



- ch = chain
- ∞ ch = chain
- sc = single crochet
- T hdc = half double crochet
- † dc = double crochet
- × tr = treble crochet
- || dtr = double treble crochet
- sl st = slip stitch

Step-by-Step Crochet Coffee Cup Rug Tutorial (US Terms)

Materials Selection and Preparation

Choose a sturdy worsted weight (Category 4) 100% cotton yarn. Cotton is strongly recommended for rugs because it provides structure, durability, and minimal stretch. Acrylic may be used, but it can become slippery and less stable over time. You will need approximately 500–700 yards depending on final size. Use a 5.0 mm (H/8) crochet hook or smaller if you crochet loosely. The rug must feel dense and firm — not flexible like a blanket. Additional tools: stitch markers, scissors, yarn needle, measuring tape, and optional non-slip rug backing. Best Practice: Before beginning, crochet a small swatch in double crochet. Your fabric should feel thick and compact. If light passes easily through stitches, reduce hook size.

Understanding the Construction

This rug is constructed in three main components: 1. The circular saucer base (worked in continuous joined rounds). 2. The coffee cup body (worked in rows on top of the circle). 3. The handle and decorative scalloped border. All instructions use standard US crochet terminology.

Step 1 – Creating the Center Ring

Start with a Magic Ring (recommended for a tight center). Round 1: Ch 3 (counts as first dc). Work 11 dc into the ring. Pull tail tightly to close center. Sl st to top of ch-3 to join. (12 sts total) Important: Ensure the center is fully tightened. A loose center hole will weaken the rug.

Step 2 – Expanding the Circle Evenly

Round 2: Ch 3. Dc in same stitch. Work 2 dc in each stitch around. Sl st to top of ch-3. (24 sts) Round 3: Ch 3. *Dc in next st, 2 dc in next st.* Repeat around. Sl st to join. (36 sts) Round 4: Ch 3. *Dc in next 2 sts, 2 dc in next st.* Repeat around. (48 sts) Continue this formula: Each round adds one more single dc between increases. Flat Circle Rule: If the circle ripples → too many increases. If it curls upward → too few increases. Maintain even tension and count stitches every round. Continue until circle measures 14–18 inches.

Step 3 – Strengthening the Saucer Base

To create stability and subtle texture: Round A: Ch 1, sc in each st around. Round B: Ch 2, hdc in each st around. Round C: Ch 3, dc in each st around. Alternate these three rounds once or twice. This layered stitch variation increases durability and prevents excessive stretching.

Step 4 – Marking the Cup Placement

Lay your circle flat. Use stitch markers to mark slightly less than half of the circle (about 45% of diameter). This marked section will become the cup body. Ensure the cup is centered horizontally. Measure if necessary to maintain symmetry.

Step 5 – Building the Coffee Cup Body

Attach contrasting yarn at first marked stitch. Row 1: Ch 1. Sc across marked stitches. Turn. Row 2: Ch 2. Hdc across. Turn. Row 3: Ch 2. 2 hdc in first st. Hdc across. 2 hdc in last st. Turn. Repeat increase rows every other row to slightly flare the cup outward. Work approximately 8–12 rows depending on desired cup height. The top of the cup should gently curve outward.

Step 6 – Creating the Cup Rim

To define the rim: Row: Ch 3. Dc across entire row. Turn. Final Row: Loose sl st across entire row. This creates a clean, slightly raised edge resembling a ceramic rim.

Step 7 – Forming the Handle

Attach yarn to the upper right side of cup. Ch 14–20 depending on desired handle size. Sl st to lower right side of cup to form a loop. Round 1: Sc evenly around chain loop. Round 2: Sc again around for reinforcement. Best Practice: Keep stitches tight and compact. Weave ends in multiple directions for

durability.

Step 8 – Decorative Scalloped Saucer Edge

Return to main saucer yarn. Round 1: *Ch 5, skip 2 sts, sc in next st.* Repeat around. Round 2: In each ch-5 space work: (2 dc, 2 tr, 2 dc). Sl st to join. This produces a lace-inspired scalloped border typical in traditional American crochet edging.

Step 9 – Blocking and Finishing

Weave in all yarn ends securely. Wet Blocking Method: Lightly dampen rug. Lay flat on blocking surface. Shape edges evenly. Allow to dry completely. Optional: Attach non-slip rug backing using fabric adhesive or hand stitching for safety. Do not skip blocking — it dramatically improves final appearance.

Care and Longevity

Machine wash cold, gentle cycle. Lay flat to dry. Reshape while damp. For heavy traffic areas, consider double-stranding yarn during construction for added durability.
