

Extended Single Crochet



Whilst it is possible to complete work using rows of Extended Single Crochet (ext-sc), this is more of a “helper” stitch.

All stitches are worked from the top, down into the row below. As you end a row and turn to begin a new one, your hook is sitting on top of the row you have just completed – how do we reach the height of a taller stitch if they start from the top?

Traditionally, the answer to this question is to chain. For a row of Half Double Crochet (hdc) you would chain 2 to reach the height of this stitch and then once there, begin working your stitches into the row below.

Patterns will often state something along the lines of “this chain acts like your first stitch”.

Unfortunately, there are a few issues with this method:

- **The way it looks**
 - The chain is too thin. This leaves an obvious gap between the chain and the first hdc
- **The way it acts**
 - The chain doesn't have a distinctive “V”, so its very easy to miss. Even when worked into, it can pull and create a gap
- **The way it edges**
 - When bordering your work at the side, the edging stitches are usually worked *through* the middle of stitches. This is very difficult to do with a chain and often results in having to work *around* the chain, further pulling it away from the rest of the stitches in the row and creating a gap.

Some patterns will suggest you ch2 and then work your first stitch into the same stitch, ignoring the chain altogether. However, this makes the first stitch too thick, resulting in non-straight edges.

So how do we fix this?

What we need is a stitch of a similar height, but one that is worked from the bottom.

Meet the **Extended Single Crochet (ext-sc)**

The ext-sc is worked in a way much like the sc but with an extra step (**marked in red**) to give it a little lift to reach the height of a hdc.

1. Insert hook into the stitch (as you did for a sc)
2. Yarn over
3. Pull through the stitch (2 loops on hook)
4. **Yarn over**
5. **Pull through one loop (you still have 2 loops on the hook)**
6. Yarn over
7. Pull through two loops (1 loop on the hook)

This stitch looks, acts and can be edged just like a normal hdc and now we have reached the height of a one, we can begin crocheting the real thing.

Remember: it is only the first stitch of every hdc row that is an ext-sc. All other stitches in the row are real hdc's.

