

How To Write A Crochet Pattern | What To Include

Blog post notes by A Crafty Concept

Notes

Introduction: Explain what the pattern is for, who it's for, and the different ways you can use it. If your pattern is for multiple sizes, you can explain that here in the intro.

Finished Item Pictures: I suggest putting a picture of the finished piece on the cover page of your pattern. I received a less than 5-star review once because there wasn't a finished product picture on the front page, and after reading the review, I totally understood that customer's point of view! I also include different angles and some close-ups of the finished piece at the end of most of my patterns.

Materials: List all the materials needed to make this pattern, in detail. When you list the yarn, list the brand, color, weight, and how much of it you will need to complete this pattern. Get very specific when it comes to yarn details, the more info the better! You can also include any yarn substitutions here just in case your reader lives in an area that doesn't have the same yarn the pattern calls for. Include the hook size/brand, if you need stitch makers or pins, scissors, tapestry needle, polyfill, anything they will need to complete this project needs to be listed here.

Pro Tip: Kitchen scales are great for weighing yarn and determining how much you will need for a specific project.

Stitch Key: List all the abbreviations of all the stitches you use in the pattern and what the abbreviations stand for. Example: SC is Single Crochet. You will also need to indicate if you are using US or UK terminology.

Special Stitches: It's smart to explain how to do the crochet stitches your pattern uses. Pretend the reader of your pattern doesn't know very much about crochet and explain how to do each of the stitches used, step by step. Include video links as well if you want to be extra sure your customer will be able to understand and complete the pattern.

Pro Tip: Whenever I go to explain how to do a stitch, I always crochet the actual stitch in a swatch and type out exactly what I do, as I do it. Start keeping all your stitch explanations in a document on your computer so next time

you design a pattern with that stitch, you can just copy and paste.

Gauge: When I first started designing patterns I didn't include the gauge. Then I had to go back and add it in and send the updated pattern to everyone who already purchased it, it wasn't fun lol. So just include the gauge from the very beginning and save yourself some hassle! What is a gauge? Gauge just tells you how big your stitches are. To create your gauge you crochet a certain number of stitches for a certain number of rows. Say you crochet with a size I hook, 15 single crochets for 15 rows and you get a 4" by 4" square. If someone is following your pattern and they make a 15 single crochets for 15 rows swatch and their square is only 2" by 2" they know they either need to loosen up their tension significantly or go up in hook size until their gauge matches yours. If their gauge doesn't match yours, then their finished piece will not have the same measurements as yours.

Dimensions: Include the dimensions of your finished piece. If you offer more than one size, include dimensions for all sizes. I also like to include dimensions throughout the pattern, if necessary, so the customer can see if they're on track during making the project instead of making the whole thing and realizing their tension was off.

Before you start tips: Sometimes I have a pattern where I need to explain something to the reader before they start the project that way they know what to expect. In my [Crafty Watermelon Pillow](#) pattern, I had a whole "before you start" page that explained how I used stitch markers before certain rows, complete with pictures. I also had a "before you start" section in my [Kate Bun Beanie](#) pattern pointing out to pay close attention to the end of each row because after some rows you turn your work when after others you don't.

Video Tutorial Link: If you make a video that corresponds with your crochet pattern make sure to include the link in the pattern its self. If your customer is reading the PDF on their computer the link should be clickable (at least it is on a Mac), but if they print it out they can just type it in by hand.

Pro Tip: You can use [Bitly.com](#) to shorten URLs so that they are easier to read/type out.

The actual pattern: The easiest way to do this is to write the steps/rows/rounds as you physically do them. Be sure to pay

attention to the little details like turning after chaining, tying off, switching colors, leaving a long tail for sewing, things like that. I always put a stitch count at the end of each row so my reader can easily go back and check to see if they have the right number of stitches.

Progress Pictures: I personally include a lot of progress pictures in my patterns. My thinking is the more pictures I include, the fewer questions/confusion my reader will have. Some designers use very little, if any, pictures. You will want to do what's right for your particular design. Try to imagine a first-time crocheter is following your pattern and include pictures on any part you think needs extra explaining. I have actually started offering a "printer friendly" version of my patterns too that doesn't include the pictures, that way if the reader doesn't need the pictures they can save ink/paper when printing. You can also use arrows on your pictures if you need to bring your reader's attention to a specific detail. In some of my pattern pictures, I use an arrow clip art image to show exactly which stitch I'm talking about in the pattern.

Pro Tips: Throughout my patterns, I sometimes include "pro tips" to help the reader. With my Kate Bun Beanie pattern one of the increase rows doesn't have a nice repetition, I wrote out exactly how many stitches to do in between each increase in the pattern but some readers may be more advanced crocheters and all they need to know is that row has 5 increases. That's what I would say in a "pro tip".

Graphs, Charts, or Diagrams: Some crochet designs are better explained using stitch graphs, charts (think graphgans), or even diagrams you make yourself. There are a couple of online programs available that will help you make crochet charts. [Stitchworks](#) and [Stitch Fiddle](#) were both recommended to me by fellow designers.

Blocking: If your piece requires blocking you could explain in your pattern how to actually block a crochet item, or links to tutorials that you think explain it perfectly (be sure to give credit to the maker who's link you're using)

Copyright: You will want to include your copyright info somewhere within your pattern. I always put mine on the very last page. Your copyright should state that the pattern is your intellectual property, and so are the pictures. The reader is not permitted to sell or share the pattern in any way. If you give the reader permission to sell the finished piece, you will

include that in your copyright, but ask that they credit you for the design. Here is what my copyright looks like at the bottom of my patterns.

©PATTERN COPYRIGHT

Please do not copy, redistribute or sell my pattern in any way. You are more than welcome to sell your finished INTER PATTERN NAME HERE. I hope they are a very hot item for you!! I just ask that you please credit me for the pattern so other makers can find me as well. You may not use my pictures and pass them off as your own for they are my property. Thank you for your understanding.

You can include the copyright symbol (©) if you want to look really professional 😊. If you're using a Windows computer hold down the **Alt** key while pressing **1069**. For a Mac, press **option** and the **G** key. (<https://www.lifewire.com/copyright-symbol-on-windows-and-mac-2688246>)

Conclusion: I always like to include a conclusion at the bottom of all my patterns. In my conclusions I thank the reader for supporting my shop, invite them to follow me on social media, and encourage them to share pictures of their finished pieces and tag me. I think it's important to let your customers know how thankful you are for them, plus if they just finished your pattern and they loved it, they might really want to look you up on social media and would appreciate the info!