

# Crochet — Workbook

This workbook turns the crochet course into hands-on practice and project records you can reuse on every make. Each section matches a course module, moving from hook, yarn, and the foundational stitches, to reading written and chart patterns and checking gauge, to granny squares and working in the round, and finally to amigurumi and finishing a garment. Work through the exercises with a 4 mm hook and light worsted-weight yarn in front of you, and keep the worksheets and templates as a project log so your second project comes out better than your first.

## Hook, Yarn, and Foundational Stitches

Pick a beginner hook and yarn, hold them for even tension, and build a slip knot, chain, and the four core stitches worked flat.

### Worksheet: Hook and yarn starter plan

Before buying anything, decide your starter hook and yarn and the hook hold you will use. Choose a smooth, light-coloured worsted-weight yarn and a 4 mm hook, and record the hold and tension path that felt steadiest. Yarn brand and weight (worsted / medium / 4 / aran)

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Yarn fibre (acrylic / cotton-acrylic / other)

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Yarn colour (light enough to see stitches? yes / no)

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Hook size in mm (4 mm / G-6 recommended)

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Hook type (aluminium / ergonomic such as Clover Amour)

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Hook hold chosen (pencil / knife-overhand)

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Yarn-hand tension path that felt steadiest

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Recommended hook range on the yarn band (mm)

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### Exercise: Tension and chain evenness drill

Make a slip knot, then chain 30, deliberately keeping each chain loose and even. Cut, and chain 30 again. Lay both chains side by side and compare. Then count the V shapes on one chain, excluding the hook loop and slip knot.

- Were your chains even, or did some come out much tighter than others?
- When you counted the V shapes, did you correctly exclude the loop on the hook and the slip knot?

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- Did the hook slide easily through each chain, or were some too tight to work into?
  - What did your tension hand do differently on the tight chains versus the even ones?
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### Exercise: Four-stitch swatch sampler

Chain about 16. Work four rows of single crochet, then four of half-double, four of double, and four of treble, using the right turning chain for each (sc 1, hdc 2, dc 3, tr 4). Count stitches at the end of every row.

- How did the height and density change from single crochet up to treble?
  - Did your stitch count stay the same every row, or did edges drift wider or narrower?
  - Did you ever work into or skip the turning chain, and how did that change the count?
  - Which stitch felt most automatic, and which needs more practice?
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### Checklist: Foundational-stitch readiness check

- [ ] Worsted-weight, light-coloured yarn and a 4 mm hook chosen
- [ ] Comfortable hook hold and a relaxed grip settled on
- [ ] Slip knot made adjustable, not pulled bone-tight
- [ ] Chains kept loose and even, hook slides through each one
- [ ] V shapes counted correctly, excluding hook loop and slip knot
- [ ] Single, half-double, double, and treble crochet worked in even rows
- [ ] Stitches counted at the end of every row to keep edges straight

## Reading Patterns, Charts, and Gauge

Decode written abbreviations and symbol charts, confirm US versus UK terms, and swatch to match the pattern's gauge.

### Worksheet: Pattern decode sheet

Take any beginner pattern and fill this in before working a stitch. Confirm US or UK terms first, list the abbreviations used, and note the gauge. Remember US single crochet equals UK double crochet.

Pattern name / source

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Terms: US or UK? (and the clue you used, e.g. uses sc = US)

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Abbreviations used in this pattern (ch, sc, hdc, dc, tr, sl st, inc, dec, rep)

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What the asterisk / brackets repeat means in this pattern

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Stated gauge (stitches and rows per 10 cm)

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Hook and yarn the pattern specifies

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Written, charted, or both?

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### Exercise: Read a line aloud, then chart it

Take one written row, for example 'Row 4: ch 1, sc in each st across, turn', and say in plain words what it tells you to do. Then sketch the international symbols for a short row of stitches and label each symbol.

- Could you expand every abbreviation in the row into plain words?

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- Which symbol did you draw for chain, single crochet, half-double, double, and treble?

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- How does the number of slashes on a stem relate to the stitch height?

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- For a flat pattern, which direction would you read each row, and how does that follow the turns?

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### Exercise: Gauge swatch and hook adjustment

Pick a pattern's gauge, for example 16 sc and 18 rows = 10 cm. Crochet a swatch at least 15 cm square in that stitch with the stated hook, block it if the pattern says to, lay it flat unstretched, and count stitches and rows in a 10 cm window in the middle.

- How many stitches and rows did you get in 10 cm, versus the pattern's numbers?

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- If you had too many stitches, did going up a hook size bring the count down?

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- If you had too few, did going down a hook size bring the count up?

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- Why did you measure in the middle of the swatch rather than at the edges?

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### Checklist: Pattern-and-gauge readiness check

- US or UK terms confirmed before starting (US sc = UK dc remembered)
- Every abbreviation in the pattern understood
- Symbol chart read in the right direction for flat or round work
- Swatch at least 15 cm square worked in the gauge stitch
- Swatch blocked the same way the project will be blocked
- Stitches and rows counted in a 10 cm window in the middle, unstretched
- Hook size adjusted until stitch count matches the pattern

## Granny Squares and Working in the Round

Start in the round with a magic ring, build a flat granny square with square corners, join squares, and change colour cleanly.

### Exercise: Magic ring and flat-circle drill

Make a magic ring and work 6 single crochet into it, then pull the tail to close the centre. Continue increasing 6 stitches evenly each round (12, 18, 24) to make a flat circle, marking the first stitch of each round.

- Did the magic ring close fully with no hole in the centre?

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- Did your circle stay flat, or did it cup (too few increases) or ruffle (too many)?

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- Did marking and moving the first-stitch marker keep you from losing your place in the spiral?

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- How is a spiral different from joined rounds, and which did this drill use?

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### Exercise: Build a granny square

Work a classic granny square from a magic ring: round 1 of four 3-dc clusters with ch-2 corners, then corners of (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) and 3-dc clusters into each chain-space on later rounds. Join and chain up each round. Stop after four rounds.

- Did every corner get its full corner cluster and chain-2 space?

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- Did the square stay square, or did it skew into a diamond or ruffle?

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- Did the clusters per side increase by one each round as expected?
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- Where did the side clusters go, and where did the corner clusters go?
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### Exercise: Clean colour-change drill

On a granny square or a swatch, change colour by working the last stitch of the old colour until two loops remain, then completing it with the new colour. Make at least two colour changes and inspect the front for any two-tone stitch.

- Did completing the last old-colour stitch with the new colour avoid a half-and-half stitch?
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- Was the colour change crisp on the front, with no jog or smear?
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- Did you leave a tail of at least 15 cm on each colour to weave in later?
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- When would you carry a colour up the side versus fasten off and rejoin?
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### Worksheet: Square layout and join plan

Plan a small granny-square project before joining anything. Decide the grid, the colour arrangement, and the join method, and note that you should photograph the layout before joining.

Project (blanket / cushion / bag)

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Grid size (squares across x down)

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Number of squares needed

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Colours per square / colour scheme

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Join method (whip stitch / slip-stitch join / join-as-you-go)

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Unifying final-round colour, if any

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Layout photographed before joining? (yes / no)

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## Amigurumi and Finishing a Garment

Crochet a dense amigurumi with invisible decreases, work a garment to a measured fit with the right ease, then weave in ends and block.

### Exercise: Amigurumi ball drill

With a 3.5 to 4 mm hook and worsted yarn, crochet a small ball: magic ring of 6 sc, increase 6 per round to 24, work even rounds, then decrease with the invisible decrease (front loops only) back down, stuffing firmly with fibrefill before the opening closes.

- Was the fabric dense enough that no stuffing showed through the stitches?
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- Did the invisible decrease hide the decrease better than a plain decrease would?
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- Was the ball firm and smooth, or lumpy from uneven increases or too little stuffing?
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- Did marking the first stitch of each round keep your spiral on track?

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### Worksheet: Garment size and ease worksheet

Plan a garment's size from your body measurements and the pattern's recommended ease. Pick the size by finished chest plus ease, not by the label, and circle that size's numbers throughout the pattern.

Body chest measurement (cm)

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Recommended ease from the pattern (e.g. +5 to +10 cm)

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Target finished chest (body chest + ease)

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Size chosen (whose finished chest matches the target)

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Desired body length and sleeve length (cm)

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Construction (top-down / seamed / other)

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Gauge matched to the pattern? (yes / no)

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Size's numbers circled throughout the pattern? (yes / no)

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### Worksheet: Finishing and blocking record

Plan the finish before you fasten off the last stitch. Record how you wove in ends, how you blocked, and the care instructions from the yarn band.

Tails left at least 15 cm before fastening off? (yes / no)

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Ends woven in and doubled back to lock? (yes / no)

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Tails woven into same-colour stitches? (yes / no)

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Blocking method (wet block and pin / steam from above for acrylic)

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Pinned to target measurements and dried fully? (yes / no)

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Yarn-band care instructions (machine gentle / hand wash / dry flat)

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Stored folded, wool with moth deterrent? (yes / no)

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## Checklist: Finished-project check

- Amigurumi fabric dense with no stuffing showing through
- Invisible decreases used so shaping is smooth, not bumpy
- Toy stuffed firmly but not so hard the stitches splay
- Child-safe features embroidered or sewn, parts sewn on securely
- Garment size chosen by finished chest plus ease, gauge matched
- All ends woven in and doubled back so none can work loose
- Piece blocked to even the stitches, acrylic steamed from above never pressed flat

## Your Action Plan

1. Choose a 4 mm hook and a smooth, light worsted-weight yarn, settle on a relaxed hook hold and a steady tension-hand path.
2. Practise the slip knot and an even chain, then work even rows of single, half-double, double, and treble crochet, counting stitches every row.
3. Confirm whether your pattern uses US or UK terms, learn its abbreviations, and read both a written row and a symbol chart for the same stitches.
4. Swatch at least 15 cm square in the gauge stitch, block it, measure a 10 cm window, and adjust hook size until the stitch count matches.
5. Start in the round with a magic ring and make a flat circle, then build a granny square keeping every corner square.
6. Practise a clean colour change on the last loop of a stitch, then plan and photograph a square layout before joining with your chosen method.
7. Crochet an amigurumi shape on a smaller hook with even increases, invisible decreases, and firm stuffing, sewing any parts on securely.
8. Plan a garment by finished chest plus the pattern's ease, circle your size throughout, and match gauge before starting.
9. Work a top-down garment to a measured length, trying it on as you go rather than trusting a row count.
10. Fasten off with long tails, weave in ends and double them back, then wet-block or steam to even the stitches and set the shape.











