Beginner Crochet Starter Pack

Nine English printables in one 11-page PDF, including this contents page.
US crochet terms. US Letter paper; use Fit to page when printing on A4.

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How to use this pack

Use the reference sheets alongside your pattern and the linked crochet guides.
These are general charts and practice aids, not complete instructions for every kit.
A pattern's own key, materials and instructions take priority.
The same nine resources remain available as individual downloads.

www.forfunly.com/downloads | www.forfunly.com/tools

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Crochet Abbreviations Chart: US Terms with UK Names

Keep this next to your pattern. Find the abbreviation, check whether your pattern uses US or UK terms, then read one round at a time.

Abbrev.	US meaning	UK term
beg	begin / beginning	—
BLO	back loop only	back loop only
FLO	front loop only	front loop only
ch	chain	chain (ch)
ch-sp	chain space	chain space
sl st	slip stitch	slip stitch (ss)
sc	single crochet	double crochet (dc)
hdc	half double crochet	half treble (htr)
dc	double crochet	treble (tr)
tr	treble crochet	double treble (dtr)
dtr	double treble	triple treble (trtr)
yo	yarn over	yarn over hook (yoh)
inc	increase (usually 2 sts in one st)	increase
dec	decrease	decrease

Abbrev.	US meaning	UK term
sc2tog	single crochet 2 together	dc2tog
invdec	invisible decrease	invisible decrease
MR	magic ring / magic circle	magic ring
st / sts	stitch / stitches	stitch / stitches
rnd(s)	round(s)	round(s)
rep	repeat	repeat
sk	skip	miss
sp	space	space
pm / sm	place marker / slip marker	place / slip marker
rem	remaining	remaining
RS / WS	right side / wrong side	right side / wrong side
tog	together	together
FO	fasten off	fasten off
gauge	stitches and rows per measure	tension

Repeat and count notation

- *** … ; rep from *** — work the steps after the asterisk again as directed.
- **(…) × 6** or **[…] 6 times** — repeat the group in brackets six times.
- **(sc, inc) × 6** — 1 sc in the next stitch, 2 sc in the following stitch; six times.

- **[18]** or **(18)** at the end — the stitch count you should have when the round is finished. It is a check, not an extra instruction.
- **Rnd 4–6: sc around** — work three rounds of one sc in every stitch.
- US and UK both write “dc”, but a UK dc is a US sc. Check the pattern’s terminology note first.

US terms with UK equivalents as listed by the Craft Yarn Council. A pattern’s own key always takes priority. Learn each term step by step: www.forfunly.com/guides/us-crochet-abbreviations

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Crochet Hook Size Chart: mm, US and UK

Find your hook in any system, then check which yarn weights it usually suits.

Metric	US	Old UK / Can.	Usual yarn weight
2 mm	—	14	—
2.25 mm	B-1	13	1 Super Fine
2.5 mm	—	12	1 Super Fine
2.75 mm	C-2	—	1 Super Fine
3 mm	—	11	1 Super Fine
3.25 mm	D-3	10	1 Super Fine
3.5 mm	E-4	9	1 Super Fine, 2 Fine
3.75 mm	F-5	—	2 Fine
4 mm	G-6	8	2 Fine
4.5 mm	7	7	2 Fine, 3 Light
5 mm	H-8	6	3 Light
5.5 mm	I-9	5	3 Light, 4 Medium
6 mm	J-10	4	4 Medium
6.5 mm	K-10½	3	4 Medium, 5 Bulky
7 mm	—	2	5 Bulky
8 mm	L-11	0	5 Bulky
9 mm	M/N-13	00	5 Bulky, 6 Super Bulky
10 mm	N/P-15	000	6 Super Bulky
15 mm	P/Q	—	6 Super Bulky, 7 Jumbo
15.75 mm	Q	—	7 Jumbo
19 mm	S	—	7 Jumbo

Yarn weight to hook size (Craft Yarn Council ranges)

Yarn weight	Common names	Hook (mm)	Hook (US)
1 Super Fine	Sock, fingering, baby	2.25–3.5 mm	B-1 to E-4
2 Fine	Sport, baby	3.5–4.5 mm	E-4 to 7
3 Light	DK, light worsted	4.5–5.5 mm	7 to I-9
4 Medium	Worsted, afghan, aran	5.5–6.5 mm	I-9 to K-10½
5 Bulky	Chunky, craft, rug	6.5–9 mm	K-10½ to M/N-13
6 Super Bulky	Super chunky, roving	9–15 mm	M/N-13 to P/Q
7 Jumbo	Jumbo, roving	15 mm and larger	P/Q and larger

- **Millimetres are the reliable size.** US letters can differ slightly between brands, especially 2.75–3.25 mm and above 9 mm.
- **Old UK numbers run backwards:** a larger number is a thinner hook. Vintage charts may differ by half a size.
- **Amigurumi** often uses a hook smaller than the yarn label suggests so stuffing does not show. Your pattern's hook and gauge come first.

Regular hooks only; steel thread hooks use a separate numbering system. Interactive version: www.forfunly.com/tools/crochet-hook-size-converter

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Yarn Weight Chart: Categories 0–7

Craft Yarn Council categories 0 Lace to 7 Jumbo with common US, UK and Australian label names, typical gauge, hook and needle ranges, and wraps per inch (WPI) as a rough guide.

Weight	Also called	UK / AU	Crochet gauge*	Crochet hook	Knit gauge*	Needle	WPI†
0 Lace	lace, fingering, 10-count crochet thread	1-ply, 2-ply / 2-ply	32–42 **dc**	Steel 1.4–1.6 mm, regular 2.25 mm US Steel 6, 7, 8; regular B-1	33–40	1.5–2.25 mm	30–40+
1 Super Fine	sock, fingering, baby	3-ply, 4-ply / 3-ply, 4-ply	21–32 sc	2.25–3.5 mm US B-1 to E-4	27–32	2.25–3.25 mm	14–30
2 Fine	sport, baby	Sport / 5-ply	16–20 sc	3.5–4.5 mm US E-4 to 7	23–26	3.25–3.75 mm	12–18
3 Light	DK, light worsted	DK (double knitting) / 8-ply	12–17 sc	4.5–5.5 mm US 7 to I-9	21–24	3.75–4.5 mm	11–15
4 Medium	worsted, afghan, aran	Aran / 10-ply	11–14 sc	5.5–6.5 mm US I-9 to K-10½	16–20	4.5–5.5 mm	9–12
5 Bulky	chunky, craft, rug	Chunky / 12-ply	8–11 sc	6.5–9 mm US K-10½ to M/N-13	12–15	5.5–8 mm	6–9
6 Super Bulky	super bulky, super chunky, roving	Super chunky / 14-ply	7–9 sc	9–15 mm US M/N-13 to Q	7–11	8–12.75 mm	5–6
7 Jumbo	jumbo, roving	Jumbo, ultra chunky / —	6 or fewer sc	15 mm and larger US Q and larger	6 or fewer	12.75 mm and larger	1–4

*Stitches per 4 in / 10 cm. Crochet: US single crochet (sc), except 0 Lace, which the Craft Yarn Council gives in US **double crochet (dc)**. Knitting: stockinette. †Wraps per inch from the CYC WPI guide; the ranges overlap and depend on how firmly you wrap, so one count can fit more than one category.

How to read it

- **Gauge beats names.** Two yarns sold as “worsted” can differ; compare the gauge on both labels, then swatch.
- **Regional ply names are thickness conventions,** not the number of strands. In Australia 8-ply is usually DK, 10-ply worsted/aran, 12-ply bulky; brands vary.
- **Fingering** appears in both 0 Lace and 1 Super Fine in the CYC system.
- **Category 0 lists 10-count crochet thread**, not every crochet thread.
- **50 g or 100 g is a weight of yarn, not a thickness.** Metres per 100 g helps compare yarns but does not make them interchangeable.
- **Amigurumi** often uses a hook smaller than the label range for a dense fabric. Your pattern’s gauge comes first.

This sheet covers categories 0–7 in detail. The Craft Yarn Council has announced an additional size 8; it is not included here because detailed ranges were not available when this sheet was made. Sources: craftyarncouncil.com/standards/yarn-weight-system and /how-measure-wraps-inch-wpi. Interactive version: www.forfunly.com/tools/yarn-weight-chart

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Crochet Chart Symbols Key

The most common symbols in US-style crochet charts, with how to follow rounds and rows.



Chain (ch)
An oval.

Slip stitch (sl st)
A small filled dot or oval.



Single crochet (sc)
An X, or a + in some charts.



Half double crochet (hdc)
A T: one upright with a top bar.



Double crochet (dc)
A T with one slash across the stem.



Treble crochet (tr)
A T with two slashes across the stem.



Magic ring (MR)
A circle at the centre of a round chart.



sc increase (inc)
Two sc worked into one stitch: a V with an X on each arm.



sc decrease (sc2tog)
Two stitches worked together: legs join at the top.

How to read a crochet chart

Charts worked in rounds

- Start at the centre (often a magic ring or chain ring).
- Right-handed: read each round counter-clockwise. Left-handed: clockwise.
- Each symbol is one stitch; its position shows which stitch below it goes into.

Charts worked in rows

- Start at the bottom with the foundation chain.
- Right-handed: read RS rows right to left and WS rows left to right (reverse for left-handed).
- Row numbers usually sit at the end where the row begins.

Before you start: symbol shapes vary between designers and publishers, especially for loops-only stitches and special stitches. Always check the key printed with your chart. Full lesson: www.forfunly.com/guides/read-crochet-charts

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7-Day Beginner Crochet Practice Plan

Fifteen to forty minutes a day, from the first slip knot to a small stuffed ball — the same skills used in most amigurumi. Tick each day when you finish it.

☐ **Day 1 · Slip knot and chain**

About 15–20 min · Lesson: www.forfunly.com/guides/start-a-crochet-chain

Make a slip knot. Chain 15, pull it out and repeat until the chains look even. Aim for loops that slide on the hook without being loose.

☐ **Day 2 · Single crochet rows**

About 20–30 min · Lesson: www.forfunly.com/blogs/news/how-to-crochet-your-first-practice-square

Chain 16. Single crochet into the 2nd chain from the hook and every chain across (15 sc). Chain 1, turn. Work 8 rows, counting 15 stitches at the end of each row.

☐ **Day 3 · Counting and straight edges**

About 20–30 min · Lesson: www.forfunly.com/guides/amigurumi-stitch-counting

Continue the same piece. Put a stitch marker in the first and last stitch of each row. Work 6 more rows. Edges that wander mean a stitch was skipped or added — count again.

☐ **Day 4 · Taller stitches**

About 25–30 min · Lesson: www.forfunly.com/guides/half-double-crochet (and /double-crochet)

On a new chain, work 4 rows of half double crochet, then 4 rows of double crochet. Follow the turning-chain note in each lesson, and compare the height of the three stitches.

☐ **Day 5 · Magic ring**

About 20 min · Lesson: www.forfunly.com/guides/crochet-magic-ring-practice

Make a magic ring and work 6 sc into it. Pull the tail to close the centre. Round 2: inc in each stitch (12). Repeat the whole exercise three times.

☐ **Day 6 · Flat circle**

About 25–30 min · Lesson: www.forfunly.com/guides/crochet-flat-circle

Rnd 1: 6 sc in MR (6). Rnd 2: inc × 6 (12). Rnd 3: (sc, inc) × 6 (18). Rnd 4: (2 sc, inc) × 6 (24). Rnd 5: (3 sc, inc) × 6 (30). Lay it flat: ruffles or cupping mean the count or tension is off.

☐ **Day 7 · A small ball**

About 30–40 min · Lesson: www.forfunly.com/guides/crochet-sphere

Rnds 1–3 as Day 6 (18). Rnds 4–6: sc around (18). Rnd 7: (sc, dec) × 6 (12). Stuff firmly. Rnd 8: dec × 6 (6). Fasten off, weave the tail through the last round and pull closed.

You will need: a 4–5 mm hook, smooth light-coloured worsted or DK yarn (easier to see stitches), a few stitch markers, scissors, a yarn needle and a little fibrefill for Day 7. US terms throughout. If a step feels hard, repeat that day before moving on.

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Crochet Circle and Sphere Increase Chart

Round-by-round stitch counts for a flat circle and a classic amigurumi ball, plus the rule that lets you make any size.

Flat circle in single crochet

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	6 sc in magic ring	[6]
2	inc × 6	[12]
3	(sc, inc) × 6	[18]
4	(2 sc, inc) × 6	[24]
5	(3 sc, inc) × 6	[30]
6	(4 sc, inc) × 6	[36]
7	(5 sc, inc) × 6	[42]
8	(6 sc, inc) × 6	[48]
9	(7 sc, inc) × 6	[54]
10	(8 sc, inc) × 6	[60]
11	(9 sc, inc) × 6	[66]
12	(10 sc, inc) × 6	[72]

Each round adds 6 stitches. Ruffling means too many stitches; cupping means too few or very tight tension.

Sphere (6 → 36 → 6)

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	6 sc in magic ring	6
2	inc × 6	12
3	(sc, inc) × 6	18
4	(2 sc, inc) × 6	24
5	(3 sc, inc) × 6	30
6	(4 sc, inc) × 6	36
7–12	sc in each st around (6 rounds)	36
13	(4 sc, dec) × 6	30
14	(3 sc, dec) × 6	24
15	(2 sc, dec) × 6	18
16	(sc, dec) × 6	12
17	dec × 6	6

Stuff before the last two rounds become too small to reach inside. Close by weaving the tail through the front loops of the last round.

The rule behind the numbers

- Round *n* of a 6-stitch flat circle has **6 × n** stitches.
- In each round, work **(n – 2) sc** between increases.
- Decrease rounds mirror the increase rounds: **(n sc, dec)** instead of **(n sc, inc)**.

- Want a bigger or smaller ball? Stop increasing at a different count, work about as many even rounds as you had increase rounds, then decrease.
- Stagger increases (start a round with half the plain stitches) to avoid a hexagon shape.
- Keep a marker in the first stitch of every round.

US terms. sc = single crochet; inc = 2 sc in one stitch; dec = sc2tog or invisible decrease. Calculator: www.forfunly.com/tools/crochet-increase-calculator

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Amigurumi Round and Stitch Count Tracker

Track every round of a toy part so you always know where you are and whether the count is right.

How to use

- Copy each round of your pattern into the Instruction column.
- Write the stitch count shown at the end of the round, e.g. [18].
- Count when you finish, tick the box, then move your marker.
- Use Notes for colour changes, safety-eye rounds or where you stopped.

Rnd	Example: a small sphere	Count
1	6 sc in MR	6
2	inc × 6	12
3	(sc, inc) × 6	18
4	(2 sc, inc) × 6	24
5–8	sc around	24
9	(2 sc, dec) × 6	18
10	(sc, dec) × 6	12
11	dec × 6	6

Project: _____ **Part:** _____ **Hook:** _____

Rnd / Row	Instruction	Expected count	Counted	Notes
			☐	
			☐	
			☐	
			☐	
			☐	
			☐	
			☐	
			☐	
			☐	
			☐	
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			☐	
			☐	
			☐	

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Amigurumi Troubleshooting Checklist: 20 Common Problems

Find what you see on your toy, try the fix, and tick it off. Most problems come from a stitch count, the hook size or the stuffing.

Fabric and gaps

#	If you see…	Try this
☐ 1	**Stuffing shows between stitches**	Try a hook about 0.5 mm smaller or a firmer tension; make sure each stitch goes under both top loops.
☐ 2	**Holes appear beside increases**	Pull each increase snug and stagger where increases fall from round to round.
☐ 3	**A step or jog where the colour changes**	Change colour on the last yarn over of the stitch before the new colour.
☐ 4	**Fabric is stiff and hard to work**	The hook may be too small for the yarn; go up a size and swatch again.

Counting and shape

#	If you see…	Try this
☐ 5	**Stitch count is off at the end of a round**	Put a marker in the first stitch of every round and count before moving it.
☐ 6	**A flat circle ruffles**	Too many stitches: check the increase repeat and recount the last two rounds.
☐ 7	**A flat circle cups or curls up**	Too few increases or very tight tension; check the count, then try a larger hook.
☐ 8	**Rounds look like a hexagon with corners**	Increases are stacking; move the increase position a little each round.
☐ 9	**Matching parts (arms, ears) differ in size**	Use the same hook and count rounds; make pairs one after the other.

Stuffing

#	If you see…	Try this
☐ 10	**Toy looks lumpy**	Pull fibrefill into small tufts and add a little at a time, shaping as you go.
☐ 11	**Shape collapses or stitches stretch**	Stuff until the shape holds without the fabric stretching open.
☐ 12	**Head flops on the neck**	Stuff the neck area firmly before closing and sewing the head on.

Face and assembly

#	If you see…	Try this
☐ 13	**Safety eyes look uneven**	Mark both positions with markers and count stitches and rounds between them before inserting.

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#	If you see…	Try this
☐ 14	**Safety eye backs feel loose**	Press the washer firmly down the post until it sits flat against the fabric. For babies and children under 3, embroider eyes instead.
☐ 15	**Parts sit at the wrong angle**	Pin every part and check from the front, side and top before sewing.
☐ 16	**Seams are visible**	Sew through matching loops with the same colour yarn and pull each stitch snug.

Finishing

#	If you see…	Try this
☐ 17	**A hole is left where the piece closes**	Weave the tail through the front loops of the last round and pull it closed.
☐ 18	**Tails work loose**	Weave tails through the stuffed body in several directions before trimming.
☐ 19	**The wrong side is facing out**	The right side shows small “V” shapes; turn the piece before stuffing.
☐ 20	**Finished toy is larger or smaller than expected**	Your gauge differs from the pattern; hook, yarn and tension all change the size.

General amigurumi guidance; your pattern’s instructions take priority. Detailed fixes: www.forfunly.com/guides/fix-amigurumi-mistakes · www.forfunly.com/guides/fix-amigurumi-gaps

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Left-Handed Crochet Quick Guide

Left-handed crocheters use the same stitches and patterns; only the direction changes. This sheet shows what to mirror and what to keep.

What stays the same

- Stitches, abbreviations, stitch counts and turning chains.
- Written patterns work as they are — read them in the same order.
- Gauge, hook sizes and yarn choice.

What changes

- You hold the hook in your left hand and the yarn in your right.
- You work along a row from **left to right**.
- Rounds travel **clockwise** instead of counter-clockwise.

Right-handed vs left-handed at a glance

	Right-handed	Left-handed
Hook hand	Right	Left
Direction along a row	Right to left	Left to right
Direction of rounds	Counter-clockwise	Clockwise
Reading a row chart (RS rows)	Start at the right edge	Start at the left edge
Reading a round chart	Counter-clockwise from the centre	Clockwise from the centre — or mirror the chart
Spiral of continuous amigurumi rounds	Leans one way	Leans the other way — this is normal

Tips

- **Written directions that name a side.** Instructions such as a pocket “on the left” or a head that tilts come out reversed. Swap left and right where it matters.
- **Colourwork and lettering.** Read a chart in the direction you work — from its left edge on right-side rows — and the picture comes out the right way round; do not flip it. Written colour-by-colour rows (“5 A, 3 B…”) start from the right, so follow the chart instead.
- **Amigurumi faces.** Place features by counting stitches from the marker, not by “left” and “right” in photos.
- **Videos.** Sit facing a right-handed video as if it were a mirror, or use a player’s mirror option if it has one.
- **Photos.** Flip step photos horizontally on your phone to match your hands.
- **Tension.** Wrap the yarn around the fingers of your right hand in whatever way keeps it even; there is no single correct grip.

General guidance in US terms. Lessons: www.forfunly.com/guides · Chart reading: www.forfunly.com/guides/read-crochet-charts

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