

TECHNIQUE REFERENCE

This document is intended to cover all of the stitches that I may use when crocheting amigurumi, so that I can reference this in my patterns, and so that there is a reference for anyone who needs it!

I learnt these techniques from a variety of places, but mostly from PlanetJune (<http://www.planetjune.com/blog/tutorials/crochet-tutorials/>). She has some fantastic videos and covers more techniques than I use, as well as demonstrations for both left and right handed crocheters!

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Slip Knot



Loop your yarn like this, so the tail end is behind the working yarn.



Pinch the section where they cross over.



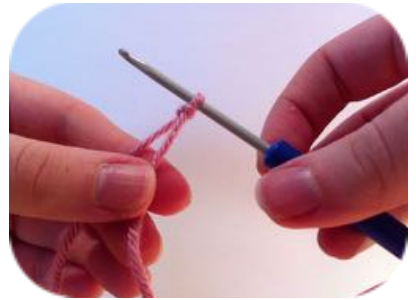
Reach through the circle (front through to back) to pull the working yarn through the hole.



Pull the tail end so that the loose knot tightens.

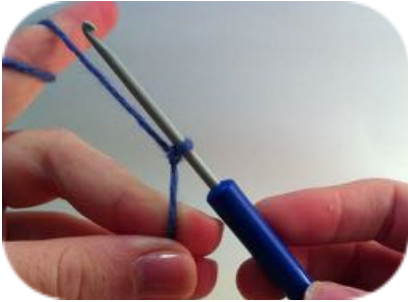


There you go!

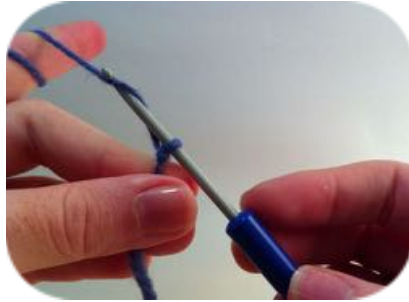


Put it onto your hook and pull the working yarn to tighten!

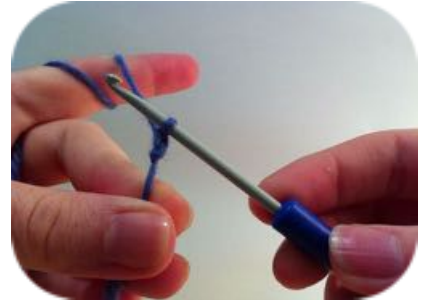
Chain



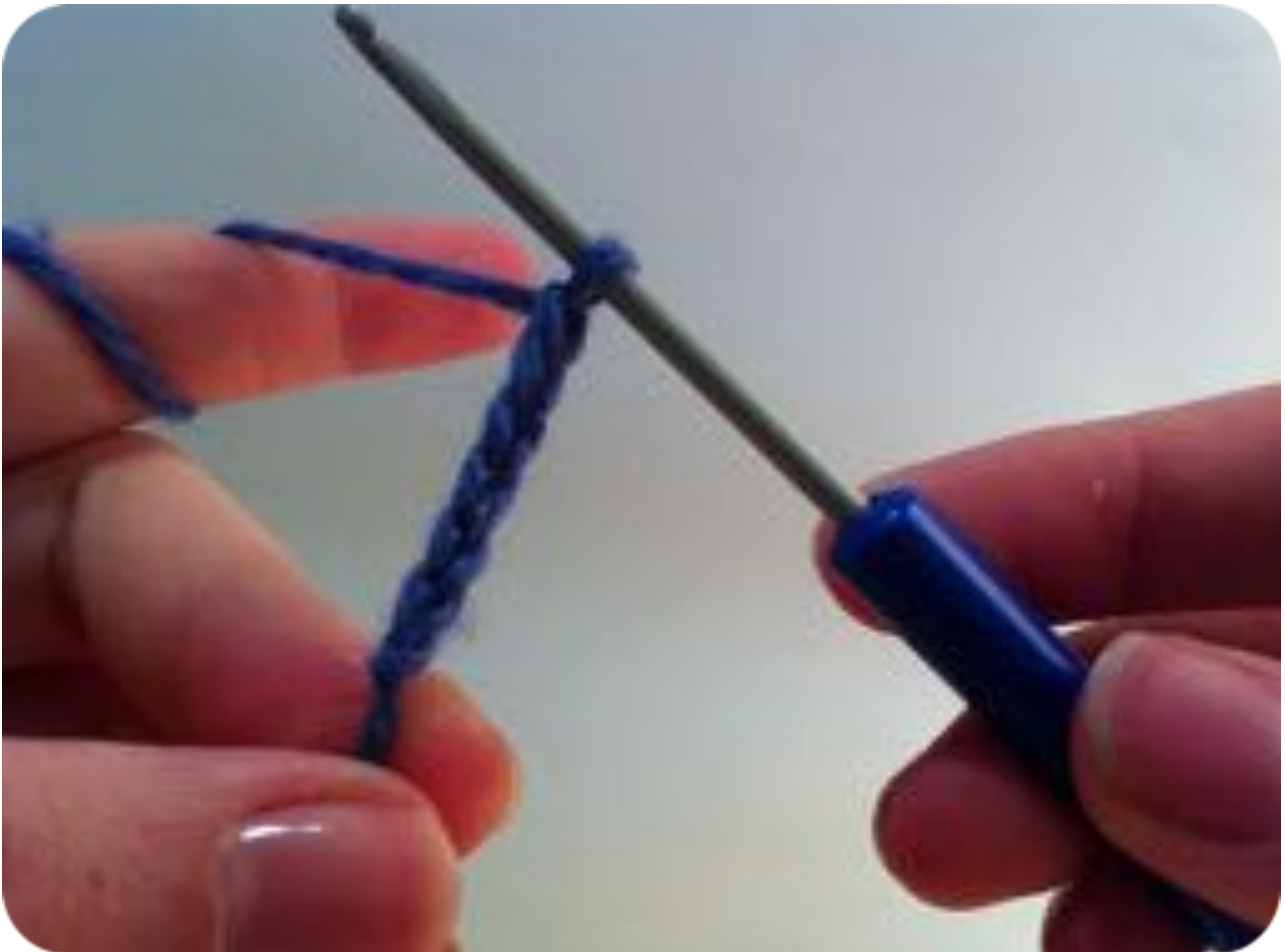
Make a slip knot and put it on your hook.



Yarn over (wrap the yarn around the hook from back to front).

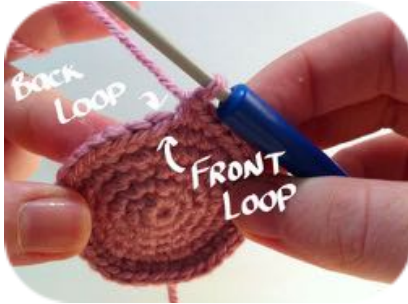


Pull the yarn through the loop on the hook. Done!



Build up a number of these and you can see why it's called a chain. Each "v" shape is one stitch.

Single Crochet



Each stitch makes a “v” shape, and consists of a front loop and back loop.



Insert your hook under both of these loops.



Yarn over and draw yarn through both loops.



You should now have two loops on your hook.



Yarn over again, and draw the yarn through both loops on the hook.

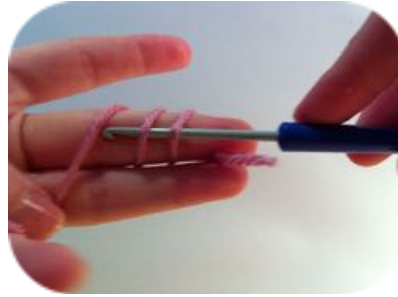


That's a single crochet!

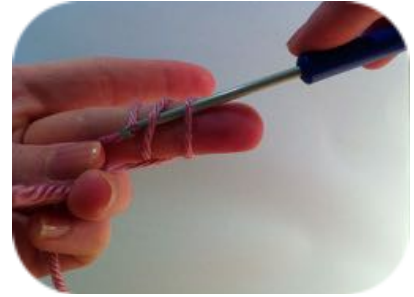
Magic Circle



Wrap the yarn twice around your finger.



Insert your hook under the first two loops.



Grab the working yarn (attached to the ball) and pull this through both loops.



Carefully remove both loops, making sure not to unravel anything.



Yarn over and pull through the loop on the hook (ie. chain 1).



Now you're ready to start single crocheting.



Insert your hook into the big loop, yarn over and pull through both loops (ie. single crochet)



Do this as many times as stated for the magic circle/ring. Most of them start with 6 sc.



Gently pull at both of the pieces of yarn to see which one is loose.



Pull the loose one tightly shut until you have a small hole.



To close the remaining hole, pull the tail end of the yarn.



There you have it! The magic ring. It's quite difficult to describe without seeing it action. I learnt this technique from here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kvjYPFBP85c> and their description is much better than mine. And in video!

Half-Double Crochet



Before inserting your hook into the next stitch, yarn over.



Now insert your hook into the next stitch.



Yarn over and pull through.



You should have 3 loops on your hook. Yarn over and pull through all three.



Done!

Double Crochet



Before inserting your hook in the next stitch, yarn over.



Now insert your hook into the stitch.



Yarn over again and draw through.



You now have 3 loops on your hook.



Yarn over and draw through 2 of the loops.



There should be 2 loops left on the hook.



Yarn over and draw through the remaining loops.



Ta da!

I haven't seen many double crochets in amigurumi, but it's widely used in other crochet projects and is a good stitch to know!

Slip Stitch



Start as you would a single crochet. Insert your hook into the stitch, yarn over and draw through. You now have two loops on your hook.



Now, instead of continuing a single crochet, draw the second loop (on the left) through the first loop (on the right). Done!

Popcorn Stitch



I like to use a stitch marker so that I can easily keep track of which was the first stitch. For a 4sc popcorn stitch, do 4 single crochets in the same stitch.



Then remove your hook, draw out the loop so you don't lose it.



Insert your hook into the first sc that was made in the sc (marked here by the bobby pin).



Then put the loop from the last sc back onto the hook and tighten.



Yarn over and pull through the loop on the hook and through the first stitch.



I use the popcorn stitch to make thumbs for hands as it pops out.

Pick-up Stitches



Picking up stitches can be used for a number of things, I use it mainly to add limbs without having to create separate pieces and attach them later.



Insert your hook into one of the stitches (A/white), and poke it back out of the stitch directly next to it (B/blue) (or up, down, depending on what you're creating).



I'm demonstrating this in a different colour. Make a slip knot and put this on your hook. Then draw the slip knot back through both of the stitches (A and B).



There is now a loop on your hook coming out of stitch (A).



Insert your hook back into stitch (B) and poke it out of the stitch next to it (C/green). Yarn over as before and pull through both stitches (B and C).



Now you have two loops on your hook. Yarn over and draw through both loops as you would for a single crochet.



Repeat this method. Insert into (C), come out of (D/red), yarn over, pull through both (C and D), yarn over, pull through both loops on hook.



You can see here the single crochets that have been formed. You can change the direction of the row by inserting into (D) then (E/grey) and continuing the process.



Once you have a complete circle or row you can continue to crochet as normal.

Increase



An increase is very simple. Start by doing a single crochet in the next stitch.



Then do another single crochet in the same stitch as the one you just did. Done!

Invisible Decrease



We'll be joining two stitches. Insert your hook into the front loop only of the next stitch.



Then, keeping both loops on the hook, insert your hook into the front loop of the second stitch.



There will be three (probably tight) loops on the hook. Yarn over and draw through the first two loops.



You will still have two loops on your hook. Yarn over again, and draw through the remaining loops.



Done! Going through the front loop instead of both loops gives a neater, more "invisible" decrease.

Colour Change



Start doing a single crochet in the first colour. Insert, yarn over, pull through. When you have two loops on your hook stop before yarning over and finishing the stitch.



Yarn over using the second colour of yarn.



Then pull the second colour yarn through both loops on the hook.



I like to tie the two ends of different colour together on the inside with a knot, it gives a tighter stitch and a neater colour change.

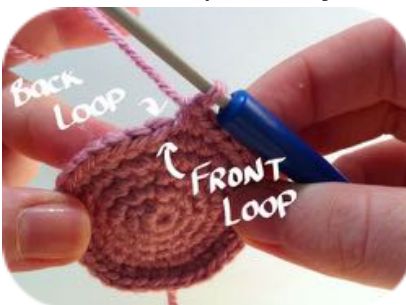


Now complete the next stitch in the new colour! This is usually the first stitch after a (in Colour) marker in my patterns.

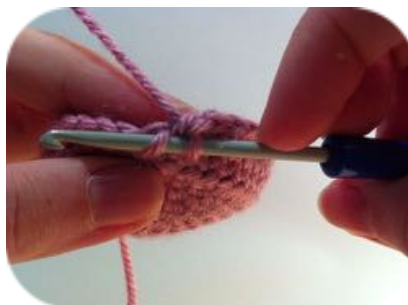


Continue as normal in the second colour!

Front Loop Only



A front loop only stitch is the same as a single crochet, except that, as the name suggests, instead of inserting your hook through both loops of the 'v' shaped stitch, we only go through the front loop, the one facing towards you.

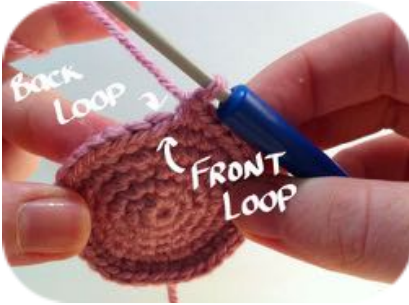


Insert your hook into the front loop, yarn over, and pull through both loops on the hook as you would for a normal single crochet.



I find crocheting a round in the front loop only helps to shape some of the items I make. It makes a good hat brim, and helps define the change in direction from the bottom of a head to the beginning of the neck.

Back Loop Only



Same as the front loop only stitch, except we are crocheting into the back loop this time - the one furthest away from you.



Insert your hook into the back loop, yarn over, and draw through both loops on the hook as you would for a normal single crochet.



Crocheting in the back loop only gives a seam and is useful for making flat bases, such as those at the top of a top hat, or the base of a foot.