

Lesson 5: Chain Stitch

How to crochet for absolute beginners

Chain Stitch

The chain stitch is the first thing you'll learn to crochet that uses your hands, hook and yarn together!

- ❖ About the chain
- ❖ Chain anatomy
- ❖ Fastening off

About the chain

First Stitch

The chain stitch is the first stitch to learn because it's the foundation for working in rows, and rows will be the way we learn all other stitches in this course!

Chain Stitch:

- ❖ Yarn over hook
- ❖ draw yarn through loop on hook

Tips:

- ❖ Hook should be facing downward (not sideways or up; it will not move through loop)
- ❖ Hold last chain before creating next

Chain anatomy

Chain Anatomy: Front

Every stitch created in crochet has a front (face; right side), and a back (non-face; wrong side).

Front of chain has two strands of yarn, looks like a heart; count the hearts. Loop does not count (just how hook attaches to work), knot in beginning does not count (our slip knot).

Chain Anatomy: Front

The tops of any stitch created will look like this from the top; it will have a front and a back loop.

This is important to note especially when working new stitches on top of stitches. For example, when working into this chain, you can place your hook through:

- ❖ Both loops
- ❖ Back loop only
- ❖ Front loop only
- ❖ Or even, into the BACK SIDE of the chain.

Chain Anatomy: Back

This the back of the chain (non-face; wrong side).

Back of chains look like a circle with one vertical strand of yarn in the center; like a chain link; count the vertical strand.

Loop does not count (just how hook attaches to work), knot in beginning does not count (our slip knot).

Fastening off

Fasten off

When you've completed a project, you'll fasten off to detach the project from the yarn and to keep stitches from coming undone:

- ❖ Cut working yarn (6-10")
- ❖ Put tail end into loop
- ❖ Pull tail end until loop is closed, knot forms

Fasten off

Front side of fastened chain (top).

Back side of fastened chain (bottom).

Knots on either end are not included in the final stitch count; count based on individual stitch anatomy.

Tips:

- ❖ Take it easy; relax hands, shoulders, neck back.
- ❖ Frustrated? Put it down, come back to it!
- ❖ The more you practice: the more your stitches and tension will even, and you will get faster!

What's Next?

Homework: Practice the chain stitch!

- ✦ Do the following at least 5 times: Chain 20, count each stitch from the Front and Back assuring you have 20, fasten off.

Next... Lesson 6: Half Double Stitch