# ABC of Crochet

## RIGHT-HAND VERSION
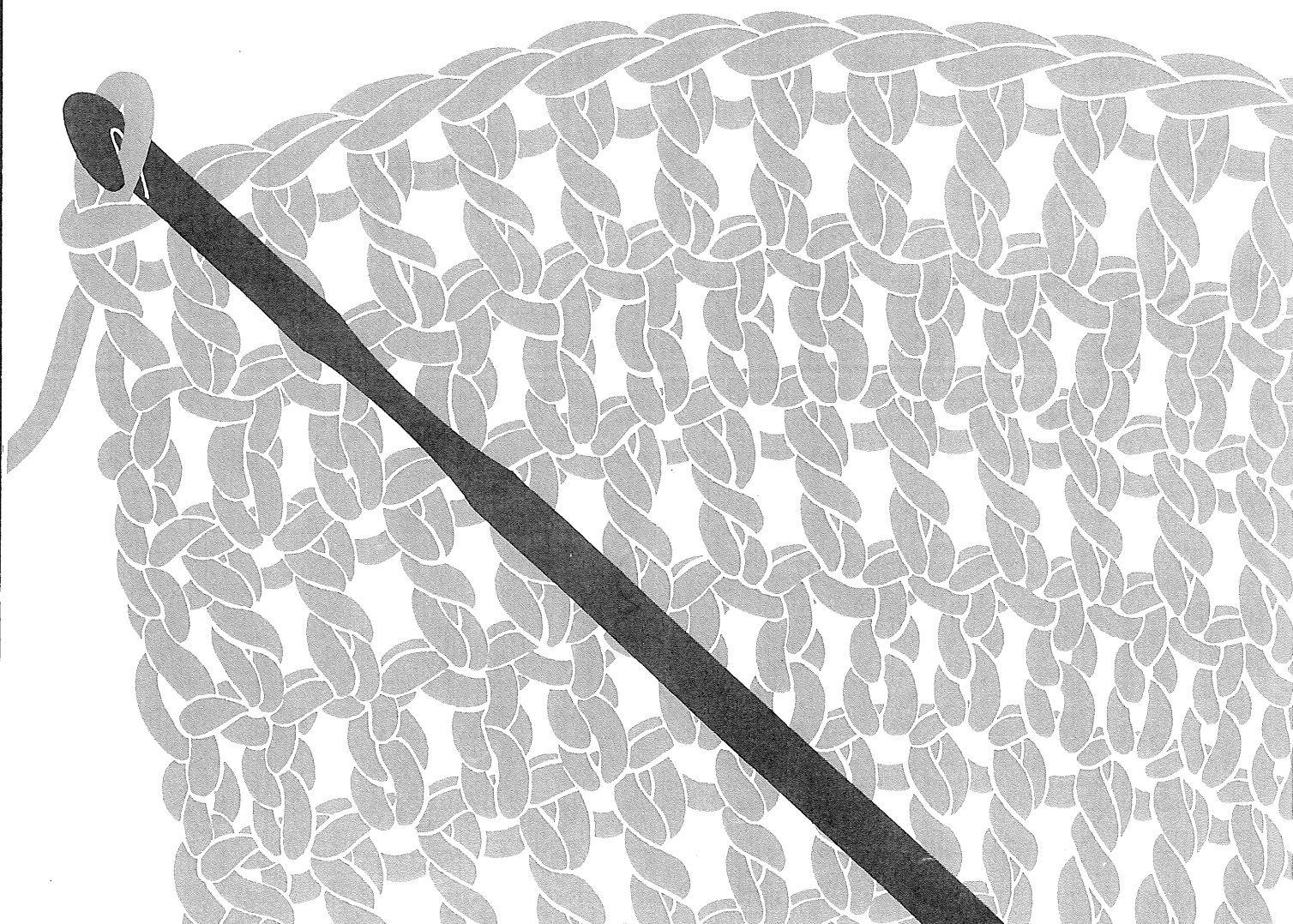
# CHAIN STITCH

The **chain stitch** creates the foundation chain of a project and forms the first stitch of each new row.
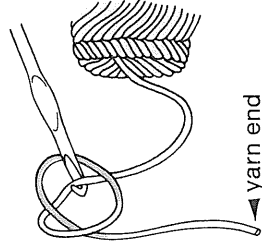
**1.** Make a slip knot, leaving a 15 cm (6″) yarn end.

◄ yarn end
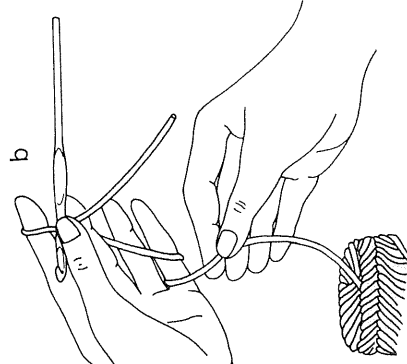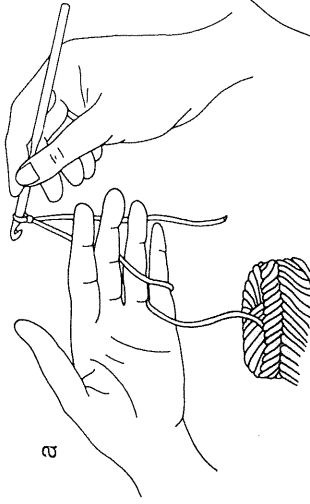
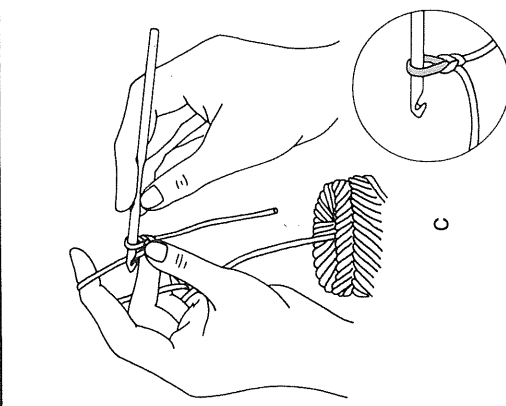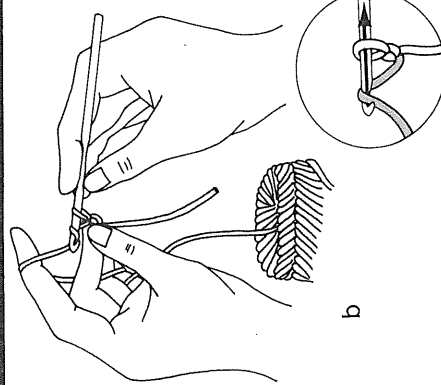**2.** Arrange yarn between fingers (a). Pull yarn gently to adjust working tension (b).

a

b

**3.** Hold work and hook as shown.
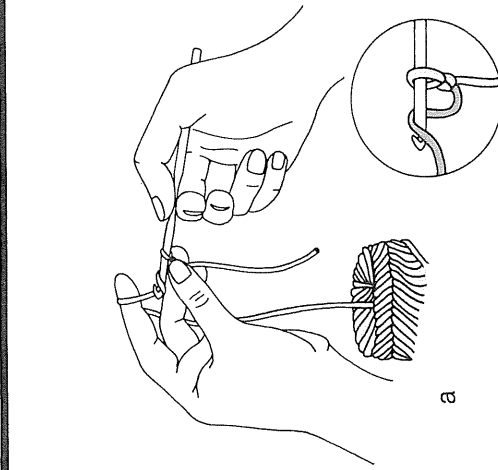
**4.** To make one chain stitch, catch yarn and draw it through loop (a, b, c). Be sure the loops are loose enough for the hook to pass through easily.

a

b

c
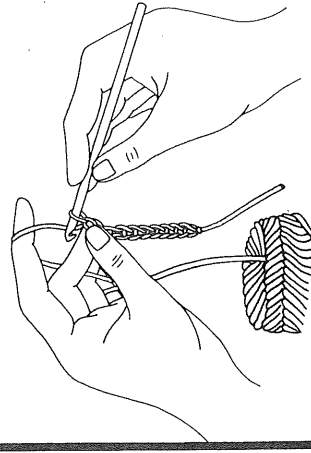
**5.** Repeat Step 4. When counting stitches, loop on hook is not counted as a stitch.

## SINGLE CROCHET

**Single crochet is the basic stitch of crochet.**
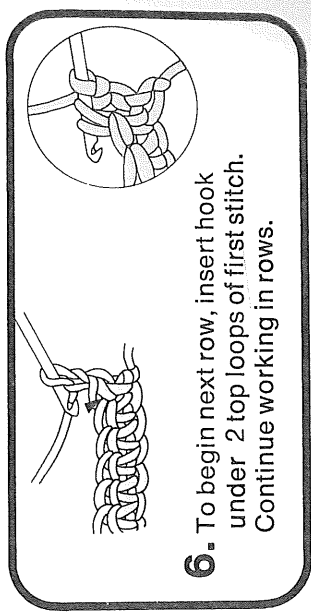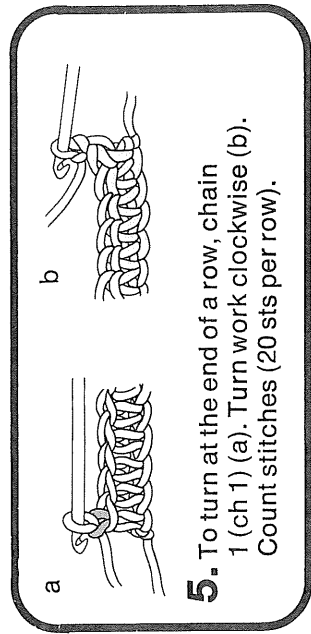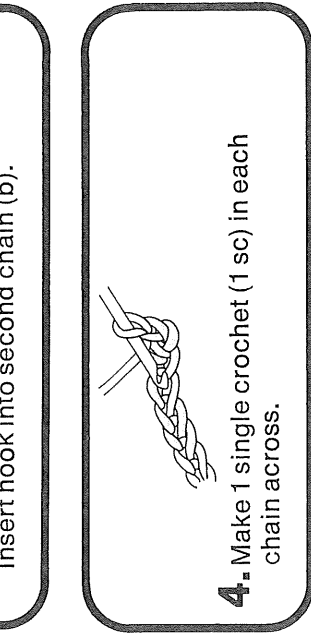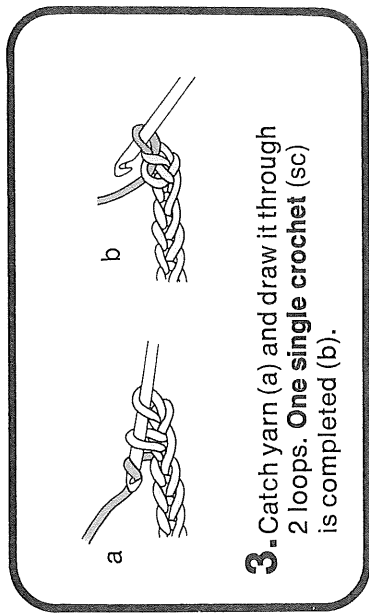
**1.** Chain 21 (ch 21) (a). Insert hook into second chain (b).

**2.** Catch yarn (a) and draw it through chain. Two loops are on hook (b).

**3.** Catch yarn (a) and draw it through 2 loops. **One single crochet (sc) is completed (b).**

**4.** Make 1 single crochet (1 sc) in each chain across.

**5.** To turn at the end of a row, chain 1 (ch 1) (a). Turn work clockwise (b). Count stitches (20 sts per row).

**6.** To begin next row, insert hook under 2 top loops of first stitch. Continue working in rows.

## DOUBLE CROCHET

**Double crochet is made by adding a loop to a single crochet. This makes the stitch longer and the work more open.**

**1.** Chain 22 (ch 22) (a). Yarn over and insert hook into fourth chain (b).

**2.** Catch yarn (a) and draw it through chain. Three loops are on hook (b).

**3.** Catch yarn (a) and draw it through 2 loops. Two loops are on hook (b).
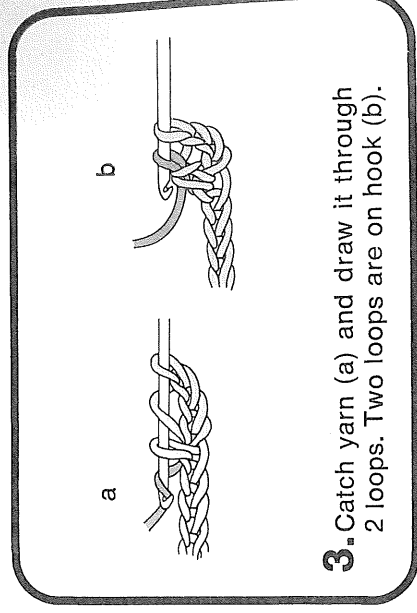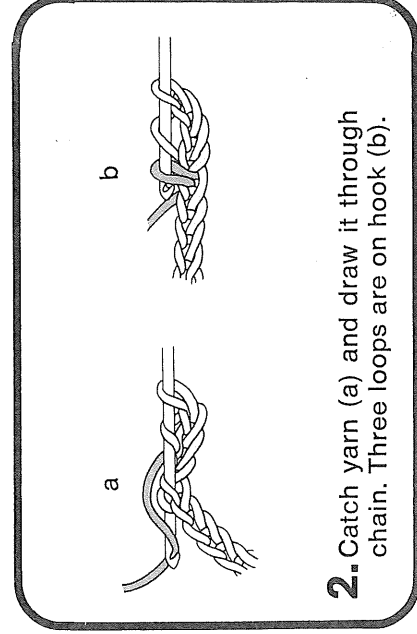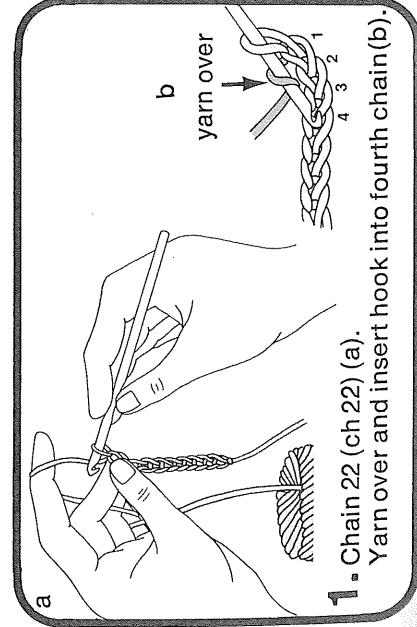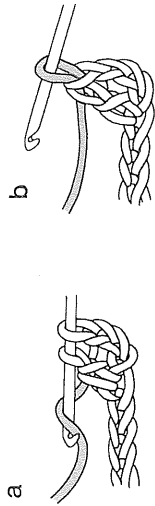
**4.** Catch yarn (a) and draw it through 2 loops. **One double crochet (dc) is** completed (b).

**5.** Make 1 double crochet (1 dc) in each chain across. Count stitches (20 sts per row). The chain 3 counts as a stitch.

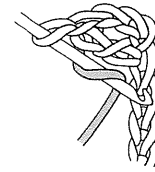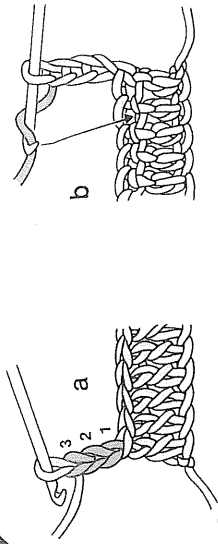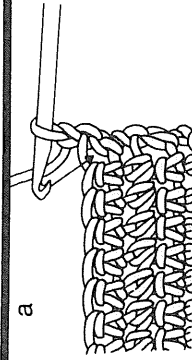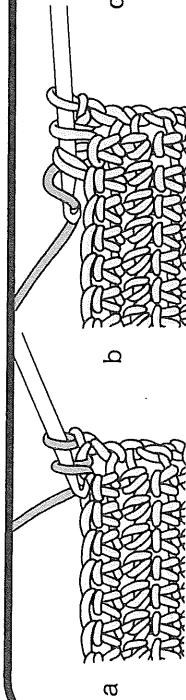**6.** To turn at the end of a row, chain 3 (ch 3) (a). Turn work clockwise (b). To begin next row, yarn over and insert hook under 2 top loops of second stitch. Continue working in rows.

## DECREASING IN SINGLE CROCHET
**Decreasing subtracts stitches, which makes the project narrower.**

**1.** Insert hook into stitch (a). Catch yarn and draw it through stitch (b). Two loops are now on hook (c).
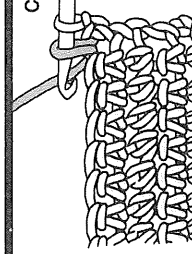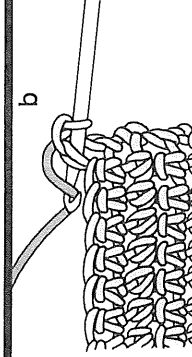
**2.** Insert hook into next stitch (a). Catch yarn (b) and draw it through stitch. Three loops are on hook (c).
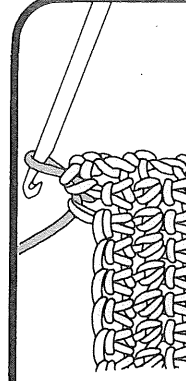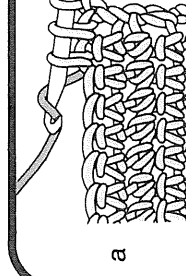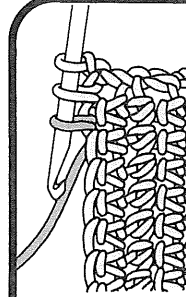
**3.** Catch yarn and draw it through three loops on hook (a). One loop remains on hook (b). This completes one **decrease (dec)**.

## INCREASING IN SINGLE CROCHET
**Increasing adds stitches, which makes the project wider.**
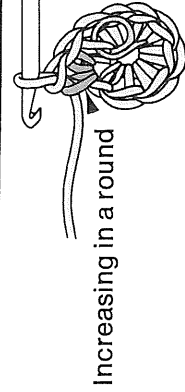
Increasing in a round
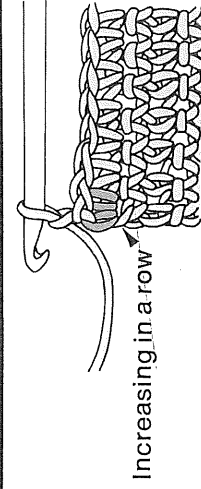
Increasing in a row

To increase, make 2 stitches in same stitch or space.

## BASIC STITCHES

Crochet is based on one stitch, the single crochet. All other stitches used in crochet are variations of this stitch. The basics of crochet are shown on the inside of this leaflet. To learn how to crochet, make samples using each stitch.

## YOU'LL NEED

- Coats & Clark Red Heart® Hand Knitting Yarn, 4-ply
- Red Heart® or Susan Bates® Crochet Hook, size I or 9
- Large, blunt-pointed needle
- Split stitch markers

## BEGINNING POINTERS

- Practice crochet stitches following the step-by-step instructions.
- While crocheting, hold completed work with your left hand just under the stitch being made.
- When making stitches, one loop always stays on the hook and is *not* counted as a stitch.
- Count stitches at the end of a row or round as well as the number of rows or rounds completed.
- When working in rows, always turn work *clockwise* at the end of a row.

## MEASURING CROCHET WORK

To measure crochet work, lay it on a flat surface. Do not stretch the work.

For *measuring rows,* place a tape measure or ruler in the center of the project, even with the end of the work (1). Measure as stated in the pattern instructions.



1          2
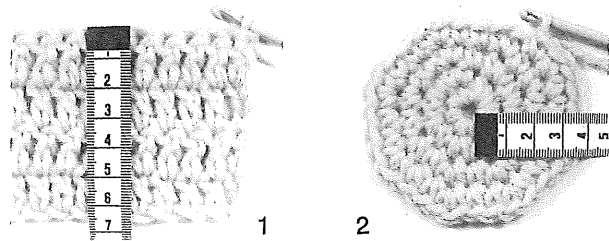
For *measuring rounds,* unless otherwise stated, place the edge of a tape measure or ruler at the center of the piece and measure out to the edge of the last round. Be sure to measure only the stitches. Do not include any open area in the center of the piece (2).

## GAUGE

Gauge is the number of stitches (and spaces) to the inch (2.5 cm) and the number of rows or rounds to the inch (2.5 cm).* In order for the finished project to be the correct size, your gauge and the gauge given at the beginning of the pattern instructions *must* be the same.

To check the gauge, make a sample using the same yarn and hook size that are given in the pattern instructions. Crochet the sample approximately 8 cm x 8 cm (3" x 3") in the same stitch used for the major portion of the project. Secure the yarn end.



3 stitches = 1" (2.5 cm)
4 rows = 1" (2.5 cm)
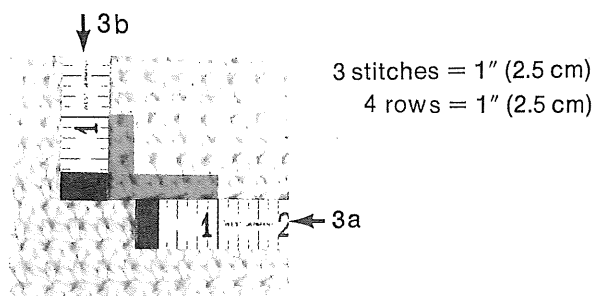
Place the sample on a flat surface. Measure across, counting the stitches to the inch (2.5 cm) (3a). Measure up and down, counting rows to the inch (2.5 cm) (3b).

Compare the gauge of the sample with the gauge in the instructions.

- If there are *fewer* stitches (and spaces) and rows or rounds than specified, the crochet work is too loose. Try a crochet hook that is one or two sizes *smaller.*
- If there are *more* stitches (and spaces) and rows or rounds than specified, the crochet work is too tight. Try a crochet hook that is one or two sizes *larger.*

Experiment with hook sizes until the gauge of the sample matches the gauge in the instructions. (Remember, the hook size given in the instructions is only a suggestion.)

*Crochet pattern instructions commonly available in the United States have gauge measured in inches. The U.S. standards for measuring gauge in metric have not yet been determined. Therefore, when referring to gauge in this leaflet, the inch measurement is first with the centimeter equivalent in parentheses.

## RIBBING

Ribbing is a very stretchy piece of crochet work usually made of single crochet. It is used where elasticity is needed such as a cuff. To make ribbing, insert the crochet hook into the *back* loop only of each single crochet of each row (4). Turn the completed ribbing so that the rows are vertical and continue crocheting following your project instructions (5).
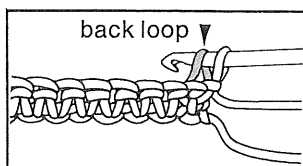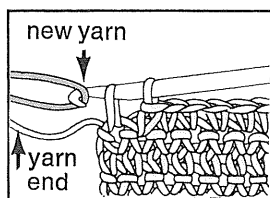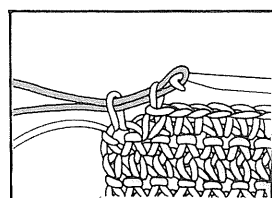


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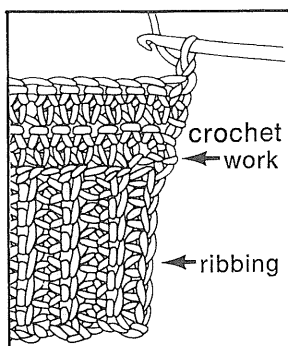


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## ATTACHING YARN

Always join yarn at the end of a row. Crochet up to, but not including, the last step of the stitch; two loops will remain on the hook (6). With new yarn, complete stitch by drawing a loop of new yarn through the two loops on the hook (7).
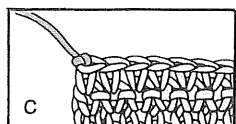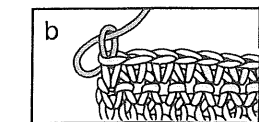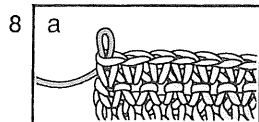


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## SECURING YARN END

To secure the yarn end, cut the yarn 15 cm (6″) beyond the last stitch. Draw yarn end through the loop and pull up tight (8). Finish yarn ends by weaving them into the stitches.



8 a
b
c

## WOVEN SEAM

To make a woven seam, place the two sections to be joined right sides up and side by side on a flat surface.
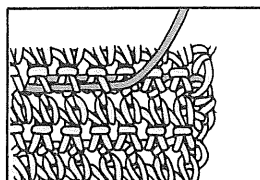
Cut a length of yarn about 60 cm (24″) long (use the same yarn as was used to crochet the project). Using a large needle, attach the yarn to the project with a few whipstitches (don't use knots). Weave the yarn back and forth between the edges, picking up corresponding yarns in each stitch (9). Before ending the seam, stretch it slightly. End with a few whipstitches.
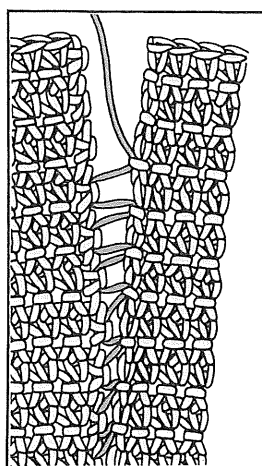


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## FINISHING YARN ENDS

After the project is completed, finish all yarn ends. Using a large needle, weave the yarn into the wrong side of the crochet work for about 4 cm (1½″), avoiding open, lacy areas (10). Slightly stretch the area where the weaving was done. Weave the yarn end 2 cm (¾″) back on itself. Trim yarn end.



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