Crochet Even Single-Crochet Rows

Count fifteen stitches from a sixteen-chain foundation and keep six practice rows even

A flat fabric made one stitch at a time

This lesson builds directly on a chain stitch. Instead of adding more chains indefinitely, work single crochet stitches into the foundation and back across succeeding rows. The worked example begins with sixteen chain stitches and produces fifteen single crochet stitches in Row 1, then fifteen in each of five more rows. The sample is a learning swatch rather than a prescribed square, dishcloth or guaranteed shape.

Use American stitch names consistently

This book uses US crochet terminology. US single crochet is abbreviated sc; the same basic stitch is commonly called double crochet in UK terminology. Do not blend a US stitch name with a UK pattern's count or turning instructions. The one-chain turn used here is NOT counted as a single crochet stitch. If you read another author's pattern, first check that author's declared convention rather than treating this exercise as universal.

What a single crochet does

Insert the hook into the designated chain or top loops of a stitch, yarn over and pull up a loop. You now have two loops on the hook. Yarn over once more and draw through both loops in one motion. One loop remains on the hook: that is one completed US single crochet. Do not count the two loops as two stitches; they are temporary parts of one stitch in progress.

Materials for easy counting

Use light, smooth medium-weight yarn and a hook suited to the yarn, approximately 5 to 6 mm as an accessible starting range. A blunt yarn needle, two small removable stitch markers, notebook and ruler are helpful. Work on a clear, stable surface. Avoid fuzzy yarn in the first attempt because the stitch tops and final edge V are difficult to see. Choose a contrasting colour for your marker or a piece of removable yarn.

Safety and evidence

A hook, scissors and loose yarn are not children's toys. Put needles and hooks away safely after use and keep yarn from wrapping around young children or pets. Pause if your fingers become painful or numb. The stitch counts and directions have been digitally reviewed and illustrated but the publisher has not physically crocheted the swatch, measured its fit, tested wash durability or certified the result.

Plan the practice

Read these dimensions and conventions before touching yarn.

Why sixteen chains make fifteen stitches

Make sixteen chain stitches following F067. Starting from the live loop on the hook, the first chain beneath it is the chain nearest the hook. Do not work a single crochet in that first chain; it provides the turning height. Insert into the second chain from the hook and continue across the remaining foundation. Sixteen chains minus the one skipped chain gives fifteen actual single crochet stitches.

The first row is different from later rows

In Row 1, each completed sc is worked into a foundation-chain location. In Rows 2 through 6, the hook enters the pair of top loops forming the V of each sc from the row below. The top V is a single stitch even though it contains two loops. Draw the hook under BOTH loops for this basic swatch; back-loop-only and front-loop-only variations are separate techniques, not part of this sample.

What a turning chain really is

At the end of Row 1, make one chain and turn the work over so the other face is toward you. The ch-1 simply raises the working loop for the next row. Do not count it as the first sc, and do not insert into it as an extra edge sc. After turning, find the first real sc of the preceding row and place the first new sc into that stitch. The last real sc at the far edge is equally important.

Keep edge markers at the real stitches

Place one removable marker through the top V of the first and last sc after completing each row, when useful. Remove the old marker as you reach that stitch on the next row, complete the new stitch and move the marker to its new top V. Do not attach markers to the ch-1 turning chain. This makes the edge locations visible without requiring a guess based on the shape of the border.

Make a row-count target

The original RECORD 1 sheet has six boxes labelled R1 to R6, each with a target of fifteen single crochets. The row numbers count completed traversals across the fabric, not the foundation chain and not each turning chain. The ideal count sequence is 15, 15, 15, 15, 15, 15. Yarn thickness and tension affect physical width and height; no absolute centimetre target is prescribed.

Diagram key and print scale

PATTERN 1 illustrates the sixteen-chain foundation: one chain skipped, fifteen worked positions and two temporary hook loops. PATTERN 2 shows the turning edge, the top-V insertion point and the fifteen stitch columns of six rows. These drawings are schematic, not a full-size finished fabric pattern. If printing, use Actual Size / 100% and measure the two 50 mm reference bars on each pattern page before reading the diagram.

Troubleshooting before unraveling

If the count is sixteen instead of fifteen, check whether a turning chain was counted or worked as an extra stitch. If the count is fourteen, inspect the first and last edge sc for a missed V. Do not try to disguise a missing stitch by pulling the fabric into shape. It is often easier to undo just the latest row and repeat with markers at the edges.

Practice - steps 1 to 8

Each numbered action stands alone. Count real stitches, not temporary hook loops.

1. Prepare a comfortable yarn and hook Select light-coloured, smooth yarn with a hook that makes it possible to see each chain and stitch top. Keep scissors closed until finishing and a yarn needle stored securely. Sit with comfortable arm support and ensure the working yarn feeds freely from the ball. Count out loud or mark the record sheet rather than trying to remember the stitch total.

2. Make a foundation of sixteen chains Form a slip knot and make sixteen separate chain stitches. Count from the starting knot toward the live hook loop. Neither the slip knot nor the live loop counts. If the chain is too tight to accept the hook, unravel and remake it with looser finger tension before starting Row 1.

3. Locate the second chain from the hook Hold the chain flat with the hook still in its live loop. The first V directly under the hook is the skipped turning chain; the NEXT V, second chain from the hook, is the Row 1 insertion position. On the original diagram, this is marked '2nd ch'. Gently insert the hook into that second chain without piercing yarn fibres.

4. Complete the first single crochet With the hook in the selected chain, bring the working yarn over the hook and pull a loop back through the chain. Two loops should now sit on the hook. Yarn over again and draw through both loops. One loop remains. You have made one US sc, not two. Record the first tick on the Row 1 count.

5. Work the remaining foundation positions Insert the hook in the next chain farther from the hook and repeat the two-loop, yarn-over, pull-through-two sequence. Continue across each of the remaining fourteen chain positions and do not skip the far-end foundation stitch. Including the first sc, Row 1 should contain fifteen completed sc stitches. Count the V-shaped stitch tops rather than the foundation bumps.

6. Mark and verify Row 1 Count fifteen sc stitch tops from one edge to the other. Place removable markers at the first and last sc if you want an edge reminder. Enter '15' beside R1 on the sheet. A missing stitch is most often at the far edge; an extra stitch often means a skipped-chain position or loose loop was mistaken for a new sc.

7. Make one turning chain and turn Yarn over and draw through once to form ch 1, then turn the work while the hook stays in the live loop. This turning chain is not counted as sc in this example. As you face the next row, look for the first actual sc immediately beside the turning chain. That real stitch, not the turning chain itself, receives the first sc of Row 2.

8. Enter the first real stitch Insert the hook under BOTH top-V loops of the first sc from Row 1. Yarn over, pull up a loop, yarn over, and draw through the two loops. Move the edge marker to the new stitch top if you are using markers. Count it as sc number one of Row 2. Do not place a second sc in the same stitch unless a pattern explicitly instructs an increase.

Practice - steps 9 to 14

Complete the exercise, check the work, and use the quick repairs below.

9. Work each stitch across Row 2 Repeat one sc into each successive sc top, keeping the hook under the two upper V strands. Work into the last real sc at the opposite edge; do not add an extra sc into the abandoned turning chain below it. Count fifteen single crochet stitches before making another turn. If the count is wrong, correct the most recent row while the edge locations are visible.

10. Turn again for Row 3 Make ch 1 and turn. Identify the first sc next to the turning chain; work a single crochet into its top V. Continue across all fifteen stitches, placing one sc into each. Count the new row. Use the R3 line of the record sheet to note any adjustment or which edge was hard to see.

11. Repeat the same method in Row 4 Chain one, turn, work one US sc in each of the fifteen real stitches across. Keep the yarn tension comfortable rather than pulling tight for straighter edges. Record '15' only if you actually counted fifteen. If a loose side loop resembles a stitch, compare with the marker and the top-V diagram before inserting the hook.

12. Make Row 5 with an edge check Continue with ch 1, turn, and fifteen sc. Pause after stitch one and again before the final stitch to identify the two actual border Vs. Do not confuse the vertical side bar of the previous row with a stitch top. After the final sc, count the whole row and move the marker if using one.

13. Make Row 6 and compare the rows Chain one, turn, and work another fifteen sc, including both edge stitches. Count the six rows of horizontal Vs on the swatch and review the sequence of recorded stitch counts. A slight side lean or uneven tension does not by itself mean an added or lost stitch. Fix a wrong count before deciding whether to keep the sample.

14. Finish without claiming an exact size Leave a manageable yarn tail, pull the cut tail completely through the live hook loop to secure the learning swatch, and weave the tail through several reverse-side stitches with a blunt yarn needle if you want to keep it. Record hook size, yarn and whether each row held fifteen sc. Store tools safely; this is a decorative learning swatch, not a tested cleaning cloth or structural textile.

Fix, care and preserve

One edge keeps growing. Work may widen when an extra sc is put into the ch-1 turning chain or into the same first stitch twice. Identify the real first sc using its top V, mark it, and check fifteen each row. Unravel the most recent row with the mistake and repeat if necessary.

The swatch narrows. The far last sc can hide just beside the old turning chain. Bring the work closer to light, look for the last horizontal V and mark it after finishing. Do not compensate by increasing elsewhere unless a different pattern tells you to.

Read the next lesson. F069 introduces the written shorthand ch, sc, st, rep, and row ranges. Learning the same fifteen-stitch swatch in plain words first makes those abbreviations less mysterious.

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Original schematic drawing - teaching reference, NOT a yarn-length gauge

16 FOUNDATION CH : SKIP 1 / WORK 15 SC



HOOK END / 1st = skip

Row 1: insert in 2nd chain from hook, then each remaining chain.

Count: 16 original chains - 1 skipped chain = 15 completed sc.

Temporary two hook loops during sc are NOT two stitches.



Hook moves into eligible chain; yarn over, pull up, yarn over, pull through 2.



50 mm BAR A



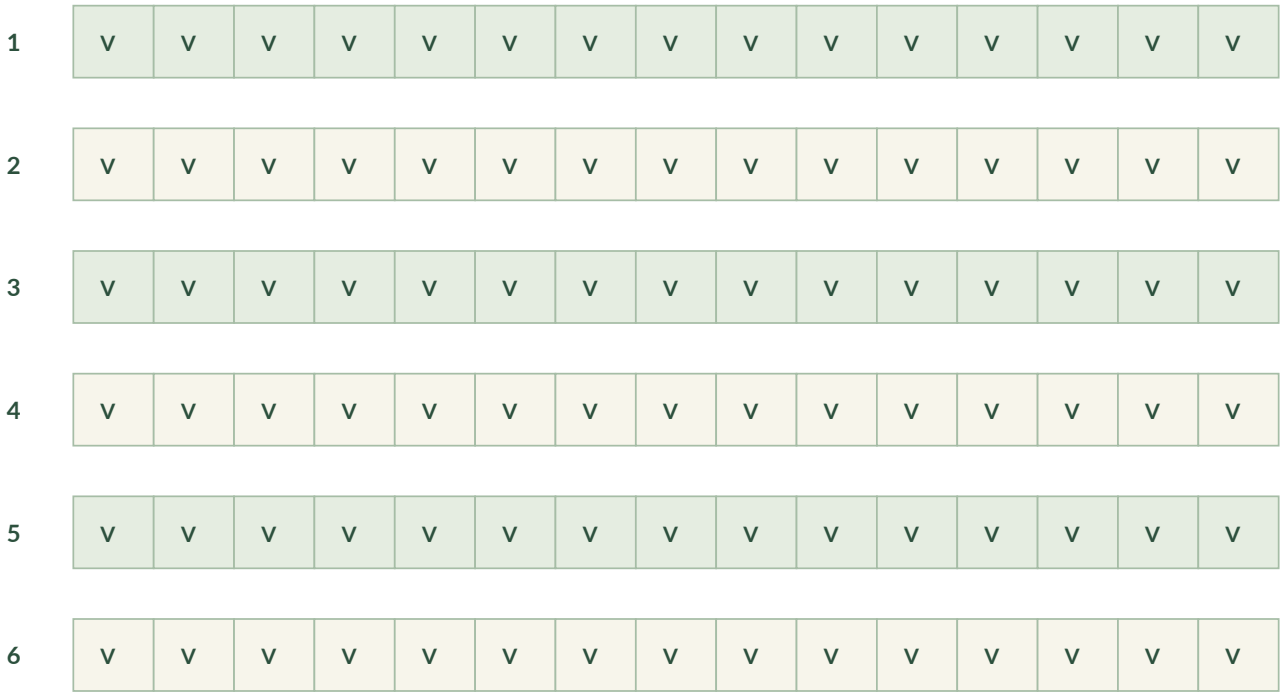
50 mm BAR B

PRINT AT 100% / ACTUAL SIZE; DO NOT FIT. Measure BOTH 50 mm bars.

Crochet Even Single-Crochet Rows

Original schematic drawing - teaching reference, NOT a yarn-length gauge

6 ROWS x 15 SINGLE-CROCHET STITCHES



CH 1, TURN: this turning chain is NOT counted as sc.

Row 2 first sc goes into the first REAL stitch top V.

Keep edge markers on the first and last real sc, not on ch 1.



50 mm BAR A



50 mm BAR B

PRINT AT 100% / ACTUAL SIZE; DO NOT FIT. Measure BOTH 50 mm bars.

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Materials and setup

Date / name:

Yarn / hook size:

Foundation chains: 16

Row 1 actual sc:

First and last edge markers used?

What changed at the turning edge:

Count checkpoints

- [ ] Row 1: 15 sc
- [ ] Row 2: 15 sc
- [ ] Row 3: 15 sc
- [ ] Row 4: 15 sc
- [ ] Row 5: 15 sc
- [ ] Row 6: 15 sc

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Observation and correction diary

What did the chain / stitch tops look like?

Which stitch or symbol did you miscount?

How did you verify the first / last real stitch?

Did you have to undo any part?

What would you do differently next time?

Safety / storage / condition notes:

Evidence boundary

Original digital instruction, not physically tested or calibrated by the publisher.