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an introduction to Tunisian crochet with a simple pattern



any pattern updates will be on: gentlelivingshop.org/crochet-bean-bag

what is Tunisian crochet?

It is also known as Afghan crochet. Tunisian crochet is a combination of knitting and crochet. You will be using a crochet hook to collect active stitches like you do in knitting and your work generally will not need to be turned. It creates a beautifully tight-knit and thick fabric, which will be perfect for this pattern!

what you will need

♥ we like to advocate using any yarn you have laying around, it's the perfect way to use up any leftovers from your other projects. Just pick up a yarn and a suitable crochet hook to get started!

- Yarn: if you are looking for inspiration, we used Creative Cotton Aran from Rico Design, around 21 meters (23 yards) or 12 grams for one bean bag
- Crochet hook: 4 mm (US: G-6; UK 8). Make sure your hook has a long enough shaft to hold the active stitches
- Tapestry needle or a smaller sized hook
- Scissors
- A filling of your choice: beans, peas, rice... We used 40 grams of mung beans. Try not to use any small seeds as they tend to sprout if they get wet!



terms & abbreviations

Abbreviations will be useful for the simplified pattern on Page 4.

- ch = chain, which is yarn over and pull through one loop
- fp = forward pass: when you collect active stitches onto the hook
- rp = return pass: when you work active stitches off your hook
- yo = yarn over
- rep = repeat
- st = stitch
- tog = together
- Tss = Tunisian simple stitch
- sl st = slip stitch, which is yarn over and pull through two loops

the basics

♥ photos will have purple highlighted bits with corresponding highlighted description text

1: slip knot



Create a slip knot and feed the hook through the loop.

2: chain stitch



Yarn over the hook and pull through to create a chain stitch. Complete a total of 14.

♥ if you are left-handed: mirror all the steps so that forward pass you work from left to right, and return pass you work from right to left



Tunisian crochet

3: forward pass - foundation row



Put hook through **2nd stitch from hook**, yarn over and pull through only **one loop**. Repeat with rest of stitches, end with a total of 14 loops on hook.

4: return pass - foundation row



Yarn over and pull through **one loop** to create a chain. Yarn over and pull through **two loops** for rest of the stitches.

5: forward pass & return pass - Tunisian simple stitch



Put hook through the **second vertical bar from hook**, yarn over and pull through only **one loop**. Repeat with rest of the vertical bars, end with 14 loops on your hook. Repeat **4** for return pass.

♡ This step is where you can experiment with other types of Tunisian crochet stitches, as all previous "casting on" steps are the same. There are Tunisian knit stitch, Tunisian purl stitch... and many more!

6: repeat, repeat, and cast off!



Repeat step **5** for a total of 29 rows. The 30th row of forward pass is where we will be casting off. Put hook through the **second vertical bar from hook**, yarn over and pull through **two loops**. Repeat till the end of the row and you should have a finished edge!

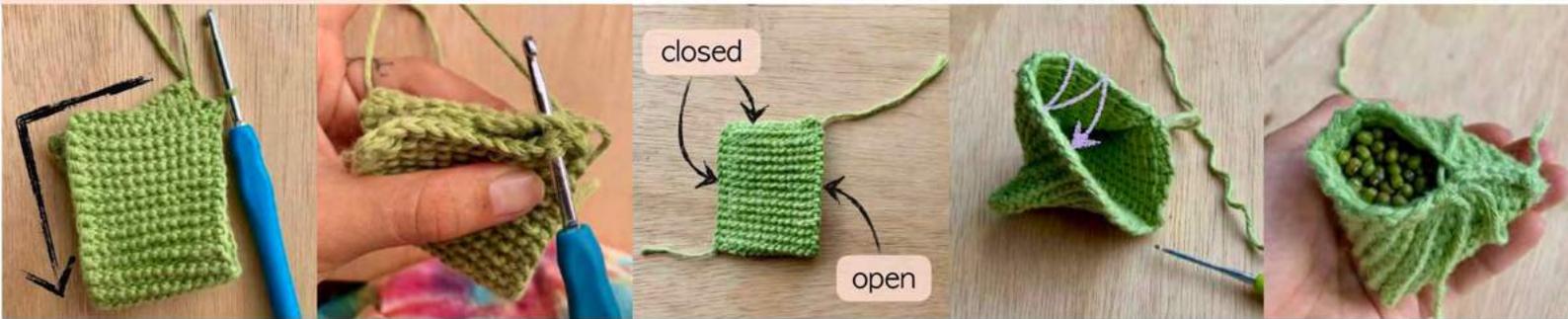
textual side

smooth side



♡ The fabric you created has two sides with different textures. You can decide which side to show on the outside. To have the textual side be shown, stitch with the smooth side facing in.

7: creating the shape



Stitch two sides of the fabric together in direction the arrow on the photo. Put hook through the top loops of fabric and use the yarn over and pull through two loops method to connect them. When you have closed off two sides of the fabric, fasten-off using a chain stitch and cut the end. Stitch the last open side following the arrow in photo to create the triangular shape. It may be helpful to use a smaller hook. When you have closed it halfway, place the filling inside the bean bag and seal completely.

8: finishing off



There may still be gaps in the fabric, which you can remedy by weaving in some yarn using a smaller hook or a tapestry needle. Fasten off with a chain stitch and trim the ends. To conceal the loose ends, poke your smaller hook/tapestry needle through the fabric and pull the yarn to the inside of the bean bag. You are all done!



simplified pattern

1. ch 14
- fp - foundation row
2. in 2nd ch from hook, yo pull through 1; rep across, with total of 14 loops on hook
- rp - foundation row
3. yo pull through 1
4. yo pull through 2, rep across
- fp & rp - Tss
5. in 2nd vertical bar from hook, yo pull through 1, rep across, with total of 14 loops on hook
6. yo pull through 1
7. yo pull through 2, rep across
8. rep fp and rp steps 5-7 for 29 rows
9. on 30th row, in 2nd vertical bar from hook, yo pull through 2, rep across leaving 1 last loop on hook
10. st short sides tog with sl st, continue to st long side tog leaving one long side open
11. fasten off
12. switch to a smaller hook, st last opening tog where seam is perpendicular to seams on the bottom to create a triangular shape
13. after halfway, fill with choice of filling
14. seal completely
15. if there are still gaps in fabric, use smaller hook/tapestry needle to weave yarn through
16. fasten off with ch1 and pull loose ends into the bean bag

