

WELCOME TO CROCHET

Crochet, Decoded

The terms, symbols, hooks and yarn weights nobody explains, all in one place.



How to read a pattern, line by line

US vs UK terms, and the three that trip everyone up

Stitch heights and turning chains

Free tools and games to keep you learning

Every abbreviation you'll run into

Stitch symbols so charts finally make sense

Hook sizes and yarn weights side by side

I've been designing crochet patterns since 2014, and I still remember staring at "sc2tog" like it was a secret code. This is everything I wish someone had handed me on day one.

Cheers! Briana

How to read a pattern

Patterns look like code at first. Here's the decoder ring.

WHEN YOU SEE	IT MEANS
Ch 1, sc in each st across, turn.	Each comma is one step. Do them in order, left to right.
Ch 1 (does not count as a stitch)	Make the chain, but skip it when you count stitches.
*2 sc in next st, sc in the next 3 sts; repeat from * around	Work the part after the * over and over until you reach the end of the round.
[sc in next st, ch 1] 5 times	Work everything inside the brackets as a group, the number of times shown.
(24 sts)	The stitch count at the end of a row or round. Count to check you're on track.
Rnds 7-8: Repeat Rnds 3-4.	Work those earlier rounds again, exactly as written.
Join	Slip stitch into the first stitch of the round to close it.
Turn	Flip your work over so you're ready to start the next row.
RS / WS	Right side (the side people see) and wrong side.
Gauge	How many stitches and rows fit in a set measurement. Match it and your project comes out the right size.

Edges looking wonky?

Getting narrower each row? You probably missed the last stitch. Getting wider? You likely worked into the turning chain by accident. Counting at the end of every row catches both.

Tip: Read the whole row before you start it. Most "mistakes" are just a step that got skipped.

Abbreviations (US terms)

Pin this one to the fridge. Or your project bag. Or your forehead.

ABBR.	MEANING
approx	approximately
beg	beginning
blo	back loop only
bp	back post
ch	chain
ch sp	chain space
cont	continue
dc	double crochet
dec	decrease
dtr	double treble crochet
flo	front loop only
fp	front post
hdc	half double crochet
inc	increase
lp(s)	loop(s)
mr	magic ring

ABBR.	MEANING
pm	place marker
rem	remaining
rep	repeat
rnd(s)	round(s)
RS	right side
sc	single crochet
sk	skip
sl st	slip stitch
sm	stitch marker
sp	space
st(s)	stitch(es)
tch	turning chain
tog	together
tr	treble crochet
WS	wrong side
yo	yarn over

US vs UK terms

Same stitches, different names. It's the crochet version of "chips" vs "fries."

US TERMS	UK TERMS
slip stitch (sl st)	slip stitch (ss)
single crochet (sc)	double crochet (dc) ⚠
half double crochet (hdc)	half treble (htr)
double crochet (dc)	treble (tr) ⚠
treble (tr)	double treble (dtr) ⚠
double treble (dtr)	triple treble (trtr)
sc2tog	dc2tog ⚠
dc2tog	tr2tog ⚠
yarn over (yo)	yarn round hook (yrh)
skip	miss
gauge	tension
fasten off	fasten off

⚠ **The ones that trip everyone up:** a US **single** crochet is a UK **double** crochet, and a US **double** is a UK **treble**. So "dc" means a completely different stitch depending on where the pattern was written.

How to tell which terms a pattern uses

See "single crochet" or "sc" anywhere? It's US, since UK patterns don't have that stitch. See "htr" or "yarn round hook"? It's UK. Still not sure? Check the designer's notes up front. All Briana K Designs patterns use US terms.

Stitch symbols, part 1

Charts draw each stitch as a little picture. Taller symbol, taller stitch.



ch UK: ch

Chain

Yarn over and pull through the loop on your hook. One chain made.



sl st UK: ss

Slip stitch

Insert your hook, yarn over, and pull through both the stitch and the loop on your hook.



sc UK: dc

Single crochet

Insert your hook, yarn over and pull up a loop, yarn over and pull through both loops.



hdc UK: htr

Half double crochet

Yarn over, insert your hook, pull up a loop (3 loops), yarn over and pull through all three.



dc UK: tr

Double crochet

Yarn over, insert your hook, pull up a loop, then (yarn over and pull through 2) twice.



tr UK: dtr

Treble crochet

Yarn over twice, insert your hook, pull up a loop, then (yarn over and pull through 2) three times.



sc blo UK: dc blo

Single crochet, back loop only

A single crochet worked under the back loop only. The arch shows which loop.



sc flo UK: dc flo

Single crochet, front loop only

A single crochet worked under the front loop only.



fpdc UK: fptr

Front post double crochet

Yarn over, hook around the post of the stitch below from the front, then finish as a double crochet.



bpdc UK: bptr

Back post double crochet

Yarn over, hook around the post of the stitch below from the back, then finish as a double crochet.

Stitch symbols, part 2

Shaping, texture and a couple of fancy extras.



sc2tog UK: dc2tog

Single crochet 2 together

A decrease. (Insert in next stitch, yarn over, pull up a loop) twice, yarn over and pull through all 3.



2sc UK: 2dc

2 single crochet in one stitch

An increase. Work two single crochets into the same stitch.



3dc shell UK: 3tr shell

3 double crochet shell

Work three double crochets into the same stitch or space.



3hdc puff UK: 3htr puff

3 half double crochet puff

(Yarn over, insert in the same stitch, pull up a loop) three times, yarn over and pull through all 7.



picot UK: picot

Chain 3 picot

Chain three, then slip stitch into the third chain from the hook.



mr UK: mr

Magic ring

Loop the yarn around itself, work your first round into the loop, then pull the tail to close the center.

Little clues hiding in every symbol

- **Count the dashes.** Each dash across the stem is one yarn over, so dc has one and tr has two.
- **Joined at the bottom** means several stitches in one spot, so it's an increase or a shell.
- **Joined at the top** means several stitches closed together, so it's a decrease or a cluster.

How to read a chart

Start where the pattern tells you, usually the bottom for rows or the center for rounds. Each symbol sits right where the stitch goes. Rows read back and forth, rounds read counterclockwise (clockwise if you crochet left handed).

Short stitches to tall ones

Every stitch is the one before it, plus one more yarn over.



sc
UK: dc



hdc
UK: htr



dc
UK: tr



tr
UK: dtr

STITCH (US)	TURNING CHAIN	HEIGHT
sc single crochet	ch 1	Short and dense. Great for amigurumi and edges.
hdc half double	ch 2	A little taller, still cozy and warm.
dc double crochet	ch 3	Tall and quick. Blankets grow fast.
tr treble	ch 4	Extra tall and drapey. Lace loves it.

Where does my hook go?

Look at the top of any stitch and you'll see a little sideways V. The loop closest to you is the **front loop**, the one behind it is the **back loop**, and the tall body underneath is the **post**. Unless the pattern says otherwise, slide your hook under **both loops** of the V.

Does the turning chain count as a stitch? The pattern will tell you. In Briana K patterns, "Ch 1 (does not count as a stitch)" means skip it when you count.

Hook sizes and yarn weights

Your yarn label tells you the weight. This tells you everything else.

US	METRIC
B-1	2.25 mm
C-2	2.75 mm
D-3	3.25 mm
E-4	3.5 mm
F-5	3.75 mm
G-6	4 mm
7	4.5 mm
H-8	5 mm
I-9	5.5 mm
J-10	6 mm
K-10½	6.5 mm
L-11	8 mm
M/N-13	9 mm
N/P-15	10 mm
P/Q	15 mm
Q	16 mm

#	WEIGHT	ALSO CALLED	HOOKE
0	Lace	Lace, thread, 1 to 2 ply	Steel hooks to B-1
1	Super Fine	Fingering, sock, 4 ply	B-1 to E-4
2	Fine	Sport, baby, 5 ply	E-4 to 7
3	Light	DK, light worsted, 8 ply	7 to I-9
4	Medium	Worsted, aran, 10 ply	I-9 to K-10½
5	Bulky	Chunky, 12 ply	K-10½ to M/N-13
6	Super Bulky	Super chunky, roving	M/N-13 to Q
7	Jumbo	Jumbo, arm knit	Q and larger

Brand new? Start here.

Grab a light colored **#4 medium (worsted)** yarn and an **H-8 (5 mm)** hook. Light colors make your stitches easy to see, and worsted is easy to hold.

UK and most of the world label hooks in millimeters only, so the metric size is the one to match.

Free tools and games in the app

Practice without even noticing you're practicing.

GAME • FROG POND

Tangled

A cozy mahjong solitaire where the tiles are stitch symbols. Tap a tile to see what the symbol means and how to work it. Switch between US and UK terms anytime. "The only tangle you'll enjoy sorting out."

FREE TOOL

Crochet Chart Symbols

Every symbol, big and clear, with step by step instructions. Flip between US and UK terms or switch to left handed.

FREE TOOL

Yarn Amount Calculator

Work out yardage from your swatch, or turn any yardage into how many skeins to buy.

FREE TOOL

Blanket Size Calculator

Every blanket size your stitch can make, from preemie to California king, with the starting chain.

FREE TOOL

Crochet Time Estimator

How long will this really take? Get a realistic finish date, then count down every stitch.

FREE TOOL

Yarn Stash Inventory

Log every skein you own so you never buy the same yarn twice. (We've all done it.)

COMING SOON

More on the way

New tools and games land in the app all the time, so check back often.



Play Tangled now

Scan with your phone camera, make a free account, and **Tangled** opens right up. The rest live under **Tools**.
stitch.brianakdesigns.com