



A FUN AND CREATIVE INTRODUCTION TO FIBER ART

COOL

CROCHETING

for KIDS

ALEX KUSKOWSKI





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TO ADULT HELPERS

This is your chance to assist someone new to crafting! As children learn to craft they develop new skills, gain confidence, and make cool things. These activities are designed to help children learn how to make their own craft projects. Some activities may need more assistance than others. Be there to offer guidance when they need it. Encourage them to do as much as they can on their own. Be a cheerleader for their creativity.

Before getting started, remember to lay down ground rules for using the crafting tools and cleaning up. There should always be adult supervision when a child uses a sharp tool.

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Getting Hooked



Discover the world of crochet! It's the art of looping yarn with a hook to make fabric. You can crochet something funky and cool. It is a great way to relax and keep busy.

Crocheting is one of the easiest crafts. You can take it anywhere. Once you get going, you'll never want to stop.

All you need to start is a hook and some yarn. You'll find a lot of ideas here to help you start crocheting. Step-by-step instructions make learning a breeze. You'll love to show off the things you make. Just turn the page and get hooked!

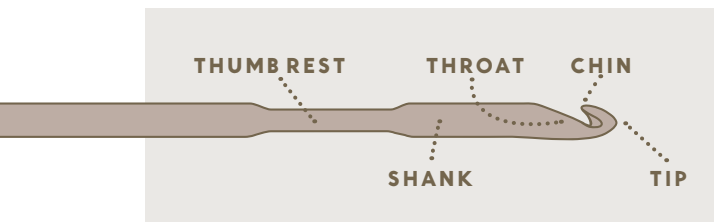


Tools *of* THE Trade



CROCHET HOOK

You only need one hook to get started. Hooks come in different sizes. They are made out of wood, plastic, or **aluminum**.



HOOK SIZES

Make sure to use the right size hook. Many **patterns** offer suggestions on what size to use. See the chart to find out how they relate to one another.

SIZE NUMBER	METRIC SIZE (MM)	US SIZE
1	2.25	B/1
2	2.75	C/2
3	3.25	D/3
4	3.5	E/4
5	3.75	F/5
6	4-4.25	G/6
7	4.5	7
8	5	H/8
9	5.5	I/9
10	6	J/10
11	6.5	K/10.5
12	8	L/11
13	9	M/13



YARN

Yarn is the main material used in crochet. It has many sizes, weights, and shapes. You can also crochet with string and wire.



NATURAL FIBER



SYNTHETIC FIBER

YARN FIBER

Yarn can be made with natural fibers or synthetic fibers. Natural fibers come from animals and plants, such as sheep and cotton. Synthetic fibers are man-made fibers, such as acrylic or nylon.



YARN SHAPE

Yarn can have a traditional shape or a **novelty** shape. Traditional yarns are smooth and often have strands twisted together. Novelty yarns can be any shape from fur to ribbons.

YARN WEIGHT

Yarn weight ranges from super fine to super bulky. Thinner yarn uses a smaller hook. See the chart for suggestions.



MEDIUM WEIGHT



BULKY WEIGHT

WEIGHT	SYMBOL	METRIC HOOK SIZE (MM)
SUPER FINE	1	2.25–3.5
FINE	2	3.5–4.5
LIGHT	3	4.5–5.5
MEDIUM	4	5.5–6.5
BULKY	5	6.5–9
SUPER BULKY	6	9 AND OVER

IT'S IN THE BAG

Keep a bag to hold your yarn, crochet hooks, and general craft supplies like the ones below!



BAG



**BEADS AND
BUTTONS**



PEN AND PAPER



**MEASURING
TAPE**



SAFETY PINS



GLUE



SCISSORS



YARN



NEEDLES



THREAD

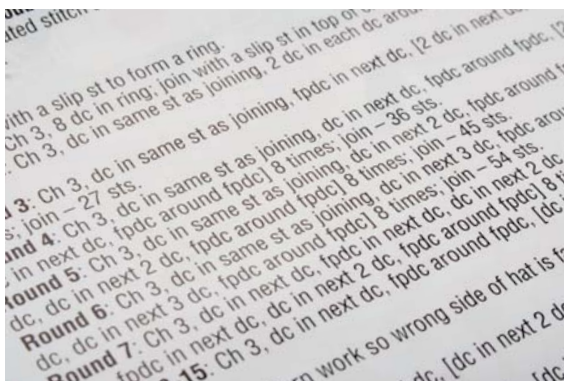


CROCHET NEEDLE

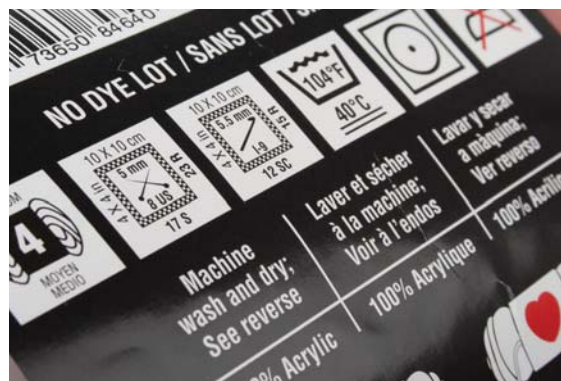
Getting Started



Crochet projects often use a **pattern**. The pattern says what you need for the project. It lists the yarn type, hook size, and more.



THE PATTERN. Read it twice! Pay special attention to any special stitches. Practice stitches you don't know before you start.



THE YARN. Most yarn comes with a label. It can have a lot of important information.

READING A YARN LABEL

QUANTITY - The amount of yarn in the package.

FIBER CONTENT - What the yarn is made of.

DYE LOT - When yarn is dyed it has a dye lot number. The exact color can vary from dye lot to dye lot. For big projects, use yarn from the same dye lot.

CARE INSTRUCTIONS - Shows how to wash the yarn.

RECOMMENDED HOOK SIZE - A suggestion of which hook to use.

PATTERN ABBREVIATIONS

Patterns use **abbreviations**. They are easy to read once you know the basics!

Check the chart below for words you might not know.

ABBREVIATION	TERM
APPROX	APPROXIMATELY
BEG	BEGINNING
BLO	BACK LOOP ONLY
CH(S)	CHAIN(S)
CONT	CONTINUE
DEC	DECREASE
FLO	FRONT LOOP ONLY
HK	HOOK
INC	INCREASE
PAT	PATTERN
PM	PLACE MARKER
SC	SINGLE CROCHET
ST(S)	STITCH(ES)
YO	YARN OVER

Basics



HOLDING THE HOOK

There are two ways to hold a crochet hook. See which works best for you. Most people hold the hook with their writing hand. Try both. Use whichever is most comfortable.



COUNTING STITCHES

While crocheting, check that you're making the correct number of stitches. It's important to count stitches. It can be easy to get off track.



To count stitches vertically, count the number of rows from top to bottom.



To count stitches horizontally, look at the top edge of the fabric. Count the number of knots from left to right.



Make a **gauge swatch** first. A gauge swatch is a 4-inch (10 cm) practice square. It is made using the same stitches as the **pattern**. The pattern says how many stitches fit inside the square. This helps you see if your stitches are the right size for the rest of the pattern.