

Introduction to Crochet hooks



A Hook is just a Hook, right?

The key to crochet is the crochet hook. This deceptively simple tool will enable you to create amazing things for your friends, family and home. Unlike Knitting, crochet only requires one hook and is easy to store and transport on the move – don't be surprised if you suddenly start to find work in progress (WIP) projects inside your handbag! So, let's get to know your new friend and learn some interesting and helpful tips before diving into our foundation stitches.

Types of Hook (standard)

There are many different standard hook types out there all made of different materials and grip styles. The type of hook which is right for you is a case of trying them out. There is no hook better than the other as one person's 'BEST HOOK EVER' might be your worst nightmare. So, when you first start it is good to try a range of different ones to find the one which suits your personal style.



Specialist Hooks

There are also specialist crochet hooks which are for a certain type of crochet:

- **Steel** - usually 0.2-1.0 hook sizes mainly for doily or Irish motif work
- **Tunisian** - looks like a knitting needle (25-45cm long or cable) with a hook on the end
- **Tunisian Cable** - looks like a standard hook with a cable attached on the end
- **Double ended** - hooks at both ends and come in either standard (20cm) or Tunisian hook lengths (25-45cm)
- **Knook** - hook on one end with a hole in the other like a sewing needle

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Anatomy of a hook

Regardless of the hook type there are standard parts of a Crochet hook which make it a 'Crochet' hook.



The **SHANK** is the most important part of the hook as it is what sizes the stitch being produced. If you are finding your tension is too tight or you are having difficulty getting the hook through the chains or stitches then check that the loops are sitting on the **SHANK** after they are made and not the **THROAT** of the hook before making your next stitch as this will reduce the loop size.

Hook sizes UK / US / AUS

When you pick up a Crochet pattern it should tell you the recommended hook size and yarn weight to use to get the right result. In the UK in the last 30 years most patterns have moved to the 'metric' hook size system, but depending when the pattern was developed or where in the world the pattern has come from there may be a difference. The table below shows a quick conversion chart to help you if you come up against different hook sizes.

UK Metric (mm)	Pre-Metric UK/AUS	USA Sizes
Up to 2.25	Steel 0.2 - 1.4	6,7,8 B1
2.25 - 3.5	L3 - 9/10	B1-E4
4.5 - 5.5	9/10 - 7	7 - 19
5.5 - 6.5	7 - 5	L9 - k/10 ½
6.5 - 9	5 - 3	k/10 ½ -M
9 - 15	3 - 00	M / N 13 +
15+	00+	Q and above

NOTE: Although this is mostly the rule with hook and yarn, there is an exception. When using Tunisian crochet hooks **ALWAYS** go one size bigger than the recommended yarn hook size (i.e. if the recommended yarn hook size is 4mm then use 5mm Tunisian hooks).