

ADVANCED CROCHET STITCHES:
A FREE *Guide*
to Crocheting
Stitches

Including Crocodile Stitch,
Hairpin Lace and More



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YOU'VE MASTERED SINGLE CROCHET, double crochet, and basic increases and decreases. There is so much more to explore. In this free eBook you will learn how to use post stitches to create crocheted cables, how to quickly create a solid fabric with linked crochet stitches, how to embellish your crochet project with slip-stitch embroidery, and so much more.

Learn how to create the deceptively easy front and back **Post Stitches**. Once you have mastered these three-dimensional stitches take the next step and use them to build innovative crochet cables. **Learn How to Crochet Cables with Four Tips** will teach you all of the tips and tricks for creating the perfect crochet cables, including how to minimize gaps and working behind stitches.

We have all been faced with the same dilemma. Single crochet creates a solid fabric, perfect for warm garments and accessories, but it can take longer to finish the project. Double and triple crochet quickly work up into lengths of crochet fabric, but the tall stitches create a fabric with possible spaces. **Linked Crochet** allows you to use double crochet, triple crochet, or taller stitches while maintaining a solid fabric.

Created by utilizing multiple yarn overs, the **Bullion Stitch** will add texture and visual interest to any crochet pattern. In this short article, you will learn not only how to work crocheted bullion stitches but tricks for easily pulling your hook through all of the loops.

The **Solomon's Knot**, also called the Lover's Knot, is a beautiful crochet lace stitch that is perfect for summer garments and accessories. Step-by-step illustrations will walk you through creating this delicate crochet lace knot.

Even a simple single crochet piece can become extraordinary with the addition of **Slip-Stitch Embroidery**

embellishment. Surface crochet can be used to add a touch of color or dimension.

Learn **5 Tips for Working Wire Crochet**. Crocheting with wire creates an ethereal piece from the simplest crochet stitches. While you can work any crochet stitch with wire, there are a few tricks of the trade for making crocheting with wire easier.

Learn to **Create Crocodile Stitches** with this article. This version of the crocodile stitch creates rows of "scales." Use this technique to form a textured project or a funky accessory.

Created with a crochet hook and special loom, hairpin lace can be used to create amazing garments and accessories. **Learn the Basics of Hairpin Lace** and **Learn to Join Hairpin Lace** with two how-to articles. Each article includes step-by-step photographs as well as written instructions.

The historical tradition of using slip stitches to create a dense elastic fabric. Sometimes called Bosnian Crochet, this crochet technique is frequently used for mittens, hats, and other accessories. Bosnian crochet is currently experiencing a renewed popularity, but there is still plenty of possibilities to explore. Experiment with Bosnian crochet with the **Gobelinstitch Cuffs**.

Download **Advanced Crochet Stitches: A Free Guide to Crocheting Stitches Including Crocodile Stitch, Hairpin Lace and More** and start expanding your advanced crochet stitches repertoire. We would love to see your work; share your pictures in the Crochet Me Member Gallery.

Best wishes,

Editor, CrochetMe.com

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ADVANCED CROCHET STITCHES: A FREE GUIDE TO CROCHETING STITCHES INCLUDING CROCODILE STITCH, HAIRPIN LACE AND MORE

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Post Stitches

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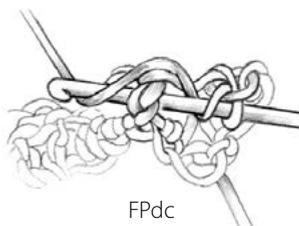
Post Stitches

Post stitches are made exactly like basic stitches, with one exception. Instead of inserting your hook into one or both loops of a stitch in the previous row, insert your hook around the front or back of the stitch's post. Doing so pushes the post forward or backward, allowing you to make patterns out of the stitches in relief. Post stitches are used to create the effect of cables, ribs, piping, and any number of variations.

Double crochet is commonly used for post stitches, but any basic stitch can be substituted. You must complete at least one row or round of stitches before working post stitches.

Front Post Double Crochet (FPdc)

1. Yo, insert hook from front to back to front around the post of the next st in the previous row or rnd.
 2. Yo and pull up lp.
You can see that the post of the stitch has already been pushed toward you.
 3. [Yo, draw through 2 lps on hook] 2 times to complete the dc.
- Rep Steps 1–3.



FPdc

Back Post Double Crochet (BPdc)

1. Yo, insert hook from back to front to back around the post of the next st in the previous row or rnd.
 2. Yo and pull up lp.
You can see that the post of the stitch has already been pushed away from you.
 3. [Yo, draw through 2 lps on hook] 2 times to complete the dc.
- Rep Steps 1–3.



BPdc

Learn How to Crochet Cables with Four Tips

by *Toni Rexroat*

Originally published online for CrochetMe.com



PHOTO BY JOE HANCOCK

Strands of crocheted post stitches step around and behind each other in an elegant dance. The steps create the swirls of a crocheted cable.

But like the steps of a dance, learning just where to place your hook when working cables can take a bit of practice-and an instructor is always welcome. Here are a few tips to guide you through some of the trickier parts of crocheted cable construction.

1. Keep your pattern close at hand. Even advanced crocheters refer to the pattern when working the cable-cross rows of a cable. Sometimes it's hard to remember if you work the second set of stitches over or under the previously worked strand of the cable. With the digital magazines, I keep the pattern on my laptop, which travels with me wherever you go. Digital magazines make great travel companions. Plus the pages never wear out!

2. Work behind the stitches just worked. With cables, the "strands" weave over and under each other. To create this woven construction, you skip stitches, and then work over the top of or behind the stitches just worked. When working behind the stitches just created, work into the skipped stitches from front to back as normal.

Some patterns instruct you to work a front post double crochet behind the stitches just worked. To do this, insert your hook behind the previously worked stitches on the working row and make a front post double crochet around the skipped stitch inserting your hook from front to back to front around the stitch in the normal manner. This ensures that the first set of stitches lies on top of the second set of stitches worked.



PHOTOS BY TONI REXROAT



If you have trouble inserting your hook in the skipped stitches, pull the skipped stitches to the left of the cable strand already worked. Once you have worked into the skipped stitches, allow those stitches to fall back behind the top strand of the cable.



3. Minimize gaps. Long stitches, such as treble crochets, worked over skipped stitches can become loose. Pull the loop on your hook tight before yarning over. When working the stitch, hold the yarn overs and original loop close together when yarning over and drawing through the loops.



4. And finally, don't let the intricate look of crochet cables intimidate you. Use these tips and jump in.

Try a simple crochet cable with the Cables and Lace Broomstick hat in *Eight Free Crochet Hat Patterns Crochet Hats with Crochet Me*.

Linked Crochet

Originally published in *Interweave Crochet*, Spring 2009

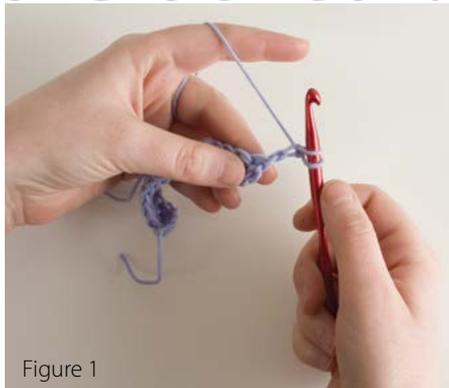


Figure 1

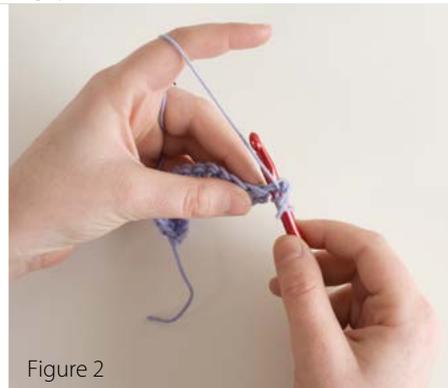


Figure 2



Figure 3

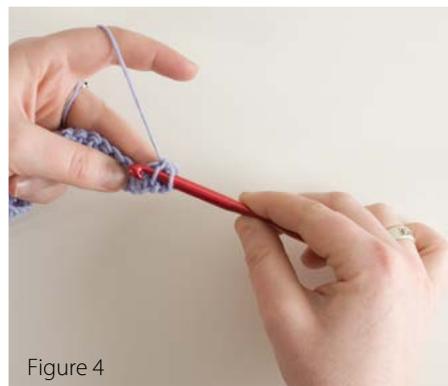


Figure 4

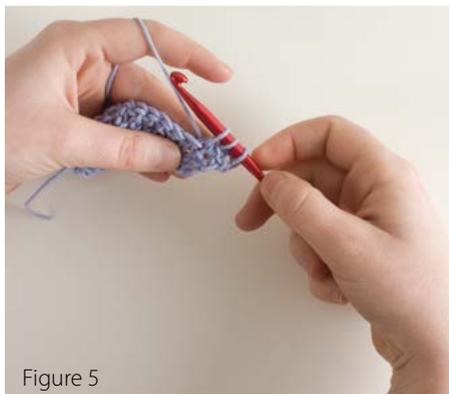


Figure 5



Figure 6

JOE HANCOCK

Working linked crochet will make you feel like a crochet wizard. You work a new stitch in the horizontal bars of the previous stitch, in a sort of mini Tunisian method. When you get to the end of the row of linked double crochet (shown here)—presto! You've made, in effect, two rows of single crochet. Linked crochet is a lot drapier than single crochet, without the bulk. So you can make light spring garments. Because the stitches

are linked, there's full coverage, without little peek-a-boo holes. And—no disrespect to our favorite basic stitch—it's a lot more engaging than single crochet.

To make linked double crochet: Working on a base row of stitches:

Step 1: Chain two, insert hook in second chain and draw up a loop (Figure 1), insert the hook in the stitch below as

normal (Figure 2), [yarn over and draw through two loops] two times. First stitch completed (Figure 3).

Step 2: Insert hook in top horizontal bar of stitch just made (Figure 4) and draw up loop; insert hook in next stitch as usual and draw up loop (three loops on hook; Figure 5), [yarn over and pull through two loops] two times. Repeat Step 2 across (Figure 6).

The Bullion Stitch

Sharon Zientara

Originally published in *Interweave Crochet*,
Summer 2012

The bullion stitch, can be a tricky stitch to master. But with the right tools and a few little tips, this stitch, also called the roll stitch, can let you add texture and visual interest to crochet projects.

1. MULTIPLE YARN OVERS

The bullion is a series of yarn overs that are drawn together in the final stitch. The best hook to complete the bullion stitch effectively is a long, slender, in-line hook. The best yarn to use is a tightly plied one.

To begin the stitch, loosely yarn over the number of times called for in the pattern. Working the yarn overs loosely is key to easily drawing the hook through all the loops. If you can't get your loops loose enough, hold the handle of another smaller crochet hook alongside your hook and wrap the yarn over both. Slide the second crochet hook out after wrapping before completing the stitch.

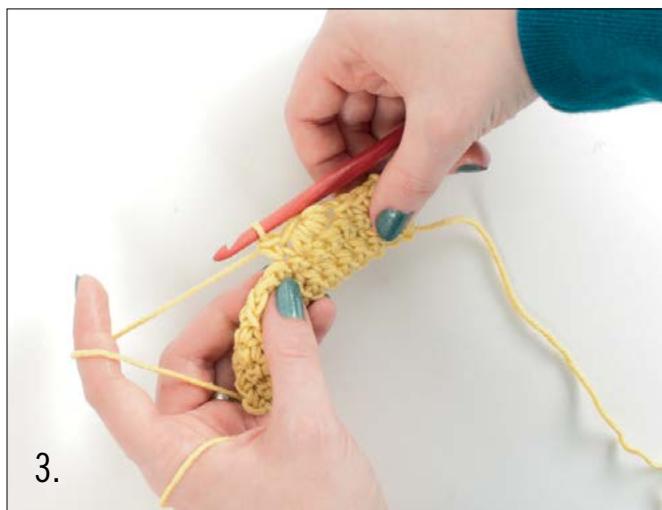
2. YARN OVER AND PULL UP A LOOP

Yarn over and draw through all the loops on the hook. As you draw the hook through, firmly hold the loops in place with the hand that is not holding the hook. If the loops do not slide easily, pick up each loop and pull it off the hook as you draw through.

3. FINISHED BULLION

To close the bullion, yarn over and draw through the last loop on the hook before working the next stitch.

If you get this right away, that's terrific! Most people new to the stitch have to do a bit of ripping out before getting it right. The key to the bullion stitch is to practice it until your hands become familiar with the tension required when making the yarn overs and drawing the hook through.



SOLOMON'S KNOT (SK)

Figure 1

Draw up a long loop on hook to the length specified in pattern; yo, draw yarn through loop.

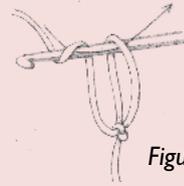


Figure 1

Figure 2

Long chain stitch completed as first part of Solomon's Knot.

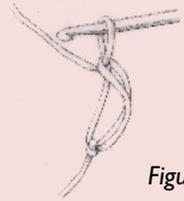


Figure 2

Figure 3

Insert hook from front to back between back loop of chain and 2 front loops. Yo, draw yarn through back loop (2 loops on hook).

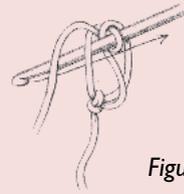


Figure 3

Figure 4

Yo once more, draw yarn through both loops on hook ("single crochet" made).

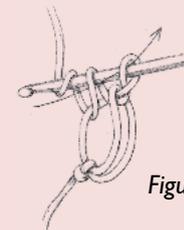


Figure 4

Figure 5

A completed Solomon's Knot stitch, showing how the "single crochet" at the top secures the long "ch st" initially made.

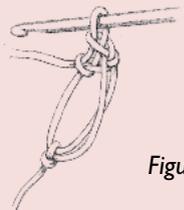


Figure 5

Originally published in *Interweave Crochet*, Spring 2006

Slip-Stitch Embroidery

Originally published in *Interweave Crochet*, Fall 2012

Sharon Zientara

Surface crochet uses a range of techniques to add color and dimension to a crochet project. The most basic technique is slip-stitch embroidery. In this issue, we offer three different applications of slip-stitch embroidery, ranging from simple to more complex. When working these stitches, use a hook a size or two up from the one used in the main pattern. For a neat look, maintain a loose, even tension that does not pucker the fabric or distort the stitches.



SINGLE-LINE DECORATIVE EDGE

With the right side of the fabric facing you and the yarn held on the wrong side, insert the hook from front to back in the desired stitch or space and pull up a loop. Insert the hook in the next space, and—taking care to maintain a loose, even tension—yarn over and pull up a loop. Pull through the stitch, but not tightly. Tip: When you insert the hook, take care not to split a stitch or strand of yarn.



PARALLEL LINES

Work your first line as for the single-line decorative edge. For subsequent lines, crochet an even distance from the previous line. You can do this by eyeing the fabric and checking frequently. Or place a piece of tape along the edge of the first line and then work along the opposite side of the tape (sewing stores have precut seam masking tape that works well for this task). Tip: To avoid puckering the fabric when working around a curve, work into every other stitch.



FREEFORM SHAPES

Freeform shapes add a delicious designer touch. First, practice drawing the pattern with a pencil and paper. When you're happy with the design, lightly sketch the design on the crocheted fabric with a washable fabric pen or pencil. Crochet along the line using the same method as the single-line decorative edge and working in every other stitch along curves. Tip: If you don't like the way the line is developing, simply pull out the stitches and rework, inserting the hook into a different place.

5 Tips for Working Wire Crochet

by Toni Rexroat

Originally published online for CrochetMe.com



JOE COCA

Yes, it's true! You can actually crochet with wire. Although you can work any traditional crochet stitch with wire, the resulting piece has an organic appearance with not entirely uniform stitches that remind me of the unique nature of crochet.

Wire is easier to crochet with than you might imagine, and I love the precision of making each stitch the same size. Wire holds each turn and bend of the crochet stitch, highlighting its unique construction.

If you are planning on trying wire crochet for the first time here are a few tips found helpful.

- Exaggerate each stitch as if you were trying to see exactly how each stitch is worked. These larger movements make working with the stiff wire easier.
- Hold the wire loosely. Tight tension will crimp the wire and makes it difficult to pull the hook through or insert the hook in a stitch.

- Remember that wire has no elasticity, but the stiffness of the medium also highlights the beauty of the crochet stitch.
- Slide each chain or stitch to the same point on the shaft of your crochet hook. Wire is stiffer than thread or yarn, and by always sliding each stitch to the same point on your hook, you can ensure that the chains or stitches are uniform in size.
- Metal crochet hooks can scrape off the coating on wires that have a colored coating. Plastic hooks have the strength needed and won't rub off this coating.

For a free wire crochet pattern, download the Gold Lace Necklace and Bracelet from *Wire & Bead Crochet Jewelry Patterns: 4 Free Crochet Necklace, Bracelet, and Earrings Designs*.

Create Crocodile Stitches

by Toni Rexroat

Originally published online for CrochetMe.com



The crocodile stitch, while quite simple, is a beautiful 3D technique that can be incorporated into complicated crochet patterns. You can work the crocodile scales offset from each other or directly in a column. So let's look at how the stitch is created.



PHOTOS BY TONI REXROAT

The crocodile stitch is worked into a base of V-stitches. I worked several V-stitches on a base of double crochet and separated by single crochet stitches.



On the next row, work a multiple of double crochet stitches down the first post of the V-stitch. For my "scales," I worked five double crochet.



After you have worked down the first post of the V-stitch, chain one. Now work the same number of double crochets, in our case five, up the second post of the V-stitch. Single crochet in the next single crochet and repeat the crocodile stitch in the next V-stitch.



On the next row, work a V-stitch in each V-stitch and a single crochet in each single crochet across. Then repeat the crocodile stitch in each new V-stitch. Voila! The crocodile stitch is demystified.

Learn the Basics of Hairpin Lace

by Toni Rexroat

Originally published online for CrochetMe.com

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Hairpin lace or hairpin crochet was traditionally used for trims, insertions, edgings, collars, or to form rosettes that were used for tablecloths or along the edge of shawls. These days this stitch is used to create entire skirts, sweaters, and scarves. Hairpin differs from most crochet methods in its use of a frame or loom (available in craft stores), as demonstrated below.



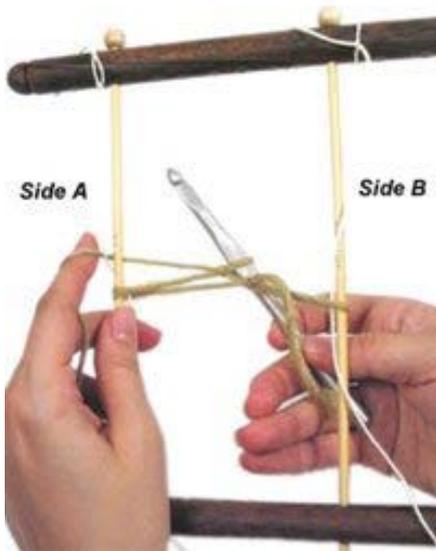
Step 1. Getting started and making first stitch

Hold the frame with spacer at bottom and rods 3" (7.5 cm) apart. With yarn, make loop with slipknot and place loop on left rod (counts as first loop), with knot in center between rods. Yarn end wraps from front to back around right rod, and yarn from ball is in front of right rod. Insert hook through loop from bottom to top. Hook yarn and draw through loop.



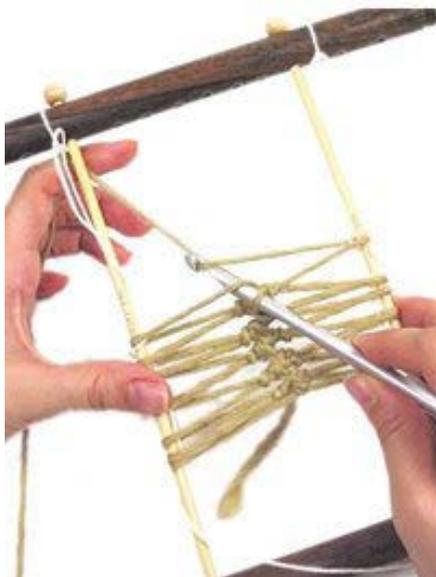
Step 2. Moving hook to back, making room for wrapping yarn around loom

**Drop loop from hook, with hook behind frame. Insert hook from back to front through same loop (just dropped), turn frame clockwise from right to left keeping yarn to back of frame. This allows the yarn to wrap around the frame without the hook getting tangled in the wrap, while retaining the position to continue stitching up the center.



Step 3. Finish 2nd stitch

Insert hook under front strand of left loop, yarn over hook, pull loop through. Yarn over hook, pull through 2 loops on hook (single crochet made).**



Step 4. Continue

Repeat from ** to ** for desired length of strip. This photo shows what the strip looks like with about 10 stitches complete. Remember: You are crocheting in rows of 1 stitch-per-row vertical crochet.

Discover for yourself the fun of hairpin lace!

Learn to Join Hairpin Lace

by *Toni Rexroat*

Originally published online for CrochetMe.com

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Hairpin lace is a technique that uses a simple loom and a crochet hook to make a series of loops into a long lace strip. During the Victorian era, this lacemaking technique was very popular with women who couldn't afford the more expensive bobbin lace.

Do you find your interest piqued by this beautiful, intricate technique? With just a few basic skills, you will be ready to tackle hairpin garments and, perhaps, create some designs of your own. Once you have mastered the strip-making technique, here are a couple of simple methods to add a decorative edge your strips.

Single Crochet Edge

This simple, easy to master technique leaves a clean edge on a hairpin strip. You can use the same yarn in a different color to add some pizzazz to an accessory or garment.

PHOTOS BY SHARON ZIENTARA



Attach yarn by inserting hook from front to back through the first loop in the hairpin strip. Make a slip stitch.



Insert the hook through the same loop as the join, yarn over and pull a loop, yarn over and draw through two loops. This makes your first single crochet. Repeat this step through each hairpin loop to the end of the strip. Voila! A simple and beautiful decorative edge.

Cable Edge

The cable edge is a little trickier, but requires no extra yarn. If your joins aren't quite even, a little blocking with steam or water will even them right out.



Insert your hook from front to back through the first two loops of the strip.



Draw the second loop up through the first loop on the strip.



Repeat the second step to the end of the strip. Fasten off using the loose yarn end at the edge of the strip and weave in the ends.

Enjoy experimenting with all the hairpin lace methods!

Bosnian Lace

by Toni Rexroat

Originally published online for CrochetMe.com

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You have probably heard of Bosnian crochet, though perhaps you know of it by one of its many other names, including Dutch knitting, shepherd's knitting, pjonning (Norwegian), smygmaskvirkning or pätning (Swedish), gobelinstitch (Danish), or schaapherderssteek (Dutch). This traditional slip stitch technique is not well known in the United States, but has long been a traditional crochet technique in many countries throughout the world.

Bosnian crochet is a slip stitch crochet method in which slip stitches are worked into either the front loop only or back loop only to create a thick, warm fabric. Worked primarily in the round in wool yarn, this stitch was traditionally used to make mittens and hats in climates with cold winters. The traditional Bosnian crochet hook has flat hook at one end, a wide handle, and was generally handcrafted from fishbone, wood, or even old spoons.

More than just a warm fabric, Bosnian crochet's beauty is evident in the creative use of this one stitch. Working slip stitch alternately in a pattern of front loop only and back loop only stitches creates beautifully subtle texture and patterning.

Colorwork was also very popular. Unlike tapestry crochet, which is worked in single crochet over the unused yarn, the examples of Bosnian crochet I have seen stranded the unused color on the wrong side of the piece. Many of the simple colorwork patterns seen in knitted garments were also used with Bosnian crochet.

This traditional slip stitch technique is enjoying renewed interest, but there is still plenty of stitch exploration to be done with this simple technique of working slip stitches in either the front loop only or back loop only to create a colorwork or textured fabric.

Bosnian crochet was usually worked in the round with the colors stranded on the wrong side. After working a few rows of colorwork, I can see how working over the

top of the unused yarn might make the stitches too tall, disrupting the colorwork pattern.

For the center section of these cuff, I decided to play with single color texture by alternating working four stitches in the front loop only and then four stitches in the back loop only. For the last set of four stitches in the back loop only, I worked an additional fifth stitch to create slanted columns of texture. I love the subtle pattern this technique created.

While experimenting with Bosnian crochet, I learned a few important characteristics of this technique.

1. Because it is worked entirely in slip stitch, the fabric tends to be thicker and stiffer than what we think of as traditional crochet. This makes it incredibly warm, perfect for the cold winters where this crochet style originated, but means that it does not have much drape. Play with your hook size and gauge. You can create warm accessories with a smaller gauge or add some drape with a larger gauge.
2. The resulting slip stitch fabric does have significantly less horizontal give than a comparative fabric in single crochet. Keep this in mind if you are crocheting a hat that needs to stretch over your head or a sweater hem or neckline.
3. Because the slip stitches are so short, it can be hard to identify which loop you need to work into next. Try using a light colored yarn when you are first learning this technique. I found that identifying the loops even on the dark burgundy was easier with the majority of the cuff worked in white.

This simple cuff was a fun and easy way to experiment with Bosnian crochet. Find a hook and a couple skeins of yarn and give it a try; I would love to see what you come up with.

Gobelinstitch Cuffs

by Toni Rexroat

Originally published online for CrochetMe.com

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Getting Started

Finished Size About 7" in circumference and 3" tall. *Note:* These fit my child-sized hands and wrists. To make a larger cuff, try going up in hook size or adding additional stitches in a multiple of 8.

Yarn DK weight wool, 1 ball each in white and burgundy.

Hook Size G/6 (4.0 mm).

Gauge 26 sts and 14 rows = 2".

Cuff

Ch 41

Row 1: With MC, sl st in the 2nd ch from the hook and in each ch around.

Note: Cont working in a spiral.

Row 2: Sl st in the back loop only (blo) in each st around.

Rows 3–4: *With MC sl st blo in next 2 sts, with CC sl st blo in next 2 sts; rep from * around.

Rows 5–6: *With CC sl st blo in next 2 sts, with MC sl st blo in next 2 sts; rep from * around.

Rows 7–14: Rep Rows 3–6.

Rows 15–16: With MC sl st blo in each st around.

Row 17: *Sl st flo in next 4 sts, sl st blo in next 4 sts; rep from * around.

Rows 18–24: Sl st blo in first st, *sl st front loop only (flo) in next 4 sts, sl st blo in next 4 sts; rep from * around. *Note:* The beg of the row will move 1 st to the left each row for Rows 18–24.

Rows 25: Sl st blo in each st around, ending last row at beg of original row.

Rows 26–27: Rep Rows 5–6.

Rows 28–29: Rep Rows 3–4.

Rows 30–37: Rep Rows 26–29. Fasten off.

Glossary

Abbreviations

beg	begin(s); beginning	p	purl
bet	between	rem	remain(s); remaining
blo	back loop only	rep	repeat; repeating
CC	contrasting color	rev sc	reverse single crochet
ch(s)	chain	rnd(s)	round(s)
cm	centimeter(s)	RS	right side
cont	continue(s); continuing	sc	single crochet
dc	double crochet	sk	skip
dtr	double treble crochet	sl	slip
dec(s)('d)	decrease(s); decreasing; decreased	sl st	slip(ped) stitch
est	established	ss	slip stitch
fdc	foundation double crochet	sp(s)	space(es)
flo	front loop only	st(s)	stitch(es)
foll	follows; following	tch	turning chain
fsc	foundation single crochet	tog	together
g	gram(s)	tr	treble crochet
hdc	half double crochet	WS	wrong side
inc(s)('d)	increase(s); increasing; increased	yd	yard
k	knit	yo	yarn over hook
lp(s)	loop(s)	*	repeat starting point
MC	main color	**	repeat all instructions between asterisks
m	marker	()	alternate measurements and/or instructions
mm	millimeter(s)	[]	work bracketed instructions a specified number of times
patt(s)	pattern(s)		
pm	place marker		