



Tip of the Month

June 2019 —

Amigurumi 101



Some people look at small crochet stuffed toys and think 'I could never do that'. If you know how to double crochet and work in a circle you can create beautiful amigurumi. So if you've never done it before, here are some tips and hints that I have picked up.

- When working in the round, work in a spiral - that means you never join each round with a slip stitch. Joining creates a line that is clearly visible. Keep track of your progress using stitch markers.
- Start with the magic circle rather than three or four chain joined with a slip stitch. With the magic circle your beginning can be pulled really tight so that there is no hole for stuffing to fall out of, or fingers to poke through. This will also look much cleaner.
- Use a hook which is at least one size smaller than suggested on the label. This is because your item needs to have tight stitches so that the stuffing will not fall out. Keep your tension quite tight.
- Use the invisible increase and invisible decrease. The invisible increase is achieved by making the first double crochet in the back loop and the second double crochet in the front loop of the same stitch. For invisible decreases check out our tip from [November 2015](#).
- If possible use the invisible join when finishing off your project. This will avoid leaving a knot where you fasten off and it will keep the rows as even as possible.
- Leave long tails for sewing. Often patterns ask you to sew the legs and arms onto the main body and you can use the tail from these pieces to do that.
- Be imaginative with your stuffing. You can use polyfil which you can purchase at craft stores, or use leftover yarns or bits of material from sewing. If you are concerned about stuffing coming out, put it inside some pantyhose. For many projects it is also easy to 'stuff as you go'. Stuff tightly - Particularly the arms and legs.
- When placing the eyes, arms and legs evenly, use the lines from your crocheted circles, and count stitches in between.
- Use safety eyes where possible or embroider the eyes on. If it is to be used by small children do not use buttons or other sew on or stick on eyes as these can be a choking hazard. Before attaching the eyes use tacks to mark where they should go, to ensure you get them in the right place.