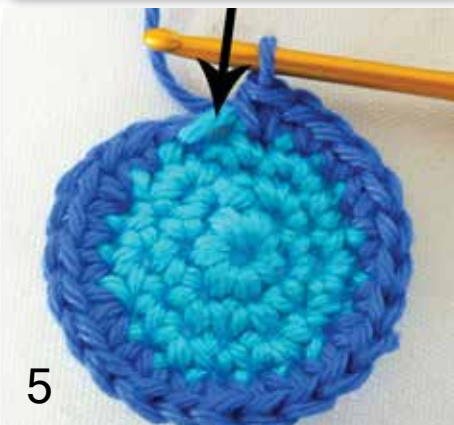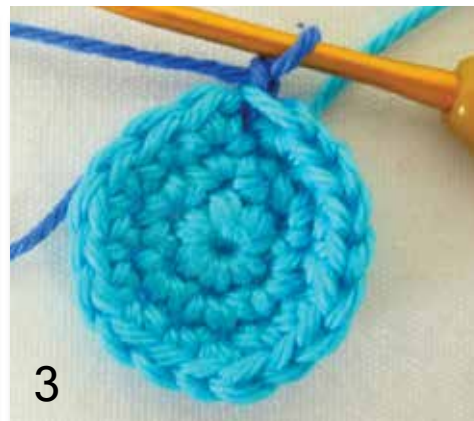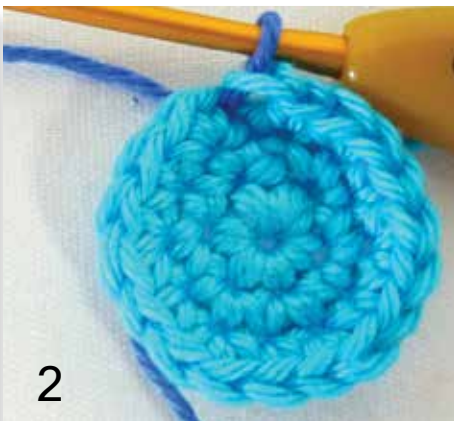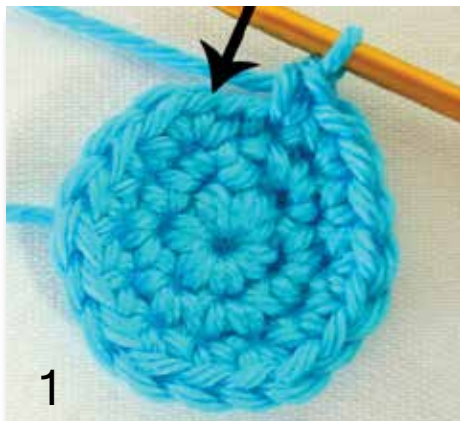
5: At the end of the round, work 1 dc into the last stitch of the previous round (see arrow).
6: Skip the beginning chain stitch (see also page 7).
7: Close the round with 1 slip stitch.

Have fun being creative!

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