

Circular crochet

Crochet can be worked not only back and forth in rows, but round and round in circles to form tubes or flat shapes started from the centre (called motifs). The basic techniques for crocheting in the round are very easy to learn, even for a beginner, so it is not surprising that many popular crochet accessories are made with circular crochet, including flowers and afghan motifs, as well as seamless toys, hats, mittens, containers, and bags.

Crocheting tubes

Tubular crochet is started on a long chain of foundation stitches that are joined at the ends to form a ring. The subsequent rounds of stitches are then worked

around this foundation ring. The easiest of all crochet cylinders is a double crochet tube, shown below, which is worked in a spiral without turning chains.

Starting a tube



1 Start the crochet cylinder, or tube, with the length of chain specified in your crochet pattern. Then insert the hook through the first chain.

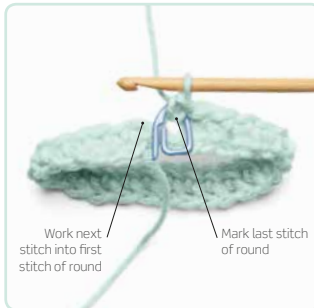


2 Draw a loop through the chain and at the same time through the loop on the hook to complete the slip stitch. This joins the chain into a ring. Work the first and following rounds as directed in your pattern.

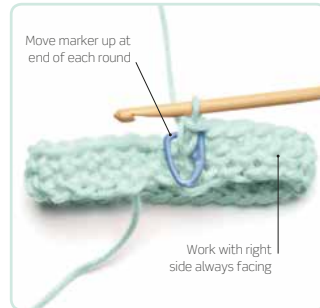
Double crochet spiral tube



1 Make the foundation ring and work one chain. Work the first double crochet into the same place as the slip stitch. Then work 1 dc into each of the remaining chains of the ring.



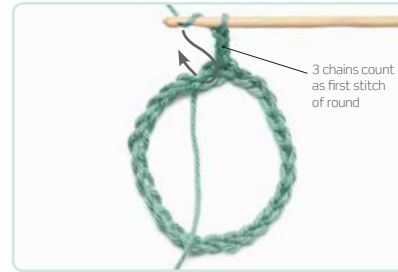
2 Place a stitch marker on the last stitch of the first round to keep track of where the rounds begin and end. To begin the second round, work the next stitch into the first stitch of the previous round.



3 On the second round, work 1 dc in each dc in the round below. At the end of the round, move the stitch marker up onto the last stitch of this round. (As the spiral grows, the beginning of the round moves gradually to the right.) Continue round and round in the same way until the crochet tube is the required length.

Treble crochet tube without turns

When basic stitches taller than double crochet are used to make crochet tubes, each round is started with a turning chain.



1 To work a treble crochet tube with the right side of the work always facing (without turns), begin with 3 chains. Then work 1 tr into the next chain and each of the remaining chains around the ring.



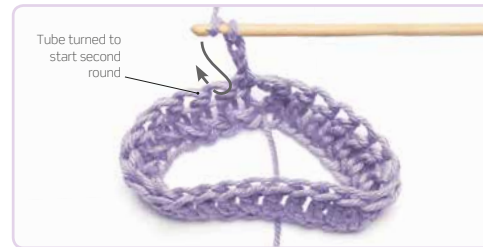
2 At the end of the round, join the last stitch to the top of the turning chain at the beginning of the round by working a slip stitch into the third of the 3 chains.



3 Start the second round with 3 chains. There is no need to mark the end of the round with a stitch marker as the turning chain shows where each round begins. Continue around the tube again, working 1 tr into each tr in the previous round. At the end of the second round, join the last stitch to the top of the turning chain with a slip stitch. Continue in the same way, beginning all following rounds with 3 chains.

Treble crochet tube with turns

If a treble crochet tube needs to match crochet worked in rows in other parts of an item, then the work can be turned at the end of each round.



1 Work the first round in treble crochet as for a tube without turns. Then turn the work, make 3 chains as shown, and complete the round.



2 To begin the third round, turn the work and start with 3 chains. Continue in this way, joining the last stitch with a slip stitch to the top of the turning chain at the end of each round, then turning the work to start the next round. The fabric looks just like treble crochet that has been worked in ordinary rows.

