FREE CROCHET TUTORIAL

Shell Stitch Crochet

How to crochet the shell stitch, plus a kitchen towel with a hanging loop · US terms

SKILL LEVEL	PRACTICE	YARN
Beginner	**Kitchen towel, 2 sizes**	**Worsted (#4) cotton**
HOOK	**STITCHES**	**TIME**
5 mm (US H-8)	**ch, sc, dc**	**About 4–6 hours**

Materials

- Worsted (#4) cotton: 115 yd (hand towel) or 195 yd (tea towel)
- 5 mm (US H-8) hook, tapestry needle

Abbreviations (US terms)

ch	chain	**shell**	5 dc in the same stitch
sc	single crochet	**sk**	skip
dc	double crochet		

Gauge: 1 repeat (sc + shell, 6 sts) = 2 in (5 cm) and 1 row = 0.6 in. A typical worsted cotton value: the width only changes the towel size.

Towel, Hand towel

Foundation	Ch 38.	
Row 1	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, *skip 2 ch, 5 dc in next ch, skip 2 ch, sc in next ch; repeat from * across. Turn.	**(37)**
Row 2	Ch 3 (counts as 1 dc), 2 dc in first sc, *sc in centre dc of next shell, 5 dc in next sc; repeat from * to the last shell, sc in centre dc of last shell, 3 dc in last sc. Turn.	**(37)**
Row 3	Ch 1, sc in first dc, *5 dc in next sc, sc in centre dc of next shell; repeat from * across, working the last sc in the top of the turning ch. Turn.	**(37)**
Rows 4–31	Repeat rows 2 and 3, ending with a row 3. The towel measures about 19 in (47 cm).	**(37)**
Hanging loop	Don't fasten off: ch 12, sl st into the same corner stitch to make a loop. Fasten off and weave in the ends.	

Towel, Tea towel

Foundation	Ch 50.	
Row 1	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, *skip 2 ch, 5 dc in next ch, skip 2 ch, sc in next ch; repeat from * across. Turn.	**(49)**
Row 2	Ch 3 (counts as 1 dc), 2 dc in first sc, *sc in centre dc of next shell, 5 dc in next sc; repeat from * to the last shell, sc in centre dc of last shell, 3 dc in last sc. Turn.	**(49)**

Row 3	Ch 1, sc in first dc, *5 dc in next sc, sc in centre dc of next shell; repeat from * across, working the last sc in the top of the turning ch. Turn.	**(49)**
Rows 4–41	Repeat rows 2 and 3, ending with a row 3. The towel measures about 25 in (62 cm).	**(49)**
Hanging loop	Don't fasten off: ch 12, sl st into the same corner stitch to make a loop. Fasten off and weave in the ends.	

What's exact, what's calculated

Exact	Every stitch modelled: 6N+1 per row, shells on sc, sc on shell centres.
Calculated	Rows and yarn from the gauge.
Assumed	The gauge.

How to Crochet the Shell Stitch

A shell is 5 double crochet worked into one stitch · sc between shells holds them in place

1 · Skip 2

Skip 2 stitches (or 2 chains in the first row).

2 · First dc



Work 1 dc in the next stitch.

3 · 5 dc in one



Work 4 more dc into the SAME stitch: 5 dc = 1 shell.

4 · Anchor it

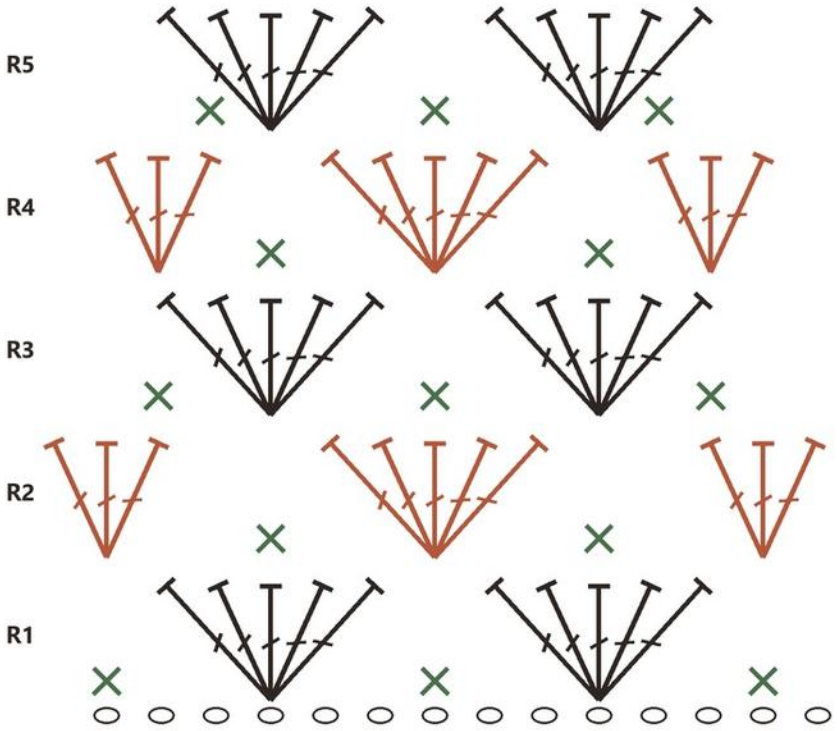


Skip 2 stitches and sc in the next one. Repeat across.

cozymakery.com

Shell Stitch · Chart

2 repeats shown · multiple of 6 + 2 chains · rows 2 and 3 repeat



Oval = chain · X = single crochet (sc) · T with a bar = double crochet (dc) · 5 dc fanned from one stitch = a shell

cozymakery.com

Shell Stitch Kitchen Towel · Sizes

Worsted (#4) cotton · 5 mm (US H-8) hook · gauge 1 shell repeat (6 sts) = 2 in, 0.6 in per row

Size	Shells across	Start	Finished	Rows	Cotton
Hand towel	6	ch 38	12 × 19 in (30 × 47 cm)	31	115 yd
Tea towel	8	ch 50	16 × 25 in (41 × 62 cm)	41	195 yd

Any width works: chain a multiple of 6, plus 2. Each extra repeat adds about 2 in (5 cm).

cozymakery.com