

Ideal Crochet Rectangle

A pattern by Ms Premise-Conclusion



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Do you already know the dimensions or aspect ratio of your rectangle?

Then you can figure out your entire pattern beforehand! The whole point of the following exercise is to determine how many chain stitches to begin with. This number is referred to as N . Once you do that, you follow the pattern for a given number of rows, then you've got your rectangle exactly how you want it!

Method #1: Let's say you already know the dimensions of your desired rectangle and you just want to figure out how to use this pattern to make it.

You're going to need to determine the size of one of your single crochet stitches first. Start by chaining 10 or so and making a couple rows of single crochet stitches back and forth using the exact same yarn, hook and tension as you'll use when making your rectangle. Using a ruler, measure a certain number of stitches across (let's say you measure 8 full stitches across). Take that measurement and divide it by the number of stitches you measured (8, in this example). That's the size of one of your single crochet stitches! (We will assume your stitches are as wide as they are tall.)

Now you'll need to find what your desired length and width are *in terms of single crochet stitches*. Take the desired length of your finished rectangle (in cm or inches) and divide it by the size of one single crochet stitch (in cm or inches). Call this value L . This represents how many single crochet stitches will make up the longest side of your finished rectangle. Do the same thing with your desired width. Call this value W .

To find your starting chain length: subtract the number of Sc stitches that make up the final width (W) from the number of Sc stitches that make up the final length (L). So,

$$N = L - W$$

The number of rows you will need to make is just half of your width, W , measured in single crochet stitches. So, the number of rows you'll need to make is just $W/2$.

Method #2: Let's say you know the aspect ratio of your rectangle and how many rows you want to make.

Let's call the total number of desired rows, n , and the aspect ratio of your length compared to your width, $l:w$. (For example, if your desired length-to-width ratio is 3:1, then l would be 3 and w would be 1.)

This calculation boils down to one equation. N represents the number of starting chain stitches:

$$N = 2n \frac{(l - w)}{w}$$

If high school math was a distant memory, here is the step by step breakdown of this equation:

1. Perform the subtraction inside the brackets. (Subtract w from l .)
2. Take this number and divide it by w .
3. Take that new number and multiply it by 2, then multiply it by n .

As an example, if I wanted a 10 row rectangle ($n = 10$) with an aspect ratio of 3:1 ($l = 3$ and $w = 1$), this is what my calculation would look like:

$$N = 2(10) \frac{(3 - 1)}{1}$$

So, $N = 40$ chain stitches in this example.

What You'll Need

- Acrylic, worsted weight 4 ply yarn
- Hook Size: Size F / 5 / 3.75mm

Ch = Chain
Sl st = Slip Stitch
Sc = Single Crochet

The Pattern

The instructions below are for a 20 row rectangle, but you can stop crocheting once you are happy with the size of your rectangle.

You will need to begin with a starting chain. The previous page will help you decide how many chain stitches to make for your rectangle. I started with an 8 chain length for the rectangle shown in the picture and made 9 rows. However long your starting chain is, I will refer to this number as N.

After you have chained N stitches, chain one more.

Row 1: 2 Sc into second chain from hook. Sc in each of the next (N-2) chain stitches. 5 Sc into the last chain stitch. Working on the backside of your chain, Sc in next (N-2) chain stitches. 2 Sc in the next chain stitch (this should be the very first chain space that you started crocheting into). Sl st to first Chain stitch.

Row 2: Ch 1. Turn. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next N stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next stitch. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next N stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sl st to original Ch 1 stitch.

Row 3: Ch 1. Turn. Sc in next stitch. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next (N+2) stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next 3 stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next (N+2) stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next stitch. Sl st to original Ch 1 stitch.

Row 4: Ch 1. Turn. Sc in next 2 stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next (N+4) stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next 5 stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next (N+4) stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next 2 stitches. Sl st to original Ch 1 stitch.

Row 5: Ch 1. Turn. Sc in next 3 stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next (N+6) stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next 7 stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next (N+6) stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next 3 stitches. Sl st to original Ch 1 stitch.

Row 6: Ch 1. Turn. Sc in next 4 stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next (N+8) stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next 9 stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next (N+8) stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next 4 stitches. Sl st to original Ch 1 stitch.

Row 7: Ch 1. Turn. Sc in next 5 stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next (N+10) stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next 11 stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next (N+10) stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next 5 stitches. Sl st to original Ch 1 stitch.

Row 8: Ch 1. Turn. Sc in next 6 stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next (N+12) stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next 13 stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next (N+12) stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next 6 stitches. Sl st to original Ch 1 stitch.

Row 9: Ch 1. Turn. Sc in next 7 stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next (N+14) stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next 15 stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next (N+14) stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next 7 stitches. Sl st to original Ch 1 stitch.

Row 10: Ch 1. Turn. Sc in next 8 stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next (N+16) stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next 17 stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next (N+16) stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next 8 stitches. Sl st to original Ch 1 stitch.

Row 11: Ch 1. Turn. Sc in next 9 stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next (N+18) stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next 19 stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next (N+18) stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next 9 stitches. Sl st to original Ch 1 stitch.

Row 12: Ch 1. Turn. Sc in next 10 stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next (N+20) stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next 21 stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next (N+20) stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next 10 stitches. Sl st to original Ch 1 stitch.

Row 13: Ch 1. Turn. Sc in next 11 stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next (N+22) stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next 23 stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next (N+22) stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next 11 stitches. Sl st to original Ch 1 stitch.

Row 14: Ch 1. Turn. Sc in next 12 stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next (N+24) stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next 25 stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next (N+24) stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next 12 stitches. Sl st to original Ch 1 stitch.

Row 15: Ch 1. Turn. Sc in next 13 stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next (N+26) stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next 27 stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next (N+26) stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next 13 stitches. Sl st to original Ch 1 stitch.

Row 16: Ch 1. Turn. Sc in next 14 stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next (N+28) stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next 29 stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next (N+28) stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next 14 stitches. Sl st to original Ch 1 stitch.

Row 17: Ch 1. Turn. Sc in next 15 stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next (N+30) stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next 31 stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next (N+30) stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next 15 stitches. Sl st to original Ch 1 stitch.

Row 18: Ch 1. Turn. Sc in next 16 stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next (N+32) stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next 33 stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next (N+32) stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next 16 stitches. Sl st to original Ch 1 stitch.

Row 19: Ch 1. Turn. Sc in next 17 stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next (N+34) stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next 35 stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next (N+34) stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next 17 stitches. Sl st to original Ch 1 stitch.

Row 20: Ch 1. Turn. Sc in next 18 stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next (N+36) stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next 37 stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next (N+36) stitches. 3 Sc in next stitch. Sc in next 18 stitches. Sl st to original Ch 1 stitch.

Fasten off and darn in loose ends.

Some Tips

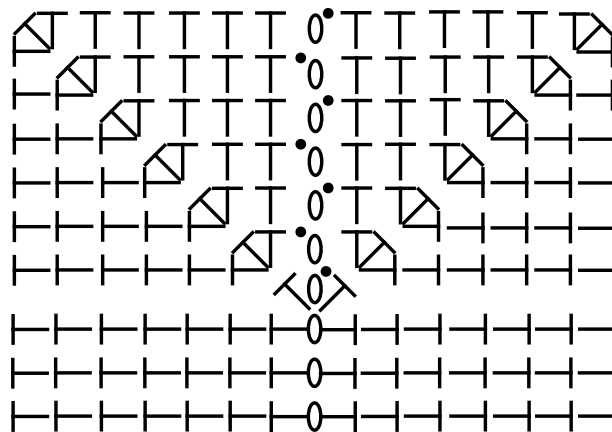
To make the corners of your rectangle more pointy: In the last row, substitute each '3 Sc in next stitch' with 'Sc in next stitch, Ch 1, Sc in same stitch'.

Lay your rectangle under a heavy book overnight to flatten. You can even wet it a bit and reshape it before you do this.

Below is the stitch diagram for this pattern, done in single crochet.

Notice how each row is basically the same, and just increases by 8 stitches? Once you get the hang of the pattern, you can make as many rows as you want!

Only want one side of the stitch facing forward (i.e. just the 'right' side or 'V' side)? Just omit every 'turn' of the pattern. Be aware that if your rectangle is more than 12 rows and you omit the 'turns', your diagonals will noticeably curve.



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