

Free
Crochet

ALLFREECROCHET 

Tips & Tricks

Organization Ideas, How to Crochet On the Go, How to Change Color, and More



Free Crochet Tips and Tricks: Organization Ideas, How to Crochet On the Go, How to Change Color, and More

Free Crochet Tips and Tricks: Organization Ideas, How to Crochet On the Go, How to Change Color, and More

Copyright 2013 by Prime Publishing LLC

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system, without written permission from the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles and reviews.

Trademarks are property of their respective holders. When used, trademarks are for the benefit of the trademark owner only.

Published by Prime Publishing LLC, 3400 Dundee Road, Northbrook, IL 60062 –
www.primecp.com

ALLFREECROCHET 
"Free Crochet Patterns For Happy Hooking"
[Free Crochet Projects](#)

ALLFREEKNITTING  **favecrafts**   
Free Knitting Patterns For Happy Stitching
[Free Knitting Projects](#) [Free Craft Projects](#)

ALLFREESewing  **FAVEQUILTS**  **ALLFREEJEWELRYMAKING** 
Free Patterns To Keep You In Stitches Quilts, Fabric, and More formerly AllFreeBeadedJewelry.com
Your Go-To Source for DIY Jewelry Inspiration
[Free Sewing Projects](#) [Free Quilt Projects](#) [All Free Jewelry Projects](#)

AllFreeHolidayCrafts      **ALLFREECHRISTMASCrafts**  
Creations and Celebrations for Every Occasion Create The Christmas Of Your Dreams
[Free Holiday Projects](#) [Free Christmas Projects](#)

ALLFREECROCHETAFGHANPATTERNS
Your #1 Source for Free Crochet Afghan Patterns
[Free Crochet Afghan Projects](#)

Find tons of free crochet patterns, tips and tutorials at AllFreeCrochet.com.

Letter from the Editors

Hi Crocheter,

If you've been meaning to perfect your crochet skills, now is as good a time as ever to become the crocheter you've always dreamed of becoming. If you need some advice from the experts, we've put together this great eBook to help you out. It is chock full of helpful tips and tricks including organization ideas, how to crochet on the go, how to change color, and more. Inside, you'll find answers to the most commonly asked questions in crochet.

We've scoured the Web and asked our [Stitch & Unwind](#) readers for the very best crochet advice they could offer. Whether you're wondering what kind of yarn you should buy, how you join granny squares together, or how on earth you can finally get your yarn stash organized, you'll find the answer inside our latest eBook, *Free Crochet Tips and Tricks: Organization Ideas, How to Crochet On the Go, How to Change Color, and More*.

You can find more illustrated crochet stitches, patterns, tips, tutorials and videos for free at <http://www.allfreecrochet.com>.

Our eBooks, like all our crochet patterns, are absolutely FREE to members of our crochet community. Please feel free to share with family and friends and ask them to sign up at our website for our [free e-mail newsletter](#).

Happy Hooking,

The Editors of All Free Crochet

<http://www.allfreecrochet.com>

Free Crochet Tips and Tricks: Organization Ideas, How to Crochet On the Go, How to Change Color, and More

Table of Contents

Yarn Organization Tips & Tricks...5

43 Ways to Keep Your Yarn Tangle Free	5
How to Store Your Yarn	10
Yarn Storage for Your Closet.....	13
How to Organize Bits of Yarn	14
How To Use Up Yarn Scraps.....	16
What Yarn to Buy.....	18

Easy Crochet Techniques 20

Joining Granny Squares.....	20
Changing Color in Crochet	22
Avoiding Pain in Crochet.....	23

How to Crochet On-The-Go..... 27

Hook Clutch.....	27
Crochet Hook Travel Case.....	29
Easy Crochet Hook Case.....	30
All in One Hook Case.....	31

Yarn Organization Tips & Tricks

43 Ways to Keep Your Yarn Tangle Free

Compiled By [Christine Weiher, Editor for AllFreeCrochet.com](#)

Below you can find a great list of ways to keep your yarn tangle free. Working with multiple skeins of yarn at once can become very messy and frustrating. Sometimes even simple crochet patterns can take a while to work up if your yarn is tangled.



Nicki: I take the time to wind my skeins in to balls. This seems to make it SO much easier to work with than leaving it in the skein.

Ritainalaska: I kit up my project in a bag to fit the yarn, packed so that the yarn will pull from the inside. If doing color work, I can wind bobbins easier and if doing two pieces, I turn one way one time, the other way the next time. I can pack two or three projects, knit and crochet in my work bag and never tangle.

Linda: If it's real tangly I stop and working from the opposite end, wrap it into a ball. Otherwise, I just untangle as I go.

LizzieK8: I never use center pull balls as they eventually collapse and tangle. Keeping my yarn in a small project bag, bowl, box, or even plastic bag keeps it safe and tangle free.

Christine: I keep my yarn in a 2L pop bottle I've cut in half. I put the yarn inside, thread my wool through the top opening, then squeeze the bottom half of the bottle to put it back together. This also keeps my yarn from gathering bits of dust or my long hair.

Julie: I use a recycled oatmeal container, (but you could use just about anything with a plastic lid), poke a hole through the lid, feed the yarn through and place the yarn in the container with the lid on top. This keeps my yarn tangle free and you

can use more than one container if you are using more than one color.

Knittingdancer on Ravelry: I punch a small hole in one side of a ziploc bag to pull the yarn through before I cast on. I put the cake or ball of yarn inside the bag pulling the end through the hole and closed the ziploc bag with the ball of the yarn inside it. The only yarn that is outside the bag is the yarn that is attached to my needles.

Cheryl F: I use a gadget called Yarn Tamer. It will unwind your yarn flawlessly. You insert the center of your yarn skein/ball onto the plastic sleeve and start to unwind. It keeps your yarn clean, off the floor (away from pets!) and prevents tangling. You can throw it in your knitting bag and take it along with you.

Cynthia W: After winding my yarn into balls, I place them in decorative bowls I have found at the local thrift store. The bowls are usually a deeper “vase” type so the yarn cannot jump out or roll around too much.

Carmen: I put the yarn in a bag that allows it to roll or turn as needed for me to pull (if I’m not using a center-pull yarn) but it doesn’t allow enough movement to become tangled.

Mary L: I always find the yarn end that is inside the skein and pull it to start my row. As the yarn is used it slides easy out of the skein. To keep skein from rolling around I insert it into the plastic bag that my morning paper arrives in or a bag that accommodates the skein size.

Lenore: I use extra large bobbins and a Russian join. This way I avoid knots and lumps in the project. This is particularly convenient when I am knitting fair isle or any other multi-color projects.

Susan H: I have used empty “wet wipe” holders. My skein will fit in it and not tangle. I just pull the yarn out through the top.

Darleen W: Currently I am working on an afghan with big needles using 4 yarns at one time. I used to spend more time untangling than knitting! I tried a variety of tips but what works best for me is to use the yarn from the OUTSIDE of the machine-wound ball rather than from the center pull. It seems to twist less. Then I place each yarn in a round quart size plastic container and separate the containers physically around me on the floor about 1 1/2 to 2 feet apart from each other-one each left and right and two in front but still a good distance away from each other. When I want to put my project away I

just stack the containers (yarn still inside) and slip it all in my tote bag. It takes up a bit of floor space but makes knitting so much easier.

Candy F: If the yarn is “self-wound” I leave it alone, otherwise I roll it into a ball before I start. I knit with my yarn in a container next to my chair. I haven’t had a problem with my yarn tangling doing this. It also gives me a place to store the needles, pattern, notions, etc that I need for that particular project.

Linda S: If going in both directions, I flip, then flop project. For color work in grafts I use yarn bobbins for each color and let them swing in the back until needed.

Bernice: I have used a number of different things. I’ve used 2 litre soda bottles, 1/2 gallon plastic milk or juice containers, and I’ve used ziploc bags. I use ziploc most often, especially for travel projects.

Kerri A: My mother-in-law gave me a lovely bag that I use, especially while traveling. It allows the yarn to have just the right amount of movement (and it is also a great place to store needles & project). However, this past Christmas, my mother gave me a yarn organizer that stores up to six skeins of yarn at a time. Each skein has its own compartment. I simply

pull the yarn through the holes in the lid. No tangling, no dirt, no problem!

Fran: I am fortunate to have a knitting stand. I usually just close the lid and the yarn stays free flowing. I just try to keep an eye on it to be sure it does not hang up on anything.

Jenni K: I am a huge fan of ziplock bags. I put all the necessary yarn in the bag and zip it partially shut. It keeps the yarn clean and all together.

Jill H: Empty liter soda bottles, but most of the time I forget and just deal lol.

Shannon: I keep it in ziploc bags. It’s a great method because you can use different size bags for different size balls of yarn.

Carol: I use one of those pretty cardboard wine carriers that you can find. I put a hole in the tube’s cap so the yarn can come through easily. It even has a rope handle on it so you can carry it where ever you go. Works for any size yarn.

Pat: I wind the yarn into a ball then put in a plastic zip bag and cut a hole in one corner to thread the working yarn through.

Rae C: I use a small laundry basket with holes and run the yarn through separate holes.

Paula C: I wind my yarn into balls and I sit in bed, hopefully without my cat, and put one ball of yarn on each side of my hips.

Tammy H: I usually sit in a chair with my thread in a sack brown sack at my side. This way when I pull on the thread, the ball or skein stays put and I am not chasing it all over the floor. The side of the bag is stiff enough to hold the thread or yarn up and keeps it from tangling. I get a nice flow of thread or yarn this way.

Sue: I use ziplock bags too. I also took a small clear make up case from walmart and punched holes in the sides. I use it when I do two socks at once. One cake feeds out the front the other from the back or you can use the inside and outside of the same cake this way... works great.

Jeanette: I put each ball or skein of yarn in a separate bag and pull. I usually check every second row to make sure it isn't twisting too much.

Kate: Just like a lot of other people, I either pull the yarn from the center of the skein or I roll it into a ball. I keep the skein or ball in a bag while I'm working so the cats can't get it.

Smfsprout: I 'borrowed' this tip from another crocheter. I use the plastic sleeves that are used to keep wine bottles from banging together. They expand to fit a full skein and contract as I pull the yarn through the center.

Pam: I have recently started using a bowl to put my yarn in.

Kimberly C: I always wind my yarn into center pull balls. Rewind when necessary.

Melinda: I wind my yarn into a ball and then put them into small styrofoam containers that I have from my medication. I put a hole in the lid and the yarn through the hole; it comes out with no tangles, keeps the yarn clean and out of the pets reach.

Chevas H: I put two colors in a large ziplock bag and have each side open and zip it in the middle.

Juanell Dunlap: I wrap yarn skeins into balls and either put it beside me or in my crochet bag. Another way is clean out 1 or 2 liter pop/giner ale bottle; dry thoroughly! Put yarn inside, put bottom back on and crochet or knit away.

Char55: If I'm working with a pattern that calls for small bobbins of several colors, I wind each color of yarn

around a spring type clothespin and when I finish with that particular color, I put the working end of the yarn in the mouth of the clothespin to hold it so it won't unwind while I'm working with another color.

Terri L: Once my center pull skeins get to a certain 'thinness' I start from the outer end and wrap the rest into a ball and place it in a small sandwich bag with all but a small portion zipped closed.

Lynn S: I take an empty plastic coffee can and cut a quarter size hole and tape the edges, place the yarn inside and it pulls just fine with no tangling.

Carolyn: I take empty paper towel rolls and wind my yarn around the roll.

Sherry: I use a tall narrow bag and pull the inside yarn. Works great. But here is an idea I haven't tried that came from a friend who pulls the outside end. Slide the yarn over a paper towel roll.

Jennifer B: I have my Mother wind the yarn into balls and then I have no problem with it tangling as I use it. It is often in a tangle for my Mother to untangle.

How to Store Your Yarn

Compiled from Stitch&Unwind.com

Chris L: Though not very creative, I organize my yarn using the plastic bags from comforters that we bought for our beds. They are big enough to hold all the yarn for a single project (I tend to make afghans), they have a zipper, and they keep the yarn clean. In addition, it is very clear to my kids that this is Mommy's yarn. :)

Knittingdancer on Ravelry: I have mine yarn separated by fiber: cotton, acrylic, sock yarn, and wool and wool blends. I keep the yarn in plastic totes and put a bar of lavender soap in a ziploc bag with a hole in it in the wool and wool blends totes.

RaeJean: I am not very proficient at organizing my stash. I try to keep it organized by weight and color, i.e. baby yarn, worsted weight, bulky weight and then try to keep like colors together. Most of the time it gets away from me though especially when I have to "sneak" yarn into my stash so my husband doesn't know I bought "more yarn"

Kat: I organize my yarns by weights. Have crochet threads in clear plastic containers. Other yarns are on what I call open-box shelving: 2 squares beside each other, 3 going up. Of

course there are some yarns that are in fabric totes (here & there – LOL).

MiLinda: I separate my yarn by colour. I find that when I crochet it is usually colour that is my first thought. I also separate my yarn by projects. I keep all the yarn that goes for a specific project in a bag so that it is easy for me to find. Also, I have a large wooden chest which holds excess yarn. I have the yarn separated in bags by the colour and style.

Vonnie H: I use Banker's Boxes. I have them organized by yarn type, colors, etc. You can write on the outside of the box what's in the box and they stack very well, makes it easy to find what you are looking for.

Lynne: I have extra yarn for current projects in some large decorative containers in my livingroom. This way I don't have to go down to the basement for another ball. I keep the rest of my stash and supplies in clear totes in the basement.

Cindy G: I organize my yarn according to the project they go to. Extra yarn is in notes according to weight, so it's easy when I want to make a project from scraps.

Twilla: Each project has its special bag so I can pick and take with me

the project I am in the mood for. Yarn stash is kept in storage containers. Try to keep colors together than types.

Shannan: I keep mine in drawers since I basically have a whole dresser dedicated to crafts. Unfortunately, my yarn drawer is proliferating and slowly but surely taking over my other drawers. I started out with one yarn drawer and now I have two...I hope the yarn doesn't take over my room

Becki C: Clear PEVA Storage Chests from The Container store. They are supposed to be for sweaters, but I enjoy them as they're chlorine-free, it's better for the yarn and better for the environment

Patricia: I use the kid's old school backpacks

Becky: I use hanging shoe and sweater organizers! I sort by yarn type and color. There will never be enough hours in a day to work up all I have!!

Paula: All of my yarn fits neatly in copy paper boxes. I have organized all my crochet hooks in two different brightly colored hook organizers — one for steels and one for yarn hooks. A plastic storage tote holds all my crochet patterns.

Sharon: My organization is using my yarn as decorations all over the house in different types of baskets, etc. A few extra are in stackable containers

Kimberly C: I use space bag cubes. It's amazing how much yarn you can fit in them. I write out index cards on yardage, grams, size, how many skeins, and cut a piece for color. Keep all of those organized in a plastic ziplock bag duck taped to the cube. Because they hold so many I can always get away with "needing more because I don't have that much" comment to my husband!!!

Gerri T: I recently organized all my yarn...I wound all my skeins using my yarn winder and all my new balls are in three baskets in plain view in my dining room. I like to look at my stash. I do the same with my beads; I string them if I can and hang them all over the house until I decide to do a project. I think the beautiful colors of yarn should be enjoyed daily!

Lyndamae: I use old suit cases to keep my yarn and tools in order. Each suit case has a label describing what color and type. They can be stacked and grabbed quickly when needed. I use pencil cases to keep needles and hooks in order. Patterns are kept in suit cases also; I use small carry bags with current projects in progress, to

be grabbed when needed to be done. The suit cases can be moved or tucked away or taken to a friend's house to exchange wool and patterns.

Patricia: I purchased cubes, stacked the open end out (so you can see the yarn) and have the yarn organized by color in the various cubes. I currently have 9 cubes with the skeins laid length wise so that I can see how much of one color I have. Works perfect when I want to grab a skein for a quick project.

Sandra B: I keep the bulk of my yarn in a large wicker hamper. The scraps are in a clear zippered bag that a comforter came in. My crochet thread is in a clear plastic tote. My WIPs are kept in cloth tote bags with the pattern. The bags were freebies from various hospitals, organizations, etc.

Yarn Storage for Your Closet

By: Sally from KTB designs

Figuring out how to store your yarn is one of the biggest challenges that face crocheters. Luckily, there are so many innovative yarn storage ideas on how to keep your yarn stash organized, so you can instead focus your energy on finding your next free crochet pattern to make. Check out this great Yarn Storage Idea for Your Closet by blogger Sally of KTB designs.



They are cloth and Velcro off the rod in the closet and they hold a lot of yarn. Fabulous.



How to Organize Bits of Yarn

By Rachel Hunnicutt from Cornflower Blue Studio

Chances are, you have little bits of leftover yarn from your crochet projects. These pieces of yarn can come in handy for a variety of free crochet patterns, but keeping them organized in the meantime can be a bit of a challenge. This is such an easy and clever idea, and a great way to reuse old clothespins.



How to Organize Bits of Yarn



This little tutorial is so simple that it hardly needs written instructions! Just gather up your bits of yarn, wind them around wooden clothespins, and clip the loose end in the mouth of the clothespin. Ta da!



I like wooden clothespins better than plastic ones because they have a little texture to them, which hold the yarn on the body of the clothespin without slipping off (and I just don't like plastic too much, anyway).



Free Crochet Tips and Tricks: Organization Ideas, How to Crochet On the Go, How to Change Color, and More

Now you can put your yarn back into its basket, box, or bag without it getting all ratty and tangled. In fact, this idea is so cute you may want to display your favorite yarns in a little ceramic bowl!



How To Use Up Yarn Scraps

Compiled from Stitch&Unwind.com

Jean: I have made two “raggedy” afghans by tying all my yarn scraps together leaving 2 inch lengths on regular knots. When I have a large ball of these scraps, I start crocheting with double crochet the desired width and let the knots fall where they may. This way, both sides look the same and it is something ‘different’ both in pattern and colors.

Jennifer W: Random colored scarves are the best... Super cute!!

AJ: I make cat toys. Example: I had some black wool yarn, less grey, and a little bit of pink. I made a star-nosed mole! Black body, grey claws, and knotted pink for the star nose. Stuffed it with fabric scraps and catnip. Then my cat destroyed it. sigh.

Melinda: For my scraps, I gave them all to my 7 yr. old who is learning to knit and she is making book marks out of them. I thought that it would be a good way for her to start. She says that she is going to sell her works at the block party at the end of the month. So far, she has 5 finished and getting better at it every day!

Jeanette: I collect the scrap balls and make scrap afghans that are donated to charity.

Karen P: I love my yarn scraps and wind them into balls, lately I have been making scrunchies and flowers for barrettes and headbands. My granddaughters like me to crochet them bracelets....

Sue: Scrap lab blankets as Christmas gifts for nursing homes residents who otherwise would not receive a gift, and premie caps for hospital donation.

Lynn G: All my scraps are kept in large plastic see through tubs by brand. I go to craft shows so I make a lot of dish cloths, hot pads, scrubbies, barrettes, scrunchies, headbands; etc. When my Mom goes to the chemo clinic, I take some chemo hats and leave them on the table for whoever would like to take them. My Mom loves her hats! And, I totally enjoy making them.

Helen: I crochet for Project Linus. Nothing goes to waste.

Jeanette: Coasters, covered hangers, purse-size Kleenex covers, coffee cozy

Kendra M: Granny squares! Always love to do those. Easy, fast, and very

portable. And I can make all kinds of things with them when I have made enough.

Susan M: I crochet for everyone in my family and always have lots of left over scraps. This past January I took those scraps and made my 8 year old granddaughter a housecoat of many colors. She loves it so much she wore it to school as a coat! Those are the joys of crocheting!!

Carol A: I roll little scraps into balls and put in a large see thru jug. I often make small amigurumi so I only need small amounts of yarn. I also use it to stuff amigurumi.

Karen: I LOVE making scrapghans! I, also, enjoy making catghans and doghans for a local no-kill animal shelter where my husband volunteers.

KittenWithAWhiplash: Along with other supplies, schools can always use yarn, whether its scraps of just a few feet for use in arts and crafts, or whole skeins for knitting and crochet, which many schools are now teaching. I try to donate at least 10 pounds of yarn a year to the three schools in my area.

Denise T: I make scrap baby hats and scrap granny square afghans to use up the ends. Also, the pieces that I

cut off of any yarn and any odd strings that are not long enough to put in things, I put them in a box and mix them with polyfill to stuff things. I believe in recycling all pieces of the yarn.

Anne N: Small pieces that can't be crocheted with I use for stuffing or kids crafts. I normally give the longer scraps to the recipient of a crocheted gift in case repair needs to be made.

Lyz: If I don't use them in smaller projects (e.g. Flowers), I have used them in stuffing very small pieces of amigurumi. Also, in spring, I'll let small scraps go outside where they find their into birds' nests.

Jeannette: I wind the small leftovers into little balls and use that to teach people how to make granny squares or a swatch of a specific stitch that they can refer back to later. My grandchildren have made me tons of chain stitch jewelry. Larger leftovers are made into afghans, scarves, hats or slippers to donate to a charity.

Irene: You can make different size bowls with all the ends. The more colors the better. Use them around the house to hold all kinds of things; with larger bowls you can keep small balls of yarn in them for your next project.

What Yarn to Buy

Compiled from Stitch&Unwind.com

There are lots of different types of yarn on the market today. From xx to xx, how do you know which one to use? Find out what some of our yarn friends had to say on Stitch & Unwind:

Audrey C: Any yarn that can be crocheted. For afghans and amigurumi I like Red Heart because it's durable. For beanies, scarves, hand warmers, anything soft works for me.

Amy F: I love the Caron one pounders, simply soft, Bernat handcrafter cotton, and Lion Brand wools! When I first taught myself to crochet, I didn't know there was anything other than Red Heart Super Saver yarn. I still like Red Heart for their affordability, but love to explore with different brands, too! I notice a lot of people will only use one brand, but I do a lot of mix and matching of brands mainly for color variety and texture.

Vonda: I use a variety of yarns, and I have many favorite yarns from the Red Heart acrylics to the silly fun furs to the big Red Heart Super Savers from Walmart; but my all-time favorite yarn is the Vanna White Lion

Brand yarn collection. I use the Vanna White "Choice" yarn in any color because it's soft, premium, and can be used in multiple projects, styles, and the textures are just fabulous!

Penny T: I use all sorts of yarns. I mainly use cotton yarns at the moment because I am making some market bags. I have used fun fur along with cotton to make some kitties.

I am also currently making a scrap yarn blanket and am putting anything that is nice, soft, and washable in it. I have yarns such as Vanna's Colors (love the blue!), Vanna's Choice, Red Heart-super saver and soft, Lion Homespun, any kind of baby yarn (if its thin, I just double it up), Caron Simply Soft, Sugar and Cream cotton and Peaches and Cream cotton, Loops and Threads Charisma (I love this stuff!) and Impecable, Debra Norville Serenity (I just love how soft and colorful this yarn is!) and others. Some yarn I use I know what it is from previous projects, but some I don't have a clue because I got it in a bag of scraps from somewhere. Whatever it is I LOVE IT ALL! LOL!

Anita C: Can't say it's my favorite, but I use a lot of Caron Simply Soft. Right now I'm making myself a vest using LB's "Incredible" ribbon yarn. It is an easy-use yarn.

Heather O: I love the Bernat Baby Coordinates for baby items. I also really like the Red Heart Soft and just about anything variegated. I usually pick my yarn by color and feel of it, not by brand.

Katy T: I love using natural fibers. Right now my favorite is Baby Alpaca (Cascade Eco Alpaca is lush and my hubby loves his new hat from it!) I'm also loving some home grown, home spun from Hidden Brook Fibers. I do love Vanna's Choice for smaller projects like the quartet of headbands and the Christmas gift list that I should be working on.

Heavens Creations: I love all yarns. I find that economically if I am working on something and just getting yarn to make with I stick to the Red Heart and Bernat more than anything. I love the colors and textures that they have. Best Values for my money. I love all yarn but drawn to others.

Melinda: I use mainly acrylics. Most of my crocheting is afghans for charity. I find that most acrylics are relatively cheap, which helps, and don't have special washing instructions, which is great for the recipients! Also, there are a lot less worries about allergies with acrylics. Red Heart Super Saver, Lion Brand Vanna's Choice and Caron's

Nantucket 1 pound are all about the same size yarn so mix nicely.

Carmen: I think my favorite is the one I'm using right now – Lorna's Laces Shepherd Sock. It's a beautiful sock-weight yarn in a "solid" color – but it has subtle variances in the color that make it beautiful. Easy to work with too!

Michelle: I use a lot of acrylic for crocheting, but I am starting to use more expensive yarn for both knitting and crocheting, because they drape better and tend to last longer. I am finding myself using sock yarns, wool, cotton, and mohair.

Carol: I use whatever yarn strikes my mood. I have just finished a size 2 dress in Cascade Cherub, working on an afghan in Red Heart super saver, a toddler poncho in Bernat baby boucle and a shawl in #2 100% wool that I got at Goodwill for \$3.99 for 9 skeins. Stash includes a little bit of everything from size 30 crochet thread to #5 yarn.

Easy Crochet Techniques

Joining Granny Squares

Compiled from Stitch&Unwind.com

Granny squares are easy to crochet, but what do you do with them when you're done? Joining granny squares is one of the most common challenges in crochet. Find some ideas below from our friends at Stitch & Unwind:

Geneva L: I like to join crocheted squares with the slip stitch method. It does make a slight ridge, but my blankets usually lie flat after blocking. My second choice would be the whip stitch.

Jean L: If your squares have a more open, airy feel, I would use the chain link method. Otherwise my favorite is the tried-and-true whip stitch method. I don't like the single crochet together in the back loop method unless that's REALLY the look you want. It doesn't lay flat.

Brenda: I use either a single crochet slip stitch, for a sturdy fabric. This lays flat but will produce a slight ridge which can add to the design. Or a single change lace/ lattice join for a looser more lace type fabric look.

Both will lay flat but give very different results.

Sharon: I like to lay them side by side & work a feather stitch (embroidery) through all the outside loops. Stable, flat (if you don't pull to tight), & pretty.

Donna: The easiest and fastest way I have found to join pieces is to whip stitch. I put wrong sides together and let the whip stitch show on the right sides of what I am making. I have sewn together pieces in a matching color to the item or another color for a decorative look.

Lynn G: I use the whip stitch and then I block it using a light spray starch.

Kathryn M: I usually whip stitch them, but a join as-you-go method is better. To make it lie flat, you have to be sure to use the right tension when joining, especially when whip stitching.

Mare F: I use a backward single crochet. It gives an interesting line and it will lay flat.

Sharon: I like using the stitch Mikeysmail taught...HDC every other stitch. The squares lay nice and flat and there's no ridge.

For additional help joining granny squares, don't miss these video tutorials below:

**[How to Attach Granny Squares--
Method 1 Part 1 of 2](#)**

by Michael Sellick

This method will teach you how to create a seam between two crochet granny squares.

**[How to Attach Granny Squares--
Method 1 Part 2 of 2](#)**

by Michael Sellick

Part two discusses how to seam together granny squares. This time, you'll learn how to combine 4!

**[How to Attach Granny Squares--
Method 2](#)**

by Michael Sellick

Learn how to connect granny squares as you go in this video tutorial.

**[How to Attach Granny Squares--
Method 3](#)**

by Michael Sellick

All you need for this method is some thread and a needle, and your granny squares!

Changing Color in Crochet

Compiled from Stitch&Unwind.com

Your kids will love this new scarf you make them. Not only will it keep their

Char55: I usually use a square knot to tie the ends together, leaving enough of each end to weave in.

But after seeing the [video tutorial here on Stitch and Unwind on July 28th about “knotless Russian join”](#), I just might give it a try! Sure would save having to weave in all those ends, and it looks great!

Lynn G: I put my crochet hook into the next stitch and pick up the new color yarn and crochet away while crocheting over the ends. Although, I think I will look back at the knotless Russian join video that I missed the first time around.

Ritainalaska: I'll make the next stitch using the new color, then use a bow tie to keep the ends together until I'm done then work the ends in diagonally.

Katrina L: I insert hook in next stitch drop one color and finish the stitch with new color. I clip the old color yarn and stitch it in with the new color. I make the tail long enough to work thru 3 or more stitches if possible this way I am sure that it will

not pull loose and I always put the old color behind the new color yarn. When I do it that way you can't see the old color coming thru.

For additional help changing color in crochet, don't miss these video tutorials below:

[Knotless Russian Join](#)

by Emi Harrington

[How to Change Color in a Granny Square: Right-Handed](#)

by Michael Sellick

[How to Change Color in a Granny Square: Left-Handed](#)

By Michael Sellick

[How to Change Colors Without Knots](#)

by Michael Sellick

[How to Change Colors Without Knots, Left Handed Version](#)

by Michael Sellick

Avoiding Pain in Crochet

Compiled from Stitch&Unwind.com

Crocheting is supposed to be a relaxing hobby, but sometimes, it can cause a bit of pain.

Diana K: Make sure that you take frequent breaks!

Ann B: Don't rest your arms on a surface, like a table top or the arms of a chair. This puts pressure on the nerves in your arms, and is particularly damaging as you move the muscles in your forearms.

Becky C: If working on a bigger project when I get to the end of a row I just rotate my wrists once counter clock wise once clock wise. If it is a small project let's say a dishcloth I do the same thing after 5 rows. This does a pretty good job at holding back the fatigue.

Linda R: Make sure you take breaks, support your arms, and I sometimes use a hand brace. I also when I take breaks do stretching exercises for my fingers, wrists, and total arm. This really helps. Learned this from working on a computer all day at work!

Brianna: Keep your back straight and your shoulders down.

Anne Marie G: I squeeze and release a small rubber ball a few times to relax and ease the tension in my hands and fingers.

Kay: Stretch, stretch, stretch. Hand-wrist-arm exercises. Hold arm straight forward, palm down, pull fingers of hand up and back gently with opposite hand... repeat with other arm. Than palm up ... push hand/arm down and back gently... repeat with other arm.

BUT, don't just exercise/stretch your hands and arms. Get up and get the blood flowing in your legs and buttocks! Do some "reach for the sky" stretches while standing.

While we want to keep our hands and arms in good working order, we don't want to develop blood clots in our lower extremities.

Also, drink plenty of water. Keep hydrated.

Helen: Drape a warmed rice bag heat pad around your neck and shoulders. Relieves tension build up.

Jennie: My chiropractor suggested I stretch my fingers with a rubber band (finger tips together, rubber band

around the outside, and push against the band by opening up your hand).

Becky R: I set the timer on my smart phone for every hour and get up, stretch a bit, get a drink or take a bathroom break!

Merri O: I cut the tips of a pair of battery operated warming gloves, or use those hand warmer packets inside my crafters gloves.

KittenWithAWhiplash: Work in an area that is warm enough. Lots of folks have craft areas set up in basements or garages that don't have sufficient heating. Being cold just makes your muscles tense up that much more as you work. Also be sure that there is plenty of ventilation where you work, if you use any products with fumes. You'll help avoid headaches, and perhaps worse problems.

Nancy: Two things that have helped me: Concentrating on learning to crochet in a more relaxed way (not keeping tension in my hands and arms and paying attention to position), and using a proper chair that supports my back, neck and arms. I have Fibromyalgia and can't do many activities for long periods. Crocheting is usually my break from something else that hurts!

JoAnn: Tiger Balm muscle rub is very nice to use on your sore spots, even Bengay helps! Also, those Ace wraps for wrists work well.

Joyce D: I support my arms on a pillow, relieving any pull or strain on my shoulders.

To learn more about the best positions to sit in while crocheting, check out this short video:

[Crochet Body Positions and Yarn Balls](#)

by Michael Sellick

Finding the Time to Crochet

Compiled from Stitch&Unwind.com

In our busy lives, it can be hard to find time to crochet. These dedicated crocheters have figured out how to do it all. Read their advice below on how to find the time to crochet in your busy life:

Joy B: I find the early mornings are quiet times so that's perfect for me before all things must begin for the day! Easy to sit and stitch while the house is quiet Just me, my yarn, and some coffee.

Ylka O: I crochet whenever I sit to watch TV or in church. I crochet whenever I sit down, ride the bus, while waiting for appointment, any time that would otherwise be wasted time. I enjoy crocheting in church as it allows me to listen while doing something and not fall asleep.

Kathy B: There are several things that I do. First of all I try to plan meals that I can use left overs to make a second "quickie" meal. (I work 10+ hours a day, so every little bit helps.) I also de-stress at lunch by knitting or crocheting a few rows of a project before returning to work. And I also try to put an hour or so aside at the

end of the night, put on some music, and relax before bed...sometimes with a nice cup of herbal tea, or even with a nice chardonnay

Delinda K: I always carry a small project in my purse because even if I squeeze a row in here and there while waiting it gives me peace.

Karen V: ANY time is a good time to crochet! That's the great thing about crochet – you can pick it up and quit and start again anytime you want!

Margie R: I leave my house extra early in the morning in order not to get stuck in traffic and run the risk of arriving to work late. I usually arrive in work 45 minutes to an hour before my actual start time and I'm the only one in. It's absolutely amazing how much I can accomplish and how relaxing it is after driving in rush hour traffic. Sometimes, because I know this will be the only time I will have during the day to work on my project, it gives me the extra incentive to get out of bed and get out the door.

Susan S: You don't "find time" to crochet – you just do it, and the time finds itself. If you look for, and try to

schedule the time, you'll rarely have time.

Rebecca W: I crochet on the city bus. Great way to make new friends.

Janea: I make myself crochet while my son naps. Then I crochet at night. Then one day a week I go to a friend's house who also crochets and while our kids play, we can crochet!

Sherri: I make time! Even if it's just 5 minutes between chores, that is 5 more minutes you have placed into your work. I even took it with me on vacation last week and worked on it in the car.

Mary M: I always set aside time in the evening after dinner. I find I am more relaxed then.

Marion M: I use part of my lunch hour every day. I also put one hour aside every night while sitting with the family.

Marlene: I find that if it is something you really want to do – you will find time. I take my crocheting everywhere and crochet any time I have a few extra minutes. Found out that I am a much happier mom, wife, person once I decided I needed and

deserved time to do things that relaxed me and made me happy. My best crocheting is in the evening after supper. I AM Happy now!

Kat: I crochet on trips, by car, plane, or coming later this month, train. I crochet in the evening while watching movies and during the night if I cannot sleep.

Becky L: Even though my daughter is grown, it is hard to juggle work, home, and leisure time. I would say it's about prioritizing. If I don't knit or do some sort of crafting one night, I make sure I make a point to get in some "me" time the next night.

Kit: I am thirteen and I knit and crochet, so when I'm done with school and homework I do either one for a bit. All the Christmas present I give are home made.

How to Crochet On-The-Go

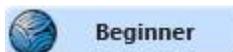
Hook Clutch

By: [Mary Kathryn Vaughn from Crochet Chiq](#)

This Hook Clutch is the perfect little crochet bag pattern that can hold all your hooks, needles, knooks and notions. This is an advanced beginner project that you will love working up. Use a fun variegated yarn for a unique look.



This image courtesy of crochetchiq.blogspot.com



Crochet Hook: G/6 or 4 mm hook

Yarn Weight: (2) Fine (23-26 stitches to 4 inches)

Materials:

- 1 ball Loops and Thread's Woodlands yarn or any 2 ply (fine) weight yarn!
Tip: 2 strands of Paton's lace looks great too!
- Size G crochet hook

NOTE: Want a bigger one? Feel free to use any weight and hook you want.

PATTERN INSTRUCTIONS:

We start by chaining 27 (if you would like a large bag go ahead and adjust the starting chain to ANY number and follow the rest of the pattern)

Round 1 - 2sc in the first chain 1 sc in each of the next ch, 4 sc on the end chain, 1 sc along the back side of the chain(go around the chain like you are making a circle) put 2 sc in the first chain that had 2sc in it.

Round 2-4 (or more in crease rows if you want a wider bottom) 1 sc in each except when at the corners put 2 sc in each corner. Every round will increase by 4 because of the 2 sc you work in each corner.

Round 5- one sc in each (DONT increase in the corners any more)

Free Crochet Tips and Tricks: Organization Ideas, How to Crochet On the Go, How to Change Color, and More

Round 6- skip one stitch, 2hdc in the next stitch, skip one stitch, 2 hdc, Repeat this pattern until you have the length desired.

Flap:

Row1 - (notice it's a row and not a round) starting at the back corner, 1 sc in each stitch until you get to the other back corner, turn

Row 2 - 3dc, skip 2, 3dc repeat, turn

Row 3 - 1 sc in each, turn

Row 4- skip 1, chain 3 (first dc) 3dc, skip 3, *4dc, skip3,4dc* repeat

I made my buttons this way:

Make a magic circle,

Round 1- ch1, ten hdc, and join

Round 2 &3- ch1, 1 sc in each and join.

Round 4 - 1 sc dec, in each stitch. Cut a long tail and weave your button closed and attach to you clutch!



This is what I put in mine, the hooks, some yarn and a few of my cards to hand out! I will use this at Michael's!

Make your own buttons or use any notions you choose!

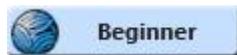
Crochet Hook Travel Case

By: [Esther Leavitt from Craftown](#)

Take your crochet hooks with you if you're travelling. This is an easy crochet pattern that will protect your hooks and keep you organized while you're on the go. Add a fun ribbon to give it the perfect finishing touch.



This image courtesy of craftown.com



Crochet Hook: H/8 or 5 mm hook

Yarn Weight: (4) Medium
Weight/Worsted Weight and Aran
(16-20 stitches to 4 inches)

Materials:

- Simply Soft yarn- Off White
- Crochet Hook Size H
- Ribbon

PATTERN INSTRUCTIONS:

Base: Ch 41

Row 1: 40 SC, Turn

Row 2-17: Ch 1, 40 SC, turn

(Optional to have blue strip)

CC to Bluemint

Row 18: Rep 2

CC to Offwhite

Row 19-35: Rep 2

Rnd 36: Ch 1, * Sk 2 sps, 5 DC in next sp, SK 2 sps, Rep from * across row to last 2 sps, SK 1 sp, 3 SC in corner sp, 32 SC down left side, 3 SC in corner, *sk 2 sps, Dc in next sp, Sk 2 sps, Rep from * across to last 2 sps, SK 1 sp, 3 SC in corner sp, 33 SC up right side, 2 SC in next sp, SL to 1stSC made, Tie off and hide string.

Now all you need to do is place your crochet hooks inside Roll them up – tie a ribbon around and off you go!



Easy Crochet Hook Case

By: Tristan Malcolm

Learn how to crochet an Easy Crochet Hook Case with this quick tutorial. The case holds up to four hooks in an organized fashion. This is great to take with you on trips or store easily in your bag. Who doesn't love simple crochet patterns like this?



This image courtesy of Tristan Malcolm



Crochet Hook: G/6 or 4 mm hook

Yarn Weight: (4) Medium Weight/Worsted Weight and Aran (16-20 stitches to 4 inches)

Materials:

- 4.00 mm Crochet Hook
- Yarn of your choice
- Scissors
- Yarn needle

PATTERN INSTRUCTIONS:

Ch 30

Row 1: sc in the 2nd ch from hook. Sc in each ch for a total of 29 sc's.

Row 2: ch 3 (counts as dc.) dc in the next 8 sc's. dc in the back loops of the next 20 sc's. Reverse the work and dc in the next 20 free loops (the loops that you have not worked into.)

Row 3: ch 1 and line up all dc's and sc them together by sc 2 dc st's at the same time and turn. sc in each sc across the row and dc in the next 9 dc's.

Rows 4 and up: Repeat rows 2 & 3 for as many pockets you need.

All in One Hook Case

By: Shehnaaz Afzar for Crochet Dreamz

This free crochet pattern is worked in two layers: one inner layer with the hook pockets, and one outer layer to add thickness. The inner layer is worked in the back loops and front loops alternately to leave one loop of each stitch free. You will be working the hook pockets into these free loops.



This image courtesy of crochetdreamz.blogspot.co

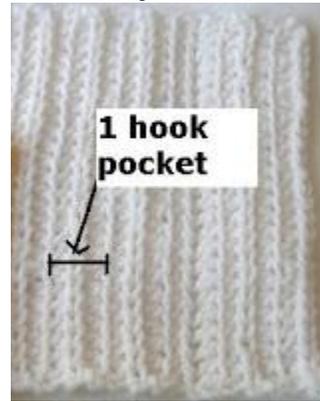


Crochet Hook: H/8 or 5 mm hook, I/9 or 5.5 mm hook

Yarn Weight: (4) Medium Weight/Worsted Weight and Aran (16-20 stitches to 4 inches)

PATTERN INSTRUCTIONS:

Inner Layer:



Inner layer worked to make rows of free loops.

Using Hook I, ch 25 or chain as long as the chain measures about an inch more than your tallest crochet hook.

You will get 24 st in every row as ch 1 and ch2 is not considered a stitch and no stitch is worked into the turning chain of the previous round.

Row 1 :1 sc in the 2nd ch from hook, 1 sc in each ch across, turn.

Row 2 & 3: Ch 1, 1 sc in the same st as ch 1, 1 sc in each st across, turn.

Row 4: Working in front loops only, ch2, 1 hdc in the same st as ch 2, 1 hdc in each st across, turn.

Row 5: Working in back loops only, ch2, 1 hdc in the same st as ch 2, 1 hdc in each ch across, turn.

Rows 6 to 11: Repeat Rows 4 and 5 for 9 more rows until you make (in total) 11 hdc rows. Turn.

Row 11 you just made, and row 12 will form the folding middle part of your crochet case. So we do the 12th row in such a way that the case will bend easily at the middle.

Row 12: Working only in front loops, ch 2, 1 hdc in same st, 1 hdc in each st across, turn. This will leave a row of free loops on the outside of your work and facilitate inward folding.

Row 13: Working in the front loops only, ch2, 1 hdc in the same st as ch 2, 1 hdc in each st across. Turn.

Row 14: working in back loops only, ch2, 1 hdc in the same st as ch 2, 1 hdc in each ch across, turn.

Repeat Rows 12 and 13 until you complete total 22 hdc rows counting from the 1st hdc row made.

The next 3 rows will be sc rows.

Row 26: Working in front loops only, ch 1, 1 sc in the same st as ch 1, 1 sc in each st across, turn.

Row 27 and 28: Working in both the loops ch 1, 1 sc in the same st as ch 1, 1 sc in each st across. Fasten off.

Hook pockets:

I used the color gold for the hook pockets, but you can use the same color as your inner layer too.

Each hook pocket is worked using 1 row of hdc, 1 row of sc and sl st to the next free row of loops.

First hook pocket:

Row 1: Using hook H, sl st into the 15th free loop on the right side of your work and ch 2, 1 hdc in the same st, 1 hdc in each of the remaining 14 loops till you reach the last loop on the edge. Turn. (15 hdc)

Row 2: ch 1, 1 sc in the same st, 1 sc in each of the remaining 14 loops. (15 sc)



Sl st each hook pocket to the next visible free loops row



Fold the white part down and hold to sl st into the free loops

Row 3: Sl st to the next visible row of free loops (If needed, take the hook out, insert it through the free loop and sl st). To sl st fold the inner layer down and hold. Sl st into all 15 of the remaining free loops till you reach the end of the case. (15 sl st)

2nd Hook pocket:

Starting from this hook pocket, all the hdc rows are worked in one of the loops as specified. This adds less bulk to your pockets and leaves free loops to work additional layer of pockets if you wish.

Row 1: Working in back loops of the previous sc row , ch 2 , 1 hdc in the same st, 1 hdc in each of the remaining 14 stitches, turn (15 st)

Row 2: ch1, 1 sc in the same st, 1 sc in each of the remaining 14 hdc (15 st)

Row 3: Sl st to the next visible row of free loops. (15 sl st)

3rd hook pocket:

Row 1: Working in front loops of the previous sc row, ch 2, 1 hdc in the same st, 1 hdc in each of the remaining 14 stitches, turn (15 st)

Row 2: ch1, 1 sc in the same st, 1 sc in each of the remaining 14 hdc (15 st)

Row 3: Sl st to the next visible row of free loops. (15 sl st)

Repeat Rows for 2nd hook pocket and 3rd hook pocket until you finish 11 hook pockets in all. The middle one will be for folding and won't be used for keeping a hook.

Tape measure pocket:

Row 1: On one side of your case (not in the folding middle), counting from the base of the hook pockets , sl st to the 11th free loop on the hook pocket, ch 1 , 1 sc i the same st, 1 sc in each free loop till the end of the case, turn.

Row 2 to 5: ch 2, 1 hdc in the same st, 1 hdc in each st sc across, turn (11 hdc)

Row 6: Sl st to the next visible row of free loops. This spreads over 3 hook pockets.

Outer Layer:

The entire outer layer is worked in both the loops, but 1 extra row of hdc is added to make it big enough to wrap around the inner layer.

Ch 25 or equal to your initial chain, 1 sc in the 2nd ch, 1 sc in each chain across. Turn. (24 sc)

Rows 2 & 3: ch 1, 1 sc in the same st, 1 sc in each st across. Turn. (24 sc)

Rows 4 to 26: ch2, 1 hdc in the same st, 1 hdc in each st across, turn (24 hdc)

Rows 27 to 29: ch1, 1 sc in the same st, 1 sc in each st across, fasten off. (24 sc)

Binding the two layers and closing the hook pockets:

Place the inner layer over the outer layer.

1. Do a row of single crochet around and through both the layers. Start from one of the shorter side and when you reach each corner do 3sc into the corner.
2. Once one shorter side is done, align the other shorter sides and pin them in place. This is because the outer layer is 1 hdc wider than the inner layer and you have to incorporate that into the longer sides without affecting the alignment of the shorter sides.

3. When you reach the bottom of the hook pockets, go in through the hook pockets and the 2 layers as well. This will automatically close all your hook pockets.

4. Keep doing sc around and 3 sc into each corner. On the wider sides, you will be working across row ends and won't have any stitches you can stick your hook into. So just try to keep your sc uniformly placed.

Snap Button Flap:

***Stitch explanation:**

sc2 tog: insert hook into the 1st st (or same st as ch 1 if doing in the beginning of the row) and pull up a loop, insert hook into the next st and pull up a loop, Yarn over and pull through all the loops on the hook.

Row 1: Mark the center 6 st on the front edge of your case. Sl st to the 1st marked st, 1 sc in the same st, 1 sc in next 5 st, turn. (6sc)

Row 2 to 6: ch 1, 1 sc in the same st, 1 sc in each st across. (6sc)

Row 7: sc2tog, 1 sc in next 2 st, sc2tog, turn. (4 sc)

Row 8: sc2tog (twice), fasten off. (2sc)

Sew on the snap button in place. Your hook case is ready for use.

NOTE: If you are the sewing type then you can even make the layer for the hook pockets separately as wide as you want and sew it on along the free loops instead of doing crochet.



In this eBook, you'll find helpful tips and tricks from bloggers and crocheters just like you. Expand your skills, organize your yarn stash, learn how to crochet on the go, and more.

Included in this eBook:

- 43 Ways to Keep Your Yarn Tangle Free
- How to Store Your Yarn
- How To Use Up Yarn Scraps
- Joining Granny Squares
- Changing Color in Crochet
- Avoiding Pain in Crochet
- Much More!



Sign up for our [free *Hooked on Crochet* newsletter](#) and receive more free crochet patterns, tips, tutorials and videos right in your inbox every week.



We'd like to extend our thanks to the independent bloggers for allowing us to reprint their patterns in full as a part of this free eBook.

Special Thanks To:

- Sarah Zimmerman from [Cornflower Blue Studio](#)
- Suzetta from [KTD Designs](#)
- Shehnaaz Afzar of Crochet Dreamz
- Esther Leavitt from [Craftown](#)
- Tristan Malcolm
- Mary Kathryn Vaughn from [Crochet Chiq](#)