



## Crochet Taster Class

All you need to crochet is some yarn and a hook and the possibilities are endless...

### Yarn

There are so many varying styles of yarn available which all provide such different results - a good quality cotton / wool blend in DK size is a good yarn to start with...



### Hook

Hooks vary in size from very thin at only 0.5mm all the way through to very chunky at 25mm... a good size to start with is 4.5mm.



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Remember in crochet – there is always just one stitch on the hook at any one time 😊

Crochet can be done in **rows** or in the **round**. The blanket on the left below is crocheted in **rows of stitches**, the blanket on the right is a traditional ‘Granny Square’ blanket where each square is crocheted **in the round** before being attached together...



A confusion within crochet is that the UK and USA have different names for some stitches. For example a ‘Double Crochet’ and a ‘Treble’ stitch in the UK mean different stitches to a ‘Double Crochet’ and ‘Treble’ in the USA! If you’re following a pattern or a You Tube video it’s important to find out what terminology they are using- **UK or USA terms?** This will avoid any unnecessary confusion.

Here's a table of stitch names with abbreviations in both UK and USA terms:

Stitch name UK term	Stitch name US term
Chain (ch)	Chain (ch)
Slip Stitch (ss)	Slip Stitch (ss)
Double Crochet (dc)	Single Crochet (sc)
Half Treble Crochet (htr)	Half Double Crochet (hdc)
Treble (tr)	Double Crochet (dc)
Double Treble (dtr)	Treble (tr)
Triple Treble (trtr)	Double Treble (dtr)

## **Slip Knot**

All crochet starts with a slip knot on your hook; basically a way to get the yarn attached to the hook! There are many different ways people do this but the end result is the same...



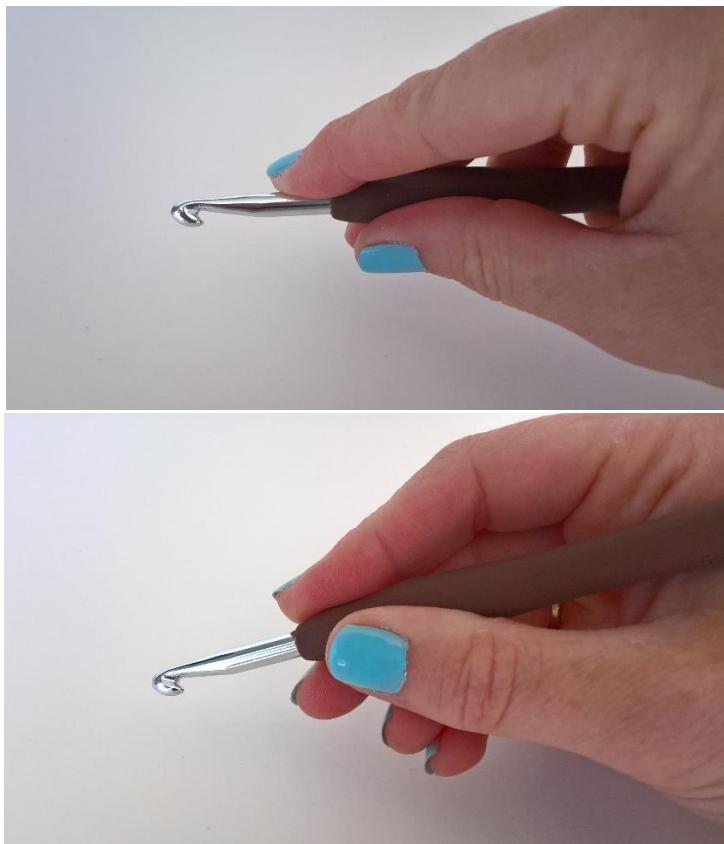
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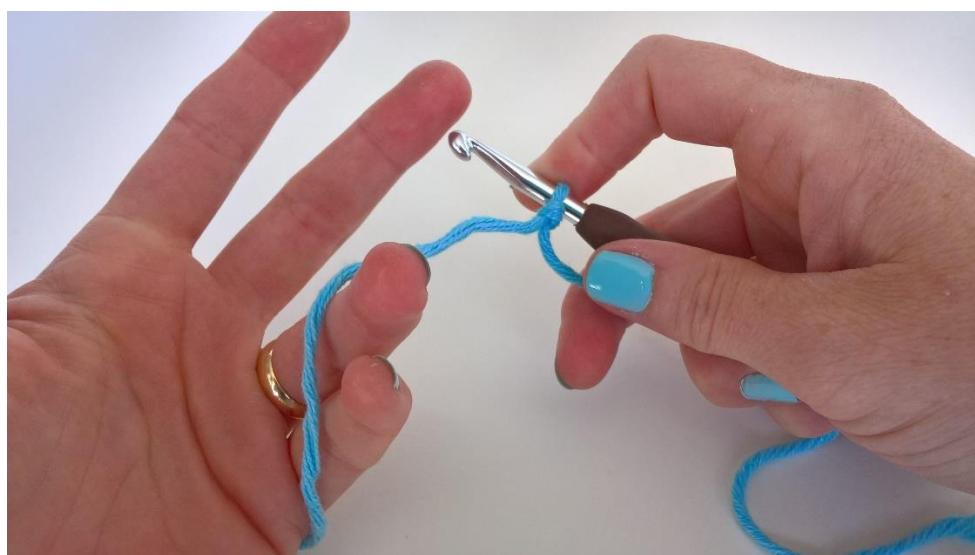
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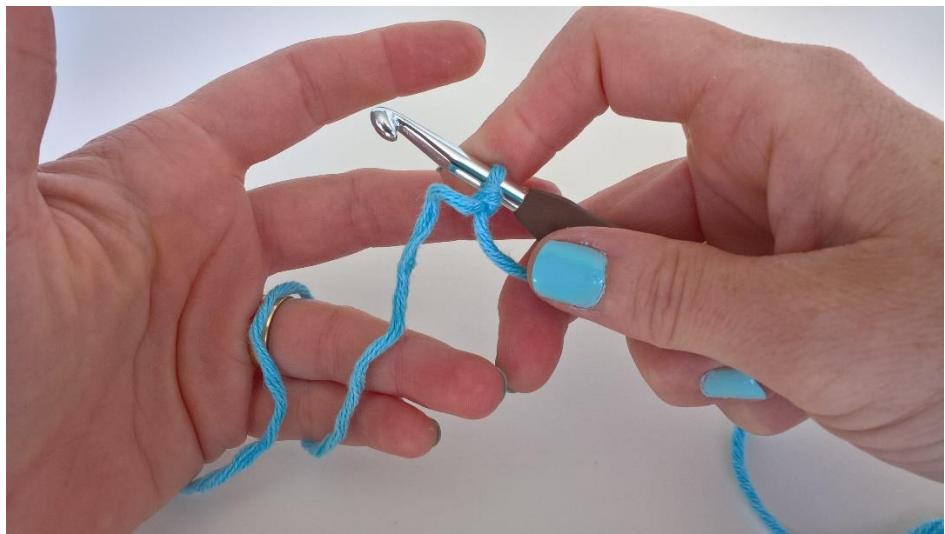
### **Holding the hook and yarn...**

There is no one right way to hold the crochet hook. It can be held like a knife or like a pencil...



There are also many ways people hold the yarn. The following photos show how I hold it...





## Chains

Chains are the foundation of crochet. **Practice doing chains** as once mastered, the rest of crochet becomes easier...



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The first chains in any piece of crochet are often referred to as the foundation chain. It is this foundation chain that will be crocheted into. Depending on what you are going to make, you may only start with 4 chains but a blanket made in rows could start with 200 chains.

Once the desired length of chains are made you can start crocheting into them. Going under the top 2 strands gives the neatest results...



but when first learning it is easier to go under just 1 strand...



## Crochet Stitches

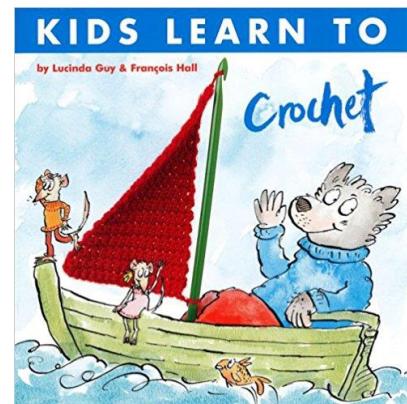
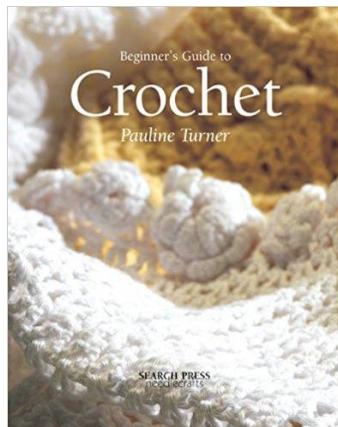
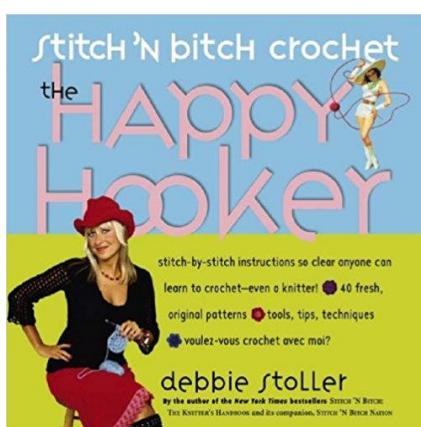
Different crochet stitches have different heights and depend on how many times the yarn is wrapped over the hook before inserting it into the next chain or stitch. It's the endless combinations of stitches and where you are putting your hook, plus colour changes and yarn types used that make the possibilities in crochet so vast!

Enjoy... ☺

## Books and Magazines

I love crochet books and magazines - they are great for learning and getting patterns to follow.

Books that I have used and can recommend are:



- **Stitch 'n Bitch Crochet: The Happy Hooker by Debbie Stoller (2006)**
- **Beginners Guide to Crochet by Pauline Turner (2005)**
- **Kids Learn to Crochet by Lucinda Guy (2008)**

The magazine '**Simply Crochet**' is available from many magazine stands and all good newsagents – it's brilliant for getting ideas and inspiration and has a handy 'how to' guide at the back.

## You Tube

There are so many YouTube crochet tutorials out there of varying standards...many are from the USA so be aware they are using USA terminology.

Try **The Crochet Crowd** which is from the USA and is very informative.

**Bella Coco** is from the UK so uses UK terminology. Her tutorials are clear.

## **Blogs**

There are many crochet blogs being written online that are fun and inspiring... people share patterns, ideas, experiences and more - anything crochet or craft related!

I write a blog called **Coastal Crochet** [www.coastalcrochet.com](http://www.coastalcrochet.com)

Others are:

**Attic 24** [www.attic24.typepad.com](http://www.attic24.typepad.com)

**Love Crochet** <http://blog.lovecrochet.com>

**Hobbycraft blog** <http://blog.hobbycraft.co.uk>



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