

Design Resource

Crochet Knitting - Panaji, Goa

A Form of Handwork

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and
Sandhya B.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/crochet-knitting-panaji-goa>

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Introduction

Crochet is a textile made from a single thread that is inter-looped by means of a hook. It is looped in such a way that drawing thread through the previous stitch makes a new stitch. There are various forms of handwork – knitting, embroidery and weaving which can be dated far back in time, while one is not quite sure when and where crochet got its start but it is well known that the lace craft is a modern introduction into India and the art of crochet, as we know it today was developed during the 16th century. The word crochet comes from *croc* or *croche*, French word for hook, known as *crochet* lace in France and *chain* lace in England. The French, Belgians, Italians and Spanish-speaking people call it as *crochet* where in Holland it is called as *haken*, *haekling* in Denmark, *hekling* in Norway and *virkning* in Sweden. According to Annie potter who is crochet expert and world traveller it is said that in 1916 Walter Edmund Roth visited descendants of the Guiana Indians and found examples of true crochet. Another researcher of Denmark put forth interesting theories – in China, three-dimensional dolls was known to be worked in crochet, and the earliest evidence came from South America where a simple tribe was evidenced to follow this crochet. The start of crochet has not found its convincing evidence yet in Europe until 1800. As far back as the 1500s in Italy ‘nun’s work’ or ‘nun’s lace’ was practiced for the church textiles. Though the kind of lace making and a kind of lace tape are preserved all indicates that crochet was not known in Italy until 16th century under any name. Various materials have been used earlier like hair, grasses, hemp including cotton and silk yarns. At removal we have hugely wide selection of cotton, wool, silk and synthetic yarns, however unusual materials as copper wire, strips of plastic, and jute can also be crocheted.

The tool that is use to carry on the crochet is a hook, it was earlier made of wood but now aluminum or steel hook is available in more sizes. The hooks were sometimes made of animal bones and horns. At earlier times it was job of men creating this handwork for purposes like hunting, fishing, catching animals and birds. They created strands of knots and strips of woven fiber to hunt. This was also long-drawn-out to include decorations for special days like religious rites, celebrations or funerals. Ornamentation and decorative accessories for arms, ankles and wrists can also be seen. The crochet was considered to be a rich man’s thing and poor could only dream of such things at earlier times. During Victorian times, crochet patterns were available for flowerpot holders, bird cage covers, lamp mats and shades, wastepaper baskets, tablecloths, antimacassars, tobacco pouches, purses, men’s caps and waistcoats, even a rug with foot warmers to be placed under the card table. One of the researchers speculates that the cue to keep the same tightness seems to indicate that the same thickness and the person who does crochet to work in correct tightness according to the pattern. Earlier the patterns were simply copied from someone else. Later the samples were made and sewn onto pages and bound like reference books or kept in a box to check upon when needed.

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The different stitches of crochet are stitched together in long, narrow bands to keep them as sample stitches and readers could buy small pattern samples along with their yarn. The earliest crochet patterns known to date were printed in the year 1824 and also patterns were purses of gold and silver thread in color works. The crochet books were available as the art of crocheting grew and more books on crochet were also published. The books contained illustrations that were accurate to follow for the reader. One of the growing trends is learning crochet, while the word crochet makes us think of grandma sitting in her rocker knitting, isn't that case anymore, young people have got the interests in learning crochet and are creating some amazing garments and decorative items. Crochet has also brought a social aspect that was not there earlier. Traders inform artisans about market trends, government and development organizations that have helped them form into cooperatives, while some artisans have also formed Self-help Groups.

The Industrial Handicrafts and handloom cooperative society Ltd (IHHCSL) is one such cooperative in Goa. It was established on August 14, 1980. The society is a non-profit organization helping women earn from home, providing them a livelihood and also retaining Portuguese art of crochet and embroidery alive are the aims of this organization. It whole-heartedly works to retain the art of crochet with the modern designs that are turning up these days.



A close up view of a coaster, done using technique of crochet embroidery.

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An Artisan displaying a "Toran" made from one of the crochet embroidery technique.



Image showing artisan working on a product using crochet embroidery.



Two different shades of table cloth, used as coasters for dining etc.

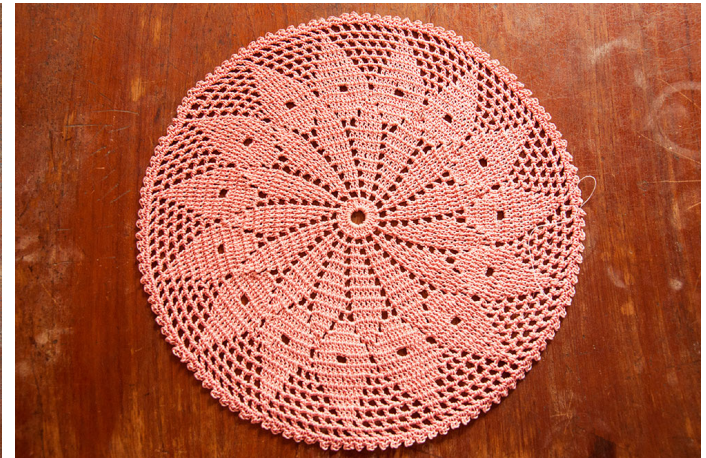


Image showing a coaster with intricately beautiful pattern done with the help of crochet embroidery technique.

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Tools and Raw Materials

The tools that are used for crochet knitting are:

- **Threads:** Cotton threads are used for crochet.
- **Crochet Hook:** Crochet hook is used to make loops and form crochet stitches.
- **Scissors:** Pair of scissors are used to cut threads.
- **Measuring Tape:** To measure the length of crocheted work.
- **Large-eye Needle:** To sew or knot crocheted work.



A white shaded cotton thread for crochet.

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A colored cotton thread, used for crochet embroidery purpose.



Scissor used in cutting cloth and thread.



A crochet needle.

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Making Process

Crochet is a process of creating fabric by interlocking loops of yarn, threads, or strands of other materials using a crochet hook. Crochet is slightly different from that of knitting. Crochet completes stitches and then proceeds to the next one while knitting have many stitches open at a time. The surface grows in a circle, spiral or in a to and fro manner. Geometrical and floral motifs are mostly preferred.

There are some simple steps to get started on crochet. They are –

- **Gathering the needed materials:**

To crochet - a crochet hook, yarn, scissors and large-eye needle are needed.

- **Holding the crochet hook:**

The crochet hook has to be held in the dominant hand. A slipknot has to be created and placed over the end of the hook.

- **Creating stitches:**

The slipknot loop is placed on hook from a single thread and is inter-looped by means of a hook in such a way that a new stitch is made by drawing thread through the previous stitch, and repeating this process to create a chain of suitable length. The chain is either turned and worked in rows or joined to the beginning of the row with a slipstitch and worked in rounds. Pulling one or more loops through each loop of the chain makes stitches. At any one time at the end of a stitch, there is only one loop left on the hook. The threads used for crochet are cotton, white, pale and bright colors. Thicker the yarn larger the diameter of the crochet hooks. Thicker yarns generally require fewer stitches and therefore less time to work upon a given design. It gives a bold look comparative to thinner yarns. Thinner yarns are used for delicate pattern works and consume more time to complete a pattern work. The size of the hook is chosen according to the pattern work. The hooks are of steel these days. Steel crochet hooks range in size from 0.4 to 3.5 millimeters. These hooks are used for fine crochet work such as doilies. At any one time at the end of a stitch, there is only one loop left on the hook. There are most noted stitches that are crocheted as well.

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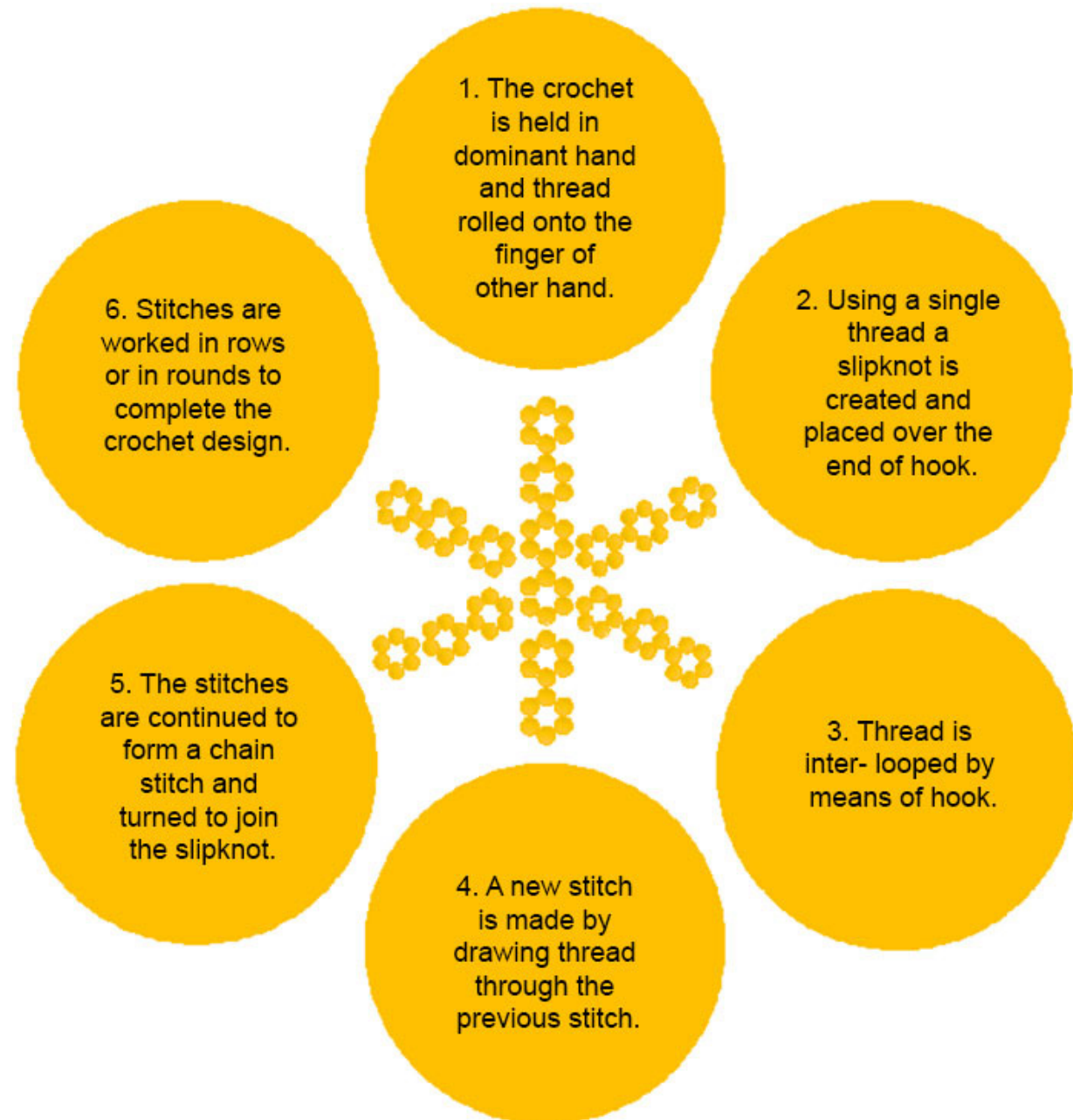
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Flow Chart:



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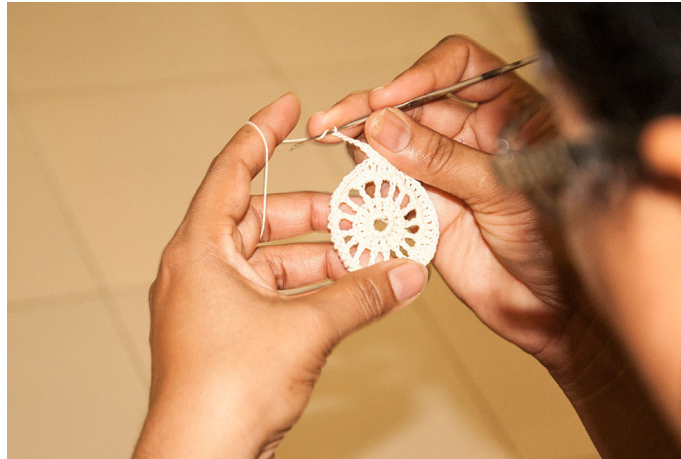
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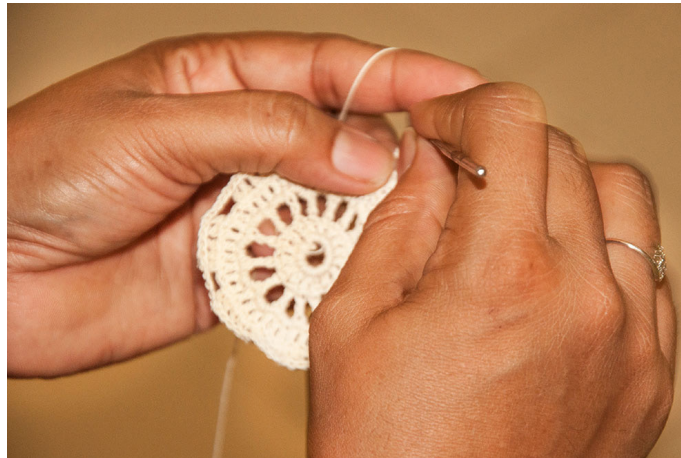
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Artisan starts by rolling the thread piece to crochet needle and then knots it to itself.



It is then continued in a loop, creating floral and intrinsic patterns.



A circular pattern is maintained as the artisan makes the knitting.



Artisan checks and inspects the design every now and then to make sure to maintain a visual balance.

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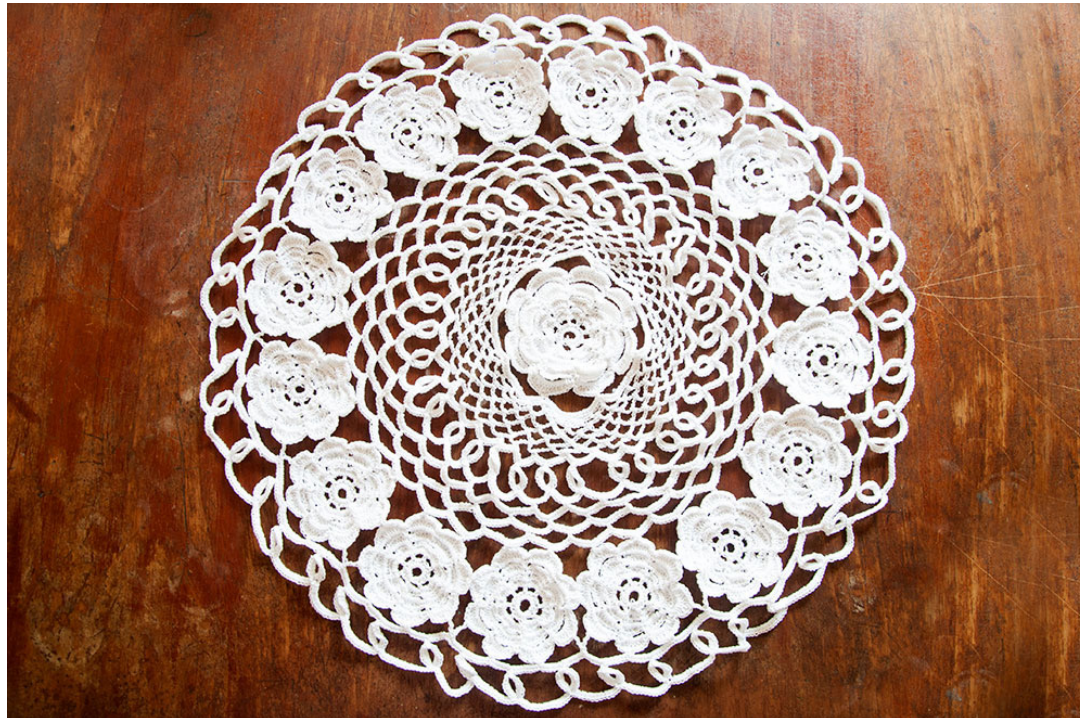
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As the knitting is done, artisan ties a knot in the end of the design such that it does not open up during its use.



Artisan cuts the extra thread from the product, as a part of finishing touches.



An image showing a complete knitted coaster.

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Products

Crochet products are cushion covers, tablecloths, coasters, mats, hats, door hangings, bed covers, Altar cloths, garments and more. Since the crochet threads are cotton it has lot of benefits that is it is easier to wash and maintain the quality, it is strong and absorbent. So these crochet products last for a good period of time. Some designers have taken the art of crochet to another level improvising on patterns. Many youngsters are seen involved in crochet these days and business out of crochet is also endured.



A set of Small and medium sized coasters, used in dining tables.

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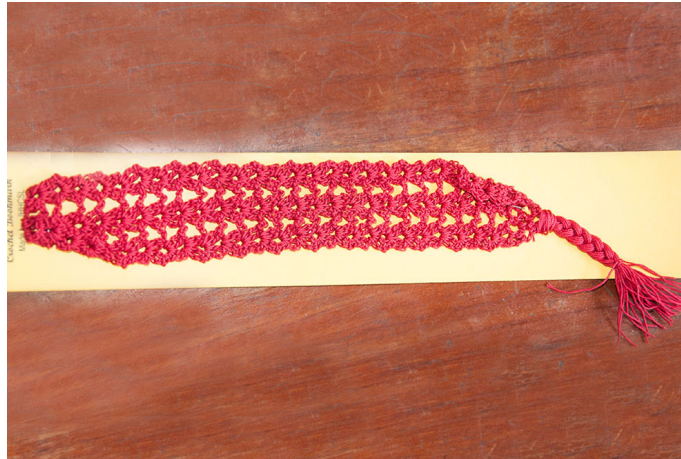
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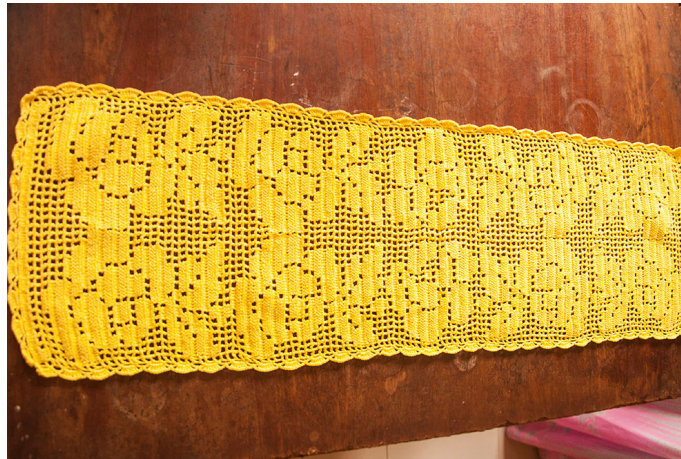
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A crochet knitted lace, used in decorative purposes in dress.



A tissue dispenser box, done in crochet knitting method.



A crochet technique lace used in various products, such as ladies dress etc.



A Ladies cardigan, done in crochet knitting method.

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A square shaped coaster, used in dining table, as a part of decoration.

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Video



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You could write to the following address regarding suggestions and clarifications:

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