



# BASIC CROCHET

FOR LEFTIES

TECHNIQUES GUIDE



BY

Cookie Box



Whether you're a crochet newbie or looking to refresh your skills, our guide is your go-to resource. Packed with clear explanations and helpful photos, it covers the fundamental techniques every beginner should master. Explore our guide and embark on your crochet journey today.



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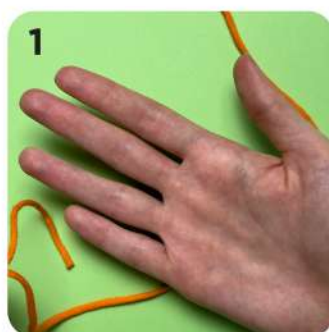
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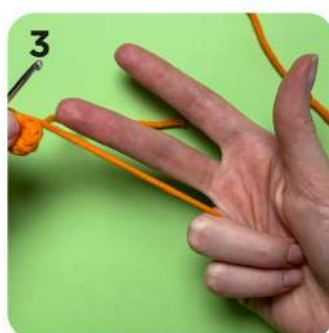
# THE BASICS

## HOLDING THE YARN AND THE HOOK

1. Turn your hand palm up.
2. Place the working yarn over your pinky and ring fingers.

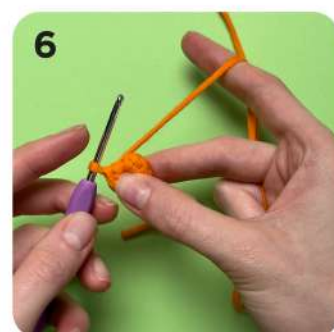
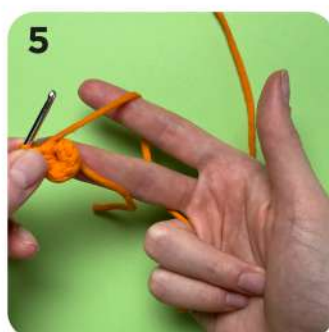


3. Fold the pinky and ring fingers to hold the yarn.



4. Direct the yarn behind the middle finger and pointer.

5. Bring the yarn over the pointer and put your Magic Ring on the middle finger.



6. Hold your piece with the middle finger and thumb.

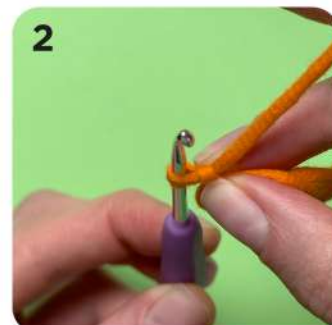
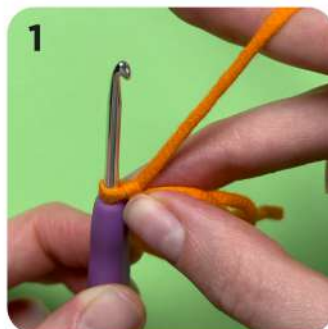
### TIP:

♥ You can try other ways of holding the yarn to make sure it's comfortable for you. You can wrap the yarn once or several times over your pinky, pinky and ring finger, or pointer, to allow for better control over the tension in the yarn.



## SIZE OF THE LOOP ON THE HOOK

1. Put the hook through the loop all the way. Tighten the loop at the very base of the hook to ensure it is of an appropriate size.
2. The loop should be just the size of the tip of the hook.



**TIP:** The size of the loop matters for two reasons:

- ♥ your hook should slide through the loops easily;
- ♥ the size of the stitch you create depends on the size of the loop on the hook, if the loop is too large, the stitch will be larger too, and you will end up having large holes between the stitches, which will affect the overall look of the toy.

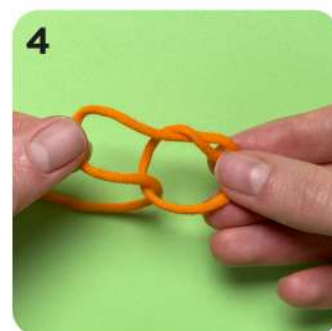
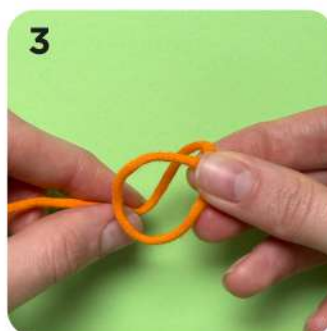
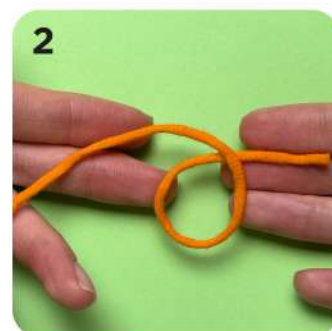
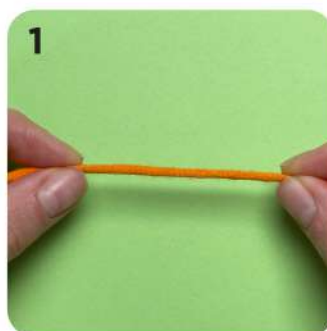
## STARTING A CROCHET PIECE

### HOW TO MAKE A MAGIC RING

There are various ways to start a crochet piece. In this section we will cover the most popular methods.

#### OPTION 1: WITHOUT A HOOK

1. Create a loop by placing the yarn attached to the yarn ball 'working yarn' over the yarn tail.
2. Pinch where they intersect.
3. Place the working yarn under the loop you've made.
4. Pull the working yarn out of the loop, forming a new loop. →



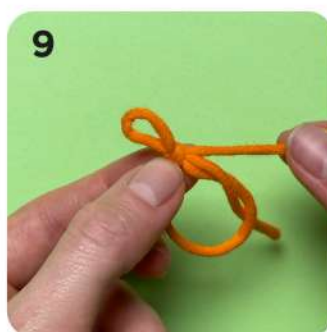
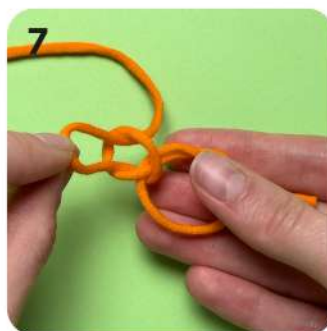
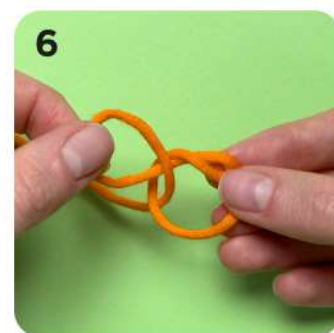
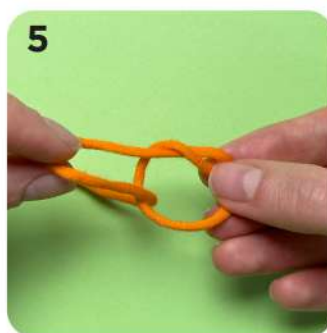
**5.** Twist the loop from bottom up to form a cross at the base of it.

**6.** Bring the working yarn behind the last loop you made.

**7.** Pull the working yarn out of this loop forming another loop.

**8.** Pull to tighten the knot at the base of the ring.

**9.** Adjust the loop to the size of the hook. Your Magic Ring is now ready. Learn how to create single stitches into the magic ring on page 12.

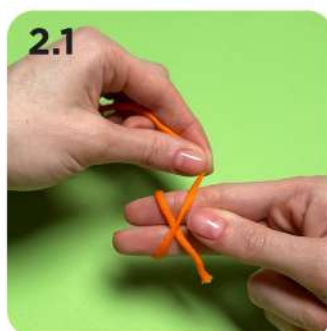


## OPTION 2: WITH A HOOK

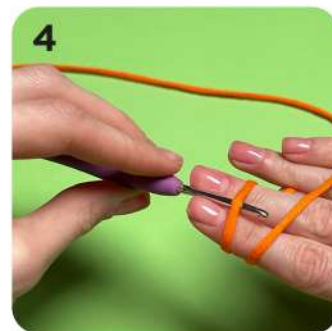
**1.** Position your hand with the palm facing up. Extend your pointer and middle fingers while folding your pinky and ring fingers. Place the yarn tail on your middle finger and pointer, closer to the fingertips, with the tail facing downwards.



**2.** Wrap the working yarn over the pointer and middle finger, crossing it over the yarn tail to form an "X" on the palm side of the fingers. →



**3.** Bring the yarn behind the pointer again, making sure the second strand is further from the fingertips than the first. Pass the yarn over all fingers except the pinky. Use the pinky to pinch and keep the working yarn tight.

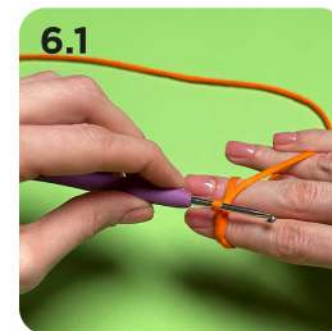
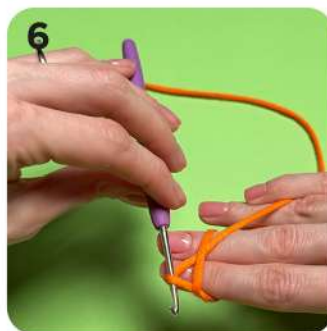


**4.** Insert your hook under the first strand of yarn that is closer to the fingertips. Catch the working yarn with your hook from above.



**5.** Pull the second yarn strand from underneath the first one.

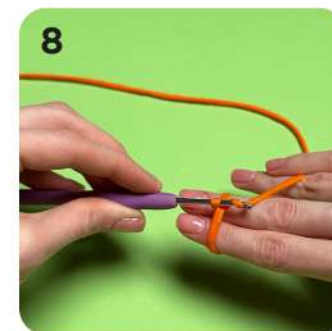
**6.** Twist the hook downwards, towards yourself and towards the hand holding the yarn.



**7.** Guide the hook under the working yarn held by your pinky.



**8.** Grab the working yarn and pull it through the loop on the hook. Make sure to point the hook tip downwards to help it go through the loop smoothly.



**9.** Take the piece of your fingers. Your Magic Ring is now ready. Learn how to create single stitches into the magic ring on page 12. ➔



**TIP:**

♥ The yarn tail should be wrapped around the strand that forms the Magic Ring, and must face the non-dominant hand. Left-handed crocheters will crochet towards the right, while right-handed crocheters will crochet towards the left.

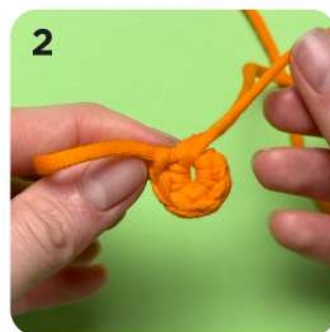
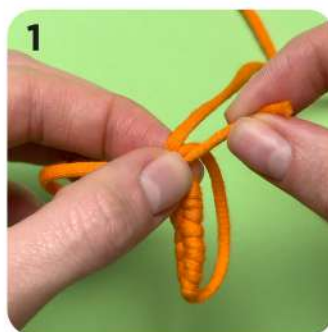
Make sure to place your stitches over both the ring itself and the yarn tail. Finally, you will pull on the yarn tail to tighten the ring, so ensure that the yarn tail is always visible.

**CLOSING THE MAGIC RING**

**After you complete Round 1 of your project, you will need to close the magic ring to continue crocheting in rounds.**

**To do so:**

1. Pull on the yarn tail to tighten your Magic Ring.
2. Now your Magic Ring and round 1 are complete.

**TIP:**

♥ Avoid pulling too tight; it's better to leave a small gap until you make row 2. When you tighten the Magic Ring overly at the very start, it's hard to fit the hook through the first stitch in row 2.

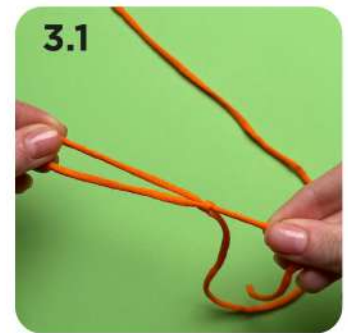
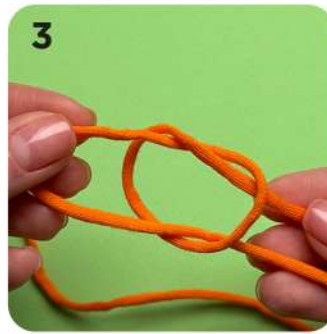
**CHAIN-2 START**

1. Place the working yarn over the yarn tail.
2. Draw the working yarn up through the loop that has formed. →

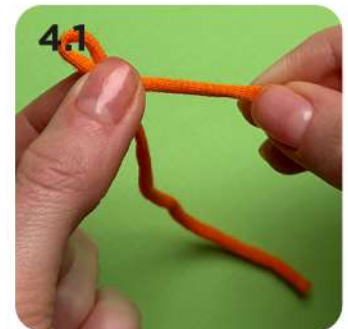
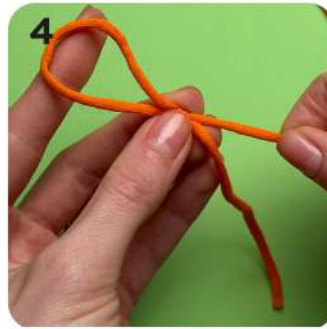




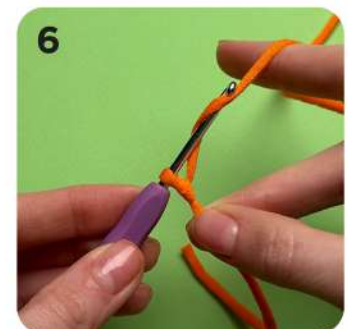
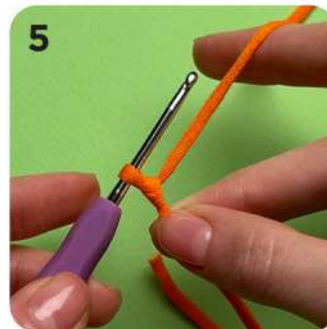
**3.** Hold on to the working yarn and pull the yarn tail and working yarn until the knot is tight.



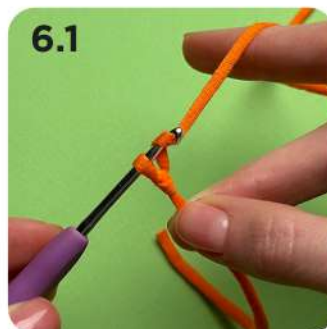
**4.** Tighten the loop by pulling the working yarn.



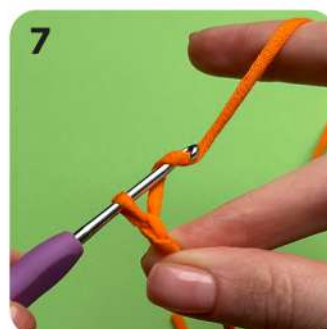
**5.** Insert the hook into the loop. Tighten the loop on the hook until the loop is of the size of the tip of the hook.



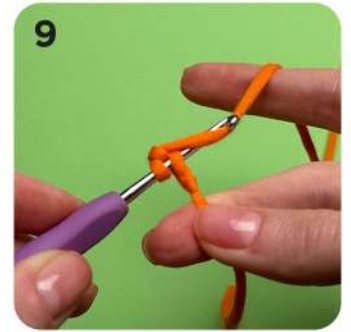
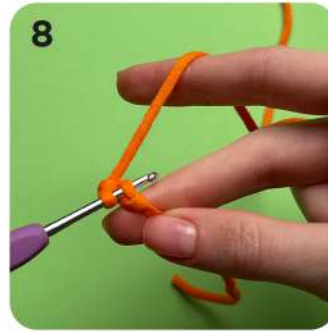
**6.** Grab the working yarn with your hook and pull it through the loop on the hook. You have now made a chain stitch.



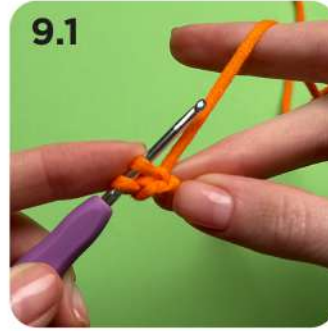
**7.** Create the second chain stitch. →



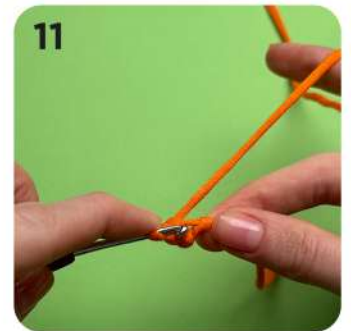
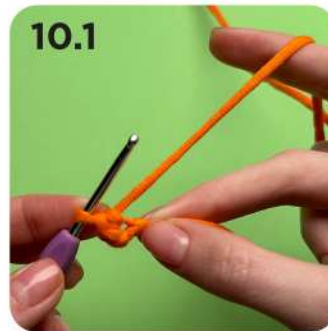
**8.** Use the first chain stitch (one chain stitch away from the hook) to crochet the first round of the pattern. Put the hook through the first chain stitch.



**9.** Yarn over. Pull the hook with the working yarn back out of the stitch. You should now have 2 loops on the hook.



**10.** Yarn over again and pull the hook with the working yarn through both loops on the hook.



**11.** Continue putting as many stitches into the same first chain stitch, as required by the pattern.

**12.** Once you have completed all the stitches in round 1, your piece should look as in the image.



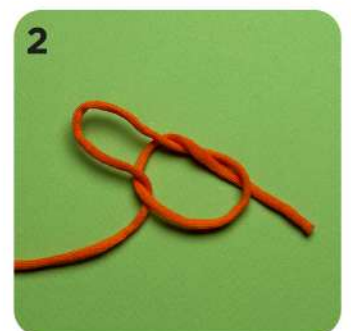
## STITCHES & TECHNIQUES

### CH - CHAIN

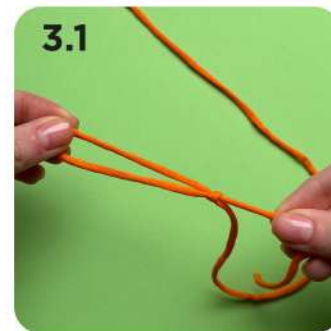
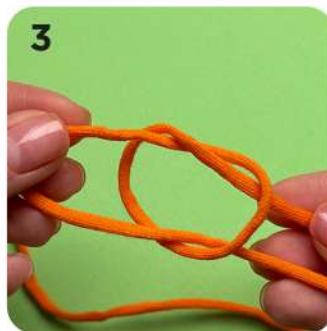
**1.** Place the working yarn over the yarn tail.



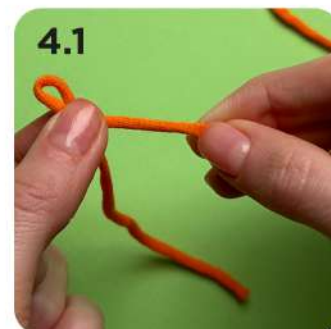
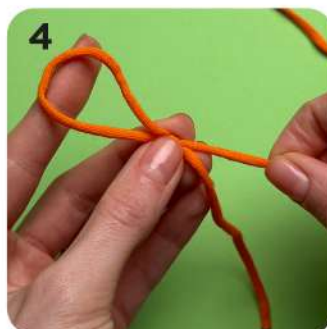
**2.** Draw the working yarn up through the loop that has formed. →



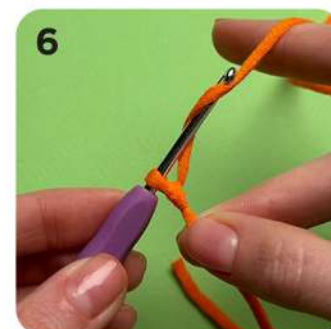
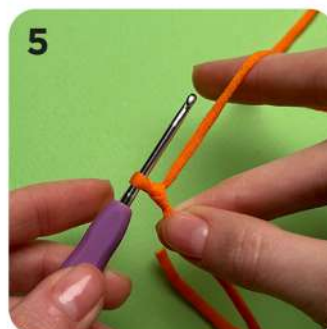
**3.** Hold on to the working yarn and pull the yarn tail and working yarn until the knot is tight.



**4.** Tighten the loop by pulling the working yarn.

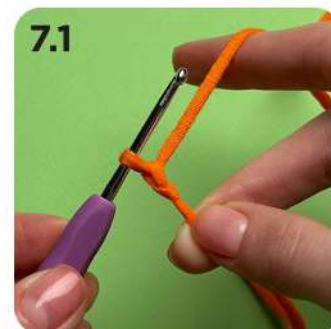


**5.** Insert the hook into the loop. Tighten the loop on the hook until the loop is of the size of the tip of the hook.



**6.** Yarn over.

**7.** Pull the working yarn through the loop on the hook. You have now made a chain stitch.



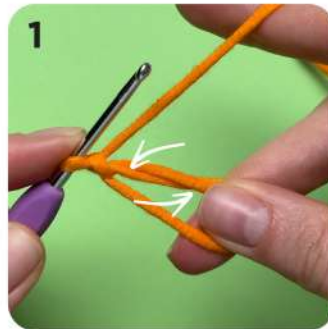
**8.** Repeat steps 6 and 7 to make the required number of chain stitches.

### TIP:

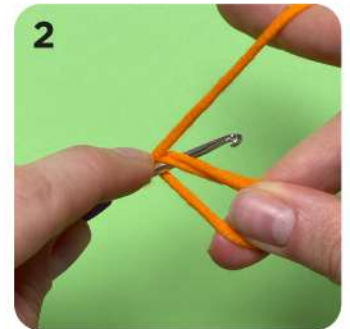
♥ The loop on the hook is not considered a chain stitch.

## SC - SINGLE CROCHET STITCH INTO THE MAGIC RING

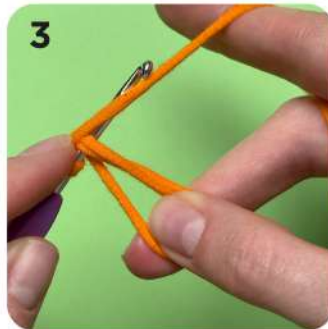
**1.** Get your yarn and hook in the working position. At this step, ensure that the yarn tail is perfectly aligned with the base of the Magic Ring.



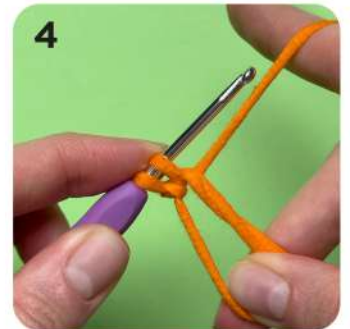
**2.** Put the hook inside the Magic Ring.



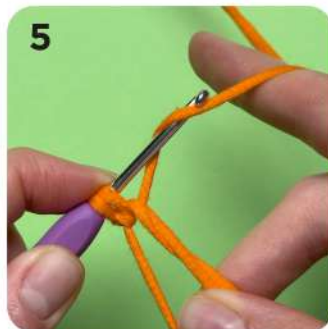
**3.** Grab the working yarn from underneath.



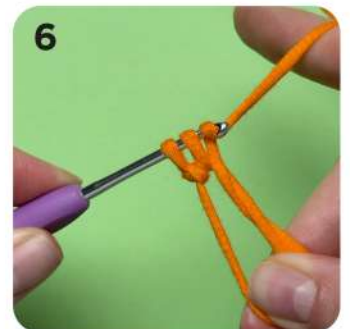
**4.** Bring the working yarn back out of the ring. You should have 2 loops on the hook now; make sure they are about the same size.



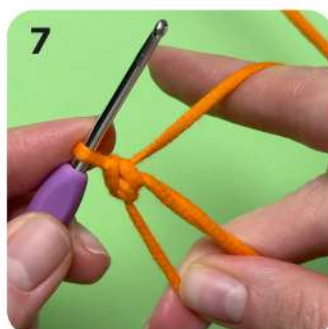
**5.** "Yarn over" - Bring your hook under and behind the yarn. Twist the tip of the hook down to secure the yarn.



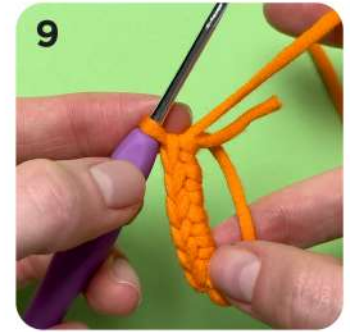
**6.** Pull the working yarn through both loops on your hook.



**7.** Your first stitch in the ring is ready. The amount of stitches you need to put into the Magic Ring is stated in the pattern (Round 1 or Row 1). →

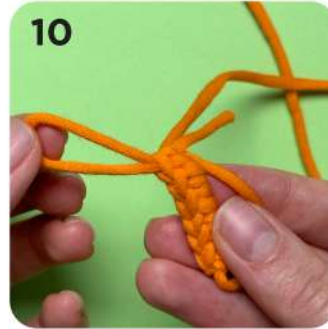


**8.** Top view of the stitch. You can identify each stitch by looking at the rim. Each stitch has a shape of a "V".



**9.** Create as many single crochet stitches as is stated in the pattern (Round 1 or Row 1).

**10.** Widen the loop on the hook and remove the hook. This helps avoid losing the last stitch you made.

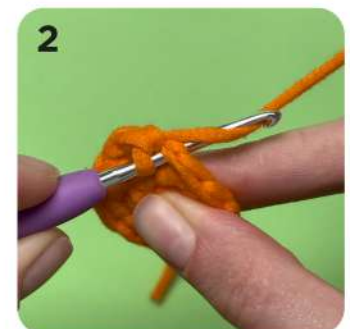
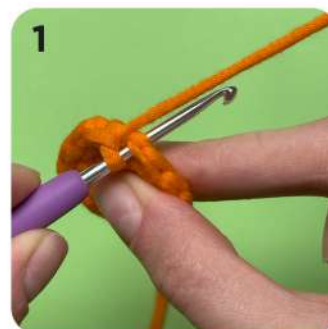


### TIP:

♥ You should maintain some tension in the working yarn and in the Magic Ring too, to make it easier to crochet; otherwise, your piece will feel unstable, and it will be hard to control the yarn and the hook. Practice different methods for holding the yarn and the hook to find the perfect one for you.

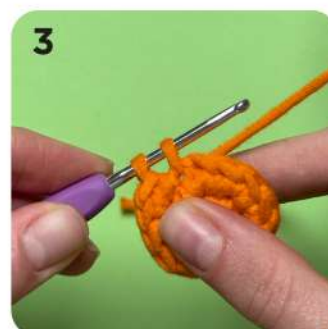
## SC - SINGLE CROCHET STITCH IN A STITCH OF A PREVIOUS ROW

**1.** Put your hook under both the front and back bar of the stitch; you should have 3 strands of yarn on your hook.

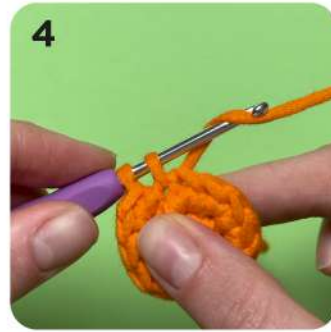


**2.** Yarn over and bring the hook back out of the stitch.

**3.** You should have 2 loops on your hook. →



**4.** Yarn over and pull the hook together with the working yarn through the loops.



**5.** Pull the working yarn through both loops on the hook.



**6.** The single stitch is done!

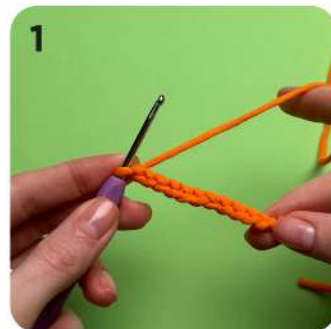


### TIP:

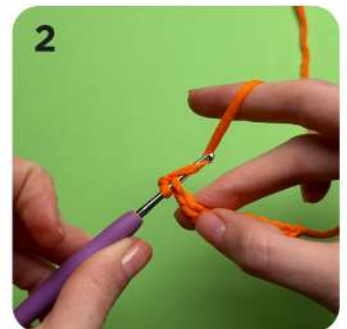
♥ Twist the hook to secure the yarn; this will help you pull it through the loops easily.

## SC - SINGLE STITCH INTO A CHAIN

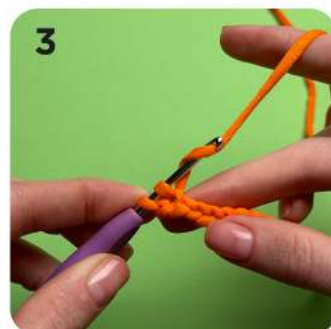
**1.** Start by creating a chain of as many stitches as required by the pattern.



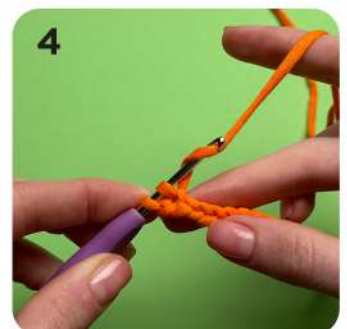
**2.** Then insert your hook into the 2nd stitch from the hook. So 1 stitch away from the hook.



**3.** Yarn over. Pull the working yarn with the hook back out of the stitch forming another loop on the hook.

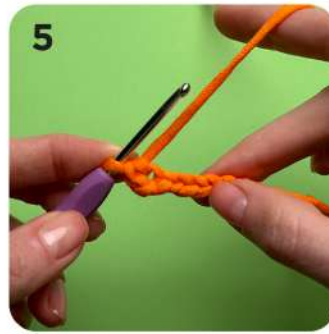


**4.** Yarn over. →



**5.** Pull the working yarn through both of the loops on the hook.

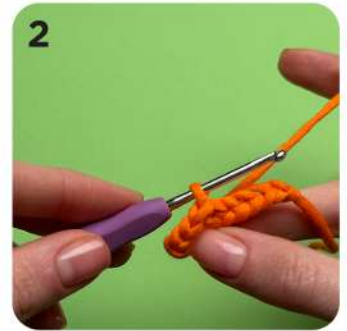
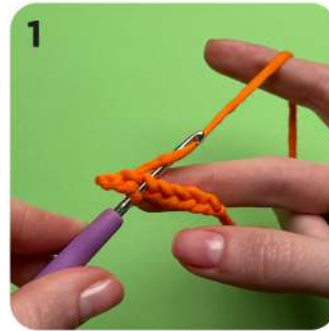
**6.** Continue by making as many single stitches as required by the pattern.



## SL ST - SLIP STITCH

**1.** Insert the hook in the next stitch and yarn over.

**2.** Pull the hook and the working yarn back out of the stitch and right through the loop on the hook. You have now made a slip stitch.



## INCREASE

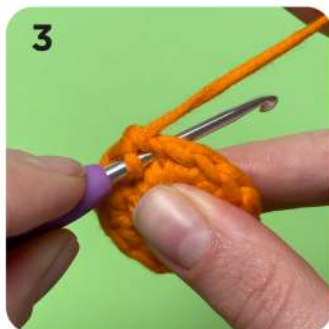
**An increase is typically 2 single crochet stitches made into the same stitch of the previous row.**

**1.** Make a single crochet stitch as described above (Single Crochet Stitch in a stitch of a previous row).

**2.** Identify where the single crochet stitch is located.

**3.** Put your hook under that same stitch.

**4.** Yarn over and pull the working yarn back through the stitch. →

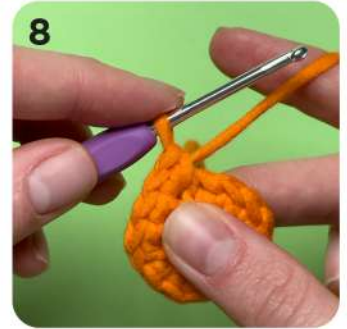
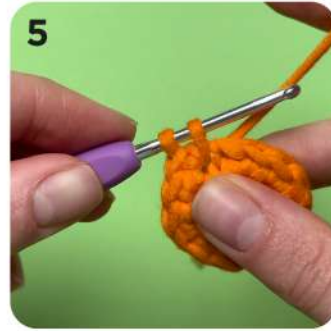


**5.** You should have 2 loops on your hook now.

**6.** Yarn over.

**7.** Pull the working yarn through both loops on the hook to complete the increase.

**8.** You now should have 2 stitches coming out of the same stitch.



**Single Crochet Stitch** - has 1 post (2 yarn strands) tracing back into a hole.

**Increase** - has 2 posts (4 yarn strands) tracing back into the same hole.



## DECREASE

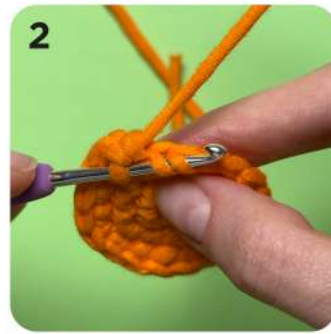
**A decrease is used to reduce the total number of stitches in the row to shape the project. A decrease is made by combining 2 stitches into one.**

**1.** Put your hook under the front loop of the next stitch. →

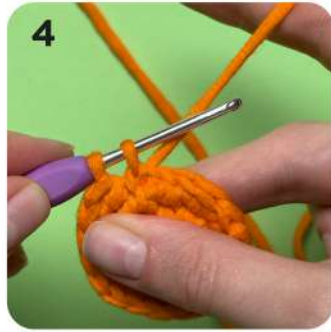




**2.** Then again put your hook under the front loop of the second next stitch. You should have 3 strands on your hook.



**3.** Yarn over and pull the working yarn through the first 2 loops on your hook.



**4.** You should have 2 loops left on your hook.

**5.** Yarn over and pull your hook through both loops on your hook.

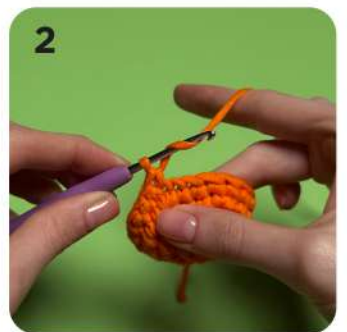


**6.** The decrease is done.



## HDC - HALF DOUBLE CROCHET

**1.** You should start with only 1 loop on your hook.



**2.** First grasp the working yarn from beneath. You should now have, what looks like 2 loops on the hook.



**3.** Insert your hook through the next stitch. →

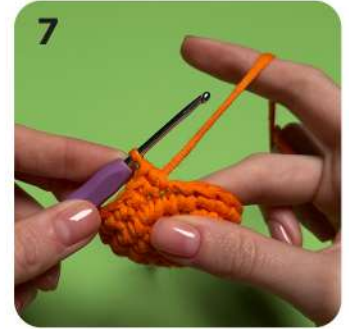
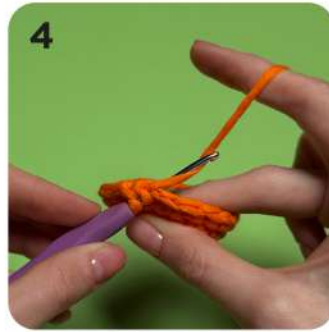


**4.** Yarn over.

**5.** Pull the hook with the working yarn back out of the stitch. You should now have 3 loops on the hook.

**6.** Grasp the working yarn from beneath.

**7.** Pull the hook with the working yarn through all 3 loops on the hook.



## DC - DOUBLE CROCHET

**1.** You should start with only 1 loop on your hook.

**2.** First grasp the working yarn from beneath. You should now have, what looks like 2 loops on the hook.

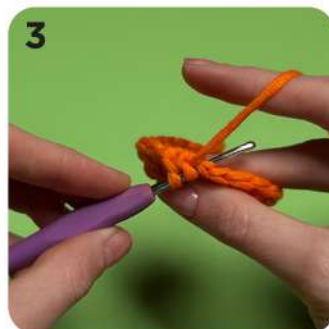
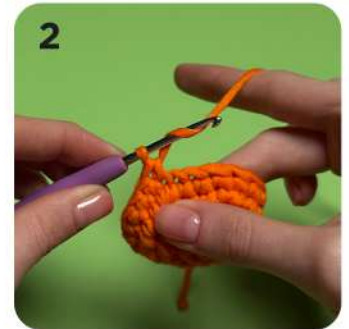


**3.** Insert your hook through the next stitch.

**4.** Yarn over.



**5.** Pull the hook with the working yarn back out of the stitch. You should now have 3 loops on the hook. →

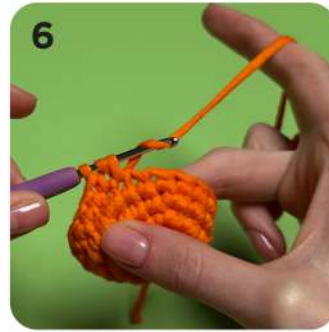


**6.** Yarn over.

**7.** Pull the hook only through the first 2 loops on the hook.

**8.** Yarn over.

**9.** Pull the hook with the working yarn through the remaining 2 loops on the hook. You have successfully completed the Double Crochet!



## KNOT IN THE YARN BALL

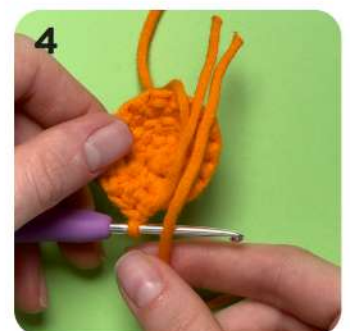
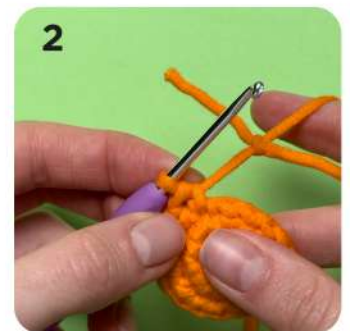
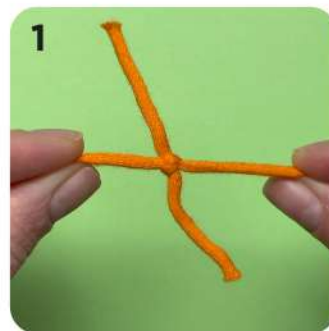
### Attaching a new strand of yarn

**1.** You will come across knots in yarn balls, as well as you may need to attach yarn from a new skein, or change up the color of the yarn to continue crocheting. The process would be the same in all scenarios.

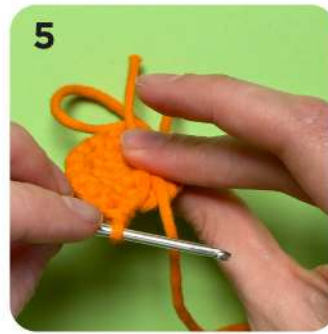
**2.** Crochet as many stitches as you can before the knot.

**3.** Cut the knot out.

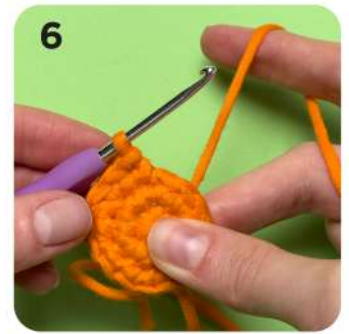
**4.** Align the yarn tails. →



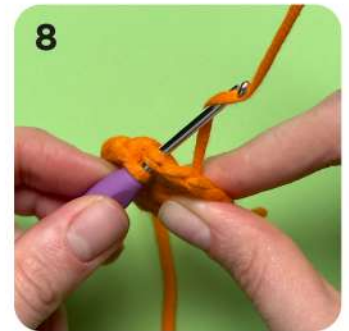
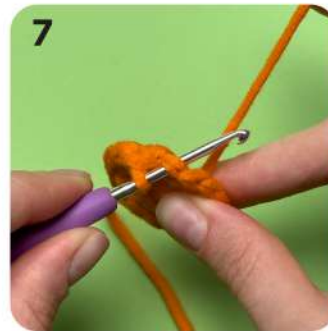
**5.** Pinch the yarn tails to the piece with your thumb and middle finger.



**6.** Continue by making the next stitch as usual, only now you will start using the new yarn strand as the working yarn.

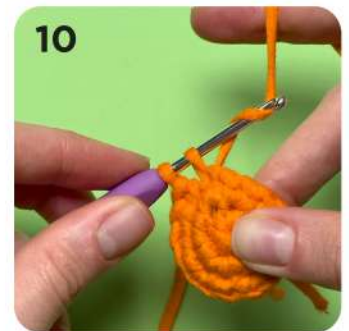
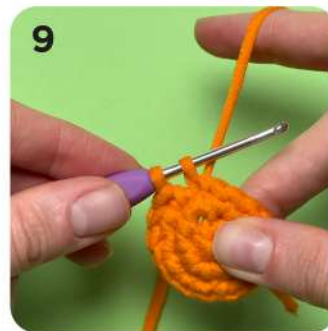


**7.** Put your hook through the next stitch.



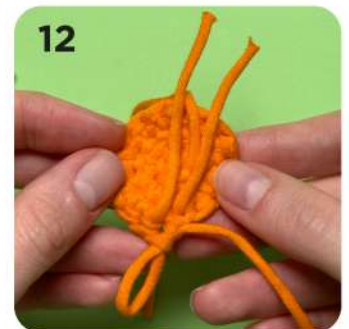
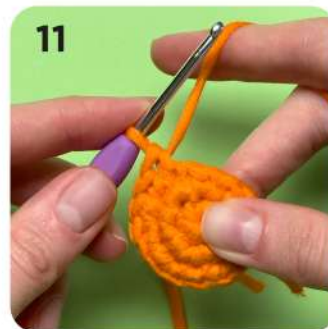
**8.** Yarn over using the new strand of yarn.

**9.** Pull the hook back out of the stitch.



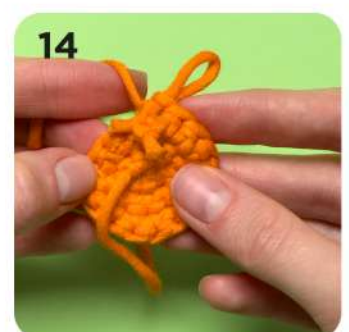
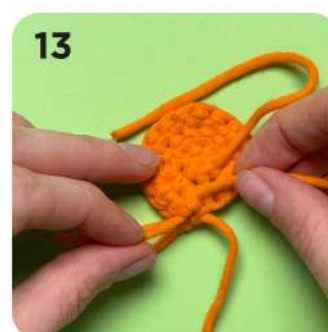
**10.** Yarn over using the new strand of yarn.

**11.** Finish your stitch.



**12.** Turn your work wrong side up.

**13.** Tie the yarn tails together twice.



**14.** Cut the excess yarn tails. The new yarn is attached, you can now continue crocheting your project! →

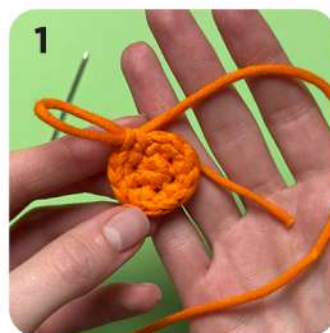
# FINISHING CROCHET PIECES

Depending on the piece you're working on, you can use one of these methods to finish it off:

## INVISIBLE FASTEN-OFF

**Use For:** Making a smooth edge and hiding where you stopped crocheting.

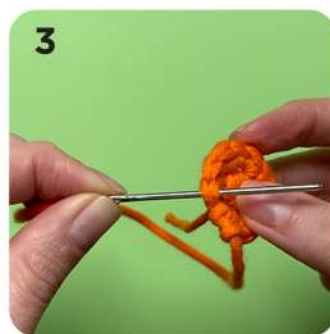
**1.** Finish crocheting your piece.



**2.** Pull the yarn tail through the last stitch completely.



**3.** Thread the same yarn tail through a needle and guide it through the next stitch in the round.



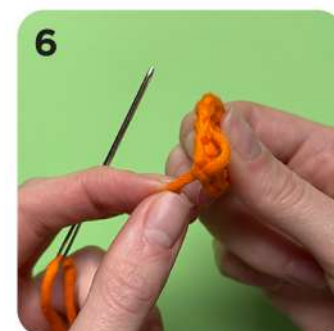
**4.** Tighten this stitch until it looks like one of the bars of the stitch.



**5.** Insert the needle back into the previous stitch from top to bottom between two of its bars. Guide the needle out on the wrong side of your project.



**6.** Pull on the yarn tail to tighten this stitch to imitate the second bar of a stitch. →

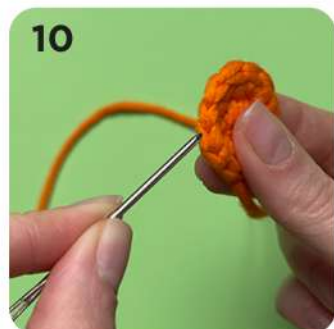
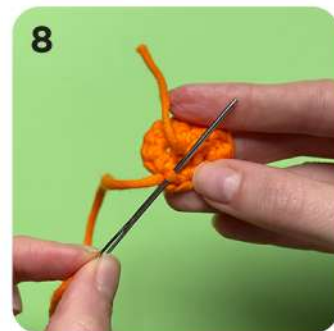
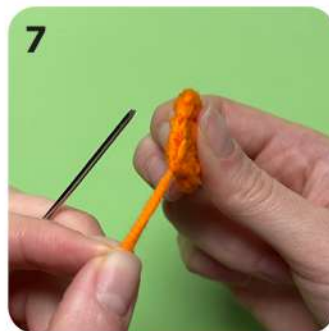


**7.** Make sure the imitated stitch is of similar size to the actual stitches.

**8.** Turn your work with the wrong side up and insert the needle under the horizontal bar adjacent to the stitch the yarn tail is coming out of.

**9.** Pull the yarn tail through the horizontal bar completely.

**10.** Once you have created a "fake" stitch, you have completed the Invisible Fasten-Off!



## FASTEN OFF: CLOSING A 3D PIECE CROCHETED IN ROUNDS

**Used to seamlessly seal openings in 3D crochet shapes**

**1.** Cut your yarn, leaving a 4-6 inch yarn tail. Thread a needle with this yarn tail.

**2.** Put the needle under the front loop of the next six stitches. Continue one by one, moving from the inside of the ball to the outside.

**3.** Once you have sewed through each of the following stitches, pull the yarn tail to close up the center hole. →



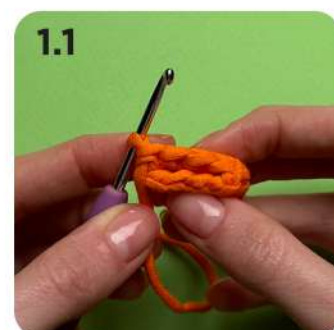
**4.** Hide the leftover yarn inside the plushie and trim any extra yarn.



## CROCHET EDGES TOGETHER

**Crochet through both sides of a piece to join them with a crisp edge, no sewing needed.**

**1.** Fold the piece so the sides you want to join are together.



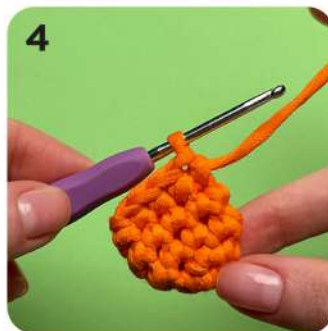
**2.** Insert your hook through both the first and last stitches of the sides you're joining.



**3.** Create a single crochet stitch as usual, connecting the two sides by going through both stitches at the same time. →



**4.** Repeat this, connecting pairs of stitches together until the piece is fully joined.



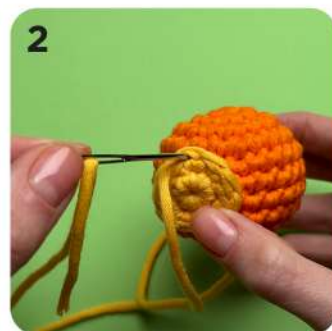
## SEWING TECHNIQUES

### A FLAT PIECE ONTO A 3D PIECE

**1.** Place the flat piece on the 3D piece where you want to attach it.



**2.** Insert your needle into the stitch next to the one from which the yarn tail emerges, moving from top to bottom. Guide the needle into the stitch on the 3D piece directly beneath the flat piece.



**3.** Guide the needle back out through the adjacent stitch on the 3D piece, which is right beneath the next stitch on the flat piece.



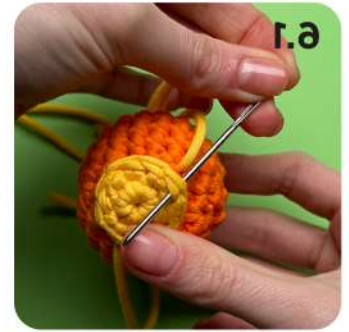
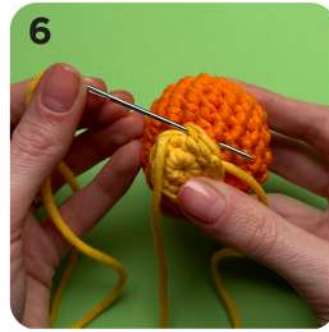
**4.** Insert your needle through this next stitch on the flat piece from bottom to top.



**5.** Ensure the stitch is hidden by pulling on the yarn tail. →



**6.** Continue stitching around the entire flat piece, always entering the 3D piece from top to bottom and entering the flat piece from bottom to top.



**7.** On your final stitch, guide the needle out through any other stitch on the 3D piece. Instead of bringing it back up, push it through the entire 3D piece so that a part of the yarn tail is captured inside. Cut off the yarn tail.

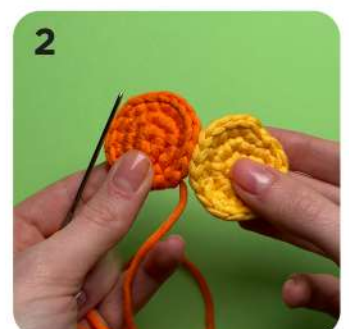


**8.** Cut off any remaining yarn tail and push it inside the 3D piece to hide it.

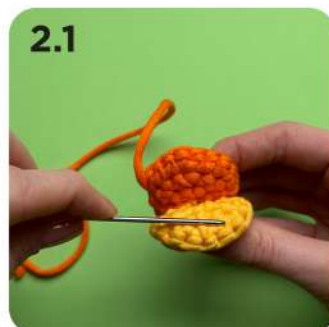


## A FLAT PIECE TO ANOTHER FLAT PIECE

**1.** Ensure one of the flat pieces is completed with an invisible fasten-off, leaving no yarn tails sticking out.



**2.** Place both flat pieces together, aligning them so that their wrong sides face each other, and the right sides are visible on the outside.

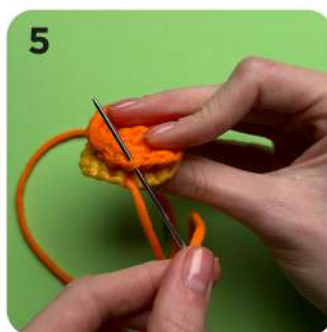


**3.** Thread a needle with the yarn tail from the second piece and insert it through the entire stitch of the other piece. →

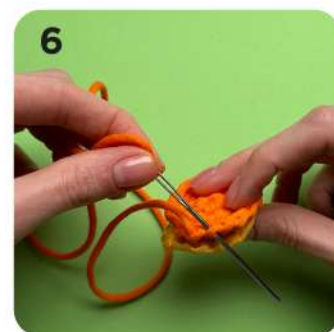
**4.** Insert the needle through the next stitch on the piece from which the needle just exited.



**5.** Guide the needle under only the front bar of the adjacent stitch on the second piece.



**6.** Continue by guiding the needle through the front bar of the next stitch on the same second piece, then through the whole stitch on the other piece.



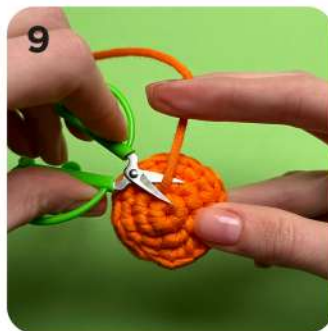
**7.** Proceed to sew through all stitches around the pieces in this manner, alternating between inserting through the whole stitch of one piece and only the front loop of the other to make the seam nearly invisible.



**8.** Once the final stitch is complete, hide the yarn tail by guiding the needle through the piece matching the color of the yarn, weaving it between the two layers, and then out another stitch of the same-colored piece. →



**9.** Cut off the excess yarn tail, finishing the assembly of the piece with a hidden seam.



**This sewing technique ensures that the seam is almost invisible.**

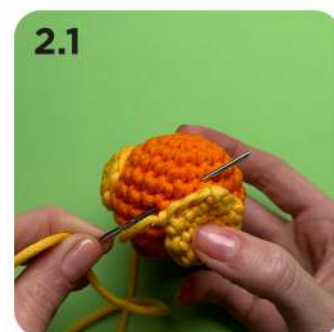


## A 3D PIECE TO ANOTHER 3D PIECE

**1.** Align the smaller 3D piece onto the larger one.



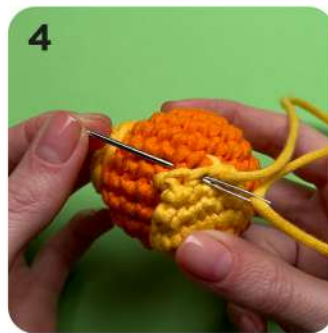
**2.** Insert the needle into the stitch directly beneath the first stitch on the edge of the smaller piece where the yarn tail is, and guide it out of the larger piece right beneath the last stitch on the edge of the smaller piece.



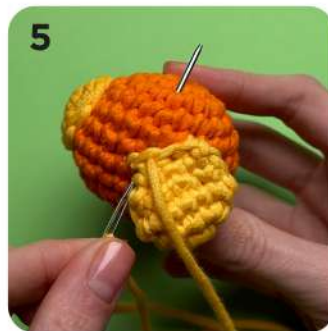
**3.** Insert the needle from bottom to top through the last stitch on the edge of the smaller piece. →



**4.** Sew back across the edge from the last stitch to the first, securing each stitch along the way. To make sure the seam is hidden, insert your needle from top to bottom through the stitch on the smaller piece and guide it into the 3D piece. When guiding the needle out of the 3D piece, make sure to put the needle under the adjacent stitch on the small piece from bottom to top.



**5.** On your final stitch, guide the needle all the way through the larger piece instead of bringing it up to where the smaller piece is.



**6.** Cut off the excess yarn and tuck the end inside the 3D piece to hide it.

## LET'S STAY IN-TOUCH! FOLLOW US!



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