

How to Make a Double Crochet Stitch Wash Cloth

by Tammy Powley, Ph.D.



Making wash clothes is a wonderful way to practice crochet stitches and end up with something useful when you are finished. While these instructions give you the basics, do not worry about making a perfect square. If it is a little off size here and there, that is fine. It can still be used! This wash cloth was made using double crochet (dc) stitches in the center and a single crochet (sc) trim; however, you can use any stitch you like. For example, you could use all single crochet to make a square wash cloth, or you could even alternate with one row of double and one row of single crochet.

To make a wash cloth, you will need 1 skein of cotton yarn.



There are many types of cotton yarns available on the market, but if you are just starting out, a good choice is a brand called Lily's Sugar and Cream. It comes in lots of different colors, is easy to find (Wal-Mart carries it), is and fairly inexpensive. In fact, you can often find it on sale at many craft stores.

You will also need a crochet hook, such as a G, H, I, or J. Any of these will work. Plus you will need a darning needle (a large plastic or metal needle with a big hole in it that), scissor, and a ruler.



1. Start by attaching your yarn to your hook, making sure to leave at least a 6 inch tail of yarn.
2. Then make about an 8 inch length of chain plus three extra chains.



Note: Here is a URL you might find helpful.

Attaching Hook to Yarn & Doing Chain Stitch:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ptOiDj1iIv0&p=690A55EC532071F0>

3. Insert your hook through the 4th chain.



4. Do a double crochet. At this point, the three chains you skipped will count as your first double crochet, so you have two double crochet stitches made.
5. Continue to double crochet down the chain, making sure not to twist the chain around. You can find help with the double crochet stitch here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VgA9KSJrgAc&p=690A55EC532071F0>



6. After doing double crochet stitches all the way down your chain, make one large chain stitch. (Note: Most instructions will tell you to make 3 chains, and traditionally, this is what you are supposed to do when turning to make another row. However, I find that this creates a gap that I don't personally like. If you are comfortable doing it the traditional way, then do that. Otherwise, just make sure your chain stitch is fairly large.)



7. Now turn your crocheted piece so that you continue to work from right to left, and make another double crochet stitch in the first stitch to the left of your hook.

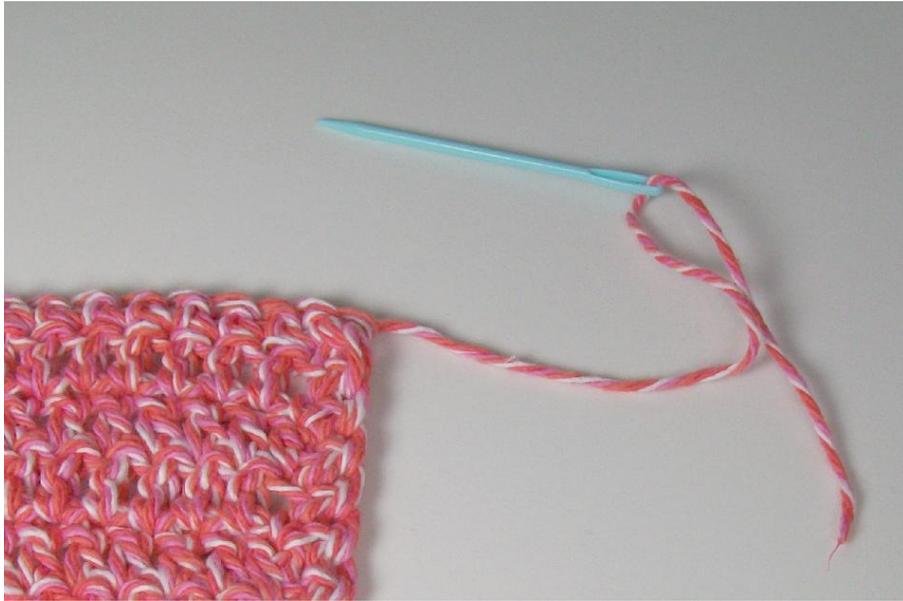


8. Repeat steps 6 and 7 until you have about an 8 inch crocheted square.

9. Now you are ready to use single crochet to trim the sides of the square. This will add a little finishing touch to it. View this video for help with creating a trim or edge around your crocheted square:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QMNcCDzVoao>



10. After creating a trim or edge around the square, cut about a 6 inch tail of yarn at the end and pull the tail through the last stitch. Now you need to weave in this tail as well as the first tail you have that you created when you started. Attach a large needle to one of the tails.



11. Then find a hole in your crochet stitches and insert the needle down through it. You want to weave the tails back and forth a few times to ensure they won't come out and your piece won't unravel at some point later. For help with weaving in ends, view this video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3vaY8S7y1Lc>



12. After weaving in as much of the tails as possible, you will still end up with a little extra yarn, so use sharp scissors to trim any excess.



Remember that you can use any stitch you feel comfortable with or a stitch you want to practice when making these wash clothes. While these instructions suggest making one about 8 inches in diameter, if you are off a little in the measurements, it doesn't matter. You will still end up with a useful item. In fact, you can turn these into inexpensive gifts by rolling them up, tying them with a ribbon, and including a fancy bar of soap with them.

Source: <http://www.tammypowley.com>

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