FREE CROCHET TUTORIAL

How to Start a Crochet Chain

Slip knot, chain stitch, counting chains and a braided chain bracelet · US terms

SKILL LEVEL	PRACTICE	HOOK
Absolute beginner	**Chain bracelet, 3 sizes**	**3.5 mm (US E-4)**
YARN	**STITCHES**	**TIME**
DK cotton (#3), 3 colours	**Slip knot, ch**	**About 30 minutes**

Materials

- DK (#3) cotton in cream, sage, terracotta: under 2 yd each
- 3.5 mm (US E-4) hook, tapestry needle, tape or a safety pin

Abbreviations (US terms)

ch	chain	**st(s)**	stitch(es)
yo	yarn over		

Chain: yarn over, pull through the loop on the hook. The slip knot and the loop on the hook are never counted.

Gauge: about 5 ch per inch (assumed relaxed tension in DK cotton). Measure your chains.

Slip knot

1	Make a loop, tail on the left, ball yarn on the right.	
2	Pull the ball yarn up through the loop as a new loop.	
3	Put the new loop on the hook.	
4	Pull the tail to snug the knot. The loop should still slide.	

Chain

1	Yarn over from back to front.	
2	Pull through the loop on the hook. Repeat.	**(1 ch each time)**

Bracelet (Medium; Small ch 66, Large ch 71)

Slip knot	Make a slip knot with a 4 in tail and put it on the hook.	
Chain	Ch 69. It measures about 13.8 in. Fasten off, leaving a 4 in tail.	**(69)**
Repeat	Make 2 more chains of 69 in the other colours.	**(3 chains)**
Knot	Line the 3 chains up and tie them together in an overhand knot 3 in from one end.	
Braid	Tape or pin the knot down and braid the 3 chains (right over middle, left over middle) until the braid is 6 in long.	
Knot	Tie the second overhand knot right at the end of the braid. Check that the tails match.	

Finish	Tie a small knot at the end of each tail and weave the yarn tails into the chain. Tie the bracelet on with the two sets of tails.

What's exact, what's calculated

Exact	The counting rule and the steps.
Calculated	Chain counts from the braid length, the braid take-up, the knots and the tails.
Assumed	5 ch per inch and a 12% braid take-up. Chain to the length, braid, then check against the wrist.

How to Make a Slip Knot for Crochet

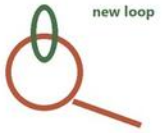
4 steps · the slip knot holds the first loop on the hook but is not a stitch

1 · Make a loop



Cross the yarn over itself to make a loop, tail on the left, ball yarn on the right.

2 · Pull a loop through



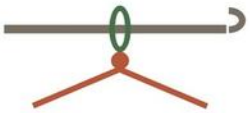
Reach through the loop and pull the ball yarn up through it as a new loop.

3 · Onto the hook



Slide the new loop onto the hook. The knot sits just below it.

4 · Snug it



Pull the tail (not the ball yarn) to tighten the knot. The loop should slide, not choke the hook.

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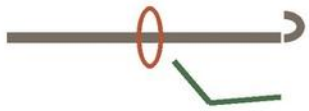
How to Crochet a Chain

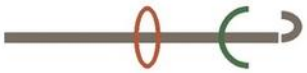
Yarn over, pull through: every chain is the same 2 moves

1 · Hold



Slip knot on the hook, tail pinched between thumb and middle finger.

2 · Yarn over



Wrap the ball yarn over the hook from back to front.

3 · Pull through



Pull the yarn through the loop on the hook. One chain made; repeat.

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How to Count Chains

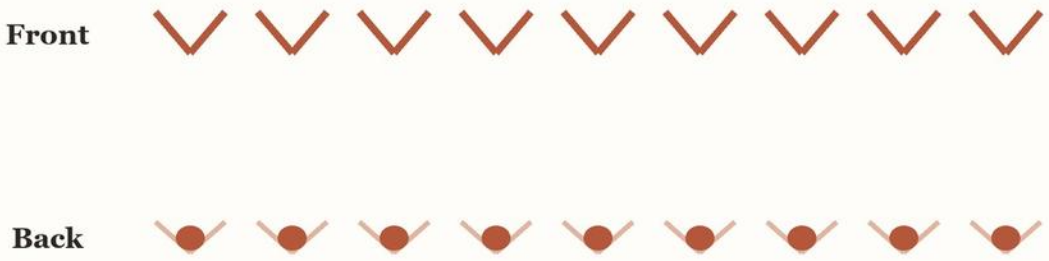
8 chains made: count the V's. The slip knot and the loop on the hook don't count.



Count from the hook back to the knot. For long chains, put a stitch marker in every 20th or 25th chain.

The Two Sides of a Crochet Chain

Front: a row of V's · Back: a line of little bumps (the back bumps)



Each V has a top loop and a back loop; the bump sits behind them. Working into the back bumps gives a neat bottom edge.

Twisted chain? Lay it flat with all the V's facing up before you join it into a ring or start Row 1.

How Many Chains per Inch?

Chain length at a relaxed, even tension (typical values: chain 20, measure, and use your own)

Yarn	Hook	1 in	10 in	60 in
Fingering (#1)	2.75 mm (C-2)	7 ch	70 ch	420 ch
DK (#3)	3.5 mm (E-4)	5 ch	50 ch	300 ch
Worsted (#4)	5 mm (H-8)	3.5 ch	35 ch	210 ch
Bulky (#5)	6.5 mm (K-10.5)	2.5 ch	25 ch	150 ch

A foundation chain shrinks a little when Row 1 is worked into it: measure the chain slightly longer than the piece.

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Braided Chain Bracelet · Sizes

DK (#3) cotton, 3.5 mm hook, about 5 ch per inch · 3 chains · 3 in chain tails to tie

Size	Wrist	Braid	Each chain	Chain length	Per colour
Small	6 in	5.5 in	ch 66	13.2 in	2 yd
Medium	6.5 in	6 in	ch 69	13.8 in	2 yd
Large	7 in	6.5 in	ch 71	14.2 in	2 yd

Your tension decides the length: chain until it measures the chain length, then count.

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Braided Chain Bracelet · Layout

Medium: 3 chains of 69 ch · tails 3 in · braid 6 in



Right over middle, left over middle, repeat. Keep the chains flat with the V's facing up for a neater braid.