

crochet scallop hem



shiny happy world

This might just be my favorite method of fancifying a hem. I've been crocheting for as long as I can remember and I love the simplicity of that simple band of scallops. Did you know they haven't been able to invent a machine that crochets? If you see crochet work, it was done by hand. Always.

Materials you'll need:

- thin cotton yarn
- size G crochet hook
- large-eye needle

Skills you'll need (links take you to video tutorials):

- [how to backstitch](#)
- basic crochet stitches (demonstrated in the video that goes with this)

Time it will take:

- 2-3 evenings

Ready? Let's crochet!

Step 1

Mark off every half inch all around the base of your skirt.

Measure out enough yarn to go around the hem of your skirt 3 times, plus some extra for good measure. Don't cut it off the skein - just mark that length.

Thread a needle with your yarn. Insert it in the fold of the hem at one of your markings. Carry the needle along the fold and bring it back up at the next marking. Pull the thread through (there will be a LOT of it) until you get to the spot where you marked off the length.

You're ready to start backstitching all around the base of the skirt. This will be the foundation that you'll attach your crochet to.



Step 2

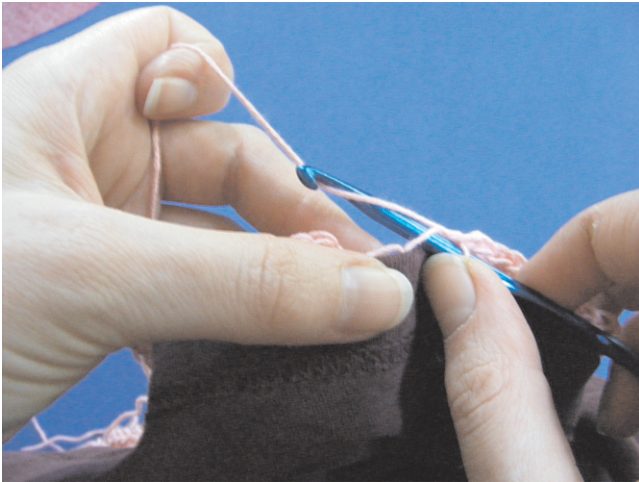
Backstitch all around the base of the skirt, using your half-inch markings to make your stitches all the same length.

Bring the yarn up one stitch length ahead of where the previous stitch ended.

Make your stitch by going back and inserting the needle where the last stitch came out. See why it's called backstitching? You work your actual stitches going backwards.

Make sure that you're carrying the needle through the fold of the hem. And be careful not to pull your stitches too tight. They should be sitting nice and flat right on the fold of the hem.

When you get back around to where you started, work the tail of the thread under a few stitches and snip it off. Pick up the other thread - this time the stuff that's still attached to the skein. Grab your crochet hook.

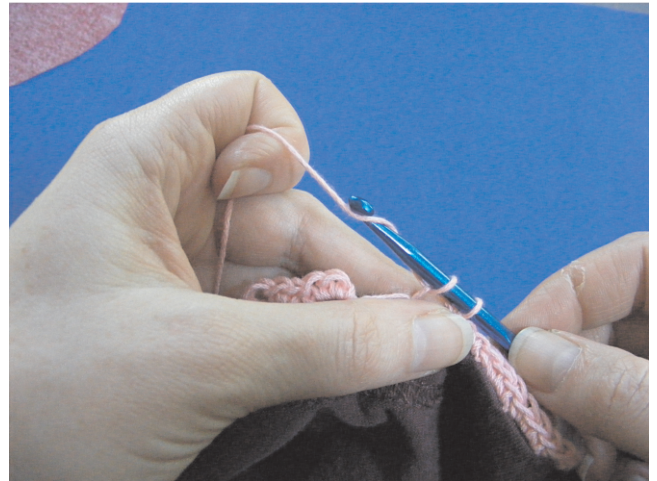


Step 3

We'll start by working three single crochets under each backstitch. Slide the needle under the stitch and wrap the yarn over the hook. Pull it back through to the front.

You should have two loops of yarn around the hook.

Wrap the yarn over the hook. . .



. . . and pull it through both loops.

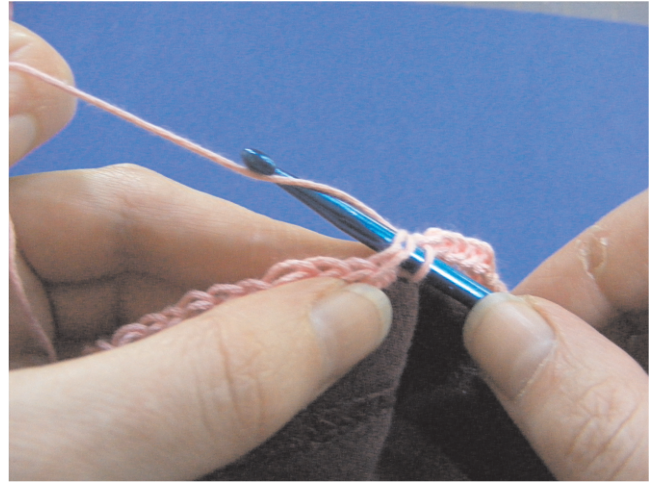
That's one single crochet.

Repeat that two more times in the same backstitch, then work your way all the way around the base of the skirt, making three single crochets in each backstitch.



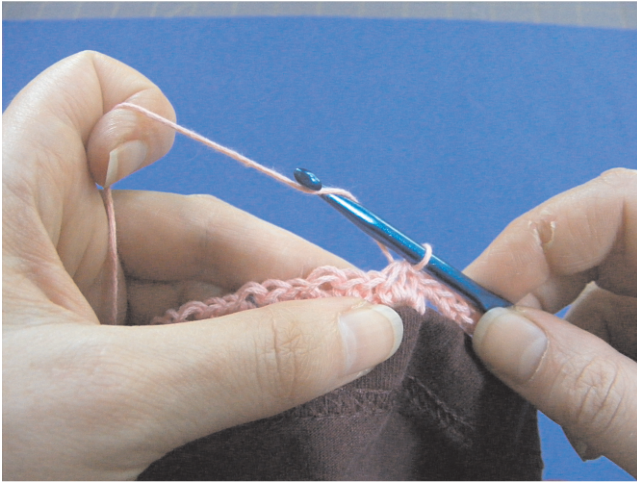
Step 4

When you get back to the beginning, use a slip stitch to join your first and last single crochets together. Insert the hook through your first single crochet. Wrap the yarn around the hook and pull it back through to the front AND through the wrap on the hook. You should be left with one loop on the hook.

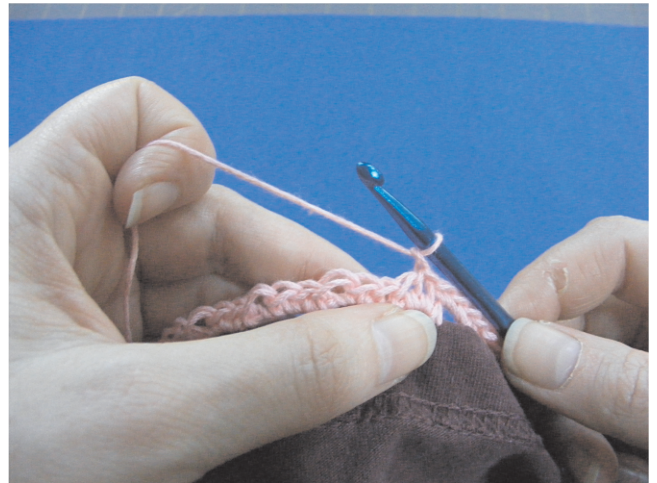


Step 5

Make one chain stitch. Wrap the yarn around your hook and pull it through the loop on your hook.

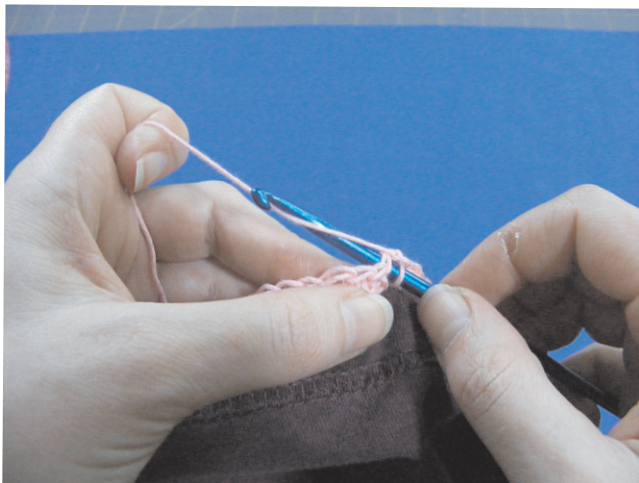


That chain stitch is going to lift you up a bit and give you room to start working the next row. Here's where things really start to get fun.



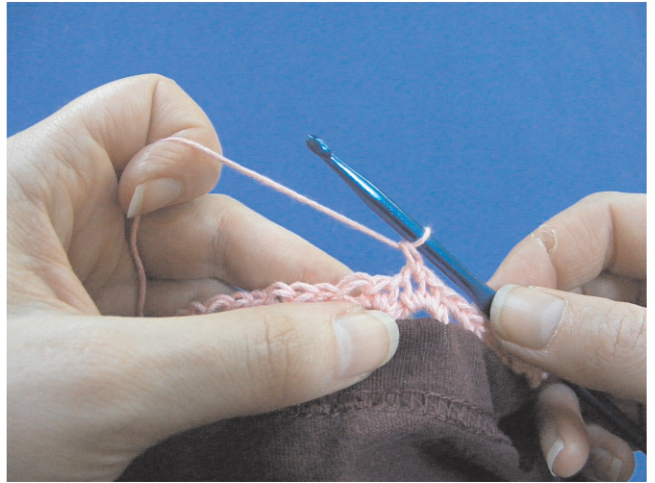
Step 6

Work one single crochet (Steps 4-5) into the next single crochet in front of your hook. Instead of sliding your hook under a backstitch, you'll be sliding it through the top of one of your single crochets. It will be going under two strands of yarn. See in the picture?

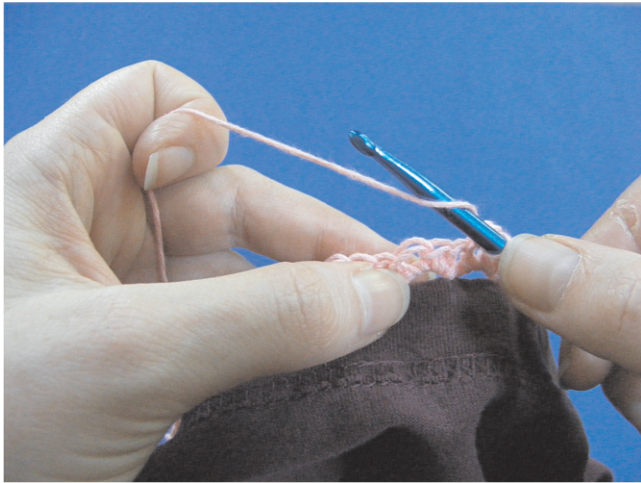


There's one finished single crochet.

Now skip the next two stitches. We're going to start to double crochet in the stitch after them. Ready?

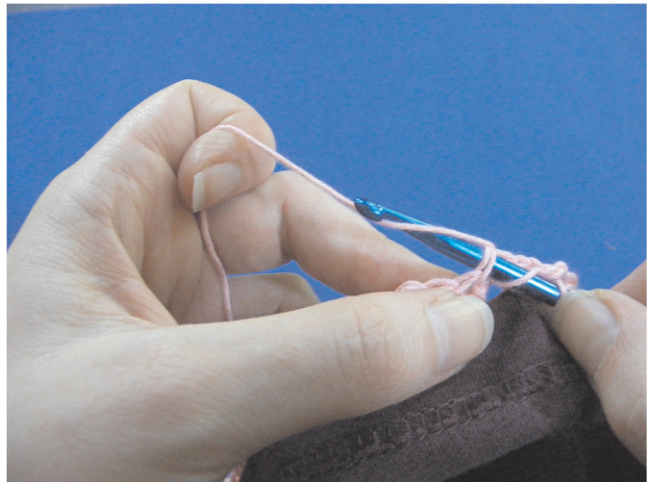


Step 7
Wrap the yarn over your hook. . .



. . . and THEN slide it into the top of the single crochet you're working into.

Yarn over again and pull it back through.



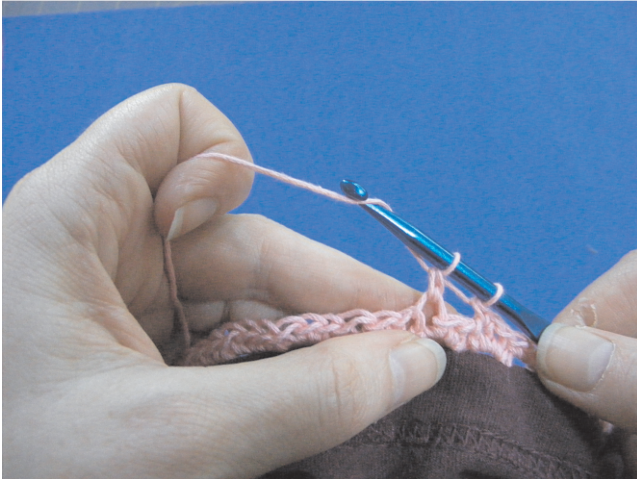
You should have three loops on your hook



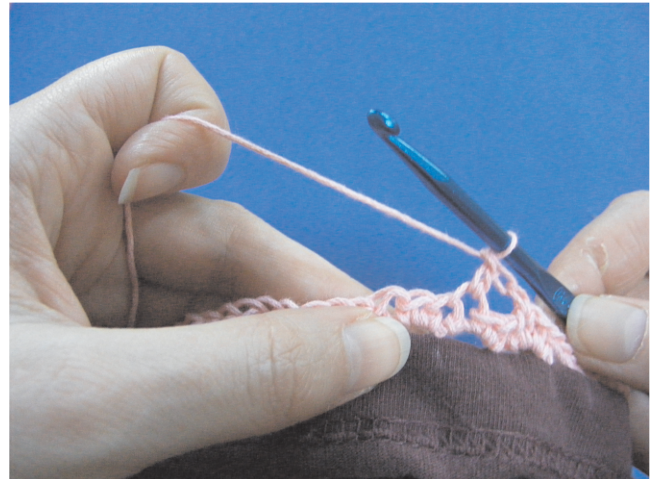
Wrap your yarn over and pull it through the first two loops on your hook.



You should have two loops left on your hook. Wrap your yarn over and pull it through both of them.

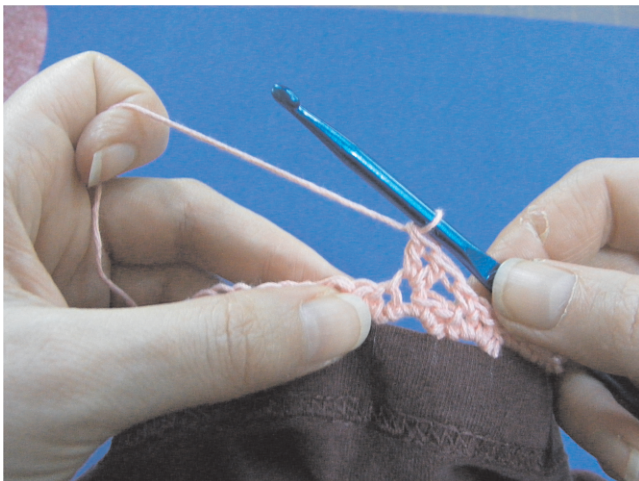


You should be back to one loop on your hook. That's one completed double crochet stitch.



Step 8

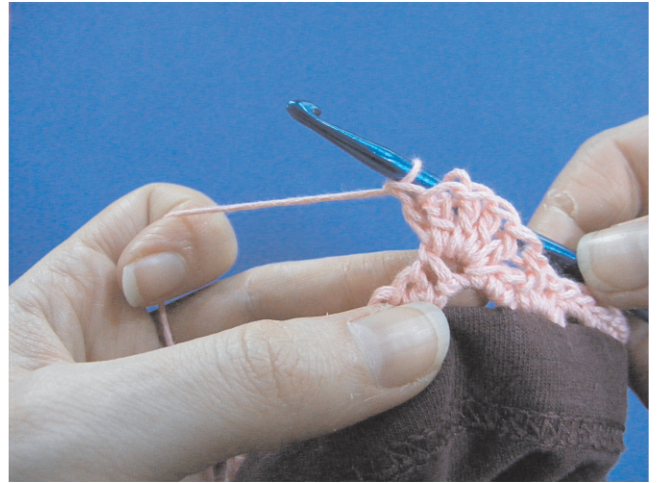
Follow all the parts of step 7 to stitch **ANOTHER** double crochet in the same stitch. The picture shows two finished double crochets worked in the same single crochet.



Step 9

Repeat 3 more times, until you have 5 double crochets worked into the same single crochet.

That's what makes your scallops.

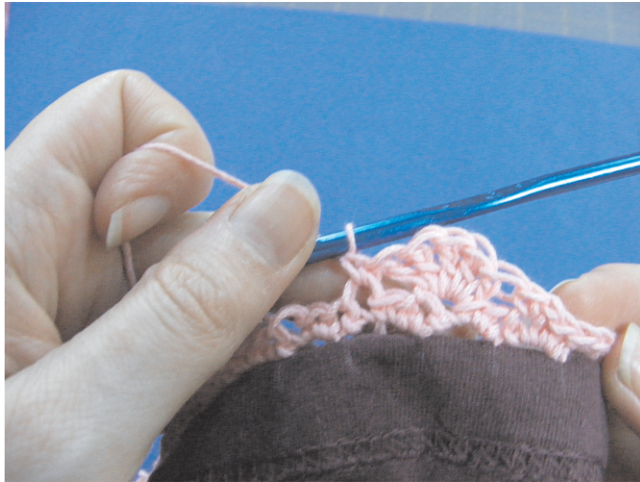


Step 10

Skip the next two stitches and then work one single crochet into the next stitch.

That makes the anchor that holds down the space between your scallops.

Keep working the same pattern all the way around the hem. Single crochet, skip 2, 5 double crochets in one stitch, skip 2, single crochet, skip 2, 5 double crochets in one stitch, skip 2, single crochet, etc.



Step 11

When you get back to where you started you'll need to work one more single crochet between your scallops to anchor the low point. It may not exactly follow your "skip 2" pattern - just pick a stitch that seems equally spaced between the two scallops.



Step 12

When you finish working the single crochet, snip your thread (leaving a tail of at least 6 inches) and pull it through.



Step 13

Thread the tail into a needle and work the tail through several crochet stitches.



Step 14

Thread the tail through more stitches, back in the other direction.

Snip off the end and you're done!



The Yarn

I know some of you will have questions about the yarn. I crochet by the seat of my pants and I don't know anything about gauge or technicalities. I just look for thin, smooth yarn for this project. This is a brand I like a lot - it wears really well through many, many washings and the color doesn't fade at all. It's 60% cotton and 40% acrylic. The label says it's "size 3" but I have no idea what that means. I stitch this stuff with a size G crochet hook.



Brag a little!

Don't forget to take a picture of your finished work! Post it to the [Shirt Off Daddy's Back Group on Flickr](#) so everyone can see and be inspired by your work. Sharing is fun!