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How to crochet a throw blanket for beginners

The Spruce / Michael Solovay You can be left-handed and crochet, too. Traditional patterns were written for right-handed crocheters, but many contemporary patterns include instructions for left-handed artisans. You'll find plenty of tips and tricks to help you along the way, and most importantly, you'll also find numerous fellow lefty crocheters to bond with and learn from. Left-Handed Crochet from The Spruce Crafts Begin the slip knot by laying the yarn down and looping it. Making sure your short piece, the tail, is on top of the long yarn. Next, flip the whole thing down, onto the longer yarn. Grab the middle yarn between your thumb and forefinger and pull the middle yarn out gently. Hang on to tail and pull the loop tight. If you're impatient to get your project started, you might be tempted to rip the label off your skein of yarn and get to work. Technically, you can crochet with skeins of yarn, but in many cases, you can achieve better results if you take the time to wind the skein into a ball first. This is especially true for beginners. Balls of yarn have a couple of advantages over skeins: Avoid tangles. Center-pull skeins of yarn can tangle easily toward the end. Balls of yarn are less likely to tangle. Improve tension. If you have a hard time achieving even tension, try working from a ball of yarn rather than a skein. Ball winders are available to help you with this task, but you can also do it by hand. The following crochet blanket instructions are written with the assumption that you already know the basics of how to crochet. If you aren't there yet, no problem! We'll teach you how to crochet, for free! Be sure to visit our page of basic crochet stitches, and also our page of free crochet videos. If you are left-handed, check out this page: learning how to crochet left-handed. If you already know how to crochet, the following instructions will help you learn how to crochet a blanket. If you want to crochet a blanket, there are several decisions you'll need to make before you get started. One of the first decisions you'll make: do you want to design your own blanket, or do you want to use a ready-made blanket pattern? Hopefully, you can find a pattern you like online, but if not you can always buy a crochet pattern book that has nice blanket patterns. If you'd like help selecting a book, be sure to check out our book reviews and recommendations. Once you've settled on a pattern, the rest is easy; just follow the instructions in the pattern – if you like. I say "if you like" because you might like to use the pattern as a starting point; you can, and should, feel free to make changes to the pattern. Change the colors if you want to; feel free to use a different edging than the one the designer used. You could make your blanket bigger or smaller than the size suggested in the pattern. For that matter, you can make whatever changes you think are necessary so that your blanket will turn out exactly the way you want it. There are many different ways to crochet a blanket. Let's explore some of the most popular blanket styles you could choose. One easy way to crochet an afghan (short version): Crochet an afghan-sized square or rectangle in the crochet stitch of your choice. Add a border or edging. Voila! You have a blanket. Granny Square Afghans A granny square afghan would be a wonderful first crochet project. Granny squares are easy to crochet, and there are numerous design possibilities to keep the crocheting interesting. Giant Granny Square Afghans: Some granny squares can be expanded infinitely by repeating the last round until the square is as large as you want it to be. This is one possibility for a one-piece style afghan, although there are many other possibilities you could consider. Pieced Granny Square Afghans: You can also design an afghan using numerous small granny squares that will be joined together. You can find lots of free granny square patterns right here on our website; help yourself! The joining process can be more creative than you might think; the join you choose will greatly affect the look of the finished afghan. If you would like to see a variety of different options for joining – some decorative, some that nearly disappear into the afghan -- be sure to check out this list of ways to join granny squares. After you join the squares, you'll probably want to add an edging to complete your granny afghan. Need inspiration? Check out this list of granny afghans. Not every crocheted square is a granny square. You can make gorgeous afghans out of filet crochet squares, tapestry crochet squares, or just about any other type of crocheted square. For constructing the blanket, you'll use the same basic method: crochet the squares, join them together, and add an edging. Want to check out some free patterns? See these: free crochet patterns for afghan squares. You could also join other types of shapes to create your afghan: hexagons, triangles, etc. Instead of crocheting smaller squares or motifs, you could choose to make larger strips or panels and then piece those together to make an afghan or blanket. You'll need to decide on which fibers and colors to use, and select the yarn you'll use to crochet your blanket. All of this is easy enough if you are going to work with a pattern and you like the colors and fibers the designer selected; however, you need not feel obligated to commit yourself to those choices. You might wish to crochet small swatches of the stitch used, testing out different color combinations to see how they will work. That's optional, but it's a process that helps me greatly when I am preparing to crochet a blanket. Acrylic is the most popular fiber for crocheting blankets; wool is also a good choice. There are other possibilities, but those are my personal favorites. The stitch or stitch pattern you choose will make a huge difference in the appearance of the finished blanket. If you want a lacy looking blanket, choose a lacy stitch pattern; if you want a warm, solid blanket, you could choose a basic stitch such as single crochet, double crochet, half double crochet or afghan stitch. Note that you will need a long afghan hook for afghan stitch; for crocheting a large blanket-sized piece, you'd probably want to use an afghan hook with a flexible extension at the end. Otherwise, you'd have to make the afghan in panels or squares. There are so many possibilities for stitches that I couldn't begin to cover them all in this brief article, so I will refer you to more resources that are at your disposal: Darla Sims' valuable stitch dictionary called Triple Play Pattern Stitches; this is one of my favorite crochet books, and I return to it often for inspiration. Many of the crochet stitches featured in the book would make lovely blankets and afghans, although there are limitless ways you could use them. Those are the basics and, hopefully, that information will help get you started with crocheting your blanket. Happy crocheting! Crochet is an excellent starting point for someone that likes the look of knitted projects but wants the simplicity of using just one hook. So long as you follow a tutorial, there are hundreds of great crochet projects for beginners that will almost always turn out looking fabulous. To get started, all you need is a crochet hook and some yarn that matches the color of the project you are attempting. Of course, you also need some great patterns to emulate, and here are just a few of the best crochet patterns for beginners. If you are brand new to crocheting, and this is your first venture, then you may want to follow this simple tutorial to make a basic beginner crochet scarf. It features a fun pattern with a unique stitch that gives it some texture without making the pattern too complex. Plus, you only need one color, and the video tutorial will walk you through each step so you can follow along and ace the project in just a week or two. There are a lot of scarf patterns out there for beginners to crochet, but if you don't usually wear them they are likely useless to you. Instead, try out some fun, practical crochet patterns like this crochet stash basket pattern. These make great gifts and may offer you practical storage uses for your kitchen, utility closet, bathroom, and bedroom. They are a great way to add your personality to each room of your home. During the colder months, there is nothing more comfortable than snuggling underneath a warm chunky blanket. The pattern used to stitch it makes the result look much more complex and intricate than it is, and it will last for years. Be warned that it will take about 13 balls of yarn to complete your blanket, but you won't be sorry once you are done. This makes a great gift for yourself or others. Plus, it will only take you a few days to make if you are familiar with crochet, or a week if you are new. A beanie is just about the easiest crochet that you could create. The pattern is very simple for it, and there is a video that will help visual learners see how the beanie comes to life. Only basic stitches are used so you should have no problem following along as a beginner, and you can save a great deal of money by making your own fun beanies. You can even choose light yarn to create a year-round beanie. Spring and summer always seem like baby season, so if you have a lot of baby showers to attend this year, you may want to think about learning to make a baby blanket. You can keep it simple with one color or choose to use several colors to compliment the pattern. Plan on spending a couple of weeks on the pattern your first time through, after which, you will probably find that you can complete a blanket a week in custom colors. On the subject of baby season, a blanket is not the only thing you can make for a newborn. You can also knit baby loveys, and this fun bear knit lovey is a great place to try out your talents. Babies can easily play with loveys for hours, so this makes the bear knit lovey a great gift for babies and their parents. Many people will hold onto these a memento of the baby years. If these patterns are overwhelming you, then start easy with this simple DIY chain necklace. Not only does the necklace look stunning, but it is a great piece for beginners. You only have to use a small amount of crochet to create it, which makes it a great introduction to the craft. You should have no problem creating the project in just a day. Once you get comfortable with the necklace pattern, you can try using several colors to add a more personalized touch. This stunning ruffled crochet bag is a fun project for beginners that can be used around the house as decoration, as an actual purse, or given to small children for play. When you make it the first time, it's a good idea to stick to one color. As you get more comfortable, you can choose to use a couple of different colors or go with a chevron pattern to create something you can be proud of. Potholders are a great place to get started if you are intimidated by complicated patterns. They are pretty basic and usually only require you to practice one stitch as you make your circles around. As you get more secure in your talents, you can branch out and try out some of the fun fruity patterns found on tutorials. These make great summer cookout potholders for your home or to give as gifts. Plus, they don't require much yarn, so they are a great project to get started with. Another great pattern for beginners is this very simple crocheted chain bracelet pattern. You will have to purchase bracelet hooks to hold the chains together. The result is very pretty and worth the extra purchase. Plus, it will only take you a couple of hours to complete it. This is also a great project for young children that are learning to crochet along with you.

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