



## Tip of the Month— Crocheting a Sturdy Basket



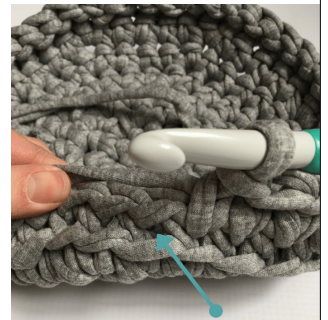
Have you ever made a basket and been disappointed that the sides are rounded and a bit ‘floppy’? I’ve made them myself! But I came across and discovered some techniques to keep in mind to help get sturdy straight baskets really do stand up on their own.

1. **Material**— Use super bulky yarn, you may even need to use two strands of chunky yarn together. Avoid the ‘soft’ yarns and look for stiffer material. T-shirt yarn is a clear leader in this area, but bulky cotton or nylon can also be very effective.



2. **Hook**—Tight stitches is also necessary to keep sturdy sides, and can be achieved with using a smaller hook than what you normally would use, as well as a tighter tension. This can be hard on your hands, so always ensure you take a break and stretch your fingers—finger [exercises](#) are good here—see our tip from February 2018.
3. **Sturdy Base**—A sturdy and thick base gives support to the sides, so that they stand up on their own. This is where the new ‘basket bases’ are great to use—they are flat and sturdy giving you a good start for the sides. If you don’t use one of these bases, you can still crochet a flat circle and when ready to start the sides do the following:

- Slip stitch in the back loop of each stitch all the way around and join with a slip stitch.
- Double crochet in the same back loop and over the top of the slip stitches just made all the way around and join with a slip stitch.



4. **Blocking**—Lastly blocking your basket made with the bulky yarn or t-shirt yarn can help to keep the sides straight and sturdy, particularly if placed over a saucepan, or pot for the size of your basket.