What to Learn After Single Crochet: Half Double and Double Crochet

Two practice swatches, then a blanket for each stitch · US terms



The Christmas Crochet Baby Blanket, the first hdc project this guide leads to. Preview picture of the published pattern, not a photo of crochet and not a swatch from this guide.

Yarn: hdc swatch: super bulky weight (#6), one color; dc swatch: worsted weight (#4), one color
Hook: hdc: US M-13 (9 mm); dc: US I-9 (5.5 mm)
hdc swatch: 14 hdc x 10 rows (about 7 x 6 3/4 in, estimate)

This guide and the swatches were not crocheted and swatched by a person before publication. Counts were checked by software.

Free guide online:
https://www.amgroyal.com/what-to-learn-after-single-crochet/?utm_source=pdf&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=what-to-learn-after-single-crochet

Materials, sizes and terms

Materials

hdc swatch: super bulky weight (#6), one color, US M-13 (9 mm) hook.
dc swatch: worsted weight (#4), one color, US I-9 (5.5 mm) hook.
Yarn needle, scissors.
Hook: hdc: US M-13 (9 mm); dc: US I-9 (5.5 mm)

Crochet Abbreviations You Will Need (US Terms)

ch = chain
sc = single crochet
hdc = half double crochet
dc = double crochet
st(s) = stitch(es)
yo = yarn over
fpdc = front post double crochet

Gauge

hdc swatch: 8 sts and 6 rows = 4 in, suggested by the Christmas Crochet Baby Blanket and not measured. dc swatch: gauge not established.

Notes

- Turning chain on our patterns: ch 2 for hdc and dc, never counted, never worked into.
- Back bump: the bump on the back of each chain, on the side away from the V.
- These are the short words in this guide. They are US terms: a US single crochet is called a double crochet in UK patterns, so UK names shift by one.

The Short Answer: hdc First, Then dc

Learn half double crochet (hdc) first, then double crochet (dc). A hdc is a single crochet with one yarn over added before the hook goes in. A dc has the same extra yarn over and one more step. A good sign you are ready: your single crochet rows keep the same count from row to row.

Steps

sc 3, hdc 4, dc 5

Yarn over before the hook goes in

sc 0, hdc 1, dc 1

Turning chain on our patterns

sc ch 1, hdc ch 2, dc ch 2

How Tall Is Each Stitch?

A single crochet is the shortest of the three, a hdc is taller, a dc is the tallest. The chart shows them side by side as symbols. The symbols show the order, short to tall; real heights depend on your yarn and hook.

Height

Each stitch is taller than the one before.

Half Double Crochet (hdc): The Next Stitch

A hdc takes 4 steps and ends on 1 loop on the hook. Yarn over, put the hook in, yarn over and pull up a loop (3 loops on the hook), then yarn over and pull through all 3.

1. Yarn over

2 loops on the hook after this step.

2. Insert the hook in the stitch

2 loops on the hook after this step.

3. Yarn over, pull up a loop

3 loops on the hook after this step.

4. Yarn over, pull through all 3 loops

1 loop on the hook after this step.



Close-up of the hdc in the published Christmas Crochet Baby Blanket pattern. Preview picture, not a swatch from this guide.

How Many Chains Do You Turn With for hdc?

On our patterns, ch 2 for hdc. It does not count as a stitch and you never work into it. The first hdc goes in the very first stitch, the last hdc in the last stitch.

First and last stitch

Work the first hdc in the very first st and the last hdc in the last st of the row.

Foundation

Skip 2 ch, hdc in the back bump of the next ch. Ch 16 gives 14 hdc.

Stitch count: 14 hdc

Practice Swatch: 14 hdc, 10 Rows

Ch 16, skip 2 ch, then 1 hdc in the back bump of each ch: 14 hdc. Rows 2 to 10 are ch 2, turn, 1 hdc in each stitch. 140 hdc in all. Use super bulky weight (#6) yarn in one color and a US M-13 (9 mm) hook. It measures about 7 x 6 3/4 in, an estimate.

Foundation

Leaving a 6 in tail, make a slip knot, then ch 16. The slip knot and the loop on your hook are not counted.

Stitch count: 16 ch

Row 1

Skip the first 2 ch from the hook (they are the turning chain; the loop on your hook does not count), then work 1 hdc in the back bump of each of the other 14 ch.

Stitch count: 14 hdc

Row 2

Ch 2 (does not count as a st), turn. Hdc in each of the 14 sts across: the first hdc goes in the very first st, the last hdc in the last st. Do not work in the turning ch.

Stitch count: 14 hdc

Rows 3 to 10

Repeat Row 2. Every row has 14 hdc.

Stitch count: 14 hdc in each row

A hdc Project to Try Next: Christmas Crochet Baby Blanket

The Christmas Crochet Baby Blanket uses hdc and sc only, in the same yarn weight and hook as your swatch. Stroller size is about 30 x 35 1/4 in, about 720 yd, about 6 hours plus 1 hour of ends (estimates). Your time and yardage will differ.

Christmas Crochet Baby Blanket

Stroller: about 30 x 35 1/4 in, ch 61, 59 hdc x 52 rows, about 720 yd, about 6 hours (estimated). Large: about 36 x 43 1/4 in, ch 73, 71 hdc x 64 rows, about 1,050 yd, about 8 hours (estimated). Super bulky weight (#6), US M-13 (9 mm). The gauge is suggested, not swatched: 8 sts and 6 rows = 4 in.



The published Christmas Crochet Baby Blanket pattern, Stroller size, spread out. Preview picture, not a swatch from this guide.

Double Crochet (dc): The Taller Stitch

A dc takes 5 steps and ends on 1 loop on the hook. Yarn over before the hook goes in, pull up a loop (3 loops), then yarn over and pull through 2 loops, twice.

1. Yarn over

2 loops on the hook after this step.

2. Insert the hook in the stitch

2 loops on the hook after this step.

3. Yarn over, pull up a loop

3 loops on the hook after this step.

4. Yarn over, pull through 2 loops

2 loops on the hook after this step.

5. Yarn over, pull through the last 2 loops

1 loop on the hook after this step.

Do You Count the Turning Chain as a Stitch for dc?

On our patterns, no: ch 2, never counted, never worked into. Many patterns count a ch 3 as the first dc of the row instead. Always read the note of the pattern you follow, and count the way it says.

Foundation

Skip 2 ch, dc in the back bump of the next ch. Ch 17 gives 15 dc.

Stitch count: 15 dc

Practice Swatch: 15 dc, 8 Rows

Ch 17, skip 2 ch, then 1 dc in the back bump of each ch: 15 dc. Rows 2 to 8 are ch 2, turn, 1 dc in each stitch. 120 dc in all. Use worsted weight (#4) yarn in one color and a US I-9 (5.5 mm) hook. No size is given for this swatch.

Foundation

Leaving a 6 in tail, make a slip knot, then ch 17. The slip knot and the loop on your hook are not counted.

Stitch count: 17 ch

Row 1

Skip the first 2 ch from the hook (they are the turning chain; the loop on your hook does not count), then work 1 dc in the back bump of each of the other 15 ch.

Stitch count: 15 dc

Row 2

Ch 2 (does not count as a st), turn. Dc in each of the 15 sts across: the first dc goes in the very first st, the last dc in the last st. Do not work in the turning ch.

Stitch count: 15 dc

Rows 3 to 8

Repeat Row 2. Every row has 15 dc.

Stitch count: 15 dc in each row

A dc Project to Try Next: Waffle Stitch Baby Blanket (dc Plus Front Post dc)

The Waffle Stitch Baby Blanket uses dc and front post dc (fpdc) in worsted weight with a US I-9 (5.5 mm) hook. The post stitch is the next skill after dc. Stroller size is about 29 3/4 x 35 1/4 in, about 920 yd, about 20 hours (estimates). Your time and yardage will differ.

Waffle Stitch Baby Blanket

Stroller: about 29 3/4 x 35 1/4 in, ch 104, 102 sts x 61 rows, about 920 yd, about 20 hours (estimated). Large: about 35 3/4 x 44 1/2 in, ch 125, 123 sts x 77 rows, about 1,390 yd, about 31 hours (estimated). Worsted weight (#4), US I-9 (5.5 mm). It uses dc and fpdc (front post dc): the post stitch is the next skill.



The published Waffle Stitch Baby Blanket pattern (dc and front post dc), draped over a stroller. Preview picture, not a photo of crochet and not a swatch from this guide.

hdc vs dc at a Glance

The two stitches side by side: steps, yarn over before the hook goes in, turning chain, practice swatch and blanket.

Steps

hdc 4, dc 5.

Yarn over before the hook goes in

hdc 1, dc 1.

Turning chain (our patterns)

ch 2 for both, never counted.

Practice swatch

hdc 14 x 10 rows, dc 15 x 8 rows.

Why Does My Row Have the Wrong Number of Stitches?

Count after every row: 14 for the hdc swatch, 15 for the dc swatch. A stitch worked into the turning chain adds one. A skipped first stitch loses one. If a pattern counts its turning chain as a stitch, your count is 1 higher than ours: always count the way your pattern says.

Working into the turning chain

Adds 1 st: 15 instead of 14 (hdc) or 16 instead of 15 (dc).

Skipping the first stitch

Loses 1 st: 13 instead of 14 (hdc) or 14 instead of 15 (dc).

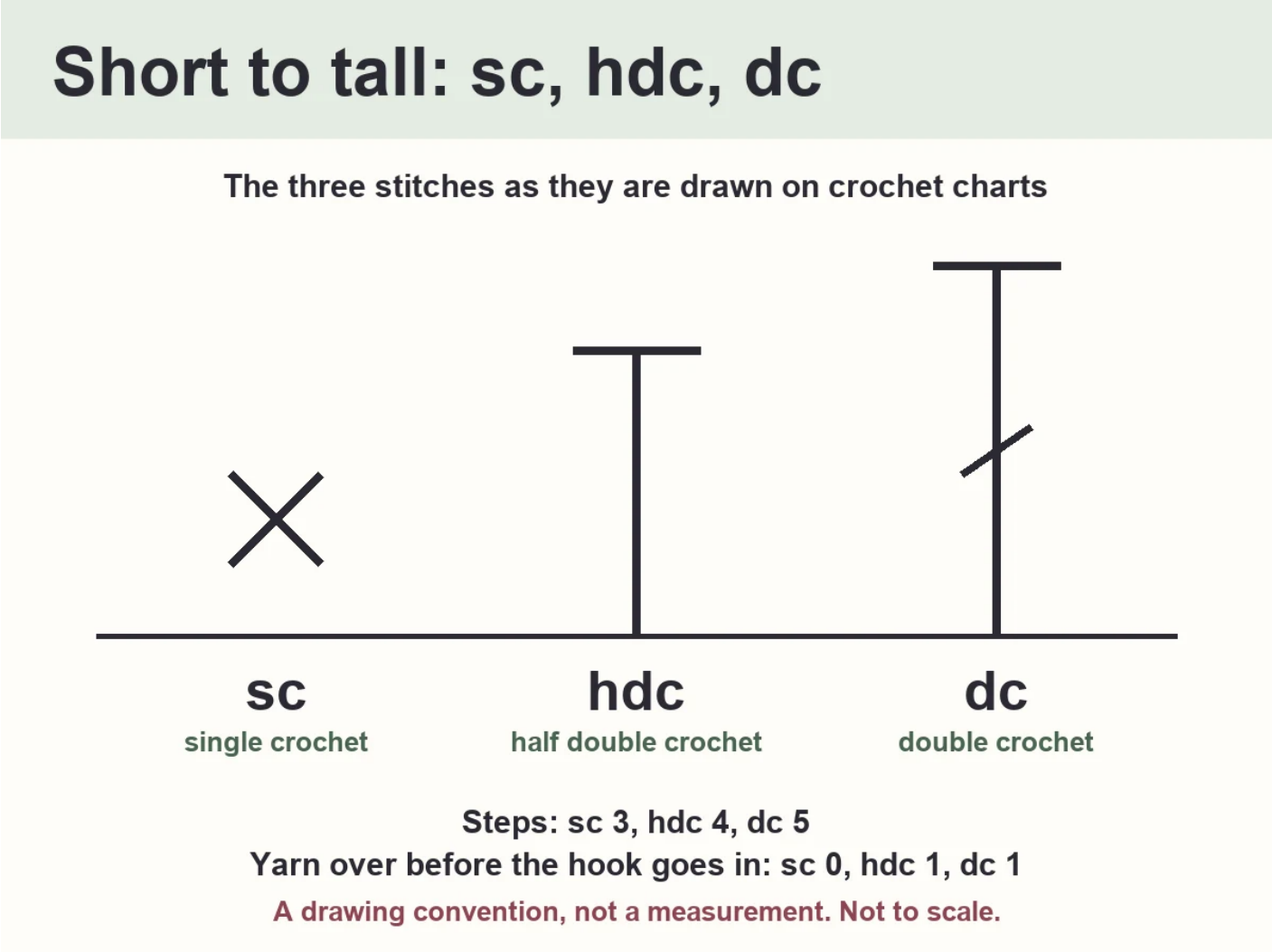
What to Learn Next

Next: follow the 6 free beginner projects in order, or start with the guide to your first blanket.

Links

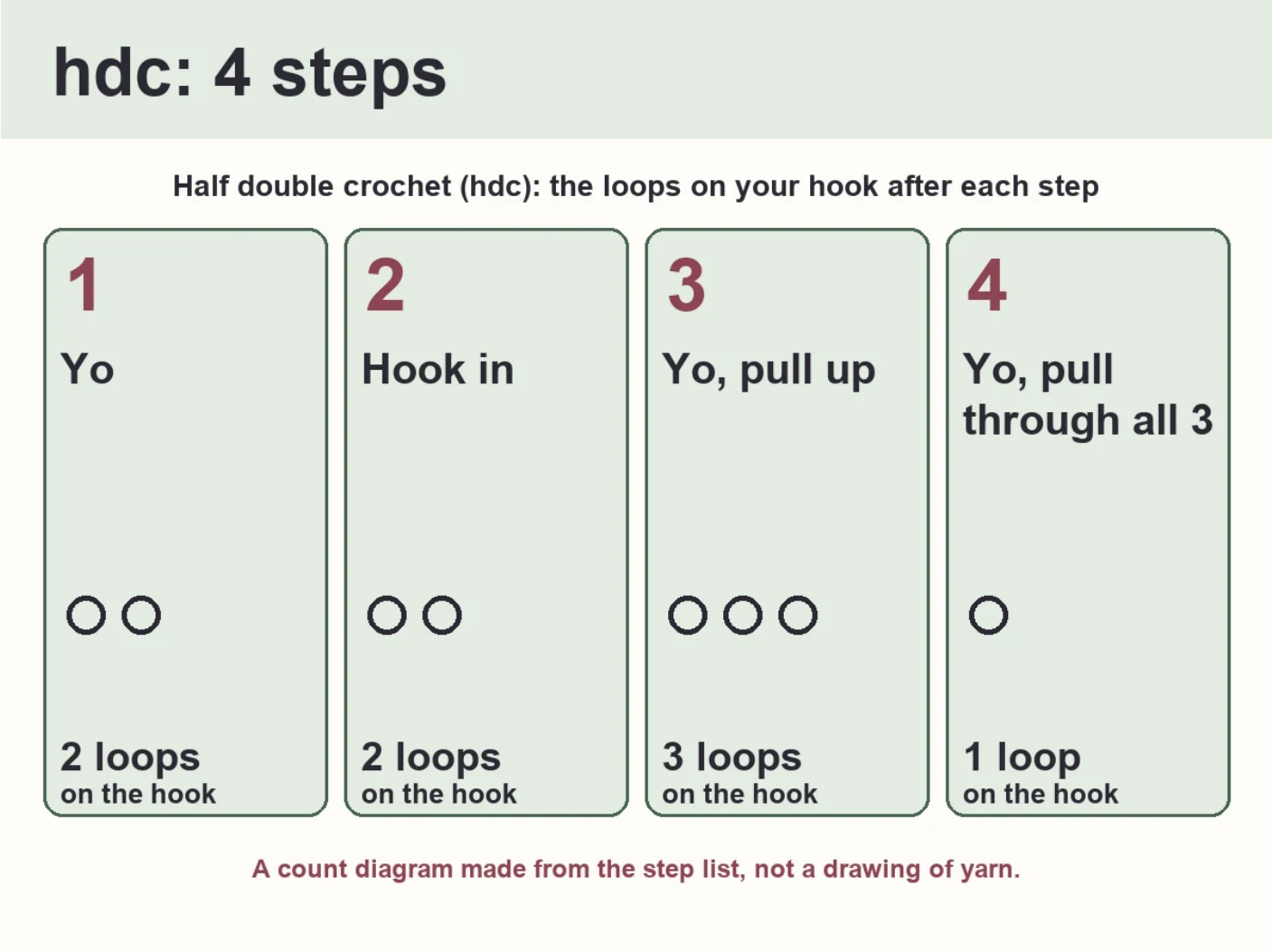
Crochet Patterns for Beginners, Crochet for Beginners.

Chart



The three stitches as chart symbols, short to tall. A computer drawing, not to scale.

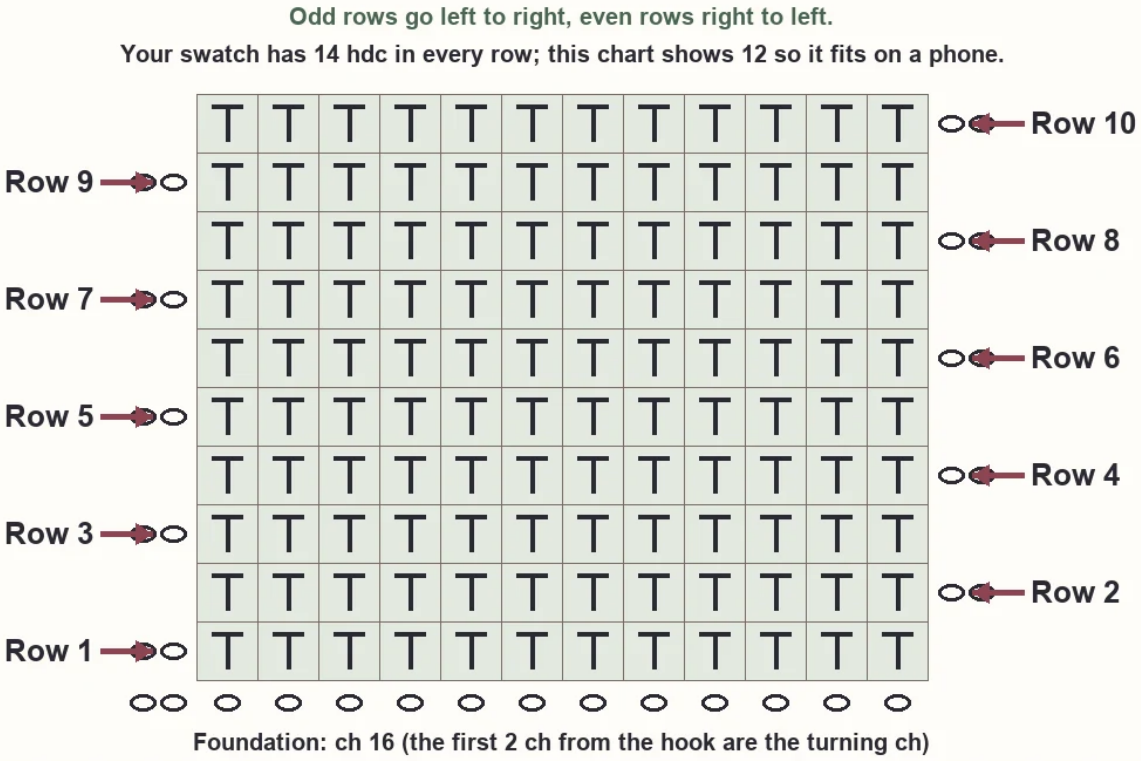
Diagram



The 4 steps of a half double crochet, with the loops on the hook after each step. A computer drawing.

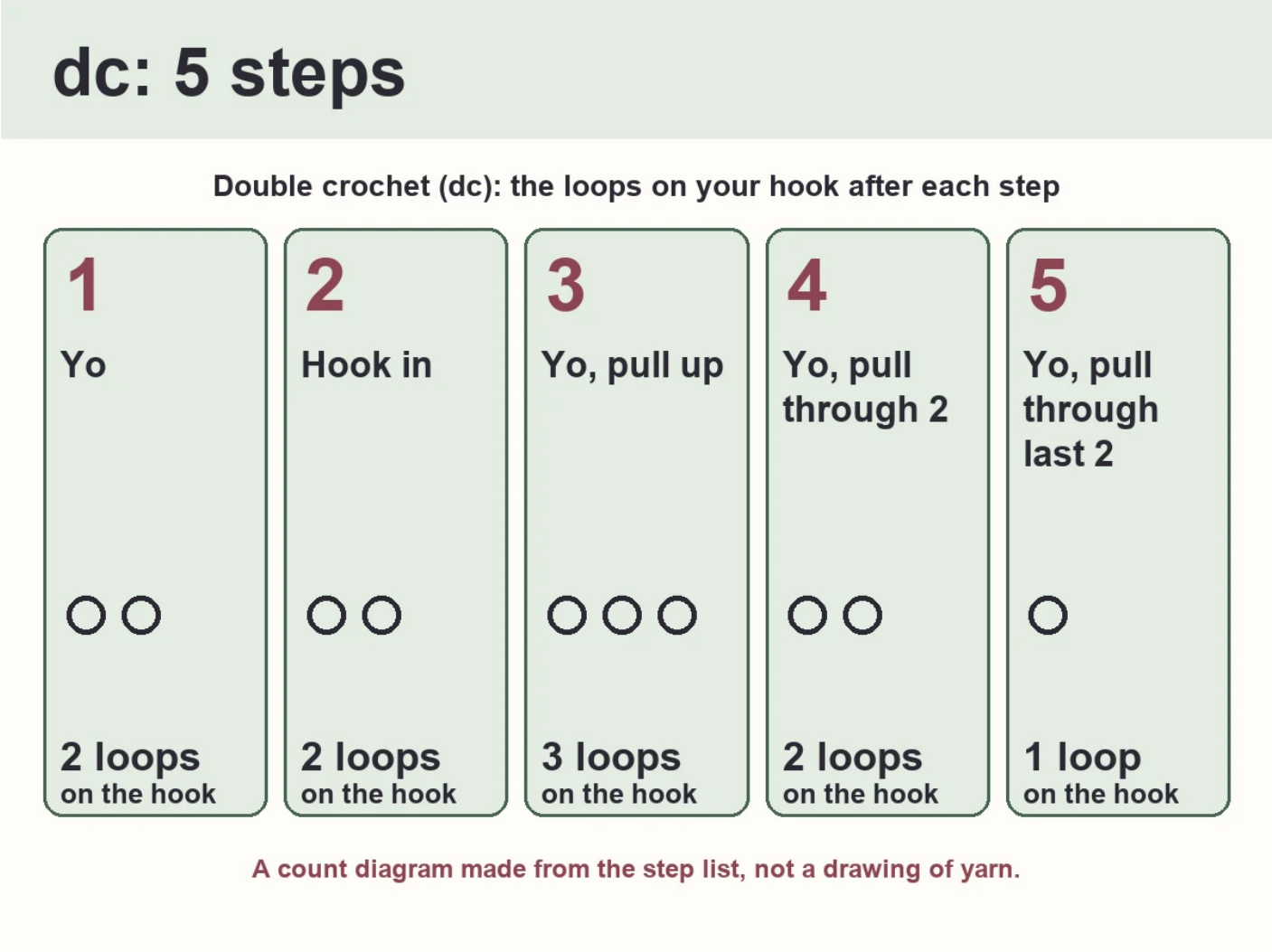
Chart

hdc practice swatch



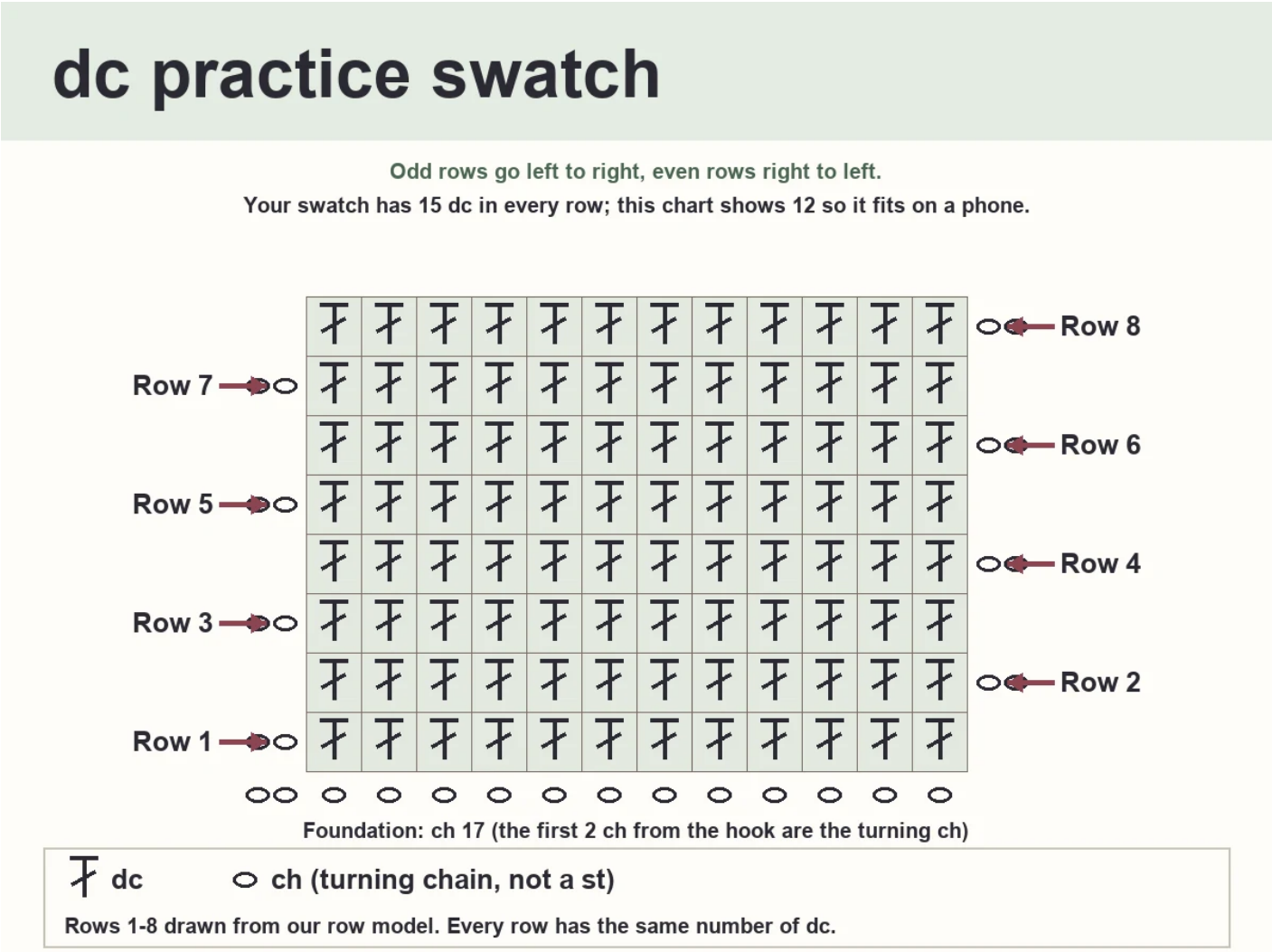
Rows 1-10. Drawn 12 stitches wide so it fits on a phone; yours is 14 wide. A computer drawing.

Diagram



The 5 steps of a double crochet, with the loops on the hook after each step.

Chart



Rows 1-8. Drawn 12 stitches wide so it fits on a phone; yours is 15 wide.

Finishing

The free PDF has 21 pages in US Letter and A4: the two practice swatches with a count for every row, the step diagrams and the height chart.

Thank you!

This guide online (photos, FAQ):
https://www.amgroyal.com/what-to-learn-after-single-crochet/?utm_source=pdf&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=what-to-learn-after-single-crochet

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