The crochet versions of the Möbius strip and hyperbolic plane are both constructed using a combination of **chain stitches** and **double crochet stitches**. (See our handouts *Crocheting a Möbius Strip* and *Crocheting a Hyperbolic Plane*.) In this handout, we demonstrate how to make both of these stitches.

The key to good crochet is consistent stitches. Stitches which are of a consistent size and tension make the best crochet fabric. And consistency comes with practice, so you may need to practice these stitches a bit before starting on a project.

Crocheting a Chain

Chain stitch is often used for creating the first row of a piece of crochet (called a *foundation chain*), and it is common practice to start each new row of crochet stitches with a chain stitch or two.

1. Make a slip knot and put it onto your hook, shown in the first image below. Make sure that it is not too tight or too loose. Notice that you have two yarn tails: the one attached to your ball of yarn is called the *working yarn.*
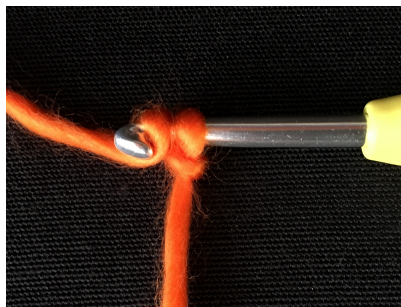

2. Bring the working yarn over the hook from back to front, as shown in the central image above. Using the hook, pull the working yarn all the way through the loop on the hook, as shown in the last image above, so that just one loop remains on the hook. This creates a single chain stitch. This step can be tricky. If you have difficultly, try loosening the loop on the hook slightly.

3. **Repeat Step 2** until you have made a chain of your desired length.
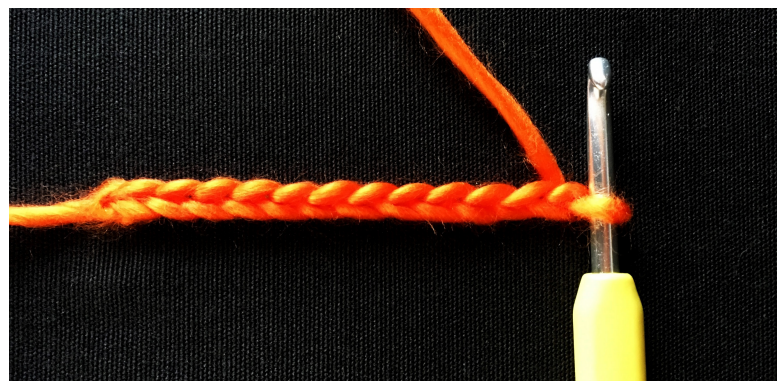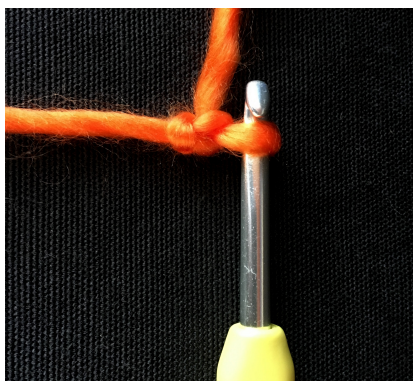
Double Crochet

Double crochet, also known as single crochet in the US, is one of the fundamental stitches in crochet. This compact stitch creates a tight, dense fabric which is perfect for making sculptural pieces.

1. Make a foundation row of chain stitches. (See the instructions above.)

2. We now begin the first row of double crochet. For the **first stitch**, insert the hook into the second chain stitch from the hook. Bring the working yarn over the hook from back to front (as shown in the first image below). Using the hook, pull the yarn through just the chain stitch. There are now two loops on the hook. Bring the working yarn over the hook from back to front again (second image below) and, using the hook, pull it through both loops (third image below). This completes one double crochet stitch. There should be one loop left on the hook (fourth image below).
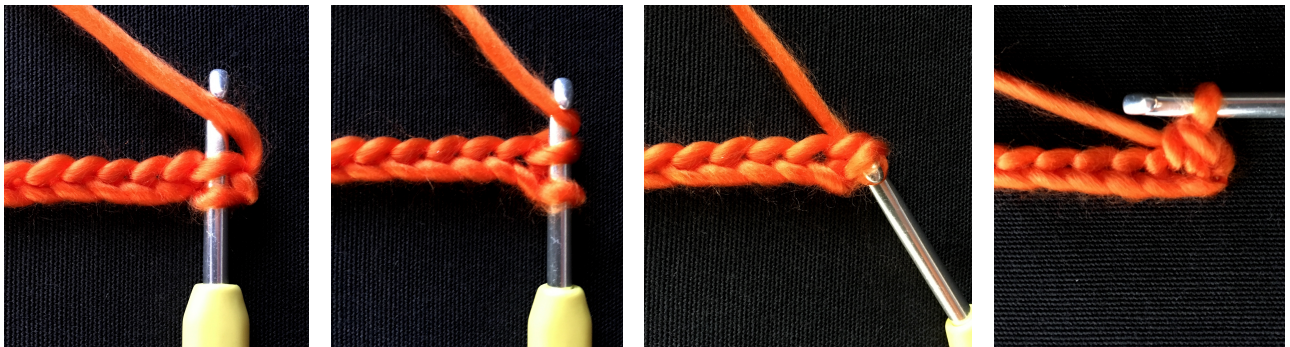
3. For the rest of the row, proceed exactly as for the first stitch (as described in Step 2) but insert the hook into the chain stitch directly beside your previous double crochet stitch each time, as shown in the image on the left below.
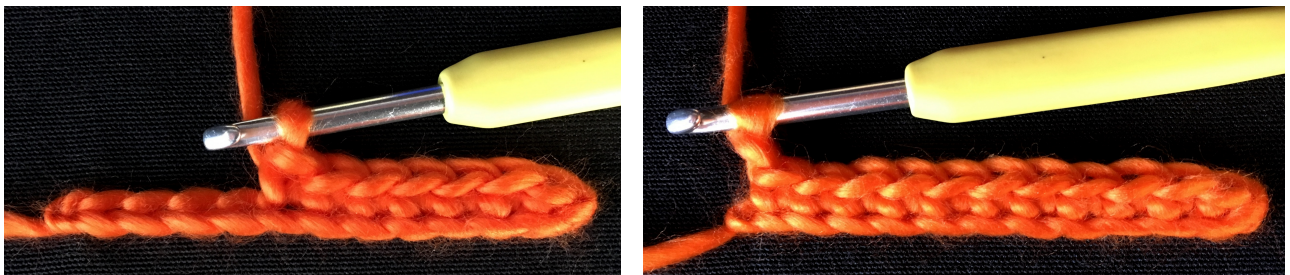
4. At the end of the row make one chain stitch (as shown in the image above, right). Turn your work over (the chain stitch should now be at the start of the next row).

5. **Repeat Steps 3 and 4** until your work is of the desired length. Note that instead of crocheting into the foundation chain, from now on you will be crocheting into the previous row of double crochet stitches. These stitches have two loops on top (which together, look like a row of chain stitches). Choose whether to crochet through one or both of these loops and do this consistently.

6. To finish, complete the current row and cut the working yarn, leaving a long tail. Remove your hook from the loop and pull the working yarn tail through the loop.