

Contents at a Glance

<i>Introduction</i>	1
<i>Part I: Crochet 101</i>	5
Chapter 1: Hooking into a Life of Crochet	7
Chapter 2: Tools of the Trade	15
Chapter 3: Creating Consistency with Gauge	31
Chapter 4: Getting Down to Basics.....	39
<i>Part II: Basic Stitches and Techniques</i>	61
Chapter 5: Decoding Crochet Patterns	63
Chapter 6: Long, Longer, Longest: Four Common Crochet Stitches	77
Chapter 7: Shaping Up and Slimming Down: Increasing and Decreasing Stitches	99
Chapter 8: I've Been Here Before: Crocheting in Circles	117
Chapter 9: Crocheting in Technicolor.....	135
<i>Part III: Advanced Stitches and Techniques</i>	147
Chapter 10: Design 101: Crocheting Your First Sweater	149
Chapter 11: Fancy Stitches That Steal the Show	165
Chapter 12: Getting Creative: Working Stitches in Places You Never Thought Of	181
Chapter 13: A Stitch in Time: The Afghan Stitch	195
Chapter 14: Filet Crochet: Creating a New Style.....	217
<i>Part IV: Putting It All Together</i>	237
Chapter 15: When the Plan Comes Together: Joining Seams	239
Chapter 16: Finishing Functionally: Borders, Buttons, and Pockets.....	255
Chapter 17: It's All in the Details: Embellishing Crochet.....	273
Chapter 18: Neatness Counts: Blocking and Caring for Your Work	281
<i>Part V: The Part of Tens</i>	293
Chapter 19: Top Ten (Plus One) Crochet Resources	295
Chapter 20: Ten Do's and Don'ts of Crochet	299
Chapter 21: Ten Variations on Crochet.....	303
<i>Appendix: Yarn Supply Sources</i>	311
<i>Index</i>	313

Table of Contents

.....

<i>Introduction</i>	1
How to Use This Book	1
Conventions Used in This Book	2
Foolish Assumptions	2
How This Book Is Organized.....	2
Part I: Crochet 101.....	3
Part II: Basic Stitches and Techniques.....	3
Part III: Advanced Stitches and Techniques	3
Part IV: Putting It All Together	3
Part V: The Part of Tens.....	3
Icons Used in This Book.....	4
Where to Go from Here.....	4

Part 1: Crochet 1015

Chapter 1: Hooking into a Life of Crochet7

Starting with a Hook and Skein	8
Gathering all your tools	8
Practice makes perfect	8
Mastering Basic Crochet Techniques	9
Crocheting from a pattern.....	9
Adjusting tension	9
Round and round you go.....	10
Color it in.....	10
Adding New Stitches and Techniques to Your Crochet Vocabulary	10
Having fun with new stitches.....	11
Creating funky fabrics.....	11
Finishing Your Work: Taking Pride in What You've Made	11
Putting the pieces together.....	11
Final details	11
Taking care of crochet	12
A Few Tips to Keep You Going.....	12
Getting Started	13

Chapter 2: Tools of the Trade15

Choosing Your Weapon: The Crochet Hook	15
The anatomy of a crochet hook.....	16
Sizing up your hook	17
Figuring Out Yarn Features and Functions	20
Sizing up yarn weights.....	20
Looking at yarn from the inside out.....	21

Sorting out yarn packaging: Hank, ball, or skein.....	23
Deciphering yarn labels.....	24
Matching your yarn to your project.....	26
Tool Time: Other Tools of the Trade	27
Chapter 3: Creating Consistency with Gauge	31
Why Bother with Gauge?.....	31
Working a Gauge Swatch	32
Making your swatch	33
Blocking your swatch	34
Measuring stitches and rows.....	34
Measuring stitches and rounds	35
Over- or undershooting the mark	36
Setting Out on Your Own: Establishing Your Own Gauge	37
Chapter 4: Getting Down to Basics	39
In the Beginning: Preparing to Crochet	39
Determining the right hand for hooking.....	39
Getting a grip on hook and yarn.....	40
Working a slipknot.....	42
Wrapping the yarn over the hook	43
Tied Up in Stitches: The Three Basics.....	45
Workin' on the chain stitch	45
Slinking slip stitches	48
The old standby: Single crochet.....	50
Taking Things to the Next Level: Row Two.....	52
Turning your work.....	53
Climbing to new heights: Turning chains.....	53
Starting the next row	54
All's Well That Ends Well: Fastening Off.....	56
Cutting the yarn.....	57
Weaving in the end	57
Colorful Coasters and Placemats Project	57
Materials.....	58
Vital statistics	58
Directions	58
 Part II: Basic Stitches and Techniques	 61
Chapter 5: Decoding Crochet Patterns	63
Gettin' the Lowdown on Crochet Patterns	63
Figuring Out Written Instructions	65
Keep it short: Abbreviations.....	65
Working terms and phrases	67

Pondering parentheses.....	68
Bracing yourself for brackets	68
Interpreting bullets and other special symbols	69
Repeating rows and rounds	71
Not Just a Pretty Picture: Symbols and Diagrams	72
Deciphering International Crochet Symbols.....	72
Following a stitch diagram	73

Chapter 6: Long, Longer, Longest: Four Common Crochet Stitches . . . 77

Doing a Double Crochet	78
First things first: Row 1.....	78
Turn around and begin again: Row 2	80
Trying a Triple Crochet	81
First things first: Row 1.....	82
Turn around and begin again: Row 2	84
Diving into Double Triple Crochet	85
First things first: Row 1.....	85
Turn around and begin again: Row 2	87
Hooking a Half Double Crochet	88
First things first: Row 1.....	88
Turn around and begin again: Row 2	90
Running on Empty: Joining a New Ball of Yarn.....	91
Sassy Scarf Project.....	94
Materials.....	95
Vital statistics	95
Directions	95
Adding the fringe	97

**Chapter 7: Shaping Up and Slimming Down:
Increasing and Decreasing Stitches 99**

Making It Grow: Increasing Stitches.....	99
Increasing double crochet at the beginning	100
Increasing double crochet in the middle or end	100
Increasing with single crochet.....	102
Diminishing Results: Decreasing Stitches	102
Decreasing with double crochet.....	102
Decreasing with single crochet.....	105
Decreasing with slip stitches	106
The simplest decrease: Stopping before you reach the end.....	107
Simple Bandana Project	107
Materials.....	108
Vital statistics	108
Directions	108
Adding the ties.....	109
Optional edging with ties	110
Finishing off with a tassel.....	111

Ruffled Bandana Project.....	112
Materials.....	112
Vital statistics.....	112
Directions.....	112
Adding an optional, ruffled border.....	114

Chapter 8: I've Been Here Before: Crocheting in Circles117

Lord of the Center Rings.....	118
Working stitches in the hole.....	118
Working stitches in the chain stitch.....	120
Uniting the Ring.....	121
To the Outer Circles and Beyond: Adding Rounds.....	123
Great Granny's a Square: Cornering Your Rounds.....	125
Spiraling Up and Up.....	127
Working in a spiral.....	127
Ending the spiral.....	128
Adding Another Dimension.....	128
Flower Power Project.....	129
Materials.....	130
Vital statistics.....	130
Directions.....	130
Ties.....	131
Curlicues.....	131
Finishing.....	131
Cloche Hat Project.....	132
Materials.....	132
Vital statistics.....	132
Directions.....	132

Chapter 9: Crocheting in Technicolor135

Bringing Things to Life: Joining New Colors.....	135
Changing color at the beginning.....	136
Changing color midstream.....	137
Hitching a Ride: Carrying the Yarn.....	138
Carrying on the wrong side.....	139
Working over the strand.....	140
Carrying on the right side.....	141
Carrying up the side.....	141
Demystifying Color Codes.....	142
Abbreviating color names in patterns.....	142
Charting color change.....	143
Strawberry Pillow Project.....	144
Materials.....	144
Vital statistics.....	145
Directions.....	145

***Part III: Advanced Stitches and Techniques*..... 147**
Chapter 10: Design 101: Crocheting Your First Sweater149

Sweater Basics: Choosing Stitches and Yarn	149
Making the right pattern choice	150
Finding the right yarn	150
Sweater Construction: Selecting a Super Style.....	151
Baring arms: Sleeveless sweaters	152
Pretty in pullovers	153
Buttoning up with cardigans	154
Making sweater magic: Motifs and vertical rows	155
Sizing Up the Sweater Situation.....	156
Understanding sweater pattern sizes	156
Figuring out fit	156
Customizing your pattern	157
Simple Sweater Project.....	159
Size	159
Materials	159
Vital statistics	160
Directions	160
Assembly	163
Finishing	164

Chapter 11: Fancy Stitches That Steal the Show165

Adding Some Spice: Pattern Stitches.....	165
Showing the V: The V-stitch	166
XXX: The crossed double crochet stitch.....	166
Fanning out: The shell stitch	167
Little knobbies: The picot stitch	168
Pythagorean delight: The cluster stitch	168
Getting crabby: The reverse single crochet stitch.....	169
Moving into the Third Dimension: Texture Stitches.....	171
Not a magic dragon: The puff stitch	171
Forget the butter: The popcorn stitch.....	172
Gently bumping along: The bobble stitch.....	173
Feeling loopy: The loop stitch	175
Pillow Top Sampler Project.....	176
Materials	176
Vital statistics	177
Directions	177
Assembly	180

Chapter 12: Getting Creative: Working Stitches in Places You Never Thought Of	181
Switching Up Your Stitch Placement	182
The anatomy of a stitch	182
Working up top	183
Stitching up the sides	184
Working Outside the Stitch: Spaces and Posts	184
Squeezing into spaces	185
Going round the middle: Post stitches	186
Spiking into previous rows	189
Putting It into Practice: Three Scarf Projects	190
Basketweave scarf project	191
Feathery scarf project	192
Textured scarf project	193
Chapter 13: A Stitch in Time: The Afghan Stitch	195
Timeout for Tools	196
Working in Basic Afghan Stitch	197
Starting out with a foundation row	198
Continuing on to the second row	199
Ending a good thing: Binding off	200
Shaping the Basic Afghan Stitch: Increasing and Decreasing	201
Increasing in basic Afghan stitch	201
Decreasing in basic Afghan stitch	202
Varying Your Afghan Stitch	203
Tunisian stockinette stitch	204
Tunisian purl stitch	205
Color It Beautiful	207
Crocheting with more than one color	207
Cross-stitching on top of Afghan stitch	210
Decorative Potholder Project	213
Materials	213
Vital statistics	213
Directions	214
Chapter 14: Filet Crochet: Creating a New Style	217
Filet Crochet for Newbies	217
What is filet crochet?	218
Following a chart	218
Chaining the foundation	219
Creating spaces	220
Building blocks	221
Combining spaces and blocks	222
Diving into Deeper Waters: Shaping Your Design	224
Increasing spaces and blocks	224
Decreasing spaces and blocks	230

Spacin' Out with Lacets and Bars232
 Getting fancy with lacets232
 Bridging the gap with bars233
 Butterfly Runner Project234
 Materials234
 Vital statistics234
 Directions235
 Optional directions for corner variation235
 Finishing236

Part IV: Putting It All Together237

Chapter 15: When the Plan Comes Together: Joining Seams239

Yarn and Needle: Sewing Pieces Together239
 Whipping up the whipstitch240
 Covering the blanket stitch241
 Crocheting Pieces Together243
 Slip stitching a seam243
 Joining with single crochet245
 Joining with a row of stitches246
 Floral Motif Vest Project248
 Materials248
 Size248
 Vital statistics249
 Directions249
 Assembly250
 Finishing251
 Motif Afghan Project252
 Materials252
 Vital statistics252
 Directions253
 Assembly254
 Border254

**Chapter 16: Finishing Functionally:
 Borders, Buttons, and Pockets255**

Adding Trims: Edgings, Borders, and Collars255
 Outlining your design with edging256
 Bordering your masterpiece with ribbing256
 Gracing your neck with collars259
 Holding Things Together: Buttonholes, Ties, and Drawstrings261
 Making room for buttons: Buttonholes261
 Keeping your clothes on (or just spicing them up):
 Ties and drawstrings265

Purely Pockets	266
Patch pockets: Tacked onto the front.....	266
Slashed pockets: Slotted in the front.....	267
Inseam pockets: Hand warmers at your sides.....	267
Country Cardigan Project	268
Materials	268
Size	268
Vital statistics	268
Directions	269
Assembly	271
Finishing	272
Chapter 17: It's All in the Details: Embellishing Crochet	273
Hanging Off the Edge: Fringe and Tassels	273
Tying up fringe.....	274
Tagging on tassels	275
Getting Serious: Embellishing the Fabric	277
Brandishing your buttons	277
Brightening up with shiny beads.....	277
Easing into elegant embroidery.....	279
Weaving and winding your way	280
Chapter 18: Neatness Counts: Blocking and Caring for Your Work	281
Blocking Your Way into Perfect Shape	281
Gathering essential tools.....	282
Wet blocking.....	283
Spray blocking	284
Heat blocking	285
Gettin' tough: Blocking with starch	286
Going 3-D: Shaping Nontraditional Designs	288
From This Day Forward: Caring for Your Work.....	289
Scrub-a-dub-dub: Washing your work.....	289
Storing your work.....	291
Part V: The Part of Tens	293
Chapter 19: Top Ten (Plus One) Crochet Resources	295
Crochet Fantasy	295
Crochet!	296
Knit and Crochet with Beads	296
Encyclopedia of Crochet	296
Crochet with Style: Fun-to-Make Sweaters for All Seasons.....	296

A Living Mystery: The International Art & History of Crochet	297
The Harmony Guides: 300 Crochet Stitches, Volume 6	297
The Reader's Digest Complete Guide to Needlework	297
How to Crochet	298
Crochet Guild of America	298
Crochet Partners	298
Chapter 20: Ten Do's and Don'ts of Crochet	299
Check Your Gauge	299
Practice Makes Perfect	299
Reading Is Fundamental	300
Planning Ahead	300
Give Green Eggs and Ham a Try	300
Never Assume	300
Variety Is the Spice of Life	300
Splurge a Little	301
If at First You Don't Succeed, Try, Try Again	301
Relax and Enjoy	301
Chapter 21: Ten Variations on Crochet	303
Special Stitch Techniques	303
Irish crochet	303
Free-form crochet (or scrambling)	304
Surface crochet	305
Tapestry crochet	306
Techniques Using Special Tools	306
Broomstick lace	307
Hairpin lace	308
Double-ended crochet (Or cro-hooking)	308
Unique Materials	309
Crocheting on fabric	309
Crocheting with fabric strips	310
Crocheting with wire	310
 <i>Appendix: Yarn Supply Sources</i>	 <i>311</i>
 <i>Index</i>	 <i>313</i>

