

# Pretty Potholder

Ideal for newbies or those in need of some simple mind-calming crochet.

*Skill level: **Novice** (no experience required)*



[calmcrochetbyandrea.com](http://calmcrochetbyandrea.com)

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# Organization:

Instructions are provided in two ways:

- **Standard** You have experience with standard crochet instructions
- **Detailed** You are a novice crocheter: this might be your first project ever! If this is you, **be sure to follow along with the video that accompanies this pattern.**  
\*

## Materials needed :

- Medium Weight Acrylic Yarn, less than 1 oz needed;  
I used *I Love This Yarn* 100% Acrylic Yarn in *Cinnamon Cedar*
- US I-9 (5.5 mm) Crochet Hook
- Scissors
- Tapestry Needle
- Tape Measure
- Stitch holders



## Abbreviations:

- ch = chain
- sc = single crochet
- st(s) = stitch(es)

## Gauge:

4"x4" square = 15 rows of 12 single crochet stitches

Note that for this project a precise gauge is not required.

\* All instructions are given using standard US crochet terminology

**STANDARD!**

# Standard Crochet Instructions (for more experienced crocheters):



## 1) **Foundation:**

Ch 20, or however many sts required for the foundation row to measure 6", then add st holders to the first and last ch. Add 1 turning ch.

## 2) **Row 1:**

Sc in the 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across (20 sc). Put a stitch holder in the first and last st of the row.

## 3) **Row 2:**

Ch 1, turn. Sc in the 2nd ch from hook where st holder is located and in each st across to the final st holder (20 sc). Move stitch holders to first and last stitch in each row.

## 4) **Finish:**

Repeat Row 2 until your piece measures 6" (about 21 rows). Fasten off and weave in ends.

**DETAILED!**

## Detailed Crochet Instructions:

**If you are new to crochet, follow along with my step-by-step video.**

Learning anything new can sometimes be frustrating. I encourage you to give this a fair shot. Almost nobody learns how to crochet perfectly on their first try! Be kind to yourself, and take a photo of your finished work no matter what so you can measure your progress!

1) **Foundation:** Create a slip stitch loop and insert hook. Chain 20 stitches, then add 1 chain (this is the turning chain) for a total of 21 chains.

After creating your first chain stitch, slip a stitch holder through it. When you complete the foundation row, add a stitch holder to the second to last chain (the turning chain does not count as a stitch).



2) **Row 1:** Single crochet in the 2nd chain from the hook where the stitch holder is located, and then in each chain until the end of the row; the stitch holder indicates the last chain to stitch in.

Put a stitch holder into the last stitch of the row. Add a turning chain. There should be 21 stitches.



**DETAILED!**

## Detailed Crochet Instructions (continued):

3) **Remaining rows:** Turn your work, and repeat row 1, beginning and ending in the single crochets with the stitch holders. Move the stitch holders up to the first and last stitches of the row you just completed (not the turning crochet).



Continue until your work measures 6 inches long, approximately 21 rows. You know you are done when the tape measure shows the width and length are the same.



4) **Finish:** Cut the yarn, pulling it through the last turning chain. Use the tapestry needle to weave in any loose ends.

**If you have questions, see my step-by-step video.**

## Customization Ideas:

- **Hanging Loop:** Crochet a small loop at one corner to hang your potholder.

Attach yarn or use the tail that is left when you finish the final row and chain 10. Then join with a slip stitch to the starting point of the chain, and fasten off. Weave in any remaining ends.

- **Stripes:** Change to a different color of yarn after each row or set of rows, such as 2 rows of 1 color, then 2 rows of another. Weave in all ends.
- **Border:** Add a simple border by single crocheting around the edges when you're done. You can use the same yarn as the rest of the work or use a contrasting color.

- **Quicker Version:** Use a thicker yarn than medium weight and a larger hook to make fewer stitches and rows for a chunkier looking potholder.



Most yarn labels have the gauge for the recommended hook size on the label so that you can adjust the number of stitches and rows like the label on the left.

Alternatively, if converting gauges is difficult, chain enough foundation row stitches until the row of chains measures the desired width. Then do 1 more chain (turning chain). Measure the length as you complete each row until you reach the desired size.



Feel free to combine some of these ideas or add your own.

## Tips:



- **If you find your foundation chain row is too tight:** If you are having difficulty getting your crochet hook into them for the first single crochet row, use a larger hook for the chain row; try a half or whole size larger than the one you are using for the body. Then switch to your usual hook for the single crochet rows.
- **There are different ways to create a foundation row:** As you get more experience with crochet, you may want to try an alternative method for creating a foundation row. Go to [my YouTube channel](#) for some demonstrations.
- **I recommend stitch holders to mark the beginning and ends of each row:** When I make my first single crochet in a row, I move the stitch holder to it right away. Then when I finish the row, I place the last stitch holder on the last stitch before the turning chain.
- **If you feel frustrated:** My grandmother told me she much preferred crochet over knitting because it was so much easier to rip mistakes out of crochet. She wasn't wrong! If something doesn't look right and you know it will bother you, remove your crochet hook from the loop and pull until the badness goes away. Put your hook back in the loop and try again.
- It's **OKAY** if it's not perfect!

Thank you for purchasing and creating a new project based on my pattern instructions. I hope you had as much fun making your potholder as I did making mine!

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