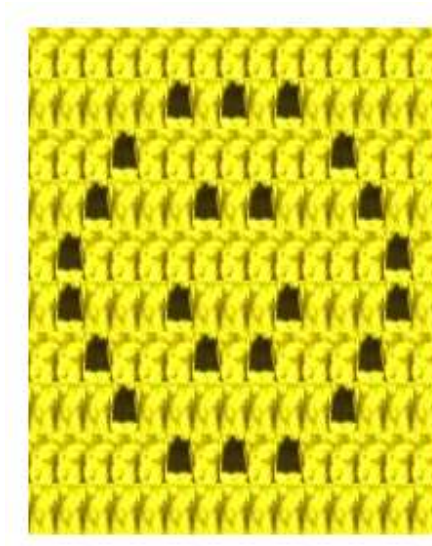




# FILET CROCHET GUIDE

INSTRUCTIONS FOR OUR PATTERNS (UK & US Terms)



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## INTRODUCTION TO FILET CROCHET

Filet crochet is a technique that creates delicate and intricate designs by using a combination of open and filled squares. It's often used to make lace-like patterns, pictures, or even words within a piece of crochet fabric. The beauty of filet crochet lies in its simplicity and versatility, making it suitable for both beginners and experienced crocheters.

## YARN AND HOOK CHOICE

All our patterns are designed using Double Knit (DK) yarn and a 4 mm hook. The finished dimensions and yarn estimates provided on the front cover of each pattern are based on this combination.

### Resizing

You can use any yarn and hook combination to adjust the final size of your blanket.

If you would like a larger blanket, here are some options:

- Use a thicker yarn with a larger hook to increase the overall size while keeping the same pattern layout.
- If you prefer to stay with DK yarn, you can:
  - add extra plain rows at the top and bottom
  - add additional double crochet (UK treble) stitches to the sides
  - include a wider border around the entire blanket
- Some makers choose to create multiple blankets and stitch them together to form a larger finished piece

### Colour Choice

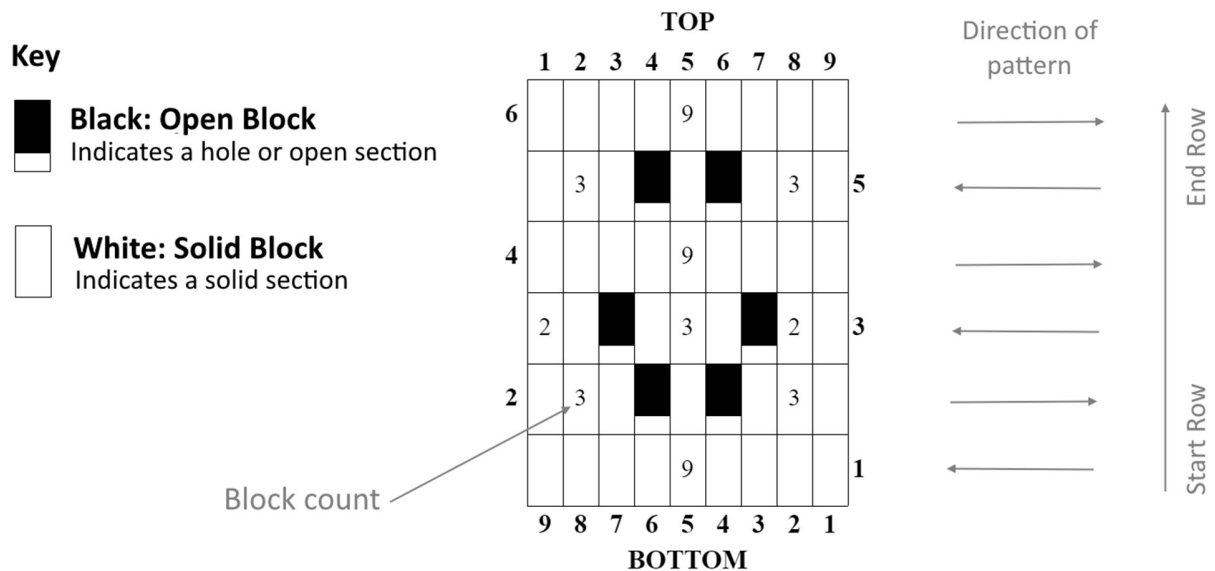
Light, solid colours work best for filet crochet, as they help the design stand out clearly.

We **do not recommend** using variegated yarn, as it tends to obscure the pattern and reduce the definition of the design.

## BASIC TECHNIQUE FOR FILET CROCHET

Filet crochet is typically worked in rows, with the pattern changing direction each time the work is flipped after completing a row.

Our patterns are created using a grid. A simple smiley face grid is shown below.



The pattern is worked back and forth starting at the bottom of the grid and working up.

Odd numbers are marked on the right hand side of the grid and even numbers on the left. This helps indicate the direction of work.

Block counts are included within the grid to help save time when counting consecutive solid blocks.

Left Handers: You can absolutely follow this pattern! The only difference you'll notice is that the images or text may appear reversed. However, there's a simple solution: just turn the blanket over, and it will look correct!

The format of this pattern is:

## 1. FOUNDATION

The foundation is the initial chain of stitches that establishes the correct width for your project. Two options are available based on skill level.

**Easy Option:** A chain the length of the number of blocks in the grid plus an additional 2 stitches.

UK Terms	US Terms
Row 1 begins by working a treble crochet stitch into the third chain from the hook. This creates the first filled square. Continue the row using as many treble crochets as required for the pattern. When complete you should have a foundation chain and Row 1 of completed treble crochets and are ready to start Row 2.	Row 1 begins by working a double crochet stitch into the third chain from the hook. This creates the first filled square. Continue the row using as many double crochets as required for the pattern. When complete you should have a foundation chain and Row 1 of completed double crochets and are ready to start Row 2.

**Advanced Option:** For a more consistent and stable start the chain and Row 1 can be completed simultaneously using a "chainless foundation crochet" technique. This technique also eliminates the need to work into a chain, which can sometimes be challenging. Here's a basic overview of how you can do it:

UK Terms	US Terms
Start with a slip knot on your hook and chain 3.	Start with a slip knot on your hook and chain 3.
Yarn over, work into first chain, yarn over, pull through, chain 1, yarn over, pull through 2, yarn over, pull through 2 – this creates first treble crochet.	Yarn over, work into first chain, yarn over, pull through, chain 1, yarn over, pull through 2, yarn over, pull through 2 – this creates first double crochet.
To create the next and subsequent treble crochets ...	To create the next and subsequent double crochets ...
Yarn over, insert hook into the base of the previous stitches chain 1, yarn over, pull through, chain 1, yarn over, pull through 2, yarn over, pull through 2.	Yarn over, insert hook into the base of the previous stitches chain 1, yarn over, pull through, chain 1, yarn over, pull through 2, yarn over, pull through 2.
Continue following above instruction to create as many Treble crochets as required for the pattern.	Continue following above instruction to create as many double crochets as required for the pattern.

**NOTE:** Our pattern instructions only state the Easy Option.

## 2. START A NEW ROW

To begin subsequent rows, there are two options available depending on skill level:

**Easy Option:** Chain 2 and turn your work.

Additional information: The Chain 2 provides the height for the new row, it is not counted as part of the grid. The first double crochet (dc) in US terms, or treble (tr) in UK terms of the new row, should be worked into the same space as the Chain 2.

**Advanced Option:** The advanced option provides a neater row transition.

UK Terms	US Terms
<p>For a neater row transition a standing treble can be used. Turn your work and do a standing treble as the first stitch of the new row. Remember to count the standing treble stitch as part of the new rows stitch count.</p>	<p>For a neater row transition a standing double can be used. Turn your work and do a standing double as the first stitch of the new row. Remember to count the standing double stitch as part of the new rows stitch count.</p>
<p>To make a standing treble crochet:</p>	<p>To make a standing double crochet:</p>
<p>Finish the last stitch of the row as usual and turn your work.</p>	<p>Finish the last stitch of the row as usual and turn your work.</p>
<p>Create a double crochet in the last stitch of the previous row.</p>	<p>Create a single crochet in the last stitch of the previous row.</p>
<p>Insert the hook into the middle of the double crochet and create a second double crochet on top of the first.</p>	<p>Insert the hook into the middle of the single crochet and create a second single crochet on top of the first.</p>

**NOTE:** The pattern instructions only states the Easy Option.

## 3. ROWS

The pattern provides the stitches to create the solid and open blocks from the grid.

UK Terms	US Terms
<p>Solid Block: 1 Treble Crochet (tr 1)</p>	<p>Solid Block: 1 Double Crochet (dc 1)</p>
<p>Open Block: 1 chain and skip a stitch. (ch 1, skip 1)</p>	<p>Open Block: 1 chain and skip a stitch. (ch 1, skip 1)</p>

When working a row above an open block (i.e., above a "ch 1, skip 1"), you can place your dc (UK tr) in the chain stitch or the chain space. Both methods are commonly used, and each has its own benefits. Most of our testers prefer working into the chain space because it tends to be quicker and easier, with many finding that it creates a clean look. Others, however, prefer going directly into the chain stitch, feeling it results in a neater, more structured appearance. Ultimately, it's a matter of personal preference and the style you like best for your project. Feel free to try both ways and see which one suits your crochet style!

#### 4. FINISHING

Continue working rows in this manner until you reach the end of the pattern, optionally continue until it reaches the desired length. Finish off by fastening off the yarn and weaving in any loose ends.

#### OPTIONAL BORDER

To add a unique touch to your filet crochet blanket, consider incorporating an optional border of your choice. With so many fantastic border patterns available, you have the opportunity to personalize your blanket and make it truly your own. Feel free to explore different border designs to find one that complements your blanket perfectly.

For beginners looking to try their hand at adding a border, a simple single crochet or shell stitch pattern can be a great starting point.

UK Terms	US Terms
<b>Easy Option:</b> Add a foundation border of double crochet (dc) all the way around. Make sure to place 3 double crochets in each corner, and mark the 2nd (middle) dc of each corner with a stitch marker.	<b>Easy Option:</b> Add a foundation border of single crochet (sc) all the way around. Make sure to place 3 single crochets in each corner, and mark the 2nd (middle) sc of each corner with a stitch marker.

Now add a quick and easy one row border.

"Learn a Quick Blanket Crochet Border" by Sweet Potato 3 on YouTube is a good tutorial for this.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfn-4b7qY1g>




## SHORT HAND PATTERN

All Snugalulu patterns contain a shorthand version of the written pattern. This shorthand pattern provides the count of solid blocks separated by commas, where each comma then indicates an open block.

For example,

Full Pattern: dc 21, ch 1, skip 1, dc 1, ch 1, skip 1, dc 23, ch 1, skip 1, dc 1, ch 1, skip 1, dc 21



Shorthand: 21, 1, 23, 1, 21

Square brackets simplify repeating sections. Numbers inside the brackets represent the sequence to follow, with "x" indicating the number of repetitions.

Examples:

[1, x4] means repeat "1," four times, resulting in: 1, 1, 1, 1,

[3, 1, x3] means repeat the sequence "3, 1," three times, resulting in: 3, 1, 3, 1, 3, 1,

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## CONNECT WITH US

Thank you for choosing our pattern! Follow us on social media for updates, tips, and inspiration.

We'd love to see what you create!

Join the Snugalulu Crochet Facebook Community to:

- share your finished blanket
- get help if you're stuck
- see how others are bringing their designs to life

<https://snugalulu.com/community>



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