



# Tip of the Month July 2018— Yarn over, yarn under, does it really matter?



I was taught by mother to crochet at a very young age, so I was very surprised to find out recently that she does her yarn wraps differently to me when making her stitches—she does ‘yarn under’ (YU) while I ‘yarn over’ (YO). As I have been completing my teaching certificate I have come to understand the difference between these methods and researched the effects. There are some obvious differences and benefits of using ‘yarn under’ instead of ‘yarn over’ in some cases.

Firstly—what is the difference? The yarn over technique is when you place your hook under the yarn and pull the yarn over the hook from back to front, while with the yarn under technique you place your hook over the yarn and pull the yarn up from front to back.

The finished product can also look different—depending on the stitch that is being used. An obvious difference arises when using the double crochet stitch and Tunisian.

When using the yarn under method the stitches have a slight slant/twist compared to the yarn over method, and the stitches are less definitive. I also find that the stitches are smaller so the tension is different.

While the yarn over method is considered more correct, there are two situations where the yarn under method can be more beneficial.



The first of these is in amigurumi. Working in the round the yarn under method actually creates a flatter circle. The twist that appears in the yarn under stitch also fills the gaps between stitches so creates a tighter finish. This can be seen in the two samples.

Secondly yarn under creates a straighter seam when working in the round. As the stitches are slanted, the join ends up straight.



While yarn over is considered the more ‘technically correct’ and ‘traditional’ way, there really is no right way.