

Crocodile Stitch "Dragon Scale" Fingerless Gloves / Wrist Gauntlets



About this Pattern:

I saw the boredpanda.com post featuring "Dragon Scale" fingerless gloves from the Mareshop on Etsy and thought, "Oh, wow, those look easy to make!" then realized I had no clue how start. I *could* figure it out but I am lazy about that stuff so I started checking around for a pattern. There were lots--for pay, some of them for some very high prices (as high as buying a finished pair of gloves in one case!) When I finally found one--*and only one*--that was free of charge, I couldn't quite get it to work.

Please don't sell this pattern or reuse my photos. Please respect the time and effort I (and the sources I reference) put into creating this pattern. You are absolutely free to sell stuff you make from this pattern and while I'd appreciate a link to my www.etsy.com/shop/heirloominthemaking store, I won't require it as a term or condition for using this pattern. It'd just be a nice thing to do.

%%%	TIP: Experienced Crocheters, skip from one bold-faced	%%%
%%%	step to the next, scanning the photos and you'll find these	%%%
%%%	work up very quickly since there are only 2 stitches 2	%%%
	places (thumb and wrist) to do something "special."	

I hope I've written this pattern so it will appeal to *both* the person with no crochet experience and the experienced crocheter who doesn't need explicit instructions. For each step, you'll find the generic overview instruction in bold, worded in a way that assumes you know what to do to make those stitches. Then I write an explicit, step by step and photo-illustrated tutorial that assumes you have no clue what I'm saying in the bold-faced print and need to be shown every little thing from yarn overs (yo) to where to push the hook through.

Hopefully, this means everyone will find what they need and no one will get lost or so bored and bogged down they give up. If you're experienced, just look for the bold-faced headings for each step.

NOTE: This is my very first-ever pattern so I may not have done things the best way or the right way. I think I've made things clear, I think I've proofread. If you find mistakes or things that don't make sense, please come to [my blog](#) and [leave a comment](#) and I'll try to figure out an answer. Read the other comments, too, since someone else may have already asked or answered your question!

Please be patient with me and I'll try to be patient with you. However, please recall that this pattern is a **free gift**. You're not paying me for it and I'm not charging you for my time nor am I forcing you to use it--so be nice. If you don't like something, remember you don't have to use my pattern. Go buy one, there are lots and lots available for purchase on Ravelry.com or Etsy.com or pretty much anywhere on the web. Google it.

Credits where Due:

I started this pattern based on the one created by Rachel at [Over the Moon & Sun](#). She was, as I said earlier, the only one [on Ravelry](#) to offer a free pattern for these gloves and since I was being lazy and she was being energetic, I figured why start from scratch?! Please pray blessings on Rachel. She put a huge amount of energy into getting the kinks worked out of this pattern and as you can see if you [click through here](#), she answered a bunch of questions with immeasurable patience. In fact, some of the issues I had with her pattern were cleared up in the comments section so read her whole blog post if you are interested in the original pattern.

This cooperative effort is what makes [Ravelry](#) and crocheters in general a wonderfully supportive worldwide community. I hope I can be as patient when people ask me questions about this pattern!

I also have to thank Kristine at [Mareshop](#) for putting her Etsy store's Dragon Scale Fingerless Gloves onto the BoredPanda viral maker in the first place. People post their stuff themselves so if she hadn't inspired half of Facebook to get out and crochet these things, we wouldn't be here--and her Etsy store sold out in 2 weeks! Amazing, since she had over 80 items for sale.

Abbreviations: (in US terminology)

ch = chain
sl st = slip stitch
st or sts = stitch or stitches
sc = single crochet
dc = double crochet
dec = decrease
yo = yarn over

shell = 3dc made into the same one location...because they don't fit easily, they "fan" into a shell-like shape

fpdc or post st = front post double crochet or making a stitch around a "post" instead of into the loops on the top of the stitch. See [this Craftsy blog tutorial](https://www.craftsy.com/blog/2015/08/front-post-double-crochet/) for how to do it: <https://www.craftsy.com/blog/2015/08/front-post-double-crochet/>

croc st or scale set = a foundation row and a scale row, together, make up a "set" of scales.

%%%	TIP: You cannot make crocodile stitch scales without a	%%%
%%%	foundation row and since the foundation row will show	%%%
%%%	through you should always use the same color for the entire	%%%
	set.	

A foundation row is simply a "dc pair" or 2dc made into the same stitch, like a shell but with just 2 sts. The scales are a bunch of fpdc sts made around each of the posts of these dc pairs, first working from the top down, then working from bottom up for the second half of the dc pair. I like to put a ch st in between the two halves of the scale to get a kind of pointy-tipped shape. Some people vehemently object to this ch st. I am not the crochet police. Use the ch st or don't. I will not check up on you!

The size of the scale depends on how many fpdc sts you do on each side. You should always do the same number on each half of the scale. You can do 4, 5 or 6 and typically, patterns call for 5 but I've done 4 to make the scales flatter and 6 to make the scales fuller. In this pattern, I use 5fpdc per side of the scale. Again, I am not the crochet police and will not come check to see if you followed my pattern exactly. *Be creative & do whatever feels right for you and the yarn you've chosen!*

If you are a beginner and need help understanding the crocodile stitch, it can't hurt to read and try out a tutorial before putting it to use. In other words, practice on something that doesn't matter with whatever garbage yarn you have on hand, then once you've made your mistakes, go ahead and try out the pattern for the good stuff. I like the [Red Heart Ultimate Beginners' Guide to Crocodile Stitch](#) for

illustration of how this stitch works but there are a lot of tutorials on how to do it. Google it. I'll also photo-illustrate how it's done on these gloves, but it can still be intimidating to a new crocheter. Don't worry. Once you learn how to fpdc and make scales, you are going to feel so empowered, you'll think you can do anything! Check out the Red Heart tutorial here:

<http://www.redheart.com/learn/articles/Ultimate-Beginners-Guide-to-the-Crocodile-Stitch>

and if you don't like that one, check out the one Rachel had linked:

<https://midknightstarr.wordpress.com/tutorials/crocodile-stitch-in-the-round-tutorial/>

Materials:

Hook & Gauge

Hook size depends on how tightly you crochet. I tend to use whatever size the yarn label recommends--did you know they put the recommended size right on the label? A fingering weight or baby fine yarn typically takes a size F/3.5mm or F/3.75mm hook but you might need a G/4mm hook if you crochet really tightly. Go down to an E/3mm if you crochet loosely...but try not to crochet loosely on crocodile stitch scales. It will look sloppy. Okay, I'll stop being the crochet police now.

My scales measure 1³/₄" wide x 1" tall and I was able to get 5 scales per round. My shell stitch measures about 1/2" tall/shell x 3"/3shells. Again, I used the same size hook (G/4mm) for both types of yarn and got the same kind of gauge results. YMMV as they say. Check your gauge if the size really matters. My gloves (shown in the photos) fit me...well, like a glove. They are not loose nor are they pinching, though the base of my hand does have to "scrunch" to get through the wrist area because the stitch is not stretchy right where it shifts from crocodile scales to shells.

Yarn & Yardage

Yarn choices are vast. Mareshop used a mohair wool, superfine. For us in the States that stuff is super expensive (as high as \$26 per skein for hand-dyed mohair!) and acrylic imitations aren't much better. There are some brands (Crystal Palace) that are just so gorgeous you won't care what it costs but you can also try out some of the nice colorways in the Red Heart Unforgettable line of yarn. The Red Heart is a middle of the road price and available everywhere from Walmart to Joann's Fabrics. You can even try out the lower priced Michael's brand Loops & Threads line called Woolike. That's only available at a Michael's craft store (wink).

I didn't have any of those yarns when I decided to make these so I just used what

I had on hand. That meant Red Heart SuperSaver solids (worsted weight) and baby yarns (Caron SimplySoft). I decided to rework the worsted weight gloves and tried out some Rainbow Classic Chunky (which is actually worsted weight #4) in purple. You can see that yarn in the step by step photos.

I found all of these yarns easy to work with and of course, the baby yarn was softer even after it was worked. I was surprised that the Red Heart worsted weight yarn wasn't all that stiff or bulky once I worked it into scales lying flat.

Yardage:

You probably need about 200 yds of any weight yarn for a pair of these gloves or about 100 yards per glove. Again, it depends on how tightly you crochet and what size hook you're using but be warned, the crocodile stitch eats a lot of yarn. A longer arm on the glove will obviously take more than one that ends just after the wrist but it'll be about 100 yds per glove--or at worst, 75-125yds per glove. Now, let's look at the different brands and how cost and weight and yardage work out to answer the age-old question, "How many skeins should I buy?"

The gorgeous but expensive [Crystal Palace Mini Mochi](#) is about \$9.20 for a 50g skein or about 195 yds; you'll get one pair of gloves per skein--just--assuming you luck out on the color changes for starting the second glove.

The Michael's Woolike yarn is about \$2.99 for a 100g skein or about 678 yds -- yes, 3 times more yarn for 1/3 the cost of the Crystal Palace gets you about 3 pairs of gloves per skein. Unfortunately, the Woolike only comes in solids and the Crystal Palace is amazing because of the brilliant colors and soft transitions.

Red Heart's self-stripping Unforgettable is kind of in the middle on pricing at about \$6.20 for 100g skein or about 270 yds and will get you 1-2 pairs of gloves per skein depending on how tightly you crochet (again).

Sizing:

Make the gloves as long or short as you like and adjust the width as necessary if you have a wide wrist or forearm. Rachel talks in her pattern about how to increase or decrease a size. Thanks again, Rachel! I have small bones and a narrow wrist so I just did the smaller version without sizing adjustments.

My finished gloves measure 7.5" diameter at the wrist and about 6" from the wrist to the of the baby yarn ones or about 7.5" from the wrist to the ends of the green and purple worsted weight gloves. Both types of gloves measure the same 5" from fingertip end to wrist. For the worsted weight gloves, I needed to do one increase part way up to account for the flare of my forearm as the glove approached my elbow.

The pattern is worked from fingertips to elbow.

One thing I do which I hope doesn't aggravate you is that I switch back and forth between the term Round and Row. They are the same thing. Just ignore me and my inability to remember which one I was calling it. You're working rows "in the round" so, technically, both terms are right. So there. Now you can call the crochet police on me. See? All's fair in the end.

Now, at long last, *onto the pattern!!*

Step 1: Starting loop - 30 sc joined into a flat, round loop

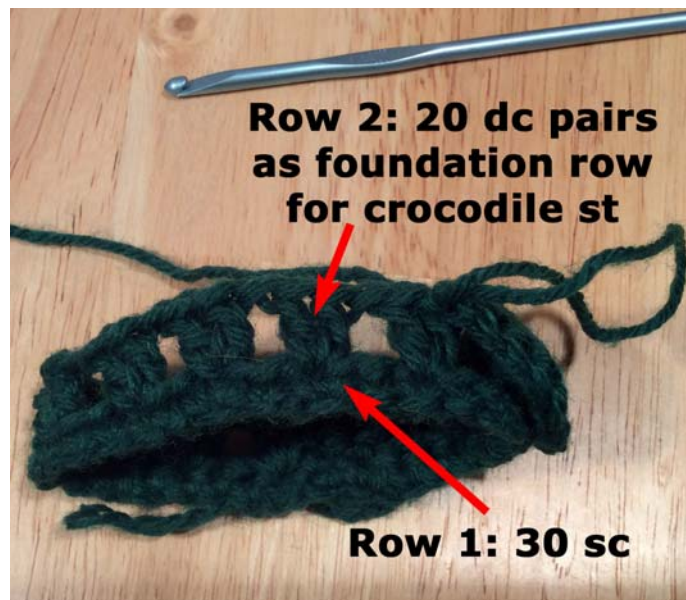
Rnd 1: You can either do 30 ch sts and join them (make sure your chains don't twist!) and then work 30 sc sts into them, joining with a sl st when you get all the way around *OR* try out a cool method of "chainless single crochet." I like the foundation method for hdc and dc first rows because I can handle the worked stitches with ease but for sc's, the work is so small it's nearly as challenging as it is to sc into a chain of ch stitches. So I just do the chains and grit my teeth to get it over and done. Do whichever you find easier so that you end up with 30 sc in a joined loop when you're done. Here's a great tutorial on how to do the chainless or "foundation" method on Craftsy:'

<https://www.craftsy.com/blog/2015/05/foundation-single-crochet-how-to/>

From this point forward, you are working in rounds that you **do** join with a sl st at the end. Usually working in rounds you do *not* join but here you do.

Step 2: Crocodile Stitch Foundation Round (10 pairs of dc)

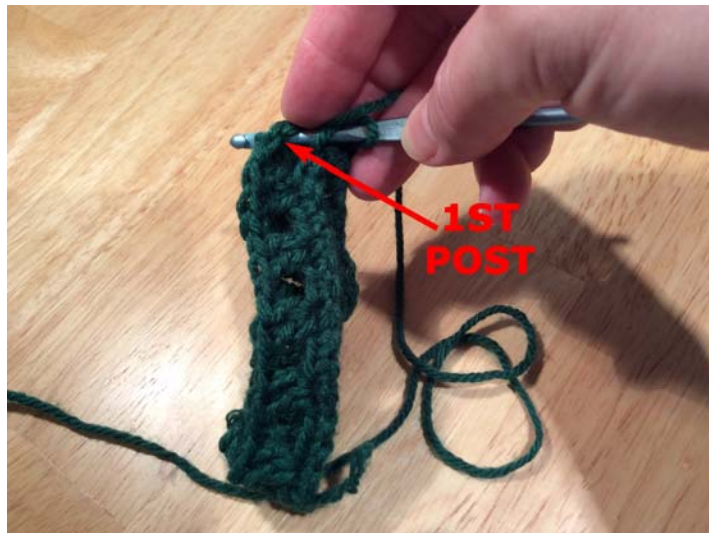
Rnd 2: Ch 3, work 1dc into the same space as the ch3. Together, this will be your first "dc pair" in the foundation round. *Ch 1, skip 2sts, 2dc into next st * This is your second "dc pair." Repeat * to * all the way around. You should have 10 pairs (20 dc with empty/skipped sts in between them). Join together with a sl st through the top of the first ch3 you did to form a circle as shown below.



Step 3: Crocodile Stitch Scales (5 sets of 5 scales / round)

Rnd 3: Now you'll make the first set of scales. Do not make a chain, just YO and work 5 fpdc on the first post of the dc pair beneath the join. It should be directly underneath your hook if you haven't done anything else but join the foundation row.

To make it easier to hold the work and not catch my hook on the wrong thing while working 5 stitches into one space, I turn my work sideways, and fold it so that the post I want to work on is sticking up in the air horizontally. In the photo below, the "1st post" is where I'll do these first 5 fpdc stitches.



Work turned sideways to start first half of scale

Folded this way, I can poke my hook right through and work the first half of the scale "left to right."



First half of scale is done, ch on point is on my hook

In order to work the second half of the scale "bottom up," I turn the work 180 degrees and can once again fold the work and poke my hook through the post I want to put the 5 stitches on. I forgot to take a photo of the work folded for the second half of the scale, with the second post sticking up in the air but in the photo below, imagine my forefinger pushing the first half of the scale down towards the work so it "folds" on the post where my thumb is jabbed in (where the red arrow is pointing).



Now work is turned around so 2d post is under my thumb in photo, ready to work the second half of the scale

Once you've done the second half of the scale, sl st onto the second post of the *next* dc pair -- that is you skip the first post of the next dc pair and sl st the scale into place on the second post of a pair that will be a filler (and not get a scale of its own).

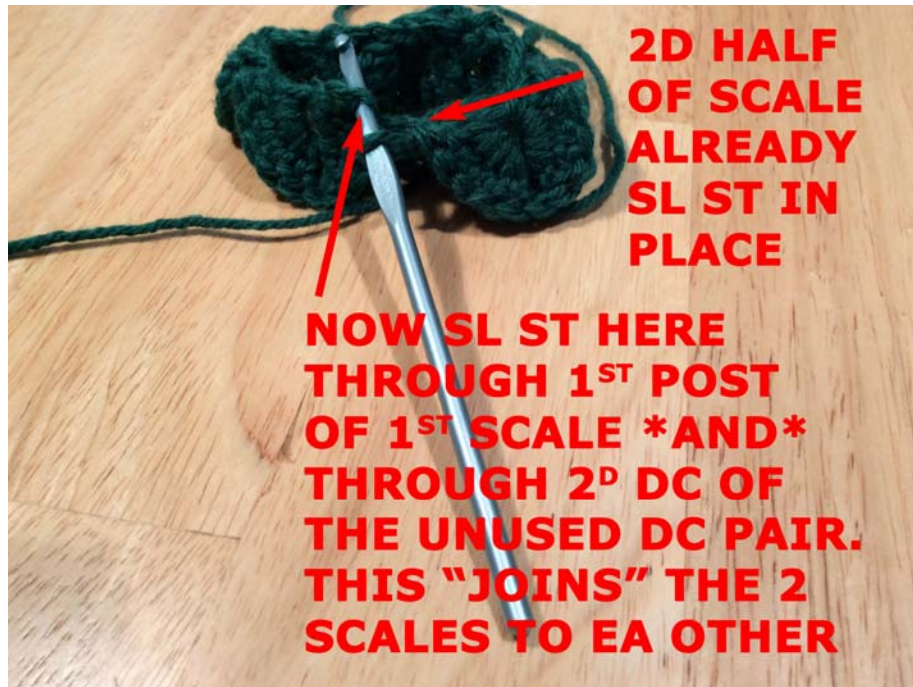


***Tah-dah!!* You've made 1 crocodile scale!**

Now work a scale onto every *other* dc pair and skip a dc pair (they will show through the curves of the scales and be the "filler" color).

Work scales all the way around and when you get to the end of the last scale, sl st as usual but then sl st again through the first post of the first scale and pushing the hook all the way through the join from the previous row (see photo below).

This essentially joins the last scale to the first scale. Round is completed with 5 scales.



Rnd 4: Repeat Rnd 2 to make another foundation round of dc pairs.

Your second (and each subsequent) round of scales will be shifted so that the points of one row of scales fall in the curve of the adjacent row of scales. This helps the scales to lie flat and look more scaly. You don't need to do anything special to make this happen. Just begin the first scale of the next round on the first post of the "dc pair" directly underneath where you joined. That is, you joined the foundation row by slip-stitching to the top of the first ch3 from the foundation row. Now you're going to use that ch3 as the first post around which to make the new scale.

Rnd 5: Repeat Rnd 3 (and refer back to the first picture under Rnd 3 to see how to start a new scale). Rounds 4-5 together are a "set of scales." You'll do these two rows again to make 5 sets in all.

Rnd6-7: third set of scales

Rnd 8-9: fourth set of scales

Rnd 10-11: fifth (last) set of scales

Step 4: sc around for transition to shell stitch (3sc / scale + 1sc between scales - 21 sts)

Rnd 12: ch1, sc in same st as ch1, *skip to center of scale and sc in center of scale, sc in middle of post on second half of scale, sc in sl st between scales, sc in middle of post of next scale*, repeat * to * around. You should have 21 sc sts evenly spaced around.



sc foundation as transition to shell stitch (21 sts)

From this point forward, you'll work "shell stitch." A shell is simply 3dc in the same stitch with a chain before the next shell.

Step 5: Shell & Make Thumb Hole (2 Rnds, 36 sts)

Rnd 13: Ch3, 2dc in same stitch (together, the ch3 and 2dc will be your first shell of the round). *Ch1, skip 2 sts, 3dc in next stitch,* (remember these *'s but don't do anything with this yet), ch9, 3dc into stitch that is 2sts past the last "shell" (3dc before you did the ch9). See photo below for how it looks at this point.



Thumb hole will form from the ch9 space. There's a shell done in normal way on either side of it.

Now you'll continue making shells around by repeating * to * (from the beginning of this step) all the way around. Join with a sl st to the top of the ch3 in the first shell.

When you start the next round, you'll be working shells into a row that is made up shells. You might think you work the shells into the chain stitch that you did in between the shells but no. Or I don't do it that way. What I do is put the hook under the chain stitch (into the open space) rather than through the chain. You can work the new shell into the chain but I find there are two reasons to do it into the space instead. One, it's a whole lot easier and I am lazy. Two, it makes the shells space out a little bit more making them slightly more lacy. It's only a slight difference but the lazy factor works for me--I am a path of least resistance girl!



Rnd 14: Work shell stitch evenly all around. When you get to the thumb hole, you work a shell in the first chain of the ch9 (see photos below).



Work another 2 shells on the ch9 thumb hole and then work a shell into the last ch of the ch9 (see photos below).



Continue working shells the rest of the way around and join with a sl st to top of ch3 in the first shell. (see next photo)



Step 6: Decrease Under Thumb & Wrist (27 sts)

Rnd 15 (3d round of shells): Work 2 regular shells then work a decr sh (see steps below if you need them), work 1 regular shell, decr sh (this decr-shell-decr is worked on the thumb area), work 1 regular shell then work a decr sh at the wrist (if desired; if you want wrist larger, just do the decreases at the thumb). Join with a sl st to first shell. (27 sts)

Steps for a "decr sh"

dc1 in next shell space

yo, insert hook under shell space, pull through (3 loops on hook)

yo, pull through 2 loops (2 loops on hook)

yo, insert hook under next shell space, pull through (4 loops on hook)

yo, pull through 2 loops (3 loops on hook)

yo, pull through all 3 loops

completes 1 "decr sh"



First decrease on first side of thumb hole

Step 7: Decrease Under Thumb Only (21 sts)

Rnd 16: This time you do decreases under the thumb area but not on the opposing side. Just like last round, work 2 reg. shells, 1 decr. sh, then 1 regular shell on top of shell, 2 regular shells after thumb. Join with sl st to first shell. (21 sts)

Step 8: Work Arm to Length Desired

How many rounds you do now will depend on whether you want a wrist-length glove or a glove that reaches near or to the elbow. Work the shell stitch evenly around for as many rounds as you like. If you go far enough up, the forearm flares slightly so you'll want to do one increase, described below. In the baby yarn version, there is no increase. This is optional and only needed for a longer glove or wider forearm fit.

Step 9: Optional Increase for Forearm (27 sts)

Work 2 shells as usual, then work 2 shells into the same stitch (approximately opposite the thumb hole), then finish the round working shell stitches like usual. Work the next and subsequent rounds as usual. One increase should add ¼" or ½" to the diameter.



Increase under wrist, opposite thumb, if making arm long

Step 10: Finishing

There are two ways I've finished off these gloves. The baby yarn gloves are finished with a round of sc all the way around with a "picot" (ch3, sl st into same space so it's a loop folded onto itself) every fourth stitch. The green scaled gloves have dark purple scalloped edges followed by a round with picots in light purple. Below are step-by-step instructions for both methods -- *only do one or the other, not both.*

Flat edge (baby yarn version):

After last round of shells, switch colors to a contrast color for the trim (I used purple for this round after the last round of green shells). Ch1, sc in same stitch and in each of the next 4 sts. *ch3, sl st to same st as sc, sc5* Repeat * to * all the way around, ending with a picot where you started and sl st to the ch1 in the first st.



Scalloped edge (green & purple version):

After last round of shells, make a scallop on each shell as follows: sc in first st of shell, (hdc, dc, hdc) all in the secon st of shell, sc in last stitch of shell. Repeat around, joining with a sl st in the first sc. Switch to a contract color (I used the light purple again) 2sc, (sc, ch3, sl st) all in one st, *4 sc, (sc, ch3, sl st) all in one st* repeat * to * all around, 2sc then join with a sl st.



BOTH VERSIONS:

No matter what kind of finished edging you choose, your last step to finish is to turn the glove inside-out and weave in all the loose ends wherever you changed yarn color. Turn right side out again and try it on! Yay. Now do another one.

CARE & CLEANING:

Like most crocheted goods, you can machine wash these but it's not recommended. If you do, be sure to use cold water and a gentle cycle. Definitely *do not machine dry*. Lay flat on top of a towel on a flat surface and while still wet, push/pull into shape again if they became at all distorted during the washing process. Air dry overnight.

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