

**VISUAL**<sup>™</sup>  
*Quick Tips*

# Crochet



by Cecily Keim and Kim P. Werker



Wiley Publishing, Inc.



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*Crochet VISUAL™ Quick Tips*

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Cecily lives in Los Angeles, watches too much television, and loves candy, her cats, and her boyfriend.




**Kim P. Werker** is the editor of *Interweave Crochet* magazine. She is also the founder and Creative Director of CrochetMe.com, the online crochet community for innovative patterns, tips, and tutorials, and a playground for meeting crocheters from all over the world. After a couple of earlier flings, Kim got back into crochet in 2004. She is a professional member of the Crochet Guild of America and The National NeedleArts Association, and travels throughout North America to teach about crochet and to meet enthusiastic crocheters. She has appeared on the television show *Uncommon Threads* and will appear on the PBS shows *Shay Pendray's Needle Arts Studio* and *Knit & Crochet Today*. She was thrilled to work again with Cecily on this follow-up to their first book, *Teach Yourself VISUALLY Crocheting*. Kim's other books include *Crochet Me: Designs to Fuel the Crochet Revolution* (Interweave Press, 2007), *Get Hooked*, and *Get Hooked Again* (Watson-Guptil 2006 and 2007, respectively).

Originally from New York State, Kim lives in Vancouver, British Columbia, with her husband and their dog. When she's not crocheting, writing, editing, or traveling, she enjoys reading, hiking, knitting, and playing in the garden.



# Instructional Videos Online

We've filmed videos of a few of the techniques described in this book—just look for the  symbol. To view the videos, go to [www.wiley.com/go/crochetvqt](http://www.wiley.com/go/crochetvqt).

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**chapter**

# 1

## **Hooks and Yarn**

**Before you start crocheting, take some time to familiarize yourself with the tools that will help you along the way. Starting a project with the right tools on hand saves time. In this chapter you'll find information to help you choose an appropriate hook for a project as well as suggestions for choosing, caring for, and winding yarn.**



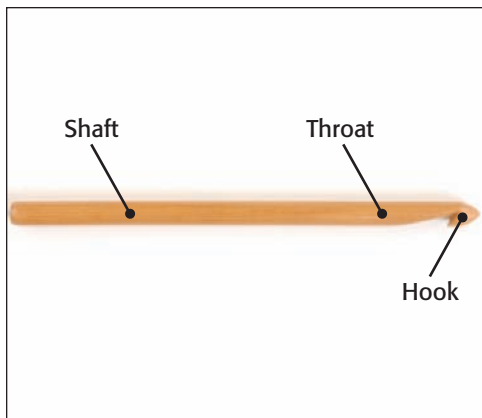
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# Hooks

## SHAPE

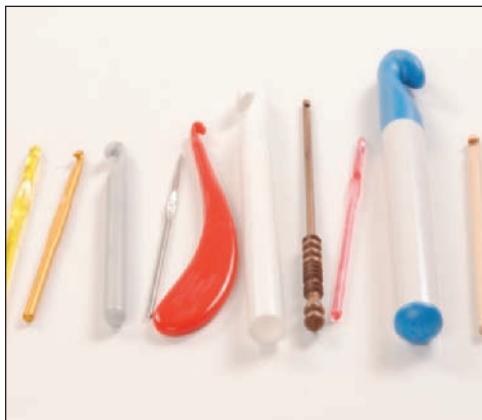
Crochet hooks are generally 5 to 7 inches long. There is a hook at one end, which you use to grab yarn or thread and pull it through the stitches of your work. You hold the hook along its shaft.

Manufacturers shape their hooks differently. The sharpness or bluntness of the hook's point varies, as does the hook's depth. Try out a few brands until you find the shape you think works best.



## HOOK COMPOSITION

Plastic hooks are usually hollow and lightweight. Most very large hooks are made of plastic. Metal hooks can be very smooth, enabling the yarn to slide with little resistance. Wood or bamboo hooks provide a bit of friction, which comes in handy when you're crocheting with slippery yarns.



When using a wood or bamboo hook, rub the hook with a piece of wax paper to make the yarn slide more smoothly.

Some hooks are designed with a thick rubber handle to be easier to grip. Some hooks feature embellishments on the handle, but these are purely decorative.



## OTHER KINDS OF HOOKS

Tunisian crochet hooks are longer than standard crochet hooks. This extra length allows the hook to hold many stitches, much like a knitting needle does. (See page 92 for more on Tunisian crochet.)

There are also double-ended crochet hooks made for a technique called *double-ended crochet* or *crochet on the double*.



## Hook Sizes

Hook size is determined by the diameter of the hook's shaft. Hook size is marked differently in the United States, the United Kingdom, and the rest of the world.

Hook sizes in the United States and United Kingdom are marked by an arbitrary letter or number, respectively. Manufacturers often use slightly different labels for the same size hook, however. Hooks are most consistently labeled by the metric measurement of their diameter, which is an objective label. There is a growing effort to standardize sizes by using metric measurements only.



### TIP

Small hooks make small stitches; large hooks make large stitches. Switching hooks will change the look and feel of the fabric you crochet.