

Check your tension

Making crochet a certain size depends on the size of the hook, the yarn, the stitch pattern and you!

Crochet patterns tell you the required stitch, number of stitches and rows at the start. No two people have the same tension, so make a practice swatch at least 6x6in (15x15cm) before starting a project to ensure your tension matches the one given on the pattern. If your swatch is has fewer stitches and rows, your tension is too loose and you'll need to change to a

smaller hook. If there are too many, your tension is too loose and you'll need to change to a bigger hook.

Try another sample before you start, and bear in mind that it's usually more important to match the number of stitches than the rows, as you can compensate for rows by working more or fewer to the measurements the pattern states.



1

To measure your stitches, place a ruler or rigid tape across the sample at the bottom of a row of stitches. Insert two pins 4in (10cm) apart and count the number of stitches between the pins.



2

To measure your row tension, place the ruler or tape along a column of stitches. Avoiding the edges, insert two pins 4in (10cm) apart and count the rows between the pins.

Turn chains for the next row

The reason for adding turning chains to the beginning of rows is to bring the hook up to the height of the stitches you're crocheting. Each basic stitch has its own number of chains. This table tells you how many ch sts form the first stitch. Some patterns won't count it as a stitch, others will say chX then turn.

Stitch	Add to foundation chain before starting row	Skip at start of foundation row (counts as first st)	For turning chain counts as first st
Double	1 ch	2 ch	1 ch
Half treble	1 ch	2 ch	2 ch
Treble	2 ch	3 ch	3 ch
Double treble	3 ch	4 ch	4 ch
Triple treble	4 ch	5 ch	5 ch