Correct an Accidental Increase in Crochet

Find a thirteenth stitch in a twelve-stitch row, then redo it correctly

Find the extra stitch instead of hiding it

An accidental increase can turn a straight practice swatch into a widening wedge. This lesson isolates one mistake in a US single-crochet row. You will work a twelve-stitch foundation row, deliberately add a thirteenth stitch in the next row, identify its location, undo the faulty row and remake it with exactly twelve stitches. The mistake is a temporary teaching exercise, not an instruction to leave a flawed item in use.

Know your target before you count

Make thirteen foundation chains. Work the first US single crochet into the second completed chain counting away from the hook, then work across the remaining eleven eligible chains. Row 1 contains twelve real sc. Make one turning chain, turn and work one sc into each real stitch top. The turning chain does not count. The correct total for any subsequent practice row here is still twelve.

Two ways an unwanted stitch appears

In the original worked example you accidentally place two complete sc into the sixth old stitch while making Row 2. That uses one old base position but produces two new stitch tops; the row totals thirteen rather than twelve. Another common error is treating the uncounted ch-1 turning chain as an extra target. The remedy begins by counting and locating the mistake, not pulling on the edge.

Keep your practice swatch low stakes

Use a smooth medium-weight yarn in a light colour and a hook comfortably suited to its label, two removable markers, blunt yarn needle, closed scissors and the original printable records. Stop if your hand hurts. This is an instructional exercise, not an evaluated finished garment or certified repair, and it does not prove that a concealed correction will hold through wear or washing.

Scope and honest evidence

The original diagrams show twelve old stitch positions and one extra new top V. They are schematic teaching drawings rather than an exact-size crochet gauge. The publisher has not physically crocheted or washed the sample, tested yarn tension, checked a real printer, or performed wear, durability or safety trials. Use an actual stitch-count check at the maker’s workspace to diagnose a real project.

Plan the practice

Read these dimensions and conventions before touching yarn.

Differentiate stitches from loops on the hook

A completed sc is a single top V in the finished row; the two temporary loops visible mid-stitch on a crochet hook are not two finished sc. In this pattern a slip knot and the live hook loop are also not counted as stitches. PATTERN 1 marks thirteen foundation chains: one skipped nearest the hook and twelve worked insertion points.

Make the arithmetic visible

Row 1: ch13, skip one, sc in twelve positions = 12. Faulty Row 2: one sc in five old stitches, two sc in old position six, then one sc in the last six positions = 5 + 2 + 6 = 13. Corrected Row 2: one sc in each of twelve old positions = 12. The increase has one base but two new tops.

Mark the first and last real stitch

Place removable markers in the first and last completed sc top Vs at the edge of the row. Move these as a new row is made, never onto the ch-1 turn. Count from marker to marker slowly and compare the two row totals. If a row has thirteen, move along its top Vs until you identify a double-worked base or an incorrectly counted turning chain.

Undo the working row, not the whole piece

For a newly made mistake, remove the hook only while holding the live loop safely; pull a little working yarn to unravel the most recent stitches. Stop when you reach the error and can reinsert the hook in the live loop before continuing. For a first lesson, it may be clearer to unravel all of Row 2 and remake it. Do not cut through stitches to remove one.

Read the diagrams as count keys

PATTERN 1 labels the thirteen-chain foundation with the skipped chain and the twelve positions worked in Row 1. PATTERN 2 overlays twelve old stitch columns and thirteen faulty new stitch tops, highlighting a two-in-one at old position six. Each schematic page has two original 50 mm vector scale bars; print at Actual Size and measure these with your own ruler if using the sheet. The diagrams are not physical gauge targets.

Choose a safe stopping point

RECORD 1 contains spaces for foundation, Row 1, intentional faulty Row 2, corrected Row 2 and Row 3 counts. RECORD 2 asks where the extra stitch appeared, whether an edge marker was moved, how much was undone and what you would do earlier next time. Correcting by undoing is the default for this lesson; an intentional decrease in a future row is not an interchangeable invisible fix.

Practice - steps 1 to 8

Fourteen original steps / count only actual completed crochet stitches.

1. Prepare materials and count positions Clear a dry table; select smooth light yarn, compatible hook and two removable markers. Put scissors aside. Check the hook for splits or burrs and keep loose strands out of reach of children and pets. Open RECORD 1 before you begin so each row total can be recorded.

2. Make thirteen real foundation chains Start with a movable slip knot; work thirteen completed chains. Exclude the slip knot and live hook loop. Count the V shapes from the hook end toward the starting knot to find the chain nearest the hook, which will not receive a Row 1 sc.

3. Work Row 1 as twelve single crochets Insert into the second chain from the hook and complete a US sc: yarn over, pull a loop through the chain, yarn over and pull through both hook loops. Repeat into each of the eleven remaining chains. Count twelve completed top Vs; mark the first and last.

4. Turn without creating a false stitch Make ch 1 and turn the fabric. In this exact practice pattern ch-1 is for height, not a completed sc and not an insertion target. Find the first real top V beside the turning chain before making a new sc.

5. Work the first five Row 2 stitches Work one US sc into each of old positions one through five. For every complete stitch, insert under both top loops of the selected prior-row sc. Count five new top Vs and stop before old position six. Do not count temporary hook loops.

6. Make the deliberate extra stitch Work one full sc into old Row 1 position six. Without advancing to old position seven, insert into the SAME old position six and work a second full sc. This is an increase: one old base position now has two new tops. The faulty result will be thirteen stitches.

7. Finish the remaining six positions Work one sc in each old position seven through twelve. Do not skip the far edge and do not put a stitch into the turning chain. At the end, count all new completed top Vs: five before the increase, two at position six, six after it, or thirteen total.

8. Compare the faulty and correct rows Write R1 = 12 and faulty R2 = 13 on RECORD 1. Inspect PATTERN 2 to find the extra top V over old position six. The working edge may appear slightly wider or curved, but a visible shape is not enough: the stitch count is the reliable clue.

Practice - steps 9 to 14

Finish the original project and record the measured result.

9. Locate the base carrying two tops Trace the tops of Row 2 while looking directly below each into Row 1. At the sixth old position, two new stitches have been worked from the same base; the other old bases each support one. If the count was caused by working into ch-1 instead, diagnose that separately.

10. Undo the faulty second row Support the working yarn so it cannot whip around the hook or hands. Carefully unravel the most recent Row 2 stitches, ideally all the way to the final stitch of Row 1 for this drill, and put the hook back through the open working loop. Do not cut the row.

11. Remake Row 2 with one sc per base Make one ch-1 turn only if it was undone, then work one sc into each of the twelve actual Row 1 tops. At old position six, work only ONE sc. Continue across the far edge; count twelve top Vs at completion and replace markers at the real edges.

12. Add a confirming third row Make one uncounted ch-1, turn and work twelve real sc into the twelve Row 2 stitch tops. Record R3 = 12. If the count differs, pause and undo the new mistake while you can still identify the working row.

13. Read the result and make a note Compare R1, faulty R2, corrected R2 and R3 on RECORD 1. On RECORD 2 write whether the extra stitch was a doubled base or an edge-chain mistake, the first place the count changed, and what marker or counting checkpoint helped.

14. Finish or unravel the practice safely If saving a low-risk swatch, cut a generous tail, pull it fully through the final live hook loop and weave on the reverse with a blunt needle; otherwise unravel carefully for reuse. Store hook and scissors safely. Do not treat this untested swatch as a structural or child-safe product.

Fix, care and preserve

The thirteenth stitch seems to be at the edge. Check whether an extra sc was worked into the ch-1 turning chain, or whether two stitches occupy the very first actual top V. Both produce a different origin than the planned position-six increase. Recount old insertion positions, not only the new row.

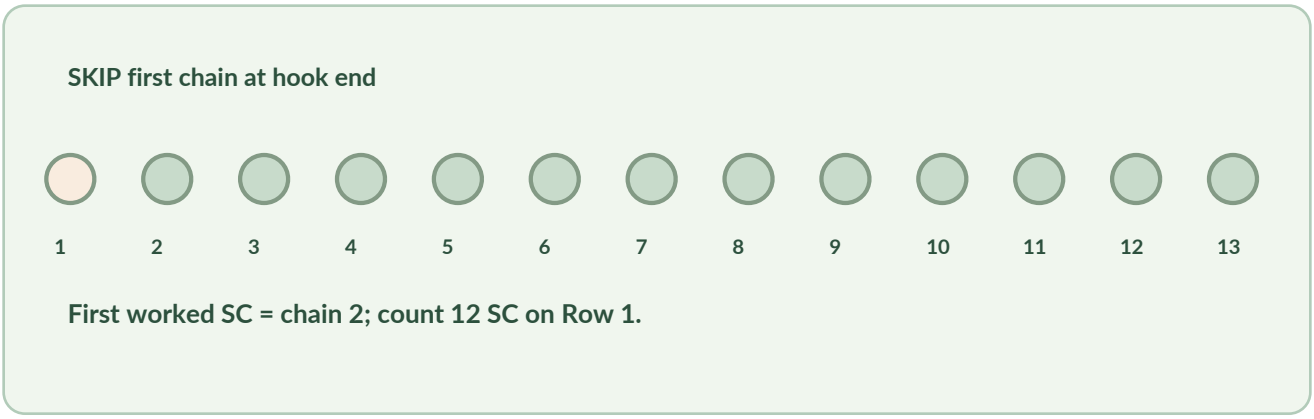
Undoing the row loosens the previous row. Unravel slowly to a recognisable complete stitch, recover the live loop on the hook and stop tugging if yarn splits. It can be safer to discard the small sample and begin again than to rescue a severely frayed practice yarn. A new counted row is not a hidden repair of damaged yarn.

A real garment has increased for several rows. This lesson repairs a recently made accidental increase in an uncomplicated US sc practice row. For shaped garments, unusual stitch patterns or increases several rows below, consult that project's original directions. Do not substitute an unplanned decrease or cut stitches when fit, strength or function matters.

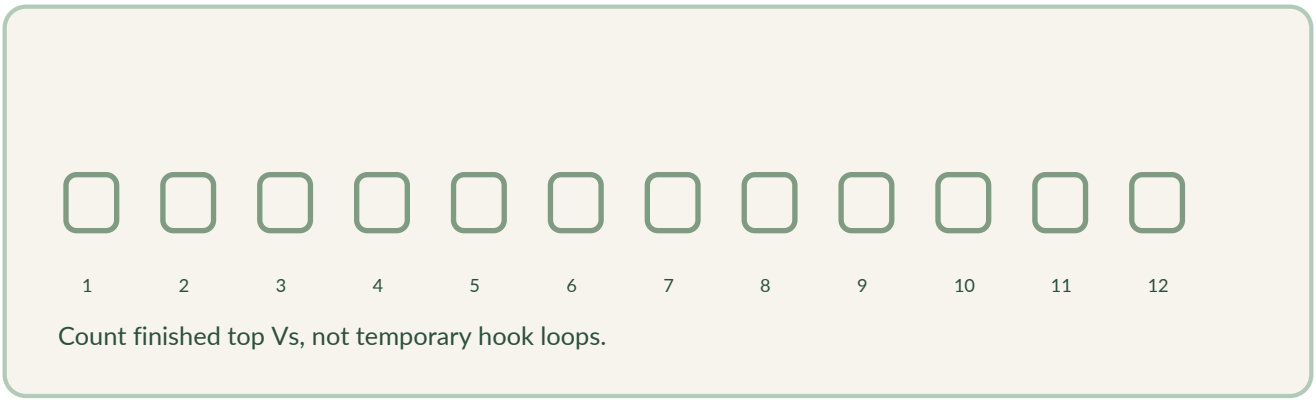
Correct an Accidental Increase in Crochet

ORIGINAL VECTOR TEACHING SCHEMATIC / NOT A PHYSICAL GAUGE

FOUNDATION: CH 13 -> TWELVE ELIGIBLE US SC POSITIONS



TURNING CH-1 IS NOT A THIRTEENTH SC



12 OLD BASES / ONE NEW SC PER BASE = 12 NEW TOPS



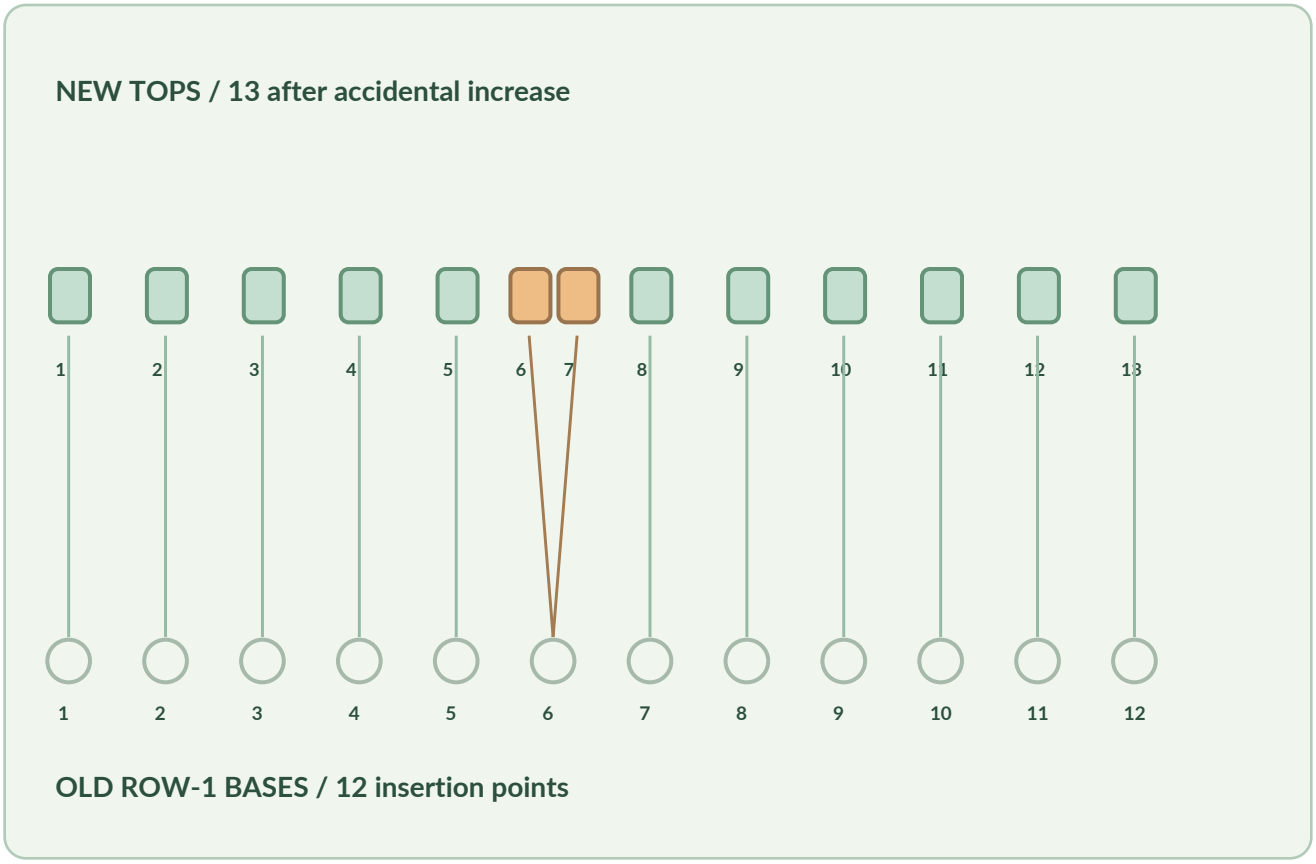


PRINT AT 100% / verify both original 50 mm bars with a ruler.

Correct an Accidental Increase in Crochet

ORIGINAL VECTOR TEACHING SCHEMATIC / NOT A PHYSICAL GAUGE

THE INTENTIONAL ROW-2 MISTAKE / TWO SC IN BASE 6



5 regular + 2 from base 6 + 6 regular = 13.

UNDO faulty Row 2, then one sc in each old base = 12.

50 mm BAR A

50 mm BAR B

PRINT AT 100% / verify both original 50 mm bars with a ruler.

Correct an Accidental Increase in Crochet

Maker setup / count checklist

Date / maker:

Yarn, fibre and care label:

Hook or needle size:

Practice location / note:

ROW COUNTS / MISTAKE AND CORRECTION

- [ ] Foundation chains: 13
- [ ] R1 actual: 12 sc
- [ ] Faulty R2 target: 13
- [ ] Location old base: 6
- [ ] Corrected R2: 12
- [ ] R3 confirmation: 12
- [ ] Ch-1 counted? NO
- [ ] Marker edges checked?

Actual counts / corrections / notes: _____

_____

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Observations, correction and care limitations

Where did the extra top V appear?

How many old bases were used?

Which old base had TWO new stitches?

Did a turning chain become an extra stitch?

How far did you unravel?

Final count R2 / R3:

Next marker / count-check plan:

Digital instruction only / no physical sample, safety, print or performance trials.