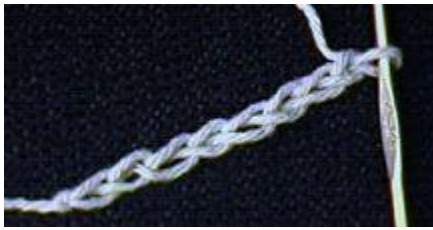


## How To Crochet Helena's Potholder Stitch



Make a chain of loops one chain stitch longer than you want the resulting article to be wide.



Insert the hook in the top side (through the back loop) of the second-to-the-last loop (the yarn highlighted in yellow in the photo) and make a single crochet stitch. Repeat across the row of chain stitches. Make sure you always use the same side of loops on the original chain. At the end of the row, chain stitch once.



Hold the work vertically, with the newest stitches at the top, as in the photo. See how my thumbs are pointing to two stitches I've highlighted in yellow? You'll be doing a row of single crochets, but instead of putting the hook through loops in the top row of stitches, you will put it through these two loops instead.



Carefully insert the hook in both loops, starting with the front loop from the row of single crochets and then the second loop from the chain row (this is why you need to make sure to always use the same side of the chains on the first row of single crochet stitches). Complete a single crochet stitch, drawing yarn through both loops.



Repeat across the rows. I find that the first pair of loops in a row is often the hardest loops to see; when you finish the first single crochet, the rest of the loops seem to "zip" together, like a zipper.



Repeat for as many rows as you want. The result is a dense "cloth" that feels thick and spongy -- perfect for potholders and cosy afghans.

From: <http://patternsbydot.blogspot.com/2005/11/dots-doohickey.html>

3 August 2011

## **DOT'S DOOHICKEY**

Copyright © 08/05/05 Dot Matthews

(This is for a spiral that's wrapped around a container - pencil cup, water bottle, etc.)

### **Materials:**

- 2 oz, 113 yards, Worsted Weight Yarn (**scraps are good**)
- K hook, or any size you like
- Empty Pill Bottle, or Paper Clip dispenser, or any small bottle

**Gauge:** not important for this project

### **STITCHES and ABBREVIATIONS USED:**

**sc** - single crochet

**ch** - chain,

**sl** - slip stitch

**ea** - each

**Skill - intermediate** - just because it might be a bit awkward doing the potholder stitch.

This pattern is done using **Helena's Potholder Stitch**, which is simply a single crochet worked in different loops than normal. Instead of inserting your hook thru the top 2 loops of the single crochet, you insert your hook *thru the back loop* of stitch, **and** the unworked loop of the stitch in the row below. Then yarn over and pull yarn thru and complete the single crochet as usual. This will create a very thick, spongy fabric.

### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

Make a chain as long as your bottle is tall. In this pattern here's how I did mine.

**ROW 1:** ch 9, sc in 2<sup>nd</sup> ch from hook, sc in ea st to end. ch 1, turn (**8** sc)

**ROW 2:** working in back loops only, and bottom loops of chain on previous row, sc in ea st

Repeat row 3 until strip measures 26"

Fasten off, leaving a very long tail for sewing.

### **ASSEMBLY:**

Fold one end up so the bottle will fit snugly inside, whip stitch across end to secure.

Roll strip up, like a jelly roll, and whip stitch other end to secure.

Following the spiral of the rolled up strip, whip stitch around the bottom.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

*Other* directions for the stitch (and an oven mitt!):

<http://craftsblog.wordpress.com/2009/01/02/potholder/>