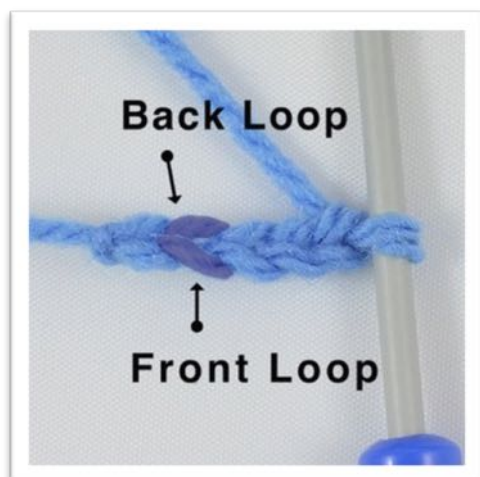


SYLKE X CRAFTS

CROCHETING AROUND A CHAIN

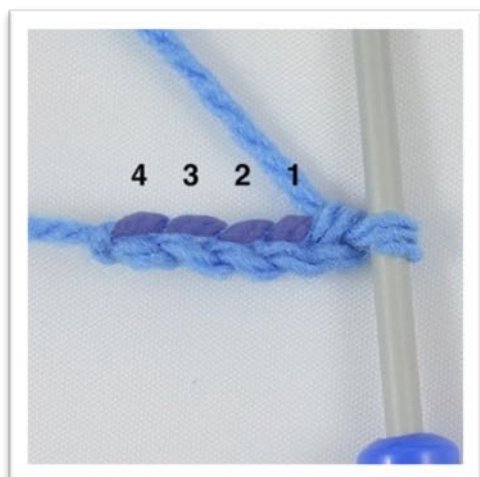
I use this method in my patterns to create oblong shapes and as an alternative to crocheting in a ring. Crocheting in a ring creates a distinct circle, a little like a tiny bellybutton, and I often prefer the softer look of crocheting around a chain when making toys.



To begin, crochet a foundation chain.

In this example, I start with 5 chains. Ten stitches will be made evenly around this chain.

Each chain has 2 loops: a back loop and front loop. We'll be crocheting in these loops.



The first 4 single crochets are made in the back loops of the foundation chain. They are shaded in purple and numbered 1 to 4.



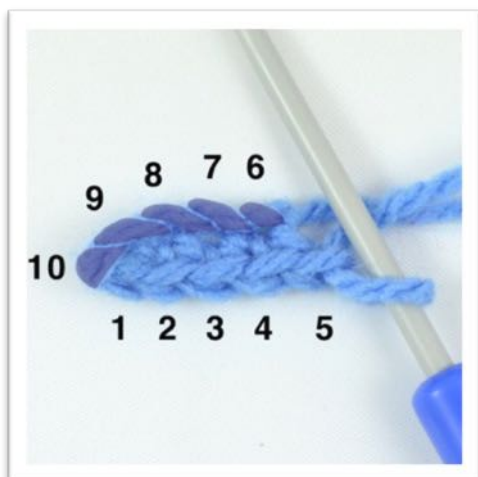
The first single crochet is made in the back loop of the second chain from the hook, marked 1 in the picture above. In the picture to the left, the hook has been inserted into this back loop, ready to make the first single crochet.



Here the first 4 single crochets have been completed.



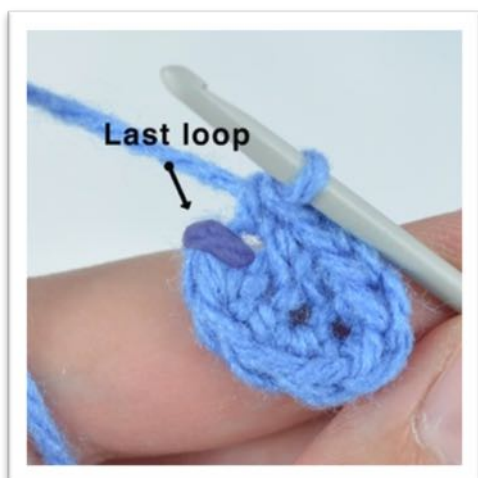
For the fifth stitch, chain 1. This chain, shaded in purple, allows you to rotate your work and crochet in the remaining 5 loops of the foundation chain.



Rotate your work so that the first 5 stitches, numbered 1 to 5 in the picture, now sit at the bottom of your work. Single crochet in the remaining 5 loops, shaded purple and numbered 6 to 10.



Here the hook has been inserted into the first of the remaining loops, ready to single crochet the sixth stitch.



When you're ready to make the last single crochet, it can be hard to find the final loop among all the completed stitches. You can see it in the picture, shaded in purple, sitting up close to the first single crochet made.

(If you can't find it, don't panic—you can chain 1 instead of making a single crochet.)



And here is the completed round. Using this method, the number of stitches in the first round will always be double the number of stitches in the foundation chain.

Email sylkecrafts@gmail.com if you have any questions.
