

The Beginner's Crochet Handbook

From slip knot to your first finished project

Crochet needs exactly one hook and one ball of yarn to start. Learn five stitches and you can make almost anything. This guide gets you there.

The five stitches that build everything

- Slip knot + chain (ch): your foundation row.
- Single crochet (sc): tight, sturdy — great for amigurumi.
- Double crochet (dc): taller, faster, drapier.
- Half-double (hdc) and slip stitch (sl st): the in-betweens and joins.

Read a pattern without panic

- US vs UK terms differ — a US 'sc' is a UK 'dc'. Check which the pattern uses.
- Numbers in parentheses at row end = stitch count. Recount if it's off.
- Asterisks * * mean 'repeat this section' across the row.

Pick yarn + hook that match

- Beginners: worsted/aran (medium) yarn + 5.0-5.5mm hook. Light colors show stitches.
- Always check gauge for wearables; skip it for blankets and scarves.
- Acrylic is cheap and forgiving for learning; upgrade to cotton/wool later.

Insider glossary

Frogging — Ripping out stitches ('rip it, rip it').

Gauge — Stitches per inch — determines final size.

Amigurumi — Crocheted stuffed toys, worked in tight single crochet.

WIP / Stash — Work In Progress; your hoard of unused yarn.

Starter checklist

- Worsted yarn
- 5.0mm hook
- Scissors
- Yarn/tapestry needle
- Stitch markers

Yes, you made it: 'I'm a Hooker In My Spare Time' at 15d0.com/shop/crochet/