

VarieHook

CROCHET

Stitch Dictionary

100 Revised, Classic and Original Patterns

Back cover images clockwise from top left: Crocheted dock line; crocheted VarieHook logo; Fans crafted with small, medium and large shafts; Beginning puff in Round 2 of granny motif pattern with no standing chain required.

Dedication

I'd like to thank my husband, family, friends, alpha testers, beta testers, pattern testers and the professionals that supported me during this product development and launch. It was a memorable journey. -Dee Johnson

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Introduction to VarieHook

GETTING STARTED WITH THE VARIEHOOK MODEL #1

VarieHook Model #1 is recommended for confident beginners and above. Our beta testers, even confident beginners, were able to master the VarieHook quickly. It is designed for worsted-weight yarn in the most commonly recommended hook size (5.5 mm).

Begin by placing a slip knot on the smallest shaft and cinch the yarn if it is drooping. Place the fingers that hold the hook just after the transition to the largest shaft. To form a chain, yo and draw through, repeat until you've made 10 chains. You have just completed "Sch 10" (with the small shaft, ch 10) in VarieHook terminology.

Hold the 10th chain with the fingers of your left hand, move the hook to the left (if you are right-handed) so the working yarn moves to the medium shaft. Cinch the yarn with tension around the medium shaft if it is drooping. Move your right hand a little further down the large shaft (1/2 to 1 inch). While keeping the hook perpendicular to the foundation chain already worked, yo and draw through. Repeat 9 more times. You may find moving the fingers of your left hand up to the last chain each time is helpful until you get the rhythm of forming medium chains. You have just completed "Mch 10".

As you become accustomed to working with the various shafts your right hand naturally moves back and forth on the largest shaft, resulting in the working loop staying about the same distance from the fingers holding the hook. Because the largest shaft is also the handle, there is no thumb rest.

Other stitches are formed in a similar manner. For example, when creating a Mhdc (medium half double crochet), check that the working loop is on the medium shaft with enough tension that the working yarn isn't drooping. Yo, insert the hook into the next stitch or chain, yo and draw through, check that all 3 loops are on the medium shaft with some tension, yo and draw through all 3 loops.

Because crocheters naturally focus on keeping their tension even, users will find tightening the current loop on the hook an easy but important adjustment needed to use the VarieHook effectively.

We suggest practicing with the Easy Boxy Shells and Posts Pattern in the Free Patterns section of our website, Variehook.com. The mechanics of the VarieHook differ slightly from a standard hook. The tops of a row of single crochets created with the small, medium and large shafts will also be small, medium and large. Many patterns will have a "gathering" row of small single crochets to keep the fabric uniform after a row with a variety of stitch sizes. Keeping an even tension with no drooping is particularly important when working a gathering row.

Another difference becomes apparent when working with oversized stitches such as puffs and clusters, which are taller than the shaft of a standard hook. There will be a large loop before the oversized stitch. Depending on the pattern, there may be asymmetrical chains before and after the oversized stitch. The large loop is an advantage when working in the round, because the need for standing chains at the beginning of each round is eliminated when the first loop of the round is oversized.

The technique for loading the hook with the working loops will feel a little different than a one size hook. Before starting a multi-loop oversized stitch, move the working yarn to the target shaft and keep the tension looser than usual as you work the loop(s) onto the medium or large shaft.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

VarieHook Model #1's smallest shaft (5.5 mm diameter) is the primary shaft.

Abbreviations starting with S, M and L indicate the size shaft you are using for that particular stitch. It is important that the working yarn is cinched to the current shaft while crafting a stitch.

These patterns use American crochet terminology with the addition of hook specific language.

ABBREVIATIONS (United States and VarieHook terminology)

beg: beginning
blo: work in back loop only
bpdc: back post double crochet
bpsc: back post single crochet
bptr: back post treble crochet
ch: chain
dc: double crochet
flo: work in front loop only
fpdc: front post double crochet
fpdc: front post single crochet
fptr: front post treble crochet
hdc: half double crochet
L: large shaft
M: medium shaft
rep: repeat
RS: right side
S: small shaft
sc: single crochet
sk: skip
sl st: slip stitch
sp: space
st(s): stitch(es)
tr: treble crochet
WS: wrong side
yo: yarn over

Common Instructions Explained

Example 1: “Sch 1 (does not count as a st), Ssc in first st” at the start of a single crochet row indicates Small chain 1, then small single crochet at the base of the S chain 1 just worked. Similarly, this instruction: "Sch 3 (counts as Sdc), cluster in first st," indicates working the cluster at the base of the Small chain 3.

Example 2: Row 2 begins with “Sch 3 (counts as a Sdc)” and Row 3 ends with st or last st, that means inserting the final stitch in the top of the ch-3 turning ch.

Example 3: Medium and large shafts are indicated for the foundation chain in a few patterns. If shaft size is not specified, use the small shaft.

Variations: Many patterns have unexplored color variations. There are excellent resources online to explore how to change colors in crochet, so we have omitted detailed color change instructions. In addition, many patterns are reversible, stitch sizes can be easily changed, and the pattern orientation can be varied.

Multiples: Multiples are helpful when using these patterns in other projects. The multiple stated in each pattern is for a foundation chain including turning chains. For example, if a pattern multiple is stated as $5 + 2$, the beginning chain would require 7 chains ($5 + 2$) for one repeat, 12 chains ($5 \times 2 + 2$) for two repeats, 17 chains ($5 \times 3 + 2$) for three repeats and so on.

Markers: Markers are optional, but sometimes helpful to mark the right side, or to highlight a stitch you anticipate will be partially hidden later in your work. Examples where markers are recommended in the stitch dictionary are VarieHook Slanted Clusters and VarieHook No Wrestle Parallel Cables patterns. **VarieHook YouTube Channel:** Go to [VarieHook - YouTube](#) for how-to videos covering how the hook works and brief stitch and pattern-by-pattern tutorials.

Attribution: Inclusion in our VarieHook stitch dictionary and five pattern samplers does not imply VarieHook invented the techniques or patterns, although some were invented by us. Like many shared art forms, it is difficult to know who the original creator of a technique or pattern is. We are grateful for all the wonderful crochet patterns that crafters have shared in books, pamphlets, online and elsewhere.

Practice Patterns: See Free Patterns at [VarieHook.com](#) for some particularly easy patterns to get started using the 3-shafted VarieHook.

VarieHook Rules of Thumb When converting One-Size Standard Hook Patterns

Cables: When a pattern has post stitches that are slightly taller than a double crochet and are vertically oriented, use the M shaft for proper stitch height and tension. When post stitches are tilted, use the large shaft.

Freehand draw-ups: Use the medium or large shafts to make a uniform taller look. If you've ever worked a pattern by faithfully following directions and found the result looks nothing like the photo, the culprit is probably draw-ups taller than the shaft size, which may not be written into the pattern. With VarieHook in hand, precise stitch height increases replace many error-prone manual adjustments. Search online for "golden loop crochet" for more on this topic.

Squaring Granny Squares and Motifs: The VarieHook is an excellent tool for squaring up granny squares and motifs that are rounding (bulging at the sides). The most common technique to solve this is to move up a shaft size when working corner stitches. Corners chains usually continue to be worked with the small shaft in this situation. VarieHook Very Square Granny Motif is an example of this technique.

Another technique is to reduce the size of the side stitches if the corner stitches are medium or large sizes. VarieHook Embrace the Height Granny Motif is an excellent example of this technique.

Puffs and Clusters: Because the working loop is large before creating a large puff or cluster, a large loop will precede these stitches. Often a pattern requires a ch-sp, so the large loop can replace a chain or two (for example, Sea Wave and Puff Lace Wave). When the puffs are in close quarters to other stitches, the large loop may be ignored.

A benefit of the large working loop before large and medium puffs and clusters is it eliminates the need to work a beginning chain at the start of rounds. Examples using this technique are Farmhouse Granny Motif and Medium Clusters Granny Motif.

Precise Oversized Stitches

CLEVER CLUSTERS

Large clusters are formed with the large shaft, creating a uniform and pleasing fabric.



Cluster: Using L shaft throughout, (yo, insert hook, yo and draw up a loop, yo and draw through 2 loops) 3 times in one st or sp, yo and draw through 4 loops on hook.

Multiple: 2 + 4

Row 1 (WS): Ssc in 2nd ch from hook and in next ch, * Sch 1, sk next ch, Ssc in next ch; rep from * to last st, Ssc in last ch, turn.

Row 2: Sch 4 (counts as Sdc and Sch 1), sk next st, * cluster in next ch-sp, Sch 1; rep from * to last 2 sts, sk next st, Sdc in last st, turn.

Row 3: Sch 1 (does not count as a st), Ssc in first st and in first ch-sp, * Sch 1, Ssc in next ch-sp; rep from * to last st, Ssc in 3rd ch of turning ch, turn.

Repeat Rows 2 and 3 for pattern.

CLUSTERED SHELLS

Freehand work is no longer necessary with this pattern using the VarieHook large shaft.



Cluster: Using L shaft throughout, (yo, insert hook, yo and draw up a loop, yo and draw through 2 loops) 2 times in one st or sp, yo and draw through 3 loops on hook.

Cluster Shell (Shell): [(Cluster, Sch 1) 2 times, cluster] in one st or sp

Multiple: 6 + 2

Row 1 (WS): Ssc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across, turn.

Row 2: Sch 3 (counts as Sdc throughout), * sk next 2 sts, shell in next st, sk next 2 sts, Sdc in next st; rep from * across, turn.

Row 3: Sch 3, * shell in center cluster of next shell, Sdc in next dc; rep from * across, turn.

Repeat Row 3 for pattern.

CROSS HATCH PUFFS

This pattern utilizes leaning puffs, which if created with a standard hook, would require the crafter to make hundreds of freehand moves for even a small swatch of this pattern. Precise oversized stitch formation using the VarieHook eliminates freehand work in this piece.



Puff: Using L shaft throughout, (yo, insert hook and draw up a loop) 3 times in one st or sp, yo and draw through 7 loops on hook, Sch 1 to close.

Multiple: 4 + 2

Row 1 (WS): Ssc in 2nd ch from hook, * Sch 3, puff in next ch, sk next 2 ch, Ssc in next ch; rep from * across, turn.

Hint: Row 2 has one more puff than Row 1 and 3.

Row 2: Sch 3, puff in base of ch, * (Ssc, Sch 3, puff) in next ch-3 sp; rep from * across, Sdc in last sc, turn.

Row 3: Sch 3, (Ssc, Sch 3, puff) in each ch-3 sp across to last ch-3 sp, Sdc in top of last ch-3, turn

Repeat Rows 2 and 3 for pattern.

Variation: For a fuller version of this pattern, increase puff size by repeating (yo, insert hook and draw up a loop) instructions 4 times instead of 3 times and drawing through 9 loops.

