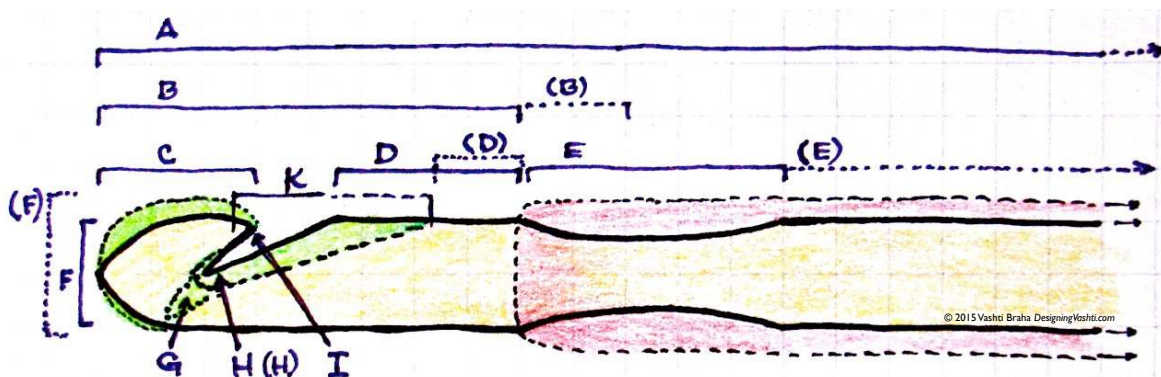




## DETAILED DIAGRAM OF A STANDARD CROCHET HOOK

This drawing is not meant to capture the *one best* or *most common* hook shape. It's simply the easiest one for me to draw on graph paper! (No single drawing could capture the range of hook shapes that are designed for use with yarn and non-specialty crochet stitches.)

The green shaded areas suggest a few shape variations. Here's how the hook would look with the black dotted areas incorporated:



**The terms in bold below were compiled from a dozen sources and are listed in order of frequency.**

**A. The Crochet Hook.** Larger hands need a slightly longer total length. ["**Body**" refers to **A** without **C**].

**B** is the dynamic zone where stitch loops are added, held, and regulated. Some folks slide loops over the thumb rest [shown by the dotted (**B**) part] to stretch them, such as just before completing a bullion/roll stitch.

**C. Head/Point/Tip/Hook.** Length of **C** can vary noticeably by manufacturer. When short, it facilitates an economy of crochet motions. When long, bigger crochet motions are required to complete each stitch.

**D. Shaft/Shank/Stem.** Ideally, **D** is where the crocheter adds and holds loops while forming new stitches, *not* at the narrower **Throat/K**. Ideally also, the entire length of **D** is of equal diameter and matches the labeled mm size. Length of **Shaft** varies greatly by manufacturer; compare (**D**) with **D+(D)**.

**E. Thumb rest/Grip/Finger rest/Pad.** Length and placement of **E** varies to accommodate different hand sizes. **E+(E)** is when **E** is replaced by a thicker **Handle** [shaded pink]. In some brands, the **Handle** starts *after* the **Thumb rest**.



**F** Refers to the diameter and shape of **C**, the **Head**. Note whether it's pointy or rounded, and whether its diameter is *greater than, equal to* ["inline"], or *smaller than* the **Shaft**. The dotted (**F**) shown is greater than the **Shaft**.

**G. Neck with Thread Guide/Side Channel** outlined in black dots. The indented area on each side of **H** is designed to smooth the drawing of a loop through a stitch. It can weaken the hook if the indentation is too deep, or if the **Neck** is already quite narrow. This feature is missing from some crochet hooks entirely.

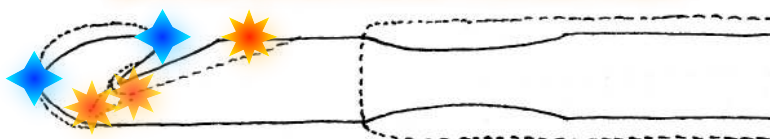
**H. Mouth/Bowl**. How deep and how open is it? When the **Mouth/H** cuts deeply into the **Head/C**, it may overly narrow and weaken the **Neck/G**. Determines how readily the hook holds and releases the yarn, along with the "**Beak**" [**I**, see next]. The roominess of this space regulates the yarn thickness and density that works well with the hook. It coordinates with the the **Shaft** to help the crocheter regulate gauge.


**I. Beak/Hook Point/Lip/Chin/Nose**. [All of these terms are uncommon so they're listed in chronological order from 1921 on.] The **Beak** can be: blunt or have a thin, almost sharp edge; recede into the **Throat/K** or jut out; and be pointy or shallow and wide. It's not often labeled in hook diagrams, yet can certainly interrupt smooth crocheting. When tunneling the hook back out of a stitch [after yarning over], the **Beak** can snag on the stitch or split the loop it is supposed to pull through the stitch. It comes in very handy, though, for Tunisian Crochet and Slip Stitch Crochet, where we twist and invert stitches with a "hook & flip" motion of the **Beak**!


**K. Throat**. Like the **Head/C** and **Mouth/H**, this dynamic part of the crochet hook has been the focus of sophisticated engineering and impassioned opinion. It needs to be carefully balanced with the design of the **Shaft/D** and **Mouth/H**. Its length and degree of taper has consequences for everything from crocheting speed, to stitch gauge, to hand fatigue.

### CROCHET HOOK HEAT MAP

(Just an example. Each crocheter's is probably unique.)



 **High priority hot spot**, but I can adapt. For example, I like the thread guides at the sides of the neck, but I can do without. I prefer a throat that's not cut too deep and has a short taper, but I can make do if necessary.

 **Deal breaker**: If it's not right for me, I just have to change hooks. For example, if the top of the hook isn't pointy, it's no fun for a lot of the kinds of stitches I do. If the "chin" of the hook sticks out, it catches on loops and is just too frustrating.

[Vashti Braha](#) lives in Florida and has been designing professionally since 2004.  
[Vashti@DesigningVashti.com](mailto:Vashti@DesigningVashti.com)



View all of Vashti's [Crochet hooks and hook sets on one page](#).

[Subscribe](#) to [Vashti's Crochet Inspirations newsletter](#) where you'll also get exclusive updates on designing partner Doris Chan.

Follow/Friend Vashti & DesigningVashti:

