

Learn to Crochet Easily

When we think of crocheting, many people picture rocking-chair grannies working away at baby booties, or bitter spinsters whiling away the hours crafting doilies. But crocheting is a relaxing and rewarding hobby that everyone can enjoy. Modern clothing trends incorporate crocheted elements, causing the traditional craft to gain new popularity.

It takes a certain someone to master the art of crochet. To learn to crochet you must be patient and have the time to spend perfecting your craft. Sometimes the biggest trick to learning, is finding a great teacher. Crocheting isn't a terribly difficult skill to learn, but it does take time and a great deal of practice.

To learn crochet, you need to start with a good crochet hook, yarns, a yarn needle, measuring tape, some pins and a lot of determination to master the craft and finish a crocheting project.

Here is a rundown of tips to help you easily learn to crochet:

Hold the Yarn Like a Pro

Crocheting newbies can sometimes find it tricky to hold the yarn properly. It might just take some time to get used to the practice, but knowing how to hold the yarn properly and skillfully is not to be overlooked. Here is how to do it:

1. While holding the yarn, let it pass through your fingers as follows: across the little finger, beneath the ring finger and then above the forefinger and the middle finger.
2. Another way to hold the yarn is to loop in the region of the little finger, and then crossing the forefinger.
3. Hold the hook as you would a spoon or pencil. With that position, you won't find it difficult to move the yarn from your fingers down to the loop in the hook.

As you begin to get used to the process of crocheting, you will find your own unique and comfortable way to work with the yarn. Don't be afraid to adopt a new method of holding yarn if you find another way that suits you. This will help you to crochet more efficiently in the long run.

Size Matters

There is a real skill to being able to select the right yarn and hook to use for a particular crochet project. Various numbers and letters that correspond to certain sizes identify hooks. In crocheting, higher numbers or letters denote a thicker hook. Yarns are identified only by their names.

Resizing the Pattern

Reducing the size of a crocheting project is as simple as deducting some stitches. You can simply skip a stitch in a row and continue each row in the same manner to reduce the size of the project. To enlarge a project, just insert more stitches in each row. Further, you can easily join two stitches of the same row together to produce a solo stitch on the row prior to it.

Reading the Pattern

Pattern abbreviations can really complicate matters when you're trying to learn to crochet. You'll need to use logic and memory to overcome this common crocheting obstacle. Once you've memorized the important abbreviations on your crochet pattern, you'll be able to crochet faster and more efficiently.

1. Crochet patterns and instructions are typically worked in rows or rounds. Your pattern will indicate whether the project must be worked in rounds, rows or a combination of both.
2. Crochet instructions and patterns are generally ranked according to difficulty levels. Choose advanced, intermediate, easy or beginner pattern difficulties to suit your abilities. As your skills increase, you can gradually step up to more difficult pattern levels.
3. Count the stitches you've made as you work. The number of stitches must be closely monitored and followed in order to properly complete the project.
4. Crochet a sample of about 4" by 4" in the pattern to verify your gauge. If the gauge of your project is larger than what is on the pattern, you'll need to use a smaller hook. If the gauge is smaller, use a larger hook.

Crocheting is a wonderful hobby for all types of crafters. You can learn to crochet quickly and easily. Gather your materials, follow the instructions, be patient and get ready for a great feeling of pride when you've completed your first crochet project.