

Teaching a Crochet Class - Outline Only

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Outline

I. Fees

A. Supplies: (usually students keep supplies like hooks and yarn – if you want to re-use you should say up front, otherwise it will be considered part of class fee)

1. You buy supplies and they pay for them at least a week ahead
2. They buy supplies from a list you give them
3. You buy supplies and donate them

4. Before you do either, make a list of supplies (you may use list below. basic supplies for first class, beginner student would be light color worsted weight yarn, I hook, #16 needle, scissors, stitch gauge or small hard ruler). You should decide on what project you want to work on and how many skeins will need to be purchased at one time.

B. Class fee which the students will pay

C. If you are teaching a class for a business, you will need a contract stating what is expected of both parties and the amount you will be paid for your services.

II. Choose Location

- A. Home
- B. Church
- C. School
- D. Nursing Home
- E. Business (contract)

III. Determine Hours: (depends on student age/availability)

- A. For children, recommend 1 hour twice a week for 2 weeks
- B. 2 hour/once a week for 6 or 8 weeks
- C. 1 hour/twice a week for 6 or 8 weeks
- D. 1 hour a week for 12 weeks
- E. Single session
- F. One day workshop
- G. Timing 10-12, 1-3, 7-9

IV. Students

- A. Class Size
- B. Are you willing and able to teach both right handed and left handed crocheters

V. Determine how many helpers, if any, you will need

VI. Class Preparation

A. Samples and tools for first class

1. Hook samples in different sizes and with different style hooks [Inline (Bates) or rounded (Boye)]
 - a. wooden
 - b. aluminum
 - c. steel
 - d. afghan hook
 - e. cro-hook
 - f. broomstick lace pins
 - g. special hooks, such as Corian, clay handles, lighted, custom made etc)

2. Yarn samples
 - a. cotton
 - b. acrylic
 - c. wool
 - d. variegated
 - e. thread
 - f. mohair, chenille, or other specialty yarn
 - g. fingering, sport, worsted weight

3. Project samples
 - a. dishcloth
 - b. afghan
 - c. sample squares (for each stitch)
 - d. doily
 - e. edging crocheted on a cloth blanket
 - f. toy (teddy bear, alphabet block etc.)
 - g. clothing

4. Tool samples: (whatever you have or pictures from catalogs)
 - a. carriers
 - b. different size place holders
 - c. needles
 - d. pattern holders

5. Catalog samples: (whatever you have on hand)

6. Magazine and book samples: (whatever you have on hand, preferably with subscription and/or purchase information)

Note: If you do not have the means or time (or energy) to carry these things to class, you might consider bringing pictures of various projects, or having catalogs which show them. It would be nice to have sample yarns there as it is really the feel of the different types of yarn that you want the students to appreciate. Yarn is not very heavy and can be easily transported in a carryall bag.

7. Tools - teacher
 - a. Hooks
 - b. Needles (large eye)
 - c. Flexible measuring tape or ruler
 - d. carrying bag
 - e. scissors (small, sharp)
 - f. tags to attach to project to note the pattern and hook used (office supply store)
 - g. safety pins or stitch holders or teach Lil's Knot to keep project from unraveling
 - h. yarn
 - i. patterns, including how-to book for later reference (do not make illegal copies)
 - j. list of catalogs and how to receive them
 - k. list of crochet web sites (and how to do an online search for inexperienced students)
 - l. list of magazines and purchasing information
 - m. sample list of books available (note authors)
 - n. video crochet lesson or computer lesson (or good how-to reference). There are plenty online - just get permission if you're going to use it for a class.)
 - o. color wheel sheet
 - p. paper handouts - pattern abbreviations , how to join squares, simple patterns for beginners and a Crochet Journal master sheet , I also have a page with charts only .
 - q. Sign up sheets so you will know who attended.
 - r. Teacher evaluation form so you can improve for your next class

- s. anything special you need if you are going to teach students who use a different hand than yourself (if you are right handed but teaching lefties for example)
- 8. Tools - student (basic supplies for first class, beginner student would be light color worsted weight yarn, I hook, #16 needle, scissors, stitch gauge or small hard ruler)
 - a. Teacher tools 1-8
 - b. paper for notes or highlighter to mark handouts
 - c. small binder or folder to keep handouts orderly

VII. Order of instruction for beginners. (see bottom of page for pdf files suitable for printing)

Standard procedure would be to Review previous information, then for new info 1) explain 2) demonstrate 3) have student do what you did 4) observe 5) recap and homework

A. Slip knot

B. Holding the hook (right handed, for left handed - use mirror if necessary or buy leaflets that have left-hand instructions)

C. Foundation chain

D. Going into the chain

- 1. what chain to go into
 - a. single crochet
 - b. half double crochet
 - c. double crochet
 - d. triple crochet
- 2.. front loop, back loop, or both loops (3 different methods)

E. Stitches

- 1. Basic stitches
- 2. where's the last stitch of the row? (demonstrate and go round to show everyone individually)
- 3. turning chains (chart)
- 4. what stitch to go into on succeeding rows (make sure they understand this as it will affect all future projects)
- 5. what makes a stitch including ,where stitch begins and ends (particularly for measuring)
- 6. front and back of stitch
- 7. joining new yarn
- 8. finishing off (leave at least 6" for sewing in) VERY IMPORTANT - if your work is not finished properly it will come undone, leaving a hole in the finished piece. At the very least it will be unsightly so teach your students how to do a finishing that will look nice and that they can be proud of. Consider the Invisible Finish Off.

9. weaving in ends so no one can tell you did

10. recognizing the top chain in your turning chain

F. borders / finishing edges

G. joining squares - different types of seams

H. Additional Instruction:

- 1. gauge
- 2. tension
- 3. Increase/decrease
- 4. care of items
- 5. blocking
- 6. designing
- 7. Color Wheel: - The simple, basic color wheel is divided into 12 equal parts. It is important that they be equal so your "opposite" colors will be correct. The colors are placed all around the circle with each piece of the pie a different color. The order of colors is: red, red orange, orange, yellow orange, yellow, yellow green, green, blue green, blue, blue violet, violet, violet red. Here's a sample color wheel that you can print out.
 - a. Primary Colors -blue, red, yellow
 - b. Secondary Colors - orange, violet, green (made from 2 primary colors)
 - c. Tertiary Colors -blue green, yellow green, blue violet, red violet, red orange, yellow orange; (made from a primary and a secondary color)
 - d. Monochromatic - shades of a single color (ex. blue, blue green, blue violet)

- e. Analogous - colors close together on the color wheel (ex. blue green and blue)
 - f. Complementary: - colors opposite one another on the color wheel (ex. red and green)
 - g. Monotone: - colors with the same tone (intensity or brightness) ex. all brights, all pastels
 - h. changing colors mid-row and end of row
- 8.. working in rounds
- a. where the round begins and ends
9. recognizing the top chain in your turning chain

I. Special Stitches that are commonly used (See tutorial section on Special Stitches):

- 1. V stitch (quick, easy, open-weave)
- 2. Shell (also quick, many variations)
- 3. Puff (close stitch, no holes in project, very warm, can make any design)
- 4. long stitch (lsc, ldc) (decorative)
- 5. popcorn (also close, no holes, warm, little more difficult than puff but similar in look)
- 6. post stitch (fpdc - front post double crochet, bpdc - back post double crochet) (decorative)
- 7. reverse single crochet (also called crab stitch)
- 8. picot
- 9. Cross-stitch

J. Specialized crochet (these are just a few):

- 1. Broomstick Lace
- 2. Tunisian Crochet (Afghan Stitch)
- 3. Hairpin lace
- 4. Mesh - Filet Crochet, woven overlay.
- 5. Buttons/buttonholes
- 6. Ornamentation - pom poms, tassels, fringe
- 7. Making garments
- 8. Cross-stitch on single crochet and afghan stitch