



## Tip of the Month—November



### The Invisible Decrease

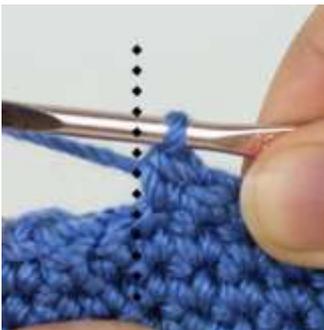
Do you get frustrated with the holes that appear in your projects where you have decreased stitches? I came across this technique which is commonly used in Amigurumi construction - as you cannot have holes for the stuffing to fall out - and have successfully used it in other projects - The Invisible Double Crochet Decrease.

To make this decrease, insert your hook under the first loop of the next stitch, and pull your hook forward to give it a little bit of stretch. Then insert your hook under the first loop of the following stitch. Complete your double crochet as normal. (I have also seen some designers vary this by inserting their hook under both loops of the second stitch.) I personally like using the first loop of both stitches.

Things to watch for when using this technique:

1. This is great working in rounds where you don't turn your work. If you are turning your work try to keep the decreases on the front side of your work.
2. Keep an eye on your tension as it is very easy to create loose 'vs' around your decrease. Here are some pictures of good 'checkpoints' for your decrease.

a) After putting your hook through the first loop of the two stitches, pull the yarn to tighten the loop on your hook before putting the yarn around the hook - this will ensure your 'v' for the stitch is not loose.



b) When you have completed the decrease, but before beginning the next stitch, pull your stitch forward so that it is straight and in the position you want it to be. This will stop the 'v' of the next stitch loosening up.



Like to see more about this technique, visit [www.planetjune.com/blog](http://www.planetjune.com/blog)