FREE CROCHET TUTORIAL

How to Half Double Crochet

The 3 moves, the chain rule, the third loop and a practice mug cozy · US terms

SKILL LEVEL	PRACTICE	HOOK
Beginner	**Mug cozy, 3 sizes**	**5 mm (US H-8)**
YARN	**STITCHES**	**TIME**
Worsted cotton (#4)	**ch, hdc, sl st**	**About 30 minutes**

Materials

- Worsted (#4) cotton: small mug 19 yd, standard mug 21 yd, large mug 23 yd
- 5 mm (US H-8) hook, tapestry needle, 2 buttons (5/8 in), sewing thread

Abbreviations (US terms)

ch	chain	**sl st**	slip stitch
hdc	half double crochet (UK htr)	**yo**	yarn over
sc	single crochet	**st(s)**	stitch(es)

Half double crochet: yo, insert hook in st, yo and pull up a loop (3 loops on hook), yo and pull through all 3 loops.

Gauge: 14 hdc × 10 rows = 4 in (assumed typical worsted cotton gauge; check yours).

The 3 moves

Move 1	Yarn over.	**(2 on hook)**
Move 2	Insert the hook in the stitch, yarn over and pull up a loop.	**(3 on hook)**
Move 3	Yarn over, pull through all 3 loops.	**(1 on hook)**

Mug cozy (standard 11 in mug; small 24 rows, large 29 rows)

Chain	Ch 13 (that's 12 sts + 1).	
Row 1	Hdc in the 2nd ch from the hook and in each ch across. Turn.	**(12)**
Row 2	Ch 2 (doesn't count as a st), hdc in the first st and in each st across. Turn.	**(12)**
Rows 3–26	Repeat Row 2. The band is now about 10.4 in long. Don't fasten off.	**(12)**
Button loops	Ch 1, turn. Working across the tops of the last row: sl st in the first st, ch 6, skip the next st (st 2), sl st in the next 8 sts, ch 6, skip the next st (st 11), sl st in the last st. Fasten off.	**(2 loops)**
Buttons	Sew 2 buttons on the Row 1 edge opposite the loops, at stitches 2 and 11. Wrap the band round the mug with the handle between the loops and button it.	

How to Half Double Crochet in 3 Moves

Count the loops on your hook: 2, 3, then 1

1 · Yarn over



2 loops on the hook

Wrap the yarn over the hook from back to front.

2 · Pull up a loop



3 loops on the hook

Insert into the stitch, yarn over, pull up a loop to about 2 chains tall.

3 · Through all 3



1 loop on the hook

Yarn over and pull through all 3 loops at once. Done.

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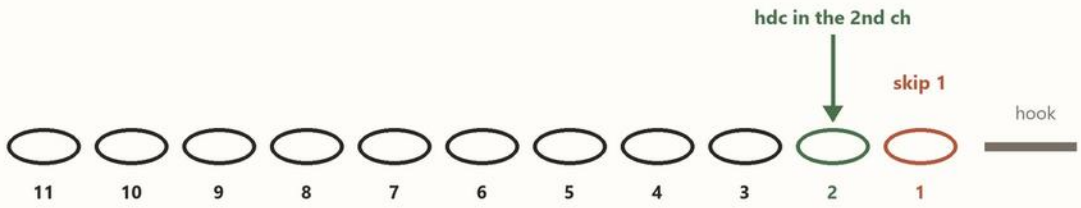
Where the First Half Double Crochet Goes

For 10 hdc, chain 11: stitches + 1. Count from the hook (the loop on the hook doesn't count).

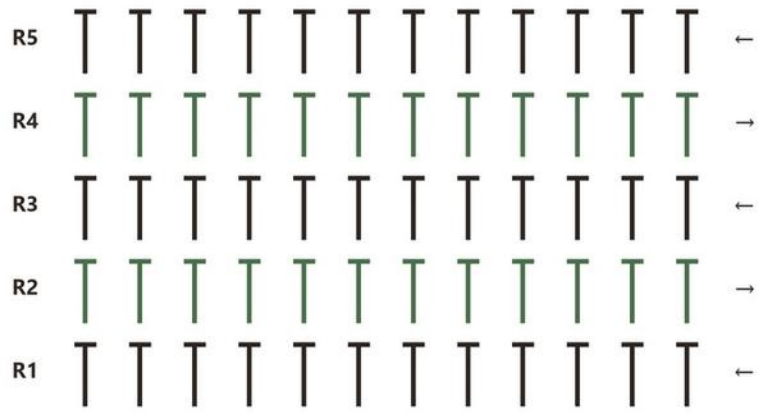


Chains 2–11 = 10 hdc = 10 stitches (the skipped chain doesn't count).

If your pattern says the turning chain counts, skip 2 instead: 1 + 9 hdc in chains 3–11 = 10 again.

Half Double Crochet Rows · Stitch Chart

12 hdc a row. Each row starts with ch 2 that doesn't count: the first hdc goes in the first stitch.



Row 1 goes into the chain (start in the 2nd ch from the hook). Rows 2+: ch 2, turn, hdc in every stitch.

Hdc symbol: a T with no bar. Dc has one bar, tr has two.

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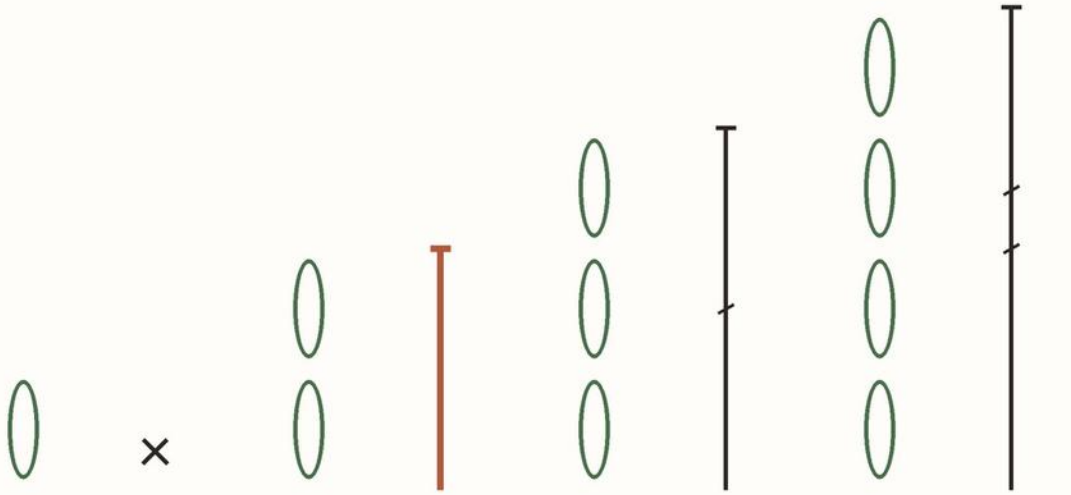
How Tall Is a Half Double Crochet?

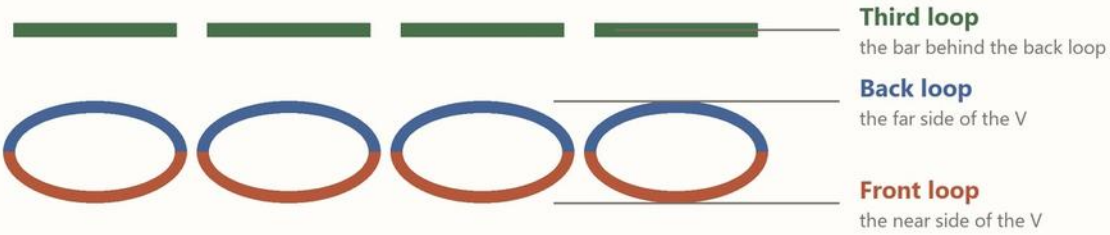
Each stitch drawn to its usual height in chains · the turning chain matches it



Hdc is the in-between stitch: taller than sc, denser than dc, and it has a third loop on the back.

The Three Loops of a Half Double Crochet

The top of a row seen from above: the side facing you is at the bottom of the picture



Under both loops = plain hdc. Back loop only = ridges. Third loop = knit-look ribs on the other side.

The third loop sits on the side of the row facing away from you: tilt the top of the row towards you to see it.

How Many Chains for a Half Double Crochet Piece?

hdc = width × stitches per inch · chain = hdc + 1 · gauge from typical yarn labels

Yarn	Hook	4 in wide	30 in wide	50 in wide	10 in tall
DK (#3)	4 mm (G-6)	17 hdc · ch 18	128 hdc · ch 129	212 hdc · ch 213	30 rows
Worsted (#4)	5 mm (H-8)	14 hdc · ch 15	105 hdc · ch 106	175 hdc · ch 176	25 rows
Bulky (#5)	6.5 mm (K-10.5)	11 hdc · ch 12	82 hdc · ch 83	138 hdc · ch 139	20 rows
Super bulky (#6)	9 mm (M/N-13)	8 hdc · ch 9	60 hdc · ch 61	100 hdc · ch 101	15 rows

Swatch first: chain 21, work 10 rows, measure the middle 4 in, then use your own numbers.

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Half Double Crochet Mug Cozy · Sizes

Worsted (#4) cotton, 5 mm hook · 12 hdc a row · 14 hdc × 10 rows = 4 in

Mug	Around the mug	Rows	Band	Cotton
Small mug	10 in	24 rows	9.6 × 3.5 in	19 yd
Standard mug	11 in	26 rows	10.4 × 3.5 in	21 yd
Large mug	12 in	29 rows	11.6 × 3.5 in	23 yd

Measure your mug just below the rim. Not on the list? Rows = (around − 0.5 in) × 2.5.

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Mug Cozy · Layout

Rows run across the band; each row is 12 hdc (3.5 in) tall



26 rows = 10.4 in for an 11 in mug

Button loops at sts 2 and 11, buttons opposite

The handle sits between the loops

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