FREE CROCHET TUTORIAL

Tunisian Crochet

The Tunisian simple stitch step by step, plus a quick pincushion · US terms

SKILL LEVEL	PRACTICE	YARN
Beginner	**Pincushion, 2 sizes**	**Worsted (#4)**
HOOK	**STITCHES**	**TIME**
5.5 mm (US I-9)	**ch, TSS, sl st, sc**	**About 1–2 hours**

Materials

- Worsted (#4) yarn: 50 / 80 yd
- 5.5 mm (US I-9) hook with a straight shaft, or a Tunisian hook; tapestry needle; stuffing

Abbreviations (US terms)

ch	chain	**sl st**	slip stitch
TSS	Tunisian simple stitch	**sc**	single crochet
fwd / ret	forward / return pass		

Gauge: 16 sts and 14 rows = 4 in (10 cm) in TSS. A typical value for worsted: TSS is dense and tends to curl, so go up a hook size if yours is stiff.

Pincushion, Small

Foundation	Ch 16.	**(16)**
Row 1 forward	Insert the hook in the 2nd ch from the hook, yarn over, pull up a loop; repeat in each ch across. You have 16 loops on the hook.	**(16)**
Row 1 return	Ch 1, then *yarn over, pull through 2 loops; repeat from * until 1 loop is left.	**(1)**
Rows 2–14 forward	Skip the first vertical bar; *insert the hook under the next vertical bar from front to back, yarn over, pull up a loop*; repeat across. For a neat edge, work the last st under both strands of the edge stitch. 16 loops.	**(16)**
Rows 2–14 return	As row 1 return.	**(1)**
Bind off	Sl st under each vertical bar across. Fasten off. Make a second square the same.	**(0)**
Join	Hold the squares together, wrong sides in. Sc through both layers all round: 1 sc per stitch or row, 3 sc in each corner (68 sc). Stuff firmly before closing the last side.	**(68)**

Pincushion, Large

Foundation	Ch 20.	**(20)**
Row 1 forward	Insert the hook in the 2nd ch from the hook, yarn over, pull up a loop; repeat in each ch across. You have 20 loops on the hook.	**(20)**
Row 1 return	Ch 1, then *yarn over, pull through 2 loops; repeat from * until 1 loop is left.	**(1)**

Rows 2–18 forward	Skip the first vertical bar; *insert the hook under the next vertical bar from front to back, yarn over, pull up a loop*; repeat across. For a neat edge, work the last st under both strands of the edge stitch. 20 loops.	**(20)**
Rows 2–18 return	As row 1 return.	**(1)**
Bind off	Sl st under each vertical bar across. Fasten off. Make a second square the same.	**(0)**
Join	Hold the squares together, wrong sides in. Sc through both layers all round: 1 sc per stitch or row, 3 sc in each corner (84 sc). Stuff firmly before closing the last side.	**(84)**

What's exact, what's calculated

Exact	Loops on the hook after every forward and return pass; edging count.
Calculated	Stitches, rows and yarn from the gauge.
Assumed	The gauge.

Tunisian Simple Stitch (TSS)

Each row = a forward pass (loops onto the hook) + a return pass (loops off the hook)

1 · Forward pass



Insert the hook under the next vertical bar, front to back.

2 · Pull up a loop



Yarn over and pull up a loop. Keep it on the hook. Repeat across.

3 · Return pass



Ch 1, then yarn over and pull through 2 loops, again and again.

4 · 1 loop left



When 1 loop is left, the row is done. It starts the next row.

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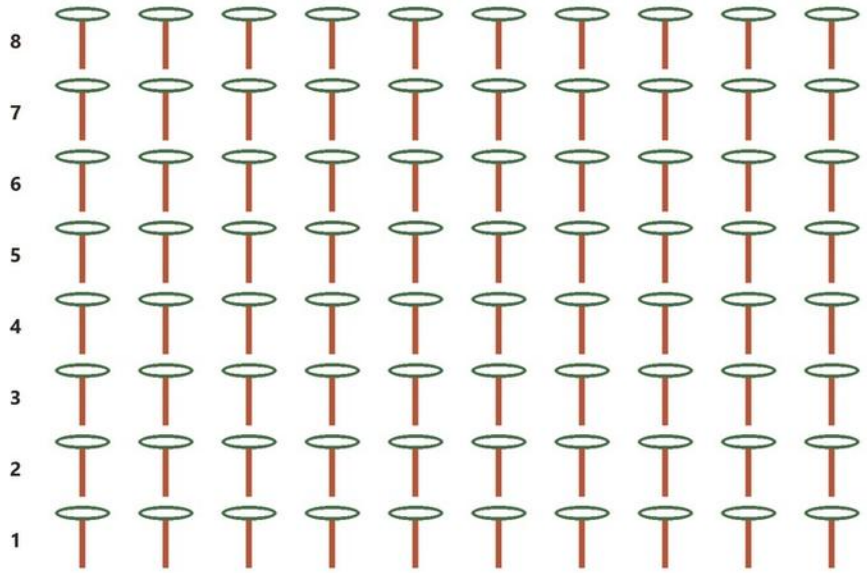
TSS Fabric · Diagram

10 stitches × 8 rows · each row: a vertical bar (forward pass) topped by a chain (return pass)



Terracotta = vertical bars (where the hook goes) · sage = the chain on top from the return pass. Never turn the work.

TSS Pincushion · Sizes

Worsted (#4) yarn · 5.5 mm (US I-9) hook (or a Tunisian hook) · gauge 16 sts × 14 rows = 4 in in TSS

Size	Finished	Start	Rows per square	Edging sc	Worsted
Small	4 × 4 in (10 cm)	ch 16	14	68	50 yd
Large	5 × 5 in (13 cm)	ch 20	18	84	80 yd

Stuffing: polyester fibrefill, or crushed walnut shells / wool roving, which keep pins sharp.

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