



## Tunisian Crochet Tubes

I have been asked a lot about my creatures and dolls: many people wonder whether there is wire inside my sheep's legs, for instance. Although they are pretty stiff, there is no wire inside: they are made completely from crocheted yarn. I did not want to use wire, because I wanted my creatures to be washable and child-safe.

So I developed the technique described here, which is really simple. Although I'm pretty sure someone somewhere has already thought of it, I've never seen it myself used anywhere else, and that is a pity, because it opens a door on so many possibilities.

So here is the technique I use.



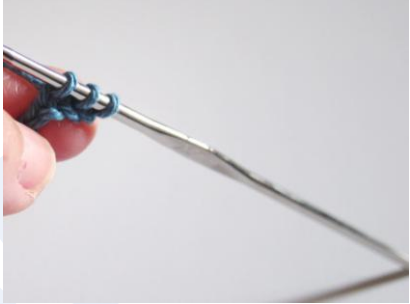


Before diving into the details – **the general idea** is to use a narrow hook to make a couple of Tunisian crochet rows, and then sew it into a tube. That's it. Simple!

Okay, now to the detailed explanation.

You need a yarn – any yarn – and a regular crochet hook **that's at least one size "too small"** for this yarn. Here I used a 2.5mm hook, and a Sports Weight cotton yarn intended for 3.5mm hooks.

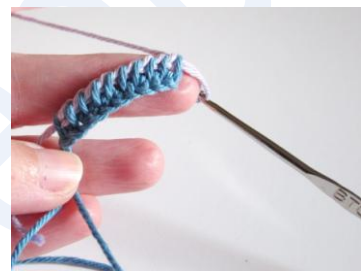
**Note** - to make things clearer, I used 3 different yarn colors. This is only for demonstration clarity purpose; You're using one single yarn throughout the whole process.

You can see how I use these tubes on my creatures at <http://www.loopysheep.etsy.com>.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Make a foundation chain:<br/>Chain 10</p>    | <p>2. Make a simple Tunisian Crochet stitch:<br/>Insert hook through 2nd chain from hook, yarn over and pull back through stitch. You now have 2 loops on hook</p>    |
| <p>3. Insert hook through next chain, yarn over and pull back through stitch. You now have 3 loops on hook</p>  |   |
| <p>4. Continue working this way to the end of the row, until you have 10 loops on the hook</p>  | <p>5. Yarn over and pull through first loop on hook. You still have 10 stitches on hook.</p> <p>(Here I "yarned over" with the violet thread, and pulled through the blue stitch. You're using the same thread!)</p>  |
| <p>6. Yarn over and pull through 2 loops<br/>You now have 9 stitches on hook.</p>   | <p>7. Yarn over and pull through 2 loops<br/>You now have 8 stitches on hook.</p>   |



8. Continue working off stitches until you've worked them all, and have one stitch left on hook



- Notice the 10 blue bars that were created. Next line is worked through them

9. Start on the 2<sup>nd</sup> line: skip the first stitch, insert hook underneath the 2<sup>nd</sup> bar – this one:



10. So insert your hook from the right of the bar, underneath it, to the left – like this:



11. Yarn over and pull through stitch



You now have 2 stitches on hook.

12. Insert hook under next bar, yarn over and pull through stitch .



You now have 3 stitches on hook.

13. Continue working this way to the end of the row, until you have 10 loops on the hook



14. Yarn over and pull through first loop



continue working as in previous row:

15. Yarn over and pull through two loops. Repeat this to the end of the row



Now you have two rows, and in each one you have 10 vertical bars.

- Since we only wanted two rows, we now have to finish off the crocheted piece. This is done by slip-stitching from right to left:

16. Insert hook underneath 2<sup>nd</sup> bar (see it is the 2<sup>nd</sup> bar in the picture? It is directly above the 2<sup>nd</sup> bar in the 1<sup>st</sup> line)



17. Make a slip stitch: yarn over and pull through 2 loops on hook



18. Insert hook underneath 3<sup>rd</sup> bar, yarn over and pull through 2 loops on hook

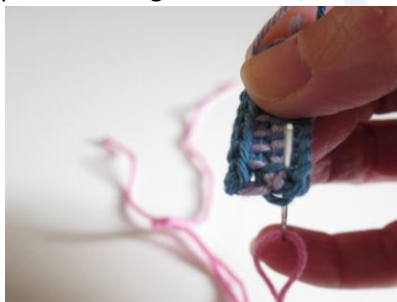


19. And continue slip-stitching along the row – 9 slip-stitches all in all



- When you're done slip-stitching, leave about 10" of yarn and cut off. We are going to use this yarn tail to sew the fabric into a tube. Put the hook aside and thread the yarn through a needle (Again, here I sewed with pink yarn for clarity. You're using the same thread you crocheted with)

20. Stick the needle upward through the fabric, close to the edge, between the two last bars of row #1



21. Stick the needle upward through the fabric, close to the edge, between the last two bars of row #2



22. Make sure your yarn goes **underneath** the fabric. Then pull it tightly.

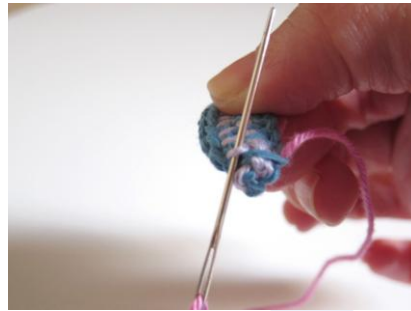




23. Stick the needle underneath bar #9 of row #1. While you do that, make sure the yarn goes, from left to right, **underneath** the fabric



24. Stick the needle underneath bar #9 of row #2, yarn always going under the fabric, not above it



Pull tightly. You should be getting the beginning of a narrow tube.

25. Stick needle under bar #8 of row #1



26. And under bar #8 of row #2



27. And pull tightly. This is what you should be getting



28. Continue this shoelacing from side to side, yarn always going under a stitch-bar, aside and away from the fabric, and underneath it, to the parallel stitch on the other row.

This is what you eventually get:



It may look bumpy and imperfect, but this is what I like the most about it ☺

There are so many things it can serve for.

Like horns



and doll's arms and legs



And birds' legs.



**To make the birds legs** (or the moose's horns, or anything that branches) you can branch your rows during the crocheting stage. For my birds' toes, for instance, after I'm done with the leg itself on stage #19, I continue to

- Chain 3
- Make a couple of Tunisian crochet rows, same as we did above (only with 3 stitches instead of 10), and finish them off by slip-stitching
- Slip-stitch to attach to the leg – any point on the leg, nowhere specific.

Repeat these 3 steps twice, making 3 toes all in all, and then continue working from stage 20:

- Sew each toe into a tube (from the toe base to the tip), use the needle to pull the yarn back to the toe base (again – nowhere specific), **pull tightly** and move on to the next toe.

Hope this was helpful! Feel free to contact me:

<http://www.facebook.com/loopysheep>

