

# KNITTING

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## How to cast on via two strand method:

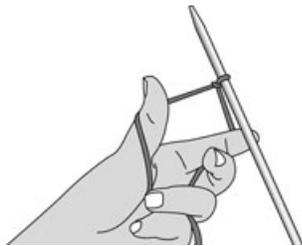
1. **Measure off enough [yarn](#) for the bottom part of your piece and make a [slip knot](#) on your needle.**

To make the slip knot (the first [stitch](#)), make a pretzel-shaped [loop](#) and place your needle into the loop (a.) and pull gently on both ends of the yarn until the stitch is firmly on the needle (b.) but still slides easily back and forth.

To figure how long the “tail” should be, you need approximately 1 inch for every stitch you cast on, plus a little extra. Alternatively, you can measure the bottom of the knitted piece and multiply this number by 4.

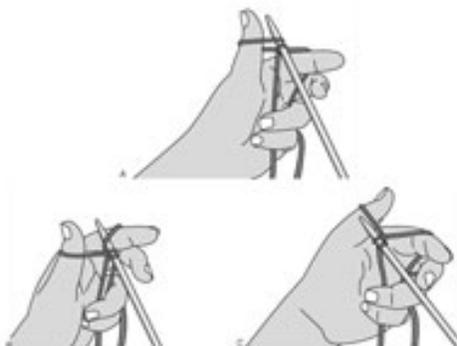
2. **Holding the needle in your right hand with the tip pointing away from your hand, insert your left thumb and index finger into the “tent” formed by the two yarn ends falling from the slip knot on your needle.**

This position might seem a bit awkward, but it’ll be second nature when you become a knitting know-it-all!



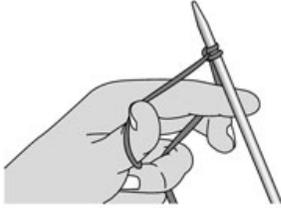
3. **With your left hand’s ring and pinkie fingers, catch the yarn ends and hold them to your palm.**

This step prevents the ends from flapping around as you work.



4. **With your right hand, pull the needle between your left thumb and index finger.**

You don't want the “tent” sides to be droopy.



5. **With the needle tip, go around the yarn on your thumb from the left, as shown in (a), then go around the yarn on your index finger from the right (b), and pull the new loop through (c).**

This looks complicated, but you'll get the hang of it.

6. **Tighten this new loop (your first cast-on stitch!) onto the needle — but not too tight.**

If you don't let go of the yarn after creating the stitch, you can use your thumb to tighten the stitch onto your needle.

Although this is your first cast-on stitch, it's technically the second stitch on the RH needle; the initial slip knot counts as the first real stitch.



7. **Repeat Steps 5 and 6 until you have the number of stitches you need.**

If you need to put your work down, or if you lose your place, you may have to pull the stitches off the needle and start from Step 2 again.

"Wow, look at the deal I got on all this yarn! I won't have to buy more for a very long time."

Said no woman ever.



som<sup>ee</sup>cards  
user card

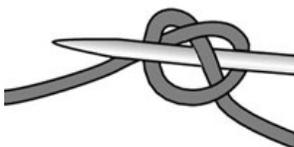
## How to Cast On with the Thumb Method:

By [Pam Allen](#), [Tracy Barr](#), and [Shannon Okey](#) from [Knitting For Dummies, 2nd Edition](#)

In [knitting](#), [casting on](#) with the thumb method is quick and easy, but the thumb cast-on (sometimes called *e-loop*) doesn't look as nice as the [cable](#) cast-on — and it isn't easy to knit into. The two-strand and cable cast-on methods should be your first choice for beginning a project.

Still, the thumb cast-on has its uses (such as for replacing [cast-off stitches](#) in a buttonhole or for a quick and easy [increase](#) stitch in the middle of a [row](#)), so knowing how to do it is worthwhile. As with other cast-on methods, you need just one [needle](#) to cast on with the thumb method.

### 1. Make a [slip knot](#) on your needle, leaving a short [tail](#).



To make the slip knot (the first stitch), make a pretzel-shaped loop and place your needle into the loop and pull gently on both ends of the [yarn](#) until the stitch is firmly on the needle but can still slide easily back and forth.

The slip knot becomes your first stitch.

### 2. **Wrap the yarn around your left thumb.**



Hold the needle in your right hand.

### 3. **Insert the needle through the loop around your thumb, slide your thumb out, and pull gently on the yarn strand to tighten the stitch.**



**warning :**

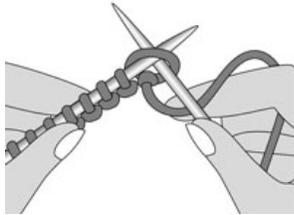
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yarn shops!**



## How to Knit, English-Style

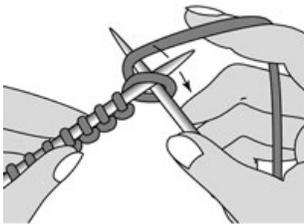
By [Pam Allen](#), [Tracy Barr](#), and [Shannon Okey](#) from [Knitting For Dummies, 2nd Edition](#)

Most knitters in the U.S. use the [English](#) style of [knitting](#), as opposed to the [Continental](#) style. To knit in the English style, hold the [yarn](#) in your right hand, and hold the knitting [needle](#) with the [cast-on stitches](#) in your left (with the tip pointing to the right). The first stitch should be no more than 1 inch from the tip of the needle.



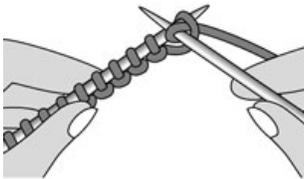
1. **Insert the tip of the empty (RH) needle into the first stitch on the LH needle from left to right and front to back, forming a T with the tips of the needles.**

The RH needle will be behind the LH needle.



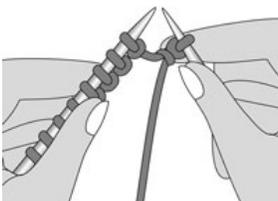
2. **With your right hand, bring the yarn to the front from the left side of the RH needle, and then over the RH needle to the right and down between the needles.**

You can try to maneuver the yarn with your right forefinger, as shown in this figure, or just hold it between your thumb and forefinger for now.



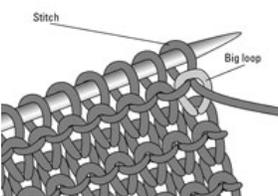
3. **Keeping a slight tension on the wrapped yarn, bring the tip of the RH needle with its wrap of yarn through the [loop](#) on the LH needle to the front.**

The RH needle is now in front of the LH needle. Keep the tip of the left forefinger on the point of the RH needle to help guide the needle through the old stitch and prevent losing the wrap of yarn.



4. **Slide the RH needle to the right until the old loop on the LH needle drops off.**

You now have a new stitch/loop on the RH needle — the old stitch hangs below it. Congratulations! You've just made your first [knitted stitch](#)!



5. **[Repeat](#) steps 1 through 4 until you've knitted all the stitches from your LH needle.**

Your LH needle is now empty, and your RH needle is full of beautiful, new stitches.

6. **Turn your work** (that is, switch hands so that the needle with stitches is in your left hand) and knit the new **row**.

When you turn your work, the yarn strand coming out of the first stitch to knit is hanging down in the front.

The stitch just below the first stitch (big loop) on your LH needle is larger than the rest and can obscure your view of where your needle should go. To better see the opening of the first stitch, keep the strand in front and gently pull down on it, and the big loop if necessary. Be sure to insert the point of the RH needle into the loop on the LH needle and not into the stitch below.

7. **Repeat these steps for several more rows (or all afternoon) until you're comfortable with the movements.**

Aim to make these steps one continuous movement, to make even stitches, and to stay relaxed!

Whichever knitting method you use, English- or Continental-style, you'll get the same results. The important goals are to use the method that's most comfortable for you and that the stitches look even.



## Knit and Purl in the English Style

By [Pam Allen](#), [Tracy Barr](#), and [Shannon Okey](#) from [Knitting For Dummies, 2nd Edition](#)

[Knitting](#) and [purling](#) in the [English](#) style is the most common method in the United States. To purl in the English-style, you just work a [knit stitch](#) backwards: Instead of going into the stitch from front to back, you purl by entering it from back to front.

1. Hold the [needle](#) with the [cast-on](#) or existing stitches in your left hand, with the tip pointing to the right, then insert the tip of the [RH needle](#) into the first [loop](#) on the [LH needle](#) from right to left and back to front.



The RH needle is in front of the LH needle, forming a T, and the working [yarn](#) is in front of your needles. This is the reverse of what you do when you form a knit stitch.



2. With your right hand, wrap the yarn around the back of the RH needle.

Wrap the yarn from right to left and down.



3. Bring the tip of the RH needle with its wrap of yarn down and through the loop on the LH needle to the back side of the LH needle.

Keep a slight tension on the yarn throughout this step.

4. Slide the old loop off the tip of the LH needle.



A new stitch is made on the RH needle. [Repeat](#) these steps until you're comfortable with the movements.

A purred [swatch](#) looks just like a knitted swatch. Why? Because purling is simply the reverse of knitting. Whether you knit all the [rows](#) or purl all the rows, you're working a [garter](#) stitch.

When you purl, the yarn strand comes out of the new stitches on the side of the knitting facing you. When you knit, the yarn comes out of the new stitches on the side facing away from you.

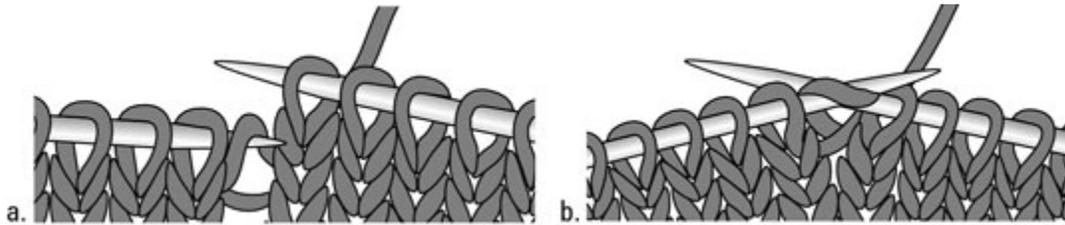
## How to Work a Make 1 Increase

By [Pam Allen](#), [Tracy Barr](#), and [Shannon Okey](#) from [Knitting For Dummies, 2nd Edition](#)

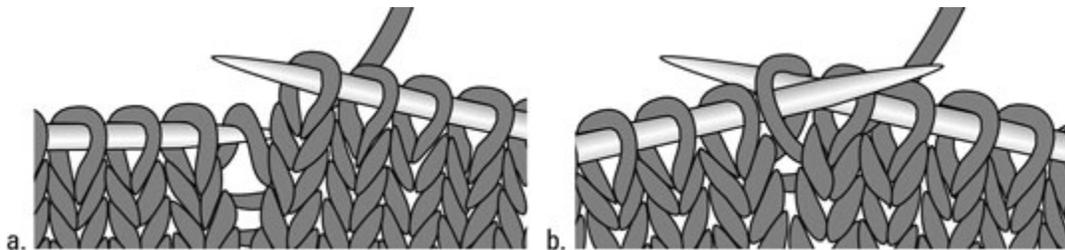
To work the make 1 [increase](#) (abbreviated [m1](#)), you create a new, separate [stitch](#) (hence, making 1 increase) between 2 stitches that are already on the [needle](#).

When you get to the point where you want to make an increase, pull the LH and [RH needle](#) slightly apart. You'll notice a horizontal strand of [yarn](#), called the [running thread](#), connecting the first stitch on each needle. You use the running thread to make the new stitch. The increased stitch will be a [twisted](#) stitch that [crosses](#) to the right or to the left and leaves no little hole. After you work to the point between 2 stitches where you want to increase, you can twist in either direction:

- **Twisting to the right:** Bring the tip of the [LH needle](#) under the running thread from back to front. Then insert the RH needle through the [draped](#) strand from left to right and [knit](#) as normal.



- **Twisting to the left:** Insert the tip of the LH needle under the running thread from front to back. Then, with the RH needle, knit the strand through the back.



After you work a make 1 increase, check to make sure that it's twisted in the direction you intended. If it isn't, undo your new stitch — it will only unravel as far as the running thread — and try it again.

You can make 1 increase from the [purl](#) side, as well:

- To work a right-twisting make 1 increase on the purl side, purl the strand by going into the front [loop](#) (the part that's closest to you) from right to left and purling as normal.
- To work a make 1 increase that twists to the left from the purl side, insert the RH needle through the back loop from left to right and purl as normal.

After you work a make 1 increase, check to make sure that it's twisted in the direction you intended. If it isn't, undo your new stitch — it will only unravel as far as the running thread — and try it again.

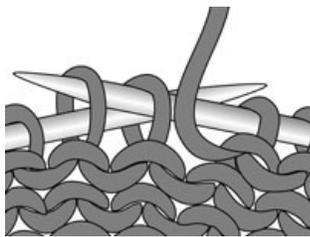
You can [turn](#) a make 1 into a decorative [eyelet](#) (a little hole) increase by knitting or purling into the running thread without twisting it.

## How to Purl Two Stitches Together

By [Pam Allen](#), [Tracy Barr](#), and [Shannon Okey](#) from [Knitting For Dummies, 2nd Edition](#)

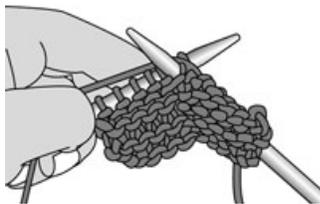
To work a [decrease](#) from the [purl](#) side, [purl 2 stitches](#) together (abbreviated [p2tog](#)) instead of [knitting](#) them together. You can purl 2 stitches together although most knitting [patterns](#) have you decrease on right side [rows](#) only. (The purl side is the “wrong” side.)

When you look at a p2tog decrease from the knit side, the stitches slant to the right, just like they do with a [k2tog](#) decrease.



1. **Insert the [RH needle](#) purlwise into the next 2 stitches on the [LH needle](#).**

Position the needle like you were purling a single stitch, except insert the needle through two [loops](#). You're on your way to working a single p2tog decrease on the wrong (purl) side of your knitting.



2. **Wrap the [yarn](#) around the RH needle.**

Perform the action just like you were working a single purl stitch.



3. **Pull the RH needle through the loop.**

Again, purl the 2 stitches together as if they were 1 stitch.

### References:

<http://www.dummies.com/how-to/crafts-hobbies/Knitting/Stitches-Designs.html>

<http://www.craftcookie.com/>

# CROCHET

## YARN AND THREAD

Yarn and thread are classified by weight, which is determined by the thickness of the strand.

Yarn consists of individual plies twisted together. The number of plies has nothing to do with the weight of the yarn.

Thread sizes range from a thick size 5 to a thin, delicate size 150. The higher the size number, the thinner the thread. The most popular thread size is bedspread weight cotton, size 10.

Fig. 1 shows the actual size of the most commonly used yarn weights, and Fig. 2 shows the actual size of the most commonly used cotton crochet threads. They can be used as a reference to check the weight of your yarn and thread.

Fig. 1

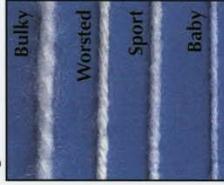


Fig. 2



## ABBREVIATIONS

The abbreviations most frequently used are listed below. Always refer to the list included in each leaflet.

- BPdc Back Post double crochet(s)
- ch chain(s)
- dc double crochet(s)
- dtr double treble crochet(s)
- FPdc Front Post double crochet(s)
- hdc half double crochet(s)
- sc single crochet(s)
- tr treble crochet(s)
- tr tr triple treble crochet(s)
- YO yarn over

- ★ — work instructions following ★ as many more times as indicated in addition to the first time.
- () — work enclosed instructions as many times as specified by the number immediately following or work all enclosed instructions in the stitch or space indicated or contains explanatory remarks.

## CROCHET STITCHES

### SINGLE CROCHET (abbreviated sc)

Insert hook in stitch or space indicated, YO and pull up a loop, YO and draw through both loops on hook (Fig. 3).

Fig. 3



### HALF DOUBLE CROCHET (abbreviated hdc)

YO, insert hook in stitch or space indicated, YO and pull up a loop, YO and draw through all 3 loops on hook (Fig. 4).

Fig. 4



### DOUBLE CROCHET (abbreviated dc)

YO, insert hook in stitch or space indicated, YO and pull up a loop (3 loops on hook), YO and draw through 2 loops on hook (Fig. 5a), YO and draw through remaining 2 loops on hook (Fig. 5b).

Fig. 5a



Fig. 5b



### TREBLE CROCHET (abbreviated tr)

YO twice, insert hook in stitch or space indicated, YO and pull up a loop (4 loops on hook) (Fig. 6a), (YO and draw through 2 loops on hook) 3 times (Fig. 6b).

Fig. 6a



Fig. 6b



### DOUBLE TREBLE CROCHET (abbreviated dtr)

YO 3 times, insert hook in stitch or space indicated, YO and pull up a loop (5 loops on hook) (Fig. 7a), (YO and draw through 2 loops on hook) 4 times (Fig. 7b).

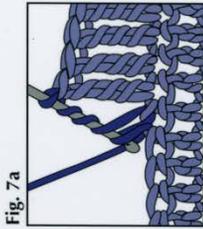


Fig. 7a



Fig. 7b

### TRIPLE TREBLE CROCHET (abbreviated tr tr)

YO 4 times, insert hook in stitch or space indicated, YO and pull up a loop (6 loops on hook) (Fig. 8a), (YO and draw through 2 loops on hook) 5 times (Fig. 8b).

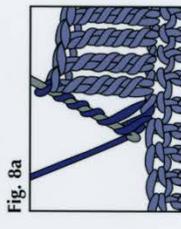


Fig. 8a



Fig. 8b

### POPCORNS

A Popcorn consists of a group of stitches, usually four or five dc, worked in one stitch or space and drawn together at the top (Fig. 9a).

For example, work 5 dc in next dc, drop loop from hook, insert hook in first dc of 5-dc group, hook dropped loop and draw through to form Popcorn (Fig. 9b).

Fig. 9a



5-dc



4-dc

### CLUSTERS

A Cluster is any combination of stitches each worked to the last step and joined together at the top. Clusters can be worked all in the same stitch or space (Figs. 10a & b) or across several stitches or spaces (Figs. 11a & b).

For example, ★ YO, insert hook in stitch indicated, YO and pull up a loop, YO and draw through 2 loops on hook; repeat from ★ 2 times **more**, YO and draw through all 4 loops on hook (Fig. 10a).

Fig. 10a



Fig. 10b

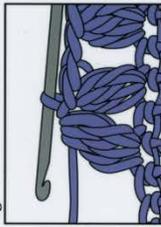


Fig. 11a



Fig. 11b



### PUFF STITCHES

A Puff stitch consists of loops joined together at the top. For example, ★ YO, insert hook in stitch or space indicated, YO and pull up a loop **even** with loop on hook; repeat from ★ 2 times **more**. YO and draw through all 7 loops on hook (Fig. 12).

Fig. 12



### SHELLS

A Shell is any combination of dc or tr worked into one stitch or space and separated by one or more chains, or a group of dc or tr worked into one stitch or space.

For example, work (2 dc, ch 1, 2 dc) in next ch-1 space (Fig. 13a), or work 5 dc in center dc of next Shell (Fig. 13b).

Fig. 13a



Fig. 13b



### V-STITCHES

A V-Stitch consists of 2 dc or tr worked into one stitch or space and separated by chains. For example, skip next dc, work (dc, ch 3, dc) in next dc (Fig. 14).

Fig. 14



### GAUGE

Exact gauge is **essential** for proper size. Before beginning your project, make a sample swatch in the yarn or thread and hook specified. After completing the swatch, measure it with the ruler given, counting your stitches and rows or rounds carefully. If your swatch is larger or smaller than specified, **make another, changing hook size to get the correct gauge**. Keep trying until you find the size hook that will give you the specified gauge.

We have made every effort to ensure that these instructions are accurate and complete. We cannot, however, be responsible for human error, typographical mistakes, or variations in individual work.

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Use this handy ruler to check your gauge.

### CROSS STITCHES

A Cross stitch is formed when a dc or tr "crosses" a stitch previously made, working into a skipped stitch. It can be worked **around**, in **front of**, or **behind** the stitch just made (Fig. 28).

For example, skip next dc, dc in next dc, dc in skipped dc working **around** dc just made (Figs. 15a & b).

Fig. 15a

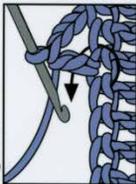


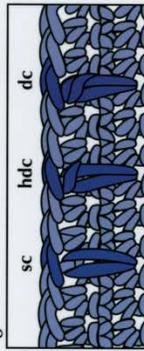
Fig. 15b



### LONG STITCHES

Long stitches are usually worked **around** one or more rows or rounds (Fig. 28), or **around** a group of stitches. Work sc, hdc, or dc, inserting hook in stitch or space indicated, and pulling up a loop **even** with loop on hook; complete stitch (Fig. 16).

Fig. 16



### CABLE

Sc in next sc, ★ ch 3 loosely, skip next 2 sc, sc in next sc, **turn**; sc in next 3 chs (Fig. 17a), slip stitch in next sc (sc made before ch-3) (Fig. 17b); **turn**; working **behind** Cable, sc in 2 skipped sc (Fig. 17c); repeat from ★ across.

Fig. 17a



Fig. 17b



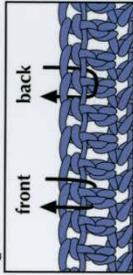
Fig. 17c



### POST STITCHES

Work any stitch around post of stitch indicated, inserting hook in direction of arrow (Fig. 18).

Fig. 18



### FRONT POST DOUBLE CROCHET

(abbreviated FPdc)

YO, insert hook from **front** to **back** around post of stitch indicated (Fig. 18), YO and pull up a loop (3 loops on hook) (Fig. 19), (YO and draw through 2 loops on hook) twice.

Fig. 19



### BACK POST DOUBLE CROCHET

(abbreviated BPdc)

YO, insert hook from **back** to **front** around post of stitch indicated (Fig. 18), YO and pull up a loop (3 loops on hook) (Fig. 20), (YO and draw through 2 loops on hook) twice.

Fig. 20



### REVERSE SINGLE CROCHET

(abbreviated reverse sc)

Working from **left to right**, insert hook in stitch to right of hook (Fig. 21a), YO and draw through, under and to left of loop on hook (Fig. 21b), YO and draw through both loops on hook (Figs. 21c & d).

Fig. 21a



Fig. 21b



Fig. 21c



Fig. 21d



### REVERSE HALF DOUBLE CROCHET

(abbreviated reverse hdc)

Working from **left to right**, YO, insert hook in stitch to right of hook (Fig. 22a), YO and draw through, under and to left of loop on hook (Fig. 22b), YO and draw through all 3 loops on hook (Figs. 22c & d).

Fig. 22a

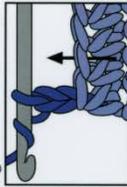


Fig. 22b



Fig. 22c



Fig. 22d



## STITCHING TIPS

### JOINING WITH SLIP STITCH

Begin with a slip knot on hook. Insert hook in stitch or space indicated, YO and draw through the stitch or space and the loop on hook.

### JOINING WITH SC

Begin with a slip knot on hook. Insert hook in stitch or space indicated, YO and pull up a loop. YO (Fig. 23a) and draw through both loops on hook (Fig. 23b).

Fig. 23a



Fig. 23b



### JOINING WITH HDC

Begin with a slip knot on hook. YO, holding loop on hook, insert hook in stitch or space indicated, YO and pull up a loop. YO and draw through all 3 loops on hook.

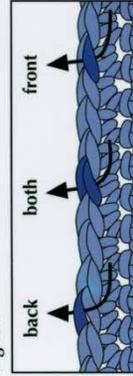
### JOINING WITH DC

Begin with a slip knot on hook. YO, holding loop on hook, insert hook in stitch or space indicated, YO and pull up a loop (3 loops on hook), YO and draw through 2 loops on hook) twice.

### BACK OR FRONT LOOP ONLY

Always work under both top loops, unless specified to work in Back or Front Loops Only as indicated by arrow (Fig. 24).

Fig. 24



### FREE LOOPS

After working in Back or Front Loops Only on a row or round, there will be a ridge of unused loops. These are called the free loops. Later, when instructed to work in the free loops of the same row or round, work in these loops (Fig. 25a).

When instructed to work in the free loops of a chain, work in loop indicated by arrow (Fig. 25b).

Fig. 25a

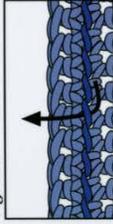
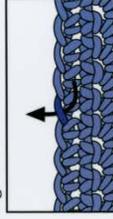


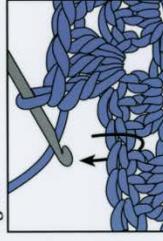
Fig. 25b



### WORKING BETWEEN OR BEFORE STITCHES

When instructed to work in spaces between stitches or in space before a stitch, insert hook in space indicated by arrow (Fig. 26).

Fig. 26



### WORKING IN TOP OF A STITCH

When working in top of a stitch just worked, insert hook as indicated by arrow (Fig. 27).

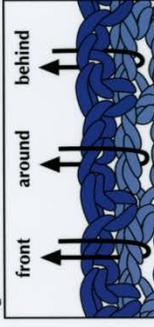
Fig. 27



### WORKING IN FRONT OF, AROUND, OR BEHIND A STITCH

Work in stitch or space indicated, inserting hook as indicated by arrow (Fig. 28).

Fig. 28



### CHANGING COLORS

Work the last stitch to within one step of completion, drop old yarn, hook new yarn (Fig. 29a) and draw through all loops on hook. Cut old yarn and work over both ends unless otherwise instructed.

When working in rounds, drop old yarn and join with slip stitch to first stitch using new yarn (Fig. 29b).

Fig. 29a



Fig. 29b



### NO-SEW JOINING

Squares, Motifs, and Strips can be joined together as the last round is worked. Holding pieces with wrong sides together, work slip stitch or sc in corresponding space on previous piece (Fig. 30).

Fig. 30



You know you're addicted to crochet when you've watched 3 seasons of a TV show, but have no idea what the characters actually look like.



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user card

Images from internet

Crochet notes from [www.leisurearts.com](http://www.leisurearts.com) brochure