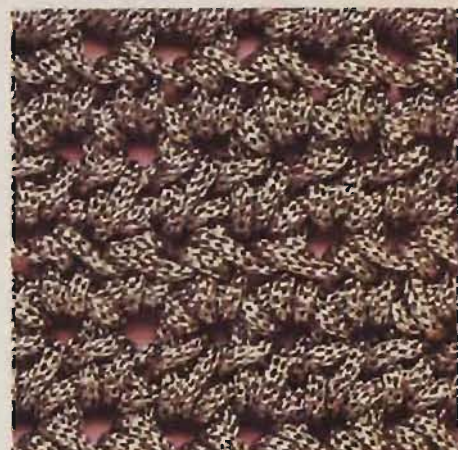
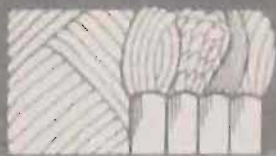


# Starting with simple stitches

Yarn —  
crochet 2



Steve Bicknell

This close-up of a fabric made in half double crochet shows the texture of the stitch. Yarn used: Atlas Novacord.

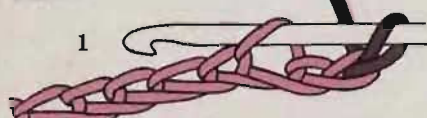
This chapter introduces two simple stitches—single crochet and half double crochet—which you can use to make up these pretty pillows and rag rug. Use heavy rayon, raffia or ribbon for effective pillows and odd pieces of cotton fabric for the rug.

## Abbreviations

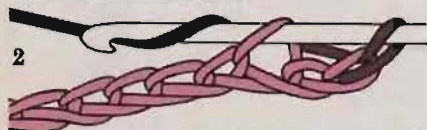
(for other abbreviations, see Crochet 1, page 38)  
sc single crochet  
hdc half double crochet

## To work a single crochet

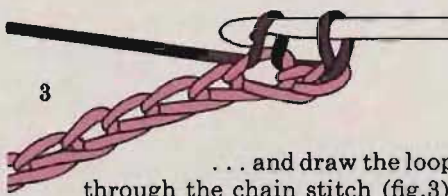
Start by making the number of chain stitches you need, adding one extra chain stitch—this acts as a turning chain, which is needed at the beginning of every row of single crochet to bring the hook up to the right height for working the first stitch.



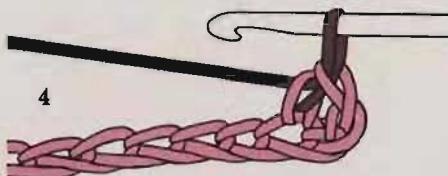
1st row. Insert the hook from front to back into the third chain stitch from the hook (fig.1).



\*Wind the yarn around the hook (fig.2)...



... and draw the loop through the chain stitch (fig.3).



Wind the yarn around the hook and draw through both loops on the hook\* (fig.4).

One single crochet has been made, plus first skipped 2 chain stitches which count as first single crochet, leaving one loop on hook. Insert hook into next chain stitch and repeat from \* to \* into each chain stitch to end.

On next and every following row, turn the work so that the yarn is again in position at the beginning of the row, make one chain stitch to count as first single crochet of previous row, work one single crochet into next single crochet.

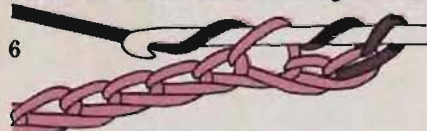


When working into a previous row, unless otherwise stated, insert hook under top 2 loops of single crochet (fig.5).

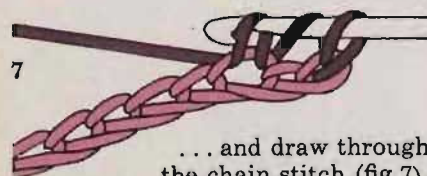
Continue working single crochet into each single crochet to end, working the last single crochet under the turning chain of the previous row.

## Half double crochet

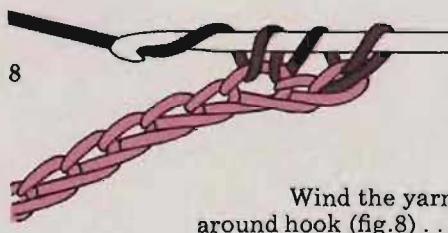
Make the number of chain stitches you need, then add one extra chain stitch to count as a turning chain.



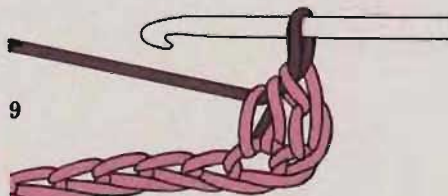
1st row. Wind the yarn around hook, insert hook from front to back into third chain stitch from hook, \*wind the yarn around hook (fig.6).



... and draw through the chain stitch (fig.7).



Wind the yarn around hook (fig.8)...



... and draw through all 3 loops on hook\* (fig.9).

One half double crochet has been made plus first skipped 2 chain stitches which count as first half double crochet, leaving one loop on hook. Wind the yarn around the hook, insert the hook into next chain stitch and repeat from \* to \* into each chain stitch to end.

On next and every following row, turn the work so that the yarn is again in position at the beginning of the row, make 2 chain stitches to count as first half double crochet skip first half double crochet of previous row, work one half double crochet into each half double crochet to end, inserting hook under top 2 loops (fig.5) and working the last half double crochet under the turning chain in the previous row.

## Mini pillows

For pillow about 23cm (9") square worked in half double crochet (or double crochet and single crochet).

### You will need:

100gm (4oz) of tubular rayon macramé cord, raffia, or very narrow ribbon.

One No.7.00 ISR (US size K) crochet hook

23cm (9") square pillow form made from muslin and stuffed

Using No.7.00 ISR (US size K) hook make enough ch to make 23cm (9"), about 22ch, which includes one extra ch to count as turning ch.

**1st row.** Into third ch from hook work 1hdc, then 1hdc into each ch to end. Turn. If you had 22ch to start with you should now have 21hdc.

**2nd row.** 2ch to count as first hdc, skip first hdc, 1hdc into each hdc to end, working the last hdc under the turning ch of the previous row. Rep second row until work measures 46cm (18") from beg. Fasten off.

### Finishing

Fold work in half WS tog and join 2 side edges with a sl/st (see Crochet chapter 1, page 37). Insert pillow form. Join rem edge.

## Rag rug

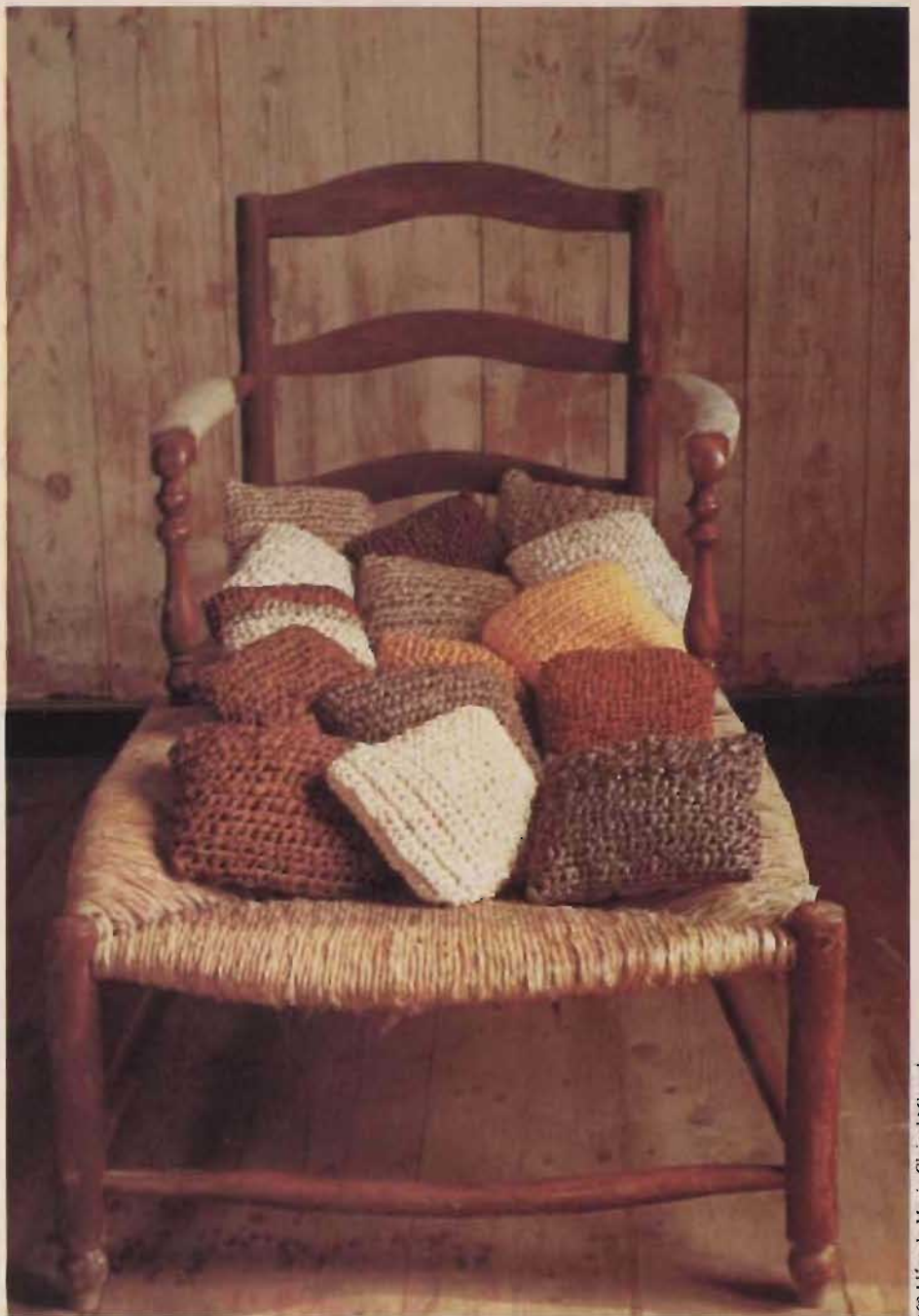
This rug, measuring 2.6m x 1.3m (8'8" x 4'4") is another example of using materials other than crochet yarns. If you have a lot of scrap cotton fabric in a ragbag you can tear it up into strips about 2cm (¾") wide. Wind up the strips into balls, separating the colors. Work two or three rows with one color then change to another to build up a pleasing pattern.

Because the rug is worked in strips it is easy to handle while working.

If you don't feel like attempting a rug, use slightly thinner strips of fabric—say 1.5cm (½")—to make country-style table mats.

### You will need:

For rug 1.3m (4'4") wide, lengths of cotton fabric in 4 colors. The total



100 Idées de Marie Claire/ Mirand

amount of material will depend on the length of rug required and the way which stripes of colors are arranged, 5.5m (6yd) of 90cm (36") wide fabric will work out at about 76cm (30") in length. One No.7.00 ISR (US size K) crochet hook

Button twist

**1st strip.** Using No.7.00 ISR (US size K) hook and any color, make enough ch to make 33cm (13") width, about 27ch should be right, which includes one ch for turning.

**1st row.** Into third ch from hook work 1sc, then 1sc into each ch to end. Turn.

If you had 27ch to start with you should now have 26sc.

**2nd row.** 1ch to count as first sc, skip first sc, 1sc into each sc to end,

*Lots of mini pillows make any chair comfortable. They are made in several yarns of subtle fall colors.*

working the last sc under the turning ch of the previous row. Turn.

Rep second row for required length, changing colors as required and working over the ends each time a new strip is joined in, to secure them.

**2nd strip.** Make enough ch (about 19 should be right including 1ch for turning) to make 23cm (9") width.

**3rd strip.** Make enough ch (about 35 should be right including 1ch for turning) to make 43cm (17") width.

**4th strip.** Work as given for first strip to make 33cm (13") width.

### Finishing

Sew strips together with button twist.



Carmen Pross

*This practical rag rug uses strips of colorful cotton material.*