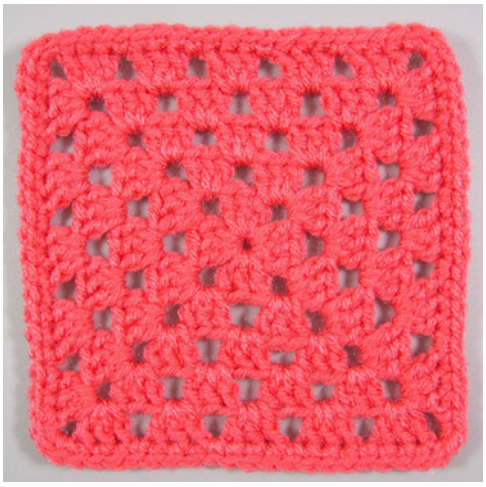


How to Crochet the Perfect Granny Square

Skill Level: Advanced Beginner

For the Printer-Friendly Version, print pages 5-6.

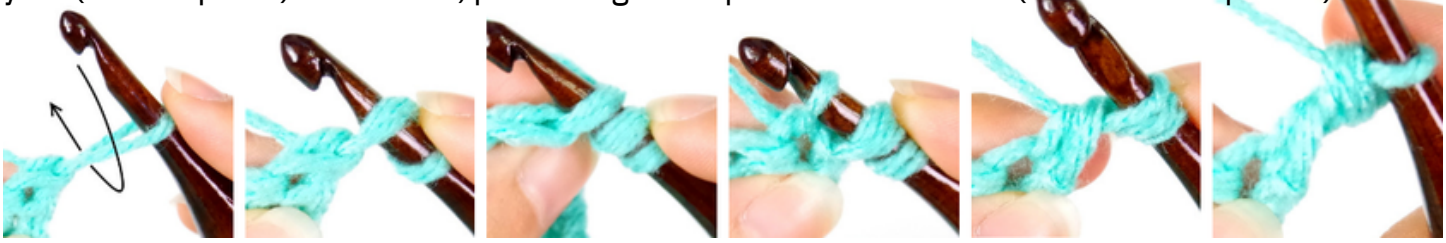
This granny square pattern uses the Chainless Starting Double Crochet and an alternate join technique to eliminate the starting chain ridge in the work. It can be made in any yarn, at any gauge, and in any size.

You Will Need:

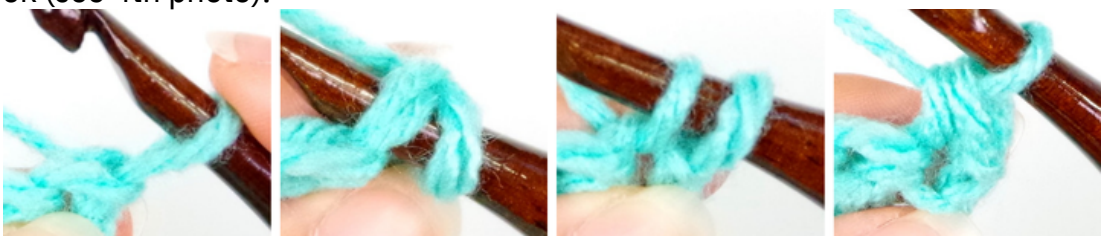
Yarn of your choice (any weight category can be used, thickness of yarn, number of colors, and desired size of square will determine the quantity of yarn needed)
Crochet Hook (in a size appropriate for the thickness of the yarn you are using)
Scissors
Yarn Needle or Blunt Tapestry Needle

Abbreviations: st: stitch **sts:** stitches **sp:** space **sk:** skip **nxt:** nxt **ea:** each
beg: beginning **ch:** chain **sl st:** slip stitch **sc:** single crochet **hdc:** half-double crochet
dc: double crochet **CSSC:** Chainless Starting Single Crochet*
CSDC: Chainless Starting Double Crochet*
*This is a special stitch. See instructions below to learn how to work this stitch.

CSDC: Stretch loop on hook until it is slightly longer than a regular double crochet (see 1st photo). Holding the top of the loop still with your finger, yarn over with the stretched loop on your hook (not the working yarn) 1 time. (See arrow in 1st photo, see finished step in 2nd photo.) Insert the hook into the same stitch the loop is coming from (see 3rd photo). Yarn over, pull up a loop of yarn (see 4th photo). *Yarn over, pull through 2 loops on hook* 2 times (see 5th & 6th photos).

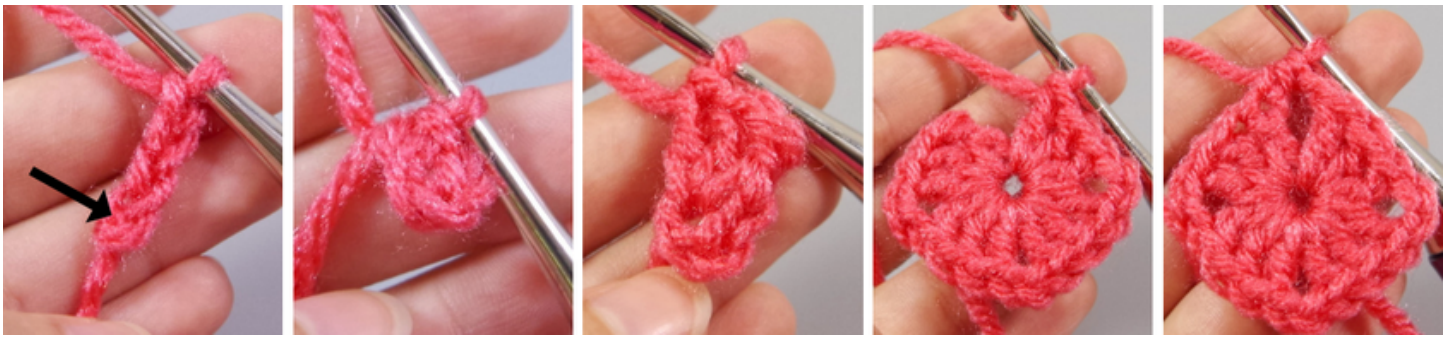


CSSC: Stretch loop on hook slightly (see 1st photo). Insert hook in the same stitch the loop is coming from (see 2nd photo). Yarn over, pull up a loop (see 3rd photo). Yarn over, pull through 2 loops on hook (see 4th photo).



Granny Square

Ch 4. sl st in 4th ch from hook to form a ring (see arrow in 1st photo, finished step in 2nd photo).
Round 1: CSDC in ring, 2 dc in ring (see 3rd photo below). *ch 2, 3 dc in ring.* Repeat between *and* 2 more times (see 4th photo below). Ch 1, hdc in top of CSDC from beg of round (see 5th photo below). This hdc creates part of the corner ch sp, but makes the round end at the very center of the corner ch sp. You should have 20 sts, counting each dc and each ch as a stitch and counting the hdc as a stitch.



Round 2: CSDC in same corner ch sp, 2 dc in same sp (see 1st photo below). *ch 1, sk nxt 3 sts, (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in nxt corner ch sp.* Repeat between * and * 2 more times (see 2nd photo below). Ch 1, sk nxt 3 sts, 3 dc in nxt corner ch sp (same ch space we began the round from). Ch 1, hdc in top of CSDC from beg of round (see 3rd photo below). This hdc creates part of the corner ch sp, but makes the round end at the very center of the corner ch sp. You should have 36 sts, counting each dc and each ch as a stitch and counting the hdc as a stitch.



Round 3: CSDC in same corner ch sp, 2 dc in same sp (see 1st photo below). *ch 1, sk nxt 3 sts, 3 dc in nxt ch-1 sp. ch 1, sk nxt 3 sts, (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in nxt corner ch sp.* Repeat between * and * 2 more times (see 2nd photo below). Ch 1, sk nxt 3 sts, 3 dc in nxt ch-1 sp. Ch 1, sk nxt 3 sts, 3 dc in nxt corner ch sp (same ch space we began the round from). Ch 1, hdc in top of CSDC from beg of round (see 3rd photo below). This hdc creates part of the corner ch sp, but makes the round end at the very center of the corner ch sp. You should have 52 sts, counting each dc and each ch as a stitch and counting the hdc as a stitch.





Round 4: CSDC in same corner ch sp, 2 dc in same sp. *(ch 1, sk nxt 3 sts, 3 dc in nxt ch-1 sp) 2 times. ch 1, sk nxt 3 sts, (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in nxt corner ch sp.* Repeat between * and * 2 more times. (Ch 1, sk nxt 3 sts, 3 dc in nxt ch-1 sp) 2 times. Ch 1, sk nxt 3 sts, 3 dc in nxt corner ch sp (same ch space we began the round from). Ch 1, hdc in top of CSDC from beg of round. This hdc creates part of the corner ch sp, but makes the round end at the very center of the corner ch sp. You should have 68 sts, counting each dc and each ch as a stitch and counting the hdc as a stitch.

Round 5: CSDC in same corner ch sp, 2 dc in same sp. *(ch 1, sk nxt 3 sts, 3 dc in nxt ch-1 sp) 3 times. ch 1, sk nxt 3 sts, (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in nxt corner ch sp.* Repeat between * and * 2 more times. (Ch 1, sk nxt 3 sts, 3 dc in nxt ch-1 sp) 3 times. Ch 1, sk nxt 3 sts, 3 dc in nxt corner ch sp (same ch space we began the round from). Ch 1, hdc in top of CSDC from beg of round. This hdc creates part of the corner ch sp, but makes the round end at the very center of the corner ch sp. You should have 84 sts, counting each dc and each ch as a stitch and counting the hdc as a stitch.

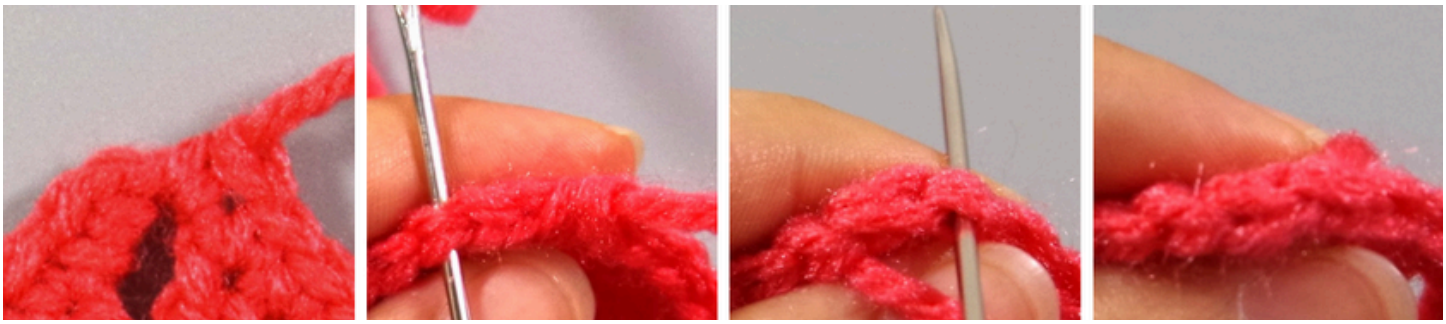
Round 6: CSSC in same corner ch sp, sc in same sp. *sc in ea st and ea ch sp across to nxt corner ch sp, 3 sc in corner ch sp.* Repeat between *and* 2 more times. Sc in ea st and ea ch sp across to the same corner ch sp we began the round in, sc in that corner ch sp (see 3rd photo below).





If you want to use the yarn tail to sew your granny squares together, you can join by slip stitching into the CSSC from beg of round. Leave a tail long enough for your seam, cut the yarn and tie off.

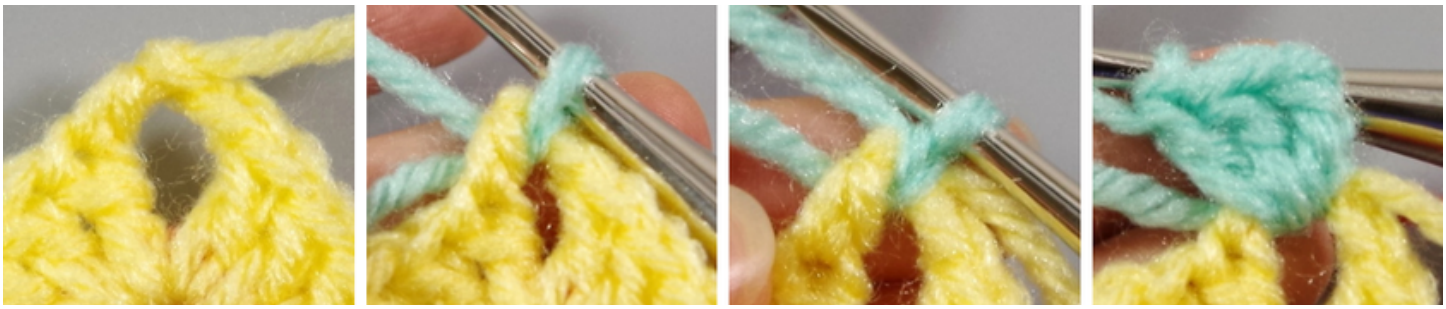
If you don't want to use the yarn tail to sew your granny squares together, use this invisible join method. Cut the yarn, leaving about a 6 inch tail. Stretch the loop on your hook until the end of the tail comes out (see 1st photo below). Thread that tail through your yarn needle.
Skip the CSSC from beg of round, and insert the needle from back to front through the nxt sc of the round (the one after the CSSC, see 2nd photo below). Pull the needle through. Now, insert the needle down through the top of the last stitch of the round, in the same place where the tail was coming from (see 3rd photo below). Pull the needle through, and adjust the stitch you just made if necessary. (Finished join shown in 4th photo below.) Take a small stitch on the back of the sc round and make a knot, if desired. Weave in ends.



If you want, you can continue to make the granny square as large as you like. After you've completed Round 5, all following rounds will be essentially the same. For each following round, always work the sequence “(ch 1, sk nxt 3 sts, 3 dc in nxt ch-1 sp)” one more time than you did on the round before.

You can also make the granny squares multicolored, with as many or as few colors as you like.

To Change Colors:
Once you've finished the last round of the previous color, tie off. Insert the hook into the same corner ch sp that you tied off in. Pull up a loop of the new color yarn. Ch 1, and pull that chain stitch very tight. Work the chainless starting stitch for your round into the same corner ch sp, as specified in the pattern. Pull the yarn tail to tighten the chain stitch again and make it disappear. Continue around according to pattern instructions.



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