



Tip of the Month August 2016

- Flat Circles



I often get the question – Why do my circles never appear like circles? They are either ruffled, curled or have points.

I have found there are three important things to get right for the perfect circle.

1. Begin the first round with the right amount of stitches. The taller your stitch the more stitches there should be in your first round. When using double crochet, I start with 6 stitches; when using half treble, I start with 10 stitches; when using treble, I start with 12 stitches. Too many stitches will lead to a ruffle, while too few will lead to a bowl. Others recommend that when using double crochet, start with 6—8 stitches and when using treble, start with 12—14 stitches.

2. In order to stay flat, each row needs to increase evenly. There is a rule to follow that will ensure an even increase. This rule starts with round 2, with an increase in each stitch (two stitches into each stitch on round 1). For each subsequent row you then insert a single stitch between each increase. Therefore, in round 3, there will be one single stitch between each increase, in round 4 there will be 2 single stitches between each increase, round 5 there will be 3 single stitches between each increase, and so on. Most circle patterns are written this way, and can often give you 'points' around your circle as the increases will appear at the same spots, as shown in this picture. Hence point number 3.



3. In order to get your circle edges more rounded, vary where you make the increase in each row instead of increasing in the same spot. This will mean after round three, instead of beginning with an increase or the full number of single stitches, begin with either 1 2 or 3 individual stitches, make the first increase then have the specified number of single stitches following the established rule until the last single stitches. Rounds 3 to 4 may then look something like this:

Round 3 – increase, single stitch, increase, single stitch until the end.

Round 4 – single stitch, (increase, 2 single stitches, increase) until the last stitch, and make one single stitch.

Round 5 – increase, 3 single stitches, increase until the end

Round 6 – 2 single stitches (increase, 4 single stitches, increase) until the last 2 stitches and make 2 single stitches.



This should result in your circle looking more even, as shown here.