

Single Crochet

Now that you have created a chain, you will need to work back down along the chain to insert single crochet stitches.

Because your middle finger and thumb are still holding the yarn beside the hook, you can't see the chain to work into it but moving them down the chain will reduce your control over the yarn and, produce inconsistent tension.

To avoid this, before you move your middle and thumb, place the index finger of your dominant hand on the Active Loop.

Single Crochet into the chain

Slide your middle and thumb down the chain until your thumb is positioned under the second chain from the hook.

- 1** Push the **pointed end** of the hook under the chain and out the other side.
- 2** Following the scoop, roll and pull method, pull the yarn back through the chain so you have two loops on the hook. (Scooping the yarn is commonly known as "**yarning over**")
- 3** Yarn over and pull the yarn through both loops on the hook
- 4** This will create your first stitch and this is indicated by the distinctive "V" under the hook. It is imperative that you use a stitch marker to mark the first stitch of each row. Slide the stitch marker under both sides of the "V" to do this. Do not mistake the side of the stitch for the V!
- 5** Continue down the chain to create a row of V's.

Remember - there should be **one less stitch than you chained**. eg if you chain 11, you should end the row with 10 V's.

You must count your stitches before moving on to ensure you haven't added or lost stitches.

Single Crochet into the V

- 6** To continue to the next row, simply flip your work over as if you are turning the page of a book, so you are now working back along the row, towards your first marked stitch.

Insert your hook under **both side of the first V** in the previous row and continue the single crochet as before:

- Yarn over and pull through the stitch (2 loops on the hook)
- Yarn over again and pull through both loops (1 loop on the hook)

Use a second stitch marker to mark your first stitch of the row

Continue this method until you have one stitch remaining. This final stitch will have your stitch marker in it. Remove your stitch marker, work your final single crochet in the stitch and turn your work again.

The stitch marker you have just removed can be used to mark the first stitch of the next row. You will only require two stitch markers for the whole piece as you will remove them at the end of each row and reinsert them on the next.

If you have the correct number of stitches at the end of each row, turn your work and continue. Your stitch count from the previous row should not change from now on.

Fastening Off

When you have completed the desired number of rows, chain 1 and cut the yarn. Pull the active loop so it gets bigger and until the tail you have cut comes through. Pull the tail to tighten the knot.

Finally, using a darning needle, weave this end and the tail from the original chain into the back of the work to hide them.

