The Crocheter's Guide
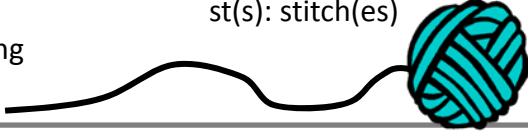## to troubleshooting patterns!

Standard Abbreviations

beg: beginning
ch: chain
dc: double crochet
dec: decrease
hdc: half double crochet
inc: increase
rem: remaining

rep: repeat
rnd(s): round(s)
sc: single crochet
sc2tog: sc 2 sts together
sl st: slip stitch
st(s): stitch(es)

A Note about Increases

Patterns use different phrasing to talk about working increases.
Be prepared to see any of the following:
- Increase in next st
- Sc twice in next st
- 2sc in next st

Decreases are can be written as either 'decrease' or 'sc2tog'.

Repeats (aka: what is that funny * symbol?)

A crochet pattern may tell you to repeat a certain instruction a number of times. Repeats can be written in 2 different ways:

*Inc in next st, sc in next st. Repeat from * 2 times.*

or

[Inc in next st, sc in next st] 3 times.

Notice that when a line contains an (*), you should complete the instruction once, and then repeat the specified number of times. In the example above, this means you should "Inc in next st, sc in next st" for a total of three times.

Reading Stitch Counts

Patterns often contain stitch counts to help you out… but they can be confusing if you aren't prepared! Here is a typical line from a pattern:

Round 2: Sc twice in each st. (12)

What does that 12 mean? That number in parentheses is your stitch count: the number of stitches you should have at the end of your round/row.

Feeling confused?

Try reading the pattern aloud! Hearing the pattern in words often helps!

Gauge: need it?

Q: Do you really need to check gauge?
A: Depends. Do you want your finished item to be the right size?

If you're making clothing, then gauge is crucial. For toys and washcloths, maybe not. It's up to you!

Gauge: how to measure

Example:
24 stitches and 18 rows = 4 inches

1. Grab your ruler
2. Crochet a swatch that includes the specified number of stitches
3. Measure your swatch

Gauge: now what?

Do your 24 sts measure 4"?

If so, then you're right on! If not, then you'll need to change your hook size.

If your swatch is smaller than 4", go up a hook size. If it's bigger, then use a smaller hook.

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