Learn To Crochet Quickly And Easily

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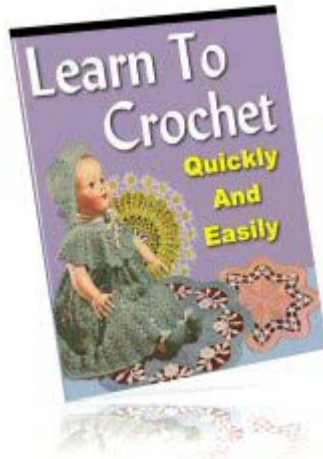
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Free Trial Of "Irish Crochet And How To Make It"

Your free trial of "Irish Crochet And How To Make It" starts on page 22

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How to Crochet

Crocheting is one of the oldest needlework arts. Its name is derived from the French word "croche" meaning a hook. Even a novice can crochet intricate laces and designs for tablecloths, doilies, scarves and other household furnishings, as well as various fashion items.

Crochet is easily mastered; only two items are essential-a crochet hook and thread or yarn. All crochet designs are variations of a few basic crochet stitches.

Abbreviations Used in Crochet

|	
Ch	chain
St(s)	stitch(es)
Sl st	slip stitch
Sk	skip
Sp	space
BL	block
Lp	loop
P	picot
Inc	increase
Dec	decrease
Sc	single crochet
Dc	double crochet
Hdc or sdc	half or single double crochet
Tr	treble
Dtr	double treble
Tr tr	triple treble
Pc st	popcorn stitch
Lp st	loop stitch

An asterisk (*) means that the directions immediately following are to be repeated the given number of times in addition to the ones already given. Thus "repeat from * 3 times" means 4 patterns in all.

Instead of using the asterisk, directions may appear in parentheses, such as (ch 8, sk 2 sts, sc in next st) 4 times. This means to work the

directions in parentheses the number of times specified at end of parentheses. To work an "even" row means to work row without any increases or decreases.

General Information

Crochet hooks used vary in size according to the item to be made and thread used. The largest, usually made of wood, hone or plastic are more desirable for heavier yarns and cottons; the smaller steel hooks are best for finer threads. Aluminum crochet hooks are also available. The afghan crochet hook is longer than the average and of uniform thickness throughout.

Sizes for steel crochet hooks
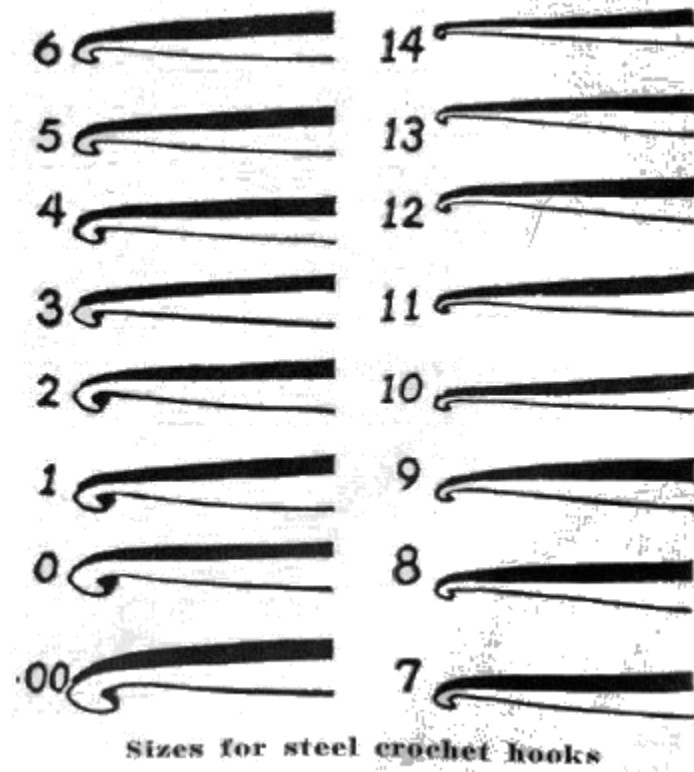
Crochet threads vary as to twist, size and color. Always use thread recommended in directions, if possible, and buy enough to complete article, especially when working with colors.

The finer mercerized crochet threads are more suited for the delicate designs used for tablecloths, doilies, edgings and accessories: yarn is

best for sweaters, afghans, blankets, baby ensembles and other fashion items.

Sizes for bone, wood or plastic hooks
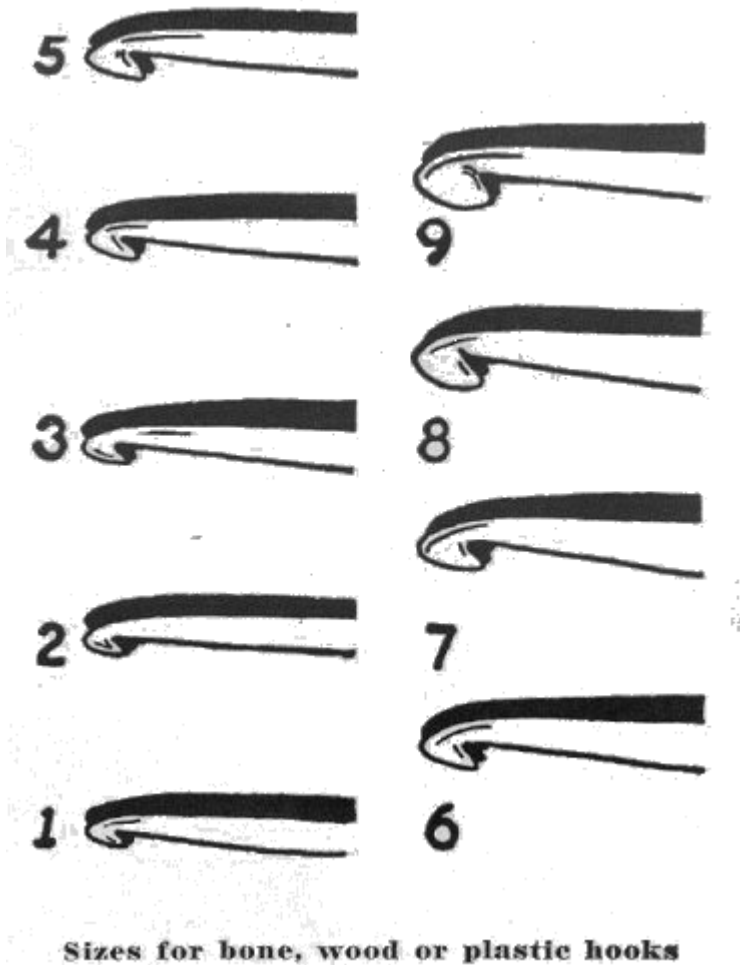
A stitch gauge is often given at the beginning of directions. This means the number of stitches worked to an inch and number of rows to an inch. Practice making a small swatch with size hook and thread suggested.

To gauge your stitch, make a chain about 4 inches long and work in desired pattern for about 3 inches. As no two people crochet alike, it is not uncommon for your gauge to vary from the one given. If you take more stitches per inch than those given, use a larger hook, or if fewer sts result to the inch, use a smaller hook.

To Turn Work-a certain number of chain stitches are added to the end of each row to bring work in position for next row. The work is turned so that the reverse side is facing you. The number of chains to make depends upon the stitch with which the next row begins. Here is a list of turning chains:

Sc	ch I to turn
Hdc or sdc	ch 2 to turn
Dc .	ch 3 to turn
Tr	ch 4 to turn
Dtr	ch 5 to turn
Tr tr	ch 6 to turn

Stitches can be made through both loops of stitches of previous row or through the back loops only. If not specified, take up both loops.

The term "fasten off" is used in directions whenever the thread is to be cut 6 or 8 inches from the work, slipped through the lp on hook, pulled tight and then it is fastened securely on wrong side of work by weaving in and out of work.

Basic Crochet Stitches

Chain Stitch-First make a loop just formed (which will be referred to as a lp), by grasping thread, one or two inches from end, between thumb and forefinger of left hand; holding main length of thread in right hand, bring it across in front of short end, forming a lp as shown in Figure 1.

Fig. 1
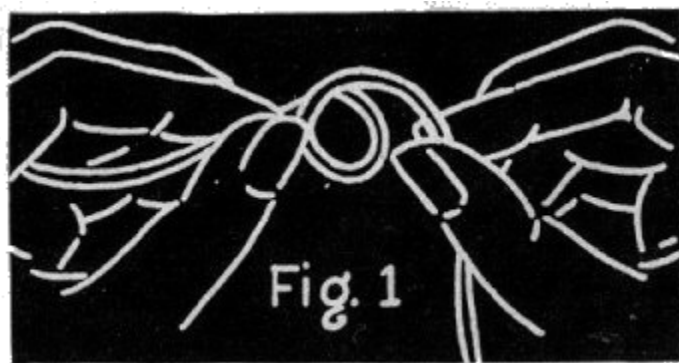
Hold crochet hook in right hand as shown in sketch, insert hook in lp just formed, catch main length of thread and pull through lp (Fig. 2).

Fig. 2
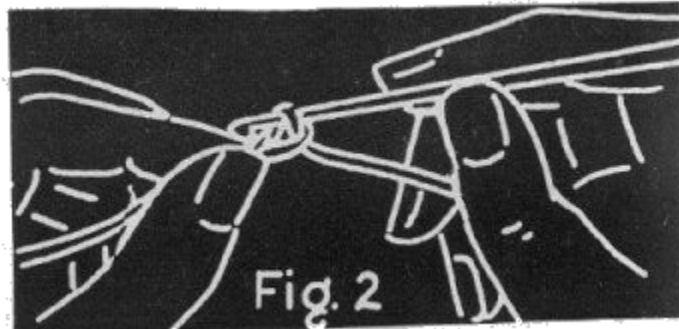
Pull both threads to tighten lp on hook. You are now ready to make first ch St. Do not remove crochet hook from thread.

Hold hook in right hand as shown in Figure 3, hold main thread in left hand, wrap thread once around little finger, bring thread in front of ring and middle fingers and behind forefinger; hold lp between thumb and middle finger of left hand, pass hook under thread and pick up this main length of thread on hook-called a "thread over," with one motion, draw through lp for a ch St.

Fig. 3
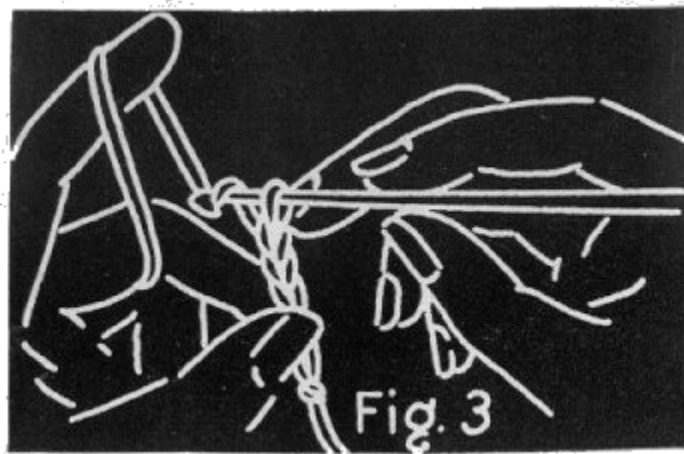
For practice make a ch any desired length; on this foundation ch you can work nearly any st you wish. To make the second or following st always insert hook in next st on ch of previous row, skipping the sts necessary at beginning of ch or row as explained in each St.

Make Foundation Ch To Work Each Of The Following Sts

Slip Stitch-Insert hook in second st from hook, thread over and, with one motion, draw through both the st and lp on hook. The sl st is used for joining, when an invisible st is desired or to give a tight finish along an edge.

Single Crochet-Insert hook in second st from hook, thread over and pull through st (2 lps on hook), thread over and pull through both lps on hook. For second and all successive rows of sc, ch 1 to turn work. To begin from other end, insert hook in top of next st, picking up both lps of st. When only the back lp is picked up it forms a rib and is often referred to as a rib st (sometimes called slipper st).

Half or Short Double Crochet-Thread over, insert hook in third st from hook, draw thread through (3 lps on hook), thread over and pull through all lps at once. For succeeding rows, ch 2 to turn.

Double Crochet-Thread over, insert hook in fourth st from hook, draw thread through (3 lps on hook), thread over and pull through 2 lps on hook, thread over and pull through last 2 lps. For succeeding rows, ch 3 (counts as a dc) to turn, work next dc in second dc of previous row.

Treble Crochet-Thread over twice, insert hook in 5th st from hook, draw thread through (4 lps on hook), thread over hook, pull through 2 lps, thread over, pull through 2 lps, thread over, pull through 2 lps. For succeeding rows, ch 4 (counts as a tr), turn and work next tr in second tr of previous row.

Joined Treble-Make a ch desired length, turn, sk 3 sts. tr in next st, * ch 2, tr in same place where last tr was made (hold last lp of each tr on hook), sk 2 sts, tr in next st (3 lps on hook), thread over and draw through all lps on hook for a joined tr; repeat from *.

JOINED TREBLE

Cross Treble Stitch (also called K stitch) : Ch for desired length, thread over twice, insert in 5th st from hook, * work off 2 lps, thread over, sk 2 sts, insert in next st and work off all lps on needle two at a time, ch 2, dc in center of st to complete cross. Thread over twice, insert in next st, and repeat from *.

CROSS TREBLE

Double Treble-Thread over hook three times, insert hook in sixth st from hook, work off 2 lps at a time, as you did for a tr, until st is completed. Ch 5 to turn for next row.

Triple Treble- Thread over hook 4 times, work off 2 lps at a time same as for a tr. Ch 6 to turn for next row.

dtr   tr tr
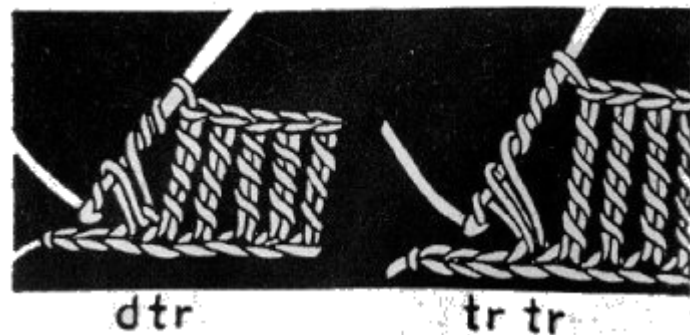
To Increase-Work 2 sts in one st.

To Decrease - Draw up a lp through each of the next 2 sts, thread over and draw through 3 lps to make one sc. For a dc dec, dc in each of 2 sts, retaining last lp of each dc on hook (3 lps on hook), thread over and pull through all 3 lps at once.

Fancy Crochet Stitches

Picot: * Ch 5, sl st back into the first ch at beginning of ch 5, sc in each of next 3 sts across, repeat from *.

PICOT

Cluster Stitch: A cluster st is a group of 3 or 4 sts-dc, tr, etc.. worked off together to form a petal-shaped stitch. Dc (tr or any other st specified) in st, hold last lp on hook, dc in each of next 2 sts, holding last lp of each dc on hook-4 lps on hook, thread over and pull through all lps at once.
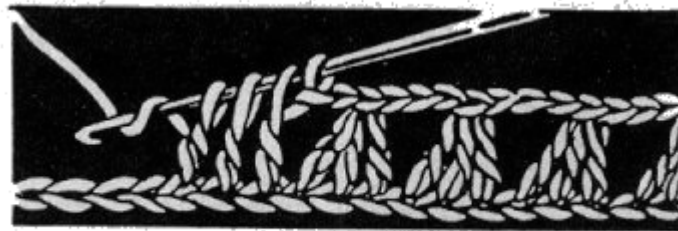
CLUSTER STITCH

Waffle Stitch: This st is formed by a series of 2 rows repeated several times to give the squared effect of a waffle.

Row 1: Dc in each st on a foundation ch.

Row 2: Ch 3, turn, * dc in each of next 2 dcs, a raised dc in next st (to make a raised dc-dc in dc but insert hook around entire spoke or post of dc instead of through the top); repeat from * for length desired, ending with a raised dc.

Row 3: Ch 3, turn, * raised dc in each of next 2 dc, dc in top of next dc; repeat from * across. Repeat these 2 rows to form the pattern.
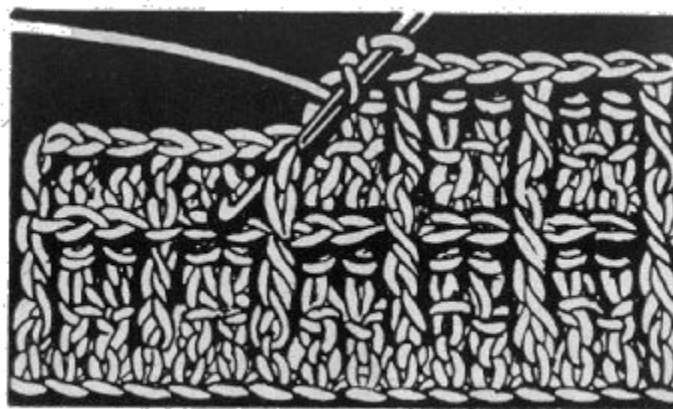
WAFFLE STITCH

Filet: Filet crochet is composed of open sps and solid bls of dc arranged to form designs. To start a pattern, count the number of sps and bls the first row of a chart or illustration, make a foundation ch allowing 3 chs for each sp or bl, 1 extra ch, and 3 more chs to turn if the row begins with a bl, 5 more to turn if it begins with an sp.

Space-Dc in 8th st from hook, * ch 2, sk 2 sts, dc in next st, repeat from * across, ch 5, turn. In the second row, dc in each dc. Always ch 2 between.
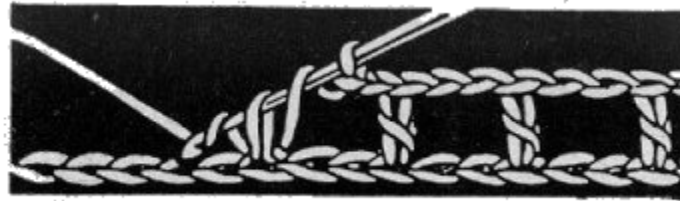
SPACE

Block-Dc in each of next 4 sts of a ch or previous row makes a block, 7 dc makes 2 bls as 3 dcs are added for each additional bl.

BLOCK

Lacet Stitch-Row 1: Over a row of sps, ch 5 to turn, dc in first dc, * ch 3, sc in next dc, ch 3, dc in next dc, repeat from * across, end row with ch 2, dc in last st. Over a foundation ch, dc in 8th st from hook, ch 3, sk 2 sts, sc in next st, ch 3, sk 2 sts. dc in next st, repeat from * across, end row with a sp. Row 2: Always ch 5 to turn, dc in dc, * ch 5, sk sc, dc in next do (bar made), repeat from * across, end row with a sp. Row 3: Turn, dc in dc, * ch 3, sc over bar, ch 3, dc in dc, repeat from *, end row with a sp. Repeat rows 2 and 3 for the lacet pattern.
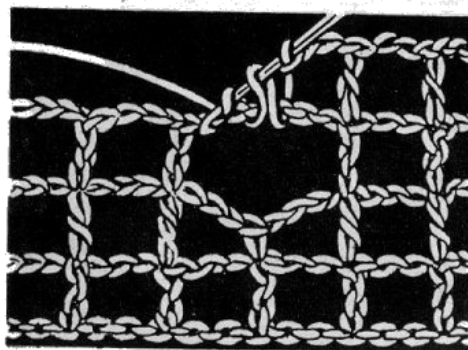
LACET

Shell Stitches: There are many variations of this stitch, but basically all shell sts consist of a set of sts, usually dcs, all made in one st or ch of previous row.

Solid Shell Pattern-Make a ch the length desired and 3 extra chs to turn. <u>Row 1:</u> 4 dc in 4th st from hook, * sk 2 sts, sc in next st, sk 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, repeat from * across, end with a sc. <u>Row 2:</u> Ch 3. turn, 4 do in first sc, * sc in center dc of 5-dc group, 5 dc in next sc, repeat from * across, end with a sc in center of last 5-dc group. Repeat row 2 for width desired. Shells may be made. with as many dcs as desired.

SOLID SHELL
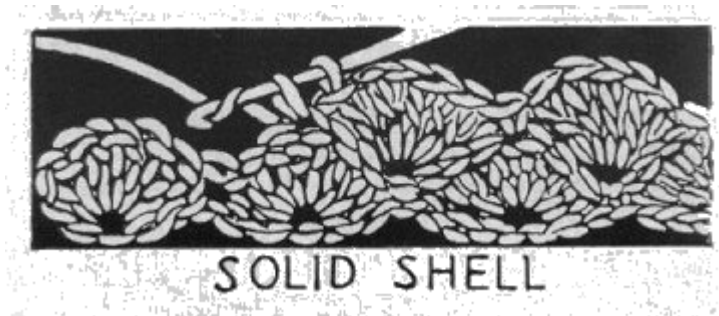
Open Shell Pattern-Make a ch and 3 extra sts to turn, dc in fourth st from hook, (ch 2, 2 dc) in same st, * sk 3 sts, shell of (2 dc, ch 2, 2 dc) in next st; repeat from * across. <u>Row 2:</u> Ch 3, turn, * shell in ch-2 sp of shell in previous row, repeat from * across making a shell in each shell. Repeat row 2 for pattern.

OPEN SHELL

Slanting Stitch: Ch for desired length, work 2 dc in 4th st from hook, sk 3 sts, sl st in next st, * ch 3, 2 dc in same st with sl st, sk 3 sts, sl st in next, repeat from *. Row 2: Ch 3. turn, 2 dc in sl st, sl st in ch 3 lp of shell in previous row, * ch 3, 2 dc in same sp, sl st in next shell, repeat from *. Repeat row 2 for desired number of times.

SLANTING STITCH

Star Stitch: On a foundation ch, pick up a lp in the second, third, fourth and fifth sts from hook, thread over and pull through all lps at once, ch 1 (star st completed-the ch 1 is called the "eye" of the st), * pick up a lp in eye of st just completed, side lp of same st and each of next 2 sts on ch, thread over and pull through all lps at once, ch 1, repeat from * across ch. Row 2: Ch 3 to turn, pick up a lp in second and third sts of ch, in top of last star st and eye of next star st of previous row and complete st by threading over and pulling through all lps, ch 1, * pick up lp in eye of this st, side lp of same st, top of st on previous row, eye of next st on previous row and complete the st; repeat from * across. Repeat this row for the pattern.

STAR STITCH

Knot Stitch (often called lover's knot): * :Make a lp on hook, draw it out to any given length, thread over hook and draw through lp. Insert hook between the lp and the thread which was drawn through, thread over hook and draw through, thread over, and draw through both lps on hook for an sc. Draw another lp on hook the same length, sc in lp,

sk 4 sts, sc in next st, repeat from * for desired number of knot sts. To turn, make a 3/8-inch knot. Row 2: * Sc in lp at right of sc below and sc in lp at left of same sc below, make a knot st, repeat from *. For a lacy effect, draw the lps out quite long and keep the knots quite small and firm.

KNOT STITCH
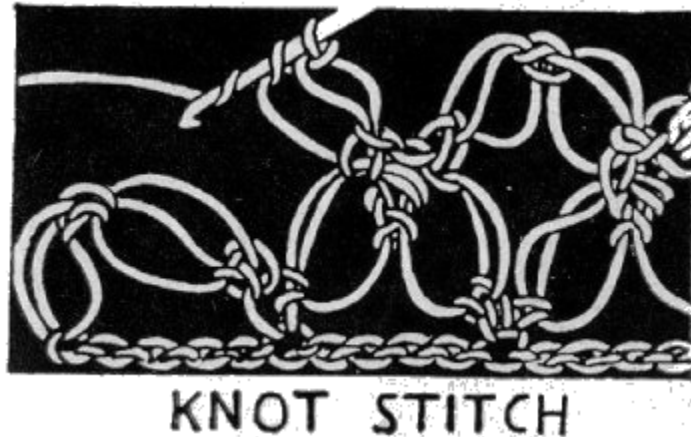
Half Knot St: To make, * draw up 1/4-inch lp of thread, thread over hook, pull through lp, insert hook through back of lp just made; thread over and pull through, this makes two lps on hook, thread over hook and draw through the two lps; repeat from *. Row 2: Draw up 1/4-inch lp, remove hook, turn work and insert hook in lp from right, * sc in back lp of half knot st in previous row. Draw up 1/4-inch lp and repeat from *.

HALF KNOT
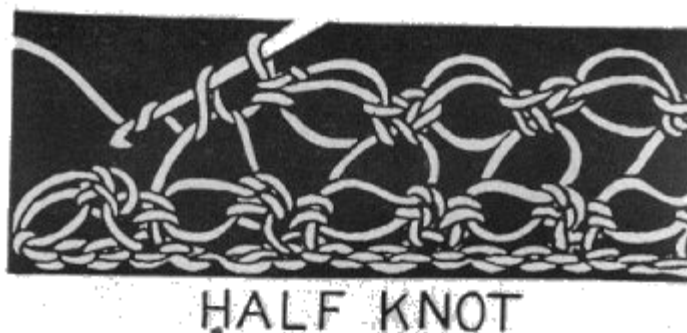
Afghan Stitch: Make a ch the length desired and 1 extra to turn. Row 1: Pull up a lp in each st of ch leaving all lps on hook, * thread over and draw through first lp on hook, (thread over and draw through 2 lps) repeated across row. Last lp on hook becomes first st of next row. In the next and all following rows, draw up lp in each upright bar

of thread and work off as before. To bind off last row, sl st across top of piece.

AFGHAN STITCH

Loop Stitch: Cut a piece of cardboard the width of lp desired. Make a ch of desired length and sc in each st. Row 1: * Insert hook in next st, holding cardboard in back of work, wind yarn around it from back to front (towards you), catch yarn and pull through st, thread over and complete sc. Repeat from * for each lp. Row 2: Sc in each lp st. Repeat these 2 rows for the pattern. Another method is to use the index finger instead of cardboard and work in the same manner.

LOOP STITCH
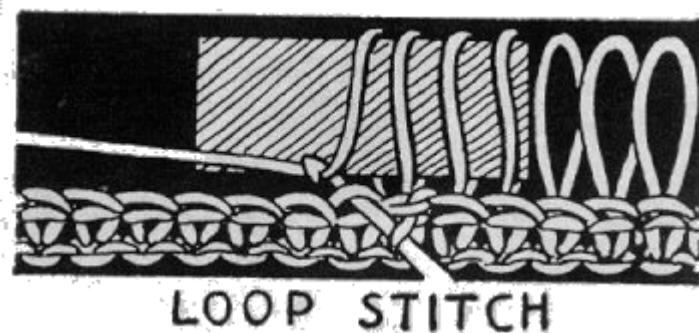
Popcorn Stitch (also called bean st): Make 5 (or any number desired) dcs into same st, remove the hook and insert it in first dc of group, catch lp of last dc and draw it through, ch 1 to tighten.

POPCORN STITCH

Clones Knot: Make a ch the specified length, * thread over, swing hook forward and down and thread over under ch, bring hook forward and up again. Repeat from * 7 times (17 lps on hook) or 8 times (19 lps on hook) working rather loosely. Thread over and draw through all lps at once, thread over and draw through the lp on hook, pulling tight, sc around ch at base of knot (a Clones Knot completed).

CLONES KNOT

Rolled Stitch: Thread over hook 5 times, thrust hook through st of ch, draw a lp through (7 lps now on hook), thread over hook and draw through all lps on hook except the last one (2 lps now remaining on hook). Thread over and draw through these 2 lps. This completes one rolled st. It may be necessary to twist the hook slightly and to use the thumb and forefinger to push the "thread overs" over the head of the hook. The column of the rolled st should be about 3/4 inch high and should be a smooth roll.

ROLLED STITCH

Changing Color in Crochet

1. When the second color continues in the same direction and completes a row, work your st as usual, pick up second color before working off last 2 lps of st, leave first color hanging in back of work until picked up again.

2. If second color is to be used only for a design or a short distance, pick up second color as before, lay first color along top of previous row and work over it until it is time to pick it up again.

3.-If first color is to be dropped completely, pick up second color as before, work over first color for 3 or 4 sts, cut it and continue with second color.

CHANGING COLORS
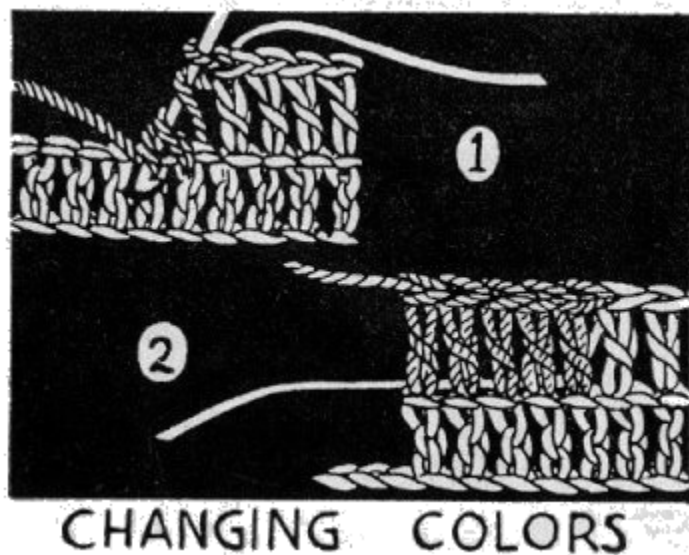
For The Left Handed

First make a lp by grasping thread, one or two inches from end, between thumb and forefinger of right hand, holding main length of thread in left hand, bring it across in front of short end, forming a lp as shown in Fig. 1.
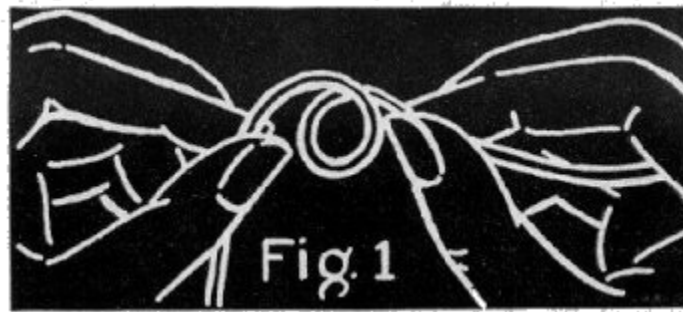
Holding hook in left hand as shown in sketch, insert hook in lp just formed, catch main length of thread and pull through lp (Fig. 2), pull both threads to tighten lp on hook. You are now ready to make first ch st.   Do not remove hook from thread.
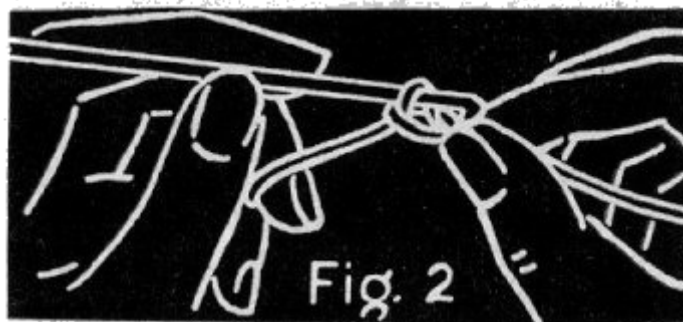
Hold hook in left hand as shown in sketch (Fig. 3), hold main thread in right hand, wrap thread once around little finger, bring thread in front of ring and middle fingers and behind forefinger; hold lp between thumb and middle finger of right hand, pass hook under thread and this main length of thread on hook-called a "thread over," with one motion draw through lp for a ch st. When you have learned the ch st, you may try other sts.

Fig. 3
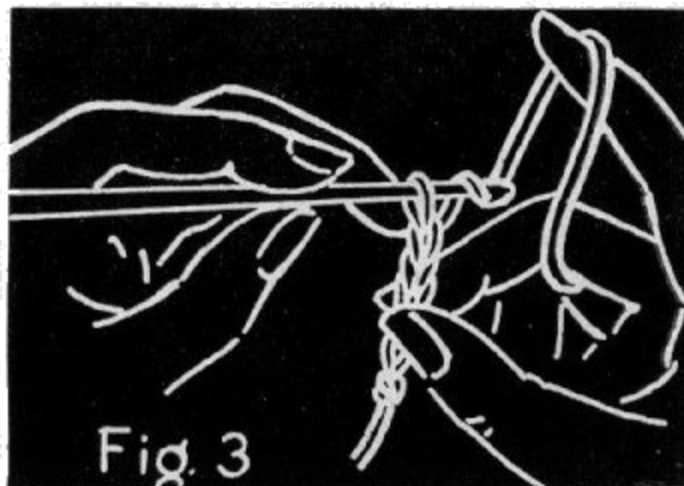
The illustrations of the various crochet sts are shown in position for the right handed crocheter. By placing a small mirror to the left of illustration, you can see the position of crochet hook for left handed crocheter. The directions for each stitch are the same for both right and left handed crocheters.

Care of Your Crochet Articles

Both sides of crochet should he neatly made. Be careful to weave in all loose ends of thread through the solid part of the crochet until securely fastened, then cut thread close to work. Avoid making a knot in end of thread when joining pieces together, instead make several over-and-over stitches or weave thread through the solid portion of piece.

Laundering- Use warm mild soap suds. Rinse thoroughly and roll in a turkish towel to absorb excess moisture. Some people prefer to allow them to dry partially, then pin in true shape.

Stiffening and Shaping- There are several methods that can be applied. For heavy starching, use 1/2 cup of starch, with 1/2 cup cold water. Stir until completely dissolved, then add 2 quarts of boiling water and cook slowly, stirring constantly, until mixture becomes transparent. Still another starch mixture (thinner) can be made by dissolving 1/4 cup starch in 1/2 cup cold water. Boil slowly until thick,

gradually add 11/4 cups of cold water. Boil, stirring constantly, until starch clears.

Choose and make desired starch solution. Dip item and squeeze starch through it thoroughly. Squeeze out extra starch, being sure there is none in spaces of crocheted piece. Stretch and pin piece in true shape on a padded surface, allow to dry thoroughly.

If the piece is ruffled, shape and pin folds of ruffle in position by putting pins at the outer edge and inner point of each scallop around the center. Stretch ruffle and arrange in fluted scallops by pressing it flat at the outer rim of each scallop. If scallops join, draw ruffle upward.

Some may prefer to pin and stretch dampened piece in shape, then brush lightly with liquid plastic starch, being careful not to fill the spaces. Leave to dry.

For earrings, pins and other small items, clear nail polish or clear shellac may he used quite effectively. Simply brush on and leave to dry.

Then there is a sugar and starch solution that is often used, especially for a crocheted basket or bowl.

To shape a basket, place a glass inside slightly dampened basket. Turn basket upside down on ironing board or any padded surface, stretch and pin top down in position. Dampen entire basket thoroughly by gently patting and rubbing with a cloth or brush dipped in extra thick cooked hot starch made of half sugar and half starch. Do the final shaping, then allow to dry thoroughly. After the solution has thoroughly set, remove glass from basket by running a knife or spatula around to loosen. Wash glass and place back in basket.

Irish Crochet And How To Make It

The following is from Pricilla's crochet, translated into modern English by Maria Vowell. Translated copy © 2004 Maria Vowell, All rights reserved.

If you've ever wanted to master this exquisite art, you'll find this detailed manual provides all the instructional guidance you'll need to make delicate and elegant crocheted pieces.

"Irish Crochet And How To Make It" is from the Priscilla crochet collection, and has been translated to today's modern English so that the reader can much better understand the instructions.

Below you'll find your free trial version of this manual, which consists of the first section of this wonderful manual. The complete manual can be obtained at the following URL:
http://www.craftsebooks.com/irish/

The complete manual provides over 100 patterns for motifs, medallions, beadings, backings and projects. "Irish Crochet And How To Make It" also comes with resell rights, so that you can resell the manual itself to help increase your profits.

If you need a hosting provider to provide you with hosting services where you can resell "Irish Crochet and How To Make It" then I highly recommend Host4Profit as one of the Internet's top hosting providers.
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Coat In Irish Crochet

Irish Crochet And How To Make It

Of all the different kinds of lace known as "Irish" that called "Irish Crochet" is the most durable, serviceable and popular. It is made in three distinct styles at the present time; one is slightly padded, one is heavily padded, while a third has no padding. The heavily padded lace is considered the most valuable and is well worth the extra time and trouble spent on it, as it is practically everlasting. Irish crochet has this advantage also over every other kind of hand-made lace, that it can be taken to pieces, altered into new shapes, as fashion dictates, and any motif that gets worn out can be replaced at will by a new one.

The best lace is always firmly and evenly worked, and it is fresh and clean when it comes from the worker's hands. Much of the lace offered for sale, some of which scarcely deserves the name of lace, has been washed and starched to give it an appearance of firmness which in itself it does not possess. It is very difficult for two workers to make motifs exactly alike from the same written directions. A slight difference in the size of the hook or in the tightness of the work would alter the size of the motif; while the tightening or loosening of a padding cord might alter the entire sweep of the leaflets. For this reason the directions for a sprig may be carefully followed by two workers, and yet the two may turn out quite different results. One worker will make a very common-place leaf, while the other, with more artistic feeling, may give to the leaf those subtle touches, by means of the cord, which make it a real work of art.

When a sprig shows signs of either getting saucer-shaped or of frilling, when it should lie flat, the worker must use her own discretion as to increasing or diminishing the number of stitches, in order to bring about the desired result. The aim of the worker should be to produce the most artistic work she is capable of; therefore if by altering a curve, or by adding a leaflet to any sprig, she would make a design more

pleasing to herself, she should not for one moment hesitate to follow her artistic instinct. It is the power to do this, which makes Irish crochet so very fascinating. Now it is this very freedom, so fascinating to the worker, which creates such difficulties to a writer upon Irish crochet. Even with the same worker a design may work out with slight differences each time it is repeated if it is one which depends much upon the cord for its shaping. When this is so the fillings of bars must differ also in each case, or they will not lie flat between these most uncertain little sprigs, and to follow directions for a given number of bars composed of a given number of stitches, would be fatal to the beauty of the lace, as no two workers would space alike. In Ireland, where the lace is so extensively done, no directions are ever given for the background, because if minute directions for fillings could be written, they would be so extremely intricate that to attempt to follow them would drive most workers distracted. The easiest plan, and the one which we shall adopt, is to teach the general plan of each filling and leave the worker to practice it until she becomes familiar with it.

There are two threads, as it were, used in working this lace. One is the working thread, which is used to make the stitches; the other thread, or cord, is only used to work over, which gives this lace the rich effect so different from ordinary crochet work. This cord is sometimes held close to the work and the stitches are made over it into the row of stitches made before, (working only in the back loops) or the stitches are worked over it alone, using it as a foundation. In making Irish crochet the stitches should be uniform, close and compact; loose or ragged crochet makes inferior lace, wanting in crispness, and the padding cord should never show through the work. It is necessary in a book of this nature to remember the beginner in lace making as well as the experienced worker, and in consequence we have given detailed instructions for making the simplest as well as the most intricate designs, hoping the collection will be welcome to all lovers of crochet.

Materials For Working

Irish crochet may be executed with any kind of linen or cotton thread, but as it is a work that is practically everlasting, only the best materials should be used. All of the motifs shown here were made of D. M. C. crochet cotton No. 70. The finished pieces were made with No. 100. Number 10 of the same cotton was used as padding cord for all.

Needless to say, the finest of steel crochet hooks are required, a few round meshes, some fine sewing needles, a pair of small, sharp scissors, and a piece of pink or blue cambric "foundation." Before commencing a piece of work cut a paper pattern of the exact size and shape the finished article is to be, place this on the back of your cambric foundation and trace around the outer edge with a needle and white thread, making the stitches long on the right side of the cambric. Then work the border and baste to the cambric pattern just inside the thread line. When you have succeeded in working enough motifs to enable you to start the lace, sew them strongly in their places, face downward on the foundation, just as you would sew braid upon a design intended for point lace, making it so secure that the curves cannot be pulled out of shape in working the filling. It is best to use two or three thicknesses of cambric for the foundation. When removing the lace from the cambric pattern after it is complete and all loose stitches have been securely fastened, it is always safer to cut the basting threads at the back and not risk clipping the threads of the lace. The lace will pull away from the pattern quite easily and then all loose threads should be carefully picked away before it is pressed. When a piece of lace is complete it improves its appearance vastly to lay it face downwards upon a very soft ironing bed, smooth out each motif carefully, lay a wet piece of new linen or lawn upon it, and press with a hot iron, while still steaming lift up cloth and use the iron directly upon the lace. This will give the work a crispness unattainable by any other method of pressing.

Lace which has beer rumpled in wearing may also be freshened in this way, and if carefully done will look equal to new.

Explanation Of Stitches

ABBREVIATIONS OF TERMS
St-stitch
Ch-chain
Sl st - slip stitch
D c-double crochet
T c - treble crochet
H t c - half treble crochet
D t c - double treble crochet
L t c - long treble crochet
P- picot
P l - picot loop
R st – roll stitch
R to C – return to center
P c – padding cord

We advise workers to become familiar with the directions and terms given above before beginning any of the designs presented in this book.

The needle is held in the right hand, very much as one holds a pen in writing, resting between the thumb and forefinger; the left hand holds the thread and work.

Fig 2 Chain Stitch

Figure 2 Chain Stitch - The chain (ch) is the first stitch to learn, and perhaps the most important, since all others are modifications of it. It is simply a series of loops or stitches, each drawn with the hook through the preceding loop. It is the foundation, literally, of all crochet work, and a great point is gained when one has learned to make it evenly.

Fig 3

Figure 3 Slip Stitch (sl st) - To make it, having a stitch on the needle (as is always understood), put the hook through the work, thread over hook, and draw through the work and the stitch on the hook at the same time.

Fig 4

Figure 4 Double Crochet (d c) - This stitch is much used and enters largely into most crochet work. Put the hook through the work, thread over, and draw through, making two stitches on the needle; thread over again, and draw through both.

Fig 5

Figure 5 Treble Crochet (t c) - Thread over the needle, hook through work, thread over and draw through work, thus giving three stitches on the needle; * thread over, draw through two, over again and draw through remaining two

Fig 6

Figure 6 Half Treble Crochet (h t c) - Like treble as far as *, then thread over and draw through the three stitches at once. This stitch is not used very often in lace making.

Fig 7

Figure 7 Double Treble Crochet (d t c) - Thread over twice, hook through work, thread over and draw through, giving four stitches on the needle, * thread over and draw through two; repeat from * twice.

Fig 8

Figure 8 Long Treble Crochet (l t c) - Thread over three times, hook through work, take up thread and draw through, giving five stitches on the needle, work all off by twos.

Fig 9

Fig 10

Figures 9 & 10 Picot (p) - A picot is formed (on a chain) by joining the last four stitches in a ring by working a d c in the fourth stitch, counting from hook, as shown in Fig. 9. In making p on d c around the edge of motifs, the d c is worked in the top of the last d c (see Fig. 10).
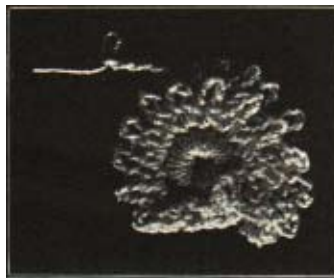

Fig 11

Figure 11 Picot Loops (p l) - Are worked in the top loops of a row of d c as follows: 1 d c in the top loop of the 1st d c, * ch 5, 1 d c in the same loop with last d c and one in the next also ; repeat from *. In working two or more rows of p l work a row of d c between each row, working in the back loops of the sts picots were worked in.
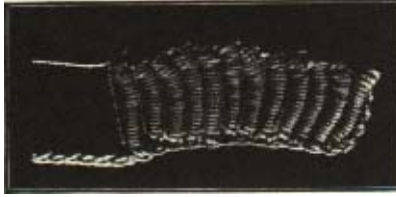
Fig 12

Figure 12. Roll Stitch (r st) - Thread around the needle 20 times, insert needle in work, thread over, draw through the work; thread over, pull through the coil, thread over, draw through the loop on needle. The roll when complete is straight with a string the length of the roll on its left side. Repeat details given for the next sts. The length of the rolls are regulated by the number of times the thread is put around the needle.

Fig 13

Figure 13. The "Clones" Knot - To work this knot crochet, say five ch sts (more or less according to the thread you are using), put the thread around the needle as if for a treble stitch; pass the hook downwards to the left of the chain and catch up a loop, then take up another loop to the right, continue to catch up loops right and left alternately until you have 14 loops on needle. This will nearly cover the needle and chain with Sts. Draw a loop right through all these, and then another through the last to draw the knot close together. Make a stitch across the chain so as to encircle it close to the knot. If in drawing up the thread through the stitches the needle should stick, hold the knot between the thumb and forefinger of the left hand and push the hook as far as possible, then pull the stitch on hook through. Unless your needle is nicely shaped, it is impossible to work these knots neatly ; and if they are not close and compact they never look well. Large knots with as

many as 20 or 30 loops are much used as a raised ornament. Up the center of a leaf, for example, these large knots have a very pretty appearance. When learning the knot do not be surprised at many failures at first. The needle is sure to stick sometimes when halfway through, and to refuse to go either backwards or forwards.

Do not try too hard to force it through or you will break the thread. It is better to undo the work patiently and begin over again. If you find a needle that works smoothly, it is well to label it and use it for nothing else.

Stars (**) and Parenthesis ( ) - Indicate repetition, and are used merely to save words; thus : * ch 2, 2 t c; repeat from * twice and (ch 2, 2 t c) 3 times, mean the same as ch 2, 2 t c, ch 2, 2 t c, ch 2, 2 t c.

R to c means return to center, working 1 d c in each st and 1 d c in center.

Finish with a stem of 35, or any number of stitches means to work 35 stitches on the cord alone, turn, and taking cord with you work 1 d c in the back loop of each d c of last row; fasten off.
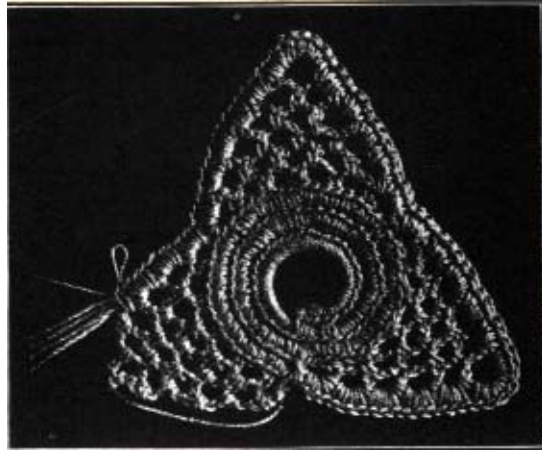
Lesson for Beginners

Fig 14

In Fig. 14, we have an extremely simple triangle, which will serve to show how the ring in the center and the padding of the edge are managed. Take a piece of p c and fold twice, thus making a "four-strand padding cord" as it is called. Fasten the working thread to the cord by working a
d c in the loop at end, work 34 d c on cord, draw it in to form a ring and join, by working a d c in the 1st st.

2nd and 3rd rounds - Into the ring work d c over the cord, working in the back loops only, increasing by working two d c in every 4th st.

4th round - First leaflet. Drop the cord, * (ch 3, miss 2, 1 d c in next st), 5 times, ch 2, miss 2, 1 t c in next st; making 6 loops in all, turn; 1 d c under the 2 ch, (ch 3, 1 d c under next 3 ch), 4 times, ch 2, 1 t c in last ch.

Continue to work thus, 4 loops, turn; 3 loops, turn; 2 loops, turn ; 1 loop. Draw out the loop on the hook till it is large enough for the spool to pass through, tighten the thread so as to secure the last stitch, then lay the thread slackly, not tightly, down the side of the section just worked, so that the thread is ready for continuing along the margin of the ring. Make a sl st into the last d c that was worked into the ring

after the ch loop. Repeat from * making two more sections like the first. The last section should be finished in the st in which the 1st was begun.

In Irish crochet it is always possible to "doctor" the work a little, where necessary, to get a certain arrangement of sts to fit any particular place. In such fine work a few sts more or less are of no consequence provided that the general effect is as it should be.

For the next round - Pick up the p c, and holding them along the 1st section of the triangle, their ends lying towards the left. Take care that the different strands are all of the same tension, for the work cannot be even if one of them is allowed to set more loosely than the others. Work 3 d c into every little loop of ch up the 1st side of the 1st triangle, put 7 d c into the loop at the tip and 3 d c into the loops of the 2nd side; continue till the margin of the triangle is completed when the ends of the padding cord should be sewn down neatly on the back of work and cut off closely.

In some motifs, they may be cut off fairly near the work without fear of becoming shifted, but a beginner had better be on the safe side and secure them with a few stitches. When beginning a good-sized motif a considerable length of p c must always be used, and the worker will at first be surprised to see the quantity that is used for the various ins and outs of her pattern. A join should never be allowed, and there is never any difficulty in using up short lengths for shamrocks, leaves and similar small details.

Care must be taken to keep the cord at just the necessary degree of tightness along the margin; for much of the effect of Irish crochet depends, as will be seen later, upon whether the p c is drawn tightly or left at its natural tension. More especially in the making of stems and scrolls, are such threads of use in producing graceful curves and flowing outlines. Here, however, we require an even margin.
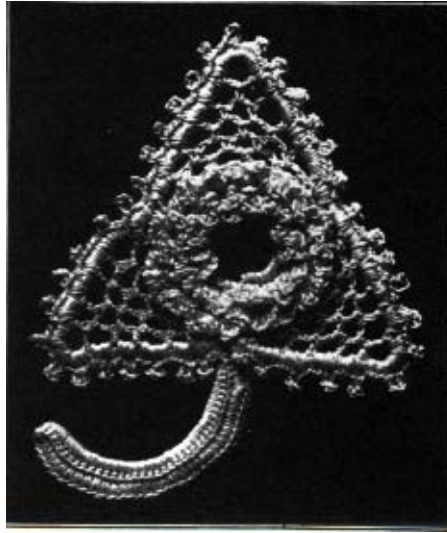
Fig 15

Figure 15 shows the simple triangle shown at Fig. 14, transformed into a handsome motif by the addition of a stem of 35 d c, a few picot loops in center and picots around the edge.
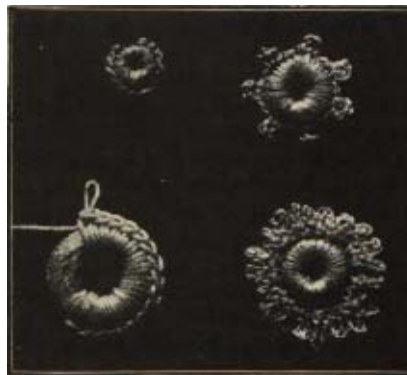

Fig 16

Figure 16. Rings-The small rings are all made by winding the p c 7 times around a common match, cut cord, join in the working thread by winding it around 5 or 6 times over the cord, slip off and cover the ring closely with d c, joining the 1st to the last with a sl st, leave a short length of thread and pass it in and out at the back of the work several times with the hook, to make it secure. Neatness and durability of

the work depends in a great measure on the close observance of this rule.

The medium sized rings are made by winding the p c 12 or 15 times around 3 or 4 matches (held together). The worker must be prepared for failure the first few times she tries to make these rings, for they have a troublesome knack of falling to pieces as they are slipped off their foundation.

Figure 16 shows several styles and sizes of these rings, some being ornamented with p and some with p 1.

Motifs for Irish Crochet

Fig 17

Fig 17 - Wind the cord 8 times around 2 matches (held together), cut cord, join in the working thread by winding it around several times over the cord, slip off and work 3 d c, p, (4 d c, p), 5 times, 2 d c, join. Join in two strands of p c by working a d c in loop at end, and work * 2 d c, 15 t c, 2 d c on cord alone, 1 d c between the next 2 picots on ring, draw up the cord until you have a good shaped petal; repeat from * until you have 6 petals. Leave a short length of thread, cut off the padding, leaving about a quarter of an inch; with a sewing needle fasten the ends of the padding with a few strong stitches on the wrong side. All Irish crochet motifs are finished in this way so the directions will not be repeated. And all of the motifs are worked over two strands of p c unless otherwise noted.

Fig 18

Figure 18-Wind the working thread 20 times around the match, * 4 d c in ring, ch 5, a Clones knot of 20 overs on the 5 ch; repeat from * 3 times, making 4 knots in all. Then join in the p c and working in the back loops only make 4 rows of d c around ring, working 2 d c in each 4th st of each of the next 3 rows, with a p after every 5th d c in the last row.

Fig 19

Figure 19 - Make a small ring covered with 16 d c (ch 5, p, ch 4, miss 1, 1 d c in next stitch), 8 times, slipstitch up to center of 1st loop, (ch 5, p, ch 4, 1 d c in next loop), 8 times.
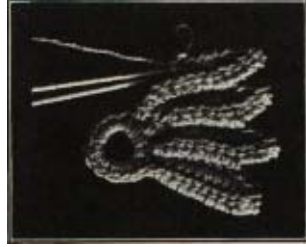

Fig 20

Fig 21

Figures 20, 21 - On two strands of p c work 12 d c, join in a ring, 11 d c on cord alone; turn, * 1 d c in each of 11 d c, 1 d c in ring, turn, 1 d c in each of 8 d c, 3 d c on cord alone; turn, repeat from * until you have 12; petals. Join the 1st and last with a needle and thread and sew a small ring in the center.

Fig 22

Figure 22 - Make a small ring covered with 20 d c, * ch 5, miss 1, 1 d c in next st; repeat from * around ring, making 10 loops in all. Slipstitch up to the center of the 1st loop (ch 4, 1 d c in next loop),10 times. Join in the p c and work 6 d c under each 4 ch loop, then work a row of p 1. For method of working picot loops or any stitches not understood, see "Explanation of Stitches".

More wonderful patterns can be obtained in the complete version of "Irish Crochet And How To Make It".

Pictured below are just a few of the more than 100 projects and patterns provided in the complete manual.

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