

How to Read a Crochet Pattern Cheat Sheet

Quick Start Checklist

1. Read the pattern all the way through
2. Check materials and gauge
3. Review abbreviations
4. Start with Row 1 only
5. Count stitches as you go

What Is a Crochet Pattern?

A crochet pattern is a set of written instructions that guides you through creating a project using yarn and a crochet hook.

Patterns tell you:

- What materials you need
- Which stitches to use
- How many stitches to make
- When to repeat steps
- How to shape and finish your project

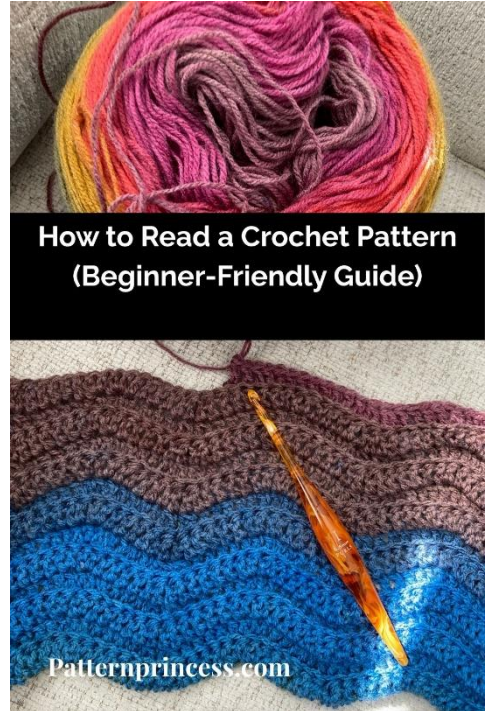
Why Patterns Can Look Complicated

Crochet patterns use shorthand (abbreviations and symbols) to keep instructions short and easy to repeat.

This helps:

- Keep patterns shorter
- Make repeats easier
- Clearly explain complex steps

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What to Look for at the Top of a Pattern

- Hook size (example: H/8 – 5mm)
 - Yarn weight and yardage
 - Gauge (example: 16 stitches x 18 rows = 4 inches)
 - Abbreviations list
 - Finished measurements
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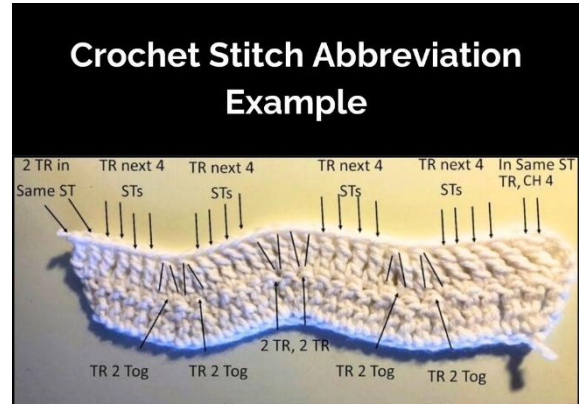
Common Parts of a Crochet Pattern

- Pattern overview (skill level, size, notes)
 - Materials list
 - Abbreviations
 - Gauge information
 - Step-by-step instructions
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Common Crochet Abbreviations

- ch = chain
- sc = single crochet
- dc = double crochet
- sl st = slip stitch
- yo = yarn over
- st(s) = stitch(es)
- sp = space
- rep = repeat
- sk = skip
- inc = increase
- dec = decrease

Repeat Symbols:



Crochet Stitch Abbreviation Example

- SC = Single Crochet
- SP = Space
- ST = Stitch
- STs = Stitches
- [] = Repeat Between

Pattern Notes
Written in US Terms.
This blanket uses the linen stitch, which is easy to repeat and works especially well with chunky yarn.
You can find Video Tutorials after the written pattern.
If you're new to the linen stitch or would like a visual refresher, I've included a video tutorial that shows how to crochet this stitch using a medium-weight yarn, making the stitches easy to see. The same stitch pattern is used in this blanket, so you can follow along confidently before switching to plush yarn.

Melting the Yarn Ends. Color changes are made **at the end of each row.** I melted the ends of the yarn together, let it cool a few seconds, then gave it a tug to make sure they were secured.
<https://patternprincess.com/melting-how-to-join-yarn-a-comprehensive-guide/>

Crochet Stitches
Chain Stitch (CH ST)
Begin with a chain stitch by making a slip knot on the crochet hook. Leave about 5-inch tail of yarn. This will be weaved in later.
Next snug up this loop that is on the crochet hook; while it should be loose enough to slide on the hook with ease.
Next snug up this loop, wrap the yarn over the crochet hook and pull it through the loop. You've just made a chain stitch.

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- () = repeat instructions inside
 - [] = repeat instructions inside
 - * = repeat instructions inside
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Understanding Pattern Instructions

Patterns are written step-by-step in the order your project is made.

You may work:

- In rows (back and forth)
- In rounds (in a circle)
- From the bottom up or top down

Example:

Row 1: Ch 20, sc in 2nd ch from hook and across (19 sts)

- “Ch 20” = make 20 chains
 - “sc in 2nd ch” = start in the second chain from hook
 - “(19 sts)” = total stitch count
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Gauge (Why It Matters)

Gauge measures how many stitches and rows fit into a certain size.

If your gauge is off:

- Your project may be too big or too small

How to Read a Pattern Step-by-Step

<https://patternprincess.com>



1. Read the pattern fully
 2. Highlight repeats and notes
 3. Gather materials
 4. Start with the first row
 5. Count stitches every row
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Beginner Tips

- Go slow
 - Mark off rows as you complete them
 - Look up unfamiliar stitches
 - Start with simple projects
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Common Mistakes to Avoid

Skipping pattern notes

→ Always read them first

Ignoring stitch counts

→ Count every row to catch mistakes early

Using the wrong yarn weight

→ This changes the size and feel

Not marking the first stitch (in rounds)

→ Use a stitch marker to track rounds

Misreading repeats

→ Carefully follow parentheses and asterisks



What Success Looks Like

- Stitch counts match
- Gauge is accurate
- Fabric looks like the pattern photos

Over time, patterns become easier to read and follow.

Reading crochet patterns is a skill that improves with practice. Take it one step at a time, and soon you'll be able to follow patterns with confidence and ease.

We hope you have found this quick guide helpful.

XO

Vicky and Casey

