

Isometimes find that a simple crochet edging is all that is needed to perfectly finish and complement a garment edge. It can also be used as a decorative and stretchy cast off for a shawl edge. In both cases, it's actually very easy and quite quick to work (another reason I like it!). Here are instructions for knitters who don't know how to crochet.

Choose a crochet hook in a size that matches your knitting needle gauge size. Two sets of instructions follow: Crochet Chain Cast Off for a Shawl Edge and Scalloped Crochet Edging for a Garment Edge.

How to Work Crochet Chain Cast Off for a Shawl Edge

Start by inserting the crochet hook into the first stitch on the needle. Use the hook to pull a loop through the stitch. Then as in Step 6 continue to pull strands of yarn through the loop on the hook 6 more times to make 7 chain sts total (or number of chains you like for your edging—you

may need to experiment). At this point, proceed as in Step 1 and follow through to 6 for remainder of shawl edge. Finish by picking up 2 stitches at the end and fastening off as described in Step 6.



1. With the crochet hook, pick up 3 loops from the knitting needle. Here is the first loop being picked up. Notice there is already a loop on the crochet hook from the previous 7-chain.



2. All 3 loops are on the crochet hook, plus the extra loop further down towards the fingers.

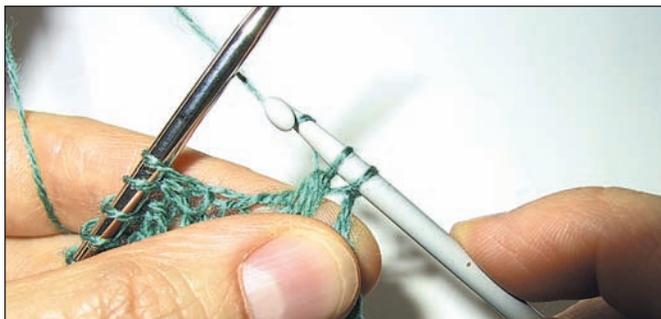


3. Pull a strand of yarn through all 3 loops, but not the extra loop.



4. There is a new loop plus the extra loop on the crochet hook.

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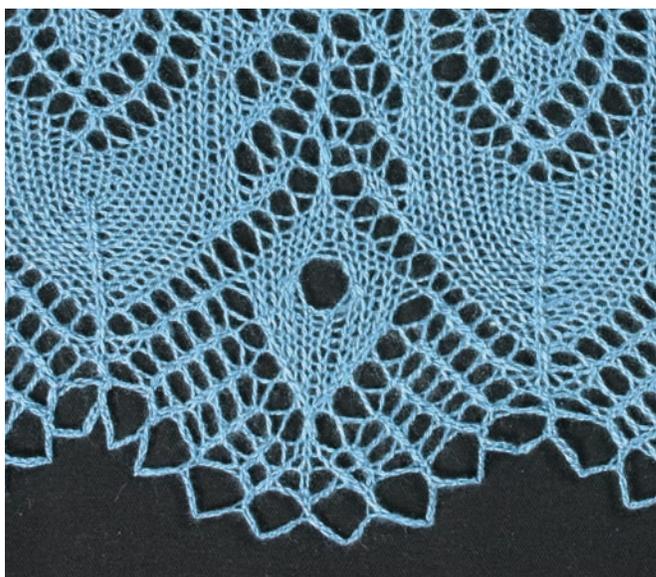
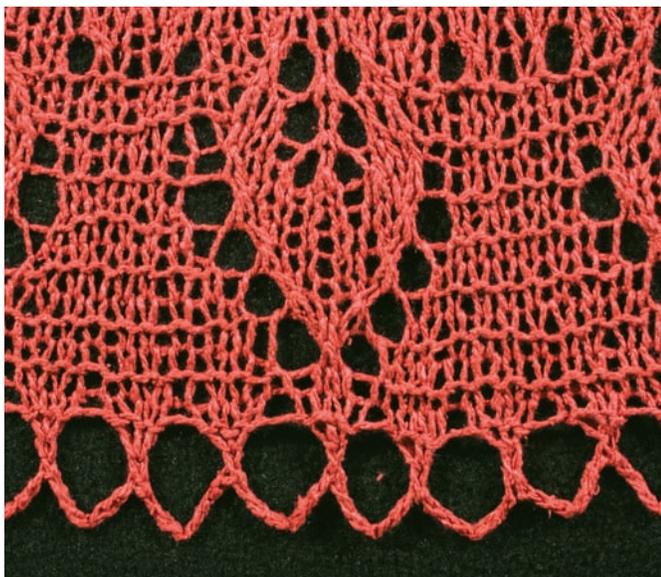


5. Pull another strand of yarn through both loops to make the first chain.



6. Continue to pull strands of yarn through the loop on the hook 6 more times to make 7 chain stitches. Go back to Step 1 and repeat to the end of the shawl, until only 2 stitches remain on the needle. Gather up the last 2 loops, then pull a strand through all 3 loops on the hook. Break yarn and pull it through the remaining loop to tighten.

Here are a couple of examples of shawl edges finished with crochet chain cast off.



How to Work a Scallop Crochet Edging to Finish a Garment Edge



First lay a row of foundation stitches:

1. Begin by joining yarn with the Right Side of the fabric facing, at the point where you wish to begin the crochet edging. In this case I am working an armhole edge for a vest and have joined the yarn at an underarm seam. Insert the crochet hook through the top 2 strands along the edge of the armhole (see Step 2 at right) and with the hook, pull a loop through as above.



2. Insert hook under the next set of strands...



3. ...and pull another loop through. There are now 2 loops on the hook.



4. Catch the yarn around hook and pull it...



5. ...through both loops on the hook.



6. Repeat Steps 2 through 5 along entire edge of armhole. Crochet foundation stitches should look like the ones to the right of the hook above, almost like a line of bound-off knit stitches. Check your tension as you work to make sure the edge is not pulling in or too loose (wavy). I found that 1 crochet stitch in every knit stitch (on bound off edges), and 1 crochet stitch in every 2 knit rows (on side edges) works well.

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7. When you reach the underarm seam again and have completed the foundation crochet stitches, begin the chain scallop part of the edging. Insert the hook into the next foundation crochet stitch.



8. Pull a loop through both the foundation stitch and the stitch on the hook.



9. Loop has been pulled through and there is 1 loop on the hook.



10. Now pull loops through the stitch on the hook to create a chain. Repeat 4 times to make a chain strand (or as many times as you would like for your thickness of yarn—you may need to experiment).



11. Skip 1 foundation crochet stitch and insert hook through the next foundation crochet stitch. Pull a loop through both the foundation stitch and the stitch on the hook. A chain scallop is completed. Repeat Steps 10 and 11 all around the armhole edge. Chain scallops should look as above. Once completed, break yarn and draw through last loop.

Here are a couple of examples of garment edges finished with scallop crochet edging.

