FREE CROCHET TUTORIAL

How to Crochet a Circle

Flat circles in sc, hdc and dc · the increase rule, staggered rounds and a size calculator · US terms

SKILL LEVEL	PRACTICE SIZE	HOOK
Beginner	**about 4 in across**	**5 mm (US H-8)**
YARN	**STITCHES**	**TIME**
Worsted cotton (#4)	**MR, sc, hdc, dc, sl st**	**15 minutes per circle**

Materials

- Worsted (#4) cotton: about 10 yd for the sc circle, 8 yd hdc, 10 yd dc
- 5 mm (US H-8) hook, a stitch marker, tapestry needle

Abbreviations (US terms)

MR	magic ring	**hdc**	half double crochet
ch	chain	**dc**	double crochet
sc	single crochet	**sl st**	slip stitch

The rule: each round adds 2π × (stitch height ÷ stitch width) stitches. That is about 6 for sc, 8 for hdc and 12 for dc.

Single crochet circle (staggered, the roundest)

Rnd 1	Make a magic ring, ch 1 (does not count as a st), 6 sc into the ring. Pull the tail to close it, sl st to the first sc.	**(6)**
Rnd 2	Ch 1 (does not count as a st), 2 sc in each st around. Join.	**(12)**
Rnd 3	Ch 1 (does not count as a st), *sc in the next st, 2 sc in the next st*; repeat 6 times. Join.	**(18)**
Rnd 4	Ch 1 (does not count as a st), *sc in the next st, 2 sc in the next st, sc in the next st*; repeat 6 times. Join.	**(24)**
Rnd 5	Ch 1 (does not count as a st), *sc in the next 3 sts, 2 sc in the next st*; repeat 6 times. Join.	**(30)**
Rnd 6	Ch 1 (does not count as a st), *sc in the next 2 sts, 2 sc in the next st, sc in the next 2 sts*; repeat 6 times. Join.	**(36)**
Rnd 7	Ch 1 (does not count as a st), *sc in the next 5 sts, 2 sc in the next st*; repeat 6 times. Join.	**(42)**
Rnd 8	Ch 1 (does not count as a st), *sc in the next 3 sts, 2 sc in the next st, sc in the next 3 sts*; repeat 6 times. Join.	**(48)**

Half double crochet circle

Rnd 1	Make a magic ring, ch 2 (does not count as a st), 8 hdc into the ring. Pull the tail to close it, sl st to the first hdc.	**(8)**
Rnd 2	Ch 2 (does not count as a st), 2 hdc in each st around. Join.	**(16)**
Rnd 3	Ch 2 (does not count as a st), *hdc in the next st, 2 hdc in the next st*; repeat 8 times. Join.	**(24)**
Rnd 4	Ch 2 (does not count as a st), *hdc in the next st, 2 hdc in the next st, hdc in the next st*; repeat 8 times. Join.	**(32)**
Rnd 5	Ch 2 (does not count as a st), *hdc in the next 3 sts, 2 hdc in the next st*; repeat 8 times. Join.	**(40)**

Double crochet circle

Rnd 1	Make a magic ring, ch 2 (does not count as a st), 12 dc into the ring. Pull the tail to close it, sl st to the first dc.	**(12)**
Rnd 2	Ch 2 (does not count as a st), 2 dc in each st around. Join.	**(24)**
Rnd 3	Ch 2 (does not count as a st), *dc in the next st, 2 dc in the next st*; repeat 12 times. Join.	**(36)**
Rnd 4	Ch 2 (does not count as a st), *dc in the next 2 sts, 2 dc in the next st*; repeat 12 times. Join.	**(48)**

Keep going: any size

Every new round adds the start number again (6 / 8 / 12) with one more plain stitch between increases. Use the size calculator to know how many rounds you need.

The Flat Circle Rule

Each round sits one stitch-height further out, so the edge grows by 2π × the height. In stitches: 2π × height ÷ width.

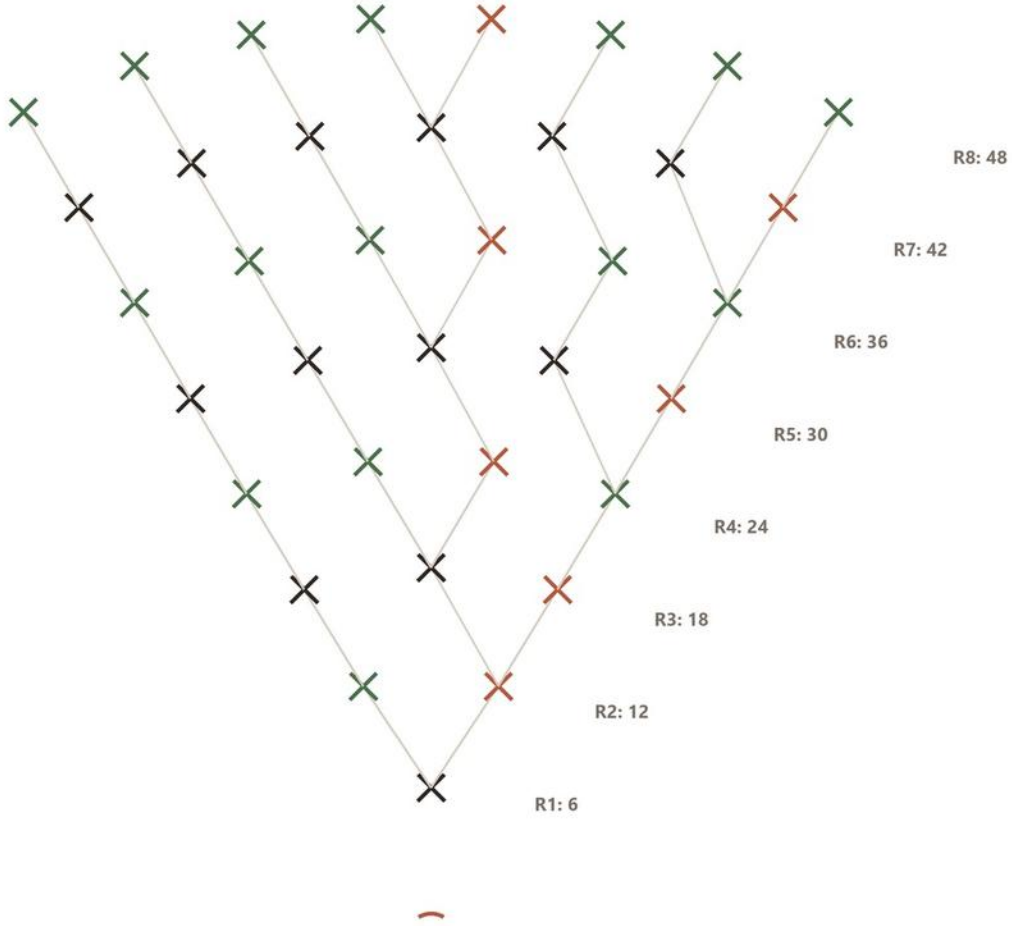
Stitch	Sts × rnds / 4 in	Height ÷ width	2π × h ÷ w	Round 1	Add each rnd	Edge ÷ circle
sc	15 × 16	0.94	5.9	6	+6	1.02
hdc	13 × 10	1.30	8.2	8	+8	0.98
dc	13 × 7	1.86	11.7	12	+12	1.03

Round the result to a number that divides nicely: 6 for sc, 8 for hdc, 12 for dc. The last column stays between 0.9 and 1.1: flat.

cozymakery.com

Single Crochet Circle · Round Chart

One sixth of the circle, staggered increases: orange = 2 sc in one st. Repeat the wedge 6 times around.

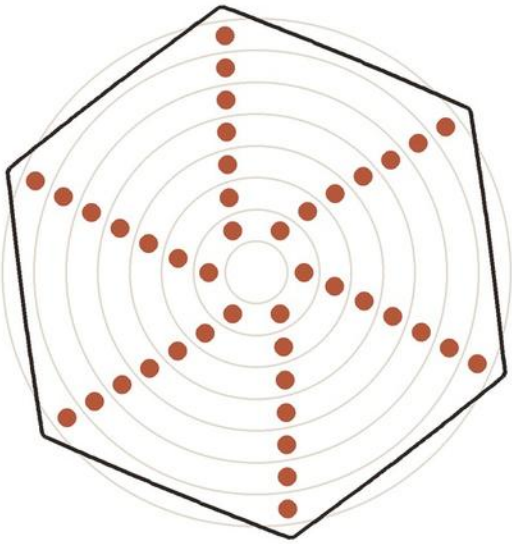


8 rounds → 48 sts, about 4 in across in worsted cotton. Grey lines show which stitch each one is worked into.

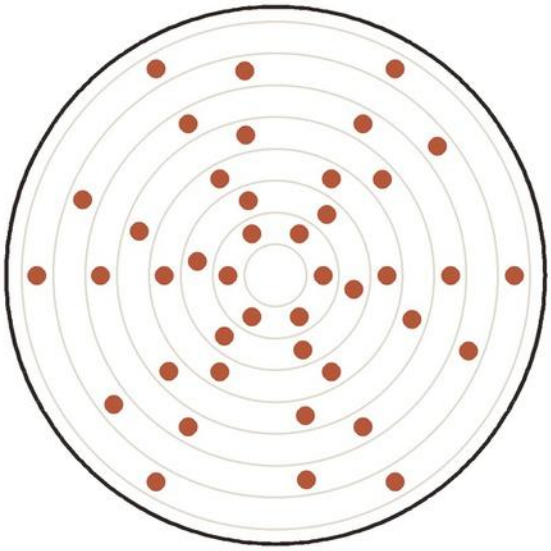
Even rounds put the increase in the middle of the repeat, odd rounds at the end: that's what keeps the circle round.

Why Circles Turn Into Hexagons

Each orange dot is an increase (2 sc in one st). 8 rounds of single crochet.



Stacked: same place every round



Staggered: shifted on even rounds

Stacked increases form 6 straight lines, and the edge bends at each line: a hexagon.

Moving the increase to the middle of the repeat on every other round spreads them out: a round circle.

Crochet Circle Size Calculator

Worsted (#4), 5 mm hook · rounds = radius ÷ round height · last round = start × rounds

Target	Single crochet	Half double	Double crochet
3 in	6 rnds · 36 sts · 3 in	4 rnds · 32 sts · 3.2 in	3 rnds · 36 sts · 3.4 in
4 in	8 rnds · 48 sts · 4 in	5 rnds · 40 sts · 4 in	4 rnds · 48 sts · 4.6 in
5 in	10 rnds · 60 sts · 5 in	6 rnds · 48 sts · 4.8 in	4 rnds · 48 sts · 4.6 in
6 in	12 rnds · 72 sts · 6 in	8 rnds · 64 sts · 6.4 in	5 rnds · 60 sts · 5.7 in
8 in	16 rnds · 96 sts · 8 in	10 rnds · 80 sts · 8 in	7 rnds · 84 sts · 8 in
10 in	20 rnds · 120 sts · 10 in	12 rnds · 96 sts · 9.6 in	9 rnds · 108 sts · 10.3 in
12 in	24 rnds · 144 sts · 12 in	15 rnds · 120 sts · 12 in	10 rnds · 120 sts · 11.4 in

Your gauge sets the size: measure 2 rounds, then rounds = (target ÷ 2) ÷ height of one round.

cozymakery.com

Flat, Ruffled or Cupped?

Side view of the same circle when the rounds have the right, too many or too few stitches (to scale)

Flat

edge ÷ circle = 1.0

6 sc added every round

Ruffled



waves 17% of the radius high

edge ÷ circle = 1.35

too many sts (or hook too big)

Cupped



75% as wide, 66% of the radius deep

edge ÷ circle = 0.75

too few sts (or tension too tight)

Fix: count every round. Ruffles → go down a hook size or add fewer sts; cupping → go up a size or check you didn't skip an increase.