FREE CROCHET TUTORIAL

Crab Stitch Crochet

How to crochet crab stitch (reverse single crochet), plus a coaster and placemat · US terms

SKILL LEVEL **Advanced beginner**	PRACTICE **Coaster + placemat**	YARN **Worsted (#4) cotton**
HOOK **5 mm (US H-8)**	STITCHES **ch, hdc, sc, reverse sc**	TIME **About 1 / 5 hours**

Materials

- Worsted (#4) cotton: 25 yd (coaster) or 160 yd (placemat)
- 5 mm (US H-8) hook, tapestry needle

Abbreviations (US terms)

ch	chain	**sc**	single crochet
hdc	half double crochet	**rsc / crab st**	reverse single crochet, worked left to right

Gauge: 14 hdc and 10 rows = 4 in (10 cm), a typical worsted cotton value.

Coaster

Foundation	Ch 17.	
Row 1	Hdc in the 3rd ch from the hook and in each ch across (15 hdc). Turn.	**(15)**
Rows 2–10	Ch 2 (doesn't count as a st), hdc in each st across. Turn. The piece measures about 4.0 in (10 cm).	**(15)**
Round 1 (sc)	Don't turn. Ch 1, sc evenly round: 1 sc in each st along the top and the bottom (15 each), 3 sc for every 2 rows along each side (15 each), 3 sc in each corner. Sl st to the first sc (68 sc).	**(68)**
Round 2 (crab stitch)	Ch 1, do NOT turn. Working from LEFT to RIGHT: *insert the hook in the next st to the right, yo, pull up a loop, yo, pull through both loops*; repeat in every sc round (68 reverse sc). Sl st to the first st, fasten off.	**(68)**
Finish	Weave in the ends along the border. Steam lightly so the edge lies flat.	

Placemat

Foundation	Ch 58.	
Row 1	Hdc in the 3rd ch from the hook and in each ch across (56 hdc). Turn.	**(56)**
Rows 2–28	Ch 2 (doesn't count as a st), hdc in each st across. Turn. The piece measures about 11.2 in (28 cm).	**(56)**

Round 1 (sc)	Don't turn. Ch 1, sc evenly round: 1 sc in each st along the top and the bottom (56 each), 3 sc for every 2 rows along each side (42 each), 3 sc in each corner. Sl st to the first sc (204 sc).	**(204)**
Round 2 (crab stitch)	Ch 1, do NOT turn. Working from LEFT to RIGHT: *insert the hook in the next st to the right, yo, pull up a loop, yo, pull through both loops*; repeat in every sc round (204 reverse sc). Sl st to the first st, fasten off.	**(204)**
Finish	Weave in the ends along the border. Steam lightly so the edge lies flat.	

What's exact, what's calculated

Exact	The border counts: sc per side, 3 in each corner, 1 crab stitch per sc.
Calculated	Body stitches, rows and yarn from the gauge.
Assumed	The gauge.

How to Crochet Crab Stitch (Reverse sc)

Single crochet worked backwards · left to right · never turn

1 · Don't turn



Finish a round of sc, ch 1, and keep the right side facing you.

2 · Go backwards



Insert the hook in the next stitch to the RIGHT (left to right if you're right-handed).

3 · Pull up, yo, pull through



Yarn over, pull up a loop, yarn over and pull through both loops.

4 · Repeat



Each stitch twists into a little bead: a corded, rope-like edge.

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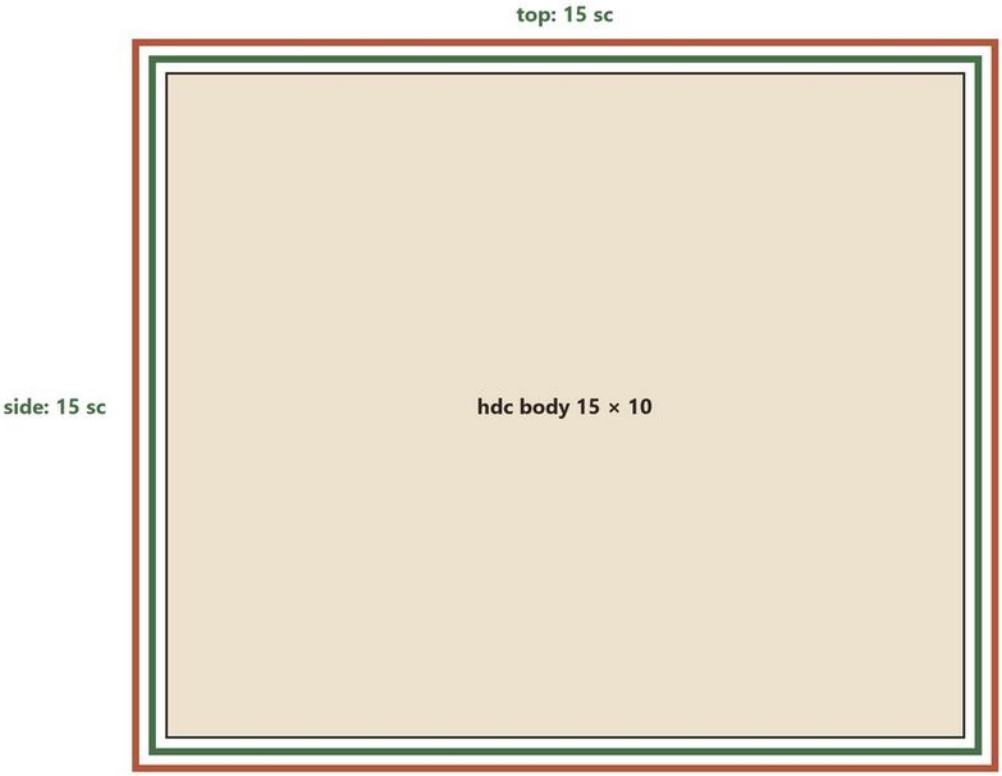
Crab Stitch Border · Coaster

15 hdc × 10 rows · sc round: 68 sc · crab stitch round: 68 reverse sc



Green = sc round (3 sc in each corner) · terracotta = crab stitch round, 1 reverse sc in every sc, worked left to right.

Crab Stitch Coaster + Placemat · Sizes

Worsted (#4) cotton · 5 mm (US H-8) hook · gauge 14 hdc × 10 rows = 4 in

Make	Finished	Start	hdc × rows	Border sts per round	Worsted cotton
Coaster	4.8 × 4.8 in (12 × 12 cm)	ch 17	15 × 10	68	25 yd
Placemat	16.6 × 12.1 in (42 × 31 cm)	ch 58	56 × 28	204	160 yd

Crab stitch can be worked round almost anything: blankets, hats, bags. Work a round of sc first.

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