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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