Side Saddle Stitch

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The Side Saddle Stitch is a wonderfully textured crochet stitch that creates a slightly diagonal, woven effect. It's made by combining groups of double crochets and single crochets in a repeating pattern that "leans" across the fabric, giving it its saddle-like appearance.

This stitch has excellent structure and works well for blankets, dishcloths, and scarves. The combination of height and compactness makes it both decorative and durable.

Beginner's Guide to the Side Saddle Stitch in Crochet

The Side Saddle Stitch is a textured crochet stitch that produces a beautiful, subtle ridge pattern, resembling a row of tiny saddles across your fabric. It's a versatile stitch that adds interest and depth to any project, yet it's simple enough for beginners to learn.

This stitch works well for blankets, scarves, cushion covers, and afghans, giving a clean, structured look while maintaining softness. Its unique texture is ideal for creating visual interest in both single-color and multi-color projects.

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Understanding the Side Saddle Stitch

The Side Saddle Stitch is worked by combining single crochets (SC) and double crochets (DC) in a staggered pattern. The alternating height of stitches creates a subtle ridge that runs horizontally across the fabric. This texture is similar to the look of a "saddle," hence the name.

It's a stitch that's forgiving for beginners because it repeats a predictable rhythm, allowing you to focus on tension and stitch consistency while creating an eye-catching texture.

Abbreviation

Step by Step

Side Saddle Stitch Step-by-Step Instructions (US Terms)

Abbreviations (US → UK)

ch = chain
sc = single crochet (US) → dc (UK)
dc = double crochet (US) → tr (UK)
st(s) = stitch(es)
sk = skip
sp = space
rep = repeat

Foundation:
Start with a multiple of 4 + 2 chains.
(Example: ch 26 for a small sample.)

Row 1 Foundation Row:

1. Work 1 sc in the 2nd ch from hook. Chain 3,
2. Work 4 dc cluster in next 4 stitches, finish of cluster, chain1, 1sc into the next stitch(complete first cluster stitch,
3. * chain3, work 4 dc cluster in next 4 stitches, finish of cluster, chain1, 1sc into the next stitch,
4. Repeat from * across. Turn.

Row 2 Establishing the Pattern:

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1. Ch 2 (counts as first dc), work 2 dc in same st (this forms a 3-dc group).
2. Skip next 2 dc, work 1 sc in space between the 2 skipped dc and the next 3-dc group, ch 2, work 3 dc in next sc.
3. Repeat from to across. Turn.

Row 3 and onward:
Repeat Row 2 for the rest of your project.
As you continue, your clusters and single crochets will alternate diagonally, forming the “saddle” texture.

UK Equivalent

In UK crochet terms:

Single crochet (SC) → Double crochet (DC)
Double crochet (DC) → Treble crochet (TR)

The pattern remains the same; only the stitch names change.

Crochet Stitch Practice Example

Practice Swatch Exercise

1. Chain 22 (or any multiple of 3 + 1).
2. Work Row 1 (SC, skip 2, DC, repeat).
3. Follow Row 2 for 6–8 rows.
4. Observe how the ridges form horizontally across the fabric.
5. Experiment with tension and stitch placement to master the texture.

The Side Saddle Stitch is a versatile and beginner-friendly stitch that adds subtle texture and dimension to any project. With a simple pattern of staggered SC and DC, it’s easy to learn and produces professional-looking results. Once mastered, it’s a reliable choice for blankets, scarves, home décor, and wearable projects.

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