

# *Tips and Tricks in Tunisian Crochet Class Handout*

## *by Underground Crafter*

Tunisian crochet makes a versatile fabric that can be used for many projects. Some Tunisian crochet stitches have a “knit look,” while other stitches create “a grid” that can be used for graphed projects or as a background for cross stitch or embroidery.

Tunisian crochet is worked on specialized crochet hooks with a stopper at the end. These hooks can be called “Afghan” or Tunisian crochet hooks. You can also use interchangeable crochet hooks with a long cord and/or stopper.

Unless your pattern specifies otherwise, Tunisian crochet is worked without turning and with the right (front) side always facing. Each row in Tunisian crochet includes a forward pass, which brings the loops onto the hook, and a return pass, which works the loops off the hook.

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### **Reference Videos**

This video demonstrates how to start the Tunisian crochet base row, and 2 Tunisian crochet stitches (Tunisian Purl Stitch and the Extended Knit Stitch): <https://youtu.be/JxNtRy7bGuo>.

This video demonstrates 4 ways to do Tunisian colorwork: <https://youtu.be/cOnISMzIcZM>.

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## Tunisian Base Row

The Tunisian base row forms the beginning of any Tunisian crochet piece. Most Tunisian stitches begin with the same base forward and return pass. Right-handed crocheters will crochet from right to left on the forward pass, and from left to right on the return pass. Left-handed crocheters will crochet from left to right on the forward pass, and from right to left on the return pass.

### Forward Pass

- 1) Start with a foundation chain with the required number of stitches.
- 2) Work your stitches into the back ridge of the chain, rather than through the front loop. This creates a foundation row that lays flat and looks the same as the final row of the project.



- 3) Insert hook into second chain from hook. \*Yarn over, draw through loop and leave it on the hook; repeat from \* until you reach the end of the chain.



### Return Pass

- 1) Do not turn your piece.
- 2) Chain once. \*Yarn over, draw through 2 loops; repeat from \* until there is only 1 loop on the hook.



### **Working Tunisian Crochet Stitches**

Once the Tunisian base row is formed, Tunisian stitches are worked into the vertical or horizontal bars formed by the previous return.



**Always** skip the first vertical bar directly beneath the first loop at the beginning of each row. (Unless, of course, your pattern specifies that you should work into that stitch.)

## Tunisian Crochet Abbreviation Master List

Abbreviation	Description
[ ]	work instructions within brackets as many times as directed
( )	work instructions within parentheses as many times as directed
*	repeat the instructions following the single asterisk as directed
* *	repeat instructions between asterisks as many times as directed or repeat from a given set of instructions
”	inch(es)
alt	alternate
approx	approximately
beg	begin/beginning
bet	between
CA	color A
CB	color B
CC	contrasting color
ch	chain stitch
ch-	refers to chain or space previously made: e.g., ch-1 space
ch-sp	chain space
cont	continue
dec	decrease/ decreases/ decreasing
foll	follow/follows/ following

Abbreviation	Description
inc	increase/ increases/ increasing
lp(s)	loops
MC	main color
pat(s) or patt	pattern(s)
pm	place marker
prev	previous
rem	remain/remaining
rep	repeat(s)
RS	right (front) side
sk	skip
sl st	slip stitch
sp(s)	space(s)
st(s)	stitch(es)
Tks	Tunisian knit stitch
Tps	Tunisian purl stitch
Tss	Tunisian simple stitch
WS	wrong (back) side
yo	yarn over

# Basic Tunisian Crochet Stitches

## Tunisian Simple Stitch (Tss or TSS)

Tunisian Simple Stitch is the most commonly used Tunisian stitch for color charts and graphs for pictures. It can also be used as a base for embroidery stitches.

- Start with any number of chains.
- **Row 1:** Work the base row forward and return pass.
- **Row 2:** Forward Pass: \* Insert hook behind the next vertical bar, yo, draw up a loop and leave loop on hook; repeat from \* across until the end of the row.  
Return Pass: Work the base row return pass.
- Repeat Row 2 forward and return pass until the desired length is reached.
- Finish with your choice of final row.

## Tunisian Knit Stitch (Tks or TKS)

The Tunisian Knit Stitch is visually similar to the stockinette stitch in knitting.

- Start with any number of chains.
- **Row 1:** Work the base row forward and return pass.
- **Row 2:** Forward Pass: \* Insert hook from front to back through center of next vertical bar, yo, draw up a loop and leave loop on hook; repeat from \* across until the end of the row.  
Return Pass: Work the base row return pass.
- Repeat Row 2 forward and return pass until desired length is reached.
- Finish with your choice of final row.

## Tunisian Purl Stitch (Tps or TPS)

The Tunisian Purl Stitch is visually similar to the purl stitch in knitting. It helps reduce the curl in your Tunisian crochet pieces, so some people use the Tunisian purl stitch for the second row of all of their Tunisian crochet projects.

- Start with any number of chains.
- **Row 1:** Work the base row forward and return pass.
- **Row 2:** Forward Pass: \* Bring yarn to the front. Insert hook behind yarn under the next vertical bar, yo, draw up a loop and leave loop on hook; repeat from \* across until the end of the row.  
Return Pass: Work the base row return pass.
- Repeat Row 2 forward and return pass until desired length is reached.
- Finish with your choice of final row.

# Tunisian Crochet Final Row Options

Tunisian crochet projects need a final row to “close off” or “bind off” the stitches that have been on the hook. Here are 3 options. There is no return pass for the final row.

## Slip Stitch Final Row:

- Forward Pass: \* Following stitch pattern, insert hook, yo and draw through both loops on hook; repeat from \* across until the end of the row. Finish off.

## Single Crochet Final Row:

- Forward Pass: \* Following stitch pattern, insert hook, yo and draw up a loop, yo and draw through both loops on hook; repeat from \* across until the end of the row. Finish off.

## Double Crochet Final Row:

- Forward Pass: \* Following stitch pattern, yo and insert hook, yo and draw up a loop, [yo and draw through 2 loops] twice; repeat from \* across until the end of the row. Finish off.

# Additional Stitches

## Tunisian Extended Knit Stitch (Eks or EKS)

- Start with any number of chains.
- **Row 1:** Work the base row forward and return pass.
- **Row 2:** Forward Pass: \* Insert hook from front to back through center of next vertical bar, yo, draw up a loop and leave loop on hook, ch 1; repeat from \* across until the end of the row.  
Return Pass: Work the base row return pass.
- Repeat Row 2 forward and return pass until the desired length is reached.
- Finish with your choice of final row.

## Tunisian Full Stitch (Tfs or TFS)

- Start with any number of chains.
- **Row 1:** Work the base row forward and return pass.
- **Row 2:** Forward Pass: \* Insert hook in space between vertical bars, yo, draw up a loop and leave loop on hook; repeat from \* across until the end of the row.  
Return Pass: Work the base row return pass.
- Repeat Row 2 forward and return pass until desired length is reached.
- Finish with your choice of final row.