SHAPING

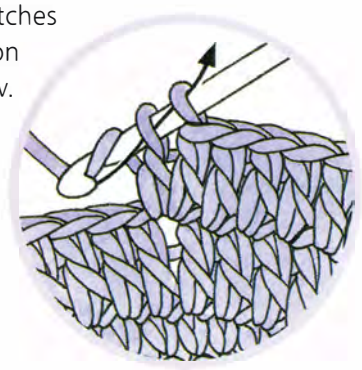
Shaping by adding or subtracting one or two stitches can take place at intervals along a row of crochet – this is known as working internal increases or decreases. When stitches are added or subtracted at the beginning and end of specified rows, this is known as working external increases or decreases.

WORKING AN INTERNAL DOUBLE INCREASE

To work a double increase (to add two stitches) at intervals along the row, simply work three stitches into one stitch on the previous row.

WORKING AN INTERNAL SINGLE INCREASE

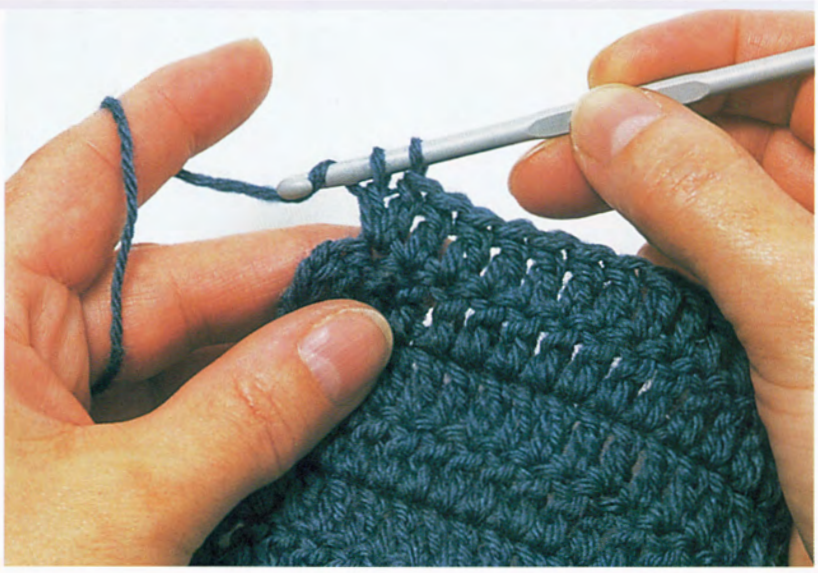
The simplest method of adding a single stitch at intervals along a row of crochet is by working two stitches into one stitch on the previous row.



MAKING A NEAT EDGE WHEN SHAPING

STEP 1 Single and double increases are often used at the beginning and end of rows to shape garment edges. To do this neatly at the start of a row, work the first stitch and then work the increase.

STEP 2 At the end of the row, work until two stitches remain (the last stitch will probably be the turning chain from the previous row). Work the increase into the penultimate stitch, then work the last stitch as usual.



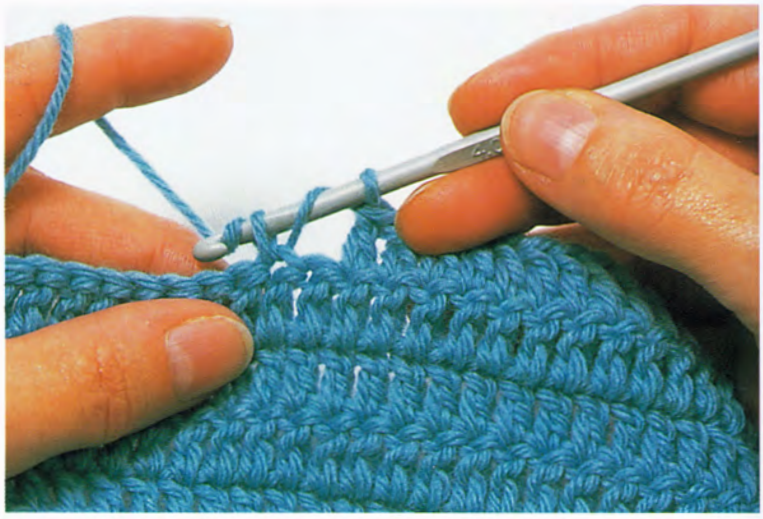
WORKING AN EXTERNAL INCREASE

STEP 1 To increase several stitches at one time, you will need to add extra foundation chains at the appropriate end of the row. To add stitches at the beginning of a row, work the required number of extra chains at the end of the previous row. Don't forget to add the correct number of turning chains (page 18) for the stitch you are using.

STEP 2 Turn and work back along the extra chains, then work the row in the usual way.

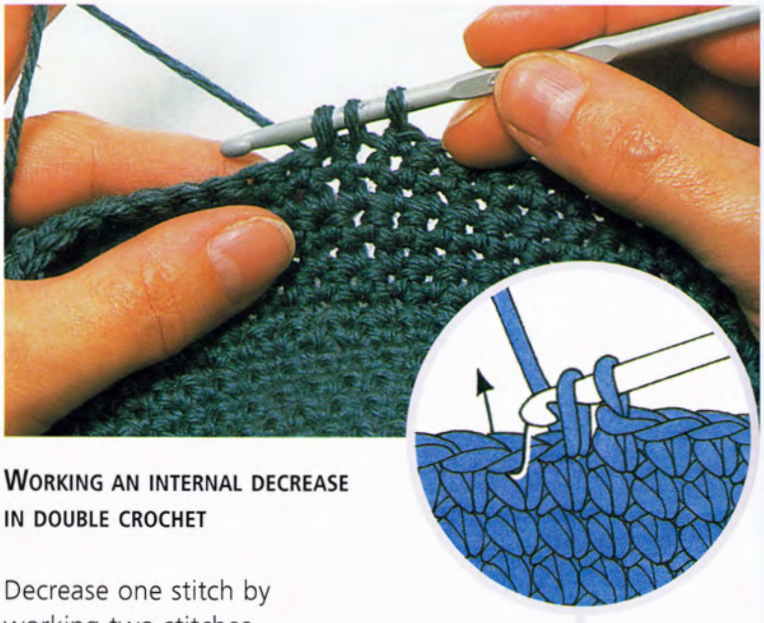
STEP 3 To add stitches at the end of a row, leave the last few stitches of the row unworked. Remove the hook. Join a length of yarn to the last stitch of the row and work the required number of extra chains, then fasten off the yarn.

STEP 4 Insert the hook back into the row and continue, working extra stitches across the chains. Turn and work the next row in the usual way.



WORKING AN INTERNAL DECREASE BY SKIPPING A STITCH

The simplest method of removing a single stitch at intervals along a row of crochet is by missing one stitch of the previous row.



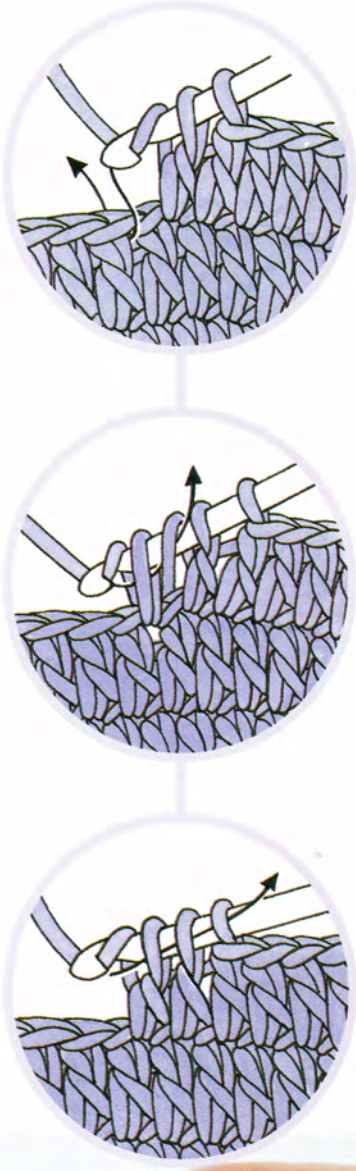
WORKING AN INTERNAL DECREASE IN DOUBLE CROCHET

Decrease one stitch by working two stitches together (dc2tog). Leave the first stitch incomplete (two loops on the hook), draw the yarn through the next stitch (three loops on the hook). Yarn over and pull through all three loops to finish. Decrease two stitches by working three stitches together (dc3tog).

Working an internal decrease in treble crochet

Decrease one treble crochet stitch by working two stitches together (known as tr2tog). Leave the first stitch incomplete so there are two loops on the hook, then work another incomplete stitch so you have three loops on the hook. Yarn over and pull through all three loops to finish the decrease. Two stitches can be decreased in the same way by working three treble crochet stitches together (tr3tog).

To make a neat edge when shaping a garment, work the decrease one stitch in from the edge in the same way as a single or double increase (pages 50–51).



Working an external decrease

Step 1 To decrease several stitches at one time at the beginning of a row, turn, work a slip stitch into each of the stitches to be decreased, then work the appropriate turning chain and continue along the row.

Step 2 At the end of the row, simply leave the stitches to be decreased unworked, work the appropriate turning chain, turn, and continue along the row.