

VISUAL™

Quick Tips

Crochet



by Cecily Keim and Kim P. Werker



Wiley Publishing, Inc.



Crochet

VISUAL™

Quick Tips

Crochet



by Cecily Keim and Kim P. Werker



Wiley Publishing, Inc.

Crochet VISUAL™ Quick Tips

Copyright © 2007 by Wiley Publishing, Inc., Hoboken, New Jersey. All rights reserved.

Published by Wiley Publishing, Inc., Hoboken, New Jersey

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning or otherwise, except as permitted under Sections 107 or 108 of the 1976 United States Copyright Act, without either the prior written permission of the Publisher, or authorization through payment of the appropriate per-copy fee to the Copyright Clearance Center, 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923, (978) 750-8400, fax (978) 646-8600, or on the web at www.copyright.com. Requests to the Publisher for permission should be addressed to the Legal Department, Wiley Publishing, Inc., 10475 Crosspoint Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46256, (317) 572-3447, fax (317) 572-4355, or online at <http://www.wiley.com/go/permissions>.

Wiley, the Wiley Publishing logo, Teach Yourself VISUALLY, and related trademarks are trademarks or registered trademarks of John Wiley & Sons, Inc. and/or its affiliates. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. Wiley Publishing, Inc. is not associated with any product or vendor mentioned in this book.

The publisher and the author make no representations or warranties with respect to the accuracy or completeness of the contents of this work and specifically disclaim all warranties, including without limitation warranties of fitness for a particular purpose. No warranty may be created or extended by sales or promotional materials. The advice and strategies contained herein may not be suitable for every situation. This work is sold with the understanding that the publisher is not engaged in rendering legal, accounting, or other professional services. If professional assistance is required, the services of a competent professional person should be sought. Neither the publisher nor the author shall be liable for damages arising here from. The fact that an organization or Website is referred to in this work as a citation and/or a potential source of further information does not mean that the author or the publisher endorses the information the organization or Website may provide or recommendations it may make. Further, readers should be aware that Internet Websites listed in this work may have changed or disappeared between when this work was written and when it is read.

For general information on our other products and services or to obtain technical support please contact our Customer Care Department within the U.S. at (800) 762-2974, outside the U.S. at (317) 572-3993 or fax (317) 572-4002.

Wiley also publishes its books in a variety of electronic formats. Some content that appears in print may not be available in electronic books. For more information about Wiley products, please visit our web site at www.wiley.com.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2007921828

ISBN: 978-0-470-09741-0

Printed in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Book production by Wiley Publishing, Inc. Composition Services

Wiley Bicentennial Logo: Richard J. Pacifico

Praise for the VISUAL Series

I just had to let you and your company know how great I think your books are. I just purchased my third Visual book (my first two are dog-eared now!) and, once again, your product has surpassed my expectations. The expertise, thought, and effort that go into each book are obvious, and I sincerely appreciate your efforts. Keep up the wonderful work!

—Tracey Moore (Memphis, TN)

I have several books from the Visual series and have always found them to be valuable resources.

—Stephen P. Miller (Ballston Spa, NY)

Thank you for the wonderful books you produce. It wasn't until I was an adult that I discovered how I learn—visually. Although a few publishers out there claim to present the material visually, nothing compares to Visual books. I love the simple layout. Everything is easy to follow. And I understand the material! You really know the way I think and learn. Thanks so much!

—Stacey Han (Avondale, AZ)

Like a lot of other people, I understand things best when I see them visually. Your books really make learning easy and life more fun.

—John T. Frey (Cadillac, MI)

I am an avid fan of your Visual books. If I need to learn anything, I just buy one of your books and learn the topic in no time. Wonders! I have even trained my friends to give me Visual books as gifts.

—Illona Bergstrom (Aventura, FL)

I write to extend my thanks and appreciation for your books. They are clear, easy to follow, and straight to the point. Keep up the good work! I bought several of your books and they are just right! No regrets! I will always buy your books because they are the best.

—Seward Kollie (Dakar, Senegal)

Credits

Acquisitions Editor

Pam Mourouzis

Project Editor

Suzanne Snyder

Copy Editor

Elizabeth Kuball

Editorial Manager

Christina Stambaugh

Publisher

Cindy Kitchel

Vice President and Executive Publisher

Kathy Nebenhaus

Interior Design

Kathie Rickard
Elizabeth Brooks

Cover Design

José Almaguer

Photography

Matt Bowen

About the Authors

Cecily Keim documents her adventures in life, crocheting, and other creative endeavors at SuchSweetHands.com. Throughout her life, regardless of the type of study or type of job, making things has always fascinated Cecily. Her great-grandmother, Mama Mac, taught her to crochet at age 9. Since then crochet has become a favorite technique in her crafty arsenal. Cecily is mesmerized by the endless possibilities of crochet and loves passing on her enthusiasm as a writer, designer, and teacher. She teaches crochet classes and contributes her designs to magazines and books. She has also demonstrated her designs on the DIY channel's *Knitty Gritty* and *Uncommon Threads*.

Cecily lives in Los Angeles, watches too much television, and loves candy, her cats, and her boyfriend.




Kim P. Werker is the editor of *Interweave Crochet* magazine. She is also the founder and Creative Director of CrochetMe.com, the online crochet community for innovative patterns, tips, and tutorials, and a playground for meeting crocheters from all over the world. After a couple of earlier flings, Kim got back into crochet in 2004. She is a professional member of the Crochet Guild of America and The National NeedleArts Association, and travels throughout North America to teach about crochet and to meet enthusiastic crocheters. She has appeared on the television show *Uncommon Threads* and will appear on the PBS shows *Shay Pendray's Needle Arts Studio* and *Knit & Crochet Today*. She was thrilled to work again with Cecily on this follow-up to their first book, *Teach Yourself VISUALLY Crocheting*. Kim's other books include *Crochet Me: Designs to Fuel the Crochet Revolution* (Interweave Press, 2007), *Get Hooked*, and *Get Hooked Again* (Watson-Guptil 2006 and 2007, respectively).

Originally from New York State, Kim lives in Vancouver, British Columbia, with her husband and their dog. When she's not crocheting, writing, editing, or traveling, she enjoys reading, hiking, knitting, and playing in the garden.



Instructional Videos Online

We've filmed videos of a few of the techniques described in this book—just look for the  symbol. To view the videos, go to www.wiley.com/go/crochetvqt.

Acknowledgments

We are greatly indebted to the people at Wiley who have made this book possible: Pam Mourouzis and Suzanne Snyder, who provided patience and guidance, always with kindness and humor; Cindy Kitchel, who expanded her crochet skills and showed them off so perfectly; and Matt Bowen, our photographer—all their efforts truly make this book special.

Cecily is grateful to have such a supportive and inspiring circle of friends and family, all willing to listen to her chatter on about crochet. Her biggest thanks go to Rob, who still believes it when she promises she will get the yarn collection under control.

Kim thanks her family and friends for being patient during her long absence from their lives while this book was in production. Especially to Greg, who truly had to live through it with her.

We are grateful to the Craft Yarn Council of America for their permission to reprint information about industry standards and for the tireless efforts they make to promote and document crochet.

Finally, to the crocheting community: We thank you for your enthusiasm for the craft and for your unending desire to learn more about it.

Table of Contents



| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Hooks and Yarn | 2 |
| Hooks | 4 |
| Hook Sizes | 6 |
| Compare Hook-Size Labels | 8 |
| Other Tools and Notions | 10 |
| Yarn Fibers | 12 |
| Yarn Construction | 13 |
| How to Read Yarn Labels | 14 |
| Yarn Weight | 16 |
| Estimate Yarn Requirements | 17 |
| Substitute Different Yarn | 18 |
| How to Handle Store-Bought Yarn | 19 |
| Yarn Care and Storage | 24 |

2

Basic Stitches 26

| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Slip Knot | 28 |
| Yarn Over | 29 |
| Chain Stitch | 30 |
| Foundation Chain | 32 |
| Turning Chains | 33 |
| Foundation Single Crochet | 34 |
| Anatomy of a Chain | 36 |
| Slip Stitch | 38 |
| Single Crochet | 39 |
| Half Double Crochet | 40 |
| Double Crochet | 41 |
| Treble Crochet | 43 |
| Count Your Stitches | 45 |
| Crochet Symbols | 46 |
| Teach a Child Basic Stitches | 47 |

3

Basic Techniques 48

| | |
|---|----|
| Increases | 50 |
| Decrease By Leaving Stitches Unworked | 52 |
| Decrease by Working Stitches Together | 54 |
| Crochet in the Round | 56 |
| Create a Ring Using Chain Stitches | 58 |
| Create a Ring Using a Loop | 59 |
| Use a Chain Stitch as a Ring | 61 |
| Basic Shaping in the Round | 62 |
| Join New Yarn | 63 |
| Fasten Off | 65 |
| Weave In Yarn Ends | 66 |

4

Advanced Stitches 68

| | |
|--|----|
| Double Treble Crochet | 70 |
| Extended Crochet Stitches | 72 |
| Work in Front Loop or Back Loop Only | 73 |
| Spike Stitches | 75 |
| Post Stitches | 77 |
| Clusters | 79 |
| Bobbles | 80 |
| Puffs | 81 |
| Popcorns | 82 |
| Bullions | 83 |
| Clones Knot | 84 |
| Lover's Knot | 86 |

5

Beyond the Basic Techniques 88

| | |
|--|-----|
| Felting/Fulling | 90 |
| Tunisian Crochet | 92 |
| Work with Color: Stranding | 103 |
| Work with Color: Intarsia | 104 |
| Work with Color: Tapestry Crochet | 105 |
| Filet Crochet | 107 |
| Crochet with Beads | 109 |
| Broomstick Loops | 110 |
| Hairpin Lace | 112 |
| Simple Daisy | 116 |
| Corkscrew | 118 |
| Teardrop | 119 |
| Triangles Using Increases or Decreases | 120 |
| Triangle in the Round | 122 |
| Rectangle in the Round | 124 |
| Mitered Square | 126 |
| Pentagon | 128 |
| Granny Square | 130 |

6

Finishing 134

| | |
|--|-----|
| Buttonholes | 136 |
| Zippers | 138 |
| Patch Pockets | 140 |
| Join Motifs | 141 |
| Pompoms | 143 |
| Fringe | 145 |
| Edgings | 147 |
| Blocking | 151 |
| Seaming | 153 |
| Seam Pieces Together by Crocheting | 156 |
| Care for Crocheted Items | 158 |

7

Working from Patterns 160

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Abbreviations | 162 |
| Pattern Syntax | 164 |
| How to Read a Pattern | 165 |
| Gauge | 168 |
| Adjust Your Gauge | 169 |
| Take Your Measurements | 170 |
| How to Read a Chart | 174 |
| Standard Measurement Charts | 175 |

8

Diagnose and Fix Problems 180

| | |
|---|-----|
| Recognize Extra Increases and Decreases | 182 |
| Fix Extra Increases and Decreases | 185 |
| If Something Still Seems Wrong | 187 |
| Use Stitch Markers | 188 |
| Working with Splitting Yarn | 189 |
| Smooth Uneven Sides | 190 |
| Loosen Up a Tight Foundation Chain | 192 |
| Fix the Fit of a Garment | 193 |

Appendix: Online Resources 194

Index 200

chapter

1

Hooks and Yarn

Before you start crocheting, take some time to familiarize yourself with the tools that will help you along the way. Starting a project with the right tools on hand saves time. In this chapter you'll find information to help you choose an appropriate hook for a project as well as suggestions for choosing, caring for, and winding yarn.

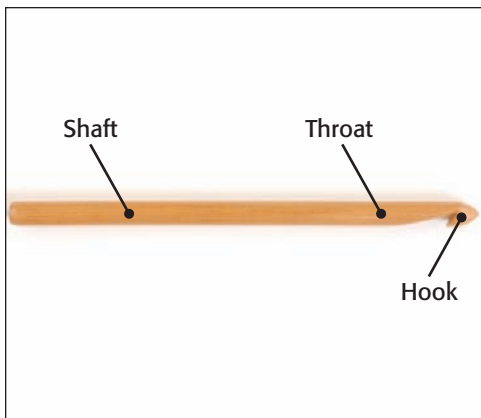
| | |
|---|-----------|
| Hooks | 4 |
| Hook Sizes | 6 |
| Compare Hook-Size Labels..... | 8 |
| Other Tools and Notions | 10 |
| Yarn Fibers | 12 |
| Yarn Construction..... | 13 |
| How to Read Yarn Labels | 14 |
| Yarn Weight | 16 |
| Estimate Yarn Requirements..... | 17 |
| Substitute Different Yarn..... | 18 |
| How to Handle Store-Bought Yarn..... | 19 |
| Yarn Care and Storage..... | 24 |

Hooks

SHAPE

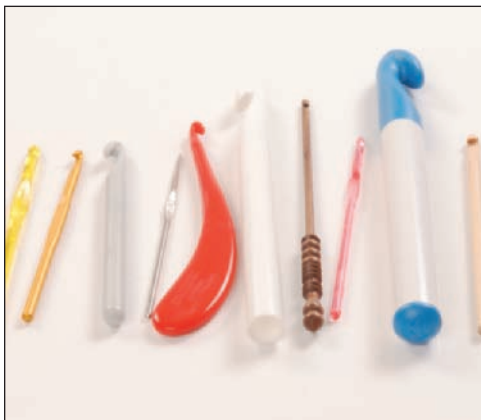
Crochet hooks are generally 5 to 7 inches long. There is a hook at one end, which you use to grab yarn or thread and pull it through the stitches of your work. You hold the hook along its shaft.

Manufacturers shape their hooks differently. The sharpness or bluntness of the hook's point varies, as does the hook's depth. Try out a few brands until you find the shape you think works best.



HOOK COMPOSITION

Plastic hooks are usually hollow and lightweight. Most very large hooks are made of plastic. Metal hooks can be very smooth, enabling the yarn to slide with little resistance. Wood or bamboo hooks provide a bit of friction, which comes in handy when you're crocheting with slippery yarns.



When using a wood or bamboo hook, rub the hook with a piece of wax paper to make the yarn slide more smoothly.

Some hooks are designed with a thick rubber handle to be easier to grip. Some hooks feature embellishments on the handle, but these are purely decorative.



OTHER KINDS OF HOOKS

Tunisian crochet hooks are longer than standard crochet hooks.

This extra length allows the hook to hold many stitches, much like a knitting needle does. (See page 92 for more on Tunisian crochet.)

There are also double-ended crochet hooks made for a technique called *double-ended crochet* or *crochet on the double*.



Hook Sizes

Hook size is determined by the diameter of the hook's shaft. Hook size is marked differently in the United States, the United Kingdom, and the rest of the world.

Hook sizes in the United States and United Kingdom are marked by an arbitrary letter or number, respectively. Manufacturers often use slightly different labels for the same size hook, however. Hooks are most consistently labeled by the metric measurement of their diameter, which is an objective label. There is a growing effort to standardize sizes by using metric measurements only.



TIP

Small hooks make small stitches; large hooks make large stitches. Switching hooks will change the look and feel of the fabric you crochet.

DECIDING WHICH HOOK SIZE TO USE

Most yarn labels suggest a hook size to use; most patterns also list a recommended hook size. You may need to change hook size in order to match the gauge listed in a pattern or to achieve a pleasing drape and feel.

Matching the gauge of a pattern is more important than using the exact hook size listed. In some instances, a yarn label provides only a recommendation for a knitting needle size. In this case, use a hook that matches or is slightly larger than the metric size.



DETERMINING A HOOK'S SIZE

If you're unsure of a hook's size because it is old or the label has worn off, you can use a hook gauge to measure it. The size indicated beside the smallest hole that the shaft of the hook fits into is the size of your hook.

