

# 7 WAYS TO MAKE YOUR CROCHET SHINE

These seven simple tips will help you make your crochet projects look amazing, and turn out as beautiful and useful as can be.

## 1 CHOOSE A GREAT YARN

Synthetics (like acrylic and microfiber) are usually machine washable, as are yarns made from cotton, linen, superwash wool, or a blend of these kinds of fibres. Wool insulates well even when wet, and must be hand-washed. Cotton breathes well, but can be heavy.

## 2 USE THE RIGHT HOOK

Most yarn labels include a recommended knitting-needle size, but not a recommended hook size. A good rule of thumb is to use a hook at least a full size larger than the recommended knitting-needle size.

## 3 GO ONE STEP AT A TIME

Even the most complex and complicated patterns are made one stitch at a time. When you feel frustrated or overwhelmed, take a deep breath, step away for a while, and when you come back, just make one tiny stitch after another.

## 4 TAKE NOTE OF TURNING CHAINS

Does your pattern count turning chains as a stitch (common with taller stitches like double or treble crochet) or not (common with shorter stitches like single crochet)? Treat the chains accordingly! If the chain counts as a stitch, be sure to work into it at the end of a row; if it doesn't, be sure to skip it.



Resa Shawlette (click for pattern details).

## 5 COUNT YOUR STITCHES

Every few rows, make sure you've got the right number of stitches. This will help ensure that your edges stay even, and that you have the correct number of stitches for your stitch pattern to work.

## 6 TAKE BREAKS

It can be easy to lose track of time while crocheting, but try to remember to take regular breaks. If you feel any discomfort in your wrists or arms, it's definitely time to go for a walk for a while. If you experience *pain*, be sure to see your doctor!

## 7 BLOCK YOUR FINISHED PROJECT

Before you even weave in your ends, block your project in a way that's appropriate for the fiber content of your yarn (a quick Google search will turn up loads of tutorials). After blocking, weave in your ends and celebrate your hard work!

**TAKE YOUR CROCHET TO THE NEXT LEVEL!**

Use these links for **50% off** my online classes: [Next Steps in Crochet](#) or [Crochet: Basics & Beyond!](#)